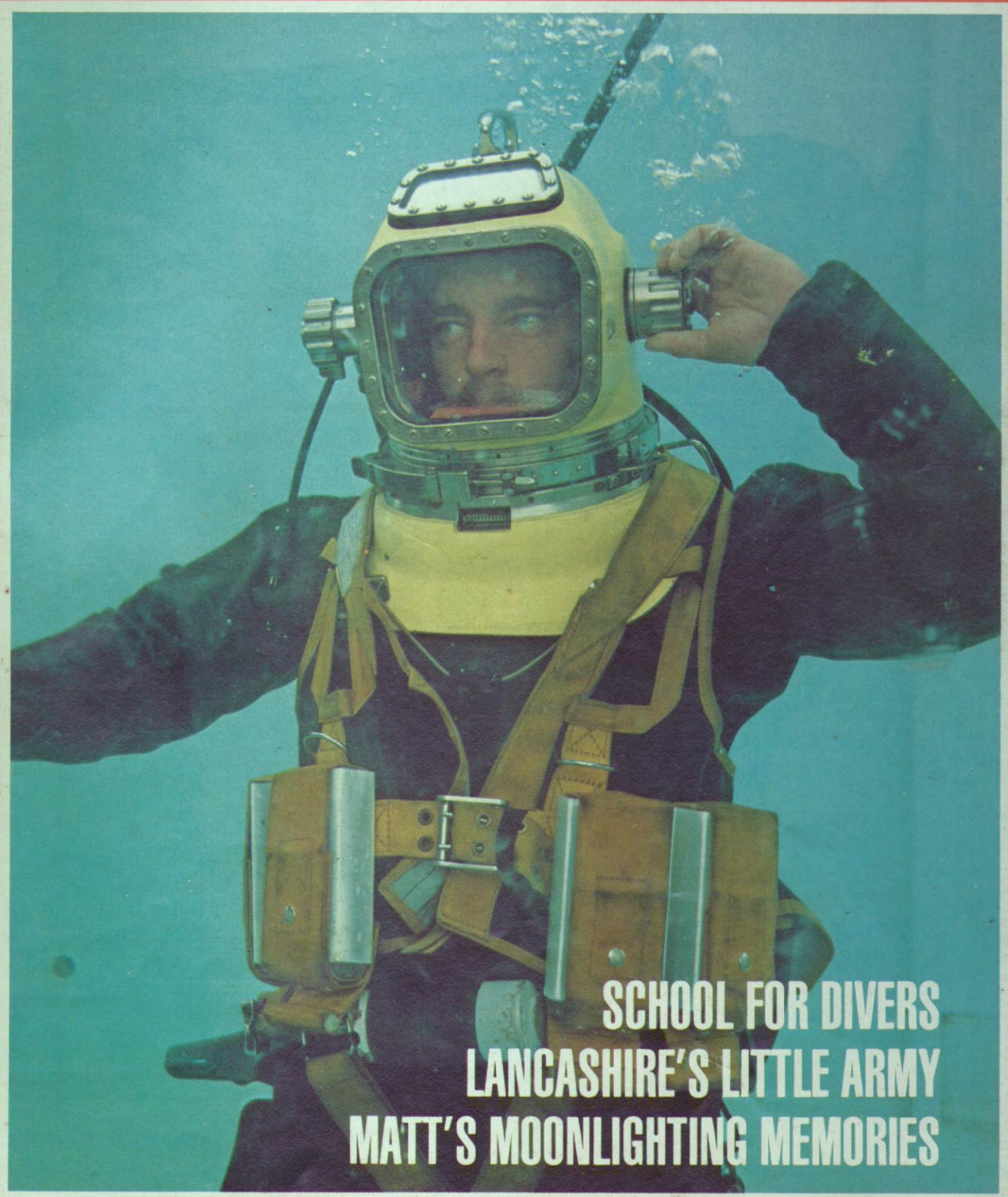


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CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 11 Allies in Berlin
- 13 Falklands Bound
- 15 How Observant Are You?
- 17 Profile: Matt Monroe
- 19 Home from Home: Preston
- 20 All in the family
- 23 Lancashire's little army
- 24 RAC Tank Museum
- 26 Sappers under the sea
- 31 Supplies for Cyprus
- 32 Your cap badge
- 33 Book reviews
- 35 Prize competition
- 36 Mail Drop
- 43 See-the-Army Diary
- 44 Sport

FRONT COVER

Lance Corporal Pete Smith, one of the staff at the Royal Engineers' Diving Establishment, adjusts the air flow to his helmet in the observation tank at Marchwood. An article on the Establishment appears on page 26.

Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Men of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment board the liner *Canberra* at Southampton ready for action, if called upon, in resolving the dispute over the Falkland Islands with Argentina. An article on life aboard the ship appears on page 13.

Picture by Paul Haley

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



◀ The school for
Divers that is
helping make
history — page 26

Introducing the
country's smallest
regiment — page 23 ▼



Off to the
Falklands — the
Paras prepare —

page 13



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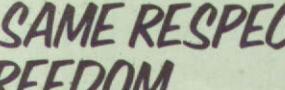
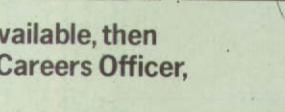
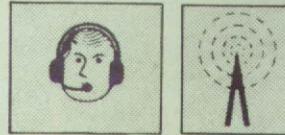
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SOLDIER to Soldier

EVERY CLOUD has a silver lining, goes the saying. So too, perhaps, does every crisis. For it is often when the going is rough that individuals — and nations — reveal their real strength.

The Falklands emergency, for all its attendant anxieties, has already yielded some positive benefits.

● **It has demonstrated** — through the overwhelming mood of public support for the Task Force and its objectives — that the British people remain unwavering champions of the causes of freedom and democracy.

● **It has focussed** public attention on the need for a vigorous, flexible defence policy — and helped explain to any Doubting Thomas's why such a policy cannot be bought on the cheap.

● **It has proved** that our fighting forces lack nothing in courage and resolve and are just as ready as their forbears to resist aggression and oppression.

If attempts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the crisis should fail no one should doubt that Britain has the men and the means to defend its interests by force. To paraphrase the words of Task Force Commander Rear Admiral 'Sandy' Woodward on re-capturing South Georgia: We've completed the warm up. Now we're ready for the big match.

AT A TIME when many of our soldiers (and sailors and airmen too, of course) are facing up to the dangers of armed confrontation in the South Atlantic, there is a certain irony in the statistics just revealed by the annual reports of the Army Dependents Funds.

For they show that last year, the British soldier's deadliest enemy was not the bomb or the bullet but the internal combustion engine. Among a total of 254 deaths to serving Army personnel, over a third were caused by road traffic accidents — more than four times the number who lost their lives on operational duties.

Any premature death is a cause for sorrow. But it is particularly tragic that, individuals trained to survive the rigours of battle, should be wiped out by a split second's carelessness behind the steering wheel.



A 105mm light gun swings aboard the Europic Ferry at Southampton as re-inforcements for the Falkland Island task force were prepared for sea. For more stories and pictures on the Task Force — see page 13.

Grants up but road deaths worry

BASIC GRANTS from both the Soldiers' Widows Fund and the Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund have been increased from April 1.

Grants to widows have gone up by £150 to £1,650 and those to dependents of single soldiers by £100 to £1,100. Annual subscriptions to both funds remain at £1.80.

Insurance rebates extended

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE scheme which allows Service personnel to claim a refund of 75 per cent of extra premiums charged on life assurance policies because of military risks has been extended to personnel serving with, or likely to serve with the Falkland Islands task force.

The announcement came after a national newspaper had carried a warning by a leading insurance broker that soldiers may find their life assurance excludes death or injury resulting from military conflict.

Mr George Cernoch of Flannery and Partners warned against doorstep salesmen who got round Army controls by calling at married quarters. The Royal Army Pay Corps did an excellent job, he said. But responsible insurance advisors went through station commanders. The problem of the unscrupulous salesman was a diminishing one but still too frequent.

In 1981 the two funds made a total of 171 grants worth £204,050. Although jointly administered the two funds issue separate annual reports which are shortly to be published as a Defence Council Instruction.

Both are designed to provide for a basic grant to meet the immediate needs of dependants in the event of the death of a member. Membership of the Widows' fund was maintained at 99 per cent of the Army's married strength and that of the single soldiers' fund reached its highest level yet at 94 per cent of the single soldier strength. But five single soldiers who died in 1981 were not members.

And another cause for concern to the trustees is the incidence of death from road traffic accidents, which at 36 per cent of the total were the biggest single cause of death among soldiers.

In the 12 months ending on March 31 a total of 254 soldiers died. Road accidents accounted for 91 and natural causes 65 (26 per cent). Those counted as operational deaths totalled 22 or nine per cent.

But a breakdown of the road accident figures, which are rising in the Army while the national trend is downward, shows that well over half were the result of off-duty accidents in private vehicles.

Redundancy details announced

FULL DETAILS of arrangements for phase one of the Army's redundancy plan have been published in Defence Council Instructions. Under the plan the Army is to lose 7000 personnel by 1986 and phase one covers the period from 1 April, 1983 to 31 March, 1984.

The closing dates for applications for voluntary redundancy under phase one are 1 July 1982 for officers and 1 June 1982 for soldiers.

Compensation will take the form of a tax free lump sum payment, known as a special capital payment and where there is an appropriate period of reckonable service an immediate pension (or retired pay) may also be paid.

Officers with at least 13 years qualifying service and with five or more years of their career uncompleted to normal retiring age will get a special capital payment equal to 18 months pay. Those with only one year to go will get the equivalent of three months pay.

Compensation for officers with less than 12 years service will range from 19 months pay for those with 11 years service to one month's pay for those with only one year's service.

Terms for soldiers are similar and are also related to length of completed service with compensation ranging from 19 months pay to one month.

Full details of the compensation terms are set out in DCI Army J308/81 and details of the current redundancy plan are contained in DCI Army 104/82 (for officers) and DCI Army 105/82 (for soldiers).

STOP PRESS

SOUTH GEORGIA RECAPTURED

BRITISH FORCES have retaken South Georgia. Reports said that there were no British casualties and only one Argentinian sailor was wounded. He was aboard the submarine Santa Fe which was machine gunned and rocketed by British helicopters in the vicinity of Grytviken.

Members of the Special Boat Squadron — Naval equivalent of the SAS — had apparently been on the island for several days.

Argentinian forces at Grytviken surrendered two hours after the first helicopter-borne landings by the main force of Royal Marines and a small number of Army support troops and the Marines also took control of Leith, a harbour about 10 miles from Grytviken.

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COLD BEATS ALASKA CLIMB

BY STEVE JONES

A FORCES EXPEDITION has returned from an attempt at the coldest climb in the world — a winter ascent of Mount McKinley in Alaska. The team — four men and an Army nurse — had to fall back just 1000 feet short of the south summit of twin-peaked McKinley, which stands 20,320 feet high near the Arctic Circle and is the highest mountain in North America.

The climbers turned back in the face of desperate cold and the prospect of even worse weather. At one point they recorded a chill-factor temperature of minus 120 degrees Centigrade. Expedition leader Lieutenant Duncan Sperry, of 35 Engineer Regiment, decided that the danger of losing fingers and toes through frostbite was too great to risk pressing on.

The final attempt on the summit was made by Captain Andy Simkins and Flight Lieutenant Wayne Morgan, serving in BAOR with 4th Armoured Division.

"They realised that they would get to the summit at about 7pm," said Lt Sperry, aged 24. "That would have forced them to bivouac on the way down, which would mean that, given the lightweight equipment we were using, they risked severe frostbite and probable amputations. Superficial frostbite was turning worse by the hour.

"It was quite apparent at that stage that to go any further or even exist in such conditions would mean that we'd end up losing bits."

The climbers faced further hazards during their descent and were snowed in for ten days by a



Happy to be home despite their ordeal, the McKinley climbers relax at last. Left to right are Lt Duncan Sperry of 35 Engr Regt; Capt Andy Simkins, AAC; Cpl 'Berni' Simpson, BMH Rinteln; Capt John Ayers, 35 Engr Regt; Flt Lt Wayne Morgan, HQ 11 Armd Bde.

blizzard when they reached their base camp on a glacier at the foot of the mountain.

Conditions were so bad that Alaskan bush pilot Doug Geetings was unable to drop food supplies to the expedition, despite his extensive local flying experience.

The girl climber, Corporal Barbara 'Berni' Simpson from BMH Rinteln, had a harrowing experience as she made her way back to the base camp. She plunged into a crevasse when the snow gave way beneath her feet.

Lt Sperry takes up the story: "We came to the edge of the crevasse and I told Berni to go first. We were towing sleds and I turned back to check mine. When I looked round Berni had disappeared. She had fallen about 30 feet into the crevasse and at first I thought she must be dead. I jumped across to the other side, banged in my ice-axe and got ready to rope down after her. Then I heard her saying she was OK."

She had stuck in a narrow, hour-glass shaped part of the crevasse, which fell away for about a hundred feet beneath her. It took half-an-hour for her to climb to safety with Lt Sperry's help.

Cpl Simpson had earlier had problems acclimatising to the sub-zero temperatures on the

mountain. Capt Simkins and Flt Lt Morgan discovered just how cold it was when they decided to take a break for hot coffee. Capt Simkins' gloved hand slipped on the cup as he poured from his Thermos flask. The coffee froze solid as it fell 18 inches to the ground.

At 16,500 feet Lt Sperry found that it took two hours to put on a set of crampons — an operation that would normally take five minutes. This was because of the numbing effect of the cold on his fingers.

"At that altitude you had to take three breaths for every step you took forward. Breathing was like trying to inflate two hot water bottles," he said.

Despite the difficulties he and his fellow climbers faced, Lt Sperry felt that the expedition was entirely worthwhile.

"We certainly learned how to look after ourselves in severe conditions," he said. "In terms of application we know far more about what our bodies are capable of than we did before. In fact, of course, our bodies packed in before our minds did, which was very frustrating.

"Equipment was fine, personnel were fine. But it became purely a survival situation. It was the conditions we encountered that finally stopped the expedition."

Briefly

A 21-gun salute to mark the Queen's birthday was fired from Mills Mount Battery, Edinburgh Castle by 207 (Scottish) Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery (V).

Sgt Harry Hetherington, 38, of the 7th Signal Regiment, has received the British Empire Medal for his courage in fighting a crippling disease — multiple sclerosis.

The Royal Free Hospital London has received a sum of £17,000 — part of the £24,000 raised during last year's Bielefeld sponsored marathon.

An RMP badge, worked in marble, has been presented to a former resident unit, 224 GHQ, RMP, at Montague Bastion, Gibraltar.

Gibraltar Security Police has had a name change to Gibraltar Services Police.

Bristow Helicopters have donated a Bell G4 helicopter to the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop, the station where, over 12 years and 60,000 flying hours, 1500 Army pilots trained on the type.

Salerno-No Pardons

THERE IS TO be no pardon for the 189 British soldiers convicted of mutiny at Salerno in 1943 but they have been cleared of any suggestion of cowardice.

In a letter to Mr Alfred Morris MP, Mr Jerry Wiggins, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, said that neither the Ministry of Defence or the Army authorities had "ever remotely accused those concerned of any acts of cowardice."

"Nothing could be further from the truth since clearly, from their previous service in North Africa, no such charge could possibly obtain."

He could not agree however that the men should be pardoned or the findings and sentence of the court martial further reviewed.

"There are no grounds for doing so, which could not be applied to many other mutineers and deserters from the last and other wars, nor which would not denigrate the actions of the many millions who fought bravely and obeyed orders at all times when called upon to do so," wrote the minister.

• But Mr Morris and Mr Alan Patient, producer of the BBC documentary which started the present controversy, have written to the Minister challenging the decision.

Freedom for five

Five BAOR units are to receive the Freedom of the cities and towns in which they are serving. This will bring the total number of BAOR units to be honoured in this way to 32.

Four of the ceremonies are scheduled for September and include the granting of the Freedom of Munster to the resident British Garrison which, at more than 10,000 strong, is one of BAOR's largest.

The other September 'Freedom' are by Minden to the British Garrison; Soltau to HQ7 Armoured Brigade; and Xanten to 101 Provost Company, RMP. The fifth ceremony is in May when Ordnance Services receive the Freedom of Viersen.

The German towns involved already have links with the UK through town 'partnerships'. Munster is twinned with York; Minden with Sutton in Surrey; and Viersen with Peterborough. Xanten, through its neighbour Wesel, is linked with County Durham and Soltau with Tiverton in Devon.

NEWS VIEW



New College ▾

The Duke of Edinburgh chatting to apprentices after he had unveiled a plaque to mark the opening of the rebuilt Princess Marina College at Aborfield. The college, training centre for future REME tradesmen, is named in memory of the Corps' first Colonel-in-Chief, a position now held by the Duke.

Tom's Award ▾

Sgt Tom McLucas, platoon sergeant of 10 Platoon 6/7 Queens (V), based in Camberwell, South London, has won the Burberry Trophy for the person judged to have done the most for his unit during the previous year. Left to right are Major Tony Prior, OC 'D' Coy, Mrs McLucas, Baroness Phillips and Sgt McLucas.



First Home ▾

Cpl Gobinda Rai of 7 GR getting a little help from his friends as he crossed the finishing line to take first place in the annual Khud Race in Hong Kong. He completed the 614-yard course, which rises 1300 ft up and then drops 1350 ft, in 15 mins 20 secs — just eight seconds outside the record time he set last year.



Ideal DJ ▾

BFBS Belize is soon to lose one of its two DJ/presenters for the local version of 'Family Favourites'. Since the demise of the BBC programme, Belize has had its own version based on link-ups with local radio stations throughout UK. But soon bound for home is Major Christopher Newbould, Glosters, who is described by BFBS as an ideal request presenter.



Seaside Salute ▾

A troop of four ceremonial 25 pounders provided by the Depot Regiment, RA, fire a salute to mark the Master Gunner's unveiling of the plaque to officially open Fort Newhaven, Sussex (see Soldier 5 April). Gen Sir Harry Tuzo performed the ceremony to open a new phase in the life of the 10-acre site. Built to repel the French it has now been restored after years of neglect and houses a military museum.



Born Again ▶

Abbot self-propelled guns of 47 Field Regiment RA drive past the saluting base on a major parade to mark the rebirth of 24 Infantry Brigade. A total of 600 men took part in the spectacular and the salute was taken by Gen Sir Peter Leng, Master General of Ordnance. The brigade is due to move to Catterick.



Thirsty Work ▶

When 10 runners of 4 Royal Tank Regiment arrived at York Minster during a charity relay from Munster to Glasgow in aid of the Erskine Hospital, their Colonel Commandant Maj Gen Ian Baker, the GOC North East District, was on hand with exactly what they needed — two bottles of champagne.



Good Push ▶

The Cornwall Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Society is £600 better off as a result of a sponsored run by this team from 29 Commando Regiment RA, who took part in a 100-mile wheelchair push from Land's End to Plymouth. The team ran all the way pushing Charles Penno, centre front, from a local special school.

South is South ▶

How many Souths do you get on one map? If you ask 13 Map Production Squadron RE at Barton Stacey, you could well be confused because as well as Magnetic, Grid and True they have three of their own — and they are all related. Father, centre, is Capt John South, here flanked by sons Spr Kerron 'Elvis' South, left, and Spr Daryl South.



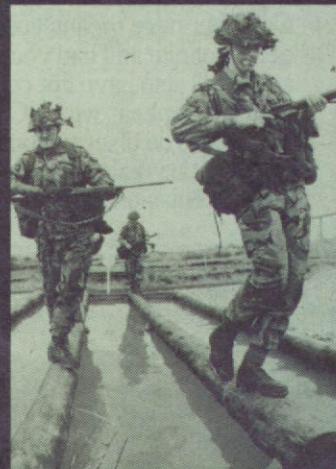
Candid Camera ▶

The picture taken by the East German soldier as Lt Harkabahadur Rai of 7 Gurkha Rifles rested at the border could be a bit misleading for Soviet intelligence purposes. Just to confuse the issue Lt Rai was wearing the hackle presented by his hosts during a visit to BAOR, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.



Steady There ▶

A tricky moment as members of the Manchester detachment of 116 Provo Coy negotiate part of the assault course at Holcombe Moor Training Centre during their aptly named Exercise 'Watchdog Goes Foxhound'. But it seems the Redcaps acquitted themselves well and made very creditable infantry soldiers.



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Top left: Two members of 2RRF keep a low profile on the Grunewald.

Above: Fusiliers don their lifejackets ready for river crossing.

Left: Men of 2RRF paddle to deeper water to use their outboard motor on the Havel.

Below: French soldiers storm ashore supported by 2RRF.

CANCAN IN BERLIN

THE FIRST of this year's Tripartite exercises held by the three Western Allies in Berlin was hosted by the French and called appropriately 'French Can Can.'

Living up to its name it showed that the language barrier can be overcome and different national command techniques can be adapted to be effective among the British, French and US troops who are committed to defend the freedom of West Berlin.

Two thousand soldiers supported by helicopters, tanks and a miscellany of other

vehicles were divided into Blue and Orange forces which attacked, and counter-attacked, through the Grunewald and rivers with which Berlin abounds.

Given the relatively small area of the divided city and the respect which is accorded to its citizens, much of the action took place in Doughboy City (American) and Ruhleben Fighting City (British) — both special training areas built to enable soldiers to perfect the techniques essential for defending a large metropolis. ■



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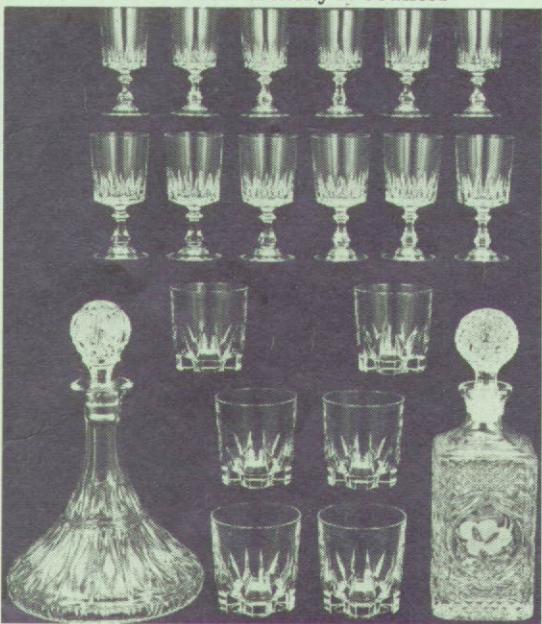
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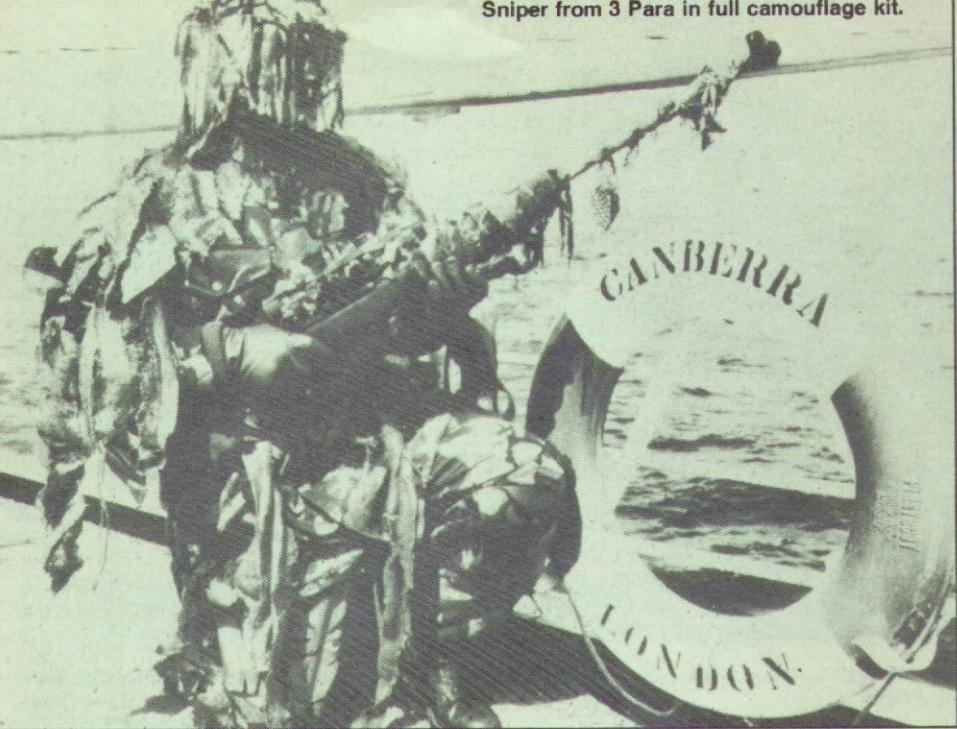
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OFF
TO THE
FALKLANDS

As 2000
Paras and
Marines on
board the
Canberra steam
south towards the
Falklands, Martin
Helm files an
exclusive report
about life on board
ship

READY AND RARING TO GO

LESS THAN THREE weeks ago the luxury P and O liner *Canberra* was completing a three month round the world cruise. Now a blacked-out trooper ship she is steaming to join Britain's task force deep down in the South Atlantic with about 2000 soldiers and Royal Marines on board her.

Housed in the most luxurious floating barracks ever, men from 3 Para and troops from various Army support units take turns to train on the ship's many sun decks in the blistering tropical heat.

As flying fish skim away from the ship's side, the day starts with PT on the heli-deck. Keeping in trim with regular PT sessions.

copter deck — welded on top of the 45,000-ton liner's main swimming pool.

After a swim or shower in the well appointed cabins, the troops head off to breakfast in the ship's Atlantic restaurant — for this voyage only, turned into a self-service cafeteria.

On decks packed with ammunition, training continues apace. Fully laden with back packs, webbing and rifles, companies pound round the *Canberra*'s decks shaking all those working below.

On the upper decks Sea Kings, Wessex and Scouts land at intervals that seem to make Heathrow look like an under-used

airport as supplies are ferried to and from the ships we have recently joined in the voyage south. RCT Mexeflotes shuttle around with the heavier stores.

Wombat, Milan and GPMG crews take turns to exercise their equipment on the upper decks. Further aft, 3 Para shoot at floating targets off the stern with their SLRs. But drills are called to a halt as more helicopters queue to land on the limited training area.

Up on the bridge wings more men from 3 Para keep lookout for shipping. It was from this vantage point that they saw a sick

continued on page 14





A Sea King practises landing on Canberra's newly-built helipad as she sails south.

whale, its sonar no longer working, crush itself on the raked bows of the liner.

The one ship they have been able to faithfully keep an eye on throughout has been the roll-on, roll-off ferry *Elk* — nicknamed 'the Blues and Royals' toybox' by the soldiers aboard *Canberra*. The nickname stuck after it was learned that the ship housed the Scorpions and Scimitars of the Household Cavalry.

In the early days of the voyage from England, troops leant over the stern rails of *Canberra* to watch a shadowing Russian spy ship which soon faded from sight. It had come close to watch the first refuelling at sea

between a liner and a Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the *Plumleaf*.

In those early days, life at sea looked a mystery to some Paras compared with the sea-hardened Marines but by the time *Canberra* reached her refuelling pier at Freetown, Sierra Leone, they were as shipshape and seamanlike as the rest of them.

The *Canberra* herself has changed too. Luxurious public rooms have been turned into floating classrooms and shops into cells. Bars have become messes and junior ranks clubs. More public rooms have been turned into operating theatres and wards.

The risk of torpedo attack has led to a

permanent blackout on many windows and portholes. Lifeboat drill takes on a new seriousness.

The ship's send-off from Southampton with bands, cheers, waves, sirens and flashing lights, has been the only sad part of the voyage so far. There were few aboard who did not get a lump in the throat at the patriotism that brought people to the dockside.

Morale now, as throughout the rest of the voyage, is at a peak. Everyone is anxious to get stuck into whatever they are called on to do.

Weapons training on deck with GPMGs.

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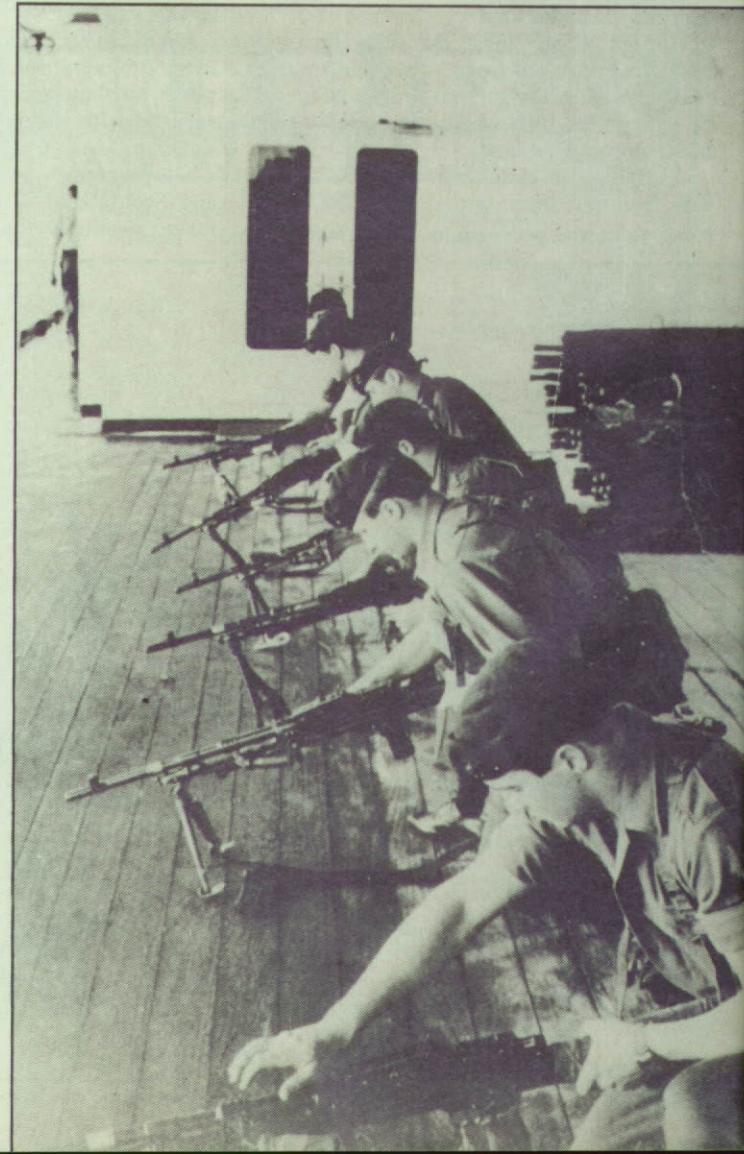
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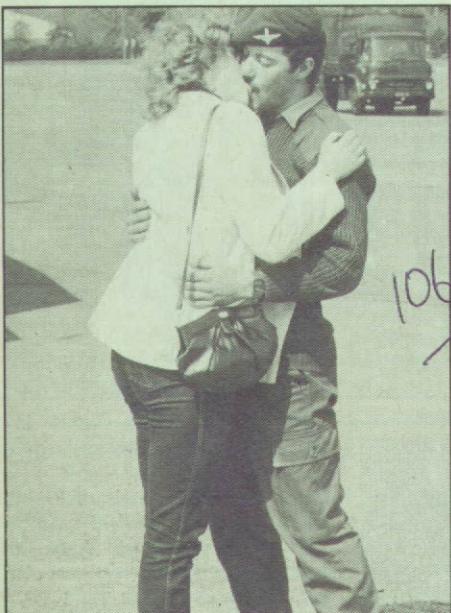
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1065
13
Faces full of determination, 2 Para make their early morning departure.

LOOKING GOOD — AND CONFIDENT



1065
1
Tender farewell for Pte Philip Trott and Tonia Blee — her brother is also in 2 Para.

A CHILL WIND cut across Aldershot's Montgomery Square as the first soldiers appeared in the early morning light and began to load onto the waiting coaches. The first company of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were on their way to Portsmouth and the waiting P & O North Sea ferry, *Norland*, which was to take them to the South Atlantic.

Apart from a sprinkling of reporters and photographers only one lady had arrived for the six o'clock departure. She was Mrs Mary Framingham, who had come from Norfolk to bid farewell to her 23-year-old lance corporal son, Michael.

It was all in sharp contrast to the previous day when something like 100 relatives had turned out to say goodbye — only to find that there had been a sailing delay.

In bright sunshine and with ice cream and fish and chip vans in attendance that occasion would have been more of a traditional send-off for the 920 men following in the wake of the British task force.

But Regimental Sergeant-Major, Warrant

While their comrades-in-arms from 3 Para headed south aboard the *Canberra*, 920 men from 2 Para were getting ready to follow them on the *Norland*. John Walton watched the final preparations for departure and talked to some of the wives and girl friends left behind.

Officer 1 Malcolm Simpson, had to tell the wives, who had already gone through a long period of uncertainty on the exact day of departure: "We do appreciate that you have gone through so many variations on a theme. But we are meeting service support problems and we shall not be going until tomorrow morning."

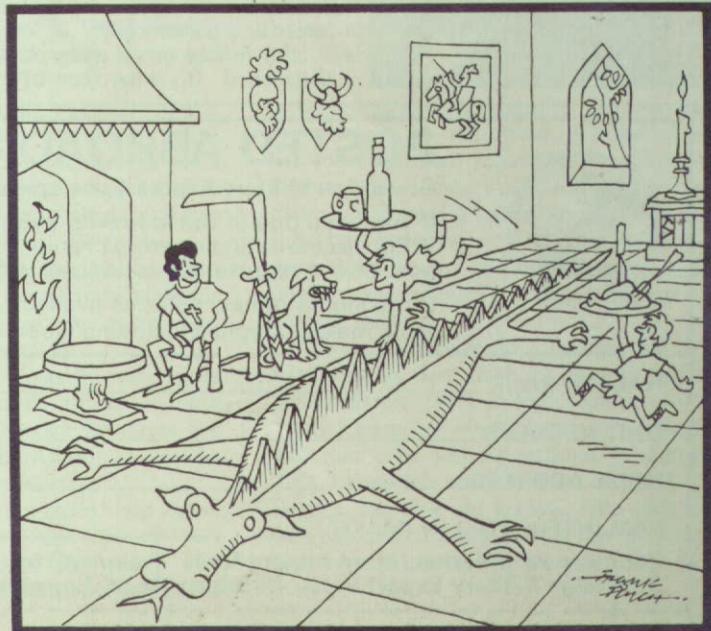
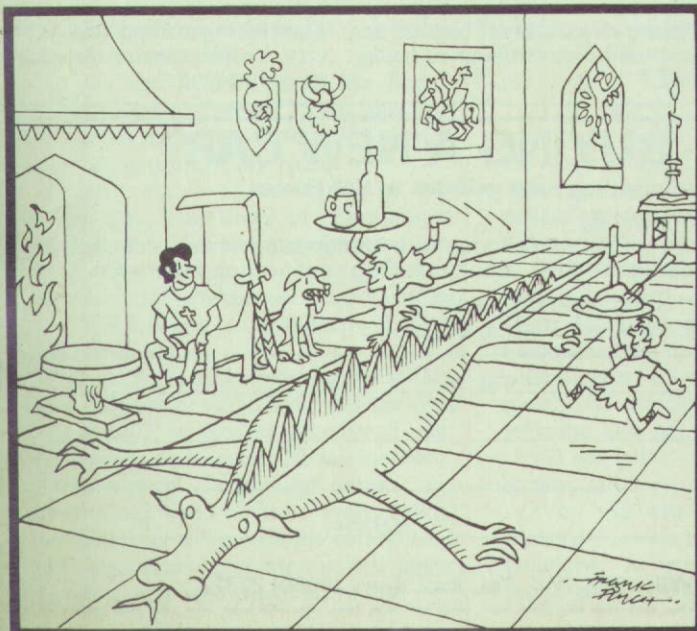
So the banners and Union Jacks borne by tiny tots were used only to wave to a fleet of lorries taking kit down to Portsmouth and the families were to be reunited again for a few short hours.

And so to that early morning farewell as the men piled into the coaches and waved goodbye to the pressmen. And as the final batch of coaches awaited Headquarters Company there was a final flourish. They marched down from the nearby barracks behind the 2 Para Band who played — 'Don't Cry for Me Argentina'. A long voyage in cramped conditions awaited the paratroopers but determination and resolve was etched in every face. ■

continued on page 16

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 37.



OFF TO THE FALKLANDS

Building helicopter deck on the *Norland*.

Pictures: Paul Haley



The band played too... then they were off with the rest of the battalion.

... AND THE ONES THEY LEFT BEHIND

Susan Pye (19), had travelled down from Nantwich, Cheshire, to wave goodbye to her brother David and her boyfriend 'Taff' Wilcox, both privates in 2 Para.

"I came down here and stayed the night because I just had to see them off. I do feel very proud of

them but also a bit worried because maybe I won't see them again. I don't think it's really hit them yet what they are going to. When they get there they will probably feel it more then."

Mrs Hilary Moodie, from Bramley, Basingstoke, wore a Pegasus Pendant with pride. Her two sons, James and Andrew, both privates, were departing for the Falklands just as her husband had left so many times during his career as a paratrooper.

"I'm feeling proud and not at all worried. It's what they have



◀ **Mrs Jacqueline Russell**, wife of Corporal Stuart Russell: "I'm just a bit fed up with getting told he is going and then the next day he comes back again. I get very upset each time he says 'cheerio'. But he believes in what he is going to fight for and he says that is what he joined the Army for. But naturally I am a bit worried for him."

been trained for. I've been through all this with their Dad both during the war and after. He was at the Ardennes, the Rhine Crossing and many places after the war. And I never got the chance to see him off because he just used to go without us being told."

◀ **Mrs Joan Jackson**, wife of Lance-Corporal Chris Jackson: "I'm upset but what can you do? Let's hope they all come back. They look good and they are all very confident and it does make me very proud."



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WHY MATT SINGS THE ARMY'S PRAISES



SINGER MATT MONRO's incentives for joining the Regular Army in 1948 on a five-year engagement were threefold; one of them the result of a sudden, personal emergency — an irate husband!

His success in later years as a globetrotting singer and cabaret star was, he agrees, moulded by his continual 'moonlighting' engagements during his three years' Army service in Hong Kong at the Colony's Imperial Ballroom which, apparently, is still there.

Matt, now 51, explained his eagerness to join the Army, thus: "I had somebody's husband after me for a start. He was a villain. I was also out of work and I didn't know what to do with myself. It all seemed a good idea at the time — but I've no regrets."

He joined the REME as 2233273 Craftsman Terry Parsons — his real name — after filling in application forms at a London Army Recruiting Office.

His postings included places like Blandford, Blackdown, Perham Down and Mill Hill but his memories of them are a trifle hazy — apart from Hong Kong.

His only misdemeanours during his service, he says, were those of being absent without leave and deliberately ignoring curfews in Hong Kong.

One such indiscretion occurred when he was at Mill Hill and living at nearby Tufnell Park in London.

"I think I had to cut some grass with a pair of scissors or something and the idea didn't appeal," he recalls with a broad grin.

Eventually, he became a REME mechanic and volunteered for overseas service. He went to Hong Kong for three years, a location which was to become the springboard for his aspirations as an international singer and cabaret star who would score hits with

Portrait of My Love, My kind of Girl, Softly as I Leave You, From Russia with Love, Gonna Build a Mountain and, of course, Born Free.

"I think Hong Kong has got to be the best posting in the British Army," says Matt. "I

'One night I jumped over my usual spot on the perimeter fence — right into the arms of my sergeant-major'

got made up a couple of times to lance-corporal but lost the stripe for staying out after the curfew of 0100 hours. I did a lot of singing jobs including one at Hong Kong's Imperial Ballroom which gave me some problems.

"You had to sign in and out of the guardroom and be back in barracks by 0100. My singing job didn't finish until 0115 and I didn't get back until 0200. I was paid 1000 dollars a month for 'moonlighting' — or was it a week?"

As well as gaining valuable experience as a performer, Matt was very happy with his Hong Kong posting and particularly the work schedules as a mechanic.

Craftsman Parsons' career was spent mostly on attachment to an air defence regiment and not with what he terms the "rigid discipline" of the REME. It was, he recalls, "all very, very informal."

"You can always remember the good things. I cannot, for the life of me, remember in retrospect any really bad things about my Army career. Of course, I

◀ Matt in his dressing room at The Talk of The Town.

did 'jankers' but that was the extent of my punishments. I never, ever got sent away."

"The Army taught me self-discipline and a great deal about comradeship. I was always conscious of being well turned-out and I became very adroit at dodging people, especially when it came to getting back into camp after curfew. Although one night, I jumped over my usual spot on the perimeter fence — right into the arms of my sergeant-major. He was pleased to see me!"

Matt volunteered for active service in Korea but was turned down because he "was needed in the Command workshops."

Needed he certainly was — working up to 22 hours-a-day, unloading, checking, servicing and re-loading vehicles bound for Korea.

"It was a period with the Army in which I worked very, very hard," he admits. "I got four or five hours' sleep, snatched the odd meal and started again. But, as it turned out, it was a blessing in disguise. Staying in Hong Kong — I left there in 1953 — helped me on my way to becoming a singer and the success I am today. I am very grateful for being turned down for Korea."

Most evenings, Matt was still actively 'moonlighting' — with the Army's knowledge, he says — five times winning talent contests for which the prize was ten dollars and 200 cigarettes a time.

His success in the contests became something of an embarrassment and he was eventually asked to step down and give somebody else a chance.

Matt still entertains the troops and his travels take him all over the world.

Australia, the USA, Canada, South America (where he sings in Spanish), South Africa, the Philippines, Japan ... may be just some of this stopping off points. He says he spends only about three months of the year in the UK.

But he has had all sorts of jobs on the way to becoming a top balladeer — long distance lorry driver, an electrician, a London bus driver, a coalman, a bricklayer, a layer of kerbstones, a stone mason, a railway firemen, a milkman, a baker, an offal boy in a tobacco factory, a builder's mate, a decorator's mate, plumber's mate, plasterer's mate and even a general factotum in a custard factory!

It was his Service days though that saw him take his first steps to stardom and he still holds the Army in high regard.

"If I were not who I am today, I would still join", he affirms without hesitation. "It's a great life and I've a lot to thank the Service for. I've no regrets. The lads are better educated today. In my day they took anybody ... that's why they probably took me!"

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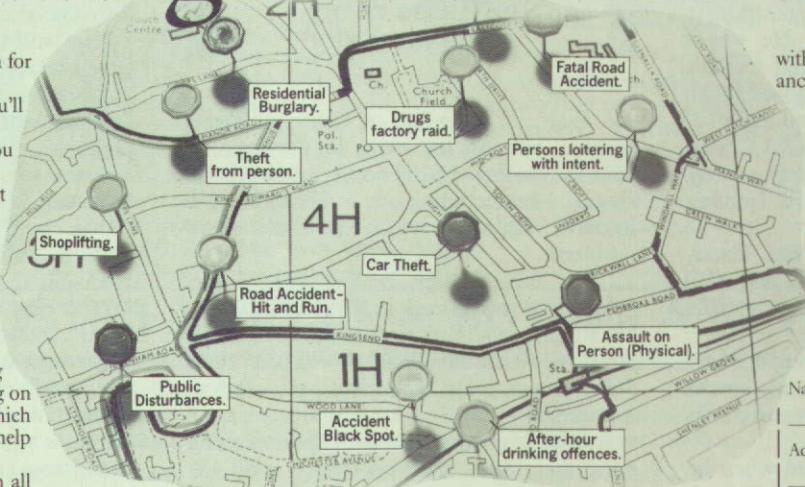
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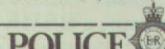
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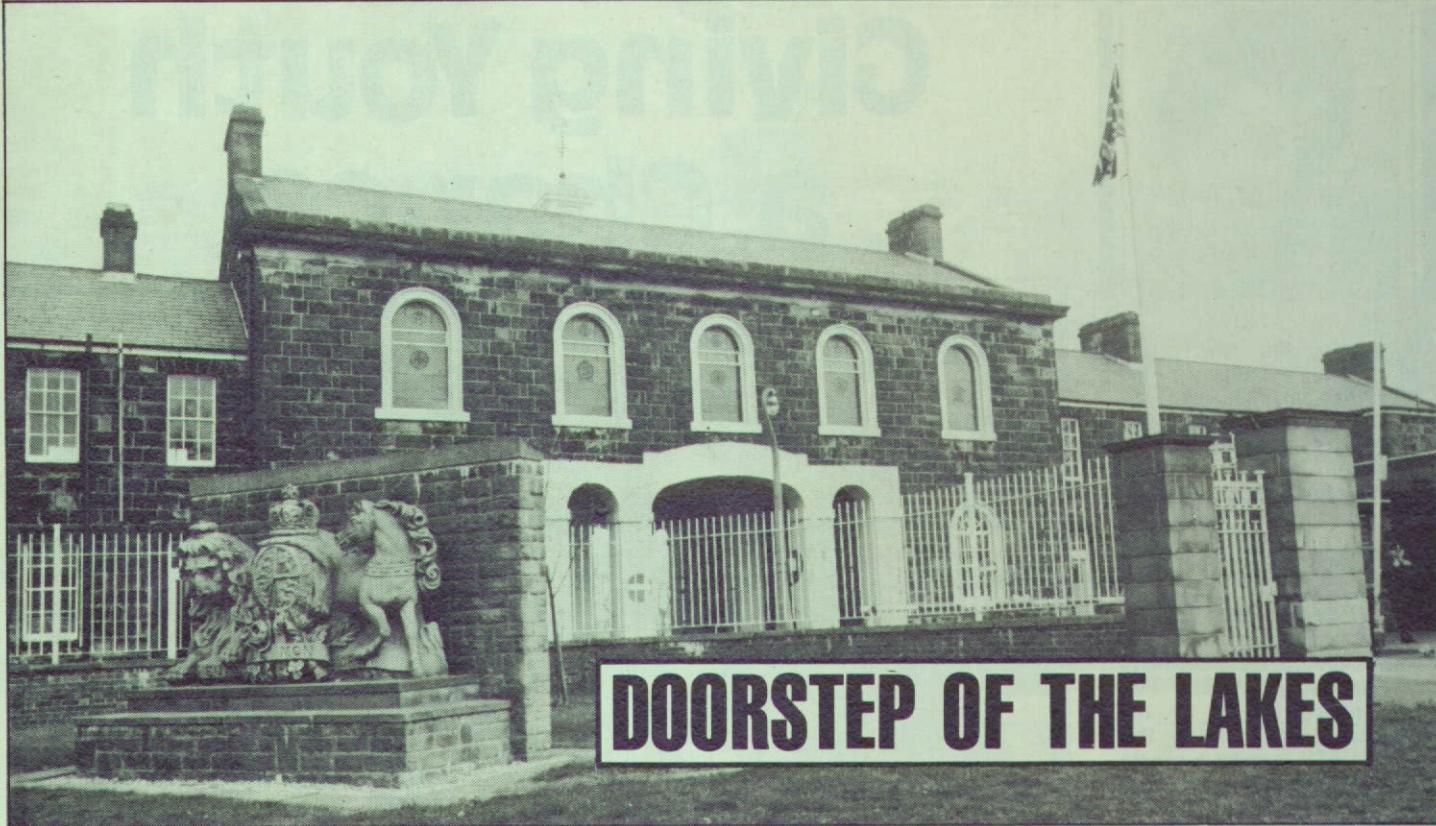
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PRESTON, apparently, has had its bold moments in history. Like the one in August 1617 where James I, on a journey from Scotland to England, after being presented with a purse of gold told its denizens: "Cot's plutters! What a set of liegemen have come to see Jamie!" Then, there was the more inflammatory occasion, when Robert the Bruce burned the town to the ground!

The town, recipient of no less than 15 Royal Charters since the reign of Henry I, the birthplace of the teetotal movement by six abstainers including a former drunk, and the first provincial community to benefit from street gas lighting, is the home of Fulwood Barracks, HQ North-West District which administers Lancashire Garrison, incorporating Weeton Camp, near Blackpool.

Today, Preston's military connections with the town are peaceful ones. A far cry from the Civil War which saw frenzied fighting between the Royalists and the Roundheads.

Facilities for soldiers and families are better, too. Motorways link Preston and Weeton to Blackpool, Morecambe, Fleetwood and other coastal delights.

A local guide-book confirms this by saying that Preston is "in a situation more fortunate than most industrial towns can enjoy."

The town, the most westerly of the one time cotton boom communities, lies on the north bank of the River Ribble.

Major Brian Lucas, Staff Officer Lancashire Garrison, says that the older, more mature soldier and his family tend to serve at Fulwood while the younger soldier and his dependents serve with the regular battalion — 2 LI — at Weeton.

"We have good access here by motorway systems and Preston has a reasonable social activity," he said. "For the younger soldier there are plenty of discos and a tremendous

variety of leisure clubs like motor cycling, motor scrambling organisations and fishing clubs."

And it's not all Lancashire Hot Pot and robust black pudding country, either.

Major Lucas went on: "The north-west is very well-known for its wide variety of pub-restaurants who serve a wide range of food, from simple, straightforward English fare to continental cuisine and even the

"It might be wet but the people up here are very warm-hearted"

ubiquitous Chinese offerings at reasonable prices."

He added: "Once people are settled in they find it rather more attractive here. We have the Lakes to the north, the Pennines to the east and the sea to the west. There are, perhaps, two drawbacks to service up here. Distances from the south — though London can be reached in three hours — and the weather.

"It's perfectly true what they say about the north-west being wet. It can have a grey appearance for a fairly large proportion of the time, which makes it appear dull but the area has still got a lot to offer."

About one-seventh of the strength comprises the Territorial Army, he estimates.

Mrs Jackie Chadwick, 25, who has worked at the HQ for the past 5½ years said: "Preston is very good for shopping, lots of cheap shops. Food is cheaper, too. We have very good outdoor and covered markets in the town. We also have lots of nice parks, restaurants, good bus services. Preston once had the biggest bus station in Europe about 15 years ago."

She added: "A lot of people complain

about the weather. It might be wet but the people up here are very warm-hearted and hospitable."

Lt-Col Glyn Parton, formerly Royal Artillery but the Principal Housing and Welfare Commandant at Fulwood since September 1977 pointed out that kindergartens were run at Weeton and Warton. Weeton, "rather isolated", ran its own social facilities with battalion backing and organisation.

He said: "Preston has the reputation of having the lowest cost of living ratio in the country. The lakes are just 45 minutes away and the Yorkshire Dales about 90 minutes' travelling."

Mrs Mary Simmonds, wife of RAOC clerk at the HQ, Sergeant Anthony Simmonds and mother of Kirsty, 13 and Rebecca, 11, has no doubts about the appeal of Preston for her.

"When we first got here, we thought how awful. But it's lovely here and the people are smashing. I was lucky in finding a job at a local baker's. The shops are good here and the prices very reasonable. Local education is excellent. We were tempted to stay here because the schools are so good. Fulwood seems to aim for a very high standard."

"The bus service is marvellous, every 10 minutes. The quarters could be better, though. I know there's a moratorium but it seems very short-sighted to let them go down in decoration. It will cost lots of money in the end."

Preston has 380 Married Quarters.

Preston, as a posting, rests highly on the list of the Simmonds family who have lived in AFCENT, SHAPE, Rheindahlen, Bielefeld and Northern Ireland.

"We have enjoyed them all, even Northern Ireland," said Mrs Simmonds. "People in Germany are grab, grab, grab for money. It's all pervading there with wives working all hours. I think Preston is a smashing place and I shall be sorry to leave."



In general the new partial defurnishing scheme (UK and NE Europe only) has been welcomed by Army wives, but there are two points for concern.

When families were told of the scheme they were also advised to make up their deficiencies (breakages, etc) from the ASU by 1 April. In some overseas stations families were given such short notice that they were unable to take advantage of this. This was especially so in the remote areas where the nearest ASU may be a couple of hours' drive away.

SETTLING-IN

The second point concerned the settling-in period in a move made after 1 September when the new scales come into effect. Given that a family has bought what was available to them from their previous married quarter and their personal effects are now in transit, how do they manage for the fortnight or so that they are waiting for their kit?

The new scheme does of course make some provision for this hiatus but clearly it is inadequate. For example, in a quarter with no upstairs central heating in the dead of winter in Berlin or Benbecular two blankets per bed is insufficient. Likewise, one set of sheets does not allow for illness or those little 'accidents'. And one frying pan, two saucepans and a kettle does not make cooking for a growing family very easy.

CONSULTATION

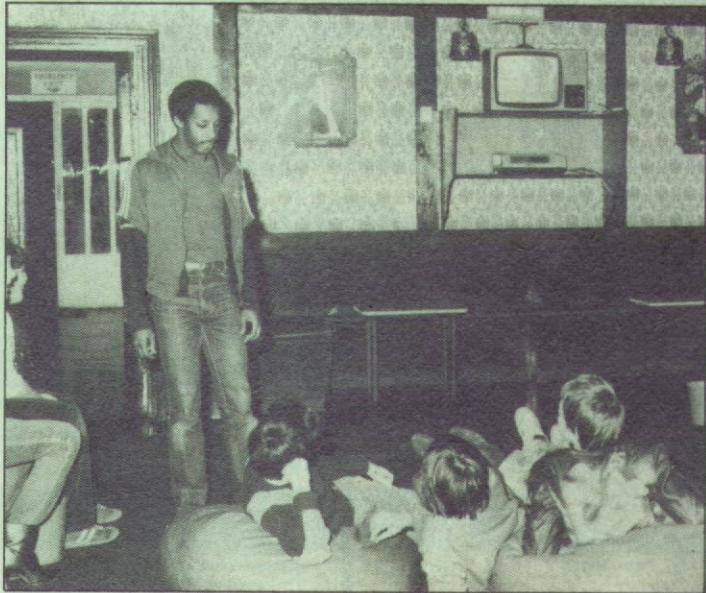
I do feel that during the initial consultation period better use could have been made of all the experience we wives have of moving our families from one house to another, and what we consider to be the minimum we can manage on. After all, it's us who have to cook and cope — isn't it?

I had so much material to put onto these pages this issue that I have held over all your letters until next time.

Anne Armstrong

Giving Youth a Chance

◀ Mac and friends at 'Link Up'.



WHAT MAKES the difference between a moribund youth club in a derelict building and a vibrant young community looking forward to an action-packed summer programme? The essential ingredient it seems is an energetic and highly motivated youth worker called 'Mac'.

22 year-old Michael MacDougall, from Croydon, postponed the opportunity of finding regular employment in the UK to take up a year's contract working with the British Forces in Germany. "I had my doubts when my youth leader in Croydon said answer the advertisement asking for long term volunteers," says Mac, "but I applied and no one was more surprised than me when I was accepted."

To live and work for the first time in a Service community on just £886 a year with no DHSS benefits or claims to subsequent

unemployment benefit is a tall order for anyone, let alone build an ailing youth club up into a thriving concern. But now with the aid of a most supportive management committee chaired by Major Paul Hutton Dutton, Mac has succeeded in turning an old sergeants' mess at Ayrshire Barracks in Mönchengladbach, into a veritable youth palace.

"Apart from the members and our committee, we have had tremendous support from the units here, the Station Commander and 37 (Rhine) Workshops REME particularly. Finance has been a problem — it always is," says Paul Hutton Dutton, "but fund raising events coupled with some grants have enabled us to build this super club with a decor which would make any civilian club envious."

The club — called 'Link Up' — boasts spacious rooms for table tennis, billiards and

snooker, darts, board games and sophisticated TV video games. There is a disco with the required flashing lights and, tucked away from all the noise, even a hairdressing salon. The planned hard kick-about area will facilitate sport all year round and camps in Belgium and assault courses are just some of the activities to come in the summer.

Mac's efforts and those of the management committee would have come to nought had it not been for the financial help of the Royal Jubilee Trust whose Assistant Director, Mr Leonard Dickson, recently visited the club where the atmosphere revolves round the family, courtesy and respect for people and property.

And what do the youngsters themselves think of Mac and the club? "It's terrific," said one member. "What else would I do? Get into trouble I suppose. We live in a sort of enclosed camp and Dad and Mum know where I am and where I meet my friends."

The comments of the Area Youth Officer, Mr Bob Gallagher, sum it all up: "Link Up" shows what can be done when you have a good youth leader, an enthusiastic members committee backed up by a caring management committee."

But now, with only a few months of his contract left to run, what will Mac do next? "I don't know; I don't have a job here or any prospects in UK." Not much to look forward to then; and what a waste of such talent. Let's hope something turns up for him that is as rewarding as his work at 'Link Up'.

THE LEAFLET YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

GREAT NEWS! From the middle of May, Service families going abroad will be able to pick up a DHSS leaflet geared specifically to their needs.

During an interview on BFBS UK (now SSVC) the then Junior Minister for Social Services, Mrs Lynda Chalker was asked if Service families might have their own leaflet explaining what action to take on the whole range of benefits. At the moment there is so much confusion because the circumstances of our families are constantly changing and present leaflets tend to presume claimants do not move about.

Mrs Chalker agreed to look into this suggestion and later endorsed the proposal and instructed her department to prepare something suitable.

With invaluable help from Major Steve Colman of PS 10 in MOD, DHSS, and in particular Hazel Midlane, have beavered away to produce the final draft of *Service Families Going Abroad* (FB5 April 82). Notice will be given in plenty of time where these leaflets will be available.

How rewarding it has been to see it all through from beginning to end — and thanks to Mrs Chalker who took up the cause.





Dominating the Newcastle skyline is the vast complex of buildings which is the DHSS Central Office.

BENEFITS AND BUREAUCRACY

"YOU WILL BE amazed at the size of the DHSS Newcastle central office," said Mr Ken Driscoll, the press officer who arranged my recent two day visit to this huge empire.

Few people appreciate the task of administering this vast social security office which employs over 12,000 people dealing with 28 million pensions and 7 million families receiving Child Benefit in respect of 13½ million children.

In one corner of the site there lies a long low building — the Overseas Branch (OVB). Here Mrs Joyce Crawford deals with queries from Service families moving to and from overseas stations. She explained: "We cover 31 reciprocal agreements dealing with payments to 266,000 people in 160 countries. Part of our work is to look after the interests of Service wives working overseas, and make arrangements to collect Class 1 contributions from 20,000 civilians with HM Forces, Naafi and other similar organisations in Germany. Also we collect Voluntary Contributions from 35,000 overseas contributors."

Although the new leaflet FB 5 (see opposite page) will help considerably to explain the benefit system and despite DHSS efforts on behalf of Service families there are still anomalies which concern me.

Unemployment benefit, non-contributory invalidity pensions, supplementary benefit for teenagers, maternity allowance, national insurance numbers for school leavers, and home responsibility credits are just some of the problem areas for families overseas. Then of course there is the absurd situation where a wife overseas who is up to date with her Class 1 contributions and either loses or voluntarily gives up her job, can receive sickness benefit paid direct to her but cannot without a struggle, get unemployment benefit.

When I discussed all these points with the head of OVB, Mr Arnold Deane, whilst he could not have been more understanding, without further legislation he can do little to ease the situation.

However, there is hope of

Mrs Joyce Crawford (centre front) and her section of the OVB.



Our trouble-shooter, Mrs Alice Kelly, and the Child Benefit section.

improvement in some areas where legislation is not required. Since my visit, a few of the issues I raised are being looked into in more depth: for example, national insurance numbers for teenagers overseas. I will report on this when I have further information.

Six miles away at the Child Benefit Centre in Washington I was pleased to meet and talk with Mr John Milne, the man who works with the utmost dedication to ensure the weekly disbursement of £67.5 million in Child Benefit payments, with a team of 2,450 highly motivated civil servants.

One of these, the cheerful Mrs Alice Kelly, showed me round her section which looks after our queries. "There are many problems," she said, "and we try and sort them out as quickly as possible, but delays occur when the correspondent forgets to include their CB number in their letter."

As a test of their efficiency I raised one of the cases I am concerned about and within seconds they had found the file. "However, it is not always so easy," said Mrs Kelly. "Sometimes there are literally hundreds of

people with the same name and if they forget the vital CB number, we are in for a long search!"

I discussed the proposed Automatic Credit Transfer of Child Benefit with Mr Milne and others and asked how it might apply to Service families overseas. This proposed piece of legislation will enable wives to have their CB paid monthly in arrears into a National Girobank, Trustee Savings Bank, ordinary bank accounts or Building Societies. This will mean that if paid into a Giro account then CB can be cashed by a mother overseas at a BFPO.

As long as our guardians in MOD continue to highlight the position of Service wives and families during the consultative stages of this and other changes in legislation, then it should not be long before we can claim our rights and at least have parity with the denizens of UK.

The overriding message from DHSS Newcastle was that they do care about us and will do their best to sort out our problems as long as we give them all the correct information and quote the relevant NI and CB numbers on all our correspondence.

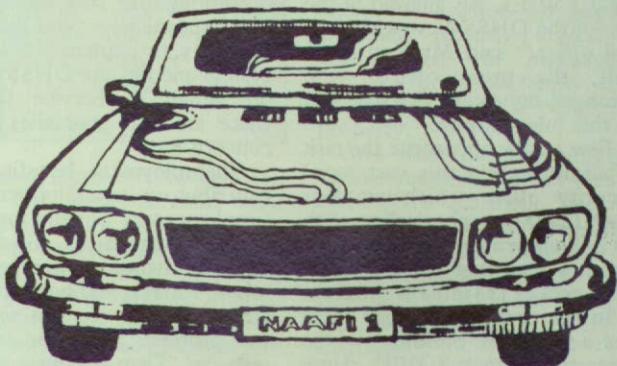
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NAAFI - We're here to help you!

Graham Smith visits the country's smallest regiment



ONWARD CHRISTIAN'S SOLDIERS

CHRISTIAN MAYLOR readily admits he is "more than slightly Army barmy". He is also a firm believer in starting at the top of his chosen part-time unpaid career as a full-blown 'colonel' in charge of the country's smallest regiment, The Lancashire Rangers.

Regular training sessions on a self-built assault course are run by Colonel Maylor and his ten-strong platoon at weekends and public holidays down on the River Wyre just two minutes away from his home with its $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre lawned training area with some tree cover at Thornton Cleveleys, near Blackpool.

"There are lots of little ditches, like trenches, down by the river bank which get full of water," explained the CO with an impish yet obviously tactical glint in his eyes. "We run along them and hide from planes coming in and out of nearby Blackpool airport. They are the 'enemy' making ground attack strikes against us. It's all great fun. We do fieldcraft training, too. We do everything, well, nearly everything the real Army does."

The real Army? Well even a dedicated soldier like Colonel Maylor might find it just a trifle tricky to join up just yet. For at four-foot-six-inches he must surely be the smallest CO on parade. And the youngest, too — he is just 12!

Christian and his younger brother, Hadrian, 10 — he was made up to corporal on his birthday last year and could make sergeant this year — take their training sessions very seriously in combat kit, some of it acquired from government surplus stores.

One of their number even includes a — GIRL! She is 12-year-old Ruth Gill, who is listed as "assistant adjutant" and has been with the group for about six months.

Ruth not only likes shooting but wants to join the WRAC as a physiotherapist.

The boys' mother, Mrs Eileen Maylor, the wife of a butcher, told SOLDIER: "My washing machine is always working, cleaning the combat kit. Christian believes in doing things properly and comes back off exercise with his trousers soaked right through to his bottom and his boots sodden. He does not think he has done his training efficiently unless he comes back in this state.

The lads take their training very seriously."

She added: "I'm not Army orientated but I don't mind him doing it. Last year, he fell out of a tree while on 'exercise' and broke his forearm in two places. He was taken to hospital in his combat kit. He thinks nothing of raiding my make-up drawer and pinching brown eye shadow to act as 'cam cream'. It's all a very serious business."

What is he like when it comes down to discipline?

"He's murder!", said mum. "He hands out extra drill. It's usually for not doing the assault course correctly!"

Although Christian's parents are not keen on the minor militia running about over their lawns they do allow ambush drill among the saplings. As often as not, Mrs Maylor is apprehended at the front door as she goes out shopping.

Last year saw an historic chapter in the newest regimental records — an 'amalgamation' which took the form of a re-badging ceremony at Preston's Kimberley Barracks, home of the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, TA.

New QLR badges were presented to all the pint-sized ranks by the Adjutant, Captain Tim Sutcliffe, a ceremony at which the Battalion's CO, Lieutenant-Colonel David

◀ 'Sgt' Nigel Bowker, 'Col' Christian Maylor and brother 'Cpl' Hadrian get some tips on weapon handling from Capt Bill Holland, 4 QLR.

Lavery was present.

The occasion followed a lengthy letter from Colonel Christian to the QLR Regimental Secretary, Colonel J A 'Dickie' Bird.

It started: "I would like to join the Queen's Lancashire Regiment. I have collected the uniform and got the badges for The Lancashire Fusiliers. I am mad on the Army and have got lots of things to do with the Army. I am a good shot with a gun and the best shot in the family. I would like to become a sergeant after many years' hard work. I would be very happy if you would let me join your regiment even though I am only 11 years old."

The Thornton Cleveleys contingent was invited to spend a day in Kimberley Barracks with the TA battalion and train with them at nearby Fulwood Barracks.

The formal visit began with the official re-badging followed by an inspection of the barracks, a saluting drill, a demonstration of small arms and foot drill.

Lt-Col Lavery, CO of 4 QLR for nearly two years told SOLDIER: "They are fantastic young fellows, there is no question about it. All the time young Christian has been the motivator of the group. He is very bright and a terribly nice lad, not a spoilt brat. He really would make a good soldier, great officer material. He is really a remarkable little lad."

Christian is not sure yet whether he wants to join the Army when old enough. Brother Hadrian has decided already — not to join!

"I want to be a coach driver, not the Army for me," said the youngster as he sped through the garden gates on his 75cc motor-bike bound for an 'important mission.'

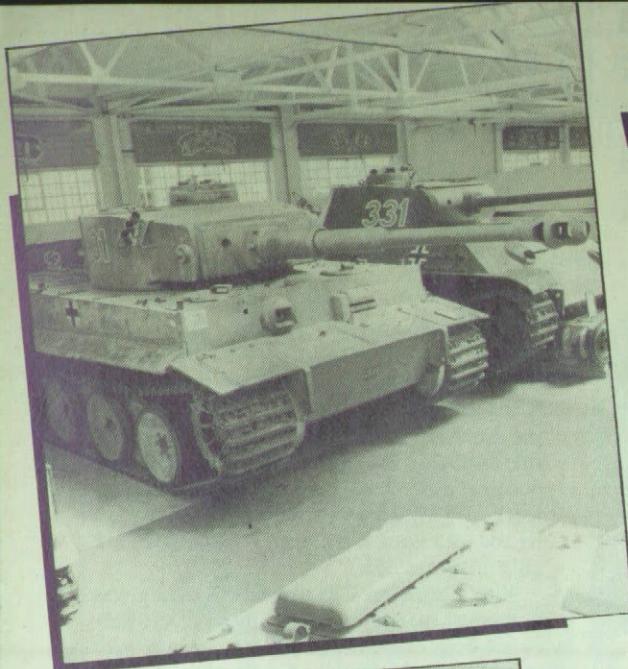
Christian, however, concedes he needs to brush up on one aspect of his Army fieldcraft — map reading.

SOLDIER had asked him the way to his Thornton Cleveleys home from Preston.

After some hesitancy, the country's youngest colonel admitted, ruefully; "I'm OK with street maps but not very good at understanding ordnance survey maps."

Christian, Nigel and Hadrian on parade with 4 QLR.





Fancy a day out
with a difference
this summer?
Why not take a
day trip to
Dorset?

TANKS FOR THE MEMORY



THE ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, attracted 350,000 visitors last year and dealt with an estimated 2000 letters seeking information and advice on armoured fighting vehicles from modelmakers and enthusiasts alike. It is said to be the second most popular venue of its type after Lambeth's Imperial War Museum.

The free-admission Museum which is part of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington Camp — seven miles from Wareham and 12 from Dorchester — celebrates its Diamond Jubilee next year.

It houses, indoors and outdoors, a collection of 140 tanks and armoured cars dating from 1915 to modern times — including some missiles — comprising what Lieutenant-Colonel George Forty, the Museum's curator who was formerly with the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, proudly claims to be the "most comprehensive and totally unique" collection of its kind in one place anywhere in the world originating from all the regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps and eight other countries.

One of its exhibits, the prototype tank, Little Willie of 1915, once defended the approaches to Bovington and later became a strong point on a Gloucestershire airfield

during the invasion scare of 1940.

Lt-Col Forty has visions of greater expansion and the updating of visitor facilities at the museum which started out as a repository of AFV memorabilia way back in 1923 — thanks to some timely comments made by Rudyard Kipling.

Mr Kipling, on a visit to Bovington, showed concern and disappointment that more was not being done to preserve the armoured fighting vehicles — 26 of them at that time — that had been spared the scrap yards after the Armistice. They were standing forlornly on the heath to the north of Bovington Camp — some of them current, some experimental machines — and were moved to a half-acre of ground fenced off with chestnut palings. It was the beginning of the present museum.

A year after Mr Kipling's visit, a start was made on housing the veterans in an open-sided shed in the then Driving and Maintenance Wing of the Royal Tank Corps Central Schools. Among them was Little Willie and another, called simply Mother.

The seed that Rudyard Kipling planted in the minds of men 60 years ago, Lt-Col Forty wants to bring to a really eye-catching fruition.

Yet, sadly, having survived the rigours of



the Great War, the two dozen or so tracked veterans outside the Museum are slowly losing a battle against a more insidious agent — rust!

Among the victims are the 27-ton Female Mk 4 tank of 1917 which saw action at the battle of Cambrai; the 37-ton Mk 8 (five, says Lt-Col Forty, were built and Bovington's is the last in the UK); and the Mk 9, an infantry and supply carrier, the first armoured personnel carrier, which transported 20 men or 10 tons of stores.

Such double-skinned stalwarts of yesteryear cost £1000 each, even a few years ago, to repaint. They are simply rusting from the inside to the outside.

But Lt-Col Forty refuses to be dismayed and is hopeful of eventually getting all the exhibits under cover.

Meanwhile new exhibits continue to arrive — at the rate of three each year. The latest duo include a World War Two M.10 Achilles tank destroyer, mounting a 17-pounder gun and a Vixen, which was going to be the liaison version of the Fox.

There are plans to extend the premises and space out the existing exhibits even more than at present.

The new complex envisaged would embrace reference and photographic libraries, a reading room and lecture theatre cinema, an improved cafeteria, self-service shop, an audio-visual display unit with choice of appropriate war films, 400 feet of new fencing around the outdoor showpieces



and, most importantly, new toilets!

Lt-Col Forty explained: "The nearest public loos to us are at Bere Regis, four miles in one direction and at a place called Wool, three miles away in the other. Coaches stop here just to use our external facilities across the car park. The local council are very sympathetic but, like most others, it has no money to help."

At present, the blueprints for the future are in their infancy and will need plenty of cash support to carry out. An appeal may be launched next year, to coincide with the museum's Diamond Jubilee.

"We want to offer the visitor a proper impression of what he sees and give him value for money. Admission is free at the moment and we rely greatly on voluntary donations, averaging about one penny-per-head — and that is not enough to carry out our concept," said Lt-Col Forty.

"The museum exists under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Defence as both a corps and a regimental Museum. The exhibits are the property of the trustees who receive no grants of funds from any source towards their upkeep or preservation. We have put certain proposals to the Ministry of Defence and are in the throes of negotiating these suggestions on how charges should be made and the profits shared."

The cash help would enable the taking on of extra staff. Currently, the museum shuts at lunchtime and visitors wait patiently in their cars. It could also re-open on Sundays.

"We estimate we can attract 5000 visitors on Sundays — wet ones or in the height of summer," said Lt-Col Forty. "We can certainly make the museum more attractive but it will cost anything from £500,000 to £1,000,000. Our collection illustrates every aspect of the historical and technical development of the armoured fighting vehicle from 1915 to modern times."

Meanwhile, the build-up goes on quietly and though Lt-Col Forty is still waiting for that increase in staff other 'bodies' have been recruited just to sit or stand there — and say absolutely nothing!

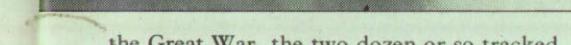
They are there thanks to the generosity of multiple tailors' firms — they are showroom dummies.

One outfitters recently made a delivery of a score of discarded dummies whose shop-window appeal had faded.

"When they arrived they looked like something from a charnel house," chortled the colonel. "But my wife, Anne, has been painting their complexions. She has transformed about eight AFV crewmen so far."

Pending a cash injection, the museum is still looking out for vehicles with what Lt-Col Forty terms as "relevant" armoured fighting vehicle connections. He is interested, for example, in an AMX 30, a Sheridan, or an M.60. Any offers? ■

The Tank Museum is open Mondays to Fridays, 1000-1230 and 1400-1645 and Saturdays and Public Holidays from 1030-1230 and 1400-1600. It is closed on Sundays.



Story: Graham Smith





Royal Engineers' Diving Establishment

School for underwater trouble-shooters

NY POTENTIAL DIVING student on a course at the Royal Engineers' Diving Establishment, sited at Marchwood, near Southampton, can expect to train in the "filthiest muck we can find". And that's a guaranteed promise by the REDE Commanding Officer of seven years, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Chitty.

Aspiring divers at REDE need to be very fit, physically and mentally, and have an "adventurous spirit" says Lt-Col Chitty whose own adventures have included leading a 48-strong RE diving team detachment dotted through half-a-dozen locations in the Caribbean.

"We do a two-day aptitude test here when we get a bloke, put him under water to see whether he flap-panics, take him to a compression chamber, drop him to a depth of 20 metres to see if his ears pop or his nose goes. About 50 per cent fail.

"We try to introduce them to the grottiest concept of Services' diving — in lots of mud. We put them in the filthiest muck we can find. If they can survive that, they realise diving is for real and they know it's not all fun."

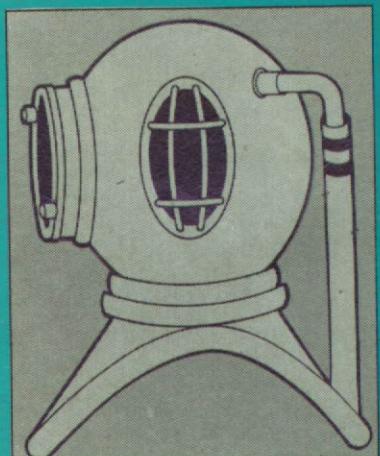
REDE runs several courses at Marchwood. These include six four-week-long Army Compressed Air Diving Courses (ACADs) yearly which are patronised mainly by the Royal Engineers with the "odd sprinkling" of RCT and REME; three 8-week Army Advanced Diving (AAD) courses yearly; three 3-week Army Diving Supervisors (ADS) courses yearly, combined with unit supervisors courses for REME, RCT and some RA, plus specialist courses for the SAS "as required".

REDE also sends out three-man teams for a month at a time to give courses in Hong Kong to teach Gurkha divers. There are 35 such divers in Hong Kong and in the UK.

Divers are trained at Marchwood between the ages of 18 and 35 and are administered by a 40-strong staff made up of three officers, 27 soldiers and 10 civilians — 16 of them instructional staff.

Captain Leslie Richmond is the Administration Officer at REDE. Now retired from the Army, he was formerly Chief Instructor at the Establishment and a one-time OC of the RE Diving Wing at the

◀ Learning the ropes in the observation tank.



Kiel Training Centre, BAOR.

"We have about a 25 per cent failure rate on the ACAD and AAD courses", he explained. "Lots go off the courses for medical reasons, problems with the ears, and there are those who are not suited psychologically and others who find it is not what they expect. It is not exotic diving like Hans and Lotte Haas. Here they dive in mud and cannot see a hand in front of them."

Second in command at REDE until his retirement, Captain Richmond added: "It's also very arduous physically and some just give up because it's too much for them, even the fit ones. A chap cannot dive, for instance, if he has a heavy cold and loses his place on the course — although he can re-apply at a later date.

"After the ACAD course, a chap goes back to his unit to become part of a regimental team where he is used for such things as recce for river crossing sites, search tasks for lost equipment, demolition and underwater construction tasks. The way to think about engineer divers is to think they are doing their normal combat engineering tasks, using diving as a means of getting there."

There are some 355 qualified Army divers currently serving made up of 176 ACAD graduates, 32 AAD, 58 ADS, 54 officers and the 35 Gurkhas.

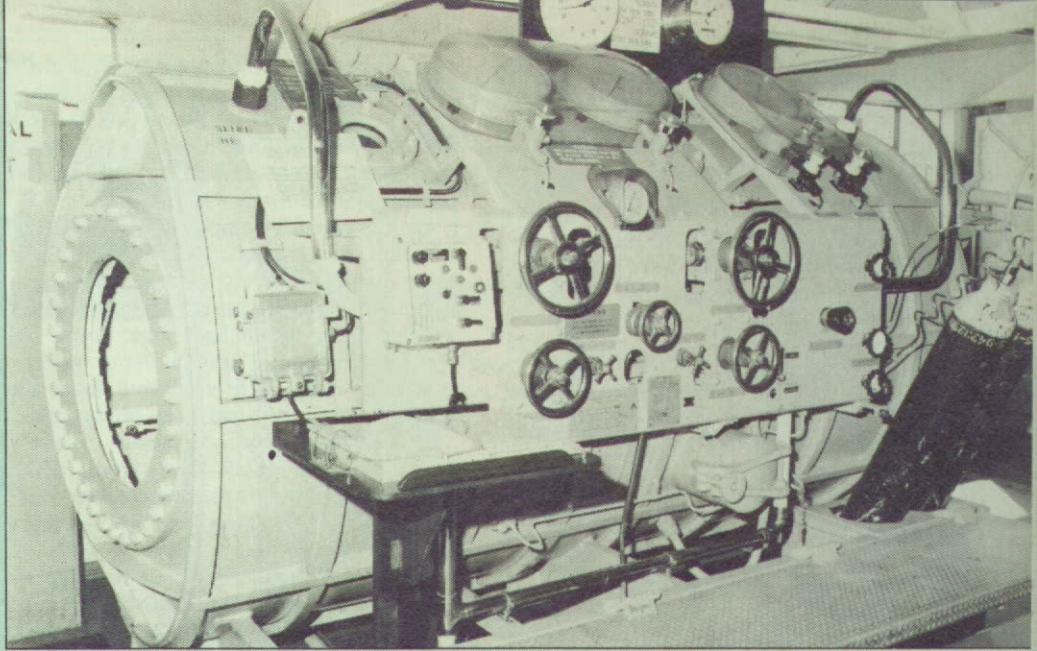
Lt-Col Chitty, who was OC of the former Royal Engineers' Diving School (REDS) on the same site from 1965-67, told SOLDIER: "Diving is about one of the three challenging tasks left in the Army. You can throw yourself out of an aircraft as a parachutist or climb cliff walls as a commando and, mostly, you have to be with such units to do that. Anyone could be a diver. Yet it's demanding. You can put yourself at risk and it can still be done in an ordinary engineering regiment. We have diving teams in most Royal Engineer regiments."

Lead boots are not meant for walking. ▼



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Doug Pratt



Decompression chamber — vital for safety. ▲

categories. We don't, of course, qualify for offshore gas diving.

"We have been instrumental in the last five years in helping the Health and Safety Executive to establish standards for underwater engineering and we are one of five diving 'schools' in the country to form an Association of British Diving Schools for the government's good housekeeping seal of approval to run courses on their new categories.

"Our product is looked upon as probably the most efficient and versatile of the five in the diving community."

Not that all the work is of a purely military nature down at Marchwood.

Help is often given to the police. Help with body recovery, arms and drug searches in sewers and even, during the past eight years, assistance in three murder cases.

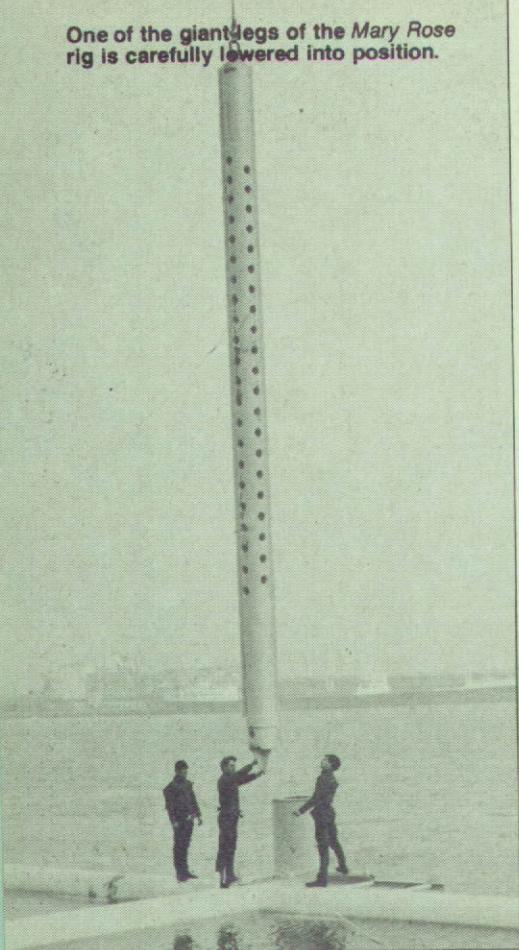
"We work in a variety of conditions, including, fast water river conditions, and

continued on page 28

Ready to dive on the Mary Rose rig. ▼



One of the giant legs of the *Mary Rose* rig is carefully lowered into position.



"We get some very useful training in that role by doing jobs for the police," said Lt-Col Chitty. "It's an art form we have developed here for internal security duties. I don't think anyone understands how lethal and toxic just picking up a man-hole cover can be with the gases of the sewers beneath it."

Two more examples of aid to the civil authorities by REDE involved the disposal of a dredger in a Yorkshire quarry and blowing up a beached freighter at Plymouth.

In the last few years REDE had a diving team in Mombasa engaged on underwater archaeological work for the Kenyan Government but funded by the University of Texas.

Out in Belize, RE divers, graduates from REDE, are used to recover weapons from rivers. Staff Sergeant Anthony Liddicoat,

who recently received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for saving the life of an American by fitting him with an aqua-lung and holding him under water over six hours, is an 'old boy' of REDE. Sgt Liddicoat is an Army diving instructor.

On the recently-completed Nato Exercise Hardfall in Norway, REDE sent out a three-man diving detachment to supplement two AMF (L) divers in recovering a Scimitar armoured car which had fallen down 200 feet into a river and into 15 feet of water.

Certain items were recovered from the armoured car but it had to be blown up.

One of the most spectacular recovery operations with which divers from REDE have been involved is the proposed recovery of the sunken, 700-ton warship of Henry VIII, the *Mary Rose*.

The Royal Engineers have already had a firm hand in the design of a special frame and cradle to lift the hull of the vessel which is scheduled to take place in July by 400-ton crane.

"We first became involved in the mystery of the *Mary Rose* in October 1969 when one of our NCOs first touched the wood of the vessel said Lt-Col Chitty.

"About 18 months ago, it became obvious to me that there was going to be an awful problem on the raising of the *Mary Rose*. They would either have to call in professional divers at professional rates in competition with the North Sea or they could call on us as we are qualified professional divers. It seemed ideal training for some of the tasks we had in port areas and rivers."

"We became involved early on in the design of the frame and cradle to lift the hull of the *Mary Rose* thanks largely to the efforts of Captain John Brannam who is our project officer."

The final word on REDE's involvement came from Mr Richard Harrison, Executive Director of the *Mary Rose* Trust, who told SOLDIER: "The Army has been involved since the mid-60s and has made a valued contribution to the recovery plans. We have had this very enthusiastic, competent engineering concept with the cradle design for the recovery of the hull. It has been appreciated by all concerned in the trust.

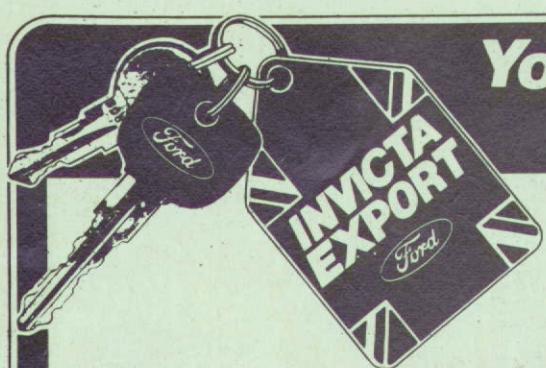


Tightening up collar bolts on rig.

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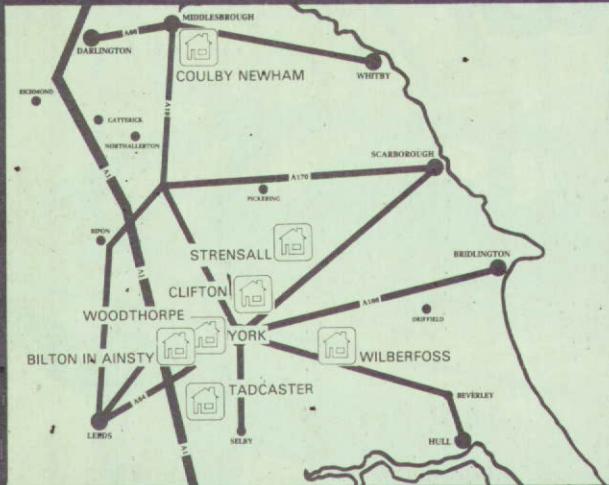


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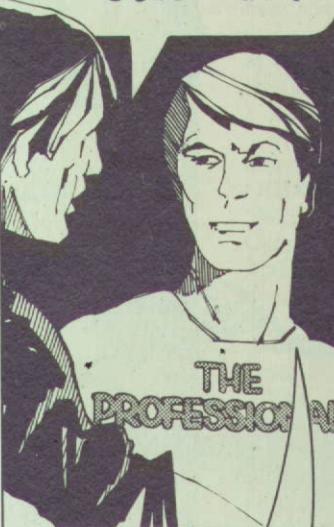
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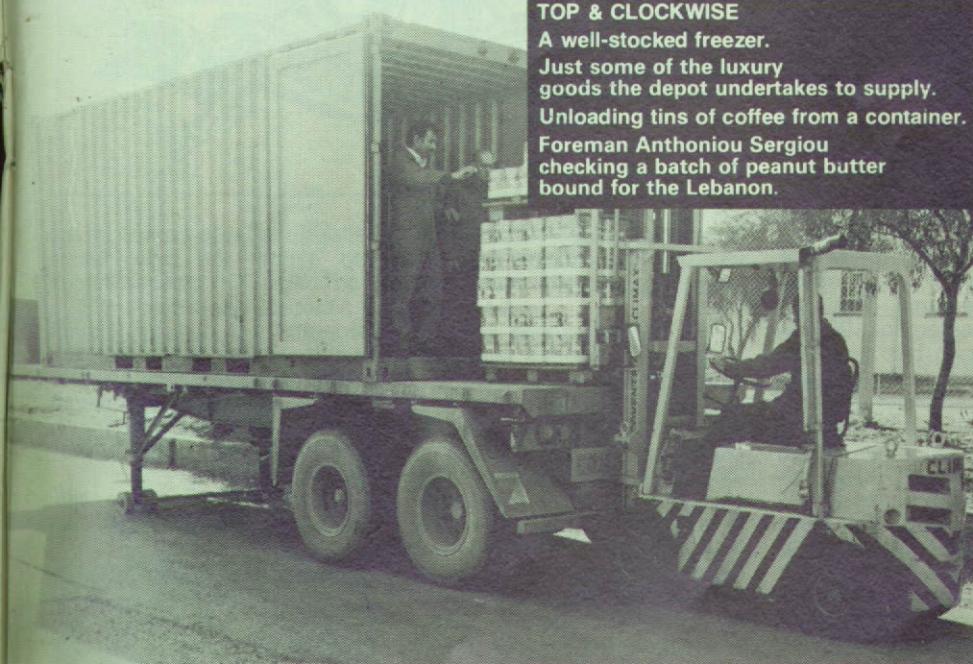
Ann Beecham meets the backroom boys in Cyprus with a special

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Pictures: Doug Pratt



TOP & CLOCKWISE
A well-stocked freezer.
Just some of the luxury goods the depot undertakes to supply.
Unloading tins of coffee from a container.
Foreman Anthoniou Sergiou checking a batch of peanut butter bound for the Lebanon.



AUNT JEMIMA has been a regular with the UN in Cyprus for as long as the Canadians have. Her pancake and waffle mix is part of the essential rations delivered to the Canadian contingent from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Supply Depot in Dhekelia.

And she is in good company. The Depot also supplies such staple foods as tinned baby clams, asparagus tips and salmon not to mention peanut butter by the ton as well as a daily ration of wine to the French troops who are allowed one-and-a-half litres of wine a day.

Major Ken Collins is the Officer Commanding at the Depot and he gave SOLDIER an idea of the enormity of their task: "We literally feed all the British troops in Cyprus, all the United Nations troops on the island and also all the UN troops in Lebanon, which doubles the work. We supply dry rations, tinned and packeted foods and frozen dairy produce, meat and fish to around 12,000 people."

The depot also deals with the supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables that come through the system on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and are on the road again within half an hour, as well as the daily bread through the Naafi to the families in the garrison and the troops.

Flexibility is the key to coping with the challenge of feeding the UN troops. With a military staff of 11 and 49 locally employed civilians, the Depot caters for the requirements and whims of British, French, Canadian, Swedish, Senegalese and Nigerian troops among others, and rarely has to admit defeat.

Major Collins attributed the continuity of the operation to the civilian staff, some of whom, like foreman Anthoniou Sergiou, have been there for 30 years or more. "They are a super gang," he said, "and they need to be. We are wholesalers. People come to us and we try to help. If we can't we're not doing our job."

According to Major Collins, it is the Canadians who normally ask for the luxury food items to be included in their rations. Sometimes the Depot has to offer a substitute and the tons of peanut butter bound regularly for the Nigerians in Lebanon are the best they can do in the way of ground-nuts as the basis for their customary meals. The Depot also supplies oil and lubricants for Cyprus based troops.

There are around 26 different rations to cope with and many of the items are supplied through contractors. A contract with the Depot carries some weight in the island's commercial world and, as the largest single contractor, it can assume 'by appointment to' dimensions.

"They know we won't take just anyone. The tenders go out and it's got to be of an acceptable standard even before the question of price. It's usually the cheapest acceptable one that is taken but not always," explained Major Collins. And that's not the end of it. Samples of the goods are checked regularly to make sure that they remain up to standard.

Foodstuffs for the Lebanon are usually obtained through contractors because supplies from UK would be subject to a levy of up to 53 per cent but some of the supplies are home produced. The Depot in Dhekelia lays claim not only to being the only RAOC depot to supply wine as rations, but also to being the only place of its kind to slaughter its own meat.

continued on page 32

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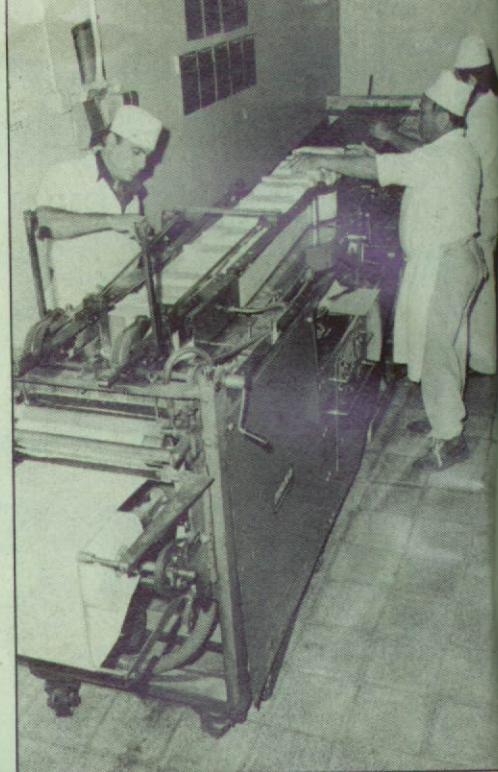
Warrant Officer Richard Swann is the Master Butcher in Dhekelia and he slaughters between 60 and 80 animals a week. He explained "We go down to Larnaca on Tuesdays to see them alive — and to make sure they've got four legs! Then we go down on Wednesday to slaughter. We only take the best of the bunch and these are inspected by a Royal Army Veterinary Corps major. Pork is generally good quality and much bigger than in UK. Even so, the rejection rate is about 25 per cent."

In fact, as Major Collins added, the wives are warned not to buy cheap meat in the local supermarkets because it is likely to be meat that the butchery department has rejected as not being good enough for the soldiers.

The Depot has its own bakery too. Under the direction of Master Baker Staff Sergeant Thomas McGurk, it meets the demand for bread from the men and from Naafi. The bread is baked, sliced and wrapped in dated wrappers which go some way to guaranteeing its freshness.

Here again they take the tastes of different nations into consideration and bake sweeter loaves for the Canadians, rye bread for the Scandinavians and wheatmeal bread for the families as well as producing hundreds of the white sliced loaves and rolls which are standard for the summer season of barbecues on the beach and in the garden.

Supplies for the Lebanon are 'stuffed' into containers and transhipped usually through the Joint Services Port Unit at Limassol. Frozen food generally reaches the UN through Haifa and the dry rations by way of Beirut. The turnover of supplies is fast. "We handle around 560 items in the



The relentless wrapping machine in operation.

Depot and we don't keep vast stocks here because of the climate, so the work is constant," explained Major Collins.

And then, of course, there are the dogs. They too have their scale of rations and every mouthwatering morsel is issued and delivered to the four-legged soldiers via the Dhekelia Depot — cause for a happily wagging tail no doubt . . . ■

lyn, Brandywine and Germantown. These provided no honours to be borne on their standards but subsequent battles that did were Peninsula, Waterloo, Aliwal and Sobraon as well as many others justly deserved.

At the end of Victoria's reign a new style head-dress was adopted for the British Army and the initial design for the badge worn by the 16th was the format still worn to this day, with certain small changes necessitated by change of title or Sovereign. The first design was "On crossed lances the numerals '16' surmounted by a Victorian crown. Below, a scroll inscribed 'Queen's Lancers'. The lower half of the lance pennons, the numerals and scroll in white metal, remainder in gilding metal".

After 1902 the Victorian crown was replaced by the Imperial crown, the scroll remaining the same. This was changed in September 1905 by a similar pattern but the scroll now read 'The Queen's Lancers'. After amalgamation in 1922 the format was adopted by the combined Regiment, the St Edward's crown replacing the Imperial upon the Accession of our present Queen. The combined title had been simply '16th/5th Lancers' but 32 years later it was properly changed once again to be '16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers'. This did not affect the badge design,



however and since 25th October 1956 an anodised cap badge has been the authorised wear.

The 5th Royal Irish Lancers raised in 1689 as the Irish Dragoons under their Colonel's name were numbered 5th Royal Irish until disbandment in 1799. Reformed in 1858 and styled '5th Royal Irish Lancers' they remained as such until amalgamation in 1922. The earlier battle honours of Marlborough's campaigns were now joined by others, some shared with the sister Regiment such as 'Mons' and 'Le Cateau'. Their motto *'Quis Separabit'* (Who shall

separate us) was carried on the cap badge, the only design worn being "On crossed lances a circle inscribed 'Quis Separabit' with a spray of laurel in the bottom centre of the circlet. In the centre the numeral '5'. The numeral and bottom half of the lance pennons in white metal, remainder in gilding metal".

By Arthur L Kipling and
Hugh L King

Next issue:

17th/21st Lancers

No 15

**16TH/5TH
THE QUEEN'S
ROYAL LANCERS**

ALTHOUGH NUMBERED YEARS after its companion, the 16th can claim a longer unbroken record of service to the Crown. They were formed in 1759 as the 16th Light Dragoons, renamed seven years later as the 2nd Queen's Light Dragoons for a period of three years before regaining the original numbering, and after four small changes in title and role became the 16th The Queen's Lancers.

Early in their history they went to the American Colonies and the list of the battles they were engaged in reads like a package tour itinerary — Brook-



BOOKS

East v West: The Balance of Military Power: Editor Ray Bonds

At a time when the unilateral nuclear disarms are thrusting themselves into the news again, it would be salutary for copies of this admirable book to be widely distributed as a means of emphasising both the threat to the West and the fact that Nato's counter is far from over-adequate. With thoughtful articles by four authors, many tables, comparisons of weapons and forces and hundreds of colour photographs in its 200 big pages, it represents excellent value for money both as an assessment of the present situation and as a reference book.

Dr Joseph Luns, Secretary-General of Nato, writes in a foreword of the way the Soviet Union has continued to improve its full range of nuclear weapons "at a rate with very disturbing implications for deterrence".

This point is dealt with in greater detail by Lieutenant-Colonel D M O Miller, Royal Signals, whose brief is the balance of strategic forces. Colonel Miller describes the difficulties of making assessments because there has never been a nuclear war, because strategic weapons are highly classified, and because it is misleading to compare like with like — thus, missile-launching nuclear submarines are countered by anti-submarine warfare systems, not by similar submarines. For all that, he concludes that while the Soviets are winning the strategic numbers game, so long as the nuclear submarines remain undetectable Nato's counter-value is sufficient.



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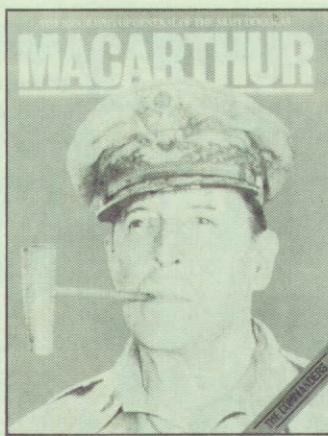
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There is much that is heartening in the section on ground forces, by the American Colonel William V Kennedy. He is impressed by the morale of the Nato forces and the "commonality" of orders, procedures and equipment; he is also encouraged by evidence of Soviet mismanagement, both military and economic. However, he has reservations about Nato strategy, which implies that a Nato response to attack would be only to restore the situation and not to launch a counter-offensive that would threaten Communist governments in Eastern Europe. He feels there should be a plain indication that an attack on Western Europe would put at risk domination of at least the region west of the Vistula. He also thinks that the basis for Nato optimism would disappear if the Warsaw Pact attacked with full chemical capacity, since Nato has no offensive or defensive means of deterring such an attack, short of nuclear weapons.

At sea the world-wide menace of the growing Soviet navy (which Dr Luns also quotes as cause for concern) is dealt with by John Jordan, who finds that although Nato has the lead in numbers at sea this ignores the modernity of the Soviet fleet and its greater building rate. In the air, Douglas Richardson reports a tactical balance which Nato commanders fear may have disappeared by the end of the 1980s.

Salamander, 27 Old Gloucester St, London WC1N 3AF — £8.95 RLE

MacArthur: S L Mayer



By the end of World War One, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur had proved himself to be a brilliant strategist and a great leader. But World War Two saw him reach the very pinnacle of military fame. Hostilities over, he embarked on what might well be regarded as the most illustrious chapter of his career: his role in the reconstruction of war-shattered Japan.

The life story of MacArthur, from boyhood to his death at the age of 84, is portrayed in this penetrating biography. Son of a distinguished soldier, General Arthur MacArthur, Douglas had from his formative years much to live up to and this boyhood ideal of his father never left him. Without doubt one of the great military leaders of the century, MacArthur's career is aptly summed up by the inscription on the gold medal presented to him by Congress. It read 'Protector of Australia; Liberator of the Philippines; Conqueror of Japan;

Defender of Korea'.

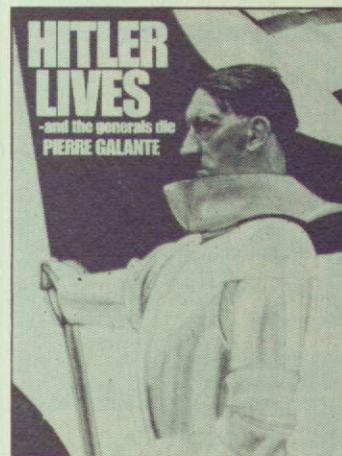
Liberally illustrated in black and white and in colour this is a biography which tells its story both graphically and in prose to give a nicely balanced work of historic significance.

Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex — £5.95 JFPJ

"He came to power quite legally," Heusinger replied. "If I asked you to get rid of President Truman, would you do it?"

That word "legally" may not say it all, but it says a good deal. *Sidgwick and Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG — £8.95 RLE*

Hitler Lives — and the Generals Die: Pierre Galante



"Abandon hope all ye who would treat with generals", said a civilian member of the conspiracy to get rid of Hitler. That was in 1938, when General Walther von Brauchitsch, commander-in-chief of the Army, having led the plotters on, denounced them to the Führer.

There were a good many generals, and marshals too, whose opposition to Hitler tended to wax and wane. The waning, in the author's words, was because the generals were "glutted with stipends and decorations".

Of course there was a lot more to it than that, which is why this, the umpteenth book on Hitler and his generals, is unlikely to be anywhere near the last. A major factor was the personal influence that the charismatic dictator was able to exert over his senior officers, even though he belittled them, blamed them unfairly and preferred his intuitions to their staff appreciations. Even when they knew he had lost the war and was sacrificing their soldiers on doomed operations, they stayed under his spell. That relationship is likely to be still of interest to writers when Hitler is as remote as Alexander the Great is today.

Mr Galante's book owes much to General Adolf Heusinger, who was chief of operations in Army headquarters. He was blown up with Hitler when the bomb went off in the Wolf's Lair, the only man present who knew the bomb was coming (but not the exact date).

General Heusinger knew a lot about Hitler's powers of persuasion. They met six or seven hundred times at daily conferences and "time and time again after I left the room I would allow myself an hour of relaxation and repose to clear my mind, to forget every word he had said, and only then could I arrive at a rational and realistic decision."

A few years after the war, General Eisenhower asked Heusinger, "How is it that you never succeeded in getting rid of Hitler?"

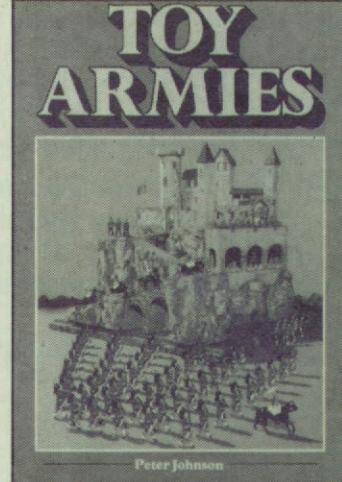
Toy Armies: Peter Johnson

Toy soldiers have long been the delight of small boys and, for that matter, of adult connoisseurs. This book tells the fascinating story of these miniaturised fighting men, their weapons and their equipment. Though based on the Forbes Museum of Military Miniatures in Tangier with its 70,000 members of the biggest little army in the world embracing practically every type of commercial toy soldier ever made, it is also an account of a world-wide hobby.

Divided into four parts, the first deals with the 18th and 19th century dominance of Germany and France in the realm of toy armies.

Next, the remarkable success of the British firm founded by William Britain — whose genius was responsible for the successful development of the hollow-cast lead soldier which took world markets by storm — is examined in some detail. Apart from the usual regimental sets this was a time when toy soldiers were based on international events and wars. A third section critically tackles the manufacture of toy soldiers and describes some notable dioramas and displays. Finally, there is a chapter on the Forbes collection, tips on conservation and other points of interest.

The model armies of yesteryear are now prized antiques. For example,



when, in 1977, Douglas Fairbanks Junior sold his collection of 3000 lead toy soldiers which he started as a 12-year-old, it was auctioned for just over £9000. His band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, which he bought as a young man in his twenties, fetched no less than £800 — an appreciation of 320,000 per cent!

Informative and instructive, this lavishly illustrated book has much to offer the collector and modeller, while after browsing through it the general reader might even be tempted to join the ranks of the toy soldier enthusiast.

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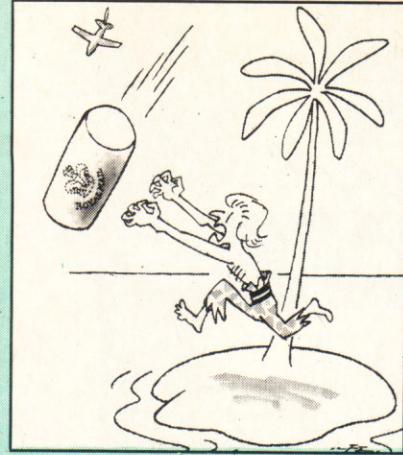
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someone for this.

It would seem that the cavalry have met the 07.00 at Waterloo at last. We are spurred into taking action by resisting this transfer of the RAC units into the Secret Service to presumably join 007. We have been stirred rather than shaken and hope you will draw someone's attention to this or this to someone's attention.

'Tanks, 'tanks and 'tanks again. — **Major Blunder and Major Disaster** (H W & C P Adams, Hannover, BFPO 33.)

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SMART SOLDIER

Mr Hillaby's remarks about Sgt Bathgate (22 March) are typical of today's thinking. Never mind the overall appearance of this extremely smart soldier, let's look for all the faults we can find. I'll give way to the angle of the feet but I wonder if Mr Hillaby's feet were always at the correct angle whenever he halted (I doubt it).

The Jocks, as were the Micks, are famous in the old Brigade of Guards for their 'patter' ie the cap at a rakish angle with a good 'set up' — a thing RSM Brittain detested. I know that RSM Brittain is a bit of history with the Coldstreamers but I can assure you that every RSM in the Brigade was and still is equally as good as Tibby. So come off it Mr Hillaby, put away your magnifying glass and admit that Sgt Keith Bathgate is as smart as any Coldstreamer will ever be. — **C W Rawlinson, 60 Harpenden Road, West Norwood, London SE27.**

£5 on its way to you, Mr Rawlinson, for your moderation and for highlighting the modern malaise of fault-finding. We still reckon ours is the smartest army in the world. — *Ed.*

Mr Hillaby mentions that Sgt Bathgate's cap peak should be one finger's distance from his nose.

Whilst I was a young Scots Guardsman in training at the Guards Depot, Caterham in 1935 we were instructed that the peak of the cap should be two closed fingers from the nose. This was at the time when it was an offence to interfere with the shape of the peak.

The Regimental Sergeant Major at the time was none other than RSM Ronald Brittain, who certainly would not have interfered with any regimental tradition. — **G J V Williams, 16 Lynford Avenue, Winchester, Hants, SO22 6BN.**

FOOLISH STIR

Your Article 'Cavalry Get The Point' (22 March) has given us the needle. Lord Cardigan would have charged

Gay MSM, 63 The Hill Avenue, Bath Road, Worcester.

ning activities, I believe readers may be interested in the Berlin Marathon 1982.

This event, claimed by its organisers as the biggest marathon in West Germany is set for Sunday 26th September 1982. The race is open to all — from joggers to serious runners and international athletes. The organisers, Sport Club Charlottenburg, are very keen to attract more British runners, especially servicemen and women and dependants, of all ability levels to run in the Berlin Marathon.

Anyone interested should contact: Sports Club Charlottenburg e.V., Waldschulallee 34/42, PO Box 191866, D-1000 Berlin 19, for details and entry forms.

British service runners in the UK will know that travel to Berlin is a personal responsibility and it is wise to make plans early and to confirm travel and accommodation bookings without delay. — **Major I E Kerr, 229 Sig Sqn (Berlin), BFPO 45.**

PENN CLUB

Your readers might be interested to know that there is a British Officers Club in Philadelphia — founded in 1919! Our club has nearly two hundred members, including American Officers who served in an 'Allied Role'.

We celebrate Commonwealth Day, and Remembrance Day at formal dinners, meeting at the Valley Forge Military Academy; The Queen's Birthday, Battle of Britain and Trafalgar Day are also celebrated. Our two main charities are the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond and the Seamen's Institute in Philadelphia.

The local British Consulate was closed down two years ago for economy reasons. It was the oldest British Consulate in America — set up in 1792 — and local Brits and American friends feel its loss very much. The savings made can in no way compensate for the lost British prestige. Our club has tried to keep the 'flag flying' by publicising the British cause, by helping Brits in distress, and by welcoming our friends from overseas. Should any of your readers need help when visiting the USA, please call and we will do our best. Any British officers, retired or active, and their wives who would like to attend our various functions are most welcome. — **Major Peter G Stone, (President) British Officers Club of Philadelphia, 36 Park Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Penna 19010, USA.**

PEN CLUB?

I have just read the latest issue of SOLDIER and was interested to read the letter sub-titled 'Friendly Girls' (8 March). My friends and I would be pleased to write to any soldier who is interested. All letters will be answered. — **Pte Nanci Thorne, WRAC Det, 12 RSME Regt, Chatsworth Bks, Rochester, Kent.**

Tpr Berry — get your pen and paper out now! — Ed

SILVER BADGE

Mr Crowley suggests the 'Services Rendered' silver badge be changed to a more suitable award and attached to a distinctive ribbon (8 March).

Should this eventually be considered, an appropriate ribbon could be of khaki bordered by light and dark blue to represent the three main services. The badge resembles a coin, its design uninteresting, and indistinct. No name or number is stamped on badge.

First World War 'Services Rendered' badges were stamped with the owner's service number and were of a more distinctive design. They were worn on the right coat lapel. Those issued for the Second World War and afterwards are correctly worn on left coat lapel.

Relatives of deceased soldiers of WW2 'Services Rendered' badges had been requested to return them to the Ministry. This is not now the procedure.

No medal was issued with the First World War 'Services Rendered' silver badge unless the recipient had served overseas on active service. — **R Rimmer, 27 St George's, Chester, CH1 3HG.**

SAPPER FAN

I recently took part in a familiarisation visit to the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatterton. Although I was the only girl in a group of eighteen this did not stop me from enjoying myself. When I returned home, not only did I know about the life and work of the Royal Engineers, but I had also learnt how to play bar-billiards and snooker!

I'd like to say Hi! to all who were on the visit from 1-3 March and thanks for a great time! — **Sarah England, 12 Fairlawn Drive, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9PE.**

VIDEO AIDS

I know that video machines are used with great success in the training of soldiers before commencing a tour in Northern Ireland. By using a video a soldier can spot his mistakes during training and rectify them. I wonder that regiments and training depots are not issued with them as standard kit. Another use for these machines would be for sports practice — a battalion team would benefit greatly from seeing their 'action replays' and learning from them.

I hope regiments and training depots catch on to this idea and can perhaps persuade their PRIs to put up the funds. — **Lance Corporal John Carpenter, A Coy, 1 DERR, BFPO 36.**

MARATHON

In view of the growing Army interest in marathons and other distance run-

CAN YOU HELP?

During a visit to Belgium last year I was able to visit the grave of a wartime comrade (Sgt Larry Orchard) who served with me in the 11th Hussars and who was KIA in September 1944 and buried in the communal cemetery in Olsene.

The outcome of this visit is that I have received several letters and photographs from two people who live in Olsene who want to find out anything they can connected with the liberation of their village. The photographs were all taken in 1944 and show armoured cars both moving and stationary and also pictures of Sgt Orchard's funeral (the latter they would like Sgt Orchard's family to have.) I have tried, unsuccessfully, to trace any living relatives of Sgt Orchard who came from London.

I would also like to get in touch with a Trooper Stonier who appears on several of the photos and of course anyone else who was in Olsene in September 1944. — Len Perry, 63 Dales Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 4JE.

The Royal Tank Regiment Association, Bristol, Bath and District Branch are still trying to locate old comrades who served in the Middle East, Italy and NW Europe before, during and after World War II. Any response please contact Colin Weeks, 4 Coronation Road, Bawdsey, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, BS24 6AZ.

I would very much like to get in touch with my old friend William Crotty of Clonmel, Co Tipperary, with whom I served in pre-war Palestine and in the Siege of Malta with the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Does anyone know of his whereabouts? — Ex RSM John Kelly, MBE DCM BA, 204 Foundling Court, London WC1 or phone 01-837 6696.

Can anyone please provide me with information, either from first hand experience or otherwise, concerning the two composite Royal Artillery Mounted Rifle Regiments formed from within the 1st Corps (Aldershot Command) for service in Ireland, in the very early 1920s. I would like to know how these were organised, their signal and transport arrangements etc, where they specifically served and when disbanded.

Turning to other matters, an acquaintance tells me that the battery (T Bty, 12th Anti-Tank Regiment RA) he served with, in the late 1940s, bore the title Shah Shuja. Can this be the Shah Shuja whom the Government of India tried to install as the puppet ruler of Afghanistan, in the 1830s, and if so, is anyone able to enlighten me as to how his name became linked with a British battery? — R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

Can anyone help me contact the old comrades association of the Reconnaissance Corps (formed in Jan 1941 and disbanded in 1946). I am particularly keen to find former members of 5 Reconnaissance Regt. — Major D H Payne MBE (Retd), The Junior Soldiers' Bn, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6PF.

Collectors' Corner

R A Shaw, 287 Gristhorpe Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 7SN. Seeks 'Staybrite' cap badges and tunic buttons in good condition; SAS button; 17/21st Lancers button; Jewish Chaplain's cap badge and button; Provost Corps button; Gurkhas, 2nd KE 7 Rifles button; Staff Band button; Hon Artillery (Infantry) button; Royal Warwickshire regt cap badge; Guards Depot button. Will purchase or has some for exchange; send prices etc.

M J Miles, 38 Sarel Way, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8EW. Has for sale French Foreign Legion, French Colonial and Para badges. Send SAE for list.

D A Young, 105 Perrycroft, Windsor, Berks, SL4 4HB. Seeks cap badges, cloth badges of the 7 Gurkha Regt, also German, Australian, and USA, Jamaican and French, reasonable prices offered.

Karl-Heinz Marquardt, Agnes-Straub-Web 14, D-1000, Berlin 47, W Germany. Collects Glengarries. Will pay reasonable prices, or has some swaps.

G J Wolmarans, 248 Oak Avenue, Ferndale, Randburg 2194, South Africa. Has got South African badges, para wings, pilot wings, uniform to trade for British Army DPM clothing. Current issue jacket, pants. Tropical issue shirt, trousers, current issue Parachute smock, also any para badges, special forces items. Any camouflage.

N S Major, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex. Has about 220 Australian and New Zealand cap badges from 1900 to 1970. All genuine ex-collection. Exchange for British Regimental Histories or will sell singly. Write for list.

M A Finnern, WKC 129, Harland House, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts, S80 3LN. Would like WWII khaki revolver lanyard. SAEs answered.

Mainardi Giancarlo, via Liguri 19, 27100 Pavia, Italy. Seeks for new collection, parade sticks incorporating regimental badges. Please send tin-foil drawing.

Reginaldo Andre Sills, 10 Cordery Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon, EX2 9DH. Has French Foreign Legion and French Army Insignia, also various equipment. Send SAE for lists.

Dave Jones, 39 Wheatfield Drive, Shifnal, Salop, TF11 8HU. Requires medals of 7th Light Dragoons, 7th Hussars, QOH. Also Victorian Army long service and good conduct medals.

W H Stanton, 18 Witham Way, King's Heath, Northampton. Would like to contact anyone in possession of a record with the Northamptonshire Regimental March on it, before they amalgamated with the Royal Anglian Regt, with a view to selling same or taping for him and the regimental museum.

Flt Lt R Robertshaw, c/o Officers Mess, RAF Wittering, Peterborough. Seeks Japanese swords. Please send brief description of the sword (photo if possible) together with asking price.

Mr B Brierley, c/o 65 Park Road, St Annes-on-Sea, Lytham, Lancs. Wants an Army 'bush hat' like those worn in Burma, similar to the Gurkha or Australia's hat but with not such a wide brim. Size 6 1/2.

G A Baldwin, 221 Leyton Road, Orpington, Kent. Wishes to purchase any medals including WWI and WWII

back to Victorian campaign medals and any genuine badges (including anodised.)

Charles Ang, 324 Tabuan Jaya, Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia. Seeks pairs of the following badges: SAS; Green Beret (commando); any other British Army badges (pairs). All preferably cloth type. Will pay reasonable price.

G Stevens, 3 Stonebridge Way, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7RX. Wishes to buy or swap naval cap ribbons of any nationality. Also has large stock of Canadian navy ribbons to sell or swap. Also interested in buying Army cap badges and bayonets, especially ceremonial SLR bayonet (chrome plated).

Arthur H Silvester, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW. Has for sale the following: Printed matter of WWII including ration books, ARP, gas etc; several books on medals, near mint; collection of 38 British campaign medals including v/v worn Trafalgar, others near mint. Offers over £400. Lists on all, SAEs please. Seeks militaria.

Reunion

The Light Infantry Regimental Association annual reunion will be held at Sir John Moore Barracks, Shrewsbury, on Saturday 24 July 1982 at 3pm. Details from: Light Infantry Offices Cornwall, Durham, Shropshire, Somerset and Yorkshire.

Pen Pals

My name is Linda. I am 30 years old and have two daughters. I would like to write to someone between the ages of 30 to 40. If you are interested and would like to know more about me, do write. — Mrs L Mortimer, 325 Hameln 1, Heinestrasse 21, W Germany.

My name is Celia and I am 18 years old, 5ft 5ins tall, with short dark hair and brown eyes. I like music, records, discos, tennis, swimming, travelling, walking, (Liverpool) football matches. — C A Hargreaves, 13 Spring Road, Letchworth, Herts, SS6 3SQ.

I am 17 years old and my name is Sarah. I am an apprentice hairdresser. My hobbies include sports, discos and meeting people. Please enclose a photo if possible. — Sarah Smith, 19 Hobart House, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham, Glos.

My name is Emy and I am 27 years old with black hair and brown eyes. I used to be a teacher but now work in commerce. I would like to write to someone aged 25-30 years old. All letters answered. — Emy Cayaban, The Mayor's Office, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines 1506.

My name is Trudy and I am 17 years old, 5ft 6ins with blue green eyes. I love animals, sport, music and racing cars. — Trudy Hammond, 18 Ashurst Drive, Shepperton, Middx, TW17 0SL.

My name is Karen and I am 16 years old, 5ft 6ins with brown hair and blue eyes. I like 50s and 60s music, especially Elvis. I would like to hear from anyone between the ages of 17-20. — Karen Anderson, 71 Carteret Way, Deptford Wharf, Grove St, London, SE8 3QB.

My name is Janice and I am 20 years old. My interests are cooking, listening

to pop music; my favourite singers are Billy Joel and Cliff Richard. I like to play golf and watch rugby. I would like a penfriend aged about 20 or 21 years old. — Janice Lay, 103 Bywell Road, Dewsbury, W Yorks, WF12 7LJ.

My friend and I both understand how lonely it can be living away from home and not having anyone to write to. We are both 19 and would like to write to soldiers of 19-25. — Lorraine Hempsall and Helen Palmer, New College Durham, Nevilles Cross, Darlington Road, Durham, DH1 4SY.

Competition

There was a good response to Competition No 287, 'A Time for Planting' with a higher number of entries than usual. Clearly all those logical and mathematical brains were tickled by this one. Most of you who entered got the correct answers but for those of you who didn't or who gave up, here they are: A-88; B-33; C-44; D-99; E-22; F-77; G-66; H-11; K-55. Prizewinners were: 1st Mrs S Munro, 136 Raedwald Drive, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7DG. 2nd Q/Pte Sally Mitchell, Clark Hall, Staff Residence, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. 3rd Andrew Blake, 3H Arlington House, All Saints Avenue, Margate, Kent CT 9 1XP. 4th V Heath, 15 Ashgrove Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 1NS. 5th Mr P Lomax, 5 Glebe Road, Montgomery Estate, Colchester, Essex.

How Observant Are You? (see page 15)

1 Left hind leg of dog; 2 Leaves of tree; 3 Left forefinger of vaulting servant; 4 Spine-notch nearest dragon's tail; 5 Moustache of trophy head right of fireplace; 6 Cork in bottle; 7 Nearest claw of dragon's right foreleg; 8 Guttering wax of candle; 9 Right knee of seated knight; 10 Top of sword.

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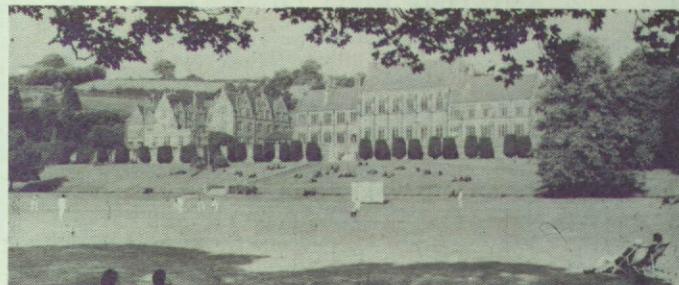
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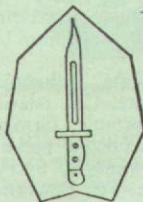
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The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and application forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

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PEN PALS WANTED



I am 37 years old and would like an Army penpal as I cannot get out a lot owing to a heart complaint, and get a lot of pleasure from writing. — *Miss A Jackson, 78 Norman Crescent, Sunnyfields, Doncaster, S Yorkshire, DN5 8RS.*

My name is Ann Cook and my friend's name is Donna Bull. We are both 16 years old and enjoy listening to all kinds of music, going places and walking. — *Ann Cook, 207a Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, Essex.*

My name is Lorraine and I am 15 years old. I am dark haired and slim and I enjoy a good laugh and going out. — *Lorraine Quinn, 58 Chaplin Road, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex.*

My name is Linda and I am 28 years old, divorced. I am 5ft 5ins with dark hair and green eyes, 35-24-36, and I'm told I'm very attractive. I would like to write to someone in a similar situation, divorced, separated etc, even younger perhaps, to cheer each other up. — *Linda Fawley, 11 Rydal Avenue, Netherthorpe, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 7NH.*

My name is Phillip and I am 27 years old. I am 5ft 11ins tall with fair hair and slim built. My interests are Elvis Presley music, DIY and cars. I have my own home and car and am a miner at the local colliery. I would like to write to a female stationed in Britain or overseas as I am ex-Army myself. — *Mr Philip Webb, 9 Edinburgh Walk, Worksop, Notts.*

My name is Mary and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 4ins with dark brown hair and I would like to make new friends, if possible in the 4th Field Regiment, Aldershot. Photos please. — *Mary Chapman, 81 Furnival St, Worksop, Notts.*

My name is Pearl and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 6ins with black hair and slim. I like playing pop records and gardening. I would like to write to someone about 40-45 years old. Photos please. — *Pearl Morris, 8 Edinburgh Walk, Worksop, Notts.*

My name is Sylvia and I am 36 years old. I enjoy music, reading and theatre, and would be very interested to write to any soldier at home or abroad. — *Sylvia Allcock, 40 Home Farm Road, Fremington, N Devon, EX31 3DZ.*

Are there any WRAC females who would like to write to a lonely guy aged 20? I am ex-Regular Army and am now a member of the TA in Aldershot. I would like a female penpal in the Forces. — *Eddie MacNamara, 60 Ashdown Ave, Farnborough, Hants.*

My name is Sheila and I am 33 years old, divorced with one son. My interests include cooking, music, sport and homelife. I would like to write to a soldier aged 25+ for friendship. Photos appreciated but not necessary. — *Sheila Franké, 15 Rockbourne Close, Bedhampton, Havant, Hants, PO9 4BE.*

My name is Joanne and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall and like most music, particularly The Moody Blues. — *Miss Joanne Lees, c/o Mrs J Henderson, 71 Kitwell House, Trippleton Avenue, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B37 8JL.*

I am a single fella called Chris who is 29 years old and 6ft tall. I am a civil servant for the MOD. My hobby is horse-riding, and my interests include reading, all kinds of music, computers, going to horse shows, law and medicine. I would like a friend with similar interests, especially horses, in the QARANC or WRAC. Photos appreciated. All letters answered. — *Mr C D Walters, Plot 4, The Orchard, Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hants.*

THE ADVANTAGES OF LIVING NEAR ALDERSHOT

Believe it or not, just a few stops further down a BR line affects prices. Because Aldershot is just outside the main London commuting belt property prices tend to be slightly cheaper. Usually, service personnel are at a great advantage when purchasing in the area. This is because both husband and wife are working locally while the 'civilian' house-hunters are more resigned to commuting to jobs outside the area and trying to reconcile the cost of a mortgage with add-on transport costs.

First time buyers will have little problem in finding three-bedroomed terrace property in Aldershot for around £23,000. Similar property in nearby Farnborough will cost at least another £1,000 more and in Surrey commuter havens like Camberley and Blackwater there is slender hope of buying a modern terrace under £25,500.

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Pearsons, 119 Victoria Road, Aldershot (0252-22217)

Carson & Co., 31 Plough Road, Yateley (0252-878220)

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

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**, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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See-the-Army DIARY

We are featuring a full page of the diary in this issue so that you can see at a glance all the events scheduled from now until the Lord Mayor's Show in November. We suggest you keep it handy as shortage of space may prevent us publishing it again in full, although we shall be up-dating sections of it from time to time. We hope that organisers will keep us informed of any changes to these published details. But we advise readers to check locally before setting out to 'See the Army'.

MAY 1982

- 1 Herts County Scouts Camp, Knebworth Park (Silver Stars RCT) (1-3 May).
- 2 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (1 QLR Band).
- 7 Newark and Notts Show (King's Tp RHA) (7-8 May).
- 14 Royal Windsor Horse Show (King's Tp RHA) (14-16 May).
- 15 Long Eaton Carnival, Derbyshire (White Helmets) (15-16 May).
- 19 West Midlands Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (LI Depot, Arena Party, Flying Bugles) (19-20 May).
- 18 Chelsea Flower Show (Gren Gds Band) (18-21 May).
- 20 Devon County Show (Irish Gds Band) (20-22 May).
- 23 Brentwood Tattoo, Essex (3 R Anglian Band).
- 23 Harpenden Carnival, Herts (White Helmets).
- 23 Bedford River Carnival (1 R Anglian and Junior Regt Bands, R Signals Display Team) (23-30 May).
- 26 Beating Retreat Rehearsals (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division) (26, 27 and 31 May).
- 29 Congleton Carnival & Tattoo (Red Devils; Red Caps; Junior Leaders RA; Blue Arrows; RN Display Team; Queen's Colour Sqn RAF; RAF Police Dogs) (29-31 May).
- 29 Abbey Park Centenary, Leicester (3 R Anglian Band) (29-30 May).
- 29 1st rehearsal The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums Household Division).
- 29 National Leisure Festival, Loughborough. (Kings Tp RHA) (29-31 May).

JUNE 1982

- 1 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division) (1-3 June).
- 2 Suffolk Show (Royal Anglian Regiment) (2-3 June.)
- 5 Bury Services Tattoo (RA Woolwich, 1 Green Howards, 1 DWR, 1 Cheshire, Red Caps, Red Devils, RAF Flying Display, RAF Police Dogs) (5-6 June).
- 5 2nd Rehearsal The Queen's Birthday Parade.
- 6 ABF Spectacular, Molineux Park (POW Div Depot (Lichfield) Band.)
- 6 Nottingham Festival (Coldstrm Gds Band) (6-11 June).
- 10 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (LI Depot, Arena, Flying Bugles) (10-12 June).
- 10 South of England Show (1 Queen's) (10-12 June).
- 12 Cambridge Tattoo (Royal Anglian bands and Jnr Musns Queens Div.)
- 12 Nottingham Festival Water Spectacular (1 WFR Band; White Helmets) (12-13 June).
- 12 The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).
- 13 Duxford Air Display, Cambs (1 R Anglian Band).
- 17 Northampton Carnival (2 R Anglian Band).
- 18 Essex Show (1 R Anglian band; White Helmets, Red Devils) (18-19 June).
- 18 LI Regimental Retreat, Tidworth (2 & 3 LI Bands, LI Depot Band; Flying Bugles).
- 19 Ashford Extravaganza (19-20 June).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display 1982 (Massed Bands; White Helmets; Red Devils; Junior Leaders RA, RE, RCT; Princess Marina College; ASPT; King's Tp RHA; RMP; PCS; RAVC; Silver Stars; Flying Bugles) (23-27 June).
- 26 Gren Gds Association (Cambs) Golden Jubilee, Longstowe Park, Royston, Herts (Gren Gds band; Guards Freefall).
- 28 Airborne Forces Day (1 Para Band; displays) (28 Jun-5 July).
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show (RHG/D Mtd Band; H Cav Quadrille) (30 June-1 July).

JULY 1982

- 3 Army Open Day, Simpson Bks, Northampton (Coldm Gds, Junior Mus POW Div bands; Flying Bugles, RA MC JLR RE).
- 4 Royal Signals at Home, Catterick. Signals Band; White Helmets, JRRS Display team).

- 5 HM The Queen's Official Visit to Scotland 1982 (1 Gordons and 1 Para bands) (5-12 July).
- 7 Larkhill Massed Bands (RA Woolwich, RA Mounted, Band of Junior Leaders Regt RA, Band of Junior Musicians RA, R Signals Bands).
- 7 Army Exhibition for Schools and Queens Div Open Day, Basingbourne, Cambs (Red Devils, White Helmets, Anglian and Queens Div bands) (7-10 July).
- 12 HM The Queen's Official Birthday Joint Services Beating Retreat.
- 12 Great Yorkshire Show (Massed bands, White Helmets) (12-16 July).
- 12 Basingstoke Carnival (POW Div band, Red Devils) (13-17 July).
- 14 The Royal Tournament (Massed bands; RN Fd Gun, RM Display, The King's Tp, RAF Police Dogs, Household Cavalry Display; Display by Rutgers Univ New Jersey, RAF Motor Cycle race) (14-31 July).
- 15 Kent City Show (15-17 July).
- 18 Royal International Horse Show, Wembley (RHG/D band) (18-24 July).
- 19 Royal Welsh Show (Junior gymnasts, RM helicopter display and bands) (19-22 July).
- 21 East of England Show, Peterborough (LI Depot bands; White Helmets, RGJ freefall) (21-22 July).
- 23 Northampton Borough Show (1 R Anglian band, RGJ Freefall, Queens Div) (23-25 Jul.)
- 23 Middle Wallop Army Air Display (JLRR PT display team) (23-25 July).
- 23 Musical Extravaganza, Inglis Bks (RE Band).
- 23 Army Air Day (RA Mounted, 3 Para and Junior Leaders bands; RA M/C Junior, RA gymnastic) (23-25 July).
- 29 St Helens Show Tattoo (Irish Gds, 2 Royal Anglian, 2 LI, 1 QLR; RA M/C DT, Red Devils, Junior Leaders RA, RN Display team, RAF flying display) (29-31 July).

AUGUST 1982

- 1 Imperial War Museum Military Show Duxford, Cambs (Red Devils.)
- 4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (Massed Bands; RAF Flypast and Falcons, RPC MHE display, Redcaps, White Helmets) (4-7 August).
- 7 Newport Spectacular (RA Mounted, RA Woolwich, 3 RRW, R MON RE(M), 157 Regt RCT bands; RA MC, freefall and junior PT, AA College Chepstow PT, RM helicopter display) (7-8 August).
- 11 Luton Musical Pageant (4/7 DG band).
- 13 Shrewsbury Flower Show (Coldm Gds and Welsh Guards Bands) (13-14 August).
- 14 Loughborough Tattoo, Leics (Queen's Div band; JRRS display) (14-15 August).
- 20 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Massed Bands; Highland Dancers, RAF Queen's Colour Sqn; HM Kongens Garde, Norway; Fanfara dei Bersaglieri, Italy) (20 Aug-11 Sep).
- 28 South Tyneside Military Tattoo (2 LI and 3 LI bands; Flying Bugles) (28-29 August).
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough, Cambs (28-30 Aug.).
- 30 St Albans Carnival, Herts (Red Devils).

SEPTEMBER 1982

- 11 Luton Musical Pageant (RHG/D Band, 1 R Anglian Band, 1 Queens Band, and RRF Bands).
- 24 British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association Golden Jubilee (1 Gordons Band).

NOVEMBER 1982

- 13 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (Coldstream Guards Band, Irish Guards Band, Welsh Guards Band and Combined Services).
- 13 Lord Mayor's Procession (Massed Bands; Household Cav Escort, Foot Guards Det, King's Tp RHA, Gurkhas Det, WRAC Det, HAC guns, HAC Det, 39 Sig Regt, 68 (ICCY) Sig Sqn, C Coy 5 RRF, C Coy 4 RGJ, 217 Gen Hosp, Int & Sec Gp, ULOTC, Queen's Regt, London Scot Det, London Irish Det, R Yeo, NE Sector ACF).
- 14 Remembrance Sunday (HAC Band CD, Gren Guards Band, Coldstream Guards Band, Irish Guards Band, Welsh Guards Band; HAC, 39 Sig Regt, C Coy 4 RGJ, 217 Gen Hosp, Int & Sec Gp, ULOTC, NE Sector ACF).



Trouble spots check Army Chess entry

Sergeant Neil Townson, like a lot of other soldiers, had his Easter week-end planned. As organiser of the Army chess championships he would be spending the four days hunched over a chess board doing battle with fellow enthusiasts.

But the Falkland Islands crisis stopped all that. Sergeant Townson just had time to look in at the first morning of the championships — then he was off to Ascension Island.

And it was not only the crisis which whittled down the entry — two competitors dropped out at the last minute because of measles! Nevertheless 26 chess players took part and the standard was reported as good.

There was an upset in the pecking order this year. Corporal Martin Cook, REME, champion for the last three years, had to be

content with the runner-up slot this time. He was beaten by Sergeant 'Jenks' Jenkinson, Royal Signals, who had tied for the lead in 1981.

Jenkinson also took the speed contest with Sergeant George Janos, of the RADC second. Best junior soldier was Apprentice Tradesman Palmer of Princess Marina College, Arborfield.



Battle of the generations. Major Tim De Buriatte and App/Sgt Charles Merriman.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOCCER

Major Campbell Graham, well known Scottish Army football enthusiast, is to be one of the two Council members of the Scottish FA to attend the World Cup in Spain.

★ ★ ★

NETBALL

The WRAC regained the cup in the Inter-Service Netball Championships at Portsmouth. Toughest opposition came from the WRAF when the Army team battled back from being eight goals down to take the lead in the last quarter and win 38-37. The WRNS team were no match for the WRAC and went down 59-33.

★ ★ ★

SHOOTING

Major Peter Martin, of the

Depot Prince of Wales's Division, Lichfield, notched up a perfect 400 score in the UKLF Inter-Unit Small Bore Target Rifle Championships. Eventual winners were Lisburn Garrison with Cambridge University OTC second.

★ ★ ★

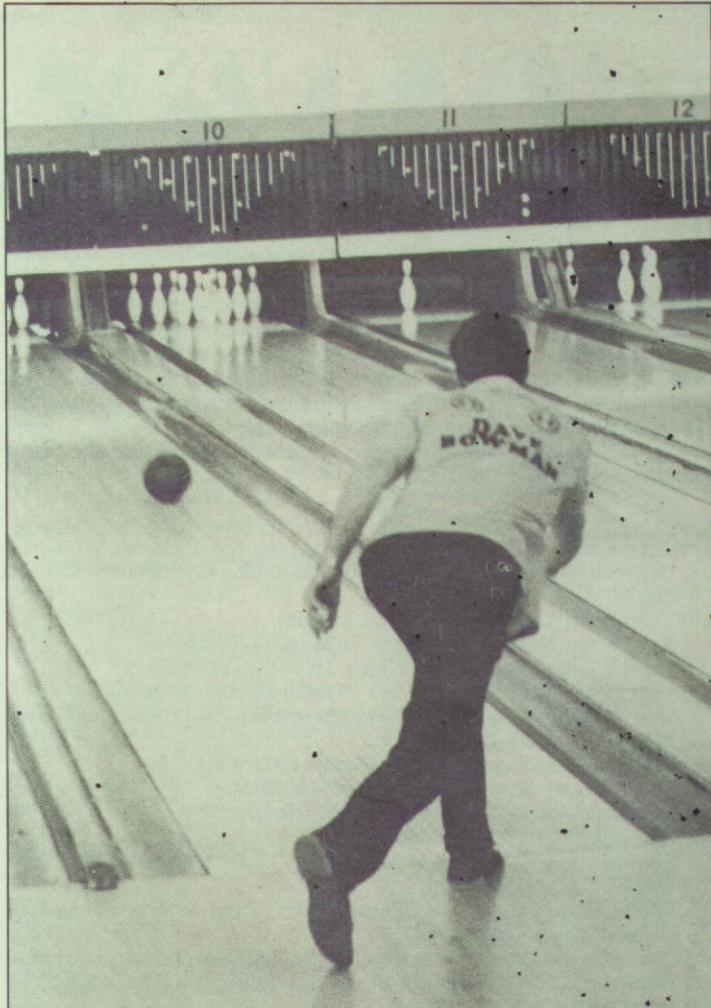
VOLLEYBALL

The Army Volleyball team won four of its seven matches in the 10th En-Tout-Cas Services Volleyball Tournament at Leicester. They finished fourth. Colour Sergeant Neale, the Army coach, was presented with a special English Volleyball Association award for his work for the competition over the past seven years.

★ ★ ★

ORIENTEERING

The major unit cup in the



TENPIN TRIUMPH

A record entry of 260 people took part in the annual Army Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Charrington Bowl, Tolworth. Spread over three days the tournament meant that the Army had the use of the entire Bowl for most of that time.

Top bowler of the week-end and Masters Champion for the third year running was Warrant Officer 2 Dave Steiner, REME. The winner of the singles knock-out championship was S/Sgt Al Morton from Tid-

worth, who beat WO 2 Dave Barrass, 3 RTR, in the final.

Doubles winners were two men who are shortly leaving the Army, WO 1 Mike Sheldon REME and Sgt John Hurley from HQ BAOR. In the team event the winners were 'The Strikers' — a team from different areas which included the new Army Tenpin Bowling Association secretary, Staff/Sgt Dave Bowman RAPC. Other members were Sgt Mal Jordan, Ted Curtis, Dave Best and Dave Lok.

Royal Engineers (BAOR) orienteering championships was retained by 25 Engineer Regiment. Individual winner was 2nd Lieut Wilkinson of 35 Engineer Regiment. The 40 Army Engineer Support Group team won the minor unit cup.

★ ★ ★

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Army beat the Territorial Army by 61 points to 75 in the annual cross-country match.

★ ★ ★

RUGBY

Beaten Army Rugby finalists, 21 Engineer Regiment, took the 1st Armoured Division Major Units Cup when they beat 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, by 20 points to eight in the final.

Skipper, Sergeant Bob Matthews (pictured) kept his team working and they deserved their win.



ATHLETICS

The Army Athletics Association has secured a major sponsorship from Pickfords Removals for the 1982 Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships.

SOCCER FINAL

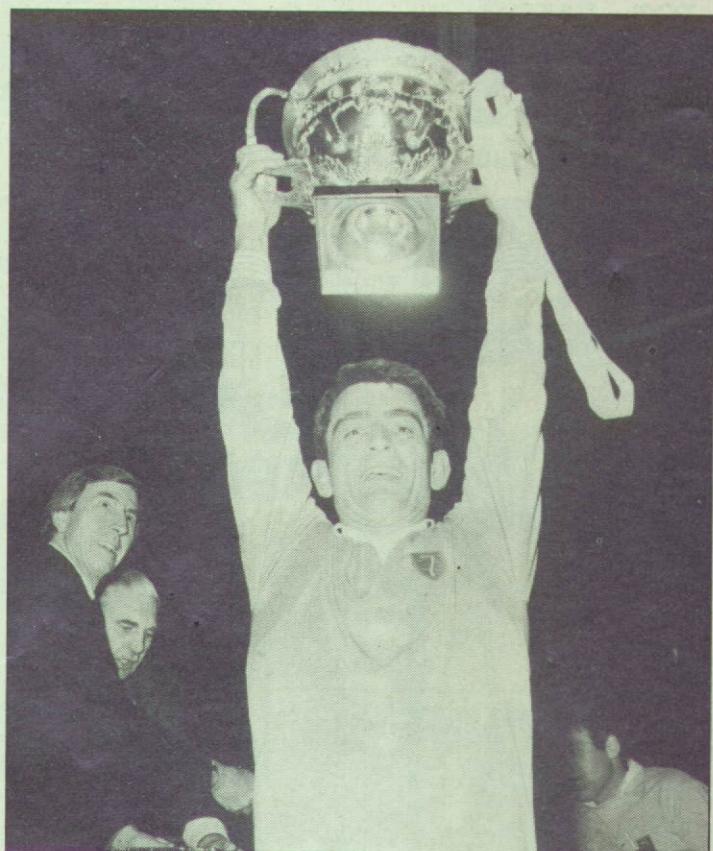
SIGNS SINK SEME

FIVE YEARS AFTER they last won the Army Challenge Cup by beating SEME Bordon, 28th (BR) Signal Regiment faced the same opponents in this year's final. And it was a game of great contrasts — the first half a dull and tense affair between two sides not prepared to lose and the second half end to end cup tie excitement. But the signalers finally triumphed by the only goal of the match.

The first few minutes were lively enough with SEME making all the running and 28 struggling to get used to the floodlighting. As early as the fifth minute Craftsman Phil White cleverly sent fellow Army cap, Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Butler through but goalkeeper, Sgt Roger Humphreys raced off his goal-line and deflected the ball away from the onrushing forward.

In the first attack by the Rhine Army visitors Lance-Corporal Norman Dunleavy blasted in a 30 yard shot, which was high and dipping and had SEME keeper, Lance-Corporal Steve Henry in trouble. Not the tallest of goalkeepers, young Henry somehow managed to fumble the ball on to the cross-bar and was on hand to collect when the rebound was headed goalwards by Corporal Phil Welham.

Just before the interval SEME had a goal disallowed. From a corner Humphreys appeared to mishandle and drop the ball for Staff/Sgt John Woodward to drive home, but the referee



Staff/Sgt Maurice Nelson holds the Cup aloft after receiving it from Ted Croker of the FA.

noticed an infringement on the goal-line. By this time both sides seemed to have accepted stalemate in midfield and elected to bypass it altogether.

After the interval there was end to end stuff with total com-

mitment and more than a few errors. It needed one ingredient to spike the mixture — a goal. A mistake by the Signals' back four almost cost them one when Butler lobbed over the advancing goalkeeper and watched his



The goal that wasn't. Phil White of SEME challenges the Signals goalie.

effort just go over. Then Lance-Corporal Andy Edwards, emerging as the player most likely to sink SEME, danced his way past four defenders before clipping a shot over the cross-bar.

The crowd got the goal it so desperately wanted in the 70th minute when a long clearance dropped in front of a rather square SEME defensive wall. A quick wall pass, Edwards to Welham and then back again, saw Edwards burst clear to steer a left foot shot wide of Henry. Just before the end he almost grabbed a second when he split the SEME defence and passed to Welham only for an unkind bounce with a yawning goal.

The Rhine Army champions never allowed SEME to settle and create chances for their twin Army strikers, White and Butler. Towards the end 28 Signal Regiment controlled the exchanges and kept a tight grip on the game.

Many
happy
rounds
of the
Day!

CORPORAL IAN GRAY of the Army Golf Club celebrated his birthday and the new season in fine style when he won the Selborne Salver at Blackmoor Golf Club. Ian emerged from a strong field of top English amateurs to tie for first place on 146 after two rounds with Mark Burridge (Wentworth), who he beat at the first hole of a sudden death play off.

The following day Ian's rounds of 74 and 73 in the Hampshire Hog put him four shots behind the leaders but he took the Hampshire Salver for the best total score for the two competitions.

Final off

The Falklands Islands crisis hit Army sport when the Army Rugby final for minor units between 9 Para Squadron RE and BAOR champions, 14 Topo Squadron RE had to be postponed indefinitely.



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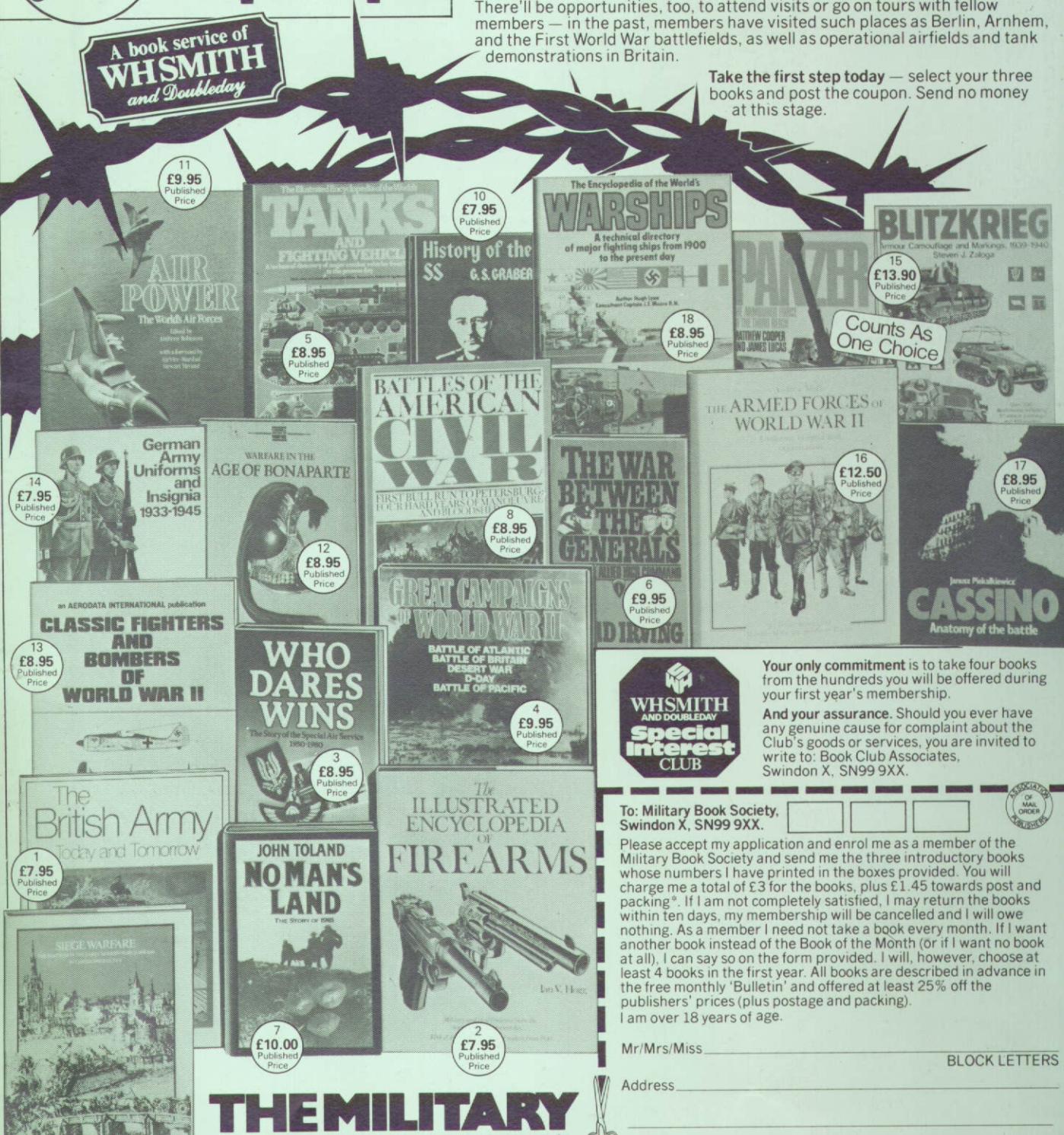
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