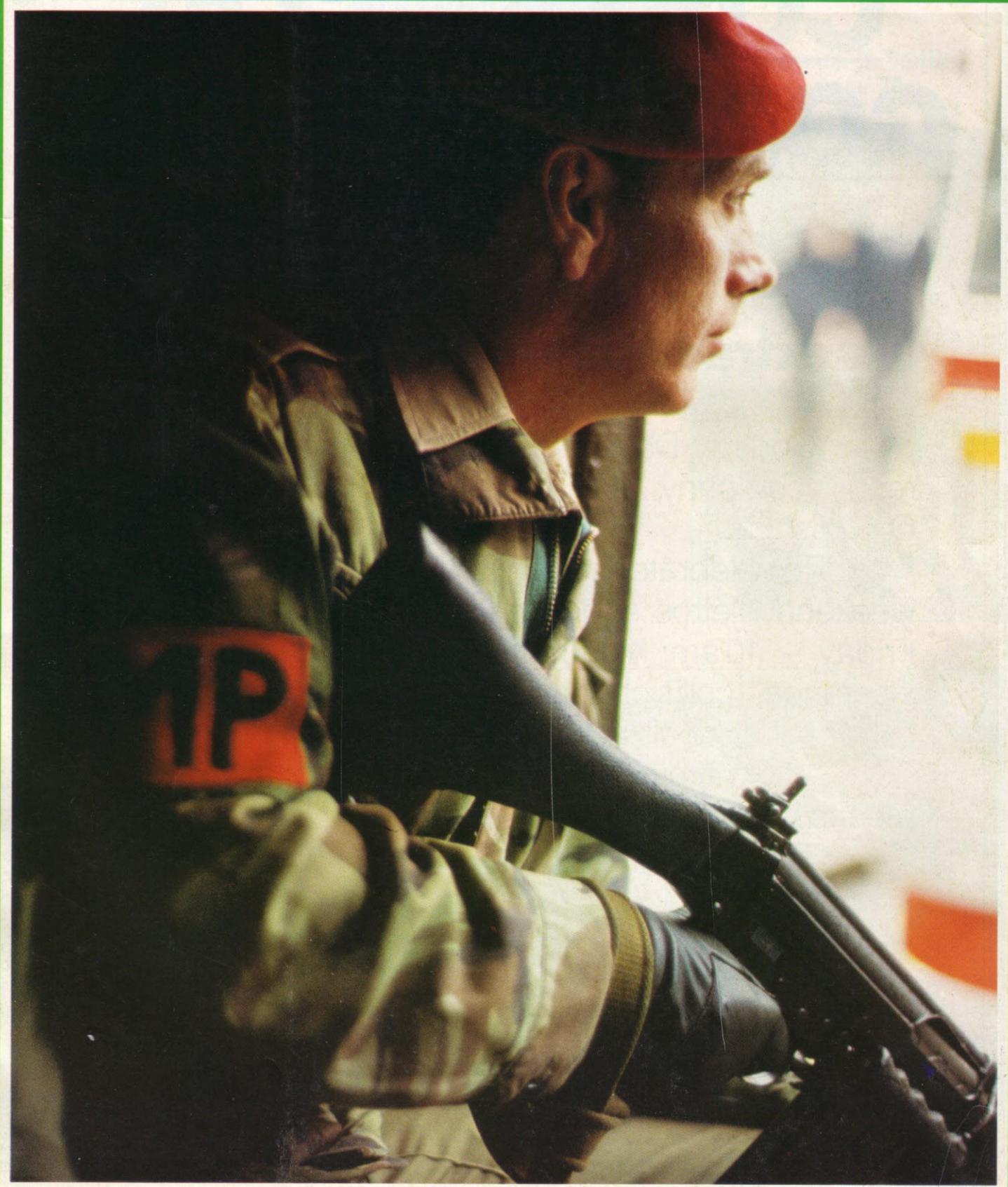


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SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER

Ever watchful in Belfast — a reminder of the fine work being done in the Province.
Picture: PAUL HALEY — see centre pages.

BACK COVER

You seldom see so many vehicles at once!
Farewell to Striker parade of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment at Larkhill.
Picture: LES WIGGS

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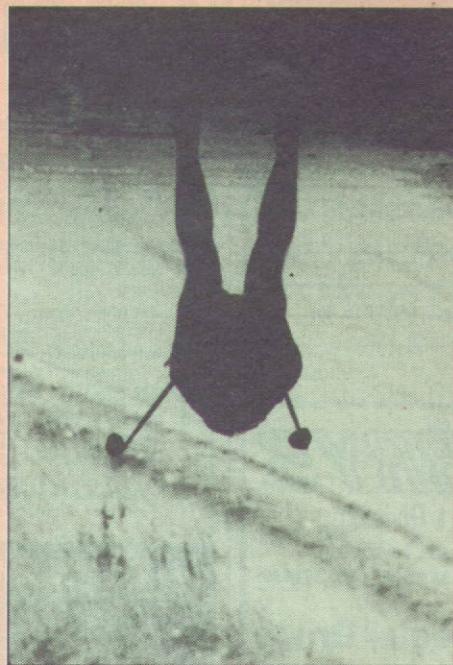
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Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £11.00, elsewhere £12.50. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

SOLDIER

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Guess WHAT?
See page 45 . . .

Bandsmen in Berlin
— page 30



Shanks's Pony in the
Falklands '83
— page 29



Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants. GU11 2DU (phone Aldershot (0252) 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1983.

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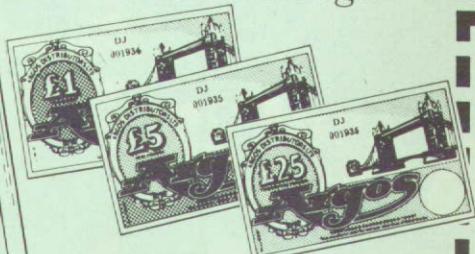


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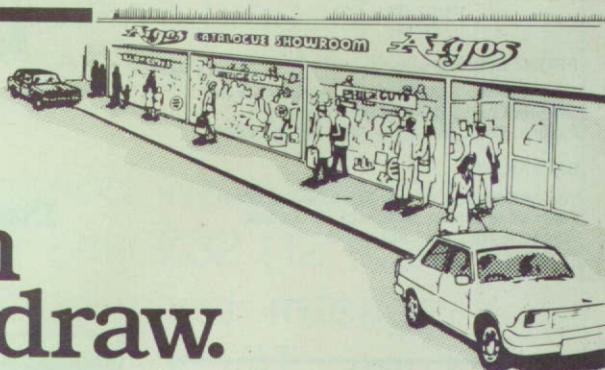
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ARMY CADET FORCE

S.O.L.

FALKLANDS RADIO BOOST

NEW VHF RADIO equipment to provide cover to nearly all of the Falkland Islands is to be installed by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation. The first step, a small transmitter on the hills overlooking Ajax Bay, could be in service before Christmas providing coverage to an area which at present receives no island broadcasting.

REDCAP VOICE IS TOPS



CORPORAL John Cameron-Webb of the Royal Military Police has become quite a well known figure on forces broadcasting in Berlin since he started daily broadcasts on local road conditions and safety. Now 247 Provost Company have won the Cup for efforts in road safety awarded to military police companies in Germany. Says his Company Sergeant-Major, WO2 Ron Campbell-Smith: "It is his efforts which have won us this award. He has quite a fan club with the Service children of Berlin."

Cambrian Going Is Tough



LAST YEAR the heat shattered competitors in the Cambrian March — this time the weather was just the opposite, but just as testing. The winners were 6 Ordnance Battalion from Bielefeld, West Germany and this photo shows men of 91 Ordnance Company tackling a water hazard. The expressions say it all... report: page 22.

TWO VCs SAVED FOR THE NATION

TWO VCs and two George Crosses have been saved for the nation and the fate of an auctioneer's gavel.

The Imperial War Museum has acquired a First World War VC which was bequeathed by Brigadier Sir John Smyth, VC, former President of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, who died in April this year.

"Jackie" Smyth won his VC on the Western Front in May 1915 when, as a 21-year-old lieutenant in the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, he led a bombing party to relieve a company which was in great danger from a German counter-attack. Under heavy fire

and with only two men left, he succeeded in carrying 96 bombs over open ground and across a deep stream to within 20 yards of the enemy's position.

The two George Crosses are those awarded as Edward and Albert Medals respectively to Frank Sykes in 1931 and Boatswain William McCarthy, RN, in 1943. (Recipients of these medals were required to exchange them for the George Cross at a special investiture in 1971).

The other VC saved for the nation and posterity is a VC given to the National Army Museum. It was presented by Mrs Mabel Parker whose father

The operation involves the installation of new transmitters on March Ridge, site of the new Falkland's airfield, which will feed a main transmitter at Mount Maria in West Falklands.

It is hoped to complete the installation, which will cost about £170,000, by Easter next year.

The Corporation's radio division, the British Forces Broadcasting Service, (BFBS), was in the Falklands within six weeks of the ending of hostilities. Since then, it has been supporting the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station (FIBS) with two programme staff and an engineer, broadcasting VHF only to the Stanley area.

Over the last twelve months the studios have been re-equipped by SSVC engineers.

FIBS and BFBS transmit 16½ hours of programmes a day at present. This is a mixture, to suit both the civil and military listeners from three main sources.

About a quarter of the programme material originates from the SSVC's BFBS studios in London, an eighth by direct relay from the World Service of the BBC and the balance is locally produced and presented by FIBS and BFBS staff in the Falklands.



● Delight shows on the face of Staff Sergeant Robert Charles Barfield, from 187 Royal Pioneer Corps Company, Kandahar Barracks, Tidworth, as he is presented with the BEM by Major General Mike Gray, GOC South West District.

The award, made in the New Year Honours List, was for the specialised and demanding work Sergeant Barfield carried out while he was attached to 4 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

The tanks with new 'Rubik' look ...



● All of Berlin's armoured fighting vehicles are now painted in a special camouflage pattern, known by the troops as the 'Rubik Cube', and which is designed to merge them into the urban background.

The painting scheme in white, grey and brown was devised by Major Clendon Daukes, who commanded D Squadron 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards in the divided city.

Now their successors D Squadron, Queen's Own Hussars, have taken over the Chieftains.

SAD STORY

Melton Mowbray police are investigating a rare crime — the theft of about three-stones of horse hair from the tails of horses at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Centre. The horses did not suffer injury.

MINISTER VISITS BEIRUT



Unloading supplies from a Chinook.

British major hands back US command!

THE STARS and Stripes flutter as a Brit steps in to handover his temporary command of an American army engineer battalion to the incoming CO — called Farewell! The impromptu ceremony happened at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs where the previous American CO of the battalion had been posted and an immediate successor could not be found.

Exchange officer, Major John Robertson of the Royal Engineers took on the role at the behest of the GOC 4th Infantry Division.

Five weeks later, he handed over command to the new CO, Lt-Col T. Farewell.

Major Robertson said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the honour of standing in. I only wish I could have done it for much longer!"

Now historians are musing: "Could this have been the first time since the American Revolution that a British officer has



Major Robertson hands over command.

commanded an American battalion?"

DURING his recent visit to the British contingent in the multi-national peace-keeping force in the Lebanon, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces re-affirmed the Government's commitment.

He found the men of A Squadron, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards in good heart and carrying out their difficult task in the professional manner everyone has come to expect of British forces.

At the time of SOLDIER going to press the situation was still tense and at this stage, happily, there were no British casualties.

Along with soldiers from the United States, France and Italy the 100-man British contingent is assisting in the Beirut area.

Around their position at Hadath, in the outskirts of the city, resounded, at the time of writing, the bangs of artillery, the whistle of passing shells and the heavy crump of explosions, plus the whoosh of rockets and the staccato machine-gun and automatic rifle fire.

Regimental silver shock

LESS THAN 48 hours after the Battalion was showing off its latest acquisition into Army service — the super sock — the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders suddenly suffered a deficit; the theft of an estimated £100,000 worth of regimental silver at Tidworth.

The super heist — in which not all the silver was taken — comprised 14 silver statuettes and nine silver ash trays. Some of the missing pieces date from the early 18th century and are of sentimental and historical value to the Regiment.

Police are investigating.



Mr Stanley in Beirut.

The British base has been struck by stray small arms fire on occasions.

From the excellent vantage points afforded by their base the soldiers have had a grandstand view of the fighting, as have the visitors ranging from MPs to the international press corps.

Regular patrols are made into Beirut by the troops in their Ferret scout cars. The locals are glad to see the distinctive sand coloured vehicles and their crews on the damaged streets of the once affluent city.

A Squadron, normally based in Wimbish, Essex, took over the peace keeping duties of their sister C Squadron on their return to UK two months ago. The new commander of the British Force, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Ferguson, is no stranger to them, for he is also Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Since Beirut airport had been closed for some time because of shelling, Chinook helicopters of the Royal Air Force ferried supplies and men from Cyprus.

The Navy's here . . . !

The Royal Navy has moved in to the Headquarters of the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot.

With the closure of the Royal Navy Supply School at HMS Pembroke, Chatham, in August, the cookery element of supply training moved to Aldershot to share the extensive training facilities at St Omer Barracks with the Army.

The opening of the relocated Navy school was marked by a formal ceremony of colours.

100 years old: still playing!

AND THEY shall have music! He is 100 years old now but Mr Frederick Green once served as

a musician in the Grenadier Guards from 1899 to 1911 and so did his elder brother, Arthur



who played for the Band from 1886 to 1898.

A younger brother, Walter served in the Coldstream Guards band for more than 20 years and Fred's son, Arthur, 72-years-young, played in the Scots Guards Band from 1927 to 1953.

To mark the occasion of his century, the Band of the Grenadier Guards played a selection of music at the Home for the Aged where Fred lives at Bushey, Herts.

During the First World War, Fred enlisted in the Canadian Army Band and on return to the UK continued his profession as a musician until he was 60 with the BBC and Royal Parks Band.

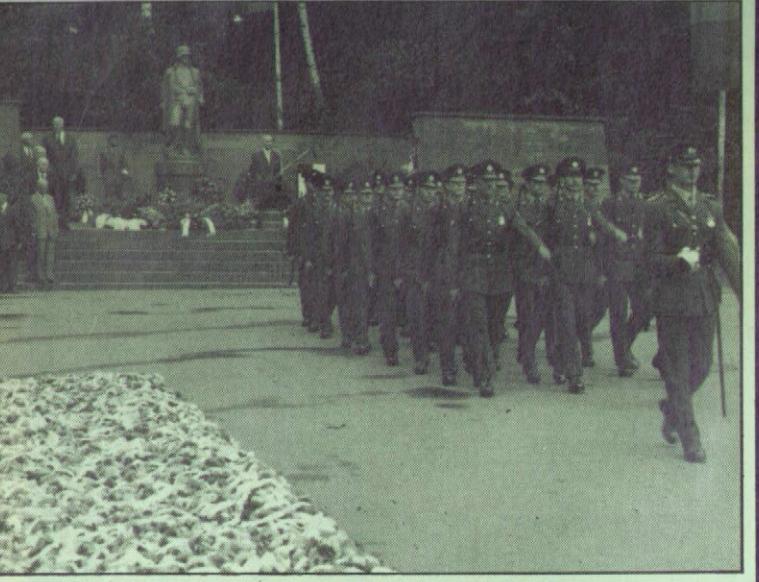
NEWS VIEW

◀ FIVE NATIONS REMEMBER

Sappers from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment and 65 Corps Support Squadron lead a five-nation parade to mark the 30th anniversary of a ceremony of remembrance at the East Prussian war memorial at Göttingen.

More than 3000 European war veterans attended the event organised by the German Soldiers' Association. A German military band and the regimental band of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards from Detmold were also on parade. The British band conducted by WO1 M Cammack, led the Guards of Honour on and off parade.

Over 60 wreaths were laid during the two-hour ceremony. Capt T Brand, RE, led the British contingent off the parade.



HAVOC ON THE HAVEL

Surprisingly, this apparent havoc on Berlin's River Havel raised DM2000 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. It was an event organised by the Berlin Infantry Brigade which attracted 18 entries. Starter for the raft race with the unruly difference was Lt Col Graham Silvey, Rear Commodore of the Berlin British Yacht Club.

First raft home was "Peeler's Wheeler" entered by 247 Provost Company, RMP — complete with flashing blue light and siren. Presenter of the prizes was Brigade Commander, Brigadier Tony Makepeace-Warne.



◀ QUORUM OF CURATORS?

Is it a quorum of curators? Seventeen of them from 32 military museums and collections in Wales, the West Midlands and the North-West converged — if that is what curators do — on Preston for a one-day conference organised under the auspices of the Army Museums' Ogilby Trust.

The Trust, formed 29 years ago and based at Aldershot, has distributed £750,000 in funds and research aid to military museums. But it is shortly to launch an appeal for more funds so that it can continue to support Britain's 140 museums devoted to Army subjects.



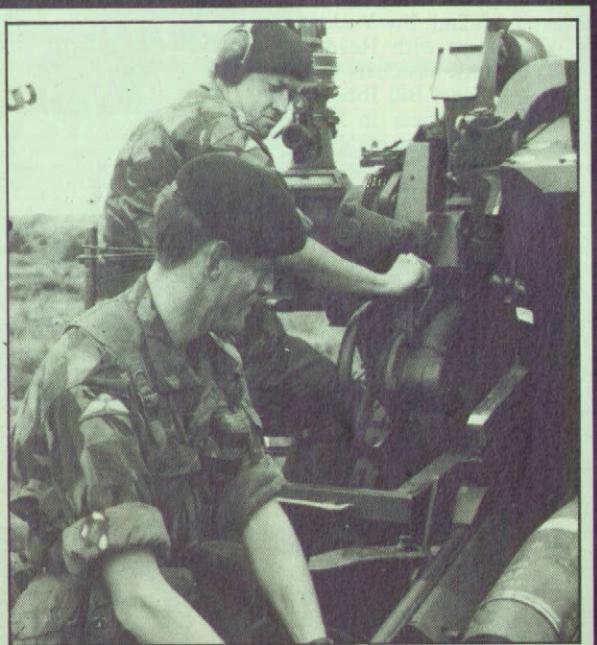
AUSSIE IN GERMANY

"Everywhere in Mönchen-Gladbach" proclaims the sign and that is what Australian Exchange Officer, WO2 Robert Mason — pictured here with wife, Alice — seems to be achieving. WO2 Mason is on a 12-month detachment to the Intelligence Corps and is planning to see much more of Germany in his remaining four months.



◀ GURKHAS RING THE BELL

Three men from the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles who took part in a three-day sponsored walk organised by the Knights Chapter Secretary of the Angus, Perth and District Province Branch of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes get their reward and recognition. One of their number was presented with a solid brass bell by the Lord Provost of Dundee. This brass form of tintinabulation now hangs — and rings — in the Battalion Orderly Room.



◀ SAMPLING ARMY LIFE

Officer Cadet Tracy Graham has just spent two weeks training with the lads of 26 Engineer Regiment at Iserlohn. She has just finished her final year at Cardiff University and was sampling Army life before further training in food science and nutrition. Apart from the sessions on the motor-bike she had joined the sappers in diving, driving plant at major construction earthworks and ranges.



◀ FAREWELL OLD FRIEND . . .

In the layer's seat, Lt-Col Peter Landrey, CO of the 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, based in BAOR, prepares to pull the lanyard just before sending the last round of FH 70 ammunition en route to its target. Next to him is Sgt Phil Stuart, the gunner commander of F (Sphinx) Battery, who helped load "A Sub", the Regiment's senior gun for the last time.

The regiment returns to Aldershot early next year giving up its role on the FH 70 to take on once again its other role as parachute artillery, re-equipping with the 105mm Light Gun.



◀ PILOT'S 5000 HOURS

Major Ian Bell, OC of the UNFICYP Flight Army Air Corps (left) logs up 5000 flying hours and is pictured here being congratulated on that milestone by Force Commander, Major General G Greindl. The happy landing was at Nicosia.

Major Bell, commissioned in the Army in 1948, has been flying since 1955 and was Mentioned in Dispatches for a second time in 1959 and awarded the DFC in that year. He retires in December.



TOPICS



'POP' AND AEROBICS

POP MUSIC and aerobics with only a touch of glamour have invaded the world of the Army's Physical Training Corps or, rather that of the TA.

Mad Lizzies in leg warmers . . . Green Goddesses like Diana Moran . . . or even lissom Jackie Genovas there were not; but enthusiasm aplenty there was for the TA PT leaders' course held at the RCT Headquarters in Grantham. In all, 54 students —

including four women — converged from all over the UK in such strength that the venue had to be switched from Bulford to Grantham to accommodate them.

The aerobics part of the syllabus was called "pop-mobility" and proved to be a winner with the fortnight's course of candidates who were there to learn all aspects of PT instruction.

Tutors for the physical jerks

were Sgt George Prentice and QMSI Norman Basson from the UKLF School of PT based at Bulford.

Methods of training, circuit training, interval training, First Aid, the setting up of BFTs, Army Personnel Fitness Assessments (APFCs), swimming, gymnastics, programme planning, leadership qualities, bas-

ketball and even how to monitor heart beats were all part of the curriculum.

Sgt Prentice told SOLDIER: "They are expected to learn a lot in a very short space of time. This is the third course we have held this year. Anyone who wants to apply should get an application form through their respective units from the UKLF School of PT at Bulford for the TA PT leaders' course." ■

GOLFERS SEEKING PROMOTION RECORD

Such is the increasing success of the annual Army Benevolent Wales sponsored golf tournament that 1984 will see officials hoping for another record fund-raising event — and possibly the playing appearance of personalities from stage, screen and sport.

In 1982 £300 was raised and this year the recent meeting at Radyr Golf Club, Cardiff, had £625 in the bag before a ball was struck.

Running the event on behalf of the ABF were the men of 157 (Wales and Midlands) Transport Regiment Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers) and the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Taylor appreciated

the help of the Radyr club, his men and the 50 golfers who turned up.

Prize money totalled £270, much of it being claimed by Chepstow as a team and Major Mike Morris and Mr Paul Lane as individuals.

The Radyr course was in good condition and the wet and windy weather failed to stop the competitors enjoying the day. The event was run on four-ball, better-ball Stableford lines with prizes for the best team, individuals, longest drive, nearest hole and hole-in-one — which, sadly, was not claimed otherwise another £800 would be going into the ABF kitty!

Right: Presentation of the shield to winning pair of golfers. Left to right: Radyr Golf Club manager Major Dick Richards, Mr Paul Lane and Major Mike Morris from Chepstow, the winners, Colonel Meurig Williams Chairman of both the ABF and TAVR, Colonel Roy Chapman, Chairman of the sub-committee, Major Harvey Taylor 157 Transport Regiment RCT (V), Mr Clive Beecher — whose idea began the sponsored golf tournament.

NEW CO

Command of 2nd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers with Headquarters in York has changed hands. Lt Colonel Bill Ibbetson, a regular officer in the Green Howards has handed over as CO to his former Second-in-Command, now Lt Colonel Adrian Frais, a volunteer officer and a schoolteacher at a primary school at Normanby.

Lt Colonel Frais has been in the TA for twenty years. 2 Yorks which has a BAOR role has outstations at Beverley, Northallerton, Selby, Hull, Castleford, Batley, Scarborough, Bridlington and Whitby.

Lt Colonel Ibbetson moves



Lt Colonel Bill Ibbetson (left).
to be Chief of Staff at HQ King's Division, Imphal Barracks, York.



Writer John Margetts and Picture Editor Les Wiggs visit the Army's biggest brigade in action on Salisbury Plain . . .

NOW FOR THE BIG ONE NEXT YEAR!

Private Tom Lavell swung his pickaxe at the chalk sub soil of Salisbury Plain and said: "We've been digging this hole since this morning.

At the rate we're going we'll have it finished by six tonight, if we're lucky."

Tom and his pal, Pte Simon Cotgreave — both of the 7th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment TA and both with 12 months service — had arrived on the Plain that morning to "dig in" to protect the battalion command post.

They were taking part in Exercise Polar Bear and practising, along with 3,000 other troops of 49 Infantry Brigade, their basic infantry skills.

Voicing a few "basic" thoughts on trench digging Simon, a former student who is still looking for a job said: "Sometimes at 4 am you think it's a silly idea. But after a couple of hours you get used to it and it helps keep you fit. The money comes in handy, too," he said.

Nearby, men of 1 Mercian Regiment practised helicopter drills with RAF Pumas from

Gutersloh in BAOR.

Corporal Gerry Quigley, a bricklayer with a community task force in his home town of Burton-on-Trent, checked his Clansman radio for the move and pronounced it OK.

A former regular in the Royal Artillery, he has served three years in 1 Mercian and thinks it a way of life.

"It's great," he said. "After eight years in the RA you just can't forget Army life."

The biggest brigade in the Army, 49 Brigade boasts 6,000



men and consists of an HQ and Regular Army signal troop based at Chilwell, Notts, the Royal Yeomanry, 100 Fd Regiment RA, 73 Engineer Regiment, 5 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 5 and 7 Royal Anglian Regiments, 1 Mercian and 250 Fd Ambulance Regiment — all Territorials — with a geographical span from Brighton to Belfast and from Ross-on-Wye to Ipswich.

Presiding over it all is Brigadier James Howard, who with his deputy Colonel J. C. Hunt, a lawyer by profession and former CO of the London-based Royal Yeomanry, was keeping a sharp eye on daily activities throughout the two-week annual exercise.

Speaking plainly at a question and answer session, Brigadier Howard said that following Exercise Keystone in BAOR last year, it was obvious that individual infantry skills were lacking.

That is why this year Polar Bear, with about half the brigade present, had been turned over to commanding officers to give them the chance to bring everyone up to a proper level.

"The rest of the year will be to practise the lessons learned ready for Exercise Lionheart in Germany next year," he said.

But was he confident that the "lessons learned" would be retained by those taking part?

Unpredictably he answered: "No. I cannot be confident of that simply because of the high turnover in the TA."

While extolling the high calibre of trained men and recruits in his brigade — "they are tremendous," he said — it was anticipated that up to about 30 per cent would be moving.

Not necessarily out of the TA, he emphasised, but from one unit to another for a number of reasons. Not least among them a change of job.

Describing his ideal Terrier the Brigadier said the "successful TA man combines his job, family and TA. It's sometimes not an easy thing to do."

Final word from WO1 Graham Taylor, who recently took over as RSM in a move from 3 Royal Anglian: "I have only been with them a short time, but I'm amazed at the dedication and skills of the TA.

"The standard is very high indeed. Should we ever be involved in a bit of bother, they would, in a very short time, be matching anything the Regulars could do." He meant it, too. ■

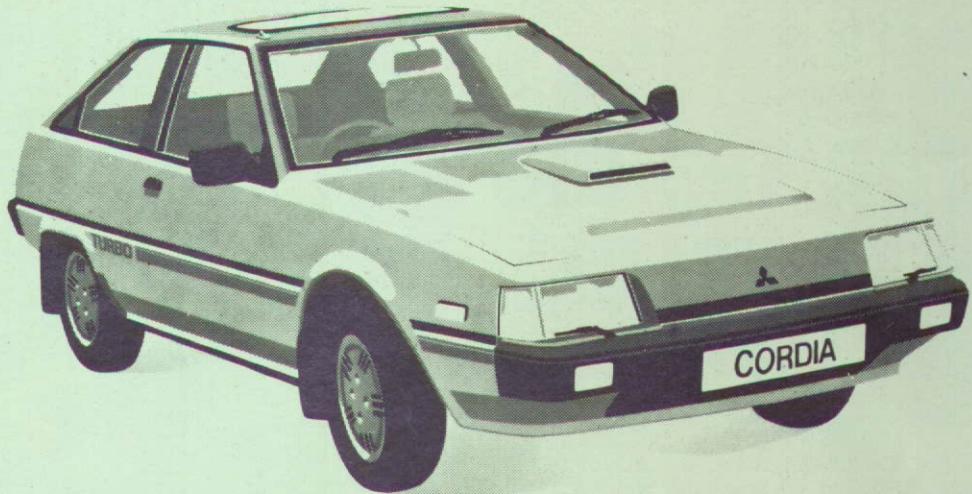


TOUGH FORTNIGHT

More than 120 East Anglian soldiers took part in two weeks of tough training on Salisbury Plain — the climax of a year's work with the Territorial Army.

The men are from 202 (Suffolk and Norfolk) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, based at Bury St Edmunds, Swaffham, Norwich and Ipswich, and part of 100 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. During the camp the men had several days 'live-firing' their 105mm light guns at ranges up to 12 miles.





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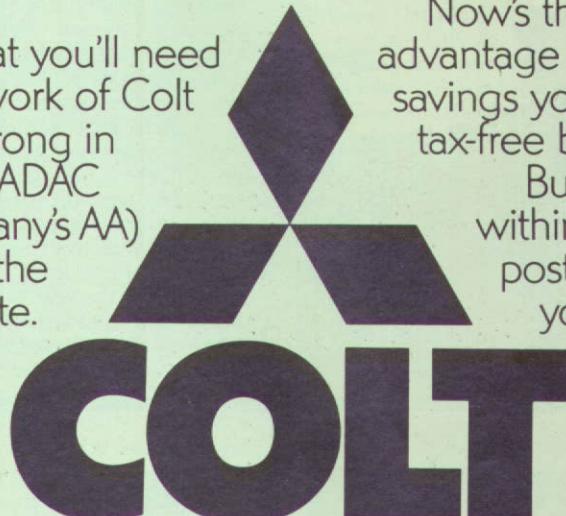
So it's unlikely that you'll need the support of a network of Colt dealers nearly 800 strong in Germany. In fact, the ADAC Strassenwacht (Germany's AA) proved that Colt has the lowest breakdown rate.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE ACTION on Mount Longdon during the night of 11/12 June 1982, which earned Sergeant Ian McKay a posthumous Victoria Cross, is depicted in a painting by Peter Archer, recently unveiled at the Officers' Mess, 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot. (Top right photograph.)

In the citation, Sergeant McKay's action was said to have without doubt 'retrieved a most dangerous situation and was instrumental in ensuring the success of the attack. His was a coolly calculated act, the dangers of which must have been only too apparent to him beforehand. Undeterred he performed with outstanding selflessness, perseverance and courage. With a complete disregard for his safety, he displayed courage and leadership of the highest order, and was an inspiration to all those around him.'

30th SIGNAL Regiment commissioned Mr. Peter Archer to paint a picture (bottom right)

depicting Royal Signals activities in the San Carlos Water area during the initial landings. The painting is a panoramic view of San Carlos Water from Ajax Bay. The ships are, L to R, MV *Norland*, SS *Canberra*, a guard ship, HMS *Fearless* an LSL and some LCUs.

A limited edition of 500 colour prints is being produced, 100 of which will be signed copies. The costs are as follows: Unsigned — £7; Signed — £8.

The prints can either be collected from the PRI 30th Signal Regiment or forwarded at a cost of £1 extra for postage and packing.

All enquiries should be directed to: PRI 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset. Tel: Blandford Military Ext 401

Thinking back to bigger wars, with the close-down of Chatham naval base, two books of remembrance containing the names of 18,000 sailors killed in two world wars, have been handed for safe keeping to the Royal Engineers at Gillingham, Kent.



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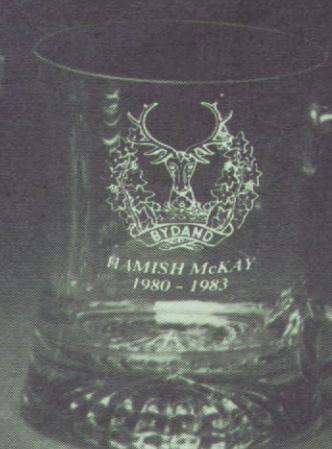
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looking at
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development,
tests and trials
of equipment
and vehicles.

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— but could you also FIGHT?

SCRDE COLCHESTER

KEPPING dry and staying that way is an age-old problem for soldiers everywhere.

But have no fear. Dr Richard Scott and his colleagues at the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment (SCRDE) at Colchester are working on it.

They could come up with an instant answer that would guarantee complete dryness in the heaviest downpour, the same as they could guarantee complete safety from bullets and shrapnel.

But it would mean wrapping soldiers in one-piece rubber suits or encasing them in hardened steel boxes.

Unrealistic? Of course. But that's where their problems start. How to design and make clothing that will protect the soldier, but still allow him to fulfil his role.

For protection is the name of the game for the 34 scientists and 100-plus technicians and craftsmen who design and test everything you, the soldier, wears.

Currently they are working on a steel overboot for mine detector teams and light-weight ammunition pouches for the new Nato SA80 rifle. But there are hundreds of items constantly being updated and tested. Take the new all-weather sock introduced to the Press and public.

All the work of the SCRDE. As were the new-style warm weather dresses recently issued to the women's services.

"Six directors of the women's services approved that style," said Jimmy Allan, overseer of the prototype garment shop. "We consider that a major achievement," he said modestly, acknowledging that most men would have it considered an achievement of mega proportions rather than just major.

Other new designs include an improved ski-march boot. Currently costing £40 a pair they are considered a bit pricey and the job of redesigning and reducing the price, but without reducing efficiency and comfort, has fallen

to Dr John Hudson and Peter Hardy of the footwear section.

Said Peter, who kept a watching brief on the recent Cambrian March — a 3½-day affair over 60-odd miles: "The state of the marchers' feet and how their boots stood up to it was my interest. I found in the main a big improvement over last year when 10 per cent of the participants either retired or finished with foot injuries. It was much less this year."

NBC suits, too, are constantly being looked at. Latest line in that particular style is the Mk 4 suit. While wearers will always look slightly monstrous, this one at least has an open-front jacket and is camouflaged. It's on its final trials now.

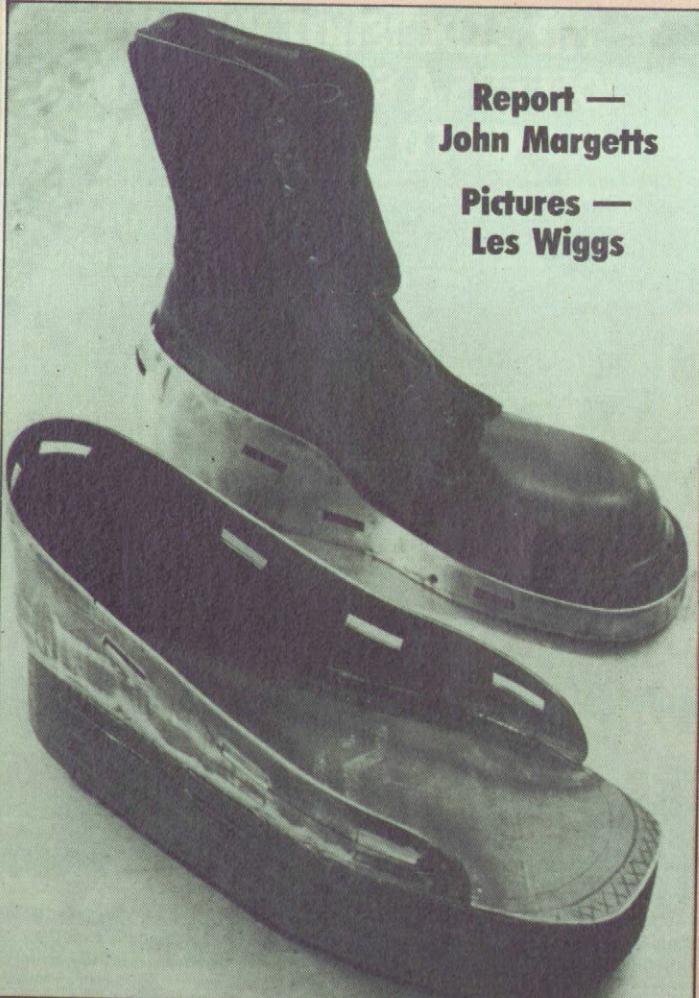
The standard sleeping bag is also being 'looked at'. Currently costing MoD around £60 a time — they would cost 50 per cent, more if bought retail — the Establishment's scientists are experimenting with Polyester as a filling instead of down. Down is best, but weight for weight the man-made fibre is a lot cheaper and doesn't "float away" like down when a bag gets torn.

And so it goes on . . . the standard combat suit is currently being improved to enhance its fireproof qualities. "We are looking at it to see if we can add something to it," said Nigel Gaspar. "It's already showerproof, now we're hoping to make it fireproof."

He showed examples of ten-second fire tests, when a direct flame was held against the material.

◀ Foot protection. Mock-up of steel overboot for mine detecting.

Report —
John Margetts
Pictures —
Les Wiggs



NEW NO. 6 DRESS

Specially for you . . .
the new No. 6 dress.



The improved NBC suit with the open-front jacket with Velco fastening.



Some of the helmets developed at SCRDE. Wearing one of these you could withstand a two-ton wallop.

Committee this month.

A new calf-length boot, to be issued to everybody within the next few months, is part of that speeded-up programme.

Walking-out uniforms, too, are getting a new look. Designer Bob Booker has come up with some novel ideas for 'No. 1s'.

He has made the collar detachable, which makes for a better and more comfortable fit; the pockets have a new slim-line and even the shoulder straps are removable, so are the buttons.

"But no matter what anybody develops in the way of materials and textiles, we test and trial them.

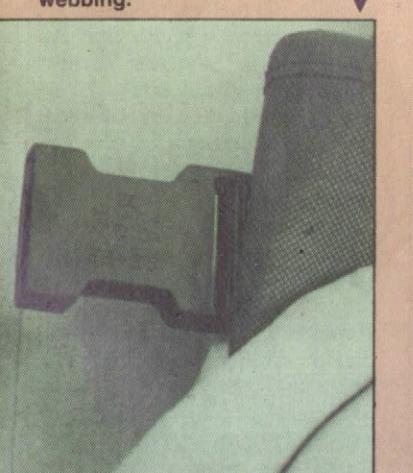
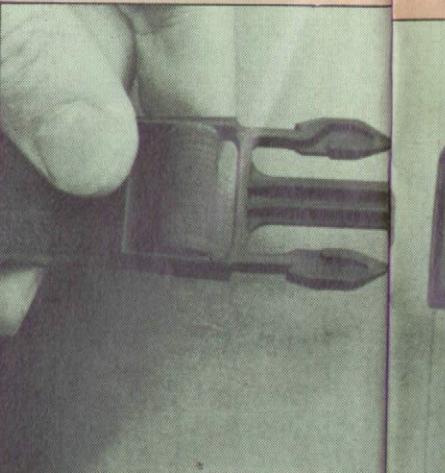
"We are constantly searching for improvements and encourage firms to submit their ideas for tests and possible approval."

Referring to the outburst in the Press following the Falklands war about the state of soldiers' feet and their boots, Dr Moynihan said the row was "without foundation."

"We learned nothing new from the Falklands. But it did confirm our knowledge as to the inadequacies of some of the equipment.

Because of this we have accelerated our programme on these items."

Getting to grips with a problem. A new-style plastic clip for webbing.



"Most people would survive that wearing this helmet," said Dr Shephard. "It's been five years in the developing and doubles as a crash helmet and a riot helmet.

"Basically, its compatible with other equipment, has extra safety features, is fairly light — 2½lb — and comfortable."

It comes into service soon.

Added Dr Moynihan: "We had a director here from Marks and Spencer on an exchange tour. He told me: 'Thank goodness we don't have to do what you do here on your budget. You're a bunch of miracle workers.'"

Few have said a truer word. ■

CROWDED INTO a drab two-storey building within the sprawling School of Infantry complex at Warminster, the busy Infantry Trials Development Unit (ITDU) has one eternal quest; continuous improvement and testing of equipment to find the best in weaponry, vehicles and ancillary personal kit for eventual service in the Army and the battlefield.

This year hints of ever-approaching exciting developments behind the doggedly-determined efforts of the functional unit from where battalions are called upon, wherever possible, to provide trial subjects.

Two of the unit's number, for instance, have just spent three weeks with the French Foreign

Legion on the Horn of Africa testing an anti-tank weapon thermal-imaging sight — MIRA (Milan Infra-Red Adaptor) for use either by night or in poor visibility.

Later this year, Guardsmen will be heading to Australia for hot weather trials on the latest of rifle evolution dubbed SA 80, a 30-round weapon which is smaller and lighter than the SLR and due to enter service in July 1985.

Added to this is the on-going LAW 80 (Light Anti-Tank Weapon) project, an eight-kilo disposable battlefield weapon which doubles up as an indoor trainer and comes complete with

five sighting rounds.

Yet the work of the ITDU does not end there. Other development phases include trials on the MCV-80 — this decade's replacement for the AFV 432 tracked armoured personnel carrier; the ten-man-capacity AT 105 Saxon wheeled APC; the three rounds-a-minute 51mm mortar; a new helmet, a man-pack carrier for support weapons, and a new webbing, acronymed PLCE (Personal Load-Carrying Equipment). And these are just a few of the prospects as part of the total £15,743 million defence budget for 1983/84.

SOLDIER was given a whistle-stop preview of some of this kit under trial as Major Harry Doodson, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, and of the Support Weapons cell enthusing over the MIRA system said: "I've just spent three weeks in Djibouti with the French Foreign Legion as part of a four-man British team evaluating and hot-weather trialling the system in noonday temperatures of 67 degrees Centigrade. It is a cooled system which works off extremely cold compression air from .33-litre bottles with three hours' endurance. Like a soldier relies on food, MIRA relies on its cold air and battery power."

LAW 80 — it is intended to replace the Carl Gustav and 66mm weapon systems — will

► Colour Sgt John Erskine in position with LAW 80.

have an indoor trainer value where an infra-red beam is fired at a screen onto which are projected scenarios such as the North German Plain or a tank moving at speed. The outdoor version fires spotting rounds and a "noise cartridge" to simulate the sound effect of the main armament.

"It's rather like your Bic razor or Biro. You chuck the whole thing away when you've finished with it on the battlefield," said Major Doodson. "You keep nothing. You spot your target. Switch it to the main armament and fire the 94mm round which has a range of up to 500 metres. Each round weighs 9.6 kilos.

"LAW 80 will defeat the latest and projected armour of the 80s. It is something our hand-held systems up to now have not done. It's an excellent piece of equipment. It's portable. It's effective. I think it will be a good combination with the SA 80."

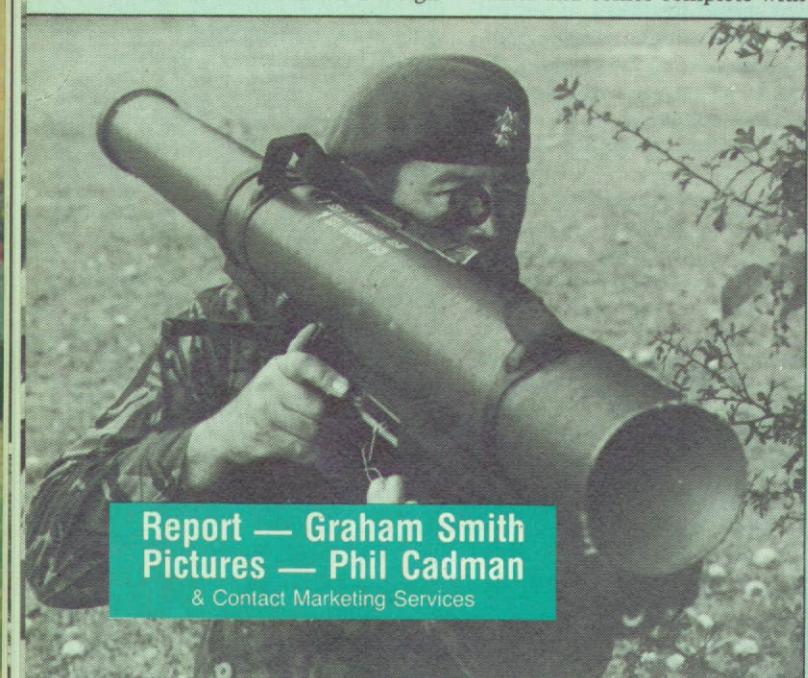
'It's an excellent system. It's more robust, more reliable and very accurate.'

Another development is that the 81mm mortar will lose its plotter and, instead, have its sums of elevation and bearing done for it by a versatile, hand-held calculator called the MFDC (Mortar Fire Data Computer). Said to have been "very highly thought of" during troop trials it has speeded up reaction time and is easy to use.

The SA 80 will come in two versions, the 4.9-kilo IW (Individual Weapon) and the LSW (Light Support Weapon); the former with an operational range of up to 300 metres, the latter up to 600 metres. The IW will replace the SLR and the Sterling SMG while the 5.6-kilo LSW will supersede the GPMG in the light role. Both have 80 per cent commonality of parts.

Major Graham Phillips, The Royal Regiment of Wales, and OC of the SA trials said: "It's an excellent system. It's more robust, more reliable and very accurate. Present indications are that the average soldier will improve his shooting ability by about 20 per cent. The weapon with its 30-round magazine and

► Sights firmly fixed on the future with SA 80.



Report — Graham Smith
Pictures — Phil Cadman
& Contact Marketing Services



The Army of the future . . . 4

the new 5.56mm round has superior penetration to that of the existing 7.62mm round and is less affected by wind than the old M.193, Aminian 5.56mm round. Hot weather trials will be held in Australia later this year involving Grenadier and Scots Guards."

In a garage near to the ITDU there lurked the MCV-80, the latest in tracked armoured personnel carriers.

Yet, as Major Iain Dalzel-Job, Scots Guards, pointed out to SOLDIER: "All the kit we have here is at the trials stage and may be modified later before entry into service. Not all of it has necessarily had official acceptance — yet. In the case of the AT 105 Saxon — the wheeled APC — 50 have been bought for troop trials next year, first by a battalion in this country and then in BAOR during Exercise Lionheart in the autumn.

"MCV-80 is not purely a replacement for the AFV 432 but it is a different generation of vehicle entirely. It has vastly improved mobility, has much greater protection and it has a turret. It is also very much faster and more powerful than the 432.

"It is more heavily armoured and there is a long way to go before its acceptance but it's a remarkably good vehicle. It will, altogether, undergo some 18 months' user trials here at ITDU — we are the testers for the Director of Infantry — followed by about four months of troop trials with a BAOR battalion. Any problems there are at the moment are being solved."

Major Dalzel-Job said that the AT-105 Saxon, though basic, had done all that was asked of it. "It's the first armoured vehicle of any sort that I've seen that has as much room as the soldier needs. There are a few modifications which are being made to the first battalion's worth of troop trial vehicles" he added.

But the production of any system, as the men of the ITDU will readily admit, can take a very long time — often as long as ten years.

The ITDU — divided into an HQ and four trials sections — is responsible for small arms, support weapons, surveillance and mobility and conduct trials which fall into several categories. These involve the idea, the feasibility study, the General Staff Requirement, prototypes and their trials followed by tenders and production contracts and, finally, urgent operational requirements linked with priority trials.

As Lieutenant-Colonel Mick Toomey, The Royal Irish Rangers, and Commandant of the unit reminded: "It does not follow that everything we test here will necessarily see the light of day with the British Army. It may never be brought into service because we cannot afford it or people don't see any good reason for it.

Below clockwise: At 105 Saxon proving trials; Lateral stowage bins have since been added; the support weapons back-pack carrier; MCV-80 pictured during proving trials; MIRA on the Milan firing post.



New helmets, webbing and SA 80s modelled by Guardsmen Peter Starmer (left) and Maurice Barrett.

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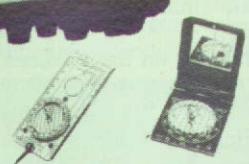


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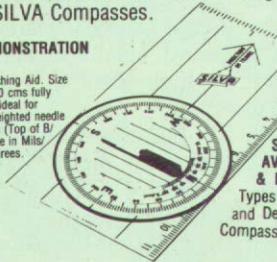
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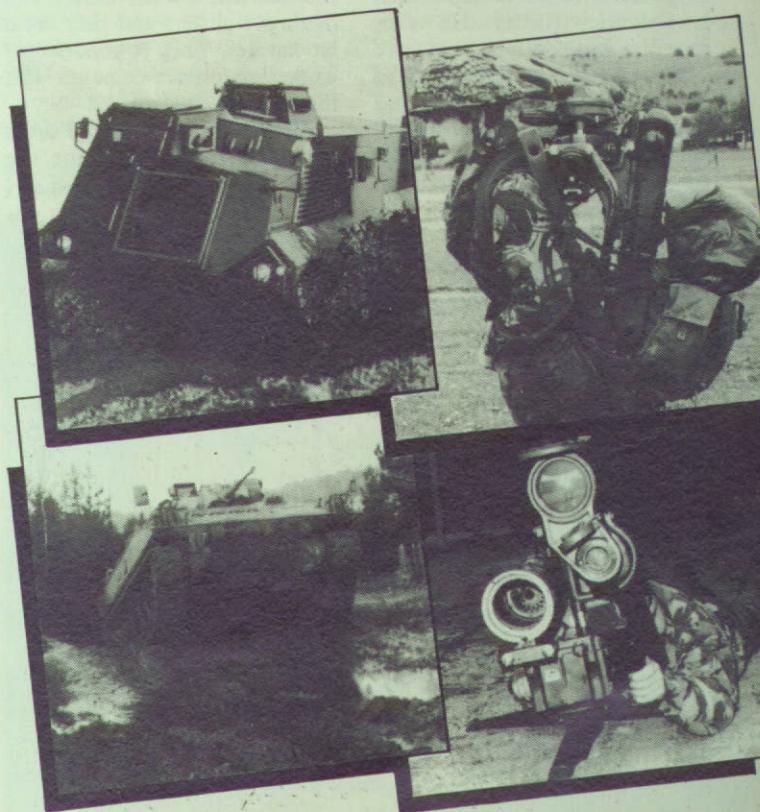
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Writer GRAHAM SMITH and photographer PAUL HALEY watch the men of the 1st Bn, The Queen's Own Highlanders put their best feet forward cocooned in the Army's latest Khaki accoutrements as

The Army of the future... 5

Jocks get sized up for "Barren Rocks"

HERE'S DEFINITELY something new afoot among the men of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders based at Tidworth. It's the Army's latest in socks made of wool and nylon and tailored to fit the new high combat boot. The QM's stores will reference it simply as the "sock, general service".

For the past few weeks a platoon strength of about 30 "Jocks" — the regiment was the first to be issued with the combat high boot on the eve of their five-month stint in the Falklands — have been barrack and Salisbury Plain testing the latest in footwear attire by day and by night.

As Battalion Quartermaster, Major Charlie Millar conceded with dour assessment: "At least, it's a step in the right direction."

Minutes earlier, at a special sock-it-to-'em ceremony outside his stores at Tidworth, the first pair of socks were delivered on a silver salver to the Battalion CO, Lt-Col Nick Ridley. He takes shoe size nine.

Thereafter, the platoon of young Scots duly received and signed for two pairs of socks each over the table manned by Sgt John McIver. Eventually, each man will be kitted out with four

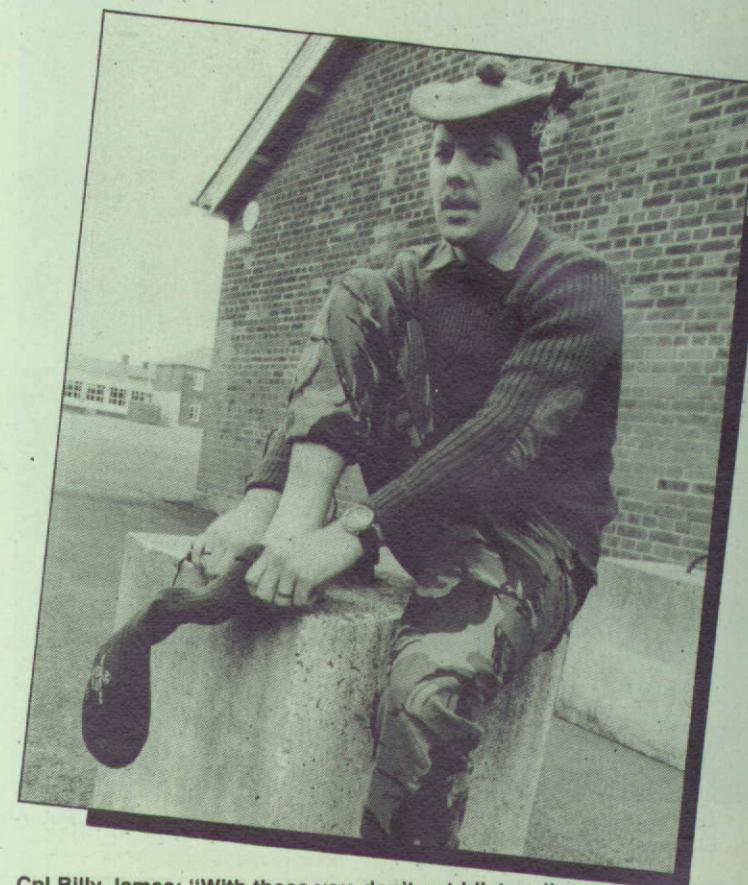
pairs and throughout the Army more than half a million pairs of the "super sock" — they cost £1.40 a pair — will be issued on a "waste out" basis. Conversion to the four-inch-longer sock could be completed within a year, said experts guardedly.

The sock issue did not go without musical accompaniment as Piper Finlay MacGhie, an 18-year-old from the mainland near the Isle of Skye played his heart out with a rendition of "The Barren Rocks of Aden."

The term "barren rocks" is, apparently, rhyming Glaswegian slang for "socks".

One of those who slipped into the new socks for the photo-call and a satisfied road tester of its virtues over recent weeks was 25-year-old Corporal Billy James, a veteran of service in BAOR, Northern Ireland, Belize, Hong Kong and the Falklands said: "I've been in the Army for eight years now and the new sock is definitely better than the old one. With these, you don't get blisters and they are a lot warmer. They're good value. They should have come up with these a long time ago."

As the "Jocks" shed old socks and donned the new for the media, Major Millar beamed and told SOLDIER: "It's a vast im-



Cpl Billy James: "With these you don't get blisters."

provement on what we have and a far better garment altogether. It's not only more comfortable but it's more durable. I think now we are keeping up with advances in textile technology. As a humble infantryman I think it's going to be a very good new garment for use in Arctic or tropical conditions. I expect my lads will go through two pairs of socks a year. Those who don't wash them will go through more."

Waiting on the sidelines were 40 or so more Jocks from the Battalion's "B" Company just itching to put their feet into that new technology of foot comfort for the battlefield.

Launching the sock officially at a far from pedestrian occasion Lt-Col Derek Skinner of the Army's Clothing and Textile Directorate at Andover, said: "The Falklands Campaign led to a lot of re-thinking, not just in terms of weaponry, but also in the sphere of clothing. We have been pretty fortunate with our socks in the British Army. When I first joined we still had the old grey and, later, khaki woollen sock which had seen us through the Second World War. But that

Lt-Col Nick Ridley with socks watched by Major Charlie Millar and Piper Finlay MacGhie.

tended to shrink and produce the large potato at the heels.

He added: "It was replaced by the current sock polyester which has proved so hard that one's feet wear out before the sock. It's been with us for some 20 years and it was felt that the time was ripe to take note of modern improvements in the hosiery industry. The new sock is made of 65 per cent wool and 35 per cent nylon.

"It is longer with an elasticated top and therefore can resist the temptation to ride down until it concertinas around one's instep. And we all know how uncomfortable that can be. It has a double layer of link knit in the sole which gives a snugger fit, more wear and greater sweat absorption. I think it's farewell to those footy smells in barrack rooms which were a feature of the past."

For those with a feeling of economy mending yarns will be available in NAAFI shops — just in case.

Now the Battalion — it won the Wilkinson Sword of Peace this summer for its postwar role in the Falklands — is training for Northern Ireland. Naturally, the new super socks will be going with them onto the streets of Ulster.



CASTLES AND DRAGONS

LAST week some 70,000 West Berliners thrilled to the exciting music, costumes and scenery of the bi-annual showcase for the British Forces helping to defend a Western outpost in the heart of the Eastern bloc — the Berlin Tattoo.

Yet few of those attending the glittering performances in the Deutschlandhalle will have stopped to think of the work which goes on behind the scenes to prepare for an event which was launched in the austerity of the late 1940s and has captivated audiences ever since.

The main object of the Tattoo is not to make money but to present the British Army to Berliners. At the same time it does raise cash for both Service and Berlin charities.

The annual income of around a million marks (£250,000) from ticket sales, local TV rights and souvenir sales has first to cover all the production costs, including the flying out of bands from the United Kingdom and the hiring of the hall at the full price.

The 1983 Tattoo which has just ended will be the last for three years as the cycle is being changed to even years — although there is the possibility of a Musical Pageant on a much smaller scale in 1984.

One man who is a regular fixture behind the scenes is Sapper Sergeant Julian Van Looy — back in Berlin this year for his

S/Sgt David Johnson at dragon controls.

fifth Tattoo. He was posted to 38 Field Squadron RE in 1975 in time to paint scenery for that year's event and so liked it that he got an extension for the 1977 Tattoo.

Sergeant Van Looy has returned to Berlin for a short spell before each of the succeeding Tattoos and has taken charge of the small team of painters from the squadron finishing off the scenery made by the PSA.

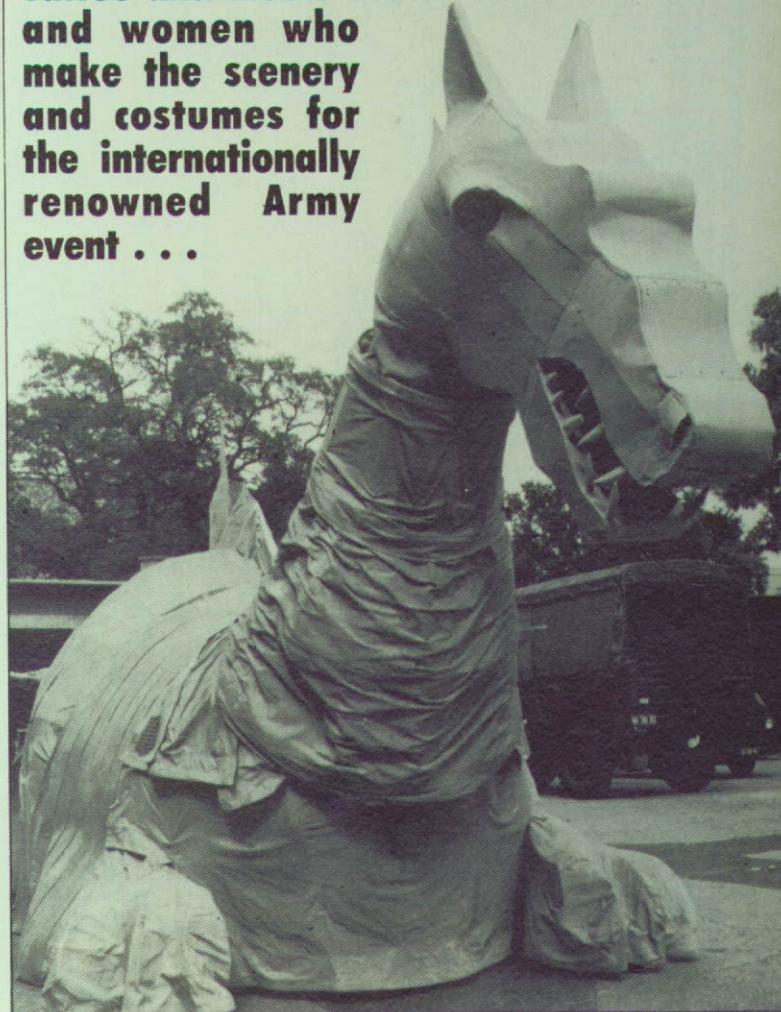
"They've nicknamed me Michael Angelo," he grinned. "I always say I will never come back and do another one but I always do. We started off in 1975 with what was really basic stuff and we have improved as we have gone along."

Sergeant Van Looy, who was awarded the BEM last year for his work for the Tattoo, added: "When the massed bands come on for the first time I am usually sitting up at the top thinking that we have not done a bad job."

Ordnance Services also play a big part in the preparation and they keep a tattoo store of costumes and items produced for previous Tattoos which are sometimes used again and are available for Tattoos and Army displays all over the world.

This year's backdrop of Windsor Castle with a theme of chivalry through the ages meant a lot of work for the seamstresses in making 20 different robes of the various Orders of the Garter for use in the scene depicting the Coronation of King George IV. Flags, some of which can take up to 200 hours to produce, shields,

SOLDIER goes backstage at the Berlin Tattoo and meets the men and women who make the scenery and costumes for the internationally renowned Army event . . .



Enter the dragon with all moving parts.

swords and explosions are all contributed by the RAOC.

Two special swords were required for this year's presentation and these were produced by 14 Field Workshop of REME.

The largest, some six metres long and made of aluminium sheeting, took a week to make and hung above the stage throughout the performance.

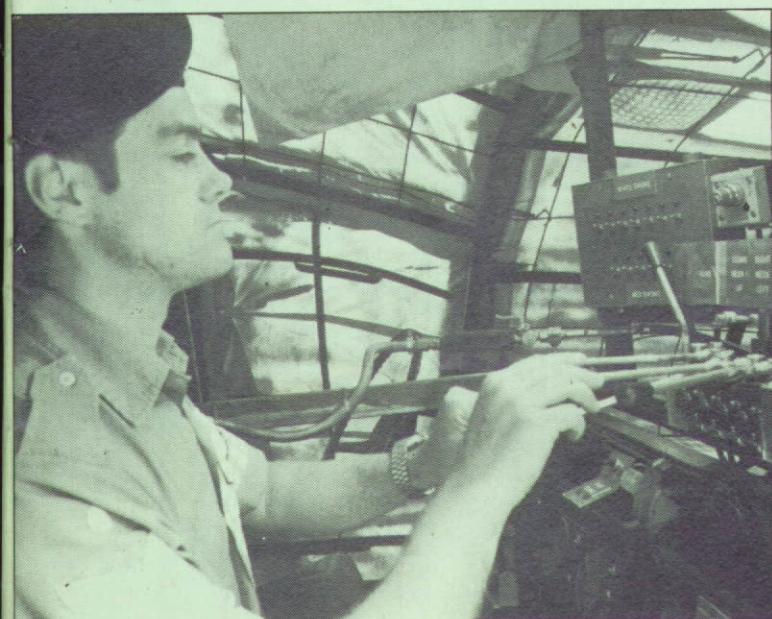
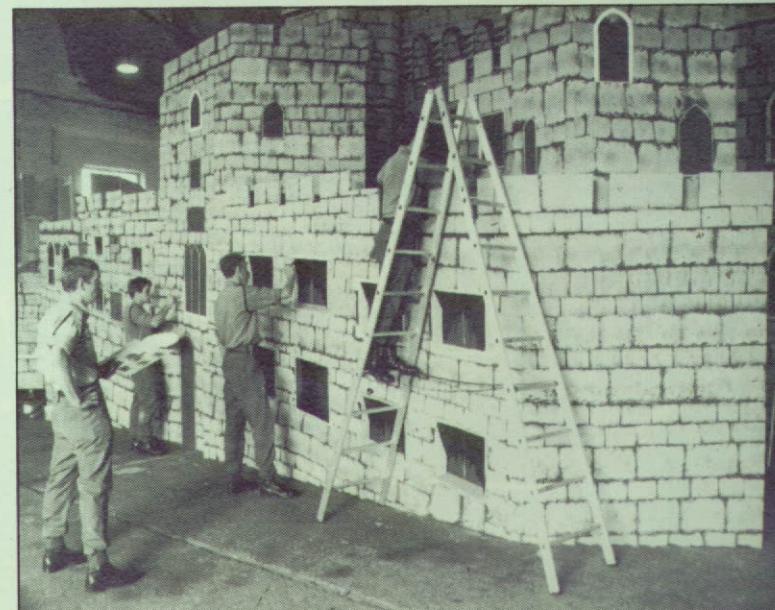
The second was for the King

Sgt Van Looy supervises Castle painting.

Arthur scene (they also painted the Round Table) and comprised Excalibur complete with a release mechanism for Arthur to remove it from the stone.

But it is the Dragon bested by Saint George which took pride of place from the REME this year. The massive beast, mounted on a Land-Rover had all moving parts with its head and neck hydraulics.

continued page 20





Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs

The robes and shields of the Orders of the Garter.



Mrs Jill Cowan ropes in S/Sgt John Gregory for a cloak fitting.

Staff Johnson tries his hand at pulling the sword from the stone.

cally controlled.

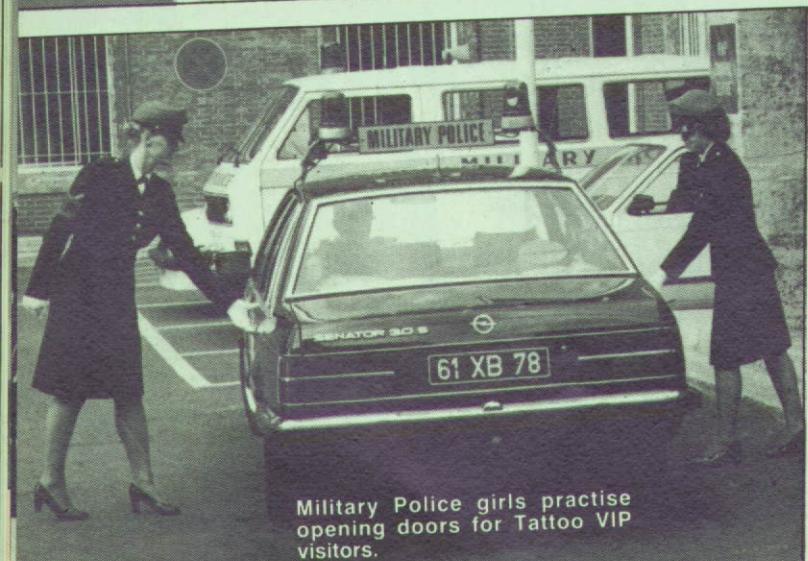
"It also breathed fire and smoke and had flashing eyes." Said project manager, Staff-Sergeant David Johnson: "We had one or two problems, particularly with the fire and smoke but then we've never been asked to build a dragon before!"

The Berlin Tattoo has such a

reputation for excellence that the best seats are always sold out within days of their release. The high standards of music and presentation are what initially catch the eye but the months of work behind the scenes by soldiers who still have their regular jobs to do as well are what provide the final icing on the cake. ■



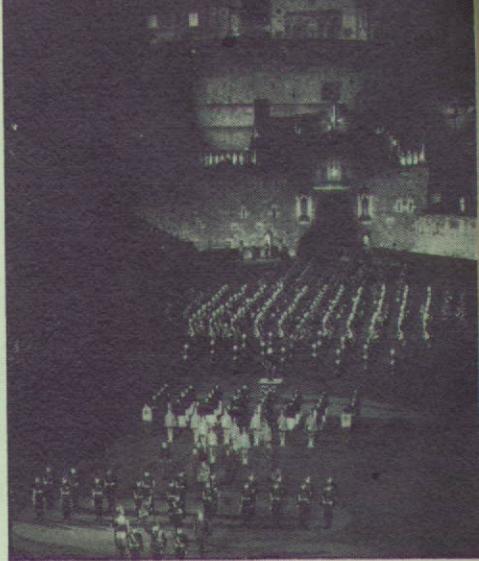
One of the large standards which can take 200 hours to make.



Military Police girls practise opening doors for Tattoo VIP visitors.



German workers at 14 Field Workshop with Round Table they built and painted.



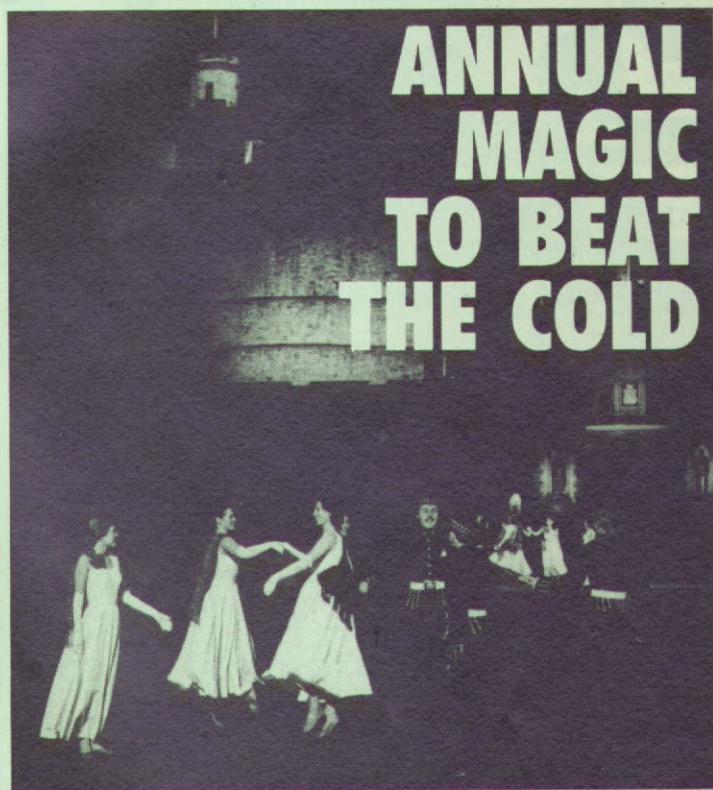
SITTING huddled together in their peaked caps and raincoats, cameras slung round their necks, the group of Americans wondered whether indeed it was all going to be worth it, "just to see a few bandsman marching up and down."

The temperature in Edinburgh was 20 degrees lower than in London and the wind whipped round the Castle battlements like a cat o' nine tails. But still the punters trudged their way up the cobbled castle approach, cushions and hip-flasks handy, to witness the nightly Tattoo — the Army's contribution to the Edinburgh Festival.

This annual military spectacle draws the crowds unfailingly but this year there were some special participants' birthdays to mark which added the extra dimension. 1983 is the 100th anniversary of the Boys' Brigade, the 75th anniversary of the Territorial Army and, last but not least, the 350th anniversary of The Royal Scots — the Tattoo organisers.

Massed Pipes and Drums opened proceedings with reels, airs and jigs various followed by arena displays by the Royal Engineers and the Lochiel Marching Team — the champion girl marchers from New Zealand.

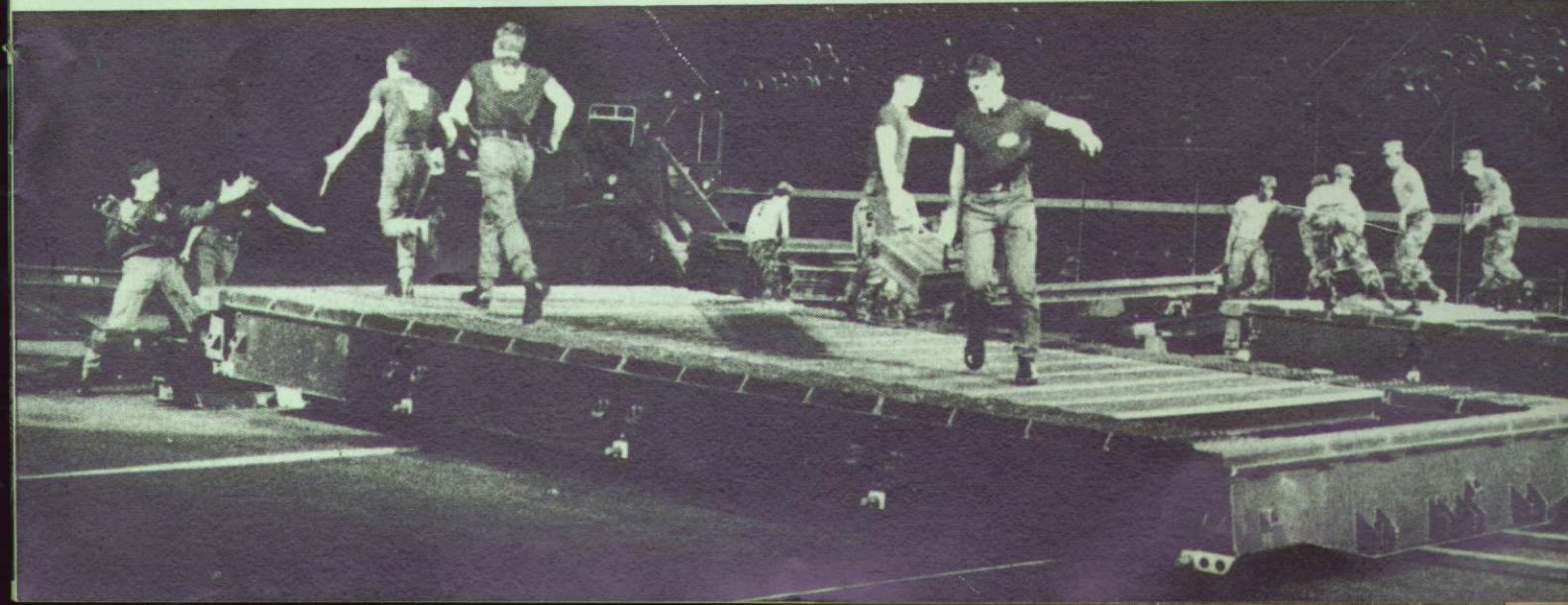
**Continuing the Tattoo theme,
writer Sally Daniell and
photographer Doug Pratt visit
Edinburgh and see an**



The Royal Scots had their own exclusive slot in the programme which included for the first time some of the Regiment's soldiers dancing with the ladies of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

On the Royal Regiment, one over-awed American father was heard to say to his rapt progeny: "Gee, son, you know these guys were around even before the Pilgrim Fathers!" Not strictly true, but close!

The Americans left, numbed to the bone and teeth chattering with cold, but yet uplifted and satisfied with their £4.50's worth of rousing entertainment.





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FIRST FOR EXPORT**

Blustery Cambrian March

The biggest upset of the Cambrian March Patrol Competition was that it was won, not by an infantry unit, but by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, more used to stores and desks.

The gruelling competition through mid-Wales, which withstood the worst that the Welsh weather could throw, was split into a four day event for the Regular army and a two day, weekend event for the TA.

Conditions were atrocious. Several teams dropped out as a result of exhaustion and injury, but even so, overall standards were higher than last year when the problem was the exact reverse — intense heat.

The team from 6 Ordnance Battalion, RAOC, which paid its own way over from Bielefeld in West Germany, took the first place in the four day competition — especially creditable as each member of the team is a storeman or clerk, closely followed by the first infantry team, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. Special mention should go to the first, and only Welsh team in the four day event, Junior Depot, The Prince of Wales Division, Crickhowell, who, apart from their officer and NCO are all 17-year-old lads waiting posting to their battalions.

"We knew we were in the running for anything from first to third from day one," said team leader, Lieutenant Ian Harper. "We had been training for eight weeks, but then we were training junior soldiers, so it was the very rawest of material, so the lads did extremely well. It was hard and tough but we managed and it was a good result."

As for the two day event, winners were Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

Again it was the same story of battles against the weather. Driving rain and poor visibility reduced everything to a struggle against the weather. Up on the top of Drygarn Fawr, one of the most inaccessible mountains in mid-Wales, everything was against the nine-man teams.

"The competition is designed to stretch the teams within a framework of basic military skills which they should have good knowledge of," said Major Peter Kerruish, who organised the competition. "As far as we are concerned, it was an outstanding success purely because the conditions were so atrocious and so many finished the course in such good heart and with minimum casualties. This very clearly shows the fitness of the people taking part."

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A LOCAL NEWSPAPER report that more than 400 families may be moved out of blocks of flats in Aldershot because of poor living conditions made disturbing reading. All the more so because the flats in question were Army quarters in Willems Park.

The flats were built in the 1960s by the system build method which has since proved inadequate in civilian housing and have not stood the test of time. They are an extreme example of the growing problem of quarters' maintenance which is becoming more and more apparent in Army housing.

The present problems stem from the 1979/80 moratorium on spending and, as the maintenance programme for quarters slipped behind, so the problems increased and the action needed to rectify them grew ever more drastic and costly.

You can, of course, apply for your quarter to be downgraded if you and your husband feel that it is not up to standard but is not classed as sub-standard. You would do well though to see your Housing Commandant first and discuss the problems with him.

The quarter maintenance scene is not completely bleak however. A million pound modernisation programme in Colchester Garrison is just one such scheme now underway.

These quarters in Colchester were so bad that families were, where possible, housed elsewhere but since their transformation into brighter and attractive homes, there might well be a long waiting list.

The modernisation programme included coloured bathrooms and modern kitchen fittings along with new light fittings and window adaptations to combat condensation. There were other extras too which included extended drying rails, outside lights and a meter box on an outside wall.

A big step forward was the involvement of wives in the planning of the improvements and the new furnishings and the refurbished quarters are a tribute to this close cooperation and consultation.

Anne Armstrong

Letting the facts speak for themselves

"KNOCKING NAAFI" has always ranked among the top ten Army sports. We've all heard how expensive it is to shop in the Naafi, how high their prices are in comparison with local shops and how anyone with any sense stays well away.

But now Naafi has appeared in a very different top ten. Its own customer research has been backed up by a national newspaper survey and has put Naafi prices firmly in among the leaders in the value for money stakes.

First, let's dispel a few long standing myths and air a few Naafi facts. Naafi not only competes with the High Street shops but has to maintain loss making shops which are vital for perhaps no more than a handful of Service families in a remote station. This is a condition of its Charter. There are also restrictions on its trading that civilian supermarkets do not have. Naafi discounts, particularly in the shops offering double discount as an experiment can make an enormous difference to the final shopping basket costs.

The most recent price tests in the regular programme of tests carried out for Naafi in UK by Associated Research Limited show that, after allowing for discount or dividend, Naafi shops were cheaper than all 36 stores tested.

The tests were based on a shopping list used by Naafi customers themselves when they did their own research in Northern Ireland and Germany. It consisted of 122 essential items in quantities which would be needed by a family of four for a month. The Associated Research Limited testers visited

stores including Tesco, Sainsbury, Fine Fare, International, Budgen, Waitrose, Safeway, Wavy Line and Keymarket in Doncaster, Saffron Walden, Rosyth, Dunfermline, Aldershot/Farnborough, Lisburn and Holywood.

These results were backed up in the surveys carried out by Army representatives in Northern Ireland and Germany. Volunteers from Army HQ Northern Ireland, the Queen's Regiment, the Cheshire Regiment and 655 Squadron, Army Air Corps visited ten shops including Spar, Wellworth, Stewarts and Crazy Prices in

groceries such as bread, butter, eggs, cornflakes, coffee, salt, jelly and baked beans as well as items that you might reasonably expect to vary in price such as a 3lb joint of beef, topside, a 2lb frozen chicken and bananas. They aimed to combine value for money branded goods with other items chosen as the cheapest of their kind.

Tesco were rated No 1 with prices of £17.29½ in their superstores and £17.45 in their ordinary stores. They were just ahead of Sainsbury with a total cost of £17.72 and Asda at £17.96.

The price of the equivalent shopping basket from Naafi, after discount, was £17.85 — a fact that speaks for itself in the league table. Even at list price before discount, Naafi was still in the top ten.

Old beliefs die hard though and, despite the facts, some customers still believe that Naafi prices still do not compare favourably with its High Street competitors. Almost half of the shoppers who responded to a recent Naafi questionnaire said that only lower prices would persuade them to do more of their shopping at Naafi. Less than two in ten customers said that they bought the bulk of their shopping from Naafi although almost threequarters (827) rated shopping at Naafi as 'good' or 'very good'.

The questionnaire also revealed some interesting facts about the Naafi special offers. Three quarters of those customers questioned at the ten shops where double discount has been introduced as a trial marketing experiment knew that it was being given on groceries and provisions over £15 but less than two in ten said that this had affected their spending. Also, two out of every three customers who took advantage of Naafi's special monthly offers said that they would have bought the items anyway but 68 per cent commented that the offers were 'quite good', 'good', or 'very good'.

Perhaps, as Jan Walsh commented in her survey, the point is that retailers '... have ways of making you THINK your basket is full of bargains.'

So what do YOU think? We'd be interested to hear your views here at SOLDIER and would welcome any correspondence on the subject of Naafi prices.

FOCUS ON NAAFI

Omagh, Londonderry and Lisburn.

The cost of the goods varied from £128.81 to £137.20 for the monthly shopping basket and comparison with Naafi prices showed that, before discount, three of the stores were cheaper than Naafi and seven were dearer. After allowing for discount, however, Naafi prices worked out cheaper than all ten.

There were similar results when customers in Herford, Germany checked the costs of 11 directly comparable items in Naafi and two local supermarkets. They found that Naafi prices were cheaper on nine items, more expensive on one and one was the same.

A Daily Star investigation by Consumer Journalist of the Year, Jan Walsh, surveyed the cost of a typical shopping basket and included standard

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE HAS BEEN an increase in Boarding School Allowance and the Handicapped Children's Allowance.

The new rates came into effect with the Autumn Term 1983 and are detailed below. Officers and soldiers who have already submitted claims at the old rate need not claim the increase. This will be awarded automatically although some officers' claims which have already been paid will be paid in two stages, first the old rate, second the balance between the old and new rates. There will be a slight delay in the second payment but no action is necessary as it will be received in due course.

Rates effective from Autumn Term 1983:

First and second children	£800 a term (£2400 a year)
Third child	£950 a term (£2850 a year)
Fourth and subsequent children	£990 a term (£2970 a year)
Handicapped Childrens' Allowance	£990 a term (£2970 a year)

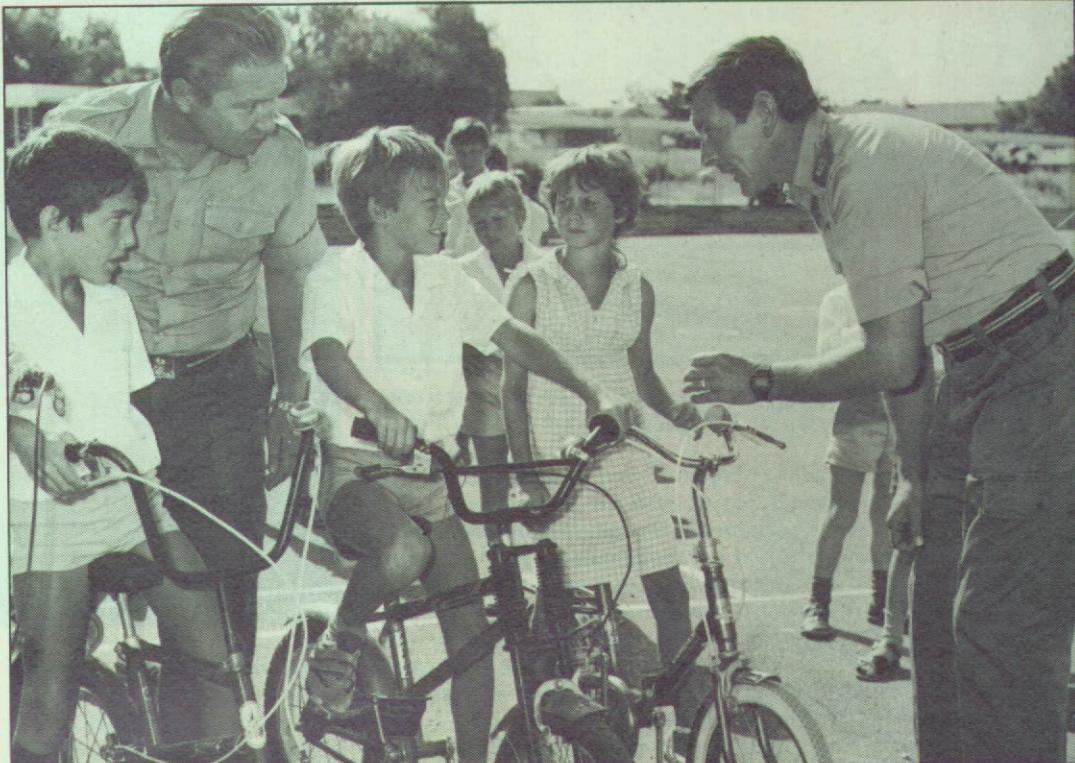
ROAD SAFETY RULES OK!

30 REGIMENT, Royal Corps of Transport have won a Kearton Award Commendation for their contribution to road safety in Cyprus.

The Kearton Award is presented annually by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to mark Lord Kearton's seven years of distinguished service as President of the society. It is awarded to the individual, organisation or company that has made a significant contribution to the safety of young people.

Major Graham Budworth received the Commendation on behalf of 30 Regiment and the occasion marked the first time that an overseas Commendation has been awarded by RoSPA.

The Sovereign Base Areas Road Safety scheme is run by the Joint Service Road Safety Committee chaired by Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Bush, the Commanding Officer 30 Regiment. It was considered important that children returning to the UK from Cyprus should have received the same degree of road safety and traffic education that they could expect in the United Kingdom and, through the Road Safety Committee in each garrison area, servicemen and their dependants are educated about road safety. The scheme is masterminded by WO1 Brian Young who is himself a qualified County



Staff Sergeant Joe Kirkpatrick RAPC and Sergeant Mike Hutchinson RCT instructing Philip Walker, James Lever and Ruth Garland in the Cycling Proficiency Programme.

Road Safety Officer and the programme includes motor cycle courses, road safety displays at Fêtes and Open Days, seasonal road safety campaigns, talks to resident and visiting units and assistance to schools.

The Kearton Award Commendation was achieved in particular for the Cycling pro-

gramme in which five volunteers who are qualified instructors or examiners have trained over 400 young people in the past two years. These children have passed either the local Cycling Proficiency Test or the National Cycling Proficiency Test leading to the RoSPA award.

But, perhaps more significantly, the success of the scheme has been judged in practical terms: 80 per cent of the school population in the Sovereign Base Areas have qualified for an award and, as a result of the scheme, there have been no accidents involving children that have resulted in a serious or fatal injury.

Is it time for YOUR child to meet the Green X Man and Droid?

HOW SOON do you let your children tackle the dangers of traffic and busy roads? How can you make sure that you train them to cross the road safely and correctly? Over 26,000 children under 15 are killed or injured on our roads every year and almost half of these are between five and nine years old.

The Ministry of Transport have a free leaflet entitled "A Lesson for Life" which is obtainable from them at Marston Street, London.

The leaflet is designed to help parents cope with the responsibility of protecting and teaching their children road safety. It introduces them to the Green Cross Code gradually in easy stages so that they will absorb and remem-

ber the rules of the road from an early age.

You may think that your child can cope with traffic but young children are not able to judge how fast a car is going or how far away it is — things adults take for granted when they cross the road.

The Ministry of Transport has listed the steps you should take for three different age groups from two years to nine years and shows how you can train your child to take care of himself when the time comes for him to cope alone. You too will worry less if you have taken the time and trouble to teach and test him through the stages of learning.

There are six rules in the Green Cross Code which should



have become second nature when your child crosses roads alone:

- ★ First find a safe place to cross, then stop.
- ★ Stand on the pavement near the kerb.
- ★ Look all around for traffic and listen.
- ★ If traffic is coming let it pass. Look all round again.
- ★ When there is no traffic

near, walk straight across the road.

- ★ Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

These rules are explained and illustrated in the leaflet to make it easy to teach your child the Code so he can understand what to do when he crosses the road.

Give YOUR child a chance across the road.

Why soldier cops dance to 'supergrass' songs

EVERY time a 'supergrass' starts 'singing' about his terrorist links, the policemen of 1 Regiment Royal Military Police start dancing.

It's not so much a dance of joy — although they're pleased the way the current crop of trials are progressing — but more a dash up and down corridors of thousands of shelves full of files. And the man doing most of the dashing dance is WO2 David Bryceson of 178 Provost Company, the Regiment's Special Investigation Branch at HQ Northern Ireland.

"We have the logs of every battalion to have served in the Province since the start of the present troubles," he said.

"So when supergrasses sing, we're kept busy digging out unit reports. We can check pretty well every incident involving the Army since 1969."

Calling the tune to which WO Bryceson 'dances' is Major Paddy Smyth, the Regiment's 'legal eagle' who collates and presents evidence in court.

Mostly his work concerns claims by civilians against the Army. "There have been some pretty substantial bids over the years," he said, declining to reveal exactly how much they amounted to. "But it's my job to find evidence to rebut those claims, and that's where our file of battalion logs is proving invaluable," he said.

While the backroom coppers of the Regiment get on with the paperwork, and the presentation of evidence, Captain Mike Cop-

land and his team of SIB investigators are fighting crime at source.

He is justly proud of his section's record — 73 per cent success rate to date.

"We work closely with the civilian CID. Mostly that involves petty crime, but the 'supergrass' trials are keeping us extremely busy and mean, in a good many instances, travelling the world tracing people to give evidence in trials yet to come."

Minor Army crimes, too, keep them on their toes. Like the case of the fruit machine bandits when two soldiers were sent down for stealing.

"The machine had been consistently broken into and robbed," said Mike Copland. "So we used video to trap the thieves."

Demonstrating the film he added: "Were they surprised

LCpl Paula Fleischmann, a 'Cofeeepot' with 181 Company, carries out a search at one of the city's segment gates.



when we identified and charged them. We hid a camera and took a shot every ten seconds.

"In the past ten years we have advanced 50 in the use of modern equipment in the fight against crime."

He followed this up by pointing to a standard-size folder and saying: "We have in this the name of every soldier in the Army.

"A touch of Big Brother," he echoed. "No fear. It simply enables us to find people should we need to contact them."

He showed how this could be done by tracing his own son, who joined the Army a few weeks ago, within seconds.

Demonstrating the film he added: "Were they surprised

He followed this by describing how video is used for lectures and post mortems.

"It's not possible for large numbers of SIB officers to attend a PM, so we use video to show what is involved."

He ran a film showing the body of a young soldier killed by terrorists a few weeks ago.

A similar incident happened when a soldier died in an attack on a joint Army/RUC base.

Security prevents naming the base, but this particular place has the inevitable record of suffering six grenade attacks in the past 18 months. Walls are pitted with scars caused by bomb fragments and in one case was pierced by an armour-piercing round from a 20mm anti-tank rifle.

Life for the three-man duty RMP team is, to say the least,

Belfast scene . . . hammering rain, flashing lights and a car-bomb warning.

fraught with danger.

But they take it in their stride, as do the smallest of the five companies making up 1RMP, 177 Company under the command of Captain Jon Dawson. As specialised in their way as the SIB is in theirs, they are responsible for the safety of every resident and visiting VIP in the Province.

"They are the best NCOs in the RMP," said Jon Dawson. "They are hand-picked and highly motivated with an emphasis on skill with a gun."

Highly motivated really means being prepared to shield a VIP with their bodies should it become necessary.

"Naturally, these chaps keep a low profile, even though it's public knowledge they are in the vicinity of any VIP," he said.

It so happened it was clear, but

And just to back up their protective role they are experts in the use of the German-made Heckler Koch automatic rifle which, said 6ft 5inch-tall Jon, is ideal for the job they have to do.

A visit to Girdwood Park, an Army base in North Belfast, indicated that, while there is a general decline of terrorist activity, danger is still very real as a Pointer team of 175 Provost Company showed only too well.

They are the men who collect evidence from bomb outrages and the like for the RUC to follow up.

Initially their role is to attend the scene as soon as the alarm sounds. On this occasion it was in the centre of Belfast near to the law courts.

A patrol from 10 UDR had seen three men leave a car in a nearby car park with its lights on. They alerted the Pointer team from Girdwood, under Sgt Charlie Swanson, who, with the 10 UDR men, had the area and nearby buildings cordoned and cleared within minutes.

Two banks were within yards of the suspect car and the whole scene overlooked by a known terrorist area called The Markets.

"Just make sure you stay out of any line of fire from there," said Charlie Swanson. "Get in or behind the Land-Rover."

This then was the RMP at work in a danger zone. Protected by their anti-flak jackets, they provided an escort for the bomb disposal team who decided, after inspection, to "blow" the car.

This meant someone had to place small explosive charges on the doors and boot to see if the car was booby-trapped.

It so happened it was clear, but



Here come the EOD boys. Risky work, but they don't take unnecessary chances.

the incident caused hours of disruption in the city centre.

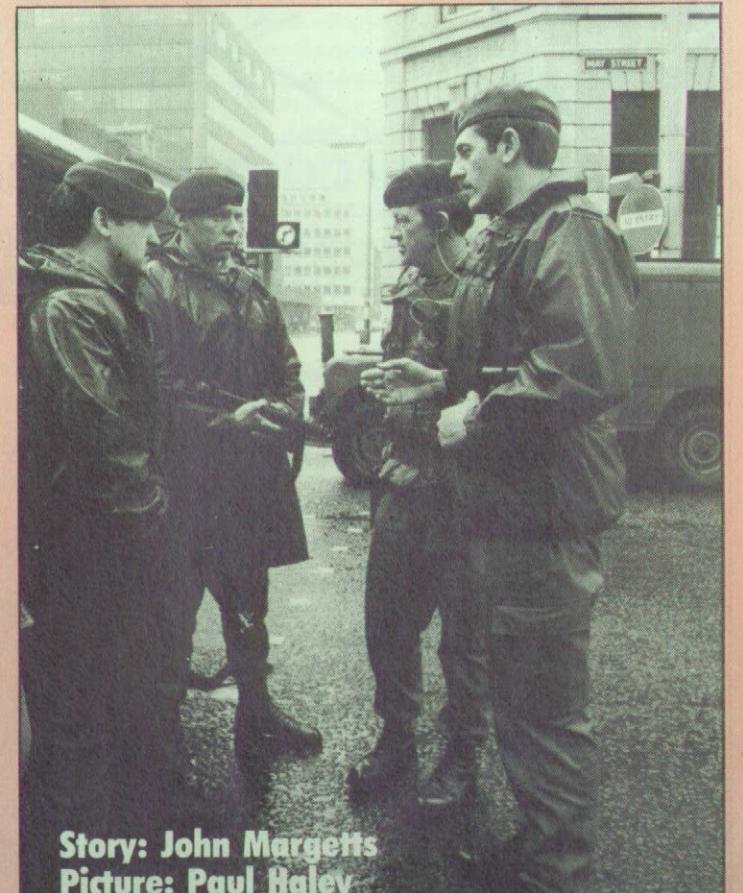
"When we get one like this we expect to get several more, one after the other," said Captain Ian Waters, of 175 Pro Company.

But while the military policemen got on with their job of ensuring safety for everyone and assisting the patrolling RUC men, the populace, used to these situations after 14 years, carried on, in the pouring rain, unconcerned.

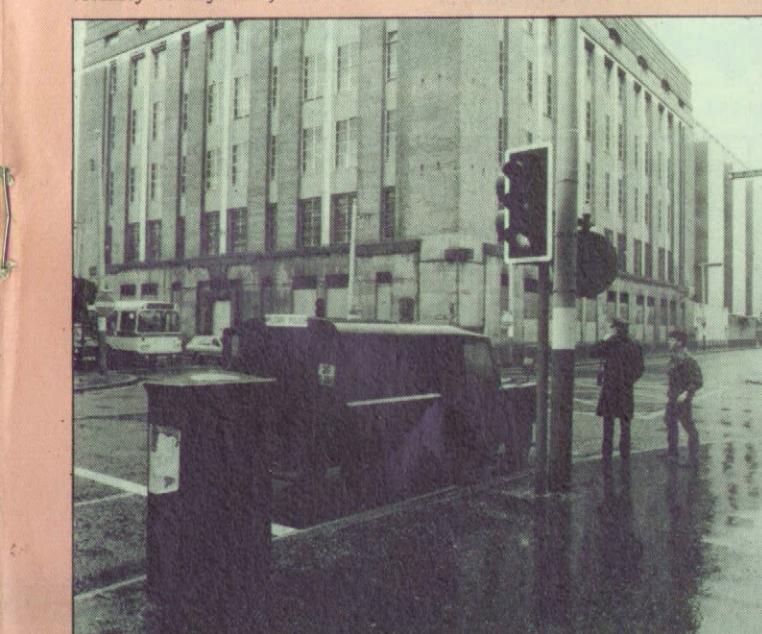
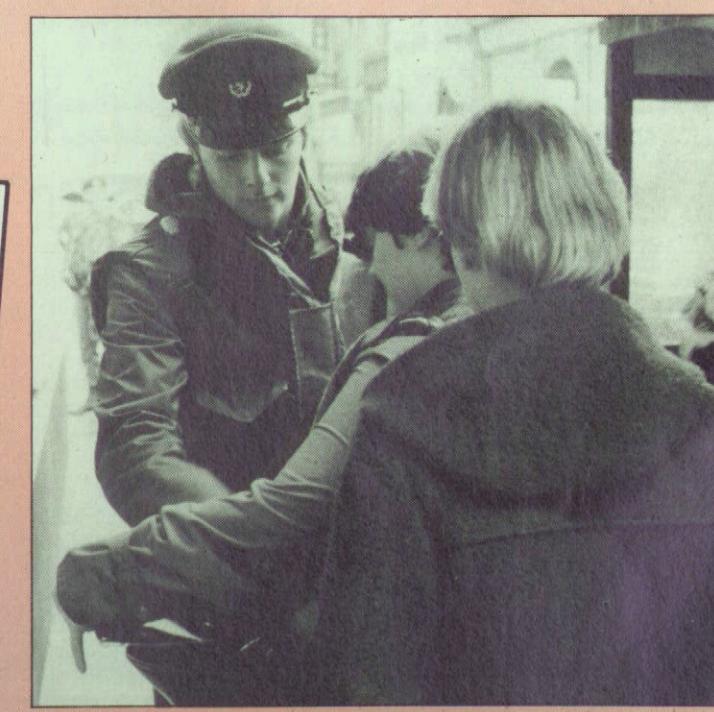
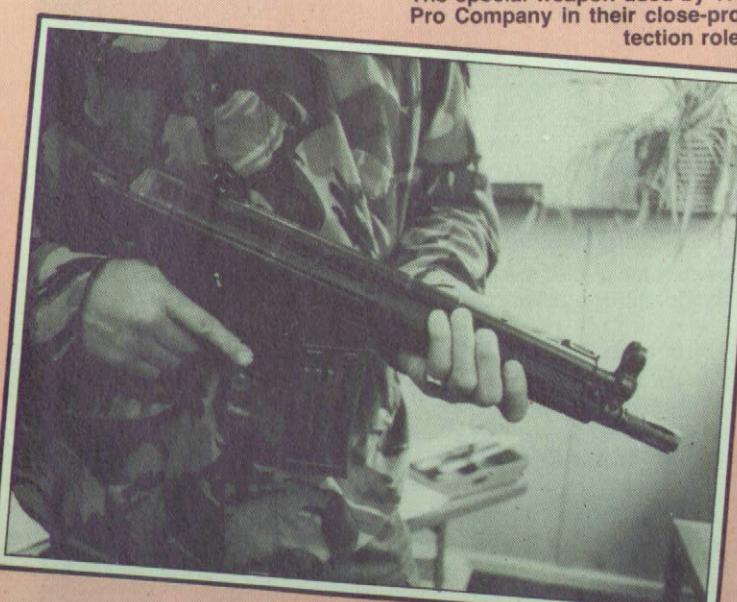
Perhaps it's just as well, said a watchful soldier, "Could be bloody murder otherwise." ■



Cpl Jackie Gordon . . . micro-file records of every soldier in the Army and updated every three months.



Story: John Margetts
Picture: Paul Baley



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FRONTLINE helicopter crews in BAOR are keenly set to sharpen the winning edge of their battlefield sting by mastering the magical illusion of flight.

That illusion in reality is the Lynx Flight Simulator, the most advanced helicopter training system in the world. Now part of the Army Air Corps' teaching equipment it was officially declared operational at Hobart Barracks, Detmold, by Commander 1st British Corps, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale.

Getting ceremonial guests to tinker with a revolutionary piece of electronic wizardry is not always possible or prudent but being Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps and an aeronautical expert General Farndale was unhesitatingly asked to test 'fly' the Lynx's first tactical sortie.



The honeycombed dome of the simulator

NEW PILOT SIMULATOR

Back on firmer ground and clearly impressed with the hardware's potential he later said: "This machine will unmistakably not only increase operational effectiveness and flight safety but it will extend our technical ability to handle the Lynx aircraft."

And when plucky Lynx aircrews from all three Armoured Divisions in West Germany arrive to train on the Detmold simulator for a recommended 35 hours of instructional 'flying' a year, none can mistake their destination.

More common a snow-capped mountain peak to house a conventional radar scanner, the lightweight glass fibre dome is the first to be specially adapted to accommodate a modern helicopter training tool.

Reaching the cockpit after walking through a series of doorways and finally climbing a stainless steel stairway inside the futuristic chamber visiting aircrews are likely to find the experience evoking dramatic visions of boarding a space capsule.

Indeed seen from the outside with its realistically designed black moulded flight cubicle standing on its six hydraulic heaving spidery legs that give the simulator its mercurial motion — that idea lingers.

Such is the slick sophistication of the electronic equipment that every conceivable sensation of helicopter flight can be so accurately reproduced that reality and illusion are inseparable. Even the uncanny im-



Captain John Scott ACC in charge of new facility

pression of rotor flicker can be made amazingly true when pulsing fluorescent lamps create a changing pattern of light levels above the crewmen's heads.

But no aircraft operates silently and the Lynx Flight Simulator's cab is subtly equipped with eight interconnected speakers that unerringly emit a remarkable range of sounds from soft instrumentation ticks to the ear splitting whining whistle of the helicopter's twin-engines at full throttle.

By round the clock monitoring of such noises aircrews under training can detect some of the 160 potentially disastrous malfunctions that can be made to happen on a nerve tingling simulated flight, and often without warning.

But help, if needed, is never far away. Downstairs in a nearby mission control station — the heart of the Detmold simulator — a highly qualified instructor sitting at a panoramic console analyses the minute moves of every student.

BAOR's Lynx crews, after a Detmold session, will be even better able to put soldiers and equipment on-the-spot faster and safer.

new weight on their backs. Some of the equipment had not been used by the British Army since a pack-horse unit in Hong Kong was disbanded, some time ago.

Quite apart from the role of taking rations and urgent components up the mountainsides the horses have also been used for some recreational riding, under Sgt Carter's watchful eye . . . not that many Servicemen in the Falklands have too much spare time!

Man's best friend in the Falklands

PACK-HORSE RETURNS

IT may be the era of laser weapons and high technology in Detmold, but down in the Falklands the traditional British Army pack-horse is making a come-back. Sgt Graham Carter, from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps training centre at Melton Mowbray, has been conducting trials, near San Carlos settlement, to see whether horses can be used to carry vital supplies to remote military units in the surrounding hills.

The trials started last May and are due to continue throughout the rest of this year. The idea behind the renewed interest in animal transport in the Falklands is the continuing need to re-supply scattered units, in all weathers and at reasonable cost.

Although helicopters are used to carry many of the stores needed by the men operating from some of the bleakest locations in the islands, the cost of heli-supply is very high. In contrast, the pack-horses can keep going for hours on a bag of oats, and more importantly perhaps, can work in very strong winds and the sort of weather that will prevent helicopters from flying at all.

According to Sgt Carter the horses are

very sure footed and have never fallen over whilst carrying heavy loads, even when climbing steep tracks and rocky terrain. To supplement helicopter operations tracked vehicles (known as BVs) can sometimes be used, but these can also find the going tough in the Falklands winter.

The horses currently being used in the trials are hired locally and were at first semi-wild. Sgt Carter had to learn how to lasso them and then gradually break them in so as to get the horses accustomed to the





All the fun of a Yorkshire Fair... ▲ ... or kick a ball at my mouth or nose.



Listening to the band at Charlottenburg.

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'Pickel Alfred', a well known Berlin character, with Drummer John Hague, PWO.



Friendship Weekends were a long time coming but new links are forged as... Berlin's Citizens enjoy a taste of Britain

COCKLES and whelks, fish and chips, cider and English draught bitter were among the attractions laid on by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers as thousands of Berliners crowded into the Rüdesheimer Platz for an Anglo-German Friendship Weekend between the battalion and the Berlin borough of Wilmersdorf.

The British troops have always existed easily alongside the citizens of the city they are there to defend, but the Friendship Weekends, which first appeared last year have spread like wildfire and created many new links.

Local stalls also sprang up selling everything from Bratwurst to wine and there was a continuous programme of music from not only the battalion band but from German and American bands.

Meanwhile in another part of the city the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire were having their own Friendship Day with the borough of Charlottenburg.

Held in the grounds of a former royal palace the PWO day featured a number of ingenious attractions — including a ducking stool.

Berliners had to throw two balls through a window and the luckless 'witch' fell into a tank of water.

The Wild Man of Borneo and his son Ug and a Punch and Judy show imported from Britain also

attracted large numbers of Berliners.

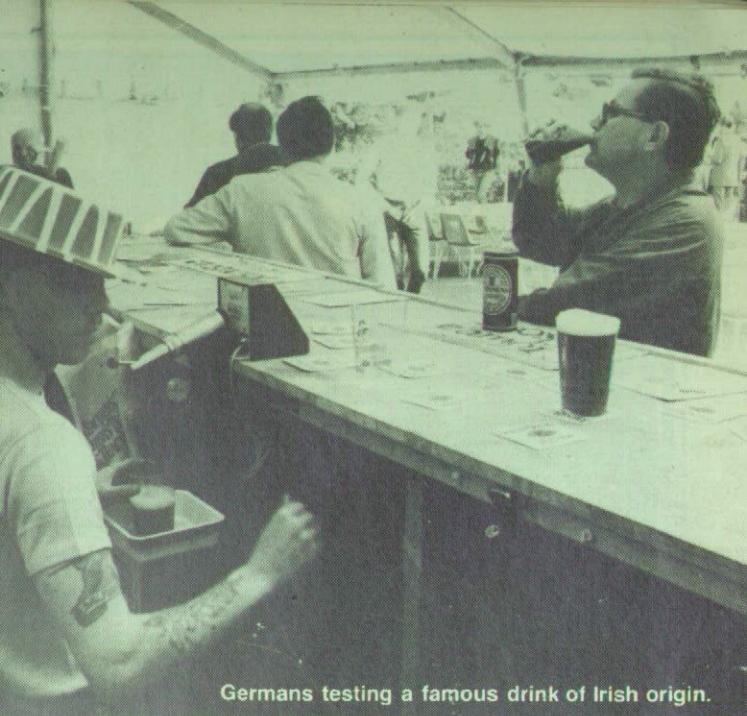
Ninety per cent of the British troops are based in Spandau and the Mayor of that Borough, which held its own Friendship event earlier in the summer, is Herr Werner Salomon.

He told SOLDIER that the events had come about mainly through the initiative of the current GOC, Major-General David Mostyn and has been a successful attempt to form friendships at all levels of society.

Herr Salomon said that the relationship between the people in Spandau and the British forces had always been excellent.

Any minor problems such as noise had to be balanced against the need for the forces to protect Berlin.

Blood pressure test for Fusilier 'Mass' Jontton with the aid of nurse Monika Stamm.



Germans testing a famous drink of Irish origin.

"We have to accept certain things taking place which are probably not normal elsewhere. This is part of what we have to accept to retain our freedom.

"Berliners know that their freedom and independence even 38 years after the war depends on the presence of the Allied Forces."

**Story:
John Walton
Pictures:
Les Wiggs**

Local children try their hands at darts.

Berlin youngsters enjoy the Fusiliers trampoline. Right: Lance Corporal Martin Dale.



No prize for guessing the Regiment behind this horse!



Famous Boost UDR Appeal

ERIC MORECAMBE's pipe, Ernie Wise's tie, Margaret Thatcher's autographed photo and Chris Bonington's ice axe — the one he used to climb Everest in 1975 — will, this month, help boost the Ulster Defence Regiment's million pound appeal fund nearer its target.

And it all came about because of a bright idea (first mentioned SOLDIER 5 SEP) by Lance Corporal Kim McAlindon, a part-time Greenfinch with 3UDR, and mother of three children.

For six months Kim sent letters to world-famous names asking them to help the widows and dependants of UDR men killed and wounded by terrorists.

Just send something we can auction, she asked. Now more than 100 have responded.

Best-seller Frederick Forsyth sent the street map of Paris he used when writing 'The Day of

the Jackal', while top fellow writers John le Carré, Barbara Cartland, Catherine Cookson, James Herriot and Chapman Pincher all sent signed copies of their latest hit sellers.

Leading sportmen, too, answered in kind. Tony Jacklin sent a golf glove, Jack Nicklaus a signed score card, posters and signatures from racing ace James Hunt and photos and autographs from the whole of the Manchester United football team.

And these are only a few. Others include Sir Len Hutton, Jimmy Hill, Henry Cooper and Lester Piggott. All have sent something to help raise the Fund's figure.

Among politicians who have donated items for the auction are Enoch Powell, Liberal leader David Steel, Winston Churchill, Roy Jenkins and former prime minister Lord Harold Wilson.

TV gardener Percy Thrower

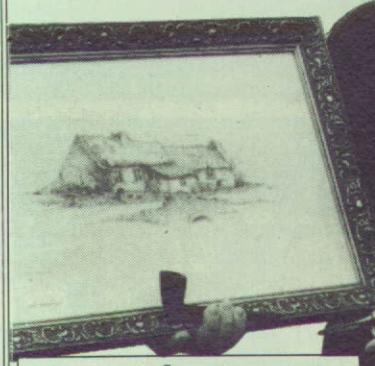
sent a copy of his book and TV presenter Richard Baker an LP and signed photo.

From industry former miners' leader Lord Gormley sent a miniature miner's lamp and Sir Peter Parker, outgoing chairman of British Rail a book on trains. Other famous celebrities to contribute include Bob Hope, Ronnie Barker, Michael Crawford, Ken Dodd, Frankie Howerd, Ruth Madoc of TV's Hi-De-Hi, former England cricketer and

now the Bishop of Liverpool, David Sheppard and wartime spymaster of Special Operations Executive fame, Colonel Maurice Buckmaster.

Said Greenfinch Captain Noel-le Murray: "We have no idea how much our 100-plus items will realise at the auction, but we have already received a £50 bid for Frederick Forsyth's map and £520 from the sale of Colonel Buckmaster's medals at Southey's earlier this year."

Lance Corporal Kim McAlindon with Val Doonican's painting, Ken Dodd's tickling stick, Eric Morecambe's pipe and Chris Bonington's ice axe.



**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Paul Haley**

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To enhance the quality of this binocular, Tasco, who now supply a similar model to the American Navy, offer a 10 year guarantee.

C in C SPEAKS OF CHANGE

TAKE lots of comradeship, shake it with a little churchiness and the resulting recipe closely resembles the refreshing atmosphere of BAOR's new Church House at Lubbecke.

Relocated from the remote-battle field edge at Wuppertal where it was based for 16 years until last April, it was a remarkably revitalised Church House BAOR that was officially opened by Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Nigel Bagnall.

Stressing the vital importance of Church Houses within today's highly technological Army, the Commander-in-Chief said: "I believe the need for the spiritual values that sustain our lives is as great as ever. The pressure of change in a period of moral uncertainty and the vagueness about fundamentals has led to a loss of purpose in many peoples' lives.

"There is a need for a base where beliefs and doubts can be discussed, studied and researched, where the Christian ethic can be shown to be relative to our society and in so doing can improve the quality of life of our soldiers and our families."

Splendidly situated amid Lubbecke's scenic surroundings, Church House will give servicemen and women a greater opportunity to pursue social and cultural activities as well as ecclesiastical interests.

Indeed, the uprooting from Wuppertal to its more accessible, centralised home right



Opening Ceremony: General Sir Nigel Bagnall, right, with Warden of Church House, Rev John Bolton.

in the middle of the military population means more students who have philosophically searched in vain to find 'the inner self' have had their brightest hopes boosted.

For one of the challenging courses currently available at BAOR's new Church House is Soldier Discovery Classes where students are guided both to recognise their real selfhood and to contemplate the considerable contribution they make to today's world.

'There is a need for a base where beliefs and doubts can be discussed.'

Giving its military members answers to intriguing questions reflects barely a glimpse of the major mission carried out at BAOR's pastoral home by the small group of dedicated staff led by Warden Rev John Bolton.

"My message is personal and simple," he said. "We care about people at Church House. Here at Lubbecke we try to demonstrate that sentiment. For example, among the many benefits we can offer is to even guarantee total undisturbed privacy to a couple who want to examine their rela-

tionship to resolve a marital or domestic difficulty.

"We provide them with a self contained flat with all mod cons right down to a super stereo unit and all they need to bring is their food. Moreover, if they want counselling we are always available if called on."

Elsewhere in the Church House complex the facilities are equally so well designed and programmed that catering for conferences, seminars and courses of up to 24 persons can be done just as effectively as arranging privacy for concerned couples.

No Church House is complete without its chapel and worship at Lubbecke is performed in a tiny, elegant sanctuary situated close to the well-stocked library. While the library has lots of tales on its shelves, the chapel next door surprisingly has its own special story. Ironically it is sited where the lively ladies bar once rang out to cocktail chatter.

Yet, still the tinkle of glasses and the happy talk of contented friends can sometimes be heard not far away.

For Church House has its own comfortable bar where its homely environment always ensures that whether it's padres passing through, or tired delegates relaxing, the welcome at Lubbecke will always be warm. *Story and Pictures — Public information 4th Armoured Division.*

Part of the new Church House.



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NO. 51

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

The crest of the Marquis of Huntly, also known as "Cock o' the North", adorns the bonnets of the members of this regiment, being a stag's head issuant from a ducal coronet within a wreath of ivy. Ivy is the traditional badge of Clan Gordon.

On the bottom of the wreath is a scroll inscribed with the Lowland Scots dialect word "Bydand" (translated as "Watchful" but this is but one of the many such translations).

Worn by the junior ranks in silver anodised finish, by officers and sergeants in silver plate and, less common than in the past, in silver. The latter design however is raised in relief and almost a work of art.

In 1881 the 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment of Foot and the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) amalgamated to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the regiment respectively. As such they remained until compara-

tively recently when the Army reform reduced them to a single battalion.

The 75th raised in 1787 under their first Colonel, Robert Abercromby of Tullibody, were embodied at Stirling in June 1788: and almost immediately despatched to India not to return until 1807.

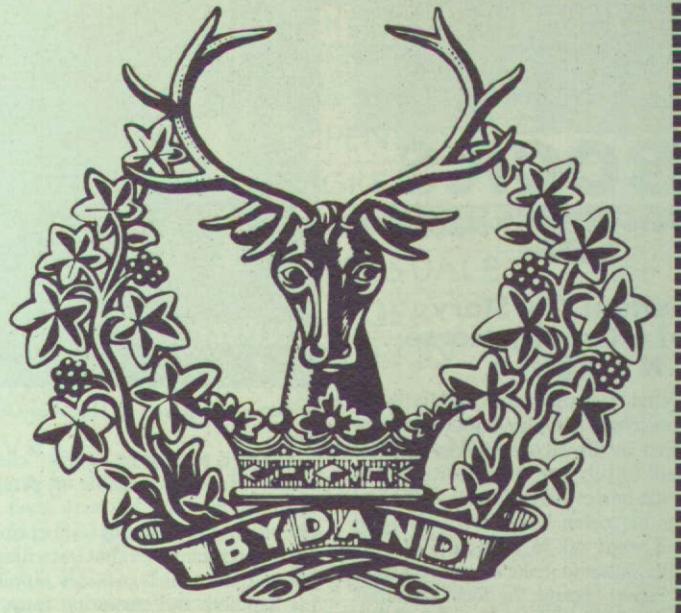
To commemorate their sterling service in that sub-continent, they were awarded the badge of the Royal Tiger on 10th July that year. Two years later the regimental designation was changed to be the 75th Foot and they were deprived of their Highland garb.

In 1862, in remembrance of their origin, they became the 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment of Foot. On amalgamation in 1881 Highland dress was resumed and they donned the Gordon tartan in company with their fellow Highlanders of the 2nd Battalion.

Raised as the 100th Regiment of Foot in 1794 by the Duke of Gordon and having as their first Colonel his eldest son, the Marquis of Huntly, they in company of the fair Jane, Duchess of Gordon, and six pipers recruited the required number of men, mainly from the Duke's estates, but also from Aberdeenshire, Moray and Banff.

Inducements offered to those who enlisted were a kiss from the Duchess and a bounty of one guinea. What Highlander could resist such a combination?

In 1798 the regiment was renumbered, and as the 92nd it performed some of its most memorable achievements, not least their service in Egypt 1801, for which they were

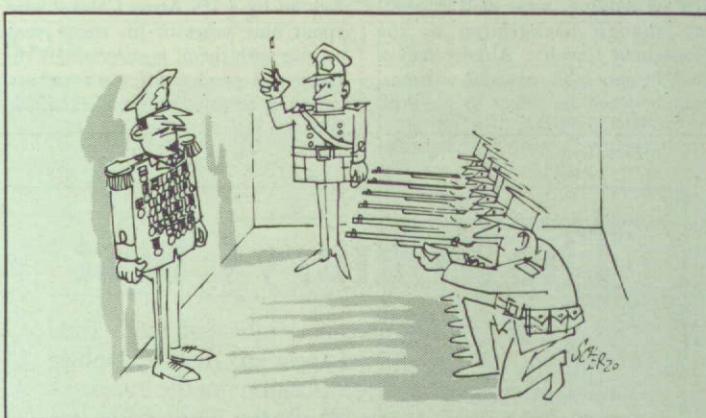


granted the badge of Egypt and the Sphinx, proudly worn in their head-dress for many years; and again when the 92nd clinging to the stirrups of their fellow countrymen of the 2nd or Royal North British Dragoons (later Royal Scots Greys) charged a numerically superior force of

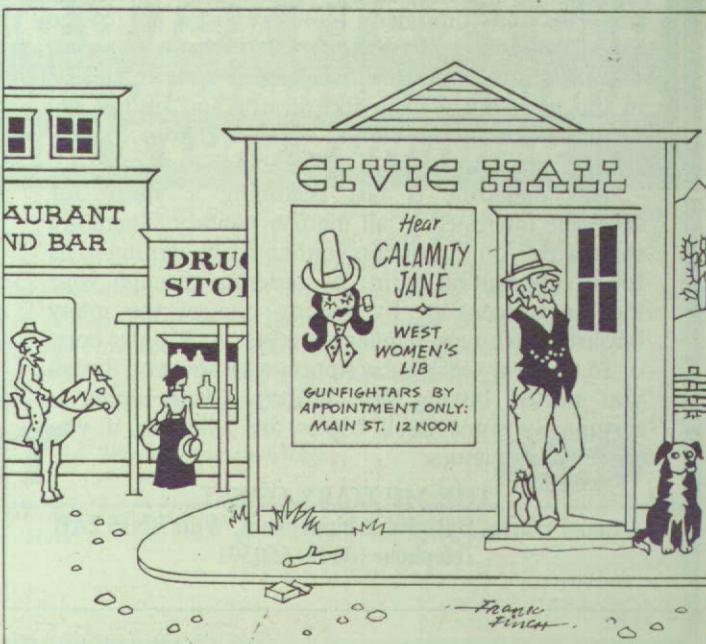
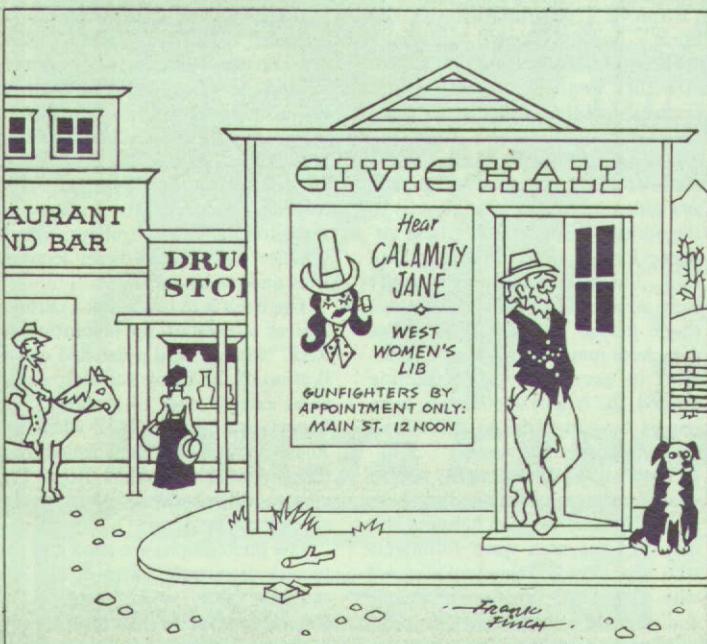
French Infantry shouting 'Scotland for Ever'.

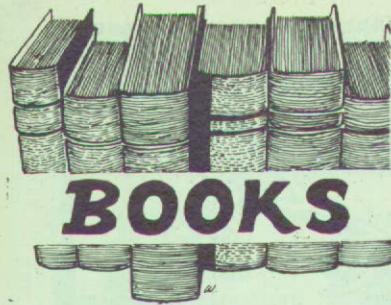
HUGH L. KING

**Next Issue:
The Argyll and
Sutherland
Highlanders**



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.





SEFTON

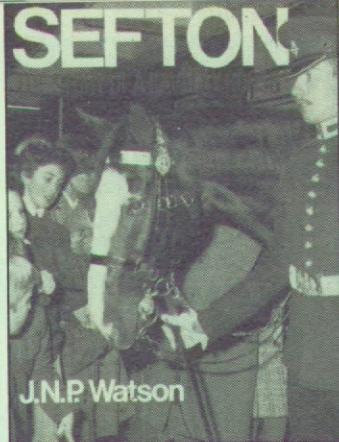
BOOKS

Sefton: The Story of a Cavalry Horse: J N P Watson

Sefton, everyone must know, is the Household Cavalry horse badly injured in the IRA bombing in Hyde Park in July last year. Four men and seven horses were killed that day and another seven horses were wounded and went off to Melton Mowbray with Sefton to make a good recovery.

Sefton became the focus of public sympathy for the victims of that day. Gifts and get-well cards were rained upon him. The publicity he received rivalled that accorded to that great racehorse Red Rum.

Mr Watson, a former officer of The Blues and their mounted squadron, has now produced this biography of the gelding. Since there is not a great deal of material for a book about one horse which did not achieve the limelight until 19 years old, the author has resorted to a good deal of padding, some of it interesting enough background to the Household Cavalry. Almost inevitable, he gets a bit mawkish at times, notably when he refers to the still-



unnamed youngster as Horse of Destiny.

Sefton is a bit of an equine "character." He was unreliable on parade in his young days but very good in the hunting field and in competition. He is good-tempered, but has a liking for mischief which includes nipping his handlers and unseating learner-riders. Horse-mad little girls will enjoy reading about him.

Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3PA — £8.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback.

RLE

Inside the Green Berets; The First Thirty Years: Charles M Simpson III

This history of America's Special Forces, the famous Green Berets, written by a US Army Colonel who spent nine years of his thirty year service with them, is surprisingly relaxed and gossipy for a unit whose activities have often been classified,

and whose role remains controversial.

Formed in 1952 from a hard-core of World War Two veterans with specialist knowledge of guerrilla warfare, the Green Berets have always operated on the fringe of regular military thinking, specialising in counter-insurgency techniques, advising America's foreign allies in the field, fighting terrorist and revolutionary groups on two fronts—alienating the enemy from popular support by helping local civilians and striking back at him with his own flexible style of warfare.

It was in the Vietnam War that the Green Berets first caught the American public's attention, where their special operations in Montagnard



Author, GENE DONALD, Lee Family, Phuoc, South Vietnam, 7 November 1966

hill-country, or behind Viet Cong lines, earned them a glamorous John Wayne image.

Colonel Simpson explains the philosophy behind the Special Forces counter-insurgency role, evaluates its successes and failures in the Vietnam context, and illuminates them with personal anecdotes and insights into some of the unusual characters who have gravitated towards this unconventional unit. At a time when the United States is becoming increasingly involved in the complex politics of Central America, any study of the crucial role of the Special Forces is welcome.

Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd., 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £10.95

IJK

The Guinea-Pigs. Britain's First Paratroop Raid: Raymond Foxall

"Blimey! The blind leading the blind", was the remark made by a soldier upon discovering that his instructors in the art of parachute jumping had themselves never made a parachute jump.

Raymond Foxall's book, which reads as much like an adventure tale as a military history, tells the story of the formation of Britain's first airborne force and the first paratroop raid. The first paratroopers really were guinea-pigs. There was not one single person who had any idea of parachute jumping, what type of aircraft to use, the type of training needed, the type of operation to carry out or how to extricate them from enemy territory afterwards.

They began life at Ringway airport near Manchester with one parachute and a captured German jumping helmet. All the men were volunteers who were already trained soldiers and who shared the qualities of mental and physical toughness.

The first operation 'Operation Col-

ossus', was also a guinea-pig affair. Designed to test this new military art, the plan was to parachute the men of 'X Troop' into the Italian Apennines to sabotage a viaduct. This viaduct was sixty miles from the coast so it was really an operation from which there was to be no return.

The operation was only partially successful and afterwards the paras were faced with a gruelling sixty miles march over mountainous country in appalling weather in order to reach the coast where they hoped to be picked up by a submarine.

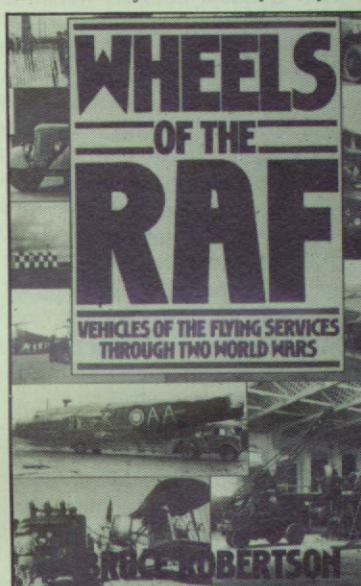
The final chapter asks some pertinent questions about the raid and the author makes no attempt to hide his admiration for the men who took part.

Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £8.95

DM

Wheels of the RAF: Bruce Robertson

This is one for the buffs, and a useful one, detailing the transport vehicles used by Britain's service airmen from the earliest days of the Army's Royal



Flying Corps right up to the present day. A work of much painstaking research coupled with a satisfying selection of nearly 200 photographs and drawings.

There is also a great variety of "wheels." They range from passenger carrying trucks and coaches, through servicing vehicles for fuel and provisions, to the safety factors for fire, crash and rescue, including ambulances. Beyond these is armour for defence by the Royal Air Force Regiment, cranes, lifts, trailers and agricultural vehicles, trolleys, signals vehicles, steam and diesel locomotives and passenger trains.

The book is in two parts: a chronological survey of the evolution of RAF "wheels" and a detailed classification of the many vehicles, which alone extends over 13 chapters. The history starts from 1912 when the Royal Flying Corps was formed from the Air Battalion of the Royal Engineers which had long been an integral part of the Army.

The photographs are good and the specifications and other details are excellent value.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL — £9.95

GRH

The Military Chest

This is a bi-monthly magazine intended for a wide readership. Designed and printed to the highest quality, it holds a unique position in the range of comparable publications: it is the only magazine which aims to cover *all* aspects of military, aviation and naval affairs.

Decorations and medals, badges and insignia, books and historical documents, arms and armour, uniforms and equipment, these are just a few of the topics featured in *The Military Chest*. However, this is not just another 'history' magazine. We are interested in the past, but also in the present and future. We feature articles about current events and keep you up-to-date with news of the latest exhibitions and sales.

This magazine is fast becoming a 'must' for everyone interested in all matters military. There are three ways you can obtain your copy: by writing to us for a subscription form; by ordering through your local newsagent or by visiting one of the many bookstalls who are regular stockists. At 95p per copy or £8.00 for a year's subscription we know you'll wish you started buying *The Military Chest* sooner — fortunately some back copies are available if you missed earlier issues.

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13	NILE	HESPERUS	WATERLOO
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15	OBSIDIAN	CLAPPER	SUMERIAN
16	PERCHERON	DALE	BRONZE
17	STONE	HYPERION	HECTOR
18	SUSPENSION	ETRUSCAN	LYONESSE
19	VENUS	HERCULES	TANGLES
20	VISOR	IRON	NEREID

In the first column of the diagram we show twenty names, arranged alphabetically. The names are numbered 1-20.

The words in columns 2 and 3 bear relationship to the words in column 1 but they have been entered in any order — completely jumbled. All you have to do is to arrange the words in columns 2 and 3 so that the three words in each line bear relationship to each other.

For example, should column 1 contain the word APPLE and

QUARENDE and PEARMAIN are among the others then the result could be APPLE QUARENDE PEARMAIN for both QUARENDE and PEARMAIN are apples. Again, if column one showed the word TIME and in columns 2 and 3 the words NOON and MIDNIGHT were found these could also be arranged in a single line as related words.

Easy isn't it? Send in your completed lists with column one arranged alphabetically as shown

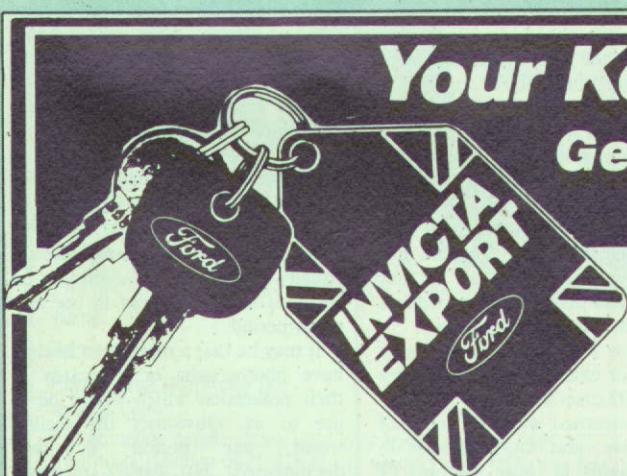
then arrange the words in columns 2 and 3 as you find them.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday, 21 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 14 November 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 327' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or

letter with the 'Competition 327' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2 DU.

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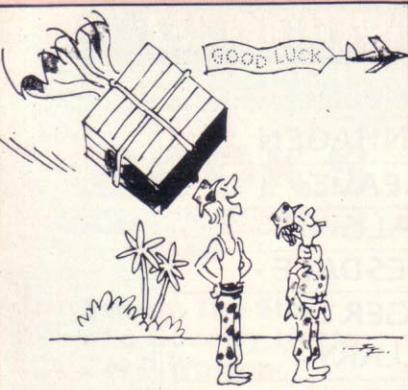
ADDRESS.....

Tick items of main interest

FIESTA CORTINA
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 CAPRI

S20/83





MAIL DROP

SO RUDE!

I note that in your series 'Your Cap Badge' No 49, the badge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, is described by your author as "not at first glance the most imposing design".

This is a matter of opinion, however, other comics not that long ago, also printed a similar series. I would suggest that authors were not so rude! — **WO1 (RSM) D T Wiggins DERR, HQ Sennelager Trg Centre, BAOR, BFPO 16.**

I am sure Hugh King did not intend to be rude, and did qualify his opinion with "at first glance". You, too, are entitled to an opinion and I like your spirited defence! — Ed.

HAIL AND . . .

Thank you for putting my name in the Pen Pal column in **SOLDIER**. I started writing to a soldier — only one out of all the letters that I received — and have been writing to him for eight weeks. Now we are getting engaged! Thanks to all at **SOLDIER**. — **M A Underwood, 42 Sidney St, Grantham, Lincs.**

We're glad this has worked out for you Ms Underwood and wish you and your fiancé all the best for the future. — Ed.

... FAREWELL

A couple of issues ago you printed my request for pen pals which I sent in months ago. Having re-married since, I sent this request in writing to say no more letters please. The majority of what I have received I have passed on to friends. Thanks to all who replied and to Ian of Wales, I'm sorry I cannot return your photo as owing to a fire which gutted the house during our honeymoon your photo was destroyed with everything else. — **C Galbraith, c/o 23 Beechcroft Ave, Darcy Lever, Bolton, Lancs.**

1/ - A DAY?

The very narrow-minded and short-sighted letter from F R Davidson (2 Aug) really annoyed me. Of course I would agree that soldiers returning from the Korean War were not treated fairly. However, Mr Dawson, soldiers in the 19th century only received one shilling a day. Are you now advocating a return to this for our modern armed forces? Come now, we serving members of the Armed Forces know only too well what our contemporaries have done

to make and keep Britain 'Great', but for goodness sake, don't detract from the stirring feat carried out in the Falklands. — **WO2 M Howe, Hameln Det, 114 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 31.**

STOP BITCHING!

In reply to F R Dawson (2 Aug issue) — get off your soapbox and stop bitching!

Times have changed, so have conditions and rates of pay. So stop comparing what you got with what the Falklands veterans were awarded. Just be glad and grateful that things have improved since your days in the Army. You say you got £5. You were lucky, most of us got nothing having taken part in many peace-keeping actions and were grateful just to survive in one piece. Let's be grateful for small mercies and rewards and think of those who fought and gained no reward not forgetting our merchant seamen who are sitting targets in war yet still come back for more.

— **David G Marriott, 11 Cressington Ave, Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside.**

POPPY APPEAL

Last year the grim realities of war were brought home to us as never before as the heroism, sacrifice and suffering of our Servicemen and women in the South Atlantic appeared daily on our television screens. The Falklands Conflict evoked a characteristically generous response from the British Public and the 1982 Poppy Appeal raised a record £6m.

However, constant media exposure can also have the opposite effect; the horrifying statistics of death and disablement in Northern Ireland, for example, have been presented to us for so long that they have become almost commonplace. Equally, memories of former conflicts fade. But the tragic aftermath of war, in terms of human suffering, goes on.

The sick, the disabled, the bereaved, the impoverished, continue to need help NOW, regardless of whether their problems had their origins on the Somme in 1916 or on the streets of Belfast last week.

For more than sixty years, The Royal British Legion has been providing that care for ex-Service men and women and their families. Far from diminishing, the call on our wide range of benevolent and welfare services increases year by year.

Our free Pensions and Advisory Service, for example, which handles over 11,000 cases every year, is particularly concerned with the needs of war widows, and the anomalies in pension rights of those disabled or widowed before April 1973.

This year, in addition to all our other work, a considerable capital building programme is under way to enable our Residential Homes to accommodate an increasing number of frail and elderly residents. And, during a time of rising unemployment, the Legion remains the largest private employer of war-disabled

people in the country, giving to otherwise unemployable people the dignity of work.

These and other aspects of our benevolent and welfare services are made possible only through the wonderful response of the public to the annual Poppy Appeal. However, inflation continues to erode the real value of our income, and a successful Poppy Appeal in 1983 is vital for the continuation and expansion of our services.

May I, therefore, through your columns, appeal to your readers to dig just a little deeper into their pockets at Remembrance Time this year. And, as they pin the poppy to their lapels and dresses, I hope they will see it for what it is — a symbol of remembrance, compassion and, above all, personal dedication to peace. — **Col J Hughes CBE, The Royal British Legion, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent, ME20 7NX.**

Can You Help?

I am stationed in Friedberg near Frankfurt and would like to get in touch with British soldiers and British people. I am also trying to get in touch with anyone named Truitt, as my dad back home in Florida is trying to trace our family line. Our people all went to the states of Georgia and Alabama from England. Our background is English and it would be nice to find any we might have. I would also be interested in collecting uniforms. — **Sgt Paul E Truitt Jr, 567-11-1257, HHC, 1/32 Armor, APO NY 09074.**

Does anyone know the address of L/Cpl Gary Barnes, 15 Sqn RCT? No serious purpose, just wish to re-contact an old friend. — **Mr Ken Kent, 35 Cefn-Hengoed Road, Winch wen, Swansea, West Glam, South Wales.**

Many of your readers will already be aware that 1985 will represent the 125th anniversary of the formation of the first Cadet Corps during 1860. Though these units lacked official status until the Volunteer Regulations of 1863, they mark the origins of the present cadet movement.

In connection with the above event, we are embarking on a project of research into the variety of uniforms and insignia worn by cadet units during this long period. We are equally interested in evidence on weapons and equipment in use at a given period.

It may be that a number of readers have photographs or postcards in their possession which would be of use to us. Obviously the second world war period is well documented, but earlier pictures, particularly before 1920, are of great interest. We would of course guarantee the safe return of any material we arrange to inspect. At the same time, rubbings of metal badges peculiar to a cadet unit, or details of cloth insignia worn by any period would be most welcome. — **Maj R Wilson, 4 Norwood Grove, Beverley, N Humberside.**

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.

BEWILDERMENT

Having taken Part in this year's Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo I looked forward to reading your article on the events. It remains for me, just having read the report, to write and express the shock and bewilderment my friends and I feel about such an inadequate coverage. I am prompted to ask if indeed the writer was present at the Tattoo at all, or was the article compiled from the BBC broadcast of the event?

The 'Battle of the Keep', by my regiment, which followed the 'Twice a Citizen' presentation has been omitted except for a photograph with a very confusing caption! In fact, the Keep was attacked by 'A' Coy 1 RWF who were supported by the Welsh Tankies (QDG) and elements of our own support company. The whole scenario incorporated the use of a death slide, which was very popular with the attentive audience.

Considering this is the country's biggest (and possibly best) Tattoo, surely it deserves more space in your magazine? — **L/Cpl W A P Becket, Mortar pln, Support Coy, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, Wilts.**

Popular as they are, tattoos are regular and frequent events in the military calendar. In view of this, we do try and give as much space to them as we can (see this issue for features on both the Edinburgh and Berlin Tattoos) whilst at the same time, ringing the changes to give each one prominence over a period of two or three years. It could be that for the next Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo, we are in a position to give this event the five-star treatment. — Ed.

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Collectors' Corner

John F Sukey, 5860 E River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85715, USA. Wishes to purchase plumes for the RHA officer's busby, to complete a Victorian RHA Lieutenant's uniform. Also, would like to correspond with anyone who could provide buttons and/or badges of the Volunteer Artillery.

S/Sgt D M Sebby, Detachment 1, HQ State Area Command, PO Box G, Camp San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, USA. Wishes to trade US Army crests and American Police insignia for British/Commonwealth/colonial cap badges.

Peter R Moore, 63 The Crescent, Midland, Western Australia. Wants to purchase cap badge: No 2 Commando; 50/51/52 Commando; 'Popski's Private Army'; 'V-Force'; and metal, trade arm badges of any era (eg musicians; tradesmen; instructors; skills).

H H Wakerley, 646 New Chester Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside, LA2 1QB. Is trying to obtain cups and tankards of the armed forces with their insignia printed on them.

J Godfrey, 64 Highway Road, Thurnaston, Leicester. Wants Canadian CEF cap badges, also British TA Inf, 6 East Surrey Regt (1908-20); 10 Middlesex Regt; 4, 5, 6, and 7 Essex Regts; WWII Infantry Div signs; 1, 6, 9, 18, 23, 36, 40, 44, 76, 77. Please state price.

J Reeney, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG. Has the following books for sale: 'Popski's Private Army' by Vladimir Peniakoff, £3; 'Winged Dag-

ger' by Roy Farran (slight damage to cover) £3; 'Soldiers in the Air (The Development of Army Flying)' by Peter Mead, £2; 'The Soldiers (An Anatomy of the British Army)' by Henry Stanhope, £5. £1 Postage and Packing on books plus SAE for reply. Wants 'The Red Devils' by G G Norton (Leo Cooper 1971).

Pen Pals

My name is Linda and I am 23 years old. I am a quiet brown-eyed blonde and am a Simon and Garfunkel fan. My hobby is writing poetry. — Linda, 5 Windermere Ave, Bellingham, Cleveland, TS23 1JL.

My name is Helen and I am 18 years old. My hobbies are writing letters, sport and discos. I would like to write to someone, preferably based in the Falklands. — Helen Chapman, 621 Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS7 2NA.

My name is Christine and I am 21 years old. My hobbies are sewing, youth organisations and learning to drive. — Christine Cole, 14 Queen's Avenue, Portishead, Bristol, Avon, BS20 9NH.

We are two students and our interests are hiking, canoeing, climbing and various outdoor pursuits and we are both venture scouts. — Pam Renwick and Joanne Huggett, 3 Hesle Grove, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey.

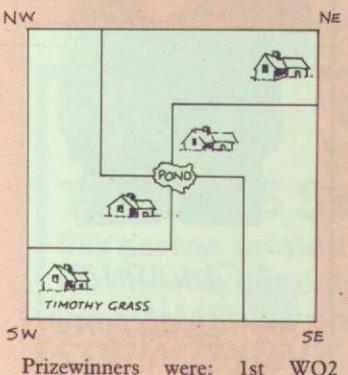
My name is Donna and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 4in tall with red hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are dancing, jogging and badminton. I would like a pen pal aged 19-20 years old. — Donna Walker, 1 Silver St, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE30 4EA.

My name is Janet and I am 27 years old. My hobbies are reading, theatre, cinema, travel, walking and animals. — Janet Thompson, 85 Knighton Field's Road West, Leicester, LE2 6LH.

My name is Joan and I am 29 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. My interests are reading, baking and music. I would like to write to someone aged between 30-35 years old. — Joan Graham, 12 Ballydonnelly Lane, Rasharkin, Ballymena, Co Antrim, N Ireland, BT44 8SY.

Competition

In our Competition 323, 'The Grass Family' you were asked to carve up the piece of land old Mr Grass had left his sons into four equal parts, each with direct access to the pond on the centre of the whole plot. Then you had to show approximately the position of each of the farmhouses. Your diagram should have looked like this:



Prizewinners were: 1st WO2

Vance, HQ Coy SID Clencourse, Milton Bridge, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0NP. 2nd Miss C Williams, c/o C/Sgt Williams, WOs and Sgts Mess, 1 Devon and Dorsets, BFPO 805. 3rd Cpl K Price, 113 Pro Coy RMP, Dortmund Det, BFPO 20. 4th Mr P Day, Newlands, Leighton Drive, Beetham, Cumbria, 5th Sgt R Curtis RAF, Sgts Mess, RAF Gutesloch, BFPO 47.

Reunions

The Annual Reunion of The Gordon Highlanders London Association will be held on Friday 11 November at the London Scottish Drill Hall, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1. Details from: Hon Sec, R W Harman, 52 Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

How Observant

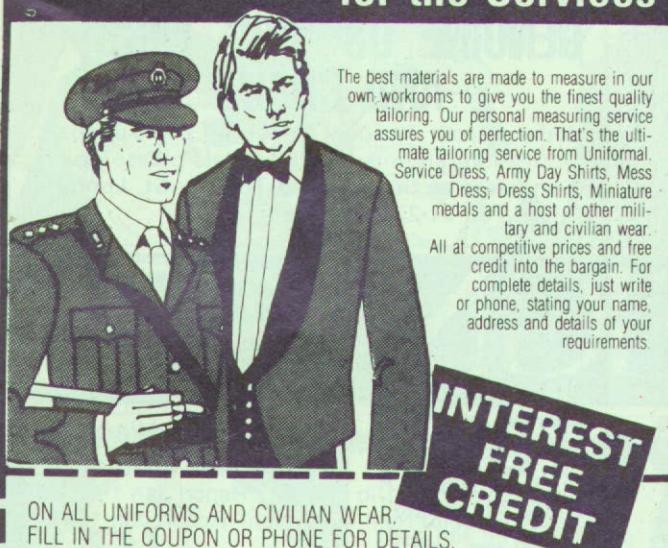
Are You? (see page 35)

Horse's mane; 2 Shape of saddle; 3 Neck of jar in shop window; 4 Corner of Bar window; 5 Spelling of "Gun-fighters"; 6 Twig on pavement; 7 Spur of man in doorway; 8 Cactus; 9 Height of fence; 10 Dog's right eye.

Correction

The Royal Soldiers' Daughters School is, of course, eligible for entry to daughters of soldiers and those of officers who have spent most of their service in the ranks. We apologise for the inference it was for the daughters of officers only in our 5 September issue.

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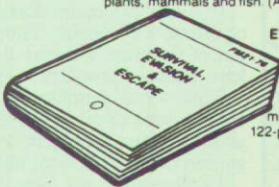
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Thus when purchasing any property be sure to make long and detailed comparisons of what you will be getting for your money. Shops, schools and good communications in the long run may be worth more to you than a larger garden or an additional bedroom.

London offers the most job opportunities and therefore the lure of the Home Counties is always strong. If possible try to put most of your cash into a dearer property than transport commuting costs from an unfashionable town where property prices, at first glance, seem very attractive. For example, commuting from Windsor is a much better bet than Maidenhead or Slough. But you'll be paying a premium for the privilege. The good news is that you get tax relief on the interest you pay on your mortgage. You get no relief on commuter fares. When house hunting choose a grotty house in a street of upmarket houses rather than a super property in a grotty area. And always get a structural survey of your intended house or flat purchase if the property is more than 20 years old. It could be the best £100 you ever spent.

K. Stephenson, 0277 232913

These articles are prepared in conjunction with **Kerry Stephenson** of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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Stourbridge, West Midlands. Magnificent 2-year-old beautifully deco-

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RCT Special



The first person to be seen on BBC TV's 'Rugby Special' this season will be a young Army Lieutenant Angus Mackay who is thought to be a fine prospect for a Scottish cap.

The opening scenes for this season's programmes were shot at Buller Barracks, Aldershot in a 'match' between 27 LSG Regiment RCT and 17 Port Regiment RCT. Lieutenant Mackay is seen here taking a conversion and this kick will be the opening shot.

John Graham, assistant producer of 'Rugby Special' said the Army had been chosen for the filming because of its ability to get together two teams during the week and "because of the amount of co-operation we always get."

The filming took two hours and the titles are expected to take up 30 seconds of screen time most weeks with less when important matches and internationals are featured.

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Canoeing

ARMY PADDLERS SHOW THE WAY

Army paddlers again scooped most of the prizes in the Inter-Services Canoe Marathon and Sprint Championships.

Current world champion, Sergeant Steve Jackson, partnered by Corporal Bob Storey (both Royal Signals) easily won the marathon over a 12 mile course on the River Trent at Newark. Captain Paul Robertshaw (Royal Signals) and Corporal John Speck REME came third behind an RAF pair. Overall team prize went to the Army.

In the Spring Championships held at the National Water Sports Centre at Nottingham, Army canoeists won every event. Jackson won the K1 500 metres and K1 1000 metres events and together with Storey took both K2 prizes.

The K4 500 metres race was won by Robertshaw, WO 2 Roy Evans, Sergeant John Hayden and Storey and the K4 1000 metres also went to the Army.

A newcomer to Army canoeing, Sergeant Neil Martin ACC, gave the Army victory for the first time for several years in the C1 500 metres race. The



World beater Jackson.

Army regained the Bicester Trophy from the RAF in convincing style with 90 points to the RAF's 70 and the Navy's 37.

Sergeant Jackson and his partner, former Corporal Alan Williams, received an inscribed crystal decanter from the British Canoe Union to commemorate their achievement in becoming World Champion Marathon canoeists in Finland.

SECRETARY

WINS TITLE

Army coarse fishing secretary, Major Peter Emery, beat 103 opponents to win this year's Army Angling Open Championship for the Bob Coe Trophy. The contest, usually held on the Thames, was switched this year to Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham.

Unlike the Thames there were very few favoured or 'hot' pegs and every competitor caught something. Major Emery, who

confessed to being slightly embarrassed by his win, netted 7lb 7ozs of mainly roach. He was followed by Sergeant Colin Colclough from RAF Brize Norton with 6lbs 12ozs. Colclough has finished in the first three for the last three years without winning.

Third was Cpl D Pickard RCT from Bicester (6lbs) and fourth Corporal Bill Howell, 44 Squadron RCT (5lbs 8ozs). He took the title in 1981.

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CHEQUE/PO No

DEVELOPED from the Scandanavian practice of hunters seeking their prey on skis with a rifle slung over their backs, the biathlon is fast gaining in popularity throughout countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

No more so than in the British Army which provides the British Biathlon team at next February's Winter Olympics at Sarajevo in Yugoslavia, a location which is in the history books as the starting point of World War 1.

The sport demands skill in two different disciplines — cross country skiing and shooting. In competitions biathletes are required to ski three distances: 20 kilometers stopping to shoot four times, two prone and two standing; ten kilometers with two shoots and a seven-and-a-half kilometer four-man relay with two bouts of shooting.

Training for the World Championships and Winter Olympics carries on throughout the year of approach with each of the seven man team doing individual training with his unit during the spring and summer before they all come together for their intensive six-month build-up.

This started last month in Scotland with basic condition

For Britain's all-Army biathletes — light at the end of the tunnel?



Down the hill, through the tunnel, up the other side and back — a ten kilometer endurance test.

stein follows and then another four weeks in the Pentland Hills, Scotland, before the proper snow skiing starts in November in Norway. After that they join the European competition circuit leading up to the Championships.

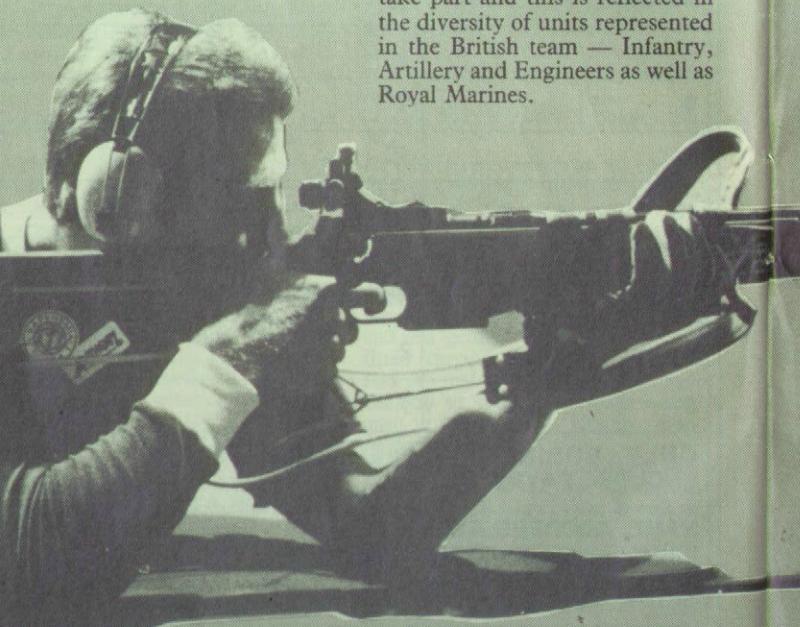
Sounds like hard work, doesn't it? And it is certainly not for those who have heavy domestic or career commitments. As coach Warrant Officer 2 Mal Hirst said: "With six months of the year spent away from home, the ideal biathlete is a single man; but if he is married, he needs a very understanding wife!"

The biathlon is also an expensive business. Even the practice roller skis and sticks cost about £70 a pair and each member of the team can expect to wear out

four pairs during training. The fast racing skis and sticks cost considerably more. Each Army biathlete has bought his own 2.2 target rifle which costs between £500-£600.

Substantial financial help is given by the British Ski Federation who also pay the team's travelling and accommodation expenses. This, together with a donation from the Army Sport Control Board provides the resources with which to keep a national team up to competition level.

The breeding ground for Britain's military biathletes is at Zwiesel where every year the Army Championships are held. About 20 different regiments take part and this is reflected in the diversity of units represented in the British team — Infantry, Artillery and Engineers as well as Royal Marines.



Britain depends on the Services to provide the national team because civilian amateurs find it impossible to devote enough time to the rigorous training programme. Also, with very little snow in this country it makes sense for troops based in Germany to use that country's natural terrain and climate.

The fascination of the sport, explained WO 2 Hirst comes from the strange marriage of the two disciplines:

"The aim is obviously to be a good shot and a fast skier and all the training we do is designed not only to improve in each skill but to train the mind to adapt quickly from the athleticism of skiing to the concentration needed for shooting. It's no good just being a fast skier because poor shooting incurs penalties."

Last year in the World Championships, Staff Sergeant Jim Wood, APTC came 26th out of 78 and although the best position ever achieved by British is 11th, the team regards itself as in the top third of competing nations. Precisely where is difficult to assess, since last year the team was dogged by illness and because they are up against strong contingents from Norway, Russia and East Germany.

To better that 11th position, the team now faces a gruelling five months during which they can expect three training sessions a day for five days a week and two at "the week-ends".

"It's a hell of a lot of training," said WO 2 Hirst, "but it never gets boring because there is always something to work on — always something that can be improved. I try and vary the sessions as much as possible and do something different each day."

"Sometimes, the pressure builds up too much with some of the guys and then I send them away for a day or two to sort things out for themselves and work on their weaknesses. Rest periods are very important because there is no point any athlete driving himself too hard one day because he is useless the next and risks injury. As well as enforced rest periods, for relaxation I let them do other sports like squash and cycling."

Let's hope all the hard work pays off for Mal and his seven biathletes. ■



WO2 Malcolm Hirst watching shooting on the indoor range



Five of the seven-man British Biathlon team; left to right S/Sgt Jim Wood, APTC, Cpl. Anthony McLeod, 42 Commando RM, L/Bdr Trevor King, 5 Heavy Regt, L/Cpl Patrick Howdle, 35 Eng Regt, L/Cpl Charles McIvor, RCT.



Lance Corporal Patrick Howdle, 35 Eng Regt building up stamina on roller skis.



Story:
Sally Daniell

Pictures:
Doug Pratt

Basic condition training in the Pentland Hills, Scotland.

PRINCE RUPERT!



Man of the match was undoubtedly Lieutenant Rupert Kellock, Royal Green Jackets, with four wins out of four games on his first appearance in the Inter-Service squad. Already he is being heralded as a potential Army champion.

INTER-SERVICES GOLF

NEW BOYS' SELECTION PAYS OFF

From Doug Pratt in Woodhall Spa

THE ARMY gained memorable victories over the RAF and the Navy to wrest the Inter-Service Golf Championship from the RAF. The competition, at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, one of the world's top golf clubs, was sponsored for the first time by the General Accident Insurance Company, who will sponsor the match for the next two years as well.

The Army got off to a good start. Their opponents, a strong RAF side, had already beaten the Navy conclusively on the first day and must have fancied their chances against an Army side which included three newcomers, Major Nigel Ramsden RAOC, Captain Len Yates 13 Signals Regiment and Lieutenant Rupert Kellock RGJ.

After the morning foursomes the Army led 3-1 after victory had been plucked from the jaws of defeat by the most senior member of the team, Major Ian Pearce and the most junior, Lieutenant Kellock. Two down with three to play they clinched victory on the 18th with Kellock holing a ten foot putt to leave the airmen shell shocked.

In the afternoon singles the Army appeared to be cruising to an easy victory after nine holes when they were leading 6-1 with one match square. But the RAF rallied for a fighting finish over a difficult back nine into the wind and with narrow fairways.

The matches ended four apiece with the Army holding out well. Army champion, the newly promoted Sergeant Ian Gray won with a superb birdie on the 16th. The rest of the main artillery went down but new boys Kellock and Yates won and Ramsden halved his match. Team captain, Staff-Sergeant Chris Carveth praised his 'rookies' for 'a lotta bottle'.

Against the Navy the morning foursomes proved to be a repeat

with the Army 2-1 up and Kellock and Pearce out on the course. A remarkable 17th hole, with the pairs standing equal, saw Pearce punch a four iron into the wind. On arrival at the green he found his ball resting against the pin for an Eagle two. This decided the issue.



Army golfing stalwart, RSM Bob Hanna, of the Royal Military Police, was making probably his last appearance in the Inter-Services competition. To commemorate his 15 years' service to Army golf, members of the AGA contributed to buying him a limited edition painting of the 16th hole at St Andrews.

In the afternoon singles, despite strong winds and occasional rain, the Army players forged ahead to only lose one match. They had thus regained the trophy with 7-5 and 9-3 victories over the other two Services.

IN BRIEF

Craftsman Les Pegler, of REME Workshops, 1 & 3 Training Regiments RE, came second in the recent Gloucester Iron Man Triathlon. The event consisted of a 1.2 mile swim in a pool, a 50 mile cycle ride from Gloucester to Bristol and back followed by a half marathon.

Pegler was in eighth position after the swim, moved up to third after the cycling and eventually finished only six minutes

behind the winner. Pegler, a keen marathon runner, is now looking for other triathlons to enter.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Army is to have its own official half marathon championships. It will be incorporated in the Fleet and Crookham Athletic Club's annual event starting and finishing in Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, on Sunday 8 April 1984. Full details will be published mid-November.

SAS THE PARAS

JUST IN - 'Battle for the Falklands' 3 vols. - £4.95 ea (or £11.95 set) + £1 p+p Other titles available on request.

THRILLS AND SPILLS BUT . . .

ARMY RALLY MEN STAY DISTANCE

DESPITE TURNING OVER onto its roof in the early stages, the first ever Army entry in the prestigious Rothmans Manx International Rally went on to finish 45th overall and ninth out of 25 competitors in its section.

The **SOLDIER** magazine sponsored Volkswagen Golf GTI was driven by Corporal Des Harden of 9 Field Workshops REME, Bordon with Lieutenant Miles Ambler, from Queen's Own Hussars, Berlin as co-driver.

The two men were delighted with their result. They had predicted a less than 50 per cent chance of finishing with their small crew of mechanics and lack of spares.

It was early in the race when the roll-over occurred. The car left the road, hit a bank and turned over on its roof.

"There had been a road surface change" explained Corporal Harden. "When we did our pace notes there was dry tarmac but it then poured with rain and there was mud deposited on the road. Spectators helped to push us over and we continued without a windscreens.

"Later we managed to rig up an emergency windscreens and then buy and fit a proper one. We also had a puncture on the 16th stage and these two escapades cost us ten or 12 minutes. But the last two days went very well."

Before their arrival on the island the team were less than optimistic about finishing. "We will

be praying and will be very pleased to finish," said Corporal Harden.

Said Lieutenant Ambler: "Last year out of 145 entrants only 65 finished. We only have a limited budget and servicing whereas some of the cars will have a complete spares back up and can almost rebuild the car on the roadside."



The team arrives in the Isle of Man to a sunny welcome. Below: Out on the course for a note taking session.



Harden (left) and Ambler prepare for a practice along the Oxfordshire lanes.

The back-up for the Army team consisted of eight tyres to cover both dry and wet weather conditions and a Land-Rover loaded with spares. The mechanics were headed by Corporal

Grayeam Copley from 10 Regiment RCT workshops at Bielefeld accompanied by Sergeants Dai Stevenson and Ron Ackers from SEME Bordon.

Both Derek and Miles had been rallying for some years in Army events. The latter entered his first rally the day after his 17th birthday and told **SOLDIER**: "The great problem in the Army is that your calendar does not allow you to do every event."

The Rally around an island famous for its motoring and motorcycling events is one of the few which take place entirely on tarmac roads. Top names were competing in the event at more than 100 mph providing the fastest and most spectacular rallying in the British Isles. After their initial success the Army team hopes to be back again next year.



SCOTS DG WIN POLO CUP

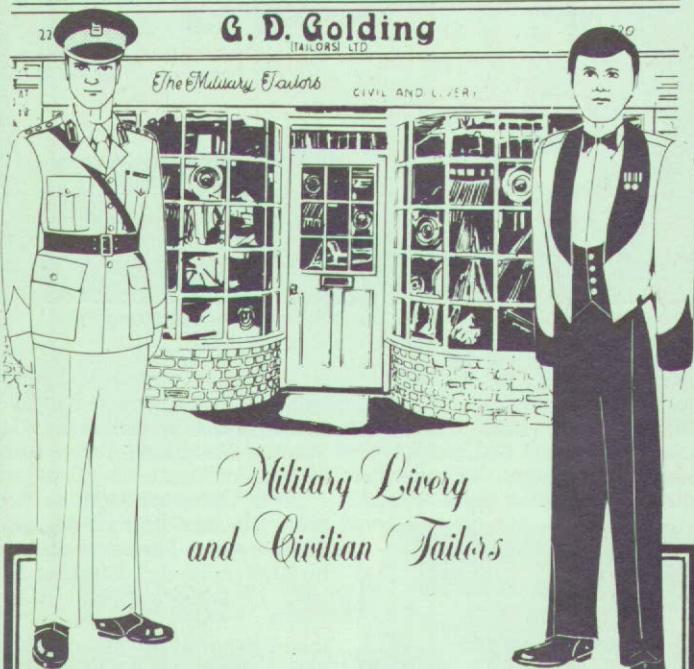
A champagne celebration for The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards team which won this year's polo United Services Challenge Cup. This year's final at Bad Lippspringe was against the Welsh Guards, the 1981 winners.

The first chukka saw the scores end level but by the half-way stage the Welsh team were 3-1 up. But the Scots side fought back to lead 5-3, then 6-4. In the end they scraped home 6-5 against the strong and competent Welsh Guards. Picture and report from Lance-Corporal Dave Smithson.



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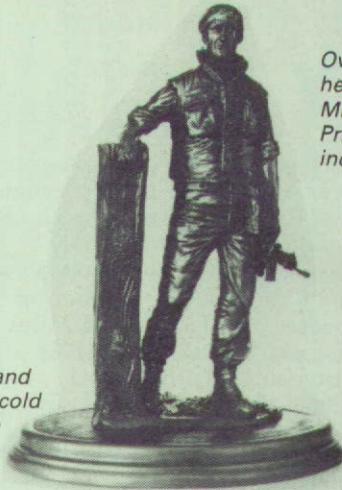
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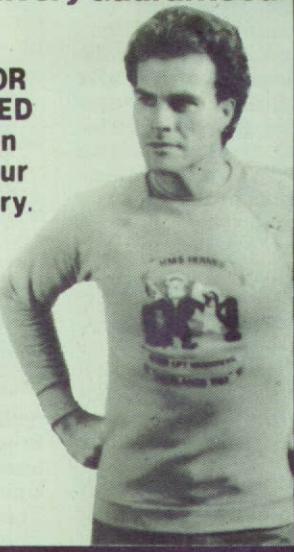
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