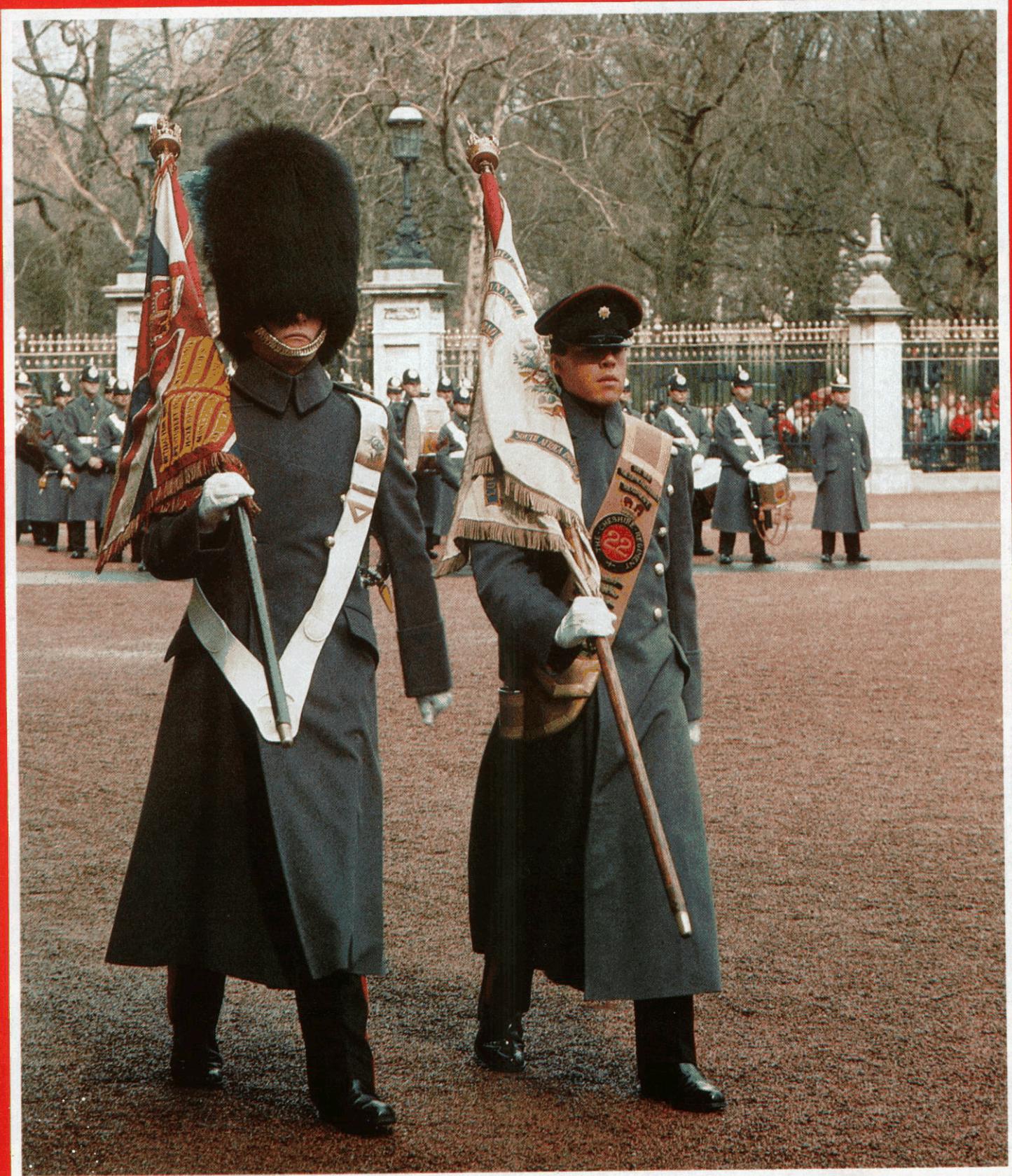


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SOLDIER





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VOL 42/10
19 MAY 1986

CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 11 A Ruin Comes to Life
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 15 Falklands: The Families Return
- 16 New Rifle Hits Bullseye
- 17 Humour
- 18 Flying Terriers Take Off
- 21 Royal Tournament Preview
- 22 Anne Armstrong
- 24 The Growth of Terrorism
- 30 Cheshires on Palace Parade
- 33 Johnny Marches On
- 36 Queens Host Tomorrow's Soldiers
- 39 TA on the Rock
- 41 Uniform Set of Soldiers
- 42 Mail Drop
- 43 HOAY Competition
- 44 Books
- 45 Special Offer
- 53 Sport

FRONT COVER: The Regimental Colours of the Irish Guards and The Cheshire Regiment march side by side across the forecourt of Buckingham Palace as the Cheshires take over ceremonial duties. Story: page 30.

Picture: Terry Champion

BACK COVER: Ranger P A Roberts (Royal Irish Rangers) catches a punch from Craftsman L Parry (REME, att Royal Regiment of Wales) on his shoulder in a lightweight bout which Parry won in the Army novices championships. Report page 55.

Picture: Les Wiggs

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SOLDIER

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THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

EYES BEHIND THE WIRE



BEHIND THEIR side of the Berlin Wall or The Wire, as it is known in the divided city, East German guards with high-powered binoculars watch as SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley snaps them with their CT 601 vehicle. The photograph was taken during a "wire patrol" — SOLDIER will be featuring the first of a series of articles on Berlin in the next issue.

— Genuine Issue Kit — **SILVERMAN'S**

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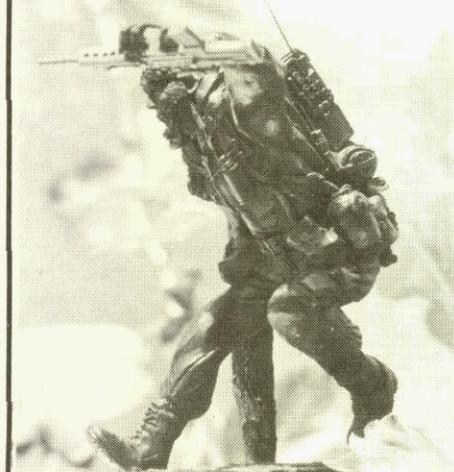
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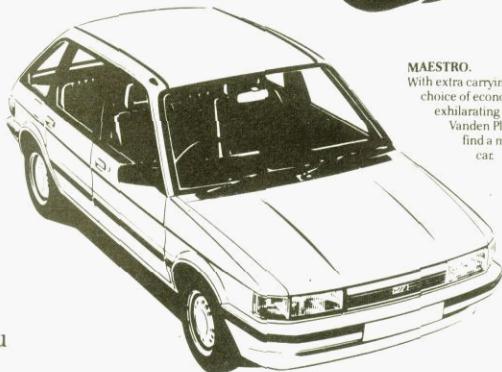
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PARAS LIMBER UP

MEMBERS of the recently formed Company of 10 Para have decided to enter a 12-man team in the four-day 100 miles Nijmegen march in the Netherlands in mid-July.

The company is not receiving any official backing or blessing, because the HSF is only allowed to be deployed in the UK for training.

But this has not daunted the team, led by brothers Harry and Roger Blake. They have embarked on a rigorous training programme of 25-mile marches carrying 22lbs of kit.

The team is so keen to compete in the event that they have decided to pay for their own travelling and accommodation. They will enter as The Duke of York's Athletic Association, dressed in grey sweatshirts and green trousers. They have also realised that the current Army boot is not exactly the answer for long distance marching!

The average age of the team is

"over 40"; the youngest is Lt Tony Doggett, a solicitor from Tadley, Hants.

5 (HSF) Company of 10 Para is wholly composed of ex-parachutists from every unit from the old 16th and 44th Parachute Brigades, commanded by Major Larry Orpen-Smellie, well known in Army and international shooting circles.



Private Roger Blake (left) and Lance Corporal Harry Blake, Nijmegen bound



END OF AN ERA

THE TA have formally taken over Gordon Barracks in Aberdeen from the regular Army.

Four TA and two Cadet units accommodated in other centres in the city will be moved in once alterations have been completed and garaging built.

The old TA centre at Hardgate, which was first occupied by the Royal Engineers Militia, will be relinquished.

Picture shows Lieutenant Colonel Ian Shepherd, the last regular CO of Gordon Barracks, signing over "barracks, one, part worn" to the Chairman of Highland TAVRA, Lt Col James Stirling, watched by unit representatives.

RED DEVILS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



Lieutenant David Davies receives a greeting for the Queen on her 60th birthday from Captain Mickey Munn of the Red Devils after the free-fallers dropped in on the Honourable Artillery Company who fired a birthday salute at the Tower of London

600 JUMP FOR CHARITY

A sponsored ride at Badminton with up to 600 riders hoping to complete a special course is the first of a full calendar of events in the Army Benevolent Fund's Wiltshire Appeal.

All proceeds from the ride, which was to be started by Field

Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs on May 18, go to the fund.

Other planned events include displays by massed bands at Salisbury, Longleat and Swindon on July 4, 6 and 10 respectively, displays which have not been seen in Wiltshire for more than 10 years.

There will also be receptions, fashion shows, garden parties and fetes all designed to achieve the target of £25,000 for the fund from the Wiltshire Appeal.

Ringing the changes

THE picturesque North Yorkshire village of Pickering had a big moving problem.

The bells in the parish church needed refurbishing and the bell frame on which they hung had become unsafe.

But how to remove bells weighing many hundredweight each? The solution — call for 124, that is 124 Recovery Company REME(V).

Because of the narrow confines of the church tower and the surrounding graveyard, the bells had to be lowered by Tiffor hand winches to the church nave and then moved by hand trolley to the

nearby road.

Once on the road a Leyland Heavy Recovery Vehicle lifted the bells onto a civilian lorry which was taking them to a bell founders in London for refurbishing.

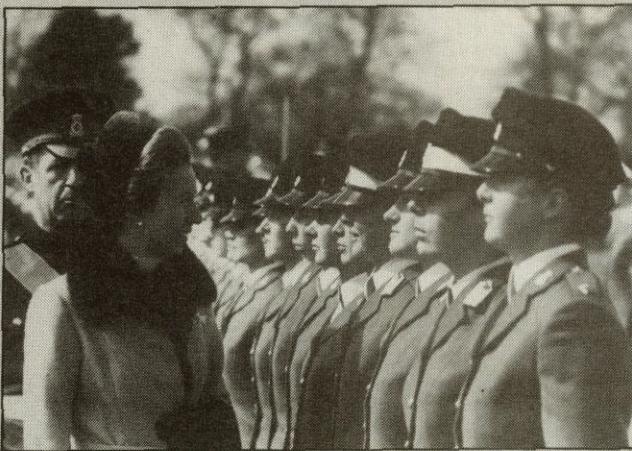
The removal of the bells has even silenced the church clock, so local residents are having an especially peaceful time for the next few months until the bells are ready to be rehung.

Then '124' will help restore the bells to their rightful position so they can ring out once more, hopefully in time for a planned visit of the Archbishop of York to Pickering parish church.

Backs to it, as the REME TA men heave the 13-cwt tenor bell down the church steps
Photo: Yorkshire Evening Press



A WORD FROM THE PRINCESS



Princess Anne stops to chat with one of the WRAC cadets during the Sovereign's Parade at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

The Princess was reviewing officer on behalf of the Queen at the parade, in which about 600 student officers and officer cadets took part of whom 370 received their commissions into the British Army.

SUMMIT RACERS HELP SICK CHILD

BOUNDING down from the summit of Snowdon, and racing in relays to the summit of Pen-Y-Fan — another Welsh mountain — soldiers in Wales aim to raise cash to help six-year-old Tina Parry, who has an unknown metabolic disease.

Running through the night, seven men of NCOs Tactical Wing, Derring Lines, Brecon, plus

another runner from HQ Wales, will cover a distance of 145 miles in their non-stop marathon to help Tina who is blind, dumb and wheelchair-bound.

And because Tina, who comes from Llanfaes, Brecon, reacts to sound, special electronic education aids will be bought with the money raised by the run.

The runners will start down

FROM FATHER TO SON



Junior Driver Mick Davies is congratulated by Brigadier Courtis; father Mr Tom Davies in the background

MR Tom Davies spent some 400 hours patiently modelling a Commander tank transporter complete with its Challenger tank load, offered it as a raffle prize and saw it won by his son.

The model, four feet long, was raffled at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, to raise money to help buy the Dalton VC for the Royal Corps of Transport.

The winning ticket was drawn by Brigadier B G E Courtis, regimental secretary of the RCT, and won by Junior Driver Mick Davies who is in the Junior Leaders' service at Colerne.

Mr Davies senior is a former National Serviceman with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment from 1960-63.

Ten Tors Guides

THE TEN Tors expedition on Dartmoor, organised by the Army's South West District HQ and HQ 43 Infantry Brigade, has again attracted the maximum number of entries: 400 teams of six walkers aged from 14 to 19 to cover distances ranging from 35 to 55 miles during the weekend May 17-18.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

SIGNALMAN Alan Palmer has just received his medals — 40 years late!

The escapades of Signalman Palmer during the Second World War were so overwhelming that after serving in France, Holland, Germany and Egypt he was demobbed and promptly forgot all about it!

Forty years later, during the VE day celebrations, he thought about the medals he should have been awarded, and his son Wayne, a Corporal in the RAF, wrote to the Army Medal Office from Cyprus and arranged for his father's two medals, the France and Germany Star and the 1939-45 War Medal, to be sent to Cyprus in time for a holiday visit by his father.

Cpl Palmer then arranged for the senior Royal Signals officer in Cyprus, Lt Colonel Mike Payne, to make the presentation — a well kept secret which was only revealed seconds before the presentation.

'MIDGET' DROPS IN

IT looks as if Major Ian Welsh of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps has been caught trying to stow away in the Dutch Army BO-105 helicopter piloted by 22-years-old lovely Lieutenant Brigitte Van der Loo.

Brigitte was exercising in the area when bad weather forced her to drop in at Detmold, much to the delight of British aviators who were soon on hand to offer every assistance.

Based at Deelen with 299 Squadron, Brigitte (nicknamed 'Midget' because at 1.62m high she's theoretically below the height limit) trained to fly with the US Army in Alabama and has clocked up 800 flying hours, 300 of them on a BO-105.

She's a fully trained combat pilot, one of five female pilots in the Dutch Forces.



Lance Corporal Kevin Wilkinson hails from Hinckley, Leics., and is based with 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at Herford which is twinned with his home town. He was one of a goodwill tree-planting team from his own unit, 7th Sig Regt and the 13th/18th Hussars which planted 100 young trees around the

LEAFY LEGACY

town to help beautify the area. With him is Colonel Tony Kerr, Commander RE, and Herford's burgermeister.

Front-line ban rules out the girls

Girls are queuing up to join the TA but are being turned away because of insufficient places for them in Britain's part-time Army.

A TA recruiting chief is reported as saying that only a change in Britain's military philosophy, such as allowing women into front-line roles, would solve the problem.

Memory lane

Sunday May 25 is a diary date for all Dunkirk veterans. For on that day in the French town of Esquelbecq the mayor and officials will officially rename one of the town's roads *Rue des Dunkirk Veterans*.

Jack Squire, local secretary of the association, says all Dunkirk men are welcome. If you're thinking of going, write to him at: 75 Rue des Freres Neuville, 59122 Rexpoede via Hondschoote, France.

He said: "What we are finding is that with the emancipation of women and equal opportunities, a lot more girls see something they like in TA adverts.

"Unfortunately the opportunities for girls to go into TA units are relatively few as the vast majority of the units are scheduled to help across the Channel in wartime, and in our Army there are clear restrictions on the use of girls in combat."

But there may be hope on the horizon for the lasses eager to join the TA.

The recruiting officer said they were studying ways of employing more women across the board in the TA and possibly the new Home Defence Force.



WIN CASH WITH WORDS

If you have a way with words then you could earn an easy fiver. All you have to do is create two word winning captions (see SOLDIER May 5) to collect the cash.

To produce a winner will require a little thought, or just a flash of inspiration.

Either way we don't mind so long as it's witty, pithy and clean.

So come on, have a go. The picture on Page 9 of May 5 issue shows para-aces Major Gerry O'Hara and Jim Steele in mid-air with Major O'Hara brandishing an outsize key. Suitable captions are all that is required.

Mark your entry PEOPLE and send it to SOLDIER Magazine, Ordnance Rd, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Black Watch black up for the boss

A see-for-himself tour of Northern Ireland bases for Defence Secretary George Younger took in a visit to the Black Watch.

Then the battalion were in South Armagh, but now they are back in Edinburgh for ceremonial duties for the Commonwealth Games, the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Queen's Guard at Balmoral.

For most of their six-months tour in the province, their ninth, the battalion covered border hot-spots such as Crossmaglen, Forkhill, Middletown, Keady, Newtownhamilton, Drumadd and Bessbrook near Newry.

For Mr Younger this was his first visit since taking over from Michael Heseltine in January.

An ex-Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, he served 15 years with the regiment as a regular and in the TA, missing their arrival in Northern Ireland by a day.



Hols plan flops

Harbouring holiday thoughts...? A cut-price holiday deal set up by Naafi two years ago is to fold through lack of response. Posters,

displays, talks and 65,000 brochures failed to lure enough customers. "Our arrangement was a positive response to customer

requests," said Naafi. But unfortunately the customers did not respond. The scheme closes at the end of August.

Dart aces answer cash for kids call

More help for sick children... this time it's from 23 Engineer Regiment Workshop, REME, Osnabrück.

For 24 hours, nine of them slammed darts into their Naafi board to raise a mammoth score and £2,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Throughout the non-stop dart-in, 14 maximum scores of 180 were achieved, nine of them by Corporal Del Drury RAOC, and 230 scores of more than 100.

Captain John Taylor, Staff Sergeant Bob Byrne and Sergeant Steven Pipes travelled to London to present the cheque to hospital representative Penny Uprichard.



Dave's 'thumping' tune takes top prize



Something to smile about? You wouldn't think so judging by the glum look of WO1 Dave Knox.

But Dave should have been laughing for he had been judged the best composer of a march for 3rd Armoured Division, BAOR.

He received a trophy for his efforts from GOC Major General David Ramsbotham and praise for a "thumping good tune."

It was the General's idea to hold a competition and it was the

Gordon Highlanders, of which Dave is Bandmaster, who played his entry for him to win the title and the honour of having his march played on important occasions.

Diana to tame 'The Tigers'

Princess Diana will tame the Tigers when she visits Tidworth Garrison on Minden Day (August 1) to present new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, as she will be making her debut at such a ceremony.

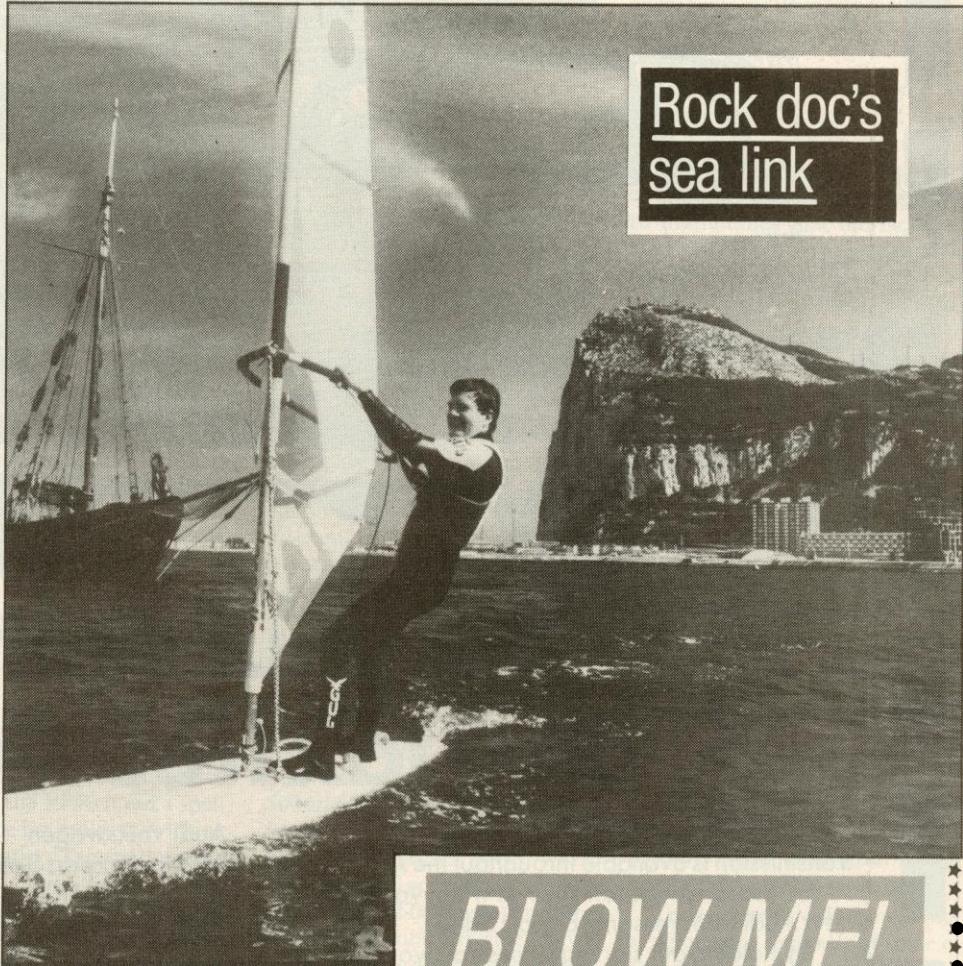
And it will be only the second time she has been on parade with a military unit.

The first was when she visited the Hampshires in Berlin.

Dubbed the 'Tigers' by

George IV in recognition of 21 years active service in India, the Hampshires are the only regiment in the Army of which the Princess is Colonel-In-Chief.

In common with Hampshires' tradition, a single red rose will be presented to her just before she mounts the saluting dais; everyone on parade will be wearing a red rose.



Rock doc's sea link

BLOW ME!

It was a life on the ocean wave... at least it was for three hours 55 minutes for Major Nigel Raby, RAMC, when he wind-surfed across 13 miles of sea between Gibraltar and Ceuta in North Africa.

He was raising cash for a scanner for King's College Hospital, London, so far collecting £2,500.

He's hoping donations will top £10,000 for the hospital, where he once worked as a doctor.

Photo: The London Standard.

PEOPLE

King's visit renews Lancers' Spanish links

Regimental histories make fascinating reading, but the King of Spain's visit to this country had Captain J M Holman, assistant adjutant of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, reaching for his pen.

He writes: "Many readers will be unaware of the close links that the King's

grandfather, King Alfonso XIII, held with one of Britain's most distinguished cavalry regiments.

"From 1906 to 1937 King Alfonso was Colonel-in-Chief of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers (the 'Queen's' coming from Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III).

"King Alfonso closely identified with the regiment and, apart from his many military duties, he also formed the backbone of the regimental polo team which still today enjoys a high standing in the polo world.

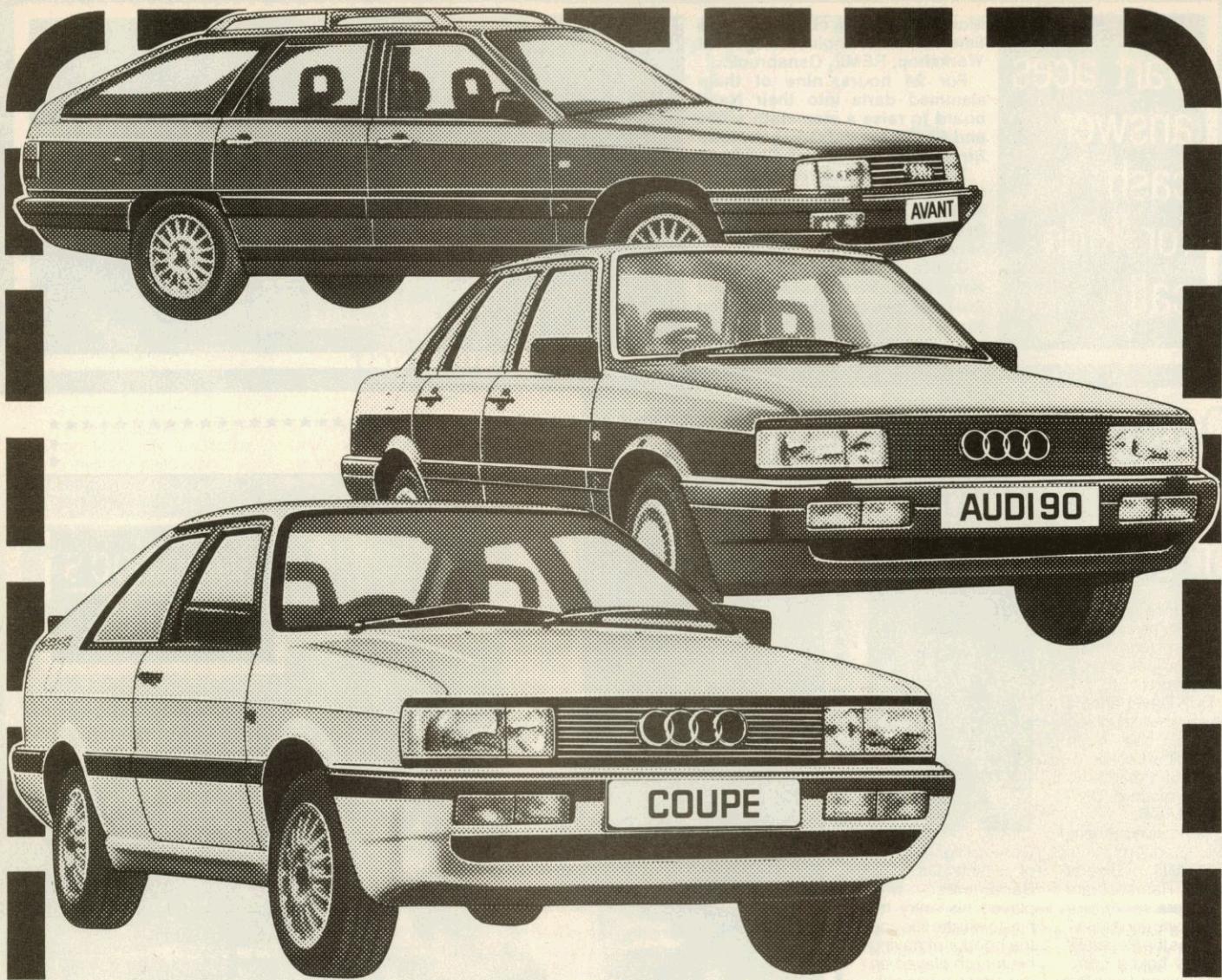
"At the wedding of King Alfonso on May 31, 1906

to the Princess Victoria of Battenberg, in Madrid, five officers of the 16th/5th further sealed the close links by rescuing the King and Queen after an attempted assassination in which a bomb was thrown killing 24 and injuring another 50.

"All five officers were decorated by the King the

following day as a mark of respect for their conduct and bravery."

Currently based at Tidworth as an armoured reconnaissance regiment, the 16th/5th renewed its links by forming part of the Honour Guard lining the route at Windsor for the King's visit.



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A RUIN COMES TO LIFE



Lt Col Arthur Channon

THE Army's oldest building in Aldershot — in fact one of the oldest buildings in the whole district — is back in service after years of neglect which reduced it virtually to a ruin.

Today rooms which were derelict until a few months ago resound with the sound of play groups, youth clubs, children's dancing classes and a host of other activities. The refurbished south wing of Union Building in Hospital Hill has become a thriving community centre, a sort of village hall for the 1,500 Service families who live in Aldershot.

What is now called the south wing is in fact the original manor house built back in 1629 by Richard Tichborne who became Lord of the Manor by his marriage into the White family. Actually it was a sort of sub-manor as another house was built at the same time on what is now Manor Park.

It was never used very much as a home by the Tichborne family, and by the mid 18th century it had slid far enough down the social scale to become a home and school for pauper children.

When the Army took up residence in Aldershot in 1855 it helped meet some of the urgent need for hospital accommodation in the wake of the Crimean War. In fact the building remained an



Ante-natal class under a recently restored high beamed roof

Army hospital until the opening of the Cambridge Military Hospital in 1873.

As the medics left the paymasters moved in and from 1877 to the 1950s the old manor was an Army pay office of various kinds. There was a break in 1907 when the building burned down and had to be reconstructed. During the great Aldershot re-building programme of the 1960s it did a spell as site office for builders working on the nearby Talvera housing estate.

Before the face lift the Families Housing and Welfare Service used the more recent extension, known as the north wing, as a modified

community centre. Now, with seven more rooms at their disposal, it has been possible, according to Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Arthur Channon, the Aldershot Housing Commandant, to expand significantly all activities.

Colonel Channon acts as chairman for the committee of 12 wives which manages the increasingly busy community centre. Between 500 and 600 Servicemen and their families, along with a few civilians, used the facilities every week. The range of activities is already impressive. There is everything from youth clubs, Brownies, wives clubs, play groups to classes in slimming, ante natal care and

dancing. The centre also runs discos, a child minding service, a thrift shop and jumble sales.

It provides accommodation for an aspiring pop group, for the Hants and Surrey Cartopholic Society, and for soldiers' wedding receptions and social meetings.

The programme will expand even further next year when work on upstairs accommodation is completed. There are hopes of establishing among other things an amateur theatre group.

The reputation of the new community centre has already spread far enough for Mrs C F Eley, the Naval playgroup supervisor, to plan a visit to see it.

At the same time, ironically, there remains the perennial problem of getting more families actively involved.

Mrs Hazel Edwards, who as caretaker is the only full time official at the centre, says that while business is picking up slowly, it still seems difficult to get through to the families that the facilities are there. There is a need, common enough among similar organisations, for more voluntary helpers.

This month (May) the centre is due for a publicity boost with its official opening by the GOC South East District (Lieutenant General Sir Michael Gray) prior to the 'May Fayre' open day.

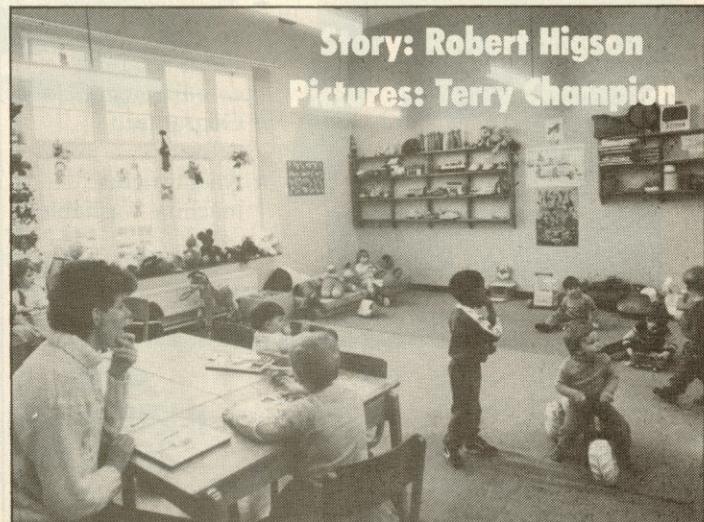
In the meantime the community centre's work will continue to expand within walls that are something of an historic monument to the soldiers of Queen Victoria.

In days gone by the cavalry barracks used to run alongside the old manor and troopers seem to have developed the habit of carving their names and units on its ancient bricks. No doubt, one hundred years ago, it was vandalism and an offence against HM property. But even graffiti can become respectable with age.

Today the still visible marks act as a poignant reminder of some of the long departed regiments of the British Army.



Memories of the age of Empire carved into the old walls — the 13th Hussars and the date 1861

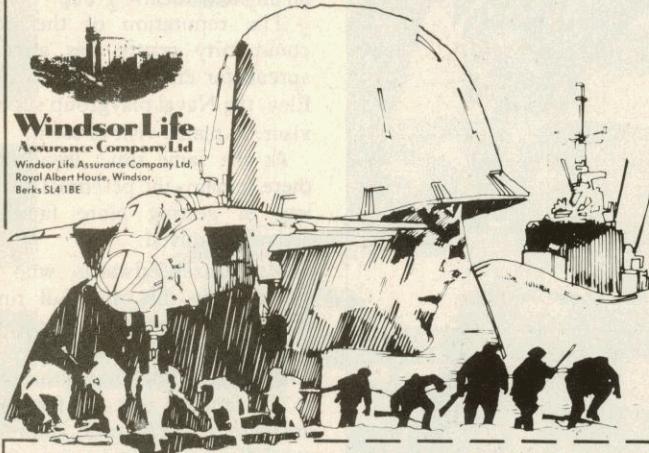


Child minding centre

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

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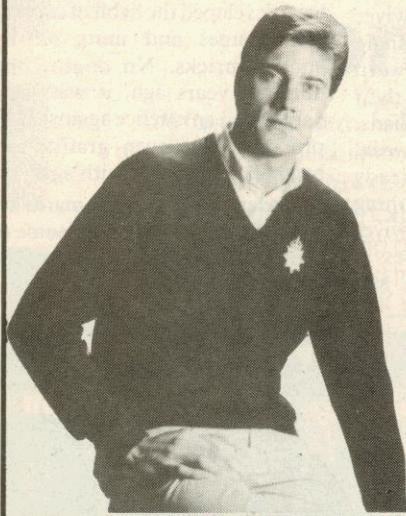
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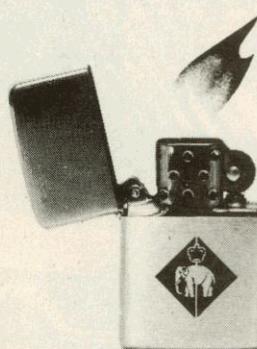
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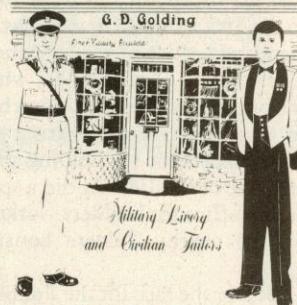
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LHE 70th anniversary of the battle which slaughtered the cream of Britain's manhood is only a few weeks off.

At dawn on July 1, 1916, the thunder of guns reached a crescendo and thousands of soldiers climbed out of their muddy trenches to begin a journey to death across no-man's-land.

The Battle of the Somme had begun.

On the first day of the battle alone 60,000 British troops were either killed or wounded; some battalions were virtually annihilated. By the end of the four-month



SOLDIER to Soldier

battle, casualties had risen to more than 350,000.

The mud, the rats and lice, the fear and bravery, the wounds and death had turned into the greatest bloodbath ever for the British Army.

The carnage was described in many a letter home by the soldiers who fought, and often later died there. "The ground was sprinkled with dead and dying heroes", wrote

one. "But we had no time to stop and look at them, and soon got used to the ghastly faces, more so after midnight as the moon shone out brilliantly."

On July 1 this year, those who survived the Battle of the Somme and the subsequent 70 years, will remember. And at Thiepval on the Somme there will be an official memorial ceremony when wreaths will be placed on the monument to those many thousands who fell.

Much has been written about the battle. But SOLDIER invites any veterans of the battle to write their recollection of experiences of those traumatic days, to be published in the magazine at the anniversary time. If you have photographs, they would be appreciated and will be returned.

Please address your letter to The Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, to reach the magazine by June 2.

M ANY thousands of television viewers watching news film of the Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military

Academy Sandhurst will have felt sympathy for the soldiers whose hats were blown off in the strong winds.

Mr George Whitcomb of Folkestone, Kent, recalls another royal parade where a quick thinking Regimental Sergeant Major provided a face-saving rescue in similar circumstances.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel of the Regiment, was taking the salute at the centenary parade of the Royal West Kent Regiment at Shorncliffe. The companies, immaculate in No 1s, had marched past when, horror of horrors, all eyes fell on a peaked cap lying on the parade ground.

The RSM, bringing up the rear with drawn sword, stabbed the offending cap and quickly tucked it under his left arm, an action which, Mr Whitcomb recalls, was carried out with military precision. The brilliant manoeuvre brought roars of approval from the admiring crowd.

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

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FALKLANDS: THE FAMILIES RETURN



Sara Jones and Des Keoghane lay a wreath at the Liberation Monument in Stanley

Twas a time for memories, renewing friendships and forging new links, when 55 members of the Falkland Families Association visited the Falklands.

The visit was organised by the FFA in close collaboration with the Falkland islanders, and was the result of some 19 months planning.

Formed on board the Cunard Countess returning from the Falklands after the Ministry of Defence sponsored 1983 visit, the FFA now has around 400 members.

"The association arose from the marvellous friendship of all the people involved in the original visit, and the knowledge that all the families had the common bond of losing people they have loved", says Sara Jones, Col H's widow and FFA's vice-chairman.

Although deeply appreciative of the first visit, many relatives felt that they needed a longer visit to the Falklands to learn about the islands and meet more of the islanders. A week's programme in April was planned; the greatest problem facing the organisers was that of financing the visit as the FFA is not a registered charity and had to rely on its own resources.

Although the MoD charged

reduced rates and the FFA members stayed with islanders during their visit, funds had to be found to help pay for the air fares and transport on the islands.

The FFA made a concentrated fundraising effort, including publicising the visit by writing to Service units. A total of some £22,000 was raised, and more than 50 per cent of the UK's contributions was reached by those in the Falklands.

Much of this money was raised by Servicemen on tours down there. This included a sponsored marathon run of 33 miles between Mount Pleasant Airport and Stanley by Warrant Officer Clive Osborne of 77 Falkland Islands

allowing the relatives time to talk to Falkland islanders. The programme included visits to the sites of RFA Sir Galahad and HMS Coventry, Fitzroy, Pebble Island and Goose Green, as well as battlefield tours of Mounts Longdon, Harriet and Tumbledown.

Memorial services were also held at Blue Beach cemetery (where Col H is buried) and at Christchurch, Stanley. Relatives also visited the Argentine temporary cemetery.

Many of the relatives spoke warmly of the islanders' hospitality and kindness. Lt Col Desmond Barry, whose son Jim was killed at Goose Green with 2 Para, said: "People in the UK don't realise

about. It's not just an island 8,000 miles away."

Emotions are inevitably mixed. Clifford Sweet's son Philip was a lance corporal in the Welsh Guards, who was lost with Sir Galahad. "Every time I visit I am bitter to see how it happened, how close it was to the shore," he said. "I don't think time has healed that bitterness, but it isn't against the Falklands. The people are great, marvellous people."

How will relatives feel as the Falklands conflict drifts into the past? Sara Jones — "Time is a healer; you don't forget, you just learn to live with it."

Will other visits to the Falklands be organised? Des Keoghane is acutely aware of the financial constraints of such visits, that there are limits to the number of appeals they can make to other people's generosity, but he sees no reason why individual families should not return.

He said at the reception held by the FFA for their hosts on the last night of the visit: "The visit went far better than I ever dreamt. I think you will see me back."

In the Falklands, many roads in the new Mount Pleasant Complex have been named after those who died in the 1982 conflict. As with the FFA pilgrimage, new links forged with the past look forward to the future.

Story: Penny Russell-Smith

Picture: Phil Cadman

Stores Company, which raised £380 for the FFA visit, and a 24-hour disco which raised £800.

As Des Keoghane, FFA chairman, says: "The money raised by the Services was a magnificent effort and we are extremely grateful to them."

The visit was designed to take in as many of the sites from the 1982 conflict as possible, while

what a wonderful place the Falklands is; the people are very hospitable and I am committed to the islands."

Sara Jones compared it with the previous visit in 1983 — "We have been here longer and appreciate it more. The islanders warm to us and you know you have met friends. You get more of a feel for the place, realising what it is all

A GRANNY astonished spectators at an Army families' day by scoring marksman grouping that not very long ago would have qualified serving soldiers to be considered for sniper training. The granny, 62, put five rounds within a one-and-a-half-inch grouping on the target, firing at a range of 100 metres.

She did it with the SA 80 (the 'Endeavour') which is shortly to be introduced into service after years of trials and experimentation, writes Gerry Nicholas.

Already it's been put to the acid test by the Royal Marines, who dubbed it a 'hit', while using it on exercise in Norway. Such is their success rate with the rifle since then, that the Bootnecks are now complaining that they've got too many marksman, and that they can't make badges fast enough to meet an ever-mounting demand.

The extremely lightweight

NEW RIFLE HITS BULLSEYE

weapon — manufactured by Royal Ordnance, Enfield — has everything going for it in terms of design, construction and operation.

Accuracy and reliability are its main attractions, and the fact that it is — in computer parlance — extremely 'user-friendly'. To the layman that means that firers, even raw novices, are drawn to embrace it more as an inoffensive pop-gun than the deadly accurate 'spitfire' it really is.

This is particularly noticeable when contrasting its almost benign image, enhanced by its compact and miniature dimensions and relatively 'nil' recoil, with the angry kick of the old Lee-Enfield Mark IV, or its slightly less alien successor the SLR.

At an overseas marketing presentation at the Enfield factory attended by representatives of the

media from countries including Portugal, France and Scandinavia, the Endeavour attracted a deal of export interest. The French were particularly curious, which is noteworthy if only because they have a similarly-styled weapon of their own manufacture in service. The French, of course, claim it is better than the Endeavour.

Sales director Colin Wagstaff, while confirming that current total production was geared to satisfying Ministry of Defence contract requirements, added that his firm, now privatised, was looking to gain new markets overseas. They were confident that they had sufficient capacity and available specialist manpower to satisfy both UK MoD and export markets without difficulty.

Meanwhile the weapon, which has 15 years of research and development behind it, has been undergoing exhaustive tests in all temperatures at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit in Warminster, Wiltshire. ITDU work closely with the Army's Procurement Executive in London, who actually commissioned the weapon, and the Royal Ordnance boffins who designed and made it.

An officer at the Warminster unit, confirming the Endeavour's successful track record and basing his findings on tests carried out by groups of 30-40 serving soldiers who fired and handled it in UK and overseas environments in all climatic temperatures, said the rifle enabled users to take 'a quantum leap' in their scoring and general performances.

"We have found there is a marked improvement in the attainments and general overall per-

formance of soldiers when using the rifle," he said. "This applies not only in the way they fire it but also in their adaptability to it and in it to them."

"As a general rule we found that if a soldier firing an SLR failed his annual weapons test, using the Endeavour he will almost certainly pass. Similarly a soldier who was 'the norm' in getting through the test with the SLR will now become a marksman when taking the same test with the new weapon."

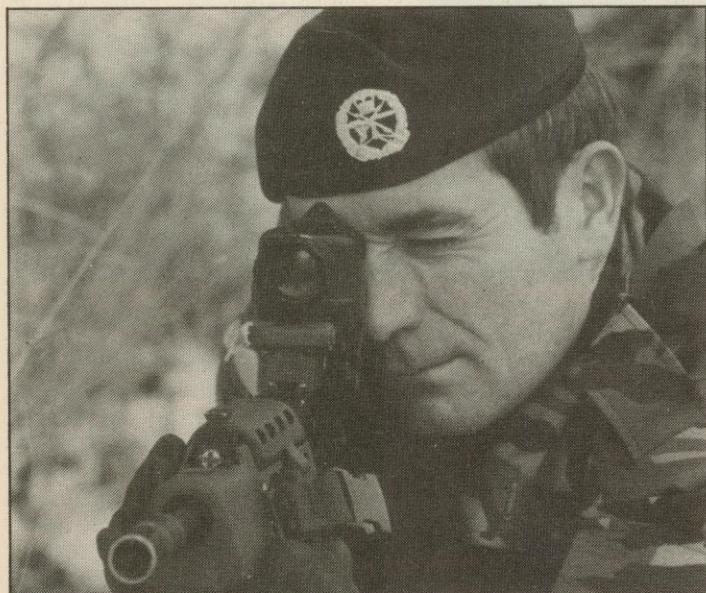
"The four-inch or 100 mm grouping, easily achieved by the average soldier with the new rifle, would with the SLR have resulted in the firer being considered suitable in terms of marksmanship for sniper training."

"We frequently have visitors firing at the Trials and Development Unit, many of them very senior officers who haven't fired any sort of weapon for years, and they are getting marvellous scores with the new rifle," he added.

"Anyone from a child to a granny could simply pick it up and do well with it."

"A 62-year-old grandmother whose daughter has associations here did remarkably well by winning outright the Ladies' Shooting Competition. In the 100-metre practise she succeeded in placing her five rounds within a one-and-a-half inch grouping."

"It's a kindly piece of kit: accurate, reliable and absolutely dependable, which affords the firer a great deal of flexibility," he said. "I've been firing one of these weapons continuously throughout the six months I have been here and I haven't experienced one single stoppage with it."



Endeavour: a kindly piece of kit

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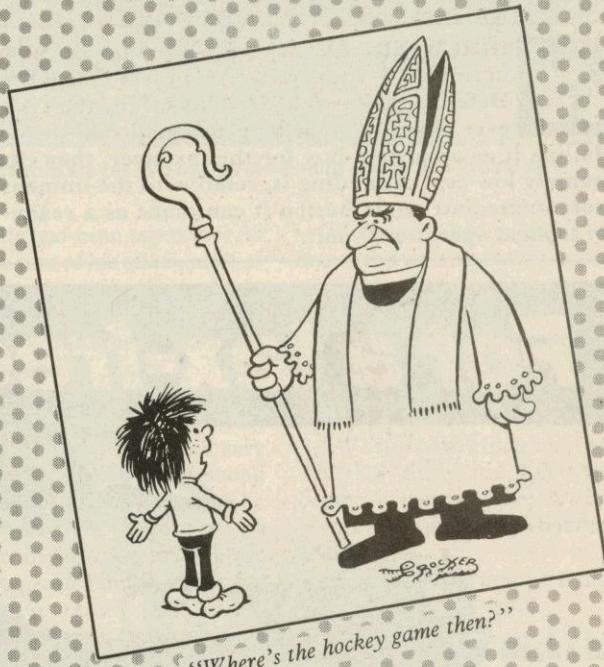


"I told you George, you should have turned left three hundred miles back!"

Humour



"I suppose it's the usual arrangement — we share the tips."



"Where's the hockey game then?"



Cathy

"And if he won't give you a rise ask him to pay you more often!"



"Doctor advised me to stop drinking and start a hobby — at least I took half of his advice!"

THE FLYING TERRIERS TAKE OFF

WHIRLWIND ACCLAIM and soaring notes of optimism — sounded by Army senior officers and a Defence chief — heralded lift-off for the TA's first-ever operational helicopter squadron.

Hailing it as a bargain-buy for the taxpayer, they cited the extremely low cost of funding it, relative to the immense and almost immediate contribution it can make as a ready-made fully trained operational unit.

At a spectacular fly-past and parade at 7 Regiment Army Air Corps headquarters, Netheravon, they acclaimed the flying Terriers as forming the composition of the most air-experienced chopper unit in the whole of Britain's armed forces, and yet the cheapest in

FLYING TERRIERS. Six of the new unit's 12 Westland Scout helicopters fly past in formation

terms of manpower, machines and cost-effectiveness.

The 12 Westland Scout AH1 helicopters, taken out of mothballs for use by 666 Squadron Army Air Corps (Volunteers) — an historic unit made dormant in 1977, and now resurrected as part of further TA expansion — represent both a windfall to the TA and a 'first' in the annals of military aviation.

For in addition to the machines being inherited by a TA unit, it will also be the first time 'civilians in uniform' have flown service/operational aircraft on military assignments.

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CAPTAIN Andrew Gordon (left) points out the controls of the Westland Scout to Secretary of State for Defence Lord Trefgarne

But there's nothing dormant about the 16 part-time flyers who will be taking over the controls, coming from a patchwork quilt of civilian callings ranging from wine merchants to merchant banker, film producer to farmer, sports commentator to restaurateur.

They each have a healthy average of 3,000 flying hours' experience under their belts, and collectively that amounts to two-and-a-half times more than that of any other squadron in the entire Army Air Corps.

Acknowledgement of this was made by Lieutenant General Sir John Akehurst, Inspector General of the Territorial Army, when he paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the many who had finally succeeded in reviving the historic squadron, whose roots date back to its formation in Andover in March 1945 when they flew as an Auster 'taxi-service' to Canadian Army units mopping up in the defeated remnants of Nazi Germany.

Before taking the salute at the fly-past — by six machines of the new unit — the General mentioned that among these present was Lord Trefgarne, the Minister of State for Defence — himself an amateur, and former professional aviator — witnessing the results of his own individual and enthusiastic support of the project.

"The TA is thrilled to have its own squadron," said General Akehurst. Addressing himself to unit personnel present he added: "And the country, too, is very glad to have you, because we have in this country probably the finest Reserve Army in the world. Now that the TA has its own Army Air Corps squadron it will contribute immeasurably to the capability of that Army."

"At a time when every penny of defence expenditure is examined in detail, and we have to fight for and justify every last penny — contracting this and disbanding that — it is very exciting for me to come across something that is expanding again after a few years' obscurity."

Lord Trefgarne told SOLDIER that the airborne units would have an effective and important role to play. As an added bonus, although this was not the reason the unit was formed, its existence would simultaneously enhance the TA's image and lend it even greater prestige.

He confirmed that the TA flyers and their aerial hardware which would otherwise be cocooned in storage represented a bargain to the country. From the point of view of cost-effectiveness, bearing in mind current cutbacks in the

FAMILY links are revived when Lord Trefgarne talks with Major W G (Sandy) Gordon, former OC of 666 (Air Observation Post) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, which was made dormant in 1977. Major Gordon's son, Captain Andrew Gordon was among pilots in the fly-past and Major Gordon travelled from Perthshire for the historic occasion



HISTORIC links with 666 Squadron's war-time role are revived by this remaining Auster which saw service in Korea

Regular manpower situation, the unit would be making an invaluable contribution in carrying out their Home Defence role in support of United Kingdom Land Forces.

The new unit's officer commanding, Major Anthony Stansfield — in civilian life an aviation consultant in airborne radars — showed Lord Trefgarne over the aircraft after the parade, which was attended by more than 250 personnel as well as relatives and friends of the new unit.

Noting that all but two of his pilot vacancies were already filled, Major Stansfield added that most of the key-posts on the ground-

crew side had been taken too. As with the case of his pilots, most of the jobs had been filled by ex-Army Air Corps personnel but 'TA-proper' volunteers had been accommodated.

"Quite a number of my pilots flew with the 'Blue Eagles' helicopter display team, and very probably some are by now among the oldest pilots in the Corps," he said, "but there's positively no truth in the rumour that we are now being called the 'Bald Eagles'.

"In all seriousness," he added, "we are running an amazingly cheap helicopter squadron here. All the machines are out of storage

— we haven't had to buy a new one — and we have 16 fully-trained pilots who in truth we've acquired very nearly for free.

"They have a level of experience that it would take pilots in the Regular units many years to come by.

"We still have a long way to go: The US Army has 4,000 helicopters in their Reserve. We have just 12 at the moment — but that's a start.

"I am going to empire build," he chuckled, "if I can."

Story: Gerry Nicholas
Pictures: Les Wiggs



TERRITORIAL history is made as Lieutenant Sir John Akehurst, Inspector General of the TA, chats with crews of 666 Squadron's choppers before the final fly-past

'Perhaps
the bravest
man
I ever
knew...'

and now,
he cannot
bear to
turn a
corner



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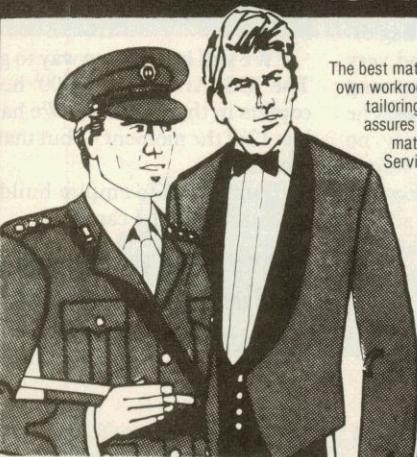
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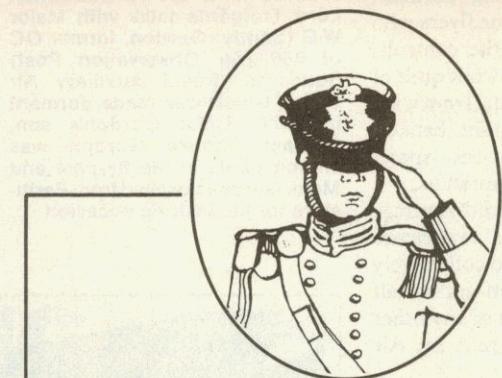
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TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE TOURNAMENT

Italian Army bandsmen double past in 1969's preview parade; this year at Stoke-on-Trent



HERE was a time when one of the attractions at the Royal Tournament was called "Cleaving the Turk's Head" and consisted of titled Yeomanry officers — they were the only ones allowed to participate — galloping at an effigy of a head and slashing at it with a sword.

Nowadays, nothing so gruesome is arranged for the 300,000-plus spectators from all over the world who will fill Earls Court for what the promoters call "the greatest show on earth".

In the technological 1980s, although tradition and the past is well represented, the show will open this year (between July 9-26) with a simulated Ariadne rocket launch in the arena, with the release of a satellite and what is probably the largest indoor laser show laid on in this country.

The first performance of the Royal Tournament took place at the Agricultural Hall in Islington on June 22 1880. Its original title, "The Grand Military Tournament and Assault-at-Arms", had about it a ring of authority and violence which, while impressive, failed to entice the public.

In 1884, the Queen became Patron of the Royal Tournament, an office held ever since by the reigning monarch. (More than 100 years later, the present Queen, together with other members of the Royal Family, will attend performances, to take the salute).

By the turn of the century, the Royal Tournament was fully established and was beginning to broaden its appeal to the general public. The musical drive by the Royal Horse Artillery was introduced and has continued ever since. The display, in which teams of mounted horses pulling gun carriages gallop into the arena to

rousing music, is today performed by the King's Troop.

Another event which has not only lived on, but has become world famous, is the Royal Navy Field Gun Competition. Probably the toughest test of strength, teamwork and timing ever devised, the contest involves the dismantling and carrying of a field gun over an assault course.

The competing teams, from Portsmouth, Devonport and the Fleet Air Arm, are a hand-picked elite of volunteers who train for months.

Once the competition begins, the men are under tremendous physical and mental pressure; a single error of judgment, a momentary lapse of concentration, can not only cost them the race, it could mean physical injury to a member of the team.

The sheer size and organisation of the Royal Tournament is

enormous. More than 2,000 men and women have to be transported, rehearsed, fed and billeted.

The 200 horses will consume over 7,000 lbs of feed in their 18 days at Earl's Court.

The name 'Tournament' no longer does justice to a show on the scale of the modern event. Today's Royal Tournament is a highly polished, professionally produced entertainment. It combines thrills, action and spectacle plus emotion aroused by ancient ceremonies, traditional music and acts of courage which are still relevant today.

Each Service takes its turn to be the lead service. This year it is the turn of the Royal Air Force.

The preview parade of the Royal Tournament, the annual curtain-raiser for this famous event, has always in the past taken the form of a march of all the participants in the tournament — overseas events, massed bands, police dogs, motor-cycles, gun carriages, horses, etc — from Wellington Barracks around Horse Guards Parade down The Mall and past Buckingham Palace on the Sunday before the opening of the tournament.

This year, for the first time, the preview parade will be held outside London. On the morning of July 6 the Royal Tournament will march from Earl's Court to Olympia Station and board a Royal Tour-

nement special train chartered from British Rail.

The train will travel to Stoke-on-Trent where there will be a parade through the streets finishing in the Garden Festival Area.

The parade will include bands, police dogs and this year's overseas acts — the Gurkhas, the Band of The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the Mounted Band of the National Guard of Portugal.

Overhead will be the Red Arrows, the Battle of Britain Squadron — with Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster — a free-fall parachute display by the Royal Air Force Falcons and, it is hoped, a low-pass by Concorde.



'Hair cut!'

Don't soldier on to disaster

Every year 120,000 DIY enthusiasts find themselves queuing in the casualty department of a hospital.

Quite a lot of them are Servicemen at home and overseas who hack lumps out of themselves tackling jobs around the home.

Most famous on the long list of DIY casualties is

Prince Charles who bashed his finger with a hammer, proving if nothing else that hammers, saws, chisels and the like can cause havoc even among the very highest.

The message is clear: Take care. For as the director of Home and Leisure Safety, John Howard, says: "There is nothing complicated or

unusual about most DIY accidents.

"Most involve cuts or falls, dropping things on feet or getting splashed with chemicals. Thoughtlessness can

mean a lost finger, an injured eye or even a broken back.

"What is needed is more common sense."

To help push this take-care call, RoSPA has published a booklet called DIY Safety which includes a checklist for jobs.

A useful little publication, it costs 60p and is available from Home and Leisure, Safety Division, RoSPA, Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS.

Similarly, the EEC has produced a publication for consumers called Better Safe — Product Safety in the EEC. This is available from Consumers in the EEC Group, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB and costs £1.

Remember: DIY can seriously damage your health. And if it's a two-man job, get help. Don't soldier on to disaster.

out experiencing any problems.

For those who need help, advice is available from the Pre-menstrual Tension Advisory Service who have produced two pamphlets — *Advice for the Younger Woman*, £1, and *PMT Nutritional Recommendations*, £3. Both are available from PO Box 268, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1 RW (0273 771366).

For wives' clubs there is

available a 30-minute video costing £7.19 plus £2.31 postage.

Produced by the Private Patients' Plan and Women's Own Magazine, in it Clare Rayner encourages sufferers to share experience and offers advice on self-help and medical treatment.

The video is available from Private Patients' Plan, Press Office, Tavistock House, South Tavistock Square, London WC1M 9BR.

What is PMT? When a cross-section of men were asked if they knew what these initials stood for, few gave the correct answer.

Many women, too, have to pause to think that they stand for pre-menstrual tension.

Yet PMT affects millions of women with an estimated 90 per cent suffering varying degrees of discomfort at some stage in their lives. Few women go through life without

experiencing any problems.

For those who need help, advice is available from the Pre-menstrual Tension Advisory Service who have produced two pamphlets — *Advice for the Younger Woman*, £1, and *PMT Nutritional Recommendations*, £3. Both are available from PO Box 268, Hove, East Sussex BN3 1 RW (0273 771366).

For wives' clubs there is

Putting the brakes on road deaths

MORE THAN 3,000 Servicemen, their wives and children were involved in road traffic accidents in BAOR last year.

Over the past eight years 1,892 have died in similar circumstances worldwide. Their graves are scattered throughout BAOR and other parts of the world where the Army has served and is still serving.

They are a grim reminder that death stalks the roads wherever you are and whatever time of the year.

Now, in yet a further effort to reduce this annual toll of misery, Euro-Road Safety Year has been launched with a 20-point safety charter.

Throughout the year

scores of road safety organisations in the UK will be signing the charter and pledging their help.

All grist to the mill in a massive bid to save people from being slaughtered on the roads.

Just think what would

happen if a town the size of Weymouth was wiped out by an epidemic.

There would be a national outcry. Yet that is the scale of the tragedy in Europe each year with more than 55,000 dying and 1.5 million injured as this is, it is a nine per cent reduction on the previous year.

Sober reading, but comparing the UK with West Germany and France, our figures are well down.

Bringing these horrifying statistics nearer home is the fact that British Servicemen and their families are part of the story.

For the Army's mortality table is topped by deaths from road accidents.

During last August alone Service personnel and their families in BAOR were involved in 192 accidents.

Throughout the year in Germany 18 soldiers, one dependant, two UK-based civilians and 20 others died bringing the total to 41 for

the year ending March 31.

Altogether 184 Service personnel were killed in accidents world-wide in the same 12 months. And terrible as this is, it is a nine per cent reduction on the previous year.

Sober reading, but comparing the UK with West Germany and France, our figures are well down.

In the UK 4,500 people died on the roads; West Germany 11,700; while France hit the European high-spot with nearly 13,000 dead.

If you are travelling on Britain's 1,700 miles of M-ways this summer, send for the Department of Transport's free leaflet — *Motorways, an Essential Link*.

You will find this extremely useful, especially if you are driving over from the Continent.

It lists *Traveline* telephone numbers (see the map) where information can be obtained in advance about local M-way conditions. A national summary is available on 01-246-8031.

These leaflets are available free of charge from motoring organisations, motor-

This information may also be available on your local exchange. Check your phone book for details.

Manchester 061 246 8021
Liverpool 051 246 8021
Sheffield 0742 8021
Birmingham 021 246 8021
Oxford 0865 8021
Severn Bridge 0272 218986
Bristol 0272 8021
Newcastle 0632 8021
Leeds 0532 8021
Colchester 0206 8021
London 01-246 8021
Brighton 0273 8021
Southampton 0703 8021

way service stations and from DOE Publications and Sales Unit, Building 1, Victoria Road, Ruislip, Middlesex.

● Special note for children: Green Cross Code man Dave Prowse will be visiting Osnabrück on June 24; Munster, June 25 and Düsseldorf on June 26.

Service wives cannot continue to be left at the post

There are, of course, reservations about working mothers leaving infants and school children while mum goes off to work. This is a dilemma faced by many.

Service pay does not enable wives to stay at home and, since the trend today is for wives to help with the family income, it is a fact that our wives are ready, willing and able to play their part.

Service wives cannot continue to be left at the post

Shorthand and typing are only part of today's requirements. To this end FOCUS can fulfil Lady Platt's words when, referring to the South Glamorgan Women's Workshop, she said: "The under-

lying theme of this project was to give women confidence. It made them familiar with new technology, giving them a chance of employment in fields they never thought possible.

"Many had no qualifications at all, yet the success of this project must surely be that 63 per cent of those who took the course had now found either full or part-time employment."

Service wives, too, need the opportunity to keep pace with hi-tech in industry and commerce.

IN MY VIEW

Wives get ready for key moves

IN THE same week that Lady Platt, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, introduced their new book, *New Styles of Training for Women*, Mr Geoffrey Holland, Director of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), opened the Federation of Army Wives' Clubs Office Computer Updating Skills course (FOCUS).

Funded by the MSC, it was a red-letter day for me as it

showed that, by applying to the MSC for backing for a valid project, government money was available.

I first approached Geoffrey Holland with questions on the difficulties facing Service children about to leave school in Germany.

He was then head of the Special Programmes Division and agreed to extend the Youth Opportunities Programme to BAOR.

I followed this up by pointing out that Service wives also have employment problems as the very nature of their turbulent way of life makes getting a job more difficult. And that's how FOCUS began.

Now, thanks to Mr Holland, wives living in the Salisbury Plain Garrison areas are learning the latest in computer and word processing skills to give them a chance

to work in the employment market.

There are, of course, reservations about working mothers leaving infants and school children while mum goes off to work. This is a dilemma faced by many.

Service pay does not enable wives to stay at home and, since the trend today is for wives to help with the family income, it is a fact that our wives are ready, willing and able to play their part.

Anne

HERE TO HELP



Armstrong

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

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centre open Geoffrey Holland said: "We at MSC are proud to be associated with FOCUS."

He stressed the importance of "investing in people... the value of human resources... and continuing education."

"I wish British industry and commerce had the same view. All these technical skills are in demand, not just in the local area, but even in areas of high unemployment."

"The skills learned here are transferable to any county, town, sector or situation."

It took eight months to launch FOCUS, said Lady Huxtable, chairman of the FAWC, in thanking everyone including the Army and MSC's Jenny Quantrell, who guided FAWC's application for the scheme up to the opening.

For Pamela Ball, FAWC education committee chairman, it meant acquiring new financial skills to prepare the application for funding.

Now FOCUS has two full-time staff, Melanie Mellow and Ruth Kyle and three part-timers — Judy Dahlberg-Brown, a US liaison Service man's wife, who is a computer instructor; Sally Lewis, admin assistant and Karen Wilton who runs the creche.

I am indebted to Tony Potter, the then head of the MSC Voluntary Projects Programme (VPP), for accepting the idea I put to him that a project was feasible.

That he had faith in the idea materialising in an untried area with an unknown response was a courageous act on his part.

His foresight was a welcome change to the negative response so often encountered in some areas and is indicative of what can be achieved through MSC's VPP scheme.



GEOFFREY HOLLAND, RUTH KYLE, LESLEY MORGAN: learning a new language

It is bringing into their range electronic wizardry which they barely knew of, let alone ever thought they would operate.

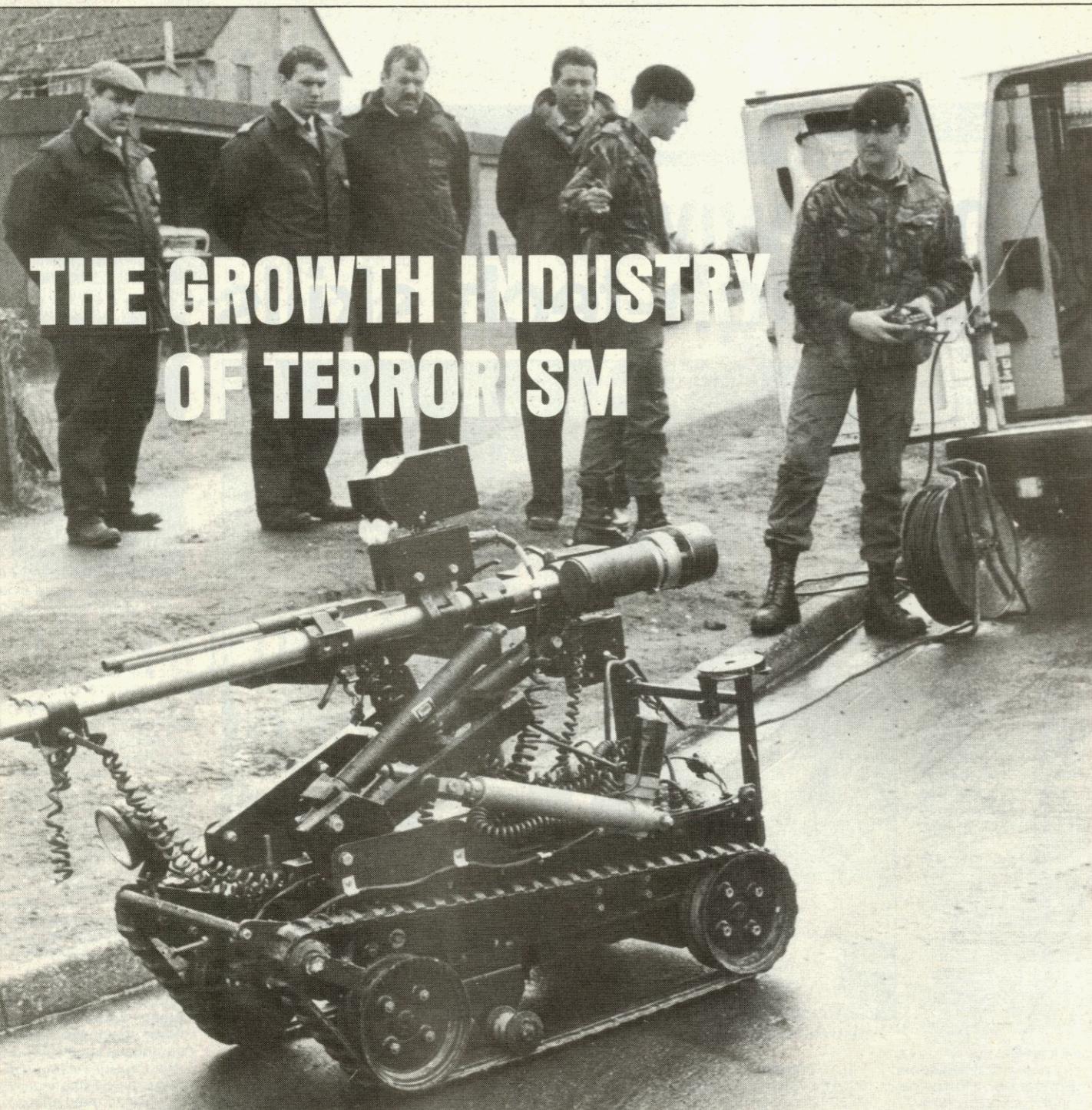
Now you should hear them. "Fabulous. Stimulating. Great. Never thought I could do it. What an opportunity, but I was accepted and

encouraged."

Funded by the MSC, the courses are free with an A820-2 computer and software from Rank Xerox, a TV and video recorder from S SVC and an electronic



KAREN WILTON: baby care while mums learn a new skill



THE GROWTH INDUSTRY OF TERRORISM

THE TERROR bomber is an ugly fact of life in the Eighties. His work is continuing and increasing. A bomb has exploded in Central London, causing considerable damage, in the past few weeks. Limb-shattering and often fatal explosive results of the bomber's protest can happen anywhere.

The British Army's Royal Army Ordnance Corps bomb disposal experts in the steely-nerved world of EOD—Explosive Ordnance Disposal—are realists and, in support of the country's police forces, are always in training and under test to meet these outrages with prevention of life loss ever in mind.

At Longmoor Intermediate Training Area 60 tri-Service personnel in two-man teams, most of them Army, have just spent a week taking their 'practicals'. Competency exams out of the glare of publicity in realistic joint cooperation scenarios alongside 193 police colleagues during Exercise Sea Stoot.

It was a week when half-a-dozen teams daily tackled four 'jobs', each

up to two-and-a-half hours in length. High concentration assignments testing not only their skill and competency in dealing with the IED (Improvised Explosive Device) but their instilled professionalism and personal credibility.

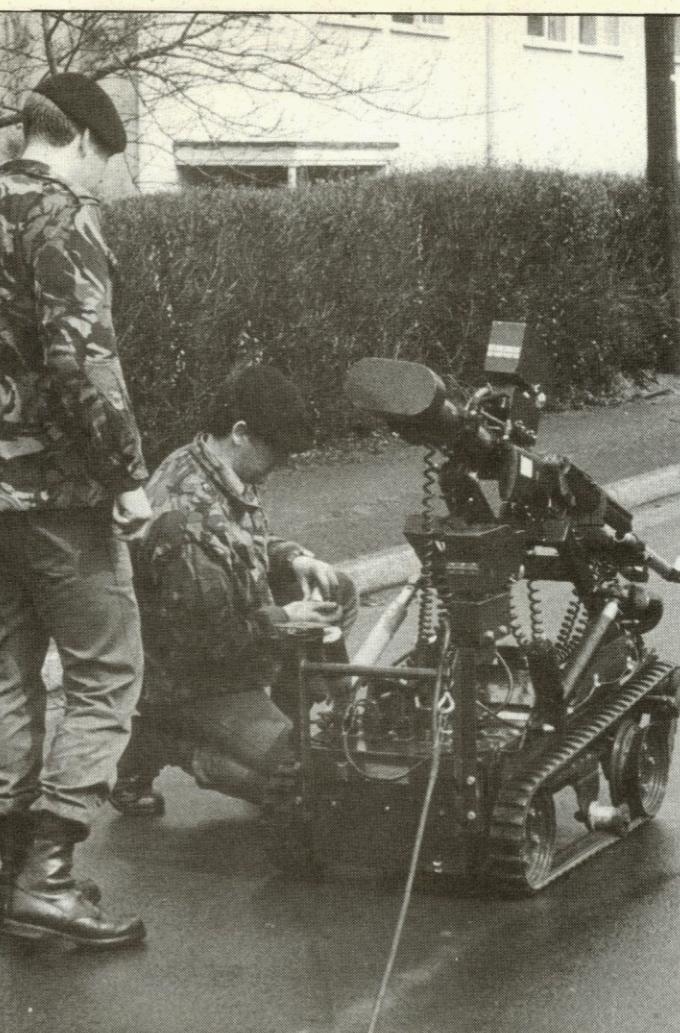
The object: to be 'licensed' or qualified as Army ordnance bomb disposal experts.

Potential experts of derring-do

with the first aim of preventing detonation and the preservation of life, their own included. Men of potential apt temperament who put their own lives on the line. Men who are regularly re-tested every six months.

In such situations that may horrifically befall any crowded High Street in mainland Great Britain for real, the police would take command of the incident while the Army's experts would provide the specialist, ice-cool response and skills to defuse and render harmless any IED.

Running Exercise Sea Stoot was for 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD), based in Oxfordshire. It has three companies, 521 in Yorkshire, 621 in Middlesex and 721 in Herefordshire. Major Bill Pearson, OC of 621 Company, said of the exercise and its predecessors since 1978: "It's always been an important aspect of our varied jobs within EOD. And that importance is on the



Setting up 'Wheelbarrow' ready to send on to its location



The Number One gets a helping hand into protective clothing

increase.

The men are assessed both subjectively and objectively. The quality of the young operator is improving, and that of the young officer joining the battalion. Every operator is licensed twice a year.

"We have always been in support of the police. That degree of support has not changed.

The frequency of support has, in direct relationship to any problem the police are up against. If the terrorist plants more bombs, the more help the police are going to need."

He re-affirmed: "The police command at an incident. We provide the technical expertise. They lead at all levels."

During the week-long activity amid the FIBUA buildings, ex-married quarters at Longmoor, more than 150 explosives were rendered safe with the help of specialist EOD weapons.

On hand, as four two-man RAOC teams, an RAF team and a RN team were busying themselves at differing locations among the 'players', were ordnance experts of the same ilk drawn from the London Metropolitan Police's

Continued on page 26



'Wheelbarrow's' progress is checked on van TV monitor screen



Continued from page 25

C.13 branch, many of them former RAOC warrant officers.

As part of their test the umpires have to complete a 68-point check-list questionnaire. The results are then fed into a computer.

An exam de-briefing can last from a quarter-of-an-hour to half-an-hour, depending on a failure or pass mark.

The students went through their controlled paces, in every sense, using kit such as the 'Wheelbarrow', the pig-stick injector and the 'Jack-in-the-Box' remote control TV camera system.

They could have been asked to deal with a house-delivered false letter, as it is called in the trade, or a radio-controlled VIP target bomb.

As WO1 (Conductor) Tony Dedman of 11 Ord Bn (EOD) HQ said: "The guys always feel the strain of tests like this with someone looking over their shoulder. They

The IED bomb-making 'factory' for the purposes of Exercise Sea Stoat

feel more pressure than doing a job for real. They may feel convinced we are tricking them but we never do that. We tell them it is not the umpires who fail the students, it is the students who fail themselves."

One of 34 Conductors within the RAOC and the recipient of a George Medal himself for bomb disposal services, WO1 Dedman added: "It's a sad reflection of the times to admit that terrorism and, in particular, the use of IEDs, is a growth industry. To make a protest nowadays it has become the norm to make a noise through the use of explosives."

Since its formation the bomb experts of 11 Ord Bn (EOD) have attended more than 63,000 incidents.

They currently average 4,200 call-outs annually.

THE MEDAL MEN

THE Royal Army Ordnance Corps has 250 officers qualified as Ammunition Technical Officers (ATO) and 370 soldiers qualified as Ammunition Technicians (AT).

The ATO Course contains 51 weeks of instruction and AT training starts with a 28-week course followed, after about three years, by a 15-week course.

These courses prepare the ATO and AT for a wide range of technical duties including bomb disposal. As their careers progress, they regularly return to the Army School of Ammunition for shorter specialised courses in several subjects, one of which is advanced bomb disposal.

Since 1956, men of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps engaged in bomb disposal have been awarded one GC, 11 OBEs, 23 MBEs, 42 GMs, 41 QGMs, 23 BEMs, and been mentioned in despatches 74 times.

Since 1970, 321 EOD Company RAOC has attended over 35,000 incidents in Northern Ireland. Of these 5,500 have been to improvised explosive devices which have been successfully defused. Some 700 officers and men of the RAOC have served on bomb disposal duties in the Province, and 17 have been killed.



A two-man team's Number One carries pig-stick injector and "jack-in-the-box" remote control TV camera set. In the background, the umpire.



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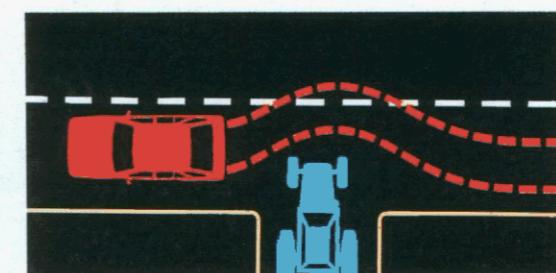
Well the new Escort still has all these attributes plus the results of five years development.

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For 1986 a new generation of CVH engines has been produced incorporating Ford's latest lean burn technology. The new 1.4 engine gives the 5-speed Escort a top speed of 104 mph. Its 0-60 mph acceleration of only 11.3 seconds[†] is the fastest in its class. Yet despite all this speed the car returns 57.6 mpg at a constant 56 mph.* A totally unmatched blend of performance and economy.

Other engines in the Escort range include the new 1.3 litre, a powerful 1.6 lean burn unit, and a class-leading 1.6 litre diesel.

FIRST SMALL FAMILY CAR WITH ANTI-LOCK BRAKES.



Further proof that the Escort intends to stay ahead is an optional mechanical anti-lock braking system, the first to be produced in Europe for front-wheel drive cars. The system was jointly developed by Ford and Lucas Girling. It means that the Escort is better able to retain directional stability under 'normal' or 'panic' braking conditions and even when braking hard to avoid an obstacle.

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Also Escort models are right hand drive and have full UK type approval and extra equipment to meet BFG legal requirements at no extra cost. Remember also that there are special discounts available to members of H.M. Forces.

For full details, race down to your Ford dealer in the UK, your local Naafi car sales showroom in Germany, Naafi, Nottingham or Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset.

*Ford computed figures. *Govt. fuel economy figures: Escort 1.4 5-speed mpg (litres/100 km) constant 56 mph (90 kmh) 57.6 (4.9); constant 75 mph (120 kmh) 44.1 (6.4); urban driving 34.9 (8.1).

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BULLED BOOTS AND HAILSTONES



PALACE PARADE



HANOVER TIME: Major David Colebourn taking in rain and instructions

Royal duties switch for the CHESHIREs

WITH black clouds scudding low and fast, decision time for Major David Colebourn came at 11 am.

As Captain of the Guard he had to say "Go" or "No go" to the men of B Company of The Cheshire Regiment mounting guard at Buckingham Palace — the second

Major had the job of deciding whether to cancel

By
John Margetts

day in 200 years the regiment has had in guarding the monarch, the last occasion being for George III.

"We've practised our routine for weeks. Let's go,"

the guard mounting ceremony or going thorough with it risking a soaking for all concerned, including the watching thousands outside the Palace railings.

he said. And with that the guard, resplendent in borrowed overcoats and No. 1 dress beneath, but all individually tailored, were led by the regimental band to march smartly the 500 yards from Wellington Barracks.

Pictures: TERRY CHAMPION

First
monarch
guard
in 200
years

TOWER TASK

Turn to next
Page for more
on the Cheshire

ALL THE QUEEN'S MEN

ROYAL GUARDIANS

24 hours on — 24 off

SWAP TIME



PALACE PARADE

It was threatening rain when they left and no sooner had they marched through the Palace gates when down it came, followed by pea-size hailstones and by thunder.

Hardly the best conditions for bulled boots and knife-edge trouser creases.

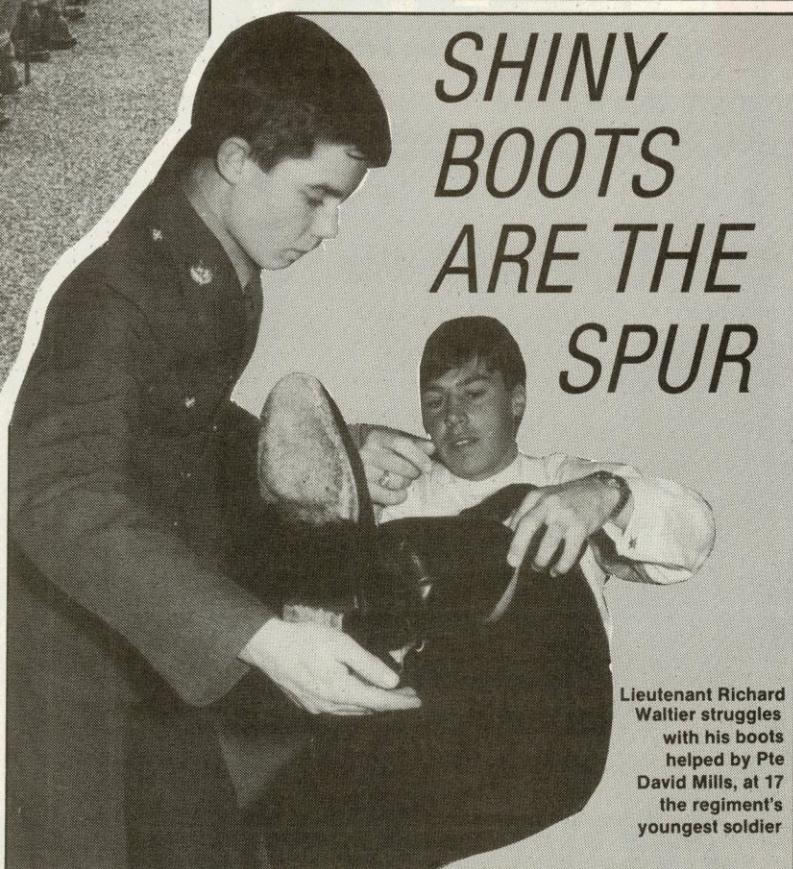
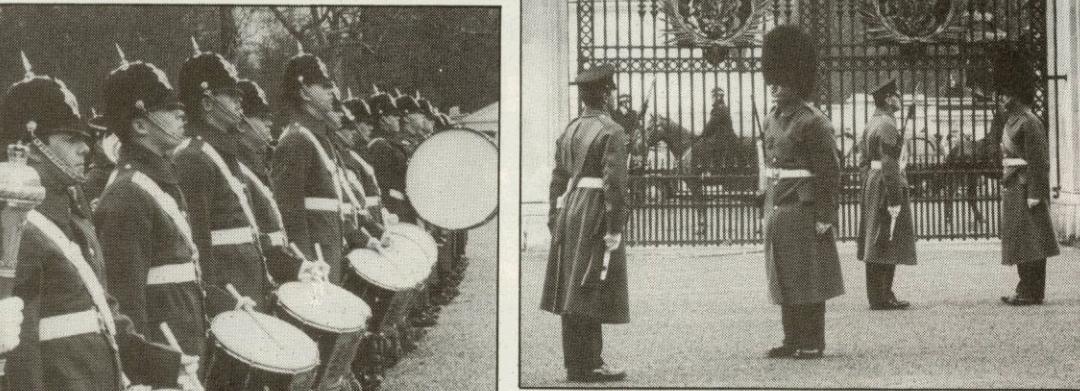
But at least their borrowed No. 1s were saved a soaking beneath their grey-blue great-coats.

This was the second time they had actually mounted guard. Twenty-four hours earlier they had made their debut in blazing sunshine by exchanging places with the Irish Guards.

That day was the first time at Buckingham Palace for the Cheshires, but unfortunately for them the Queen was not at home. Nor was she there for their second parade.

But this was Day Two and weather conditions had reverted to those of mid-winter.

As Major Colebourn's deadline approached, Ensign Lieutenant Richard Waltier, 22, who was to carry the Regimental Colour, struggled into knee-length boots aided by the youngest soldier in the regiment, 17-year-old Private David Mills.



SHINY BOOTS ARE THE SPUR

Lieutenant Richard Waltier struggles with his boots helped by Pte David Mills, at 17 the regiment's youngest soldier



HEADING FOR THE TOWER: their turn at the Palace will come

JOHNNY MARCHES ON

TO SAY that Johnny Johnston has 'done his bit' for the Army would be a masterpiece of understatement.

For at nearly 71 Johnny hasn't put down his musket yet, not since he first picked it up and went marching off from Belfast 53 years ago.

He enlisted on his 18th birthday in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and he's still soldiering on, showing the ropes to youngsters at the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow.

Keeping them on their marks at shooting, he also coaches them on a host of other topics particular to Army life, from giving them tips on how to put an old-fashioned shine on the toe-caps of their boots, to showing them how to give even more polish to their performances on the drill square.

The eldest of three sons, with a soldier dad, Johnny comes from a family who have all seen service in military uniform of one sort or another since the turn of the century, including both world wars and their aftermath. Even his mother helped look after the crews of Sunderland flying boats.

Johnny's own story started with recruit training at Omagh. He passed-out as individual recruit champion; champion shot; champion physical training recruit, and leader of the champion section. Small wonder that he went to the 1st Battalion at Bordon with a recommendation that he be promoted to lance corporal.

During 27 years continuous Army service which included overseas service in China, Singapore, France — where he was taken prisoner, but escaped — and Malta. Mr Johnston excelled in all Army sporting events and was officer in charge of athletics, boxing, cross-country events, sailing, rowing, hockey, full and small-bore shooting. A champion at cross country events and athletics, he is a county services hockey player, a Bisley marksman, a battalion crackshot, and a clay pigeon champion.

He went to the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow, in 1955 as Company-Sergeant-Major, in 'A' Company and on his discharge in 1960 joined the Civil Service and took an appointment in the Technical Stores at the college.

Throughout his time at the college, Johnny Johnston had achieved legendary status but in 1980, he was forced to retire. But he was persuaded to stay on within the college to continue his work and interest in the apprentices and their studies in much the same way as he had done before his retirement.



Under the maestro's watchful eye. Crackshots from Army Apprentices College Chepstow with Johnny Johnston (centre).

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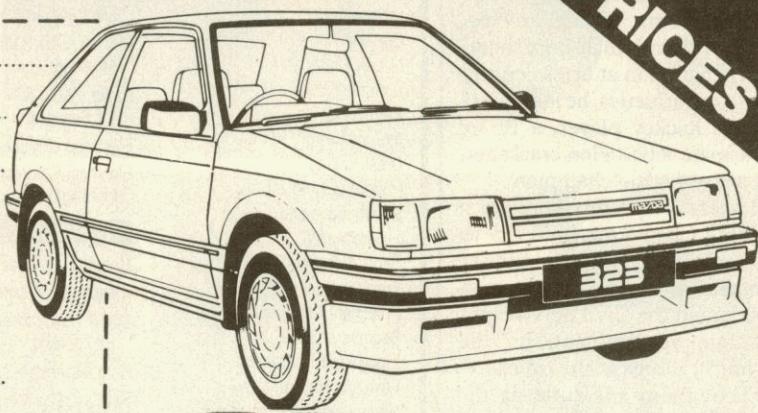
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Over he goes — in 2 mins 51 secs actually — Lance Cpl Sean Lewis on the obstacle course

B EDOUIN-STYLE low silhouette olive green bashes. Nearly one hundred of them in a muddy field. Bubbling bangers-and-beans heating over hexi-blocks. And then ... the rain.

A stamina-sapping obstacle course and a four-mile orienteering trek. Pastureland fire control orders and basic field cookery.

They loved it. All 98 of them. Teenaged Army Cadet Force lads — including four lasses — drawn from three London sectors, Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

Potential recruits nearly all of them for tomorrow's Army. They said so with a show of hands for

SOLDIER's benefit. All competing for two trophies in particular

Queens host tomorrow's Soldiers

... the Cumberland Sword (for the 11th time) and the Kirke's Cane (that for the fifth time).

It was the 11th in an annual series of weekends sponsored by The Queen's Regiment, "England's senior infantry regiment."

This year, St Martin's Plain Camp, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, was the venue for the event run by the Queen's 20-strong Regimental Information Team (RIT).

This year, too, in keeping with the customary climatic traditions — it rained. A mini-monsoon season on the final day. Sodden cadets they were but dampened spirits they certainly did not have.

The Cumberland Sword was, in the event, won in amazing circumstances. By a Middlesex-based cadet... standing in for his brother!

Sergeant Andrew Treasure, 18, had swapped with his student brother, Ian, who had declined to attend the event in favour of watching the Milk Cup Final as a Queen's Park Rangers supporter.

"It was a last-minute change-

round," said the beaming, surprised winner of the weekend's top trophy.

Winner of the Kirke's Cane was Lance Corporal Russell Bye of 17 ACF Detachment, from Bognor Regis, Sussex.

It had been an action-crammed weekend which not only attracted the largest number of cadets ever but also four girls as well. And one of them won an award. Lance Cpl Eleanor Barnes from Kent who got the best marks in the St. John Ambulance First Aid contest.

Reveille for Britain's most junior part-time soldiers was 0530. Their working days started at 0730.

The pressures were on. After all, the Cumberland Sword presented by General Fergus Ling in April 1976 is a prestigious piece of steel.

The Queensmen are proud of it. A regiment which has three regular battalions, three TA units — the latest is the 8th Queen's Fusiliers (Volunteers) City of London — a total of 92 Queens cap-badged ACF units and CCF



On the obstacle course. Two minutes was the "bogey" time

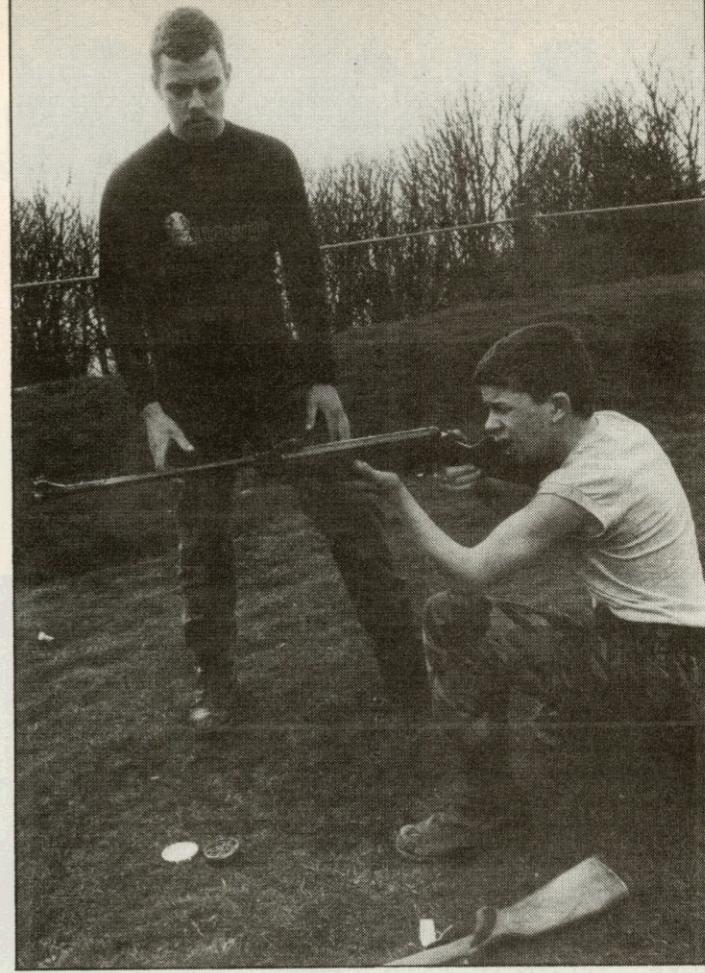
affiliations within 34 schools.

Roughly translated, this represents about 3,900 Regular and TA adults and some 3,600 ACF and CCF cadets.

The weekend tests included .22 shooting, regimental knowledge, weapon training and first aid, a certain band member Sean Bradley

On the nine-impediment obstacle course a "bogey time" of two minutes was set up.

During the basha-building and basic field cookery sequence, all



Adult service Private Martin Burgess supervises the finale of the obstacle course; a .22 potting of a balloon

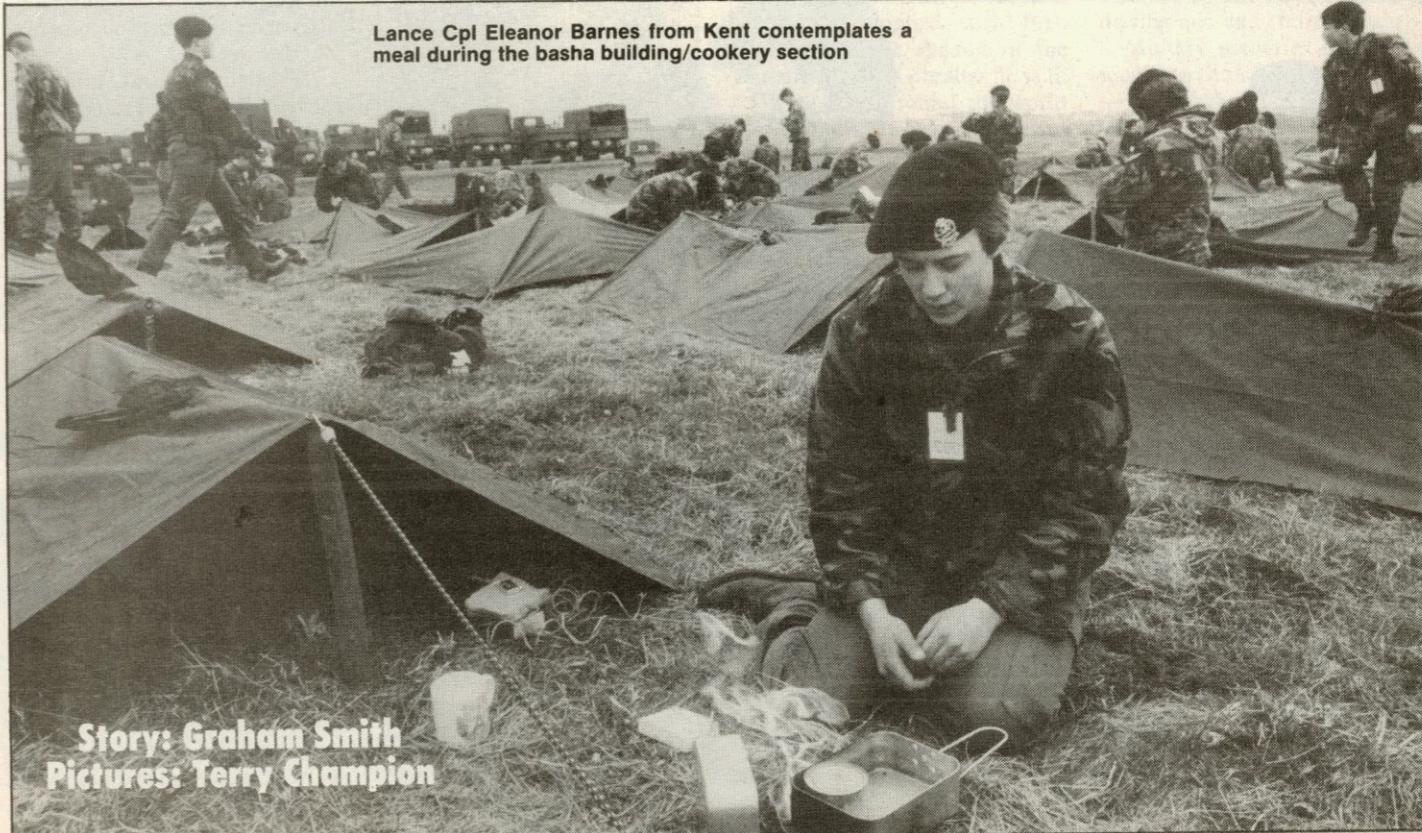
Building first and cooking afterwards! They soon became wiser after the event.

At the prize-giving later, Colonel Mike Constantine, Queens, the deputy colonel of the regiment and Commandant of the Junior Division Staff College (JDSC) at

Continued on page 38



Mass start in an awkward team event



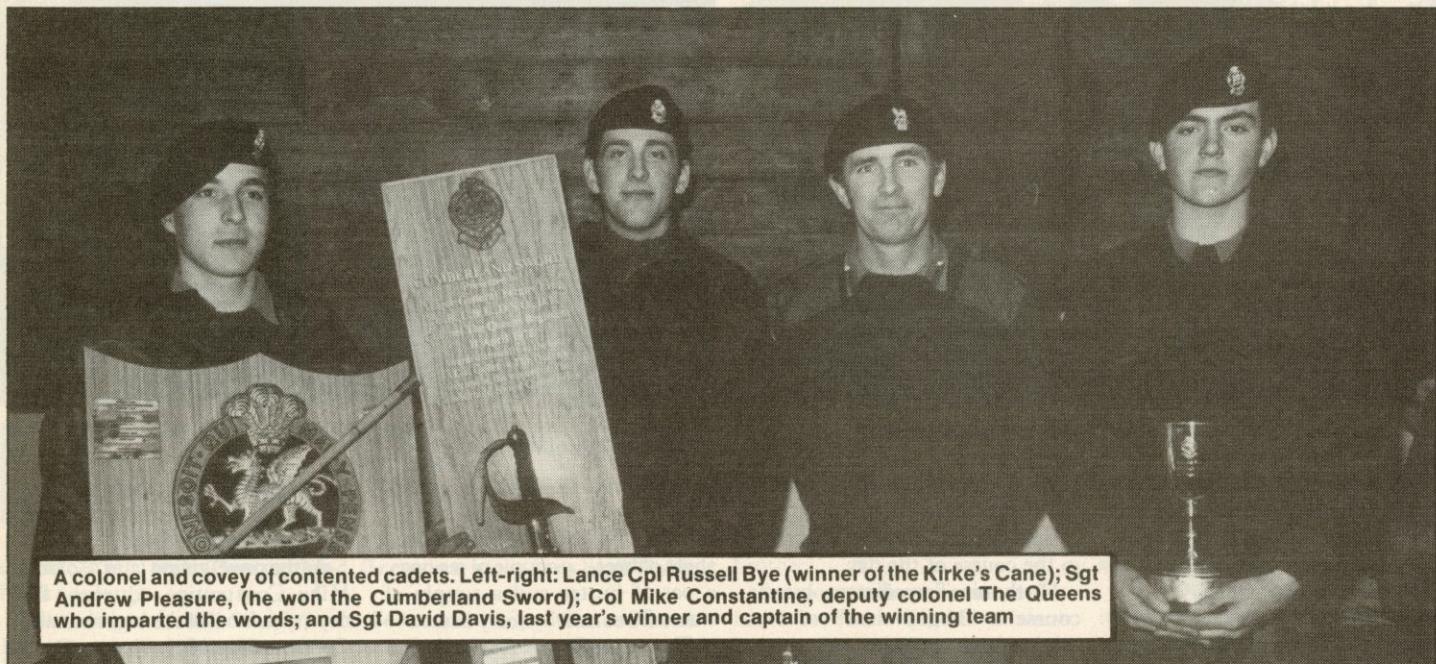
Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion



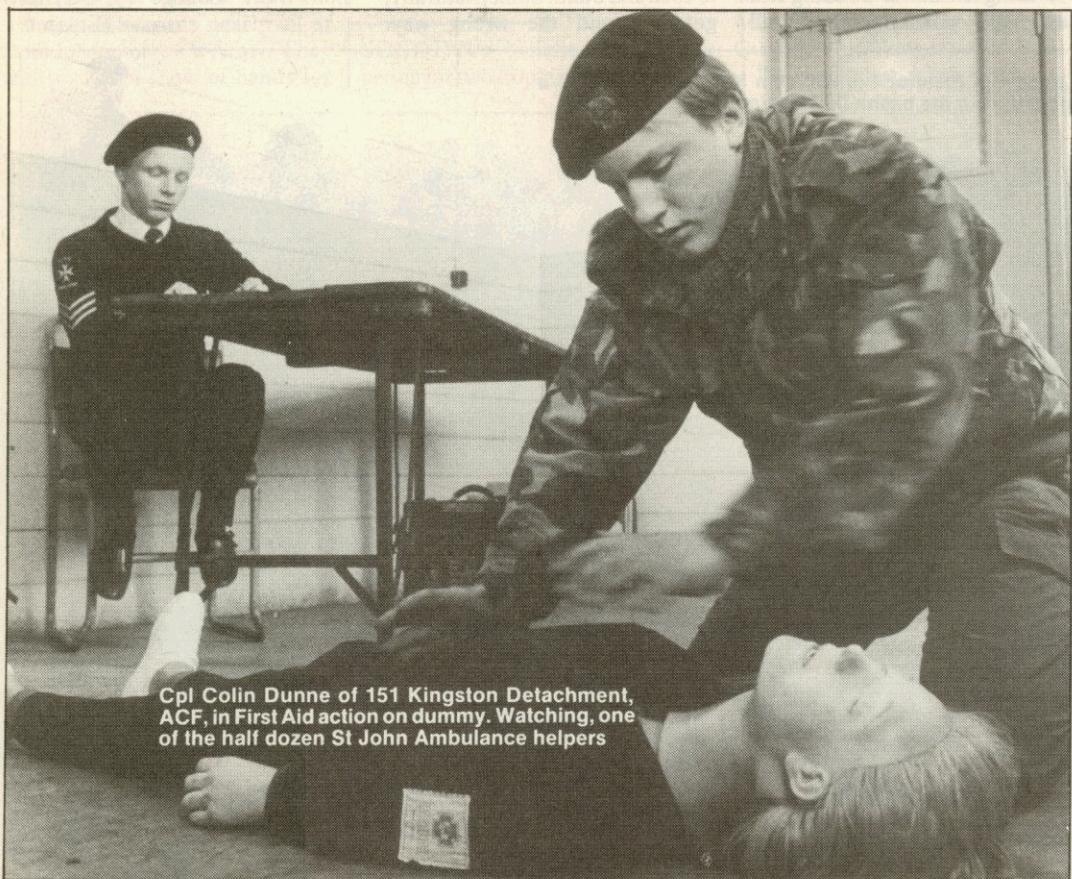
Even when you're lying on a stretcher it's not exactly comfortable when it's raining



Cpl Vince Lockwood (left) with mouth watering palate of beans cooked by Cpl Martin Lewis



A colonel and covey of contented cadets. Left-right: Lance Cpl Russell Bye (winner of the Kirke's Cane); Sgt Andrew Pleasure, (he won the Cumberland Sword); Col Mike Constantine, deputy colonel The Queens who imparted the words; and Sgt David Davis, last year's winner and captain of the winning team



Cpl Colin Dunne of 151 Kingston Detachment, ACF, in First Aid action on dummy. Watching, one of the half dozen St John Ambulance helpers

Warminster told them: "I do most sincerely and genuinely congratulate you on the effort you have put into this weekend."

He said that "spirit, confidence, personal courage and standards of personal discipline" were some of the factors of such a weekend.

They had come to Shorncliffe instead of hanging around street corners and were obviously proud to wear their Army uniforms and regimental cap badges.

"I know that 80 per cent of you want to go into the regular Army. There is a lot of fun and adventure still to be had in the regular Army," he said. "I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy it. You don't have to commit yourself for 22 years. It's a lot more fun than picking up your money in the dole queue and spending it down at the pub. I would encourage you to drag some of your chums into the system."

"The hallmark seems to be the more horrific the weather conditions are the more you guys seem to enjoy it. Why? I don't know."

"Be proud of the fact you are in the ACF and proud of the fact you are wearing the Queens regimental cap badge."

AT HOME ON THE ROCK



WHEN Territorial Army soldiers from the 4th Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment visited Gibraltar they knew who to turn to when a little local knowledge was needed.

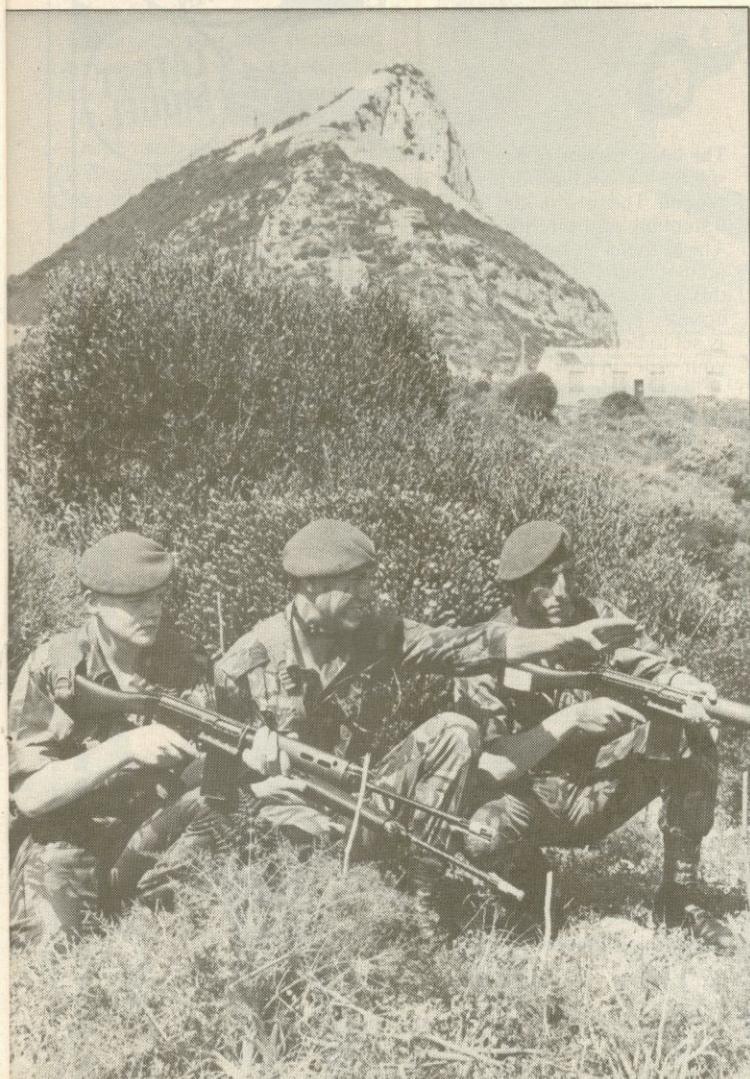
Private Vincent Spratling knows his way around like a local — after all he was on his 123rd visit!

Before settling down to a land lubber's life 26-year-old Vincent served for seven years with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary — the fleet of civilian crewed ships which keeps the Royal Navy supplied. During his time with the RFA runs ashore on Gibraltar were common.

Vincent, who has been a TA soldier for 18 months, served on the RFA Bayleaf during the Falklands conflict keeping the

◀ Private Vincent Spratling; his 123rd visit

Corporal Sandra Collinson, bank clerk in Civvy St ▶



In the shadow of the Rock; left to right, Private 'Jez' Moss, Lance Corporal Andrew Blenkinsip, and Private Rob Brookbank



aircraft carriers HMS Hermes and Invincible supplied with fuel. Standing in the shadow of the famous Rock of Gibraltar he said: "I have been around the world four times — but I had not been to London until last year!"

Despite knowing the Rock like the back of his hand, Vincent described his two weeks on Exercise Marble Tor with a company drawn from all the 4th Battalion's units including the headquarters in Lancaster, as a great experience.

The Territorials were on the Rock to relieve a company of the regular infantry battalion stationed there — The 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment — who left for training where there is rather more room than postage stamp sized Gibraltar can offer. The men and women from North Lancashire and Cumbria soon made themselves at home in their dramatic surroundings with the mighty Rock always looming above and the equally impressive coast of North Africa often clearly visible across the Mediterranean. No doubt they were reminded of their home

counties by the regular spells of driving rain and chilly breezes!

Military activities included a tough march and shoot competition — the march, of course, being uphill all the way — as well as practising fighting in built up areas in a special "village" created on a small training area. Troops also manned the Gibraltar-Spain border post.

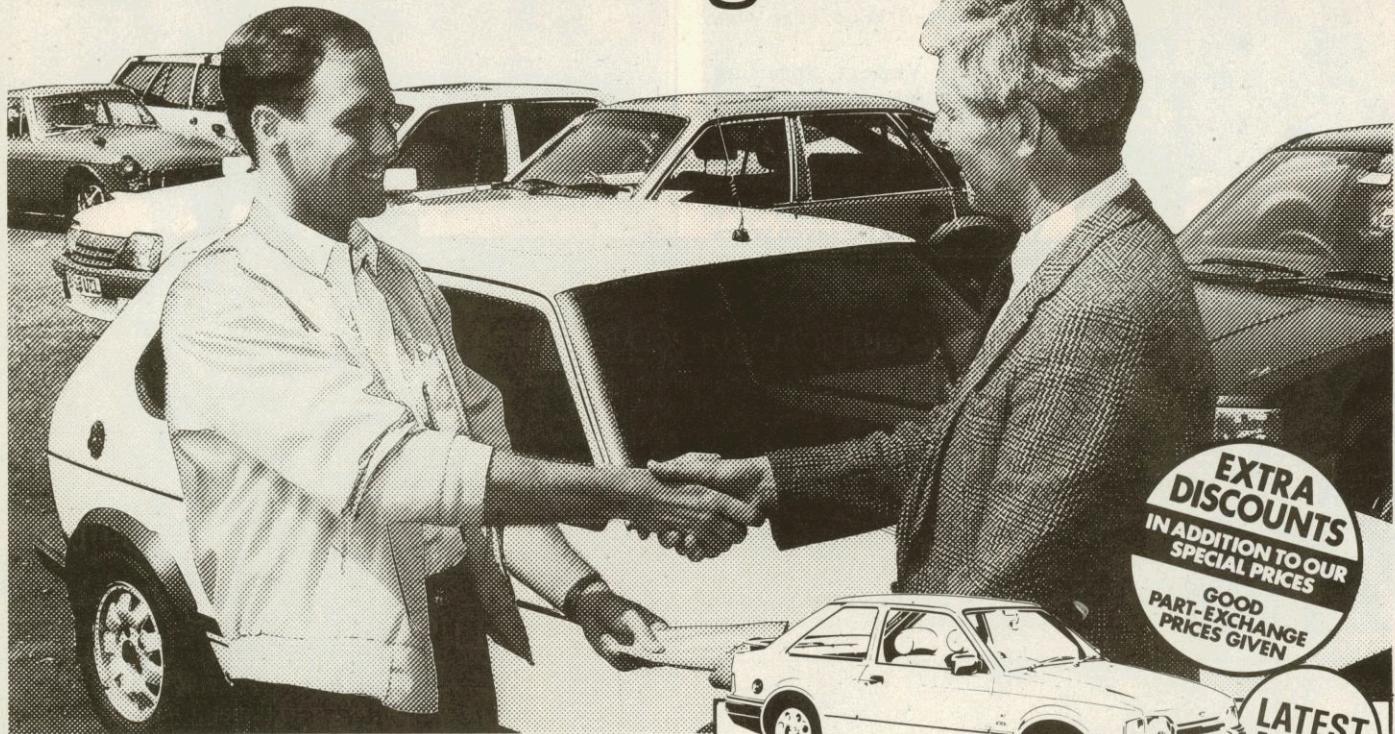
The part-time soldiers took advantage of the area's natural assets enjoying courses on rock climbing and watersports. Swimming, sailing and wind-surfing in the Med may sound idyllic but the water was still icy cold at that time of the year.

One man with a busy job was Captain Tony Blendall, a chartered surveyor who commands the battalion Headquarters Company in Phoenix Street but during Exercise Marble Tor ran a course to train potential NCOs.

Although the 100 strong company was kept busy and the weather was less than perfect, few of the Territorial Army soldiers would turn down another visit to the tiny British outpost in the Mediterranean.

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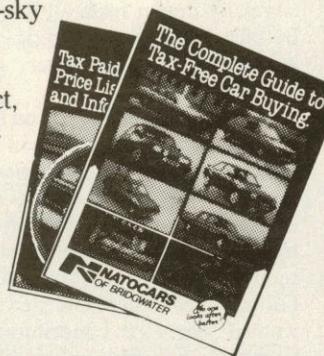


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HISTORY does repeat itself. And two enterprising former Army officers are bringing about a revival of an idea born nearly 80 years ago; the production of top quality postcards showing all the types of modern uniform worn by the Army of today.

A big undertaking. In 1908, or thereabouts, 117 regiments on 120 cards were selling at a penny each.

Now, a series of 80 cards in 14 sets produced by former sapper officer Major Geoff White and ex-Highland Light Infantry officer Douglas Anderson have entered the marketplace in a bold but patient project which could take up to five years to complete.

Major White, commissioned at Sandhurst in 1955, served with the Royal Engineers in Malaya, Australia, BAOR, and Northern Ireland. He was seconded to the Federation of Malayan Engineers and was involved in Australia's Snowy Mountain hydro-electric scheme. A squadron commander in BAOR, Major White left the Army in 1975.

Since then, he has been self-employed selling military antiques and lives in Bristol. His military artist colleague, Douglas Anderson lives in Glasgow.

So far, the pair have produced two sets of postcards which come with similar-sized fact sheets.

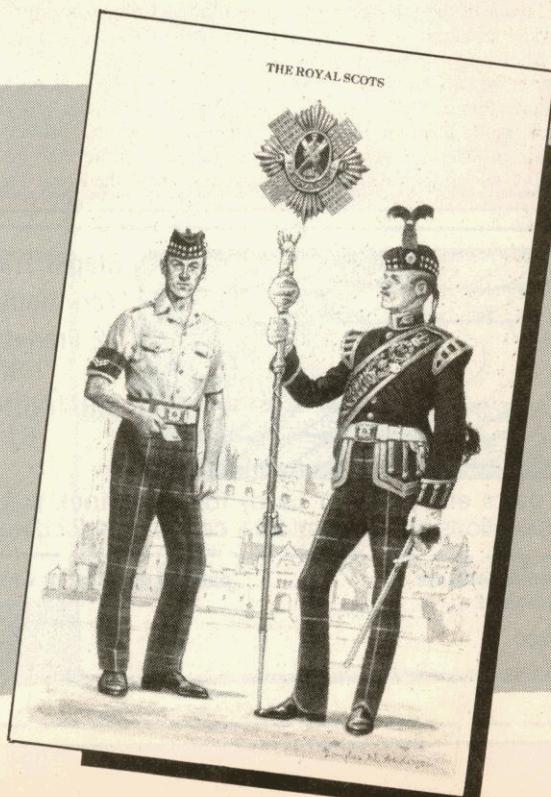
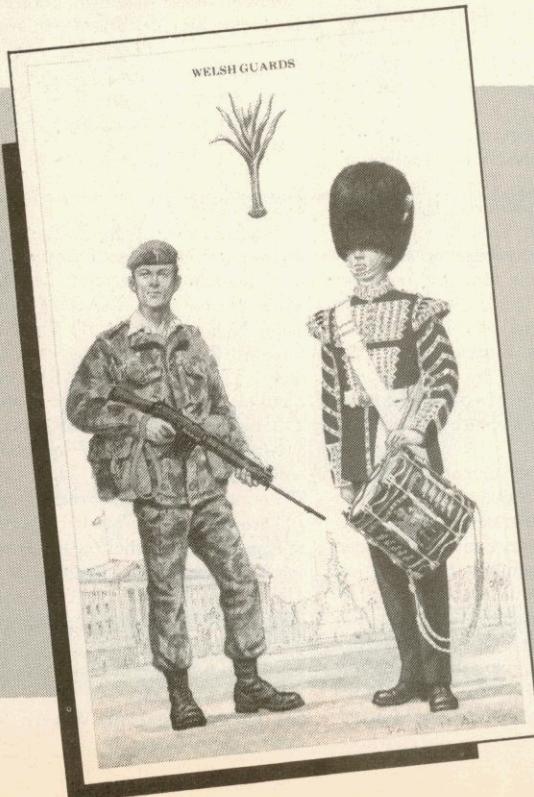
They are the Scottish Regiments — nine cards in all — selling for £2.70 pence a set, and The Queen's Guards, seven in this set, selling for £2.10 pence.

"They are all modern uniforms and not historical," says Major White, "giving a complete spread of uniforms from combat kit to full dress. A mass of information is available on old military uniforms

A UNIFORM SET OF SOLDIERS



Geoff White loads his "notebook"



in the form of books, articles, prints and postcards and much more is constantly being produced. Many people, however, think that the study of modern uniforms is somewhat neglected."

The paintings and descriptions are absolutely accurate in every detail. Major White visits units with his trusty Pentax camera and 36-exposure colour film rolls. He also visits regimental museums and HQs to record faithfully all the hues and blends of uniforms. Nothing is left to chance in the quest for spot-on accuracy.

Major White discounts the theory held by some that soldiers wear dull khaki or camouflage uniforms.

"Soldiers are as conscious of their sartorial elegance today as they were 80 years ago," he says. "They are encouraged in this respect by the rest of us. We love to see them finely dressed and smartly turned out.

"Even where one might expect to find a dull similarity of khaki uniforms, colour inevitably seems to creep back in and individuality to exert itself. Nowhere are the traditions and customs of the British Army more jealously guarded than in the detail of our soldiers' dress."

Douglas Anderson, a military artist since he left the Army in the 1950s, carries out his work in meticulous detail and great accuracy.

Major White said: "One of the pleasing aspects of his figures are that they look like real people. His officers look the part as do his NCOs and soldiers."

Included with the cards are fact sheets describing the regiment's history, details of the cap badge, a full description of each uniform shown and an explanation of the back-drop.

MAIL DROP



MONTY'S OFFICES

SOLDIER's articles concerning Monty, Poston and the Military Police (April 7) were most interesting.

Now a retired civilian, I served with the Military Police from December 1939 to December 1945, during which time from January 1944 I was one of Monty's bodyguards, and of course knew John Poston.

The tank office was most interesting. I had seen an article in *The Times* about this and it brought to mind two other "offices" which Monty used. One was the High Master's study at his old school, St Paul's then at Hammersmith, which was the main 21st Army Group HQ, and the other was a part of the special train we had, code named 'Rapier' in which we visited various units and factories in Britain prior to Overlord.

I am sure the tank will find a fitting resting place at the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth, which only last year I visited when in London to see the Royal Tournament, and once again saw Monty's caravans etc. — F R S Higgins, Heathmoor, Mansmellyon Rd, Mullion, Helston, Cornwall TR12 7DH.

GENERAL AMONG TANKS

The article in SOLDIER (April 7) about refurbishment of a General Grant M3 brought back many memories.

The Lee and Grant arrived in the Middle East in time to sway the tide of battle in favour of the 8th Army, but was quickly replaced by the more efficient Sherman, so it had to be the Far East, in which the 'Lee' would spend its finest hour.

The tank would be of no use in the jungle; that is what we were led to believe. How wrong they all were!

It was in the Imphal Valley that the full fury of the Japanese army was unleashed against 4th Corps, 14th Army, plus two regiments of the 254 Indian Tank Brigade.

Tanks of the 3rd Carabiniers and the 7th Indian Cavalry to meet this threat had to climb to mountain peaks, suffer possibly the only gas attack of the Second World War, crews had to fight without officers or NCOs.

What was worse, the country or the enemy, would be hard to say?

The Tiddem Road, a ledge on the side of a mountain — it was here that the tank proved its worth. It did not let us down. It crawled and slipped its way along, its crews walking, excepting the driver, for a lot of the way. It not only climbed higher than any tank had done before, but fell further than anyone would want to do again.

The two regiments completed the distance to Rangoon. The tank they used was most certainly a General among tanks, a vehicle that in Europe was being used for target practice but in Burma for most of the time was the only tank to be had.

The General Lee or Grant earned its place in our history. Take good care of it, for like the men who fought them they are getting hard to find. — 'Burma Walla', 20 Biddesden Lane, Faversham, Andover, Hants, SP11 9PJ.

TIGERS ...

I have read with great interest Mr L A Knight's letter in SOLDIER (March 24).

There are to the best of my knowledge three regiments which have this nickname. The first is the Royal Leicestershire Regiment which has the nickname Bengal Tigers or Tigers as a result of its 19 years of service in India from 1804-1823.

The second is the Royal Hampshire Regiment which has the nickname Hampshire Tigers or Tigers as a result of 21 years service in India from 1803-1826. In the latter year George IV authorised the 67th 2nd Battalion to bear on its Colours and appointments the figure of the Royal Tiger with the word India superscribed.

The third is the York and Lancaster Regiment which has the nickname Tigers, Young and Lovelies, or Cat and Cabbage. However its 1st Battalion was also called the Royal Tigers.

As far as I can remember all three regiments' 1st Battalions were stationed in Munster in the early 1960s when the then Brigadier M Carver was the Brigade Commander. He later became a Field Marshal and Chief of the General Staff.

You may be interested to know that the Royal Hampshire Regiment had an affiliation to HMS Tiger whilst it was in commission until quite recently. As HMS Tiger is now de-commissioned to the reserve, this affiliation is now with RMS Southampton.

If there is any dispute in the nickname of Tigers, all three regiments wore a cap badge in which the tiger featured. Sadly only the Royal Hampshire Regiment now has a regular battalion. This battalion therefore carries on the proud distinction of being called the Tigers, which all three regiments so rightly earned as a nickname at the beginning of the 19th century. — J D K Kellie, Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Searle's House, Winchester, SO23 9EG.

AND MORE TIGERS

I would like to add to the current debate on the Tiger nickname supposedly shared by the Royal Hampshire and Leicestershire regiments.

Seven infantry regiments were given authority to display the Royal Tiger on their Colours to show long years of service in India. The Tiger superscribed 'India' was conferred on the 75th Regt in 1807, the 65th in 1823, 67th in 1926 and the 14th in 1838.

These units employed the distinction in various ways as they evolved: the Gordon Highlanders (75th) incorporated it in their belt-plate design and now have the Tiger for soldiers' collar badge.

The York and Lancasters (65th) and the Hampshires (67th) both combined the Tiger with a rose in a laurel wreath cap badge, and the West Yorkshire Regt (14th) wore the device on its buttons.

I can find no evidence of the 'Yorks and Lances' going by the nickname as suggested — their Tiger and Rose badge was variously known as 'The Cat and Cabbage' or 'Rabbit and Geranium'.

The 17th Regt was awarded the Royal Tiger superscribed 'Hindoostan' on 23 June 1825. The Leicestershire Regt used the honour as its cap badge without further embellishment and kept June 25 as the Regimental Day. It seems reasonable that this regiment with its large Tiger badge would have been recognised as 'The Tigers', certainly if local museum posters are anything to go by. The Royal Hampshire Regt latched on to the name after the demise of the Royal Leicestershire in 1964.

The Victorian nickname 'Bengal Tigers' was accorded to both the 17th and the 24th regiments, though the latter had no connection with the badge and probably came by the reputation from their glorious 'act of madness' at Chilianwala in 1849.

Two European East India Company regiments were given the Royal Tiger around the same time. These later became battalions of the Royal Munster and Royal Dublin Fusiliers, whose

soldiers wore the animal embossed on their grenade cap badges but boasted other nicknames. — P D Griffin, 3 Tansley Ave, South Wigston, Leics.

RARE REGIMENT

Your correspondent, Mr Tom Parrott (SOLDIER April 7), makes the common and unfortunate assumption that the only regiments in the British Army are infantry regiments.

In fact, one gunner regiment also achieved the distinction to which he refers, earning the Indian General Service Medal (1908) with clasp 'North West Frontier 1935' and the Indian General Service Medal (1936) with clasp 'North West Frontier 1936-37' in successive years, ie 4 Field Brigade RA, comprising 4 (Howitzer) Battery, 7 Field Battery, 14 Field Battery and 6 (Howitzer) Battery.

That Brigade is today 26 Field Regiment RA, and still has the three last-named batteries, now titled 16 Field Battery (Sandham's Company), 17 (Corunna) Field Battery and 159 (Colenso) Field Battery. In fact, they stayed on the frontier long enough to earn the second clasp, 'North West Frontier 1937-39', to the second medal as well. — Lt Col A M Macfarlane, RHQ Royal Regiment of Artillery, Government House, Woowich, London SE18 6XR.

Competition Winner

Another lucky soldier! Corporal Wallace, of 9 Pl, Chindit Coy, 1 Kings Own Border, based at Palace Barracks in Holywood, Northern Ireland, is the winner of £50 for spotting the differences in SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 384.

Call Signs

Mr G D Lewis, 56 Beatrice Ave, Lipson, Plymouth, PL4 8QB, wishes to contact old wartime comrades from A Section, 143 Tank Transporters, RASC, based at Dendermonde, Belgium. Mr James Austin 860762, ex-RA 1936-58, whose last known address was H Field Battery, Ramsays Troop, Lucknow, Dilkusha, India, or anyone having knowledge of him, contact Mr Fred Chapman, 46 Fern Close, Langney, Eastbourne, Sussex BN23 8AQ.

Reunions

Annual reunion of the Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) will be at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield Staffs on Nov 13. Tickets £4 from Capt. N Hitchings, RHQ The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield Staffs, WS14 9PY. Annual dinner/dance of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Staffordshire Regimental Association will be at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London, on Nov 29. Tickets £11 from Secretary Mr B J Harris, 1 St Anns Court, Eastbourne Rd, Pevensey Bay, East Sussex, BN24 6HN.

Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association annual reunion march, cathedral service, and dinner — July 12. Form up Bury Meadow 1700 hrs. Tickets from RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter (price £4).



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COMPETITION
388

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The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, and add your name and address.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is June 16. The

name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our July 14 issue.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

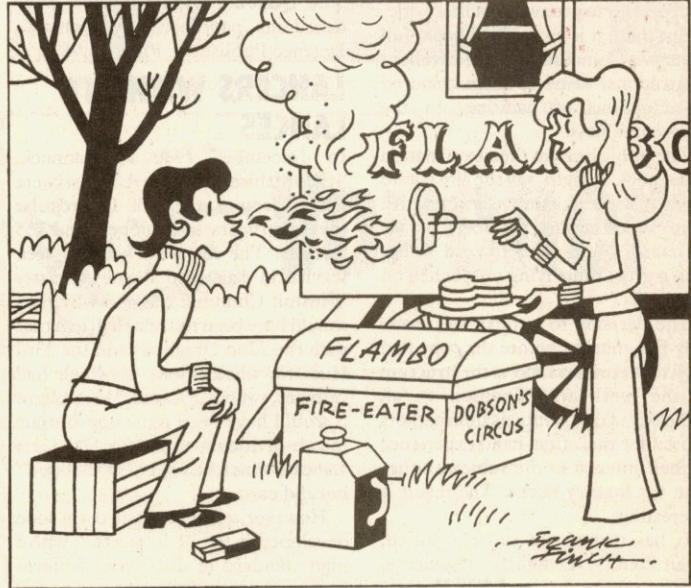
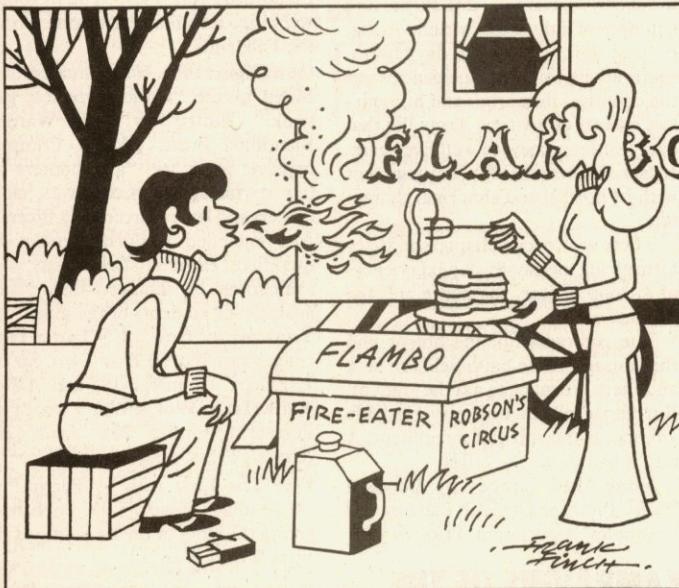
The first correct entry drawn will be the winner. No correspondence can be entered into.

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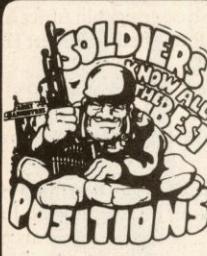
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BOOKS

'STRAWBOOTS'

The supply of boots in the Warburg campaign of 1760 ran out. The 7th Hussars, covering their feet with straw, earned the nickname 'Strawboots'.

This is the kind of snippet of information that typifies *The Queen's Own Hussars*, described on a wrap-round cover band as '... not only a history of the Queen's Own Hussars'.

It is also an impressionist painting of the British cavalry, yesterday and today; which, it must be said, is an unusual way to promote a military title.

But then, it is an unusual book, full of surprises, including some excellent illustrations, many of them coloured reproductions of paintings in the regimental mess.

The publishers, in their explanation of the book's origin, say the aim was to produce a short history in an attractive form which young members of the regiment would want to read rather than a great tome lying untouched on the shelf.

The decision to publish was made only five months before the copy had to go to the printers and so the structure of the work was finalised as an anthology of contributions from authors chosen for their first-hand experience or their interest in the subject, rather than for literary talent. The result is interesting.

It has turned out to be a potted, albeit once-over-lightly regimental history of the 3rd and 7th Hussars

(amalgamated in 1958 to form the Queen's Own Hussars).

It's all there, the battle honours, affiliations, the famous, the eccentric (one, John Mytton, set his nightshirt alight in the hope of stopping a bout of hiccups!), the unorthodox, horse to tank.

It has some of the aspects of what we have come to expect from sales brochures but that makes it easier to read. It is also a formula that seems to work as the book is now in its third reprint after being on sale only within the regiment for five months.

All profits from the sales of the book go towards the modernisation of the Hussars Regimental Museum. — BJ. *The Queen's Own Hussars*, published in paperback by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £6.95.

LANCERS WITHOUT LANCES

In December 1940 at Cannock, Staffordshire, the 24th Lancers were reborn from a cadre of 145 regular cavalry officers and troopers and 235 recruits. The regiment had last seen service in 1819 and Prime Minister Winston Churchill queried why they should have been resuscitated, together with the 22nd Dragoons and the 23rd Hussars, when "none of which had carbines, swords or lances." He thought it would have been more appropriate to sub-divide units like the 17th/21st Lancers which had been "telescoped" but did exist.

However, a fine esprit de corps soon developed in the 24th, together with a high standard of discipline, achievement and pride.

None Had Lances tells of the development of the Regimental character and prowess during its three and a half years of training that culminated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and went on through nine weeks of intensive fighting in France. Then, by a cruel stroke of drastic reorganisation of armoured formations, the 24th Lancers died.

This is not a regimental history in the true sense, although the spirit of the 24th lives on energetically today in its comrades' association. It is rather a record of a few hundred men thrown together in the Second World War to become a fine disciplined unit.

The author has captured the thoughts, aspirations, difficulties and triumphs of individuals within a living, pulsing unit. The day to day chores, aggravations, routines, emergencies and the countless humorous and humourless aspects of wartime Army life that every veteran knew so well live again. In fact, the intimate life of any regiment with its normal and abnormal characters.

There are special chapters in diary form giving the day-to-day experiences of a troop officer, the padre and the medical officer.

The comradeship, the horror and the courage of the battlefield are here and there are maps to aid the student. But above all, in this very readable volume, is the spirit of a regiment. A pity it had to die. — GRH.

None Had Lances by Leonard Willis. Published by 24th Lancers Old Comrades' Association. Price £14.95.

CAMPAIGNS OF THE SS PANZERS

A group of 200 Germans were dedicated to preserving the life of Hitler in 1923. They were known as the Adolf Hitler Shock Troops — the original SS. Their numbers had increased to 52,000 before the Second World War.

They should not be confused with Röhm's brown-shirted Stormtroopers, who were then at least 300,000 strong.

When war came the Shock Troops became the 1st SS Panzer Division (Adolf Hitler Bodyguard). Other SS Panzer divisions were formed and claimed various origins dating from the 1930s.

Hitler's Teutonic Knights is concerned with seven of the first formed and touches lightly on eight others.

The SS Panzers have been considered to be the prime perpetrators of Nazi war crimes and, indeed, the German nation has looked upon them as a convenient scapegoat. There is no doubt that the SS did commit war atrocities and were involved in the running of concentration camps, but in this book the author has set out to show that they also took part in some of the most brilliant campaigns of the war.

The history of each of the seven divisions is followed from its formation, and shows in detail its weapons and armour, its strength and commanders. The book also records each division's battles in detail.

The large number of photographs, some in colour, greatly enhance the value of the volume. There are probably more pictures than text and they have been well selected, not only for their general clarity but also for their clearness of detail in vehicles and equipment — the author is also a keen

model maker.

The 5th SS Panzer Division (Wiking) is worthy of special mention. It has a combat record second to none and was composed of men recruited from the occupied countries of Europe. The founders, Gottlob Berger and Felix Steiner, have argued that they were crusading against Communism and also taking the first steps towards a union of European nations! — GRH.

Hitler's Teutonic Knights by Bruce Quarrie. Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £14.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Falklands Armoury. Mark Dartford. Blandford Press. £9.95. The weapons, webbing, insignia and trophies from the Falklands.

Gun Digest 1986. 40th annual edition. Billed as the "world's greatest gun book." Edited by Ken Warner. Blandford Press. £12.50. Comprehensive work for "all shooters — hunters, handgummers, collectors, handloaders and law enforcement officers." Also included technical articles by qualified experts, field tests and evaluations by shooters, history and analysis for students of the gun.

Tanks Illustrated. US Tanks Destroyers of World War Two. Steven J. Zaloga. (Number 19) and **Allied Tanks Italy, World War Two**. Bryan Perrett (Number 20). Arms and Armour Press. £3.95 each.

1918 The Last Act, by Barrie Pitt, (Macmillan) price £5.95. Paperback giving the story of the final year of the First World War.

Swiftly They Struck by Murdoch C McDougall. The story of No 4 Commando, first published in 1954, re-issued by Arms and Armour Press in the Special Forces Library series. Price: £9.95.

From Waterloo to Balaclava by Hew Strachan. The tactics and technology of the British Army 1815-1854. Published by Cambridge University Press. Price £19.50.

The Savage Wars by Lawrence James. British campaigns in Africa from 1870-1920. Published by Robert Hale. Price £14.95.

The United States Cavalry by Gregory J W Urwin. An illustrated history. Published by Blandford Press. Price £5.95.

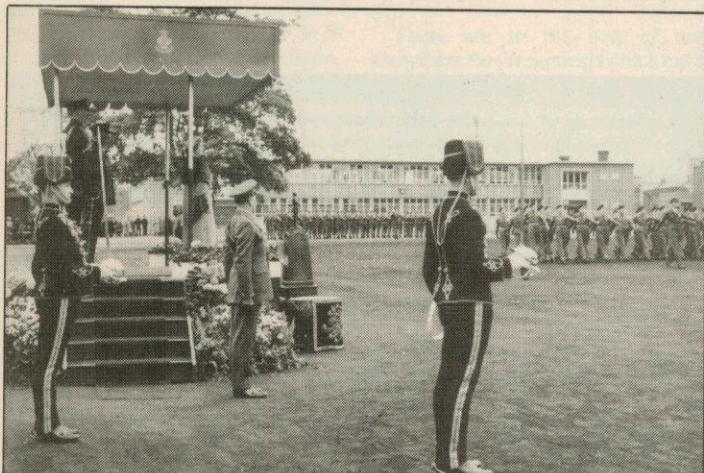
US Army Uniforms, Europe 1944-45, by Cameron P Laughlin and John P Langellier, published by Arms and Armour Press in the Uniforms Illustrated series. Price £3.95.

Waffen SS, by Brian L Davis. Picture/caption book on the subject. Published by Blandford Press. Price £5.95.

The Fortress, by Raleigh Trevelyan, the story of the Anzio landings in Italy — and after. First published in 1956. Re-published in the Echoes of War series in paperback by Buchan and Enright. Price £5.95.

A Child at Arms, by Patrick Davis, fighting with a Gurkha battalion against the Japanese in Burma, first published in 1970, re-issued in paperback in the Echoes of War series by Buchan and Enright. Price £5.95.

The First Boer War, by Jossph Lehmann, study of the defeat of the British at the hands of the Boers, first published in 1972, re-issued by Buchan and Enright in the Echoes of War series. Price £5.95.



Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, takes the salute at a march past of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars at Tidworth in 1957

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For evening performances, Monday to Thursday at 8 pm, there are reductions of up to £4 off tickets. Tickets normally priced at £11.50 are available for £7.50, those normally at £15.50 can be had for £11.50, and the very best Stalls or Circle seats which would normally cost £17.50 are available at £15.50.

To claim your reduced price tickets, complete the coupon and send with the appropriate remittance made payable to Piccadilly Theatre, and see to Booking Office, Piccadilly Theatre, Denman St, London W1, or take the voucher with you when you arrive at the theatre for the performance.

Make sure when booking your tickets in advance either by 'phone, credit card or in person, that you clearly state you wish to take up the special **SOLDIER** offer.



David Essex and Sinita Renet in South Sea Island mood.

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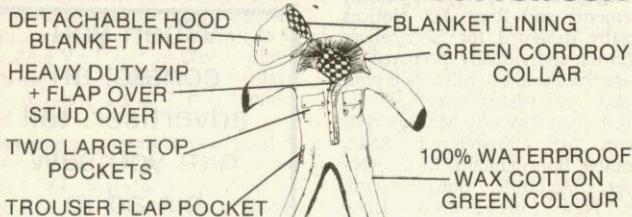
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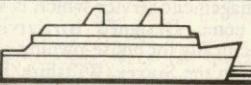


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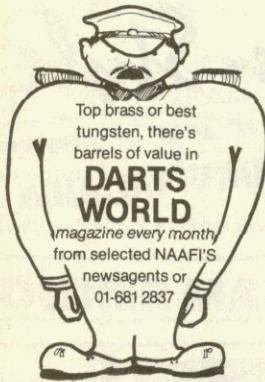
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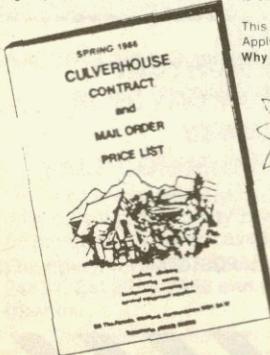
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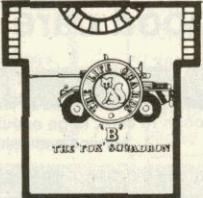
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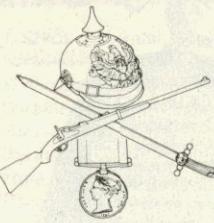


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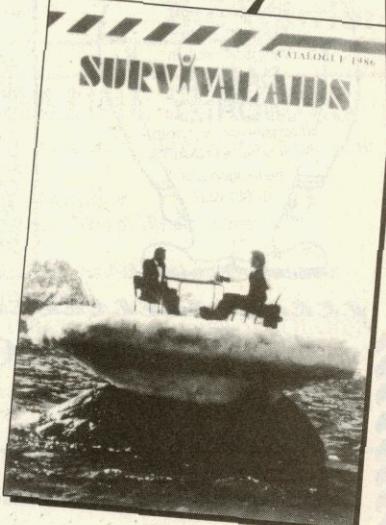
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TERRIERS RUN FOR THEIR MONEY

RUNNING the 100 miles from Haverfordwest to Cardiff in relays in an all-out bid to retain Welsh links with a rare Victoria Cross (see SOLDIER May 5), 20 part-time soldiers raised more than £500.

Each runner averaging speeds of eight mph as they ran non-stop overnight the Terriers — from 224 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), of Picton Barracks, Carmarthen — arrived at their Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, destination, by 8.30 am the following day.

Lt Col Howard Bentley-Marchant, commanding officer of 157 Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), of which 224 Squadron is a part, commended the team on a splendid effort, and said they were well on their way to winning back the medal. It was awarded more than 100 years ago, at the famous battle of Rorke's Drift, to Acting Assistant Commissary, James Langley Dalton.



Back at the barracks after a hard run night!

SOLDIER squash champs again

THE SOLDIER Squash Cup for major units was retained by the BAOR champions, 4 Armd Div Wksp REME, Detmold, for the second year when they beat 1 and 3 Trg Regt RE, Minley, convincingly 4-1.

Led once again by Staff Sgt Bob Perkins, and strengthened by RAOC and Army player Capt Dave Bradley, the reigning champions ensured they kept the cup for a second year.

Results: SSgt R Perkins lost to

Sgt B Hawksford, Capt D Bradley beat Cpl P O'Donnell, LCpl R Jones beat SMI J Jeffrey, Sgt A Cotterill beat Maj M Allen, SSgt T Tevitt beat SSgt B Perkins.

In the SOLDIER NEWS competition for minor units, the Staff College achieved a rare hat-trick by beating HQ 7 Armd Bde and Sig Sqn from Fallingbostel 4-1.

Wing Commander David Hawkins, an instructor at the Staff College, achieved the distinction of having played in all three finals.

ORDER, ORDER!

WARRANT Officer Peter Smith is involved in keeping order both at work and at play. When he's not keeping order on the football pitch he climbs into khaki for his work as an instructor at the Royal Military Police Training Centre in Chichester.

Peter, who has spent most of his 21 years service working with the Special Investigations Branch, is a well known figure on the Army

FA scene.

His enthusiasm was rewarded by being selected to referee the prestigious Army Challenge Cup Final at Aldershot Military Stadium. Records of the competition shows that he is the first member of the RMP to be accorded this honour.

Peter is not without support on the home front either. His wife, Susan, is also a qualified referee!



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MPs ON THE RUN

A SIX-STRONG team of Army runners took part in a 188-mile non-stop relay marathon from Edinburgh to York.

The runners were members of the Northern Region Special Investigation Branch Royal Military Police out to raise cash for their Corps Museum at Chichester and to help an Edinburgh school for mentally handicapped children provide a swimming pool.

The team were on the road for more than 27 hours taking turns at running sections of four miles each in weather which included mist, rain, fog, snow and finally sunshine.

The team, greeted at the finishing point in Imphal Barracks, York, by Lieutenant Colonel Roger Theis, Commanding Officer, SIB RMP United Kingdom Land Forces, consisted of Warrant Officer Class 2 Geoffrey Cook (leader), Staff Sergeant Graham Pollock and Sergeant Douglas Stirling, all from the Edinburgh detachment; S Sgt Alan Wood and Sgt John Fitzpatrick from Catterick Garrison, and Sgt Christopher McMillan from York.

Sport Aid to Africa

AFTER Band Aid comes Sport Aid.

Following the tremendous success of Bob Geldof and his concerts, Sport Aid is being organised as a week of international sporting events from May 17-25 to raise money for African relief and development programme — and the Army is encouraging soldiers to support the scheme.

The week culminates in The Race Against Time, centred around a lone African runner's trek across Europe and culminating in the runner lighting a flame at the United Nations in New York,

WORLD record holder (TSM) Malcolm Barnish of 19 Fd Regt RA is planning to break another world record this June.

He intends walking from John o' Groats to Lands End and hopes to break WO1 Norman Fox's present record of 12 days, 22 hours 17 mins.

A year ago WO2 Barnish walked non-stop around the regimental pitches at Dortmund for six days, 10 hours and 22 minutes to create a new long distance walking record of 412 miles.

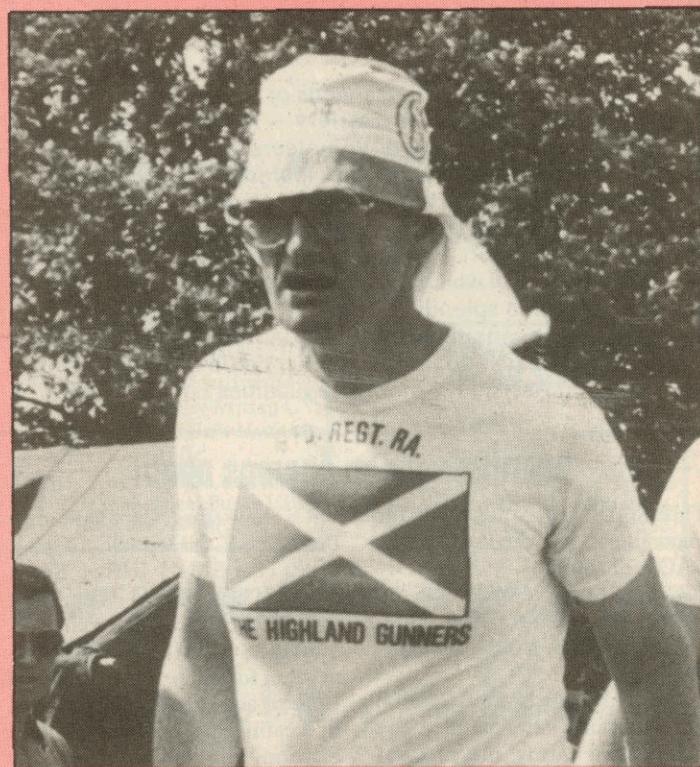
In doing so he raised well over £1,000 for Stoke Mandeville Hospital and a local home for German children.

'Barney' will also be raising money during the John o' Groats to Lands End walk, this time for the charity Age Concern.

WO1 (RSM) Rick Taylor will lead a back-up team of 20 soldiers from the Highland Gunners to support 'Barney' in his efforts. Mr Taylor also successfully stage managed the successful attempt in Dortmund last year.

Amid all his walking and training WO2 (TSM) Barnish has become a black belt in karate and also been a leading member of the successful regimental tug of war team.

'Barney' plans world record walk



Warrant Officer Malcolm Barnish, another record in sight

GUNNERS ALWAYS THE LEADERS

THE Junior Leaders Regiment RA (Permanent Staff) won the inaugural playing of the Army Minor Units Cup when they beat 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT by two goals to nil at Rheindahlen.

It wasn't a memorable match, except maybe for those playing, but it was keenly contested throughout.

The Gunners silenced the noisy home crowd with a shock fourth minute goal. A cross from the left found Lear who succeeded in holding off a defender before beating 'keeper Ailmore just inside his left hand post.

The closest the RCT side came to scoring was in the dying minutes of the opening half, when Shanklin handled just outside the box. Graham's free kick rapped the bar on the way over the top.

The Jnr Ldrs scored their second goal 15 minutes from the end. Wikeley pushed a long ball forward which Holden failed to control. Lear raced clear, and drew the last defender, before crossing for Brown to rap it home.

16 Tk Tptr Sqn battled to the end but were never able to break down the solid and resolute Gunner defence.

ARMY WOMEN WIN

THE Army Womens' Athletics team had a magnificent victory when despite being four athletes short they took on Cambridge University, Essex Beagles and the West London Institute at Woodford Bridge, London.

The team of Capt Sue Parker, Sgt Joan O'Hagan, Cpl Rachel O'Pray, Lance Corporal Cheryl Castle, LCpl Beverly Fox, LCpl Daisy Walker and Pte Jackie Gilchrist eased into the lead by one point on winning the 4 x 100 metre relay in 51.3 seconds. This was in itself a great victory as it was the team's first run of the season.

Pte Jackie Gilchrist added another two cms to her own Army women's high jump record, pushing the bar up to 1.75 metres, and Capt Parker ran particularly well in both the 800 and 400 metres.

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Boxing coach earmarks the talent

SOME 49 of the Army's new wave of boxers went to Aldershot to contest this year's Novice Championships — and from their ranks Army coach Staff-Sergeant Kevin Greef has earmarked a short list of possibles to augment next year's Army squad.

He told **SOLDIER**: "I think the standard was very encouraging and I can see a number of these boxers coming through. Obviously it depends on agreement with their units — and in some cases their wives — but things can only get better on this performance."

Next season there will be a number of openings for new fighters. The evergreen Corporal Horace Miles, Army heavyweight champion on and off for a decade or more, is hanging up his gloves.

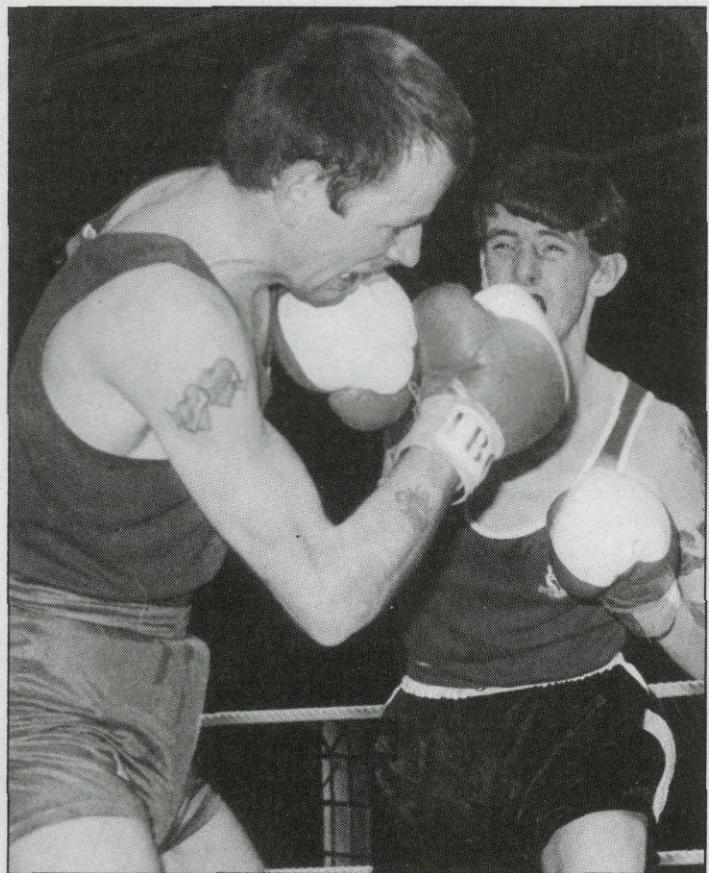
And three featherweights are wanted for next year's Army squad. Two featherweights, Private Stephen Williams (2 LI) and Fusilier John McDowall (1 RHF) fought a spirited battle before Williams got a unanimous points decision. The third is Kingsman Hilton from 1 Kings.

Hilton's brother, welterweight Kingsman John Hilton, could be

the second representative of the famous boxing regiment. He battled all the way in his contest with Sapper Michael Dunn (26 Eng Regt) to gain a unanimous points decision with Dunn looking much the worse for wear at the end.

A heavyweight hope is Lance-Corporal Paul Martin from the Royal Regiment of Wales. He gave his opponent Gunner Michael Weaver (4 Field Regt RA) a fierce pounding and the referee stopped the fight in the third round.

Flyweight Lance-Corporal



Which took the hardest punch? Sapper Phillip Mills (right) and Sapper N Morris both seem to have connected in the light middleweight contest



Private Marton Carroll (left) on his way to victory over bantamweight opponent Ranger R Liggett

David Hughes (2 LI) notched up a first round win and found himself pencilled onto the Greef list.

Sapper Nicky Parkin, middleweight from 21 Engineer Regiment, fights in the non-stop aggressive fashion favoured by the Navy's Royal Marine contingent. He took a majority decision against Sapper Dean Sykes (9 Para Sqn RE) and Greef feels he has strong potential.

And two light-welterweights, Trooper Mark Miller (Queen's Royal Irish Hussars) and Lance-

Corporal Colin Mercer (9 Para Sqn RE) both got the Greef nod.

They fought a wonderful three round battle with both boxers getting the congratulations of the referee and Mercer winning on a majority vote.

Other winners were: light-middleweight Sapper Phillip Mills (26 Eng Regt); bantamweight Private Martin Carroll (1 RRW); and light heavyweight Gunner Stephen Brooks (50 Missile Regt RA). Brooks stopped his man in just 47 seconds.

WELSH MAKE IT A DOUBLE

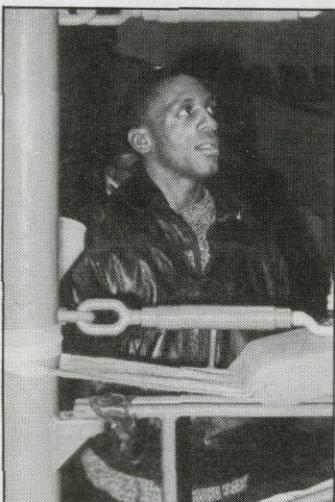
THE 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales are the Army Novice Boxing Champions, beating the 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment 6-3 in a hard exciting final.

BAOR champions 1 RRW hosted the event in Lemgo against the UK champions who had made the long trip from Colchester.

The huge Welsh following started the evening with a passionate rendering of 'Land of my Fathers' in best Cardiff Arms Park tradition to lift Welsh fighting spirits and strike fear into the hearts of the talented visitors.

The Welsh have now secured a double in Army sport having won the Army Rugby Challenge Cup and are understandably proud of being champions in the two main Army contact sports.

Velinor heads for ABA crown



Rifleman Tony Velinor has a crown in his sights

ROYAL Green Jacket boxer, Rifleman Tony Velinor, now has an excellent chance of winning an Amateur Boxing Association crown — the Army's first for eight years.

The classy light-middleweight stormed to a one round victory in the semi-finals at Preston, despite sustaining a nasty cut over his eye which later needed four stitches.

The referee twice asked the doctor to look at the cut but each time the medical verdict went Velinor's way and he handed out three counts to his opponent, Glyn Thomas. The referee then stopped the contest as the round ended.

The cut is in the same place as one which stopped his championship progress a year ago but Velinor is confident it will heal in time for his final clash with London's Steve Butler.

He told **SOLDIER**: "I may be able to wear a headguard in the final. I know Butler as he used to come to my West Ham club. I am feeling very confident of beating him — it's a matter of being in the right frame of mood on the night."

"Once I saw the blood dripping against Thomas I knew the cut would not last beyond the second round so I decided to use my fitness and overpower him."

SOLDIER

