

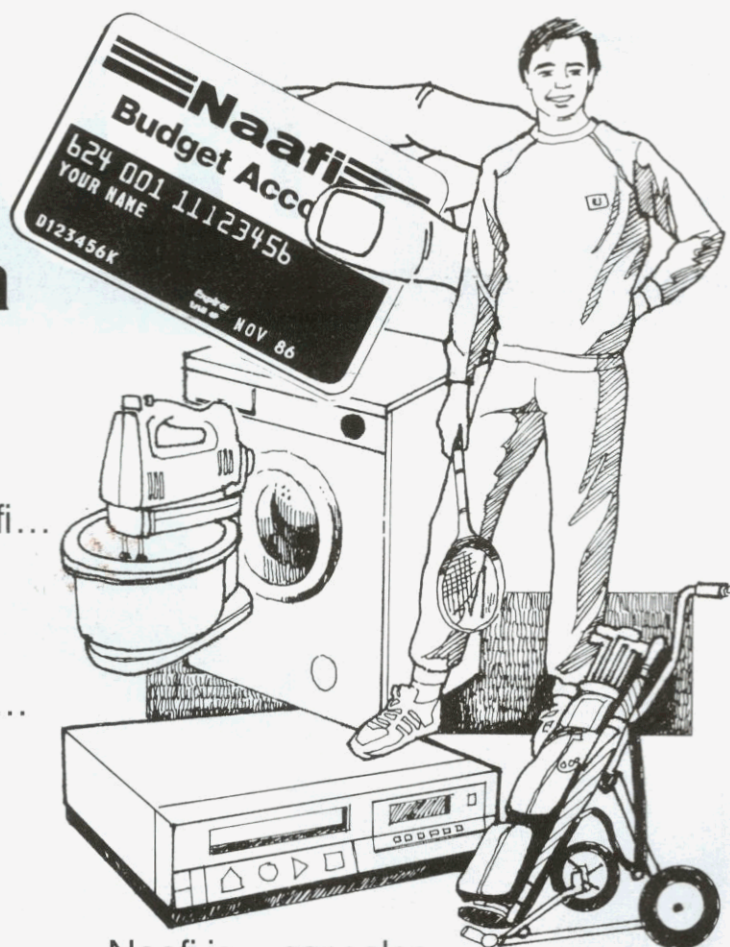
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 13 JANUARY 1986

SOLDIER

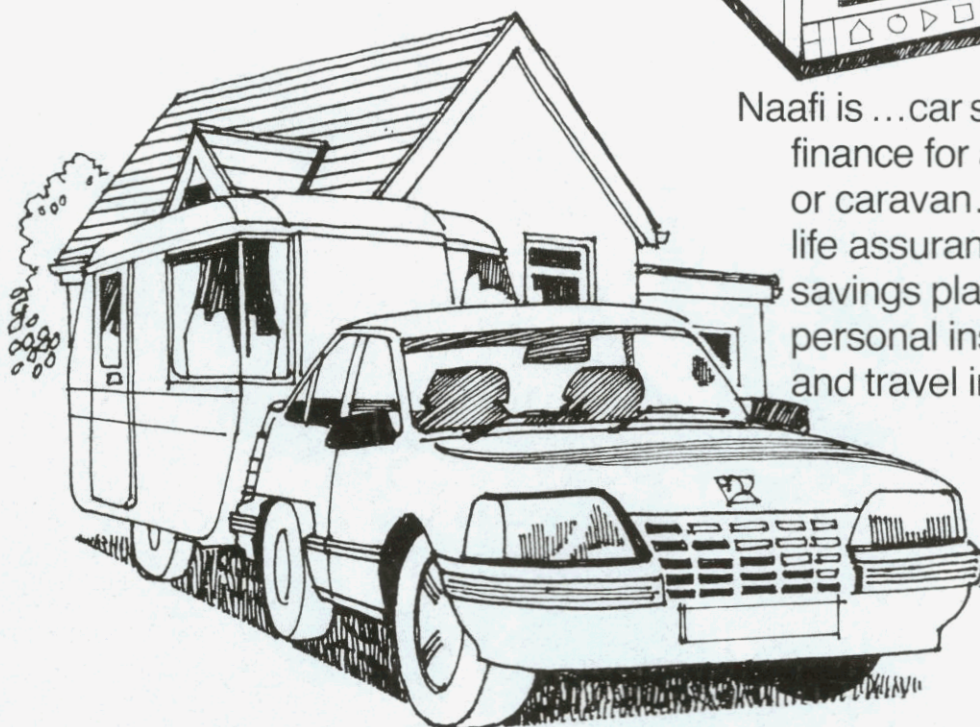


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CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 Alexander the Great
- 10 People
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 The Tank Makers
- 17 Humour
- 18 All in the Family
- 21 WRAC's 500th Recruit Parade
- 22 TA Commute by Air
- 24 Changing Face of NI
- 26 Wilkinson Sword parade
- 30 Demonstration Battalion
- 33 Expedition to Borneo
- 34 The Pride of the Irish
- 36 Military Cigarette Cards
- 37 Exercise First Tee
- 39 Book Reviews
- 40 Reserve Officers
- 41 End of an Era at Deepcut
- 42 Mail Drop
- 43 HOAY Competition
- 53 Sport

FRONT COVER: Rani the elephant might not have liked the weather when 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment received its Wilkinson Sword at Bulford, but neither did the men on parade. Story on page 26.
BACK COVER: The WRAC, celebrating their 500th recruit parade at Guildford, fared better from the weather. Former RSM Margaret Ashworth, now 68, joined the parade ranks, and declared (see story p21) "I'd sign on again tomorrow". Both pictures by Paul Haley.

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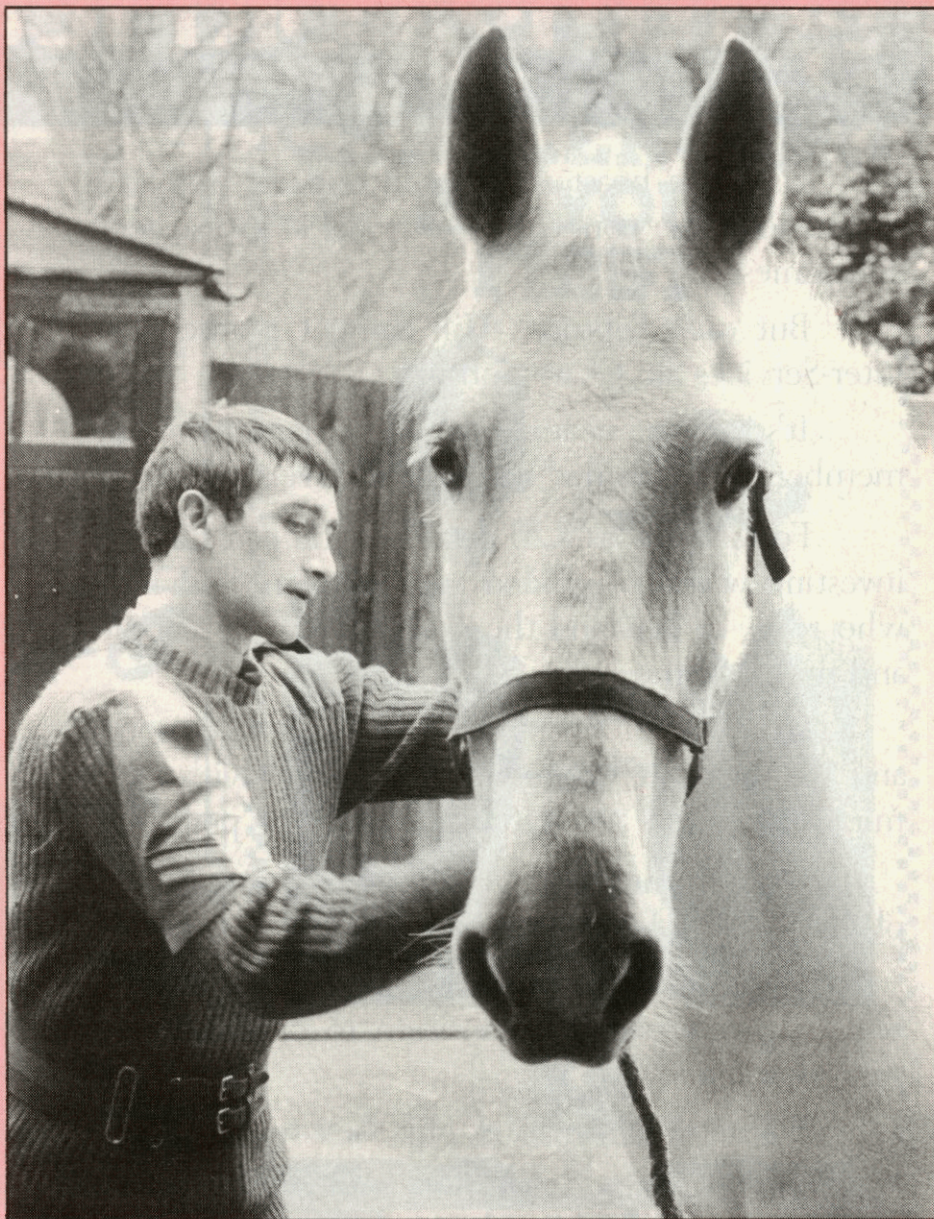
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SOLDIER

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ALEXANDER THE GREAT



Alexander is a horse who dare not put a foot in the wrong place. At least 500 times he has walked faultlessly up the famous nine steps of Sandhurst Old College during 27 Sovereign's Parades and their rehearsals. His 28th, in April, will be a royal occasion in the presence of Princess Anne. His 'perks' include a handful of sugar lumps for a good performance, and a host of Christmas cards each year. Graham Smith tells Alexander's story on p8.

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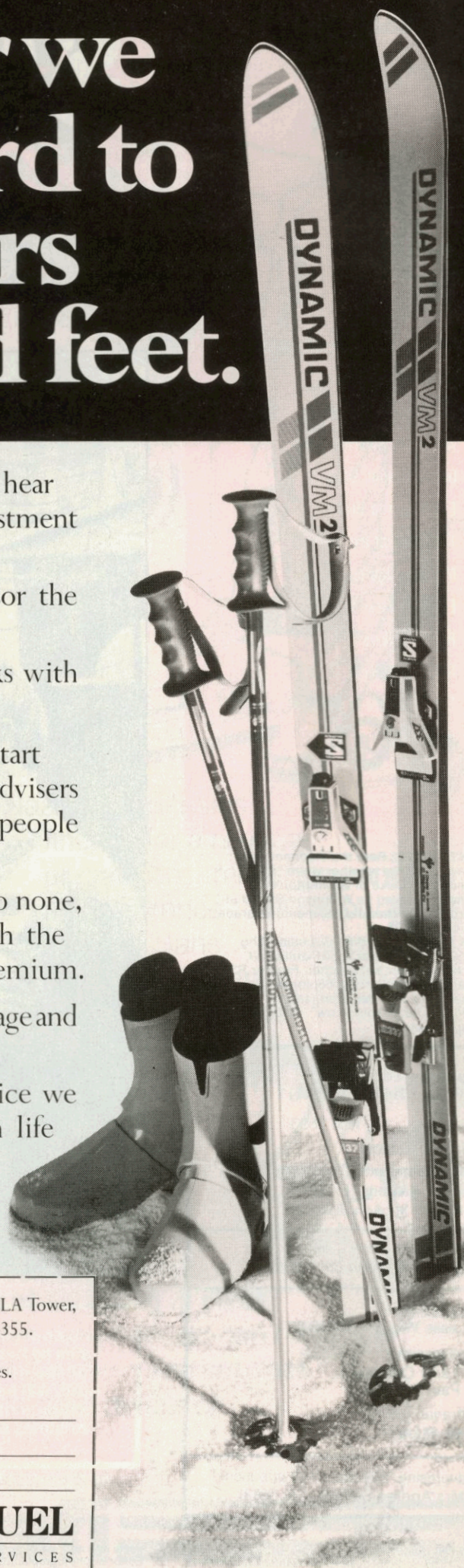
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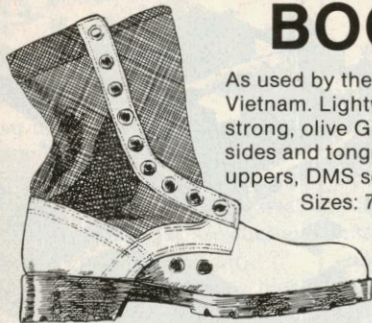
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SNOW SUITS. German Army skiing suits in white drill cotton, jackets are parka style with large map pockets, hood and draw string, large wrap over collar for protection, in white drill cotton with camouflaged slashes reversible in plain white, trousers are full combat style with large map pocket all sizes at £36.

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POACHERS COAT. Made for the Dutch police, black heavy double textured oiled and waxed cotton for fully waterproofing, hooded, 2 large patch pockets, 2 slanted pockets, storm cuffs, draw strings, poacher pockets, fully lined, detachable hood, all sizes, £50.

COMBAT PULLOVERS. The genuine article brand new issue, not to be confused with cheaper imitations, all wool heavy rib knit, crew neck, epaulettes, all sizes including extra large, in the new bottle green, olive green, airforce blue, navy blue, £18.

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BODY WARMERS. Brand new, DPM camouflaged, 2 large front pockets, heavy duty zip front, in all sizes up to 48 chest, £14.50.

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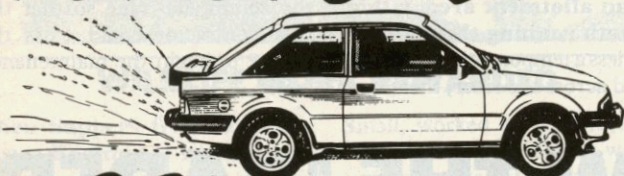
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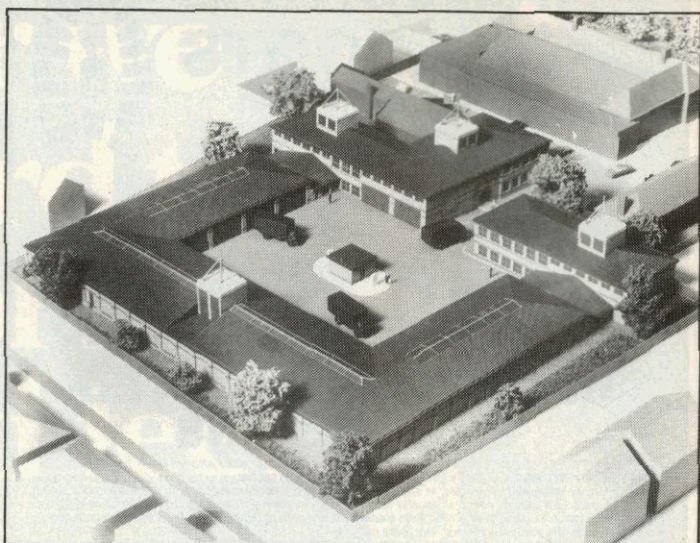
Work is starting on a £2.8 million scheme to refurbish existing old buildings and construct extensive new ones at the Territorial Army Centre in Watling Street, Bexleyheath.

When completed in early 1987, the TA Centre will provide accommodation for the Regimental Headquarters of the 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment and a Light Aid Detachment REME, together with 265 (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. It will include modern lecture/training rooms, a small TV studio, a miniature rifle range and a refurbished drill hall with

changing facilities, and offices, garaging and storerooms.

The redevelopment scheme is a major undertaking and part of an overall plan to improve London's Territorial Army training facilities and to house modern equipment properly, says Brigadier Peter Bowser, secretary of London's TAVRA. It also means purpose built brick buildings will be available for the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps.

The design is based on a stable block with small towers, and a special feature on one of these towers is the spelling out, in morse code, of the Regiment's motto *Certa Cito* (Swift and Sure) using contrasting bricks.



SAPPERS BRIDGE THAT GAP



When Lemgo had an engineering problem, it was only natural that the town would turn to 4th Armoured Division's talented Sappers to solve it.

The Stadt needed to carry out vital maintenance work on the drainage system near the town centre. The problem was that it is effectively an island of farmland surrounded by obstacles on four sides — the River Bega (with no bridges), a main road with no access, a railway line without crossings, and an allotment area with a footpath running through it!

Unless a temporary bridge could be laid across the river, there was

likely to be considerable disruption to road and rail traffic for six months, besides damage, inconvenience to local people, and major expense to the town authorities.

The Sappers willingly took on the task. The exercise was carried out by 37 Field Squadron, with assistance from a section of infantry from 1 RRW, based in Lemgo.

They erected a Bailey bridge and when all was completed, the Deputy Stadtdirektor, Herr Ulrich Fasshauer, praised the Army for being so willing to help, and cut the ceremonial tape so that the first contractor could cross the bridge to begin the maintenance work.

Foreman contractor Herr Friesel toasts the Sappers as Stadtdirektor Ulrich Fasshauer cuts the tape to open the bridge

FOLLOW THE LEADER



The Gurkhas follow their Colonel-in-Chief, when Prince Charles visited the 2nd Battalion King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles at Church Crookham. With the Prince in the Land Rover are Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Colonel of the Regiment, and Lt Col John Brewer, Commanding Officer

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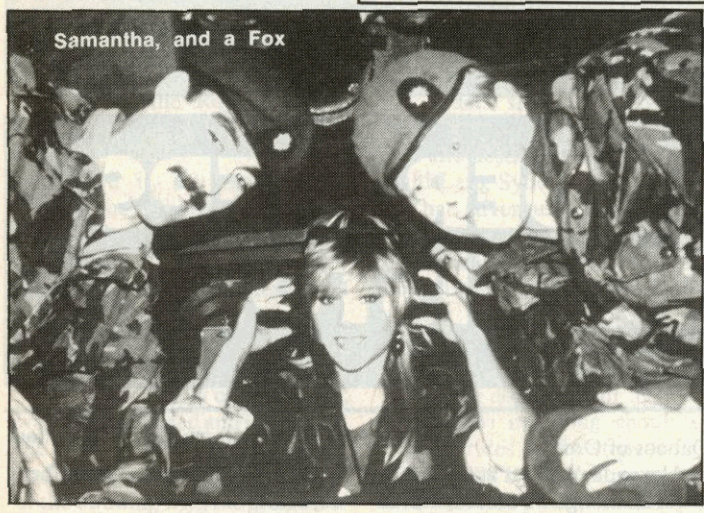
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FOXY LADY

What more appropriate place for outstanding Page Three model Samantha Fox to pose when she visited 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Colchester than in a Fox armoured car.

Sam — 36-23-33 in her high heels — gracefully accepted the invitation to become the battalion pin-up and spent an afternoon autographing calendars as well as being given a quick course in driving the Fox around the square.

She is already pin-up to 1 Queens — and to HMS Endurance — but for 2 R Anglian that presented no problems. It's not for nothing they're nicknamed 'The Poachers'!



Samantha, and a Fox

WILDLIFE WORK REWARDED

When Sappers from 26 Engineer Regiment landscaped some ponds near Cologne, little did they realise that they'd be honoured with the highest award of its kind for conservation — The Francis of Assisi Gold Medal.

The team, based on Plant Troop 2 Field Support Squadron in Iserlohn and led by Staff Sergeant (now Warrant Officer 2) 'Tiny'

Small, worked on the project in the autumn. Their aim was to excavate some old mill ponds and recreate a wildlife habitat.

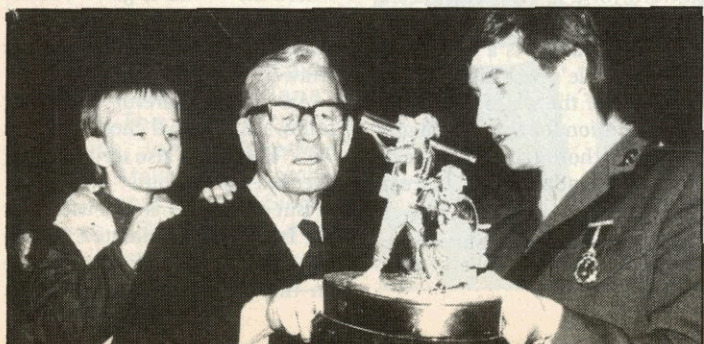
The results so impressed the German conservation and wildlife organisation ZZF (Zentralverband Zoologischer Fachbetriebe-Deutschlands e.V) that the Royal Engineers were successfully nominated for the solid gold Francis of Assisi Medal.

TOP TROPHY FOR WALES

Three generations examined the BP Trophy presented to Major Guy Clarke as Battery Commander of 211 (South Wales) Air Defence Battery RA (V) during the National Arti-

illery Association annual prize-giving at London's Guildhall.

With Major Clarke as his father William, formerly a major in the Royal Engineers, and his seven-year-old son David.



WHEELBARROW NOW A MINE KILLER

Wheelbarrow, normally used for dealing with explosive devices, has a new job — as mine destroyer.

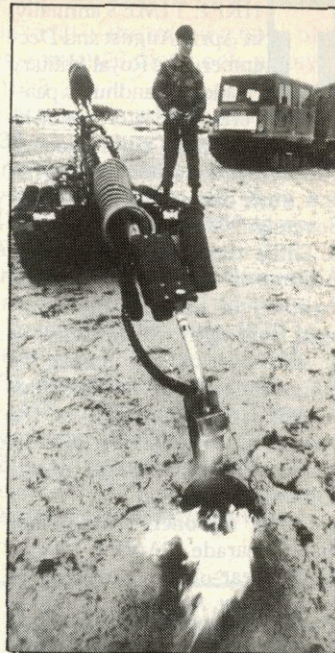
The Mark 8 Wheelbarrow has been modified so that it can dispose of mines by burning through a mine cover and igniting the explosive, leaving the mine to burn itself out. Within five to 45 minutes, depending on the type of device, the mine is harmless.

Designed by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, the modified Mark 8 — named Redfire — has a double-tracked chassis giving better cross-country performance, and incorporates a 10-foot tele-

scopic boom with a close-circuit camera and a propane burner. It will also be equipped with a charge dropper to enable remote detonation, and a scoop which can recover a mine from the minefield if required.

The prototype is being trialled in the Falklands where there are plenty of mines upon which it can practice, an estimated 10,000 still active after the 1982 conflict.

Redfire will be used there to dispose of mines which are in danger of creeping because of wind, rain or soil erosion. But it is not a mine detector, and its use in the Falklands does not mean the beginning of a new minefield clearance operation in the islands.



Wheelbarrow, a burning ambition

LEE FIRES PARTING SHOT

A long chapter in the life of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington Camp has ended. The Regiment has spent its last day on the Chieftain firing ranges at Lulworth on the Dorset coast.

It was in 1952 that the regiment first began firing on the Lulworth ranges and it is estimated that some 12,000 Junior Leaders have been trained there since then.

Now all Junior Leaders of the Corps will complete their basic military training in one year and then undergo their Chieftain gunnery training at Catterick, Yorkshire.

The honour of firing the last Chieftain round went to the senior Junior Leader, Junior Regimental Sergeant Major Lee Mattison, 18, who had just completed his gunnery training and gained the highest marks in the crew tests.



Lee Mattison, highest marks, parting shot

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THREE TIMES annually, in April, August and December, The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, passes out la crème de la crème of its UK and overseas commissioned officer, men and women, often 150 at a time, during the prestigious Sovereign's Parade.

Three times a year, too, the Adjutant's magnificent charger captures the hearts of thousands aged from eight to eighty-plus as at the end of the parade he majestically mounts the nine steps to the Grand Entrance of the venerable Old College with its gradated access facade of six columns.

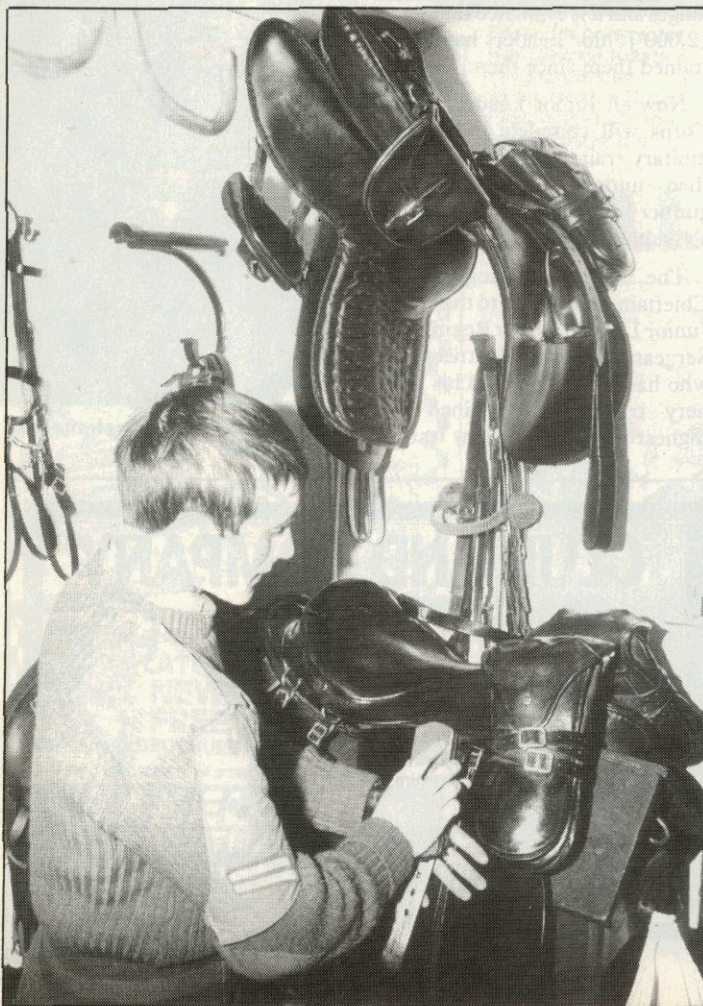
Filling the onerous role since his first parade of April 7, 1977, is the 17-year-old grey gelding of Irish descent, Alexander, (formerly Smirnoff) who, last month, took part in his 27th Sovereign's Parade. One taken by General Sir Richard Trant, Quartermaster General.

The 17.1-hands-high horse has certainly seen his share of the nation's and foreign illustrious reviewing officers during his 90-minute appearances at the academy.

He has delighted among others the Queen, the Duke of Kent, the Prime Minister, Prince Philip, Princess Margaret, General Bernard Rogers (SACEUR), Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Michael Heseltine, and a couple of Middle Eastern potentates, King Hussein of Jordan and Sultan



ALEXANDER STEPS UP INTO HISTORY



Qaboos of Oman.

Alexander's debut at the Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade featured General Sir Roland Gibbs. His next, in April, will involve Princess Anne.

Sovereign's Parades, incidentally, started on July 14, 1948, with King George VI as the inspecting officer. Only one has ever been cancelled since, that of February 1952 arising from the King's death.

Current academy adjutant is Major Julian Lancaster, Scots Guards, who has ridden Alexander five times on the Sovereign's Parades.

"Alexander has taken to his task remarkably well," he says. "We have had one or two other horses in the past who have just not been suited and they have had to be returned to unit, as it were."

Man and horse are usually in the public eye during the parade from 10.40 until about 12.15. Reward for a good performance, and they are all good according to Major Lancaster, is a handful of Tate and Lyle's best sugar lumps; about ten of the white cubes.

Preparation for the Sovereign's Parade is thorough, a parade in which Alexander wears the regi-

Tack is scrupulously checked by Corporal Gareth Mullett, Alexander's groom

An hour's grooming after breakfast

mental tack of the incumbent adjutant.

The horse's current groom of the last five months is Corporal Gareth Mullett, Welsh Guards, who, as a security measure, actually sleeps in the stable with Alexander for the week before the parade.

This, apparently, arises from a time past when pranksters pulled a super wheeze by substituting a donkey for the 'kidnapped' charger and then daubing it with blue or green paint!

Both groom and horse are up at 4am. Alexander goes on a five-mile walk-and-trot about in the academy's grounds.

Then, it's back for breakfast and tucking into 1½ pounds of bran and a pound of pony nuts. This usually takes ten minutes.

The stable is usually mucked out. Because he came to Sandhurst suffering from an equine condition where his "wind is gone", Alexander sleeps on wood shavings; other steeds normally sleep on straw.

An hour's careful grooming follows and a final check made at 9.45. The tack is also scrupulously checked for turnout.

But Alexander is well used to it all. It has been estimated that he has put flawless fetlocked hooves on the famous nine steps on at



least 300 occasions, including rehearsals.

The ceremonial of the steps interlude dates back to 1925 according to local records when a Major Frederick Browning, then adjutant of the Royal Military College (as it was called) started it off.

He did it, say the records, because he felt that as everyone else on the passing-out parade went into the Old Building it was a pity that the only mounted member of the parade should not do likewise. He followed the parade up the steps and into the building!

His horse, a grey called Spook, was highly-trained and negotiated the steps of the Grand Entrance and the awkward ones at the back of the building with the greatest of ease.

Since those days the custom has been continually observed. Subsequent investigation, however, has revealed that the custom was perhaps observed as far back as 1896 and even then was regarded as being of long standing. Yet the reason for its observance at that

What the public don't see, sugar knobs for Alexander from Major Lancaster for a job well done once inside the College (right)

GENERAL SIR Richard Trant, Quartermaster General, reviewed last month's Sovereign's Parade on behalf of the Queen.

On parade were 540 officer cadets of whom 150 were receiving their commissions into the British Army. Also passing out were 21 officer cadets from 16 overseas countries including Belize, Botswana, Brunei, The Gambia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Swaziland.

Alexander on parade, sometimes before royalty

period has not been traced.

It is the adjutant who commands all parades, including the Sovereign's Parade, at the end of which the cadets slow-march off the parade ground, up the steps and into the academy to the tune of Auld Lang Syne.

That adventurous adjutant of 1925 later became, of course, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Boyd-Browning, of Arnhem fame.

As a preamble to any of the Sovereign's Parades, Alexander usually completes up to half-dozen rehearsals during a run-up three weeks, this involving about ten practice rides up the steps.

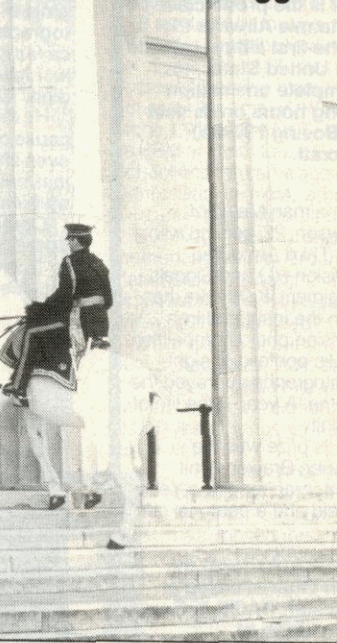
When he is not taking part in his three showpiece parades Alexander has other duties as the Adjutant's charger, one of which is the British Legion parade. He averages a parade somewhere every fortnight.

And as horses go, he is popular. Very popular. Visitors to his stable after the Sovereign's Parade bring an assortment of edible 'goodies'

No foot faults on the steps (right)



Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs



After walking along the corridor, an exit from the back of the building

SOLDIER readers may be able to fill in the missing gaps of Sandhurst Adjutant's chargers from 1926-38. Spook, a grey gelding, was there between 1923-26.

Since then, known equine acquisitions have included, Blue Tit, a bay mare, from 1938-41; Johnny a dun gelding, from 1941-45; and Toby, a grey gelding, from 1945-47.

The following are carefully logged: Horse 4148, Mary, a black mare, from January 1947 to August 1948; 3868 James Pigg, a grey gelding, from April 1948 until August 1950; 4455 Dastur, grey gelding, from August 1950 to January 1964; 5494 Mars, grey gelding, from January 1964 until May 1970; 5835 Thor, grey gelding, from May 1970 to January 1973; 5638 Blue Seal, grey gelding, from January 1973 until October 1975; 6023 Limerick Boy, grey gelding, from October 1975 until May 1976; 5792 Steel Sword, grey gelding, in May 1976 (12 days only); 6023 Limerick Boy, grey gelding, from May 1976 until November 1976; 6001 Vivian, grey gelding, from November 1976 until December 1976; 6148 Alexander, grey gelding, from February 1977 to date.

for him. These include carrots, apples and min's with the hole; all of it supervised very carefully by groom Cpl Mullett.

But the adulation does not stop there. Every year Alexander gets a host of Christmas cards for pinning to his stable door.

Sky's the limit for

Not much doubt that Bengal tigers come from Bengal, but Bengalese finches, well now, says Staff Sergeant Rick Pearson, they're a different matter. They come from China.

"But what's more," says Rick, "their true place of origin is unknown and they have no Latin name. One of the few, if not the only breed without a universal label."

Chief clerk with 1 Squadron RCT at Colchester, Rick is a man with an eye for a good-looking bird (strictly the feathered variety of course, for he is married to a pretty girl called Debra) and in the back garden of their MQ they have an aviary of 30 fluttering feathered friends.

A self-described novice, even though he's been a birdman since the age of 12, Rick won eight major shows last year and needs two more before entering the champion class in '87.

"And another thing," added Rick, "it's not possible to determine the sex of a Bengalese finch by inspection. It's all done by ear, for only the cock bird sings."

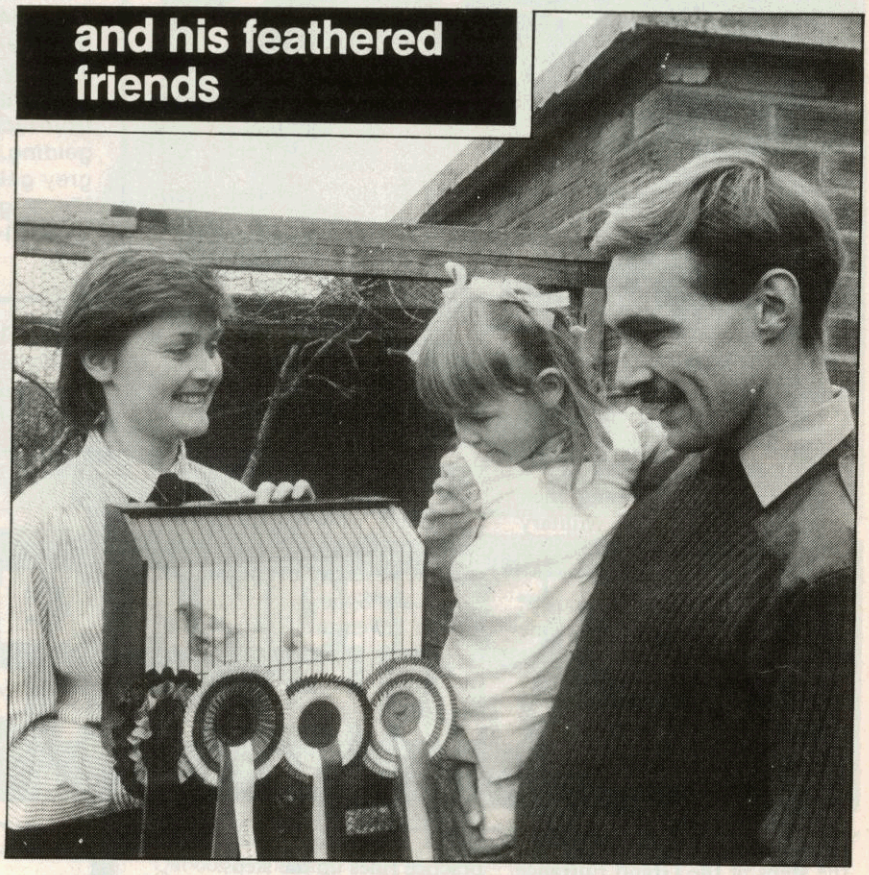
No wonder the aviary was silent, except for the flapping of wings, when photographer Terry Champion called... "My best boy has just fallen off his perch and died," said Rick.

He didn't say whether the cause of death was through over-singing. "I reckon he just caught a cold and fell off his perch."

Could be Rick was right. Just hope he doesn't have to travel to China for a replacement.

birdman Rick

and his feathered friends



STAFF SERGEANT RICK PEARSON, DEBRA AND DAUGHTER HAYLEY: bird-watchers all

NEWS in BRIEF

Just thought you'd like to know... Britannia Airways has operated trooping flights for the MoD to Germany for 16 years and to Gibraltar since 1981. Under the contract, some 180,000 MoD passengers, including Servicemen and their families, are carried each year.

At present, 80 per cent of air trooping is done by civil air charter. The remainder is carried out by the RAF as part of its peacetime training task.

It is the proud claim of Britannia Airways that it is the first airline, outside the United States, to complete one million flying hours on its fleet of Boeing 737-200 aircraft.

Signalman Malcolm Lawson, 22, serving with the Third Armoured Division HQ and Signals Regiment, Korbekke, has won the inaugural Iron Division photo competition.

His portfolio of eight photographs portrayed the theme 'A year in the life of a Unit'.

His prize was the Kronen Brewery Unit Photographer of the Year shield and a personal gift.

Latest VIP to visit the Irish Guards based at Munster, BAOR is Grand Duke John of Luxembourg. Educated at Ampleforth School in England, he is the Colonel of the Irish Guards and served in the battalion from 1942 before returning to the Grand Duchy.

When Senior Citizen Harry B. Brand had to give up playing his bagpipes because of bronchitis, he couldn't bring himself to sell them — they're more than 100 years old — so he gave them to the Scots Guards at Wellington Barracks, London. Said ex-piper Harry from Hertfordshire: "They were given to me in my native Glasgow, when I was 16, by a very old gentleman. I felt so sentimental about them I gave them to the Guards."



This nude's well covered, but in protecting her these soldiers are more than exposed! But perhaps that's the name of the game in this army. No prizes for guessing which, but it sure isn't British.

Dougie calls it a day after 49 years

Back in 1937 a sergeant of the Irish Guards looked down on 16-year-old Dougie Covill and said: "Go round the corner, come back and say you're 18 and you can join the Army."

Dougie did just that and now, 49 years later as a retired major Dougie has finally said goodbye to the service.

As a member of the 10th Hussars Dougie was in France in 1940, saw out the whole of the North African campaign, including Alamein, and ended up in Italy on the Gothic Line at the River Po.

He finished the war as a sergeant and was commissioned QM of the 10th Hussars in 1960, a job he held

for the last ten years of his Service life.

As a retired major he became station officer at Werl, Menden and Hamm in West Germany before moving to Winchester as families, housing and welfare officer for the Light Division Depot.

He left with the good wishes of the Depot, a print of Peninsular Barracks, Winchester and the feeling of a life well spent.

WIVES WALK

More than £500 has been raised for physically handicapped children by wives of soldiers based at the Depot, The Prince of Wales' Division, Powys. Organised by Nikki Watson, Depot Commander's wife, they covered a ten-mile route and took along for company a dog and a pet rabbit!

I've got you COVERED!

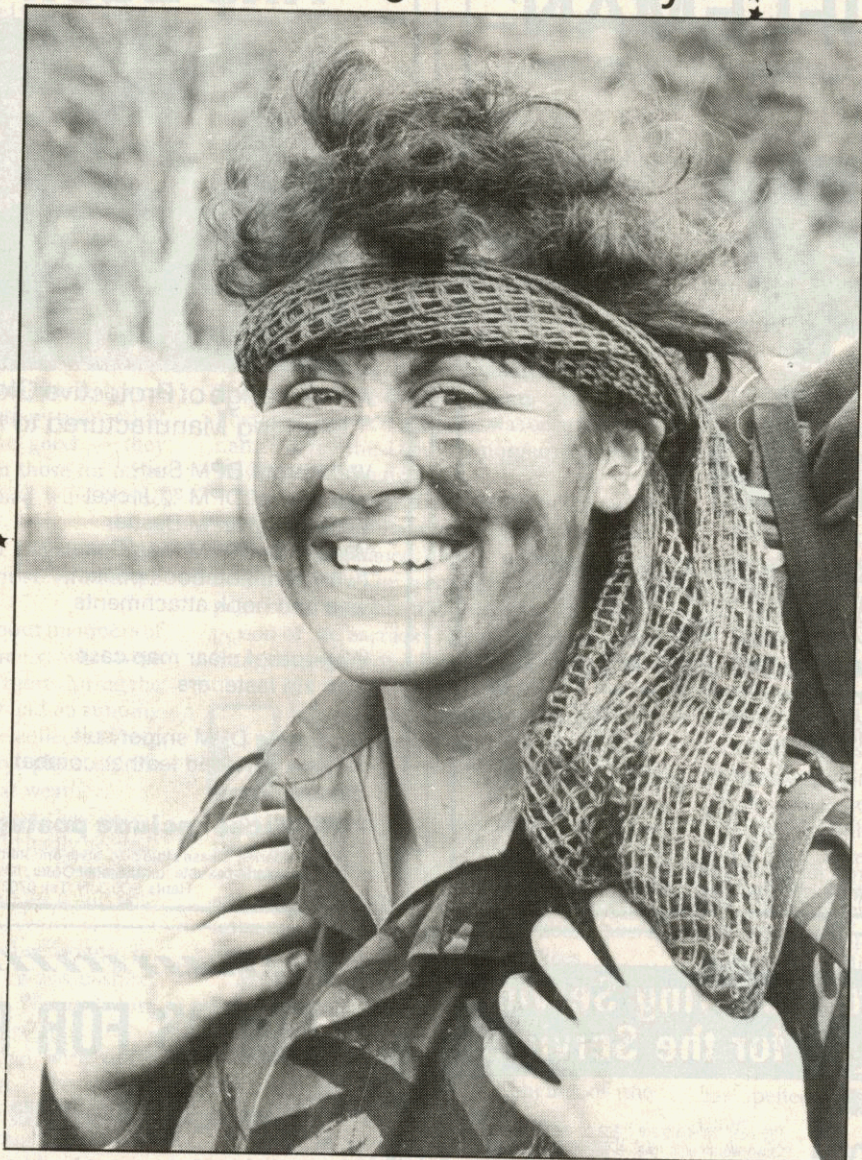
Welsh songsters look for hat-trick

Support Company of the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales will be looking for their hat-trick in next year's regimental singing contest. For they

have just won for the second time the title of top songsters. But it was a close-run affair at Lemgo when HQ Company scored 78 points and A Company 77.

 * Even under the cam-cream and
 * Rambo-style headband the 'glam'
 * shows through
 * Pretty TA nurse Janette Wilks —
 * Frankie to her friends — had just
 * completed a four-mile speed
 * march with 212 Field Hospital,
 * Sheffield, and still managed
 * an engaging smile.
 * But within minutes of finish-
 * ing the trek over the Catterick
 * moors, Frankie was all serious-
 * ness as she was called to help
 * a soldier who had collapsed
 * with exhaustion.
 * Frankie, 18 and un-
 * employed, joined the TA 15
 * months ago as a trainee
 * combat medical technician.
 * She said: "I joined by accident."
 * "I went along with a friend
 * to see what was going on and
 * became interested."
 * "I have a tremendous time
 * and I want to join the regulars
 * as a nurse when I've com-
 * pleted my training."
 * Enough said, except that
 * Frankie is a marathon runner
 * and swimmer, having recently
 * covered 22 miles in her local
 * pool. Sounds like she's just
 * getting into her stride.
 * *****

WOW! It's Ram the 'glam' – TA style



FRANKIE WILKS: still smiling after a four-mile dash

Sandhurst security chief retires

A man who is mentioned in no less than ten pages in the *History of the Irish Guards* in the 1939-45 war, has retired as security officer at Sandhurst.

Captain Desmond Lynch, a soldier since 1937 who took



Captain Desmond Lynch

part in much hand-to-hand fighting in Italy and North Africa, has finally called it a day and retired to Lincolnshire.

"But I'm not stopping work. I'm looking to a new career as a security consultant," he said.

A wartime hero who won the DCM during the final push on Tunis in 1943, he has scores of wartime memories, but rates his role as RSM of Mons Officer Cadet School, as RSM of Eton House Cadet School and the same again at Dehra Dun in India, among his career highlights.

He lists his proudest moment as the day a room at Caterham was named after him. "I started the Irish Guards drill wing there in 1948."

While his job at Sandhurst, out of necessity, has been low-profile, he said that while he had "no tricky moments in his ten years, things got a little tense at times.

But now that's all behind him and the 6 ft 3 inch-tall Dubliner has moved on. "I've really enjoyed my time here and it's my belief that standards at the Academy today are higher than they have every been."

Have-a-go duo in bank gun raid chase

Two 'have-a-go' soldiers who tried to foil a bank hold-up had to abandon their chase when the gunman threatened them with a pistol.

The two soldiers, from the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, were in Lemgo, West Germany, when the raid took place.

One soldier went for the police while the other waited for the robber to emerge.

When he did they followed him, but when threatened had to drop back. But they were able to give the police a detailed description of the man.

The two plucky soldiers are not being named for safety reasons.

Top 4th Armd Div post for ex-PR chief

The new Commander of the 4th Armoured Division is Major General Mike Hobbs.

He took over the BAOR appointment just before Christmas following a 19-month spell as the Army's Director of Public Relations.

General Hobbs, 48, was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1958 and has held a number of regimental and staff jobs, including command of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in the UK and Berlin.

Educated at Eton, General Hobbs is married with two daughters and a son and lives in Hampshire.

His predecessor at 4th Armoured Division was Major General John Waters who has moved to the Army Staff College, Camberley, as Commandant.



Maj Gen Hobbs

PEOPLE

VIP visit for Billy

True concern... the Queen Mother chats to Lance Corporal Billy Bell of 1 Cheshires, who had a leg blown off by a terrorist bomb in Northern Ireland. The Queen Mother was visiting the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, when she met Billy, 26, who has been undergoing treatment for some years.

Kids' holiday help plea

Every year for the past 16 poor children from the UK have been treated to a "holiday of a lifetime" in Cyprus.

"And we hope to go on doing so for the next 16," says organising chairman Corporal Anthony Reeve of the RAF based at Akrotiri.

But to fly ten youngsters out from the UK

costs money, and the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalo, who organise the event, could do with some help with cash or equipment.

If you want to help — make it your New Year's resolution — write to Corporal Reeve, Aeromed Section, Princess Mary Hospital, RAF, Akrotiri, BFPO 57.



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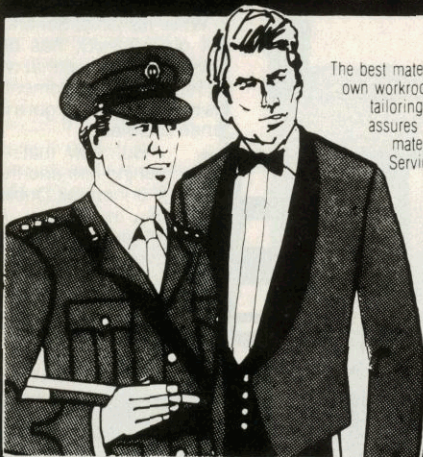
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DIGGING into the history of military buildings can be a fascinating experience.

SOLDIER has heard of three such projects which have been taking place recently, one in Germany and two in England.

Down in Hampshire, a team researching into the former Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, which housed many thousands of military wounded in battle, have found the hospital was not the 'monstrosity' which it was labelled in the Press. It was, they say, a community with a spirit of its own, a very sad place at times but remembered on the whole as a happy, friendly place and to some the place where they spent 'the best days of their life'. Now, alas, the hospital is no more.

The researchers have unearthed a story about wounded French officers who were fished from the water at Dunkirk and were surprised at the treatment they received at Netley hospital. Meals were good — they were cooked separately from those for other patients — and they even had wine served with them.

The French also found it surprising that even during the war the British still played tennis at weekends.

The team has also heard about members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment who were housed in the barrack rooms there during the Second World War, but they had no running water! Cold water had to be collected from the square and washing took place on the balcony — even in the coldest weather.

But generally, information on the Second World War period is sparse, and badly needed. If any SOLDIER readers have information, we would be pleased to hear about it and pass it to the research team.

Another barracks which has been long gone is Budbrooke Barracks in Warwickshire, former home of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment from nearly a century ago.

When the regiment merged with other Fusilier regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the barracks was demolished and the site became the centre of the village of Hampton Magna. All signs of its history have vanished, but now it is planned to build a commemorative garden close to

SOLDIER to Soldier

what was once the main entrance to the barracks.

Donations can be sent to Major A H Haycock, c/o The Royal Warwickshire Regimental Association, St John's House, Warwick, CV34 4NF.

Over in Germany, the young officers of 3 Armoured Division Transport Regiment have just completed a study of the history of Glamorgan Barracks at Duisburg where the regiment is currently based.

The barracks was originally built as a Luftwaffe anti-aircraft camp, and after liberation by the Americans was occupied and named after the 1/5 (Glamorgan) Battalion Royal Welch Regiment.

The project took a year to complete and is still going on, although there has already been mounted a permanent display in the regimental headquarters. The team has produced a 32-page book with photographs from the entire period of the barracks life, which is available from the regimental PRI shop.

THE subject of National Service arose again recently and one newspaper report suggested it might be reintroduced.

As usually happens following such reports, there were questions in the House of Commons probing for information. One such question asked whether there were plans to recruit large numbers of unemployed school leavers into the support arms of the Services.

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, pointed out that MoD already operates the Armed Services Youth Training Scheme in parallel to, but separate from the Youth Training Scheme of the Manpower Services Commission.

Consideration was being given, he said, to bringing the ASYTS into line with the MSC YTS by extending the term from one year to two, but no decisions had been taken and no

wider scheme was under consideration.

The same MP, Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour member for Kingston upon Hull, tried again a few days later, asking if any discussions had taken place about the possibility of recruiting large numbers of unemployed school leavers into the support arms of the Forces.

The reply, this time from Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces: "This possibility is not under consideration."

★ ★ ★

THANKS to Mr Martin R Gurney who took the trouble to write all the way from Australia (see Mail Drop) to pass a comment on the complaints which SOLDIER receives about inaccuracies.

He had noticed that this magazine prints quite a few letters from readers who notice that the title of a regiment of unit has been given incorrectly.

Commenting that some people seem to take such mistakes as a personal insult, Mr Gurney says he understands that mistakes are bound to occur occasionally.

SOLDIER is only too ready to admit that it should publish military titles correctly, appreciating the concern over such matters, and readily apologises if it gets things wrong. But a little understanding goes a long way.

It was interesting to discover, when SOLDIER received a copy the other day, that one regiment appears to have a pre-printed postcard-size slip which it apparently sends out whenever an incorrect abbreviation for its title is spotted.

SOLDIER also received a telephone call from an officer complaining that the magazine has spelled 'collocation' incorrectly in one issue.

As Mr Gurney comments: "We must remember 'To err is human, to forgive is Divine'".

Sorry, 'Divine' — Ed

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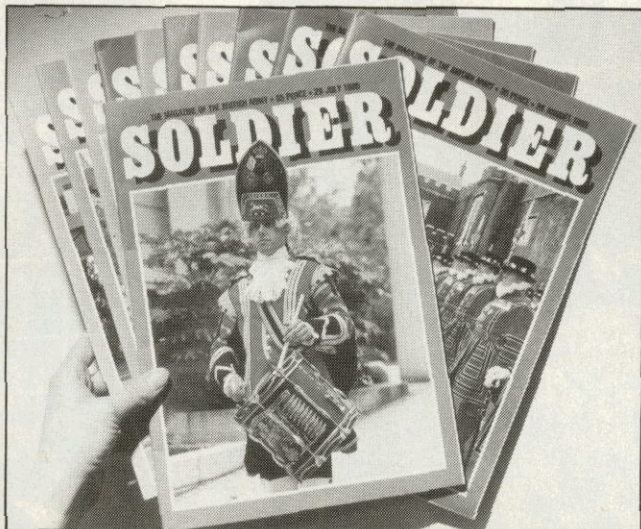
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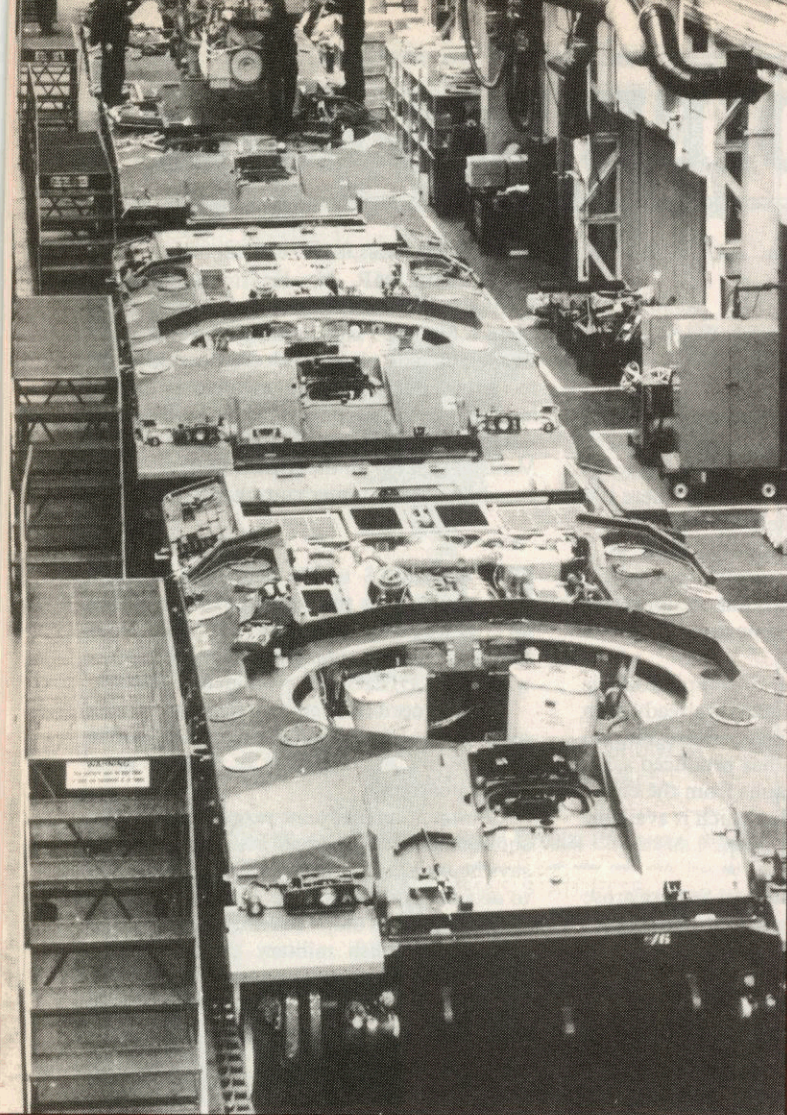
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Challenger hulls... 11,000 bits with the engine as a single item

Below: Early production stage. Six months to go before completion

WHEN the Shah of Iran got his marching orders from the Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979, an order for 1,000 main battle tanks for his army went with him. Simultaneously the hopes of years of work for the design teams and 1,600 craftsmen at Royal Ordnance, Leeds, took a sharp and sudden nosedive.

The immediate effect of the cancellation was to leave them with a near-empty order book, except for a British Army order for about 300 tanks — now known as Challenger — of which about 200 have so far been delivered.

Since at the present rate of production it takes about nine months for a completed Challenger to roll off the production line at Leeds, it is not difficult to forecast that a couple of years will see the end of the current run.

But it was thanks to that mammoth order of the late Shah that the Leeds factory was able to set up its production line, ready to roll into action on his behalf.

And it was also through his order for Shir tanks — an acronym for Shah of Iran — the present-day Challenger was developed.

The Shir itself was a special development of the Chieftan, but when the project was cancelled it did not take long for Royal Ordnance experts to uprate the vehicle and clad it in the hush-hush Chobham armour which, they claim, is the best-known tank protection in the world.

Their alacrity in developing the Challenger was in no small way attributable to the cancellation of the Iran order.

"It made us realise we needed other orders if we were to stay in business," said a company spokesman. "Some say it was the best thing that ever happened to us."

Now, with privatisation looming — the Government looks set to sell off the 16 factories next summer — Royal Ordnance sales teams are probing world markets for their products.

Currently they have their sights set firmly on Saudi Arabia, coupled with the fervent hope that their efforts will yield an order for more than 100 Challengers.

"The Saudi deal is very important to us," said financial director Bernard Carey.

Meanwhile, as the sales teams set out to convince potential buyers that Challenger is the world's best, the 1,600 workers at the 69-acre Leeds site continue assembling the 11,000 bits and pieces that go to make a Challenger. "And that's counting the engine as a single item," said Bernard Carey.

"We buy in about half the parts from outside sources with production involving 15 of our 16 factories.

"When they are finished and roll off the end of the line we are always sorry to see them go."

But before they leave the site



End of the line for a Challenger. Tried and tested — except for the gun, it leaves for an Army store

Below: Turret time. Gently does it as the gun-housing is lowered for a final fit

for Army stores they are tested to their limits, everything that is except for firing the gun. There is no way a 120 mm gun could be fired in Leeds.

Brakes, suspension, engine, gearbox and final drives, communications, cross-country performance, speed, vertical obstacles, gradient tests, trench crossing trials and fording rivers, all get the chance to test the Challenger, which never fails to rise above everything thrown at it.

Sometimes one is dunked in a huge tank of water to test the hull for leaks. "But our welders are the best and we never have any problems in that area," said Mr Carey.

Ironically one of the test team is ex-RAF man Alan Morley, Alan, 46, and a tank tester for the past 13 years, is one who can give the thumbs up — or down — for any test a Challenger is put through.

"Lovely to handle," said Alan, having just hurled the 60-tonner at 35 mph round the test track. "Steers like a car and goes like a bomb..."

Added Mr Carey: "You could

say we are in love with tanks here..."

And that is not overstating the case. Douglas Cooke, Director of the Leeds factory, started there as an apprentice and is now the boss. Many others, too, have been there most of their working lives.

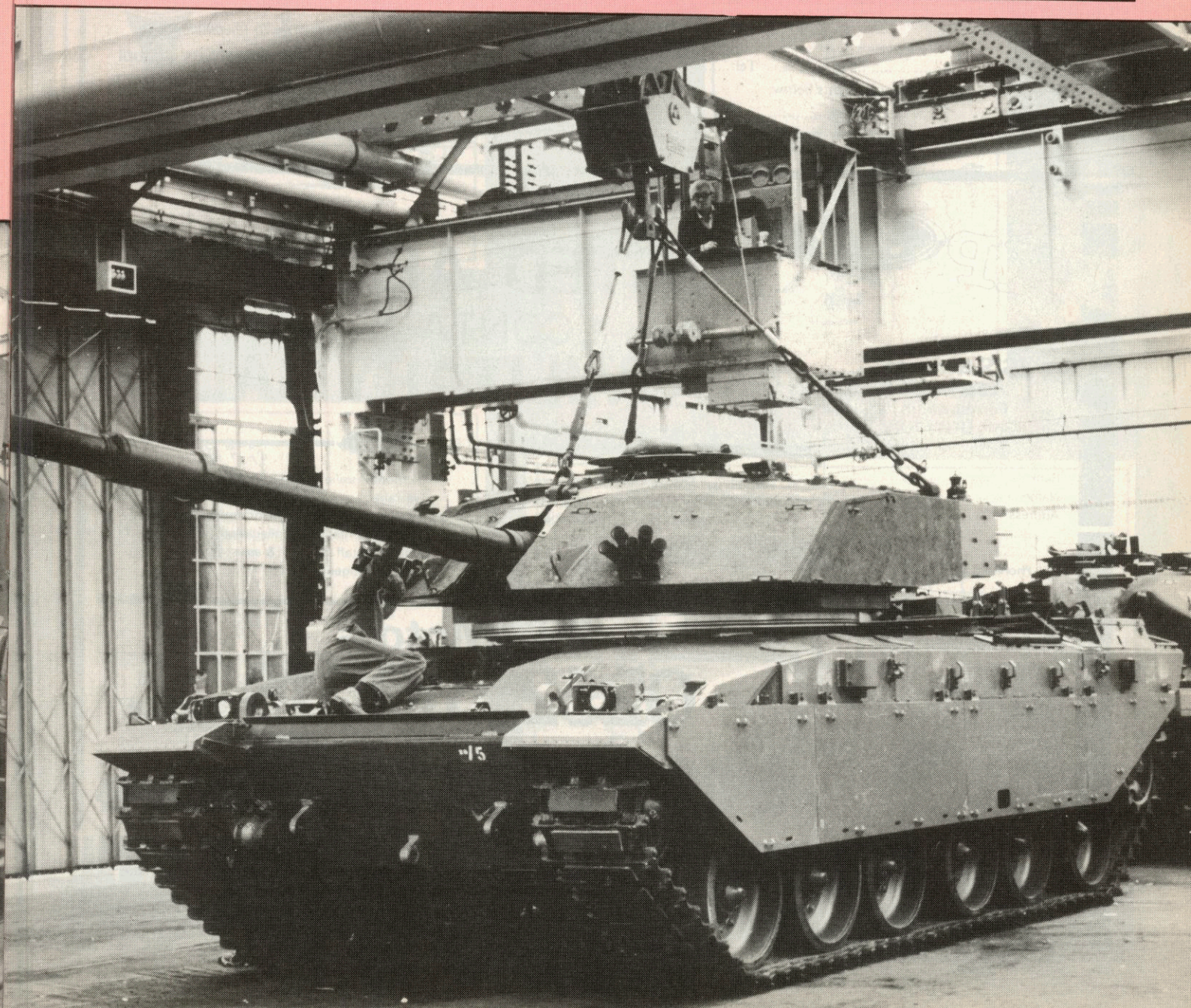
Tanks are their business and they are hoping orders will continue for their products despite the problems the tough world of commerce will undoubtedly bring when they go private next year.

"But we have a tremendous engineering facility here," said Mr Carey. "We've also got a lot of talent and skill capable of diversifying and expanding into any other market."

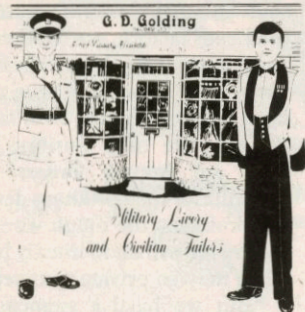
His words were assuring in that, if the challenge comes along Royal Ordnance Leeds will, like their world-beating Challenger tank, be in the forefront ready, willing, and extremely able to take on any test.

Story:
John Margetts

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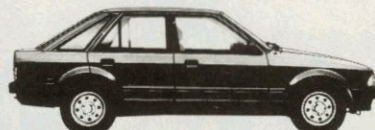
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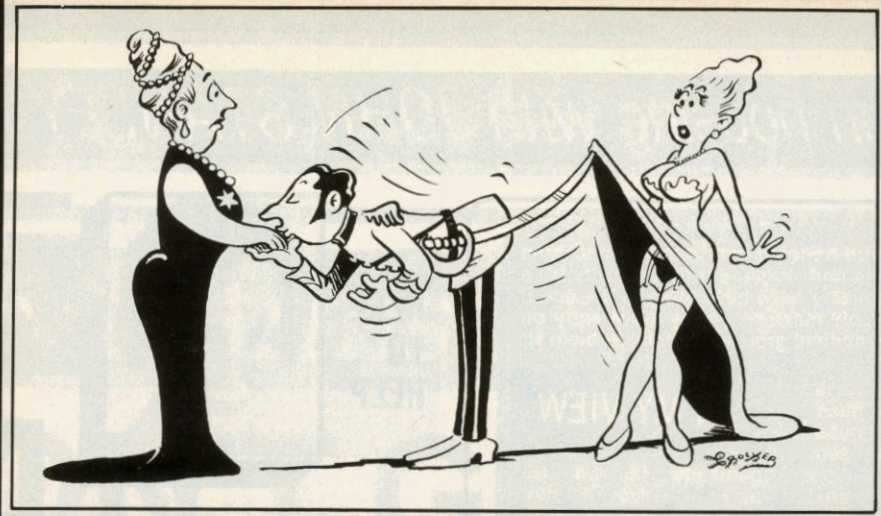
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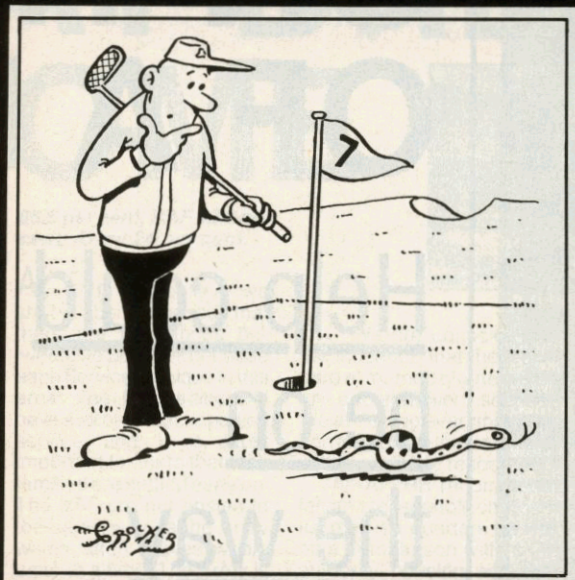
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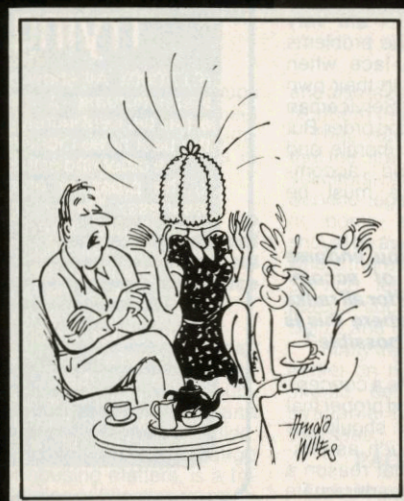




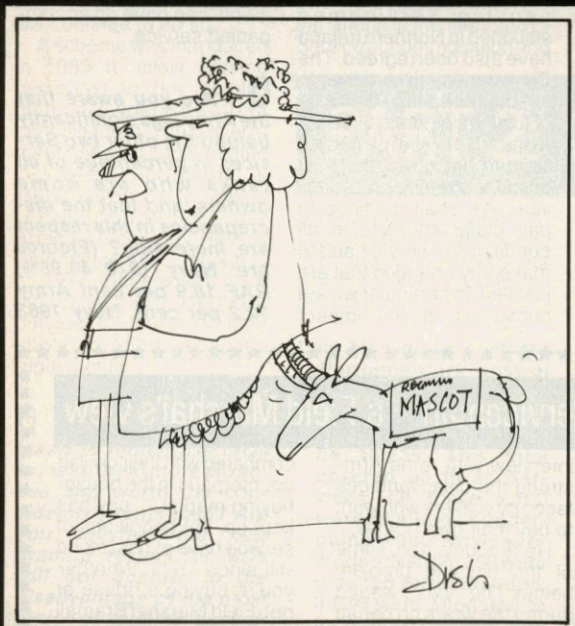
"Quick, follow that car!"



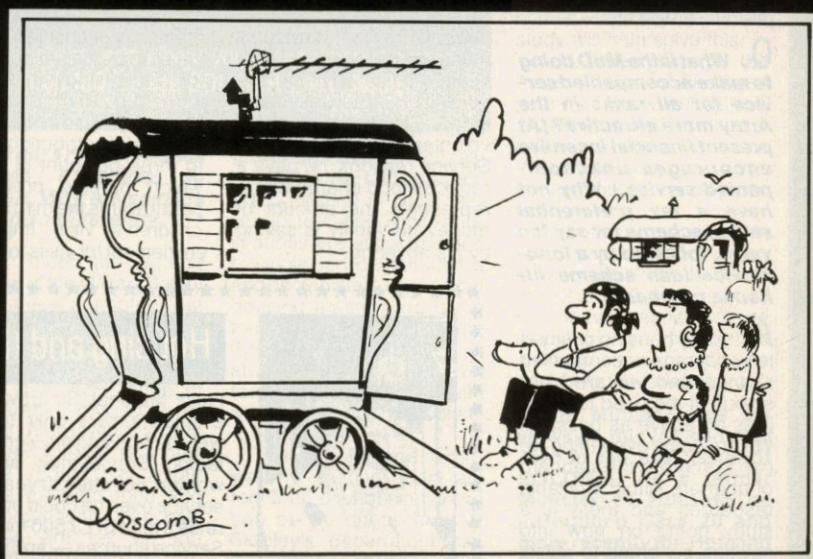
Humour



"As I was saying..."



Hardly the time, Desmond and certainly not the place



"I told you a 24in screen was too big"

A Q-and-A special on housing with JOHN STANLEY MP — Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Q. Do you propose to reconcile the concept of accompanied service with the desire by Army families to purchase houses, while they are still serving and able to command reasonable mortgages, particularly when the availability of council housing is declining?

A. This is a difficult problem and there is no simple solution. We cannot, nor would we wish, to stop Army families from buying a house as an investment for the future. What we can do is to accept that and still make it possible for the families to move together on posting without feeling they ought to live in their own house. I recognise that it may be difficult to move children at critical stages in their education, and I know that Army wives have their own careers. These factors tend to encourage unaccompanied service. I can only say again that I am very conscious of the problems some families face when they are living in their own house and the Serviceman receives a posting order. But for reasons of morale and peace of mind, accompanied service must be preferable.

Q. So do you endorse the concept of accompanied service for all ranks in the Army where this is operationally possible?

A. Yes I do. As a concept, it is only right and proper that Army families should be together as much as possible and for that reason a large married quarter estate is provided. But there are times when, for operational reasons, it is not feasible for wives and children to be with their husbands but that is part of Service life.

Q. What is the MoD doing to make accompanied service for all ranks in the Army more attractive? (At present financial incentive encourages unaccompanied service.) Why not have a tax preferential saving scheme for say ten years, followed by a long-service loan scheme for house purchase?

A. Army housing policy is to encourage accompanied service and we are conscious of the need to make it as attractive as possible. We are doing everything we can to improve the standard of quarters within available resources and there is a study going on now into savings schemes to assist soldiers to save for house purchase towards the end of a career.

There is a dark cloud hanging over many Servicemen and women, married and single. For the majority it's a nightmare which quickly becomes reality at the end of their service, probably more so if they leave early on compassionate or medical grounds. Their problem is: Where shall I live?

At one end of the scale is the worry of keeping pace with ever increasing house prices, which have all risen over the past year.

For example, an unmodernised two-up two-down terraced house in Northern Ireland shows a rise of 13 per cent with an average price of £14,000. In Wales the same house has increased by eight per cent to an average of £9,500.

It's the same story in Scotland with a 12 per cent rise, average price £25,000; northern England nine per cent (£20,000); north-west England ten per cent (£25,000); Humberside seven per cent (£12,000); east Midlands ten per cent (£17,000). All show a minimum increase of one-and-a-half per cent increase over the past three months.

The other end of the scale is the prospect of homelessness. This is a real possibility when local authority housing is not forthcoming. For the past ten years at least the MoD has considered the housing needs of Servicemen.

General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, former Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, worked hard for the introduction of a house

purchase scheme, and now as President of the Royal British Legion, knows only too well the problems facing ex-Servicemen and women today.

More weight was brought to bear by the Adjutant General at his 1985 annual conference when he spotlighted housing as an issue of major concern.

And even more recently at SSAFA's annual conference in November Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall expressed dismay that the assisted house purchase scheme, which he had

striven to achieve, had not come to fruition. So where do we stand in 1986? To find out I spoke to Mr John Stanley, MP, Minister for State for the Armed Forces.

I asked him what, in view of increasing house prices and the threat of homelessness, could be done to alleviate these and other housing problems facing Servicemen and women as we move into the last years of the century, especially when present Government policy is for home ownership.

Of course, unaccompanied service is not designed to be financially advantageous. The married unaccompanied soldier does not pay for his accommodation because he is not expected to pay for the upkeep of two houses — and if he is unaccompanied voluntarily rather than for Service reasons, he pays a reduced food charge which represents the amount of money his family is saving by his absence.

IN MY VIEW

purchase scheme, and now as President of the Royal British Legion, knows only too well the problems facing ex-Servicemen and women today.

More weight was brought to bear by the Adjutant General at his 1985 annual conference when he spotlighted housing as an issue of major concern.

And even more recently at SSAFA's annual conference in November Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall expressed dismay that the assisted house purchase scheme, which he had

striven to achieve, had not come to fruition. So where do we stand in 1986? To find out I spoke to Mr John Stanley, MP, Minister for State for the Armed Forces.

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Conditions of service are designed as far as possible to help families stay together. Boarding school allowance in particular allows the continuity of children's education to be maintained while the family moves around. The Government has recently abolished the parental contribution of up to three per cent of salary which parents previously paid towards the third school children's visit. Improved entitlement for visits to Great

Britain for families accompanying Servicemen stationed in Northern Ireland have also been agreed. The Government always tries to ensure that, within the limits of justifiable public expenditure, Servicemen and women are given the best possible conditions of service. We shall continue to pay close attention to all conditions of service and to make any changes that are justified. In particular we are conscious of the impact

which allowances and entitlements can have on accompanied service.

Q. Are you aware that the Army lags significantly behind the other two Services in percentage of all ranks who are home owners, and that the discrepancies in this respect are increasing? (Figures are: Navy 1970 44.95%; RAF 18.9 per cent Army 12.2 per cent. Navy 1983

65.5 per cent; RAF 42.9 per cent; Army 24 per cent.

A. I do not believe we should be surprised that there are differences between the Services because each Service is unique in this area. The RN traditionally have a lot of unaccompanied service and it is most important for them that their families are settled early on. The RAF are not posted in the same way as the Army which often moves whole units at a time. The Army is by nature the most mobile of all three Services and it is only relatively recently that more Army families have been buying houses while still serving. As your figures show, the number of Army house owners is increasing and it seems likely that they will continue to do so.

A scheme was introduced in 1983 to allow Service personnel to buy surplus married quarters at a 30 per cent discount. The Government has also implemented in full (save for staging in 1984) every pay award recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body since 1979. This has ensured that soldiers have broadly kept level with those outside in terms of their ability to afford mortgage repayments.

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

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Q. What action is being taken to modernise MQs to make them more attractive and worth the considerable rents paid? Are you satisfied the new grading system for MQs will not operate to the disadvantage of the most junior of soldiers, especially those who will have to pay Grade 1 charges for new quarters?

A. We are conscious of the influence that the standard of married quarters has on accompanied service. We are doing everything we can to improve that standard within available resources.

The AFPRB recommend fair and reasonable charges for married quarters based on a comparison with local authority housing and the rental element of the charge is abated by a substantial amount to help compensate for the disadvantages which a Service occupant suffers.

The new grading system, I believe, is a much fairer system than the previous one. It better reflects the variations in the standard of Service accommodation and

reasons; 4,050 were identified as surplus to requirements and were in the process of being passed to PSA for disposal.

These figures add up to more than 14,235 because the figure of 2,700 quarters held vacant for deployment reasons included 900 undergoing modernisation and already counted in the 5,100.

Q. The police have a number of housing perks, not least when it comes to buying a house, and live in houses not unlike married quarters. I understand they live either rent

free or get a rent allowance and so, I believe, do firemen. Why are soldiers treated so differently?

A. Under the agreed concept of the Military Salary it has been accepted that the pay of Service personnel shall be determined in relation to the earnings of those in a wide range of comparable civilian jobs. Hand in hand with this, it is accepted that Service personnel should pay a fair charge for both food and accommodation. Like pay, charges are set on the recommendation of the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body. Different arrangements may apply to

other public sector groups such as the police to meet their particular circumstances and conditions of service.

Q. Since advice to Servicemen is important should not the Services set up a proper tri-Service housing agency?

A. There is already a close liaison between the three Services on housing subjects. The Servicemen and women's Housing Guide, which covers a wide range of housing matters, is a tri-Service publication to which every Serviceman and woman is entitled. In addition advice on housing questions and details of individual

schemes, such as the sale of surplus married quarters, are published in Joint Service instructions. These publications are supplemented by single Service instructions and pamphlets to ensure that housing matters are given the widest publicity within the three Services. Advice is always available at unit level to individual Servicemen with a particular housing problem.

That the MoD are somewhat to getting their act together on housing there can be no doubt, and Mr Stanley's department has additionally agreed that the various Service publications on housing should be more consistent with each other

and also take in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

They have also agreed that the directory of regional solicitors, already held by Service legal detachments at home and overseas, should be available in places where there is no permanent Service legal adviser — places such as Gibraltar, Belize and the Falklands.

Thirdly they say the DoE's leaflet on housing matters should be more readily available to Servicemen overseas.

PACKAGE
To sum up, it is obvious the housing problem is going to be around for some years — at least until a financial package can be formulated to help soldiers buy their own homes. Hopefully the current study will help solve this.

And, even though the Assisted House Purchase scheme is now well buried, the Minister and his military and civilian staffs assure me they are all working on ways to ease this perennial problem.

Personally, my worry is that Servicemen and women leaving the Army between the 12 and 15-year point, or who leave prematurely on medical or compassionate grounds, could well be caught in the housing trap.

The Minister puts his views on this topic in *Part Two* in the next issue of *SOLDIER*. As a former Minister of Housing he introduced Case 20 and more recently the Housing Guide, which is indicative, at least, that he is well aware of our housing needs.



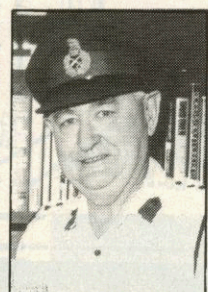
JOHN STANLEY MP: no simple solutions

PART 2: Council houses, and where you stand when it comes to buying an MQ — see SOLDIER's next issue.

allows married quarters to be graded individually, taking into account factors for which deficiency points can be awarded.

Last November a written Parliamentary answer revealed the number of vacant Service houses at the end of July 1985 to be 14,235. This total covered all three Services. Of these 5,100 were awaiting or undergoing works services or modernisation; 250 were planned for demolition; 3,030 were allocated to incoming families and awaiting occupation; 2,700 were being held vacant for deployment

Housing and the Serviceman — a Field Marshal's view



Sir Edwin Bramall

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall knows only too well the housing problems facing Servicemen and women. For after 30 years service even he could only raise a loan of £3,500 from Service sources — and he was 50 then!

In the next issue of *SOLDIER* he tells in an

interview with Anne Armstrong the disadvantages faced by soldiers who want to buy their own homes.

He recounts, too, some of the housing problem battles he has waged during the years on behalf of Servicemen.

In his view Servicemen face a terrible dilemma

compared with their civilian counterparts in the house-buying market... pay has kept up, but conditions of service have almost stood still since 1979. Whether you're buying a house or not, Field Marshal Bramall raises many interesting points which will make absorbing reading.

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As the 500th WRAC recruit parade passes out, ex-RSM Margaret Ashworth tells John Margetts

'I'D SIGN ON AGAIN TOMORROW'

SHE didn't look a bit like a regimental sergeant major, the rank she held for most of her 22 years with the ATS and the WRAC, but more like someone's granny.

Seeing her now, grey-haired, small, neat and wearing spectacles, the role of RSM and strict disciplinarian would be the last job anyone would guess had been hers for all that time.

Margaret Ashworth's voice shook slightly as she said: "Those years were the best of my life... If I had my time again I'd sign on again tomorrow. Life outside the Army is just not the same."

At five feet three inches tall, Miss Ashworth — "Don't call me Maggie" — just scraped past the minimum height requirement for the ATS by the thickness of a cigarette paper.

"That was in 1939 when I volunteered after a couple of years with the TA in Manchester, my home town. Two years later I was an RSM."

By today's standards her rise to this exalted rank — one she described as 'lonely' — was truly meteoric.

"I got my first stripe almost as soon as I joined up, about a month before the war started. A few weeks later I was a sergeant."

"The company commander just handed out stripes to those with TA service. One week you were a corporal, the next a sergeant."

Miss Ashworth, 68 now, told of her service with the ATS and the WRAC as she watched the 500th passing-out parade of recruits at the WRAC Centre, Guildford — she was on the first.

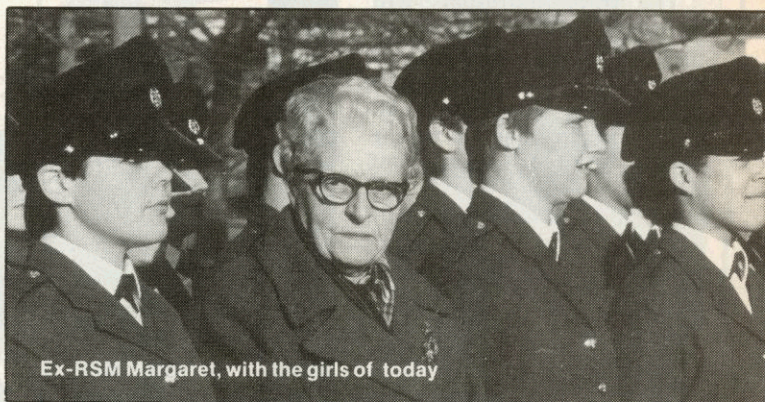
"They're just as good now as they ever were," she said watching the 40 young women with an average age of 18, accompanied by the Band of the WRAC, swing smartly past Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, GOC South-East District.

With just seven weeks military training behind them, the girls of 1 Company did indeed put on a good show to earn the salute of the General and the admiration and applause of several hundred watching relatives and friends.

"It was the best thing that ever happened when the ATS changed to the WRAC and became part of the Regular Army. That was in 1949," she said.

"It meant good careers were open to young women on the same level as men."

"Of course it was much different when I started with the 65th Heavy Ack-Ack on a gun-site in Manchester. Mostly our jobs then meant acting as cooks and clerks, making tea and coffee. I think my pay was about 1s 6d (6p) a day. I can't remember my exact pay as an RSM in 1942, but I recall thinking what a princely sum it was... about £2 a week, I think."



Ex-RSM Margaret, with the girls of today

While the General, accompanied by Colonel Audrey Smith, Commandant of the Centre, inspected the parade — only one girl fainting despite the intense cold — Miss Ashworth told of the time RSM Ronald Brittain of the Coldstream Guards, was called in to advise the Centre on how best to organise a royal parade.

Unsure of the date, but certain of the occasion at which the Princess Royal opened the WRAC Museum, the best-known voice in the Army was wheeled in to meet the then commandant.

"Of course you'll be riding your horse onto the square...?" he asked. There was an uncomfortable silence before he was politely told we didn't have horses, let alone ride them.

"Leaving the commandant's office we went on to this very square where he suddenly let out a shout like a fog horn. I'd never heard anything like it and, as I only reached just above his waist height, I got the full blast. I asked him why he did it and he replied: 'I'm testing the acoustics.'"

"Soon after we decided we could do without his help and his voice. In the event everything went off very smoothly indeed."

And so life for Miss Ashworth went on. "It was a fascinating time and I enjoyed every minute, even

down to the time when the gun crew I was with in Manchester opened fire on one of our own planes. That was the day war broke out. Fortunately they missed. In fact I don't think they ever hit anything," she laughed.

"When they rebuilt this Centre, replacing the old huts with brick buildings, some of us buried silver 'tanners' in the foundation. Someone will find them one day..."

Listening to Miss Ashworth recollect the past was indicative, if not proof positive that life is but a string of memories. Certainly for her, her Service memories were happy ones and she counts her good fortune for this.

Her only sadness was when her time came to retire. That was in 1961 and by then she was a captain QM.

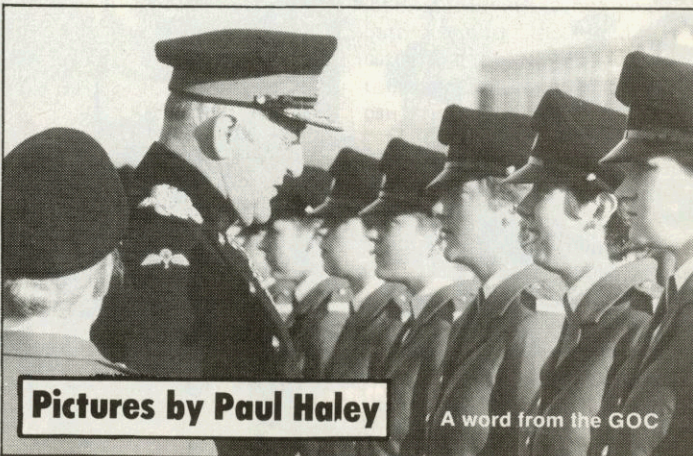
Now she spends her free time as an active member of her local British Legion branch near her home in Guildford.

"Apart from the occasional visit to the Centre it keeps me in touch with Service life. Of course we talk a different language to that of the present generation of soldiers, but one thing remains exactly the same — comradeship."

"It's a marvellous quality that's part of everyday life in the Army. You just don't have that sort of thing in Civvy Street."



March past — 'as good now as they ever were'



Pictures by Paul Haley

A word from the GOC

NEXT SUMMER will mark very special occasions for the battalions of 51st Highland Volunteers — they will be receiving Colours for the first time since they were formed in 1971.

The three battalions will each hold their separate ceremonies, probably within three or four weeks of each other around mid-summer. For all three the parades will be the climax of long periods of preparation.

Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Johnston, the commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers, said that his unit had been saving for the past six years.

"I will be very surprised if it doesn't cost us £7,500," he added.

Obviously the presentations mean a great deal for everyone involved. But for Colonel Johnston the parade at Elgin will have special significance.

It will mark virtually the end of his two year tour as a TA CO of one of the most widespread units in the country. Sponsored TA units recruit right across the whole of Great Britain, of course, but no independent formation covers the extent of 2/31 Highland; the colonel is quite sure about that.

Certainly neither 1/51 Highland, based in Perth, nor 3/51, in Stirling have anything like the same recruiting territory.

On a map in his office at the TA Centre in Elgin, Colonel Johnston indicated a line running from Montrose, on the east coast of Scotland, northwards through Deeside and Ballater, across the Cairngorms, down Loch Erich, up towards Fort William, over Argyll and out to sea south of the Isles of Eigg and Barra.

"I recruit from everything north



Robert Higson finds a TA unit where the

TERRIERS COMMUTE BY AIR

of that line," he said. "To put it in perspective I think if you put one end of a compass on Elgin and the other end on Shetland and drew a circle round it would come somewhere near Manchester."

Battalion HQ and Headquarters Company are based on Elgin which is conveniently close to the River Spey, the dividing line for the respective recruiting territories of the regular Gordon Highlanders and Queen's Own Highlanders.

Consequently Colonel Johnston's A Company, based on Wick, and his C Company, at Inverness, are both affiliated to Queen's Own Highlanders, while his B Company (Peterhead) and D Company (Aberdeen) have Gordon affiliations.

Some companies have to cover

pretty wide areas themselves. The Inverness based C Company has mortars at Dingwall and platoons at Nairn, Fort William and Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. A Company has outposts at Thurso, Brora and on the Orkneys where Lovat Scouts are attached to the Kirkwall platoon.

From Aberdeen D Company goes to the southernmost limit of the patch, Laurencekirk (where the Milan platoon is based), and way up north to the Shetlands.

This apparent defiance of simple geography is due to the lines of communication. In the past, when the Shetlands were part of C Company, the ludicrous situation existed of having to ship vehicles between Lerwick and Kirkwall via Aberdeen.

No shortage of training areas. A lone signaller amid the rugged splendours of Lairig Ghru

Colonel Johnston's far flung forces require fairly complicated logistics to get them all together. Annual camps and battalion training weekends usually mean the hiring of a private plane to make a sweep through the islands to bring in the troops.

The situation is not without its lighter side. There is the story of one prospective recruit who was asked, like all TA recruits, to name his nearest railway station. He lived in the Shetlands and he put down, quite correctly, Stavanger in Norway!

It all means a lot of time spent travelling for the commanding officer. For someone like Colonel Johnston, it means time lost to his business (he is a chartered accountant) and to his family.

Territorial Army COs are a rather rare species. They need to have been around long enough to qualify for the job. In Colonel Johnston's case he's been in the TA since 1963 when he joined as a gunner in the Lovat Scouts. And they need to reside in an appropriately central area. It wouldn't make too much sense for the CO of 2/51 Highland to live out on South Uist, for example.

They also need the time and the energy to devote to their unit and that means an understanding family and obliging employers, or for Colonel Johnston, business partners.

"I aim to get to the outposts once a quarter," he said.

Soldiers of the Signals Platoon prepare for a battalion training weekend — Colour Sergeant James Anderson, Sergeant David Shand, and PSI Sergeant Jim Christie, of the Gordon Highlanders



Spat selection in the HQ Company clothing store. Private Stephen Duncan is getting a fitting from RQMS Ron Craib

Not unarmed combat — merely a first aid demonstration at an HQ Company drill night



Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Johnston, the much travelled CO of 2/51 Highland

"Stornoway, for example, requires me leaving Elgin at 6 am on Tuesday to get the only aeroplane. I arrive there for breakfast at 8.30.

"I stay there all day, attend a drill night, get on the boat from Stornoway to Ullapool at about 11 pm. It leaves at five in the morning and gets in at 9.30, and the staff car gets me back to my office by 11 o'clock. Shetland is just as bad.

"A drill night for me can mean saying goodbye to my wife at 5.30 pm and getting to Fort William at 7.45. Spending the drill

night with them and then racing back to get home at one in the morning."

Colonel Johnston uses many of these trips to catch up on TA paper work. He never takes work from his own business. But it all amounts to quite a balancing act keeping up with the commitments of unit, business clients and a family with two young daughters.

No doubt he will relinquish command with some feeling of relief. But there will be regret as well at leaving a flourishing battalion which was able to muster 350 men at annual camp last summer with a further 125 going to Gibraltar at the same time.

In the meantime there are still preparations to make for the all important Colours parade on Cooper Park, Elgin, which will involve four guards of 45 men each plus all the attendant backstage help.

The plan, the Colonel said, was to organise an annual camp beforehand at Cameron Barracks, Inverness.

"What I've got to do is to try to organise a camp which will have a lot of drill obviously, but plenty of battle training," he added. "If I can't find ground to do battle training in the north of Scotland I can't find it anywhere.

Colonel Johnston won't be in command for camp the following year when the battalion returns to Germany to practise its war role defending rear area supply lines. But he sees this experience as being particularly important for a unit like 2/51 Highland.

"It does mean," he said, "that these people from the islands get the chance to go away, to get off from the north of Scotland and travel to Germany."



Pictures by Les Wiggs

OPEN SPACES BRING BACK MEMORIES



HAVE you heard the one about the American who offered to buy Northern Ireland for six million dollars — one million a county — and hand the province to the South?

Tommy Stewart, a civilian representative with 39 Brigade in Northern Ireland, swears it's true.

Said Tommy: "It happened 30 years ago when an American pulled up outside the Grand Central Hotel in the centre of Belfast.

"His car was flying the tricolour, which excited a nearby policeman who told him to remove it, himself and his huge car.

"But he ignored all that and entered the hotel making his offer to the public at large. Of course he was soon carted off with his offer, his car and flag, never to be heard of again."

"A thing like that could only happen here," said Tommy who, with his boss Jack Dunlop, was taking a nostalgic look at the city centre of Belfast to talk of the changes over the past 15 years.

Jack Dunlop and Tommy Stewart on the site of the old Flax Street Mill... memories of a bomb on a raft in the culvert beneath the building

Fort George, nicknamed 'Silver City' because of its galvanised iron cladding, disappeared about seven years ago. It has been like this ever since

The two of them have worked for the Army for years as 'the meat in the sandwich', as Jack described it.

"Just about everything that involves the Army with civilians involves our department," said Jack. "And while times are quieter, we are as busy as ever, especially where redevelopment of property once occupied by the Army is concerned.

"But so far as Belfast City centre goes this hardly applies since most properties once occupied by the Army have been demolished and the sites left flat.

"But 15 years ago the Army occupied a number of hotels and mills, not least among them the Grand Hotel where the American made his amazing offer to buy the Province.

"It was a grand place and certainly lived up to its name. Entrance to it was through a huge chromium revolving door and will be remembered by thousands of soldiers who were based there until 1981."

Today the Grand is no more. It

was pulled down a short time ago and the site now awaits the builders to start a £50 million development of shops and offices which will take four years to complete.

Flax Street Mill is another name to jog the memories of past city-centre based battalions.

That, too, is no more, being just a flattened area. "In the early days it used to house a full battalion, but by the time the Army moved out in 1982 it was down to holding a company," said Tommy.

He had a story about Flax Street, too, telling of the time terrorists floated a bomb on a raft along a culvert that ran beneath the mill.

"Fortunately it didn't work, otherwise it could have been 'the treatment' for the soldiers inside at the time."

By way of explanation, he said that 'getting the treatment' was a local term for being shot or bombed.

Glenravel Street police station, Divisional HQ of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was another Army base in its day and housed among others 2RRF in the early 70s. The CO in those days, recalled Jack, was Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Reilly. The Parachute Regiment also took up residence there in those years under the command of Lieutenant Colonel G. Howlett.

The car cruised past a corner along Springfield Road. A dirt site now, it once housed the surgery of a well-known doctor whose son still practises in the district.

"The Army moved into the house several years ago, but eventually it got the treatment," intoned Jack.

The next stop was the site of Mulhouse Street Mill. Gone now, but in its place a housing estate fronted by a huge brick wall

running parallel to the new West Link Road.

"People can come and go as they please," said Jack. "But we advised on having the wall to obscure the view of house occupants on either side of the West Link, since one side is 'Green' (Catholic) and the other side 'Orange'."

Out of sight, out of mind... "but they still come out now and again and have a go at each other," said Jack.

MaCorry Park was next on the list... a Gaelic soccer pitch the Army built a base on it opposite the cemetery. But that, too, went the way of the others and disappeared beneath the bulldozers last summer.

**Story:
John Margetts
Pictures:
Terry Champion**

As a goodwill gesture a nearby fence was painted with murals by Army artists, but when the kids discovered it they "pelted it with mud," said Tommy.

Fort Monagh, another name to recall memories of those tough times, is yet another housing site under construction. It was just a field when the Army took it over.

Fort George, nicknamed 'Silver City' by the troops, is yet another for those based there in the 70s.

A galvanised iron clad building, it was flattened about seven years ago and has stayed an open site ever since.

Woodbourne House Hotel, where Tommy had his wedding reception in 1962 was a "beautiful hotel". "We lived close by then and we watched it burn down in 1971," said Tommy.

Belfast has a Wall, too. It obscures the view of rival factions either side of the West Link Road on the site of Mulhouse Street Mill

"The Army took over the site — in fact a small section is still based there — but a brand new building now houses Northern Ireland's newest police station."

Built at a cost of millions, the bright red-brick building opened for business in the autumn.

Last, but not least on the tour, was a road with no name on the Andersonstown estate.

"It's only a small road leading into the estate, but because it was built by the Army it has no name," said Jack.

With the end of the mini-memory tour, which provided a fascinating insight into the changing face of Belfast, Jack described their jobs as "challenging and satisfying".

"As civilian representatives we are the link between the Army, the police, and the local communities within 39 Brigade's area.

"We pursue complaints and generally help people in every way we can. We get involved in just about everything..."

"Talking, getting facts and persuading people how to act in their own interests and putting the official point of view, is all part of the job.

"And while our role has diminished considerably in the City centre, because of the Army's withdrawal from hotels and mills — they occupied a lot of property during the 70s — we are still extremely busy in other areas.

"It's one of those jobs that, when we started in 1972 we thought would take six weeks, but it is still going strong. And it's likely to go on for a long time yet."

RANI WON'T FORGET THE RAIN

RANI, the elephant, packed her trunk and said a brief cheerio to the circus. And later probably wished she hadn't! For she was on a VIP day out which, in true ponderous elephant tradition, she will probably never forget. It simply rained... and rained... and rained.

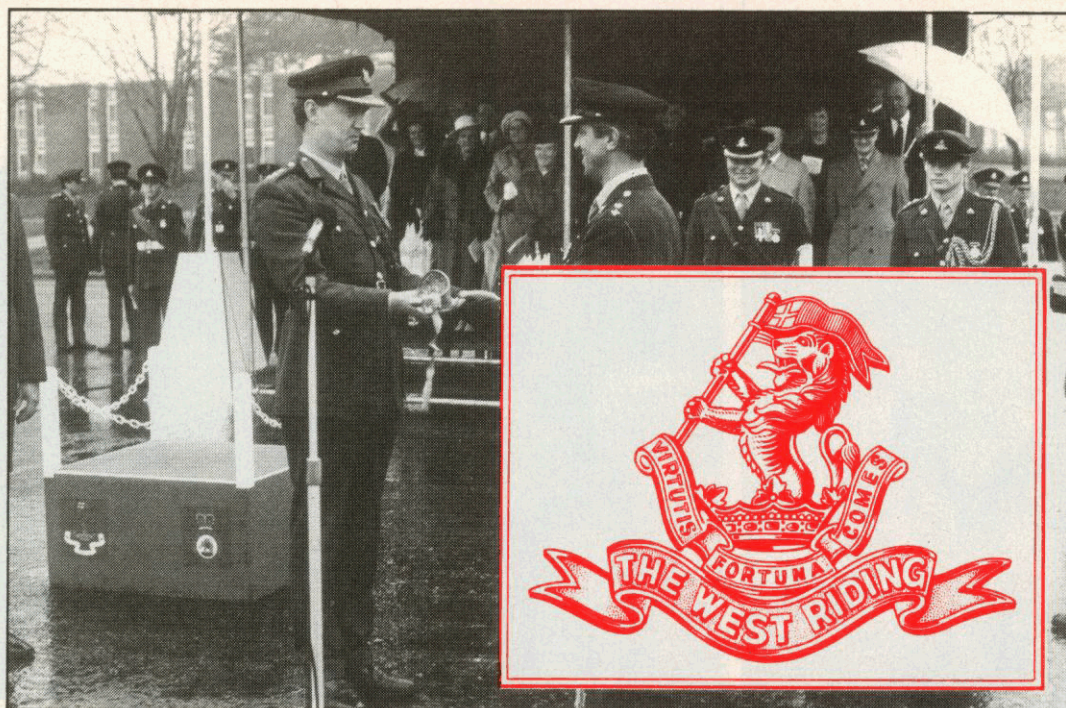
It was relatively and perhaps, after all, appropriately monsoon-like at Bulford, in deepest lush Wiltshire. A far resounding trumpeting trunk call from her ancestral tropical jungle habitat.

For, without doubt, she was the veritable eastern star linking a famous West Riding-recruited regiment with her homeland at the turn of the last century. A ceremony calling on the services of an admiral, a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a surprise birthday tune bandcall... and a famous replica sword.

The occasion was the presentation of one of three Wilkinson Swords of Peace 1984. This one, to the men of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), was in recognition of their tourism-boosting work in Gibraltar while garrisoned there between 1983 and 1984.

The coveted, ornate swords are awarded annually — the first in 1967 — by Wilkinson Sword Ltd, to a unit of each of the three Services judged by the Ministry of Defence to have made the most valuable contribution towards establishing good and friendly relations with the inhabitants of any community.

The largely West Riding of Yorkshire-recruited regiment known as 'The Dukes' — motto: Virtutis Fortuna Comes (Fortune



Favours the Brave) — were instrumental in restoring the northern walls of a 1,200-year-old Moorish fortress high on the Rock. Foundations for British emplacements of two world wars and neglected for 40 years until the regimental labour of love.

The walls were hidden from view by five acres of thick afforestation, rubbish and discarded building rubble. They were further scarred by tiers of illegal chicken coops and dog kennels. This environmental embarrassment, known locally as 'The Jungle', was favoured by drug pushers and social misfits for its seclusion and difficult access.

The Dukes set about it with a will during Operation Steep Slope which started in March 1983 and finished in April 1984. Former glory was restored and the social eyesore had been finally eradicated from the public gaze.

The effort had not ended there,

however. Rifle companies concentrated on the completion of individual projects in support of the community. The Regimental Band and Drums, in addition to their public duties, continued their programme of concerts which, with other events, raised more than £2,000 for local charities.

At that time, Gibraltar's gratitude was expressed by Sir Joshua Hassan, the Colony's Chief Minister, who said: "I cannot speak too highly of the Dukes' commitment to the overall welfare of the people of Gibraltar nor the efforts they have made, with such success, to give effect to that commitment."

"That they have done so at a time when Gibraltar was facing particularly difficult problems makes their efforts, and their success, that much more welcome and that much more deeply appreciated. We shall not forget the Dukes for many years to come."

And the Dukes drenched to the skin, bandsmen and infantrymen alike, stoically stood their ground at Bulford as Rani, the 16-year-old plodding, publicity-prone pet tipping the scales at two tons, did her expected amble-on part.

She was smartly draped in regimental Colours recalling the days of the 33rd and 76th Regiments of Foot. By her side, on the 208-strong parade, keeper Mr Robert Raven in contrasting blue livery.

Loaned by Mr Gerry Cottle's circus up the motorway in just as inclement Surrey, Rani's walk-on part was to symbolise the regimental links with India (see panel).

As demanded of the occasion protocol was observed. Speeches

Colonel Charles Cumberlege hands over the Wilkinson Sword to Lt Col Johnny Walker, current CO of The Dukes. Inset: The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) regimental badge

were made. VIPs listened attentively under leaden skies and a rain-sodden, sagging blue awning.

The less fortunate, many of them quite astute, stood under brollies and some in wellies out on the open stands, faces awash with drizzle.

For many, and particularly the very young, who had come to see the regal-paced Rani, the incessant rain driven in by unremitting low pressure systems was just too much. They left the proceedings of the parade already enhanced with resplendent bandsmen in scarlet tunics, pith helmets and undaunting devotion to musical duty.

But as Rani, circus trouper extraordinaire, would have been the first to agree; the show had to go on.

Former Governor and C-in-C Gibraltar, Admiral Sir David Williams, received the elegant sword on behalf of the Army from Sir Ronald Ellis, Director, Wilkinson Sword Group Ltd.

The trophy soon changed hands. From the admiral to the colonel... Colonel Charles Cumberlege, regimental CO during the time of the award-winning project. He, in turn, handed it on to the current CO, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Walker, whose birthday it happened to be!

It was she who has given the surprise bandcall rendition of 'Happy Birthday' which raised spirits and a few smiles on a very damp day.

Parade ground pageantry it



Drenched maybe but spirits were not dampened at this stage

might have been. But it was Rani, who turned out to be the real celebrity of the ceremony — as she was certainly intended to be — a heart throb with a solitary tusk; one well-versed in media coverage and events of such ilk.

An obviously proud keeper Raven confided: "She opened a tyre depot in Camden Town, London, only the other day."

And as befits a VIP — Very Important Pachyderm — Rani, his protégée, travels everywhere in her own special box.

Headlines are not new to her. Just days before her Bulford debut, Rani had featured in a two-paragraph report in one of the tabloid national newspapers. A story claiming she had escaped

Rani, does her stuff; sporting regimental Colour with apt motto "Fortune Favours the Brave"



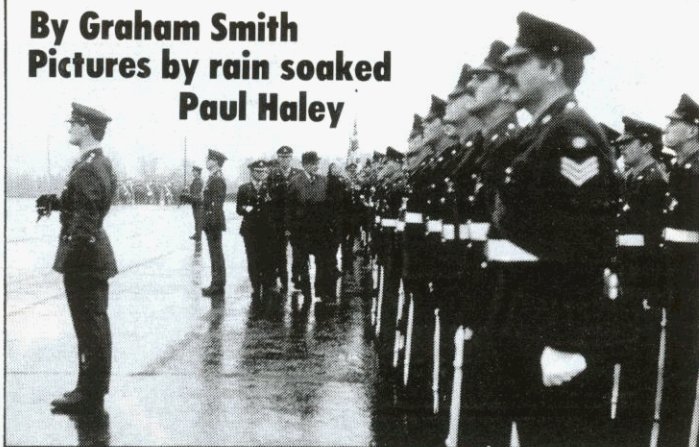
from Cottle's Circus and had been seen loafing, probably lost, in some leafy Surrey lane.

"A stupid story", discounted keeper Raven. "She was just taking her usual morning walk with me to the village paper shop. Apparently some over-zealous motorist or someone had reported her as escaping."

And so it was at Bulford. A TV and film star in her own speechless right, Rani did not put a massive foot wrong during her eagerly anticipated performance. Good natured laughs and smiles beamed back at her from the stands as the long-suffering band struck up with 'Nellie, the Elephant' during her sedate entry onto the glistening square.

For Rani, to quote another song, it may have rained on her guest appearance parade but it was a

By Graham Smith Pictures by rain soaked Paul Haley



day, indeed, that neither she nor the honoured Dukes of the moment, of possibly lesser recall, are likely to forget for a long time to come!

Admiral Sir David Williams, former Governor and C-in-C Gibraltar, inspects The Dukes in a parade incessantly doused by rain

The Dukes; a stiff upper lip drips and bears it



ELEPHANT ON ITS COLOURS

THE Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment's association with India goes back to their forefathers, the 76th of Foot, raised specifically for service to India.

It was involved in the capture of the twin capitals of Hindustan — Agra and Delhi in 1803 — rescuing the mogul from his enemies.

The regiment, in the end, had spent 18 years on the sub-continent in dust, mud-broiling sun and afflicted by disease such as dysentery.

Historians later claimed that after 18 years' service out there only two men who had sailed with the original detachment returned to the UK on promotion to the ranks. More than half had volunteered to stay on out there with differing regiments.

Dehli (1803)... Bangalore... Seringaptam... Savandroog, the 'Hill of Death'... Bhurt-pore... and Ally Ghur (now Aligarh) were just some of the battle honours won by the 76th

— 'The Old Seven and Six-pennies' — in India.

Ally Ghur was their first action on September 4, 1803, with 24 killed and 66 wounded against the capture of 281 guns and 34 British infantrymen killed and 100 wounded.

A month earlier, Lieutenant General Lake, heading a 10,500-strong Army, including the 76th, had marched from Cawnpore in temperatures of 110 degrees Fahrenheit aided by pack animals such as elephants, bullocks, horses, camels and donkeys.

The 76th Foot marched from Agra on October 27, 1803 — 65 miles in 48 hours, had one hour's rest and then four hours of action — at the Battle of Leswarree on November 1st. General Lake in his inevitable despatches referred to the regiment as 'this handful of heroes'. A subsequent nickname was 'The Old Immortals'.

That same year the Honorary Stand of Colours was given by the Honourable East India

Company in commemoration of the 76th's gallantry at Ally Ghur and Delhi. But it was not presented to the regiment until January 27, 1808, when it was garrisoned in Jersey.

At much the same time, the company also presented a sword to one Lieutenant Samuel Snook for his acts of outstanding humanity, a continent away, from which the Wilkinson Sword of Peace earns its origin.

The honour of the Colour was awarded to the 76th of Foot 'as distinguished testimony of its good conduct and exemplary valour during the period of service in India'.

November 13, 1804 saw the battle of Bhurt-pore, 'bulwark of Hindustan', and one of India's strongest defended cities; 7,500 men pitched against 50,000. The 76th lost 17 officers and 289 soldiers.

In 1806 King George III authorised the 76th to bear the word 'Hindoostan' on its Colours and, a year later, an

Indian elephant was embroidered on the Colours. An elephant complete with howdah (a canopied seat) and mahout (elephant driver).

Today, the regiment is the only British Army unit to carry four Colours on parade — two regulation and two honorary — and the only regiment to have an elephant on its colour badges.

In 1881 the 76th became the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. In 1853 the 33rd Regiment of Foot — the Duke served in it from 1793 to 1813 becoming its CO and then Colonel of the Regiment — was named the Duke of Wellington's regiment on the 38th anniversary of his greatest victory, Waterloo.

It is the only regiment to be named after a subject not of Royal blood.

The regimental badge is the crest from the coat of arms of the Duke. The collar badges and buttons are the Indian elephant and howdah, the honour badge awarded to the 76th Regiment.



During Exercise Lionheart, Naafi staff in uniform—members of the RAOC EFi—provided a shop and canteen service.



Fresh bread, cakes and savouries are now baked daily on the premises for customers at the Shute Road shop, Catterick Garrison.



Cpl. Steven Swales was the first Naafi customer to buy a horse on HP.

Naafi turnover for 1984/5 was £346.8 Million

Where the money went—

Payment for goods	£230.2M
Operational costs	£91.0M
VAT	£11.5M
To business reserves	£4.7M
To customers	£9.4M

£14.4 MILLION
PAYOUT FOR NAAFI CUSTOMERS

£ 5-6M DISCOUNT/DIVIDEND TO INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS
£ 3-2M REBATE TO UNIT FUNDS
£ 0-6M EXTRAREBATE TO CENTRAL WELFARE FUNDS

BONUS BOX **PLUS £4.2M** TO UNIT FUNDS FROM GAMING MACHINE REVENUE
AND £0.8M TO CLUB IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FROM AMUSEMENT MACHINES

Naafi

Based on the Naafi Report and Accounts for year ended 27 April 1985.

Copies may be obtained on application to The Secretary, Naafi, Imperial Court, Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QX.

Naafi

EXERCISES OUT in the wide and oft unkind expanses of Salisbury Plain would probably never happen at all were it not for an excellently co-ordinated "rental system" available from a unique source there — the time-honoured Demonstration Battalion.

A military rental agency of men and machines, notably armoured personnel carriers, it is housed at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster.

An ever eager outlet for tracked battlefield "taxis" and a host of "baddies" to play the enemy within any exercise scenario drawn up by the Army's experts in tactics and strategems.

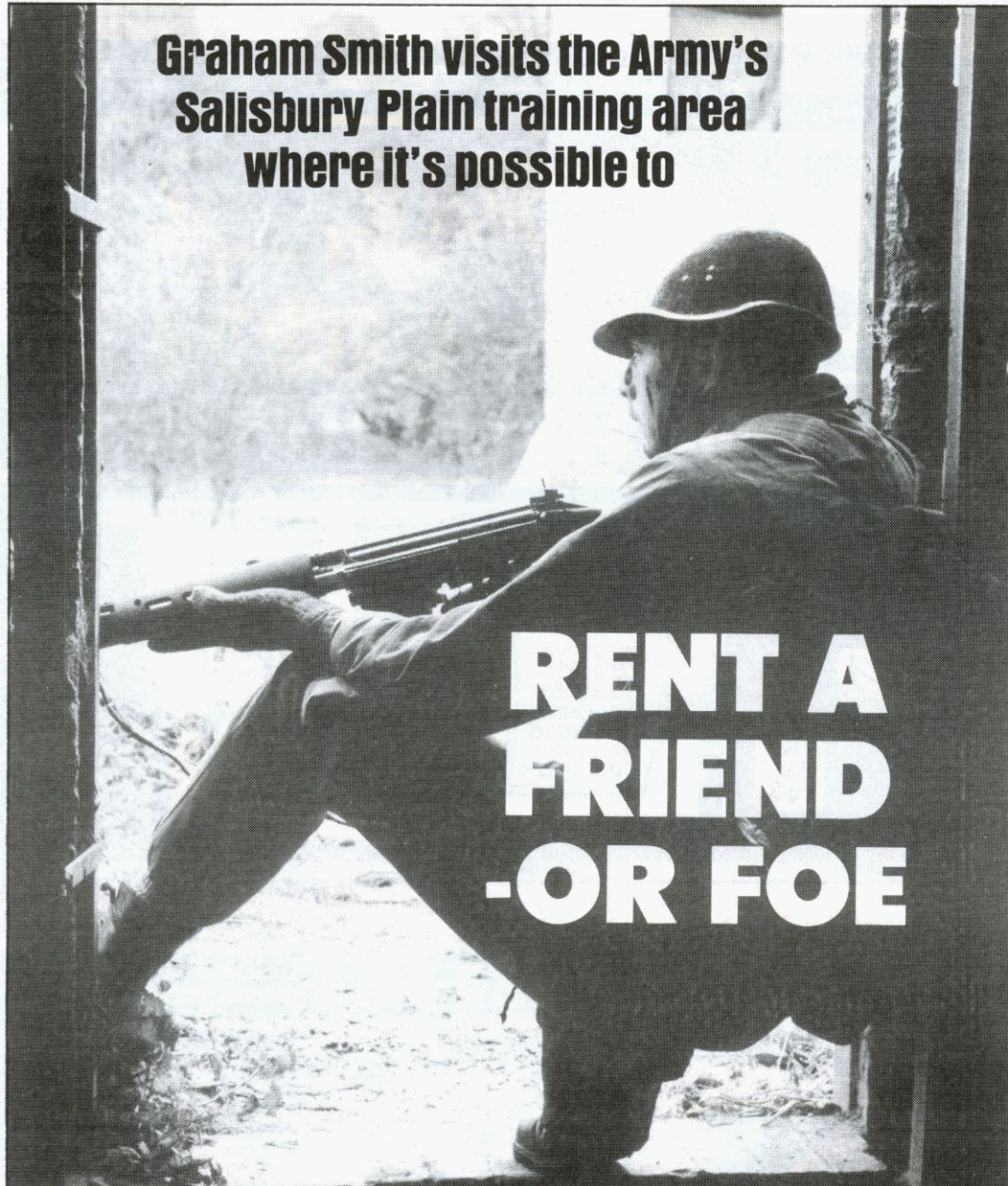
For nowhere else in the country, it is said, in such comprehensive and busy style is infantry and all-arms training support in the field masterminded and carried out in one place.

The barracks is home to the two-year stint roulement Demonstration Battalion, in this case, the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th).

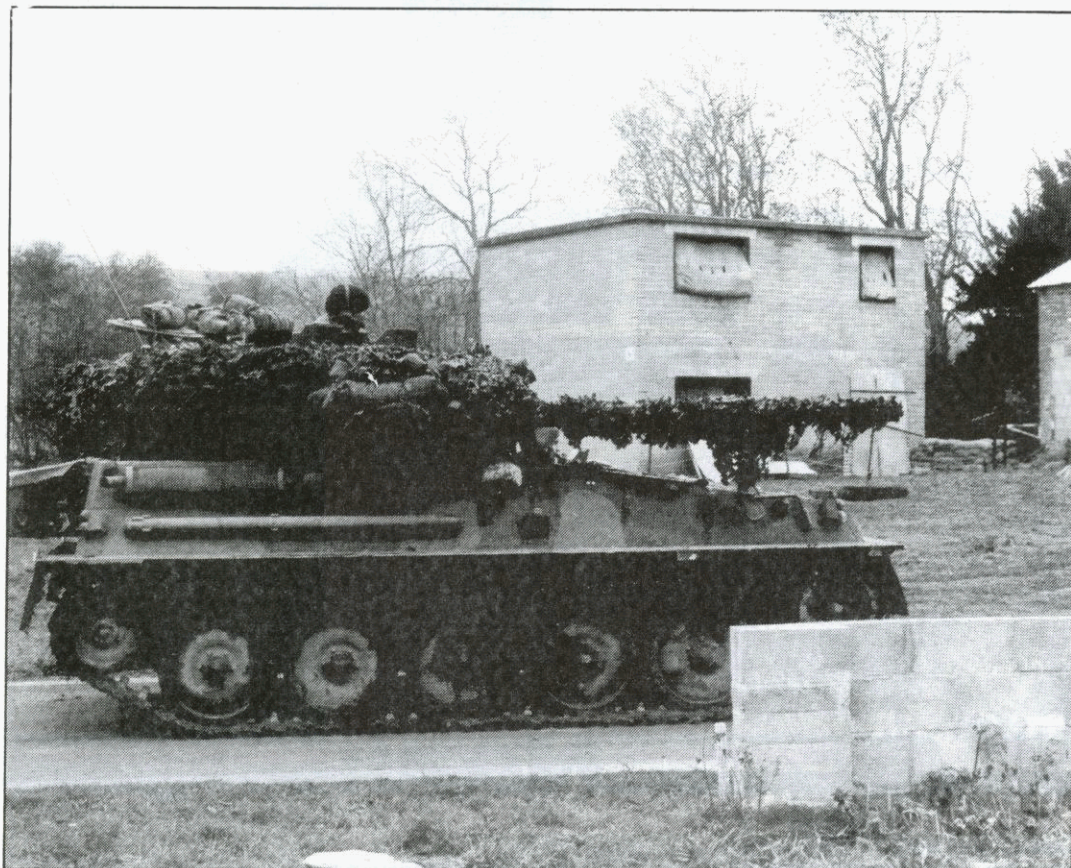
It has been said, furthermore, that were it not for the Demonstration Battalion and its dedicated Priority One task specified by its neighbouring School of Infantry (S of I), infantry officers and NCOs would just not attain the mandatory professional requirements in their own qualifications. Accomplishments enabling them to train their own battalions on return to their own units at lower level.

The School's all-arms tactics course is acknowledged to be

Graham Smith visits the Army's Salisbury Plain training area where it's possible to



RENT A FRIEND -OR FOE



An 'enemy' player, a Fantasian, lurks in an Imber Village doorway

beneficial Army-wide. Courses are well subscribed, too, for the Junior Division Staff College (JDSC) also located at Warminster.

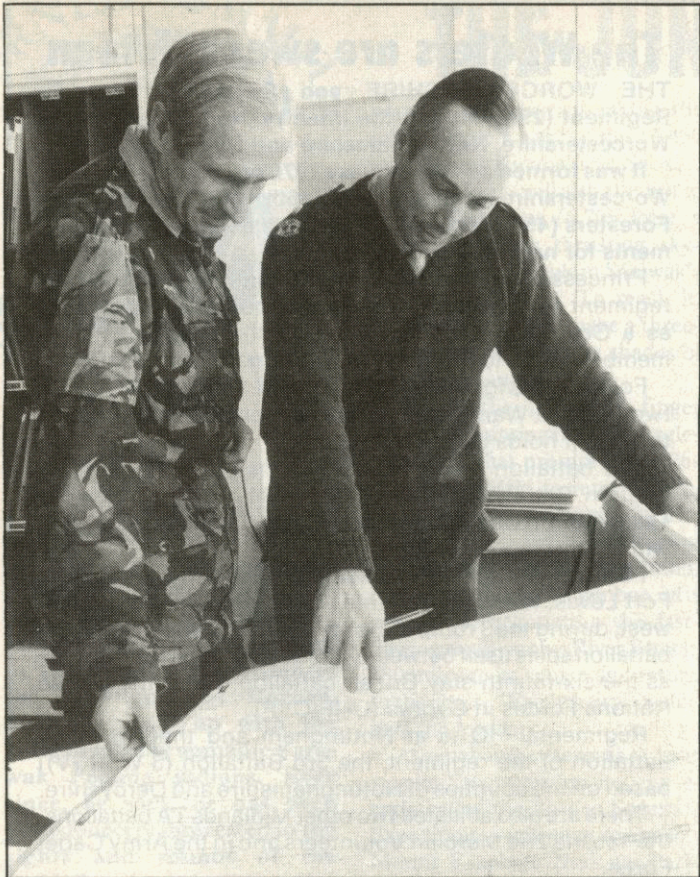
Forerunner of the Demonstration Battalion was the composite Infantry Demonstration Battalion which was in operation from February 1978 until August 1982.

1 WFR, known as "The Woofers", are no strangers to the role, having been the DB back in 1970-72. Today, its 680-strong organisation, including other corps attachments, has four main priorities.

The tasks set by the School of Infantry are for the provision of men and equipment, regimental training per se, adventurous training and, last but not least, the continuing re-establishment of links with civic and Service associations.

Next spring, the Demonstration Battalion takes a smart forward step into the 1990s with the privilege of being among the first

Imber Village; FIBUA training. Scimitar in foreground



WO2 Rudi Lane and Major Mike Tulloch, WFR, of the HQ Demo Battalion Office

infantry battalions to be issued with the SA 80 rifle and Light Support Weapon. They will get about a Company's worth of the 5.56mm rifle (90 of them) and 20 of the LSW.

In the autumn of 1987 the Battalion — by then the 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets in the demo role — will be equipped with MCV-80, now known as Warrior, which will be introduced over a five-year timescale. The

Demo Battalion will get 14 of the type, armed with the 30mm Rarden cannon and 7.62mm Hughes Chain Gun.

Lieutenant Colonel John Townsend, CO of 1 WFR said: "Our primary role is to support the School of Infantry and JDSC in all their exercises, demonstrations and other commitments through

the provision of manpower and vehicles. We also have other high profile events like firepower demonstrations down to major exercises like Phantom Bugle and Globe Trot. The Demo Battalion is involved in a whole host of exercises at commander and platoon level plus individual commitments where we can supply from one to three soldiers."

Exercise Phantom Bugle is a four-day event on the Plain and the largest mechanised all-arms manoeuvre of its kind to be held on the training area four times a year. Tomorrow's company and squadron commanders take part in it; an epic usually involving 140 vehicles (20 of those Chieftain tanks) plus 600 Regular Army troops. The students involved are those who have been on the five-week-long course at the School of Infantry's Tactics Wing.

"Enemy" players for the action are always supplied by the Demonstration Battalion, born battlefield "losers" fighting under the nom de guerre of the Fantasians.

Colonel Townsend added: "We also have a continuing commitment to provide at all times ten-man sections to the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU), thus making an interesting outlet with the preview of weapons and equipment coming into service like SA80, LAW 80 and the Milan Compact Turret (MCT) on Spartan.

"In addition to the battalion at Warminster we have detached at Netheravon our Fire Support Company which includes mortars and Milan platoons and these work



Lt Col John Townsend, CO 1 WFR: "Our primary role is School of Infantry support"

directly in support of courses and demonstrations run by the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, which is part of the School of Infantry.

"Yet still we find time to run several of our own internal cadres to make sure of maintaining basic and specialist training at regimental level within the battalion itself. By clever manipulation we are able to get at least one company away for about a week during any course cycle to other UK training areas to conduct military, arduous or adventurous training."

What was not possible, he said, was to get the battalion as a whole away for more than one week a year; that, usually the annual skill-at-arms camp on the ranges such as Hythe/Lydd, Stanford and Sennybridge.

For major tactical mechanised exercises like Phantom Bugle — 47 armoured personnel carriers (432s) were fielded for November's by the battalion — and the dismounted Exercise Globe Trot, the School of Infantry, brings in Regular Army help with up to two companies specifically for the purpose.

"We just cannot meet the requirements of manpower from our own resources," said the CO.

Major Mike Tulloch, the Battalion HQ's Demonstration Officer, runs a busy commitment list which is always under review and addition, in co-operation with WO2 Rudi Lane.

Exercise Globe Trot — it succeeded Exercise Quick Flash — has an out-of-Nato area concept. One where eager students advance on foot and by helicopter from one end of Salisbury Plain West to the other.

"As well as fielding 'enemy' troops (the Fantasians) for aspiring platoon commanders to fight, the battalion also provides demo troops for the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry, for range

continued on page 32



Pictures by Terry Champion

Exercise Broad Reach; line up of FV 432 APCs somewhere on Salisbury Plain

practices, for camouflage and concealment exercises and for ITDU trials," he said.

The Fantasians who make up Europe's smallest "Army" are a hotch-potch of wargame players in ill-fitting uniforms and are usually of company strength. Nonetheless, they are all part of the Demonstration Battalion's services for the advancement of battlefield tactics.

Highlights of any year are four major firepower demonstrations each watched by an estimated 2,000-plus spectators.

Of the demo battalion's soldiery role, Major Tulloch said: "Our aim is to avoid the same soldier sitting in the same trench on the same exercise every time. Although there are some who might say this provides an element of continuity I think we have managed in the main to avoid it. It stops people getting stale."

Of visiting units using the vast

training area tracts on his picturesque doorstep and their treatment of it, Major Tulloch added: "It's a super training area. If units don't leave it in a tidy condition after training then they are called back to tidy it up, and that includes Imber Village. We've had some units back from more than 100 miles away to do just that."

Exercise players, friend or foe, need transport to get them around the training area acres and these needs are met, in large part, by Captain Peter Roderick, OC of the APC platoon the largest mechanised platoon in the infantry.

An organisation boasting 75 personnel, 59 FV 432s (42 of these 1964-vintage Mark 1s and another 17 Mark 2s), five Ferret 1s and 2s and five 70-ton up-armoured driveable Centurion target tanks.

Besides supplying the needs of the School of Infantry and any outside agencies, the APC pool also fields the venerable tracked troop carriers for the Royal Military

The Woofers are sweet sixteen

THE WORCESTERSHIRE and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th) is the infantry county regiment of Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

It was formed on 28 February 1970 on the merger of The Worcestershire Regiment (29th/36th) and The Sherwood Foresters (45th/95th) which had existed as separate regiments for nearly 300 years.

Princess Anne became the Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment on its formation and it was her first appointment as a Colonel-in-Chief. It was also the first time that a member of the Royal Family had so honoured the regiment.

Following its formation at Bulford the 1st Battalion served two years at Warminster as the Demonstration Battalion, the role it holds until this August.

The battalion returned to Warminster as the Demonstration Battalion in November 1984, and will move to Oakington, in Cambridgeshire, as a Home Defence battalion within 54 Infantry Brigade.

Future plans include an exchange visit early next year to Fort Lewis, Washington State, in America's pacific north-west, during the Trumpet Dance exercise series. Later, the battalion splits itself between Nicosia and Dhekelia, Cyprus, as the six-month-stay British battalion within the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Regimental HQ is at Nottingham and there is a TA battalion of the regiment, the 3rd Battalion (3 WFR (V)) based on the counties of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

There are also affiliated two other Midlands TA battalions, the 1st and 2nd Mercian Volunteers and in the Army Cadet Force.



The Hackett brothers. Major Jonny (left) Richard

BROTHERS THREE

THE HACKETT brothers-in-arms are three. All are pipe-smokers. All have moustaches. All have one christian name in common. And all are members of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th).

Two of them, Major Jonny and Captain Richard Hackett, work in adjoining offices as second-in-command and adjutant respectively with the regiment's First Battalion which is currently the Demonstration Battalion, under its nearby School of Infantry terms of reference, based at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster.

The third brother, Major Oliver Hackett, WFR, holds a staff job at HQ 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld, BAOR.

The two Wiltshire-based brothers treat their professional

working relationship ... professionally.

Major Jonny, in the Army since 1967 and with the battalion since its merger in 1970, said: "In our work we have constant daily dealings and I don't say we see eye-to-eye all the time but we get on as brothers leading separate lives. We have our differences of opinion but there's never a cross word between us."

The trio have, however, all served together during two stages of their careers, notably in Colchester and Belize.

Captain Richard — he joined the Army in 1974 — said: "We are not in the promotion race. Our age difference is such that we cannot compete for command. It's just a quirk of the system that two of us are here together at the present time."

But SOLDIER found the two brothers do differ in one aspect, if an aromatic one. Both have a differing preference in pipe tobacco!

Academy Sandhurst demonstration, the Aldershot Military Display and assistance for Regular Army units destined for BAOR with APC familiarisation training.

The platoon also provided 15 vehicles as a public relations supplement to the Wiltshire Fire Brigade show at Longleat near Bath.

The pool's APC variants include command, radio set, platoon and turreted types.

The unfailingly punctual fleet, said Captain Roderick, in the year ended last November covered an estimated 53,000 miles — 925 per vehicle — and 98 per cent of those cross-country.

His platoon had been helping its neighbour, the ITDU, with the trials on a new 432 sight; the 432 a vehicle, incidentally, little known by its given nomenclature of Trojan.

"We have never yet failed to fulfil a commitment," he said perusing an 80-event diary in a three-month calendar. And I can see the 432s being at Warminster until well beyond the end of the decade.

"In BAOR the 432 is a crew maintained vehicle. Here it is driver-only maintained. Students from the school may take scant note as they get in at Startex and de-bus at Endex. The driver is responsible for not just maintaining the 432 but cleaning it after use as well. By himself.

"This means long hours especially during the high season for exercises but the men enjoy it because there is a lot of work. They

may crib a bit but they enjoy it.

"I believe the Demo Battalion commitment, and ours particularly, will get busier as the School of Infantry constantly up-dates its exercises. And as Army equipment becomes more technical those exercises have to be adapted to the latest doctrine and technology on the battlefield."

Major Jonny Hackett, the battalion second-in-command, summed up: "The term Demonstration Battalion is a slight misnomer. Although much of our time is taken up with demonstrating the organisation of tasks of an infantry battle group to students of all-arms on courses at the School and the JDSC, the majority of our time is expended in acting as enemy or friendly forces in exercises designed to practise students in the roles of command and as staff officers in the field.

"In addition to our Priority One task in support to the School and the training required to carry out that task, the Demonstration Battalion must also train in its operational role in war as a Home Defence Battalion. To this end, we were involved in the recent Exercise Brave Defender.

"We are also looking forward to our firepower demonstration in April when we will be able to fire SA 80 for the first time as well as having a visit from officers and men from HMS Nottingham, our associated sister ship and Type 21 Frigate. The visit coincides with the celebration of one of our battle honours, that of Badajoz dating from the Peninsula War."

BORNEO SUMMITS EXPEDITION 14th/20th KINGS HUSSARS 1985

THE JUNGLE CALLS AGAIN...

TWO YEARS ago Lieutenant Jonny Beardsall, 14th/20th King's Hussars (then attached to the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles), took part in an overland expedition to the heartlands of Borneo. There, he met up with the indigenous, shy nomadic Sarawak Penang Indians. Ever since, he says, he has been "passionately interested in the sights and sounds of the jungle".

That passion has just been renewed as Jonny — now Captain Beardsall of the same regiment based at Catterick — set off again last month for the Far East and his beloved Borneo.

With him this time are five companions from the regiment, all 'virgin soldiers' to the steaming jungle and veterans of a half-hour's acclimatisation in one of the hot houses at Kew's Royal Botanical Gardens!

They are Second Lieutenant Eammon Ross, Sergeant Trevor Jones, Corporal Kevin Fletcher and Troopers Stuart Lythgoe and David Workman.

All six were due to tuck into a half-dozen Christmas puds supplied by Harrods when once at their destination.

Captain Beardsall is no stranger to such expeditions. His experiences extend to the Canadian Rockies, the Arctic, Scotland and the Alps.

The stay in the Rockies saw him spend seven months instructing in snow and ice climbing. But he is a lover of the jungle, too.

Not only is he determined to renew acquaintances with his Indian friends of two years ago — the same tribes that were of such help to the British during the Borneo Confrontation of 1962-66 — but is keen to further "share the experiences of the magic and charm of the rain forests".

The team — each man will back-pack 80 lbs including 14 days' rations — will also pioneer a new approach route on a mountain

popular with tourists taking the easier scenic route ... the 13,450 foot Mount Kinabalu, in Sabah.

The trekkers will also attempt to climb Batu Lawi (6,705 feet), a limestone finger thrusting skywards from the jungle in Sarawak's Kelabit Highlands. To reach it, the six men have to make a three-day march through the shades of the jungle canopy.

It was the limestone finger stridently pointing from its jungle-clad ridge that prompted the 26-year-old captain to return there. That time, he was overflying it.

Adventure there will be a-plenty during the two-month expedition. Like the building of bamboo rafts capable of negotiating the fast-flowing rapid-strewn River Batang, 180 miles to its source and return to the coast. "Fairly hairy" water, says the leader.

After what they term as a "brief respite" the team on its trek — aptly called the Borneo Summits Expedition — will move to Sabah's Mount Kinabalu National Park. It is there they will blaze a new approach route to the mountain.

Few serious climbing parties have ever visited Kinabalu because it is a remote mountain with no cover and therefore cannot compete with the Himalayas or European Alps. It is felt that the peak will offer considerable potential for a rock climbing team to pioneer new routes.

Captain Beardsall spent a week there in 1983 with an expatriate park surveyor.

Patron of the expedition, Viscount Slim, himself a veteran of the Borneo Confrontation and a man who said he once removed 200

leeches from himself after a week's march, had some useful advice for the young adventurers, average age 24.

He told them: "It's going to be quite a tough expedition. No-one is pretending they are going to climb Mount Everest but you can be cold, you can get lost, temporarily — no-one gets lost forever — and you can lose a day or two because you have made a mistake getting from A to B."

"As patron of the expedition I am satisfied that it is properly organised, well-led and the team is good. This expedition is going to be particularly adventurous and exciting."

"The jungle is a friend but sometimes awkward. You have to treat it right and with respect like a sailor treats the sea. The hill terrain is very steep and everyone will come back a stone and a half lighter."

Team leader Beardsall said: "This expedition will get us away from our usual environment in

Story: Graham Smith

Catterick where we are the Royal Armoured Corps training regiment. Adventurous training in the UK has many of the risks taken out of it to make it absolutely safe and cater for everything.

"Ours will be totally different. We are not, for instance, taking a native guide. Our sole link with the outside world will be from a loaned Army Clansman radio set."

Regimental CO, Lieutenant Colonel John Smales, said of the team leader: "He is one of the most adventurous staff officers within



Captain Jonny Beardsall

the regiment. The sort of man who will have a go at anything. He has my complete support and good wishes in this expedition. The value of what he is doing both as a man and as a soldier will be of very good measure. I believe it will make them all better soldiers and, thus, greater value to the regiment."

Currently Captain Beardsall is second-in-command of A Squadron but will be returning as regimental gunnery officer.

On the expedition, Second Lieutenant Ross will be the second-in-command, Sgt Jones will be quartermaster and logistician, and Cpl Fletcher, a trained medical assistant, the 'bush doctor' and official photographer.

Hoofnote: Captain Beardsall, it appears, still has one main ambition left. To win the Grand Military horse-race event which takes place at Sandown a month after his return from the Far East. The 134 lb rider will be racing his gelding, Astrosyn.



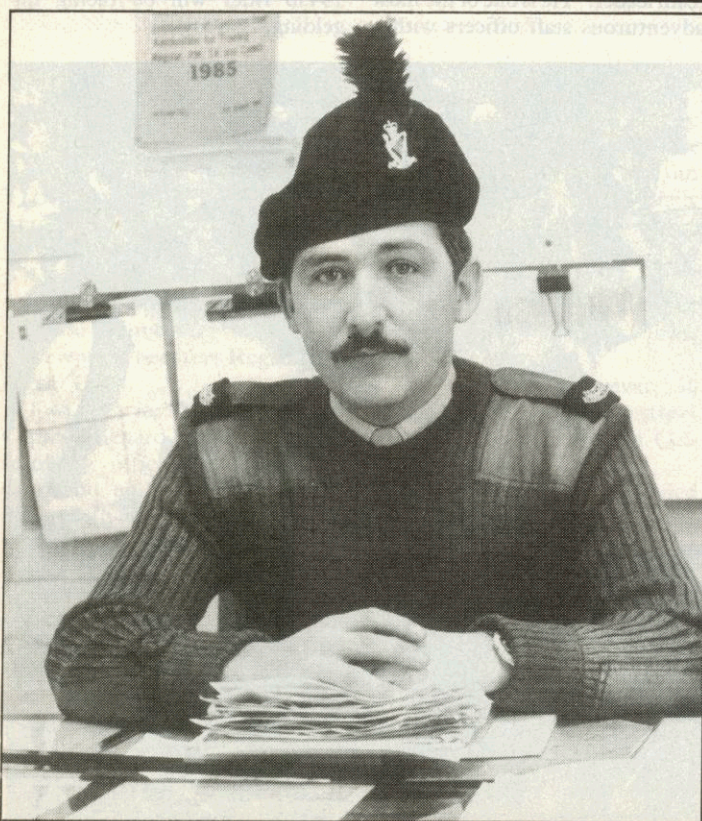
Getting used to the jungle — in a Kew hot house



Lance Corporal Ken Turner and Corporal James McCormack, who retires soon after 23 years, fix a hackle and badge to a green caubeen of the Royal Irish Rangers.

John Margetts visiting Ballymena discovers

THE PRIDE OF THE IRISH



TO STAY as Irish as possible comes high on the list of priorities of the Royal Irish Rangers, one of the last Irish infantry regiments in the British Army.

To this end they wear with great pride their distinctive green caubeens (Gaelic for cap) and hackles, sport the motto *Faugh a Ballagh* (Clear the Way) and have as their mascot an Irish wolfhound called Brian Boru after an ancient Irish king.

All good stuff and each item a bonus in their bid to maintain their characteristics and traditions.

But Brian is a bit of a let-down because of the impossibility of living up to his name, for he is a she answering to the name of Kelly!

Some might say that's real Irish, but the Rangers don't mind this little quirk and neither does Kelly who woofs back 4lb of meat and a similar amount of meal every day.

About eight feet long when fully stretched, Kelly is looked after by Corporal Nick Enstone, a non-Irishman from the Birmingham area who has been a Ranger for nearly ten years.

He is the official keeper of

RQMS Alan Sheridan from Co. Kildare. His father was in the Irish Army and he joined the Irish Rangers "because of their Irishness"

Pictures: Terry Champion

Brian/Kelly and combines this with running the guard dog section.

"She's gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked," said Major Sean Murphy, editor of *The Irish Ranger*, the regimental newspaper, and Depot PR officer.

"All our mascots are officially known as Brian Boru, but the temperament of the Irish wolfhound, whether a dog or a bitch, reflects the character of the Irish Rangers. We're OK till someone upsets us..."

With their historic background this comes as no surprise, for the regiment was created in 1968 when The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, The Royal Ulster Rifles and The

Royal Irish Fusiliers amalgamated to form one regiment.

They were fiercely proud of their military records and traditions and the Rangers have absorbed many of them.

Beyond that the Rangers also consider themselves custodians of the history and customs of all the other former Irish infantry regiments of the British Army.

"We want to keep the Rangers an Irish regiment of all persuasions," said Major Murphy.

Helping in this endeavour and to maintain the Irish majority in the two battalions (one in BAOR, the other in Cyprus) is a steady trickle of recruits from south of the border.

"We're unable to advertise in the South, but word gets round and many lads either write or make their way here to Ballymena and the Depot to find out more.

"Our current intake is around 40-50 recruits every three months, with a good number of them from the Republic.

"Many of the senior ranks, too, come from the South, as I and many other officers do, including the CO Lieutenant Colonel Nial O'Byrne, from Dublin."

Only weeks in the post as CO of the Depot, Colonel O'Byrne said it was his first and so far only command, as for the past few years he had been involved in development of TRIGAT, a new anti-tank guided weapons system, and had been based in London, Paris and Germany.

"But right now I'm back to soldiering which, while a good thing, came as a bit of a culture shock after so long away.

"But it is essential, as a soldier, to do this. I'm here at the Depot for 2½ years and after that I'll

probably return to the weapons business."

It was a bit of a shock, too, for the latest intake of recruits. They had been at the Depot for just a week and were being put through their paces by PT instructor Corporal Eamonn McInerney, a tae-kwon-do ace.

With only a week of service under their belts, and with their day starting at 6am and finishing at 5pm, the lads had no time to think of anything except training, eating, drinking and sleeping.

And since they are confined to the Depot for six weeks during initial training, their uniform requirements are minimal.

But when the day comes for passing out it is then that RQMS Alan Sheridan — he comes from Co Kildare — and Corporal James McCormack — he's from Dublin — come into their own and fit the

lads out with the full range of kit that goes to make a Ranger.

It is then they can don their caubeens and badges — officers wear exactly the same — and declare themselves Royal Irish Rangers.

That is the time, too, they are officially welcomed into the regiment and to discover the friendliness and mutual respect that exists between officers and Rangers.

But while a great strength of Irishness and family is encouraged throughout the regiment, discipline is never devalued.

It is these qualities, plus the loyalty that develops from it, that makes the Royal Irish Rangers an outstanding regiment and a Mecca for 200 young men every year.

Meet Brian Boru — who's a female! Corporal Nick Enstone introduces the regimental mascot to a group of recruits with one week's service



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S24

WE'VE ALL heard of Player's 'Navy Cut' but did you know that the Army once had its own brand of cigarettes — packed and sold especially for troops in India and other points east of Suez during the first 30 years of this century?

The brand, issued by Wills, the other big arm of the Imperial Tobacco combine, was known as 'Scissors' — and the packets bore a picture of the household implements.

Inside they carried, in addition to the 'special Army quality' gaspers, cigarette cards which are today highly prized among collectors.

Between 1904 and 1927 'Scissors' issued nearly 50 series of cards — the majority of which were specially commissioned and designed to appeal to the soldier serving long tours far away from home.

The first sets to be issued consisted of pictures of actresses of the day — simple head and shoulder shots of pretty girls and the kind of cards which were already going out of fashion back in Blighty.

In 1906 the brand brought out some miniature playing cards and the following year saw 'Football Club Colours' and the first of a line of military cigarette cards.

These were Regimental Colours and Cap Badges — they obviously went down well for soon they were followed by a set which is hard to come by and much sought after by collectors today.

Some 32 drum horses were depicted in colour running through most of the cavalry regiments of the day and including the mounted band of the Royal Artillery.

The beauties, of course, were not forgotten as the brand pushed out set after set in those years before the First World War. But a series on the judo of the day — then known as jiu-jitsu — and another on 'Army Life' was obviously intended to keep soldiers up to scratch.

The 'Army Life' set makes very interesting reading today. It includes a card on 'War Kite Drill' — showing the man-lifting kites then recently introduced to the Army by Cody.

Water filtering, firing from gunpits, pitching tents, bayonet fighting, map reading, presenting long service awards and flag signalling were among the more regularly encountered tasks depicted on the cards.

There was also making gas for war balloons and how to fill them, and starting the engine of a car was still rather a novelty — a card shows a soldier with a starting handle watched by a crowd of others!

But it is the brightly coloured

THE ARMY SMOKED ITS OWN

cards emphasising the ceremonial side of the Army which attract most attention today.

These cards have recorded some of the biggest percentage increases in the latest cigarette card catalogue values.

One of the favourites is the series of 50 Indian Regiments issued in 1912 — again beautifully printed in full colour and showing the uniforms of all those exotically named Indian units which supported the jewel in the crown.

Another nice little set is the series of 33 regimental pets — some of which are still extant today. Sadly most have long disappeared through amalgamations or just abandonment of the tradition like 'The Bear of the Royal Horse Guards' or another bear named Lizzie, which belonged to the 17th Lancers.

The 16th Lancers had a pet crane and the South Wales Borderers a wildebeeste or gnu.

Other regiments had baboons

or monkeys and a naturalist named Frank Buckland, an assistant surgeon in the 2nd Life Guards, had a corporal-major's coat made for his pet Capuchin. The card records that "he soon spoilt it and was reduced to the ranks."

In 1913 'Scissors' produced a set of 43 cards showing British Army Boxers. This seems unimaginable today but most of the boxers shown were Indian Army or Egyptian champions — truly a home grown set of cards and one with which the soldiers could quickly identify.

The military past was not forgotten and two other pretty sets are 'Heroic Deeds' — showing great British military achievements of yore and 'Governor-Generals of India' depicting the effective rulers of the sub-continent in their finery.

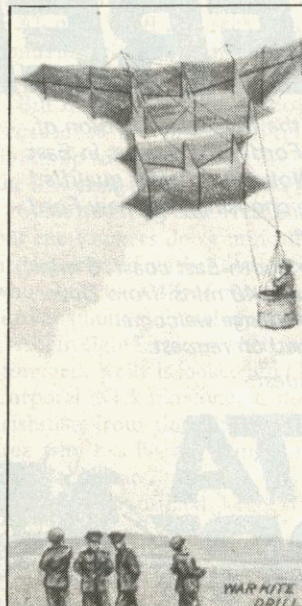
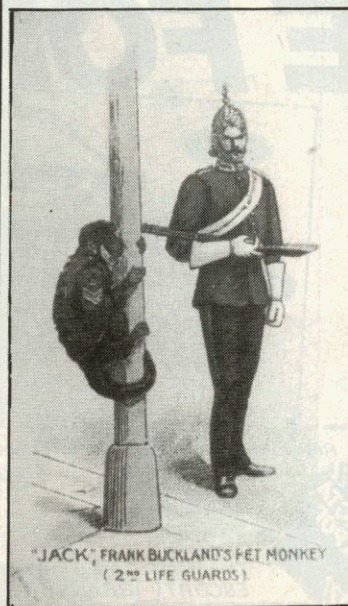
The First World War was being fought thousands of miles from India, but the cards issued to troops out there attempted to make

it more of a reality for them.

'Britain's Defenders', 'War Incidents' and 'Military Portraits' all showed the leaders of the British effort in Europe as well as the weapons they were using. But the most attractive set to emerge during those dark days was a 25 card series of 'Victoria Cross Heroes' honouring the men who were earning the medals in the Flanders mud.

After the war, cards appear to have been removed from 'Scissors' packets — unless home issues were used. Around 1926-27 a couple of photographic series made fleeting appearances and then petered out.

Old soldiers who collected these cards appear to have often brought them home at the end of their postings or to have sent them back to relatives. For few of the 'Scissors' cards are really rare — thus providing an interesting thematic collection for the military buff — and still at not too heavy a drain on the pocket!



WINTER JOINS IN FIRST TEE PLAY

NEARLY 2,000 soldiers of the Royal Artillery and support units taking part in the recent Exercise First Tee on Bergen-Hohne training area in north Germany could have been forgiven for thinking they were on an Arctic campaign, as the bitterest early winter weather for 60 years hit the area with snow and ice.

First Tee was Commander Royal Artillery 1st Armoured Division's dry training and live firing exercise for this year, involving all the division's gunner units.

Primary aim of the exercise was for the divisional gunners to practise their operational techniques in support of the division, and the rehearsal of a variety of phases of war, including command and control of the divisional artillery in dry training, tactical movement, and live firing.

The exercise culminated in 40 Field Regiment RA firing a brigade counter attack fire plan, using their powerful M109 guns over a distance of several miles.

Also taking part in the exercise were 4 Field Regiment RA, equipped with M109s, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery with the Abbot self-propelled gun, 5 Heavy Regiment RA with the M107 and 34 Heavy Battery RA with M110.

One of the highlights of First Tee was a demonstration of chemical decontamination techniques laid on by 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. Presented with a scenario that they had been attacked by chemical weapons, units were forced to move rapidly to a specialised decontamination centre so that the soldiers and their vehicles could be removed from the battle, thoroughly cleansed and returned to the fight as quickly as

Well dug in for winter warfare, an M109 of 4 Field Regiment

possible.

1 RHA demonstrated a comprehensive and carefully planned system to carry this out with maximum efficiency. The soldiers reported to NBC-free tents where their equipment could be decontaminated while they had a well-earned 'wash and brush-up'. Meanwhile their vehicles were being washed down with cleansing agent — represented by soapy water on the demonstration — and the lucky crews cheered when they saw their muddy guns and armoured vehicles getting a free wash!

In temperatures that reached as low as minus 12°C no-one was left out of the action, and quite a number of surprises were sprung on the gunners.

These included casualty play — a realistic mini exercise taking up time and manpower as gunners suddenly found themselves digging real graves for 'casualties' while HQ RA clerical staff put chilly

fingers to typewriter keys to type out death certificates and medal citations.

Meanwhile 45 Field Support Squadron of Nienburg-based 21 Engineer Regiment RE were occupied in making rather bigger holes as they brought in heavy plant to dig in the division's big guns.

Re-supply techniques were also rehearsed when 2 Squadron 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT, in conjunction with 6 Artillery Support Squadron, RCT, brought up fresh supplies of live ammunition for the guns and also simulated ammunition.

First Tee gave members of the divisional artillery the opportunity to host a number of high ranking staff who visited the exercise, among them Major-General John



Captain John Morland of 29 Battery, 4 Field Regiment, takes a bearing

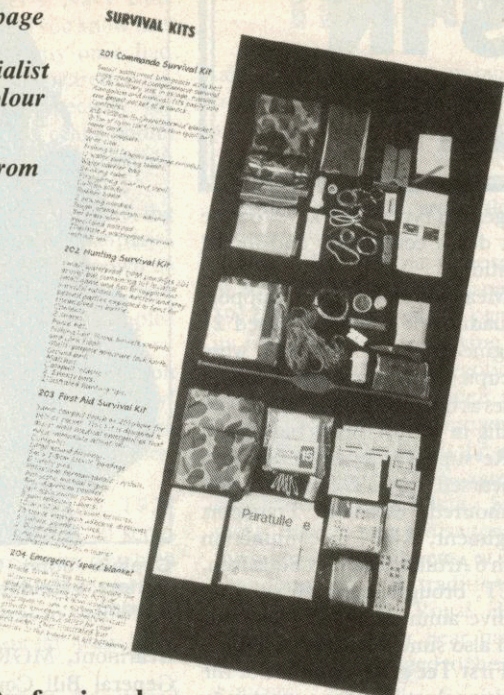
Learmont, MGRA, and Major-General Bill Cornock, Director Royal Artillery.

1 RHA demonstrate chemical cleansing techniques



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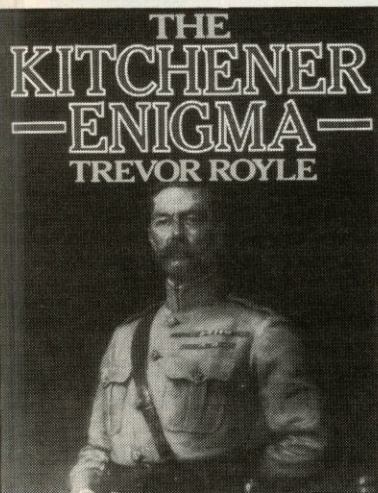
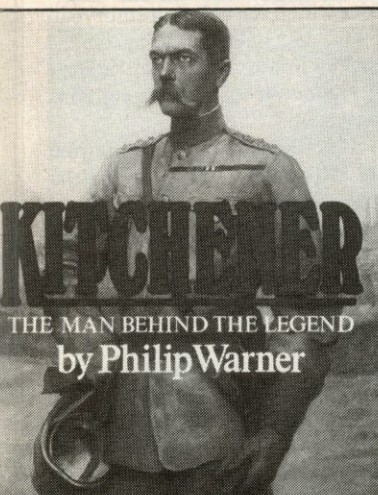
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KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM: INSPIRATION OF A NATION



He was in Kitchener's Army

Not many of Kitchener's New Army are around any longer.

The author of this old campaigner's life story is now 88 and was a student of 17 — two years under military age — when he bluffed his way into the 'First 100,000'. His account of those early recruit days is both hilarious and factual and can take its place among the cream of the classic records.

His tales of life in the trenches of Flanders and in action on the Somme are more sombre but full of the detail of keen observation and a good memory.

They, too, are sprinkled with humour, even though wounded in attack — three times — and hospitalisation in the field and in 'Blighty'.

After the Great War Mansfield joined the Civil Service, but life was still full of movement, excitement and change. In 1939 came another and different war — he was now married and with three grown children.

Peace again, and he eventually moved to East Africa where new characters and events colour his interesting reminiscences. He was Town Clerk of three cities in Tanganyika and tells of witch doctors and the scandalous lion men.

This is an entertaining record of one man's progress in the 20th century, through two world wars and peace, in Britain, war-torn Europe and colonial Africa. He obviously enjoyed it all.

I was in Kitchener's Army: Alfred Mansfield *The Book Guild Ltd price* £.50. — GRH

Lord Kitchener, idol of the British nation for more than a decade, died at sea on June 5 1916 when a German mine exploded under HMS Hampshire en route to Russia on a secret mission.

As a young schoolboy I well remember the gasps of horror and the excitement as newsboys rushed through the streets of Portsmouth just after midday on June 6 shouting the dramatic news: "Extra! Death of Kitchener!" and "Extra! Kitchener Missing!". For there was doubt and disbelief that this great soldier and builder of Empire could so suddenly have been taken from us.

Many believed he must have somehow survived; perhaps as prisoner of the Germans, or maybe as a castaway in some remote Scottish island cave. He was the symbol of uprightness and of our determination to defeat the Kaiser and all his atrocious works.

Kitchener's heavy drooping moustache was copied by thousands. They believed, also, in the cold baths he had advised the troops to use to cure their passion when temptation beckoned. His eyes, set wide apart, were a sure sign of trustworthiness, so everyone said. His directness of gaze emphasised his determination, showed his sincerity.

Russia was Britain's ally against Germany in the Great War and the Czar had sent for Kitchener. So great was his prestige, even in distant Russia, and so diverse his abilities, that it was believed he might well have changed the unhappy course of events in that country had he lived.

Kitchener began his Army career as a Sapper, passing through Woolwich. He was soon surveying in Palestine and Egypt. He was methodical, diligent and ambitious. He drove himself hard and expected full effort and support from others. He developed a great interest in the Middle East, did fine work in Egypt, the Sudan, India and South Africa.

As Commander-in-Chief India he re-shaped and built up the Indian Army and produced fine co-ordinated divisions that were a great credit both to his skill and to India when war came.

In Egypt he effected great reforms when Consul-General. At Omdurman in the Sudan he defeated the skilful fanatical Dervishes and avenged the death of Gordon in nearby Khartoum.

Had he gained the post he wished for in Turkey his prestige and knowledge of Eastern mentality would almost certainly have influenced that nation to side with Britain in the Great War, and the debacle of Gallipoli would have been avoided.

He never gained the post of Viceroy of India that he also desired, but such was his adaptability that he became a member of the Cabinet in 1914 when offered the post of Secretary of State for War and held his own among politicians.

He did not believe in conscription and the nation's manhood responded magnificently when he called for volunteers.

He aimed to recruit 1,400,000 for 70 divisions and 'Kitchener's New Army' is well remembered for the famous 'First 100,000'. In fact, he attracted 2,500,000 in 18 months.

Manpower exceeded equipment and they paraded in civilian clothes with wooden rifles.

Most of these veterans have now passed on but there is still interest in what is officially the Great War — not

World War One — and diaries and reminiscences are still being published nearly 70 years later.

Two new books concentrate on the life of Kitchener of Khartoum. Both are well worth reading and follow his life right through. They are well illustrated and contain maps. *Kitchener* by Philip Warner (published Hamish Hamilton) price £12.95; and *The Kitchener Enigma* by Trevor Royle (Michael Joseph Ltd) £15. — GRH

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NEW VEHICLE REQUIRED

ITALY is going through another resurgence of general interest in the reservist officer by the regular military and the public alike, according to former wartime partisan medal-winner and current president of the NATO-spread Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) which has had official Alliance recognition since 1976, writes Graham Smith.

Dr Luigi Sartori, formerly 'Lieutenant Gigi', the leader of a 50-man partisan group in the Trieste region, heads up an estimated 750,000-membership organisation which formed its roots back in 1948; an organisation six months older than NATO itself.

Today, Dr Sartori is the chief of the Mercedes-Benz vehicle concession in north-east Italy. And that was due to a lucky break, just at the end of the war when a well-to-do lady asked him to repair her vehicle. Payment for results; none for failure. Young Sartori got rid of the unwanted engine noise and was on his way to postwar success.

His wartime career had been an illustrious one. 'Highest patriotic sentiments, profound technical preparation and thorough knowledge of weapons' ensured he was repeatedly selected for special dangerous missions. Missions which, according to a citation for a silver medal of valour, he always accomplished brilliantly, distinguishing himself by his disregard of danger and his spirit of sacrifice.

That Silver Medal for Valour equates to the United States Distinguished Service Cross. He was also to be awarded the War Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, become a Grand Officer, Order of Merit of the Italian Republic Knight of Magistral Grace, and attain the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

He is 66 now and was active as a major within the Alpini Forces, Italian Army, from 1942-45.

A degree in business administration behind him at Venice University, Dr Sartori has always had the defence of his country — and NATO — from external threat very much in mind.

President of the CIOR until next August when he stands down, Dr Sartori said of the organisation: "Our work has three main aims. To guarantee a contribution giving citizens a better knowledge of the armed forces, thereby stimulating a spirit of self-defence, to stress with military and civilian authorities alike the irreplaceable role of our reserve forces, and to do everything possible to increase CIOR's credibility.

"You should remember that reserve components cost a defence establishment less than one-fifth of that which would be necessary if that arm was structured into the

Regular Army.

"Our members are active in their respective countries and communities in professional, business, industrial, academic and political fields and are in a position to exert positive influences in defence matters throughout their govern-

ment of NATO's total assigned forces come from the Alliance. NATO became aware that the reservists themselves were not only aware of their merits and shortcomings but also intensely interested in their contribution to NATO and in their training in their role in the event

mergau.

But the CIOR is still very aware of its formative days in 1948, an idea which started as an embryo in 1935 when Belgian reserve officers invited France and Holland to send delegates to a 5,000-strong conference.

Founded at about the same time in November 1948 was the CIOMR, the Inter Allied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers, at the Brussels Royal Military Academy, with France, Belgium and the Netherlands as originating committee members.

Yet no individual reserve officer can become a member of CIOR. It is only by membership of his national organisation that he can establish contact with CIOR, in the case of the UK, the Reserve Officers Association, Centre Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SG and Col R. R. St J. Barkshire, TD.

The Brussels meeting heard of the UK's plans for the extension of TA numbers by another 10,000 by the year 1990 and the value of the then up-coming Exercise Brave Defender, the massive military home defence exercise involving 5,000 reservists.

If the old grey matter is exercised in debate so are the limbs and muscles of its younger participants.

Each annual symposium — 1985's was held at Oslo, this year it's Athens — involves a combination of physical endurance and general military skills. CIOR military competitions got under way in 1958 and developed from there. Nowadays, teams contest rifle, pistol and SMG shooting, obstacle races, utility swimming in combat kit and a combined military 18-mile orientation march (this including hand-grenade throwing) over a three-day period.

Thus, what began as an association between three neighbouring European nations in 1948 now covers an area from the Mediterranean to the Pacific; fostering the defence of more than 600 million people.

As Lord Carrington, Secretary-General of NATO, told one CIOR conference: "Without reserves we would not be able to guarantee our defence for long. Their importance is relevant both on a political and military basis, maintaining an important and practical contribution to Allied solidarity. Reservists act as a link between armed forces and the nation, helping to bring about wider public awareness and support for Alliance policy."

One man who supports that theory to the hilt is the former partisan now CIOR president, Dr Luigi Sartori who was, himself, 40 years ago, acknowledged as a "most noble example of pure ideals, sublime daring and absolute dedication to his country."



Luigi Sartori, soldier

Luigi Sartori, car sales chief



WARTIME PARTISAN NOW LEADS RESERVES

mental economic and social spheres."

Italy, he said, had 86,000 Reserve officers of whom more than a quarter could be classed as 'active' with reserve liabilities.

The CIOR, recognised as a consultant body on reserve affairs to NATO, was founded in 1948 as an apolitical non-governmental organisation. It has a dozen nation members with the UK as one of them.

The UK's first presidential and secretary-general appointees were Rear-Admiral Phillip Sharp and Major Oliver Champion respectively.

Admiral Sharp, the first CIOR president to address NATO's Military Committee in 1977, once wrote: "It is clear to me that the CIOR should do all it can to improve and strengthen relations with NATO and with its military commands especially as 50 per cent

of a war at a time when they themselves realised that the reserve forces now lacked active service experience."

Early this year CIOR held its winter meeting in Brussels. One of the items for discussion on the agenda was the countering of terrorism by international co-operation. Exchange training was also talked about. Portugal is showing interest in CIOR membership and the organisation will get a mention in the NATO handbook.

One innovation down to CIOR initiative has been the setting up of an Alpine bi-laterally trained brigade of US National Guard reserves, the 172nd Mountain Infantry of Vermont, who 'are dedicated to the defence of Europe'.

Within NATO itself, and with CIOR emphasis, reserve officer senior and staff officer courses are held at the NATO School, Oberam-

AN ERA ENDS AT DEEPCUT



On parade, the last time at Deepcut

YET ANOTHER chapter in military change has been recorded in the onward march of Army streamlined training with the closure, after 32 years, of the RAOC Apprentices College at Deepcut, near Camberley, Surrey — alma mater for an estimated 10,000 teenaged youngsters over the years.

From the beginning of this year the organisation has amalgamated with the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, at Colerne, the former RAF airfield near Bath, Wiltshire.

Disappeared, too, in the RAOC case is the rank Apprentice; in its place, the title of Junior Leader. New regimental title is Junior Leaders Regiment, RCT/RAOC.

More than 1,000 spectators turned out to watch the 250-strong final passing out parade on the square where thousands of boots have crashed down to bawled orders over three decades.

So important was the occasion that Captain David Price, RAOC Director of Music, was commissioned to compose a special tune for the occasion. He took just

ten days to compose the three-minute march, The RAOC Apprentice, which was played under his baton and in front of his keen ears by the 35-strong Staff Band of the RAOC, a group of musicians who gave 176 performances last year at home and abroad.

Under the new charter at Colerne the training year will be a three-term one and will involve about 170 youngsters.

When they 'graduate' from their new West Country base the RAOC's Junior Leaders will undergo their adult training at Blackdown's Employment Training School (ETS) before moving off on their specialist careers.

Leaving Deepcut was doubtless a nostalgic occasion. Even down to four-year-old memories of the last central bath houses in the British Army, recently used as a boat store but now empty.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Jiggins, CO of the College, said: "As we end a very significant era we start a new one on the amalgamation, with the RCT. Our tasks are complementary."

At the final parade tomorrow's soldiers of supply formed up on

the main square at Blackdown Barracks and marched past the RAOC war memorial. The salute was taken by Brigadier Colin van Orton, Commander RAOC Training Centre.

Then, the apprentices exercised the Freedom of the Borough of Surrey Heath — an honour bestowed just last year on the Corps — by marching through Deepcut Village. There, the Mayor of Surrey Heath Council, Coun P Tompkins took the salute.

Highlight was the final passing

out parade on Dettingen Barracks Square at which Major General Gerry Berragan, Director General of Ordnance Services (DGOS), was the Inspecting Officer and took the salute. He is a former REME apprentice.

Two days later, pennants were laid up, after a disbandment service, at St Barbara's Church, Deepcut.

An era was, indeed, over.

Captain David Price, composed special march



BOOKS in BRIEF

The Armed Forces of the USSR. Harriet Fast Scott, William F. Scott. Arms and Armour Press. Third edition, revised and up-dated. The authors of the 457-page book are Americans.

The Swiss Army: La Place de La Concorde Suisse. John McPhee. Faber and Faber Ltd., £8.95. The book is a subtle and entertaining study of the Army which has never fought a battle but is constantly prepared for the worst. An absorbing story of a 650,000-strong civilian army on constant alert and trained with a precision and thoroughness that is a national characteristic. **Atlas of the English Civil War.** P.R.

Newman. Croom Helm Ltd., £12.95. This atlas contains more than 50 new maps which set out clearly and concisely all the major — and many of the minor — campaigns and battles of the wars. In addition, it provides maps giving essential background information.

Jane's Military Review. Ian V. Hogg. Jane's. Fourth Year of Issue. Described as a "forum of opinions" and this year's work includes detailed examinations of two little-known Communist forces and an assessment of the US action in Grenada in October 1983. New equipment also figures, including sniping rifles, thoughts on close-quarter anti-tank combat, simulators and all-terrain vehicles.

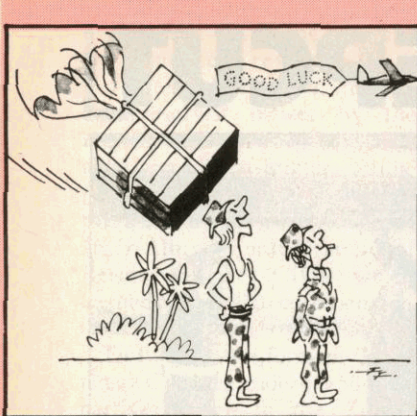
British Service Helicopters. A pictorial history. Richard Gardner and Reginald Longstaff. Robert Hale: London. The book is said to provide the most complete reference guide to British service helicopters to appear in a single volume.

The Ulster Watchdogs. Part 2. 1974-1984. J.D. Turnbull. Limited print. £2.50. J.D. Turnbull, PO Box 3, Marple, Cheshire, SK6 6HX. The story of RMP and WRAC Provost in Northern Ireland in ten years including articles on all companies, pointer teams, R and R exercises, court witnesses section, complete honours and awards list and more than 90 photos.

Barbarossa, The Russian-German

Conflict, 1941-45. Alan Clark. Macmillan. £8.50. A comprehensive account of the momentous battles of the Eastern Front. A desperate and merciless struggle for four years which started at dawn on Midsummer's Day 1941 when the Wehrmacht crashed across the Soviet frontier.

Gallipoli, 1915. Pens, Pencils and Cameras at War. Peter Liddle. Publishers, Brassey's Defence Publishers Ltd. Price: £12.95. The material, is drawn exclusively from Mr Liddle's 1914-1918 Personal Experience Archives. Documents, photos, diaries and recorded recollections from more than 3,500 veterans are preserved in the archive.



MAIL DROP

QARANC ROLE

Reference G Wilmot's letter in **SOLDIER** Nov 18. Like the producers of the film "Nurses in Battle" G Wilmot has also misunderstood the role of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in battle. In war our role is in field hospitals and not in the front line. Like all service corps our basic training is designed to give a knowledge of the rudiments of living in the field and understanding the conditions under which our patients live.

The film referred to only a small part of the QA Officers' training, ignoring the fact that they are also required to be highly trained professionals in their own field — that of nursing.

I am sure there are many veterans from both world wars and as recently as the Falklands who would testify to the 'usefulness' of my QA colleagues. I, for one, trained for many years to qualify for my job and resent Mr Wilmot's flippant label of a 'silly bird'. — **Lt R McCall QARANC, Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Caterick Garrison, N. Yorkshire.**

WOMAN'S PLACE

Regarding G Wilmot saying a woman's place should be in the kitchen or office (**SOLDIER** Nov 18).

As he says he is an ex-soldier I wonder if he ever heard of the Queen Alexandra's nurses.

If I may be permitted to name three of those very courageous nurses, who made the supreme sacrifice, at the Battle of Caen and the Falaise Gap at Normandy — Sister Francis, Sister MacLoughlin and Sister Gillespie, all aged 22 years, volunteered to take a shipload of very badly wounded men, for whom the war was over, back to Blighty.

The last to be seen of these very brave nurses was of them trying to save their patients by pushing them through portholes. — **E J Costello, (ex RAMC 30th British General Hospital), 5 Lockton Road, Stirling-leys, Birmingham.**

TO ERR IS HUMAN

I would like to make two comments, firstly, to congratulate you on your fine magazine. I first made its acquaintance at the Aldershot Army Display of 1984, during a visit to my country of origin, and have enjoyed my subscription greatly ever since. I think you strike a very good balance between the operational and ceremonial sides of the Army today.

Secondly, I have noticed from time to time in other readers letters some

rather harsh criticism of your magazine after the title of a regiment or unit has been printed incorrectly.

Some old soldiers seem to take it as a personal insult if it involves their old regiment.

You, of course, have a lot of diverse material to process and innocent mistakes are bound to occur occasionally.

In this you are certainly not alone. The Band of the Grenadier Guards toured this country at the beginning of 1985 and a popular local newspaper, in an article on the visit which included photographs of Guardsmen sweltering in bearskins under the Australian summer sun, referred to them as the 13th Grenadier Guards Band. We must always remember, "To err is human, to forgive is Divine." — **Martin R Gurney, 34 Mandowie Rd, Glen Waverley, Victoria, 3150 Australia.**

HORSES IN GIB

I note that in the article on the Gibraltar Tattoo (**SOLDIER** 7 Oct) the Deputy Fortress Commander is quoted as saying "There hasn't been a horse in Gibraltar since General Elliotts time".

Not so! I have a photograph, circa 1942 showing 2 King's on Casemates Square at The Ceremony of The Keys. Two mounted British Policemen are in attendance flanking the saluting base.

The Ceremony was performed weekly in those days, each resident battalion of 2 Kings, 2 SLI, 1 Herts and 1 Royal Scots, taking it in turn, interspersed on occasion by other units e.g. the Independent Company and the Royal Navy. — **A J Moore, 38 Heathfield Road, Waterloo, Liverpool.**

SPLITTING HAIRS

I write reference your "splitting hairs" comment **SOLDIER** (Dec 2) concerning the award of the silver wreath of immortelles to the 24th Foot.

I write as an historian interested in historical accuracy, in particular to the regiments associated with Warwickshire. So many books, articles etc written about the history of the 24th during the Zulu Wars of 1879 call them the South Wales Borderers. As this name did not appear on the Army List until May 1881 this cannot be the case. The fact that the SWBs adopted the 24th's traditions etc, is not the issue and I would not want it to be so. On my many letters and visits to the SWB's museum in Brecon I have always been met with enthusiasm and courtesy by the staff, who in my view were proud of their links with Warwickshire during the period 1782-1881.

Will future historians state that the Royal Corps of Signals carried out the last classic cavalry charge in the British Army (Warwickshire/Worcestershire Yeomanry), or were the first tank regiment to break out at El Alamein (Warwickshire Yeomanry together with Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and 3rd Hussars). Will the Corps claim to have parachuted the artillery guns into Normandy and at the war's end to have formed 7 RHA (Worcestershire Yeomanry)?

The Queens Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry having been

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are YOUR pages.

Please keep letters brief and type them if possible. Use only one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines.

Readers' letters must give full name and address, but not necessarily for publication.

Keep your letters flowing to: Mail Drop, **SOLDIER**, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Unfortunately, **SOLDIER** does not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militaria etc, but will try to provide answers on matters of general military interest through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, and insertions for the Reunions column, must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted for free insertion.

absorbed by the Royal Corps of Signals I am proud to be a serving member of the corps. — **D Smart, 37 Clopton Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire.**

FEW MEDALS

When I see fellow 'Boys of the Old Brigade' on the march, e.g. on Armistice Sunday, with no disrespects I am amazed at some of the rows and rows of medals worn. My Army service began when I volunteered for the Territorial Army (18 years old) for a period of four years in April 1939.

I was called for war on the Sept 2, 1939 and up to May 8, 1945 took part in every major battle and campaign on the British western front including the 'Blitz', 'D' Day landings, Arnhem, Ardennes, Rhine crossing and various other unpleasanties.

After the war with Germany ended I was discharged in May 1946, transferred to 'Z' reserve until 1954 when transfer came to General reserve which came to an end in June 1959.

When totting up, the Army connection reached beyond a total of twenty years. I must add that early in the war Territorials who became regulars for the duration of war had their terms of service changed by the government to duration of emergency.

My grand total of medals can be counted on one hand. How sad. — **Geoffrey W Dowman, 34 Smythies Avenue, Colchester, Essex.**

DURAND CUP

With regard to the Durand Cup which was mentioned by Mr T Parrot, Newport, Isle of Wight, in **SOLDIER** (Nov 18) the Cup was won by the 1st Bn The South Wales Borderers in 1901 and again in 1938/39 and it is now in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales. — **WO1 (RSM) A Harrry, 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales, Stornoway Barracks, BFPO 41.**

MEDAL, OR NOT?

Many thanks for producing yet another issue of **SOLDIER** Magazine, which I have taken for many years. However I do have two medal moans about your issue of Nov 4. On page 8 your piece about the "Colonel giving his wife a Gong" appears to have two errors. His wife's "Red Cross Class Two Medal" surely ought to be the "Royal Red

Cross, Class II". It is not a medal. You then go on to demote her husband from an MBE to a BEM. You can see in your illustration that he is wearing either an OBE or an MBE. — **Joe Hodgson, 262 New Hall Lane, Preston.**

RETROGRADE!

You state in **SOLDIER** (Nov 4) that you are delighted to receive letters for **SOLDIER** magazine and at the same time have restricted readers to one page. I think that this is a retrograde step. I wonder how many other readers would agree with me? — **Mr P J Toms, Bangor, Northern Ireland.**

The space given to Mail Drop is largely controlled by the number of letters received. It is not restricted regularly to one page. — **Ed.**

FAIRNESS

I feel that I should, in fairness to myself, inform the Hon Sec of the Military Historical Society (**SOLDIER** 4 Nov) that when I gleaned the knowledge of the South Wales Borders badge, I was a nineteen year old recruit in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry being treated in Devonport Hospital for what was then known as 'double pneumonia', and an argument which was being carried on at the time was between members of the R Berkshire Regt and the S Staffs, who were also patients.

The point at issue, as far as I can remember, bearing in mind that this was early in 1925, was not so much as to the make-up of the wreath — they could have been daisies or dandelions — but the fact of it being the only unbroken wreath serving as a cap badge at that time.

The Editor of Mail Drop will no doubt be interested to learn that I have received two separate communications on the subject from others 'in the know', one an ex-SWB Major and the other an old military ex-Grenadier Guards associate. — **Capt A R Thomas (retd), Manor Close, Tunstead, Norwich.**

Competition

Spotting deliberate typing and grammatical errors in **SOLDIER**'s competition No 374 proved to be difficult, and no-one sent in a correct entry. In fact, very few entries were received. The winner of the £50 prize for the most corrections submitted is T M Brown, of 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3HJ.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION
379

IT'S eyes down looking for the differences between our two pictures — and a chance to win £50.

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The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is February 28. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our March 28 issue.

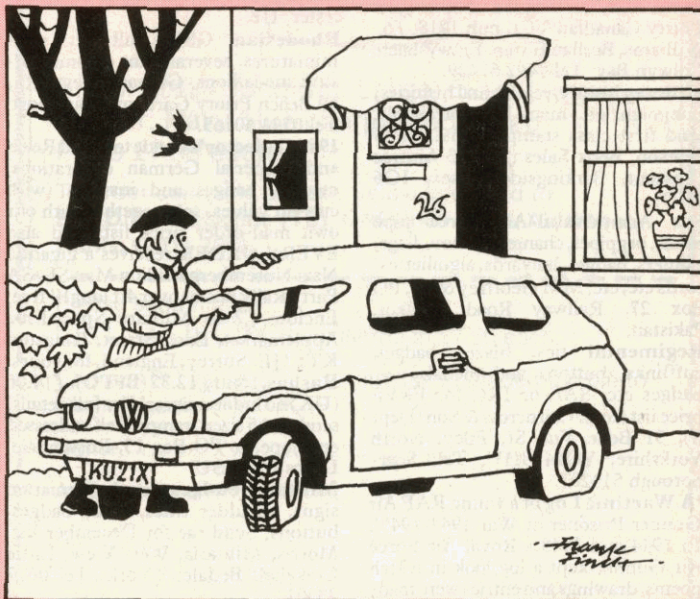
More than one entry can be submitted but each must be

accompanied by a 'Competition 379' label (not a photocopy).

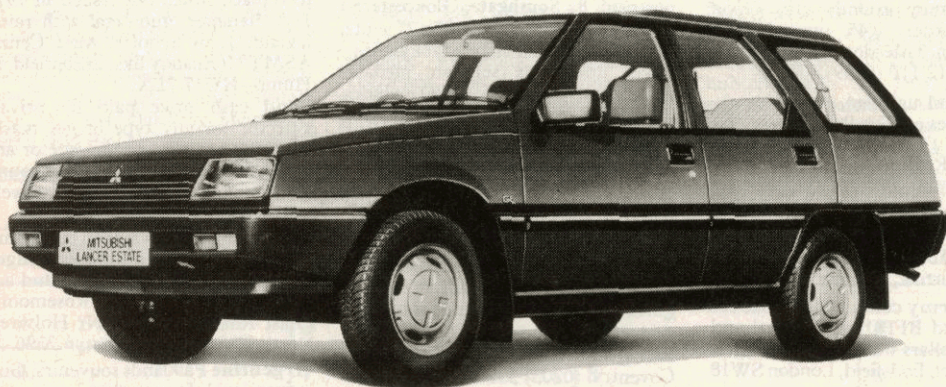
In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by letter with the 'Competition 379' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants.

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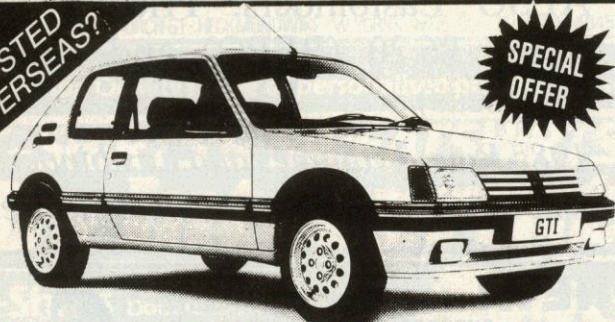
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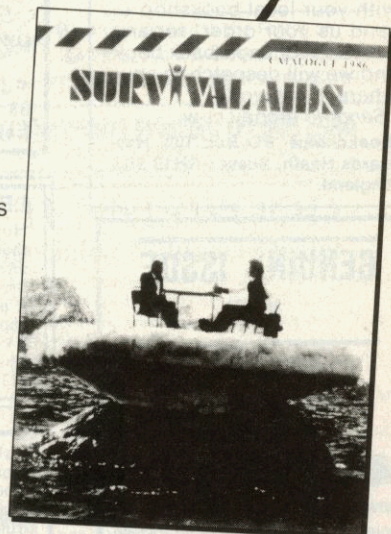
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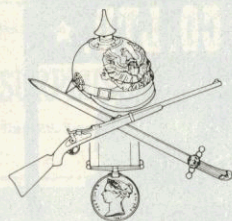
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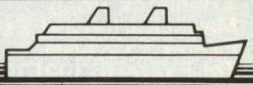
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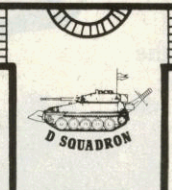
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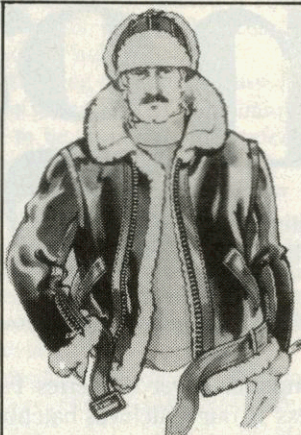


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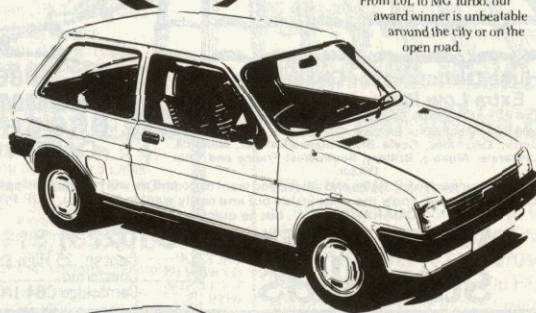
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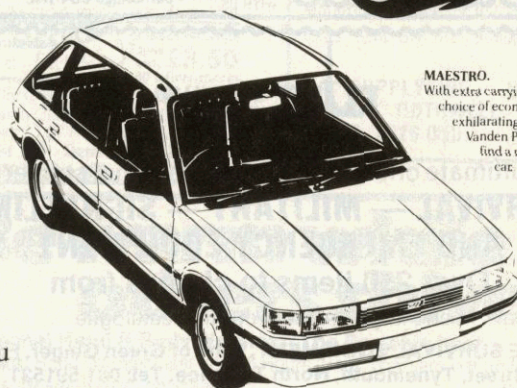
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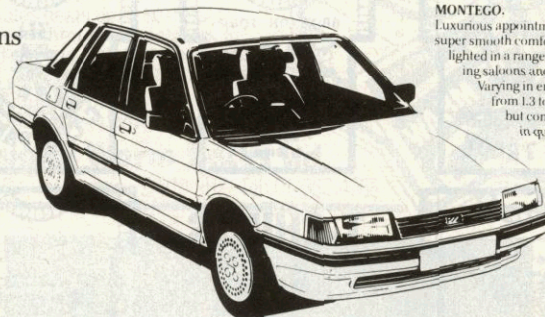
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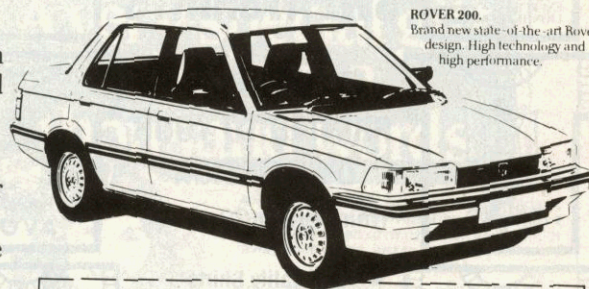
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ARMY FOOTBALL LOSES DON TRINDER

ARMY football's Man Friday, the irrepressible Don Trinder, has retired.

Don, 56, is retiring to Essex and has already found himself another job as administrative assistant to the headmaster of Clacton High School.

It is almost 40 years since Don Trinder joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a clerk. He already had a promising reputation as a footballer and had played for Hampshire Under-14s.

Playing at full back and centre half Don attracted attention from the big professional clubs and had trials for Arsenal, Sunderland and Southampton.

Sadly his own footballing career was brought to a very premature conclusion when he broke a knee while captaining the British troops in Austria team.

He recalls playing against the late, great Duncan Edwards when the Manchester United star was

doing National Service. "It was like having 23 outside rights playing against me!"

Don then turned to refereeing and continued until ten years ago. He officiated at an under-19s international between Malaysia and Borneo and his most memorable game was the Borneo Cup Final.

"It was played in an enclosed stadium with other pitches nearby. The ball was passed to a winger who was ten yards offside but as the ball was going to the 'keeper I shouted for them to play on."

"The 'keeper went to pick it up but a whistle blew from a hockey match next door and the goalie rolled it back to the forward. He then blasted it into the goal and I had no choice but to allow it."

After the match referee Trinder was escorted from the pitch by the police and it took eight armed policemen to get him out of the ground past angry fans.

Don has also been very active

on the cricket field, playing regularly at unit level. In 1976 he won his qualifications as both an umpire and scorer.

He umpired many Army games against county second elevens and in 1982 achieved his life's ambition of umpiring at Lords in the match between Combined Services and the National Association of Young Cricketers. He has also scored at cricket's holy of holies.

Looking back at the dual role Don feels you need to be almost as fit to be an umpire as a referee. For the football match lasts 90 minutes while cricket action is spread over three days.

"You have to concentrate for six-and-a-half hours every day and that isn't easy when there may not have been a run scored for 20 minutes."

Because of his new job Don accepts that his contact with Army football will be limited for the next few years — but he is looking forward to its centenary in 1988.



Don Trinder, he'll keep in touch

"I hope to keep in touch as much as possible but I suppose it will be like the old story of the old soldier that fades away," he said.

His successor as assistant secretary to the Army Football Association is Sergeant Brian LeBretton, Royal Signals, a well known Army referee who is about to leave the Army.

TA BEAT WEAK ARMY SIDE

THE Territorial Army scored their first win, in their series of annual soccer matches against the Army, when they beat the Army XI by two goals to one at Aldershot.

It wasn't the full Army side — only two players with any senior

squad experience were on parade — but it was a good performance by the Volunteers, in a game between well matched sides.

Smyth, 4 R Irish(V) struck the opening goal for the visitors. Following some scrappy mid-field

play, the ball floated wide on the left to the lurking Smyth and he despatched it with clinical efficiency.

The Army equalised just eight minutes later. Jardine, (1 SG), sent striker Reid, 1 A and SH, through, and he raced clear and hammered the ball home from the edge of the penalty area.

Smyth scored what proved to be a winning goal in the 32nd minute. A lofty overhead kick into the Army penalty area dropped

clear of the Army defence and the lanky striker sent a looping header wide of Shankland, 1 SG, in the Army goal.

In the second half exchanges a fierce 40-yard shot by Brown, TRRE, shaved the crossbar, but there was very little penetration from an attack which was well contained by a compact Volunteer defence.

In fact, there was almost another goal when Smyth shot wide.

ARMY ESCORT FOR BOTHAM



Three miles from Lands End, Captain Jimmy James swaps a joke with Ian Botham

Soldiers of 6th Battalion The Light Infantry (Volunteers) escorted Ian Botham to Lands End at the end of his marathon walk from John o'Groats, the only Army unit to take part during the cricketer's 870-mile walk.

The battalion, which has its headquarters in Bath with companies in Somerset and Cornwall, provided TA soldiers to accompany Botham during the final 80 miles of his walk, from Launceston to Lands End.

Each of the soldiers was sponsored for contributions to the Leukaemia Research fund for which Botham raised about £600,000.

And when they arrived at Lands End, the 6 LI men were employed by local police in controlling the crowds who had turned out at the end of the Botham Bandwagon.

LOST SADDLE THWARTS JONES

The Army's Cycling Roller Championships drew more than 40 keen cyclists to Harrogate.

In the Junior Team Championships 400m Sprint AT Chris Jones of Harrogate led them to a convincing win over JLR RE Dover, JLB Shorncliffe and AA Coll Chepstow. He won by a clear second from his team mate Tony Vince, who returned consistent times of 17.4 seconds.

In the ride off for individual placing, Chris Jones was unable to repeat his performance when his saddle slipped off and he lost his pedals in the semi final against Mark Sincock, and was easily beaten by Alan 'Davy' Crockett in the race for third place. In a superb ride off for first place Tony Vince beat Sincock by a tyre's width.

In the Junior 1000m Time Trial, Jones was back to form, losing narrowly to his team mate Peters, with Tony Vince third and Dave Crockett fourth. Harrogate again won the team event. In the Senior Competition for the SOLDIER

Cup Harrogate again proved too strong, beating RSME Chatham, AA Coll Chepstow and R Signals.

In the 4400m Time Trial Graham 'Fitty' Fit, led his team mate Stephen 'Wid' Witty by only 0.1 second with veteran Alan Green third and one of last year's stars, Andy Sole from BAOR, fourth.

In the ride offs for the individual placings, Green's experience showed as he disposed first of Witty — who claimed he was saving himself to beat Sole in the ride for third and fourth places — and then Fitt, to take first place. For 12 consecutive years, Alan Green has been involved in the run offs — a truly remarkable performance.

In the 500m Time Trial, Fitt proved too strong for all comers, leading them home in 72.9 secs with Witty second, Sear (also of Harrogate) third and Green in fourth place. Green had a tussle with young Wilkinson from Chepstow with the lead changing two or three times, before Green got clear on the last lap.

With a field of over 4,200 it was the biggest event of its kind ever held in Aldershot, and perhaps in the Army as a whole.

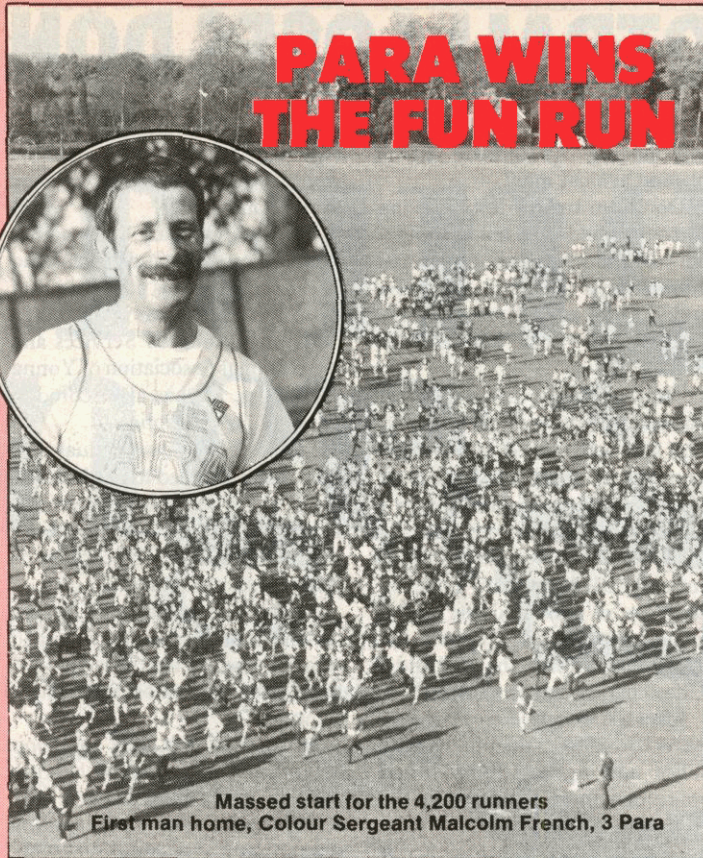
Certainly the organisers of the first Aldershot Garrison fun run could recall only one other event which came anywhere near it; that was in the Falklands nine months ago with 2,500 runners.

Organised under the slogan "90-10" (the 90 for the percentage of garrison troops it was hoped would take part: the 10 for the distance in kilometres they would run) the race started immediately after the draw for the Aldershot SSAFA Centenary raffle.

As it happened one of the winners of the two Metros being raffled was WO1 Jim Noble, RSM of the Army School of Physical Training, which organised the running of the race.

The mass start on Queen's Parade Recreation Ground was signalled by the firing of a 7 RHA field gun by Chelsea pensioner, QMSI John Reid (72), and a Very pistol by Miss Pickfords (Melanie Smith). Pickfords Removals sponsored the event.

First to reach the Aldershot Military Stadium, after completing the 10 kilometre circuit in 31 mins 37 secs, was Colour Sergeant Malcolm French of 3 Para. He received £75 worth of vouchers for winning, plus £50 for being



**Massed start for the 4,200 runners
First man home, Colour Sergeant Malcolm French, 3 Para**

the fastest man over 18.

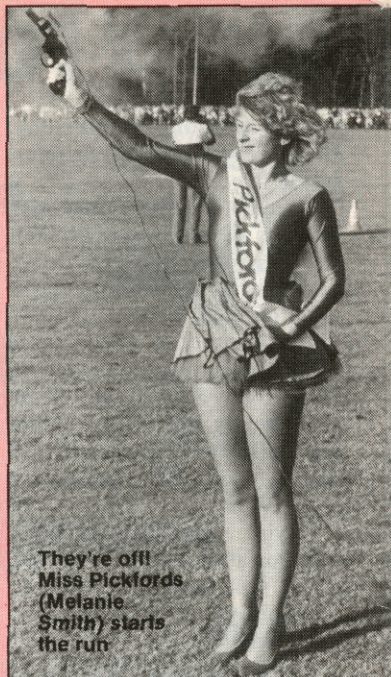
The field which followed him home included 471 Servicewomen and four brigadiers, one of whom was the Garrison Commander, Brigadier Richard Mountford.

At the end of it all, when every competitor had crossed the line

without any having fallen by the wayside, he expressed his satisfaction with the event and the efforts of all concerned.

There was one solitary civilian in the throng of Service competitors. The Mayor of Rushmoor (Councillor Colin Boulchin) joined

PARA WINS THE FUN RUN



**They're off!
Miss Pickfords
(Melanie
Smith) starts
the run**

the runners for the first mile before returning to the stadium to prepare for the prize presentation.

Results: Overall: 1 C/Sgt French, 3 Para (£75), 2 S/Sgt Roger, APTC, attached 2 Para (£50), 3 L/Cpl Grant, 3 Para (£30). First junior under 18: Dvr Leech, 27 Regiment, RCT, (£50). First Servicewoman over 18: Sgt Maggie Smith, WRAC attached QARANC depot (£50). First man over 18: C/Sgt French (£50). First veteran (over 18): WO2 Davies, HQ S E District, (£50).

SIGNALS ARE CHAMPS — AND RUNNERS-UP

The 2 Infantry Division HQ and Signals Regiment from York have become the Army's wild water canoe champions for the second year in succession.

They retained the title by beating 16 Signal Regiment from BAOR into second place over five miles of the River Swale at Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Conditions were hardly ideal. Although an extra foot of water on the Sunday meant better canoeing for the individual events, it was a fairly bumpy ride for the team competition on the first day of the championships.

The result of the K1 team event was particularly gratifying for 2 HQSR — it showed that last year's result was no fluke. The team was only formed for the 1984 wild water championship. Success then gave the incentive for months of hard training on the River Ouse at York to lay the foundations for success again this year.

The presence of Warrant Officer 1 (RSM) Bill White in the team has no doubt been a great help to the younger members. Bill has been a member of the Army canoe team since 1970 and 10 years ago he represented Great Britain in many internationals.

Results:

Team events: K1 Wild Water racing class: 1, 2 Inf Div HQ & Signals Regt; 2, 16 Signal Regt. BAOR; 3, RMCS, Shrivenham. Slalom: 1, Guards' Adventurous Training Wing; 2, 1 DWR; 3, RMCS, Shrivenham.

Individual events: Slalom: 1, Capt A H Bradborn, Guards' ATW; 2, L/Sgt C Offless, Guards' ATW; 3, Major J A Turner, 5 LI. Canadian Singles: 1, WO1 C S Richmond, 8 Fld Wkshops, REME; 2, S/Sgt N Martin, 1 Regt, AAC; 3, Sgt K Truby, 16 Sigs Regt. Ladies: Slalom: Lt Mann, 2 Inf Div HQ & Sigs Regt; K1: Sgt P Coley, WRAC Centre, Guildford.

Shorncliffe pack 8-1 punch

The Army's Junior Boxing Championships fought at Pirbright started with a walkover bout — and then the whole contest became almost a complete walkover for Salamanca Company, from Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe.

At the end of the nine-bout evening, Waterloo Company of the Guards Depot had won only one contest, JIB taking the other eight — and the SOLDIER trophy.

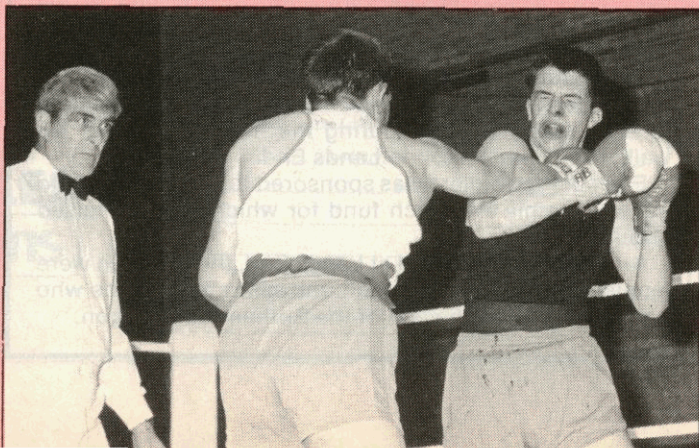
The flyweight bout which was to start the evening was conceded by the home team because they could not find the weight, but although the evening started in disappointment for the packed gymnasium by that cancelled bout, it ended in a scrap of such ferocity that the referee stopped the contest

with both contestants unable to carry on fighting. But by that time the bout between Rutter (Waterloo Company) and McDermott (Salamanca) had reached the last of the three rounds, with McDermott being declared winner.

Results:

Fly: Briody (Salamanca) won by walkover; Bantam: Smith (Salamanca) beat May; Light welter: Godbold (Salamanca) beat Finlan; Light middle: Curtis (Salamanca) beat Gray; Middle: Weston (Salamanca) beat Colbert; Light heavy: Smith (Waterloo) beat Ward; Welter: McDermott (Salamanca) beat Rutter.

The face of McDermott (Salamanca) seems to tell the story of the ferocious welter weight contest — but not quite, because he went on to win over Rutter



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WARRANT OFFICER (AMMUNITION TECHNICIAN)

The Warrant Officer (Ammunition Technician) will be responsible to the Naval Armaments Organisation, through the Ammunition Technical Officer (Naval), for the safety and serviceability of the Sultan of Oman's Navy shore ammunition holdings. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Inspection of all new receipts ex-manufacture and ex-SON ships.
- Routine inspections and proof, testing and repair of all natures of SON ammunition.
- Disposal of unserviceable ammunition by local demolition or dumping at sea.
- Evaluation and initial training of local Naval personnel, assessing potential for future training as Ammunition Technicians and/or Storemen.
- Inspections of SON ammunition in forward/rear locations and as necessary on board ships.
- Assisting in investigations into ammunition accidents and incidents involving SON ammunition.

WARRANT OFFICER (STOREMAN)

The Warrant Officer (Storeman) will be responsible to the Naval Armaments Organisation, through an Ammunition Technical Officer (Naval), for the safe storage and handling and for the proper accounting of the Sultan of Oman's Navy shore ammunition holdings. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Ammunition explosives accounting and manual documentation of transactions.
- In service surveillance of storage and handling of SON shore ammunition holdings.
- Physical stock checks of holdings.
- Basic training of local Naval personnel in ammunition storage handling techniques and assessment of potential for future advancement and training as Ammunition Technicians/Storemen.

Personnel for both posts will have had experience working in Ammunition Depots and perhaps on Inspectorates. Previous service in the Middle East and knowledge of Arabic, although not essential, would be a distinct advantage. As the armaments organisation of the Sultan of Oman's Navy is only now being established the

Ammunition Technician will initially be physically involved in the inspections, repair operations and in the structuring of the Naval Armaments organisation.

Contracts are for unaccompanied uniformed service, initially for 2 years, renewable thereafter by mutual agreement. Salary is paid locally in Omani Rials and is fully remittable. 60 days' leave is granted each year with 3 free flights. There are facilities for family visits.

For more information and an application form, please telephone **Ninette Mantle**, on **01-408 1010** (quoting ref. S/1) or write to her at ARA International, Overseas Recruitment Division, Edman House, 17-19 Maddox Street, London W1R 0EY.

WARRANT OFFICERS RO 600 PM. TAX FREE

Current rate of exchange is about RO 0.515 = £1.
A bonus of 20% of all basic pay earned is paid at the end of each contract.



قوات سلطان عمان البحرية
SULTAN OF OMAN'S NAVY

SOLDIER

