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FRONT COVER: Looks good, tastes good. Major Albert Hampson, one of the judges, tries some of the fare prepared by TA cooks in an Army Field Cookery Competition qualifying heat. Report on page 17.

Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: Perched precariously 300 ft up on the east wall of Batu Lawi in Borneo, Corporal Kevin Fletcher, taking part in a 14th/20th King's Hussars assault on the sandstone peak. Report on page 12

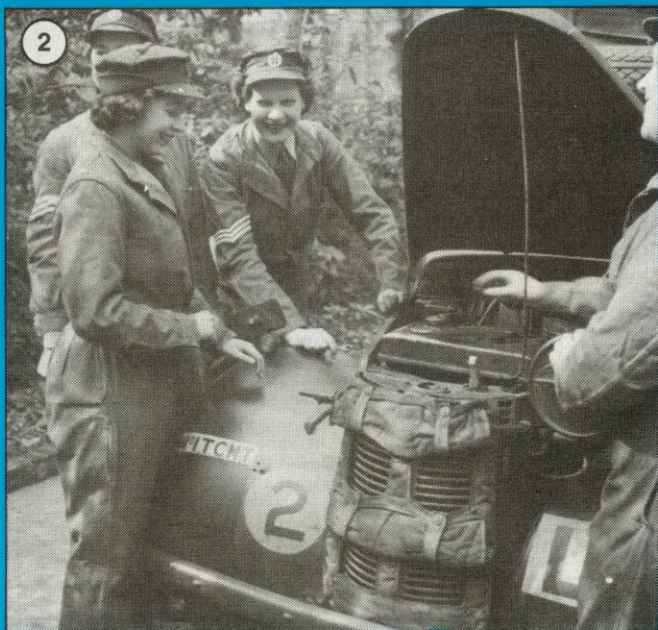


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUR MAJESTY

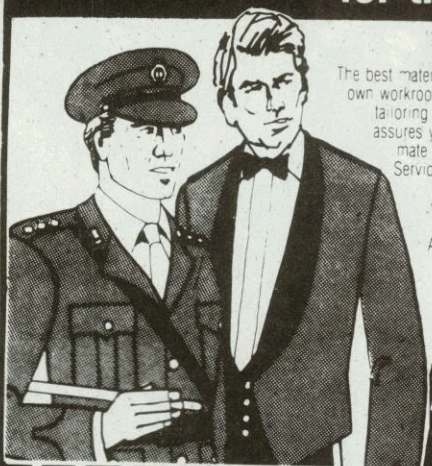
Today (April 21) is the Queen's 60th birthday.

SOLDIER sends its best wishes by looking back photographically through the years at occasions the Queen has spent with her soldiers — and been a soldier herself.

Princess Elizabeth inspects the Grenadier Guards of which she had recently been appointed Honorary Colonel (1); a smiling princess, now in the ATS, learns car maintenance (2); the Queen looks dwarfed by the tall figure of a Grenadier Guards Lieutenant Colonel at Buckingham Palace (3); as Captain General, the Queen inspects the Royal Artillery at Woolwich (4); at the Commonwealth Day observance service at Westminster Abbey (5); the Queen takes the salute at Trooping the Colour (6); and a radiant smile at Windsor while presenting new colours to the Coldstream Guards (7).



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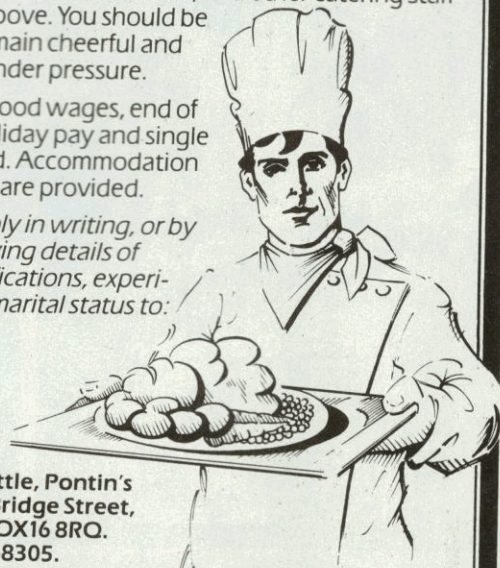
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Cheques to keep the babies bouncing

Cot deaths among babies in Wales will probably be reduced — thanks to the big-hearted efforts of some Cardiff-based Territorials.

Discos and cheese and wine parties organised by members of 53(W) Signal Squadron (Volunteers), raised more than £1,000 to provide four new respiration monitors, requested by the League of Friends of the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

At a curry evening in the Park Street TA Centre, Cardiff, the League's chairman, Dr George Mitchell, received a giant sized cheque from the Terriers, for £1,081.62p. This will provide the hospital with the much needed respirators, which he says contribute considerably to helping



prevent cot fatalities in new-born babies.

Captain Gilliam Jones, WRAC, presented the cheque, watched by some of her 50-strong band of male

and female fund-raisers, who helped raise the cash with discos during Cardiff Tattoo, and with cheese and wine socials on rugby international days, when visitors

A big cheque, and big smiles

could have a drink and simultaneously watch the matches on a giant television monitor.

DONNA LIKES THE EXERCISE

Baby-sitting doesn't rule out Territorial Army exercises for Cardiff mum Sergeant Lesley Davidge.

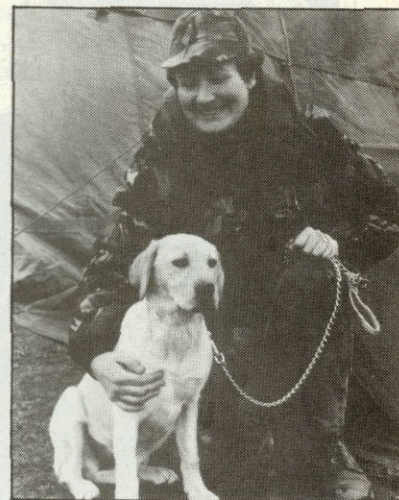
Not where this baby's concerned, that is — her five-month-old labrador, Donna — because she romps along too.

Lesley who is pictured taking part in Exercise Fire Fly, at Templeton Airfield, near Tenby, said the biggest problem was stopping Donna from begging a share of the part-time soldiers' limited rations.

Mother of two, Lesley is

recruiting sergeant with the Cardiff Detachment at 203(W) General Hospital, RAMC(V), in Llandaff.

She has been in the TA for 11 years, and just four weeks ago was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit (Glamorgan).



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First at Safety First

Overall winners of the Army's Tri-District Road Safety Competition held at Sutton Coldfield, are a team of part-time soldiers from Carmarthen.

The Terriers — members of 224 Squadron RCT, whose headquarters, 157 (Wales and Midlands) Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), is at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, also won the Wales District Trophy in the competition.

Territorials from the Army's North West and Western Districts also took part.

Runners-up were another Cardiff-based TA unit, 203 (Wales) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers), whose headquarters is in Llandaff.

The Welsh medics also walked off with the prize for the best civilian driver, won by a long-serving member of the unit, Mr Jeff Day of Whitchurch.

CURRY THAWS TA GIRLS

BACK from the cold, after nine weeks' part-time soldiering in Norway in temperatures of minus 45 degrees this Welsh foursome didn't need asking twice when they found a hot curry supper dished-up before them in their TA centre... even though they've been living on a massive 5,000 calories a day in Scandinavia.

The girls, all from 53(W) Signal Squadron, Royal Signals (Volunteers), in Cardiff are four of a party of five who went to different units of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, in the north and south of Norway, where they helped lay on communications for two main NATO exercises, Hardfall and Anchor Express.

Corporal Marion Kim, an exhibition coordinator, explained: "The food over there was simply magnificent: steaks, top quality fish; just about everything — but such an enormous calorie intake is a must, if you are to combat the cold and survive. This diet is pretty well



standard for everyone serving there."

Their schedule included skiing, parachute drops and flights in Hercules transport aircraft of the Royal Air Force. Some girls even found time to get in a spot of sight-seeing, and gift shopping in Oslo.

Lance-Corporal Shirley Parker, (second from right), who stayed for a short spell with a Norwegian family found them to be 'extremely hospitable'. Shirley, a university graduate and a technical assistant, said that at least two of their party managed to forge penfriendships with Norwegians during their visit.

Completing the picture, are (extreme left) Corporal Nicola Neill, an insurance clerk, and Gwent police officer Corporal Lindsay Hughes.

The warming curry came quite by chance. Their home-coming coincided with a cheque presentation and supper evening in the Park Street, Cardiff TA Centre which they normally attend for routine training.

GRANNY'S BIRTHDAY TREAT



Staff Sergeant Stefan Galek helps Brett prepare for a flight in Lynx

Grandmother Mrs Maureen Middleton arranged a present for her grandson's 14th birthday which gave him the surprise of his life.

Through "Top Secret" correspondence with military authorities Mrs Middleton, of Heeley, Sheffield arranged for her grandson to spend half a day with the Army.

And Brett John Liggins knew nothing about it until a military vehicle turned up to collect him from grandmother's home.

Brett is a member of the Army Cadet Force detachment at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield.

Said his grandmother: "He is mad about the Army and spends hours bulling his boots and pressing his uniform. I could not think of a better present to give him than a look at the Regular Army."

All she asked him to do on his birthday was to put on his Army Cadet Force uniform "for a photograph".

Then the Army took over.

A military vehicle from the Army Careers Information Office at Sheffield arrived at grandmother's front door and drove Brett to Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe, near Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

There he was met by Staff Sergeant Stefan Galek, of 3 Flight Army Air Corps.

He was escorted on a tour of the helicopter hangar and workshop facilities, and taken on a training flight.

Then lunch at the base before being driven back home. Said Brett: "It was a fantastic surprise. I'll never forget it".

A job for the Sappers

Members of 50 Field Squadron Royal Engineers are proving that teamwork in the former British colony of Belize is more than just a good idea.

When the RAF's Harrier rectification team need a hand to change an engine, it is only natural they should turn to the Sappers for a lift, just one of hundreds of daily incidents where Army and RAF co-operate to ensure the independence of Belize.

As far as Brigadier David Webb-Carter, Commander of British Forces Belize, is concerned there is no other alternative to joint-Service co-operation.

"The spirit of teamwork here is quite outstanding. I don't think it is

a case of the RAF supporting the Army, instead each supports the other", he says.

Brigadier Webb-Carter also feels the excellent training opportunities for air and ground forces in Belize represent value for money. "Everyone here is doing the job they joined their respective Service to do, and it gives people the chance to experience the inter-Service co-operation which is so necessary".

A major priority for the Commander is upgrading the quality of life for personnel serving in Belize. He adds: "I think it is fair to say facilities are spartan, but the social amenities here such as the Naafi and television will be among the main priorities for improvement."

ARMY JOINS THE CHOIR

TWO of BAOR's top class bands have for the first time joined forces to partner one of Britain's leading choirs for a special concert during its big West German tour.

The Regimental Bands of 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment accompanied the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus at a major concert held in Bad Salzungen's Concert Halle.

Matching their musical language with the fine vocal expression of a choir that regularly appears with the world renowned Halle Orchestra and frequently makes recordings and broadcasts with the BBC posed no problems for the bandsmen, said Hussars' Bandmaster WO1 Andrew Chatburn.

"While music is our business

accompanying the choir is actually an unusual engagement for military bands but it is an occasion of a new phase in the life of bands like ours."

NIGHT SIGHT

BRITISH Aerospace have been awarded a contract, worth over £60 million, for the mid-life improvement programme to the TOW roof sight mounted on the Army Lynx helicopters.

A night-vision capability is being developed, operating in the far infra-red waveband, which will greatly increase the operational versatility of Lynx helicopters, enabling armoured targets to be successfully engaged in low-light conditions at night or when visually obscured by mist, dust or smoke on the battlefield during the day.

MEDICS MOBILISE



Walking wounded wait for treatment during British Military Hospital Munster's annual mobilization exercise Maxi Mash, this year carried out "in the field".

The exercise entailed the setting up of a general hospital in an empty barracks designed to hold an infantry battalion, while the hospital staff continued their peace-time duties in BMH five miles away across the town.

After almost a week spent setting up the hospital, casualties began arriving and all six operating theatres were soon busy. Ambulance trains, Chinook helicopters, and converted buses were in use, and a couple of Hercules aircraft took part from a nearby emergency airstrip.

After 72 busy hours a cease fire was arranged and 300 long suffering soldiers who had acted as casualties, playing every conceivable kind of war wounded, went home "healed" to their 1 Armoured Div barracks, while doctors and nurses returned to their real patients.

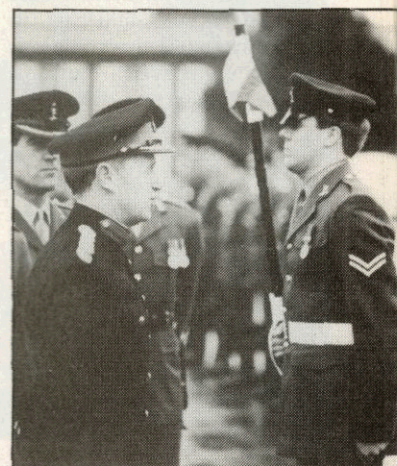
A special word for Signaller Richard Brett of 1 Royal Scots, from Brigadier Sam Cowen, Commander Communications, 1st British Corps.

Brett was top student on the 202 Signal Regiment two-week cadre course of which Brigadier Cowen was the reviewing officer, and he heard the brigadier praise the men's drill and encourage them to continue their good work.

The course was aimed at enhancing confidence, developing leadership skills, and preparing the soldiers for further courses. All of the 20 entrants passed.

Prize of 'Top Tom' went to Signaller Ian Stringer for showing himself to be the best in trade and military skills and in sport throughout the year.

RICHARD TOP OF HIS COURSE



QUIETER WEEKENDS

The Army have outlined the concessions they are prepared to make in an attempt to resolve deadlock over the continued use of Cramber Tor, on Dartmoor, as a training area.

Major-General Barry Lane, General Officer Commanding South West District, has said the package of concessions will include halting helicopter flying at weekends and stopping training of every description during August, public holidays and on Sundays.

"Noisy" training would be avoided as far as possible on Saturdays and in any event would not take place on more than 12 Saturdays a year.

He hoped that the package of concessions would enable the Dartmoor National Park Authority to reconsider its objection to the renewal of the use of Cramber Tor for training.

General Lane said it was vital as a "backdoor" training area for Plymouth units.

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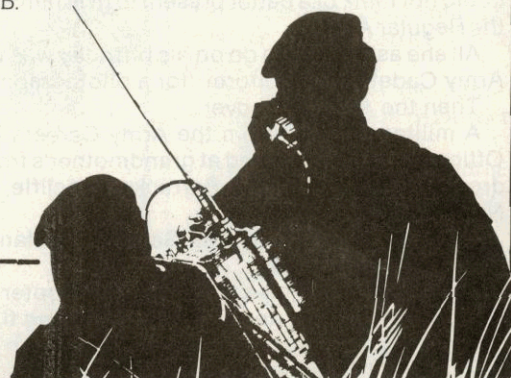
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COOKS LAY ON EASTER TREAT



Eggs galore. Lance Corporal Stewart Meaking, one of the six-cook team who prepared them

Army cooks at Aldershot had an eggstra special task — to make 3,000 mini-Easter eggs for handicapped children.

The eggs, arranged three each in decorated meringue baskets, were produced by six ACC cooks in response to an appeal by the Cherry Tree Home at East Clandon, near Guildford, which looks after

handicapped children for short periods so that their parents can be given a break.

A regimental style handover of the baskets of eggs took place on the ACC HQ parade ground.

For each egg made for the appeal, the National Westminster Bank was contributing 20p to the home to match the Army's gesture.

SAILING SOLDIERS

SOLDIERS from Wales will be trying out their sea-legs when they take part in a four-day sail to Cherbourg, organised by the Territorial Army Medics.

On the sail training exercise — aboard a sloop from the Joint Services Sailing Centre, Gosport — will be volunteers from 203 (W) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers), who come from Cardiff, Abergavenny and Newport.

They will be sailing in a Nicholson 55 23-ton sloop named KUKRI, and there will be a scheduled stop at Saint Peter Port, Guernsey, en-route to the French port.

TYROLEAN TONIC

Back from a seven-day skiing exercise in Austria — paid for out of their own pockets — are Welsh medics of 203 (W) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers).

More than 50 of the medics, along with Terriers from other Army Reserve hospital units throughout Great Britain — flew out from Luton Airport to Salzberg, and were accommodated in the picturesque village of Gotzens, near Innsbruck.

The exercise — dubbed AXAMER LIZUM, after the name of the area in which it was staged — also doubled as the Army Medical Services skiing holiday.

ARMY'S NEWEST UNIT FORMED

The Army's newest unit, 254 Field Ambulance (V), has been formed in Cambridge.

To mark its formation, it raised its flag in a simple ceremony held at the Territorial Army Centre in Coldham's Lane, Cambridge.

Watching the ceremony were the Mayor of Cambridge, Councillor A J Johnson; the last commanding officer of 162 (City of Cambridge) Field Ambulance (V), Colonel W A B Smellie; the Chairman of the East Anglian Territorial Associ-

ation, Colonel J D Bolton, and other guests.

The Flag Raising was performed by the first Territorial officer and soldier to join the new unit, Captain Cuccio RADC and Pte Gantry RAMC.

254 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) is formed as part of the phase 2 Territorial Army enhancements. At present it is housed in Portakabins while a brand new TA Centre, costing about £2.8 million, is being built for it at Cherry Hinton Road in Cambridge.

THEY CAME...they saw...and they liked what they saw... the comparative building elegance of the new Light Division Depot at Flowerdown near Winchester. So different from the concept of an Army barracks of old.

The viewers were members of Rushmoor Council near Aldershot who had been invited south in the county to see the style and architecture of the depot which could be the basis of a blueprint for the new Aldershot Military Town.

Part of that ambitious project has already started in Aldershot, "home of the British Army". Councillors had been shown photographs of other Army buildings in places such as Canterbury and Dover and, this time, SOLDIER had played an important pictorial and written part in the preview resulting from an earlier article.

Fears of prefabricated flat roofs were dispelled. Instead, considerable planning with pitched roofs

topping conventional redbrick structures.

New-look work continues in July at the garrison's Lille Barracks, preluded by an access road.

Major Tony Taunton, of HQ South-East District, the Project Liaison Officer said: "It was a very worthwhile visit and council members learned a lot from it in the way the Army is arranging its build of new accommodation."



And this is the chapel... Major Tony Taunton (second from right) shows the councillors around



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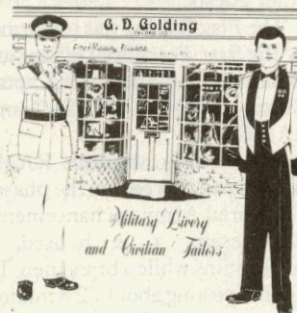
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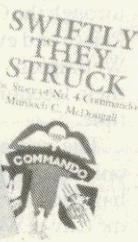
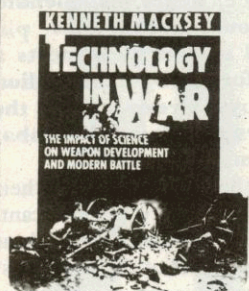
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Catterick climbers beat Borneo peaks

ADVENTUROUS Captain Jonny Beardsall, 14th/20th King's Hussars, has probably had many different travelling companions during his challenging feats. But none quite like that he met in Borneo, three hundred feet up the north face of an unclimbed pinnacle in the central land mass.

Beardsall was just inches away from an indignant, hissing, two-foot-long brown snake, sharing a thin crack high above the jungle, writes *Graham Smith*.

This was just one of the exciting adventures befalling the six-man regional Borneo Summits Expedition (see **SOLDIER**, January 13). Men with a determined mission: to conquer the twin sandstone peaks of Batu Lawi, soaring to 6,703 feet in the Kelabit Highlands of Sarawak.

A world and an age away from Catterick, home base for the striving sextet — Captain Beardsall, Lieutenant Eamon Ross, Sgt Trevor Jones, Cpl Kevin Fletcher and Troopers Stuart Lythgoe and David Workman.

They were flown to their objective to be enthusiastically greeted by the Kelabits. The team leader remembered many of them from his 1983 recce.

The feat was on and all the ordeals with it. Jungle dragging at clothing. Eight-pound packs plaguing their carriers. Vicious heat. Steep spur sides.

Eventually they emerged from the jungle canopy home of days. And there it was. A great sandstone tower looming out of a ridge.

"It was a peak that deceived the eye constantly from wherever one stood, seemingly easy in gradient from the col yet suddenly vertical with a labyrinth of overhangs from directly below," chronicled Beardsall. "An initial estimate from aerial photographs suggested 250 feet of near-vertical rock. Absolute rhubarb!"

A new estimate put it nearer 500 feet. The team felt "slightly uncomfortable."

Everyone now realised that Batu Lawi would not fall so easily into their grasp.

Teeth-gritting drama was augmented by poignant, personal heartache when a treasured pair of Western Desert KD shorts, worn with regimental pride in Benghazi, literally went up in flames. A spark from the fire drying them consigned drawers to a cremated piece of history.

Beardsall later penned: "Having been worn in action in the Western Desert it was almost fitting that I should part with them on an arduous expedition in deepest, darkest Borneo. To have lost them one grey day in an officers' mess laundry would have been a harder blow to take."

The chance meeting with the



Breakfast time on the summit

snake was the next memorable landfall high above the jungle.

But the team went on. A huge Sikorsky helicopter, fixed up with a Brunei link man, flew in re-supplies. Amid the aircraft's down-blast were three dozen ration boxes dropped from just ten feet above the summit. Sadly, most fragmented on impact. A canvas blue cold box followed, gently lowered by rope.

The victuals were welcome. The mood in camp "rowdy and gregarious," said the team leader's log. The strawberries and ice cream went first. Meat sizzled and grilled over a fire. Palates watered. Whisky numbed the isolated sextet; an anaesthetic against the struggles of the day.

Fresh rations spurred them on to greater achievement. Five hours of hacking their way along a jungle-covered west wall.

Lythgoe had a fall. Rope arrested it. Luckily, his descent had been retarded when the hemp umbilical cord became snagged round a bush.

Undeterred, Lythgoe led on, re-negotiating a previous trouble spot.

Obstacles were met and overcome. The prize of the previous 18 days was there and waiting. It was taken.

"By 2000 hours my team lay exhausted in the darkness, amid the summit jungle of Batu Lawi," said the expedition leader in his record of events. "We opened our champagne in the torch light and radioed Brunei with the simple message: 'The Hawk above Batu Lawi.'"

Catterick and regimental lines there received the telex message with elation.

SOLDIER to Soldier

It took only a couple of days after **SOLDIER** published its story about Army drum majors having in future to march with hand on hip, before pens were scratching out their protests.

"Never, never" exclaimed one ex-drummer from the Royal Norfolks. "It makes me sick to know that at future times the British Army will be mincing..."

Another reader implored **SOLDIER** to speak out strongly against "this unnecessary interference with our traditions". The British Army's form of drill was the most impressive and the best, declared the protester, an ex-corporal of 2nd East Surreys, adding of the 'hand on hip' change: "Not British Sir!"

Before someone starts sending a deputation to MoD in Whitehall to demand that the British Army does not adopt the marching style of some NATO armies, or pushing an arm load of petition signatures to Buckingham Palace or No 10, **SOLDIER** must draw attention to the fact that some of the soldiers quoted in the story had somewhat unlikely sounding names... WO2 Peregrine Sweetleigh, for instance... Bandsman Neil Tremblah...

And that it was said that a decision was to be taken on April 1.

Apologies to anyone who took it all sufficiently seriously to get uptight about what seemed to be a change from the macho image of British Army bands to something

a little more eye-catching; it was that time of year when **SOLDIER**, in common with many other parts of the media, has its annual joke.

TODAY, the new national daily newspaper, had one with a military theme too. What it claimed were exclusive pictures revealed one of Buckingham Palace's best kept secrets — the six-strong force of ceremonial pikemen, formed from the smallest military unit in the Army and never before seen in public, which might be disbanded because of defence cuts, it reported. The 1st Army Pikemen's Regiment (1st APR — get it?) was formed by Henry V as a personal bodyguard at Agincourt.



Eye catching?

Their main battle honour was at the Siege of Gibraltar when they were wrapped in damp cloth and used as human pull-throughs for the massive naval guns which kept the attackers at bay, said TODAY. Perhaps the origin of the term leg-pull?

★ ★ ★
From the humorous to the serious. The British Army used to be an army of smokers, but the dreaded weed is being forsaken by an increasing number of soldiers.

During the past few years, the rate of smoking among soldiers has decreased steadily and is now about the same as the civilian rate. At the same time, and according to Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, possibly as a direct result, the rate of death from ischaemic heart disease among Army personnel has also decreased and is now lower than the rate in the comparable civilian population.

The importance of making further reductions in smoking is fully appreciated, Mr Lee told a Commons questioner. There are films and discussions led by medical personnel during educational periods, and initiatives such as the recent No Smoking Day are fully supported by the Services.

And that was before the Budget!

★ ★ ★
National service has been in the news yet again.

The suggestion was made in the Commons that the Army should scrap its existing youth training scheme and replace it with voluntary national service in which some 15,000 young men and women would be offered 100 days of regular training with regular pay. Priority should be given, claimed

Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative) to young people who had served in the cadets or other voluntary organisations at school and also to those who would do some future service in the TA.

It need not be excessively expensive, he said, and the cost should come from the youth training budget, not the defence vote.

Other Conservative MPs also spoke in favour of national service, but Mr Barry Sheerman, for the Opposition, said the Labour Party believed in having a fully professional Armed Services, and did not believe there should be compulsory national service.

Mr John Lee reported that since the start of the Armed Services YTS Scheme there had been 9,000 applications for 6,000 places and 2,200 trainees had attended courses. Of those 860 had converted to regular Service engagements.

★ ★ ★
Only a few issues after **SOLDIER** announced, with some trepidation, that it was dropping the TA Topics pages so that the TA would truly be part of the 'One Army' in the magazine, the TA has bounced back into the publicity.

Instead of TA units losing heart because their material has to compete for space with all the regular Army, the part-time men and women have been sending more and better stories and ideas to **SOLDIER**, with the result that more space is being devoted to the TA. Besides the front page full-colour picture, there are features in this issue, for instance, on pages 17-19 and 34-35, plus many other news items.

Keep it up TA!

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



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PUCKAPUNYAL COMES TO TIDWORTH



A SMALL corner of south-eastern Australia — Puckapunyal to the purists — has come to the expanses of Salisbury Plain in the sturdy frames of 120 exchange visit 'tankies' from the 1st Australian Regiment.

Normally on the move at up to 40 miles-an-hour aboard their Leopard 1s in their base area 100 miles north of Melbourne, the Australian visitors from the regiment's 'A' Squadron are over here learning about the British Army Chieftain main battle tank. Their knowledgeable tutors; the men of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards based at Tidworth, Hants.

And, by all accounts, the visit is going well. Both the training and the hospitality put on by the 'Skins'.

Flown into RAF Brize Norton by VC 10 in a back-to-back operation — a company of 'Skins' is in Australia on a reciprocal exercise

named 'Southern Cross' — the Australians soon got down to familiarisation on Chieftain and its associated handling skills.

For both Commonwealth nations the aim here, and 'down under', was to allow tank crews

the chance to gain experience on differing equipment and in very varied climatic settings. Britain was Britain and the visitors expected it; in Australia (though the summer is nearly over) daytime temperatures are still in the high 70s.

Thousands of miles from home the Tidworth-based 'Skins' besides training on the Leopard 1s were taking part in an adventurous training exercise in the Australian Alps. They are also hoping to visit their sister regiment, the 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles who are based in Adelaide.

The theme was inter-operability in both countries.

Lance Corporal Gary Smith, Troop Leader's operator, gives instruction on the finer points of the Chieftain 7.62mm machine gun to spell-bound Australian class audience

Lieutenant Craig Burn, 23, a Troop Leader with 'A' Squadron, who has been in the Australian Army for three years, said at Tidworth: "The training has been good and valuable, the drivers having finished their course on Chieftain. There are, of course, a lot of differences between our Leopard 1s and your Chieftains but we, as visitors, are not drawing direct comparisons.

"Our tanks go a lot faster than yours — about 60 kms an hour on the ranges back home and yours seem to move at about a third of their speed. But both have different roles in operational life.

"Our armoured regiment's task is defence of Australian continental mainland. We have three tank squadrons, a technical squadron and an HQ squadron in support. About 45 tanks. I suppose we have tanks to maintain the state of the art. We don't have battle positions for us to deploy to like you do in this country."

The threat?

"The Australian Government does not recognise formally any threat. We are defending against small party insurgency. Our tanks, after all, proved themselves in the Vietnam fighting. The Centurions made a great contribution in the Vietnam war."

Australia, he said, took on its

The MRS — Muzzle Reference System — is explained by L Cpl 'Bunny' Burrows



Sgt Tony Marsh (right) makes a fine point to Trooper Jeff Ranger

Leopard 1s in 1977. It had been a choice between the German-built tank and the American M60. Trials had been started in 1976. Leopard 1s had worked well in tropical heat.

There had been small problems such as dust but there was an Australian tank liaison officer working in Bonn who was in touch with the tanks' builders, Krauss Maffei.

Australia had acquired 96 Leopards and three bridge-layers, he said.

If needed, the Leopards in Australia could be ferried to their areas of operation by ship, road or rail. "It was a good buy for Australia and we are pleased with them," he said.

His men of 4 Troop — 12 men per troop and four troops per squadron — were put through the paces of the CIM (Classroom Instructional Module) within the GTS (Gunnery Training Simulator) building scoring several direct hits on the projected scenario screened in front of them. Others

Lance Corporal 'Bunny' Burrows, second from right, explains one of the many parts of a mighty Chieftain battle tank

were rivetted to a TV monitor screen and the results on that.

Sgt George Roth, a troop sergeant, looking over the lines of Chieftain, said: "Vehicle-wise Chieftain basically gives better protection, but across country we cover a lot of ground a lot quicker than you do. We use fixed ammo. You use bagged charges which is new and interesting to us."

The Australians have a full programme mapped out for them during their stay. When SOLDIER dropped in for a whistle-stop look, they had already completed their D and M — Driving and Maintenance phase — and their familiarisation with Clansman radio.

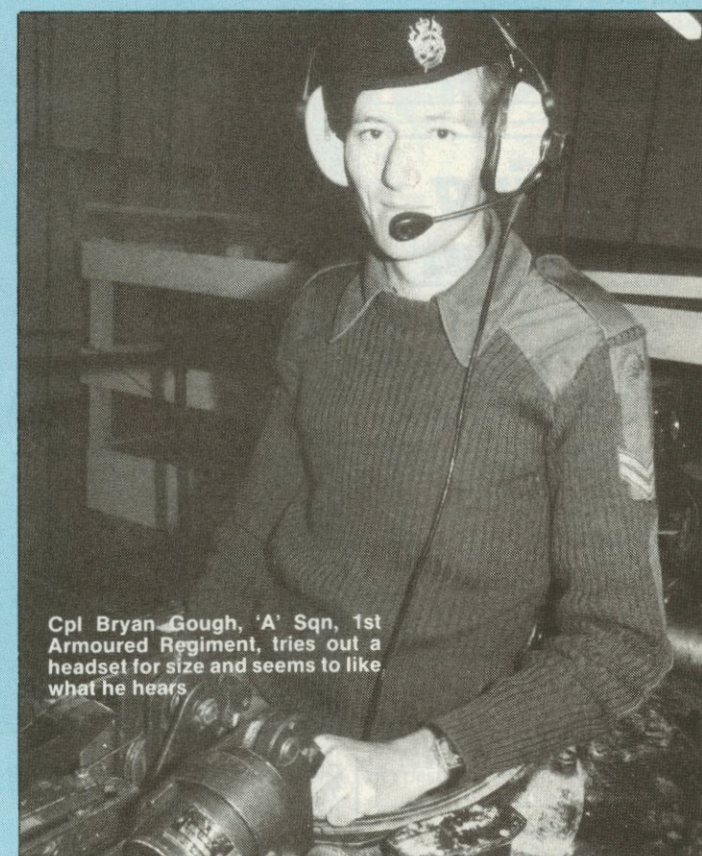
Trooper Jeff Ranger, two years with the Armoured Regiment, spent five hours driving Chieftain. "Ours is a lot faster. Yours is sluggish," he said with an impish grin on his face. "But it is reliable."

He and his troop had spent three days and 26 hours familiarising themselves on D and M, under the eagle eye of Sergeant Tony Marsh, the 'Skins' SHQ Squadron 'B' Troop Sergeant.

Continued on page 16

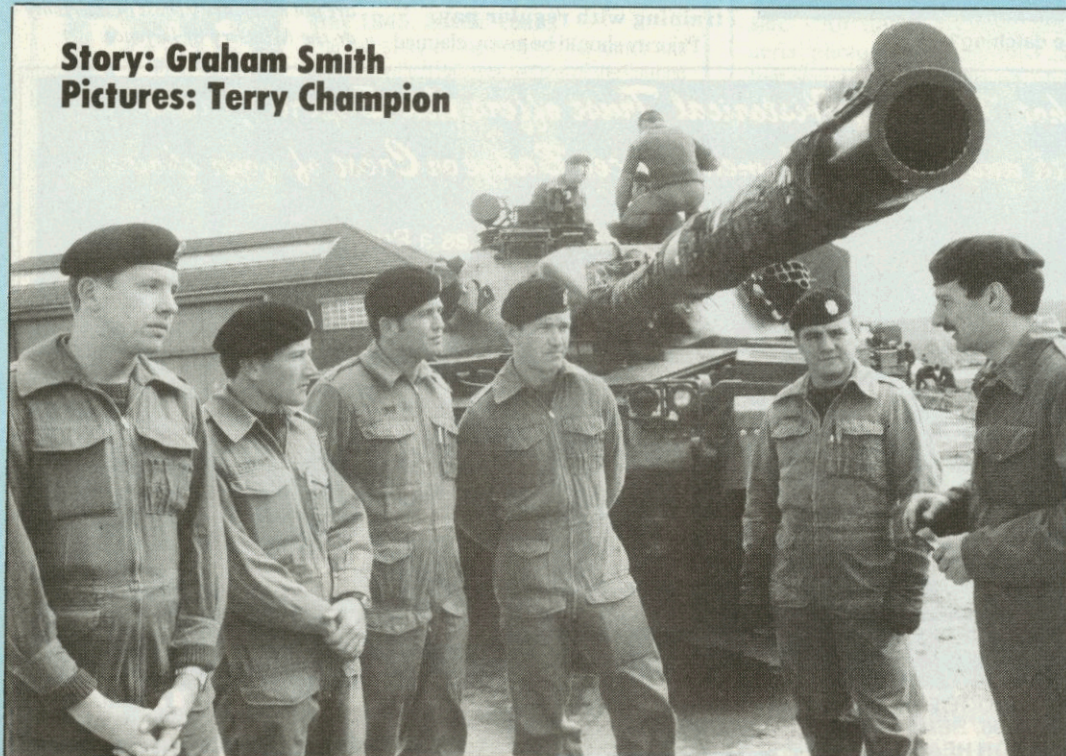


Inside the simulator, Trooper Darren Ferris and L Cpl Allan Currey



Cpl Bryan Gough, 'A' Sqn, 1st Armoured Regiment, tries out a headset for size and seems to like what he hears

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion



His verdict? "They'd all make reasonable Chieftain drivers. They're quick learners."

The Australians had driven the 54-tonne Chieftain across all sorts of terrain — road, cross-country and knife-edge steps.

All fifteen of them had passed with flying colours.

Others were clustered round the barrel's Muzzle Reference System (MRS) taking in details from another 'Skins' instructor.

Meanwhile, in two classrooms other Australians were literally getting to grips with the Chieftain's 7.62 mm machine gun. Same in calibre to the German MG 3 version arming Leopard 1.

At Tidworth they were being put through the shouted drills for gunners operating it.

But action was promised for the visitors. Action such as live firing down at Lulworth on the ranges from no less than three Chieftains.



In the CIM turret, left to right, Roddy Garrigan, John Gordon, Mick Botterill — he's in the turret — and Lieutenant Craig Burn



Clansman explained by L Cpl Willie Young to Trooper Graeme Walker (left) and Sgt Leon Kelly

Watching their efforts, Major General Simon Cooper, Director Royal Armoured Corps.

Another "must" while in the region of Dorset for the Aussie tankies was the Tank Museum at Bovington; then a five-day exercise on Salisbury Plain; and educational visits to the Royal Ordnance

Factory Leeds (they produced Chieftain and now Challenger), Vickers, Portsmouth naval dockyard — to see the Mary Rose and Victory — the Army Air Corps Museum at Middle Wallop and the Armoured Vehicle sub-depot at Ludgershall, near Andover.

But it was not all work and no play during the six-week visit. Many of 'tankies' have British roots and were soon planning to deploy to all corners of the UK to see distant relatives.

Men like Trooper Ian Cummings, a 4 Troop gunner, who was planning to see his grandparents (on his father's side) for the first time "somewhere in Yorkshire." He had phoned them and they were coming to collect him in London. Ian comes from a small town called Young, about 200 kms from the Australian capital of Canberra.

On the social side, the lads liberally partook of Britain's own amber nectar when off duty. Notably, Harp lager. None of that

Castlemain Four X or Fosters for them!

"It took quite a bit of getting used to at first," said Trooper Graeme Walker. "And, of course, it was warm by our standards. But it's OK!"

Some of guest Antipodean officers had the chance to go horse riding, courtesy of six stabled resident nags belonging to 'Skins' officers.

Lieutenant Ron Stewart, the 4 Troop Leader said: "Your saddles and ours are somewhat different but we soon get used to it. We were invited to go out on a hunt but we politely declined."

Corporal Chris Fredericks, a Troop Corporal said: "We've noticed how all your officers trail around with their dogs. Ours have kangaroos. But they are house-trained kangaroos!"

Humour in uniform there was. And plenty of it.

But there was a planned serious side, too. On the eve of their departure the Australians intend to hold either a dawn or dusk service to mark ANZAC day at Fovant, a location where hills are covered with commemorative, landscaped badges.

A fitting tribute by them to their fallen of two world wars. An appropriate honour in gratitude for those sacrifices made by young men from a world 12,000 miles away.

'A' Squadron's motto is "Possomus" ("We can"). During a memorable and invigorating stay for all concerned... they did!

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Jam buttie fritter on TA menu

A COMPOTE of two dozen combat-kitted TA cooks let their culinary imaginations come to the fore during a qualifying heat for the TA Army Field Cookery Competition to be held at Aldershot at the end of this month.

Concoctions ranging from compo-inspired lasagne to combat iced flan. From the French-sounding Pilchard Surprise to deep-fried jam buttie fritters laced with cinnamon, writes Graham Smith.

Working under canvas shrouded by cam netting in a copse near Larkhill the cooks out in the field, including two girls, were competitively dishing up their fare during the South West District heat.

Winners again this year were 219 Wessex Field Hospital, RAMC, based at Keynsham, near Bristol, who piquantly pipped their nearest rivals, 235 Squadron, RCT, of Bristol, by 257½ points to 223.

Sharing joint third slot in the six team event — each comprising four members — were 'A' and 'B' Teams of 6LI drawn from Bodmin, Truro, Falmouth and Bath. They succulently stirred up 218 points each.

Sharing the two lower places in the opinions of the four Army Catering Corps inquisitors of field kitchen cuisine from HQ South West District were 232 Sqn, RCT, Plymouth (196¼ points) and 233 Sqn, RCT, Southampton (172¼ points).

The quartet of adjudicators each had to taste a designated menu course at each of the squadron sites during the permitted 15-minute assessment sessions with marks given for originality and presentation.

The competition comprised two main sections. A military phase involving a test in 30-metre range marksmanship — the girls, too —



Photos: Paul Haley

first aid, PT, map reading, vehicle and kit inspections and the rigours of an assault course, the latter facility loaned by 22 Engineer Regiment, RE, at nearby Perham Down.

Then came the field cookery phase when the half dozen teams were judged on the siting and organisation of a field kitchen and the production of a three-course meal for a notional 20 ravenous soldiers.

The entrants had to use compo rations with the addition of some basic ingredients and the issue supplements. For this, they were allowed £5 per team to buy these tasty extras to add flavouring.

Not only was it a testing time, as it were, for the judges, each sampling a differing entry six times, but it was busy, too, for the taste-bud tempting teams.

After all, a total of 300 marks was possible in the contest which had been split into four phases over a 48-hour period.

Each team was allowed just 15 minutes against the wrist watch and deft penmanship of the millboard-toting testers. In this quarter hour, they had to serve up piping hot dishes fit not just for the gourmet soldier but the gourmand battlefield gladiator as well.

So it was. The hot box operators slaved over their high-pressure burners. Cutlery was burnished. Blanched and bleached table linen was laid out. Steam and associated appetising smells spumed from

aluminium containers. Cooking utensils cut, portioned or smoothed oven-prepared victuals at the eager hands of the part-time cooks. Few of them, incidentally, had everyday connections with the world of cuisine at whatever level.

The jury of judges inspected, withdrew, re-grouped and exchanged animated viewpoints on the offerings just seen. Two words seemed to re-occur to those standing nearby... "good effort!"

The previous day's induction seemed to have heightened the teams' catering keenness on exam day. Introductions such as the assault course with one man and his team completing it in three minutes 19 seconds. Sgt Ken Manning of 245 Sqn, RCT, a sheet metal press maintenance man when not in TA kit. A man of 52!

Also successful were the two girls. Privates Mandy Hicks of 6 LI and Mary Strode — "my dad used to be in The Blues and Royals" — from Southampton and 233 Squadron, RCT.

But back behind the improvised hot plate, Cpl Peter East of 245 Sqn, who dices onions with the best of them — he is an HGV mechanic — was taking part in his fifth cook-off contest.

Topping off the team's main entrée meat crumble pie submission, he said: "I think we have a good chance. Our sweet entry is combat iced flan. Compo oatmeal blocks topped by icing sugar. It is normally a secret recipe but we are prepared to tell SOLDIER."

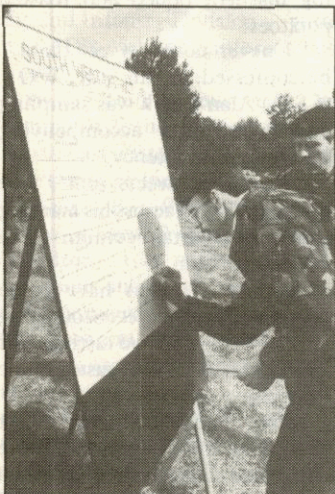
The sweet taste of success. WO 1 (SSM) Alan Spark and tentative probe watched by ACC fellow judge, Major Albert Hampson

A few yards away, under the same clump of trees, Sgt Gerry Almond, a Torbay hospital catering manager from 232 Sqn, RCT, said he got £2.64 change from his fiver for the extras. With it, he bought stock cubes, cooking fat, tomatoes, onions and two jars of flavouring substances.

His pièce de culinary resistance: a pastry-based Devon surprise based in brandy sauce.

The impending and fast-moving victorious 219 Wessex Field Hospital team had straightforward

Continued on page 18



Last results entered on the board. Onlooker Captain Don Sinclair of the South-West District catering region



You, too, can vault obstacles on any assault course. Cpl Ken Manning, 52, takes a hot box in his celebratory stride



▲ Old techniques are sometimes the best. Pte Mandy Hicks, of 6 LI in spud-peeling session

HGV mechanic Cpl Peter East of 245 Sqn, RCT, and onions without tears ▼



Two more palates under test. Left, Captain Mark Beardsell watches while Major (QM) John Melody tries out a vol-au-vent variation

theories on success in such a contest.

"Consistency all through. From first to last. Every course as good as the other," said Cpl Andy Blackhall, a catering manager when not on drill nights and annual camp.

"Keep the stuff hot. It's got to be hot. Presentation and originality count, too," said Staff Sergeant Jim Dale, a chef with Rolls Royce.

Two entitled viewpoints, 219 took third place in last year's TA Army finals. They had, by the time day had dawned, taken a ten-point lead over their closest competition rivals.

"Speed is part of the name of the game," said cold storeman Lance Corporal Richard Sullivan. "We've only got 45 minutes to set up. But it's all good fun. It's the camming-up and driving side I'm really into."

"They do the cooking and I'll do the eating," he joked, deftly twisting some cam netting round a conifer branch.

It was his team that came up with Pilchard Surprise, pronounced in the international language of the kitchen... French. Escoffier, the Master Chef, would have indeed been proud!

The judges had been expecting some sort of soup; instead, cold starter pink-coloured escalope shell-moulded pilchards.

On a lower plain, hospital seamstress Private Mandy Hicks

from 'D' Company — Bodmin and Truro — of 6LI was happy enough swapping needle and thread for a stint of good old spud peeling.

Meanwhile, millboards ever at the ready, the four itinerant officer testers had their hands — though not their mouths — full.

Captain Mark Beardsell sampled the differing soups. Major (QM) John Melody munched on neat portions of the main meat courses. Major Albert Hampson broke a habit of later lifetime... testing mashed, boiled and roasted potatoes!

"I never normally eat them," he confessed. At his side, WO 1 (SSM) Alan Spark was sampling the sweets and accompanying sauces for consistency.

"I don't eat sweets, either," he said, pen sliding across his marking sheet into a certain column. "I'm a savouries man."

The ACC judges have to be understanding and yet encouraging in their duties of food tasting. But it can have its less than gastronomic delights.

Major Hampson recalled: "Last year, I had to taste soup at one particular squadron site on half a dozen occasions for the benefit of a TV crew covering the event. It was really quite revolting. Really horrific."

On a more complimentary culinary note, he added: "Overall, the standard this year has been very good. Any soldier would be highly satisfied with this fare in the field especially if it were a cold and miserable day. Some entrants, however, have been trying to be a bit too adventurous."

"We do know that soldiers can go out into the field on exercise and open a can to make a hot, enjoyable meal. But a bit of skill, a bit of extra enterprise can produce something out of the usual; something unusual. A competition like this gives us, the judges, a chance to look at the TA overall field cooking capability. There were a lot of good efforts here today."

With offerings like Pilchard Surprise, meat crumble pie, jam buttie fritters and combat iced flan the TA looks like long being relied upon to dish up the gastronomic unusual. And all of it edible.

As the presenter of the prizes, Colonel Keith Brown, TA Colonel (West) and Deputy Commander 43 Brigade — it is headquartered at Exeter — told them: "We are all soldiers first and specialists afterwards. Yesterday you all showed very firmly you were

soldiers. I think that is something to keep in mind.

"You showed you really know your stuff. You showed you had sufficient energy. You have also shown us your specialist skills

today. You were doing a real job as you would on exercise. Because if you don't feed the guys on exercise they will certainly let you know. You are very important. I am delighted to see the professional

way in which you are doing your job today.

"I am sure you all found it worthwhile. We, the watchers and judges, all found it very worthwhile."



Colonel Keith Brown, Colonel TA (West) hands over shield and plaques to winners, 219 Wessex Field Hospital, RAMC, and Staff Sgt Jim Dale

NORTH-EAST'S TA BOOST

NORTH-EAST District is proud of its Army traditions and its contribution towards them. It produces one-fifth of all the Army's regular manpower and one-third of the TA.

The district is home to 12,000 Regulars, 11,000 Territorials and 5,000 cadets.

It also produces a division — the 2nd Infantry Division — with its BAOR wartime reinforcement role.

In the coming four years, in common with the rest of the nation, North East District will be making a substantial increase in its TA numbers. By 1990 it will have raised a new Yeomanry recce squadron, two more infantry battalions and mount an increase in the number of artillery, medical, transport and supply assets.

In all, a total of 1,300 new posts as part of the Government's 1981 reserve forces' expansion plan. A two-phase programme to improve existing units which started in 1982. In the next four years, more than 8,000 new posts will be established in the UK.

Outlining the changes, Major

General Charles Guthrie, GOC North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division said: "Since I have been here I have been enormously impressed by the Regular and Territorial soldiers I have met throughout the district."

The 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers are to be re-titled 1st Battalion Yorkshire and Cleveland Volunteers and will be formed in North Yorkshire and Cleveland, part of the "old stamping ground" of The Green Howards. Battalion HQ and HQ Company remain in York for the "foreseable future" with companies at Guisborough, Middlesbrough, Harrogate, Northallerton.

This, said the GOC, will enable the infantry to draw upon an area for recruits which historically has produced "some of our finest soldiers."

The 8th Battalion, Light Infantry will be formed. A new title and a new battalion. Battalion HQ and HQ Company will form in Wakefield with companies in Wakefield, Pontefract and Batley.

"It is pleasing to see the Light Infantry coming back again in Yorkshire in strength," said

General Guthrie. "Many will recall the old King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, one of our most distinguished regiments. The Batley company is off to a good start already."

Another new battalion and title will be formed with the creation of the 4th Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers. It will be a Home Defence battalion. Battalion HQ and HQ Company will be at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, with companies in Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield.

"It is a South Yorkshire battalion, in fact. We are looking for recruits and expanding our efforts to find them," said the GOC. "The effect of all these moves will be to achieve a much more coherent pattern of the inherent structure of the TA in the District, with far better defined and compacted recruiting areas."

Turning to non-infantry enhancements the GOC said that in the Newcastle area a new yeomanry recce squadron for the Queen's Own Yeomanry (QOY) was to be raised and based at Cramlington. It would be the Northumberland Hussars Squadron.

"We are delighted that the Queen has agreed to visit the new squadron in July to open officially the new drill hall," he said.

Also in the offing was 101 Field Regiment with its Gosforth HQ which will gain six more guns and three more observation parties. In addition, 201 General Hospital based on Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, will expand by about 100 beds and will be seeking some 100 more qualified SRNs and some extra doctors.

In Sheffield 212 Field Hospital was to be expanded by 200 beds. Again, there was a need for more medical officers and nursing staff.

At RAF Leeming a new airfield damage repair (ADR) squadron — 234 Field Sqn, RE — was being raised for home defence.

Looking back and, simultaneously ahead, General Guthrie said that last year's Army priority had been training for home defence and, in particular, Exercise Brave Defender. This year, however, was one for concentration on training at a low level.

"It is a year of recruiting and consolidating on what has been achieved," he said.

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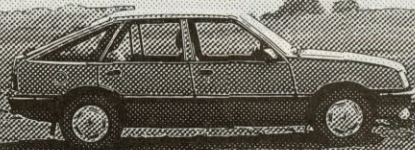
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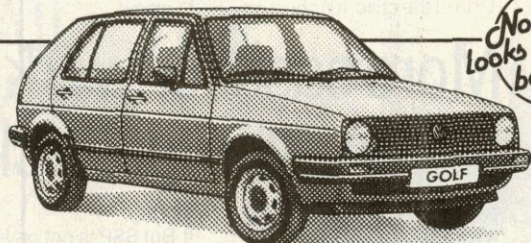
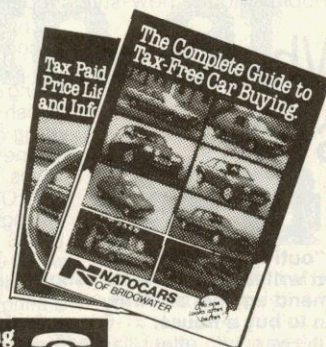
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DISTURBANCE is considered to be one of the major causes of PVR. The average tour length is less than two years, some a good deal less.

Would it not be better for all concerned if tours could be between four and six years? At least this would create a feeling of some stability as opposed to the perpetual upheaval of moving.

This was brought home

to me after visiting a regiment recently returned from a two-year overseas tour, and the obvious relief they all felt at the prospect of staying out for the next five years.

Five years of continuous

education for their children and themselves; five years of employment (hopefully) for wives, and five years without the financial drain incurred at each posting.

Having friends and relations around is also good therapy as is the stability of staying in one house for a reasonable time.

Being on two-year tours is akin to being on a treadmill; a disturbing fact

It's time to stop the two-year treadmill

tor, especially moving home which rates No. 3 in the Stress League Table.

The oft-quoted remark: "We can plan for our

children, our holidays and our financial commitments" would then have

some real meaning as two years is too short a time to settle and make plans.

Talking to people over the years I have gained the

impression that the location of a posting is of lesser importance than actually

during the five years.

This suggested four to six year posting would

period and tailored to suit the PSA and the occupiers. This in turn would raise MQ decorative standards and go some way to solving many of the current problems if accompanied service is to remain Army policy.

Whether a five-year overseas tour would be as welcome as a five-year tour in the UK is open to

question.

But the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment has just finished a five-year tour in Fallingbommel and returned to their base at Canterbury.

We know BAOR is a "home" posting, but being there is still away from home!

It would be interesting to hear if the five years at

Fallingbommel gave the families a sense of stability concerning the factors I have mentioned.

Disturbance is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as interruption, agitation, tumult, interference and a whole lot more.

Who can say they haven't experienced all of these and much more besides? I know I have.

TEENAGERS WITHOUT A NUMBER

NINE YEARS ago I spotlighted the fact that Service school leavers overseas were not being issued with National Insurance numbers on their 16th birthday.

The problem is still unresolved. They are still leaving school without a new-style NI plastic number card.

When tax is due on a loan

An "outraged" correspondent writes to tell of a tax demand against an Army loan to buy a house.

"It was in effect an advance from my gratuity as I have completed 20 years service," he says. As my gratuity is tax free, why am I being taxed on an advance from it?"

The loan the writer refers to is from the Assisted House Purchase Scheme, not an advance from his gratuity.

His gratuity is not assessed until he leaves the Service as for some reason he may not complete his 22 years.

But it is an interest-free loan and the tax demanded is on the **notional interest**.

This operates in a similar way to the tax payable by an employee who has a company car. The Inland Revenue assess this as income and demand tax.

However, if his combined loan and mortgage does not exceed £30,000 he pays no tax. Over that amount, payment is due on the notional interest.

For a fuller explanation see DCI J Army, 173 of 1984, and the Paymaster-in-Chief's instructions para 140 of 1984.

were in the same position.

It turned out that 132 16-year-olds had not received their plastic card and number on attaining their 16th birthday. All left, or will leave school without this vital document. I would emphasise that this is only one overseas secondary school.

The reason for this problem is because most Service wives receive their child benefit allowance through their husband's Service pay account.

This means that when a child reaches 16 — school-leaving age — he should receive from the DHSS his NI number, but because he is listed with the service computer, not the DHSS computer, there does not exist a method of transferring his details from one computer to another and receiving his little plastic card.

It's a *Catch 22* situation: you have a job, but you have no card. No card — no job, no contribution record. Result: confusion and frustration.

Letters have been flowing on this subject between officialdom and myself for the past nine years.

Again our dependant teenagers are classed as second-class citizens, yet a manual process could so easily be set up to right this wrong.



names, surname and present or last school.

With your help, we might get something done before the tenth anniversary of my first writing about this problem.

Watch it!

Returning from abroad? If so, remember there are restrictions on what plants and meat you can import, to prevent pests and diseases entering the UK. Check the regulations and declare all your plant and meat imports to Customs.

Forms could easily be held overseas as is done with the YTS. These could be completed as before, when computers did not confuse what was a simple exercise. (See DHSS Form CF(N)707).

If your children are 16 and without a NI number, write to me with your child benefit number, date and place of birth of the child, full christian

More cash for working wives who go sick

Good news for working wives eligible for sickness benefit as April 6 saw new statutory sick pay (SSP) rates come into effect.

■ If you earn £74.50 or more a week and claim SSP you will now receive £46.75 instead of £44.35 a week. A rise of £2.40.

■ If you earn £55.50 but less than £74.50 you are entitled to £39.20 instead of £37.20 — an increase of £2 a week.

■ If you earn at least £38 a week but less than £55.50 you will now get £31.60 instead of £30. A rise of

£1.60. But SSP is not payable to employees whose average weekly earnings are less than the lower earnings limit for Class 1 national insurance contributions, which is now £38. Until April 6 it was £35.50.

The new SSP scheme replaces the employee's entitlement to State sickness benefit which was, before April 6, payable by an employer for a maximum of eight weeks of sickness in a tax year. Now this maximum has been increased to 28 weeks.

Get switched on about heaters

Before summer-storing your portable heater give it a safety check. Don't leave it until the next cold snap. **Electric heaters:** check the element and wiring for damage. **Oil heaters:** these should be cleaned regularly, especially

the heating and reflective surfaces, and tested in the open air. **Butane heaters:** check tubing — especially at connections. If you're unsure about your heater, get it checked by an expert.

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

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Sign on now for a summer berth at sea

SUMMER and sailing go together... and as in the past the London Sailing Project is offering berths for the sons of serving soldiers.

This year places are open for eight youngsters between 15 and 20 for weekend and week-long cruises on one of three boats.

And the even better news is that you don't need sailing experience to take part.

For the aim of the project is "to

provide opportunities for those living in London and the Home Counties to acquire those attributes of a seaman — a sense of responsibility, resourcefulness and team work which will help them throughout their lives."

Not such hot news, perhaps, for those living outside the designated areas, but for those eligible it's the chance of a lifetime.

So why not take up this marvellous offer? All you have to do is write to me at SOLDIER indicating which cruise you would like.

The age limits and dates for the cruises are: **The Donald Searle** (16-20), can accommodate two lads for the weekends of May 2-5 and 16-18 and May 30-June 1.

The only stipulation is that the two chosen must attend all three weekend courses.

The other courses are a week long:

Rona from June 28-July 4 (16-20); and the **LSP** — a 57 ft ketch — from August 9-15 (15-16½).

There is one other week-long course, but that is already booked by Gordon Boys' School. But reserves are needed should either of their applicants not be able to attend. The dates for this course are July 26-August 1.

Cost of these courses is £24 including transport from London to Southampton with pick-up points at Tolworth and Guildford. So get your names in fast, as it is a first come, first served arrangement.

The sons of serving soldiers have won awards which take them some way towards a chance of crewing in the international tall ships race.

For those taking the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, this project counts as a residential qualification.

So even if you have never been to sea before, here's a chance for some adventure and responsibility as a watchkeeper.

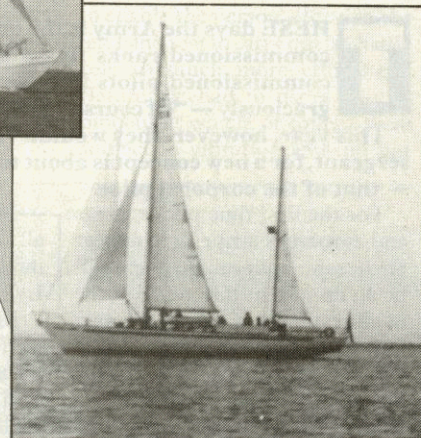
Over the years a number of lads have taken this opportunity and every one of them can testify to having had an exciting and completely different experience.

Already one of last year's award winners from Gordon Boys' School has been working on the boats helping to prepare them for this year and swotting up for his cruise as a watchkeeper and his turn at the wheel.



RONA

SAIL AWAY



DONALD SEARLE



LSP3

Where nurses sign on

I am a State Enrolled Nurse living in Gibraltar until January 1987. Am I correct in thinking that nurses overseas have to apply for re-registration to the Nursing Board before 1987?

Mrs M BFPO 52.

The address to write to for

application to go on the Nurses' Update Register is: UK Central Council, 23 Portland Place, London, W1N 3AF. Check with your local unit for an application form as 3,000 have been distributed to the Services.

Split your tax and cut the taxman's take

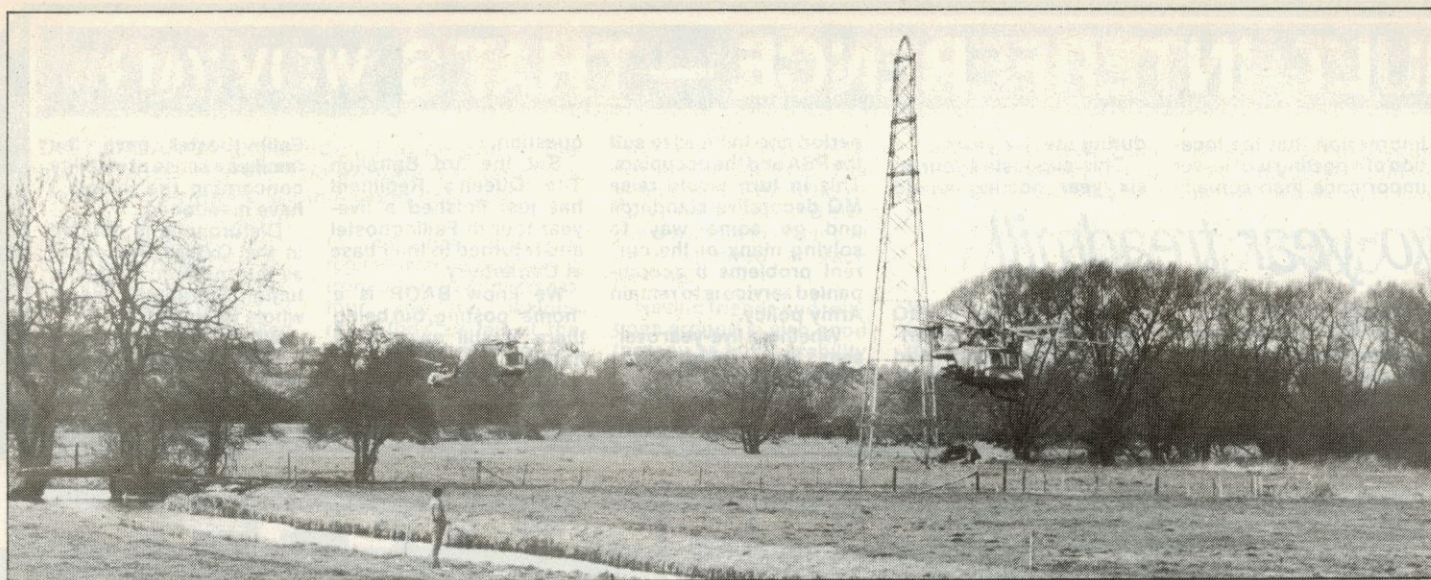
Did you know that you might pay less income tax if you and your wife or husband elect to pay your tax separately?

The Inland Revenue's leaflet, **Income Tax — Wife's Earnings Election**, explains that if you

jointly earn at least £23,794 you could benefit from this scheme.

To find out more you can get a free copy of the leaflet at any tax office or PAYE inquiry office.

Look for the address under Inland Revenue in the phone book.



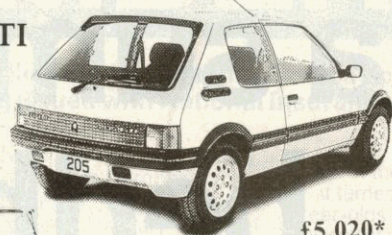
◀ Tactical flying. Two Lynx lead three Gazelles under the power lines



Tactical cover in a forest clearing. A Gazelle in the foreground — three Lynx behind

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NOW IT'S CORPORAL PILOTS

THESE days the Army is the only Service which has non-commissioned ranks flying aircraft. And this enables commissioned pilots in other Services to be reminded graciously — “Of course, in the Army you’d be a sergeant!” This year, however, they wouldn’t even need to have reached sergeant, for a new concept is about to enter the Army Air Corps — that of the corporal pilot.

For the first time pilot’s wings and corporal’s stripes will appear on the same uniform. But there will be an important difference in the qualification they give to the man who wears them. The corporal pilot will be concerned exclusively with flying: it will not be his job to command the aircraft.

To qualify, the corporals will have to fly solo, but their training will concentrate on handling skills rather than tactical flying.

Since 1973 the AAC has had a two-man crew system — a pilot and an aircrewman who acts as an observer in the light reconnaissance Gazelle helicopters and a gunner in the anti-tank Lynx. The aircrewman isn’t a qualified pilot but he has been taught to a sufficiently high flying standard to enable him to recover the aircraft safely should anything happen to the pilot.

What has now occurred is basically a decision to get the two to change places. The senior man moves from the pilot’s seat to the left hand seat where he will operate

all the systems within the aircraft, including the firing of TOW in Lynx.

Lieutenant Colonel Doug Fox, staff officer responsible for organisation, deployment and training policy at HQ AAC, Middle Wallop, told SOLDIER: “We will start training pilots in the new system in April and the first of these co-pilots will arrive in AAC units in January 1987.

“Gradually aircrewmembers will waste out as the equivalent number of co-pilots come in to replace them and, of course, a fairly large proportion of the present generation of aircrewmembers will become the co-pilots of the future.

“At the moment about one third of them become pilots, but we believe a higher proportion could well make it when the demands of captaincy aren’t placed upon them. A sizeable proportion fail the army pilots’ course as a result of the great pressure which is placed upon them in the final few weeks. This

will not be the case in the future.”

The aspiration of all co-pilots would be to move across to the left hand seat — an aspect that was now going to be built into the AAC pilot structure, Colonel Fox added. However, he thought it would be some time, possibly 12 to 15 years, before the final phasing out of observers.

The need for change, he continued, had started to become apparent in the days when the Scout, armed with the SS11 missile system, was in service.

“Because the captain of the aircraft is also flying the aircraft he has to devote so much of his attention to the activity of flying that he really does not have very much capacity left to command the aircraft.

“With very small numbers, this was perhaps not a real problem but now that we are using the Lynx aircraft, co-ordinated with the Gazelle in really quite large numbers to achieve shock action through the concentration of force and surprise, things are different”.

At the same time the modern battlefield was becoming extremely complex with a large array of weaponry being deployed against helicopters, ground forces increasing in sophistication, communications systems mushrooming all over the place.

It became increasingly clear that the commander of the aircraft would have to be moved from the pilot’s seat so that he could fight the battle without having to worry about the purely flying function.

The experience of the Falklands

Lynx in formation over Middle Wallop. They could soon have a corporal at the controls

campaign had shown that the work load — although relatively unsophisticated in many ways — was still so high that it was beyond the competence of one pilot to handle everything without something having to give.

“The thing which really brought it home to us was the acquisition of the Gazelle observation aid,” Colonel Fox added. “This is going to enable the person sitting in the left hand seat to carry out his battle role so much more effectively. Before, he had to use a pair of binoculars which, of course, were subject to vibration and did not

give a particularly high magnification.”

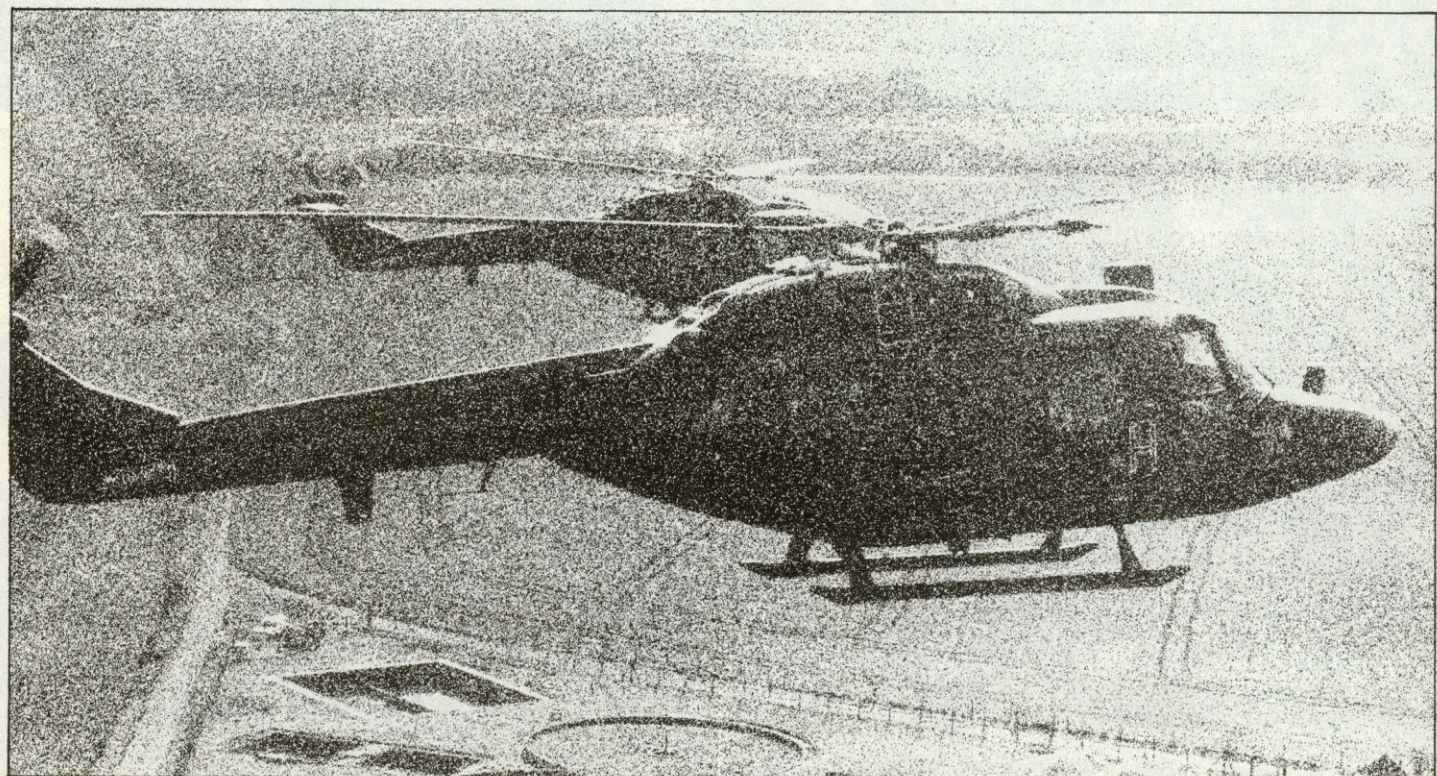
As the control of the tank-busting Lynx helicopters was very largely done from the Gazelles, it made sense to put the most senior man in a position where he could get the full benefit of the vastly improved aid to observation.

Colonel Fox drew an analogy with tank crews where the commander had all the optics and radio links to help him work out his tactical problems while his driver concentrated on piloting the vehicle.

“Of course the day of the two

man tank crew isn’t yet with us,” he added, “but when you boil it down you can see, apart from the gun loading, the two activities are broadly similar.

Colonel Fox concluded: “I think it is important to grasp that the overall capacity of the new crew will be far and away higher than the work output capability of the old style. So this is really progress. We are evolving into new areas to meet the demands of the modern battlefield.”





SOLDIER writer Robert Higson donned several extra layers of clothing and ventured out into the snow with Norwegian soldiers...

ON NORWAY'S ARCTIC BORDER

THE German conquest of Norway in 1940 was a daring venture which relied a fair bit on guile and good luck. From a professional point of view Norwegian military men can look back with some admiration at the sheer nerve of the operation. But most think that it should never have succeeded.

The vast distances in Norway, the difficult terrain, lack of roads, the often ferocious weather — are all important defensive factors which, along with adequate planning and training, ought to have been enough to have settled the invaders.

Unfortunately up to 1940 Nor-

way relied more on neutrality than military training for its security. When that policy so dramatically failed some serious re-thinking was necessary.

After the war Norway opted for collective security within NATO but added some self imposed restrictions. With only four million people living in a area the size of West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark (combined population 100 million) it was felt there were not the resources to undertake commitments outside Norway itself. Norwegian troops would therefore fight only on Norwegian soil.

In order to emphasise the purely defensive nature of the new

strategy some effort was made to reassure the large and potentially troublesome neighbour to the east. Norway, it was stated, would not be used as a platform to attack the Soviet Union, NATO troops would not be based permanently in the country nor would there be permission to stockpile nuclear weapons in times of peace.

The Norwegians also decided that only their own forces would exercise in Finnmark — the vast, sparsely populated county, one and a quarter times the size of Denmark, which abuts the Soviet Union. Allied troops practise arctic warfare in the neighbouring county of Troms — a more mountainous area and one better

Men of the Rifle Company on the move at first light

suited for defence as it can also cover attacks coming through Finland. It was on the recent NATO exercise in the Troms, incidentally, that 16 Norwegian soldiers tragically perished in an avalanche.

Apart from doing anything unduly to upset the Russians, the other prong of the defence strategy was, of course, to ensure that the next time anyone invaded the country they would be given a rather rougher ride than the Germans had in 1940.

In the event of an invasion the Norwegians would mobilise their entire economy and some 320,000

Major Sundström confers with officers of the Heavy Weapons Company before the dawn attack

fighting men (about eight per cent of the total population). As most people live in the south, elaborate plans have been made to rush reinforcements north in the event of trouble in the vulnerable Arctic region.

Meanwhile those troops based in the far north have their own task of training to survive an initial onslaught and maintain offensive operations until help arrives.

The unit nearest the Russian border is the South Varanger Garrison, not far from Kirkenes. It consists of the Border Company, which supplies guards for the

border posts, a rifle company, a heavy weapons company and an HQ company.

Half its strength is on hand at any one time. The rest won't appear until mobilisation when its numbers will double to 1,000 men.

The CO, Lieutenant Colonel Olaf Løvlien, described his garrison as a reduced battalion. It is a small unit, heavily outnumbered by neighbouring forces. Its resources include 81mm mortars, TOW anti-tank missiles, machine guns and mines, lots of them.

This is the thin front line, so to speak, and its chances of survival

in the event of any large scale attack would depend very much on its detailed local knowledge as well as its military skills.

"Winter here is of course, a special challenge," said Colonel Løvlien, "We try to give as much experience in winter warfare as possible. We don't always succeed. The skill of the soldiers on skis is not always as good as we might wish."

"But we have a dedicated core of young officers — more than 60 per cent are here for a second or third tour of duty. That is a great advantage. They know the border area. They know the geography of East Finnmark and they know how to make nature an ally."

The non-commissioned conscripts spend at most nine months with the garrison which means that the basics are being taught over and over again. This doesn't upset people in Norway's citizen army as much as it might in other full time professional forces. The concept of the citizen's duty to help defend his homeland goes back to Viking times and was enshrined in the constitution of 1814.

In any case the Norwegians have, despite the reservations of Colonel Løvlien on the skiing ability of some of his soldiers, a population which takes great advantage of the tremendous opportunities for shooting, camping, map reading and all the outdoor activities available on its doorstep.

At South Varanger the young conscripts certainly have plenty of opportunity to brush up on their skills in the wild. In the first two months of this year some had already spent three weeks out of camp, living under canvas in the frigid arctic conditions, sustained by ration packs — known familiarly as dead man in a tin — the ever popular fruit soup and vast quantities of strong black coffee.

Exercise Ulv (for wolf) was the first battalion outing for the year. Its scenario was designed to test mobility, concealment, reconnaissance and surprise attack, vital aspects of the sort of war the Norwegians could expect to fight in this area.

Enemy forces, played by soldiers from the Porsanger Garrison further west in Finnmark, staged a border crossing in strength. The South Varanger defenders were soon obliged to abandon their prepared strong points and retreat down the E6, the only road of any sort in this part of East Finnmark.

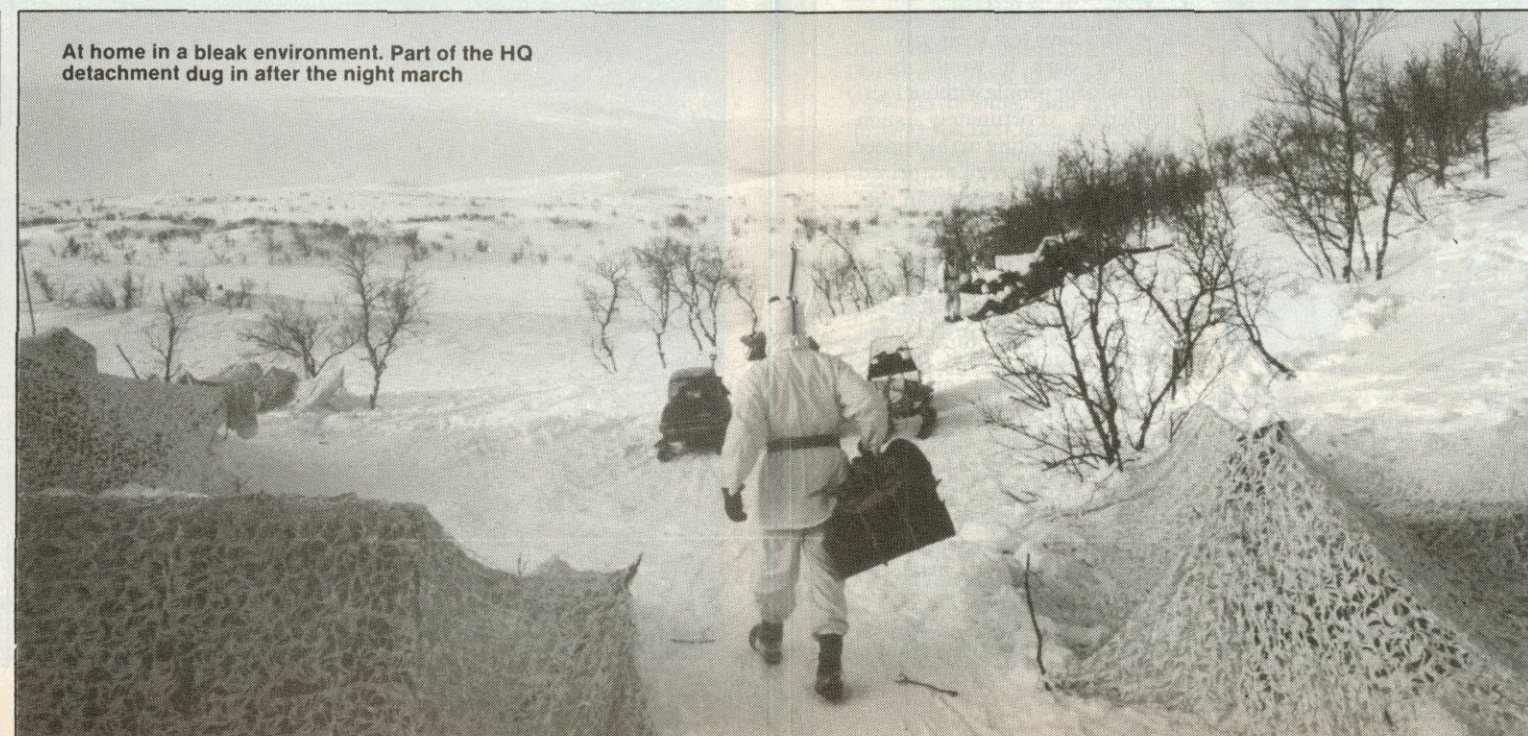
Having reached the end of the Munk Fjord, forward recon patrols reported that the road ahead had been cut by a heliborne landing. Then the order went out to ditch the wheeled vehicles and take to the countryside on skis and on BV Volvo over-snow vehicles.

On successive nights the garrison moved forward to outflank the enemy position on the road. During the day they stopped and remained hidden with vehicles and tents

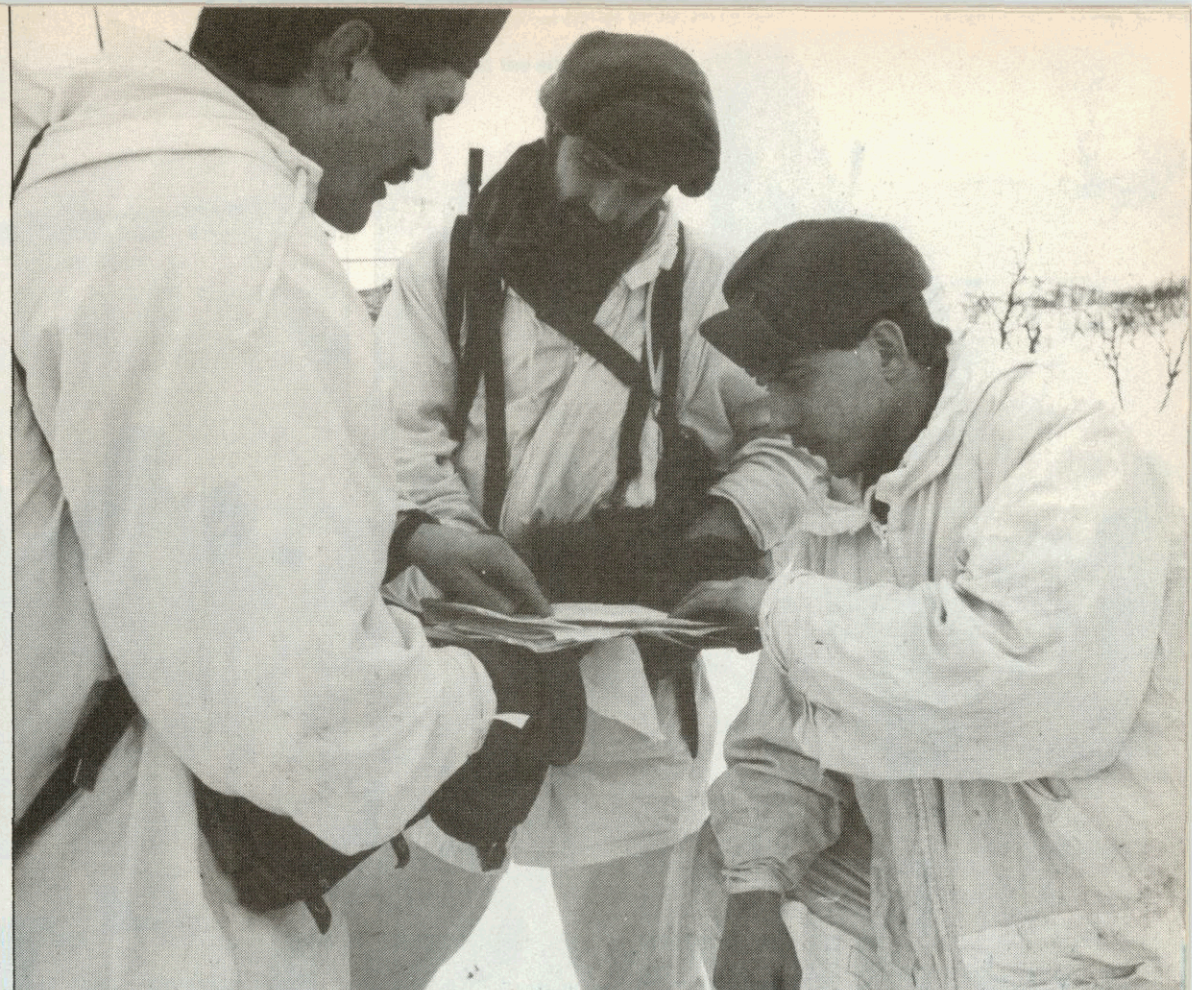
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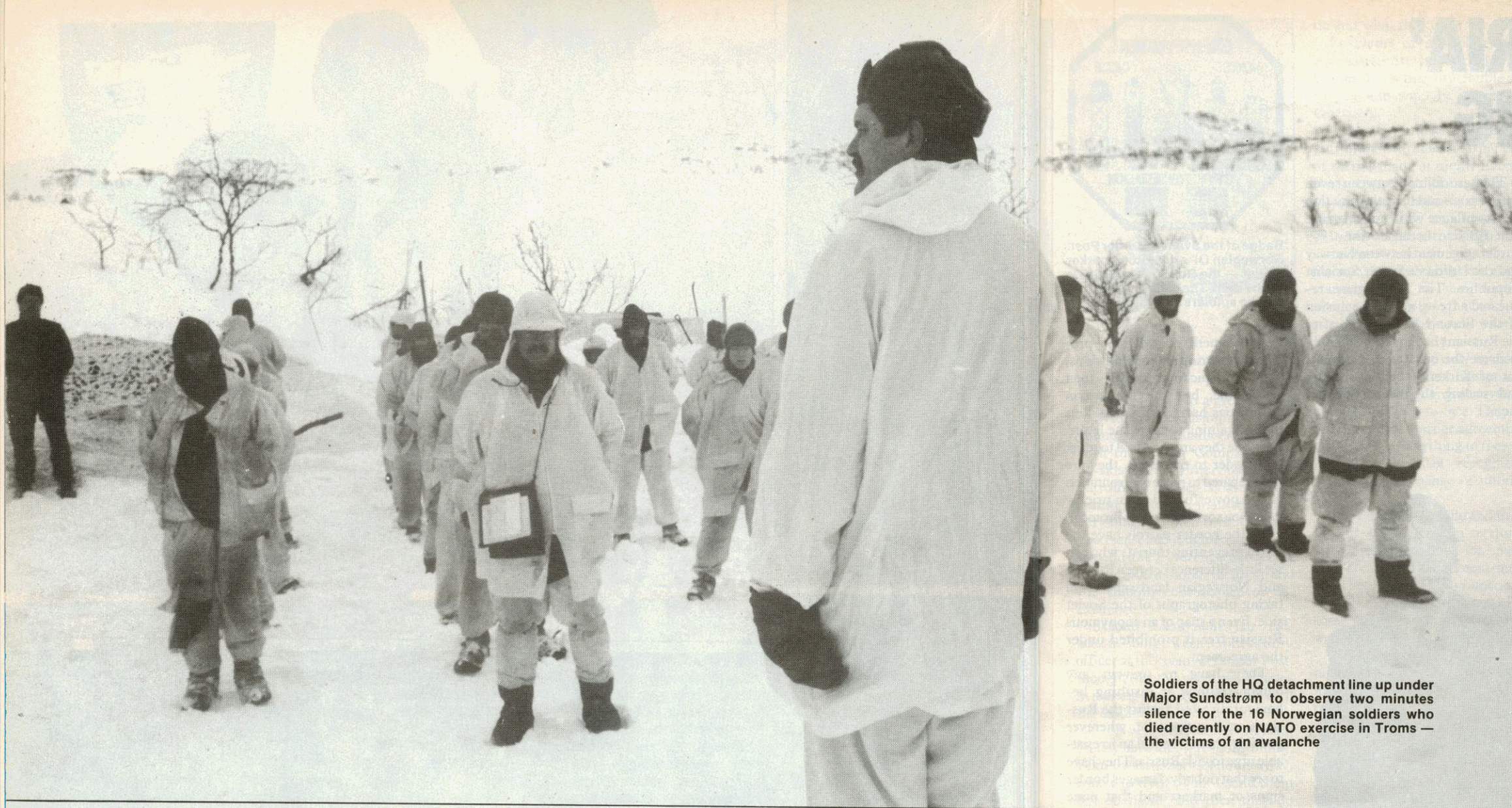


Snow scooters, being trialled for the first time in numbers on this exercise



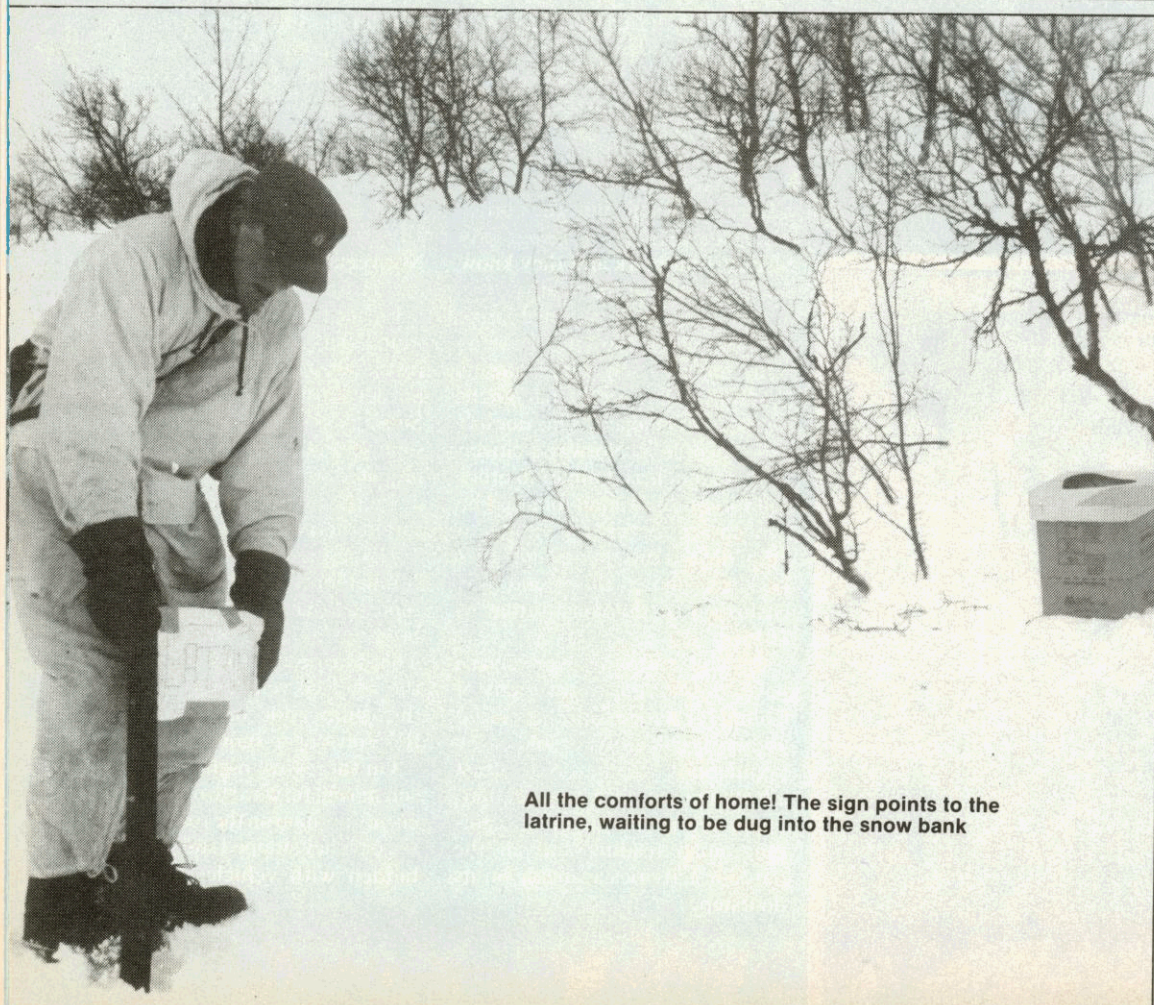
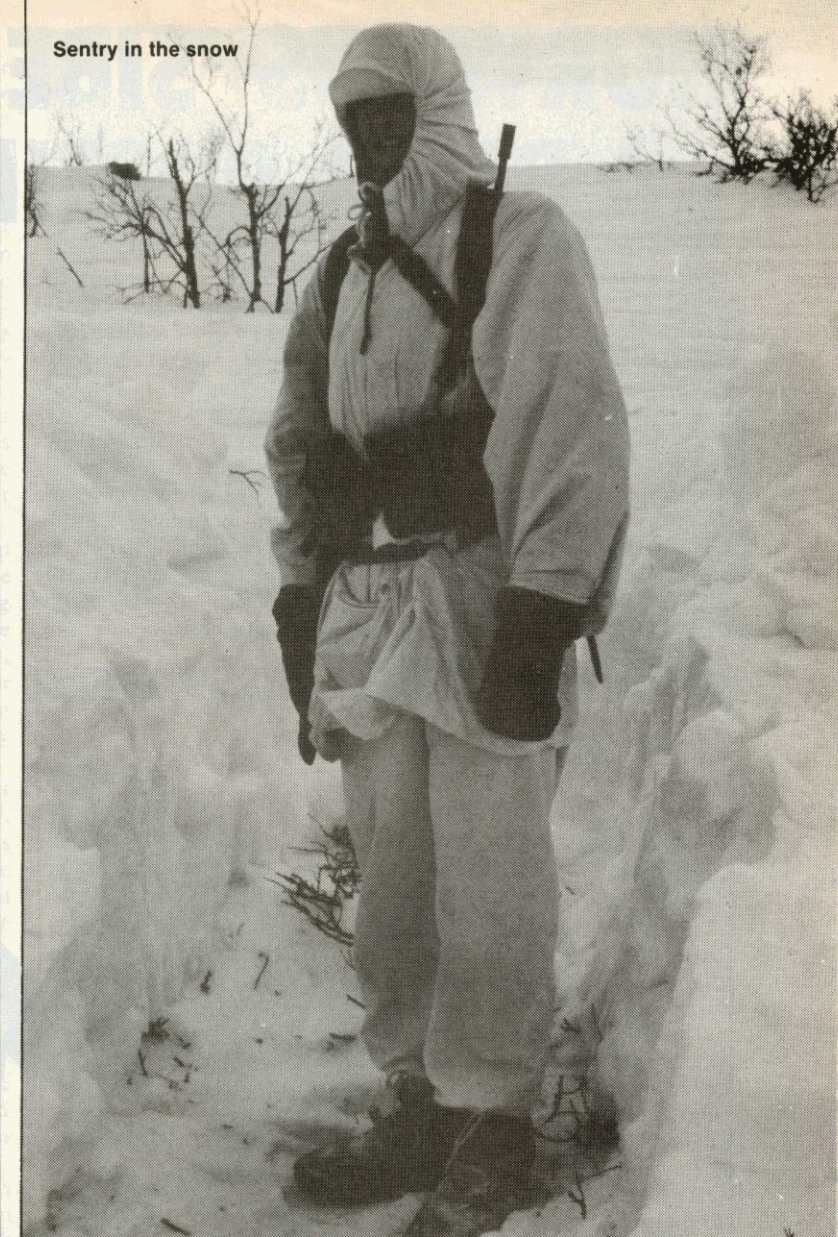
At home in a bleak environment. Part of the HQ detachment dug in after the night march





Soldiers of the HQ detachment line up under Major Sundström to observe two minutes silence for the 16 Norwegian soldiers who died recently on NATO exercise in Troms — the victims of an avalanche

Sentry in the snow



All the comforts of home! The sign points to the latrine, waiting to be dug into the snow bank

well dug in and covered with camouflage nets.

Cross-country travel in these regions isn't all that easy at the best of times. Low, rolling hills dotted with stunted birch trees provide a deceptive appearance. Deep snow drifts can trap the unwary, while the featureless landscape offers little direction to those who have lost their way.

In the dark it would be a nightmare for people without local knowledge. Fortunately such pastimes as shooting in the winter or fishing for the region's prized salmon in the summer mean that officers of the garrison are well acquainted with these areas.

Nevertheless, moving 400 men plus their vehicles and equipment over rough terrain in virtually total darkness is quite a task. On the first night soft snow made the going very difficult. On the second, despite delays and mechanical problems, things went a lot better.

"The snow conditions were just the same," reported Major Bror Sundström, the Garrison 2 IC who was in command during the exercise. "We were able to use snow scooter tracks that the civilians made. Because of that it

went really fine. But I think in the newspaper next week we will hear that we destroyed the tracks."

Major Sundström was pleased that aerial reconnaissance during the night had revealed virtually nothing of the 23-vehicle column with the exception of the lights of the snow scooters on the flank.

Brigadier Ole Rønning, the commander of the Finnmark Land Defence Region, to which South Varanger belongs, said later that this was the first large exercise in which snow scooters had been trialled in any numbers.

These nippy machines, which often take the locals about their business at what seems an alarming rate, were very easy to hide, he said. Their tracks weren't quite so obvious from the air and they provided an excellent means of getting away fast.

Ulv involved a fair bit of intelligence input with reports of marines storming ashore in attacks from the fjords further up the E6. Against this background a dawn attack had to be prepared on an enemy regimental HQ which had been located and identified by the ski-borne reconnaissance patrols.

Major Sundström held his final

briefing in a very crowded tent at his Tac HQ. Present were officers of the Rifle Company and the Heavy Weapons Company who would have the responsibility of driving home the attack. Captain Karl Maggella, of the local Home Guard platoon, was also there, a German Schmeiser sub-machine gun draped splendidly across his chest. Many of these guns were captured when the Germans surrendered in 1945 and today they seem to be a sign of rank for Home Guard officers.

Previously Captain Maggella's men had been employed erasing the tracks of the column as it moved across the frozen River Neiden. Now they were to demolish the E6 roadbridge over the river at a nearby village.

It is not exactly a 'Dad's Army' image that the Norwegian Home Guard possesses. They are trained to blow up bridges and block roads with landslides as well as acting as guides and consultants on local conditions for the Army. The members keep their weapons and equipment at home and should be able to be mobilised within one to four hours. Their training commitment is up to six days a year

and many people, having finished their conscript service, elect to join them rather than do a couple of weeks refresher training every few years.

The following morning Brigadier Rønning headed for his debriefing to assess the results. It was the first time the battalion had moved vehicles in such numbers, he said, and it seemed that some mistakes had been made towing soldiers behind the BVs when they would have moved faster skiing on their own.

A couple of days later the whole business was due to begin again — only this time it would be the Porsanger Garrison at its base 400 kilometres to the west which would have to fend off an attack by South Varanger.

In the summer the same process will continue with the BVs "swimming" across the multitude of rivers and lakes, and large, ferocious mosquitos the enemy instead of the intense cold. But at least in June they won't have to worry about moving at night, for in midsummer in this part of the world the sun shines 24 hours a day.

It is all part of a training process

designed to produce a battalion formation which can operate as an effective guerrilla force. In the war small groups of partisans operated successfully from the security of Norway's rugged terrain. Now the idea is to produce larger bodies of men with heavier firepower and similar skills in the arts of moving at night, hiding during the day and attacking remorselessly where least expected.

Numbers they may lack, but apart from their native cunning the Norwegians have an important ally in the nature of the country itself.

Anyone attacking from the east would need to travel far and take big risks for very little gain, according to Brigadier Rønning.

"To control Norwegian waters he must get control of the main defensive area in Troms," he said. "And attack like that needs quite heavy reinforcements."

"Terrain, distances and so on can wear down troops very easily. If we can manage to keep on fighting and if we can make our effort credible so that someone really believes it, we can succeed. That, I think, is a very important deterrent."

NORWAY'S 'SIBERIA'

A PLUM POSTING

FOR some Norwegian Army conscripts the best thing that can happen is a posting to what must rate as the country's equivalent to Siberia.

It is, for most, a long way from home (a similar journey from Oslo in a different direction would get you to Rome), and it can get cold beyond belief even by the rigorous standards of the rest of Norway.

But service in the far north-

east could mean guarding the border with Soviet Russia. And that, as even those soldiers who can't wait to get back to civilisation agree, is the best job in the Army.

It is a pretty exclusive job as well, for only those carefully selected will find their way into the Border Company which supplies the 150 men to guard the 196-kilometre border from the Barents Sea, south-west to the junction with Finland.

They are divided between seven border posts and have the function of surveillance while making sure that no one breaches the 1949 border agreement between Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Norwegians requested a treaty at the conclusion of the Second World War after the Russians had invaded Norway to drive the occupying Germans out of Kirkenes before retiring and sealing the border behind them.

Badge of the Svanvik Border Post. Norwegian OP and border marker on left — the Russian equivalents on the right. The badge is unofficial but the soldiers are still allowed to wear it

Subsequent negotiations produced a string of prohibitions, some nit-picking rather than reasonable, but the Norwegian authorities have been scrupulous in maintaining them to the letter, for while they are prepared to resist an invader to the death, they are not prepared to risk a confrontation with a powerful and often prickly neighbour over matters of protocol.

So the border patrols have the job of preventing tourists who can see little difference between Russian and Norwegian landscape from taking photographs of the Soviet side. Even a snap of an anonymous Russian tree is prohibited under the agreement.

They have to prevent any demonstrations or insulting behaviour directed against the Russians, and to dissuade, wherever possible, those who feel an irresistible urge to visit Russia. They have to see that nobody damages border signs or markers and that none but Norwegian nationals go fishing in the rivers and lakes between the

two countries.

The flag goes up at Svanvik

It all adds up to a great deal of individual responsibility for the young conscript soldiers who serve with the Border Company. Out on skis in the winter, on foot or patrolling by jet boat in the summer, the two-man teams are very much on their own. On their good sense and judgment will often depend the difference between a minor international incident and the smooth continuance of co-existence.

Second Lieutenant Jan Tallaksen, doing a week's stint as duty officer at the Svanvik Border Post, thought that this was a major factor in making the duty so popular with the soldiers.

"It is very interesting," he said. "They have lots of responsibility. I can't watch them 24 hours a day, I have to trust them. I send them out on patrol and then they do everything themselves, though, of course, they know what they can

do and what they can't."

Problems of discipline were non-existent, he added. The soldiers knew that any trouble and they would soon be posted off elsewhere.

The policy is to keep up regular patrolling with at least 20 per cent of sorties made at night. Even in the bitterest conditions, when the temperature plummets to a heart-numbing -40°C and lower, the patrols still go out, though their duration is mercifully much reduced (the peaked forage cap is standard wear for temperatures above -10° . Below that and the patrols put on their cold weather hats).

Patrolling is the only occasion when the soldiers are likely to see Russian border guards at anything approaching face-to-face. They are not, under the border agreement, allowed to say anything to them or make any sign of recognition beyond the exchange of military salutes.

They are also not allowed to set foot or ski on Russian territory. In winter when thick ice covers the Pasvic River and its man-made lakes between the two countries, a row of sticks marks a patrol line some 50 metres inside the Norwegian line.

Just to make sure there are no mistakes each of the 450 border markers set on land has a carefully recorded measurement to the actual border. In the sector covered by Svanvik the distances range from 46.3 metres to 1,992.

Apart from sending out patrols Lieutenant Tallaksen's other main job as duty officer was to organise

Svanvik Border Post

the teams manning the observation posts in his sector.

Along the Norwegian side of the 196-kilometre border there are ten permanently manned OPs as well as 12 which are used occasionally. The observers scan the Soviet side with powerful binoculars, counting the movement of vehicles or boats and taking note of all activity.

In the Svanvik sector the Björnsund OP has a commanding view across the wide Pasvic valley to the Russian nickel factory at the town appropriately named Nikel. On the walls are drawings (not photographs, as that would contravene the border agreement) of important features on the other side. The observers do a three-hour shift during the day and four hours at night. At Björnsund while one man is at the top of the tower on duty at the binoculars the others can be down in the rest room watching Soviet television, without the benefit of sound or colour.

Svanvik's other OP, a rather more modest affair at Trilling, looks down on Salmiyario, the HQ of the Russian border guard unit where in autumn and winter training camps are held for new recruits.

OP duty seems particularly popular with the troops. They are out in the wilds without any supervision apart from the radio link back to the border post which the Russians sometimes interrupt, on one occasion with a snatch of opera. They organise their own shifts, their cooking and their amusements.

As one of them said: "It's fun not having an officer watching all the time."

Back at the border post there are still domestic chores. Every day one man is responsible for cooking and cleaning up as well as answering the telephone and making periodic night time checks of the perimeter.

Corporal Erik Larm on duty in the tower at Björnsund

For the rest, apart from the patrols, there is regular firing of personal weapons and practice alerts when everyone scrambles into their equipment and out to the specially prepared bunkers.

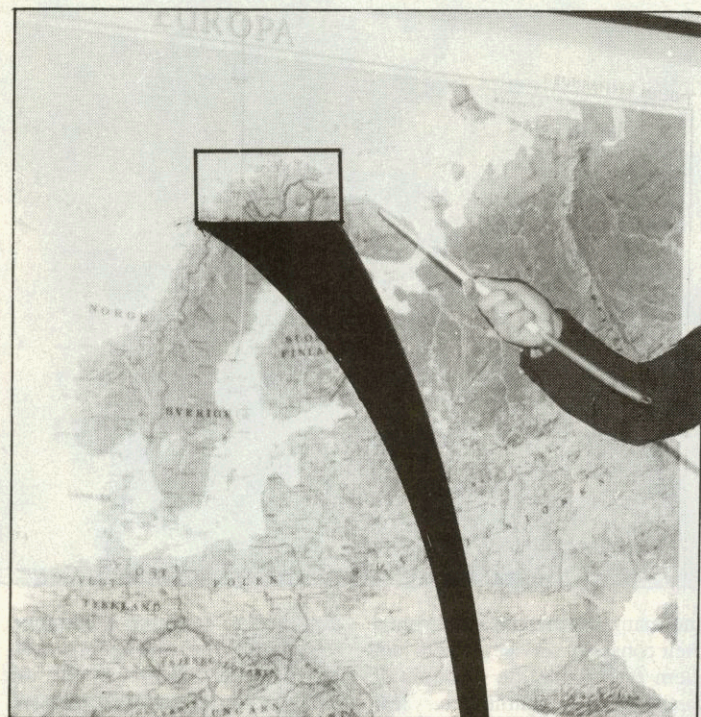
Their arms for any initial encounter would be little more than rifles, machine guns and light anti tank weapons, and in the event of any surprise attack they would certainly be completely outnumbered. It is estimated that the 150 men of the Border Company are faced by about 1,000 Russian KGB border guards with a motorised infantry division and a naval infantry brigade not far behind.

But life on the border is still a preferred option for the men who serve there — at least as far as their time in the army is concerned. They relish the life, although those from the south carefully count the days before they can get back home where the winters are not so severe or so dark and where the summer mosquitos aren't quite so big.

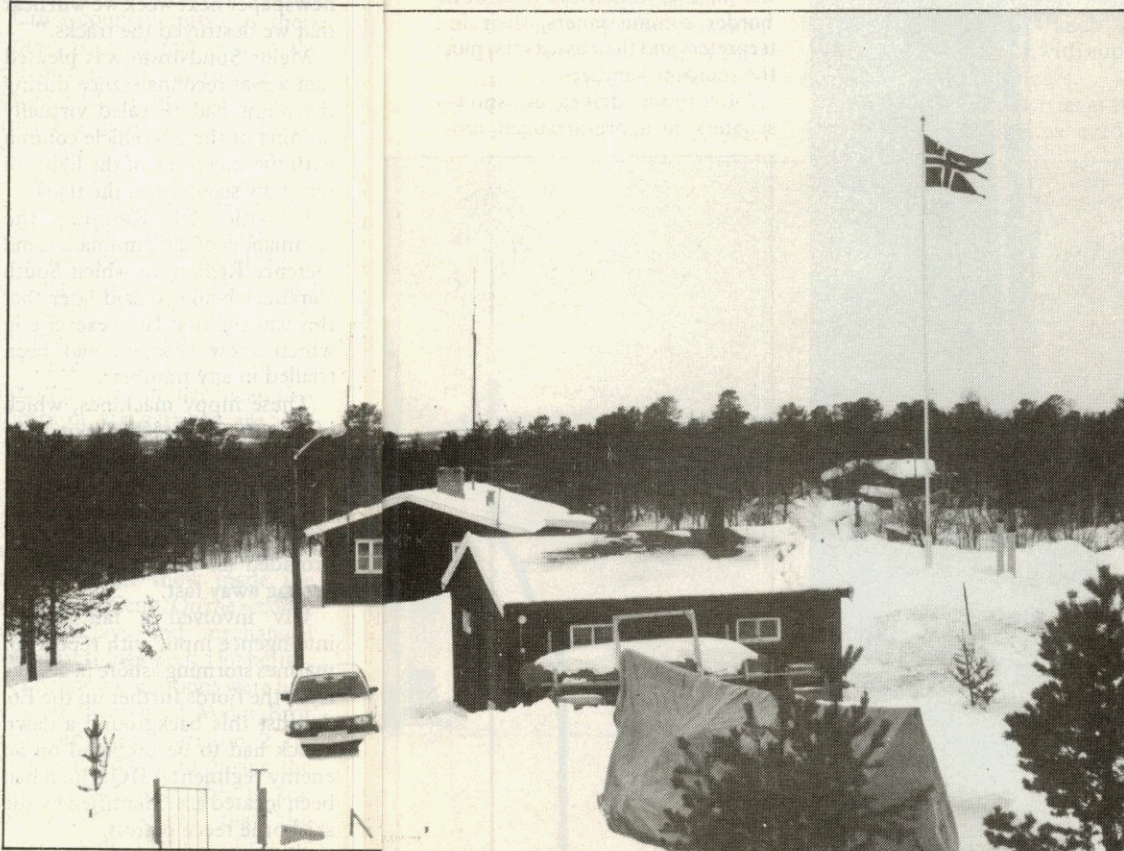
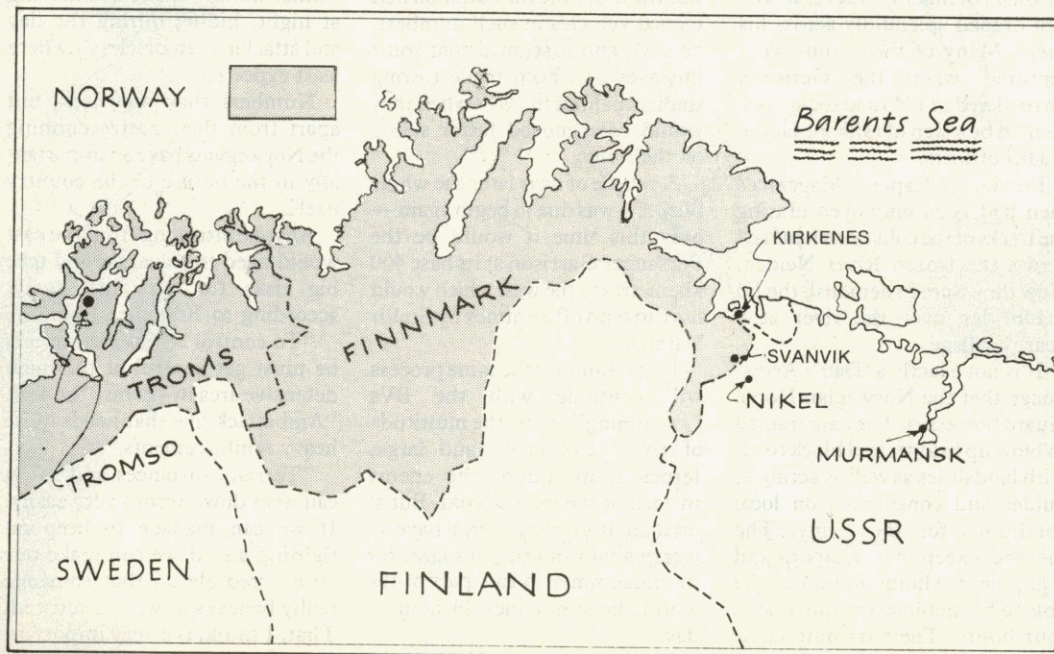
The one-year conscripts spend their first three months doing basic training in the south. They then do some months with the South Varanger Garrison, the parent unit of the Border Company. The final months of service — either three or six depending on vacancies — are spent on the border itself.

The job brings with it responsibilities and privileges. Extra leave for one thing and the knowledge that they are, as Lieutenant Colonel O-P. Lovlien, the commander of the South Varanger Garrison, explained, hand picked men.

"They are all volunteers doing National Service," he said. "They are above average in almost all areas, such as intellect, behaviour, physical fitness etc. In all respects they should be the best soldiers in the Norwegian Army."



Brigadier Inge Torhaug, Norway's Border Commissioner



ALL QUIET ON THE NORTHERN FRONT

ANYONE visiting North Norway with the hope of seeing something dramatic on the border with Soviet Russia is almost certainly doomed to disappointment. And that is the way everyone would like to keep it.

Many visitors come to the north with preconceived ideas, according to Norway's border commissioner, Brigadier Inge Torhaug, a former Air Force officer and intelligence chief.

"Visiting journalists especially envisage something dramatic and would like to take pictures of soldiers jumping out of helicopters with their guns pointing eastwards," he said. "When they ask me to stage something of this kind I always say — No! Our border is not dramatic. We have no desire that it should be and neither have our Russian counterparts."

There was considerably more drama, the brigadier added, on NATO's only other land border with Russia — the one which separates Turkish Anatolia from Soviet Georgia. A few years ago, when two Turkish soldiers had been shot dead on that border, he expressed condolences to a Turkish friend, only to be told: "We shoot

Russians on occasions too you know!"

It is Brigadier Torhaug's job to try to ensure that nothing as exciting should disturb the peace where Norwegian Finnmark meets the Soviet Republic of Murmanskaya. The Border Company answers to him for the policing of the border agreement.

"The type of border incident that can occur on the Norwegian side is in general rather trivial," Brigadier Torhaug said. "A few Russian pigs crossed over and had to be returned by Norwegian soldiers. It is slightly more complicated when a whole flock of Norwegian reindeer cross. A meeting then has to be arranged out in the wilderness with both border commissioners, their interpreters and their assistants, plus the reindeer handlers."

"Everyone drives on snow-scooters to a pre-arranged ren-



On a regular patrol Privates Petter Sulebak and Bjorn Olsen view the Russian side from alongside one of the 450 official Norwegian markers

dezvous where the officials pass the time with an improvised picnic in a nearby hut while the herders round up their animals and drive into Norway."

Last December four Russian guard dogs defected to the Norwegian side where one was shot by a civilian while the remainder tried their luck in the wild. A more regular occurrence in summer is the occasional Norwegian fisherman who ends up on the Russian

side as the result of engine trouble, and the odd tourist who thinks it might be amusing to walk round one of the Soviet border markers.

These and other matters are discussed by the border commissioners at their regular meetings, once or twice a month. On these occasions Brigadier Torhaug puts on his uniform and goes to the official border crossing at Storskog for a long day of rigid ceremonial, toasts, speeches, followed by a lavish meal and sports such as shooting and ice fishing with cups and medals for the winners.

"Having met at the barrier at 10 o'clock in the morning we even-

tually find ourselves back there again at five or six pm," the brigadier said. "At that point formality takes over once more. After a long day of eating and drinking we march as best we can past the guard of honour, thank our hosts, march exactly 20 paces into our own territory, about turn and salute each other again."

The Norwegian commissioner confessed he could well do without the intake of vodka and that he sometimes found it difficult to think of suitably innocuous toasts. Wives and families were always a good stand-by as was the hope for good driving conditions for the Soviet nickel lorries.

"But" he added, "we know each other quite well by now so the atmosphere is relaxed and good. We discuss daily life, our families, music and literature and exchange anecdotes. Politics and defence matters are not discussed."

Indeed coexistence works so well that the two countries are able to share the hydro-electric resources of the river systems running along the border. Both sides have power from two lakes apiece and the Norwegian observation post at Nakken is actually supplied by Russian electricity.

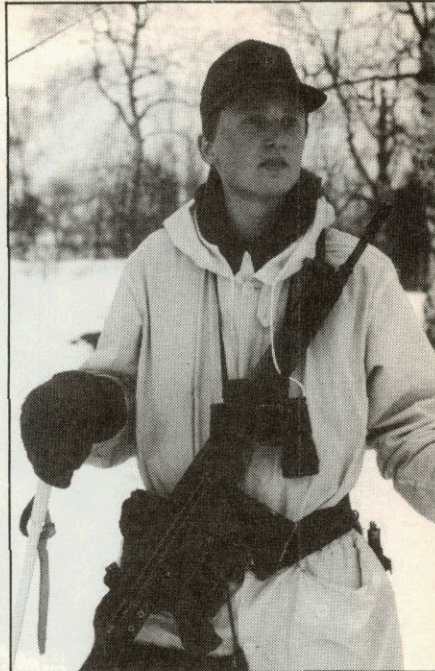
There have been alarms in the past. In 1968 on the occasion of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia 400 Soviet tanks raced along the border in a show of strength. During the war the Germans under General Dietl crossed from Kirkenes in an attempt to take Murmansk but the attack failed in the shambles of what they aptly named the Valley of Death.

In those days there was a Finnish corridor to the Barents Sea along the border, established when Finland became independent from Russia in 1917. The Finns lost their corridor when they signed an armistice with the Soviets in 1944. A month later Russian forces were driving into Norway to chase the Germans out of Kirkenes.

The Russians stayed in East Finnmark until September 1945 and then withdrew behind the border. Part of the comparatively easy relationship which now exists can be put down to the fact that they are still remembered as liberators. Some of the soldiers may have had the unfortunate tendency to regard personal property as legitimate booty, but that was nothing to the wanton destruction of houses and farms committed by the Germans as they retreated to Bodø.

There has been, as well, a tradition of negotiation rather than bloodshed during the long history of Scandinavians and Russians

The line of sticks in the middle of a frozen hydro-electricity lake between the two countries marks the patrol line 50 metres inside Norway



Private Bjorn Olsen out on patrol with binoculars and map case. He carries 40 live rounds of ammunition, but his AG rifle is not loaded

meeting in this remote area.

When the border was first formalised in 1825 a joint commission was formed and Norway, which was then linked to Sweden, was able to get surprisingly substantial concessions with what is now East Finnmark.

However the Russians weren't prepared to give up the 16th century Orthodox church at Boris Glebe — it was part of Holy Mother Russia, they said, and could not be let go. The Soviets, 100 years later, took a similar view, for different ideological reasons, so that to this day the natural border formed by the Pasvik and Jacob river systems is interrupted by an awkward looking bulge pointing at Kirkenes which contains the Russian church.

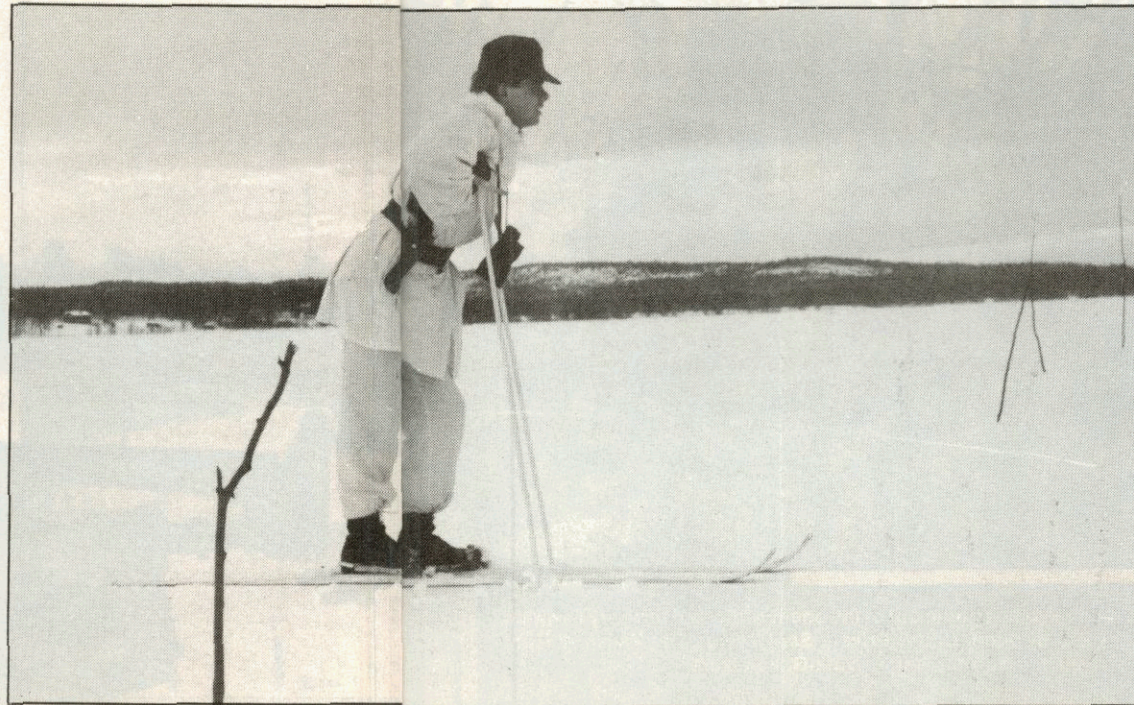
Today it is hard to think of international tensions when you look on the empty countryside dividing the NATO aligned democracy of Norway and the chief country of the eastern block. Apart from the occasional warning signs in Norwegian and English about taking photographs or shouting insults there is very little indication that the Pasvik valley, say, contains anything out of the ordinary.

You'd need a keen eye and very powerful binoculars to see anything of the two-metre high fence, built well beyond the actual border with the purpose, it seems, of keeping Russians in rather than Norwegians out.

Perhaps the most dramatic thing about this border is its geographical position. Although Norway is very much a Western European country, Finnmark, its northernmost county, bends sufficiently far to the east to put the border on the same longitude as Leningrad, Istanbul and Cairo.



Bjørnsund observation post ▲ Downstairs the off-duty men relax with a Soviet TV programme on the set behind them ▼





Just three months after becoming a mum for the second time — and 13 years after her last baby — Sergeant Christine Baxter, 32, is back on exercise with the Territorials, receiving instruction from her permanent staff instructor Staff Sergeant John Jaggs on how to use the man-pack radio

TA 'MASH' UNIT TASTES SAS MEDICINE

The Red Cross gave way to the 'cloak and dagger' when Territorial Army Welsh medics took a leaf out of the SAS book, living rough, on a tough escape and evasion exercise.

More than 80 men and women volunteers, from Newport, Abergavenny, and Cardiff — all members of 203 (W) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) — temporarily abandoned their traditional Samaritan roles, to take part in Exercise Fire Fly, a weekend exercise based on a

windswept disused airfield at Templeton, near Tenby.

Living in two-man bivvy tents — and doing their own cooking with limited man-pack survival rations — the volunteers, many of them raw recruits, received practical lessons on basic survival, besides learning how to use terrain, to move across country unnoticed, and how to make contact with friendly forces and allied secret agents in the field. They also learned how to hunt out enemy agents.

For the main night exercise, it



Psychiatric nurse Karen Webb, pits her wits on a more down-to-earth problem as she tries to kindle the cooking fire outside her make-shift survival shelter (top left)

Pricing items on doctors' prescriptions is the day-to-day job of Private Lynn Sawyer, 23, — but she thinks that doing your own cooking, and living in a make-shift survival shelter is just what the doctor ordered (above)

When it comes to 'gloves off and no holds barred' Welsh Judo expert Lance Corporal Annette Maggs (left), can hold her own in the best of scraps — so it's not surprising she isn't too worried about tackling her 'cloak and dagger' role. Adjusting Annette's webbing is Newport Detachment OC, Major Joan Marks (left)



fell to the Newport and Abergavenny volunteers, moving in four-man patrols, to be 'the hunted', while Cardiff Terriers, from the unit's headquarters in Llandaff, put into practise their

newly acquired 'hunter force' techniques.

Regular Army permanent staff instructors, based with the hospital's headquarters and outlying detachments, had earlier coached

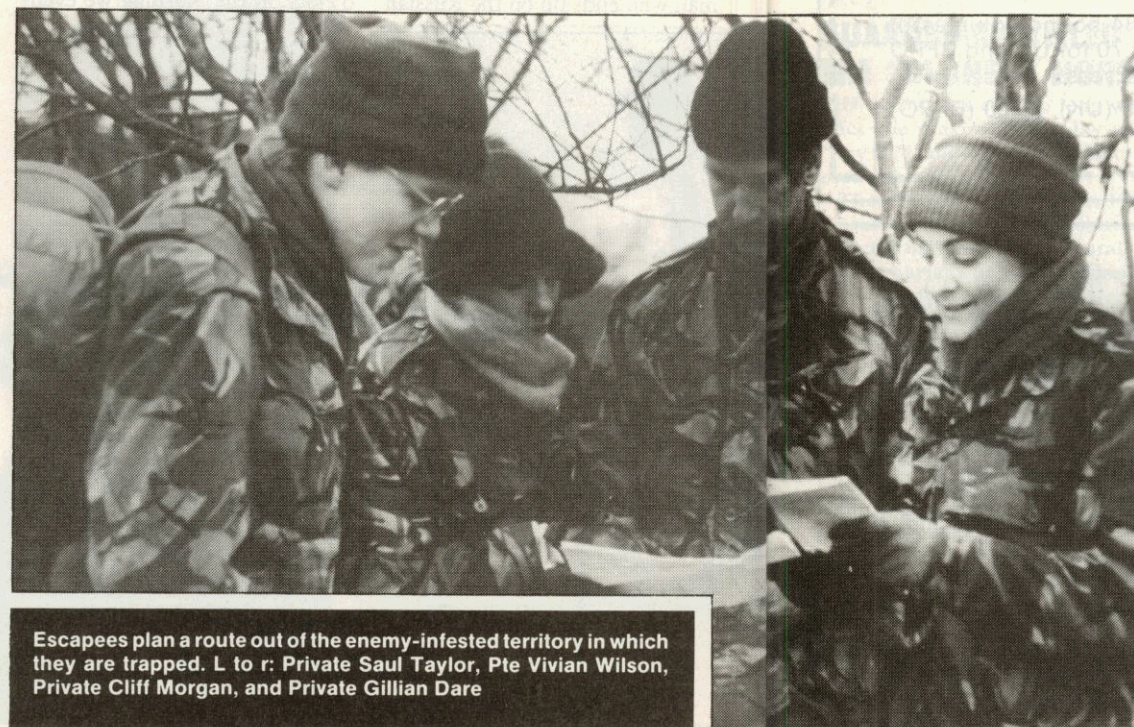
all volunteers in the very latest escape and evasion techniques.

A unit spokesman explained: "The basic principles for what we have learned on this exercise are no different to those put into

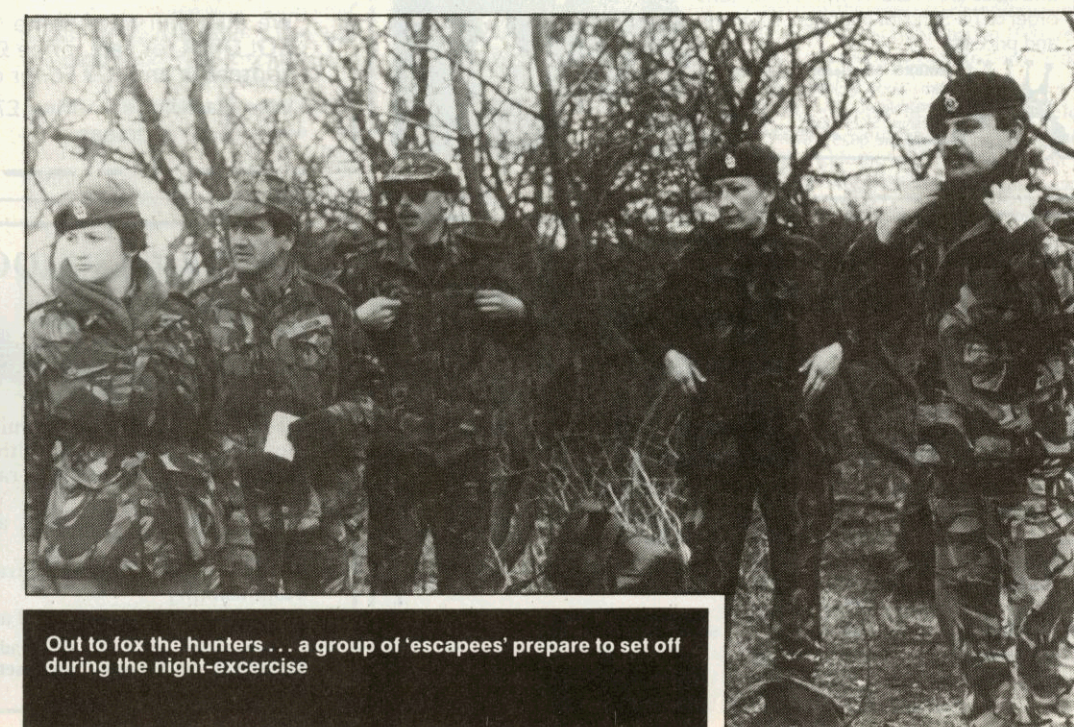
practise by the Special Services: the skills taught to those being hunted down are interchangeable with those taught to the hunters. It's a case of — 'if you know how to hide, you know how to seek'."



Fond of life outdoors, Private Gina McClintock, 20, finds that the exercise was just her cup of tea. Gina, a TA member for more than two years, makes a brew outside her make-shift survival shelter



Escapees plan a route out of the enemy-infested territory in which they are trapped. L to r: Private Saul Taylor, Pte Vivian Wilson, Private Cliff Morgan, and Private Gillian Dare



Out to fox the hunters... a group of 'escapees' prepare to set off during the night-exercise

On the Record

with Rodney Bashford



AIRBORNE WARRIOR

Bandleader BND 1025

Band of the 1st Bn The Parachute Regiment

Conductor: Bandmaster R A Ely

I HAVE commented before on the subject of bandmasters who put pen to paper — and those who don't! Mr Ely does, and to good effect as this record proves. Over half the items have his name against them either as composer or arranger, and of course a march with the disc's title seems to be obligatory nowadays.

Airborne Warrior is a quasi theme-march from an as yet unmade film on the lines of 633 Squadron; it works very well and has some original slants on the subject. Which makes *Golden Lanyard* and *Holmegaard* the more disappointing for being a bit cliché laden. The former is a slow march and the latter is dedicated to the Royal Danish Homeguard, recent hosts of the Para band.

The famous *Deer Hunter* theme, with genuine classical guitar to give it authenticity, *Chariots of Fire* title theme, and the march tune from *The Longest Day* are of course from films that have been made.

Another concert march by Mr Ely

— *Snowcat* — also sounds by its title as if it could be from a film of derring-dos in the Arctic, and is in fact a clever musical depiction of this most versatile army vehicle.

Sousa's *King Cotton*, now that it is out of copyright, receives the same discourteous treatment as Washington Post mentioned elsewhere, and Mr Ely is responsible in both cases. Fair enough, for no composer can wish for better recognition of his fame and quality as to be the victim of pastiche.

Side two is a musical commemoration of the 40th anniversary of VE Day and includes a medley of Second World War songs, Bidgood's fine march *The Royal British Legion*, and as finale an *Act of Remembrance*. This is ushered in and the mood set by Mr Ely again, though this time I'm not sure whether pastiche or satire is intended.

What we have is one of those meanderingly awful "improvisations on a well known hymn tune" so beloved of Victorian organists. The Revd Sir F A C Ouseley Bt Mus D Would have been proud of it. O Valiant Hearts (for this is the aforementioned wkht) leads to *Last Post*, *Prayer for The Fallen*, and the *Rouse Call*, with the *Regimental March* to end with.

An interesting disc due mainly to

the efforts, excellent and indifferent, of the bandmaster. Just as it ever was and ever should be.

From Bandleader or dealers price £5.65.

THE RISING OF THE LARK

Bandleader BND 1019

Band of the Welsh Guards

Conductor: Major D N Taylor

IF you must go — go with a bang. And Major Derek Taylor does that in no uncertain way in his last record with the Welsh Guards before retiring to Australia, where he and his singer wife will be involved in its musical life.

On side one he gives us what can only be his own choice of favourite marches among those not too often recorded, or indeed never recorded to my knowledge. They are *Bavarda* by Herman Starke who wrote *With Sword and Lance*, *My Congratulations* by Blankenburg who needs no introduction, *Semper Fidelis* by Sousa ditto, *The Ulster Division* by Fred Marks, once bandmaster of the 4th/7th DG, *Ridgewood* by Denis Plater late of REME, and *Sarafand* by George (Polly) Willcocks, once Director of the Irish Guards band; the march was written in Palestine in 1936 when he

was in Sarafand with the South Wales Borderers.

The seventh of the marches is an arrangement of three well known tones at football and particularly rugby occasions under the title *Arms Park*.

Every one of them has something to offer even if each, as a whole, cannot claim immortality.

The light music on side two is a very attractive selection of old and new pieces which will please all listeners.

The theme from the film *The Last Starfighter* is a winner, as is that from the TV series *The Life and Times of Lloyd George* which caused so much interest at the time. *Hooked on the Classics* also became a craze recently as a painless way of getting non-musical people to accept symphonies and operas, or the main tunes from them. To musicians the constant beat which reduces them all to quick marches was unbearable, and this one gives short shrift to Mozart, Sibelius, Tchaikowsky, Handel and Bizet. A bit like glue sniffing I imagine, and very additive.

Even to serious musicians the Lennon & McCartney tune *The Fool on the Hill* is entirely acceptable, and is here played as a flugal solo.

Three old favourites conclude the programme — Haydn's *Oxen Minuet*, Hermann Kling's great classic *Two Little Finches*, and Kabalevsky's *Comedians Galop*, with the *Regimental Marches* to sign off with.

Let's hope Major Taylor finds as good a band waiting for him in New South Wales, but I doubt it.

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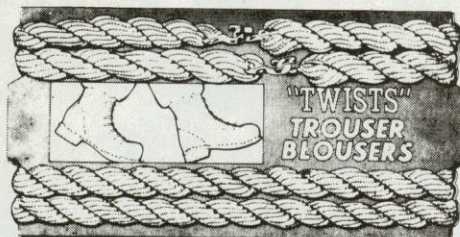
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BOOKS

GRAFFITI OF A CONDEMNED MAN

SAPPER Ronald Searle was 21 when he was taken prisoner by the Japanese at the capitulation of Singapore in 1942, and, as he describes himself "a repellantly diseased 25-year-old" when he was released from the notorious Changi jail more than three years later.

During those three years of suffering by him and the many thousands of allied soldiers who were forced on a long and gruelling journey north to work on the infamous Burma railway, and later faced the cruelty and privations of captivity in Changi jail, Ronald Searle drew a pictorial record so that the world could see something of what happened during those "lost" years.

He did so against the knowledge of certain punishment if his pictures of the prisoners' treatment were discovered. It was also due to the selfless aid of men sick or dying or cholera that his bulky record remained undetected by the Japanese, and can today be published.

Mr Searle himself describes the drawings as "the graffiti of a condemned man, intending to leave rough witness of his passing through, but who found himself to his surprise and delight among the reprieved."

His pictures, he says, were drawn not with brushes made from human hair nor with blood replacing ink, as has occasionally been recounted, but they were made with sweat, fear and, at the outset at least, wide-eyed noble intent.

Besides being published for the first time, his drawings form an exhibition currently on display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

They are remarkable drawings which have a place in history.

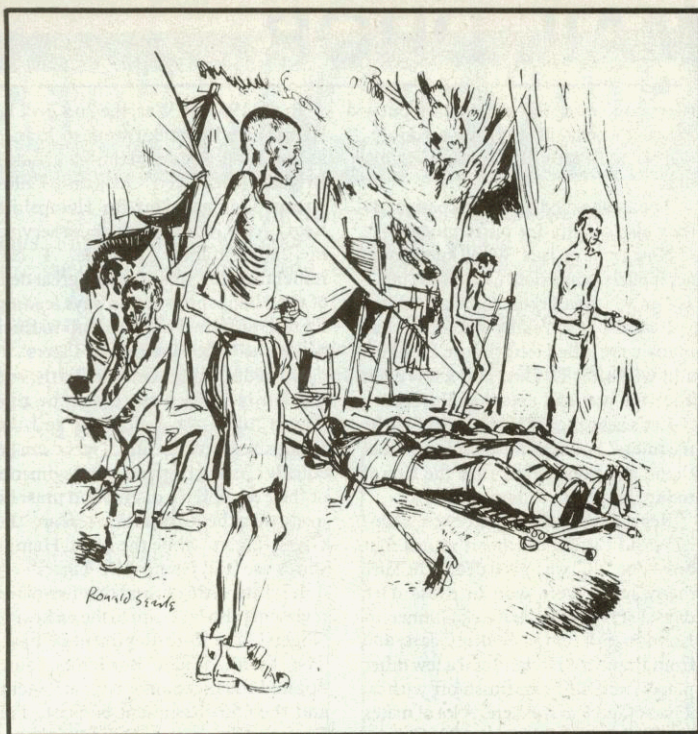
To the Kwai — and Back by Ronald Searle published by Collins, price £15. — AT

GUARDSMAN KILLED THE COLONEL'S HORSE

THE Army has come a long way since the maxim of the day was "Pay well, and hang well, makes a good soldier".

Those were the days, in the 17th century, when the punishment inflicted on soldiers was brutal, if not barbaric, when there were 25 offences for which the death penalty could be imposed on soldiers, among them robbery, hindering the Provost Marshal or his deputies in the performance of their duties, rape (whether the victim belonged to the enemy or not), and offering violence "to any who shall bring victuals to the camp or garrison, or shall take his horse or goods".

The lesser the crime, the lesser the punishment — but it would hardly be seen in that light today. Blasphemy was punished by boring the tongue with a red hot iron; absence from parade brought not a loss of privileges but painfully riding the wooden horse or imprisonment in irons.



But, as Clausewitz thought that "an army is the mirror of the people from which it is drawn", so punishment was at that time the mirror of equally barbaric treatment in civilian life, with the death penalty for stealing a horse or picking a pocket to the value of one shilling. A vagrant caught begging without a licence could be stripped from the waist up and "whipped till his or her body be bloody".

Whipping, more specifically the use of the searing cat-o'-nine tails, was to sully the name of military discipline and to cause public outcry for more than a century.

The number of lashes seemed limitless. Indeed there was apparently a minimum of 25 strokes. One unfortunate Guardsman in 1712 misguidedly slaughtered his colonel's horse and sold the hide, but it was his own hide which paid the penalty. His punishment: seven separate floggings of 1,800 lashes each, a total of 12,600. Sentences of 1,500 lashes and over were common.

These painful, but today fascinating details, are among a wealth of information assembled by J M Brereton, former boy trumpeter with the Royal Horse Artillery, officer in the Indian Cavalry, prisoner of the Japanese on the notorious Thailand railway, and now military historian, for *The British Soldier*, a social history from 1661 to the present day.

His book runs the gamut of Army history, from the days of Marlborough and Wellington when soldiers were considered the dregs of the population, brutes who responded only to harsh discipline, to today when, he declares, the soldier is intelligent, educated, taught to think for himself and display initiative, but expected to be housed, fed and cared for much as any other member of society. He still has to submit to discipline and irksome restrictions, but realises that this is essential to the proper functioning of his chosen way of life.

A book not to be missed by anyone with an interest in the British Army. — AT

The British Soldier by J M Brereton, published by The Bodley Head, price £10.95.

THE MIRACLE MEN

THE Special Air Service Regiment has attracted the attention of many authors, some of them serious historians and others who have succumbed to the temptation of bending the facts a little.

Published just over a year before *SAS Operations* by James D Ladd, another author declared there can be no such thing as an official history of the SAS Regiment as so many of its

activities are unofficial.

Similarly, James Ladd does not claim that he has attempted a detailed or official history but, as he writes in his preface, "in examining the story of selected operations it shows how men of the regiment have achieved near miracles in feats of arms, through their skill and courage".

The operations covered span from the first courageous but failed raid in the Gazala area of the Cyrenaica desert on 16-17 November 1941, from which only 22 of the 60 men returned, to the raid against Stanley on the Falklands on 13-14 June 1982.

The idea conceived by the founder of the SAS, Captain David Sterling in 1941 was "inserting small teams of well-armed and highly trained men deep into enemy territory like the fingers of a hand. These could later come together as a fist to deal a hard blow..." It was a concept that rarely worked under the situations that prevailed but was, at least, a theme on which variations could be worked. There has probably never been such a specialised military unit so often forced by expediency to apply versatility to their operational roles, taking a set of circumstances and attempting to turn them to advantage.

SAS Operations must be regarded as a regimental history, despite the author's initial reservation and, without being disparaging to some previous histories, it is more readable than other serious works on the regiment's activities. — BJ

SAS Operations, by James D Ladd, published by Robert Hale, price £12.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Sabres to Scout Cars, by Andrew S Gardiner, an illustrated history of The Lothians and Border Horse, with an account of the origins of the "L and B" in Napoleonic times and considerable detail and illustrations of the regiment's uniforms from the turn of the 18th century until it disappeared in 1956. Printed by Watsons, Edinburgh.

Last Post; An Indian Army Memoir, by E W Robinson-Horley, published by Martin Secker and Warburg Ltd. Life in the Indian Army in the twilight of the Raj, by a regular Indian Army officer. Price £13.95.

British Special Forces, 1945 to the present, by James G Shortt, published by Arms and Armour Press in the Uniforms Illustrated series, Price £3.95.

Private William Young VC, by Henry L Kirby, published by T H C L Books. The story of Pte Young, East Lancashire Regiment, one of Preston's heroes of the Great War. Price £2.25.

US Military Operations 1945-84. Kenneth Anderson. Hamlyn Publishing. £9.95. This book claims to cover them all. Korea, Vietnam, the Berlin Blockade, the Lebanon landings, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis, the troubles in Panama, the Sinai peacekeeping force, the Iranian hostage expedition, military aid to El Salvador etc.

In Search of the Better 'Ole, The Life the Works and the Collectables of Bruce Bairnsfather, by Tonie and Valmai Holt, biography of

Bruce Bairnsfather who created 'Old Bill', the best known cartoon character of the First World War, published by Milestone Publications. Price £11.95.

Soldiers, a History of Men in Battle, by John Keegan and Richard Holmes. The story of war, told through the different types of soldiers who have fought each other since warfare began. Published by Hamish Hamilton. Price £12.95.

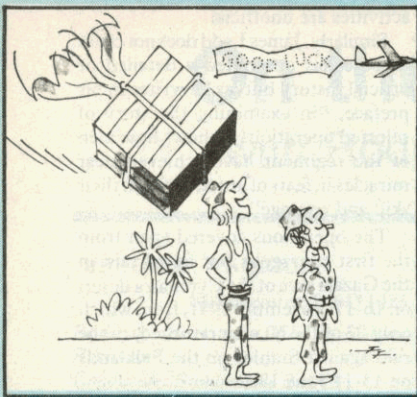
War on the Nile, by Michael Barthorp, the story of desert campaigns 1882-1898, first published in 1984, re-issued in paperback by Blandford Press. Price £5.95.

Monty-Master of the Battlefield 1942-1944. Coronet Books, £4.95. The second volume of Nigel Hamilton's masterly biography, now in paperback.

The Road to Passchendaele by John Terrain, published by Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, £6.95. Paperback edition of a book first published in 1977; a book acclaimed at the time as a masterly work.

Pegasus Bridge, by Stephen E Ambrose, (Unwin Paperbacks) price £2.95. The story of the 160 troops whose task it was to seize Pegasus Bridge over the Orne River in the spring of 1944.

Uniforms Illustrated. US Marines in World War Two (Number 11). Robert C Stern and Israeli Defence Forces 1948 to present. Lee Russell and Sam Katz, Arms and Armour Press. £3.95 each. A continuation in the series of carefully researched books by specialists. Presented in a handy, reference format.



MAIL DROP

BRIDGING FEAT

In March 1945 during the drive to Bremen, we came to a full stop when the opposing force blew the bridge that spanned the River Niers at Cloppenburg.

Infantry of 43rd Division were able to surmount the obstacle, taking up defensive positions on the far bank, while a Royal Engineers' Bridging Company was brought forward to span the narrow river.

As the day wore on, we experienced a good deal of trouble from a 'Royal Tiger' emplaced some 1,500-yards ahead of us, and commanding the whole area from high ground.

The Bridging Company duly arrived at the site of intended operations, but it was approaching nightfall before their work commenced.

The Infantry Section that I was a member of, was located in a farmhouse overlooking the site, so we had a grandstand view of the slaughter that surely must have taken place that night. The REs worked in pitch darkness for some time, and as we were less than a hundred yards from them, we could hear every strained move that they made in hauling the heavy bridge components around.

They must have been dissatisfied with progress, for the whole area was suddenly illuminated by the crossed beams of two searchlights, and we immediately feared the worst for them. It was not long in coming either, for the 'Royal Tiger' up on the hill, having ranged down to the yard, commenced to apply 88mm HE onto the site as fast as the loader could chamber them.

I suspect that the tank used all of its remaining HE on that target. At this point, it would be as well to say that the bridging operation continued throughout the night (in total darkness), and the first tanks crossed the bridge before first light next morning.

In June 1945, when I came on UK leave, we crossed that bridge in the three-tonners, and I noticed the beautifully painted signboard that had been erected by that RE Company in proclaiming their success under what must have been horrific conditions. I have not been able to discover any details concerning that unit, and wonder if any of your readers could help me in any way. — **W Layton, 103 Greerton Road, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 5LA.**

NO NASTINESS!

As an avid reader of *SOLDIER*, my first glance is at Mail Drop and the reunion section, so it was with a great feeling of sadness that I noticed the needle letters in March 24 issue.

The fine lads of Dunkirk who managed to return to the old country

must squirm at the mention of putty medals, some still suffering no doubt, and like most of us from the war, getting old.

Those who died in the evacuation, do they also qualify for putty medals?

Now come on lads. We all know some get medals, some don't, but as for me, I say now, I was proud to be a soldier.

I wasn't at Dunkirk or D-Day, but many were killed long before Dunkirk and well after D-Day, and a few even after the war had ended in Europe.

Let's keep the old soldier out of all the nastiness. Soldiers do what is asked of them, and none better than the lads of today, long hair or not.

Regarding the Few (Battle of Britain) 375 dead I'm almost sure it's a fact that only one VC was awarded. I'm sure many more were won in those dark days. I served as an Ack Ack Gunner, in London and on the South Coast, and from France to Holland and a few other places, and all I can finish off with is, Thank God I'm still here. A lot of mates are not, and yes I have the 39-45 Star.

— **A. J. Jewell, 241 Greenham, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6SG.**

THE 'TIGERS'

Your article of February 10 and Mr L A Knight's letter printed in your issue of March 24, prompted me to attempt to give the historical answer to the question raised by Mr Knight concerning the nickname 'Tigers'.

The 17th Regiment of Foot, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, was granted by King George IVth, on June 25 1835, the emblem of the royal tiger surmounted by 'Hindoostan', to be worn as the cap badge of the regiment. This unique award gave rise to the nickname 'The Tigers'.

During the Korean War, it was my privilege to serve a chaplain to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment (1951/52) and I remember the day when the officer in charge of Korean porters was anxious to identify his men by allowing them to wear the emblem of the regiment, the tiger. This move did not gain approval even although the idea was good psychologically in a country where the enemy feared the tiger, for a regimental badge is to be worn only by the officers and men of the regiment.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment's nickname 'The Tigers' came from the Bengal tiger which formed part of the badge of the regiment, 37th and 67th of the Foot. The Bengal tiger was awarded to the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment of Foot for 'distinguished service' in India from 1805-1826. Postings abroad were long in those days, not four months or nine months, or two years, but a long period of time.

Upon the amalgamation of the 67th with the 37th Regiment of Foot, The Hampshire Regiment, the Bengal tiger was incorporated in the badge of the regiment, and the 37th, the First Battalion and the 67th the Second Battalion, of the Hampshire Regiment were nicknamed 'the Hampshire Tigers'.

The 67th Regiment of Foot had as its first colonel, James Wolfe, whose daring ascent of the Heights of Abraham and capture of Quebec from the French, was a fitting escapade for an officer who had served with the 67th.

In the 1939-45 War, the 2nd Bn The Hampshire Regiment went to France as the Line Regiment in 1st Guards Brigade (3rd Gren Gds, 2nd Coldstream Gds and 2nd Bn Hampshire Regt). As a Gordon Highlander serving in 2nd Infantry Brigade, I can remember that we thought a great deal of the Hampshires in the days leading up to Dunkirk. They lived up to their nickname 'The Hampshire Tigers'.

In 1946, King George VIth was graciously pleased to confer the title 'Royal' upon the Leicesters and the Hampshires and the title 'Tigers' can be equally claimed by these two Regiments of the Foot and if a distinction must be made then the Royal Leicesters are 'the Green Tigers' while the Royal Hampshires are 'the Hampshire Tigers'.

It is interesting to add that two other regiments also lay claim to the nickname 'Tigers'. The 24th Regiment of Foot, The South Wales Borderers, once boasted the nickname 'Bengal Tigers' and the 65th Regiment of Foot, The York and Lancaster Regiment that of 'Royal Tigers' and the one thing that all four regiments had in common was that they had seen service in India during the first quarter of the 19th century. —

Rev William Jamieson, MBE, CF (Rtd), 39 Whitelaw Drive, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 1RL.

UNIQUE?

Apropos the recent correspondence in *SOLDIER* on awards.

Amongst the many fine groups of medals headed by VCs on display in our regimental museum in Worcester, we have one group which we believe is unique. This is a DSO, MC, DCM and MM awarded to Lieut E Wedgbury of The Worcestershire Regiment during the 1914-18 War.

Can anyone match this? — **K G Allen, Regt Sec, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA.**

EVERYTHING LOST

You must be very tolerant to continue accepting letters from those of us still arguing about the 1940 BEF and other campaigns of the Second World War.

None the less perhaps I could add one more and ask W H Bidmead to consider a simple fact. It is that it took another five years before the German Army was forced into a much longer retreat and eventual defeat, and that the whole might of Russia, Great Britain and the Commonwealth, as well as the USA, was needed to achieve it.

Furthermore it is wrong to say there were no medals for 1940. There were many decorations including VCs.

Cannot even our own folk realise Great Britain lost everything, our entire wealth, many thousands of lives and our position in the world, because of the great might of Germany. — **AR Blake, 17 Shears Green Court, Haynes Road, Northfleet, Kent.**

MEAN AUTHORITIES

I would like to take issue with Mr W H Bidmead in your March issue. Why should a medal not be given to British troops who were at Dunkirk? This retreat was conducted with gallantry and loss of life, and many British and

French troops held out at Dunkirk to cover the evacuation. There is a splendid medal issued by the French for this action, which also can be obtained by British soldiers.

Also the article on Calais, why not a clasp for this action? I know both my two old regiments were decimated here, the 60th Rifles and Rifle Brigade, among other units.

As an old Green Jacket and 3 Para man, I often feel appalled at how mean the authorities are in medal issue compared to the French and Germans. Look at the poor quality of quality of our World War II issues for an example! — **R W Spalding, 1 Queenswood Avenue, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8HW.**

Call Signs

Mr Charles Campbell, 2 Dumbarton Way, Caversham, Park Village, near Reading, Berks, RG4 0QT, formerly of 5th Battalion The Black Watch, wishes to contact Major John McGregor, of 5th Battalion who lived in or near Callendar, Perthshire, and was transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in October 1947.

Reunions

The annual reunion of The Royal Hussars (PWO) will be held at The Porter Tun Room, Whitbread Brewery, Chiswell Street, City of London on May 3 at 7.30 pm. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester, Hants SO23 9EF (tel: 0962 63751).

2nd K.O.S.B. reunion will be held at The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed on June 28/29. Details from Regimental Secretary, R.H.Q. K.O.S.B., The Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Reunion of past and present members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, First Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, will be held August 21-25. Details from: WO1 (RSM) M C Wiggam, 1 QLR, BFPO 16. (Tel: Sennelager Military Ext 3527), or WO1 (RSM) A R Kay, 4 QLR, Kimberley Barracks, Preston, PR1 6PR. (Tel: Preston (0772) 716543 Ext 2438).

The British Airborne Forces Association, Victoria, Australia, are planning a reunion for ex-airborne members in November 1987. Details from Mr W Gee, Publicity Officer, 2 Talbot St, Footscray, Victoria 3011, Australia.

HOAY Winner

A prize of £50 is on its way to Mr John Strutt, of 58 Livingstone Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9AK, the winner of the prize in *SOLDIER*'s HOAY Competition No 381.

Wargame Winners

Winners of the five Theatre Europe computer games in the Wargamers series, offered by *SOLDIER* (February 10) are Bombardier Mitchener, 55/49 Fd RA, Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe; Mr Darren Lowen, 22c Clarence Road, Wood Green, London; Musn M Andrews, WRAC Staff Band, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford; Mr R Clark, 19 Wellington St, Long Eaton, Notts; and Sgt N Leyland, Live Oak, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

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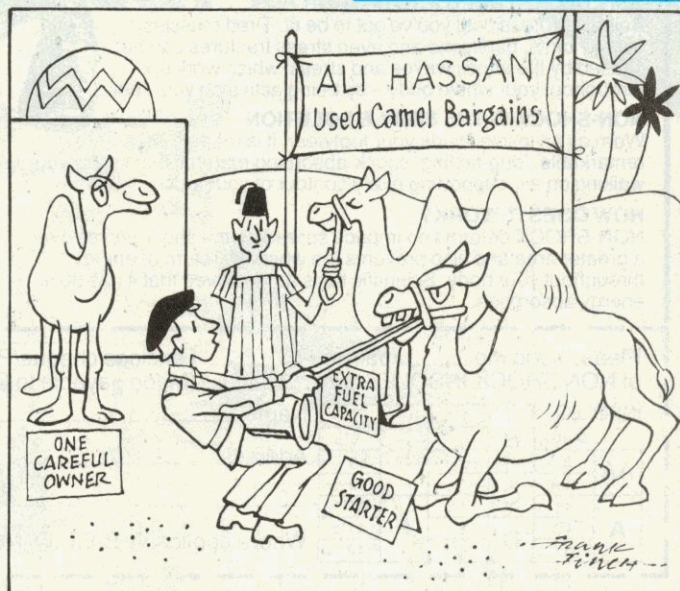
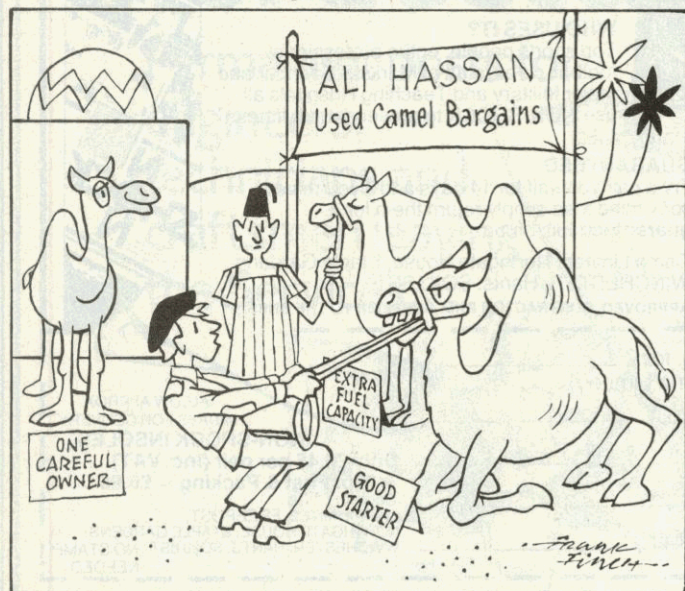
The pictures differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address, and send it to SOLDIER.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is May 19. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our June 16 issue.

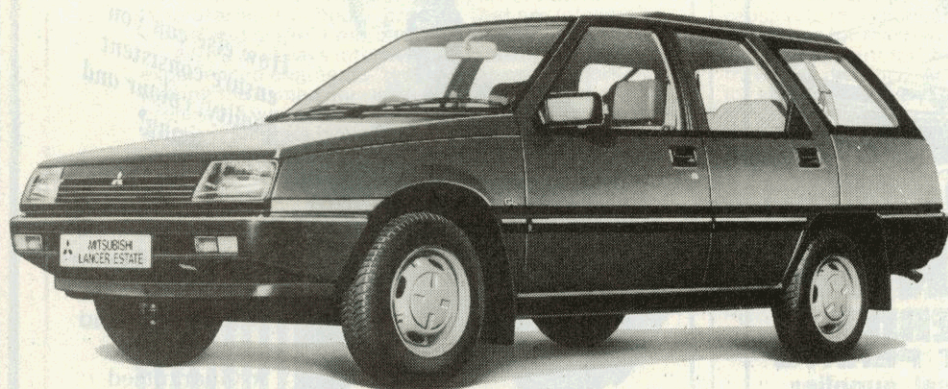
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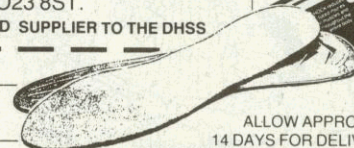
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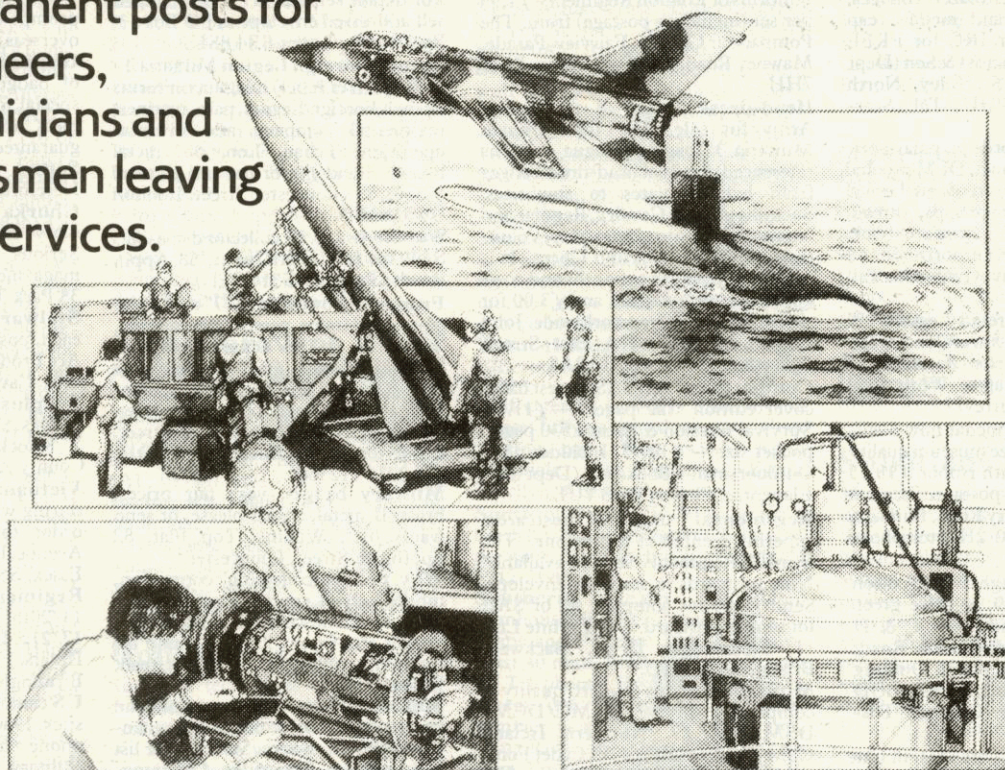
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craftsmen leaving
the Services.



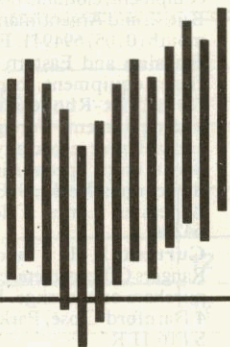
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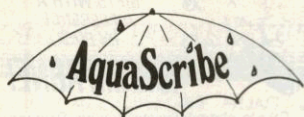
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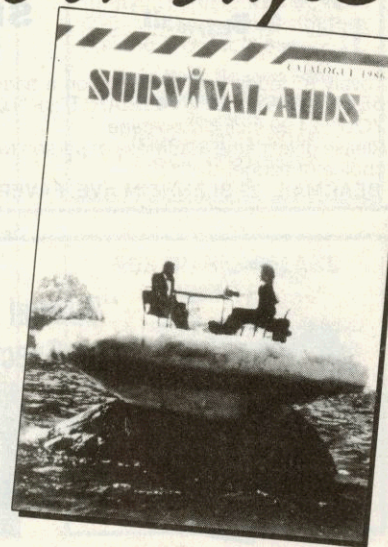
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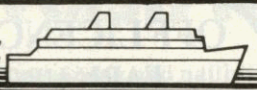
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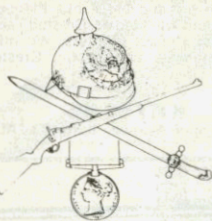
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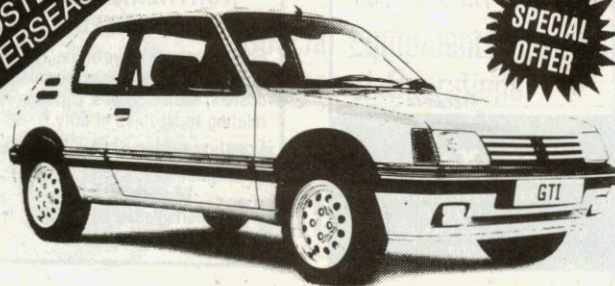
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Welsh take Army rugby title



Lt Dick Withers raises the cup

In a tantalising and nailbiting match the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales managed to hang on to a well deserved lead to beat 7 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in the Army rugby final by 7-6.

The Gunners pack was exceptionally large and must have been on average half to one stone heavier per man, and the weight difference was soon to tell in the set pieces. The Welsh were constantly going backwards and Sgt Richard Evans had trouble with a difficult ball from the base of

the scrum.

However, the Welsh backs with some fine tactical kicking managed to move play into the Gunners 22 and from a well controlled scrum Cpl Ray Morgan slotted home a lovely drop goal to put the Welsh 3-0 up.

After some exciting open play from both sides the players turned round at half time with the Welsh still 3-0 up.

The Gunners were hell bent on levelling the score and the Welsh were under bombardment early on.

Sgt Kevin A'Hearne was up to the task, and he fielded some tricky high balls with supreme confidence, so much so that the Gunners stopped using that tactic and started to run the ball a bit more often.

The 7 RHA scrum half Gunner Vicary always looked exciting and if the Gunners backs had been let off the leash a bit more often anything could have happened.

In the most exciting move of the game Pte Jim Scarlett, a former Welsh basketball player, took a beautiful two handed catch from a lineout deep inside the Welsh half which was moved swiftly down the line.

Sgt A'Hearne, the full back, coming into the line outside the centre, burst through the Gunners' defence and slipped the ball to Lt Stephen Beattie who accelerated, and although tackled his determination and momentum took him over in the corner.

The conversion was missed but nevertheless the Welsh were now two scores up on the opposition.

The Gunners fought back firmly and their weight and control of the set scrums produced two penalties which were converted into six points.

With the whole game now balanced on a knife edge the Gunners attacked again and again, and spirited defence only just managed to keep them out.

Cpl Morgan was judged to have deliberately knocked the ball forward in a vain attempt to stem the tide.

The resultant kick in the dying minutes of the game from about 35 metres hit the upright and bounced back and the sigh was heard all around the ground.

The Gunners then threw caution to the wind and began to run everything at the Welsh, but firm resolute tackling kept them out.

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GUNNERS' BARRAGE FIZZLED OUT



The Gunners defend in strength as a Queens Division attacker tries to slip through

SEME TAKE LATE VICTORY

Two goals, in as many minutes, deep into the second half, were enough to swing a finely balanced game in favour of SEME Bordon, who beat 45 Field Regt RA (Colchester) 3-1 in the Army (UK) cup final.

One was well created and finished, but the second had a huge element of luck about it. In the end, the marginally better side won the tie.

SEME scored the opening goal of the match, in the 20th minute, when Nelson sprinted clear of the Gunner defence, rounded Harman, before slotting the ball home. The Gunners equalised from a free kick, when a cleverly floated cross was headed home by Sgt Ray Norton. Cfn Ginger Burns was twice called upon to save at the feet of marauding Gunners in the closing stages of the opening half to keep the scores level.

Seventy-four minutes had passed, both sides were locked in a 1-1 draw, when a long ball out of defence caught the Gunner rear-guard very square. Three white

shirted SEME forwards raced clear. Cfn Peter Catling outstripped a lone defender before crossing to Cfn Mickey Nelson, in front of goal, who scored.

The Gunners attacked back only to fall victims of an appalling piece of bad luck. A long clearance into their half led to a race between their 'keeper L Bdr Paul Harman and two SEME forwards. The keeper won the race and, from about 25 yards from his goal-line, he kicked the ball down the field. It fell to Catlin just inside the Gunner half of the field.

Seeing the 'keeper off his goal-line, and with two of his forwards, technically, in off-side positions, he decided to have a pot at goal. His shot took a deflection as it soared goalwards but still beat the retreating custodian Harman to enter the goal just under the crossbar.

Mr Jim Smith presented the King's Cup to Skipper Sgt Chris Eade of SEME and, he gave his vote as "Man of the Match" to SEME's L Cpl Mickey Spencer.

A demolition job looked on the cards when the Army (UK) minor units cup final started at Aldershot.

The permanent staff of Junior Leaders Regiment RA opened as though they would annihilate their opponents, Depot The Queens Division.

They set up, and squandered, three scoring chances in the opening five minutes. They did finally score, in the eighth minute, but the demolition job never came. In fact, there was really very little between the sides for the remainder of the game, and the Gunners had a narrow 2-1 victory.

Franklin put the Junior Leaders Regt ahead. They won a free kick on the edge of the penalty area and he sent a low hard drive into the corner of the net. From then on, the game developed into a dour struggle in the middle third of the field, only enlivened by the odd break.

Just before the interval break, Lydiate won possession for the Depot just 20 yards out. He

jockeyed his way into the penalty area where, surrounded by five white shirted Gunners, he looked to be going nowhere. Suddenly, however, he was floored and referee Oakley pointed to the spot. Reddick crashed home the penalty kick.

Ten minutes into the second half, the Gunners scored what was to be the winning goal. An unfortunate defender, in trying to clear what looked to be a fairly harmless cross into the Depot goal area, hit Lear full in the face with his volley.

The ball rebounded right in to the path of Franklin, in front of goal, and he was left with the simplest of chances to score.

The Depot almost forced the game into extra time, with virtually the last kick of the match. Reeves raced clear on the right wing. His cross was inch perfect to the head of Reddick but the ball flew just over the bar — it was almost easier to score than to miss. Such was the narrow margin between the sides.

Good year for Jerry

Corporal Jerry Carty of 6 Field Support Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, has had an outstanding

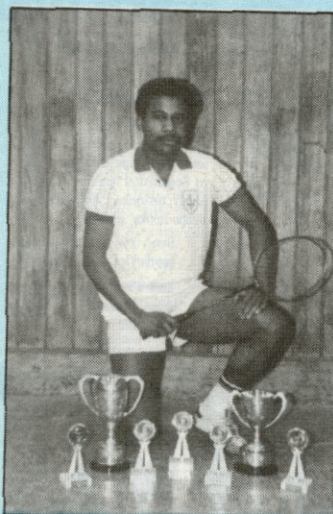
sporting season, playing badminton at regimental, corps and Army levels.

During the RE championships last year he was the winner in the singles and unit doubles and runner-up in the open doubles competitions.

Early this year he swept the board during the Western Area championships by winning the events singles, unit doubles, open doubles, mixed doubles and the unit knockout competition.

He continued his long list of successes by winning the prestigious title of Army Open Singles Champion, the first Sapper to have done so.

And as a climax to the season, he now goes forward to play for the Army in the Inter Services Championships this month.



THIRD TIME LUCKY - JUST!

At their third successive year in the Army Major Inter-unit Basketball final, 39 Engineer Regiment become Army champions 1986, winning by one point. A sweet revenge for losing by the same margin last year when the winners were another Sapper team.

The final, at Waterbeach Barracks, Cambridge was between the champions of UKLF (39 Engineer Regiment) and the champions of BAOR, 4 Division Headquarter and Signal Regiment.

The game itself was evenly matched, each side scoring baskets

in turn but with the Signals just in front. Two minutes before the interval the Sappers went into a three point lead which they kept until half-time.

In the second half the lead changed several times until the tenth minute when the Sappers went fourteen points ahead. The Signals team called a 'time-out' and then they fought back strongly to go into the lead by one point with only nine seconds left.

But Johnstone of the Sapper team scored with only two seconds left on the clock.



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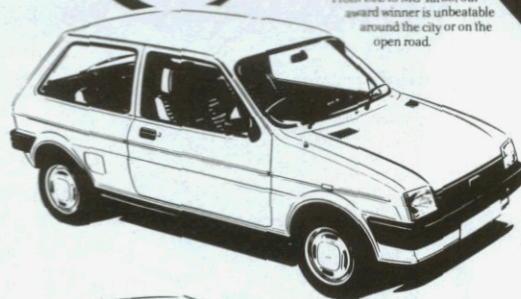


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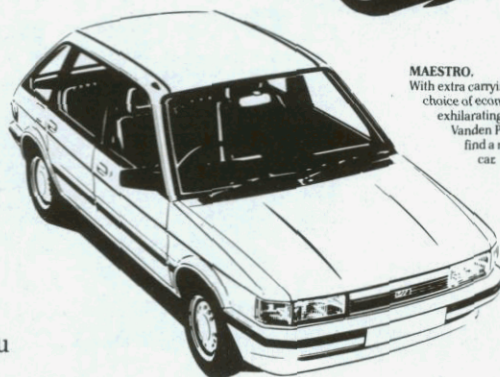
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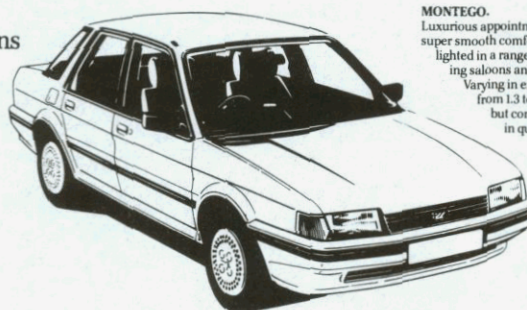
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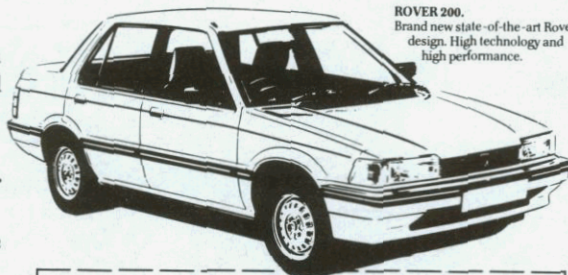
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