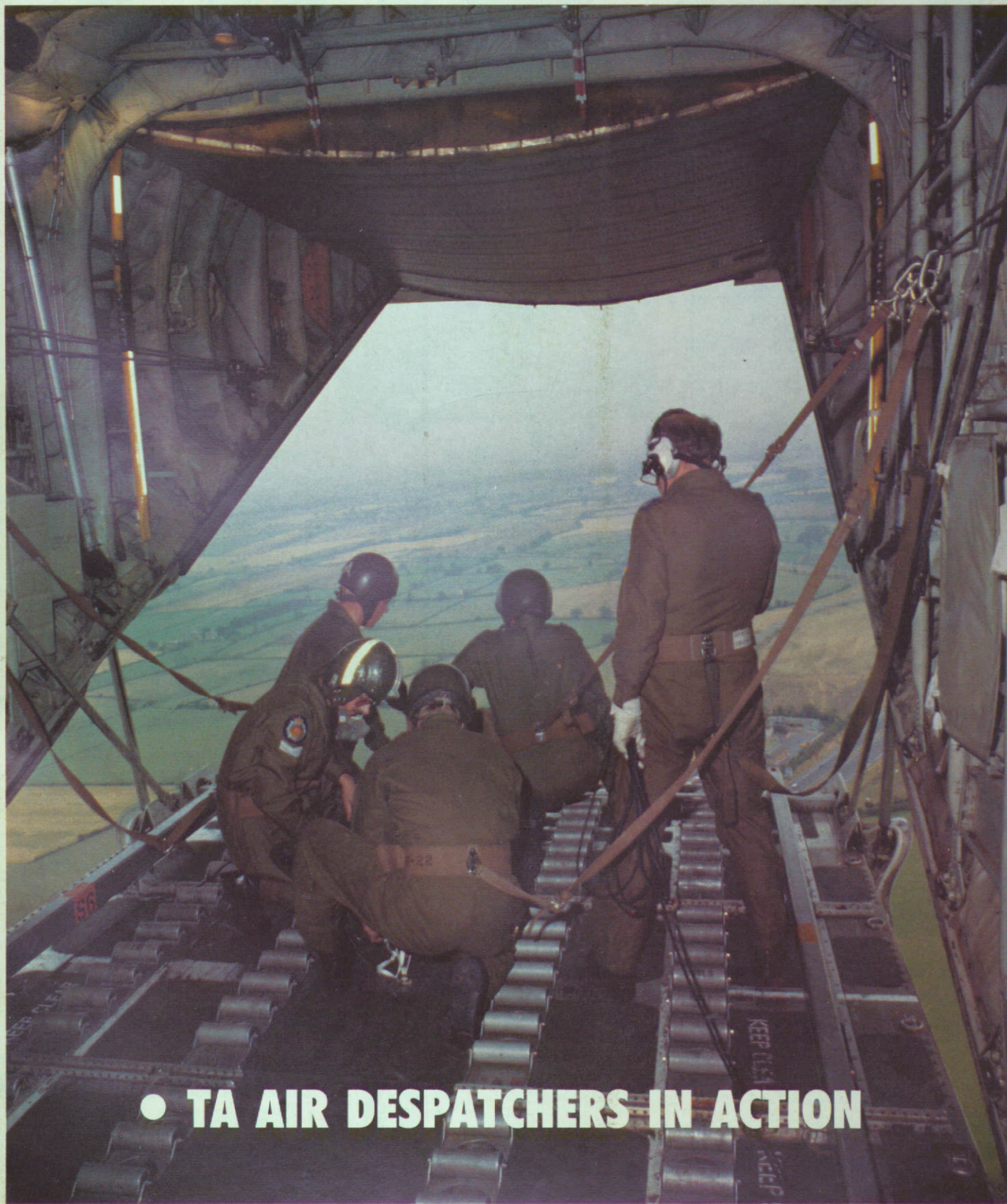


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 19 SEP-2 OCT 1983

SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER
Men of 395 Air Despatch Troop RCT(V) pushing out a load from a Hercules near Hullavington. See centre pages.
Picture: Paul Haley.

BACK COVER
Seventeen-year-old Drum Major Paul Irons leading the Melton Mowbray Toy Soldiers Band. See page 33.
Picture: Doug Pratt.

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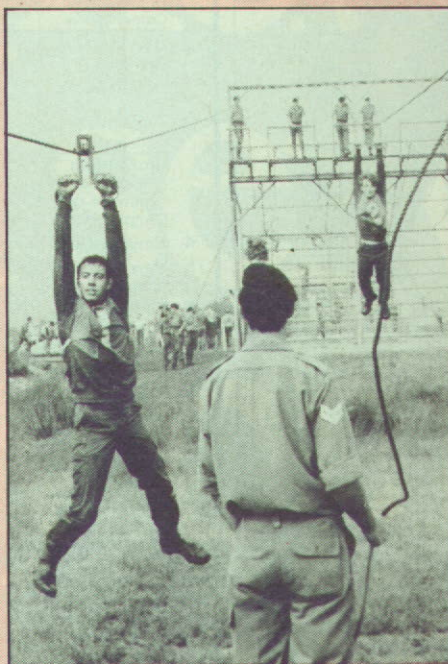
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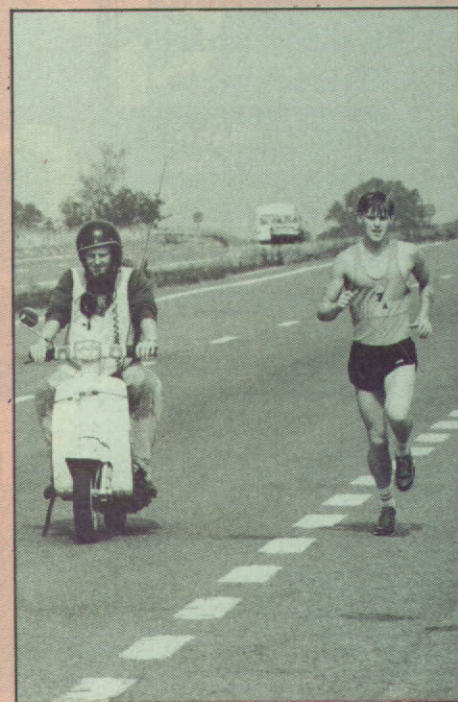
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SOLDIER

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**Excitement
in TA event — page 10**



**7RHA's long,
long run — page 21**

**Gurkhas triumph
in aerial test — page 14**



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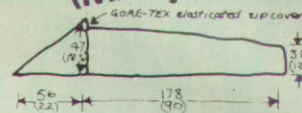


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All change

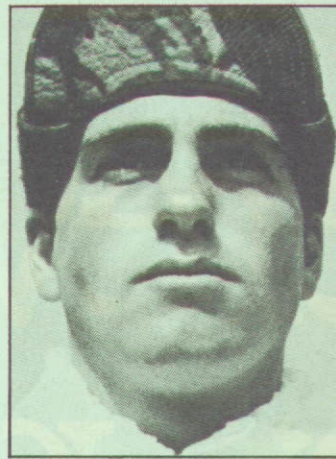
A brand new signal regiment has been formed in Berlin from a merger between 229 Signal Squadron and the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit. The unit, which boasts 35 different cap badges, will be known as 29 Signal Regiment — a number last used in Cyprus in 1960.

Says the first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Rowlands: "That suits me fine as I have done three tours in Cyprus and regard it as my second home."

Troopers give blood — save Frenchman

TWO young soldiers serving with Britain's peace-keeping force in the Lebanon gave blood after a small arms and rocket attack to help save the life of a French soldier hurt in an earlier attack nearby in war-torn Beirut.

They were Troopers Russell Gale, 24, from South Wales and Michael Garbutt, 20, from Middlesbrough, both serving with "A" Squadron, 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards.



Lt. Padgett

Both were part of an early morning patrol led by the BRIT-FORLEB CO, Lt Col David Roberts en route for the British Embassy when unknown gunmen opened up with small arms fire and a single rocket grenade 50 yards ahead of the patrol.

Fire was not returned and the British patrol did not suffer any casualties but they heard that a French soldier had been hurt in the area just ten minutes before.

TWO MEN from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, who fell through the ice in separate incidents within minutes of each other were saved from death by colleagues. Now their rescuers have been commended for bravery by the Commander-in-Chief UKLF.

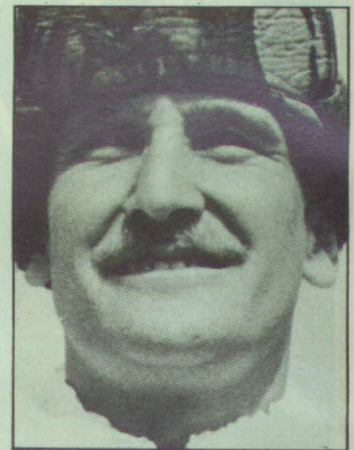
Both incidents happened in Norway last February as the battalion's C Company was taking part in a night approach march on skis, carrying bergens and equipment weighing 80-100lbs. The temperature was -16 Centigrade with wind chill factor lowering it to -30.

After a climb the route led over a tested ice bridge across the river when Private John Flaherty fell through the ice.

Lieutenant Stephen Padgett and Lieutenant Nigel Parker held onto his equipment and tried to pull him out. They eventually had to cut away his equipment with a knife before pulling out the unconscious soldier.

Both officers had been lying on cracked ice with their arms in fast flowing, freezing water for the 15 minutes it took to make the rescue and Lieutenant Padgett's citation says his prompt and selfless action was a major factor in saving Private Flaherty's life.

Lieutenant Padgett received his commendation from the GOC



Sgt. Harland

Berlin, Major General David Mostyn at a parade in the PWO's new barracks in the city. Also presented with a certificate was Sergeant Chris Harland, who had been at the centre of a similar drama about the same time.

Lieutenant David Hill was searching for a way past a difficult section of the route when he misjudged a snow bank and slid onto the ice, which cracked.

Recalled Sergeant Harland: "All I could see was a black hole but I could hear someone shouting for help." Soon he was joined by Corporal Kevin Blagdon and the two NCO's held onto Lieutenant Hill for about 15 minutes.

Lieutenant Hill was in water up to his waist and was trapped by his skis. Corporal Blagdon himself fell in the water up to his knees while trying to reach the skis and Sergeant Harland pulled him clear.

Sergeant Harland's citation says he remained calm and in control of the rescue throughout and in conditions of considerable personal danger was responsible for the rescue.

Lieutenant Parker, now at Strensall and Corporal Blagdon, in the United Kingdom, will receive commendations later.

ACTION IN 'COLD FIRE'

UNITS of the Army and Royal Air Force are among NATO forces taking part in a major Allied Command Europe central region exercise which ends on 30 September.

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe said exercise "Cold Fire 83" will test Allied ground and air forces.

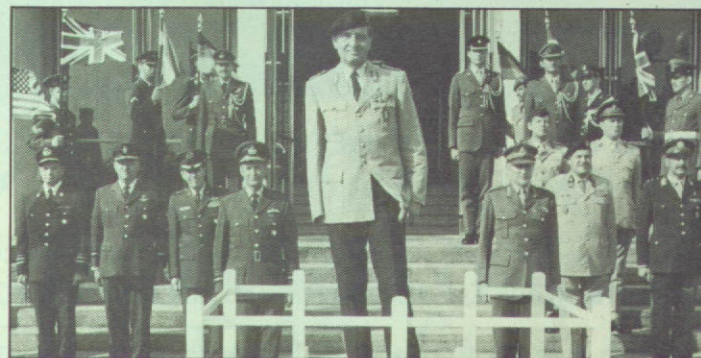
The exercise is part of the annual NATO Autumn Forge series initiated in 1975, which take place in the ACE area between Northern Norway and Eastern Turkey.

The object is to improve combat effectiveness through testing inter-operability, improving ACE crisis management capabilities and demonstrating Allied solidarity and preparedness.

Exercise "Cold Fire 83", will train the tactical air forces and army formations within the central region.

Participating will be headquarters and units of Northern Army Group, Central Army Group, Allied Air Forces Central Europe and its subordinate commands; Second and Fourth Allied Tactical Air Forces.

An Allied farewell . . .



Centre of attraction, and the picture, is Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Central Europe, General Doctor Ferdinand von Senger und Etterlin who got a multi-national, many-uniformed

farewell on his last visit to Rheindahlen.

Behind are his British commanders, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, right, and Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, left.

Special memorial to Sgt McKay

PLANS are being made to build 16 cottages for young disabled servicemen as a memorial to Sergeant Ian McKay, awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for courageous action in the Falklands.

Sergeant McKay, whose family live in Rotherham, Yorkshire, was killed in action on 12 June, 1982 whilst serving with the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.

The venture to build the cottages, costing about £600,000, is being undertaken by The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.

They have started negotiations for land in South Yorkshire on which to build the two-bedroomed cottages which will be specially equipped to meet the individual needs of the servicemen.

The cottages will be rent free

and only a nominal charge will be made for maintenance of the equipment.

The project is one of the largest single developments yet undertaken by the Society who have already built 22 other similar cottages in various parts of the country.

The Society hope to ally the project with training facilities to assist the servicemen find future employment.

D-DAY VETERAN TO SEE DREAM COME TRUE

A PORTSMOUTH man and former Army officer will see a 10-year-old dream come true in June next year... the establishment of a £1 million D-Day and Normandy Museum located in Southsea Castle.

Major Don Holman, who was in the RASC during the war and commanded an amphibious platoon on D-Day told SOLDIER: "I have tried to get a D-Day Museum in this country for ten years. There are about

five in France, mostly with American emphasis, but now we will have one in this country."

Main support to the sea-front scheme has been Portsmouth City Council who have pledged £½ million to the Museum and have taken on all the construction responsibility for the purpose-built Museum. The council has even bought a Sherman tank for £70,000 for inclusion.

Yet the hunt is still on for

D-Day artefacts. Already acquired is a 5.5 field gun, a Bofors ack-ack gun, three Browning machine guns, three Number Four rifles, four pistols and a growing host of smaller items.

Also acquired is an amphibious DUKW and the Royal Small Arms School at Warminster have promised suitably modified weapons.

Major Holman, who later commanded an RCT TA squadron said: "It is planned to open the Museum on 6

June next year to coincide with the 40th anniversary. We have had tremendous support from our 2,500-strong D-Day and Normandy Fellowship which is worldwide, including 50 Greeks. Portsmouth Council has been a wonderful help in this project."

Contributions, please, to Major D G Holman, TD, Chairman of the Museum Committee, The Old Coach House, Bourton, near Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5DB.



A NOVEL farewell at the Ministry of Defence as General Sir Peter Leng leaves his post of MGO — Master General of the Ordnance — a post which he has held since March 1981. He is seen in the new AT 105 Saxon wheeled APC, some of which will be taking part in next year's BAOR exercise, Lion Heart.

Sefton has raised £40,000

WHEN Sefton, the Household Cavalry horse was injured in an IRA bomb blast last year, he captured the hearts of everyone.

So much so, the gallant steed has raised over £40,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund by the sale of commemorative medallions and pendants, and the book 'Sefton'. Author, compiler and publisher of the book, Jeremy Greenwood donated £5000 to the Fund even before the book was published and has waived all future royalties.

"People in this country are dotty about animals anyway," he told SOLDIER, "and I thought if I could capitalise on this for a good cause it would be worthwhile."

Copies of the book can be obtained from The Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queensgate, London SW7 5HR — price £2.95.



'THANK YOU AMBUSCADE'

Captain Alan Coulson, Intelligence Officer of 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, presents (above) Commander Peter Mosse, Commanding Officer HMS Ambuscade, with an FN automatic rifle captured from Argentine Special Forces on Wireless Ridge in the Falklands.

During the final preparations prior to the surrender of the Falkland Islands, HMS Ambuscade was detailed to provide Naval Gunfire Support to the 2nd Batta-

lion The Parachute Regiment advancing along Wireless Ridge.

Ambuscade fired over 250 rounds with her 4.5 inch gun. The firing was extremely effective and allowed the Paras to arrive on the outskirts of Stanley at the same time as the Royal Marines.

At present the Battalion is in Belize, but four officers who took part in the advance that night visited HMS Ambuscade in Plymouth to see the ship and thank them for their support.

Manpower rising once again, but . . .

THE TOTAL strength of the Armed Forces rose by about 1,100 during the last quarter but is still some 2,500 down on a year ago.

Most of the increase in the last quarter was in the number of servicemen, particularly the Army, reflecting the general increase in recruitment which is now necessary to sustain trained strengths in the long term after the constraints on recruitment of the last two years.

Male officer strengths fell by 375 over the last quarter mostly in the Royal Navy and Army for which intakes were similar to the corresponding quarter last year.

Overall recruitment last quarter at about 8,500 was double

that of a year ago but is still well short of the 1980 peak level.

Male officer intake at 422 was almost up to the 1980 peak for the quarter, the highest level for 20 years, although a shortfall remains.

Welcome in the vales

THEY KEPT a welcome in the hillsides... they kept a welcome in the vales. And they deserved it. For the Royal Welch Fusiliers are back in Wales after a five-year tour in BAOR.

Now they are to make one of the biggest military tours of the Principality for many years as the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers — they are currently the Royal School of Infantry's demonstration battalion at Warminster — settle down to a busy time ahead.

They sent their band and drums, regimental goat and a company of soldiers on a tour of their homeland as soon as it could be arranged.

FFR change

THE recent rise in the value of sterling against the Deutschmark has led to a change in the Forces Fixed Rate for those based in BAOR. The new rate is DM4 to the £ and took effect from the beginning of the month.

While it means more marks in the pocket, the Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) has been adjusted to maintain the level of purchasing power. Full details of the LOA rates from unit pay offices.



NEWS VIEW

◀ WATERLOO: ACTION REPLAY!

The Black Watch have been fighting the Battle of Waterloo again - for the third year running.

The battle was won on the playingfields of Werl, where they are stationed as part of 4 Armoured Division, with the Jocks acting the part of the Micks, Tafts and - God forbid - the English while the other enemy was provided by Belgian Grenadiers from Soest.

Werl Schützenverein Avantgarde were the Prussians, and they were under strict instructions not to miss the battle as they nearly did in 1815!



BOMB SURPRISE ▲

Two 110 lb German bombs dropped on the former Clifton RAF airfield, York, 40 years ago were rendered harmless by Royal Engineers of 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, RE, from Chattenden, Kent. The bombs were found on successive days during a 'sweep' of the area, now being developed as an industrial estate, by a clearance team from the Squadron's 1 Troop.

More than 800 RAF practice bombs were found by the team on the 50-acre site in the first three weeks of their operation. The German bombs, which had penetrated seven feet below the ground surface, were defused on site and then taken to the quarry where the explosive filling was destroyed.



A TWIN PASS ... ▶

Two pupil nurses at a Military Hospital gave an extra big sigh of relief when told they had both passed the final examination after two years of training to become Enrolled Nurses. For Jasmine (left) and Angela Abbotts are attractive 20-year-old twins. Both the girls from Taunton, joined up together for a career in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

As they completed their training at the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick, North Yorkshire, fingers were kept tightly crossed - by staff and patients too - both would get over examination the hurdle together.



◀ IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

Making mummies, contestants in the 'It's a Knockout' competition race to complete the head-to-toe toilet paper bandage during Verden's Anglo-German weekend.

With seven teams taking part, the contest was won by the Corporal's Mess of 1 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

The fête was the culmination of a crowded five days of binational activity, ranging from horse racing to discos, from band concerts to swimming galas, athletics meetings and displays of German, American and British military equipment.



GNOMES OF DUSSELDORF ▶

Gnomes have started to be posted to BAOR. Potential Driver Eugene Gnome flew into Dusseldorf and was taken on strength by 8 Regiment RCT the next day. The RSM took him under his wing for ceremonial duties and he quickly made his mark. He was soon joined by the first draft of six gnomes and they formed the Quarterguard for Col J A J P Barr, DCOS 3 Armoured Division, when he visited their Barracks as part of the 'Division In Bloom' competition. He was well pleased by their turnout, and nominated Eugene Gnome as the Commanding Officer's Stick Gnome for the Day.



◀ BEM INVESTITURE

At a small investiture held recently at Air House in Episkopi, Mr Awad Bashir Ibrahim, 49, received his Honorary British Empire Medal, awarded in conjunction with the Queen's Birthday Honours, from Major General Sir Desmond Langley, Administrator of the Sovereign Bases and Commander British Forces in Cyprus.

Mr Ibrahim, who comes from the Sudan, first entered service with the British Army in 1950, at the age of 16, in the Canal Zone where he was employed at General Headquarters Fayid. In his 32 years unbroken service has served every General Officer Commanding Near East Land Forces Cyprus, every Commander Land Forces Cyprus, and, more recently, the Administrator of the Sovereign Bases and Commander British Forces Cyprus when the latter has been an Army General.



A PIPING TREAT ▶

The Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragon Guards gave the Scottish war-blinded sailors, soldiers and airmen at the Linburn Centre a treat when they played and danced for them. No-one enjoyed it more than ex-Pipe Sergeant Harry Forbes, formerly of the HLI, who was blinded in a training accident after the war. He himself had been the Lone Piper in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. His son served in the RHF. Our picture shows Harry with the Band prior to their performance. Behind him is Pipe Major J Allen Drum Major D Gilfillan. Photo: The Scotsman



TOPICS

WITH teams from as far away as Berlin (3 RRF) and Folkestone (Junior Leaders Battalion Infantry) as well as local talent from Territorial units, the third annual Krypton Factor Assault Course Fund Raising weekend at Holcombe Moor Training Camp, near Bury, Greater Manchester was a success.

ACF detachments from Greater Manchester and Merseyside provided radio links, runners and entered teams themselves, and Chief Marshall was Lt Col Eric Davidson, Deputy Commandant of Merseyside ACF, barely one week back from Camp. Local support came strongly from D Coy 5 RRF, from Bury and Rochdale — and they are too, only days away from Camp on Dartmoor! and from Manchester's 207 General Hospital with medical cover. Chief Organiser, Dennis Laverick, from Bury's Fusilier Association told **SOLDIER** 'We seem well on course for the £20,000 target



KRYPTON SUCCESS

to be divided between the ABF, Fusilier Charitable Fund, Salford's Broughton House — the East Lancs Home for disabled servicemen and Southport's Promenade Hospital Spinal Injuries Unit.'

PICTURES, TOP: £1200 sponsorship for (left to right) Fusiliers Eric McKenzie, Dave Hancock, Ian Driver and Darren Tabbard. **RIGHT:** The Mayor of Bury, Councillor Albert Little with Majors John Bonser and James Beeley of 207 General Hospital. **BELOW:** Junior Leader Mick Halliwell on the death slide.



THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION

When the GOC is a member of the Royal Scots (in their 350th year), and he has a kilted unit of the 1/51st Highland Volunteers in the District, then there has to be a gathering of the clans. This brought Major General Philip Davies, GOC North West District to Forbes House, Score Lane, Liverpool, home of 'V' Company, 1/51st Highland — better known locally as The Liverpool Scottish. General Davies saw officers and senior ranks of the Company, presented the TD to Major Ian Riley, previous Company Commander with V Company, and then Company Commander of B Coy, 5/8th Bn, The King's Regiment and toured the Regimental museum, seeing recently discovered photographs of The

Liverpool Scottish at their first Camp in the Isle of Man on the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908. Accompanied by Company Commander, Major Mike Brimage and 2IC, Captain Martin Glen, the GOC had an evening of Scottish hospitality from the Liverpool Scottish.

1/51st Highland Volunteers will be in BAOR from 8 October for the Battalion's annual Camp in a new 'air portable' role.

TA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

AS PART of the 75th anniversary of the TA, men of the 2nd Bn The Wessex Regiment (V) are to march late this month through four of their home towns; those of Portsmouth, Newbury, Basingstoke and Reading.

PROFILE:

**GRAHAM SMITH
MEETS A WOMAN
CONQUERING A MAN'S WORLD**

PAM HUGGETT: keeping TA in the public eye

THE TA is very conscious of its continuous public relations effort and nobody more so than South-East District's "PR lady", as she is known, Major Pam Huggett. Her parish embraces seven counties boasting 41 drill halls and all of them sources of potential stories and ideas directed by her towards half a dozen radio stations, a TV network and more than 50 weekly and daily newspapers.

Historically, too, she is the first and only one of her kind — a busy female TA PR officer; a woman who pursues her part-time hobby in tandem with family responsibilities and the directorship of a couple of companies.

Yet it was by "pure chance" that Pam opted to wear khaki and don DMS boots, puttees, combat kit and even an NBC "Noddy" suit over the past eleven years.

"I've got the best job in the TA," she says with obvious pride and sincerity, "supported to the hilt by the co-operation of my husband and three teenaged children. And when I'm away on exercise they never starve: I just fill the freezer!"

Pam's introduction to the TA followed a house move within Tunbridge Wells. A former research chemist by profession until marriage and motherhood she had taken on the role of housewife, too, but still had time to spare.

Her next-door neighbour who happened to be a TA infantry sergeant suggested she joined the numbers of Britain's part-time soldiers.

"I'd never worn uniform before except as a Brownie and I was dubious at first," she recalls. "Still, I definitely didn't want to do charity work. I wanted to do something for real. Like many members of the public I had not known that women could join the TA. Anyway, I joined the Tunbridge Wells squadron of 39 Signal regiment in the ranks.

"I was commissioned in 1975. They had asked me earlier if I would take a commission but I declined. I wanted to find out

more about this man's army. It was only fair.

"In the early days when I went on my fortnight's annual camp — yes, I've lived under canvas — my husband used to take his holidays at the same time to look after the children."

Pam got her break into the world of PR in 1977 as one —

**'I'm spoiled
to hell...
... and I
love it!'**

and the successful one — of three applicants for the vacant TA PR slot, joining simultaneously the dozen-strong UKLF pool of PR dispensers as the only woman.

A year later, she started her regular autumnal "commuting" to BAOR on exercises. Last year, for instance, she covered four consecutive exercises "don't ask me to remember the names, 'cos I can't" — when she found herself away from her Kent home for six weeks.

Over the years she has acquired her military driving licence, made a lot of new friends within NATO but still falls short on her German vocabulary.

"I think I must seriously make an effort to learn the language," she says with a laugh and flick of her shoulder-length hair. "I'm still struggling and can barely



"I've got the best job in the TA", says Pam at her desk.

string three words together. I'm spoilt to hell and I love it all — but I work for it. About 30 per cent of my life is dedicated to the TA but my family still comes first, my job second."

Even so, she still finds time as a director of an industrial cold store company and another involving agricultural buildings. Her speciality there is finance.

Promoted to major two years ago, Pam is known to the TA personnel in the south-east with whom she comes into contact mostly as "the PR lady".

And, on the subject of PR, its image and impact and the role of the TA officer in it she is quite adamant.

She stresses: "Besides writing news articles and arranging press facilities, the work of the TA press officer also entails giving lectures to both civilian institutions and military organisations such as courses and, of course, keeping in touch; keeping the TA in touch with the media in

their areas.

"It also involves taking your own photographs and, in some cases, developing and printing them and then marketing your package deal to whoever.

"It's just not a case of sitting behind a desk in some district's HQ. You have to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the media. A lot of local knowledge helps, too, and particularly knowledge of the TA. Ability can be taught but time and enthusiasm have to be put there.

"I try to visit my units at least once a year — that would be a 2000-mile round trip from Tunbridge Wells. That may not seem very much but combine that with everything else you are doing, that's quite a task."

Finally, 499823 Major Huggett, P.M. has just one further ambition — and that is to be a district TA colonel! A big goal, indeed, for a very determined and pragmatic "PR lady". ■

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Invite to fund raisers

Three main organisers of a WRAC fund-raising effort (left to right) Lance Corporal Tracy Dodd, Lieutenant Ann Jackson and Lance Corporal Trina Regan are pictured with Mr Gordon May, head of Leukaemia Research at the organisation's headquarters in London after presentation of a cheque for £404.50.

Twenty two girls from the WRAC centre at Guildford raised the money through a sponsored 24-mile walk — and in return Mr May suggested they visit him.



At a time when the British element of the peace-keeping force have come under fire for the first time (thankfully without injury at the time of writing) now seems a good time to pay tribute to the work of the men of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Keeping the peace anywhere is never easy and to say the least is an unenviable task so our men in Beirut, and their colleagues before them, deserve the highest praise.

This magazine frequently reports the sterling work done by servicemen and women everywhere in the field of charitable fund-raising — and this page and this issue is no different.

Long may this continue. Long may we remember their main role in life often spells discomfort, and sometimes danger.

★ ★ ★

Since the appearance of our last issue (SOLDIER 5 September) and John Walton's interesting article on the Balmoral Guard, we have had a number of queries asking if we can provide more information on the ceremonial history and tell readers a little more about the "Ballater Colour".

Firstly, the Royal Family acquired Balmoral in 1848.

The 1868 edition of the Queen's Regulations listed all Regimental Colours. Since

the list includes a special Colour for Guards of Honour in Dublin, it was felt reasonable to assume that, had the Ballater Colour existed at that time, it would also have been listed but it was not.

At one time, Regimental Colours were listed and described in Queen's Regulations but in 1873, that stopped. But until that date, the Ballater Colour had not been listed.

The earliest record of the Colour is still a photograph circa 1885.

Queen's Regulations 1894 list the Colour as "renewable when unserviceable".

So it seems safe to say that the Colour must have come into use some time between 1873 and the mid-1880's. There must have been a Guard of Honour to use the colour.

We are grateful to the Scottish United Services Museum for their assistance and the same thanks go to our colleagues in Headquarters Scotland.

Mind you, there may be readers who have done local research, who could help still further. In which case the Scottish United Services Museum at The Castle, Edinburgh, would be delighted to know.

Help SOLDIER to Help YOU

AS WE mentioned in the last issue (5 September) there are many ways in which contributors, Regular or Territorial Army, can help SOLDIER produce the sort of publication YOU want.

Below is a basic guide which we hope will be of mutual benefit. Similar guidance has been given in the past and we make no apology for doing so again because unit officers with responsibility for supplying material change . . . but the basic guidelines don't!

SPEED

. . . is essential. Notification of forthcoming events or reports themselves must reach Ordnance Road, Aldershot, as quickly as possible. It is little use, for example, sending splendid words and pictures three or four weeks after an event.

Unfortunately, this happens. Please remember SOLDIER tries very hard to be topical; not easy, and not helped by delay in sending material.

If material is to be posted from a United Kingdom location then please use first class mail with news reports. It also helps to give a telephone call, or send a signal warning of material on the way.

PERSONAL TOUCH

Please remember that many SOLDIER readers like Christian names — and use of first names is common newspaper practice. So please include them in the first mention. Corporal Fred Smith is much better than Cpl Smith.

Also it is better that correct unit nomenclature is used at the start — eg 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders, not 1 Q O Hldrs.

While people in the Army are well aware of their own abbreviations, others are not and much time can be saved in the SOLDIER office by cutting down on re-typing and re-writing. Ranks, too, should be given in full in the first instance.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Always welcomed in black and white, particularly if they are sharp, over 6in x 8in (15.2cm x 20.3cm) prints are preferred. Some form of action, rather than posed shots, is always preferable though it is accepted this is not always possible.

Though nearly all colour shots are taken by SOLDIER's own and other professionals, we

are always pleased to look at other colour slide efforts.

CAPTIONS

Please ensure every photograph carries a suitable caption — explaining "who, why, what, where, how". Captions should be attached to, and easily removable from the photo. If the picture goes with a story, then give the reference (eg see "IRISH GUARDS BIG DAY", reference number etc).

EASING THE TASK

Copy and captions, ideally, should be in typescript and double-spaced. The source of the material should also be clear, together with a name for possible follow-up contact with telephone number.

IF IN DOUBT — FIND OUT!

The staff of SOLDIER (See page three for names and telephone numbers) are delighted to help you with any problems regarding submission of stories and photographs and with talking over ideas for the future.



◀ Drills with 81mm mortar in camouflaged position.
Recce platoon lifting off in a Scout of 658 Squadron Army Air Corps. ▼

Exercise Flying Kukri sees "despot Marmaduke Walmo" suffering severe problems as . . .

10TH GURKHA RIFLES ENJOY THEIR BIG TEST

THAT DESPICABLE despot Marmaduke Walmo has been at it again; a dastardly dictator who has been beastly to the locals for a second time within four months on his tourist-haven Caribbean island of Lancia (see SOLDIER 13 June). On this occasion he had the mountain men of Nepal — the Gurkhas — to contend with. He lost — again.

The scenario, as before, was similar to its forerunner except that this time the protagonists on Exercise Flying Kukri were the men of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

They arrived in this country in May from Hong Kong, the battalion is the air portable element of 5 Infantry Brigade, and were taking part in their third major exercise before deployment to Belize for a six-month stint next month.

For them, it was the first time the whole battalion had been tested in its air portability role involving airlifts by helicopter and Hercules transport aircraft over four days amid the expanses of a bleak but fortunately benign Salisbury Plain.

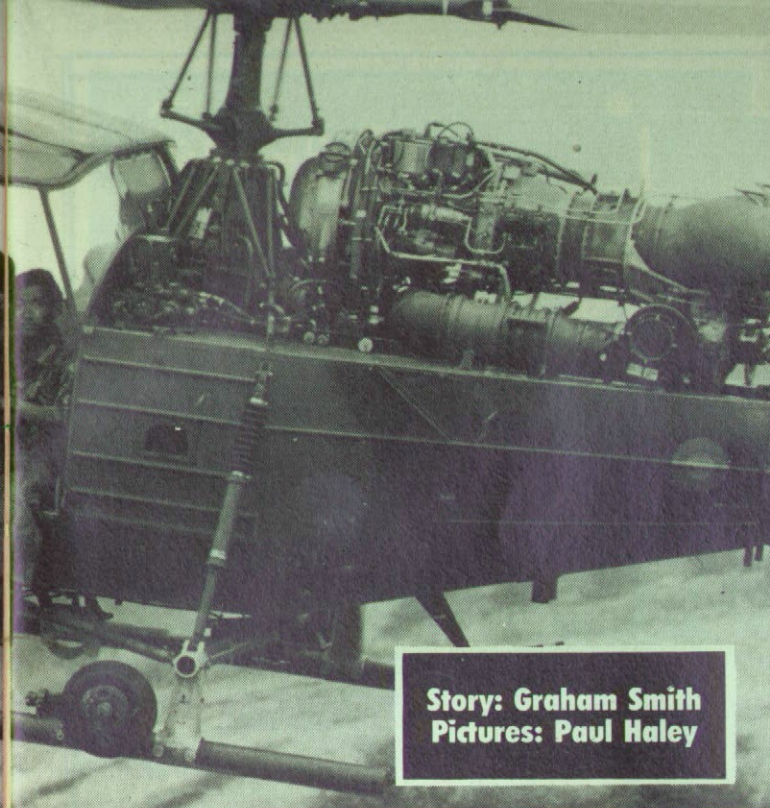
A company from the battalion had supplied the 'enemy' for the last logistic exercise — Fast Falcon — on the Plain. This time some 500 of them were involved in an exercise bringing in "G-play" and soldiers into action on the ground. It included a two-phase, two-week tactical work-up for the Gurkhas and ninety

per cent of the language used during its execution was Gurkhali.

The battalion had initially moved to South Cerney in Gloucestershire with its 70 or so vehicles, Land Rovers and four-tonne lorries, the latter later used to simulate Hercules as the men moved off from there to "Koble" or the former RAF Keevil on the island of "Antiba".

Highlight of the exercise, though, and one which well-pleased organisers and players alike was the airlift of 530 of the men and 35 of the Land Rovers and trailers by helicopter using the services and lifting capability of an RAF Strike Command tandem-rotored Chinook, two battlefield support Pumas, two Army Air Corps soldier-proof Scouts and a Gazelle. The whole operation took about five hours.

The 'enemy' were fielded by men of "A" Company, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, based at Tidworth. Also among the disaffected and dissi-



Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

dent with allegiance to Walmo were 19 members of the WRAC who were reported to have been found lurking, suitably "cammed up".

In May, it had been Flight Lieutenant Walmo. This time the Gurkhas had to find and flush out Air Chief Marshal Marmaduke Walmo who had since picked up a DSO and a host of other self-donated awards.

Events turned uglier than the first upheaval of four months before. A farmer and his wife were reportedly murdered and a dozen hostages were taken elsewhere but later liberated.

Estimates of the enemy were put at 120, including women.

Rebels had roamed the island countryside of the main island of Lancia but re-grouped later to lose about 20 of their number.

The Gurkhas mounted four Company operations against the Walmo factions and a battalion operation followed at the village of Imber on West Lancia. Then followed a 25-kilometre cross-country "tab" lasting seven hours, by night and in full kit, involving the whole battalion.

Elsewhere there was action against another location, using 81mm mortars, at the enemy stronghold of Weather Hill Farm defended by about 60 dissidents. They were routed in a couple of hours.

In the final phase of the exercise all 500 or so men were recovered from Upavon airfield in a 'hot extraction' by two Hercules flying three sorties each — in reality, from Upavon to Odiham.

But, to do it, the Gurkhas had to make a 4½-kilometre dash for the 90-minute non-stop airlift to

safety; their task was successful.

Among the backroom boys keeping the whole operation together were men like WO 2 Ian Gutteridge, of the Joint Helicopter Support Unit based at Farnborough who master-minded the movement of men and machines by helicopter; Chinooks coming in with two 1-tonne lorries, a trailer and 30 men at a time or three Land Rovers underslung their banana-shape bellies.

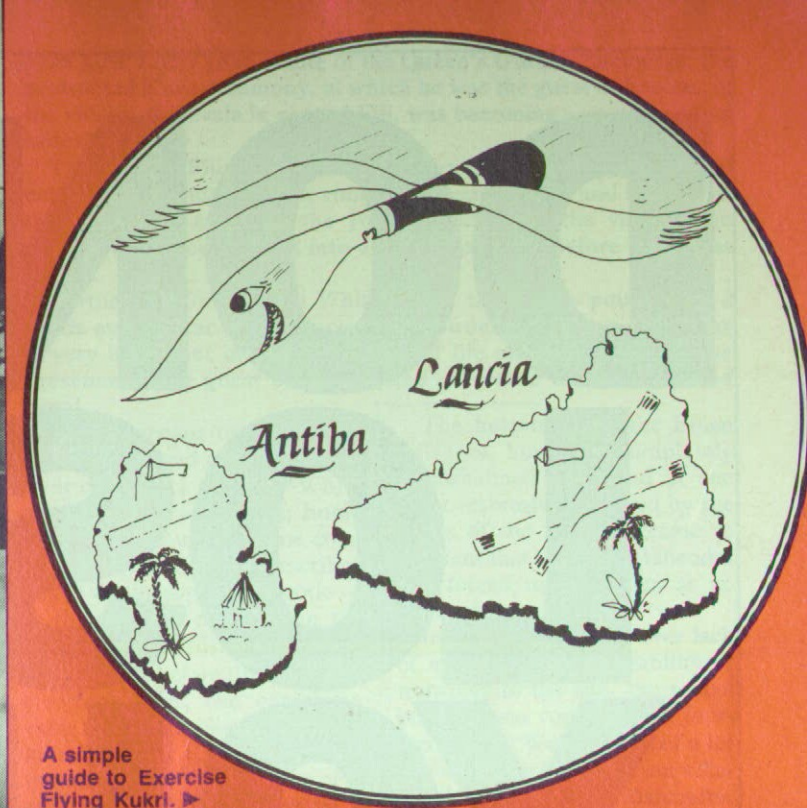
Prime female player for the 'enemy' was Captain Bridget Williams of 10 Company, WRAC, based at Aldershot, and rebel commander was played by Lieutenant Tim Clark, of "A" Company, 1 Glsters.

The man-in-the-Tower dealing with helicopter landings was WO 1 Stan "Motley" Matthews of the Mobile Air Operations Team (MAOT) based at HQ 38 Group, RAF Upavon.

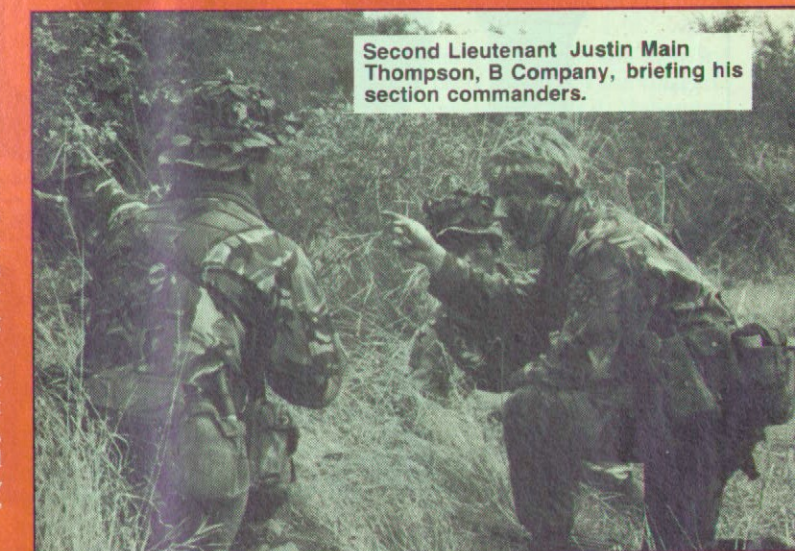
So, it seems, peace has returned to the sun-kissed Cariba Islands and tranquility restored to Lancia and Cariba. As for the wily Air Chief Marshal Walmo he, alas like the last time, seemed to slip the net and go into hiding somewhere in the safety of his gently undulating countryside divided by two rivers.

But has the last been heard of Walmo? As Major Nick Worthington the exercise planner confided: "Hopefully, we have. Hopefully, too, it will be a situation where locals and tourists can live together happily ever after."

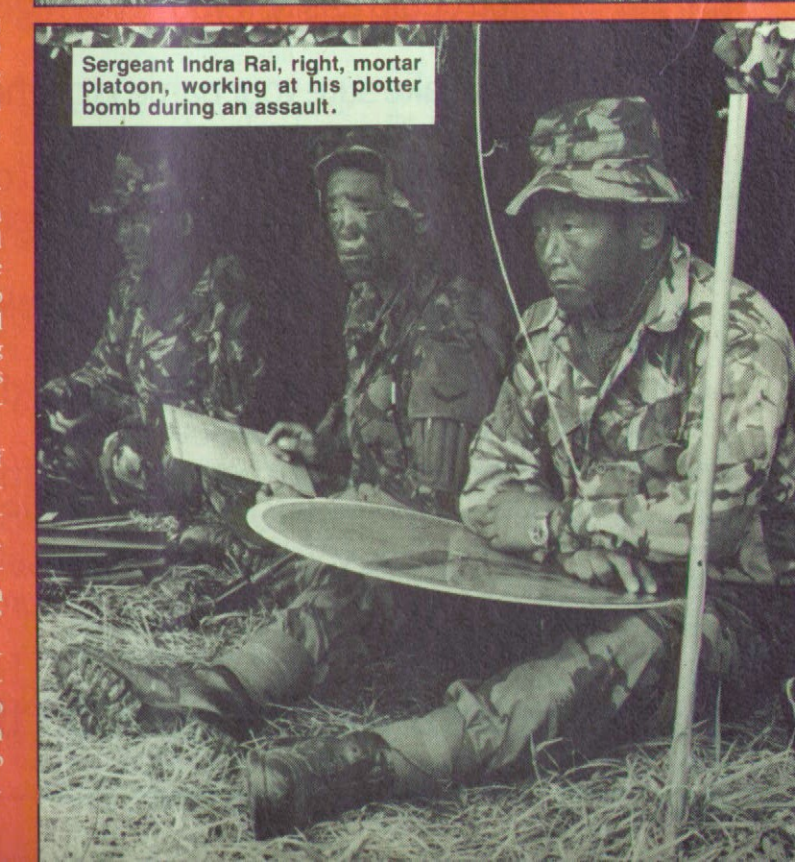
The men of 5 Infantry Brigade, an elite unit with an out-of-area responsibility are not so sure. Yet if there is more strife in the coral-strewn island group they do know they will be ready.



A simple guide to Exercise Flying Kukri. ▶



Second Lieutenant Justin Main Thompson, B Company, briefing his section commanders.



Sergeant Indra Rai, right, mortar platoon, working at his plotter bomb during an assault.

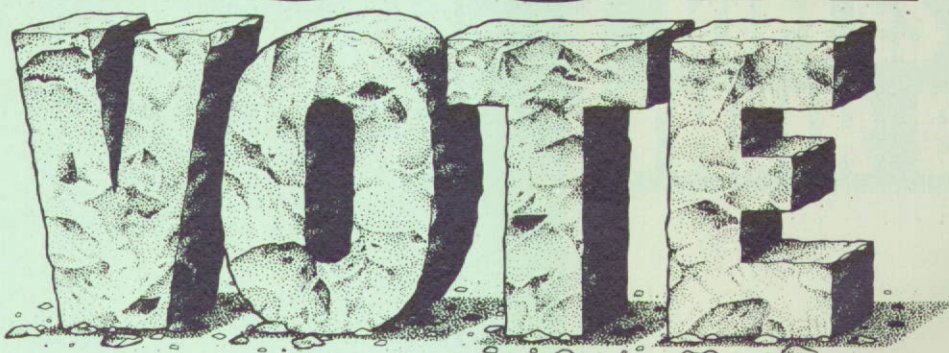


◀ Lieutenant Colonel Mark Crook, CO 10th Gurkha Rifles.



'ET' of 7 Squadron RAF lifted about 70 vehicles and trailers during the insertion part of the operations.

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
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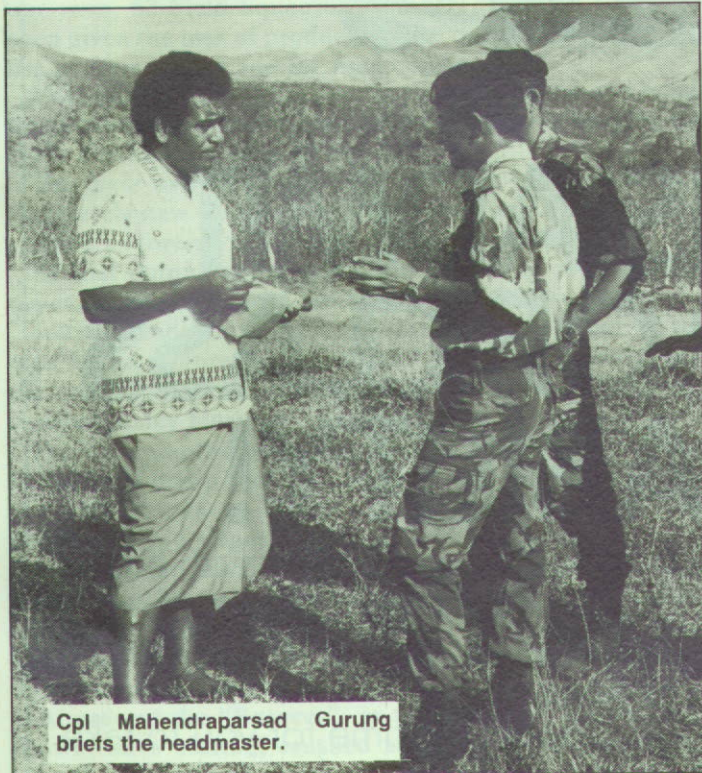
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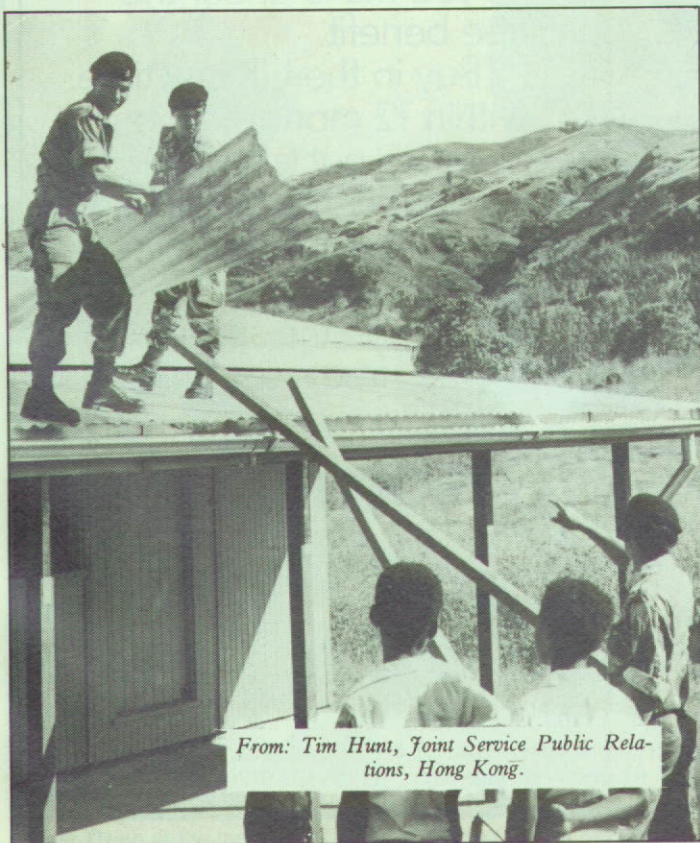
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Sappers in Fiji relief work



Cpl Mahendraparsad Gurung briefs the headmaster.

Roofing materials go on as the schoolroom nears completion.



From: Tim Hunt, Joint Service Public Relations, Hong Kong.

FOR CAPTAIN John White of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, the protracted Kava ceremony, at which he was the guest of honour, in the village of Navala in central Fiji, was becoming something of an ordeal.

Throughout Fiji the drinking of Kava is a common ceremonial custom. It is made from the root of the pepper plant and in the past the drink was made by the young maidens of the village who chewed the pieces of root into a soft pulpy mess before water was added.

Fortunately for Captain White, today the root is pounded in a pestle and mortar until it becomes a powder! The Kava ceremony is very important in the Fijian way of life and it is mixed in the presence of the guest of honour and presented in a complicated ritual.

For Europeans unused to sitting cross-legged on the floor for over an hour, Captain White found that he was going numb from the legs up, and one common effect of Kava — described in the dictionary as a narcotic — is that you go numb from the mouth downwards!

However, before final oblivion overtook him, the ceremony came to its conclusion and he was able to leave the committee's thatched 'bure' to attend the next part of the village's celebration in his honour, a 'meke', or tribal dance performed by the school-boys of Navala who would now benefit from the efforts of the Gurkha soldiers of B Troop, 67 Squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers, based in Hong Kong.

The Engineers flew from Hong Kong to Fiji in order to support the limited war training of 'A' Company 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, a part of the professional soldiers' training which is not possible in Hong Kong.

However, the most important duties for 'B' Troop were in conjunction with the Royal Fiji Military Forces away from the exercise areas and up in the Fijian heartland, an area of hilly terrain where the people of the sparsely spread villages still live a hand to mouth existence and where school facilities are still far from adequate. On top of this, Hurricane Oscar hit Fiji in March this year and ravaged large tracts of the island destroying crops and buildings.

Navala, one and a half hour's drive along bone shattering dirt tracks from the base camp at Lautoka, is a beautiful traditional Fijian village entirely constructed of thatched 'bures', and it was here that the Engineers had been asked to construct a raised school room alongside the present school buildings which were unable to cater adequately for the two hundred who attend each day.

Under the supervision of Corporal Mahendraparsad Gurung, a qualified surveyor, a small party of Gurkha engineers worked and lived on their own on the site so that no time was wasted in completing the school building.

The hospitality of the Fijian villagers, however, completely overwhelmed them and at one point teabreaks organised by the ladies of the village became so frequent that Corporal Mahendra was forced to stop them as no work was getting done!

In spite of problems over lack of materials and unreliability of transport to the site, the school building was completed in fourteen days. "We felt we had a lot in common with the Fijian villagers", said Corporal Mahendra. "We got on extremely well with them."

After a mammoth and memorable party thrown by the villagers of Navala, Corporal Mahendra travelled deeper into the Fijian countryside to advise Corporal Mohankumar Gurung who, with a reinforced team of Gurkha engineers was starting to re-build a school at the village of Mbukuya which was devastated by Hurricane Oscar.

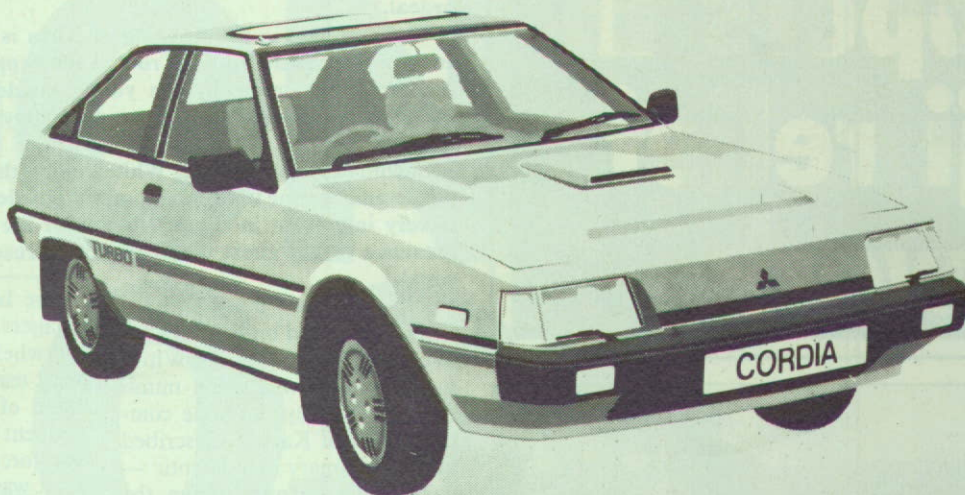
With the additional manpower, and the expertise gained from Navala the two Corporals managed between them to cut the construction time at Mbukuya from two weeks to just five days.

"It obviously was a great pleasure to us to see the appreciation that the villagers felt when they saw the new school buildings", said Captain John White, "at the same time the training value for the boys in their various trades was enormous. We would all love to do it again."

For Captain White's Troop, Fiji was an especially busy time. Quite apart from the construction work in the villages, his team had to install ten new showers at the base camp giving the men a total of sixteen shower units. Even these were shaped among over one hundred and thirty men.

In addition, two plant operators were loaned to the Royal Fijian Military Forces to drive bulldozers for two weeks on a route clearance project, while Warrant Officer Mike Suttill, the Clerk of Works, spent a week advising Engineers from the Royal Fijian Military Forces on trade training.

"We all have a wealth of memories from the trip", said Captain White. ■



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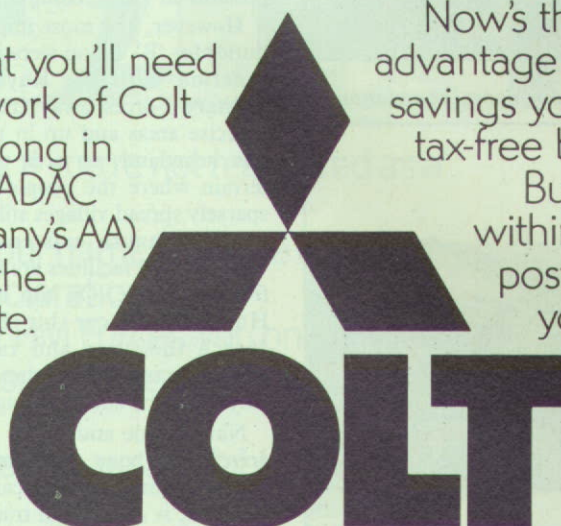
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Engineers winning non-stop fight

WHAT DO you get when you send bricklayers, carpenters, electricians and plumbers 8,000 miles from their home base at Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire down to the Falklands? Answer — a dedicated quarry crew turning their Army skills towards producing selected stone from giant rocks.

The work is of course completely different and a great professional challenge to 48 Field Squadron (Construction) Royal Engineers, based at Stanley.

Since arriving in the Falklands to replace fellow construction men, 52 Field Squadron (see **SOLDIER** 13 June) has been given the task of producing large quantities of stone for use as foundations and for road construction.

Vast quantities of stone have been required and as a result the Sappers have had to work around the clock keeping the stone crushers going in all weathers.

On their arrival the task of working a quarry was a completely new venture to the squadron, and the equipment seemed as foreign as the new demands.

At first output was slow, as the amount of rock crushed depended on the size of the blast used in the quarry.

Initially under a ton of explosives was used, but as the men became more proficient the tonnage increased. Now the roar of five tons of explosives can be heard regularly across Stanley Harbour.

Once blasted the rock is transported by giant Volvo dump trucks to the two Goliath crushers. These devices, affectionately known as "Rose" and "Val" process the raw material in two stages — primary and secondary.

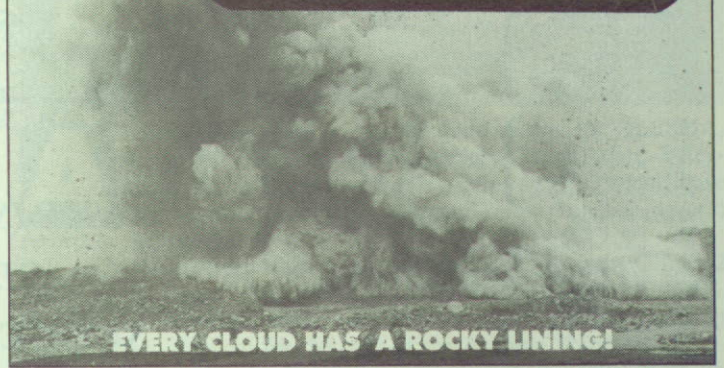
The former machine breaks down the rock into large stones and then at the next stage it is further broken down into usable selected rock which can be loaded into dump trucks for delivery to the appropriate work sites, of which there are plenty around Stanley.

At present the "Beavers", as the squadron is sometimes known, have blasted, crushed and distributed over 60,000 tons of rocks, stones and sand.



Sapper Owen at the controls of a drill preparing for the next blast.

FALKLANDS FILE



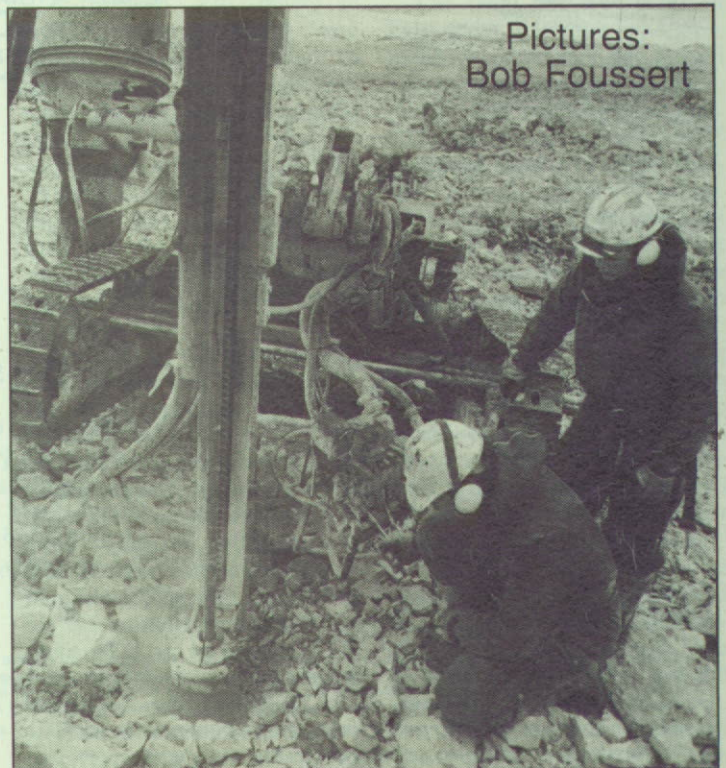
EVERY CLOUD HAS A ROCKY LINING!

A massive cloud rises from the Stanley quarry as five tons of explosive 'free' the rock — and send debris flying.



This is what it is all about... Corporal Steve Gateley with the large sample before rock-crushing, and a handful of the finished product!

Pictures:
Bob Foussert



Sapper Tim Dove, left, and Sapper Martin Owen drilling into rock.

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S16	RAA (Navy)		5.43	5.01
S16A	RAA (Black)		6.03	5.33
S16B	RA Badge (Navy)	} Gold and Silver Wire Pocket Sized	6.43	5.78
S16C	RA Badge (Black)		6.43	5.78
S17	RA Cypher (Navy)		6.43	5.78
S17A	RA Cypher (Black)		5.03	4.65

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S36	Brass Flat Gun Mounted (Small)		2.43	2.25
S37	Brass Flat Engraved Cypher (Large)		2.58	2.33
S38	Brass Flat Engraved Cypher (Small)		2.58	2.33
S76	Brass Flat Engraved RA Badge (Large)	} each	1.28	1.20
S77	Brass Flat Engraved RA Badge (Small)		1.28	1.20

CAP BADGE

S104	RA Small	1.33	1.29
S104A	RA Large	1.13	1.12

CAR BADGE

S112	RA Cypher	3.22	3.54
S112A	RA Badge	2.72	3.11
P42A	Self Adhesive — RA Badge	0.88	0.83

COMBS

S12	Comb in Blue Leather Case with RA Badge	1.38	1.38
S12A	Comb in Brown Leather Effect Case with RA Badge and Cypher	1.13	1.07

CONFERENCE FOLDER (RA Cypher)

P15A	with Paper Clip and Pocket	5.23	6.05
P61	with A4 Pad	3.08	4.19

CUFF LINKS

S44	Gilt RA Badge on Red Enamel Shield with gilt surround. Torpedo fitting.	per pair	2.28	2.25
S45	RA Badge on Blue Oval. Enamel finish. Torpedo fitting	per pair	5.48	4.83
S46A	Hard Gold plated on Metal Cuff Links. Embossed RA Gun Badge		13.28	12.30

DIARIES (Pocket RA Cypher)

P60A	Diary Cover	0.90	1.11
P60B	1984 Refill	0.73	0.90
P60C	Memo Sheets	0.48	0.73
P60D	Road Map	0.83	0.99
P60E	Telephone Index	0.48	0.68

DESK MEMO TRAYS (RA Badge)

P62		1.41	1.70
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FLASKS (RA BADGE)

S10	Hip Flask 4 oz. Blue Leather Case	8.67	8.17
S10A	Hip Flask 6 oz. Blue Leather Case	10.12	9.70

RA BAND RECORDS

S81	RA Band (Happy Music)	} 4.03	4.52
S81H	RA Orchestra (It's Music Everwhere)		
S81K	Alanbrooke Band (The Adventurer)		

CAR KEY RINGS

S51	RA Badge — Leather tab (tan)	} 0.98	1.12
S51A	RA Badge — Leather tab (Black)		

MODEL FIGURES

S134	Powder Soldier in IS Dress (RA Crested)	13.51	12.40
S134A	Powder Soldier in Combat Dress (RA Crested)	13.51	12.40
S134AA	Powder Soldier in Combat Dress (Beret)	13.51	12.40
S134B	Powder Drum Major on wood base — Modern Era	14.05	13.18
S134C	Painted Trumpeter RA	19.30	17.51
S134D	Powder Soldier with Riot Gun	12.96	12.41
S134E	Powder Soldier with Riot Shield	14.51	12.79
S136	Porcelain Figure RA Officer Circa 1815	58.00	58.00
S136A	Porcelain Figure Drum Major Circa 1840	62.50	62.50
S136B	Porcelain Figure RHA Officer Circa 1970	58.00	58.00
S136C	Porcelain Figure Officer. Train of Artillery 1700	62.50	62.50
S138	RHA Bronze Figure	39.95	35.95
S139	RA Bronze Figure	39.95	35.95
S140	Bombay Horse Artillery	39.95	35.95
S141	Northern Ireland RA Bronze Figure	39.95	35.95
S142	Northern Ireland RHA Bronze Figure	39.95	35.95

MODEL GUNS

Plated and mounted on black base

S78	105mm Pack Howitzer (Scale 1/2)	18.25	16.80
S82	Abbot SP (Scale 1/96)	18.25	16.80
S83	M109 SP (Scale 1/96)	16.35	15.21
S89	Abbot SP (Scale 1/48)	44.19	Rates on request
S90	18 Pdr. (Scale 1/48)	18.25	16.80
S91	Butors. (Scale 1/96)	15.42	13.57
S135	105mm Lt. Gun (Scale 1/96)	20.30	18.65

Unmounted Guns

S75	Silver Plated Georgian Cannon	6.38	6.68
S98	Metal Waterloo Cannon 6 Pdr.	Rates on request	Rates on request
S100	Metal Waterloo Cannon 9 Pdr.	Rates on request	Rates on request

S69	PAPER KNIFE (Steel with RA Cypher)	1.98	2.10
S11	POKER DICE in Blue Leather Case with RA Badge	2.23	2.20
S41	SCARF	9.47	8.75

SHIELDS

S18	Valiant — Raised Gun Badge on curved edges	8.33	8.28
S19	Valiant — Raised Gun Badge on normal design	8.33	8.28
S84C	Heraldic — Painted on Red background with scroll on normal design	9.03	8.33

S43	SPECTACLE CASE — Leather Effect Case with RA Gun Badge and Cypher	1.28	1.17
S25	SWEATER — Courtelle. Blue V-neck RA Cypher	15.53	14.00

SWISS ARMY KNIFE with RA Badge

S31	Picnic Knife	5.72	5.37
S32	Campers Knife	8.77	8.07

TANKARDS

S59	Glass — 1 Pint — RA Cypher in circle	10.57	11.20
S70	Pewter — 1 Pint — RA Badge	9.88	10.49
S71	Pewter — 1 Pint — RA Badge	8.11	8.50
S120	Pewter — 1 Pint — Engraved RA Cypher	23.08	22.18
S72	Stoneware Tankard — 1 Pint — RA Badge	8.57	9.06
S73	Stoneware Tankard — 1 Pint — RA Badge	6.02	6.25



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Home £, Surface Mail £, Abroad £

S130	TIE PIN — Gold RA Grenade	16.18	14.68
S28	TIE TACK — RA Badge	0.88	1.03

TIES

S47	RAA — RA Cypher on Blue — 4" blade	4.13	3.83
S63	RAA — RA Cypher on Blue — 3" blade	3.48	3.55
S63A	RA — 250th Anniversary — RA Cypher CCL on blue	4.33	4.30
S64	RA Regimental — 3" blade	3.03	2.98
S64A	RA Regimental — 4" blade	3.63	3.68
S66	RA Single RA Cypher on blue — 3" blade	1.13	1.52

WALLETS

S105	Black Leather — RA Badge — for notes	6.93	6.11
S105A	Wallet — Cash Hip or Shirt Pocket — RA Cypher	6.93	6.11
S106	Brown Leather — RA Cypher — for Passport/Cash cards. NOT notes	5.32	5.03

FOR HER

BRACELET CHARMS

S47	Silver Medallion — St. Barbara	3.73	3.51
S47A	Silver Medallion — RA Badge	6.73	6.17
S49B	Gold Plated Medallion — RA Badge	12.33	11.10
S49C	Gold Plated Medallion — St. Barbara	12.33	11.10
S48	Gun Replica — Silver	9.33	8.48
S50	Gun Replica — Gold	67.09	Rates on request

S50A Gun Replica — Gold Plated

		9.43	8.57
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BROOCHES

S79	RA Badge — Sterling Silver with Marcasite Laurel surround	16.81	15.16
S80	RA Badge — Sterling Silver and Marcasite	18.51	16.80
S80A	RHA Cypher — Sterling Silver and Marcasite	15.06	13.77
S128	RA Grenade — Sterling Silver and Marcasite	16.16	14.12
S111	RA Badge — gilt on brooch fitting	1.33	1.25

S110 COMPACT — RA Badge on lid

		5.81	5.40
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S30 Pin Brooch — RA Badge

		0.58	0.55
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EARRINGS

S125	RA Grenade — Silver and Marcasite — screw fitting	12.26	11.30
S126	RA Grenade — Silver and Marcasite — pierce fitting	12.26	11.30

S39 HEADSQUARE — Navy blue — RA Cypher in one corner

		3.93	3.81
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S6 HANDBAG MIRROR — Blue Leather case — RA Cypher

		1.52	1.67
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S7 CHILDREN'S LEATHER BADGE — Gun Badge — suitably holed for sewing

		0.48	0.50
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PILLBOX

S42	Porcelain Box RA Badge — BLACK	4.91	4.55
S42A	Porcelain Box RA Badge — COLOURED	6.41	5.86

S68 ZIP PURSES — Brown Leather Effect with RA Gun Badge and Cypher

		1.43	1.30
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FOR THE HOME

S108 ADDRESS TELEPHONE BOOK (Large) Blue RA Cypher

		5.38	5.72
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S109 ADDRESS BOOK (Small) Blue RA Cypher

		3.31	3.39
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ASH TRAYS

S1	Glass Black. RA Badge	1.41	1.59
S1A	Glass Blue. RA Badge	1.41	1.59
S2	Glass Blue. RA Cypher	1.41	1.59
S33	Glass — Large Mounted on Rubber Base with RA Cypher	9.52	10.38

S40 BOOKMARK — Blue Leather. RA Badge

		0.78	0.82
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S129 CLOTHES BRUSH — RA Cypher on Blue Leather

		3.22	3.45
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ICE BUCKET AND TONGS

S92	RA Drum Replica	15.04	15.03
S92A	Tongs — Engraved RA Cypher	8.61	7.85

S143 MAGNETIC PAPER CLIP/PIN DISPENSER

		1.26	1.59
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S107 PVC Coasters RA Badge — Red

		each	0.58
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S107A PVC Coasters RA Badge — Blue

		each	0.58
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MATS TABLE

S87	Blue Melamine RA Cypher in Gold size 9 1/2" x 7 1/2"	5.78	5.56
S88	Blue Melamine RA Cypher in Gold size 11 1/2" x 8 1/2"	7.20	6.66
S93B	RA Badge Gold and Red on Blue Perspex Covered size 9 1/2" x 7 1/2"	3.98	3.65

S34 PAPERWEIGHT with RA Cypher

		12.06	11.49
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SILVER PLATE

S118	Wine Goblet with engraved RA Cypher	13.08	12.37
S119	Water Goblet with engraved RA Cypher	15.27	14.42
S112	Liqueur Goblet with engraved RA Cypher	7.45	6.78

TEA TOWELS (Irish Linen)

S85	The Royal Regiment of Artillery	1.67	1.85
S85B	Guns & Gunners. Yesterday and Today	1.67	1.85
S85C	Gunner Animals	1.67	1.85

S60 WINE GLASS — RA Cypher in circle

		7.88	7.98
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GENERAL

BAGS

S152	Canvas — RHA Horse Team — Red	} each	2.20	2.42
S153	Canvas — RHA Horse Team — Blue			
S150	Hessian/Jute — RA Badge — Red		1.07	1.31
S151	Hessian/Jute — RA Badge — Black			

DINNER CARDS etc.

P63	Menu with Gold RA Cypher	per 50	3.75	4.43
P20	Place with Gold RA Cypher	per 100	6.05	6.03
S58	Serviettes — Paper with RED RA Cypher	per 100	1.78	2.30
P25	REGIMENTAL BADGE — TAYFOIL Print 10" x 8"		1.43	1.30

STATIONERY

P48C	Notebook — Head Opening — Blue with RA Badge and telephone index	1.13	1.25
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S23 Black base Pen Holder with Gun Badge and Biro Pen

		2.31	2.65
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S21/22 Biro Pen — Blue or Red — with Floating 25 Pdr. Limber and Quad — state colour

**Writer SALLY DANIELL and
picture editor LES WIGGS
look at a very special
charitable effort and learn
that . . .**

Marathon Record clinching needs marathon back-up

AFTER three years' successful fund raising for BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, 7 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery's efforts on their behalf have now become tradition if not legend. Now they have a world record to their credit!

It all began in 1981 when at the instigation of Warrant Officer 2 Paddy Kelly, Battery Sergeant Major of F (Sphinx) Battery, 7 RHA, two 75mm Howitzers were towed from the regiment's base at Osnabrück to Arnhem for the start of the Arnhem March.

The money collected paid for a specially adapted invalid car for ex-Gunner Len Clarke, a veteran of the action at Arnhem, who was severely wounded and lost a leg during the battle.

In 1982 enough money was raised to buy another car after members of the Battery ran a 1000 mile relay from Osnabrück to Barrow-in-Furness linking two factories involved in the production of the Field Howitzer 70 with which 7 RHA is equipped.

This year, in terms of both physical achievement and fund raising, the battery set about their most ambitious challenge yet — a non-stop run from Land's End to John o'Groats and back again in an attempt to set a world record. (See SOLDIER 8 August.)

Their aim was to raise enough money to buy three of the special cars for BLESMA members and, with the target set at £25,000, any funds left over are destined for Action Aid which specialises in the education and training of children in Third World countries.

As the team — 10 runners (all cross-country runners and BAOR champions) and 16 admin/back-up pals — left Germany, the total amount collected stood at £14,000 plus which is just enough to buy the cars from Vauxhall at cost price. With what the team has collected on the road and the appeal still open until the end of September, the organisers hope at least to hit the £20,000 mark.

Planning for this event began a year ago and the runners' training was stepped up intensively six weeks before the start. Overall fitness was not a worry since all the runners, whilst not up to Ovett and Coe standard were in good condition following the BAOR Cross-country Championships. What was needed was for the runners to be mentally prepared to run an average of 170 miles and have the stamina to complete a marathon daily.

Throughout the seven-day trek, each runner did a 15 minute stint on the road averaging six

minutes 13 seconds a mile, every two and half hours during the day and two 30 minute stints during the night to allow about four and a half hours night rest.

Rest and sleep were taken on the main convoy vehicle — a coach provided free by Sam's Luxury Coach Travel of Osnabrück. Sam, an ex-Warrant Officer in the British Army, also donated £1000 to cover the team's expenses as well as the Ford Fiesta, the main prize in the fund raising raffle.

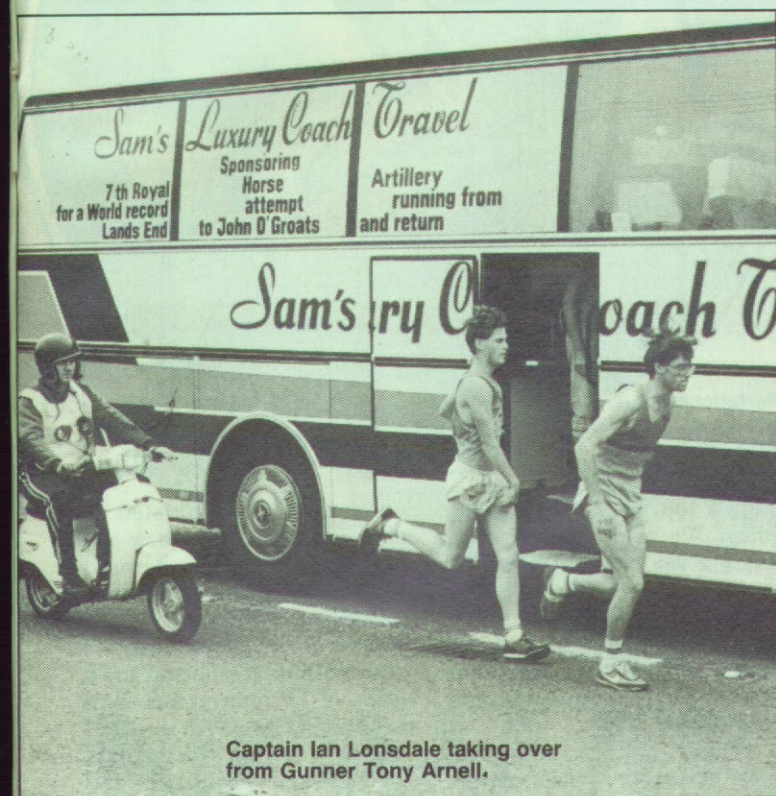
Organiser and Officer-in-charge, Captain Nigel Jackson said: "I am aware of Sam's generosity without which we couldn't have done this exercise. It means that every penny donated can go direct to the charities because of Sam's benevolence. He's been incredibly good to us and we are very grateful to him."

The team has also received help from Vauxhall who provided two escort cars, and Suzuki who have lent them two motorcycles to ride behind the runner. "The main purpose of these," explained Sergeant Paul (or 'Por-kie') Summers, "is for safety. Sometimes we do pace the runner if he's tiring, but mostly our job is to look for hazards on the road, getting him safely through junctions and over roundabouts."

"It's particularly useful having the motorcycles at night when the runner can't see what's up ahead. The beam from the lights shows up holes and dips in the road, pavements, cattle grids and all sorts of things that in daylight you can see easily."

SOLDIER met up with the convoy and runners on the road between Worcester and Gloucester on the way back from John o'Groats. This was Day Six and the strain was beginning to tell. Despite the relative comforts of the coach — mattresses, Mars

continued on page 22



Captain Ian Lonsdale taking over from Gunner Tony Arnell.



Captain Lonsdale pounds the A38 near Bristol.



Perfunctory ablutions from a bucket!

Time to relax.

bars, fridge, toilet, books and Sony 'Walkmen' — everyone was tired and looking forward to the finish.

This was a low period when the euphoria of the start had long been forgotten, the days had dragged into 'just one long run' and there was still a lot of running to do before they reached Land's End. A bout of gastroenteritis had taken its toll a day or two earlier. Spirits were no longer terribly willing and the flesh was definitely weakening.

"I think the worst bit," said Gunner Martin Fozzard, "is that second half hour at night when you're woken up to go on your stint and you can't believe it's your turn again. Or else the first run of the morning when you're stiff and cold.

"The best part is when you're going through the towns. It makes you go faster when people are watching you and we all like to show off a bit!"

A marathon run like this does not pass without its hitches and it was the admin party largely who suffered these. Not surprisingly the cars broke down and they

had their fair share of punctures, too. Feeding and showering 26 people on the move is not an easy business and some establishments do not take too kindly to a party descending on them without warning for breakfast.

But on the whole people were helpful, with Police stations, TA Drill Halls and even private householders providing the use of their cooking and washing facilities.

Never far away from the admin party was the collecting tin which they rattled discreetly but to good effect.

"They say you learn a lot about yourself on things like this," Captain Jackson told SOLDIER, "but you also learn a lot about other people. It's quite interesting seeing what sort of people like to give to charity and how much they give.

"We've certainly had a good response from young people as well as old. In fact it tends to be the 25-35 age group with 2.4 children who don't put their hands in their pockets very much.

"We in the Admin party have

quite a job keeping everything going. We have the dual challenge, if you like, of supporting the runners and trying to meet all their demands — after all, they're the ones doing all the work — whilst at the same time remembering our commitment to raise funds.

"There's a bit of conflict between us and the runners who are just concentrating on their own efforts, but on the whole we have all got on well enough.

"We are all very stretched physically and mentally — this is not a jog but a hard run. But you don't set world records in 1983 without some pain. We all accept this because we believe in the charities we are raising money for."

Land's End at last, and the

round run was completed in seven days, six hours, three minutes and six seconds. A world record has been set and the team are looking for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

Comedian Frank Carson and a battery of TV cameras met them as they reached their goal "elated," reported Captain Jackson, "followed by exhaustion and now we're all punch-drunk!"

On hearing that the record had been set, the Deputy General Secretary of BLESMA, Mr Ray Holland said the battery's efforts had been "magnificent".

"We are very proud to be associated with Sphinx Battery. The donations to our members are tremendously generous gifts and we think this has been a sterling effort." ■

Sleeping time in the back of the coach.



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S23



THE MORE I investigate the problems of Service wives claiming Unemployment Benefit overseas, the more baffled I become.

What should be a fairly simple system to follow seems, at each step, to become more complicated, difficult and frustrating both overseas in the EEC countries and also here at home in UK.

I visited both the DHSS and the Department of Employment earlier this year and was able, from the letters you have sent me, to present a detailed picture of the difficulties that you have encountered in your quests for benefit. The DHSS are to keep me informed of the progress they make in simplifying and clarifying procedures for claims.

It is not generally known how important the Department of Employment's role is in the initial stages of your claim for Unemployment Benefit under the EEC reciprocal agreement.

SYMPATHETIC

They were sympathetic when I presented evidence that some of the latest leaflets still had not reached some areas and when I pointed out the problems this, and the lack of cross-references with DHSS leaflets, caused Service wives. They have since taken steps to amend their UBL22 leaflet so that it reflects advice given in the DHSS leaflet FB5. They are also issuing fresh instructions to help their benefit office staff to deal with enquiries from Service dependants going overseas.

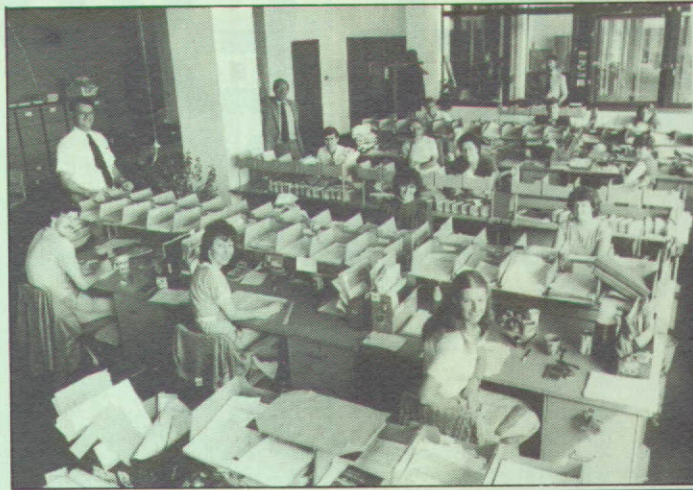
However, remembering that you might be the only Service claimant at your local office, YOU must know the procedure as well. Make sure you know exactly what to do and when to do it so that your claim doesn't founder at the beginning. Even if you are later found to have no entitlement to benefit for one reason or another, things will move more easily and efficiently if you take the right basic steps from the start.

The golden rule is to sign on here in the United Kingdom between four weeks-two working days prior to your departure date, and sign on within seven days of arrival.

Anne Armstrong

Smile please!

The human face of the DHSS Overseas Branch.



We are trying to decide whether I should be taxed separately from my husband, particularly as I am due a rise soon. How can we find out what is the base-line that we should work from?

Mrs L, Colchester.

An election for separate taxation will not normally be worthwhile unless your combined income (before deduction of allowances and reliefs) is at least £19,337 on 1982/83 figures.

You should ask for Inland Revenue leaflets 13 '1982/83 Income Tax Wife's Earnings Election', IR32 'Income Tax Separate Assessment' and IR31 'Income Tax and Married Couples'. These are available from your local Inland Revenue Office or, if you are overseas, Inquiry Service Unit, Room 7 New Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB.

Are Ssafo still running their special escort services? I have heard good reports.

Mrs K, BFPO 31

Yes, Mrs K, the two individual services in London and Glasgow are flourishing but Ssafo, like so many good things, seeks little publicity.

The Glasgow service escorts unaccompanied wives and families as well as unaccompanied schoolchildren who are travelling to join families overseas, particularly those travelling to and from Benbecula. They even have a representative in Birmingham who will help travellers negotiate the train change to Luton.

Children travelling to and from Benbecula often need overnight accommodation as there is only one mid-day flight and the Ssafo service will arrange

this as well as collecting the children and taking them to the airport for the flight. A small charge is made.

The London escort service does not cater for unaccompanied schoolchildren but deals mainly with unaccompanied Service wives and families who cannot manage to cross London on their own. The service is free but a donation to Ssafo funds is always welcome and, of course, the family must pay their own fares.

ADDRESSES: Glasgow Service: ring or write — Mrs J. C. McLean, SSAFA, 1 Fitzroy Place, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G3 7RJ (041 221 7251/2). London: SSAFA Escort Service: 27 Queen Anne's Gate; London SW1 01-222 9221.

ASK ANNE

I have received answers to a couple of questions that were worrying some of you with reference to certain aspects of present NAAFI policy.

A representative from Scotland asked about an illustrated toy brochure for Christmas toys at NAAFI Annual General Meeting held earlier this year and I was asked to raise the problem of after-sales

service on durables, such as washing machines, bought during a tour in Germany, which wives found difficult to arrange once they had returned home. NAAFI replied as follows:

"The question of an illustrated colour brochure of toys for units' Christmas party orders has been investigated fully by HQ NAAFI and, regrettably, it is confirmed that because the range of toys is so wide a catalogue or brochure would not be viable.

"HQ NAAFI confirm that arrangements have been made in BAOR for additional wording to be printed on the label affixed to durable goods which exhorts customers to retain the packaging of durable goods for use when posted.

"The wording will contain an invitation to customers to contact their local NAAFI manager in BAOR before returning to UK for details of British servicing agents. It is to be hoped that this will remove causes for complaint regarding after-sales service of goods purchased from NAAFI."

I was most interested to see that the Army Arts and Crafts Society has been revived. This is a most encouraging sign as I'm sure many of us have been aware for some time now how much talent we harbour in our midst.

As an Army wife myself for nigh on 21 years I know there has been much evidence that an association like this is much needed — congratulations!

I would, however, like to bring to your attention another aspect of the Arts — music. The three Services accommodate a wealth of extremely gifted musicians, singers, songwriters and composers and I have been personally involved in promoting all forms of music in Germany, Holland and Britain for the past three or four years.

Video and TV has completely changed the known social life of the Forces and their families but it is gratifying to note that there has been a general change of attitudes and requirements recently. The more discerning Messes and Clubs have been demanding good 'live' entertainment.

There seems to be a need to participate as well as sitting back and being amused. People want to be creative and 'make music' and this of course should be encouraged. Some people, of course, are luckier than others and are attached to a Regiment that has a folk or music club where beginners and semi-professionals are given a chance to perform before a sympathetic and interested audience.

These clubs also book UK artists but nonetheless find it a constant struggle to keep open for many are not officially sponsored. In some cases — due to a lack of cooperation and/or understanding and foresight — clubs have actually had to close down. It would certainly be a step forward if the 'powers that be' could see their way clear to sponsoring these clubs officially and thus making them an established part of Service life on a par, for example, with existing drama clubs.

I also believe that we should

DID YOU KNOW?

NEARLY 200 INDEPENDENT schools offer financial concessions to children whose parents serve in the Armed Forces.

These concessions are in addition to the MoD Boarding Schools Allowance and are offered by schools who are members of the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS). They vary from five per cent to as much as over 50 per cent in some cases.

ISIS is a non-profit making organisation and the official centre of information about independent schools in Britain. It is sponsored by the leading associations representing independent schools and its members have first had to satisfy their membership requirements by being either recognised by the Government as efficient or being accredited by the Independent Schools Joint Council.

For more information, you should telephone 01-222 0801/0065.

make the most of the talents within our own ranks instead of leaving ourselves open to the blatant exploitation by some of the 'Entertainment Agencies' cowboys who charge exorbitant rates for inferior, second-rate bands, groups and cabarets for functions. Why not compile a list of artists from within the Services who, through personal recommendation or reputation, are up to the required standard. This way Messes, Clubs and schools are guaranteed a high standard of entertainment at reasonable prices and the artists have the satisfaction of actually playing before an audience and gaining valuable experience.

Which brings me back to the Army Arts and Crafts Society . . . It would be marvellous to be able to unite musicians and performers with the aim of eventually amalgamating the two Societies and establishing a truly creative Arts society within the Army.

Mrs Valda Hood, Herford.

CARAVAN SHOW

HRH THE PRINCESS Michael of Kent will open the Caravan Camping Holiday Show at Earls Court, London, on Friday 11 November.

Emphasising the holiday aspect of the Show, which runs until 20 November, is the centre piece at Earls Court — an exotic sun spot perfect for any outdoor holiday. The idyllic beach scene with sand, shells and palm trees will act as a platform for entertainment and promotional activities.

Of course, there will be much for the serious camper or caravaner to see. Con entrated on the ground floor are tourers, motor caravans, holiday caravans and park homes, whilst the latest in tents, tent trailers, camping equipment and accessories will be exhibited on the first floor.

The tourism section will be larger this year with a French Holiday feature representing at least six regions of France, whilst Caravan Abroad are promoting trips a little further away — luxury motor caravan holidays in America to tempt those who yearn to cross the Atlantic.

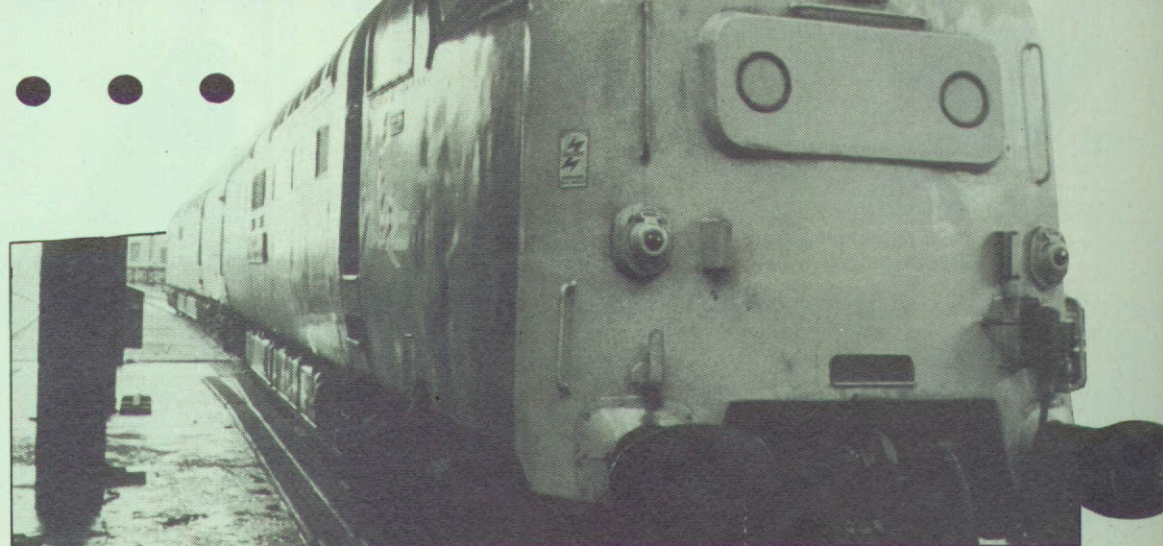
Even the children are catered for with the Volvo Childrens Playcare Centre where those aged 2-10 can be left for up to 2 hours under supervision.

The Caravan Camping Holiday Show, organised by Angex Ltd. on behalf of the National Caravan Council, is open from 10am to 8pm daily except Friday 18th November when the Show stays open until 10pm.

Admission to the Show: Adults £2.50, children £1.50.

Details of reduced prices for advanced tickets and special rates for party visits are available from Angex Lytd, Europa Howe, St Matthew Street, London SW1P 2JT.

This is the age of the



BRITISH RAIL has come up trumps all the way along the line with its new Autumn offers and this year bargains are available to Service personnel stationed overseas too. Travel is getting quicker and even cheaper by rail if you take advantage of the special rates and this can bring you nearer the family at home and bring them out to you for visits.

Brussels by night

British Rail Intercity Europe has introduced a new, late-night Jetfoil connection to Brussels.

Passengers leave London Victoria just before 1900, cross the Channel on the Dover/Ostend route and arrive in the centre of Brussels on a special coach which meets the Jetfoil at 01.30 local time — just five and a half hours later.

If you'd rather go by boat, the coach also connects at Ostend with the 1830 Sealink sailing from Dover.

Normal fares apply and a Five-Day 2nd Class Excursion return from London to Brussels is £40 using rail/Jetfoil or £30 by rail/ship.

Trump Card

Senior citizens will be flocking to the Continent with their new European railcard which gives them discount travel by train in 18 other European countries.

The Rail Europ Senior Card costs £5 and is available to all holders of British Rail Senior Citizen Railcards. It can be used to buy single, return or circular tickets and is available for either first or second class travel.

Visits by the 'old folks' could

now cost just a fraction of the full fare. The reductions range from up to 50 per cent in France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Republic of Ireland to up to 30 per cent in West Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

There are also savings of up to 30 per cent on sea crossings to the Continent by Sealink ships, Jetfoil and Hoverspeed hovercraft when these are part of a through rail/sea journey.

Washday Awaydays

Forget about the miserable Monday morning washing marathon and turn your thoughts to a glorious dream-come-true holiday in Paris or Amsterdam instead — courtesy of BR and the Persil people, Lever Brothers.

British Rail's Autumn Free Train Tickets Offer this year has been extended to Paris and Amsterdam by BR, Sealink and French or Dutch Railways and you can use your voucher to get a completely free ticket when you buy a 2nd Class adult Five-Day Excursion ticket to either of these romantic and famous European cities.

The vouchers will be issued in exchange for three tokens from any of the special packs of Persil, Persil Automatic, Comfort, Domestos, Jif, Sunlight Lemon Liquid, Sun Powder and Shield and these vouchers can be used for an accompanying adult or child to travel free when an adult Awayday, Weekend Return or Ordinary Return ticket is bought.

The UK offer lasts from 1

September to 31 May (excluding Christmas and the New Year holiday periods) and the Paris/Amsterdam offer is available from 1 October to 31st March 1984.

And another first, for those of you stationed in Germany, is that the special packs will also be available in the NAAFI so you can save the tokens for the family back home. Obviously, the special offer cannot be used together with a Forces railcard which entitles you to half-fare travel anyway, but other members of the family could have the holiday of a lifetime with your help.

The savings are quite spectacular with an ordinary return from London to Edinburgh, for example, costing £67, to York £39 and to Bristol £24 — a real two for the price of one bargain.

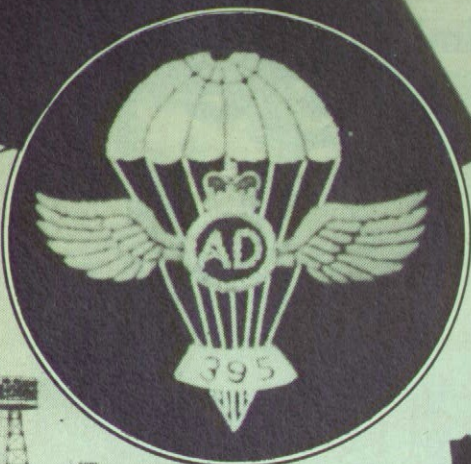
A Five-Day Excursion from Birmingham to Paris for two using a voucher will cost as little as £42.45 and from Manchester to Amsterdam the fare for two will be a mere £49.65. At that price it has to be worth thinking about.

Tokens should be sent, together with a stamped addressed enveloped, to Free Train Tickets, PO Box 48, Wirral X, Merseyside L62 4XY. A voucher will be returned which may be exchanged at booking offices when a rail ticket is bought.

CORONA SOCIETY

In a recent article on the Women's Corona Society (Soldier 22 August) the 'gremlins' got to work and the telephone number contact was incorrect. It should read: 01-828 1652/3.

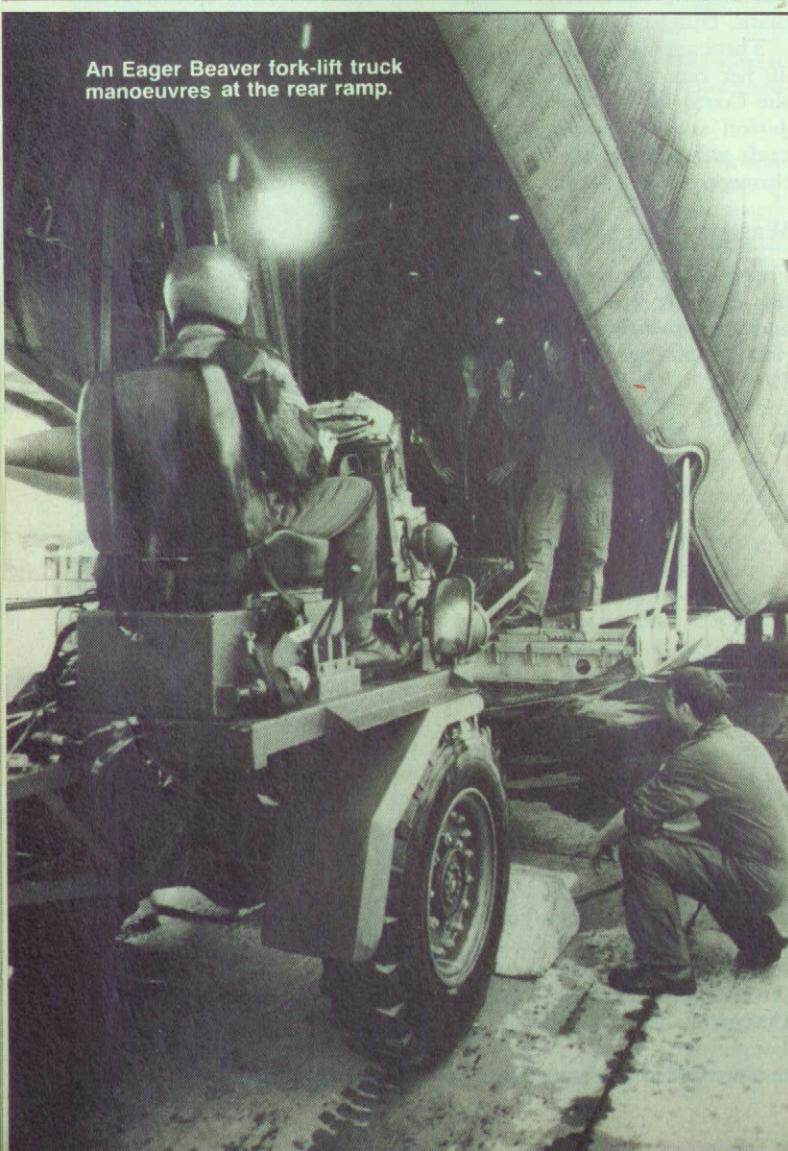
Writer **GRAHAM SMITH** and photographer **PAUL HALEY** flew with the Territorial Army's only air despatch unit to discover it is a case of . . .



▲ 395's personalised Air Despatch flash.

90 PER CENT HARD GRAFT ON THE GROUND AND 10 PER CENT FUN IN THE AIR!

An Eager Beaver fork-lift truck manoeuvres at the rear ramp.



THEY ARE a unique part-time band of men based at Swindon who like nothing better than shoving their weight around every other weekend — usually six tons at a time parachuted from the back of a Hercules at 700 feet and smaller free drop loads at just 50 feet over various points on Salisbury Plain during re-supply practice sorties.

They form the Territorial Army's only air despatch unit — 395 Air Despatch Troop, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), part of 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment, RCT.

The men of the 56-strong unit make up a third troop in support of the Army's regular air despatch organisation of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT, based at Lyneham, home of RAF Strike Command's Hercules fleet.

As the Troop's Regular RCT officer commanding Captain Mike Russell, 25, told SOLDIER: "We have a very good working relationship with 47 Air Despatch Squadron and, at weekends, we carry on what they have been doing during the week and ensure that loads are made up again after our use ready for them on Mondays.

"My unit has been in operation since 1970 and three or four of the men used to be with the Lyneham-based RCT air des-

patch squadron having left the Service and settled in this area.

"Their expertise is invaluable to us. Normally, it takes two years for an Air Despatcher to get his 'wings' and about half of our personnel are already qualified.

"I insist on fitness to go with the task and we have just had a 100 per cent pass in the Army's Basic Fitness Test. Our air despatch target is 12 operational sorties per year per man. We are unique, there is no other TA air despatch unit anywhere."

His unit is tasked by HQ United Kingdom Land Forces and all of its members are encouraged to be good infantry soldiers as well. They recently took fourth place in the South-West District Rifle competition.

On their summer camp the men of 395 AD Troop moved more than 250,000 lbs of kit — one-ton container platforms, harness packs and free drop loads — in a fortnight's flying averaging three sorties daily. In all, 18 one-ton containers — launched automatically or by "M.E." (manual ejection) — would have careered earthwards daily on parachutes at 30 feet-a-second.

All the largest loads would have taken six hours to assemble and then emplane on the hard-standing with the help of an Eager Beaver fork-lift truck.

Two one-ton containers make their way to a waiting Hercules.



The one-ton containers — a Hercules can carry 16 of them — were turfed out of the back at about 700 feet and a speed of 125 knots; the 2,500-lb harness packs at 250 feet with their 185 feet of trailing webbing cord; and small packs for free-drop without chutes at 50 feet.

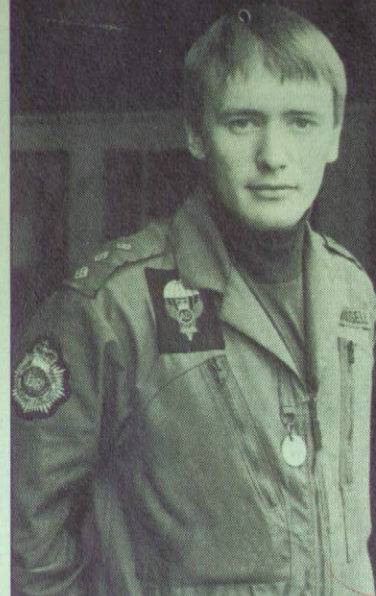
The men of 395 — they include plumbers, bricklayers, a computer analyst and a market gardener — also work closely with the American Army and their Chinook helicopters with underslung load capabilities.

There is also a ten-man parachute section among the weekend air despatchers; men who would secure and clear an airfield in support of a TA para battalion.

Four of them were due, as SOLDIER went to press, to jump with the 10th Battalion, Parachute Regiment (Volunteers) at Arnhem — the air despatchers' battle honour — the only air despatchers, TA or regular, to do so this year.

The honour went to Staff Sgt Rob Petrie, a long distance lorry driver, Cpl Colin Cromley, another driver, Cpl "Mac" MacCready, a draughtsman and driver John Fisher, of the Post Office, all of whom have logged up nearly 30 jumps each to date.

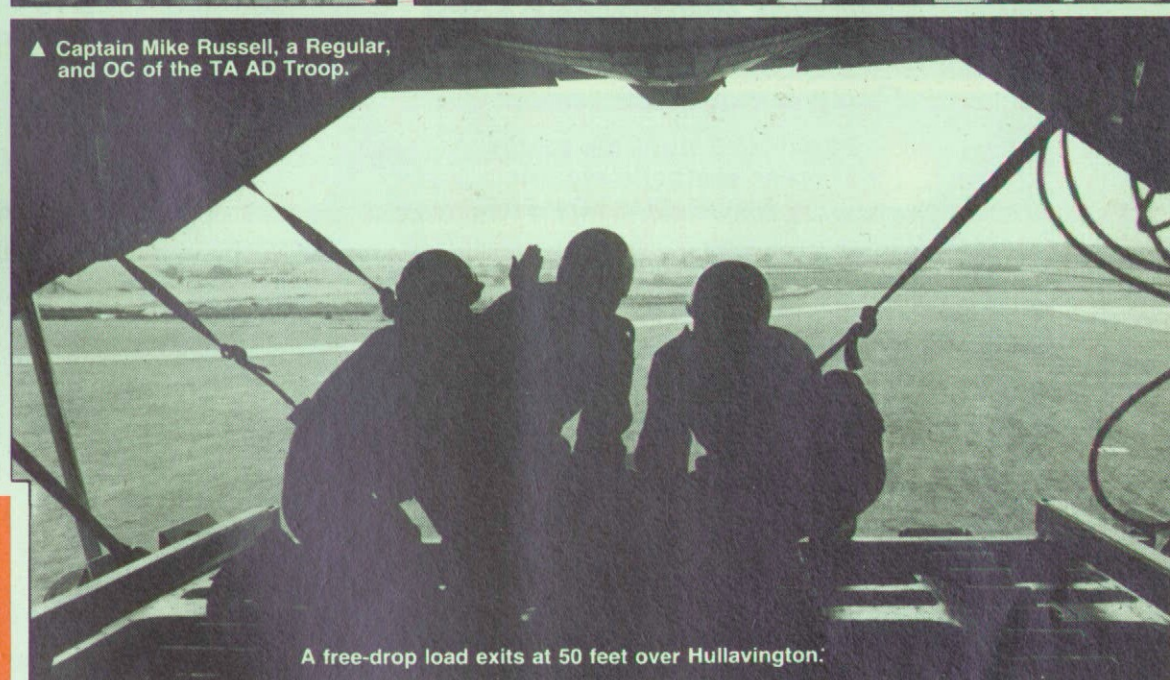
Most of the air despatch men wish they could have taken part



▲ Captain Mike Russell, a Regular, and OC of the TA AD Troop.



Red on! Green on! Two containers roll down to exit position.



A free-drop load exits at 50 feet over Hullavington.

in the two big air-drop relief missions of the past ten years, both in Nepal and both called Khana Cascade, when the regulars of 47 and 55 Air Despatch Squadrons, RCT, caught the headlines.

In the spring of 1973 the men of sister 47 Squadron dropped 2,000 tons of grain and rice in 50,000 sacks by parachute or free fall to 250,000 starving inhabitants of the Himalayan foothills. It was the biggest British air relief operation since the Berlin Airlift when 47 miles of half-inch rope and 65 miles of nylon cord were used to secure the sacks which, if put on top of each other, would have towered some 4,000 feet above the summit of the resident 28,000-foot Mount Everest!

"We would love to have done something like that," said Captain Russell, "or even to have had a small part in the Falklands. But we settle for what we have now in what we feel is still an important role. It's 90 per cent hard graft on the ground and 10 per cent fun in the air." ■



How it all starts. A typical load in early assembly.

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WHITEHALL THEATRE of WAR

Exhibition collection worth £1¹/₄m replaces actors

GIRLIE MAGAZINE boss, club owner and millionaire impresario Paul Raymond, a former RAF AC2 bandsman and switchboard operator, has opened an exhibition steeped in Second World War nostalgia at his world-famous Whitehall Theatre in London. It is called "Theatre of War" and the backers are "very pleased with the response".

This production which, he says, is on for an indefinite run is just yards away from the offices of Whitehall's military leaders. Upstairs, Glenn Miller type big band standards and Vera Lynn melodies set the musical scene under the cam-netted foyer and 'food bunker' cafeteria. Downstairs, amid the exhibits, a continuous air battle and crackling intercom over-ride the theme.

Mr Raymond, 58, told SOLDIER: "I am here to present entertainment and education. It could be, in the future, that I have an 18-piece band playing Glenn Miller music live, twice weekly."

The exhibition — and entrepreneur Raymond does not like the word 'museum' for it — took just 12 weeks to assemble, less than two months after the last play finished there.

With an obvious bias for the events of the air, the exhibition has a hanging Spitfire, acquired for £180,000 with its prop turning, a £24,000 Fieseler C-3 German Storch of the type used to rescue Mussolini from the Gran Sasso Massif, a £175,000 Mustang and a £140,000 Luftwaffe ME-109.

The sole concession to the First World War is a Sopwith

bi-plane. German, American and British vehicles with suitably attired models — there is an SAS Long Range Desert Group vehicle and a German 1930 Mercedes 170V a staff car of the type used by Reinhardt Heydrich — lurk in the dimly-lit interior of the theatre auditorium which once echoed to the applause for shows like "Pyjama Tops". Now, it is just the continuous air battle which fills the same area.

Expense has not been spared to put on the entertainment. It cost £5,000 alone just to get the Spitfire installed through a demolished wall and pride of place hanging from the ceiling.

"I thought it was a good idea to put on an exhibition of this type typifying the last world war which, I hope, will be the last world war," said Mr. Raymond.

Prize possession is a baton



Impresario exhibitor Mr Paul Raymond. Top: Facade of the Whitehall Theatre

given to Field Marshal Goering by Hitler in gold and silver. It has been insured for about £30,000.

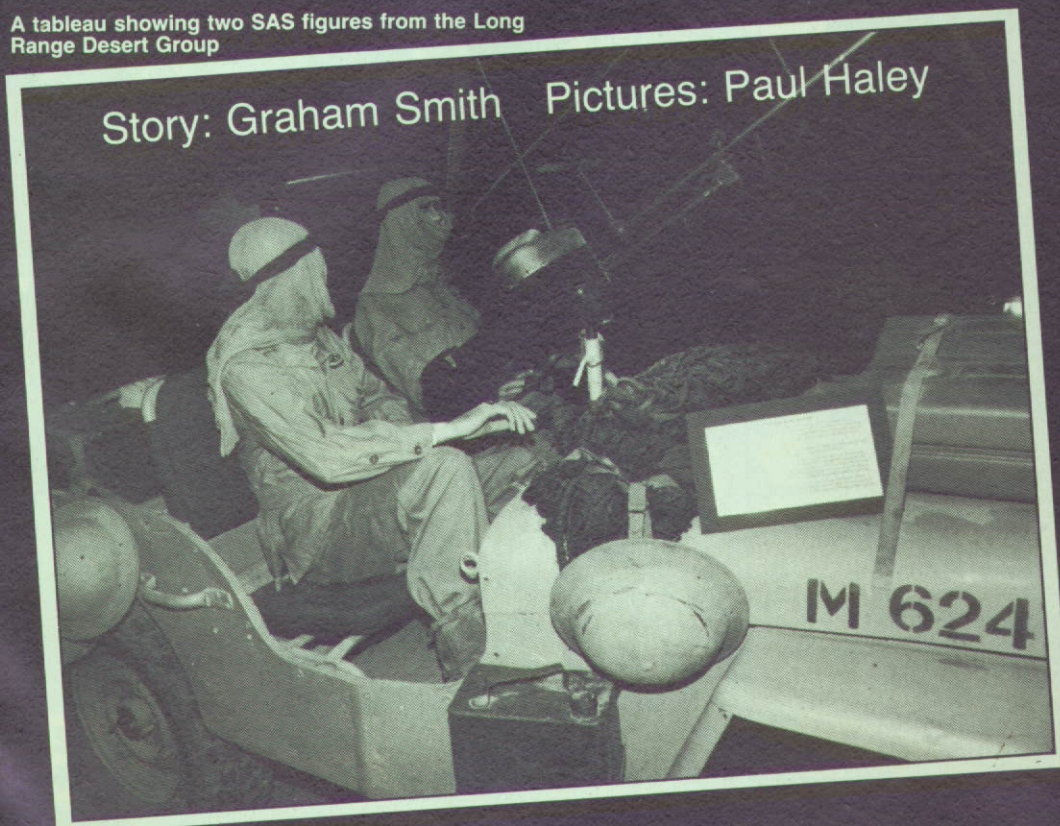
Some more dioramas are planned helped by the efforts of another museum owner — that of the London War Museum — Mr. Eddie Kent, 40, who is a veteran of 48 descents with the 10th Parachute Regiment Battalion (Volunteers). These will include Arnhem, a two-man mortar pit there, a set-piece from Caen and Winston Churchill's visit to London's East End.

Of Mr. Raymond's exhibition he said: "To be quite honest I think it is a very nice Theatre of War. It should interest all those who followed the events of the Second World War in all its aspects. I think there is something here for everybody."

Final word came from Mr. Raymond himself who said: "I've put together a collection worth £1¹/₄ million in just 12 weeks which, perhaps, would have taken another person 25 years to do."

A spokesman for the Paul Raymond organisation told SOLDIER: "We are very, very happy with the response from the public. Admissions are increasing every day given we opened quietly and have, as yet, taken no advertising although we intend to do so shortly. We are very happy with the attendances." ■

A tableau showing two SAS figures from the Long Range Desert Group



Story: Graham Smith Pictures: Paul Haley

BLUEPRINT FOR NEXT 25 YEARS

Not so long ago it was known as ARMEX of Old Sarum and there was confusion. People thinking it was the latest in personal aerosol sprays, would have been forgiven.

In fact ARMEX stood for Arms Executive — the Army's "Think Tank" — and Old Sarum in Wiltshire was their home base, but a couple of months ago they got a new name and a new location.

Now the unit is known as the Directorate of Battle Doctrine and installed in London offices within a short distance of Whitehall.

Words and phrases like timeframe, tactical and technical concepts, arms analysis and operational doctrine, pepper their discussions and paperwork.

For this 19-strong team are the ones who are drawing a blueprint for the Army over the next 25 years.

Their ideas, suggestions and papers are pointing the

way ahead and helping to decide the shape of things to come.

But while their role has a futuristic tinge, it would be wrong to think they are engaged in anything resembling "Star Wars" battle scenario.

While they are not exactly into robots, their experts are looking at lasers and battlefield nuclear weapons.

The latter is currently being written up before

by
JOHN MARGETTS

being circulated to all interested parties for comments prior to submission to the Executive Committee of the Army Board.

Said team member Major Christopher Lunn, Royal Artillery: "Our job is to look to the future needs of the Army. There's nothing mysterious about it and while some might compare us with crystal ball gazers, we're managing without using such obscure aids."

"Our picture is much

clearer and easier to see as the next 25 years are broken down into short-term time frames.

"We have three teams within our organisation — firstly, the Tactical Doctrine Cell which co-ordinates arms training, reacts to developments behind the Iron Curtain and considers how best to use new technology.

"They're looking at the next ten years. Beyond that we have the Combat Development Cell which publishes guides for scientists and equipment experts involved in the long-term operational requirements of the Army. Their time frame is from 11 to 25 years away. They really are looking into the future.

"Of course they have to know what other countries are doing or are likely to do — both allies and potential enemies — to gather ideas on how best to combat or support the future weapons and tactical concepts of those countries.

"To this end we have a small team known as the International Cell which presents UK tactical thinking in the international arena.

"They attend numerous meetings with their opposite numbers in NATO and ABCA (America, Britain, Canada and Australia) to swap ideas.

"Basically", said Major Lunn, "the Directorate exists to co-ordinate the Army's weapons and operational style into the next century.

"To do this we help stimulate and steer ideas which can be moulded into effective arms development and training.

"Although it has only been going for a short time, the Directorate has proved its worth in a number of ways, not least in the publication of the Battlefield Development Plan, with special emphasis on the role of 1(BR) Corps.

"We're picking out the priorities for the next 25 years," he said, "which will improve operational readiness and arms training throughout the Army."

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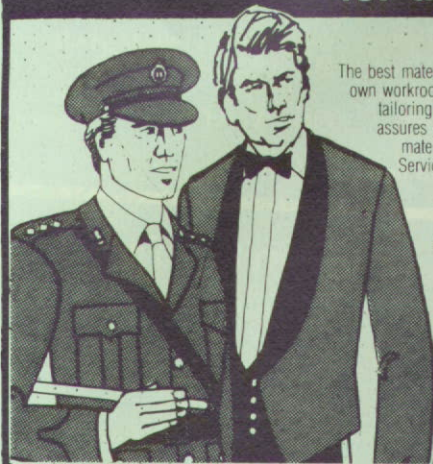
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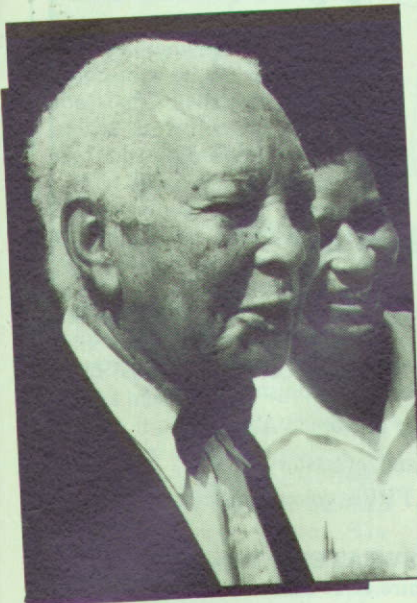
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THE OLD AND BOLD AT THE READY



IF ANYBODY threatens their country they will be ready. "We may be too old to fight but we can certainly help," said former Private Luther Eagan. He is 94.

His view is firmly shared among the 137 old, and obviously still very bold, members of the Belize Ex-Servicemen's League which celebrates its 21st anniversary this year.

The veteran Belizeans who have fought in both World Wars seeing service in Egypt, Palestine and Italy were over-joyed at the prospect of forming an ex-servicemen's league a few years after the end of World War Two.

Unfortunately, the sponsor of the idea — who later quit the country — turned out to be a

Col. Donald Fairweather (left) and Leo Baldaramos.

former member of the Hitler Youth!

Undismayed, the city's old squaddies did manage to start their club and, today, the veterans meet twice monthly at their two-storey seashore HQ which was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1975. Chairman of the Belize City branch is an Englishman, formerly sapper Warrant Officer 2 Cliff Robins of the Postal and Courier Communications section who married a local girl ten years ago.

About 40 of the men who rallied to fight for King and Empire 7000 miles away nearly 70 years ago — plus a good many of more tender years — were gathered schoolroom fashion five abreast, for the election of officers when

SOLDIER called.

Among them were men like Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Fairweather, CBE, who lied that he was 17 when he enlisted.

Now 83, he recalled: "I was only 15 but I happened to be a big lad. There was an appeal from King George V and I answered that appeal. Some 500 of us went off to the Middle East."

Colonel Fairweather, late British Honduras Defence Force, British Honduras Battalion, the North Caribbean Force and late Glosters, is the overall chairman of the Belize League which boasts a membership of 194 within the country and another 40 in New York where there are many expatriates from the former Caribbean colony.

Another Belizean veteran is Gunner Simeon V Harris, 4th Battalion, British West Indies Force who saw action in Palestine during the Great War. He is 85.

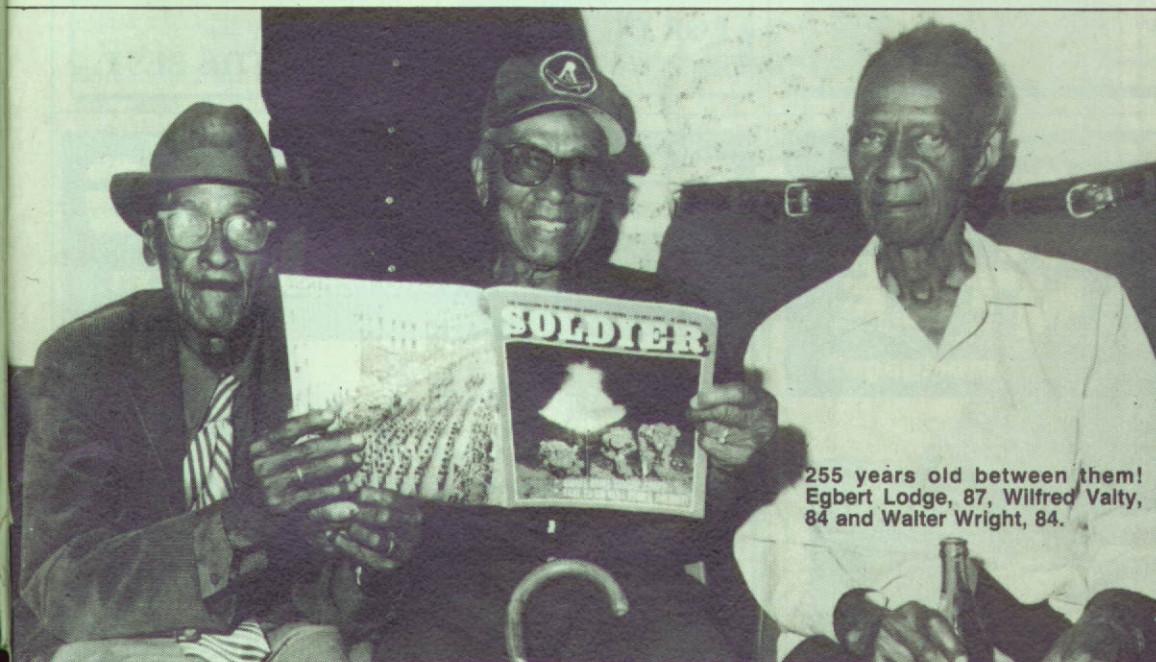
Private Walter Wright, 87, did his World War One service in Mesopotamia. Sadly, he lost his four daughters and all of his three campaign medals in a 1931 hurricane which hit the city. His medals have never been replaced.

Mr Leopold Baldaramos, 63, The League's Vice-Chairman explained that none of the veterans receives a pension and that about 70 of them have lost their medals. "I've been trying to get them re-issued with letters to London, Trinidad and Jamaica where, I understand, certain records are kept."

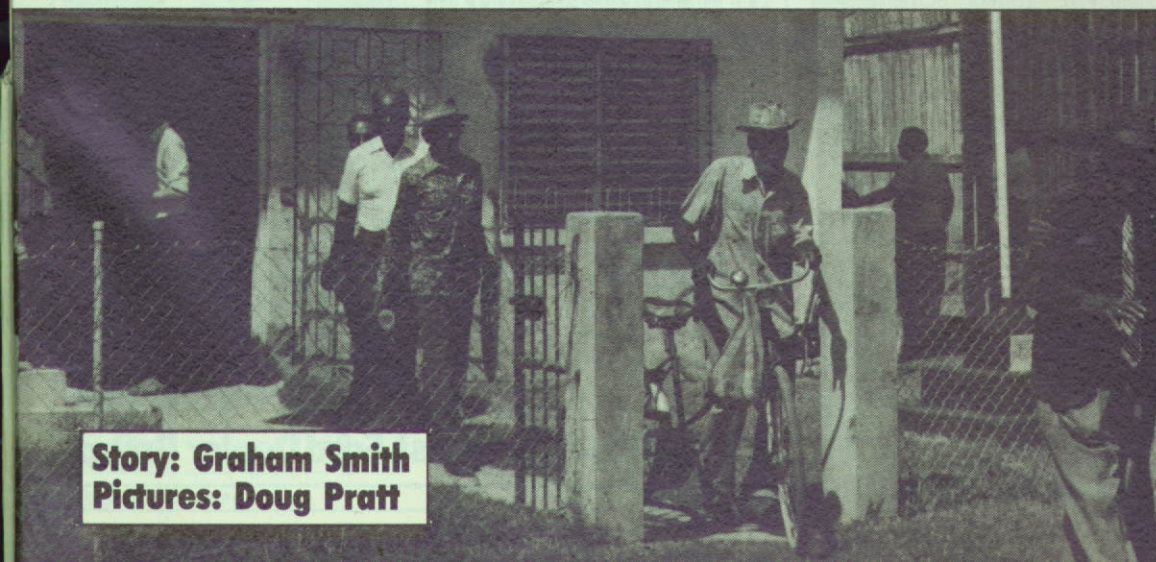
Mr Baldaramos trained to be a wireless operator/gunner in Canada during the last war and flew on Stirlings with the RAF's 196 Squadron.

Another RAF ex-Serviceman is former Aircraftman 2 Raymond Sabido who was with 53 Maintenance Unit in Norwich in 1944. "I just felt I had a duty to perform," he said.

The members' motto is 'Service, not Self', and Cliff Robins counts it an honour to be associated with them. "They always make people welcome on visits from Airport Camp and, as old soldiers, they love to reminisce over their stories. They are proud of their memories and, if able, would do it all over again."



255 years old between them! Egbert Lodge, 87, Wilfred Valty, 84 and Walter Wright, 84.



Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Doug Pratt

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EVERY MONDAY night on the parade ground at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Centre at Melton Mowbray a band marches resplendent in red coats and bearskins — but few of the bandsmen would be tall enough to get into the Guards.

For they are members of the Melton Mowbray Toy Soldiers Band — formed way back in 1936 as something to keep the youngsters of the Leicestershire town off the streets and now almost as famous as the legendary Melton pork pies.

The band was an immediate success when it was started by two locals, Mr Jack Hutton and Mr A Sissons in those immediate pre-war days. Then there were 150 members and although it is now only 60 strong the band itself has been gradually spreading its horizons.

Now it performs in all parts of the United Kingdom and has an American tour planned for 1985.

Most of the band are children from about nine upwards. The majority move on at about 16 or 17, but there is no upper age limit and for some the band becomes a lifetime's interest.

Like the secretary, Mr Brian Gordon and his brother-in-law, Mr Brian Needham. Between them they now run the band but they first joined 28 years ago as ten-year-olds. They married sisters from the band and both now have children in it.

The band uniforms are loosely



Study in concentration.



THEY'RE AS FAMOUS AS MELTON PORK PIES!

HAPPY BAND WITH A FAMILY AIR

based on those of the Grenadier Guards but with the addition of white trousers which they feel makes the ensemble even more colourful.

Says Mr Gordon: "We try to be like a military band in every way. We cannot play as the Grenadier Guards would play but we try to be as exact as we can in our marching and precision."

Drill is the province of chief instructor, Mr Needham, who is the son of a former secretary. "I told my father that if he gave me a chance as chief instructor I could make a winning band."

And he has done just that. The band enters competitions against mostly adult bands and in 1981 won the Carnival Bands Association Championship. Last year they were runners-up and this year they have come top for marching in both contests entered.

Mr Needham was taught his marching by his old mentor, Mr Hutton and has never been in the Services. "With us practising at the RAVC centre people think it's the Army who teach them but it's not. I've even been asked what regiment I was in.

"I think the band all have a respect for me. When I take them on practice they know I

mean business but afterwards I'm just one of them.

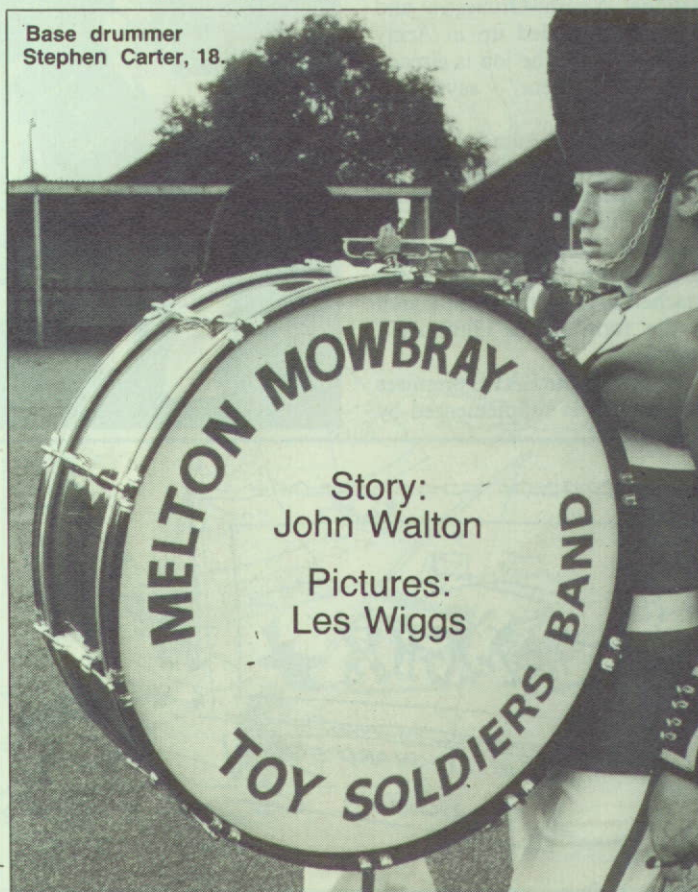
"In some ways it is probably

harder to teach children to march than soldiers because I can't send anybody to the guardhouse. I have to be careful how I tell them off and do it in a polite way."

Both men agree that the band has improved musically over the last 28 years. Current drum major is 17-year-old Paul Irons who is said to throw his mace far higher than say Mr Needham did when he held the job as a youngster.

Paul, eight years in the band,
continued on page 34

Base drummer
Stephen Carter, 18.



from page 33

told SOLDIER: "It's just hard work and practice. Once you get the idea of how to do it you don't forget it — anyone can do it as long as he keeps practising."

Most of the children when they join cannot play a musical instrument but the band has its own brass instructors and a drum

further practice in a local school playground but occasionally the Toy Soldiers get a chance to help the real ones in the town.

The band goes up to the RAVC centre and marches round newly trained horses in order to get them used to the sound of military music on ceremonial occasions.

Mr Gordon has one ambition for his band — he would like it to take part in an Army display or tattoo. It is more than 30 years since the Melton Mowbray Toy Soldiers Band appeared in any Army show. ■

Chief Instructor Brian Needham helps Susan Exton, 18, with her bearskin.



Deborah Tate, 14, gets a little hair adjustment with the aid of Caroline Hack, 15.



instructor.

There is a supporters club and when the band travels to other parts of the country for performances it goes in two 50-seater coaches. Yet all the youngsters pay is ten pence a week.

"It's amazing what the parents say to me about the change in their kids," says Mr Gordon. "They start to tidy their clothes away and that sort of thing."

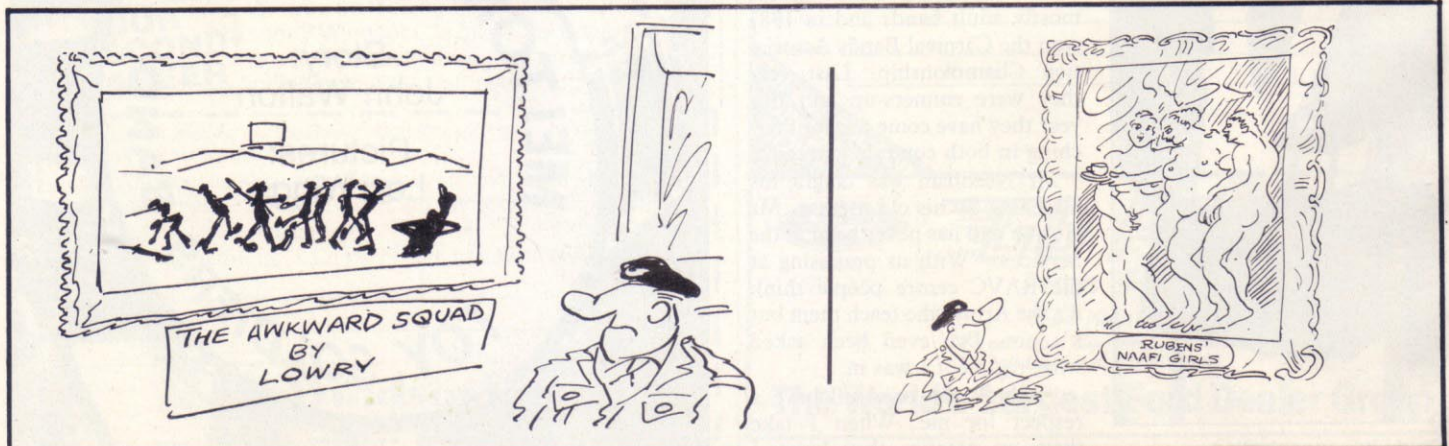
One or two members of the band have gone on to join the National Youth Orchestra and others have ended up in Army bands — "half the job is already done for them" says Mr Needham.

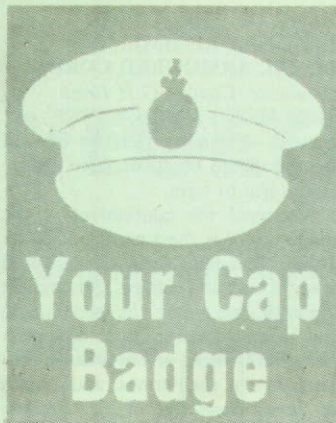
As they travel round the country the band often run into ex-Melton people who were members as children. Today the most spectacular display is put on after dark — with batteries and bulbs attached to them the band march in the form of an illuminated aeroplane.

The use of the RAVC premises once a week is supplemented by



On parade — single file.





No. 50

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS

(Seaforth and Camerons)

By an amalgamation in 1881 and another in 1961 three distinguished Highland Regiments, appearing in the Army List of 1880 as the 72nd, the 78th, and the 79th currently combine to form this single regiment which has as its head-dress badge a design embodying the main features of the regimental badges prior to 1961.

Described as "A stag's head caboshed, between the attires the thistle ensigned with the Crown, with the motto "Cuidich'n Righ" (Gaelic translated as "Help to the King").

The oldest of the original regiments was raised by Kenneth, Earl of Seaforth from men who came mainly from the Seaforth estates, mostly MacKenzies and Macraes. At first numbered the 78th Highlanders they became the 72nd (Highland) Regiment of Foot in 1786 and were among those regiments who lost their Highland status and garb in 1809.

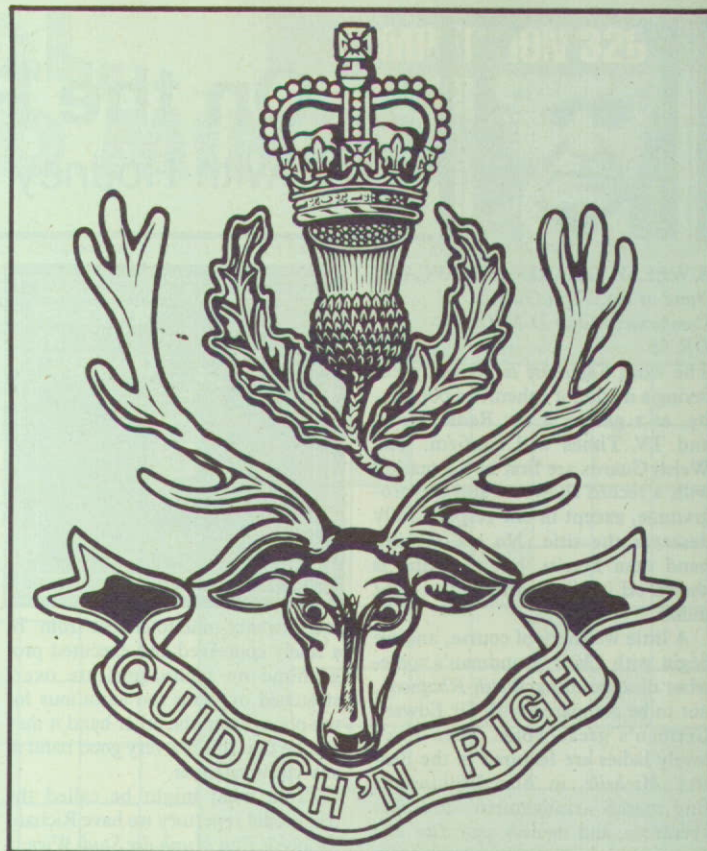
Happily restored in 1823 and the following year re-styled the 72nd Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders, they were assigned the Duke's coronet and cypher to be borne on their Colours.

In 1881 they became the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's) having as their 2nd Battalion a Regiment that had been raised by Francis Humberston MacKenzie of Seaforth as the 78th (Highland) Regiment of Foot in 1793, having been assigned the number vacated by the 72nd. The men were recruited mainly from Ross-shire and Lewis in the Hebrides.

In July 1794 a second battalion of the 78th was formed carrying the distinctive title of the "Ross-shire Buffs". When the two became a single battalion in 1796 the title continued in use and eighty-five years later the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs) came to share their tartan, described as "78th or MacKenzie of Seaforth", with their fellow Highlanders of the 72nd.

Major Alan Cameron of Erracht, acting upon a Letter of Service dated 17th August 1793 raised a regiment designated the 79th Regiment of Foot (or Cameronian Volunteers), this changed in 1804 when the word "Highlanders" was substituted for "Volunteers", changing yet again in 1806 until 1873 to be the 79th Cameron Highlanders. on 10th July 1873 they became the 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

The colourful regimental tartan designed by their first Colonel is believed to have been based on a Lochaber sett. When in 1881 the numerical



designations were abolished the regiment, which had been the only single battalion regiment in the Army was increased to a strength of two battalions to give the Camerons a Home Service and a Foreign Service battalion system to conform,

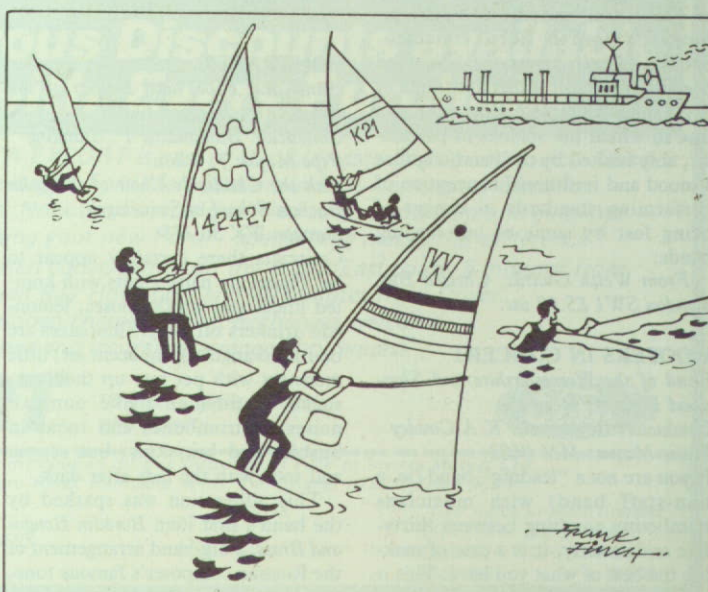
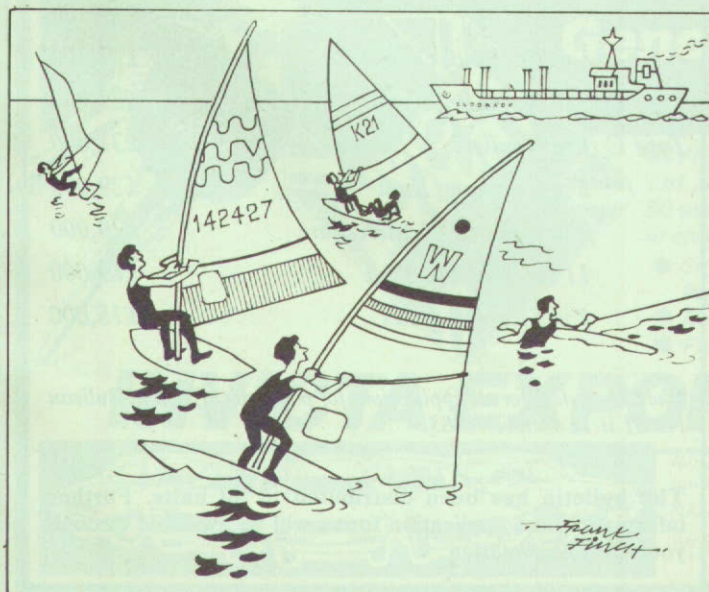
with the rest of the Infantry.
HUGH L. KING

Next issue:
The
Gordon Highlanders



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.





On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

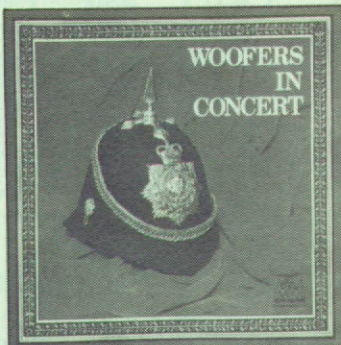
A WELSH GUARDS SHOWCASE

Band of the Welsh Guards
Conductor: Major D N Taylor
DR 56

The word *Showcase* is presently enjoying a no doubt ephemeral popularity, as a glance at the Radio Times and TV Times will confirm. The Welsh Guards are first in the market with a record showcase and the programme, except in one respect, fully deserves the title. No major wind band item herein, but the band is shown off in all departments of light music.

A little welshery of course, and we begin with Clare Grundman's somewhat disappointing *Welsh Rhapsody*, not to be compared with Sir Edward German's great work. Then three lovely ladies are featured in the Beatles' *Michelle*, in Alan Wilkinson's fine march arrangement, and that evergreen and ageless pair *Ida and Dot*, beloved of band audiences for nearly a century. We suspect that they, or perhaps their ghosts, still haunt the daily changing of the guard.

The old and new mixture is maintained with such contrasts as Alan Street's uproarious *Goose Fair* from his suite *Nott'num Town*, the speedy *Night Flight to Madrid*, Lehar's lilting *Gold and Silver waltz*, a new



mere twenty-nine to choose from. In a finely conceived and executed programme no techniques are over-stretched or items too ambitious for the players. On the other hand it may just be that this is a very good band in any circumstances.

From what might be called the traditional repertory we have Richard Strauss's *Fest Musik der Stadt Wien*, a recently resurrected item from the master's bottom drawer, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles*, Zehle's masterpiece of a march *Wellington*, Mozart's *Alleluiah* from *Exultate Jubilate*, and a more recent standard work in Frank Erickson's *Toccata for Band*. A very fair ration of classics, and usually where the "stretched" band comes adrift. Not a blemish worth mentioning here.

In modern vein and with some very with-it tone colours are the tunes *Feelings*, nicely sung by a Colour Sergeant (pity it couldn't have been a Sergeant Major), a very attractive *Love's Theme*, Grundman's witty *Western Dance*, Sidney Torch's wittier *Shortcake Walk*, and Bert Huggens's *Pavane in Blue*. Mr Cowley, with some help from Sir Arthur Bliss, announces the programme with a fanfare *Chatsworth*, named after a ducal small-holding in Woofers country, and ends it with the *Regimental Quick March*.

MM, 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx. or WFR, BFPO 24. £5 plus 65 pence p&p.

CONTRASTS

Band and Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
Conductor: Bandmaster P. Standing
Pipe Major: J. Allan
with the Children's Choir of the John Buchan School in Sennelager
Davton WK 30.175

Contrasts there certainly appear to be. Pipers are hairy giants with knotted knees and whisky noses; lemonade drinkers off duty. Choristers are be-ruffed angels of innocent air; little monsters with pet rats up their cassocks. Bandsmen make oompah noises on trombones and tubas in busbies and bearskins; but reggae and rock with the lads after dark.

This alliteration was sparked by the band's first item *Borodin Bongos and Brass*, a big-band arrangement of the Russian composer's famous tune, which they immediately follow with

an oompah military march. See what I mean? But the Jekyll and Hyde act starts earlier, with those hairy knot-kneed pipers playing tunes with such lovely titles as *The Dark Island*, *Mingulay Boat Song*, and *The Lark in the Clear Air* — like swigging a mug full of the hard-stuff with your little pinkie cocked. The children's choir defy my silly game of contrasts, singing sweetly the while. The title of their first item *Song Sung Blue* misled me. Innocent tune with blue lyric? But no, not a naughty word, pet rat, or catapult in sight.

And now I come to think of it Contrasts there are none. The overriding impression remaining after hearing the whole programme is of a little community, out on a limb somewhere in BAOR, doing its family thing. *The Way Old Friends Do* is one item on pipes and band, and this disc is just the way old friends should. In a heart-warming display of unity in variety the children also sing *Sweet Caroline*, the band plays two fine marches in Duthoit's *Staffordshire Knot* and Don Pryce's *Queensman*, and a nicely restrained trombone solo *Misty*, besides accompanying the pipes and drums.

From leading record shops. — £3.99.

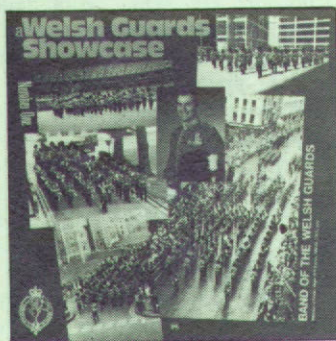
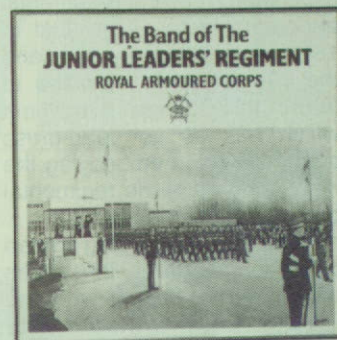
BAND OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS

Conductor: Captain G H Leask
Music Masters MM 0594

As with all training units the size and quality of the band can vary greatly from term to term.

No need for concessions to be made. Here is the sort of music the Junior Leaders themselves would wish to hear at a concert. A march *In Triumph* does start the programme but thereafter all is more or less in "rhythm". *More of the Beatles* contains five of their tunes, and *Sounds of James Bond* five of his. *Freckles and Flowers* features the vibraphone (I think) and *Sparks* is a Kenneth Alford xylophone solo. A selection from *Star Wars*, *Kraken* for brass group, and a march *Wigan Pier* make up the rest, and the regimental march *A Man's a Man for a' that*.

From Junior Leaders Regiment, RAC, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset. Or MM, 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx. — £5 plus 65 pence p&p.



march *Space City USA* by Charles Lee Hill, a 73 year old Texan, John Hartman's famous *Facilata*, a medley of *Can-Cans*, and the *Rondo* from Mozart's fourth horn concerto. Sousa's *Hands Across the Sea*, *God Bless the Prince of Wales* and *Land of My Fathers* complete this attractive disc in which the soloists in particular, ably backed by the band, capture a mood and traditional conception of performing standards in danger of being lost by some of our leading bands.

From Welsh Guards, Chelsea Bks, London SW1 £5.60 inc.

WOOFERS IN CONCERT

Band of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster K A Cowley
Music Masters MM 0603

If you are not a "leading" band (ie. a non-staff band) with musicians numbering anything between thirty-five and seventy, it is a case of making the best of what you have. This is exactly what Mr Cowley does with a

SALE OF SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS UNDER THE NON DISCOUNTED SCHEME

Bulletin No 61 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

Type 3	2 in Farnborough, Hants	£62,500
		£59,500
	1 in Padstow, Cornwall	£37,500
Type D	3 in Rainham, Kent	£29,000
Type C	1 in Henfield, W Sussex	£31,000
	2 in Rainham, Kent	£29,000
	2 in Gourock, Renfrewshire	£29,000
	11 in Chatham, Kent	£19,000
	1 in Sleaford, Lincs	£15,000

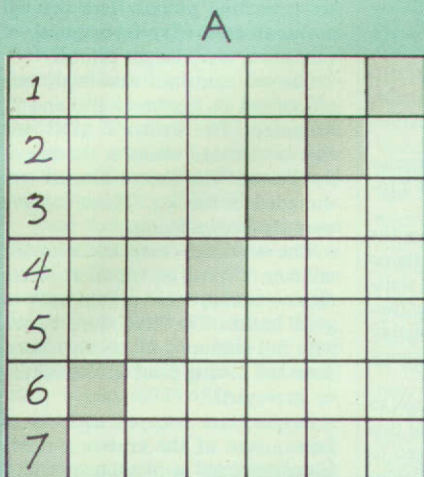
The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin No 61 is 12 October 1983.

The bulletin has been distributed to all units. Further information and application forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/station.

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE AND MINERAL

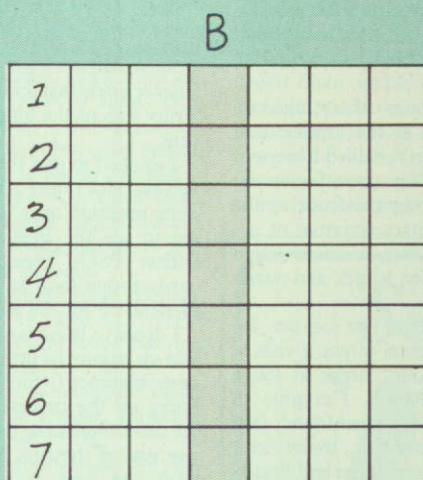
COMPETITION 326

Here are three squares — A, B and C — each consisting of seven lines of seven letters



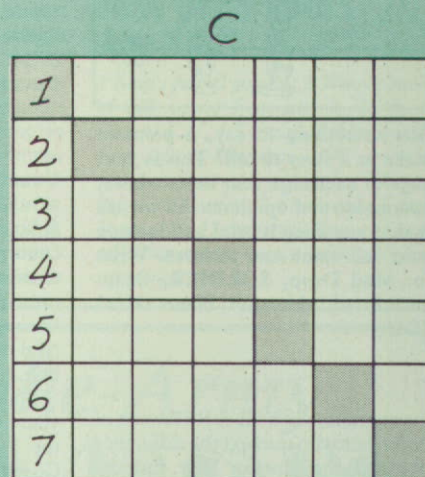
- A** Across
- Has a pouch — no tobacco
 - Likes the warmer waters
 - Sounds irregular
 - O — and playing it low
 - Doesn't say much for itself
 - Black normally — not pink
 - Seen in the Falklands

each. In square A each horizontal word is the name of animal; square B gives seven names to be met with in the world of vegetation; square C gives seven references



- B** Across
- Even found in a rogue's garden
 - Flower of the wind
 - Found in the borders
 - Greek "funeral" tree
 - The seed of cakes
 - Socrates tried it — it worked
 - Definitely a plant — not part of a court of law

which have a connection with the mineral world.



- C** Across
- May be pure quartz
 - Little rounded pieces of rock in mass
 - Speaks of a northern city
 - Partly used in medicine
 - Hardest of Hard
 - Reminiscent of "Old Lace"
 - Rocks produced by volcanic energy

When the twenty-one words have been completed it will be found that:

- Square A shows — diagonally from bottom left to top right — the name of a plant;
- Square B shows — vertically from top to bottom centrally — the name of a representative of the mineral world;
- Square C shows — diagonally from top left to bottom right — the name of an animal.

The three names required are to be found by correctly solving the clues shown below. What are these names?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 7 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 31 October 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 326' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Com-

petition 326' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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

JUST A JOB?

I sympathise with Mr F R Dawson of Aldershot who queried the difference between the Korean War and the Falklands (22 Aug).

I too served in Korea, and am still serving. I agree that the Korean War was harder and longer. I have also served in Northern Ireland, another forgotten Army!

No, Mr Dawson we didn't have the publicity or the large amounts of compensation that the Falklands servicemen have had, although I well remember that we had the same send-offs and welcomes. And on my return a bus conductor even waived my fare on seeing my medal ribbons.

But there were two main differences. Firstly in 1950 war was still fresh in everyone's minds, the World War not long being over, and Malaya still in progress. Soldiers were expected to fight.

Secondly the Army of today has changed. At that time it was composed of dedicated professionals in for a career, and National Servicemen determined to make the best of their enforced service. Today it is largely composed of men who have been indoctrinated by Trade Union ideals, who don't wish to work longer than they have to, and who treat the Army merely as a job and not a career, or as a training ground towards their chosen civilian trade. — WO2 J H Wood, 165 Provost Coy RMP, Parsons Bks, Donnington, Telford, Salop, TF2 8LS.

A BIT OF DASH

Where was the RSM when the pictures of the Royal Scots (27 June) were taken? What a horrible way to wear bonnets and berets. They seem to want to convert their bonnets to peaked caps.

A Highland bonnet should be worn with a bit of dash tilted over to the right, and with a "to hell with you" attitude. Now, I notice all regiments wear even Glengarries straight on the head — American style.

In my Black Watch days, I could never have got past my Platoon Sergeant — never mind the RSM — without my balmoral band straight across the forehead, with the top tilted over to the right to show the

MAIL DROP

badge (or hackle) standing up proudly on the left side.

I notice, in pictures in your magazine, that Officers and WOs and some NCOs wear their headgear properly — but the ORs do not. It's a pity.

Even with my great respect and regard for the British Army, this cap business has finally forced me into print. — Ralph Mason, Ottawa, Ontario.

ITALIAN JOB

Your latest series of articles on various aspects of the armies (and famous regiments) of allied European countries certainly provides an interesting look 'over the fence' at the present-day military activities of nations whose military traditions often rival our own for length and variation.

I hope that it is not too late for your reporting team to pay a visit to the Italian remount depot at Passo Corese, near Rome. I'm given to understand, by an Italian friend, that this establishment is, today, run mainly by the Carabinieri and thus is still the responsibility of the Italian military. Judging from what I saw, not so long ago, looking down into the courtyard of the fortress of Fortezza (Franzese) to my Austrian ancestors) from the train as it steamed slowly eastwards, towards the beautiful San Candido Valley, in the South Tyrol (N Italy), the Italian Army still has a great and very practical need for the services of Passo Corese.

Perhaps also the reporting team might be able to call on the Reggimento Artigliera a Cavallo in Milan; this being the Italian equivalent to the King's Troop, RHA, with whom, I'm again given to understand, friendly ties are maintained. — R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

Unfortunately, our team has now returned from Italy but we shall bear these units in mind for next time. — Ed.

MUSIC FEAST

I always look forward to receiving your magazine in order to acquaint myself with the forthcoming military events, particularly involving bands, as I have been a military band enthusiast for over fifty years.

I have, however, never seen any mention of the Shrewsbury Flower and Music show, which is usually held every year in August.

It is my considered opinion that the show is second only to the Wembley Military Musical Pageant in interest to lovers of military music.

Three bands participate — this year those of the Coldstream Guards, Royal Corps of Transport, and Royal Ordnance Corps. The concert programme was really superb, consisting of light classics, selections from musical shows, and a number of excellent musical solos.

In conclusion, I should like to mention that I am the Founder Hon Secretary of the International Milit-

ary Music Society, and a member of the Shropshire Horticultural Society — the organisers of the show. In 1982, the show profits contributed £40,000 to local community projects.

— Harry L S Plunkett, 93 Springbank, Lakenham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2LH.

Point taken, Mr Plunkett. We will try to omit this event in next year's diary. — Ed.

PROGRESS?

I never knew that joining the Regular Army was such a long and slow process.

I applied to join the Army months ago and since then I have undergone some selection tests. I am now waiting to see the Personnel Selection Officer (PSO). Then I will probably have another long wait for a vacancy to come up for the RAOC.

I dread to think how long it took to join up before the introduction of this new computer (which is supposed to hurry up the process). It has taken me three months so far even though I was one of the first to be processed with the new computer by the Springboig Office. I must add that the staff at the Springboig ACIO have been very helpful throughout. — Brian Wilkie, 57 Commonhead Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow, G34 0DR.

GIB GRAVE

I was very interested to see in SOLDIER the picture of the German war grave in Gibraltar (21 February) and the subsequent correspondence about its care. I thought SOLDIER readers might like to know whose this was and how it came to be on the Rock.

In early 1856, Moroccan pirates boarded the Prussian brig *Flora* and plundered the whole load. Pirates were a hazard to all shipping in the Med at this time and the Prussian King decided to send an expedition to teach them a lesson. This was the first time in history the royal marines (Seesoldaten) fought in action outside Europe.

The steam corvette *Danzig* with a detachment of Seesoldaten on board

under the command of the King's son Prince Admiral Adalbert von Preuben sailed for the Moroccan coast. On 7 August, 67 men of the 2nd Zug of the 3rd company of the sea battalion landed at Captres Forcas — a very dense and hilly area. The German bayonets routed the sharpshooting pirates from the hill positions only after three hours of very hard, close fought combat.

German casualties were high: one officer and six marines killed and 22 wounded. The Prince's ADC was shot in the head whilst at the side of the Prince. The Prince himself was wounded in the leg. Three soldiers were reported missing.

The wounded were taken to the military hospital on Gibraltar where they eventually were nursed back to good health. The dead were buried with full military honours and found their last resting place in the Gibraltar graveyard.

Seven years later on the way to Japan, men of the cruiser corvette *Gazelle* erected a monument which bore the Prussian eagle and an inscription describing the action at Captres Forcas. — M Heller, 141 East Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia.

PACE STICKS

Having today received the latest issue of SOLDIER (25 July) I really must protest.

AcSM Dennis Cleary's statement that 'his' pace stick competition is a 'world championship' is not just true.

Some senior NCOs in the Canadian Armed Forces do in fact carry and know how to use pace sticks. In particular, The Royal Canadian Regiment has a pace stick competition called the Boyle Cup. This event is held annually and goes back at least to 1973. Teams from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, RCR, the Airborne Regiment and Canadian Forces Base, Cornwallis compete. — R Rennie, 109 Ralgreen Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

Thank you for the most useful information which has been passed to AcSM Cleary. He was delighted to hear of the Canadian activity and will be in touch with the RCR. — Ed.



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TELEPHONE ALDERSHOT 22668

Can You Help?

I am writing a book on the Special Air Service (SAS) and the Special Boat Squadron (SBS). Could any reader supply stories, press cuttings, photos, etc, to help me. I would be pleased to pay any postage, and would return the items as soon as possible. — **Darren Broderick, 6 Oakfield, Brayton, Selby, N Yorks, YO8 9QZ.**

A friend of mine in USA is researching for a book he is writing about Service life in pre-war India. He wants information about the following: a) the mutiny of an Indian regiment at Nowshera 1937; b) which regiment was it?; c) reasons for mutiny; d) approx date for mutiny; e) who stopped it and how?

I was then at Cawnpore in the 2nd Bn South Staffords and did not move to Nowshera until 1939 and can neither recall the incident nor the British battalion then stationed there. Perhaps readers can help? — **B J Harris, 29 The Square, Pevensey Bay, Sussex BN24 6SQ.**

Some of your readers may be familiar with my work as an author and historian of the First World War, and may know that I have devoted the last ten years to compiling a vernacular history of 1914-18.

Three books of what will probably be a series of six have already been published: 'They Called it Passchendaele' (the story of the 3rd Battle of Ypres); 'The Roses of No Man's Land' (a history of the war from the point of view of the casualties and medical services) and 'Somme' (a history of the 1916 campaign).

All my books depend heavily on first hand information from survivors and, to date, we have contacted three thousand, many of whom we have interviewed. But even after almost ten years, there are still many whom we have not traced.

I should deeply appreciate it if any veterans, or any readers who can put me in touch with a surviving soldier of the First World War, would contact me. — **Lyn MacDonald, c/o Michael Joseph Ltd, 44 Bedford Square, London WC1.**

Collectors' Corner

Collectors of regimentalia of the East Lancashire Regiment, the South Lancashire Regiment, the Loyal Regiment and the Lancashire Regiment, are invited to say if they would be interested in attending a get-together, probably at Fulwood Barracks, Preston in 1984. Facilities would be provided to display collections with public access. Write to: **Regimental Secretary, The Queen's Lancashire Regt, Fulwood Bks, Preston PR2 4AA.**

Pte Fowler, 1 Pln, A Coy, 1 Glosters, Lucknow Bks, Tidworth Hants. Wants all insignia of the Gloucestershire regiment: nickel silver cap badges, 'bakelite' cap badges, nickel silver cap badges with Egypt scroll blank, brass back badges, silver back badges with brass laurels, nickel silver collar badges, Glos & Hamps cap badges and Wessex Brigade cap badges. Also wants Royal Gloucestershire Hussars cap badges and Korea medals. Will exchange or purchase. All letters answered.

H Brand, 30 Salmons Road, Edmonton, London N9. Has **SOLDIER** 1974-81 professionally bound into eight handsome volumes, gold lettered. No charge, but anyone interested should collect from North London, Edmonton area. Phone: 01-807 5125.

M Harvey, Higher Sutton, Sth Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JG. Wants genuine issue Br and foreign Para wings. Will trade or buy.

Reunions

The Annual Dinner/Dance of the London & Home Counties Branch of the Regimental Association of The Staffordshire Regiment will take place at The Union Jack Club on Saturday 3 December. Tickets £9 each from the Secretary, B J Harris, 29 The Square, Pevensey Bay, E Sussex BN24 6SQ.

The Annual General Meeting of the Army Cadet Force Association, the Meeting of the Council and the Members' Dinner will be held in London on Friday 18 November. For details write to: D M Pontifex, General Secretary ACFA, Millbanks Bks, John Islip St, London SW1P 4RR.

Competition

By the look of things, there were a lot of happy hours spent in doing our Competition 322, 'The Old Nicknames'. Many of you will have realised that there was no single answer and that you could have come up with several nicknames. We didn't ask you to put the given nicknames in any particular order so there were any number of permutations and indeed one entrant submitted no less than fourteen. This made drawing the winners very difficult so we selected those who matched the given nicknames with the given regiments and give the hidden nickname as *Guises Geese* which was the one our compiler came up with. The answer to the first part was 1-f, 2-g, 3-n, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-h, 8-m, 9-d, 10-e, 11-k. Our apologies to those who didn't win prizes, but we hope you had a lot

of fun! Prizewinners were: 1st H C Daniel, Stonegarth, West End, Ampleforth, Yorks; 2nd Major R O Nebel, 3 The Paddock, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall; 3rd J H Fraser, Girder Cottage, 148 Scrubs Lane, London NW10; 4th R A Hamilton, 4 Richmond Way, Whitefield Park, Tarbock, Prescott, Merseyside; 5th G F Royle, 57 Osborne Road, Farnborough, Hants.

How Observant Are You?

1 Ship's funnel pattern; 2 Wavy pattern of sail second from left; 3 Height of mast of K21; 4 Left toe of surfer second from left; 5 Dot above "W" on near sail; 6 Left arm of right surfer; 7 Lower leg of left surfer; 8 Stern end of surfboard second from left; 9 Shape of large reflection below nearest surfer; 10 Ear of nearest surfer.

See-the-Army DIARY

Previously unpublished events are in bold type.

SEPTEMBER 1983

- 22 **Sounding Retreat by Band and Bugles, The Promenade, Penzance (3 Bn LI) 1800hrs.**
- 23 **Sounding Retreat by Band and Bugles, Football Ground, Bodmin (3 Bn LI) 1845hrs.**
- 25 **Sounding Retreat by Band and Bugles, Plymouth Hoe (3 Bn LI) 1830hrs.**
- 27 Berlin Tattoo, Berlin (27 Sep-2 Oct).
- 28 Joint Services Day, Basingbourne.

NOVEMBER 1983

- 12 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 13 Remembrance Day Parade (2 RRF Band).
- 13 Remembrance Sunday, Edinburgh (1 RS Band), Whitehall, London.
- 13 Remembrance Parade, Cardiff (1 RWF, RAF St Athan).
- 13 Remembrance Day, Hull (150(N) Tpt Regt (V) Band).

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PHILIP HARTLEY'S NEW AIM

TWO YEARS ago Corporal Philip Hartley lost both his legs below the knee after an IRA ambush rocket attack in Belfast.

He has subsequently left the Army after courses of medical rehabilitation and though deprived of one career is studying hard in the hope of taking up another in the world of banking.

Ironically, Philip who is now 23, had only been back on duty a few days, recovering from a leg wound in an earlier attack. General Sir Edwin Bramall, then Chief of the General Staff and now Field Marshal, Chief of the Defence Staff, described him at the time as an "absolutely marvellous soldier."

Back with his family near Todmorden in Yorkshire, Philip hopes he will emulate that assessment as a wheelchair-borne civilian backed up by the unstinting devotion and help of his German wife, Angela, and their daughters, Serena, 3 and Christine, 2.

Philip has learned to walk on a pair of artificial legs and drives himself to his studies in Halifax.

After his ordeal the Army Benevolent Fund bought him a Vol-



Angela and Philip Hartley with daughters Serena and Christine

vo 343 and his regiment — the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers — paid for its insurance. He has since traded it in for a bigger car, a Passat.

An appeal in the area also raised £8,500 for him which went towards buying his three-bedroomed bungalow in a terrace.

"I'm hoping to go into banking and have been taking a two-year business studies course at college," Philip told SOLDIER.

"Banking is a job I think I can do without legs and not so much walking about. It's also an interesting career mentally.

"Normally, life doesn't bother me but the pains in my stumps sometimes give me bad days. It's probably been worse for my wife than for me on such days.

"She has to cope with everything. The children have not

really noticed any difference except the three-year-old has started to ask me why I have no legs. Luckily, they were both very young when it happened."

Christine, in fact, was born prematurely and was fighting for her life in an incubator as her father lay in hospital.

On his return to the village near Todmorden from Aldershot where the family had a quarter, Philip was approached by the Liberal Party and asked to contest a seat on the local council. He was unsuccessful.

He says he still misses the Army but keeps in touch by letter and phone with his pals of the 3rd Battalion, RRF, as well as taking an interest in the activities of the 5th Battalion, a TA unit, at Bury.

As his course progresses at college, Philip remembers the advice of another legless hero, the late Sir Douglas Bader who told him: "Make certain you do exactly what you want to do rather than what others want you to do — and you will do well."

Story: Graham Smith
Picture: Paul Haley

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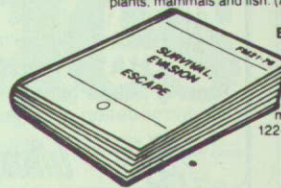
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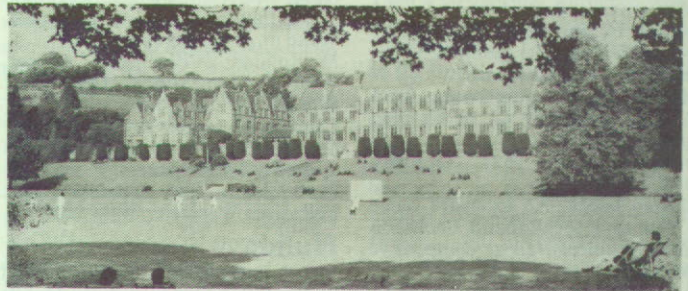
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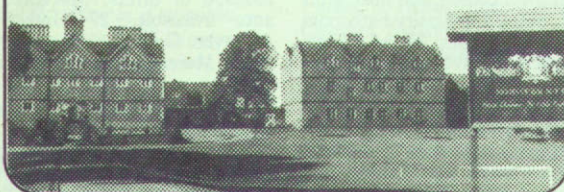
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My name is Bobbie and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies are exploring and cooking. — *Bobbie Hicks, 68 Kensington Avenue, Manor Park, E12 6NP.*

My name is Sue and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair and hazel eyes. My hobbies are squash, dancing, travelling and cooking. — *Sue Caton, 60 Bannister Close, Greenford, Middx.*

My name is Sandra and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are dancing, reading and walking. — *Sandra Dowsett, 13 Athol Terrace, Dover, Kent, CT16 1LT.*

My name is Tracey and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft with brown hair and grey eyes. I would like a penpal aged between 21-25. Photos if possible. — *Tracey Shefford, 8 Chestnut Crescent, Water Eaton Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes.*

My name is Esther and I am 19 years old. I have brown hair and grey eyes. I enjoy travelling, anything to do with aircraft and music. I would like a penpal aged between 18-28. — *Esther Stubbs, 13 Torrs Drive, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland, DG7 1JH.*

My name is Vally and I am a young 42 years of age. I am 5ft 5ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My interests are travel, eating out, etc, and I am a secretary. — *Vally Axton, 3 Underwood Road, Silverdale, Newcastle, Staffs, ST5 6QG.*

My name is Barbara and I am 43 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I like music, dancing and keep fit. All letters answered. Photos if possible. — *Barbara Haughton, 155 Naylor St, Miles Platting, Manchester, M10 7NF.*

My name is Graham. I am 36 years old, 6ft tall, slim, moustache and wear specs. I have a professional occupation and would like to write to a lady officer 26 plus. — *Graham Tomlin, 28 Old Lansdowne Road, West Didsbury, Manchester 20.*

My name is Frances and I am 30 years old. I am 5ft 9ins tall with fair hair and grey eyes. My hobbies are reading, writing and eating out, walking and have a good sense of humour. — *Frances Brown, 102 Dovecroft, New Ollerton, Newark, Notts, NG22 9RQ.*

My name is Adrienne and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft tall with brown hair and I am a hairdresser. — *Adrienne Lane, 57a Cookson St, Blackpool, Lancs.*

My name is Christina and I am 32 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. Originally from Cambridge, my interests include music, dancing, horse-riding, sports, reading, photography. All letters answered. — *Christina Gardner, 2102 East 14th St, Brooklyn, New York 11229, USA.*

My name is Tracey and I would like a soldier penpal serving anywhere in the world. — *Tracey Branrick, 19 Redland Close, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 8LR.*

My name is Michelle and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with black hair and green eyes. My hobbies are motorbikes, cooking and sport. — *Michelle Bennett, 14 Railway Side, Barnes, London SW13.*

My name is Paula and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include music, dancing, reading and dressmaking. — *Paula Bryan, 6 Rye Mead, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex, SS16 6LJ.*

My name is Pauline and I am 30 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to write to someone over 22 years old, at home or abroad. All letters answered. — *Pauline Lloyd, 226 Featherby Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6DQ.*

My name is Anne and I am 32 years old. My interests are cooking, music, reading and walking in the country. — *Anne Bromfield, 26 Woodside Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, W Midlands, DY2 0UE.*

We are two friends who would like to write to some lonely soldiers in the Falklands or Northern Ireland. — *Joanne Peck and Siobhan Egan, 10 Rollesley Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2BZ.*

My name is Jacqueline and I am 16 years old. My hobbies are horse-riding, reading and writing, sport and camping. I would like to write to someone in the Falklands. — *J Pugh, 6 Bryn Awel, New Broughton, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL11 6YG.*

My name is Yvonne and I am 32 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with dark hair and I enjoy walking, camping and squash. I would like to write to an intelligent officer, 34 plus, with a good sense of humour. — *Yvonne Forbes, 6 Thames Ave, Penton Park, Chertsey, Surrey.*

My name is Melodye and I am 24 years old. I enjoy cool milk, Strongbow, bagpipes, bongos and Chas and Dave. — *Miss R M Arnold, Orchard Cottage, 35 High St, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 5SU.*

My name is Karen and I am 29 years old. I like going out, dancing and reading. I would like to write to someone aged 29 plus. — *Karen Reeves, 64 Gough Ave, Orford, Warrington, Cheshire.*

My name is Lucy and I am 18 years old. I am studying for 'A' levels and like a wide range of music. — *Lucy Day, 59 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2UR.*

We are two flatmates. Donna is a 5ft redhead and is eighteen years old; Allison is a 5ft 3ins redhead and is 23 years old. Our interests are boxing, car-rallying, motorbikes and athletics. We would like to write to anybody aged between 20-25 at home or abroad. All letters answered. — *Mary Avery, 12 Lancaster Road, Priors Park, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 5HA.*

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My name is Lesley and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. My interests are sport and music. Photos if possible. — *Lesley Haywood, 41 Barrow Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 3BD.*

My name is Lorraine and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are reading and music. — *Lorraine Burns, 72 Fortin Way, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 5NG.*

My name is Judith and I would like penpals in the Army at home or abroad. — *Judith Hutchinson, 19 Merrington Close, Kirk Merrington, Spennymoor, Co Durham, DL16 7HU.*

My name is Alan and I am at present serving in the Falklands. I am 23 years old and my interests are dancing, sports and travel. I would like to write to anyone aged between 18-26 years old. All letters answered. — *L/Cpl A Jones, 1 Tp 18 Fd Sqn, Royal Engineers, BFPO 666.*

My name is Allison and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy music, reading and painting. — *Allison Shirbon, 23 Mattison Way, Hamilton Drive, Acomb, York, YO2 4PD.*

My name is Becky and I am 20 years old. My interests include driving, watching tennis, reading and rock music. I would like a penpal around the same age, preferably in the Falklands. — *Becky Day, 59 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2UR.*

My name is Anita and I am 18 years old. My hobbies are horse riding, swimming, CB and animals. I would like a penpal in the Falklands. — *Anita Hamilton, 28 Firbank Grove, Halton Moore, Leeds 15.*

My name is Valerie and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I am an auxiliary nurse and my hobbies are cooking, writing, reading and cycling. — *Valerie Belcher, 37 Summerfield Road, West Wittering, Chichester, Sussex, PO20 8LX.*

My name is Karen and I am 23 years old with dark brown hair. I have a sense of humour and I enjoy motor-ing and travelling. — *Karen Willis, 145 Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, Middx, UB10 8DL.*

My name is Pam and I am 32 years old. I enjoy sport, reading and run the local youth club. — *Pam Elliott, 2 Wesley Terrace, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8HT.*

My name is Joyce and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with brown hair. My hobbies include playing badminton. — *Joyce Benson, 18 Ribblesdale View, Chatburn, Clitheroe, Lancs, BB7 4BB.*

My name is Tina and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown eyes and hair and I like jazz funk, soul and reggae. — *Tina Laird, 21 Acacia Road, Norbury, London, SW16 5PP.*

My name is Susan and I am 26 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with auburn hair and hazel eyes and I am a hairdresser. — *Susan Belcher, 37 Summerfield Road, West Wittering, Chichester, Sussex, PO20 8LX.*

I am a 30-year-old European who is currently serving in the French Foreign Legion and I would like penpals in the British forces, especially in the Para regiments. — *Leg Julius Sabs, 20 REI CCS, Section de Lt Paul, Citadelle Montlaur, 20169 Bonifacio, Corsica.*

My name is Margaret and I am a young 38-year-old divorcee. I work in a local council home for the elderly and would like to write to servicemen or women at home or overseas. — *Margaret Wilkinson, 19 Amberton Garth, Leeds 8, Yorks.*

My name is Suzanne and I am 20 years old. My interests are dancing, driving and I love animals. I would like a pen pal in England. — *Suzanne Canning, 18 Picktree Lodge, Pascaul, Chester-le-Steet, Co Durham.*

I am 18 years old and a second-year student in beauty and hairdressing. I have many hobbies. — *C Hughes, 24 Dolly's Lane, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.*

My name is Steven and I am 16 years old. I love football, swimming, hiking and I have a good sense of humour. I would like to write to servicemen/women aged 16-25. Photos if possible, preferably in uniform. — *Steven Quartey, PO Box K24, Accra, New Town, Ghana.*

My name is Caroline and I am 19 years old. I am a student and my hobbies are football, discos and I am a Sunday School teacher. — *Caroline Walton, 69 Ball Hayes Road, Chell Neath, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST6 6PM.*

My name is Karen and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with green eyes and brown hair. My hobbies are discos, pubs, music and writing. I would like to hear from someone aged between 24-28. Photo appreciated. — *Karen Clayton, 40 Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke, Hants.*

My name is Sarah and I am 17 years old. My hobbies are music, writing and Army history. I would like to write to soldiers aged 18-22. — *Sarah Weyl, 24 Maldon Close, Reading, Berks.*

My name is Anne and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I enjoy music and collecting records. I would like a pen pal aged between 18-21. — *Anne Cushen, 147 George Lane, Lewisham, London, SE13 6HP.*

My name is Gloria and I am 26 years old. My interests are gardening, sport, walking and music. I would like a pen pal aged between 25-35 years old. — *Gloria Newton, 26 Shaftoe Close, Woodside Grange, Craw-crook, Ryton, NE40 4UT.*

My name is Janice and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair and eyes, and I like reading, swimming and long walks. I would like a penpal aged 22 plus. — *Janice Chewings, 2 Rivermead, Cotgrave, Nottingham.*

FIVE MEN with Army connections — one of them retired — but all with high Olympic Games hopes next year attended a “going for gold” ceremony at London’s Crystal Palace when Budget, a car rental firm, loaned 19 promotional team cars for use until June and the start of the Games in Los Angeles.

Our picture shows, left to right, Captain Paul Tolfree, captain of the skiing contingent, Staff Sgt Jim Wood, 31, of RMA Sandhurst the British champion biathlete, Lance Bombardier Trevor King, 5th Regiment, RA, from Hildesheim and Cpl Steve Dagleish, of 45 Commando, Royal Marines, two more skiers.

Not in the picture is Major General Jack Reynolds, captain of the Equestrian Team who left the Army ten years ago as Director of Movements in the Ministry of Defence.

The team will comprise 14 competitors and 18 horses. Also competing is Major Malcolm Wallace in the equestrian event.

Captain Tolfree, 27, of the Queen’s Own Hussars based at Catterick, told SOLDIER: “Our intention is to get a man and a team in each of the top ten places in the world. Between now and the Olympics we shall be ski-ing in Norway, Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland.

“The loan of the car gives us

an extra dimension in addition to the transit van carrying skis and other equipment. I’ve just been posted to Catterick with the regiment and I suppose I’ve done about two months’ soldiering in the last year.

“For us to be able compete against the Scandinavians is like asking the Finns to play against the MCC at cricket. We are better at ski-ing than they are at cricket.”

Medal Consolation

Corporal Roy Smith, 26 year-old radio relay technician with 22 Signal Regiment in Lipstadt, got his medal even though he did not complete the course in the recent Quadrathon.

He had almost completed the third part, the 100 mile cycle event, when it was discovered the organisers had mislaid all his running gear for the marathon.

With twelve hours of swimming, walking and cycling behind him the possible loss of £80 worth of new gear was the last straw and he retired.

Assisted throughout the race by his brother, Alan, and sister, Ann, he did the 2 miles swim in the sea between the piers of Brighton in water which at 65°F was pretty warm for English coastal waters, in 63 minutes then the 50km walk through the night to Tunbridge Wells took another 7hrs 11 mins.

It was there that the cycling started and, unknown to Roy, his problems.

To begin with he had problems with the gears on the bike which they managed to sort out but after about 20 miles the lights failed and as it was still dark a motorcycle escort had to be found to escort him the rest of the way to Brands Hatch.

Then when on the circuit he was physically knocked off his bike by a helper attending to

another competitor. All this was followed by the loss of the marathon gear and with ten laps of the circuit to go, Roy retired.

His training in Germany, which started last February and was all done in his own time, has consisted of five hours a day swimming, cycling and running and except for a pulled hamstring about six weeks ago, has been without injury.

As a consolation he was awarded the Quadrathon medal which he says “Will sit on my mantelpiece as a trophy but I know I didn’t complete it and, service commitments allowing, I hope to finish it next year.”

FLYING START

The Combined Services match against the Canadian National Rugby side at Portsmouth on 1 October gets this season’s Rugby off to a flying start. The UK

ARMY STARS GOING FOR GOLD



VENUS IS NEW LOWER SAXONY CHAMPION

Staff Sergeant Bill Venus of Headquarters 1 Armoured Division and Signal Regiment became the Lower Saxony 25 km road race champion and was also runner-up in the North German Championships since the Lower Saxony championships were incorporated in the event at Schladen, near Salzgitter, in Lower Saxony.

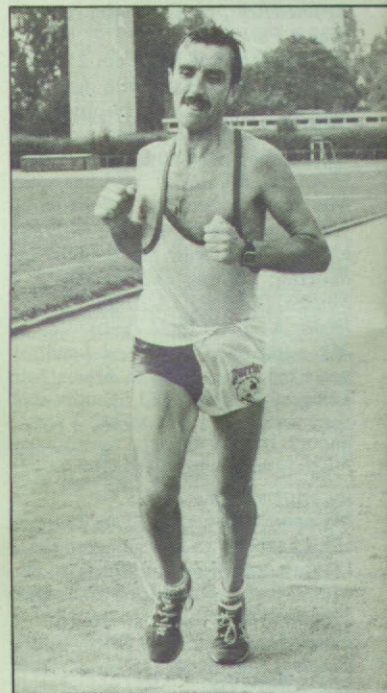
Staff Sergeant Venus recorded a time of 1 hour 23 minutes 40 seconds against a field of 269 men and women coming from Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

An experienced and successful runner, Staff Sergeant Venus won the Verden marathon last November, and is going to New York in October to run for the army in the city’s marathon.

As well as representing the army, Staff Sergeant Venus also runs for the local athletic club in Verden, whom he helped to second place in both team events. He is an active member of the

finals will both be held at Aldershot — for minor units on 30 November and major on 7 December.

The annual matches against the Royal Navy and the RAF will be held at Twickenham on 3 March and 7 April. The Army Cup Major Units final will be in Germany on 29 March and the Minor Units at Aldershot on 4 April. The season rounds off with the Courage Army Sevens at Aldershot on 25 April.



Staff Sergeant Bill Venus — double celebration.

club, along with Warrant Officer 2 Bob Duncan and his wife, Celia, who took third place in the Lower Saxony championships, and Staff Sergeant Steve Atkinson who came in 27th, all of whom belong to 1 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

2 PARA — 3 TROPHIES

The team from 2 Para took three trophies in the recent World Parascending Championships — for best team, best ram air team and most improved team. Their captain, Corporal Shaw came second in the individual championship and also captained the winning British side.

ARMY AIR CORPS CENTRE WIN 'MAJOR' AGAIN

ARMY AIR CORPS Centre Middle Wallop captured the Major Units cricket title for the second time in four years when they beat School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Bordon by 42 runs in the final at Aldershot.

After an innings that was like the curate's egg — good in parts — the Centre men totalled 133, which seemed at the time a fair target for the SEME team and their supporters.

Yet they hadn't reckoned on the problems which were to be posed by some magnificently accurate pace bowling on the part of Major Ian White and Lieutenant Paul Mansell.

Mansell removed openers Warrant Officer 2 Steve Morton (two) and Craftsman Dave Durston (four) with magnificent balls and when White also clean bowled Craftsman Guy Whittingham (duck) at six runs for three wickets there were decidedly long faces in the Buller Barracks pavilion among the SEME men.

However, the Bordon contingent had a lot of faith in skipper Staff Sergeant Duncan Gibson and when he and Corporal Kevin Wright put on 44 for the fourth wicket there was still hope, albeit slim because the clock had by then become the main enemy. At 29 for three half the overs had gone.

The first bowling change raised SEME hearts when Gibson hooked Staff Sergeant John Morgan to the boundary — the first of the innings — and the SEME captain hit more fours before Morgan got his revenge and shattered the wickets.

From then on, despite a dogged 21 from Cpl Wright and 19 from Craftsman Dave Foster, the wickets tumbled as SEME had to rely on desperate measures to try and beat the clock and they were all out for 91. Three were brilliantly run out. White finished with two for five from nine overs, four of which were maidens — a feat reproduced by Mansell in his two for nine from eight overs. Morgan took two for 35 and captain for the day Lieutenant Col-

onel Stephen Nathan one for 33.

Top scorers for the Army Air Corps centre were Morgan, whose 32 included seven fours, opener Staff Sergeant Barry Vincent, 21, and Warrant Officer 2 Mike Goodchild, who went in with the score at 97 for eight and whose 26 not out (three fours) was invaluable as events were to prove. Craftsman Kevin Wright — a corporal in the team with the same name leads to confusion! — took four for 21 and Gibson led from the front in bowling as well with three for 33.

It was also particularly frustrating for the Army Air Corps Centre captain Major Malcolm Yeomans. You couldn't say he sat the final out as a result of injury, a damaged finger — it was more a case of prowling round the boundary with his thoughts to himself as he willed his team on.

"Having played all the way through", he told SOLDIER, "It was disquieting to have to miss the final but I was delighted for the team. They earned this and it caps a good season having won the District Cup and League."

"As we have so many REME men, including me, in our side, I had some mixed feelings but there was little SEME, or any team, could have done with our opening attack."

"One must give SEME credit for some fine bowling and fielding as well".

Ischgl. The 3 Div honours will be decided in Germany at Zwiesel, Bavaria where the meet will incorporate the UKLF championships.

From 18 January to the end of the month Zweisel is also the setting for the Nordic championships (also taking in the British National) and the Army Alpine meeting is scheduled for Ischgl 18-27 January.

This season marks the Army's turn to run the Inter-Service Alpine Championships, which will be staged at Andermatt, Switzerland, starting 28 January.

SKI EVENTS

ARMY ski enthusiasts will be interested to see next season's calendar includes for the first time a Scottish Nordic event, based on Ballater, 23-27 February 1984.

The usual Scottish Alpine meet will be held at Aviemore 12-17 March.

All three BAOR Divisional meetings will be held 9-17 January, with 1 Div getting together in the Stubaital area of Austria — and in the same country 4 Div have their championships at

Near thing... Staff Sergeant Alec Horsburgh just too late to catch David Bolus in the Minor Units Cricket final.

BOLUS 'TON' SECURES THE 'MINOR' TITLE

MISSED early on, opening bat David Bolus bashed his way to a hundred in even time to give 9 Ordnance Battalion RAOC a first-time win in the Minor Units cricket final at Aldershot.

After losing his partner Dick Baker for one, Bolus — an Army representative player — was joined by David Hingston-Jones and between them took apart the bowling of the Postal and Courier Depot RE.

With a time limit of two hours ten minutes or 40 overs — whichever came first — they saw the 200 up before Bolus was stumped at 101 by wicketkeeper Alec Horsburgh.

But Hingston-Jones was still there and with Colin Dickinson saw time run out after 37 overs just seven short of his 100. Final score for the combat suppliers was 218, close on six an over — a run a ball.

A tremendous rate by any

standard and one that was to prove too much for the London-based Posties.

Neither side was happy with the state of the Buller Barracks pitch. Far too wet, they said.

But it didn't stop the RAOC skipper David Gelling from whipping in his left-arm medium pace stuff to finish with six for 23.

A fine performance as the Posties bowlers could make no impression off the pitch. A state which delighted the Ordnance men's opening pair.

Paying tribute to his opponents, David Gelling said winning the toss and running up a big score inside the over limit was a tremendous advantage.

"The Posties batted well," said David, "but our score was just too much for them."

They were under a great deal of pressure from a team with seven Corps players.

"I understand they didn't even have Corps reps in their side which makes their 170 all out off 36 overs look even better."

For a time it looked as though the Posties number three, Rick Freeman, was going to prove a danger, but he was finally out for 68 caught behind by 'keeper Dick Baker.

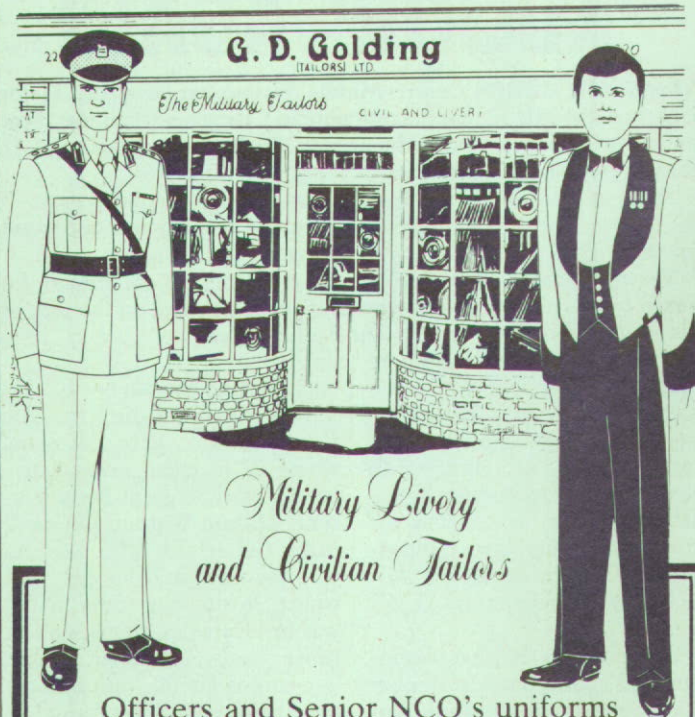
With close on 400 runs scored in an afternoon's play, it was a mega performance from two Minor Units teams. Prizes were presented by Major General W. N J Withall, President of Army cricket.

MISS BAOR TO START BIG RALLY

Miss BAOR 1983, Mandy Shimm, will be flagging cars away from the start of this year's Opel Schafers Starlight Rally being held in Hamm, West Germany on Sat 24 September.

Mandy lives and works in Widenrath and will be joining the rally later in the evening. She will also be distributing the prizes.

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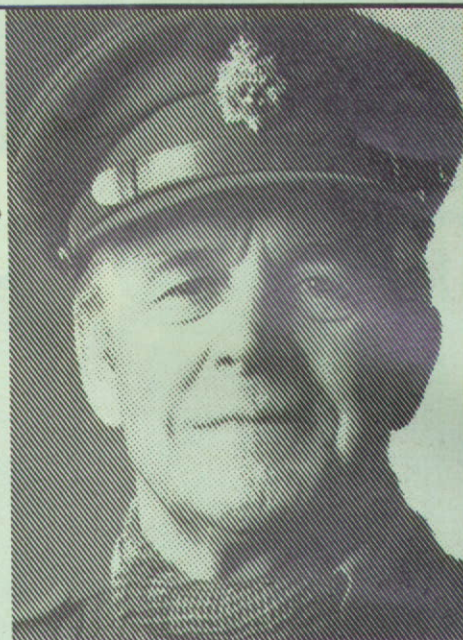
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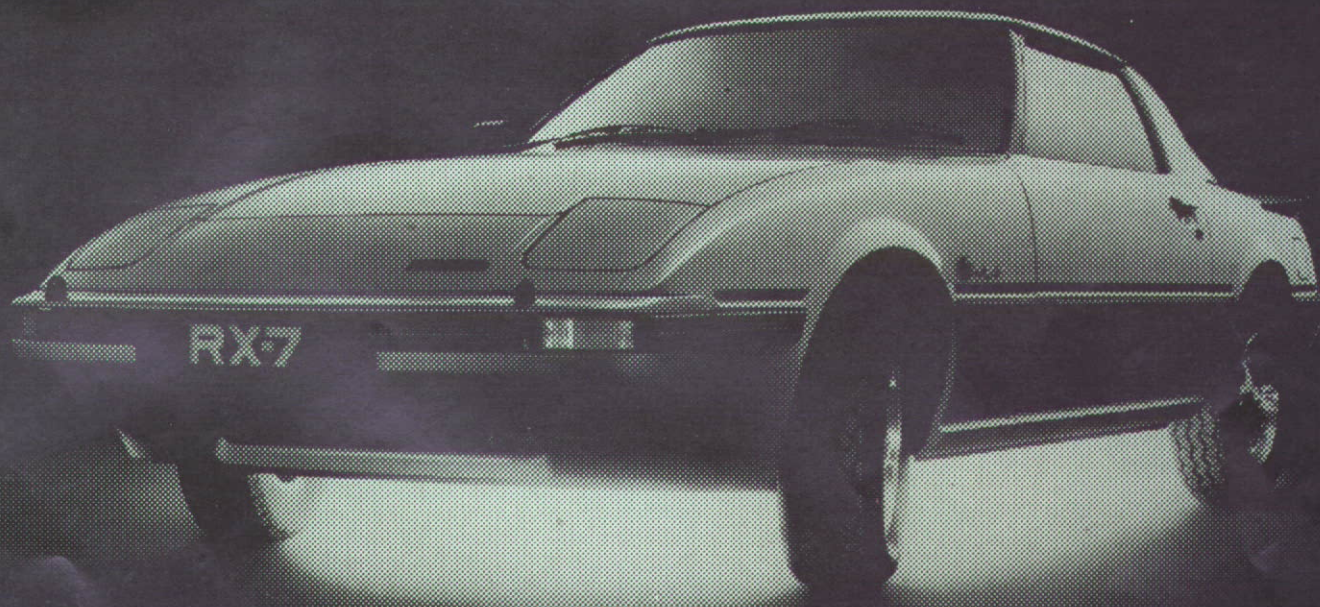
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