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FRONT COVER: Captain James Hopkins, LG, adjutant of the Household Cavalry Regiment (Mounted), gives Blues and Royals a meticulous inspection before they mount Queen's Life Guard

BACK COVER: A work out on the lunge for Fenton by Corporal of Horse Martin Shaw, 2 ic the remounts at Windsor. The horse is wearing a trace clip — the hair style for equine recruits — designed to give him a taste of clipping while leaving some protection for the still unaccustomed saddle

Both pictures by Terry Champion. See story page 25.

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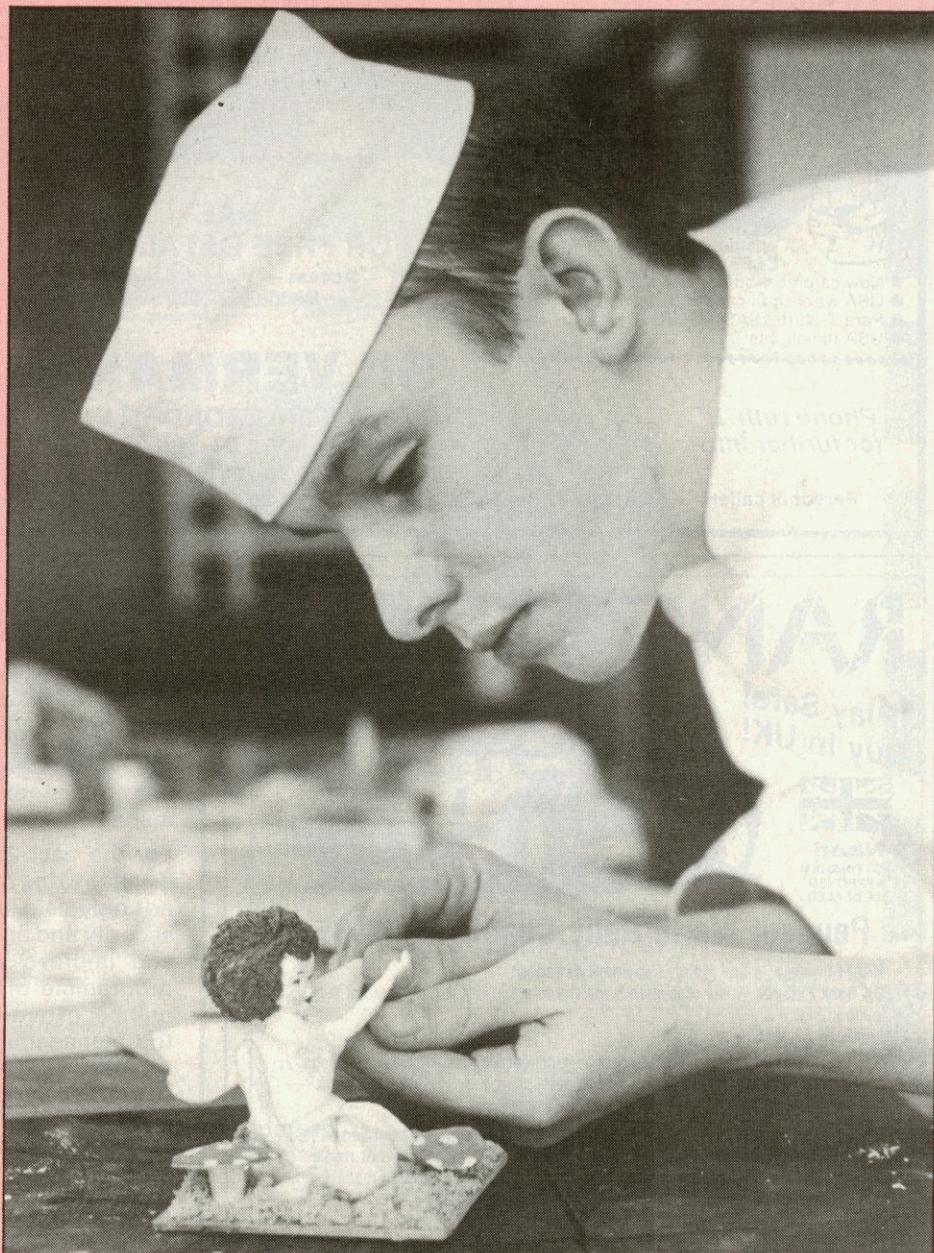
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# SOLDIER

INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

## MINIATURE MASTERPIECE



Last minute touches by Apprentice Stephen Hayward to his miniature entry in this year's Hotelympia in London — the exhibition that attracts some of the top chefs and cooks in the world. Stephen, 18, with just a year's service in the Army, is one of 96 ACC apprentices taking part. See SOLDIER'S next issue for the results of how he and his pals got on. Pages 14-15 of this issue show them preparing for their big week.

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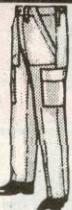
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- NI boots new ..... £27.50
- Off. shoes new ..... £29.99
- Desert Boots ..... £23.99
- Parkas DPM (L) ..... £75.00

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# Surfboard bid across Gib Strait

**RADIOLOGIST** Major Nigel Raby from the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, is to take to a surfboard and sail to raise funds for charity. His objective: to cross from Gibraltar to Ceuta, the Spanish enclave in North Africa, in about 60 minutes to raise money for the King's College Hospital CT Scanner Appeal.

He is actively looking for further sponsorship and one of the prizes to be offered in a draw is the £800 worth of surfboard, sail and wet suit on loan to him for the attempt.

The Royal Navy will be provid-

ing an escort safety boat for the bid from 'The Rock' when Nigel will be hoping for the "top end" of a Force Four boosting wind giving a 15-20 knot incentive.

The scanner appeal, backed by a London evening newspaper, hopes to raise £1 million.

"I'm not looking for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records but just trying to capture the public imagination in the cause of a worthy appeal", said Nigel, a windsurfer of some five years' experience.

"A lot of work has been involved in getting the necessary diplomatic clearances for the crossing. At the moment it will be a one-way sailing

but, if I am not too tired, I shall attempt to re-cross the Strait to Gibraltar.

Private sponsors of the bid at £1-a-time stand a chance to win the £800 of kit by getting individual tickets going into the draw. Cheques should be sent to Major Raby at the QEMH X-Ray department and made payable to King's College Hospital in envelopes marked 'Wind surfing for Scanner Appeal.'

## High-flying Generator



AN ARMY Lynx helicopter from Netheravon was called in to airlift a generator the 50 miles from the Thrupp, Gloucestershire, works of Hawker Siddeley Power Plant Limited to Flatholme Island in the Bristol Channel, when rough seas made transportation by boat impossible.

Apprentice electricians from Chepstow Army Apprentice

College in Gwent were on hand to meet the high-flying generator on arrival at Flatholme — once a quarantine area for ships coming into the Channel.

The generator, ordered by the South Glamorgan County Council, will provide power on the island for members of the Youth Opportunities Scheme to refurbish the area as a bird sanctuary.

**A BROKEN-DOWN** firm saw its value soar to £9.7 million in 16 weeks after three RAMC medics got to work.

Power struggle decisions included staff employment and pay, production figures, raw materials, research, development and marketing.

For four months Staff Sergeant Michael Cunningham, Sergeant Gary Mahn and Corporal Martin Coleman burned the midnight oil to get the company on its feet.

## Star and Garter — 70 this year

**THE ROYAL STAR and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey — the home for disabled ex-Servicemen with the Queen as its patron — is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.**

*To mark the milestone of its anniversary, a special book with words and drawings by Ken Wilson has been commissioned and proceeds from the sale of the 38-page book — £2.25 including postage — will go towards the fundraising campaign of £1 million needed to maintain the Home during this year.*

*The book traces the history of the famous site on top of Richmond Hill and the many hotels and inns which have stood there from 1700 onwards.*

*Almost every political and artistic*

*personality of the day visited The Star and Garter Hotel during its hey-day in the middle of the Victorian era. They included Dickens, Thackeray and Napoleon III.*

*The Home is an independent charity administered by a body of Governors who are appointed by the British Red Cross Society.*

*Responsibility for its daily running and for the welfare of the residents lies with the commandant, a retired Services officer.*

*Among the residents are men who fought in the First World War, the Second World War, Korea, Malaya, the Middle East, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. A recent innovation has been the inclusion of ex-Servicewomen.*

## Javelin Ace

**THE MAKERS** of Javelin, the Army's close air defence missile system, have just won their third contract worth £25 million from the MoD.

And to some extent Shorts can thank the hot-shot shooting of 22-year-old Gunner Neil Scheafer of 10 (Assaye) Battery Royal Artillery.

For Neil's success rate with the Javelin is 100 per cent. In eight exercises he has blown eight fast-moving targets clean out of the sky at the Battery's Hohne base in BAOR.

In fact, Neil and his sharp-eyed pals of 10 Battery destroyed so many radio-controlled Skeet tar-

gets that arrangements for another unit to exercise had to be postponed.

Currently Neil is on a six-months exchange tour with the Royal Marines at Plymouth.

A 10 Battery spokesman said: "He's only a little guy, but boy, can be shoot. He has a naturally keen eye and is an above average shot with small arms, too."

*Technical note: Javelin is a development of the shoulder-launched Blowpipe. It is a supersonic close-range, man-portable guided weapon, designed to combat low-level aircraft with line-of-sight guidance to the target.*

And by the end of it they had boosted the firm to second place in a nationwide contest organised by Kodak and the College of Radiographers.

All three are radiographers at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, and entered the contest against 361 other fictitious companies to finish just £0.2 million behind the winners.

Now they are to collect their prizes at a "company" function at a West End hotel in London.

Said Gary Mahn: "Two of us had a go at a similar game last year, but we finished well down at about 60th."

"The pitfalls in that did help us to some extent, but whether our success this year will spark off the entrepreneurial spirit is too early to say. All three of us have some years to go before leaving the Army."

"All we do know is that we all wished we had bought some British Telecom shares when the company went public."

## MEDICS IN THE POWER GAME

# DUKE VISITS HIS OWN



WINNERS of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace 1984, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) had a double namesake VIP visit to their Bulford home by the Duke and Duchess of Wellington. The Duke is the regimental Colonel-in-Chief.

Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Walker, CO of the battalion, received the visitors. The Duke reviewed a guard of honour comprising the Colour Party and the Band and

# Ex-Argyll takes over at Defence

THE new Defence Secretary is Mr George Younger. He replaced Mr Michael Heseltine within hours of his resignation over the Westland affair.

A one-time National Serviceman Mr Younger joined



MR GEORGE YOUNGER

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1950 and was soon commissioned.

After a short spell with The Black Watch in Berlin, he rejoined the Argylls and went with them to Korea.

On his return to civilian life he joined the TA and by 1965 had reached the second-in-command slot with the 7th Battalion the Argylls.

He later became honorary colonel of 154 Regiment RCT TA, but he relinquished this post last year.

Mr Younger is 54 and married with three sons and a daughter. He is one of the Queen's bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers) and in *Who's Who* lists his recreations as music, tennis, sailing and golf.

## Cash prize for crook catcher

WHEN Guardsman Russell Varney saw a couple of burglars trying to break into a jewellers' shop he quickly phoned the police and one of the pair was caught.

Now Russell, of the Coldstream Guards, has received a High Sheriff's award and a cheque for his sharp work.

The incident happened late at night in a side road off Oxford Street, London. One man was kicking in the window while the other kept watch.

But it was the watch-keeper who was caught when Russell toured the streets in a police car until he spotted him.



Russell Varney

## Church draw has this Nightingale singing

DAVE Nightingale had something to sing about when he heard that his lucky number had come up in a church raffle.

Now Dave, a lance corporal clerk in the Royal

Engineers, is planning a belated honeymoon with his wife Silvia.

For his winning number won him two tickets to ride anywhere in the world served by the German

airline LTU.

Their flight of fancy will take them to Florida for a touch of the sun and a break from the Dusseldorf winter.

Married last September,

Dave and Silvia couldn't get away for a honeymoon. Now it's going to be hello sunshine.

With 11 years service, Dave is currently with 14 Ind Topo Squadron.

## Moment of magic for a Gurkha



LIEUTENANT TAMANG, AIR VICE-MARSHAL KEMBALL: switching to a commission

IT'S that time when you're neither one thing nor the other. When you don't know whether you are on your head or your heels.

For WO2 Kulbahadur Tamang those magical

moments became real when he switched from being an NCO to a lieutenant.

Air Vice-Marshal R. J. 'Kip' Kemball, Commander Falkland Islands, poised just long enough

for a photographer to snap the proud moment.

Lieutenant Tamang, 35, is now back at his village in Nepal for six months leave after four months in the South Atlantic with 69 Gurkha Independent

### Field Squadron.

The Falklands was the latest of many postings in his 17 years service.

Now he's back with his family before returning to the squadron's UK base at Chatham.

## Old-timer Alan hands in his 1913 pay book and his dad's!

NUMEROUS old soldiers like to think their pay books, medals and other military papers just won't lay around and rot when they die.

Many want them preserved, like old-timer Mr Alan Spicer-Clarke, 88, of Colchester, who has handed over to the RCT Museum at Aldershot not just his own papers of 1914-18 vintage, but those of his father who

served with the Army Service Corps military train from 1865 onwards.

Among the fascinating list of items is a cloth-covered account book showing that the father, John Clarke, joined up at Aldershot in June 1865 with Military Train No. 2978. His Army Service Corps number was 233.

With the book is an Edward VII long service medal; a George V Coronation medal of 1911; a photo with his family in ASC uniform as a TA sergeant major, also 1911; a photo of RSM Robert Elliott, the man who signed him on at Aldershot 46 years earlier in the uniform of a Yeoman

## Squire in search of a Knight!

DUNKIRK veteran Jack Squire, who now lives in France, is trying to trace an old pal from those dark days when Hitler threatened invasion. In a letter to SOLDIER he says he wants to find a Mr C Knight whose last known address was

Warder, and a picture of the 1st London Div ASC Aldershot in 1908.

Mr Alan Clarke's collection for the museum includes his enlistment record — ASC 1913 as horse driver No. 595 — his medals, 1914 Star with Old Contemptibles' bar, war medal, victory medal, ASC cap badge, Old Contemptibles' Association lapel badge, a pipe from a Princess Mary's Christmas box.

Keeper's Cottage, Stretton, Stafford, so that he can be re-united with his wartime friend Monsieur Andre Damman.

# SID RELIVES A NIGHTMARE

The day the world blew up

THE only George Cross awarded to an NCO in the RAOC has been handed to the Corps museum at Blackdown.

Forty years ago Acting Sergeant Sidney Rogerson was leading a team unloading 1,000 tons of explosives from 96 rail wagons in Saverne Forest, Wilts., when 29 of them exploded with a huge roar.

Eight men died and six were seriously injured, but it could have been more had not Mr Rogerson, now 71, hauled two badly injured men from beneath a blazing wagon loaded with ten tons of shells and mines.

"I still have nightmares about that day," he said. "January 2, 1946 was the most frightening day of my life."

"The explosions started in mid-afternoon and went on for two hours with ammunition flying about all over the place."

"Some of the chaps who died were within a week of demob. Six months later, as I left the Army, pieces of bodies were still being found in fields a quarter of a mile away."

Unsure how the Saverne explosion started, Mr Rogerson said all the ammunition was old and probably unstable. "It was a mix of British, American and German shells and mines."

"It was a shattering experience in every way," he said.

For his bravery in rescuing the two men from beneath a blazing wagon, and his leadership in directing operations, he was awarded the George Cross, which rates second only to the VC.

Now his medal, along with his other wartime decorations, is on



MAJOR GENERAL GERRY BERRAGAN, STEVEN WILKES (grandson), SIDNEY ROGERSON AND DAUGHTER JOAN PIMBLEY: hero's GC for the Corps museum

show at Blackdown.

Telling the story behind his decision to sell his medal — which raised £7,000 — Mr Rogerson said it was to help his youngest daughter out of financial difficulties since her husband died

about a year ago, and to ensure its safe keeping.

Attending the official handover at Blackdown was Major General Gerry Berragan, Director General of Ordnance Services, and a host of other senior officers from the

Corps.

In a short address the General paid tribute to Mr Rogerson and related some of the details of the day... craters 90ft wide... nothing left of wagons except the odd wheel... windows blown

out in the town of Marlborough three miles away.

For everyone concerned a day of disaster and for Mr Rogerson especially, the day that Saverne exploded was seared into his memory for life.

## Man-of-the-Year seeks a job

MAN-OF-THE-YEAR Simon Weston, who was badly burned with the Welsh Guards at Bluff Cove in the Falklands, has passed his driving test at the first attempt. Despite badly

twisted hands Simon, 24, managed the test in an unmodified car. Said Simon, from Glamorgan: "I'm over the moon." Now he's on the lookout for a job as a driver.

## A loco to drive buffs nuts!

A diary date for all railway buffs and those connected with military railways in the 1939-45 war... Saturday September 27 is the day when Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 8233 will be rededicated at

Bridgnorth. With a record of service in Persia, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and the UK, it is hoped that as many as possible will attend the ceremony to admire this old loco.

# PEOPLE

## Ding-dong do for fire chief Barry

ALTHOUGH an international gathering, it was in reality a fireman's farewell when Fire Advisor Barry Hall left his job with 4 Armoured Division for a slot in Aldershot.

He also collected a couple of medals while based in Germany. One, the Medaille Internationale fur zusammenarbeit, is the first awarded to an Englishman in the Paderborn area for maintaining international relationships between firemen.

Barry received his 'gong' from local fire chief Meinhold Wisher (right), who with Div. Fire Advisor John Heal, rang him out helped by a cast of friends and colleagues.

## Joy for Josie

IT just shows how careful you have to be when going into print... In our January 13 issue (unlucky for some) we said that only one civilian — the Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor Colin Bouchin — had taken part in the Aldershot Fun Run.

Well in excess of 4,000 took part with the Mayor the sole civvy representative, or so we believed.

But out there among those thousands of flashing thighs were those of Mrs Josie Roberts, an attractive dark-haired mother of two small children and a typist at RHQ Para at Aldershot.

Said her boss, Major Tom Smith: "This was the first time Mrs Roberts had run this distance (10 kilometres) although she keeps fit playing badminton. She covered the course in 58 minutes — beating a lot of soldiers." Well done, Josie. Sorry we left you out of the first report.



JOHN HEAL, BARRY HALL, MEINHOLD WISHER: friendship maintained

## Natasha's destiny is the Army — but not yet

A picture of Natasha Collins, half-sister of *Dynasty* star Joan, has appeared in a national daily showing her dressed in Army battledress.

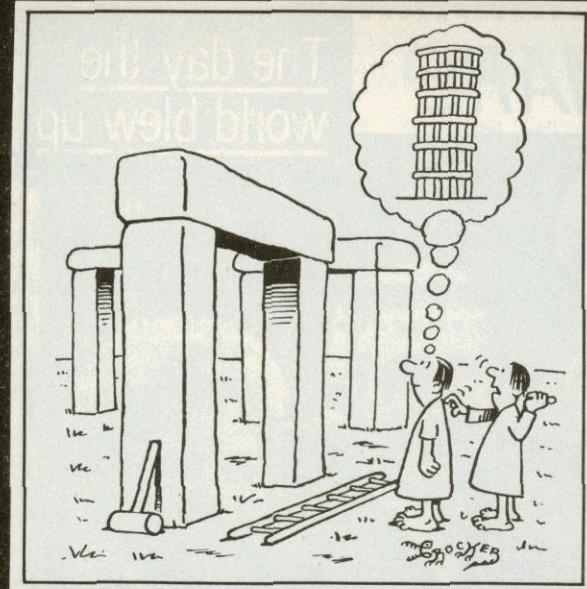
The caption suggested she was in the Army, but the fact is Natasha,

who is 17, is still at school and living with her parents in London and preparing for her A Levels.

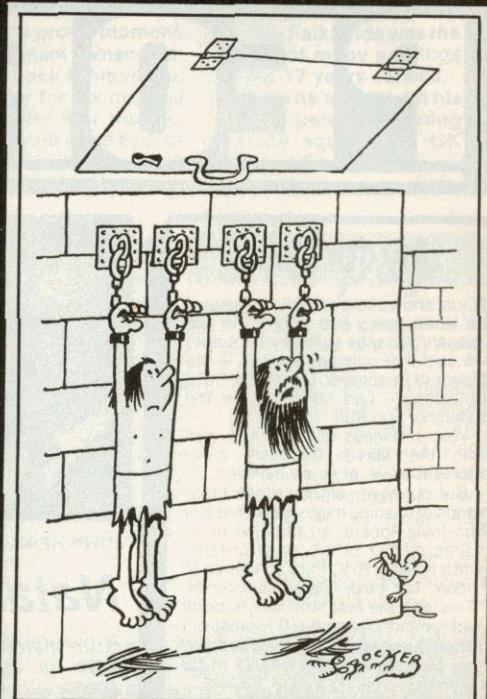
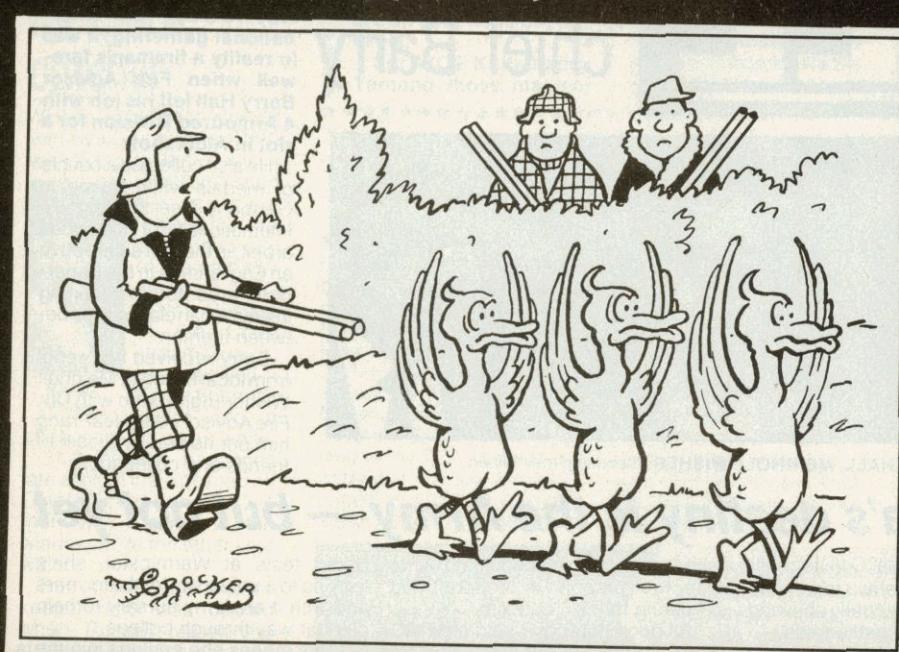
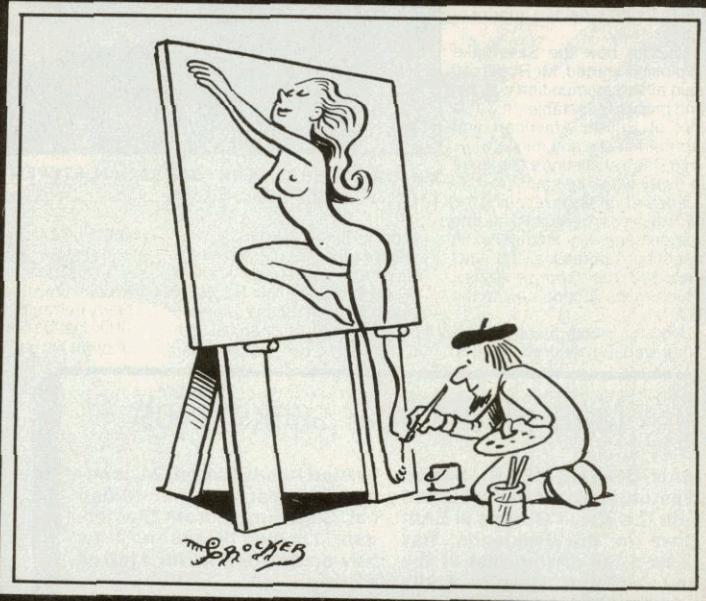
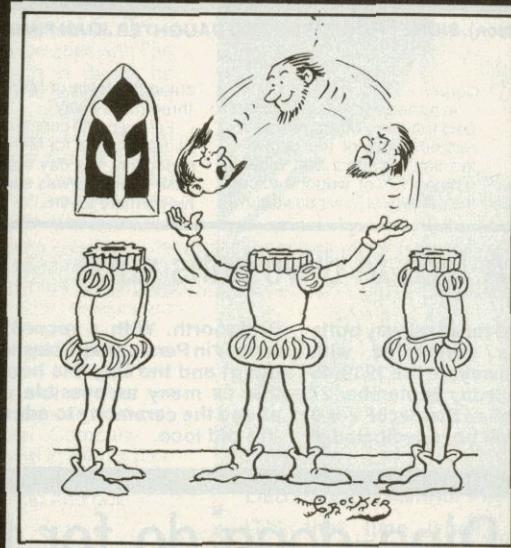
"All good publicity," said a WRAC PRO, "but although Natasha has passed the Regular Commission

Board tests at Warminster, she's looking to a university for three years and with it an Army bursary to help pay her way through college.

"This means she couldn't join the Army till the end of the course".



# Humour



**HOW often one hears the plea: "Bring in the Army". And usually, of course, the Army is there to help.**

Within a few days recently SOLDIER received stories about the Army being on hand to help take water to the 'dry' city of Leeds, and, on a much smaller scale, helping to clean up flooded houses in Hampshire. Whether it's a case of too much or too little, soldiers are invariably there to help.

At the same time, the Army was 'helping out' in much more serious and dangerous situations. The 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment hot-footed it to Northern Ireland as the Spearhead Battalion to aid the RUC in keeping law and order, and at London Airport the latest terrorist threats resulted in Guards regiments mounting a deterrent operation.

The civil police have since appeared with machine guns at Heathrow. "Not right", reportedly complained Mr Leslie Curtis, the Chairman of the Police Federation. It's incongruous to attempt to deal with the world's worst killers by confronting them with the world's most pacific police force, he argued. Mr Curtis was quoted as calling the Army 'the killing force' and the police 'the peacekeepers'.

Some newspapers jumped onto the bandwagon. Let the Army resume control rather than attempt to change the role and character of the police, said one. Do we really want to give our police a job that requires them routinely and regularly to carry guns, asked another.

No one wants to see the police armed, but when the situation demands it, the undesirable becomes necessary. The sight of policemen in Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, carrying guns, evokes not a second glance from people who live there;

it's a necessity. The Army is there to support the police, just as in the past it has supported the civil police at London Airport. But the time seems now to have arrived when the terrorist threat at our airports must become routinely a police responsibility, with the Army only being called in when required to support them, otherwise resuming its normal role, not of a 'killing force', but of 'peacekeepers' in another context.

★ ★ ★

**CREATURE comforts are something the soldier often has to learn to do without, especially when exercises and operations take him into the extremes of climatic conditions.**

But apparently conscripts in the South African Defence Forces are not particularly willing to carry out their military duties under unnecessarily spartan conditions.

As a result, SADF have called for some special creature comforts for troops operating in the difficult conditions of the bush, according to *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

Three types of box body, with a basic construction of polyurethane panels and glass fibre, have been developed, to be fitted on 10,000 kg cross country trucks, so that perishable goods can be carried direct to the front line.

One of the bodies can be fitted out as an extensively equipped canteen vehicle with a cooling compartment for storing refrigerated products, and the rear part of the truck acting as the canteen 'shop' equipped with food warmer, microwave oven, till, a small safe, potato chip dispenser, serving counter and hatch.

Another can be used to supply front line troops with fresh foods including vegetables, and the third

# SOLDIER to Soldier

is, wait for it, a mobile military beer cooler. Five hundred cases of beer, each holding 24 cans, are carried in an insulated box body. Cold beer in the bush. How's that for creature comforts?

★ ★ ★

**THE PRICE of moving music to Deal has risen to almost double the original estimated construction cost, but there is no reprieve for Kneller Hall.**

Mr Toby Jessel, the Conservative MP for Twickenham, acknowledged by Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, to be a 'tireless' fighter for Kneller Hall, elicited this information in reply to a Commons question.

The group set up to implement the decision to establish a defence school of music at Deal reported last year that the estimated construction cost has risen from £5.8 million to £10.6 million, said Mr Lee. The requirement for instruction and buildings is now being examined so as to reduce the cost to the earlier estimate.

There is not now much cost difference between continuing with the present system and setting up the new Joint Services school, protested Mr Jessel. Would the government reconsider its previous decision as the high standards of British Army bands, which are the envy of the world, are inextricably linked with the first-class training they receive at Kneller Hall.

No change in the fundamental decision to go tri-Service at Deal, replied Mr Lee.

★ ★ ★

## FROM bands to dogs.

The postman is usually reckoned to be the favourite target of angry dogs. But they are not unknown to harass military patrols, and as a safeguard it is possible for soldiers to be armed with a hand held aerosol dispenser which releases small quantities of an irritant solution designed to deter any canine attackers.

Perhaps with visions of such deterrents being harmful to people or to any old friendly tail-wagger, an MP quizzed Mr John Lee about their use.

Only a limited number are held and for use only at close range

where no innocent bystanders are likely to be affected, said Mr Lee. The irritation is short-termed and there are no lasting ill effects. Relax, dog lovers.

## THE expansion of the Territorial Army is well on track.

That assurance was given in the House of Commons by Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley when he reported that the TA strength stood at 74,000 compared with only 59,000 when the present government took over. The target, to be reached by 1990, is 86,000.

Details were also given by the Minister about training being planned for the Regular Army Reserve this year. Up to 500 Regular Reservists will take part in the major BAOR field training exercise, he said. And the new scheme whereby Regular Reservists in their third year of liability are invited to take part in one-week refresher training courses at various locations throughout the UK will be continued this year. More cost-effective opportunities for Reservists to engage in training are also being sought.

★ ★ ★

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AND their flying suits never got wet...

Soldiers who are air-lifted in the RAF Chinooks need have no fear, after seeing this photograph, that their helicopter may one day be slowly sinking into the River Rhine, as this one appears to be doing.

It was all very intentional. In fact ten of these each weighing 23 tons when loaded, hovered quite safely with their feet in the water during

exercise preparation by the United States Air Force in Germany.

The American military magazine *EurArmy* reported that they can float on water without help, although not exceptionally well. "It's kind of fun" commented the officer in charge of training.

The RAFs Chinooks can apparently land on water too, but so far they don't.

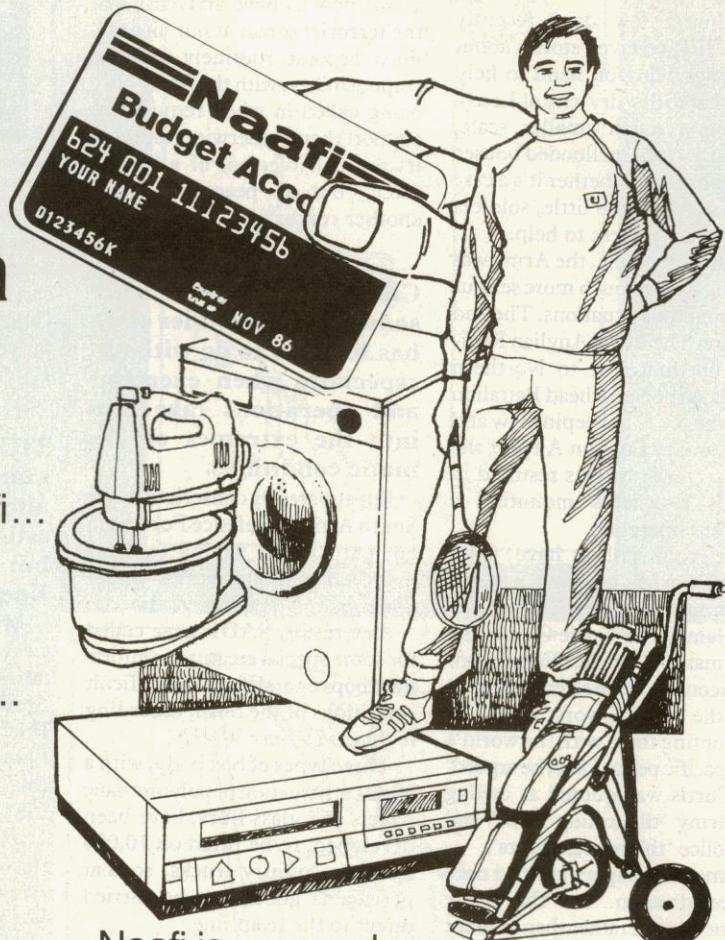
*The views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.*

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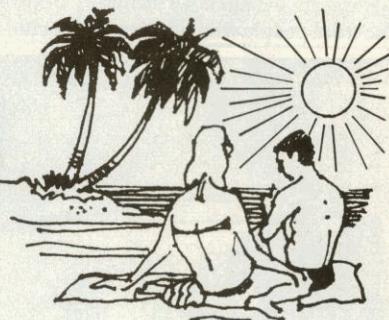
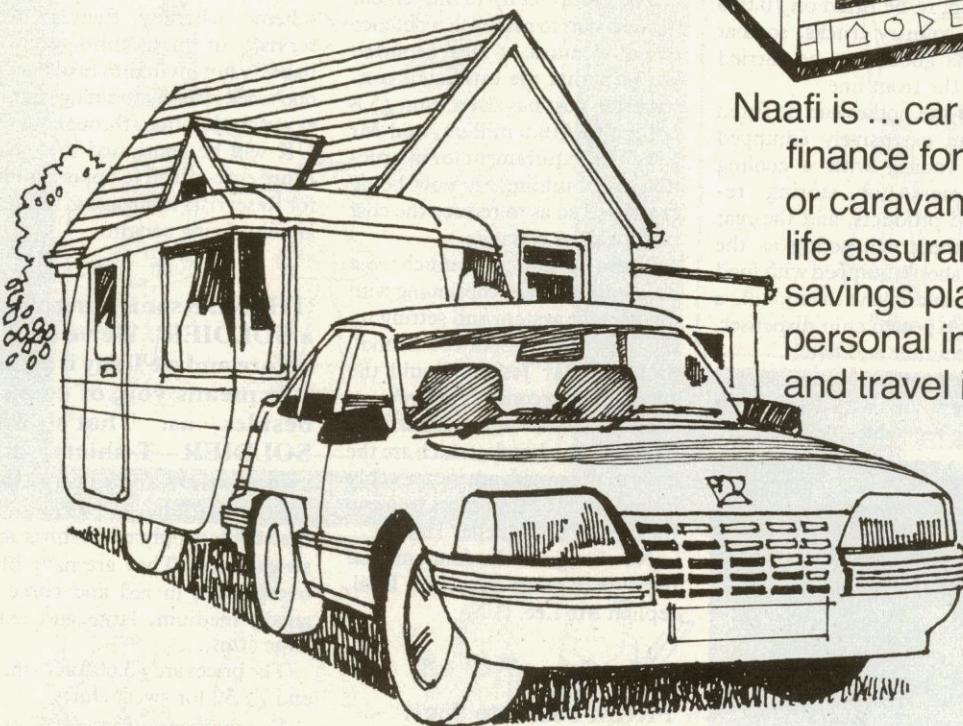
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# DESERT POSTIE

**O**NE of the most unusual, and certainly one of the most taxing appointments open to the 'posties' of the Royal Engineers is postal courier to the Multinational Force and Observers Sinai.

Multinational it certainly is, with military and civilian contingents provided by no less than 11 different nations.

Although not a United Nations sponsored organisation, the Force is employed in a peacekeeping role along the full length of the border between Israel and Egypt.

The Force headquarters in Sinai is at El Gorah in the north of this desert wasteland, and it is from here that the British postie makes his daily mail run over the border to Tel Aviv in Israel.

The journey takes two hours

**Sgt Stead and Sgt John Fiddler prepare mail for despatch. Sgt Fiddler, of 23 PC Sqn in Cyprus, was relief for Sgt Stead during his leave**



each way over a series of roads ranging from the narrow desert bound roads of Sinai to the fast moving motorways of Israel. It is a drive continually made hazardous by sand storms, wandering Bedouins and their camels, and not least by the completely unpredictable Arab driver.

The daunting task is faced daily,

five days a week, by the postal courier. A mechanical breakdown, not an infrequent event, can mean hours of waiting by the roadside under a broiling hot sun before recovery can be effected, as Sergeant Brian Stead, recently returned after being postie there, discovered.

During his five months tour Sergeant Stead encountered and survived all the hazards of driving in the hostile terrain and was looking forward to the more genteel art of driving in England when his tour ended. But after an SNCOs' course, he is off to somewhat different driving problems as a postie in Bangkok.

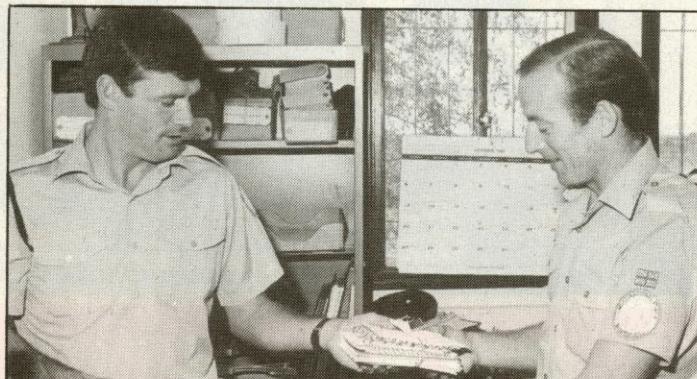
Life for the 39 British soldiers in El Gorah is far from unpleasant. With the benefit of air conditioned buildings and comfortable quarters there is the bonus of a wide range of recreational facilities. Each

**Sgt Brian Stead collects mail from Cpl Smeets of the Dutch contingent, one of the six contingents that relies on BFPO services**

contingent has a club where the different nationalities mix freely.

One of the most popular of the clubs is the British one, 'The Three Jokers', which is designed on the format of an 'olde worlde' British pub. Used by all ranks, the club has a good friendly atmosphere which makes it the ideal place to relax at the end of a working day.

Almost every weekend is free time and the soldiers make the most of it by visiting the many historically and biblically famous sites and cities, from the Pyramids in Egypt to the holy city of Jerusalem in Israel. Also within reach is the Israeli holiday resort of Eilat on the Red Sea, easily the most popular weekend destination in the summer months.



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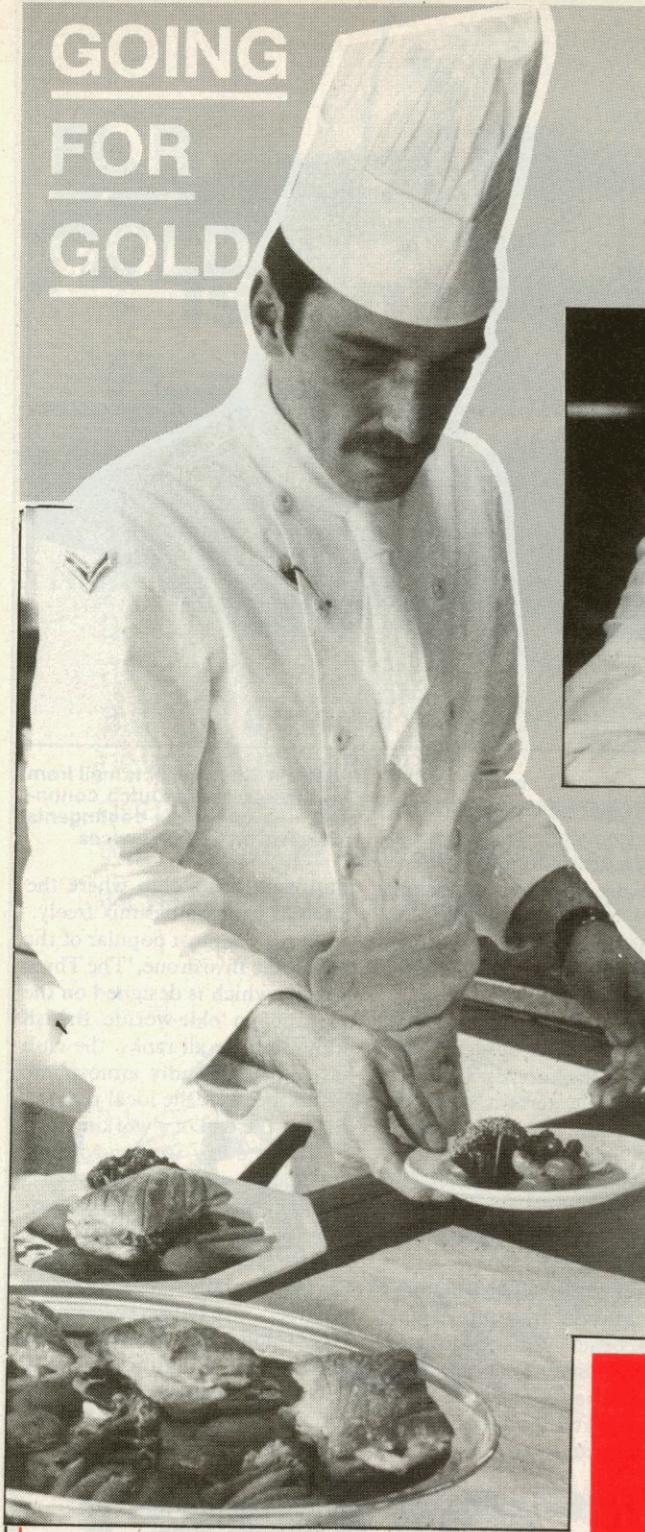
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APP HOWARD CORKE (above left), INSTRUCTOR MARIN FLOWERS: both entrants



WOULD-BE MASTERS (left), SGT NEWAL HUNTER: US Army veteran



APPRENTICE KEVIN GEORGE: spare-time hobby with a professional touch

## STRICTLY FOR SHOW

LANCE CORPORAL PETER JOHNSTON: no name dish

A common hazard faced by Army Catering Corps chefs and cooks taking part in this year's Hotelympia was getting their craft examples to the London show hall in one piece.

"Getting everything there safely is always a headache," said civilian instructor Brian Jones, "so we put them to bed on mattresses in the back of vans to minimise damage en route."

But even then arms and legs, elephants' trunks and birds' beaks get knocked from display items and have to be raised to be repaired.

So to ensure all was well by the time the panel of international judges began their

by  
JOHN MARGETTS

rounds of one of the world's biggest catering exhibitions, the 96 apprentices and the 40 chefs and cooks from the ACC College and School of Catering at Aldershot, carried little tool bags for rapid repairs.

In some cases it meant working all night to make good the damage," said Corps PRO

Major Gordon Walker, telling of the time WO1 Dave Dodds, who made Princess Anne's wedding cake, found the enormous five-tier confection leaning at an alarming angle only hours before the ceremony. "It was a quick rebuild job that night," he said.

But for the lads participating in Hotelympia — a Mecca for international cooks — the most frightening aspect of the whole week-long affair is the tension of waiting for the judges' marking.

Held every other year,

Hotelympia is one of the few outlets where young first-timers, such as the apprentices from the ACC College, and those with high culinary skills, get an equal chance for their work to be seen and judged by world-class experts.

been in the Army for more than a year — the average age is around 17½ — they have still got their 'L' plates up so far as cooking skills go.

But if the standard of their pastillage and marzipan work is anything

ing their sculpturing skills in sugar and spice," said senior instructor Mike Hanson.

"Formulating their ideas and practising is a spare-time activity. It's only the last days prior to Hotelympia they are permitted to start on

a trio of figures just before Christmas and was considered to be "in with a good chance" by his instructor Trevor Faithfull.

"It's outstandingly good. Extremely fine work and, like everyone else here, all his own

in the "live display section" — preparing and serving a meal with certain ingredients within a time limit.

Such a contestant was Lance Corporal Peter Johnston, 29, chef to Lieutenant General Sir Robert Pascoe, GOC Northern Ireland.

Like the apprentices, Peter has never taken part in Hotelympia. But determined to make his mark and hopefully collect a gold medal, he created a special of chicken, puff pastry, mushrooms, green veg-

ables and aromatic herbs which must be prepared, cooked and served within 30 minutes. I haven't got a name for it," said Peter. "But the General likes it and that's good enough for me."

"This is a brilliant conception," said senior instructor Kevin Byrne. "It should meet every requirement the judges are looking for: ingredients, colour, preparation speed and skills, not to mention the taste. It should do well."

A gold medallist in the culinary Olympics held in Frankfurt in 1984, Newal's pastillage bid is in the form of a 19th century mail coach complete with livery.

With a little luck it should bring home the bacon for him, the US Army and the Army Catering Corps.

### THE DISH WITH NO NAME

but the GOC  
just loves it!

Certainly for the 96 youngsters from the College it is a marvellous opportunity to display their capabilities. For all of them it is a first and, since none has

to go by, they'll be throwing those L-plates away in double-quick time.

"Don't get the idea these lads spend their working days perfect-

their display work."

For most it takes weeks of planning what to display and how to create it.

Apprentice Kevin George, 17, decided on

work."

And while the 96 apprentices got busy with their displays for 46 classes, 40 top ACC chefs and cooks practised beating the clock

Photographs: LES WIGGS

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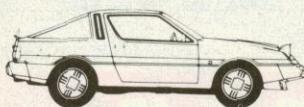
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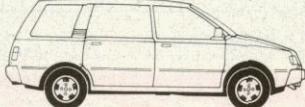
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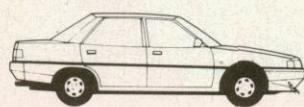
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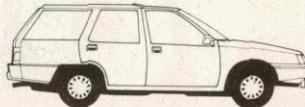
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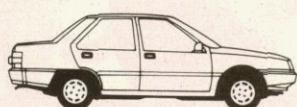
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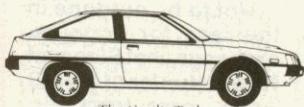
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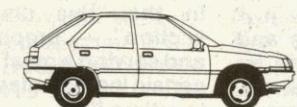
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T S

# FAMINE FIGHTERS HOME — BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A YEAR ago this month, the Army veteran flying famine fighters — 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT — based at Lyneham, Wilts, went earnestly into their mercy mission role in Ethiopia during Operation Bushel; an epic which caught the world's imagination and gratitude, writes *Graham Smith*.

It started on February 13 and finished on December 10 with an incredible 31,765,860 lbs of grain either air-dropped or air-landed in 50-kilo sacks lashed to 14,439 plywood baseboards largely assembled in Cyprus by 48 (Cyprus) Workshops, REME.

Yet the presence of the 123-strong Samaritans-of-the-sky squadron is still vividly recalled in far-off Ethiopia and its persistent problem of starvation. The despatchers' memory is in the tangible form of an orphanage for which they eagerly sought funds and one which will benefit 850 children.

For the despatchers, out there and back in the UK, had been busy raising money during their three-week stints on the ground and in the air on 90-minute sorties above Queen of Sheba country.

The fit young khaki-clad men had, by the end of the year, flown on 941 RAF Hercules and 19 German Air Force Transall sorties, the latter to help out in the early stages.

A fifth of the squadron strength was deployed to the African continent near the Horn of Africa at any one time.

Many of the despatchers did three detachments in parched Ethiopia, averaging 40 hours' airborne time each with about five per cent of their number quickly logging up their mandatory 20

sorties as "rookies" to achieve their coveted AD "wings".

The workhorse Hercules flew their mercy missions up-country as far as Sekota, on the war-torn Tigre border, the Army despatchers having been pre-positioned there by Polish M-8 HIP helicopters.

On each day one AD crew was responsible for rigging their loads for the next day's sorties. This comprised normally 64 one-ton free drop packs of triple-sacked grain. Another despatcher crew was on flying duties all day.

The safe handling of almost 10,000 lbs of grain on each pass over any of the 10 or so designated Dropping Zones (DZs) was physically exhausting and required strength, skill and especially good teamwork.

The third day of the cycle was normally allocated to rest but often the soldiers gave up their day off either to help the DZ Safety Officer or to visit the Bethlehem Orphanage at Debre Zeit.

It was into this orphanage, about 30 miles south of the country's capital of Addis Ababa, that the squadron ploughed its localised humanitarian effort for those ravaged by the side-effects of starvation. Those with no surviving families.

The despatchers raised a total of £121,125 in concert with an American California-based charity, World Vision International, which itself had raised £66,000 of that figure.

Now, they hope to raise another £100,000 for a second orphanage ten miles south of Addis, one called L'Esperance at Aki Beseka. An ambitious project to accommodate, eventually, some 500 children.

Front figure in this is 26-year-

Another load of relief supplies drops to a small isolated community



Memento of famine days. Captain Joe Wood, Squadron Training Officer, presents the Polish contingent CO with Hercules print

old Kate Goodale, an American relief worker in Ethiopia who, in July, hopes to swim in the fifth annual 28½-mile marathon round New York's Manhattan Island. She is already said to be in full training when not involved in her mercy mission work.

In conjunction with this summer effort, Major (QM) Alan Batty, the squadron's administration officer of four years and twice a detachment commander in Ethiopia, hopes to interest BBC TV's children's programme 'Blue Peter' in the fund-raising effort for the second orphanage.

Operation Bushel may be over but it is not forgotten. One with the RAF Hercules doggedly ferrying 100,000 jute, ballistic nylon and disposable sacks to the grim scene below the flight decks and cavernous holds of their fuselages. All the grain sacks in Op Bushel lashed by an estimated three tons of special cordage.

One of the squadron's number, Sergeant Boh Szafran, the Ops Sgt, and a fluent Polish-speaker, was honoured in the current New

Year's list with a British Empire Medal for his translation duties during liaison with the Polish helicopter crews. He had a continuous 10-week stay in the land of the starving millions.

Major Batty said of Op Bushel: "It was an excellent experience for the young troop commanders learning to cope outside the UK in very difficult and testing situations. Duties that often involved attending UN conferences. We don't think, however, that the squadron will be out that way again despite the ongoing problems. There's a lot going on in the Middle East just now."

This year, however, another tactical milestone for the squadron, veterans of former Nepal famine relief operations in 1973 and 1980, will be in support of 5 Airborne Brigade when they provide, check and install all the Medium Stressed Platforms (MSPs) in RAF Hercules for a prestigious exercise this summer. The despatchers, as usual, will also be involved in the air-dropping of re-supply combat items.

# Hero's Path Evades Brian

THE GREAT-GRANDSON of the first British soldier said to have been awarded all three principal awards for gallantry — including the VC — 68 years ago has tried to follow in the hero's footsteps, writes **Graham Smith**.

Brian Mee, 21, whose last job in a varied career was a hi-de-hi holiday camp kitchen porter, joined the Army and, notably, The Royal Green Jackets. But his military career lasted only a few days before he was discharged as medically unfit.

His illustrious relative was Serjeant Bill Gregg, of the 13th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, who not only won a VC for valorous action but the Military Medal and Distinguished Conduct Medal too.

Brian became 24763452 Rifleman Mee, B, one among a 114-strong intake at the Light Division Depot, at Flowerdown.

It was his 94-year-old great-grandmother — Sjt Gregg's widow since 1969 — who finally persuaded the Derbyshire-born and reared youngster to join the Army.

For until "signing on" Brian had tried his hand on a Government Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) "doing all types of work", had been a welder's labourer, a loomer involved in panel wiring activities, a wood

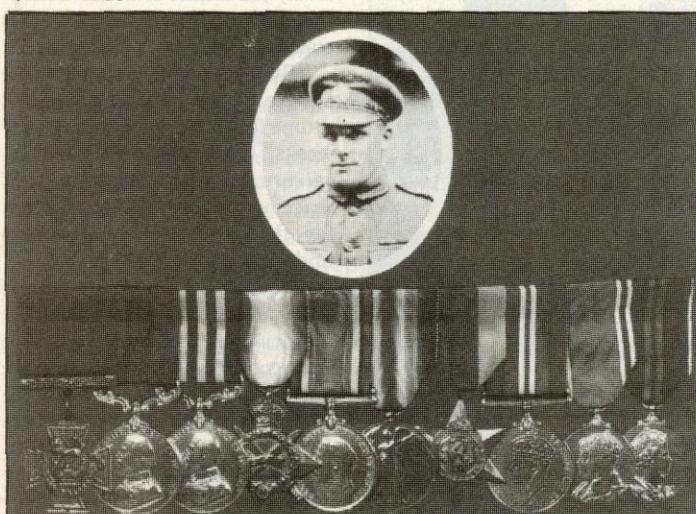
His great-grandmother presented the Light Division Museum

## VC WAS "COMPLETELY FEARLESS"

SERJEANT Bill Gregg, the only British soldier to be awarded THREE principal awards for gallantry in the First World War, joined the Rifle Brigade in November 1914.

After training he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in France. When the 13th (S) Battalion arrived in May 1915, Bill Gregg was trans-

Sjt Bill Gregg and medals



ferred into and served with it for the rest of the conflict.

It was with the 13th that Bill established his reputation as a fighting soldier. One of his platoon corporals described him as "completely fearless". He came through action after action unscathed.

His boldest moments involved forays at night into No-Man's Land



with all three of her husband's medals in 1971.

Sjt Bill Gregg, who had returned to his native Heanor, Derbyshire, as a miner and died in 1959, would have been proud.

At the signing on ceremony Regimental Sergeant-Major (WO 1) Derek Brennan, said: "Rifleman Mee will be treated just like every other recruit. He will not be

Recruit Brian signs on, watched by Major Frank Bardsley (Ret'd), ACI0 Southampton. But not for long

expected to live up to his great grandfather's name and reputation."

But that was a few days before Brian was given the sad news that his bid to follow in his hero's footsteps had failed.

seeking out valuable information.

Bill was awarded the Military Medal in the London Gazette of March 26, 1917 and the DCM in the Gazette of November 26 that year for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty."

He was one of a party reconnoitring a position and it was essential that the battalion on the left should be informed. He undertook this duty and carried several messages across the road which was raked by machine gun fire.

He was awarded the VC for his "most conspicuous bravery and leadership in action" on May 8, 1918.

Two companies of his unit attacked the enemy's outpost position without artillery preparation. Sjt Gregg was with the right company which came under heavy fire from the right flank as it advanced.

All the officers of the company were hit.

He at once took command of the attack. He rushed an enemy post and personally killed an entire machine gun team and captured the gun and four men in a dug-out nearby. He then rushed another

post, killed two men and captured another.

In spite of heavy casualties he reached his objective and started consolidating the position. By this prompt and effective action, says the citation, "this gallant NCO saved the situation at a critical time and ensured the success of the attack."

Later, Sjt Gregg's party was driven back by an enemy counter-attack, but with reinforcements coming up he led a charge, personally bombed a hostile machine gun, killed the crew and captured the gun.

Once again he was driven back. He led another successful attack and hung on to the position until ordered by his company commander to withdraw.

Although under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire for several hours, Sjt Gregg "displayed the greatest coolness and contempt of danger, walking about encouraging his men and setting a magnificent example."

This remarkable man, Sjt William Gregg, VC, DCM, MM, returned to Derbyshire and mining after the war. He died in 1969 aged 79.

## WHERE SOLDIERS LEARN TO DRIVE ... A DESK

**A**NOTHER chapter in the current saga of training rationalisation in the UK has commenced with the opening at Worthy Down of the Army's first School of Clerical Training.

The move also heralds the introduction of a new means of evaluating computer technology for office work and training by the establishment at the school of a special Office Technology Wing.

The new Army School of Clerical Training occupies the former quarters of the Royal Army Pay Corps apprentices who have been moved to live alongside Junior Leaders of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington.

Clerical training became a Royal Army Ordnance Corps responsibility during the great shake up of the 1960s when the old Royal Army Service Corps disappeared to have its duties divided between the RAOC and the newly formed Royal Corps of Transport.

For 20 years the RAOC has been

From square bashing to key bashing. A class of soldiers just out of basic training learning to touch type

running courses at its Employment Training School at Deepcut but, with the move to Worthy Down, it will now train clerks across the whole spectrum of the Army.

So while the Commanding Officer of the new school, Lieutenant Colonel Ian Gane, and his officers remain RAOC, the military half of the 36-strong teaching staff is drawn from all arms of the Service.

As project officer, in the run up to taking command of the School, Colonel Gane's first task a year ago was the transformation of the apprentices' home into a clerical school.

A lot of work had to be done to turn old canoe rooms, car maintenance areas, pottery workshops and all the other hobbies facilities into suitable classrooms.

But it was all ready on time when the first students arrived at the beginning of the New Year and when Lieutenant General Sir Charles Huxtable, Commander Training and Arms Directors, came for the official opening later in the month he was able to see demonstrations of almost the full range of activities from typing classes to the operation of the simulated unit office in the field



Instruction on audio-typing from Mrs Ursula Douglas, a member of the civilian staff, for Sergeant Nikki Keen, from HQ Northern Ireland

complete with battle charts and field telephones.

The General was also shown something of the fledgling office technology wing which is expected to develop rapidly during its first year.

Colonel Gane explained that it had decided to incorporate this new facility into the school to assess the need for micro-computers for the training of students and future instructors.

"It was also decided the wing would be responsible for liaising with civilian industry and colleges of advanced education to assess integrated office systems which are being commercially deployed and taught," the CO added. "They will bring items of equipment into the school to evaluate them and perhaps undertake feasibility studies to see whether it is worthwhile bringing them into the Service."

Computer based learning, whereby the student can be taught direct from a computer programme without the necessary intervention of

an instructor, was another innovation on the agenda, along with touch activated video screens and other modern training aids.

Much of the new equipment would be on display in a model office which was being organised to show students the latest developments in office technology.

The simulated box office body in the old apprentices' photographic dark room would give the trainee clerks some experience of working in field conditions. Colonel Gane had hopes it might be possible in the future to include training in full NBC kit.

Nearby a bank of telephones was being established to teach simple but vital skills in communications.

"It is amazing how many people do not know how to answer a telephone, take a message or pass on relevant information," the Colonel said.

There were other innovations, too, in the organisation of training. From past experience, Colonel Gane said, there was always more difficulty teaching the non-career clerks as opposed to those who had aspirations which might take them to important jobs in embassy offices or headquarters.

The non-career men usually went in and out of the basic clerking in between doing their normal Army job and to Colonel Gane it seemed they did their clerical training under some sufferance.

"But with this new training system we now have two courses — one for the career clerks of four weeks, and one for the non-career men who have snippets of that course merely to prepare them for the job they are going to undertake."

The new scheme also provided for a more formalised graduation to Clerk Class II. Formerly this had occurred on the job back at the unit, but this was not always, the Colonel said, a guarantee of Class II ability.

"We found that when they came back for upgrading to Class I they

perhaps lacked a tremendous amount of the knowledge which they should have. And so Class II formal training is now in and my design team has produced a new course for that."

When SOLDIER visited Worthy Down for a brief look round, the new school of clerical training was only in its second day of operation, but a wide range of courses was underway in the revamped hobbies rooms of the old apprentices' college.

No doubt as an inspiration to learning, the classrooms have all been named after prominent writers, poets and organisational theorists. So it was that in 'Shakespeare' 25 TA students from units from as far afield as Scotland, Manchester, Sheffield and Plymouth, were listening to a lecture on the handling of classified documents as part of their 10-day upgrading course.

In 'Wordsworth' a class of young



Pictures: Les Wiggs

regulars, who had just completed basic training, concentrated hard on diagrams of the typewriter keyboard while their fingers grappled with the keys at the start of a two week typing course which should get them to 15 words a minute with a two per cent margin for error.

"Although they join the Army to drive a tank or fire a gun, they get on with it," commented their instructor, Mr Tom Turnbull, a member of the civilian staff with many years experience of teaching soldiers to type. "In fact they are quite enthusiastic."

Upstairs 'Scott' was playing host to a more advanced course of Class 11 clerks hoping to make it to Class 1. They were busy studying

Left: Ranger Sean Elder, 2 Royal Irish Rangers, plots a map in the simulated field operations room

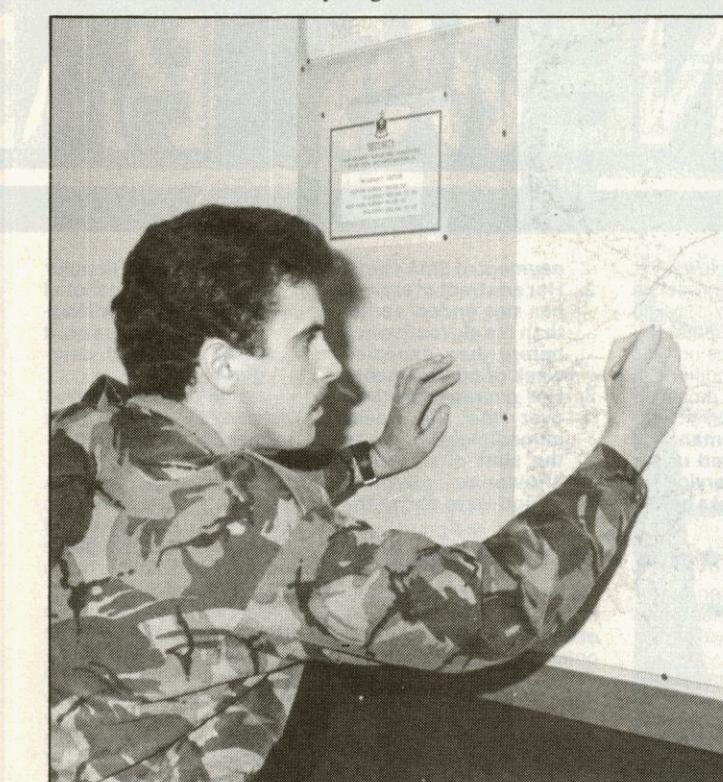
Below: Private Andrew Prior, 1 Glosers, at the keyboard in the showpiece model office

Above: Sergeant Peter Bradburn, RA, explains methods of handling classified documents to his class of TA clerks

manuals and regulations.

Next door in 'Maslow' (appropriately enough he was a major theorist on management techniques) an office management course of sergeants and warrant officers was listening to a lecture on command structure illustrated by Moses' organisation for Operation Exodus. This, the most senior class, was made up of aspiring chief or superintending clerks.

At the time there still remained a great deal to be done. The main micro computer room was still not completely in operation. But already the new clerical school had been granted the status of an examination centre for qualifications in Pitman's shorthand, Teeline speed writing, and the typing standards of the Royal Society of Arts.



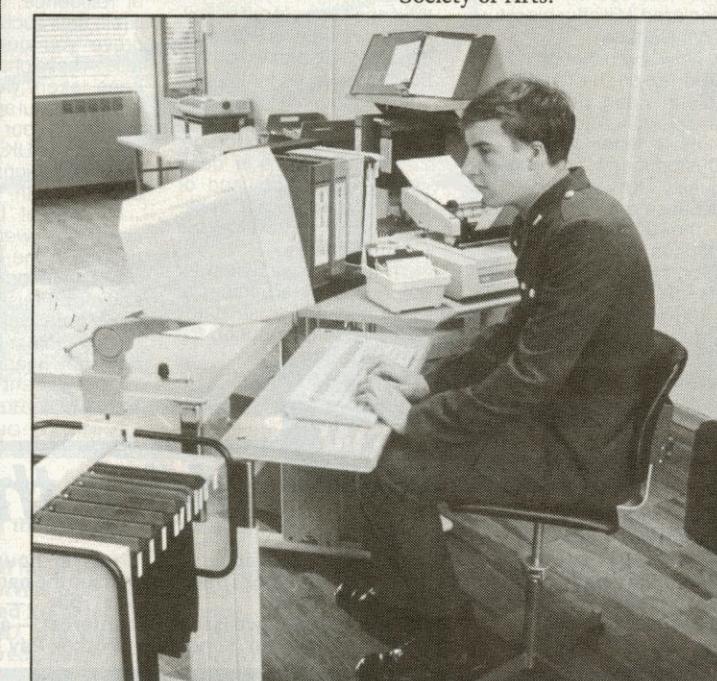
### CROSSED KEYS WERE OUT

As every new institution, especially in the forces, needs its own distinctive emblem, a new logo was one of the many things to be considered in the formation of the Army School of Clerical Training.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Gane, the Commandant, explained that anything in the nature of a design, say of crossed typewriter keys (perhaps not entirely suitable), or pens supporting a filing cabinet, or, more appropriate to the modern age, a crowned floppy disc quartered with microchips, would have to be submitted to the Royal College of Heraldry.

The same would be true for any fancy Latin inscription.

They avoided all that by opting for the standard Army badge of lion, crown and crossed swords against a red background with the name of the school affixed. The only approval they needed came from the Ministry of Defence and the appropriate military authorities.



# You write... Battling with budget troubles

...not to mention capers with the  
Customs, pension problems,  
and how to beat the DHSS

Oh, Baby!

# GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

THE Government's plan to increase maternity benefits has a good news, bad news look about it so far as Service wives are concerned.

Set out in a White Paper called *Reform of Social Security: Programme for Action*, the good news is that Statutory Maternity Allowance (SMA) will increase

from £29.15 a week to £31.60 as from April.

Those eligible will all receive the same rate for 18 weeks which is currently payable 11 weeks before confinement and continuing for six weeks after.

But the second bit of good news is that working mums-to-be are to be given more choice in deciding when they

want to draw the allowance, and the Government intends introducing this flexibility into the new arrangements.

But nothing is for nothing and there are conditions to be met before an employer pays out SMA.

1. That the woman has been employed under contract of service for at least 26 weeks before

payment of SMA starts.  
2. Her contract of service has not ended earlier than the eleventh week before her expected week of confinement.  
3. Her average earnings over the 26 weeks immediately prior to the start of maternity allowance payment period were above the

lower earnings limit for the payment of national insurance contributions, and she was not in an excluded category.

The other bad news is that the new SMA is liable to tax and National Insurance contributions.

Explaining the new SMA plan, the White Paper says the fixing of a 26-week period meets the criterion that the pregnant woman has had a job.

The requirement of a specified time with the same employer removes the possibilities for abuse which might otherwise exist if, like Statutory Sickness Pay (SSP), SMA became payable immediately the contract of employment began.

The Government have considered whether account should be taken of employment with a previous employer in cases where the 26-week rule is not satisfied, but have concluded that this would complicate the scheme unduly for both employer and employee.

The spotlight also focuses on Cyprus which has its own special problems relating to the SBA, Troodos and Nicosia.

Gibraltar, too, is not without its headaches, although there is a reciprocal agreement covering the DHSS benefits.

With a deadline for com-

ment on the White Paper set at February 15, I have been working with SSAFA preparing submissions on the difficulties faced by Service wives overseas. SSAFA's fervent hope now is that the Service family does not fall outside the proposed legislation.

An example of the problem facing pregnant wives in Hong Kong and other overseas bases comes from Mrs D who writes: "I am working for the Hong Kong Government and I have been told I am not entitled to full pay maternity leave.

"The ten weeks leave I am entitled to must be unpaid as I have not worked for the government for 40 weeks.

"Is there any way in which I claim maternity benefit from the DHSS since Hong Kong does not have any form of social security or National Health Service?

"Previously I worked for the Armed Forces in BAOR and paid full stamps for nearly five years before leaving with my husband on posting."

■ **Apply to DHSS Overseas Branch on BM4 for maternity allowance. If refused, apply to MoD for ex gratia payment. Write me if you have problems.**

## YOU WRITE...

continued

would have been better off if he had just brought the car into the country and not declared it till after his return from Canada.

Now, even though he has paid tax on the car, it must stay in 'dead storage' until his return in August.

In a letter to him the Customs say: "You did not qualify for visitor's relief because you left your vehicle in the UK when you went to Canada. However, as you intend to transfer your residence back to the UK in 1986 after your posting in Canada has ended, the Commissioners have decided, exceptionally, to allow

the 'dead storage' of your vehicle until your expected return in August 1986 under the conditions set out below.

The vehicle is for your personal use and would not be offered to be lent, hired, sold or otherwise disposed of in the United Kingdom during the period of storage.

"That it remains in 'dead storage' and not used or moved without prior application and approval of the Commissioners.

"It must be available for inspection by an officer of Customs and Excise at any reasonable time during the period of storage.

"On your return to the UK

ask for permission for car to be started weekly to ensure it stays in working order. Watch this space...

"As the car has been imported prior to your transfer of residence, charges are liable until such time as you prove you qualify for the relief. These charges, having been taken, will be repaid on successful application for relief on your permanent return to the UK provided the other conditions have been complied with.

Can we claim our legal fees from the Army? We have been told by the paymaster this is not possible, but we have heard of people with 12 years service who claim to have had legal fees paid.

■ **I'm sorry to report there is no scheme for those buying a house at the end of their service. Those who told you they had their legal fees paid were still in the Service and between postings with no MQ available, and with at least three years service left.**

The spotlight also focuses on Cyprus which has its own special problems relating to the SBA, Troodos and Nicosia.

Gibraltar, too, is not without its headaches, although there is a reciprocal agreement covering the DHSS benefits.

With a deadline for com-

## IN MY VIEW

WE started the year with Defence Minister John Stanley saying that accompanied service is now accepted policy for the Armed Forces.

But to enable this

actually to happen, a number of factors have to be considered.

For the past two issues I have written on Service-

men's housing. In this issue the name of the game is pay — everybody's interest — and the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

Once again this independent team has been doing its annual round of assessment, and by April will have formulated an

opinion on Servicemen and women's pay for the coming year.

But the fact is their terms of reference are not wide

enough to cover all the issues involved.

For whatever reason an explanation of their constraints is never revealed.

enjoyed by every other British citizen and taxpayer, but not the Armed Forces.

Housing and insurance both affect Service pay.

The so-called X-Factor, I am told by MoD, in no way covers these areas, neither does LOA or any other allowance.

It took six years to get

## Why the Pay Body should have more weight

# Anne Armstrong

Home tel:  
Camberley  
29653

main factor is availability for work, which must be proved.

'Persistence pays off' is the moral of a story from Major C who has just won an entitlement battle with the DHSS.

The wife pointed out she had applied for jobs and was taking the course to improve her chances of a job.

Two weeks later a cheque for £270 — ten weeks benefit — arrived through the post.

Says the major: "The moral is don't give up. Benefits are for those entitled to them. The DHSS can be taken on with persistence."

Bringing a car into the UK is not without its pitfalls. Take the case of a WO2 who brought a car into the country and declared it.

Within a short time he was posted to Canada and now finds himself embroiled with the Customs and Excise.

In his letter he reckons he

**Continued in Column 1**



JOB HUNTING: but what about tax, NI contributions and unemployment pay?



# OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL

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475 boys aged 11-18, mainly boarders. 120 in Sixth Form.

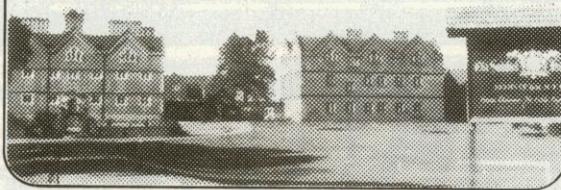
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Usual 'O' and 'A' levels with Computer Science, Electronics, Design and Technology. Entry at 11, 13 or Sixth Form. (One third of the boarders come from service families — boarding fees are more than covered by the Services Education Grant).

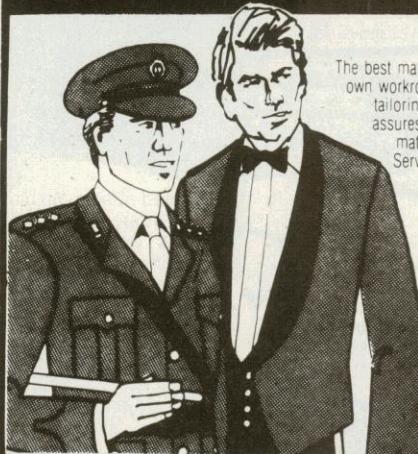
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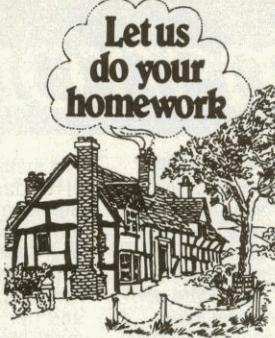
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**It takes just 20 weeks to mould horse and rider into a team to take part in London's military spectacle. Robert Higson sees how recruits become**

## **HORSEMEN OF THE QUEEN**

Above: The end result of weeks of hard work. Blues and Royals ready to leave Hyde Park Barracks for Horse Guards to mount Queen's Life Guard

THE jingling cavalcade of immaculately turned out troopers on Sovereign's Escort, trotting smartly down London's Pall Mall, seems a long way off when you are sitting tentatively on a large well fed horse for the first time and wondering how on earth it is possible to master those powerful muscles stirring beneath you.

But while the early morning atmosphere in the riding school at Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, for this potentially traumatic first encounter may be far removed from the glitter of State ceremonial, the actual time scale isn't that large.

All being well it should take just five months — 20 weeks to be precise — to transform nervous trainee into competent dutyman, capable of taking his place on Queen's Life Guard or on any of the great ceremonial parades which highlight the London scene.

As Captain Barry McKie, The Life Guards, points out, there is one great training advantage. The trainees are actually being paid to take instruction, it is part of their job, whereas civilians have to pay dearly for the privilege. Consequently the Servicemen can be driven harder and taught in 20 weeks what a civilian would normally take a whole year to learn.

Captain McKie is Riding Master of the Household Cavalry Regiment (Mounted) and so occupies a unique position in the modern British Army. While new weapons and systems are being continually absorbed by practically every branch of the Service, his job is to stick by the 1937 Army Manual of Horsemanship to safeguard the great traditions of the past in the Army's last entirely horseborne



Pictures: Terry Champion

regiment.

Of course this doesn't mean that the 300 or so members of the regiment are completely shut off from their comrades in the parent armoured regiments. 'First and foremost a professional soldier' — that is the same principle for everyone and even Captain McKie's remount riders have to do their stint with Chieftain tanks (with The Blues and Royals in Germany) or armoured recce vehicles (with The Life Guards at Windsor).

The present CO is Lieutenant Colonel Christopher D'Oyly, LG, who explained the latest changes in the allocation of entrants between the armoured and mounted sections of the Household Cavalry.

"Until last year," he said, "the policy was for 80 per cent of trainees coming in from (the Guards Depot) Pirbright to go to the service regiments. That's been changed and now 80 per cent come here. It will give us a large pool of people from whom to draw future NCOs and that is the intention of the policy."

Those who come to Knights-

Members of Chiltern Ride at Windsor lining up before the start of a lesson

bridge quickly find themselves embroiled in a demanding routine which allows little time for anything other than horses and kit.

The day starts at 6 am with mucking out the stables and ends well over 12 hours later with the cleaning of the last bit of harness. In the afternoons the practical work is supplemented by lectures on theory and by dismounted drill sessions.

It is not enough to learn to ride a horse, you have to master the Household Cavalry's own special style of jack-booted foot drill as well.

At 8 am, while most of the rest of London is still on its way to work, there is an appointment with the indoor riding school for the real business of the day.

After three days on horses members of Trevoit Ride demonstrated some of the variations that different batches of trainees produce. Troopers Stuart Logan and William Davies, both straight from the RAC Junior Leaders Regiment at Bovington, had ridden before. Their main problem, they said, was to forget what they'd done in the past and remember the Army style of riding.

"I think it's probably harder if you know how to ride," added Trooper Davies, "because you have to drop all your bad habits. They have to wean you from them."

Further down the line two trainee musicians, with no riding experience, were finding some difficulties of a very different nature. After being dumped yet again on the sandy floor of the

Inspection for a member of Trevoit Ride. Lance Corporal of Horse Mark Hammett makes the comments, L/Coh Paul Lanahan takes notes. Musician Kevin North and Eagle are on the receiving end

riding school, Musician Kevin North said: "It's a lot harder than I thought it would be. I thought the horses would be more disciplined. They seem to have all the rebels in the riding school."

Like many others, Musician North had been sufficiently impressed by the public image of the Household Cavalry to want to join. He played his cornet well enough to get accepted for training, but musicians of The Life Guards have to ride as well as play and this was proving a little difficult.

Meanwhile Musician Richard Allan, an embryonic mounted clarinettist, was having his problems with a frisky horse called Baachus. Baachus had evidently decided to hold his own Bacchanal and the Riding Master had to call upon the ride instructor, Lance Corporal of Horse Mark Hammett, to get aboard him and sort him out.

"Obviously horses have got some sort of intelligence," the Riding Master said later. "When they get someone new on their backs they spend the first five minutes assessing what that person is like and then, if they feel they've got more freedom than they would have with a confident rider, they have a bit of fun. They think: 'If I can get him off I can then have a canter around and enjoy myself for a bit.'"

After a spell of duty clapping around the hard streets of London, the horses seem to imagine that the soft, sandy floor of the Riding School is something of a holiday resort — a time for play rather than serious attention to the job in hand.

So there is a good deal of wandering around while inexperienced trainees attempt to haul themselves into the saddle without the aid of stirrups and a fair amount of breaking ranks as the ride does its walking and trotting exercises around the school.

Guts and plenty of determination are the answer. When one trainee appeared to jump rather than fall from his mount, the Riding Master bore down upon him announcing, in a voice of thunder, that this was no place for wimpy!

"The lads have got to overcome



Above: Members of Trevoit Ride practice a confidence boosting exercise — backward somersaults from the saddle, done deliberately and not accidentally

all their fears," he said, "and just get down and basically dominate the horse."

After the lesson Musician Allan

attended to Baachus, now contentedly chewing on a hay bag in his stall.

The first days' riding, he admitted, had been a bit hectic.

"It depends on how the horses treat you," he said. "This one tries to make a fool of me because he

Left: Trooper Janssen Bostock polishes up his horse's tack in his 13th week of training. At least an hour-and-a-half's cleaning every day



Left: Foot drill for the trainees under Corporal of Horse Stephen Carter





Riding boots as well as Army saddles come to Saddler Corporal of Horse Richard Castelow for treatment

continued from page 27

jumps, little more than two feet high, over which the horse leaps while the rider keeps his balance without the aid of stirrups while removing his tunic or saluting, calling out name, rank and number.

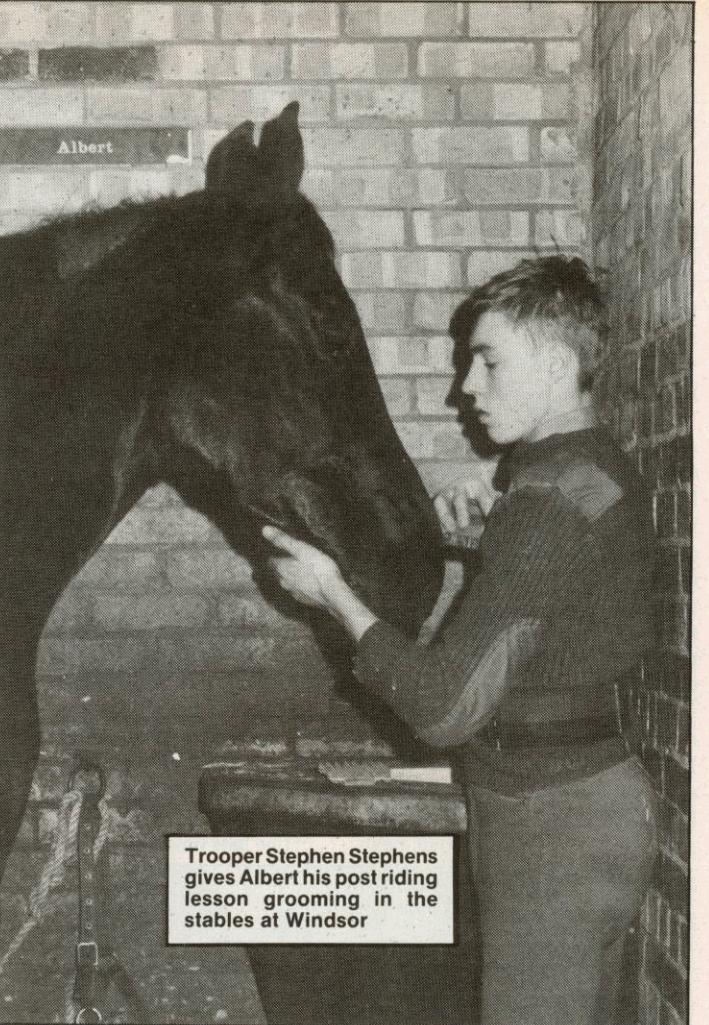
The ride included one officer and two NCOs who were doing their statutory training before joining the mounted regiment. Captain David Waterhouse, formerly adjutant of The Life Guards at Windsor, was having his first experience of jumping on the way to becoming 2 i/c of the LG Squadron.

Corporal of Horse Tim Marden was destined to be a trooper CoH in the Blues and Royals Squadron, and Lance Corporal of Horse Kevin Johnson, a medic from the regiment in Germany, was due to join the same squadron.

L/CoH Johnson expressed some envy for the younger members of the class. "I find it difficult to sit comfortably," he said. "Most of the young lads are pretty supple. I'm getting on a bit and I find it hard to get into the saddle."

But the most difficult aspect of all, he thought, was having to be up every day at 5 am in order to get from his married quarter in Knightsbridge in time for the early morning chores.

In three weeks Chiltern Ride was due for its first big test — the khaki pass out in front of the commanding officer. With that



Trooper Stephen Stephens gives Albert his post riding lesson grooming in the stables at Windsor

successfully accomplished it would be back to Knightsbridge for a final four weeks, getting familiar with the accoutrements of ceremonial wear — bit by bit.

Apart from the difficulty of mastering the requirements of riding encased in helmet, cuirass, and thigh length jackboots, which seem to rob the legs of all sensation, there is also the business of keeping the kit in immaculate condition.

Even experienced troopers need to spend three or four hours cleaning to prepare for Queen's Life Guard, and this sort of obligation, according to Captain McKie, often made it difficult to find the right combination of keen horseman and diligent guardsman.

Corporal Major Sanderson has two principal responsibilities at the Training Wing: he and his staff have to answer to the Riding Master for the education of both men and horses.

Between 100 and 130 men come through via Knightsbridge every

year, while each October sees the arrival of a fresh batch of some 30 equine recruits, known as remounts, from Melton Mowbray, the home of the Army School of Equitation and the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

The horses are about four years old and over 16 hands. All of them are black with the exception of a handful of greys which are destined to become the mounts of trumpeters.

Suitable horses are becoming increasingly hard to find, according to the Riding Master. Ireland

**Below: Farrier, Lance Corporal of Horse Nigel Phillips at work in his forge**



Above: Members of Chiltern Ride in the tack room at Windsor

remains by far the best source of supply.

After a few months rest and acclimatisation on grass at Melton Mowbray the horses come to Windsor to start training which could see them on the Trooping of the Colour the following summer.

"We do get good horses fail simply because their temperament will not allow them to cope with the hustle and bustle of ceremonial dress," Corporal Major Sanderson said. "It is very noisy: the sword banging against the horse, the cuirass and so on banging on the rider's back, chains jangling ... we don't pressure the horses too

**Left: SQMC Staff Corporal Nick Gilbert gets ready for a riding assessment in full regalia — something faced by everyone who comes back into the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment after a period away. Trooper David Bandey adjusts his cuirass straps**

much. We allow them mentally to absorb it over a period of time."

For unbroken horses whose previous experience hasn't been much more than life in a field, it can all come as quite a shock. Lance Corporal of Horse Nigel Phillips, one of the regiment's 10 farriers, works the forge at Windsor and, he says, the first shoeing of a remount can be a hair-raising, not to say moving occasion.

The same is true for the first time a remount rider climbs upon a new horse's back to ride him away. These riders are selected from among the best horsemen in the regiment and some will eventually go on to Melton Mowbray to take the riding instructors' course.

Like the human trainees, the horses pass out to Knightsbridge for the ceremonial part of their education. There they will learn to cope with cheering crowds, fluttering flags, roaring traffic, crashing drums, blaring trumpets, along with the sensation of swinging swords, jangling chains and heavily accoutred rider.

For their first time out on an important occasion — like the Major General's Parade in April (the first big turn out of the season and the only time, incidentally, when the regiment canter past the saluting base) the novices, both human and equine, will be tucked on the inside of the sections of four riders with older and steadier hands and hooves on the flanks to give them confidence.

In the longer term there are career prospects for the two types of trainee. A horse which does well and looks the part could end up as an officer's charger at the head of the parade. At the same time some 17-year-old trooper, starting out as Captain McKie did 21 years ago, could find himself graduating from ceremonial cavalryman, to remount rider, to riding instructor, to become perhaps Riding Master himself one day.

**Left: Treasure trove in the stores. Corporal of Horse Steven Hyett, full dress storeman, inspects a row of officers' helmets made of German silver adorned with gilt badges. They are worth around £2,000 each**



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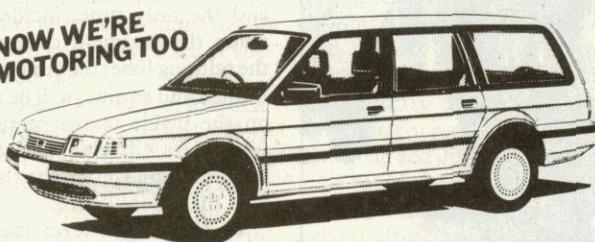
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# TAP WATER FOR GUNSA

WHEN Nepalese villagers return to their summer quarters at Gunsa, 11,000 feet up in the Himalayas this Spring, they should be enjoying the amenity of running water on tap, writes Robert Higson.

It is thanks to an Army Mountaineering Association expedition to Kirat Chuli that the women of this remote community no longer have to haul their water from an often dangerously flooded river, half a mile or so from the village.

Like the collecting of 200 plant specimens for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, the water project was an ancillary activity to the main business of climbing the 24,164 ft peak, but it was very dear to the heart of the expedition leader, Major Mike Kefford, 7 Gurkha Rifles.

Lieutenant Colonel Jon Fleming, a retired regular who is now a Queen's Messenger and TA liaison officer, co-ordinated the expedition planning in the UK while the leader was with his unit in Hong Kong.

He said: "Mike Kefford and I have often thought that it is pretty mean just to go to the mountain, climb it and then rush off again. We thought we wanted to do something for the locals this time."

Mile and a half of piping takes water from a mountain side tank



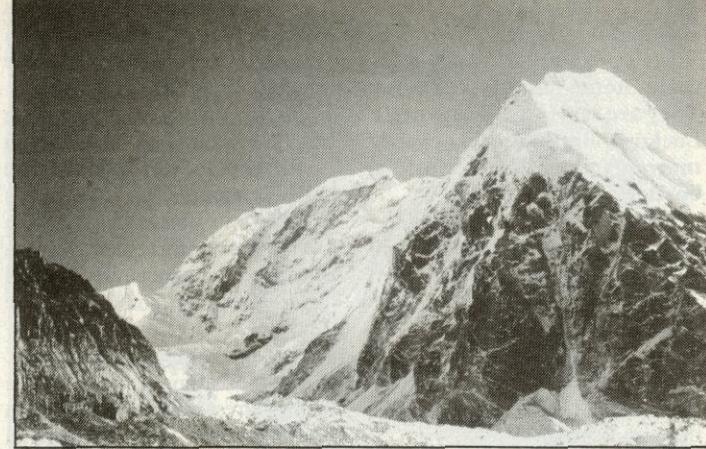
It was by no means an easy task. First they had to discover what the villagers themselves wanted by contact through the expedition's agent in Kathmandu, Mike Cheney, a former Gurkha officer who now runs his own trekking and climbing service.

Initially it seemed that a bridge was the desired choice. But when Mike Cheney went to question the locals he found they preferred the idea of a water supply. Plans were re-drawn and late in 1984, Major Mervyn Bridges, Royal Engineers, the expedition's deputy leader, arrived in Gunsa to assess the requirements.

The scheme was to get all the necessary supplies — taps, pipes, cement and so on — by porter from the Brigade of Gurkhas Depot at Dharan to the village in time for the arrival of the expedition so that work could commence during acclimatisation.

Unfortunately when the main party got to Gunsa they found that a lot of the stuff they needed to build the project simply wasn't there. Some of it had been stolen, said Colonel Fleming, and some did not appear to have been ordered.

"We had to send all the people down to Dharan (about a ten-day march) under the aegis of two



Gurkhas who were part of the expedition to re-order the gear," he added, "so that when we came off the mountain the stuff would be there in position ready for us to start work."

In the event the job was completed literally on their last day in Gunsa. As designed by Major Bridges and Major Duncan Briggs, 6 Gurkha Rifles, the project involved the construction of a water tank up the mountain slope with a mile and a half of piping taking the supply down to the village.

The pipe was laid 18 inches underground, to protect it from frost and yaks, in a straight line which meant removing a number of natural obstacles like large rocks.

At the lowest point in the system three regulatory valves were installed to equalise the pressure to the three taps, sited at intervals in the village itself.

"It really was very interesting to see a whole lot of Army people, who aren't really gifted in this sort of thing, putting in a water project," Colonel Fleming said.

The reaction of the village was at first a little disappointing. The menfolk, who simply did not involve themselves in the chore of collecting water, expressed indifference. At the time their pre-occupation ranged from rates of pay for porters to arguments about items of kit which had gone missing from the expedition's camp.

By the time the visitors left to go home, the men were beginning to warm to the project, Colonel Fleming said, and everyone parted on excellent terms, though there had been times when there had been something of a chilly atmosphere.

"We paid for the whole project," Colonel Fleming continued. "It cost about £3,000 and as a result we came out £1,800 over the top. It was done with a not inconsiderable financial deficit to the expedition, though, of course, we had agreed to do it and we did.

"The women were delighted, because now it means they just go to three taps through the length of the village as opposed to having to trudge down to the river. Half a mile to a mile may not be much,

**The peak: climb had to be abandoned**

but in bad weather on nondescript tracks and when you get there the river is pretty dangerous because of floods in the monsoon and not very clean because of all the silt it is carrying..."

It would be interesting, he added, to see how long the system lasted. The villagers had been given strict instructions on how to close it all down in the autumn before they left for their winter quarters.

It was important to drain everything to ensure that pipes and joints weren't damaged by icing during the extreme cold of the closed season.

"I suspect that will happen for the first year, maybe for the second, but thereafter I don't know," Colonel Fleming said. "One has to say that it must be in doubt. But we have said that if anything goes wrong with the system, please go to Dharan and someone will be sent up to sort it out."

Despite all the difficulties, Colonel Fleming remained convinced that projects of this nature should be seriously considered by Service expeditions. Servicemen were without the obligation of many civilian adventurers, that of having to rush back home after climbing their mountain in order to find another job. And the Services had a wide range of technical expertise at their disposal.

"Of course you have to accept that it increases your budget," he said. "There is not much point in saying — yes, we'll do it and land the local authorities with a damn great bill. And you've got to plan: you can't say — oh, here we are in Gunsa. Let's put in some water."

Atrocious weather caused the abandonment of the expedition's principal goal — the peak of Kirat Chuli. But bad weather and other disappointments did not detract from a feeling of achievement.

"In many ways our greatest achievement was getting back alive," Colonel Fleming said, "and because of the weather we had I would say that the people on the expedition learned more of what they can do than if the thing had gone swimmingly."

**THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment — 'The Tigers' — are back again in their home county. Almost. They are serving at Tidworth's Lucknow Barracks, just twenty metres from the Hampshire border ... in Wiltshire!**

Their address is in Wiltshire and the 650 men of the battalion will all be serving in Wiltshire, though 20 married quarters, the recce platoon buildings, and half-a-dozen schools which will be attended by 112 of their children will be Hampshire. Lowa Road is the demarcation.

The 'Tigers' have just finished a two-year tour in West Berlin. There, they were not far from another border. Four miles from the Berlin Wall or the Inner German Border which was put up in August 1961.

The last time the regiment had a permanent posting in the county of Hampshire was just before the Second World War when the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, were stationed in Aldershot.

The 1st Battalion were last near Hampshire from 1968-1970 at Airfield Camp, Netheravon.

A busy year lies ahead. From April until June, the newly-arrived Hampshire form the British Army's Spearhead Battalion; the go-anywhere at almost instant notice force of troubleshooters.

On June 25, the battalion will receive the Freedom of the Test Valley. They will also exercise their Freedom of Bournemouth (in

Dorset, although formerly in Hampshire) with a march through the coastal town sometime in the summer.

During June also, they will be taking part in an exercise in preparation for a brigade exercise — as members of Tidworth's resident 1st Infantry Brigade with its BAOR reinforcement role — before second manoeuvres, Druids Delight, in July, and a full-scale brigade exercise, Bold Guard, in Schleswig-Holstein in September.

Most prestigious day for the Hampshire, however, will be on August 1 — their regimental Minden Day — when the Princess of Wales will be presenting them with their new Colours... actually in Hampshire! The Princess is the regimental colonel-in-chief.

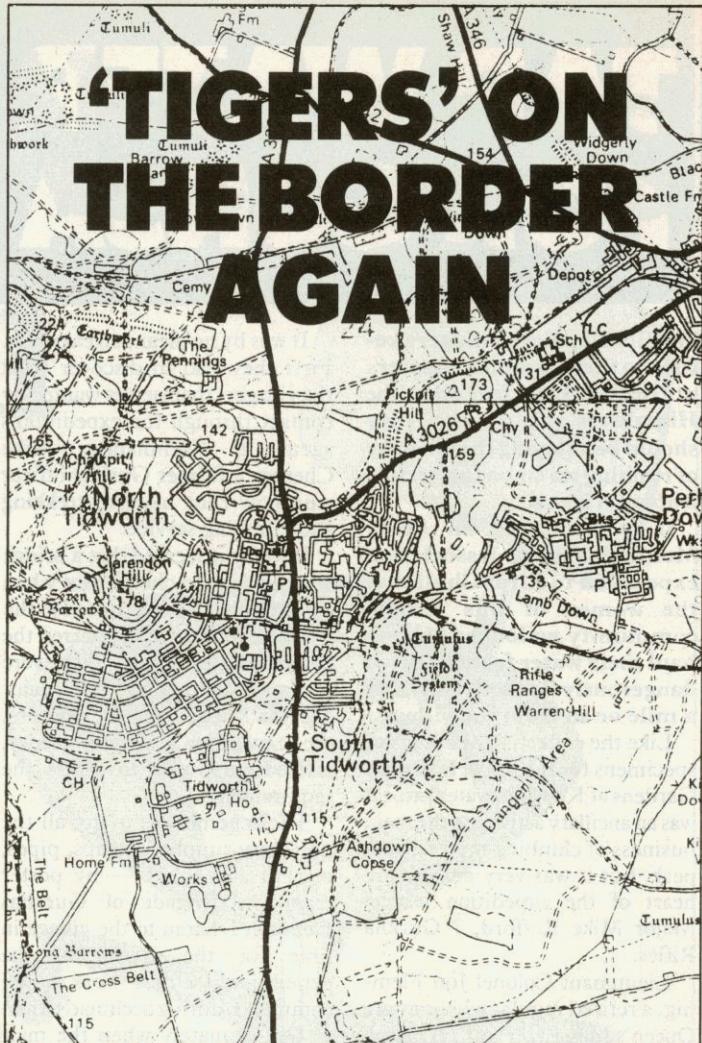
At the end of the year the battalion gets ready to deploy for a six-month stint in Northern Ireland.

The homecoming 'Tigers' will be based at Tidworth for four years.

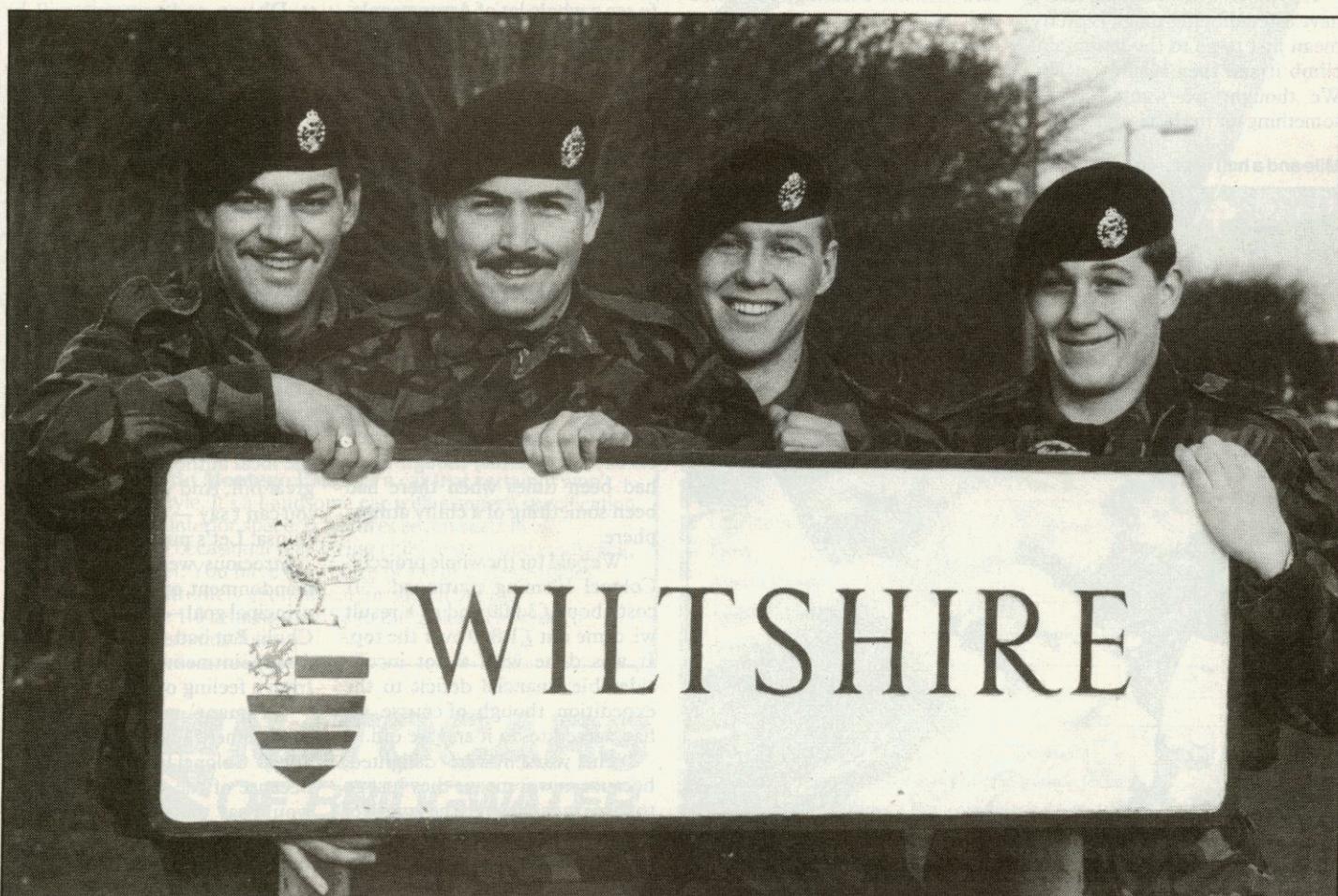
Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Freemantle, CO of the battalion said: "Berlin has been good for the battalion but there is nothing like being close to where we have our roots. Close to our families and all our many friends in the county. We could not be more delighted about the posting to Tidworth."

Out in West Berlin, in their stead, are the men of the 'Glorious Glosters' — the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment — who were the immediately previous tenants in Lucknow Barracks.

# 'TIGERS' ON THE BORDER AGAIN



**Below: The Hampshire — in Wiltshire, just. Left to right: Private Gary Milgate, Corporal Leon Hubbard, Pte David Haggar, Pte Roger Wake, as near the battalion's home county as they can be, without actually working in it**



A sample page from G.D. Specialist supplies colour catalogue

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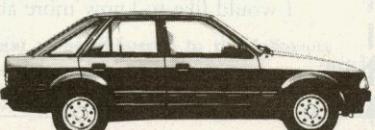
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After that, it's downhill all the way.

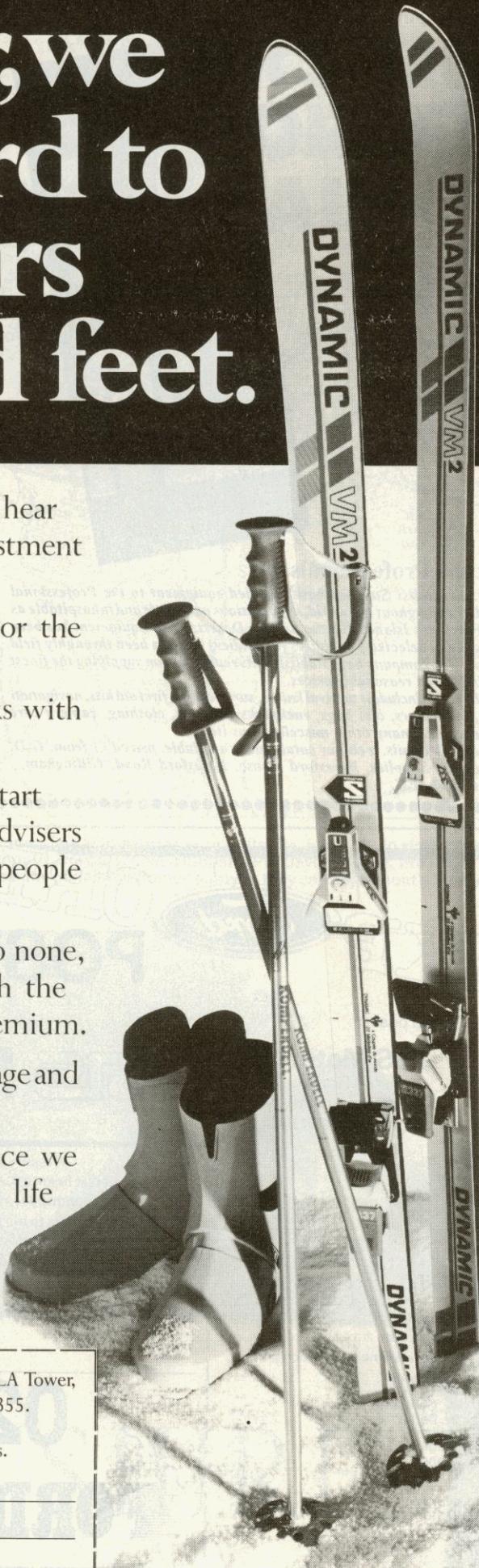
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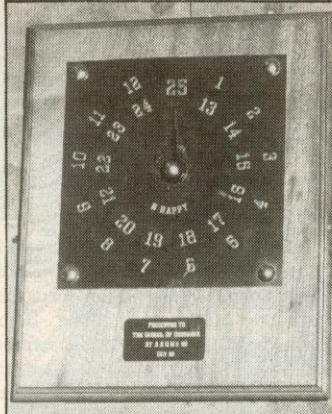
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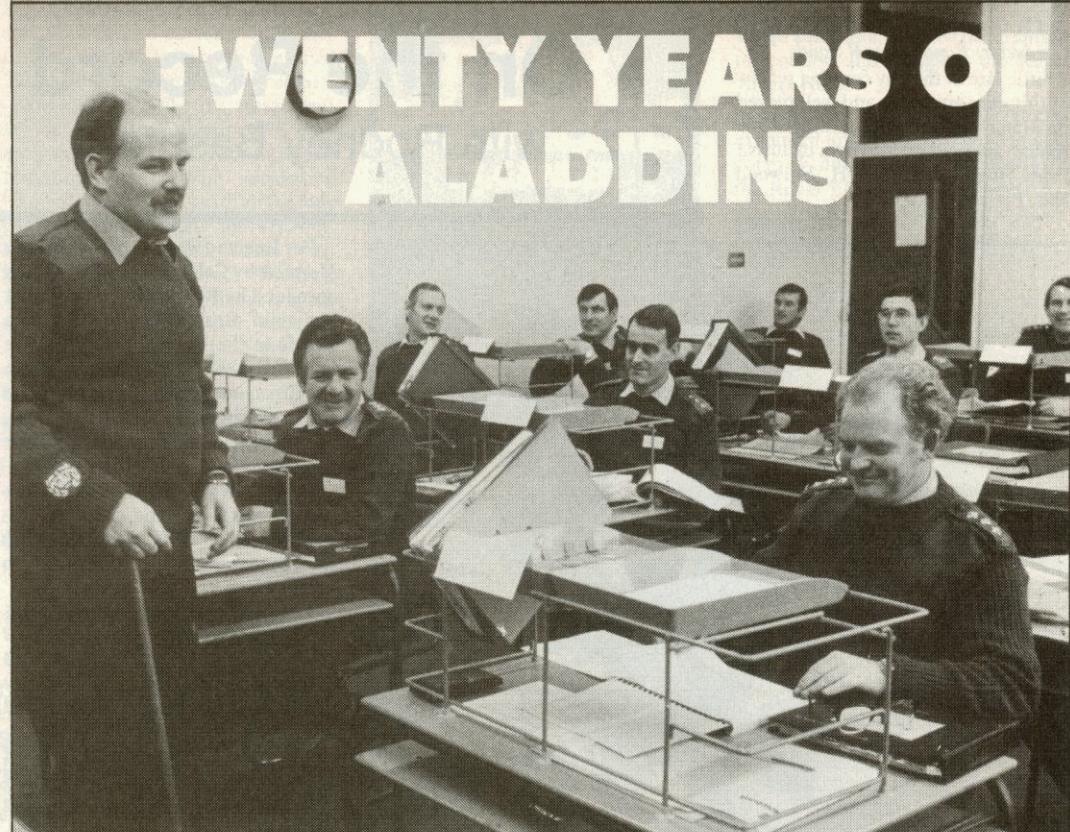
A jokey end-of-term memento for the teaching staff, the 25-hour clock

**E**VERY REGULAR Army and TA unit has them. No military unit could do without them. Every officer and soldier alike soon learns to cultivate their professional relationship quickly. The rapport with the venerable Quartermaster and his Aladdin's cave of stores.

This month, by way of a milestone, a unit near Camberley, Surrey, celebrates its 20th anniversary of turning out QMs from its site at Blackdown, home of the RAOC School of Ordnance.

This coming year the ten-man instructional team running the All Arms Quartermaster (AAQM) six-week long courses envisages 120 QMs passing through their classroom instruction comprising four main phases. Those of equipment management, ammunition, clothing and accommodation services.

Currently, there are 25 aspiring QMs on course Number 114 at Blackdown. A mixture of Corps. Men from the RAPC, RE, R Signals, RA, RAC, REME, RCT, ACC, RCT, AAC and half a dozen infantrymen.



Since 1966 it is estimated that 1,400 QMs alone have 'graduated' from Blackdown.

Running his 30th and last course before retirement in April is Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Bryant who said that in addition to Regular Army RQMSs and SQMSs, course candidates also include TA officers.

Four to five courses annually have been held since 1976 and, last year, 120 QMs attended the modules.

During the year eminent lecturers visit the school's courses to elucidate on their given fields.

The subjects are multifarious. A BAOR supply commander spoke on his problems, while computer-

isation, freight and baggage, engineering resources, higher defence 'Q' planning are others.

To this can be added aspects on the present and the future by the District of Clothing and Textiles, civilian labour matters, the Health and Safety at Work Act, Army quartering policy, office machinery procedures, auditor requirements and COs' expectations of their QMs.

Two typical away-days include visits to Bicester to see warehousing and to the Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) at Kineton, Warwickshire, to learn about computer storage methods and related ammunition storage.

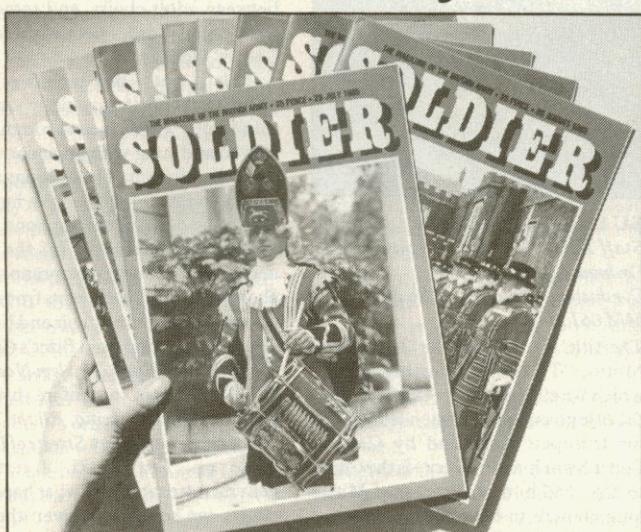
The end of this year will see the

**RQMS John Corless, the equipment management instructor, shares a joke with a building captain QM**

introduction of two micro processors. Some 300 ACC-inspired CATPAC — catering systems — in December and five QM micros (a £19m million project) in June for trialling by selected units spearheaded by 1 RGJ at Tidworth. Nearly 400 will start a three-year deployment in March.

Among the would-be QMs under training and drawn from BAOR, Belize, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Hong Kong in June there will be two other faces. They will belong to two Indonesians over here on a sponsored scheme.

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## REGIMENTAL BAND OF THE 14TH/20TH KING'S HUSSARS

Conductor: Bandmaster R Sands

A little late in the day comes a review of this very attractive and well played programme. The record is still available though and well worth a fiver inclusive from Home HQ, 14/20H, Fulwood Bks, Preston, PR2 4AA.

The whole thing is yet another

# On the Record with Rodney Bashford



For England we have part of *Musick Marziale* by Colonel Kimberley which does for The British Grenadiers what Benjamin Britten did for Purcell's Rondo in the Young Persons' Guide to the Orchestra, and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4* with the choir singing A P Herbert's words, and from the corps of drums their favourite *The Adjutant* march.

Ireland has Grainger's *Irish Tune from County Derry* and Leroy Anderson's *Rakes of Mallow* and *The Irish Washerwoman*, both guaranteed to bring even a roofless house down.

The choir of course joins the bands for the Welsh contribution of *God Bless the Prince of Wales*, and the pipes and drums play *Kate Dalrymple*, *The Kilt is My Delight*, *Bonnie Dundee*, and *Highland Cathedral* for Scotland.

I imagine that after so many years of British 'presence' the Berliners are as familiar with our folk music as with their own.

The foreign element comprises Ronald Hammer's medley *Souvenirs de France* and *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Germany itself is given Wagner's *Tannhauser March* so perhaps it's about time someone did a medley of their tunes for them.

Presumably the Russians did not attend the concert, or have they softened their views on the performance of *1812* in its pre-revolutionary version? Anyway the overture once more forms the finale with *Tulip's Evening Hymn* and *Last Post* and obligatory *Berliner Luft* for dispersal.

All in all a display of allied musical muscle which will have done us no harm at all with the locals, and you too will enjoy it if you haven't already too many *1812s*. From Grasmere Records, 59 Marlpit Lane, Coulsden, Surrey, price £5.60 inc.

Two excellent arrangements of *Broadway Show-Stoppers Overture* and a Symphonic Portrait *Sousa* form the backbone of the programme. Both include the tunes one would expect but are highly original in their presentation. Separating the two are one of Prokofiev's witty marches, probably an original one for band, and the well known *Bourrée* by old Praetorius arranged by Terry Kenny as a piccolo solo.

Lance Corporal Whittle of the band has arranged a *Professional* by Welsh composer William Mathais for band and trumpets, two rhythmic numbers feature solo cornet in *Feelin' Free* and the trombone section in *When I'm With You*, and Sammy Nestico as usual claims a place on band records, this time with *Cable Car* and *Hayburner*, two pieces designed to show off various sections of the band. And to end with we have another performance of Roger Swift's grand march dedicated to *SSAFA* which made such a hit at the Wembley Pageant.

A record definitely a cut about the usual both in content and performance, and worth every penny of the £5.60 it will cost from RAOC Band, Blackdown Bks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6BW or from Music Masters.

## BAND OF THE LIFE GUARDS

Conductor: Captain J G McColl  
Cotswold Male Voice Choir  
Conductor: Leslie Burgess  
MM 0620

We haven't had a band and choir record recently as far as I can remember, not since the rash of them which emerged for the Queen's Jubilee and more recently after the Falklands affair.

The band and choir seem to have met at Cheltenham Town Hall for a couple of successful concerts. I only remember it packed with screaming little horrors and their adoring parents waiting for the recorder class in the local festival, with me as the Aunt Sally of an adjudicator. In the evening there was the more cut-throat competition between adult choirs, and tomorrow, thank the Lord, woodwind at the Ladies' College.

This is not a bad record of fairly popular favourites, strictly amateur mind you, which means rough edges played and sung with great conviction and commitment. These things always sound so much better in the hall than via the all-hearing microphone.

Soloists David Bole (of the band) and Morfydd Burgess, soprano, (of the choirmaster?) sing excerpts from Verdi operas, and with the choir and band an extended selection from Bizet's *Carmen*, *Strike Up the Band*, *Harlem Nocturne*, *Ol' Man River*, a fanfare by Capt McColl called *Trecento*, *All the Things You Are*, and a medley *Streets of London* make up, I'm afraid, a not very convincing example of what bands and choirs can sound like given the right acoustics and enough rehearsal time.

From Combermere Bks, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3DN price £6 inclusive.

The Regimental Band of  
14th/20th King's Hussars

example of what can be achieved under the less than perfect conditions imposed on bands in the present climate of cuts, cuts and more cuts. The trumpeters give a lively performance of favourite calls such as *Stables*, *Dinner*, and the *Regimental Call*, then follows a feast, especially for ex-members of the regiment, of the *Trots*, *Galops*, the five *Squadron Marches*, the *Slow* and *Quick Marches*, and at the end of the record the *Regimental Song Sussex by the Sea*.

Most of this music is on side one which takes the form of a Guidon Parade, with *Great Little Army* as the march on and Purcell's *Rondo from Abdalezar*, Alf Young's *Royal Standard*, and Maxwell's *Sounding Brass* as inspection music.

Side two is light music, with Sammy Nestico's popular *Cable Car*, an overture *Rhythmus der Freude*, Post Horn solo *The Huntsman*, a novelty *Glen meets Wolfgang* (Miller meets Mozart would have been more alliter-

ative), and the *Dixie* and *Big Bands* play *Chicago* and *From Here to Eternity*.

## GRAND MILITARY CONCERT

Massed Bands

Conductor: Lt Col D R Kimberley  
Producer: Major M J Parker  
Grasmere GRALP 6

Recorded live at Waldbuehne Amphitheatre this was the British Forces contribution to the West Berlin Summer Festival of 1985, with a musical theme Parade Of The Nations. So with a dozen British bands, one each from France and USA, corps of drums and pipes and drums, plus the Morriston Orpheus Choir and Michael Parker to organise things the West Berliners were given quite a feast of national lollipops. In the acoustic of this vast 22,000 seater auditorium much detail is lost and balance is dicey sometimes, but it all adds to the immediacy and excitement experienced by the actual audience.

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## SUA TELA TONANTI

Staff Band of the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps

Conductor: Captain R C Swift  
MM 0613

The title is of course the Regimental Motto, "To the Warrior his Arms", which we all knew, didn't we? It is also the title given to a fine extended fanfare for trumpets and band by Captain Roger Swift himself. Lucky is the Corps to have had him as Director of Music long enough to have composed it for them. Captain Swift lives up to his name where appointments are concerned and is now a Coldstreamer.

# BOOK

## REVIEWS

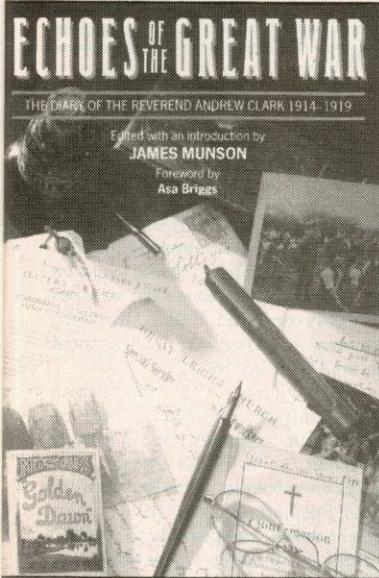
### VILLAGE AT WAR

MANY and varied are the books about the Great War of 1914-18. Now, 70 years after the event, another and "different" volume has been discovered and published.

It does not follow the successes and failures of commanders, nor the intrigues of politicians. Nor does it record the course of a campaign and the tactics and endurance of the troops.

It is devised from the three million-word diary kept by the Rev Andrew Clark in the little Essex village of Great Leighs and was deposited by him in the Bodleian Library.

In his rectory he set out intentionally to record the war from the point of view of the ordinary countryfolk. Yet



word came to him from far and wide. Sixty-seven of the villagers joined the Forces and 19 of them were killed. They gave him knowledge of happenings in Flanders, Salonika, Italy and even Russia — all with the flavour of simple countrymen's tales.

He gathered news from bulletins officially displayed in the post office, from shopkeepers, farmers, travellers and the many letters that came to the rectory. His daughter, a nurse, supplied him with many humorous stories during her travels.

This was the war that emancipated women, an age when peas were bought unshelled and fresh at 1s 6d a peck (two gallons), when a villager's train ride to London was the trip of a lifetime. When a marching column of troops turned out the whole village — and the Reverend Clark was always there. When gossip moved faster than the few newspapers and when rumour was rife. Like the myth of the trainloads of

Russians moving south from Scotland and Yorkshire to embark for France because "the British Force had 'perished' and the French were beaten."

Simple things like the amazement of the Scottish officer's wife who received a letter from her husband beginning "Dearest Wife" and ending "Your devoted Tom", with all the four pages of script totally blacked out, including his address. There was, however, a note enclosed: "Madam, Your husband is quite well but is much too communicative. Censor."

Queer, curious days from the villagers' viewpoint. Soldiers were billeted on willing villagers for 2s (10p) a day. This for a roof, breakfast and a "weak" supper. They were to sleep on the floor with their own blankets. I wonder how many really did! — GRH. *Echoes of the Great War*, edited by James Munson, Oxford University Press, price £10.95.

### MEMORIES OF A MEDIC

DR Ian Samuel was a GP who volunteered at the outbreak of the Second World War and within a few days found himself a Lieutenant with 6th Field Ambulance, part of the BEF in France and Belgium.

He tells of taking over as an operating theatre the dining room of a hotel in Brussels where moments before a dinner dance had been in full swing, and using freshly laundered napkins as dressings; of an ambulance convoy virtually destroyed by German tanks and armoured cars.

They were times that still — Dr Samuel is 78 now — occasionally give him nightmares.

His is a little book — only 48 pages including index and illustrations — which deals with a short (18-day) period of the war leading up to Dunkirk. But a valuable contribution to memories of the early days of the war from which fewer and fewer now survive — AT.

*Doctor at Dunkirk*, by Ian Samuel (Autolycus Publications) price £4.50.

### SAPPERS SUPPORT FROM THE FRONT

IT takes a few simple words to define the main task of the Royal Engineers: "To provide combat support to the Army." "Support" suggests assistance from behind, and the Engineers are well employed in this respect, but "combat" is the effective word that is often forgotten.

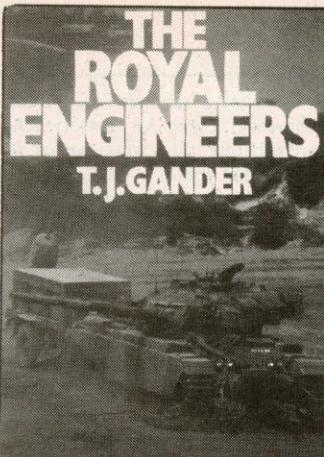
The Sappers have a full task right in the forefront of the battle. That is their main role. Often, as in the Normandy landings in 1944, they go ahead to clear the way of mines and obstacles for the assault force.

At Alamein the huge artillery barrage became the world talking point, but the Engineers cleared the mines and taped out the routes that enabled the armour to go forward.

At the Sicily landings in 1943 and in Normandy combat engineer units went in by air.

Engineers have always played a vital role in the Army and their achievements have been far in excess of their military duties.

Under the Pax Britannica, with British troops in stations world-wide,



the Engineers built roads, dug wells and canals, created telegraphic communications and postal services, and surveyed and mapped much of India, Canada and the Middle East.

They built barracks, docks, railways and warehouses. The mighty St Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta and the civic buildings in the centre of Dublin stand

as evidence of their skills. They irrigated Egypt and India, planned the drainage of London and designed the Royal Albert Hall.

Many of their normal duties expanded until they gave birth to new corps. From the Sappers came forth the Royal Flying Corps (now RAF), the Army Service Corps (now Royal Corps of Transport), the Royal Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

*The Royal Engineers* by TJ Gander gives a short history and full appraisal of the Corps today. The 11 chapters enlarge upon the many engineering roles, covering combat, armoured, amphibious, explosives, airfield, postal, survey and works.

The 170 photographs show the great variety of armoured, tracked and wheeled vehicles. There are notes on dimensions, weights and speeds, and tables showing the organisation of the different squadrons. — GRH.

*The Royal Engineers* by T J Gander, Ian Allan Ltd, price £11.95.

### BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Elite Fighting Units.** Arms and Armour Press. £13.95. This book not only examines the record of major elite forces during World War 2 but also explores the qualities required of soldiers handpicked to serve in those units around the world today.

**The Best of Signal.** Hitler's Wartime Picture Magazine. S.L. Mayer. Hamlyn Publishing. Price: £11.95. This was the largest selling magazine in Europe during World War 2 and was published in as many as 20 languages; three million copies in its peak year of 1943. It was published in Berlin largely for the consumption of neutral and subject peoples and was produced in English for the conquered Channel Islands. Its editors, artists and photographers worked on Paris Match and German publications after the war.

**Modern Military Powers: Israel.** General Editor. Stan Morse. Publisher: Newnes Books. £7.95. A 160-page pictorial guide to the Israeli Armed Forces, including superb technical drawings, descriptions, specifications and including rare colour photographs.

**Modern Military Powers: USA.** General Editor. Stan Morse. Publisher: Newnes Books. Price: £7.95. A well-illustrated volume which describes the organisations that form the most powerful armed forces on earth, their equipment and their worldwide presence.

**World War Two GI.** Stephen W. Sylvia and Michael J. O'Donnell. Arms and Armour Press. Price £15.50. Said to be the first in depth photo study of the weapons, gear and clothing of the American GI in World War 2. Scores of unpublished photos were found in duty files in the Pentagon, national archives and albums of veterans and their families. The authors spent two years in their research for the 223-page volume.

**A History of The 7th Field Company, RE, 1939-1946.** Thomas M.J. Riordan. Published: The Cottage, Oak Tree Close, Strensall, York. Traces the history of one of the oldest units in the Corps of Royal Engineers; a unit which served with distinction in Wellington's Army in the Peninsular War, in the Crimean War, Boer War, World War I — winning fame as the

"Contemptibles" — and World War 11 as a unit of the 4th Division. The narrative is on a diary basis supplemented by Rolls of Honour with maps of cemetery locations.

**Parachute Wings.** Bragg and Turner. Peter A. Heimes Publications. Price: £20. The book illustrates in full colour parachute qualifications, including variations, totalling 1,472 not previously seen from 98 countries. It also provides a comprehensive updating of both the history of world parachute forces and, via an appendix, of their operational jumps from 1941 to 1983.

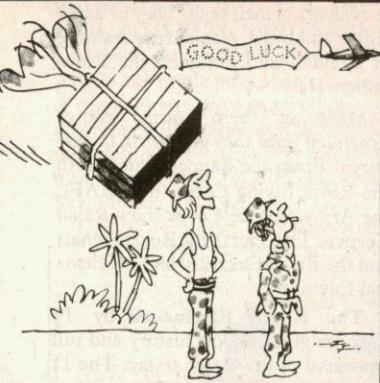
**British Army Cloth Insignia, 1940 to the Present.** Brian L. Davis. Arms and Armour Press. £6.50. Some 600 badges are described, illustrated and valued. They include formation badges, slip-on shoulder-strap titles, regimental and corps designations, regimental and unit dress distinctions, regimental and unit flashes and airborne insignia, trade, proficiency and skill-at-arms badges, officers', WOs, and NCOs' rank insignia, WOs rank and appointment insignia.

**Small Arms Today.** Edward Clinton Ezell. Arms and Armour Press. Price: £7.95. Latest reports on the world's weapons and ammunition. Gun collectors and gun buffs 'must'. Information relates on where the armies of the world's trouble-spots get their weapons and ammunition and gives ground forces and population data for understanding the quantities of small arms that nations require.

**Battles of the American Revolution.** Curt Johnson. Sidgwick and Jackson. Price: £7.95. A concise military history of the war reconstructing eight major encounters: Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton and Princeton, Germantown, Saratoga, Monmouth, Cowpens and Yorktown.

**Hazardous Work.** Hart Books Welwyn. By Lieutenant Colonel John Salisbury, RA, a TA staff officer at HQ Eastern District on the training side. His book is an account of the decorations and commendations awarded to members of the Home Guard in recognition for acts of gallantry on duty 1940-1944. Nearly 150 such awards were made including two posthumous George Crosses.

# MAIL DROP



## MEDALS SOLD

For some time now we have read of bellyaches over receiving awards of medals for service in various parts of the world.

Many courageous acts and efforts go unrewarded; yet we know that those awarded for devotion to duty and courage are well deserved and cherished and worn with pride. Yet how many of these awards end up in shops of medal dealers only a short time after being awarded.

I've seen many Falklands 'South Atlantic' on view. Alas the latest to appear was a CSM 1962 awarded for Service in Lebanon to 16/5 Lancers, so sometimes a little money means more than pride.

The dealer was asking £900 for this trooper's medal. I asked what he paid, to which he smiled: "A sheer bargain, I'm laughing all the way to the bank with profit."

Let's hope we don't get too many who only want medals to sell for gain.

— D Marriot, 11 Cressington Avenue, Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral, L42 6QJ.

## 'ROUGH RIDERS' BADGE

For many years I have carried around in my wallet a photograph that was sent to me when I was a young schoolboy at the beginning of World War Two, by a dear uncle of mine — my father's younger brother — when he joined the Army early in 1940.

The photo is of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, together with the Officer.

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SEND NOW

Commanding, of the Left Troop, 196th (Yeomanry) Light AA Battery RA, shortly before they were posted to Malta in that year.

Atop the photo is the rather unique badge of the City Yeomanry Regiment, which they originally were prior to becoming a Royal Artillery battery.

As I vividly recollect, the cap badge that my uncle wore on his one and only leave before leaving for Malta for the duration of World War Two, was a silver spur surmounted by the gilt letters RR — for the Yeomanry Regiment was known as the 'Rough Riders, 308 City Of London Yeomanry Regiment — and their shoulder titles on their battledress blouses were in a light blue cloth strip with black lettering; the forage No 1 Dress cap was dark green lower panel and light blue upper crown.

I would be most grateful if anyone with knowledge of the 308 City of London Yeomanry Regiment, and the Left Troop, 196th (Yeomanry) Light AA Battery RA, who served in Malta for the duration of World War Two, could offer unrestricted information.

— Mr J Smith, 14 Holman Crescent, Prettygate, Colchester, Essex CO3 4PE.

## FIRST LIFT

I read the letter by Major C G Deedes, 1 Bn the Light Infantry (SOLDIER July 1) claiming pioneer status for lifting a four-ton truck by Chinook on exercise with interest and was of course prompted to put the record straight.

The pioneering of the lifting of four-ton trucks was in fact carried out by 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, in 1980 using 205th Aviation Company US Army Chinooks as one of many experience gaining exercises prior to the RAF taking delivery of its Chinooks in 1981/82. In those days it was assumed that the proposed Helicopter Support Unit, now JHSU, would be part of the Air Despatch organisation.

The methods of rigging these vehicles, devised by the staff of the Air Despatch Training Wing in conjunction with Span Set Ltd, were eventually accepted with only slight modification by the Joint Air Transport Establishment and issued as a formal clearance.

Air Despatchers do not normally brag about their achievements but they do like the records to be correct. — Captain R L Nicholson RCT, Admin Officer, 12 Sqn RCT, 4 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt RCT, BFPO 29.

Captain Nicholson sent a photograph to prove it, taken during Exercise Small Pack on Salisbury Plain during which nine four-ton Bedfords were lifted by Chinooks. — Ed.

## US TOO!

With reference to your article "Guard that egg" (SOLDIER Dec 16), I would like to point out the fact that three teams took part in the final of the 'Land Rover Challenge'. Jnr Ldrs Regt Shorncliffe, the Young Farmers (as mentioned) and Junior Company Princess Marina College.

I would also like to point out the fact that J Coy PM College came second with 146 persons on the Land Rover,

whereas the Young Farmers didn't even get past the start line because the body sheared from the chassis! I hope this puts the record straight. — Apprentice Tradesman D J Jones-Lofting, D Company, Princess Marina College, Aborfield, Reading, Berks.

## THOSE 'SILLY GIRLS'

So Mr G Wilmot (SOLDIER Nov 18) does not fancy being nursed by those silly giggling girls he saw on TV. Let us remind him that those girls will become nurses and will volunteer for front line service and carry out their duties with utmost care and devotion. The assault course was a bit of fun.

General (Uncle Bill) Slim wrote of the nurses in Burma that the men on the Burma Front prided themselves that they were hard, and they needed to be. Few did not feel a lump in the throat when, bloodstained, grimy and unutterably tired, they opened their eyes in a casualty clearing station while the guns still thudded, and saw a clean, neat figure bending over them with healing hands.

Of these nurses Bill Slim, so long the Commander of the 14th Army in Burma wrote: "At Kohima and Imphal, on the sodden Tiddim road, in the bloody bridgeheads of the Irawaddy, they were there — the oldest of the Women's Services, the best beloved and the nearest to the soldier's heart."

Those same "silly giggling girls" could have been those who shared the same fate of death and tropical diseases as the troops in Burma. Many nurses still lie out there. I am an ex-soldier too taking part in the retreat from Burma with the 1st Glosters and back again with the 2nd Welsh Regt. — Mr P Rumming, 9 Westwood Gardens, Wrekenton, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE9 7LT.

## WRAC ON HORSEBACK

In the article (SOLDIER Jan 13) regarding the 500th WRAC Recruit Parade, there is a comment to the effect that the WRAC did not have horses, let alone ride them.

This reminded me of the occasions when the WRAC Commandant did indeed, ride on parade. In the 1950s and 60s the Aldershot Garrison paraded annually in honour of the Queen's Birthday and all the formation Commanders, including the WRAC were mounted.

About 18 horses were provided by H Coy RASC, later H Sqn RCT, for the GOC and staff, parade commander, commandants, trumpeter and orderly. The WRAC Commandant rode side-saddle. — R A Hill, BEM (Major, Ret'd), 8 Melbourne Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0JA.

## NO CASH

The article on the Aldershot Garrison Fun Run (SOLDIER Jan 13) is rather misleading and indeed could jeopardize the amateur status of the athletes concerned.

The article states that C/Sgt Malcolm French of 3 PARA received £75 worth of vouchers for winning, plus £50 for being the fastest man over 18. In the overall results you again

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

Please keep letters brief and type them if possible. Use only one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines. Readers' letters must give full name and address, but not necessarily for publication.

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

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

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

quote figures of £75, £50, £30 and so on.

These prizes were all in the form of vouchers, exchangeable for sports clothing and equipment at a nominated sports company and cash sums did not change hands. — Major M E Murch, Secretary Army Athletic Association.

## MORE ELEPHANTS

Your article on the Duke of Wellington's Regt (SOLDIER Jan 13) was enjoyable and informative, but some points on the regiment's honours need clarifying.

The 1803 battles fought by the 76th Regt were, I believe, emblazoned on its first honorary colours, but were not officially conferred. Delhi, Ally Ghur, Leswaree and Deig were finally granted to the DWR in 1886.

The regiment is the only British Army unit to carry four colours on parade but not the only one to have an elephant as a colour badge. The regimental colours of the Royal Highland Fusiliers and the Queen's Own Highlanders, and possibly the guidon of 15th/19th Hussars, bear the Assaye elephant. The Duke's elephant is the only one distinguished by a howdah and mahout. — P D Griffin, 3 Tansley Avenue, Wigton, Leics.

## Competition

SOLDIER's Odds and Evens competition (No 376) in which readers were given a number of diagrams drawn in duplicate or triplicate and asked to find the odd one out, proved to be a comparatively easy one.

The winning name which came out of the hat was that of Major R O Nebel (Ret'd) of Helston, Cornwall.

## REUNIONS

Mr Doug Bell, Carrillon, 33 Carisbrooke Drive, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 5LT, is anxious to contact former members of Intake 52B, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, for a reunion to be held in Harrogate on May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION  
381

IT'S HOAY time again. And you could be the next winner of SOLDIER'S £50 prize.

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture and send it to SOLDIER. Photocopies are acceptable.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is March 28. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our April 21 issue.

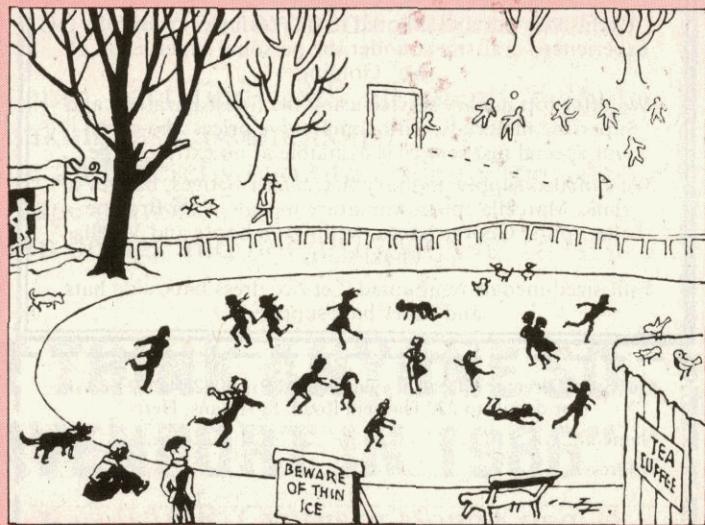
More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition

381' label (not a photocopy).

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

Send your answers by letter with the 'Competition 381' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants.

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The game is normally available either in disk form (normal price £12.95) or cassette (£9.95). But SOLDIER readers have the chance to win a cassette FREE by answering the following questions:

1. Name two makes of MSX

- home computer.
2. Name the title of one computer game relating to football.
3. What is the name of the new Commodore home computer recently launched.

Send your entry (limited to one per person) with your name and address to Computer Offer, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, to arrive not later than March 31.

The free games are offered by SOLDIER in co-operation with Morrell-Rines Ltd, and names and addresses of the entrants will be made available to the company.

The first five entries drawn after the closing date will be the winners. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence can be entered into.

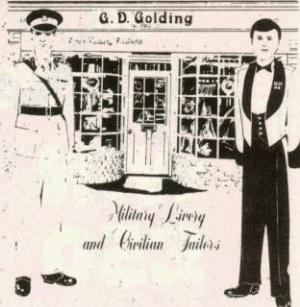
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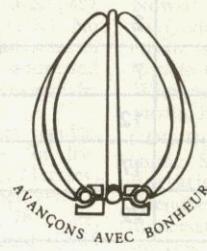
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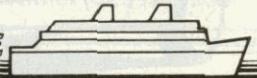
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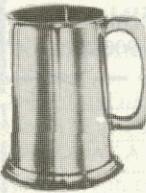


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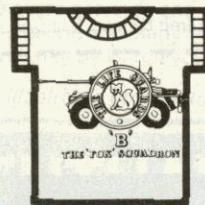
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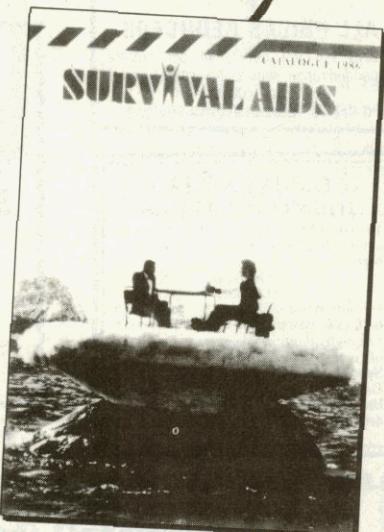
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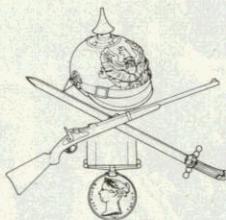
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But competitors put a lot into the events, felt a sense of achievement, and next year the meeting will be widened to include Alpine skiing and also to encourage other infantry units outside Germany to take part.

All but two of the competitors in this year's meeting, sponsored by Headquarters Infantry 1 (BR) Corps and run by Headquarters 12 Armoured Brigade, were novices. Most had only participated in a summer training camp at Sennelager where they trained on roller skis and shot with biathlon .22 rifles.

Winner of the first event, the 10 km novices race, held in good snow conditions on the edge of Axams village, was Guardsman Peter Rice, Irish Guards, with 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets taking team honours, closely followed by 1st Battalion The Green Howards.

In the 4 x 7½ km biathlon relay snow conditions were good at the beginning but the warm sun eventually melted much of the snow leaving earth and rocks bare,

particularly on the run down to the range.

The shooting proved to be a deciding factor. Captain Christian Hillkirk (Green Howards) won, but Corporal Desmond Gillies (1 Gordons), gained a clear round on the shooting and was well placed as second. The winning team was 1st Battalion The Green Howards, followed by 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets.

The final event was the 15 km race held on the Olympic course at Seefeld. There was plenty of good fresh snow, and the race started early, before the course could be blocked by tourists. 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment provided vorlaufers to run ahead of the field, with some of their national squad members running later to put pressure on the infantrymen.

The fastest competitor was Captain Hillkirk, followed by Guardsman John O'Brien.

The Queen's Own Highlanders presented a cup for the winning team overall, won by 1st Battalion The Green Howards.



Corporal Chris Stones, sweat frozen in his hair



Corporal Desmond Gillies, nearing the 15 km half way mark



Captain Christian Hillkirk, fastest time in the biathlon relay

## Fusiliers on ice

THE Royal Highland Fusiliers, stationed in West Berlin, claim to be the only regiment in the British Army to have their own ice hockey team.

They began their ice hockey career in Iserlohn and were coached by and played against the local team ECD Iserlohn.

The regiment has strong ties with the town, having been granted the Freedom of Iserlohn in 1967.

The Fusiliers have continued in the same tradition, and were granted the Freedom of Wilmersdorf (Berlin) last year, the only regiment in the Army to be granted the freedom of two German towns.

As a continuing "freundschaft"

venture with Stadt Wilmersdorf the Fusiliers played against the local team, which was made up mainly of policemen and firemen.

At the end of the first period the score was 0-0, but after some very aggressive power play by the Scots the score at the end of the second period was RHF 4 — Wilmersdorf 3.

The final period was a "nail-biter" with neither of the two teams showing any quarter, and the sin bin being well frequented by both sides.

The experience of the Wilmersdorf men finally told in the end and they ran out deserving winners at six goals to the Fusiliers four.

# NORDIC SKIING

## Major Finds UK "Lags Behind"

**STEEL-STRONG LIMBS**, a superb cardiac-vascular system, an ice-cool brain, stamina and, above all, a determination to put it all together and keep on going.

In other words, says Major John Leaning, you have to be a "superb athlete" to be a Nordic skier.

It would also appear, according to Major Leaning, that more professional-like attitudes from both UK representative skiers and administrators are required if Britain is to make any mark in the Winter Olympics in 1988.

Chairman of the British Nordic Biathlon Committee, Major Leaning, 48, last raced for Britain in 1968 in Oslo over 15 kilometres. That was his third and last representative season in cross-country skiing and biathlon, which entails shooting at fixed targets en route.

Now, as head of the controlling body, he spends his spare time drumming up national interest in the three UK teams, with special emphasis on the women's team.

To help in his quest to put Britain on

### JUDO

## WANTED: A TROPHY CLEANER

**SERGEANT TONY THOMAS'S** Mum reckons it's about time he got married. She says she is fed up cleaning all the trophies he has won in a very successful sporting career.

The trophies stay with Mum, Mrs Molly Thomas, back home in Alltwen near Swansea while Tony serves with 17 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, in Bielefeld, West Germany.

Tony has been with the Welsh Judo team for the last three years and came second when representing Wales in the Ulster Games.

In BAOR he is the heavyweight judo champion and was runner up for the Army title. However he holds the Army's under-78-kilogram championship and was selected for the Combined Services Judo squad, but unfortunately broke a rib during a practice session and could not compete.

Tony also puts a lot back into the sport by

the skiing map, he has just returned from a seven-week tour of North America covering 16,000 miles.

All paid for by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust — which awards 100 Fellowships a year for people to travel abroad and on return apply what they have learned to their particular interest in the UK.

Major Leaning took time from his liaison job with the RAF at Odiham, to find out how the Americans and Canadians train, select and market their representative teams.

"I went there to compare training methods and management techniques and have a look at the facilities for the cross-country ski and biathlon competitions for the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, Canada. Looking back it was one hell of a programme, but extremely worthwhile and I had a fantastic time.

"Everyone was very kind, helpful and interested in my study. Now I have to write it all up into useful information for the British teams."

While Major Leaning visited scores of ski centres, including time with the US and Canadian teams and administrators, he found the main difference between them and the UK set-up was that back-up and logistic support was "far in advance" of anything here.

"This is largely due to the money available and national training facilities for use by the athletes at no cost.

"They have physicians, psychologists and physiologists on a scale unknown in Britain, and while our training methods compare favourably with North American teams, we lag behind in the use of technology such as



Sergeant Tony Thomas — he cleans up trophies, his Mum cleans them

helping to coach and officiate at meetings. He has his second Dan (Black Belt) and is currently coaching the BAOR judo team. For two years he has been the Junior Army coach, he also represents and trains twice a week with a local German Police club (Bielefeld PSV), and runs the 10 Corps Transport Regiment, RCT, Judo Club and the Children's Judo Club.



Major John Leaning, with Winter Olympics in mind

videos and computers.

"And while our managerial systems are right in the main, we lose out because most of our managers are amateurs, while over there they are paid professionals.

"Another big difference is that our athletes pay to be members of the national team. Over there they don't and in many cases are on financial incentives to produce results."

These are just some of the differences spotlighted by Major Leaning in his report.

Now, as director of the national biathlon team and the men and women's cross-country skiing teams, he will be applying pressure along the lines of the North American teams to strengthen the British teams in time for the Olympics in two years time.

"I'm sure we do a lot of things right, but we need more backing from the State or sponsors and to adopt some of the systems used over there."

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