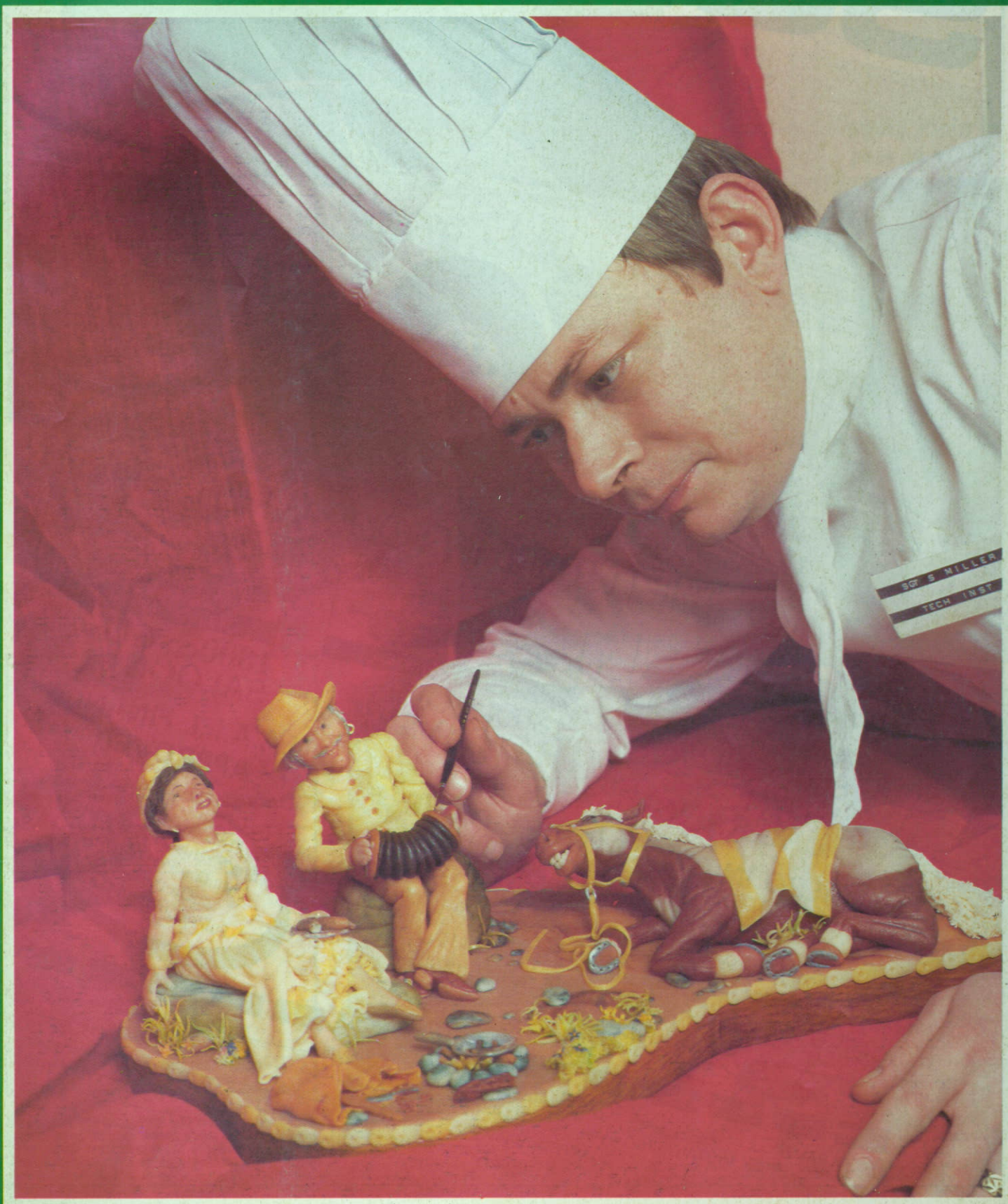
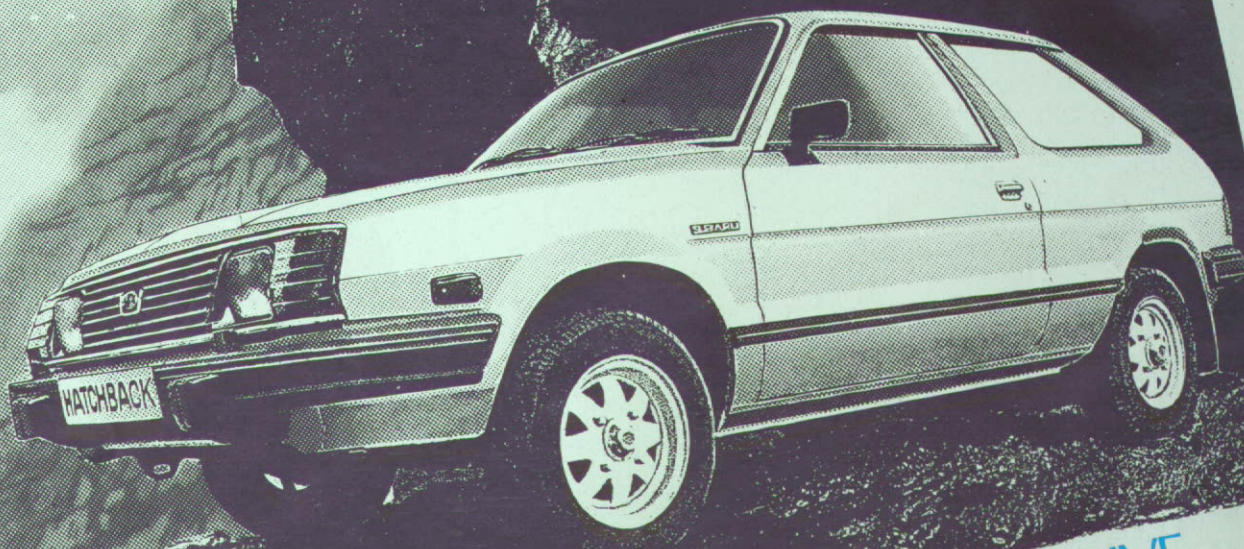


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FRONT COVER

Double gold medal winner Sergeant Steve Miller puts the finishing touches to one of his entries in this year's Hotelympia. See page 18.

BACK COVER

A Chieftain returning from a day on Salisbury Plain. For the story on managing the famous training area — see page 14.

Both cover pictures: DOUG PRATT

SOLDIER

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Golds galore for the cooks
— page 18 ▲

Keeping Salisbury Plain in trim — page 14 ▼



Patrolling in battered Beirut — page 26 ▼



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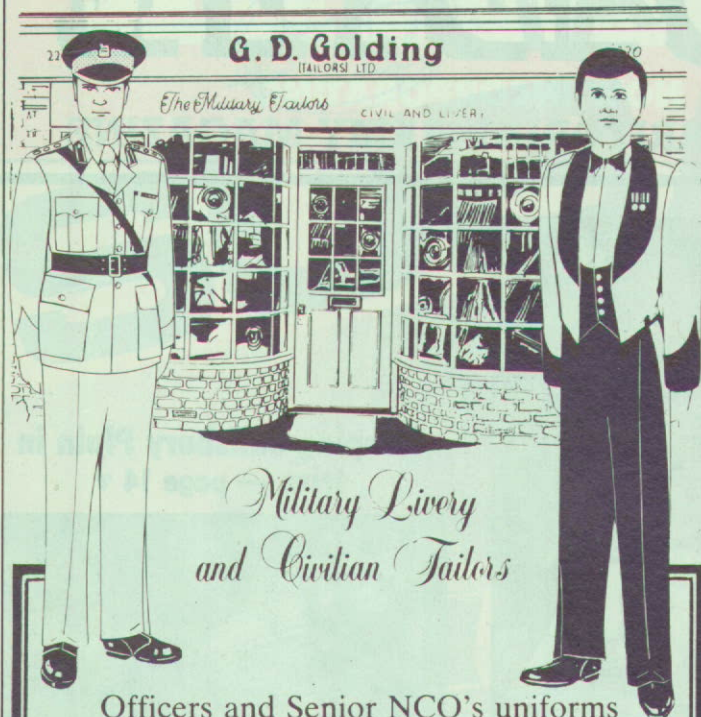
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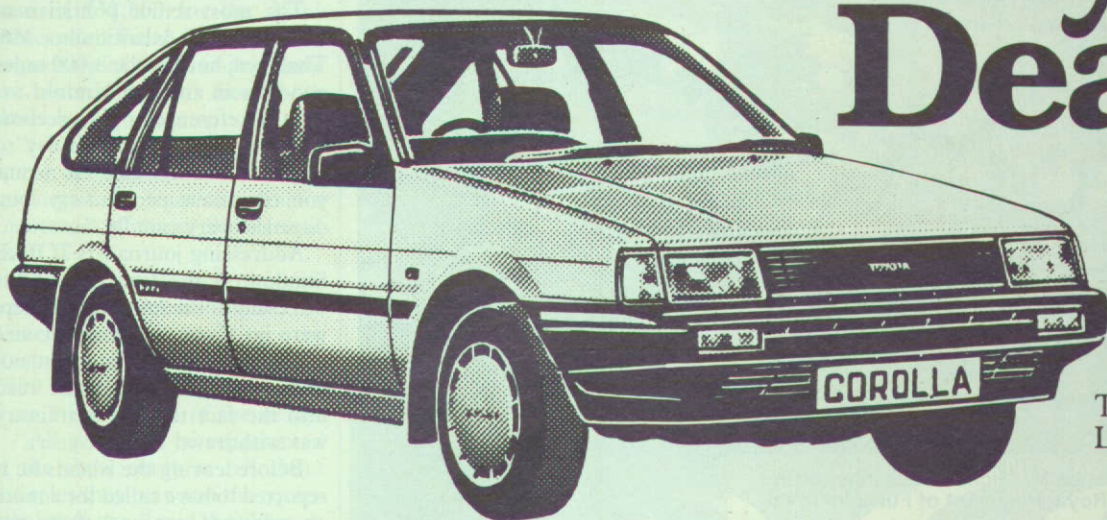
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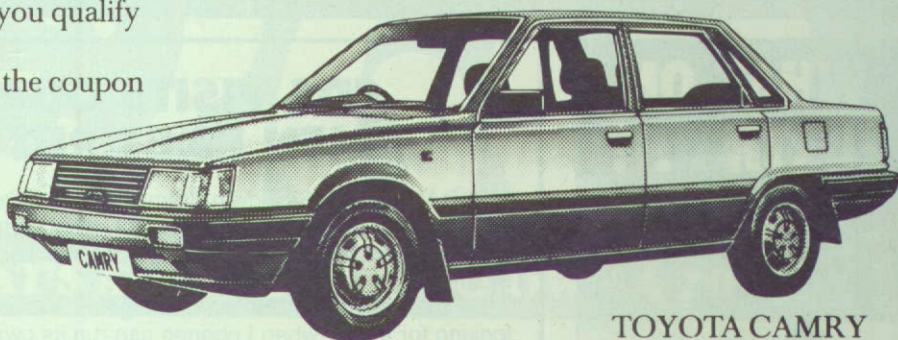


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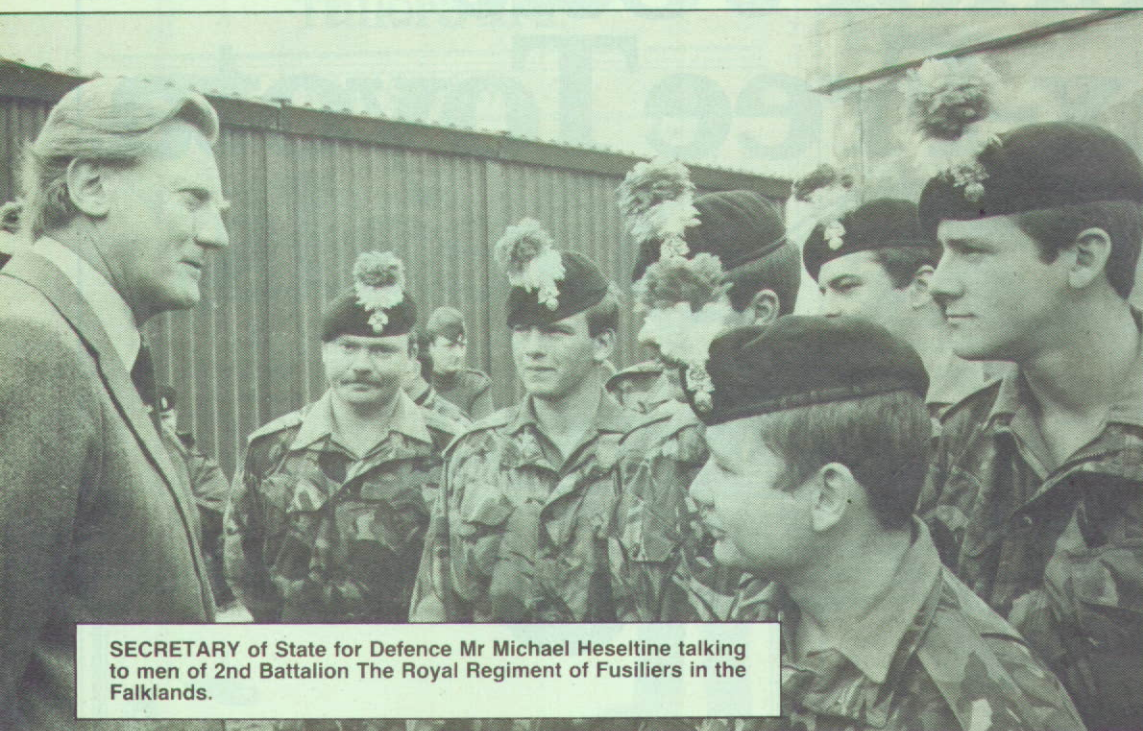
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Record breaking journey



SECRETARY of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine talking to men of 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Falklands.

Defence Secretary Mr Michael Heseltine's return flight from his three-day trip to the Falklands was made in a record time of 17¼ hours beating the previous record by an hour.

The most senior politician to visit the South Atlantic since Mrs Thatcher, he flew the 8,000 miles non-stop in an RAF Nimrod.

In a reference to the record-breaking flight from Stanley to Brize Norton he said: "It means you can move people very long distances very rapidly."

Addressing journalists at RAF Stanley on the first day of his three-day tour, he stressed there were no plans to reduce the size of the garrison, adding that nothing significant should be read into the fact that some infantry was withdrawn late last year.

Before leaving the islands he is reported to have called for a more co-ordinated approach from the Army, Navy and RAF.

In the Falklands Mr Heseltine was impressed with the tri-service nature of the defence scene and is looking everywhere to ensure value for money, greater standardisation where possible and avoidance of duplication of effort. Among Army units visited during his busy tour were the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers — who laid on a demonstration patrol and assault — and a Gunners' Rapier battery.

He was particularly fascinated by the efforts of men who turned one exposed position into an incredibly comfortable "home from home".

WHAT ON EARTH...?



Looking at the sea of mud, this could almost be a scene from World War 1 — but it isn't.

This man was taking part in something which is very much a thing of the future.

What? For the answer make sure of your copy of the next **SOLDIER** — 27 February.

TARGET HIT

Just nine months after the launching of the Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund, the target figure of £1M has been exceeded.

CDS VISITS OUR MEN IN BEIRUT

FIELD MARSHAL Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of Defence Staff, on a visit to Beirut has said the British Government would welcome any move to deploy a UN force in place of the multi-national force.

He told men of the British contingent: "We are ultimately looking for a time when Lebanon can run its own affairs and all foreign troops can be withdrawn."

Sir Edwin, on a fact-finding mission in the Middle East, was shown round Beirut by the commander of the British contingent, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Woolley.

● A four-page special report on British Forces in Lebanon starts on page 26.

LOCAL OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE REDUCED

The local overseas allowance for Servicemen in BAOR is to be reduced. The cuts follow investigations into the cost of living in Germany and the UK.

The probe showed a reduced gap in compared costs and, as a result, Servicemen will find an average four per cent reduction in their net pay.

But it is not a pay cut, stressed the MoD. It is a reduction in the LOA which is a tax-free compensatory allowance.

There will be two equal cuts in the LOA. The first will be on March 1 and the second in May.

But while those serving in BAOR will get less LOA, Ser-

vicemen based in many other parts of the world will get an increase to help meet extra costs. The present daily LOA for an unmarried corporal in BAOR is £1.92. After May 1 this will be reduced to £1.36 a cut of 56p.

A single captain at present on £3.17 a day will have a cut of 64p and a married corporal with one child down by 80p from £5.14 to £4.34. A married captain drawing £6.29 will lose £1.19.

In Berlin a single corporal will lose 39p of his £1.76; a single captain 73p from £3.07; a married corporal with one child 71p from £4.56 and a married captain with one child £1.15 from £5.88.

VIPs AT ROF

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement and Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement have, between them, spent two days visiting eight Royal Ordnance Factories at Glascoed, Bridgwater, Radway Green, Patricroft, Bishopton, Enfield, Blackburn and Chorley.

The visits were to explain the Government's intentions on the future of ROFs with particular stress on the likely effects of plans on both the ROF organisation and the terms and conditions of service of the work force.

ALDERSHOT DISPLAY BIDS FOR RECORD

BY JOHN MARGETTS

Two years ago a record 300,000 visitors to the Aldershot Army Display contributed a best-ever sum of £32,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund. This year the organisers of the four-day show are determined to beat both totals by big margins.

"It's the place where the public can actually meet the Army," said organising team co-ordinator Lieutenant Colonel Bill Heaps, ex-RCT.

And waiting to greet the visitors as they stream on to the 35-acre site surrounding the Rushmoor display arena, will be 2500 servicemen and women from every branch of the Army.

"All arms will be represented at the show ready to tell about the roles they play and the equipment they use," said the Colonel.

Supporting the Army on Display exhibition, will be a two-hour daily action-packed tattoo including 18 corps and regimental bands, the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, performing their famous musical ride, the Royal Artillery motorbike display team, a battle scene, a freefall para-drop by the Red Devils, displays by Army cadets and apprentices and a fast-moving finale featuring A Company of 2 Para in a set piece based on the film "A Bridge Too Far."

"We're also hoping for the Red Arrows from the RAF together with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight," said the Colonel.

Billed as the "greatest free show in the country," this year's display will be from June 21-24.

"It costs nothing to get in, but our special souvenir programmes will be on sale and we'll be going all out to boost our donation to the Benevolent Funds," added the Colonel.

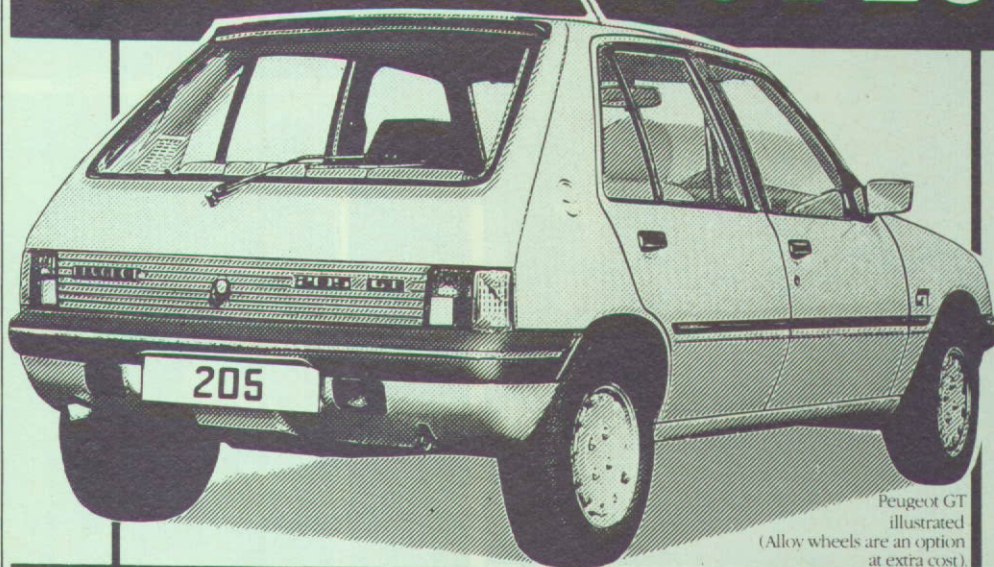
"And although we're out to break records, visitors should be assured that there will be plenty of car parking space no matter how many people attend."

There is seating for 35,000 in the show arena and it will be a case of first come first served.

But even if all the seats are taken, visitors will still be able to see the tattoo as giant TV screens will be located around the display site for those who want to continue their walk-about.

"We've also put in a bid for a royal visitor," said Colonel Heaps. "We've asked for Prince Charles, but we'll just have to wait and see", he added.

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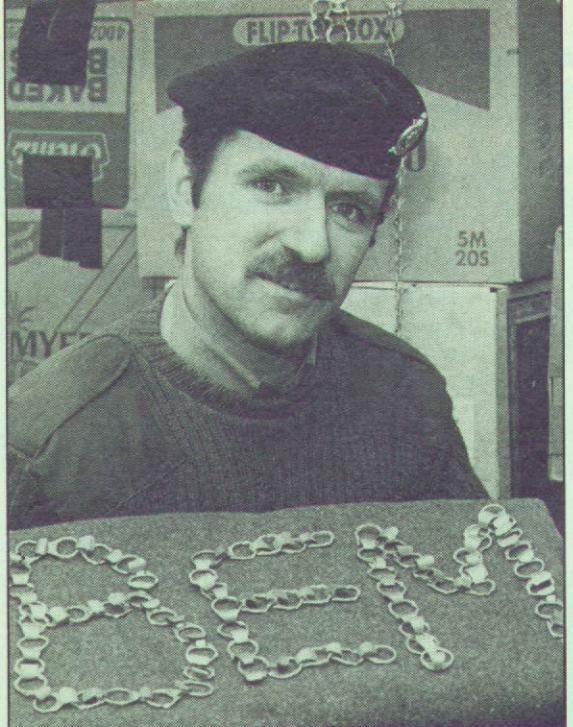
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RINGING SUCCESS ▲

USUALLY, he collects ring-pulls for charity — more than £2,000 worth for Oxfam in six months so far — but now he also holds the BEM. Lance Corporal Jonathan Cope has just been awarded the medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to charity over the past five years.

L. Cpl Cope is serving with the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in Münster, BAOR. Behind him, box after box of ring-pulls awaiting despatch.



FLIGHT OF FANCY ▲

A glimpse of a different world for Major General Philip Davies, General Officer Commanding North West District, as he tried out the cockpit of a brand new Tornado.

General Davies was shown over the aircraft, still on the production line, on his first visit to the British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancs. Just 10 miles from his headquarters at Preston, the Warton factory is nowadays the home of Britain's military aircraft programme and the birthplace of the Tornado, designed to be the mainstay of the Royal Air Force for the rest of the century.



TOWED AWAY ►

Military staff of an Army Headquarters towed out their Commander in traditional style when Major General Patrick Palmer, General Officer Commanding North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division, left Imphal Barracks, York, to become Commandant of the Army's Staff College at Camberley, Surrey.

Taking over the appointment is 48-year-old Major General Peter Inge (inset) formerly Chief of Staff of the 1st (British) Corps with Headquarters at Bielefeld.

◀ 'TICKLE' TRIUMPH

General Sir Desmond Bagley, Commander British Forces Cyprus, presents to Lt-Col David Thomson, CO of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the 1983 Tickle Award (Cyprus) which has been won by the Jocks.

The late Mr A J B Tickle, who served in the British Army in both world wars, bequeathed a substantial sum of money to be used for the promotion of efficiency within Her Majesty's Army and since they arrived in Cyprus in March 1982 The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have performed many duties which have benefited the Service community.





STAR PUD TITLE FOR STEPHEN ►

The elusive secret of how to create and serve a perfect Yorkshire pud is known to few cooks. Private Stephen Haywood — at 18 the youngest chef with the 1st Battalion The Green Howards in BAOR — knows, but he's not telling.

It's enough for Stephen to have his pals Privates Gary Michell, Louis Davies and Bob Scott drooling over his masterpieces which won for him the Regimental Great Yorkshire Pudding title and an engraved Army baking tin.



COMMANDER TAKES SALUTE ►

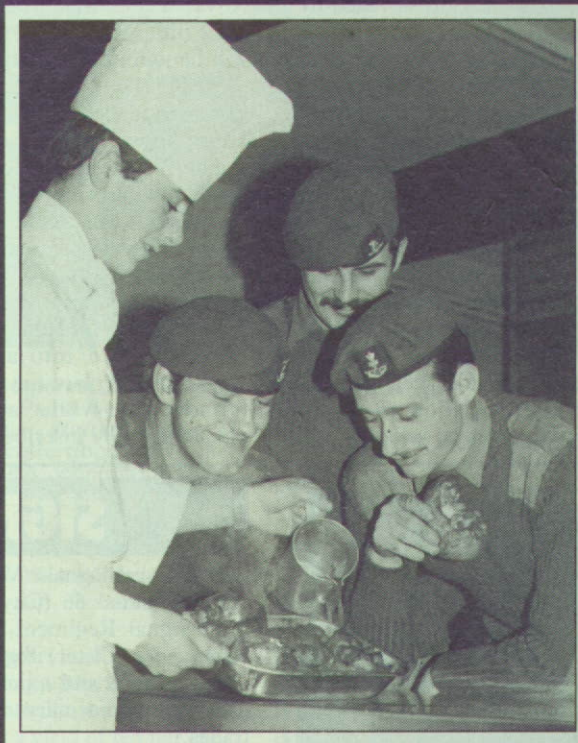
The arrival of 25 Field Squadron, commanded by Major Barry Watts, to join 23 Engineer Regiment was marked by a drive past of all squadron vehicles in Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück. The Garrison Commander, Brigadier P R Davies, took the salute.

Since 1969 the Squadron has been part of 26 Engineer Regiment and has been stationed in Sennelager and latterly Iserlohn. The Squadron is no stranger to Osnabrück as, prior to joining 26 Engineering Regiment, it spent 10 years with 27 Field Regiment, Royal Engineers.

◀ SEA RESCUE HERO REMEMBERED

The heroic action of Lieutenant Colonel Tony Whittall, RCT, who died in Ghana after rescuing two men from the sea, was recalled when his widow Pat was presented with a Royal Humane Society in Memoriam Testimonial. The presentation was made by Brigadier Rory Walker, Deputy Commander South-West District.

With Mrs Whittall at the ceremony at Bulford — where her husband was CO of the Logistic Support Battalion 1978-81 — were her daughter, Alex, and son Andrew. Col. Whittall was Defence Attache in Accra at the time of his death in November 1982.



◀ SEFTON LOOKS ON

Under the alert gaze of the famous and courageous Sefton, Terry Lewis of Connoisseur of Malvern Limited presents Lt Col C J D'Oyly of The Life Guards, Officer Commanding the Household Cavalry Regiment, with a £2,500 cheque for the benefit of the Household Cavalry Regiment Charity.

This represents a proportion of the proceeds from the sales of Connoisseur's fine bone china model of Sefton, produced in a limited edition of 25. Demand for this magnificent piece was such that all the models have now been allocated.



THE modern TA successors of a World War 2 unit will help veterans mark a little historical moment in Holland in April at the ceremony to mark a new war memorial.

A village called Loenen near Apeldoorn is the setting and the memorial centre piece is a 37mm gun from a Humber Mk 4 which was knocked out by Germans. For years the gun, salvaged by a village family, has been on view in their garden — but the rest of the village want it placed in the centre for everyone to see.

The men involved in the action were from 49 (West Riding) Reconnaissance Regiment and several survivors will be making the trip to Holland mainly because, after nearly 40 years, the Dutch feel they have never been properly thanked.

Mr Pulle, whose father salvaged the gun, asked the Regimental Association to trace as many veterans as possible. This

has been done and in addition it is hoped members of the modern Royal Yeomanry, the present recce unit of 49 Infantry Brigade will be joining the party.

Also, the Brigade Deputy Commander, Colonel Jonathan Hunt, hopes to be present.

The Memorial will consist of the 37mm gun and will be placed on a foundation made up from stones in the Loenen area dating back to the Ice Age.

The history of the gun will be written down and the sheets of paper inserted into an empty shell case and placed in the stone foundation, while a bronze plaque suitably inscribed will be

placed at the base of the memorial.

The festivities attached to the unveiling ceremony will occupy the whole of Saturday, 14 April. HRH Prince Bernhard has been invited to attend and perform the unveiling ceremony.

As for the action itself — on 16 April 1945 a patrol of C Squadron, 49 (WR) Reconnaissance Regiment was approaching the village from the direction of Arnhem when the leading armoured car, a Humber Mk 4, commanded by Sgt W Mould was hit by a panzerfaust and brewed up.

The crew escaped unhurt, but

sadly a boy of 12 was mortally wounded by exploding ammunition from the burning car.

The patrol temporarily withdrew, but the village was later that day occupied by the Assault Troops of C and A Squadrons commanded by Lieutenants S Dennis and L Palmer respectively.

Sgt Mould left in his car his AB64 which was later found and returned to him after the war.

Many of those directly involved are active members of the strong Association — there was little difficulty in advising Mr Pulle of their names.

Unfortunately Lt Dennis died several years ago, but among those making the trip will be Major H Judge MC the commander of C Squadron, Sgt W Mould the commander of the Humber armoured car, Lt L Palmer commander of the A Squadron Assault Troop, and several other members of the Regiment who were involved.

VILLAGE THAT DIDN'T FORGET

SIGNALS DOUBLE

Carey, Royal Signals (V).

Carol joined 66 (City of Belfast) Signal Regiment, later to become 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment in 1958 and quickly qualified in two primary operating trades.

As Sergeant Major she is the senior WRAC non-commissioned officer in the Regiment. In 1970 she received the Efficiency Medal TAVR and now has two clasps. In addition she was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and re-

ceived the Lord Lieutenants Commendation in 1983.

She has played a major part in the well-being of the Regiment for many years.

In 1958, after 13 years regular service in the Royal Marines, Billy joined 66 (City of Belfast) Signal Regiment (Volunteers); on the re-organisation of the Territorial Army in 1967 he transferred to the newly formed 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). He is Staff Quartermaster Sergeant of Headquarters Squad-

TAKE A LEAD FROM NORTH WEST

SOLDIER could fill TA topics in nearly every issue with material received from the North West.

There must be lots of similar activity in other regions!

If the TA content in SOLDIER is to be balanced, much depends on YOU.

We look forward to other districts welcoming the challenge.



WO2 Carol Cameron ... outstanding.

THERE'S good cause for celebration among members of 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) — two of their number have been awarded the British Empire Medal.

The award goes to Warrant Officer 2 Carol Cameron, WRAC (V) and Staff Sergeant Billy



S/Sgt Billy Carey ... high standards.

ron and is also employed as a civilian storeman in the Regiment.

He received his Efficiency Medal in 1970 and was awarded his 2nd Clasp in 1982. His efforts over the years were recognised in 1983 with the award of the Lord Lieutenants Commendation.



A cheque for £320 raised for MENCAP by B Company 5/8 Battalion The King's Regiment is handed to Miss Linda Pilon by Colour Sergeant Walter Kirby. Sergeant Jack Catlow, right, encouraged men to enter the Mersey Marathon.



First time parachute jumps by Birkenhead-based 234 Squadron (Wirral) RCT raised £550 for Arrowe Hall Care Centre to help wheelchair patients' mobility. Pictured from left: Mrs Barbara Hughes, Driver Stephen Clarke and The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Harry Deverill.

IT'S not the extra money to be earned that lures people to join the TA. Not the ACC anyway.

It's the contrast the job offers and the chance to visit exotic places, writes **John Margetts**.

So says Corporal Allan Johnson of Central (V) Headquarters TA ACC and who in "civvy" life is a full-time chef with the Army and has been for ten years.

Allan was one of a team of five, led by Captain Mike Major of the same outfit, manning a recruiting stand at Hotelympia '84 — the international hotel and catering exhibition — in London.

"I joined four years ago because I kept hearing of the wonderful trips abroad — somebody I know went to Turkey — and I thought I'd better get signed on if I wanted to see these wonderful places," he said.

Echoing Allan's sentiments were "fellow" Terriers Lance Corporals Paula Bell, a cook at a students' hostel, and Julie Pritchard, a catering manager at a Surrey college.

"It's a great part-time life," they chorused. "A tremendous experience. Make no mistake," said Julie, "standards in the Army are very high. And so far as we are concerned the experience is invaluable — specially when it comes to preparing and cooking food in the open."

Said Captain Major: "Most of those joining the ACC TA are already in the food industry and pick up the Army way of doing

The incentive is contrast



things very quickly.

"It's a question of their getting used to equipment really rather than anything else. Most of them are as proficient after two weeks as most regulars are after six."

After one day of adorning their stand, next door to the Regular ACC, how was "business" going? Were potential recruits asking about joining those who strive to satisfy the inner man?

"Yesterday — the first day — we had 21 serious inquiries. Of those, if our experience is anything to go by, two will join the TA. But it's too early yet. The

Lance Corporals Julie Pritchard and Paula Bell, Captain Mike Major, Warrant Officer 2 Tony Scattergood and Corporal Allan Johnson: it's the contrast that counts, not the money.

exhibition has another seven full days to run," said Captain Major.

"Two years ago we had 800 people filling up forms. Eighty of them eventually joined the ACC TA giving a yield of ten per cent.

"About a third were girls, but when it comes to taking course exams, three out of five of the

courses have girls at the top of the class."

What about food popularity? If it's true what old "Boney" said about an Army marching on its stomach, what goes down best with the lads?

"It just depends on the role of the unit," said WO2 Tony Scattergood, number two in the team. "If it's the infantry we're feeding then they like plenty of bulk. But if it's a more sedentary outfit, they are more likely to go for lighter dishes.

"It all depends on who you're feeding."

MAGIC MOMENTS



PICTURED above are the men who enjoyed magic moments when B Company 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Green Jackets won both the Battalion Rifle Meetings held at Pirbright.

They also — with the help of men not available for the photocall — captured the Inter-Platoon and Company trophy, which covered all aspects of military skills.

Having good cause to feel pleased with themselves are, left to right: Lance Corporals Max Hamilton and Simon Andrews,

Lieutenant Tim Matthews, Lance Corporal Ian Keen and Riflemen Carl Kurstein and Larry Stevens.

During the past year B Company have starred in other areas, raising £7,000 for various charities, including the British Kidney Association.

One cheque for £2,000 was handed over recently to the Children's Hospital Westminster as a result of a sponsored run covering the 13 bridges between Tower Bridge and Putney, where the Company is based.

Yeoman service!



CORPORAL Norman Penethman plays 'paper boy' for the crew of Cheshire Yeomanry Fox scout car at their home at Fox Barracks, Chester. Receiving their first copy of the NORTH WEST TERRITORIAL are Lance Corporal Wayne Evans and Sergeant 'Hughie' Green.

Over 10,000 copies of the North West's own new TA tabloid newspaper have been distri-

buted, with the furthest going to members of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, currently in the Falklands, who had requested news of home.

The next edition will be in April, and will include features on 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V), A Coy, 1 Mercians as well as reporting the TA Football Cup final where 238 Squadron hope to retain their title.

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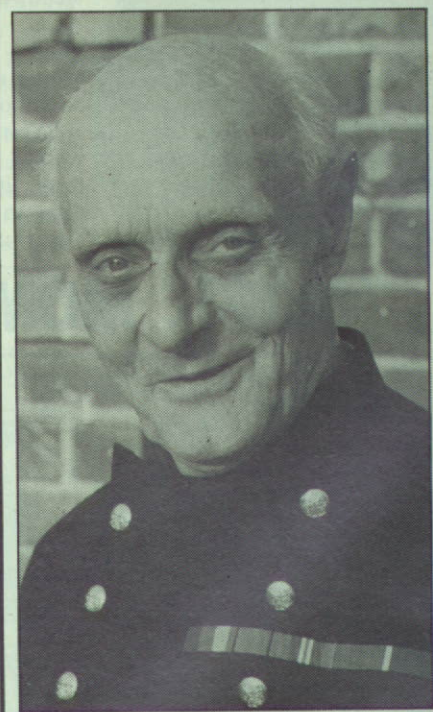
George gives RADC slice of history in Chelsea



ONE OF the latest old soldiers to join the Royal Hospital, Chelsea is 72-year-old George Mursell.

What makes him unique is the fact that the Royal Army Dental Corps are proudly claiming him as the first ex-RADC member ever to become a Chelsea pensioner.

In 1926 George enlisted as a Boy Trumpeter with the 8th Bn R Hamps (TA). He enlisted in the regular army in 1934 as a Gunner and was posted to the Needles Battery, I o W.



He saw action when the Germans invaded Norway, and was evacuated from Harstad, Norway in June 1940, and after a two year spell in Reykjavik, Iceland, he transferred to the Royal Army Dental Corps to carry on his civilian trade of dental technician.

He spent the remainder of the war at the Dental Laboratory in Nottingham, and later served in Singapore, Colchester, Accra and Aldershot until his discharge in 1963.

After his retirement to civilian life he worked for a number of years as a pianist with Union Castle Line — experience he now puts to good use as a pianist with the newly formed Chelsea Hospital dance band.

Photo: DAVID LATIMER

SOLDIER will obviously be paying special attention to the 40th anniversary of D-Day and, indeed, we have already carried mentions of some of the many events which will be taking place in the United Kingdom and in Normandy.

We are now asking readers to help us with their own memories of D-Day. It doesn't matter whether you actually took part in the landings or not — your job in support, for example, was just as vital to the overall success.

Some readers, of course, may not even have been in uniform; could possibly have been at school.

What we would like to know is **WHAT** you were doing on D-Day — and where. If you were in uniform then please let us have your full name, number, rank and unit.

We obviously require your full address and telephone number, the latter not for publication but as an invaluable aid should our writers and photographers wish to talk over detail.

PLEASE let us have your D-Day memories, happy or sad, and send them to **D-DAY Memories,**

SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
ALDERSHOT,
Hampshire,
GU11 2DU

★ ★ ★

STILL with an "appealing" theme, **SOLDIER** receives many enquiries from readers for addresses of Ex-Service associations, and we would like to keep our information up-to-date.

We have over 50 such associations on file ranging from the Armed Forces Pensioners Association to Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and we would like to ensure the list is accurate — and we haven't missed any groups.

SOLDIER would be pleased if secretaries would forward their current contact information to librarian Bill Stroud at the office address above.

★ ★ ★

AS PART of the Directorate of Public Relations (Army), **SOLDIER** bids a warm welcome to the new Director — Brigadier Michael Hobbs, late Grenadier Guards.

Brigadier Hobbs carries a name which has special interest to people in "the business" with long memories — in the late '50s his father held a senior post in Army Public Relations.

Those who remember Brigadier Godfrey Hobbs, late Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, will be pleased to know he is alive and well and living in retirement in Kent.

Carrying on the family traditions in more ways than one, Brigadier Michael Hobbs arrived in the Ministry of Defence from Northern Ireland, where he commanded 39 Infantry Brigade. From January 1978 to March 1980 he commanded the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

Our best wishes, too, to his predecessor as DPR — Brigadier David Ramsbotham, also a former Commander 39 Brigade who later this year, on promotion to Major General, is due to take over 3rd Armoured Division.

SOLDIER to Soldier



WORKING on his peat in the hills above Stanley, Falkland Islands, an islander found a film. His curiosity led him to get the film — 110 colour print — processed; his generosity led to the film and prints arriving in the Editor's office in the hope the soldier who lost the film can be traced.

Most of the personnel pictured seem to be Royal Engineers; the scenes suggest a squadron based in Stanley, possibly at the airfield, soon after the Argentine prisoners

had gone home and the task of cleaning up the islands had begun.

Perhaps the owner of the film might be able to recognise his own snapshots with the aid of the photograph above — and, given proof, Picture Editor Les Wiggs (ext 2584) will hand over negatives and prints.

We hope the story has a happy ending with a successful claim. Sadly, we don't have the name of the Stanley resident. Even so, if the film is claimed we can send a "thank you" via Penguin News and the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service.

Not OUR Graham Smith!



MODEL Kristina Marie sports a camouflaged helmet as the Graham Smith model collection for Spring and Summer is presented in London. A lovely lady, and Graham Smith says: "Fashion has flirted with the uniform for more than a decade and the military look is strong again with a mixture of Asian and Middle Eastern influences."

We are impressed — but have to report that **OUR** Graham Smith has no connection with the fashion world and will continue to concentrate, as usual, on men and women who wear uniform for a good reason other than fashion!

WHAT we should have learned over the years on **SOLDIER** is never to say something is the first or last, biggest or smallest. There is always someone who will produce evidence to refute you.

In our last issue in our feature on Ludgershall we pictured a row of elderly Saladins, which we were assured were the Army's last and were being prepared for disposal.

But no sooner had one of our team arrived in Cyprus, before the magazine had even hit the streets, than C Squadron, The First Royal Tank Regiment, revealed that they are still using the vehicles. A story on these survivors will appear in our next issue. In fact not many other people know of their existence — we were told that when spares have been ordered the orders have been returned with 'No Longer in Service' stamped upon them.

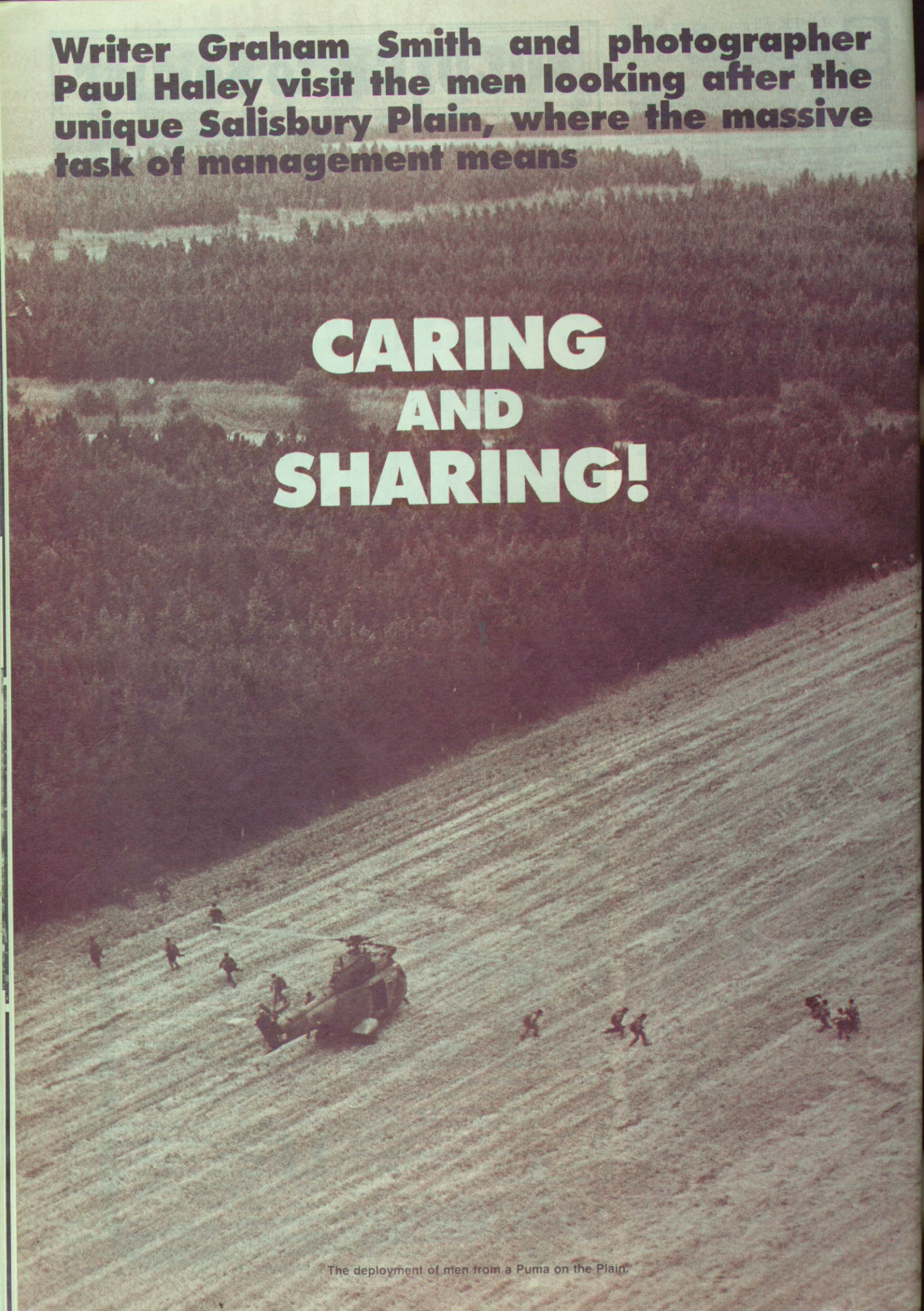
★ ★ ★

THE service dress uniform worn by the late Airey Neave during World War 2, together with his medals and decorations, have gone on display in the Imperial War Museum's Recent Acquisitions Room.

The uniform has been donated to the Museum by Airey Neave's widow, Baroness Airey of Abingdon, and the medals and decorations lent by his son, Patrick Neave.

Writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley visit the men looking after the unique Salisbury Plain, where the massive task of management means

CARING AND SHARING!

An aerial photograph showing a Puma helicopter on a sandy, sparsely vegetated slope. Several soldiers are visible around the helicopter, some standing and others in motion. The background consists of a dense forest of trees.

The deployment of men from a Puma on the Plain.



ARCHAEOLOGISTS

IN future years will always be able to find out more about how the people of Salisbury Plain lived and worked 4000 years ago. This has always been the aim of the Army which hopes an archaeologist may be retained to carry out a special survey of the Plain's 2000 or so ancient monuments, says Lieutenant Colonel Mark Goodhart, Commandant of the Salisbury Plain Training Area. But it could take years.

Col Goodhart and five staff — three of them air operations personnel — work in a single-storey building not far from Bulford Camp and have the responsibility for 91,000 acres of training area (about ten per cent of Wiltshire) which is used by an estimated 64,000 troops from 66 major units each year.

And it all stems from the first purchases made by the Army in 1897 immediately before the Boer War when the Government authorised the buying of what is now the eastern half of Salisbury Plain Military Training Area.

The first Army barracks at Tidworth and Bulford were built at that time and many soldiers returning from South Africa were stationed at these two camps.

In a committee report of 1897 Lord Lansdowne in recommending ownership for military purposes said he felt the committee would understand it "most undesirable that the action of this department should seriously interfere with, or appear to threaten, a wholesale disturbance of the agricultural population."

The report went on: "Nothing could be more unfortunate than that an impression should be created that we were about to convert this large area into a solitude in order to use it for the training of our troops."

"I hope the committee will find it possible to recommend a line of action under which the owners and occupiers, as well as the village population depending on them, will at all events be given an opportunity of ascertaining by experience whether there is not room for them as well as us."

"So far as I am able to judge there is no reason why the squires should not in most cases retain their houses and a sufficient quantity of land to render them something more than mere isolated villas."

"As for the farmers, we shall have to insist upon terms under which the uplands shall always be available for manoeuvring purposes. This, no doubt, will involve the disappearance of most of the wire fencing which

has been erected of recent years upon the Plain, but sheep grazing will still be possible as it was before the wire fencing was put up. I hope, however, the committee will see its way to allowing the farmers to continue to cultivate a part of the better lands."

Today, the 260-square-mile Salisbury Plain Training area — the largest of the six UK Principal Training Areas (PTAs) — has 56 tenant farmers who farm some 65,000 acres for agricultural purposes under Schedule One ('blue' on the map) and Schedule Three ('white' on the map) agreements.

Schedule One comprises normal agricultural tenancies which are subject to dry training and compensation for any damage caused while Schedule Three are training areas subject to grazing licences and occasional ploughing concessions for which no compensation is paid for damage.

Col Goodhart, 14th/20th King's Hussars and Commandant of the SPTA for the past 18 months explained: "We try to put a cordon sanitaire around the Plain and the land is divided between Schedule One, about 20 per cent of the Plain and Schedule Three comprising 38,000 acres — 24,000 of them impact and live firing areas plus 5,540 acres of woodlands for training and landscape improvement."

Since 1955 some three million trees of differing varieties have been planted on the training area. Young woodlands under ten years of age are out of bounds; those aged ten to 30 are open to small vehicles but not tanks; and those older than that are open for troop usage, he said.

Times have changed radically since the appointment of the first Land Agent in 1902 who received a horse allowance of £70 a year and a further £150 annually for the provision of offices and their expenses, including assist-

May 1949. A year before; covered in gliders, now given over to crops.

ance. At that time, the estate comprised 42,000 acres.

Over the years the training area has been extended to cater for greater manoeuvres during the change from cavalry and a horse supported Army to one that is fully mechanised with modern weapons. The Salisbury Plain Training Area is unique in the UK, says Lt-Col Goodhart, as it is the only one offering both ground troop and tank exercise training facilities on a wide choice of ranges.

Not only has the British Army become battlefield-prepared on the expanses of Wessex history but also several from NATO forces, both land and air.

The Plain is divided into three main areas for military training. To the East, the main dry training area. The Centre is used for Royal Artillery and Support Weapons while the West is given to infantry and field firing, the latter two "subject to the flag" — the red flag denoting closure to the public during range use.

Dotted around the Plain under the management eye of Col Goodhart and his staff are six permanent camps — four of them capable of catering up to battalion strength — with a total accommodation potential of 3,375 personnel.

Portions of the panoramic Plain are designated low-flying areas where, in the year ended last April, a total of 14,836 aircraft — helicopters, Hercules transport with paratroopers and RAF ground-attack fighters — were handled by the SPTA's air ops staff in support of exercises.

Soldiers using the Plain are "educated" on their ecological responsibilities as well as their tactical teach-ins. They are briefed on the flora and fauna.

The Plain has, for example,

119 species of birds including the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, the Tree Creeper, the Red Start and the Black Cap. Among its plants are those like Wood Spurge, Creeping Jenny, Lady's Mantle, Herb Robert and Sanicle.

Not only are the soldiers verbally briefed but they are given an aide-memoire telling of tac signs, permissible and prohibited areas, do's and don'ts on the training area, notes on armoured tracks, hygiene, fire, useful phone numbers and, of equal importance, the need for conservation.

Caring for the Plain has resulted in the formation of three main conservation groups broken into ten sub-groups who meet annually to discuss botany, archaeology, ornithology, vertebrates, invertebrates, deer management, entomology, badgers, reptiles and even newts and spiders.

Salisbury Plain also has many

Mr Bill Avery, woodman in action somewhere on the Plain.



attractive villages, the Ministry of Defence owning houses and cottages occupied by farm staff and civilians employed at the various military establishments. Some of them, thatched, date back to the times of Elizabeth 1.

Of considerable charm in their own right they have been modernised and preserved with great care.

There are also 127 miles of hedgerow and roadside trees on Salisbury Plain which have to be inspected and maintained.

Not only is there a possibility that an archaeologist may be retained to conduct a survey into what is valuable in heritage and what is not among the Plain's undulating acres — there are some 300 barrows or burial grounds — but there is also a scheme planned to start a civilian part-time work force under a qualified leader which would go into weekend action cleaning up streams, cutting back scrub from the tumuli and other ecological projects.

Priorities of the Plain's military charter are military training, safety of the public, agriculture, conservation and public access. Two applications a week come into the SPTA HQ asking permission for access to the training area.

Organisations such as aeromodellers, bloodhound trainers, riding for the disabled, parascenders, beaglers, gliding, conservation groups, adventure training, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, schools' activities, cross-country running, charity events and a host of others.

Conservation is ever in the minds of the HQ SPTA staff though not to the detriment of military training.

Col Goodhart said: "You can never satisfy all the conservationists all the time. What is good for some is not good for others. Professional archaeologists in years to come will be able to find out what they want to know about how people lived and worked on Salisbury Plain 4000 years ago.

"The less-knowledgeable amateur will consider a slit trench dug into the side of a barrow necessarily destroys and ruins our heritage. This is not so.

"The majority of conservationists are very appreciative of what we, the Army, and the Defence Lands Agency are trying to do in terms of conservation, public access and help."

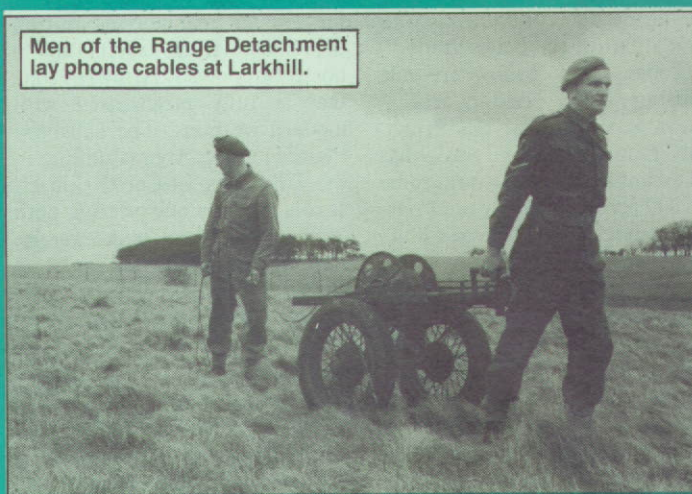
He added: "The whole of this heritage exists because the Army has owned the land and used it wisely, not deep ploughing it by horse."

And what of the future?

Col Goodhart said: "We are ever conscious of the needs of



Mr Doug Pateman, head forester and Brian Symes, forester, scan the Salisbury Plain model.



Men of the Range Detachment lay phone cables at Larkhill.

those commanders responsible for training and try to provide the best facilities we can to meet those needs. The size and range of weapons are getting greater and we could do with some more space. But land in Wiltshire costs £2,500 an acre. It's not so much a question of expansion but one of tidying up.

"We have a remarkably good relationship with the people who live and work on the Plain. Many depend on the Army for their livelihoods."



Tractor digging holes to plant saplings. Driver: Mr Brian Cope.

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S1/84

RECORD HAUL OF MEDALS FOR ARMY COOKS

MORE GOLD "gongs" than ever before came the way of the Army's top cooks when they made hash of five-star opposition in a world-wide contest of culinary skills.

All from the Army Catering Headquarters at Aldershot, the Army men gave chefs from internationally-famous hotels and the other Services a bit of a basting when they showed visitors to Hotelympia '84 — one of the world's biggest hotel and catering exhibitions — how they prepare and cook food for the soldier of today.

Between them they collected 96 medals — 12 of them gold — and four special certificates.

"Anyone who talks of the old 'bully beef' image of the Army is well out of date. Those days are gone," said General Sir Richard Trant, the Quarter Master General, who was visiting the show.

Indicating Sergeants Bill Marr, Ken Shaw and Graham Prickett, all instructors from the ACC School of Catering, who were preparing for the inter-Service Individual competition, he said the watching audience were seeing some of the top practitioners of the culinary art.

"It's part of our image-making and recruiting as well as an indication of our support for the industry," added Brigadier Keith Hudson, Director of the



ACC.

"This is an international event and thousands of visitors get the chance to see our chefs in action and to note the high quality of their work.

"It's a great showcase for their skills which could stand them in good stead when they leave the Army."

While the trio of chefs worked beneath overhead mirrors — so

Pretty as a picture — and proud! Private Linda Haggan, left, and Corporal Isabelle Nemeth

watchers at the back of the cooking theatre could see — their "civvy" instructor, Mick Hanson, watched anxiously as they prepared and served a chicken dish in the stipulated time of 60 minutes.

But this particular contest title eluded the Army boys with an

RAF man beating them by a "parson's nose" for the gold medal. Graham Prickett picked up a silver and Bill Marr a bronze award.

"It's always a bit disappointing when you don't come first," said Mick Hanson. "But we'll be back again."

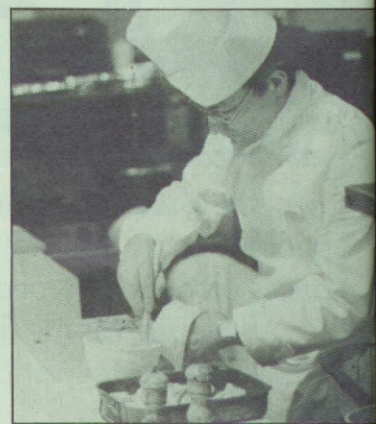
Within a couple of hours the Army were chalking up more gold.

This time it was through the skills of WRAC girls Corporal Isabelle Nemeth and Private Linda Haggan — the only all-girl

**Story:
John Margetts
Pictures:
Les Wiggs**

team in the inter-Services "Cook 'n' Serve" contest.

Isabelle, 26, did the cooking while Linda, 20, served, and between them went on to scoop the gold medals from under the



Patience and skill

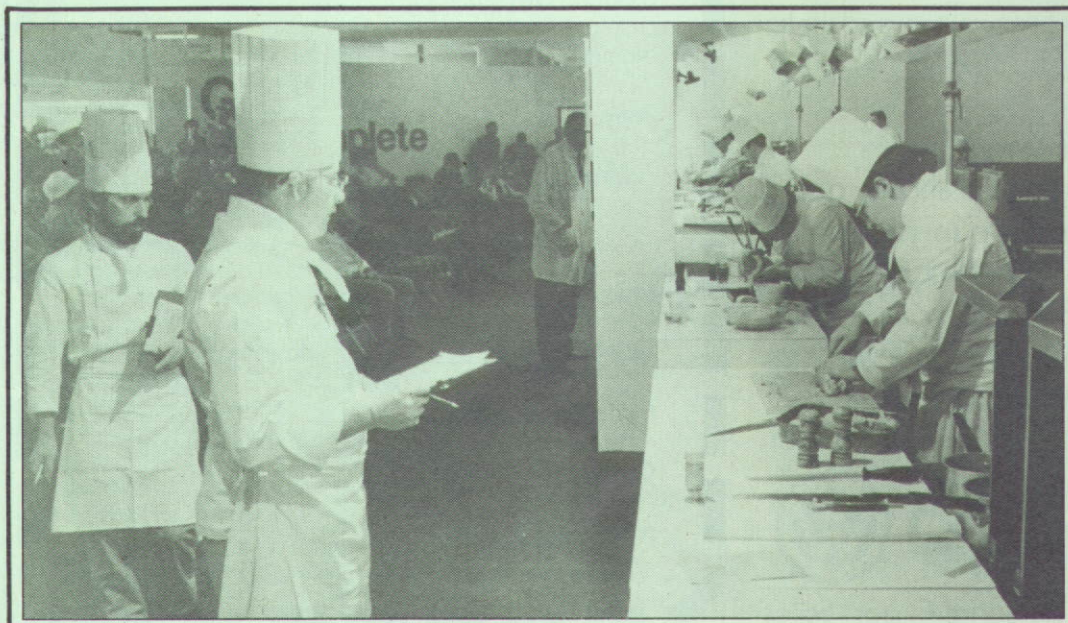
noses of the mixed and men only teams from all three Services.

The test involved preparing, cooking and serving a full meal for two within an hour, they did it while hundreds watched.

Isabelle's creation was supreme of chicken doria followed by Norwegian omelettes.

While it was a blow to the men of the ACC to be beaten at their own game, it came as no great surprise since Isabelle and Linda won the Army "Cook 'n' Serve" title last March. They picked up gold medals for that, too.

Isabelle's boss, Lieutenant General Sir Edward Burgess, Commander UK Field Army, is



Eyes down . . . cook in! A hive of activity at Hotelympia

reported to be "absolutely delighted" with her gold-award win.

"He was so delighted with our win he opened a bottle of champagne," said Isabelle, who is chef to Sir Edward.

And her fiancé, Sergeant Alan Gerrard of the ACC and chef to C-in-C General Sir Frank Kitson, UKLF, is "over the moon. He's never won a gold medal himself, but he's very proud of me," added Isabelle, who weds Alan in his home town of Manchester on 21 April.

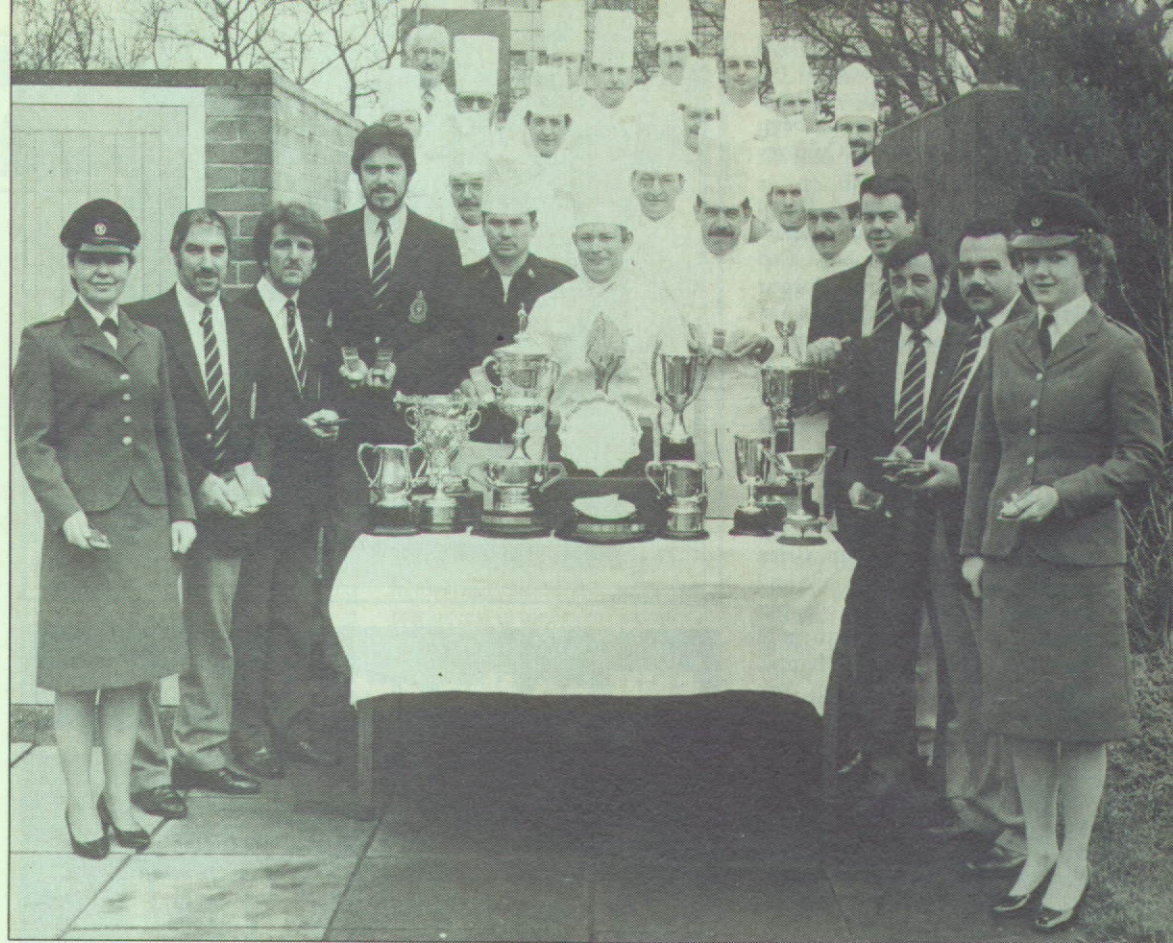
Everyone at the WRAC College at Camberley, where Linda is a stewardess in the officers' mess, is "thrilled to bits."

Added 20-year-old Linda: "It was great winning the contest. Really good, but I'm not sure whether we'll be working as a team again. It all depends where we are when the next contest takes place."

Said Colonel Mike Proctor, CO of the Training Wing at the ACC HQ: "It's absolutely marvellous. So far as I know it is the best-ever result for the Corps in this competition."

"These chaps — and the girls — have done a wonderful job."

Army gold medal winners were: Sergeant Steve Miller — two golds and three silvers plus a special certificate of merit. This brings Steve's tally of medals up to more than 30. Warrant Officer 2 Ray Lorimer, Warrant Officer 1 Louis Espason, Richard Mur-



Medley of medal winners — and on parade with a host of trophies

zeu (two golds), Mr. Phil Coleman and Mr. Brian Jones (three golds) (civilian instructors), Warrant Officer 1 Pete Dan and "golden girls" Corporal Isabella Nemeth and Private Linda Hagan.

'So far as I know it is the best-ever result for the Corps'



Catering and a work of art . . . Sergeant Peter Batty in action



Warrant Officer 2 Raymond Lorimer adds a finishing touch

TWO top instructors from the Army School of Catering and a Royal Marine chef have been selected for this year's "Culinary Olympics" in Frankfurt.

Ian Cowley, 38, and Brian Taylor, 39, both senior civilian teachers at the Aldershot-based school, together with Colour Sergeant Derek Harvey, 34, of the Royal Marines at Lympstone, will be among the 14-strong national team representing Britain against chefs from more than 30 other nations.

While British athletes strive for full fitness and the chance of getting among the medals in the games in Los Angeles, Ian, Brian and Derek will be planning and preparing dishes which will put them well on the way to gold medals and the title of Olympic champions.

Traditionally the French have long been regarded as the world's masters of the gastronomic art.

But in recent years there has been something of a revolution in British kitchens — specially Army kitchens — and now British chefs are challenging the world with their skills.

It is thanks to the Army Catering Corps training centre and the calibre of its teachers such as Ian and Brian that top-class chefs, like Colour Sergeant Harvey, can compete with the best in the world. That the selectors recognise the skills of Service chefs there is no doubt, for the Army trio, together with an RAF chef make up a quarter of the team.

The world-wide cook-in takes place in Frankfurt over six days next October.



Still on the catering theme, but moving from London to Frankfurt

A TRIO WITH EYES ON GOLD

"None of us will get much sleep that week," said Ian Cowley, "It will mean working all day every day and most of every night."

Watching through glass-fronted display kitchens will be

hundreds of diners in the adjacent "Restaurant of Nations."

Trenchermen all, they will select which country's food they will want served either for lunch or dinner.

And they will have plenty to

**Story: John Margetts
Picture: Doug Pratt**

choose from. For teams from Austria, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Rumania and the USA are just a few of those competing for the Olympic gold medals.

Between now and then the three Army men will be practising their "specials" — just in case we're asked to produce them," said Brian Taylor, who specialises in pastillage and food fantasies sculpted in chocolate.

Said Derek Harvey: "We're hoping to improve on the last Olympics when the British team won 24 awards.

"This time we're definitely after the gold," added Derek.

With competitors like this in the side it's no wonder that international judges agree with food king Egon Ronay that "the new generation of British chefs are more enthusiastic, talented and sensitive than their French counterparts."

With the Army's trio in the team — superb hot dishes from Ian Cowley and Derek Harvey, backed up by masterly showpieces by Brian Taylor — they will be out to show British cooking at its best, using the Culinary Olympics as a display window for their profession.

"We've every chance of collecting that title," said Ian Cowley. "We won't need any running shoes, but we're out to win that title and put British chefs where they rightly belong — out in front.



Left to right: Brian Taylor, Ian Cowley and Colour Sergeant Derek Harvey, Royal Marines ... on the tray: a gold medal won four years ago by team manager Brian Cotterill.

Snow Queen is 21!

THE picturesque ski holiday region around Sonthofen, Germany's most southern town, is boosted in winter by countless fun-seeking Europeans and this year by almost 8000 British troops.

But for the soldiers the element of enjoyment is necessarily elusive.

For they are taking part in Exercise 'Snow Queen' — the Army's biggest winter training project in Germany — aimed at teaching servicemen and women to ski and cope with living in unfamiliar snow conditions.

Such is the obvious accomplishment and self improvement value of the venture which celebrates its 21st birthday this year, that it is most likely to continue for another two decades provided the success story of its finely balanced cost-effectiveness can be maintained.

That important facet was repeatedly stressed to 'Snow Queen's' ski hut chiefs by Commander 1st British Corps, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale when he conducted a two day whistle-stop tour of most of the Army's ski residences that are dotted along the breathtakingly beautiful snow-clad slopes of the Allgau Alps.

"The future of 'Snow Queen' can be assured indefinitely," said the Commander, "so long as it is run and organised as professionally as it is now. Moreover, providing commanding officers continue to take an active and

serious interest in the enterprise and individual hut commandants resolutely study the orders and instructions on which the course flourishes, I see no reason to significantly change the format.

"As I see it, this winter exercise is a valuable adjunct to training fitness combined with morale and leadership development for Rhine Army soldiers, all culminating in an excellent and worthwhile annual training camp."

Resolved to making sure that the level of overall excellence is steadily sustained throughout on 'Snow Queen' in 1984 and its policy is effectively carried out to the letter, falls on the shoulders of Lieutenant Colonel John Hope,

RCT, Commanding Officer of all those participating, whether as permanent staff or as students.

"With a total of seven intensive courses each lasting two weeks and each catering for about 1200 soldiers spread over a geographical area of about 1400 square kilometres, the sheer administrative task is complex by any standards.

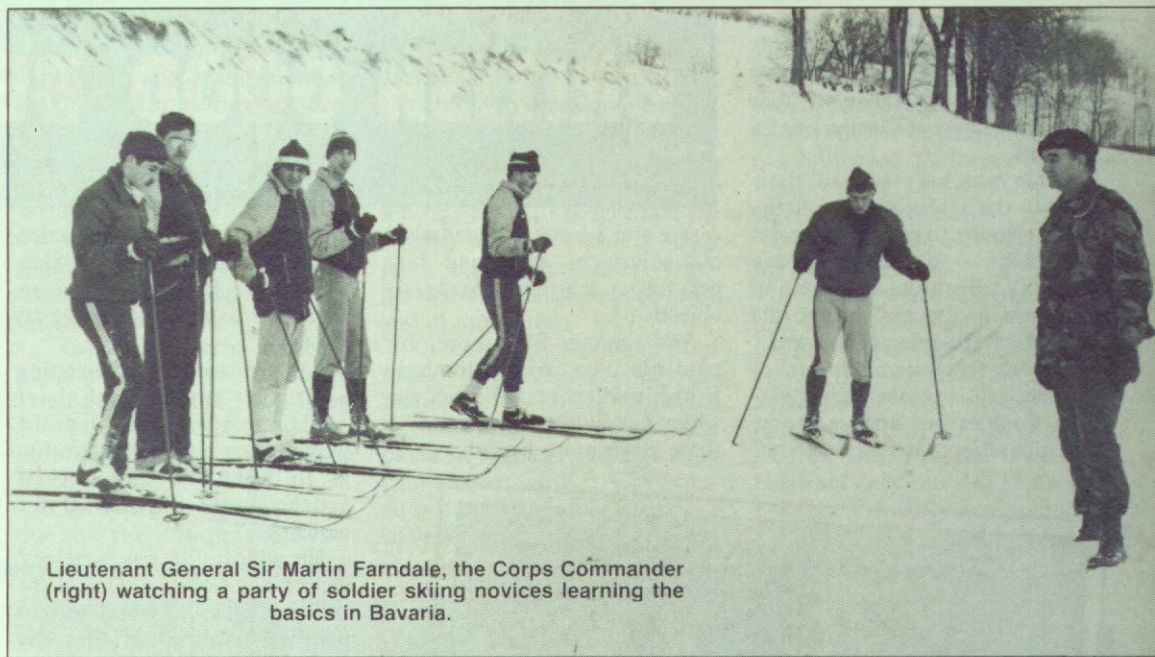
"Nonetheless it's a distinct challenge in the utilisation of manpower, materials and natural resources in order to create the best outcome. Making that intricate jig-saw fit and work smoothly is the most satisfying part for me and the industrious men in my Administrative Detach-

ment."

Liaison at official level with the Bavarian authorities is essential but skiing soldiers are advised to be ambassadors also and to integrate closely with the holiday-makers and locals alike so that they are indistinguishable from them by way of dress and behaviour.

Sonthofen's well known Mountain Rescue Chief, Professor Karl Pieter Froied says: "We look forward to the British soldiers arriving in our beautiful alpine resort to train to ski.

"Two interesting things strike me about the men I've met. Firstly that they are great talkers and always so courteous. Secondly with my own profession in mind, it's a rare occasion indeed when I and my teams have to take to mountain heights to rescue any of them hurt or in difficulties in an emergency."

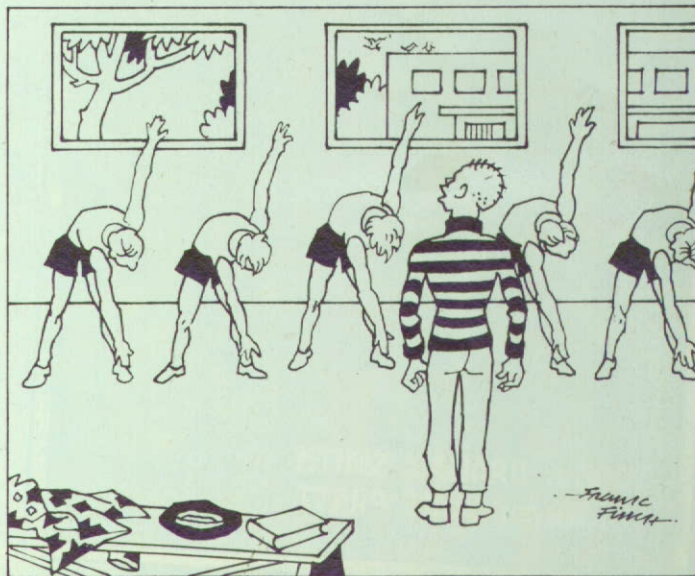
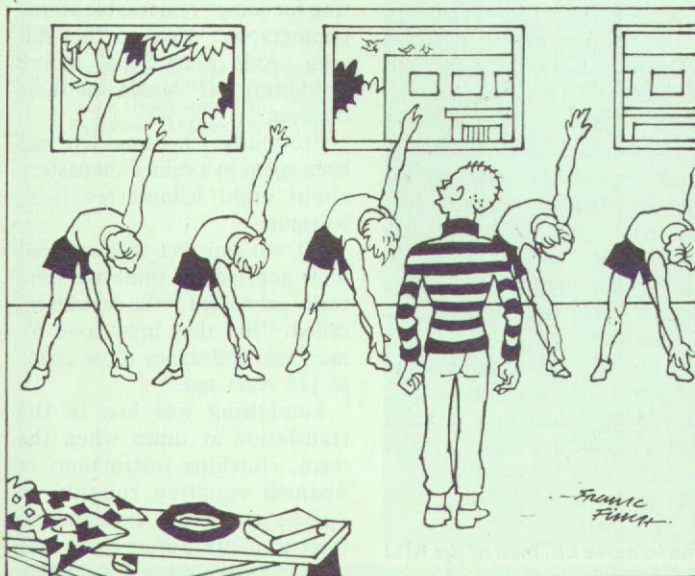


Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, the Corps Commander (right) watching a party of soldier skiing novices learning the basics in Bavaria.

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 38.



IT WAS a heroes' welcome, indeed, as ten travelled-stained men from The Royal Green Jackets or, las Reales Chaquetas Verdes, relived history but without the deprivations of food and footwear in the Galician town of Corunna.

The team, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, and made up of men from the 1st Battalion (based at Tidworth) and 3rd Battalion (based at Celle in BAOR) had just completed a 350-mile footslog from a place called Sahagún in León to commemorate the famous withdrawal of 175 years ago to-the-day of Sir John Moore. (See SOLDIER 16 & 30 January.)

Dressed in early 19th century period uniforms the dectet — two of them in an ill-fated support minibus, as it turned out — slept rough and crossed the rugged snowbound heights of the inhospitable Galician mountains in the far north-west of the Iberian peninsula where, in 1808, Sir John Moore made his harrowing retreat as Napoleon tried to cut 30,000 men off from their main base at Corunna or La Coruña.

The marchers started their trek — the only concession to the 20th century were the new combat boots — on Christmas eve with the deadline of reaching Corunna on January 14 and the heights overlooking that town.

Apart from some bouts of "molestias de estómago" or gastric troubles put down to some enthusiastic oyster and lobster

eating and a lost argument without injury to an erring bigger lorry, the team made its objective.

And Captain Blackmore, 26, paid his own tribute to those British soldiers of 175 years ago when he said: "Those men in those days must have been re-

markably strong doing the march on poor food, poor rations. They must have marvellous endurance. We found it very hard on the feet.

"At one stage we were getting a little bit embarrassed about coming back with a sun tan; the weather was remarkably kind to us. In 1808 it was quite atrocious and accounted for most of the casualties."

He added: "It was a heroes' welcome in Corunna. One of the things that will stand out in peoples' minds was that the Spaniards were remarkably hospitable. We had a most remarkable reception from everybody en route. It almost became absurd because we nearly had to walk with both our hands in the air at the time just waving to people! It surpassed everything."

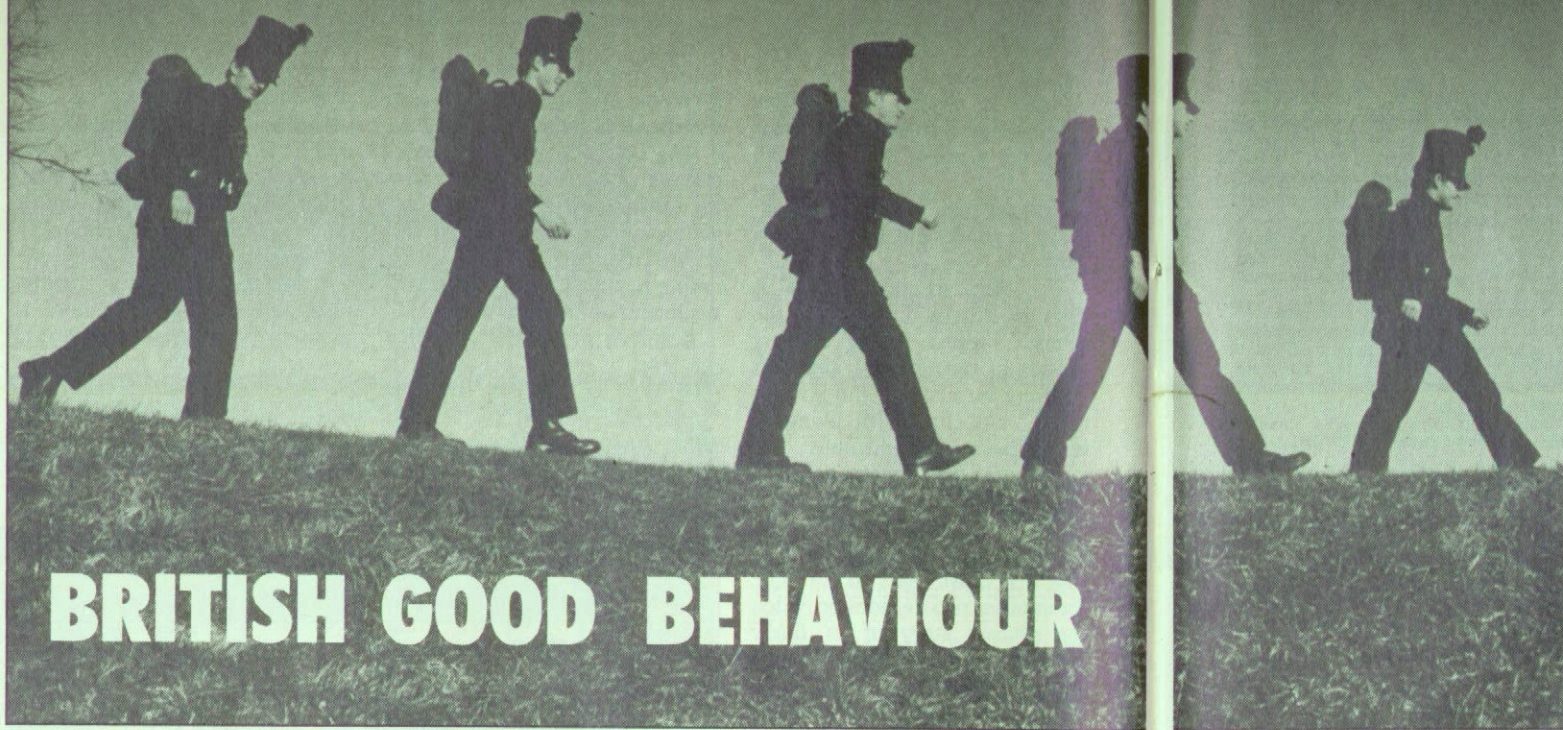
The team had marched in uniforms of the period run up by the regiment but when they reached los Jardines de San Carlos in Corunna and the tomb of Sir John Moore the Spaniards had gone one better by flying up a special guard of honour in authentic Spanish uniforms of the era which had been loaned by a Madrid museum!

At one stage the marchers had to contend with heavy snow. The team lived rough and trekked both by day and night usually snatching four hours' sleep.

Apart from the incident with

Time to move on; men of the RGJ set off again.

The Royal Green Jackets marchers are back home after their historic Peninsular "re-creation" and a modern boost for . . .



BRITISH GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Five of the marchers re-construct their Corunna march.

the lorry which came into their path on the wrong side of the road at 2 a.m. one morning — luckily with no injuries to the nostalgic Brits — the only other was mistaking salt for sugar after laboriously boiling up some water for tea. Ahead of them lay 12 kilometres of upward S-bends to negotiate.

Captain Blackmore dismissed these incidents as a "good challenge" for his men.

The team spent New Year's Eve in a village which perhaps had not changed for some 200 years as they swigged Scotch from a hip flask.

The location provided the setting for some "remarkable ethnic photography." Even so, they still sang "Auld Lang Syne" before "plodding off" again on their mission.

Previously, Christmas Eve had been spent in a ruined monastery about eight kilometres from Sahagún.

"It was our feet that suffered most and I don't think we were really exhausted," the captain recalled. "But they must have remarkable endurance those chaps of 175 years ago."

Something was lost in the translation at times when the team, clutching instructions in Spanish equating roughly to "please give every assistance to these men" were often given cash — once from a convent — which

kept saying, 'Si . . . Si' . . . replying with one finger. This went on for quite a while until I realised that on his hand he had only one finger — the other four were missing, presumably lopped off," said the sergeant.

Lt-Col Kit Owen, CO of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets who visited the site of the famous event to see his men in action said: "I went across to Spain at the urging of the British Embassy because it was becoming apparent that the closing stages of this march were going to result in a very large civic welcome in Corunna."

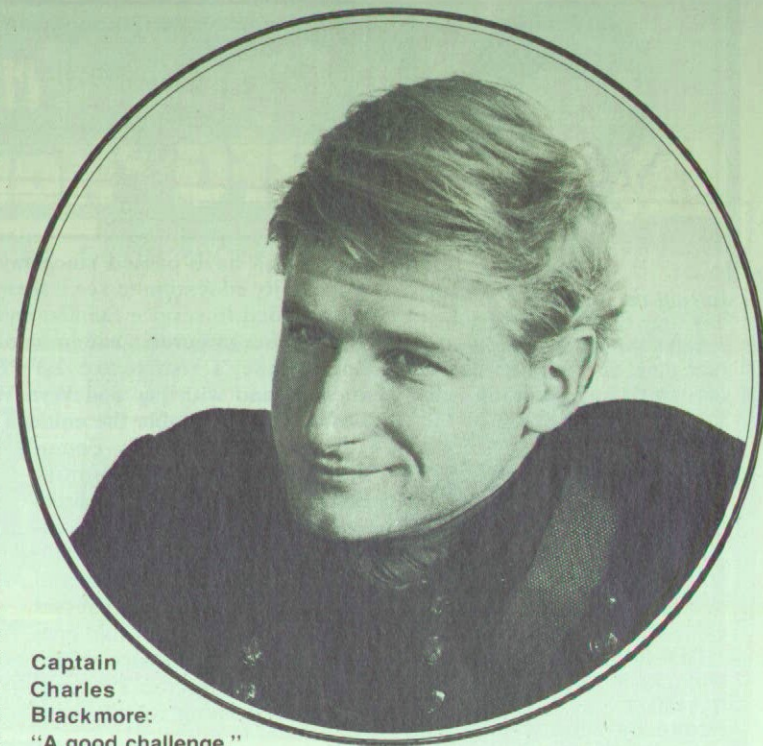
"At Corunna there was a very large crowd; very enthusiastic, cheering and clapping people. The band played a very unusual rendition of our national anthem. The team then marched to the site of where Sir John Moore died — a very large bank is now erected in its place — and, in a rather surprising move, the Mayor very kindly asked Captain Blackmore to unveil the plaque."

Banquets and wining and dining followed in the final stages of the epic footslog.

Lt-Col Owen was at pains to point out: "I don't believe it has been appreciated in this country the interest, enthusiasm and excitement which this march has created in Spain generally but in Galicia particularly."

"The British have not been popular recently in Galicia for various reasons and there is no doubt that this march has done a great deal to restore harmonious relations."

A lot of it, he said, had been due to the "impeccable be-



Captain Charles Blackmore: "A good challenge."

haviour" of the Royal Green Jacket marchers.

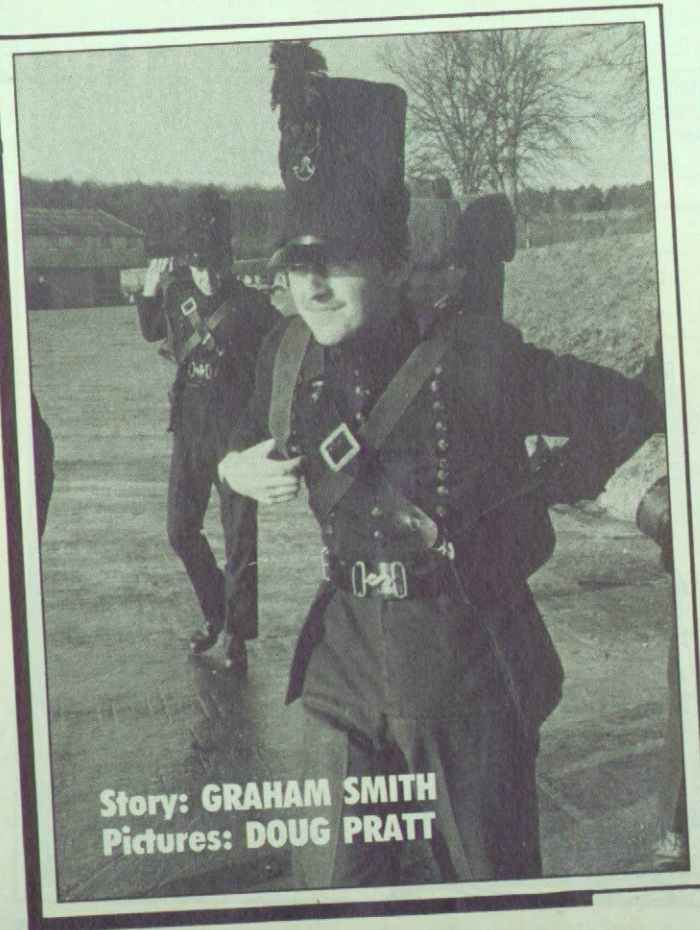
"I received considerable praise from both the military and civic staff and, more particularly, high-ranking Spanish officials. I am very proud, I believe that the country should be proud. They have been magnificent representatives of both the regiment and of the British."

"A considerable amount of money was donated to this expedition by local Spanish businessmen. Some money was raised in England and each man paid a sum towards it. The Spaniards have been most generous. I shall be sending copies of SOL-

DIER out to these people so that they recognise our thanks for their generosity from England."

And what about the fate of the re-production uniforms of the time run up specially for the regiment's marchers?

"We shall probably keep all the accoutrements," he said. The team members were: Captain Charles Blackmore, 1 RGJ; Lt James Bowden, 3 RGJ; Sjt Steven Fitzpatrick, 1 RGJ; Cpl Keith East, 1 RGJ; L. Cpl Tom O'Meara, 1 RGJ; Riflemen Andrew Lee, Ken McNish, Ian Hayward and Steven O'Donnell, 1 RGJ; and Rifleman Stephen Pearce, 1 RGJ.



Story: GRAHAM SMITH
Pictures: DOUG PRATT

they immediately returned. The request, in fact, was for permission to camp!

One of their number, support vehicle driver — when they had one — Serjeant Steven Fitzpatrick of 1 RGJ had difficulty making his point with a local butcher during a tricky negotiation for five pieces of steak.

"I kept putting up five fingers as I don't speak Spanish and he

Front row: L. Cpl O'Meara, Rfn Hayward, McNish, Capt. Blackmore, Back row: Rfn Pearce, McDonnell, Lt Bowden, Rfn Lee.





Having run a number of Holiday Play Schemes I know that running a Play Scheme for the first time can be quite daunting, so do buy the NPFA holiday Play Scheme Packs — see facing page.

Often our schemes are hampered by lack of finance, especially in paying the leaders and helpers expenses. As they are often unemployed mothers and teenagers, there are many factors which we as Service applicants have to overcome.

Just to give you an idea of what is available, in 1983 November Play Times (NPFA) Round Up showed different areas of help.

An international flavour was given to playschemes in Bognor, with volunteer play leaders from Ghana, Algeria, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Poland and Spain.

Blackpool ran seven play schemes last year organised and funded jointly by local voluntary committees and Blackpool Corporation.

In Ambrosden, Oxfordshire, a street was closed off on the Army married quarters estate for the play schemes annual play day. All sorts of free entertainments were provided including a ride on a crane.

In Leeds the local authority spent £50,000 on play schemes. This was divided over 112 play projects.

Kirklees have helped to finance 50 schemes in Batley, Spen Valley, Dewsbury, and Huddersfield.

The new DoE statistics show that voluntary and community groups will receive £60 million through the Urban Aid Programme in 1983-4. So how many voluntary service projects or Holiday Play Scheme projects for 1984 were submitted by service communities?

The Urban Programme Circular 24 stated that applications should have been in by 28 October 1983.

It would be interesting to note how many service-run Holiday Play Schemes applied for grants and how many actually receive grants for their specific Holiday Projects.

Remember the Services pay rates. If we have not applied find out when the local authorities applications have to be in by. So, start laying your plan now. Drop me a line if you need more information.

Anne Armstrong

Open University BFG 'Handover'

Four years have passed since my visits to the Open University community education to see if their excellent 10-week course could be extended to service families overseas.

A number of hurdles had to be overcome but after I arranged for Lorna Bailey's visit to the 1st PPA conference to establish the interest, and with her and Wyn Williams' enthusiasm, a scheme was devised to enable the courses to be available overseas.

In UK each county has a number of volunteer Community Education Local Co-ordinators so it was essential to find a coordinator for BFG.

Mrs Alison Hill volunteered for the job for all the courses except the Pre-School Child one, where Mrs Vivian Rance volunteered to act as the PPA coordinator keeping in line with UK.

With this excellent team the courses gained popularity within six months and soon the 100 mark was reached, as wives found that there was such a wide range in the nine courses offered from the First Years of Life, to Parents & Teenagers, to Health Choices, and Consumer Decisions. Special discounts are given for groups and registered unemployed.

As an added bonus the OU

agreed that as the TV programmes were not available in Germany, in conjunction with the Education branch the TV videos for the First Years of Life to the Pre-school Child, Childhood 5 to 10 and Parents & Teenagers are now available.

Alison and Vivian's dedicated ground work enabled these short community education courses to be firmly established in BFG.

Before leaving for UK Alison handed over to Mrs Sue Wall who has just received her OU degree.

For more information, write to: LMSO Centre for Continuing Education, The Open University, PO Box 188, Milton Keynes MK3 6HW.

British Forces Germany: Mrs. Sue Wall, c/o The Medical Wing, RAF Hospital, Wegberg, BFPO 40.



Alison, left, hands over to Sue

There has been a lot of publicity about the Discounted Scheme for Service personnel to enable them to have some advantage when buying surplus married quarters, but I have not seen the % which is offered or examples of house prices.

I am stationed overseas so can you tell me where I can get this information.

Cpl T Germany.

The examples I have taken are from Bulletin No 1 1984 11 January.

Current market value £25,250. Discounted selling price £17,657. Type B. Glasgow.

M.V. £18,000. D.S.P. £12,600

Anne Armstrong's home telephone number Camberley (0276) 29653.

ASK ANNE

Type C, Tidworth, Hants.

M.V. £25,000. D.S.P. £17,500.

Type C, Marham, Norfolk.

Closing date for all applications 14th March, 1984.

Bulletin Sheets are issued to all units and or stations when necessary by the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office. UKLF Wilton Salisbury SP2 0AG. Salisbury Mil Ext 2684/2693, Salisbury 0722 336222.

See also SOLDIER 12th December, 1983, p 4, 30th January 1984 p 47.

CONTACTS

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SP.

The Army's central charity.

Contributions are received from Corps and Regimental Funds, from the Army at large and from many individuals and firms throughout the country.

The Fund provides help for any man or woman who is serving, or who has served in the British Army and is in real need. It also provides assistance for their dependants. Financial help is channelled through Corps or Regimental Benevolent Associations to the individuals concerned.

THE SOLDIERS' WIDOWS FUND
G Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SP.

Open to all married non-commissioned servicemen in the Regular Army. The annual subscription of £1.80 is deducted from pay.

A basic grant (currently £1,750) is payable at the discretion of the Trustees of the Fund to the widow or dependant child/children of a member who dies. The grant is designed to meet the immediate financial need.

Application form AFN 9284 obtained from Unit Pay Offices.

THE SINGLE SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS FUND

G Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SP.

Open to all single non-commissioned servicemen and women in the Regular Army. The annual subscription of £1.80 is deducted from pay. A basic grant (currently £1,250) is payable at the discretion of the Trustees of the Fund to the nominated dependant(s) of a member who dies. The grant is designed to meet the immediate financial need.

Application form AFN 9284 obtained from unit pay offices.

THE ARMY OFFICERS' WIDOWS FUND

Adjutant General's Secretariat, Ministry of Defence Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1.

Open to all married male officers in the Regular Army. A contribution of £3 is deducted from pay each year.

The fund pays a grant (currently £3000) to the widow of a member who dies, to meet immediate financial needs.

Application form AOWFI obtained from unit pay offices.

THE MILITARY ASSURANCE TRUST

The Manager (MAT), Kingston Bridge House, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4AG.

An insurance scheme open to all married servicemen in the Regular Army. A premium of £1.80 is deducted from pay each year.

On the death of a member a benefit of £1764 is payable to the dependants, to meet immediate financial needs.

Application form AFN 9284B obtained from unit pay offices.

Arrangements have also been made for members of the Territorial Army and the Ulster Defence Regiment to be eligible to obtain MAT benefits.

Application forms AFN 9284E (TA) and AFN 9284F (UDR) obtained from unit pay offices or from the Manager.

ARMY DEPENDANTS ASSURANCE TRUST

ADAT, Kingston Bridge House, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4AG.

An insurance scheme open to all members of the Regular Army.

The member chooses the premium he wishes to pay; this is deducted from Army pay each month, net of tax relief.

On the death of a member, a monthly tax-free income is payable to the dependants from the date of death until age 55/60 (as chosen by the member).

Application form AFO 9553 and leaflet obtained from unit pay offices.

Arrangements have also been made for members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Territorial Army to be eligible to obtain ADAT benefits. Application forms AF 09553A (UDR) and AF 09553B (TA) together with leaflets obtained through unit pay offices.

NICK Balmforth, Director for Children's Play for the National Playing Fields Association, gave Anne Armstrong some helpful hints for those who may be thinking of running or helping with Summer Holiday Play Schemes, discussing the two packs produced by the NPFA.

These are entitled: How to organise a Holiday Playscheme, £1.50, Communications and Publicity for Holiday Playschemes, £1.25, or £2.75 for both inc P & P.

Anyone, be it a group of mums, a local authority, or Service community, will find these packages a must.

Nick advises that February and March are when the initial plans should be made.

Behind every good scheme lies months of preparation.

"What is vital is the way in which the adult approaches the play situation," says Nick. "For the process of play to maintain value in developmental terms, indeed for it to remain 'play', it must be voluntary on the part of the child.

"The adult therefore must intervene as little as possible in the actual choice of activity, but concentrate on making available materials and opportunities.

"Play has the further vital function of providing opportunities for social development. In



Nick Balmforth: little intervention is the key.

One kiddie looks confused ... another happy ... and a lot of work goes into successful play.

play situations, children can cross the, sometimes, arbitrary and artificial groupings of age, class, sex or race and play together. In this context the adult has two roles to play:

- to act as social facilitator; to maintain an atmosphere within which it is possible for children to meet and play together
- to permit relationships between child and adult to develop more fully.

"It is important," said Nick, "to have as wide a range of activities as possible to ensure that the quiet as well as the sporty are involved. There should be a balance between the more physical and mental activities but above all you are looking for variety to sustain the interest of the children whether they are on site or with visits away."

Nick continued: "We are not

looking for a highly specialised work. We are looking for fun. Have a basic level of activity and let's not take a too serious look.

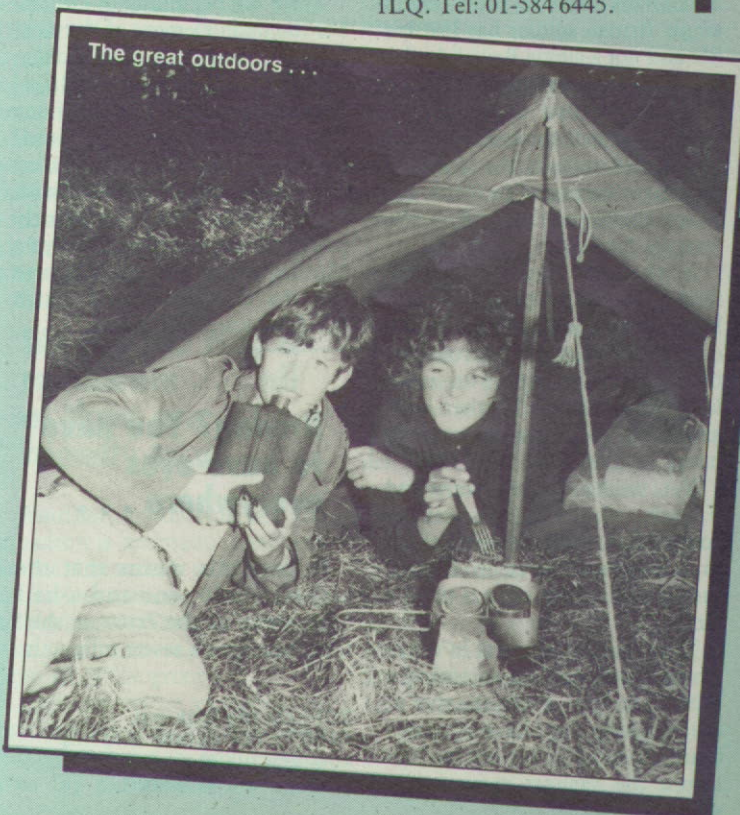
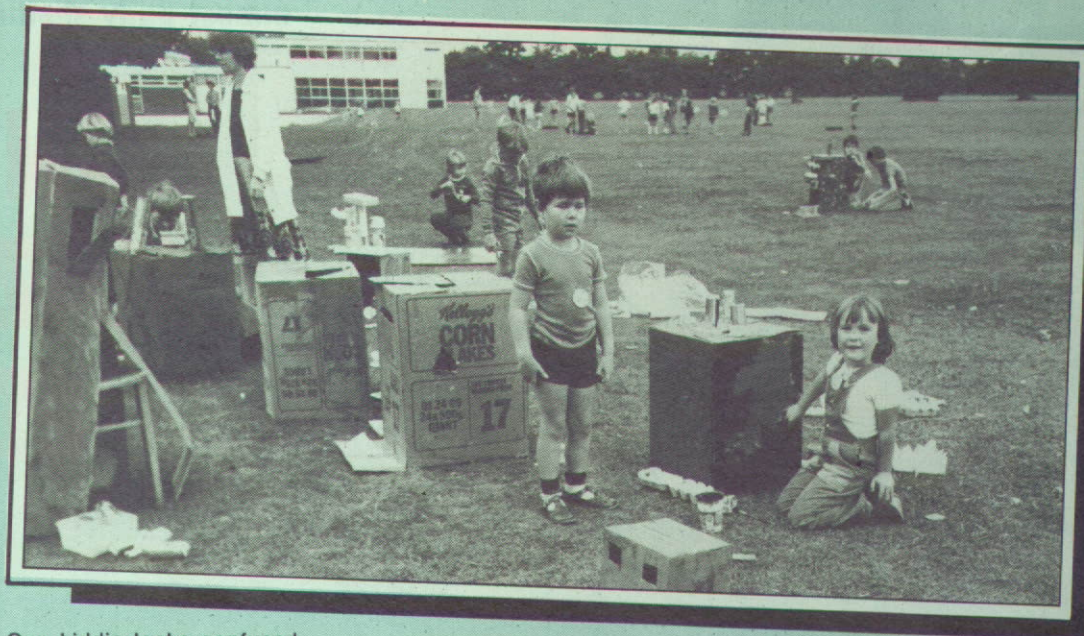
"The children like playing around with paint, and getting themselves dirty. They love to have a go at a wide range of activities and holiday playschemes can provide just that."

And do remember that the object of the scheme is not directly to improve specific skills, or to teach particular activities, but to permit children to discover things about themselves and their world in an enjoyable atmosphere.

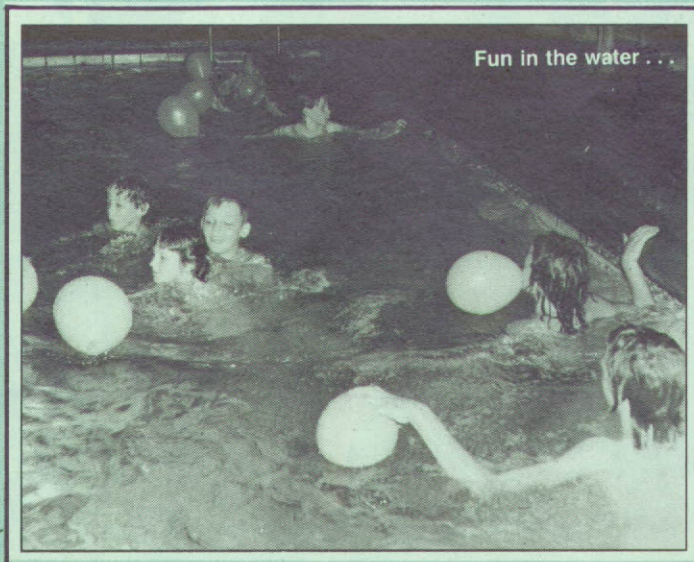
The Holiday Play Scheme



booklets — and any other assistance required — can be obtained from NPFA head office, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3 1LQ. Tel: 01-584 6445.



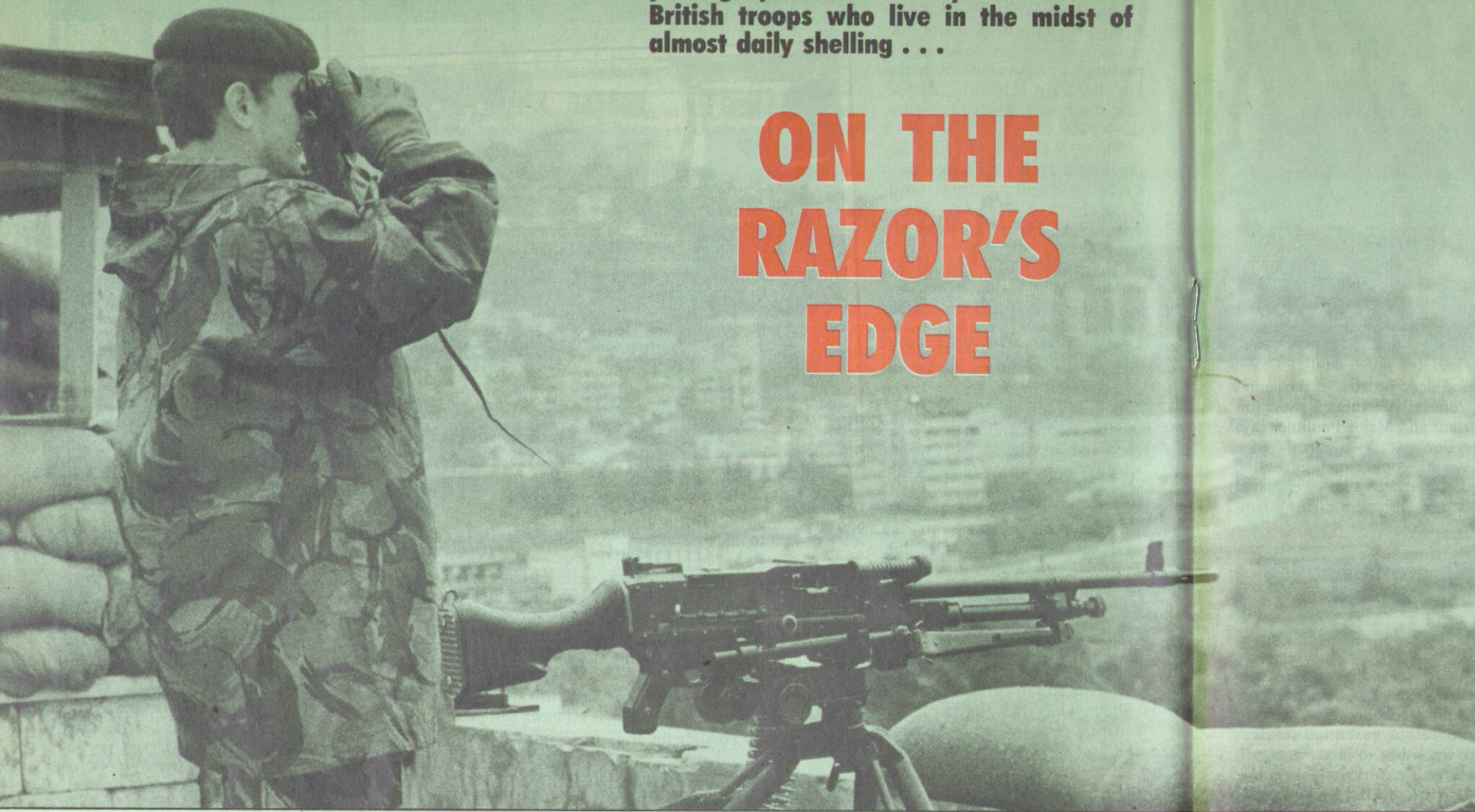
The great outdoors ...



Fun in the water ...

As British troops end their first year in Beirut **SOLDIER** writer John Walton and photographer Paul Haley visit the 110 British troops who live in the midst of almost daily shelling . . .

ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE



IT IS JUST a year since British Forces first arrived in Beirut, the war-torn capital of Lebanon. As **SOLDIER** went to press, not a single British soldier has lost his life and not a single British bullet has been fired in anger.

It is a record of which the 110-strong British contingent are proud and reflects the goodwill they have managed to foster between themselves and all of the warring factions.

At the same time they are the first to recognise that they have had a certain amount of luck in a city where they are surrounded by opposing groups who regularly let fly at each other with anything from small arms to heavy artillery.

Yet, unlike the Americans and French, who with the Italians comprise the four elements of the multi-national force in Beirut, the British do not appear to be a target.

Their headquarters is in a five storey block of flats adjoining a tobacco factory. From the roof of the building they have a panoramic view of the fighting between the various groups who

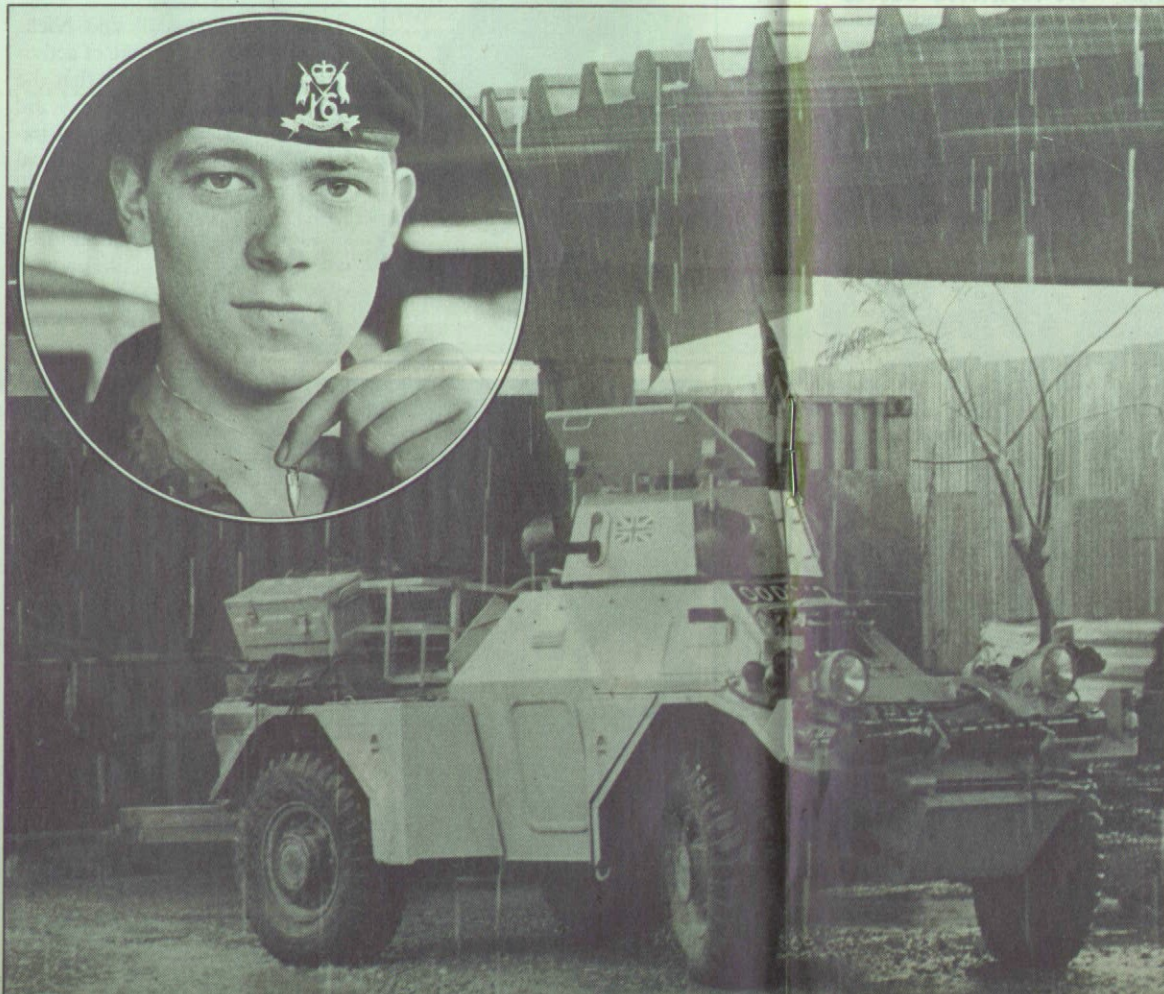
make up the deadly Beirut cocktail — the Druze, the Shi'ite Muslims, the Christian militia and the Lebanese Army.

Since the beginning of December the main element of the British Force has been A Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, some 80 men. Driving Ferret Scout cars and Land-Rovers — all sprayed a desert sand colour and emblazoned with Union Jacks, they frequently patrol all areas of Beirut except a Muslim block between the base and the airport, around which the Americans are dug in.

Driving? You have to have eyes everywhere . . .

In fact this means that the airport, only one-and-a-half miles away as the crow or shell flies, becomes a seven mile jour-

TOP: On the look-out.
INSET: Tpr James and his souvenir bullet.
RIGHT: Rain in Beirut!



ney through Beirut's teeming streets.

So far no group has shown open hostility to the British presence and the British patrols are met with friendliness. In fact the British soldiers are even able to go out shopping.

This is one of the striking things about Beirut. While the British television news seems to show almost daily warfare the city itself continues with a semblance of normal life as though none of it is happening. In fact travelling on the roads can provide as many hazards as shelling.

Recently, one of the Force Land-Rovers had to be sent back to Cyprus as a write-off after a stranded motorist pushed his car straight out in front of it. The driver swerved and the Land-Rover eventually toppled over a wall and down 12 feet before coming to rest on its roof. Fortunately the soldiers escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Sergeant Stephen Roberts, who has now become an experi-

enced Beirut driver, told **SOLDIER**: "You cannot drive as you would in England. There do not appear to be any rules of the road and you have to have eyes everywhere. Unless you push forward you will not get anywhere but they will drive straight out of side roads in front of you without looking. I have never driven anywhere like this in my life."

We are the ring of confidence . . . all of them are friendly to us

Another major role for the squadron is maintaining security for the almost daily talks between the various factions. The venue is an old bank building in no man's land and vulnerable to attack from all of the groups.

Each day before a meeting the British soldiers go to the building and check it and the surrounding area for mines and any other

On patrol. The buildings tell their own story.

hazards. Once it is clear, the four delegates come from their various localities and the talks begin. British soldiers stand guard while the groups attempt to sort out the frequent ceasefire violations and breakdowns and agree new truces.

Says Squadron commander, Major Robin Faulkner: "We are the ring of confidence around that area. It has been chosen because it is mutually indefensible to everyone and all of them can obliterate it. All of them are very friendly to us and there is no animosity at all."

Within the British block conditions are tight and cramped — rather like some of those in the early days of Northern Ireland. Major Faulkner describes living in the Block as being rather like on a submarine.

"You have to be pretty neat with your kit and you have to be

continued on page 28

BEIRUT: The character and training of the British soldiers makes them very well suited to this sort of thing — Force Commander Lieutenant Colonel Peter Woolley

considerate about things like noise because people who have been on guard may be sleeping. Personal headphones have been a great help."

Several times a week the soldiers have to retreat to the cellars of the block when the firing becomes particularly heavy. None of the firing is apparently aimed at the British but stray rounds are inevitable.

Major Faulkner uses a cricket simile to describe their situation:

"Luckily if they fire it tends to go over the top. We are in an extremely good position to see what is happening but we are in fine leg position with a very fast bowler. We hope the wicket keeper will stop them if the batsman doesn't."

There have been a number of close shaves. When the Lancers moved in they put up some old hunting prints on the walls of the officers' mess ante room. Soon afterwards a machine gun round

came through the window and hit the edges of the pictures. During the same battle a Land-Rover in the vehicle park was hit and burned out.

Trooper Kevin James carries a Kalashnikov bullet on a chain around his neck as a memento of his brush with death on Christmas Day. He was working on a Ferret when the bullet ricocheted onto his flak jacket and then hit his finger.

"It was like a punch in my chest and then it took the skin off my little finger. I was shaken a bit and I reckon I'm pretty lucky. I shall wear it from now on as it's no ordinary bullet as far as I am concerned. It was a cracking Christmas for me!"

Keeping fit is always a problem in enclosed areas but the Force has a multi-gym and during quiet periods the men are able to run around the perimeter of the tobacco factory, which is still operating. Major Faulkner is confident that all will pass their fitness tests.

There is also the mental strain of being constantly alert and of



losing sleep because of the sound of gunfire. Alertness is most important and Major Faulkner says the Force walks a razor's edge between appearing aggressive and appearing weak — either of which could have disastrous consequences.

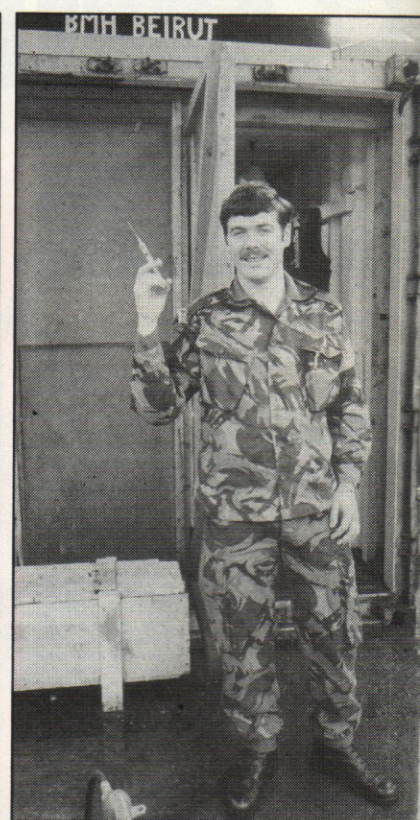
We are in fine leg position with a very fast bowler

A Sapper tradesman, Corporal Neil Bridges, has help from the squadron as he struggles not only to maintain essential services like water but to improve conditions with new doors and so on.

During SOLDIER's visit baths were restricted due to



Left: the damaged frames. Below, left: a friendly welcome; right Sergeant Alex Watson.





Above: tidiness counts. Right: Home Sweet Home? Below: relaxing with pool.

water supply problems and these tend to recur. "Two days are never the same here and anything can happen with the maintenance of the building. If any of the men know anything about any trade I give them the tools and they get on with it" Corporal Bridges told me.

They assure me the time passes very quickly

Hepatitis and other health problems are regarded as real threats and the RAMC provides round the clock coverage. Sergeant Alex Watson, one of the two medics manning 'BMH Beirut' has had to deal with minor injuries, 'Beirut belly' and lots of colds and influenza brought on by frequent changes of temperature during the Lebanese winter. But he applied for and got a two month extension to his four months tour "because there is a real job to do here."

A 14-strong Signals detachment from 30 Signal Regiment mans communications back to England and Cyprus as well as within the Force and at the British Embassy. They also look after the public address system and generators within the block.

Good food is an important part of morale and the four Army Catering Corps cooks provide a round the clock service. Corporal Terry Larkin said the cooks work as a team without use of ranks and the only problems are when they have to leave the kitchens and go to the cellars.

"We get used to it. We switch off everything, including the oven and take out anything that is cooking. When we come back we all work together and it all comes right eventually."

Many of the rations come from Cyprus on regular flights by Chinook or Hercules aircraft, but bread, fruit and vegetables are purchased locally and Sergeant Dixie Hale from 9 Ordnance Battalion is the man who buys on the local market.

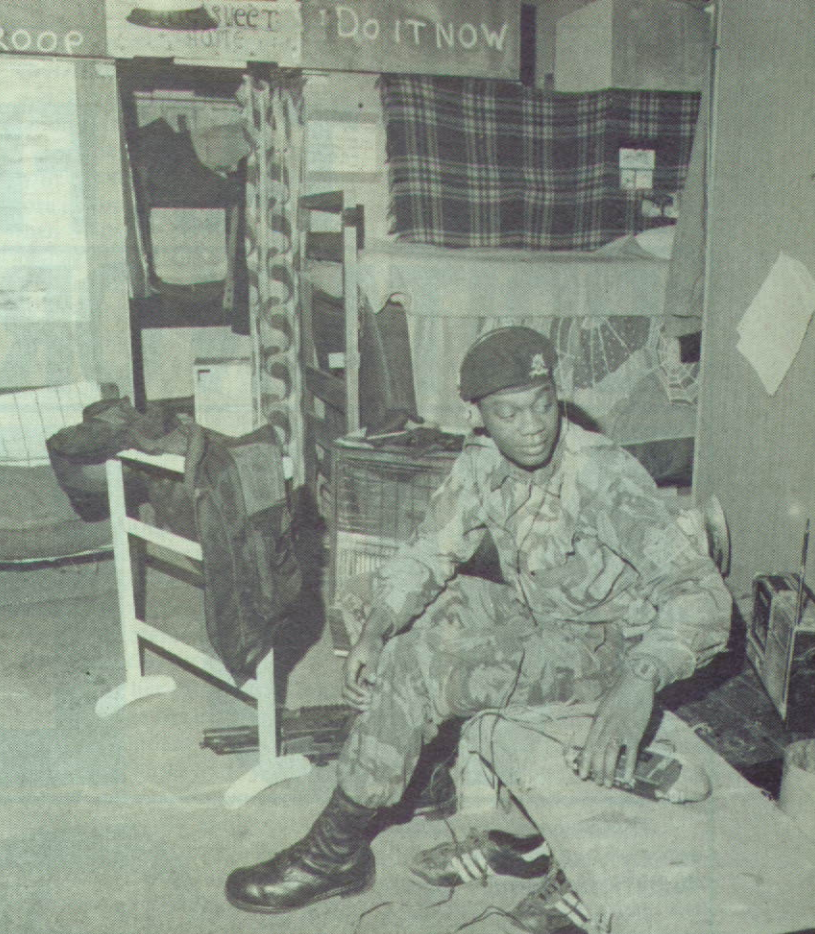
Accompanied by an English

speaking guide he haggles with stallholders in the fruit and vegetable market where the quality is quite high. He also buys other urgently needed stores, which in a city like Beirut can often entail quite a search.

"I think I have purchased everything including the kitchen sink. For one electronic plug I searched all over and then ended up seeing a man in a beaten up shack who had hundreds of them!"

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Woolley, of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, recently took over as Commander of BRITFORLEB. He describes its role as to assist the Lebanese Government's authority and sovereignty over the Beirut area and to assist the reconciliation process.

He said he had been impressed by the cheerfulness and efficiency of the men under his command and by their great sense of humour. As distant gunfire punctured his words he paid tri-

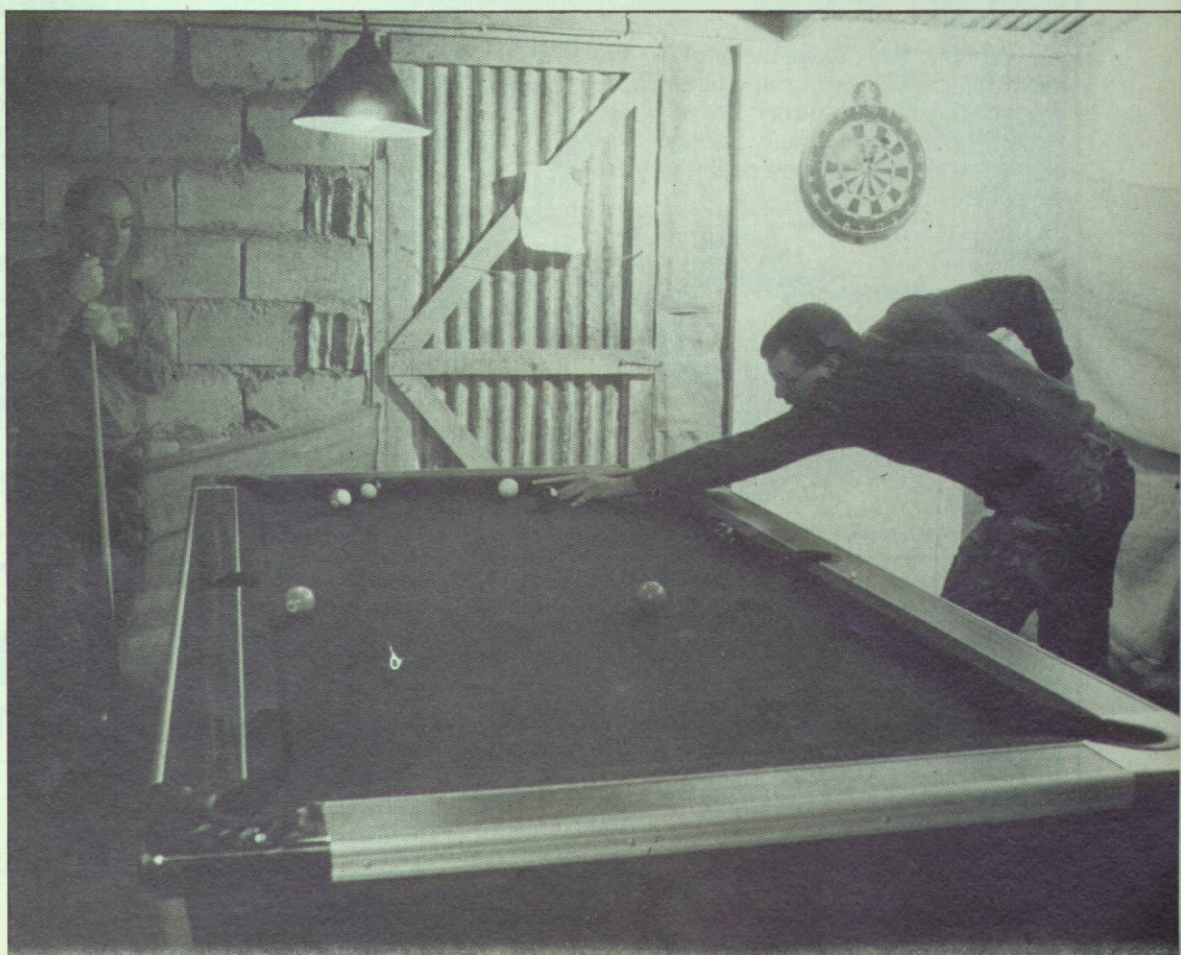


bute to the way in which they worked extremely hard with minimum supervision.

"Although I am sure they will all be glad to get home when their tour is up they seem to find it a very challenging and interesting time and they assure me that the time passes very quickly" he said.

Colonel Woolley added that the Force did not consider itself

immune from attack and had taken all the steps necessary to protect itself. While the politicians still seek a solution to the problems which have brought so much bloodshed and destruction to a once beautiful city the British forces carry out their role — "the character and training of the British soldier makes them very well suited to this sort of thing" said the Force Commander. ■



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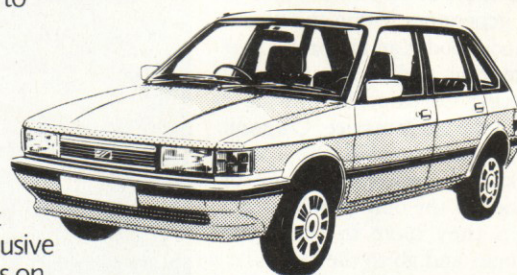
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WILTSHIRE RADIO

STEREO VHF & MEDIUM WAVE

**A look at one of the
youngest independent
radio stations . . .**

PROUD OF ITS SERVICE CONNECTION

WILTSHIRE RADIO is one of the youngest independent local radio stations (42 in all) and from its Total Survey Area of 630,000 potential listeners it believes more than 40,000 of those are Service personnel — together with their families — possibly making it the biggest military catchment area of the national air waves.

Broadcasting on 258 and 321 metres medium wave and 96.4 and 97.4 VHF, its output from a red-brick 17th-century country house in the market town of Wootton Bassett, near the 8,000-population RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire Radio reaches five counties including all of the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

"WR", as it is dubbed by its 35-strong staff, has more than 150 local shareholders, is proud of its Service connections and is ever seeking to develop them during the hours of "business" from 5 a.m. to midnight.

The station has a 200-member Wiltshire Radio Liaison Council — including an Army wife — which feeds it local information, viewpoints and expertise from more than a dozen groups on subjects ranging from sport to education; from farming to the special heritage of the WR area.

One of the presenters on the station which broadcasts 19 hours daily, seven days a week, is Faith Burdick who is gradually

increasing her entrée into and knowledge of military matters in the HQ South West District 'parish' of PR events.

For three hours each Sunday

from 9 p.m. Faith puts on a chat-interview-music show which emphasises the Service families in the region.

She began her radio career with Exeter Hospital Radio before joining Devon Air Radio and then Wiltshire Radio as a traffic manager with the responsibility of planning commercials into WR's programmes.

She told me: "I'm no women's libber but I've found that to be a success in broadcasting — which, like many other professions used to be a man's world — you've got to be better than the men at doing their jobs."

"My Managing Director is keen to push the families theme, particularly the wives' welfare and their problems. I'm personally very interested in the Services aspect of work."

Some of her more recent military coverage has included coverage of a company of Paras heading off to Norway and their skis as part of the UK commitment to AMF (L), the departure to Beirut of men from 'A' squadron, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers — including a brief driving lesson in the tank park of a Striker — and a visit to RAF Lyneham's UK Mobile Air Movements Squadron (UKMAMS).

Colleague, promotions manager and freelance programme presenter is Simon Ward, a driver with 395 Squadron (V), RCT,

a TA air despatch unit based in nearby Swindon.

A keen free-fall parachutist, he said: "We don't wait for the news to be put out; we quite often make it, doing a lot of feature material especially on military matters."

"I'm going off to BAOR this year to cover Exercise Lionheart looking for local connections. Unit Press Officers should keep contacting us. It's really a question of the whole military attitude which has changed recently. They are looking for PR. They should remember we are on their side."

This latter view was borne out by Ms Burdick who said: "I'm not looking for 'knocking' feature material and I'm learning so much about military matters. I find you have to learn the correct terminology especially relating to regiments and their ranks."

Two of her future ambitions are to drive a 56-tonne Chieftain tank and to take a ride in an Army Air Corps helicopter.

But would she hurl herself as a parachutist from a Hercules over a Salisbury Plain Dropping Zone for the sake of her radio art form?

"I'm not sure about that," she said, quickly adding, "but I'll try anything once!"

Last word: Ms Burdick is the sister of Gillie Butcher of BFBS Gibraltar fame. ■

Faith Burdick: familiar voice to Service personnel.



**Story: GRAHAM SMITH
Pictures: PAUL HALEY**

SCHOOL POOL



ARNOLD LODGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

(Founded 1864)

Boarding and day school for boys and girls up to the age of 13. Weekly and termly boarders accepted from the age of 7.

Pupils prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarships to all the Public Schools.

Prospectus available from:

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

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(Comprehensive, C. of E. voluntary aided)

BOARDING FOR BOYS

Applications are invited for boarding places at this historic school which offers a full range of courses for pupils aged 11-18. Boys may be admitted from age eight if musically gifted. Fees £690 per term. Strong sixth form with sound "A" level record.

Further details and prospectus from Headmaster. Telephone: Southwell 814000.

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Founded 1840

HEADMASTER

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An Independent H.M.C. Boarding and Day School

700 boys aged 6-18. Girls are admitted into the Sixth Form.

Full curriculum leading to 'O' and 'A' Level and university entrance.

Particular attention is paid to career advice and to individual counselling both to the majority who go on to degree courses and those going directly into employment.

Wide range of games and extra curricular activities.

Bursaries available for sons and daughters of Clergy and members of H.M. Forces.

Assisted places for those leaving primary school and for direct entry to the Sixth Form are available under the Government Assisted Places Scheme.

The school is situated ten minutes drive from Liverpool airport and close to the M62.

Entrance examination. For admission in September 1984 entrance examinations will be held in March 1984.

For free prospectus or any further details write to The Headmaster's Secretary, Liverpool College, North Mossley Hill Road, Liverpool L18 8BE, or telephone 051-724 2359.



A Boarding and Day Preparatory School for boys and girls from 7 to 14 years

Excellent location and facilities

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or write to:
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The Blue Coat School,
Harborne,
Birmingham B17 0HR.



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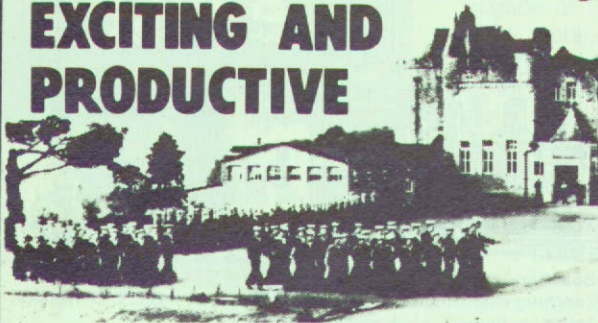
Termly fee
Board and Tuition £935-£1045
Tuition only £400-£510

10% reduction for children of serving members of H.M. Forces

All inquiries welcome

Send for Prospectus to the Headmistress and come and visit the school when on leave

Make your last years at school INTERESTING, EXCITING AND PRODUCTIVE



Continue your education in this beautifully located residential school on the shores of the Menai Straits. One, two or three year courses, leading to leaving age at 16 years, to GCE and CSE levels in Maths, English, English Literature, Physics, Technical Drawing, Geography and History, plus Engineering Familiarisation and theoretical and practical seamanship, including boat handling under power, oars and sails. Although at present there is no actual academic entry requirement approximately 90% of boys do achieve some success in the above examinations. All boys are encouraged to join the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Many boys proceed to the Services or Merchant Navy although the development of character and self-reliance is equally suited to civilian life. One year at the school qualifies for remission of six months sea service for MN certificates. Application should be made as soon as possible for boys of good health and character for entry at age 13, 14 or 15 years.



Write for brochure and application form to
Captain Headmaster

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good teaching, in small classes, by an experienced staff, with steady discipline and an orderly programme, including Scientific and Computer Studies, Workshop Training, Art, Pottery, Music, and a full Physical Education course; Gymnastics, Swimming, Squash, Badminton and all team games —

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GIVE YOUR CHILDREN ALL THE BENEFITS OF A BOARDING SCHOOL.

Continuity in schooling. Happy 'family' atmosphere in beautiful country. Keep brothers and sisters together. Highly qualified staff. Small classes and up-to-date labs. Self discipline, good manners and self confidence. 20 acres. Efficient Sea Cadet Unit. Sailing and many activities. We have even made provision for you to pay by Barclaycard.

Phone or write for free illustrated prospectus.

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Moffats is a family school with close ties with HM Forces

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- scholarships for service children under 9½
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All games and riding on 200-acre Home Farm

Prospectus from The Headmasters Tel: Kinlet (029924) 230.

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Independent, boarding and day
school for boys and girls aged 8-18

A number of scholarships are available
for children of Service personnel which
could amount to free education for
these pupils.

For further details and prospectus, please
contact:

**The Headmaster,
Bentham Grammar School,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7DB or
Telephone Bentham (0468) 61275**



Bentham,
Lancaster,
LA2 7DB.

Telephone: **BENTHAM
61275**

SCHOOL POOL

MICKLEFIELD SCHOOL

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Scholarships and Bursaries available for service children.

For Prospectus and further information apply to the Headmistress.

Telephone (0323) 89247

FOUNDED 1667

STOURBRIDGE

OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL

FULL BOARDING FEES £700 PER TERM.

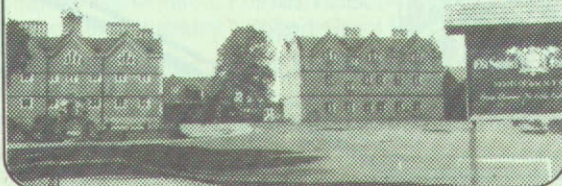
470 boys aged 11-18, mainly boarders. 120 in Sixth Form. Usual 'O' and 'A' levels with Computer Science, Electronics, Design and Technology.

Entry at 11, 13 or Sixth Form. (One third of the boarders come from service families — boarding fees are more than covered by the services education grant).

Individual study bedrooms for most Sixth Formers. Three new Boarding Houses. Cadet Force and wide range of out-of-school activities. New rifle range, squash courts, tuck shop.

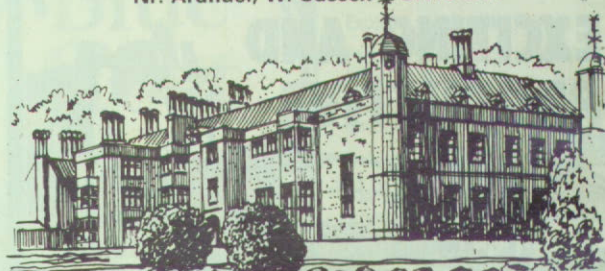
If we may send you a prospectus or you would like to visit the school please phone the Headmaster's secretary or write to:

Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY8 1QX.
Tel: Stourbridge 70025 or 4648.



SLINDON COLLEGE

Nr. Arundel, W. Sussex BN18 0RH



- Boarding school for 150 boys aged 11-18
- Teaching in small groups to C.S.E., O and A level G.C.E. University entrance. Remedial help available
- Wide range of sport and out-of-school activities including keeping of pets and animals, observatory, canoeing, computer studies, swimming pool, squash courts and floodlit hard court. The school runs its own National Hunt racing stables.
- For service families a reduction in fees, special travel arrangements etc.
- Accredited by Independent Schools Joint Council. Member of I.S.A.I., I.S.I.S. and F.I.S.

Enquiries to the Headmaster

Telephone (024 365) 320

NEWLANDS SCHOOL

SEAFORD, EAST SUSSEX

Tel: (0323) 892334

CO-EDUCATION FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 7 TO 18

NEWLANDS PREPARATORY SCHOOL was opened in 1814 and, since its foundation, the Headmasters have all been members of one family. There are 200 boarders and day children aged 7-13. The boarders sleep in the main building and are supervised by the Headmaster, his wife, and four matrons, one of whom is a trained nurse. The School is surrounded by 15 acres of land, of which 12 acres is set aside as playing fields. The grounds include an all-weather football pitch incorporating 3 hard tennis courts, netball and basketball courts. There is a large indoor heated swimming pool providing swimming throughout the year, an indoor rifle shooting range, carpentry workshop, Home Economics rooms, and the Music Centre covers the tuition of a wide range of instruments. Association football, rugby, hockey, cricket, athletics, netball, tennis and rounders are the principal organised sports. Boys and girls are prepared for the Common Entrance and Scholarship Examinations to all Public Schools, and to NEWLANDS MANOR, our own Senior School, which accommodates boys and girls 13+ to 18. A full range of subjects is offered to 'O' and 'A' level.

The Schools escort children to and from Gatwick, Heathrow and Victoria Coach Station, London, and can also arrange for families known to us to welcome children for half terms in cases where relatives or guardians are not available.

In addition to the Service Grants, a further 10% reduction in boarding fees is given. Prospectus and further information from the Headmaster.

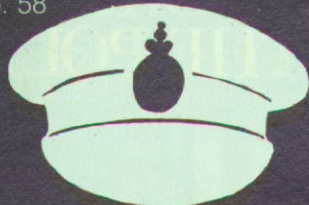
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7-13

- Set in beautiful parkland.
- Excellent facilities for a wide range of activities.
- 115 children, nine small classes.
- Fine academic and musical tradition.
- Music Scholarship.
- 12% reduction in boarding fees for children of H.M. Forces.

Contact the Headmaster, R. S. G. Barton, M.A., for prospectus or visit.



Your Cap Badge

THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS

Gurkhas first became sappers in 1948 when 67 Field Squadron Royal Engineers was formed at Kluang in Malaya from Gurkha infantrymen who were attached to the Corps and wore the R.E. cap badge.

In August 1950 68 Field Squadron was raised and the two squadrons moved from Kluang to Hong Kong to replace the Middlesex Regt. and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who went to Korea.

In 1951 50 Field Engineer Regiment R.E. was formed at Hong Kong where it remained until October 1954 when the RHQ and the two field squadrons moved back to Malaya as 17th Gurkha Division Engineers.

The Regiment became part of the Bri-

gade of Gurkhas and by Royal Warrant on 28th September 1955 changed its designation to The Gurkha Engineers at the same time adopting its own cap badge and insignia.

The design depicted here, which was adopted in 1977 when Her Majesty bestowed on them their current title, is notable for the inclusion of devices commemorating its Sapper origins in the fused grenade with nine flames and the motto "Ubique" (Everywhere) whilst the crossed kukris proudly proclaim them to be part of The Brigade of Gurkhas. At first struck in all white metal, silver plate for officers, the current badge is in gold anodised material for the grenade and scroll, silver anodised material for the kukris, officers' badges in the appropriate gilt and silver finishes.

The first major task in Malaya was the construction of the 342 foot timber piled "Gurkha" bridge on the road between Gemas and Rompin in addition to the road itself. This together with many other roads, helicopter sites and airfields greatly assisted the security forces during the Emergency.

The Regiment was increased by the formation of 69 Field and 70 Support Squadron in time for the Brunei revolt and the Indonesian Confrontation in 1962/63.

These produced heavy commitments in construction of airfields, helicopter pads, hutted camps etc. and in the operation of motorboats and outboard engines on the many waterways in Borneo. Disbanded in 1966 69 and 70 Squadrons were reformed in 1979. Many "hearts and minds" tasks were undertaken and who better than "Johnny Gurkha" to win the hearts of those he meets.

Currently consisting of RHQ, with 67, 68

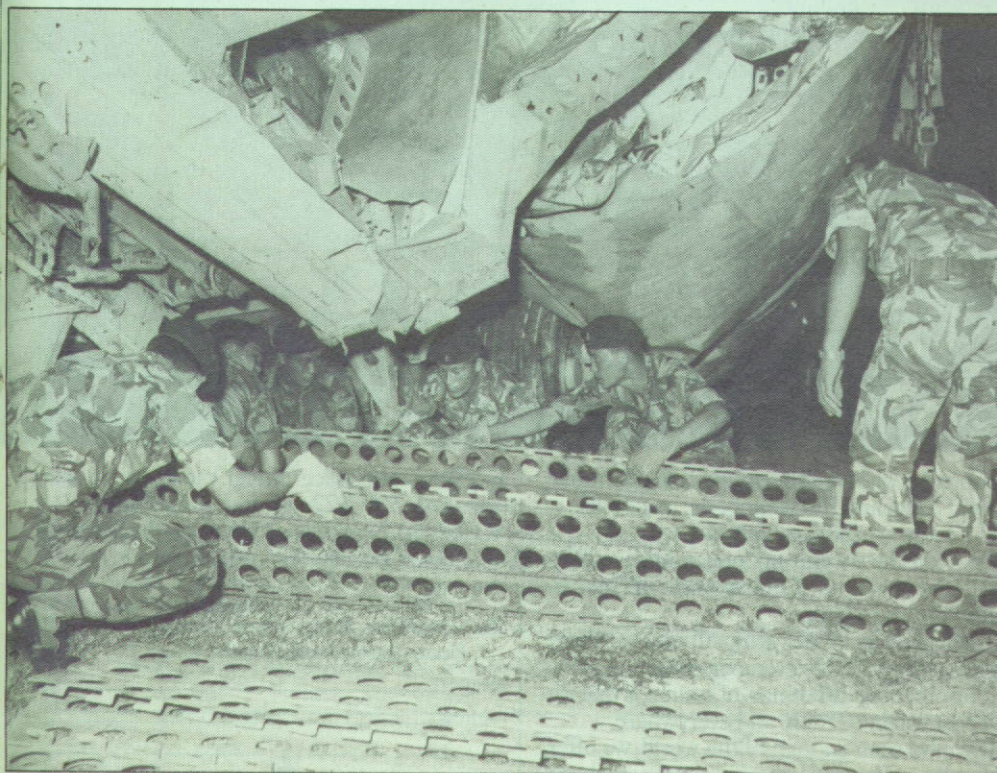


Gurkha Field Squadrons and 70 Gurkha Support Squadron all based in Hong Kong together with 69 Independent Field Squadron based in the UK, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers continue to uphold the fine traditions of the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Brigade of Gurkhas.



"I got that one from a pygmy chief when I saved his life, sir."

LOOK! NO WHEELS

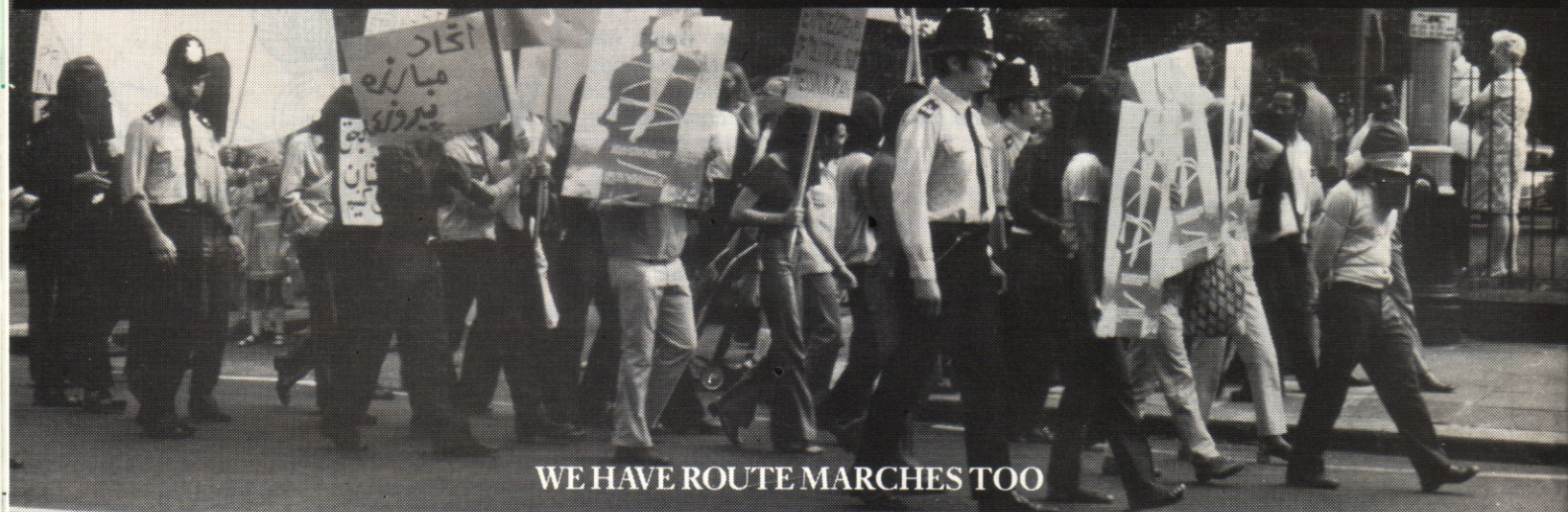


TALKING of traditions (as we do in Cap Badge above) The Queen's Gurkha Engineers are ready for anything — even problems posed by a Boeing 747 with a collapsed nose wheel.

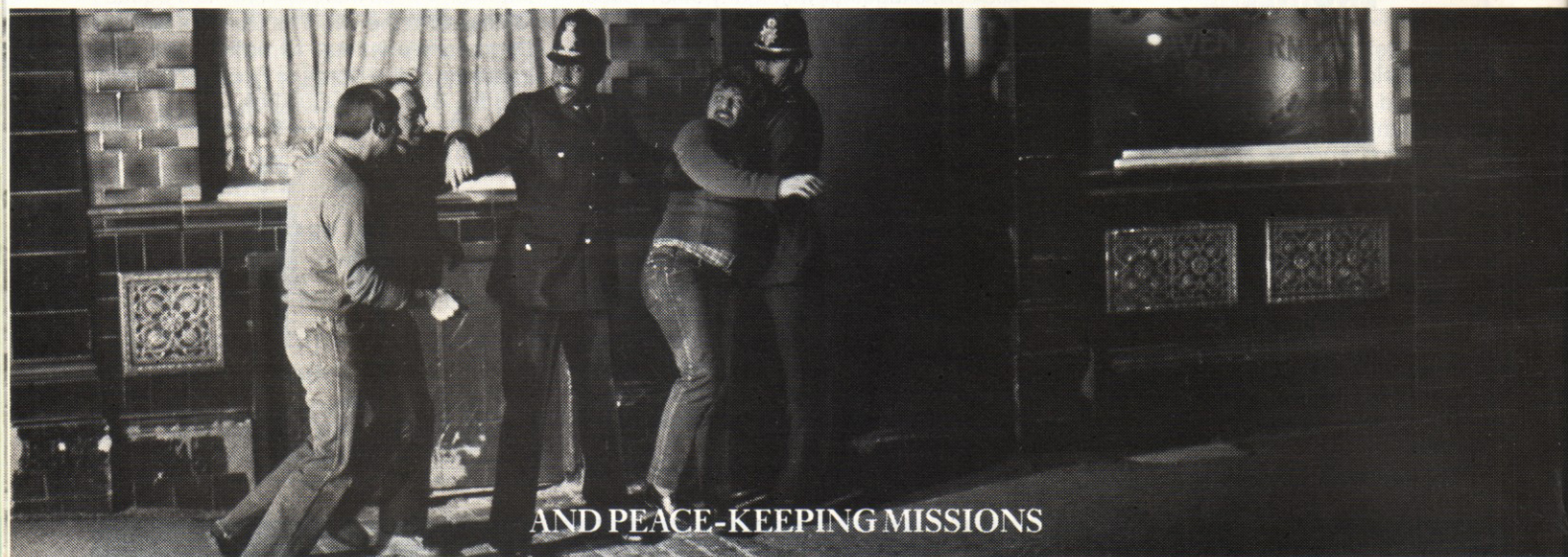
The picture left is a reminder of a strange incident at Kai Tak airport, Hong Kong, towards the end of last year. Well, it isn't every day Army engineers are called in to help civilian aircraft with its problems... Over 100 men from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers beavered away in shifts of 20 for four days to solve the headache (or nose ache?) suffered by the Jumbo when it swerved off the 'hard' onto the runway soft shoulder — the nose wheel buckling so badly that most of it was pushed up into the aircraft.

Planking was laid under the nose and wings, with 56-wheeler low-loaders pushed under the wings and the aircraft was jacked up. Cradles were built from timber, tyres and sandbags. With tail-plane and engines removed to reduce the weight to a mere 125 tonnes a third trailer was put under the nose — which was ballasted. When the aircraft was towed away, that was that... just another successful day in the life of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers!

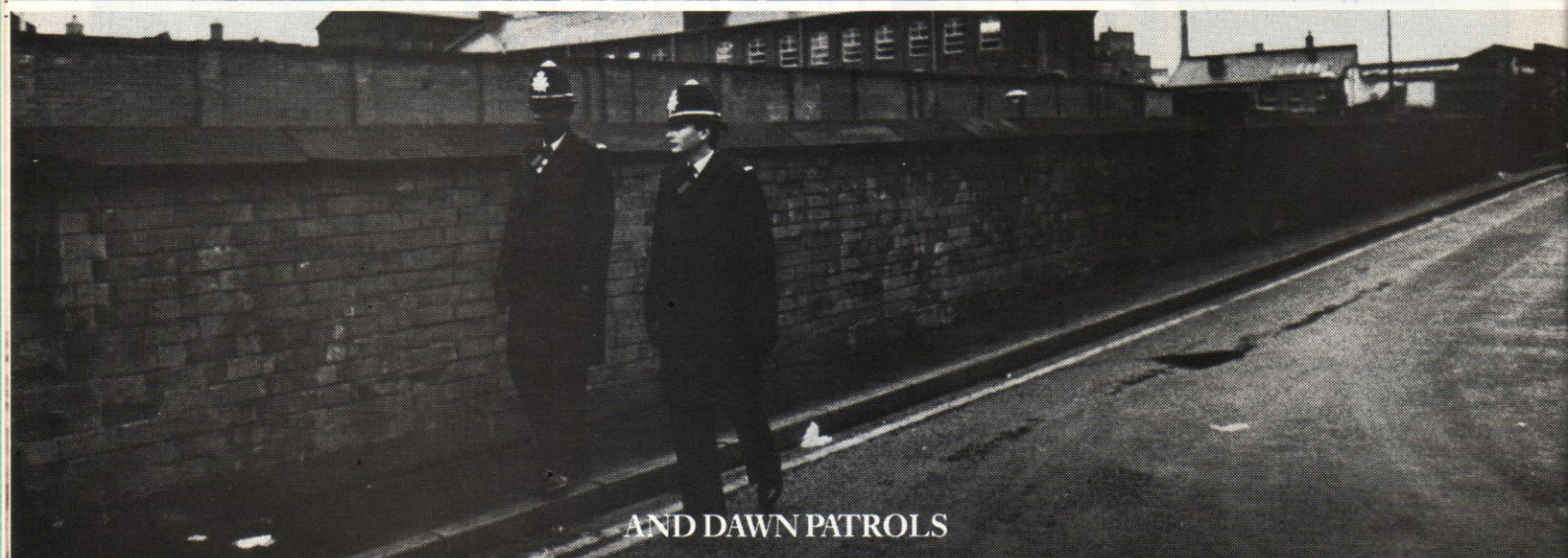
YOU'LL FIND YOUR YEARS AS A SOLDIER GOOD TRAINING FOR A CAREER IN THE POLICE.



WE HAVE ROUTE MARCHES TOO



AND PEACE-KEEPING MISSIONS



AND DAWN PATROLS

If you're used to wearing khaki then you won't find blue serge too uncomfortable.

You'll know already what it is to wear a uniform, to represent authority among ordinary people who may or may not respect it.

You'll also have those qualities of initiative, responsibility and decisiveness most of our Officers have to learn the hard way, out on the streets.

There are other similarities too. In the Police you work as part of a team. You'll rely on your mates just as they'll rely on you in times of trouble. And you'll earn good money. If you're over 22 you start on £8,010, and there's free housing or a generous rental allowance on top. It's even more in London.

From day one you'll be on about the same pay as a Staff Sergeant. But without the mess bills.

But there are differences too.

You won't have a gun any longer. And you'll be more in the public eye. Ordinary folk will look to you for help and advice.

You'll need more tact, sympathy and courtesy than the army probably ever expected.

The other big difference, of course, is that we won't post you here, there and everywhere.

If you've seen enough of the world, we offer you the chance to get to know your own neighbourhood at last.

If you're under 40, and fit, you could go far in

Civvy Street as a Police Officer. Vacancies are open to men over 5'8" (172cm), and women over 5'4" (162cm). Now, if you'd like to cut the Sergeant Major out of your life, cut out the coupon now.

To: Police Careers (England and Wales), Dept. 629,
The Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Please send me further details

S/6/2

Name: _____

Address: _____

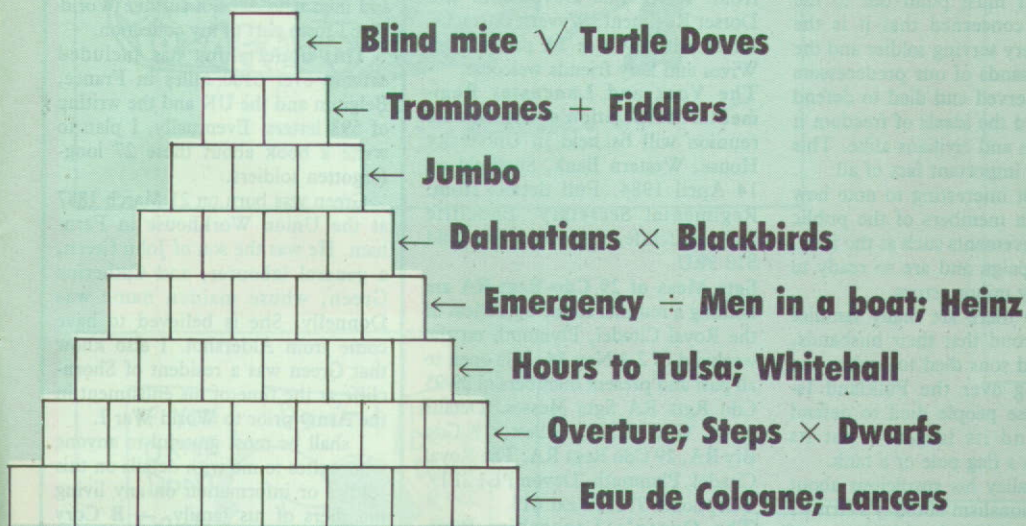
Date of Birth: _____

POLICE OFFICER

SUM LIKE IT!

COMPETITION 335

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 9 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 9 April. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 335' label. In the case of ties winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 335' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.



Can you solve the riddle of the pyramid? All you have to do is replace the words with relevant numbers, and do a few simple sums. (For example "Deadly sins by musketeers" becomes $7 \times 3 = 21$). Easy isn't it?

Finally, adding one number from each line, with the proviso that you may only use a number from either of the two adjacent squares as you move from line to line, what is the highest score you can make?

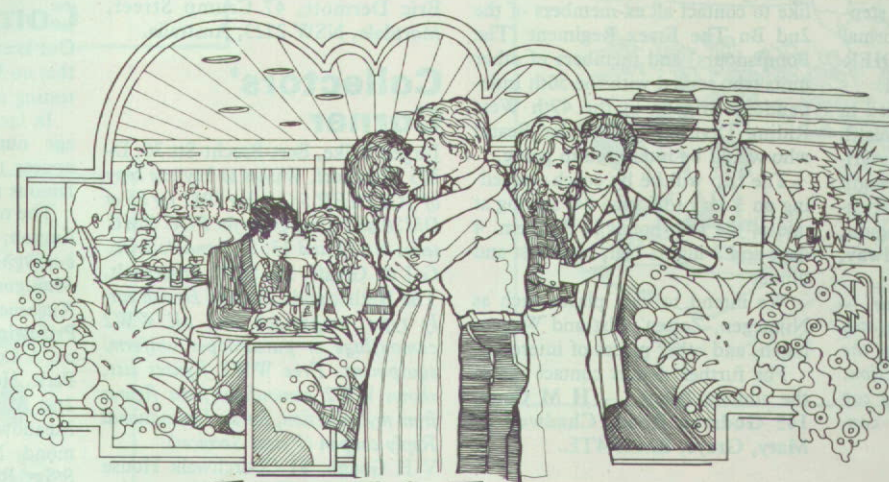
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2: £10

3: £5

4-5: Six free issues of SOLDIER posted direct



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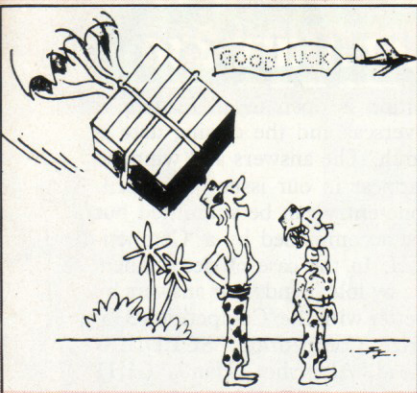
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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,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

Those Badges

The interesting series 'Your Cap Badge' is soon to come to its natural conclusion (even the inclusion of TA badges will extend the series for but a little longer) and I therefore wonder if you have any plans to continue this splendid feature by extending its coverage to include the badges of the Commonwealth — Canada, Australia, India, Pakistan etc, each of these countries being a rich source for such material. In the issue of SOLDIER (14 Nov), for example, mention was made of the Royal Westminster Regt, and the Lake Superior Scottish (Collectors' Corner), these being only two of the list of regimental titles still extant in Canada.

Many Commonwealth regiments have affiliations with regiments in Great Britain, so that by featuring their badges you would not be stepping outside the boundary of normal coverage and, anyway, SOLDIER does have worldwide circulation.

If Hugh King is not interested in continuing with a 'Commonwealth Series', perhaps persons in the various Commonwealth countries might be keen to be involved in this particular enterprise. — R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants. PO12 4JU.

Hugh King's series will continue — alternating with the new series which began 30 January, detailing the National Army Museum collection. Thank you for ideas on widening cap badge coverage. This will be considered. — Ed.

Well Pleased Trio

Thank you for telling me that I had won fourth prize in SOLDIER's Competition No 330.

I should be delighted to pass on the six free issues to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery if that can be arranged.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my enjoyment (and instruction) in reading your admirable magazine. — N J Wood, 20 Jennings Road, Oswestry, Salop.

Thank you for an excellent gesture — your request has been actioned. Thanks, too, for your kind comments on the magazine. — Ed.

Just a note to say thank you to SOL-

MAIL DROP

Spirit First

Reference the letter reading 'Disgraceful' in the issue dated 28 Nov 83. First and foremost it is a mistake to fly the Union Jack upside down, but I feel I must point out to the gentleman concerned that it is the spirit of every serving soldier and the many thousands of our predecessors who have served and died to defend this flag and the ideals of freedom it holds for us and civilians alike. This is the most important fact of all.

It is most interesting to note how soon certain members of the public forget achievements such as the Falklands Campaign and are so ready to criticise any minor errors.

I'm sure there are many families who are proud that their husbands, fathers, and sons died to replace the Union Flag over the Falkland Islands. These people died to defend the flag and its ideals — not its position on a flag pole or a tank.

Also to allay his suspicions about the professionalism of today's Army I suggest the writer should join one of the very professional TA Units in the UK. He will then be able to relate his newly gained experiences to the Regulars, and be able to learn first hand how we have earned the tag 'The Professionals'. — L/Cpl M Gutsell, B Sqn 13/18 Royal Hussars (QMO), BFPO 15.

Dutch Journey

As Chairman of the Thurrock branch of the Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments Association, I am organising a trip to Holland for the Liberation Celebrations on 5 May 84. I should like to contact all ex-members of the 2nd Bn The Essex Regiment (The Pompadours) and members of other units who served with the 56th Independent Brigade in the 49th West Riding Division (The Polar Bears) who would be interested in going.

The trip will be by coach, travelling on 3 May to 6 May 84, staying at one of the best hotels in Arnhem, 4 days and 3 nights bed, breakfast and dinner.

We intend to visit places such as Nijmegen, Zetten, Elst and Wageningen, and other places of interest.

For further details contact me at the address below. — H M Conn, 145 Godman Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, RM16 4TL.

DIER for printing my pen-pal advertisement last November. I had lots of replies and now have several super pen-friends.

I really enjoy writing to them and they seem to look forward enormously to my letters. — Helen Bradshaw, 35 Festival Avenue, New Barn, Longfield, Kent DA3 7HR.

It's always such a pleasure to receive SOLDIER. I have many friends in the British Army and am very interested in British military history. Best wishes for 1984. — Angelo DiMauro, 9 Fruit St, Winsted, CT 06098, USA.

Reunions

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Association Reunion Saturday 19 May '84. St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon; doors open 7pm. Tickets from: RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, in advance £1 per person. Wives and lady friends welcome.

The York and Lancaster Regimental Association's 47th annual reunion will be held in University House, Western Bank, Sheffield on 14 April 1984. Full details from: Regimental Secretary, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe, Vale Road, Sheffield S10 3EU.

Sgts Mess of 29 Cdo Regt RA are holding a reunion in the Sgts Mess of the Royal Citadel, Plymouth on the weekend of 2-4 Nov 84. It is open to all past and present members of 29/95 Cdo Rgts RA Sgts Messes. Details from: W02 (TSM) Gillett, 79 Cdo Bty RA, 29 Cdo Regt RA, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2PD. Telephone: 772312 ext 613.

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment's Regimental Band's first reunion will be held on 24 March at Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, Shropshire. It is for all serving and past members of the Band and its former regiments: The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), The Lancashire Regiment (PWV), The South Lancashire Regiment, The East Lancashire Regiment. Details from the above address or phone Market Drayton 4211 ext 270.

British Airborne Association, Sydney, Australia branch, is hosting the 'Airborne Reunion Down Under' 20-28 October 1984. Details from Eric Dermott, 47 Crump Street, Mortdale, NSW 2223, Australia.

Collectors' Corner

Jürgen Balke, Bert-Brecht-Str 36, D-305 Wunstorf. *Wishes to buy one copy of SOLDIER 5 October 1981 for £5 or DM20 and is searching for FDC BMU series No 12 and 13. Reasonable price.* G J de Graaff, PB 8027, Posterholt, The Netherlands. *Seeks a British early type jumpsmock and all WW2 camouflage or paratrooper uniform/equipment. Free WW2 figures list, shows WW2 camouflage/para figures from my collection, for an International Reply coupon (Postal Services).* V H Gough, 81 Churchwalk House (multi flats), Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 3DJ. *Wants W/M cast stags head and antlers for Seaforth Highlanders bonnet badge. Will buy or exchange.*

Tom Moloney, 68-29 Kessel St, Forest Hills, NY 11375, USA. *Wishes to buy or trade for British, other NATO, Commonwealth naval, military badges, unit patches, wings, rank insignia. Current only. Has much US Navy, coast guard, AF, Army to trade. Also caps, uniforms.*

Alan Llewellyn, 74 Abercorn Crescent, South Harrow, Middx. *Requires Good Conduct Discharge French Foreign Legion Certificate. Also, any unbadged Legion items, uniforms, badges, documents and worldwide swords.*

Can you help?

I am trying to trace living relations of Pte Joseph George Green, who was killed in action at Delville Wood in France on 24 August 1916 while serving with the 1st Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regt.

This soldier's war medals plus the medals of 26 other British officers and men who did not survive World War I form part of my collection.

This undertaking has included driving over 6100 miles in France, Belgium and the UK and the writing of 593 letters. Eventually, I plan to write a book about these 27 long-forgotten soldiers.

Green was born on 21 March 1887 at the Union Workhouse in Farnham. He was the son of John Green, a general labourer, and Catherine Green, whose maiden name was Donnelly. She is believed to have come from Aldershot. I also know that Green was a resident of Shorncliffe at the time of his enlistment in the Army prior to World War I.

I shall be most grateful to anyone who writes to me with details on this soldier or information on any living members of his family. — B Cory Kilvert Jr, 241 Perkins St, Jamaica Plain, Mass 02130, USA.

My father, Lance Corporal Bill Marlow of the 15/19 King's Royal Hussars was 24 and stationed in Münster when his vehicle (scout-car or tank) overturned at Kreissstrasse KM stone 2-5, between Linderhof and Alverdisen on 9 May 1970. He was the only one killed. His wife was Mavis and I was then two. I'd be grateful if any of his friends would write to me. — Miss Tanya Fleming, 3 Cuillin Close, Lambton, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 0PU.

Competition

Our keen competition entrants found that no 331 (28 November) was not as testing as some we've set.

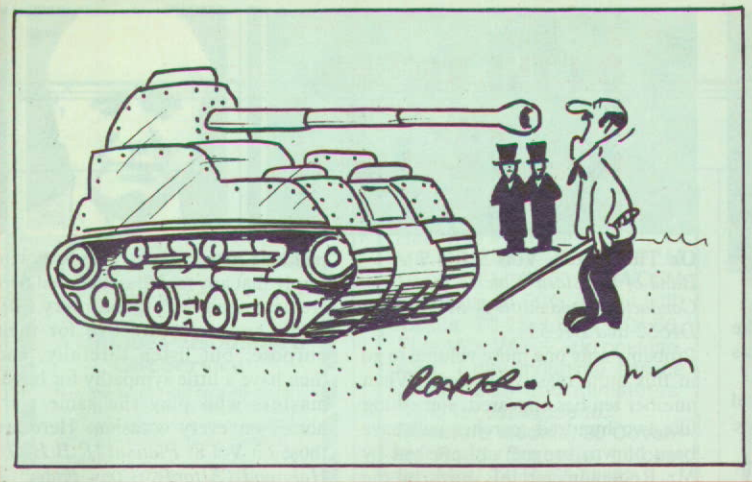
In fact, with over double the average number of entries, it would appear that some found discovering famous military names quite easy.

The names we were seeking: Wellington, Wolsley, Buller, Marlborough, Gordon, Allenby, Wolfe, Montgomery, Roberts, Cromwell, Küchener, Wingate.

Prizewinners: 1st Mrs P Davidson, c/o A Coy 4 RGJ, TA Centre, Slade Park, Headington, Oxford OX3 7JJ. 2nd Mrs J Dobinson, 40 Brough Meadows, Catterick Village, Richmond, N. Yorks. DL10 7LQ. 3rd S/Sgt Richards, School of Military Survey, T & V Section, Hermitage, Newbury, Berks. 4th Major Dimond, RAC MRO, Queen's Park, Chester CH4 7AW. 5th Capt H W Corke, 249 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5HS.

How observant are you?

1. Left hand of man second from left. 2. Left foot of left man. 3. Shorts of man second from left. 4. Roof of doorway seen through middle window. 5. Small window seen through right window. 6. Shoe of man second from right. 7. Instructor's right thumb. 8. Instructor's left foot. 9. Jacket-sleeve seen below bench. 10. Thickness of left bough of tree.



"I still say it was my choice of weapons!"



"I suddenly realised it was his birthday."

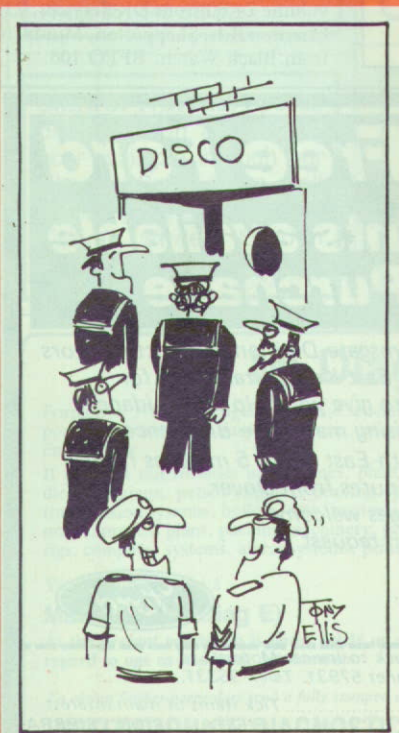


"Oh no, George and Jean aren't road safety fanatics, they're just mean with their booze."

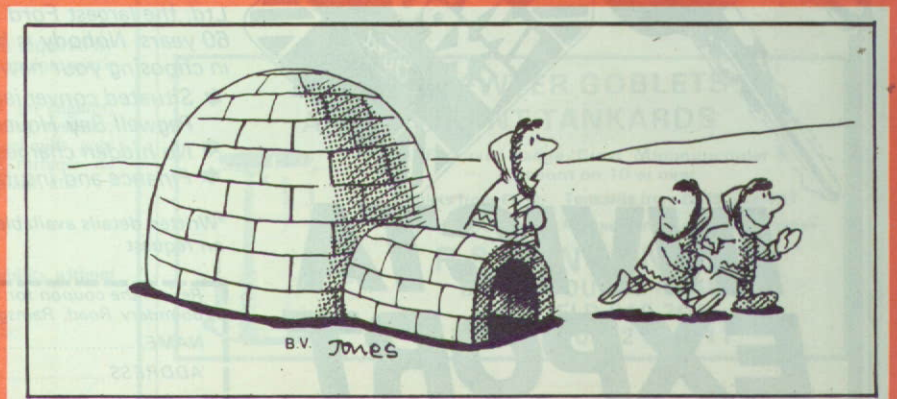
Humour



"Why can't they play on their own beach?"



"We should be OK tonight, Harry — all the nice girls will end up with this lot."



"Now, don't forget — you play this side of the North Pole!"

38 YEAR MUSICAL RUN

READERS will recall in last month's "On the Record", mention of the revival of the band from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment which was formed in October 1980 by former WO1 Phil Sleep.

It is worth noting that some three years ago when Mr Sleep left the Royal Engineers' Chatham Band after a period of 38 years' continuous service they thought that was the end of him — but how wrong they were!

Certainly, the BAOR Engineer Regiments and, indeed, many other regiments in that time can testify to the splendid achievements of Mr Sleep.

Now, thanks to his efforts, the present band of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment is 14-strong and is thriving with an annual performance undertaking of 100 appearances. It has even provided a small orchestra on 67 separate occasions for various Messes.

Last month, sadly for them, Mr Sleep left the band. He was their principal violinist and will be well remembered for his speciality solo spot "Gypsy Carnival", a fast-moving piece demanding advanced technique. It always guaranteed splendid applause from listeners.

Mr Sleep spent his last 27 years in the Service as a WO1 and he will be

remembered with affection throughout the Royal Corps of Engineers, especially 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment where he trained the bandsmen not only in musical skills but also ensured they met their military requirements.

WO 1 Sleep and his wife are going to settle in South Godstone, Surrey, on a farm. He says he is looking forward to putting into practice the skills he acquired on his pre-release course (household maintenance). Certainly his violin will not be far from hand and the Royal Corps of Engineers is convinced it has not heard the last of him.

The baton of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment is to be taken up by WO 1 Wally Hammond, RE, who, for a long time, has been a close friend and under-study of Mr Sleep.

ON THE RECORD with Rodney Bashford



On The March, Vols 8 and 9

Band of the Black Watch

Conductor: Bandmaster N M Rogerson
DR 52 and DR 53

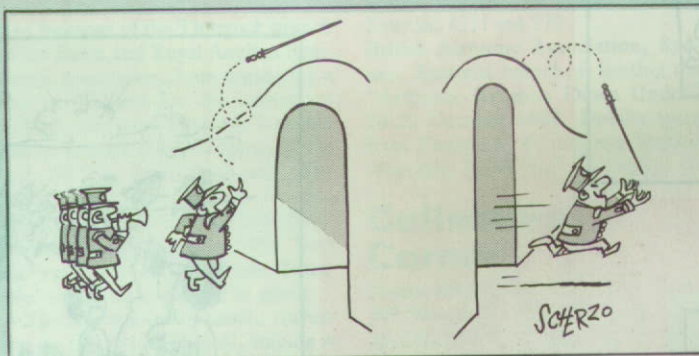
Probably only one more volume to go in this quite massive project. When number ten has appeared, something like two hundred marches will have been blown, banged and crashed by Mr Rogerson and his boys in the interests partly of readers of SOLDIER and not a little persuasion from that breed of fanatics known as band-buffs.

Such a collection should be a salutary experience for all. Here they are, masterpiece and non-masterpiece, cheek by jowl — the sort of sadistic prank we sometimes play at Kneller Hall by making a student conduct his own "march" immediately followed by such as Viscount Nelson or Under den Siegesbanner. But you asked for it, and DR have massively obliged. Soon I understand the set of ten discs will be available at a discount price, so those who have not yet indulged their craving may be on a good thing. And with all 200 marches to hand you should become an expert at deciding for yourself, with hints from me over the past thirteen years, what

makes a masterpiece. This is not to imply that any marches included here are less than very good, very efficient, and very effective for their purpose, but listen carefully, and then have a little sympathy for bandmasters who play the same war-horses on every occasion. Here are those on Vol 8: *Platinus* (R B Hall), *Holyrood* (Alford), *Vimy Ridge* (T Bidgood), *My Congratulations* (Blankenburg), *Crusader* (Sousa), *Dawn of Freedom* (Lotter), *Return of Peace* (H Bidgood), *Tiroler Holzhaecher-Baum* (J F Wagner), *Light Cavalry* (Starke), *The President Elect* (Siegal), *Young Courageous* (Lovell), *The Last Stand* (Myddleton), *Heil Europa* (von Blon), *Frei Weg* (Lataa), *El Abanico* (Javaloyes), *Fridericus Rex* (Radeck), *Luftwaffe March* (Goodwin). Several of these are the composer's second or third best march; see the difference and feel the width!

On Vol 9 there are, in my not-too-humble opinion, eight masterpieces of undeniable stature. The remainder are the kind that can grow on you. If you don't agree please write to our old friend Ranjit Banerjee, not me or Ed.

Imperial Life Guards, *The New Colonial* (R B Hall), *Picador*, *The Loyal Legion* (Sousa), *For King and Country* (T. Bidgood), *Great Big David* (Lotter), *Colchester Castle* (Young), *Metropolitan* (Barsotti), *The Vanished Army* (Alford), *Pepita* (Neumann), *Turenne* (Fischer), *Unter dem Freiheitsbanner* (Nowowieski), *Kaiser Friedrich* (Trad), *Gladiator's Farewell* (Blankenburg), *The Liberator* (Ancliffe), *Hoch und Deutschmeister* (Ertl), *The Queensman* (Pryce), *Hoch Habsburg* (Kral). Each volume £4.60 from DR Services, 233 Charlton Rd., Shepperton, Middx, or from Black Watch, BFPO 106.



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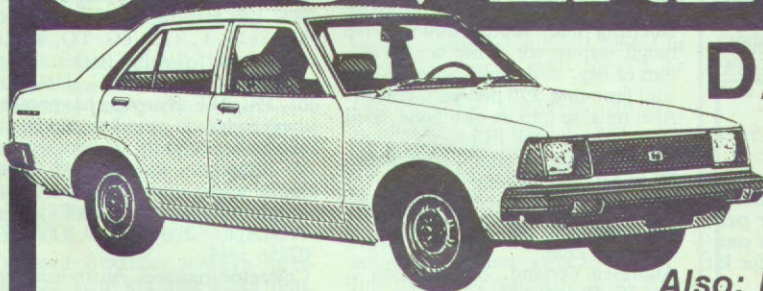
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History of the Second World War, Victory in the West Volume Two. Published by HMSO at £12. Normandy — The British Breakout, by J J How. Published 1981.

R W Jefferson, 21 Colin Avenue, Grimsby DN32 8EX.

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Personal

To all coffin troopers, mad broomhandle Eddie from Tottenham is still at Cove. Write ASAP or else! Spr Cochrane, 63 Sqn 3 TRRE, Gibraltar Bks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17.

Penpal mag for lonely people. Approval copy from: Matchmaker (X66), Chorley, Lancs.

A HOME IN THE HOME OF NOSTALGIA

ALL ROADS lead to Portsmouth on June 6 when the 40th anniversary celebrations of World War 2's "D-Day" take place. Celebrations won't in fact, be confined to just June 6, they will run from June 1 to June 30 and include a series of concerts, dances, film shows, exhibitions, rallies and visits from American entertainers.

Portsmouth is still a major naval centre, but increasingly it's transforming itself into an industrial and tourist attraction. Its waterside amenities, quick connections to the Continent and motorway access to London, the West and the Midlands, make it one of the leading residential growth centres of the South East. Consequently, property prices are not cheap. There's very little under £20,000 and even the unmodernised two up and two down terrace finds buyers willing to pay in the region of £20,000. New estate semis start at around £28,500 and new three-bedroom detacheds start at £38,000. Anyone needing a four-bedroom house will pay nothing under £42,000. The scaling down of the docks has aggravated the unemployment situation but the area is relatively job-rich. Many service personnel already living in the city will vouch for its very agreeable life-style.

Contact: Hall Pain & Foster (0705 824421)

K. Stephenson, 0277 232913

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

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Houselet (Southwest), Property Management, 40 Newcourt Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon.

Overseas Personnel Services have been letting houses/flats in Berkshire/Oxfordshire, Hampshire for 10 years. Reliable tenants found. Properties visited regularly. Nominal commission. Contact:

Mrs Joan Henderson, Ravensworth House, Paices Hill, Aldermaston, Berkshire. Tel: 073471 2649.

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Bulletin No 2 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

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TYPE 4		£45,500
	The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and applications forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.	

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin number 2 is 21 March 1984.

Dead before he saw his French medal

by JOHN MARGETTS

A DARING cross-Channel wartime raid earned Sergeant George Hartburn the Croix de Guerre — which is one of the highest military honours bestowed by France.

But he never collected either the medal or the citation, for he died last year, 40 years after being told of the award.

His widow, Irene, together with one of her sons, went to the French Embassy in London for a belated presentation of the coveted medal.

A modest man, former Commando George never told his wife and family what happened on the secret raid into German-occupied territory.

But just before he died he wrote to the French Embassy requesting information about his award.

Sadly he died before arrangements were finalised and it was Mrs Hartburn who travelled to London for the presentation by the French Ambassador.

It was then the story of



Above: Mrs Irene Hartburn with the citation and photo of her husband George.
Photo courtesy — The Star, Sheffield

Top: Mrs Hartburn presenting the medal watched by her elder son Peter and from left, WO1 Fox, WO2 Hall and Sgt Woods.

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SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

George Hartburn's courage was revealed. A commando attached to a Free French unit was involved in a hit-and-run raid on the Dutch coast. The group's radio — their only communication link — was left on the beach. George was the man who went back for it.

He was under heavy fire as he

scrambled through barbed wire and across the sands, but he retrieved the set and returned to his unit without a scratch.

As Mrs Hartburn received the medal from the French Ambassador old-timers of the Free French Forces watched alongside high ranking officers of the French Armed Services.

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SPORT STARTS HERE

SIX Servicemen — four from the Army and two Royal Marines — were selected by the British Ski Federation as part of a new 'straight running' cross country team for the Winter Olympic Games taking place now in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

They are: Lieutenant Mark Moore, 39 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery (team captain); Marine Andrew Rawlin, 45 Commando, Royal Marines; Marine John Spotswood, 45 Commando, Royal Marines; Lance Corporal Martin Watkins, 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment; Sapper Michael Dixon, 35 Engineer Regiment, and Sergeant David Marshall, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Although there has been an Olympic biathlon team (skiing and shooting) for many years, 1984 is the first time for over 25 years that Britain has entered a 'straight running' cross country team. The team is entered in the 4 x 10 km relay, the 15 km, 30 km and 50 km races.

The formation of a men's 'straight running' team represented a great step forward in competitive Nordic skiing in Great Britain. For the first time there is a men's team, a ladies' cross country team, and a men's biathlon team at the Winter Olympics.

The team has the full support of the British Olympic Association, Sports Council and the

Sports Aid Foundation. Both the Army and Royal Marines, as well as a number of small firms, have helped finance the project.

The national team director is Lt Col Johnny Walker, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, serving in the Ministry of Defence, and the team manager is Major Nicholas Fickling, Royal Engineers, formerly of 35 Engineer Regiment, but now at the School of Military Survey.

DETAILS OF THE ARMY MEN

Lt Mark Moore was just eight

when he first entered the British National Alpine Championships. Has raced for the British biathlon team and raced in the Lowlanders and Junior World Championships 1981. Mark's father is Lt Col (Retd) John Moore, who attended three Olympic Games as a national biathlete.

L/Cpl Martin Watkins, age 21, started skiing in 1978/79. As a junior (under 21) he won the British 15 km biathlon in 1981 and 1982 and was British junior biathlon champion over 10 km in 1981, the year in which he represented Great Britain in the Junior World Championships. Switched

Pictured here, left to right, are Lt Col Johnny Walker, team director, Marine Andrew Rawling, 45 Commando, and Major Nick Fickling, Royal Engineers at the School of Military Survey.



to straight running in 1982/83.

Sapper Michael Dixon, 21, started skiing in 1980. He has earned his place in the selection races and shows considerable promise for the future.

Sgt David Marshall, 31, is a most experienced cross country skier. He was sixth in this year's national 15 km and 30 km races, and competed in the recent World and Alpine Cup meetings.

HOWARDS IN BOXING FINAL



A great roar went up from 450 Yorkshiremen as Lance Corporal Wally Wallace's hand was raised by the referee at the end of the sixth bout. The score was then 5-1 in favour of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards.

The eventual 7-2 victory over the 1st Division Royal Corp of Transport Regiment assured the Howards of a place in the final of the 1st Armoured Division Inter Unit Novices Boxing Championships.

After the match, featherweight victor Private Paul Newby said: "Confidence is high now that we're in the final. The training has been hard but it's been worth it. We're boxing as a team and what's more our boxing skills and fitness are improving."

The Howards go to the final having only lost three of their 27 bouts.

Photo shows, left to right: Privates Phil Atherton, Russ Abbot, Stephen Grant, Chris Vickers, Paul Newby; Lance Corporals Wally Wallace, Richard Robson, and Privates Jackie Boyce and Keith Alexander.



Judo

OLYMPIC HOPE IN GOOD FORM

A LAST-MINUTE decision to enter by Lance-Corporal Stuart Travis of the Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre at Northampton, ensured the seventh successful defence of his under-95 kilos class title in the Army Senior Individual Judo championships at Bulford.

Olympic hope and No 2 in the British squad, Lance Corporal

Results: Special Kyu (A) under 71 Kilos: bronze, L/Bdr Edgar, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill and L/Cpl Towns; silver, L/Cpl Wolfendale, 22 PC RE; gold, Rflmn Parker 2RGf.

Special Kyu (B) over 71 Kilos: bronze, Rflmn Hunnigal and Gnr Chugg; silver, Bdr Griffiths, PMC Arborfield; gold Captain Hicks, BAOR. Under 60 kilos: Silver, Gnr Arrand, 40 Fd Regt; gold, Spr Bonfield, RE. Under 65 kilos; bronze, Gnr Weir, 40 Fd Regt and Cpl Bishop, Depot Para; silver, Cftsmn Morton, SEME, Bordon; gold, Cpl Franklin AAC Blackdown.

Under 71 kilos: bronze, Lt King, Shrivenham; silver, L/Cpl Riches, 22 Engr Regt RE; gold, Cpl Kubath, Depot Para.

Under 78 kilos: silver, Sgt Young, Sandhurst; gold, Cpl Armstrong, PMC Arborfield.

Under 86 kilos: bronze, Sgt Lowe and Rflmn Lee; silver, S/Sgt Williams, 26 Engr Regt RE; gold, Pte Butler, 3 Para.

Under 95 kilos: bronze, L/Cpl Patterson, ACC; silver, Pte Marwick; gold, L/Cpl Travis, RPC Trng Centre.

Over 95 kilos: silver, Cpl Vernon; gold, L/Cpl of the Horse Jones. Open A under 71 kilos: bronze, Gnr Weir, 40 Fd Regt; and Cftsmn Morton, SEME, Bordon; silver, Cpl Bishop, Depot Para; gold, L/Cpl Kubath, Depot Para.

Open B over 71 kilos: bronze, L/Cpl of the Horse Jones and L/Cpl Gibbs, 3 Para; silver, Pte Butler, 3 Para; gold, Cpl Armstrong, PMC Arborfield.

Travis has won 14 Army titles in ten years' service and was one of 156 entries at Bulford — the largest in eight years according to Major J. Duncan, Secretary of the Army Judo Association.

As SOLDIER went to press, Travis was up in London battling to impress the selectors for a place in the Olympic squad.

NO CHANGE AT TOP OF SQUASH LADDER

Report by Sally Daniell

There were no surprises in this year's Army Squash Championships with favourites Captain Robbie Robinson, RAOC and Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, WRAC, once again winning their respective competitions.

In repeats of last year's men's and women's open both champions dispatched their opponents in just three games leaving spectators at the Woking Leisure Centre in no doubt that they still reign supreme. Lieutenant-Colonel John Woodliffe, RAOC and Warrant Officer 2 Dick Sharkey, APTC won the Veterans and Over-35 competitions respectively.



Robinson (left) and Captain Chris Wilson battle out the final.

These Championships have become quite an event now that the women's competition takes place with the men's and the Army Squash Association have found a generous sponsor. Saccone and Speed, suppliers of the famous Black Tower wine, were almost lavish in their support, presenting the winners with beautiful cut glass mementos. Needless to say, those distinctive black crock-shaped bottles were in abundant evidence, their contents effortlessly slaking the thirsts of competitors and spectators alike.

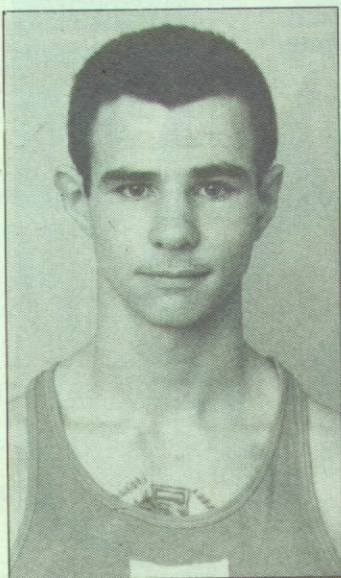
Watching Joyce and Robbie play is a joy and it is good to see them win but, when, we wonder, will the standard of competition

rise to meet this new level of sponsorship? SOLDIER looks forward to a fresh contingent challenging these stars of Army Squash. We shall be watching the progress of Corporal Tom Pollard who won the Under-25 Competition and also the promising young Driver Adrian Grey, RCT who won a special award for the best performance during the championships.

Both may in time pose a threat to 'King' Robbie (see SOLDIER 12 Dec). Perhaps also the new glass-backed court at Warminster will provide encouragement to any Young Pretenders. We hope so but, in the meantime, long live the King and Queen!

BOXER FOUND DEAD

Army boxing circles were shattered to learn of the sudden death of the current Army light-middleweight boxing champion, Fusilier Robert Rossi. Rossi, who was serving with the 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, was found dead at their barracks in Warminster. An inquest is to be held.



NEW COURT OPENS AT WARMINSTER

THE ARMY's first glass-backed squash court has been officially opened at the School of Infantry, Warminster, by Brigadier Ian Mackay, the Commandant of the School.

As Major Lance Brett says on behalf of the Army Squash Association: "This means that the whole court will be thrown open to spectators instead of about 20 of them craning their necks over a balcony. It's of no advantage to the players themselves but it will

throw the whole game open for enjoyment.

"We sincerely hope there will be more such courts in the Army and we hope that a second centre of such excellence will be developed in Aldershot for a game which is high up in popularity among Army sports."

The opening occasion was marked by a match between an Army select team and the Moonrakers Squash Club of Salisbury which the Army won.

ONE DOWN — AND ONE TO GO!

Alfie's men send the French away empty handed

COMBINED SERVICES 1 FRENCH ARMED FORCES 0

A BEAUTIFULLY TAKEN early goal and a fine display of Churchillian defensive spirit saw the British Service team take a giant step towards winning the tri-nation Kentish Cup for the first time for 14 years. The French holders, comprising young National Service professionals and including a full international, found that for all their individual skills they were unable to match a side still buoyant from good results against League sides Middlesbrough and Aldershot.

It was a triumph for coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton, who has carefully nurtured this side for several seasons and is now reaping the harvest. And it was a triumph for goalscorer, WO 2 John Woodward, a Kentish Cup competitor for more than a decade.

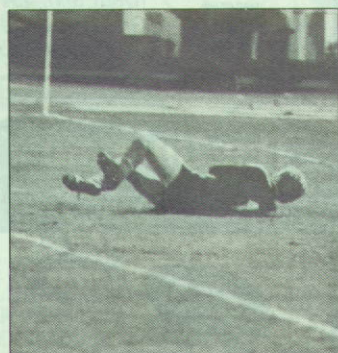
A larger crowd than usual were at the Aldershot stadium to roar on the British boys as they beat off the first Gallic raids. Soon Combined Services were on the attack themselves and play swung from end to end.

In those early minutes the French might easily have nicked a goal but stout defending plus highly erratic shooting saw French forwards holding their heads in anguish as the ball time and time again skimmed harmlessly away.

But the attacks were not all one way and after 29 minutes the British commitment was rewarded. From a free kick on the left Lance-Corporal Sandy Brown, later adjudged British Man of the Match, floated a free kick onto the waiting head of big John Woodward, who placed it well out of the reach of international keeper, Stephan Osmond and into the net.

For the rest of the first half the British team fought and harried the French invaders keeping

them at bay and mounting their own assaults. Just before the interval a pinpoint centre from Bugler John O'Connell found Lance-Corporal Steve Butler but his shot went narrowly wide.



The French are floored at last.

The British goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas was in superb form as he and his fellow defenders battled to keep out the Frenchmen during the early stages of the second half. The visitors forced corner after



A moment to savour as Woodward rises to nod home the British goal.

corner, free kick after free kick and for a spell every French player except the goalkeeper was in the British half but the line held.

In a desperate last throw the French threw on two fresh substitutes — but this proved counterproductive. Their attacks began to peter out and it was the British boys who got second wind. Woodward almost got a second clinching goal when he again headed a free kick goalward but Osmond managed to clutch at it.

A French goal at this stage would have been as welcome to the crowd as a carton of UHT milk and Lomas saved the day when he snatched the ball from the toes of a French forward after he had eluded the defenders. With the clock ticking away he brought off a succession of clean saves as the French made final efforts to get past the tiring defence. Seven minutes from time only the goalpost stopped a cer-

tain equaliser.

And fittingly it was the Combined Services who had the last chance of the match — Butler again unlucky as he failed to connect properly and his shot trickled by the post.

Report: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Afterwards a happy Woodward told SOLDIER: "I played up front as a centre forward for ten years in the Kentish Cup without scoring — now after two seasons at the back I have done it. We have been working on these free kicks and it worked out well."

Coulton declared: "At last we have cracked the egg and gained two points in the early stage of the tournament which had really lifted our spirits. It must have been difficult to pick a man of the match because for me there were 11 of them."

"There was a great spirit and discipline and the results we have had against Middlesbrough and Aldershot have given the players a lot of confidence. It was a result we deserved."

Now Coulton and his men march on to Eidsen in Belgium for the second match against the Belgian Armed Forces. The British have not won on Belgian soil in modern times but came close two years ago and must feel in with a chance. Says Coulton: "The Belgians know they have to come at us and we are ready for them."

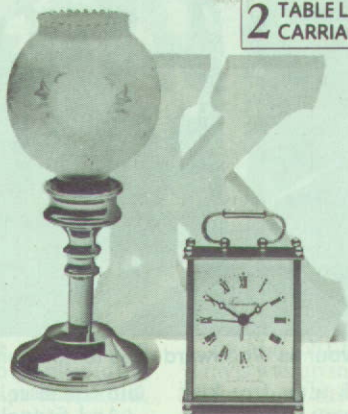
Defenders watch anxiously but once again Lomas is equal to the occasion.



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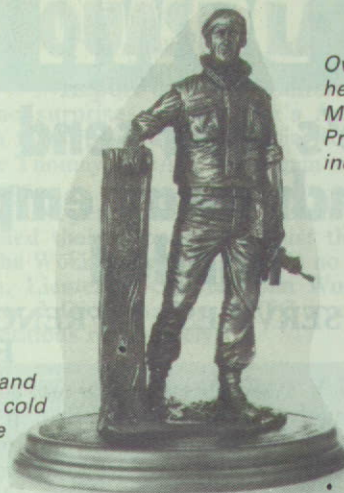
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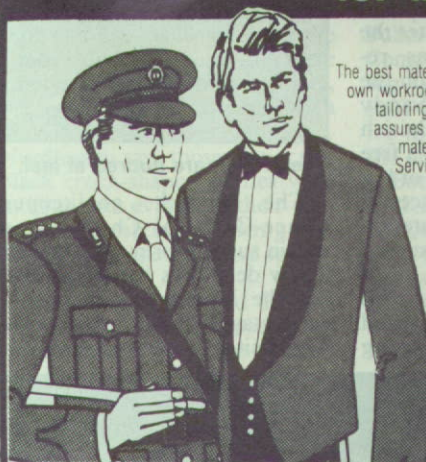
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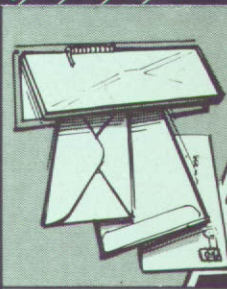
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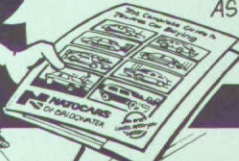
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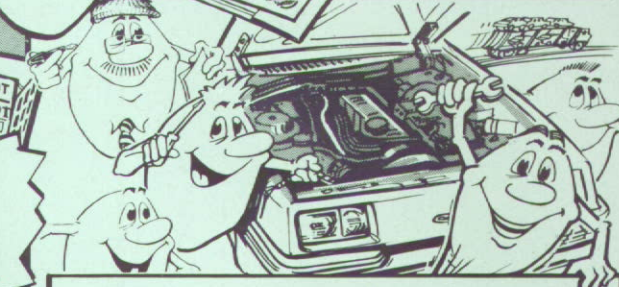
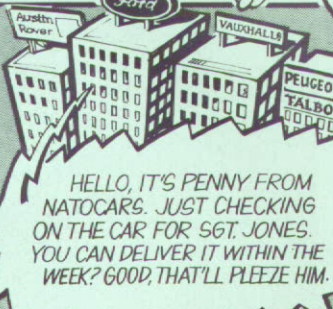


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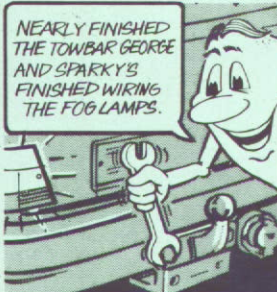
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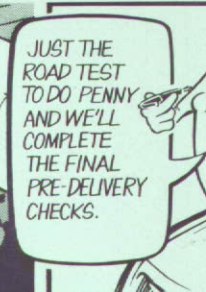
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