

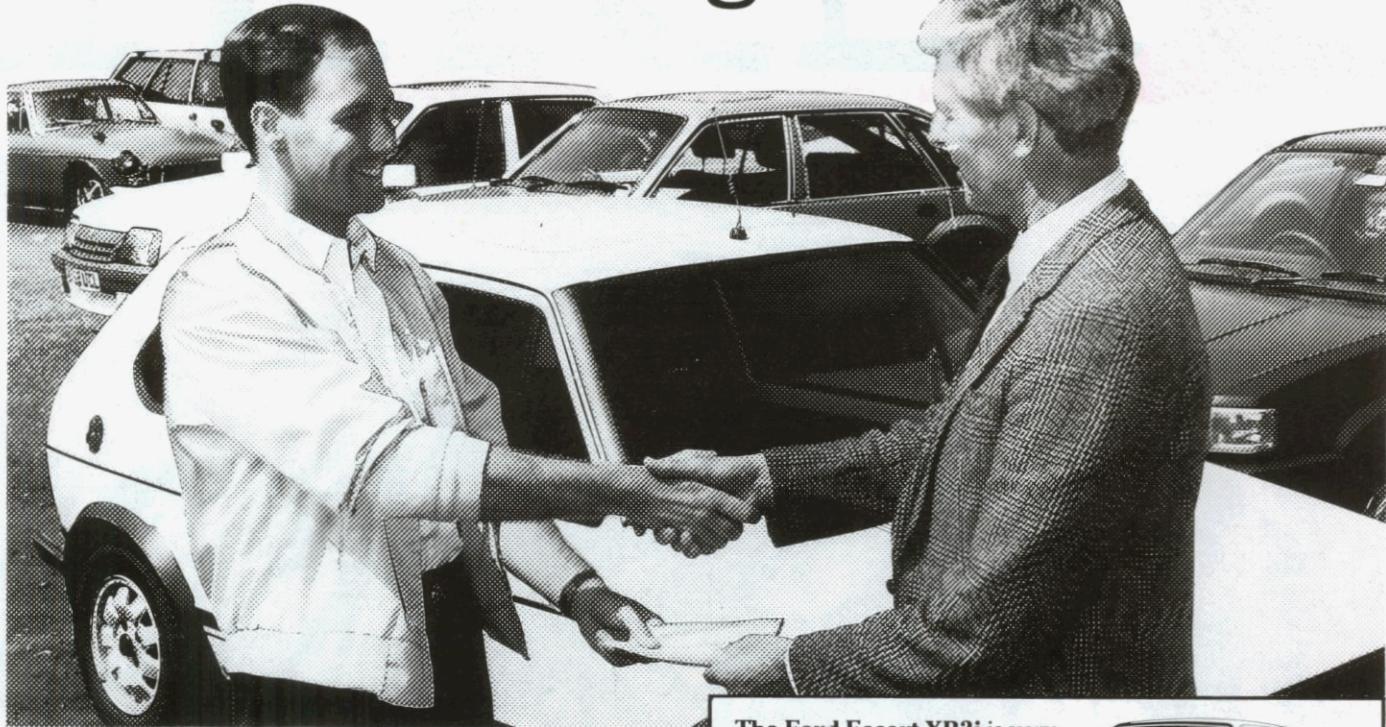
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 27 JANUARY 1986

SOLDIER



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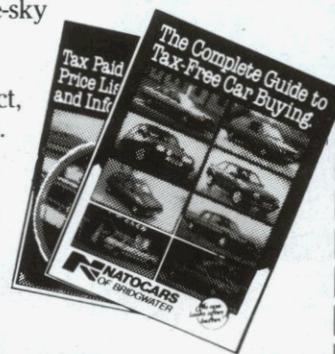


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FRONT COVER: The Army's new sniper rifle has been hailed as "the world's best of its kind". Photograph by Les Wiggs. See story page 24.

BACK COVER: Pass-out for WRAC PTIs after an eight-month course at the Army Physical Training College, and a congratulatory word from Brigadier Robert Corbett, Commander 5 Airborne Brigade. Photograph by Paul Haley. See story page 8.

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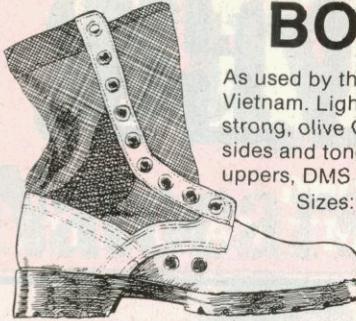
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Horsemen of the Queen



Resplendent in their colourful traditional uniforms, the mounted soldiers of the Household Cavalry are a familiar sight to millions of people in London. In its next issue, SOLDIER looks behind the scenes at how horse and rider become such an efficient combination.

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SHIRT SUITS. German Army shirts suit in white drill cotton, jackets and trousers with large map pockets, hood and draw string, large wrap over collar for protection, in white drill cotton with camouflaged splashes removed. In plain white, trousers are full combat style with large map pocket all sizes at £36.

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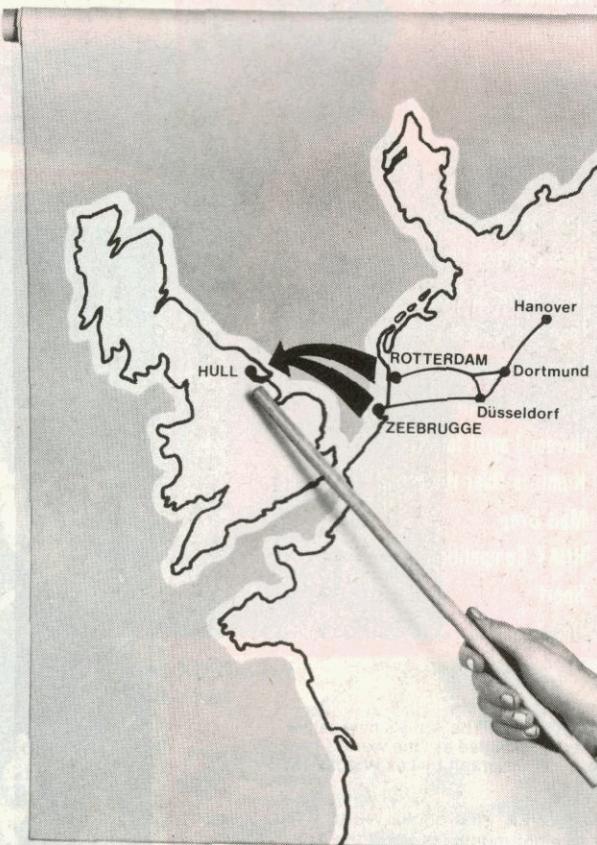
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THE GUARDS MOVE IN



Heathrow airport: The Guards on guard

SECURITY at Heathrow Airport was tightened by a ring of steel when Army units moved in to protect passengers from terrorist attacks.

Operation Trustee swung into action with troops from the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, based in London, and The Life Guards from Windsor, after attacks on Rome and Vienna in which 19 people died.

Equipped with Spartan APCs and Scorpions with 73 mm guns, the Life Guards patrolled the miles of roads around the airport, with the Coldstream Guards manning every entrance and exit armed with SMGs and rifles.

Most of the military muscle showed itself around Terminal Three, where the Israeli airline El Al has its check-in desks.

IRIS RETIRES



PERSONAL Secretary to two Major Generals and 11 Brigadiers serving with the Army in York, Mrs Iris Duncan has retired after nearly 38 years with the Civil Service.

To mark the occasion she was given a special farewell lunch by officers of the Army's North East District Headquarters where her last appointment was Personal Secretary to Deputy Commander — Brigadier Michael Jones.

Picture shows Iris with some of her former bosses, including (extreme left) Major General Anthony Stanton, Brigadier Michael Jones (second left), Brigadiers Peter Prescott and David Wilson.

VIP TREE



IT'S A common practice among royals ... now Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, outgoing GOC of South East District takes up a spade to slam a heap of soil round the roots of a tree.

This VIP ceremony came the way of Sir Geoffrey when he left his Aldershot headquarters to take up his new Nato appointment as C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo.

The new job also means promotion for Sir Geoffrey who now moves up a rank to that of general.

HELEN'S ON TARGET

HEARTWEARMING
Helen Preston has set her sights on a great 1986.

Her first shot — modelling a new T-shirt specially designed for Naafi's Army customers.

Under the word 'Army', picked out in Union Jack colours, are the names of every regiment and corps.

Helen's calibre (34-25-35) perfectly displays the motif, also available on sweatshirts.

Which, in SOLDIER's books, puts Helen bang on target with her New Year assignment.



BOMBED BAND RETURNS



THE Normandy Band of The Royal Green Jackets, whose bandmen were victims of the vicious bomb attack in 1982 in London's Regents Park, has made a flying return visit to Northern Ireland to play a series of concerts for the 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, currently serving in West Belfast.

The 2nd Battalion's own band was cut as part of the reorganisation of bands and the Green Jackets were left with the Normandy Band

Green Jackets musicians; the baton raised again

based on the 1st Battalion in Tidworth and the Peninsula Band based with the 3rd Battalion in Celle.

The Normandy Band gave performances at each Company location as well as at the military and civilian wings of Musgrave Park Hospital. They played in cookhouses and hallways before putting on their flak jackets to race off to their next engagement.

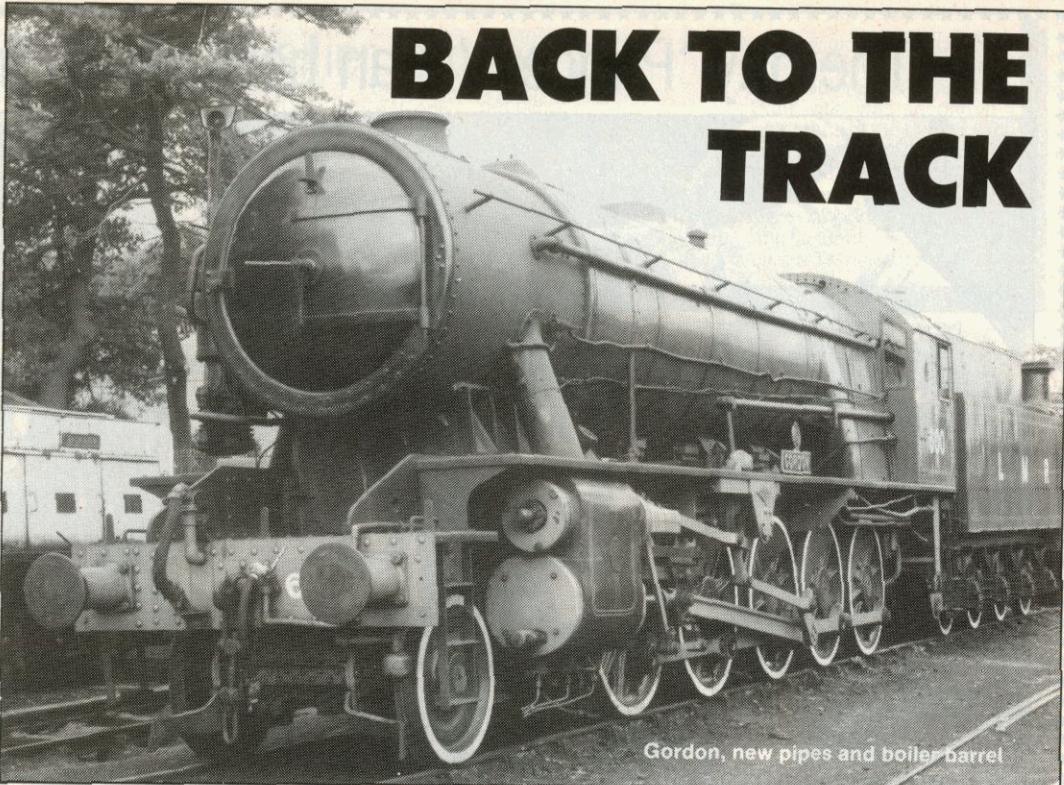
CLOGGED boiler barrels signalled *Gordon*, a ten-two locomotive to a halt about a year ago.

Now the last main line steamer of the Longmoor Military Railway (LMR) is to have a new set of pipes before puffing away for another ten years on the Severn Valley Railway (SVR).

For talks between the SVR and *Gordon*'s owners — the Royal Corps of Transport Museum — have ended with an agreement to extend the loan of the loco for another decade.

But first *Gordon* needs a new boiler barrel and fire-box. Work on these parts is planned to start in the autumn of 1987.

And when it's all finished, and *Gordon* is restored to near pristine condition and ready for the rails, SVR will be operating not just a working memorial of the old LMR, but a powerful loco capable of handling heavy trains made up of modern British Rail stock.



BACK TO THE TRACK

Miss Girobank meets Junior Leaders



MISS National Girobank, 21-year-old Fiona Newcombe from Birmingham, joined the Army for one day when she visited Azimghur Barracks, North Colerne.

But she didn't 'sign on'. She visited the post office on camp to help promote National Girobank's services to the Junior Leaders from the Royal Corps of Transport and Ordnance Corps based there.

Accompanied by Bobby, the bank's blue lion mascot, Fiona helped raise the blood pressure of one platoon of the young soldiers, who undertake a two-year training course at the former RAF base.

Left: Fiona meets members of 30 Squadron Junior Leaders RCT, 1 to r Junior Mechanic William McMullan, Sergeant 'Ginger' Noy, Junior Driver Paul Carrick, and Junior Driver Wayne Fearnley.

CASH INSTEAD OF MILK

SERVICE families overseas drawing Family Income Supplement (FIS) are now entitled to 23p a day for every child under the age of five years one month.

This is in lieu of the milk token scheme which poor UK residents receive under the DHSS scheme.

Payments are backdated to November 26 and will be reviewed annually in line with DHSS benefit.

Soldier's Anne Armstrong has been fighting for this for more than six years.

Then, poor Service families posted overseas were denied either milk tokens or cash in lieu. Now they will receive up to £83 a year for each entitled child.



LIEUTENANT Thomas Trotter hands over (left) the last ceremonial lifebelt from HMS Gurkha to two Gurkha soldiers at their regimental museum at Church Crookham, near Aldershot.

Receiving the lifebelt are Sergeant Gabin Gurung (left) and Lance Corporal Babu Ram Gurung.

The Tribal Class warship HMS Gurkha, 2,336 tonnes, paid off in Portsmouth in May 1984 and was sold to Indonesia, after a long and happy association with the Gurkha regiments.

Lt Trotter, officer in charge of disposing of surplus ships, rescued the lifebelt for presentation to the museum. The museum's curator, Major John Hammond said: "We are absolutely delighted at the Navy's gift."

The day 'Princess' San became an instructor



BRIGADIER ROBERT CORBETT, LANCE CORPORAL AHMAD NOREHSAN: unsure of royal links



SERGEANT W.H. YIP: flying leaps to celebrate

High-flying Yip leaps for joy

Natural shyness coupled with a limited fluency in English prevented Lance Corporal Ahmad Norehsan from describing her precise links with the royals of

Brunei, but since a close relative of hers married into the family she is probably a princess. She wasn't sure.

But princess or not, so far as the Army was concerned she was an exchange lance corporal attending the APTC instructors' course at their Aldershot school.

San, as she was known on the course, collected her certificate from inspecting officer Brigadier Robert Corbett, Comman-

der 5 Airborne Brigade.

San is now on her way home to become the only PTI in the Brunei Women's Company.

Another Far East student at the school was Sergeant W.H. Yip of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. A leading exponent of tae-kwon-do, he took a few flying leaps to break inch-thick boards with his feet as celebration at passing the probationers' course.

PEOPLE

Polar hero's model job

Lance Corporal Kerry Gill's orders were short and to the point: "Get photographed with a top model."

No problem, said Kerry, who less than a couple of months ago was presented with a Royal Navy commendation for saving the life of Lieutenant Commander Clive Waghorn while on a polar expedition.

So he made his way to the London offices of *The Star* newspaper which, following his dramatic ice-hole rescue of the Commander on Brabant Island in the Antarctic, featured him among their *Star* gold awards.

There he told of his initiative test and lo and behold, before he could say Page Three, he was snapped cuddling curvy Kathy Bonniface.

Kerry, 22, who was taking a Royal Signals officers exam at Catterick, was also under orders to dig a grave... but the last we heard he was having trouble getting a job in a cemetery.

But even if the latter test was a bit of a dead loss, Kerry piled up a heap of points for his *Star* effort with dolly bird Kathy. Lucky lad.



LCpl Kerry Gill

Top catering slot for the Colonel

One of the most prestigious jobs in the catering industry, which is high in the UK business league and rated about fourth largest, has gone to Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Paget of the Army Catering Corps.

With about six months to go before leaving the Army after 34 years, the Colonel has been appointed vice-president of the Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association (HCIMA).

There are a number from all three Services who are members of the association, but Colonel Paget is the first Serviceman to move into this next-to-the-top slot.

"When I've completed my year as vice-president I automatically become president. Looks like a busy year ahead," he said.

But it won't be all tea, cakes and cocktails for the Colonel, for membership of the HCIMA is much coveted and can be an entree to the



Lt Col Gerry Paget

higher echelons of the industry.

"Membership of the HCIMA is a professional qualification recognised throughout the industry world-wide," said Major Gordon Walker, press officer for the ACC at Aldershot, "and the Colonel's job will be to control and direct policy for the association and to see its standards maintained."

Now 54, Col Paget is Commander No. 5 Catering Region, and contemplates his year ahead with relish. "I'm looking forward to it."



RSM Carl Brome

New Caribbean role for RSM Carl

No wonder RSM Carl Brome is smiling... he's just left the cold of the UK — and in particular of Buller Barracks, Aldershot — for the warmth of Barbados.

For having served his time with the RCT, which he joined in 1964, he's left for his Caribbean home and a new job as Force Sergeant Major of the 2,000-strong Defence Force.

Well-known in Army cricketing circles, he was an RCT representative player for 19 years.

Farewell to a hero of two world wars

Brigadier Charles Armstrong, the father of SOLDIER's own Anne Armstrong who writes the Families' Page and broadcasts weekly on BFBS radio, has died.

The brigadier, who was 88, died in hospital in Camberley a few days before Christmas. His full military life, which spanned both world wars, took him to all parts of the world and into

many dangerous places.

In 1943-44 he parachuted into Yugoslavia as commander of the British military mission to General Mihailovich.

In the Second World War

he served in France in 1939-40 and won the DSO for his bravery.

He retired in 1948. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, a son and three daughters, one of whom is Anne.

Killed in Korea — now a Fusilier is honoured

A soldier who was killed fighting in Korea 35 years ago, has just had his name engraved on his home town's war memorial.

Fusilier Alec Brotherton died in 1951 serving with the 1st Battalion The Royal Regi-

ment of Fusiliers, but his name was never carved on the Alnwick roll of honour.

Now, following a request on behalf of the Brotherton family by WO2 Rodney Fenwick RAPC, who serves with the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion,

the local council not only agreed to the suggestion, but supplied a plaque as well.

Captain Fred Calvert, admin officer of the 6th Battalion, organised a ceremony of dedication attended by more than 100

people.

At least half of that number were members of the Korean Veterans' Association. Some came from as far as York.

Wreaths were laid by the Brotherton family, the council chairman and mayor

of Alnwick, Mr T. McFall of the Veterans' Association, and Lieutenant Colonel R.M. Pratt, who was second-in-command of the battalion at the time of Fusilier Brotherton's death.

Buglers from the 6th Battalion played the Last Post and a lunch was provided by the Terriers of Alnwick.

Mammoth cake for top TV soap!



BET LYNCH (JULIE GOODYEAR) AND CORPORAL RON DAVIES (LEFT): demolition took place at the silver anniversary party

Legal tussle over Nazi's silver baton

A row over a Nazi field Marshal's baton has led to it being withdrawn from auction.

Valued at several thousands of pounds, it was put up for sale by a relative of the late Brigadier Derek Mills-Roberts who, on seeing the carnage of a German massacre of concentration camp prisoners, broke the silver and ebony baton over the head of Field Marshal

Erhard Milch.

But a British officer picked it up, repaired it and insisted the brigadier, a highly-decorated hero, should keep

it as a memento.

Now, the family of the late field marshal claims the baton was taken and not surrendered and that it still

belongs to them.

Till the matter is legally settled, its present owner is reportedly loaning it to a museum.

Stephen gets a glittering start to 1986

It's nice to get a "gong" at any time. But to get one at yuletide is a bit of a bonus... it sort of rounds off the old year and starts the new with a hint of glitter and razzle-dazzle.

Such a recipient was Corporal Stephen Ripley who received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Brigadier Rolf James, Director Defence and Postal Courier Services.

Stephen, 33, is chief clerk with 14 Postal and Courier Squadron at Herford in BAOR.

Said Stephen: "To get a medal at any time is nice in itself, but to get it at Christmas just makes it that bit more special."



CORPORAL STEPHEN RIPLEY, BRIGADIER ROLF JAMES: festive presentation

Red faces over broken statue

A tight-lipped reaction from the National Army Museum when asked about a fine bronze statue of a VC hero which arrived at their Chelsea headquarters in pieces.

A spokesman said: "All I can say is that we are in no way responsible."

The statue, which formerly stood in Horse Show Hall, Dublin, depicted Lieutenant Walter Hamilton VC, sabre in hand standing over a dead Afghan tribesman.

Now it's in bits in boxes awaiting repair which reports put at costing £2,000.

The young officer, who won his medal in Afghanistan in 1879, serving with the Bengal Staff Corps/Corps of Guides, Indian Army, never actually received his award as he was killed within six months defending the embassy in Kabul. He was barely 23 and in Sir John Smyth's *Story of the Victoria Cross* he is described as "fighting to the last".

Now it looks as if another fight is brewing over his statue, as his family are reported to be "furious".

Loaned VC

The latest VC medal to be loaned to the National Army Museum is that won by Lieutenant William Kenny of the 4th/39th Garhwal Rifles on the North-West Frontier in 1920 who died leading a counter-attack against tribesmen.

Naafi takings up

Cash continues to roll into Naafi coffers according to their accounts for the year ending last April.

In almost every area — except for reduced LCO and family population in BAOR — they show healthy increases all round.

Altogether they gave back nearly £14 million to customers; £5.6 million in discounts and dividends at shop checkouts and £3.2 million to units.

TWO SIGNATURES on a protocol in Peking have given the green light for the first inter-Service assault on the world's highest mountain.

Actually this will be the second time the Army Mountaineering Association (AMA) has been involved in an expedition to Mount Everest. In 1976 Sergeant Brummie Stokes and Corporal Bronco Lane, both attached to the SAS, became the first British soldiers to stand on the roof of the world.

But on this occasion, says Lieutenant Colonel Henry Day, a member of that expedition, the AMA has decided to involve members of the three Service mountaineering clubs.

"A joint Service mountaineering club committee has taken over the organisation," he added. "Members of the expedition will be selected on merit: there won't be a quota for each Service."

When he spoke to **SOLDIER** Colonel Day had only recently



Lt Col Henry Day

returned from Peking where, as expeditions secretary of the AMA, he had signed the protocol with Shi Chan Chun, the vice president of the Chinese Mountaineering Association.

Under this agreement 36 members of the British Armed Forces will attempt an ascent of Everest via the Western Ridge in the Spring of 1988.

Chinese regulations require an early specification of team numbers and the employment of two Chinese officials as liaison officer and interpreter. There is also a peak fee (the top of the range as you would expect for Everest) of £1,200 to register the expedition.

This leaves the rather larger sum of something like £250,000, in Colonel Day's estimation, to be raised to cover costs above those met by the allocation of funds for adventurous training.

Sponsorship is the obvious answer but members of the expedition will also have to demonstrate their commitment in

financial terms. In 1976, said Colonel Day, this meant a contribution from every individual of two months' basic salary. He thought the same principle could be adopted for 1988.

The high cost of the venture and the large team involved is due in part to the need to provide oxygen for climbers at high altitude.

Colonel Day, who was oxygen officer on the 1976 ascent, commented: "The lack of oxygen is a whole new dimension which I don't believe is given a proper assessment in current mountaineering literature, maybe because it is incredibly difficult to explain just what it is like being half unconscious I suppose.

"It is not just physical — the difficulty of putting one foot in front of the other — your brain isn't working properly. It is like being in the middle of a very bad sickness and the damage can be permanent of course. For this reason I don't think it would be right for us not to take oxygen.

"There are very committed individual mountaineers who make a conscious decision not to use it. I suspect this is partly an excuse for not being able to raise the funds required or not wishing to take a large enough team to transport the cylinders high enough up the mountain.

"But I think that the principle of adventurous training within the Services is to give the largest spread of people the opportunity to take part — the satisfaction of being a member of a large team in a great venture, however small your part, is very much part of being a Serviceman actually.

"So I don't think we are in the business of allowing a few heroic gladiators to risk their health in this great pursuit."

The plans for 1988 will, if all goes well, get the expedition to the summit of Everest by a very different route than in 1976. Then the party made their way to the top via the Khumbu icefall, the Western Cwm, the Lhotse Face and the South Col — the same route taken by Colonel Sir John Hunt's expedition on the first ascent of Everest over 20 years earlier.

This time the assault will be

made from the Chinese (ie Tibetan) side. Instead of the 300-kilometre walk to base camp, the party and their equipment will be able to travel by truck virtually all the way.

The trucks will take them to 16,400 feet. Yaks will be available to carry supplies another 20 kilometres up the Rongbuk Glacier to 18,400 feet, only some 1,600 feet and five kilometres from the Lho La Pass, the start of the Western Ridge.

This arrangement has both advantages and disadvantages.

The main plus, according to Colonel Day, is the avoidance of the whole of the Khumbu Glacier, the mass of notoriously unstable ice through which supply lines have to be maintained for any attempt via the South Col.

There is also a great saving in time through not having to hike 300 kilometres in order to start the climb from the Nepalese side. But this is very much a two edge advantage as travelling by truck does little to increase either fitness or acclimatisation.

Colonel Day said he had spoken to Sherpa Pertemba (the youngest member of the Army's 1970 expedition to Annapurna) about conditions on the Western Ridge.

"He had been up on this ridge

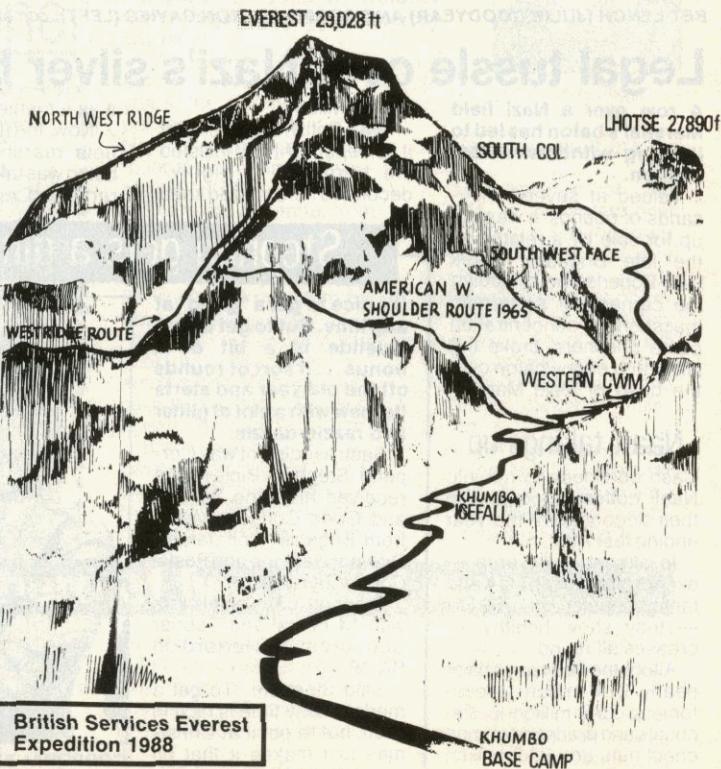
with an Indian party and he was very humbled by the experience. He was very much in awe of this route — particularly from the winds which blow more often than they don't. And when they do blow you simply cannot move and so you are going to be spending rather a long time stuck in what I suspect are going to be snow holes rather than tents."

In Colonel Day's experience snow holes had a couple of important advantages over tents — they gave a much greater sense of security and the inhabitants were saved the wearing sound of perpetual flapping. On the other hand the physical effort required to dig snow holes at around 25,000 feet was going to be fun for nobody.

Only the Yugoslavian expedition of 1979 has ever climbed all the way up the Western Ridge from the Lho La Pass to the summit. In 1965 an American team pioneered the ridge by climbing on to it from the Khumbu Glacier but they made a detour at the top through the Hornbeam Couloir (named after a member of that expedition).

Either route could be a possibility for the Inter Services team of 1988. In the meantime anyone who feels tempted to try a little high level adventurous training should ensure first of all that they are a member of the Army Mountaineering Association, and secondly that they have been able to acquire some high altitude climbing experience before the time for applications comes around.

Those starting, as it were, from the bottom would probably need to get themselves on this year's AMA trip to Peru, and on next year's co-venture with the Indian Army in the Himalayas in order to stand a chance of qualifying.



Troops top up their water bowser from a hydrant before going onto the streets of the city



IN THE largest operation of its kind since the war Servicemen from throughout Britain were rushed to Leeds, Yorkshire, after a 42 inch mains burst threatened water supplies to 250,000 homes.

Taking part in the five-day 'Operation Goblet' were 500 Servicemen from 55 units of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force from as far south as Yeovilton, Somerset to Scotland in the north.

With 200 water containers, ranging from 150-gallon bowsers to 2,000-gallon rubber storage tanks, they toured affected areas with water for local residents and pumped supplies into the storage tanks of hospitals and clinics.

The help of the Services had been called by the Yorkshire Water Authority to back up the assistance of the Fire Brigade and Milk

Marketing Board pumps and tankers.

Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley visited the Servicemen on the ground and praised the good natured way they were getting on with the job.

"I was greatly impressed" he said "with the speed with which the Services responded to the call for help. Many units had started their move into the city within 90 minutes of the emergency being notified to them".

Two-man water bowser teams fanned out throughout the 'dry' areas of the city inviting residents to "Come and get it".

Residents responded with buckets, pans, kettles, washing up bowls — and a plastic garden roller.

At hospitals and clinics Service pumping teams — some getting only three hours sleep a night — were constantly replenishing vital storage tanks.

Soldiers quench 'dry' city's thirst



Left: Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley being briefed on the position in one area by Sergeant Robert McDonald and Sergeant Ronnie Kilgour, both of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Right: Two nurses from St James's Hospital, Leeds, took an off-duty break to thank Sapper Dennis Cook for helping to provide emergency supplies. Dennis and fellow sappers from 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon, pumped water into the hospital's supply system from Milk Marketing Board tankers. Below: Canine 'customer' for Signaller Gary Jones (left) and Gunner Karl Brooks, both from 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire. Five-year-old Golden Retriever Lika is the pet of 11-year-old Sonia Beeharry



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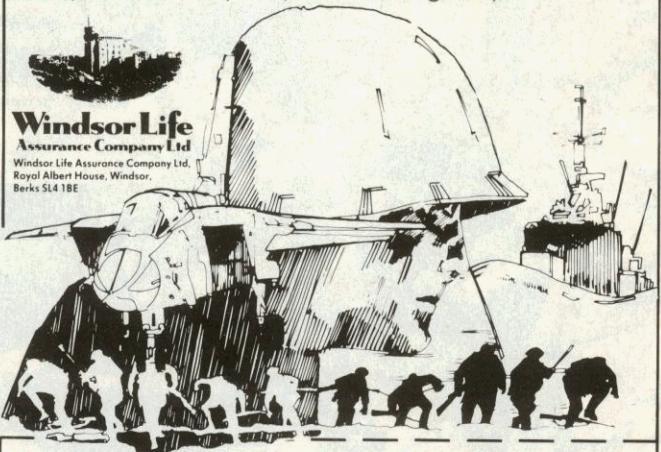
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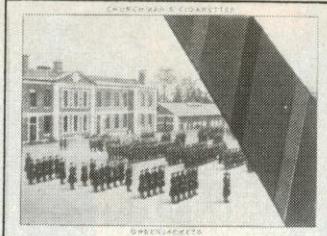
SOLDIER'S feature on the Army's own cigarette cards in the last issue amazingly coincided with a 'cigarette card' issued to commemorate the closure of Peninsula Barracks in Winchester.

A casualty of the closure was the Winchester and Solent Branch of the Cartopholic Society of Great Britain who had been holding their cigarette card collectors' meetings at the barracks for the past three years.

And the branch President is none other than Major Dennis Williams, who has also been the project liaison officer for the new Sir John Moore Barracks — initially as a serving officer then as a retired one.

Says Major Williams: "Having served there on an off for most of my service and having helped the branch to use their facilities I thought it would be nice to issue the card as a commemorative souvenir of the closure."

The original card showing the barracks was issued by Churchman



Peninsula Barracks cigarette card, 52 years ago.

in 1934 with their 'Well Known Ties' series.

★ ★ ★

Lucky Army recruit Andrew Mackenney of Training Battalion and Depot REME. He has just won £50 in SOLDIER's first HOAY prize-winning competition (No 375).

SOLDIER introduced a £50 prize for HOAY as an experiment in November and after a tremendous response had since decided to offer £50 every issue to the first correct HOAY result to be drawn

from the box.

The winner of that first experimental competition was appropriately drawn from a box of correct entries by the artist of HOAY, Frank Finch, a former member of SOLDIER's staff. He was with the magazine in 1945, the year it was founded, and retired as Art Editor in 1976. He produced his first HOAY in 1956.

● For your chance to win £50 from HOAY, turn to page 39.

★ ● ★

Two Service charities, which provide bereaved dependants with immediate assistance, have just joined the world of modern information technology.

Gone are the 250,000 cards which once held the records of the Soldiers' Widows Fund (SWF) and the Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund (SSDF).

Nowadays the staff (reduced to three part timers as a result of the new technology) can call up the information they require on visual display units in their London office from the RAPC computer at Worthy Down.

Man principally responsible for the painstaking task of getting the whole system from card to computer is the secretary of both funds, Major General John Kinahan, the former Paymaster-in-chief.

He makes the point that although 99 per cent of married soldiers and 95 per cent of single soldiers subscribe, it is important

to keep reminding the rest that the funds exist.

For a subscription of £1.80 a year — the equivalent of less than 0.5 pence a day — a soldier ensures an immediate cash payment to help his dependants in the event of his death.

Widows receive £2,150 and the relatives of single soldiers £1,650.

These payments are made irrespective of the cause or circumstances of death.

General Kinahan quotes the case of one soldier who was killed in a traffic accident several months after going AWOL. As he had paid his subscription for the year the grant of £1,650 was immediately sent to his parents.

The funds deal only with the specified initial grant. Any requests for additional help have to be considered on their merits by the Army Benevolent Fund.

But co-operation between these two sources of assistance is very good, helped in no small measure by the fact that Major General Peter Bush, the controller of the Army Benevolent Fund, is also chairman of the executive committee of the SWF and SSDF.

A final note on getting value for money from the funds. General Kinahan says that while the subscription has remained fairly static for many years, the grants go up every year — usually by more than the rate of inflation.

This has been achieved with the help of many soldiers who now covenant their subscriptions.



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INVICTA EXPORT



FANCY a little adventurous training or a holiday in the heart of Scotland — then Rothiemurchus Lodge is just the place for you, provided you have some connection with the Armed Forces either as a serving member, a volunteer, a cadet or a dependant.

The lodge, perched 450 metres above sea level in the Cairngorms overlooking the resort town of Aviemore, is described as the only complex in the whole of the United Kingdom which is exclusively available for parties of regular and reserve personnel and their families to enjoy recreational pursuits.

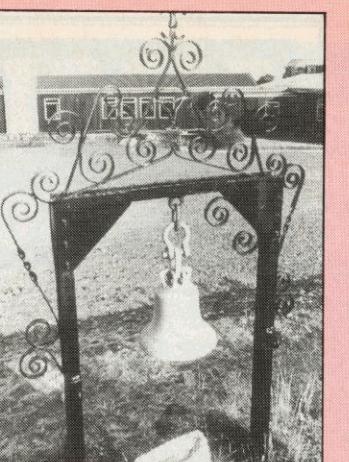
In two wooden buildings, the Nuffield Hut and the Union Jack Hut, it offers 88 beds, self catering, and all manner of sporting facilities for a price far less than comparable establishments elsewhere.

Yet, surprisingly, Rothiemurchus remains relatively unknown, writes Robert Higson.

The present warden, Dug Blair, says: "I reckon that a good 50 per cent of the people who come here for the first time have never heard of the place before. They arrive and they can't believe the facilities we've got."

Depending on the season, the range of activities is comprehensive

The lodge site from the slopes of Castle Hill. Aviemore is somewhere in the background



The old fire bell which once tolled in earnest, when the original lodge burned down in the early 'sixties. Today the bell has only one function — to ring in the New Year

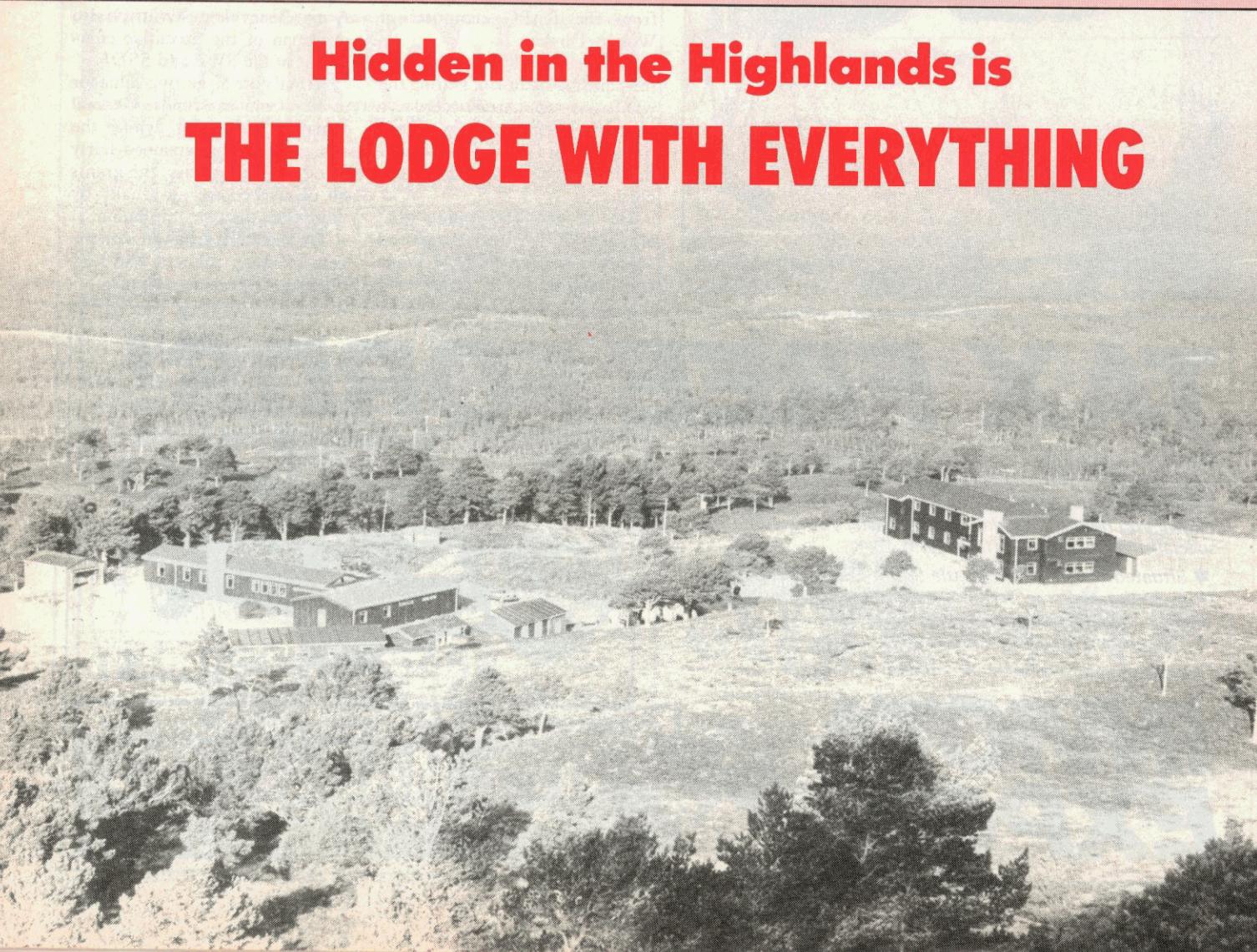
Just one of the warden's tasks: ski maintenance in the workshop

— skiing (downhill and cross country), skating, curling, climbing, hill-walking, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, fishing, pony trekking, orienteering, bird watching. You name it and it's likely to be, at some stage, on the Rothiemurchus agenda.

Visitors need bring only sleeping bags, suitable clothing and rations for their stay. The lodge provides excellent cooking facilities, with all the necessary utensils, and a wide range of sports equipment available for hire at very competitive rates.



Hidden in the Highlands is THE LODGE WITH EVERYTHING



For example Mr Blair can fully equip you to go windsurfing on nearby Loch Morlich for £10 a day, compared with the normal commercial rate of £6 an hour. His inclusive price for the hire of skis, boots and poles range from £1.50 to £3 a day, depending on the newness of the kit.

A former Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, Mr Blair was a qualified aircraft electrician who spent his last days in the Service as adventurous training instructor at HMS Daedalus in the Solent. In his spare time he developed into quite a hobby an interest in buying and renovating old houses.

Such a range of experience is an invaluable asset at Rothiemurchus Lodge. As warden, Mr Blair has to keep one eye on the safety of guests and the other on the condition of the buildings and all the attendant equipment.

"The weather can be very bad here," he said. "It can change instantly. Even on Castle Hill, which is just behind the lodge, you can get whiteout conditions within a matter of minutes.

"So if parties are going out for a walk I do ask them to let me know where they are going, purely for the safety aspect."

As for maintenance — it was like painting the Forth Bridge, the warden said, there was no end to it.

Not long ago 100 mph winds unroofed one of the huts and shattered a number of windows. While that sort of thing is mercifully quite rare, smaller repair jobs have to be undertaken all the time.

Fortunately there are usually those who are prepared to exchange a little hard work for free accommodation. For example the part-time sappers of 105 Plant Squadron, Royal Engineers (V) from South Shields.

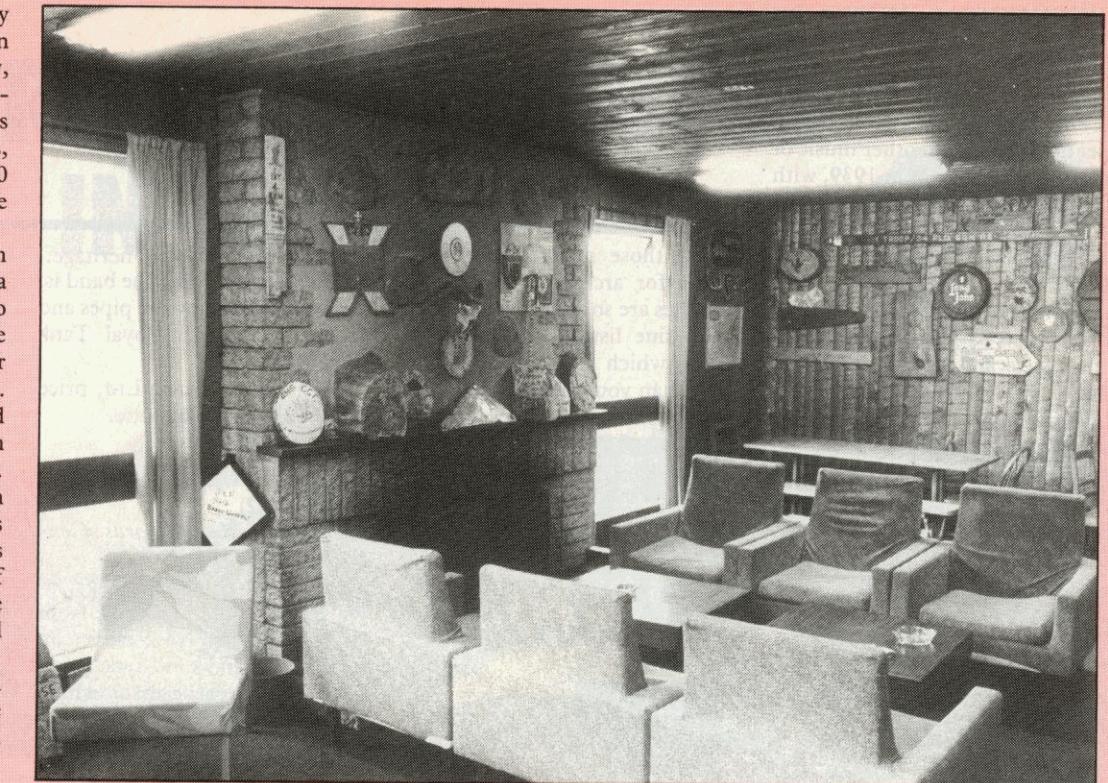
"They come here for their annual camp with their graders, dumpers, trucks and so forth," Mr Blair said. "This year they did the track (two and a half miles) from the lodge to the gate. They brought up a new incinerator and built a drain round the car park and a few walls.

"They enjoy it. They are never short of volunteers to come back the following year."

When Mr Blair takes his holidays in the slack periods of the year — late Spring and Autumn — a relief warden comes in to undertake some of the important indoor tasks like retiling the bathrooms. Recently this job has usually been done by the CPO Ray Hambly, a shipwright from the Rosyth Naval Base.

The outside assistance is invaluable but it doesn't prevent Mr Blair and his wife Margaret, who

The warden and his dog, Duggie Blair and Ben on patrol with the Union Jack hut behind them



acts as assistant warden, from having a pretty full programme. Apart from the continuing multitude of odd jobs around the place, all the sports gear has to be kept in first-class condition, the standby generator has to be maintained to provide emergency power, and the water supply from the reservoir dug by Royal Engineers has to be checked for purity. Actually the water is invariably much better than most town supplies but the checks still have to be made.

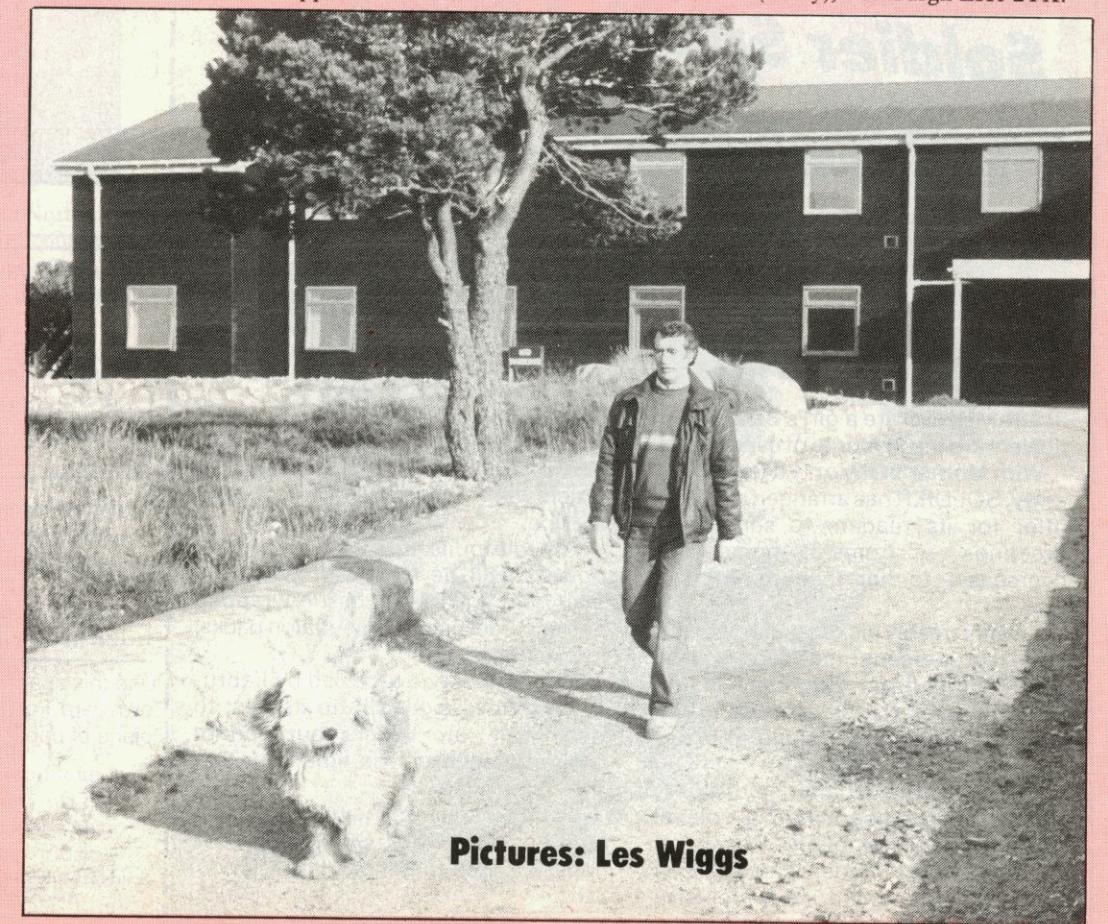
● Rothiemurchus Lodge began life in the 1950s with funds supplied by the Nuffield Trust and land by the local laird. The goodwill of local landowners is still an important factor as many activities take place on private land.

The lodge is run on a non-profit basis by a combined Service committee under the chairmanship of Brigadier Allan Alstead (Brigadier Highlands).

"They are improving it all the time," said Mr Blair. "We've just had new carpets fitted, extractor fans in the kitchens, tiling in the bathrooms, new floor in the Union Jack hut.

"The lodge is quite well off and the committee now want to keep improving it. I think for years it stuck more or less at one level. But now it's beginning to take off and we want to get in as many people as possible."

Anyone interested in making a booking should contact: The Secretary, the Rothiemurchus Lodge Committee, HQ Scotland (Army), Edinburgh EH1 2YX.



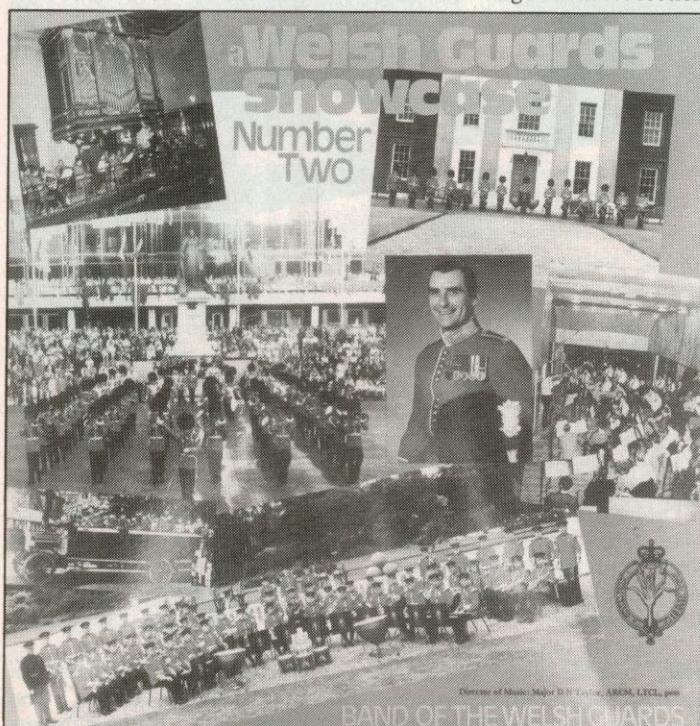
Pictures: Les Wiggs

REGIMENTAL MUSIC OF THE BRITISH ARMY Vol.2.

Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. Conductor: Major G Turner.

THE second volume of this unique set of marches and other music of the British Army as at 1939, with later-formed corps thrown in for good measure, is now available for all those who need it. And who doesn't?

Here are the Berkshires, Devons, Manchesters, Ulster Rifles, Beds and Herts, and 25 other regiments and corps including the SAS, RAEC, APTC, AAC and CRMP.



On the Record

with Rodney Bashford



For those not requiring this music for archive purposes the marches are so recorded that they make fine listening just for the tunes, which are more varied in style than you might think, apart from including a fair cross section

of the British folk-song heritage.

Where appropriate the band is, as usual, assisted by the pipes and drums of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

From Droit Music Ltd, price £5.60 inc, disc or cassette.

WELSH GUARDS SHOW CASE No.2.

Band of the Welsh Guards. Conductor: Major D N Taylor.

ANOTHER continuing saga of Welsh folk this time, come from Droit. Showcase No.2 carries on with the bandstand-type programme of its predecessor, which all aficionados know comprises a march, an overture, selection from a stage show, solo items, and popular trifles.

Warm up on the march, get the difficult overture out of the way, then the decks are clear for the hornpipes, jigs, and general frippery.

On disc of course things are different, and Major Taylor saves the sparkling and notoriously difficult overture to Reznicek's opera *Donna Diana* till last. On a wind band she plods a little but manages to come through unscathed.

The show pieces are from Charles Strouse's *Anne* and a symphonic portrait of *Cole Porter*, the solos are D. Bennett's *Flute Fresco*, Ronald Binge's *Cornet Carillion*, and *Blaydon Races* played as a euphonium solo arranged by Gordon Langford, all three very professionally played.

In these post-war times the band trifles of yesteryear have almost dropped out of the repertory. Gone are The Grasshopper's Dance, Parade of the Tin Soldiers and In a Monastery Garden, to be performed only "by special request" — a ploy which allows the conductor much freedom for his own choice and an excuse to play the easy stuff.

Nowadays the trifles tend to be as difficult, or more so, than the old war horses; on this disc they are John Martindale's *Early One Morning*, Harold Walters's *Instant Concert*, and Carl Davis's theme from the film *Champions*, the whole set in motion by Duthoit's grand old march *The Staffordshire Knot*. A fine showcase all round.

From Droit Music Ltd, price £5.60 inclusive, and Welsh Guards, Chelsea Barracks, London SW1W 8RF.

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FLOWERS FOR MUM

IF DIAMONDS are a girl's best friend, flowers are the favourite of every mum.

With Mother's Day only a few weeks away, SOLDIER has arranged a special offer for its readers to send their greetings — from at home and overseas — to their mum or mum-in-law.

Twenty freshly picked daffodils, with your own personal message, will be flown direct from Guernsey in the Channel Isles to any address in the United Kingdom or Ireland to arrive by Mother's Day (March 9).

Instead of the usual price of £7.40, SOLDIER has negotiated a special price with the suppliers, Sovereign Nursery, so that readers can order for £5.95 a bunch. The price is inclusive



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And with each order there will be a free 75p voucher off any subsequent orders with the Sovereign Flying Florist service.

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Orders must be received by February 15. Sovereign will do its best to deal with late orders but cannot guarantee delivery on time after that date.

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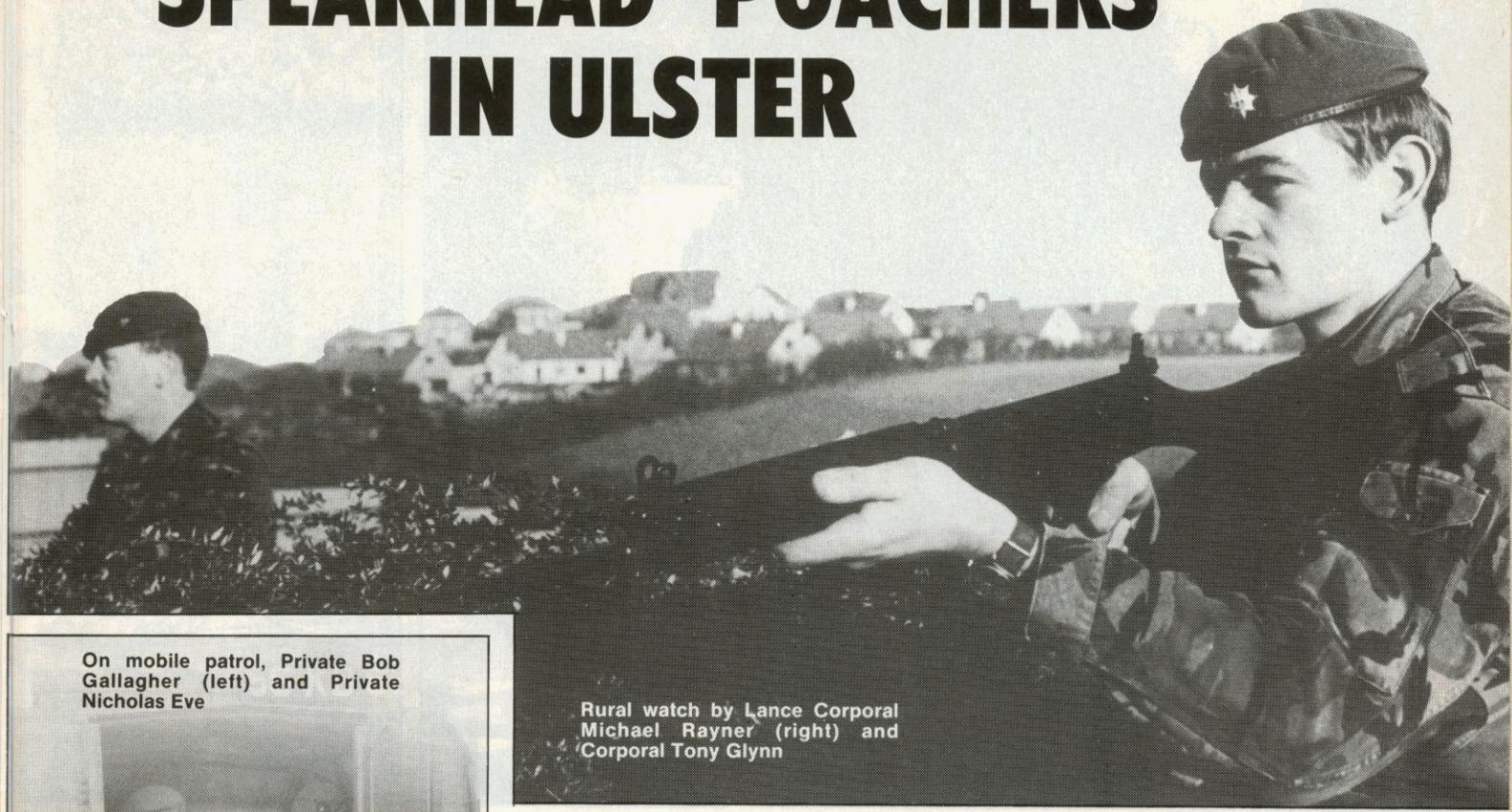
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'SPEARHEAD' POACHERS IN ULSTER



On mobile patrol, Private Bob Gallagher (left) and Private Nicholas Eve

Rural watch by Lance Corporal Michael Rayner (right) and Corporal Tony Glynn



HE Poachers are back in Northern Ireland for another tour of counter-terrorist service, following a call from the province for the Spearhead battalion.

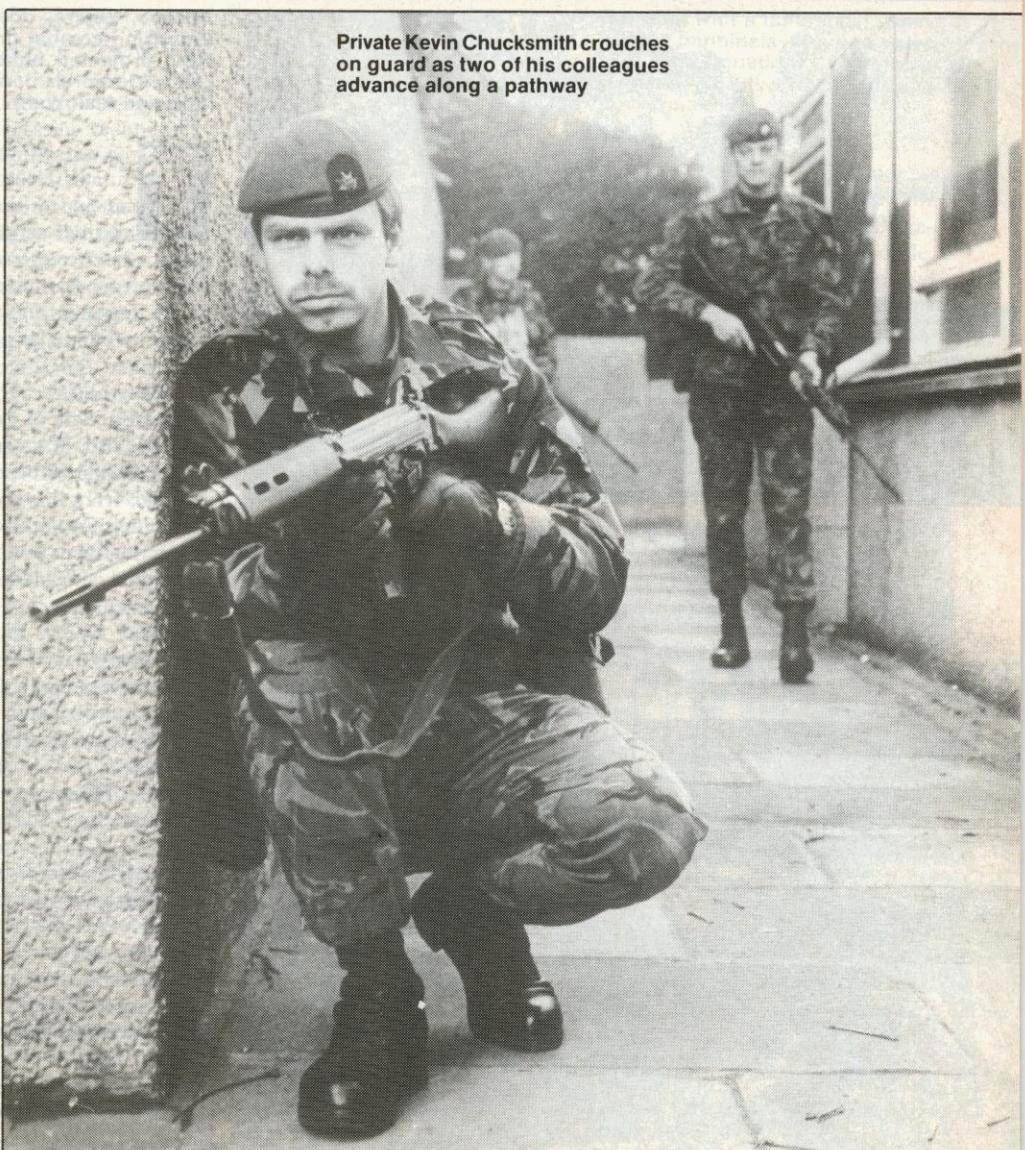
Chief task of the 550 officers and men of the Second Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment is to guard police and Army posts in border counties where terrorists have attacked and damaged some police stations.

Based at Colchester, the Poachers flew in from RAF Marham and were deployed to four counties — Londonderry, Fermanagh, Tyrone and Armagh — by Chinook helicopters.

Official sources in Northern Ireland dismiss newspaper reports that the Chinooks will be used as flying cranes to help rebuild terrorist-bombed bases.

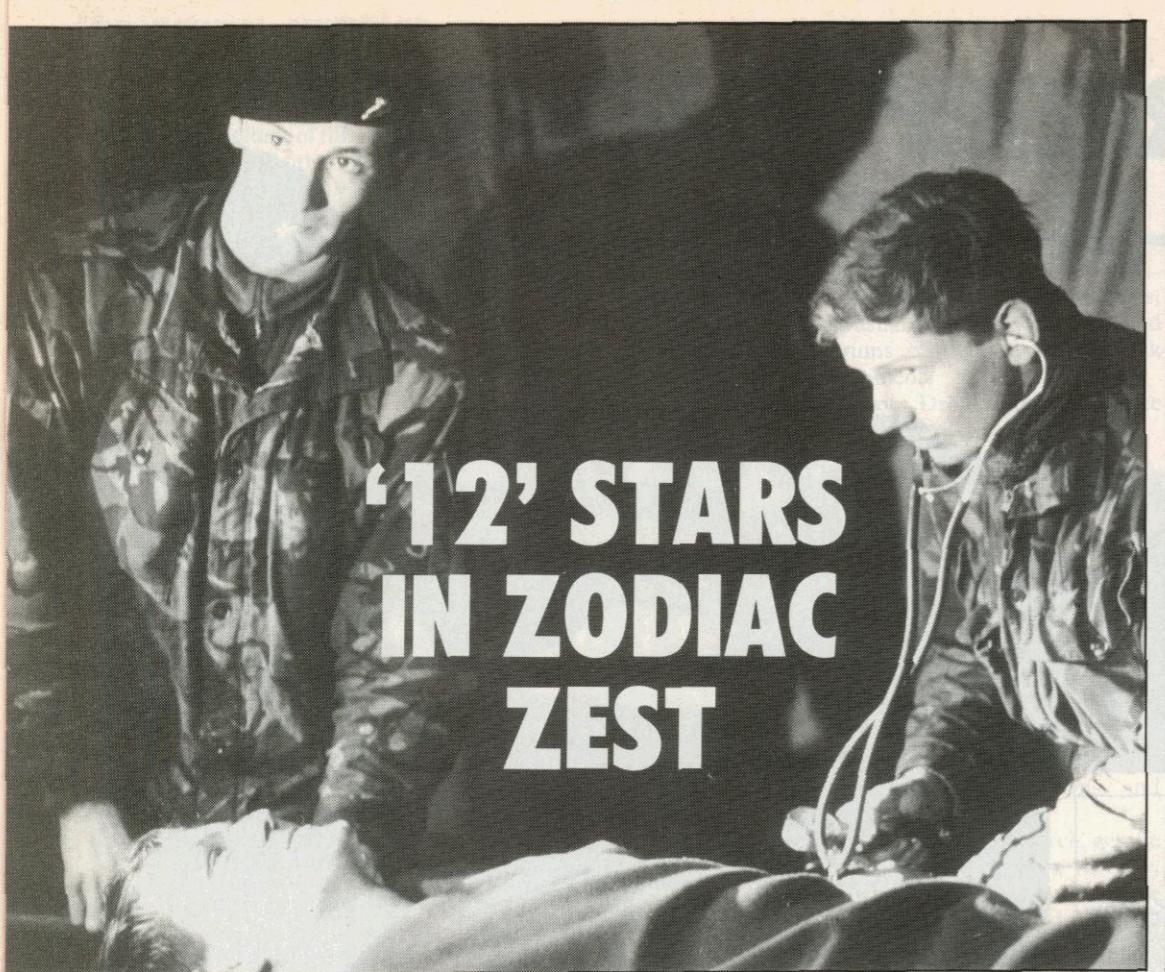
Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Peregrine Rawlins, the regiment spearheads the defence of the police posts to be rebuilt and lends weight to the firm resolve of the Government and the police authorities that the rebuilding work is a matter of top priority.

It is the battalion's second spell in the province in the past two years.



Private Kevin Chucksmith crouches on guard as two of his colleagues advance along a pathway

'12' STARS IN ZODIAC ZEST



Above: Where does it hurt? Practising combat first aid in an NBC protected bubble tent are Lance Corporals Jerry Harrower (left) and Alan Ward



Damcon-diggers! A damage control team from 1 Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment RE under the leadership of Corporal Derek Dodds (second from left) repairs exercise damage

Below: Kaffee-break! Men of the Bundeswehr's 311 Panzergrenadierbataillon snatch a quick coffee. 1 to r: Feldwebel Peter Schon and Gefreite Günther Niemann and Ingo König



The attack was fast and furious. Helicopters swooped in to disgorge their combat-cargo of heavily armed paratroopers from 15th (Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and the Bundeswehr's 311 Panzergrenadierbataillon, equipped with Marder APCs and supported by Leopard tanks.

Zodiac Zest was this year's major test for 12 Armoured Brigade of its state of training and readiness to support 1st Armoured Division, and for some of the participants in a major exercise — in particular for 4th Royal Tank Regiment who have only recently returned to BAOR, and 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rangers who have returned to Germany after a 12 years absence.

For the Green Howards the wide open spaces of north Germany were a dramatic change from their recent stamping ground in the streets of Belfast on a four month Northern Ireland roulement tour.

Zodiac Zest saw 4,500 soldiers and 1,000 tracked and wheeled vehicles ranging across a vast area between Schwarmstedt, to the west of Hannover, and Osnabrück, under the leadership of 12 Brigade Commander Brigadier Jeremy Mackenzie, in a five phase exercise ending to the east of Osnabrück when the brigade launched its final all-out attack against 6 Airmobile Brigade.

The exercise had started two weeks earlier and well to the north, when the forces of 12 Brigade



Above: Ranger Ivan Kelly and Lance Corporal Pat Gillespie scout ahead of their battalion, 1st Royal Irish Rangers, in their speedy Scimitar recce vehicle

deployed for "work-up training", tightening up their command and tactical procedures before the exercise proper began.

The next major move was into a concentration area south of Verden, in readiness to repel the Orange forces that were massing in large numbers to the west of the River Weser, having crossed an imaginary state boundary in a dangerous threat to NATO forces.

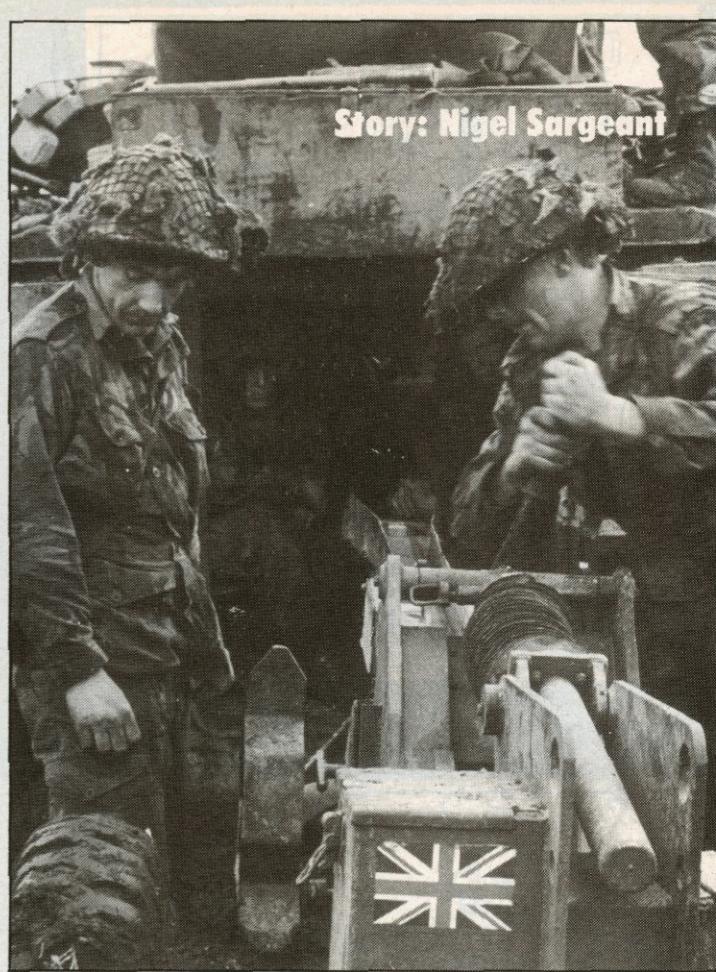
As the brigade sent out patrols both on foot and in their speedy armoured reconnaissance vehicles to monitor enemy activity on the far bank, the Royal Engineers rapidly swung into action preparing bridge crossings that would launch the brigade in their breakout against the enemy.

1st Royal Irish, with orders to

cross the river by night and establish a bridgehead that would defend other crossing forces, called for assault boats that could see them safely across.

45 Field Support Squadron RE at Liebenau, well to the south, therefore found themselves called upon to "deliver the goods" — both the boats and other engineering supplies — in a demanding outload exercise. While 7 Field Squadron of 21 Engineer Regiment assisted 1st Royal Irish with assault boats, 23 Squadron of Hameln-based 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment linked up M2 ferries to form a pontoon bridge for the armoured vehicles.

The Weser safely behind them, Blue headed rapidly across country towards their next major obstacle,



Story: Nigel Sergeant

heading for the north east of Osnabrück.

In a clever piece of pre-planned manpower manipulation to gain maximum benefit from Zodiac Zest, the controllers now switched 15 Para to the Blue camp, catching Orange's 311 Panzergrenadierbataillon, dug in around two Kanal bridges, by surprise as the Terriers swooped in by US Black Hawk helicopters to capture the bridges and secure the brigade's advance.

Despite often appalling weather,

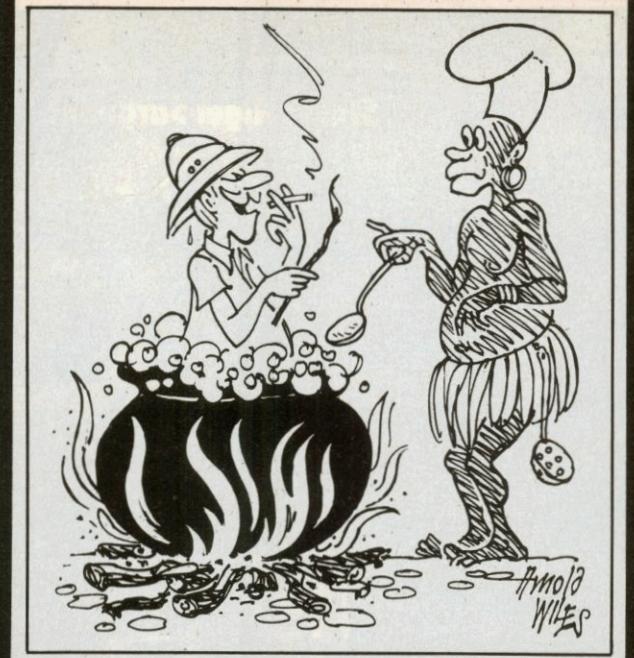
the fast jets of the RAF and USAF provided added air support, with US A10 tankbuster and Harriers from 4 Squadron at RAF Gütersloh bringing in air strikes.

Bar-men with a difference! Operating a barminelayer are sappers of 7 Field Squadron 21 Engineer Regiment RE, Steve Ryan (left), and Jock Somerville

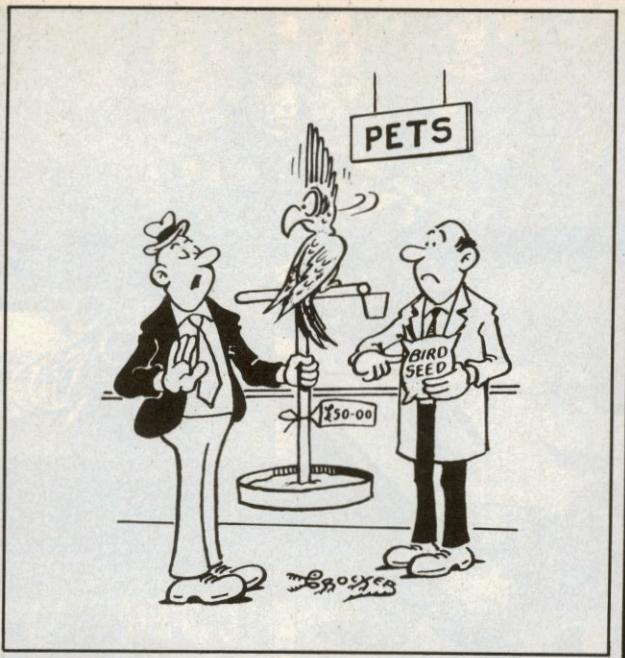
The Brigade Commanders, Brigadier Jeremy Mackenzie for 12 Armoured Brigade and Brigadier Robin Grist for 6 Airmobile, were there to watch as the two sides locked horns in Zodiac Zest's dramatic finale before a successful End-Ex was declared.

"No damage to report" says Captain Jerry Martin, 4th Field Regiment RA, to damage assessor Ian Tait of the Claims Commission





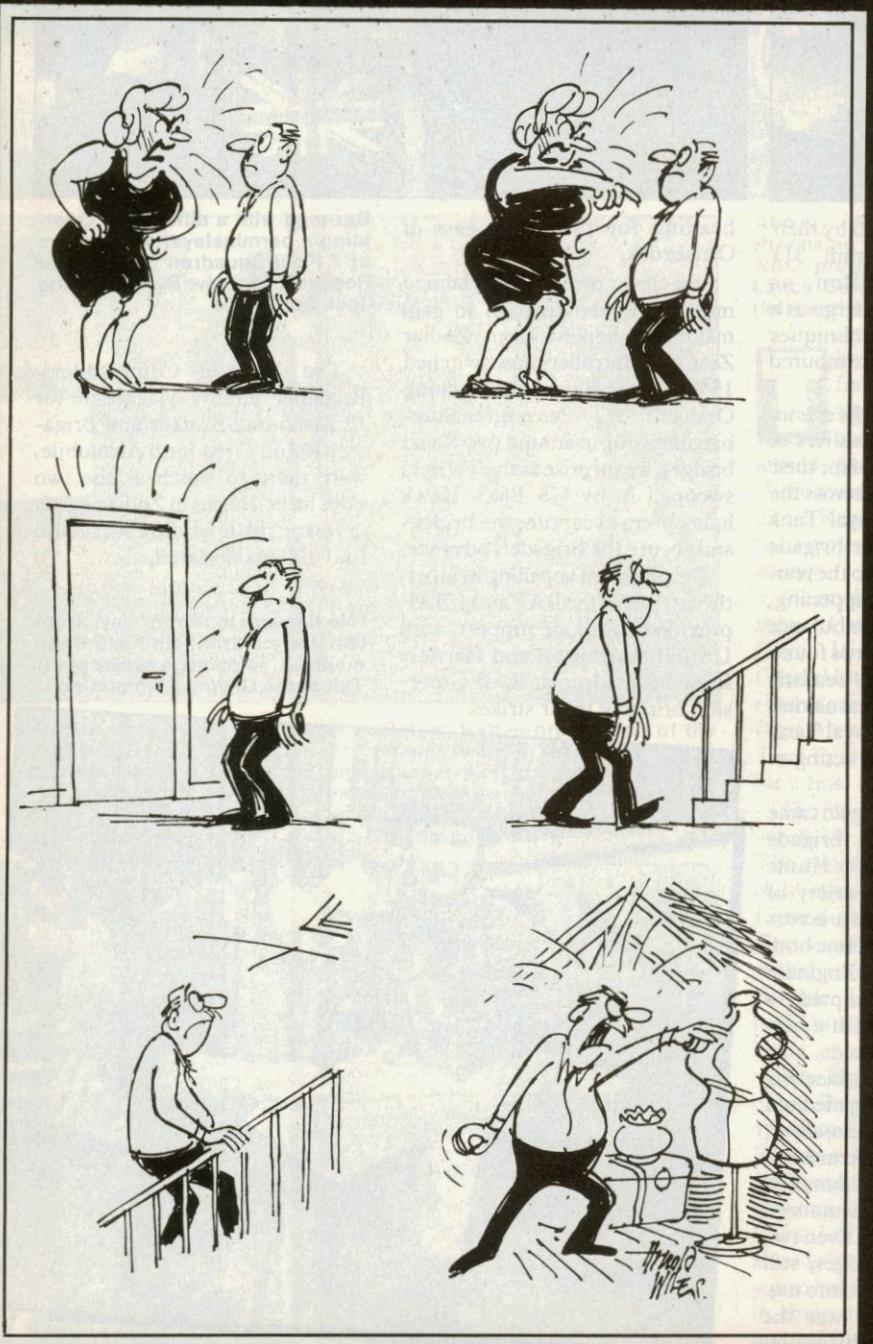
"Mind if I smoke? I promise not to drop ash in the soup..."



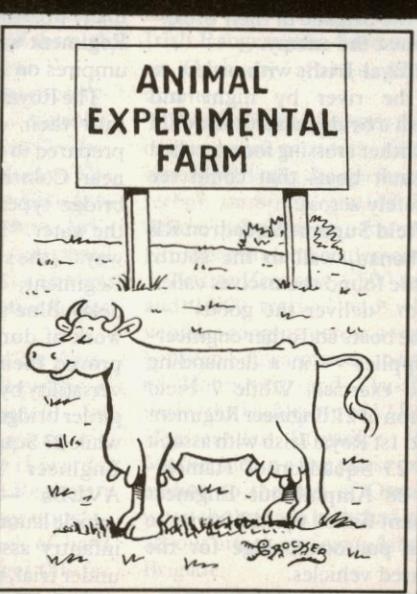
"No — I won't want any bird seed — I'm a taxidermist."



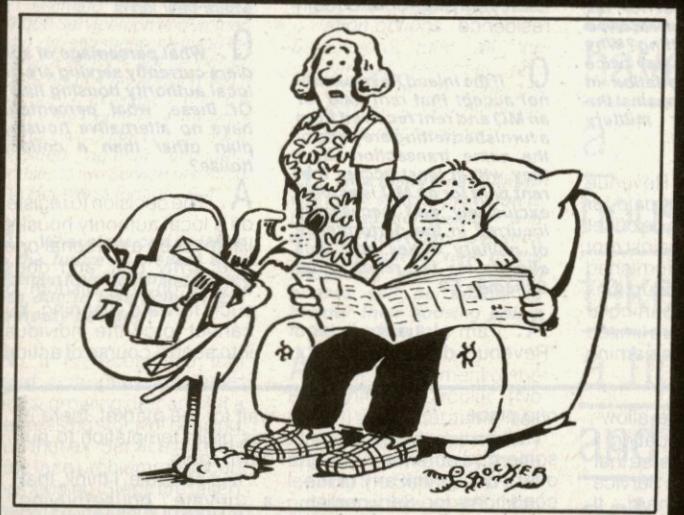
"Will you get me a loaf of bread and a dozen eggs on the way home?"



Turn left at the bedstead, right at the abandoned car then first left past the sofa.



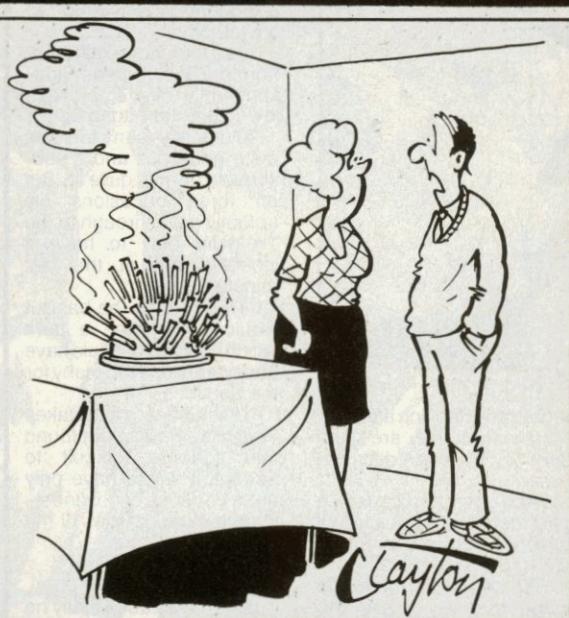
Kumour



"I think the dog wants to go for a walk."



"Why do you wear that great big haarrgh!"



"I appreciate the thought dear but could we cut out the candles now I'm getting on a bit!"



"Don't worry — we'll soon have him down!"

Tough going for the soldier homemaker

"I've felt for some time that Servicemen are disadvantaged when it comes to buying houses compared with their civilian counterparts."

"I think this comes about because of the very considerable turbulence in the life of Servicemen."

"They're in a terrible dilemma, too, because if they buy a house early on in their careers there are all the



Sir Edwin Bramall: battling

problems of looking after that house when they are often serving a long distance away.

"And this often causes a vast degree of separation, which is not good for family life."

"We really ought to be trying to give people the confidence that they can actually move from quarter to quarter without suffering in relation to the housing market."

"This can be done by convincing them that if they hold on till such time as the bulk of their battalion service is over — say their late 30s — they will have an attractive financial scheme to help them into the family housing market and they won't have lost out."

IN MY VIEW

The housing needs of inner cities point to a hard time for Servicemen and women if disclosures in the House of Commons are anything to go by.

For a pre-festive season debate on this national problem makes dismal reading.

"The decline in private and public sector housing is horrifying," said MP Dr John Cunningham.

Support came from Simon Hughes who told the House: "83,000 families were declared homeless in 1984, the

highest figure on record and our housing stock is sliding further into decay."

Coventry MP George Park, referring to the city said: "No new building for two years and more than 7,000 waiting for the same length of time."

Still worse from Hackney's Ernest Roberts who said 14,000 were on the waiting list, only to be topped by Sheffield Central's Richard Caborn who claimed 30,000.

In 1977 it was estimated that 300,000 new homes were needed each year. Two years earlier 313,000 homes

were built, but the number completed since 1979 has fallen to a quarter of that figure — somewhere in the region of 80,000.

This, plus the news that four million homes in England and Wales need repair, makes a dismal picture indeed.

So where does this down-beat news leave the Serviceman of today and tomorrow? I would hazard a guess that, for most, in an extremely bleak position.

But even though the statistics make gloomy read-

ing, it's not all doom ... especially since MPs heard Environment Secretary Kenneth Baker tell of an "enormous" breakthrough with the forming of the Thamesmead Trust.

There, 5,500 homes owned by the GLC will pass to a privately-owned and managed trust.

Described by Kenneth Baker as a "major transfer of wealth from the municipal landlord to individual families," the Thamesmead plan

before they can buy. **No minimum age limit for them as there is with soldiers who have to be at least 30 before being able to bid to buy a married quarter. Unlike the Royal Navy who get a considerable bonus in that they can bid at 25 years old.**

And it was good news for right-to-buy council tenants who will get up to 70 per cent discount on flats and up to 60 per cent on council houses — and they don't have to be a certain age

is yet another home-buying discount scheme as is the London Docklands Property Trust and Nevi Baltic Finance for Housing.

So when the new Bill is introduced, why not set up and include a Services' house-buying scheme and association to fall into line with what the Minister plans?

But if history is anything to go by the chances of this are remote, for as Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall

points out: "Three times we approached the Government of the day with a house-purchase scheme for the Army. Each time we got to the brink of agreement only to have it thrown out."

All very sad, but true ... even to the extent that, under the Homeless Persons Act of 1977 Servicemen are classified with prisoners and the mentally insane.

Communication in the field of housing for Servicemen

also has problems. There are so many departments which a soldier can contact for advice ... but few are fully comprehensive and the same can be said of the numerous booklets available, most of which are dull in presentation and uninteresting to read.

To get 1986 off to a lively start, what about a round table talk-in of key people involved in private house ownership and local authority housing?

Action must be taken now that accompanied

Services' Resettlement Bulletin No.1 of 1980 — from unit information rooms or education centres.

Army allowances and charges chapter 10 Sections five and six. AGA1 vol 3 Chapter 91 paras 91.031 to 91.059 on the legal position and AGA1 vol 3 Chapter 92 paras 92.001 to 92.031 on tax. All available from units.

Sale of MQs discount scheme (Bulletin No.15): Joint services MQ Sales Office, HQ UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0AG. Any difficulties ... write to me.

★ Looking to buy a house ...? Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall knows much about the problems. ★ Here he tells of his battles to set up a house-purchase scheme for Servicemen and women.

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

Question time with Defence Minister JOHN STANLEY

Part 2

THE SERVICEMAN AND HIS HOUSING PROBLEMS

THE REASONS WHY

Continuing my quest for information on housing for Servicemen and women, (see Soldier, January 13 for Part 1), I asked Defence Minister John Stanley the following questions ... and he came up with these answers.

Q. Why doesn't the Inland Revenue allow rent paid for an MQ to be offset for tax purposes against rent received from a furnished letting? Why do soldiers have to pay twice for their accommodation in this way — entirely against the concept of their military salary?

A. The Inland Revenue does not allow rent paid for married quarters to be offset for tax purposes against rent received from a furnished letting because deductions allowed against a particular source of income are limited to those incurred in earning

"But the baggage allowance still needs updating. I don't think people realise that the exigencies of the Service are really very hard. If anything, getting harder.

"This is of great concern to the chiefs of staff and principal officers. We hope there will be improvements ... after a battle, a very great battle, we got the third school visit. This has been a great achievement.

"If Servicemen buy a house early in their careers, because they can't afford to

that income. This rule applies to civilians and Servicemen alike.

A soldier's married quarter charge is therefore not regarded as an expenditure necessary to earn the income from the accommodation he has rented out.

The point is that a soldier living in a married quarter while letting his own house is only paying for one main residence.

Q. If the Inland Revenue will not accept that rent paid for an MQ and rent received from a furnished letting are parts of the same transaction, then they will at least accept that rent paid for an MQ is wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in the performance of military duties and thus eligible for tax relief under Schedule E?

A. I am afraid the Inland Revenue does not accept

one place.

"When you hear of what some civilian firms have to offer I don't think any of the conditions for Servicemen are excessively generous. I think it most important we keep conditions in step with elsewhere.

"If Servicemen buy a house early in their careers, because they can't afford to

that rent paid by a soldier for his married quarters is wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred in earning his salary. It cannot therefore be allowed under Schedule E.

■ If this is so the MQ occupant is in a no-win situation. For in the last answer at the end of this article the Minister says that Servicemen occupy MQs because of their employment which means paying rent for a house where their job is.

Q. What percentage of soldiers currently serving are on local authority housing lists? Of these, what percentage have no alternative housing plan other than a council house?

A. The decision to register on a local authority housing list must be a personal one. The Army can, and does, advise on the wisdom of such forward planning, but cannot force the individual into such a course of action.

"It is possible, I think, that a private house-buying scheme be organised; get a civilian organisation to produce the initial capital.

"I reached the very top of the Army, and it was only after I was 50 that I

Turn to Page 49

There is no means of knowing how many soldiers requiring such housing have made such provision for their future.

2. Renew their registrations annually at the required time.

3. Submit the unit discharge certificate, or equivalent, to the local authority in good time for them to commence action to allocate housing.

4. Consider housing association options.

5. Explore fully all the various low-cost and starter home schemes that the Government has been encouraging.

Q. How many local authorities make special provision to house ex-Servicemen and women? How many have such a policy, but in view of the increasing sale of council houses will be unable to honour their housing policy to Servicemen?

A. It is recognised that local authorities are faced with a growing demand for a decreasing stock of housing, and that ex-Service families may face problems in securing housing. Steps are taken, therefore, regularly to remind Service personnel requiring future accommodation to ensure that they:

1. Apply to be placed on the waiting list of the selected local authority or authorities at the earliest time

Turn to Page 49

JOHN STANLEY: questions during a Falklands visit

If you don't have a house take a tip and act NOW!



Wanted urgently — A house-buying scheme for soldiers

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... and a better information service, too

BULLSEYE FOR NEW SNIPER RIFLE



Above: Colour Sergeant John Lloyd, in sniper's gear

THE ARMY's latest sniper rifle, designed over five years by a three man team, including Olympic gold medallist marksman Malcolm Cooper, has been hailed the world's best of its kind by the expert sharpshooter testers from the Infantry Trials and Demonstration Unit (ITDU) at Warminster writes Graham Smith. ITDU trialled it for three years.

WO 1 (TSM) Warren Larnder, the Unit's Technical Sergeant Major who took the revolutionary rifle to Canada and Malaysia for competition and demonstration, said: "It is the only rifle in the world that will guarantee a head shot at 600 metres. The original General Staff Requirement (GSR) had been for a first-round kill at a man-sized target at up to 600 metres and harassing fire out to 1,000 metres. It's that accurate, your granny could shoot it!"

Deliveries, over two years, of



Above: TSM Larnder, shows off the new sniper rifle

1,212 of the six-kilo weight rifle, start in March. The 12-round magazine for infantry use employs 7.62 mm ammunition.

Its entry into British Army service has meant a contract of about £1 million to the Portsmouth-based firm of Accuracy International. The new weapon will replace the 7.62 mm L.42A1 sniper rifle (a conversion of the .303-inch Rifle Number 4 Mark 1 (T) to the 7.62 mm calibre).

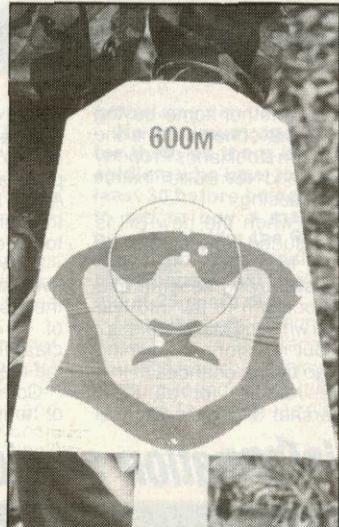
"One of the features of the new rifle is that it can be altered to suit the individual, rather like having a well-tailored suit," said TSM Larnder.

"Other rifles are very limited but the Schmidt and Dender x6 scope can be moved backwards and forwards. The butt is adjustable to suit a long-armed person with different eye relief. The rifle's furniture is designed for right or left-handed users.

"The weapon has an aluminium alloy chassis stretching from the bipod fixture at the front to the butt casing at the rear. The action is bolted and bonded to the chassis to produce a rigid bedding



Below: Figure 14 target showing head shot grouping at 600 metres



arrangement. Different calibre barrels can be fitted."

Helping to reduce fatigue from long periods in the aim position, he said, was a quick-action retractable butt spike. This allows for the rifle to be set on a likely target area and to remain on aim without being held.

The new rifles will be issued six to a battalion, on a one-for-one basis, replacing the L.42AI.

TSM Larnder, a member of the ITDU sales team and sniper-trained himself, said: "This new rifle is creating a lot of interest throughout the world because of its very uniqueness."

"The problem with the L.42 was

not its accuracy but it was getting hard to maintain. It needed special skills. With the new rifle field stripping is basic. No special tools are required."

Accuracy of the rifle under the scrutiny of the ITDU testers has never been in doubt. On one occasion ten rounds were pumped into a 38 cm by 40 cm area — smaller than a Figure 12 Target — from a range of 800 metres.

Five British rifles were the main contenders for the ultimate in sniper rifles, all with the same characteristics: 7.62 mm ammunition, bolt action and magazine feed.

Since its acceptance into Army

service, the successful candidate rifle has taken part in open competitions at the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting (RASAM) and with the British Army Rifle team in Canada.

The rifle has also been tested by the Malaysian Special Forces in Malacca.

At the British Skill at Arms meeting held annually at Bisley each July, the Small Arms School Corps (SASC) team, using the new weapon, won the event with just two hours' range preparation behind them.

It was the same, sharp-shooting success story last year in Canada in another skill-at-arms meeting.

The Canadians were using another version of sniper rifle with match grade ammunition. They had also trained for about a month. The British visitors had just one day's work-up.

Four British team members using the new rifle soon made their mark.

"Within hours they were winning three gold and two silver medals," said a very proud TSM Larnder. "They were the first medals to be won in Canada by any British Army team in any sniper matches."

Pictures: Les Wiggs

NEW SPARTAN TURRET FOR BAOR

THE MILAN Compact Turret — MCT — the twin-missile system mounted on the Spartan APC will soon be taking to the notional battlefields of BAOR with the baker's dozen of infantry battalions there, writes Graham Smith.

Now accepted into British Army service, Spartan MCT has been undergoing rigorous field tests by the experts of the Warminster-based Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) — part of the School of Infantry — assisted by three crewmen loaned by the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th), the resident Demonstration Battalion.

WO 2 (QMSI) George Witts, Small Arms School Corps, an instructor with the Support Weapons Anti-Tank Division from nearby Netheravon, said: "Because it is a weapon mounted on an armoured vehicle it is not to be



Crew members load up Spartan MCT missiles into the twin launcher

SPARTAN MCT: Infantry anti-tank missile carrier

Battle weight: 18,390 lbs, (8,342 kg)
Length: 16 ft 2 ins
Height: (top of hull) 5 ft 8 ins
(top of launcher) 11 ft
Width: 7 ft 4 1/2 ins
Ground clearance: 1 ft 4 1/2 ins
Fuel capacity: 350 litres
(77 gallons)
Max road speed: 50 mph
Road range: 300 miles plus
Turret weight: (two missiles)
170 kgs
Missile range: 300 metres to
1,950 metres
Ammunition tube weight: 12 kgs
Turret height: 1,100 mm
Width: (missile locking system
open) 817 mm
Length of ramp: 1,224 mm
Two 4-barrel smoke dischargers
Other armament: L.37A1
7.62 mm GPMG
Engine: Jaguar 4.2 litre,
6-cylinder, 4,235 cc, 181 bhp
at 4,750 revs

assumed it's a tank. What it has got is mobility and protection for the crew.

"It will not reduce the dependency on MBTs and what it does is to enhance a mechanised battalion's killing capability. It's now an in-service piece of infantry equipment that will be replaced eventually by the third-generation Trigat system."

He said that the bulk of the 72 Spartan MCTs would go to BAOR. The rest, about half a dozen, would go to the Demonstration Battalion, the Support Weapons Wing and "probably another training establishment."

The Spartan MCT system was accepted by the Ministry of Defence a year ago this month.

There are internal racks for eleven ammunition tubes — each weighs 12 kilos — and the turret-mounted assembly can carry, while the vehicle is on the move, two ready-to-fire missiles.



Spartan MCT in the field

HERE have been few times in the last couple of thousand years when the old castle site in the centre of Winchester hasn't been home for numbers of soldiers.

It seems a fairly safe bet that soldiers of some sort were there even before the Roman conquest turned the place, for a time, into the fortified city of Venta Bulgurum.

Throughout Saxon times, and on into the centuries of Norman rule, Winchester and its castle were an important royal capital and residence. The castle itself was virtually destroyed by Cromwell in the Civil War, but some 40 years later King Charles II was making elaborate plans to turn the site into the English equivalent of Versailles.

The king died before Sir Christopher Wren's grand design could proceed much beyond the initial stages of building. Thereafter royal interest languished and the site became at one stage a prisoner of war camp (during the Seven Years' War) and later a permanent military establishment during the opening stages of the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1858 it became the home of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade and ever since, as Peninsula Barracks, it has remained closely associated with the light infantry tradition founded by General Sir John Moore.

That link and indeed almost the entire historic military connection with the site has now ended. The flags have come down, the gates are locked and Peninsula Barracks stand deserted.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Dewar, Royal Green Jackets, did a ceremonial chaining of the main gate for the benefit of the local media in his capacity as CO of the Light Division Depot, Winchester, which inherited the barracks from the RGJ.

As the gates were pushed closed, somewhat reluctantly, Corporal Hutch Hutchinson slowly hauled



TRAINING MOVES FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

down the flag while Rifleman David Seager, on special assignment from 1 RGJ to perform the last rites, sounded 'No More Parades Today' on his bugle.

The depot leaves behind a barrack complex which, while lacking many essential ingredients for a training establishment, must rate as one of the most impressive looking in the Army.

Wren's original palace no longer stands — it was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1894. The rebuilding, however, although along a different ground plan, faithfully reproduced Wren's architectural style and even incorporated parts of columns and frieze salvaged from the fire.

As a result the barracks square is surrounded by magnificent buildings in well mellowed brick with elegant columns and stone facings. They have provided a most impressive backdrop for many a pass out parade, the last taking

place just a few weeks before the closing ceremony (see SOLDIER December 16).

But any disappointment the Depot might have felt in leaving such a place has been virtually nullified by the prospect of a brand new, custom built home at Flowerdown on the outskirts of Winchester.

Colonel Dewar didn't particularly care for the name Flowerdown — a bit unsoldierly he thought — he was hoping that the official name it had been given in honour of Sir John Moore ("one of the best generals the British Army has spawned and a great trainer of men") would soon be accepted.

But the CO had no qualms whatsoever about the quality of the new establishment.

"It is the most amazing development," he said. "It really has got everything you could conceivably want."

The Peninsula Barracks site was simply too small for training purposes. Being in the city it couldn't be expanded any further and had long since reached its full potential. Time spent travelling to training facilities was time lost in addition to the wasted cost of transport.

For this reason the greenfield site at Flowerdown was chosen. The main camp covers 280 acres

Far left: Corporal Hutch Hutchinson hauls down the flag for the last time at Peninsula Barracks

Left: About to show the flag at Flowerdown, Depot RSM WO1 Derek Brennan, Light Infantry

Right: Rifleman David Seager, 1 RGJ, sounds 'No More Parades Today' as Lieutenant Colonel Michael Dewar, the Depot CO, chains up the main gate



**Story: Robert Higson
Pictures: Terry Champion**

Soldiers double across the square in front of the ornately colonnaded Long Block

from the four part-time battalions (soon to be increased to six) of the Light Infantry and the Royal Green Jackets.

Colonel Dewar estimated that when everything was fully operational, Flowerdown could be dealing with up to 1,200 people, including civilian staff, at any one time.

Even at a cost approaching £20 million, Flowerdown represented a very good investment, said Colonel Dewar. The whole exercise, in line with the Groom Report on training organisation within the UK, was to reduce infrastructure and concentrate effort.

There are games pitches in the immediate vicinity, and a 100 metre rifle range which means, even if longer range shooting still has to be carried out at Chilcomb or Moody Down, a lot of initial training can be done on site.

The sporting facilities are tremendous. There is even an artificial climbing wall, plus "chimney," all

designed by computer, as well as an excellent hobbies centre for

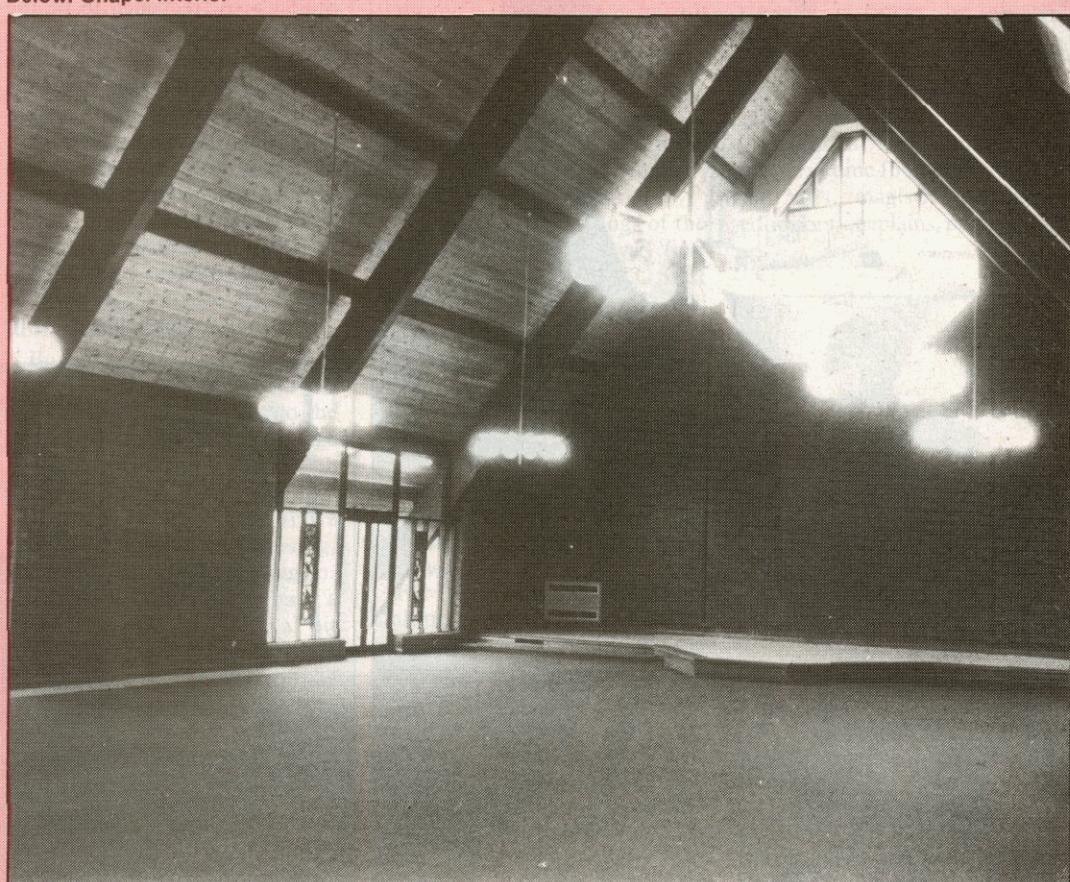
juniors and an impressive education block with language labora-

Sir John Moore Barracks gets into top gear.

This month the regimental headquarters of the Light Infantry and the Royal Green Jackets will move in. In April the officers' mess should be ready; by August junior leaders and soldiers will have taken up residence.

As time goes by the splendid new chapel at Flowerdown will become, in all likelihood, the repository for the old Colours of the regular and TA battalions of

Below: Chapel interior



the Light Infantry. (RGJ, of course, have the proud tradition of having no Colours).

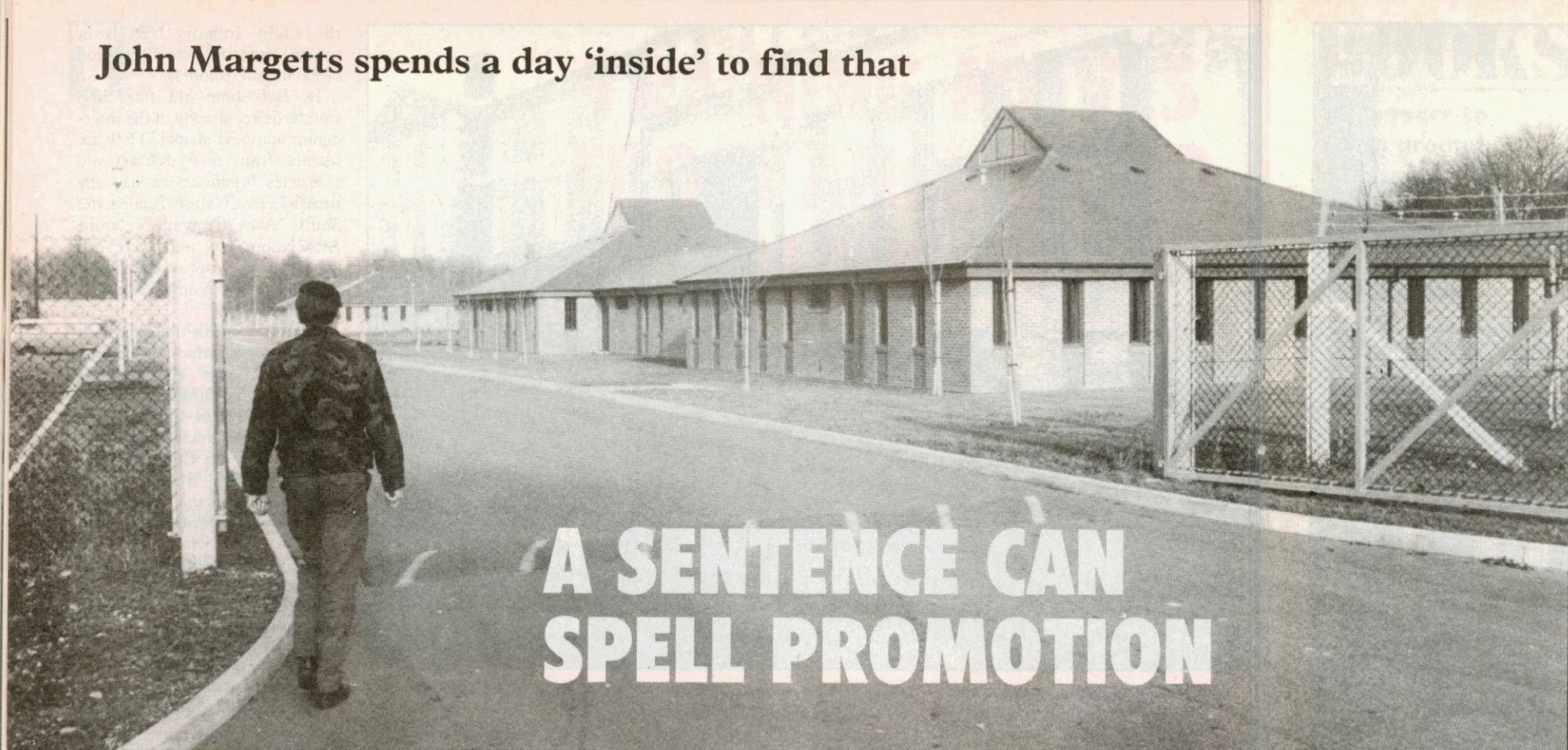
In fact some old flags and standards are already in the inter-denominational chapel. They are mainly from now defunct old comrades organisations like the British Legion Nairobi Branch, the South African War Veterans Association, etc, and were entrusted to the care of the Depot because there was nowhere else to put them.

In the meantime there remains the question of what will happen to the old site at Peninsula Barracks. According to the Planning Department of the Winchester City Council this is really a matter for the Crown Estates Commissioners, who own the upper area, and the Ministry of Defence which has title to the lower bit.

The site contains many listed buildings and is, in any case, inside the Winchester conservation area. But various options have been suggested including limited residential, hotel and office development.

One possibility seems to be the establishment of a museum complex as part of a heritage area. RGJ and the Royal Hampshire Regiment already have their museums on the site and so do the Royal Hussars who occupy Serle's House, a fine early 18th Century building in the lower barracks. No doubt there are other museums which would relish the opportunity of moving to such prestigious surroundings.

John Margetts spends a day 'inside' to find that

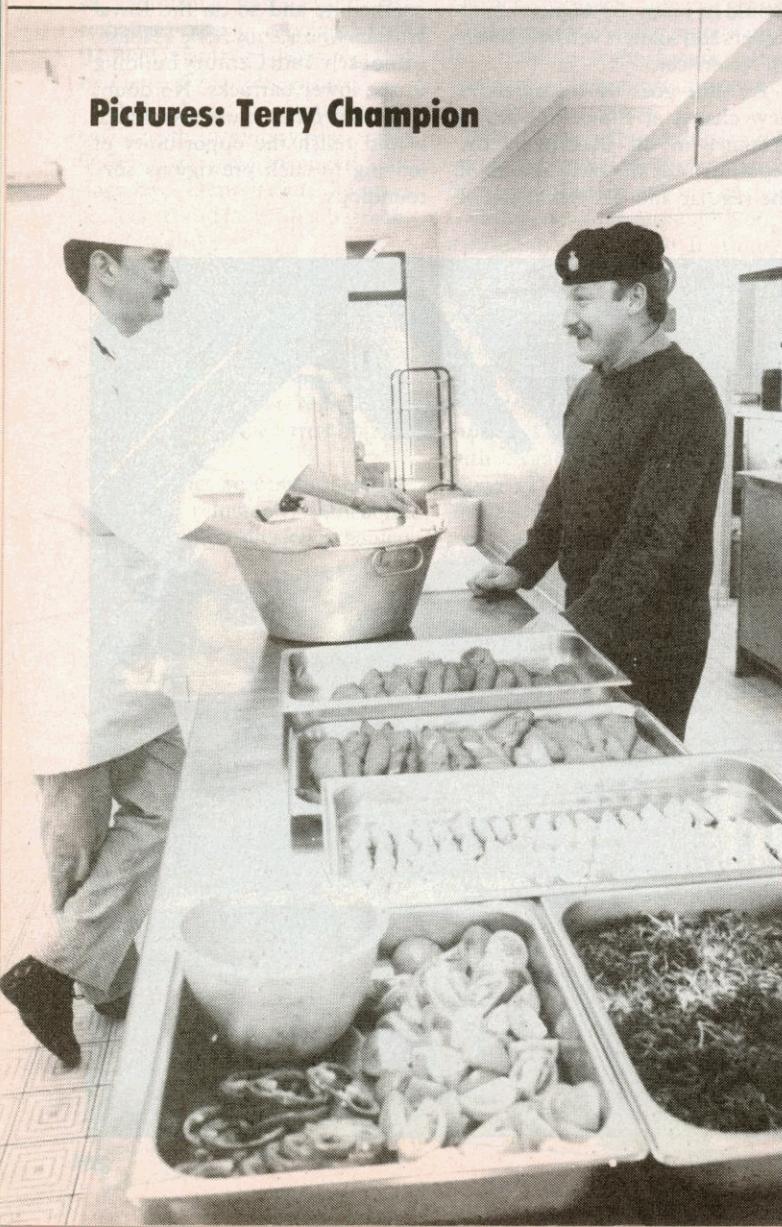


A SENTENCE CAN SPELL PROMOTION

Above: Colchester from the outside... looks more like a motel than a correction centre

Below: Corporal Bert Dobson, Staff Sergeant Ian Shaw: "3,000 calories for the lads"

Pictures: Terry Champion



TIME SERVED in a military lock-up can, it seems, offer high hopes of a boost up the promotion ladder.

For over the past year more than 60 per cent of soldiers who have spent between 28 days and two years in Colchester's Military Corrective Training Centre have, on return to their units, won promotion or good reports.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Parsons, Scots Guards, currently Commandant of the brand-new tri-Service centre, made it clear that Colchester is "not a prison. It is a corrective training centre," he said.

"Our role in the Military Provost Staff Corps (reckoned to be the smallest corps in the Army) is to redirect people back on to the military rails. We give them the right incentives to mature; help solve their problems, get them physically and mentally fit and return them to their units fully trained again.

"Our aim here is to produce first-class soldiers. And we succeed."

With accommodation for 210

soldiers under sentence (SUS) the £2 million single-storey building is arranged in three linked sections and currently houses about 150 soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Compared with the wartime Nissen huts, which housed SUS up to six months ago, the new accommodation can only be described as five star.

At first glance it looks more like a motel than a military centre, with its Caernarvon-red brickwork and pale grey slate roofing. And even

the interior reinforces this view with full central heating and all mod cons.

Colourful bedspreads, wardrobes and individual lockers all add to the comfort and well-being of the lads serving time at Colchester.

But even with all these trimmings and cushionings and low-key security — there are no bars, but windows are very narrow — daily life for SUS is pretty well all go.

Keeping them up to the military mark in drill, fitness and skill at arms is the 100-strong Military Provost Staff Corps.

When the Corps is at full strength — at the moment their numbers need bolstering — the ratio of MPSC to SUS is one to two.

"We could do with more staff," said Colonel Parsons. "All that needs to be done, for those that want to join us, is to apply to the regimental secretary for an interview and the chance of taking an eight-week course."

Minimum rank for applicants is corporal, but those who apply and pass the course tests are immediately made up to sergeant. It's one sure way of getting that extra stripe.

But the Colonel, and Regimental Secretary Lieutenant Colonel Jim Robinson, emphasised that the vast majority of SUS are not criminals.

"Most are here because of going AWOL. Only a minority have broken the law in the accepted sense."

Staff Sergeant Bob Cardwell: fair, but firm treatment for everyone with everything being done the Army way

"So the sort of people we are looking for to join the MPSC are those who can guide and lead by example."

Such an applicant for the MPSC was Sergeant Jeremy Boxell, 31, of the First Battalion The Queen's Regiment, based in BAOR.

He faced a quartet of questioners, including the Commandant, on why he wanted to switch from his regiment, of which he is currently the provost sergeant, to the MPSC.

That he satisfied them was beyond doubt when he was invited to join the probationers' course at Colchester in March.

The Commandant told him: "Changing your cap badge means a change of direction and loyalty. It is important we have a Corps identity. We want to tell the world we are a real, live military organisation."

Meanwhile, as Sergeant Boxell marched off to contemplate his future as a Colchester guardian, life for the soldiers under sentence was going on in stages with the promise of improvement if rules are followed.

For them the quality of life is all down to point-scoring. If the four weekly reports on a soldier under sentence are favourable, and they cover every aspect of training, then he gets good marks and moves from Stage One of detention, where everybody starts, to Stage Two.

From there progress is to Stage Three and relative freedom. Even walkabouts round the town are allowed.

But the initial stage means real basic military training and lasts about a month. Soldiers in this section are locked in at night and are kept extremely busy with few recreational facilities — no TV for example.

Stage Two means only six to a room instead of eight, television, snooker and the like, and no locks on the doors at night.

About a month of this and, providing noses are kept clean, it's clear for Stage Three and near-normal soldiering.

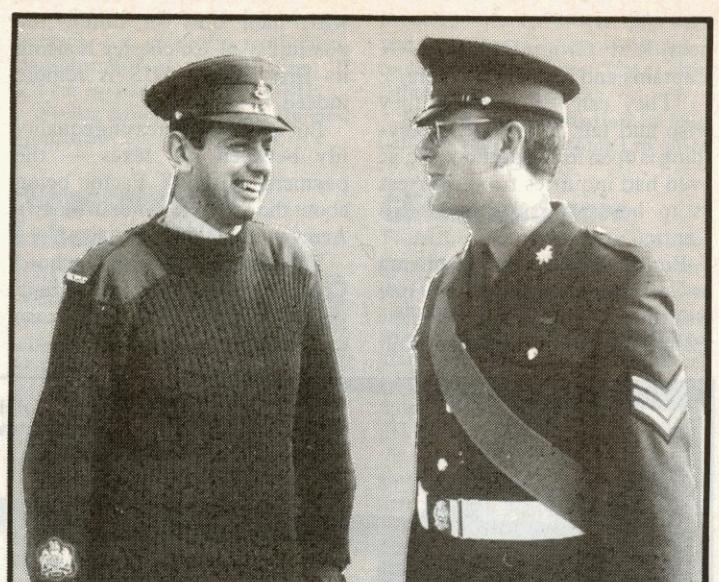
But any stepping out of line and it's back to Stage One. "So the lads, or the vast majority, do the best they can to stay in Stage Three," said Staff Sergeant Bob Cardwell.

"Most lads when they arrive have forgotten all about soldiering, and it's our job to teach them again.

"But at times, now we have a tri-Service mix, it gets a bit amusing during drill periods when the soldiers drill one way and the Royal Navy and RAF another.

"But by the time we have finished with them they're all doing it the Army way."

With six years service in the MPSC Bob (ex-Royal Signals), knows exactly where he is so far as duty goes.



WO1 Chris Garrity, MPSC, and Sergeant Jeremy Boxell of 1 Queens with an invitation to join the probationers' course in March and a probable change of cap badge

"and what's more they enjoy the meals. But then the quality is good, well prepared and well cooked. Everything about the menus is balanced and attractive."

But 33 years ago, when Lieutenant Colonel Jim Robinson first went to Colchester as a corporal from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, life was a good deal tougher.

"In those days we had more than 800 soldiers locked in here, and we weren't the only detention centre by any means. Of course the Army was vast in those days and things were different.

"Nowadays this is the only Military Corrective Training Centre and it caters for all three Services.

"The care and well-being of SUS is constantly in the spotlight with a regular flow of VIP visits.

"Most, if not all commanding officers come for a look round, as do MPs, magistrates, doctors, educators, chaplains, prison gover-

continued on page 30



nor, RAF Group Captains, RN Captains and a whole lot more.

"They can see anything they wish and talk to anyone. Everything is open for inspection. We've even had inquiries from overseas as to how we constructed this Centre."

But there was one thing missing at Colchester — women. Not one was to be seen, but since the new £2 million centre has been built

with men only in mind, the possibility of Colchester housing its first female SUS is remote indeed.

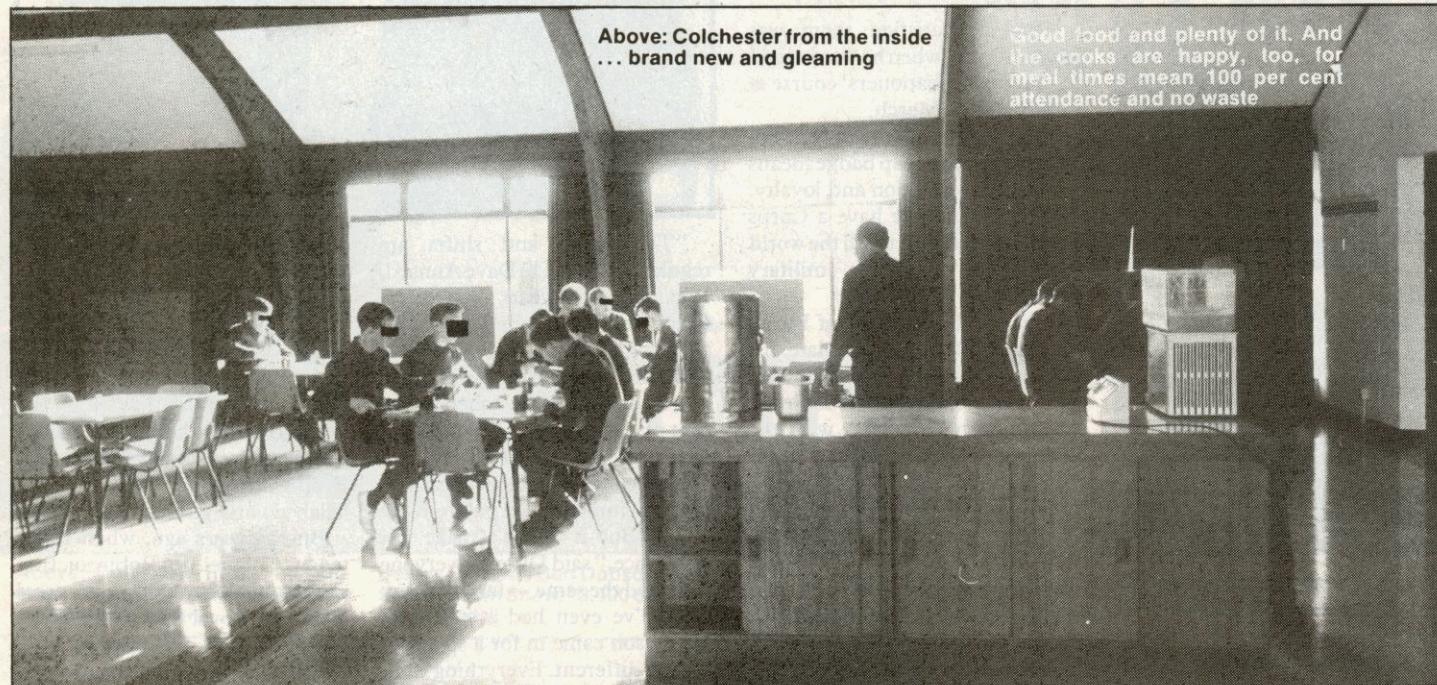
But with ever increasing equality between the sexes — the payment of the X Factor being about the only difference in today's Army — who knows?

"Women at Colchester?" echoed Colonel Robinson. "Never had any yet and I can't see the day that we ever will."



Above: Colchester from the inside... brand new and gleaming

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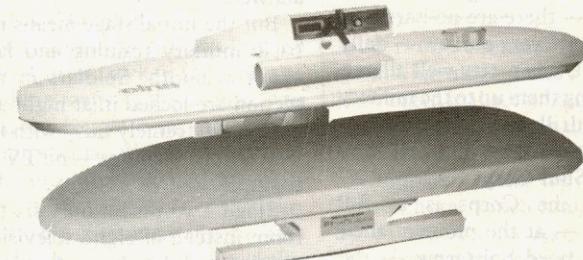
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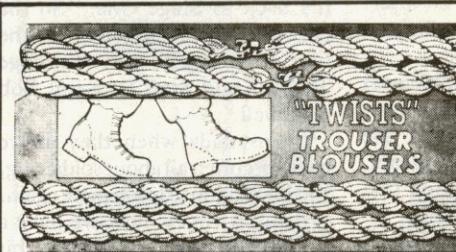
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BOOKS

Drill square to killing ground

WHAT motivates the soldier, the warrior, to fight to his death on the battlefield?

Not just to fight on for survival but with full knowledge of the fatal consequences.

There is no single clear cut answer. The reasons are many but they mould together in the communal life of soldiers, dominating some self interests, boosting others. A maze of complexities that give way to a final passion.

Stories of war usually revolve round battle sequences, the commanders, the strategy, the tactics. The author of this intensely thought provoking book believes that "too little serious work is done on the individual soldier's experience of battle," his instincts and emotions.

He quotes Field Marshal Lord Wavell writing to the military historian Basil Liddell Hart: "If I had time and anything like your ability to study war I think I should concentrate almost entirely on the actualities of war — the effects of tiredness, hunger, fear, lack of sleep, weather..."

"The principles of strategy and tactics and the logistics of war are really absurdly simple: it is the actualities that make war so complicated and so difficult and are usually neglected by historians."

Tolstoy, nearly a hundred years earlier, had written that he was "more

interested to know in what way, and under the influence of what feeling, one soldier kills another, than to know how the armies were arranged..."

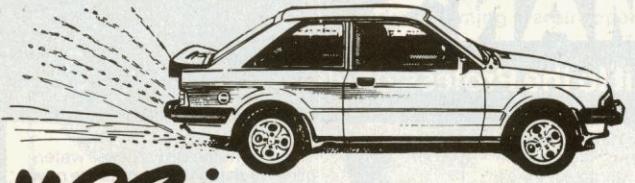
The author has researched widely, studying nearly 300 war books and quotes from the oral or written words of 1,000 men over the centuries.

Given that the individual soldier, the man, is the primary battle weapon, he questioned 150 veterans of the World Wars, the Korean, Arab-Israeli, Vietnam, minor conflicts post-1945 and the Falklands 1982. His search for truth and reasons passes through all periods and aspects of the soldier's life from basic training to the final curtain.

Just a few of the many subjects considered, probed and analysed are: alcohol, fear, anxiety, stress, cigarettes, flies, food, fatigue, cleanliness, aggression, comradeship, sex, love, homo-



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sexuality, brothels, living rough, animals, dirt, loneliness, mosquitoes, patriotism and, of course, fatalism: "If it's got my name on it!" — GRH

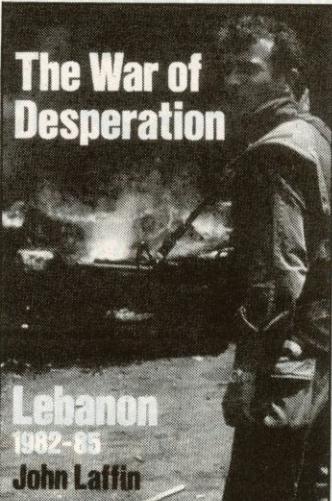
Firing Line, by Richard Holmes, (Jonathan Cape) price £12.95.

'Impotence' of Lebanon MNF

JOHN Laffin, a prolific writer on military affairs whose work will be well known to Army readers, went with his wife to Lebanon during the first stage of the Israeli invasion and has returned there as late as mid-1985.

A student of Middle East life and conflict, he has produced *The War of Desperation* — a book which tells of the situation which precipitated the Israeli invasion and the war itself — partly because he was critical of the Western media's reporting of the war compared with what he saw.

He is conscious that some people might think his views on 'the media war' to be pro-Israeli, and one has the feeling that his account is more appreciative of the Israeli cause.



Lebanon

1982-85

John Laffin

French and Italian officers who were sent to Beirut to study the situation could suggest no solution", Mr Laffin claims. — AT

The War of Desperation, by John Laffin, (Osprey Publishing Ltd) price £9.95.

Glitter and gore

IT ALL seems a long time ago now, the days of the British Empire when the Governor of the Punjab entertained right royally; the days a decade later when the British Empire was disintegrating and thousands were massacred as the Indian sub-continent took its independence.

Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Stevenson-Hamilton saw the glitter and the gore, the magnificence and the murder, first when in his late 20s he became ADC to the Governor of the Punjab, and later as a Gurkha officer extricating his battalion from the violence in the furthest extremity of Pakistan.

In the intervening years, he had broken his back in two places — something he dismisses in two lines — as 2 i/c of the Gurkha Parachute Battalion, and seen service in Burma and Italy, but his story is almost exclusively about the old India and the birth of the new.

"Looking back", he says, "it can be argued that the life of a British officer of the Indian Army would not have suited everyone, but it is very sad that no one else can ever sample it."

Col Stevenson-Hamilton has put on paper his very interesting recollections of those seemingly far off days, both for those who never knew them and those who will relish the memory. — AT

Yes, Your Excellency, by V E O Stevenson-Hamilton, (Thomas Harmsworth Publishing) price £9.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Book of the Medieval Knight, by Stephen Turnbull (Arms & Armour Press, London, £12.95). In days of old, when knights were bold... chivalry really did exist in this elite warrior class. And much more besides. A good read, well illustrated.

War Movies, by Jay Hyams (Columbus Books, Bromley, Kent, £8.95). The blurb claims that war films don't influence history, they can influence our reaction to it. Depends on the quality of the film! Interesting, but you need to be a movie 'buff' to really enjoy it.

The Amritsar Massacre. *Twilight of the Raj*, by Alfred Draper (Buchan & Enright, London, £5.95). Now in paperback, having first been published by Cassell in 1981. Still no one is exactly sure how many unarmed civilians were shot down by Indian Army troops under Brigadier General Reginald Dyer in April 1919.

The Battle of the Scheldt, by W Denis Whitaker and Shelagh Whitaker, (Souvenir Press) price £14.95. 'The truth' behind one of the most bitter struggles of the Second World War.

War Report, D-Day to VE-Day, compiled and edited by Desmond Hawkins, (Ariel Books and the BBC) price £4.95. Paperback of dispatches by the BBC's war correspondents with the Allied Expeditionary Force during the Second World War.

The impotence of the MNF, with its conventional approach to defensive peace-keeping tactics, was starkly apparent when confronted by dedicated and fanatical terrorists eager to die in battle, he says, no doubt with the appalling loss of life caused by a suicide bombers among the French and American forces in mind.

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THE DAKOTA, simply the 'Dak' to its admiring aircrews and aviation enthusiasts worldwide but an aircraft of memories for many thousands of old soldiers, has just celebrated its 50th birthday.

The first of her kind made her maiden flight in December 1935. Birthplace: Oklahoma. The aircraft that was to amaze the world by its sheer robust performance became the doyen of all RAF transport aircraft.

Some eight years after its conception the 2,000th Dakota, or C.47 military version, had been produced at Long Beach, California. It is reported that many of the aircraft workers there signed their names on her airframe in chalk.

The versatile 'Dak' was to serve in every war theatre with the RAF, its flying career starting with them in April 1941 when a dozen of the type were supplied to 31 Squadron then in India.

These were, in fact, DC 2s augmented by DC 3s and then famed C47s. The civil version DC3 had first flown in 1935.

It is estimated that some 10,000 were built between 1935 and 1945, of which some 700 are still in service worldwide.

The RAF retired its last 'Dak' in May 1970, the aircraft making its final flight from RAF Kemble to RAF Odiham. From there it was taken by road to its final sentinel resting place outside The Parachute Depot at Aldershot on

THE DAK IS FIFTY



Aldershot's famous 'Dak' landmark outside the Parachute Regiment Depot, Browning Barracks

a permanent plinth fronting Browning Barracks.

The airborne wartime missions of the 'Dak' are legend. Normandy... the Rhine Crossing, and Arnhem. Ten veteran Dakotas on loan from four countries were used in the making of the film "A Bridge Too Far" recreating the airdropping events at Arnhem.

And the Dakota still flies for profit and pleasure. Smugglers in Central and South America, for example, nightly sorties for the British Post Office, and even a Bedfordshire-based film company.

The Dakota, loved by all it seems, is here to stay.

Last operational flight to the Far East from England



Ready for filming. Paratroopers and a 'Dak' for "A Bridge Too Far"





BORDER WATCH

Dull but necessary — that's VCP duty in Northern Ireland. But search patrolling is another story — that's 'real soldiering'

Without batting an eyelid Lieutenant Dick Jones said: "This is the camp with the best recreational facilities I have ever seen in the world."

The Families' Officer for the 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry based at Omagh, Co. Tyrone, his sweeping statement referred to the new-look Lisanelly Barracks where stylish barrackroom accommodation is nearing completion.

An officer with world-wide experience — "You name it I've been there" — he rated Lisanelly top of his list because it has just about everything needed to cater for the 264 families under his charge.

"We have 340 children — 200 of them under the age of four — with another 50-60 wives expecting. More than half the battalion is married.

"We've had 70 babies born since January. So we need lots of facilities to lay on daily programmes."

His recreational list for a "week in Omagh" includes swimming every day in the heated indoor pool, gymnastics and youth clubs, discos for youngsters, Cubs and Brown-

Lieutenant Richard Smith, search patrol commander: a remote and rural area to cover with at least 73 border crossing points to cover

Story: JOHN MARGETTS

Pictures: TERRY CHAMPION

ies, darts, netball, keep-fit, wives' clubs, badminton, shopping trips, a choir, fishing in their own river with the chance of hooking a trout, bream, salmon or chub. All these, plus many other organised events come under Dick's umbrella. So do moans. And while it was not disclosed whether he had an abundance of complaints, a small group of wives voiced their views on life in Lisanelly.

Said Mrs Sheila Czepukojc wife of a warrant officer: "I don't like it here because of the restrictions. We really can't go anywhere because our husbands are soldiers. So we stay in the camp area except for shopping in the town.

"Nothing is cheaper here — even car parks are dearer." She was the only one of the group with the use of a car.

"Lack of a car is a big restriction since soldiers are not permitted to travel on public transport. So families find themselves tied to the barracks apart from organised shopping trips and visits to local shops.

"But even if you have a car, insurance is higher, even with a

One mile north of the border in Co Fermanagh. A four-week stint is the norm for VCP duty

Forces rebate scheme. So many couldn't afford to run one anyway."

With three trips back to the mainland since last January, Sheila said she was luckier than most, adding she would be "glad to get home for good." A sentiment which met with general approval.

"But we would rather be here with our husbands than sitting at home worrying about them," she declared.

Mrs Gillian Toase, wife of a sergeant, described Lisanelly life as "boring."

"Even though we take part in many events and try to keep interested while our husbands are away on patrol (up to five weeks at a time) there are a number of depressing features about the place."

Seemingly the wet summer helped prejudice her views, for as Mrs Toase, supported by the others pointed out, it rained every day for more than three months.

But rain or shine Mrs Vilma Appleyard, the mother of two, had other ideas and said bluntly: "It's the wives own fault. They could do more to help themselves. They are mostly apathetic, but of course there could be many reasons for this since most of them have very young children and are kept busy.

"The pressures of caring for small children, the restriction on

Two of the Derryard VCP team, Privates Kevin Milnes, 18, (left) and Craig Daniel, 20



which affects the freedom of movement for the family.

Responded the wives: "Who wants to go for a bus ride without a husband? Without cars we are tied here."

But while the wives waited at Lisanelly, their husbands were out helping to monitor 550 square miles of Fermanagh, including 73 crossing points along more than 60 miles of border.

"It keeps us pretty busy," said Major Adrian Gilbert, OC C

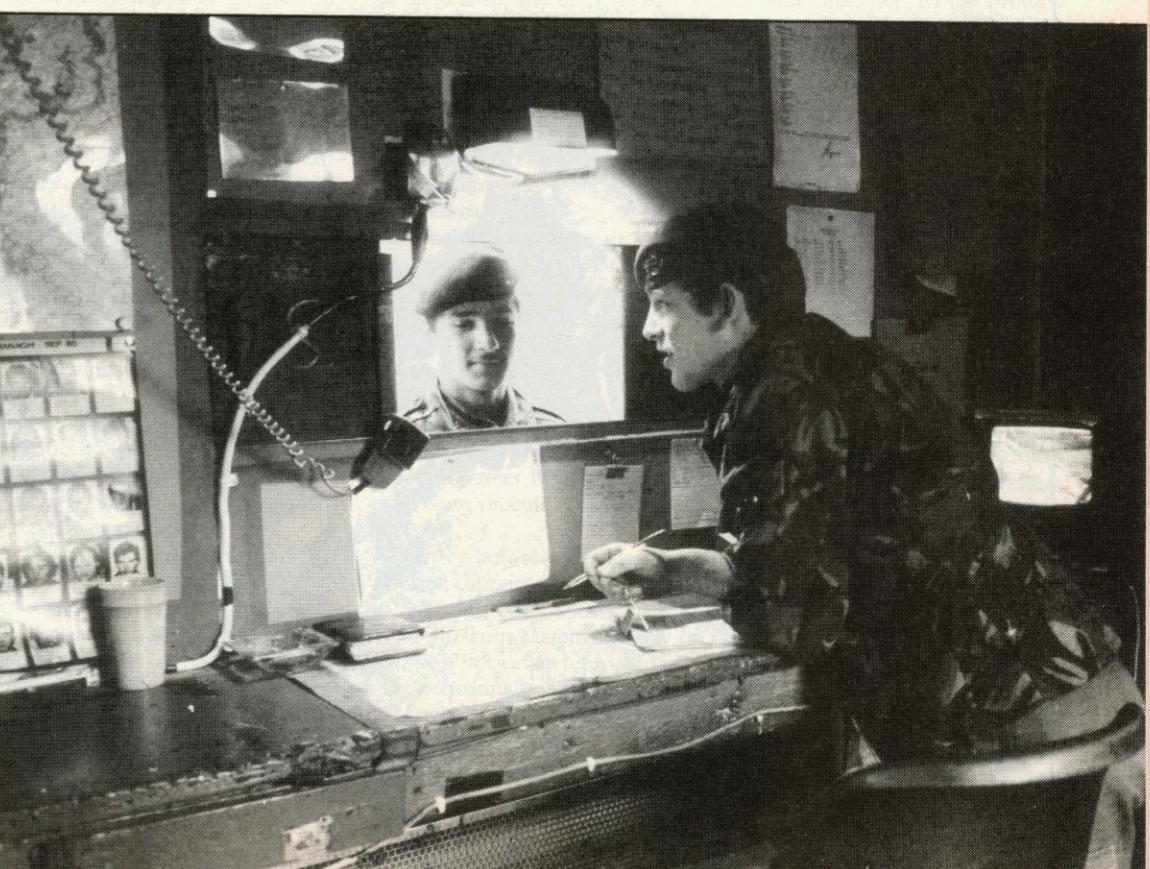
"Come on down..." Lieutenant Richard Smith, search patrol commander waits for the helicopter to lift his team back to base

Company, based at Lisnaskea.

"We're here from Omagh for about four weeks at a time and it's a seven-day 24-hour job.

"But at the end of it we return to Omagh and two weeks leave. We look at a quiet day as a day of success. We are in the business of deterrence as much as anything."

continued on page 36



He described his men as motivated soldiers because their job was worthwhile, they got extra money for doing it and they had planned leave at the end.

He agreed that life for the families was not normal. "It's difficult for wives to find a job and the soldiers are not always around because of the nature of the job," he said.

A glimpse of motivated soldiering in Fermanagh was provided by Corporal Gareth Grist and his eight-man patrol.

They had been on the go since 6am and would not finish till the same time the next day.

Searching ditches and culverts for bombs and arms, they were waiting for a helicopter lift back to Lisnaskea for a short break before starting the second half of their shift.

"All the lads enjoy patrolling. We usually cover five or six miles at a time and, if we're lucky — and we were this morning — we get a good breakfast of tea and toast from a friendly local," said Gareth.

Waiting with the men for the helicopter was platoon commander Lieutenant Richard Smith.

"Talking to people is part of the job and we find that on the whole most are fairly friendly. Only a few are hostile. But we are used to that, as we are to the weather. Patrolling is great when the weather's fine. When it's wet and cold, well, that's another matter."

Private Mark O'Brien...one of an eight-man section on a 24-hour search patrol in Co. Fermanagh

The area he and his men were covering was a remote part of south east Fermanagh, a few miles from the border.

Now they were waiting to return to base.

"It is at such times as this that we feel most vulnerable. We don't like to hang around too long for obvious reasons," said Richard.

A few miles down the road from the helicopter pick-up point, close to the border at Derryard, was the battalion's No.1 vehicle check point (VCP).

One of six along their 60-odd miles of border, it housed a six-man guard and a 12-strong patrol section.

Two young soldiers were doing their car checking stint, Privates Craig Daniel, 20, and Kevin Milnes, 18.

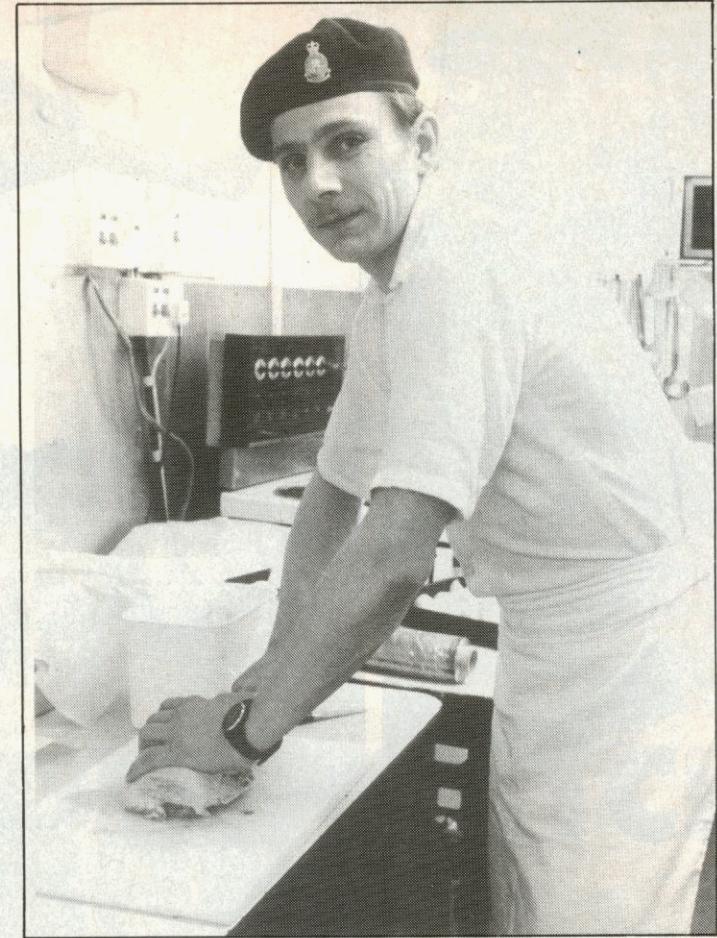
Although they described VCP duty as rather dull, they were enthusiastic about patrolling, an activity they described as "real soldiering."

"Most people have no objection to having their car searched," said Craig. "Just now and again someone goes a bit crazy when we stop them, but we've had no real problems so far.

"Several people give us small gifts," he said producing a carton of apple tarts. "Someone just gave me these and we often get newspapers and magazines.

"Most of the blokes look forward to a spell on the border. It's a chance to save a bit of money, too. Very handy with two-weeks leave to follow."

The only battalion VCP with its own cook — the others don't have



Lance Corporal Barrie Walsh, a lone ACC cook, preparing food for a patrol at the Derryard VCP just a mile from the border

enough men to justify one, so they're DIY affairs — their caterer was Lance Corporal Barrie Walsh of the ACC.

Barrie, 28, with nine years service, was doing his two-week spell as duty cook and getting what he described as some "peace and quiet" in his well-equipped kitchen.

But his "peace" was soon to be shattered by the arrival of a patrol and he was busy preparing a choice of roast beef, pork and chicken.

"It's a busy job cooking for 16 men three times a day. Mind you, there's nothing regular about it. The lads are likely to come in at any time of the day or night and they want feeding. But at least they help with the washing up."

Before his posting with the battalion to Omagh a year ago, Barrie was stationed at Bielefeld.

"While I really enjoy coming down here with the lads on the border — even though it's all go — my wife Ulrike finds life at Omagh very restrictive.

"But the extra money we get in Northern Ireland does help to compensate for our lack of movement, even though we have a car."

With an average age of 20 for private soldiers, 23 for corporals and 26 for sergeants, the age brackets are typical of many similar units.

But the main difference for a unit in Northern Ireland is that at least 200 of them can be on 24-hour duty in any one day.

And when it comes to spending nights away from home, lance corporals are listed as spending 63 of every 100 away and privates slightly less at 60.

No restriction on movement there!



KUMLI THE camel, a beast of burden who seldom got the hump — until recently, that is — is still alive and well and living in Hong Kong writes **Graham Smith**.

But not without a tense, high-speed, jet-setting mercy drugs dash drama to its parade ground side.

For the popular Bacterian ship-of-the-desert star of early morning five-mile runs with the Gurkhas had suddenly collapsed and was close to death and that big oasis in the sky.

Something drastic had to be done to save the British Army's sole "serving" camel.

A mercy mission was organised. One involving a long-haul jet from Gatwick to Hong Kong, a Scout helicopter from the Sek Kong resident 660 Squadron, Army Air Corps and a trusty Land Rover.

Aboard them, by relay, a special drug — Trypacide — one that proved to remedy parts that other drugs could not reach.

Normal drugs and treatment by the men of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps had failed to rouse the collapsed camel as it lay forlornly to port — or was it starboard? — under public scrutiny on the parade ground at Cassino Lines (home of the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles). Its once proud humps lay inert and flaccid.

Major Alan Forestier-Walker, the battalion second-in-command — and officer-in-charge of the stricken camel — took positive action to save the Colony's only one of its kind.

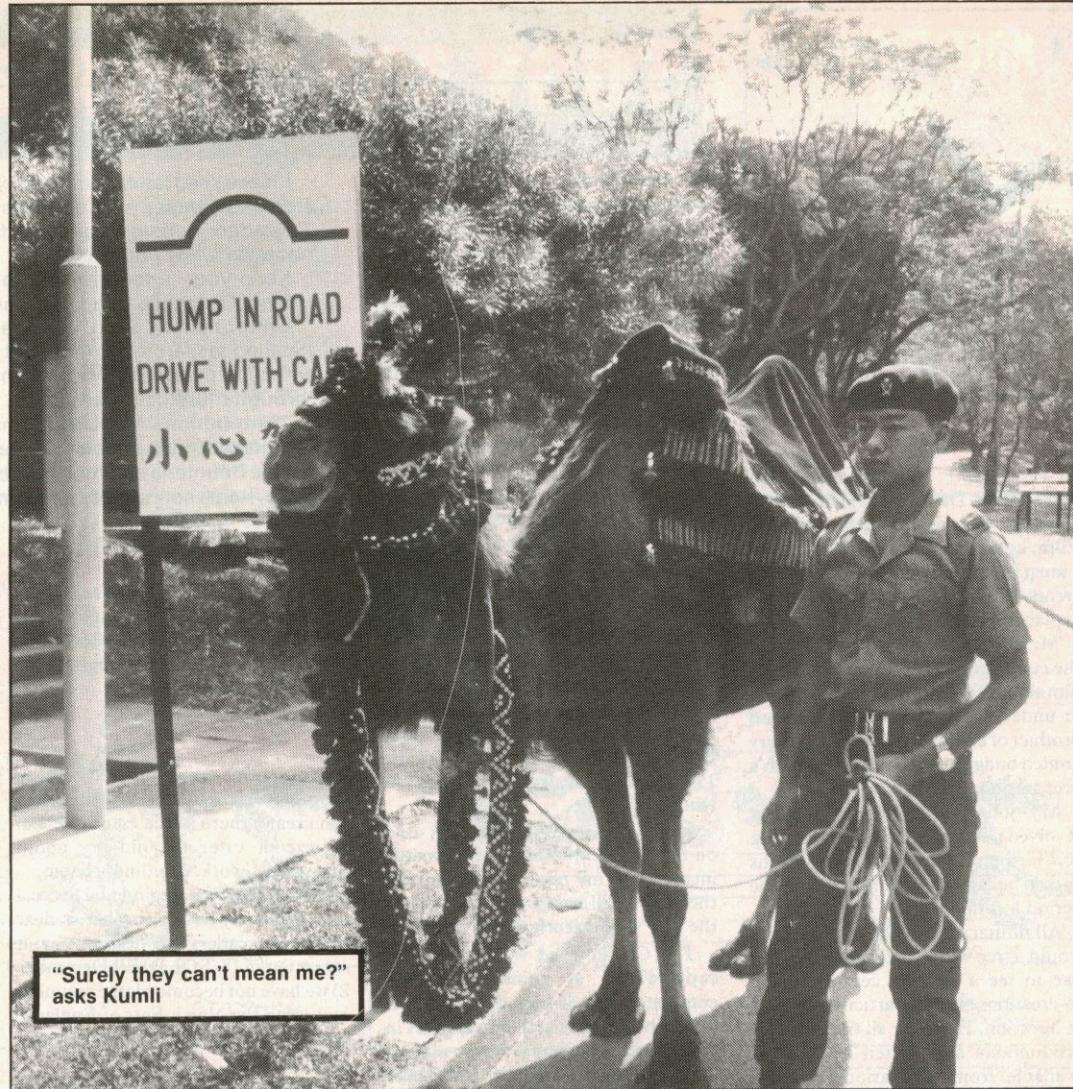
He phoned the managing director of British Caledonian seeking their help. The airline flies via Dubai and there just had to be camel doctors there who would know what to do or, at least, advise. The super drug was organised and rushed to the desert kingdom's airport.

The captain of the British Caledonian flight took individual charge of it. He personally rushed it through Kai Tak's Customs to hand the precious Trypacide panacea to the crew of a waiting Scout.

Meanwhile, a cowed Kumli was patiently absorbing injections and saline drips watched by Captain Alan Martiesson and Sergeant Jerry Watkins of the RAVC. She had not just to be cured of what was now diagnosed as trypanosomiasis but also serious side effects of... extreme flatulence.

The race against the Hong Kong clock was on. The Scout lifted from Kai Tak and threaded its way through the high-rise conurbations of Kowloon bound on its 12-minute dash up-country to the New Territories and the Cassino Line Barracks.

A few more yards separated the



"Surely they can't mean me?" asks Kumli

Kumli is over the hump

camel from life to death. Ten minutes later, Captain Martiesson had calculated the correct dosage, had topped up his syringe and injected the stamina-surfing serum into Kumli. Anxiously watching were Major Forestier-Walker, the Gurkha Duty Officer, the Gurkha Duty Sergeant, Kumli's keeper and a group of other well-wishers.

An all-night vigil followed. Expert opinion had given only a 20-80 chance of recovery. Twelve hours they watched, waited and worried.

Then it happened. Kumli salivated and... broke wind. She would live!

Morning came and the camel was literally back on her four huge feet again; fit enough to plod across any desert floor. Though it was doubted she would be able to tuck into her normal hearty breakfast of cabbage and apples.

Daily diet for the seven-year-old, now on its way of continued convalescence, is 30 lbs of cabbage.

It was, in fact, 1/7 GR who gave Kumli — Gurkali for "humpy" — her new home three years ago as an act of kindness. Blind in one eye, sadly, the camel had been rescued from a bankrupt

visiting circus by the RSPCA.

A law had been turned up forbidding the import and export of camels. No home could be found for her. Until the offer from 1/7 GR.

Now she lives in happier surroundings at Cassino Lines, just two miles from the Anglo-Sino land frontier in the New Territories.

She earns her keep by appearing at local fairs and fetes by giving children rides.

Probably having never known any better as the battalion's pet — she is not a mascot nor recognised officially with a service number — Kumli has acquired a fiery palate for chilli and bhat, the Gurkha-inspired curry.

Each day, the unit provides a camel orderly to look after her needs and steer her, if necessary, away from succulent overhanging branches.

Shortly before her illness one Gurkha captain said: "She goes on morning runs with us and I swear she runs faster than any of us. She is very even tempered and only occasionally gets into a bad temper by running around quickly or trying to dislodge a rider."

Kumli even has her own special

regalia a sort of...er, camel coat! Donated and made by local artisans of oriental rugs. It has tassles dangling from the bridle and the outside has her name proudly emblazoned on the sides.

When not in the appreciative public eye, the slim-hipped camel has her own living quarters and travels around modestly in style. In a Land Rover-towed converted horse box given by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The latest bulletin on Kumli — pronounced with a northern accented 'comely' — signalled to **SOLDIER**, tells us that she has now improved in her health, attending four or five functions monthly.

Her future later this year, however, and travel plans, have not been decided. The battalion is due to move to Brunei in November. She may or may not accompany it 1,000 miles to the south. If not, she may be handed on to the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Meanwhile, **SOLDIER** wishes Kumli a continued up-turn of good health in her role of bringing happiness to thousands of children in aid of charity.

MAIL DROP



'ERRORS' EXPLAINED

In reply to J M Brereton's letter (SOLDIER December 2) concerning "glaring" inaccuracies in the Army PR Film, as the historical military adviser I must take responsibility for any such errors but in doing so I feel that some explanations are required.

Mr Brereton is probably unaware of the complexities involved in making a film about 300 years of the British Army in under two weeks, with a finished product of about 20 minutes, on a very limited budget, with less than a month's preparation.

My job as the military adviser involved not only advising but locating and hiring all the uniforms, weapons and associated props and creating the period locations.

All military historians, and in this I would agree with Mr Brereton, would like to see a 100 per cent authentic re-creation of the particular period in question. However all film and TV productions are limited by what is available from the various costume and weapon suppliers, and in what quantities, and this obviously dictates what you can portray on film.

No doubt many people who are not concerned with the film industry believe that there is a magic grotto somewhere full of every type of uniform and weapon ever used by any Army. Sadly this is not true and we have to rely on a handful of companies who specialise in hiring these sort of things. If they don't have what you want then you have to use the nearest thing to it.

If this had been a multi-million pound epic no doubt we could have had everything especially and correctly made: however it was not and thus as in most films everything was a compromise.

Another point which ought to be realised is that a film is very different

from a set of photos, because to state the obvious, it moves and as a result of that it is virtually impossible to see the sort of detail that you can pick out by studying a photo.

With regard to Mr Brereton's remarks regarding "inaccuracies", the correct sword belts were being worn by the Dragoon Guards, however the swords were attached directly to the saddles, incorrectly. This was due to a personal request to me from the RMP Mounted Troop Sergeant Major who was concerned that the horses were alarmed by the loose swords when worn on the slings and that they could cause an accident.

I obviously agree that the swords should be worn strapped down, as I felt that preventing injury to men and horses was more important than authenticity.

The swords were indeed, as pointed out, 1796 Light Cavalry Sabres, which were the only ones available to us in the required quantity when the film was being made, and I would hope better than anything modern: sadly 1796 Heavy Cavalry Swords are not readily available.

I would disagree that the hats used on the Blenheim soldiers were totally incorrect — my research showed that they were still being worn along with the new style tricorn at this period.

The Colour used was a theatrical copy which, as pointed out, was completely out of period; however, it served its purpose as it only appears in the background and is never seen in detail. Any piece of crimson cloth would have done just as well.

There were numerous other points throughout the film which strictly speaking were incorrect; for instance we used 1912 Saddles and 1902 bridles. However, we had to use those resources we had available, as I have already explained.

The film does portray in a very short time a series of fast moving historical and modern set pieces to give something of the feel of 300 years of British soldiering in a very modest way.

I hope, along with Mr Brereton, that it will indeed boost serving soldiers' interest in their regiment's history. When all is said and done, it is their film, they acted in it, provided the technicians and the enthusiasm, and knowing them I don't think they will be very concerned with the compromise.

On once again contacting the secretary of the AJA I was this time kindly offered a place on one of their courses, and have in fact taken up their offer.

This however still leaves the same problem regardless of the result of my attending the course.

The only alternative I now feel is to

find out if the setting up of a TA Judo Association would be viable. Would any of your readers interested in participating or wishing to add advice or comments, please contact me. — D Shirley, SSGT, 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron (V), 31st Signal Regiment (V), TA Centre, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 2HD.

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

Please keep letters brief and type them if possible. Use only one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines.

Readers' letters must give full name and address, but not necessarily for publication.

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

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

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

mises that had to be made to achieve it.

— David Carson, Military Technical Adviser, The Old Rectory, Alton Barnes, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4LB.

TOO FAR SOUTH

As a magazine editor myself, I realise the problems that unobserved misprints can create; there is not much one can do except utter the old cry about pressure of work, deadlines etc etc.

However, as the Regimental Secretary, I am duty bound to make it clear to all your readers that despite what it says on page 18 (SOLDIER December 2) we have not become a large regiment including the North East of England, but are still The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders!

Lt Col G P Wood, Regimental HQ, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, The Castle, Stirling, FK8 1EH.

SOLDIER inadvertently called the regiment The Argyll and SUNderland Highlanders. Apologies! Ed.

NO TA JUDO

Have any of your readers experienced the same problem that I am having at the moment. This is the total lack of interest in the Territorial Army by the various Army Sports Associations.

I have been involved in judo for the last three years in a civilian capacity. I have spoken to people from some of my local TA units who would like the opportunity to become involved with the Army Judo Association. On making enquiries to the Secretary of the AJA the other week, I was told; "Sorry, but no". He suggested that I should contact the TA Sports Board, which I did, only to be told; "Sorry, judo is not one of our sports".

On once again contacting the secretary of the AJA I was this time kindly offered a place on one of their courses, and have in fact taken up their offer.

This however still leaves the same problem regardless of the result of my attending the course.

The only alternative I now feel is to find out if the setting up of a TA Judo Association would be viable. Would any of your readers interested in participating or wishing to add advice or comments, please contact me. — D Shirley, SSGT, 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron (V), 31st Signal Regiment (V), TA Centre, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 2HD.

Lieutenant Colonel A J Payne RA, the SO2 G3 (Physical and Recreational Training) at HQ UKLF, who has just taken over responsibility for TA sports, says the TA regulations recognise a number of sports — football, cross country, hockey, rugby, squash, golf, orienteering (which is regarded as military training) and the so-called drill hall sports of badminton, volleyball and basketball. Unfortunately judo does not appear on the list, but if Staff Sergeant Shirley cares to contact him at HQ UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 OAG, Colonel Payne will be happy to discuss the matter. — Ed.

CANE DRILL

Reference your back cover photograph (SOLDIER Dec 2). Have the Scots Guards changed drill with whip or cane!

Please note the Warrant Officer standing with left hand holding his cane while officers are at the salute.

Surely he should be at attention with left hand just behind the seam of the trousers? — Mr D O'Brien, 32 Grayswood Drive, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6AR.

MQ APARTMENTS?

I recall reading a number of articles in the national press about utilising Hampton Court Palace and how the Government were contemplating leasing apartments to the public. I wonder if anyone ever gave any thought to the MoD taking them over for married quarters. I am sure they would be particularly apt for senior officers and might well ease some security problems too. — Major J R A Ward DWR, MoD, London.

REUNIONS

The National Ex-Prisoner of War Association is to hold a dedication service and parade for a national Standard, at Windsor on 11 May. Details from Mr L Allen, 99 Parlaunt Road, Langley, Slough, Berks.

Call Signs

All ex-members of the Parachute Sqn, RAC (1965-76) are asked to contact Mr Steve Thompson of 6 Osprey Gardens, North Bersted, Bognor Regis, PO22 9QG, in connection with a reunion which is to be held next year.

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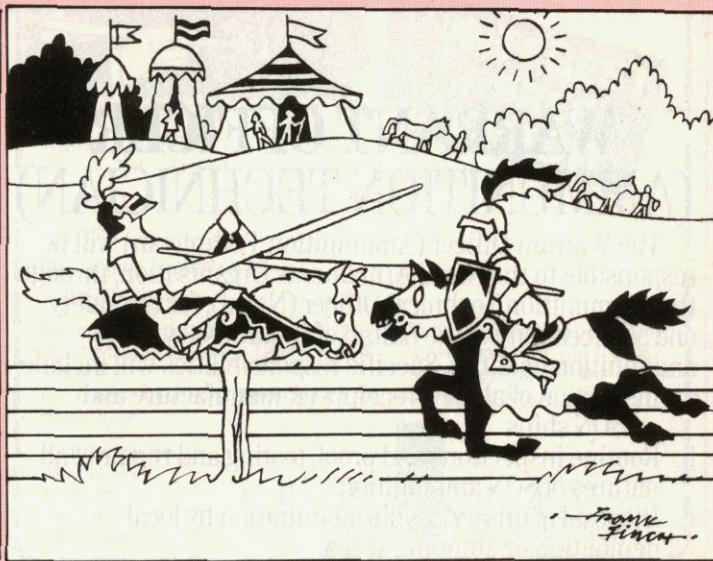
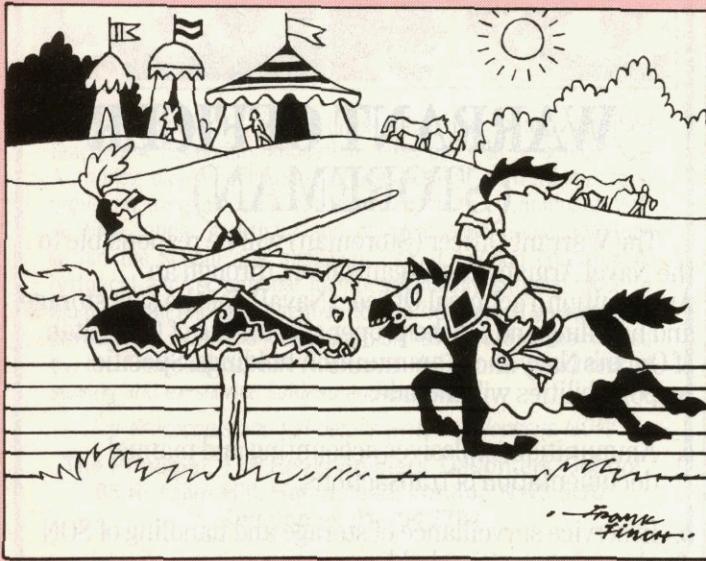
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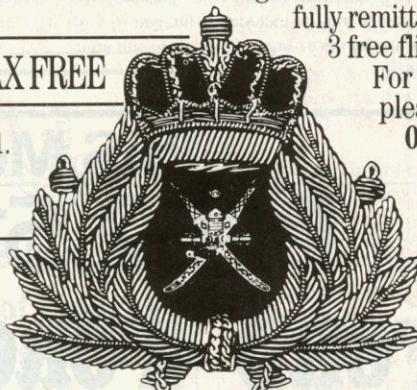
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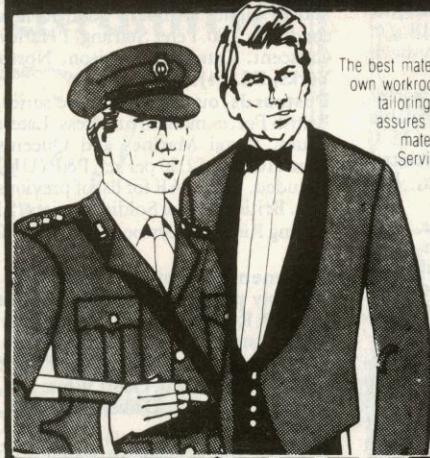


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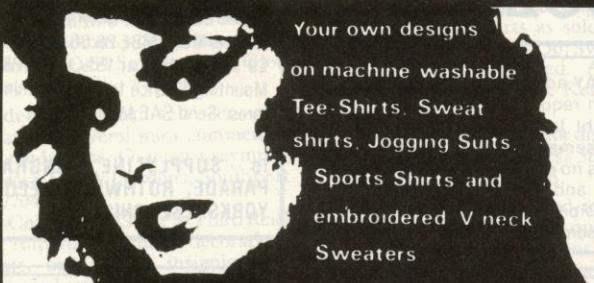
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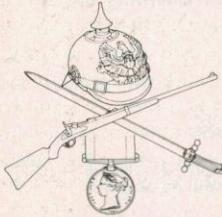
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earliest women's organisation did noble work during the First World War. During the Second World War was deeply involved with SOE, several members were decorated with high Military honours for outstanding bravery. Today the Corps is still involved with communications and is on call to the City of London Police in case of an emergency and also the Army.

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THE MINISTER ANSWERS

this cannot be right?

On the other hand a Serviceman with more than 20 years service wants more than a one or two-bedroomed house. Most people at that age need to accommodate a growing family and a first-time buyers' house would not meet this need.

Surely some compromise can be found to ensure that our houses are sold to our people before being offered to the civilian market.

I also asked how many Servicemen and women with less than 20 years service had bought MoD houses and it appears that 513 sales have been completed of which 156 went to those with less than 20 years service — Army 73, RAF 49, Royal Navy 34.

When a soldier has made a successful bid and been allocated a house on an MQ estate his name comes off all MQ lists. But should the sale of a better house on the same estate fall through, the system is such that he cannot reapply to buy the better house instead of the one he has been allocated. This means, in effect, the bigger, better, prime-site property could well go to someone with less qualifications or even to a civilian.

Q. *The National Federation of Housing Associations introduced transferable discounts under the Housing and Building Control Act 1984. This Act was directed to those living as tenants of charitable housing associations to buy properties of their choice on the open market. Surely a similar scheme could be investigated for those who are licensees living in MoD properties. Could this scheme be looked at in more depth?*

A. The transferable discount scheme, administered by the Housing Corporation, is intended to provide opportunities for home ownership to certain categories of secure tenants who could not be included in the main Right to Buy scheme.

This scheme does not apply to those, such as Servicemen, who occupy their accommodation for employment reasons. However, a number of local authorities and new towns offer homes for sale at a discount for first-time buyers from which Servicemen can benefit, and Servicemen can get a 30 per cent discount if they buy a surplus married quarter.

■ The Minister places much emphasis on the Discounted Scheme and I agree it's a step forward, but MQ stocks will not last for ever and not all our surplus houses are passed to Servicemen.

These inroads into our quarters' stock reduces the availability of surplus homes for sale to Servicemen.

A department called Defence Lands decides which quarters will go forward for the Discounted Scheme or be sold directly to the civilian market. How many have been lost in this way?

The sad state of affairs is that young Servicemen and women find that one and two-bedroomed houses are returned to the PSA for disposal on the civilian market.

But a young first-time civilian buyer of 20-25 is able to buy such an MoD house, yet a Serviceman is denied this. Surely

In addition the 1980 Housing Act included a provision to allow Servicemen who get a council house themselves, or who marry someone who is a local authority or new town tenant, to count all their time in the Services as if they had been local authority tenants when calculating their Right to Buy discount.

Homes for soldiers

From Page 22

managed to borrow £3,500 from Service sources. If that was the most I could draw after 30 years service...

"Servicemen are denied any substantial down-payment scheme and very often find it impossible to get on a local housing list.

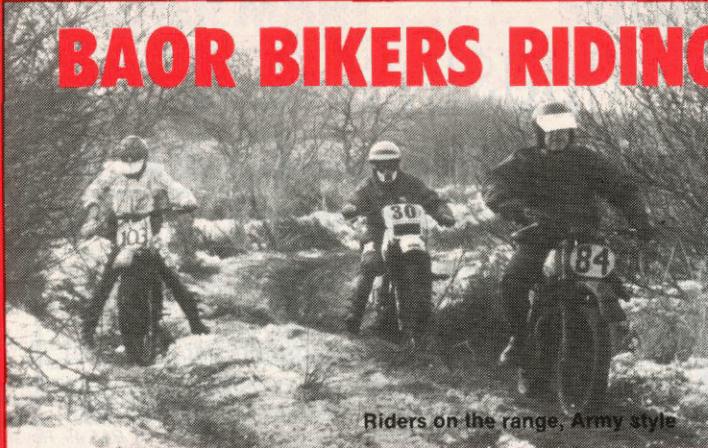
"This is one of the things I feel most aggrieved about. I was never able to persuade ministers on this even though we got to the brink... everything... even as far as

the Treasury.

"But I do congratulate those who have been fighting... I don't think it is at all appreciated to what extent Servicemen are disadvantaged.

"People have fought like hell, continually putting a case to the Treasury and ministers. Nobody should feel that the grass is growing under anybody's feet. The pressure has been — and is — constant."

BAOR BIKERS RIDING HIGH



Riders on the range, Army style

THE British Army of the Rhine Motorcycle Championships attracted more than 100 army bikers for the gruelling two-day test of riding prowess on bleak Achmer training area near Osnabrück in north Germany.

Codenamed Exercise Can-Am Last, the competition title aptly reflected the imminent phasing out of the Can-Am, the 250cc two-wheeled workhorse that has taken military despatch riders many thousands of miles over the years — the next trial will see their replacement, the British 500cc Armstrong.

However, with both military and competition classes on the programme, the championships were open to all BAOR bikers and fittingly attracted a team from RAF Brüggen led by Flying Officer John Plume, as well as many other sport riders who entered a variety of colourful personal machines for the competition and individual classes.

Main aims of the BAOR trial are "to test the riding ability and endurance of the competitor and his ability to maintain his machine in working order," and to decide the BAOR and Osnabrück Garrison team and individual champions. With the RCT champion-

ships also incorporated in Can-Am-Last, there was a great deal of motorcycle prestige pinned on the Trial.

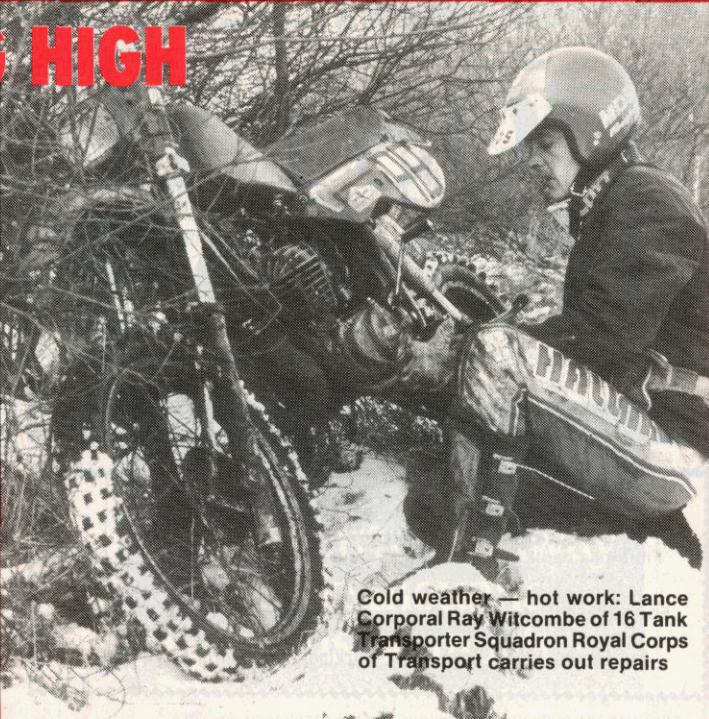
There could surely be no better testing ground than an Army training area in the grip of winter, and Achmer was no exception. As they roared around a 10-mile circuit, skidding and slithering through the snow, riders were faced with a moon-scape surface of frost-bound dunes and rock strewn slopes.

So severe were the conditions that the programme had hastily to be amended to fit the most important tests into the tough two-day schedule.

The Military Class saw riders on Army motorcycles racing a hard six laps of a 10-mile circuit. A maximum five hours were allowed for the course before overtime penalty points started to strike home.

To add to the interest, competitors had to negotiate obstacles in 10 observed sections on each lap, steering a tricky course between rocks, trees and gullies, and further penalties were awarded for feet-down, stopping, or failure to negotiate the obstacles.

On the second day, competition machines were brought out to ride



Cold weather — hot work: Lance Corporal Ray Witcombe of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron Royal Corps of Transport carries out repairs

a testing 10 lap circuit under the eagle eyes of marshalls armed with stop watches, manning two special stages along the way to heap penalty points on riders who overran the time allowance for some tricky manoeuvres.

Meanwhile, the military machines on the second day were faced with a maximum three hour course of six laps which included one special stage per lap.

Evidence of the tough going in BAOR's premier motorcycling event was there for all to see in the prize giving ceremony, as many a rider betrayed signs of a limp on his way up to the trophy table — witness not only to the motorcyclists' trial tumbles but also to their sheer grit in remounting and finishing the course.

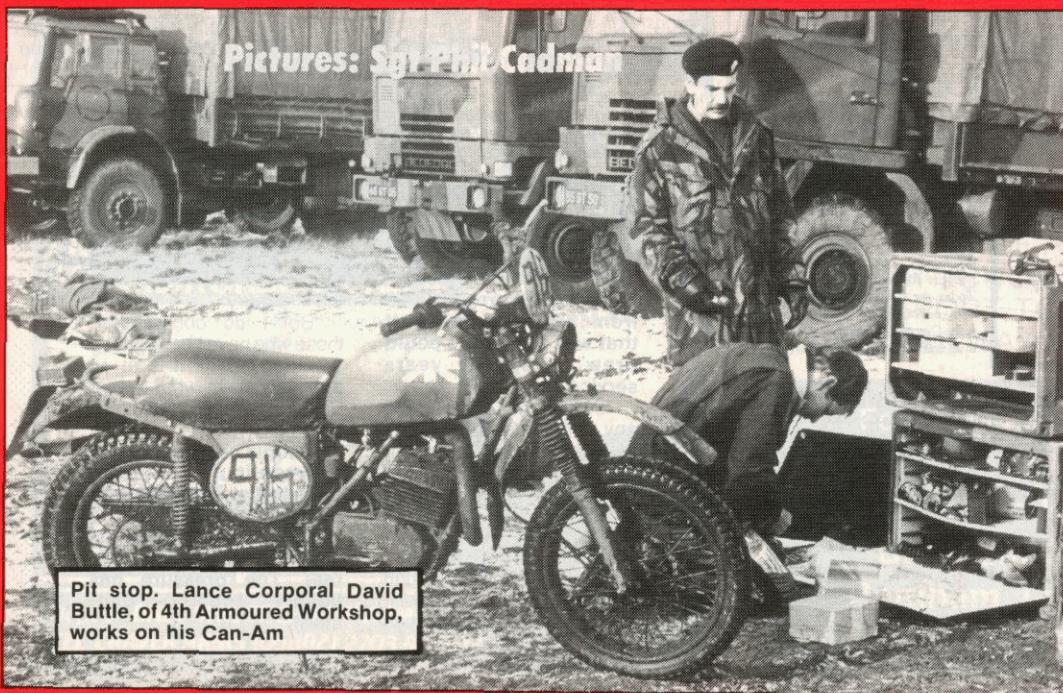
Bünde-based 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment Royal Corps of Transport appeared

to have cornered the market for prizes, with their Lance Corporal Lamplough claiming the BAOR, RCT, and Osnabrück Garrison Military Individual Trophies, while the 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment A team won the equivalent team trophies, and their C Team gained the BAOR Competition prize.

In the Competition Individual awards, Lance Corporal Swanborough of 25 Engineer Regiment RE won both the Osnabrück Garrison Trophy and the Competition Machine Prize.

Military Awards: BAOR Team — 1st, 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT; 2nd, 23 Transport Regiment RCT. Osnabrück Garrison Team, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt A. RCT Team, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt A. BAOR Individual, Lance Corporal Lamplough, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Best Novice BAOR, Corporal Leslie, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Osnabrück Garrison Individual, LCpl Lamplough, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. RCT Individual, LCpl Lamplough, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt.

Competition Awards. Competition Team BAOR, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt C. Competition Machine Individual, LCpl Swanborough, 25 Engr Regt. Novice Competition Machine, LCpl Pounder, 3 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Osnabrück Garrison Individual, LCpl Swanborough, 25 Engr Regt. Spirit of the Event Award, Sapper Mushing, 32 Armd Engr Regt.



Pit stop. Lance Corporal David Buttelle, of 4th Armoured Workshop, works on his Can-Am

TA WINNERS

SOLDIER in August reported that 1 Wessex had won the Dragon Trophy and ARU Cup in the TA Major Unit Shooting Championship. Captain H M Fletcher points out that both trophies were won by 10 Para (V). Sorry, 10 Para, we printed the information we were given. — Ed.

First in Florence, and now...

CELIA Duncan is rapidly becoming a household name in marathon circles—not least because she has beaten the entire women's field in the Florence Marathon.

Celia works at HQ 1st Armoured Division in Verden while her husband Bob is the QMSI (Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor) of 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. However, when she is not "manning the grille" at the HQ entrance, Celia is likely to be seen on lonely roads around the fields and forests near Verden, treading the tarmac in many miles of tough training that have seen her through seven marathons to date, including Verden, London, Berlin and, now Florence.

Says Celia: "Coached by Bob, I started serious marathon training only two years ago. In London last April I ran my best time of two hours 42 minutes. That put me 23rd in UK rankings for the marathon and ninth in the UK over 10,000 metres, although I

consider the marathon as my best event."

She joined the local athletic club on arrival in West Germany and currently holds all local records from 800 metres up to marathon.

It was the London performance that got her selected to run with the Great Britain team in Florence, but the trip wasn't confirmed until just 10 days beforehand. With a hectic weekend of travelling to arrange, via UK, she arrived in Florence to mild "perfect" running conditions.

Some 1,800 runners crammed the narrow cobbled streets of Florence to race the 26.2 mile scenic route. Celia was very pleased to be the first lady home in 2.44, just two minutes outside her best, after an illness just two weeks before the race. She finished some five minutes clear of the women's field and 15 minutes ahead of the second British woman.

Celia's big aim for 1986 is to be selected for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh to run for Scotland. She is currently fourth



in Scotland, and selection will be made after the London Marathon in April.

Because of her training commitments she will have to give up her

full-time job in January and concentrate on full-time training in preparation for London. Some 90 miles a week will be on her schedule.

— KENTISH CUP — Belgians settle for draw

THE Belgian Armed Forces paraded an impressive array of young footballing stars, including two full internationals, for the opening match in this year's Kentish Cup Competition but had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Pre-match predictions from the Belgian camp, based on a recent 2-1 win against the talented Dutch Army, had ranged from a two goal to a five goal win in their favour.

Vincenzo Scifo (Anderlecht), currently the darling boy of Belgian football, showed considerable skill in the early exchanges as he prompted the visitors build-up to attack. They almost created an early break, when Luc Ernes (Liege) fired off a rocket which Sgt Dave McDermott, RAF, blocked before the ball was scrambled away. Cpl John O'Connell, RM, soon marshalled his defence, and, from then on, the chances which came the visitors way were few and far between.

Cpl John Rich, RM, had a half chance to give the Services the lead, but with centre-back and Skipper Nicholas Verboven (RC Mechelen) bearing down on him, he snatched his shot and the ball flew over the top. All the graft in mid-field failed to produce any further clear chances before the interval break.

On the restart, the Belgians stepped up the pace and took control for a short time. The

Services defence was kept at full stretch but seldom looked in any great danger of conceding a goal.

On the hour, just when they appeared to have weathered the storm, Marc Emmers (Waterschei) slipped past Cpl Alan Pluckrose, RAF, and dived into the heart of the home defence. O'Connell appeared to provide the cover needed but the ball somehow eluded him. Standing in front of goal was Marc Degrijse (Brugge) and the young international made no mistake.

The Combined Services hit back and put pressure on the Belgian defence. They were rewarded, six minutes later, when Cfn Neil McGregor, Army, slipped the ball to Cpl Tiv Lowe, RM, out on the right flank. He raced to the goal-line and swung over a long cross. Rich outjumped the defence to head the ball against the cross-bar, and, when the ball dropped into the six-yard box, Pte Davy Richardson, Army, was on the spot to volley it into the roof of the net.

O'Connell very nearly set up the winner when he intercepted a bad forward pass and raced through the massed ranks of the Belgian defence only to be brought down on the edge of the penalty area.

With time running out, Cpl Brian Evans, RAF, through sheer persistence, set up a chance for Mne 'Shiner' Wright, RM, but the tireless but tiring Wright shot tamely over the cross-bar.

STAFFORDS MOVE AT THE DOUBLE

RUNNING for charity is nothing new for the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's.) They have raised thousands of pounds both in America and the UK — last summer a dozen runners from the battalion successfully completed a 424-mile run from Colchester to Scotland and raised over £2,000.

To coincide with the battalion's move to BAOR a 12-man team planned to run (as *SOLDIER* went to press) from their base at Roman Barracks in Colchester to Fallingbostel, West Germany, hoping to complete the marathon journey in four days and to include a visit to Arnhem for a civic reception.

The Staffords have close ties with the Dutch town. During the battle of Arnhem in 1944 the 2nd South Staffords, as part of the 1st Airborne Division, earned the distinction of being the only British battalion to be awarded two Victoria Crosses in one battle.

The Regimental flag was being carried throughout the run to be re-presented back to the Commanding Officer on the team's arrival to Fallingbostel.

Not content to stop there the Staffords will be putting on shorts and trainers again when a selected team attempt to break the record for the run from John O'Groat to Lands End.

TA Sappers on top

THE Army in Scotland final in the TA Association Football Challenge Cup was played between 102 (Clyde) Field Squadron RE(V) of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) and Command Company of the 15th Parachute Battalion at Redford Barracks Stadium and turned out to be a close

fought one.

102 Field Squadron beat 15 Para by 2-1, both of the Sappers' goals being scored by Corporal Grant, while Sergeant Ewing scored for 15 Para.

The winners now go forward to the UK quarter finals where they play C Company of 4 Royal Irish Rangers in Northern Ireland.

SOLDIER

