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FRONT COVER

It looks good — will it taste good? The heat is on during a TA "cook-in" in the North East. See pages 26-28.

Picture by Paul Haley

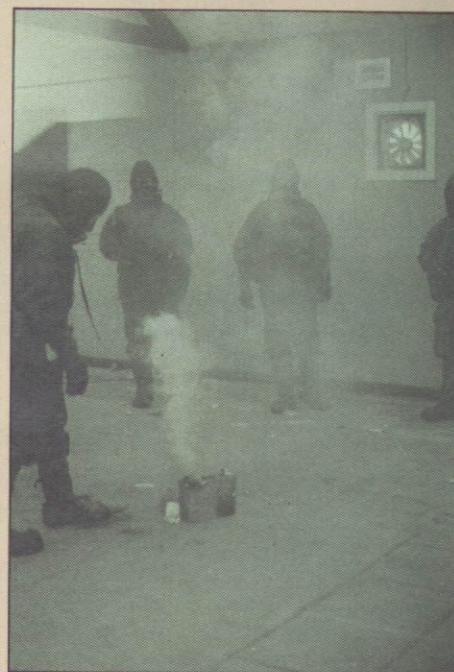
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**The spectacular Lord
Mayor's Show — page 12**

**A change from the
headquarters! — page 19**



**Demonstration goes with
a bang . . . page 30**



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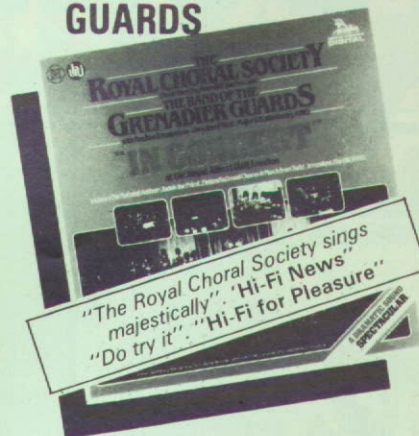
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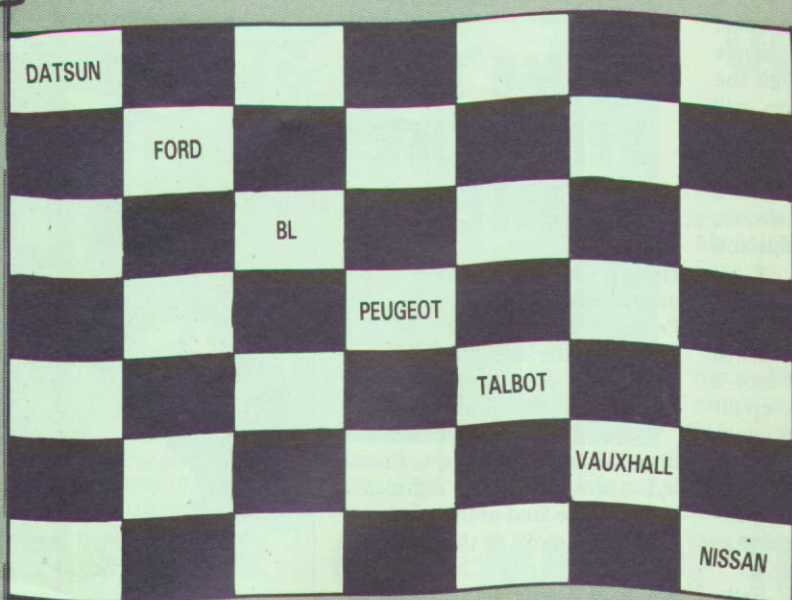
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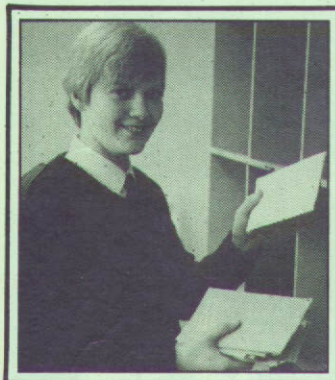
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Don't hog the telephone line boys!

WHILE SERVICEMEN in the Falklands will be able to dial direct telephone calls home this Christmas, they are likely to experience some problems doing it, writes John Margetts. For although the new phone system, soon to be installed by Cable and Wireless, will be far better than the radio link of last year, there is the likelihood of only five telephones being available.

JENNIFER FOLLOWS THE POST



FOR THE PAST year "postie" Private Jenny Marshal has been sorting and sending letters to the lads in the Falklands. Now Jenny is soon to leave for the South Atlantic for a 4½-month tour and reverse her job by sending soldiers' letters home.

Based at Mill Hill, London, Jenny has been following in her parents footsteps, for her Dad, who retired as a WO1, was a one-time "postie" at Mill Hill and so was Mum, who was a corporal in the ATS.

"I'm in for 22 years," said Jenny, adding that her younger sister — she has three — is hoping to join the WRAC as well. As a "postie", of course.

"Although the plan is for five phones to be installed, we are hoping for ten," said a Cable and Wireless spokesman.

Once installed, the new phone link will provide a 24-hour service. Payment to make a call will not be by feeding coins into a box, but by a pre-paid credit card, the cost of which has yet to be decided.

The cards will be worth 100 credits which will be automatically deducted by the machine as the caller dials the number.

Cost of a call from the Falklands to the UK will be £1.50 a minute with no time limit imposed, even though there could well be a queue of callers waiting to send their Christmas greetings.

"We can't put a time limit on calls," said Cable and Wireless. "Who knows, a soldier may be calling someone who is very ill. We just hope that the troops will not hog the line.

"When you have a large concentration of people such as in the Falklands with only limited facilities, there is bound to be congestion at peak times.

"Providing we can get the phones installed in time, it will be better than last year. We are doing our utmost to provide as many phones as possible and to get them there in time," he said.

Jenny will celebrate her 21st birthday in the Falklands, but even though she will be 8000 miles away, she shouldn't have any trouble keeping in touch

TIME TO REMEMBER FALLEN

HOME OR abroad, November means remembrance. Right, The Prince of Wales leads the nation's homage at the Cenotaph, laying a wreath on behalf of the Queen.

And in the Falklands... "Young lads, with the musical lilt of Wales on their lips. Proud lads, proud of their regiment, proud of the land of their fathers. Brave lads too"... the words of Falklands Forces Chaplain the Rev Paul Abram held strong and clear against a gusting cross wind above Fitzroy Cove.

A Celtic Cross, from the granite of Wales, engraved with 42 names, now dominates the bleak setting as a permanent memorial to the men of the 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards, who died when Sir Galahad was crippled in an Argentine air attack on 8 June last year.

First to lay a wreath at the foot of the Cross was Major General Keith Spacie, Commander British Forces Falklands and during the service of dedication the Collect of The Welsh Guards was recited in Welsh, by Guardsman Alan Thomas (pictured right) from Caernarvon; one of the Sir Galahad survivors, currently serving on detachment in the Falklands.

with her boyfriend, LCpl Alan Bland, who is based in Düsseldorf.

That's right, you've guessed it. He's a "postie", too!



Accidents marred 'Triangle' triumph

TWO SOLDIERS, one a regular officer, the other a TA lance corporal, were among seven people who died in road traffic accidents during BAOR's exercise Eternal Triangle.

The other five were German civilians.

Major Peter Pearn, 35, of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, died in a tank accident and Lance Corporal Waters of 221 Squadron RCT (V) was killed when his motor bike was involved in a collision.

More than 18,000 troops and 1000 tracked vehicles were involved in the three-week exercise.

While the accidents were tra-

gic, the exercise itself was described as "extremely successful" by a spokesman at HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

It was a gold-star follow-up story, too, for the 50 national and regional journalists who attended in their role as accredited war correspondents.

Organised jointly by Brigadier David Ramsbotham, Director Army Public Relations, and Mr David Chipp, Editor-in-Chief of the Press Association, the Brigadier said the four-day event was successful if only because it happened at all.

It was a success, he said, "because the military and the media were practising how they could

work together. And it was a success because MoD has been thinking for a long time how to get over a real problem that had to be faced."

As for the future he stressed that "we must look again at the accreditation document for war correspondents; we must look seriously at the role of the media in times of tension; we must work out how we are to handle the release of sensitive information in the event of tension, and the media must realise that the first job of the Armed Forces is to win battles and not just produce a bloody good story."

Observers of the new Army-media link-up included leading

German newspaper editors, a top BBC man, a representative from the Australian High Commission, American and Belgian officers from SHAPE and officials from the British Embassy, Bonn.

LOOK AHEAD

Looking ahead to Exercise Lionheart next year, Brigadier Ramsbotham said a similar Press event was being planned, but hopefully it would fully involve the international Press.

Commenting on newspaper reports of the Press-Army get-together he said: "It was valuable to read and hear all shades of opinions, but I was slightly disappointed with some of those in the so-called qualities."

5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE

OUT-OF-AREA ABILITY IS ENHANCED

HEROES of the Falklands, men of the Parachute Regiment and, in particular, 5 Infantry Brigade were the hosts of Defence Secretary Mr Michael Heseltine who made a special visit to their Aldershot base to congratulate them on their performance in the South Atlantic and to reiterate their role and change of title — to 5 Airborne Brigade.

Announcing a number of measures which will enhance the Brigade's capability in their out-of-NATO-area role, Mr Heseltine said that in all operations of war there were lessons to be learned.

It was clear that by adding some teeth and some logistic support units, the Brigade could be even more effective in its out-of-area role. There was also a need to add other elements to increase the Brigade's "staying power" and to provide air defence.

A number of new units would join the 5000-strong Brigade — some 2000 of them parachute trained — while others would be considerably expanded, he said.

A parachute-trained Blowpipe air defence troop will be added next year. A new signals troop will be raised including satellite communications facilities. An ordnance company will be added and a new Field Ambulance will be formed to provide essential medical support for the Brigade.

Mr Heseltine added: "Almost all elements of the Brigade of the future will have some parachute capability, so that an all arms force will be capable of deploying by parachute with the required logistic support. This means more parachutists in the Brigade with, of course, more money and the coveted red beret.

"The successful operation of the Brigade will call for close co-operation with the Royal Air Force. The airlift will primarily be by Hercules but VC 10s and new Tri-Star strategic tanker freighters could also be used. We will also be fitting station keeping equipment to a number of our 'stretched' Hercules — they will be able to carry nearly 50 per cent more fully equipped paratroops after they have been modified — enabling them to carry out a co-ordinated drop of the Parachute Assault Force.

"Your General War Role will remain as the C-in-C's mobile reserve for Home Defence but you are also the Army's out-of-area Brigade. The measures that we have taken since last year and those now being implemented will significantly increase our ability to deploy a highly-trained and professional force by air. In the light of these improvements to the Brigade and to its parachute capability and from what I have seen and heard this morning I am confident this Brigade now has a truly airborne capability."

General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, at the Aldershot briefing.

PRAISE FOR EOD MEN

EXPERTS ARE still seeking an answer to the plastic mine problem in the Falklands.

Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley, speaking in the Commons, said that intensive research was going on, but because "we have not yet got the complete answer to that particular mine, we have decided not to continue with minefield clearance at the moment."

Paying tribute to the courage and efficiency of the Royal Engineers, who so far have shifted more than two million bombs, shells, mines, missiles and bullets from the Falklands battlefields, he said that since the clearing operation started, one sapper had been killed and three others injured.

The dangers were still very much there and a temporary halt to minefield clearance has been called.

Mr Stanley went on to tell MPs that the past year had seen major improvements in living and working conditions for the lads in the South Atlantic.

Most soldiers now lived in complexes of "up market Portakabin accommodation" and the food was excellent and the mail service efficient and frequent, he said.

AIR MOBILE TRIAL

MR JOHN Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, has announced that one of the brigades in 1(BR) Corps — 6 Armoured Brigade in 3 Division — will undertake a one-year trial in the airmobile anti-tank role. A decision on whether to extend this trial will be taken in the light of experience gained

OUR MAN OF THE YEAR



Lieutenant Alan Wordie, right, shakes hands with Cliff Richard as two "Men of the Year" get together.

ARMY AIR Corps pilot Lieutenant Alan Wordie who lost his leg in a road accident but came back with determination to fly helicopters again was one of eleven "Men of the Year" to be honoured at a special luncheon at the London Savoy under the auspices of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

Others there included Cliff Richard, David Bellamy the botanist, the two brothers from Cumbria who ran across the Himalayas, and Bob Paisley, former Liverpool manager and now a director of the club.

... and a gallantry award

Army Air Corps pilot Staff Sergeant Michael Haverson has been awarded The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air for a night rescue in the jungles of Brunei last April.

Lt Wordie, after his accident, was badly burned and remained unconscious for five days. After the third day, the onset of gangrene necessitated the amputation of his right leg at mid-thigh.

Before he climbed back into Gazelle and Scout helicopters — he is now serving in Hong Kong — he was given only a one per cent chance of recovery to flying.

As an Army Consultant Advisor in Aviation Medicine and two colleagues have said: "This is a remarkable story reflecting a remarkable man."

The citation says Sergeant Haverson "showed extremely high standards of captaincy, airmanship, flying skill and courage in very difficult night conditions over extremely hostile terrain".

NEWS VIEW



RISE FOR BRIGADIER ▲

The Deputy Commander South West District, Brigadier Rory Walker, pictured with Major Roderick Macdonald, Royal Engineers prior to take off for the Brigadier's first flight in a powered hang-glider of the Royal Engineers Hang Gliding Club.

Major Macdonald, Chairman of the club, believes Brigadier Walker to be the most senior officer so far to try this mode of air travel. Can anyone improve on this?



WELCOME "HOME" ▲

It was a changed, strange world that greeted Alec Hill when he paid what was quite literally a "flying visit" to Germany last week and was shown the controls of a Gazelle by Captain Ian France — who went to school in Sandwich, where Alec now lives.

Alec was the first commander of No 662 Squadron of the Army Air Corps when it was formed in 1943, and remained with it till the Reichswald campaign in early 1945. At that time it was purely a spotter unit for the Royal Artillery. Alec used to serve in 92 Field Regiment with the Territorials.

◀ HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

'D' Squadron The Queen's Own Hussars celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of their regiment on 4 November when a special 'birthday cake' was cut by their Squadron Leader, Major Malcolm Watson.

The Queen's Own Hussars were formed on the 3rd November 1958, by the amalgamation of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars and the 3rd The King's Own Hussars, and the celebration, was attended by the French armoured squadron, the 11th Chasseurs, and closed with a friendly five-a-side football match between the two allies.

BLANDFORD REUNION ▶

It was family reunion time, when father and son met while attending courses at Blandford, Dorset. Captain William Alexander RN was attending a Concepts for Computer Users course at the Defence ADP Training Centre, while son Mark, a Royal Signals Officer was attending his young officers' signals course.

Father took great delight in displaying his new-found knowledge when he gave Mark a conducted tour of the Centre's computer room. The family house is in Portsmouth and Captain Alexander is based at ASWE Portsdown.



◀ THAT'S SOME 'CHUTE'

Carlsberg International have officially handed over the biggest parachute in the world to 22 Air Defence Regiment! The chute, a Paramount Foil 11, has been specifically designed for the sport of parascending. It covers 454 square feet, and is capable of lifting two parascenders in the same harness!

The latest acquisition by 22 AD Regt Parascending Club opens up new horizons for an already superbly equipped club. Next season the height record of over 3,000ft will be attempted on this, the only privately owned Parafoil 11.

Mr Bjarne Jensen officially hands over the biggest parachute in the world to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel L A Wilkes, flanked by members of the Parascending Club.

BONFIRE MUSIC ▶

The band of 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Border Regiment brought additional pleasure to those attending the Bonfire Night celebrations at a spot overlooking Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

It was one of the last public engagements for the bandmen, who have made themselves many friends during the battalion's tour of duty.



◀ DROP-IN FOR MEDAL!

When former Red Devil's free-falling ace Staff Sergeant Jack Fowler from Matlock was told to appear outside his headquarters in Lippspringe, West Germany officially to receive his Long Service and Good Conduct medal, he literally jumped at the chance — from the dizzy height of 4,000 feet.

For 44-year-old Jack equipped with a high-performance steerable parachute strapped to his back, dropped from an aircraft to land spot-on-target for the outdoor ceremony just ten feet from Brigadier Patrick Brooking, Commander 33 Brigade, who was waiting to present the medal and the photo shows the Brigadier congratulating Staff Sergeant Fowler, watched by Sergeants Sharp, Charters and Thomas.



Wagon train goes to war



TOPICS

FERRYING essential supplies of ammunition, food, fuel, stores and clothing to the war fronts — in a Britain torn apart by war and internal strife — that role, recently enacted by a crack West Country Territorial Army Transport Regiment, earned them praise from their CO this week.

At his regimental headquarters, in Bishops Hull, Taunton, Lt Col Paul French, commanding officer of 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment, RCT (V), described Exercise 'Champion Hurdle' — a 15-day exercise, in which his volunteer men and women part-time soldiers, from units all over the West Country and from parts of South East England, took part — as the most successful exercise the unit has completed in recent times.

At the outset of this major exercise, nearly 200 vehicles, from 155's 232 (Plymouth Squadron, and 233 (Southampton) Squadron, moved in



Rockcakes and shortbread fingers — baked at the rate of 2000 per day in field-kitchen conditions by this hungry Territorial trio — (from left) Corporal Peter Payne, Cpl Malcolm Phillips, and Warrant Officer 2 John Griffin.

convoy to collect stores from Army Ordnance depots all over the South of England, assembling them at a joint reception point in the Aldershot area.

Meanwhile, the regiment's 245 Ambulance Squadron (Bristol), comprising 66 custom-built ambulance-landrovers, and a total of 80 vehicles, did a practice movement exercise, in concert with Army Movement Control, simulating a sea-move into Europe, finally joining up with the rest of the regiment.

At Aldershot they dug in, and camouflaged up in a defended position, where they remained for seven days, before moving down the M4 Motorway — along with vehicles of Regular Army Logistic Units — in an impressive 400-vehicle convoy, to new locations on Salisbury Plain. Here they remained for the dura-

tion of the camp, continually repulsing simulating 'enemy' strafing by jets of the Royal Air Force, and simulated enemy harassment by Royal Marine Commandoes.

More than 400 Territorials

took part in Champion Hurdle, which was designed to practise the logistic re-supply system, by which the Army feeds, rations, clothes and re-supplies its Teeth-Arm units in time of war.

Excitement was the operative word in this camp, and — thanks to Col French — the action even spilled over into the leisure side of the 15 days. For — instead of only the usual shopping spree, generally laid on as a matter of routine on the TA camp middle weekend — the Col staged a much more welcome action-packed diversion, in the shape of adventure training, sport and tours of military museums and other places of interest, which added zest to the entire exercise and boosted morale all round.

Visits to the RCT Museum, Aldershot, and to the Gurkha Museum, at nearby Church Crookham, were laid on when the Terriers took great interest in the latest exhibits — including most recent acquisitions from the Falklands Campaign.

31 Years service



as RQMS and in 1978 was promoted Lt (QM) then Capt (QM) two years later. In 1979 he was given a Group A commission as Acting Major and took over command of X Company 6 RRF in Newcastle which involved a round trip of 126 miles to attend drill night and weekend training. In 1981 he became OC Recruit Reception Training Team which post he held until his retirement.

In his 31 years service he has attended 29 camps, one course in lieu and missed one camp because of a rail strike.

Major Dixon's story has an unusual twist in that, as a young soldier, he was told that he was never likely to be able to handle a rifle properly because of an accident he sustained at work. In the event, nothing could have been further from the truth, as he proved to be one of the best marksmen in the TA and shot at Bisley for 20 consecutive seasons. He was a member of the 7 RNF team which won the China Cup and was twice rifle champion of Northumberland. His son is now serving with the 2nd Fusiliers in the Falklands.

Interviewed this week for his local newspaper, where he is now production manager, he told the reporter, 'If I had the chance I would do it all again. The comradeship and friendship in the TA have been tremendous — you could not find better anywhere in the world.'

MAJOR Ian Dixon from the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers retired from the TA on 17th November 1983 after 31 years continuous service. It was in 1946 that Major Dixon had his first taste of army life when he joined the Army Cadet Force in his home town of Berwick upon Tweed. In 1950 he was called up for National Service in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers but was soon transferred to the RAOC. He served with HQ 2nd Infantry Division at Hilden in Germany for eighteen months until demobilisation in November 1952 when he joined the 7th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers as a National Service Volunteer in D Company based at Berwick.

On formation of 6 RRF in 1975 he transferred from 5 RRF

IN THE FALKLANDS



A DOZEN TA sappers from 74 Engineer Regiment (V) have arrived in the Falklands for a six months' stint there. All have enlisted with the Regulars for the tour as all had done a rigorous training revision of basic infantry and combat engineer skills, coupled with stamina training to enable them, if needed, to cover on foot ten miles in full kit in ten hours.

In the Falklands they form part of 73 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, and are involved in road building and camp structures.



Maj Robinson, Brig Pegg, Mr Featherstone walk the Anglian way.



Left to right: Brigadier John Pegg, Deputy Fortress Commander, Mr Maurice Featherstone, Minister for Public Works, Major Terry Robinson, 5 (Volunteer) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment and Mr Mario Guinetti study the sign.

Clearing the way!

The 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment started it all when they created a half-mile walkway on the Rock in 1969. Resident on the Rock they opened the scenic pathway as a goodwill gesture and named it Royal Anglian Way, writes John Margetts.

But the path, instead of being used as intended, became a rubbish dump making it impassable for strollers.

And it stayed that way until the arrival of 5(V) Royal Anglians for a two-week camp under OC Major Terry Robin-

son.

They came, they saw and they cleared. Last month under the watchful eyes of Brigadier J. H. Pegg, deputy fortress commander, Mr. Maurice Featherstone, minister of works for the Rock, Mr Mario Sanguinetti, Gib's principal town planner and RSM Sam Basu of the 'Duke's', the 800-yard lane was again declared open to walkers and the ribbon duly cut by works minister Maurice Featherstone.

Smooth words from Mr Featherstone who said he hoped the path would stay open and clear from rubbish. Then he and the assembled celebrities walked the sunlit path.

Champagne awaited them at the end of the walk — and the guys of the Company who did the actual work — but there is a possibility that the hopes of Mr Featherstone may not materialise, for unknown to him and the other dignitaries a load of rubbish had been dumped not 100 yards from where they were drinking their celebratory champers.

Said an anonymous officer of 5(V) RA: "Only this morning I found a local resident dumping rubbish on the pathway. And that's after we had just put the finishing touches to the whole project."

He didn't say when 5(V) would be back on the Rock, but if rubbish dumping started on day one of the re-opening, there's every chance that when they return they'll have plenty to keep them occupied in their spare time.

pool. The King George V Cup for Observation Post Batteries went to 307 (S. Notts Hussars), (RHA) from Nottingham.

ONLY ONE FLED!

NO LESS than 40 applicants presented themselves for energy-expending activities of command tasks, fitness and medical tests, during the initial assessment weekend of Northern Ireland's Direct Entry scheme for potential TA officers. Originally there had been 96 aspirants and one of them is reported to have fled into the night after the opening brief!

The scheme is designed to attract the 19-30 age group drawn from management and professional careers and prepares TA potential officers to pass a two-week pre-commission course.

Gunners special style

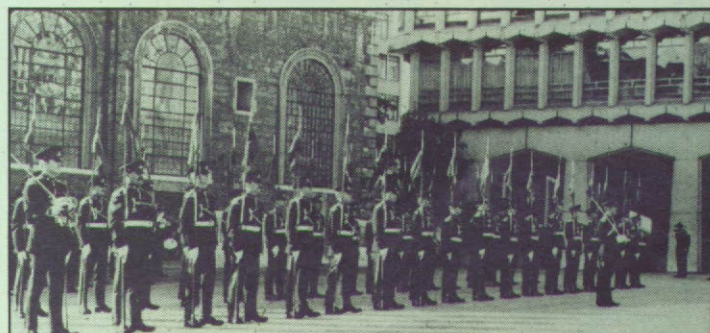
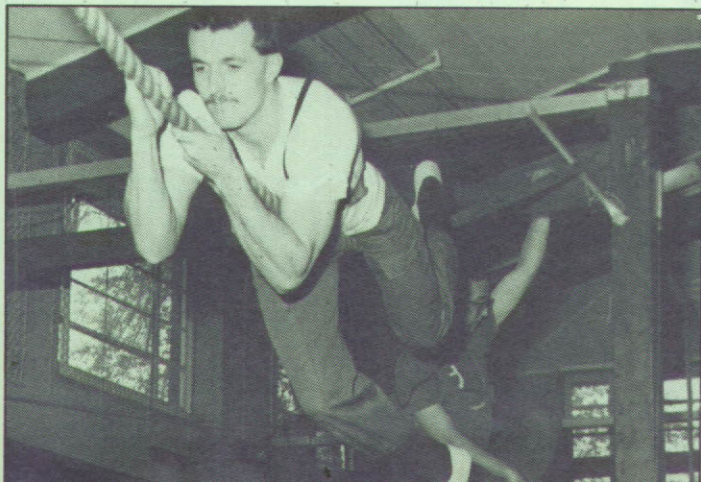
THE TA's gunners — five Regiments and four Batteries — have done it again in their own special style at London's Guildhall, where the annual prize-giving of the National Artillery Association took place.

The top award for the field branch went to 289 Commando Battery, RA from East Ham — their second successive victory in The Queen's Cup. The BP Trophy for the Blowpipe air defence gunners went to 210 (Staffordshire) Air Defence Battery from Wolverhampton. The Taurus Trophy — a special air defence competition award — was won by 208 Air Defence Battery (3rd West Lancs), RA. The Air Defence HQ Battery Cup was awarded to HQ (King's) Battery, 103 AD Regt, RA, from Liver-



Brawn and brains on a command task.

First time on the rope — unnerving!



The Guard of Honour at London's Guildhall, found by C Troop (Glamorgan Yeomanry) from Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.



Not TA — but a contrast in height.

The Paras on parade.



75 years — all on one float.

Medical attention — touch of humour.

HUGE TA PRESENCE IN LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

THE ANNUAL Lord Mayor's Show in London is one of Britain's greatest spectacles and this year, for the first time in 657 years, the City of London's new First Citizen is a woman — Dame Mary Donaldson, wife of the Master of the Rolls.

Also for the first time, detachments from every one of London's TA units took part.

This extra participation, honouring the Territorial Army's official 75th anniversary, also marked the close connection between the City and the volunteers which has continued for centuries.

The nation's oldest operational military unit, the Honourable Artillery Company (officially formed in 1537) provided as always the Mayor's ceremonial escort of Pikeman and Musketeers, dressed and drilled in uniforms of Cromwell's day.

The HAC, like most other London units, also demonstrated its modern NATO-dedicated emergency role.

Marching detachments — most notably the 6/7th Queens, whose precision would have done the Guards credit — and bands alternated with mounted displays.

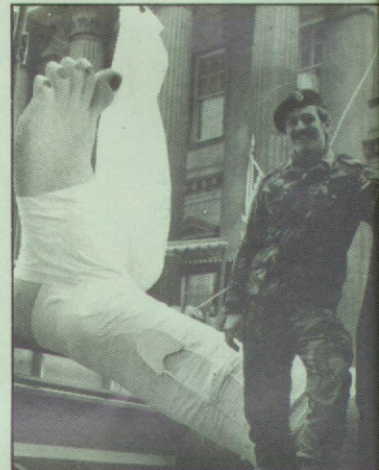
Amongst the modern equipment several interesting items from the past also stood out; for

example the Royal Yeomanry's replica Sherman tank, manned by Western Desert veterans, and 151 Transport Regiment's genuine restored 1917 Mk. 10 GS Waggon which was followed by the RCT's Corps coach and four.

Two large floats manned by London University OTC and 4RGJ respectively showed tableaux of volunteers yesterday and today.

Dame Mary's theme for the 1983 Show was 'it is people who matter' and she is certainly a firm believer in the value of voluntary service to the nation.

Colonel Gordon Spate (Colonel TA SE District and a member of the TA's show committee) said, "neither the Regular Forces nor the country could do without volunteers. We in the TA are proud to serve alongside our superb professional Army, and proud, too, of our close connections with the community." ■



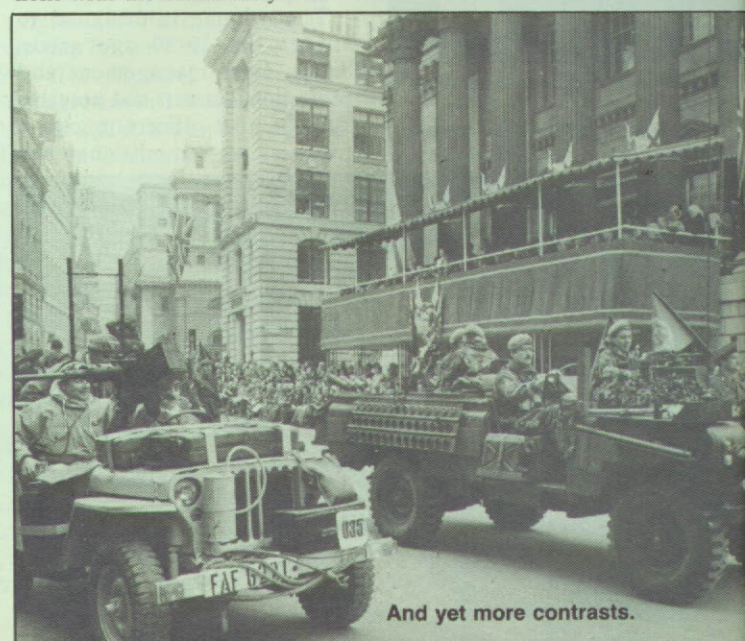
A cheer . . . or a yawn?



Memories of the cyclists . . .



Shades of a bygone war.



And yet more contrasts.

SOLDIER to Soldier

SOLDIER philatelists above all know the interest in the stamps of the Falkland Islands and its associated territories have never been higher.

In recent months, the hard pressed Falkland Islands Post Office at Port Stanley has been receiving demands from collectors throughout the world for the attractive sets of stamps which have been released since hostilities ceased.

To cope with the demand, offices have been set up in England and America to ensure that customers will obtain a first class service.

To encourage new collectors and service existing philatelists, a special standing order scheme has been devised.

A small subscription, topped up as required, will ensure that complete collections can be maintained even by those who are unable to purchase from the usual retail sources.

Full details are available from the Falkland Islands Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 123, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1ER.

IT says much for the Army's pride in its achievements that even though the Falklands conflict has — quite rightly — proved an inspiration for artists — older tales of daring are not

forgotten.

It will soon be forty years since Corporal Tom Waters, Royal Signals, earned the Military Medal at the Caen Canal Bridge, Benouville, Normandy and it is 18 years since the brave NCO died.

Yet the Corps did not forget Waters' feat and this painting below graces the Mess at the HQ Royal Corps of Signals, Blandford.

It shows the late Corporal Waters, MM, in the heat of the action at the Caen Canal Bridge on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

Commissioned by the Royal Corps of Signals, the painting

was shown to Mrs Waters, his widow, and her daughter, Mrs Margaret Kay, who had travelled down from Yorkshire to Dorset to be presented with a signed print of the picture by Major General Bob Benbow, Signal Officer in Chief (Army).

Tributes were paid by General Sir Nigel Poett, who commanded 5 Parachute Brigade in 1944 and Captain Guy Radmore, who was Cpl Waters' CO during the action.

WITH another RAC London to Brighton run behind us, it is not too early to look ahead to next year and wonder if then we could see an Army entry. This year, as far as the organisers were aware, none of the veteran cars were entered by a serving soldier.

An organiser for the event told SOLDIER: "It really is surprising that we have not had any Army entries — although I do know of one elderly, retired

officer. I know that the Lombard RAC Rally raises enthusiasm within the Army. I am sure there must be someone with the odd vintage car tucked away somewhere just itching to get out on next year's run."

Captain Paul Allen, a retired officer, who is secretary of the British Army Motoring Association said: "If anyone in the Army would like to approach me I can then discuss it with the chairman of the Association with a view to sponsoring Army entrants. I can be contacted at Buller Barracks, Aldershot on extension 2779."

THE following was spotted in an Ohio, USA, publication:

"He passed out of the British Military Academy at Sandhurst at the age of 22 and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Life Guards (the British equivalent of the United States Coast Guard)".

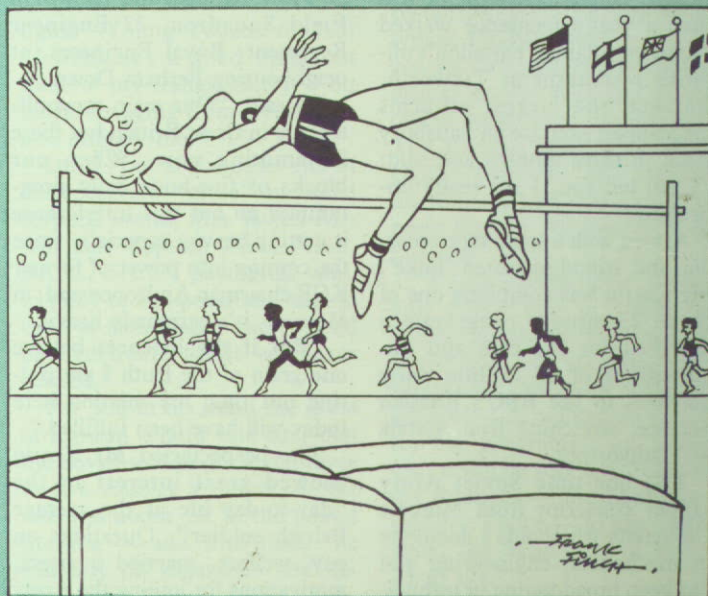
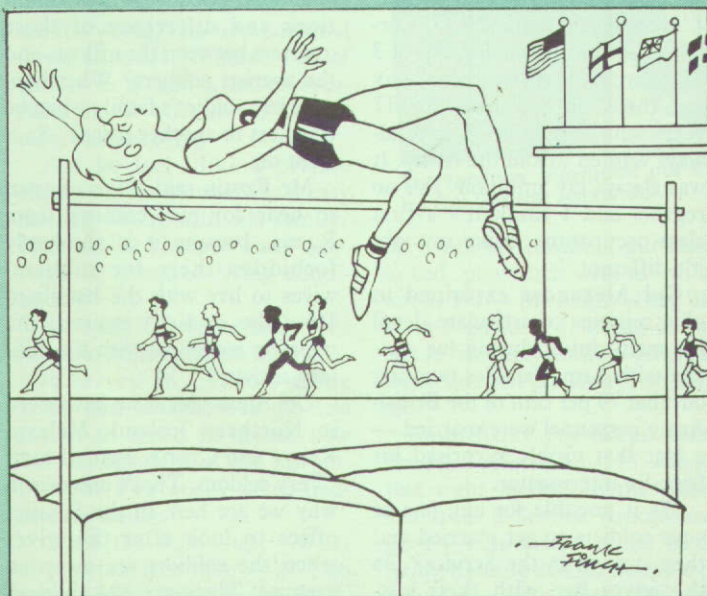
Is nothing sacred?!



How observant are you?

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

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



STAFF writer GRAHAM SMITH and photographer PAUL HALEY dropped into Tidworth, Perham Down and Salisbury Plain to eavesdrop, by invitation, on the finds of a Russian-born broadcaster from the BBC's External Services' Russian language service who was determined to defy the jamming of transmissions to 15 million daily listeners in his quest to put over...

'The grain of truth' about the average 'squaddie'



RUSSIAN-BORN BBC External Services broadcaster Viktor Kostin who fought in the Israeli Yom Kippur war as an emigré sapper conscript of less than a year's residence walked round an infantry battalion's all-ranks restaurant at Tidworth, watched the largest all-arms mechanised exercise on Salisbury Plain in three months and said: "I can tell you, I am really impressed."

Armed with a small tape recorder and tripod-mounted 'mike', Mr Kostin was compiling one of three 23-minute programmes destined for the ears and imaginations of 15 million daily listeners to the BBC's Russian Service, stretching from Latvia to Vladivostok.

The one-time Soviet Army sapper conscript from Moscow University who holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering and has been broadcasting in technol-

ogy, science and the military for the past eight years was full of questions for his hosts of the day.

They were the rear party of 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry at Tidworth and the men of 8 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, at neighbouring Perham Down.

He said: "Our main transmitters are in Great Britain but there is jamming now. When our blocks of five-hour daily programmes go out this interference is getting heavier especially since the coming into power of former KGB chairman Andropov and, in Moscow, it's extremely heavy."

"But if the listeners believe one grain of the truth I am putting out then my mission here today will have been fulfilled."

The bespectacled Mr Kostin showed great interest in the "day-to-day life of the average British soldier". Questions on pay, welfare, married quarters, motivations for joining the Army

and its terms of service, pensions, free time and, particularly, food dominated the ten-minute taped sessions with his willing interviewees who spoke with sincerity and without hesitation.

Men like Families NCO, Corporal George Alexander, 36, of 3 LI, married with two boys, (six and three) in the army for 17 years who told him: "I have always wanted to join the Army. It was always my ambition. I've no regrets and I think it's a first class occupation. I like my job; it's different."

Cpl Alexander explained in nine minutes of articulate detail his main duties during his contact with Army families pointing out that 70 per cent of the British Army personnel were married — a fact that visibly surprised his friendly interrogator.

"Is it possible for any one of your soldiers to get married and then stay on in the Service? Do the wives live with their hus-

Brigadier Ian Mackay, Commandant of the School of Infantry says a few words during a peep at Exercise Phantom Bugle.

bands in special quarters? Can you describe their living conditions and difference of these quarters between the officers and the average soldiers? What happens to a soldier's family when he transfers to another place?" So it went on.

Mr Kostin said: "It's unusual to hear for me, coming from Russia, because it is absolutely forbidden there for soldiers' wives to live with the battalion. Does the soldier's married life interfere somehow with his military activity?"

Cpl Alexander, who has served in Northern Ireland, Malaya, Kenya and Cyprus assured him: "Very seldom. That's one reason why we are here in the families office to look after the wives when the soldiers are away on exercise. There are 394 children



The sounds of "war." The mute Mr Kostin lets the recorder take the impressions.

in quarters and 295 families altogether including 20 families awaiting entry to quarters."

On the way to his next interview which, like the others, would be cut to 20 seconds, Mr Kostin then revealed: "In the Soviet Union our soldiers sleep 100 to one deep room in barracks; just beds in long rows with practically no privacy at all for them. Sergeant-Majors usually have their own small rooms separated not by cardboard but certainly by plywood.

"Life for soldiers in the big towns like Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad is good but life in small garrison towns is absolutely terrible."

Next, he questioned the Army life motivations of 3 LI HQ Company Clerk, Corporal Ted Suker, 36, who is married with two boys aged five and two.

In the Army since 1963 as an apprentice vehicle mechanic he said he left because "it was too much like school" but re-joined 18 months later in the hope of going to Malaya. He went to Berlin.

"I wanted to be a soldier, travelling as much as I could to see the world," he told potential Soviet listeners. "There's a lot of variety in it and a lot of comradeship. It offered me a good career and security."

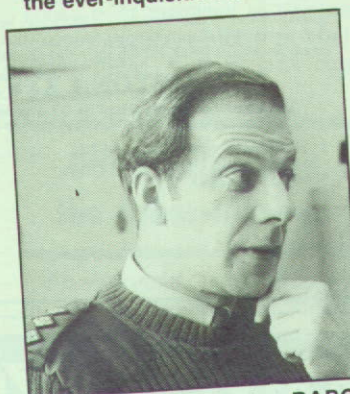
Did he feel "like a private citizen" in his house? Was it easy moving about with his family? Had his life changed since marriage in terms of living conditions?

In reply, Cpl Suker said: "It's just like moving house normally. I've served in Cyprus, Hong Kong and BAOR. I've got less money to spend on myself now but the standard of life has improved. I've got a three-bed-roomed house."

Came the follow-up: "What about your free time?" — "I go home, have my evening meal,



L Cpl Keith Swinburne amuses the ever-inquisitive Mr Kostin.



Captain Mike Nash, RAPC, answers a question on finance and pay.



The families' viewpoint put over by Cpl George Alexander.

play with my children, put them to bed, play cards with my wife, watch TV — the blight of my life — and go to bed. Being in the Army we are always away at weekends but are always on call, too."

Royal Army Pay Corps clerk, Private Leslie Youens, 19, single, just eight months in the Army and from a Service background gave a run-down on his basic Army training and an example of a typical day's work. He sur-

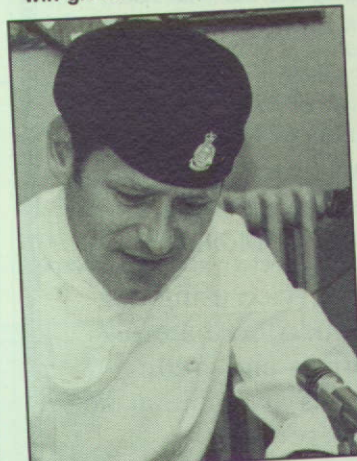
prised his questioner by saying that single soldiers could go away from barracks at night and at weekends providing they were back on duty at the prescribed time.

"You are told how to respect everybody," he said. "You're taught various weapons, how to handle them, how to shoot, do PT four times a week, taught the basics of battle, how to combat nuclear war and things like this. It's mainly 'genning' you up. When you join the Army you know you have to work 24 hours a day if called upon."

Mr Kostin countered: "Do you find military discipline a bit



Corporal's wife, Mrs Vivien Kirwin gives the domestic angle.



Sgt John Shields gives his culinary viewpoint.

tight?" Young Youens replied: "I think it's a good thing but some of my friends find it a bit tough changing from civilian life into military life."

Others put at the other end of his receptive "mike" included corporal's wife, Mrs Vivien Kirwin and Captain Mike Nash, RAPC, 3 LI's paymaster who, in reply to one poser said that in cases of mobilisation there would be "adequate funds whenever needed."

Pay still in his mind the guest of Russian origins said later that the Soviet soldier got about three to five roubles a month — the rate was about 1.2 to the pound Sterling — and with that, "he can buy his cigarettes and nothing more."

On his way into Tidworth by car from the nearest railhead at Andover, Mr Kostin said he was surprised by the lack of sentries, barbed wire and weapons. "When you approach Soviet military bases you see big placards alongside the roads restricting entry for several miles before you reach the base. I believe this is typical Russian paranoia. They suspect everyone of everything."

In 3 LI's dining hall for the soldiers Mr Kostin was impressed by the presence of crockery, cutlery — he peered into a tray full of 'diggers' — the five-choice menus, and the apparent honesty of the catering staff both military and civilian.

In the Soviet Union, he alleged, sergeants stole food blatantly or by threat to the soldiers. They ate well.

"I'm really impressed," he said again, marvelling at the issue of eight ounces of meat daily. "Our soldiers eat 'kasha' — boiled, roast buckwheat — or 'shchee' — cabbage soup — accompanied by watery tea. What I have seen here today will play a big part in my programme."

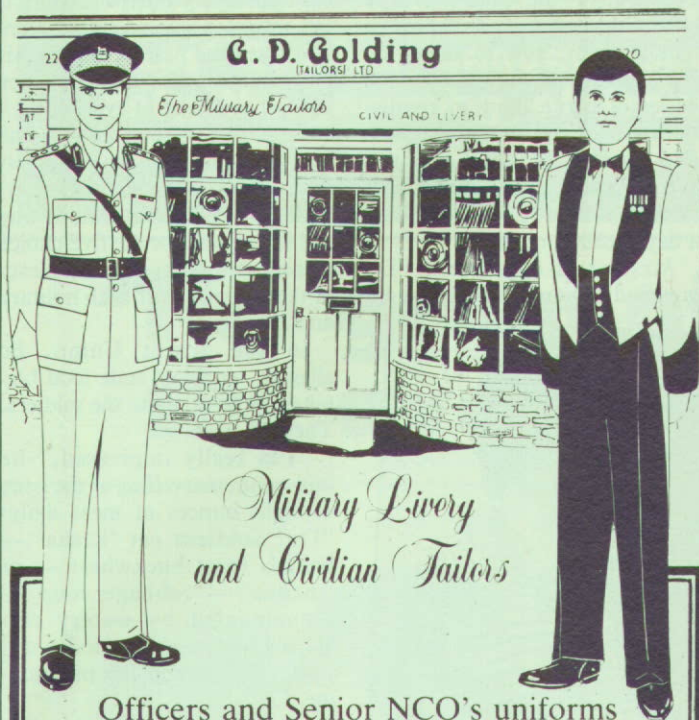
In the afternoon he watched part of Exercise Phantom Bugle, the largest all-arms mechanised battle group exercise held this autumn on Salisbury Plain involving some 800 men and more than 130 AFVs, including 20 Chieftain tanks and 60 APCs, some of them, MCV 80 and the Saxon AT 105.

Amid the belching smoke and main armament crescendos during his half-hour visit he told his Royal Engineer hosts, Lt-Col Andrew Baines, CO of 22 Engineer Regiment and Major Charles Moorhouse, CO of 8 Field Squadron: "I can tell you, I am really impressed."

Visit over and on the point of departure for Bush House and his External Services studios, Mr Kostin said: "Your other ranks restaurant at 3 LI was like a typical English club, to me. By general comparison, the Russian officer seems dull; the British officer looks very sophisticated. The Russian soldier can hardly explain his views, his attitudes, his military role. He cannot express himself because he is too illiterate."

"I interviewed your soldiers and every one of them has spoken absolutely freely with no hesitation, no repetition, no mumbling. Everyone knew exactly what he wanted to say. As for my programme on today's visit it will be very interesting for the Russians — including many soldiers, I hope — to know more about the basic facts of British Army life."

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Guardsman Cameron explains the workings of the 84mm rocket launcher to young Fijians during an open day.



South Sea splendour for Scots Guards

A Pacific Island, for exercise — “not possible in this man’s Army!” — a guardsman was heard to say, but he was wrong! C Company 1st Battalion Scots Guards went on Exercise Coconut Grove and spent six weeks in fabulous Fiji.

The Jocks are currently based at Stanley Fort, Hong Kong and the thought of going to a small group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean was a dream and the highlight of their Far East tour of duty.

C Company were to do conventional war training, field firing and community relations.

On arrival the company moved to a small camp in Lantolla on the western coast of the main island. Once settled in, the guardsmen trained in the beautiful picturesque countryside, culminating in two exercises. The opportunity to work in open country was a great change for the men most of whom had been sweating it out in the jungle of Malaya six months earlier.

One open day was held for the inhabitants of Lantolla and gave

a touch of Scotland to this very distant part of the world. The Pipes and Drums played and the cooks even managed to produce some Haggis which, to their amazement, the Fijians consumed in no time!

But a Fijian won the caber-tossing!

An enormous Fijian managed to win the ‘tossing the caber’ event — to the delight of the crowd.

A local newspaper said of the Scots Guards ‘they are a very old distinguished regiment, known in the UK as the “COCKS”’.

The Company did a week’s field firing, setting up ranges in

the mountains and competing in an inter platoon competition.

In most people’s eyes the South Pacific means ‘blue sea, golden sands and palm trees’, but the Scots Guards saw little of this in the first part of the exercise. However, in the R & R period, groups were attached to the Royal Fijian Navy and though a minesweeper is by no means a luxury liner, it was welcome transport to beautiful uninhabited islands which made the Jocks appreciate the South Pacific.

The Scots Guards are counting the exercise a complete success with all training objectives achieved and many new friends

made during the trip.

The Jocks are now back in the confines of Hong Kong’s new territories where they are taking their turn at guarding the border with mainland China. The border company locations at Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok are a far cry from Fiji.

As soon as their border duties are complete the Scots Guards will be getting down to a hard period of ceremonial drill training. It is over four years since the Battalion took part in public duties and half of the young soldiers have never taken part. The Battalion return to public duties in February and their drill will be perfect by then.

Story and pictures:
Mike Campbell-Lammerton



Scots Guardsmen aided by Queen’s Gurkha Engineers build new school out-buildings in a distant mountain village as part of a community relations exercise.

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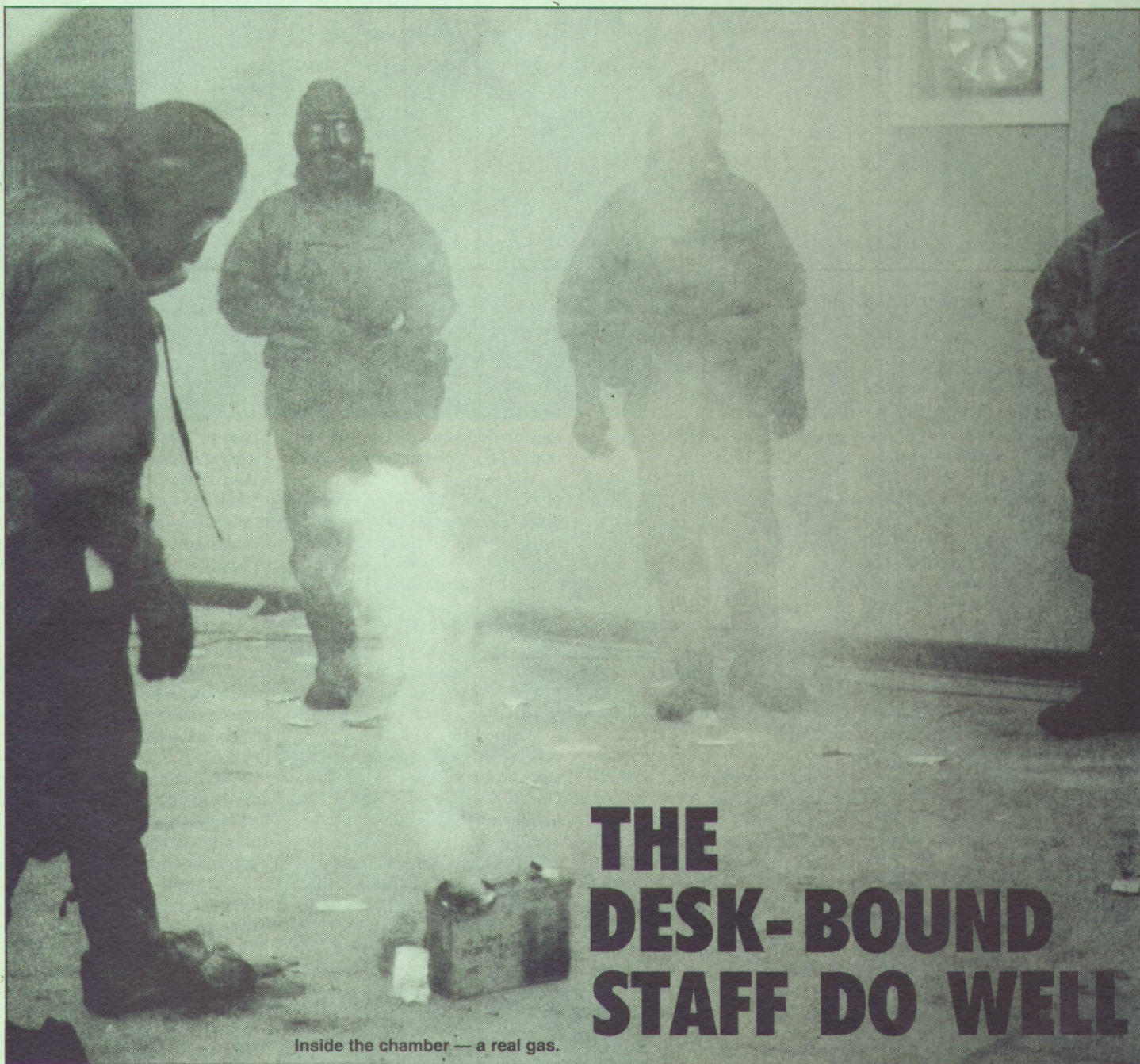
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THE DESK-BOUND STAFF DO WELL



Happy to be out again!
Now for the recovery.

Story: GRAHAM SMITH
Pictures: PAUL HALEY

THE POSSIBLE worries in their stacked in-trays a dozen miles to the east of them, virtually a whole District HQ moved out to a new set of problems; clearing their lungs of tear gas as part of a two-day training camp which partially simulated the probable horrors of a nuclear, biological attack.

Five colonels — one of them a padre — seven lieutenant-colonels, 16 majors, six captains, 23 senior NCOs (including three women), half-a-dozen junior NCOs and 13 soldiers forsook their corridors of power and forethought to embus in two 39-seater coaches from HQ South-West District at Bulford for the first ever venture of its kind, this one, held at Westdown Camp.

As staff officer, Captain David

Ahern, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, explained: "The aim of this first camp is to fulfil our training commitment as an HQ to ensure that we are proficient in skills required of us if we ever have to become an operational nucleus in the home defence role."

So, cocooned in NBC "Noddy suits" and respirators the "guinea pig" desk-bound administrators from UKLF's busiest 'sharp-end' District, filed quietly into a single-storey hut — to be gassed.

There to ensure they carried out properly the relevant respirator, decontamination and other drills during the 40-minute sessions was a TA senior NCO, WO 2 Peter Pritchett, of the RCT. He is usually a school transport service owner but one

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A veteran Ferret undergoes decontamination for the 'nth' time.



of the District's eight-strong specialist NBC instructors.

Overseeing their chemical attack defence efforts from masking-up in nine seconds and the eating-and-drinking (a water biscuit and water) drills inside the CS gas-filled hut vented by ejector fans, he reminded them: "With respirators off you close your eyes. Don't lose concentration. Hold your breath and decontaminate your gloves with Fuller's Earth before you do any more drills."

On half-a-dozen occasions he took his students in; six times he emerged with the sound advice: "Don't huddle together!" More counsel was given as the ten-man syndicates breathed in untainted oxygen, their eyes running, noses irritated and a few with spontaneous coughs.

He told me: "The senior officers are above average considering

they don't do much of this sort of thing. They're been getting stuck in and having a go. I'm very pleased and, hopefully, our enthusiasm will rub off on all of them. A lot of them have got through it very well."

WO2 Pritchett added: "It's all much more realistic now than it was in the old National Service days of 20 years ago when you didn't even wear an NBC suit but just a Mickey Mouse-type gas mask."

Meanwhile, a battered and venerable Ferret scout car of yesteryear became the cleanest vehicle at Westdown as, for the umpteenth time, the syndicates with brooms, buckets and an air-tank powered washing brush went into decontamination drills.

Elsewhere in a classroom sequence, canvas chairs held the frames and the attentions of the HQ planners as TA Staff

Sergeant "Hank" Hankin of 219 General Hospital from Keynsham, near Bristol, cut open one of half-a-dozen NBC suits that day with a pair of scissors to demonstrate decontamination processes involving chemical casualties and again involving the liberal free-flying powdery Fuller's Earth.

"If you get a spurt of blood then you know you have done something wrong," he advised humourously on a serious subject. "It's time-consuming and tiring."

Other aspects of the two away-days with the tactical difference for the HQ staff was a visit to the Infantry Trials Demonstration Unit at Warminster for a peek at the latest in equipment under trials, and back at Westdown their Annual Personal Weapon Tests (APWTs) on Sterling SMG and 9mm Browning pistols. ■

Staff Sgt 'Hank' Hankin delivers chat on casualty treatment.



SOLDIER writer John Margetts and photographer Paul Haley visited 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in Ballykinler and found the families in good heart and . . .

Ready to fight off Winter Gloom

A Guard at Ballykinler: reminder of the serious side of life.

OF numbers mean anything at all, there are two "battalions" based at the N. Ireland base of Ballykinler — the place where the Mourne Mountains "sweep down to the sea". One is made up of the officers and men of the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the other comprises their 650 wives and children.

"We are a fairly heavily married battalion" explained Capt Alan Startin, the unit's Press Officer. But this happy state does pose the problem of how to keep the "family battalion" occupied and contented during the next 18 months?

The battalion is resident in Ballykinler, one of six such units in the province, and primarily concerned with their operational duties — assisting the RUC to maintain law and order. All around in the camp are hints that the professional side of life is never far away.

With eight months of their two year N. Ireland residential tour behind them, and with the tail-end of the best summer for years now gone, winter looms and with it the question:- what spare-time activities to offer the 320 youngsters and their Mums?

The men faced with this daunting task are the Families Officer, Lieutenant John Mitchell and his assistant Warrant Officer 2 Nick Nicholson. Never let it be said, even hinted, that they are dismayed by the prospect. Since the Regiment arrived in this remote, south-east corner of the Province, they have had family activities moving at a cracking pace.

There are many activities and clubs being run by volunteer wives and soldiers, including cub, guide and brownie packs, a cadet platoon, judo classes, a modern dancing class for children and mums, a creche and kindergarten, clay pigeon shoot-



Training is still so essential.

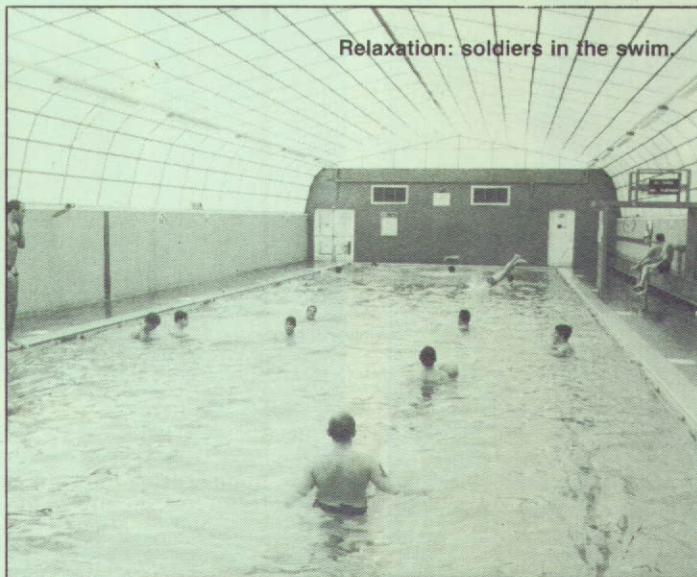


Lorraine Tucker, 14 — proud of her badges.

ing, sailing and windsurfing, a saddle club and weekly .22 shooting for the wives on the 25 yards range.

In addition, shopping outings are organised, using the Regimental bus, and a mini-market takes place once a month in the camp community centre. This gives local tradesmen an opportunity to bring in their produce and goods.

On top of this, there is a hairdresser's with three wives crimping not only their friends and neighbours, but the lads from the



Relaxation: soldiers in the swim.



Mrs Margaret Reed and baby Nathan.

regiment as well. This fast, efficient achievement was headed by a strong sense of self-reliance which burns throughout the D and D Regiment.

With the long winter nights the Battalion is now faced with a new challenge. While few indoor club activities will be affected by the seasonal change, a good many of the outdoor ones will be hit. So they are looking for new ideas — which don't cost too much money — to promote and hold the interest of the vast majority of the families who take part in organised events.

Of course, lack of cash is always a major stumbling block. "We could do with two more buses" said Lt Mitchell, "then we could take 100 wives shopping instead of just 37". Emphasising this, he said that within minutes of the bus list going on the notice board it was full of names.

"When the sun shines this is an extremely attractive place" said Captain Startin. He admitted it wasn't so hot when the rain came down. Home for the families is the usual MQ-style house and twenty-eight pre-fabricated mobile homes. "Twenty two more permanent houses are being planned and the existing houses modernised with central heating systems, which should improve life-styles and help reduce electricity costs" said Lt Mitchell.

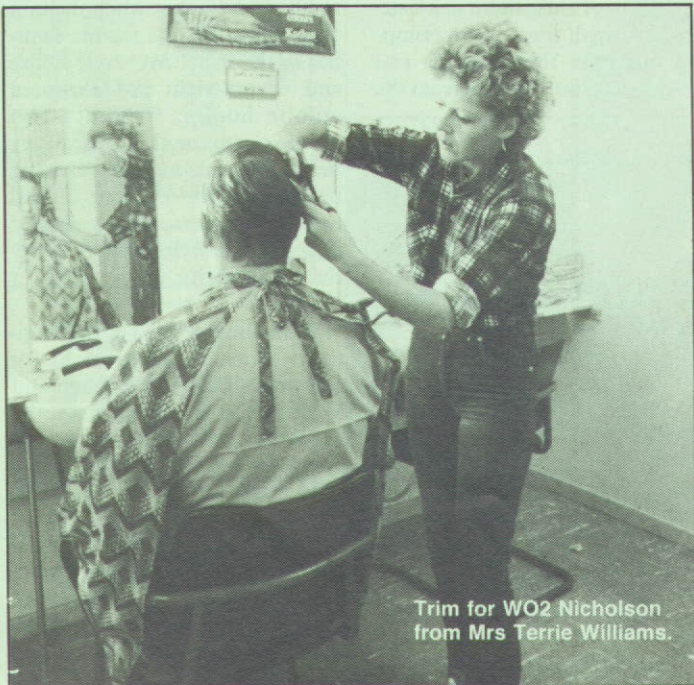
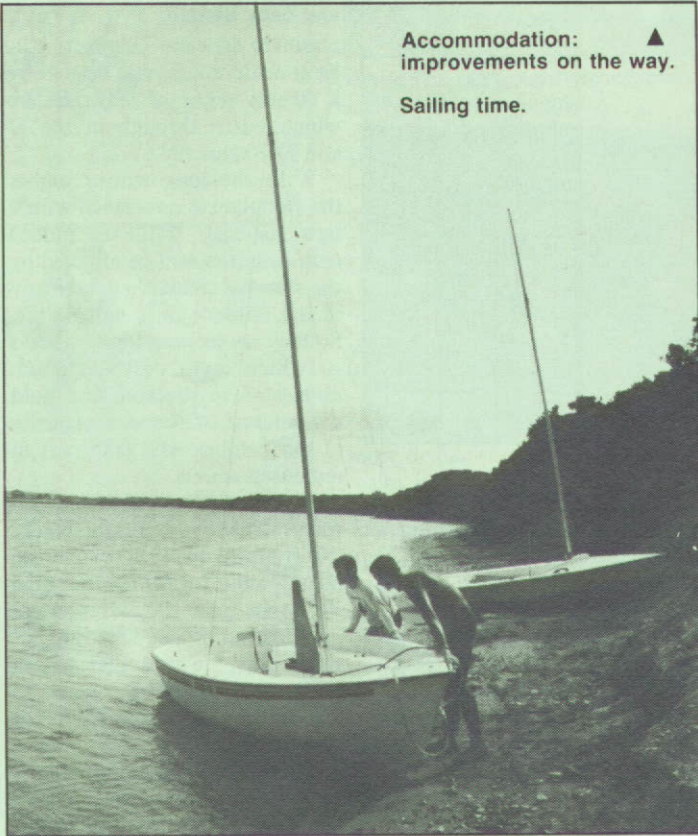
With about a third of the Regiment away on deployment for five or six weeks in Armagh and West Belfast at any one time, the wives are encouraged to return home for a short break, "and a good many do" said Lt Mitchell, "those that don't have involved themselves in our programmes. Our bingo sessions always attract at least 200 wives, while the keep-fit class has more than 80 going through the arms-raise,

continued on page 22

Dance time for the budding ballerinas.



Accommodation: improvements on the way. ▲
Sailing time.



Trim for WO2 Nicholson from Mrs Terrie Williams.

knees-bend routine under the watchful eye of WRAC instructor from HQ Northern Ireland.

"This is a real do-it-yourself place" he said. "We have a community centre committee which is in the process of considering our winter programme and long-term projects. Video is figuring largely in our plans, which could replace our film shows, which didn't prove too successful.

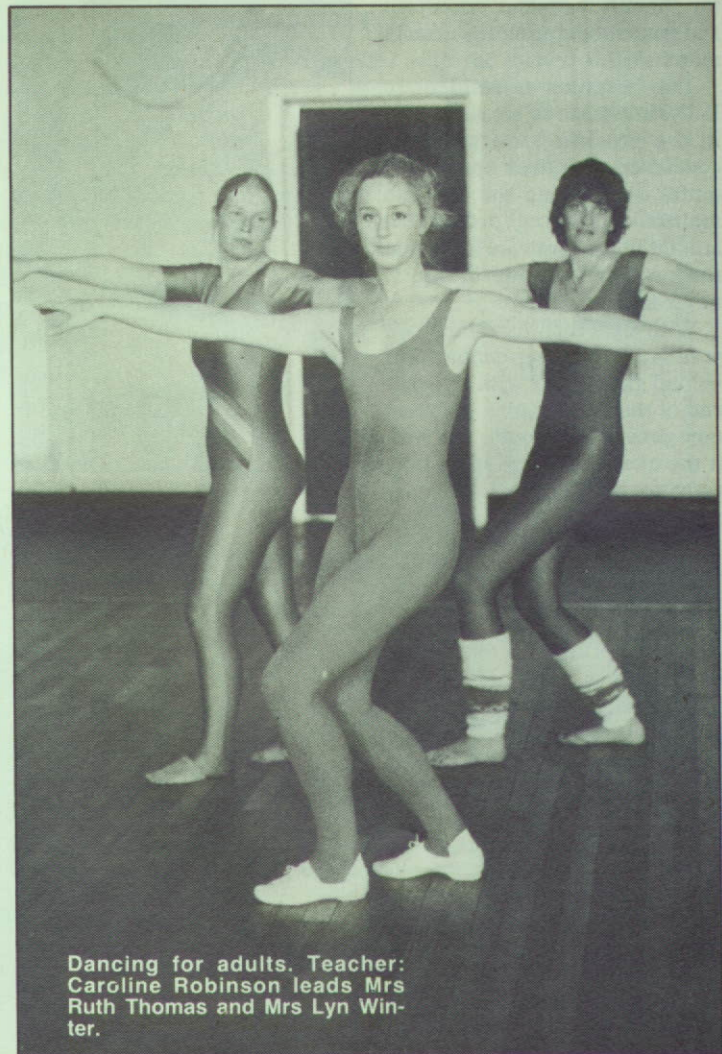
"The films were costing about £30 a time and were not attracting large enough audiences to cover costs. So since Video is much cheaper, it could be the answer to one problem".

The feeling that the D and D is a "family regiment" is very strong, and is indicated by the fact that family welfare comes high on the list of priorities. "It has to" said Lt Mitchell "unhappy home life can affect a soldier's efficiency, which in certain circumstances could cost him his life. So we look out for the wife and kids".

One of the latest members of the "family" is Nathan Michael Reed, who weighed in on June 12th at 6lbs 10oz, the baby son of Pte Simon Reed and his wife Margaret.

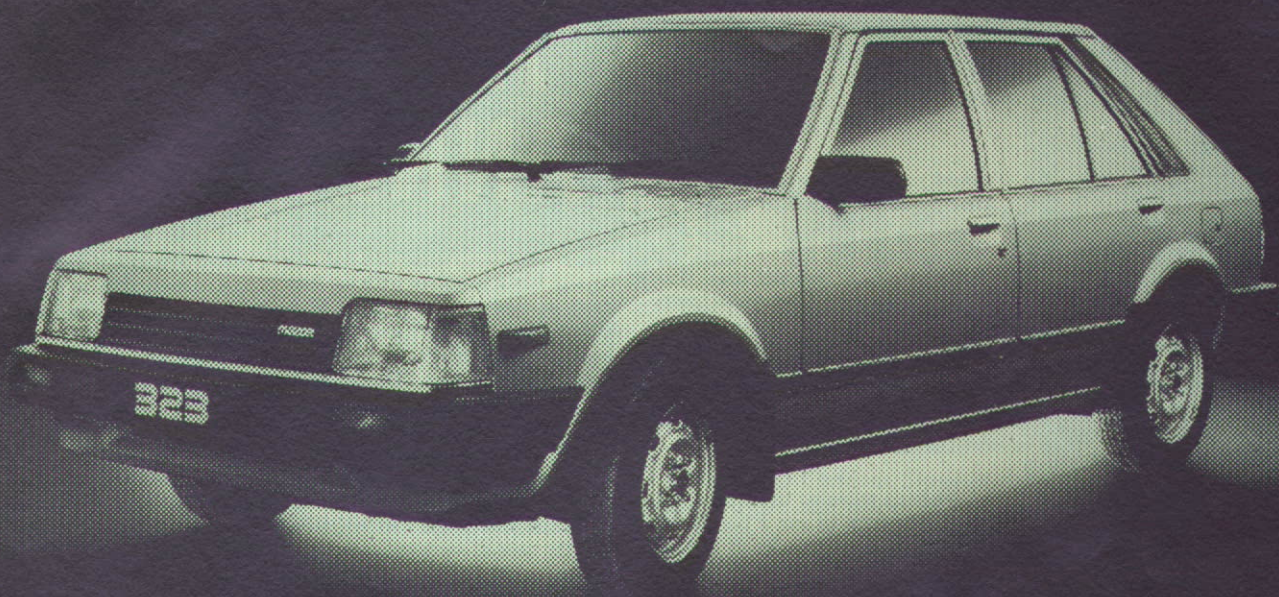
Probably the most famous son of the Regiment is Lt Col H Jones VC who died in the battle for the Falklands. Although at the time of his death he was a member of The Parachute Regiment, he was from 1960-1981 a D and D and was well-known to most of those who make up the regiment today.

While the 'Janners' — a West Country name for them — have their problems down there in remote Ballykinler, they would admit to having no more than any other unit and will, with typical west country tenacity and self-help, have their social programmes organised and well under way before they are engulfed by the winter mists off the Mourne.



Dancing for adults. Teacher: Caroline Robinson leads Mrs Ruth Thomas and Mrs Lyn Winter.

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Turning to more technical matters, all 323 models now have a 5-speed gearbox (except for

the 1100) better sound deadening and an improved anti-corrosion treatment. There's also a brand

new addition to the range, the 1500 GT 4-door Saloon, making seven different versions in all.

But the best thing of all about the new 323 is that these improvements make it even better value for money, especially when you take into account

Mazda's special tax-free schemes.

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A MATTER WHICH has been troubling me for some time is the position of the daughters of servicemen serving overseas who have a baby and decide, for whatever reason, not to marry the father. They continue to live instead with their parents and then find themselves in another DHSS Catch 22 situation.

They are not automatically entitled to Child Benefit or to One-Parent Family Benefit as they would be if they were in UK and, since most have not worked, they are not protected by the EEC social security regulations that protect benefit rights of employed workers in Europe.

According to the DHSS, "Broadly speaking, the EEC Regulations on Social Security provide for equality treatment and the protection of benefit rights for employed workers throughout the EEC. They do not apply to people who are not employed or to those who are not nationals of an EEC country. In connection with child benefit, the regulations provide that the member state in which a worker is insured will be responsible for paying and meeting the cost of child benefit. The fact that most are not employed prior to the birth of their child and not drawing unemployment benefit makes it difficult for us to identify a way in which the regulations can assist claims."

Budget

There are ways in which young unmarried mothers can be helped financially but these generally take many months to complete by the time all the problems have been unravelled. In the next column you will find the basic guidelines for submitting such a claim to speed the process as much as possible but, if you are considering a claim, you should be aware that you may have to manage without any DHSS financial support for some time and budget accordingly.

So, once again, I find myself combatting anomalies which affect our Service families and dependants ... I see no reason why we should be treated in such a way and look forward to the day when we are given the same benefits and status as civilians in UK.

Anne Armstrong

CLAIMS FOR child benefit and One-Parent Family Benefit from daughters of Servicemen living with their parents overseas can be considered by the DHSS and any unmarried mothers in that position should bear in mind the following points when they submit their claim.

First, make the claim on the appropriate claim form in your own name and as promptly as you can.

Second, answer all the questions fully and enclose any documents asked for in support of your claim.

Third, attach a separate piece of paper giving as much information as possible about your circumstances and those of the child's father, including details of any employment either of you may have in Germany.

Finally, please answer and return any further forms or letters from the Child Benefit Centre as quickly as you can. This will minimise delay.

Could you tell me whether the Sex Discrimination Act also applies to men?

Miss C, Cyprus.

Yes, Miss C; it certainly does! The Equal Opportunities Commission leaflet which covers all areas of this subject, including housing, goods, facilities and services for both sexes, can be obtained free from the EOC at Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HN. Tel. No. 061-833 9244.

I have been meaning to write to you for a long time to say a big 'thank you' for doing such a good job for families. For every written 'thanks' you must receive, there are hundreds more who profit from your weekly information and are grateful.

We have a son who has lost the sight in one eye — a hard ball smashed his glasses and glass splinters were pushed rather deeply into the eye. Also, a member of our German neighbour's family has suffered a stroke and remains paralysed and unable to speak.

I should like to help them both in some way to make the most of their disabilities and to make sure they receive all they are entitled to. Can you suggest any publication that will be useful, please?

Mrs L, Germany.

The Disability Rights Handbook for 1983 is a guide to benefits and services for all people with disabilities and is

well worth buying. At £1.50 it is available from the Disability Alliance, 21 Star Street, London W2 1QB.

You could also ask at your FPO for DHSS leaflets HB1 Jan 81 "Help for Handicapped People" and HB2 Nov 80 "Aids for the Disabled". If you cannot get either of these, drop me another line and I will send you copies.

I'm not sure what medical provision West German Health Authorities make but I believe a lot depends on what insurance provision has been made. The UK organisations may know of an equivalent German organisation you could contact.

ASK ANNE

My son has a problem with his feet which means that each foot is a different size. We have to order new shoes through the Naafi from the Clarks Odd Shoe Department which as you can appreciate often takes between 3-6 weeks.

The hospital has no information about shoe shops in Germany that cater for his problem. Can you help with some names and can we claim back the cost of such shoes here in Germany through the National Health Service?

Mrs R, BFPO 25

I have spoken to the MOD Medical Branch in UK about this problem and their advice is to get the shoes, free, on the NHS.

You should, first, ask your doctor for an appointment and if he says your son will benefit from surgical shoes, he will refer him to a specialist who will assess the medical need for shoes. If such a need is established, the Medical Branch has a specialist firm in Germany who make the shoes on an agreed contract. You will, of course, then have to pay the NHS standing charges as you would in UK.

When you consult the doctor you should take all the available information with you regarding his shoes. Explain your difficulty in getting shoes that fit properly, take some old shoes along

and tell the doctor how you coped in UK, whether previous pairs of shoes were in fact obtained on the NHS there. This will help him assess the need or otherwise for special shoes and advise you accordingly.

I read in SOLDIER some time ago about the Twins Club in UK. I am the mother of twins and we are soon to be posted to Germany. Is there any similar sort of association that I can contact to meet other parents with twins?

Mrs C, Catterick.

Yes, Mrs C. The BFPO contact for the Twins Club Association is Mrs Kathy Burrage, 6 Longsfield, Aldington, Ashford, Kent TN25 7DP. Tel: (023372) 316.

She will be able to give you all the details of the Association and give you advice on starting a new club if there isn't one in existence where you are going. She also has booklets of helpful and interesting reading on twins — and most importantly, how to cope!

I should be grateful for any information concerning a social services course that is up to two years long and will qualify me as a social worker at the end of it.

I have heard that there is a course which is used by WRAC girls who work as Welfare Assistants.

Mrs D, Bicester.

I suggest you write to the Central Council of Education and Training Social Work at Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London WC1H 8AD who will have a list of all available courses with full details.

The Department of Education and Science, Room 2/11, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH also issue a helpful leaflet entitled "Looking After People" which is designed to introduce you to a wide range of courses which lead to careers involving the health care and welfare of other people.

I was interested to read in a previous copy of SOLDIER about the Guide you have compiled for Army wives and families.

Is it possible for me to obtain two or three copies? My elder daughter is marrying a lance corporal in the Greenjackets next month and going to live in Celle. My eldest son, also a lance corporal, is getting married next year and my youngest son joins the Army later this year.

It would be so useful for my daughter and daughter-in-law (as well as myself) to have a copy of the Guide because, although my husband was a regular soldier, that was a long time ago and things are so different now!

Mrs R, Ipswich.

The second edition of the Wives' Guide has, unfortunately, been delayed at the printers — it was scheduled for July/August distribution.

However, it will shortly be available to all wives and fiancées of the British Army and your son/son-in-law will only have to ask his Families Officer for a copy for his fiancée/wife if they do not receive one automatically.

Unfortunately copies are limited and are only on free distribution to wives and fiancées within the Army so I am unable to get you a personal copy. Perhaps your daughter will let you have a read of hers ...!

DID YOU KNOW?

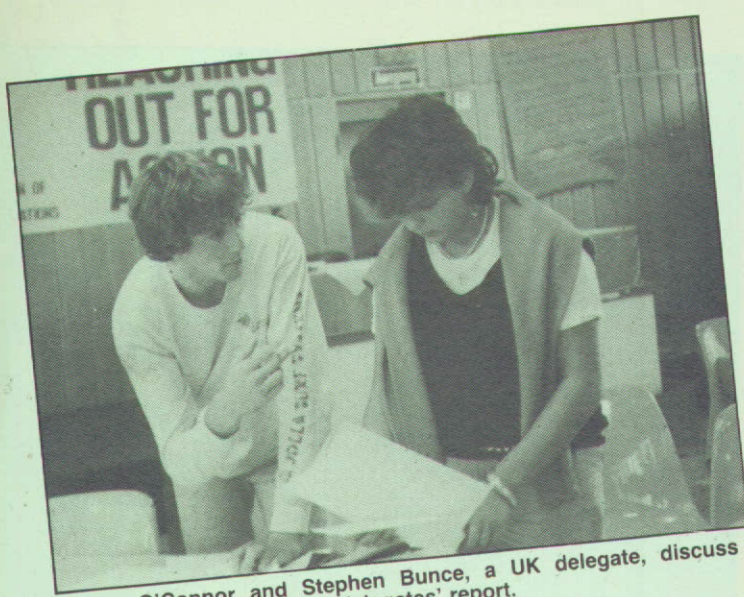
THE FIRST CASE of rabies confirmed in Britain for 13 years was diagnosed in Rugby recently.

Fortunately, the dog which had been brought from the United States, was in quarantine when it died from the disease. This incident underlines the value of the protection afforded by Britain's stringent anti-rabies measures — what might have happened if the dog had been at large?

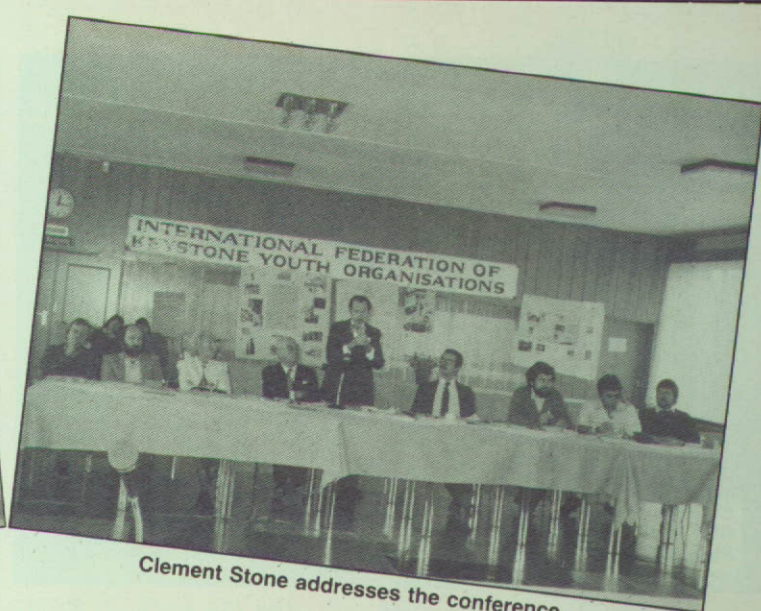
Rabies is widespread in Europe and the six-month quarantine regulation, distressing though it may be for the owner of an animal to face a long separation, has kept Britain virtually free from this threat for the last 60 years.

The BBC TV serial "The Mad Death" heightened public awareness of the dangers of rabies but it is the vital role played by the public that guarantees the continued success of the rabies prevention campaign.

If you are bringing your pet back from a posting overseas or simply want more information, write to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Animal Health Division, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.



Ellen O'Connor and Stephen Bunce, a UK delegate, discuss the delegates' report.



Clement Stone addresses the conference.

Keystone cops the youth

FOUR YOUNGSTERS from Kent School were hailed as outstanding as they bridged the language barriers at the 6th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Keystone Youth Organisations held in Munich.

Ellen and Rachel O'Connor, Collin Kennedy and Marcus Deare played a vital role in the week-long conference which was hosted this year by the International Bund Für Sozialarbeit Jugendsozial or, for short, IB and justified the faith that the organisers had placed in the British Forces to provide bi-lingual students as translators.

The discussion sessions, in which delegates from all over the world explained and talked about common subjects which face today's teenagers and put the record straight on a wide range of topics from life in the Bronx to the Scottish clan system, were a valuable exchange of knowledge and attitudes. The youngsters were introduced to new cultures and different nationalities as they chatted to each other.

There were, besides, guest speakers from Canada, America, Japan and Britain as well as eminent ministers from their host government, who all had the theme of the conference "Reaching out for Action" in mind as they addressed the delegates.

The IFKYO is committed to the improvement of the quality of life of young people as participating members in a diverse world society and their youth exchange programme is an important part of this aim. The conference resolved to find more ways of effecting these exchanges as well as teaching any youth organisation that is in financial difficulties how to raise funds.

82-year-old Clement Stone is a well-known figure in American youth circles and works closely with President Reagan on youth programmes such as the Congressional Award Scheme (based on our Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme). He is Chairman of the Boys Club of America's International Panel and is a millionaire.

His fund-raising techniques have already helped Boys Clubs in England, Scotland and Wales and the conference heard the success stories which resulted from the schemes he instigated.

The four BFG delegates had never before met such a wide range of young people and were delighted to have the chance to take part in the conference and to contribute to its success.

Next year's venue will be in the United Kingdom and will be a prelude to the United Nation's International Youth Year — it's just bound to be a huge success as was this year's conference.

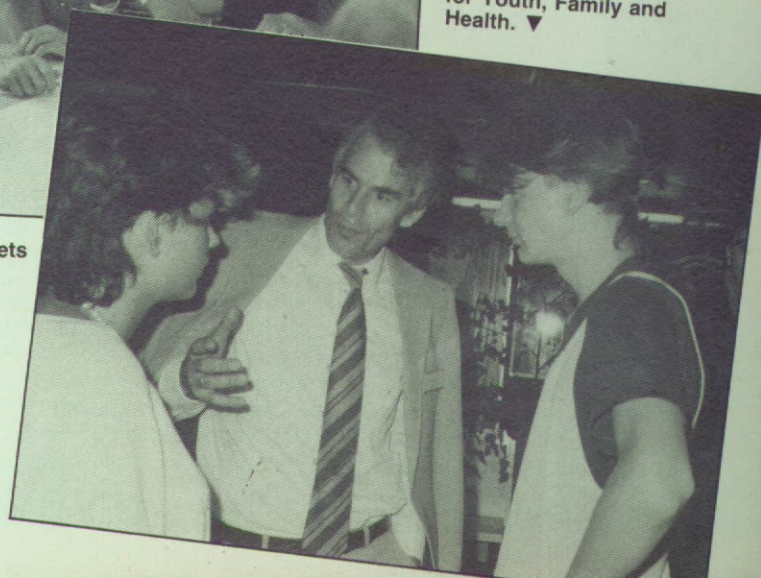


Relaxing between sessions at the Haus International, Munich.



▲ Marcus Deare interprets at a combined adult/youth session.

In discussion with Dr Wolfgang Lickelman, Director of International Affairs, the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family and Health. ▼





Stretchers away! The 218 Sqn, RCT team entry from Hull in the fitness section.

Soldier writer GRAHAM SMITH and photographer PAUL HALEY visit Warcop to see the volunteer cooks try a new line in training which means that sustenance for others is just not enough. It is now a case of . . .

Out of the frying pan—into the firing line!

IN THE North of England, at least, the days of the conventional cookery competition are over. Instead, Army Catering Corps soldiers are going to be tested in skill-at-arms, too, in which cookery will take its proper place.

This pledge was given by Lt-Col "Tank" Nash, Commander of the Army's No 4 Catering Region, speaking at the end of a two-day TA "cook-in" combined with basic military skills during Exercise Grebe Grey held in benign climatic conditions amid the bleak but breathtaking Warcop Training Area in Cumbria. It was a culinary event which attracted four-man teams from 26 units in the north-west and the north-east.

Lt-Col Nash added: "In the battlefield of the future, whether you like it or not, you members of the Corps are going to be heavily involved and you are going to be in the business of carrying ammunition, the wounded, tending the injured and we had better start preparing for that now. That's the real world in which we are living."

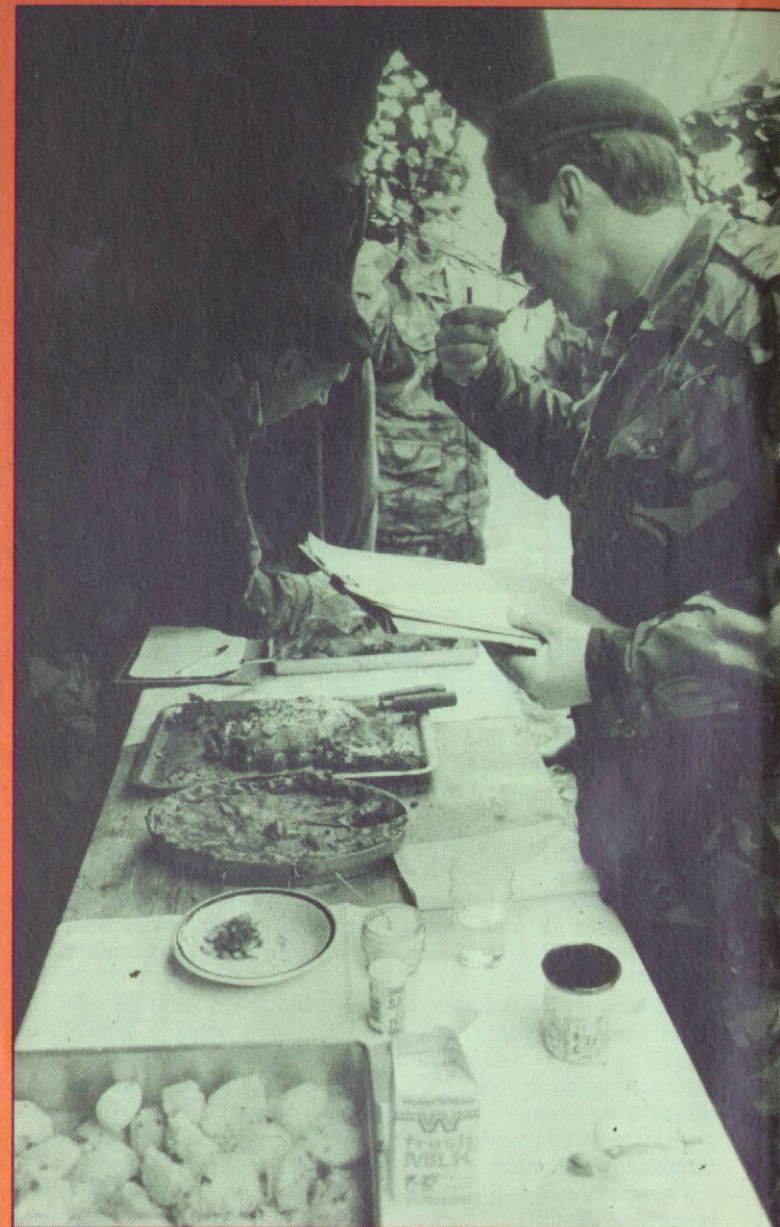
"Next year will be even more demanding. I hope you've enjoyed it; we all have. Thank you for your enthusiasm. It constantly amazes me that the TA sol-

diers who are not professional chefs can pole up at a place like this and produce such high standards.

"It does you great credit. I'm very proud of what you do and the way you do it. The standards you achieve bear comparison with Regular units throughout the Army."

The TA cook-soldiers who had converged on the bivouac area, a mere pin prick on the 24,000-acre Training Area in the Fell country, were certainly out to show their field kitchen capabilities were as sharp as the knives they use for carving meat. The hands that feed the troops can be right on target, too.

Their marksmanship with the SLR was assessed on the 30-metre range. Their alertness to the unexpected tested with a sudden explosion from a thunder-flash as each team dealt with a field kitchen incident where a Field kitchen "casualties" play their part in First Aid test.



Lt-Col "Tank" Nash: "The days of the conventional cookery competition are over."

unconscious patients."

Physical fitness came under scrutiny against the clock as each SLR-toting four-man entry jogged a 440-yard circuit with a canvas stretcher "casualty" simulated by 120 lbs of sand strapped on with tape. Average times turned in were about two minutes.

Basic vehicle maintenance was also under examination but the culinary offerings by the 100-plus part-time caterers was the main consideration as a dozen judges picked, probed and put to palate the improvised plats du jour. There was even a judge for the custard, another for the tea and coffee!

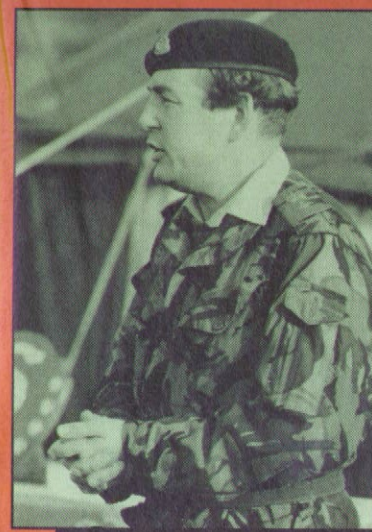
Two surprise ingredients were literally laid at their canvas-sited field kitchen "doorsteps" to deflate any pre-conceived menu ideas any contestant might have had on the way to Warcop. They had to prepare a three-course meal from ten-man ration packs. Suddenly, they found a dead feathered chicken and equally lifeless rabbit.

The results may have shocked one-time master chef Auguste Escoffier but would have earned the plaudits, in the prevailing conditions, of budding Delia Smiths as the gamut of cuisine ranged through appropriate fur and fowl — including Chicken à la Geordie!

This one was created in a field kitchen in 28 minutes by Sergeant Russell Gibson, a qualified quality control clerk in a rubber seal factory, who is serving with 216 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), based at North Shields.

"The chicken took eight minutes to bone — after plucking — five minutes to stuff with bread, a mixture of herbs and ration pack compo steak," he said, revealing the ingenuity of his art.

Alas, his team entry took 7th



overall place in the North-East segment under the "meat" test, his Geordie Chicken innovation attracting 17 out of 30 marks.

The first three places in the North West's day of tests were 235 Sqn, RCT (V) from Liverpool with 236.5 points; 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (V) from Preston with 224.5 points; and "C" Company, 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment (V) from Lancaster with 221 points.

Presenter of those prizes, Colonel Pat Jolliffe, Colonel TA, North West District, said: "I only wish there were hundreds more spectators here today. I do congratulate you all."

"Communications can go wrong, ammunition may not occur at the right place, vehicles may arrive late but if the food is not there, you are the guys who get it in the neck at the sharp end. I can't imagine you getting it in the neck because you know what you are doing."

"If you came last in this competition it really matters not: The fact is you participated and participated well. I hope the competition goes from strength to strength."

"I will certainly spread the message and I hope you will. I hope, too, none of you will feel disconsolate about turning up again next year and doing an even harder competition if that is possible. It's been a tremendous day."

On day two the north-east winners — pipping north-west by just half a point — were 101 Field Regiment, RA (V) from Newcastle with 237 points. Runners-up were "A" Company, the 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers from York with 231.5 points and 223 Field Ambulance

(V) from Bishop Auckland with 229 points.

Results were conveyed across the grassy bivouac area to the master chinagraph board by the latest battlefield technology with printed read-outs from a computer.

Brigadier Michael Aris, Commander 15 Infantry Brigade reiterated to the winners, runners-up and less successful: "I am very pleased to see how this competition has been developed. At the end of the day you have got to be prepared to do a lot of jobs other than cooks whether firing our rifles, looking after wounded comrades, and getting our vehicles going if they don't move properly. These are very, very important individual skills."

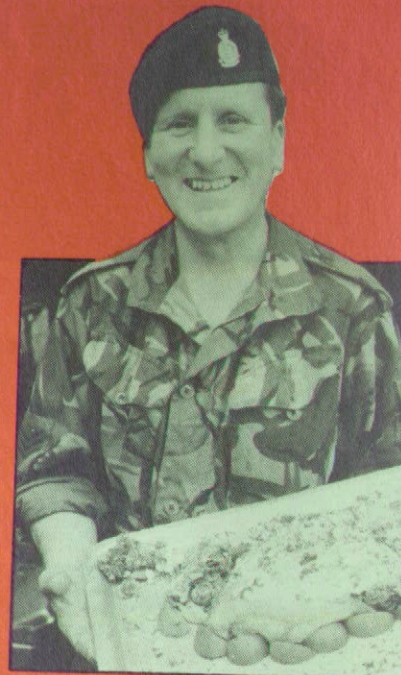
He reminded them they would all be playing an important part in next year's BAOR Exercise Lionheart.

"Morale can go down quicker in a unit than anything else if the food is not on time and is not good," he said. "I'm sure there are a lot of people nodding wisely here. Your job in your company, your squadron, your battery is a vital one, producing good food for soldiers who are tired, hungry or wet after training, operations or in the battlefield in the last analysis."

"Nobody decries the role of the cook. I have never in the last two years seen poor food in the field."

But what of the future and the new format of cooks in the battlefield settings and the tests to ensure a "cordon bleu" combat performance?

Colonel Bill Morris, Director Catering UK told me: "Over the year there has been a tendency for TA cookery competitions to become stereotyped. What I am seeking to do is to broaden the



Sgt Russell Gibson with Geordie Chicken offering.

content and concept of the competitions so that, hopefully, we can run a TA final along lines which will test the cooks firstly as soldiers and then as craftsmen.

"I am, therefore, treating this competition as a form of pilot trial for a countrywide competition which, subject to final approval, will culminate with the District winners competing with each other to produce a TA championship team."

"The venue and the frequency of the proposed finals have yet to be confirmed but it would make sense to me to run it immediately after the final of the Regular Army competition thus enhancing the one-Army concept."

"The success of the north-west and north-east competitions augurs well for the future."

Brigadier Michael Aris, Commander 15 Infantry Brigade and NE winners, 101 Field Regt, RA.



**Having read how
cooks can fight,
now for the . . .**

RMPs WHO CAN COOK

THE TA military policemen of 252 Provost Company, who have their HQ at Norton, Cleveland, are convinced once they have "ironed out 90 per cent" of their basic military skills, including cookery, they will be a second-to-none unit according to Captain Peter Thompson.

Some 50 of them were on a training weekend on the Warcop Training Area in Cumbria combining it with a TA cook-in involving 25 other units. They took fourth place with a four-man team gaining 219.5 points in the North East District cookery contest.

On exercise proper — it was called Quick Start — the part-time "red caps" were engrossed in road signing, platoon defence work, embarking on three-mile dawn BFT runs, brushing up on NBC techniques and carrying out their annual personal

weapons tests (APWTs).

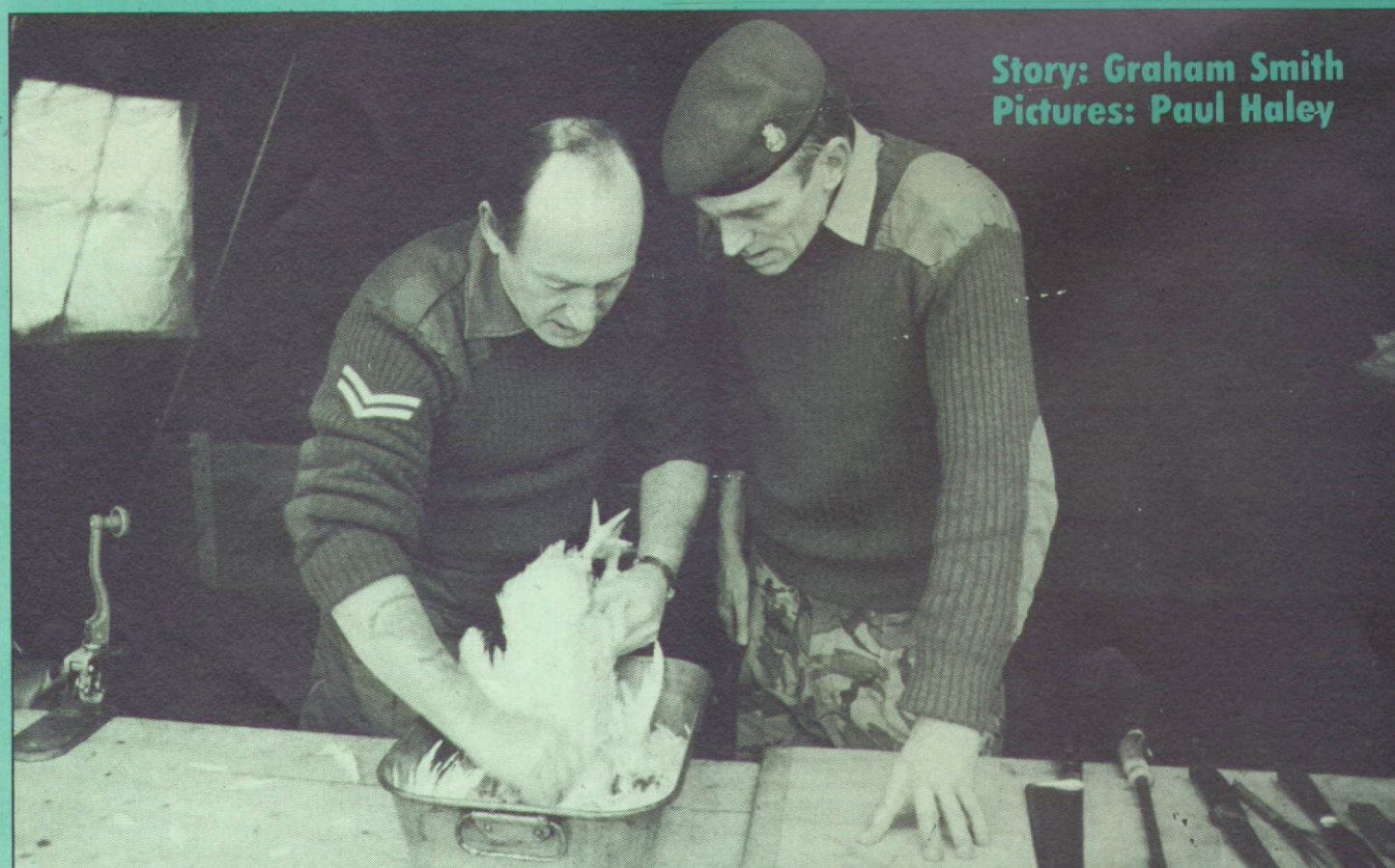
The work-up in the field was just one session in preparation for next year's Exercise Lion Heart.

Ops officer-cum-Durham CID officer, Captain Thompson, 50, said: "It's been a very, very hard weekend. From the ops point of view the exercise has gone very well."

The Provost Company — it has detachments at Hull and Gateshead — is soon to recruit eleven women to its established strength.

First . . . pluck your chicken. Men of 252 Provost Coy in the cookery contest.

L.Cpl David Pett from Middlesbrough tutors Pte David Stephenson on the LMG. ►



**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley**

THE ARMY HELPS DREAMS COME TRUE

For a girl with a 21st birthday request



What does every girl want for her twenty-first birthday? To drive an Army truck, of course! Diane Scott from Hampshire spent her birthday as the guest of 7 Squadron, 27 LSG Regiment, RCT who gave her basic instruction in driving an eight tonner, a 16 tonner as well as an Eager Beaver. The outing was arranged without Diane's knowledge between the Squadron and her mother, Mrs Jean Scott, who knew this was something Diane had always wanted to do. She proved to be a natural and her instructor, Corporal Alan Green said: "If I had her with me for five days she'd certainly pass her HGV 2."



For a little boy who wants to be an officer



FOR WEEKS, eight-year-old Adam McCormac of Chichester, Sussex, kept a well-guarded secret as he practised salutes for hours in front of his bedroom mirror, writes **Graham Smith**.

Only he knew of the letter he had sent to the "Commanding Officer, Ministry of Defence" for advice on how to become an Army officer. Dad, Mr Charles McCormac, an exporter, unwittingly supplied the postage stamp.

The result: a day out at Bovington Camp and lunch with some of the 450 boys in the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RAC. His rewards: a ride in a 56-ton Chieftain tank, the gift of a hat and a badge to go with his own tailored pint-sized "combat kit", some square-bashing with the lads under the tutelage of WO 2 Ben Everist of the Grenadier Guards complete with pace-stick and a full-length video cassette recording of his Greatest Day.

In his letter to MoD, Adam printed: "I am going to join the Army when I have left school and university. I want to be an offi-

cer. Can you please tell me what I need to do to become an officer and where I can see the real Army men training so that I know how fit I will have to get. I know I am young but with good jobs not around, my dad says the sooner I show some keenness the better. Please write to me."

The Ministry did and Adam soon found himself at Bovington — just three weeks after his eighth birthday.

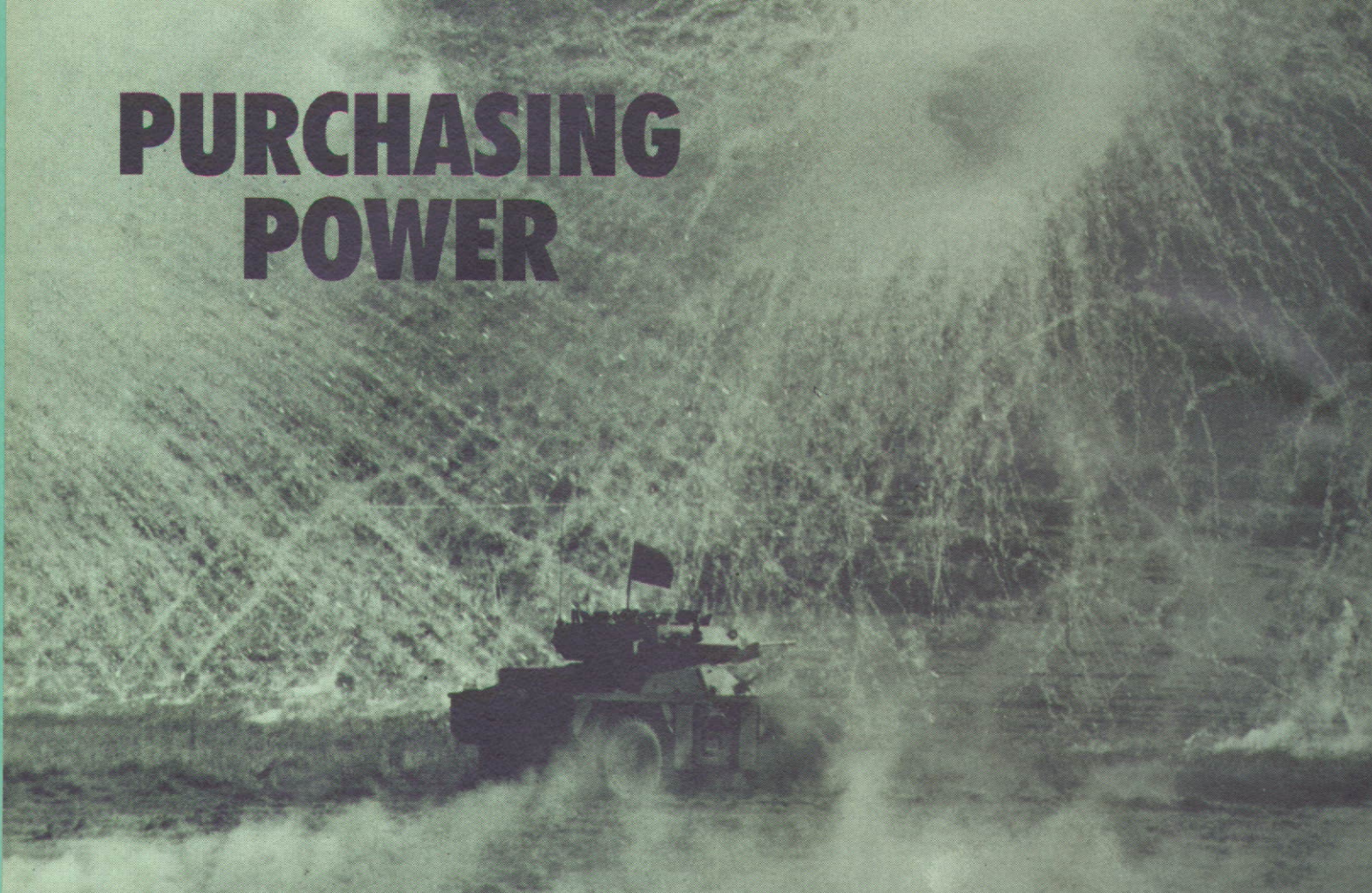
Lt-Col Peter Fishbourne, CO of the RAC's Junior Leaders Regiment, said: "We like to get them young and I hope he keeps up his interest in the Army."

Adam's dad said: "I am amazed he had done all this himself. He asked me for a stamp but I didn't know he had written to the Army. He's been Army-mad for years."

The boy himself — he plays football, holds an orange belt in judo and was captain of an Under-Eight rugby team — turned up for this thrill of a lifetime with a book on tanks tucked into the tell-tale pocket of his combat jacket.

He said: "I can't wait until I'm old enough to join the Army properly."

PURCHASING POWER



Fox vehicles move out firing phosphorous screen grenades.

Falkland Heroes sign up here!

You don't have to have served in the Falklands to be served a great pint at 'The Falkland Heroes'. But if you have, and can show us documentary evidence, we'd be privileged to have you sign our special 'Falkland Heroes' visitors' book, and enjoy a free pint with us!

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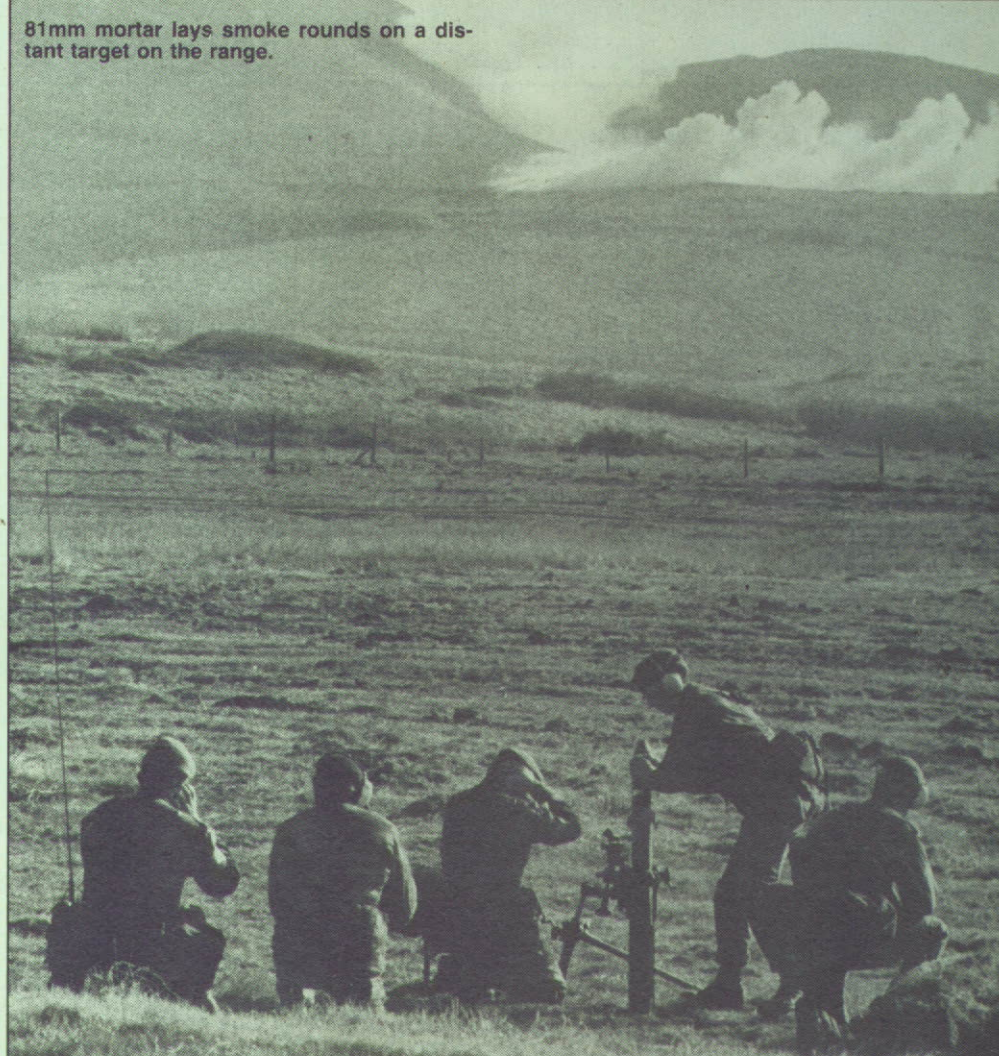
You can also tuck into a really tasty selection of hot or cold lunchtime bar snacks.

Call in and join us soon. .

THE FALKLAND HEROES

Tanterton Village, Ingol, Nr. Preston

Matthew Brown 



81mm mortar lays smoke rounds on a distant target on the range.



The mine laying Ranger passes in front of the viewing stand.

MORE THAN 50 overseas military attachés have just been on a pre-Christmas window-shopping trip to Lulworth during an impressive pyrotechnic firepower sales demonstration where the accent was mainly on two private venture Royal Ordnance Factory variants of Fox; Fox-Scout and Fox-Milan.

Eight targets shuddered and smoked under the unerring impact of shells, mortar rounds and small arms ammunition on Lulworth's panoramic Bindon Range overlooking the Channel.

The uniformed VIPs — a dozen prestigious specialist defence magazines representatives had attended the day before — peered through high-powered binoculars as the commentary unfolded about the hardware on show during the 60-minute noisy spectacular which had been billed by the ROF and Defence Sales organisation as a "major marketing demonstration".

The foreign military dignitaries in their various hues of brown and blue uniforms were reminded that the Fox, totting a 30mm Rarden cannon, stowed 96 main armament rounds of APDS (Armour Piercing Detachable Sabot) rounds and HE (High Explosive).

To prove the point, a Fox loosed off a The Army's new 51mm mortar goes into action.

round at the battered hulk of a venerable Saracen from yesteryear which reeled at 600 metres under the force of arrival.

It had already been proved that an APDS round had achieved a 15-inch penetration into high density concrete blocks said the anonymous loudspeaker voice with the sales pitch. It would punch through any known armoured vehicle of comparable size up to 2000 metres.

Fox-Scout was shown off mounting its 7.62 Chain Gun. Fox-Milan, mounting the anti-tank weapon of the same name on a Compact Turret showed what it could do as well. It achieved a bull's eye against the still smouldering Saracen.

Mortar shells — guests were reminded that, historically, the system started in 1451 — were lobbed 1200 metres in HE, illuminating and smoke form. "It's the best mortar of its type today," said the commentator.

Then, an 1868-kg 105 Light Gun brought underslung to the site by an RAF Puma hurled differing shells at distant targets — ten seconds between the firing, earth-spewing impact and confirmatory crump — including the illuminating round with its 900,000 candlepower brilliance. Teamwork was added when the gun was adroitly towed away by a canvas-topped one-tonne Land-Rover.

The sappers were not forgotten either as the 18-tonne CET — Combat Engineer Tractor — was put through its earthy paces burrowing badger-like at the rate of 300

Story: Graham Smith Pictures: Doug Pratt

cubic metres an hour. Some viewers shifted in their seats as the rocket-powered anchor soared noisily from a ditch to high ground for the purpose of extricating the CET from its deep trench.

Another performer who impressed was the Bar Mine layer, the "leader of mine warfare technology"; they were told, coupling speed with simplicity. The actual layer, towed by an AFV 432 Armoured Personnel Carrier is capable of planting some 600-700 mines over an area of one kilometre in under an hour.

Ranger, another high-powered mine dispenser, literally had its fling, too. Spectators were told that its 1296 mines loaded by two men in six minutes could be hurled skywards in just 60 seconds. These were made of peat!

The infantryman was not forgotten either



A RAF Puma with underslung 105 Light Gun just before firing.

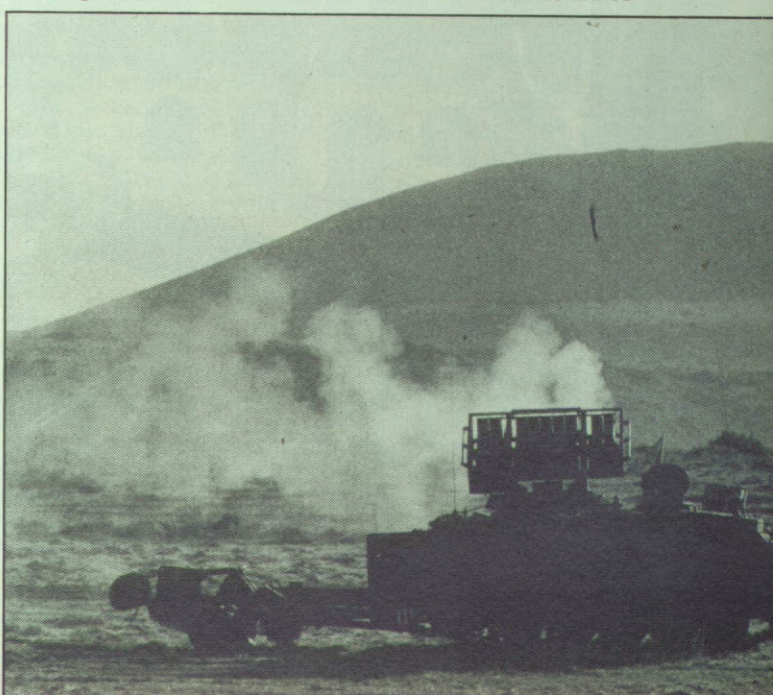
as they demonstrated the latest IW (Individual Weapon) and LSW (Light Support Weapon), both carrying 30-round magazines of 5.56mm ammunition and fired against pop-up targets.

The new 51mm, one-man mortar shunted its rounds into distant hillsides. Young soldiers added colour to the day's offerings with hand-held Dial-a-Star, four-colour, eight-flare cassette devices which were said to be visible for up to seven miles at night and two miles by day.

Finale highlight of the daylight son et lumière with the battlefield difference were colouring screen grenades tossed from the Fox's multi-barrelled smoke dischargers. Electrically ignited they threw down a 35-metre wide veil in eye-catching fashion formed by fragments of burning phosphorous.

Silent but playing no less a part in the day's events was a static display showing more private ventures like Chieftain 900, Challenger and Sabre-Chieftain, an armoured air defence gun vehicle mounting a twin 30mm cannon capable of 1300 rounds a minute.

Ranger, a mine dispenser, mounted on an AFV 432 chassis hurls out its mines.



FREDERICTON — THEN AND NOW

Quite rightly, life for the soldier has improved immeasurably — even though there are times when Tommy Atkins has to 'rough it' nowadays. He would be surprised if he wasn't asked to endure hard living occasionally. In Canada there is a permanent reminder of what life was like for the British soldier overseas more than a century ago.

GARRISONS in BAOR have, for many years, always been considered "home" postings where the quality of life for the soldier is generally acknowledged to be a good one with the ready availability of tax-free quality cars, luxury electrical goods, furnished quarters, generous leave, excellent sports facilities.

But spare a thought for the British squaddie at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries who served out part of his time at Fredericton in Canada's maritime province of New Brunswick, in what was probably one of Britain's first overseas post-

ings of any length and where more than a score of British regiments would be stationed on roulement tours.

The British military outpost presence in Fredericton — so named after Frederick, the Bishop of Osnabrück, the brother of King George III — started in 1784 in the nearly-settled area from which to maintain a defensive position yet still keep open links with northern Canada.

Two city blocks were turned into a military Compound, flanked by the St John River.

The first buildings, all of

wood, soon fell into bad condition or were razed by fires. Ten of them cracked and spewed embers in 1825 with the loss of the original Guard House and cells. Stone was later used to give a more permanent nature to the Compound.

Three principal buildings, all restored, still stand. The Officers' Quarters, the Soldiers' Barracks and the Guard House.

A record plan exists of the latter by a Captain G. Graydon, Royal Engineers, in 1828 who, apparently, was ordered to produce an imposing Guard House — quickly — as part of the new complex and ready for occupation a year later by the 1st Battalion of The Rifle Brigade.

The Orderly Room at the Fredericton Military Compound was first occupied by the Green Jackets from 1828-1832.

The wood and brick Officers' Quarters were completed much earlier in 1792.

Within one hour, however, the total was gutted by fire in May 1815.

Undaunted, another was built on the site of the existing brickwork, basement and chimneys. Eighteen years later, history repeated itself. The Mess was destroyed by fire.

Stone still failed to deter the fire hazard and another blaze in 1850 left its havoc. The Quarters rose again from the ashes just three years later incorporating stables, store sheds and latrines or privies.

But fire alone was not the only harbinger of misfortune.

wood, soon fell into bad condition or were razed by fires. Ten of them cracked and spewed embers in 1825 with the loss of the original Guard House and cells. Stone was later used to give a more permanent nature to the Compound.

So low was the level of the surrounding town that spring and autumn rains turned barrack yards into ponds and deep, muddy quagmires. The river played its part, too, particularly in 1887.

Local historians recorded that the Royal Engineers fought a constant battle against continual repair of the military building. The Quarters' stone arches, iron handrails and staircase were typical, it was concluded locally, of the architecture used by the sappers of the Colonial period.

It was also noted that perhaps there had been an administrative slip-up — and a military one by the Royal Engineers in London — for the War Office had sent out a design probably more suited to the West Indies than to the cold climate of northern Canada.

The construction lasted from 1839 to 1853 and boasted 22 fireplaces and an underground wine cellar.

Today, the building which was declared a national historical monument in 1965, displays a share of military "treasure trove" within its museum confines including hand-cut nails, spikes and copper nails for roofing slates, a smoothing trowel, a mess kit spoon, a lion's head sword belt buckle, a lady's pressed glass perfume bottle, a British Mess tin — and the key and padlock to the wine cellar!

Other items on show comprise a piece of 19th century English pillow lace from Honiton, one of the first percussion carbines used by the British Army in 1844 and

a British Army Training Manual, about the size of a New Testament Bible, which was used by a dozen sergeant drill instructors sent over in 1861 to teach the provincial militia.

The infantry private of 1828-69 could expect to be on day/night guard at least twice a month and when not on duty was allowed to rest — not sleep — by reclining in full kit on the Guard Bed, itself covered by a scrawny palliasse known as the "donkey's breakfast".

Cells for recalcitrants had no windows and were stone and brick cubicles with a ten-square-inch air hole in the outer wall. In very cold weather wooden plugs were provided to reduce the draughts.

And then there were the triangles. Sets of six halberts lashed together onto which prisoners were secured for flogging by the cat-o-nine-tails.

At the turn of the 1800s, it is said, sentences of up to 2,000 lashes were still being handed down by courts-martial in the British army but regimental courts were usually more lenient.

Four-man rooms were not the norm in those days. More like 19 to a room.

Iron beds were ordered as barrack furniture as the intense heat of the summer caused the wooden ones to be "infested with vermin."

Clothes pegs and fixed or hanging shelves held the men's paltry possessions. Their "Brown Bess" muskets stood in an iron ring at the bed end. A

table and wooden benches were the only other fittings in the rooms. And all the rooms had to be kept "sweet and clean".

But there were some compromises.

For "tending to promote cleanliness and the convenience of soldiers" four married women per Troop or Company of 60 men and six per Troop or Company of 100 men could be resident in the Barracks.

'Punishment for being drunk on duty was about 150 lashes, deserters were branded with the letter 'D'

The men could not be away from barracks after sunset without "tickets" from the CO. Fires and lights had to be doused by 2100 hours.

And there's more. One roller towel was allocated to eight men each week. Sheets were provided and three-pence a month to pay for washing them.

The straw in the palliasses was changed — every 60 days. Coal and candles to every room were strictly monitored.

The stoves for cooking were too few, too far and inadequate. A family could be evicted from

barracks at a moment's notice, as a letter of 1861 testifies.

Unpartitioned barracks rooms were not suitable for soldiers with adolescent children, no rooms being "adapted for the reception of women and children whether as regards cooking or common decency."

But a sort of lodging allowance was introduced! A penny a day for married soldiers and all thanks to Queen Victoria. But only three out of a hundred troops were granted this facility in an already hard-pressed Fredericton.

The wives laundered bedding and clothes used in the barracks and hospital. Little else is known about the families except when they "created a problem" such as health care, compassionate repatriation or desertion.

Four acres of ground was drawn into the Military Compound to bury the dead.

Cholera, smallpox and eye disease added to the misery for the British contingents.

Punishment comprised imprisonment, the lash and even branding.

Being drunk on duty caused the meting out of about 150 lashes. Historians noted a high crime rate in the regiments in about 1846.

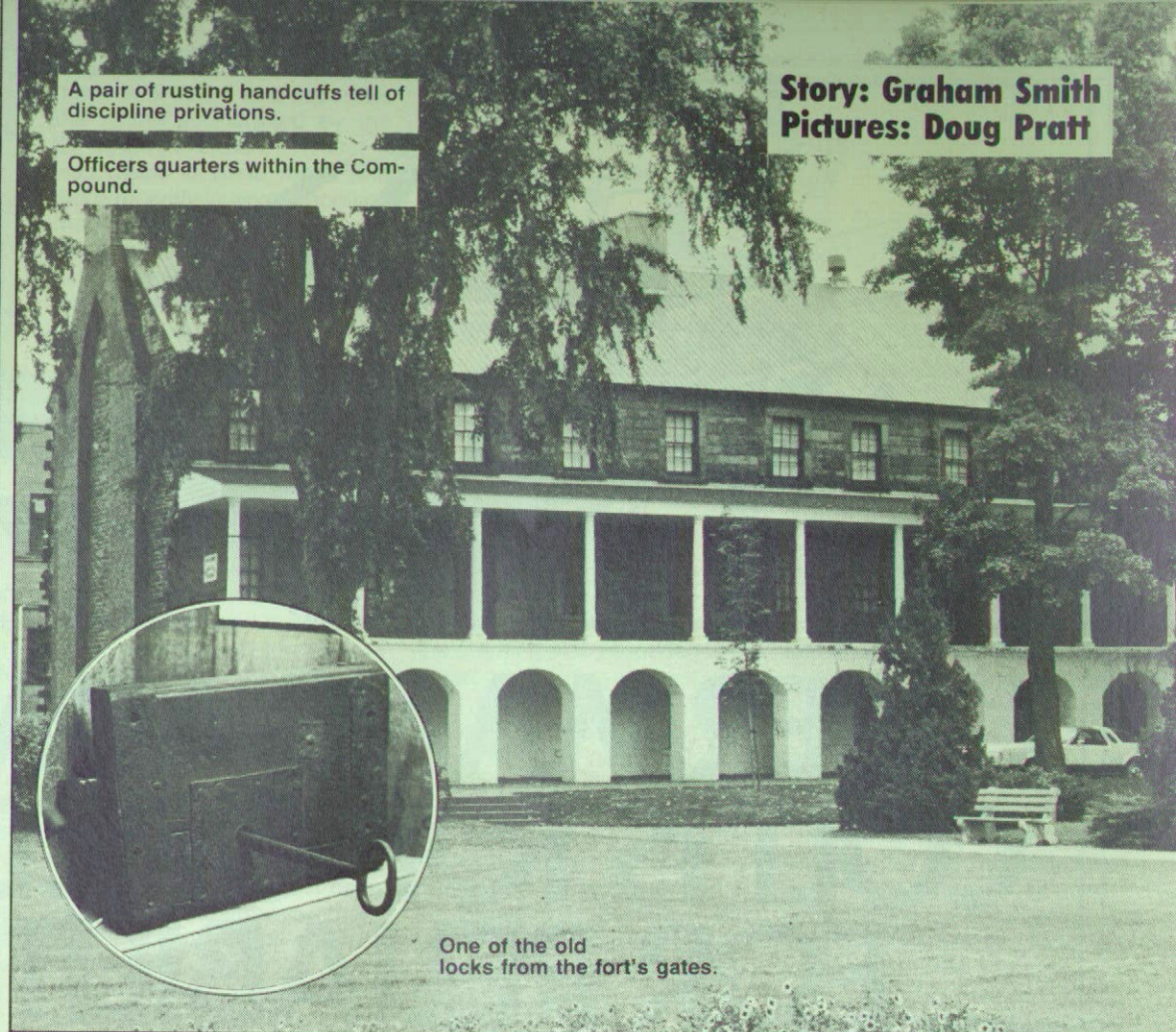
Deserters were branded with the letter 'D' but they could not be branded again if the mark became faint through no fault of its owner over a period of time.

Desertion was a serious problem during the British presence and fugitives were warned they

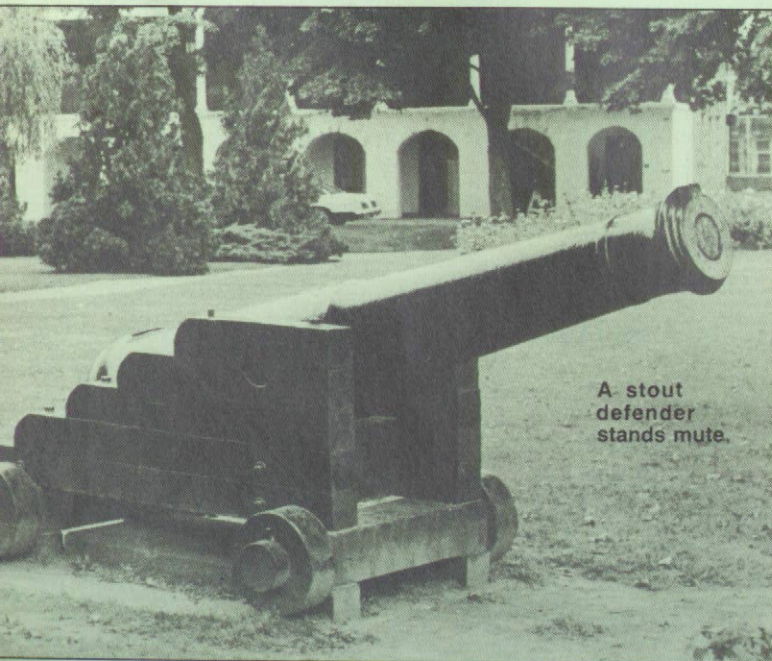
Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Doug Pratt



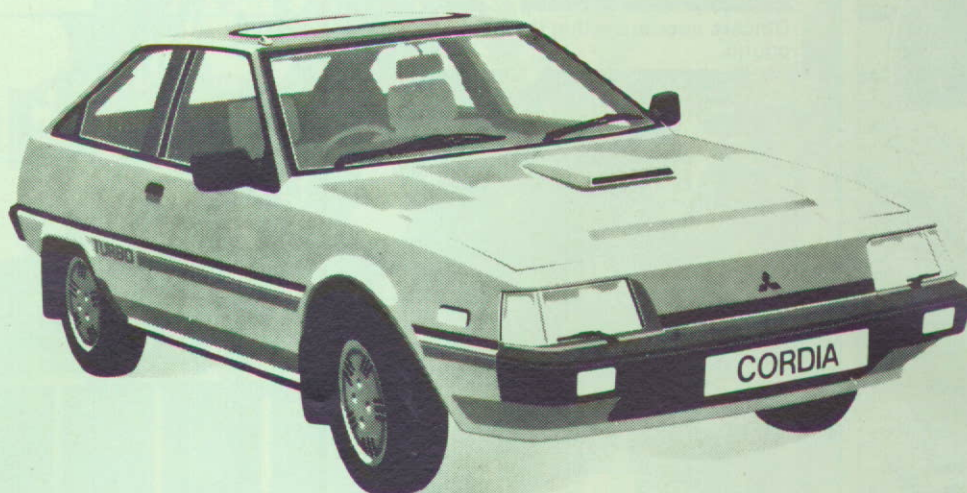
The officers' quarters as they were in early times.



One of the old locks from the fort's gates.



A stout defender stands mute.



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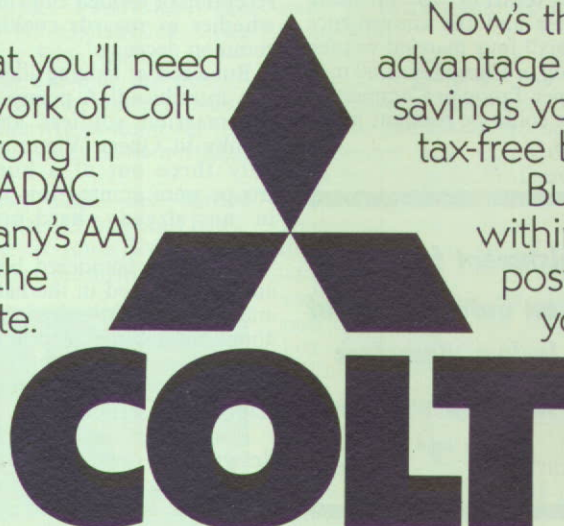
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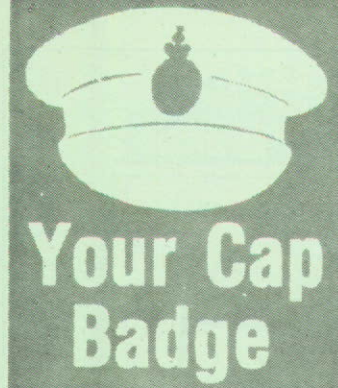
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No. 55

6th QUEEN ELIZABETH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES

IN 1817 when Captain Simon Fraser raised the Cuttack Legion at Chaubiaganj it contained no Gurkhas from Nepal among its men and was not to do so until 1828. Even then just two of the ten companies were so comprised:

This policy continued until 1886 when the Regiment at last became completely Gurkha. The traditional weapon of the Nepalese hillman is the kukri, a curved broad bladed knife, which has been used as the principal feature in the head-dress badge illustrated here.

Described as "Two kukris, cutting edges downwards cross-

sed right-over-left with the numeral 6 below and separate, the whole surmounted by the St Edward's crown." At first it was made in white metal and more recently in silver anodised material. The Battle Honours of the Regiment number 31 beginning with Burma 1885-87 but this first honour betrays little of the events of the early years.

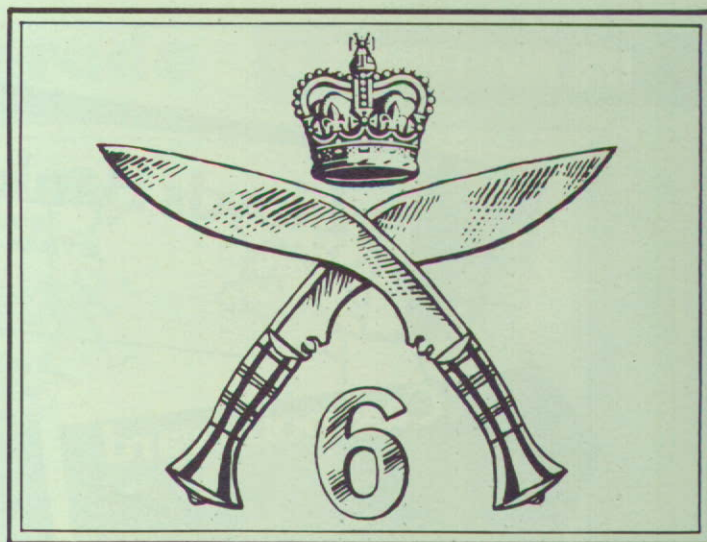
During the Indian Mutiny the Regiment numbered among the few who remained loyal and retained their arms.

They fought in all three Burma Wars and in fifteen expeditions on the North-West Frontier of India before being cast into the holocaust of World War One with the fierce and bloody fighting on Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia.

The "War to end Wars" over, the North-West Frontier claimed them where they were kept busy in the period of "peace" between the two World Wars.

Upon the outbreak of the 1939 conflict they expanded to four battalions fighting in Italy and in Burma, in the latter campaign under that great commander "Bill" Slim, himself a former 6th Gurkha.

After the surrender of Japan they were next employed in the thankless task of trying to prevent the bloodletting that com-



munal strife caused following the granting of Independence to India.

In 1948 the Regiment, moving to Malaya, served throughout the 12 years of the Emergency against the Communist Terrorists.

Eleven years later, when the 1st Battalion was in England as part of the Strategic Reserve, the Regiment became "6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles" by command of Her Majesty and in 1962 paraded at Buckingham Palace to receive two Royal Pipe Banners, one for each battalion.

From the cool climate of Britain they went to the steamy jungles of Borneo during the confrontation with Indonesia where the 2nd Battalion served the longest unbroken tour of any British or Commonwealth unit.

Following cuts to the British Army the 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated on 16th June 1969 since which date the Regiment has been stationed in the UK and Hong Kong.

HUGH L KING

Next issue:
7th Duke of Edinburgh's
Own Gurkha Rifles

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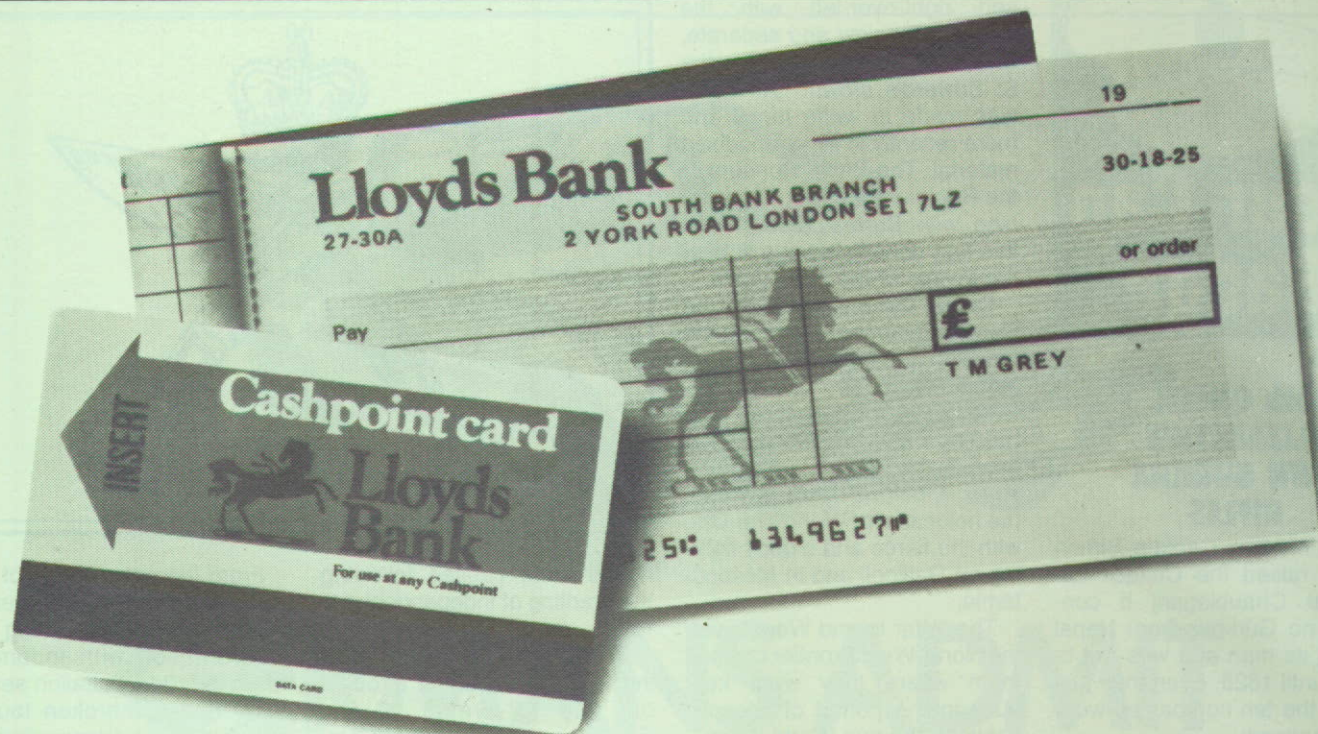
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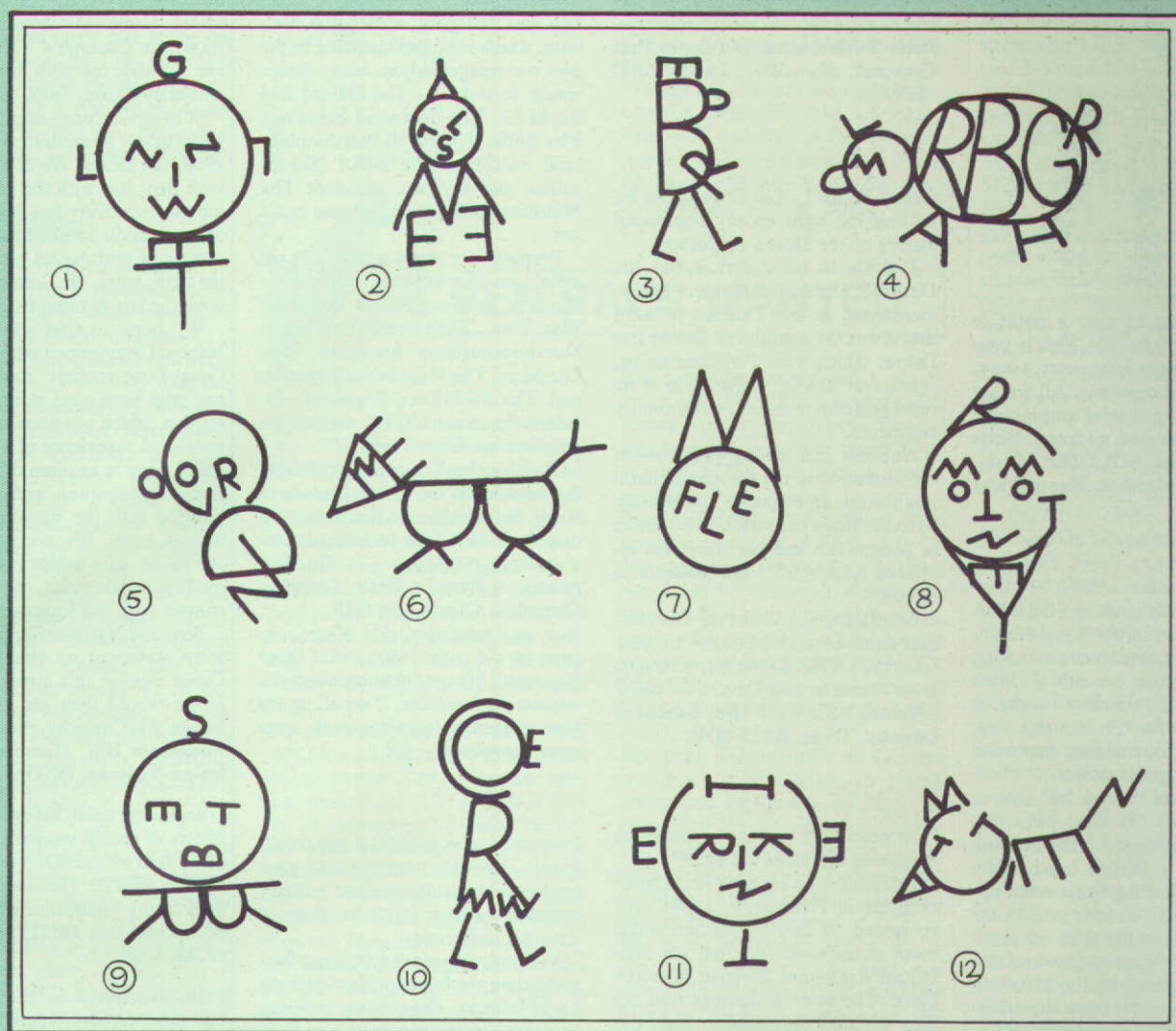
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How many of these military gentlemen can you recognise?

The competition is open to readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday, 23 December. The answers and winners names will appear in our issue of 23 January 1984. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a

'Competition 331' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence can be entered into. Send your answers in by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 331' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Rd., Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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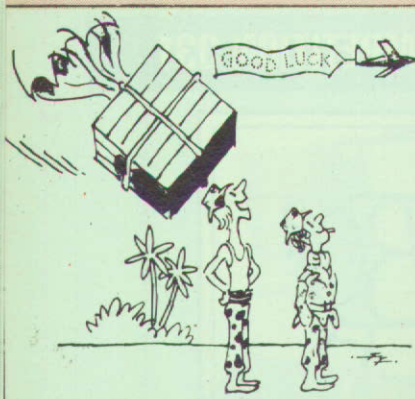
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NAME..... RANK..... Tick items of main interest
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INVICTA EXPORT



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.

DISGRACEFUL!

In the 21 March issue of SOLDIER (page 36) C Coy of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, was shown marching into Goose Green beneath a Union Flag worn on the signaller's aerial. A fine sight but for the fact this flag, the symbol of our nation, happened to have been upside down!

That was bad enough but now in the latest issue (31 Oct, page 17), someone is depicted driving his tank ashore on to a Danish beach again with the Union Flag being worn upside down: this — as we read in the article — under the eyes of seven other nations! What an absolute disgrace! Does nobody in the 13th/18th Royal Hussars really know the difference? Can anyone imagine the 'Stars and Stripes' being worn with the stars at the bottom of the flag, or the German Eagle upside down!

For God's sake wake yourselves up, Army! This sort of thing belies the 'professional' tag that is so often bandied about these days. — R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

ARMY CADETS

I am writing to you to ask why you don't have a regular feature on the Army Cadet Force. I think it would be well worth it because there are many cadets just in London alone. Many of my friends think this too and not just from my unit. Although your magazine lacks this feature I enjoy it very much.

— Richard Parsons, 14 Southend Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH.

Thanks for the suggestion — we'll bear it in mind. — Ed

SLR RULES OK

I do not like the proposed new rifle. It is not really new, it is like one designed by Henry Lawson in 1951. To me it is flimsy and the telescopic sight is highly prone to damage. Why not improve the SLR or better still convert to the ArmaLite — a good and tried weapon.

I think The SMLE Enfield with the sword bayonet should be used by

MAIL DROP

all for ceremonial parades and a special stock kept for this purpose. — Peter T Stevenson, 57 Primley Park Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7HY.

D&Ds

I must thank Lt Col D M Stone for putting me right on my regimental history of the Devon & Dorsets.

I wrote in error that it was the Devon & Dorsets which were Parliamentary, in fact I meant to write that it was the counties of Devon and Dorset which were Parliamentary, hence that was my explanation of no royal prefix in front of the two county regiments.

Another interesting point about the formation of the Devons is that it was formed in response to a landing in Lyme Regis in Dorset by the Duke of Monmouth and his army was recruited largely from the peasants of Dorset.

Similarly, the Duke of Beaufort recruited Dorset peasants to help form the Devon Regiment, with men from Somerset and Devon. — Cpl P J Toms, NSU Tech QM, School of Infantry, Wilts, BA12 0DE.

WHO'S RIGHT?

How much can we rely on museums to give us the historical facts?

During my recent visit to the town of Flers in Normandy, I was very surprised to find in the memorial room at the town hall that the 11th British Armoured Division liberated Flers. The town authorities told me they got their information from the Imperial War Museum.

I always believed it was the 3rd British Infantry Division who were the liberators of Flers. I remember it well — I was there at the time. In my possession I have a copy of SOLDIER Magazine dated August 1945 which features the 3rd Division from D-Day to Bremen and it states that we, under the command of the late General Lashmer Whistler, were indeed the first Allied troops into Flers. Who is right? — A E Smith, 15 Fernhill Road, Begbroke, Oxford.

Our Librarian has consulted two works to try and establish the truth. In 'Bolo Whistler' by Sir John Smyth VC, the author states on page 117 that the 3rd Recce Regiment of the 3rd Division was first into Flers. However, in 'NW Europe 1944-45' by John North, it states that the 11th Armoured Division was employed on 'Phantom' patrols, of perhaps no more than a single armoured car, to flit on missions through enemy lines. Perhaps one of these did reach Flers before the 3rd Division. Do readers have the answer to this interesting question? — Ed.

TRADITION

First I should like to congratulate you on your excellent magazine which I read regularly.

Secondly, I should like to make this plea for the 'old' County Regiments. Couldn't you have an extension of 'Your Cap Badge' to include

those regiments so steeped in tradition and bedecked with battle honours, which were amalgamated in the post war reorganisation. Many names spring to mind — The Oxford and Bucks LI, The Sherwood Foresters, The Buffs, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The KSLI (Shropshires) and my own regiment The Middlesex (Diehards) to name but a few.

Perhaps we could even have an article on the support role of the machine gun regiments in World War Two. They were The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The Cheshires, The Manchester Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment. Incidentally, their OCTU was at the now famous Alton Towers.

Finally, thank you for publishing the review of my book *Prelude to Battle* last summer. Sales are going quite well and I have had some heart-warming messages — Gordon Moore, 4 Barrel's Pitch, Chipping Campden, Glos GL55 6HP.

You may remember, Mr Moore, the series we did in the 1960's called 'Your Regiment'. Many of those regiments you mention were included, if not all, in one form or another depending on the stage of amalgamation. — Ed.

GREAT CREDIT

I would be most grateful if you would kindly draw the attention of your readers to the truly excellent military museum — now in all its glory at Taunton, Somerset.

Formerly in situ at Jellalabad Barracks then the home of the Somerset Light Infantry, the military museum has now been moved to its new location plumb dead-centre of Taunton town itself — to the rear of the Castle Hotel. An altogether highly commendable location — in every respect!

The transfer from the barracks of all former SLI Militaria to the new location was an inspired move and the Curator and all concerned have now truly achieved a superb presentation of military history, with a West Country emphasis, covering the past 200 years or so. Truly magnificent — a great credit to all! So says an old soldier remembering with great affection his former connections with the SLI, and Taunton, and the military museum there! — Maj Frank Turner (Retd), 16 The Woodlands, Salisbury Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5RJ.

Collectors' Corner

A Robinson, 57 Glenhue Park, Ahoghill, Ballymena, NI. Requires pre-1969 Irish Guards Association journals.

Mike Lukich, 12 Petch St, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland. Wants old South African and Rhodesian badges, helmet plates, collars etc. Also other colonial badges. Will buy or give exchanges.

L C Pead, 18 Marivyst, Sybrand Park 7700, Capetown, RSA. Wants any Army cap and collar badges.

Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, W Yorks WF12 7ET. Offers large list of military buttons, some Victorian. Send stamp.

Can You Help?

I am carrying out research for a documentary film entitled 'Sweetwater Memories' which is to be shown on Channel 4 TV next October to mark the 30th anniversary of withdrawal from Suez.

Whenever one mentions Suez everybody immediately thinks of 1956, the Crisis. We are not dealing with that, but with the very interesting and relatively less known period of occupation from 1951 until completion of withdrawal just after Easter 1956, when the Grenadier Guards were the last fighting troops to leave.

We hope to find about a dozen National Servicemen who were in the Canal Zone anytime from 1951-1956 and who have good stories, funny or serious, which can illuminate the attitudes and experience of a young conscript army in an often difficult situation or occupation, with often fierce fighting with the Egyptians, but no war as such. We are interested in stories of daily military activity, the quality, or otherwise, of life, and any contact with the Egyptians.

So if any National Servicemen who were stationed on the Sweetwater Canal during this time, read this, please would they get in touch. — Susan McConachy, Stag Cottage, Pheasants Hill, Hambledon, Henley-on-Thames, OXON RG9 6SN.

I urgently need information and photos of special weapons and equipment used by the SOE and other elite units in WWII. The material will be used in my forthcoming book. — H K Melton, Box 18521, Wichita, KS 67218, USA.

I am interested in the history of Fallingbommel and would be grateful for any information or photos on the subject. — Cpl J Geddes, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RCT, BFPO 38.

I am trying to get in touch with Ralph Green who I think was posted to Germany. He is aged 20-23, fairly tall with dark hair. — Miss J Shaw, 70 Lorraine St, Stoneferry, Hull, HU8 8EQ.

Can anyone help me find Lance Corporal Mick Taylor who was with the RMP at St Barbara's Bks, Sennelager BFPO 38 until the beginning of this year when he returned to England. He married Vanessa in 1981 and they now have a little boy called Michael. — Fiona Howley, 21 St John's Close, Leatherhead, Surrey.

I am trying to trace my brother and his family on behalf of my parents, and all those who care about him. He is 2445944 Corporal S G Wilkes, RE formerly an instructor at 1 Training Regt, RE at Cove, Farnborough, Hants. He has now been posted somewhere in Germany but we do not know where. We are all worried about him. his wife Jakki and sons Robert and Matthew. Does anyone know where they are? — Peter Wilkes, 15 Hopes Hill Drive, Carlisle, Cumbria CA 13 LD.

Would Private Simon Hughes, ACC, last known to have been stationed in Soest, W Germany, please contact me? — Lorraine Meara, 6 Hollybank Close, Hampton, Middx.

Reunion

The Sergeants' Mess, 32 Guided Weapons Regiment RA will be holding their reunion dinner for all ex-Mess members on a date to be decided in Sept 84. Ex-members wishing to attend should write to: S/Sgt (AC) D J Phillipson, Chief Clerk, 32 GW Regt RA, Wing Bks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 9LS.

Competition

Answers to our Competition 327, 'Relations' were 1 Alexander, Hercules, Hector (the first three names mentioned in 'The British Grenadiers'). 2 Assaye, Talavera, Waterloo (all battles of Wellington). 3 Avalon, Camelot, Lyonesse (all associated with Arthurian legend). 4 Brimstone, Tortoiseshell, Fritillary (all British butterflies). 5 Bucephalus, Hyperion, Copenhagen (all famous horses). 6 Dulse, Wrack, Tangles (all seaweeds). 7 Emperor, Egg, Tiger (all British moths). 8 Falkland, Lithlithgow, Scone (all palaces of Scotland). 9 Fell, Dale, Shetland (all British ponies). 10 Minoan, Etruscan, Sumerian (all early civilisations). 11 Mistral, Föhn, Chinook (all special winds). 12 Naiad, Dryad, Nereid (all nymphs). 13 Nile, Copenhagen, Trafalgar (all battles in which Nelson took part). 14 Noble, Guinea, Angel (all obsolete gold coins). 15 Obsidian, Gabbro, Basalt (all types of rock). 16 Percheron, Shire, Clydesdale (all British horses). 17 Stone, Iron, Bronze (all ages of man). 18 Suspension, Clapper, Pontoon (all types of bridge). 19 Venus, Beaver, Greave (All pieces of a suit of armour.) Prizewinners were: 1st WO 2 A E Skinner, CVHQ RA(V), RA Bks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BB. 2nd Mr G Melville, Medical Centre, 1 RRF, BFPO 29, 3rd Capt P Cooper (Retd), 9 Dunkirk Road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs PR8 4QZ. 4th Lt Col J W Isaacs, MBE, TD, 102, Brooksby Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6LY. 5th Maj K Mitchell-Taylor (Retd), 28 The Avenue, Cirencester, Glos GL 7 1EJ.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 13)

1 Shape of girl's pony-tail. 2 Stripe on girl's left sock. 3 Stripes on left flag. 4 Girl's right heel. 5 Rear foot of second runner. 6 Right supporting bracket of high jump crossbar. 7 Height of left upright. 8 Right arm of fourth runner. 9 Shorts of seventh runner. 10 Far left curve of landing-pad.

Op Corporate

The BRITISH ARMY IN THE FALKLANDS 1982 booklet is still available and at £2.50 would make an ideal Christmas gift. For your copy write to DSM (A) Technical Equipments Division, Forms and Publications Group, PO Box 202, COD Donington, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8QF. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Accounting Officer MOD' and must be crossed 'Bank of England A/C HM Paymaster General.' Overseas postage rates will be advised on request from the above address.



PEN PALS WANTED

We are two 16-year-old girls who would like penpals aged 18-19 years old. Our interests include music and going out. Photos if possible. — Sarah Wise and Angela Standen, Christ's Hospital, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AY.

We are two friends who would like to write to soldiers who are lonely. Sally is 23 and Judy is 25. All letters answered. Photos if possible. — Sally Millington, 65 Ash Road, Barnsbury Farm Estate, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0BJ.

My name is Cherry and I am 31 years old. My interests are writing, travel, dancing and stamps. All letters answered. — Cherry Roxburgh, 13 Richlans Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hants, SO3 4HU.

My name is Andrea and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are music, walking and cooking. — Andrea Robinson, 58 Forty Avenue, Wembley Park, Middx, HA9 8LQ.

My name is Sylvia and I am 33 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with dark hair and green eyes. My hobbies are writing, reading and TV. — Sylvia Carter, 24 Ponesgreen, Lichfield, Staffs.

My name is Heather and I am 18 years old. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. I like good food and good music. — Heather Jeffrey, 169 Thurso Crescent, Menzieshill, Dundee.

My name is Jackie and I am 26 years old. My hobbies are keep fit, photography, music and travel. — Jackie Rotheram, Cae Madog, Talyssan, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 6LE.

We are two girls who would like penpals. We have brown hair and dark eyes and are both 5ft 3in tall. We both like sport. — Norma Buchan, Angela Bruce, 151 Hope Street, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB4 6EX.

We are two 16 year old girls who would like penpals. Lisa is 5ft 8ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes; Adele is 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and eyes. We both like heavy metal, CB radio and writing. All letters answered. — Lisa Pemberton, 100 Sherburn Road, Whinmoor, Leeds, LS14 2BY; Adele McKenna, 25 Hebdon Walk, Whinmoor, Leeds, LS14 2BG.

My name is Jean and I am 40 years old with fair hair and blue eyes. I would like to write to someone who is alone and sincere. All letters answered. — Jean R Phillips, 5 Dynevor Place, Skewen, West Glamorgan.

My name is Caroline and I am 18 years old. I am interested in drawing, law and music. I would like a penpal aged 18-25 years old. — Caroline Peck, 9 Gorse Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 8LH.

My name is Valerie and I am 40 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair and brown eyes. I like dancing, squash and swimming. I would like to write to someone of the same age with a sense of humour. — Valerie Artingstall, 88 Meltham Avenue, Withington, Manchester, M20 8EF.

My name is Tracey and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 4 ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to write to soldiers aged 19-25 years old. My interests are music, aerobics and writing letters. — Tracey Hodgkinson, 7 Holliers Way, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8HJ.

My name is Susan and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 8 ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy travelling, music and writing. I would like to write to soldiers aged 21-32 for friendship. — Susan Blakemore, 13 Clayton Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 3AF.

My name is Jane and I am 29 years old. I am a 5ft tall brunette with green eyes. My hobbies are keep fit, travelling abroad, dancing, music and meeting people. I would like to write to someone aged 29-40. — Jane Barkley, 76 Woodland Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

My name is Mandy and I am 19 years old. I like discos, pubs and most things that are fun. I would like a penpal aged 19-25 years old. All letters answered. Photos if possible. — Mandy Hopkinson, 1 Wyddal Road, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AT.

Hi! I'm Susan and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy playing squash and reading. — Susan Coffey, 73 Hemlingford Road, Kingshurst, Birmingham, B37 6DJ.

My name is Carole and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes and I have a good sense of humour. — Carole Pearson, 82 King Edward Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6PL.

My name is Jane and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 9ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies are swimming, badminton and ice skating. I would like a penpal aged 21-23 years old. — Jane, 17 Suffolk St, Oxbridge, Stockton, Cleveland, TS18 4BA.

My name is Kathleen and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I like most music, swimming, dancing and reading. I would like a penpal aged 24-32 years old. — Kathleen Green, 32 Wareham Close, Bransholme Estate, Hull, North Humberside.

My name is Eileen and I am 29 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are discos, reading and music. — Eileen Pedye, 128 Macaulay Drive, St Giles Estate, Lincoln, LN2 4ES.

My name is Helen and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 8 ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. — Helen Davies, 9 The Grove, Wraxall, Bristol, BS19 1LW.

I am a lonely Sergeant at present serving in Aldershot. I am 6ft 2 ins tall with dark hair and brown eyes, slim-built aged 35. My hobbies are rock climbing, hang-gliding, aqua sports and I like nightclubs and discos. I would like to hear from any young females in the Aldershot area, preferably with photos. All letters answered. — Sgt Roger Crowley ACC, Adv Trg Coy, Trg Bn & Depot, St Omer Bks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BN.

My name is Christine and I am 20 years old. My interests are music, animals, reading and walking, and I enjoy most sports. I would like to write to a soldier aged 20-22 years old. — Christine Johnston, 15 Castlehill Drive, Stormont, Belfast, NI.

My name is Glenys and I am 30 years old. I would like a penpal in the same age group who is sincere. — Glenys Collins, 18 Manor Road, King's Bromley, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE13 7HZ.

My name is Lorna and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 7 ins tall with auburn hair and green eyes. I like music and cooking. — All letters answered. Photos if possible. — Lorna Archibald, 2 Lova Close, Tidworth, Wilts, SP9 7ED.

My name is Trisha and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 4 ins tall with brown hair and grey eyes. I like judo and badminton and all types of music. I would like a penfriend aged 25-30 years old. — Trisha Fawcett, 26 Nutley Avenue, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 0QP.

My name is Anne and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include dancing and baby-minding. I would like to write to soldiers in the Falklands aged 18-21 years old. All letters answered. Photos if possible. — Anne Cushen, 147 George Lane, Lewisham, London, SE13 6HP.

My name is Cheryl and I am 25 years old. I would like to write to anyone aged 25-30 years old. All letters answered. — Cheryl Farrar, 25 Grainsby Close, off Rookery Lane, Lincoln.

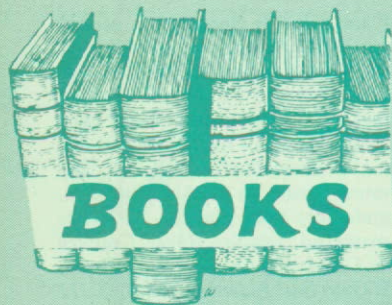
My name is Christine and I am 26 years old. I am 5ft tall with brown hair and grey eyes. I enjoy discos, reading and horse-riding. — Christine Overton, 7 Haffenden Road, Lincoln, LN2 1RP.

We are two friends who would like penpals. Andrea is 21 years old and Dawn is 20 years old. Our interests are swimming and jogging. — Andrea Jeffs, 15 Berrymoor Road, Kingsway, Wellingborough, Northants; Dawn Simcoe, 16 Lower St, Gt Doddington, Wellingborough, Northants.

My name is Sheila and I enjoy discos and outdoor activities. I would like a penpal aged around 32 years old. — Sheila Woodburn, 136 Ashlands Road, Northallerton, Yorkshire.

I am a 26-year-old girl wishing to correspond with someone in the age group 26-34 years old. My interests are dancing, dining out, keep fit and decorating. — E Baker, 5 Crookham Road, Weston Estate, Southampton, Hants, SO2 9NF.

My name is Sean and I am 19 years old, interested in everything and incredibly handsome! Photos if possible. — Cfn S C Clark, E Pln A Coy, SEE Hayebrouck Bks, Reading, Berks.



Campaign of the Western Pyrenees: Captain Batty

This is one for the dedicated collector. It is a facsimile of Captain Robert Batty's book published in 1823 which contains his well written account of Wellington's campaign in the Western Pyrenees in 1813-14 and also the author's excellent drawings and etchings of the mountain and river scenery — the nature of the terrain being unknown to the people of Britain. Original volumes are now fetching about £250 and this facsimile edition, at less than a tenth of the price, is limited to 250 numbered copies. The large map of the campaign, which folds into the front of the book, shows the features and fortifications in fine detail and with the positions of divisions, brigades and outposts in colour. This hand-colouring alone has taken over 20 minutes for each map.

Batty served as an Ensign in the 3rd Battalion of the 1st, or Grenadier, Guards during the campaign and later at Waterloo and went on to enjoy a lieutenant-colonelcy. He took notes and made many sketches during the campaign, believing it was an officer's duty so to do, and that this combined information should later be studied to determine the reason for success or otherwise of operational plans.

He limited his remarks to the activities of the Left Wing of the Peninsular Army as, during the active operations, he was unable to form "associations with officers of the Right Wing and Centre." This in no way reduces the value of the narrative and the accurate and painstaking record he has handed down; nor the penetrating observance of the people — Spanish, French, Basque — with whom he came into contact. A clear and concise story enlivened by some fine sketches.

Ken Trotman, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ. — £22

GRH

War Winners: Ronald W Clark

This is a reprint of the book first published in 1979, which is curious as it is already vastly out of date, because it covers the period 1860-1972; the publishers might have taken the opportunity to up-date it in order to include the Falklands War with all the lessons learnt about guided missiles, Harriers, helicopters etc.

The author defines a scientific war-winner as 'A science based weapon which for a period and in certain circumstances, occasionally in isolation but more usually in combination with other weapons, can turn the tide

of a battle, a campaign or possibly even a war'.

This is such a wide remit that in consequence he includes a vast range of weapons, equipment and material, such as Gatling guns, machine guns, gas, Paris gun, submarines, Mulberry Harbour, Enigma, buzz bombs, proximity fuses, jerrycans, Penicillin, guided missiles and nuclear bombs — to mention but a few; in his support for the inclusion of Penicillin he quotes Field Marshal Lord Slim — 'The scientific ideas that help us most in the War were on the medical side. Without these I don't think we should have fought the War at all'. It is a pity the author did not choose a narrower definition and deal with the selected subjects and the subsequent counter measures in more detail.

Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG. — £6.95

PSN

For You the War is Over: The Hon Philip Kindersley

Escape stories have abounded since the end of the Second World War, and it is easy to understand why. To be taken prisoner-of-war is a traumatic experience and once encamped with fellow nationals it is most tempting to stay there and make the best of it, in companionship and relative safety. To break out from a POW community into an alien and dangerous environment calls for a special form of courage and determination.

This book is different in that the author did not have to make elaborate escape plans and bid farewell to fellow prisoners, but was able to take his opportunities of freedom and make an almost vagabond type trek through Italy. The result is, in some ways, a practical back-packer's survival guide.

The author was taken as a wounded prisoner on Christmas Day 1942, near Tunis and shipped via Sicily to Italy. The initial stages of captivity could barely be considered hardship, and the post-hospital arrival at a camp near Naples seems civilised enough: 'My arrival in the officers' compound coincided with tea, and all the officers in the compound were in the mess room'. But conditions were not always to be so agreeable.

Problems started at the camp at Fontanellato when the Italians capitulated. Seeking to avoid the attentions of the Germans, Philip Kindersley decided to escape, thus beginning a 400 mile journey on foot over mountainous countryside, living on the hospitality of Italian peasants. There followed hardships and sickness, and eventual recapture.

Oflag 79 near Brunswick was the final resting place before liberation and return to England in April 1945.

It has taken nearly forty years for the story to be published; a story that has been written three times. The first two manuscripts were lost during the months of evading capture; the third, mostly written on the back of Canadian biscuit boxes in Oflag 79, survived to form the basis for this book.

It is a true adventure story, it is also an expression of gratitude to the hospitable Italians who helped the needy escapees. It would make an excellent film or television series.

Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0NX — £7.50.

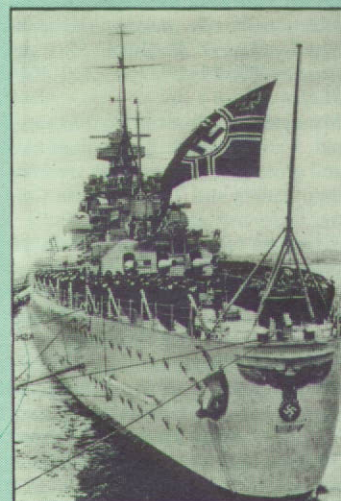
BJ

The Death of the Scharnhorst: John Winton

For the crew of the German battle-cruiser Scharnhorst, Christmas Day 1943 started with the customary celebrations in the bleak but safe Norwegian fjord in which her mere presence threatened the convoys Britain was sending to Murmansk with weapons for the Red Army. By early evening she was at sea for the last time, and heading into a trap.

The last two Murmansk convoys had sailed without being attacked. The Germans thought this fact would lull the British into a false sense of security and the Christmas convoy would be easy meat.

Vice-Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, on the other hand, thought that precisely because they had not attacked the last two convoys, the Germans would be eager to tackle this one. Scharnhorst went for the "bait" as Fraser



soon learned from ULTRA.

By the morning of the 26th, she was being attacked by the 10th Cruiser Squadron, led by HMS Belfast (now a museum on the Thames). By late afternoon Fraser's flagship, the battleship Duke of York, was on the scene and the two great ships were slogging it out. At about 7.45 the Scharnhorst sank, with all but 36 of her crew of 1968. It had been a "night" battle in the gloom of North Cape, fought with star-shells and radar.

Mr Winton tells the story very readably, with good quotes from survivors, though he is at pains to point out that those from the German survivors are suspect, owing to inept interrogation in the immediate aftermath of the battle.

On the British side, casualties were light. One was a reindeer presented to HMS Belfast in one of the few friendly gestures from the Russians to the Royal Navy; scared out of her wits by the noise of battle she had to be put down.

Admiral Fraser received another rare tribute from the Supreme Soviet for sinking the Scharnhorst, a huge fur hat and fur coat. Having no use for the coat, he tried to sell it but Gieves, the naval tailors, refused it because its quality was poor.

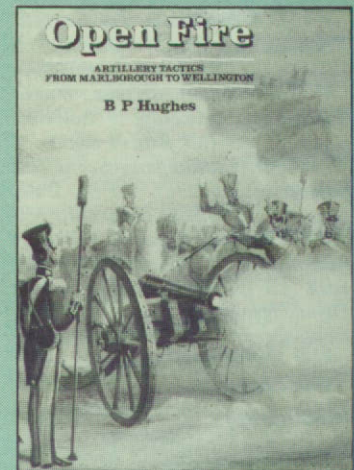
Antony Bird, Strettington House, Strettington, Chichester. — £9.95

RLE

Open Fire: Artillery Tactics from Marlborough to Wellington: B P Hughes

The control of cavalry and infantry on 18th and 19th century battlefields is very fully documented but there is little contemporary published information on the actions of artillery in the same period. In fact, there appears to have been no printed records of the doctrine underlying the employment of artillery up to 1800. It is the aim of Major-General Hughes to fill this gap in the literature of military tactics.

The foundations for the book are laid in the opening chapters concerned with weaponry and the histor-



ical bases of organisation and command, together with a short description of tactics in the use of small arms fire. This may seem surprising, but the control of small arms is, as the author explains, 'in some ways basically the same problem which confronted the artillery . . .', particularly when slow reloading flintlocks were the only weapons of this kind.

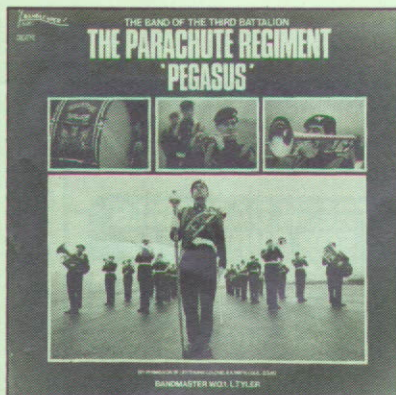
The account of 18th century artillery tactics begins, by way of a prelude, with Swedish military doctrine as applied by Gustavus Adolphus a hundred years earlier, and the employment of mainly six and twelve pound guns: '... though the artillery arm was in its infancy, it cannot be said that the Swedes did not use it boldly. They deployed no less than 100 guns, organised in fourteen batteries, at the battle of Breitenfeld on the 7th September 1631'. The 18th century itself is represented by gunnery aspects of the campaigns of Marlborough and Frederick the Great, with the battle of Minden described in detail. This chapter on the era ends with a shift of scene to the Indian armies to whom battalion guns were introduced in about 1770.

Siege warfare has an entire chapter devoted to it; the text book drill and the precedent making impromptu sieges, such as Badajos and Delhi, 45 years later.

General Hughes has broken new ground by interpreting a mixture of chronicle which, initially, did not set out to be authoritative works on artillery but, perhaps more important, he has enhanced our knowledge of 19th century battles by describing them specifically from the gunner's viewpoint.

Anthony Bird Publications, Strettington, Chichester. £10.50.

BJ



PEGASUS

Band of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

Conductor: Bandmaster L. Tyler
BND 1014 Bandleader

Of the several records commemorating the valiant deeds of the Falklands campaign this one concentrates on the army's part in it, and the Paras in particular. And, praise be, Mr Tyler puts pen to paper in their honour as have generations of bandmasters before him. As always it is difficult to fill an LP with pertinent tunes so perhaps it would have been better to have included some gesture to the ship which got them there, and to the RAF rather than the marches of the 82nd United States Airborne Division, and Canadian Airborne Troops, the French Parachutists march *Les Gars de Bigeard*, and the much played *Thunderbirds*.

A very good programme, though, and since Christmas is only umpteenth shopping days away a fine gift for

anyone remotely concerned in *l'affair*. Mr Tyler's own contributions are two concert marches and two quick marches, *The Dakota* and one dedicated to *Ian McKay VC*. The concert marches are *Mount Longdon*, an imaginative portrayal of the bleak mountain and the battle thereon, and *Pegasus*, named after the regimental mascot. *The Winged Dagger* is a stirring march by Louise Denny, *Air Despatch* another by Major Terry Kenny, and two Alford's are *Standard of St. George* and *The Great Little Army*. The Regimental Slow and Quick Marches complete what must have been a labour of love for the band who, if I remember rightly, took their harps to the party, or as near the gangplank as they could get, but were left cursing on the quayside.

From HQ, Para Regt, Aldershot, Hants., or Bandleader, £4.50 inc.

MARCHING AND WALTZING

with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals

Conductor: Major G Turner

Time was when all those Lens and Doreens, dressed overall in their white ties and tails and sequined frocks of many underskirts, performed miracles in their slow-slow quick-quick-slow routines. Nowadays I see that they are more often Kevins and Fionas, and if Fiona is wearing more than three sequins (one on each vantage point) she feels overdressed. The Royal Signals invite you to Come Dancing with your very own Doreen, but for military two-steps and three kinds of waltz only. So keep your skirt on, Doreen.

ON THE RECORD

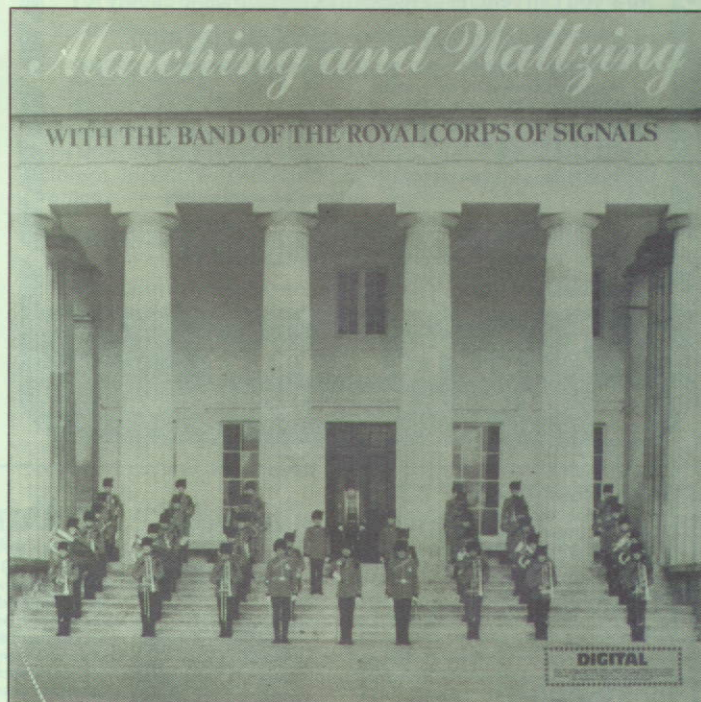
with
Rodney Bashford



Alternating march and waltz as for the BBC music programmes the band starts us off with a once very familiar sports signature tune, Hubert Bath's *Out of the Blue*, Britain's answer to America's *Wide Blue Yonder*, and dedicated to the RAF Major Turner includes marches by four Royal Signals Directors of Music, Randolph Ricketts's *The Contemptibles*, John Judd's *The Cheerful Signaller*, Keith Boulding's *The Rotarians*, and his own *The Picador* and arrangement of a *Geordie Patrol*.

Of the other marches a usual winner from Alf Young in *The Beacon* and an arrangement of *The World is Waiting for the Sunrise*. All eight are highly acceptable.

The six waltzes include one by that old master of the Mighty Wurlitzer, Reginald Porter Brown — *Dance of the Three Old Maids* — and two from musical comedy in Lehar's *The Merry Widow* and Ivan Caryll's wonderful *Pink Lady*. The others hardly encourage itchy feet but are pleasant enough. *The Butterfly Musette* by R Farrant, a medley of *English Ayres*, and a euphonium solo which owes much to Arthur Pryor's *Love's Enchantment* called *The Beautiful Colorado* vary the material but gag the urge to gyrate. Very pleasant listening though, and available from the band at Blandford Camp, Dorset at £5.60 inclusive.



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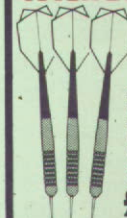
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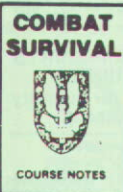
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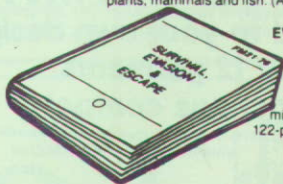
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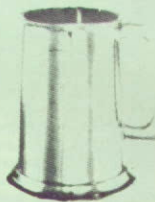
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LOOKING BACK — AND AHEAD WITH ARMY'S RUGBY GIANT

BACK IN THE SIXTIES Colonel Mike Campbell-Lamerton was one of the giants of British Rugby football — not only in his achievements but in his physical size. When he won the first of his 23 Scottish international caps in 1961 the young captain from The Duke of Wellington's Regiment weighed in at 17 stone 4 lbs and was the heaviest international rugby forward in Britain.

Today Colonel Campbell-Lamerton is Commander of Victory College at Sandhurst and still finds time to take an active part in the game — as chairman of the Army selectors and as chairman and coach of rugby at Sandhurst.

He can look back on a marvellous career in the game — two British Lions tours, the second of them as captain; two appearances as captain of a team reaching the final of the county championship; three years as Army captain; and two as Combined Services skipper during which his team beat the French Armed Forces for the first time since before the war.

Later, after retiring from international rugby, he played for



his regiment until he was 41 and captained a German club side to the finals of the European club championship.

Another memorial to his efforts is in Hong Kong where in 1969-70 he started teaching young Chinese to play rugby. "We started with 40 of them and now it's grown so that there are now thousands of young Chinese playing there."

The standard of rugby in the Army has dropped since those heady days of the sixties when the Army might have five or more international players at any one time. It is some years now since the Army gained a cap.

"One reason is that the end of National Service means there is less talent. Another is that the pace of life and demands of a small Regular Army are much greater than on members of a

very large Army in National Service days."

He points out that while the Army standard has dropped the standard of club rugby has gone up. Very few soldiers now play for good club sides — "if you are not available for each training session you cannot get into the club's first team."

"We are three or four yards slower than good club sides and we have not been able to maintain the fixture list we had because we cannot compete against them. But this applies equally to the Navy and RAF and Inter-Service games still have the same feeling of rivalry and dedication."

"It's still a great thrill to put on your red jersey and play at Twickenham and the Army still runs the largest knock-out competition in the world."

He believes that Army sport is very healthy but that the main successes now come in individual sports rather than team games like rugby, cricket and football.

On the game as a whole he has noted many changes. "Today rugby as an amateur game suffers from professional criticism. It is on a par with professional sport in media coverage and comment."

The laws have changed and the advent of replacements for injured players is something he welcomed — recalling how injured players would carry on in former times and often aggravate their injuries.

Plastic studs which turn into razor blades after walking on concrete and deliberate rucking are innovations which he deplores. But overall he concludes: "The standard is very much higher today although I am not certain that it is more attractive to watch and we have lost the exciting threequarter play."

A man who can look back on the great days of Army rugby might be excused for feeling depressed about today's scene. Instead Colonel Campbell-Lamerton looks to a brighter future and cites the performances of the Army Under-21 and Colts teams who hold their own with their contemporaries outside. "They are really on a high and it is very exciting" he declares.



The year is 1961 and the newly capped Campbell-Lamerton hangs on to a ball despite being tackled.

OTHER SPORT IN BRIEF

The Territorial Army squash team maintained a clean record sheet on its first ever overseas tour — to Berlin. The six man team, led by Captain Alan Oates, played and won all three matches.

All the matches were whitewashes: 5-0 against the Army Berlin; 6-0 against a local club; and 5-0 against a Combined Services team from the city. Despite their successful tour the TA are looking for more players for their fixtures in the New Year. Keen players should contact Captain Oates through the TA Sports Board in Colchester.

There were 369 runners in the Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials at Larkhill. The course was designed by Major David Thatcher RA and for the first time there were no 'knock down' fences and the 'panelled fence' was abandoned for the Novice and Pairs classes.

Military winners: Novice — Captain Matthew Sykes on the King's Troop's 'Glenda'; Intermediate — Corporal Maxwell, Household Cavalry's 'Emanuel'; Open — Gunner Harnett, King's Troop's 'Wedgewood'.

ARMY HOLD SAINTS



Lance-Corporal Phil White, making a welcome return to the Army soccer side, slams in a penalty past a hapless Southampton goalkeeper. The Army held on for a 1-1 draw in a fine match against an enterprising Saints' team, four of whom had First Division experience.

TA ANNIVERSARY **BLUES**

Soccer Regulars too strong for Terriers

ARMY 4

TERRITORIAL ARMY 0

The visit to the Army FA at Aldershot was intended to be one of the highlights of the Territorial Army 75th Anniversary Year. But the celebrations turned into a wake as the Army took hold of the game by the scruff of the neck and coasted to their biggest win in the match in recent years.

The Army were in charge right from the opening whistle and never let go. Had they been awarded an obvious penalty kick in the third minute — a handling offence on the goal-line seen by everyone in the stadium except the one who mattered — the referee — and had Signalman Mickey Halligan scored five minutes later after rounding the TA keeper, Private Robbie Park (CVHQ REME) the margin might have reached double figures.

As it was spectators had to wait 35 minutes for the opening goal. A good interchange of passing between Bombardier Pat Russell RA and Lance-Corporal Steve Butler REME left the latter in the clear to stroke the ball home.

Throughout the opening half the home defence had little trouble in stifling the hard working TA forward line and Corporal Ray Smith ACC in the Army goal had only one save of note to make.

The Army opened the second half in great style. Russell hit the upright, collected the returning bounce and laid it off to Crafts-

man Paddy Smyth REME, who hit the opposite post. Then Butler won a corner kick on the Army right, which he took himself. Russell then headed on for Halligan to shoot home inside the far post.

Another near miss followed when Craftsman Mickey Spencer REME flighted the ball across the goalface only for a timely interception from Gunner Andy Killen, 103 AD Regt (V) to save the goal.

Butler next took a hand in the proceedings with a dazzling goalward run — leaving six defenders in his wake. He crossed to an unmarked Halligan, who made it three. But the visitors fought back and Signalman Pat McNally (40 (U) Sig Regt V) almost grabbed a goal only to be foiled by Smith in a one-on-one situation.

Butler scored a glorious goal which was disallowed for offside and Halligan made strenuous efforts to complete his hat-trick. In the last minute he hit the upright before collecting the bounce back to lay it clear for Butler to volley into the roof of the net.



With Terriers snapping at his heels Butler sets off for third goal.

WEST COUNTRY BOGEY LAID

Army 2 Hellenic League 0

The Army laid the bogey of the Hellenic League when, on a perfect night for football, they scored their first ever win over the talented select from the West Country. Two first half goals by Lance-Corporal Steve Butler were sufficient to see them safely home.

The Army opened brightly and attacked from the start. They won two early corner kicks, which came to nothing, before the visitors began to peg them back. It was from a Hellenic League attack that the first break came. A glorious long ball found Butler who raced away, cut inside and laid off the ball to

Craftsman Neil McGregor, who appeared to lose the chance. He did; however, bundle the ball back to Butler who edged clear of the defence to fire the ball into the corner of the net.

Ten minutes later the same two players again combined well only for visiting keeper to save McGregor's shot at the second attempt. But the clearance was intercepted and Butler raced onto the ball and flicked it home.

The Army defence looked more sound than of late and were never really threatened. The midfield players and front runners worked tirelessly throughout a very entertaining game.



The Army's Russell hurdles a TA sliding tackle...

K.O. FOR ARMY TEAM BOXING

For the first time since the Second World War the Army inter-unit boxing championships will not take place this year. The only entrant was the holders, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment and the final scheduled for last week had to be cancelled.

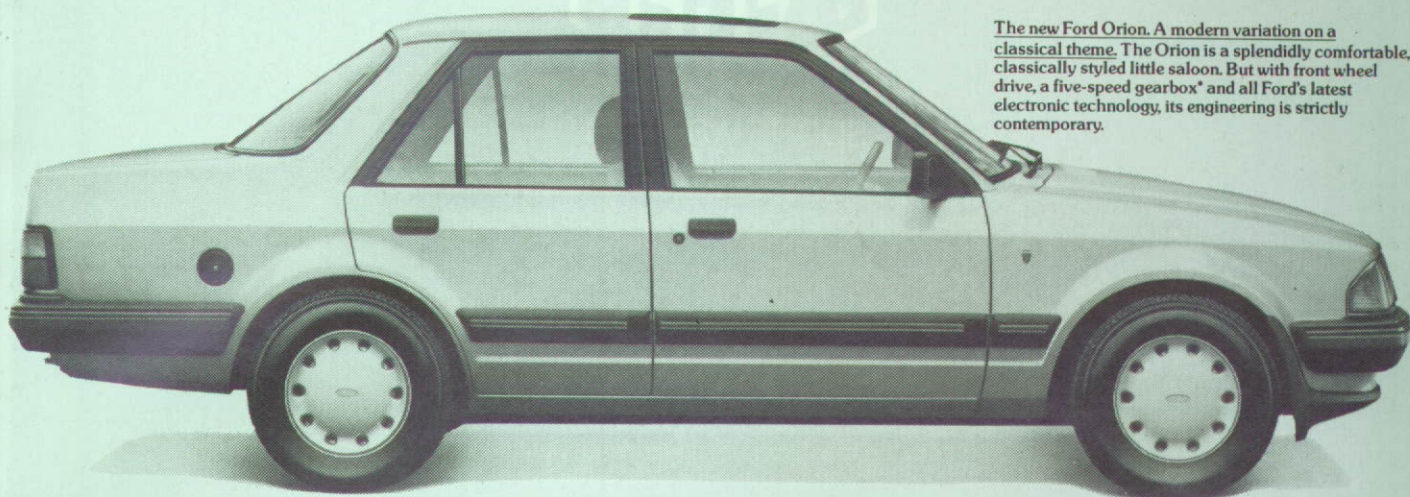
"It's the worst it's ever been" said Army Boxing Secretary, Major Jack Beasor. The signs of the decline were all too apparent last year when there were only two entries — today's tightly stretched Army finds it difficult to release boxers for the amount of training they enjoyed in days of yore.

The King's will hold on to the Cup for another year although they will not be regarded as having won it. Now Army boxing officials are hoping that the revival in the old Intermediate championships, (now known as

Novices Grades 3 and 2), will eventually see a revival in the premier competition. Nine teams have entered this year.

The military boxing season kicks off this week with the Army Individual Championship at Aldershot (finals Thursday 1 December). In the New Year the Army visit the RAF on 9 February at Hereford and will entertain current Services champions, the Navy, at Aldershot a fortnight later. This season's Services' individual event will be at Portsmouth on 7-8 March.

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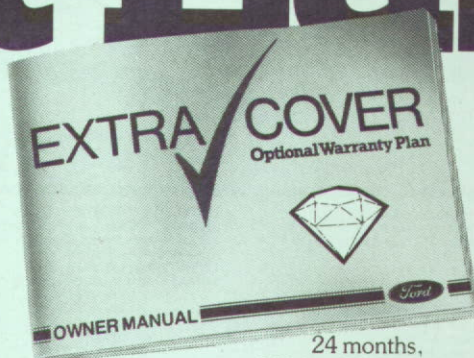


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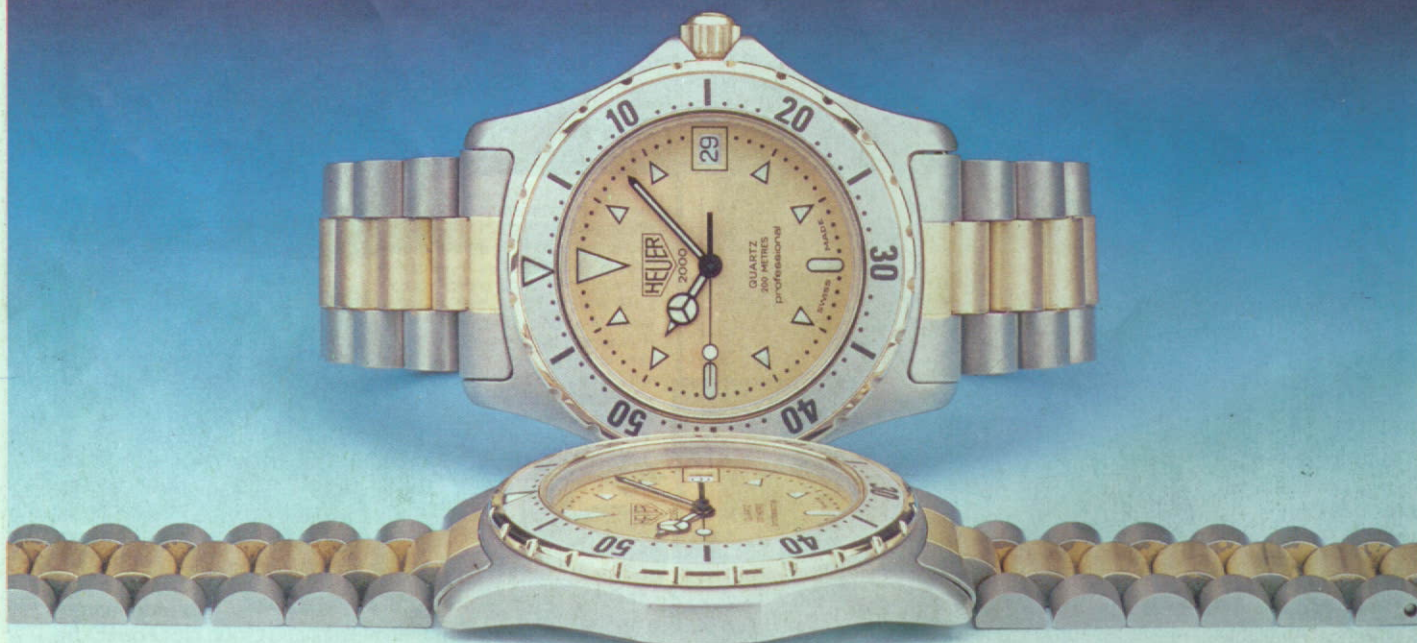
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