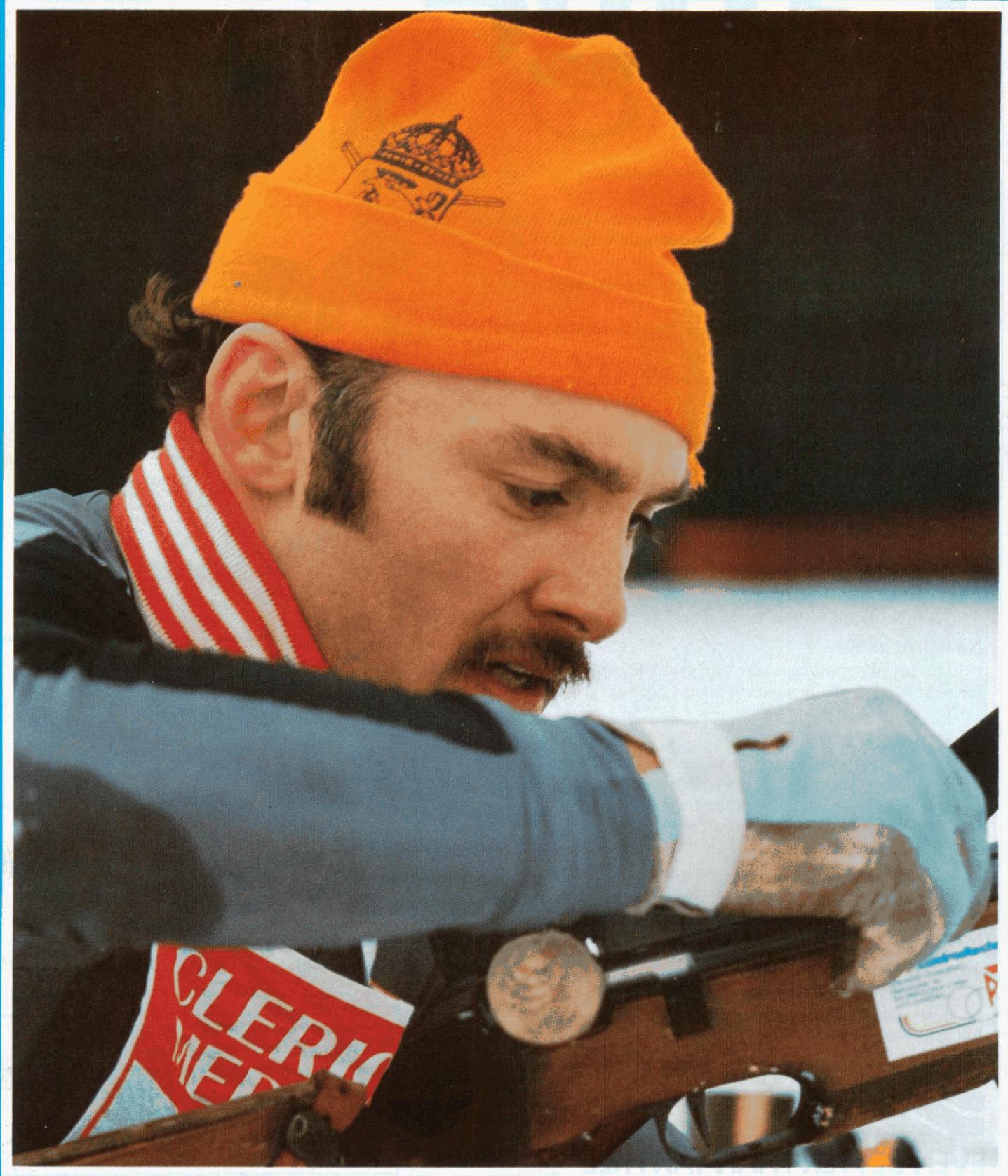


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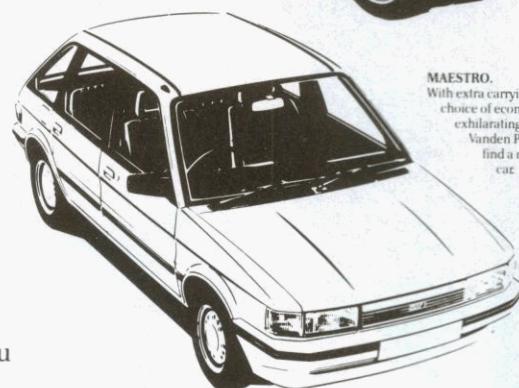
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CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Comms in Schleswig Holstein
- 17 How Big is Your Job?
- 18 Aerial Drops are Getting Bigger
- 22 Anne Armstrong
- 25 Commandos in Norway
- 31 Shoe a Horse — in NBC Kit!
- 32 Ecstasy in Kenya
- 33 Recruit Makes it a Hat-trick
- 36 A Bridge Grew on Lantau Island
- 38 Mail Drop
- 39 How Observant Are You?
- 48 Sport

FRONT COVER: Corporal Charlie MacIvor, of 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT, takes aim in the biathlon during the BAOR nordic ski championships at Zwiesel in Bavaria. Picture by Cpl Dave Bassett, RAF. For winter sports reports see pages 48-50.

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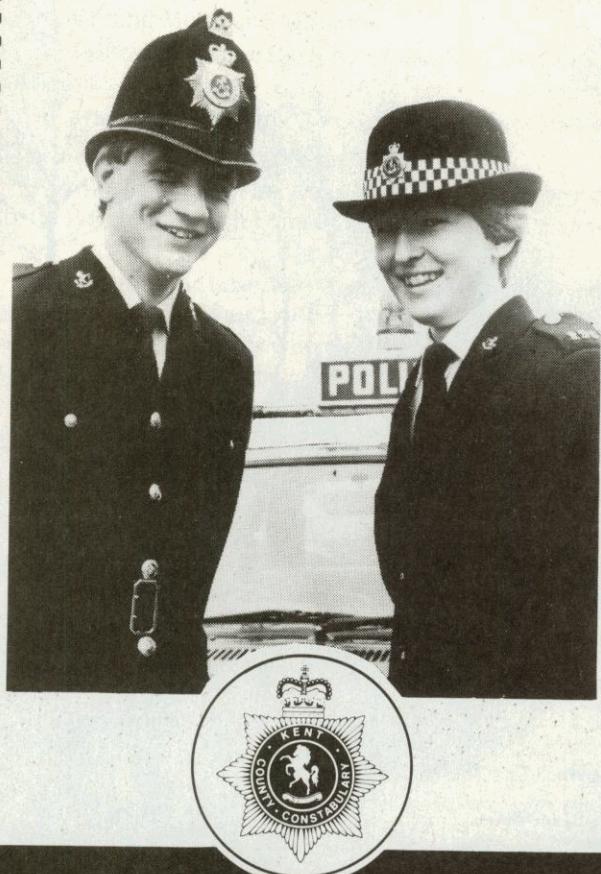
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ON THE MOVE IN BAOR



1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) make an early morning move in their APCs from Fallingbostel to their first exercise in Germany since they were last in BAOR ten years ago. SOLDIER's next issue will include reports on 1 Staffords and other units in 1st Armoured Division, limbering up for this year's programme of exercises.

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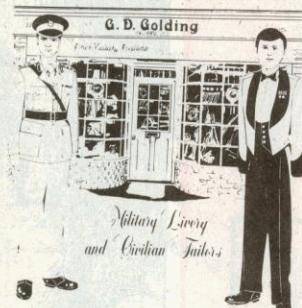
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TWELVE miles off the main road alongside a jungle track and 25 miles from the nearest town, Salamanca Camp is known locally as "the end of the line" in Belize.

But now the camp, which depended on a twice-weekly helicopter visit and newspapers arriving at a local airfield 25 miles away for communications, with not even a radio except the military links — has television! A welfare project has provided the funds to install a satellite TV receiving system in the camp.

All the work was carried out by a gang of willing hands from the resident company, A Company 40 Commando RM, and three mem-

TV reaches the Belize jungle

bers of 633 Signal Troop. The installation took a mere five days.

The equipment was bought from a company in Miami who are considered one of the more experienced in the field.

The system includes a 16-ft satellite dish which feeds four receivers and televisions in the Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess, the ORs' TV room and the Guard Room. Each of these can choose independently which channel on the satellite they view.

There are up to 60 TV channels on five satellites from which they can receive excellent picture quality.

Hopefully it will be the first of



several such systems at each of the camps in Belize.

Up goes the dish; in come 60 TV channels

Tank finale for 'free show'

THE "greatest free show in the country", the Aldershot Army Display, is expected to achieve record breaking crowds again this year.

Held every two years, the show gives front line units the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and equipment to visitors from all over the country, and attracts gates of more than 300,000.

This year's display will be over the four-day period June 26-29. Massed bands and display teams will form an action packed two hour arena display which will include a modern battle scene performed by men of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers and supporting Arms. The finale will include "70 years of the tank".

ARMY FIRST AND LAST

THE Army called the tune at the last Ceremonial Divisions of HMS Vernon, the seamanship, minewarfare and diving training establishment in Portsmouth.

Inspecting Officer was Major General Derek Crabtree, Colonel of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal

Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) which is affiliated to HMS Vernon. The band of the 'Farmers' Boys' played, and also on parade was a platoon of personnel of the Royal Engineers Diving Establishment, which recently moved to the Vernon site.

HMS Vernon moved from hulks in Portsmouth harbour to its present site in 1923 ironically on land part of which had previously been occupied by the Army.

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Save your energy

GENERAL Sir Martin Farnell has launched Energy Efficiency Year in British Forces Germany, with the message "Save Your Energy — it's worth millions!"

The C-in-C urged that personnel should learn to use electricity and heating fuel more efficiently wherever possible. A saving of just 10 per cent would mean an extra £7 million being transferred to other votes within the Quartermaster General's Budget — and that could mean more money for training, ammunition and fuel for vehicles.

However, he emphasised that the new project would not mean that heating should be turned down or light bulbs taken out of sockets in barrack blocks — just that everyone should try to become more aware of the huge waste of heating and lighting caused by leaving the doors of heated garages and workshops open, by not turning down the heat within work places at weekends and by leaving lights on when rooms are left unoccupied.

AMBUSH PRECEDES DUCHESS VISIT

Only a few hours before the Duchess of Kent visited the 1st Battalion, Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire at their Ballykinler base in Northern Ireland two of the battalion's soldiers were injured in an IRA bomb ambush.

The Duchess, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, had a special word for the wives of the two soldiers as she toured the base meeting soldiers, wives and families.

The attack on the soldiers was in the town of Castlewellan but neither of them was seriously injured.

The Duchess met soldiers who

were fully 'cammed up' having just returned from operations and others just going out on patrol. The battalion band struck up 'A Yorkshire Lass' in honour of their Yorkshire-born Colonel-in-Chief.

The visit was the Duchess's first call on her regiment since she became Colonel-in-Chief on the PWO's 300th anniversary last June.

The Yorkshiremen had at that time only just arrived in the province. Although they have served throughout the eastern half of Northern Ireland as part of 39 Infantry Brigade, most of their operations have been in Armagh.



Duchess inspects soldiers just back from operations

NEW LI LINK WITH YORKSHIRE

The newly-formed 8th Battalion The Light Infantry, which is being raised in Yorkshire as part of the expansion of the Territorial Army, has moved into its first drill hall at Intake Lane, Batley. The premises will also be the headquarters for 'C' Company.

The Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Lord Ingrow, formally opened the £700,000 centre which has been developed from a former church school.

Recruiting of riflemen is already well under way for the 112-strong Batley Company, but the Battalion HQ at Wakefield is still seeking specialists including signals staff and cooks.

Eventually the new battalion will have four companies in Yorkshire as the Light Infantry presence continues to grow. The last King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry battalion to be formed at Wakefield remained there until 1968. More recently the LI presence has been maintained by the Shrewsbury

based 5th Battalion with rifle companies in Wakefield and Pontefract.

Training Officer for the new Battalion is Major Michael Whistler who has been with the Light Infantry for 16 years serving in Northern Ireland and Germany.

He said: "We are delighted to be rekindling our links with Yorkshire. We have always had contacts but we have not had our own Yorkshire battalion since 1968. Now we really have a battalion back on the ground in Yorkshire once again."

Music down under

IN AUSTRALIA as SOLDIER went to press were 75 London District bandsmen, including a father and a son.

The musicians are "down under" to take part in the 150th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the state of South Australia.

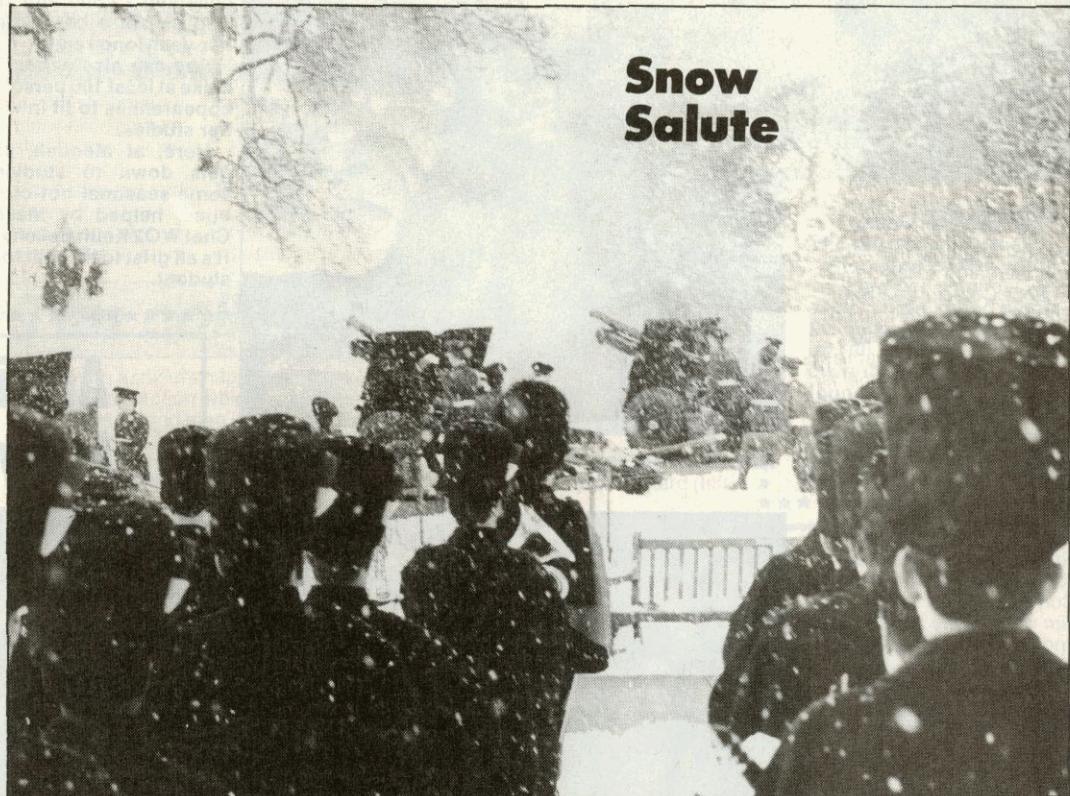
They are touring Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. Tour organisers were hoping to add

Launceston and Brisbane to the list of venues.

The visitors are the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards, the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, and four Life Guards State Trumpeters.

One of the trumpeters is Musician Peter Carson who is out there accompanied by dad, Major Donald Carson, Director of Music, Scots Guards.

Snow Salute



Sound muffled by a snow storm, as the Queen's accession is marked

Firing a 21-gun salute to mark the 34th anniversary of the Queen's accession, members of Leeds University Officer Training Corps found themselves firing into a snow storm.

It was the first of six royal salutes to be fired by the Army in York this year, and the OTC men used three 25-pounders.

Inspecting officer was Lieutenant Colonel James H Neill, Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, who was accompanied by Brigadier Michael Jones, Deputy Commander of North East District.



Allo,
Allo,
Lemgo

Sgt Dave Reed

LEMGO, The Royal Regiment of Wales base in BAOR, now has its own community policeman.

With the opening of a new police post there, Sergeant Dave Reed of the Corps of Royal Military Police, who will man the post, was welcomed by Brigadier M D Regan who also unveiled the police post sign outside the building.

Sgt Reed will, rather like the village bobby of yesteryear, develop links with the local community, in this case the RRW, and provide all the services of his civilian counterpart, while being able to call on the unit's resources should it be necessary.



RQMS Les Wrixon: farewell

Les leaves just short of his 50

RQMS Les Wrixon, one of 26 nationwide cadet team administration assistants, has retired after 49 years' service in uniform.

Les, 65, and based with South-East District at Bordon, was responsible for nine schools with CCF sections in Hampshire, the

Isle of Wight and Sussex. His job was ordering stores and advising on administration.

Les joined the TA Royal Signals at Southampton in December 1936 and was demobbed ten years later.

He re-enlisted into TA Royal Signals in 1947,

moved on to a Type T engagement and then re-enlisted on a short-service Type S engagement to complete 23 years' regular service.

Les was accepted on the Long Service List as an Army recruiter at ACIO Portsmouth and left at 55.

He then accepted a non-regular permanent staff appointment as an admin assistant to the CCF in March 1976.

Retirement has arrived, but Les says he has been asked to help Portsmouth Grammar School with their paper work.

Three for the top

For 15 weeks three RAMC radiographers slogged away in a "business game" organised by Kodak and the College of Radiographers.

Now Staff Sergeant Michael Cunningham, Sergeant Gary Mahn and Corporal Martin Coleman have reaped the rewards of their efforts by coming second in the nationwide contest.

All based at Queen Elizabeth's Military Hospital, Woolwich, their "game" simulated the peaks and troughs of a manufacturing company over four years with the trio as the management.

Every two weeks they sent in reports on decisions and progress in competition with a record field of 362 teams.

The team received their runners-up award from Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

From the top: SSgt Mike Cunningham, Sgt Gary Mahn Cpl Martin Coleman.



MISSILE MEN HOME IN ON ASHLIE

Ashlie Dickens is not just a pretty face with blue eyes framed by a mass of long, blonde hair... she's a geography student at Leeds University, too.

And in addition to that she is 5ft 5ins tall, with vital statistics of 34-24-34.

On top of that she's the reigning Miss Yorkshire TV and recently homed in on 50 Missile Regiment RA in BAOR who very quickly got the picture... the lucky lot!

With her title Ashlie collected £1,500 and the free use of a car during her year-long reign.

She can also expect to make at least 100 personal appearances to fit in with her studies.

Here, at Morden, she gets down to studying some seasonal hot-cross buns, helped by Master Chef WO2 Keith Bellshaw. It's all grist to the mill for a student.

WO2 KEITH BELLSHAW, ASHLIE DICKENS: cooking lesson

Free-faller

Newest recruit to the Paras free-fall team the Red Devils, is Lance Corporal Paul Burns who lost a leg in a Northern Ireland terrorist explosion.

He has joined the team as a parachute rigger and is now competing for a place in the 26-strong team.

Early call

When Field Marshal Lord Harding celebrated his 90th birthday, Army buglers played reveille outside his Nether Compton home to remind him of his early Army days and to wish him a happy birthday.

Hero's medal

An MM posthumously awarded to Sergeant Alistair Slater has been collected by his parents at Buckingham Palace.

Sergeant Slater, who appeared in the TV series *The Paras*, died in a gun battle with terrorists in Northern Ireland in December 1984.

The medal was awarded for "outstanding" acts of courage.



BRIGADIER ROBIN MADDY, MR CLIFF JOHN: decanter gift to go with the food

Admin award for Army food centre

Catering isn't just about producing good quality food. There's far more to it.

One of the national organisations keeping an eye on the caterers of this world is the National Examination Board for Supervisory Studies, NEBS for short.

Well aware that the Army Catering Corps is among the best in the business, they put their rule over the Aldershot premises and decided that the administration and management wing of the corps was well worth one of their rare awards.

And so it was that Brigadier Robin Maddy, commandant of the ACC Training Centre, received a glass decanter and congratulations from the NEBS regional co-ordinator, Mr Cliff John.

...AND HER MOTHER CAME, TOO

Wot's all this?



PEOPLE



Cpl Tony Nelson

Clued-up crime busters

Two sharp-eyed Welsh soldiers have helped German police capture a bank robber after a nationwide hunt that lasted two months.

Descriptions of the suspect and his gun by two soldiers from the 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Wales, helped the police track down

the suspects. A gun was found during a search of his home.

The soldiers who identified the man, are Corporal Tony Nelson, 29, and Private Neil Jepps, 23.

Now Lemgo's police chief has personally thanked the duo for their assistance in cracking the case.

VIRGINIA, MUM AND THE SERGEANT MAJOR: the only girl

Pretty Army Cadet Corporal, Virginia Lowe has just spent a week on manoeuvres crawling round frozen fields — with her mum right behind her. Virginia, 15, took part in a

training course at Beckingham Camp near Newark, Notts, and Mum went along as chaperone since Virginia was the only girl among 19 cadets.

Said Sergeant Major James Eadsforth: "There are no female officers at the camp so Virginia had to have a chaperone.

"And although she had her own quarters, which she shared with her Mum, she still had to lay out her kit like any other cadet.

"I couldn't inspect it unless there was another woman present, otherwise she was treated like the others. She did extremely well."

Virginia, who has her sights on a regular commission said: "I didn't mind being the only girl. Everyone got on all right and I like everything we did, but I found it a bit embarrassing having Mum around."

Mother, Mrs Sheila Lowe added: "I think the Army is a great life."



Pte Neil Jepps

Life-saver Tim collects his reward

Lance Corporal Tim Ankerson didn't hesitate when he saw a horrific traffic accident near Church Stretton.

A trained Class 1 combat medicinal technician, he went straight into action saving the life of Mr Roger Andrews. He was on his way to an exercise

when the accident happened. It was his prompt action which saved the life of the injured man who was lying unconscious.

Now Tim has received a commendation from Major General Brendan McGuinness, GOC Western

District, who in praising Tim said it was his coolness, presence of mind and good use of his medical skills which saved a life.

Among those attending the ceremony were his brother Richard (left) and his father.



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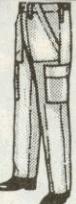
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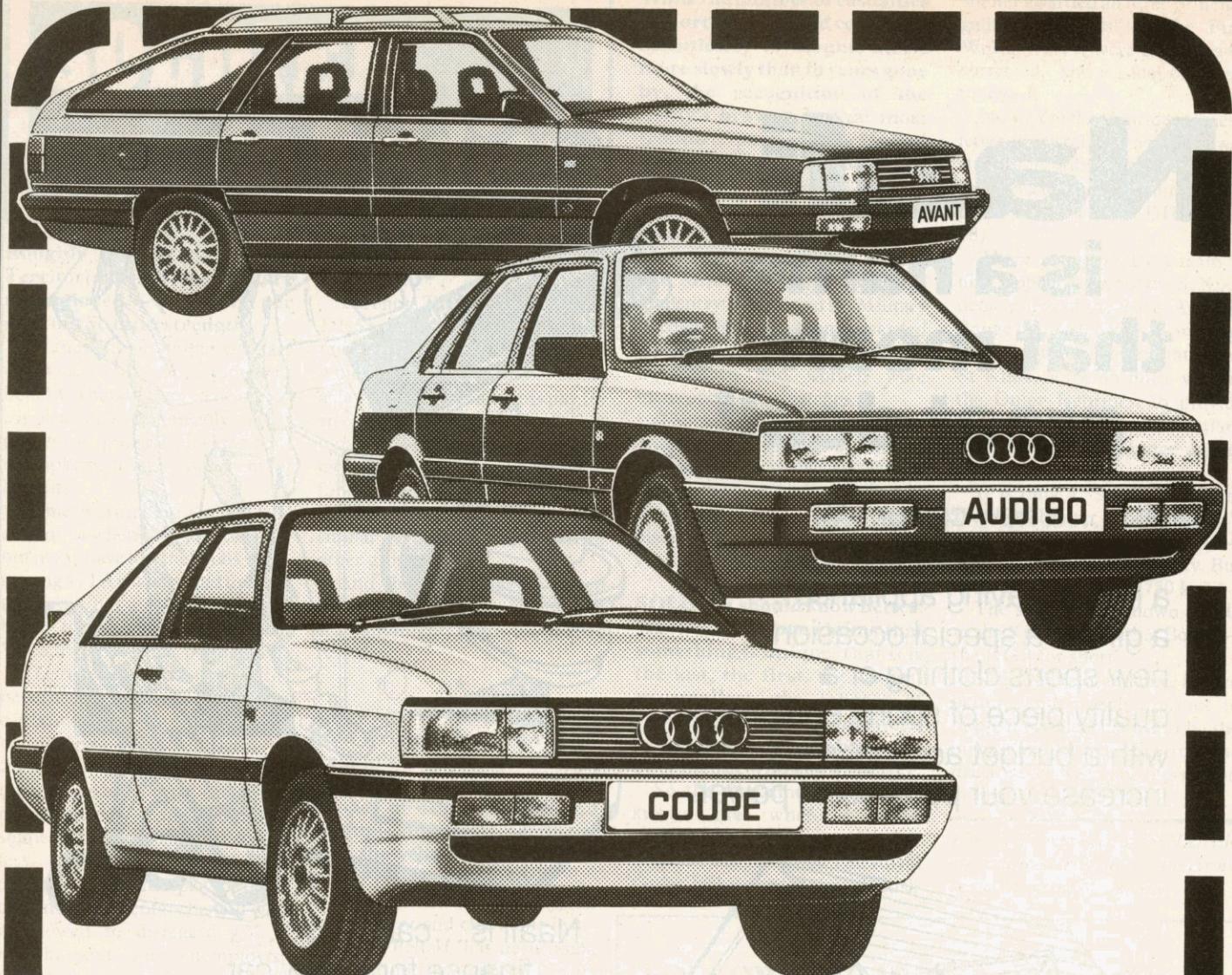
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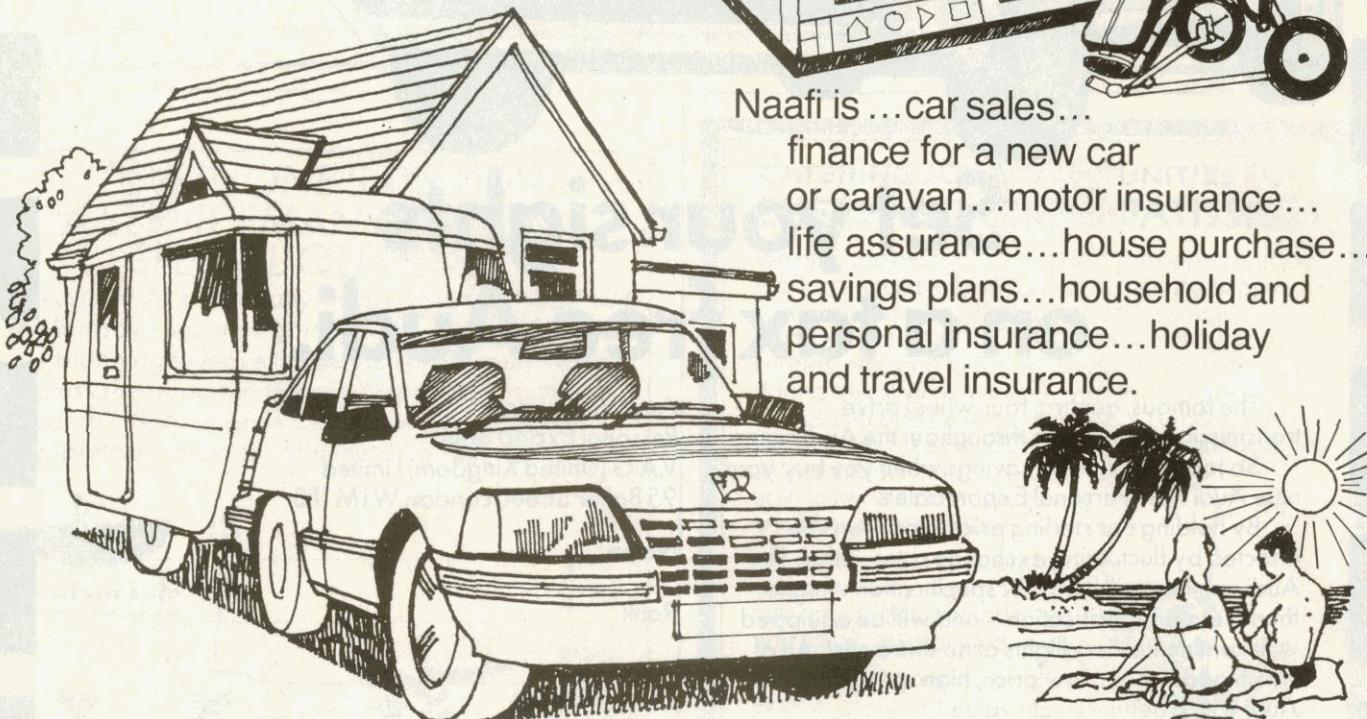
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Roughly one in six of the Territorial Army's soldiers are unemployed — about 17½ per cent of the total strength.

Of those about 46 per cent are receiving only unemployment benefit; about 41 per cent are on supplementary benefit only; and 13 per cent are probably drawing both unemployment and supplementary benefits.

Some recruits are already unemployed when they join the TA, but many have lost their jobs while serving as TA soldiers, and to those the Army has a special responsibility for welfare and morale, Viscount Thurso has pointed out.

The rules for payment of DHSS benefits are highly complex and can be interpreted in different ways by different DHSS offices, he claimed. But within each TA unit, there tends to be three categories of volunteer — the employed soldier who keeps all his TA pay, less tax, besides his civilian emoluments; the unemployed volunteer on supplementary benefit who is allowed to disregard £32 a month; and the unemployed volunteer on unemployment benefit who has all his benefit deducted whenever he is paid more than £2 on any day except Sunday.

An employed soldier nets £44.74 TA pay if he attends two Saturdays, two Sundays, and four drill nights in a month; an unemployed soldier on supplementary benefit gets £32 net TA pay; and the unemployed soldier on unemployment pay receives the smallest amount — £16.30 TA pay.

Seeking a remedy to this situation, Viscount Thurso said in the House of Lords that it seemed illogical, if not morally indefensible, to argue that a citizen in receipt of unemployment benefit should not be permitted to improve his lot or be encouraged to be "twice a citizen" by serving his country in the reserve forces. At present he was being regarded as "half a citizen", he declared.

The answer given by Baroness Trumpington, Under Secretary of State at DHSS, was that she did not think there was a good case for changing existing supplementary benefit rules, bearing in mind the recent relatively generous concessions. When income support replaces supplementary benefit in April 1988, the standard amount of earnings disregarded will increase to £5 a week, and there will be special "disregard" for

couples unemployed for more than two years.

Baroness Trumpington said the DHSS was reluctant to amend the unemployment benefit regulations which result in a TA soldier losing a day's benefit because his pay for an evening's training — frequently only £2.90 net — exceeds the £2 a day earnings rule. To make changes for the TA in isolation would inevitably lead to pressure for similar favourable treatment for other groups.

And the Lords having talked over the problem from 11 pm until after midnight, there the matter rested.

Many are the books that have been written about Northern Ireland's current "troubles", but there must also have been a mass of other written and printed material produced over the years that should be preserved for posterity.

The Linen Hall Library, an independent and charitable institution in Belfast, has been doing just that and has amassed in its political collection more than 500 books, 700 periodicals, 2,000 pamphlets, and a large number of leaflets, posters, postcards, conference reports, theses, and so on.

It has now, says librarian John Gray, become recognised as the main repository for published material and ephemera arising from the current "troubles".

But it is very short of Army material. "Besides the host of public information posters and leaflets which the Army produced here in the early seventies, we are aware that a large collection of cartoons, paintings and photographs, posters, reminiscences and books have been produced which could offer a unique insight into the Army's view of their role in Northern Ireland, both for current researchers and of course for future historians," says Mr Gray.

The library has asked SOLDIER readers to help.

The Army's role in Northern Ireland has been a courageous one, and its contribution to solving such an intractable and tragic problem should be preserved for future generations to see.

Any readers who feel they can help can contact Mr Gray at the Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegall Square, Belfast BT1 5GD.

While the number of casualties in Northern Ireland continues relentlessly to mount, albeit more slowly than in years gone by, the recognition of the Army's bravery in that most troubled part of the United Kingdom also accumulates.

During last year, a further 73 decorations were awarded for gallantry by British soldiers there. They included a George Medal, one Military Cross, 12 Queen's Gallantry Medals and six Military Medals, one of them awarded posthumously. In addition, 102 Servicemen and women were mentioned in despatches.

The specific brave deeds which resulted in the awards will not, of course, be made public, for security reasons. But, says Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley, "they make remarkable reading".

★ ★ ★

SOLDIER should know better. Whenever anyone claims that something is unique, that it is the last, the first, the largest or smallest, the longest or shortest, the highest or lowest, or the best... there's bound to be someone who knows better.

So the magazine should have known that when it wrote (SOLDIER February 10) that Serjeant Bill Gregg of The Royal Green Jackets was the only British

soldier awarded all three principal gallantry awards" in the First World War, it were bound to be corrected. And a shoal of letters followed.

Now from the Hebrides comes a letter which refutes that the power station on Gibraltar is the last of the Service managed plants outside the Falklands (SOLDIER Nov 18).

There is apparently a team of nine sappers — part of the St Kilda detachment of the Royal Artillery Range in the Hebrides — who run and maintain a power station on St Kilda, some 45 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, to provide power to two radar installations which overlook the range danger area.

It is only a "small cousin" of that on Gibraltar — perhaps that's why SOLDIER overlooked it — with just over 500kw capacity. But soon to be uprated to 750 kw!

The sappers are known locally as the Kilda Generating Board — the KGB for short!

SOLDIER should have known better... but it will continue to publish people's claims to be the biggest and best etc. It brings the magazine such gems of information in reply.

The views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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COLD COMMS IN



SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN

THE enormous advances in modern communications — satellite TV pictures, computerised telephones and all the rest — don't always make life easier for those who have to provide the communications. The better things become the more people expect — even in the most adverse conditions.

One man who knows a fair bit about this problem is Major Derek McLean, OC of 244 Signal Squadron. But, as he will tell you, the laws of physics don't change even for the most advanced satellites and computers.

His squadron is one of those units which link the fighting services. It provides battlefield communications between the troops and the front line and the RAF squadrons in the rear.

Unfortunately battlefields don't usually come equipped with cosy, well established exchanges where calls can be handled in relative comfort. Field conditions demand a good measure of hardiness and willingness to accompany a lot of technical expertise to keep vital information flowing despite the vagaries of countryside and climate, the attentions of marauding Spetsnaz, and the demands of constant mobility.

Like all essential services the job needs to be done efficiently and without fuss. Troops on the ground in urgent need of a defensive air strike or a helicopter lift aren't interested in problems of physics. They want results.

Two of 244 Squadron's troops are devoted to this difficult task — Alpha Troop, assigned to the ACE Mobile Force (Land) and Bravo Troop which usually works with the UK Mobile Force. A third troop, Delta, provides signallers for the mobile air operations teams (MAOTs) whose function is to recce suitable landing sites for aircraft, while Echo Troop, based in Cardiff, is entirely TA.

The squadron has the rare

distinction of its own emblem — the Red Hand of Ulster, a legacy from the infancy of air Support squadrons in the Second World War when Lieutenant Colonel McNeil, the first commander, used his family badge to identify unit vehicles. The practice continues to this day.

Working as a bridge between two services the squadron is heavily involved with the RAF. It lives at RAF Brize Norton, with Delta Troop at RAF Upavon, and is part of the Air Force's Tactical Communications Wing which comes under 1 Group, RAF.

So whenever 244 Squadron goes out on exercise it is invariably accompanied by a number of airmen. This year in Schleswig Holstein, for example, there were 45 airmen, members of the RAF's Field Communications Squadron, and some 80 men of Bravo Troop and the 244 Squadron echelon spread across the wintry landscape.

The visit to the most northerly part of the Federal German Republic was really in preparation for a full UKMF exercise across the same ground in the autumn. It was an opportunity, said Captain David Powell, the commander of Bravo Troop, to test the equipment and give important experience to soldiers just out of training.

Across some 90 kilometres of rolling woods and farmland, between Hamburg in the south and Rendsburg in the north, the various detachments deployed with their vehicles and radios.

In the south of the exercise area the army signallers established

simulated Brigade Main and alternative HQs with their air cells, while further north the airmen operated the radio stations for the three helicopter flights. In between were a couple of Army manned re-broadcast stations to relay secure VHF voice transmissions between the two.

As this was purely a signals exercise there was no sign of the Chinooks of 7 Squadron, RAF, and the Pumas of 33 Squadron, the UKMF's support helicopter unit. Instead RAF staff officers, who would normally handle their

LEFT: The snow bound Brigade Main HQ at rest in a forest clearing
RIGHT: Inside the Air Cell

operation, travelled over for the final few days to try out the comms themselves.

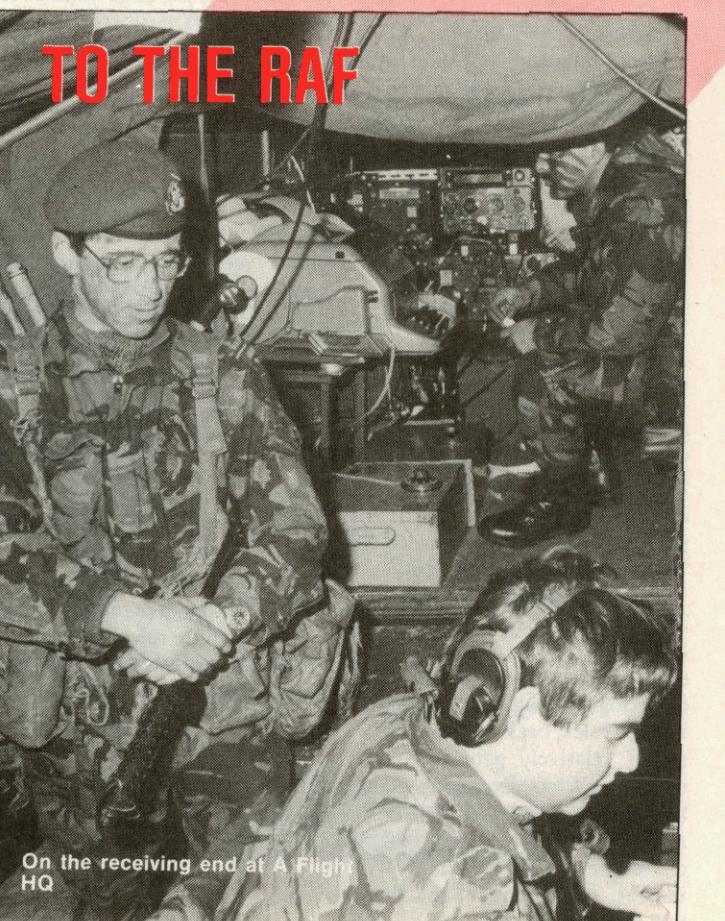
Unlike Denmark, the adjacent region of UKMF operation where exercises are confined to training areas, Germany allows a much more realistic freedom of movement which, in Schleswig Holstein, allowed the high frequency tele-printer links and the VHF voice links to be tested from a variety of locations.

Movement is vital, not merely as a result of the ebb and flow of battle but also because of the risk of detection from the numerous electronic ears listening for sounds of activity.

"All of the areas in which we have to operate in support of the AMF(L) or the UKMF have got sea approaches which can be covered by eavesdroppers either at sea or in the air," said Major McLean. "So our guys are being looked for all the time."

The most effective training, the OC added, was to have a live enemy on the ground. On one recent free play exercise in Schleswig Holstein an "enemy" force equipped with image intensifiers on their rifles, had played the role of hostile long range patrols trying to track down the re-broadcast stations hidden deep in the woods.

"We were getting encounters down to five metres in the dark," Major McLean recalled. "The radio set was working, the job was being done and the enemy was



On the receiving end at A Flight HQ



FROM THE ARMY

not finding them. On the other hand a couple of times the smell of a cooked curry or a chink of light gave them away."

The men of 244 Squadron are soldiers under RAF command.

Even in the Air Cell at Brigade HQ they work to a wing commander who is in overall charge of the operation.

But they still had something to teach their RAF comrades "who have no real history of working and surviving in the field."

"It is fairly essential that we live with them and show them the way in many respects," added Major McLean. "On the other hand it is essential for us that we retain an independent command because we are a tribal animal and the RAF is not."

Flight Sergeant Ian Lorimer, in charge of 15 airmen with four Land Rovers and trailers at the A Flight base, observed: "The transition from a normal office type communications set up to field tactical conditions takes a bit of getting used to. The Army chaps probably have a full time career at it. We probably only do it once in our RAF careers and at the beginning it's quite daunting.

"Living rough, not washing, lack of sleep, always on the move, setting up a site, fixing the camouflage, taking it all down again ... there are times when you can get very down. But there are also times when you can feel quite elated if someone has tried to attack you and you've repelled the attack. Times like that are good."

On this occasion everyone was being spared, at least for the time being, the extra burden of surprise attack. They were being allowed to concentrate on their communications — something which is quite enough to keep most people fully occupied.

From Brigade Main HQ five separate nets had to be maintained

the time of day, the time of year and the latitude.

Voice transmissions, needed to update teleprinter messages or to get immediate clarification on certain points, can only be made safe at very high frequency. This means virtually line of sight transmissions and it keeps the three-man re-broadcast detachments crouched covertly in the woods on high ground with one eye on the signals and the other open for patrolling foes.

To keep the whole operation going 244 Squadron's echelon has the vital task of co-ordinating supplies at rendezvous points for the dispersed and mobile detachments.

The echelon, with its small REME vehicle maintenance section and mobile radio repair workshop, provides everything the signallers need from fuel to radio transistors.



Push and snow — manhandling the generator of the radio repair vehicle

Said SQMS Tony Thomas: "Our ideal thing is to get them through our supply position and then get away. It is important for us to survive, but the most important thing is that they provide the service."

Supply was usually done between moves. Visits to the detachments in their locations was only done as a last resort for fear of compromising the position.

Like a well drilled Grand Prix pit team SQMS Thomas's men had the stores lined up in pre-ordained sequence so that the detachments could be in and out within a couple of minutes.

Late winter in Schleswig Holstein can resemble the conditions of Norway away to the north — a situation that the troops have to adjust to without arctic clothing. But Sergeant Adrian Webb, in charge of the REME detachment, spoke for many when he observed: "In a weird sort of way it makes a good change every now and again from being in camp. And it's a good way for the lads to get experience of repairing the vehicles without all the nice warm facilities back home. They've got to think a bit."

Fitness is a key factor as far as the OC is concerned.

"They've got to be fit if for no other reason than to survive," he said. "The fitter a man is the longer he can work under difficult conditions."

To drive the point home he organises runs back at Brize Norton whenever there is time between the demands of preparing for a heavy programme of exercises.

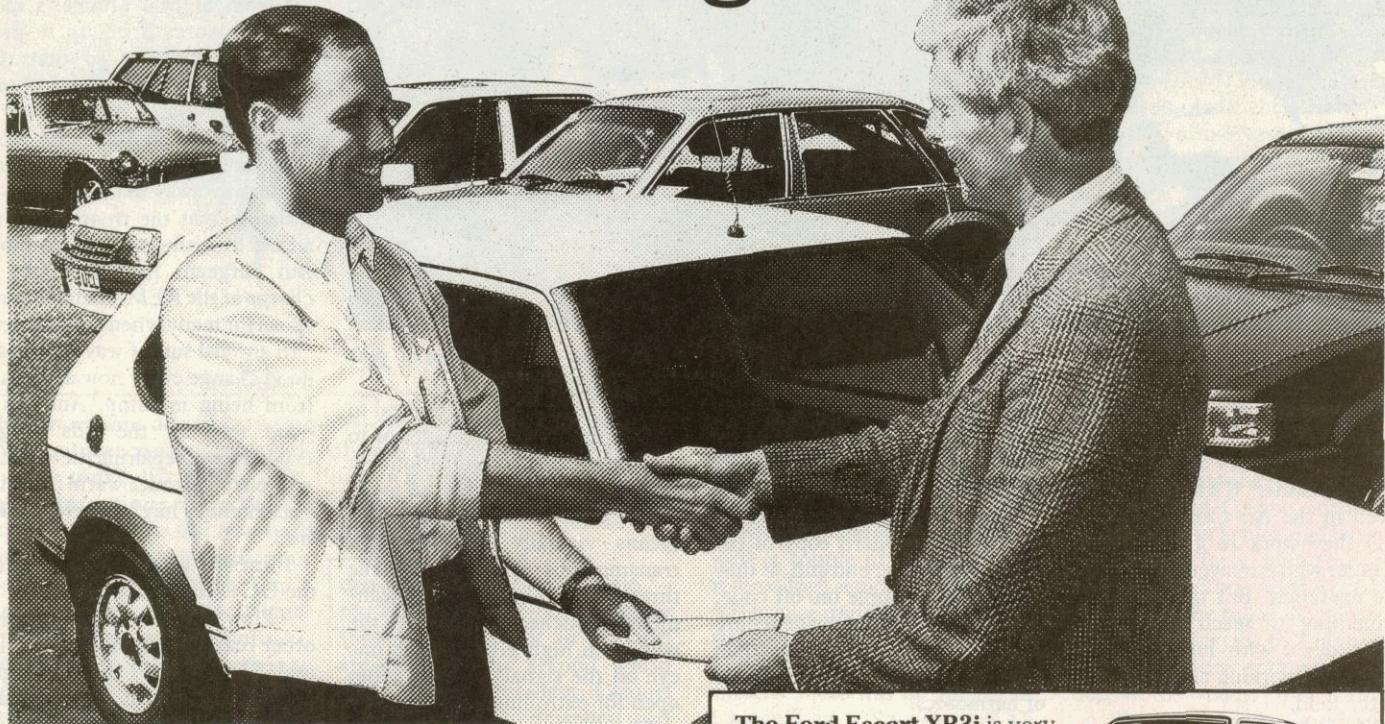
"We started out at 10 kms," he said, "until I got bored. We went to 20 until I had enough of that. And we've just run our first 40."

Story: Robert Higson

Pictures: Les Wiggs

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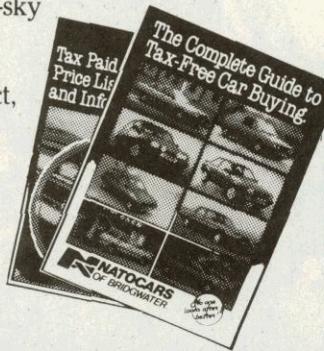
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ABOUT this time each year the results are announced of job evaluations which have been completed in the past 12 months.

For most this usually means no change, but for some there will be upbandings and, unfortunately for others, downbandings. Many Servicemen find it hard to understand why someone, somewhere, sends out a letter once a year altering his or her rate of pay.

What is job evaluation, and why do some trades have their paybands changed after so many years?

Since 1970, soldiers have all been paid what has become known as the Military Salary. The idea is that they should be paid rates of pay that are broadly comparable with earnings for jobs of a similar size in civilian life.

This does not mean that cooks in the Army are compared with cooks outside, or that clerks are compared with clerks. If it did

maximum score of 1,000.

If the job achieved a score of, say, 500 points then the appropriate pay band would be Band 2 for a Cpl or Band 6 for a SNCO. (Band 2 scores between 453-532 on the Cpl Factor Plan; Band 6 between 441-600 on the SNCO Factor Plan).

Most job scores change a little over the years, but not enough to move the job into another payband. Sometimes though, jobs do change a great deal, perhaps due to new technology or changes in work patterns and responsibilities. In these cases the trade can be either up or downbanded.

Because it was impossible to evaluate trades all at once when the scheme started, some were slotted into a payband on a temporary basis. New trades are also slotted until they can be evaluated by members of the JSJET.

Slotting has caused a number of

HOW BIG IS YOUR JOB?

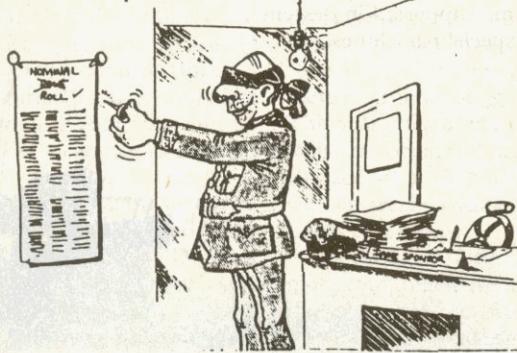
SOLDIER looks at job evaluation



Comparability



Selection of representation



mean that, with whom could a gunner or an infantry soldier be compared? They are paid the same average rates of pay as someone outside who has a job which is the same size.

How is the size of a job measured? It is done by a system known as job evaluation.

The Armed Forces have a specially trained team of Servicemen devoted solely to the task of evaluating job sizes and recommending appropriate paybands for each trade, known as the Joint Services Job Evaluation Team (JSJET).

Since 1970 it has been their job to examine every single trade at each level in all three Services. It was an obviously impossible task to do them all at once, and it is only this year for the very first time that finally every single trade in the Armed Forces has been evaluated.

Each year a number of trades are selected for evaluation. They are chosen either because it is their turn to be checked, or because the person who sponsors the trade (usually the directorate concerned) has asked for it to be re-evaluated — perhaps because the job

description has changed.

A representative number of soldiers from each trade, between the ranks of Corporal and Warrant Officer are then interviewed at their unit by a WO1 analyst from JSJET.

The analyst will already have studied the job description provided by the sponsor, but he still needs to talk in great detail about the job to the person who actually does it.

It is very important that the job holder has given the subject a lot of thought before the interview takes place.

The analyst takes the result of

his work back to JSJET where a judging panel, made up of an officer of colonel equivalent rank from each of the three Services, plus a civilian consultant from the International Business Consultants firm, agrees to a job score.

The total score is made up from a number of factors, each of which have been allocated a maximum number of points.

Some of these are: previous training and experience, planning requirements, responsibility for materials, working environment.

The scores achieved from each factor are added together to produce a total out of a possible

up and downbandings recently because the trades were originally placed in the wrong payband and have since been evaluated.

It is, of course, cold comfort to tell a soldier that he has been overpaid for the past few years and, now that his job has been properly evaluated for the first time, he is going to drop a payband. But this is what has actually happened.

But a safeguard has been built in for soldiers who suffer from a downbanding, as they go on to 'mark time' rates of pay for three years or until the new rate overtakes the level of pay they have become used to receiving.

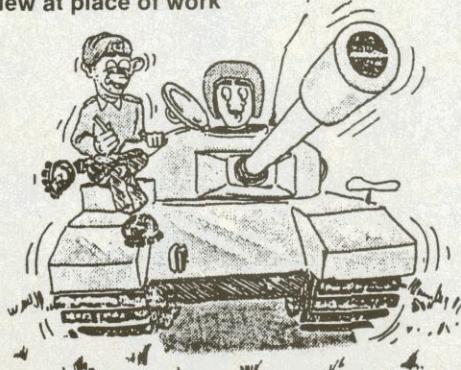
All changes are effective from April 1 each year.

Does the soldier get a fair deal from the job evaluation and paybanding system? In the last three years there have been a ratio of 3 to 1 upbandings to downbandings in the Army.

Downbandings are, of course, very difficult to swallow and they are always checked and doubled checked at very senior levels before they are accepted.

As would be expected, there is never any problem about upbandings!

Interview at place of work



AIR DROPPING operations are still very much the Army's plan for any contingency, particularly those involving 5 Airborne Brigade, headquartered at Aldershot, with its out-of-Nato-area responsibility.

Bigger quantities of air-dropped re-supply to the battlefield and the men fighting the immediate action is the continuing aim.

On average, four or five airborne exercises are held annually usually involving up to 15 Hercules transport aircraft (deployed in two air lifts), 1,100 men and 32 aerial-delivery Medium Stressed Platforms (MSPs). Each of these is capable of carrying 18,000 lbs weight of vehicles, guns or stores earthwards.

The latest in this year's planned series was Exercise Ice Maiden — appropriately named in the event — enacted over the DZs (Dropping Zones) of Norfolk's Stanford Principal Training Area.

Then, the MSPs which each required five to six hours to rig and securely lash, took just 12 seconds from extraction over the Hercules' tail ramps at 550 feet to hit the frosty terra firma. Each meticulously and expertly crammed frame supported in descent by four special parachutes.

Establishment — at RAF Brize Norton.

In a large hangar at the South Cerney, near Cirencester, Air Mounting Centre, HQ of 29 Transport and Movements Regiment, RCT, five-man teams engaged on Exercise Ice Maiden spent the best part of a day assembling and rigging the vital MSPs.

Saws, hammers, screwdrivers, timber, wooden shock absorber struts and opaque water-resistant covers were much in evidence as, one by one, items were carefully married to their designated partner fittings on the platforms.

It takes, for example, four men to lift and haul up each of the 300-lb weight platform parachutes to a height of ten feet.

Men from 7 RHA, 3 PARA, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, HQ and Signals of 5 AB, 10 Field Workshops, REME and 63 Squadron, RCT, to name but a few, laboured with a unanimous will to produce the end results that would hurtle earthwards at 140 miles-

And the avowed aim is to get still more stores and ammunition on to the 16-by-eight-foot MSPs. One configuration, for instance, includes a $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton Land Rover and its trailer. Or a one-tonne GS Land Rover plus 105mm Light Gun with 30 stowed rounds — each round weighs 35lbs — for immediate use. Yet another variation, two Light Guns sharing the same MSP.

Techniques are forever being brushed up. Nearly 90 differing load configurations are being improved on by the users including the closest of scrutineers, the men of JATE — the Joint Air Transport

team to assemble the vital consignments are usually two experts from 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT. Theirs was the squadron involved in the massive Ethiopian famine relief airborne epic, Operation Bushel, last year when 31 million pounds of sacked grain were air-dropped to the starving inhabitants.

Two MSPs normally fill the copious hold of each of the 20-year-old RAF Lyneham-based Hercules. Last year, this venerable workhorse air-dropped 210 such hefty MSPs during the busy exercise calendar.

On Exercise Ice Maiden, training on a reduced scale, 14 MSPs were dropped from 550 feet.

In the past, on differing platforms, some 40,000 lbs have been air-dropped from as low as ten feet by the ULLE — Ultra Low Level Extraction — mode.

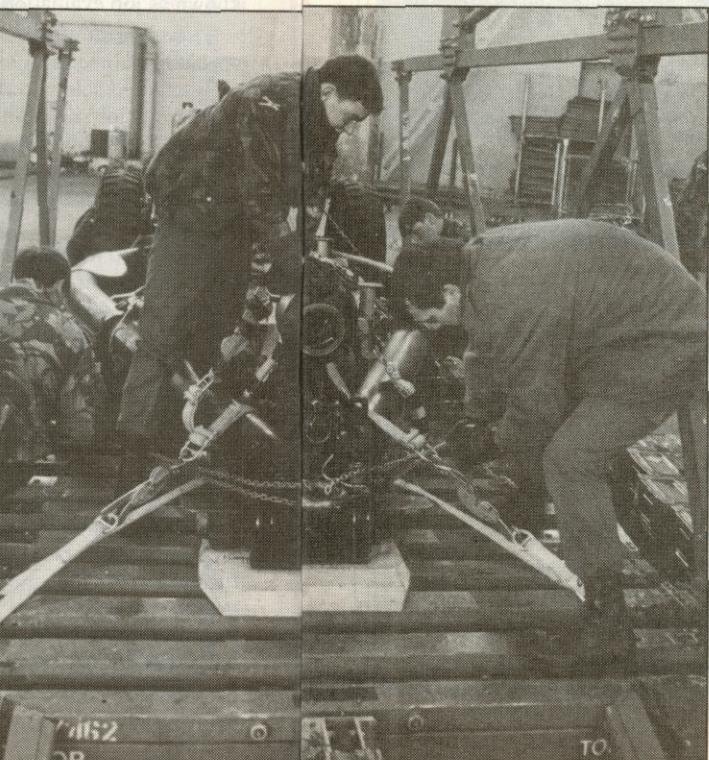
The Americans are known to be envious of the British MSP drop height deliveries. They are said to extract their loads at 2,000 feet over large DZs. "Probably Texas," as one unit wag quipped.

Nearly there! Stores at the touch-down DZ

Helping each five-man rigging

Men of 7 RHA lashing down a 105mm Light Gun on the MSP ▼

Heavy load-carrying parachutes (300lbs each) are secured



AERIAL DELIVERY IS GETTING BIGGER



Heavy Stress Platforms (HSPs), deploying seven main parachutes, also figure in the air-dropping operations. These take the strain of 28,000 lbs with a target option of some 5,000 lbs more for carrying engineering equipment such as bulldozers.

Major Lewis forecast that by the end of the decade drop heights would be even lower on even heavier MSPs.

The Americans, he said, were "very interested" in the British extraction system. Our chutes are partially opened before the platform leaves the aircraft. By the American method the canopy emerges first, then the load. Their system, he said, was disposable once used. Ours was re-usable.

"In the 70s there were perhaps 40 platforms being dropped yearly. Now it's into the 200-mark and we are doing it with more sophisticated lifts. Then, it would have been at about 10,000 lbs a time, working up to around 15,500 lbs. Now, we have the 18,000-lb capability."

Once rigged and checked at

South Cerney, the platforms are taken by road to RAF Lyneham for re-checking and installation into the designated carrier Hercules.

It takes on average 2½ hours to load each Hercules with its two MSPs. Loading time is usually seven hours before drop time.

Preparation for an exercise like Ice Maiden is enormous and its sequel, DZ clearance, is lengthy, too.

"As you can imagine we have a fairly major problem recovering up to 32 platforms from DZs in a vast area like Otterburn," said Major Lewis. "These are partially recovered by armoured vehicles like Samsons. It took men five days to clear the debris of one such exercise last November."

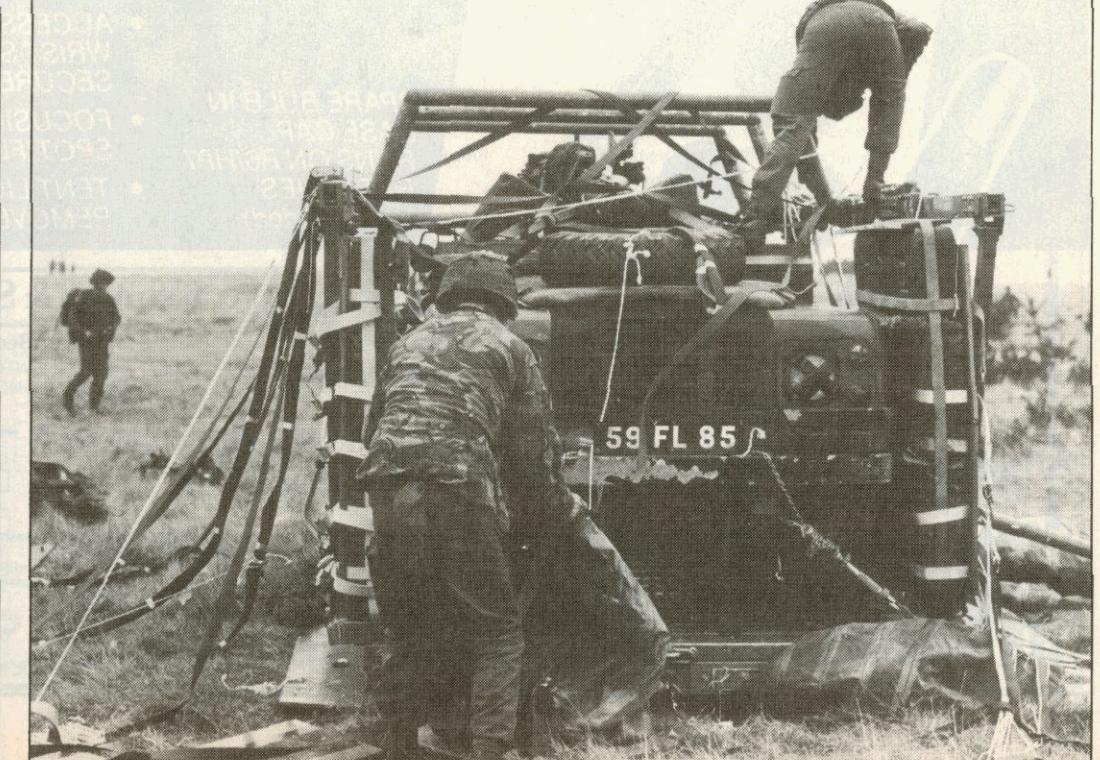
"When we get the kit back it

then falls to the REME lads to check everything. There must be thousands of bits and individual items from shackles to straps and parachute risers. It would probably take a month to sort ourselves out right after an exercise."

As an added incentive, however, there is an annual rigging contest. This year it featured a dozen five-man teams from within 5 Airborne Brigade in a 3½-hour test. The winners were 63 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

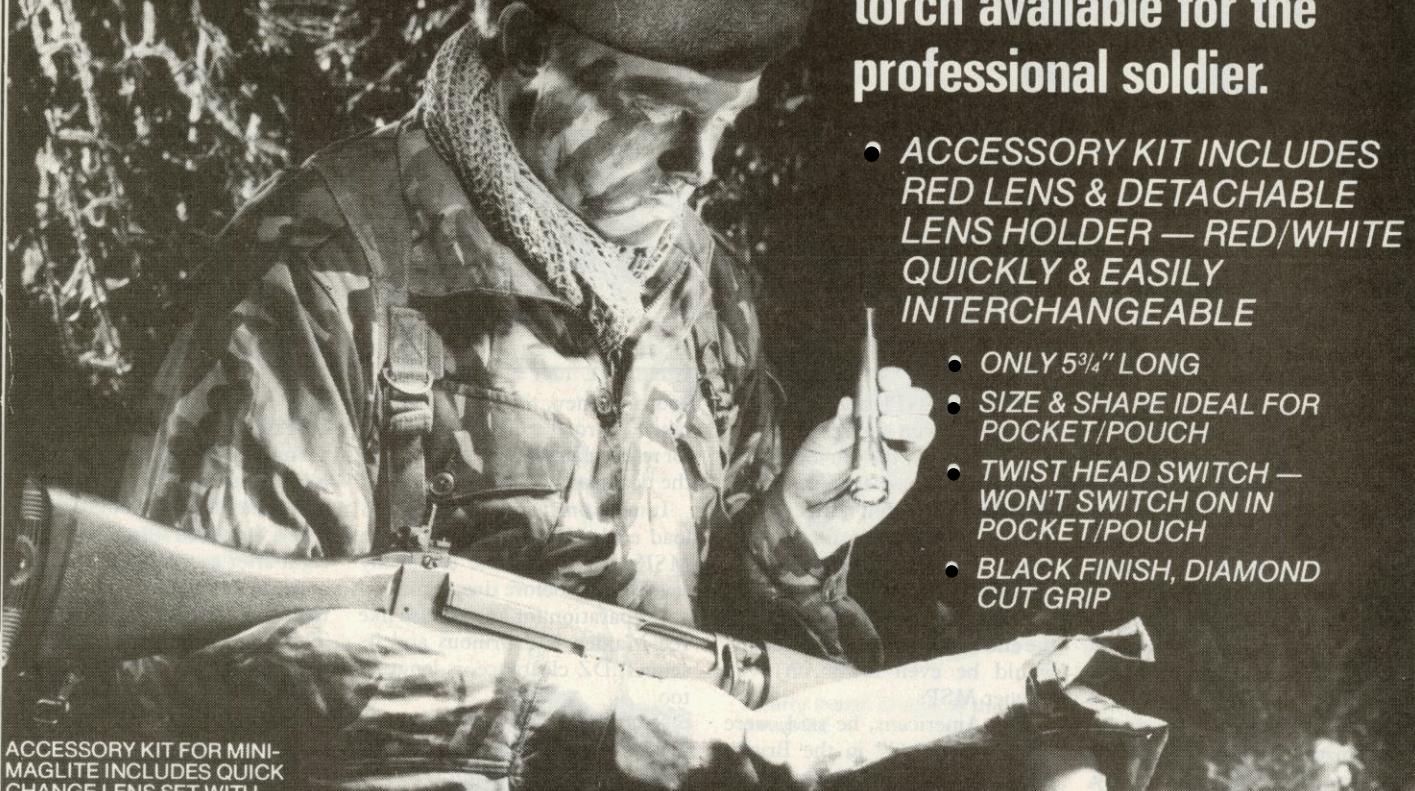
The message is clear. Bigger and more comprehensive loads are in the tactical offing. Most with a rear-ramp-to-ground delivery time of 12 seconds... and possibly even less. The time it probably took to read the opening paragraph of this report.

**By Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley**



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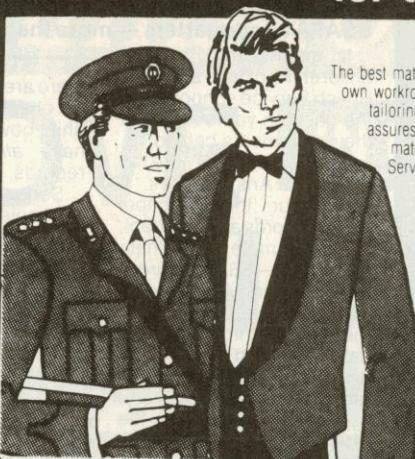


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WHY 20,000 KIDS HAVE NO SCHOOL HEALTH RECORDS

AN INCREASING number of unclaimed school health records are jamming filing cabinets at SSAFA headquarters — more than 20,000 of them.

It means that schoolchildren who have attended British Service schools over the past ten years have left their documents behind.

Does it matter they are not claimed? Answer: Yes, it does. For these school health records are important.

For example: Mrs Shirla Philogene — SSAFA's director of nursing — is most concerned as the documents list immunisation dates, sight and hearing tests and many important details of a child's medical history.

Mrs Philogene thinks the reason why parents don't bother to have the documents sent on to the child's next school, is because they consider school health records as "healthy" and have no need to be concerned.

Advice: If you are a parent who knows that your child's school record is missing

first started school, write to the last school listing present home address and that of present school.

If there are still gaps in the record, write to: SSAFA, Schools' Health Documents, SSAFA HQ, 16-18 Old Queen Street, London SW1 with the addresses of all previous schools and, if possible, dates when the

child attended. Mrs Philogene hopes that before long most of the 20,000 documents will find their rightful schools.

To help parents remember to tell schools they are moving, she suggests that school health records and the name of the SSAFA sister be added to the soldier's check list on leaving.

Going 'home' to a waiting list

Another letter — one of many — highlighting the housing problems of soldiers about to leave the Army. The writer says: "I have been involved with a city council regarding housing for one of my staff but without success.

"The facts are this man has been on the housing list of this particular city for 23 years.

"He was advised by the

military authorities that, once registered, he need only apply for a council house when coming to the end of his service and he would have priority.

"But when he completes his service it appears he will have insufficient residential time in the area to qualify for a council house.

"Both he and his family come from this area so the residential qualification

period of six months was satisfied prior to departure.

"But the only advice he gets is that he rents accommodation for six months in the area where he wishes to settle when he may be considered for a house, along with all the other hopefuls.

"Could you tell people — through SOLDIER — of the situation they might face leaving the Army."

YOU WRITE

The housing articles certainly stirred you up. I have had many letters expressing comments, views and suggestions. Here are just a few...

Writes Major Frank Reynolds from Woolwich: It's no use the Army sitting back and waiting for the Government to spoon feed us, we have to help ourselves.

If everybody in the Army gave one day's pay a month we could start our own building society. We could then lend to soldiers at, say, two per cent, plus giving them back the lump sum they had saved. Quite simple really.

For the doubting Thomases, I have the figures for the REME and in five years we alone would be worth £50 million.

If they want somebody to run the scheme, I'll do it.

A single officer in QARANC says: In reply to a question on housing (SOLDIER, January 13) Mr Stanley stated: "The married unaccompanied soldier does not pay for his accommodation because he is not expected to pay for the upkeep of two houses."

Many single soldiers also own their own houses, with the same mortgage commitments as their married colleagues. Why, therefore, are single soldiers expected to pay for the upkeep of two houses?

If accompanied service is to be encouraged, would it not be more fair if those who choose to be unaccompanied paid the same rates as a single person, and only those whose military duties require them to be unaccompanied receive free accommodation?

At present, many single soldiers, of which I am one, feel that there is a considerable bias against them. Accommodation is just the tip of the iceberg.

Yet another writer: In 1979 I married and took over a maisonette in a not highly desirable area of Plymouth. After one year of constant battles to have things repaired, I looked at the cost of the rent and decided to buy a house.

The struggle to make ends meet for the first year was a nightmare, but we managed.

In 1982 I was moved to Poole, but being unable to afford the legal costs of selling and buying again, I lived in the sergeants' mess.

It was during this time that food charges for married unaccompanied soldiers were introduced.

John Stanley says these charges "represent the amount of money his family is saving by his absence."

I don't know about Mr Stanley, but I enjoy my wife's company and each weekend drove to Plymouth. Take off the one warrant a month I was allowed, my petrol costs and telephone calls came to £74. This money, plus the food costs, totalled a considerable amount over the year.

I continued to save what I could and by the time I had enough money for a house of a similar standard to the one I had, I moved back to Plymouth.

With the money I was now saving by not commuting, I

sold up and, in August last year, moved into a new house.

Within a few weeks of moving in the CO told me that I would be posted in '86.

Fine, it's all part of Service life, but I am left with the problem — do I leave my wife and six-week-old baby and begin to commute again?

Do I move out of a three-bedroomed centrally heated, detached house and into a three-bedroomed third rate quarter?

I would be prepared to buy and sell again, but cannot afford the legal fees.

The system has you with your back to the wall when they say you can claim fees if you can fulfil all the rules.

With more than 14,000

vacant quarters the rule about not leaving a quarter empty by you moving into private accommodation is a hard one to make. If Mr Stanley was moved would he leave his wife or move into a lower grade of house? I think his answer, like mine, would be "No".

I am not knocking Mr Stanley, but feel strongly about the matter. If the 24 per cent of us who own our own homes decided to move back into quarters what would happen then?

They cannot afford to maintain the occupied quarters as it is without the burden of more occupants.

I appreciate you may have received many letters like mine and I, along with many others, are glad you are there

to put our point across. But I would like Mr Stanley to sit down in a room full of service home-owners and listen to what they have to say.

The Armed Forces business manager of the Halifax Building Society writes:

Mr Stanley made clear that his aim was to make it possible for families to move together on posting without feeling they should live in their own house. He did not develop this point but it does

raise the question as to whether one achieves this aim by introducing financial arrangements that would

make it attractive for the soldier to defer house purchase, or whether one encourages house purchase on terms that allow the family to "follow the flag" without significant financial or social loss.

When Mr Stanley seeks to encourage Service families not to live in their own house, he does leave open the possibility that a Service family might buy a house without the intention of living

in it. Clearly, if the letting of houses could be reduced to a financially worthwhile experience, there might be a way of allowing families to gain if not the best of both worlds, at least an acceptable means of meeting both the commitment of mobility and the aspiration of home ownership.

Building societies are in general, sympathetic to the family who wish to rent their house from the time of purchase provided they intend to live in it at a later date. However, if a house is purchased not as a home, but as a hedge against inflation, then we are entering the very different ground of investment.

House buying, as opposed to home buying, would not of course help the lower paid ranks who, so legitimately, are a special concern of Anne Armstrong.

Here the advantage of housing associations may have some application, but that is another story.

So, Anne, is it possible to reconcile the twin, and largely divergent aims, of home ownership and total mobility by means of house purchase as a hedge against missing out in the housing market?

There is no pot of gold owned by the building societies, or probably any civilian organisation for that matter that can provide a Service member with instant capital other than through regular and substantial saving and wise investment along the way.

McRobie of Station Staff Office, Minden, says:

"As Service people we are all usually involved in raising funds for other charities and organisations, and we tend to forget our own problems until someone brings it to our attention, but this is usually

Badges for handicapped

If you're handicapped and living in the UK you are entitled to an orange badge for your car. The badge is also valid in the EEC, but should your badge expire or you become eligible for one while in BAOR — you should apply to the Chief of Police Advisor, Joint Services Liaison Organisation, BFPO 34 for the German blue badge (right).

Note: Local German badges are not valid in the UK or other EEC countries.



HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

IN MY VIEW

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when the police, fire and other Government services are not so listed?

It is important that our Servicemen and women should never be faced with homelessness.

But even living in a married quarter doesn't necessarily provide a "local connection" and possible entitlement to a council house.

The hard fact is Service employment counts for very little when it comes to local housing.

But the Act does provide special circumstances. For example: households returning from abroad on discharge from the Services may be considered by a local council, providing the applicant had previously lived in the area for a considerable time.

In these circumstances a council may find grounds for a "local connection."

On the other hand, in a recent case in which a Service family applied to White Horse Vale District Council for a house, a judge ruled that they had no "local connection" as they were living in an MQ. They didn't get a council house even though they had lived there some years.

Yet another indication that serving your country is an added hurdle in the housing stakes.

Since these constraints act against the Serviceman and his family, surely the Defence Select Committee should raise this in the Commons and the House of Lords and have Servicemen removed from Section 18 of the Homeless Persons Act which lists them with criminals and the mentally insane.

Soldiers are not and never have been in the same category as prisoners and the mentally insane. Refugees and those seeking political asylum are not even mentioned in Section 18.

Surely this can't be right when they are an integral part of the community. This



becomes even more obvious when they are called on to provide emergency services at fires, floods, and rubbish clearance.

This is not the first time I have stressed the unfairness of the Act so far as soldiers are concerned.

But if accompanied service is now official policy, as Defence Minister John Stanley says, then the No. 1 priority is to remove Servicemen from Section 18 immediately.

Soldiers are not and never have been in the same category as prisoners and the mentally insane. Refugees and those seeking political asylum are not even mentioned in Section 18.

British Servicemen and women and their families are entitled to better treatment than this in 1986.

Tune into this plea and help a child

Service children in BAOR suffering with hearing problems are to get help.

"As Service people we are all usually involved in raising funds for other charities and organisations, and we tend to forget our own problems until someone brings it to our attention, but this is usually

isolated to that garrison or unit where the problem lies.

"With a fund like the BAOR Appeal, this would be available to all families while serving in West Germany and Berlin.

"So why not help our own for a change and sponsor

this fund in any way that you can as your help helps them?

"If you would like to make a donation to the fund then please send it to: BAOR Central Bank, 3 Royal Anglian Regt, Minden, BFPO 29."

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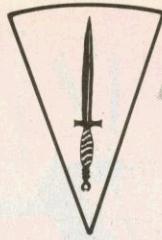
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Where Gunners become

SNOW SHOOTERS

IT was 20 below and covered with snow, and the clouds were hovering dark... Not a line from the oft-quoted Eskimo Nell, but an accurate description of the Norwegian scenario faced by 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery.

They were there for their annual ten-week deployment to the frozen wastes just below the Arctic Circle at a place called Andenes where, in common with the rest of the country, beer costs £3 a pint and when the wind blows, temperatures drop to around 40 below freezing.

It can be truly said that, while the locals go about their everyday business with smiles hidden behind woolly hats and anorak hoods, life for the Commandos on Arctic Survival Training (AST) can be tough. It's a place offering conditions which can sort the men from the supermen — there being no place for boys in this outfit — in double quick time.

It's an expensive and cold place where even the proverbial brass monkey would find it hard going against the freezing climate.

But although it's cold it's better that way. "The ideal temperature for our training is a few degrees below freezing," said Captain David Challes, the adjutant.

"If it gets above freezing then we would have trouble moving about. Everything becomes wet and slushy."

"And with six feet of snow everywhere it doesn't take a lot of imagination to realise the difficulties we'd have moving our oversnow vehicles, let alone our 105 mm light guns which weigh in the region of two tons."

But while it's a rough, tough life for this green-hat outfit during their ten-week deployment, there are a few benefits to help offset the discomfort.

Benefits such as LOA of up to £5.93 a day for corporals and below; no accommodation charges — although accommodation for the 250 soldiers was of a poor standard with ten to a room with two-tier bunks; free food on exercises, but the standard £2.22 a day charge when in camp; skiing galore, but not the usual downhill fun stuff as their skiing entails 3½ weeks of cross-country practice, followed by a 20-kilometre biathlon with heavy pack, weapon and ammunition with

by
John Margetts

no exceptions — not even the CO.

But while the Commando Gunners got themselves trained and sorted for *Anchor Express*, the local populace proffered warm welcomes to homes, cafes and pubs.

Arguably their friendliness could be fiscal based, since the regiment's arrival every year means not just banner headlines in the local paper and a 10 per cent increase in their 4,000 population, but an enormous boost to their economy.

Food, fuel and a fair amount of entertainment are all bought locally — even though their brew is the price of liquid gold plus a fiver entrance fee for a disco.

But even with such sky-high prices most of the lads avail themselves of local amenities at least once a week if only to get away from the camp for a few hours.

"Ten weeks up here is a long time," said Lieutenant Colonel Ian Durie, CO of 29 Commando. "Unlike Plymouth, where we are based, there's not a lot to do in our spare time and since this is a training session, our AST and continuation programmes are very full."

The Colonel revealed that, while he considered his men to be among the Army's top

Photographs: TERRY CHAMPION

three per cent in quality, his regiment was about ten per cent below strength.

A good many COs, if not all, will say the same of their units... super-fit, top quality men and the like, but when referring to the green beret brigade it's a different ball game.

It's not that wearers of the famed beret would publicly claim superior qualities to other troops, but modestly point out that theirs are enhanced and heightened by their special role.

"It's probably because our standards and demands on fitness are so high that we're

Commandos are not always Marines. 29 Commando Regiment RA wear the famed green beret, too. Each year they deploy to Norway, ending the ten-week stay in the snow with a Nato exercise. This year it was *Anchor Express*.

SOLDIER followed their progress for a couple of days in preparation for their trip northwards.



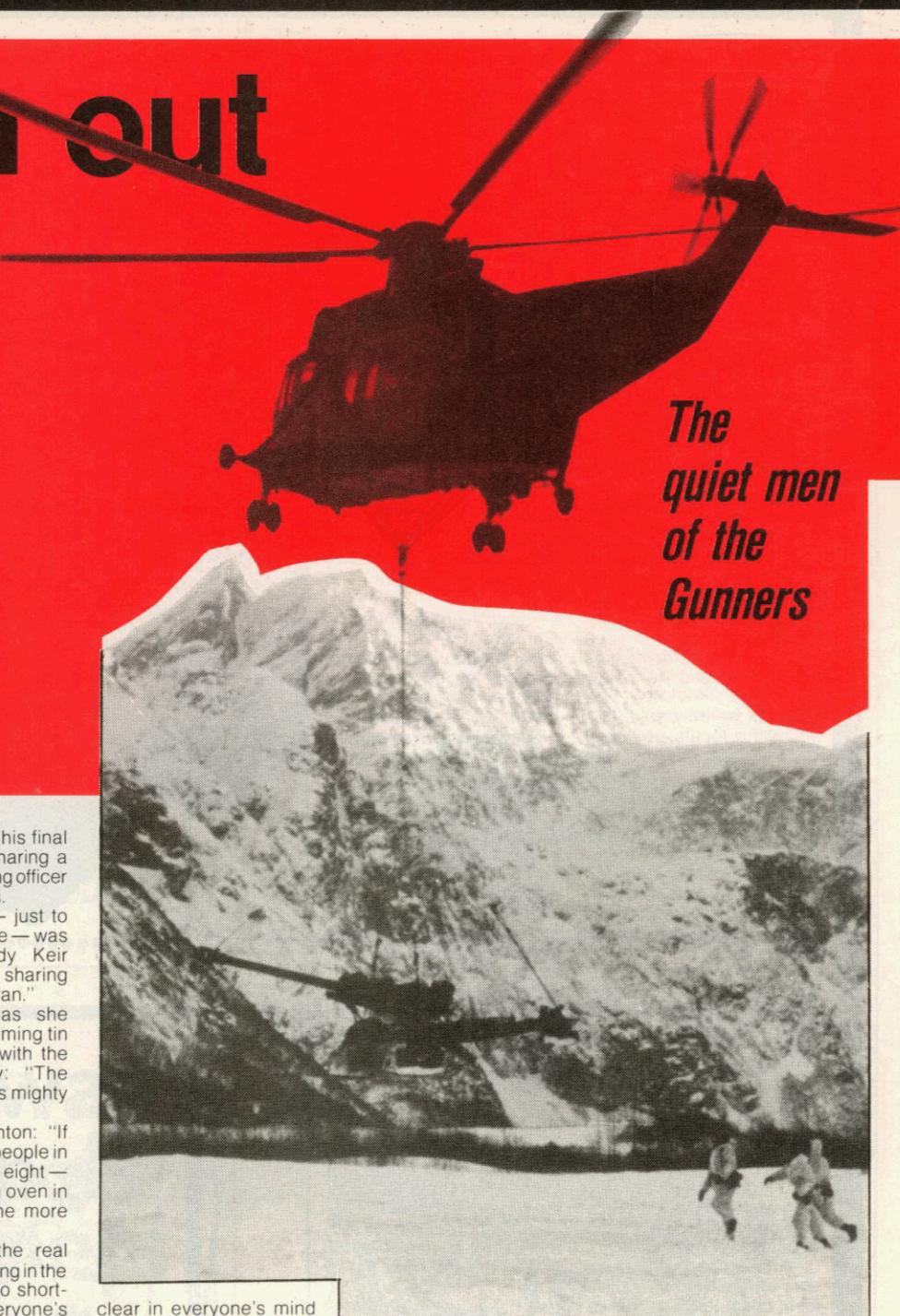
Captain Challes. "There is no extra money for wearing the green hat in the Royal Artillery and joining us means going to the bottom of the promotion ladder as others have prior claims."

"There is also ten weeks in the snow every year and, while we spend a lot of time skiing, even the R-and-R ski-time is tackled with our operational role in mind.

Continued on Page 26

First get your green beret... then become a Two-Nine Commando Gunner (see next page)

Watch out when the wind blows



A LITTLE knowledge is a dangerous thing... especially in the Arctic. For if men are to survive in that inhospitable climate they have to know one thing or two.

Being Commandos 29 Regiment know how to fight and fire their 105mm guns, but keeping warm and living in the strength-sapping cold is an art requiring skill, knowledge and practice.

And a visitor — just to see what it was like — was Lieutenant Mandy Keir WRAC, who was sharing their evening "scran."

Said Mandy, as she tucked into a steaming tin of compo laced with the ubiquitous curry: "The scran's hot, but it's mighty cold sitting here."

Said WO2 Ashton: "If there were more people in the tent — it'll hold eight — it would be like an oven in no time at all. The more the merrier."

So what are the real problems of surviving in the Arctic? There's no shortage of water, everyone's walking on about eight feet of the stuff?

"Everyone has to take the nine-night course every year to qualify for the basic Arctic Survival Training (AST) qualification. They don't necessarily complete nine consecutive nights in the field, but when they are here, they're looking at a 12-hour day of training."

Finishing off his 12-hour stint and obligatory nine-night session was RSM WO1 Malcolm Flanagan.

Helping him keep that common sense approach

clear in everyone's mind were instructors Staff Sergeant Paddy Mallinson, Sergeant George Jobling, Bombardier Chris Underhill and Lance Bombardiers 'Rummy' Dimmock and Mark Grundy.

They're out in the field for most of the ten-week stay. "No problems," said Roy Ashton. "We know what we're doing; we're left alone and it's quiet — except when the wind blows!"

LIFT FOR A LIGHT GUN: co-operation with 846 Sqn Royal Navy

How to learn Navy speak

Don't talk of dining rooms or cookhouses to Commandos. They use Navy speak even when making tracks for the nearest bar — "going ashore," they say. It's one of their special ways of retaining that halfway slot between being sailors and soldiers. For Naafi read canteen; lavatory, heads; barracks, cabins; cookhouse, galley. There's a whole lot more, but it would be best to join them to find out!

in which everyone must compete and complete.

It means skiing for 15ks as fast as possible and pumping ten shots in a 30-metre target before whizzing off on the last five kilometres for base.

Test time for this comes with the 20-kilometre biathlon

target mean a four-minute time penalty added to course times.

Seemingly it can only be pride that lures soldiers to go for the green beret, for it has to be earned and there is no easy way to do this — the Royal Marines see to

that in their own special way.

And judging by conditions endured in snow holes, tents and general work surroundings, the green-hat gunners subsequently re-earn their right to the hat every year from early January to mid-March.

It's a rough, hard existence, but one which Colonel Durie is convinced his men enjoy for the simple reason they are Commandos — a role demanding many qualities including toughness, resilience and tenacity of the highest calibre.

When the Gunners go shooting in the snow (from page 25)

"That is why we are here and since skiing provides a fast way of moving over snow, every Commando must attain a fair degree of skill carrying a heavy pack and weapon."

Test time for this comes with the 20-kilometre biathlon



HARRY'S BOYS

148 (Meiktila) Battery

MAJOR Harry Beaves said: "If it hadn't been for the Falklands my battery wouldn't be here today."

148 (Meiktila) Battery, the Commando Forward Observation Battery of 29 Commando, was all set to disappear in the cut-back plan when Argentina made a bid for those South Atlantic islands.

"We were ideally suited for that job and that's what saved us from oblivion," he said.

With a title like theirs it's hard to imagine, let alone believe, they are one of the few rippling adventure-style units still around.

Maybe the SAS and SBS have the edge on them for PR imagery, but Harry Beaves and his boys

Among the four-strong team

ADVENTURE WITH A DIFFERENCE

really "do the business" when they go into action.

For their job is to get close — real close — to enemy positions and direct naval gunfire in support of land operations.

On the face of it it sounds easy: "Up a bit. Left a bit..." But it's getting there to do the job that counts.

NO BIRDS!

Defence cuts have hit 29 Commando Regiment over the years and the unit is now made up of three Regular Army batteries, a Commando forward observation battery a TAVR gun battery in London and an HQ battery.

Based in Plymouth, it is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ian Durie who took the trouble to learn to speak Norwegian before taking command about 14 months ago.

Commissioned 22 years ago, he is an active Christian and his hobbies include running (plenty of that in Norway providing it's not too cold), orienteering (useful for finding the way over snow-covered country) and birdwatching (not much chance of this since the *Soldier* team saw not one feathered friend in a week-long stay).

"We need more guys, but they have to be fit, well motivated and bright," said Major Beaves.

So if any trained soldier has a yen to wear a green beret and see the world, learn to parachute, sea-dive, ski and send Morse at a fast rate, contact Major Harry Beaves at 148 Cdo FO Bty, Poole.

He and the rest of 148 are there awaiting calls from the right sort of men, ready to sign, 'em up.



COMMANDO FORWARD OBSERVERS OF 148: observing without observation

Nose-bag time in Norway

If music be the food of love... then food on Norway deployment is the love of life among the Commandos of 29 (say two nine) Regiment.

Make no mistake, it's a top priority up there in the snow and the mountains.

And the lads need it, too — all 5,000 calories of the splendid dishes offered by the ACC chefs and cooks with the regiment.

Steaks and meat dishes fish of every description every day all

followed by sumptuous puddings and sweets.

And since everyone of them is a first-class trencherman, they make the most of it by tucking in with gusto.

Benevolently WO2 master chef Dave Fitton surveyed the packed galley and said: "The lads can eat as much as they want. They eat huge amounts, far more than they would at home. It's the cold you know," he said.

POPULAR
POSTIE



THERE ARE no prizes for guessing who would have topped the popularity stakes during 29 Commando's deployment, but had 'Postie' Lance Corporal George Montgomery been nominated he could well have come first.

"But only if the mail arrived on time," said George of the RE Postal and Courier Services, based at South Cerney and on his first tour of Norway.

"On the other hand, if the mail was late arriving... well, the lads don't like that. They do like to get their mail on time."

But they're not as keen to write letters as they are to receive them, he said. "Perhaps it's all the hard work and the cold that puts them off."

But even so they made full use of George's post office which offered a full range of services including an airmail letter service for 17p.

His busiest time, he said, was just before Valentine's Day, when the Commandos went all soft hearted and flooded his post room with hundreds of cards. "Must be the weather up here," said George.

Another little unit in support of 29 Commando consisted of six WRAC led by Lieutenant Mandy Keir, 26.

Helping Mandy to keep the admin wheels turning in her job as assistant adjutant were Lance Corporals Mary Jones — her husband, Nick, is currently in Belize with the regiment's 79 Battery and due back next month — HQ Battery clerk Karen Clothier, officers' mess cook Valerie Mitchell and Privates Clare Brodie, who operated the unit computer and Siobhan Hall the QM's clerk.

There were also three TA girls from 37 Signal Regiment at Cardiff, one of whom was Corporal Marion Kim.

"Our job is to operate the comcen," said Marion, who has six years' service in the TA and was on her second tour of Norway.

At the time she was telling of her role, she was having a medical check in the sick bay next to her office, by LMA Rodney Hopper, a Royal Navy Commando.

With Navy medical attendant Stuart White, they assisted the MO — who was out at the time — in every way they could.

"Most common complaint?" echoed Rodney. "Toothache, I'd say. It seems the extreme cold affects fillings which means sending patients to the Commando Logistic Regiment dentist at Gardermoen.

"Of course we get a few broken bones, usually caused by skiing falls. They, too, go to Commando Logistics and possibly back to the UK."

Another common complaint was listed by adjutant Captain David Challes — constipation can be a problem out here, he said.

"When men spend four days or more in snow holes and tents eating compo rations, answering

nature's calls can be somewhat difficult.

"But learning to cope is all part of arctic survival training." Like pay, which was controlled by Staff Sergeant Mick Cotton, a military accountant with the RAPC, food was a main topic with the lads. Keeping them happy in this department was Master Chef WO2 Dave Fitton, ACC badged on his green beret as were most of his 18 ACC cooks.

"If they haven't got the green beret yet it's because they are still working towards it," he said.

While ambience in the "galley" — in the Commandos all jargon is Navy style — was definitely low-key with poor lighting and bare furnishings, the food was well up to standard. And lots of it.

"The lads can eat as much as they want," said Dave. "Many come back for third helpings. Most eat phenomenal amounts. But they need it in this climate."

Food cost allowance and expenditure is about seven times that of the UK ceiling. But all food is bought locally and this reflects some of the difference in prices in the UK and there.

"But at least it gives my chefs the chance to display their skills and produce superb food," said Dave Fitton.

Giant-size prawn cocktails, steaks of all kinds done to a turn, vegetables of every description; to say the Commandos on deployment in Norway eat well would be an understatement. The eating is superb. No wonder there is no waste. "Everything goes," said Dave Fitton.

He added that the unofficial motto of his team was: "We go where they go."

"We have to provide the food when they need it, so we have to do the Commando course the same as everyone else. It's all part of the job."

Another little behind-the-scenes unit was the REME LAD commanded by Captain

Mike Barker. On this and last year's deployment the lads have worked indoors in a hired workshop.

"But prior to that it was a case of working outside where you could," said Sergeant Brett Jordan-Davis. On his ninth visit of the area, Brett told how in 1979 it was tented accommodation and "bloody cold."

But now all is different, not to mention a big improvement, said Captain Barker. "Working conditions here are better than we have at Plymouth."

As with 29's other support units the REME are all Commando trained or waiting to be. Between times they were kept busy maintaining the regiment's oversnow BV 202s, said by many to be almost "clapped out."

"It can mean long hours in the snow recovering broken-down vehicles," said Mike Barker. "And that part of our job seems to be increasing with the age of the vehicles. But we're hoping new oversnow vehicles won't be too long coming our way," he said

"We're open all hours," said Andy Dungay, "and business is good."

Often unsung, the EFI shop is where the lads go for their duty-free and gifts for wives and girlfriends.

"What would they do without us?" asked Barry Mines. What indeed?

by John Margetts — photos: Terry Champion

LANCE CORPORAL GEORGE MONTGOMERY: busy Valentine's Day



THE COMMANDO LOGISTIC REGT AND 57 SQN RCT: first in the supply chain

of the canteen at the Andlesness base (rented from the Norwegian Army).

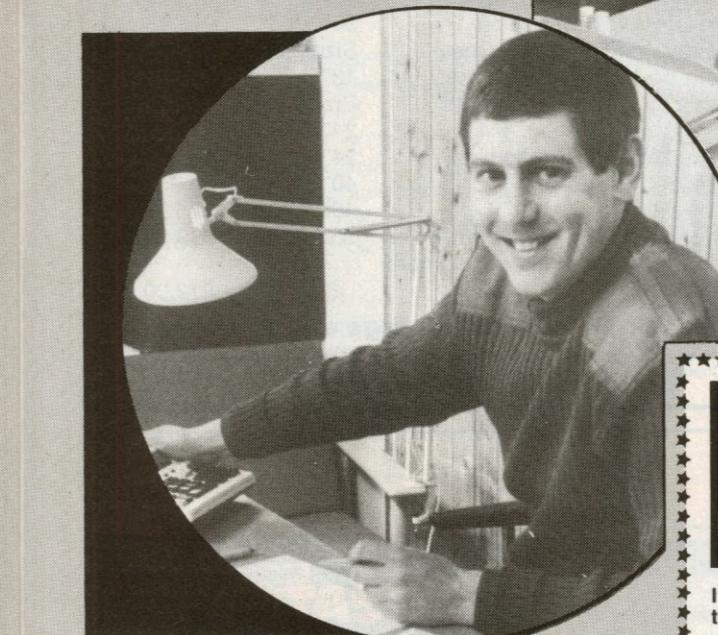
There, in an old wooden building built by the Germans as a wartime hospital, the 250 soldiers of 'Two Nine' can let their hair down at four "kronks" a pint — about 40p.

But having a pint in this building is not without hazards especially when leaving.

For it is sited in an exposed, isolated area which catches the full force of the wind down the valley and temperatures can reach a cripplingly cold low.

So to ensure that everyone has returned to their cabins safe and sound, the duty officer has to stumble and slide the half-mile track to the living quarters after closing time checking no-one has tripped and fallen.

"We've had the odd couple fall over, but they've



LIEUTENANT MANDY KEIR, PRIVATE CLARE BRODIE
Keeping the paperwork and the admin well in line

(Left): STAFF SERGEANT MICK COTTON: pay, food and LOA

Short of cash? Two-Nine could be the answer

If it's money you're after then joining 29 Regiment — they're short of men — could be the answer.

While there's no extra cash for actually being a Commando, there is LOA when deployed to Norway.

For those staying the full ten weeks the rates are: Lt Col £9.26 a day; Major, £9.18; Captain, £7.92; Lieutenant, £6.87; WO1, £9.09; WO2/SSgt, £8.45; Sgt, £8.02; Cpl £7.66; ORs £5.93.

While this might appear generous remember beer costs about £3 a pint in hotels and bars. Food is expensive, too.

"But that is why this LOA is paid," said CO Lieutenant Colonel Ian Durie.

"Of course some people choose not to go out too much and manage to save some and return home with a fair sum."

Those achieving this have usually made full use

been found within minutes. If they weren't, well, who knows," said adjutant Captain David Challes.

There, in an old wooden building built by the Germans as a wartime hospital, the 250 soldiers of 'Two Nine' can let their hair down at four "kronks" a pint — about 40p.

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So to ensure that everyone has returned to their cabins safe and sound, the duty officer has to stumble and slide the half-mile track to the living quarters after closing time checking no-one has tripped and fallen.

"When you get a couple of hundred soldiers in here, plus guests, our takings really take off. All profit, of course goes to our P.R."

Added Captain Challes:

"We consider having guests here in the sergeants' and officers' messes to be good P.R. We're happy to have them here and we know they're happy for us to be here."

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Shoe a horse in NBC kit!

DIRTY, noisy, potentially quite hazardous — hardly the formula, perhaps, for popular success. Yet, judging by the number of soldiers in the modern British Army who would evidently love nothing better than shoeing horses, the Army School of Farriery at Melton Mowbray is doing very well.

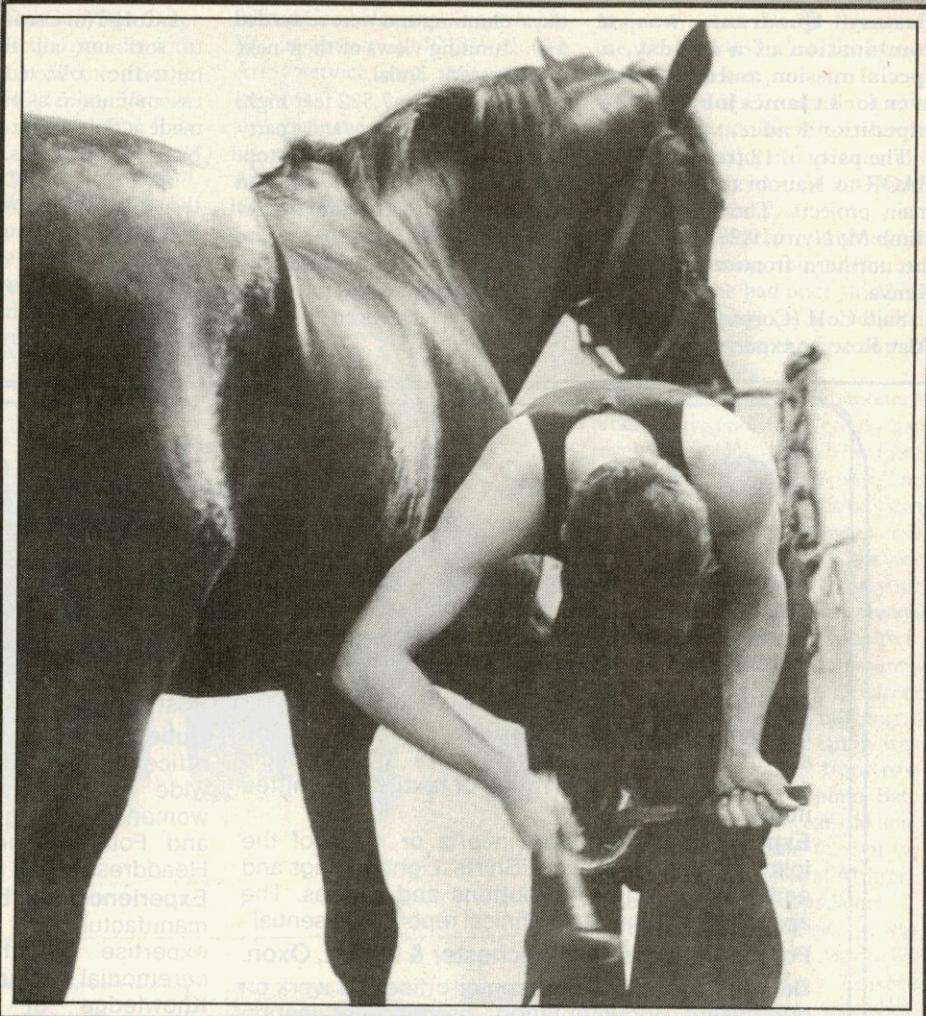
In fact, there are enough people in this age of sophisticated electronics still interested in good old fashioned technology to ensure a three year waiting list for this particular place of learning.

The school takes in 30 new students a year all of whom do a 13-week course at the start of what can be, according to WO1 Brian Duerden, the warrant officer in charge, a lifetime's apprenticeship.

"It is said that this job takes three lifetimes to master fully," he says. "One to learn it, one to do it and one to teach it!"

WO Duerden is an associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and the sole survivor of what was once an important rank in the Army — the Farrier WO1. There were at least 10 of them before the Second World War.

The sort of man he looks for as a potential student has a reasonable school education, a keen eye for detail and measurement, and a willingness to work hard in dirty and sometimes hazardous conditions.



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"He should also appreciate that he is working with animals, and for a human to work with animals is a vocation and not a job."

Perhaps this is the reason that the trade of farrier appeals so much to some people. It is not like sticking a bit of metal onto a machine. At the other end of the hoof being tipped with iron shoes is a large and sensitive animal which is fully capable of throwing its weight around if upset.

"It is really man working along with living tissue," says WO Duerden, "applying an inanimate object to living tissue. Not a thing that can be learned from text books. It is pretty much a case of being handed down from man to man."

The initial 13-week course, which should take the novice to Farrier Class III, is nothing more than a selection test, according to the WO in charge.

"It in no way qualifies him for anything," he explains, "it just says: yes, we will now take this man on for a future as a farrier. There is then a minimum of two years' on the job training, either here with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, or the Household Cavalry or King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. During this time they are continually shoeing under the constant supervision of a qualified farrier.

"If they can satisfy this requirement they come back here for another 13-week course for upgrading. It's a formal course requiring intensive practical and theoretical study.

Successful completion qualifies them as an Army Farrier Class II which carries the exemption of the Worshipful Company of Farriers."

In the days before the cavalry was mechanised the Army needed two schools of farriery. The biggest was at Aldershot in a building, now demolished, on the corner of Shoe Lane and Forge Lane.

Now, of course, instead of several thousand horses the Army has only 600. Consequently farriers' jobs are somewhat restricted.

There are six with the RAVC at Melton Mowbray, 14 with the Household Cavalry at Knightsbridge and Windsor, five with King's Troop, RHA, at St John's Wood, and one with Mounted Troop, 160 Provost Company, RMP, in Aldershot. There are in addition some 35 posts for farriers in Army Saddle Clubs scattered around the world.

The job isn't all hot irons, anvils and smoking hooches. Army farriers are still soldiers and like everyone else they are obliged to keep pace with military training.

In fact, WO Duerden says that farriers have even tried shoeing their horses in full NBC kit — gloves, masks the lot.

As a means of mixing the past with the present it was an interesting exercise, but not a pleasant experience, he said: Apart from the difficulty of handling things there was the problem of seeing and hearing properly — two rather important considerations when you are working with animals.

LOOKING tanned and fit, 12 men from The Blues and Royals have returned home to Detmold, BAOR after a month in Kenya. Their expedition Ecstasy Quadrant, was a combination of a holiday, a special mission, and of a dream even for Lt James Johnsen, the expedition leader.

The party of 12 travelled from BAOR to Nairobi to tackle four main projects. The first was to climb Mt Nyiru, 9,283 feet, up in the northern frontier district of Kenya.

Said CoH (Corporal of Horse) Alan Rose, an experienced adven-

AGONY AND THE ECSTASY

ture trainer: "It was extremely hot up there in the north as it is virtual desert; very dry, rugged and arid".

But they all made it after two days' climbing and were rewarded with stunning views of their next objective: Mt Kulal.

Although only 7,522 feet high, it still had its challenges and a party of six finally made it to the top. The rest had set up a base camp on the shores of Lake Rudolf (now known as Lake Turkana) where they carried out much-needed and vital maintenance on the three vehicles which had been punished by Kenyan 'roads'.

There was also time to supplement the staple diet of salted goat and tinned fruit with some fresh fish from the lake.

LCoH Tim Carpenter managed to sort out all the bugs and butterflies collected on top of the two mountains as part of a survey made at the request of the Kenyan National Museums.

The final project was probably the toughest, however, a 140-kilometre trek across the Chalbi Desert in five days. Twenty-two camels carried the water and other vital supplies but the men walked.

"I thought it was never going to

end," commented Lance Corporal Nigel King, the expedition's wildlife expert, "but even in some of the most desolate, arid country we saw some amazing sights: zebra, gerenuk and even some fresh lion tracks."

The trek took the expedition back towards the lake and they glimpsed the cool, turquoise waters for several tantalising hours before reaching them.

Then they drove back to Nairobi via Marsabit and Samburu game parks, where they saw an immense array of wildlife. The elephants in particular left a big impression: "awesome... absolutely mega", commented Trooper Chris Elliott.

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Duties: Responsible to a senior officer for the supervision and quality control of contracts associated with a wide range of textile and knitted items.

Experience: Is required in one or more of the following areas: Knitwear, Shirts, Light sewings and embroidery and metal buttons and badges. The ability to write concise technical reports is essential.

Post 2. Vacancies at Manchester & Didcot, Oxon.

Duties: Responsible to a senior officer for work on purchasing documentation, product verification and sample inspection.

Experience: A sound commercial background is required in the manufacture and production of one or more of the following: Heavy Textile Items (eg Tents, Awnings, Covers, Holdalls and Valises), Footwear, Gloves and other leather items. An ability is required to interpret specifications and drawings, also communicate well orally and in writing.

Post 3. Vacancies at Manchester & Glasgow.

Duties: Responsible to a senior officer for the maintenance of quality on textiles associated with uniforms and equipment for the three Services.

Experience: Applicants should have practical knowledge of one or more of the following: Woollen and Worsted ceremonial uniform cloths, cotton and synthetic materials and coated fabrics for foul weather and heavy duty use. It is essential to have had practical experience in a textile factory associated with fault identification in finished clothes, also the ability to interpret technical specifications and reports.

Post 4. Vacancies at Manchester.

Duties: As for POST 1 with additional supervisory responsibilities.

Experience: As for POST 1 plus experience in design layout, cutting and associated machines for production.

Post 5. Vacancies at Manchester & Didcot, Oxon.

Duties: As for POST 3 with additional supervisory responsibilities.

Experience: As for POST 3 with additional minimum of 4 years practical and supervisory experience.

Post 6. Vacancies at Manchester & Didcot.

Duties: As for POST 2 with additional responsibilities for assistance with firms assessment, vetting technical specifications and supervision of staff.

Experience: As for POST 2 but with supervisory experience.

Post 7. Vacancies at Didcot, Oxon.

Duties: Provide support to senior technical officers responsible for quality assurance of a wide range of service clothing for men and women, including: Ceremonial Uniforms, Combat and Foul Weather Clothing, Tropical Uniform, Headdresses and accoutrements.

Experience: A broad experience of clothing manufacture is required and any practical expertise in the military uniform and/or ceremonial clothing field would be an advantage. Knowledge of contractor assessment and associated Defence Standards would be an asset.

Qualifications: The following minimum entry qualifications are required, BTEC/SCOTEC Certificate, ONC, C&G (Technicians Certificate) PT II or equivalent qualification in a relevant discipline.

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PLUS At least one year post training experience in the discipline

OR HNC, HTEC or equivalent qualification in a relevant discipline with an aggregate of at least 4 years recognised formal training (eg apprenticeship) which may include up to 3 years full time study.

Salary: Starting salary will be on the Pay Scale of £7,000-£9,310. The scale maximum will be increased over 3 years to £10,500 in addition to any general increases in Civil Service Pay scales.

Holidays: In addition to the usual 10½ days public and privilege holidays, the successful applicants will be eligible for 4 weeks and 2 days annual leave with pay rising to 5 weeks after 10 years service.

Some assistance with relocation expenses may be available to candidates required to move home.

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Mark makes it a hat-trick

NOT ONLY was it the day a Corps honoured a hero of the First World War and his VC; it was a day in which an Army family saw the second part of what was to become a family hat-trick. A hat-trick of Army service tradition.

For Captain David Bate, Royal Corps of Transport, the second-in-command of 61 Depot Squadron, RCT, his wife, Joyce and son,

Darrin, were among nearly 200 onlookers as Driver Mark Bate, 17, not only marched proudly with his 37 colleagues of the passing out Herring VC Troop. He was also there as intake 195's Best Recruit.

His dad, Captain Bate did exactly the same thing 22 years before! Except that in his day, he was Champion Recruit.

The honour to the Corps was to

commemorate Second Lieutenant Alfred Cecil Herring who won his VC in France in 1918 with the Army Service Corps, as it was then known.

Among the guests of honour was his son, retired stockbroker Mr Anthony Herring (ex-RAF) and his wife Marjorie.

During the parade the VC had taken its own pride of place in a display case alongside the dais

where the Reviewing Officer was Major General Derek Braggins, the Director-General Transport and Movements.

It was, indeed, something of a special occasion for him, too. It was his last major official function before retirement after a 37-year career in the army.

He reminded the youngsters in front of him on the 40-minute parade that he had once stood on the same square as a National Service private for the first time in September 1949.

"Despite advances in modern technology and the micro-chip revolution soldiers are still the most important asset that we have," he said. "The challenge to the modern soldier is as important as ever it was in the Royal Army Service Corps. I congratulate you on your spirit. I am sure you will always remember this parade all your lives. I hope it will lay a foundation for a long, successful and happy career in the Royal Corps of Transport."

Meanwhile, the Bate family was quietly elated in their front row VIP seating. With Captain Bate and his wife was 18-year old son, Darrin who was due to sign on with the Corps of Royal Military Police ... just four days later!

Younger brother Mark, 17, was to be the first success story. He joined the Army and a 10-week stint at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, as part of the Government encouraged Youth Training Scheme.

He liked what he tried and saw, became the best recruit from intake Number 195 and is now undergoing his driver trade training syllabus at Leconfield.

On the day of the parade of the Herring VC Troop he was officially attested into the Regular Army for an initial three-year engagement.

On average, Buller Barracks parade ground sees some 900 'graduates' passing out into the RCT.

Before arriving at Buller, Driver Bate had lived in Hong Kong during one of his father's tours — with the Gurkha Transport Regiment — where, like a lot of expatriates, the teenager taught English to Chinese children.

A eulogy of his achievements while at Aldershot says: "Throughout his basic training, Dvr Bate showed a determination to succeed. His drill, map reading and skill-at-arms are all of a particularly high standard. He worked well within a section and was never slow to encourage his fellow recruits, particularly during the more arduous places of training. He thoroughly deserves this award and shows considerable promise to a bright future in the Corps."



Parade of Herring VC Troop.

VC awarded in POW camp

SECOND LIEUTENANT Alfred Cecil Herring was awarded his VC on March 23, 1918, at Jussy, France, while a member of the Army Service Corps.

The citation reads: "For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty when, after severe fighting, the enemy gained a position on the south bank of the canal. His post was cut off from the troops on both flanks and surrounded.

"Second Lieutenant Herring, however, immediately counter-attacked and recaptured the position together with 20 prisoners and six machine guns. During the night the post was continually attacked but all attacks were beaten off. This was largely due to the splendid heroism displayed by Second Lieutenant Herring who continually visited his men and cheered them up.

"It was entirely due to the bravery and initiative of this officer that the enemy advance was held up for 11 hours at an exceedingly critical period. His magnificent heroism, coupled with the skilful handling of his troops, were most important factors to success.

"He was taken prisoner and the day after his capture he was presented to the Kaiser who shook hands and congratulated him for putting up a very fine fight. Whilst in Grandaux POW camp in West Prussia he was presented with the VC Riband at a special parade attended by British officers and their German officer guards. He was decorated by King George V at Buckingham Palace on February 15th, 1919."

Temporary Second Lieutenant (later Major) Herring was 29 years old at the time of the action and was attached to the 6th (S) Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment. He died at Weybridge in August 1966.



Capt David (top) and Driver Mark

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T.S.

FIFTY thousand tonnes of granite boulders were moved ... 1,800 tonnes of concrete and 90 tonnes of steel were laid ... and two years later a bridge and a mile-long road had appeared on a remote peninsula on Lantau Island, the largest island in Hong Kong.

The 54-metre long bridge and the single track road were one of the largest tasks undertaken by the Corps of Royal Engineers for several years, and certainly the most ambitious project ever taken on by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

In an unusual opening ceremony Major General Anthony Boam, the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, unveiled a commemorative plaque before pressing a button to 'blast off' a ribbon to mark the formal opening of the project — then climbed aboard an engineer tractor and drove it across the bridge.

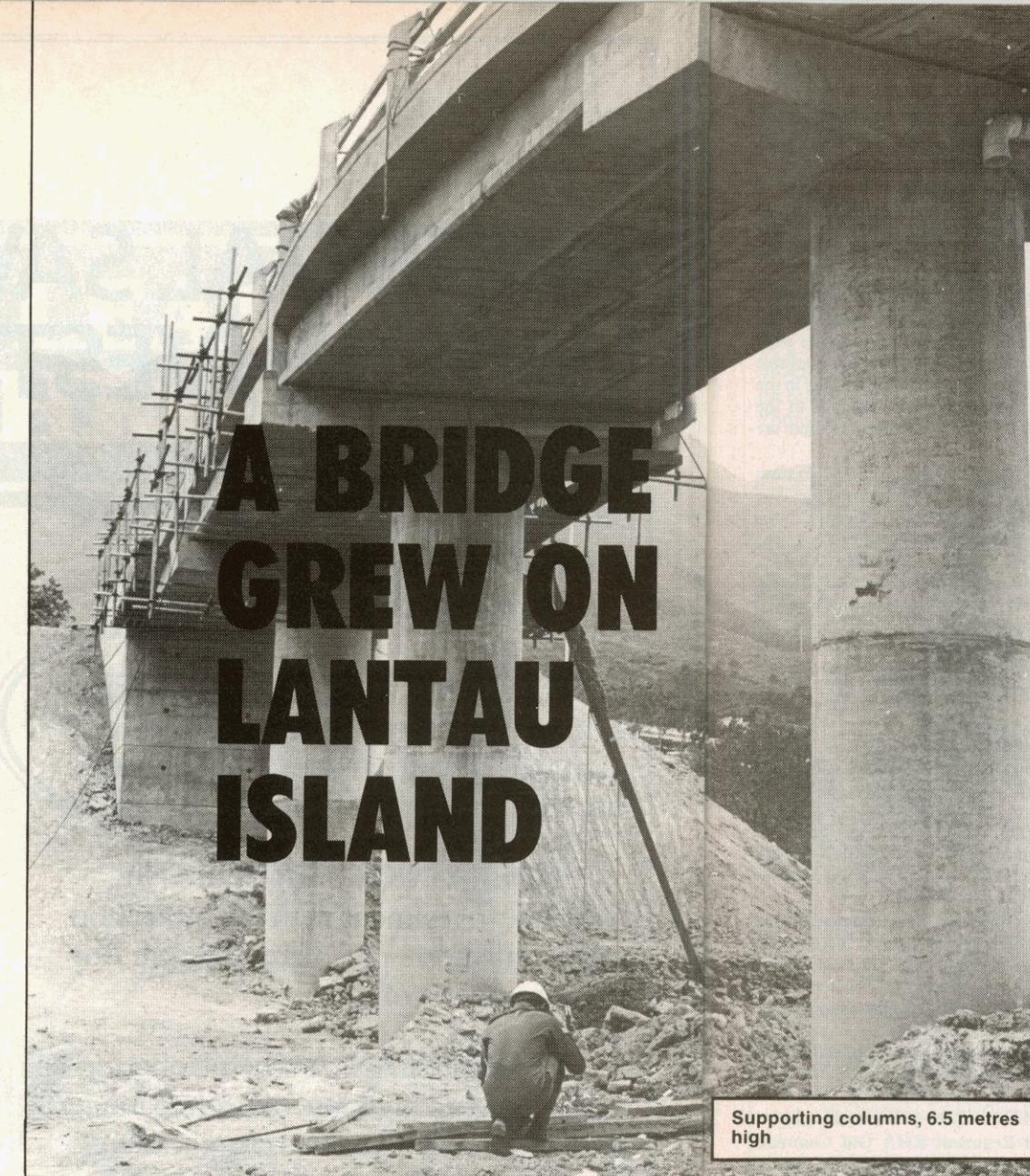
The civil engineer task to build the bridge and road on Hong Kong's largest island was conceived in 1983.

Subsequent discussions between Hong Kong Government departments, civilian consultant engineers and the Army resulted in a civilian firm being engaged to undertake the project design. From this design 70 Support Squadron QGE then produced the working drawings and a method of tackling the project.

To accommodate and administer between 80 and 100 soldiers engaged on the Lantau Project a camp had to be built, and in February 1984 a troop of 67 Field Squadron QGE started to construct a camp at Pui O — some eight kilometres from the bridge and road site.

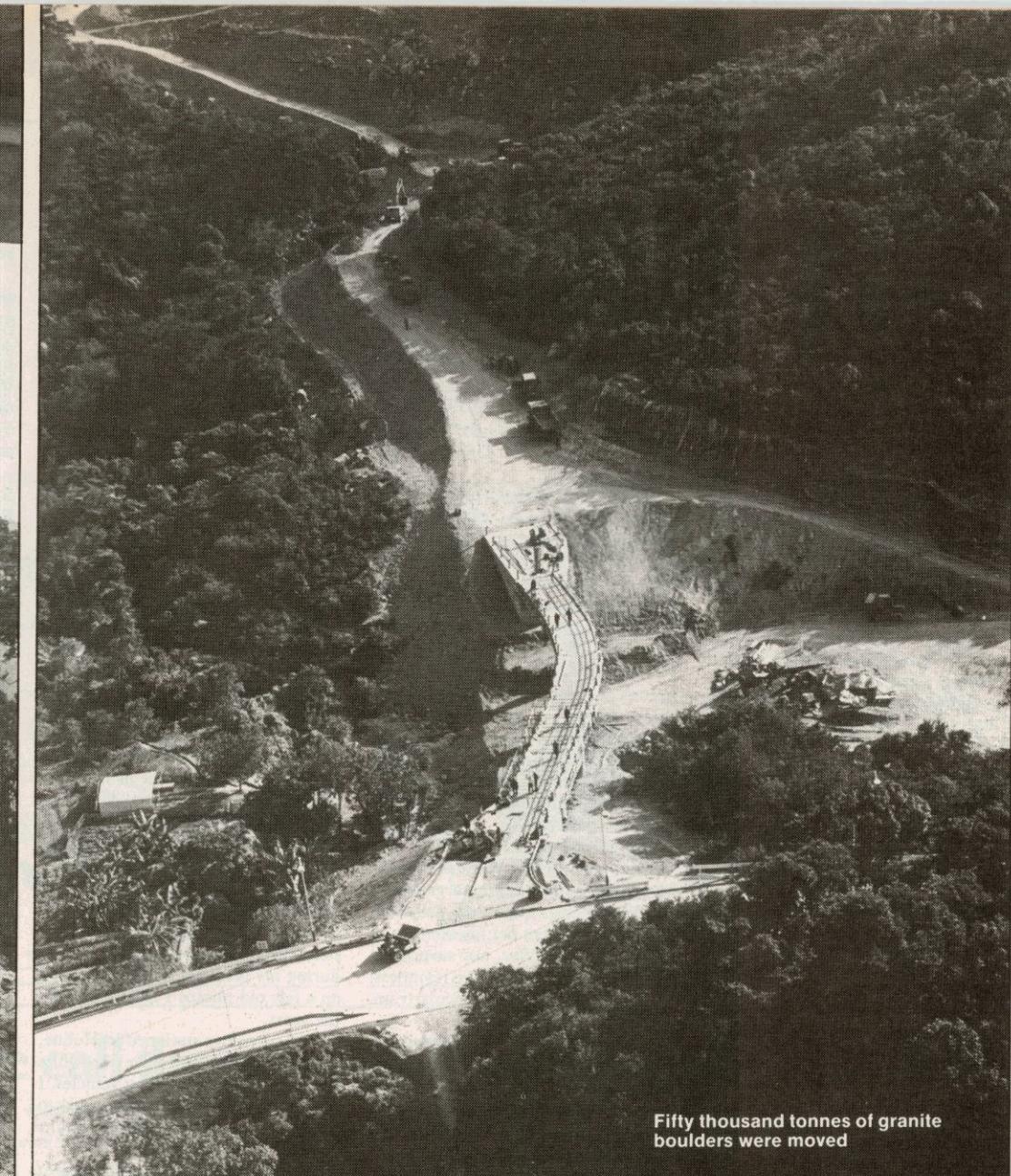
It was necessary also to organise a maintenance area for the heavy plant and a storage site for the construction materials. A suitable site for these was found and set up on a disused section of road about a kilometre from the planned location of the new bridge.

Meanwhile 68 Squadron's work on the track was progressing steadily and by March last year when they handed back the project to 67 Squadron one kilometre of pilot track had been cut and two of the six culverts completed.



A BRIDGE GREW ON LANTAU ISLAND

Supporting columns, 6.5 metres high



Fifty thousand tonnes of granite boulders were moved

A vast quantity of very large granite boulders on the proposed road route caused some concern and resulted in much time and effort being expended drilling and blasting them to a size small enough to be transported by truck to a nearby disused quarry.

Their removal was necessary because the area through which the road runs is designated parkland — legislation dictated that

boulders must be removed from the sides of roads and tracks.

Frequent heavy rain storms during last summer were a frustrating delaying factor, turning both the bridge area and the track into muddy, slippery hazards, almost totally unworkable.

Again 68 Squadron returned in September to take over from 67 Squadron and complete the project. 70 Support Squadron had, in fact, been employed on site since the very beginning, providing design expertise, workshops, transport, plant and the detail resources, managements so vital to the successful completion of an engineer task of such immensity.

By December, working dawn to dusk each day, the bridge was completed. On the road, all boulders had been removed and the sappers had produced a finished basic road surface on which civil contractors would later lay the concrete road surface.

Project Engineer Captain Dave Winship said the task had provided invaluable experience that would stand the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in good stead for future projects.



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S5



The bridge nears completion, two years on

MAIL DROP

... AND MORE

Sjt Gregg of the Rifle Brigade was not as you stated (SOLDIER Feb 10) "the only British soldier to be awarded three principal awards for gallantry in the First World War". Pte H Tandey of the West Riding Regt received exactly the same combination.

Quite a number of British soldiers received a greater number of gallantry awards. One such, J F Plunkett of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, received a DCM, was commissioned, and then went on to win a VC, DSO and two bars, and an MC.

Capt J Forbes-Robertson of the Border Regt received the VC, DSO and bar, and MC, and Major Lord Gort besides his VC received a DSO with two bars and an MC, besides being MID several times.

A famous soldier in Sjt Gregg's own regiment, the Rifle Brigade, was awarded a VC, DSO and MC, and the French Legion d'Honneur, before being killed. He was Major 'Billy' Congreve, whose decorations sold in June 1983 for £26,000. At the time he was the first British soldier to win this triple combination — and this before the war was half over.

Captain Noel Chavasse of the RAMC won the VC and bar besides his MC for quite exceptional gallantry. Triple and even quadruple gallantry combinations were not uncommon in the First World War, not surprising when one considers the often relentless nature of the fighting, particularly on the Western Front.

As one of the VC Committee remarked in 1918: "People are getting the MM now for what would have won the VC in the South African War".

— C G B Hurst, 25 Church St, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Several more readers have written in similar vein, putting forward the names of soldiers who have been awarded all three medals. — Ed.

PRIVATE ARMY?

I have an album containing photographs of the life of a family in India from 1880-1910. There are many photos of the Calcutta Mounted Rifles, all dressed in smart uniforms and equipment with splendid horses.

I was in India from 1929-1936 with the Devonshire Regiment serving in Quetta, Razmak, Karachi, Calcutta etc but never met this regiment. I wonder if any of your readers know if the Calcutta Mounted Rifles were 'real' soldiers or a private army? — Mr A W J Watson, 8 Summerfields Avenue, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3BP.

TA SPORT INTEREST

On behalf of many dedicated and hard working Sports Secretaries I must comment on the statement of Staff Sergeant Shirley (SOLDIER Jan 2) about TA Judo that there is "a total lack of interest in the Territorial Army by the various Army Sports Associations".

Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact that in the last two months the appointments of both secretary and treasurer of The Territorial Army Sport Board have passed

to me from retired officers in Eastern District, and that the Chief of Staff at HQ UKLF is now chairman of the Sport Board must in itself indicate the importance which the Regular Army places on TA physical and recreational training.

Much has happened in the past few years in the TA sporting world. Readers may be sure that, although there will always be problems with sports which are not recognised by TA Regulations, many sports flourish within the TA and a good deal of money and hard work is spent making sure they do. —

— Lt Col A J Payne (RA), Secretary Territorial Army Sport Board, HQ UKLF.

ELEPHANTS

The Duke of Wellington's Regt, The Queens Own Highlanders, The Highland Fusiliers and the 15th/19th Hussars are not the only regiments to have elephants.

My old regiment, 37th SAGW Regt Royal Artillery's 10 (Assaye) Bty also had a white elephant awarded to it after the Battle of Assaye in India. In my National Service days 10 Assaye Bty was nicknamed 'The White Elephant Bty'. The elephant was stencilled on all the Bty's vehicles, missiles and our steel helmets while stationed in Piddlehinton, Dorset.

I still have the white elephant stencilled on an old suitcase I used during my National Service days and on a few old photos I have kept over the years.

10 Assaye Bty stationed in Hohne, West Germany, still have the white elephant stencilled on their vehicles. I believe they have now reverted back to a Heavy Defence Regiment with guns instead of missiles.

Perhaps SOLDIER readers might like to know how those regiments were awarded the title Assaye: I think it would make interesting reading. — Mr K Preston, 24 Heather Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 8QX.

TRAVELS

I have often heard it suggested that the British soldier no longer travels abroad to the extent that he used to do.

The following travels of two officers, my sons, may therefore be of some interest:

Colonel John: Singapore, Hong Kong, Muscat and Oman, Australia, Germany (twice), Belgium, Argentina, USA (California), N Ireland, Nigeria.

Lt Col Peter: Hong Kong, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Germany (three times), Canada, Belize, Falklands, USA (Texas), N Ireland (three times). — G H Cook, 2 Old School Court, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2UA.

KOREA MEMORIAL

SOLDIER (January 27) has an interesting article on a soldier killed in the Korean War and I was pleased to learn that his name has been engraved on his home town's war memorial.

Many local authorities throughout the country have constantly refused to allow the names of Servicemen and Servicewomen killed in the service of their country in the wars and campaigns

since 1945 to be added to their town's war memorial.

The usual reason given is that the memorial was raised to commemorate the names of the dead of the two world wars.

This excuse does not carry much weight as originally the memorials were erected to honour the dead of 1914-18. Later, the dead of 1939-45 were included, so what difference does this make if the names of those killed in the other conflicts from Palestine to the Falklands and Northern Ireland are added.

So, full marks to WO2 Fenton RAPC, the 6th (Volunteer) Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and the local authority for Alnwick.

One point however. Fusilier Brotherton must have served with the 1st Bn The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and not as stated the 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. — P G Smith, 4 Hillside Close, Brereton, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 1JF.

REUNIONS

The annual reunion of the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) will take place at the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on May 10. Details from Major A E F Waldron, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE.

2nd RHA/2nd Field Regiment RA 5th annual reunion will be held at the Garrison WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, Le-Cateau Barracks, Colchester, Essex, on May 3. All ex-members and attached personnel regardless of rank are welcome. Sae to Mr J J White (Reunion Secretary) 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 311. Tel 0206-864333 or 0206-68306 in office hours.

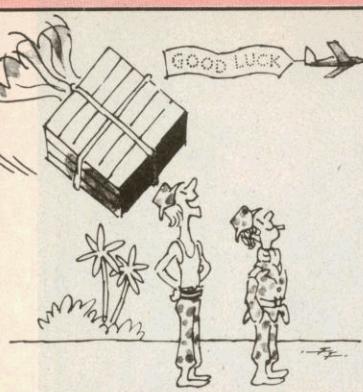
3rd Regiment RHA Old Comrades reunion will take place at Barker Barracks Paderborn April 18-20. All old comrades welcome, particularly WW2 veterans. Contract Secretary Captain M A F Vincent RHA, 3 RHA, BFPO 16, tel: 010-49-5254-824739. Royal Pioneers annual old comrades' reunion, June 7. Details from General Secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, Westminster, London SW1V 4DE.

The annual reunion dinner/dance of the York and Lancaster Regimental Association will be at University House, Sheffield, April 19. Details from Regimental Secretary, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield S10 3EU.

CALL SIGNS

Sarah Greenwood of 6 Holmefield Close, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs, FY5 2QL, is anxious for information about Sgt W Tomlinson, Gunner C Ranson or any other comrades of her great uncle, Gunner Raymond Edward Adams, who was with the 72nd Med Regt in Holland from January 1943 until his death 19 months later.

Miss Jean Wright of 7 Gilling Crescent, Lascelles Park, Darlington DL1 4TH, wishes to contact Mr John Mercer, and his wife, daughter And and son Michael. Mr Mercer was a Captain in 1961 when the family was at Catterick Camp.



MORE AWARDS...

As a writer specialising in medals awarded to the British Army, I know how easy it is to make a mistake. It is therefore with no attitude of "look what a clever beggar I am", that I write to correct a statement made in SOLDIER (Feb 10).

Sergeant Bill Gregg was NOT the only British soldier to be awarded three principal awards for gallantry in The Great War. Others were: Private H Tandey, VC DCM MM, 5th Bn West Riding Regt, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; CSM J H Williams, VC DCM MM, 10th Bn, South Wales Borderers; Lance Corporal W H Colman, VC DCM and Bar MM and Bar, 1/6 North Staffordshire Regt.

Two Canadians and two New Zealanders also were awarded the combination VC DCM MM: Lieut S L Honey (posthumous VC) 78th Bn Manitoba Regt; Pte C L J Nunney, 38th Bn Eastern Ontario Regt; Sergeant R S Judson, 1st Auckland Regt; NZ Forces; Sergeant R C Travis (posthumous) 2nd Otago Regt, NZ Forces. All the VCs were awarded in France in 1918.

VCs awarded to officers with decorations won serving in the ranks were: Capt H W Murray, VC DSO DCM 13th Bn Australian Imperial Forces; Second Lieut A O Pollard, VC DSO DCM 1st Bn Honourable Artillery Company; Major J B McCudden, VC DSO MC MM, Royal Flying Corps.

I must also refer to Mail Drop — 'Medals sold'. The Campaign Service medal with clasp Lebanon is a numismatic rarity, as so few were awarded. The medal itself is, of course, the same as that awarded for Northern Ireland — a far more dangerous posting.

Anyone wishing to dispose of a CSM with clasp Lebanon would be well advised to offer it for auction at Sotheby's or Christie's — after he has left the Service, it being an offence for serving soldiers to sell their medals. £900 is a price that I can confirm as being asked for this medal.

Incidentally, if readers of SOLDIER were to be awarded Long Service medals, I would be applying for my fourth or fifth bar. I first read the magazine 40 years ago, when I went to 1 Leicesters in BAOR, in February 1946.

That was after nearly six years' service in UK, India and Burma. At 64, I am perhaps not your oldest reader, but there can be few who have read SOLDIER without interruption for 40 years. — Anthony Sudlow (Major Ret'd), 10 Westway, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2SD.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION
383

THIS time it could be your turn to win SOLDIER'S £50 prize — if you are observant.

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The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is April 12. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our May 5 issue.

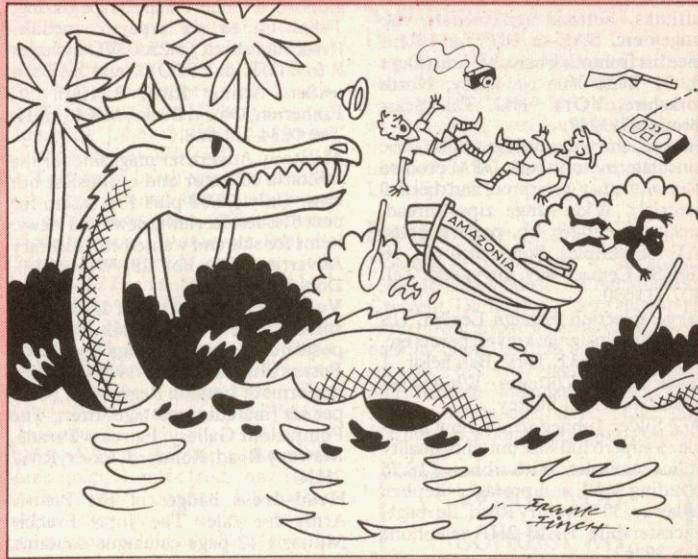
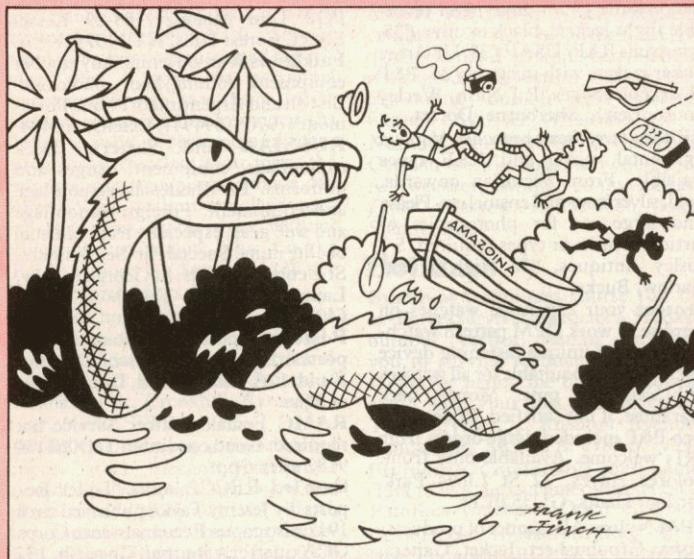
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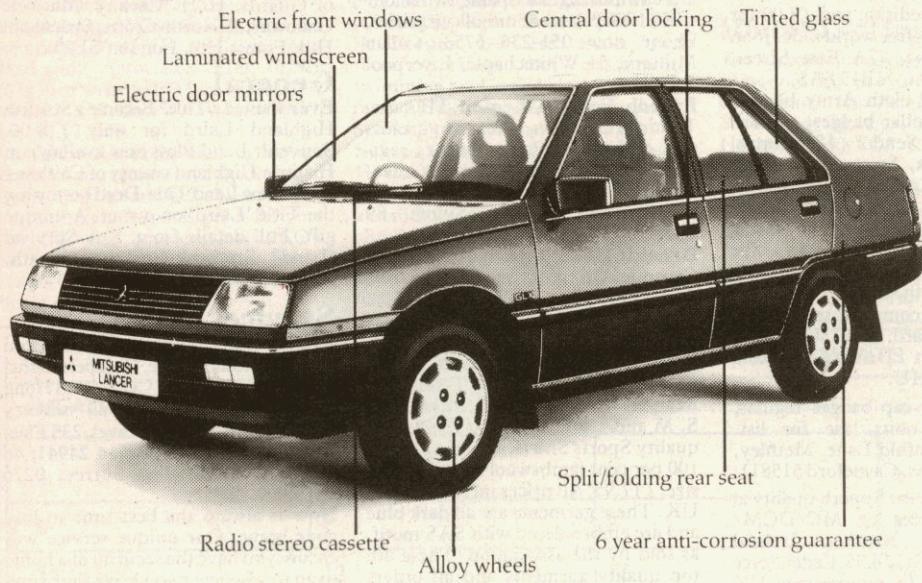
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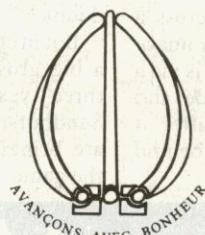
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A GAME whose origins are lost in the mists of antiquity and which is the forerunner of modern tennis has enjoyed a surprising revival in the Army over the past four years.

Real Tennis, which was only launched as a time filler during Army Rackets week in 1982, this year actually attracted more entries for its doubles tournament than for the long established rackets regimental doubles, which date back to late Victorian times.

No-one can be more surprised by this than Major Paul Watts, of the Royal Army Educational Corps, who first conceived a Combined Services Real Tennis championship.

He said then: "One of the problems was that some people were knocked out of the rackets very early and their interest was soon over. Others might get a game on Monday, then not play again until Wednesday, then not again until Friday."

So the Real Tennis championships were born. And this year at London's Queen's Club there were 20 pairs entered for the Doubles championships — Combined Services Past and Present. Many of those who took part are former Servicemen — including the eventual winners, Mike McMurrugh and Murray Glover.

Singles champion once again is 22-year-old Lieutenant Alastair Maxwell, who made his debut in the championships last year and won it at his first attempt. This time he beat Major David Reed-Felstead (Blues and Royals), the 1983 and 1984 champion, 6-3, 6-1 in the final.

Maxwell took up the game when

COLD COMFORT FOR HOT SHOTS

IT WAS JUST not the Army's day for hot shots. Or, rather, for the WRAC who repeated history to take third place, as last year, in the Inter-Services Women's Rifle Shooting championships held at Guildford.

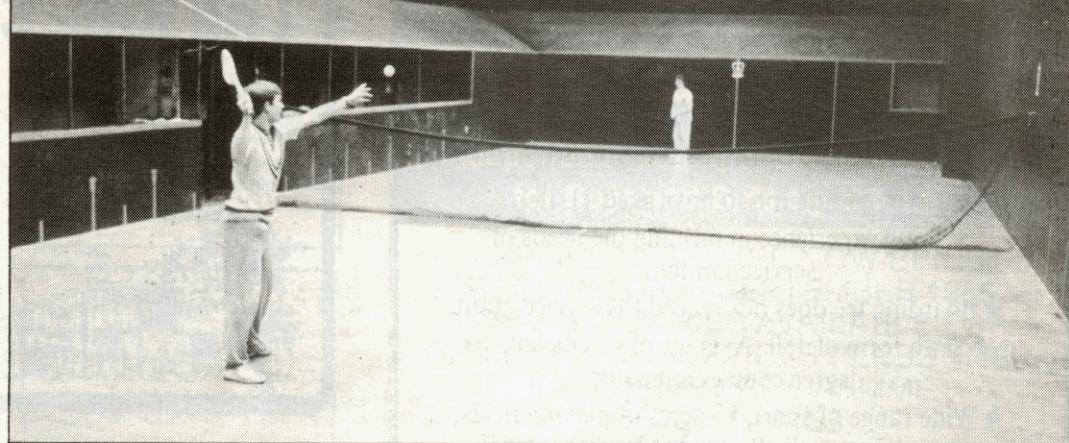
Luck was not on the side of Staff Sergeant Denise Curran, either. Denise, the CQMS for the Old College Wing, Royal Military College Sandhurst, failed to retain her individual title of Best Woman Shot. Last year she scored 199 out of 200; this year, it was 190.

Three teams of girls from all three Services took part firing their .22 Anschlutz rifles. It was the Royal Navy who won the snowbound day.

Final scores were: WRNS 1,916 points; WRAF 1,915 points and WRAC, 1,1901 points. Top possible score was 2,000 points.

In the past, the WRNS — the current holders — had won the

OFFICERS RALLY TO REAL TENNIS



he went to Oxford University and became captain of the university team. He is now stationed with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets at Celle in Germany — his nearest courts are in France!

He played rackets at school but is now regarded as a much better real tennis player. He says: "It's all about experience. You don't need great strength but you do need a good eye for the ball and you need to be good on your feet.

"You also need to know the court because the ball does all sorts of funny things. And as it is slower than rackets you can do many more things with the ball because you have time to think about it. It has been likened to chess."

The name 'real tennis' does not come from any claim to be the real thing — as opposed to the latter arrival, lawn tennis. It is thought to be a corruption of 'Royal Tennis'.

Exact origins of the game are not recorded but it is known to have been played by monks in

mediaeval days and the court is probably based on the same monastery courtyard.

Royalty certainly were involved in the game. One French king died from a chill caught while playing, and Henry VIII played at Hampton Court — the site of one of the 19 real tennis courts still operating in this country.

Henry had a great name for cheating and altering the rules as he went along. It's also said that the grill at one end of the court was where his cook used to watch the game. If Henry could hit him in the face with the ball he claimed a point!

Scoring is complicated. Real tennis is the only game where players face each other across a centre line without a mirror image on the other side. Serving is via a low roof on the courtside and players return the ball after it rebounds from the wall behind them.

Real tennis: a good eye and good on your feet

The ball, although it looks like a tennis ball, is half an ounce heavier and does not bounce as high as a tennis ball.

Both real tennis and rackets continue to be almost exclusively officer orientated sports and with the limited number of facilities Paul Watts regretfully does not see great scope for spreading it throughout the ranks.

"There is no serving NCO in the competition but there are quite a few who did National Service in the ranks playing in the Combined Services Past and Present doubles."

But in civilian life there has been a big growth in the last two or three years. Shropshire and Sandhurst both boast teams which are bringing young officers into the game.

Welsh boxers take nine

THE emphatic 9-0 win by the Royal Regiment of Wales in the 4th Armoured Division Inter-Unit Novice Boxing poses the question who can stop them now?

Even more startling is the fact that the 3rd Royal Anglians, an established boxing regiment, were on the receiving end of the landslide victory.

The Welsh are fortunate in having Sgt Paul Davies, the current amateur club heavyweight champion of West Germany, as coach.

The RRW squad is large and features a different line up at each tournament. This has sharpened competition for places in a superbly fit squad who consider this to be their year.

Perhaps the most entertaining fight was at heavyweight in which LCpl Zoltan Szabo beat Pte Leonardi of the Anglians over three bruising rounds. LCpl Szabo is the first choice prop for the RRW 1st XV rugby side and had to slim down to heavyweight.

He entered the ring in superb physical shape with the sort of scowl on his face to earn a part in a Rocky film should Sylvester Stallone decide to hang up his gloves. However, Leonardi refused to be intimidated and often had Szabo reeling from big counter punches. Szabo won through on points in the end.

There were two knock-outs with everyone else winning on unanimous decisions.



Staff Sergeant Denise Curran, her title falls

team championship on 17 occasions. The WRAF have taken it nine times and the WRAC were close runners-up "on a number of occasions."

D

AZZLING sunshine and plenty of snow guaranteed a full programme at this year's 1st Armoured Division Ski Competition at Axams in the beautiful Tyrolean Alps of Austria.

And it was sunshine most of the way for 1 Div Transport Regiment RCT who romped home to victory in most of the events, alpine and nordic.

They won an impressive 26 team and individual prizes, including the Nordic 15 km, 5 x 7.5 km Biathlon, 4 x 10 km Relay and Patrol races, and the Downhill, Giant Slalom and Team Slalom on the alpine side, clinching for them the title 1st Armoured Division Champion Unit for the second year running and easily qualifying them for the Army

Nordic Championship at Zwiesel and Alpine Championships at Fulpmes.

In individual terms they were again successful, with Lance Corporal Martin Watkins winning the 15 km race and the Individual Nordic Combination, while Sergeant John Challenger, last year's champion allrounder, won the Individual Alpine Combination, and came runner-up in the Downhill, the Giant Slalom and the Individual Slalom.

However, The Queen's Own Hussars proved hot competitors in the cold weather and gave the RCT men a good ski for their money, emerging as Champion Unit Runner-up, as well as

runners-up in the Giant and Team Slaloms and the Downhill, winning the title Combined Alpine and Nordic Royal Armoured Corps Champions in the process.

Lance Corporal Ian Dryden brought added prestige to the regiment by claiming the individual trophies for Downhill and Giant Slalom, and was the Alpine Combination runner-up.

As last year, the nordic Langlauf events were mostly held at the nearby village of Leutasch, where the Burgermeister set the first of 20 teams on its way at the start of the 25-km Patrol Race.

A gruelling ski and shoot event that reflected the military nature of the competition by depending on marksmanship as well as fitness, the Patrol Race brought distinction to 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, who took second place while still classed as novices after being on skis for only a few weeks.

It was a similar story in the 15 km allcomers race where officials joined competitors for a tough two-hour-plus trek that gave them little time to enjoy the dazzling mountain scenery along the trail.

This time The Royal Green Jackets took first Individual Novice place with Lieutenant Simon



Uphill task for Captain Pablo Miller, 4 RTR in the biathlon relay

Hudson, although 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt won the 15 km Race Team and Individual Cups beating 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery into second place.

In the Minor Unit events, Berlin-based units participating in the competition did well, with Berlin Armoured Squadron winning the Alpine Minor Unit Combination and, for the second year running, 29 Signal Regiment Royal Signals taking the Nordic.

Sigs Sergeant top bowler

THE largest ever BAOR Tenpin Bowling Championships took place at the Elite Bowling Centre, Bielefeld. A total of 370 men and women requested entry into the tournament from 45 different major and minor units across BAOR including Berlin and SHAPE. Mainly due to the size of the bowling centre, the number had to be cut to 280.

A mobile computer system was used to help speed up and work out all the details of each bowler in the events, as they bowled.

Top bowler of the weekend and BAOR Army Masters Champion was Sgt M Langley of 21 Sig Regt who achieved a pinfall of 1,053 in the Masters event.

Other results: Mens singles, SSgt L Wrightson (FOD Dulmen) 945 pins; Mens doubles, WO1 M Mellors (FOD Dulmen), SSgt L Wrightson (FOD Dulmen) 1,401 pins; Major unit, 21 Sig Regt

Telecomms 1, 2,472 pins; Minor unit, 3 PC Regt RE Postal Pirates 1, 2,428 pins; Non unit, Team Racers, 4 Pet Dep, 6 Armd Wksp 2,474 pins; Mens all events, Sgt M Langley (21 Sig Regt) 2,202 pins; Mens outstanding performance, High Game, Tpr J Warwick (4/7 RDG) 253 pins; High Series, Sgt A Carr (23 Engr Regt) 645 pins; Women's singles, Mrs C Kempson, 776 pins; Women's doubles, Mrs B McBurney and Mrs L Bustin, 1,198 pins.

The final six bowlers who qualified for the Masters tournament after 18 games and their final positions were: BAOR Army champion, Sgt M Langley (21 Sig Regt) 1,053 pins; Runner up, SSgt L Wrightson (FOD Dulmen) 1,032 pins; 3rd Cpl P Smith (1 RTR) 984 pins; 4th SSgt G Rose (6 Armd Wksp) 910 pins; 5th Sgt A Carr (23 Engr Regt) 893 pins; 6th SSgt W Craig (14 Sig Regt) 747 pins.

WELSH WIN AGAIN

THE Royal Regiment of Wales's Dragons rugby side re-established old friendships when they visited the Royal Army Ordnance Corps based in Emblem (Belgium) for a match against the British Bulldogs.

The Welshmen won the fixture for the second year running against an entertaining Bulldog side, who usually play in the Belgian league.

The Dragons' function mainly is to provide candidates for promotion into the RRW first team squad.

The Bulldogs are trained by an RRW old boy, WO2 Alan Whitbread, who is based in Belgium; he was also the match referee.

The play flowed from end to end with the only try coming from Private Ray Davies RRW as a result of some slick Welsh threequarter play which produced an overlap for Davies to run over unopposed.

Pte Stewart Lawrence converted successfully, making it 6-0 to the Welsh. The Bulldogs replied with a penalty kick, but missed with others, which later proved costly with the final score being 6-3.

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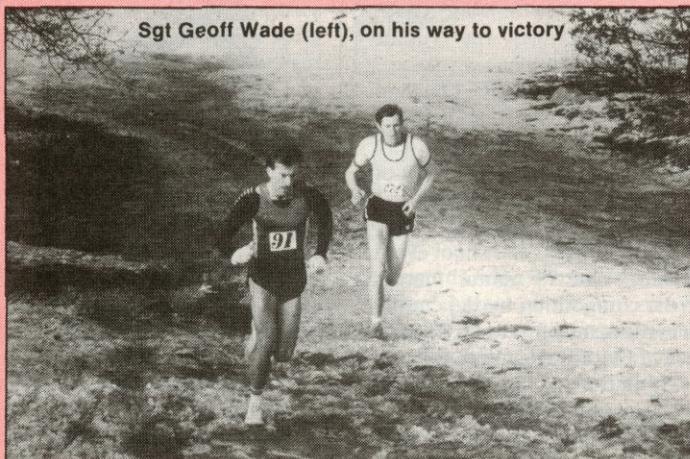
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THREE IN A ROW FOR PWO

WHEN it comes to cross country running, the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire have proved they are the fleetest of foot.

On frozen snow covered ground which made hard running on Tweseldown Race Course near Aldershot, 1 PWO proved their worth by winning virtually all the major men's awards for the third year running, including the senior inter-unit championships.

Sgt Geoff Wade (left), on his way to victory



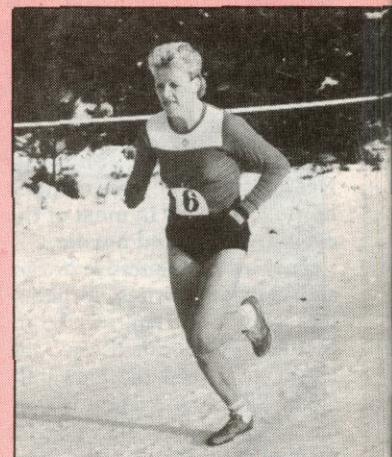
Sergeant Instructor Geoff Wade, APTC but attached to 1 PWO, took on some 280 opponents in the men's senior individual championship — considerably more than last year — and took the honours.

In the inter-unit team championship for major units, the 1 PWO runners took first place from 2 and 3 Para, and the same battalion also provided the winners of the individual veterans event (Lieutenant Dave Moffat) and the junior individual championship (Private R Simpson).

Sergeant Maggie Smith of QARANC Training Centre won the women's individual championship, and her team also took the women's inter-unit championship.

Army Apprentice College Chepstow, also collected two championships — both the junior and youths inter-unit team events.

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Sgt Maggie Smith, individual winner

won the senior inter-unit championship for minor units, and Apprentice Tradesman Cowan (Junior Leaders Regiment RAC) took the youth individual championship.

ARMY KNOCK OUT THE SAILORS

ARMY boxers completed their hat-trick of Combined Services team championships against the Royal Navy at Aldershot — but only after the vigorous visitors had caused a few upsets to take a 4-1 lead at the halfway stage of the ten bout contest.

The Army had earlier had an easy 10-0 victory over the RAF but it was apparent from the off that the Navy were in no mood to allow any repeat of last year's 8-2 hammering.

Flyweight Sapper John McLean (26 Engineer Regiment) should on past form have had little difficulty in beating AB(M) Andy Martin. But the sturdy Martin stuck to his guns and by the end of the contest McLean's nose was as red as his trunks. The stylish Scot got the points by a unanimous decision but it was closer than expected.

Disaster followed when Army captain Corporal Keith Howlett (39 Engineer Regiment) allowed the tough Cook Dave Pope to get too close. Pope floored him twice and the match was all over 15 seconds before the end of the first round.

Rifleman Alan Lesbirel (2 RGJ) battled hard with the strong Marine Colin Day and only lost on a majority points decision at feather. But the next match was another shock when the experienced Driver Neil Haddock (10 Corps Regt RCT) met Marine Dave Robb, whom he had easily outpointed last year. This time Robb boxed well and with 100 per cent effort let Haddock get going. The Army man, who had several warnings of pulling on, lost a

majority points decision.

Then Lance-Corporal Dean Hunt (Guards Depot) went down on points to probably the least skilful boxer of the night, Marine Peter Waights. Hunt, making a return after two years, never looked like coping with the mad rushes and wild swings from the red-headed Waights.

Four-one down and the championships looked like slipping away but the classy Fusilier Erroll Holder (1 RRF) gave the Army supporters something to cheer about. His opponent Marine Karl Jones constantly harried him but Holder bided his time and then doubled his man up with a wicked left hook to the body for a two minutes and 15 seconds knockout.

Rifleman Tony Velinor (3 RGJ) got his revenge for a cut eye decision last year when he easily outpointed the burly Marine Phil Nicholson at light middleweight.

In the Army for just five weeks Private Nnamdi Samuels proved a surprise packet and gained a unanimous points decision over the ungainly SA Andy Chambers. Samuels, from the Depot Queens



THE UNBEATABLE DOBSON

Lance Corporal Scott Dobson, speed man

LANCE Corporal Scott Dobson was the man of speed in this year's Army Alpine Ski Championships in Fulpmes, Austria.

The Inter-Service and Army champion from 2 RGJ was so much better than everyone else that it was as though he was in a different league. He won every individual men's event by a considerable margin.

Dobson's outstanding performance was one of the three most significant features of the meeting, held for the second time on the slopes of the Stubai valley. The others were the strength in depth of the 22 Signal Regiment team — led by Lieutenant Paul Ford — which won the team events convincingly, and the emergence of young JSpr Mark Westwood from JLRRE as a future Army skier.

For the first time the Army ladies alpine ski team took part in the championships, using the week as a training and selection session before the Inter-Services ladies ski championships in Italy.

Division, has already boxed for England while a civilian.

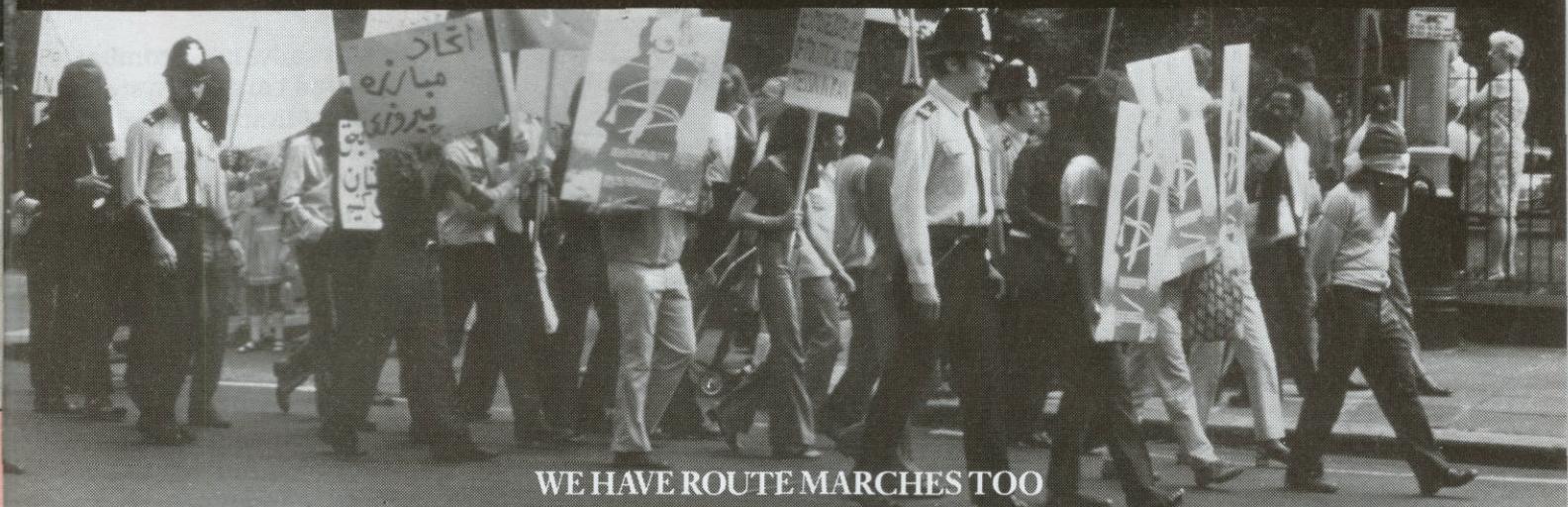
Another international Army newcomer, Welshman Fusilier Danny Coyle (1 RWF) faced another strong and aggressive marine, Steve Heryet. Coyle refused to become flustered by the constant wild assaults and picking his punches he took a unanimous points decision.

The Army sealed their victory

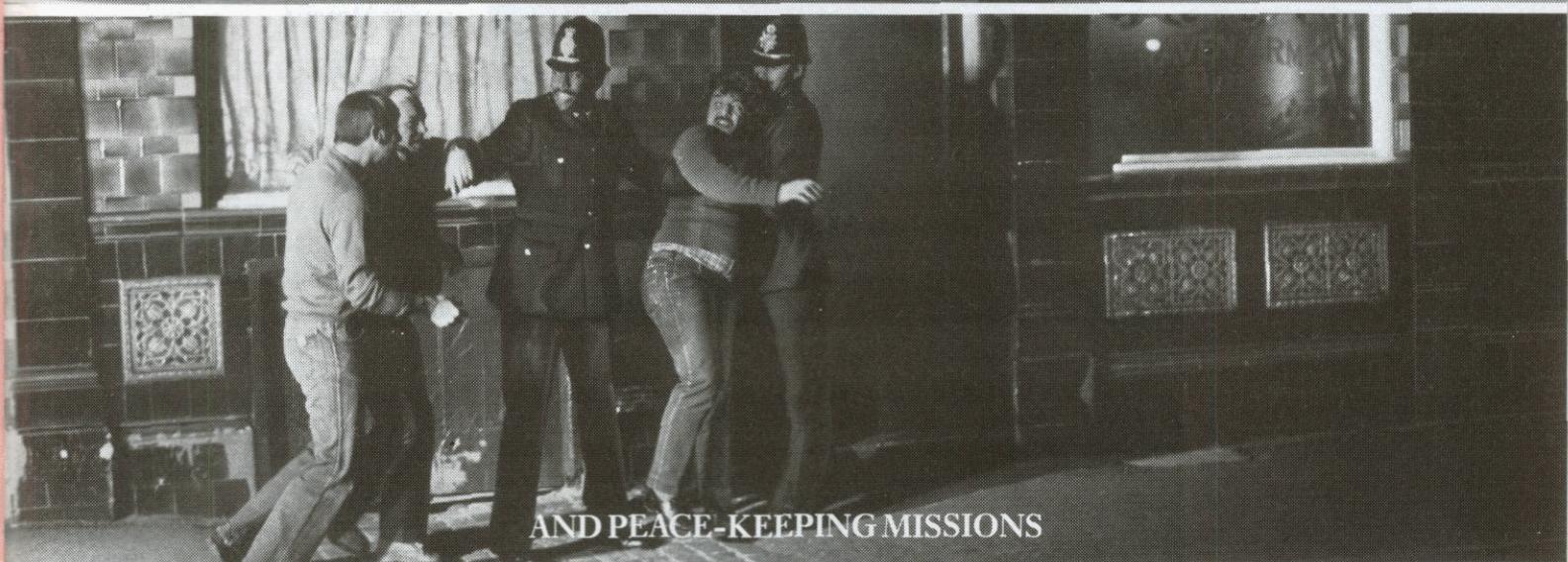
with an easy win for veteran heavyweight, Corporal Horace Miles (Light Infantry Depot) over LMEM Mick Ford.

So in 13 years of the contest the Army and Navy now have six wins apiece with one tournament tied and the luckless RAF never in it. But the sheer guts and spirit of the less talented Navy team must mean that they will put up a strong challenge again next year.

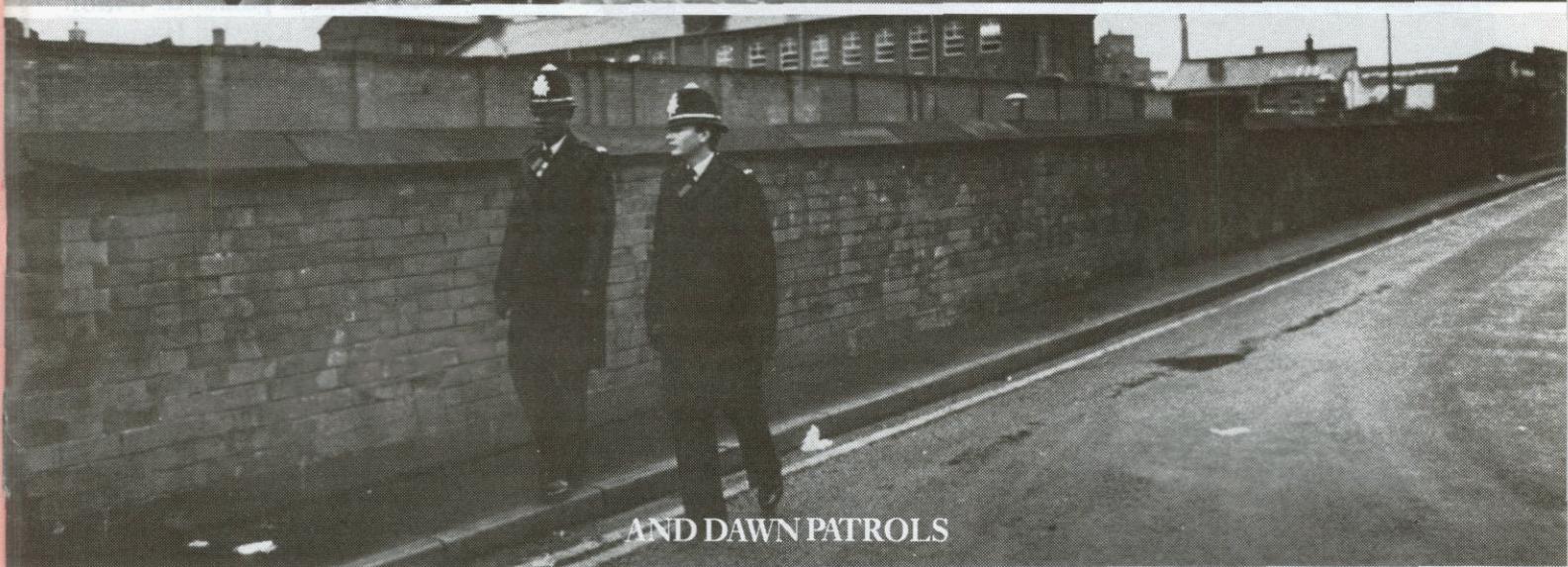
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