

SOLDIER

12 JANUARY 1987

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- ARGYLLS DOWN SOUTH

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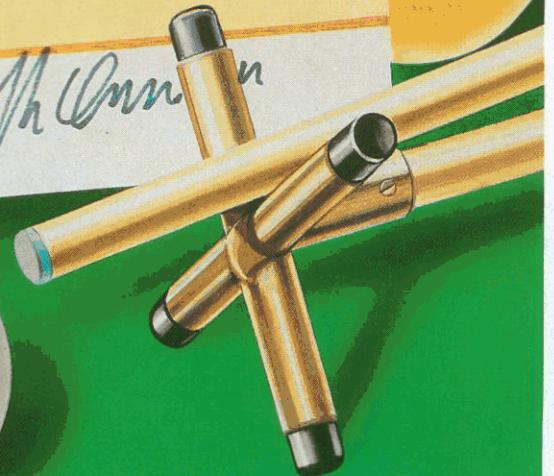
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CONTENTS

- 4 Letters
- 7 News
- 10 People
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Lord Harding interview
- 17 Exercise Saif Sareea
- 20 Anne Armstrong
- 23 New Naafi chief
- 25 Falkland Islands
- 33 Your cartoons
- 34 All in a good cause
- 35 Denmark's women soldiers
- 36 Record reviews
- 37 Book reviews
- 48 Sport

**FRONT COVER – A
Blowpipe missile
detachment of the Air
Defence Battery, Sultan of
Oman's Artillery, defending
the airhead at Al Mahattah
during Exercise Saif
Sareea.**

Picture: Sgt Arthur Thomson,
UKLF

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

NEXT ISSUE



A grim reminder of 1982 in the Falkland Islands – a stretcher lies where it was dropped on Goat Ridge along the route taken by the Scots Guards for their attack on Mount Tumbledown, the peak in the centre. But while the Falklands battlefields are becoming something of a tourist attraction, Army sappers are hard at work in the Port Stanley area removing many traces of military occupation. More stories and pictures in the next issue of SOLDIER.

The last National Serviceman pedalled his way into the records

Regarding Mr Gassor's query on who was the last National Serviceman to be demobbed, I'm afraid this honour went to 2nd Lt Richard Vaughan of the RAPC on May 13, 1963 as stated in SOLDIER.

Apparently 2nd Lt Vaughan and Pte Woods ACC were to be demobbed on the same day – a Thursday. However, 2nd Lt Vaughan was stationed in BAOR and was a keen cyclist. He obtained his commanding officer's permission to cycle back to the UK and did not arrive at his demobilisation unit until the Saturday.

So, due to a technicality, he became the last National

Serviceman to leave the Army.

I was one of the last National Servicemen by age to be conscripted by virtue of being born four days before the date decided as the final age group to be called up. Anyone born on or after October 1, 1939 should not have been called up.

Mistakes, however, were made and I met at least two men born after that date who were conscripted. One served with me in the RAPC and another in Cyprus with the Royal Horse Guards during the emergency there. – P G Smith, Sgt, C Coy, 1 Bn Mercian Volunteers, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE14 1NP.

HOAY KONG

Calling Hong Kong, and in particular Cpl Hemchandra Rai of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles in Gallipoli Lines.

To celebrate the 400th HOAY competition, SOLDIER increased the prize to £60 and Cpl Rai is the lucky winner.

This issue's competition is on page 39. Send off your entry now and you could be the winner of the first HOAY of 1987.

CSMs get younger

I would like to point out that your Captains/CSMs Kewley and Taylor (SOLDIER, December 15) are far from the youngest company sergeant majors in the British Army.

At the Regimental Depot RAOC, Feltham in 1954 we had in transit a 21-year-old CSM – substantive and on the seniority roll for regimental

duties. I saw him again in 1968 by which time he was a lieutenant colonel in the RAOC. His surname was King.

In Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1947 we had a chief clerk named Derek Davis. His rank at the age of 24 was warrant officer, conductor, class one, substantive. He was RAOC, not Indian Army Ordnance Corps. A first class chap at his job and he left soon after for a commission to lieutenant. – Sgt Maj F Acres, RAOC, Westfield Avenue, Ashchurch Gar-

dens, Glos GL20 8QP.

● Our CSMs were the youngest at the time they were serving. But thanks for your interesting letter, perhaps we will be told who was the youngest ever CSM. – Ed.

Patton No III

Reference the correction submitted by F Coldwell, Decem-

ber 1 issue, Page 5) to the General Patton photograph.

Still wrong Patton. George S Patton, Jr., was in fact the famous "Blood and Guts" of the Second World War. The officer pictured is indeed his son, George S Patton, III. Major General Patton does not use the "III" and his letterhead reads simply George S Patton. – William H Hansen, Supervisory Librarian, Armor School Library, US Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, USA.

REUNIONS/CALL SIGNS

● As part of Guernsey Liberation Week celebrations on May 3, Guernsey branch of the Channel Islands Occupation Society is organising a reunion for veterans of Force 135. Contact secretary Mr K H Tough, Gladclift, St Peter's

Lane, Ruette Braye, St Peter Port, Guernsey (tel: 0481-21540).

● Capt J Mapstone RE of Kassala, The Ride, Ifold, Billingshurst, West Sussex, wishes to trace former RE Lt R W Harris, discharged

mid-1948, and last heard of at 23 Hollin Hill Drive, Oakwood, Leeds in 1956, when working as a heating and ventilating engineer.

● Mr (ex-Cpl) J Hutton of 6 Belstone Mews, Farnborough, Hants GU14

8XD, wishes to contact Cpl Bradshaw who was with him on a firing party of 1st RGH, BTA, in Austria in 1946.

● Mr H Woods of 5 Beckdale, Uttoxeter, Staffs, wishes to hear from old

colleagues of 14th Army Provost Unit (later 131 L of C Provost Unit RMP) in Singapore, and also instructors attached to the Ceylonese Army from 1946 onwards who were training the Ceylon Corps of Military Police.

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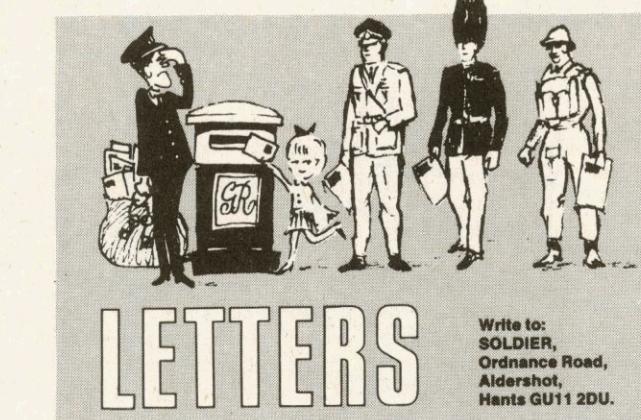
INVICTA EXPORT

MP to drop Canal Zone medal campaign after ten year fight

I have to advise your readers that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP has reluctantly decided that he can go no further with my campaign to get service in the Canal Zone recognised by the award of a bar to the General Service Medal 1923-64.

He has gallantly pursued the fight for over ten years and has not only written to successive Ministers but has also raised the matter in the House. We are most grateful to him for all he has done.

The Ministry of Defence persists in the view that events in the Canal Zone were in the nature of every day tasks and, although troops were involved



Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

in skirmishes and there were casualties, the situation was not deserving for a recommendation of the grant of the General

Service Medal. For those who served there, the events were more than skirmishes and this surely is reflected by the 54 Servicemen killed and over 69 wounded in the period October 1951-March 1952.

The 1st Bn Lancashire Fusiliers were supported by tanks and armoured cars in the attack on the Bureau Sanitaire on 25 January 1952, in which 40 Egyptian police were killed

and 65 wounded; the regiment lost three killed and 13 wounded. Sergeant Harry Foster was awarded the George Medal. Hardly a skirmish!

Those Servicemen who still feel aggrieved, especially after the award of the bar 'Lebanon' in 1984 to the GS Medal, should pursue the matter through their own MP.

I should add that there are a number of precedents for the issue of campaign medals many years after the actions; two cases which immediately spring to mind are the award of the Military General Service Medal in 1848 to the surviving veterans of the Napoleonic War which finished in 1814 and the Canada General Service Medal awarded in 1899 to those who had seen action in the Fenian Raids of 1866.

It is only 32 years since the Canal Zone was evacuated. — Col P S Newton, 24 Quarry Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 8JG.

Let's get this cap straight...

Spike Milligan was wearing what was described as a forage cap in **SOLDIER** (December 1).

The photograph, in fact, shows a field service cap. The forage cap was originally conceived for wear by men of cavalry regiments when collecting forage for their mounts — clearly, they had no wish to wander around with arms full of hay while wearing plumed helmets or lance caps.

The solution was to devise a cap smaller than the normal headdress and the term was applied to the small circular cap affected by the cavalry around the turn of the century. It was worn without a peak by men but with a peak by officers who presumably had others to gather their forage for them. The infantry also had peaks.

In 1898 a new cap was introduced experimentally and this was called the forage cap, as it is — or should be — today. It was known as the 'cheesecutter' from the wire stiffening.

The cap worn in the photograph was the development of a folding cap introduced in 1883 as an alternative to the full dress headdress for active service and peace manoeuvres. However, the pattern cap which we



Spike's cap: not for foraging about in

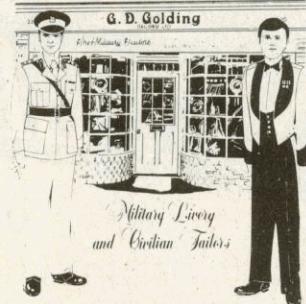
recognise was not universally taken into use until 1896 when it replaced the glengarry, hitherto worn by all infantry and not only the Scottish regiments.

It reappeared in 1939 for the new conscript militia although it had already made a furtive showing in its multicoloured variations a couple of years earlier.

Let it be said, however, that the field service cap was frequently incorrectly termed the forage cap by both the press and wearers. — John Gaylor, Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UA.

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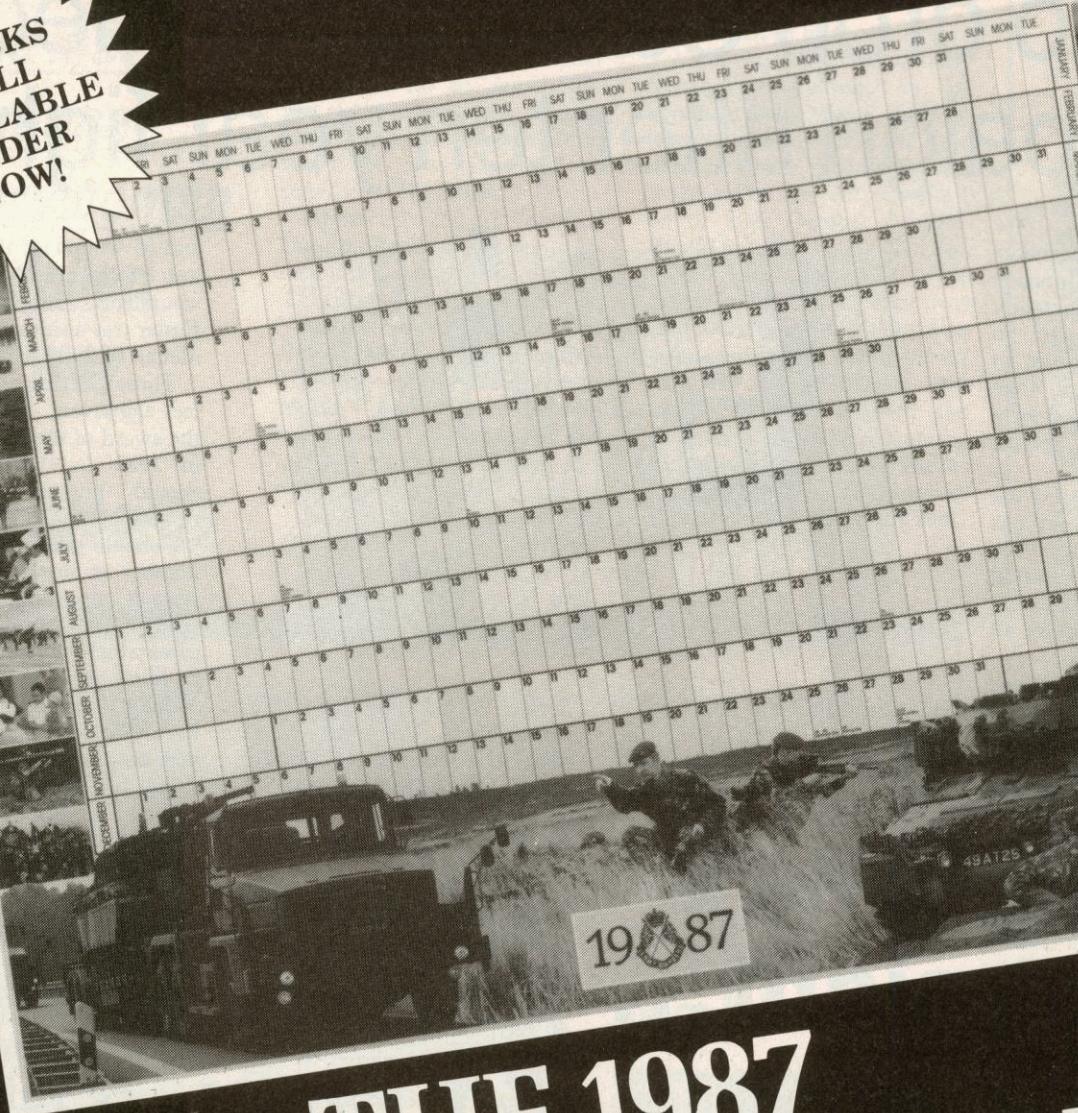
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THE 1987 ARMY YEAR PLANNER

This year the Directorate of Army Recruiting has produced a Year Planner in place of the Army Calendar. The year planner is designed as a large scale wall chart surrounded by colour photographs of Army equipment and personnel.

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Section 10 repeal will give soldiers right to sue Crown

SECTION 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 is to be repealed, making it possible for Servicemen to sue the Crown for damages through the civil courts where awards for personal injury far exceed the benefits members of the Armed Forces can receive now.

But in announcing the Government's intention, Defence Secretary Mr George Younger told the House of Commons that he would need to be able to reactivate the provisions of Section 10 in times of impending or actual hostilities or grave national emergency.

Repeal of the section will be retrospective although incidents arising between his announcement on December 8 and the eventual repeal could be dealt with on an ex-gratia basis.

When Section 10 was included in the 1947 Act it was believed it would not penalise Servicemen because they received benefits, payable regardless of fault, which were in most cases comparable with those a civilian might have expected from the courts.

Mr Younger's review, however, showed that damages awarded in courts can now considerably exceed benefits which the Serviceman receives. Repeal of Section 10 was the only satisfactory way of removing this disadvantage.

"By having the right of access to the courts in personal injury cases, the Serviceman will have a right – the right to sue the Crown – which his fellow citizens already enjoy," said Mr Younger.

"We recognise that it will be necessary

to avoid any effect on the maintenance of discipline and the quality of military training. My department will therefore stand behind any Serviceman who was sued by another Serviceman for alleged negligence arising out of the execution of his duties, and in doing so would aim to place on record the peculiar hazards and difficulties to which a Serviceman's life is subject.

"The existing system of benefits which are payable in cases of death or injury, regardless of fault, will be maintained."

Mr Younger told the House that the Government would be unable to introduce the necessary legislation in this session of Parliament but would support a suitable Private Member's Bill.

Earthquake sappers come home

NINE members of 39 Engineer Regiment's 48 Field Squadron (Construction), Royal Engineers, based at Waterbeach, Cambs, have just had a belated heroes' welcome for the vital role they played during the El Salvador disaster last October, writes **Graham Smith**.

The 130-strong squadron has just returned from its Central American posting of Belize where it had been based since July.

During the earthquake in neighbouring El Salvador 1,300 were killed, 11,000 injured and 200,000 left homeless.

British forces in Belize had been put on stand-by the day after the initial quake – Operation Angora – and an advance party flown out a day later.

Among the support units joining it from the former British colony were the 48 Squadron men who quickly adapted their traditional skills to help with lighting for rescue operations during darkness.

Maj Carl Zimmermann, second in command of 39 Engineer Regiment, RE, said: "None of the lads will ever forget the earthquake operation. Although it happened four months ago we are all still immensely proud of them, and of the way they got stuck in to sort things out quickly. It is to be hoped that a number of the squadron will receive some sort of recommendations, perhaps from CBF Belize, for their part in the rescues."



Colonel-in-Chief visits the Paras in Cyprus

A relaxed moment for the Prince of Wales and men of 2 Platoon A Coy 3 PARA when he visited them at Dhekelia, when he visited them at Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment

War widows' pilgrimages extended

ROYAL British Legion pilgrimages in support of the Government-funded grant-in-aid scheme for war widows will this year range from Denmark to Sri Lanka and from France to Hong Kong. Other destinations include Burma, Japan, Thailand, India, North Africa and Europe.

War widows who have not been able to visit their husband's grave can do so under the scheme at an eighth of the cost, and if this is too much the Legion will often make up the difference. Groups are usually escorted by one of the Legion's Pilgrimage Department staff.

More information can be obtained from the Pilgrimages Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX, tel. 0622 77177.

QDG on UN Cyprus duty

D SQUADRON, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, has swapped grey berets for the sky-blue of the United Nations for a six-month tour with the multi-national force along Cyprus's "buffer zone" - UNFICYP - United Nations Forces in Cyprus.

The buffer zone, though wide in places, tapers down to the width of a QDG scout car in the inner walled city of Nicosia where Greek is divided from Turk.

The squadron of just over 160 men is split into five troops of four scout cars each and spread out along the zone.

HOME HUNT

SAPPERS came to the rescue when the Blues and Royals moved from Detmold to Sennelager in West Germany - and found they had nowhere appropriate to house the Weserville Hunt. Only available place was a pig sty!

So 6 Tp 37 Fd Sqn RE based in Hameln rolled their sleeves up and very quickly constructed some luxury kennels for the hounds.

Mission complete

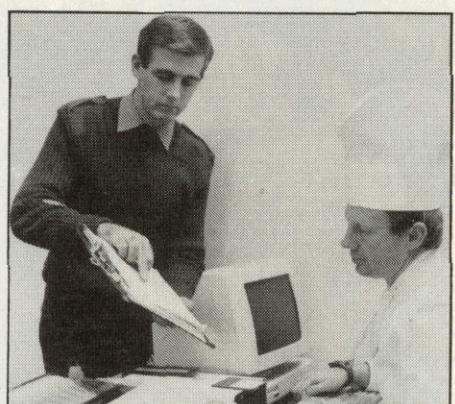
BACK in Iserlohn, BAOR, after a four month deployment in Northern Ireland are the sappers of 30 Fd Sqn of 26 Engineer Regiment. Tasks completed by the squadron included the construction of mortar protection over a number of portacabins around the province and the rebuilding of a check point at Clady.



Pictures: Paul Haley

Cpl Steve Unsworth receives his trophy from Maj Gen David Goodman after being presented with his coveted "wings"

First CATPAC system accepted



WO11 Ian Strongman (left), stationed at Catterick, North Yorkshire with the CATPAC project team, discusses the programme with Master Chef WO11 J D Lancaster, attached to 38 Engr Regt at Ripon

THE Army's cookhouse computer revolution has begun with the formal presentation to Brig Mike Paterson, Director Army Catering Corps, of the first of 326 CATPAC systems which will be installed in units worldwide during the next two years.

CATPAC - the acronym for Catering Accounting Planning and Control - is designed to reduce the huge amount of routine paperwork at present carried out by the Army's master chefs.

Contract to supply the hardware for the system was won by Apricot Computers, with XI Data Systems of Leeds providing the software package.

Developed by Maj Peter Jones ACC at Catterick Garrison, CATPAC is expected to save the Army millions of pounds in the long term and pay for itself many times over in the next five years.

New Royal goat mascots chosen for two Welsh Regiments

TWO hand-picked goats from the Royal herd have been handed over to the Army to become mascots for Welsh infantry battalions. Welsh regiments have a long tradition of selecting their goat mascots from the Royal herd and have to seek the permission of the Queen on each occasion.

Dewi IV will serve with the 3rd (Volunteer) Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales in Cardiff while Sospan II will be the mascot of the 4th Battalion in Llanelli.

First corporal pilots pass out with flying colours

THE Army's latest batch of 11 young pilots to receive their coveted helicopter "wings" have included the Service's first two corporal pilots.

They are Cpl Steve Unsworth - who also received the trophy for the best No. 294 course student - and Ray Crowe, both 27, and both of whom join Northern Ireland units at Aldergrove and Ballykelly respectively, writes Graham Smith.

Both had completed the mandatory 150 hours tuition. Cpl Unsworth is a former air gunner with 880 hours experience with 669 Sqn, Detmold; Cpl Crowe - originally with 9 Sqn, RE - an aircrewman/observer with 850 hours logged with 654 Sqn, also at Detmold.



Cpl Ray Crowe

and in terms of long sustained concentration over many months."

Referring to the two corporal pilots, he added: "I congratulate you both most warmly but don't let it go to your heads. This is only the first phase of your training. You have a great deal to learn and

I am quite sure you will apply yourselves as vigorously to that as you have here.

"Fly safely, fly successfully but, above all, fly professionally. Never, ever become complacent in what you are doing. We, of all parts of the Army, are required to operate in the most demanding environment which is the air".

Later, Gen Goodman told SOLDIER: "We are now regarding the armed helicopter as a land-based fighting vehicle without the mystique of the aircraft, showing them how they can do it. Today was very significant, marking a complete transformation in our philosophy towards flying."

After initial grading and acceptance to the remaining 26-week-long course both corporals had to complete 30 hours of flying on Chipmunks followed by the final 120 hours of experience on the Gazelle.



Starstreak can be fired from a shoulder-held lightweight multiple launcher (pictured above) or mounted on an armoured tracked vehicle

Comrades in arms

THE friendship between 22nd Armoured Brigade based at Hohne, West Germany and Panzerbrigade 3 based in Nienburg has been officially recognised during a parade at Bergen-Hohne. Taking part were 1 RHA, QOH, 1 RTR, 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, 1 WG, 3 RGJ and representatives from five West German battalions.

THE CASE FOR COPEHILL DOWN

contain 90 buildings and take two years to construct from next autumn, had been expressed by people living in the nearby villages of Chitterne, Tilshead, Orcheston and Shrewton.

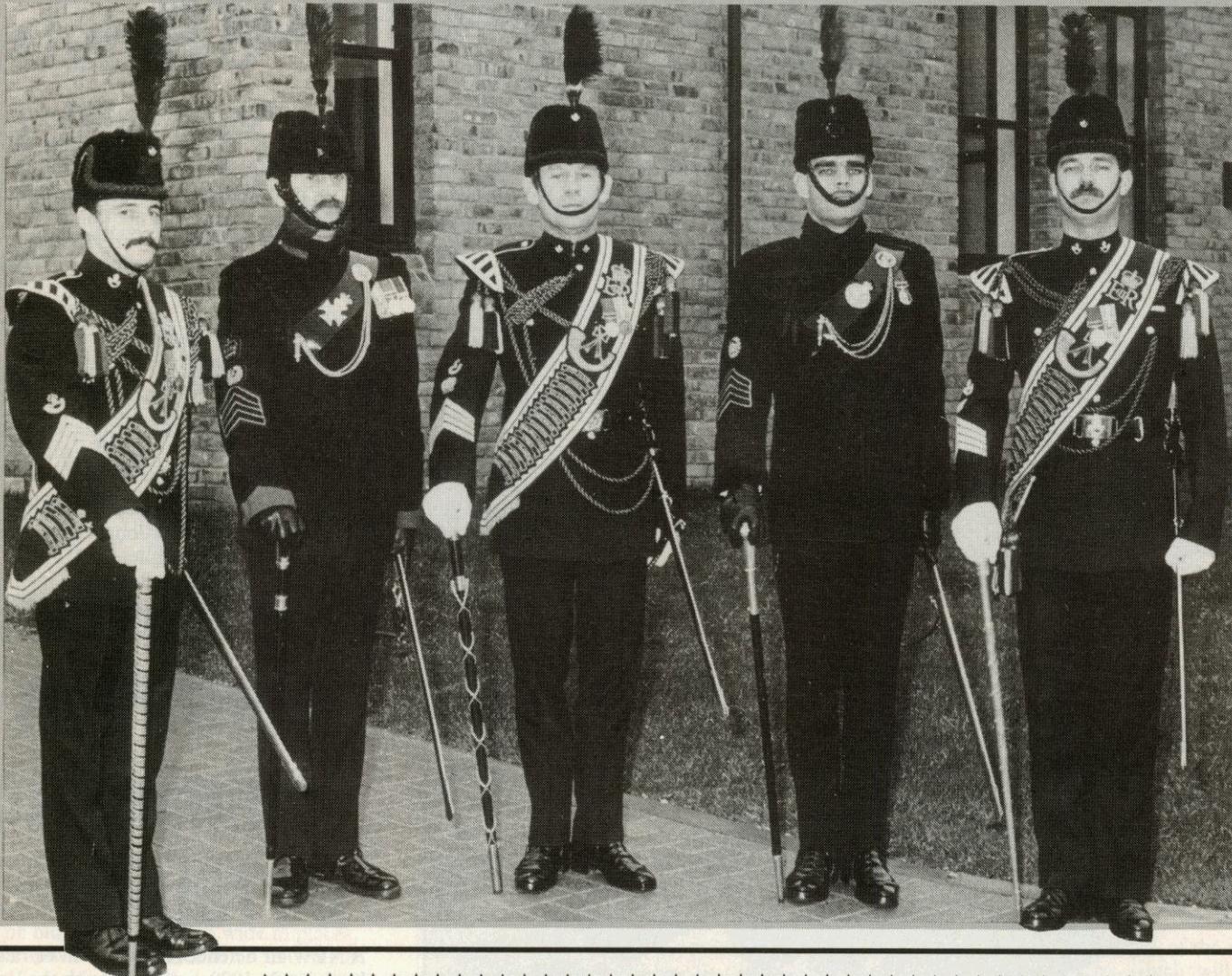
SOLDIER will run a report on the Army's case for the Copehill Down FIBUA complex in its next issue.

FIVE LEAD ROYAL PARADE SALUTE

Take a look, a close look at this picture. For it's a rare thing for the bugle majors of the Light Infantry to be pictured together. They were snapped in their finery at

the LI Depot at Flowerdown, Winchester, when 73 buglers and the bugle majors gathered to greet the Queen with a royal salute when she opened the new

barracks. Left to right they are: Bugle Majors Friend (3LI), Robinson (2RGJ), Bygrave (senior bugle major of the Division), Larrard (1RGJ) and Plumridge (1LI).



Yuletide medals



SSgt Kime, Sgt Manning

Festive medal presentations came the way of SSgt Bob Kime and Sgt Bo Manning of the Recruiting and Liaison Staff based in Northern Ireland.

Presented by Maj Gen Lionel Harrod, Inspector of Recruiting, SSgt Kime received the Meritorious Service Medal and Sgt Manning the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Flowers for the Duchess



FLOWERS for the Duchess... and LCpl Samantha Fabb of London District Provost Company RMP, presents the Duchess of Kent with a basket of winter blooms.

The Duchess was visiting the unit for a look "behind the scenes" to find out how the "redcaps" work.

As Controller Commandant of the WRAC she was keen to see how the WRAC fit into the police world.

While there she presented LS and GC Medals to SSgt Arthur Storrie and Sgt Alan Wells RMP, and Sgt Jacqueline Barker WRAC.

The visit was a boost for London District Pro Coy and made a pleasant change for them to show a royal the part the RMP play in their security.

Girls join RGJ to ring up £1,000

In five years London-based 4 RGJ (V) have helped raise £20,000 for Westminster Children's Hospital. Now, with the help of 100 girls from Selfridge's, London, they have collected another £1,000. This time the girls and the lads from the unit clambered over 32 assault course obstacles at the Guards' Depot, Caterham, in a bid to help cancer research.

MEDAL TIME FOR CHRIS

A BIG smile from SSgt Christopher Ward who has just been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for 27 years exemplary service.

His blemish-free record makes him ideal for the job he does now for he runs the tiniest Army Careers Information office in the country, being tucked away in a side street in Lancaster.

But while operating from a small office his success rate is high, since in the four years he has been there he has almost doubled ensembles from 33 in the first year to 63 last year.

Said Christopher: "I thoroughly enjoy this job, particularly when youngsters come back and see me after they have enlisted."

Picture: Lancashire Evening Post.



NS medic Ray signs off again

THIRTY years ago WO1 Ray Beacher accepted an official "invitation" to join the RAMC for his National Service.

He did his time and left, but before you could say "stick a plaster on that", he was back in the Army and heading for the British Military Hospital in Singapore.

From there on his Regular service took him to various postings around the Far East, Germany, and Ludgershall where he has just retired as sergeant major instructor at the Defence Medical Equipment Department.

To mark his second farewell to the Army and as the last ex-National Serviceman at the base, Ray received gifts from his colleagues which were presented to him by Brig R Blackburn.

Blow me!

Top trumpeters in the 1st Regt RHA are Gnr Karl Ward and Jon Godley. They were the winners of a contest featuring nine rivals and were judged top players by Gen Sir Martin Farnade.



WO1 Ray Beacher



Colin gives silver the brush-off

GIVING the brush-off to a chunk of ancient silver is Rfm Colin Fawbert of 2RGJ. For more than 200 years the battalion has been acquiring the precious stuff and that means someone has to clean it all. That someone is Colin

Fawbert who, to learn the finer points of caring for the precious metal, spent a week at Garrards, the famous silversmiths and Crown jewellers in London.

Now Colin feels that he could add a shine to anything!

Fuelman Andy saves 'copter

THE sharp eyes and smart work by Tpr Andrew Currie, 23, (right) averted what could have been a nasty experience for the crew of a helicopter.

For when refuelling one of 662 Squadron's aircraft at Soest in Germany, he noticed a tiny fuel leak.

It was smart work by Andrew as it was a dark night and, had he missed seeing the fault, the consequences for the crew and aircraft could have been extremely serious.

Presented with a commendation by Brig David Canterbury, Andrew says his ambition now is to be selected for pilot training.



PEOPLE

PhD for caterer

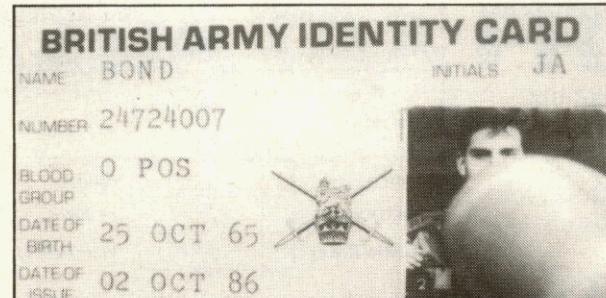
A LOT of midnight oil burned by Major John Edwards (below) ACC over the past five years has paid off with the award of a PhD from the University of Surrey.

He received his cap and gown at Guildford.

John (40) is 2IC of the HQ Catering Group at Aldershot. He started work on a Master of Philosophy degree course in 1981, choosing as his subject the food habits and preferences and nutritional aspects of military feeding.

But a year-long Defence Fellowship provided him with the opportunity to aim ultimately for a doctorate.

The private with the 007 tag



Art aids charities

When a friend who had commissioned a painting died of cancer, Maj Ted Kimberley of 1 Royal Hamps, decided his future work would help towards cancer research. Last year he contributed

£600 from commissions and still has many orders to fulfil. And such is his interest in the countryside, he is to donate some of the proceeds from his work this year to wild life conservation as well.



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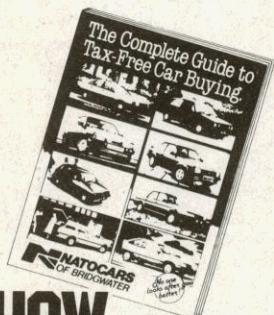
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S/12.1B

SAS really did roar to the rescue

The roar of jet airliners flying low over London is not usually a welcomed sound, but Maj Gen Peter de la Billiere has revealed that it helped the SAS in their storming of the Iranian Embassy six years ago.

The general was talking to Welsh members of the Confederation of British Industry about the need for effective systems of control - in the Army and in industry.

Now GOC Wales, Gen de la Billiere said that once a military operation was beyond the planning stage, it inevitably became a matter of crisis management. An unambiguous system of control was essential, and it was his experience that industry and even government would resort to such direct control when faced with a crisis situation.

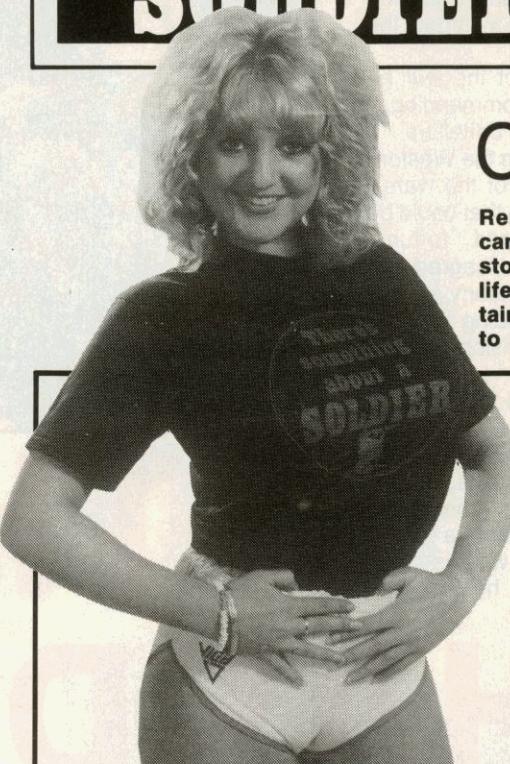
On two separate occasions during the embassy siege, police and soldiers needed noise to hide their own secret activity. He first asked for pneumatic drills to dig up the centre of Kensington Road, and within 30 minutes the Gas Board had a team creating a crescendo of sound as they tore up a perfectly good piece of highway.

When the terrorists objected to this disturbance, the general asked that all aircraft flights into Heathrow be brought to the lowest level compatible with safety and be flown over Princes Gate.

Forty minutes later "the

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Camel conundrum

Remember Kumli the camel? **SOLDIER** told the story a year ago of the life-saving dash from Britain to take a special drug to Kumli when the Bactrian camel suddenly collapsed and was close to death in Hong Kong. The mission succeeded and Kumli continued as the British Army's sole "servicing" camel.

Kumli, blind in one eye and reported to be only occasionally bad tempered - camels are not known for their good naturedness - had been given a home by 1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles when she was left behind in Hong Kong by a Japanese circus some years ago.

But now the battalion has been posted to Brunei and Kumli is homeless once more, being temporarily cared for by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club. It's enough to give anyone the hump!

Pin-up Bryony

Shaping up beautifully to the task of modelling a **SOLDIER** T-shirt is blonde Bryony Armitage who lives near Aldershot and wants to become a unit pin-up. We'll pass on the letters, lads!

SOLDIER sweatshirts and T-shirts are available in navy blue overprinted in red. T-shirts come in small, medium and large and cost £3.60 including postage, while sweatshirts are £6.50 for the children's sizes (24, 26, 28 and 30) and £7.50 for adults in small, medium and large. Send your cheque or postal order made payable to Command Cashier UKLF to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, stating size and quantity required.

centre of London sounded like London Airport at the start of a bank holiday."

Such decisiveness could never be achieved in the normal bureaucratic way of things, but with the will to achieve and a direct chain of command from the leader - in this case the Home Secretary to his line managers of the Gas Board and British Airports authorities - such remarkable feats were possible.

Gen de la Billiere suggested that perhaps some industries could benefit from a review of their channels of command and communication and could find lessons of value without

necessarily trying to imitate the military system in precise detail.

"Get fell in, you workers" was the headline which greeted the general in a national newspaper the next day, reporting that it had been suggested that British industry should be run like the Army with every worker in uniform.

"Misleading" protested the Director of Army PR, Brig the Hon Willie Rous. The general did not say British workers should wear uniform. He did suggest it could be advantageous if the Army and industry considered and perhaps learned from each other's methods.

Although it is a fact seldom appreciated on the British mainland, life continues normally in most of Northern Ireland. The main trouble spots are usually considered to be the cities of Belfast and Londonderry and the country border area with the Republic of Ireland.

So it is heartening to hear that after a break of nearly two years, the Army Careers and Information Office has been re-opened in Londonderry, just one more small step on the long road to the return of normality.

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DON'T tell Field Marshal Sir John Harding, Lord Harding of Petherton, that 13 is an unlucky number. He is adamant it is anything but that.

The senior of seven surviving field marshals, he said: "My county regiment was the Somerset Light Infantry (the 13th Regiment of Foot and now part of the Light Infantry), I commanded 13 Corps in Italy in 1944-45, I went from battalion commander to general in 13 years and I once presented a new Standard to 13 Squadron RAF. What's unlucky about that?"

Modestly he did not reveal he had won three DSOs in 13 months in the Western Desert in the 1939-45 war.

Now nearly 91 he would be the first to indicate the good fortune in his long life by pointing out that he rose from being a part time soldier with the Finsbury Rifles, a TA unit known as the "Pentonville Pissers", to that of the highest rank in the British Army.

"I've been lucky with my family, my friends, my comrades and my career," he said.

That honours, high commands and medals have come his way seemingly point to a life attended by constant good luck.

But fate or fortune took him to a job at a post office savings bank office in Kensington in 1911.

His ambition then was to become a farmer in his home village of Petherton, Somerset.

"But my father, who wanted me to become a Congregationalist minister, had no capital for such a venture. We'd been farmers for hundreds of years," he said.

And so it was the young Harding found himself working as a clerk in London and signing on for the Finsbury Rifles, soon to be followed by a commission in the 1/11th Battalion London Regiment.

"I went along for an interview, answered a few perfunctory questions and was in," he said in his well-known, no-nonsense manner.

In he was... at Gallipoli where he was injured, and

later in Egypt and Palestine where he was awarded the MC.

At the end of the war he was 22 and commanding a machine gun battalion. "I never served on the Western Front in either of the wars," he said. Maybe that could be considered good fortune, too. He didn't disagree.

But his luck nearly ran out when commanding the 7th Armoured Division - the Desert Rats - in 1942-43 and his injuries are still very evident today.

His left hand is minus three fingers, he has a hole beneath one knee big enough to plant a small potato, his left wrist is badly mutilated and he still has lumps of shrapnel in his chest.

"But they patched me up beautifully," he said. "And I can still lift a watering can full of water with the little finger of my left hand."

Recalling the time the Harding luck nearly gave out, he told how he was talking to one of his brigade commanders during the battle for Tripoli.

"I'd parked my tank and clambered up the hull of the brigade commander's tank to discuss the battle.

"He was in the turret and I was on the outside when a German 105mm shell landed directly in front of me.

"That was January 1943 and I was out of action until the following October. Being inactive for that length of time my rank was reduced as everything was on a temporary basis in those days."

Seriously injured, he was not expected to survive. But he beat the odds and was back in action nine months later.

"I owe my life to Mike Carver (Field Marshal Carver who was his chief of staff at the time and who has since written a biography of Harding) who arranged an ambulance aircraft to fly me to hospital. "But that was half a lifetime ago, as was the time I fell asleep in front of Winston Churchill.

"I went along for an interview, answered a few perfunctory questions and was in," he said in his well-known, no-nonsense manner.

In he was... at Gallipoli where he was injured, and



Left - General Sir John Harding photographed in 1952 as the new Chief of the Imperial General staff. Right - Lord Harding today at his home in a Dorset village.

THE HARDING LUCK

Field Marshal Sir John Harding now nearly 91, talks to

John Margeret

Alexander at the time and Churchill was with us discussing the Italian campaign.

"I can remember little of what took place except that Churchill, when I awoke, said: 'Look, the chief of staff has been asleep.'

"He didn't complain, but simply advised me to take a nap in the afternoons.

"I replied that my boss expected me to work in the afternoon. I think I must be the only man to have fallen asleep while the Great Man was talking."

He laughs now at the memory, but at the time it

"You can't destroy a thing

wasn't funny since they were discussing the final push to Trieste in 1944.

"Similarly I think I must be the only Englishman to have deported an archbishop."

He was referring to Archbishop Makarios whom he deported when Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Cyprus from 1955-57. "My brief from the Government was to restore law and order. I considered the best way to do this was to get Makarios to use his influence to call off the violence of EOKA (a terrorist organisation wanting union with Greece).

"I had seven meetings with him and although we made progress, we didn't get an agreement.

"In the end I deported him with some others to the Seychelles. It was the only way. Evidence that he was involved directly with EOKA was only circumstantial until the discovery of the Grivas diaries (Grivas was the leader of EOKA).

"Makarios had to be got out of the way so we could contain EOKA.

Nowadays he lives in a

tiny village near Sherborne, Dorset. His son, John, a farmer, lives nearby and visits him every day "to see if I'm still alive," he says cheerily, even though he is well looked after by an ex-RAMC corporal called George and a housekeeper.

While still able to get around, his doctors have advised fewer journeys to London. But he still manages to pursue his business interests there and makes the odd call in the House of Lords when in town.

"It's a good club, I hope it



visits from my batman of Cyprus days. Cpl Thomas, his nickname was 'Twinkletoes', still calls with his wife when they are holidaying in the area. A splendid man.

"Of course comradeship was and still is the great thing about the Army. Nine out of ten old soldiers tell me this.

"And although education and skills are different today, the character of the British soldier remains the same. Terrific."

Moralising for a moment Lord Harding said: "The Army teaches soldiers to make the most of what they have and not to bellyache about what they don't have... just to get on with the job."

As a nonagenarian he could be thought to have lots of spare time. "Not a bit of it," he said. "I read as much as I can, although my eyesight is not so good now, potter around the garden, meet people, give talks, do a bit of business, go to the Lords now and again and I'm president of the Army Records Society" (a book publishing organisation specialising in military matters).

He has also featured in a BBC TV programme about his life and times. "Do you know, they managed to find the chap who put the bomb under my bed while I was in Cyprus.

"I'm sure that when he was asked about it he looked sorry it hadn't got me.

"There were two fuses on that bomb, a 24-hour and a 12-hour. Each was covered with a piece of tape. The would-be bomber removed the wrong tape. He stripped off the 24-hour fuse. Had he pulled off the 12-hour one I would be here today. He made a mistake and we were lucky. But I'm certain he looked sad about it on the TV show."

He chuckled at the memory. The Harding luck had held again. Now in his twilight years, was there anything he wanted to do... write a book for example?

"No. I'll leave that to Mike Carver. But I like to do all I can to put the Army in a good light. They deserve it and with it the support of the public."

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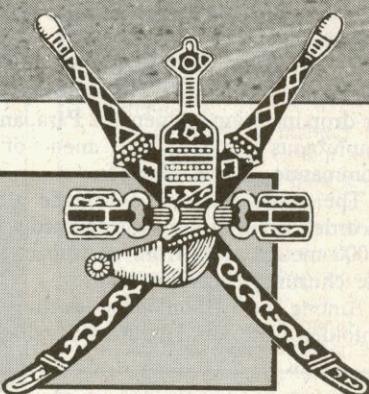
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The Omani Coastal Regiment mounts its final attack during Swift Sword

DESERT SWORD



TWO SUDDEN torrential downpours almost turned a battlefield arena into a quagmire in the middle of a desert in the land of the Arabian nights, writes **Graham Smith**.

The deluges happened during the £4.3 million joint UK/Omani exercise Saif Sareea (Swift Sword) involving nearly 5,000 UK Service personnel in Oman. The exercise was designed to demonstrate Britain's rapid strategic air deployment capability outside a Nato environment.

Army elements included 5 Airborne Brigade, the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the brigade's Logistic Battalion and other support elements.

The same monsoon-type drenching also softened up, for some hours, the runway of Al Mahattah, the Forward Operating Base, about 130 miles from Masirah Island, the former RAF staging post which, for Swift Sword, acted as the Forward Mounting Base.

Among the high-powered visitors and entourages to visit the exercise area, including a hefty press corps, was Mr George Younger, Minister of Defence and a former member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who fought in Korea.

Flanked by Omani hierarchy, including His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and his ministers, Mr Young told his battleground hosts: "We have all been immensely grateful and very impressed with the skill



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos pictured with Lt Gen Sir Michael Gray, GOC South East District, as they watched the battlefield finale

British troops fly to battle in the desert

● From Page 17

and efficiency with which the Omani forces laid on the background of this exercise.

"This is the sort of manoeuvre which needs expert timing and other skills and they have really done an excellent job."

He added: "And, what's more, they have all been colleagues. From the most senior officers down to the lowest ranks. I must express my gratitude to the Omani forces."

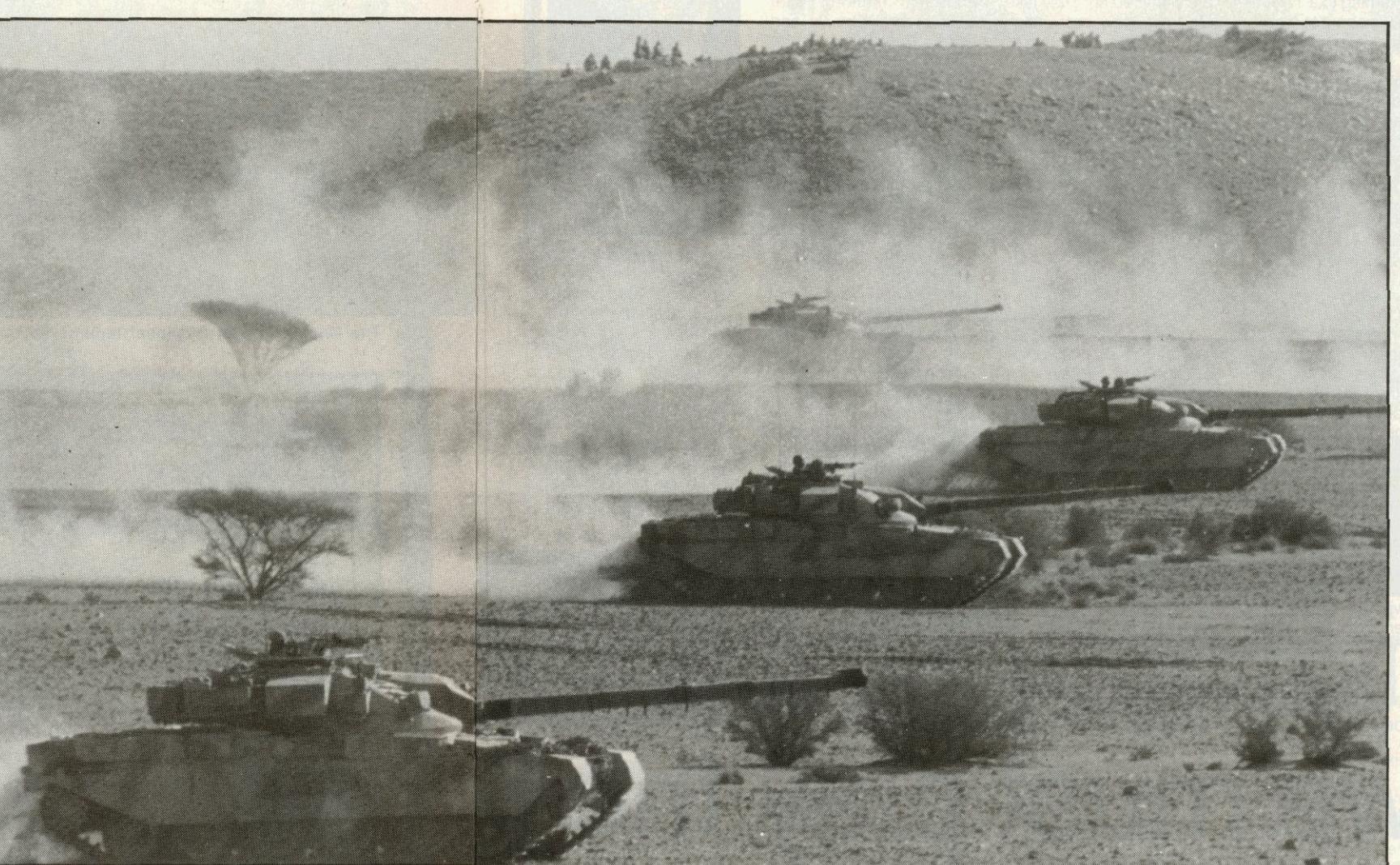
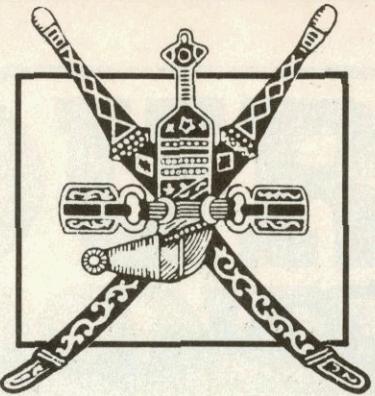
"The lessons of the exercise and the respective experiences will be discussed for a long time. It has been a most impressive and skilful experience."

"This week has put our relations on an even better footing than they have been for a long time."

It was a busy three-week exercise. Highlights included air landings, an air-drop insertion by men of 2 Para, and an amphibious landing by men of 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

The finale involved a brigade attack, recorded on film by visiting media men 1,000 metres away from its impact amid the churning, burning sands.

Among the VIP onlookers as the action unfolded were His Highness Sayyid Fahr



into the low 90s and ebbing quickly into very cool nights. Of this number, 387 jumped from a close stream of six RAF Hercules at 800 feet leading up to a three-day advance across 30kms of gravel plain punctuated with hilly features.

Swift Sword was the first time since the Falklands that the UK has exercised forces on this scale in an integrated way with host forces and it saw the first activation of a tri-Service HQ both in the UK and in-theatre during a live exercise.

The manoeuvres had been designed to exercise British Service personnel - all 4,775 of them - outside their Nato environment as well as testing the command of a joint force in such a setting.

Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed al Rowas, the Minister of Information, said that Swift Sword had given the Omani forces "more confidence and more strength".

His country had welcomed the presence of British troops as "equal companions".

He added: "Because of the efforts of the Omani forces, our comrades from Britain were able to go into immediate action."

The 508 men of 2 Para who took part in Swift Sword drew great tactical benefit from the exercise despite the heat nudging

A seventh Hercules of the Sultan's

Thumbs up from exercise planners

THE Aldershot-based 16-strong Permanent Planning Group (PPG), forming part of Joint Force Headquarters were very pleased with the progress and outcome of Swift Sword.

"It was a great success and we achieved our aim," said Maj Ian Tritton, the Group's SO 2 Ops. "Everything fell into place thanks to all the hard work done in the 18 months' planning. Everything went remarkably well. I think the Omanis were

pleased. We were." He added: "The Omanis provided our host nation support brilliantly. Nothing was too much trouble. It was an air of very friendly co-operation and it was of enormous value to them as it was to us."

The PPG contingent - a dozen officers and four NCOs - were based at the Forward Mounting Base of Masirah Island but had Forward Exercise Control, a "white arm band organisa-

tion" operating on the mainland.

"I think Swift Sword confirmed the lessons we had learned in the Falklands and proved the series we had developed, such as Purple Victory. Everything we planned to do was done," said Maj Tritton.

From 5 Airborne Brigade's point of view and its 1,250 participants it was, according to Maj Rick Ginn, the brigade's Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS), a "bloody good exercise".

He added: "The greatest thing we learned was one of close co-operation and the experience of each other's armies. We also learned we could deploy long distances with our kit and perform very well. From the professional soldiering point of view it was good at all levels right down to platoon and section level.

"There is also no question from our point of view that the Omanis put into the field their strongest team and we benefited from that and worked very closely with them.

"5 AB has nothing but praise for the Omani help, co-operation and their ability to manage their own forces, though somewhat differently from ours. But, none the less, they were very professional which, for an Army which has been going for about ten years, has showed remarkable achievement and progress in that time.

"The opportunity to train in that sort of terrain for the brigade is perhaps unique, an area or one like it we could be fighting in at the nod of a head. It is absolutely essential that we did this exercise - our *raison d'être* - and the soldiers thoroughly enjoyed it not just from the joint force headquarters aspect but from the varied training levels opportunity."

The next joint venture involving the brigade will, however, not be in the heat of the Middle East but rather the heather of Western Scotland next year.

Col John Holman, Chief of Staff at the Combined JHQ said of the Omani exercise and his organisation's part in it: "Double-hatting has to work and, of course, it does work. We have been able to exercise objectives like planning and mounting joint operations, evaluate what is needed and how much support is necessary as well as practising integrated air defence and communications in combined joint exercises."

"It went back to the Falklands and we were out in Oman to test the theories. Nothing is perfect but we have learned a lot and enjoyed the exercise in the process."

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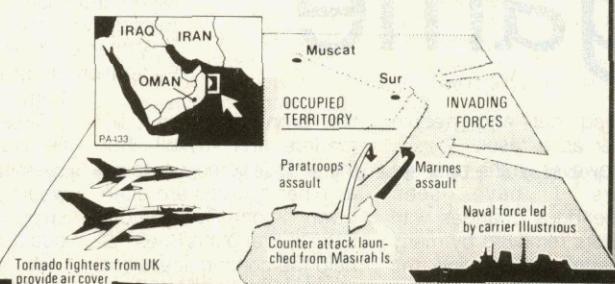
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Omani Chieftain tanks throw up a swathe of dust as they traverse the desert during Exercise Saif Sareea

The 'invasion' map



The Saif Sareea scenario. Sea and airborne forces seek to oust invaders occupying part of the strategic Gulf State of Oman. Planners drew heavily on Falklands war experience

DRIVE DRINK OFF THE ROAD

THE COST of drinking and driving is high. Thousands die every year with the number of those injured even higher.

More than 50,000 died on European roads last year with 300,000 people injured. In the UK alone more than 5,000 died in road accidents, with more than 1,000 drink related.

These horrifying, but not surprising statistics, came from Junior Transport Minister Mr Peter Bottomley who is urging "don't drink and drive" campaigns throughout the year and not just at Christmas.

Speaking on BFBS he said: "We know how to cut out a third of the deaths on the roads since that number is related to drink, and went on to forecast that 100,000 drivers would be convicted for exceeding the legal alcohol limit this year and half that number would have more than twice the limit.

"Drinking and driving is a menace to society and to everyone in society. The aim of our campaign is not just to get at those who are drinking and driving, but to remind everybody, every month of the year, every week of the year, that drinking and driving do not mix."

Referring to motor cyclists, Mr Bottomley said 800 will die in Britain in the coming year. They will also

knock down and kill 200 pedestrians.

He said: "It's no good a parent turning to a 17-year-old who is about to learn to ride a motor bike and intone he should observe the speed limit and not drink and drive, when for the past seven years he has watched his parents drive when they have been tanked up.

"We are better than France and Germany, but we can do a lot to help cut these appalling statistics."

He suggested that babies were at great risk in a car, especially if they were not strapped in a rear-facing infant carrier.

He was enthusiastic about the need to publicise this sort of precaution at maternity hospitals and clinics and expressed amazement that so few people buy seat belts for their children or, for that matter, for grannies.

Grannies always travel in the back seat with the children and a large number have joined the "flying granny syndrome".

Anne

HERE TO HELP

feeling was expressed.

Yet today, as we enter 1987, the Federation has become well established and has shown it can work side by side with the Army.

With effect from November '86, the Federation dropped the word Clubs from its title.

Time will tell if the Federation expands in overseas areas, but I would have thought that such mutual co-operation could only be for the best.

A number of in-depth studies have been carried out by MoD during last year, the results of which should surface this year.

We await the outcome of

carried out and people suffer as a result.

However, in the past ten years I have seen tremendous changes with barriers removed by many departments allowing me to discuss issues.

Many branches actually welcome contact with SOLDIER and go out of their way to help answer

by his department, will boost road safety thinking.

There are more than a million parents with children under five. These tots often want to cross roads by themselves, but they must be prevented from doing so.

In addition there are another million with children between six and eight. These should be allowed to cross minor roads if they can do so



Mr Peter Bottomley

OFFICIAL figures for the year ending last March show the Army's overall accident rate to be 2.6 accidents for every 100,000 miles covered. The total number of accidents world-wide was 9,685 with a total

mileage of 350 million. Of the 2.6 accidents incurred for every 100,000 miles covered, only 0.7 were judged by commanding officers to be the fault of Army drivers - just over a quarter.

spend hundreds of pounds on music equipment and "go faster" stripes.

Family Forum, too, has launched a road safety awareness campaign by encouraging restraints for all children and babies in cars; advice for mothers with toddlers, prams and push-chairs and a safety code for pedestrians young and old.

The minister hopes this campaign, which is funded



Armstrong

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Welfare dates

THE dates for SSAFA's two-day Care Workers' Course to be held at their London HQ are: January 20-22, February 10-12, March 10-12, April 14-16, May 12-14, June 16-18, July 14-16, September 15-17, October 13-15 and November 10-12.

These are popular courses and the Federation of Army Wives has only one vacancy on each course. Further information from Margaret Gibson c/o FAW offices. SSAFA volunteers should apply through county secretaries.

Dates for the Bagshot Park courses are: June 29 to July 3 and September 21-25 when an Army welfare seminar will be held. All wives are welcome. Applications to attend should be made through padres or direct to: The Warden, Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL.



A COMBINED ops job has produced a road safety bus for Hong Kong. It was bought with local road safety funds, sponsored by the Hong Kong School of Motoring, fitted out by the Hong Kong Pro Coy RMP and the sign-writing was paid for by a local RAOB lodge. All that remains is to clock up some mileage on the safety trail.

The bus is being used by the RMP to promote road safety.

To give the project an official seal of

approval, Master Driver WO1 D L Hicks RCT, hands the vehicle's keys to Lt Col A R Murray RMP, watched by Col D L Burden, ACOS G1/G4 HQ British Forces, Sgt S Welland RMP and Mr Ng Yam of the Hong Kong School of Motoring.

FILL IN A FORM FOR A JOB

WIVES seeking unemployment benefit now have to complete a brand-new DHSS form which came into effect on January 1. The form must be completed every month and 12 questions answered.

There is an abundance of information on alcohol abuse, drugs and glue sniffing and the more recent horrors of Aids.

Families must make full use of all the leaflets and information which are freely available.

ADVANTAGE

Many Government departments have produced excellent help in these areas and those in need should take full advantage.

Other questions facing anxious Service parents are:

■ Will the DHSS and the Department of Employment allow Service wives abroad the right to unemployment benefits?

■ Will a housing policy be

follows. Question one. What are you doing to find work? The answer here is to list all jobs applied for together with advertisements. Give full details.

Question two is straightforward: What job do you normally do and what job are you looking for?

Question three asks: Are you willing to consider other jobs? Even those with specialist qualifications should answer "yes" to this, as it does not follow that any job offered will have to be accepted, especially if there is a need to keep a professional record intact.

In answer to question six, which asks: How far are you able to travel to work? the answer should be "within daily travelling distance". This avoids the need to be too selective.

Questions seven and eight concern the care of children and adults during working hours and arrangements for their welfare if a wife takes a job.

Obviously this affects Service wives whose husbands must not intrude on your availability for work.

plus the extras on top?

■ Will there be an easier route to discretionary awards for further education for Service school leavers?

All these questions and many more need answers this year.

bands are often away on exercises at short notice. If arrangements for the care of dependents can be made within 24 hours, benefit can still be claimed. If not, and the reasons are unacceptable, benefit could be lost.

The remaining questions ask about previous wages and salaries before deductions.

If an applicant is asked the minimum salary she is willing to take, but it exceeds that of her previous job, the reason why must be given. And if the wages requested by an applicant are higher than average in the area, benefit could again be lost.

Finally, remember that cleaning quarters or fulfilling any other Service requirement must not intrude on your availability for work.

because they are serving their country overseas.

It's time the Serviceman lost his last place in the consideration queue and was given a boost up the league a bit.

A happy New Year to you all.

Why we must play the waiting game

IN MY VIEW

TEN YEARS have passed since I started writing these pages. Over the decade I have covered many issues and topics and raised countless problems which have confronted Servicemen and women and families.

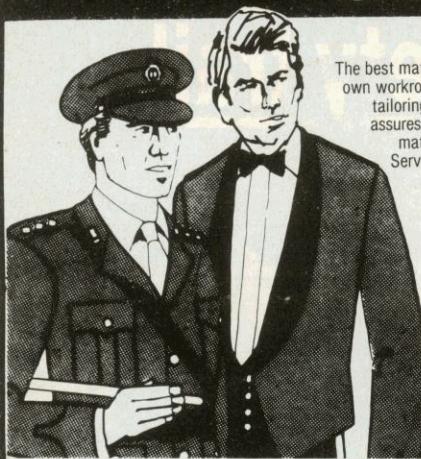
In the early days, when raising issues was frowned upon, a lot of hot air blew across the pages from on high, but as the years passed the air became milder and the issues raised were seen to be worthwhile rather than troublesome.

But some things have not changed. Letters to me are still published with just initials because I believe "witch hunts" are still

the problems raised by readers and myself. But there is still some way to go as other sources are often given information before SOLDIER and this does not help the communication to families.

There were rumblings when the Federation of Army Wives Clubs was first mooted and much anti-

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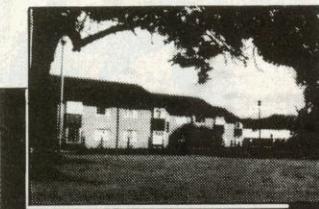
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Cavalryman takes over Naafi reins

Plans to give Naafi a new look and all-round image boost are being drawn up by new managing director Brigadier James Rucker (left). The 50-year-old former cavalryman has hung up his spurs and turned in his tank after 26 years with the 12th Royal Lancers, the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and the Queen's Own Hussars – plus many other top military posts – to take on the job of steering Naafi towards the 21st century. He moved into the hot seat at the start of the New Year.

ALTHOUGH Naafi discarded its old "char and wads" image many years ago by diversifying into hire purchase and insurance, the new man at the top is determined to take it further into the world of finance and credit card schemes.

"If we don't provide these services for soldiers then somebody else will," he said.

He said he wanted to expand the budget account side of the business and increase on the current 66,000 card-holders, denying that soldiers were being drawn into a "live now, pay later" syndrome.

He emphasised that Naafi was a co-operative for the Forces and the more they spent, the bigger the rebates paid to units and individual customers.

Last year Naafi paid back around £14million – £5million from club fruit machines alone.

"A lot of money," he admitted, "but we are in the business of providing customers with what they want as we intend to do in our shops and clubs.

"While we consider the services offered by Naafi to be good, there is always room for improvement and I want to see new methods introduced which will lead to more all-round efficiency, cheerfulness behind the counter and increased growth in turnover."

He did not discount the suggestion of a "charm school" for shop and club assistants, replying that customers were more likely to spend money with pleasant assistants rather than someone unfriendly.

He based his remarks on his long association with Naafi as a

customer. His wife, Caroline, too, has ideas in this area but he was unable to define exactly what those ideas were. "She has shopped with Naafi for a long time and knows what it's like from a customer's point of view. Now she intends to find out what it's like from the other side.

"I intend listening to her and to many other people before launching my drive to build on the professionalism of Naafi staff," he said.

It is all part of his bid to add gleam to the Naafi image which he maintains is shining bright.

Defending his new multi-million £ empire, Brig Rucker admitted some people did knock Naafi, but thought they did that for the sake of it. "They're the ones who take

Naafi for granted, but it's always there when they need it.

"The fact is Naafi belongs to the Services and needs and deserves their support."

This is the first message he wants to get across to Servicemen and their families. And it is a true message, while Naafi does make a profit it does so for the benefit of the Services.

"Of course we have to keep some money back in reserve for improvements to buildings and the like and to pay our staff, but everything else goes back to units.

"That we shall be spending some of that money and making improvements is definite, but it will take a little time. These things can't be done in five minutes. Our aim is to improve the contribution we make to the Service community . . . and we'll get there," he said.

Interview by John Margetts

CLUB AND COMPANY SWEATERS+

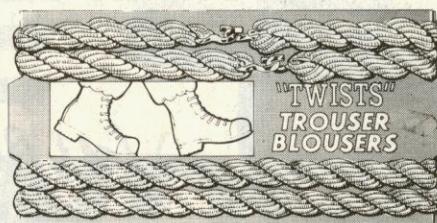
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Falklands dune patrol – Pte John McDermott, a member of the 1 Bn the Argyll and Sutherland Highlands mortar platoon, makes sure he does not stray into an Argentine minefields

A HOME FROM HOME FOR THE HIGHLANDERS

Writer Mervyn Wynne Jones and photographer Paul Haley have been visiting British Forces in the South Atlantic. More features on the Falkland and Ascension Islands will appear in the next issue of SOLDIER

PENGUINS watched warily as the patrol passed within yards of their nesting site. They need not have worried. A fence lay between their chicks and the Jocks and the patrol were in no hurry to cross it.

The snow white beaches north of

Stanley airfield are still riddled with Argentine minefields and this one was no exception.

Wildlife and seasons may be different in the South Atlantic but there was a touch of home from home for many of the men of

the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who recognised more than a hint of the west coast of Scotland in the Falklands landscape.

The battalion arrived in the Falklands in

● Turn to next page

Soon all roads will lead to 'Death Star!'

FOX BAY camp is soon to be closed as part of the centralisation of military resources and personnel at Mount Pleasant, news that has been greeted with some dismay by the locals.

Mrs Grizelda Cockwell, who with husband Richard owns the Fox Bay woollen mill opened in 1985 by Prince Andrew, now the Duke of York, said: "It is always good to see the troops, they are good company and it is good to have them around. It is nice to know they are near and we shall certainly miss them."

D Coy, based at Mount Pleasant, has a variety of tasks from providing a quick reaction force to help in the defence of the airfield to general duties and training commitments at the residential complex which is completely self contained and sealed off from the elements.

Patrols are sent to the flat, southern part of East Falkland known as Lafonia and along the strip south of A Coy's area of responsibility across to Ajax Bay. Another platoon mounts guard duty on Mare Harbour, the coastal replenishment complex south of Mount Pleasant.

Relations between the Army and the RAF are good at Mount

● Turn to Page 29



Above - Capt Lindsay Boswell, Argylls intelligence officer, cleans the 2 Para memorial between Darwin and Goose Green. Goose Green is in the background. Right - It's not all kilts and ceremonial for Pipe Maj Kenny Thomson (left) and Drum Maj David McKelvie, seen here getting to grips with a GPMG



Above - Battlefield tours are a reminder of the daunting task facing British troops in 1982. Lt Victor Matthews surveys the scene on Mount Longdon. Tumbledown and Harriet are the two peaks to left and right in the distance
Right - Early morning runners pour out of Coastel 3, east of Stanley
Below right - Lt Col Anthony Neilson, commanding officer of 1 A and SH



● From Page 25

November and by the time SOLDIER caught up with them they had settled into the wide variety of duties incumbent on the islands' resident infantry unit during a four month tour.

One company is based east of Stanley, another at the new Mount Pleasant Airport complex and a third at Fox Bay settlement on West Falkland. The battalion's recce platoon has been sent to South Georgia where it forms the main infantry element of the garrison.

The pipes and drums are attached to A Coy who are based near to and billeted on one of the coastels - floating hotel/barracks - east of Stanley.

The company is responsible for the security of most of the north of East Falkland and each of its four platoons has well defined roles which are rotated on cycle.

One platoon remains on the coastel, keeping it clean, providing personnel for

kitchen duties and manning the equivalent of a guardroom at the entrance.

Another spends its time training across the nearby Murrell River. They use the Stanley Scout hut as a base, taking with them kitchen and latrine facilities. Soldiers are allowed to take a few beers and it gives them a break from the claustrophobic coastel.

A third platoon patrols the settlements in the company's area of responsibility, reassuring and helping islanders and detecting and deterring any possible landing. Relations with local people are generally good and two Jocks were despatched on one occasion to help a farmer near Teal Inlet mark lambs.

Maj Alastair Campbell, OC A Coy, said: "We sent two of them off with sleeping bags and some old clothes and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They enjoy getting away from the coastel now and again."

The fourth platoon is the quick reaction force (QRF) which maintains a 24 hour presence at Stanley airfield and patrols the perimeter day and night.

The pipes and drums of 1 A and SH have been attached to A Coy for the Falklands tour and are being trained up on the GPMG in both the SF and light role. When the new SA80 is phased in they will remain the GPMG specialists within the battalion.

Drum Major David McKelvie said: "Our duties as a rifle platoon and our ceremonial duties on top mean that we have quite a workload. Travel can be quite a slog and it means that we are separated from our families more than anyone else in the battalion."

A Coy are on standby to reinforce South Georgia and have practised this deployment. The battalion's mortar platoon was sent and the opportunity used to fire live ammunition.

B Coy, based at Fox Bay, also rotates its three platoons in a variety of roles, namely settlement patrolling, camp fatigues and continuation training, and guard duty and patrols around the RAF radar installations. Two RAOC petroleum detachment personnel are attached to the company to refuel the many helicopters which land at the base.

Said one man: "We don't see each other all the time, there is a constant trickle. We get a lot of visitors though and on some days it feels like an international airport."

The portakabin base lies opposite the sleepy communities of Fox Bay East and Fox Bay West which boast a combined population of some 250, bolstered at this time of year - their summer - by about 50 sheep shearers of many nationalities who travel the international shearing circuit. There are 20,000 sheep in the Fox Bay area alone.

Maj Gavin Douglas, OC B Coy, told

SOLDIER: "It is very much like the west coast of Scotland here, life is at a different pace. The lads enjoy it here and it is easier to form a closer link with the community.

"Most of the islanders out in the settlements are very friendly and because they don't see troops from one month to the next are glad of the visits. Others lead solitary lives and do not wish to be disturbed."

Company commanders and their 2ICs recce each patrol route by helicopter some days before, calling in at settlements to ask if anything is needed. Vegetables, newspapers and mail are often taken out by the patrols and friendships have been forged with many islanders.

Patrols, apart from assuring settlers of their presence on the island, are also a useful means of intelligence gathering and records are constantly being updated.

House moving can take on a new meaning in the Falklands. Some are

literally hoisted on to sleds and towed by tractor to locations several kilometres distant.

Request from islanders for assistance are many and varied. Men of the Argylls have been asked to act as pallbearers at a funeral and the battalion padre, the Rev Andrew Jolly, has been called on to christen Falklands children, the most recent in Fox Bay settlement.

Capt Andrew Pritchard, B Coy training officer, asked a farmer if he could borrow a horse to do some riding. He was duly invited across early one morning and returned late that evening - extremely saddle-sore - having spent the day rounding up sheep.

Maj Douglas said: "It is like being grafted into a west highland society with conversation slow at first but links quickly forming. I think they are pleased to have us around and we always invite them to our CSE shows at the camp."

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Bags of work for island posties!

CHRISTMAS crisis over, the posties of Ascension Island and the Falklands can afford to relax a little. The festive rush meant that thousands of letters and parcels – military and civilian – were passing through the Forces Post Offices.

Heading the team at Ascension was WO2 Brian Smith, Det 20 Postal and Courier Regt RE, who took over from WO2 Dave Ingray just as the pace was hotting up.

“What a time of year to take over!” said WO2 Smith, whose team – Cpl Glenn Daly and John Copping – had to be on hand at the counter in between meeting flights and processing incoming and outgoing mail.

The hours can be long, especially when RAF TriStar mail-drops during the night have to be processed and delivered

before breakfast.

Civilian mail, mostly for the BBC and Cable and Wireless personnel on the island, is bagged and later picked up by the postmaster from Georgetown who drops off mail bound north or south.

Most of the BFPO team on the Falklands are Army too, though mail bound for the Royal Navy is dealt with by Leading Regulator Glyn ‘Robbie’ Roberts of the Fleet Mail Office. The 11 personnel at Stanley and Mount Pleasant are under the command of Capt Steve Barr, RE.

Cpl Susan Whittington, on a four month tour with the FIPC troop, said: “I really enjoy the job – you can see morale going up when the mail comes in. The social life is good because everyone looks after the posties and we get invited everywhere.”



WO2 Brian Smith (left) and Cpl John Copping unload mail at Wideawake airfield, Ascension Island from an RAF Hercules



Training goes on wherever you are – men of B Coy 1 A and SH on the shores of Fox Bay

● From Page 27

Pleasant but feelings are mixed about the complex itself. Some have dubbed it the Death Star. One man said: “You hardly see a soul here apart from soldiers and airmen – it’s like a moonbase.”

Lt High McKie, D Coy 1 A&SH, said of the miles of almost identical corridor: “It was certainly quite confusing at first and lots of blokes were lost for a while. It is a maze but

once you pick it up it’s OK.”

Maj Sandy Blackett, OC D Coy, told us: “People here have little contact with the islanders and in the future I feel this could be a disadvantage. My concern is that we could become two totally separate entities. Fortunately the Army will still be out patrolling and maintaining some links with the local population.”

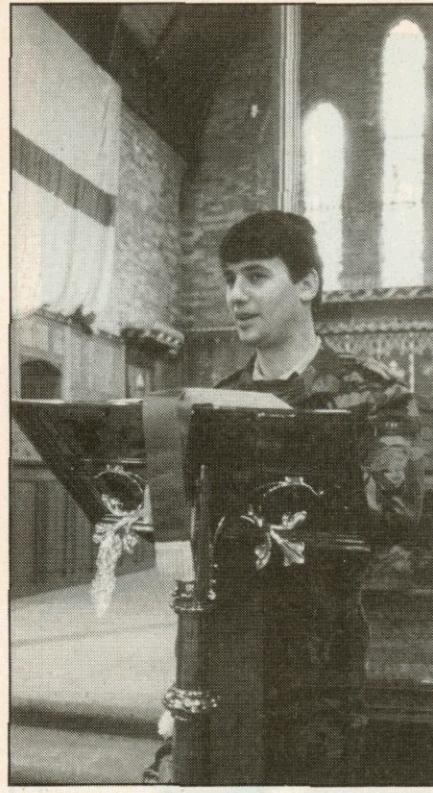
The OC South Georgia detachment is Maj Andrew Graham who also doubles as

magistrate, deputy postmaster, customs and immigration officer and Queen’s Harbour Master. He has little cause to wear any of these other hats because, as he told SOLDIER, “what makes South Georgia so different from any other posting is its remoteness.”

He added: “A ship every month and an airdrop in the intervening fortnight are the only chances for resupply and mail. We are entirely self contained and that the garrison

is so well provided for is entirely to the credit of the Royal Engineers detachment.”

A Royal Marines instructor and qualified mountain leader is on attachment to the unit in South Georgia, training the men in mountain and Arctic warfare skills. It may be summer in the South Atlantic but the snow line in South Georgia is still as low as 500 feet and all patrols must be fully equipped and able to cope with the vagaries of the climate.



Chaplain Jolly in Stanley Cathedral

A ministry of toffee apples and the word of God

CARRYING Bible, toffee apples and a bottle of whisky, padre Andrew Jolly and fellow Argylls took a boat across to Fox Bay settlement.

A local fisherman, on hearing that Capt Jolly was calling, had asked him if he would christen his daughter – the first christening service on West Falkland for many years.

Most Falklands children are born in Stanley hospital and christened before going home, but the fisherman's daughter was born in Fox Bay during the 1982 conflict and had not been christened.

The whole settlement turned out for the party, and the toffee apples – not seen by any of the children before – were greeted at first with caution and then with delight.

It was Capt Jolly's third christening since his arrival in the South Atlantic, and just another aspect of a ministry that he says is far more varied and interesting than life as a parish clergyman outside the Army.

"I have been a chaplain for 2½ years and have travelled all over the place. How else would I have done it?"

"Dealing with both soldiers and civilians here stretches you in ways that ordinary parish life would not. You have to pitch yourself at so many levels, each person with his or her own needs," added Capt Jolly.

Falklands force sheds Dad's Army image . . .

The Dad's Army image of the locally recruited Falkland Islands Defence Force has been shed completely since the 1982 conflict, according to its commanding officer.

Improved training and a better defined role have turned the 100-strong force into a more professional and capable unit, said Maj Brian Summers, supervisor at the Cable and Wireless station, Port Stanley.

The main role of the FIDF is to support the resident battalion in the defence of Stanley. In the event of a future call to arms, members of the force would be deployed to mountain tops round Stanley where they would man observation posts.

This task would fall to some 35 per cent of the force based in Stanley itself. The remainder live in the camp area beyond the environs of the islands' capital and would act not just as observers and intelligence gatherers but as guides for patrols of friendly forces.

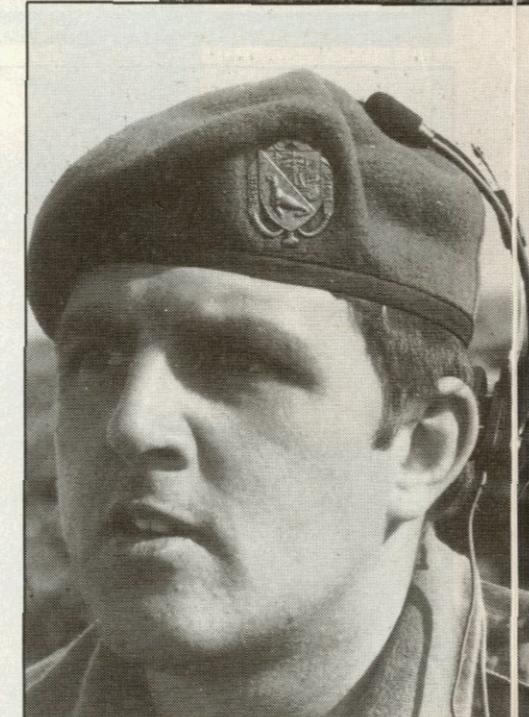
Training – previously organised by the Royal Marines garrison at Moody Brook – is now run by the resident infantry battalion and is geared towards this role.

The training package includes courses in fieldcraft, the reconnaissance and concealment of observation posts, the mounting of vehicle check points, and radio communications.

Maj Summers told SOLDIER: "Our whole pattern of training has changed.

The Royal Marines simply did not have the manpower to devote sufficient time to us before 1982 and training mainly involved running up and down Wireless Ridge doing fire and manoeuvre.

"We have got more support now and we have the use of helicopters too. We



"My reaction to the invasion was one of complete disbelief" – WO2 Marvin Starke, Force Sgt Major. Note the FIDF cap badge, the emblem of the Falkland Islands

are more practised and take part in most of the field exercises held locally, either in our own role or as enemy orange forces," said Maj Summers.

A liaison officer at HQ British Forces Falkland Islands ensures that each resident battalion is aware of the training programme of the FIDF so that continuity is maintained.

The training of the force is currently in the hands of Col Sgt 'Gus' Workman, 1



There is more to fieldcraft than meets the eye – Col Sgt 'Gus' Workman, 1 A&SH (centre) briefs members of the FIDF during an exercise on Sapper Hill. Stanley is in the background.

A and SH, who said: "They are viable and certainly very keen. Their local knowledge is invaluable and they can get us somewhere in half the time it would have taken us on our own."

Before 1982 the force shelved their training programme during the summer months – which correspond to the British winter – because of the need to replenish food and peat fuel stocks.

Training still tends to take a back seat during good weather, particularly outside Stanley, but force members try to meet at least once a fortnight in the capital between November and March and weekly for the rest of the year. An annual ten-day camp is held when as many of the force as possible are drawn together to practise unit and individual infantry skills.

Stanley, where the force has its HQ, armoury and stores, is the only regular training area and it can be difficult maintaining a training programme in the settlements. Some members of the force have joined infantry patrols for a day or so on occasions.

Members of the force are expected to be fit; the nature of their lifestyle tends to keep them so anyway. The force has surprised units on Falklands postings

during the past two years by winning two of the three tri-Service march and shoot competitions.

Maj Summers said: "Training can be a problem, but they are all very keen and they have really come together in the past few years.

"There is some spirit among us now and we have found some unit pride. I suppose that until 1982 we were rather a Dad's Army kind of set-up but at last we have a bit of respect."

The membership reflects all walks of life on the island from abattoir assistants and dockyard workers to radio technicians and company managers. There is also a smattering of expatriates from Britain including the 2ic, Capt Mike Randall, who served with the Royal Marines at Moody Brook in the early 1970s, married a local girl, and moved to the Falklands after the conflict. He and his wife now run a guest house.

Membership has stabilised at around five per cent of the population and there is a steady intake of recruits. Force members were paid only a £15 annual bounty until the conflict but are now paid hourly in accordance with the general rates of pay across the islands

fixed by the Falkland Islands Government, the Falkland Islands Company and the General Employees Union.

The majority of members are aged between 25 and 35 but ages vary from 17 to the mid-40s. Promotion is gained on completion of command courses run by the resident battalion.

"It is definitely in our interest to maintain strong links with each battalion," said Force Sergeant Major WO2 Marvin Starke, who was one of several of the force to be captured by the Argentines during the invasion.

"My reaction to the invasion was one of complete disbelief really. We all went to the HQ where sections were deployed to OP locations. I was sent to the back of Government House with a GPMG and orders to shoot down any helicopter that might try to abduct the Governor.

"Just before dawn we heard a couple of violent explosions as the Moody Brook barracks were blown up. It was certainly quite an experience and certainly no fun to be shot at. Some of our members never returned but on the other hand we gained a lot of new ones," added WO2 Starke, the Falkland Islands' Chief Fire Officer.

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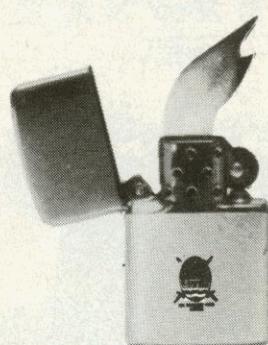
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Own Yeomanry,
Chorley, Lancs



Have a laugh on us, we said, and here are a few of the cartoons we received from readers. We will be publishing more in the future, so if you want to join the fun, send your original cartoon to **SOLDIER**. They should be in black ink on white card.

Your Cartoons



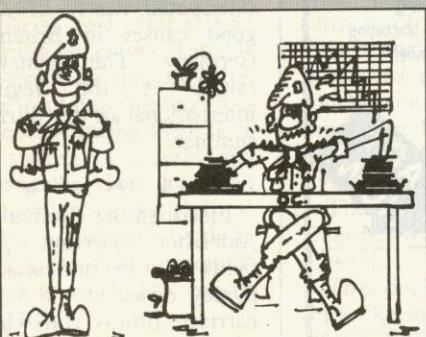
'Now I know why they call it Buller Barracks!'

- TM Gasper, ex RCT, Tamworth, Staffs

- LCpl R
Darkin,
RAMC,
Guards
Depot,
Pirbright,
Surrey

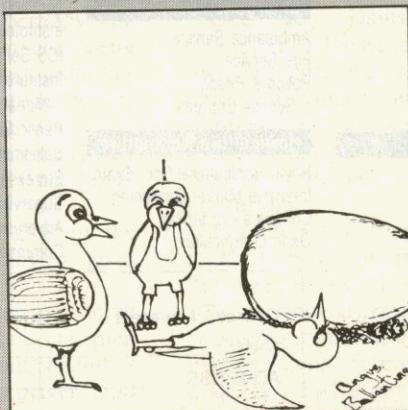


The armoured personnel carrier



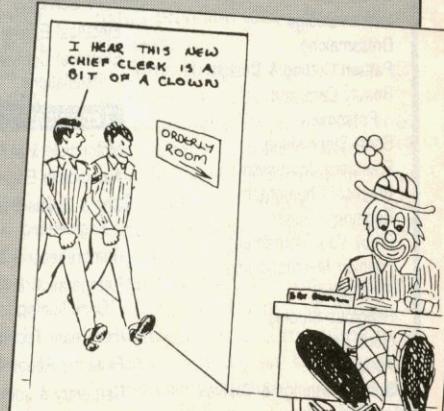
'Sir, Pte Jones from the Camouflage Department is outside.
Tell him I can't see him, Corporal!'

- Sgt PSI Dave Holmes, 93 Ord Coy RAOC(V), Portsmouth, Hants



'That's the worst case of shell shock I've ever seen!'

- Angus Ballantine, ex RAPC,
Huntingdon, Cambs



- Cpl P Sheard, HQ 23 Gp RPC,
Bicester, Oxon

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE . . .

Jocks dig in for the children

B COMPANY of The Royal Highland Fusiliers made a dawn invasion of the town of Wilmersdorf, West Berlin, moving silently into their assault positions and starting to "dig in" at 0700 precisely.

Their mission - to move 800 tonnes of sand from a children's play area and replace it with the same amount of clean sand. Second phase of the operation was to renovate several wooden forts and play apparatus.

The Jocks, who were awarded the Freedom of the town last April, were rewarded with a tot of cognac by Burgermeister Herr Horst Dohm.

★ ★ ★ ★

Twenty five members of the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/ RAOC from Colerne, Wiltshire, have been hard at

work in their community. They have built a wheelchair path at Middlefield Adult Training Centre near Chippenham, renovated two cemeteries in Corsham and redecorated two

workshops for the Avon Training Agency in Bath.

★ ★ ★ ★

A 48-hour basketball marathon completed by men of

the 50th Missile Regt RA based at Menden, West Germany, raised DM3,562 for the Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Incidentally, they scored 21,212 baskets in that time.

★ ★ ★ ★

LCpl David Hand walked 105 miles from Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire to Old Trafford, home of Manchester United, to raise money for the Children in Need appeal. David, who is hoping to collect about £500, is serving with 40 Sqn RCT. He was escorted by a minibus driven by his wife Isabel, who is a member of the WRAC and also serving with 40 Sqn.

★ ★ ★ ★

3 Regiment AAC, based at Soest, West Germany, has just distributed nearly £14,000 to good causes in Britain and Germany. The money was raised at the regiment's international air day during the summer.

★ ★ ★ ★

Floodlighting equipment for Aldershot Garrison playing fields is to be purchased with money raised at the 6½ mile garrison fitness run which is compulsory for all serving personnel under the age of 50. Pickfords Removals sponsored the event which was completed by more than 4,500 soldiers.

The annual run raises money for welfare in the garrison.



Cheers chaps! Burgermeister Dohm warms up the assault party of Jocks with a tot of cognac

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Danes debate combat role for women

DENMARK, once the home base of marauding Vikings, could soon be ready to produce another breed of warrior if the results of trials, already 18 months in the running, are deemed successful by that country's Ministry of Defence, writes Graham Smith.

And that could mean women in combat units, females in the firing line in Leopard 2 and Centurion tanks and 155mm SP howitzer gun crews.

The possibility was announced by Defence Minister Mr Hans Engel.

An order has gone out allowing recruitment for women into the Danish navy, though they will not be able to serve on submarines, as special forces frogmen - (frogpersons?) - on fishery inspection vessels or in the Danish fleet air arm.

The Danish Air Force, it appears, has been very impressed by women in uniform in high stress situations such as tactical evaluations, when it was found they were often in a calmer state at the end of an exercise than the men.

But the full advent of girls into combat units is still being considered. Girls have already been pictured atop Leopard 2s and flanking field artillery. But the men - the tacticians, trainers and strategists - are still thinking about allowing them entry as a permanent feature.

As a Danish Defence staff press spokesman in Copenhagen told SOLDIER: "You must remember that this would mean moving the girls into the front line. We have had some reports during these tests which started 18 months ago and, basically, there has been some question on the physical capability of the girls in those units handling heavy ammunition and guns. It has caused some concern."

"But we are conducting similar tests for girls in our air force deployed with our Hawk missile sites."

"Let me add, there has been no resistance from the combat units themselves. And it is true



Above - Birgitt Gotthardsen, Lisa Hansen, Henriette Hansen and Mario Nielsen sitting pretty on their 155mm SP howitzer during Exercise Bold Guard. Below - Machine gunner Pte Majbritt Kleis, 21, one year's experience, wants two more



there has been some pressure put on by Equal Rights groups that we should put women into combat groups. We have had girls in our Army for some years now and perhaps the concept of the Israelis using girls in their combat units has influenced the attitude of this country into doing the same thing. The Israelis, though, do not deploy their girls into actual combat."

The 300 or so girls in the Danish Army enjoy a good lifestyle.

They do, however, pay union dues like the officers and men and usually carry out the duties of clerks, typists, drivers and signallers.

The girls do nine months' training before going on for a minimum of another two years.

Yet about 40 per cent leave

the army within five months because they find conditions too tough.

And they need give only 14 days' notice.

One lady Danish Army officer, Hille Jensen, mother of two, has past experience as a tank commander, not just a commander of an ageing Centurion but a troop commander in charge of three Centurions.

Recalling her training, she said: "I spent four months on the Centurions. I fired the 105mm main armament about two dozen times and both the machine guns mounted on the tank. If I had to go to war, I would. It's my job."

In peacetime she was in charge of 63 men. In war, that would swell to 381.

Danish girls who do decide

army life is for them turn out to be quite tough.

Every year they go out on three-day survival exercises, practise patrolling and ambush skills and are subjected to the usual physical and psychological tests.

Four times a year they go shooting on the ranges.

Social benefits are good, too. For every month after 33 months' service completed the girls get one week's further education, which amounts to 12 weeks a year.

Meanwhile, the descendants of those valorous Vikings - whose out-of-area missions now usually centres on UN tours in sun-kissed Cyprus - await the final decision on whether the girls will join permanently the macho tank and artillery fraternity.

At home with the musical Tigers

TIGERS AT HOME

Band and Corps of Drums of 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regiment. Conductor: Bandmaster D W Wood. Drum Major: D Beer NMS 403

ONE of the few cap badges I still recognize on sight is the tiger of the Royal Hampshires, and the Tigers are at home to all who care to buy this very attractive and well played programme of marches and light music. With the Corps of Drums too, who play the tune with the lovely title *Flow Gently Sweet Afton*.

When I crossed its bridge on my way to Ayr recently it was flowing not too gently through mounds of beer cans and chip wrappings. Ah well. They are also heard fleetingly in the

Regimental Marches, which include those of the 2nd and 3rd battalions.

Parade marches by the band are *The President Elect* by Chris Siegal, *Alf Young's Song* played by Cpl Stroud. A selection of the tunes of *Jule Styne*, who wrote "The Pajama Game" among many other shows, gives the band a chance to display its versatility in fine style.

I always wonder how regimental bands, now officially restricted to a mere 20 players, survive the rigours of such parsimony (and we won't ask); it says a great deal for the ingenuity and adaptability of the British soldier.

Mr Wood opens side two with his fanfare for trumpets and band aptly named *Colonel-in-Chief*, and who shall blame him, for "she" is none less than HRH The Princess of Wales. Irving Berlin's *Puttin' on the Ritz* makes a lively offering, as does *The Flight of the Bumble Bee*.

● From Northern Music Services, 20 Pannal Ash Drive, Harrogate HG2 0HU, price £5.60 inclusive.

SUNDAY MIXTURE

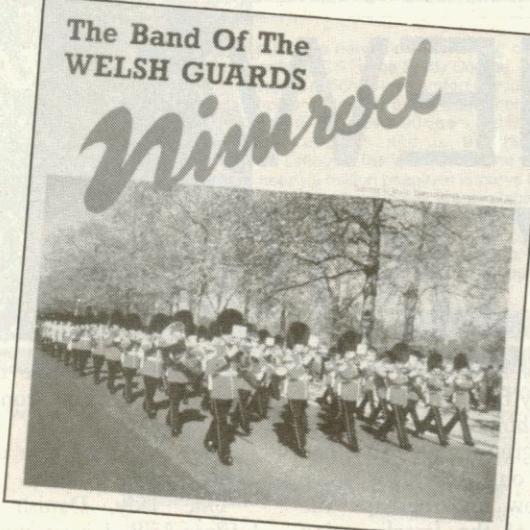
NIMROD
Band of the Welsh Guards.
Conductor: Captain P
Hannam
Grasmere GRALP 13

THE first and last items on this, Capt Peter Hannam's first recording with the Welsh Guards, strike a serious – not to say funeral – note. *Nimrod* itself is of course played at the Cenotaph and on any other memorial occasion, and the hymn tune to *Abide With Me* (especially with trumpet obbligato) at the end of most tattoos.

But in between all is light, light music that is. Even Svendsen's fine tone poem *Norwegian Artists' Carnival* is uproarious stuff, and one of the finest marches ever written, also by a Norwegian, is Halvorsen's *Entry of the Boyards* which receives a suitably virile performance.

Three other marches are Schrammel's classic *Wien Bleibt Wien* in a slightly updated arrangement, Herzer's *Hoch Heidecksburg*, and one by the well known record producer (including this one) Bob Barratt, called *Cardiff Arms* and named after a certain Welsh shrine.

Also in marching mood is



Peter Hannam's arrangement of the nursery tune "This Old Man" which he calls *Children's Patrol*, and he has also arranged for oboe solo the theme from the film *Bilitis* by Francis Lai.

As I implied, *Nimrod* and *Abide With Me* sit rather uncomfortably among the other lively pieces, but the whole makes what we may imagine as a typical Sunday evening programme at resorts such as Eastbourne and Bournemouth.

● From Welsh Guards, Chelsea Bks, London SW1W 8RF or dealers price £15.60 inclusive.

The story of 'Our Sergeant'

TIME was when the military man had great difficulty in finding further employment when he left the Army; society thought little of its soldiers who were poorly educated, trained only to handle a rifle or horse, and to obey orders without question.

The Crimean War changed the public's attitude, and a former captain in the Eighth Hussars, Edward Walter, whose grandfather founded *The Times*, became a champion of resettlement. He devoted himself to the plight of ex-soldiers and his work led in 1859 to the founding of the Corps of Commissionaires. Today, the upright uniformed men, often known affectionately as 'Our Sergeant', are familiar figures outside so many banks, theatres and institutions.

The story of the corps, created and led by the Walter family for 116 years, is told in *Our Sergeant* by Peter Reese, himself an ex-Regular in the Army Educational Corps.

● *Our Sergeant*, by Peter Reese, published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £13.95.

BOOKS

British Army Collar Badges, 1881 to the present, by Colin Churchill and Ray Westlake. Pictures of more than 400 collar badges with price guide. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £6.95

Battle in the Civil War, by Paddy Griffith. The author, a military historian, explains how the Blue and Gray (sic) armies fought in the American civil war and examines the commanders' problems. Published by Field Books. Price £4.95.

British Battle Insignia (1) 1914-18, by Mike Chappell. Published by Osprey Publishing in the Men-at-Arms series (No 182). Price £3.95.

Modern African Wars (1): Rhodesia 1965-80, by Peter Abbott and Philip Botham. Published by Osprey Pub-

Why the 'cavalry' didn't know one end of the horse from the other

IT WAS necessary during the Boer War to make fighting troops mobile, so the mounted infantry was formed, men and horses being introduced to one another without the initial training of either.

This, not surprisingly, had a bizarre effect. "On the night

of the advance which led to the relief of Kimberley . . . many had crossed a horse that day for the first time in their lives."

Many fell off and in the darkness "the animals went on with the column, leaving their masters on the ground." The

column had to halt for a whole day to allow the stragglers to catch up and the ten-mile march had taken 11½ hours.

At home life was not easy for the 21st Lancers in Dublin. In 1902 their Standing Orders stated: "It cannot be too often impressed on non-commis-

sioned officers and men that they are on no account to marry without leave, and their marrying at all is an act of folly . . ."

These glimpses at the life of the cavalry are taken from the fourth volume in a massive history of British cavalry – 575 large pages, including 78 photographs and illustrations and 11 maps. This volume covers the years 1899 to 1913 with the first 15 chapters concentrating on the Boer War.

The other six include Army reforms, cavalry training, and the Curzon-Kitchener dispute in India which aroused so much interest at the time.

This is not a record of the dry-as-dust affairs of soldiering, but a vibrant account of the vagaries and changes over the years, the personalities concerned and the joys and vicissitudes, the hardships, the setbacks, the resilience and the tenacity of the soldiery.

Well worth reading – if you can afford it. – GRH



Indian cavalry at war – a patrol of the 9th Hodson's Horse in Mametz, France, in 1916

IN BRIEF

lishing in the Men-at-Arms series. Price £3.95.

Fields of Death, by Peter Slowe and Richard Woods. The battlefield terrain of the First World War related to the heroic, tragic and unimaginable stories of the soldiers who fought and died there. Published by Robert Hale. Price £12.95.

Liphook, Bramshott and the Canadians, by L C Giles. The story of the thousands of Canadian troops stationed at Bramshott Common, Hampshire, in both world wars, and the relationship which grew between them and the villages. Published by Bramshott and Liphook Preservation Society, 12 London Road, Liphook, Hants GU30 7AN. Price £1.70 (UK), £1.81 (Canada).

Pride of India founded in the mud of Flanders

THE Indian Cavalry was rushed to France in 1914 and thrust straight into the path of the German Army to block its advance and to hold the line in a winter of ice and snow, sleet, rain and mud.

They were still clothed in their Indian summer khaki drill uniforms with thin leather boots that let in water.

They were never used as cavalry and their squadrons always fought under-strength as a quarter of the men were left to tend the horses. Both Generals French and Haig intended to use cavalry when the German line was breached.

The Indian Cavalry was untrained in the duties of the infantry soldier, but followed the lead of their British officer *sahibs* and suffered and fought

for their *Badshah* – King George V – even when they could not comprehend why they had to endure the life-sapping water-filled trench warfare and the slow moving attacks across open muddy, shell-holed landscapes against ruthless enemy machine guns.

The weather was so bad and they were so ill-equipped to stand it that when they were withdrawn after their first spell of 72 hours, one typical squadron of the 34th Poona Horse had 50 per cent of its strength sent to hospital with frost-bitten feet and another 20 per cent excused duties.

They expected to fight like their forebears in glorious cavalry charges and were ready to die for the honour of their race and in service to the

Badshah. They certainly died in France and earned high honours in doing so, including the Victoria Cross.

The three stories in *Indian Cavalry Officer* go into very great detail, recounting almost hour by hour the duties, difficulties, actions, tribulations and successes of these men. Captain Roly Grimshaw, first a commander of a Poona Horse squadron, then, after being badly wounded, commander of a training depot in India, tells the first and the third. The middle story is recounted by an illiterate *dafadar* (sergeant). – GRH

● *Indian Cavalry Officer 1914-15*, by Captain Roly Grimshaw, published by D J Costello (Publishers) Ltd. Price £13.95.

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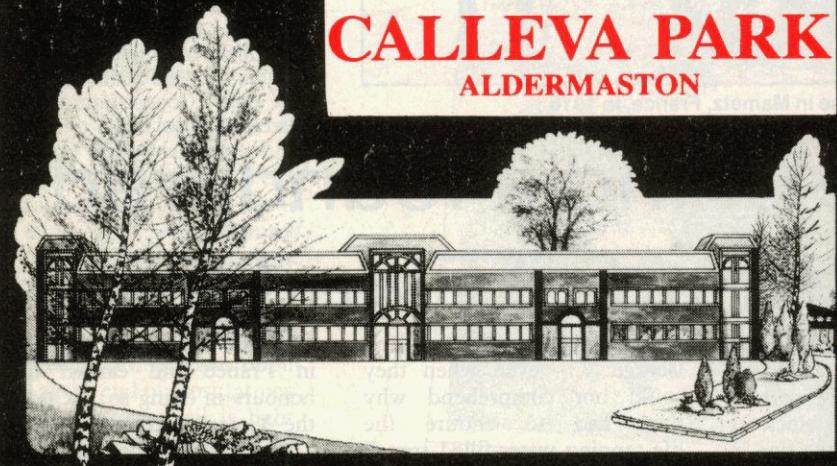


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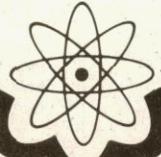
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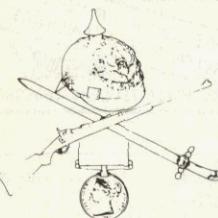
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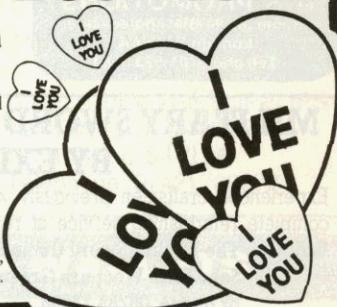
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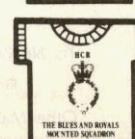
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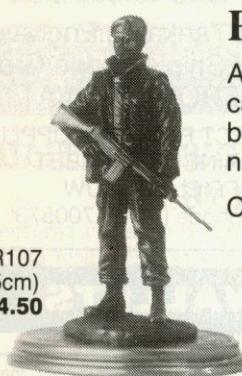
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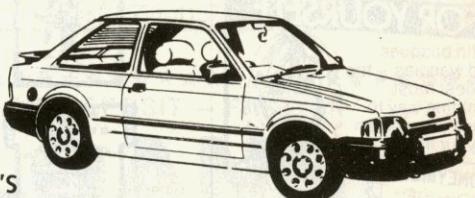
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Ski centre looking to boost military use

ALDERSHOT's Stainforth Ski Centre, built in the Sixties as a military training facility, is now being used overwhelmingly by civilians. Only five per cent of the 40,000 ski hours available a year are filled by Army personnel.

Now ski centre manager Dick Newberry is meeting local units to find ways of boosting military involvement. Main problem is the Army's tight training schedules and exercise commit-

ments which make it impossible for units to book slope time months ahead.

Potentially popular midweek sports slots have to compete directly with civilian bookings.

The brainchild of Maj Gen Charles Stainforth, then GOC of South East District, the ski centre was opened to the general public in 1978 under joint military and local authority management.

With European winter holidays

becoming increasingly popular, the value of dry ski slopes in snow starved Britain has rocketed. Introductory or top up sessions on the artificial surface mean Alpine-bound skiers can make maximum use of their expensive holiday time.

Information about facilities and special rates available to Service personnel at the Stainforth Ski Centre is available on Aldershot Military ext 3561.

TA hold on for memorable win

HONOURS in the annual clash between the Army and the Territorial Army went to the part timers by a 4-2 margin, but the Regulars could at least claim mitigating circumstances.

They made most of the running in a very enjoyable match at Aldershot and were without seven first choice players who had been called up for Combined Services duty against Wimbledon the following day, writes Pat Massey.

The Army XI played some fine open football and had the TA defence on the rack for long periods. Brilliant defence by the volunteers continually frustrated the Army forwards, with a boot or body always blocking the final shot.

Much against the run of play Ian Kerr scored for the visitors from the penalty spot after Tony Outhart had been brought down on the edge of the area. Within minutes the Army drew level when Eddie McIlvenna converted a Steve Saunders cross. Just before the interval Scott Nicol raced clear to restore the TA lead.

A Trevor Hogg own goal levelled the score after the break and one felt the Army's greater control would win the day. Not a bit of it. Nigel Robinson put the TA 3-2 up and, with the Regulars committed to all out attack, Kerr scored a second penalty after Kidder Salt had been tumbled over by 'keeper Reeves.

Wimbledon fielded nine players with First Division experience when they took on Combined Services at the



3 RHA on their way to victory over 26 Fd Regt in the 640k division

Just no stopping 3 RHA

TUG of war kings 3 RHA from BAOR totally dominated the Army open indoor championship at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot, winning all three weight divisions for the loss of just a single end.

That brief hiccup in 3 RHA's otherwise smooth progress came in the 560k competition, in which 14 Fd Regt RA took them to three pulls. But 3 RHA went on to beat 49 Fd Regt RA in the semi-finals before toppling 19 Fd Regt RA 2-0 in the final.

Military Stadium, Aldershot. Goals by Andy Sayer, Alan Cork and Andy Clements won the match for the Dons, but fine efforts by Sgt Tiv Lowe RM and Cpl Bobby Eccles RAF pegged them back to 3-2.

The narrow margin of victory

for the professionals reflects great credit on a Combined Services side which battled through the evening and was very much in contention at the final whistle.

The New Year programme was kicking off with an Army

Bicester Garrison were the other semi-finalists. Bicester also appeared in the semis of the 640k competition only to be drawn against 3 RHA who went on to defeat 26 Fd Regt in the final. The other semi-finalists were 19 Fd Regt.

The ubiquitous 3 RHA were at it again in the 680k class which was decided on a league basis. They finished with 17 points to Bicester's 15 and 19 Fd Regt's 13.

fixture against the Civil Service at Aldershot on January 7, followed by Combined Services matches against the Football Association at Portsmouth on the 14th, and the Kentish Cup clash with Belgian Armed Forces at Aldershot on the 21st.



Picture: Terry Champion

Easy does it! Pte Michelle Sillitoe of 10 Company WRAC based at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot, brushes up on her downhill technique at the Stainforth Ski Centre

Orienteering title for 1 RHA

MORE than 400 runners converged on Celle, West Germany, for the 1 BR Corps relays, the biggest military orienteering event ever staged.

23 Engr Regt led the first stage of the fast four-leg course through 28km of open forest on the banks of the River Aller. But 1 RHA's A team overhauled them and began the final circuit with LBdr Geoff Priestley leading a guest team from 1 Belgian Corps.

The Belgian runner, an international, eventually won by a single second. The places behind 1 RHA in the British category were filled by teams from QOH, 4 Fd Regt RA and 12/17 L.

At Sutton Coldfield, the minor units' infantry orienteering championships were won by the School of Infantry. The permanent staff of 6 (V) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment were runners up.

ARMY BOB ON LINE FOR WINTER OLYMPICS

LCpl Stan Tout, 2 RTR, has given his Army four man bobsleigh team a great chance of selection for the 1988 Winter Olympics with several tremendous performances in Europe.

He achieved the second fastest start time in the world in driving his bob to the silver medal position in the British championships at Igls, Austria, then confirmed his standing with a superb seventh position in the first round of the World Cup four man series at Winterberg, West Germany.

Competing against the world's best teams, the Army bob led the British challenge.

With Tout are Gdsm Bulldog Armstrong, 2 Gren Gds, Cpl Lennie Paul, 3 R Anglian, and the brakeman, Gnr Richards, 4 Fd Regt RA.

Cricketers off to Barbados on sunshine break

ON January 13 the Army Cricket team leaves for a 15-day tour of Barbados during which ten matches are to be played. First match is on January 16 against the Barbados Defence Force with whom the Army team are staying.

Thereafter opponents will be leading Barbados club sides, some of which are likely to include former test or current Barbados Shell Shield players.

Highlight is a fixture on January 24 against Pickwick who play on the test match ground at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown.

Eight of last season's Inter-Service championship winning side are in the tour party including skipper Maj Barry Bennett (RE). The manager is Lt Col Peter Salisbury (RA), Chairman of Army Cricket, who took the BAOR side to Barbados in 1982. Four others in that party are also making a second tour, Lt Paul Presland (AAC), WO1 Peter Wood (REME), Cpl Don Bascombe (R Signals) and LCpl David Gill (RCT).

The other players from last summer's successful senior side are Lt Johnathan Willatt (RA),

Cpl Steve Durston (REME) and LCpl Andy Taylor (RCT), while the remainder of the party is made up of promising young players, as yet uncapped at senior level, Lt Alistair Lamb (RWF), Cpl Giles Roper (Int Corps), Cpl Andy Ingham (RAPC), LCpl Mike Halifax (REME) and LCpl Graham Summersgill (DWR).

Majors Mike Tetlow and Mike Cox (both RAPC) will carry out the umpiring and scoring duties.

The tour is self supporting financially with each member of the tour party making a major contribution. However no less than 61 firms, organisations and individuals have provided support in the way of sponsorship. British Airways have allowed a generous reduction on fares and other major contributors are the London based Britannia Cars Limited and the British-American Tobacco Company (Barbados) Limited.

BOWLED OVER

ALTHOUGH beaten in both the singles and doubles events at the Cyprus inter-Service ten pin bowling championships, the Army came back strongly to win the team event.

Sgt Norman Riach, R Sigs, was runner up in the singles, Corporals Ian Oliver and Pete Kennedy, Armd Recce Sqn LAD, were second in the doubles, and the team was captained by WO1 Mick Harrison, RAPC.

ACC cross country

MORE than 170 team and individual entries competed in the first Army Catering Corps Association cross country, run over a fast 5.8 mile woodland course along the Severn Estuary at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. Team winners were 22 SAS Regiment and individual honours went to LCpl Cunningham of the ACC.

SOLDIER triumph for Shorncliffe

NEW holders of the SOLDIER Magazine Shield for Army Junior Inter Sqn/Bty/Coy team boxing are the lads of Peninsula Company, Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe.

Destination of the shield was not decided until the last bout of a fiercely contested final between Peninsula Coy and the Junior Parachute Company at the Guards Depot, Alexander Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey.

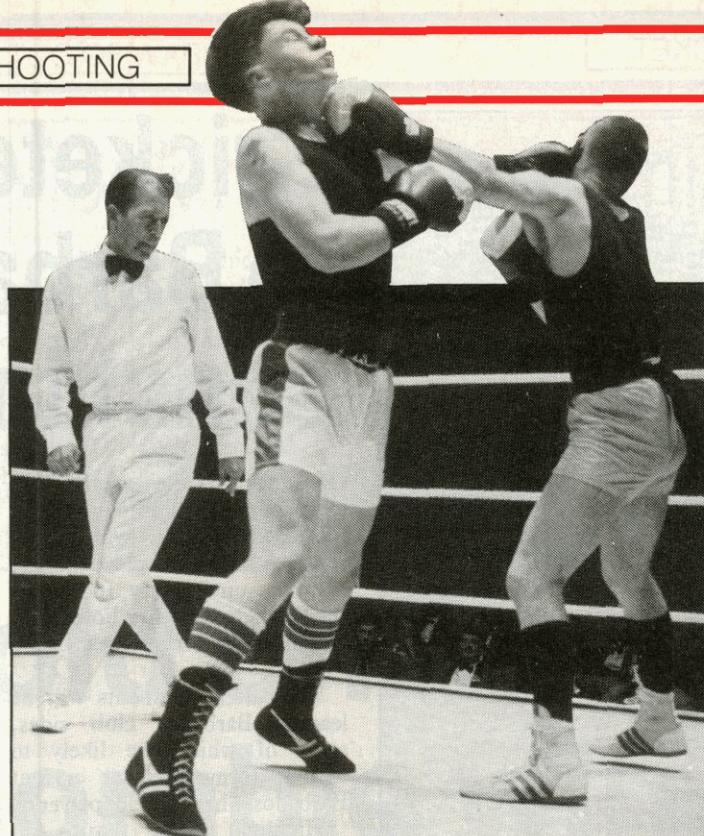
With the score tied at 4-4, all depended on the match between the first string welterweights, JLdr D Picton and JInf S Cake. Picton whipped in a right cross which shook Cake at the end of the first round, then finished the job with another thunderous right ten seconds into the second round.

Picton was soon back in action – this time to receive the trophy from Brig Peter Williams, chairman of Army junior boxing.

Results (Peninsula Coy names first) were:
Bantam – JLdr R Wilson bt JInf N Ballard, pts u; **feather** – R Brown lost to G Robertson, rsc 2; **light** – P Cooper lost to M Jones, ftbc 1; **light welter** – R Cook bt S Graham, rsc 2; **welter** (2nd string) – M Burton lost to S Heaney, pts u; **light middle** – M Bourne bt K Morning, rsc 3; **middle** – J Hughes lost to S Schofield, rsc 2; **light heavy** – P Mason bt D McNamara, pts m; **welter** (1st string) – D Picton bt S Cake, rsc 2.

At senior level, the Army warmed up for the Inter-Service matches with a 9-3 win over London and a 6-5 victory against Western Counties.

Three Army men were matched in Combined Services' excellent 5-3 win over the US Army Europe in Berlin, with ABA champion Rfn Tony Velinor, 3 RGJ, and LCpl Dave Hughes, 2 LI, notching up victories. Dvr Neil McCallum, 10 Corps Tpt Regt, lost his bout.



Picture: Terry Champion

Who hit who? No one's looking in this moment of action from the middleweight contest at the Army Junior team championships at Pirbright. Although JLdr J Hughes (left) lost to JInf S Schofield, the Junior Leaders from Shorncliffe won the next two contests to claim the SOLDIER Shield

YOUNG PACK BATTLES ON

THE Army Colts rugby team just failed to finish the first half of the season on a winning note. Although they scored two tries to one by London Irish, superior place kicking won the day 12-10 for the Irish.

Army tries were scored by prop Pte Darren Short and winger Pte Bruce Anderson, both from RAPC Worthy Down. The latter was also the Army's try scorer in the previous match against Bristol who won 20-4.

Bristol dominated forward, their impressive pack scoring three push-over tries.

The previous day the Army had also come up against a good

pack at Cheltenham and lost 26-12. The Colts scored two tries through back Spr Tom Moore, 3 Trg Regt RE, and flanker A/T Doug Laws, PMC Arborfield, with conversions by Pte Chris Rhodes, Depot POW Div, and Tpr David Rees, Life Guards.

The pack in all these games has been a very young one containing five players of only 17 years of age. Moore, one of the three older players in the pack, was very impressive in the line out against London Irish and two newcomers in that game also caught the eye, Cfn Paul Whitney, Trg Bn and Depot REME, who has played for Lancashire Colts at lock, and Spr Andrew Sanger, 36 Engr Regt, at centre.

Combined Services Colts visited Wales to play Cardiff and District Youth and Bridgend and District Youth. Seven Army players turned out in these games but, like the Army, Combined Services were beaten forward, particularly by Bridgend. Cardiff won 13-4 and Bridgend 34-0. Army captain and hooker, A/T Paul Jinks, PMC Arborfield, also captained Combined Services.

Right on target for a perfect record

THE Army target pistol team kept its 100 per cent record with a win over the Scottish national team at the Hawthorndean Range, Bonnyrigg, by 7,859 points to 7,695. Highest individual scorer was Capt Peter Hawkes, REME, with 1,707.

The win brought to an end a highly successful season during which four Army team records were either equalled or broken.

Victories included wins over the Royal Navy and the RAF, Wales, the Police and the Civil Service and a crushing defeat by the squad of the British Women's Pistol Association in a fun match. Team members with the highest season averages were WO2 Peter Walshaw, REME, in the centre fire event (576) and Capt Chris Godwin, ACC, with 555 in the standard pistol.

Success is the result of the steady build up of a strong squad over four years. The 12 man squad included four ex-Internationals and last year WO1 Jim Cairns, SASC, represented Scotland in the Home Countries International, only narrowly missing selection for the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

Even more encouraging was the performance of squad newcomer WO2 David Ward, REME, who made such rapid progress that he has been selected for the GB national squad.

Five members were selected for the six-man Combined Services team that shot against Great Britain.

Team captain Lt Col Ken Hook, RE, is always on the look-out for new talent and any aspiring pistol shooters should contact him through the ARA. Squad trials for 1987 will be held during the Army open pistol meeting at Bisley in April.

Cup Final reunion date

THE Royal Engineers AFC reunion (SOLDIER, November 17) has been altered to Cup Final day, May 16, at the Roffen Suite in Rochester, Kent. The new date befits the RE AFC, which contested the very first FA Challenge Cup final in 1872.

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Four members of the 205 Airborne Signals Sqn, 5 AB, pictured during the final stage of Exercise Swift Sword in front of the Sultan of Oman. Left to right are LCpl Bod Horan, Sgt Nidge Barnett, SSgt Steve Roden and LCpl Scouse Delaney. See also Pages 17 to 19.

Picture: Terry Champion



SOLDIER



Men of A Coy, 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on patrol in the Falklands north of Stanley airfield where the startlingly white sand beaches are fenced off to prevent people from straying into Argentine minefields. See also Pages 25 to 31.

Picture by Paul Haley