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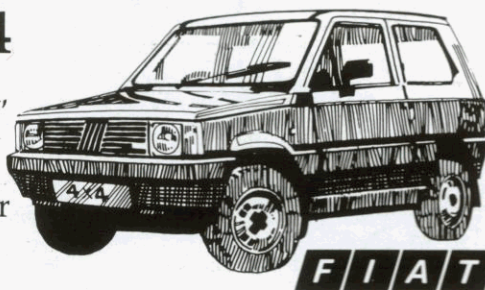
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24 MARCH 1986

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FRONT COVER: TA officer Second Lieutenant Felicity Bowden has just finished being a shepherdess for a month — playing midwife to 45 ewes. Story page 9. Picture: Mike Cleary.

BACK COVER: Men of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets about to leap ashore on to the bank of the River Aller during their assault pioneers course. See story page 31. Picture: Les Wiggs.

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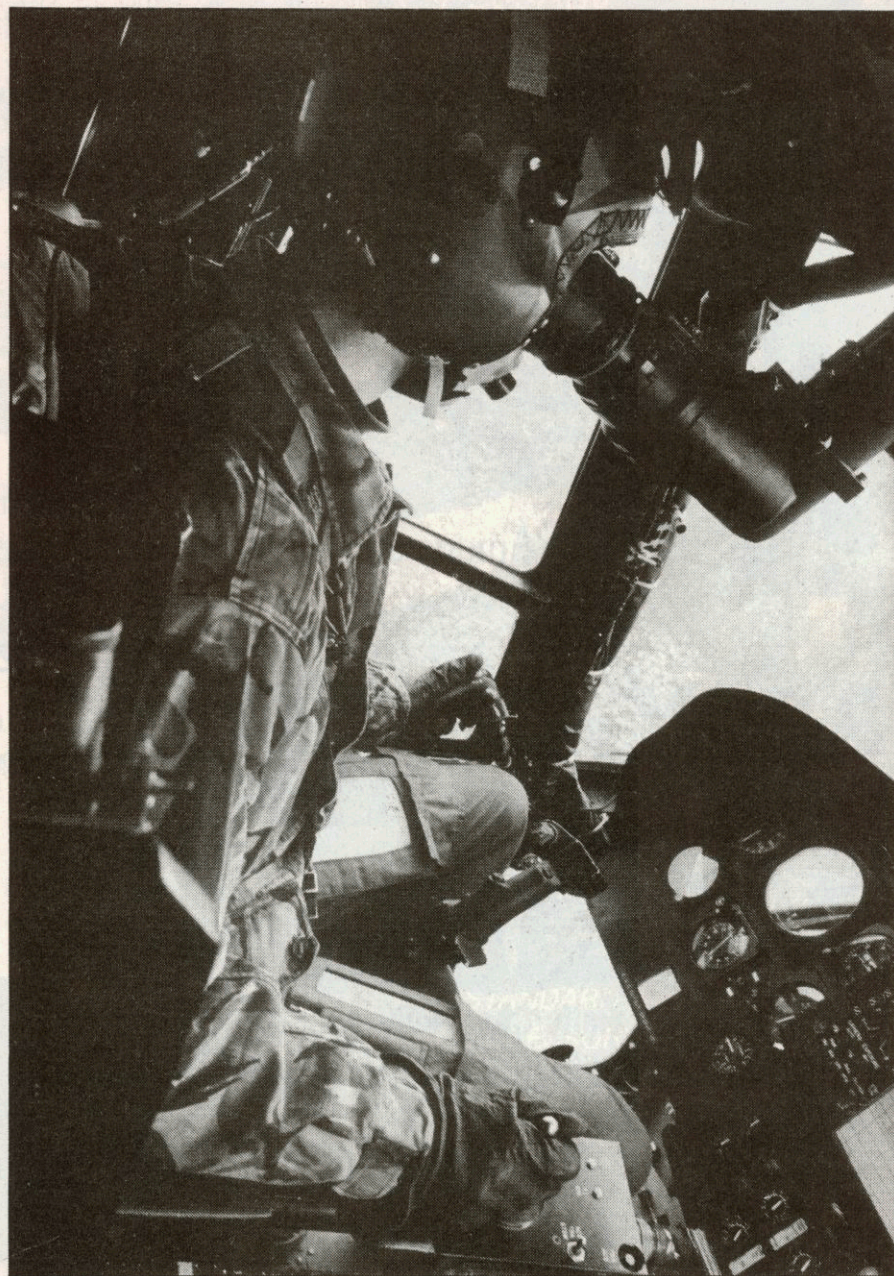
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SOLDIER

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FINGER ON THE TRIGGER

Corporal David Thomas, Royal Welch Fusiliers, inspects the 'target' through his periscope mounted in a tank busting Lynx helicopter. His left hand is on the trigger, his right on the control to steer the wire guided TOW missile. SOLDIER's next issue looks at the Army Air Corps in Germany.



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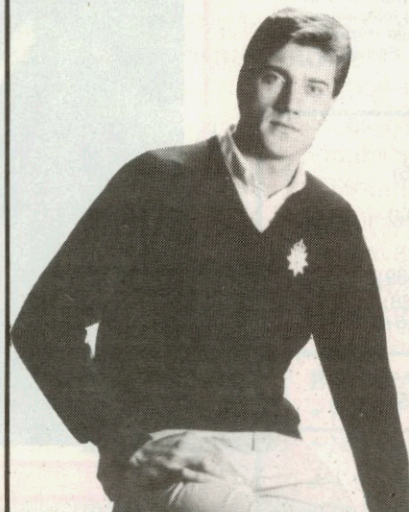
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STEPHEN MOVES A CHIMNEY

LANCE Corporal Stephen Lewis was selected at random from hundreds of military hopefuls to press the firing button to demolish

a 60 ft tall boiler house chimney that was defunct and spoiled the attractive appearance of his unit's base at Tunis Barracks, Lübbecke.

Stephen, who is with 54 Engineer Support Ambulance Squadron RCT, was offered his most unusual 'moving' job as top prize in a regimental raffle in aid of RCT funds to buy for the Corps the Victoria Cross earned by one of the Corps' heroes of old, Dalton of Rorke's Drift fame.

It took just over three pounds of well placed high explosive to bring the towering chimney crashing down in spectacular style when Lance Corporal Lewis pressed the button. It was planned so skillfully by locally employed demolition expert Herr Klaus Kolbe that not one of the scores of windows in surrounding buildings suffered as much as a crack.



▲ Ready for the big bang
▼ Down she goes



Gurkhas on target

GURKHA soldiers firing the Milan anti-tank missile on Binturan Range in Brunei have achieved a 91 per cent hit rate, and 96 per cent successful launch rate during a concentration of 48 missiles fired.

The soldiers were taking part in Exercise Dragon Fly Two, the year's Gurkha Field Force Milan Concentration, with live firing from Milan platoons from 6 GR, 1/7 GR, 10 GR and Brunei-based 1/2 GR.

In field exercises before the concentration, the anti-tank missile was used very effectively by infantry in heliborne and waterborne assaults besides its more conventional deployment.

Visitors to the live firing included members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, and representatives from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.



Heavily laden Gurkhas leap ashore during a waterborne assault

MAYOR HAS CITY AT HER FEET



THE lady Lord Mayor of York took a helicopter ride over her city when she visited soldiers and civilians at Imphal Barracks in York.

Councillor Mrs Marjorie Bwyne spent most of the day at the barracks after being met at the main entrance by the Garrison Commander, Brigadier Giles Arnold.

She was briefed on the role of North East District and the 2nd Infantry Division, called on the Commander (Major General Charles Guthrie), toured the Infantry and Royal Artillery Manning and Records Office and the Regimental Pay Office, met soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment, and finally took tea with Signal Regiment headquarters before leaving.

Photograph shows pilot WO1 David Stuart from 3 Flight AAC making last minute checks before taking the Mayor airborne in his Gazelle

KOHIMA PRINT MARKS FRIENDSHIP



Brigadier Giles Arnold, Commander Artillery of 2nd Infantry Division, receives the print from Bridlington branch president Donald Jackson.

Bridlington Branch of the Burma Star Association has presented a framed print of a famous Far East battle of the Second World War to Headquarters 2nd Infantry Division at Imphal Barracks, York.

The print, from a painting by Terence Cuneo, shows a scene at Kohima, one of the bloodiest battles of the campaign in Burma which was to turn the tide of the Japanese advance and lead to an allied victory.

The print will be hung in the Officers' Mess at the Headquarters North East District and 2nd Infantry Division.

Branch Secretary Major Jack Debenham said that the print was given as a token of the close ties and friendship existing between Bridlington members and the Army headquarters.

Count down to the London marathon

NEARLY 800 Servicemen and women will be taking part in this year's London Marathon.

Computer information shows that 768 should now be training to take part in the marathon which takes place on April 20. A total of 23,000 athletes and fun-runners will line up on the famous Blackheath and Greenwich start lines that morning with their minds set on completing the course.

A record 90,000 applications were received this year — 75,276 from the UK alone, an increase of seven per cent on last year.

'NOBBY' CALLS IT A DAY

CSGT 'Nobby' Clark has left 1 Wessex after 36 years continuous service.

During his service with the TA CSgt Clark has been awarded the TA Efficiency medal and three clasps. Had he been a regular soldier he would have been eligible for the Long Service and Good Conduct medal and bar. He was presented with his third clasp by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col RJ Pook, D and D, at a recruit cadre passing-out parade.

CSgt Clark joined the army as a

and in Wales ...

ATHLETIC clubs, Scouting groups and civilian organisations in Wales have been invited to "hot-foot" it with members of the Armed Forces and the Cadet Forces from throughout the principality in the Welsh Military Half-Marathon.

The research trust for metabolic diseases in children and the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Veterans' appeal will benefit from the 13-mile run and from a five-mile 'fun-run', both of which are

being staged by the Army in Wales, in Brecon, in April.

Organised by the School of Infantry, Non-Commissioned Officers Tactical Wing, at Brecon, the marathon and fun-run will both take in some of the most idyllic countryside in the Powys area.

MAJOR GENERAL David Colley is the Army's new Director General Royal Corps of Transport. Based at the Logistic Executive (Army), Andover, General Colley was formerly Commander 1st British Corps, BAOR.



Colour Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark, following in father's footsteps. Photo: The Wiltshire Times

National Serviceman in 1950 and enlisted into the Royal Hampshire Regt.

He was posted to 1 Gloster after completing basic training and sent to Korea as part of the reformation of the Glosters after the battle of Imjin. On demob he served on reserve service with 4 Wilts TA and joined the TA in 1956.

His father did war service with 4 Wilts in the First World War and when demobbed joined 4 Wilts as a founder member. A member of the Clark family has served with a county regt since 1914.

Discos raise cot death cash

BIG-HEARTED women Territorials are helping to reduce the risks of cot deaths among babies in Wales.

More than £1,000 raised by WRAC volunteers of 53(W) Signal Squadron at their Cardiff headquarters will pay for four new respiration monitors, requested by the League of Friends on behalf of the city's University of Wales Hospital.

Captain Gillian Jones and her 50 fund-raisers, who comprise the female contingent of the 120-strong unit, have raised £1,081 with charity discos during Cardiff Tattoo, and cheese and wine evenings held on the same days at home international rugby matches at Cardiff.

A giant-sized cheque was being handed over to the League of Friends at a special curry evening in the Park Street TA Centre.

BRONZE TROPHY FOR VARSITY MEN

A BRONZE statuette of a Royal Signals Officer in ceremonial regalia has been won by a team from the Royal Signals Wing of Cardiff University Officers Training Corps.

It marks their outstanding achievement in the inaugural Royal Signals, National University Officers Training Corps Competition, at Blandford Forum when, competing against 16 varsity teams from throughout the UK, the Cardiff undergraduates emerged 120 points ahead of runners-up, Northumbria UOTC.

The event tested them on

command tasks, vehicle manoeuvring, a falling plate shooting competition, stretcher and chain-of-command races, an assault course, and a quiz.

Pictured (left) with some members of the eight-strong team — and flanked by two non-team members, 2nd Lieutenant Maxine Oliver, and Officer-Cadet Sue Hale — is team captain 23-year-old 2nd Lieutenant Richard Lapslie. Top (centre) with 2nd Lieutenants Paul Gregory and Mike Rogers, and Officer Cadets Tam Lyness and Steve Nash, is the man who trained them, Warrant Officer 2 Max Williams, permanent staff officer at the unit.

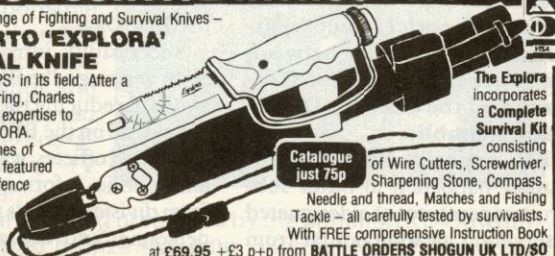


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LONDON HONOURS WRAC COLONELS

FOUR colonels in the Women's Royal Army Corps have been given the Freedom of the City of London on condition that they "pay their scot", an old legal phrase referring to the payment of taxes to parochial funds.

These days the "scot" is only a nominal sum though, and holders of honorary freedoms, like Princess Anne, get away "scot free".

The WRAC's association with the City of London was established through Major Edwina Coven, who was in the ATS and then the WRAC between 1942-56, later had a distinguished career in the city and is now one of the Queen's

Lieutenants of the City of London and chairman of the City of London Police Committee.

The Freedom of the City is given for several different reasons, one of them in recognition of recipients having risen to the top of their profession or given particular service to the country.

The honoured WRAC officers were Colonel Shirley Nield, Commander WRAC UKLF; Col Frances Hutley, Deputy Director WRAC at MOD; Col Audrey Smith, Commandant of the WRAC Centre at Guildford; and Col Nan Robertson, Commander WRAC in BAOR.



Four colonels, with Major Edwina Coven (centre)

FAREWELL TO THE GENERAL



BOBBY, the black buck mascot of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, said farewell to Major General Bryan Webster, Director of Army Quartering, when he retired from the Army — and as could be expected from a regimental mascot, he behaved impeccably during the departure ceremony.

But just in case Bobby found it all a little too exciting, he was fairly closely attached to two RRF handlers, Sergeant George Chapman and Fusilier Luke Parsons, resplendent in their scarlet uniforms.

General Webster completed his 37 years service in the Army with a near-four year spell at MOD Chessington where the ceremony took place.

Also there to give him a special send off (see picture) were three bandmen from 5 RRF TA Centre — General Webster is deputy colonel of RRF (City of London) — Sergeant Ronald White, Sergeant David Harris, and Bandsman Norman White.

East eyes west on border

A FORTY-STRONG group of officers from British Forces Germany coolly came face to face — many of them for the first time — with armed East German frontier troops patrolling on the border between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

The mutually respectful encounter happened in bitter sub-zero temperatures at a designated observation location not far from Loctum while the BFG party were taking part in a one-day Border Viewing Points Scheme.

They were being conducted on a familiarisation training tour of the Inner German Border by one of the most experienced members of the British Frontier Service, Mr Reg Day.

Successfully introduced some eight years ago the BVP scheme is aimed at reducing the particularly heavy load on the BFS by allowing authorised officers, warrant officers and public information officers from divisional pools to escort unit personnel and casual visitors to pre-selected viewing points.

Vantage point: officers view the other side of the wall

YORKS SOLDIERS MEET THE PUBLIC

TWENTY-FIVE soldiers of 1st Bn The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, currently serving in Northern Ireland, have spent a week back in their home recruiting area to "show the flag".

They were taking part in a Keeping the Army in the Public

Eye operation and put on displays of infantry weapons and equipment at Leeds, Rotherham, York and Bradford.

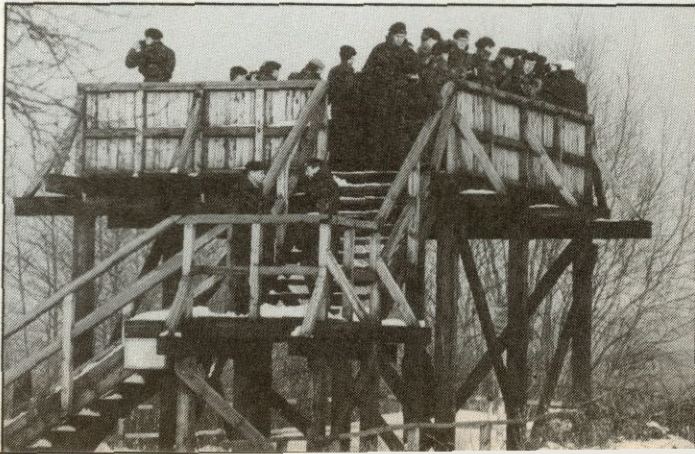
Besides the daytime displays, the soldiers spent time with Army Cadet Force detachments which are affiliated to the regiment.



Regimental secretary Brigadier Malcolm Cubiss meets one of the display teams in York. In command, Second Lieutenant Dominic Lavan (third from right)

The latest batch of 40 escorts who qualified under the guiding eye of Mr Day will ensure the steady flow of authorised visitors

to earmarked frontier spots will continue to receive an up-to-the-minute informed tour of the border between East and West.



TA girl is modern Bo-Peep

TA Officer Felicity Bowden could teach Little Bo-Peep a thing or two (*writes Paul Davidson*).

For Felicity, a second lieutenant in charge of the WRAC detachment with HQ Coy of 6 Royal Anglian at Bury St Edmunds, has had a new flock under her command.

She has just finished a month's work as a shepherdess — playing midwife to 45 ewes during the lambing season.

"It was really hard work — most of the time I was only able to get four or five hours' sleep each night. And I also had to bottle feed the lambs the next day," said 23-year-old Felicity.

Yet Felicity, who comes from a farming background and has obtained the National Diploma for Farm Secretaries after a two-year course at Lincoln College of Agriculture, was well-equipped for her stint as shepherdess at a friend's farm at Kersey, in Suffolk.

Apart from her skills and qualifications, she was well-prepared for working on a farm amid the rigours of the British winter — having returned home just after Christmas from three months in South America with Operation Raleigh.

Along with young people from many different countries, Felicity was taking part in one phase of the four-year long expedition programme and was involved in a series of projects in the mountains of Chile.

Among the tasks her group completed was building an observation platform on a glacier at San Rafael, constructing a footpath one-and-a-half miles across the mountain and building a bridge.

The bridge-building alone took five weeks, with the venturers having to cut the wood 30 miles away, dragging it to the site by ferry, and then hauling the logs 200 feet up the mountainside.

Later she took part in a 70-mile trek along a glaciated valley to see if it was possible for a road to be put through. The group made the journey with pack-horses and rubber dinghies, crossing up to 15 rivers a day during the eight-day trek.

The final part of Felicity's trip involved an eye surgery project at Chile Chico, where the volunteers assisted a surgeon with eye cataract operations and distributed spectacles to the local population.

This part of the project was sponsored by Rotary International

and, said Felicity: "To see people regain their sight after the operations was fantastic."

Felicity's own trip was mainly sponsored through 6 Royal Anglian and East Anglia TAVRA — and she found her military experience after six years in the TA "absolutely invaluable".

"Signalling knowledge came in extremely useful. We had to do a daily radio check and sitrep and I was able to teach our group of 23 radio procedure. I was also the group medic for the road survey, where my TA first-aid training helped enormously.

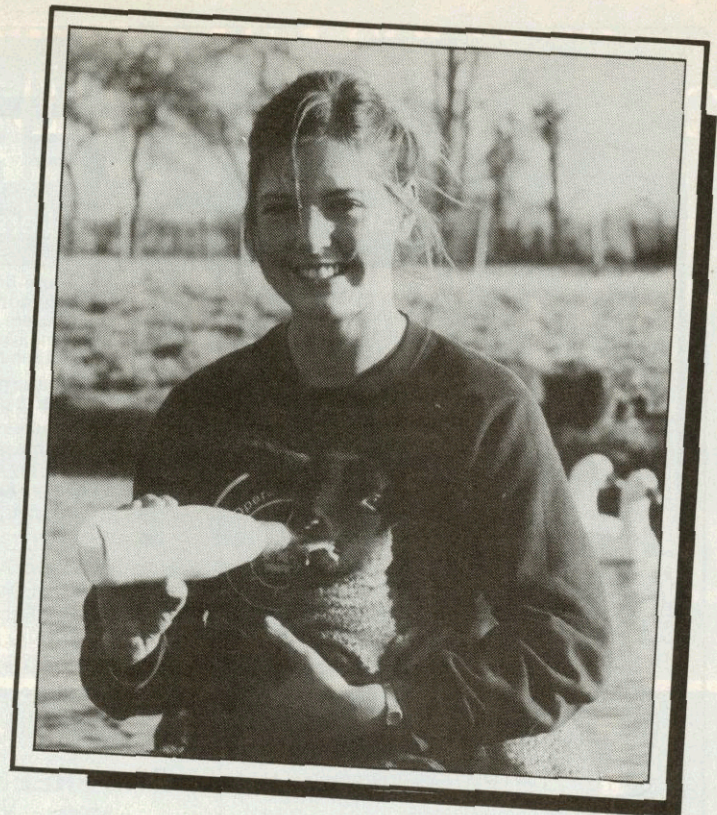
"In addition the other things you learn in the TA, such as working with others, taking a lead where necessary, surviving outdoors, river-crossing techniques and so on, all helped. The expedition also gave me a tremendous

insight into the problems people face in another part of the world and also, I hope, improved the leadership and other qualities the TA expects from me," said Felicity.

The Raleigh expedition was not her first taste of the adventurous life overseas — 15 months ago she drove a truck 4,000 miles across Africa on a botanical expedition organised by Kew Gardens. But she is hoping to re-join the Raleigh project before it ends in 1988, as a member of the directing staff.

In the meantime Felicity is giving talks to clubs and young people's organisations about her trip — as well as looking for another job now the lambing season is over.

And she is also having to catch up on three months' TA work. "There's no escaping that," she says.



Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence at the wheel of Challenger during his visit to the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington, Dorset.

The aim of the visit was to brief the Minister on current RAC matters.

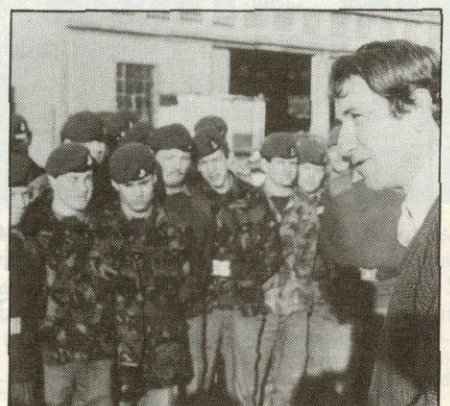
Lord Trefgarne was accompanied during his visit by the Director, Royal Armoured Corps, Major General Simon Cooper, and the Commander of the RAC Centre, Brigadier Dick Webster.

AND FINALLY...

Major Graeme Cooper has written his last words of publicity for 1st Bn The Green Howards.

During the past two years, he has been responsible for more than 900 stories and 2,000 photographs and has also achieved about one-and-a-half hours of TV coverage.

Now, after being presented by the battalion's D Coy with an engraved bronze statuette, he is off to a different job with the BAOR Adventure Training Centre.



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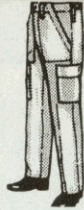
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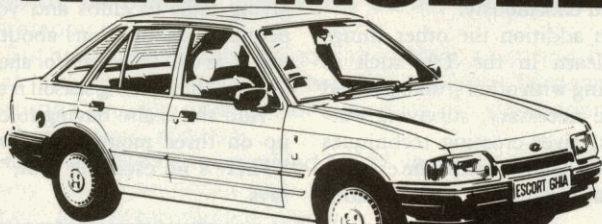
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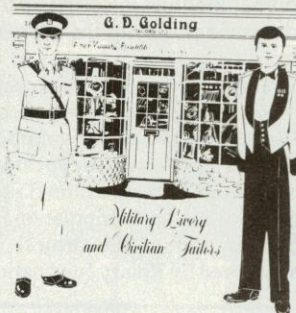
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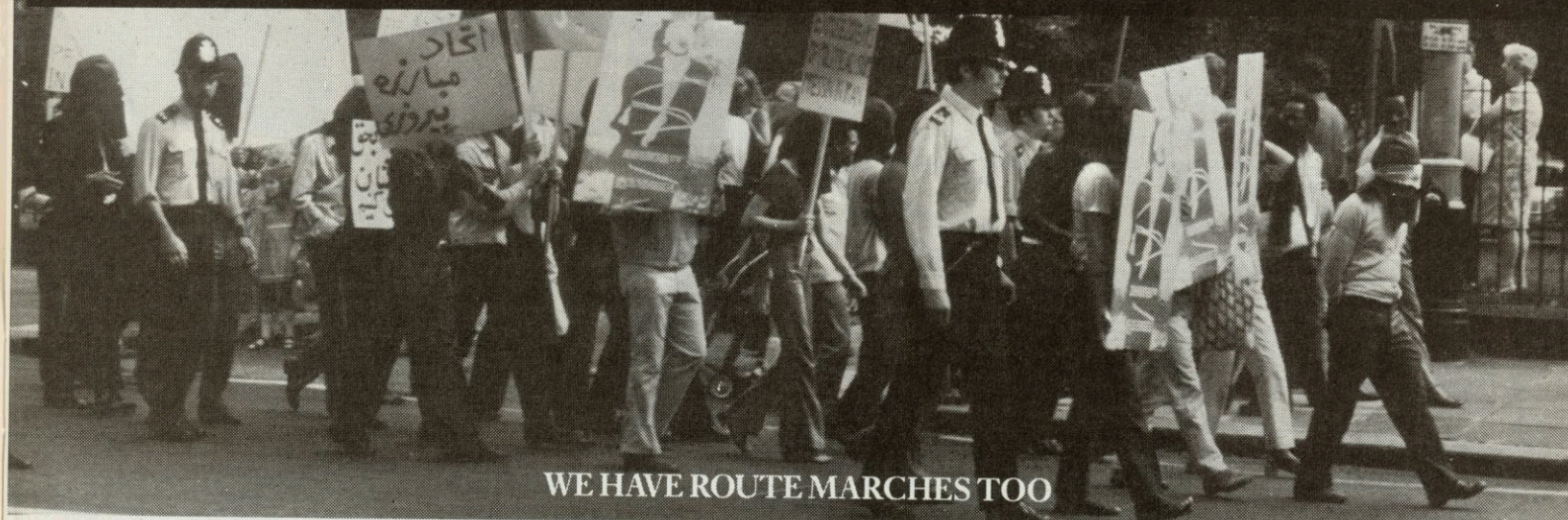
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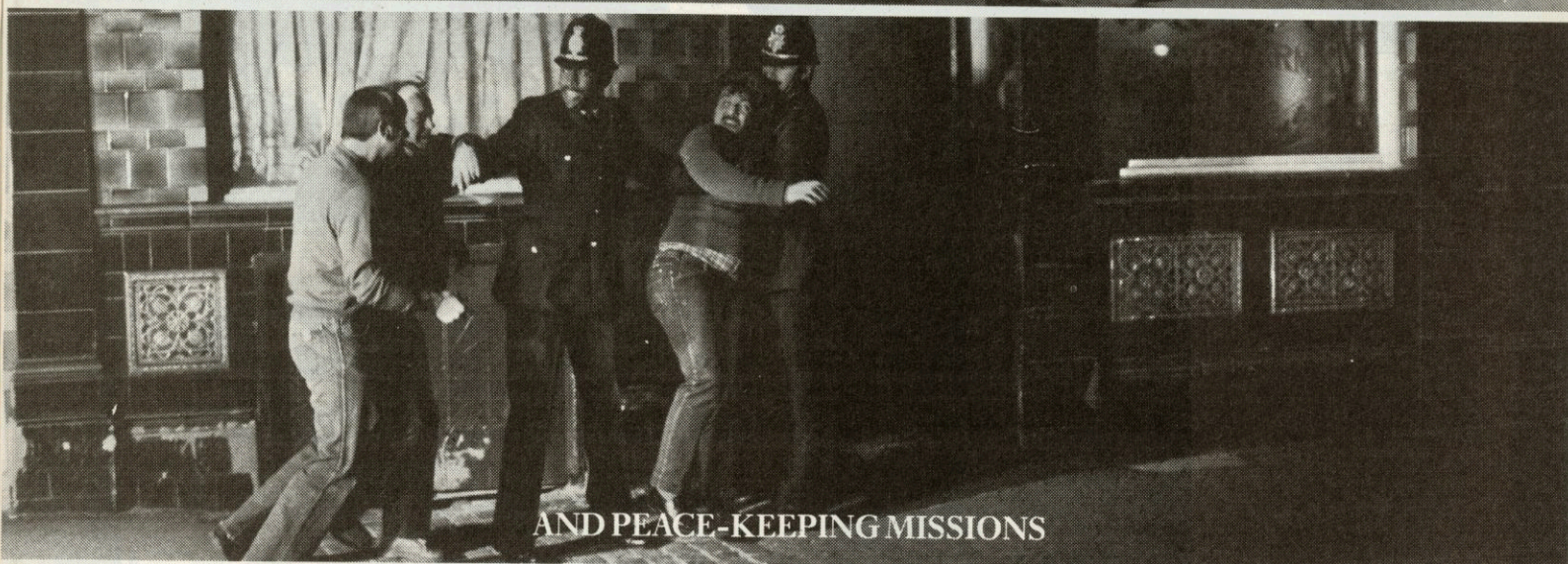
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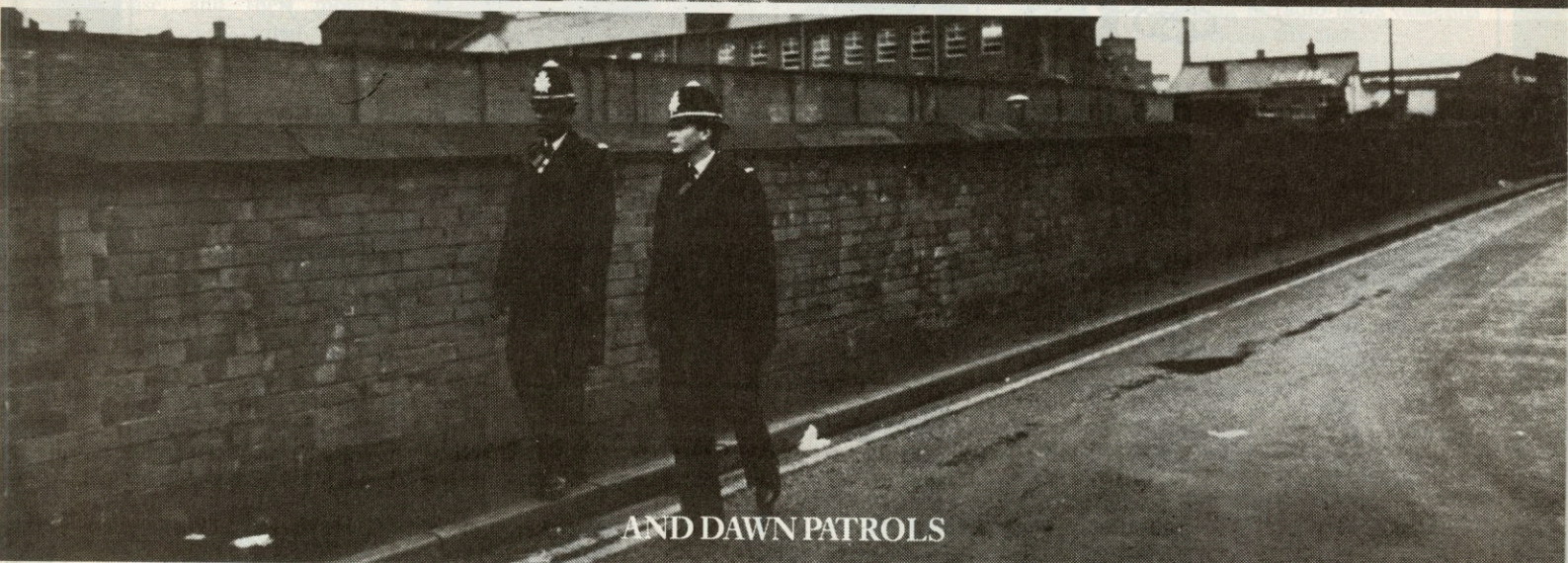
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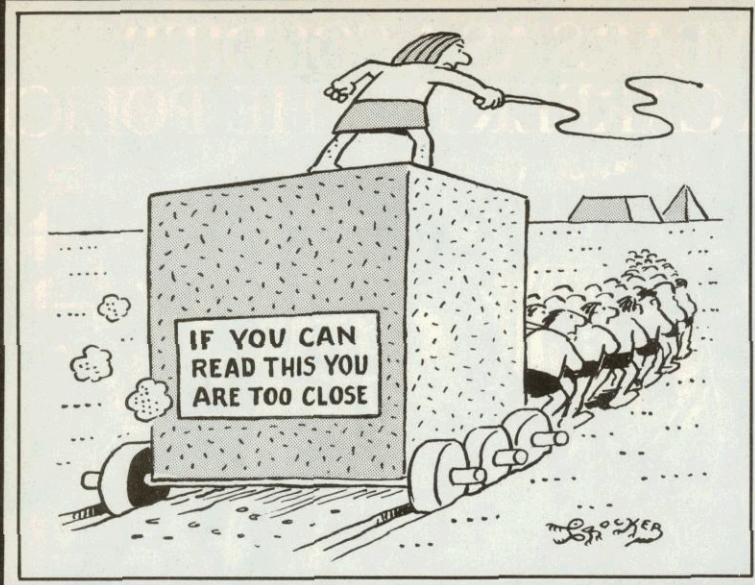
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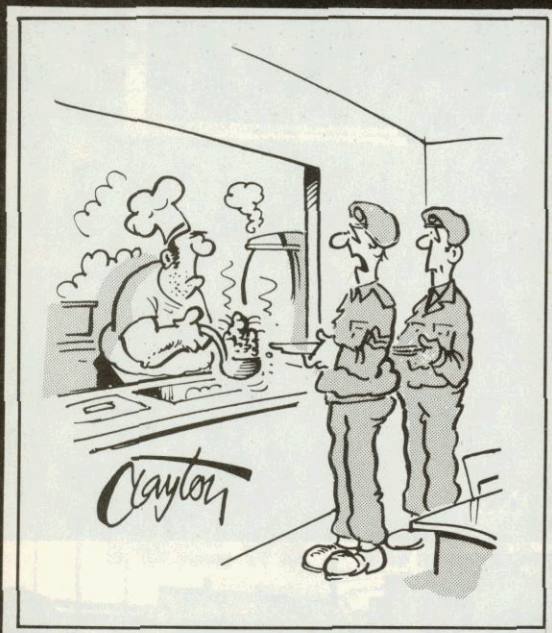
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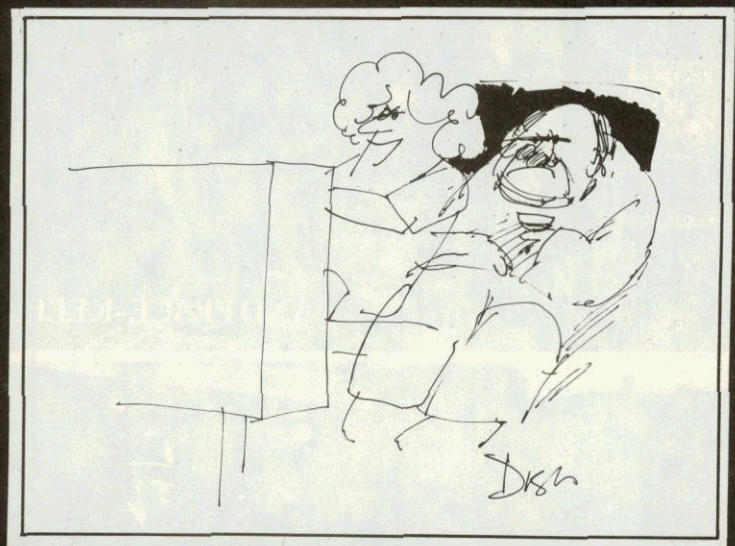
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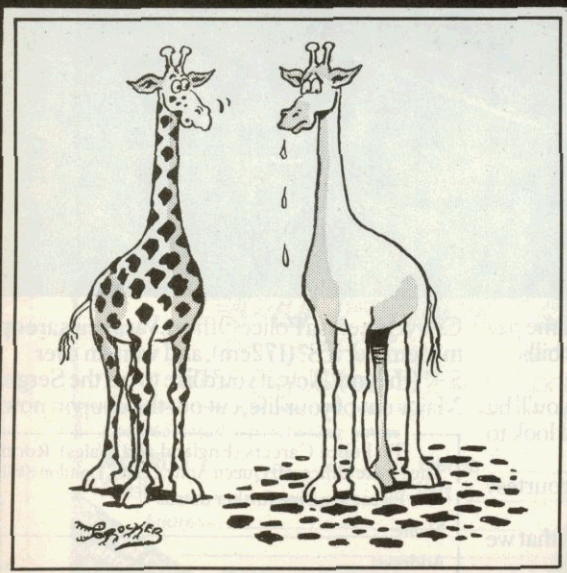
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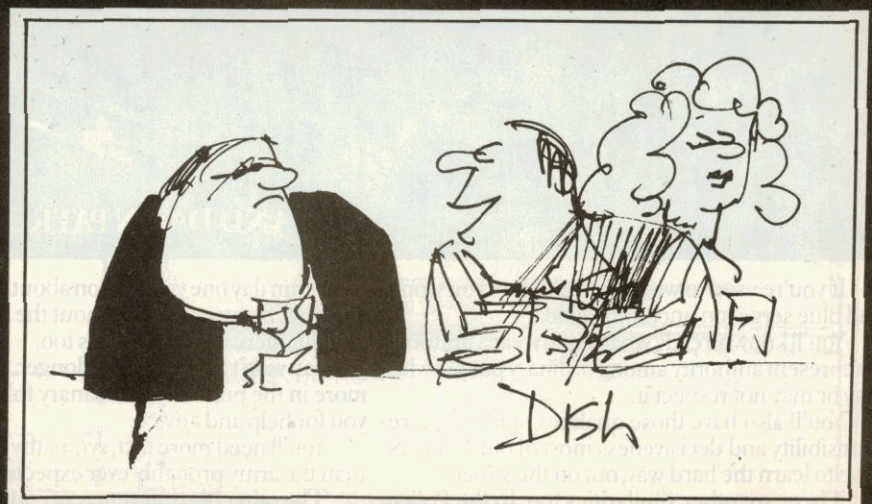
"Is there any truth in the rumour that you are working for the enemy!"



"Now Charlton Heston is my idea of a retired colonel."



"Bless you!"



"Sometimes I envy you — wife, kids, mortgage — but it soon passes."

SOLDIER to Soldier

More than 60,000 Servicemen and women of all ranks have opened Naafi budget accounts since the scheme was launched nearly two years ago, 24,000 of them in Germany.

The scheme is operated within the framework of the Consumer Credit Act 1947 which seeks to ensure that both traders and customers in the UK get a fair deal, and also requires all traders to quote an annual percentage rate (APR). The lower the APR, the better the deal.

Naafi has just issued figures showing that its scheme's APR is lower than ten other UK organisations' credit card, charge card or budget schemes, including Barclaycard and Access and some very big names among the High St stores.

Critics of the "plastic economy" claim that it is made easy for people to get dangerously into debt. Says Mike Mossman, manager of Naafi's financial services: "No-one can legislate for the determined debtor, but 'accidental' debt is less likely with the Naafi scheme."

Card holders must declare how much credit they have in their accounts when they make a purchase, and their monthly statement warns when they are nearing the credit limit, he points out.

★ ★ ★

The Queen's close association with the Army is illustrated in a special set of stamps being

issued to mark her 60th birthday on April 21.

The stamps show six portraits representing each decade of her life and are split between two versions of the stamps. Both appear in two values — 17p and 34p.

One portrait shows Princess Elizabeth aged 16 shortly after becoming colonel of the Grenadier Guards. She carried out her first public engagement when she inspected the Grenadiers and from then her public duties increased. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945 and, at her own request, learned vehicle maintenance and qualified as a driver.

On the second version of the 17p and 34p values, the first portrait shows the Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace following her birthday parade in 1958.

This well-known ceremony, Trooping the Colour, is held in June each year, the Household Division's tribute to the Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of all seven regiments, to mark her official birthday.



There's something about a SOLDIER T-shirt, especially when it's being modelled by Tracy Dee (right) — you can see her in colour on the inside back cover.

SOLDIER's T-shirts and sweat shirts have become very popular since the magazine started selling them last year with the "There's something about a SOLDIER" slogan, perhaps because they appeal to old soldiers and to the Army of today. And more especially when worn by Tracey.

They are navy blue overprinted in red and come in small, medium, large and extra large sizes.

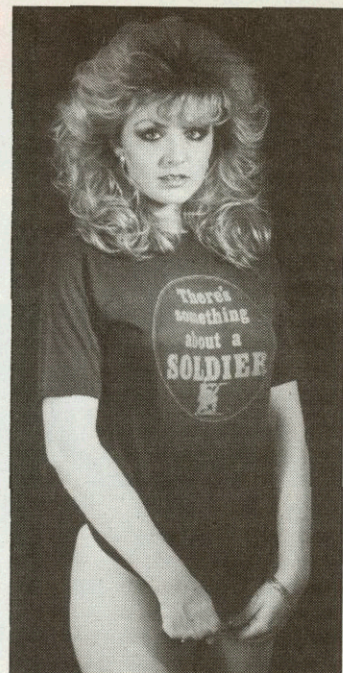
The prices are £3.60 for T-shirts and £7.50 for sweat shirts. There are smaller sizes and smaller prices for children (details from Aldershot 24431, ext 2583).

So whether you are a soldier of today or a soldier of yesterday or even of tomorrow, why not say 'There's something about a SOLDIER'.

Send your cheque or postal order in sterling made payable to Command Cashier UKLF to SOLDIER Magazine (TS), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, indicating how many T-shirts or sweatshirts and what size you want.

★ ★ ★

The four-day week has arrived for the Dutch army. Apparently almost half of its soldiers are staying at home on the last Friday of each month as part



of a government campaign to cut working hours for all public employees.

Soldiers get no choice in the matter according to newspaper reports. The extra day of leave is mandatory for most of the 20,000 conscripts and 10,000 regular officers and NCOs of the First Dutch Army Corps in Holland.

The extra day's leave a month is part of a programme that cuts the 40-hour working week by two hours for all government employees, a Dutch Defence Ministry spokesman is quoted as saying. He added that already army camps have only a skeleton staff on duty at weekends, and some battalions are on standby duty at home listening to radio news bulletins to check for any alert.

There are no plans to introduce a similar system in the British Army!

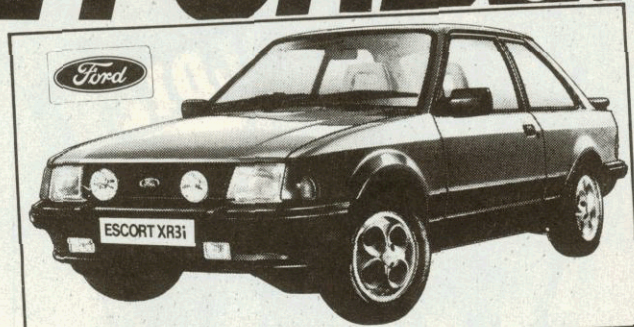
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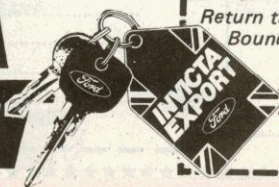
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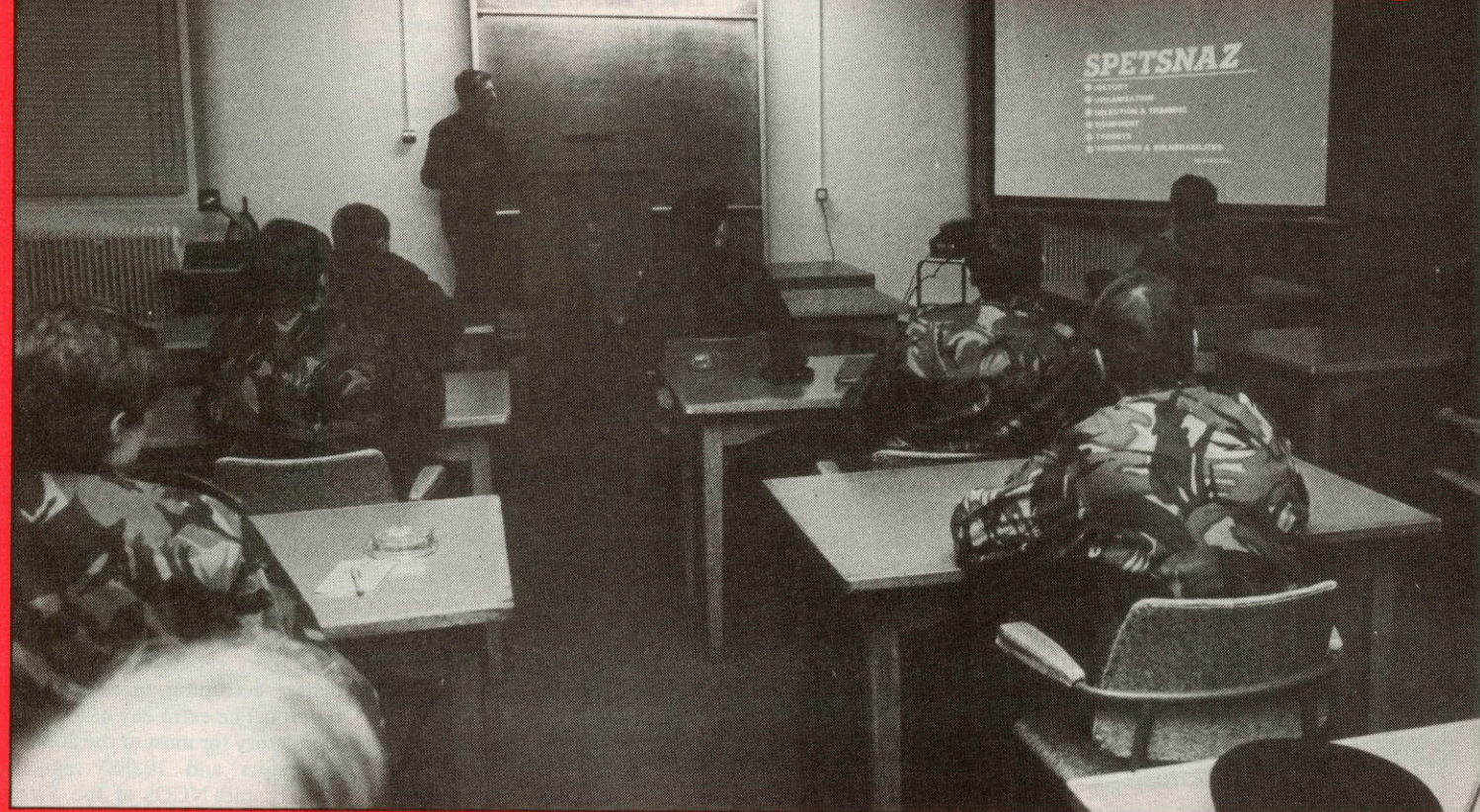
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NORTH WEST'S MASTERMINDS



U NDAUNTED AND as yet undefeated by eager student questioners, HQ North-West District's 'adaptable dozen' have got all the answers no matter where they instruct or lecture.

They have imparted their expertise in an Otterburn training area cowshed and even inside a bunker on the live firing ranges of Sennybridge in Wales.

These are the men comprising the District Specialist Training Team (DSTT), a dozen experts drawn from six corps and regimental cap badges who serve the

travelling tutorial needs of 27 major and minor TA units and their 7,500 personnel plus two major Regular Army units in a district with a long-held reputation for recruiting 20 per cent of Army strength.

Between them these uniformed visiting instructors — average age 43 — have amassed some 300 years of Army and TA experience between them.

Not only do they support the predominantly TA units within the region — it stretches from Carlisle to Chester and from Liverpool to Oldham — they attend camps outside the region when asked to

do so.

Corps subjects are the priority tasks says the DSTT Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Harkon, PARA. Other courses on offer comprise NBC, Army methods of instruction (Junior NCOs being taught how to teach), Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces recognition, counter surveillance and medical aspects.

There are also Royal Artillery and Royal Engineer "packages" plus syllabi for potential officers.

Nearly every weekend sees men from the DSTT in action somewhere, often as many as four or

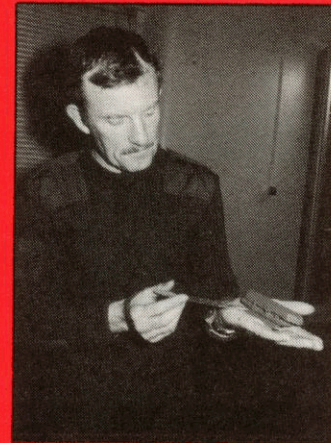


Classroom scene HQ NW District. Students from The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, a TA reserve unit

«Lt-Col Joe Harkon, PARA: "We supply specialist instruction."

five of them out in the field.

The team was very heavily involved, for instance, in last autumn's 65,000-strong Exercise



▲ Staff Sgt John Scotson, instructor, with Soviet vehicle to hand

Sgt Himmy Hand PARA, refers to the vuefol library ▶

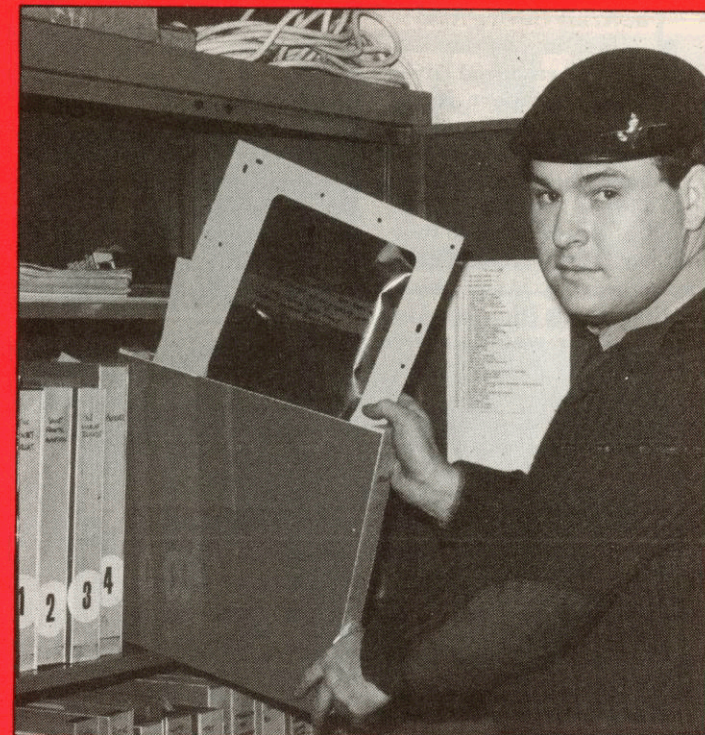
Brave Defender, the massive UK military home defence manoeuvres which brought into play 5,000 reservists. The DSTT provided umpires.

Each of the UKLF Districts has such a team but that in the north-west, they say, centred at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, is the only one physically based on an HQ.

"We've got all the people we want to help us with regards to equipment," said Staff Sergeant John Scotson, one of the Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS).

The team, set up about five years ago, was formally recognised in 1983 and the north-west outfit was one of the first pioneers of the scheme.

Lieut Col Harkon said: "We supply specialist instruction which the units normally cannot do because they do not have the people



with suitable qualifications. Also, they do not have the equipment."

His team is steadily adding to its instructional inventory. This includes 70 video training films and complementary 50-square-inch viewing screens plus the cameras and equipment needed for making them. The library is growing too.

But they would like more. Weapons such as the Soviet AK 74S, an RDG or even an RPK.

Usually the teams teach in classrooms but there have been some odd spots. One like the bivvy area with no apparent source of

electric power.

Staff Sergeant Scotson recalls giving a 2½-hour dissertation in a marquee competing for attention with the reverberations of a generator. "I was hoarse at the end of it," he said.

The team's proud claim is that they have never been stumped by any questioner on any related subject during their travels. Such is their in-depth experience and knowledge accrued over the years.

Staff Sergeant Scotson said: "I think if we were not here a lot of units would miss us sadly."

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Staff Sgt Scotson, DLOY students and a village-vehicle scenario

The Army Caving Association, in conjunction with 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT, is to sink to new depths in south-east Java this summer and, hopefully, do the locals a bit of a favour.

Much the same motive that prompted the recent Army Mountaineering Association expedition to the Himalayas to build a village water supply (see **SOLDIER**, February 10) encouraged the cavers to think of ways they could make a "thank you" gesture to local people.

"I've done many expeditions and it's always been a bit selfish," said Staff Sergeant Ian James, MT staff sergeant for 4 Squadron, RCT, at Bünde and leader of the forthcoming visit to Java.

"We've gone there and we've explored caves and that's been it. This time we've got the opportunity to go there, do our exploring and hopefully leave something for the people we are visiting."

The expedition is heading for some completely unexplored limestone caves in the Tulakan area between the towns of Pacitan and Campurdaat in south-east Java. The idea is to combine exploration with an accurate survey of the underground water courses so that local people will have precise information about where to drill their wells.

"The local economy is based on agriculture," S/Sgt James added, "and there are cases of people walking up to eight miles for water."

"In 1981 Blue Peter (the BBC TV children's programme) did a thing called Operation Pipeline. We got the idea really from them."

This month, members of the expedition were due to go to Sheffield University for a seminar on cave surveying. Ten of the team are serving soldiers — eight from BAOR and two from the UK. The

Staff Sergeant James and wife Irene: both cavers



DOWN INTO THE UNKNOWN



remaining five include Staff James's wife, Irene, who is also an experienced caver, and three civilians who will provide much of the technical expertise for the survey.

Everyone is required to pay £600 as their personal contribution. But on top of this and any adventurous training grants that might be made for the soldiers, there is the usual requirement for a fair bit of sponsorship to meet the full cost — estimated at around £15,000.

The prospect of fund raising is not as daunting as it might be, not after two years grappling with Indonesian bureaucracy. Staff James started the project with Lieutenant Andy Bennet, who later

dropped out for personal reasons, and they soon discovered why the Tulakan caves had remained unexplored.

Weaving a path through the intricacies of Indonesian officialdom required enormous calm and unlimited patience. At the end of it all, with the expedition being sponsored in the country by an Indonesian university and the Federation of Indonesian Speologic Activities,* Staff James was able to say: "To get over all the bureaucracy was an achievement in itself!"

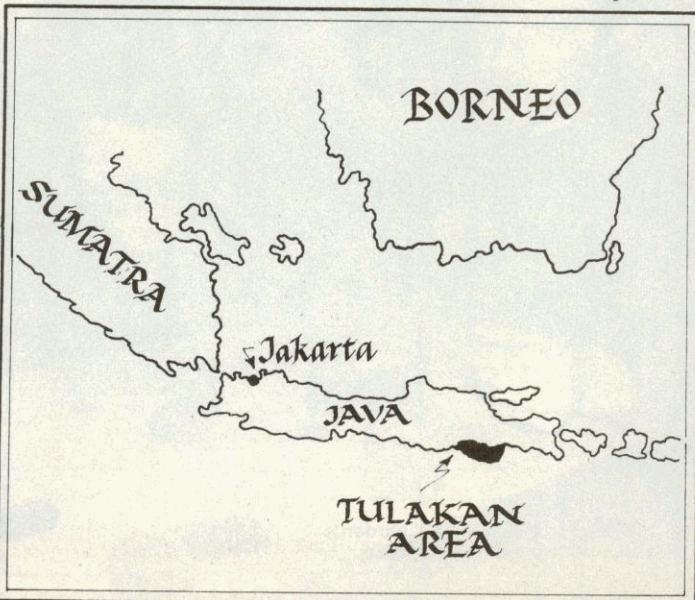
However there was no doubt that he thought the effort worth the result.

A head for depths. S/Sgt James getting down to it

"We are talking of the possibility of 20 to 30 kilometres of caves that have never been touched," he said.

"I am training secretary for the Army Caving Association and I can say that the Army has never, ever mounted a caving trip as ambitious as this. Two years ago with Major Jack Sheldon I organised a trip to the fifth deepest cave in the world, but that had been done before. This time we are actually going into virgin territory."

*Speleology is the scientific study of caves: a spelunker is one who explores caves for sport.



THREE YEARS ago an enterprising Lancashire brewery group opened a pub fit for heroes. Falkland heroes.

A "patriotic gesture" costing £¼ million and set on a half-acre site amid a tastefully designed housing estate just to the north of Preston.

The pub is appropriately called The Falkland Heroes.

Over the past three years a visitors' book kept behind the bar by licensee Don Oldham bears testimony that some 120 of the conflict's finest fighters of four years ago have dropped into the pub's plush surrounds at Ingol, two miles north of Preston, to collect another honour.

No medals this time, though. But a free, foaming pint. The brewery company's way of saying thanks.

Heroes have come. Heroes have gone. But the pub proudly named after Britain's latest battle campaign wants to keep saying thank you to the men and women involved in it in a very big way.

Nigel Fortnam for the Matthew Brown company, surveying the phalanx of wall plaques and photographs adorning the walls of the single-storey building, said: "We are a very patriotic company and this is our gesture. Anyone who can prove he was there during hostilities is asked to sign the

visitors' book and gets his free pint ...

"There were 27,000 personnel involved in the Task Force and we would like to invite them all to a free pint ... but not all on the same night!"

The showpiece Falklands Heroes pub, reachable from the M6 via Exit 32, forms a hub of a development by the Central Lancashire Development Corporation.

For the opening in May 1983 two sailors, both local lads, were the first to sign the visitors' book.

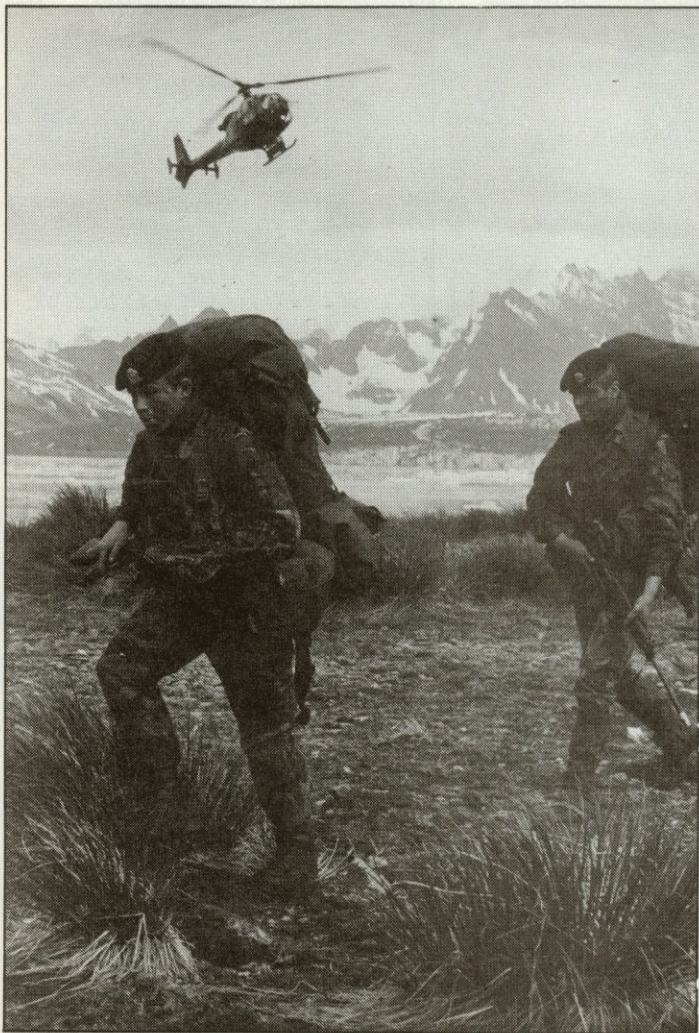
The brewery says that as far as it knows every unit in the campaign has contributed a wall plaque.

Mr Miles Eastwood, former Royal Marine and the sales and marketing manager, said: "We did not want to put up photos that would be emotionally upsetting. The company — we have 527 pubs, 19 restaurants, four hotels and four breweries — is based in a military area and we believe we are the first

SOLDIER VISITS A PUB FOR HEROES



SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley (centre) with "minder" Roger Goodwin (right) and publican Don Oldham



to name by way of commemoration the men involved in the conflict by naming a pub after them.

"When we first opened we got the odd snide letter saying it had been named after a political campaign. Whether it was right or not, the people who went down there WERE heroes."

As he spoke two such heroes who had not seen each other for four years were busy swapping the inevitable yarns and personal post mortems over the special pints.

Roger Goodwin, a Ministry of Defence "minder", as they were known, then working on the Royal Navy Press desk, who soon created his own memorable rapport with the international media, and SOLDIER staff photographer, Paul Haley who took some 2,700 pictures.

Paul, whose images on film have appeared worldwide, presented 23 of his favourite and most vivid prints to the pub.

"We'll put them all up if we have room," said publican Don Oldham whose interest in the events of the Falklands heightened after he took up his post behind the pumps.

The Falklands four years on. Heavily laden soldiers from 2 Queens taking part in Exercise Ice Axe, with 658 Sqn AAC Gazelle hovering overhead.

In August of last year, for instance, he sent 576 cans of beer by Hercules to the South Atlantic for the lads of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry.

"Now, we are waiting for our invitation to go personally and take some more," said Mr Eastwood.

By now, the Ministry's two VIPs — Very Important Pinters — Messrs Goodwin and Haley were modestly telling an enthralled local evening newspaper reporter and her photographer about their exploits at first hand.

Story Graham Smith

"It was a fairly interesting three months, as they say," said the largely shipborne Roger. "I told wife, Wendy 'see you in a fortnight'. But some three months later ..."

Paul, one of three civilian photographers involved in the campaign, confirmed the last he saw of Roger was the latter waving him goodbye as he left by air from Stanley Airfield.

"At least, I think he was waving!" quipped Paul.

One fact remains indelibly sure, however. A warm, heartfelt welcome at a Lancashire pub literally fit for heroes.

All of them, it seems.

LIVING AT THE ANTARCTIC GATEWAY

Serving a tour of duty in the Army's most southerly garrison on South Georgia poses unique challenges.

Soldiers face isolation, harsh terrain and often treacherous weather, yet many describe the experience as unforgettable and prefer to have served their Falklands tour in South Georgia rather than with the rest of the Falklands garrison.

The garrison on South Georgia exists to maintain the British presence there, to patrol where possible (even in summer, there is an 80 per cent ice cover) and to carry out civil tasks on behalf of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Government. To do this, Major Bob Wilby, (2 Queens) as OC Troops South Georgia, was also the appointed deputy postmaster, customs and immigration officer, assistant Queen's Harbour Master and magistrate.

As postmaster, Major Wilby was responsible for the income derived from the sale of stamps and postcards to visiting ships, which averages £400 per ship.

All arriving vessels had to report in and have their documents checked, and charges are raised against them for water and shelter. Not that there are many — during his tour Major Wilby dealt with two Russian polar research vessels, a tourist cruise ship World Discoverer and two French yachts.

As magistrate, he had the power to deal with vandals from ships since he was responsible for the island's derelict whaling stations. He was assisted by two SNCOs appointed as special constables, and paid a monthly fee for his work on the Falkland Government's behalf.

Apart from the British Antarctic Survey scientists and other occasional scientific teams (a team of taxidermists from a Swedish polar museum are currently based in Grytviken), the garrison are the only human inhabitants on the island, which is only 110 by 20 miles.

The garrison is based on King Edward Point, adjacent to the now infamous Grytviken whaling station. The majority live at the former BAS HQ, Shackleton House (the explorer would approve, his grave overlooks Grytviken), while the engineers and signallers share the RE Hilton, a smaller house nearby.

The men say that there is no such thing as a typical day in South Georgia. Their week is split between three days patrol and three days guard duty back at base.

Preparing for patrol is much the same as anywhere else — even for a one-day patrol 40lb safety bergens are carried. For longer patrols the men each carry 80 lbs plus, and wear arctic kit and mountain walking boots.

What is not so typical is the extremely variable weather and terrain. Temperatures can range

from -15 C to 20 C, and in summer the unwary soldier can get badly burned.

The temperate climate means that patrols can face severe damp cold and extremely strong winds. The winds, known locally as "williwaws", can come sweeping off the mountains over the glaciers, causing whiteouts, and gathering speeds of up to 100 knots.

Nor is the terrain welcoming, despite its paradoxically hard yet ethereal beauty. There are no trees or bushes, and the grassland is rough tussock grass, punctuated by bogs, moss banks and obstreperous elephant and fur seals weighing up to 2½ tons.

Going into the hills, the patrols encounter rocky scree, snow lines and glaciers, which remain dangerous in summer as the warmed glaciers move and create crevasses. The topography limits the area of patrolling and patrol routes, except when visiting ships can insert troops by boat or helicopter.

However daunting it may sound, South Georgia presents superb value for training. As Major Wilby says: "Patrolling with heavy rucksacks is arduous over this terrain, and individuals become fit very quickly. The variable weather is a challenge to survive and patrol in it, and the experience can only make the individual better for it."

There are other advantages to having a training area on the doorstep. The troops have sole use of the area and a generous ammo allocation — field firing opportunities are limited only by safety rules and considerations of danger to wildlife.

Although few of the garrison are experienced in arctic training, they are provided with specialist equipment and a RM MLI arctic warfare specialist is posted with the garrison. The men spent three days adventurous training on a nearby glacier, which L/Cpl Tom Lindus described as a once in a lifetime experience.

Back at base time is spent in general duties, stints in the ops room and fatigues.

It fell to Sgt Major George Whitall, who is also CQMS, to organise admin, stores and rations for the garrison. This is no mean feat, given the distance involved, as South Georgia is 800 miles and a change in time zone from the Falklands.

RFA and other ships ply monthly to South Georgia, supply-



Capt Mike Newman (left) and his recon platoon take a breather at Grytviken before setting out on patrol

ing the garrison with rations, fuel, machinery and stores, delivering and collecting mail, and assisting in the movements of patrols. Every fortnight, a Hercules makes an air drop of fresh rations and mail into nearby Cumberland Bay, which the garrison's Sea Raider collects in a matter of minutes.

The signals detachment (266 Signals Squadron) plays an important part in the air drop as well as in communications with the Falklands and the BAS scientists.

The detachment undergoes a two-day meteorology course at RAF Stanley before they arrive in South Georgia, so that they are able to take six-hourly met readings for relay back to Bracknell in the UK. Their reports are also made on the hour, when the air drop is due.

The signallers work 12-hour shifts, and technician L/Cpl Peter Howson was much in demand for fixing videos and cassette players. He says: "It is more relaxed as a posting, but there is less to do in our spare time, except watch

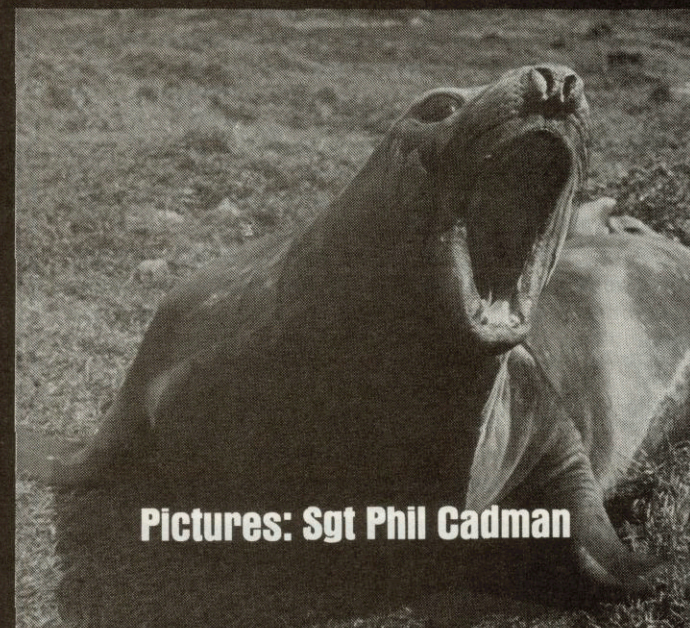
videos, which come monthly, and listen to music."

There is the occasional visitor to Grytviken to break the routine. A Soviet vessel visited the station in early December, and the visitors played the garrison to a diplomatic draw on the "football pitch" behind the whaling station, while the BAS ship gave a carol service on Christmas Eve. Many of the soldiers take up photography (when breeding seals wake you up in the mornings and skuas stand on the doorstep, it's difficult to avoid the wildlife) and make use of the available darkroom facilities.

The isolation of the garrison means that mail is of unparalleled importance to morale. The greatest hardship is that letters home can go only once a month. The men in South Georgia are entitled to two "famgrams" a week, which are sent to the UK, and which relations in UK often do not realise they can use.

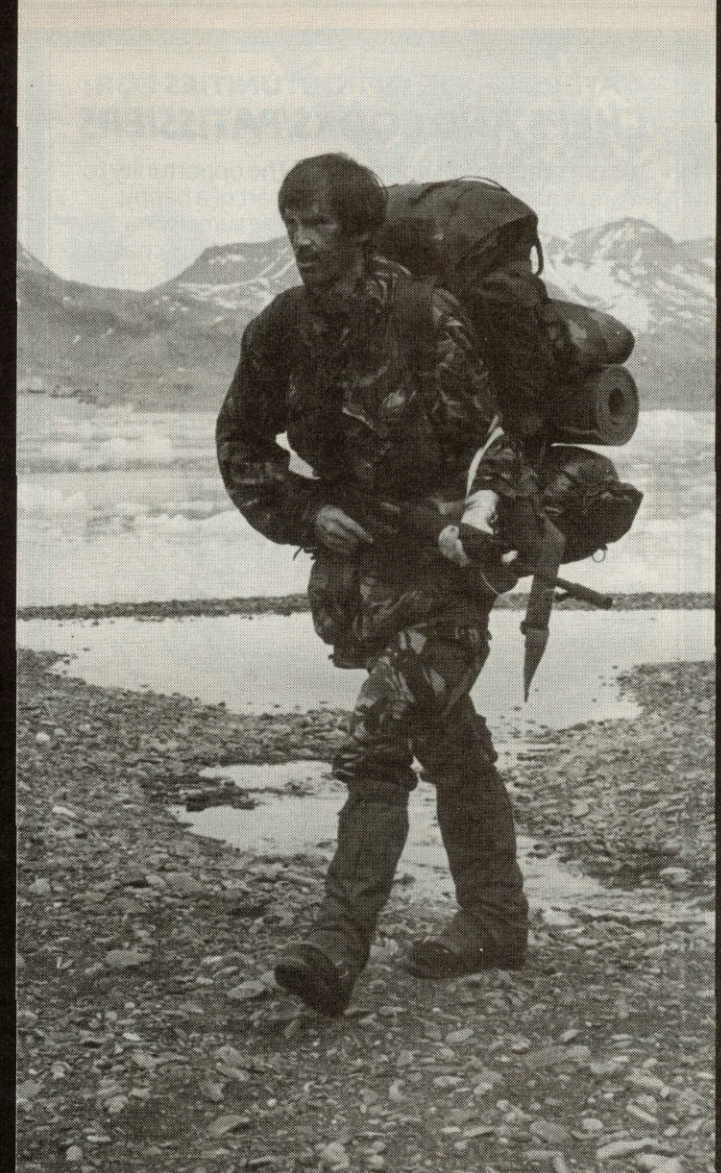
Despite the age of the buildings, the accommodation is surprisingly comfortable — corporals and above have their own rooms, otherwise there are two to a room.

The engineers (51 Field



Pictures: Sgt Phil Cadman

One of South Georgia's hazards met during patrols — a not so friendly island inhabitant shows its disapproval



Squadron RE) were responsible for the maintenance of buildings and services, including the all important power station and boat support.

Headed by Sgt David Newbury, the men in the detachment were specially selected for their trades, including fitters, plumbers, electricians and joiner/carpenters. Their assets included two tractors and a small dumper, and equipment left by BAS, which proved both a blessing and a problem.

The workshops contain machines ranging from circular saws to millings machines, and a reasonable stock of stores.

The problem is that many of the machines work to imperial measurement, while the spares from the UK and Falklands are often metric.

Because South Georgia is at the end of a long logistic chain, the engineers have to improvise and cannibalise while they wait for replacements, which can range from spare parts for the boilers to wiring for lights on the one and only street. According to Sgt Newbury: "It's a sappers' paradise because you've got to use initiative and resourcefulness all the time. We keep as much as we can

Against the background of the icy waters of Carlita Bay in South Georgia, Major Bob Wilby, OC Troops South Georgia, sets off on patrol

working, because we have little or no back up kit."

Each RE detachment sets itself a project — the previous detachment from 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron devised a filter system turning overspill from the diesel filter in the generating shop into "fresh" water.

The 51 Field Squadron RE detachment planned to repair the fabric of Grytviken church, a Norwegian building dating from 1913, when they could find spare time from their six-day week.

For such an isolated place morale is high. The men are chosen for their motivation, skills and good health; the last is important since medical facilities are limited, although there is a doctor in the garrison. Dr Walter Bennici's services are rarely required — one of his tasks is the preparation of reindeer antlers from the herd which have to be culled on the island. The limited number of antlers are highly prized by the men — after all, living at the gateway to the Antarctic has to have its perks!

A member of the engineer detachment readies a Gemini inflatable to collect the airdrop from a Hercules into nearby Cumberland Bay



One of the essential links in the supply chain to South Georgia is the monthly ship. A gazelle from 658 Sqn AAC moves stores from RFA Sir Bedivere to the garrison at Grytviken



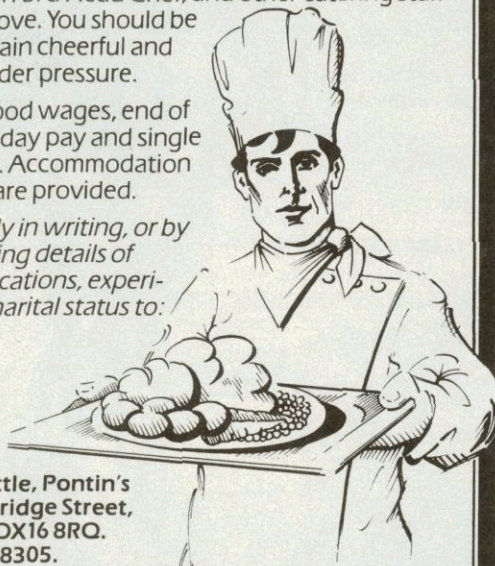
L/Cpl Tom Lindus of 2 Queens writes a letter home in his room at Shackleton House, Grytviken in South Georgia

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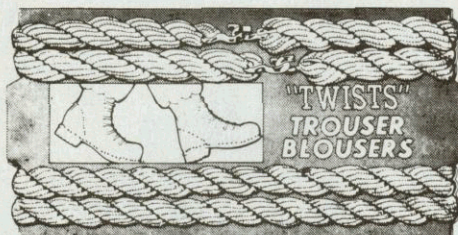
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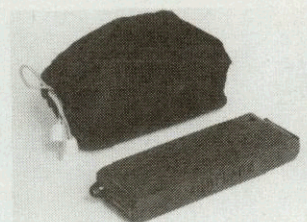
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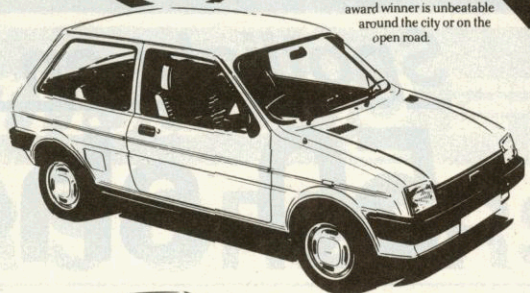
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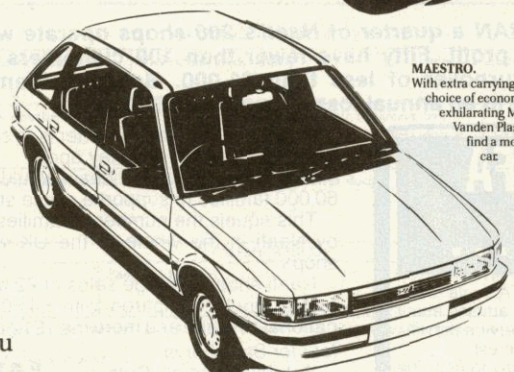


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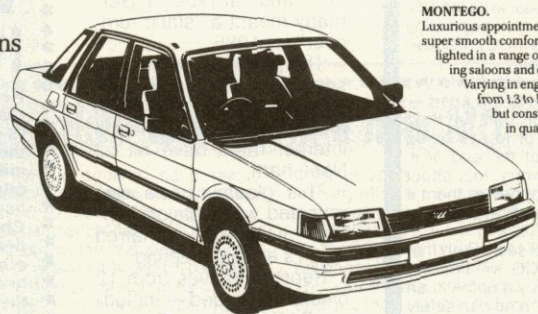
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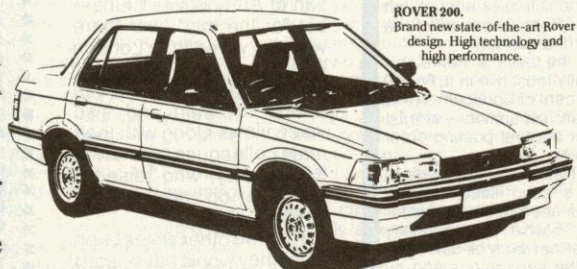
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The Government's White Paper on social security benefits for students suggests changes in student entitlement for supplementary, housing and unemployment benefit.

Why the need? There are more than 100,000 claims from students during the short vacations with a total benefit cost of some £4 million.

In the long vacations there are more than 300,000 claims, with an average of 180,000 students receiving benefit at any one time. These costs are estimated at around £65 million.

Housing benefits cost around £40 million in term time and short vacations and exceed £10 million in long vacations.

Some students claim supplementary benefit from one address and housing benefit from another (this is illegal).

Twenty years ago virtually no students claimed social security. Today the bill is approaching £120 million and every £ paid out costs 65p to administer.

For students whose Service parents are in the

UK the effects are the same as for all other students.

But for those whose parents are serving overseas, things could get difficult as it is the Government's intention to return to the former position where students were helped by parental grants and by their own holiday earnings.

On behalf of these

students I have submitted the following points to the Government and the MoD:

1. Students who have no home base in the UK because parents are serving overseas.
2. Cannot claim supplementary or equivalent benefit overseas during long vacations?
3. No local overseas allowance during the long

holidays?

4. Few chances of a job overseas during the holidays?

5. No disturbance allowance for parents?

6. If the proposed board and lodging rule comes into force, how will it affect our students? Will they have to move from temporary accommodation every few weeks dur-

ing the holidays?

7. The exclusion of all students in halls of residence from housing benefit — how will this affect students whose homes are overseas?

Travel to and from the UK is also an extra financial burden, especially if you happen to be a male student. For at the age of 18 the Forces Rail Card

comes to an end.

But if you have a sister who is a student, she can keep hers until she reaches 21. So student sons of Servicemen have to fork out £10 for a student rail card.

These extra costs, on top of the difficulties of obtaining mandatory and discretionary grants, help create a bleak financial picture for

students whose parents are serving overseas.

And in addition these obstacles are not taken into account by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body when considering Servicemen's pay.

A quick line to those interested in adventure... Operation Raleigh 1987/88 are already seeking young venturers aged 17-22.

More information later, but as a starter those in Germany should contact Captain Marc Moody RAOC, Osnabrück Detachment, ASU 1 Ord Bn, BFPO 36, by April 18 to attend the selection weekend on May 3/4 in the Harz Mountains.

UK-based applicants can get a form from any Trustees Savings Bank.

Spotlight on Naafi's year of trade

50 shops lose money

MORE THAN a quarter of Naafi's 200 shops operate without making a profit. Fifty have fewer than 100 customers and a monthly turnover of less than £1,000. Between them they contribute to an annual loss in excess of £250,000.

SSAFA says...

We at SSAFA have been reading your articles about houses for Service families with great interest.

There seems to us to be two prime issues. The first is that Servicemen and their families appear to be the only element of our population totally at the mercy of house price inflation.

Their only answer to this seems to be to live apart — at least for part of their service — or to risk being homeless at the end of it. Wives do worry, too, about what will happen to them if their husbands are killed in service.

It does not seem likely that a young NCO will find the money to buy a home in an area in which he can safely and readily let it, fully furnish it and still have enough left over to equip and pay for a married quarter.

If he buys a home, his family must live in it. For 90 per cent of Servicemen this means separation — at least after the first posting order arrives.

This, of course, leads to the second issue. Fighting units need to be a community. Sense of community must inevitably be damaged by the separations and by the weekend disappearing act performed by those who should be key figures in the team.

Less team spirit... less enjoyment... less incentive to go on being a Service family. SSAFA's uniformed staff and UK network voluntary workers hear daily of unhappiness attributable directly to the housing problem, but I wonder what the loss is in Service efficiency? Keep up the good work, Anne. We have been gathering evidence so that we too can press the Service family case with the Government.

But because Naafi's charter is to serve the Services, they have to stay open.

A major supermarket chain would look for 60,000 families to support a single store.

This equals the number of families served by Naafi in the whole of the UK with 200 shops.

Naafi shops average sales of £2 a square foot a week, compared with £4.60 for the national average and more than £12 a square foot for Sainsburys.

But this is not all. Cuts in LOA, reductions in Servicemen and families in Germany meant a "static turnover" for 1985.

The privatisation of various schemes, particularly catering, pressure on profit margins, inflation and rising interest rates have all hit Naafi hard.

This gloomy news was revealed when Major General JDG Pank chaired Naafi's annual meeting.

Representatives from 12 districts attended — including BAOR and the Federation of Army Wives Clubs — but for the third year there were no wives from London District.

It is important that wives attend to listen and also voice views along with their male colleagues, as did Mrs KR Doherty, who raised a question on profits from families' shops.

Had the other wives been there they would have heard that Naafi paid out £8 million in rebate and discounts and £600,000 to Service central funds. Another £900,000 was also set aside to help maintain their rebate scheme at four per cent during the current year.

In addition, revenue from gaming machines yielded £4 million for unit funds and £800,000 was injected into club improvement funds from amusement machines.

All good stuff and a tremendous achievement since this money helps pay for sports equipment and

but they paid out £8m in rebates

WHY CHERYL KEEPS RUNNING

Helping other people is the reason Cheryl Page runs. At 15 she has covered thousands of sponsored miles to raise £7,000 for crippled and handicapped people. Cheryl did her good deeds quietly, but others noticed and her name was one of the 150 of the thousands put forward for a Child Achievement Award. Now Cheryl, the daughter of Lt Col Brian Page, RAOC, has received recognition for her marathon efforts, receiving her medal from TV weather girl Winsey Willis at London's Guildhall. Cheryl's ambition now is to run in the 1992 Olympics — and she'll keep on her sponsored running as training for that goal.

units rely so heavily on this.

If it wasn't for Naafi where would the Services get this money? Impossible to say. Yet there seems to be an active mood to avoid buying at Naafi. The grass for many, it seems, is greener on the other side of the fence.

A sad state of affairs, especially as Naafi spent more than £250,000 renovating clubs and shop buildings owned by the MoD or



NAAFI TELLS ITS OWN STORY

the Services. They did this to keep standards high.

This is well outside their terms of reference, yet their concern is manifested by this action, for the PSA have no funds to do this.

IMPROVED

But better news came from managing director Brian Whitaker who reported success with Naafi's Reach for the Stars sales campaign,

an improved photographic developing and printing service and an extended insurance cover scheme for expensive electrical goods.

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong Home tel: Camberley 29653

DOCTOR'S ORDERS

SERVICE wives are slow to sign on with a new doctor when their husbands are posted.

A survey, called Project 305, reveals that only 50 per cent of Service wives signed on within the first month of a new posting with just under the remaining half taking up to three months. The rest, a small percentage, never bother to register.

Smedley Hydro, the medical documents bank on Merseyside, has a special department dealing solely with the Services' medical documents.

But, sadly, as we can see from the survey figures, the fault clearly lies with people not bothering to register.

Smedley Hydro stress the importance of completing registration form F MED 246 (right).

It's fairly simple, but numerous people fill in the box marked forenames with their nicknames. This is not acceptable since nicknames are not listed by the NHS. Fill in the box as on your birth certificate.

Similarly, the box requiring the National Health Service number is often filled with a National Insurance number. I made the same mistake, if that's any help!

The box asking for other surnames means a woman's maiden name or, if she has remarried, her former married name. The rest of the form should cause no trouble.

You may well ask why all the

details? This is because with 600,000 Smiths, more than 20 spellings of Shepherd, numerous ways of spelling Nichols and about 80 common surnames, the NHS needs all the help it can get to keep the records straight.

To delay registering with a new doctor, or filling in form F MED 246 incorrectly, can take weeks to the normal time it takes for documents to clear the system.

LONG WAIT

You can wait months if you don't get it right or miss signing on. Imagine what happens if you have an accident or are taken ill.

This becomes even more critical if you are overseas, since documents take time to reach places such as Hong Kong, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

So sign on now and save the possibility of a lot of heartache and agonising.

But before you do, check that your National Health Service number is correct.

Write your number, your husband's and children's on the wives' emergency card — issued with the Wives' Guide. And while you are at it, check those school health records — see SOLDIER'S last issue.

Naafi has been going a long time... long before anyone currently serving signed on. But few know much of its history. To help put you in the picture Naafi has produced videos which are available through regional or district managers. All you have to do is ask.

The Professionals Serving the Professionals: a 20 minute video on Naafi's history, organisation, policies and services. Particularly suitable for recruit audiences.

What Price Naafi? Naafi's pricing policy explained. Suitable for wives

clubs and customer relations committees (15 minutes).

Behind the Wire: Naafi contract catering coping with difficult conditions at the Molesworth cruise missile base (12 minutes).

The EFI on Active Service: The training of Naafi's own reservists and their role on exercise or in times of war (15 minutes).

Why Naafi? The role and the infrastructure of Naafi (18 minutes). Presented by William Wollard.

The Institute's insurance and building societies facility in Germany now extends to five centres and 16 satellite locations. Mr Whitaker also reminded the meeting that Naafi's salesmen

receive no commission, being paid the same for every insurance policy.

Mr Whitaker told how Naafi had negotiated favourable terms for those hiring self-drive vehicles from Godfrey

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE			F MED 246
Surname (block letters)	Forenames (block letters)	National Health Service No.	
Any former or other surnames	Previous medical treatment by > service medical officer/NHS doctor (*Delete as applicable)		Date of Birth Day : Mth : Year
Previous service medical unit or name and address of last NHS doctor			
DEPENDANT OF			
Number	Rank and Name	Ship/Regt., Corps/RAF Command	
Please transfer the medical record of the above-named person to the service medical authority at the following address			
Signature			Date

How to settle in a new MQ

Some MQ occupants have raised queries on the items to which they are entitled when taking over a quarter.

In some districts items are left in the quarter during the occupancy, but not replaced when lost, broken or damaged until the new occupant takes over.

In other districts a *Get You In* pack is provided on loan — either the full pack or an option to provide only those items which the new occupant requires.

Additional quantities of items are available in special welfare circumstances at the discretion of OC ASU.

The proposed new AFA 10 form has a section where MQ applicants can say whether they require a complete *Get You In* pack or parts of it.

This will enable the ASU to have early warning of the needs of incoming occupants.

There will also be columns for requesting items for wharfing or to have children's items available — cot, high chair, playpen.

Every effort will be made by the ASU to provide all items required.

If any items are not available from the main issuing depot, 7 MU the ASU will endeavour to supply in lieu items. *Get You In* pack consists of: blanket bed double two; blanket bed single two per bed; blanket cot two per cot; pillows two per double bed and one per single bed; pillow slip one per pillow; sheet double two per bed; sheet single two per bed; sheet cot two per cot; iron electric one; kettle electric one (except for MQs with gas cookers); kettle tea 4-pint one (where electric kettle is not provided); pan frying one; saucepan 4-pint two; cup tea six; saucers four; plate dinner four; plate soup four; pot tea one; glass 1/2 pint six; fork table large four; knife dessert four; knife table large four; spoon desert four; spoon tea four; broom push head one.

Davis Europcar, but conversely reported that moves to set up a deal with a travel agency offering cheap rates for Servicemen, ended "lukewarm at best."

As in the past Naafi's budget account scheme was spotlighted by the difference offered by Royal Navy cardholders and those in the Army.

An RN cardholder can buy groceries on account, but a soldier cannot.

And before anyone below the rank of lance corporal can have a card, a CO must give his approval. The chairman promised he would again look into these points.

Benbecula, too, got a mention about the difficulties in supplying the island; and Osnabrück's mobile shop is soon to become static.

And I got an assurance from the chairman that improved facilities for wheelchair users, women, and baby-changing facilities would be included in any new Naafi shop plans and, where possible, where modernisation was being undertaken.

A last point to remember: if the Services don't support Naafi, then rebates, discounts and cash for central funds will reduce and everyone will be a loser.



Rover's tale touches Rita's heart!

WHEN Rita-Maria Breckons (right in picture) appears at the Soest Animal Home, it is always a happy occasion for Ursula Schuricht (centre) who is the head of the Home. For Rita's name stands for generosity as far as donations towards the stray cats and dogs go. As in the past, she has again presented the animal

home with a cheque for more than DM 1,000, this time with her friend Hanna Lepingwell (left). The two young British women, who both work for the Army in Korbecke, collected the cash through sponsored swimming in the Korbecke indoor pool. By swimming 40 lengths each they collected the promised money from

friends and sponsors in the local business world. But this was not the first spectacular effort by Rita to help the animal home. Last year she showed athletic enthusiasm for the animals by lacing up her hiking boots and walking 20 kilometres to present the home with a generous cash gift. Ursula Schuricht says

this year's contribution will be used for new dog cages which are desperately needed. Both she and Rita stress the need for continued contributions to the animal home. Animal lovers at Korbecke, you have been warned. Rover and his canine pals need their daily varieties of biscuits.

LOVE IS...

What's love? See the Oxford English Dictionary for a full definition, but for Lieutenants Michael and Suzanne Jones love is... the challenge of the Territorial Army. During the week they are plain Mr and Mrs, but at weekends they put on their uniforms to become officers in the TA's 33 Signal Regiment at Chester. Michael and Suzanne met as students when serving in Manchester and Salford Universities OTC.

Michael, 25, was studying electrical engineering while Suzanne, 23, was reading French and European studies. It's just as well the two are on the same wavelength when it comes to the TA for Michael serves with the regiment's 80 Squadron in Chester, while Suzanne is with 59 Squadron in Liverpool. They are pictured during a break in a TA exercise which took them to the top

of the aptly named Winter Hill in Lancashire. The exercise tested their communication skills and covered large areas of the north west. As the temperature dipped well below freezing, Suzanne said: "I think some people think we're nuts doing this! But it's so different from the normal day-to-day routine. "You have the responsibility to do a job inside a time limit and to do it properly."



LIEUTENANTS SUZANNE AND MICHAEL JONES: not nuts!

Up the Bens and down the glens

How's this for a marathon... mountaineer Craig Caldwell has just finished a 12-month stint of climbing every mountain in Scotland higher than 2,500ft. He climbed his 499th a couple of weeks ago — Ben Lomond — in aid of the Erskine Hospital for disabled ex-Servicemen, which needs £1.5 million a year. Craig started his mountain marathon on February 15, 1985, walking

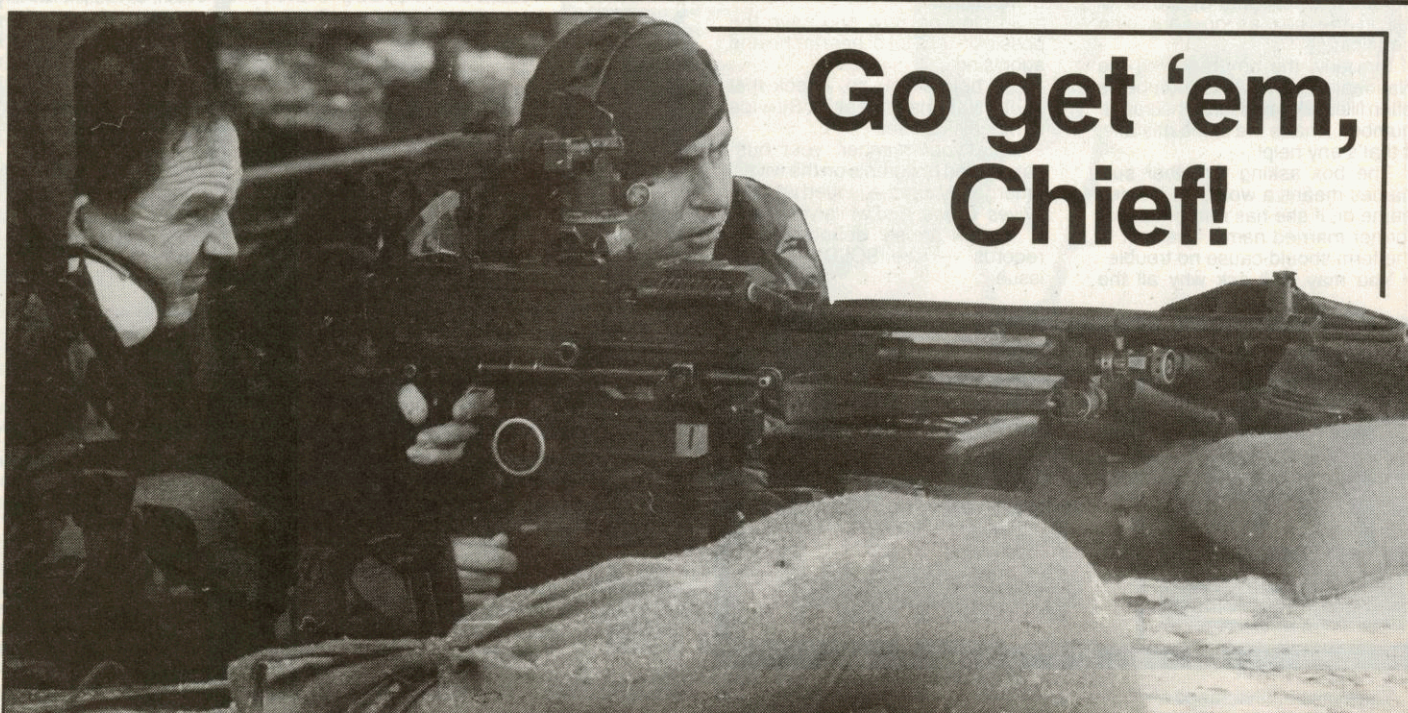
more than 3,000 miles and cycling 2,500 between climbs. And he did it in the coldest summer since 1928 and the wettest since 1897 to become the first person to perform the climbing feat in one continuous self-propelled journey. Craig is a 26-year-old agent for sports equipment. He took a year off work to climb for Erskine and spent £4,000 of his own money on it.

Memories are jolted at Wallop

Memories of July 9 1943 will come flooding back for those of the 1st Airborne Division who took part in Operation Husky — the invasion of Sicily — if they visit the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop. For the museum has just unveiled a restored WACO CG4A (Hadrian) troop-carrying glider. Of the 14,000 American-built gliders, only four are preserved, two in the USA, one in France, and now

the latest one at Middle Wallop. The glider carries the markings of the aircraft which Staff Sergeant Andy Andrews flew. Andy Andrews (now Professor Andrews of the University of British Columbia), who was decorated with the DFM for his part in the attack, came from Canada for the event, as did two of the gliders' "passengers," Brigadier Sir Mark Henniker and Brigadier OL Jones.

Go get 'em, Chief!



Testing his skill with the 7.62mm GP machine gun is Defence Secretary George Younger. He was visiting BAOR for a

first-hand look. While there he called on the 3rd Royal Anglian Regiment and met Lance Corporal Gary

Fenwick who gave him an instant lesson in firing the weapon. Said Mr Younger, who took over from former defence chief

Michael Heseltine: "I have seen the command structure of the British Forces and some of the equipment which has been in

service for some time..." Mr Younger added that he was "very impressed" with some of the new kit.

PEOPLE

Drivers run rivals into the ground

Two speedy drivers from 66 Squadron RCT crushed rivals in the UNFICYP road relay championships in Nicosia.

Mark Carson and Darrin Thomas stepped on the gas to put the UNFICYP Support Regiment ahead of ten teams from five nations in the 6 x 3 mile race. Since joining the Cyprus-based unit, Carson and Thomas have vied for the title of the fastest.

This race set the stage for a showdown and after much pre-race needling, Carson ran the first three miles in 15.06 mins.

After four more nail-biting laps, Thomas set out on the final leg. When he broke the tape there was tension before his time was announced... it was exactly the same.

Now Carson and Thomas, the fastest men in UNFICYP, still have to resolve their speed problem.



MARK CARSON, DARRIN THOMAS: still bathing.

How Chris faced a make-up test



LT CHRISTINE KNIFE: memories

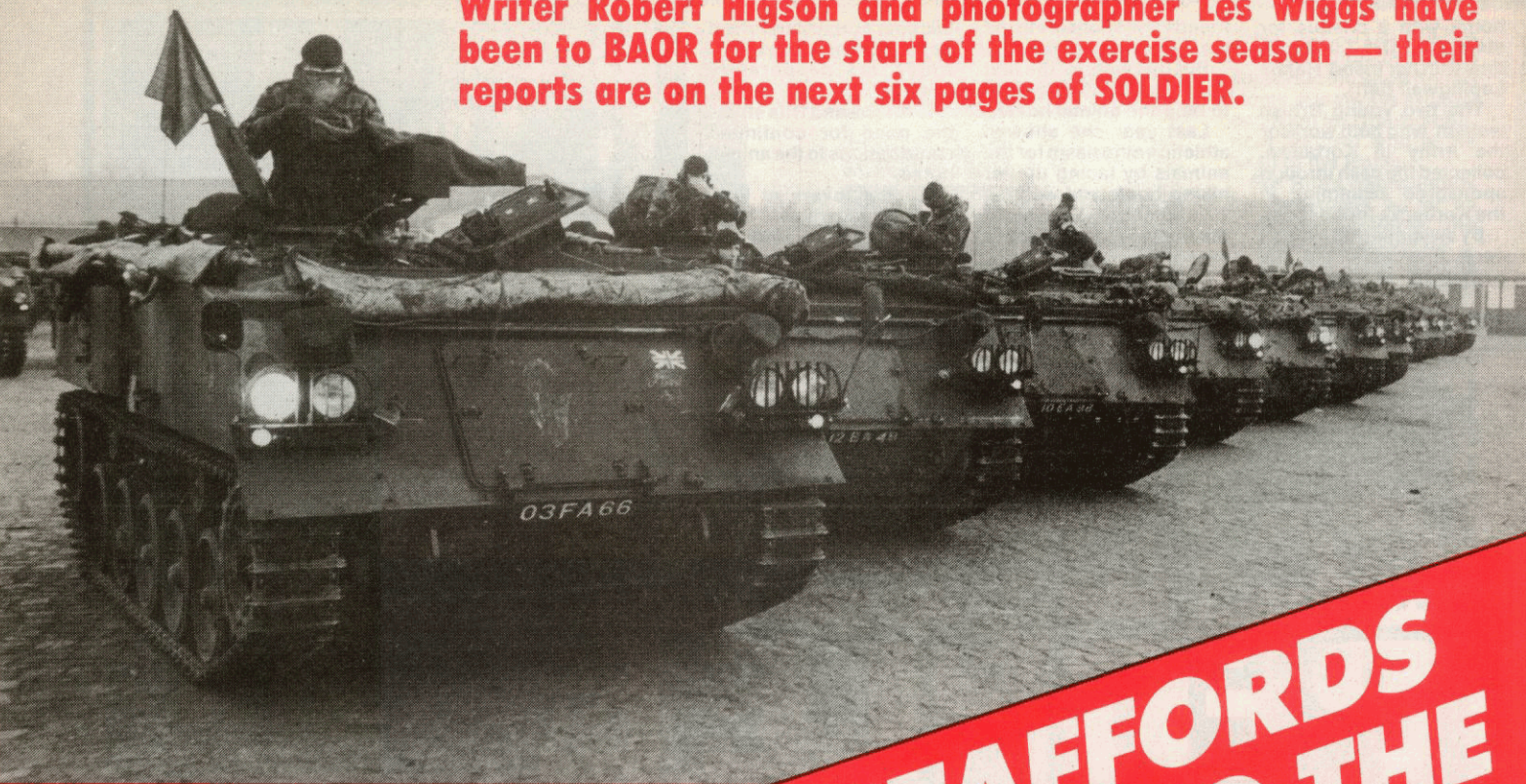
ACE time for Chris

Get your teeth into this!

It's not a bad thing to be a DIY man. But there are limits... every man to his own trade and all that. There has been a report of a case — or perhaps cases — of soldiers repairing their broken dentures with superglue. Talk about coming to a

sticky end. If these would-be dental mechanics don't watch it, they'll certainly come to a rather expensive one. For they should be aware that any future DIY repairs to false teeth can result in a £47 bill. That'll put the bits on 'em!

Writer Robert Higson and photographer Les Wiggs have been to BAOR for the start of the exercise season — their reports are on the next six pages of SOLDIER.



The newly mechanised battalion lines up on the MT square at Fallingsbostel awaiting the command to move out ▲

Camouflage covers for the Ferret of the battalion's brigade liaison officer as it beds down for the night at the Tac HQ ▼

STAFFORDS TAKE TO THE TRACKS



When the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), left barracks for the first exercise of the year there was a lot more to it than usual early season shake out.

Only four weeks previously 1 Staffords had arrived at St Barbara's Barracks, Fallingsbostel, to begin a six year stint as a BAOR mechanised infantry battalion — a role they had not undertaken since they left Osnabrück in the mid 1970s.

As the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Cottis, explained: "No one outside the sergeants' mess really has any mechanised experience so of course that has caused quite a lot of problems."

In their last job as a BAOR reinforcement battalion based in Colchester, 1 Staffords were officially equipped with the wheeled armoured personnel carrier, Saxon. But as the issue came rather late in their tour at a time when they were preoccupied with commitments to Northern Ireland and with conversion courses to the mechanised role, the Saxons remained virtually in mothballs.

So experience of operating out of APCs was rather thin on the ground. Exercise Iron Knot was

therefore devised to give companies a week in the field to sort out fundamental training for their sections and platoons before the battalion was joined by a squadron of Challenger tanks from the Royal Hussars to start practising their function as a battle group.

As the sun came up over Fallingsbostel one bitterly cold morning, 1 Staffords prepared to move out to the Soltau training area for the first time on their tracked AFV 432 troop carriers.

Later in the day, when the companies had dispersed to their allocated locations, WO1 (RSM) Dougie Forrest was able to say from the Tac HQ well hidden in a wood: "The discipline and move-out was very good considering it was the first for the battalion. I was quite impressed with the way they formed up and left on time."

"It's hard work at first," commented Major Noel Dawes, the 2i/c. "We are re-learning a lot of the lessons that those of us in the battalion ten years ago had forgotten. But it's a new challenge and we are enjoying it."

Driver and gunnery training was carried out in the UK last year. In Germany the emphasis had to be on how to use the APCs.

"Getting used to living out of a vehicle rather than living off your packs, that's the hardest thing,"



Privates David Colligan and Kevin Hudson, of Milan platoon, contemplate a draughty night under a basher

said RSM Forrest. "You've got to be able to pack the vehicle properly and know where everything is so you can turn to it straight away. You've got a lot more equipment to carry with the vehicles and living out of them is a lot more difficult than living off your normal pack."

"It's more difficult to hide of course. Camouflage and concealment are very important and they've got to get it right."

WO2 Derek Jones, the battalion's MT warrant officer, was one of those who could remember mechanised operations from the time in Osnabrück. He was quite happy about the change back although he agreed it was a lot more work with the APCs.

"But we really are better off now in as much as we can take more kit with us," he said. "When we are walking we've got a bergen on our back and it's quite a load. With the APC all they need to dive out of the back is their webbing and their weapon."

"There are two boiling vessels on board so that when you are moving you can actually be brewing up and as soon as you stop you've got your brew ready. Of course most of the guys now have their own gas cookers and because of the vehicles they can actually carry them."

Over at A Company's position where 2 Platoon was preparing to camp in the frigid east wind, there was less enthusiasm for the change of role. One of the APCs had come to rest on a slope — a common problem in a landscape rutted by tanks tracks — and the occupants were experiencing the difficulty of operating the heavy steel rear door in these conditions.

"Personally I'd rather be on my feet with all my kit on my back," said Sergeant Brent Allman, the platoon sergeant. "I think a lot of the lads are like that at the moment."

You've got your own kit on your back, you know where it all is and you're off. With this your kit is in different positions and it's hard to keep control of all your gear at the same time."

Lance Corporal Steve Turvey agreed: "I prefer foot soldiering. It's more reliable. These vehicles are always breaking down."

"It's all new to me so I suppose I'll have to get used to it," said Private Kenneth Basford. "In a way it's easier because you don't have to walk so far. In another way it's harder because you've got to adjust all the time. Inside you don't know where the hell you are and when you're going along and it's all bumps you get thrown about and disorientated."

"They've got to learn how to live out of the vehicles," explained the company OC Major Tom Cobley, "how to service them, all the basic things of hiding a vehicle, harbouring it, debussing and mounting attacks from it. So we start off at a gradual pace from section and platoon level, building up to company level at the end of the week. Next week the battalion will be thrown around by the CO."

Changes in operation were being practised right across the battalion. The recce platoon had changed its Foxes for CVR(T) Scimitars, the mortar platoon was grappling with problems of stowage and operation



Men of 2 Platoon, A Company, 1 Staffords, practise deploying out of their APC

from its AFVs rather than the one-ton Land Rovers it used in the past, and the mortar platoon — the only section of the battalion to have been on a conversion course at the School of Infantry, Netheravon — was learning more about the operation of its weapons from the back of its armoured vehicles.

The demands of the new form of transport were an important consideration for many, especially for foot soldiers accustomed to more personal responsibility.

"You haven't got to look after the vehicle when you man pack," said Private Glyn Lloyd, of the signals platoon, well wrapped up again the chill of the steel interior of his new switchboard and radio AFV.

"But here the vehicle comes first. Like when you finish an exercise and get back to camp. You've now got another two hours or maybe three on the vehicle before you can even think about yourself."

As the battalion prepared to bed down for its first night under bashers in the decidedly chilly Soltau conditions, another important aspect of the changeover was apparent — safety.

With men sleeping on the ground (the APCs offer no respite from the cold, rather the reverse)

it was obviously important for the safe conduct of night operations that everyone knew where they were. As Major Dawes said: "You don't want to squash a guy flat, which has happened in the past."

This aspect was of particular concern to the CO.

"The loading is probably the most difficult part of the change for the individual soldiers," he said, "but from my point of view it is the driving and commanding of the vehicles and the safety of the soldiers working around them, and everyone being aware of what an armoured vehicle can do if it is not driven safely."

At present 1 Staffords have about 170 men of all ranks trained to drive the 90 or so APCs. The training of drivers and commanders will continue throughout the year as will other aspects of the changeover including firing of GPMGs from under turrets.

Two companies are due to go to Canada with the Royal Hussars in late summer for battle group training at Bathurst and in the autumn the whole battalion will have its first big test in its new role on the 1 Armoured Division FTX Eternal Triangle.

En route to the Soltau training area. Wives had been knitting furiously to give APC commanders much needed protection against the numbing chill of the slip stream



Tanks on exercise can now fire lasers instead of blanks, so that ...

A HIT CAN'T BE MISSED

One of the main problems with exercises is that you can't actually fire at a live enemy. All you can do is to let off a blank round, or shout "bang" and wait for an umpire to assess the result.

A way round this difficulty is the new laser system known as SIMFICS. Not to be confused with the much more cumbersome SIMFIRE method, SIMFICS is designed to work through the computerised and laser operated IFCS (improved fire control system) now fitted to all tanks in Germany.

With this system an "enemy" tank successfully engaged will emit a plume of orange smoke and display a flashing orange light.

In the words of Major Tim Coombe, OC of C Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment: "SIMFICS allows the tank crew in dry training to operate as a crew, both in the loading and firing sequence. And that is a dramatic improvement in training value for a tank crew because all of them are involved all the time."

Major Coombe's squadron trialled the system on Highland Monarch, 22 Armoured Brigade's exercise last year, and found it worked extremely well. For the first time his tanks were able to engage each other with tangible results.

This year two other 1 RTR squadrons had their first taste of SIMFICS when the regiment

A 1 RTR Chieftain waiting to test fire its SIMFICS. One of the reflectors can be seen on the turret near the centre of the picture



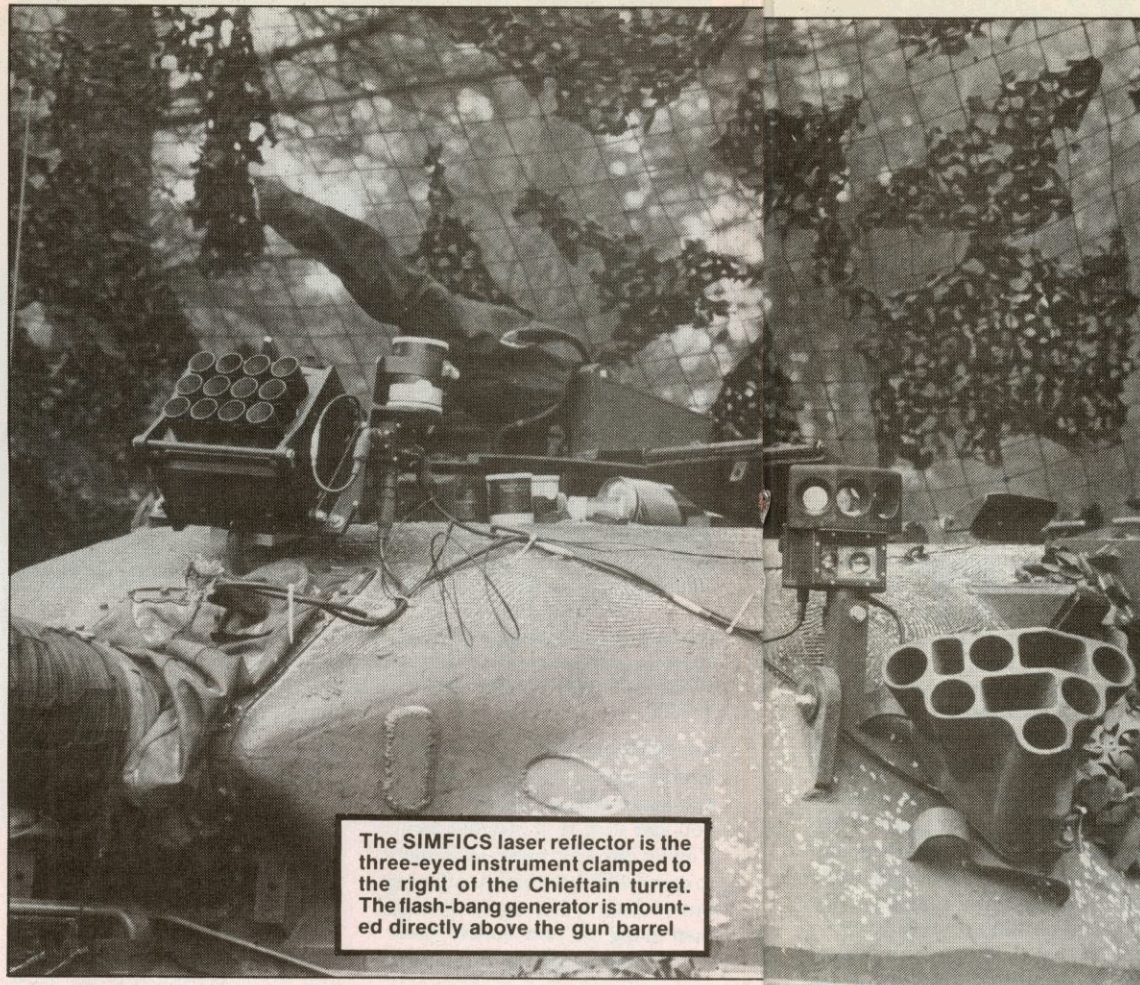
moved from its base at Hildesheim onto the Soltau training area for the first work out of 1986.

The tanks were fitted with four laser reflectors on their turrets to register hits. They were also equipped with flash-bang generators to indicate the firing of a shot.

There were other modifications as well. The SIMFICS laser rested inside the gun barrel with cables coming back into the turret through the breech. Inside the turret itself the so-called splash curtain, which protects the crew from shell fumes and flying metal splinters, had to be removed to make room for the wiring.

The wires, incidentally, have to be fitted with some care to prevent any problems when the turret is traversed.

On the projectile rack behind the loader's position there is now a logic unit which enables the loader to simulate the selection of different types of ammunition — fin-stabilised, armour-piercing or



The SIMFICS laser reflector is the three-eyed instrument clamped to the right of the Chieftain turret. The flash-bang generator is mounted directly above the gun barrel

high explosive.

"There's a built in delay in the loading of the logic unit," Major Coombe explained, "so that you can only fire a number of rounds in the same time as it would take with real shells. The loader has to sit there and press some buttons and the right switches. Otherwise the gunner and commander are doing what they should for real."

On firing, the OC added: "You get a good flash-bang from just above the barrel which is primarily designed for the opposition to be able to see you and to give them training value as well as observing themselves being engaged."

Major Coombe described SIMFICS as a training aid rather

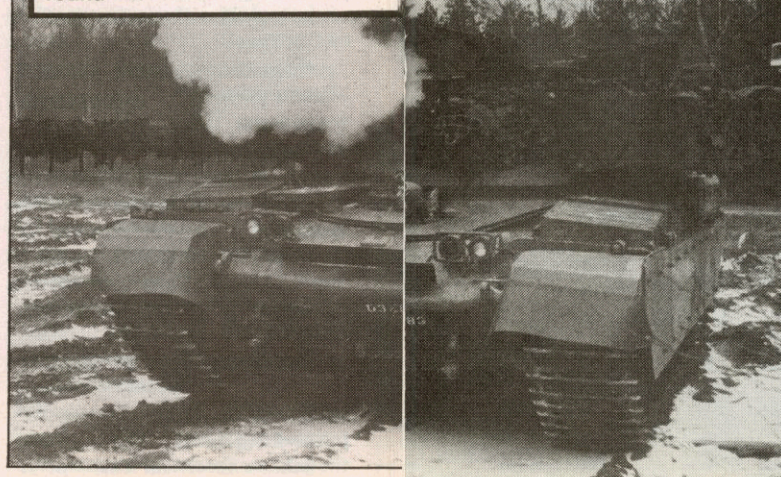
than a war games system.

"The idea is to give crews confidence in their kit," he said. "It doesn't matter so much if they are killed several times because in fact it is much easier to hit a target with this laser system than it would be with a normal round. The area around the tank which the laser 'sees' is about twice as big as the tank itself."

Nevertheless the reflectors on the tanks' turrets are still able to give an indication of a shot going left or right.

1 RTR are the first regiment to be equipped with the latest SIMFICS mark. They converted from light reconnaissance to Chieftains little more than a year

Flash, bang and a puff of white smoke. A Chieftain of C Squadron, 1 RTR, lets fly with a SIMFICS laser round



NEW HEATERS ARE 'NOT SO HOT'

The more intricate equipment now being placed inside the turrets of tanks requires delicate handling, and that can be a problem when the temperatures are way below zero.

Tanks, like all armoured vehicles, are not a particularly good place to be on a cold day — or for that matter a hot day. The more extreme the temperatures outside, the more extreme they become inside the steel body.

One of the heaters fitted inside the turret of a B Squadron tank

"Before it wasn't quite so critical because the equipment wasn't so technical or so detailed," said Major Nick Coombe, the OC of B Squadron, 1 RTR (no relation to his namesake, the OC of C Squadron).

"But with IFCS and things like SIMFICS coming on, you need to have feeling in your fingers just to calibrate and adjust the equipment."

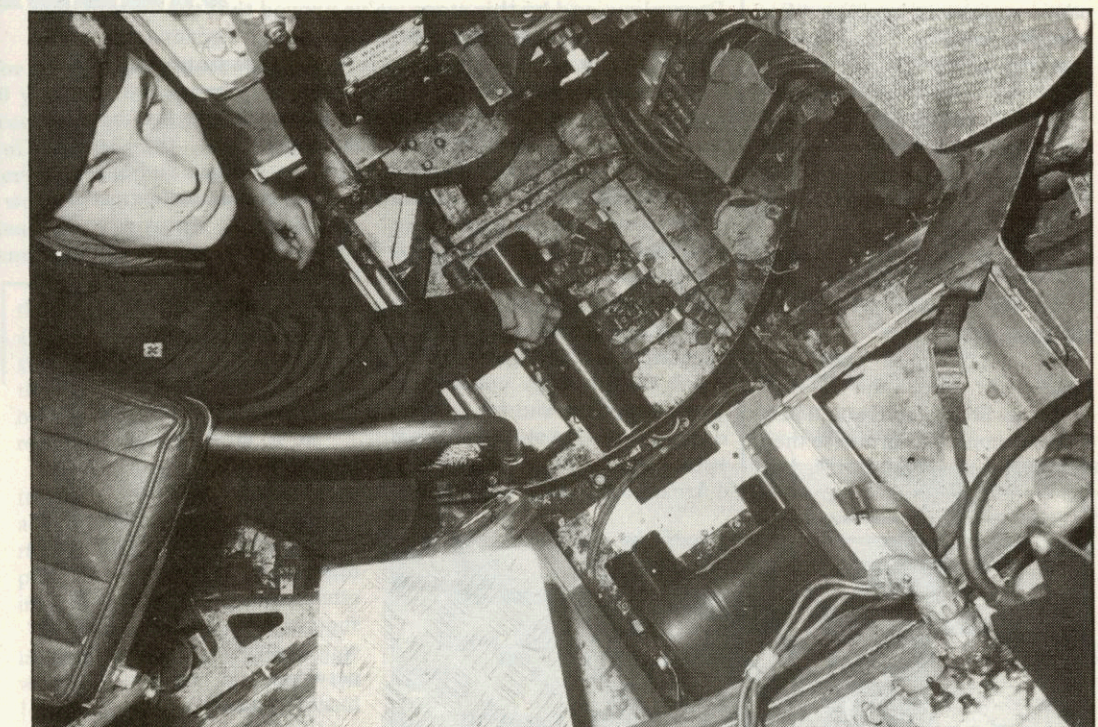
When the regiment moved to Soltau for its early season low level tactical exercise, aptly named Cold Start, part of B Squadron's function was to test the effective-

ness of newly installed heaters in six of their Chieftains.

Heaters were certainly no luxury in the prevailing conditions. Corporal Derek Bradley, one of the squadron tank commanders, described the drive in from the Soltau railhead to the training areas (when commanders are obliged for safety reasons to stand in their turrets with the hatches open) as "the coldest I have ever been in my life and I've skied at Aviemore and everything."

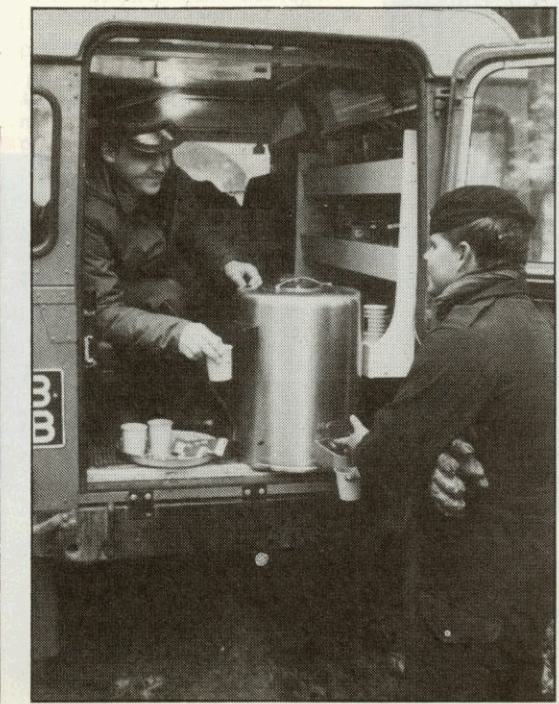
Even inside the tank, as Corporal Bradley's loader, Trooper Matt

continued on page 30



Welcome support in the field from Captain Anthony Symthe of the Salvation Army. Wherever the troops are, Captain Symthe knows where to find them. ▼

An older, but surer form of heater. Trooper Malcolm Gamble of B Squadron braves the intense cold with the help of more traditional technology ▼



Gardner explained, it was little better: "The wind comes through the tank itself, through the driver's hatch and up through the turret."

The idea of heaters is obviously attractive. But the trial didn't live up to expectations.

"When you think of a heater system in your car you tend to think of basking in a certain amount of warmth," Major Coombe said. "That hasn't happened. But having said that, for example when the tanks are static, I think we have recorded +4°. Not much, but it's better than -4°."

The heaters, three for each tank, were fans which worked off the electrical system.

"The disadvantage is," explained Major Coombe, "that you can't operate them all when you've got other equipment running. For example, when the main gun kit is running you have to switch one of them off, and when you are travelling you haven't got your main engine generating and you've got to switch another one off. When you are static you can have two on with the gun kit."

The crews with the heaters had been issued with thermostats and notebooks to record the ambient temperatures.

"It is not quite what they imagined, I think," the OC said.

"It was hoped there would be a certain amount of warmth so they could take their gloves off, but we've yet to see that happen."

PTARMIGAN TURNING OUT TOPS

There had been extreme disappointment, said Captain George Stubbings, adjutant of 1 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, that the Americans had opted for the French RITA battlefield communications system rather than the British Ptarmigan.

"But," he added, "we have just started the second year with Ptarmigan and by this stage we've proved that the system does work and while obviously there are some improvements and modification still to come, as time passes it improves and the men get more confident."

Captain Stubbings was speaking at a farm yard in the village of Hohenhausen, some 16 kilometres west of Herford, where 1 Armoured Division HQ had found a resting place during the 1 (British) Corps signals exercise Flying Falcon.

Behind him 1 ADSR's armoured and tracked signals vehicles were coupled with the modified staff AFVs for a field practice of communications and staff procedures, for the signals exercise was being held in conjunction with a 1 Armoured Division staff exercise.

The signallers had been disappointed with the American decision, Captain Stubbings said, not only because of the great efforts they had made to provide an MSE (mobile subscriber equipment) demonstration for the Americans, but also because of the financial loss to British industry.

However that was now all in the past, but the job of settling Ptarmigan down continued apace.

"All in all it's going well and proving a very reliable system," the adjutant continued. "It normally takes, discounting travelling time, approximately one hour to break down and one hour to re-establish the complex and for the shots to come in. Within that time we've established the telephone network and we are back in business again."

Under camouflage covers inside the barns, the signallers of 1 ADSR sat in their armoured SAS/MCs (secondary access switch and message centres) and monitored the links with the trunk nodes

Signalman Darren Birkin (left) and Sergeant Peter Jackson man the main SAS/MC ▼

hidden away on the wooded high ground above the village.

Most expressed quiet confidence in their second year with the new system but for others, like Corporal Joe Marsh, the driver of one of the SAS/MCs, there was now a considerable addition to the exercise workload with responsibility for seeing his tracked vehicle well secured on a railway flatcar, to the satisfaction of German officials, for the long and tedious journey down from Verden.

Elsewhere in the complex, Major Richard Sandy, the 2 i/c of 21 Engineer Regiment, from Neuburg, sat in his staff AFV planning theoretical mine fields and other sapper tasks over the network.

So far Ptarmigan had provided much greater ease of communications by taking the classified network down to the squadrons, he said. "We want to take it to the next level, down to troops operating on their own."

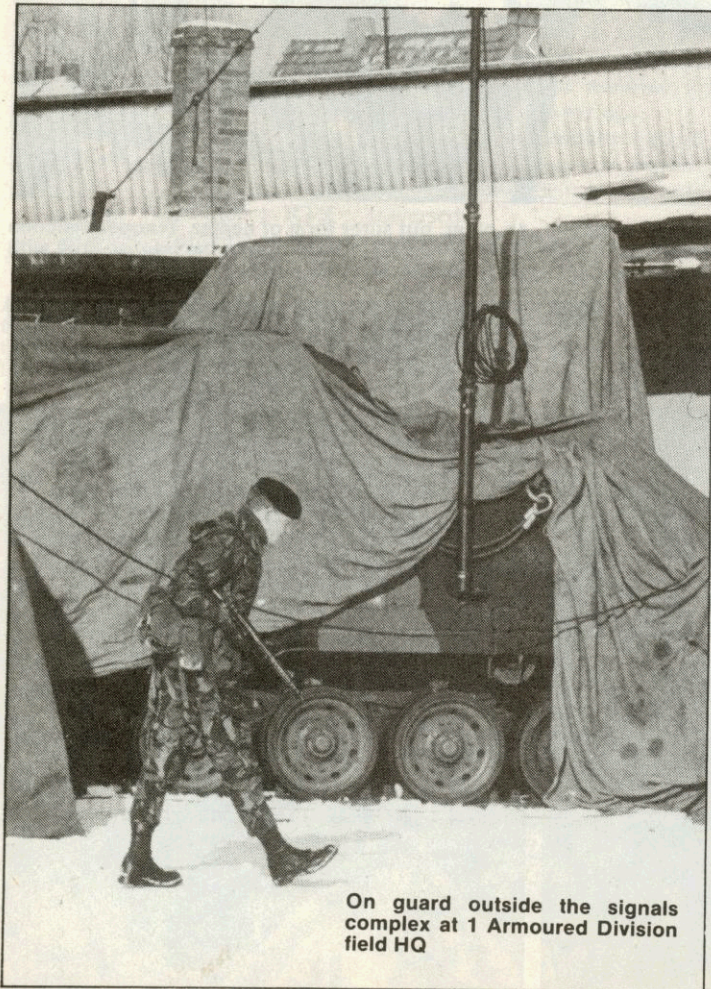
Major Glenn Waltham, a member of the TA watchkeepers pool badged Cameronian Scottish Rifles, was doing eight days of his annual training obligation keeping logs and maps up to date, answering telephones and radios on the G Ops day shift.

"Ptarmigan is very good actually, very useful," he said. "You've got so many different nodes, or various bits you can lock into that you know that once you have found something you can get through to anywhere in the Corps area."

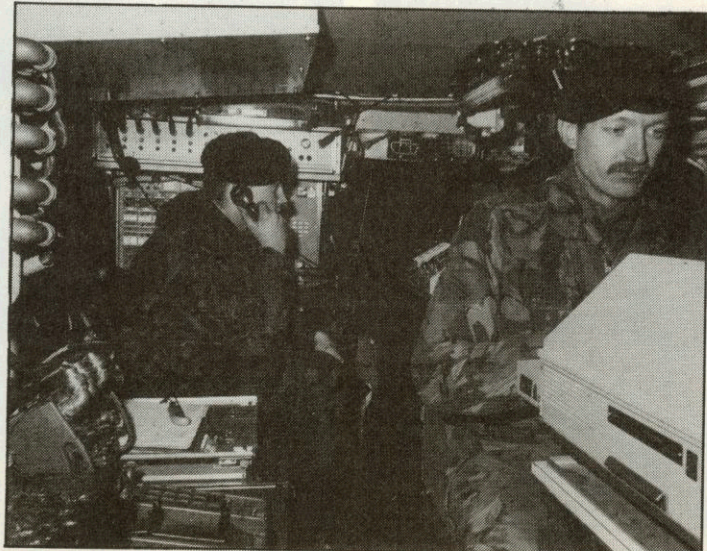
Another attachment to the Divisional HQ for this stage of the exercise was a group of 25 Gurkha signallers of 248 Signal Squadron, QGS, based in Hong Kong.

They were visiting their second Exercise Flying Falcon and owed the invitation to the fact that Lieutenant Colonel Mervyn Lee, the present CO of 1 ADSR, was their former OC.

Lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Tek Bahadur Gurung said that the men had been quite impressed with Ptarmigan, especially those who had only experienced radios before.



On guard outside the signals complex at 1 Armoured Division field HQ





ASSAULT ON THE ALLER

There wasn't much need for advice about not falling into the water when some 30 young soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, undertook watermanship training as part of their assault pioneers course.

Unfriendly looking ice floes were streaming down a section of the River Aller at a point just west of the battalion's base at Celle, where the troops were learning the basics of loading, unloading and manoeuvring assault boats.

Actually several had previously taken a ducking, including the chief instructor, Serjeant John Quinn, who had the misfortune to be knocked accidentally into the water by one of his own students.

The unscheduled swim lasted no more than 15 seconds which was quite sufficient. "It was freezing," Serjeant Quinn reported with no more than simple truth.

Asked how long he reckoned anyone could survive in the water at that temperature, he reflected for a moment and said: "About 20 minutes and then you'd be in serious trouble."

Such a time might seem ambitious to many people, but Serjeant Quinn is 3 RGJ's assault pioneer sergeant and he is used to doing things the hard way.

Indeed the courses he runs in

the depths of winter usually involve a swim across the Aller with the students stripped to the skin taking their kit in flotation packs. On the other side they are greeted with a reviving tot of rum.

It is all part of the survival training given to the trainees during a three week course in the wide ranging skills demanded of assault pioneers — explosives, mine clearing, wire laying and so forth.

"The course should normally last for six weeks, but I am afraid we've been cut down," said WO2 John Dennis, the battalion's training warrant officer. "At the moment they are being trained to pilot the boats safely and understand the safety rules and regulations of the assault craft. They practise putting the blokes in the

The trainee assault pioneers prepare to go in for the kill

right position so they don't make the boats unstable. And that can be quite complicated when you've got a full crew of guys in there with webbing, equipment, explosives and everything that an infantryman carries around."

The training started with the men carrying little more than their rifles and ended with them embarking in full kit and bergen. At one stage a river assault on an enemy camp was staged with the aim, as one of the instructors put it, of "painting some sort of battle picture for the guys so that they know there's an aim to the thing."

Members of the training team, dressed in the uniforms of a notoriously unfriendly Eastern power (courtesy 7 Intelligence Company at Bielefeld), prepared camp while three assault boats came upstream on their outboard motors.

Battle commenced amid a great flurry of thunderflashes and smoke grenades as the trainee assault pioneers ground their boats on the icy banks and rushed enthusiastically into the fray.

The object of the exercise was to grab a prisoner for questioning. Rifleman Carl Symes, a member of the training team, was eventually hauled off into one of the boats to face interrogation back at base.

Watermanship — one of the most popular aspects of the course according to Corporal Gary Castle, another training team member — was virtually the last subject on the agenda. Earlier the students had tackled explosives, learned about booby traps and trip wires and practised breaching a mine field at night in full NBC kit.

The climax to the course is a written examination on sapping skills which Serjeant Quinn obtains from the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham.

"The pass rate is very high," said WO Dennis. "Serjeant Quinn sends the papers off to be marked at Chatham and gets some very complimentary letters in reply."

Those who do pass are entitled to wear the assault pioneer badge of cross axes on their sleeve. They could join one of the assault pioneer sections attached to each company, or they could simply be held in reserve as an ordinary rifleman until normal turnover produces a vacancy.

"A good assault pioneer," said WO Dennis, "has got to be strong in mind and body. He's got to be a bit of a jack of all trades — fiddling with batteries one moment, engines the next; blowing up things, digging holes in the ground. Quite a good qualification to have really."

The troops leap ashore



Ready to land under a barrage of flares, smoke grenades and thunderflashes

Attack has succeeded and Rifleman Carl Symes is taken away for questioning (bottom right)



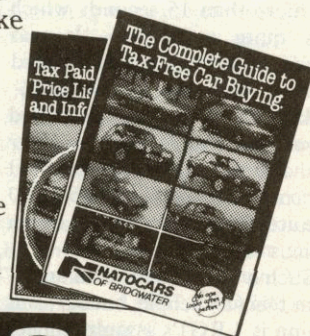
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SWIMMERS BREAK THE ICE

WHEN friends and colleagues from British and German diving clubs met up at Celle in north Germany for their annual get-together they had more trouble than usual in breaking the ice.

The problem was that although the atmosphere was as warm and friendly as ever, the weather definitely was not, and the divers had problems in achieving their main party piece — the River Aller Charity Swim — because the river had frozen over!

Normally the swim starts a few miles out of town and the swimmers float down-river to the town centre, cheered on by scores of onlookers lining the banks.

This year, however, the river had almost completely iced over and, while the swimmers shifted to a new starting point closer to the finish and donned wet suits ready for the polar plunge, German rescue boats were hastily pressed into service as miniature ice-breakers.

Nothing daunted, the bathers were soon in the swim of things, dodging mini icebergs as they clung to rafts and floated downstream for a candlelit finish.

The British Army divers came from 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment and 2nd Royal Tank Regiment — the combined 'One Divers Club' — 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 14 Signal Regiment (EW) Royal Signal, all of whom are members of 1st Armoured Division.

FIRST TIME CUP FOR WRAC

THE Army women's team completely outran the other two Services in the inter-Service cross country championships at RAF Hendon, taking the inter-Service cup for the first time in its history.

Packed together, the Army team crossed the finish line in second to seventh places, beaten only by the RAF's Great Britain runner SACW Karen Holdsworth.

The strength of the Army's talent was shown by the fact that their two reserve runners, Private Ann Marie Mullholland and Private Deborah Crowley, finished in front of most of the Royal Navy and RAF team members.

The Army team was Sergeant Maggie Smith, Second Lieutenant Mandy Tindell, Captain Sue Parker, Sergeant Lyn Higgs, Lance Corporal Kathy Willoughby, and Private Celia Duffield.

more sport on page 50

TAKING AIM AT WARCOP



FOLKLORE on the 24,000-acre majestic Warcop Training Area on the eastern edge of the Lake District ironically has a legendary myth among the resident military of "nine months' winter and three months' bad weather."

Cynical view or not, the training area which is one of six Principal Training Areas (PTAs) in use by the Army in the UK, still manages to put 300 units through their paces each year which translates into 110,000 man days on the facilities of 25 available ranges.

It has, therefore, one of the most densely concentrated range complexes of any in the country.

For instance, Warcop has three attack ranges, a Battle Shooting Range (BSR), an infantry anti-tank range, a GPMG sustained fire (SF) range, an anti-ambush range and an artillery range for 105mm Light Gun or 155mm FH-70.

Warcop, in essence, is a field firing range used by a cross-section

of Army, Royal Marines and RAF Regiment. Chieftain main battle tanks, Fox wheeled combat recce vehicles, Scorpion light tanks and Scimitars all take to the ranges to loose off their varied ordnance.

So good are the facilities at the 980-resident training population capacity camp to the west of the Pennines that 200 to 300 infantry can be engaged in live firing while a battery of Royal Artillery with their FH-70s or 105mm Light Guns are in action elsewhere.

Simultaneously, if required, two Royal Armoured Corps squadrons could be live firing while an infantry battalion is busy on dry training on the north-west corner of the military area.

A panoramic training area ranging in height from 700 to more than 2,000 feet.

As one veteran instructor at Warcop said: "It's the sort of

country where you don't take liberties, with the average fell height of 2,590 feet around you."

The training advantages to be had at Warcop are indeed surprising to those in a car passing by the camp entrance near the 17th century Chamley Arms pub.

The 800-metre assault course has 17 obstacles including aerial slide, and visitors to the rigours of the Warcop syllabus usually do a seven-mile road march or run, followed by a three-minute break... and then live firing on the ranges!

The Battle Shooting Range has four lanes with ten differing firing positions on it and uses electronic targets.

The Moving Mechanical Trainer (MMTT) has six targets graduated into four speeds; walking

to sprinting.

Added to this is a 350-metre railway line moving facility on the anti-tank ambush range. There is also a 45-target defence range plus the usual mortar and grenade ranges.

There are no less than five moving target range systems on the ranges including an eleven-target Close Quarter Battle Range (CQBR), these moving across the front, giving a "comprehensive battle indoctrination."

Numbers are high of those passing through on training at Warcop. From October 1982 until 1983, for instance, 19,464 had trained and lived there.

The facilities are good. Hot water all the time. A resident doctor. A bivvy area accommodating 400 people with its own power and

water supply, the whole protected by a security fence.

Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Legg, formerly The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment with 6,500 hours as an instructor on fixed and rotary-wing aircraft who has just retired as the camp commandant, said: "Naafi tell us it is one of the best complexes in the country for facilities, furniture and comfort."

"Weather in this area can be unspeakable but it does not affect training. To see hail going sideways you have to hang on just to stand up."

Two TA camps are held annually at Warcop and the CCF hold a summer camp there. There is an adventure training hut up at Windermere.

Warcop even has its own air strip.

No Naafi van here, just Charlie's trailer dispensing tea



Story: Graham Smith Pictures: Paul Haley

Sport is not forgotten either. Warcop boasts a Wembley-size football pitch. There are two volleyball courts and badminton is played in a spacious MT shed.

The Naafi complex has three television rooms — all with 26-inch screens — and there is a different film available each night.

As a Principal Training Area, Warcop is controlled by HQ UKLF but for all other purposes is administered by HQ North West District at Preston, some 70 miles to the south.

Field firing is carried out from nine-to-five daily except for Mondays, public holidays and a minimum of 42 days for agricultural purposes as agreed between the camp commandant and the "Hilton, Murton and Warcop commoners and other interested

parties."

Dry training, using blanks and pyrotechnics, can be carried out by day or night. There is, say the camp authorities, "a pressing need for more dry training areas."

The training facility is divided into four permanent Battle Camps at its picturesque location just six miles from Appleby and with Penrith twenty miles to the north-west.

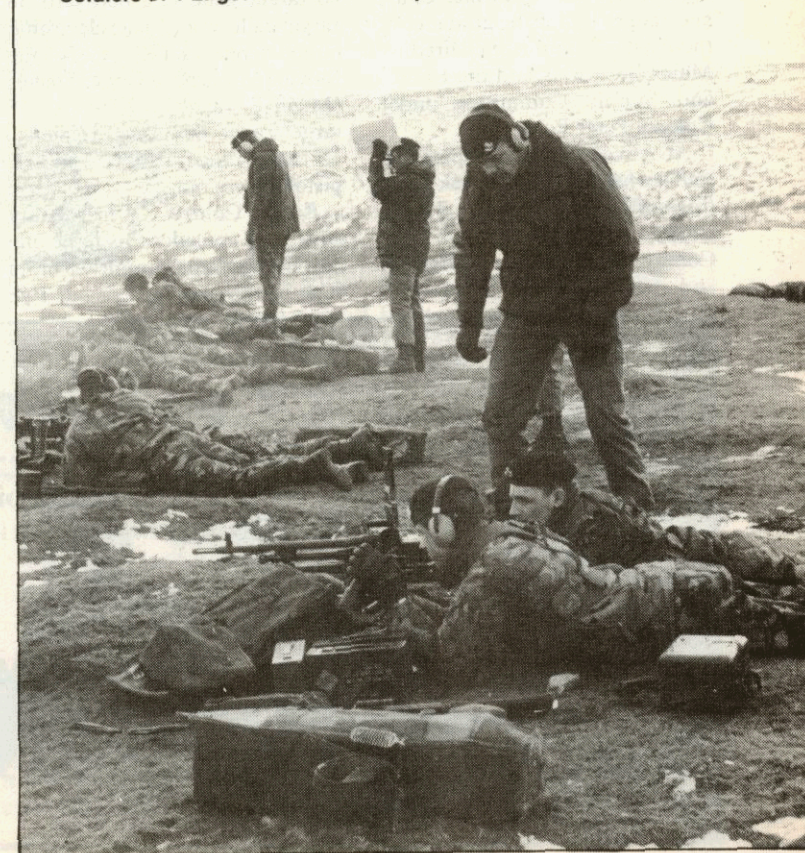
Last, but not least, an accolade came from WO1 Peter Walker,

Grenadier Guards, the Assistant Range Officer who has been at Warcop for the past five years.

"I, and visiting units, have never known such a co-operative range staff. There are eleven of them. They all bend over backwards to help. The same sentiment expressed by the visitors also applies to the QM staff."

That day, the weather was in benign but frostily beautiful mood. Yet, nobody was taking any of those "liberties".

Soldiers of 1 LI get down to GPMG practise



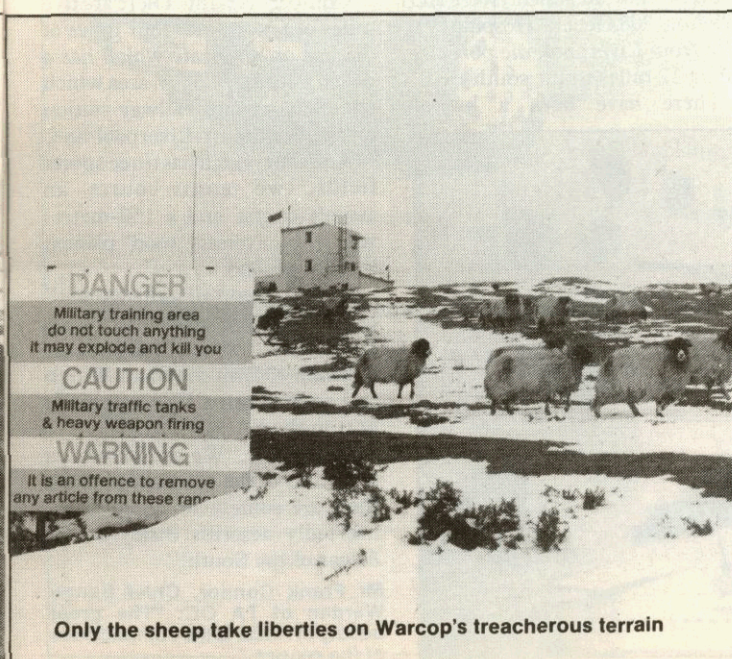
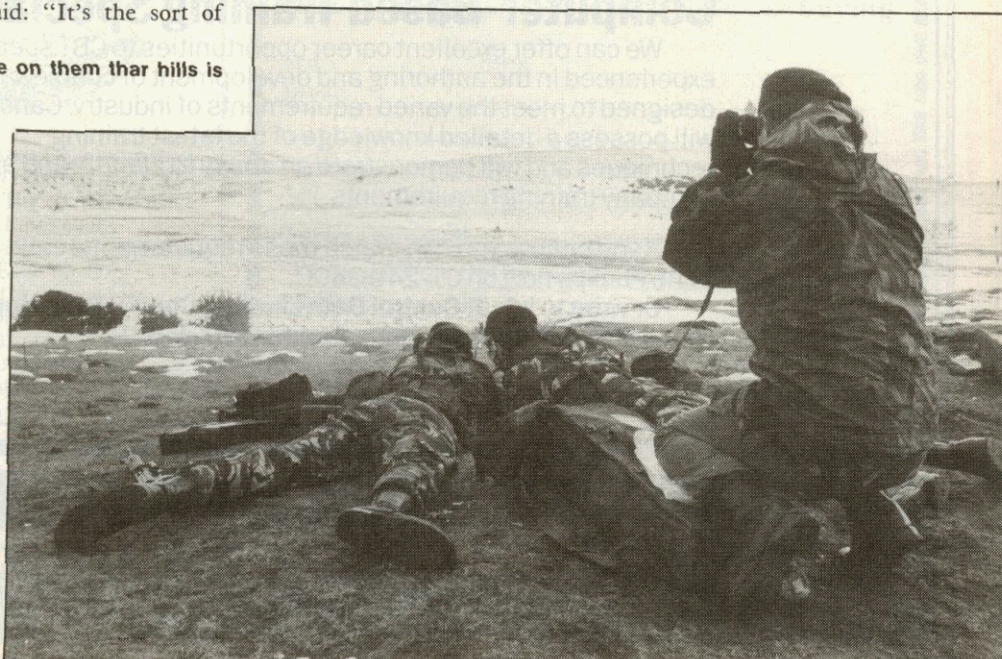
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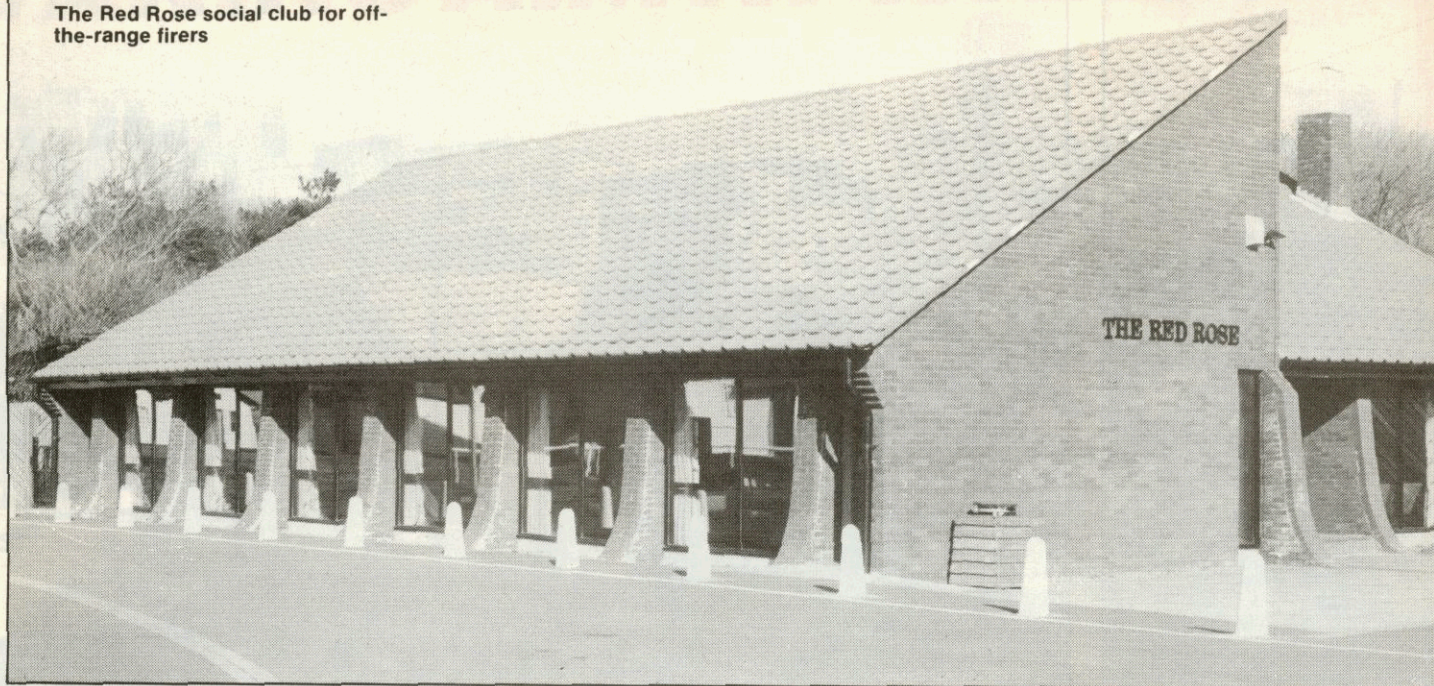
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Only the sheep take liberties on Warcop's treacherous terrain

The Red Rose social club for off-the-range firers



SOME CALL it the **BISLEY-OF-THE-NORTH** and the 11-man staff supervising the nine TA-owned Altcar Rifle Ranges, ten miles south of Southport, Lancs, would not take it amiss.

For last year, during a 250-day usage amid the combined 1,200 acres of shooting facilities there, 34,000 firers checked in from 870 units to pump off 1,943,459 rifle, pistol and sub-machine gun rounds. Only four days were 'lost' and those due to fog.

The Altcar Ranges have something of a long history. In all, 126 years of them. They were bought by the West Lancashire TA Association in 1912 from Lord Sefton for £85,000. Previously, they had been rented.

The TA Association nowadays administers the sprawling estate and ranges under the guidance of the Altcar Committee chaired by Major Bob Craik and the Estates and Supply Committee under Colonel Peter Poole.

At Altcar the range operating staff are headed by Mr Frank Addy (formerly Small Arms School Corps) supported by Mr Roy Connor, the Chief Range Warden and now OC HQ Company, 3

Cheshire, at Runcorn.

The camp itself — as opposed to the estate and ranges — is administered by HQ North-West District at Preston, some 50 miles distant. The commandant is Major Bob Bate-Jones.

Mr Addy said: "There is no other TAVR association in the country, as opposed to the Ministry of Defence, which runs a complex of this type."

The nine ranges on offer at Altcar comprise two 12-target SMG/pistol ranges; a 300-yard, 38 target gallery; a 600-yard 38 target gallery; a 12-lane electronic target range (ETR); a six-lane Moving Mechanical Target Trainer (MMTT) range; a 200-yard, 15 target range; a 100-yard gallery, 12-target range; and a 24-target, pistol-swivel range.

Range Control Officer Addy added: "I consider this to be one of the finest rifle complexes of its type in the country ... and I've

seen many of them in my time!"

Repair and refurbishment are keynotes to the continued guaranteed services on offer at Altcar. The ranges boast a social centre, aptly named the Red Rose, firers may use its facilities during the day but there is official accommodation for 450 at the training camp itself.

Of the firers taking their places at the points during the year it is estimated that 60 per cent are from the TA, 20 per cent from the Regular Army, and 10 per cent each from the Royal Marines and the Army Cadet Force, police, and civilian organisations.

Four out of the 11 range staff are TA men. Mr Connor from the Cheshires, two from 238 Squadron, RCT, based at Liverpool, part of 156 Transport Regiment, RCT and one from 208 General Hospital (V), also from Liverpool, the port city being 12 miles to the south-east.

There have been a lot of

improvements at the ranges including the repair of roads — 3½ miles of these — replacement of a Bailey Bridge with a stronger version, new electric cables, conservancy work with tree planting (118 acres of land are rented as agricultural land growing potatoes, barley and wheat as well as providing grazing) and drainage.

There are also new look-out posts linking Range Control with radio, tannoy and phone links all round the ranges.

As Mr Connor said: "The improvements make the range more efficient, safer to use and enable more units to train for there is no need to have transport to move users about. The great beauty of Altcar is that the ranges are so compact."

Compact is right. There are five miles of fences and four miles of ditches on an estate which has a dozen houses. All in an area which once had its own railway station on the Southport-Liverpool line.

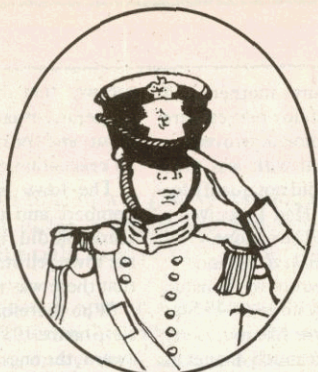
An estate which has three sports fields, two tennis courts, an assault course and a 150-metre-square "anniversary wood" planted three years ago.

"I try to keep all units happy," said Mr Addy, Range Officer since 1980, whose own military career began in 1947 in the Black Watch and ended with a WO2 (QMSI) post in the SASC.

He added: "We are known as the Bisley of the North but I think there are some who would lightly describe Bisley as the Altcar of the South!"

Mr Frank Connor, Chief Range Warden of TA OC: "The great beauty of Altcar is the compactness of the ranges."





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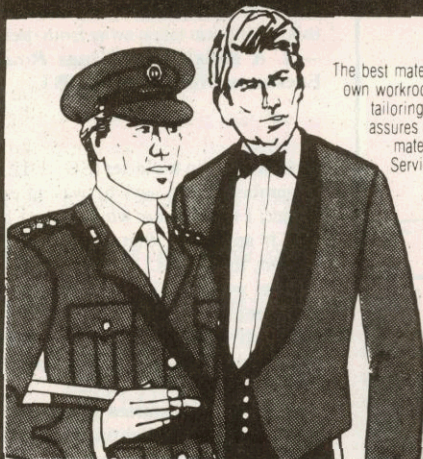
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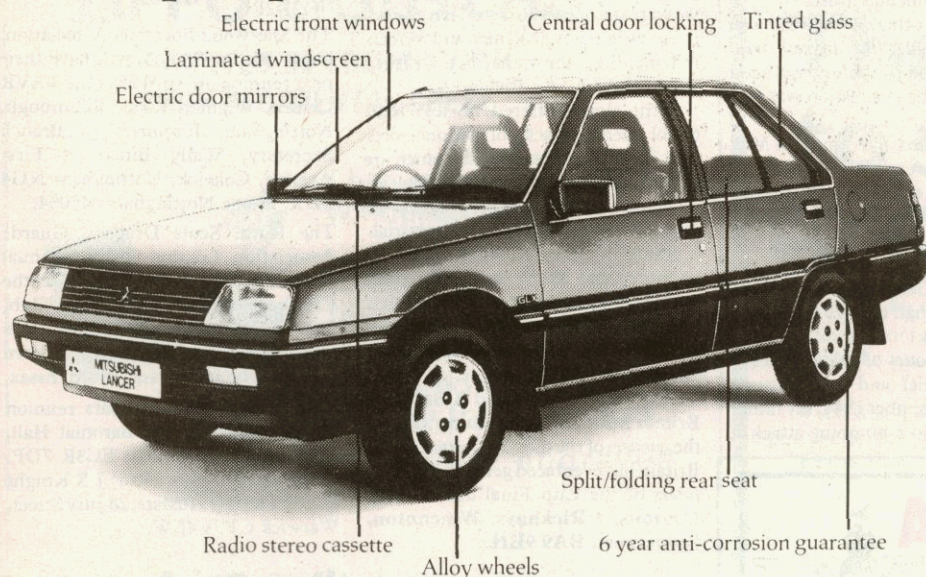
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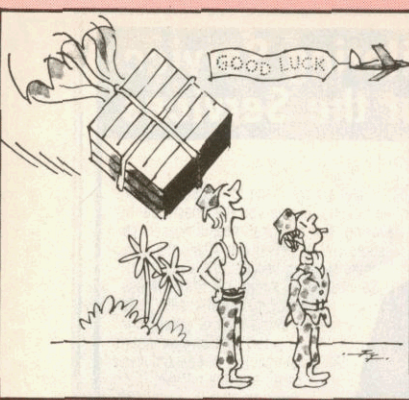
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I am sure my old comrades in the Leicesters would not be pleased to have this distinction taken away from them. — **L A Knight, 115 Kings Road, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5BT.**

DEDICATED NURSES

Re G Wilmot in his letter (SOLDIER November 18) he says he was an ex-soldier, I don't know what contact he had, if any, with that fine corps of women, the nurses.

I was wounded in the Middle East and spent six months in hospital. The care and attention given by these dedicated nurses was something I'll never forget.

The lady who started the Nursing Corps, Florence Nightingale, would certainly be proud of that dedicated Corps which is still serving today. — **Adam M Kemley, 75 Windermere Avenue, Toronto Apt 301, Ontario M6S 3J5, Canada.**

UNINVITED EXTRA?

One trusts the front cover of SOLDIER (February 24) is not a still from the actual film, otherwise the motor launch in 'Tai Pan' is soon to join the small car in 'Ben Hur' and the Jeep in 'El Cid' as part of cinematic history. — **R I Goodwin, SPIO, HQ North West District, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs, PR2 4AA.**

WINNERS GOT NOTHING

I fully agree with J J Stokes that the heroes of Dunkirk were treated badly by an ungrateful Government, one which prayed for them in Westminster Abbey and then ignored them when the question of medals arose.

What of the others who were also dishonoured, lads like myself who answered the call for volunteers aged 18 even while the evacuation was still on?

Many battalions of us joined in May and June and by early August were on Battle of Britain airfields — Hawkinge, Manston, etc — and were constantly bombed and machine-gunned for months on end, even shelled from the French coast. Ground defenders lost far more dead than the 375 of the few who were killed.

Even a few hours of snatched leave brought no relief and on one such weekend in September 1941, my father was killed in a dive-bombing attack at

Ramsgate, Kent, my mother and brother were injured, my nerves were shattered and our home destroyed.

As I was invalided with less than three years service I did not qualify for the Defence Medal. Had I received a visible wound I would have done so — but you can't see a mental wound.

After the war I wrote to Winston Churchill asking why no 1939-45 Star was awarded to people like me, many of whom had faced as much danger as their comrades abroad. His reply was that my service was non-operational. The use of a rifle or machine gun against the Luftwaffe didn't count it seems.

Another letter from the Ministry of Defence said: "How could we award the Star to non-combatants such as cooks?" During the 1914-18 conflict cooks received the same stars and medals as the men in the front line surely?

Another reply was "Giving the Star to men who never left these shores would be unfair to those who did!" But those who went abroad would still have had their France and Germany, Italy, Burma, Pacific, Atlantic or Air Crew Europe Stars to show where they had served.

General Sir Frederick Fife, Ack-Act Commander, was the only one sympathetic. He said "You should be able to wear 'in honour' the 1939-45 Star. I have got backing for such a claim from the Navy but the RAF are against us."

It hurts to think that those who stood firm in 1940-41, in spots like London and the South-East, when things were at their worst, have been thus dishonoured.

Invasion was a real threat then but it has been forgotten that in the event we were the ones who would have faced it. As it was many good men and women fell manning the guns in the cities, towns and on the airfields.

Kent alone suffered no less than 6,989 enemy attacks of various sorts and 3,465 Servicemen and women are buried or commemorated in cemeteries or churchyards there, in addition to others who were taken home for burial.

Raids on some airfields often left 50 or more dead but these people were, like the men of bomb-disposal units, non-operational. Plenty of bravery awards but no 1939-45 Star, not even a General Service Medal.

Not even the few had a Battle of Britain Star. Strange country this — the winners of the most important battle Britain has ever faced get nothing. The losers of the Cup Final do! — **H V Cossons, 4 Rickhays, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9BH.**

THOSE WHO STAYED

Reference two letters "Why no medal" and "Scorn for B.E.F." (SOLDIER, Feb 24), I would like to mention one action unique in two factors, namely the defence of Calais by the Light Division with 3rd RTR and other units.

Just under 4,000 men in May 1940 held up for five days the 10th Panzer Division and forward elements of the 1st P. Div.

Factor No 1. On the personal order of Winston Churchill "There will be no evacuation, the town will be held to the last man".

Factor No 2. It was the only time in

the war that the Army was left in a desperate situation with no reinforcements and the navy refused to attempt an evacuation except wounded.

The town was shattered by dive bombers and the battle. The Calais Garrison did, in fact, fight it out and the town fell street by street, knowing that there was no way out.

Who therefore is more entitled to a clasp on the 1939/45 Star or some other award, the ones who stayed and fought it out against terrible odds or the ones who got away.

If ever there was a deserving case the Defence of Calais is it. The day Calais fell May 26, 1940, the evacuation of Dunkirk commenced. — **W A Harding (B.E.F. 6th Battery/2nd (H.A.A.) Regt. R.A. 18 Colonial Ave, Whitton, Twickenham, TW2 7ED.**

LUCKY

Those readers wanting a medal for Dunkirk should think themselves lucky they got the 39-45 Star.

A medal for Dunkirk? The biggest retreat in our Army's history. I wouldn't want one. If they must have a medal make one, putty is cheap! — **W H Bidmead, 8 Bleriot Road, Hounslow, West London, TW5 9LS.**

Reunions

A reunion dinner will be held for members of the RAPC Regimental Association, at Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London on April 25. Details from Lt Col C J Caws, Secretary, RAPC Regimental Association, Corps Headquarters, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, SO21 2RG.

The Sherwood Foresters Association, the 2/5th Bn Branch, will have their next reunion on April 25 at the TAVR Centre, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham. Enquiries to Branch Secretary, Wally Binch, 8 First Avenue, Colwick, Nottingham NG4 2DX. Phone Nottingham 615054.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association London Branch annual reunion will be held on May 3 at the Carisbrook Hall, The Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London. Details from Hon. Secretary, 1134, Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

The Queen's Own Hussars reunion dinner May 3 at the Baronial Hall, Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7DP. Details from Major (Rtd) J S Knight HHQ, The QO Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.

Hoay Result

Winner of the £50 prize for spotting the differences in HOAY Competition No 379 was Mr Antony Weaver of Henry St, Chatham, Kent. Well done Mr Weaver.

Call Signs

Mr Colin P Weeks, of 4 Coronation Road, Banwell, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 6AZ, is anxious to contact former members of 11th Royal Tank Regiment during the Second World War.

"HORSENAPPING"

I can vouch for the truth of your story (SOLDIER February 24) regarding the "horsenapping" of the adjutant's charger, Dastur, in 1953.

I was CSM of the Horse Transport Company RASC, in Buller Barracks, Aldershot, at the time.

Dastur was put in our stables, to spend the rest of the night after having been led or ridden over from Sandhurst.

I well remember the surprise of the troops on morning stables at 06.15 hours when they found an extra, unfamiliar horse had suddenly appeared. A few minutes later, some rather tired but jubilant members of the Junior Officers' Course turned up for their riding instruction.

Captain (later Major) George Boon, was OC of the Company and the following year became riding master of the RASC, a post he held until I took over from him when he retired in 1964.

Whilst writing to you, I would also like to correct a statement made in the same issue of SOLDIER, in the article on the Pack Transport Course, recently held at the RAVC Training Centre.

The comment is made that I was with the Pack Transport Troop in Hong Kong, when it was disbanded. I was in fact, with the Troop when it was formed in 1949/50 and not when it was disbanded in 1975 — **RA Hill (Major Ret'd), 8 Melbourne Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0JA.**

MORE TIGERS

Your article on the Royal Hampshire Regt (SOLDIER February 10) referred to them as the 'Tigers'.

I believe this distinction belonged solely to the Royal Leicestershire Regt, their badge being the Royal Bengal tiger, and they had close ties with HMS Tiger.



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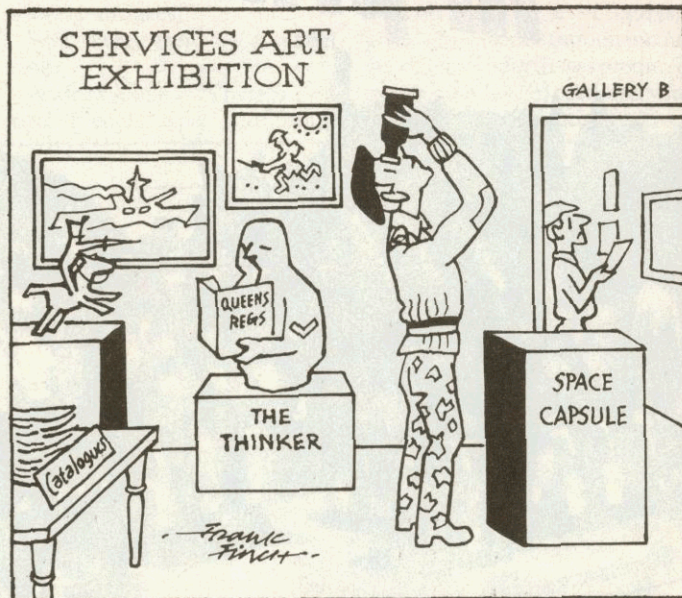
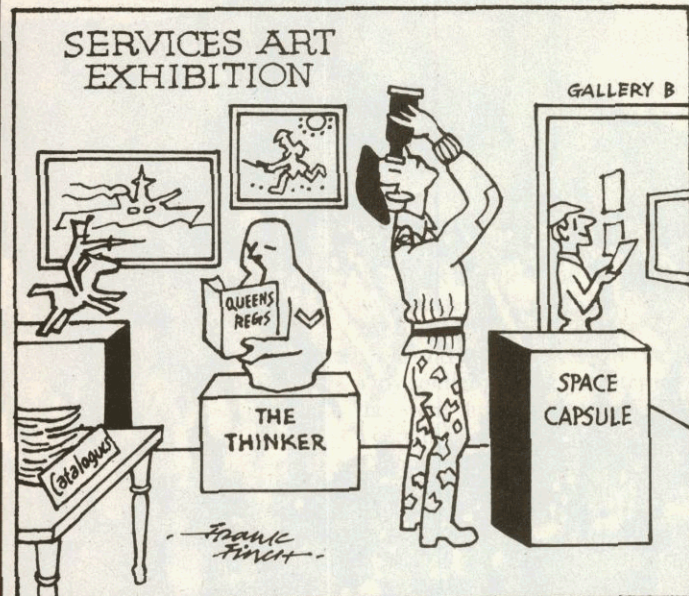
The pictures differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address, and send it to SOLDIER.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is April 25. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our May 19 issue.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

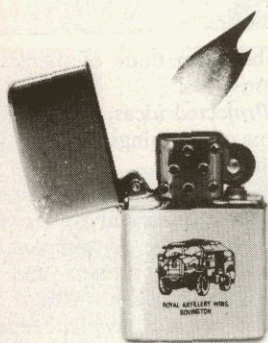
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Toy Soldiers Parade - in print



Soldiers on parade — from collection of 6,000

Two battalions of toy soldiers have emerged at a house at Liss, Hampshire, in the past ten years, the work of a man whose creative career seems to be on the up and up, writes Graham Smith.

He is Andrew Rose, 37, author of a book, *Toy Soldiers* (Salamander Books, price £7.95), who turns out the 54mm high figures to the unabated accompaniment of Radio Four in his cluttered workshop on the top floor of his rural home.

Andrew, who once worked for Kent County Council and then a local Cheshire Home, specialises in the period from the Zulu Wars to the early days of the First World War.

A latter-day dream stemming from his schooldays when he restored old, battered lead soldiers bought in dusty toy shops. Forlorn, forsaken diminutive figures that needed arms or heads repairing or replacing.

An interest developed on his love of militaria, particularly uniforms, badges, and wargaming in his boyhood garden.

Then, enthusiasm gradually waned until a Christmas 1965 shopping expedition to London with some chums and a tour of some junk shops and then on to

the famous Hamley's. The window was full of lead soldiers!

Young Rose — his father is an eminent botanist and author on the subject — just had to buy two particular sets of lead soldiers on display. The old spark for toy soldier modelling had been rekindled.

And, for the past 20 years he has built up a collection of some 6,000 old toy soldiers, about a quarter of them appearing in his 45,000-word 128-page, all-colour guide *Toy Soldiers* which he and the publishers rushed through inside a year; from the germ of the idea to the pictures and verbal pen portraits on the pages.

In the past decade he has acquired the reputation as a sculptor of high quality traditional-style toy soldiers for collectors world-wide.

A member of the British Model Society, he also runs his own business with its model-casting facility 70 miles away in Shaftesbury, Dorset.

He really got his break into his hobby-cum-lifestyle with the help of a London distributor and a 250-figure range of turn-of-the-century soldiers. Sculpting figures "from scratch", an aspect that Andrew had not tried in dedicated quantity previously.

From there, he set up another company and then, moving to Liss six years ago, his present concern under the title Bastion.

Since then, all kinds of uniformed figures have materialised from his garret-like workshop. Those from the Chinese Boxer up-rising, US, French and German Marines, Russian infantry, Sikhs and even Austro-Hungarian sailors.

Prussian infantry, Spanish infantry, and Royal Engineers in shirt sleeves during the Zulu Wars have been among others.

Belgian soldiers from the First World War, an idea which, he thinks, is not pursued in the toy soldier field within Belgium itself.

Andrew is convinced that around the world some model-makers have "ripped off" his ideas

rather than think of themes for themselves.

Projected ideas, therefore, are some of the things he has to keep to himself.

He has, on occasion, made up special editions and two he would personally like to complete are Montenegrin soldiers and the Swiss Army of the 1900s.

One of his favourite special compilations was a fully-dressed Royal Engineers band of the 1880s.

Yet he does not use preliminary sketches. "I suppose I ought to," said Andrew, one-time brief stay TA soldier, CCF RAF section corporal and thwarted aspiring Royal Marine.

"I can absorb all the information and it just comes out. I am fastidious to a fault and have been known to spend a whole day getting an ammunition pouch just right but I don't, for instance, put all the folds of the cloth in the uniform. The equipment is absolutely right. I also want to know what goes on behind the figure, such as buckles. If I put in hours

of research I wouldn't really make any money at all."

A man already with an immense reference library, Andrew is not difficult to please with Christmas or birthday presents. Although, he says, he may have to go out and buy a particular figure which has taken his fancy in some shop! "A pity, because I like surprises".

He is also a compulsive bookshop browser...just in case. "Friends have to drag me out almost kicking and screaming," he jokes.

Commercially, a section of his soldiers — eight in all — sell for £26.50 pence a box or about £3.30 pence per figure.

And, he says, they sell well. Particularly so in the USA. And to women collectors, too.

"Many of the figures are snapped up by buyers wishing to fill gaps in their collections," said Andrew. "Prices, however, for some lead soldiers can be ridiculous. Some as cheap as a £1, others as much as £40 to £50 each."

He said the Americans did have a toy soldier making industry but they were "lumpy little things with a certain charm."

Some of his figures, in collections, have been sold at the famous auctions.

Among the more favourite of his personal figures in the making were staff officers "in their finery" complete with plumes and aiguillettes. Or stable lads mucking out with such detail as grey-back shirts, shovels and braces hanging down.

The book was a rush job for him. A tome with 50 double-page spreads, caption rationing to 25 words per figure, the movement

Production line — "fastidious to a fault"

order for which was planned like a military exercise.

"I had to catalogue, pack and cart 2,500 figures — 16 of them my own — up to London and a studio where we worked for 12 hours a day photographing them," Andrew recalled from his peaceful lounge in Hampshire. "I was there for a week and only one shot had to be done twice. A piece of hair had strayed on to one of the figures."

"It was all done from an overhead camera thus causing no shadows round the figures. Since publication I have only spotted two printing mistakes."

Will there, then, be a sequel book?

Andrew replied: "There is a lot more I could have said. More

exciting detail and humour in the text. I shall just have to wait and see how this book goes. Now that I know that I can write it — the publishers, Salamander Books had approached me — I might try another if I have the time. So far, people have said lots of nice things about it."

Toy Soldiers, meanwhile, surveys the collectors' market in toy soldiers, giving comprehensive advice on identifying specimens as well as counselling on planning, building and maintaining a collection.

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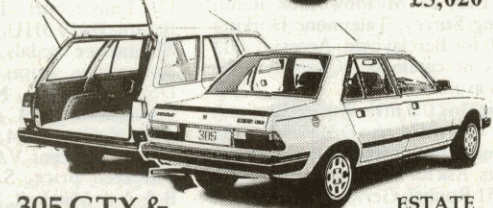
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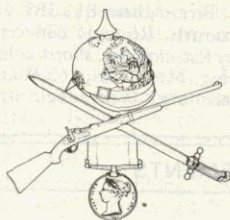
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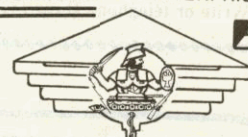
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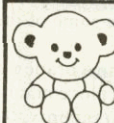
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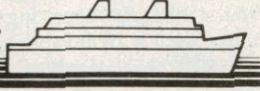
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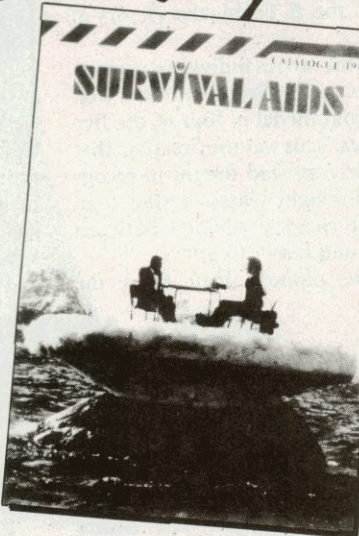
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This season, according to Captain Johnston, they've dominated novice judo in the Army as never before.

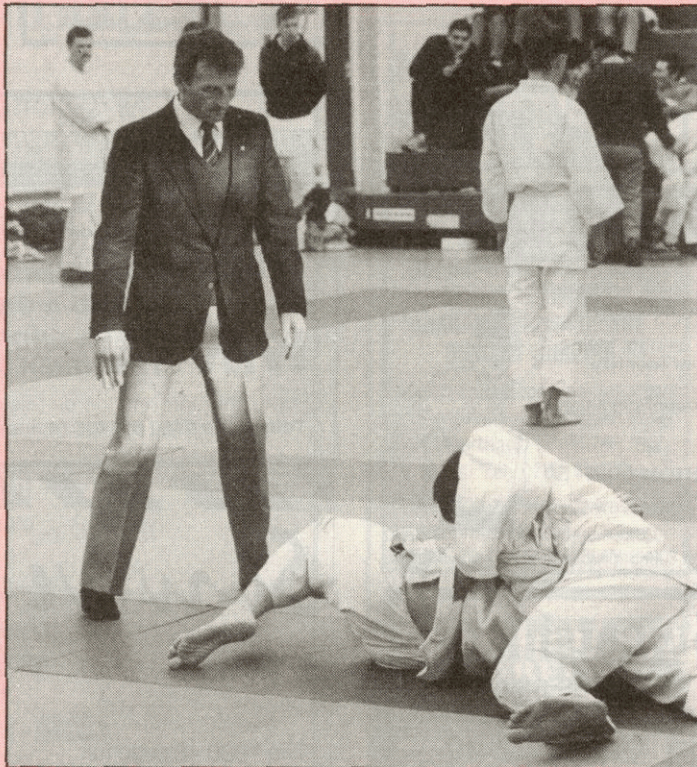
Although beaten for the gold medal in the South East District novice team championships last year by their arch rivals, SEME, Bordon, they reaped ample revenge in the UKLF finals this year when the title was decided by an all-Pioneer contest.

23 Group's A Team, which had previously won the UKLF Zone A championship, topped Pool 1 and in the final beat their comrades from the B Team, the victors of Pool 2.

In the novice individual championships, 23 Group entrants won the gold medal in four of the five classes. This was the first time that the novices had fought in recognised weight classes rather than being roughly divided between light and heavy weights.

The pioneer haul from the

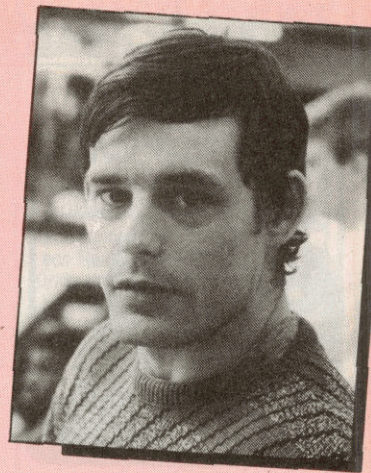
PIONEERS FIRST IN JUDO



individual championships was gold medals in the under 65 kgs, 71 kgs, 86 kgs and over 86 kgs classes; silver in the under 65 kgs, 71 kgs and 78 kgs, and bronze in the under

78 kgs, 86 kgs and over 86 kgs.

Three novices also joined Corporal Travis and Lance Corporal Steve Lee to make up the five man squad for the UKLF senior open team championships. They were Private Andy Blaylock, the winner of the gold medal in the novice



Corporal Stuart Travis, Olympic reserve ▲

Captain Chris Johnston refereeing

individual under 86 kgs, Private Kevin Martin, who won the gold for the under 71 kgs, and Lance Corporal Geordie Hindmarsh, who took the silver in the same class.

As Captain Johnston said: "They did us proud."

The team won the event, beating SEME, Bordon, into second place and this month travelled to Germany to meet the best from BAOR.

When asked about the secret of the Pioneers' continuing run of success with novice judo, Captain Johnston, the assistant adjutant of 23 Group, put it down to a combination of good training and good recruits.

He said his partnership with Corporal Travis had brought a good understanding and thorough grasp of the sport to the unit. On top of this Pioneers were used to physical work which made it a lot easier to cultivate good judo potential.

SKIING — ARMY THIRD AGAIN

Results in the Hill Samuel British Services International Ski Championships have recently been predictable — and once again this year the British Army came third.

Time was when the Army won almost every year, but since the meeting became international the Italians have virtually dominated the event, the Germans habitually come second, and the British Army third, and the same thing happened this year.

Lance Corporal Scott Dobson, who has dominated British Services racing for several years, again proved his individual merit, not

only as the best British performer in every race, but coming third overall in the downhill. But unfortunately Dobson, and some other members of the Army team, will not be available in the future.

For the first year teams from the British women's Services took part in the championships — at the little Italian town of Courmayeur at the foot of Mont Blanc — competing against each other for the Wilkinson Sword. Their races mirrored the British men's results. The WRAC took the prize, with the WRAF second the WRNS third. Captain Carolyn Caddick, WRAC, was in a class of her own and deservedly won both races.

Terriers out-shoot regulars

CRACK-SHOT Welsh Territorials out-shot the Regulars in a narrowly-contested small bore shooting competition for the Army's all-Wales championship crown.

Every unit in Wales — TA and Regulars — competed postally in the run-up to the tie-breaker at Depot The Prince of Wales's Division, Crickhowell, and just six points separated finalists the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (The Volunteers), from their opponents, a team from The Army Apprentice College, Chepstow, Gwent.

The deciding shoot-off saw the Terriers win by 17 points overall, with a total of 779 points to Chepstow's 762.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR MARTIN

Martin Tombs, an 18 years-old apprentice tradesman at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has been included in the England Colts under 19 rugby squad for matches against Italy, in Rome, on March 24, and over Easter against Wales, and against France at Old Deer Park, the home of London Welsh.

Martin began playing rugby at Malvern Hall School, Solihull, and after representing Warwickshire and the Midlands, he became England's regular fly-half at Under 16 level, gaining caps against Holland, Portugal and Italy during the 83/84 season.

This season he has played for the Army and for Combined Services

at Under 19 level, and for the Royal Corps of Signals.

Martin belongs to a family used to sporting honours. His father was a Warwickshire rugby triallist and his sister a county hockey player.

The proudest moment of his rugby career, he says, was scoring a try at Twickenham during England's 53-0 win over Portugal. His hero is Tony Ward, the Irish international and his main ambition is, of course, to play for England's Senior XV.



Martin Tombs, international at eighteen years old.



SOLDIER

