

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 24 JAN-6 FEB 1983

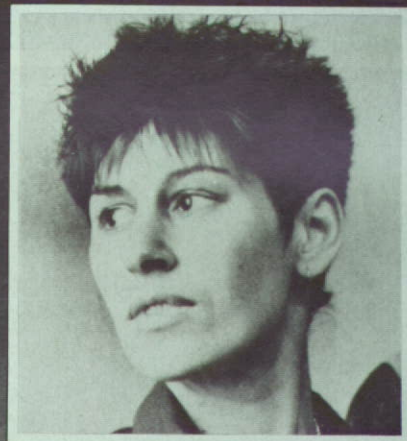
SOLDIER



- FIJIANS' FAREWELL YEAR
- ULSTER BORDER PATROL

THE FALKLANDS WAR

A Visual Diary by LINDA KITSON



"The San Carlos landing beaches, 40 Commando, Goose Green, Bluff Cove, a Gurkha trench during a red alert, mine-clearing Sappers. All these and much more are brilliantly recorded..."

Maj-Gen. Edward Fursdon, Defence Correspondent, *The Daily Telegraph*.

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FRONT COVER

Wearing the light blue beret of the United Nations, a British soldier in Cyprus looks out from his Ferret scout car. The UK element of the island's UN Force will soon be sending an 80-strong armoured reconnaissance unit — equipped with Ferrets — to join the multinational peacekeeping force in the Lebanon. *Picture by Les Wiggs*

BACK COVER

Keeping a lookout for the suspicious or the unusual is a task that never stops for our troops in Northern Ireland. On pages 24-25 we follow a day in the life of a unit on border patrol. *Picture by Paul Haley*

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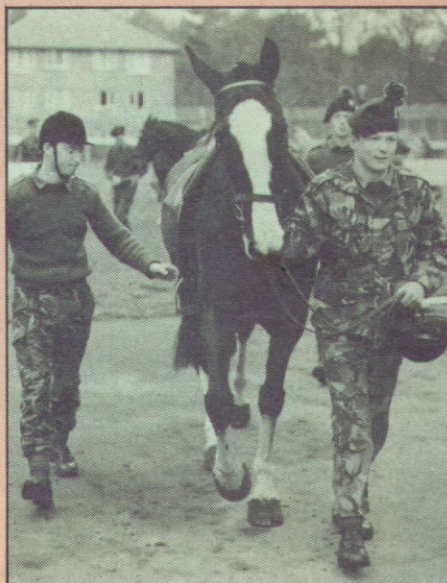
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

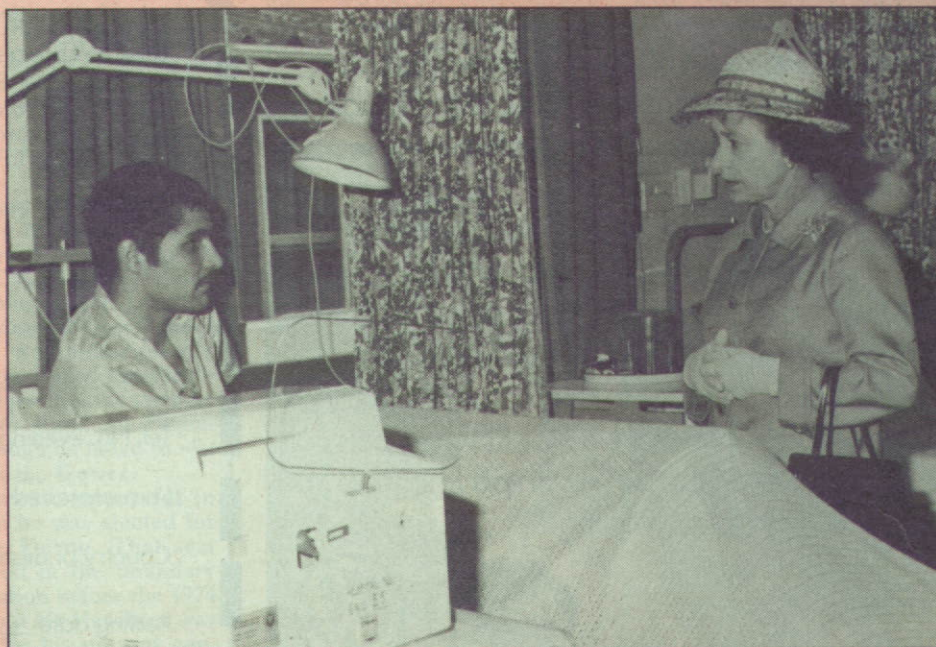


Why infantrymen have been learning how to harness some extra horsepower — page 32 ▲

A nation's thanks. The men in charge of the South Atlantic Fund explain how the money is being spent — page 41 ▼

Pay Corps apprentices must figure out how to handle a rifle before they can get to grips with a calculator —

page 14 ▼



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A-test health screen

THE MINISTRY of Defence is to conduct a survey of a "substantial number" of the 12,000 Servicemen who took part in Britain's nuclear test programme in the 1950s.

There have been claims that some have died of cancer or are suffering from particular diseases as a result of their participation in the tests.

But the Ministry still believes there is no evidence that people have been affected. Precautions at the time were adequate, it says.

"Nevertheless we do recognise the desirability of testing the validity of our own assessment," said a spokesman.

The survey will be carried out statistically and comparisons made with comparable age groups to establish whether the incidence of disease is higher than in the public at large.

The results will be published.

PM'S FLYING VISIT TO THE FALKLANDS

PRIME MINISTER Mrs Margaret Thatcher caught the world napping when she suddenly turned up in the Falkland Islands after a secret flight from UK via Ascension Island. But she got an ecstatic welcome from islanders and troops alike.



Mrs Thatcher surrounded by members of 'Y' Company the Royal Hampshire during her visit to Goose Green.

Accompanied by her husband and Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, she made the first part of the trip in a

VC10 then transferred to a specially equipped Hercules. After refuelling twice in mid-air, the aircraft was escorted on the last leg into Stanley by RAF Phantom fighters.

Mrs Thatcher arrived back in Britain six days later, after a gruelling programme that took in informal meetings and official talks with the islanders, visits to the troops of the garrison and to the graves of those who died liberating the islands. She also saw Argentinian minefields and the scenes of some of the fiercest battles.

When she arrived in Stanley, Mrs Thatcher spoke of her feelings. "We are really very thrilled and very excited," she said. "We have come to talk to the people here, to support the armed forces here and to pay tribute to those who liberated the islands."

"It would be very strange if I had not come."

Later in her tour she made it plain that the islands will remain British. Britain would defend the islands for "a long, long time," she said.

The islanders' response to Mrs Thatcher was to give her the Freedom of their homeland. Many were unashamedly near to tears when she arrived. The military response was rousing. Wherever she went she was greeted by cheers and applause. The only solemn moments were

SINCE Mrs Thatcher's return it has been announced that 12 British undertakers have left for the Falklands with a Government contract to locate up to 250 Argentine dead and give them a Christian burial.

Bodies are still being discovered where they fell, but despite repeated efforts through the International Red Cross, Buenos Aires has not responded to the requests for them to repatriate their fallen.

when she visited the graves, including that of Colonel 'H' Jones.

● Only a week after briefing Mrs Thatcher during her visit on the menace of Argentine mines, Major Stephen Hambrook, OC of 49 EOD Squadron RE, was seriously injured in an explosion at Fox Bay. He is believed to have stepped on an Argentine anti-personnel mine and had to have a foot amputated.

New supremo

AFTER MUCH speculation the favourite for the job has succeeded Mr John Nott as Secretary of State for Defence. On the eve of her visit to the Falklands, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Mr Michael Heseltine. She also announced that the Queen had approved a knighthood for Mr Nott.

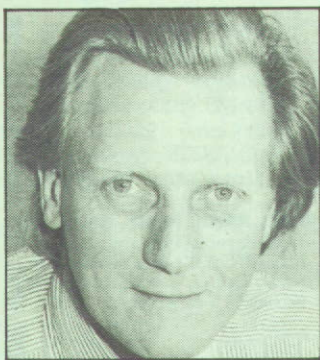
Other Defence appointments are the promotion of Mr Geoffrey Pattie who steps up to replace Lord Trenchard as Minister of State for Procurement, and Mr Ian

ing politics at the next election.

Mr Heseltine had been Environment Secretary since May 1979. Born in 1933, he was educated at Shrewsbury School and Pembroke College, Oxford. He is a former President of the Oxford Union.

In January 1959 he was called up for National Service and reported to the Guards Depot at Caterham. After basic training he was selected to go to Mons Officer School where he was subsequently commissioned into the Welsh Guards. Two months later he resigned to stand for Parliament although he failed to win election in the Gower.

But he was successful in 1966 when he was elected for Tavistock, Devon. That seat disappeared in the boundary reorganisation before the 1974 election and Mr Heseltine was returned for his present constituency of Henley-on-Thames.



Mr Michael Heseltine

Stewart, who takes over Mr Pattie's old post of Parliamentary Under Secretary for Procurement.

Mr Heseltine had been hot favourite ever since Sir John Nott announced his intention to resign, as a prelude to leav-



Watched by husband, Denis, the Premier gets a quick course in gunnery from Bombardier Michael Tobin RA. After learning the rudiments she fired the 105, deafening the Press corps.

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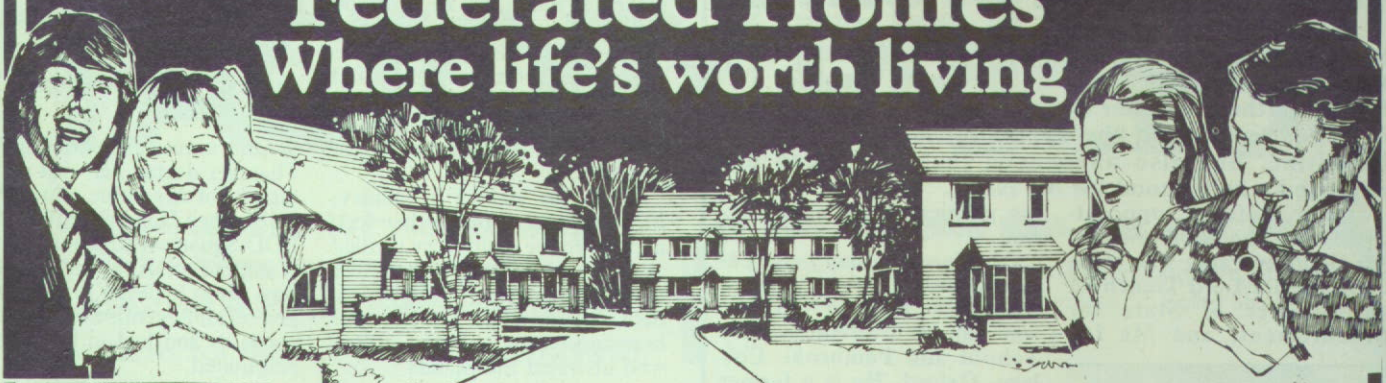
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Fancy a pint of Penguin?

BRITISH soldiers in the Falklands should be drinking their first pints of locally brewed real ale by the end of February. Brewing equipment for the island's first brewery was shipped out from Marchwood just before Christmas by the Leicester brewers, Everards.

The equipment was expected to arrive at Port Stanley about the middle of January and immediately afterwards brewer, Ronald Barclay and an engineer were to fly out to supervise the setting up of the brewery in a disused building opposite the Port Stanley dock.

The new beer, Penguin Ale, a bitter with a specific gravity of 1040 degrees will be sold to the troops by Naafi but Everards plan to have other outlets on the islands. They are negotiating to buy one of the local pubs, the Globe.

Said a brewery spokesman: "We shall be giving the troops a beer just like those at home. Up until now all beer sold in the Falklands has been in cans or bottles. We hope to be brewing by the time of the celebrations on 20 February."

Beer and big guns

BEER AT 1940s prices will be just one of the attractions when Fort Newhaven, the restored Palmerston fort in East Sussex, launches a special promotion under the title "A Week in 1940".

The fort's own pub, the 'Major General Ardagh' will be making the offer for one night only. There will also be a 40s-style dance and a show called 'Hits of the Blitz'.

It is planned that the Master Gunner, General Sir Harry Tuzo, will fire the fort's six-inch coastal gun — the first time one has been fired since Coastal Artillery was disbanded in 1956. And there will be a reunion for men of 159 Heavy Battery Kent/Sussex RA (TA), which is expected to include many who served during the war.

The special week, which runs from June 6-12, will be rounded off with a military vehicle rally.



Police issued this picture of Martina and Neville as part of their hunt for witnesses.

LEAVE SOLDIER'S MYSTERY DEATH

SCOTLAND YARD has appealed for the help of the public in their attempt to solve the mystery death over Christmas of a young soldier on leave from BAOR.

Lance Corporal Neville Richards, 22, of 2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, died on December 26 after petrol was poured under the door of the flat where he was staying and ignited through the letter-box. His 19-year-old German bride of a year, Martina, and both his mother and stepfather were injured.

Martina broke both arms when she jumped naked from the second floor balcony. She has now returned to Germany. Neville's mother has been released from hospital after treatment for burns but his stepfather is still detained.

So far police have been unable to establish any motive for the attack which happened while the family was asleep. A week later

uniformed police paraded outside the block of flats — Ramsay House in Battersea, South London — with bill-boards appealing for witnesses. They are specially interested in hearing about any one seen hurrying from the area. The principal roads in the area are York Road and Plough Road.

The case is being treated as one of murder, arson and grievous bodily harm.

Paras on TV

A PLATOON of Parachute Regiment recruits are about to become TV stars, as the BBC follows their progress from early last year to the successful ones joining their battalions.

The seven-part documentary is on similar lines to the "Fighter Pilot" series which followed the training of a group of RAF aircrew cadets.

In the new series, due to begin next month, the training is set against the background of the Falklands, with the new boys making their first nervous jumps while their comrades were fighting for Goose Green.

Briefly

Britain's oldest old soldier, Mr William Sheppard — "Shep" to his friends — has died at the age of 105. Oldest surviving member of the 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Volunteers, he was a veteran of the Boer War and World War I. He was a police reserve constable during World War II and then became a police tailor. "Shep" appeared in the SOLDIER profile series in December 1981.

The 12th Nato Music Festival, which attracted more than 30,000 people to Mönchengladbach's Bökelberg stadium in September, set a new box office record, making a profit of Dm 70,000. It has been donated to the UN World Refugee Fund.

Over Dm 2000 was raised when more than 70 cooks and ration storemen took part in a sponsored soccer tournament staged by the Osnabrück branch of the Army Catering Corps Association. The money was raised to provide a memorial plaque for the ACC soldiers killed in the *Sir Galahad* disaster. It will hang in the main concourse of the Army School of Catering at Aldershot.

Lance Corporal Christopher Watkins, RCT has won the first prize of a Ford Fiesta in the annual Ssafa 'Three Car Draw'.

Film to mark TA birthday

THE TA celebrates its 75th anniversary this year and, in the Spring, to mark the occasion a "heavily fictionalised" film will appear on the cinema circuits, sponsored by the Ministry of Defence, and called "One of Us".

One of the stars of the 30-minute film is former New Avenger and now coffee bean sales booster, Gareth Hunt. Co-stars include Jeremy Bullock and Gary Shail.

Executive producer is Lee Gullick, of the Ministry of Defence, who said: "The film is a heavily fictionalised and dramatised piece with a TA background and is intended to be entertainment. From conception to completion it took seven months and the actual shooting took three weeks. Music with the same name as the title has been composed for the film."

Action in the film takes place in Wales and Germany

where, in a sequence which later becomes clear, Hunt is relentlessly chased by a Bundeswehr Leopard tank!

"We were given six Panzers to play with at Sennelager," said Mr Gullick, "and they even blew up a house for us. Hunt plays the part of a TA corporal who is told he is going on exercise in Germany. There is love interest, too, where a TA nurse binds the wounds of Gary Shail and a liaison develops."

He added: "I think it is a film ideally suited to the TA, its target audience. It's going to be exciting and humorous. I think it should do the job when it is released."



NEWS VIEW

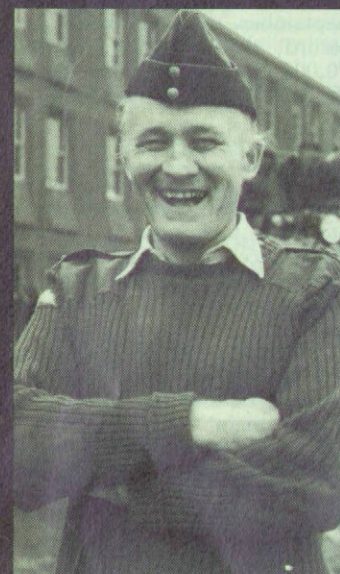
Thanks

Before returning to base at SEME, Bordon, Captain Jeff White and Sergeant David Childs found an unusual way of saying thank you to the family which hosted them while they were with the Falklands Garrison. One of their last duties in the islands was to become Godparents to young Beverley Rose Reid, first daughter of Colleen and Gus Reid with whom the soldiers were billeted during their stay.



Nato Tank

British driver, German commander, Belgian gunner, Dutch signaller. With a crew like that this just has to be a Nato tank, even if it is a Russian T62A. It was in fact one of the exhibits in a display of captured Soviet equipment at the Mönchengladbach HQ of Northern Army Group. The Brit, left, is Major I P G Stevens.



Home Again

Twenty-seven years ago National Service Private Paul Abram drilled on the square at Imphal Barracks, York. Now he has returned as the Reverend Paul Abram, with the equivalent rank of Lieutenant Colonel and the job of Senior Chaplain to the new 2nd Infantry Division. He returned to the Army in 1965 and has since served with the Parachute Regiment and the Prince of Wales' Own.



Honours Even

It was in 1981 that Army and RAF caterers in Germany again took to the sports field to battle for the 'Bone of Contention', after a lapse of eight years and with honours even. That time the Army reclaimed the trophy but now Colonel Robin Maddy has had to return the prize to the RAF after the 1982 season.

Comstar

Claiming its 11th trophy in seven years, the Army communications centre at Ripon, Yorks, has just collected a silver Comstar in recognition of its efficiency record. Here Mrs Dorothy Pearson receives the award from Lieutenant Colonel Mike Stott, CO of 38 Engineer Regiment.



Link-up

It was time to get together for these 10 members of Exercise 'Turning Diamond', a BAOR sponsored sport parachute training expedition to Florida. After three weeks of intensive training they marked the end of their stay by trying for a 12-man join-up. But a bit of last minute confusion about positions spoiled it and they had to settle for 10.

The trip was so successful that now it is planned to form a canopy relative work team which it is hoped will gain official approval to enter the British National Championships.

Self Starter

Using her own power to climb aboard the transporter, this 1943 vintage Churchill Mark IV is thought to be the only fully working example of Britain's most successful WW II tank design on public display. It took a year for a small group of volunteers at 12 Armoured Workshop REME in Osnabrück to convert 39 rusty tons into this fine museum piece. Now it has been returned to its owners, the Belgian Army Museum in Brussels, who gave the unit a set of WW I Tank Corps recruiting posters as a thank you.



Right on Cue

Snooker ace Steve Davis was right on cue when he made a whistle-stop tour of units in South West District. Tackling his training with relish, he drove a Chieftain on Salisbury Plain and fired a variety of infantry weapons. He is pictured with Corporal Steve Roberts of 4 Royal Tank Regiment. Later, on his own battle ground, the expert took on local champions in Tidworth's Kinsman Club and gave a demonstration of trick shots. It all looked too easy.



Cash Pack

While he was in the Falklands Sergeant Ken Bryce of 518 Coy Royal Pioneer Corps, wanted to do something for charity. So he spent a whole month walking around with a 40lb pack on his back. As a result he was able to hand a cheque for £1018 to the Commander British Forces, Major General David Thorne. But even afterwards the money continued to flow in and has been passed on to the Handicapped Children's Trust.

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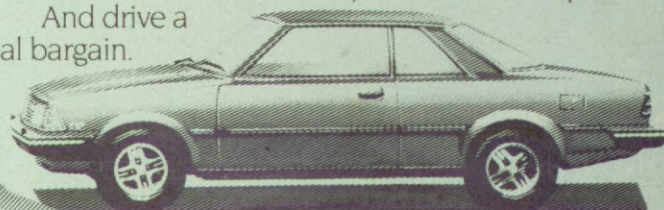
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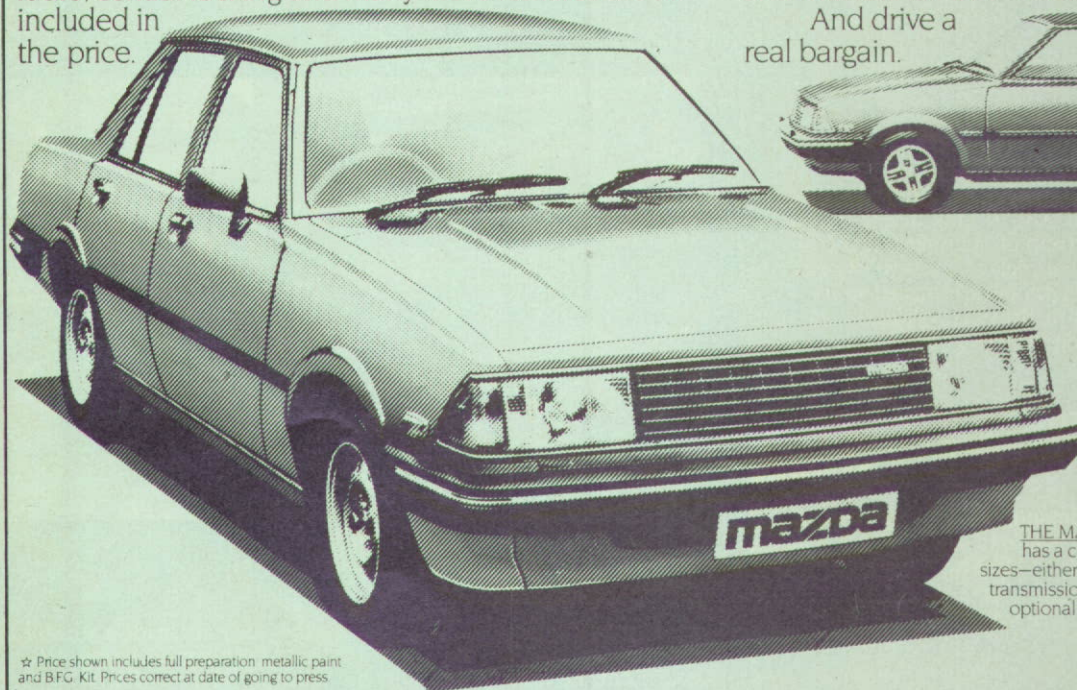
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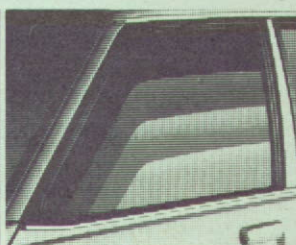
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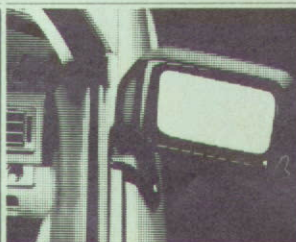
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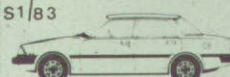


Musical chimes are also standard on the SDX to remind you if you've left the lights on or the keys in the ignition.

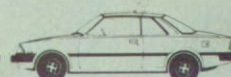


Another feature normally found on much more expensive cars, is the SDX's electrically operated driver's door mirror.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE Prime Minister's visit to the Falklands was certainly a well-kept secret. And there could be no doubt that her visit gave a tremendous boost to the troops and islanders there.

But what a pity that some of her opponents had to snipe at the visit as a pre-election publicity stunt.

Surely it was only natural that Mrs Thatcher, as political head of our Armed Forces, should want to visit the scene of their triumph. And surely it was natural too, that she should wish to meet the people of the Falklands and reiterate her commitment to their defence.

It was a gesture any prime minister would have wished to make — and a poor excuse for Party point scoring.

☆ ☆ ☆

BARELY had the PM arrived in the South Atlantic than her new Secretary of State for Defence was jetting in to Heathrow.

A suntanned Michael Heseltine, back from a Winter break in the West Indies, breezed into Whitehall's biggest department amid much speculation that he would soon be trimming staff and budgets with the same vigour that he displayed at the Department of the Environment.

In a department where huge sums are committed years ahead on long-term projects, a minister's room for manoeuvre can sometimes be limited. But there is no doubt that Mr Heseltine will bring a keen eye to bear on how the MOD discharges its multi-billion pounds-a-year spending.

A former second lieutenant in the Welsh Guards, Mr Heseltine is remembered by his former platoon sergeant — now retired Major — Peter Horsfall as being “a bit too full of himself” when

aged 25, he arrived for recruit training at Caterham.

"I did make it tough for him and to his credit he responded marvellously," he is reported as saying. "He was obviously a born leader."

Those leadership qualities will certainly be fully tested in the coming months and all three Services will wish him success as he takes over one of the government's hottest seats.

☆ ☆ ☆

THE idea of 'twinning' towns of different nations to promote international friendship is not a new one. But Spangenberg in West Germany has given an extra dimension to the concept by twinning with a Scottish regimental band.

Contacts were established when the Band, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards gave a concert in the town in 1979, and the townspeople have since become such fans of the *Dudelsack* that members of the band have been welcomed into their homes as part of the family.

Now, as a special thank you to Spangenberg, the regiment's military musicians have got together with two choirs and two bands from the town to produce a joint LP. The idea was the brainchild of Bandmaster Peter Standing who will have retired by the time *Hands Across the Sea* hits the music shops later this year.

His ten years with the regiment has seen it achieve international recording fame with no fewer than ten Golden Discs and the worldwide 'chartbuster' *Amazing Grace*. Even so, we suspect none will provide him with a happier souvenir than *Hands Across the Sea* — a tribute to the unique partnership that he personally did so much to foster.

ANOTHER Scottish regiment making recording news are the Scots Guards. Their single *Craggs of Tumbledown Mountain* was released just before Christmas and quickly sold 20,000 copies.

It is a regimental tradition that pipe tunes are composed by the pipe major to mark actions in which the regiment has been engaged. Pipe Major James Riddell wrote *Crags* within a few days of the decisive battle for Tumbledown Mountain in the Falklands which saw the Scots Guards lose eight men killed and 42 wounded.

The tune was first heard publicly when played by a lone piper from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and has been recorded by the 2nd Battalion's Pipes and Drums and The Regimental Band.

Crags of Tumbledown Mountain is being distributed through record shops by Pinnacle Records price £1.35. Further information can be obtained from Pipe Major Riddell at Chelsea Barracks on 01-930 4466 ext 268.

☆ ☆ ☆

BROWSING round a militaria stall in London, one of our staff noticed several 1977 copies of *SOLDIER* on sale — at twice the cover price.

Inquiring of the cockney stall holder why the price had been doubled, he received the swift retort: "Cos they're collectors' items mate, that's why!"

We've always known of course that collectors keep their eyes open for early copies of the magazine. But if it's more recent issues you're after we can promise you a much better deal than that enterprising street trader.

As we announced in our 29 November issue last year we still have stocks of magazines from 1975 to the present, with a complete year's copies available from as little as £1. Even when postage is added on that still adds up to a pretty good bargain. Just how good you can find out by telephoning us on Aldershot 24431 extension 2583 for full price details.

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TASK FORCE AT THE BOAT SHOW

AMID THE powerful engines and gleaming white hulls at this year's Boat Show could be found the odd Scorpion and landing craft — not to mention pieces of captured Argentinian hardware.

Sponsored by the *Daily Express*, the three Services were asked to display some of the equipment and vehicles used by the Task Force in liberating the Falkland Islands from Argentinian occupation. Contributing to the feel of the tableau was a series of evocative photographs marking the progress of the campaign and ending up with that now famous shot, taken by SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley, of a group of Scots Guards in the first flush of victory on the top of Mount Tumbledown.

"We've deliberately played it light" explained the Army project officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Goble, "we didn't want to use any photographs that would offend anyone so we haven't shown anybody being shot or injured. We thought this was a

Gunner Milburn demonstrates Blowpipe.

reasonable policy and appropriate for the Boat Show."

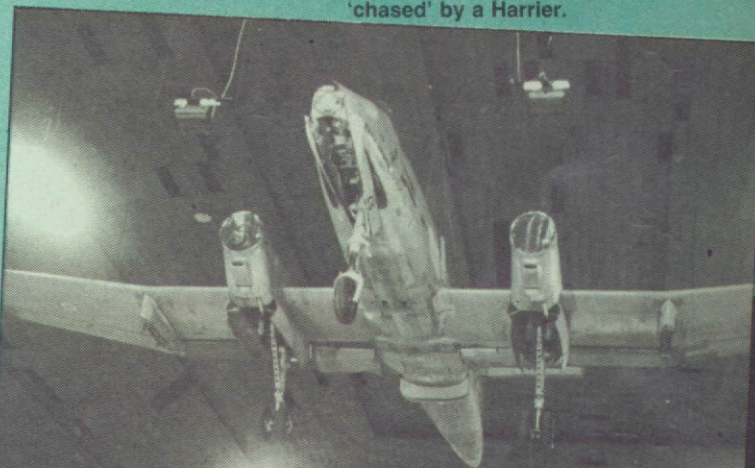
On display, apart from the tank and landing craft, was a 105 mm gun, a mexi-float model, a Royal Navy Wasp helicopter from *HMS Endurance*, a Blowpipe trainer and a remarkably lifelike mock-up of the Rapier missile system. Enthralling the nation's pilots of tomorrow, the Royal Air Force exhibited models of a Harrier ejector seat and the Victor MR 20B refuelling pod. The desert camouflaged items were all captured from the vanquished Argentinians and included the American made Iraqois helicopter, a Panhard, and a Mercedes Jeep. The pièce de resistance was a Harrier chasing an Argentinian Pucara aircraft across the vast ceiling of the exhibition hall.

Plenty to look at then, and the teams of Servicemen — several proudly wearing South Atlantic campaign medals — had their hands full answering the many questions from the fascinated public.



Gunner Robert Milburn of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment with his 'charge' the 105mm light gun.

Suspended above the sparkle of the boats on the water is the captured Argentinian Pucara 'chased' by a Harrier.



Story: Sally Daniell Pictures: Les Wiggs

The youngsters who attend the Royal Army Pay Corps College at Worthy Down find that their training as Army pay clerks takes second place to turning them into good fighting soldiers.

DIG NOW PAY LATER

MUDSTAINED FIGURES in water-proofs were bailing water out of their trenches while others were gathering bracken to use as improvised duckboards. The rain lashed down across the bleak Aldershot training area giving the scene an all pervasive air of misery.

Yet the young soldiers went about their business with a cheerfulness and resolve the equal of that of their grandfathers in the far more terrible conditions of Flanders. For these young men it was the final test of their military skills before they graduated to their Army jobs — as pay clerks!

The Royal Army Pay Corps believes it has laid forever the ghost of the fat pay clerk behind his desk or the bookish figure crouched over a balance sheet. Today's RAPC man is a soldier first and foremost with his accounting skills, though as important as ever, very firmly in second place.

The Royal Army Pay Corps Apprentices' College at Worthy Down is the smallest junior unit in the British Army. At full strength it is 100 strong although

Bracken for the trench floor. ▲

currently there are only 86 boys going through the two year training programme.

During that time the apprentice will, in addition to his military training, study for his military examinations in accountancy and he will also get the opportunity to take his 'A' levels or Royal Society of Arts qualifications. Entry is normally at 16 but some may start as late as 17 — in which case they will be 19 before they graduate into the adult Army.

However, in their final term when they become the passing out platoon, they move to adult accommodation in the RAPC centre nearby. They join in with the camp guards and, provided they are over 18, are allowed to drink in the Naafi.

"We try to encourage them to become adult soldiers and prepare them for adult service", says Major Jeromy Ward, who commands the College.

These were the boys who were out on their battle camp at Aldershot. The training officer, Lieutenant Kevin Holder, finds that no matter how foul the weather the apprentices take to it



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

▲ A grin in adversity.



like the proverbial duck to water.

"The last exercise we had was five days on Salisbury Plain and we only had one clear day. But as long as they were kept active they enjoyed every minute of it. This one is the same — they may have their moans and groans but they know it is the final hurdle before they pass out and are sent to their units. The incentive is to get out of the College and the restrictions of a junior unit. So they take anything that the weather can throw at them."

The rest of the College is di-

Soldiers first and foremost. ▲

vided into three Houses named after former Paymasters-in-Chief. Each of the houses has an experienced staff-sergeant as housemaster.

The latter term with its images of Mr Chips and Quelch of the Remove is not appreciated by the 'housemasters'. Says Staff-Sergeant Dennis Caraher, who looks after Rooney House: "It's a false image. This is definitely not a boarding school and my job is really that of a platoon commander."

Staff Caraher was a boy at the

The handling of weapons. ▲

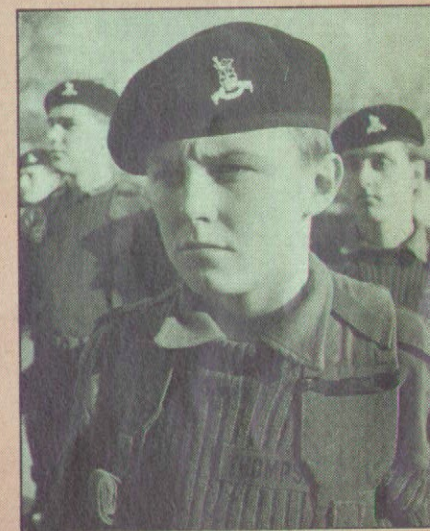
College himself and has spent more than half of his Army career there. He gives military instruction and also acts as someone that the apprentices can approach with their problems.

He too stresses that the type of lad who does well at the College is far removed from the popular image of accountants — serious, bookish and slightly aloof. "He obviously has to be numerate but a guy who was very good at figures but 'wet' would be of no use to us because we cannot just hide him away in the Army pay office. In the Falklands, lads who had not been out of here 12 months were shoved in as infantrymen."

Homesickness is always a problem with junior units and Staff Caraher finds that the worst time is after the first half term break. "They gear themselves up to being away from Mum and Dad. Then they go home and come back and that is when we start to get the problems."

Last term, to combat this problem, a new system was devised which keeps the new intake together in one house. This appears to have worked well — only two boys departed in the first three months.

Major Ward also invites all prospective newcomers along with their parents to an open day at which they are told all about life at the College. "We tell them

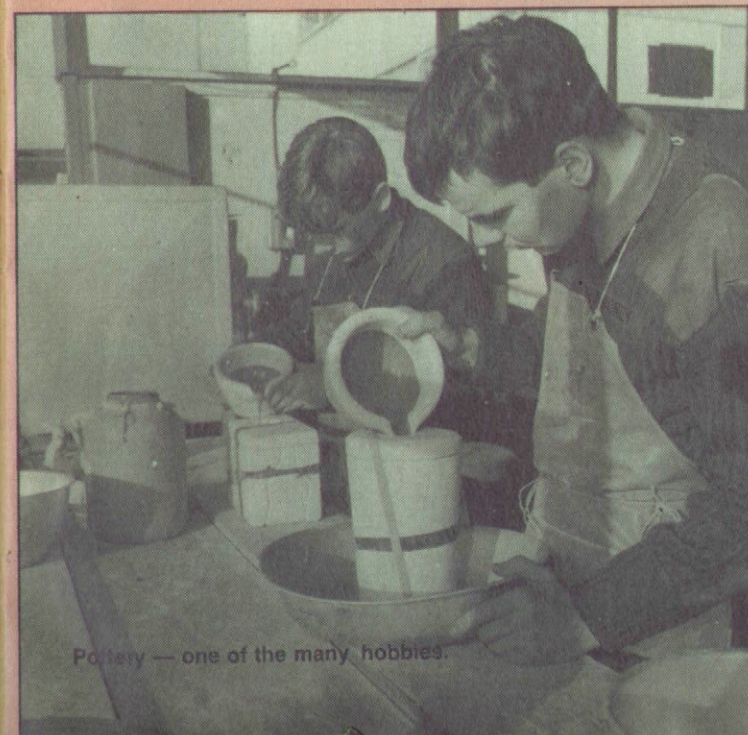


that it is going to be hard and that they will be required to be fit and put up with a certain amount of hassle like any other soldier."

The College puts great store by adventure training. All of the usual activities are encompassed and when possible they try to take the whole College away together on expeditions. This month, nearly all the boys will be going to Italy at their own expense for a week's ski-ing.

Captain Harry Quinn, the second-in-command who is in charge of external leadership and adventurous training, says that there are problems with things like kit because of the size of the College. But camp film shows and a tuck shop run by the boys

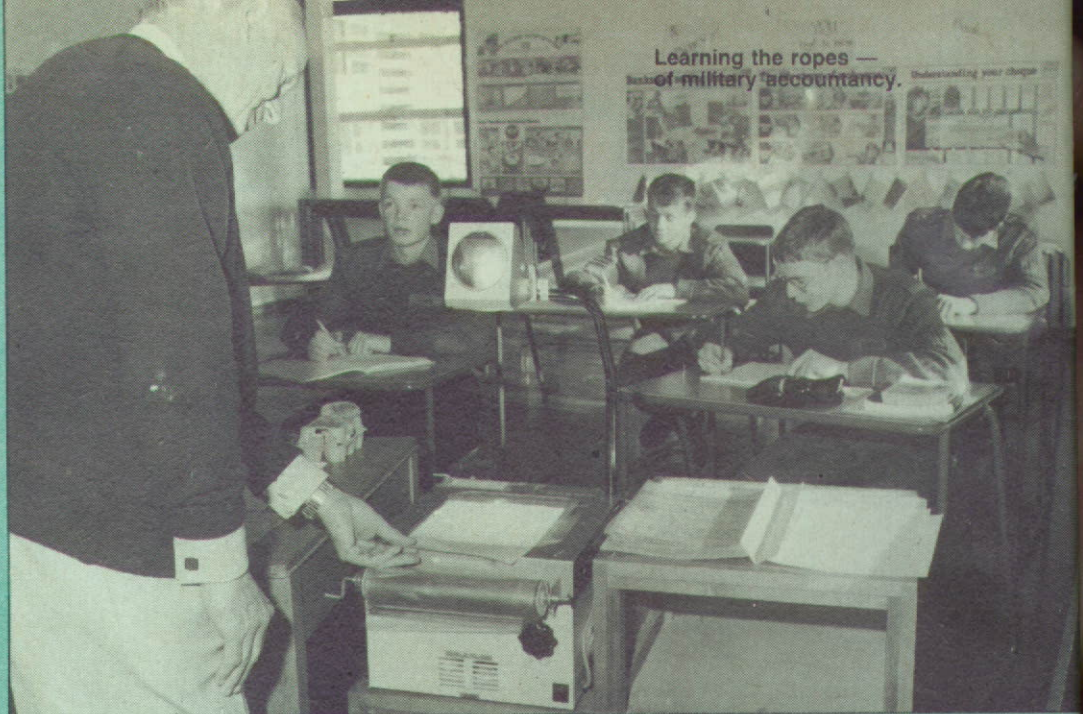
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Pottery — one of the many hobbies.



WRVS lady, Kay Sheard:
"My door is always open."



Learning the ropes —
of military accountancy.

— "a very good introduction to handling money" — help to provide some extra income for items not available through public funds.

"It is very much a family organisation in that all the staff know all the boys. But the disadvantage is that you cannot put out good rugby, hockey and football teams on the same day."

Despite that sort of problem the RAPC College has an excellent record in Junior Army sport. Last summer they won the Army Junior Soldiers' cricket title for the fifth year in a row and the tenth time in the last 12 years.

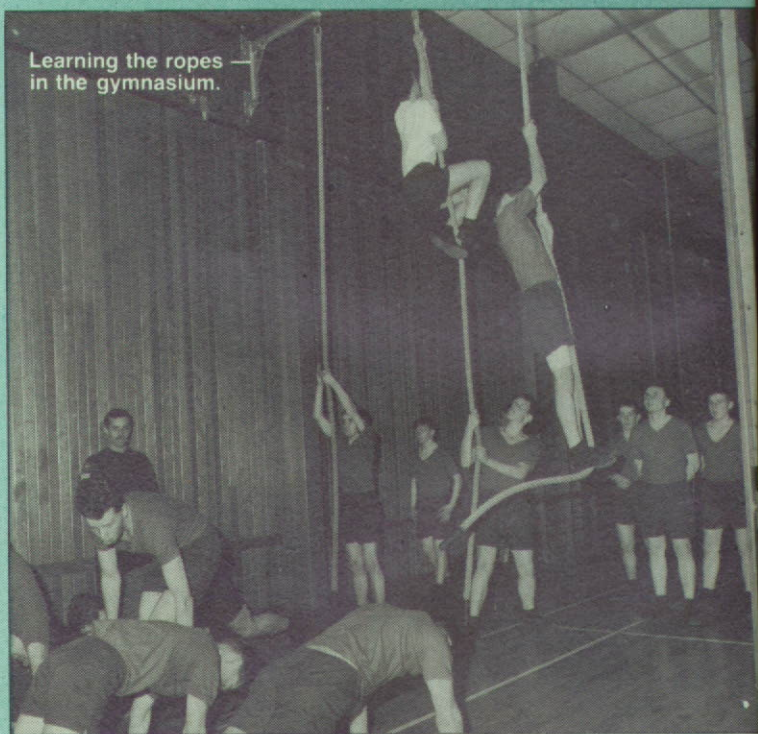
They have also won the junior minor units cup for hockey 11 times in the last 16 years and hold trophies in cross-country, orienteering and tennis.

Retiring soon is WRVS representative, Kay Sheard, who has been working with the Services since the Second World War and has been with the College since

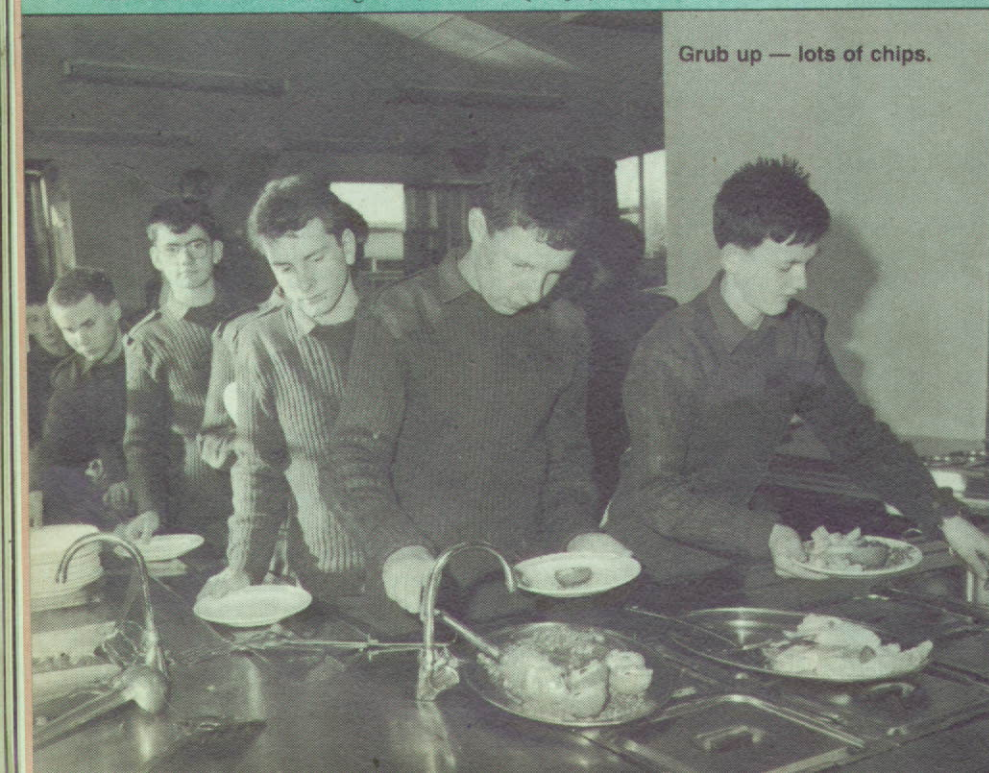
1967. Like her 'sisters' with other junior units she attends to welfare and sickness problems and arranges outings to football matches and pop concerts.

"These boys are very intelligent and able to entertain themselves so I don't run things like tournaments", she says. "But one tends to get very involved with such a small unit and when I am here my door is always open."

Now those 20 youngsters living in their rain soaked trenches have passed out into the adult Army. Says Major Ward: "We have put military training before anything else. We had 58 members of the RAPC in the Falklands and every unit in Northern Ireland has its Pay Corps complement, who can find themselves out on patrol in the streets. We used to be called pay clerks — now we are military accountants. But really we are soldiers looking after the pay of the Army." ■



Learning the ropes —
in the gymnasium.



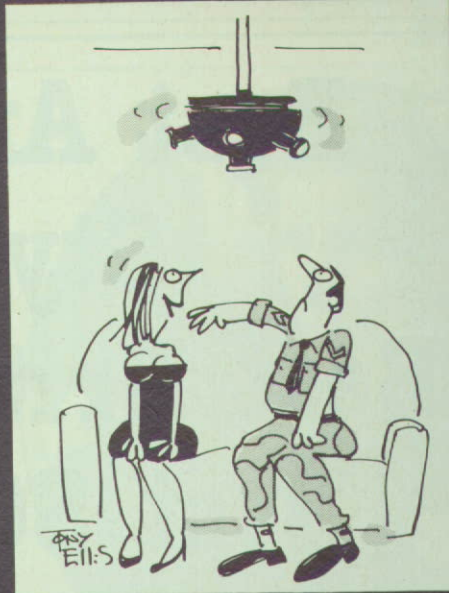
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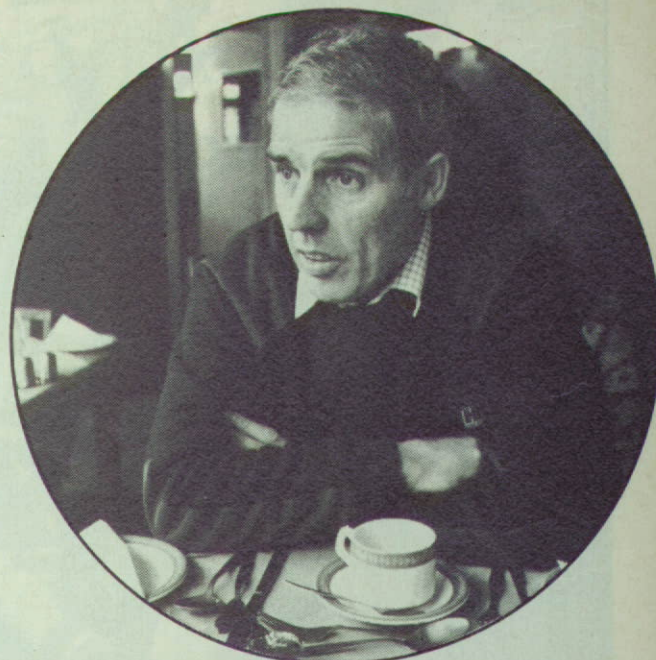
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'I would say to anyone who is coming out of the Army and feels he has some potential to go and push it. There is no such thing as no work if you have the initiative to have a go.'

A TALENT FOR SURVIVAL



EDDIE MCGEE has made quite a name for himself since he came out of the Army four years ago. The former sergeant-major in The Parachute Regiment and The Army Physical Training Corps is now widely regarded as the country's foremost expert on how to survive when the going gets rough.

Of course Eddie would be the first to concede that he is only teaching what he learned in the Army and that there are many soldiers who are just as proficient in the art as he. Yet he is the man who has created a whole new industry in Spartan living.

Eddie admits that his skills were honed by his 27 years in the Army and that he was taught many of them by the SAS. But he reckons to have had a keen interest in living off the land from boyhood — "my father was a professional poacher".

He first joined up in 1952 as a National Serviceman and saw service in many parts of the world before transferring to the APTC in 1966. Subsequently he opened and ran the Army's first combat survival school based on Ripon and York.

When he was due to leave the Army in

1979 he might never have taken the road which was to lead to fame and fortune — had it not been for a casual conversation with that other intrepid soldier, Colonel John Blashford-Snell.

"When I came out I was going to go off and do mercenary work. But I talked about it with John Blashford-Snell and he said 'why don't you set up your own survival centre? Put your expertise to work and make people pay'."

Now even the Army has to pay when it employs Eddie's talents. He has his own survival centre on a small farm on the Yorkshire Moors and it has been so successful that he has now applied for and obtained planning permission to turn it into a purpose-built centre.

"This last year alone we had something like 12,000 applications for courses and there was no way I could take them. I can manage 1000 a year but the rest I have to turn away — when you talk about £75 a head I'm turning down a lot of money because I haven't the facilities."

What kind of people want to go on a

survival course? According to Eddie the well-heeled City gents and barristers are just queuing up to get out of their pinstripes and into rough clothing.

"They have heard of me and that I have been round the world in all sorts of situations. It gets their imagination — they want to live out their schoolboy fantasies. With travel today they can get to places pretty fast and they want to go for their holidays and then travel overland in remote areas."

Eddie helps TA and UOTC units and gives lectures and courses for the Army. He also gets potential officers and soldiers coming along for courses before trying to enlist.

"The thing now is that many kids want to join up but there is a big waiting list. It stands them in good stead if they can say they have done a combat survival course with Eddie McGee."

One person who did come on a course was police killer, Barry Prudom. Recalls Eddie: "It's a sad thing. He seemed a decent bloke, a quiet lad with no signs of being a villain. He just turned up and did the course — his traps and navigation skills."

Later Eddie was called in by the North Yorkshire police to track down the fugitive. Prudom, armed with Eddie's book *No Need to Die*, had obviously learned some lessons — he was on the run for 17 days before it ended with his death.

That book was first published in 1977 and has now sold a phenomenal three-quarters of a million copies in all parts of the world. "The Australian Army bought 6000 and in America it is going like a bomb."

Eddie has produced further books on camping and self defence for women and has two more in the pipeline. It is this constant pressure from all sides which has led him to take on a partner, Eric Longden, an ex-Guardsman.

Eddie lectures at universities, helps with film scripts and teaches combat survival. He has also designed a board game which is now being considered for marketing. Called 'Staying Alive' it involves getting a team of scientists or soldiers around the world through various conditions and obstacles.

He also takes a keen interest in helping

Teaching survival techniques at Fort George.



continued on page 20



youngsters. He was in Papua New Guinea and Sulawesi with 'Operation Drake' and assisted the Fort George Volunteers last summer with demonstrations of rabbit skinning and so on.

In particular he helps the disabled youngsters. Recently he took a party of wheelchair bound children suffering from spina bifida on an overland safari in Moroc-

co. Next year he plans to take another group to Borneo or to see pygmies in Zaire.

Eddie McGee has certainly proved his ability to survive in civilian life. Indeed he has more calls on his time than he can possibly cope with. Looking back he says: "I wouldn't have missed my Army life for the world. It's the best thing that ever happened to me. But at the same time when

I was in the Army I was just a sergeant-major. I would say to anyone who is coming out of the Army and feels he has some potential to go and push it. There is no such thing as no work if you have the initiative to have a go."

**Interview by
John Walton**

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THE BRITISH FORCES Marriage Guidance Counselling Service has taken an important step forward this year. It has set up a system of appointments that is designed to give even more confidentiality to people who apply for help in their relationships.

The Service has been operating in BFG for three years and has responded to the growing demand for its counselling with an increase in the number of qualified men and women who are available to listen and to help partners facing difficulties in their relationship to find the solutions to them. There are now 11 centres in BFG with 21 volunteer counsellors who have each completed a rigorous two-year qualifying course.

Initially, applicants for marriage guidance had to make their application through their doctor, padre or Ssafa sister but it was felt that this deterred some people with problems who did not want others in their unit to know. Now appointments can be made on a central telephone number at the centre of the applicant's choice, a fact that ensures complete confidentiality for all ranks.

The counsellors are working to capacity. They held, for example, 1600 hour-long interviews in 1980/81, and had about 300 cases in hand during 1982, reckoning on about five or six interviews for each case which is also the average in UK.

Mrs Jo Cooper is the head of the BFG Marriage Counselling Service and she explained that they will see anyone who needs help: "We see anyone with a problem in marriage or in family relationships as none are unsuitable for counselling. A breakdown in communication, infidelity, jealousy, sexual difficulties, bereavement and financial problems all affect a marriage. Changes in a relationship, incompatibility, simple uncertainty, doubt or unhappiness can be helped."

If you feel that a call to the BFG Marriage Guidance Counselling Service can help you or a friend, phone JHQ Mil 2826 or 02161 47 2826 (civilian).

Anne Armstrong

The following letter was received by a Marriage Guidance Service counsellor after the correspondent had been counselled for a few weeks.

"I had been in BAOR for two years and I really couldn't get any lower. I was unhappy, tearful, depressed and had completely given up hope. Someone suggested marriage guidance counselling so I rang them out of sheer desperation. I didn't think they could help ME but only that they'd have the details on separation and divorce proceedings.

"The day I had anticipated with dread finally arrived. The counsellor assured me that anything I said was in complete confidence. I felt so relieved when I realised I was free to talk and was so choked up I didn't know where to begin. I'd always previously felt a burden to my friends. That evening I sat and wrote down everything I'd hated and resented about my husband since we were married — it took 13 foolscap pages.

"The counsellor was a wonderful, sympathetic listener. She never condemned my words or actions and never said what I should have done. She let me pour out all the hate and misery onto her shoulders, knowing how much it helps to tell someone you trust.

"Over the weeks I came to realise that I didn't want a divorce and persuaded my husband to go with me. The counsellor helped us to see that the hurtful words and actions were a symptom of another, deep dissatisfaction neither of us would openly admit.

"A close friend remarked recently how pleased she was that we had 'patched up' our marriage. She meant well but I think the phrase implies a common view. We look down on couples who've needed help with marriage problems and tend to assume that they have rather second-best marriages afterwards. Well, there are a lot of second-rate marriages around —

we've all pretended at some time — but I think we were second-best before we went to marriage guidance. Now we're what we should have been from the start."

ASK ANNE

"I did not know until recently that there are some guidelines available on letting houses.

"We have our house in the hands of agents so could you send me the leaflet as soon as possible so that I can check over the things I need to know when we go back home to UK on leave."

Mrs S, BFPO 23

The Royal Army Educational Corps are preparing a pamphlet on House Letting which, it is hoped, will shortly be distributed to Army Education Centres. The RAEC Resettlement booklet 1980 also has advice on housing in general.

A series of ten booklets on housing is available from your local Department of the Environment Office in UK and Housing Booklet No 5 'A Guide for Home-Owners and Servicemen who want to let their homes temporarily' is particularly relevant and includes an explanation of Case 20 as introduced by the 1980 Housing Act which concerns Servicemen who have a house to let.

"We live in our own house and are not close to my husband's unit. He is away in the Falklands at present but we are shortly being posted to Cyprus. We shall therefore have a lot of extra insurance to take out to cover our home and so on.

"I have been told that the Army

can help on this and that they have a list of people who we can go to for advice. Can you send me the list?" Mrs P, Aldershot.

I think you are referring to the Armed Forces' Insurance Brokers Committee which has a list of members, all of whom are also members of the Insurance Brokers Association.

It is advisable to contact a broker as he has a wide choice of policies and can advise as to which will best suit you.

If you write to your husband's pay office, I am sure they will be able to send you a copy of the Committee's list so that you can contact a broker of your choice. The list is well up-to-date as it was revised in September 1982.

"I was interested to read the letter from Mrs L, BFPO 32 in the 18 October 1982 issue of SOLDIER on council housing.

"As I understand it the law on discounts for council house purchase is the Housing Act 1980. Part 1, Chapter 1, paragraph 7 (5) (b) is particularly relevant. As the law usually means what it says, I understand this to mean that all a Serviceman's service (including service abroad as this is not excluded) counts towards the discount.

"By my reckoning, a soldier completing 22 years service is entitled to a total discount of 51 per cent, made up of 33 per cent for the first four years — paragraph 7 (1)(a) — plus 18 per cent for the next 18 years — paragraph 7 (1)(b). This will, however, be reduced to the maximum of 50 per cent allowed in paragraph 7 (1)(b).

"Simplified, the law is: Every soldier serving today will be entitled to 50 per cent discount on council house purchase when he leaves the Army after 22 years service.

"No doubt you will want to have my amateur, unqualified opinion checked by a legal expert. I have had one long service soldier discharged after 22-plus years service and neither the Resettlement Organisation nor the Council involved knew of this discount privilege."

Major A, Hampshire.

I asked Army Education Branch A Ed 5 for a reply: "Details of the 'Right to Buy' provisions of the Housing Act 1980 were published in DCI S51/81 and in SRB No 1 of 1981 and SRB No 5 of 1982. The information has also been separately passed to all those responsible for giving resettlement advice.

"Basically the details of the letter you received are correct, although it should be stressed that periods spent in Service accommodation do not count towards any residential requirement that needs to be fulfilled before the 'Right to Buy' can be exerted."

"Please can you confirm that people holding BFG driving licences can now simply apply for a British Driving Licence without taking another test."

Mrs F, Suffolk.

Yes, Mrs F, with effect from the beginning of this new year, holders of a current BFG licence should complete UK Form BD100 and send it to the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Centre at Swansea with their BFG licence. A UK licence will then be issued and the BFG licence returned to Germany.

DID YOU KNOW?

DURING THIS 'HEAVY' quarter, you are likely to be using a lot of gas or electricity to keep your family warm and may be horrified when you actually receive the bill and see just how much it has cost you.

If you are living in your own house, savings may be made by changing to a more economical form of heating and the Department of Energy has published a booklet entitled *Compare your home heating costs* which gives information and advice on choosing the most effective system for your particular needs.

But for the majority of us, living in married quarters, the answer is to spread the cost of the 'heavy' and 'light' quarters through the year. Did you know that the Gas and Electricity Boards have a variety of Pay-as-you-Go schemes that can do away with those big lump sums and that they have Consumer Councils to help their customers meet the costs of heating?

These Consumer Councils will be able to advise on keeping down heating costs as well as on what to do if you cannot pay the bill when it comes. They stress that the earlier you tell them about any possible hardship in paying the next bill, the easier it will be to find a way of helping you pay it and the less chance of your being cut off — the very last resort for dealing with an unpaid bill.

So don't be afraid to approach them for advice, if you need it, through your local showrooms.

COUNTING THE COST

**Anne Armstrong asks:
Will 1983 be the year in
which anomalies in
benefits for Service
families are resolved?**

SERVICE FAMILIES are losing thousands of pounds a year in benefit to which they are in theory entitled but which they are in practice unlikely to collect.

It is time that the anomalies surrounding the payment of DHSS benefits to Service families were resolved and our unique problems acknowledged with some effective legislation. As each year passes, benefits are increased and Service wives lose more money. At the same time, quartering charges are going up, Local Overseas Allowance is being reduced and some families within the Services are suffering genuine hardship.

Watchdog bodies, such as the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, the LOA Review Team and those who are responsible for assessing the 'x' factor, have certain set terms of reference but none of these takes into account the loss of benefits and the amounts of money involved in this loss.

Consideration

Surely, with the growing numbers of women working before, and after, they marry, it would not be unreasonable to ask for some consideration for Service wives? The Inland Revenue Staff Federation is demanding that pregnant women Civil Servants be given paid leave to attend relaxation classes before having their babies. This is apparently an industrial tribunal ruling which, the Federation claims, is not being adhered to. Service wives working overseas do not even get maternity pay let alone paid relaxation leave. Between April 81 and March 82 in UK 128,578 women took advantage of the maternity leave paid for by the Department of Employment.

It seems iniquitous to me that other groups are, allegedly, receiving benefits to which they are not entitled — the Daily Mail has recently reported that Euro MP Mr Richard Balfe is looking into the case of 50 or 60 "skiving" EEC officials who are said to be receiving EEC sickness pensions at taxpayers' expense — when Service families cannot even get those benefits which should be

due to them.

The following figures illustrate vividly the extent of the loss borne by a wife who gives up her job to accompany her husband on an overseas posting:

Only three months unemployment benefit is payable under EEC regulations in comparison with a full year in UK (and that is presupposing that she is lucky enough to obtain the necessary forms to entitle her to unemployment benefit at the overseas posting. Too many local unemployment offices seem ignorant of the necessary procedures, even in garrison towns where this situation occurs regularly). This represents a loss of £900 in addition to which, if she has worked for some years and is not eligible for Home Responsibility Protection, she will be well advised to make voluntary National Insurance contributions of a weekly £3.45 to safeguard her State pension. This brings the total so far to £1024.20. The benefit office may also decide that, since she has arguably given up her job voluntarily, she must forfeit a further six weeks unemployment benefit; adding again the voluntary National Insurance contributions, this could mean a total loss of £1194.90.

Bleak picture

For wives whose husbands are posted to stations outside the EEC, the picture is even bleaker. They get no unemployment benefit at all and have a full year's voluntary contributions to pay to safeguard their pension rights, a situation that could cost them £1479.40.

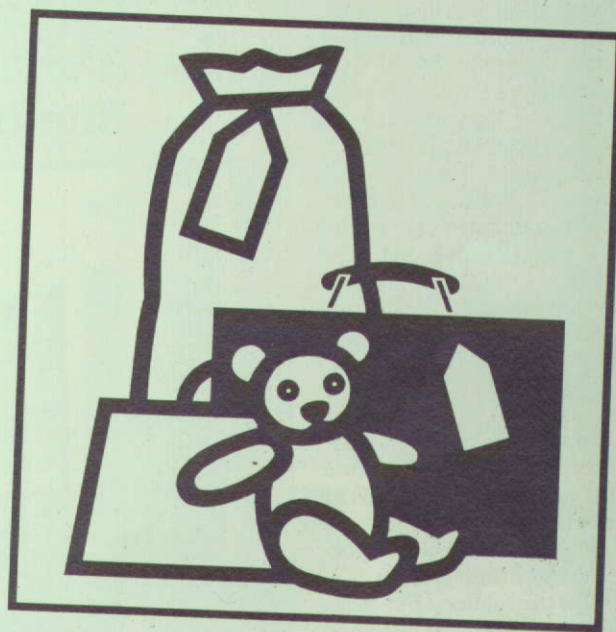
So where do the problems lie? Why is there so little provision made for Service families in legislation that concerns them so closely? Their needs are no different from those of civilian families and their special problems would seem to warrant more attention rather than less.

There is a mistaken belief in

FB.5/April 82

Social security

Service families going abroad



A special DHSS leaflet produced specifically to help Service families through the benefit jungle when they are posted abroad is a welcome guide — but the anomalies still remain.

some quarters that the Army provides, and indeed should provide, free or at a minimal cost everything that is needful for its soldiers and their families. If this was so, then, of course, Service families would have no need of social security benefits. This attitude has even led to criticism that the Services should be asking for equality in benefit legislation at all.

This notion of the Services as a separate entity was brought home to me forcibly as I read the report of proceedings in the House of Commons in which Service wives were said to be "distorting" the unemployment figures in an area of Scotland. The comment seemed to me indicative of the discrimination, albeit often unintentional, that affects Service wives. If this is the prevailing attitude at home, how much harder it will be for wives seeking work overseas.

Evidently, the problems lie in the attitudes to and misconceptions about Service life from out-

side. Perhaps we too have contributed to our present position by not speaking out about our problems. We have recourse now to many channels by which we can do our best to change the rules and give good reasons for doing so. Perhaps the European Parliament will take up our case if we show it to be a deserving cause. The European Social Fund can give specific help in the retraining of women. We must explore every opportunity to help ourselves.

Let us be quite clear on one thing: We are British citizens, our husbands pay taxes and National Insurance contributions, and we often pay National Insurance contributions on our own account. We are considered to be on home postings in BFG and to be ordinarily resident in UK both for tax and for certain DHSS benefits. Let us hope that this year will see increased awareness of the problems of Service families and an end to the anomalies that beset them.

As politicians strive to find a solution to the 'conundrum' of Northern Ireland, police and troops get on with the grim task of keeping the peace there. Ambrose Moore joined soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, for ...

A DAY ON THE BORDER

SOLDIERING IN County Fermanagh is a bit like working in the Royal Mint. The view is rich, but getting the chance to enjoy it is practically impossible.

Learning this frustrating truth were men of 5 Platoon of the 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry. It was their turn to be billeted for six weeks at Belleek police station, just a fishing cast length from the border with the Irish Republic.

Flowing temptingly alongside the barracks is the river Erne; renowned for its fighting trout. But it's not available to the troops. For their job is to protect and support the police in their peacekeeping role. And that's a testing round-the-clock, seven-days-a-week task.

In fact the routine is so vigorous that undisturbed sleep is a luxury for the soldiers. But there are few moans. As infantrymen they prefer being active.

Commanding the Belleek detachment was Captain Richard Hodson, who is no stranger to trouble spots. In 1980 he controlled a Rhodesian guerrilla camp holding more than 2000 ZIPRA militiamen and was later awarded the MBE.

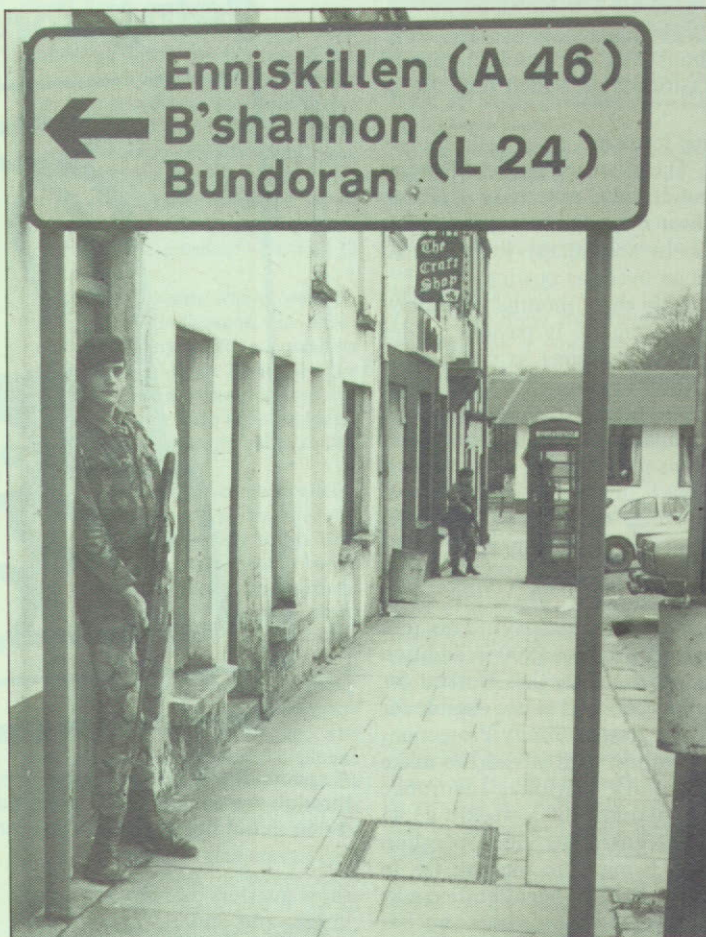
"At least in Ulster the diet is wholesome and disease is rare," he said.

"In Africa I had six elephants culled to provide fresh meat for Nkomo's men when staple foods ran scarce."

No such exotic fare is served in the brown and grey painted building at Belleek which also houses a squad of police officers. There Private Trevor Bayley of the Army Catering Corps prepares more than 100 hot meals a day from rations that arrive weekly by helicopter.

Said Trevor: "Thankfully, I get no complaints. The guys all have healthy appetites. They like their grub plain and plenty of it."

Such healthy appetites stem from tough manoeuvres like street patrols which demand razor sharp senses and close teamwork. "On patrol we cover each other's back," explained team commander Corporal 'Jes-



Pte Ray Saunders on watch. ▲

sie' James, as he cautiously peeped around a pub corner. "We take no chances in this job," he added while signalling silently the next move to his three-man back-up, Privates Mick Dowding, Ray Saunders and Paul Hunter.

In contrast, just three miles eastwards, their mates were using the universal Highway Code stop-signal at the bustling Rossor Bridge vehicle checkpoint (VCP). Hundreds of motorists pass through this narrow landmark each day after having their identification checked.

"Whether it's a huge international transporter or a minomoped driven by a local, we must verify their genuineness," said the NCO-in-charge, Corporal Mac McLean.

While drivers are being questioned outside, there is also a buzz of activity inside the VCP's

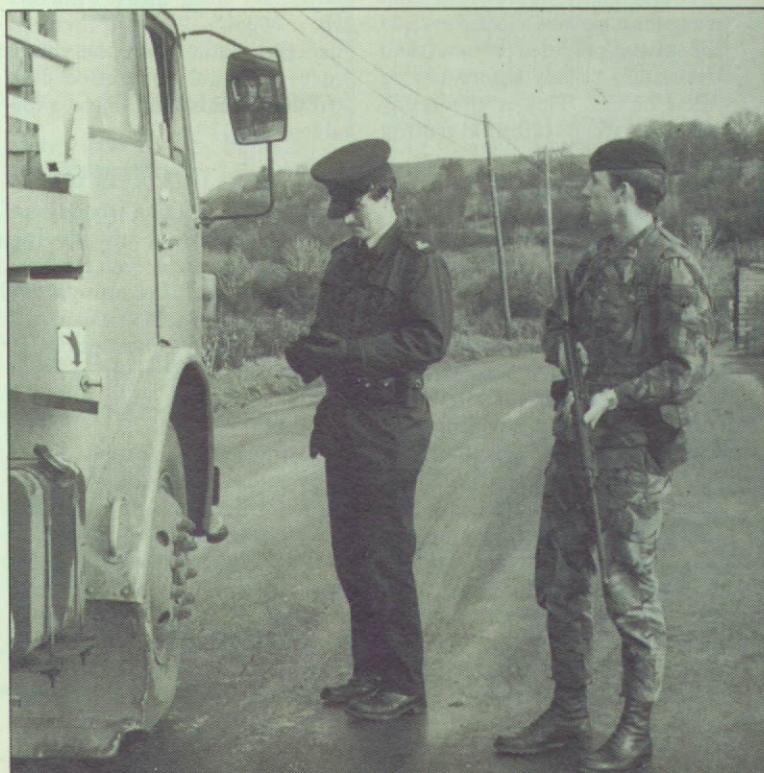
well-equipped accommodation block. Cooking a pair of plump chickens for teatime in the spartan kitchen was Private 'Buda' Parnaby while in the adjoining dining room Lance Corporal John Robinson proudly ironed a shirt for a special trip home to see his two-month-old son, Stuart, for the first time. "I must get these creases right for the christening tomorrow," he said.

As he spoke, four more troops dressed in battle order appeared in the compound. They had finished the first leg of a 24-hour rural patrol. Only after methodically unloading their weapons did their commander, Corporal Pete Hepper, break the silence: "Get ready to move out again in five minutes," he told Privates Syd Allen, Paul Fanning and Garry Norton, all single lads from Shropshire.

After a hurried puff on cigarettes the foursome reloaded and melted back into the misty lakeland. It would be next day before they would rejoin their platoon at Belleek.

Keeping up such continuous security operations causes a big turnover in equipment and supplies, and making sure that the range of kit needed is always

Back up for police at VCP. ▼





Checking for anything suspicious.



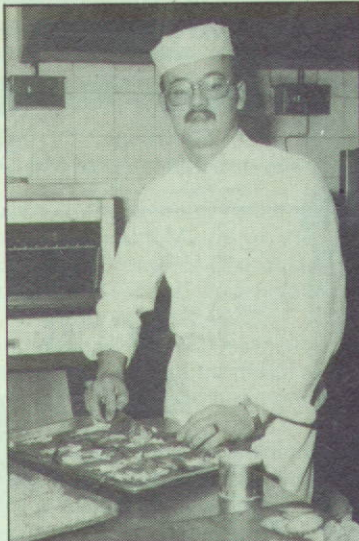
Cpl 'Jesse' James and Pte Paul Hunter: "Message received."

available is a major chore for section leader Sergeant Tahir Mahmood.

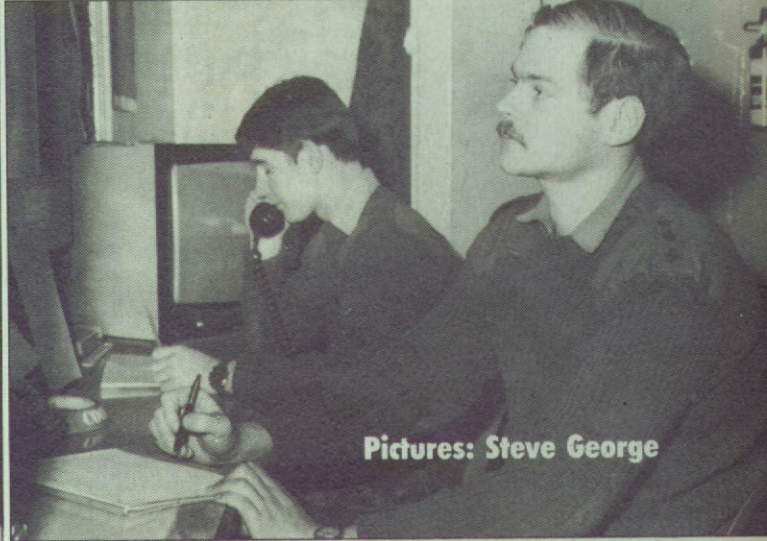
But the priority that takes precedence over everything, of course, including essential equipment-arrivals, is the lives of the soldiers.

Peering from a slit in the main-gate tower at Belleek base Private Geoffrey Reed from Tyne and Wear spotted a familiar sight and radioed his control room: "Corporal Hepper's overnight patrol approaching, Sir."

"Message received and understood," replied Platoon Commander Lieutenant Martin Hardy, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, whose home is in Hong



Pte Trevor Bayley: more than 100 hot meals a day.▲



Pictures: Steve George

◀ L/Cpl John Robinson: ready for baby's big day.

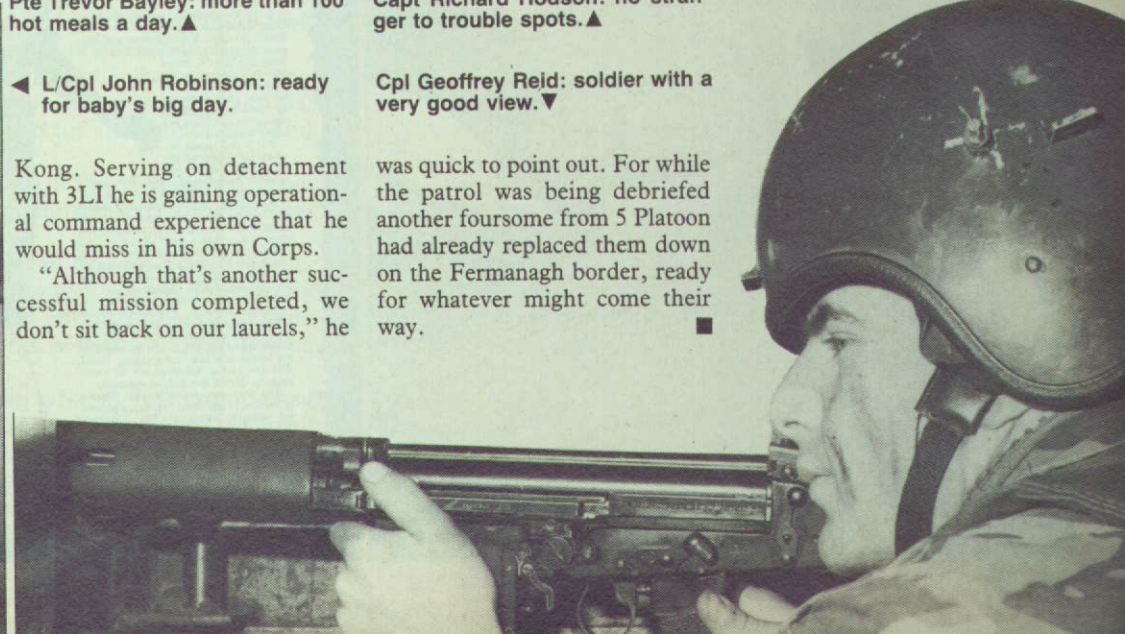
Kong. Serving on detachment with 3LI he is gaining operational command experience that he would miss in his own Corps.

"Although that's another successful mission completed, we don't sit back on our laurels," he

Capt Richard Hodson: no stranger to trouble spots.▲

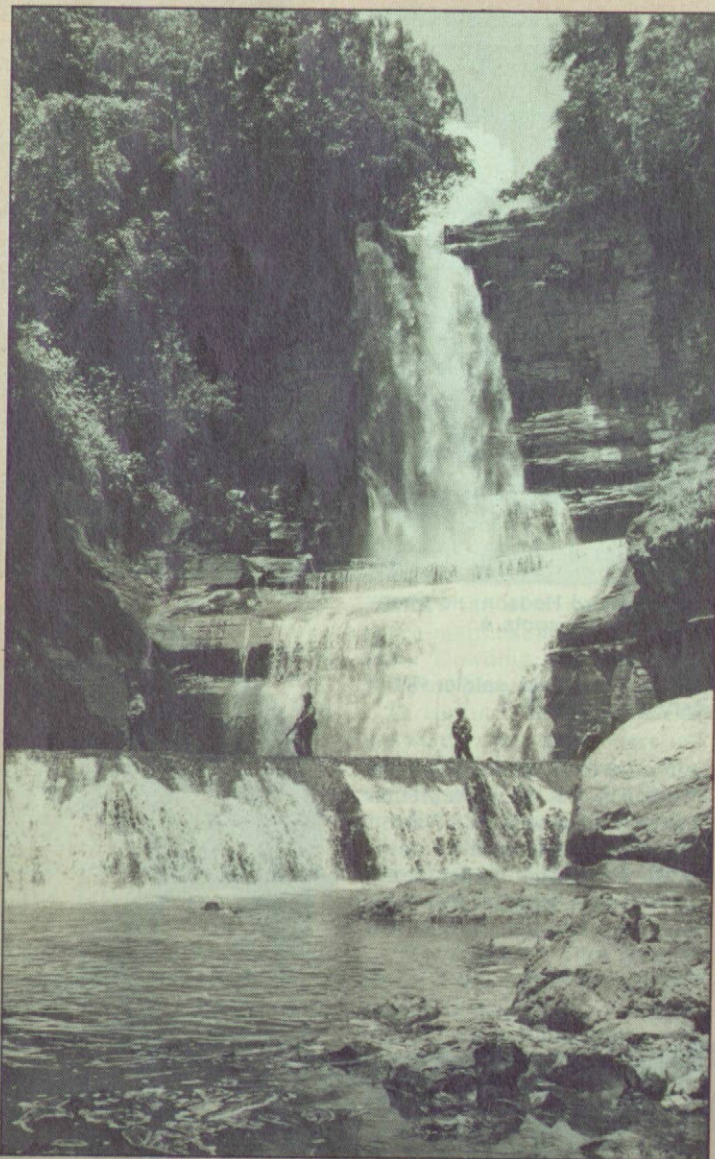
Cpl Geoffrey Reid: soldier with a very good view.▼

was quick to point out. For while the patrol was being debriefed another foursome from 5 Platoon had already replaced them down on the Fermanagh border, ready for whatever might come their way. ■



Fijian soldiers have been a powerful addition to the British Army since they arrived in 1961. But this year will see many of them coming to the end of their service. How will they look back on their Army days? And what are their plans for the future? John Walton has been talking to some of the men from the South Seas as they prepare for . . .

A PLACE IN THE SUN



THE YEAR WAS 1961 and the batch of young recruits delighted the British press and public with their reactions as they saw snow for the first time. They capered barefoot in snowdrifts wearing traditional South Sea Island dress.

Now 22 years have elapsed and nearly all those who remain of the original 200 Fijians recruited to the British Army will be coming to the end of their Army service later this year. A few will be staying on for extended service but most will be returning to the idyllic islands which they left half their lifetimes ago.

Of the original 200 men 32 were allocated to each of the Royal Signals and RASC (RCT) while the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers each got 20. There were 15 each for REME and the RAOC and the final 46 were spread among infantry battalions.

Recently the Fijian High Commission gathered together most of its British soldiers. The object was to show what life in Fiji was like today — some have been back many times in the last 20 years and for a few there have been no visits at all. The culture shock they all experienced back

◀ A sight worth going home to — Fijian jungle waterfall.



Out on the cold square they first learned how to salute.

in 1961 may soon be felt in reverse.

Some of the waistlines were thicker, some of the hair was thinner but the Westminster Cathedral hall echoed with the Fijian greeting of 'Bula!' as the soldiers renewed acquaintanceships of yesteryear.

Colour Sergeant Saiasy

Flashback to 1962 — how SOLDIER told of their arrival. ▼

Vol. 18, No. 1
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE
Lips, 4 pence; Cyprus, 40 cents; Malaya, 30 cents; Hong Kong, 30 cents; East Africa, 35 cents; West Africa, 3d.

A SOUTH SEAS BREEZE IN THE BARRACK ROOM

They're like overgrown Gurkhas, these men—and women—who have come from the Fiji Islands to join the British Army. They're keen, eager to become good soldiers and have quickly settled down to Army life. But they miss the sun!

MIKAELE KILINIO YASA is cheerful, well-built, close on six feet tall and well-spoken. Only a few months ago he was an assistant land agent in his homeland of the Fiji Islands. Now he is a Rifleman in the Green Jackets, one of 200 Fijian men—and 12 women—who have travelled halfway across the world to join the British Army.

Of all the overseas recruits—there are West Indians, Seychellians and men from British Honduras, British Guiana and other parts of the Commonwealth helping to bring the Regular Army up to strength—the Fijians have stolen the limelight and, unaffected by publicity, endeared themselves to civilian and fellow soldier alike.

Nor is this merely because the Fijian recruit comes from a remote and remote Pacific island group—nor because he can play a rattling good game of Rugby. It is because he is such a naturally cheerful and friendly character, intensely proud of being British and, as a soldier, possessing the same virtues which have earned for the Gurkhas the deep respect of friend and foe.

Kiliman Yasa had a good, well-paid job but when an Army recruiting team visited Fiji he immediately applied to join up, simply for the opportunity to serve his Queen and country. This loyalty to the Crown, stemming from the days when Fiji's chiefs proudly asked Britain to take the islands under her wing, and exemplified by the service of Fijian troops during World War Two and in Malaya against the Communists, spurred hundreds to volunteer.

The recruiting team, led by Captain S. W. Handcastle, Royal Artillery, a personnel selection officer at The Yorkshire Brigade Depot, tested more than 800 men and 50 women, all of them unmarried. The 200 men selected were mainly in the 18-21 age bracket and consequently half of them were students, as Fijians normally attend school to 18 or 19 when they then sit for the Senior Cambridge Certificate, a credit in which is equivalent to Ordinary Level in the General Certificate of Education.

Of the other men, half were in Government service as Post Office workers, clerks and Public Works Department employees, and half in farming or such jobs as clerks, shop assistants and mechanics. Policemen and Regulars of the Fijian Military Forces were not recruited, with the exception of two soldiers who were just completing their initial service, but some of the older recruits have served in the Fijian Territorial Army or the now disbanded Fijian Navy.

Rifleman Yasa is more fortunate than most of the recruits. He went to Poona University and is one of the few—some studied in New Zealand—who had previously been abroad from Fiji. After the recruits had been shown films and given a talk on the Army by the recruiting team, they were asked to make a choice of three arms or corps. The final selection, based on tests and previous experience, was as follows:

OVER . . .

The Fijian youngsters frolic in the snow in their sulus.



Baleimatuku has not been home since 1966. He says of his Army service: "The practical experience I've gained since I've been here has been phenomenal."

Now he faces an uncertain future in his homeland. "It is very difficult to say what I am going to do. I am hoping that perhaps three or four of us can pool our money and go into some sort of business together — say get some land and farm it. We need to pool our resources as we don't want to exhaust them in the first six

months.

Not all of the Fijians will return. Some opted for British passports when Fiji became independent in 1970 and have English wives. Of two brothers who joined up at the same time, one will be going back and the other staying.

Staff-Sergeant Tomas Matakito of 42 Squadron RCT, Bulford, is to return but his brother, Sunia, a Warrant Officer 1 with 22 Engineer Regiment a few miles away at Perham Down, is

married to an Englishwoman and will stay.

Staff Matakito told SOL-DIER: "People ask me what I am going to do when I go back. I say that I'm not going to do anything — just go back to the island where I was born and see what work there is for me. I have saved enough money to be comfortable."

In fact Tomas expects there to be some cultural shock. "When I lived in Fiji we always thought that people who left and came

back did not speak Fijian properly. When we came here we thought in Fijian and spoke in English and now it is the reverse. We now find difficulty in speaking among ourselves in Fijian and tend to speak in English."

Like all the others he has no regrets about his Army career. "I have enjoyed every minute of it, particularly since I became an NCO which puts you into a bracket where you have respect

continued on page 29

ONE OF the most popular and friendly faces in the Falkland Islands now is WO2 Dave Rosa, Sergeant Major of the detachment of men from 49 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Squadron Royal Engineers. He is the Sappers' first Fijian sergeant major.

Now nearing the end of his long Army career, 39-year-old Dave carries a very impressive stick with a brass model of a bomb on the top — given to him by his men, who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the Falklands.

Slowly but very surely they are handing back large tracts of land to the islanders as mortar bombs, bullets, rockets, missiles, grenades and booby traps are removed.

"The boys are doing marvellously well," says their sergeant major "and one of my tasks is to ensure they continue to do so safely. It is my job to remind them that there is danger and they don't take unnecessary risks."

"As an islander myself, I've found the Falklands interesting and stimulating with the people extremely good to us. We are doing the job we are trained for. It is exciting — and a challenge."

One of only six Fijian sappers left of the 1961 intake, Dave began as a field engineer and transferred to bomb disposal 10 years ago.

His travels have taken him to the Middle East, Cyprus, Malta, Malaysia, Germany, Norway, Canada and many other places. He has been back to Fiji four times for leave and he will go home with his Scots wife Anne when he has finished his service.

"Leaving the Army will be a big wrench. It is not an easy move to make, but it has to be done sometime. I have enjoyed travelling around and meeting people," says the man who has played rugby union for his corps and for Combined Services.



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Homeward bound — S/Sgt Matakitoga.

from both sides.”

In his last posting, with the Ace Mobile Force, Tomas has been to Arctic Norway. And that produces a surprise remark — he is not looking forward to the sunshine. “I found Norway very good for me and the British climate is better for my health than the hot climate. I have never been seriously ill since I arrived in the UK.”

Training Sergeant Major at the Royal Armoured Corps centre at Catterick is WO2 Isireli Vakacegu Buadromo of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. He also started his career at Catterick and recalls: “There was about two feet of snow when I arrived and in the first couple of weeks I ended up in the military hospital with ‘flu.”

“I know there have been big changes in Fiji although I like to keep the memory of what I saw a long time ago. We have all seen what happened to Hawaii and Tahiti and there is no doubt that Fiji may go the same way.”

Fijians made a big impact on Army sport — particularly on the rugby field in the early years.

Back at Catterick — Sgt-Major Buadromo.



Two Fijians discuss resettlement with Major Paul Watts.

Staff-Sergeant Billy Vodo, who had just met a former school chum he had not seen since 1961, is one of those. He holds the British Empire Medal for his part in Army sport and for his work for the Fijian community.

Now stationed with 16 Air Defence Regiment RA in Dortmund he has played rugby and golf for the Army and run and jumped for the Combined Services. He is not planning to return to Fiji when he leaves the Army as he wants his childrens’ education to be uninterrupted.

“All of the lads have learned a lot in the Army,” he said. “When I first joined the Army it never entered my mind I would do 22 years. Then after 18 months I found it was such a good life that I signed on for nine years. If I could I would do it all again.”

Another keen rugby player is Warrant Officer 2 Keith Zoing from 259 Signal Squadron in Cyprus. He played for the Army once and for his corps for many years.

Keith has got a five years extended career and also wants to complete the education of his children. He says: “Whenever

we meet we discuss what it will be like going back to Fiji. I believe I can adapt but I am told by others that I can’t. We do tend to notice that people who come over from Fiji are very blinkered in their own way.

“I have no regrets about being in the Army. I’ve enjoyed it. It’s given me a very broad minded view of life. I am one of the very lucky ones to get an extended career.”

He last returned to Fiji in 1977 when he got married and is look-

ing forward to his return. “I don’t think we will find any difficulties in adapting although there might be in finding a job. Certainly it won’t be on the same lines as at the moment.”

The question of a job will also be worrying some of those who intend to stay on in England, either permanently or temporarily, while their children finish their schooling.

Major Paul Watts of the Army Resettlement Service is hoping that employers will come along for the dedicated Fijians who have worked hard and loyally for the Crown. “We are concerned about those Fijians who have domestic commitments which will prevent them going back to Fiji immediately, in the terms of finding them suitable employment in the intervening period.”

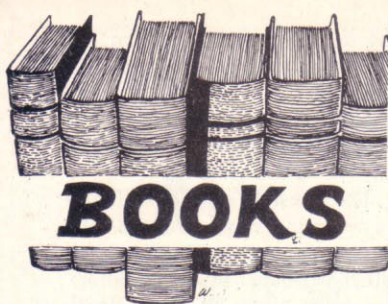
But for most of these men it will be a return to unspoilt beaches and sunshine on islands which contain no wildlife dangerous to man. For them the snow and frost, the winter drizzle and most of all the barrack room, will be just memories to savour as they drink their traditional kava.

Staff-Sgt Billy Vodo (right) meets an old compatriot.



1961 and recruits get ready for a game of Rugby at Bodmin Barracks.



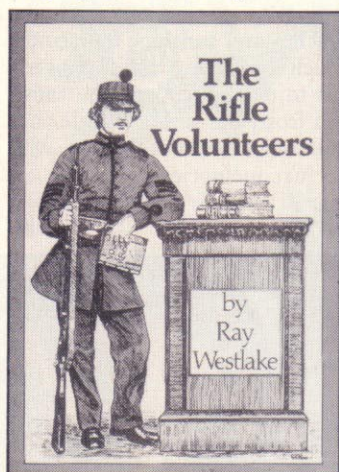


BOOKS

The Rifle Volunteers: Ray Westlake

There were only two units of rifle volunteers — the Honourable Artillery Company and the Royal Victoria Rifles — when the Duke of Wellington urged an increase in national defence in 1847.

Somehow a corps was authorised for Exeter in 1852 and another at Liverpool three years later. It was in 1859 that the War Office sanctioned the formation of rifle corps all over the country, the basic corps being a company 60 to 100 strong.



They took precedence by county according to the date of formation of the first unit in each county. Devon, perhaps because of that 1852 start, headed the list. Bottom of the league came Shetland, which seemed unfair because Shetland's contingent and that of Orkney were dated from the same day as sub-divisions of the same corps, yet Orkney is 21 places higher up the list.

The Volunteers lasted until the Territorial Force was formed in 1908 and most of them transferred to the new force.

Mr Westlake summarises the stories of more than 2000 units, providing a handy reference for collectors of 19th century militaria, along with some pages of pictures of Volunteers in very macho poses and uniforms, and some more of unit badges.

Picton Publishing, Chippenham, Wilts — £9.95 **RLE**

We Won a War — The Campaign in Oman 1965-75: John Akehurst

In a sermon to the British congregation in Dhofar in 1975, the Dean of Windsor, whose son Captain Philip Mann had been killed there by a mortar bomb the year before, whilst serving with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces, said, "... ninety per cent of people in Britain don't even know you are in Oman, let alone appreciate the wonderful job you are doing." Thanks to Major General

John Akehurst's sympathetic and vivid description of the ten years' war, which ended in 1975 and during which he commanded the Dhofar Brigade for the last eighteen months bringing the campaign to a successful conclusion, it is now possible to piece together the few scraps of news which reached the British press into a comprehensive story; and what a story of courage and service it is, during which 35 British servicemen died.

John Akehurst rightly emphasises that the victory was the Oman's under the Sultan's leadership as C-in-C and most of the officers and soldiers who fought and died were Omani, Baluchi, Jordanian and Iranian. Although British officers and soldiers held a number of important posts in the Oman services, they were a tiny minority of the whole. He tells their story with great compassion as well as humour and with not a little humility about some of his own mistakes. His problem of containing the 2000 or so full-time Communist PFLOAG guerrillas, operating out of firm bases in the Yemen, in the vast and most inhospitable terrain of the Oman was a daunting one, especially as they were armed with such sophisticated Russian weapons as the AK47, RPG7 and SAM 7; one wonders what would have happened had they concentrated their forces and captured the key strong post at Sarfait, instead of dissipating them on ambush tactics.

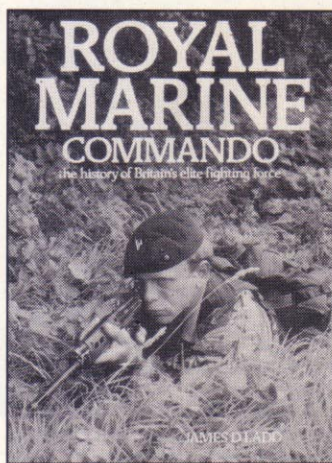
The author places emphasis on the Omani's success on the Civil Development programme, by which the support of the population was won away from the enemy, air power and overwhelming superiority of force. The story of this successful counter-insurgency war is a classic which all soldiers and airmen should read; as the author is now Commandant of The Staff College new students had better get hold of a copy quickly! Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd, The Chantry, Wilton, Salisbury — £7.95 **PSN**

Royal Marine Commando: James D Ladd

Although always associated in the public mind with the efficient sea-borne raids of modern warfare, the history of the Royal Marine Commando goes back a surprisingly long way. James Ladd's book is an impressionistic history of the Marines, an eminently readable run-through which picks out the part they played in a very large slice of Britain's military history, illustrating it with accounts of specific, typical actions, and a wealth of colour and black-and-white pictures.

The Marines first emerged in the middle of the seventeenth century as the Admiral's Regiment, and went on to fight in America and in the Napoleonic Wars, where they took part in many of the huge and bloody set-piece naval battles, including Trafalgar. On land, they served in the many campaigns of the nineteenth century; in the Crimea, China, the Sudan, and against the Boers in South Africa, from whom they gained not only some of the art of self-reliance, but also the name 'Commando'. Then comes WWI, the costly Zeebrugge Raid, the famous

actions of WWII, and the policing and anti-terrorist actions which marked the withdrawal from Empire.



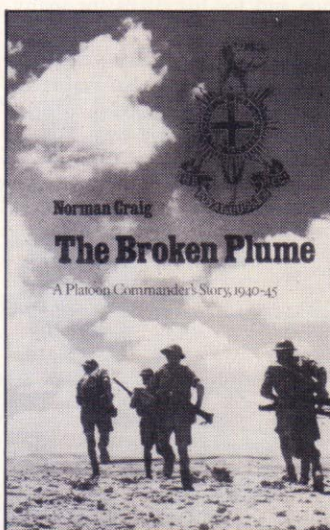
Ending just before the Falklands conflict — which creeps in in some obviously last-minute photo-captions — it nonetheless includes an excellent colour pictorial essay on the role of the Marine Commando today.

A good value introduction to the history of one of our most distinguished regiments.

Hamlyn Publishing, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex — £6.95 **IJK**

The Broken Plume: Norman Craig

This platoon commander's story captures the flavour of World War Two without touching upon grand strategy or even divisional roles. No politicians or military leaders are mentioned except the then Brigadier G W R Templer, who made an impression with a talk on junior leadership. The names are those of private soldiers, sergeants, corporals and brother officers. The normal platoon commander's vision rarely extends beyond his company's right and left boundaries, but within that area is the flesh and blood, the brain and the brawn that carries the battalion, the brigade, the division to victory.



Norman Craig was a 1940 conscript who served for a year in the ranks and then applied for a commission. Told he had so far not shown any promise he set his mind to the task and was soon commissioned into the Welch Regiment. He later served with the Royal Sussex and finally with the East Surrey before being wounded a fortnight before the war

in Europe ended. His description of life as a recruit with all the detail of daily duties, regimental idiosyncrasies and barrack room camaraderie is masterly. No less interesting, humorous and dramatic are his descriptions of life as a platoon commander in North Africa, Persia, Iraq and Italy.

This is a story of the wartime life of the ordinary soldier and his immediate senior and leader, the young subaltern. The pattern of each day's routine is here, remembered meticulously with all the frustrations, the trivia, the errors, the successes. Parades, courses, training, guards, escorts, operations, fighting, all come naturally into the account and hold the full interest of the reader.

All budding platoon commanders should read this book. They will see themselves and their comrades here and perhaps reap some wisdom from the memories of a past war.

Imperial War Museum, distributed by Jane's Publishing Company, 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU — £7.95 **GRH**

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Scale Model Cannon by Richard Stewart and Donald Heyes.

History, design and construction. John Murray, Albermarle Street, London — £4.95.

A History of the British Cavalry by The Marquess of Anglesey. Volume 3: 1872-1898.

Leo Cooper Secker and Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1V 3DF — £35.00 hardback.

The British Service Lee by Ian Shennerton.

Historical and technical study of its development and changes. Published by the author in association with Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £15.50 hardback.

A Guide to Military Museums by Terence Wise.

Athena Books, 20 St Mary's Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN1 2NP. Available from publishers price £1.25 inclusive, also from some of the museums listed.

Simonov SKS-45 Type Carbines. Edited by Wyat Lamont and Stephen Fuller.

A A Johnston, Military Books and prints, Pitney, Langport, Somerset TA10 9AF — £14.50 post free.

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of the Royal Corps of Signals by Major A G Harfield, BEM.

Picton Publishing (Chippenham) Ltd, Citadel Works, Bath Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 2AB — £3.00 plus 55p p&p

Reds Under the Beds? Or the enemy at our gates ... and within by Sir Frederic Bennett MP.

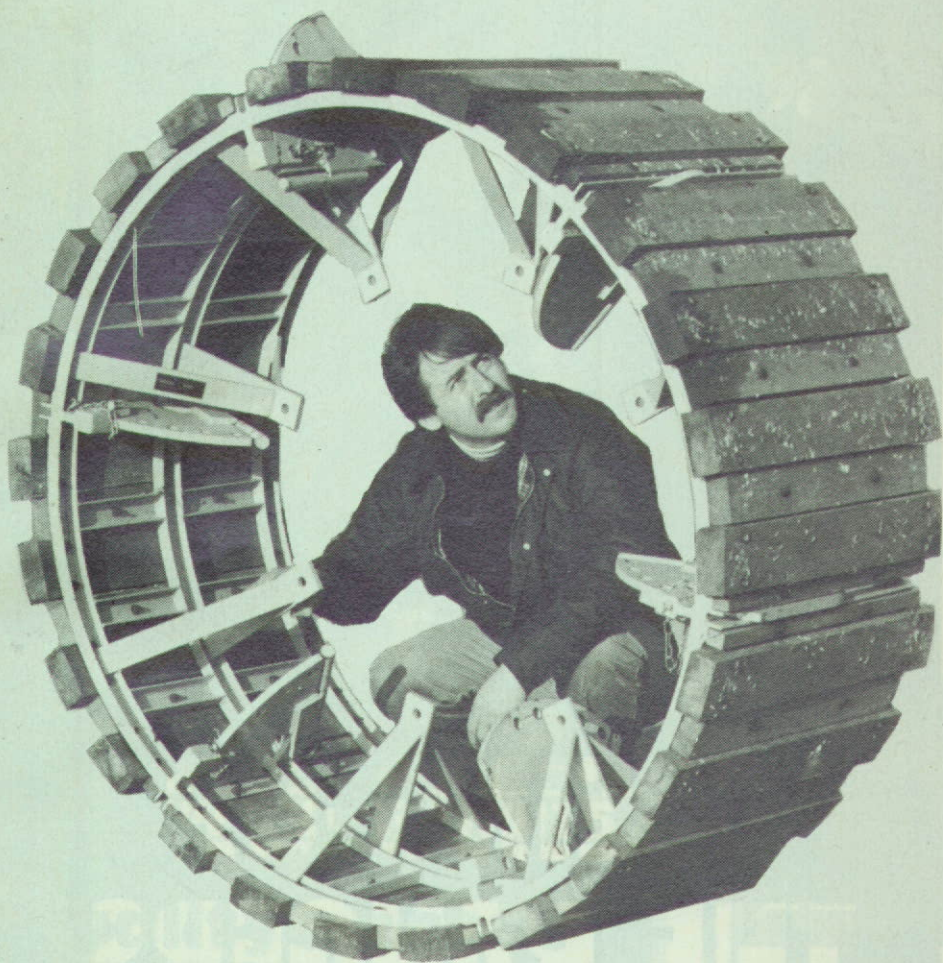
A plain man's guide to the Soviet Communist conspiracy. Available from The Secretary, Foreign Affairs Research Institute, 27-31 Whitehall, London SW1A 2BX.

East York Volunteer Infantry 1859-1908 by R Wilson and G A Collinson. Includes some 28 original photographs almost all previously unpublished.

Fineprint, 66-68 English Street, Hull, Yorks — £3.50.

HOW FARMING'S BIG WHEELS AIM TO BEAT THE MUD

FALKLANDS
FILE



Demonstration in a Lincolnshire field shows how wide wheels make only a shallow depression. ▲

◀ Nick Burtt crouches inside one of his wheels.

ROYAL ENGINEERS are currently trialling a batch of special giant size wood-and-steel wheels for possible use on 120-horsepower remote controlled tractors during mine clearing operations in the Falklands. And each of the wheels should, it is claimed, cover up to 4000 acres of work before servicing.

The evaluations follow an approach by the Ministry of Defence to the designer of the wheels, 42-year-old Mr Nick Burtt, a civil engineer and farmer who, with his family and work force have been hailed as heroes and champions of local industry in the sleepy Lincolnshire village of Welbourn (population: 600).

Mr Burtt's firm has supplied 32 of the five-foot-high wheels — in eight sets of four — some measuring 27 inches and others 36 inches wide — to the Ministry in an order worth about £20,000.

Each steel wheel rim has 54 wooden slats attached to it — a concept devised two years ago by Nick Burtt for his twin brother, Jim, for use on their land, particularly in bad weather during the winter.

The Ministry saw the wheels advertised in a farming magazine and approached the firm in November. The order was completed in four weeks.

"The idea of this particular wheel may look antiquated but we prefer to think of it as 1982 technology," said Nick who extensively field tested the wheel on his 500-acre farm and then, with nine colleagues, worked for 48 hours non-stop to complete the order for the Army. This meant a lot of night-time hammering on the premises but was carried out with the full approval of the local villagers according to Nick.

"When they heard of the deal, instead of complaining about the noise, they came round and congratulated us on our effort and said they were pleased as Welbournians that the village was playing a part in Falklands history.

"Our wheels are low ground pressure which can be used by farmers on wet and soggy ground and the Army said they thought they could play an important role in the Falklands. I understand they intend to use them fitted to remote-controlled tractors which will tow small rotovators on farmers'

land where there are fears that anti-personnel mines could still lay hidden.

"The advantage of the extra wide wheels — 2½ lbs per square inch pressure — is that the wooden slats made from Malaysian Keruan hardwood timber have no suction and don't clog with mud like tyres or metal wheels. The slats on the all-steel welded rims make the wheels inexpensive to buy —

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

about half the price of a rubber tyre — with no puncturing problems.

"We are not claiming they are mineproof. Detonated mines would normally destroy the conventional rubber tyres of tractors leaving them grounded in the minefields. In the same situation our wheels will need only ten-minute on-the-spot repairs — about £50 a wheel — before the tractors can continue their work. We are naturally delighted that the Army placed the order and I sincerely hope that they do save lives. We are also pleased to be involved in a small way with the Falklands."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed: "Six tractors fitted with these wheels have been acquired and two have been sent down to the Falklands. These are being used on trials and are not an instant solution to the mine problem. We are seeing what they can do."



SOME ARE BORN with equestrian skill, some achieve it and others — like the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers — have it thrust upon them.

With the Battalion due to replace the Royal Hampshire Regiment for a four month tour in the Falklands from March, volunteers from A, B, C and Support Companies and the Bugles, Pipes and Drums (20 men in all) have just completed a three week course at the Royal Military Police Riding School in Aldershot.

Because of the rough and often boggy terrain of the Falklands, horses have been found to ease the lot of the infantry battalion in its reconnaissance patrols. The Royal Hampshires set the trend in equine locomotion when they arrived there late last year. Getting the mud off a horse's hooves and fetlocks is perhaps easier and less expensive than the constant cleaning of DMS boots and puttees.

But turning an infanteer into a non-



A deceptively demure Taffy lets Lieutenant Graham Robertson give him a stroke.

mechanised cavalryman is not an easy job when sitting astride a horse comes naturally to only a few. Reactions to the news that part of the battalion was to be mounted were mixed, but most of the volunteers were game for a laugh if nothing else.

Only two that SOLDIER met on the third day of the course had ridden a horse before, most of them admitting they did not know one end from the other. Indeed, one Ranger confessed that the only time he had sat on a quadruped was at Blackpool — on a donkey!

The sole officer on the course was Lieutenant Graham Robertson who despite his smart jodphurs claimed to be as green as the others. "As a battalion" he explained, "we did some riding in Belize on some mangy old nags but most of the lads here have never been on a horse before. We don't really know what to expect either once we get out there as regards kit. We understand the horses are locally requisitioned and not as good as these. We will of course, all be



GEEING-UP THE RANGERS



How to dismount — or one way of doing it in a hurry, at least.

◀ Who's boss around here anyway? A riderless steed turns the lesson into chaos.

wearing combat kit."

Inexperience notwithstanding (not to mention a few sore backsides) the group did not look at all bad in the indoor arena as instructor Sergeant Eric Lawton and Troop Sergeant Major Bill Griffiths put them through their paces. Precision control may not have been quite up to scratch, but to SOLDIER's equally inexperienced eye it did at least look as though their three day instruction was beginning to pay off — men and beasts walking in synchronised grace.

Once outside however, it was a different matter. The horses, standing an average 16 hands and normally accustomed to five hours rigorous daily exercise, suddenly became frisky. Instinctively aware of their riders' lack of knowledge, they began to play up and really took them for a ride.

Despite the deterrent of a 25 pence fine for falling off, the hapless novices had a job

FALKLANDS FILE



to keep in the saddle. Two unfortunates bit the dust and with riderless horses careering round the field the scene was more akin to the OK Corral than a military riding school.

It has to be pointed out that at this stage of their training the students would not normally have ventured outside, but kindly obliged for the purposes of SOLDIER's photographs.

By the end of the course though, this nouveau cavalry were used to the great outdoors and able to control their powerful

steeds rather more competently. This of course was the aim of the exercise — after all, there will be no TSM Griffiths in the Falklands to get them out of a tight spot.

Scratching his head at the enormity of his task, TSM Griffiths said: "There's not much I can teach them in three weeks, just the basic principles of horsemanship really — stable management (they have to do their own mucking out) and a firm seat in the saddle. Anything else they'll have to learn for themselves later on."

"And I don't want any sloppy seats!" TSM Bill Griffiths puts the students through their paces before they venture outdoors.

And with four months mounted patrolling in the South Atlantic winter to look forward to they should have plenty of opportunity to learn a trick or two.

**Story: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

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PEN PALS WANTED

I am Sarah and am 16 years old. I am 5ft 1in tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include swimming and other sports. — *Sarah King, 19 Bishops Grove, Hampton, Middx. TW12 1AJ.*

My name is Delores and I am 17 years old. I like sport, cooking, meeting people and going to discos. — *D McPherson, 11 Park Road, Stratford, London E15 3QP.*

We are two friends who would like to write to anyone between the ages of 24 and 30. Kim is 21 years old, 5ft 1in and likes disco music, walking, swimming and dogs. Dot is 24, 5ft 7ins and collects records, enjoys discos and likes a good laugh. Photos appreciated. — *Kim Watson, 38 Strawberry Gardens, High Farm, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 8AX. Dot Whitesmith, 6 Rabygate, Byker, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear NE6 2EF.*

I'd like to write to a soldier with a sense of humour who is preferably under 24. My name is Carolyn and I am 18 years old. My hobbies include music, reading, writing letters and enjoying myself. — *Carolyn McCue, 11 Hindley Close, Crawcrook, Ryton, Tyne & Wear NE40 4XE.*

My name is Saneira and I am 26 years old and would like to write to someone in the same age-group. — *Saneira Tuiey, 101 Avenue Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 4JH.*

My name is Karen and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall, slim with dark brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies include sport, travel, driving and music. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 26 and 36. — *Karen McCready, 145 Carnforth Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5LH.*

My name is Anne and I am 34 years old. I like travelling, photography, all kinds of music and life in general. I would like to write to anyone who is lonely and does not receive much correspondence. — *Miss Anne Behenna, 26 Grosvenor Court, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5HG.*

Hi! I'm Bonnie. I am 35 years old, 5ft 2ins with red hair and considered 'cute'! I work as a barber, am athletic and am interested in garage sales and current events. I am visiting England in June 1983 and would like to correspond with someone who knows their way around. — *Bonnie McNeil, c/o Doyle's Barber Shop, 3201 W Benjamin Halt Dve, Stockton, CA 95209, USA.*

My interests are travelling, listening to records and homelife. My name is Angela and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to write to a soldier between the ages of 20-25 years old. Photos if possible. — *A Railton, 69 Matfen Gardens, High Howden, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 0ER.*

My hobbies are diving, water skiing. I am 20 and interested in hearing from anyone between the ages of 20 and 28. — *Jackie Wishart, 1 Yeaman Place (2F4), Edinburgh, Scotland.*

My name is Rosemary and I am 32 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with light brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are travelling, swimming, French, dancing, music, etc. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 32 and 38. — *R Wilson, 55 Capel Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG3 9DF.*

My name is Christine and I am 36 years old. I am 5ft 3ins with blonde hair and blue eyes. I would like to write to someone who is alone,

genuine and sincere, who would like a friend to write to. All letters answered. — *Christine Broad, 61 Coralline Walk, Abbey Wood, London SE2 9SS.*

My name is Helen and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 1in with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I am out-going and like going to parties etc. — *Helen Turner, 28 Peacock Gardens, Selsdon Vale, Selsdon, Surrey CR2 8TE.*

My name is Jackie and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. I am an artist and like having a laugh. — *Jackie Snow, 56 Foxearth Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8EE.*

I am a young 44 and my name is Freda. I am divorced and would like someone to write to. — *Mrs F Wright, 44 Middlesex Court, Garfield Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey.*

My name is Andrea and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with long brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are walking, cooking, music, reading and badminton. I would like to write to someone aged 18-22. — *Andrea Robinson, 58 Forty Avenue, Wembley, Middx. HA9 8LQ.*

My hobbies are football, playing darts, discos, reading and writing. I would like to write to someone between 18 and 26 who shares some of these hobbies. I am 20 years old. — *Susan Miller, 26 North Leys, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1DQ.*

My name is Ann-Christine and I'm 38 years old, a widow with two children and lots of pets. I enjoy reading the classics, all kinds of music and walking, and I work for myself. — *Ann-Christine Hodgton BA, 3 Underdown Road, Herne Bay, Kent.*

I am Samantha and I am 15 years old. I am 5ft 4ins with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like music, discos, and sports. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 16-20. Photos if possible. — *Samantha Ray, 60 Broomdashers Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, Sussex RH10 1PP.*

We are three nurses, aged 32, 34 and 36 who are divorced and all blondes, and would like to write to soldiers stationed at home or abroad. — *Faye Drayton, 77 Melbourne Ave, Dalmuir West, Clydebank, Dunbartonshire.*

My name is Diane and I am 16 years old. My hobbies are sport, music and enjoying myself. I would like to write to a soldier in the 16-19 age group. All letters answered. — *Miss J D Cooper, 40 Lyme Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 6JX.*

My name is Tina and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 9ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I enjoy travelling, discos, writing letters and listening to music. I would like to write to someone aged between 23 to 35 for friendship. — *Tina Warder, 42 Gillett Avenue, East Ham, London E6.*

My name is Mandy and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with long blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are writing, badminton, table tennis and swimming. — *Mandy Young, 64 Retreat Estate, Downham Market, Norfolk PE38 9QH.*

I would like to write to any soldiers with a sense of humour. My name is Heather and I am 17 years old. — *Miss Heather Wright, 10 Cypress Way, High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire.*

If you are aged between 22 and 28 years old and can supply a photo you can be sure of a reply. — *Carol Lennon, 29 Hyde Park Gardens, Haugh Shaw Road, Halifax, W Yorkshire HX1 3AH.*

I am a 28-year-old divorcee and am 5ft tall with light brown hair. My interests are reading, country and western music (which I sing), driving and dancing. All letters answered. — *Mrs Gaye Lowther, 1123 Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough, Cambs. PE1 2AT.*

My name is Kim and I am 25 years old. I am divorced and would like to hear from anybody aged 25-35 years old. — *Kim Tasker, 157 Hawthorn Road, Little Sutton, South Wirral.*

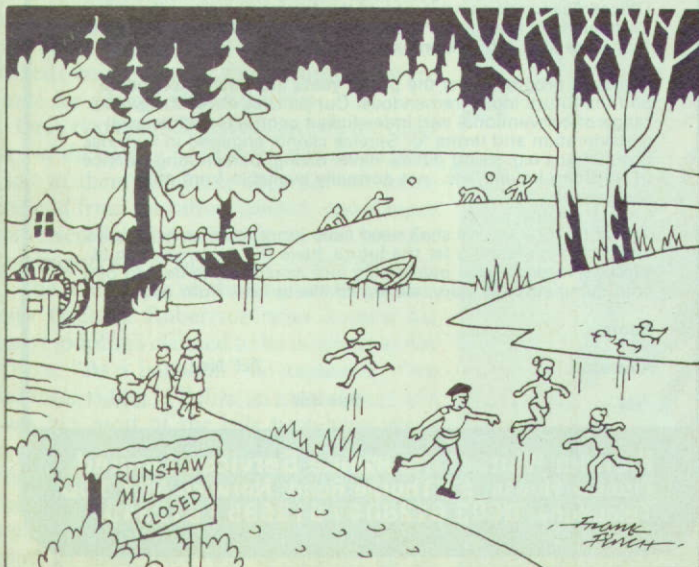
My name is Hilary and I am twenty six years old, divorced with one son. I am 5ft tall with dark hair and eyes. My interests include music, cinema, reading and dancing. — *Hilary Turner, 103 Chace Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 5NU.*

I like discos, meeting people, concerts, music and enjoying myself. My name is Carole and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 7ins with brown hair and blue eyes. — *Carole Dodd, 30 Saltwell Place, Bensham, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 4QY.*

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.

Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.



TWO CHEERS FOR FORCES FOLK

A Services record with a difference is now on sale in Germany. Instead of the usual stirring strains of a military band, it features singers culled from the Forces Folk Clubs in Germany. 'Forces go Folk' is a double album and the first of its kind, so we asked 'DMD' — a serving Army officer and folk enthusiast — to give us his impressions.

'This record is something of a milestone, so for those of you who've been looking for a milestone to give someone — now's your chance.

I understand that those responsible for this record had two aims: first, that by selling it through Folk Clubs in BFG, funds would be generated which would enable many of these clubs to survive; secondly, that the record would help to rekindle interest in folk music so that people would return to the clubs instead of atrophying in front of their duty-free TV sets. Laudable aims both, which have apparently already met with some success, to the extent that there are already plans afoot for a more ambitious project later this year,

part the album consists of solid, reliable material often heard in BFG folk clubs, and there is an encouraging number of self-penned offerings. You won't find the album in the shops, however; you have to send DM 20.00 + p&p to Valda Hood, The Studio, Hammersmith Barracks BFPO 15.

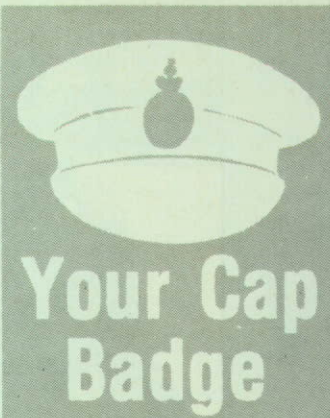
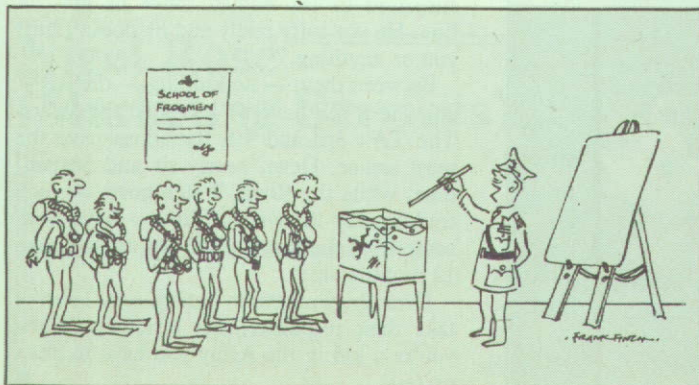
So much for the purchasers; off you go and buy the record while I address some remarks to those involved with making it.

If you want people to get out and go to your folk club then you must go to other folk clubs yourselves, and open your ears and minds to the fresh influences and new approaches. There is much afoot in the folk scene today, yet too much of the material and the performance on this record belongs to 1968, not 1982. Furthermore, in all folk songs, whether old hat or new, the words are important, therefore songs must be researched and thought through; some of this lot have not been. (I defy anybody to dance their dolls in the manner here attributed to *Seth Davy* and just listen to *Shores of Old Blighy*. Good Grief!)

The lack of research is also evident in errors in the woefully inadequate sleeve information. Ralph McTell did not write *Mr Bojangles*, and Anon wrote neither *Seth Davy* nor *Farewell Angelina*. And while we're on the LP cover, the importance of presentation must be borne in mind. Please may the sleeve of the follow-up album be designed with more taste, imagination and information than this one was — especially relevant information: nobody gives a monkey's who made the producer's pizza, but it would be of interest to know who played what.'

namely the first BAOR Forces Folk Festival (29-31 May at Bad Lipp-springe, since you ask) at which it is hoped to record a 'live' album as follow-up to this one.

If you are a prospective purchaser then you're probably interested in the local folk club scene in BFG, in which case go out and buy. You won't be disappointed. For the most



No 33

THE LIGHT INFANTRY

A STRINGED bugle horn — in silver plate for wear by officers, in anodised silver finish for the soldiers — is the simple but very effective badge adorning the head-dress of members of the Light Infantry. The current badge was first adopted in 1958 when the Light Infantry Brigade was formed from five regiments, which had themselves been the subject of amalgamations over the years. The bugle horn was the one device which they had in common and indeed it would have been difficult to decide which of their respective honours or crests could have been carried forward to adorn a collective design.

The five regiments were: *The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)*, which in 1959 was combined with the *Duke of Cornwall's LI* — itself having formerly been the 32nd Cornwall LI and the 46th South Devonshire — to become *The Somerset and Cornwall Light*

Infantry; The King's Own Yorkshire LI formerly the 51st West Riding LI and the 105th Madras LI; *The King's Shropshire LI* which had been formed from the 53rd Shropshire and the 85th The King's LI; and lastly, *The Durham LI* previously the 68th Durham LI and the 106th Bombay LI. This has meant a shrinkage of nine regiments to one large unit in less than a century, indicative of the changing role played by the Infantry and Britain's diminished role in world affairs.

Gone from the badge are those distinctions which reflected the long and glorious history or royal associations of The Light Infantry's forebears: the mural crown and scroll *Jelalabad* of the *Somerset LI*, given to commemorate the gallant defence of that fort; the bugle horn first adopted by the 32nd when given the title *Light Infantry* as a distinction for their part in the defence of the *Residency* at *Lucknow* during the *Indian Mutiny*; the *White Rose* of *York* within the curl of the small *French bugle horn*, both badges of the old 51st; the bugle horn of the 85th, adopted when constituted *Light Infantry* in 1808 and also by the 68th in the same year for the same reason. Gone too, but not forgotten are the devices that recalled those *European Regiments* of the *HEIC* taken into the *Queen's service* after the *Mutiny*.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Prince of Wales's Own
Regiment of Yorkshire



WHEN A KID HAS TO GROW UP FAST

A NEW CELEBRITY will soon be joining the Royal Regiment of Wales on parade. No more than a kid really but already sporting a neat white beard, he will be carrying on a proud tradition dating back to the Crimean War.

His name is Taffy III, 14th in a long line of distinguished RRW goat mascots and immediate successor to Taffy II who was retired on medical grounds last August.

The elder Taffy, now back among the Royal Herd at Whipsnade Zoo, was there to see his successor selected from seven aspiring kids by the zoo's curator, Mr Victor Manton. And there too, to meet his latest recruit, was the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, Lieutenant-Colonel John Grundy.

The new Taffy — like his predecessors he carries the more formal name of Gwilym Jenkins — is currently at Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division at Crickhowell in Wales for a short period of quarantine. But soon he will be off to Lemgo in Germany for formal training and guidance under Goat Major Lance Corporal David 'Joe' Joseph of the Corps of Drums, who was also Taffy II's mentor.

Cigarette-chomping Taffy II — the nicotine content from an alleged packet-a-day was said to keep his worms in check — can look back on a proud record of service that included two years in Berlin, five in Aldershot and parade duty for the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.



But sadly he failed to meet stringent West German veterinary health regulations and had to be retired.

Pride and tradition, though, had to be served as they have been for over 127 years. The battalion had to have another goat particularly since they took over in Lemgo from the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers whose own goat, Billy, fast became a popular attraction with the locals.

Zoo curator Manton, pointing out the tyro Taffy's finer features, said: "He has a nice pair of horns which, hopefully, will grow much bigger. When he is on his own he will have no-one to fight with except, perhaps, The Goat Major!"

And that was the good news.

"I'm afraid he's going to smell!", declared Mr Manton with obvious expert appraisal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Grundy agreed: "I think castration is going to be necessary later on. We traditionally have our goats castrated to avoid smell and over-friskiness."

But he did concede: "He is a very noble-

Lt-Col Grundy and Mr Manton admire the finer features of the RRW's latest recruit.

looking animal, isn't he? I hope he is better on his first major parade than his predecessor who was not very happy at standing up for long periods and had to be whacked with the flat of a sword to get him on his feet again.

"It will take a little bit of time to get the youngster used to the military way of life on parade in his silver covers for his ears, forehead plate and wearing his rather smart coat with the regimental badge on the side. I would not like to speculate if he is going to be an asset or a hindrance but I hope he will be sufficiently trained in time for his first St David's Day Parade on March 1st in Lemgo.

"He is going to have a lonely life and not much contact with other goats but he will get as much care and attention as most, but by humans. And, perhaps, this one may choose to chew cigars and not cigarettes!"

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

Taffy II says hello to his successor.

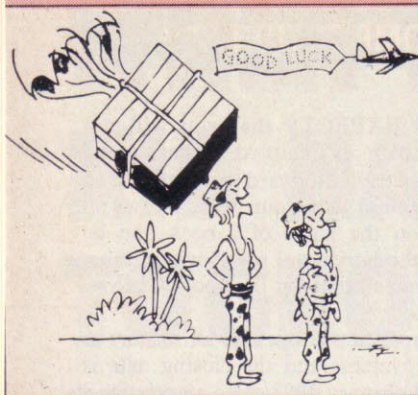


Meanwhile, Taffy II seems to be enjoying his early retirement back among the Royal Herd, who are all directly descended from Kashmiri goats which once roamed Royal Windsor in 1828.

Miss Heather Holiday, a senior keeper, told SOLDIER: "He was rather lonely when he first arrived here and I think he was surprised to see women. Now he gets on fine. He is a softy really and he doesn't butt you or anything."

Between them — no kidding — the RRW and the RWF have no less than five goats. The TA's 3rd and 4th Battalions have the most senior, Dewi, nearly six and Sospan, nine, while the Royal Welch goats — each traditionally known as Billy — have both come from the Royal Herd and are less than 12 months old.

Even the youngsters though soon learn to take their responsibilities seriously. When you're a kid in the Army you have to grow up fast!



Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is *your* page to exchange *your* news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

PIN UP

Thank you for printing my last letter (29 Nov) in which I offered to be a pin-up. The response has been overwhelming and I have received over seventy letters and Christmas cards from all over the world.

Although I have accepted several invitations, I'm sorry that I can't be a pin-up for you all. I would like to thank very much everyone who wrote to me and to wish you all a Happy New Year. — **Beba, Crown Farm, Whaplode, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 6UE.**

MALTA GC

Reader A S Dunkley (13 Dec) asks if there is any publication recording the ground defences of Malta GC during the long siege of World War Two. He is thinking particularly of the Gunners and was disappointed with the BBC's recent film which concentrated mainly on the Royal Navy at sea. I can tell him there was no official publication dealing with the guns but I have personal knowledge that Major General C T Beckett, who commanded the Artillery of the Fortress from May 1941 to December 1942, wrote a piece in the *Gunner* magazine some years ago.

Malta suffered 3343 air raids and my own book *Malta: The Triumphant Years 1940-43* published recently by Robert Hale Ltd gives full credit to the 'meritorious part' the Royal Artillery and Royal Malta Artillery played 'against almost impossible odds', working their guns 'until they were red hot, the barrels were out and ammunition ran short'. The book does, of course, include the efforts of the whole garrison: Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force plus the civilian population and the Mercantile Marine, but Mr Dunkley can find therein much detail about the Gunners' activities — they played so great a part in that epic stand over those three gruelling years.

There is also (not covered by other publications) a full list of the Gunner units, and indeed all Army formations, Naval vessels, RAF squadrons and Merchant ships that were involved.

That devastating 'Brock's benefit' harbour barrage, that Mr Dunkley

MAIL DROP

and all who survived the siege will always remember, is recorded in a remarkable picture that the photographer must have risked his life to obtain. — **Major G R Hogan (ret'd), 5 Queenswood Road, St John's, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1XJ.**

BULLSEYE

I have noticed many infantrymen on television news reports wearing black berets. These seem to outline the face like a 'bullseye target'. Surely a khaki one should be considered to reduce contrast a little?

If it saved a few heads from the sniper it would be well worth while. — **Martin Day, 80 Church Lane, Lancaster.**

WEIGHTY SUM

As I served as an infantryman during the Normandy campaign, I have often wondered just what weight of equipment we had to carry whilst in the 'line'.

Perhaps one of your readers who may have served in the QM's department or Ordnance may be able to give me his idea of the weight involved — I list here the total equipment (over and above our BD and boots): web belt and two box type ammo pouches with two loaded Bren gun magazines and two No 36 grenades; web cross braces, bayonet frog and bayonet (6" pig sticker); canvas water bottle carrier and full water bottle; entrenching tool and a sandbag containing two No 77 smoke grenades (this was loosely tied through the cross braces); mark IV rifle; small pack containing mess tins, spare socks and ground sheet; gas cape; bandolier containing 100 rounds ball .303. As a regimental signaller I also carried a No 38 wireless set, aerial case etc. Finally, I carried a pickaxe or a spade which was carried through the cross braces, and also usually a case of either two mortar bombs or Piat bombs.

With all that weight and with little or no sleep for days on end, how any of us managed to survive I'll never know — I do remember that having 'gone to ground' it was very difficult to get back on one's feet again. — **John H Ellis, Goddington House, Court Road, Orpington, Kent.**

RECORD LIE?

I have not come across a more inaccurate review of a record than that of the RCT's 'Gilbert & Sullivan on Parade' by RB (13 December).

This record is everything which RB says it is not. It is imaginative, adventurous and full of gaiety. The arrangements are refreshingly different and get away from the standard reproduction of G & S scores. It is the sort of music that is enjoyed at public performances and the record well, despite RB's comments, sell well.

I am sure that the record sales will prove the lie to RB's unfounded criticism. — **D J Glossop, 6 Bramley Croft, Tower Road, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6ST.**

UNFORGIVABLE

I am horrified by the inaccuracy of Hugh King's 'Your Cap Badge' No 31, The Royal Anglian Regiment. One point which must have infantrymen worldwide gnashing their teeth is his remark that the infantryman plays a reduced role in modern warfare! Considering the fact that we non-tradesmen in the infantry have our own missiles (Milan), our own tracked armour of various types, our own artillery pieces (mortars and anti-tank guns), our own engineers (assault pioneers) etc, one can only assume that Mr King has not been an infantryman.

I will make no mention of my adjutant's remarks — he normally rarely resorts to vulgar expressions! The page makes no mention of the 12th Foot (The Suffolk Regt) and indeed has forgotten that the 58th Foot were once The Rutlandshire Regiment! For a magazine as highly thought of as SOLDIER, these omissions are unforgivable.

Many retired soldiers read SOLDIER. They may have been interested to know that our Battalion wears different collar badges and have included our county affiliations in our titles which are: 1st Bn (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire); 2nd Bn (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire); 3rd Bn (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex) The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Thank you for a fine magazine which we all look forward to with eagerness. — **WO1 (RSM) D Whitehead, 2 Bn The Royal Anglian Regt, BFPO 807.**

Thanks for the last comment, anyway! Sorry for the inaccuracies or omissions, Royal Anglians. Your comments have been passed to Hugh King. — **Ed**

REASONABLE

I was very interested to read Mr J Spary's letter (15 November) regarding his experiences as a cadet in the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Cadet Force from 1939-42.

I served as a cadet in the same period, but in the 1st Cadet Battalion The King's Royal Rifle Corps. In those days we wore service dress (certainly not shabby!) and were equipped with a full set of 1908 webbing and one SMLE rifle per cadet. Towards the end of my cadet service, battledress was issued (initially to cadets with a Home Guard commitment) — a sign of the War Office's increasing assistance to the Cadet Force at that period.

The Army Cadet Force today presents a very different picture, and is certainly not 'starved' of equipment. Of course, it takes a lower priority than the Regular and Territorial Army, and I think that this is not unreasonable. The cadet today receives an issue of a beret, shirts, pullover, belt, barrack trousers, combat trousers and a combat smock. Admittedly, we in the Army Cadet Force are still using the No 4 Rifle and the Bren LMG, but a new 7.62 target rifle is in the course of issue and long term plans are being con-

sidered for the future cadet rifle.

The MOD advertisement for officers and Adult Instructors which Mr Spary's letter mentions is well justified; the Army Cadet Force needs a constant intake of new officers and Adult Instructors to replace the wastage of older men (or those whose commitments necessitate giving up ACF duties) so that officers and instructors alike can continue to provide the high level of leadership and instruction to the cadets (of whom there are some 45,000 throughout the UK). — **Major R J D Gardner, 28 Brantwood Court, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6BU.**

VETERANS

Could you please afford us just a little space to help us enhance our membership.

To explain something of our association, we cover WWI, WWII, Malaya, Korea, Borneo, Kenya, Suez, Aden, Northern Ireland and the Falklands with provisions for any future actions that British Forces may find themselves in.

We are at this time attempting to raise money or sponsors to purchase a coach which we will convert into a specially adapted vehicle to carry wheelchairs and their occupants.

We hope to get the coach on the road prior to the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in November so that we can transport men or women in wheelchairs to the Festival and arrange for them to take part in the Sunday morning parade. Any donations would gratefully be accepted at this address.

Should any of your readers be able to send us used postage stamps or trading stamps we would be grateful to receive them and thank them in anticipation. — **Chief Publicity Executive, War and Post War Campaign Association (UK), 200 Bath Road, Bridgwater, TA6 4PT.**

GOOD FRIENDS

Your readers might be interested in a little tale I recalled recently when I began to write down all the funny things that happened to me, chiefly during my time with the Royal Sussex Regiment from 1918 to 1920, but subsequently also.

After demob, I returned to my previous job with a City shipping group. Some time later I took an active part in reviving the company's sports activities including cricket and football matches with our Southampton office. On one such occasion I was asked to get a team together in time for a day or so later.

So the following day, I was on my way back to London and the train stopped at Aldershot station. Standing on the platform was an MP — the soldier's terror! Leaning out of the window I gave him the Harvey Smith two finger salute and he stormed over and gave me a mouthful. I told him I had wanted to do that since 1918! But then I persuaded him to come and have a pint with me in the buffet. We parted good friends in the end! — **L W Jones, 24 Mill Lane, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7ED.**

Can You Help?

Does anyone know the present whereabouts of Michael Boynes, formerly of the Signal Section, The Devonshire Regiment whom I served with in Malta in 1938-1941? — **John Kelly (RSM Retd) MBE DCM BA, 204 Foundling Court, London WC1.**

I am trying to trace my cousin William Harland, born August (?) 1953 in Jarrow, Co Durham. He joined the Army between 1971-1973 and is thought to have been posted to Germany and possibly married a German girl. My mother would love to see him again as she has failing eyesight. — **Ms Therese Clifford, 2 Little Hoddington, Upton Grey, Basingstoke, Hants.**

Ian, I am still looking forward to getting the pictures you promised to send me, taken on the ferry from Zeebrugge to Dover. — **Nienke van Ulden, Heelsumseweg 44, 6874 BD Wolfheze, Holland.**

I am trying to contact two mates, Bill Forsyth and Angus McKenzie, ex 2 Bn Scots Guards who were both taken prisoner of war at Sidi Rezegh (SE Tobruk), approx Nov 1942. Bill Forsyth did escape to Switzerland I know. We were in Camp 59 and 66 together along with the then CMS Joe Hughes, now a retired major. — **C W Rawlinson, 60 Harpenden Road, West Norwood, London SE27.**

I am trying to locate a Terry J Gray who was commissioned from 164 OCTU in August 1945 to the 10th Bn Parachute Regiment at Piddlehinton. The last address I have is at Lenton, Nottingham. — **John H Ellis, Goddington House, Court Road, Orpington, Kent.**

We are trying to attract new recruits to our branch of the British Korean Veterans Association. We hold a monthly meeting at Heston British Legion, New Road, Heston. For full particulars please contact: **T Beevor or S Mercer, Solma Ri, 99 Heybridge Avenue, Streatham Common, London, SW16 3DS.**

Trumpet and bugle calls have their official or unofficial words — invented to make them easier to learn. Although I am in possession of many of them, I am still lacking the words of the British Tattoo. I have them in a Danish translation so they must exist somewhere in English. Can anybody help me, if I try to translate the words back into English? First Post: *First post sounds and if you are not on the spot you'll be found in the guardroom tomorrow. And what a sight, for there you'll meet the colonel and his aide. He will ask: "Who are you? To be absent without leave is a most disgraceful crime." And you will feel most ashamed, if the sergeant stands up and says that your muster roll is bad. Take my advice: Kiss your girl. Say good-night, as a British soldier should do. Then you'll not be brought into jail. Oh, listen to the drums beating tattoo! Listen to the drums beating tattoo! Oh, what a noise. Never was a worse noise heard. First post, First post. First post sounds.*

Last Post is similar. And what about the Reveille? Who can tell me about that? — **Major Egon Maarup, Snerlevej 6, DK-7500 Holstebro, Denmark.**

Pen Pals

My name is Christine and I am 21 years old. I would like to write to soldiers serving away from home, especially in trouble spots, all ranks and ages. — **Miss Christine Wright, 10 Cypress Way, High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire.**

My name is Julie and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I love Elvis Presley and rock and roll, football, swimming and children, and I have a good sense of humour. I would like to write to someone aged 16-18. Photos if possible, preferably in uniform. — **Julie Pemberton, 10 Parrs Wood Road, Withington, Manchester M20 9R7.**

I am 16 years old and 5ft 5ins with dark brown hair and green eyes. I like all types of sport, especially football — my favourite team is Manchester United. I like most kinds of music. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 17-20 years old. — **Gail Goodwin, 32 Fleeson St, Rusholme, Manchester M14 5NQ.**

I'm Lyn and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with light brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are horseriding, writing, nightclubs and pubs. I would like to write to anyone of similar age. All letters answered. — **L A Mills, Eureka, Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, Herts.**

My hobbies are boozing, being silly and more boozing! My name is Anne-Marie and I am 21 years old. — **Anne-Marie McKay, 47 Woodside Avenue, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS4 2QX.**

My name is Toni and I am sixteen years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. My interests are disco dancing, music, tennis and meeting people. I like jazz, funk and soul. Photos if possible. — **Toni Fosterkew, 69 Hill St, Reading, Berks. RG1 2NT.**

I am a student at Kingston Polytechnic and like cycling, swimming and listening to ELO, the Beatles, and Simon and Garfunkel. I am 19. All letters answered. — **Annette Prentice, 5 Coverack Walk, Evington, Leicester LE5 4WF.**

I am interested in writing to someone, preferably in the same situation as myself or who is shy and lonely. I am a 38-year-old divorcee. I have dark hair and brown eyes. I like meeting young people, enjoy any music, reading, writing and home life. — **Jo Grundy, 85 Grassdale View, Birley Chase, Sheffield 12.**

Collectors' Corner

A Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire WF12 7ET. Has for sale World War One South African Victory medal with ribbon named, £12.

HOLIDAY ON ICE '83

Wembley Stadium tell us that there has been a terrific response to our reduced price offer for *Holiday on Ice '83* (see 29 Nov and 13 Dec issues for full details). However they have asked us to point out that the offer will not now be available on 18th February but on 25th February instead.

A Sills, 10 Cordery Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon EX2 9DH. Has for sale or exchange French Foreign Legion Insignia and equipment, also para wings of the world. SAE for lists.

G J Watts, 630 Aronimink Place, Apt 2, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, USA. Would like to purchase cap badges, please send lists and prices.

F E Hopkinson, PO Box 174, Hamilton, New Zealand. Wishes to purchase back copies of *SOLDIER*: Vol 13 No 1 Mar 1957; Vol 14 No 12 Feb 1959.

P Harrison, 20 Colemeadow Road, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0JL. Wishes to purchase a WW2 Army jerkin for a fair price. Will pay postage also.

James T Bain, 2450 Weston Road, Weston, Ontario, Canada M9N 2A3. Wishes to purchase *The Edinburgh Tattoo 1970*, either LP or cassette.

Reunions

A Memorial Service to pay homage to Field Marshal Auchinleck will be held by the City of Birmingham Branch of the Eighth Army Veterans Association in Auchinleck Square, Five Ways, Birmingham, on Saturday 26 March 1983 at 10.30am.

It is nearly 10 years since Bestwood Lodge at Arnold ceased to be an Army HQ. Anyone who worked there both in and out of uniform and would be interested in the possibility of a reunion, please contact: Mrs Ann Thorpe, Sandiacre 394062.

A reunion will be held for all those members of the Armed Forces who served on the Isle of Bute during the years 1940-45, from 25 April-7 May 83. For details of activities etc please contact: Rothesay Reunion Committee, c/o Mr A Hatfield, 40 East Princes St, Rothesay, Isle of Bute. Also an exhibition of papers, memorabilia and especially photographs of the period is intended. Anyone who has access to such material could they please contact: Rothesay Reunion Committee, c/o Mr J Macnamara, 30 Argyll St, Rothesay, Isle of Bute.

Competition

Competition 305. 'Two of a Kind' was another of our word puzzles in which, from a series of jumbled letters, you had to find two proper nouns from each of the 15 generic headings. Some of the names were quite obscure but this did not prove too much of a problem for our regu-

lar entrants. In numerical order the answers were 1 Reindeer, Opossum; 2 Lapwing, Nuthatch; 3 Whiting, Grayling; 4 Marguerite, Lotus; 5 Mahogany, Cypress; 6 Arcturus, Regulus; 7 Austria, Scotland; 8 Mekong, Euphrates; 9 Schilling, Escudo; 10 Caribbean, Yellow; 11 Loganberry, Mango; 12 Helvellyn, Quinag; 13 Ontario, Titicaca; 14 Platinum, Azurite; 15 Artemis, Dionysus. Prizewinners were: 1st P S Day, 12 The Grove, Woodcock Road, Norwich. 2nd R Joyce, 14 The Oval, St Giles, Lincoln. 3rd G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham. 4th D Appleby, 56 West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland. 5th T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.

How Observant Are You?

1 Snow on top of mill chimney; 2 Rushes below mill chimney; 3 Doll in child's pram; 4 Left arm of left skater; 5 Black shadow on tree second from right; 6 Soldier's belt; 7 Position of left snowball; 8 Legs of snowballer second from right; 9 Middle support of footbridge; 10 Shape of shoreline below trees on right.

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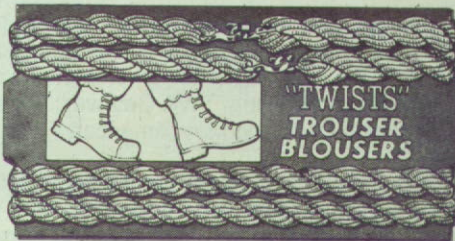
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This great money-saving offer will remain open for any holiday booked before 31 March 1983. It's just one more great deal that our SOLDIER Discount Club has organised especially for you with International Consumer Incentives, the leading UK promotions company. Look out for more holiday offers in future issues — and other great bargains too!

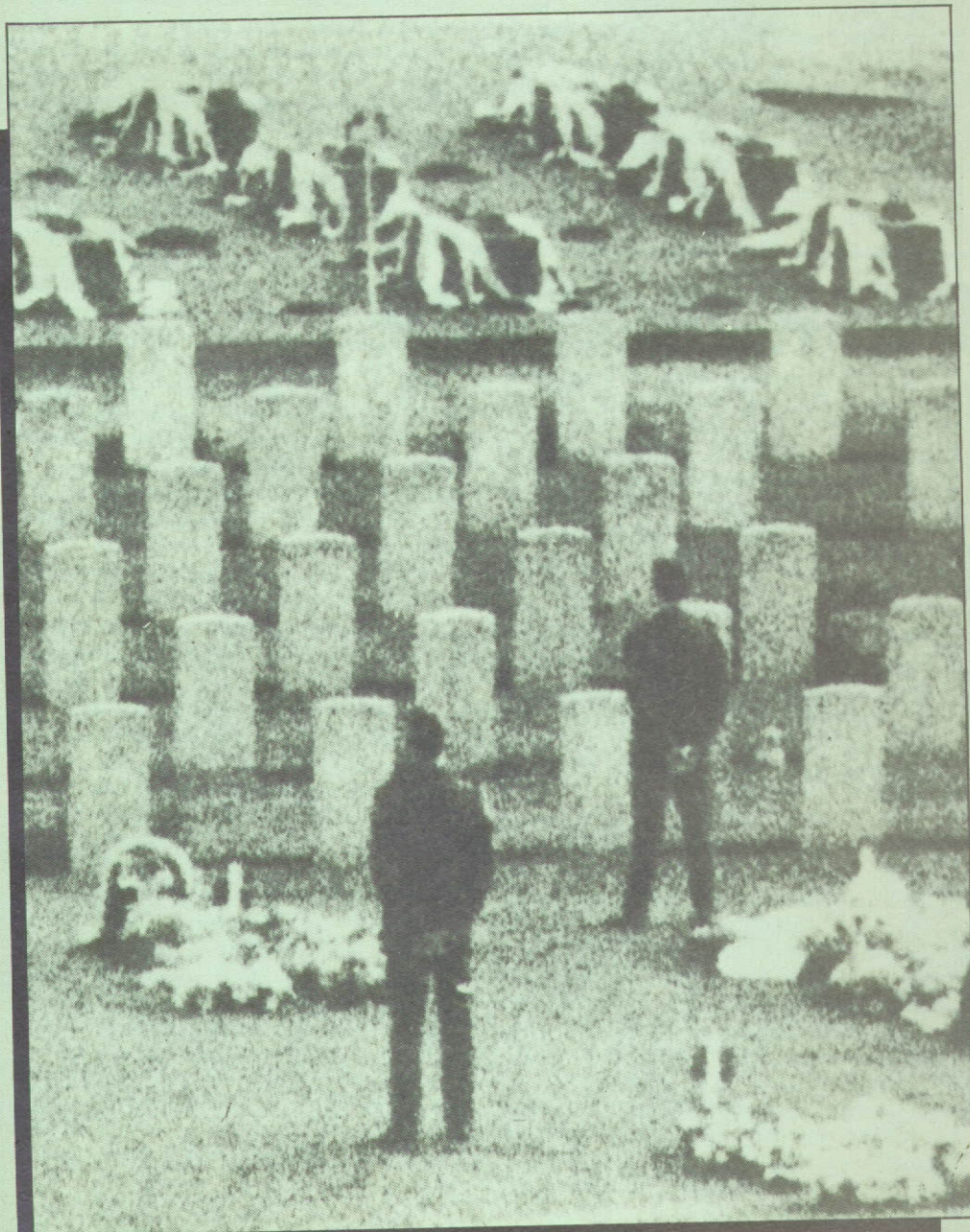
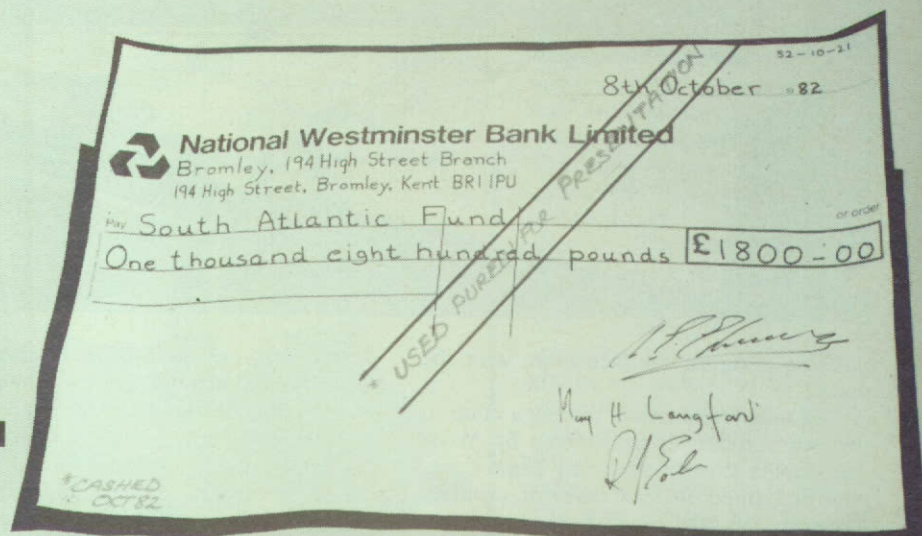
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Millions of pounds have poured in from the public to aid those bereaved or injured in the Falklands Campaign. But how is the money being distributed? And are the people who need it getting it quickly enough? Sally Daniell talks to the men with the delicate task of administering this enormous . . .

FUND OF GOODWILL



Cheques rolled in from all sources — this oversize one from a high street bank. ▲

TO DATE over £14 million has been donated by a grateful nation in aid of the bereaved and injured as a result of the Falklands Campaign.

When the South Atlantic Fund was first set up back in the summer, money poured in from all over Britain and from her friends in other countries too. Donations ranged from 25p to hundreds of thousands of pounds, and in July the staggering sum of £335,000 was received on one single day.

The job of administering the Fund falls to a small tri-Service team located just off Trafalgar Square and headed by Captain Anthony Lambourne RN. Since the Fund's inception, the team has worked its way through 400,000 letters, processing the cheques and acknowledging every one.

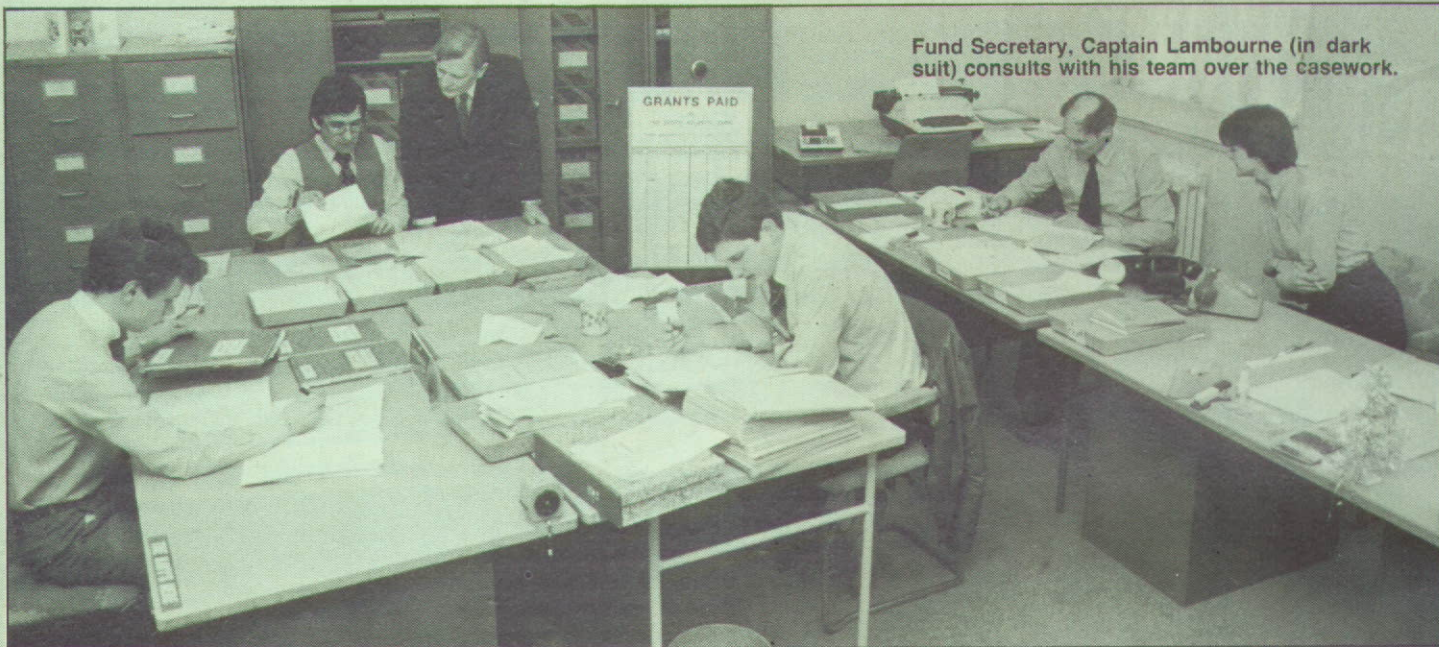
Although money still comes in to the tune of about £10,000 a day, the emphasis of the work has now shifted to casework — collating all the information relevant to each recipient's circumstances and assessing the extent of injury and suffering so that an appropriate award can be made.

Captain Lambourne told **SOLDIER**: "We have to rely totally on visiting and regimental welfare officers putting the cases up to us in the first place. Then, when we've got all the information together, we pass it to a cell in Aldershot which converts it for us into a monetary figure."

Any monies received through the Fund cannot be called 'compensation' since it is a charitable trust and not Government funded. But the injury cell draws upon the expertise gained from the procedure used in Northern Ireland compensation cases in

continued on page 42

Burial service for some of the Falklands dead in Aldershot cemetery. Life for loved ones will never be quite the same again, but the Fund will ease financial hardship.



Fund Secretary, Captain Lambourne (in dark suit) consults with his team over the casework.

reaching a figure commensurate with the needs.

This unenviable task of putting a value on people's suffering is undertaken by Major Christopher Price of the Army Legal Corps who explained that in cases of criminal compensation "the courts have always acknowledged that money can never compensate for injuries and pain and suffering, but it is the best one can do in an imperfect world".

By the same token, the purpose of the South Atlantic Fund cannot be to redress the suffering, but it can, does and will

continue to provide a measure of financial security, and aims to make life more comfortable for the victims.

Major Price calls his side of the operation "number-crunching" and when a figure — based broadly on an individual's loss of earnings — has been reached, the case then goes back to Captain Lambourne. But the final decision on exactly how much a long term award should be, rests with the trustees — seven military mandarins and one senior civil servant. As trustees of a charitable trust, they are by law prevented from making direct grants but distribute the money through established charities. So far 200 of these charities have been asked to receive grants on behalf of the beneficiaries.

Recently, some members of the press have criticised the trustees and administrators for not doing their job quickly enough and, worse, not using the Fund as it was intended. But those making these criticisms have failed to back them with any real evidence. Indeed, according to Captain Lambourne, one popular Sunday newspaper that made allegations of mismanagement and claimed no help was being given to mentally disturbed victims, wholly ignored the views of the Fund officials and their explanations and even committed the sin of misquoting.

For the record, in a written answer to a Parliamentary question from Mr Alfred Morris, the Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, Mr Jerry Wiggin said, "The South Atlantic Fund is administered to serve the needs of all who suffered from the campaign, including those who have developed psychiatric complaints".

Another criticism has been that £100,000 has been used to pay for Christmas telephone calls from Servicemen still in the Falkland Islands to their families at home. This, say the critics, detracts from the awards to the stated beneficiaries. "But", states Captain Lambourne "the facts are that out of the total, £1 million was donated for the sole purpose of making life more bearable for the people down there. So this was quite right."

Captain Lambourne totally rejects allegations of dilatoriness and misappropriation directed at the Fund.

"No instance has been put to me where

the needs are not being met — unless of course there are cases that we don't know about, and to those people I would say, please contact your regimental welfare officer and then we can take the case up."

Both he and Major Price stress that if the Fund is to be distributed properly then it has to be done fairly and it takes time to assimilate the facts. For instance, an injured soldier's future needs cannot be assessed completely until his condition has stabilised. With many victims still in hospitals and rehabilitation centres, how the quality of their lives will be affected as a result of their injuries is still largely unknown.

In such a case, were the trustees to make an award on the strength of the individual's condition now, it could well be not enough to meet his needs if complications arose in the future. Also, as Captain Lambourne explained, "in the case of a bereaved family, it is not necessarily in their interests either. A widow might at this stage, only six months after, not know what she intends to do with her life without her husband, and what costs she might have to meet as a result of his death. In which case, if she wants to leave it three or four months more to sort herself out, then fine, she can come back to us when she's ready."

What must not be forgotten is that so far about £4 million has already been paid out in interim grants to meet the immediate needs of hardship and bereaved cases. More of course will be available to these recipients when the full facts are known.

The South Atlantic Fund has a limited life of five years, after which all the monies will have been shared out. But Captain Lambourne estimates that by the middle of next year all the known cases should be settled. His aim is to see the Fund paid out as quickly as possible and "in a sympathetic, compassionate and generous manner, fairly and within the law."

For him, a submarine officer, his experience as secretary has been "very challenging, satisfying and fascinating. But I don't envy anyone working full time in a charitable organisation because you just can't win. Whatever you do is bound to upset someone. Some complain you're working too slow, others say too fast. You've just got to do your best within the law."

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WHAT SOUNDED like the sort of Jimmy Shand offerings we used to be regaled with at London stations was pumping out of the record player. The dancers — husky young men in kilts and attractive girls in tartan skirts — turned out not to be Scottish at all — they were all German.

The Herford Anglo-German Scottish Country Dance Club is just one of the organisations which have sprung up in recent years to foster links between the Germans and the British forces stationed in their midst.

Rolf Maron, leader of the club, was wearing a McQueen kilt — which turned out to be the tartan of some people with whom he stays when he visits Scotland. He told SOLDIER that the club was started seven years ago 'by an Irishman and a German' and at the moment the majority of the country dancers are German.

Rolf, a police clerk, is a qualified teacher of Scottish country dancing. To get this accolade he had to go to St Andrews in Scotland and take a four week course.

"Our members all have different reasons for joining. A lot like Scotland and others come to help Anglo-German relations". Indeed one of their members, now Mrs Annegret Robinson, recently married a British officer and the dancers performed outside the church.

Now the group are graduating to the more formal and complicated Highland dancing. Teaching them is Mrs Liz Beckley, who learned her dancing as a pupil at the Royal Caledonian Schools at Watford.

She says: "I am here for two years with my husband and thought I would be able to teach them four dances in that period. But we have done those four in seven months so I shall have to teach them more. They are very, very good and seem to have this great love of dancing."

Plenty of tartan — but no Scots! ▼

In the PSA Club at Bielefeld the Scottish country dancers turned out to be Germans. It's only one of the ways in which British soldiers and their families are getting together with their hosts . . .



HOOTS MEIN HERR!

Watching the dancing with interest were members of the six groups set up last Spring to strengthen relations between the Army and the local German population in Bielefeld.

The scheme, which was launched by Brigadier John Skinner, links groups of officers, soldiers

and their wives with teachers and senior pupils in local German schools.

The idea was to supplement the work of the long standing Anglo-German Society and members of the groups have no doubt that the links are working. Each group is following its own pat-

tern of activities and meetings.

Captain Malcolm Wood, of 630 Ordnance Company, reported that social occasions at his unit, including a Guy Fawkes firework spectacular, had been attended by pupils from the Cecilien Gymnasium in Bielefeld.

"The pupils included teenaged girls as well as boys and this was an attraction for single soldiers who usually stay in barracks all evening. They have benefited from mixing with German people they would not otherwise have met — particularly people from their own age group."

Captain Nick Whale, of 64 Ordnance Company, Bielefeld, concurred: "The average soldiers still tend to get stuck in their own ghettos. They won't leave the barrack block to go into town except into one or two set places. Now we have small groups of staff and pupils taking small groups of soldiers to the places where they go themselves."

Headmaster, Dr Hans Auf dem Hövel, said: "You have to make the soldiers feel at home. The main thing is the language problem. If they don't feel at ease they might become aggressive and fighting starts. This does not happen very often in Bielefeld but we have to find guides to make them feel at ease. I personally think they are no more aggressive than many young Germans but it is difficult when they don't understand what people are saying."

From his pupils' point of view the doctor said they were meeting people whose language they were studying and were able to learn more of their attitudes, values and beliefs. "Since I came to Bielefeld I have never been able to understand why so many people in the British garrison never seemed to have any contact with the German people."

Another group of soldiers regularly go to a skittles alley with a party of Germans. Major Jim Earle of the Royal Army Educational Corps, feels that social barriers which have grown up in recent years are now being broken down.

"Bielefeld has a tremendous tradition of hospitality towards the Army so that 20 years ago, in National Service days, it was normal to have a weekly dance in the barracks which busloads of girls would attend. No single British soldier off duty at Christmas would be in barracks — he would be with a German family.

"We now have an Army which is largely married with families living in British quarters where it is all too easy to find yourself in a ghetto situation. You don't have to speak German or meet Germans in your everyday life." ■



**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs**

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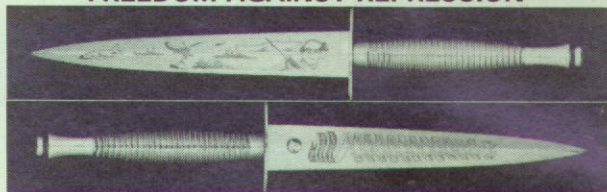
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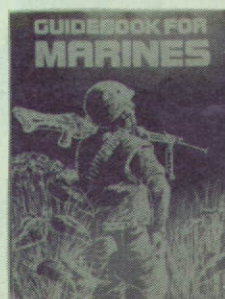
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Wanted

Del Pontin Apologises to any readers who phoned offering caps, etc., for sale and asks that they write to: C/O 11 Hannover Court, Wellington Road, Brighton, as he has been overseas.

EYE of the TIGER

Comeback for Army boxing

SWEAT ROSE IN THE AIR and the room resounded with thudding and grunting as the boxers pounded punchbags, skipped and sparred. But there was no stirring theme music for unlike the 'Rocky' films this session was for real — the Army's boxing squad was getting ready for its annual tilt at the other two Services.

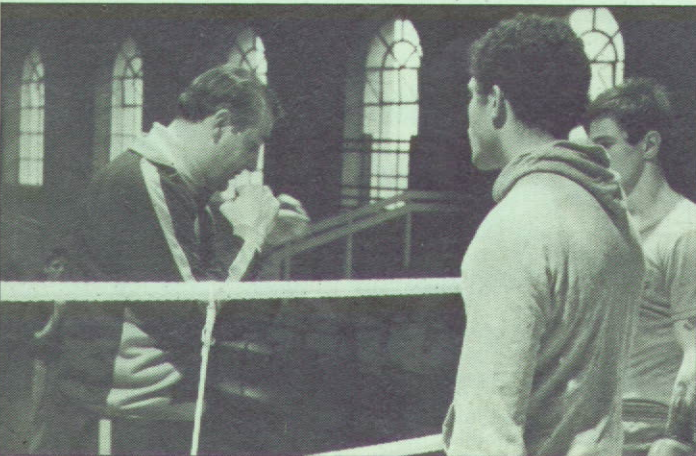
Army boxing has been in decline for some years. The halcyon days of Henry Cooper and National Service followed by the sixties and early seventies when the Army still dominated, are now a distant memory.

The last time the Army had an ABA champion was nine years ago and in recent years it is the Navy which has taken most of the honours. But Colour-Sergeant 'Smockey' Lloyd, of 1 Para, who is in his second and last year as Army coach, feels that the tide is starting to turn.

"We are going to kick the Navy off the perch this year," he predicted as his 20 man squad continued their strenuous workout. "This time we have got the boxers we asked for as opposed to the ones which units sent to us. The standard being sent in recent years was not all that great and it lowered the state of Army boxing."

Lloyd himself has spent two decades with Army boxing — ever since he joined up. Between 1964 and 1971 he was an Army and Tri-Service champion as well as an international for both England and Wales.

"My father's Welsh and my mother English," he explained. "In fact I once fought for Wales



Colour-Sergeant Smockey Lloyd shows how it is done.



Story by
JOHN WALTON
Pictures by
PAUL HALEY

and Ireland in a representative match against England and Scotland so you can say that indirectly that makes three countries I have represented."

Both he and Staff-Sergeant Mickey Gannon, the APTC ex-Army champion who takes over the squad next season, feel that there are two major reasons for the Army decline.

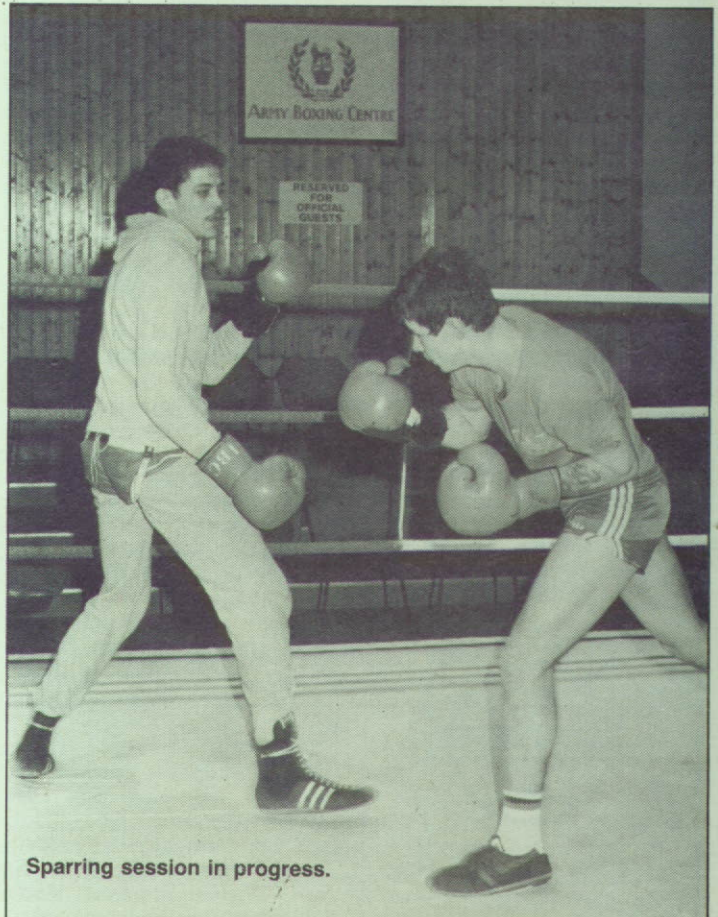
"It has been downhill since the three-year men came into the Army. The major problem is that the Army does not hold on to them for long enough. And since battalion strengths were cut the good boxers are not allowed enough time off. We used to train full time from September to March but now it's cut down to a month including the matches against the RAF and the Navy."

This year's unit boxing championship attracted only two entries, 1 Kings and 1 Para, who

met for the second year in the 'final'. This has led to talk that the competition might disappear. But Staff Gannon reports that the novice championships regularly attract large numbers of teams. "It means we have an Army full of novices and no-one wants to bring them on."

But Colour Sergeant Lloyd is optimistic that Army boxing has turned the corner. He declares: "Prospects are getting better. There is a more professional outlook and we know the boys that we want. The only problem is their availability. This year we shall be at the junior championships again with an eye to the future. Last year we went and three of those juniors are now in this squad. In the past not enough attention has been paid to the juniors because we were getting the quality from the adult soldiers."

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Sparring session in progress.

Kentish Cup bid begins

BRITAIN'S ARMED FORCES will soon be making their annual challenge for the Kentish Cup — bidding to win the tri-nation soccer championship for the first time in ten years.

They meet the Belgian Armed Forces under lights at Aldershot's Military Stadium on Wednesday 26 January (kick off 7.30 pm) and visit Paris to play the French Armed Forces on

Wednesday 23 February.

Since 1981 Britain has fielded a Combined Services side in the championship and hopes are high that this could be their year after some encouraging warm-up performances including a 3-3 draw with Middlesbrough.

But the Belgians and French always provide formidable opposition, their conscript forces giving

them the chance to field young professional players and often 'B' or junior internationals.

Admission to the Aldershot match will be by programme (30p) with proceeds going to Service charities. A military band will be in attendance from 6.45 pm.

A full report on the game, with pictures, will appear in our next issue.



DARTS

Ladies pick up gauntlet

MAKE WAY FOR the ladies! An all-female team has taken up the challenge of our second SOLDIER Darts Contest — the Berakas Ladies from faraway Brunei whose men are attached to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment there.

They join a list of all-male teams who this year come from England, Northern Ireland, Germany and Norway. The men from Oslo are the Kolsas Killers, runners up last year and obviously among the front runners this time particularly with the holders — the Nomads from Cyprus — now disbanded.

Also back again to challenge for the title are Vehrte CC (A Coy, 1 KINGS), who narrowly lost a low scoring semi-final last year, and two former quarter finalists, Eskmeals Owls and Artful Dodgers (Glen Parva WOs' and Sgts' Mess).

There are also quite a few newcomers on parade, among them two teams of Aldershot Chefs and the colourfully titled Herdwykes from CAD Kineton.

A total of 19 entries means that only six teams contest the first round, the rest receiving byes. The draw gives Vehrte CC an early chance to show their form in a tussle with TA newcomers, Bury All Stars from HQ Coy 6(V) Royal Anglian Regt. The

other matches pair Aldershot Chefs B with Scraftoft Ex-Services Association from Leicester, another of the teams entering for the second time, and 6 Field Support Squadron (22 Eng Regt) with Herford Crusaders.

All the teams competing in the first round have already been sent details of their opponents together with score sheets and a further copy of the rules. We shall be contacting the remainder as soon as the second round is drawn. All first round scores must be notified to SOLDIER not later than 18 February and must be accompanied by the '1st Round' coupon from the corner of this page.

Reports and results will be appearing at regular intervals in the months ahead with the final scheduled for early July. Once again we shall be presenting handsome silver tankards to the winners and runners-up plus further prizes which we shall be announcing soon. We shall also be awarding a prize of £5 for the best individual performance of each round, so make sure you send us full details of high scores and finishes.

First Round Draw: Vehrte CC v Bury All Stars; Aldershot Chefs B v Scraftoft Ex-Services Assn; 6 Fd Supp Sqn v Herford Crusaders.

Byes to Second Round: Kolsas Killers, Aldershot Chefs A, The Whalers, B Coy Bombers, RAFA, Berakas Ladies, Odds and Sods, Mear's Marauders, Eskmeals Owls, E Troop 233 Sig Sqn, The Herdwykes, Artful Dodgers, High Numbers.



Maj-Gen J Hopkinson, Chief of Staff HQ AFNORTH, presented runners-up tankards from Truman the brewers to three of last year's darts finalists from Norway — the Kolsas Killers. Pictured (l to r) are WO J Morgan RAF, Maj Gen Hopkinson, WO1 B S Noble RAOC and Sgt B Morgan RAOC. The other three members of the team have now left Norway but the Killers are still hoping to make a strong showing in this year's event.

Brits pipped in polo

Watched by a large crowd including many Britons who have returned to Cyprus, the United Nations Force in Cyprus just beat the team from the British bases in a very hard fought polo game.

The UN team was captained by Lieutenant Harry Sutherland of the Blues and Royals and included the Reverend Leslie Bryan, Anglican padre to the Force and believed to be the only Church Minister playing regularly.

The difference in handicaps between the teams meant that the Cyprus Polo Association team conceded half a goal to the UN at the start. And that was the margin between them at the end of the contest.



Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Keightley who took the individual trophy in the annual bore shooting competition held by Headquarters Northern Army Group. Soldiers of different nationalities from all the various divisions and units within the headquarters took part.



SOCCER

Civil Servants taped again

ARMY 3 CIVIL SERVICE 1

THE ARMY OPENED ITS 1983 CAMPAIGN with the visit of a Civil Service side determined to wrest back the trophy for which these two teams play annually. But the soldiers, coping well with the blustery conditions, once again took the honours.

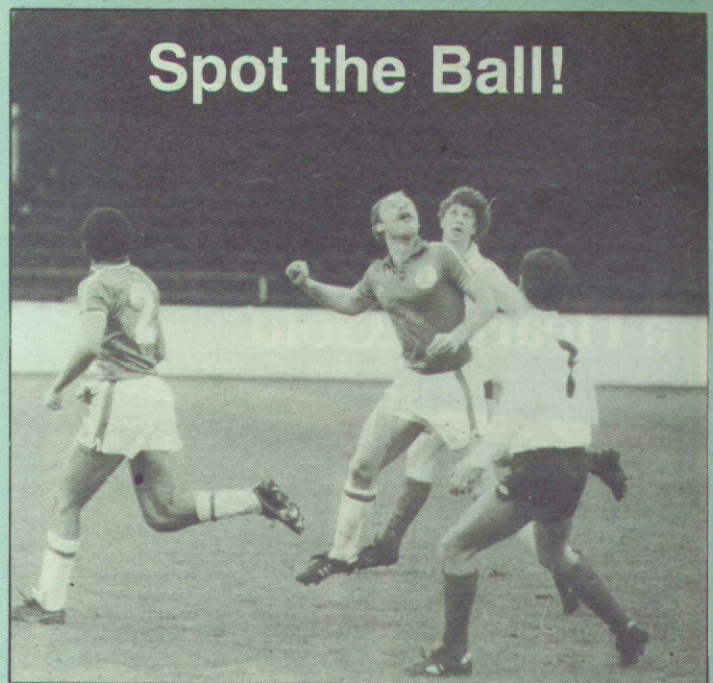
Both sides settled down to play attacking football and the game stuttered, if not exactly flowed, from end to end. In the 11th minute the Army opened the scoring when Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Butler collected a loose ball and pushed it to his REME colleague, Corporal Rudi Fleming. The latter turned it square to Sergeant Gary Kilsby RE, who

despatched it with a low ground shot into the opposite corner of the net.

Further scoring chances were few and far between in the opening half. Sergeant Ali MacDonald REME hit an upright but it was the Civil Service who finally struck just before the interval. From a corner kick one of their tall strikers rose to head home.



This Civil Servant had two watchdogs as he tried to make his way goalwards. The Army defence gave very little away.



Spot the Ball!

Or should it be spot the crowd? The empty stands shows the lack of spectators at many Army games these days. With the fine work put in by QMSI Alfie Coulton to gather an effective squad the Army FA hopes that 1983 will see a revival in attendances. The actual ball is not in this Doug Pratt picture.

Within a minute the Army were back in the lead. Sergeant Mark Bowen RAPC raced down the Army right and set Sapper Malcolm Briggs RE clear. He hit a square pass to the back of the penalty area where Craftsman Neil McGregor REME rifled in a glorious goal.

Fleming almost nicked a third goal right on the restart — only being foiled by a brilliant save. But his persistence got its reward later when he held off a strong challenge on the edge of the penalty area, and, despite being impeded, battled on to shoot under the keeper's body.

Both sides produced some of the best football of the afternoon in the last quarter of the game.

The Army defence were aggressive and determined to give nothing away and their eventual win by the same score as last year was never seriously threatened.

Classic run

SERGEANT BILLY CAIN from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, came second in one of Britain's classic road races, the recent Morpeth-Newcastle run. Well known names such as Charlie Spedding and Ray Smedley finished behind him over the 14½ mile course. Sergeant Cain, who is 26, got his first run for England in a Nation's Cup tournament at Edinburgh last autumn.

Pearce to captain Hampshire

Major Ian Pearce, of the Army Golf Club, Aldershot, has become the first serving officer to captain a county golf side in a quarter of a century.

Major Pearce, of the Army Catering Corps, will captain Hampshire this year. He has previously represented Suffolk, Shropshire, Hereford and Teeside and has won the Suffolk Open.

Aged 39, he is the first Army Golf Club member to skipper the county.



Junior Cup goes back to Taunton



The Junior Soldiers' Battalion Soccer team which took this season's Junior Soldiers' Challenge Cup. In the final they beat the Scottish Infan-

try Division 3-2 in a close match which went to extra time. The Somerset based team also won the Cup last season.

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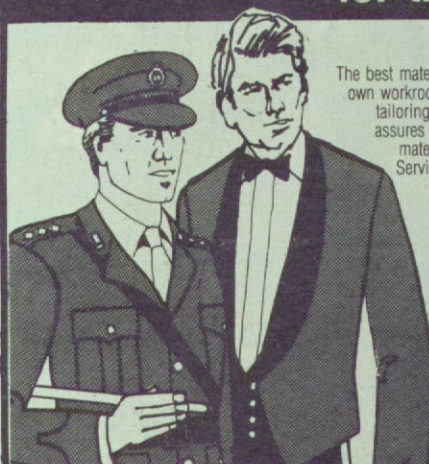
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A black and white line drawing of a man and a woman. The woman on the left has short, dark, curly hair and is wearing a light-colored V-neck sweater with a dark, textured collar. The man on the right has short, dark hair and is wearing a light-colored V-neck sweater with a dark, textured collar. Both sweaters have a small, dark, circular logo on the left chest. The man's sweater has a striped cuff on his left arm.

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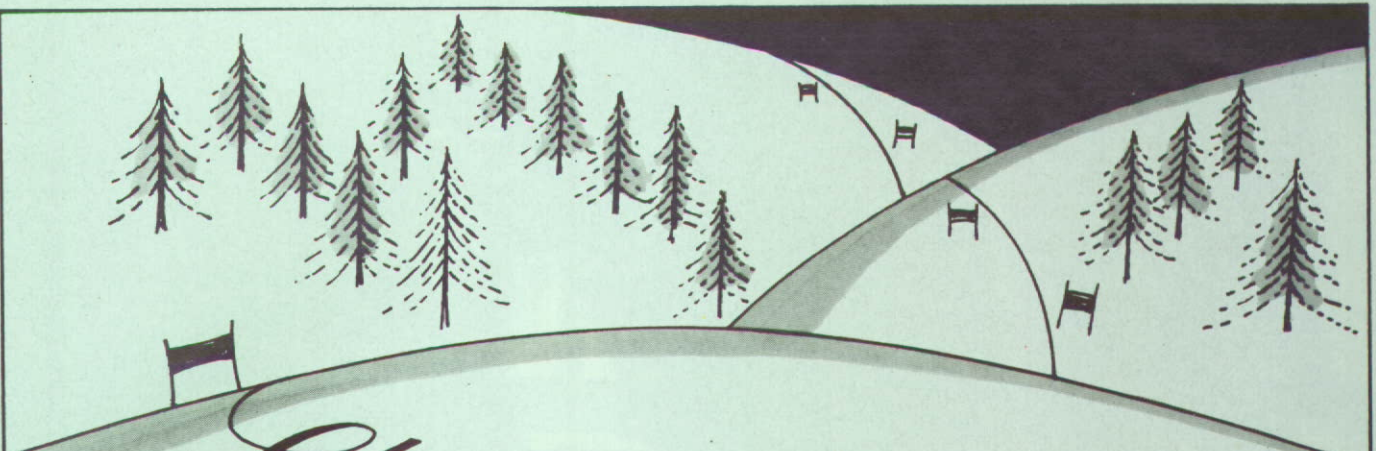
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