

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 29 NOV-12 DEC 1982

SOLDIER



- FAREWELL TO 2 DIV
- AFTER THE BATTLE — THE MEN
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FRONT COVER

Autumn may be the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', but in Germany it is also the military exercise season when Britain's Rhine Army — and other Nato formations — take to the fields and forests to practise their battle role. Here, subtle shades of woodland provide vital cover for an advancing Chieftain. Picture by Paul Haley

BACK COVER

A white-shirted Army player goes for a 'spike' against the RAF in this year's Inter-Services volleyball championships. As reported in our last issue the Army fought hard but were beaten by both the other Services. Picture by Paul Haley

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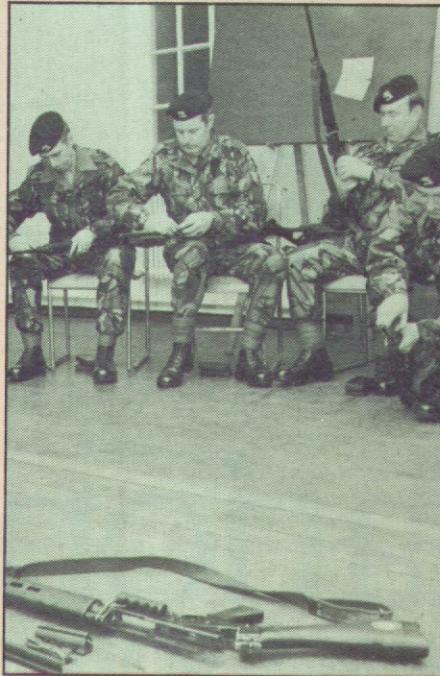
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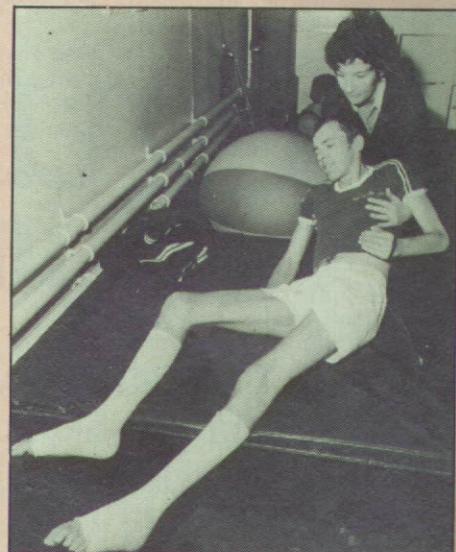
SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



◀ Bold but not so old: a first visit to the new Home Service Force — page 14

How a special unit helps Servicemen fight the toughest battle of their lives — page 11 ▼



A change of title, a change of home: after 24 years the 2nd Armoured Division says farewell to Lübecke — page 26 ▼



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SOLDIER to Soldier

EVERY SOLDIER knows the importance of good communications on the battlefield. Whether giving orders — or receiving them — he soon learns that if an objective is to be successfully achieved, instructions and information must be succinct, intelligible and unambiguous.

To ignore these precepts in wartime is to court confusion, possibly catastrophe. Which is why so much time is spent training officers and NCOs at every level of command in how to get their military messages across more effectively.

But in a peacetime Army good communications are just as essential in promoting individual morale and collective efficiency. Thus the recent Rhine Army seminar to discuss ways of improving troop information was welcome and long overdue.

Helping soldiers and their families to a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities is important wherever they are based, but it assumes particular urgency overseas. For a young mum with young children, perhaps abroad for the first time and having to cope with an unfamiliar language and customs, life can often seem lonely — even frightening. And her problems are certainly not helped if she finds herself trapped in a confusing web of military jargon and unfathomable bureaucracy.

The Army of course has long recognised this problem and already goes to considerable lengths to help its families adjust to a strange environment. But as our own Anne Armstrong so often stresses, a lot more still needs to be done to improve communications within the Army family.

Simply making troop information available can never be enough. To have any chance of it being read or listened to, it must be presented in terms that young soldiers and their families will understand. Making things simple may often be difficult. But if we want to get the best out of our soldiers we must make sure that they and their families know what to expect — and what is expected of them. Their knowledge is our strength.

Praise for Anne in information war

THERE WAS HIGH praise for SOLDIER's own Anne Armstrong when BAOR took its first major step towards launching a new concept of internal information flow to soldiers and their families.

One of the speakers at a seminar at Rheindahlen was Mrs Lynda Chalker, now Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Transport, who paid tribute to the work Anne has done and is still doing to ensure that the maximum amount of information is available to families.

Holding up a DHSS pamphlet she said: "But for her visiting my office, this pamphlet would not have been published." At the time Mrs Chalker had responsibility for Social Security, where she established a reputation for getting rid of 'officialese'.

Both Anne Armstrong and herself were probably making a bit of a nuisance of themselves, she said, but they must go on doing so. "Keep up the good work," she told Anne, who was sitting in the audience.

Two hundred delegates met under the chairmanship of the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Michael Gow. They set out to identify areas where



Mrs Lynda Chalker in action at the seminar.

traditional methods might have failed, to identify possible ways ahead and to study how the Army can be brought into line

with private industry in the methods it uses and the priority it attaches to disseminating information.

The delegates included senior staff and commanding officers in equal weight with other members of the military community, including wives.

Mr Alan Prothroe, Assistant Director General of the BBC, flew in from Helsinki after another conference, to talk about the professional approach to information handling. Other speakers were the Editor of Ceefax, Mr Graham Clayton, and the Head of Shell International Television, Mr Malcolm Nisbet, who explained how the latest video technologies were revolutionising the flow of information in large corporations like Shell, which has over 160,000 employees scattered over 38 countries.

Introducing the seminar, General Gow said that in recent years a communications gap had been noticed between the chain of command and the Service community. He had initiated a study in 1980, and a Troop Information team had been set up with the task of improving information disseminated on subjects other than those of the strictly military prerogative.

The seminar had been assembled to see if there was still a gap, and if so, how it could be overcome. An informed soldier, and an informed family were essential to an efficient Army.

A quarter of the population of BAOR were wives, yet the CinC recollects one occasion, admittedly concerning an Allied unit, where some sergeants left home one morning and flew away for six months — yet nobody had told their wives they were going.

Forty two percent of British Forces in Germany are male other ranks. The *Daily Mirror* and *Sun* sold 13,000 copies each day to soldiers in Germany, reflecting their combined circulation of over 7 million in UK. "If we want to communicate with our young soldiers, perhaps we should consider the style of the *Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*", said the General.

He added to laughter: "If you want to ensure that information is not disseminated, all you have to do is publish it in Routine Orders."

Piper's lament



THERE WAS NO bunting, there were no flag-waving crowds, when the Royal Fleet Auxiliary logistic landing ship *Sir Bedivere* docked at Marchwood Military Port.

In contrast to the wild scenes when other ships of the Task Force returned from the South Atlantic, there was just a lone piper, a few relatives and a small group of military representatives, headed by the Adjutant General, Sir George Cooper.

Still showing her battle scars, the *Sir Bedivere* was bringing home the bodies of 64 of the Falklands dead whose families had chosen to have them repatriated. They included the body of Sergeant Ian McKay VC, of 3 Para.

When the two containers were lifted ashore just after dawn, they were draped in Union Jacks for the short journey to the customs shed where a fleet of black hearses waited to take the individual coffins to their final resting places all over Britain.

The lone piper was Lance Sergeant Iain Mackinnon of 2 Scots Guards who played 'Flowers of the Forest', a lament dating from 1513. Eight of his comrades, including one particular friend, were among the returning heroes.

Sixteen of the bodies have been reburied with full military honours at Aldershot.

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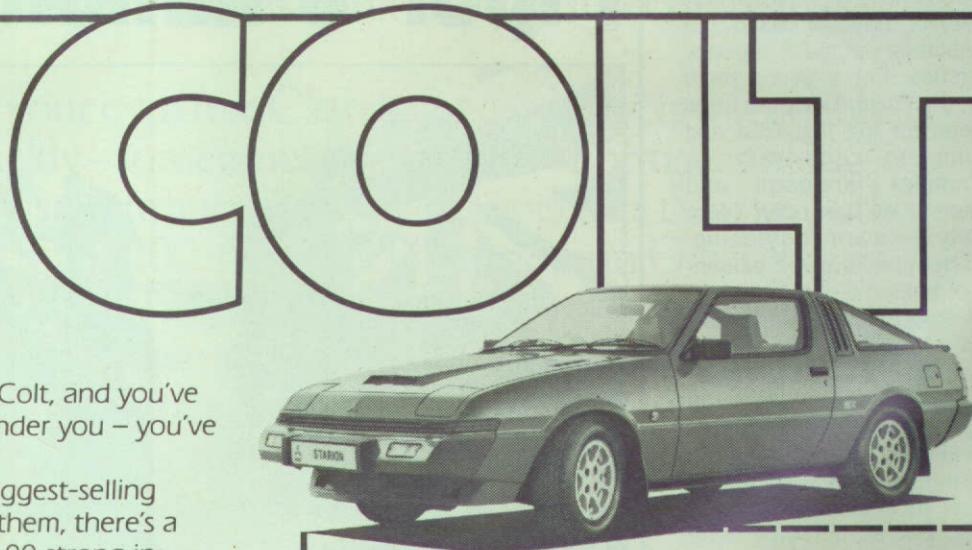
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Hussars leave Cyprus

AFTER THREE years in Cyprus the last squadron of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars has left the island. Cyprus has seen all three sabre squadrons of this famous cavalry regiment.

'A' Squadron preceded 'C' Squadron and 'B' Squadron completed two tours as the Scout Car Squadron in the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

'C' Squadron's military task has been to provide the armoured reconnaissance support for both the Sovereign Bases, the resident battalion and numerous exercises mounted by United Kingdom Land Forces. The main operational preoccupation has been to provide two troops in the Eastern Sovereign Base.

The complete regiment is reforming at Herford in Germany as the 1 (British) Corps Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment.

Can you pick a winner?

DALEY Thompson, John Watson, Pat Cowdell, Gerry Armstrong, Steve Cram, Bob Willis, Lester Piggott, Alex Higgins, Ian Botham, Dave Moorcroft, ... or who will be your choice of the British sportsman or woman who has achieved most in 1982?

Those named represent a random selection to jog your memory, and you are certain to have a favourite of your own. Vote for him or her and the winner will receive the Wilkinson Sword Trophy from HRH Princess Anne.

If you choose the winner, the winner might then choose you to receive a video recorder. All the votes for the winning candidate will be entered in a free prize draw, with your favourite sporting personality picking out the winning entry.

All you have to do is send your nomination for the BFBS Sporting Personality of 1982 on a piece of paper detailing your name, unit, and BFPO number. Remember, each member of your family can enter.

Send your vote either to BFBS Sporting Personality of 1982 Competition, PO Box 1234, London SW1P 3HX, or to your local BFBS station before 31 December.

"FOLLY" TO CUT RHINE ARMY

THERE IS simply no substitute for adequate forces on the ground, Defence Secretary Mr John Nott told a meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly in London.

"It is all very well saying that the Warsaw Pact are unlikely to risk an attack in Central Europe," he said, "but it is there that the great concentration of Warsaw Pact forces is positioned."

And the reason an attack was unlikely was because Nato's forces were in position to repel it.

Mr Nott was commenting on suggestions that Britain's defence contribution to continental Europe should be reduced in favour of increasing the maritime contribution to Nato.

"In my judgement such a step would be folly," he said. **"There is simply no substitute for adequate forces on the ground."**

Britain's forces on the Continent needed not reduction but modernisation. This would be partly achieved by the latest re-organisation of BAOR. The new structure would allow the British Commander to contain a Warsaw Pact thrust by fighting a more mobile defensive battle in depth.

The direction of British defence policy would remain unchanged over the next decade, whatever the lessons of the Falklands.

"The overwhelming thrust of our defence effort will remain geared to meet the threat from the Warsaw Pact," he told the Nato parliamentarians.

Nevertheless, there were lessons to be learned from the Falk-

New Army Museum

PLANS ARE progressing to establish a major new museum complex in the Humber-side town of Beverley, covering all aspects of historic army transport.

The proposals, which are based on co-operation between the local authorities, a private property developer, tourism agencies and military bodies, consist of a public display of over 100 military vehicles from the Army's historic vehicle collection and a number of new acquisitions including a fine example of the giant Beverley transport aircraft.

Harbour craft from Singapore and Hong Kong are also included, together with the Longmoor army railway collection of five steam locomotives and one thousand other items.

Briefly

A selection of Linda Kitson's controversial drawings on the Falklands campaign is on exhibition at the Imperial War Museum until February 13. Miss Kitson was the only war artist to accompany the Task Force.

* * * * *
A 21 per cent increase on the previous year has taken SSAFA's financial aid to the needy to over £1 million for the first time in its 97-year history.

* * * * *
Eleven of the 12 soldiers aboard were seriously injured when their lorry left the road and overturned near Nanyuki, Kenya. They were all from 1 D and D and seven, including two very seriously ill, were rushed back to UK by RAF VC10.

* * * * *
Sergeant Tommy Wilson of 4 Field Regiment RA has broken the world record for eating bananas underwater. The old record stood at 11½ in five minutes but Tommy managed to cram in his thirteenth before the five minutes was up.

* * * * *
One of the smallest RAF units in the country, the Movement Unit at Woolwich, has presented a cheque for £1300 to aid the widows and wounded survivors of the July bombings in London. It was raised from a sponsored badminton marathon.

Second VC presented



AT A SECOND investiture for heroes of the Falklands Campaign Mrs Marica McKay received her husband's posthumous VC from the Queen, with whom she spent five minutes.

With her at Buckingham Palace were her five-year-old daughter Melanie and son Donny, 15.

Widow of Sergeant Ian McKay, 34, of 3 Para, Marica was a proud but sad lady. "It's a great honour", she said. "I am very proud but today of all days I miss him so much."

But the medal, she said, belonged to his comrades and she would give it to the Parachute Regiment Museum.

NEWS VIEW

Men of the Year ▲

Two heroes with a lot in common met at this year's Men of the Year lunch at London's Savoy Hotel. Both Lieutenant General Sir Steuart Pringle, Commandant General Royal Marines, and Corporal Philip Hartley of 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, are victims of the Ulster terrorists. Sir Steuart lost a leg when his car was booby-trapped outside his home and Philip lost both legs in a Belfast rocket attack. They were among 11 men from various walks of life chosen to attend the lunch organised by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.



Homeward Bound ▲

On the way home after completing its historic trip to Alexandria is the Sail Training Yacht *Sabre*, which made the epic voyage to mark the centenary celebrations of the Army Postal Corps, now the Royal Engineers (Postal and Courier Service). In 1882, 100 officers and men of the newly formed corps embarked on the *SS British Prince* for Egypt. The current crew were pictured at Akrotiri in Cyprus. Now *Sabre* is heading home via Italy and Gibraltar.

Cold Comfort ▲

The boat which should have supported Corporal Bryan Higginson, an RE diving instructor at BAOR's Kiel Training Centre, when he set out on a 99 km sponsored run, never did catch up with him. Apart from wearing out his running shoes, he had to go without food and warm drinks — and swim a 60-metre freezing inlet. Even so he raised Dm 2000 for the Stoke Mandeville Appeal and gave himself a treat. He skipped his usual 16km evening run.



Do Drop In ▲

A helping hand for 'Red Devil' Lance Corporal Kenny Campbell from 2 Para colleagues after the free-fall parachute team had accepted an invitation from London's Savoy Hotel to drop in with the new season's Beaujolais Nouveau. The eight-man team dropped into the Thames and were escorted to the Savoy where the wine was auctioned.

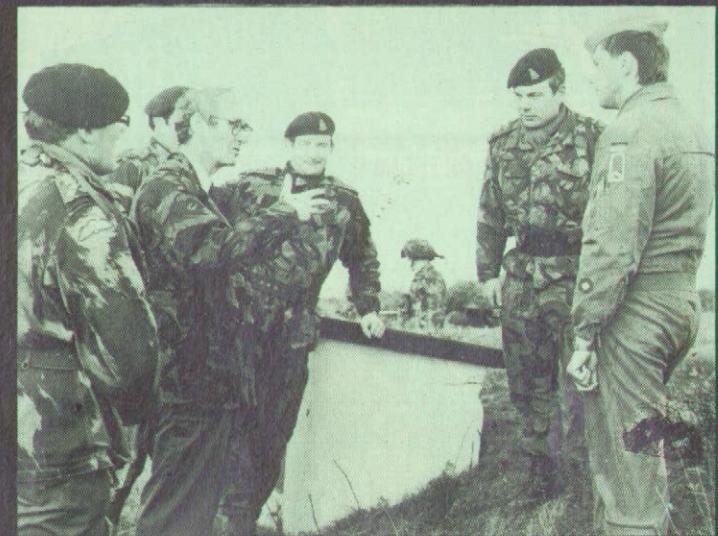
But one bottle went astray. Apparently it fell from a great height, narrowly missing a woman trader in Covent Garden Market. The seven surviving bottles raised £810 for SSAFA. The whole auction made £17,500.



Have a Go ▼

Defence Secretary Mr John Nott decided to have a go himself when he paid a visit to units in Germany. After watching Chieftain tanks of 14th/20th King's Hussars firing their 120 mm guns, he tried the gunner's seat out for himself. Then he tried his hand and his eye with the Milan while visiting 2 Coldstream Guards before flying back to Hohne Ranges to watch live firing of Swingfire and Milan by 'D' Battery RHA and 3 Queen's. And he made it a double by firing the Abbot's 105 mm with 1 RHA.

Afterwards he chatted with Fähnrich (officer cadet) Michael Christen of the Bundeswehr who is on exchange with 1 RHA.



Make it a double ▲

That is what Pipe Major Angus MacDonald, Scots Guards, did when he won piping's premier award, the Grant's Whisky Championship with a clean sweep. It was the first time anyone had taken both the Piobaireachd and the March, Strathspey and Reel titles. He competed against the best nine pipers in the world and is seen here afterwards with members of the famous family.

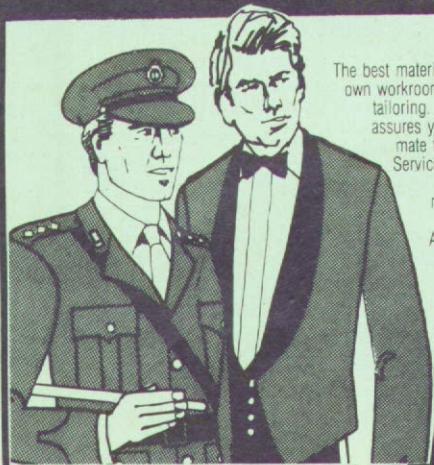


Fun Run? ▶

Marathon mania has come to the Falklands. In fact it was a "half-marathon" over 13 miles from Moody Brook to RAF Stanley and back to Port Stanley but more than 450 people took part. It started in a snow storm but all three Services and the local population were represented, with the youngest entrant being just 10. The oldest refused to give his age.

Both Major General David Thorne, the military commander, and Sir Rex Hunt, the civil commissioner, took part but first home was Sub-Lieutenant Chris Robinson of HMS *Glasgow* who finished in one hour 10 minutes.

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The Falklands campaign may be over but for some of the survivors an even tougher battle — back to health and fitness — is only just beginning. Graham Smith visits the special unit in Surrey that is helping these and other Servicemen along the road to recovery.

FIGHTING BACK

THERE CAN BE NO SOLDIER returned from the Falklands campaign who will not carry a vivid personal memory of his experiences there for the rest of his life.

But for some there will always be more tangible reminders of that victorious struggle — the ever-present legacies of burns and bullet wounds.

For these young casualties of war another battle is only just beginning — the long fight back to fitness. Yet they are stoically learning to come to terms with their battle scars, defiantly determined to take their place in the Army and society again. And supporting them in that struggle are the 35-strong staff of the Joint Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit (JSRMU) at RAF Chessington.

Currently, there are 11 men who were wounded in the Falklands conflict — there have been 11 others — who are restoring their limbs to a useful life at the 15-bed



◀ The hands of Sapper John Gilmore who was burned while aboard the *Sir Galahad* but is already doing some driving.

hutted unit set amid the Surrey hills. Six of the soldiers have suffered burns; the other five, gunshot wounds.

But the Falklands is far from the only source of 'customers' for Chessington's gyms and various therapeutic workshops. In recent years that same rocky road to recovery has been — and still is — trodden with equal fortitude by the victims of terrorism in Northern Ireland. And there too, are casualties of more mundane situations — traffic accidents, for instance, or the sports field.

In all, 73 soldiers of the rank of corporal or below are undergoing remedial treatment for a wide range of disabilities, including some head injuries involving brain damage. And whether victims of a bomb, a bullet or a misplaced rugby boot, they all receive the

Welsh Guardsman Alan Blythin, another *Sir Galahad* victim, has his badly burnt hands monitored for improvement. ▲

same expert care from an organisation that takes pride in its joint service appeal and through whose hands 997 patients passed last year — 598 of them Army personnel.

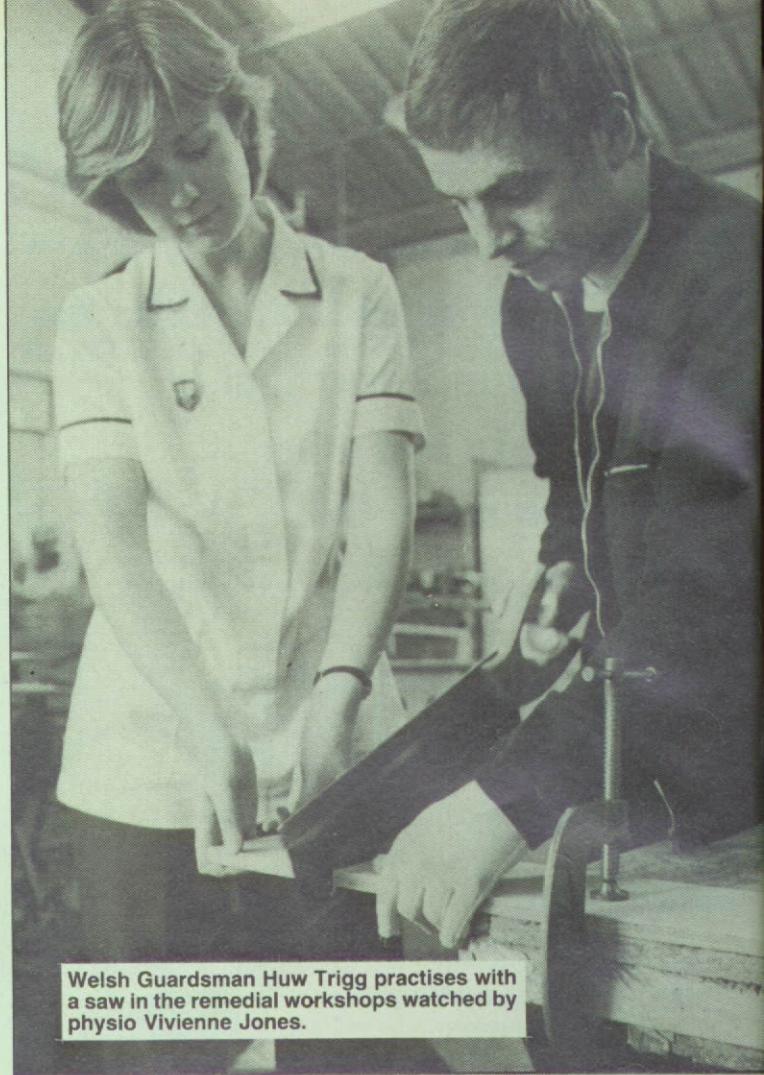
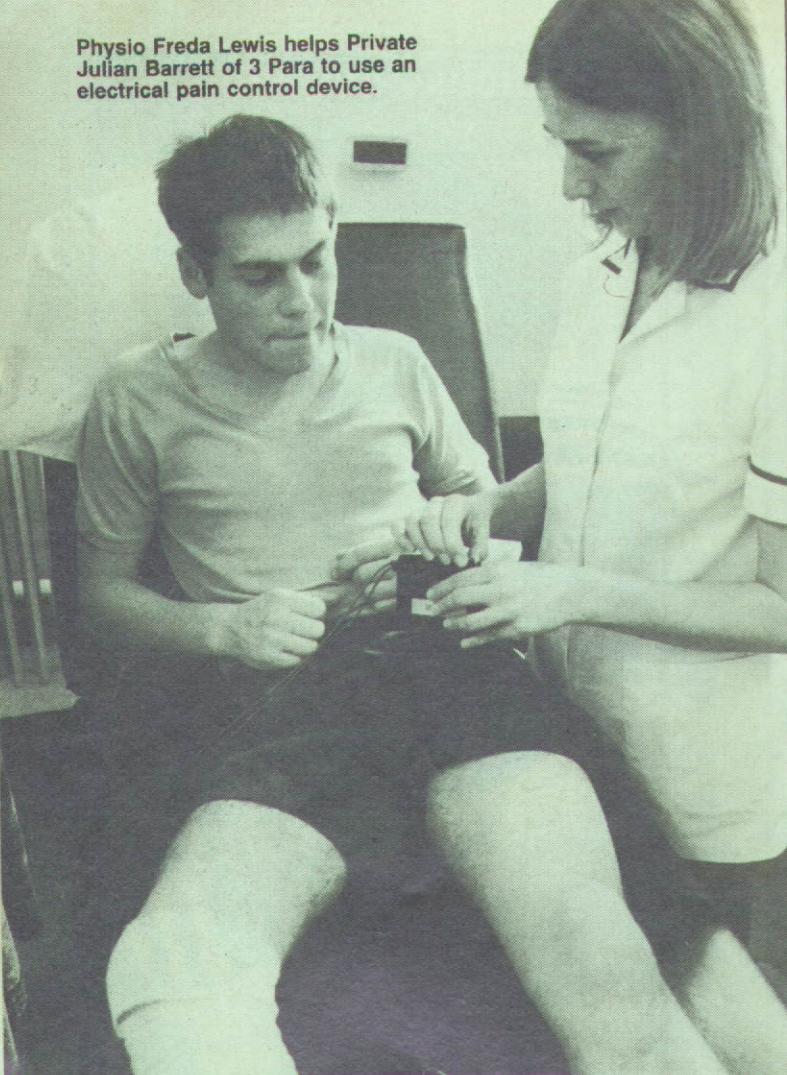
Chessington started its life in 1938 as part of London's barrage balloon defences. As No 2 Balloon Centre, RAF Hook, it had two squadrons of them. Not until 1964 did it take on its joint remedial role and the echoes of earlier days still remain in the shape of its plain wooden huts, albeit housing a lot of highly sophisticated equipment.

Mawkish pity has no place at the JSRMU with its dedicated staff of three doctors, ten chartered physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists, and 13 remedial gymnasts.

continued on page 12



Physio Freda Lewis helps Private Julian Barrett of 3 Para to use an electrical pain control device.



Welsh Guardsman Huw Trigg practises with a saw in the remedial workshops watched by physio Vivienne Jones.

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Wing Commander Alec Tredre, one of two consultants in rheumatology and rehabilitation at the RAF-administered unit — he is also the Senior Medical Officer — said: "Patients are posted here virtually to do a job of getting better. That's their work. It's not like an ordinary admission to hospital here. We try to run the JSRMU as far as possible as a Service unit and not like a Service hospital. Most of the patients live in wooden billet huts.

"We have a proper day's work here, too. We have an RSM and we have all the discipline one would expect. If chaps put a foot out of line then they get put on a charge. But there is a certain amount of social activity for them — discos and many sports facilities — to introduce them back into the Service environment after being in hospital. It all boosts morale."

His colleague, Colonel Mike Robinson, RAMC, the other consultant, said: "Our object is to return Servicemen back to duty, healthy and fit, as soon as possible. Sometimes they go back into the Army with reduced medical categories which limits what they can do. Last year, we had 51 Service personnel invalided out from among the 997 total. Our average bed occupancy here is 85 per cent or 128 beds. Most of the time we run along at about 130 to 140 patients.

"We get a lot of visitors who are of the persuasion that you must not shout at people when they see the fitter groups being shouted at by the RSM. But these are the patients with the highest morale of all. They are just getting back to normal, in terms of the Army. They are men again, rather than

broken individuals."

As *SOLDIER* found during its visit to JSRMU, the spirit among the in-patients is certainly remarkably cheerful.

Typifying the mood were youngsters like Private Julian Barrett, 18, of 'B' Company, 3 PARA, who was shot in the buttock and thigh by the same bullet at Mount Longdon just three months after joining the battalion. He had formerly been a junior soldier.

Julian, shot in June — two days before the surrender — recalled: "The Company was taking the summit of Mount Longdon and we were running through the positions when there was a half-hearted ambush. I was shot in the right buttock and the bullet entered the top of my thigh. The bullet was removed while I was still in the Falklands.

"I've only been here a week and I came here feeling groggy. But, already my stay here is doing me good. I feel better, mentally. Previously, I had been lying round in a hospital bed doing light duties and not much else."

Another Falklands casualty was Guardsman Tim Gilmour, 22, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, who was shot twice in the leg by a machine gun post during a diversionary attack on Tumbledown Mountain.

"It's been very good here especially the OT — occupational therapy," he said. "Up until I arrived here on crutches in August from another hospital I was in my bed most of the time."

Guardsman Huw Trigg, aged 20 and four years in the Army, was on the ill-fated *Sir Galahad* during the Argentine air attack at Bluff Cove and suffered severe burns to his hands, head and both legs.



Five-a-side football for those soon to leave the JSMRU.

"My rehabilitation has come on really well," he admitted. "I can move my hands and fingers more than I could and I can dress and wash myself and tie my shoe laces now."

Another victim on the same vessel was Sapper John Gilmore, 30, of 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment, who was on attachment to the Welsh Guards. His face, head and both hands were burned.

"I've recently passed my BFT and I'm driving a bit now despite having to wear special gloves over my damaged finger joints. It really is very good here at the JSMRU."

Also at Chessington is Lance Corporal David Timms, 29, a percussionist with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who was grievously hurt in the IRA bomb attack on London's Regents Park bandstand.

David had his head peppered with glass and wood, suffered nasal damage — it has deprived him of a sense of smell — had torn ligaments in both hands, a fractured left wrist, two broken heels, a broken neck and was left paralysed from the waist down. Yet despite this horrifying catalogue of injuries he remains optimistic — and full of praise



Physio Susan Stephens works with IRA bomb blast victim L/Cpl David Timms.

Pictures: Doug Pratt

for his treatment.

"They certainly know what they are doing here at Chessington. I feel a lot better. You tend to get a bit staid in hospital but I've got all day to do my remedial exercises here. Before, I was allowed a couple of hours.

"There's no point in being miserable. It's

not going to make any of my fellow patients happy. I intend to walk out of here if it is at all possible."

A gutsy comment from a typically brave young soldier; a human testimonial, indeed, not only to his own sterling efforts but to those of the JSMRU. ■

How observant are you?

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

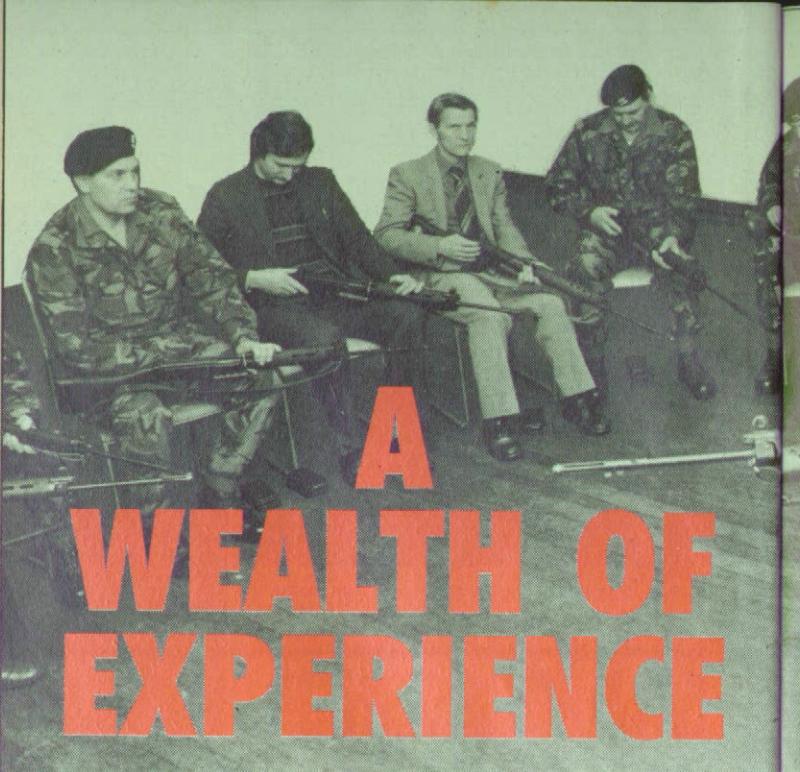




Despite the inevitable cracks about 'Dad's Army' the new Home Service Force is no place for the bumbling amateur. Graham Smith visited one of the HSF's newly formed pilot companies and found that it can already call on...



Cpl Tom Millington: "I don't agree with our Dad's Army image".



A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

IT ALL LOOKED promising enough; a lively drill night in the venerable barracks which have served Berkshire's county town for years.

Nearly 70 men in combat kit — with just a handful in civvies — alternated with rapid, orderly precision between drill in the darkness of the car park-cum-parade ground, classroom lectures, weapons instruction and basic infantry training.

The nation's latest Company of volunteer, part-time soldiers — one of four nationwide — were in action at Brock Barracks, Reading, as part of the Government's two-year pilot scheme aimed eventually at forming a Home Service Force (HSF) of 4500 men.

Other Companies have been formed at Bury St Edmunds, Birmingham and Perth.

The scheme was announced by Defence Secretary, Mr John Nott, in March when several newspapers described the new reserve, rather unkindly, as the first Home Guard units to be formed since the 'Dad's Army' days of the last war.

But the country's latest part-time militia — vigorously resent this inference — and with full justification.

All of the men in No 2 (Royal Berkshire) Company, HSF, have at least two years' satisfactory service with Regular or Reserve units and there are certainly no geriatric Captain Mainwaring, Sergeant Wilsons, 'Jonesseys', Godfreys, Frasers — or simpering, callow youths like Private Pike.

The upper age limit at Reading seemed to be in the upper-40s, the lowest, about 28. The minimum age for joining the HSF is

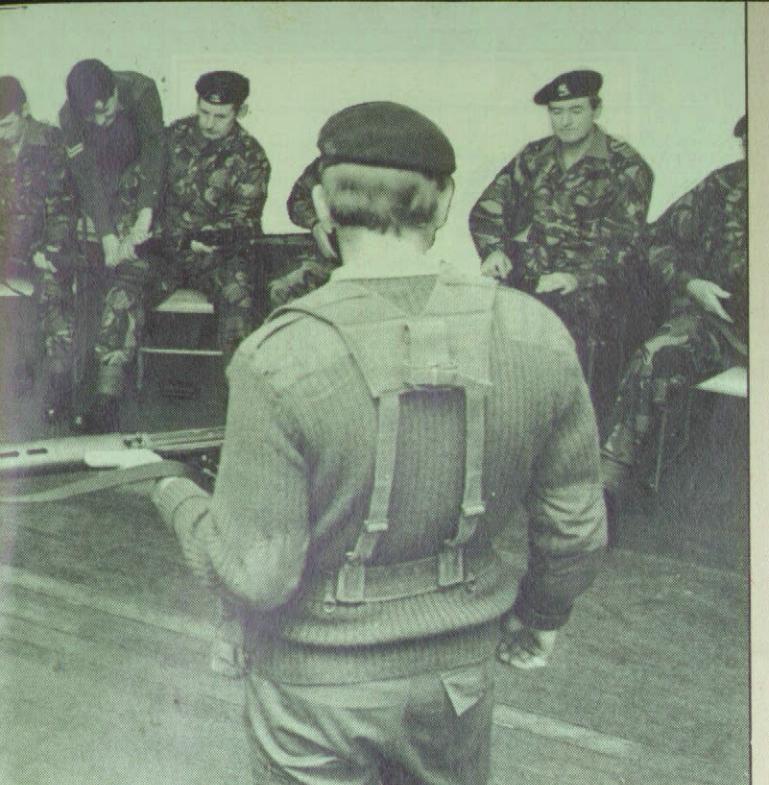
actually 20, the maximum, 50.

Each of the successfully attested men carry out six obligatory and four days' voluntary training a year. They must also attend their barracks once a month for a two-hour training session.

Pay and allowances for each full day's training is generally similar to the TA. A private gets £10.81 a day; a sergeant £19; a lieutenant £20; a captain £25.04; and a major, £31.65.

There is also an annual tax free bounty of between £35 and £100 depending on previous military experience.

The Reading HSF Company — it is split into three rifle platoons and a Company HQ — is being given its administrative



Explaining the workings of the SLR to Britain's newest 'veterans'.

Reading's strength is currently four officers and 65 NCOs and men but it is planned to raise 91 in all, with one platoon eventually deploying to the Maidenhead TA Centre.

SOLDIER made its visit on only the Company's second training night — an event boosted by the visit of an Arborfield-based brigadier — and found the morale and enthusiasm high.

Drawn, like the TA, from all walks of life, one of the volunteers who was passing briskly from a parade to a lecture had time to concede: "If you are in the TA you have to put in a lot of time. The HSF gives you a smaller but equally important commitment. All of us have had some military experience and we have ex-Royal Marines and RAF men among us tonight, as well as people from the Army."

Recruiting started on 1st September but of the 200 or so who came forward in Berkshire, many were unfortunately overage.

Regular officer and Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers), Captain Graham Martin, 27, said: "Initially, the response to the recruiting was overwhelming and

now it's going quite well. We are not up to our establishment yet but we hope to get there."

"We are trying to find out what skills there are available to us among the men. I think it would be totally unfair to draw any comparisons with the TA but there is certainly good military experience to be gained in the HSF which gives utilisation to a talent we know to be there in the military sense. Some, indeed, have very high military qualifications."

"The HSF was sited at Birmingham because it is a highly urban area, Bury St Edmunds because it is rural. They are trying the idea out in Scotland and we, at Reading, are an in-between area. It's all very much a case of seeing if we can recruit enough people and then test and see if they are capable of fulfilling their role and also see if that role suits them. I certainly hope the HSF is here to stay. It's got a good foundation and will eventually provide instructors from among its own ranks. We are hoping to build on it."

Lieutenant David Blake, 42, who left the RAF in 1979 after 16 years' service and is now a Ministry of Defence civil servant said:

"Everything in the Army is going to be a learning scenario for me. There has been quite a good response from ex-RAF chaps like me, at least half-a-dozen of us here. Generally, the response to recruiting has been very broad-based."

First OC of the Company is Major Michael Oakley, 42, Assistant Bursar at Eton College, its CCF contingent's training major and a former TA and Regular reservist of 20 years.

"It's going very much according to plan," he explained. "I think we have been rather encouraged by the quality of people who have come forward. One might have expected a bunch of unemployed, unemployable barbers but they've all got good jobs in civilian life. They know

the HSF is going to fulfill a useful role for them."

"The recruiting process, too, has gone in accordance with our blueprint. We take to the field for the first time soon in a defensive positions and patrolling exercise on Salisbury Plain. Ideally, we want enthusiastic committed people with a really good record of service in a relevant branch of the Regular or Reserve Forces who are prepared to give a little of their spare time to help establish what, we feel, is going to be an important element in the overall defence of the country."

Corporal Tom Millington, 44, a swimming pool superintendent, is one who fully shares that enthusiasm.

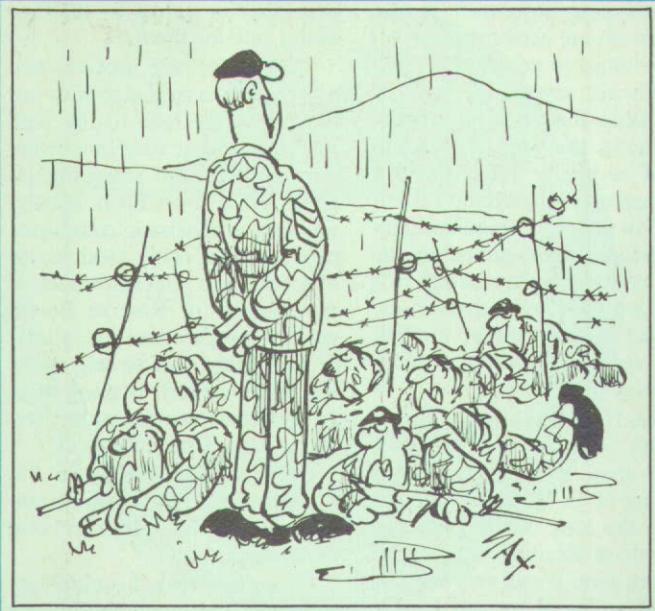
"Until last week, I couldn't see what the idea was behind the HSF," admitted the former REME staff sergeant who left the Army in 1961. "I can now and realise it will help relieve the TA on other more vital, essential duties. I can see a good cause and reason for the HSF now. I don't agree with our Dad's Army image, though, as suggested by some of the Press."

"The vast majority of the guys here have a Service background and it's all a bit different from the Local Defence Volunteers (LDVs) of World War Two when old men and young boys joined up. I think you will find my colleagues here tonight will also say there is a good reason for the HSF. They feel they are doing their bit and playing an important part in the nation's defences."

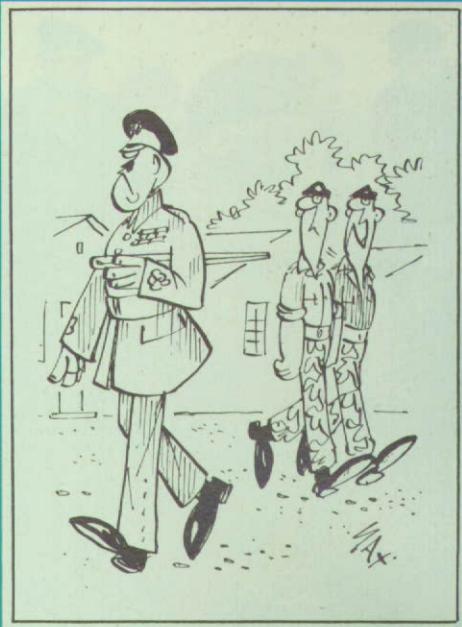
The final word came from Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Churcher, CO of the sponsoring battalion who said: "We are delighted to have been selected to support the pilot scheme for the HSF. Clearly, a successful and viable HSF will fill a long-felt gap in the Reserve forces available in the UK now that most of the major units in the TA are committed to Nato or in support of Regular formations."



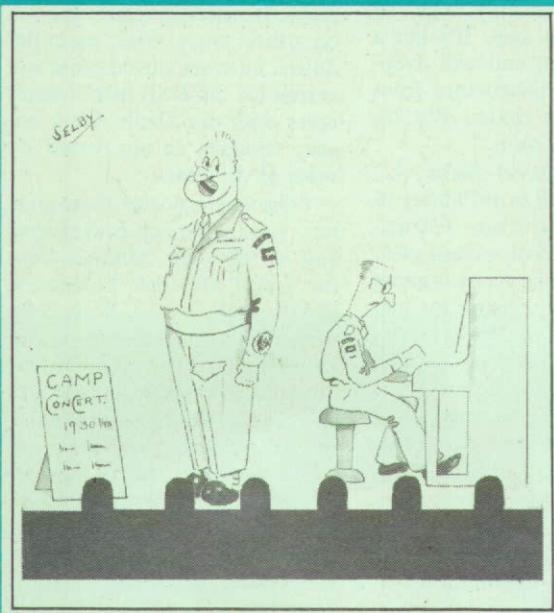
Some of the volunteers on parade at Brock Barracks. ▶



"OK, men — recreation period is over."



"He's the only man I know who can slam a revolving door."

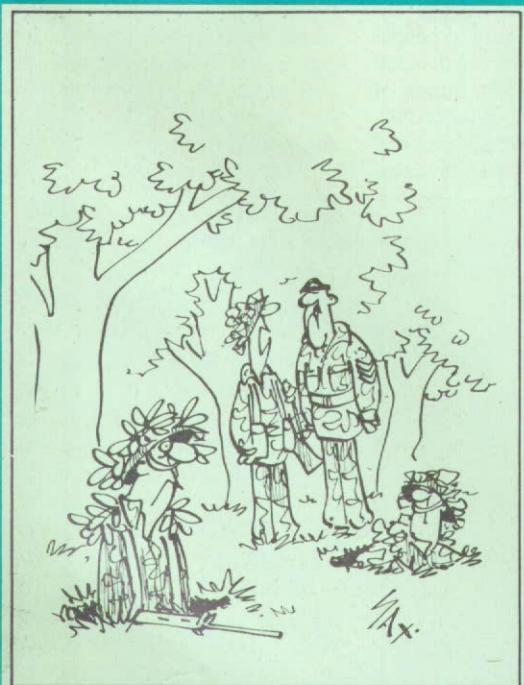


"You are my heart's delight . . ."

Humour



"Do you have to keep saying 'Thanks very much'?"



"He thinks he's caught Dutch Elm Disease."



"Oh yeah? Well I bet the post mortem proves me right."

AT HER DESK against a background of photographs of all her predecessors, sits Brigadier Helen Meechie, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Leaning back in her chair, pressing her fingertips together, she considers carefully the questions put to her.

Commissioned into the Corps in 1960, Helen Meechie never thought that one day she would be sitting where she is now. "In those days we looked only one job ahead and were interested really in getting the good jobs. I think we're more career conscious now. Or rather other people — Personnel Branch — are looking out for you to see that you acquire the right background for Staff College."

Born in Dundee but having no Army connections in her family, the young Helen first came across the Army while she was at St Andrew's University where she studied French and German. She joined the OTC "not for any good military reason, but because of the interest — and it was a lot of fun. I began to see more and more of the Regular Army and gradually began to think of it as a career."

And a varied and interesting career it has turned out to be, with both the bread-and-butter jobs and the glittering prizes, as well as tours in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Germany. Looking back on her career to date, she does not regret her decision to join the Corps — nor would she hesitate in recommending it to others.

"I would be less than honest if I said at times I hadn't thought of doing something else, but I've never really wanted to leave. I have had the opportunity to do so much and still do. I doubt if I could have achieved so much outside. The interests in this job are tremendous. I enjoy the travel and meeting people and I'm not conscious of missing anything."

Brigadier Meechie believes the WRAC uses its human resources well. Its policy of fitting round pegs into round holes ensures that each girl's specific talents are properly utilised. "She may be a practical person, or she may have leanings more academic in which case she would be more suited towards working with the Intelligence Corps. No girl can say she is doing something she didn't want to do — and that makes for far better results."

The social and fun side of Army life the Director considers important, just as the job itself is, to the well-being of every member of the Corps. She particularly approves of the opportunities for adventure training, whether that means crossing Australia on foot, mountaineering in Nepal, sailing in Hong Kong or an orienteering weekend in Wales. "There is so much to do and of course, there are clubs galore — sporting and social."

Brigadier Meechie is herself a keen golfer, playing to a handicap of 21. Even while living and working in London, she manages to get the odd round in and is appreciative when her official duties take her to places where, when she has time, she can indulge her passion for the game. She has even instituted her own Corps tournament which was played for the first time this year.

Sally Daniell talks to the Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Brigadier Meechie is a firm believer in the policy of wider employment and believes the WRAC should — and largely do — have the same opportunities for advancing themselves as their male counterparts. On the issue of complete parity however, she supports the decision of the Army Board that the WRAC should not be used in a direct combat role. "And I believe the majority of

"I think it is important that women in the Army should have their own focal point. After all, the Army is made up of small units. I could ask you, why have regiments, and not throw all the Infantry in together? I think it is just as important for women to retain their cap badge — it gives them identity, something beloved. My cap badge is important to me."

'No girl can say she is doing something she didn't want to do — and that makes for far better results.'

women want it that way." Keeping up with the times, though, is important and she believes the recent decision to arm the Corps for the purposes of self-defence is "absolutely logical" particularly if its role in war requires a self defence function.

Whilst unwilling to be drawn on the question of WRAC integration into infantry battalions, such as the recent experiment in which a platoon was placed with the Glosters on their tour of Cyprus, the Director looks forward to the report which will be made in due course. Meanwhile she keeps an open mind but points out that it is not just a question of whether women can do useful tasks in peacetime. "If there are women doing men's jobs, then the CO has got to decide if he has enough men to go to war — and that, after all, is what the Army's here for."

Women in the Army on permanent employment with other units such as Provost and Royal Signals, always retain their WRAC cap badge. Brigadier Meechie explains why.

At 44, Helen Meechie is the youngest ever DWRAC, so one is bound to wonder where she will go from here. Could she be the first WRAC officer to achieve the rank of General? With characteristic modesty, she ducks the question and talks in broader terms about why, to date, there have been no women generals.

"It's the process of time really. It takes a generation to achieve the expertise — having done all the right things."

(It is only since the 1960's that WRAC officers were selected to go to Staff College at Camberley. Until then they had their own college which was run on an entirely different basis and did not set out to prepare its students for quite the same jobs as the men.)

"Also, we are never going to be employed in direct combat and experience in this is a prerequisite in most senior jobs. But in the right circumstances, we are now competing on equal terms and a job should still go to the best candidate. We may see it, yet — I don't know."

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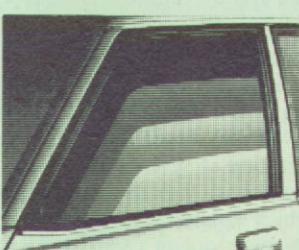
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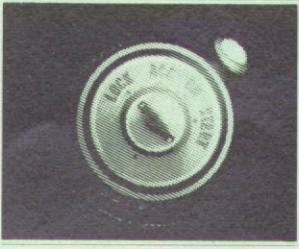
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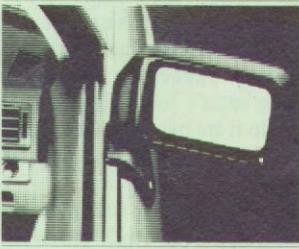
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The famous Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial.



BUILT IN A VALLEY just north of the Weihen Hills on the River Weser, Minden can claim to be the most beautifully situated garrison in West Germany.

Because of the town's position as a natural river crossing and in controlling the only passage through the hills, it is easy to see why Minden has been a garrison town since the days of Charlemagne.

The town has a great history as a trading centre and fortress and became famous when the Battle of Minden took place in 1759 during the Seven Years War. England and Prussia defeated the French and Austrians, and the victory is commemorated to this day.

The Museum has many interesting exhibits from the battlefield and the two large German churches hold records of the burials and marriages of British soldiers who fought in the battle.

Overlooking the valley is the huge Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial, one of Germany's best known landmarks. The Cathedral was first built in the 10th century and the town hall is said to be the oldest in Germany. Luckily many of the old patrician houses and the narrow cobbled streets in the centre of the town survived the bombs of the last war.

But there is still room for today's world in the midst of all this historical splendour, and the shopping centre is modern with good shops and many restaurants. The town is

SPLENDOUR IN THE VALLEY

on estates at Rinteln (21 kms away) and Bückeburg (12 kms) as well as in Minden itself.

Accommodation ranges from high rise blocks to houses for soldiers and flats and houses for officers.

"Because of the diversity of quarters available it is not possible to zone regiments in any particular area," explained the Station Staff Officer, Major Ken Jerome (Ret'd). "But the standard of all the accommodation is very high. There is a waiting list at the moment of 150 people, 65 of these are on the station waiting for married quarters, and of those 35 are living in private accommodation. We certainly do our best to make sure everyone is dealt with as soon as possible using the points system which we have found to be foolproof."

A bus service, which offers two free trips a week, runs from all the estates to the main Naafi and medical centres which are situated in a complex in one of the barracks. Rinteln and Bückeburg both have smaller Naafis, and there is a BMH at Rinteln and a medical

||| 'The soldiers' custom is valued, and any trouble there might be is accepted as an occupational hazard.' |||



also an inland port and provides a crossing point for boats heading to and from Amsterdam and Berlin. Trains go straight through to Paris, Rotterdam and Warsaw, and autobahns are close by.

Minden is the headquarters of 11 Armoured Brigade, and the units based there are 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, 4th Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT, 4th Armoured Division Field Ambulance RAMC, and 16 other minor units. It is home for 3500 soldiers and 4400 dependents, and the 1600 families live

centre at Bückeburg.

There are two primary schools in Minden and one in Bückeburg. Prince Rupert School for 11 to 18-year-olds is in Rinteln and there are five kindergartens in the barracks.

As always, there is plenty to keep people stationed in Germany occupied. Most units have their own clubs and there is a riding stable where horses can be hired. The Minden Amateur Dramatic Society blows hot and cold, depending on the talents and enthusiasm of those stationed in the garrison

continued on page 20

at the time, but there is a large and popular folk club called 'Trade Winds' at Rinteln. For the more studious, evening classes are held at the Army Education Centre.

The well equipped garrison sports equipment store means that the more unusual sports can be catered for such as skiing, mountaineering and canoeing.

Sailing and windsurfing can be done at Steinhudermeer, a large lake about 35 kms distant, and the beautiful Harz Mountains are only two hours away where there are facilities for every kind of outward bound sport. The German sporting facilities in the town are excellent with bowling alleys, swimming pools, tennis courts and squash clubs.

Minden is ideally suited for sightseeing and there are a number of old castles and windmills nearby which have been beautifully kept and restored. Pleasure trips can be taken on the river which is said to have a lock with the largest fall in Europe.

The historic town of Hameln is only a short drive away, where the play of the Pied Piper is enacted in the open air every Sunday during the fine weather.

As always though, living in a foreign country can bring its own problems. Captain John O'Grady, the families officer for the 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, is only too aware of this and more than once has had a distraught wife placing her children on his desk and demanding a seat on the next flight home.

"We have to face reality. Not everyone likes Army life, but they usually come to terms with it," he explained. "The big problem is with the young girls who marry the lower ranks. For many of them it is the first time they have left home, and when they come out here they can be housed some way away and feel lonely and come up against the language barrier.

"It is important they keep in touch with their families and either visit home as much as possible or get their families to visit them out here, which is easy with cheap flights, coaches and trains which come direct from Harwich to Minden.

"Luckily many of the girls are independent, can get themselves sorted out and find

small jobs. They often have a better standard of living here, and the families get a lot more done for them in Germany by the Army than if they were living at home. We brought them out here, so we have to look after them."

Another problem has been the young people aged 16 and upwards who have recently left school with few prospects of finding a job. But now a Youth Opportunities Scheme has been started in the garrison which is supported by the Manpower Services Commission in UK. It means that 16 to 19-year-olds will be slotted into jobs for six months giving them experience and something to occupy their time.

Corporal Brian Gilmartin of 211 (11 Armoured Brigade) Signal Sqn, having just completed two years in Colchester and only five weeks in Minden said that he and his wife had settled in very happily. "We have a nice quarter in an estate that's a little community on its own with two swimming pools nearby and a supermarket down the road. The extra money you get over here comes in handy, but you do need it, it's quite expensive."

Signalman John Laffey has spent two years in Minden. Unmarried, he finds the social life a bit dull for the single soldier. "Unless you have a girlfriend you can't go into many places. There was a bit of trouble in the town quite some time ago and there

are still places that are out of bounds and have signs up. But there are discos around that we go to, especially one in Lübbecke which is owned by an ex-soldier!"

Staff Sergeant Michael Dunn and his wife, who is a dental hygienist, love Germany. "I would live here rather than go back to England," he said. "If you are willing to get to know the Germans you can have a wonderful time and there are so many places to visit. The town is excellent for shopping, and although it might be a bit more expensive for basics, especially for children, you can always get much better kit than in Blighty."

As in many British garrisons in Germany, the relationship between the Army and local Germans is generally good, and as a gesture of that goodwill the garrison has been granted the Freedom of Minden.

Mr Roy Dobin, the Services Liaison Officer for Minden said, "The town is pleased to have the garrison here. With over 5000 people in it, it is an important economic factor as there is not a lot of industry. The soldiers' custom is valued, and any trouble there might be is accepted as an occupational hazard."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the relationship between the Germans and the Army is really very good, but we do not live in one another's pockets. The Army is always self sufficient, wherever it goes."

Traffic on the busy canal.



SOLDIER meets two artists, on opposite sides of the world, who both have a special eye for the Army

DRAWN TO THE COLOURS



COLONE'S WIFE, Gay Hollingsworth, who has painted more than 200 pictures of military uniforms over the past 12 years, has just broken into the commercial field. A series of her pictures of uniforms of the Household Division is being marketed by a mail order prints firm.

Mrs Hollingsworth went to art college but took no interest in period uniforms until the day her husband, Bryan, now Commandant of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, came across some pictures of forerunners of his regiment, the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

"Bryan said he would like a couple of paintings so I did them", she recalled. "Then some friends dropped by and said they would like some more of them."

So the painting began to snowball. She found herself doing paintings for farewell presents, for sergeants' messes and for people who liked military pictures on their walls at home.

"Up until I started I had no knowledge of military uniforms other than that my husband wore one", says Gay. "But of course my interest accelerated the more I got to know about the various periods."

Lieutenant-Colonel Hollingsworth maintains that his wife now knows more about different military uniforms than he does. But she says: "His advice was invaluable when dealing with paintings of a modern soldier. When I had to do an Ulster soldier I would get Bryan standing with a broom instead of an SLR."

"Although Aden and Malaya are a few years ago there are still lots of officers and soldiers who have served there and they know exactly what they were wearing."

While in Hong Kong Gay has moved onto a new subject — birds. She has produced a series of pictures of highly coloured Oriental birds, most of them seen in the garden of their quarter at Fort Stanley.

Of the commercial breakthrough she says: "The whole idea frightens me a bit. But as long as I don't have anything to do with it I don't mind. If I found I had rows and rows of orders and had to handpaint one bird or one uniform 20 or 30 times, the whole thing would be lost. That is why I have enjoyed soldiers because people have kept just enough orders for me to do it in my own time. I don't want it to turn into a treadmill."

AN RSM in the Glosters was flicking through a small book on military uniforms while flying to join his unit in Berlin. He looked at the illustrations and decided that he could have done them just as well.

Back on terra firma he resolved to put his theory to the test. So Michael Chappell bought a box of paints and began carrying out small commissions for some of the officers at "three pounds a throw". Now, 14 years later, he is hoping to break into the big time with palette and paintbrush as one of the country's foremost military illustrators.

Among his most recent works are nine colour plates representing 30 or so uniformed figures for Osprey's three-book Men-at-Arms series, *Battle for the Falklands*.

Michael left the Army ten years ago and now lives in Aldershot. He has always enjoyed painting and retained this en-

continued on page 36



AUTUMN IS THE season for Annual General Meetings and Conferences and I have been busy keeping up with them all.

The Fifth National Childminding Conference, the Second Pre-School Playgroup Conference in Dortmund and the 96th Ssafa Conference were among those I attended this year.

Conference-going can be tremendously rewarding and stimulating. It is a habit that started some years ago for me and one which I feel should be encouraged. Conferences give plenty of opportunity for discussion, for exchanges of ideas, for presenting problems and, perhaps most importantly, for keeping abreast of the very latest developments in often rather specialised fields. They provide a focus for smaller organisations to gather around central platform at least once a year and often use the occasion to invite guests from related fields of interest.

I first realised the importance of these conferences when I attended a Women's Institute and Townswomen's Guild AGM at the Albert Hall. It was an impressive sight as 5000 women crowded into the hall together with representatives from the Citizens' Advice Bureaux who had also gathered under the auspices of the larger organisation.

It is, I believe, important for Service representatives to be aware of the value of conferences. Many organisations have something to offer Service families but they are often unaware of it as a Service voice is so rarely heard on these occasions. And we too have much to contribute to a general understanding of a variety of subjects because of our particular way of life.

Let us have more Service participation at conferences so that we may all benefit. Most organisations plan well ahead for their AGM and representatives often have six months or a year's notice of the conference date — plenty of time to make arrangements, save up or apply for funds. Let us become more conference-conscious and take our place on the platform they offer.

Anne Armstrong

I have recently married a Belizean girl and there are a few things I would like to establish.

First, does my wife have to register as a British citizen to travel to BAOR or is her Belizean passport sufficient? Second, if she does have to register, will the Army pay the £70 registration fee and who do I see about paying it? And, finally, if she doesn't have to register, what entrance requirements are in force and where do I get the necessary documents for her to travel without hindrance?

I may add that we are expecting a child before we go to Germany.

Pte S, BFPO 12

Your wife will be able to travel to BAOR on her Belizean passport provided that it has been stamped with a "status stamp" which will show that she is the wife of a British Serviceman. This status stamp will be inserted by the Services Booking Centre and you should contact them as soon as you can.

If, at a later date, your wife wishes to be registered as a British Citizen, she should apply to the Home Office (Immigration and Nationality Division) Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 2BY — but you will have to pay for the registration fee yourselves as it cannot be paid from public funds.

My husband is to be posted from Rheindahlen to Aberdeen shortly.

He was told to make enquiries about British Rail's "Motorail" service as it is over 500 miles from London to Aberdeen, but was subsequently told that it would be too expensive to travel that way.

We have three young children and we feel that a journey that takes more than ten hours by road is too long for them. If we cannot use Motorail on a posting when can we use it?

Mrs T, BFPO 40

Posting journeys are undertaken at public expense and should be effected by the most economic means. Motorail does not meet that criteria and so either MOD incurs additional expense or the traveller pays the difference from private funds. This is unacceptable as a principle for posting movements.

If the ready availability of a private car is essential at the new post for the

postee's official duties (bearing in mind the presence or otherwise of Service and public transport facilities), Motorail may be considered acceptable posting travel but this would be exceptional.

There is no reason why Motorail may not be used for leave travel but you must remember that you will have to pay the extra charged by BR for the Motorail service over and above the value of the MOD warrants and that you will also have to pay for any "terminal travel" necessary on a Motorail journey.

on 25 December plus a Buffet/Dance on 27 December are included in the price which is £105 for a double room, £55 for a single room and £33 for children under 13 years old. There is no charge for children under three years and temporary honorary members will be charged slightly more than the prices quoted above.

Write to the Secretary, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ before Friday 7 December 82.

Flight Lieutenant Brown has written to us from HQ Afcent with reference to the 'Did You Know?' article that appeared in SOLDIER 18-31 October issue:

"I must clear up a misconception about customs clearance. On your 'Ask Anne' page it stated that personnel would have to obtain Netherlands Form 35K and that UK Supply Flight will obtain licences on request for personnel joining HQ Afcent. This procedure to be followed only by personnel moving personal effects by private means.

"Firstly, UK Supply Flight cannot obtain import licences. They must be obtained by the individual personally from the office of the Inspector of Taxes governing the district in which he will finally reside.

"Secondly, Netherlands Form 35 is not in itself a licence but an application for an import licence. This form must be completed and presented to the Inspector and it must be accompanied by a list of the goods to be imported. In addition the individual must present a Certificate of Status showing that he is entitled to the privilege of duty free import. Only when this has been approved by the Inspector does Form 35 become a licence."

The information for the article came from BAOR General Routine Orders, dated 13 September 82, Issue No 37 where it clearly states that UK Supply Flight will obtain licences on request for personnel joining HQ Afcen. It is also useful to note the need to have Form 35K approved before it becomes a licence. Although we did not intend to imply that Form 35K is a licence itself and merely stated that it is necessary, it is of course most helpful to have the full story!

In fact, Flt Lt Brown goes on:

"The form is, of course, printed in Dutch but the ability to translate it would still not enable most Servicemen to complete the form. Form 35 is available from UKDSU Supply Flight together with the expertise to complete it. Apart from a list of goods being imported, all other documents will be provided by Supply Flight and although the procedure sounds complicated, it only takes a short time to complete and is free of charge.

"Unfortunately, Netherlands customs procedure is not as straightforward as in the UK. Personnel posted to HQ Afcen who do not intend using GFA to move their personal effects are strongly advised to contact Supply Flight, UKDSU, HQ Afcen, BFPO 28 or ring Afcen Mil Ext 3565/3350 for advice on customs procedure before planning their move."

ASK ANNE

I am 53 years old and ever since I was a young lad I have desired a helmet plate from the Life Guards.

A helmet is the most beautiful and desired object in my world. The finest in army tradition and ceremonial splendour. It is my ambition in life to own one.

Where can I go to find one?

Mr Patrick Crosby, 375 Commercial Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201, South Africa.

I suggest you try Wallis and Wallis at Regency House, Albion Street, Lewes, Sussex BN7 2NF. They should be able to help you track down a helmet. Then, of course, there are the London auctioneers Christies, Sothebys and Phillips or you could place an advertisement in the classified section of SOLDIER.

Is the Union Jack Club offering a Christmas holiday as it did last year?

We read about it in SOLDIER then but have seen nothing so far this year. If it is, please would you tell me where to write for details.

Mrs B, Colchester

Yes, Mrs B, the Union Jack Club is again offering a Christmas package at a reduced rate from 24-29 December. Christmas Dinner and a Buffet Supper

DID YOU KNOW?

SERVICEMEN STATIONED in Germany are advised to take out a personal liability insurance policy to cover them and their families in case of accidental damage to property or injury to third parties.

In Germany many expenses, which would be covered by state insurance or the National Health Service in UK, are dealt with on a private basis and anyone causing injury or damage, even if accidentally, may well be held liable for large sums of money under German law.

Practically every German, therefore, is covered by a personal, liability insurance and would expect you to be similarly covered. If you are not, your personal belongings may be seized by bailiffs, money in your bank account may be confiscated and compulsory deductions made from your pay.

Personal liability insurance is often included as part of an "all-risks" or "household" policy and you should check whether you are so covered. Otherwise, you should take out a separate policy and protect yourself.

Taking the platform

SSAFA

A CHANGE IN THE Ssafa charter was welcome news for officers' families who are now fully eligible for Ssafa help should they need it.

The news was one of the highlights of this year's Ssafa Conference held in Caxton Hall, London, where delegates were addressed by the Adjutant-General, General Sir George Coöper, Miss Janet Fookes MP, Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, Chairman of Ssafa, and members of Ssafa branches throughout UK. The conference was opened by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Ssafa's new President.

The good news of achievements and progress set the tone for the conference. 1982 has seen the realisation of the Ssafa Sheltered Housing Scheme in conjunction with the Abbeyfield Society in Aldershot, the consolidation of the short-stay accommodation at Squire House



HRH Prince Michael of Kent addresses the Ssafa conference.

in Woolwich with a donation of £10,000 from Ssafa funds, the establishment of Ssafa as an approved adoption society and the provision of two flatlets for officers' widows in the Windsor Chapter Mews — just some of the tremendous achievements in the past months of Ssafa's continual involvement with the needy, the unemployed, the bereaved and the one-parent families to all of whom the organisation gives help and comfort.

The Adjutant-General included various aspects of welfare in his speech. He mentioned the House Purchase Scheme which has been talked about for some time and hoped it would become a reality perhaps in April 83.

He added that there might be some people "who feel we have almost gone too far, in particular in British Forces Germany," in trying to mirror image every last facet of the welfare state to the

extent that some Servicemen and their families expect every welfare agency available in UK to be available to them in Germany as of right. However, I would not wish you to think that I either oppose the provision of welfare facilities or underestimate their importance. I am constantly seeking to improve where improvement is needed and only recently have been seeking to increase the number of speech therapists in BAOR."

There is still an undisputed need for Ssafa with over 43,000 cases being handled in UK and overseas and well over one million pounds being given for charity. In the last year, 101 Ssafa sisters made 110,446 home visits, 172,939 clinic attendances and 10,540 school visits. The 27 social workers dealt with over ten thousand cases, mostly matrimonial or child care problems.

If you think you could enjoy being a Ssafa voluntary worker, please write to Ssafa, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ.



Lady Plowden at Rheindahlen with some under-fives.

PLAYGROUPS

THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS response to guest speakers at the Second Pre-School Playgroup conference to be held in BFG, organised this year by Dortmund Ladies under the chairmanship of Carol Pascoe.

Delegates heard Lady Taylor, wife of the British Ambassador, wishing there had been a PPA when her eight children were small. They heard Lady Plowden, PPA Vice-President, giving advice to parents with young children on how to enjoy them to the full and they laughed until they cried as John Crabtree, au-

thor of numerous books on family life and contributor to *Cosmopolitan* magazine, took a light-hearted look at growing up.

Juliet Baxter and Meg Burford, both well-known faces, were welcomed back. Juliet read a special message from the PPA's new Patron, HRH The Princess of Wales, much to the delight of the delegates, and Jenny Lawson, the PPA voluntary co-ordinator in BFG, told an encouraging story of new branches and a growing membership among the 20,000 under-fives in Service families in BFG for whom the PPA has been established.

CHILDMINDING

THE SERVICES PLAYED a greater part than ever before in this year's National Childminding Association annual conference.

Linda Croft, the part-time Supervisor from Bielefeld, was welcomed as the delegate who had travelled the greatest distance to the conference and the President, Willem van Eyken, who has recently written a paper on his visit to BFG at the invitation of the Army's Education Branch, showed great interest in Forces families both at home and overseas. He hoped that the NCMA would be able to help them in future where necessary.

The NCMA is going from

Peter Bottomley MP, Linda Croft, Ann Roe, NCMA Chairman, and Wyn Williams, Open University Continuing Education Dept.



An Aldershot firm's secret formula looks set to clean up. With the help of two soldier volunteers Graham Smith tries out a new product that could soon be . . .

CHANGING THE FACE OF WAR

THE RUSSIANS probably have nothing like it. The Americans would love to lay their military hands on it. And 1000 British commercial chemists, it is said, claim there is nothing comparable on the home market.

They are, of course, referring to a secret formula which, literally, has serious post-battlefield applications — a sort of crème de la crème.

Formula 24-J-21 — as **SOLDIER** can reveal — is known only to the managing director of an Aldershot cosmetics firm and a handful of his trusted boardroom executives.

The six-month-old top secret ingredients are kept locked inside a safe somewhere in the sprawling complex which has been marketing sophisticated smells for pleasure for 122 years.

And though its hush-hush analysis lies in a certain laboratory, the secret of its existence has been deliberately brought to light in recent weeks — as a family hand cream (aptly named 'Ridd') on sale in chemists throughout the land at £1.95 pence for a seven-inch, 100-ml tube.

It is a hand cleaner which "melts away paint, car oil, grime, tar, carbon, felt marker and printing inks."

This was eagerly demonstrated in seconds by managing director, Mr John Glover as he steadfastly sullied the back of a creative hand before **SOLDIER**'s sceptical eyes.

Apparently, not only is it "kind to hands" but it smells nice and it also removes . . . cam cream!

The true face value of the cream's potential in warlike surroundings was casually



Two seconds gone:
Private Forbes studies tube instructions.



Five seconds:
The first squeeze — ready for action.

sounded out over drinks in the boardroom by Mr Glover of Thomas Christy Ltd, to his production manager, Mr Don Forbes, alias TA Major Don Forbes, who was about to embark on a Nato exercise in Germany.

Major Forbes, OC of Support Company, 10th Volunteer Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, volunteered again — to field test his firm's cream during Exercise Quarter Final held near Hildesheim. His mission was successful with a 100 per cent clean-up rate.

It certainly knocked minutes off the tried and tested method of lighting up his hexi-burner, eking out valuable water from his water bottle and then leaving nasty-looking stains on his towel.

So popular was the 'magic stuff' for removing the mucky cam cream among Major Forbes' Company that even the RSM was not too proud to ask for a loan of the potion. His CO did likewise.

Part of its attraction in the field is that no water is needed. A clean tissue does the rest

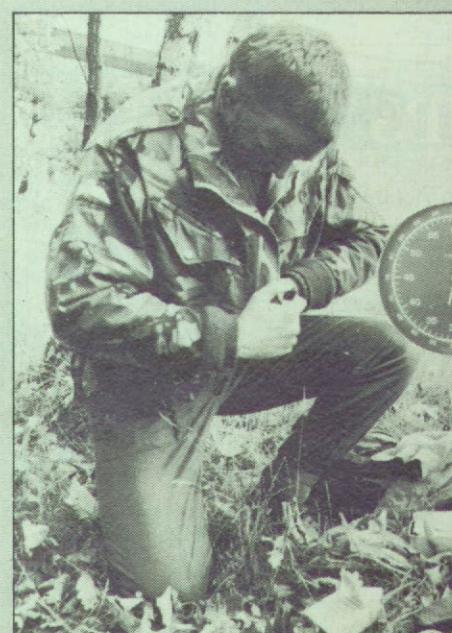
although the Aldershot-based firm does concede that "two applications may be necessary for very stubborn marks."

Faced with the facts, as it were, Mr Forbes is adamant about the cream and its prowess at removing black looks in just seconds.

"From now on, it will never be out of my pack. I'll always carry it with me on exercise," he extolled. "It also works on NBC or 'Noddy Suits.' These accumulate carbon, especially round the neck and armpits after extensive wearing. The absence of using water is an absolute boon. I would normally use half of my water bottle's contents for washing and shaving and the other half for drinking."

"Just imagine the problems if a soldier is miles away from his HQ out in the wilds at the end of an exercise when de-camming time has arrived. It's not an answer to washing in the field but the cream in our orange tube removes the cam cream in seconds, saving on valuable water. I would

Two seconds:
Private Goundry tries to light hexi-burner.



Ten seconds:
The burner refuses to ignite.





Ten seconds:
Rubbing it on thoroughly all over face.



Twenty-five seconds:
It seems to be coming off with ease.



Fifty-eight seconds:
Mission accomplished it's all off.

rather drink my water than waste it on getting off the cam cream."

He added: "The cream also worked for me on lip corners which became chapped in the cold winds whistling over the North German Plain. In fact, the cream contains lanolin and natural citrus oil and I daresay you could even shave with it — saving that water supply again."

A beaming Mr Glover who heads a 120-strong work force, told SOLDIER: "It's the only one of its kind in the shops at the moment. We've canvassed 1000 commercial chemists and they say they know of nothing like it. Other products dry the skin, ours doesn't. The Americans have been working on it in competition with the quality of our product. And, as for the Russians, it must be better than anything they have."

It also saves time in other ways, too, as Don Forbes testifies.

"I got back off one phase of the exercise late and found the showers full and the water cold. But I was not dismayed. I

lathered myself in our versatile cream to remove all the cam gunge of the day — and still beat the lads out of the showers. I tell you, my Company swears by it now."

But what do other soldiers, Para regulars for instance, think of this miracle face-saver?

SOLDIER asked for two volunteers to do a test under field conditions. One of them had to use the conventional method of burner, mess tin for hot water, huge hunk of soap, flannel and towel. The other was kitted out just with a tube of the cream and a towel.

The 'race' was on. Private Terry Goundry, of HQ Company's Signals Platoon, 2 PARA elected to go for the conventional method. His pal, Private Aidan Forbes, opted for the cream.

It was virtually no-contest. Private Forbes had smeared and then cleared away his cam cream in just 58 seconds!

The sturdy fingers of one ham-like fist round the yielding, plastic tube, he enthused: "It's great! It cuts out all the hassle of

using water. I think I might always use it now on exercise. Getting cam cream off has always been a pain. I don't think I could use this product in Belize because it would attract all the mozzies. My skin feels slightly irritated, though, like the effects of after-shave."

Private Goundry took four minutes to shift his liberally applied cam cream by cold water-and-towel methods.

Shooting a side-long glance at his victorious pal, he conceded: "I don't think I'd mind using that cream, either, looking at its results. I don't like using water for taking off cam cream, I would rather drink it. I only use water for the purpose when I'm in camp."

Private Goundry was given the chance to finish off his clean-up with the 'magic stuff'.

"Not bad," he mused. "It certainly seems to put some colour into your cheeks. Yes, I think I could certainly be converted to the cream."

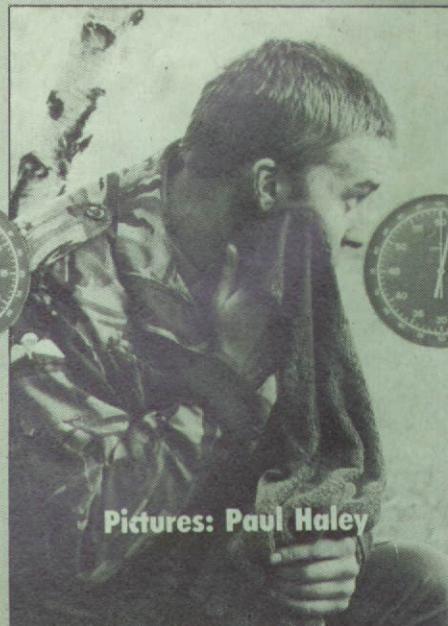
Twelve seconds:
Cold water will have to do the job.



One minute 30 seconds:
Those cam-cream smudges are still there.



Two minutes:
Still rubbing — and two minutes to go.



Pictures: Paul Haley



The New Year re-structuring of Rhine Army will mean a new role for the 2nd Armoured Division — and a new home. John Walton went to Lübbecke as soldiers from the Division's headquarters paid the town a formal, but fond, farewell.

AFTER ALMOST a quarter of a century the headquarters of 2nd Armoured Division has paid its official farewell to the little German town of Lübbecke. In March the Division ceases to exist in Germany and makes its reappearance in York as Second Infantry Division.

Quite by chance, both Lübbecke and York have the cross keys emblem which has been used by the Division since the days in the last war when it was previously based at York. And a permanent reminder of its 24-year stay will stand in the streets of Lübbecke in the form of a bronze statue interlinking both sets of cross keys (which are slightly different).

◀ The Burgermeister displays the Divisional flag with town arms added.

The farewell parade at Lübbecke. ▼

BUT A NEW BEGINNING



A dozen helicopters fly past at end of the parade.

The sculpture, which was made in 12 months by 21 Engineer Base Workshops at Willrich, weighs 1800 lbs. It was officially presented to the town by the General Officer Commanding 2 Division, Major-General Martin Farndale, at the end of an emotional morning for the people of Lübbecke.

They had crowded into the square to see a parade by troops representing the different corps and units in the headquarters. The brightly coloured uniforms of the band of 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards added a touch of pageantry to a poignant occasion in bright autumn sunshine.

General Farndale described the day as a "sad but special occasion". He said that those who had served in Lübbecke always recalled their time there as the happiest in their service.

"Lübbecke is a truly beautiful town and you have been wonderfully kind and friendly to us. We will all be very sad to go."

Replying, the Burgermeister, Herr G

Steinmeyer, said that one of the greatest developments after the Second World War was that former military opponents had become true partners and friends.

"Although the great developments for a united Europe still receive new setbacks, a considerable amount has been achieved. Notwithstanding different opinions regarding the right way to a lasting peace, one may establish that in Europe a warlike aggression between the democratically ruled countries of our Continent is no longer possible."

After the cross keys statue had been unveiled, the Burgermeister presented General Farndale with a divisional flag on which had been added the town arms and the words 'Lübbecke 1958-1982'.

Another parade had taken place a week earlier when Second Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment had said goodbye to the nearby town of Bünde. The regiment had also been in the town since 1958 but the corps had been there since Birdwood Barracks was opened in 1952.

Led by the Commanding Officer, Lieute-



Captain Nick Nicoll with Division's Lübbecke Freedom Scroll.

nant-Colonel Sam Cowan, 200 soldiers of all ranks, followed by 21 armoured personnel carriers, paraded past the Burgermeister, Herr Herbert Voss.

The Signals are providing about 400 of the 500 men who will be moving to York in the next few months. During their time in Bünde there have been something like 150 marriages between soldiers and local girls.

One person who will be sorry to see them go is Frau Anneliese Meyer, who has spent 30 years as a mess supervisor at Birdwood Barracks — all except the last three in the sergeants' mess.

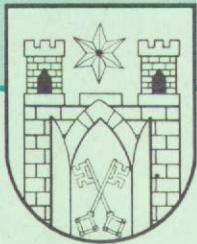
She told SOLDIER: "It's like my second home. In the past 30 years I have made so many friends and have seen people coming back in different ranks. Now whatever happens I shall have to start again with new people."

continued on page 28

Herr Voss, takes the salute as two APCs drive past in Bünde farewell. (Pic 2 Armoured Div PI).



Parade pictures: Les Wiggs



The 2nd Division was formed in 1809 in Portugal when Wellington's Army was reorganised into four divisions. It took part in virtually all the actions of the Crimean War and was in Africa for the last 21 years of the 19th century to include the Boer War.

In 1914 it went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. It was there again at the start of the Second World War until Dunkirk. It then spent two years in north east England based on York before going to India.

In 1944 it was one of only two British divisions to take part in the Burma campaign and observes Kohima as a battle honour. In 1947 it moved to Rhine Army with the Headquarters moving to Lübecke in 1958.

continued from page 27

The Royal Corps of Transport will take over the whole camp and in Lübecke too it is not expected that there will be any significant change in the number of troops or families in the town.

Major Maurice Davies, second-in-command of the Signal Regiment, said that the majority of the soldiers, both single and married, were happy about the move back. Because of the nature of their duties Royal Signals personnel tended to spend a lot of time in Germany, so they would be pleased to have a tour in England. Many people looked upon it as the best of both worlds since the Division would still be exercising in Germany.

Wives too are looking forward to York. Said Mrs Lyn Hickinbottom: "I like Germany and the way the Germans live but I

The Keys are winched into place in final preparation of statue. (2 Armoured Div PI).

still want to go home and be near my Mum for a change."

Mrs Dot Westrop, whose corporal husband Wally will be away in the Falklands for the first six months, will be living in England for the first time in the ten years they have been married. "It's going to be lovely. I love the seaside and here it is a two day journey to the beach."

German born Mrs Monika Harrison will be living in England for the first time but has no fears. "Some people tend to say I am more English than the English and I have taken British nationality. I like the English — they have a nice sense of humour and life is not such a rat race as in Germany."

The families will be quartered in York and further away in Driffield and Leconfield. Mrs Carole Brannigan, a captain's wife whose mother was born in York, described herself as "chuffed to bits".

German clerks at the headquarters building in Lübecke anxiously await news of their futures. But all are agreed that they will be sorry to see the departure of the Division.

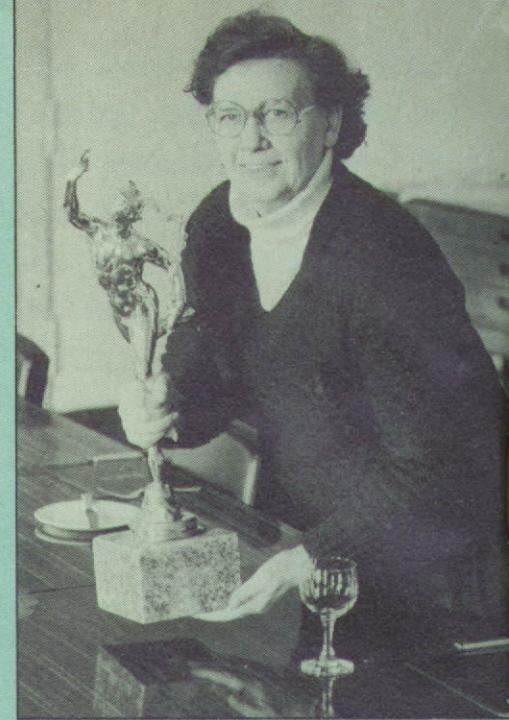
Frau Ruth Von Ludwig, who has been in the headquarters since it arrived in 1958, expects to retire. "I am very sorry because I have been working so long here and I am really a part of people in the division."

Major-General Farndale sees the reorganisation as having several advantages for the British Forces in Germany.

"First we want to make our Armoured Divisions more powerful and we want to make sure we get the best value from the new equipment coming in. We also want to step up our ability to reinforce the Army out here in an emergency and we want to ensure that when the reinforcements arrive here they are ready to go straight into combat."

General Farndale said the three more powerful divisions of 1 British Corps would be able to fight without reinforcement for a while. This meant that they were much more prepared for a surprise attack and would be able to strike at an enemy as they crossed the German border.

"Reinforcements in the United Kingdom will be trained as a division. The net effect is to improve the capability of the corps. The



Frau 'Anna' Meyer places the Signals' 'Jim-my' on the Officers' Mess table for almost the last time.

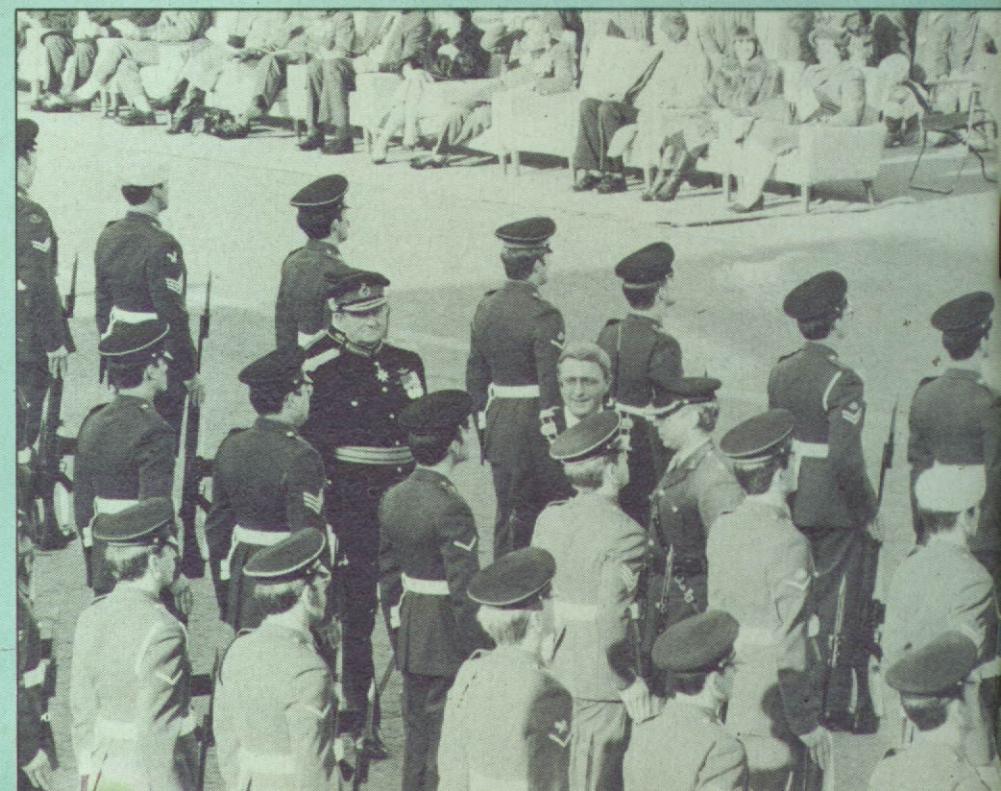
fact that the headquarters is going to be in England does not affect the number of tanks, guns or equipment that the British have in Germany. They are staying."

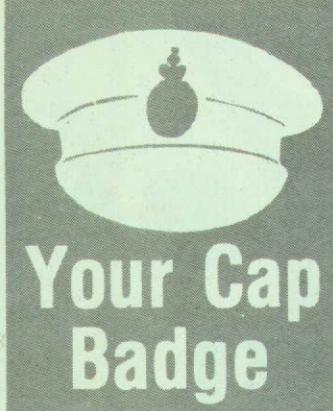
The general said that when the Division became operational in York on 1 April it would become the biggest division in the Army. Its role would be to get back to Germany as fast as possible in a period of tension. The recent Exercise Keystone had proved that it could be there in 48 hours and, he believed, even quicker in wartime.

He concluded that many soldiers who had been in Lübecke for some time were glad to be moving to York, although others who had arrived in the last year would have liked to have stayed.

"Now that the move and the organisation of the new Division has gone so well you will find people are excited to meet the challenge."

Inspecting the troops on parade.





Your Cap Badge

No 30

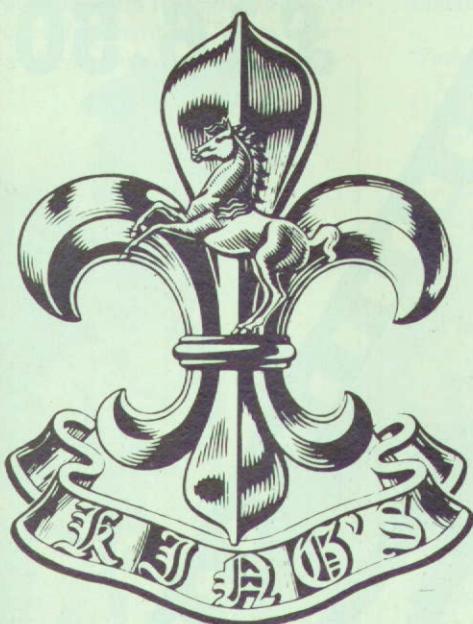
The King's Regiment

THE FLEUR-DE-LYS and the White Horse of Hanover combine to retain the principal crests of the badges worn by the two regiments that went to make the present formation when amalgamation took place on 1st September 1958. The title in full is 'The King's Regiment (Manchester and Liverpool)'

In order of preference the King's (Liverpool Regiment) numbered the 8th from 1751 but began its long history in 1685. The White Horse was directed to be borne on the Colours of the Regiment by King George the First in 1716 and was, at that time, peculiar to the regiment. Originally entitled 'The Queen's Regiment' for its excellent service in Marlborough's battles, its name was altered on the accession of George the First. Battle honours include those of Blenheim, Martinique 1809, Niagara, Lucknow, Marne, Cambrai and a host of others. In 1756 a second battalion was raised but two years later became the 63rd Regiment of Foot and in 1881 the 1st

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Royal Anglian Regiment



Battalion, the Manchester Regiment — thus began the process ending in amalgamation of the present day. The last head-dress badge worn by the King's Liverpool Regiment was "The White Horse of Hanover standing on a torse (wreath), in white metal. Below, a scroll inscribed 'King's' in Old English lettering in gilding metal." This was later worn in anodised materials.

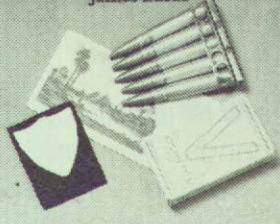
The Manchester Regiment was the result of a marriage of two Foot regiments during the re-organisation of 1881, the 63rd West Suffolk and the 96th Regiment. The first was raised in 1756 and the second had seen continuous service since 1824. During the Great War of 1914-18 42 battalions served wearing the bi-metal badge of the Arms of the City of Manchester, which was not popular and often confused with the Corporation Tramways. However, on 21st January 1922, the Fleur-de-lys, a badge won in the West Indies in 1759 by the 63rd, was authorised to be the head-dress badge in gilding metal (changed to white metal in February 1949). During a Nato shoot, in the days when France took her place at the side of the other members, a French Army general enquired of a corporal wearing this badge, what it had been awarded for? "Killing bloody Frenchmen," was the blunt reply, much to the amusement of the high ranking enquirer. The badge currently worn, and here depicted, is described as "A Fleur-de-lys in gold anodised, thereon the White Horse of Hanover in silver anodised. Below, a scroll inscribed in Old English lettering 'King's' in gold anodised."

Hugh L King

WAR IN THE DESERT

WAR IN THE DESERT

The Eighth Army at El Alamein
James Lucas



WAR IN THE DESERT

James Lucas

Published on the 40th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein, this is a very special tribute to the men who fought and achieved victory in the Western Desert. The battle is seen from the point of view of the ordinary soldier in the four principal arms of service — the infantry, the sappers,

the gunners and the tank men. Based on correspondence and interviews with old soldiers, this is a colourful, evocative and utterly authentic portrait of the battle as experienced not by the generals, but by the men in the front-line.

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BRITISH ARMY EQUIPMENT: Combat Vehicles and Weapons of the Modern British Army, 2nd edn
Peter Gudgin

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Von Manstein's account of his campaigns has long been regarded as a classic of military writing, but has not been available for many years. Now it is in print again, and von Manstein's incisive judgements, pungent comments and significant revelations combine to make it one of the most important contributions to the history of the Second World War. This new edition of his famous work retains the original foreword by Liddell Hart, but adds a new introduction by Martin Blumenson.

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Graham Smith meets the team who smooth the way to Belize

IF IT SALUTES, MOVE IT!



NEARLY 6000 Service passengers will have flown to and from Belize this year in RAF VC10s. They form a vital element in Britain's continuing defence commitment there 'for an appropriate time' stemming from a decision made after the former colony's independence last year.

Seven miles high and twelve hours long, the two military flight paths to the sweltering Central American outpost in the Caribbean always take them through Washington DC's Dulles International Airport (across

nymed IAD on the familiar blue-and-yellow baggage tags) for processing by the airport's third biggest carrier of international passengers; the six-strong RAF Movements Unit.

But that is only part of the very busy, behind-the-scenes daily working lives of the Dulles 'movers'. The two RAF officers and four civilians last year handled an astonishing total of 35,000 passengers, 1000 tons of freight and 478 aircraft movements — 40 a month — at the sprawling prestige airhead 27 miles from the centre of downtown Washington DC, the nation's capital.

The hurricane-belt Belize connection, 5100 miles distant, is maintained not only by a regular three flights-a-month schedule but by two six-monthly battalion change-overs involving ten aircraft over as many days.

Add to this, the weekly Brize Norton-Dulles 'trooping' flights by the VC10s of 10 Squadron on Fridays — out and back — plus handling the administrative, catering and passenger documentation and life gets even busier.

There is certainly more to the unit than meets the eye during the orderly queue formations and processing on a typical Friday afternoon; a unit which has taken as its unofficial motto 'Any Time — Anywhere' loosely 'borrowed' from a famous near neighbour — the CIA!

Longest serving member of the unit is the debonair 'Mr Dulles' himself — grey-haired

◀ Fit Lt Geoff Leighton:
"No two days are ever the same".

Dulles Airport with Concorde taking off.
Top left — a typical RAF VC10.

Joe Lynch, a Scotsman and a familiar face to more than a quarter-of-a-million commuters over the past decade.

Joe takes his turn in 'riding' the massive mobile lounges between aircraft and terminal giving out a five-minute rundown on procedures of arrival and departure at Dulles.

An Army may well march on its stomach, but it flies on it, too. So do its families who daily unpeel the silver foil of their main course in eager anticipation of the meat and two veg on offer.

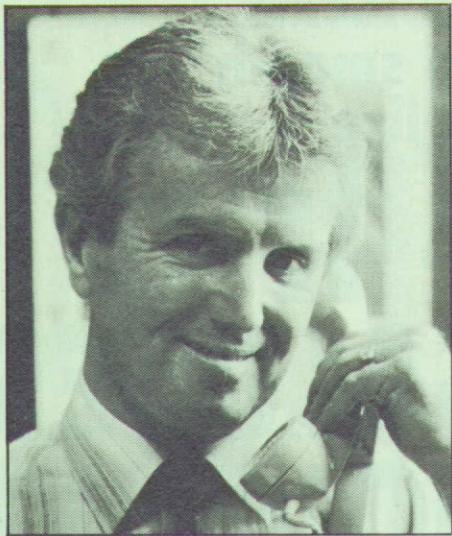
From Washington end, contract caterers dish up 20,800 main meals and 15,600 light snacks or continental breakfasts every year.

All sorts of military and associated personnel will pass through Dulles in the course of a year. People on exchange postings and their dependants who may be working and living in the USA as far afield as Alaska and Hawaii; men from the Ministry's procurement Executive; families (about 20 per cent of the trade); top brass VIPs; British Army units being ferried for reciprocal US Army exercise purposes; TA soldiers on exchange training programmes with the American National Guard.

Anglo-American military buy-ins like equipment spares for the Chinook helicopter, C.130 Hercules transport, the F-4 Phantom

continued on page 32





'Mr Dulles' — Joe Lynch. ▲

Inside one of the huge mobile lounges. ▼



Pictures: Doug Pratt

tom fighter and avionics components for the Tornado are often documented via Dulles in one form or another. So too is the constant shipment of AOGs or aircraft-on-the-ground spares to various RAF Strike Command detachments in the USA.

Flight Lieutenant Geoff Leighton, OC RAF Movements Unit, told SOLDIER: "We are a small military unit working in the midst of a relatively busy international airport. In terms of the actual job it's very busy and rewarding because we get involved in all sorts of things and no two days are ever the same."

Another dimension is added to the work of the Dulles 'movers' whenever RAF transport aircraft visit the States and choose the capital's international airhead as a staging post for onward moves.

Indulgence passengers — at \$28.50 (about £16) a head — are another important element in the total annual passenger input at Dulles. They represent about 15 per cent of the total traffic.

On this point, Flt Lt Leighton reminded: "There is no guarantee that we are able to offer up a seat at the last minute to indulges but, equally, the unit is most helpful to people clearing through Dulles, giving local advice on where to stay and the best way of getting to a particular point on the mainland."

The helpfulness of the Dulles unit was endorsed by Major Jeremy Selfe, Squadron Leader of 'A' Squadron, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) who, with 108 of his fellow officers and men, had just passed through en route for Louisiana on a month-long exchange training exercise.

"I think they were very efficient with a nice, welcoming approach. Very often you can be handled like cattle. Their attitude to us was friendly and competent."

With so many customers to look after it is not surprising that the 'movers' have their problems, as Flt Lt Leighton explained.

"If there is a delay it is our responsibility to find transportation, hotel accommodation at any of 20 establishments, to ensure the provision of adequate meals for the passengers and to keep them informed at all times about the delay. This can sometimes be an administrative nightmare, especially at the end of a fairly long working day."

The RAF unit's particular piece of advice to the soldiery, who they affectionately dub as the "grunts, brown jobs or pongos", is simple when it comes to processing through Dulles. It is: make sure you have sufficient dollars in cash to last for up to 24 hours in case of delay or aircraft unserviceability. It makes life easier to enjoy the facilities of the terminal.

But there are lighter moments like the night the man in charge of a late-night bar at Dulles rushed up to Flt Lt Leighton during a flood of 'Jock' passengers homeward bound from Belize after a six-months stint.

"I've run out of quart pitchers," said the besieged barman.

"Well, what do you expect me to do about that?" asked the flight lieutenant with a shrug of the shoulders.

"Stop your guys drinking out of them — that's what!" came the plea. The response to his appeal is not recorded! ■

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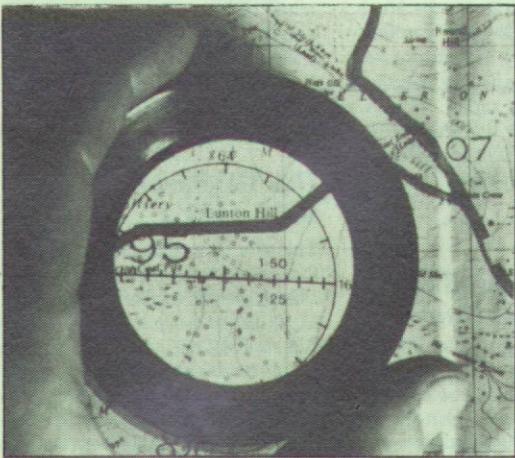
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Printed in full colour on high grade paper the calendar measures 15½ x 11½ inches approx (391mm x 289mm) and makes an ideal Christmas gift. SOLDIER readers can obtain it for the special price of £2.00 including packing and postage to any part of the world. Payment should be by UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order expressed in sterling and made out to: Command Cashier, UKLF.



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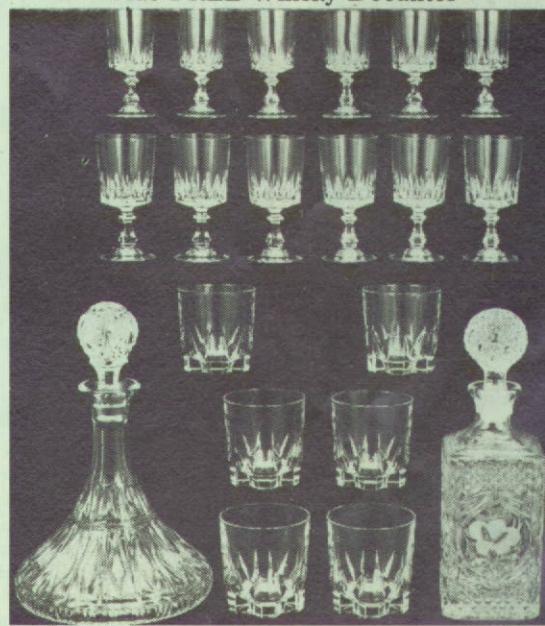
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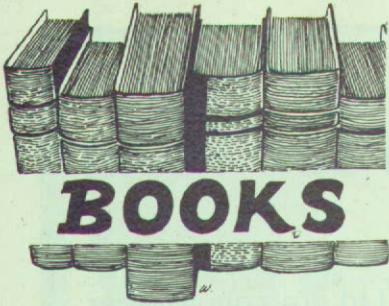
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BOOKS

The Falklands War: Sunday Times Insight Team

It must be quite unique for a major conflict erupting 8000 miles from base to have been successfully concluded and the first comprehensive book written about it, all within six months.

That such an account should read rather like a thriller novel without the factual references on which a history of the campaign will eventually be based, is to be expected, and this impression is enhanced by the number of alleged quotations from individuals. One suspects that some of these may regret giving these interviews which have been recorded verbatim; Major Keeble's assertion that Goose Green was an unnecessary target does not appear to have been proved by the subsequent rapid advance on the Southern flank.

This book covers all the background history of the Falkland Islands as well as an account of the political and military build-up to the action to recover them and its subsequent conclusion. The authors declare that the analysis of the events leading up to the conflict "is not an attempt to pre-empt Lord Franks's Enquiry" but as it is written on the hypothesis that it was "a particularly unnecessary war", this claim may not be acceptable to everyone. It is however, compulsive reading especially for those not already saturated by the media coverage of the event.

Paperback: Sphere Books Ltd., 32 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 — £2.50; Hardback: Andre Deutsch Ltd., 105 Great Russell Street, London W1 — £8.95.

PSN

The Next Domino?: General Sir Walter Walker

Never has the world situation been so grave and dangerous since World War Two. So says General Sir Walter Walker, a former Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, who makes the further point that events are showing that his repeated warnings of the menace of Russia's military might and expansionist intentions are but a "modest understatement".

Highly critical of the inadequacy of Western strategic thinking, he outlines the Soviet Union's 10-point master plan for achieving an overwhelming superiority in global strategy and complete domination of Western Europe. With regard to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, which one cannot help feeling is the spur which prompted the General to write this authoritative book, an historical survey of previous actions introduces an analytical survey of the present Soviet occupation.

The threat to Pakistan, Iran, the oil-rich states of the Gulf and other strategically important countries is realistically assessed while a particularly interesting chapter outlines a solution for the survival of the West and voices the warning that what is at stake "is not only the whole future of the West, but civilisation itself and the Christian West as we know it".

Strong, uncompromising words but that is the hallmark of this forthright, no holds barred book which deserves the attention of politician and military commander alike.

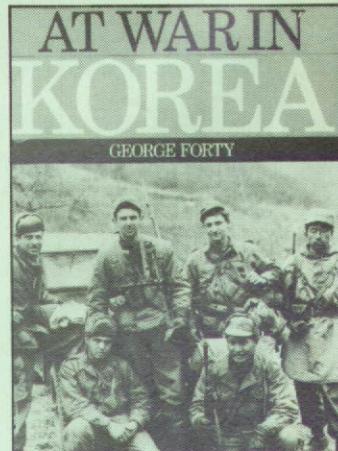
Corgi Books, Century House, 61-63 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 5SA — £3.95

JFPJ

● Editor's footnote: A profile of General Walker appeared in our issue of 20 September.

At War in Korea: George Forty

When the Cold War erupted into armed conflict in 1950 with the invasion of South Korea by Communists from the north, the United Nations organised an army, navy and air force to go to the assistance of the South Koreans "to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area". However, the vast and well organised North Korean army all but drove the South Koreans and the United Nations' forces into the sea. When eventually they were repelled and the United Nations had control of North Korea as well, the Chinese came into the conflict and launched an attack with 180,000 troops. Before the end of the war they had about 1,000,000 men in Korea, 500 tanks and 1000 jet aircraft.



Nations from all over the world had responded to the call for assistance. The United States Navy and Air Force and eight divisions of troops and marines formed the backbone of the Free World forces. The United Kingdom provided two composite infantry brigades and with troops from Australia, Canada and New Zealand made up the Commonwealth Division. There were also troops from Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey.

Even tiny Luxembourg sent one infantry platoon, while medical units, which played a meritorious part in the campaign, came from Denmark, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

The story of this spontaneous stand against Communist infiltration

to the south-east is told with conciseness and detail by the author who was a young tank officer commanding a troop of Centurions and who was wounded in the battle for the Hook. He is now well known as a military historian. There are a wealth of very clear photographs and the necessary maps to follow the action. This is a war that should not be forgotten and this volume is well worth the reading.

Ian Allan Ltd., Shepperton, Surrey — £11.95

GRH

Firepower: Shelford Bidwell and Dominick Graham

Cynics have often observed that military lessons are learned the hard way. The phenomena of 'modern warfare' began to emerge in the last century, where the massed firepower of infantry and artillery led to an increasing reliance on fortification in the closing stages of the American Civil War. In South Africa the marksmanship and flexible Commando structure of the Boers at first ran rings round the cumbersome British professional army. In the

invasion of Europe was to prove. *Firepower* is an intriguing look at an important aspect of recent — and relevant — military history. Though scholarly and by no means lightweight, it is nonetheless mercifully readable.

George Allen and Unwin, PO Box 18, Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4TE — £15

IJK

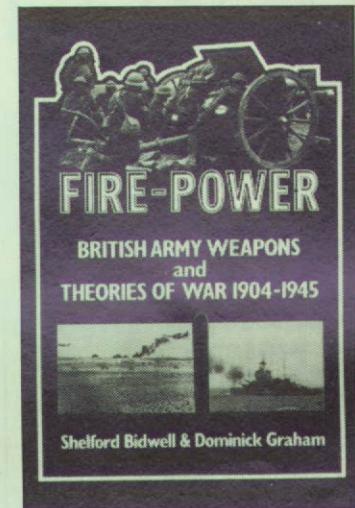
The Gliders: Alan Lloyd

This is a history of a form of assault that rose out of the activities in the 1920s and 30s of German exponents of gliding for sport, men such as Robert Kromfeld (to become influential in British military gliding), Ferdinand Schulz, Wolf Hirth, Max Kegel, Edgar Dittmar and, of course, the visionary Kurt Student who was later to command Hitler's 7th Airborne Division.

It was a movement born on the glider eyries of the Wasserkuppe, that matured into a component of *blitzkrieg* when, on 10 May 1940, ten DFS 230 gliders carrying some 70 men landed on Belgium's Fort Eben Emael, devastating the stronghold within thirty minutes.

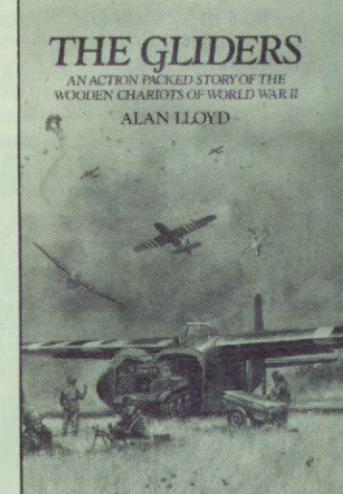
The author takes us through the progress of glider warfare with a style that makes compulsive reading, bringing out the paradox that although it was the Germans who conceived and developed the military glider, their first and last mass attack by this means was the devastatingly expensive and bloody landing in Crete, whereas it was the British and, later, the Americans who tenaciously pursued the glider dogma to its conclusion; the last of the great airborne armada landings were staged across the Rhine opposite Xanten on the morning of 24 March 1945.

Looking at the campaigns subjectively, the Rhine crossing was obviously the only time when airborne forces were used in a classic



Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5 the numerically superior Russians were defeated by the greater co-ordination and efficiency of the Japanese. A failure to fully comprehend the lessons of modern war could be a costly business; the inability of commanders to provide a solution to the deadlock of the Western Front, beyond frontal assaults against machine guns, left casualty lists which still scar the national consciousness.

This book is a study of the British Army's attempt to come to terms with these problems. It charts the slow and painful growth of a comprehensive and integrated doctrine which co-ordinated not only the tactical elements of infantry, artillery and later tanks and aircraft, but fitted them within a broader strategic framework, and keyed them into a realistic appreciation of the country's economic ability to finance and support them. By late 1917 the lessons were beginning to work, and Haig's successful offensives in 1918 were the result. Yet after the war, efficiency gave way to ennui, and the lessons had to be learned again, in updated form, following the retreat of the Expeditionary Force in 1940. By the end of the war the balance was once more set right, as the success of the

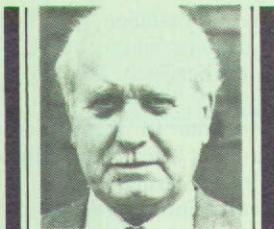


strategy role; an elite force passing over ground already won and to take advantage of a tiring enemy.

There have been few books specifically devoted to gliders in war and Alan Lloyd provides a remarkably well researched history, drawing from many personal experiences of glider pilots and others engaged in the operations.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1 — £8.95

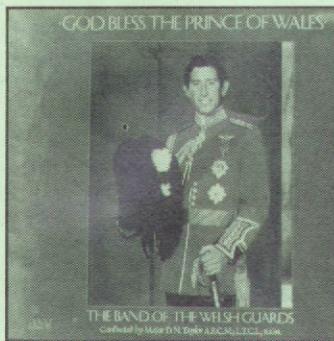
BJ



On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

God Bless The Prince of Wales
Band of the Welsh Guards. Conductor: Major Derek Taylor. ASV RCD 1.
 This one, if a little late, is none the less a welcome celebration of the present Prince's Colonelcy of the Welsh Guards and the recent formation of the Prince of Wales's Company. With the Royal Wedding still fresh in our memories the LP should join our other souvenirs of that great occasion. As well as the disc and the sleeve with two photographs the ladies will swoon over, there is a folded map of the processional route nicely illustrated.



In addition to the regimental marches there is Terence Brien's *Triple Crown* march on Welsh tunes, Duthoit's *The Staffordshire Knot*, and Frederic Bayco's fine *Royal Windsor* march. John Stanley's *Trumpet Tune*, Sir Arthur Bliss's *Processional Interlude* from his Investiture music, Ronald Binge's lovely *The Watermill*, and *Entry of the Queen of Sheba* by Handel form the meat of the programme, and Cpl Medwin Williams sings two folk songs *Watching the Wheat* and *The Dove*. He also joins the band in an extended version of *God Bless the Prince of Wales* to give a rousing and fitting ending to this royal and regimental tribute.

A little tune written especially for the Royal Wedding is also included here. It is called *The Princess of Wales* and was reviewed as a single in the August 1981 copy of *SOLDIER*. Available from Welsh Guards Band, Chelsea Bks, London SW1, price £5 inc p&p.

Colchester Searchlight Tattoo 1982
Director of Music: Major A J Richards. Producer: Major P L Crutchfield. DR 48

Colchester's arena does not lend itself to live recording so wisely this one is mocked-up in the studio. The bands of the Life Guards, 3 Anglian, 1 D & D, and 3 RGJ of the original much larger contingent play very effectively in a programme of almost unheard-of rarity for a tattoo.

Although seemingly not everyone's idea of a "good station" Colchester is an ancient fortress town and steeped in Roman history. One of the set pieces is called "*Historical Cameos*" which, with the aid of a narrator and music by J G Lewis, gives a brief

run-down of events starting with "Parade of the Charioteers" from the Ben Hur film and proceeding via Queen Boadicea through Saxon, Viking, Norman and Elizabethan times to Queen Victoria. Presumably suitably attired noblemen and peasants helped to give point and colour to what purported to be "Colchester AD 60 And All That".

Captain Hannam of the Queen's Division opens the tattoo with his fanfare *Roman Town*, and the same division's late Director of Music, Major Don Pryce, supplies his fine



march *The Queen's Division*. The first item ends with the *Marche de la Gendarmerie National Belge* and the well known *Hogan's Patrol*. The Light Division play RB's retreat march *By The Left*, still without its exclamation mark, and Plater's *Light Infantry*. The massed bands display featured a medley of *Famous European Marches*, a Handel *Slow March*, Malcolm Arnold's *HRH The Duke of Cambridge*, another set piece to John Cacavas's *Days of Glory*, and ending with Paul Anka's tune *The Longest Day*.

The finale includes Captain Roger Swift's *Royal Celebration* which won plaudits during the Royal Wedding junketings, a Purcell *Hymn Tune*, the uproarious *Champagne Galop*, and Major Terry Kenny's march *Best Foot Forward*, a fine title but which belongs to Ernest Tomlinson of the BBC, whose march of the same name was recorded by the Royal Marines, and reviewed by me, in 1975 and 1976.

From Tattoo Office, 38 Culver St, Colchester, Essex. £4.50 plus p&p and well worth it.

Christmas with the Welsh Guards and the London Concert Artists
Conductor: Major Derek Taylor. DR 107.

Christmas came a little early for me this year, listening to this very attractive festive offering. On November 6th to be precise, and difficult to drum up a festive spirit with my stupid begonias, roses, petunias and pansies still in bloom for the umpteenth time this year. Will they never learn the seasons? It is vastly to the credit of the artists that on this disc, probably dressed in sweat-shirts and summer frocks, they succeed in transmitting a yuletide atmosphere. How right it will all sound when

we're full of nuts and wine.

Even so, I think Christmas records should be made no earlier than December 15th for the sake of the performers, sent to the reviewer the next Christmas, and put on the market the one after that. Not as daft as it sounds, and cheaper and kinder for all concerned.



So here am I, after a day in my garden cursing every holly leaf my fingers were impaled upon — ivy trailing all over the place, trying to enjoy a Carol Concert. Easy, for the Guards Chapel lends an ambience which enhances the skills of the singers and players and at the same time gives a homely, almost village church feeling, to the hymns and carols. A mood which encourages you to join in rather than a forbiddingly cathedral-like perfection that dares you to even whisper during the performance. Ideal then for personal enjoyment or as a party spirit-raiser.

The band alone opens with Leroy Anderson's obligatory — on these occasions — *A Christmas Festival*, his famous *Sleigh Ride*, lovely old Harold Walter's unlovely arrangement of Prokofiev's *Troika*, and a yuletide march called *Wassail* by lovely old RB. The ladies and gentlemen of the London Concert Artists sing the beautiful Basque carol *Gabriel's Message* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, and accompanied by the band the carols *Once in Royal David's City*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*, *Silent Night*, *O Come all Ye Faithful*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, *Deck the Halls*, *The Coventry Carol*, and finally the *Hallelujah Chorus*. My only wish was that instead of the latter, whose pomposity most of us associate with Easter, the record had ended with *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, that most evocative item in the carol singer's repertory, perhaps fading out on reprise to the sound of distant bells.

A Merry Christmas to you all, available from Welsh Guards Band, Chelsea Bks, London SW1, price £5 inc p&p.

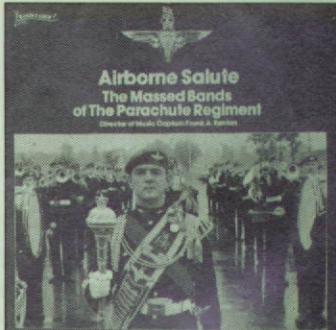
Airborne Salute
Massed Bands of the Parachute Regiment. Bandleader 1005.

The sleeve notes infer that this disc was made after the Falklands affair but before the Honours List was announced. So where are the Goose

Green Galops, Falkland Fantasies, San Carlos Can-Cans, and Keeble's Clog Dance? It didn't take Kenneth Alford, Sousa and Teike this long to react to valorous deeds and proud exploits. Alford had The Great Little Army on the stocks almost before it had embarked for France; his brother Leo Stanley had written The Contemptibles before the words were out of Kaiser Bill's mouth. They too were mere bandmasters at the time, and in three days flat would have produced a march called The Yomp. Quickly lads, or it will be too late. The what? people will ask. Remember Colonel Carne VC? Or, even more appropriately, Kabul or Kandahar? Now there was a yomp, and under even more trying conditions, but alas forgotten.

No conductors are mentioned though, I imagine Mr Ely of the 2nd Battalion guided the bands through his own stylish marches *Airborne Salute*, *The Red Beret*, *Caesar's Camp*, *The Red Devils*, and an arrangement of the theme from the film *The Wild Geese*. Standard marches are *Steadfast and True* (Teike), the grand march from *Aida*, and *Sounding Brass* (E Maxwell). An interesting if discursive *Dzerjinsky March* comes to life when it uses the great tune from Glinka's opera *Ruslan and Ludmilla*, while the 2001 theme from *Also Sprach Zarathustra* would have been unrecognisable by its composer Richard Strauss; jazzy though, and no worse than the original.

The recorded sound is dire in places, at least on my copy. The disc has a historical interest in view of recent events, yet the word Falklands is mentioned but once on a sleeve which devotes much space to a man who was no nearer Port Stanley than



Turnham Green, W4. Modesty is all very well; and whatever happened to the South Atlantic Fund?

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continued from page 21



One of Mr Chappell's typically detailed illustrations — a captain in the Australian Army, North Africa, 1941-42.

thusiasm throughout a 22-year military career with the Royal Hampshire Regiment, the Gloucestershire Regiment and



My name is Dawn. I am 25 and divorced with two children. I am 5ft 5ins tall, slim, with fairish hair and blue eyes. My interests include music and sports of all kinds especially orienteering. I am reasonably intelligent with a sense of humour. I would like to write to a divorced or single soldier 28 plus. Photo appreciated. — Dawn Roberts, 97 Ransom Ave, Bath Road, Worcester.

My name is Karen. I'm 21, 5ft 6ins and have brown hair, blue eyes and quite a good figure. I would like to write to any soldier between 23 and 29, who is good-looking with a great personality. I am an assistant manageress in a freezer centre and a part-time nurse in the TA. My interests are nightclubs, dancing, swimming and writing. Photos will be appreciated. — Karen Welsh, 13 Coomside, Collingwood Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland.

My name is Pat, I'm 5ft 8ins with blonde hair and blue eyes. I would like to write to a good-looking soldier with personality. — Pat Weatherburn, 36 Annisford Drive, Fordley, Cramlington, Northumberland.

with the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment where he was a Company Sergeant Major until 1974.

He admits to having done quite a bit of artistic 'moonlighting' with the Army.

"I was painting little pictures and flogging them to officers at first, and recognition grew from there. I had a couple of pictures exhibited in Chelsea. Since then, I've written three books, one of them *The Uniforms of Waterloo* and the other two with similar themes."

Michael, who prefers to be called a military illustrator rather than an artist, has produced a book on uniforms of the French Foreign Legion, a work which has proved of great benefit to the BBC who used it as reference for their current TV series, *Beau Geste*.

His biggest dream, currently, is to compile an artistic opus on the British Army of the 20th century. Another is the Great War, a project on which he has already spent five or six years in research. ■

My name is Sue. I am 25 years old. I am divorced and I have a four-year-old son. I am 5ft 2ins with brown/auburn hair. I work as a barmaid. — Sue Gillatt, 5 Bayfield, Pranters, Forstal, Faversham, Kent.

I am 28 years old, 5ft 8ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. I am separated and have two young children. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 28 and 35 years. My interests include reading, writing, cooking, gardening, home-life and listening to most kinds of music. — Diane Toghill, 9 Sheila Close, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2PA.

PEN PALS WANTED

Hi, I am Helen Glover. I am 5ft 5ins and have blondish hair. I would like to write to a young fella aged between 17-20. My interest is sport. — Helen Glover, 31 Park Avenue, Spalding, Lincs PE11 1QU.

My name is Trudy and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blue eyes and light brown hair. My hobbies are sports, photography and most music. — Trudy Webster, 20 Suffolk Ave, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7LA.

My name is Joanne. I am 18 years old, 5ft 6ins with auburn hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are going to discos, junk jazz concerts and dancing nightlife. I would like to hear from anyone who has an interest in junk jazz music and loves to dance, preferably 18-22. — Joanne Clarke, 29 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8DG.

My name is Vicki and I am 28 years old. I am single with a little boy of two. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I am 5ft 7ins tall. I like reading, writing, dancing and listening to music. — Vicki Bradley, 62 Glendale Cres., Belmont, Ayr, KA7 3SB, Scotland.

DIAMONDS and SQUARES

CLUES TO THE DIAMONDS

(a) (i) Before the sheep in a Sussex town; (ii) Quite well before decapitation; (iii) All of a beast and mostly a priest; (iv) Exhalations centrally turn into quite a large bird; (v) Turns possession into permission.

(b) (i) and (vii) Often necessary when letters are hurried; (ii) Often found in the kitchen; (iii) Whereon writing may be found; (iv) Same clue as before but a different answer (v) Courage? (vi) Sometimes found in the garden.

(c) (i) Added to the number gives shelter; (ii) Take the girl's number for a long time; (iii) Half is worse than none; (iv) Jack Sprat and his wife undoubtedly did; (v) Added to a number gives a part.

CLUES TO THE SQUARES

(a) (i) May be a fog; (ii) Assert confidently; (iii) 'Military' hour; (iv) Wanton boy.

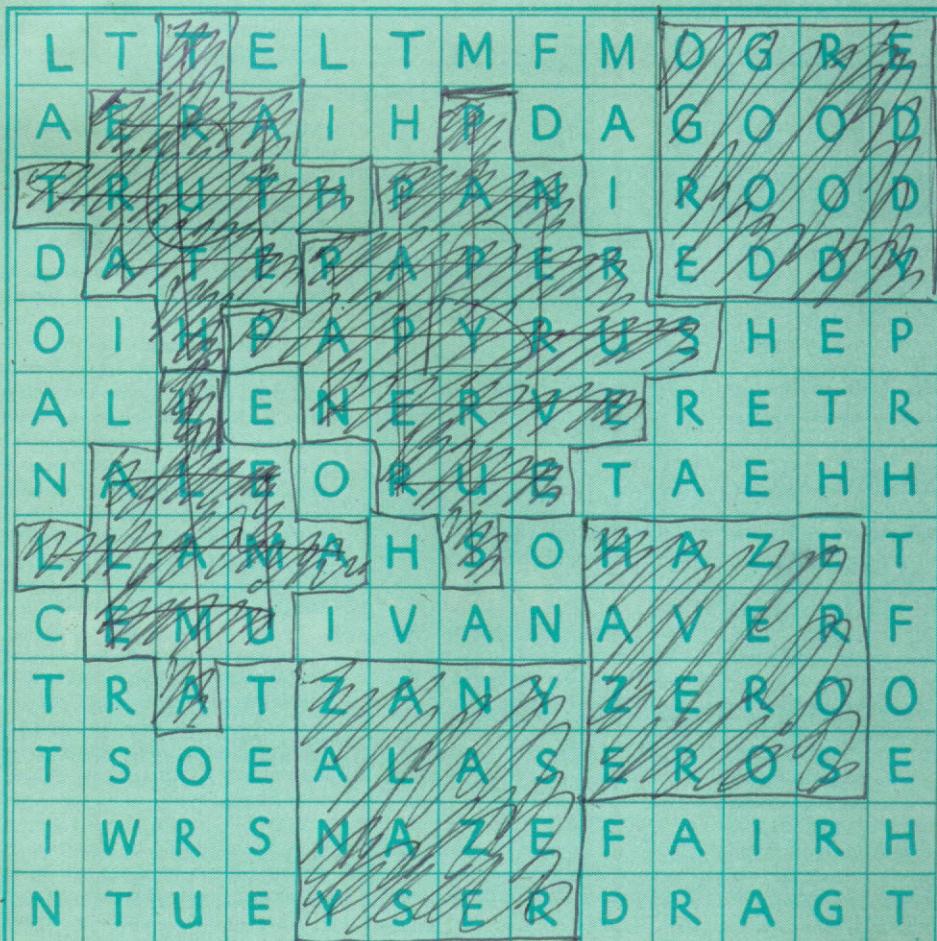
(b) (i) The mixed blood becomes a giant; (ii) Much better than bad; (iii) Still a measure when nothing's missing; (iv) Round and round and round ...

(c) (i) Any after the last letter; (ii) Most of Alaska; (iii) There's one near Harwich; (iv) Comes to an end near Nieuport.

AS NEARLY EVERYBODY knows, a word diamond or a word square may be read horizontally from left to right or vertically from top to bottom with the same result. Hidden in the grid below are three diamonds and three squares and above and on the left are clues to help you find them.

When you've unravelled the answers, you'll find that you still have 70 assorted letters left which, when properly arranged, will give the titles of four famous novels and the name of the famous man who wrote them. Can you tell us what they are?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 31 December. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 7 February 1983. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 306' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 306' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

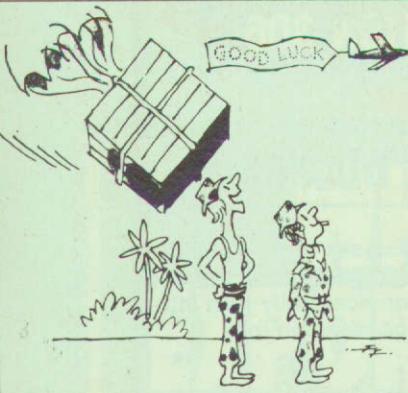


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NOT SO BEASTLY

I was delighted to see the NCOs Tactical Wing, School of Infantry featured in your 18 October issue; on the other hand I was disappointed that the slant of the article indicated that until the wing changed hands it was, quote "a beastly camp" — an unfortunate choice of adjective I feel.

As a young SNCO I can remember training JNCOs at Brecon when we operated out of one hut — the old guard room in the early Sixties. In 1965-66 I had the privilege of being the CSM of The Parachute Regiment Battle School, and assisted in writing the pilot courses for the School of Infantry — incidentally the syllabi have changed little over the years. Finally in 1976-79 I served as the Quartermaster.

Speaking therefore with a great deal of experience and knowledge of Brecon I can truthfully say that I have no knowledge of NCOs being "beasted". I do know that training was physically demanding, one of the aims behind this was to simulate in a peace time environment the pressures of war, and to teach the NCO that when he was on the edge of physical exhaustion himself, he still had to *think and lead* his men.

It is too late to train for war as you fix bayonets for the assault, and too late to train NCOs to lead as they receive their last 'O' group. The Falklands campaign, I think, proved the point.

Thinking laterally, as De Bono would say, "is it not better to beast (your quote) men in a peace time training environment if it saves men's lives in war."

Beasting apart however, as an 'old boy' I wish the Wing continued success and happy 'yomping' in that most rugged but beautiful part of Wales. — Major John Williams, DCM PARA, HQ Sennelager Training Centre, BFPO16.

ON PARADE

In your report on the Falklands' Parade (18 October) you stated that there were four guns from 4 Fd regiment RA and that there was only one man from the ACC and RAPC 'in toto'. The guns were in fact from 29 Commando Regt RA and the detach-

ments included members of ACC and RAPC who served the guns as gun numbers during the campaign. — Lt J D Bower, RA, 29 Commando Regiment RA, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth PL1 2PD.

BREATHTAKING!

Brilliant! Breathtaking! Fantastic! Beautiful! Superb! I am of course referring to the colour study of the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux appearing on the back cover of SOLDIER (1 Nov).

So good is the picture that I'm tempted to suggest that other pictures Mr Burridge must have taken during the course of his visit might also be published in colour in subsequent issues.

With such competent technicians on your staff, I wonder that you don't make it a minor aspect of your policy to have such scenes captured whenever they happen to be on their worldwide travels. Such material would, I suggest, carry with it an especially poignant interest for those readers — and there must be very many — who share personal involvement, for whatever reason, with the many scattered battlefields of the world. The validity of this argument would, I'm sure, be even more applicable to the less accessible graveyards and cemeteries. — R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.

Our photographers do take a lot of colour pictures — on all sorts of subjects — during their travels, and it is a pity that we can show only a tiny proportion of their fine work on our covers. Because of this though, we try and portray a variety of subjects rather than concentrate on a single theme. Colour reproduction, unfortunately, is extremely expensive and although we shall continue to publish occasional colour 'specials' inside the magazine, we could not do so regularly without substantially increasing our cover price. — Ed.

FISHY TALE

Having just read my recent copy of the *Angling Times*, I see that once again the Army team has floundered in the Inter Services Angling Match.

The organisers must be thinking the Army is never going to win this event — and they are right; each year is the same story. We will never win this until the right anglers are given a fair chance. No disrespect to the present team, some of whom I know quite well, but I reckon that I could muster a team from here that would give them a run for their money. The present team selection is way out of date and we don't appear to take this match seriously enough.

A few years ago I wrote a letter to the then Major Bob Coe about getting one of the country's top men, Ian Heaps, to teach the team match fishing tactics. The suggestion was rejected out of hand, but surely it is only with such teachers that we will improve sufficiently to take on and beat such teams as the Royal Air Force who are all well known anglers in their own right. This has come

about through hard work and practice on their part.

I get the impression that we only compete in this event to make up the numbers. Do we really have the will to win? — Sgt Paul Burton, 175 Provost Coy, RMP, BFPO 801.

We have passed a copy of your letter to the Army Angling Association, Sgt Burton, and look forward to publishing their reply in a future issue. It would be interesting to hear what other Army anglers think. — Ed.

SCHOOL PLEA

We have all had a lot to do with the units that have been involved in the recent action here and the school has decided to make a collection of souvenirs. We would appreciate it greatly if any of the units could send a cap badge and wall plaque. This would be put up as a permanent reminder of the units for us and all the future children in the school.

We would also like to make a collection of any poetry about the Islands. Our aim is to publish a booklet dedicated to all who suffered tragedy. All the proceeds will be our contribution to the South Atlantic Fund. — Riki Evans, Senior School, Stanley, Falkland Islands.

ANY TAKERS?

If the Army is looking for pin-ups at the moment, may I offer to be one?

I am a professional model and also have a part in the new James Bond film, *Octopussy* (I'm a spy for the villains.) — Beba, Crown Farm, Whaplode, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6UE.

No doubt any units wishing to take advantage of Beba's offer will get in touch with her direct. — Ed.



CASTLE RELICS

Your article 'That Sinking Feeling' (1 Nov) brought back vivid memories of nearly 60 years ago.

In 1926-27 I was a boy bugler stationed in Dover Castle with the 1st Bn KOYLI. We band and bugler boys were not allowed out of barracks except at weekends for limited periods. Therefore, when not on parade, we amused ourselves by exploring within the castle walls. In the dry moat we found passages leading into the castle. Apparently they were drains of some sort but large enough

to allow exploration by candle light. I well remember finding an old breastplate among other things which we took back to our barrack room. We black leaded it and used it as a fire-screen, but it stayed there only until the following Saturday morning when, at the CO's inspection, Lt Col Thorp ordered its removal.

I went back to Dover Castle three years ago. It was a ghost town — no troops in occupation, no sound of bugle calls, no marching men. The barrack rooms once occupied by band and buglers were heaps of rubble. But at every once familiar corner, an old face from long ago came to remind me of the past. — Major C P Kaye (Retd) West Bourne, 25 Far Lane, Wadsley, Sheffield S6 4FA.

SANNAS POST

Officers and men of Q Battery RHA, with their honour title Sannas Post, may be interested to know that that ambush — in which by their steadiness under fire, their honour title and a collective award of the Victoria Cross was granted — was remembered in October.

The Bloemfontein War Memorial arranged a steam train trip of 21 miles to Sannas Post station, now a national monument. Adjacent to the station the graves of British soldiers killed in the action have been renovated by the War Graves Commission. A waist high wall surrounds the cemetery surfaced with granite chips in preference to grass which barely survives the heat and cold of the Orange Free State. After the ribbon to the entrance was cut, the names of those who fell in the action were read. Then the detachment of troops presented arms, and the Last Post and Reveille were played.

Next we were all taken by motor coach to the site of the ambush where the Boers had lain in ambush. The troops marched across the veld re-enacting the approach of the British troops to the hill. The farmer on whose land we were, had donated the site for a wall on which were plaques, one giving the story in both official languages, and two showing plans of the engagement.

The officer commanding Free State Command unveiled the plaques and paid tribute to the merging of Boer and British people in South Africa. The National anthem was played, the flag lowered and all present returned by train to Bloemfontein. — Malcolm B S Laing, 62 Brebner Road, Bloemfontein 9301, South Africa.

BRANCHING OUT

The Midlands is to have a branch of the Normandy Veterans' association.

Membership is open to all ranks of all three Services who took part in the Normandy Landing in 1944, and costs £1 per annum. (Ties are £3 and badges £1). All applicants should write to this address enclosing sae for replies. Branch meetings will be on the second Friday of the month. — P J Harrison, 20 Colemeadow Road, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0JL.

Can You Help?

The School of Ordnance wish to make contact with ex-students who attended No 1 All Arms Quartermasters' Course which was held at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, during April 1961. Please contact School of Ordnance, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6RW. Telephone Aldershot 24431 extension Blackdown 543 or 549.

Can any readers send me the words of the bugle calls of Reveille, parades, meals, games, assembly, Retreat and Last Post etc (including the barrack room versions). If I remember correctly, there were also regimental bugle calls — the Royal Indian Engineers' bugle call was 'Cock of the North'.

There were no loudspeakers in the days when I was a member of His Majesty's Land Forces, so the orders were conveyed by bugle calls. The one call we awaited most eagerly was the end of the drill period! — Major Gian Singh (Retd), 6-36, Jangpura-B, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 014, India.

In the course of researching at the Essex Regimental Museum, I have come across a photograph of a full dress parade at Khartoum. The photo bears the legend 'Gordon Studio: A Kazandjian: Photographer to the Palace'.

The battalion is drawn up on the square backed by two storey barrack buildings, with panels on the flat roof tops, showing cannon, not unlike those shown on the RAOC badge. The dress of the day is KD tunics, shorts, puttees and coloured hose-tops. The battalion is drawn up in two ranks in line, officers to the front distinguishable by their lighter (Fox's no doubt?) puttees. The band is in front centre. At right angles to the battalion is a squad at about company strength. Their officer is at the front, and he has his drawn sword at the dipped salute, to the King's Colour in the custody of another officer.

The detached company stands at the 'Present' in two ranks, and at the end of each rank, facing half left and half right, is a sergeant at the high port position. All troops on parade have bayonets fixed, and those entitled to medals are wearing them — not just the ribbons. The back of the photo is marked 'Approx Date 1935-1939'. This seems to be about right, judging by the uniform and the sun helmets, which are of the post Wolseley/pre Cawnpore pattern, although it could be considerably earlier. What I cannot fathom is why the sergeants have taken up this unusual position. I have checked battalion standing orders insofar as they are available at the museum, but can find no mention.

Is it perhaps a Garrison Standing Order? Not unlike the Cameronians who used to mount a standing picket at church parades? Are there any old soldiers with long memories who can throw any light on the matter? Or is it standard and universal practice when Colours are on parade? — Peter Redman, 46 Sunningdale Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2NH.

Collectors' Corner

Simon D Olley, Provost School, Private Bag X1010, Voortrekkerhoogte 0143, South Africa. Wants US epaulette insignia (metal and enamel) for 95, 503, 504, 519, 709, 716, 728, 759, 793, 10 (Trg Bde), 12 (Trg Bde), 11 (Trg Bde) Bns and MP School Bn. Can trade for SA Army insignia.

Mr G T Smith, 1 Renney Road, Heybrook Road, Plymouth PL9 0BD. Wishes to purchase British collar badges, singles or pairs, including anodised. Some swaps — badges or military mags.

Cpl T O'Neill, 39 Inf Bde Army Dog Unit, BFPO 806. Seeks to purchase Army cap badges, collar dogs, medals and ribbons. Particularly interested in badges and insignia of cadet forces and the old type army divisional/formation flashes. Has a number of badges and medals for exchange. Also seeks parachutist wings of both UK and foreign forces. Private collector — all letters answered.

Pen Pals

I am 24 and I have long brown hair and brown eyes. I am 5ft 2ins tall and 34-22-30. I am divorced with one child. My interests are squash, swimming, badminton, saunas and horse riding. I also like going to discos. — Diane King, 24 Stockbreach Road, Hatfield, Herts.

My name is Ruth. I am 21 years old, 5ft 2ins with brown hair and green eyes. I like all kinds of sports, going to discos, animals, cooking and I love cars. I would like to write to someone aged between 20-30. — Ruth Slater, Keepers Cottage, Anley Wood, Old Anley, Nr Coventry CV7 8FS.

Competition

Judging by your comments, most of you found Competition 302 'Roman Crossword' challenging and a little different. Many of the entries were right but a common error arose from the first clue across. As one entrant pointed out, perhaps not many of our younger readers will know of the star of silent cowboy films, Tom MIX. The rest of the answers were: Across 2 DIM, 4 MILL, 6 DID, 8 DLI, 9 MM, 10 DCM, 12 VIVID, 14 CIVIC. Down 1 MC, 2 DL, 3 ILL, 4 MIMI, 5 LIVID, 6 DM, 7 DD, 8 DC, 11 MD, 12 VC, 13 VV. Prizewinners were: 1st D R Hollis, 180 Cramavill St, Grays, Essex. 2nd G W Andrews, 7 Hayman Rd, Minehead, Somerset. 3rd L/Cpl T F Simpson, 4 TA Qters Coldhams Lane, Cambridge. 4th Mrs P M Chessim, 130 Blackwell Rd, Huthwaite, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts. 5th Mrs L M Sims, 13 Ribble Croft, Chapeltown, Sheffield.

How Observant Are You?

1 Small window left of hanging sign; 2 'Feet' of capital 'A' above shop window; 3 handle of umbrella second from left in window; 4 Pipe of man on left; 5 Girl's right shoe; 6 Left point of soldier's collar; 7 Ornamental ironwork above hanging sign; 8 Bricks at top right of building; 9 Ripple mark at bottom left; 10 Lower right corner of window pane.

A Great Offer for all SOLDIER readers

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST Ice Spectacular — that's the deserved billing for *Holiday on Ice '83*. The big, bold, brash and exciting revue returns to London's Wembley Arena after Christmas with a new presentation — and SOLDIER readers will be able to see the show for £2 less than the normal seat price!

For the evening performances (7.45 pm) of January 18th and 26th and February 10th and 18th, you, your family and your friends will be able to book £5 seats for just £3 simply by clipping the coupon below.

A huge cast that includes some of the world's finest skaters provide the thrills and breathtaking artistry that has become synonymous with *Holiday On Ice* — the show specially devised as all-round family entertainment.

Among the top names due to appear in the latest extravaganza are Ondrej Nepela — a true perfectionist from Czechoslovakia — with more National, European, World and Olympic titles to his name than any other skater, and Britain's Karena Richardson, the young and dynamic champion who has quickly developed an amazing rapport with audiences throughout the world.

Holiday On Ice '83, produced specially for the spacious Wembley Arena, has many highlights. Included in the new presentation are 'Memories of Judy Garland' when the dancers in stunning rainbow-fan costumes remember the haunting melodies of the great Judy and 'Cossack Festival' with its exhilarating rhythms and traditions of old Russia. 'The Enchanted Toy Shop' is sure to be great fun for both the young and young at heart as the clockwork soldiers step out and the cuddly bears and dolls scurry around the ice.



The show promises to be Wembley's best yet — an impressive mixture of the traditional and modern. It's lavish, it's exciting but, above all, it's fun.

Why not take advantage of this special SOLDIER offer to give your family and friends a night out to remember? It's a show they won't want to miss — at a price you can't afford to ignore!

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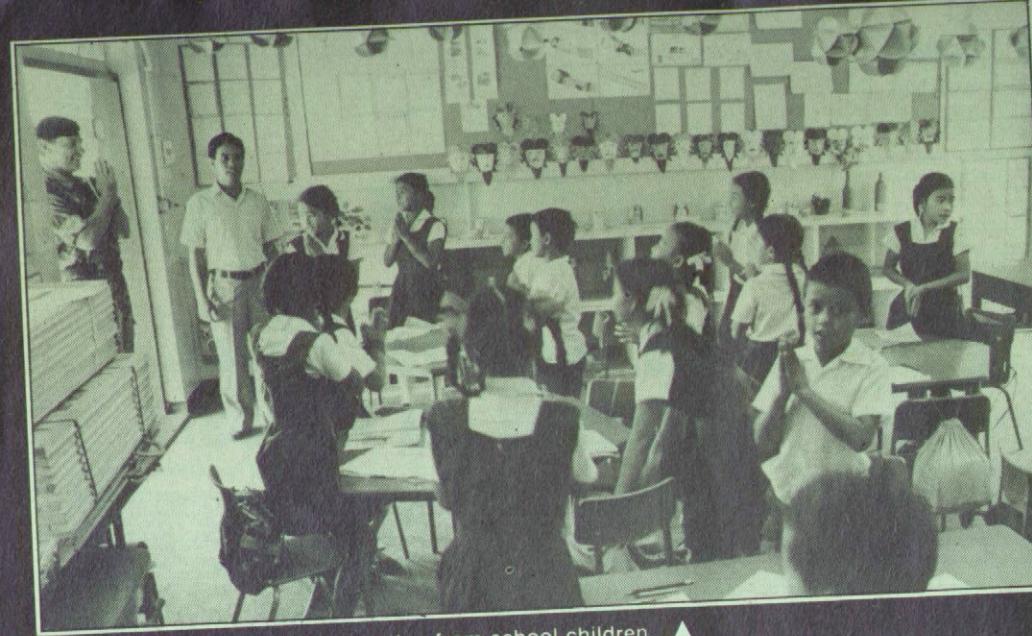
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'Namaste!' — traditional greeting from school children. ▲



WRVS wool sale is popular attraction for Gurkha wives. ▲

NESTLING IN a lush green valley not far from the border with Communist China there is a remarkable enclave. As you enter through the gates of Burma Lines at Fan Ling you are taken away from the surroundings of rural Chinese life and introduced to a self contained area in which Gurkhas and their families live within sight of hills reminiscent of their native Nepal.

Current tenants of the camp, but moving shortly to Brunei, are 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, a regiment which traces its history back to the early 19th century when it was raised as the Cuttack Legion.

It is a family regiment and the present commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Pettigrew, now has under his command 11 Queen's Gurkha officers and the regimental sergeant-major all of whom he recruited when he was a subaltern back in 1961.

"Virtually the whole battalion, including wives, are inter-related because we recruit from a small area of western Nepal. Of the Gurkha officers I knew years ago many now have children serving here."

Some years ago SOLDIER, in its correspondence columns, had claims from various units about the number of brothers serving. Colonel Pettigrew, then adjutant, tried a count in 6 GR — "I gave up when I reached 100".

The self-contained village at Fan Ling means that soldiers have only a few minutes walk to their families. The families have all their needs on site — shopping, a temple, a goldsmith and their own midwives in a small hospital.

The Gurkha tends to spend much of his Army career unaccompanied. If he reaches a high non-commissioned rank he will have his family with him more often but for the junior rank two-and-a-half years is likely to be his sole accompanied tour during 15 or 18 years service.

At the Nepalese school bright eyed and

smartly clad children greet the visitor with garlands and the traditional 'Namaste' greeting. The educational facilities are far superior to those they are likely to have in the hills of Nepal.

The Families Officer, Captain (QGO) Birbahadur Thapa, told SOLDIER that when the wives arrive from Nepal for the first time they have to be given a grounding on the way of life in Hong Kong and on the married 'patch'.

"Most are from the hills and we have to teach them about electricity and how to use it for their cookers, heaters and so on. We also have to warn them to look after their children when they go out because there are so many vehicles here."

His wife, Bishnumaya, says that the Gurkha wives keep busy looking after the children and also sewing and weaving in their homes. In the community centre they are taught to use sewing machines for the first time.

Gurkhas are not reputed to be good swimmers but two men from the battalion are currently in Hong Kong's national swimming squad. This interest has caught on among the wives, many of whom have learned to swim in Hong Kong and take part in an annual ladies' swimming contest.

For the last 15 years Mrs Roddy Carpenter has been the WRVS representative with 6 GR. Apart from a two year break in Nepal when the battalion was posted to England she has looked after the welfare needs of the families. She is to move with them to Brunei but early next year will retire.

"This is completely different from the sort of WRVS posting you had in Germany," she says. "There you were running clubs in the evenings for the other ranks. Here I am working normal hours although any time the midwives want me I am there."

Mrs Carpenter arranges purchases of bulk batches of wool from local factories which the wives then buy for their home knitting. She also takes charge of the sewing classes and regularly weighs all the babies and toddlers.

"There are very rarely any homesickness problems. They seem to enjoy being here," she says. "I speak Gurkali very badly and manage to make them laugh."

The four years that 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles have spent at Fan Ling have been eventful ones. They patrolled the border at the height of the illegal immigrant deluge and since May 1979 have apprehended well over 15,000. Border duties have continued right through the tour and the immigrant catching operations are reflected in the sampans painted in company colours dotted around the barracks. They were just a few of the hundreds and hundreds of boats abandoned by the illegal immigrants at the height of the invasion.

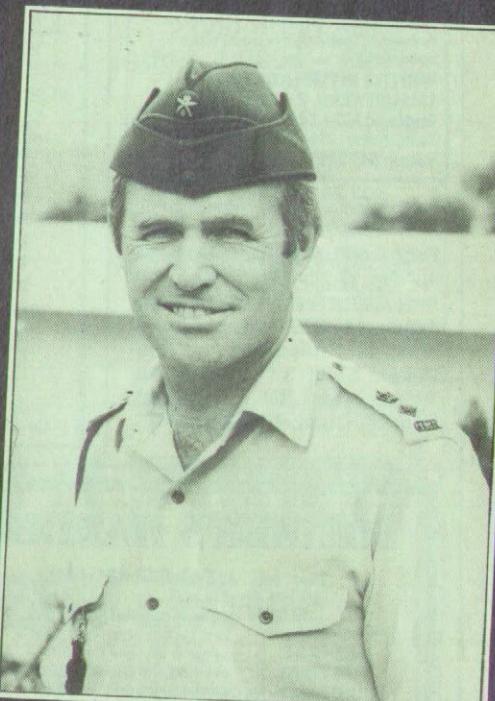
Now the battalion is leaving that role behind and moving on to a new challenge in Brunei. For the wives it is another exciting move to a different setting; for the men another chapter in a book of British Army service which embraces the Indian Mutiny, Gallipoli, the Second World War, Malaya and Borneo among many others. ■

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Time for play in hospital waiting room. ▲

The CO, Lt-Col Paul Pettigrew. ▼



Shy smile from Gurkha school girl. ▲



Pictures: Les Wiggs



Concluding his series of articles on the Army in Hong Kong, John Walton visits some Gurkha families in their unique quarters at Fan Ling.

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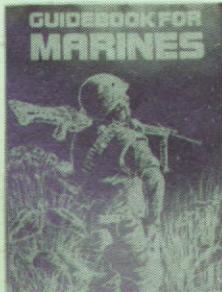
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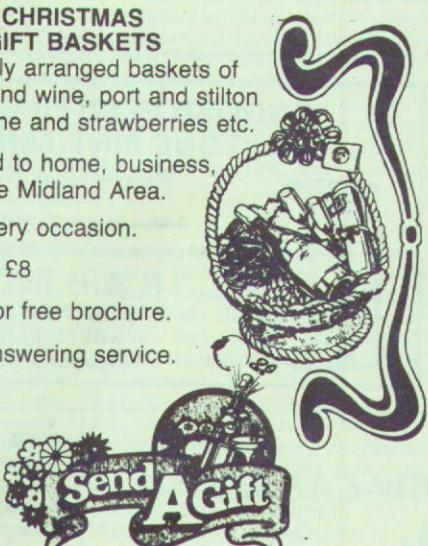
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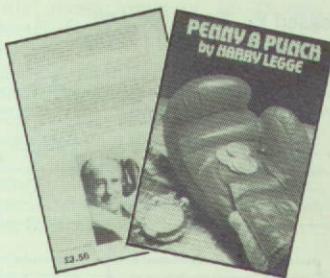
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People stop and stare as Major Tim Connell and his wife Monica pass along the road pursuing . . .

A DRIVING AMBITION

MAJOR TIM CONNELL and his wife Monica are animal lovers. In their house at Ropley in Hampshire they live with five dogs and several cats. And in their stable and paddock they have other animals which are bringing them success in the horse competition world.

In their first year in combined driving events with a Highland pony only broken to harness last October, Major and Mrs Connell won the novice single horse event in the National Carriage Driving Championships at Windsor. This year in driving, riding and showing horses they collected 14 trophies which now cover their sideboard.

Combined driving is an exacting sport



The Connells at the Wylie horse trials.

including presentation dressage, and a cross country marathon and obstacle course with walk and trot sections. Monica is the driver while Major Connell sits alongside her and describes himself as "navigator cum timekeeper cum groom".

"I work out the timing, watch where we are going and look out for bumps. If there is a disaster I have to leap out and grab the horse."

So far the Connell's have managed to avoid a disaster in which their trap turns

over. But accidents do happen as competitors go over rough ground or negotiate their way round trees or through sandpits. "It's a dangerous occupation," admits the major, who is a Royal Army Pay Corps computer systems analyst at HQ UKLF.

The Highland pony, Nashend Griffon, was originally bought for showing but soon Monica was being advised to drive him. They also enter private driving events with a pair of smaller Shetland ponies.

For the dressage and presentation the Connell's use a Liverpool gig built in 1904 and for the Shetlands they have another turn-of-the-century vehicle built in Austria.

A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing for the presentation. The harness, the trap and the horse all have to be spotless. Monica spends hours polishing something like 50 brass buckles and the like for each appearance. "And sometimes we will be taking the two Shetlands and my mare as well," says Major Connell.

For the cross country work they use another vehicle made of metal. It has to be able to withstand a lot of bumping on field and track — particularly at places like Tweseldown described by Monica as "a selection of heavy bumps".

The narrow lanes around Ropley often see the Connell's out training. But they are the first to admit that their facilities are not all they might be. They are in competition with wealthy people, some of them sponsored, who have their own schooling facilities.

"Everyone stops and looks when you go out on the roads — there is a tremendous amount of interest in it", says Major Connell. "I only know of two other Army officers who do combined driving."

People who enter these events certainly do not do it for the money. For their national championships novice class win the Connell's received the princely sum of £7.50. Even an open class prize is only about £80.

But Tim and Monica Connell have a driving ambition to do well and now they are looking for a sponsor so that they can make an even bigger impact in 1983.



A last minute adjustment before the dressage.

Where are the darts players?

WHERE HAVE ALL THE dart players gone? After last year's great response to SOLDIER's first darts contest we expected to be deluged with applications to take part this year. But entries have been so slow coming in that we've decided to extend the deadline to the end of the year.

As we've said before, this is a great chance to get together with a few pals for a friendly game and a drink — and take part in a truly international competition at the same time. We're not looking for a few teams of darts experts. What we want to see is lots of small groups having a go — soldiers and civilians. Why not get your own unit to enter half a dozen teams — and run a

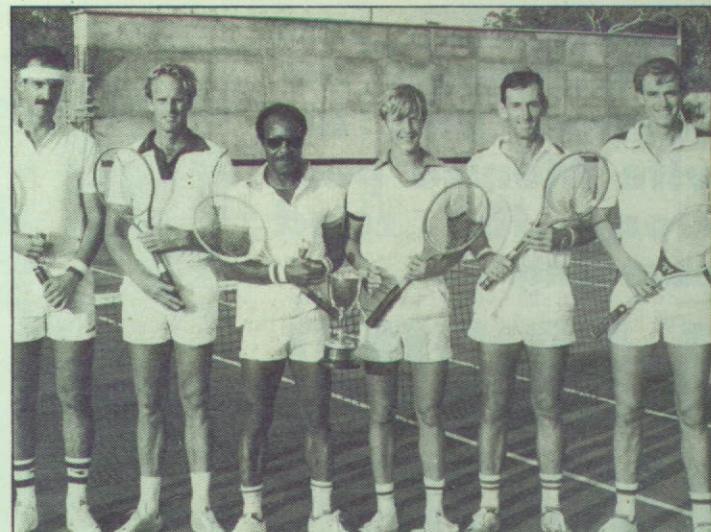
sweep amongst yourselves on who gets the furthest?

Just to make things more interesting — and give everyone the chance of a bit of glory — we're planning to offer a special prize *each round* for the best individual performance. So even if your team loses, you could still strike lucky. And for the winners and runners-up in the



KEEP THESE RULES HANDY

- 1 The competition shall be run on a team basis and open to readers of SOLDIER.
- 2 A team shall consist of up to six players, any four of whom must play in one game.
- 3 No player shall play, or be nominated, for more than one team.
- 4 The competition shall be on a knock-out basis, each tie consisting of one match, best of three games, 601 up, straight start and finishing on a double. 50 shall count as double 25.
- 5 All matches shall be played on a standard clock board. The board shall be hung with its centre at a distance of 5 feet 8 inches from the ground. The throw is to be made from a toe-line 8 feet from the face of the board.
- 6 In a postal match a team shall play three games, recording a total number of darts taken from the start of the game to achieving the required double. Each player shall throw three darts in turn. If a player exceeds the required total in aiming for the finishing double with the first or second dart, the turn will be considered as completed and three darts will be added to the total.
- 7 Once a postal match has started, the three games shall then be completed and the scores recorded in the order in which the games are played. The scores should be certified by an independent witness and sent to SOLDIER by a prescribed date. Failure to do so will result in elimination.
- 8 Any matters arising from these rules shall be dealt with by the organisers at their discretion and their decision shall be final.



ARMY RETAIN TENNIS TITLE

THE ARMY TENNIS TEAM which successfully retained the Cyprus Inter-Service Tennis Championships. It was only the Army's third win since the tournament started in 1956. Left to right: Capt Geoff Lawrenson RAMC; Major Trevor Bright RMP; Sgt Stan Burke RAOC (captain); Signalman Eddie Fisher Royal Signals (aged only 17); Major Bruce Mackay RAMC; and Captain Mike Podmore Royal Signals.

contest there will again be some superb silver tankards, like the ones pictured here presented by Truman the brewers to this year's finalists plus other prizes which we shall be announcing later.

Remember, entry to the SOLDIER Darts Contest is absolutely free. The only condition is that each team *must* be a regular purchaser of SOLDIER (you'll need

coupons from future issues to prove it) and *must* — in the case of non-serving entrants — be members of an organisation with military affiliations (eg an MOD establishment or an Old Comrades' Association).

You've got until 31 December to get your entry in. But don't leave it that late — round up your pals and fill in the entry form right away.

SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST 1982/83 — ENTRY FORM

Name of team:

Team secretary (to whom all correspondence will be sent):

Official address:

Official 'phone number:

MEMBERS OF TEAM (ONLY FOUR TO PLAY IN ANY ONE GAME)

NAME	SIGNATURE
1
2
3
4
5
6

All entries should be sent in an envelope marked 'Darts Contest' to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU not later than Friday 31 December 1982. Entries using OHMS envelopes will not be accepted.

Services chuck it away

Combined Services 0

A Southampton XI 2
FOR THE FIRST TIME in three years the Saints side, which is usually comprised mostly of youth and reserve players, beat the Combined Services in their annual fixture at Aldershot. They took two of the few chances they were given while the Servicemen squandered a number of more simple opportunities which fell to them.

The Services had the ball in the Southampton net in the fifth minute only to have the goal disallowed. Ten minutes later Lance-Corporal Steve Butler headed the ball into the path of fellow Army striker, Craftsman Phil White. He touched it off to another soldier, Lance-Corporal Sandy Brown who, with only the keeper to beat, hit the ball wide from six yards. It was a costly miss, for the Saints stepped up the pressure and Foyle headed them in front.

In the second half Southampton's Jugoslav international



Another chance goes begging for the Services — this shot hit the post with the 'keeper well beaten.

keeper, Katalinic, was tested by both Butler and Staff Sergeant Mickey Doig. In the 70th minute he made the save of the match when he palmed a powerful drive from White over the bar.

Ten minutes from time, following confusion in the South-

ampton defence, a central defender prodded the ball to LMEM Kevin Maddocks. He was clear and free of the defence but for some reason he hesitated, then tried to push the ball across the face of the goal and the chance was lost.

By this stage the Services were enjoying their best spell of the

match and pushing hard for an equaliser, but in doing so they inevitably left themselves vulnerable against a quick counter-attack. So it proved when, just two minutes from the end, the Saints broke on the right flank, the ball was lofted across the face of the goal and Dixon headed in a flattering second goal.



OTHER SOCCER REPORTS

Run ends

Hellenic League 3 Army 0

THE ARMY'S RUN of six successive wins came to an end when they travelled for their annual tilt at the Hellenic League. Still without a win against the League XI, the Army conceded three goals midway through the first half and this was a deficit from which they were never to recover.

The Army went close to scoring after 12 minutes when Lance-Corporal Steve Butler REME lobbed the home 'keeper, who was forward of his goal line, only to see him make an exceptional save. A further

raid came to nothing when the Army's coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton, called upon to play in the absence of a selected player, found himself offside.

Two late arrivals, who got lost on their way to the ground, came into the Army side after 20 minutes but things soon went wrong. Lance-Corporal Ian John RAPC in a mix up with 'keeper, Sapper Gary Marshall RE, put through his own goal. Not long afterwards the League side had added two more.

Whacked by Watford

Army Youth XI 0

Watford Youth XI 12

AFTER A BRIGHT OPENING when the Army Youth XI took the game to the visitors and might have nicked a goal, the current FA Youth Cup holders switched into top gear and overwhelmed the unfortunate young soldiers.

Taking command in midfield and raiding down the flank the Watford youngsters swamped the home side and notched up five goals before the interval. For 15 minutes after the restart the Army held out but then the tide swung again and they were subjected to a high quality bombardment.

Playing some of the finest attacking football seen at the Aldershot stadium for many a long year Watford knocked in goal after goal. It was a mercy when the referee brought the game to a halt with the deficit at a dozen.

It was a pity that a mere 50 spectators turned up to share the delights of this talented Watford youth side. It's no surprise that Graham Taylor, the Watford boss, has been appointed to look after England Youth.

It's all happening for Phil



for the Combined Services squad to meet First Division Southampton and he came on as substitute late in the game.

Said Alfie: "He had only been brought to my notice a few days before. As far as I know it hasn't happened for an Army player to turn out

for a League side in the past 15 years. Although quite a few have had trials.

"There are quite a few players who could play well in the Third Division. This is liable to become quite a regular thing when you have clubs running 16-man squads. When injuries cut you down it's amazing how quickly you need players."

Stant retained his place in the Reading side the following Saturday and scored their only goal in the 2-1 defeat at Walsall. He was also called up for the Army squad to play Oxford University and London University.

ARMY PRIVATE, Phil Stant, became the first Regular soldier to turn out in a League football match for some years when he made his debut for Third Division Reading against Newport and scored a goal in his side's home victory.

Stant, who is in the Royal Ordnance Corps and stationed at Aldershot, spent three months in the Falklands last summer. He had been on the Reading books since last season.

Things moved fast for Phil after his debut game. Army and Combined Services coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton, immediately called him up

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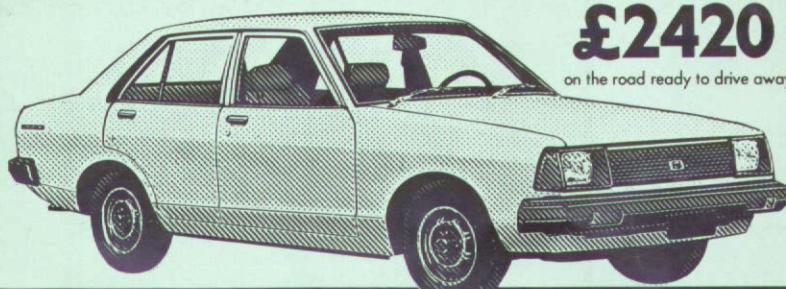
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