

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 12 DEC 83-8 JAN 84

# SOLDIER



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## FRONT COVER:

Pretty as a Christmas picture is 19-year-old Melanie Gough, who, lives in Farnham, is "Miss Camberley" and reached the last 15 of the Miss United Kingdom competition.

## BACK COVER:

Santa (in the shape of Sergeant Fred Hughes) collects some Christmas goodies for the Royal Engineers 'sleigh ride' from Privates Alison McIntosh, left and Anne Goulding, WRAC personnel attached to the Postal and Courier men at Mill Hill. See page 18.

Both cover photographs were taken by **SOLDIER**'s Paul Haley, who got his own Christmas present with the news that he has been awarded Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society

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The Managing Editor,  
Editor, and Staff of **SOLDIER**

would like to take this opportunity of wishing men and women in the Army wherever they are serving,

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY  
(and peaceful!)  
NEW YEAR**



This Yuletide greeting encompasses families, of course, and we don't forget our many readers who are not serving — but who follow the fortunes of those who are, through the magazine. Good fortune to you all, and thank you for your support.



# SOLDIER to Soldier

Few announcements in 1983 will mean more to the Serviceman or woman with home purchase in mind than the one made recently by Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mr John Stanley. In view of the importance we devote this column to the subject. Writer GRAHAM SMITH attended the London briefing.

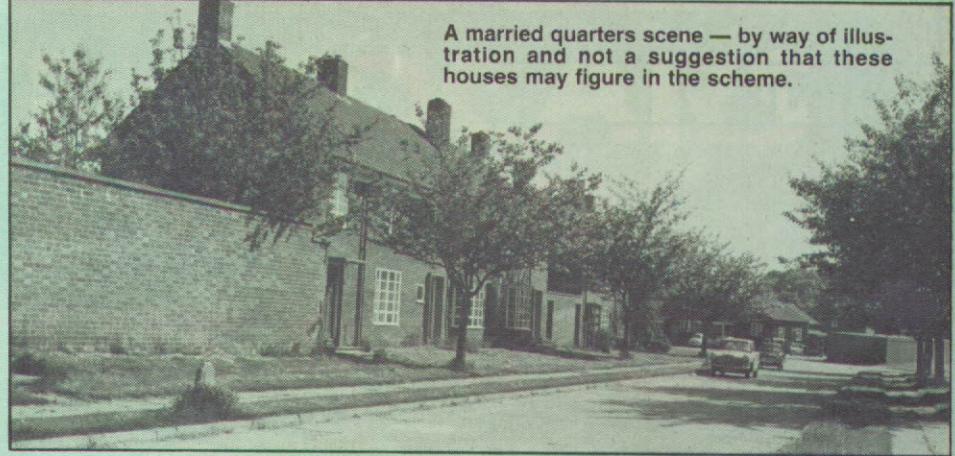
**A**FTER THREE years of marking time, non-houseowner Army personnel, married or single, aged 30 and above are now able to march forward to 'civvy street' house purchase practices. They are to be allowed to buy individual surplus married quarters — at 30 per cent discount in keeping with local council policy.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, announced the launch of the £10 million, ten-year tri-Service scheme from December 1st in the House of Commons.

Under the scheme Service personnel will be able to bid for surplus MQs in differing parts of the country — they are expected to come up at the rate of more than 200 a year — but will be allowed to buy only one.

Any offer will have a nine weeks' application period and will encompass up to three reserve buyers. After that, the quarter will be placed on the commercial market. Both officers' and ORs quarters will be eligible.

Priority of purchase will be given to those



A married quarters scene — by way of illustration and not a suggestion that these houses may figure in the scheme.

with the longest service and has the aim of helping those Servicemen and women wanting to move into home ownership, especially those coming towards the end of their Service careers.

There is no automatic right for a Serviceman to buy the quarter he may be occupying from December 1st simply because it becomes surplus.

Prices of the property will be decided by the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency after valuation by their senior estate surveyor and will be based on the current market value with vacant possession less the 30 per cent.

The scheme will be administered by the Ministry of Defence's Joint Married Quarters Sales Office based at HQ UKLF Wilton who will put out "yellow sheet" bulletins — minus pictures — of the surplus quarters for disposal just like estate agents.

Properties will be sold under the scheme on the basis of a long lease with the right after five years to buy the freehold on payment of a nominal sum. But re-sale of the property will not be allowed during that five-year period — except back to MoD.

No serviceman or woman may buy more than once under the terms of the scheme unless a sale-back to the MoD has been completed when a further property may be bid for.

In the case of a married, serving couple both may apply but only one surplus MQ may be bought by one or the other.

Certain Service personnel approaching retirement will be able to apply for an advance of pay of up to six months gross salary, up to £3500 towards the purchase of a quarter. Any shortfall in funds must be negotiated by building society loan.

The costs, too, of valuation, structural surveys, building society mortgage surveys, legal costs and stamp duty must be borne by the applicants.

The scheme represents a great stride forward since 1979 when the Government's intention to introduce such a project was announced in the 1980 White Paper.

Its implementation had to be deferred because of pressures on the Defence Budget and a non-discounted scheme was, instead, introduced in April 1981, giving Servicemen first choice in the buying of suitable surplus MQs at market prices.

Since that scheme started, 1072 MQs had been offered for sale to Servicemen, 194 of them completed and 63 on-going at the time of going to press.

But why is the scheme eligible to those of 30 and above? A Defence Ministry spokesman explained: "We like younger chaps to stay in MQs for operational reasons, for reasons of morale, young people together, community spirit and all that. We don't encourage people to go off and buy houses before this age."

Full details of the scheme are published in a 14-page DCI J.255 — for the Army — dated 25th November, number 44.



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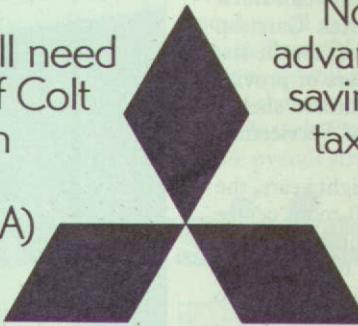
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# ARMY EXPLORER SPELLS OUT 'RALEIGH' DETAILS

THE COUNTDOWN has begun for the largest ever youth exploration voyage — the epic 'Operation Raleigh' — a four year round the globe trip due to begin next November. It follows on from the voyage of the 'Eye of the Wind' in 'Operation Drake' five years ago and promises to be bigger and better.

Once again the guiding genius behind the operation is the Army's famous explorer, Colonel John Blashford-Snell. At a Press conference he outlined the differences in the way the new expedition will be mounted from those on 'Drake'.

Colonel Blashford-Snell said that the youngsters on the last trip had agreed that they wanted to be given even more responsibility and the new expedition would meet this need. The young explorers (a term which will not be used this time), will be dropped off in remote parts without even a quartermaster and will have to make their own arrangements to live on the small amount of money provided.

There will be more urgency about the mammoth project and the main expedition ship this time will be a former trawler and scientific survey vessel to be renamed 'Sir Walter Raleigh' and currently being converted into what Colonel Blashford-Snell described as "the finest exploration vessel to leave these shores for many years."

Because of the popularity of community projects many more will be included this time as the expedition reaches third world countries around the globe. Over 50 countries will be providing adventurers — although the main bulk will come from the United Kingdom and the United States.

After leaving Hull next November the expedition will sail to North Carolina for the 400th anniversary of Raleigh's founding a British colony there. During the four year voyage some 400 young people will take part for an average of three months a time.

Young people aged from 17-23 can now apply for one of the 1500 United Kingdom places. Those under 16 and not at present eligible may apply next year. Applicants need to speak English, to swim and to show they are compatible.

A central committee will assess the application and candidates

will then be interviewed regionally. Candidates on the shortlist for the first four phases will be asked to take part in selection weekends in various parts of the country starting next March.

Once again the British Services will be playing a big part in providing people for adventure training. It is expected that several hundred British soldiers will be taking part as well as Servicemen from many other countries.

*Application forms are available from: Selection Co-ordinator, Operation Raleigh, PO Box 370, World Trade Centre, Europe House, London E1 9AS. A stamped addressed envelope nine inches by four should be enclosed.*



## WATCH IT!

EIGHT Belfast-based Army cadets are claiming to be the first group to hand in cash in answer to the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

The youngsters, all between 14 and 17, are attached to the Irish Guards and RCT and literally dropped in with their donation by abseiling down the front of the 80ft-high BBC city centre building to hand their £100 cheque to presenter Wendy Austin (inset).

Their "Pennies from Heaven" bid took place two days before the phone-in TV appeal and heralded the start of more than 30 similar exciting activities in the city to raise cash for deprived children.

Three days after the TV plea, hosted by DJ Terry Wogan, the BBC said cash paid in topped £839,000.



## Sandes Home — Catterick closure

THE SANDES Soldiers' Home at Catterick Garrison has closed its doors for the last time after 55 years of providing entertainment and shelter for thousands of Servicemen and women.

For the past eight years, the Christian-run 60-room centre — one of eight in the UK — had been trying to find, without success, smaller and more economical premises.

Now it is to be the home for a training simulator involving £400,000 of building modifications which will accommodate 80 personnel on courses. To build such an establishment now, it is said, would cost £1.4 million.

Superintendent Len Hall, 66 and his wife, Iris, ran the Home for 20 years from 1961, retired and then came back for the last operating months.

He said: "Circumstances have changed so much over the past ten years. The building is far too large for our needs now. It's too uneconomical to run.

"We could accommodate 36 people including families waiting for quarters. Last



month we had up to 60 Service personnel in each evening. They were mostly on courses and used our games room facilities, the canteen and our seven snooker tables.

"It's no use fighting against circumstances. People could not believe it would ever happen. Rumours about closure had been flying around for years. People are still ringing up for accommodation."

Sandes Homes were set up in 1869 by Elsie Sandes in Cork, Eire, to help soldiers

fill in their off-duty hours.

The Catterick Sandes Home had its hey-day during the war years and part of the fall-off in patronage has been put down to the fact that Servicemen are now much better off and have cars in which to leave the Garrison area in pursuit of other activities.

In the last month the staff was just three, Mr and Mrs Hall helped by Miss Margaret Rogers.

# 1984: MORE 'PUNCH' FOR THE INFANTRY

## Conservationists Celebrate

TEN YEARS of Nature Conservation by the Ministry of Defence has been celebrated with the publication of a special edition of the Ministry's Conservation Bulletin 'Sanctuary' complete with colour pictures of rare fauna and flora flourishing within Ministry owned areas. In addition a special exhibition on MOD conservation has been opened in the main Building in Whitehall.

At a Press conference to launch the exhibition and commemorate the anniversary the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, was flanked by the man who made it all possible — the Ministry's Conservation Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden.

Most questions naturally centred on RAF Greenham Common where the magazine noted that "the most exciting discovery during the last year has been that Dormice are breeding on the base." The controversial new missile shelters are to be covered with the more natural Berkshire heath cover rather than grass in order to cover indigenous flora and fauna.

In his report Colonel Clayden says there are now 190 areas covering 457,000 acres under active conservation management. The 160 groups have a total of 4000 workers and the colonel still has another 45 sites to look at.

Many rare and uncommon species of flora have been found — including the Maiden Pink last seen in Wiltshire back in 1887. For bird watchers the MOD has some of the best sites for rarities and the ringing of birds has greatly increased knowledge.

Colonel Clayden records the recovery abroad of the first ever ringed Nightingale and the first positive record of a European Coal Tit — ringed in Stuttgart and recovered in Hampshire. And a robin ringed by the Army in Dorset was recovered in another

Army area in North-East Hampshire.

MOD is well endowed with the Sand Lizard and Smooth Snake (four sites each) and the Natterjack Toad (four sites, including the only one left in southern England).

Eight sites for bats are being studied including one where nine of the 15 species have been recorded — including the largest colony of the rare Beckstein bat. In the butterfly field there are 11 sites with more than 30 species and on one site 437 species of moth were revealed.

Deer management is being implemented at 31 sites and more than a quarter of a million trees have been planted annually since 1975. Other projects have included the creation of wetlands and the care of woodlands, rivers and grasslands to favour conservation.

Archaeology has also produced some exciting finds — including the finding of 150 Roman coins and a shrine thought to be Roman-British.

INFANTRY BATTALIONS in the UK and in BAOR are to be significantly beefed up by 1 April next year, it has been revealed by the Ministry of Defence, as part of an Army re-organisation to improve the infantry's fighting capabilities.

One of the changes will be a big increase in the number of Milan firing posts from 16 to 24 while, for the first time, recce platoons of mechanised battalions will have their own Scimitar tracked recce vehicles and wheeled APC battalions will use the Fox.

There will now be three basic types of unit — mechanised, Type 'A' and Type 'B'.

The mechanised battalions will be APC-mounted and based in BAOR.

Type 'A' will use the new Saxon-105 wheeled APC to reinforce BAOR from the UK.

Type 'B' battalions will be used primarily in home defence.

Each battalion will have three instead of four rifle-mechanised companies plus a fire support company and the manpower from the fourth company will be used to strengthen rifle sections in the nine mechanised-rifle platoons of the remaining three companies.

A recce platoon will be introduced to all types of battalions and, in Type 'B' units, six Milan firing posts will be introduced as well as the reappearance of dedicated Assault Pioneer platoons.

The overall strength of the in-



MILAN — more for the infantry.

fantry battalion will remain effectively unchanged at about 680 men in the mechanised and wheeled APC formations and 630 men in other battalions.

## MINISTER'S FIRST VISIT

MR JOHN LEE, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, recently made his first visit to Rhine Army this week since taking up his appointment. His three day familiarisation tour culminated in a helicopter flight to Hohne Ranges, where he watched 105 mm Abbot Guns and 155 mm M109s in action.

## Gunners' farewell . . .

The Royal Artillery held a farewell Parade at Sennelager's Windmill Strip to mark the handover of its Swingfire role to the Royal Armoured Corps.

On stately display acknowledging the transference of their Swingfire task were C, D, J (Sidi Rezegh) and M Batteries of Royal Horse Artillery who have provided long range anti-tank cover for 1st British Corps as four independent batteries since January 1977.

Officially the changeover will be completed by April next with the first vehicles being formally relinquished last month. The four designated batteries which reform as 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery will be equipped with Abbot guns.

Taking the salute and carrying out the inspection of the men and their single rigid line of 120 fighting vehicles together with their



Light Aid Detachments of REME was Commander 1st British Corps, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale.

Travelling in a ceremonially painted Land-Rover he was accompanied by a mounted escort of The King's Troop RHA.

In their resplendent dark blue

tunics, gleaming gold frogging, shimmering swords and tall plumed busby caps, they looked a welcoming sight.

Bringing more vibrant colour to the scene with their commendable selection of rousing martial music was The Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band dressed in full ceremonial uniform.

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# NEWS VIEW

## ◀ Challenger Shows the Way

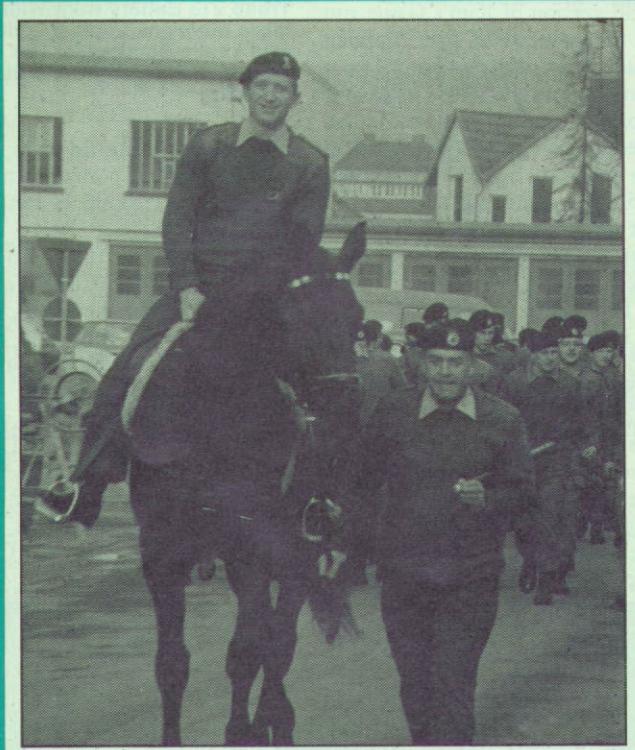
ANOTHER AQUATIC milestone for 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment across the Weser at Hameln using M2D or M2 Rigs; this one the first crossing by Challenger.

The 62-tonne tank, commanded by Corporal Bailey of 'A' Squadron, The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), was at full battle readiness and made several crossings of the famous river.

And for the technically-minded, the arrival of Challenger has meant that it became necessary to update the M2 to MLC 70 (Tracked) and the M2B has been modified by the addition of inflatable buoyancy bags to the bow, stern and ramp deck areas of each side pontoon.

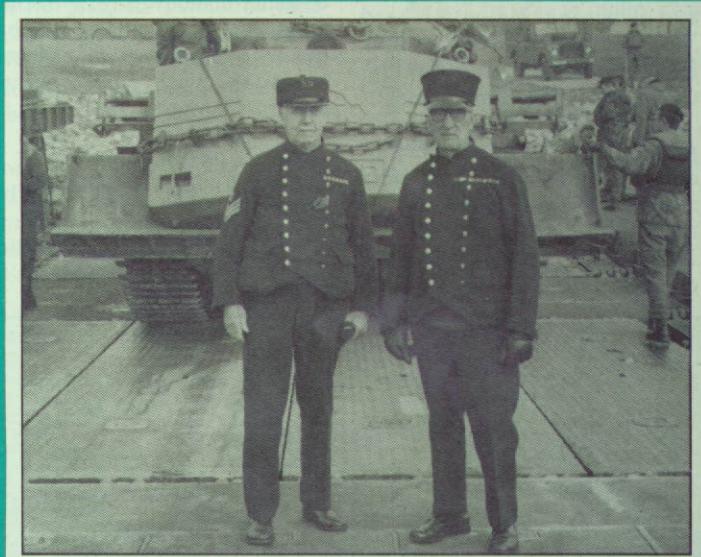
## From the Horse's Mouth . . . ▼

A HORSE played its allotted part in the command hand-over ceremony at Hameln involving 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron (The Black Horse Squadron). On its back — the steed has been loaned by a local for the occasion — is outgoing OC, Major A. Waitson. Incoming squadron commander, presumably on foot, is Major P W Hayward-Broomfield. Historical hoof-note: as 23 Field Company, RE, at Aldershot in 1885 the squadron earned the title of The Black Horse from its celebrated horse teams.



## Fox Goes Quietly ▶

THE AA — Automobile Association in this case — gives a check-over to a Fox wheeled armoured recce car during normal servicing. The three men of motorway succour are John Poyntz, Harry Dale and Inspector Barry Creak as Major Ron Lettington checks the paperwork.



## Pensioners Afloat ▲

THE SCENE is Hameln. The Chelsea Pensioners: Sgt George Blaylock and WO 2 John Brown. Both are pictured on an M2 Rig of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment whose guests they were when they laid a wreath at the Hameln Garrison service of Remembrance.

On the rig, George marvelled: "All this new equipment is straight out of the space age in comparison with what was available when I went to war."





## TOPICS

**P**UTTING their joint ingenuity to the extreme test, Lt Col Peter Cook, CO of 103 AD Regt RA (V) from Liverpool, and Training Major Richard Webb set a novel series of tests for their Regiment's Annual Gauntlet Trophy competition.

The Regiment holds this competition every year after Camp, and by tradition the winners nominated the competition for the following year — but for 1983, there was an 'instant change of tradition' and holders,

208 Air Defence Battery from Aigburth, Liverpool had to take their chance with the other three batteries.

The trophy — a full sized silver gauntlet — was once competed for by units of the Lancashire Infantry Division — 42 Division — but the holders in 1966 were one of 103's 'ancestors' and so the trophy was revived for the North West's Gunners.

Twenty seven teams of three competed — each mounted in a landrover. The competition was a series of 'stands', and these included a Landrover rally, tests of trailer manouevring, a 'medical emergency' monitored by nearby 207 (Merseyside) General Hospital with horrendous amounts of gore applied to a

**A bit of a jigsaw puzzle?** Gnr John de Courcey (RHQ), Sgt Bernard Hughes — the Chief Clerk and Sgt Ray Mawdsley from the LAD check out the pile of pieces that may make an SMG.



## EXTRA LONG SERVICE

**PIPE-MAJOR** Bert Barron who retired from Tayforth Officers' Training Corps earlier this year has been honoured at a dinner in St Andrews. He has been involved with the Pipes and Drums of the university for 30 years, was made Pipe-Major in 1957 and retired in July of this year.

But it does not end there. Pipe-Major Barron, a notable composer of Scottish pipe tunes, is already working on another melody — one for the University Officers' Training Corps participation in next year's military tattoo.

## TA CENTRE OPENED

TA and Cadet units at Coulby Newham near Durham have recently had their spanking new TA Centre opened by the Director, Territorial Army and Cadets, Major General R Gerard-Wright, CBE.

In his address to the official guests, the Director said the omens were good for the TA and numbers will be increased by 16,000. But he also sounded two notes of caution: the TA must prove itself to be cost effective and that secondly it must look hard into the field of recruiting which had fallen this year.

# Colonel throws down the gauntlet



simulated Landrover crash, a field version of Kim's Game run in the grounds of Ince Blundell Hall, preparing a chicken for the pot, putting a SMG together from a pile of parts (and some pieces that had nothing at all to do with an SMG — and then firing it) racing to assemble a full set of webbing, an intelligence test for the team leader and all these against the clock!

Then there was the 'fun' stand — its aim was to add a little light relief.

Set at Woodvale RAF station under the swooping trainers of the Universities air Squadrions from Liverpool and Manchester, the stand involved teams getting aboard three antique bicycles, racing to a table with jugs, plastic cups and bowler hats, filling the

**Gunner Jack Hartley** from C Troop 213 Battery from Widnes takes the plank in great style with Lance Bombardier Les Heywood from Cronton waiting his turn.

cups and donning the hats, and then setting off 'cross country' aiming to get round fastest and spill least.

Once round the fiendish course, with RSM Chris Hallam seeing fair play, the teams then 'teed off' with five golf balls apiece with marks for the longest and most accurate driving.

The winners overall were Headquarter Battery from Deesbrook, Liverpool, with the highest scoring team being from HQ with Captain Gerry Stubbs, and Gunners Tony Cannon and Colin Kent.





The Duchess of Kent unveils the plaque, watched by Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Frais, Commanding Officer 2nd Yorkshire Volunteers.



## DUCHESS OF KENT OPENS NEW WORSLEY BARRACKS

THE DUCHESS of Kent has officially opened the Army's latest barracks — Worsley Barracks — a £14 million purpose-built complex in Royston Red brick near York's Imphal Barracks, Fulford.

It will be home to the 155-strong staff of 2nd Yorkshire Volunteers, 15 Infantry Brigade which is part of 2nd Infantry Division, writes **Graham Smith**.

The Barracks was completed in its planned 18-month time-scale and will allow the Battalion and Company HQs to work alongside instead of separation of about a mile as before.

Worsley Barracks has a 30-metre indoor range, a £40,000 PBX exchange, three classrooms, messes, a junior ranks club, a parquet-floor drill hall, an MI room and a garage which will be

able to house 20 vehicles.

Second Yorkshire Volunteers was formed in March 1971 and will be taking part in next year's Exercise Lionheart in BAOR.

Captain Alex Wylde, the Adjutant said: "The Barracks will solve a lot of problems we had in the past. They will give an enormous difference and will inevitably lead to a more efficient unit."

"Vehicles on site will make us more independent of the RCT and we will be able to mount our departures here ourselves for movements around the West German countryside."

Also housed in the two-story building will be the Battalion's armoury of Milan, 81mm mortars, SMGs, SLRs, GPMGs, 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank guns, 66mm LAWs and Clansman radios.

A view of the new Worsley Barracks.

## Preparing for "Lionheart"

NEXT YEAR, HQ 15 Infantry Brigade's 16 units — a Regular HQ administering TA units — are going to be heavily involved in BAOR's Exercise Lionheart practising their role of Corps security in the rear area.

To that end, nearly 100 officers of the 3500-strong Brigade — including two women — attending a one-day training day at the Brigade's HQ at Topcliffe, a former RAF fighter station.

Five hours of classroom information was imparted and there was a 90-minute demonstration of logistic nature including a Regimental Aid Post (RAP) with simulated casualties brought in by ambulance and a static display of vehicles includ-

ing the new eight-ton truck.

Brigadier Michael Aris, 15 Brigade's Commander, said: "Whether over coffee, over lunch, over a black tie dinner tonight they are all bound to get to know each other a lot better.

"I think that's terribly important for the TA when we are trying to raise the standards of training.

"Today, we have done just that. Our prime concern has been logistics. It is a subject which is not as interesting to the soldiers as fighting the battle.

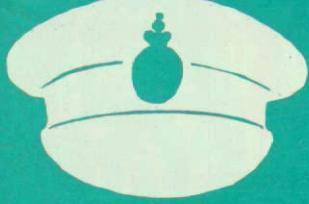
"It is something which we, perhaps, take for granted."

Students view a regimental aid-post demonstration.



## CO MEETS PANZERGRENADIERS

Lieutenant Colonel Paul French, Commanding Officer 155 Regiment RCT(V) pictured with a group of officers from 6 Panzergrenadier Division during exercise Champion Hurdle. Colonel French's unit has recently taken on a new role within the Logistic Support Group as the Transport Regiment to the United Kingdom Mobile Force and during the exercise five German officers were attached to 155 Regiment.



## Your Cap Badge

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### 7TH DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES

Recruiting among the hills of Eastern Nepal provides the soldiers of this Regiment, the majority of whom hail from the two great Gurkha clans of the Rais and the Limbus.

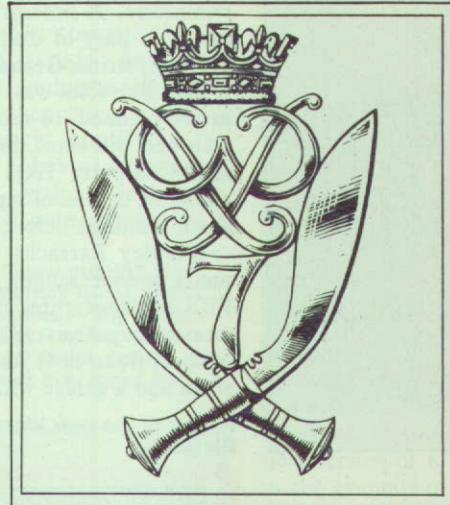
The 1st Battalion raised at Thayetmyo in 1902 by Major E Vansittart was joined five years later by the 2nd Battalion raised at Quetta by Major N G Woodyatt.

Among those who have been Colonels of the Regiment are listed three distinguished Field Marshals, namely, Kitchener, Slim and Templer.

The head-dress badge currently worn is described as "A pair of kukris, cutting edges upwards, and crossed left-over-right, with the numeral 7 above, and resting on the kukris surmounted by the Duke of Edinburgh's coronet and cypher".

Made in white metal (Sealed 11th October 1960) originally and more recently in silver anodised material. As the 33 Battle Honours testify the Regiment has seen hard fighting in its 81 years in many countries among them Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, North Africa and Burma.

The 2nd Battalion had the distinction of being re-raised in both the Great War and Hitler's War, firstly after capture in Kut-el-Amara and secondly, after the fall of Tobruk. The 1st battalion produced a notable



Rifleman in the person of Ganju Lama who won two awards for bravery in Burma, the Victoria Cross and the Military Medal.

In the 1948 re-organisation the Regiment's battalions were chosen to become artillery.

Fate decided not to allow the completion of the conversion and the two battalions saw active service throughout the many years of the Malayan Emergency accounting for 472 terrorists for the loss of 32 all ranks killed.

On 1st January 1959 the Regiment was granted its present title.

In Brunei during 1963 their next employment was to counter the rebellion there and it was in the final encounter that Lance Corporal Nainabahadur Rai won the MM later to add a Bar to this fighting the Indonesians during the Confrontation.

On 1st August 1970 the 1st and 2nd Battalions amalgamated but to their great delight the 2nd was re-raised in Hong Kong on 19th October 1981.

More recently these highly professional soldiers of the 1st Battalion were active in the Falklands campaign.

Landing at San Carlos, a series of patrol encounters "bagged" eight prisoners, followed by a move to the east for the final assault on Port Stanley with Mount William their objective.

To the Battalion's great disappointment the Argentinians decided to vacate the position.

Thus, by their very presence, the 7th assisted in bringing the campaign to a speedy conclusion.

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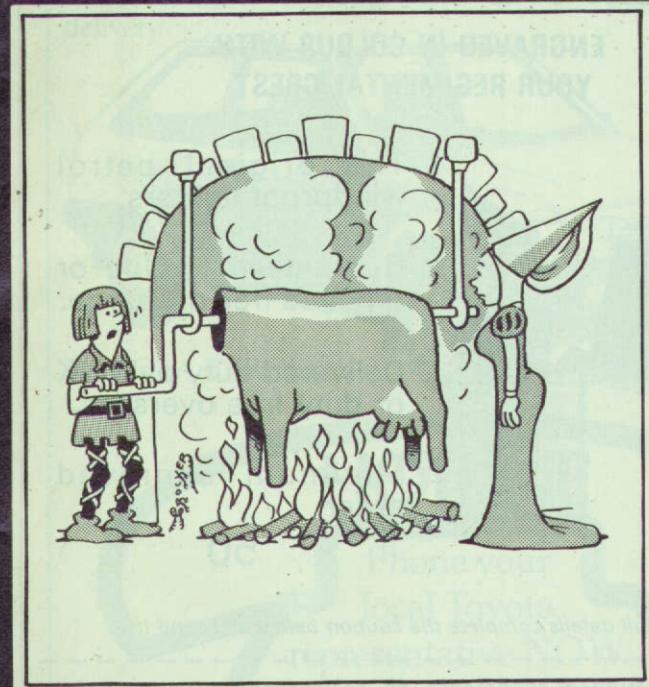
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"It was a mistake to let them see this one."

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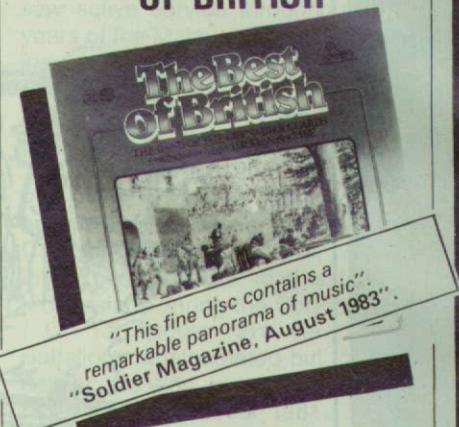
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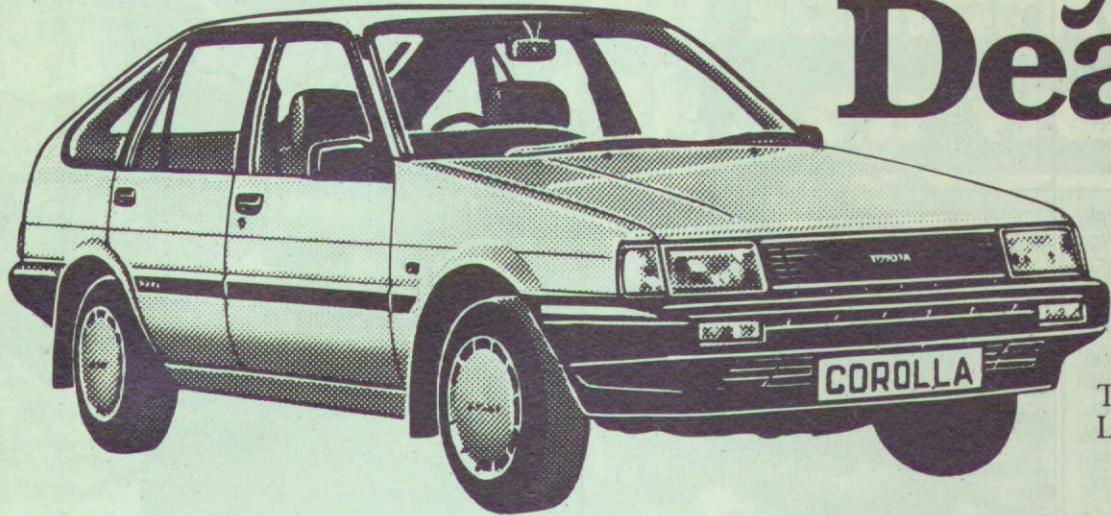
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TOYOTA

**C**HRISTMAS, to the men and women stationed in the Falkland Islands is coming in the summer instead of the winter and the Falklands' weather is really out to prove it is not the inhospitable climate so commonly associated with this part of the world.

Christmas trees and decorations are going up all over the Islands under blue skies and brilliant sunshine; even the famous Falklands wind is abating a bit for the festive season.

Because there are very few trees around and certainly none that can be cut down just for decoration, twelve trees from the Stanford Training area in Norfolk are being shipped out for use in the major establishments.

The 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who have only just started their tour, brought their own with them and one commercial firm from Wales has been supplying them too.

This may seem a lot of trees but the units are scattered all around the Islands mostly on East Falkland which are the size approximately of Wales. Another commodity in short supply locally is Christmas cards.

The increase in population of two hundred per cent proved too much for the local suppliers so an extra order for two and a half thousand cards was placed in the UK to augment supplies.

Already the special food supplies are being brought in by ships equipped with freezers and chillers to maintain freshness. I actually saw them unloading fruit, vegetables and eggs and the cabbages were still cold from the cool room even though the sun on the dock was very warm that day.

As a matter of interest everything was produced in England. The vegetables had labels declaring "Lincoln produce" or "Grown in Norfolk" and the egg boxes "British Eggs". Masses of bags of potatoes of course and this means a lot in the Falkland Islands because potatoes do not grow well here due to soil conditions.

The local population is envious sometimes of the fresh fruit and potatoes that the military gets. Also fresh bread produced by the RAOC in a make-shift bakery.

Christmas and New Year will still be working days for some but Commander British Forces Major General Keith Spacie, has said that where possible men and women will take Christmas Day

# Sunshine Christmas in the Falklands



as a holiday so Christmas lunch will follow service tradition and officers and senior NCOs will wait on the servicemen.

There will be the opportunity to attend the Christmas services which will be held on all the ships, in the shore based stations and, of course, in Stanley Cathedral.

Service personnel usually make up half the Cathedral congregation and it is likely to be increased over Christmas, while the Cathedral choir, which includes military choristers, will be touring the BMH and singing for Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt in Government House on Christmas Eve.

A live show is expected out from the UK the week before Christmas. These shows are put on in one of the accommodation Coastels and the eight hundred seats per show are always booked well in advance. The artists will

tour the larger settlements and sometimes even drop in on remote hilltop Signal sites where obviously they cannot put on a proper show but the men get to see some new faces and probably get closer to the performers than the men in Stanley.

The professional show is not the only contribution to art. The military and civilian community are co-operating on a production of 'Sleeping Beauty'. Written and produced by Colonel John Kitching it doesn't exactly boast a cast of thousands, but the forty people taking part are going public for three performances in Stanley Town Hall and it is believed it will be the first pantomime that the children of the Falkland Islands have had the opportunity to see.

NAAFI is paramount in providing 'somewhere to go' in the out-stations. In as many locations as possible they provide a club room with bar billiards and a rest area and video. Also a limited shop with gifts and necessities.

NAAFI is being staffed by its EFi members and Corporal Chris Webb who is normally a NAAFI Club assistant in St Omer Barracks Aldershot is on a six month tour in the Falklands.

"I worked in Stanley before coming out to the Battery" he is with 143 Field Battery. "I would like to stay on and am going to

Special delivery! Although the resupply is normally done by Lynx this Gazelle crew took a Christmas tree to a Royal Signals unit when they collected two radio sets for repair.

volunteer but I would prefer to stay here." He is definitely not the only one volunteering to stay.

There is word that Father Christmas will be flying round the hilltops of East Falkland to visit all the units that cannot make it back to the organised entertainment.

Some units however will just about make it back to the UK in time for the festivities. The 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment sailed out of Stanley harbour after their four month tour as the resident battalion. As they sailed away the decks were lined by the entire company and their band played them out from the ship's helipad while a single helicopter escorted the ship out of harbour.

If any of the Service personnel in Stanley feel they have to telephone home, then hopefully by Christmas the new telephone communications satellite will be in operation. Time is limited but the message from the Forces Chaplain, Rev Paul Abram is "Don't worry, we shall have a super Christmas here, no doubt about it."

**Story: Pam Huggett Picture: Paul Montgomery**

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## **The samaritan of the air waves**

**A**LAN GRACE is the globe-trotting British Forces' Broadcasting Service (BFBS) liaison organiser for the UK's 80 local radio stations sprinkled from the Hebrides and Shetlands to the Channel Islands. Just back from a fortnight's tour in Belize he is now in BAOR.

His "season" of goodwill for the Christmas and New Year period started at the end of October as he jetted around on his samaritan missions of the air waves in two-way links between Service personnel in remote jungle outposts or the spartan sites in the Falkland Islands and the comparative comforts of their loved ones on the UK mainland.

All of it is done by voice track dedication or, as the layman knows it, messages coupled with record requests or interviews with the wives and kids back home, the latter sent out on cassettes for "air time" at their remote destination.

Since the start of Operation Corporate — the events involving the Falklands — it has been estimated that more than 230 one-hour shows of this nature and over 11,000 requests have cheered, and at the same time neared, those serving in the South Atlantic with home.

Once back in the UK with his trusty tape recorder and its verbal gems acquired on location, Alan dispenses the results from BFBS — it has been part of the SSVC (The Services Sound and Vision Corporation) since April 1 — to the relevant radio stations. In Belize, for instance, he got through some 200 dedications.

Forward planning has its place, too, and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were canvassed and tutored on the value of the dedications before they left on their four-month stint in the Falklands. The result: four 60-minute shows.

At a time when the BBC was dropping two of its request show doyens, by contrast BFBS was



finding an even greater interest in that theme, said Alan.

By way of endorsement he produced a letter from Lt-Col David Creswell, CO of 40th Field Regiment, RA, then in Belize, in which he wrote: "It does not seem very long ago that we were sitting at Airport Camp in Belize waiting for our aircraft to be pulled out of the mud. From that stemmed all your magnificent support of my various Batteries in Belize and, more particularly, the Falkland Islands.

"I know that I speak for all the families when I say that your programmes have helped enor-

mously to bridge the gap of separation during those long tours. I know also that the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service is much appreciated by everyone. On both my visits out there my soldiers commented on the vital link it provides from home."

Wives and kids provide light relief as well as the desperately needed familiarity of their voices to their nearest and dearest in far-flung locations, but Alan said that there was the odd occasion when a wife broke down during the recording session. Alan counselled: "We stop the tape and I

tell her that her husband would not want to hear her 'under the weather'. She normally perks up and we go ahead with the interview. Children will always tell tales on each other or even about their mums."

Patience is another virtue of Alan's. Quite often he will spend up to half-an-hour editing or cutting with a razor blade a tape which has been marred by nervousness for an eventual 15 seconds of broadcasting.

"I explain what I want and I listen very carefully. Often, they want to write it all down and then read it. But that is not allowed. It does not sound spontaneous.

"Usually, I seek out the unit extrovert who rattles it off, stands back and then preens himself. That's for starters. The rest

**Story:  
GRAHAM SMITH  
Picture:  
PAUL HALEY**

see how easy it all is and the nervous ones overcome their hesitation. Occasionally, we get the man who gets worse and worse all the time but that is where the patience of chat merchants comes in."

Alan said it was not his policy to go in for the "sentimental side" of dedication programmes. "I believe in the group confidence aspect," he said. "Wives respond to this sitting among other wives. Sometimes it's hard work with the kids but it is so important for the dads."

At times, too, wives complain that their husbands don't write. They want to know what he is doing in the jungle or wherever he may be. "I tick him off in the nicest way over the air," said Alan.

On his latest venture to BAOR, Alan was involved in lectures on the value of local radio and the worth-while role they can play by just keeping in verbal touch.

**Few servicemen and women mean more to their colleagues at Christmas time than the personnel of the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill, where the proud boast is that mail never makes mountains . . .**

URFACE



## Because they never close!

Story: John Margetts  
Pictures: Paul Haley



Another great pile of mail is on its way . . .

**W**HISPERED "sweet nothings" from wives and girlfriends to the lads in the Falklands are reaching eager ears a lot quicker these days. For taped messages, which until recently went by sea to the South Atlantic, are now going by the Army's special top-tier "Red Label" airmail service and earning the cheers of the lads down there. It's the latest move by the Royal Engineers of the Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill, London, commanded by Colonel Dennis Streather, and it means for the lads in the South Atlantic that those lovey-dovey messages are getting through in days rather than weeks.

"The delay in taped messages was causing some concern to the lads down there," said Captain Alec Wilson, the man responsible for the Depot sorting office, which handles thousands of letters and parcels a day.

"But by including tapes and similar small packets in our 'Red Label' system — it gives them priority — means they now go by air from Ascension instead of by sea."

With more than 200 soldiers and WRAC working a 24-hour shift system 365 days a year, the Depot teams handle every letter and parcel carrying a BFPO number.

"We never close," said Captain Wilson. "We couldn't anyway as incoming mail would just build up into mini-mountains."

But while their unwritten motto is "The Queen's mail must go through", the "Posties" are soldiers first and postmen second.

"Regimental training and BFTs are strictly enforced," said Captain Wilson, "and while one shift sorted mail on Remembrance Sunday another was parading at a local ceremony."

Since the trouble in the Falklands and the Lebanon and the latest flare-up in Grenada, the work-load of the Depot has increased enormously. Christmas, too, has pushed parcel numbers up by 50 per cent and letters by a similar amount.

But for the Depot "Posties" the festive rush started to ease from November 25 — the last day to post parcels with a guaranteed delivery for Christmas.

Now they are looking forward to December 16 — next Friday — which is the last day for airmail letters.

Day and night the work goes on accompanied by never-ending pop music. "It's noisy, but nice," said Major Barry Cash, OC the Depot Postal Wing.

"A good sorter can handle 3,000 letters an hour. We know because we've timed one. Mind you, the letters were a bit scorched," he joked.

The Depot also supplies a hot-line service for the Navy with a throughput of at least 36,000 letters and parcels a day. As with the Army so with the Navy the delivery area is world-wide. "Our busiest area is the South

Atlantic, but with just about every ship in the Navy deployed, we're putting mail to all points of the globe," said Petty Officer Paddy Murray.

"We know in advance a ship's destination, but programmes have a habit of changing."

"So to keep in touch with any change, we have our own concern here which gives us the chance to redirect mail to the new port of call."

To give the Mill Hill "Posties" an additional sense of involvement in their work, Major Cash has pictures of RN ships above the sorting boxes.

Large black and white photos of scores of ships adorn the area "to give people the chance to see the ships for which the letters they sort are destined."

He also plans to display a huge world map for instant place pin-pointing.

But while the sorters sort and the loaders load containers with hundreds of mail sacks in a round-the-clock operation, it is amazing they drop so few clangers and generally enjoy a trouble-free existence. That is not to say they don't get problems, as WO2 Pam Remnant pointed out.

"With a minimum of 50 flights a day to handle, things usually fly through the air with the greatest of ease," said Pam. "But when a flight is cancelled or a conflict crops up, then we sometimes have problems."

"The mail must go," said Pam. "And to achieve this we

make alternative arrangements. Not always easy and it can cause quite a few headaches."

She listed the Lebanon as an example claiming "it created some interesting problems" to keep the 100-odd strong British peace-keeping force there supplied with mail.

Another back-room specialist is Captain Peter O'Rourke, Depot accountant.

His job is to supply every Forces post office with every item they sell with the exception of TV and dog licences.

It's a multi-million £ job on a world-wide scale.

A job not without its problems. But despite the mammoth sums handled by Captain O'Rourke and the delayed and cancelled flights sorted out by Warrant Officer Remnant, the biggest problem facing the "Posties" of Mill Hill is in neither of these areas.

"Our biggest problem" said Major Cash, "comes with badly addressed letters and parcels."

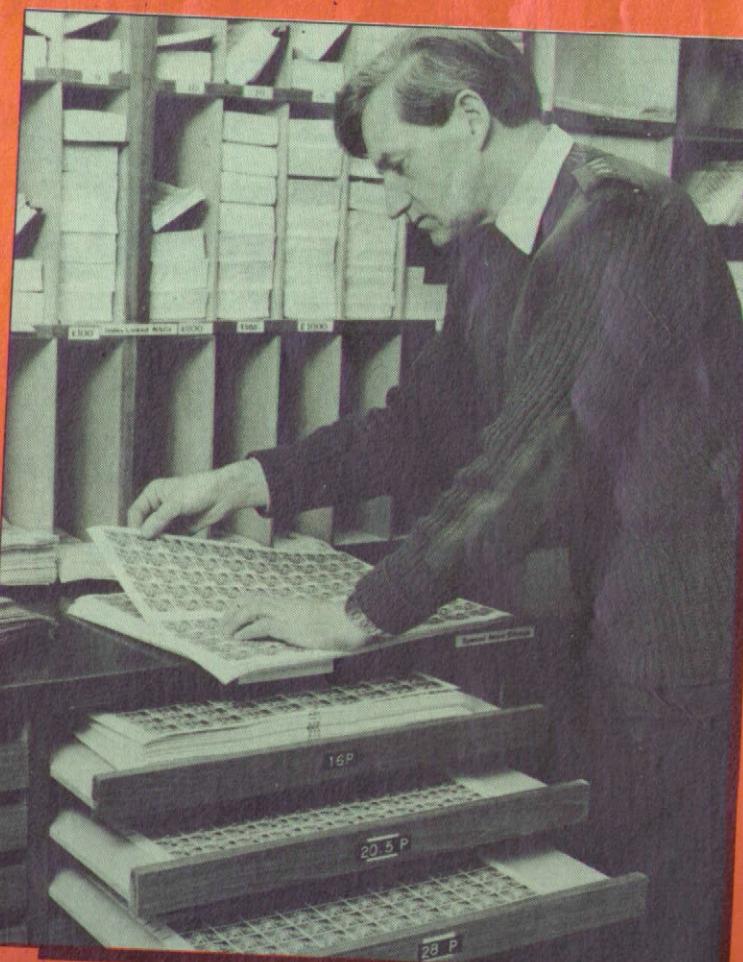
"Some people try to be helpful by adding 'West Germany' or some such place name."

"There's no need for that. All we ask is that they pen the usual information with the BFPO number on the bottom line. It makes our job easier and the letter will get on its way a lot quicker."

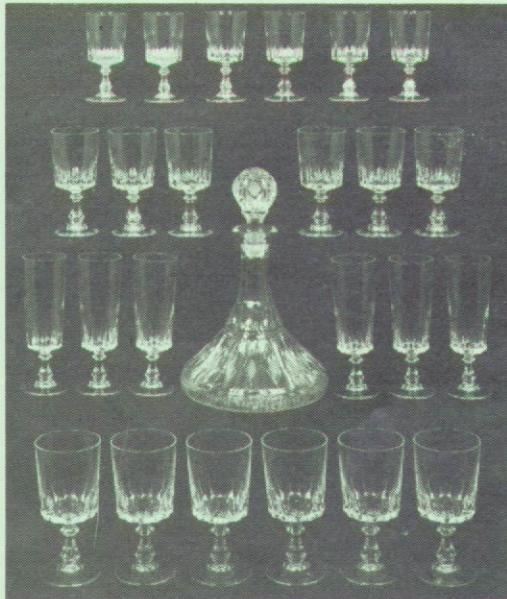
WO2 Pam Remnant . . . "the mail must go". ▶



Captain Peter O'Rourke . . . Major Barry Cash . . . the world is stamps by the thousand. ▲



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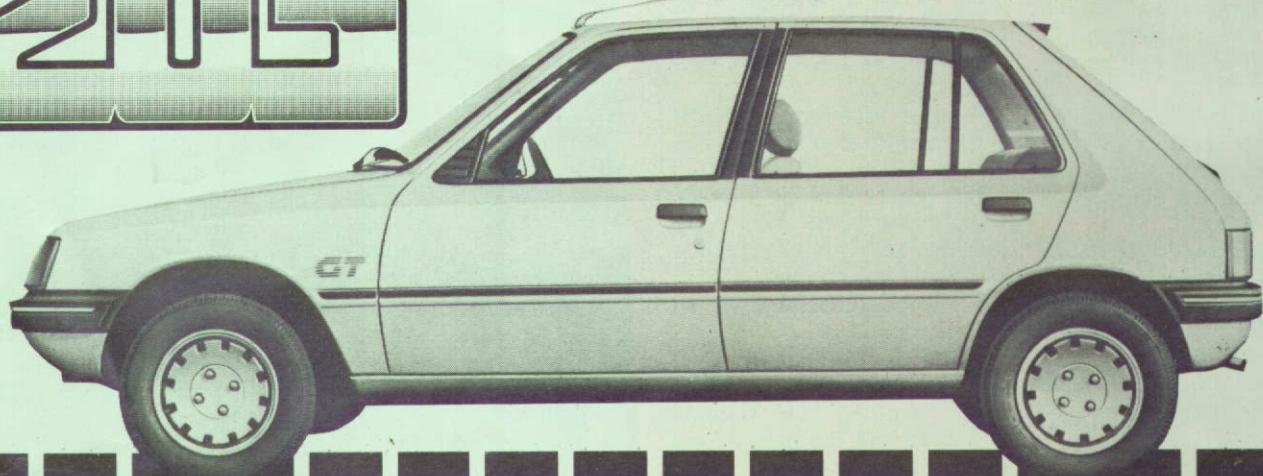
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Same vehicle — just a different colour.

**H**OME DURING the next four and a half months in a six-storey former Beirut tobacco factory for 74 men of A Squadron, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and their support units has been jokingly likened to the "Lurgan knicker factory" by the unit's admin officer and adjutant Captain Terry Ghillyer.

The squadron, an armoured recce element within 1 Infantry Brigade based at Tidworth, has flown out to strife-torn Beirut to relieve men of 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards as the British contingent within the four-nation peace-keeping force.

With them, they took 5000 lbs of stores in two Hercules sorties from Lyneham via Cyprus including several pounds of Christmas pud mix, Xmas trees, tinsel and most of the festive season table trimmings except turkeys — they will be bought out there on local purchase.

**Story:**  
**Graham Smith**  
**Pictures:**  
**Paul Haley**

The squadron — it recruits mostly from Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Walsall — has taken over the sand-coloured Ferret scout cars and Land Rovers of their predecessors.

A Squadron is made up of four troops of four Ferrets each and the cavalrymen will have their duties broken down into four-day cycles as their OC, Major Robin Faulkner told a press conference on the eve of the advance party's departure.

These would comprise a camp and vehicle maintenance day, a Quick Reaction phase, guarding the camp and patrolling segments of the pock-marked seaboard city, including the hill country.

He said later: "I think it is a very challenging task and quite worthwhile if the people of Beirut really want peace. My men could spend up to six hours on patrol but they are trained to

## 16th/5th Lancers for Lebanon — taking Xmas 'goodies'



Traditional Christmas fare being prepared for the air-lift.

do a lot more. It's all well within their tactical capabilities. We will, in particular, be guarding the ceasefire talks which are being held in a nearby bank."

The squadron has had to convert from its normal tracked Scimitar and Scorpion armoured vehicles toting the 30mm Rarden cannon and 76 mm gun respectively to the four-wheeled Ferrets while moving back into the realm of what Captain Ghillyer termed "steam gunnery".

"We had to call out the old and bold to refresh the younger men on the .30 Browning machine gun as opposed to the 7.62mm machine gun," he explained.

Describing his job as the "base manager" he said the role in Beirut would not be unlike that of Ulster where the regiment had

**Former Trooper, now Adjutant Captain Terry Ghillyer.**

served. He said: "The base, too, in many respects, is similar to bases in Northern Ireland. It's more like the knicker factory in Lurgan than anything else I've seen. The men will sleep in eight, 10-man rooms in bunk beds. There is a good water supply both in drinking, washing, showers and water closets."

He said the food would be first class — the meat and stores are flown in from Cyprus just an hour away — and local purchase items like bread and vegetables are "superb".

Medical cover is adequate but the nearest doctor will be aboard HMS Fearless which has now taken up an offshore station.

"The lads can actually do their Christmas shopping while on patrol. It's a useful way of getting **Squadron OC Major Robin Faulkner.**



Cpl Paul Sanbrooke instructs Tpr Malcolm Faulkner.

to know the locals," said Captain Ghillyer, thirty years in the Army starting out as a Trooper.

Other facilities on hand for the squadron will be nightly film shows and television videos like the news and Coronation Street which they would get "third hand".

Live TV is beamed from the offshore American fleet and every soldier will have his own personal hi-fi with "earphones round his neck".

Christmas morning will start out with "gunfire" — rum and tea for the lads and there will be a party celebration on January 28, the Regimental Day.

Each soldier will be entitled to a week's Rest and Recreation in Cyprus. Football matches against the other nations will continue. So will swimming, sailing and skiing — "with luck".

The telephone system is "poor and rather impersonal" but the postal system is "excellent", letters home taking only two days.

Video tapes of the squadron's stay in Beirut will be made and flown back for showing at its Tidworth HQ, to the wives, to Army Careers Information Offices and to the mums and dads.

Cook Sergeant John MacDermott, one of three who will serve up the "scoff", said: "As cooks, we are infantry trained and can use the SLR if we have to. We will also go out on patrol if we have to. I've served in Northern Ireland and in the Falklands during the conflict — I got off the ill-fated Sir Galahad in Ascension — and it's just another job for us. All the wives understand this."

As Major Faulkner, the squadron OC summed up: "Everybody wants to go. I could have filled the squadron with officers, with senior NCOs, with junior NCOs, with Troopers. Morale is so high among the men. It's similar to our role in Ulster. We shall not open fire in Beirut unless our lives are in danger."

"Our role will be based on our traditional training of armoured recce."



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## VOLVO EXPORT

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# NOW YOU CAN SEE H JONES' VC



PICTURES: SIMON DUNSTON, NAM

Mrs Jones and Mr Reid flank the new display case containing the medals of 'H'.

The group, left to right: VC, OBE, GSM Northern Ireland, South Atlantic and Jubilee medals.

**H**T was a big day for the National Army Museum, and indeed the nation, when Mrs Sara Jones decided to present the medals of her late husband Lieutenant Colonel H Jones to the museum.

So not only has another Victoria Cross been saved — but it can be seen by the visitors to the museum in Chelsea, where it will undoubtedly become a major attraction and the pride in the achievements of 'H' can be shared.

Mrs Jones generously decided the National Army museum would be the most appropriate 'home' for the medals which, to the time of hand-over, had been in a bank vault.

The decision was made by Mrs Jones after visiting the Museum and being shown the new exhibition "From Flanders to the Falklands" by the Director, Mr William Reid.

The presentation of the medals was made at the annual general meeting of the

museum's Society of Friends.

'H' was posthumously awarded his VC for his leadership and valour in the attack by 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment on Argentine positions at Darwin and Goose Green in the Falklands on 28 May last year.

## Daring Dalton VC gets a new niche

IN a quiet, moving ceremony in the refurbished Officer's Mess, 10 Corps Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport at Bielefeld, the Dalton Room was opened by Major General D H Braggins, Director General Transport and Movements (A) (Right in picture).

The room honours one of the Corps' greatest and relatively unknown heroes, James Langley Dalton VC, who was Acting Assistant Commissary at Rorke's Drift Post — scene of the famous Zulu battle of 1879.

It's now almost 104 years ago to the day when Dalton was belatedly awarded his Victoria Cross for his gallantry.

Major Guy Yeoman, OC 9 Sqn RCT, was given the daunting task of searching, discovering and then assembling the artefacts for exhibition. For him it was a personal labour of love. Nonetheless, it was also a painstaking assignment that was to test his patience, take endless hours of documentary research and involve many journeys.

The memorabilia includes a Zulu shield and assegais, spears that Zulus used either with throwing or stabbing actions. The items are on loan from the Royal Corps of Transport Museum.

The Museum of the South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regiment generously provided a print of De Neuville's painting depicting the injured Dalton being attended at Rorke's Drift after being seriously wounded in the chest by rifle fire.

The copy hangs to the left of the purpose built display cabinet containing the centre piece of the collection — a cushion mounted replica of Dalton's Victoria Cross surrounded by various mementoes including a copy of the citation.

Suspended directly over the commemora-

tive cabinet is a fine print of Lady Butler's picture 'The Defence of Rorke's Drift'. It was presented to 10 Corps Tpt Regt by one of its former Commanding Officers, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ian Bennett, who not only gave enormous assistance to the Dalton project but is reckoned to be a leading authority on the Rorke's Drift venture having carried out original research into the history of the Zulu wars fought in the late 19th century.

Indeed had it not been for the keen knowledgeable eyes of Colonel Ian, a remarkable item now on show in the collection would be missing. It is a valuable photograph of Dalton receiving his VC from General Clifford at Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg. Astonishingly, the revealing photo, defying the laws of probability, had hung unrecognised in the Corps Bielefeld Mess for many years before being spotted.



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**T**

EN VERY academically-minded and determined young ladies in combat kit have just had a military bet with their commanding officer — and won it!

- The prize: Six bottles of "bubbly" in the boot of his car.
- The aim: to win a military skills test in the wilds of north Yorkshire.
- The girls: a ten-strong, hand-picked team representing Leeds University Officer Training Corps.

The team "we always seemed to come second but never first" — was one of thirteen North-East District all-girl teams taking part in the annual, 24-hour Exercise Maidens Scurry held on bleak moorlands near Catterick Garrison.

Competing teams — four Regular Army and nine TA, including two from the QAs — faced up to a timed night march and shoot, another trek of two kilometres to snatch some sleep under a canvas 'bivvy', a further forced march with various tests along the way such as map reading, NBC drills, First Aid and a Command task involving a captured "scientist" held in an apparently secure building.

The TA girls represented a good mix of trades as they literally climbed up hill and lumbered down dale, crossed dry stone walls, clambered over five-bar gates past grazing sheep and generally behaved in military fashion in a tactical situation. A sewing machinist from Leeds had swapped the staccato of her foot-powered treadle for the closeness of a shoulder-borne 9mm Sterling SMG.

In front of her, an analytical chemist; behind, an accounts clerk; as they threaded their way over the North Yorkshire Moors, blessed that day by an orb of sun overhead and led by an officer clutching a map and compass. And despite the arduousness of their pedestrian footlogs in DMS boots the eager girls still managed to look feminine — and happy in their work.

For Lance Corporal Denise Rhodes, a 22-year-old sweet packer from Pontefract — she is from 'A' Detachment, 212 Field Hospital (V) — it was her third Maidens Scurry Exercise. But the team failed to make the top three placings.

The diminutive Denise told me: "This year is different. Last year we had a one-mile run and this is the first time a detachment has entered from Leeds. You've really got to be fit but we've been living in luxury by comparison. The weather has been kinder and the girls cooked their own breakfasts — bacon, sausages, eggs



**Writer Graham Smith and Picture Editor Les Wiggs find Exercise Maidens Scurry is a 'bubbly' occasion for some girls testing their military skills as . . .**

## THE 'SECONDS' COME FIRST

and fried bread. At the end of the exercise we'll all probably have a drink just to celebrate doing it."

Denise, despite the failure of success among the leaders, has pledged she will be back next year for Maidens Scurry adding: "I think we will have to start training earlier. This time, we only started training two months ago."

Her friend, civil servant in the Department of Employment, Private Paula Manning, 18, said: "It's been fun. I've really enjoyed it and was actually looking forward to doing this exercise, anyway."

As they moved over the heathland moors all the gasping teams had to make contact with "Resistance" fighters for further instructions, timing of their cross-country leg, a special task and the briefing of a safe route to their final objective — and exciting Command task.

One of the three "Resistance" players was Corporal Paul Ashton — "Paolo" — a 24 Brigade HQ staff clerk in Clouseau-style trench coat, brown corduroy trilby and flared-bottom trousers who, 13 times, dutifully exercised his "Bonjour!" and "Au Revoir" script coupled with a worsening fractured Franco-British accent as the cold hampered his performance.

He directed the girls — incoming at 15-minute intervals on paper — to their next incident: an accident involving a Land Rover which had left a road with three injured Army personnel played by casualty-simulated and suitably blood-spattered men from Catterick's resident 21 Ordnance Company, RAOC.

One of the three casualties suffering from obvious "shock" with facial and hand injuries was Private Ian Johnstone, another HQ 24 Brigade staff clerk whose

**Northumbrian Universities OTC taking it all in their stride.**

role was to be "helpful" yet, at the same time, confuse the girls as he wandered among them offering fatuous advice as they ministered the needs of his two colleagues.

The ploy worked. Only one of the first four teams through that checkpoint actually remembered to treat him!

One of the teams through that segment was the Leeds University Officer Training Corps team who beat the threat of a penalty point by arriving one minute inside the 60-minute time limit on their five-kilometre hike.

Among their number, a girl with a Ph.D in animal physiology, an agricultural scientist, a law student, a Russian and Arabic linguist and a bio-chemist and micro-biologist, 22-year-old Lieutenant Jenny Bloomfield who said: "Our CO, Lt-Col Alan Walpole, has a bet on with us. He has six bottles of champagne in the boot of his car. It's ours if we win this year. We are trying to beat the hell out of the other teams because he says he will not have to unwrap them. We want to prove him wrong!"

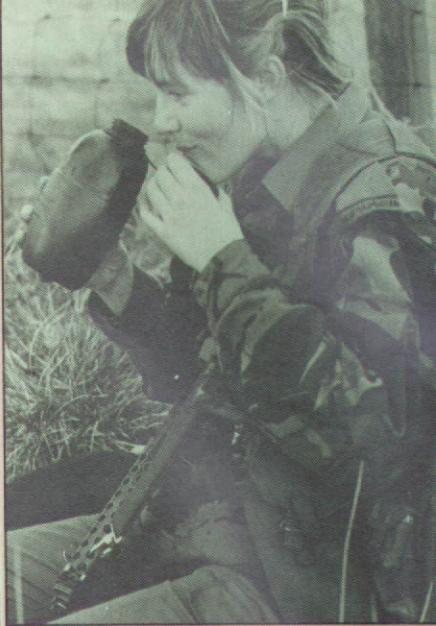
Most of her team had taken part in Maidens Scurry before and last year, she said, they had trouble in scraping up a team at the last minute.

Near the end of the team's venture to crack the Command task was another "Resistance" fighter, Hercule Onion — recognisable even with his single-smudge, black eye-liner moustache as HQ North-East District staff officer, Major Tim Starling.

"They are in enemy territory and a scientist has been captured," he explained with enthusiasm, his words interrupted by a man-pack radio monitoring cross-country progress of the teams. "This scientist has some vital information. The teams, one by one, must secure this information and relay it by radio. The whole operation from the start this morning until completion and the acquiring of the message should take no more than four hours."

But the not-so-gallant Gallic Monsieur Onion omitted to tell the ladies they would have to overcome booby-trapped barbed wire or that there were only two methods of entry into the building and the "exhausted" boffin played by athletic-looking Lieutenant Adam Hearne, a Troop Commander with 2 Infantry Division's Signal Regiment at Catterick.

For the girls, the war was over. Many want to return next year for another Maidens Scurry over the North Yorkshire Moors. ■



Leeds University girls get to grips with road casualty.

Out all night. Lasses from 212 Fd Hosp (V), "A" team from Leeds.

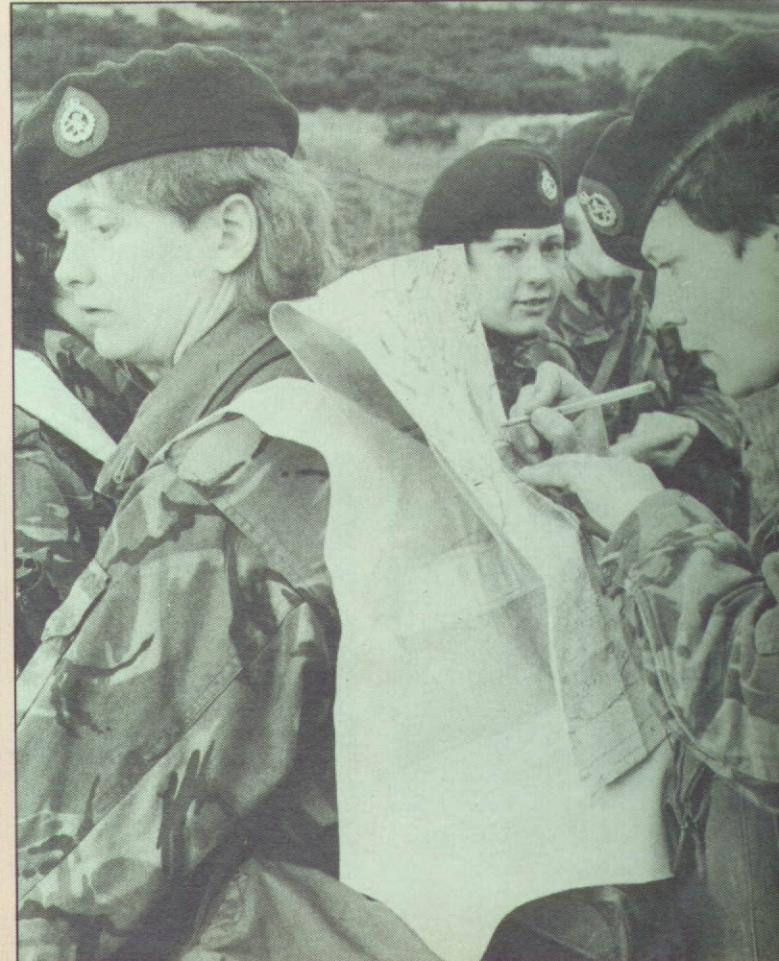
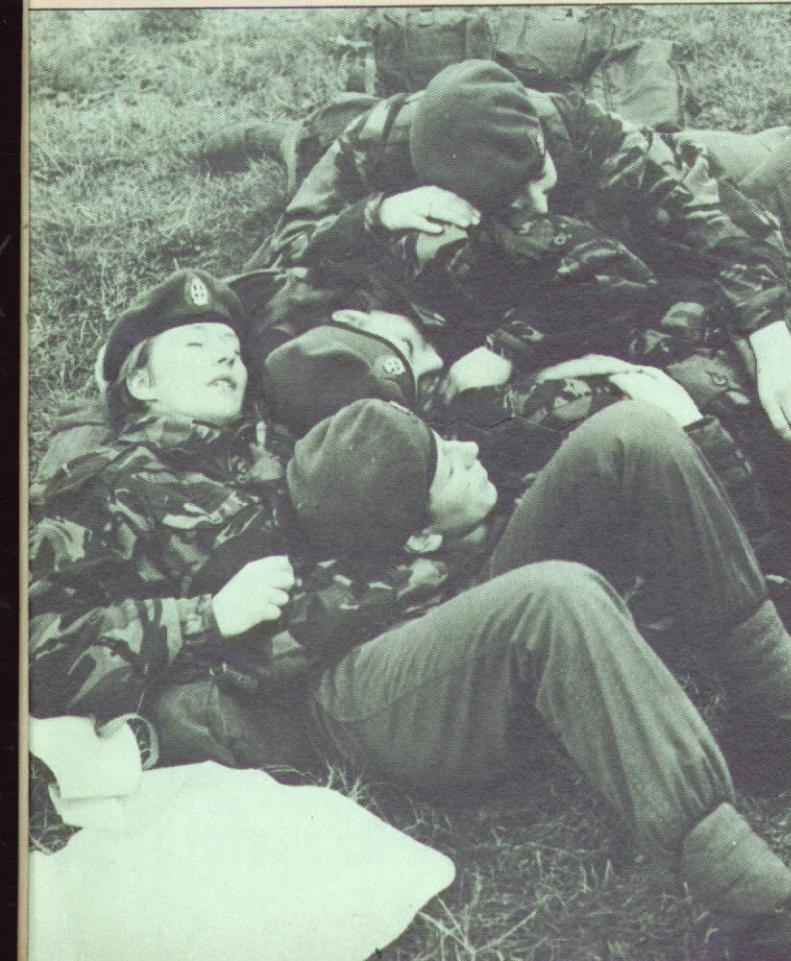
Girls from Leeds University on to their next check point.

It really is H-Two-O! A welcome draught from a drinking bottle.



Instruction from "Resistance fighter" Cpl Ashton.

Time to move out. Girls from York Garrison plot their next trek.





THE BRITISH ARMY commitment in an ever-increasing number of corners of the world — Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Lebanon and Cyprus to mention but a few — will mean more families separated this Christmas than for many years.

It is hard for wives and children, for parents, fiancees and girlfriends and it is equally hard for the Servicemen themselves to be perhaps thousands of miles from home. But we must not forget those whose loved ones will never return.

As the neighbourliness generated by the spirit of Christmas fades and the realities of a New Year bring us back to an everyday world, loneliness floods back into the lives of those on their own.

In our tight-knit Service community, you might think, wives could not be lonely, depressed, shy or just plain frightened of going out to make friends on their own, but there are wives who feel that way and need encouragement and support from their neighbours to overcome these feelings. If you make a new friend over Christmas and the New Year, don't forget them after the season of goodwill is over. It is so easy to slip back into your own world of friends, activities, school, work and the daily round. You might suddenly find that it is too late and depression and loneliness take their toll.

I have received one letter in particular which left a deep impression on me. It came from a wife who was upset about a neighbour. She wrote, "We tried to include her and she came to our homes over Christmas. She was fine then but four weeks later she was really ill and is now in hospital. We told her she could have come round at any time but she didn't." Thinking she might be a nuisance, this wife suffered by herself.

SSAFA, doctors, the Samaritans, padres or Parents Anonymous can all play their part but you too can help. Let's make 1984 our own Good Neighbour Year.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Anne Armstrong

In the event of not being available in the SOLDIER offices, Anne Armstrong can be contacted on 0276 29653.

# Wives show what they can do at Bagshot Park . . .

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UKLF Federation of Army Wives' Clubs were back at Bagshot Park again this year for their third AGM and Seminar.

Their growing confidence and knowledge about the issues that affect them and their families in the Service way of life was evi-

dent — and all this without jeopardising the chain of command. The wives have shown quite clearly that they are able to work constructively and effectively within the established system and much of the initial scepticism has been swept aside as their hitherto untapped expertise

has come to the fore.

The Federation's report has now been published. All Districts in UK have copies as do District representatives and all those who attended the Seminar. Your local FHWS will have the name of your representative if you do not know it. The report has detailed coverage of the proceedings. The presentations on quartering and furnishing, Naafi and family medical documentation as well as the open forum questions and answers were all recorded.

The Federation's magazine, Neighbours, which was first suggested at the 1982 Seminar, goes from strength to strength but of course its success still relies on your contributions. From this month, wives in Northern Ireland are to be included in its free distribution and for those of you who have been posted overseas from UK an annual subscription of £2 to cover postage and packing will make certain of your copies.

## ... and in BAOR



A break between sessions as wives get together at the UKLF Federation of Army Wife's Clubs Seminar.



Naafi Best Buys for under-fives.

THE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS Association BFG launched its third AGM and Conference on the theme "Today's Children — Tomorrow's World".

Peter Heasly talks with mothers at the Conference.



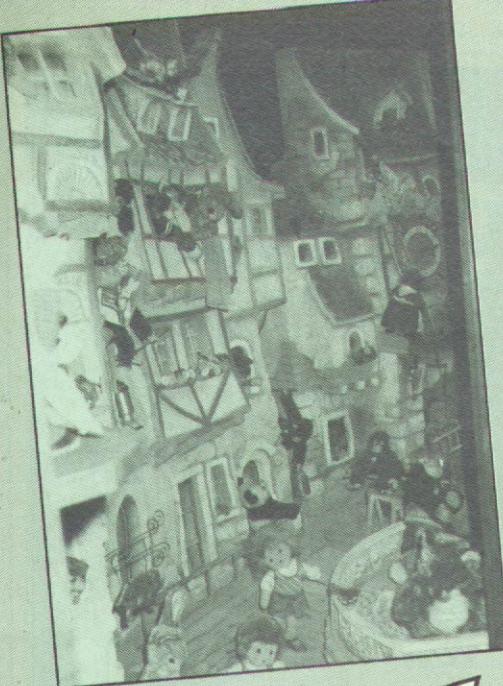
Discussion time for PPA delegates.

Eminent speakers from UK and BFG kept the 200 delegates from all over Germany, Berlin, AFCENT and Trier enthralled

as they led discussions, presentations and study sessions. Where else can wives interested in the under-fives discuss children in hospital, child abuse, mother and toddler groups and creative play through art and music with speakers like Lady Plowden, Lady Taylor the British Ambassador's wife, and Pete Heasly, a lecturer in pre-school education.

The Conference was organised by the Mönchengladbach Branch of the PPA and sponsored by the Army Education Board. It showed just how high a standard of professionalism can be attained by wives and I hope that the potential will be used to an even greater extent at all levels in 1984.





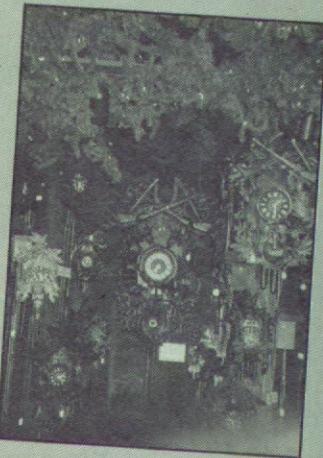
# Winter WONDERLAND



ROTHENBURG ob der Tauber is a fairytale town come true. It is a historic town on the Romantic Road and its medieval walls surround a wealth of romance and delight for children of all ages.

Even at the height of summer the tourists flock to the two famous Christmas shops in Herringasse where every nook and cranny from floor to ceiling is covered with Christmas decorations, some expensive, some costing only a few pfennigs, nativity scenes and a toyland to beat all others. In the snow-covered beauty of a typical German winter, the town is breathtakingly beautiful.

Rothenburg has occupied the same site since the 9th century but its future was uncertain during the last war until an American general saved it from destruction, a point perhaps far from the minds of the young children who fall under the spell of hundreds of moving toys depicting stories, the cuddly bears, dolls, animals and crooked houses which vie for attention with the cuckoo clocks, twinkling lights and Christmas trees, but one for which everyone who has been to Rothenburg must be very grateful.



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Turning to more technical matters, all 323 models now have a 5-speed gearbox (except for

the 1100) better sound deadening and an improved anti-corrosion treatment. There's also a brand new addition to the range, the 1500 GT 4-door Saloon, making seven different versions in all.

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# The Colonel opts for beef

**Writer John Margetts and photographer Doug Pratt took a Yuletide look at the work of Headquarters Group Catering, Aldershot, where, despite changing soldiers' tastes Christmas tradition means 12,000 extra pounds of turkey, 30,000 extra mince pies**

**B**Y the time Christmas comes Lieutenant Colonel John Tudor will be fed to the back teeth at the sight, smell and mention of turkey. "None of that for me. I'll be having beef for my Yuletide dinner," declared the Colonel, who is responsible for the supply of 18,000 lines of food at Headquarters Group Catering, Aldershot.

His rejection of the nation's festive favourite is not surprising since he and his team will have handled an extra 12,000lb of them on top of their normal weekly supply, including chickens, of 3½ tons.

With 36 years of service in the Army Catering Corps, he has been feeding soldiers probably as long as anybody in the Army and has seen big changes in the soldier's daily diet.

"When I joined the Army wartime rationing was still in force. The meat allowance was five ounces a week. You couldn't do much with that and units had to take what we provided."

"Nowadays they can have what they want — providing they can pay for it."

And order and pay they do. Everything from caviar to carrots and bean shoots to baked beans by the ton.

And it is all delivered daily to the 37 units spread over a 25-mile radius from the Aldershot base.

Altogether there are 11,500 soldiers in the Group which

means, in effect, that Colonel Tudor as Supplies Officer and Production Officer Captain David Fitch are responsible for providing food for close on 35,000 meals a day.

Some catering. But if 18,000 food lines seems fantastic, what about those the Colonel doesn't stock, but can provide on demand?

Items like the 8ft-long shark he was once asked to get. "We got it all right," said the Colonel, "as we did 50lb of swordfish steaks. They were easy orders to fill."

A not-so-easy task came with a request for a stag's head complete with antlers for a table centre-piece.

"We located one, but when the mess heard the price they backed off," he said.

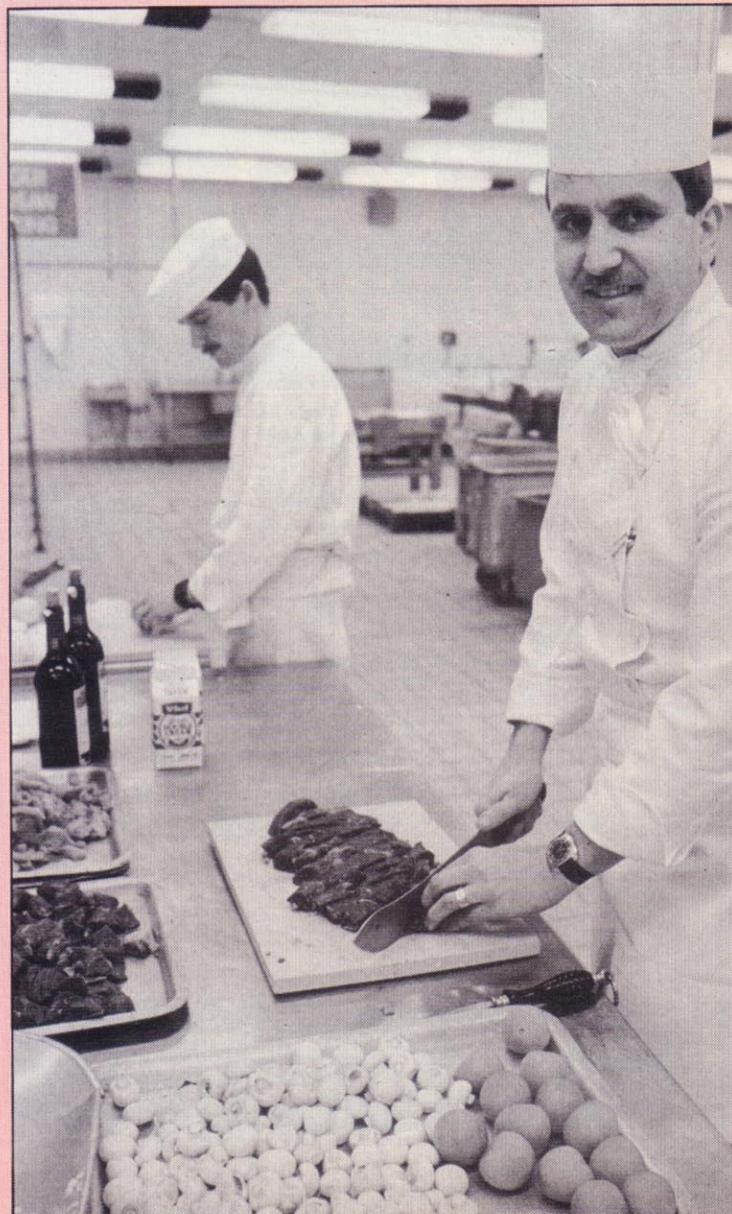
A tour of his store showed exotic items like frogs legs, snails, scallops, smoked eel, whitebait and dhall — a dried bean the Gurkhas use in soup.

"If people want it, we stock it," said the Colonel, as he inspected a crate of cauliflowers and stacked boxes of mushrooms.

"Got to make sure it's up to standard. If we accept second rate produce today it'll be third rate tomorrow."

All fresh that morning and on its way to the units within a

Sergeant Mike Wajdner preparing beef.



◀ **Myriad of machines and men producing food.**

couple of hours, the Colonel said. This applied to all their food except for tinned and packed goods.

"We could use many more convenience foods, and I am bombarded with manufacturers' pamphlets, but since we consider ourselves a bastion of trade skills we tend to frown on fast foods. "With the Corps' own training centre turning out highly-skilled cooks, we much prefer using our own expertise, together with raw ingredients, to make our own products. We know what goes into them. We know they are of first-class quality and we know they are fresh every day."

Ensuring that this is so, is Captain David Fitch, 38-year-old former boy soldier and cook to numerous Army VIPs over the years.

Now he is the Production Officer at Group Catering and the man in charge of 29 cooks and chefs turning out, among many other items, thousands of pies, cakes, sausage rolls, sponges, flans, doughnuts and pizza bases.

For David the job means a 6.30am start. "That's reasonable," he said. "For quite a number of my staff start at 3.30am on doughnut production.

"We make them fresh every day and they must be ready for dispatch by 8.30am. Since we're making up to 1,500 a time and all have to be filled and sugared by hand, we're looking for trouble-free runs.

"Of course we do get the odd problem with machines, and that sets back our production, but in the main, although we're working close to capacity, we meet our target figures inside the timetable of five days a week."

While most of their production is for the 11,500 ever-hungry mouths of the Group's soldiery, they do take on extra jobs such as the Royal Tournament.

"That meant food for an extra 2,500 people a day throughout the event. And when the QE2 returned from the Falklands we provided packed lunches for everyone on board," said David.

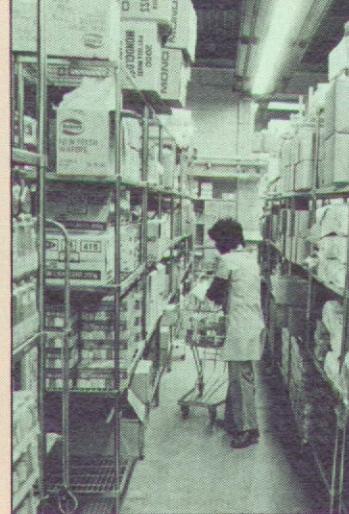
"Next year we have the Army Show to cater for and many other functions as well."

To keep up this rate of production means early starts, constant cleaning and inspection of machinery.

The latest addition to their range is a "tartlet" machine which stamps out tarts and fills them with mince or jam. It stamps out the lids, too, but these have to be put on by hand.

"And for Christmas we'll be

*continued on page 32*



The stock room.



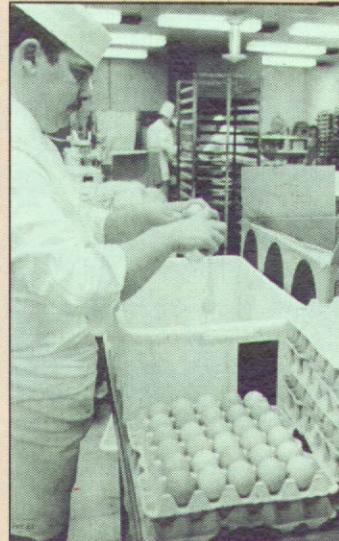
Private Chris Pettitt and Sergeant Ken Bryce RPC move rations.



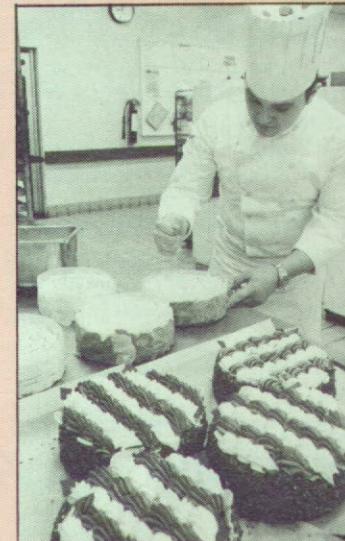
Mrs Fran Price: fresh veg.



Scottish salmon!



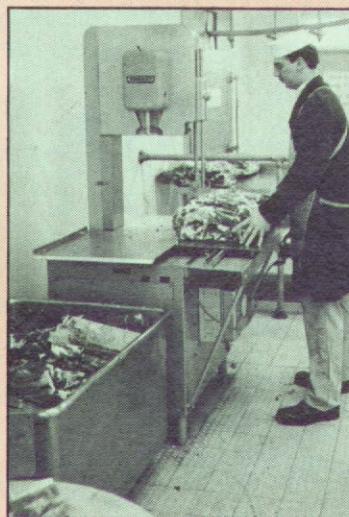
Private Stuart Collin: eggs for Christmas cake.



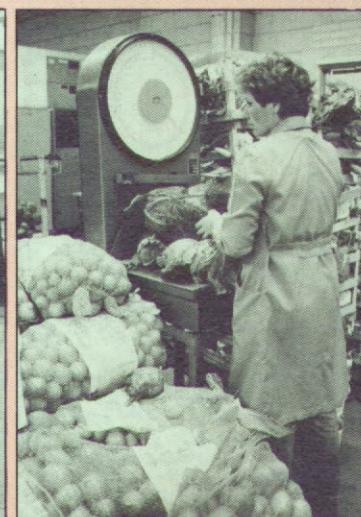
L/Cpl John Saetta: finishing gateaux.



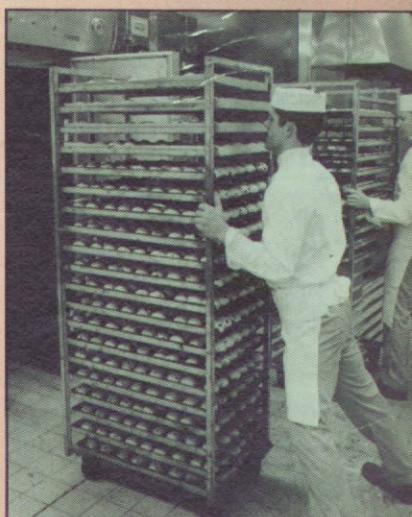
Sausage rolls.



On the band saw.



Weighing fresh veg.



Buns for the cooler!



Pte John Hamlett: pizza base cutting.

making an extra 30,000 mince pies," said David.

At about mid-morning Colonel Tony Barnett, Commander Group Catering, arrives for the daily taste test.

Laid out for him and Captain Fitch — or in the Colonel's absence Major David Quinton, his 2i/c — are samples of the day's products.

Steaklettes, pies of every description, sausage rolls, cakes, pasties and patties, pate... all are there for the Colonel's personal testing.

Taste, appearance, smell, texture, all come under scrutiny and are discussed with Master Chef WO2 Dave Beaden and others concerned directly with production.

Decisions are made and more samples from each batch are sent to a public health laboratory for analysis.

It's all part of Group Catering's service in their search to produce the best possible food for the soldier's plate.

With 22 years service — 20 of

L/Cpls John Shetta, left, and Gary Rogers: doughnut duo.

them in the ACC — Captain Fitch, too, has seen many changes, not only in the food quality, but in eating trends.

"We produce thousands of cakes and sponges, but even so it's only about a third of what we used to produce years ago for a similar number of soldiers.

"In the old days squaddies would scoff cakes like mad. But not today.

"The change in eating habits is reflected in the reduced orders for this type of product.

"Soldiers now tend to go for a snack-style lunch with a main meal in the evening.

"Among our latest products are pizza bases. They're proving quite popular. We provide the pastry bases and the units the fillings.

"Ravioli, too, is proving another line in demand. It's all part of the change in soldier's eating habits and we try to meet that demand."

Like everything else the administration system has changed, too. Computers have moved in where once upon a time a clerk would be. Now, when a recipe is finalised and approved by all concerned, it is fed into the computer and costed.

Changes in costing are adjusted automatically and production geared accordingly.

"It's all part of the ever-improving scenario of Army feeding which is, as David Fitch pointed out: "To produce top quality food on the soldier's plates."

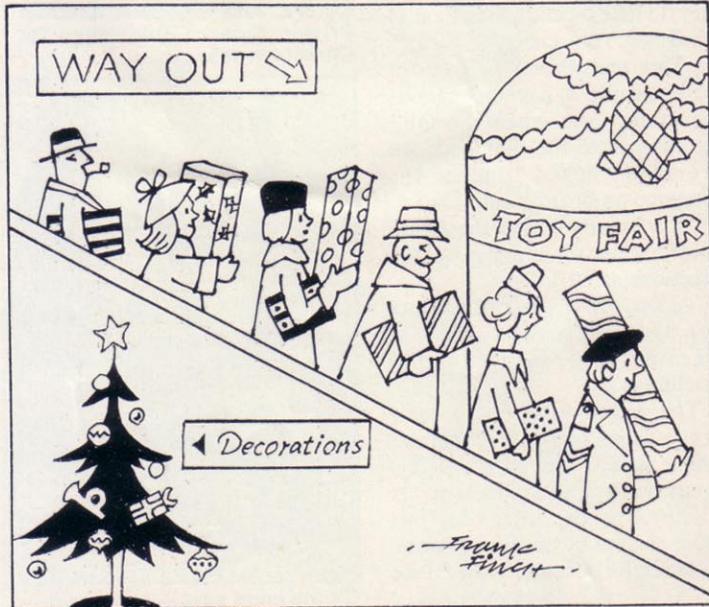
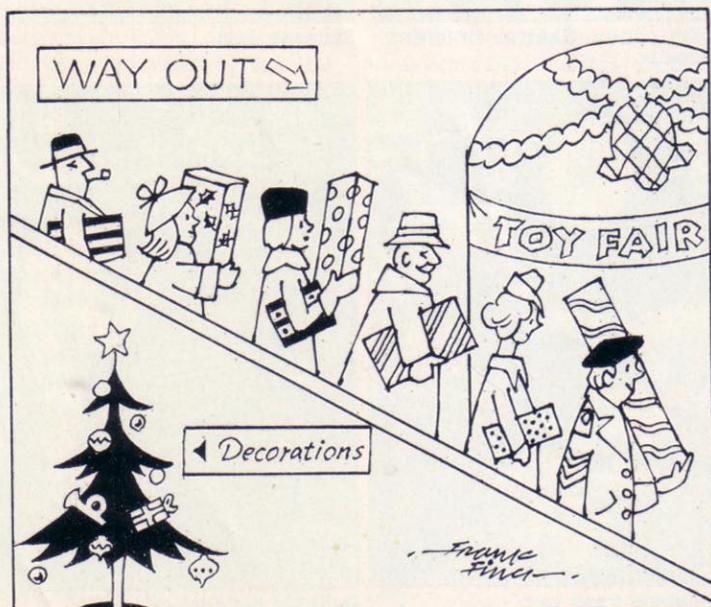
"It's our No. 1 priority. That's why we're here," he said. ■

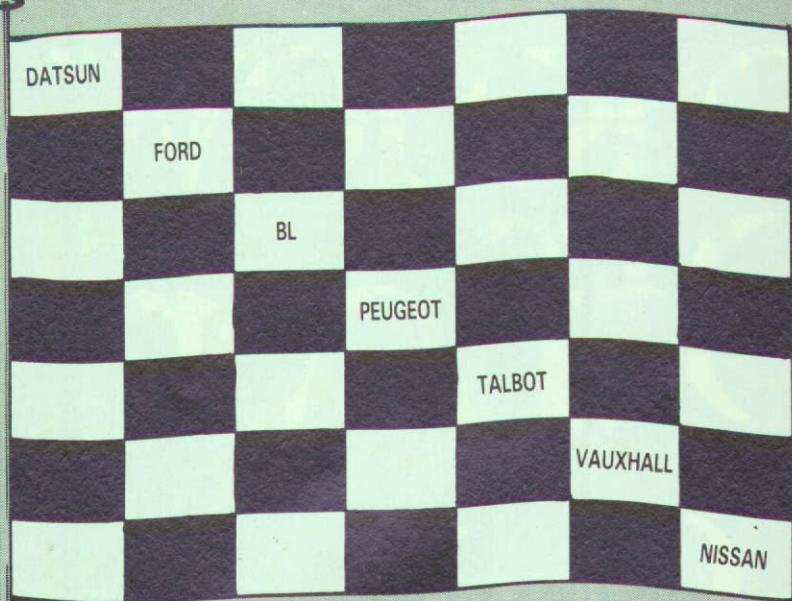
Pte Collin: brandy for the cake mix.



## How observant are you?

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





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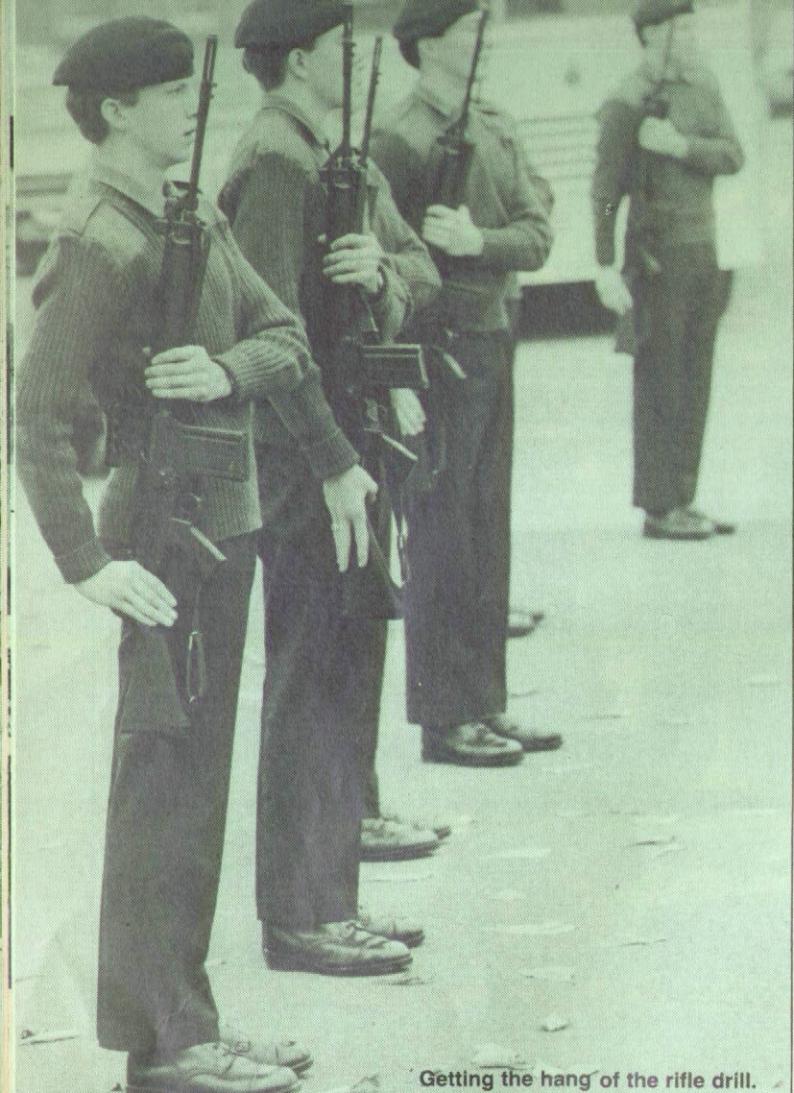
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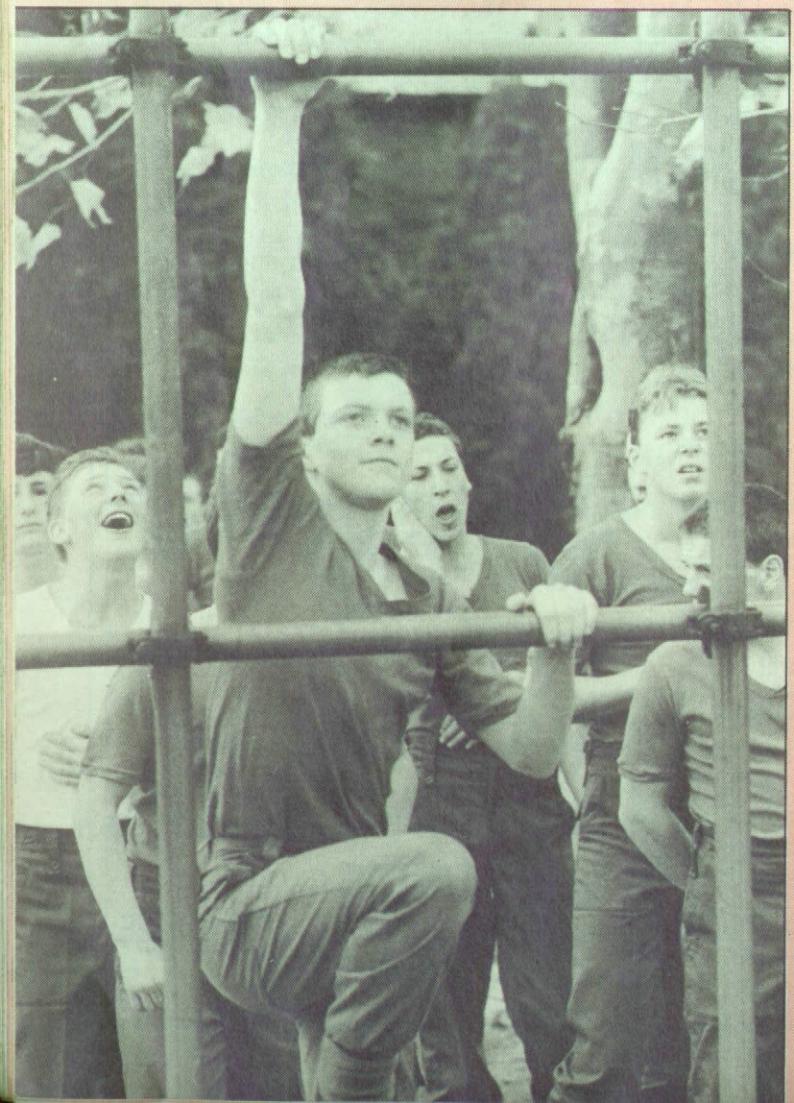
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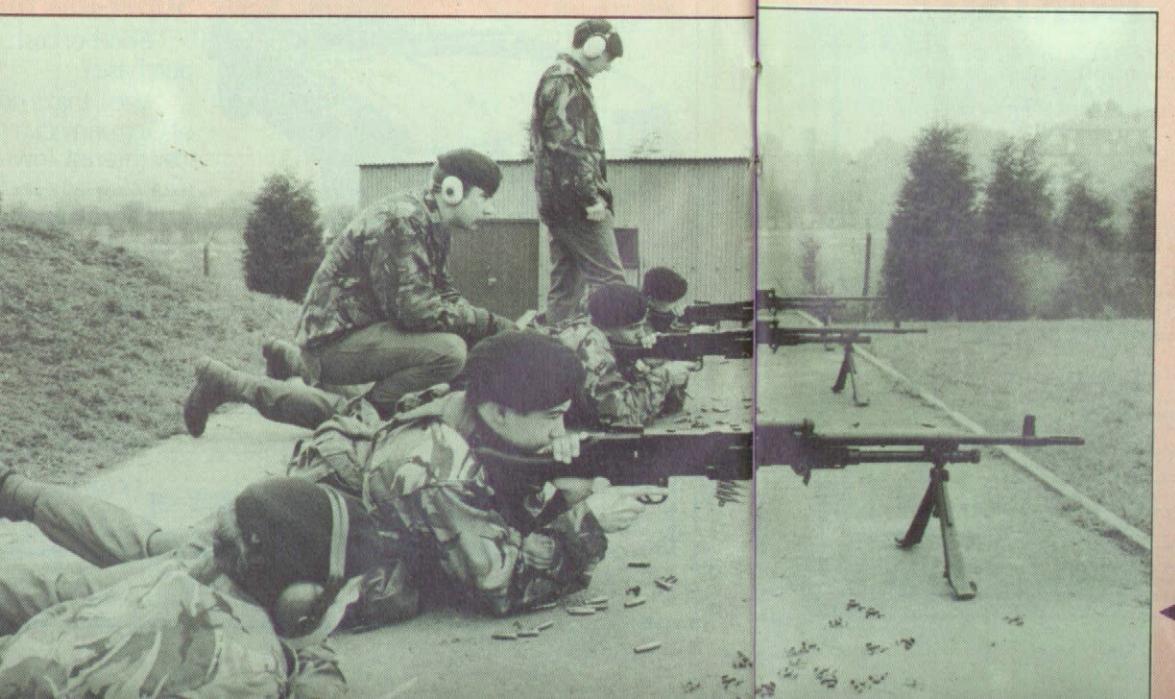
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Assault course:  
to the fore — Keith McNeice.



**SOLDIER** takes a look at the progress of some of the youngsters for whom the end of the year brings a ray of hope for those who have jumped

## From dole queue to drill square

HERE was nothing to differentiate the 22 youngsters from the rest of their colleagues on the range, the drill square or in the gymnasium at the Light Division Depot at Shrewsbury. They were the same age as the other youngsters in their platoons, they followed exactly the same Spartan schedule and they wore the same clothing. "The only time you can differentiate between them is when a Press team turns up," declared Major Nick Kench, Officer Commanding the Training Company at the depot.

The reason for the Press interest is that these youngsters were the first large batch of the Army's intake on the Armed Services Youth Training Scheme. Last September they left the dole queues behind for 12 months in uniform and the chance of an Army career if they did well.

The scheme got off to a very slow start in all three Services. The Army offered 1200 places

and even now only about a third of those have been taken up. But a block of 50 recently started with the Junior Signalmen at Ouston and 34 with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover. In the New Year more groups will start at Bovington and Aldershot as well as smaller numbers up and down the country.

In all some 375 youngsters will be taking part in the scheme early in 1984 out of nearly 5000 enquiries and 1800 serious applications. Hardly any of the vacancies on offer in apprentices colleges with the technical corps have been taken up — most of the youngsters interested in the scheme do not have the qualifications.

Shrewsbury led the way with its group of 27 — reduced by three almost immediately due to homesickness problems and subsequently by a further two. Recalled Major Kench: "The first thing we did after they arrived was to jumble them up with the other bokes. We had three



Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Les Wiggs



McNeice still in action.

The intake of YTS youngsters.

of those who had not previously tried to join up: "I just saw it on the telly. I couldn't find a job, was bored and wanted to get fit. I don't know why more lads don't try to get on this scheme — it's dead good."

Their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Watts, is pleased with the YTSs performance and regards it as a chance to fill some of the vacancies caused by wastage from his normal intake of junior recruits.

"They seem a pretty good lot who see it as a God-sent opportunity to have a go. I reckon that in the New Year I shall be able to offer a high proportion of them a full career in the Army."

"It's a great shame there have not been more coming forward because it is a golden opportunity. I would strongly recommend any young man reading SOLDIER magazine who is not in work to come along to the recruiting office and give it a whirl."

Sean Francis at the front.

platoons of 38 boys and put nine in each."

The only problem they may have is money — with only £15 a week in their pockets they are £4 a week worse off than their colleagues. And at ages 16½ and 17 the junior recruits get rises while the YTSs remain static.

Out of their money they have had to pay for items like tracksuits, but Major Kench says that they are so keen money has proved no problem. There is little time for spending in any event, and all of the YTSs have asked to go on the depot skiing trip in January, which will cost them £70 each.

The terms of service for YTSs are that they are not allowed to transfer to become regular recruits until they have been in the Army three months. But Major

Kench has told them it will not be considered until the six months point. "We are testing their resolve — we are not going to burden ourselves with the administration of transferring them only for them to leave soon afterwards."

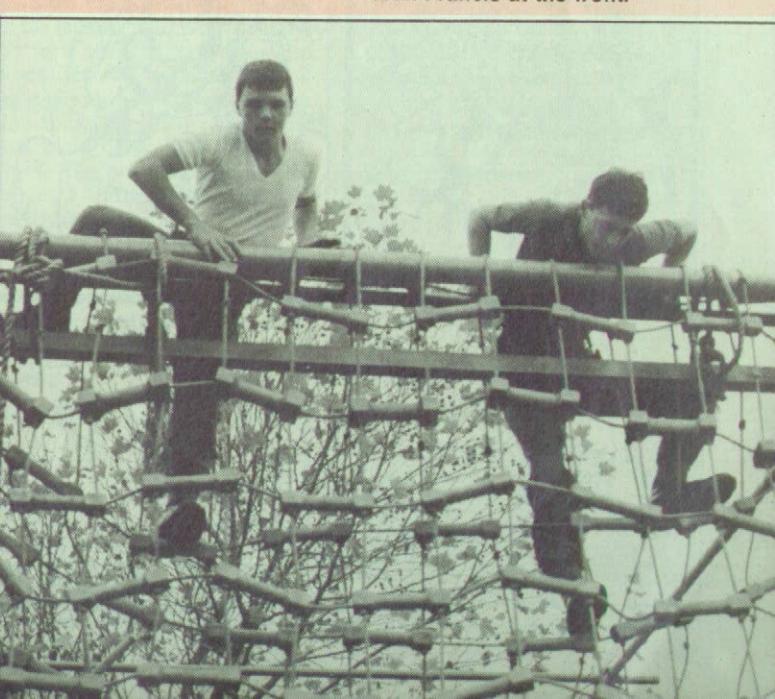
However, Major Kench feels

that the majority of the YTSs are so good that they will eventually be offered places. Most of the 27 had wanted to get into the Army anyway but had been unable to find vacancies — only three were recruits straight from the street who had not expressed a previous interest in the Army.

Their first six weeks followed the confined to camp routine known to all soldiers during which they learned all about the Army basics. It included a field-craft camp on the bleak ranges at Sennybridge and then, at the end of October, both recruits and YTSs were allowed to take off their 'crow caps' and put on berets with either Light Infantry or Royal Green Jackets badges.

The YTSs all have a 'Y' in front of their Service number, which will change to a 2 if they convert. And that is the dearest wish of most of them. Says Junior Private Sean Francis from Harrogate: "At the moment I think I would like to transfer. Some of it has been tough but I expected that. I tried to get a job for six months after I left school but could not get one."

Junior Private Andrew Bett from Sunderland was offered a YTS job leading a brewery drayhorse around the pubs —



On the range — Vincent Burn.

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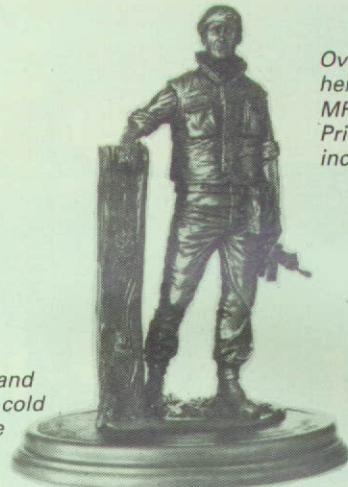
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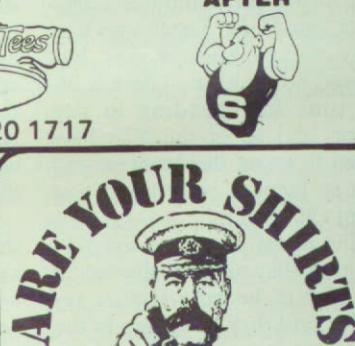
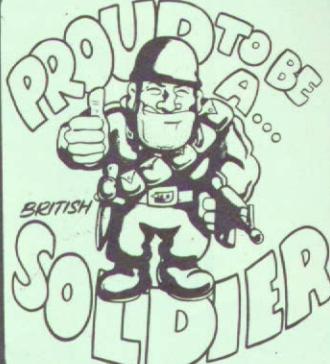
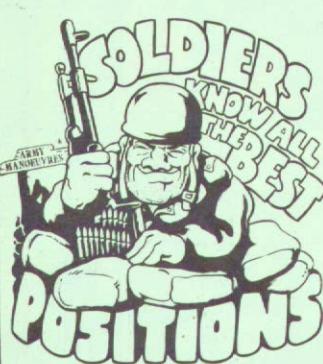
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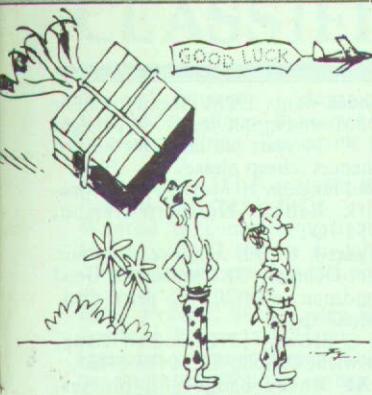
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S5



# MAIL DROP

amongst others, Argentina.

(Quoted from 'Modern Tanks and Fighting Vehicles' by Salamander Books, price £2.95, p14-15). — Cadet Sgt A C S Linney, Kings School, Canterbury CCF, Canterbury, Kent.

## PACK TRANSPORT

Having had considerable experience during and after World War II with the operation of pack transport and have followed with interest the recent correspondence both in *SOLDIER* and the national press, regarding the employment of pack animals in the Falklands.

When serving with the Horse Transport Squadron of the RCT in the 1960s I ran short courses for the SAS and Para Brigade in the improvisation of pack transport. The syllabus included advice on the procurement of local animals and instruction in basic animal management, the principles of loading and improvising saddlery.

Having seen pictures taken during the actual campaign of heavily laden troops marching across country whilst a herd of local ponies graze in the background it would appear that such training might even today be put to good use. Animals so employed would either, have taken some weight off the backs of the troops or carried more equipment. For the few days required they could have lived off the land and then been turned loose. On a permanent basis of course, pack transport requires to be more organised, with proper pack saddlery and efficient animal management.

I have a photograph (unable to be shown here) which I took when on attachment to the Italian Alpine in 1965. It shows a mule carrying the base plate of the 120mm mortar, the animal being one of three required to carry the complete weapon. — Maj R A Hill (Retd), 8 Melbourne Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0JA.

## Collectors' Corner

R Miles, 33 Gunners Grove, Chingford, London E4 9SR. Wishes to purchase foreign SAS insignia, Australian, Rhodesian, New Zealand, Belgian, Greek Sacred Squadron, genuine items only. Also copies of Mars and Minerva.

R E L Hodges, 125 Kings Ride, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4LT. Collects all insignia to the King's Regiment. Has insignia of the regiments now in the Queen's, Royal Anglians and RRF for exchange or sale. Send SAE for list.

R Porter, The Anchor & Hope, Threefield Lane, Southampton, SO1 1BU. Seeks cap badges of the Wiltshire Regiment of Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Scuola di Applicazione, via Arsenale 22, Torino, Italy. Requires Royal Navy badges and wall plaques. Exchange with Italian coloured enamelled badges.

RSM Staff College, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NP. Has for sale T Cuneo prints of RM Queen's visit to the College in 1958. 18" x 15". Enclose

PO/cheque for £1.50 payable to 'Staff College Fund'.

L C Pead, 18 Marivyst, Sybrand Park 7700, Capetown, RSA. Wants any Army cap and collar badges. Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, W Yorks WF12 7ET. Offers large list of military buttons, some Victorian. Send stamp.

Frank Murphy, 14 Walmsley House, Princess St, Folkestone, Kent. Requires the following: any books, magazines or insignia of 3rd The King's Own Hussars; photographs taken during 1946-47 in Palestine with the 3 KOH; photographs of the 13 Bn Parachute Regt (TA) 1948-51. All postage refunded and photos returned registered post.

## Can You Help?

I am trying to contact Cpl R 'Dicky' Dawson from the 1st Bn QO Hldrs. His last post was Tidworth and I believe he is now in the Manchester area. — Pearl, 8 Edinburgh Walk, Workshop, Notts.

Does anyone know exactly where I might contact Terry O'Neill who served with the Coldstream Guards until January 1983 and was based at Caterham, Surrey. I believe he is now living in Rotherham, Yorks. — Anna Eagling, 23 Cranleigh Court, Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 0HE.

I have been asked to form a 'Valve' Trumpet and Drum Band here at Eastbourne. I have managed so far to purchase through our HQ six trumpets but need help in acquiring the drums, namely, a bass drum and six side drums. Is there anyone who would like to donate an instrument so that I can form this small band? — Sgt J E Woodgate, No 10 Eastbourne Cadet Platoon, The Queen's Regiment (Sussex Army Cadet Force) TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, Sussex.

I am secretary of the Lowveld Pipe Band Association and have been charged with the awesome task of obtaining a Pipers long plaid in the Mackenzie (military weight and pattern) tartan. The problem is that the Mackenzie tartan available is lightweight and the actual net is smaller than the military one. We are getting ready for a series of competitions in the next few weeks and wonder if there is any chance of an ex-Seaforth or any Mackenzie heavy pattern long pipers plaid being obtained in all haste — the price is no problem, speed is. — Miss E Nel, c/o 104 Sunnyridge, 3 Yettah St, Hillbrow 2001, Rep of South Africa.

I am interested in acquiring all information concerning Mess Dress/Kit of Officers and Senior NCOs of Armies of the world. Anyone wishing to share pictures, drawings and information, please contact: Myles G Penny CD, 97 Lawrence Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7A 6X7.

Would Private Simon Hughes, ACC last known to have been stationed in Soest, W Germany and now possibly posted to N Ireland, please contact me? — Lorraine Meara, 6 Hollybank Close, Hampton, Middx.

## Pen Pals

(see also pages 50 & 51)

I am a hairdresser. My name is Janet and I am 20 years old. I like music, travelling and discos. — Janet Allif, 34 Kneller Road, Brockley, London, SE2 2HP.

My name is Jan and I am 29 years old. I like reading and keep fit. — Jan Merrick, 24 Dolman Road, Gosport, Hants.

My name is Pearl and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 4 ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy writing, walking and driving. — Pearl Major, 121 Coopers Lane, Clacton, Essex.

My name is Hassam and I am a student of commerce. I would like to write to any lonely ladies aged 15-55 years old in America or Europe. — Hassam el din Hassan, 33 Ahmed Fathy Street, Gleem, Alexandria, ARE.

## Competition

We were wondering why we got only four entries for our Competition 328, 'A Simple Code' (surely it wasn't that difficult?) And then we realised we probably had not allowed you enough time to get your answers posted into us. We don't know what we could have been thinking of! Anyway for those of you who would have submitted entries if you had had time, here is the answer. The lines should have been arranged so they are symmetrical with the initial letters of each line placed in this order — FINEEU. The statement should then have been read by reading vertically downwards twenty times starting at the top left and finishing at the bottom right. Here is the complete statement: *Fine European regiments of the Honourable East India Company became British regiments after the Indian Mutiny eg The Royal Munster Fusiliers.* Of course, the four entrants had to be awarded the prizes, the order of which was decided by drawing lots: 1st Miss E L Massey, 9 Grafton Close, West Byfleet, Surrey. 2nd Mrs B B Masset, 9 Grafton Close, West Byfleet, Surrey. 3rd Cpl D P Morgan, 3 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58. 4th Sgt R A Grant, 27 Fd Regt, RA, Wksp REME, BFPO 107.

Having now spotted this mistake in our dates, we can now offer you more time to get entries in for subsequent competitions. Entries for Competition 330 (14 Nov) are now due in on 16 December. Answers will appear in our issue of 23 Jan: Competition 331 (28 Nov) now due in on 30 December — answers will appear in 6 Feb issue; Competition 332 (this issue) due in on 13 Jan — answers will appear in 20 Feb issue.

## How Observant Are You?

1 "R" in "FAIR"; 2 Bottom stripe of left man's parcel; 3 Pattern at top of parcel of shopper third from left; 4 Top right branch of Christmas tree; 5 Tie of small parcel on tree; 7 Mouth of woman behind soldier; 8 Soldier's epaulette button; 9 Soldier's chevrons; 10 Artist's signature.

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

## NOT ROYAL

We are delighted to see the review (14 Nov) of our latest booklet (No 5) in *The British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914* series; however I hasten to dispel the impression given by your reviewer that the Trust has a Royal title.

The late Colonel Robert Ogilby created this second Trust through his Will on his death in 1964, having founded the better known Army Museums Ogilby Trust in 1954, with the primary intention of conducting research in matters relating to British Military Forces and publishing the results.

Funds for such projects are limited and this is one of the reasons why only one or two of these booklets can be published annually, since other books, such as *Riflemen Form* (which was runner-up in the Templer Medal Award) are also published.

I hope 'BJ' and other interested readers live long enough to collect the complete series but the Trust might be able to respond more quickly if they, or some generous benefactor, were to help our finances with some substantial sum. — Col P S Newton MBE, Secretary, The Robert Ogilby Trust, Connaught Bks, Duke of Connaught Road, Aldershot, GU11 2LR.

## GUN GEN

I refer to the caption 'Painful Memories' (11 July) and the sad state of Private Ian Davis. In the article Maj M Nicholls of 2 Para "admits to not knowing where the gun was built etc." I think I know.

It is (I think) a towed version of the French 115mm Mk F3 self-propelled Howitzer which was developed by 'Creusot-Loire'.

The weapon has a double baffle muzzle brake and can be elevated from 0° to +67°, traverse is 20° left and 30° right (with an elevation of 0° to +50°) and 16° left and 30° right (with an elevation from +50° to +67°).

The Howitzer has a maximum rate of fire of 3 rounds/min although in SF role this drops to one round/min. The ammunition is separate loading type, ie projectile and charge.

The weapon was exported to,

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# HOME HUNTER

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**K. Stephenson, 0277 232913**

These articles are prepared in conjunction with **Kerry Stephenson** of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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## SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS TO BE SOLD

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Page 4

S FAR AS ancient monuments go, Edinburgh Castle is the second most popular tourist attraction in the UK (the Tower of London takes first place). Steeped in history, the Castle, as well as being Headquarters Lowlands, embodies Scotland's military past which is there for all to see in the Scottish United Services Museum.

This museum is unique in that it covers the history of the three fighting forces since 1660 to the present day with special emphasis on the Scottish contribution. The collection is priceless and boasts amongst its artefacts six VCs, a rare private soldier's uniform of the eighteenth century (most were destroyed by wear after demob) and the French Eagle captured at Waterloo by Sergeant Charles Ewart, Royal Scots Greys.

With two galleries in the castle itself, the museum is run from the North Hospital Block overlooking Edinburgh's most famous boulevard, Princes Street. It is from here that the new keeper, Stephen Wood is planning the museum's future, bringing it up to date and making it more attractive to the public of the 1980s.

At the moment, some of the display cases are almost museum pieces themselves, dating from earlier this century, which do not make the most of the wealth of items they house. The addition of extra space in the North Hospital Block will enable the museum to use modern display techniques to depict a chronological history of the Scottish serviceman rather than merely a collection of militaria.

"We have the finest collection of military antiquities in the world," Stephen Wood told SOLDIER, "it is just unfortunate that we have been unable to display them properly. Gradually it will change."

"At the moment there are far too many things on display not shown to advantage. I plan to display fewer items but to greater effect and concentrate on items of general interest to Joe Public."

"We get loads of visitors who are not interested in hundreds of red uniforms in display cases but just, say, a few on wax models with all the kit, showing how uniforms have changed over the centuries."

"With its recruiting, regimental and family traditions together with a history of unemployment, Scotland is essentially a military country. There is a great tradition of Scots fighting for King and Country — take the Royal Scots for instance, the oldest line regiment; and it's this spirit I

want to bring out in the museum."

Some of the items are so old and worn they are in danger of being lost to the Scottish Heritage. Colours, for instance, which have been hanging from the ceiling for decades threaten to fall apart from the strain of their own weight. A team of conservators work very hard repairing the ancient textiles but some, such as silk, once it reaches a certain degree of decrepitude, is beyond repair.

Restoring paintings is another aspect of the conservators work — stripping them of age-old grime, repairing torn canvas and building up broken frames. But as time marches on, the backlog of items requiring restoration threatens to overwhelm the small but dedicated team of conservation officers.

One thing Stephen Wood is determined to get right during his tenure is to bring the collection up to date.

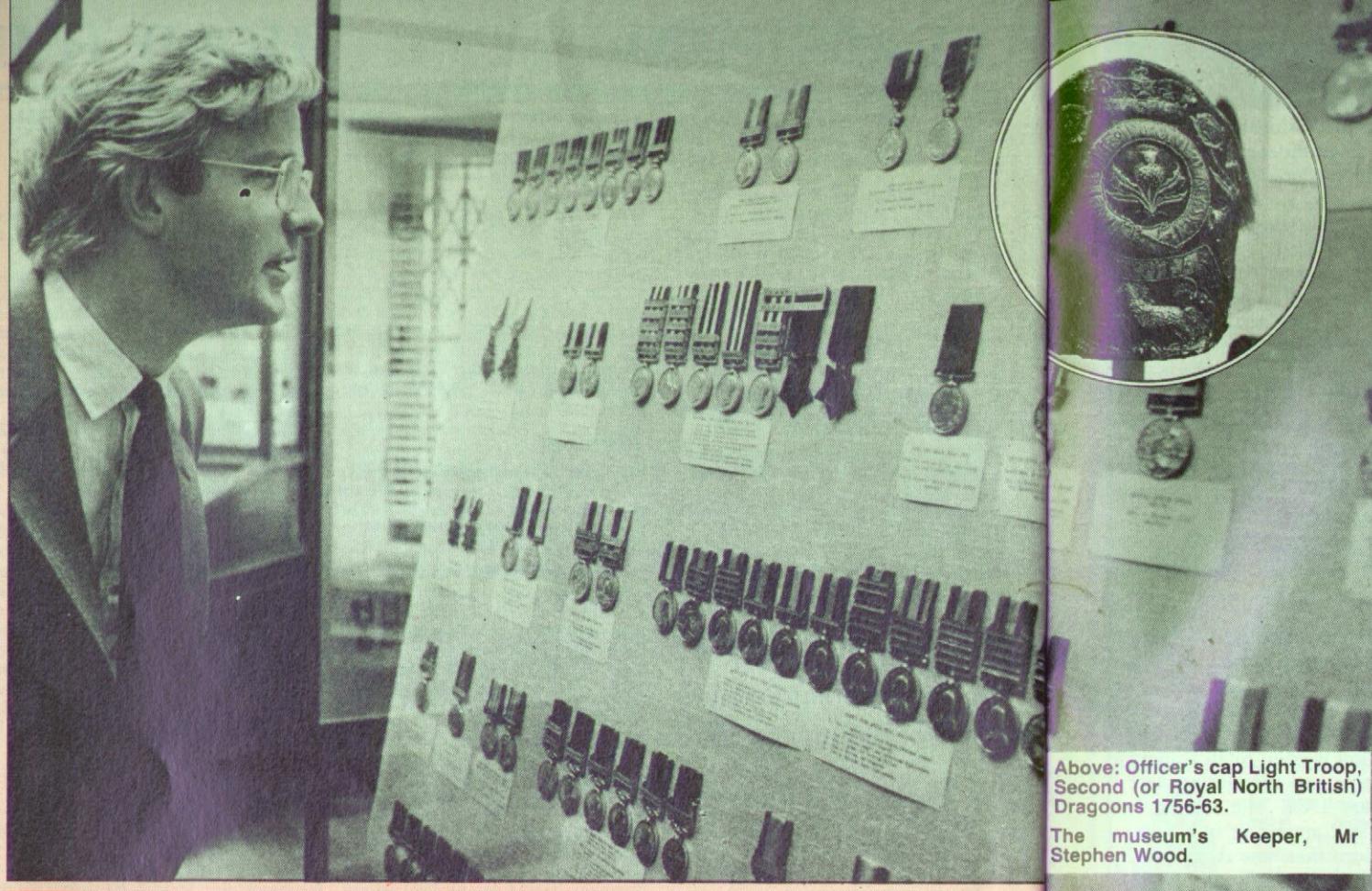
"Again because of lack of space," he said, "we haven't been able to devote as much attention to the post-1914 period as we should. Whereas in some respects I am prepared to admit that civilisation ended in 1914, history didn't!"

"We have virtually nothing in the museum that covers the two World Wars up to the present day, and it's a disgrace really. When the new building opens we will put this right and I appeal to SOLDIER readers to let us have anything from this period they have. And I mean anything — from uniforms, badges, medals to weapons, ammunition, documents, photographs — the whole range of militaria and from all three Services."

"I can't stress our need too much because the only way we can drag the museum kicking and screaming into the 21st century is by people turning out their old trunks and lofts and sending us the stuff."

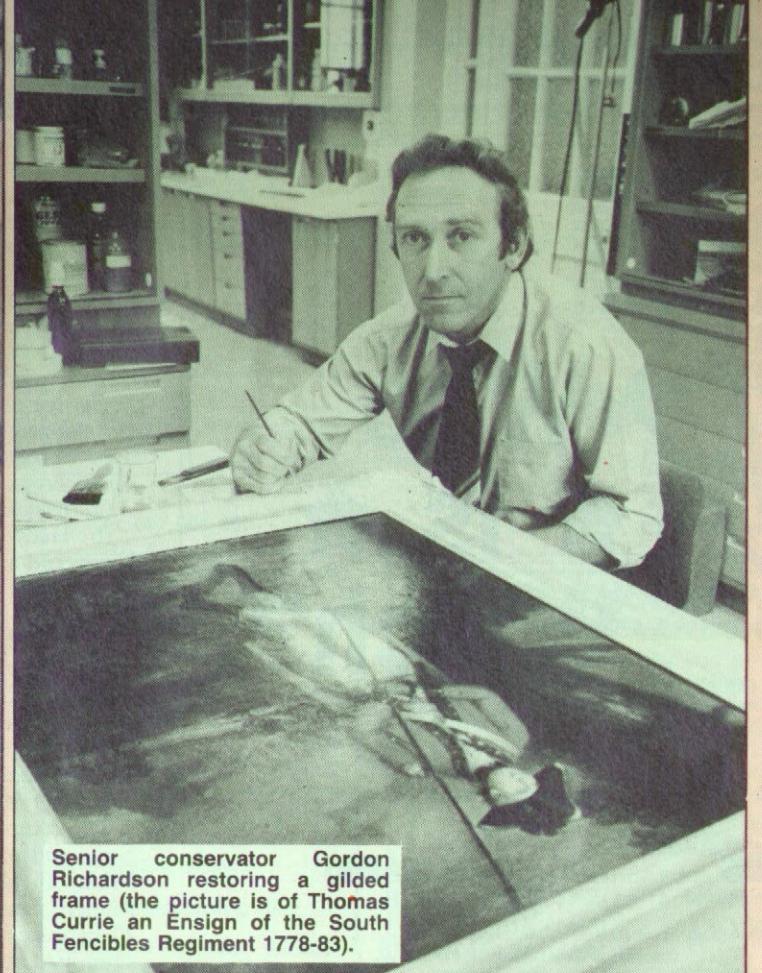
When the conversion work in the North Hospital Block is completed, the plan is that all the ancient pieces will be moved in here to allow the Castle galleries to house the modern museum. Stephen Wood expects these new rooms to be open by mid-1985 and then the work of collecting post 1914 antiquaria can begin in earnest.

So remember, all those mementos you have kept from the Wars, National Service days or when your 22 years were up, which are now rotting in dusty corners, unseen for many years, can be put to good use in this museum. Write to The Keeper, Scottish United Services Museum, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT.



Above: Officer's cap Light Troop, Second (or Royal North British) Dragoons 1756-63.

The museum's Keeper, Mr Stephen Wood.



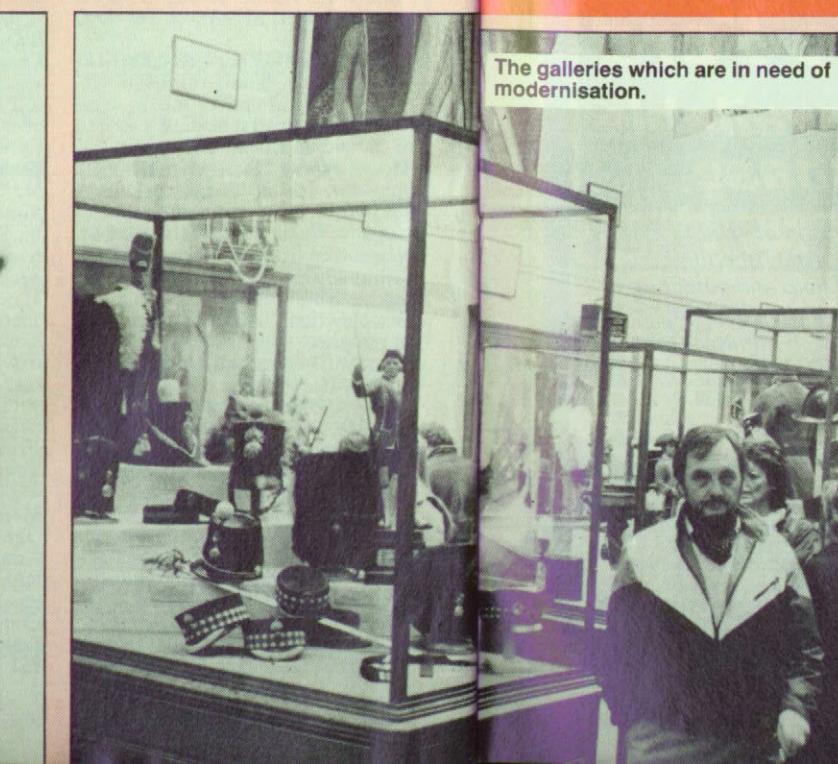
Senior conservator Gordon Richardson restoring a gilded frame (the picture is of Thomas Currie an Ensign of the South Fencibles Regiment 1778-83).



"Pass the snuff!" Yes, it really is a snuff-box designed for an Officers' Mess dining table.



A uniform carrying the decorative darts which originally were designed to clean out the powder holes in muskets.



The galleries which are in need of modernisation.



Home Defence uniforms 1868-1880.

If you are spending the holiday period in or near Edinburgh then you will find a visit to the Scottish United Services Museum worth while. Writer SALLY DANIELL and photographer DOUG PRATT did just that when they studied a museum . . .

## KEEN ON CHANGE - READY FOR HELP



# Who is Which?

Here are the names:

## PROFESSIONAL NAMES

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15. VIRGINIA MAYO
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 TOMMY HICKS  
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 MARION MICHAEL MORRISON

## COMPETITION 332

HERE ARE the professional names — left hand column — of twenty artistes who have entertained us and our predecessors over the years. Some are film stars and some are singers, some play straight stage, some are comedians . . . and so on.

Against each of the twenty names we have placed an artiste's real name (right hand column). The only trouble is that the real name set against each professional name is in the wrong place. All you have to do is place the real name against the professional name used by each artiste. For example, if you came across:

(a) Jean Harlow      Hedwig Kiesler  
 (b) Hedy Lamarr      Harlean Carpenter

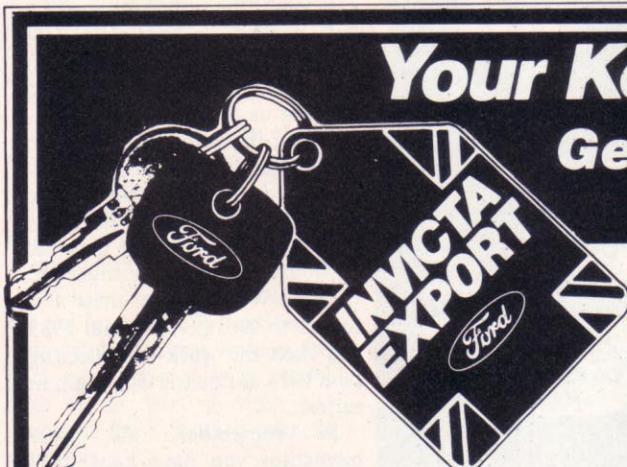
you would arrange them:

(a) Jean Harlow      Harlean Carpenter  
 (b) Hedy Lamarr      Hedwig Kiesler.

Do not be discouraged if you cannot match all twenty names. Send in the list of those you *CAN* manage to pair. Perhaps no-one else can manage all twenty: perhaps no-one will match nineteen and if you are the only one with eighteen correct answers you really *MUST* win the first prize.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 13 January 1984. The answers and winners names will appear in our issue of 20 February. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 332' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence can be entered into. Send your answers in by letter or postcard with the 'Competition 332' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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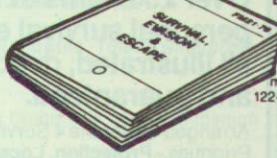
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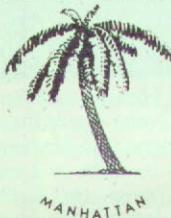


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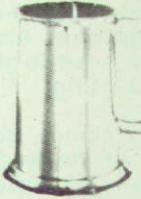
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# CALLING ALL SOLDIERS -

## a Christmas bonus from the girls at home

REGULAR readers of SOLDIER will be familiar with our pen pals column which normally appears on Mail Drop.

There are two schools of thought on the subject of having pen pals in the magazine. Some readers, presumably those who lead fulfilled and contented lives, complain and say we should not waste editorial space on 'this sort of rubbish' as one reader wrote. Others disagree and maintain that it provides a valuable service to those many soldiers posted to far-flung and sometimes grim places, who relish any mail from home.

Whatever you think, we here at SOLDIER have evidence that the pen pals column is an extremely popular feature of the magazine with some of the advertisers receiving up to six hundred replies! We believe this to be unusual but the average response seems to be between thirty and sixty. The evidence speaks for itself.

### Christmas

For this Christmas issue of SOLDIER we thought it would be a good idea, and one we hope will be appreciated by the troops stationed and on duty over the holiday in the Falklands, to take the idea a step further.

We contacted a few girls living not too far away from us at Aldershot and asked them if they would be willing to have their photographs published in the magazine along with their letters. Our photographer, Paul Haley (some of you may remember him from SOLDIER Bird days) went, camera ready, knocking on their doors to get the pictures you now see on these two pages. Some lived

My name is Elaine and I am 31 years old. My hobbies are travelling, driving, sport and astronomy. — *Elaine Gray, 14 Meadow Drive, Hampton in Arden, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0BD.*

My name is Rosemary and I am 33 years old. I am 5ft 1in tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My interests are walking, music, films and homelife. — *Rosemary Jones, 33 de Quincey House, Churchill Gardens, Lupus St, London SW1.*

My name is Denise and I am 24 years old. My hobbies are reading, drawing, music and travel. I would like overseas penpals. — *Denise Lawrence, 4 Overleigh Road, Handbridge, Chester, Cheshire, CH4 7HL.*

too far away for us to photograph but we have printed a selection of their letters which we hope will attract a good response. Also see the Male Box — we do get the lads writing in occasionally, too.

So make your choice, get pens and paper at the ready and start writing — you never know where it might lead!

### DEBBIE

I am a 21-year-old nurse who would be willing to write to



write to Servicemen. — *Debbie Freeman, 42 Vernon Drive, Stanmore, Middx HA7 2BT.*

### RACHEL



I am nineteen, five-foot-ten and quite shy. Among my interests are cooking, swimming, and all aspects of driving. — *Rachel Tolhurst, Catering Department, Askham Bryan College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR.*

My name is Caroline and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with dark hair and blue eyes. I like horse-riding, ice-skating and going out. — *Caroline Twomey, 38 Lyndhurst Road, Sneinton Dale, Nottingham.*

My name is Karen and I am 23 years old. I have dark brown hair and I enjoy travelling, music and eating out. — *Karen, 145 Swakeleys Road, Ickenham, Middx, UB10 8DL.*

My name is Helen and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are swimming, ice-skating, music and writing. I would like a penpal aged 19-25 years old. — *Helen Chapman, 621 Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS7 2NA.*

### DEBBIE AND ANGELA



We're two teenage friends who are interested in funk and soul music, swimming and dancing. Anyone interested should write to Debbie Line, 686 Field End Rd, South Ruislip, Middx HA4 0QR and Angela Rose, 27 Sheldon Drive, South Ruislip, Middx.

### HANNAH

Hello everyone — I wonder if anyone would like to write to me? I am 21, five-foot-one and have green eyes. At the moment I



29 Rollason Rd  
 Erdington  
 Birmingham  
 B24 9BZ

Dear SOLDIER,

please can you put me in contact with any soldiers who would appreciate a female penfriend. I am a part-time student retaking Chemistry, Biology and General Studies A Level, eventually hoping to teach Outdoor Education.

My hobbies are canoeing, rock climbing, mountaineering etc and I belong to an Adventure Group. I also play most sports (tennis, badminton, netball, hockey and table-tennis) but especially basketball which I play for a team in Division 1 of the West Midlands League.

I am 18½ and five-foot-nine with shoulder length hair which isn't quite blonde — more yellowy!

I like most music including U2, Bruce Springsteen, Wham, Paul Young, Heaven 17, Big Country etc. My spare time is spent listening to Radio One.

I have quite a few penfriends who live in Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Tunisia but none so far who are soldiers.

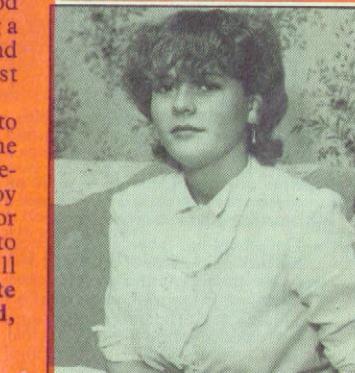
Yours sincerely,

Tracy  
Tracy Goulding

### BERNADETTE

After reading Soldier for only the second time, I have made up my mind to continue with it. I believe it to be extremely good value for money. I enjoy having a go at all the competitions and reading the articles on past history.

While writing, I should like to put my name forward for the penfriend column. I am a five-foot-four 17-year-old and enjoy reading, discos and most outdoor activities. I should like to write to an Army lad aged 17-22. All letters answered. — *Bernadette Skinner, 25 Connaught Road, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4RN.*



lads, get scribbling! — *Julie Todd, 4 Newbolt Road, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 4JG.*

### VANESSA

I'd like to write to a soldier but he must have a sense of humour! I am five-foot-two with blonde hair and blue eyes and my interests are music and photography. — *Vanessa Colville, 124 Kathleen Road, Sholing, Southampton SO2 8LN.*



### LOU

I am a 17-year-old art student who would like to write to anybody under the age of 105. I love anybody and anything interesting and hate the word 'nice'. — *Lou Fennimore, 66 Little Breach, Chichester, Sussex.*



### JULIE

I love writing to people and although I already have one pen friend in the Army (who is posted to Hong Kong) I would like another. I am 15 and have blonde hair and green eyes. When I finish school I should like to be a nurse — preferably in the Army.

I like all types of music except

Miss Patti Stevenson  
5638 Holland St  
Vancouver, BC  
V6N 2A8  
CANADA

Dear SOLDIER,

I am a 17-year-old University student and would like to hear from any soldiers who enjoy receiving and sending long, interesting letters.

My interests include skiing, drama, new music and travelling to tropical spots (I have travelled extensively in the Caribbean and Pacific). I enjoy having breakfast in the kitchen, having my teeth filled and walking barefoot in really deep shag carpets!

Please send a photo with your letter and you will be assured of a swift response.

Yours,  
waiting on the  
West coast,  
Patti

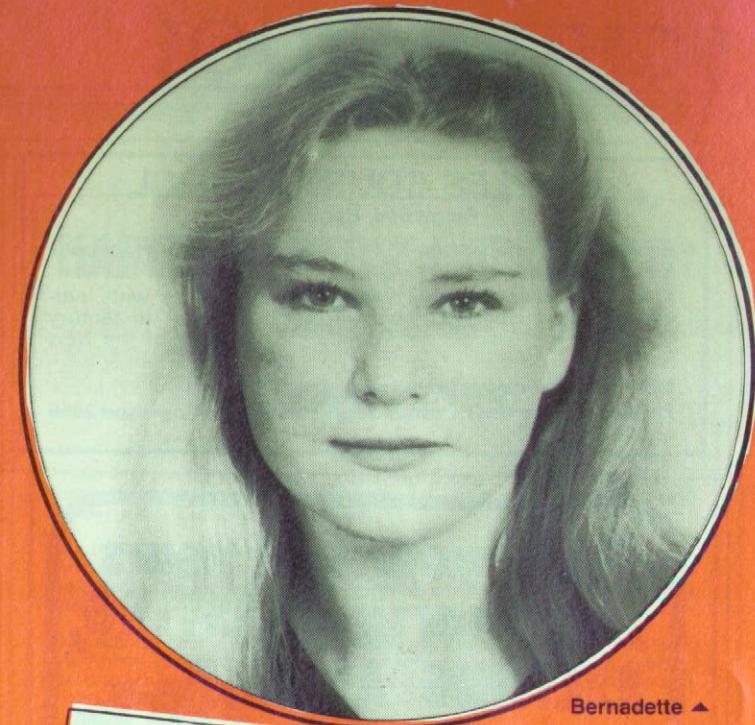
### MALE BOX

I am an ardent reader of SOLDIER but it took me a long time to work up the courage to place my first-ever ad. I am marine officer with blond hair and blue eyes.

I am interested in writing to any British soldier who aspires to being an officer or any young lady interested in soldiers.

I am nineteen. All letters answered and photos are requested. — *Cadet Ray Hettinger, USCC, PO Box 1346, West Point, NY 10997, USA.*

I'm David and I like discos, sports and travelling. All letters will be answered. Please send a photo if possible. I would like a pen pal 17-20. — *Fusilier David Harrison, Mortar Platoon, Sp Coy, 3 PARA, Normandy Bks, Aldershot, Hants.*



Bernadette ▲

# SCHOOL POOL

## MOYLES COURT SCHOOL

Ringwood, Hampshire

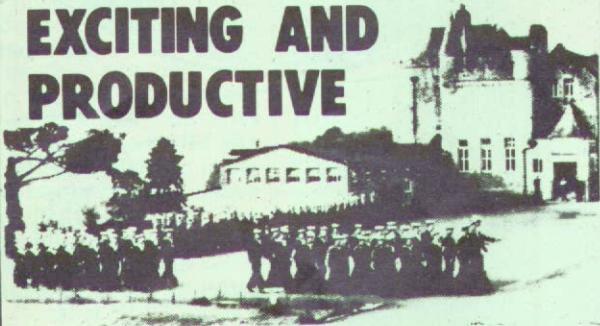
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Captain Headmaster

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Education Department

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Parents soon come to realise that a good independent school affords its pupils the best start in life.

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Further details, together with copies of the Schools' Prospectuses, may be obtained from the Headmaster or Head Mistress.

### MONMOUTH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 1984

#### Main School

The examination (for boys over 10 and under 12 on 1st September 1984) will be held on 11th February. Closing date for applications is 3rd February. Boys are also admitted at 13.

#### The Grange

The examination (for dayboys and weekly boarders over 7 and under 8 on 1st September 1984) will be held on 25th February. Further details may be obtained from the Master of The Grange, Monmouth School.

### HABERDASHERS' MONMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS 1984

#### Main School

The examination (for girls over 10 and under 12 on 1st September 1984) will be held on 4th February. Closing date for applications is 23rd January.

#### Pre-Secondary Department

Tests for girls aged about 7 by 1st September 1984 will be held in March. Further particulars may be obtained from the Head Mistress.

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## TAVERHAM HALL

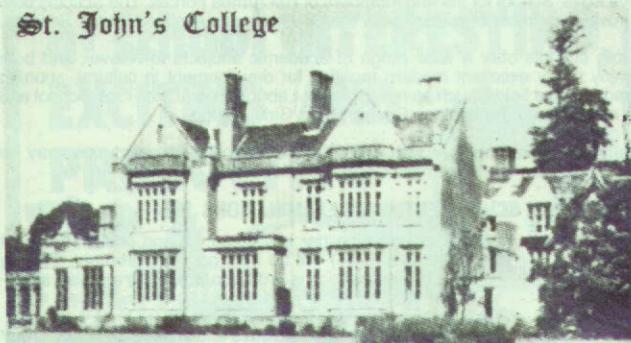
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Headmaster's Secretary, Arnold Lodge School, Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Telephone: 0926 24737.

# NINE IN A ROW FOR HARROGATE ROLLERS

The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, tightened their stranglehold on the Army Roller Cycling Championships — winning for the ninth year in a row without any real opposition. They took the first seven places in the junior championship and the first six in the seniors (over 18).

Harrogate's eminence grise is Captain Alan Green, 47-year-old veteran who still retained enough stamina to finish runner-up in the senior 400 metres. He was beaten by one of his protégés, A/Sgt Billy Dallas. In the final Green took an early lead but was unable to maintain it against his young rival, who took the title for the second year running.

Said Dallas: "The competition was a bit stiffer this year because the lads from our club at Harro-



A/T Sergeant 'Tex' Dallas gets ready for another roll.

gate are getting better."

In the junior 400 metres final only a hairsbreadth separated the winner A/T Richard Wilkinson from the runner-up A/T John Chatfield. The two youngsters are close friends but deadly rivals and ran neck and neck throughout the weekend at Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Chatfield in fact had pipped Wilkinson in the 1000 metres event.

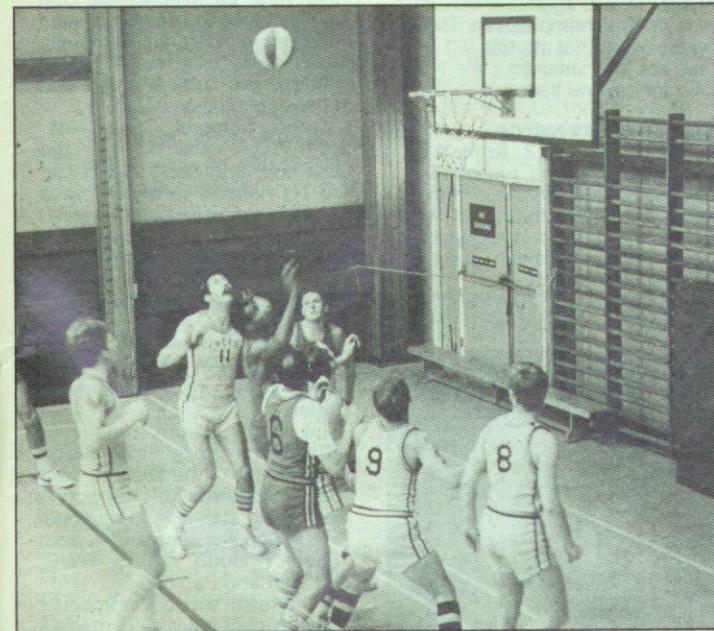
Captain Green has to keep a first class squad going through many seasons with new youngsters every time. "Not many of them have ever done any cycling never mind racing so they don't have any bad habits to be broken before we start with them," he says.

Roller cycling requires good technique and preparation — particularly of the machines. Harrogate have both and it will need a great effort from any other team to break their monopoly. Declares Captain Green: "This is my best junior team ever and my senior team is not bad either."



A/T Richard Wilkinson on his way to a strenuous victory.

## HAT TRICK FOR APTC BASKET MEN



The Army Physical Training Corps continued its monopoly on the H. Samuel Inter-Corps Basketball Championships by winning for the third year running at Aldershot. It was their fourth win in the five years since the competition began.

The real struggle was for second place between the Army Catering Corps and REME. Previously the latter has always managed to win but this year the tables were turned after a close battle.

During the three day championships each of the eight competing teams played seven games requiring a high level of fitness. The standard of performance this year was reported as higher than ever.

## AKABUSI TOPS AWARDS LIST

Sergeant Kris Akabusi the Army's international 400 metres runner and steeplechaser, Captain Richard Hezlet of the Royal Hussars share this year's Cotterill Cup for the best performances in senior track events for the Army. Akabusi received the award for his run of 47.1 seconds in the Combined Services Athletics match at Cosford on 16 July and Hezlet for his time of 8 minutes 57 seconds in the 3000 metres steeplechase in the Inter-Services championship at Cosford three

days earlier.

Sapper Mark Sterling got the senior field events award for his hammer throw of 61.48 metres at Crystal Palace on 3 August. Junior awards went to Private G. Birdsall (track) and Signaller N. Smith (field).

Women's track award went to 2 Lieutenant Sue Parker and field to Corporal Lesley Davison for her high jumping. The Harington Cup for outstanding service to Army Athletics went to Sergeant Akabusi.

## OTHER SPORT IN BRIEF

### SQUASH

After a brief reign by the APTC, the RAOC has regained its hold on the Inter-Corps Squash title and the Watney Mann Trophy. At the end of the tournament at Farnham the RAOC were well out in front in Division One (the six best teams) with 31 points, eight points clear of their nearest challengers the Royal Signals.

### BADMINTON

The three teams from the REME won the UK Inter-Corps Badminton Championship fought

out by only four Corps at Worthy Down, the home of Army badminton. Last year's winners, the RAOC surprisingly took last place.

In an American-style Round Robin tournament to begin with, the RAPC came out on top with three match wins followed by the REME's two. Then, in the final, the three teams from each of these two Corps met again. The REME's strength became apparent as their second team beat both their opponents first and second pairs and the RAPC were soundly beaten 7-2.

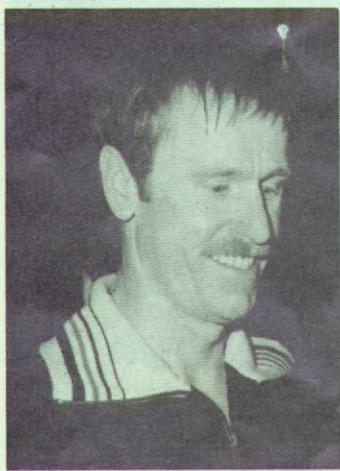
# KING ROBBIE!

Corps and Army Number One squash player, Captain 'Robbie' Robinson, RAOC beat the best from the other two Services in the first-ever Combined Services Individual Squash Competition held in Farnham.

The new Combined Services champion led in his pool and came through to meet Corporal Dave Clarke of the Royal Air Force in the battle for first and second places.

Robinson took the first game

New champ Robinson.



## STRIKE COMMAND

The 17th Army Tenpin Bowling Championships will be held 9-11 March at the Charrington Bowl, Tolworth, Kinston-upon-Thames. Entry applications will be available early in the New Year with a closing date for the competition of 10 February.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary ATBA, Captain R J Aquilina, Officers Mess, 3 RTR, BFPO 16 or from Staff-Sergeant Mal Jordan, School of Transportation, Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hants (Tel Aldershot Military 3142).

★ ★ ★  
This year's REME BAOR Tenpin Bowling Championships proved to be a family affair. The organiser, Warrant Officer 2 Dave Steiner and his wife Jan won the Doubles with a score of 1571 and Mrs Steiner took the singles with 942. Dave had to be content with joint third place in this section.

First in the team game were 17th/21st Lancers 'A' team followed by 4 Armoured Workshop 'A' and 20 Electronic Workshop 'A'. High game award taken over the whole tournament went to Corporal Roger Bennett of 50 Missile Regiment Workshop.

Bennett eventually won the Masters tournament followed by Dave Steiner, who also gathered the award for the High Series.

seemingly effortlessly 9-3, playing his aces — dribbling the ball short off the wall — right from the start. He dropped out in the second game allowing the RAF man to take the lead 7-0. Getting a grip Robinson fought back but lost the game 7-9.

The result of the following two games was clearly a question of experience versus raw natural talent. Clarke has improved his technique over the months and this combined with panther-like agility put Robinson under some pressure but not enough to rattle him. Robinson won the match 9-3, 7-9, 9-4, 9-1 in just 42 minutes but he will have to look out next year. If the younger Clarke improves at the same rate during the coming year, Robinson could find himself in trouble.

The champion has recently been posted to Bielefeld where he is out of mainstream competitive squash but he can be pleased that his performance at this Competition was still good enough to lick all-comers.

Lieutenant Colonel John Woodliffe, RAOC won the Veterans' Competition (over 40) and the Under-25 trophy went to Corporal Mike Leonard, RAF.

## SERGEANTS POTTED



Major-General Bill Whalley, Director General of Ordnance Services, had the last laugh when he captained a team of officers against the Sergeants' Mess at Blackdown. The General, a keen snooker player of yore, challenged the Mess after hearing of their Rhine Army tours.

He brought down a team of five officers under his command and it was left to the General himself to clinch the last match of the night on the black ball for his team to take the specially made trophy.

## SOCCER ROUND-UP

### Nail Biting

After a nail biting finish the Royal Engineers won this year's Inter-Corps Quadrangular Tournament from the Royal Signals on goal difference. But each of the four sides managed a win in the tournament played over five days at Blackwater.

In the opening games the Signals beat the Sappers 2-1 while the Gunners disposed of REME by the same score. Then the Signals beat the RA 2-1 and looked set for the title. Meanwhile the Engineers had beaten REME by the odd goal of nine.

But a late REME goal two

minutes from time saw the Signals defeated and the Sappers needed a win against the Gunners for the championship. They finally won that match 3-1 to take the tournament for the first time for several years.

### Experiment succeeds

**Oxford University 2 Army XI 4**  
Deprived of all the recognised first team squad involved in the Inter-Corps tournament the Army fielded a very experimental side which proved good enough to win.

For the opening 20 minutes it was all Army. They piled on the

pressure and forced half a dozen corner kicks without scoring. After 24 minutes the University broke the deadlock when goalkeeper, Corporal Ray Smith ACC slipped when coming out to collect the ball and left the easiest of chances.

Lance-Corporal Steve Reagan SG equalised on the half hour and QMSI Derek Old APTC headed another from a corner just before the interval. The home side equalised almost on the hour but fine goals by SSI Dickie Parker APTC and Reagan gave the Army a well deserved win.

### London hit for six!

**Army XI 6 London Universities 3**  
The Army made only one change to the experimental side for the visit of the talented London Universities XI. They got off to a flying start with three goals in the opening six minutes from Fusilier Hugh Morris RWF, Reagan and Parker.

The result was never in doubt after this but the visitors made a fight of it. Private Darren Scott RRF headed home a corner kick before the London side reduced the arrears to three again on the stroke of halftime.

Parker put the Army further ahead early in the second half but the increased lead was shortlived. Reagan made it 6-2 when he collected a poor clearance, rounded the keeper and scored from close range. Slackness in defence gave the visitors a third goal but the Army were in control again before the end.



A Royal Signals defender clears the ball during the battle with the Gunners.

# IT'S A 'FIRST' FOR REME

UK Minor Units Rugby Final

3 Fd Wksps REME... 23

Depot King's Div... 13

(After extra time)



Shuttleworth raised King's hopes with this try after a brilliant interception.

**T**HEY say that sports-watchers have short memories — and the spectators at the Aldershot Military Stadium certainly went away warmed with the recollection of a barnstorming finish as a REME side collected the Minor Units crown for the first time.

Deservedly so, too, but credit to all the players for turning what had been a most unimaginative early period, with poor handling and little thought, into a truly exciting encounter.

Afterwards, having played his part in what many seasoned observers felt was one of the best finals to date, the 3 Field Workshops captain and coach Sergeant George Raw said: "I don't know what was wrong with us at the start — it must have been nerves.

"If we frightened our supporters then imagine what we were doing to ourselves on the pitch. We could do nothing right but it all came good in the end and I felt a bit sorry for our rivals. I have never known the competition to be so stiff among minor units".

That it did all come right for

the Workshops in most spectacular fashion was almost entirely due to the tremendous work of their pack. Victory was literally a pushover — with three such tries to the credit of their massive no. 8, Lance Corporal 'Tank' Richardson.

And when the dominance of the forwards, obvious throughout and devastating when two extra men joined the loose battles, was used to good effect the backs showed they could handle too and at the finish Corporal Mick Turner went over for a superb try to cap the best move of the match. He converted his own good work and a further conversion and a penalty brought him a tally of 11 points to add to Richardson's 12.

This was all too much in the finish for the Depot King's, whose supporters had the consolation of winning the shouting match — understandably thinking their side were going to win the cup.

It looked to be the case for a long time and the infantrymen began each half of normal time the better side but like their rivals looked nervous and failed to make the most of their opportunities.

They came back from 3-0 down to lead in the second half with a try which was the result of brilliant thinking by scrum half Captain Guy Shuttleworth and though their skipper Sergeant P Callaghan missed the conversion he later had better luck with a penalty and with the minutes ticking away this looked to be enough.

Richardson had other ideas and a pushover try meant REME breathed again in forcing extra time.

On came the lights — and a shining piece of anticipation by Shuttleworth who blocked a clearance and dived for his second try, converted by Callaghan, to once more raise King's hopes. Again the Workshops

Richardson (hooded shirt extreme right) grounds the ball to ensure extra-time

strength proved otherwise and though the pushover try was not improved on as Turner's kick struck an upright, the issue was put beyond doubt with the final magnificent try and conversion.

The margin seemed a little unjust on the men from York — but 3 Field Workshops just refused to be beaten. And what a finish!

Fortunes were mixed for Army Rugby Colts during their recent tour of the South-West.

Their first game against a weakened St Austell side resulted in a quite overwhelming victory for the Army 66-3 after scoring twelve tries, nine of which were converted by Apprentice Tradesman Ian Beattie, RAPC.

The following day the Army were not so lucky against Plymouth Albion who won 17-9.

## MOTOR CYCLING

Little known Achmer Training Area in northern Germany witnessed Army Motorcycle history in the making when the 1983 Army Motorcycle Championships were held in British Army of the Rhine for the first time since they began in 1938.

The Army Motorcycling Championships, incorporating the BAOR Championships, gave 154 riders a chance to prove their mettle in the gruelling two-day event which finally saw Corporal Bill Buckley of 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment ride away with the Norton Trophy for the best individual performance and the Regiment also claimed the Gort Trophy for the best overall team performance.

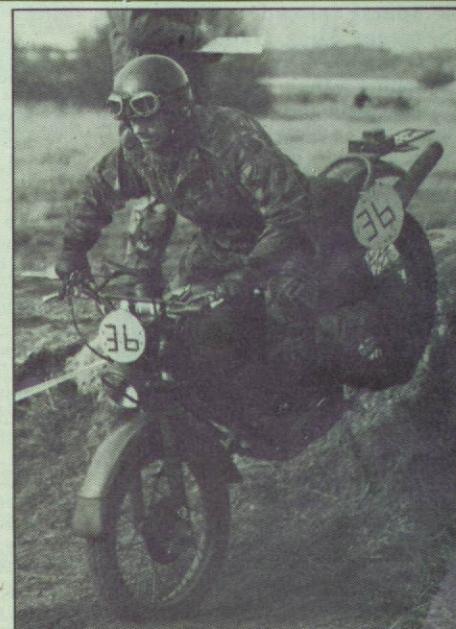
Competition organiser WO2 Richard Luedicke said: "Last year the championships were a one-day event. But this year we've expanded the competition to ensure a realistic test of all rider-skills. Also, it has been put back on to completely military lines, and every rider's bike and kit

## NEW VENUE FOR BIG EVENT

has to be in good condition before he can enter. What's more, machines are inspected for roadworthiness at the end".

As far as Richard Luedicke was concerned, the competition was a family event, with his wife Jill acting as Competition Secretary and 13-year old son David, youngest rider in the championships, emerging best junior entrant for the under 16s.

As well as trophies for individual and team winners, there were also prizes for BAOR and Corps entrants. Sergeant Jim Barracough of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, won the Motor Cycle Industries Trophy for the best Regular Army rider, the 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment team of Driver Lamplough and Corporals Buckley and Houldley claimed the BAOR Team Trophy as well as the Gort Trophy and Driver Lamplough also won the SOLDIER Magazine shield for the best Regular Army soldier to win no award other than a class award.



# BIG MAL'S BORO BEATEN AT LAST

COMBINED SERVICES .....

1

MIDDLESBROUGH .....

0

ONCE MIGHTY Middlesbrough, now languishing in the Second Division, were finally humbled in the annual match with the Combined Services at Catterick. The Services took the lead with a spectacular goal by Lance-Corporal George Torrance after only 16 minutes and despite spells of Boro pressure, particularly early in the second half, held on for a famous victory.

Boro began this annual encounter back in 1974 and until last year, when the match was drawn, they had won every time. But today's side has been shorn of the big names it contained during its most recent First Division days.

The most famous name at Catterick was manager, Malcolm Allison, who fielded a young side — about half of whom turn out regularly in the Second Division. Afterwards Allison was unusually tightlipped but did praise the efforts of Army players, Torrance, Sergeant Mark Bowen and Lance-Corporal Steve Butler.

One other Army player put in a great performance — the goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas, whose brave and acrobatic saves kept the redshirted raiders at bay. But the whole team gave a controlled display which

augurs well for the annual battles with the French and Belgian Armed Forces in the Kentish Cup in the New Year.

A larger than usual crowd roared on the Services as they fought for every ball during the opening stages of the game. In days gone by they had defended grimly against classy players — but this time the gap had narrowed and final proof came in the 16th minute when Torrance lashed in a beautiful goal from 15 yards out.

Boro pressed for an equaliser but Lomas handled things competently and before long it was again the Services on the attack with a succession of corners. Torrance, who seems to go up a gear in these games, was a fount of inspirational play and Bowen found that he could out-run some



Torrance displays the skills which left Boro on the floor.

of the Boro youngsters.

At half time Allison substituted the industrious Graham Smith, who had found that the match was not adhering to his pre-written script. And 'Big Mal's' dressing room pep talk had clearly inspired Boro.

Raid after raid petered out as Lomas brought off save after save — including one from the toes of an advancing forward. Eventually the storm abated and the Services began to hit back.

Heading for defeat Boro made one last rally during which their sprinkling of fans on the terraces began to sing 'Here we go.' But with Lomas pulling off a wonderful clean save from Garry MacDonald the pressure was over.

In the gathering gloom the Services were in the Middlesbrough goalmouth when the final whistle went.

Coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton could not conceal his delight. "We were definitely worthy of a win and got stronger as the game went on.

"We have been working hard on how to hold sides like this and then hit them on the breaks."

Coulton said the performance was balanced and composed and a second goal had always looked possible.

"It was a hard working day with a fair reward at the end of it and everyone did their jobs ever so well and showed lots of inventiveness."

## ON THE ROPES

Army Boxing, already rocked by the cancellation of the Unit Team Championship, suffered a new blow last week when the Individual Championships attracted so few entries that only seven finals were contested and the usual 'Boxing Evening', had to be abandoned.

Instead the finals took place on a Thursday afternoon before a sparse crowd and Staff-Sergeant Mick Gannon, who has the job of finding and coaching a team for the annual tussles with the other two Services in the New Year, was left with a tall order.

The disappointed Gannon told SOLDIER: "Too many CO's are holding onto their boxers and not

releasing them for the championships. We have an Army full of novices and once they have had their right bouts the CO's won't let them go on as individuals.

"We have a wealth of talent who are not being given the chance to progress. Then people ask why we can't beat the Navy. What can you expect with a turnout like this?"

One regiment which certainly escaped Gannon's strictures were the Royal Welch Fusiliers. They provided five finalists in the seven bouts — three of them lost but it was still one of the best performances by any regiment in modern times.

An Army champion at 17 — that is the achievement of A/T John McLean from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. Regarded by Gannon as an exciting discovery McLean displayed the composure of a veteran in fending off frenetic attacks by the RF's Fusilier John Pierce and constantly scoring points with clean jabs. He got a unanimous points verdict at Flyweight.

The experienced Fusilier Mo Ullah got the first Welsh win with a decisive points victory over Corporal George Bashford (2 Queens) who nevertheless defended gamely.

There was a fine contest at featherweight between Craftsman Dave Oag from 60 Squadron RCT and Sapper Keith Howlett, a new discovery from 26 Engineer Regiment. Oag boxed well to get a unanimous decision but the non-stop aggression of Howlett earned him friends.

The excellent Private Carl Crook

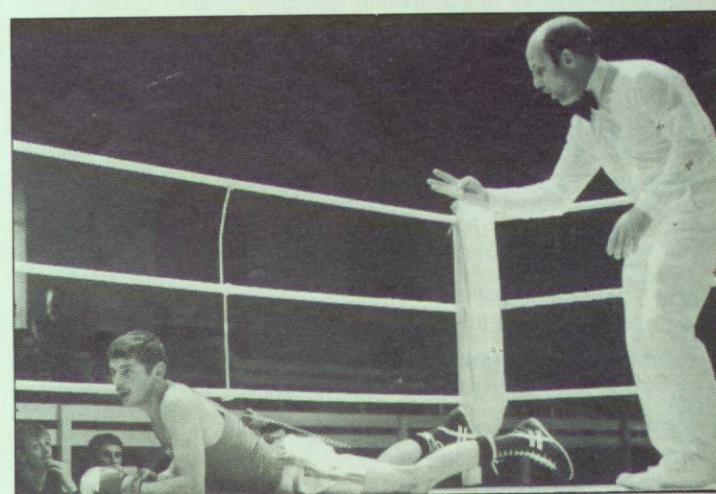


Crook gets in to the body on the way to his quick win.

### EVERY TYKE A WINNER

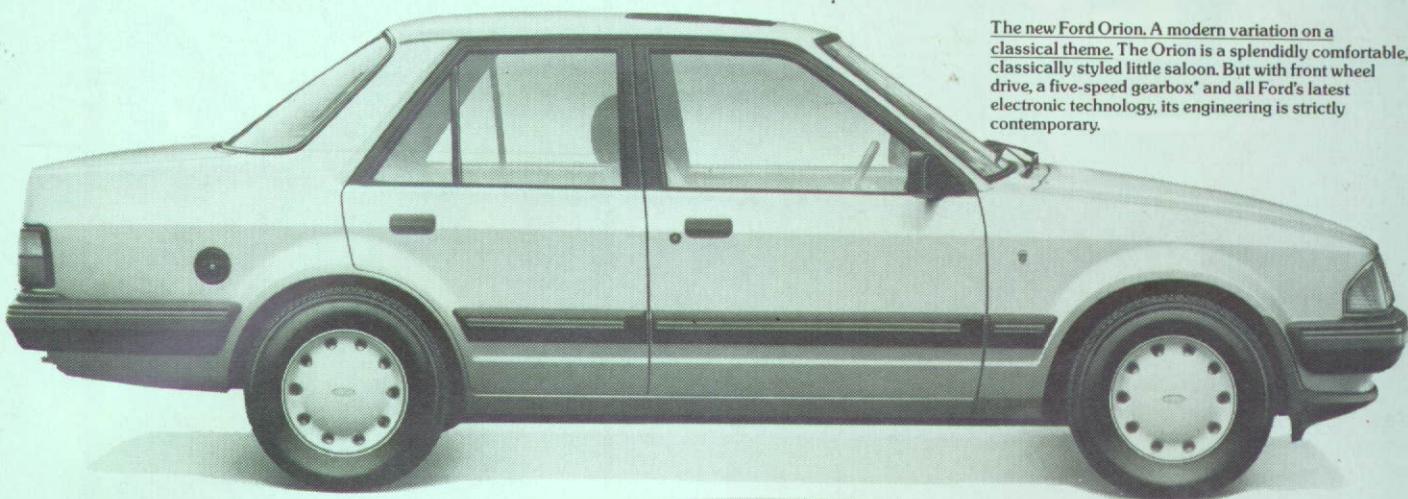
The 1st Battalion The Green Howards boxing squad celebrated the opening round of the Inter Unit Novices Competition with a resounding 9-0 victory over 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

The Yorkshire winners were: Bantam — Private Phil Atherton, Feather — Private Paul Newby, Light — Private Jackie Boyce, Light Welter — Private Willie Williams, Light Middle — Lance Corporal Wally Wallace, Middle — Private Keith Alexander, Light Heavy — Private Chris Vickers, Heavy — Lance Corporal Richard Robson, Welter — Private Russ Abbot.



Curtains for Grice as he peers dazedly round from the canvas.

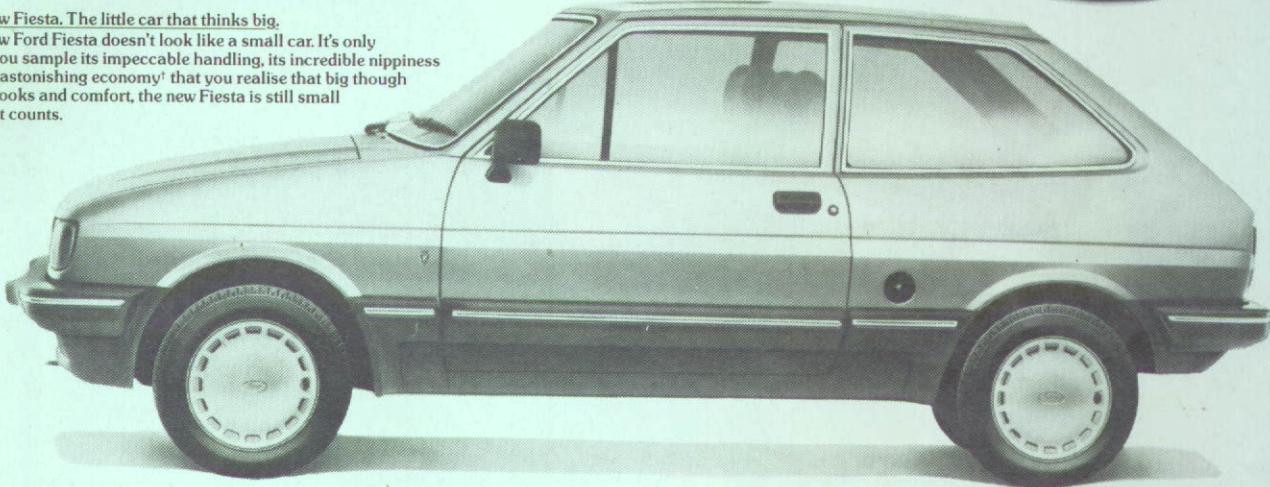
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