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SOLDIER





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FRONT COVER: The uniforms are mid-19th century but the men led by Capt Alan Inions RAOC are soldiers of today — in China! The picture was taken on the set of the film *Tai-Pan*, shot in Zhuhai on the Chinese mainland. See story page 14.

BACK COVER: WO2 Peter Breeze, instructor of the Army's first pack horse course for many years, shows students how to secure a load. See story page 18. Photograph: Terry Champion.

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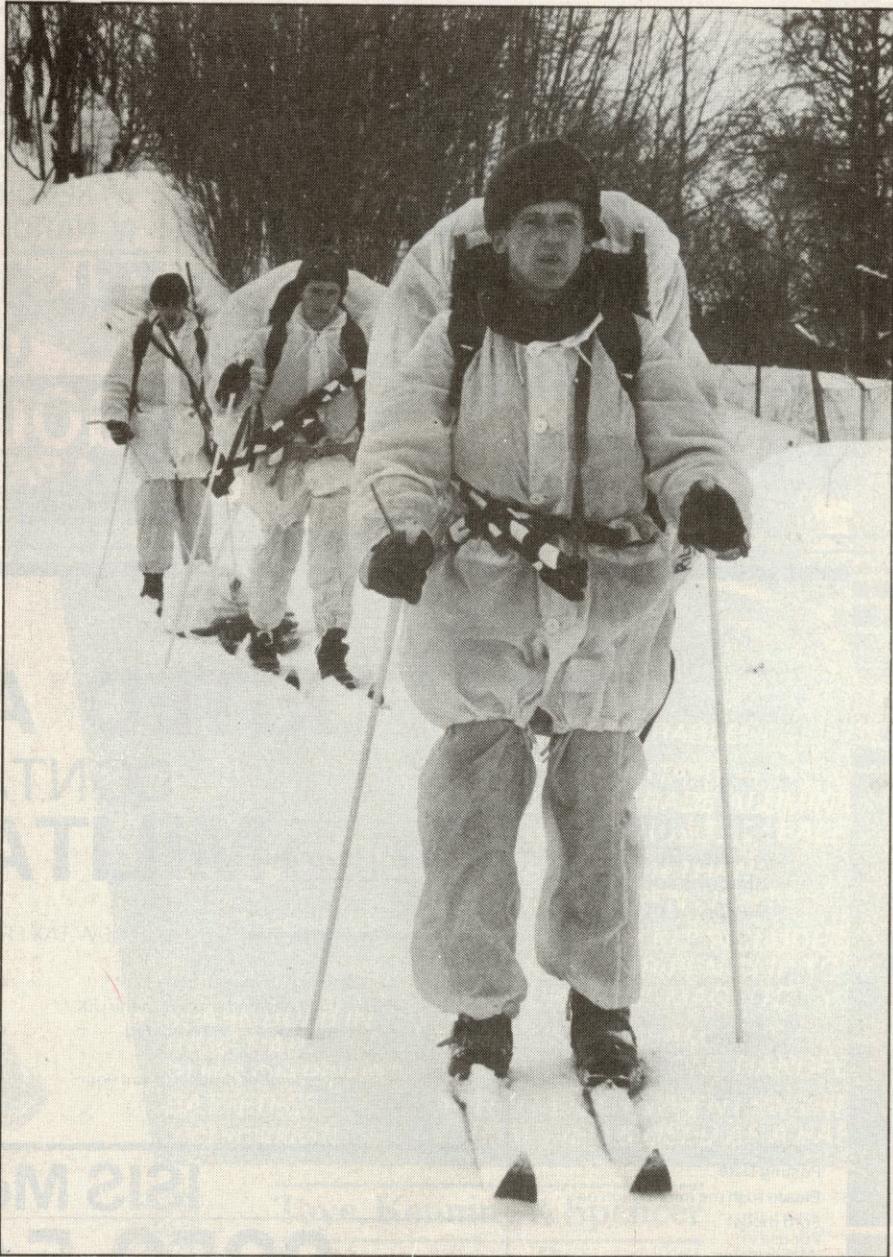
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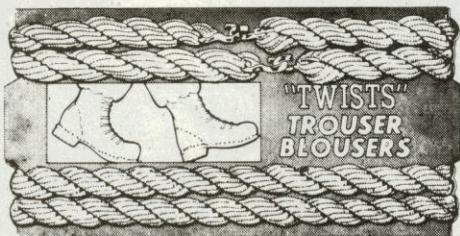
It's that time of the year when British soldiers take to the snow. For nearly 20 years units of ACE Mobile Force (Land) have been sent to Norway for a taste of soldiering with snow on their boots. SOLDIER is there with them and will report in its next issue what it's like learning to live with the arctic.

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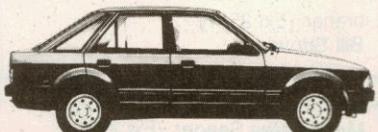
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ARMY CREATES WINNING MENU

ARMY cooks have again won a stack of awards from Hotelympia in the face of stiff competition from across Europe, North America and the Antipodes.

Entrants from the Army Catering Corps won a total of 107 medals and certificates of merit — more than matching last year's grand total of 100.

Staff Sergeant Peter Batty, attached to 39 Engineer Regiment, received a Gold Medal for this pastillage (a work in hardened icing) of a coffee grinder. His effort so impressed the judges that it was elevated to the Table of Honour. It was one of four ACC entries out of a total of 10 pieces to be so honoured.

Sgt Batty also collected a silver medal for a buffet centre piece, and a bronze for his friandise (sweatmeats). In the practical class for cake decoration done on the spot he added another silver medal to his tally.

Lance Corporal Peter Johnston won a gold medal in the Inter-Services Individual Competition with a dish he hasn't yet named but which seems to be a particular favourite with his boss at work — Lieutenant General Sir Robert Pascoe, the GOC Northern Ireland.

Immediately after the result he was flying back to Lisburn to plan and prepare for the General's dinner party the following evening.

Apprentice Kevin George's trio of figures won him a gold medal in the work in marzipan class and Apprentice Howard Corke's margarine elephant won him a certificate of merit for "works in fat."

The two were among the 96 ACC apprentices who competed at Hotelympia in 46 classes.

Two American army cooks on attachment to the ACC at Aldershot also came away with a clutch of awards. Sergeant First Class David Ramos took a gold medal for his pastillage miniatures and silvers for his work in marzipan and chocolate. Staff Sergeant Newal Hunter received bronze medals for his pastillage and celebration cake, and a certificate of merit for a decorated fruit cake.

Lance Corporal Steve Bright won the Caterplan challenge trophy for the most outstanding Service performance, and Brian Jones took the Arthur Hope award for the most outstanding Service entry at the Table of Honour. The WRAC did well too, Corporal Sheila Alexander and Lance Corporal Korrina Simms being awarded the Madame Prunier challenge trophy for outstanding entry in the Services section.

Altogether there were 790 senior entries and 646 junior from around the world.

The ACC's contestants, over 100 of them, won eight senior and eight junior gold medals, 16 senior and nine junior silver, 16 senior and nine junior bronze.

They had been awarded one senior certificate of special merit and two junior, 11 senior certificates of merit and 19 junior certificates of merit.

In the inter-Services individual

'LITTLE BROTHER' FOR CADETS

A PRETTY girl tries out the cadet forces new rifle, the Ensign. Corporal Samantha Wansbrough-Jones, 16, of Crystal Palace gets to grips with the purpose-built single-shot bolt-action rifle designed for the cadet force. Beside her, Able Seaman Danny Hutchings of TS Quayle with the old rifle.

Production delivery of 21,000 of the 5.56 mm rifle will start in the autumn resulting from the £4.1 million contract awarded by MoD to Royal Ordnance.

The Ensign is the "little brother" of the SA 80 family comprising the Endeavour — the Individual Weapon — and the Engager, the Light Support Weapon.



Above left: Staff Sergeant Peter Batty, gold medal for a coffee grinder

competition Lance Corporal Johnston took the gold medal and Sergeant Charles Harkin, Army School of Catering, was awarded the silver.

In the cook and serve team event for the Services, the RAF got the main award with the silver and bronze medals going to the Army. And in the junior cook and serve competition, which was open to everybody, the ACC Apprentices College came away with the gold medal.

HUGO BOWS OUT

RETIRING German-born stores accountant Hugo Waldeyer, responsible for issuing countless chits to troops in his time, has been presented with a special certificate to mark his completion of 40 years service to BAOR. A cash Army bonus of DM 800 goes with the award.

Hugo works for the Accommodation Stores Department, 6 Ordnance Battalion, at Richmond Barracks, Bielefeld.

BRIDGE UP-AND DOWN

EVERY year the sappers of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) build a bridge in Edinburgh — and pull it down again.

The bridge, an 80-ft double single Bailey, is built as a Military Aid to the Civil Community task to allow access to Murrayfield Stadium for rugby internationals.

This year it was opened by Dr

John McKay, Lord Provost, and fittingly used for a presentation ceremony when Dr McKay awarded Lord Lieutenant's certificates of merit to four members of 104 (City of Edinburgh) Field Squadron RE(V) — Staff Sergeant W Patterson, Sergeant A R Duff, Corporal B Fairburn and Lance Corporal K Robertson.



Awards for four from the Lord Provost. In the centre, Colonel Douglas Spratt, Regimental Honorary Colonel

GIRLS ON GUARD

Major Diarmid de Burgh-Milne found himself in the unusual situation of commanding an all-WRAC ceremonial guard when General Sir Martin Farndale, CinC BAOR, paid a visit to HQ UKLF.

The major won the distinction because he was staff duty officer of the day at the time.

Because of the high proportion of WRAC in 10 Signal Regiment which provides the administrative support for the headquarters, it is not unusual for the quarter guard which greets visiting dignitaries to be found by the girls, but never before have they been commanded by a guardsman.

Afterwards the 6 ft 2 in major said that the girls — average height 5 ft 3 ins — had done a good job.



The General inspects Major de Burgh-Milne in attendance

TWIN VOLUNTEERS



Twins Simone and Kim, Falklands bound

Pretty twins Simone and Kim Ford not only look alike, they think alike. So when Simone decided to volunteer to spend six months in the Falklands with NAAFI, Kim obviously decided to go too.

Simone has been brightening the lives of soldiers in the General Ranks Club at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, working behind the counter, while Kim was also working for NAAFI in Aldershot.

In the Falklands the twins will be flying the flag for the Royal Irish Rangers by wearing T-shirts presented to them before they left Northern Ireland.

When they arrive there, they should certainly bring a ray of warm sunshine into the lives of soldiers in the remote islands.

Canadians remember Army engineer

A Royal Engineer who was responsible for a major engineering feat in Canada in the 19th century has been honoured by the Canadian government on the 150th anniversary of his death.

At the grave in Frant churchyard, some three miles from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, of Lieutenant Colonel John By, wreaths were laid by Mr R Ray McMurtry, High Commissioner for Canada, and General Sir Hugh Beach, the Chief Royal Engineer.

Col By was one of the breed of great military engineers of the 19th century who left their mark upon the world. His greatest achievement in Canada was the construction of the Rideau Canal which included building 47 masonry locks and 52 dams over its 123-mile length.

He can also be described as the founding father of Ottawa, which was first named Bytown, and owed much to the foresight and influence of Col By.

launching mission.

Man destined to make the first sortie into space, however, is Flt Lt Nigel Wood acting in the capacity of a payload specialist.

He had been due to fly aboard the ill-fated Challenger shuttle in four months' time with the aim of launching a £10 million military communications satellite.

soldiers had the opportunity to visit the Officers' mess and see the regimental silver.

The mortar platoon hosted members of 212 Panzer Grenadier Battalion, part of 21 Panzer Brigade at Augustdorf, a Bundeswehr unit affiliated to 1 RRW.

TOP SHOT GETS MBE

WELSH RECALL ZULU BATTLE

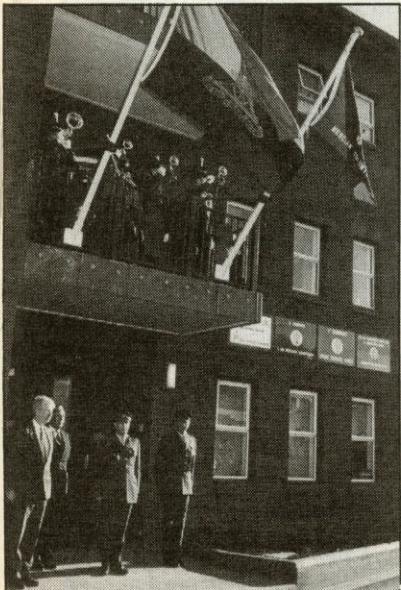
The 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales has celebrated the defence of Rorke's Drift against massed Zulu attacks — and appropriately it is currently commanded by Lt Col David de Gomville Bromhead, who is a direct descendant of the 24th of Foot officer (now RRW), Lt Gonville Bromhead VC, who was decorated at the battle.

Present day celebrations include rugby and soccer matches, and

Major Michael Cook, under whose guidance 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment has won almost every major shooting trophy available to the Territorial Army, has had his outstanding service to the Army recognised by the award of the MBE.

Major Cook, Company Commander of C Company, is renowned for his shooting ability and is responsible for coaching and leading 1 Wessex Bisley team so successfully during the past seven years.

TRUMPET OPENING FOR TA



The new centre: trumpets above, VIPs below

ASTRONAUTS IN WAITING

SPACE SHOT reserve astronaut Lt Col Richard Farri- mond, Royal Signals, has arrived in Houston, Texas, to start intensive training before joining Challenger's sister ship Columbia, on a satellite-

IT was the Belize connection that brought Sergeant Mick Collins, 26, and Privates Mark Syrett 25, and Chris Skaife, 20, to the London Palladium to meet top comic duo Hope and Keen.

For within days of Mick, Mark and Chris's regiment — 3 Queen's — going to Belize early next month, Mike Hope and Alby Keen will be out there with CSE to entertain them and their pals.

Right now the lads, along with the rest of the battalion, are packing for the flight, while Hope and Keen are resting after weeks of playing the brokersmen in Cinderella, starring Des O'Connor.

It was one of those "see you there..." type meetings and it took place in the stars' dressing room before their "on-stage" call in the smash-hit panto.

"We went to Belize about nine years ago with Derek Agutter's CSE outfit," said Mike Hope. "So we've a good idea what it's like."

"Actually when we were there last we were booked into a hotel, but someone got the year wrong!"

"But it didn't matter and we had a marvellous time. Servicemen are super audiences. Both of us were in the RAF as clerks GD, so we're on to the wavelength of the lads."

And when the duo arrive the first thing they will do is to don sweatshirts with 3 Queen's across the front.

"We'll be proud to wear 'em," said Alby.

RIGHT: MICK, MARK, CHRIS, ALBY, MIKE: Palladium stars heading for the sun

BELIZE LINK-UP



'Lads' plan gold get-together

FIFTY years ago the first boy apprentices were recruited directly into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Now one of those lads is organising a golden jubilee get-together of those first 200.

Mr T H E Walters writing from his home at Bordon says: "Two hundred boys were recruited into the Corps on October 1, 1936.

"Previously recruitment was into General Service and from there into the Corps after training.

"Half the lads were trained at Bramley, Hants, and the remainder at Hulsea, Portsmouth.

"So far as I know more followed each year until 1939 when training returned to General Service at Arborfield.

"I was privileged to be one of those boys and October this year sees the 50th anniversary of that first intake into the RAOC.

"I am still in touch with a number of friends of those early days and they have asked me to arrange a reunion of all the Bramley and Hulsea ex-fitter apprentices to mark the occasion.

"If so, please get in touch with me at 'Cedrus', Waldown Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hants, GU35 9AA."

make the occasion a memorable one. Incidentally all of us were transferred to REME when it was formed in 1942.

"The first step is to ascertain the numbers I can expect to attend and what I am asking is: If you started your fitter apprenticeship in the RAOC at either Bramley or Hulsea between October 1, 1936 and when training ceased there in 1939, would you like to attend a reunion?

"If so, please get in touch with me at 'Cedrus', Waldown Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hants, GU35 9AA."

Blind boy's wish is to fly with the AAC

A blind 16-year-old Chatham boy suffering from a killer disease is to have a dying wish fulfilled by the Army.

Darren Germaine, who has Battens disease, which has already claimed the life of his sister, asked if he could have a ride in a helicopter.

The boy's father, Frank Germaine, has not only lost his daughter through Battens disease, but also his wife who

ride in an Army Air Corps helicopter from Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

Although blind through his illness, Darren will, as soon as the weather permits, have a

died of cancer two years ago. He has vowed to make Darren's short life as wonderful as possible by arranging visits and outings.

When the Army heard about Darren and his wish, it was agreed that the next time a helicopter was in the Chatham area on an operations flight, it would take Darren for the trip he longed for.

WO2 COLIN WILSON: DIY winemaker

SHOULD you ever have the pleasure of taking wine with WO2 Colin Wilson, have a care. For Colin is a DIY ace winemaker and has cups and certificates galore to prove it.

A beer drinker too — he brews his own bitter — he says that when it comes to drinking wine, snobbery does "tend to creep in and comparisons are made. Winemakers can't help it," he says.

A recruiter at Surbiton ACO, his advice to novice winemakers is pick your own fruit and DIY. But above all, he warns: "Follow directions to the letter. If you don't you'll just finish up with rubbish."

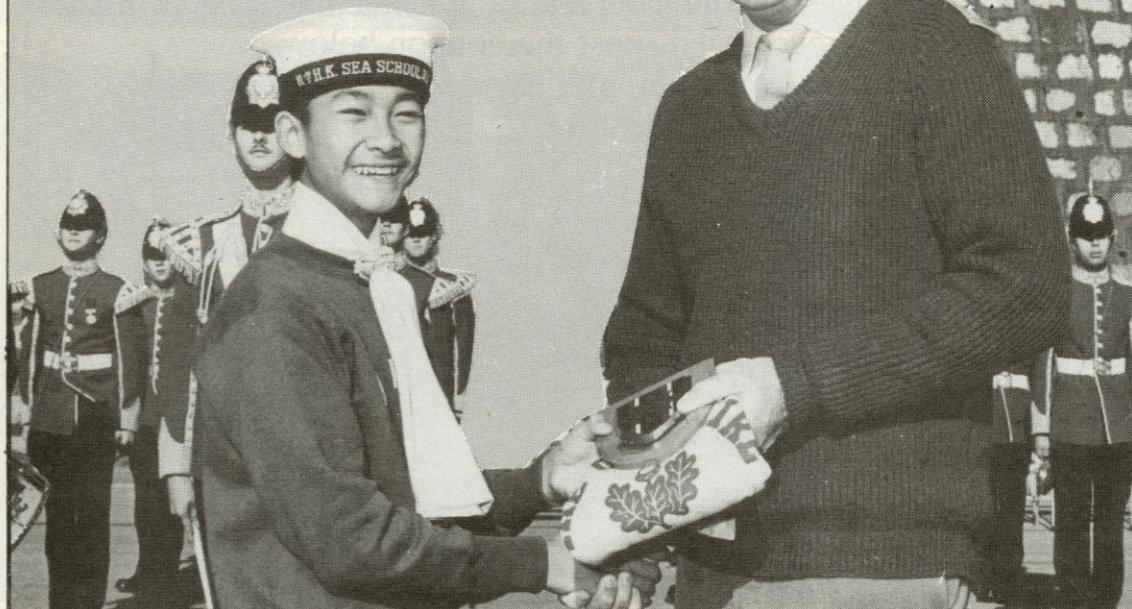
Incidentally, Colin can make a very drinkable white in 28 days. Cheers!



MISS PHILIPPA ETHELSTON, JASON AND LESTER CLARKE: in praise of soldiers everywhere

PEOPLE

Chi-Hing beams his thanks



CHI-HING, LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER HENDERSON: three-year sponsorship — something to smile about

A beaming "Cheshire cat" smile from Chi-Hing, a 14-year-old Chinese schoolboy. And Chi-Hing has plenty to smile about for he is receiving from Lieutenant Colonel Peter Henderson, CO 1 Cheshire, not just a regimental plaque and T-shirt, but regimental sponsorship to attend the Hong Kong Sea

School at Stanley. The presentation took place at Stanley Fort and coincided with regimental farewell as 1 Cheshire return this month to Caterham, Surrey, where they will take over ceremonial duties from 1 Coldstream. So while the battalion does a tour in the UK, young Chi-Hing will,

for the next three years spend half his time in the classroom and the remainder undergoing seamanship training. And when he has finished his training there's a good chance a job will be waiting for him, as the school will try to find him a berth with a shipping company taking Hong Kong crews.

Philippa makes a tea-time call

FOR 72 years Philippa Ethelston has been sounding the praises of Servicemen.

She started in 1914 when she was 12 by helping her mother run a Red Cross canteen near their Whitchee church home.

Now, at 84, she's still at it with twin trumpeters Jason and Lester Clarke of the Light Division Depot, Shrewsbury.

Miss Ethelston was back at the Depot to meet some of her 1939-45 wartime "boys".

Among those to greet her at Sir John Moore Barracks were ex-Bombardier Bill Wilde of 240 RHA Shropshire Battery, and former Guardsman Cyril Jacks of the Coldstream Guards, who recalled with affection her tea and sandwiches and the help she gave to soldiers of all nationalities passing through Shrewsbury.

But new boys Jason and Lester were also on hand to help Miss Ethelston sound



Maj Gen Charles Guthrie
Commander 2nd Infantry Division.

From his headquarters at Imphal Barracks, York, he will command Regular and Territorial Army units based throughout Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Humberside.

On mobilisation of the Services he would take units of the 2nd Infantry Division, now at bases throughout Britain, to their war locations in Germany.

The General was previously Chief of Staff of the 1st British Corps at Bielefeld, Germany.

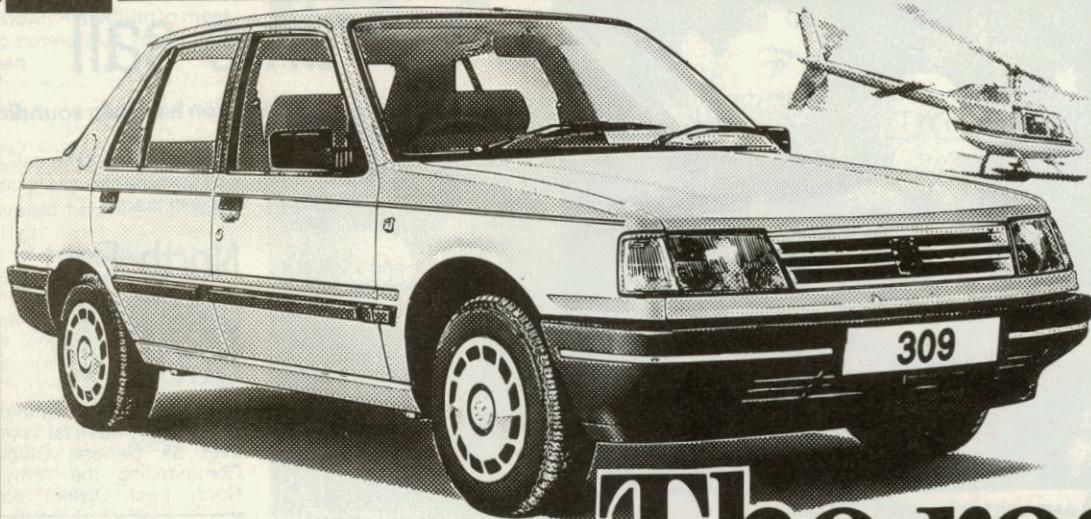
Major General Guthrie, a former Comander of the 4th Armoured Brigade in Munster, Germany, is married with two sons.

He succeeds Major General Peter Inge, 50, who becomes Director General Logistic Policy (Army) at MoD.

Cheshire head for UK duty tour



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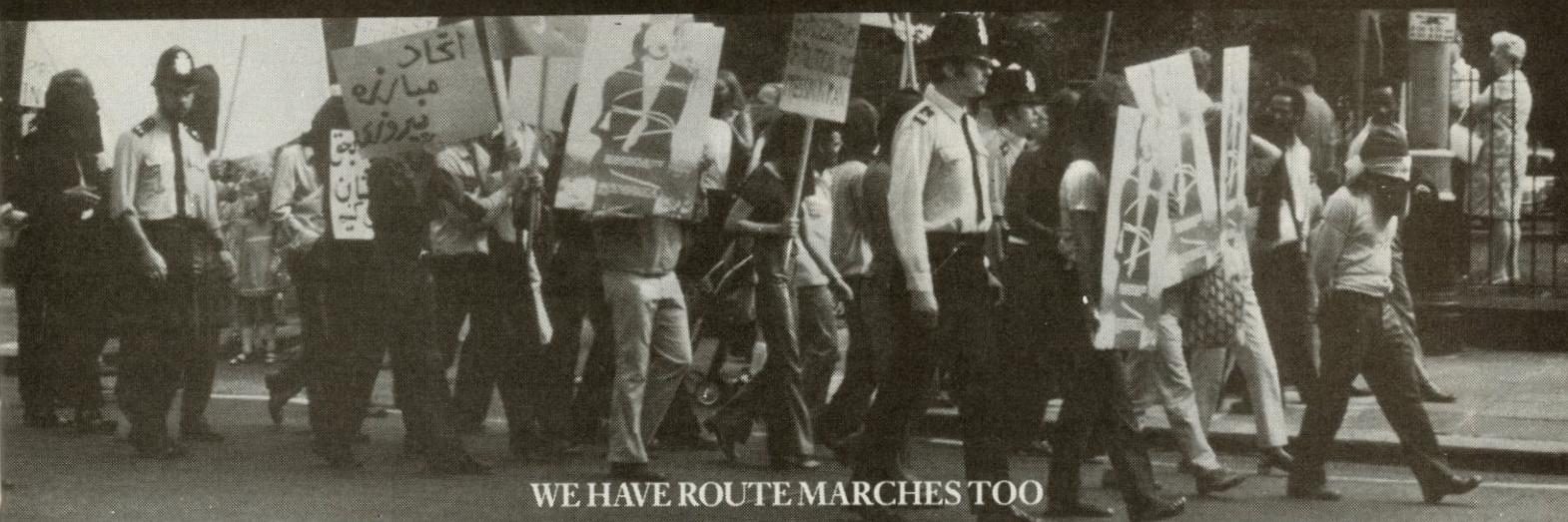
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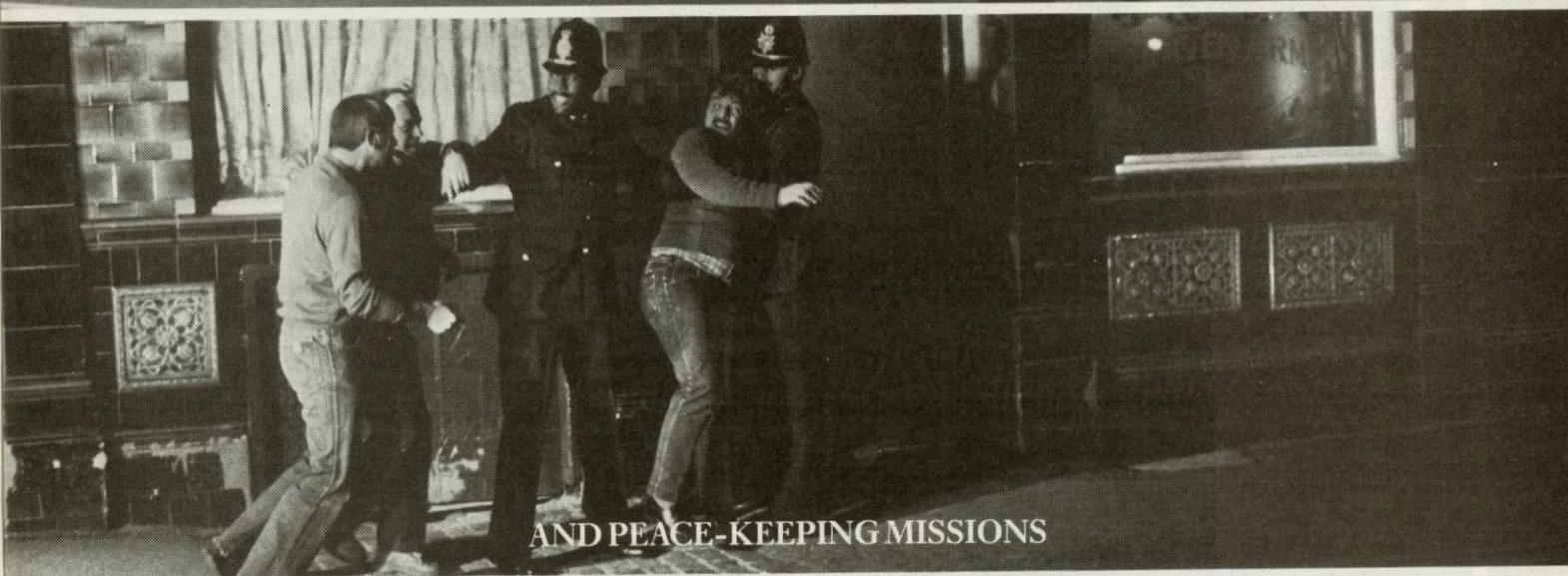


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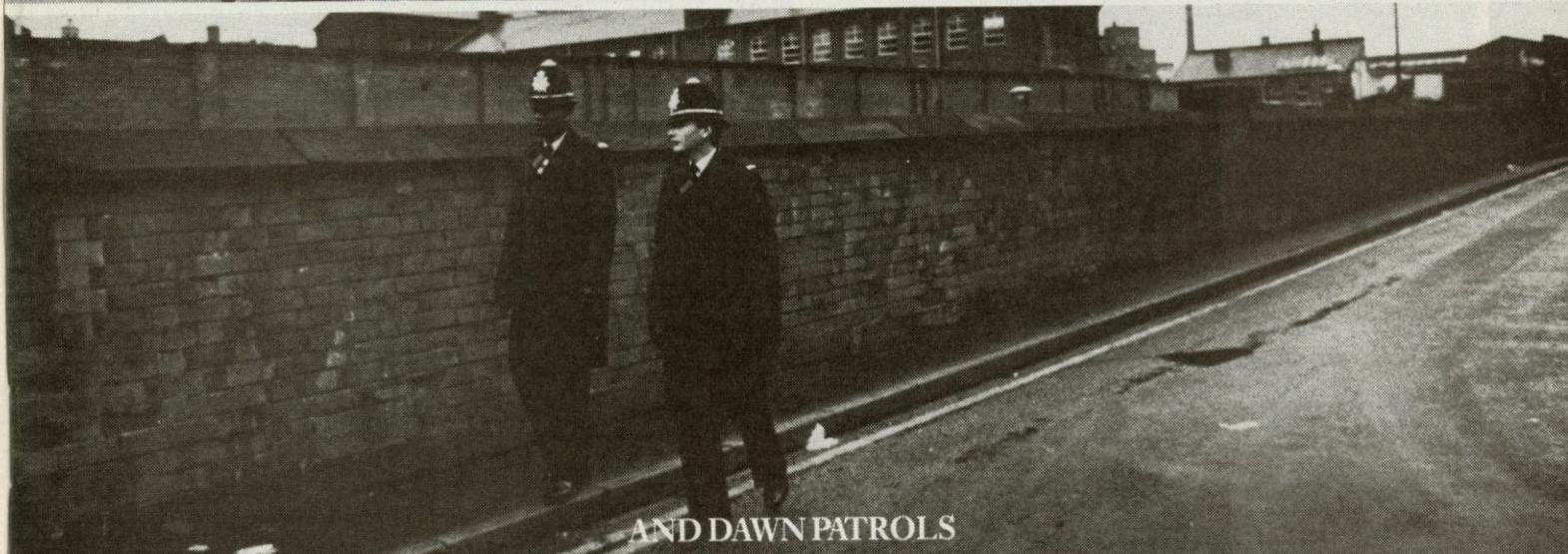
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DANGER A FOOTFALL AWAY



Above: The search for "debris", 36 years so far. Below: Some of the many thousands of objects recovered.

THEY CAME ... they saw ... and they have been quietly conquering ever since. Since 1950, to be exact. A bold but diminishing band of Army civilian workers from the Ukraine who have been engaged on training area battlefield debris clearance, writes **Graham Smith**.

Since 1950, they have cleared an estimated 120,000 acres at the rate of some 3,000 acres yearly.

Sadly, a milestone has just been marked for the men who brave the fickle elements and the hidden ordnance associated with the UK's training areas. One third of the UK was used as a training area during the last war!

The fluttering flag outside their home at Brackenbury Barracks Felixstowe, has been lowered for the last time. Home for the past 22 years for 16 Ukrainians and their predecessors. Men forming a civilian troop within 49 EOD Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment, RE.

Ten of these unique workers for whom danger was never more than a footfall away have chosen early retirement. Six others have opted to move to Chattenden in the Medway towns for ease of administration.

These are the men who fiercely hold to their Ukrainian heritage. Men who came to this country in 1947 from PoW camps in Rimini, on the Italian Adriatic coast.

Individuals who preferred to seek refuge in British agriculture or various Central Ordnance Depots rather than face Russian oppression in their homeland even though this meant permanent separation from their families and loved ones, including wives.

Some have been back to the 'old country'. Others are convinced they will go back there in the right circumstances.

When they were not out clearing, their home was a neat, white-painted barracks not far from the bracing North Sea.

Their unstinting work took them all over the UK. From areas as large as 20,000 acres to others as small as a copse and ranging in terrain from rugged moorland beauty spots to wild, shingle beaches.

Gum-booted and duffel-coated they worked in teams of three kitted out with sensitive metal detectors and shovels.

The Ukrainians are so skilled, it is said, they can tell what is under the ground.

Five of the valued workers who have taken early retirement will be living locally in one-room council flats.

Captain Peter Davies, the 49 EOD Squadron adjutant, said: "The Felixstowe Council housing authorities have been extremely helpful over their re-location problems. There is a thriving Ukrainian community in the town."

One of their number is heading for the Midlands while four more have decided to move to the London area.

"We expect that the majority will retire within the next two years," said Captain Davies. It's been a hard life and the Ukrainians — some 400 started out in this work! — are an amazing breed.

"We have an awful lot to thank them for. They have done a wonderful job for the past 36 years. But the work will go on. Certainly, well into the next decade."



SOLDIER to Soldier

The vast array of medals of one of the Army's most decorated heroes, Field Marshal Sir George White, VC, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, GCVO, is expected to fetch between £50-60,000 at Sotheby's sale in London next month. The wholesale of orders, medals and decorations may total more than £250,000.

Included in the catalogue are more than 400 medals awarded to Scottish regiments. Not seen since 1947, when the anonymous collector died, the medals include all the campaigns that every Scottish regiment has ever fought in.

Sir George White, one of the few Field Marshals to have won the VC, also had the distinction of achieving seven sets of orders after his name, and a total of 22 medals.

Though his VC was won for two conspicuous acts of gallantry in the Afghan Wars in 1879/80, he was best known as the hero of the Siege of Ladysmith in the South African War in 1899-1900, when at the age of 64 he bravely commanded the garrison which survived three months under siege from the Boers.

Just before White took command, Lord Wolseley had told him he thought his injured leg might keep him from the front. "I beg your pardon, sir", White replied, "my leg is well enough for anything except running away."

The garrison and townspeople of Ladysmith endured three



months under White's heroic command, despite desperate conditions of disease and food shortage, culminating in the killing of the cavalry's horses for food.

Nine hundred of his men died fighting during the siege, but the rest of the 10,000 troops and 11,000 townspeople survived until the siege was raised by the arrival of a rescuing British force, 119 days after the siege began.

Sir George White died in 1912 at Chelsea Hospital, of which he was then Governor. His medals and baton have been on display in the National Army Museum for

the last 20 years, and are being sold by the Field-Marshal's descendants, who now lives abroad.

Seems rather incongruous that on a tiny group of islands completely surrounded by hundreds of miles of water, one of the things that soldiers on the Falklands lack is — a swimming pool.

But water, wet, for swimming in, may be on the way. Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence, has told the House of Lords that consideration is being given to providing a pool at Mount Pleasant because of the special circumstances of the Falklands.

He pointed out that swimming pools were not usually provided at Service establishments from public funds.

But he told a questioner that there are already planned five football pitches, six squash courts, an indoor tennis court, two gymnasias and a running track.

If you want to succeed, aim for the top. That seems to have been the maxim of a soldier in the remote Falklands, claimed to be from 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment, who wanted some pen pals.

Instead of appealing in the usual way for a friendly girl friend from back home, he decided to write to Harrods, the top people's store, asking for 'top people' pen friends.

The letter apparently was posted on the Knightsbridge store's notice board, but the Press Office there reported: "I don't think there have been any takers".

Remember Erica Preston, the model who showed a NAAFI T-shirt off to full advantage in SOLDIER (November 4)?

NAAFI offered, in conjunction

with SOLDIER, to give free T-shirts to the first ten names and addresses drawn from SOLDIER readers who sent in completed coupons.

The winners — Corporal M Prendergast, CCF, Bath; Sergeant M Tunbridge, TA Centre, Tunbridge Wells; Major (QM) L A Jeffrey, 33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool; F D Crowton, REME, Birmingham; Sgt T Clarke, Chichester; Private Moss, Warrington; J G Ferguson, Dorchester, Dorset; Sapper W A Evans, 60 Fd Sp Sqn RE, Waterbeach; Lance Corporal Kevin Clarke, 658 Sqn ACC LAD, Falkland Islands; and WO2 Brian Simon, Colchester.

Lucky Mr Colin Weeks of Banwell, near Weston-super-Mare, will be taking a free holiday this year.

Nearly 400 SOLDIER readers sent in entries for the HOAY competition published on December 16, hoping to win the free holiday donated by Ladbrooke Holidays, or one of the lesser prizes of £75 or £50 off any Ladbrooke holiday.

Many of them were correct entries and that sent in by Mr Weeks, ex-RTR, was the first out of the pile, drawn by Mr David Martin, Regional Sales Manager of the holiday firm.

The £75 voucher goes to Corporal J McCutcheon, of HQ Company, 1 Gordons, BFPO 24, and the £50 voucher to Mr W J Donald of Rosyth, Scotland.

In addition, each of the entrants will receive a discount cheque entitling them to up to £40 off a Ladbrooke Holiday, the amount depending on the holiday selected.

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

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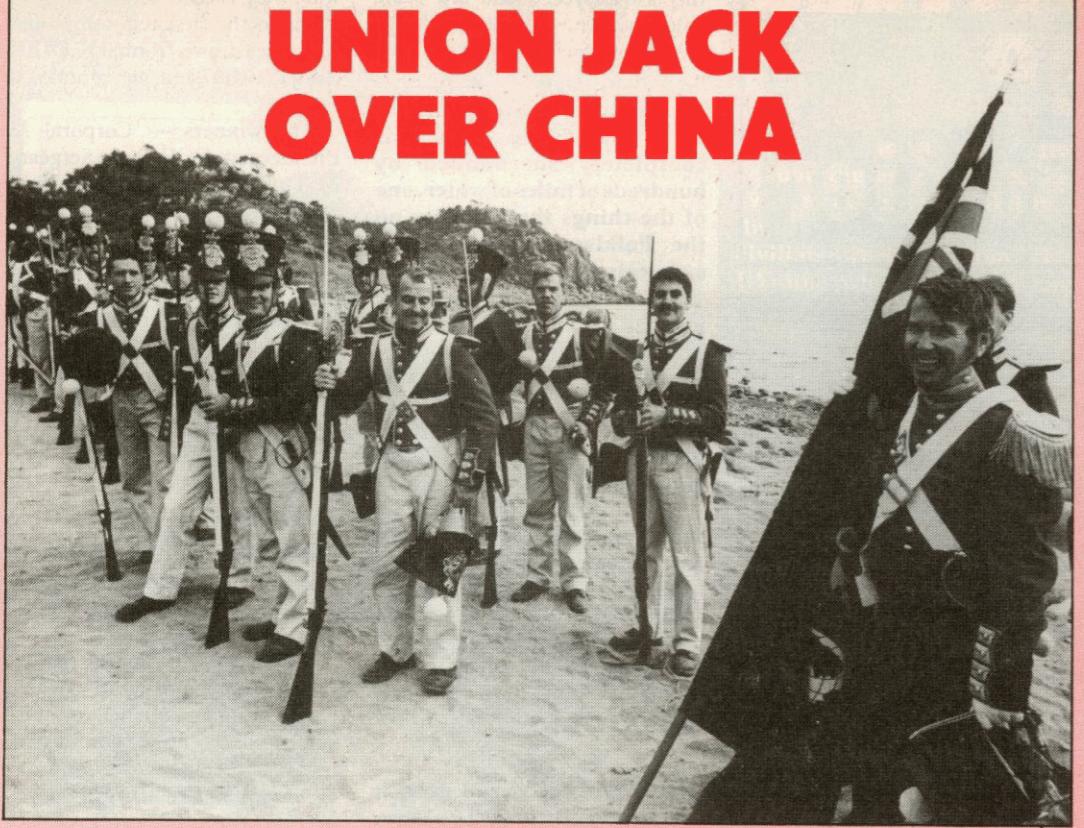
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INVICTA EXPORT



UNION JACK OVER CHINA



BRITISH SOLDIERS have been helping to raise the Union Jack again on Chinese soil — this time with the blessing of the Chinese themselves.

At Zhuhai in Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China they assisted in a film re-enactment of the first raising of the British flag over Hong Kong in 1842.

Such a scene would have been difficult to imagine even a few years ago. The Opium Wars of the mid-19th Century are a time of bitter memories for the Chinese; a time when a proud nation had the humiliating experience of being forced to cede territory and trading concessions to western "barbarians."

Perhaps it was the prospect of regaining, when Hong Kong is handed back in 1997, the last bit of land lost in those wars, that made the difference. But whatever the reason the Chinese authorities did agree, after six months of delicate negotiations with the British, to allow soldiers from the Crown Colony into China itself to play the part of their predecessors of the 1840s.

The idea originally came from producer Rafaella de Laurentiis and her production co-ordinator Golda Offenheim. They wanted the assistance of the British Forces in Hong Kong in the making of a multi-million dollar film based on the novel "Tai-Pan" by James Clavell, a story set around the founding of the colony.

Right: Major Anthony Case, RCT, stands on the left with a group of fellow actors

It took some time but eventually Exercise Tai-Pan was able to make as well as re-enact history, in a modest way, with the arrival of nearly 100 off-duty British Service-men by hydrofoil at Zhuhai.

With corporals playing officers, officers playing private soldiers, infantrymen as Royal Marines, and sailors in the uniforms of the 26th

of Foot, the Cameronians, the scene might have appeared to be set for total chaos.

But, under the commanding eye of director Daryl Duke, everyone agreed that the British Service-men had brought an authenticity to the soldiers' role that civilian extras could not have achieved.

As the cameras rolled to capture

Left: Major John Knopp, PWO, with the Marines Colour and the soldiers of the guard on the beach at Zhuhai



Lance corporal Brian Hodkinson, 1 Cheshire, shows his sword to a Chinese soldier on location

the scene of the flag being raised over a simulated Hong Kong, Golda Offenheim, the production co-ordinator, was heard to remark: "You know I'm proud to be British. My soldiers deserve the taxes I have paid for the last 40 years."

Many of those on the set, resplendent in scarlet, navy and gold-braided uniforms, were members of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, enjoying an

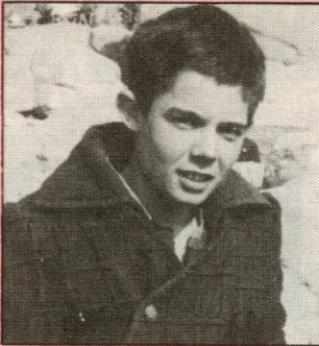
interesting change of activity in the last weeks of their Hong Kong posting. By March they should be installed in their new home at Caterham, back in the UK.

For someone like Private David Mills it was certainly a revelation of what life in the Army can involve. At 17 he is one of the youngest soldiers in the battalion and it wasn't that long ago that he was a junior in the Prince of Wales' Division Training Depot, Crickhowell, Wales. Now he was busily involved with 19th century colonial conquest, something for which not even junior training prepares you.

For Lance Corporal Brian Hodkinson, a clerk in 1 Cheshire's HQ Company, it was a question of going up in rank for the day. He had the job of carrying a Regimental Colour in the parade for the flag raising ceremony.

At the same time Major John Knopp, the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, on leave from his job as a staff officer at British Forces' HQ, Hong Kong, went down to Ensign and changed Services to carry the Royal Marines' Colour for the historic re-enactment on the beach at Zhuhai.

Major Anthony Case, RCT, who is currently serving with Transport and Movements Branch at BF HQ, also became a marine for the filming. He is a veteran member of the Honourable Artillery Company and as such is probably the first to have "served" in China. That, at least, is the claim put



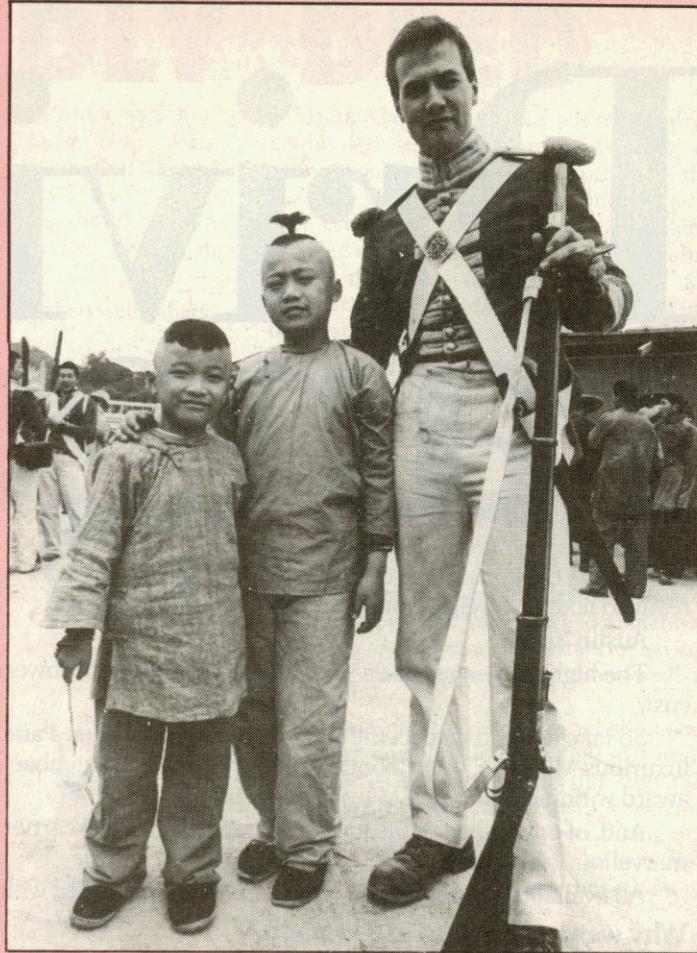
Seventeen-year-old Private David Mills, 1 Cheshire, on his first posting in the Army and in his first film

forward by Henry Bojdys, the present Director of Public Relations for the British Forces in Hong Kong, and, incidentally, a veteran member of the Honourable Artillery Company himself.

Quite apart from the novelty of feature filming, the occasion provided the British Servicemen with at least the chance of seeing something of their Chinese counterparts.

Some 300 members of the Chinese Armed Forces were also taking part as extras — playing not only the local population of the time but also, rather confusingly, British soldiers as well.

• Tai-Pan, directed by Daryl Duke, produced by Rafaella de Laurentiis, and starring Bryan Brown, Joan Chen and John Stanton, is due for release by Orion later this year.



Second Lieutenant Simon Angel, REME, becomes a private in the 26th Foot for a day and poses with two other extras, wearing the latest 19th century Cantonese hairstyles

Below: The stars and the soldiers — Bryan Brown, in the title role, sits in the centre of the group picture



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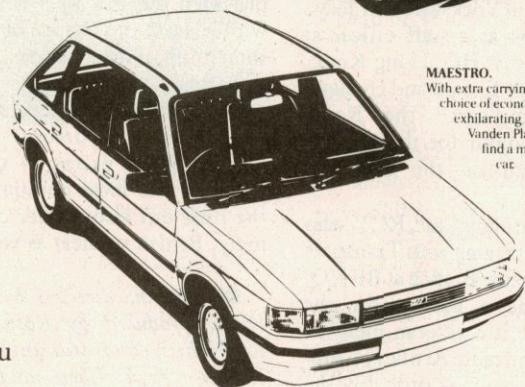
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A 'DASTURDLY' DEED

SECURITY surrounding the punctual appearance of the Adjutant's Charger during the three annual Sovereign's Parades at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has never been relaxed since the night of a jolly jape when the magnificent steed was brazenly "horsenapped" some years ago (see **SOLDIER**, January 13).

Then, it was claimed, a donkey was substituted for the equine star of the parade and the docile beast of burden daubed in a green or blue paint, writes **Graham Smith**.

New, yet 33-year-old evidence, has suddenly come to light however, to suggest that there may have been more than one successful sequestration of the noble nag.

The hint comes from 300 miles north of London at MoD Harrogate and Wing Commander Keith Carley, one-time Second Lieutenant Carley of the RASC based at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, and now the officer with responsibility for tri-Service policy on accommodation stores.

Parts of the affair he remembers well; others, not so well.

For, it seems, a gauntlet had been thrown provocatively down by a Captain George Boon, well-known in Buller's circles for his equestrian exploits.

The bold Captain Boon had said, one night: "Subalterns of today are not so good as subalterns of yesteryear!"

Young Carley and about ten of his Mess chums were not going to take that sort of insinuation from anybody in April 1953, the year that would see the Coronation.

A cabal was quickly formed. Thinking fortified and imaginations fired by the amber nectar they set out from Aldershot for Camberley on their dastardly deed involving the unsuspecting Dastur.

"We took taxis, I recall," said Wg Cdr Carley, then 19 years old, "we couldn't afford cars like they do today."

It was after midnight as the "special force" moved out as one.

With young Carley acting as look-out, two of their number furtively slipped into the darkened stable housing Surrey's most famous horse.

The object of their attentions followed quietly. To light the way and avoid a potential traffic hazard coupled with a citation for having no lights, the ten-strong team "borrowed" a red road lamp.

Memories are fainter now but one allegation — and by now a national tabloid had been "tipped" — was that police did stop the absconders. One with a wit, sharper than his gleeful colleagues, said they were taking the horse to the Tewesdown Races the next day!

Obviously betting men, too, they got away with it.

Dastur was moved to his temporary new quarters at Aldershot. Sandhurst was developing "an absolute fury". Young Carley took most of the blame. The horse, meanwhile, was returned in an RASC horse-box to a frosty reception of the raiding party by the adjutant.

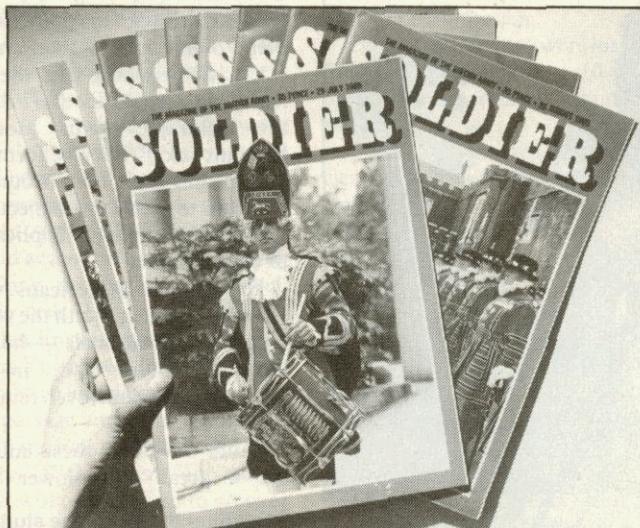
"I can remember I was not actually punished but I was posted shortly afterwards," said Wg Cdr Carley, who left the Army in 1959, had a short sortie into 'civvy street' and then joined the RAF because he was over-age for the Army.

And Captain Boon, the man who planted the seed of escapism for a horse's novel night out? He was duly impressed and honoured his bet!

Dastur, "horsenapped"



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ARMY PACK HORSES MARCH AGAIN



Story: Robert Higson
Pictures: Terry Champion



He said the Americans were also experimenting with the whole range of pack animals — horses, donkeys, mules and, in the appropriate regions, even reindeer and llamas. Quite obviously these animals are a great deal slower than

Spreading the load. The students practise hooking up a container on the twin arches of the pack saddle

JUST over ten years since the Army's last pack horse troop was disbanded there have been moves towards reviving interest in a form of transport as old as organised warfare itself.

When the Royal Corps of Transport's Pack Troop ended its days in Hong Kong, back in December 1975, all its saddlery was sent to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

Since then the kit has been used to instruct all RAVC recruits in the techniques of pack transport as part of their basic corps training — a means of preventing an old tradition dying out completely.

But recently the corps has been testing reaction to a modest revival

Left: Course instructor WO2 Peter Breeze, demonstrates how to get horse and load down a muddy bank and across a stream

by laying on a very basic three-day pilot course for a small group of mainly RCT officers. If the results are considered a success then regular courses will become a feature of life at Melton Mowbray.

"The aim of this course is not to resuscitate a pack transport unit," explained Colonel Geoffrey Durrant, the Commandant of the Training Centre. "The idea is to spread the knowledge of pack work so that should soldiers from the RCT or other units get to an out-of-area location, where pack might be necessary or appropriate, they would have some idea of how to set about using local resources."

With helicopters taking a more versatile role in transporting men and equipment over rugged terrain, it may seem strange that anyone these days is thinking seriously of pack animals.

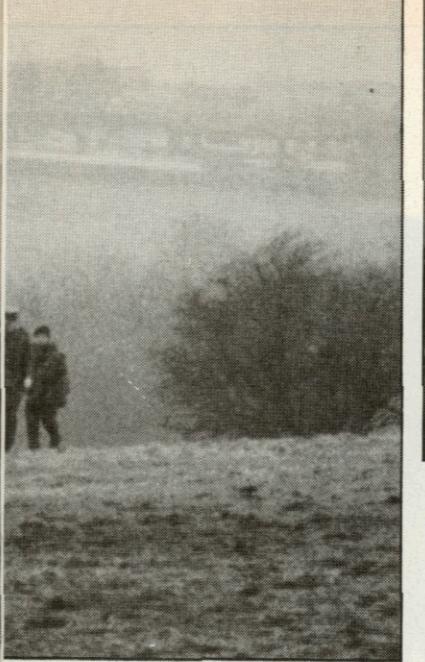
Yet the fact remains that many armies — including some as sophisticated as those of West Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Austria — maintain what Colonel Durrant called very substantial pack transport capability. Indeed an episode of the recent BBC TV series 'Soldiers' showed German army mules carrying Milan missiles in the Bavarian Alps — a fine blend of ancient and modern.

"It is interesting that the US Army has now decided to take up this technique again," Colonel Durrant said. "They've formed a unit within their 10th Mountain Division to study the subject and they've already made application to us for advice."

He said the Americans were also experimenting with the whole range of pack animals — horses, donkeys, mules and, in the appropriate regions, even reindeer and llamas.

Quite obviously these animals are a great deal slower than

Spreading the load. The students practise hooking up a container on the twin arches of the pack saddle



The course sets off cross country

helicopters, but they have a few advantages. They are virtually maintenance free, they live off the land, and for troops who want to maintain a low profile, they are a lot less conspicuous. Even mules and donkeys, with their fondness for braying their presence to all and sundry, can be silenced by medical means — a method used by the British in the Burmese jungles during the Second World War.

Colonel Durrant had his own experience of working with pack animals in the field when he served in East Africa and in Southern Oman during the Dhofar War of the early 1970s. He described the work as interesting but strenuous. The animal may be carrying the load but the handler still has to keep up over often mountainous and rough country.

The instructor of the course at Melton Mowbray, WO2 Peter Breeze, formerly of King's Troop, RHA, but now RAVC, spent some months in the Falklands a couple of years ago doing a feasibility study on the resupply of Rapier missile sites by pack animals.

"They were having difficulties getting supplies to some of the higher sites because the helicopters couldn't fly during bad weather," he said.

"The trial proved it was a feasible proposition to train the local horses and use them for kit."

Some of the trainees needed a bit of persuasion before they would accept loads, but generally speaking most buckled down well to the task. They also illustrated another important advantage that animals have over machines — an instinctive knowledge of what is a safe passage and what is not.

"In the Falklands it can get very boggy," WO2 Breeze said, "and a horse will often refuse to go over one patch and drag you to one side and say: 'I'll cross here.' They seem to have a sixth sense of knowing



Colonel Geoffrey Durrant, Commandant — no plan to resuscitate a pack transport unit

where they can go and where they can't. You'd be a fool to make them go somewhere they wouldn't because if you did you'd probably end up in six feet of mud."

During the three-day course WO2 Breeze supervised instruction for four RCT officers, one Queen's Gurkha officer and a captain from the RAVC whose normal job is training employment team officer inspecting Army dog establishments.

The students were treated to lectures on theory — there was one from Major (retd) Ron Hill who was with the Pack Troop in Hong Kong when it was disbanded. They learned about the requirements of the animals, the limits of loads and distance, ways of handling and harnessing. They practised the fitting of pack saddles and loads, properly balanced on each side and well secured. They were also shown the way to prepare the loads — the means of lashing jerry cans together and roping efficient looking canvas parcels of kit.

Mules are perhaps the ideal pack animal from the point of view of intelligence, load capacity and endurance, but as they are in rather short supply in this motorised age the course had to use three horses pressed into service from their normal duties at the Army School of Equitation.

On the last day they were loaded for a final exercise — a 10-mile hike over the surrounding countryside.

To a man the students were clearly impressed by what they had learned. So far from being surprised that anyone in the modern Army was thinking about pack animals, Lieutenant Russell Sowden, a troop commander with 27 Regiment, RCT, Aldershot, was surprised that they had been abandoned in the first place.

His job is basically to do with 16-ton Foden trucks and he thought — "There may not be much use for pack transport on normal exercises in Germany and so forth, but the actual skill required is just something I



Captain Tim Hutton latches up a load on the horse's back

use out of it, that would be marvellous," he said. "Obviously we've got all this special kit here, but we've been told about ways of improvising and it does seem very much like something for nothing for only a little knowledge."

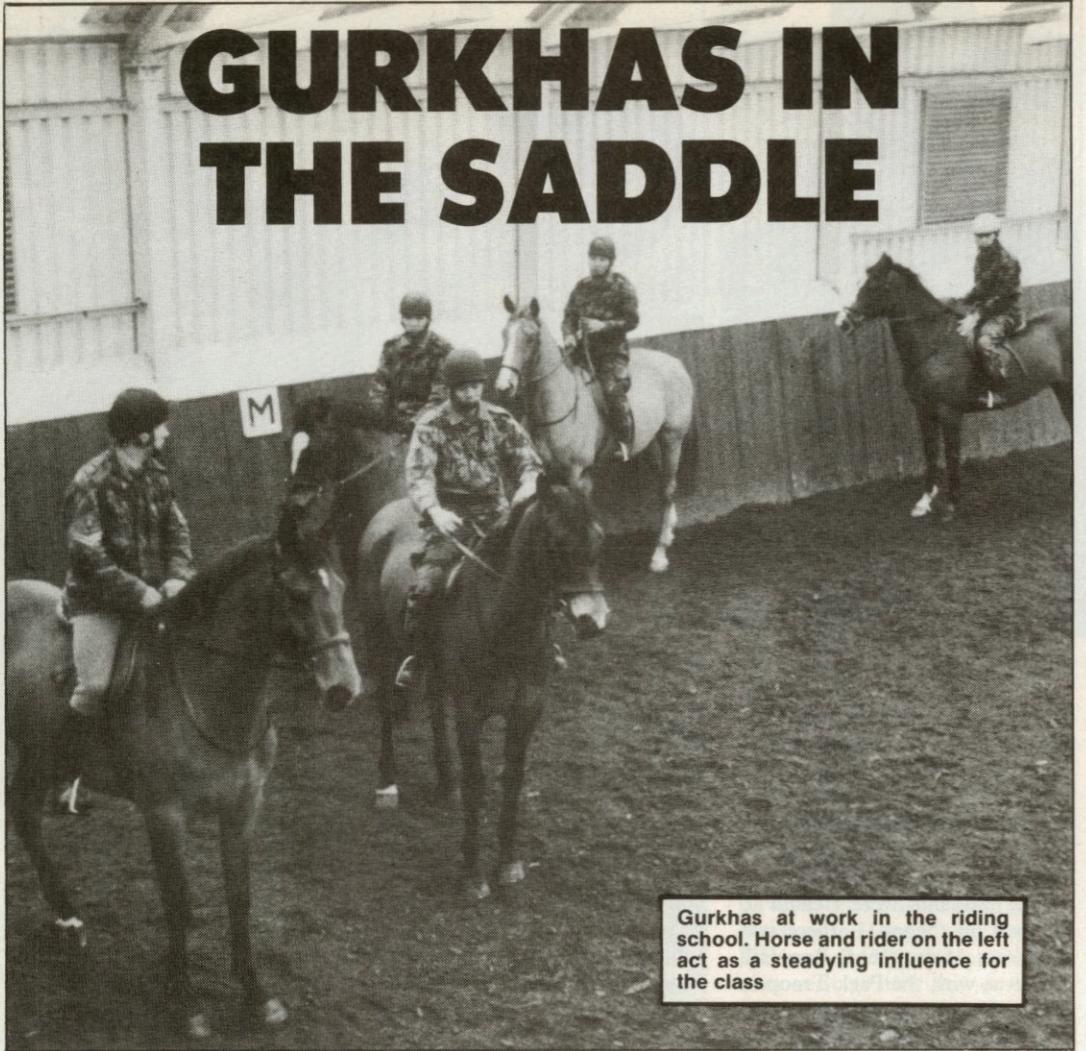
Unlike the others, the one infantryman on the course, Lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Indra Bahadur Gurung of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, had the opportunity of soon being able to put the training to a practical test.

His battalion is due to move from Church Crookham to the Falklands for a four-month tour, and he explained: "If we can get some horses or ponies down there, I hope I'll be able to explain how to pack them to take loads for patrols."

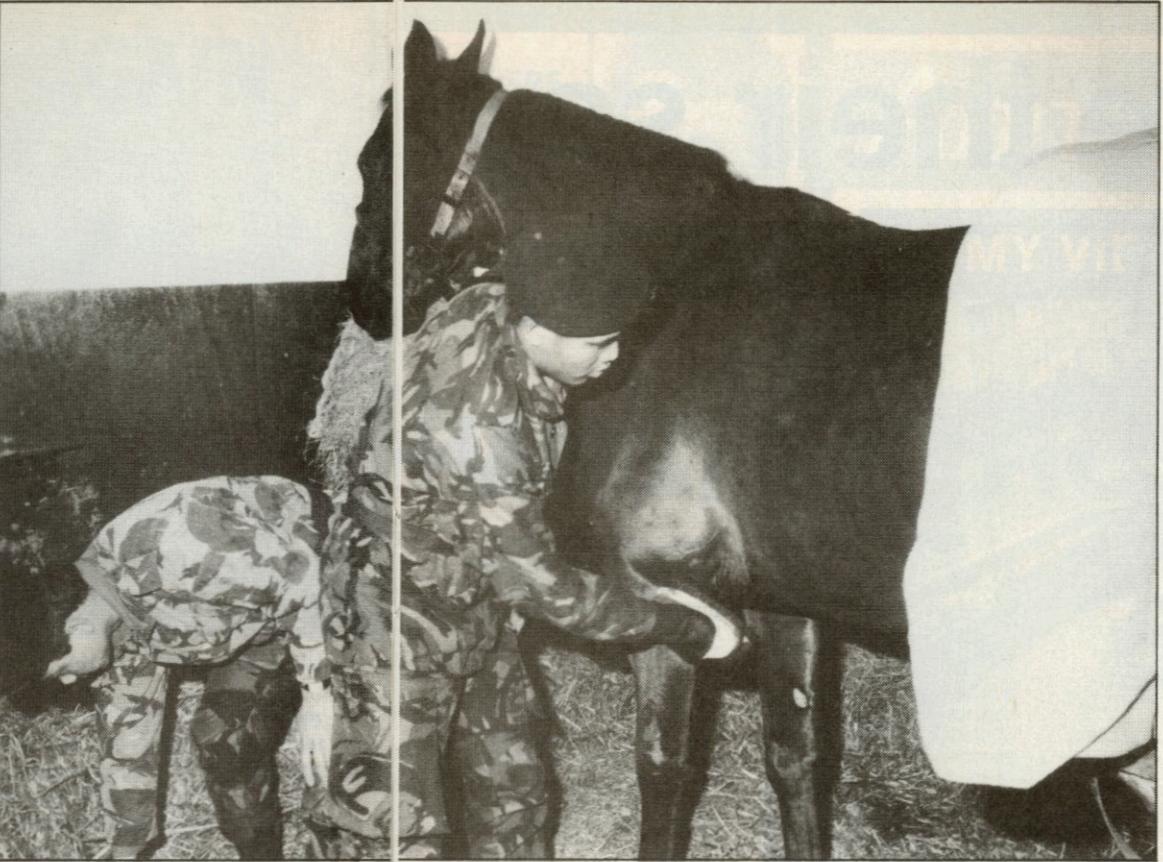


A knotty problem for Second Lieutenant Mike Hesselton, as he prepares a horse pack

GURKHAS IN THE SADDLE



Gurkhas at work in the riding school. Horse and rider on the left act as a steady influence for the class



instructing novice riders: the problem being that here they don't get enough practice with novices and you cannot really do anything to simulate the experience."

As Corporal Major James spoke, the Gurkhas, divided into two rides, were on the floor of the riding school under the instruction of students from the six-month-long Equitation Course which is designed to produce riding instructors for the Household Cavalry, King's Troop, RHA, and the School of Equitation itself.

Gurkhas are perhaps not the world's best natural riders, but both Corporal Major James and Captain Douglas McGregor, Blues and Royals, gave them full marks for effort.

"They haven't got the true feel for the horse," said Corporal Major James. "But they are very, very brave and we find that everything we tell them they will do straight away without a second thought."

"Probably riding's not a strong point with Gurkhas, compared to

Europeans," Captain McGregor added. "But they've got great determination and you've got to give them 100 per cent because that's what they give you in effort. They've got all the enthusiasm in the world, and I'm sure that if the majority of trainees had the amount these chaps show the job of teaching them would be made a lot easier."

For the week-long course the Gurkhas were riding and grooming mounts very different from those they could expect in the Falklands. There are no half wild shaggy ponies around the School of Equitation. On the contrary the only available animals are from a group of the best schooled horses in the Army and perhaps in the country. After all if you do work at the School of Equitation you do get a fair bit of practice in minding your manners.

However Colonel Durrant said that if courses were established on a permanent basis at Melton Mowbray, it might be possible to form a small group of ponies which could be used to provide training for any battalion.

Left: Two riflemen of C Company, 2/2 GR, attend to stables chores after their riding lesson

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WHILE Lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Gurung was learning methods of packing horses at Melton Mowbray, (see pages 18-19) ten other members of the same battalion were being shown how to ride them.

Both courses were something new for the RAVC Training Centre. Several regiments bound for the Falklands have undertaken riding courses in other Army mounted units, but the ten soldiers of 2/2 Gurkha Rifles were the first to do their training at the Army School of Equitation.

"If they can get on one of the local ponies in the Falklands, they can save time and a lot of wasted energy in a very muddy and marshy terrain," said Colonel Geoffrey Durrant, the Commandant of the Training Centre.

"Most of these soldiers have already done some basic training when they were stationed in Hong Kong at the Army saddle club there. So they are now doing some revision and by the end of the week we hope that they will be able to obtain sufficient knowledge to be able to manage a local pony at a simple pace, walking and trotting."

According to Corporal Major Ronald James, LG, an equitation instructor, the course had distinct benefits not just for the pupils but also for their teachers.

"The main benefit for us" he said, "is that they are giving our potential instructors some practice



Mounted infantry — men of 2/2 Gurkha Rifles on horseback for a different view of soldiering

Wives have their say in new-look homes



EASY ANSWERS TO TAXING QUESTIONS

SERVICE wives working on the German economy and paying income tax (lohnsteuer); sickness contributions (krankenversicherung); unemployment contributions (arbeitslosenversicherung) and pension insurance (rentenversicherung), have been asking if they can make requests on return to the UK for their contributions to be transferred to their DHSS record.

In a helpful letter, the Joint Services Liaison Organisation

have come up with the following answers — in a simplified form, they say, as it is a complicated matter:

1. As far as Income Tax repayments are concerned, the tax payer should go to the local tax office (finanzamt).
2. The position on medical and unemployment insurance is that the contributions are a form of insurance against ill-health or unemployment, and cannot be claimed back.
3. The position on pension insurance has been affected by community regulations. It seems clear that repayment does not arise where a person returns to another community country.
4. The point about a five-year contribution period is that this gives rise to an entitlement to a German pension, and this pension entitlement can be transferred to the UK scheme. So voluntary payments to the German scheme is an option persons may wish to consider.
5. Contributions for a lesser period than five years, which do not give rise to a pension entitlement, are nevertheless counted towards reckonable periods under UK legislation, without, however, causing any increase in the pension ultimately payable. Individuals who have paid German pension contributions should therefore ascertain from the British authorities the effect of such contributions on their British contribution record.

Spread over two days the courses started last month with basic casework training at head office.

This particular course is designed for new volunteers, or for those who have been working as caseworkers and have not yet attended a course of instruction in basic techniques.

SSAFA training dates

THREE levels of training courses are now available for SSAFA volunteers.

Spread over two days the courses started last month with basic casework training at head office.

This particular course is designed for new volunteers, or for those who have been working as caseworkers and have not yet attended a course of instruction in basic techniques.

All new volunteers are required to attend this course in their first year with the association.

The course dates are: March 11-13; April 15-17; May 13-15; June 10-12; July 15-17; September 16-18; October 14-16; November 11-13.

Further inquiries: Training Officer, SSAFA, 16-18 Old Queen Street, London SW1 (tel: 01-222 9221).



Wives have their say in new-look homes

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

IN MY VIEW

new-look homes

CAN it be true that Aldershot Garrison's new quarter estate is actually no longer a plan on the architect's drawing board.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Channon has given a detailed description of the new-look estate which incorporates many new ideas, many of which were contributed by Service wives.

They put their views and plans in the hope that the disastrous system-built homes of the 1960s will never again be allowed to be built. Among many listening to Col Channon's details was Brigadier Dennis Shaw from UKLF and his wife Barbara, who heard with a large audience from the Garrison, of the exciting project.

But while interest centred on the new scheme, the subject of children's outside play areas aroused equal concern.

There were eminent speakers such as Vic Watson of the GLC — soon to be abolished — the author

of a three-year study into safety surfaces for children's playgrounds, and Jean Wenger of the National Playing Fields Association's technical department, who spoke on British Standards and the Health and Safety Act.

Another was Simon Rendal, a GLC landscape architect whose ideas certainly provided the audience with much food for thought as to what can be done in large and small areas.

With photographs and slides the speakers showed the developments in providing safer ground surfaces; new layouts, and the widening scope of imaginative equipment.

And all stressed that even with a small budget an enormous amount can be achieved with forward planning.

Listening avidly to their ideas and suggestions were representatives from Surrey and Hampshire NPFA, Surrey Play Council, Wiltshire Social Services, Westminster Play Association, The PSA and PPA and the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital.

They, too, offered the expertise of their organisations and told how in some cases they had pointed the

way to financial help.

Manufacturers, too, were present with displays of equipment suitable for all ages.

To say that many eyes were opened would not be an exaggeration. Children's play areas in the Aldershot Garrison area will hopefully benefit and possibly become a show piece in the field of children's play.



Useful references: Towards a Safer Playground; Playground Management for Local Councils; Play Mounds; Safety Check List; Holiday Play Schemes; all from National Playing Fields Association, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3 1L9.

Make Way for Children's Play; available from Playboard, Britannia House, 50 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 2LP.

Playmeric Materials Group Safety Surfaces for Children's Playgrounds; V Watson GLC Room 621A, County Hall, London SE1 7PB.

Association for Play Industries AP1 Buyers Guide; from Play Equipment and Services, Prudential House, 10th Floor (East Wing), Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 0XY.

VIC WATSON: three-year study on playground safety

HOW TO PAY FOR PLAY

VALUE for play — value for money. How can planners quantify such a statement when children's play is so difficult to assess?

For some planners it is a subject which is easily dismissed as of no importance.

Yet many see it as a way of alleviating stress for parents by providing children with imaginative and safer play areas where they can have fun.

The National Playing Fields Association has a history of pioneering in this area and are playing a leading role with Play Board — a scheme to promote children's play areas.

Over the past few years a number of organisations have devoted much research as to how play spaces can be improved and children find joy in playing in designated areas.

About ten years ago, when I first started writing this page, I had a list of ideas I hoped would come true.

To that end I wrote in 1975 a brief for General Alan Taylor stressing that recognition of children's play was an important part of Service life.

I said that we must not be content with second best; that we must keep up with trends in equipment, and layout, and use of safer ground surfaces. Struc-

tures must be made of better materials and, if at all possible, areas should be supervised.

All this is possible in 1986.

We must also ensure that when it comes to costings they are put out to tender and that other sources of finance are tapped.

Money need not be the stumbling block it is often made out to be, and with it the excuse not to act.

WHO'S THAT KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR?

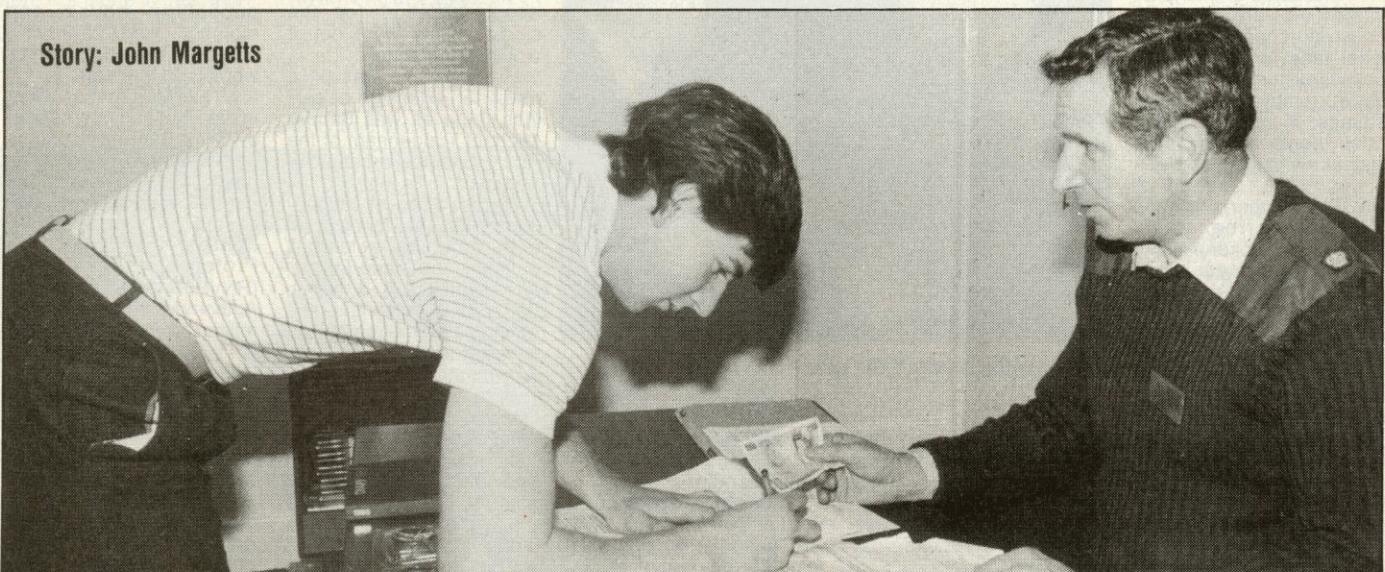
HELLO, WELCOME

and sign here, please



Ready with help and advice... Major Robin Sider (centre) and some of his staff. Below: Barry Elliott signs on

Story: John Margetts



Major Robin Sider recited the Oath of Allegiance with the ease of someone who has read it a thousand times.

Listening intently and repeating it line by line, was 21-year-old Barry Elliott who was about to receive his first day's pay as a recruit Sapper.

In fact Barry, who joins his training regiment at Cove, Hampshire, was the Major's 198th signing since he took over as recruiting officer at Surbiton ACIO last April.

With four offices spread over an area stretching from Waterloo in the north to Staines in the west, Leatherhead in the south and Fooths Cray in the east, Major Sider and his staff of 13 get around 700 inquiries a year from would-be recruits.

"It's amazing the number and types of youngsters we get knocking at our door. Many are as young as 13," he said.

"We show them round and tell them to come back in a couple of years, 15 or so being the ideal age to apply for the Junior Leaders."

Such an applicant was a young giant called Peter Whitman. At 15½, topping 6ft 2ins and weighing in at 13

stone 8lbs he was banging on the door for admission.

A corporal in the Army Cadet Force, and a representative swimmer with the Force, he was welcomed by Sergeant Alastair Moar, Royal Engineers, who would be issuing documents for him to attend the Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield, where, if he passed their tests he would probably become an apprentice carpenter with the RE.

But it would appear that those tests, and those posed at Surbiton, are stumbling blocks for many youngsters.

"Most of the lads find English and maths the main problems," said Major Sider.

But it is those subjects which Corps such as the REME rate highly and, since that is the Corps most youngsters opt for, a good many are disappointed when they get the thumbs down.

"The REME is certainly popular with most of the boys wanting to be vehicle mechanics," said WO2 Colin Wilson, of the Royal Scots

Dragoon Guards, a recruiter of many years.

"It's probably the only trade they've heard of and so they put that as a preference. But with competition running high, and not many passing the exams. Only a few manage to achieve their first choice of job."

Contrary to the majority, 17-year-old David Gunning was at Surbiton that day signing on, collecting his first day's pay of £10 and his instructions to report to the REME at Arborfield.

In for nine years, David told how he had spent a year at technical college studying electronic engineering. He felt that was a tremendous help in passing the initial tests at Surbiton and later at Sutton Coldfield.

As David and Barry Elliott were signing on the line and listening to advice on Army life, six youngsters, under the scrutiny of Staff Sergeant Tony Murphy, Royal Artillery, had their eyes and noses glued to test papers in the basement classroom.

With a time limit of 68 minutes they were undergoing tests of comprehension, intelligence and reasoning, English and mathematics.

All under 16 and still at school, only four managed

a pass mark. The two who failed were invited back for another go in six months.

"I cannot recall ever signing on an A level candidate and only a few have any number of O Levels," said Major Sider.

"Most of the lads have CSEs — Barry Elliott, for example, has nine. It's all a question of putting the right man in the right job, but we do impress on the lads that being a soldier comes first and a tradesman second.

"Unemployment is not reason enough for someone to apply to join the Army.

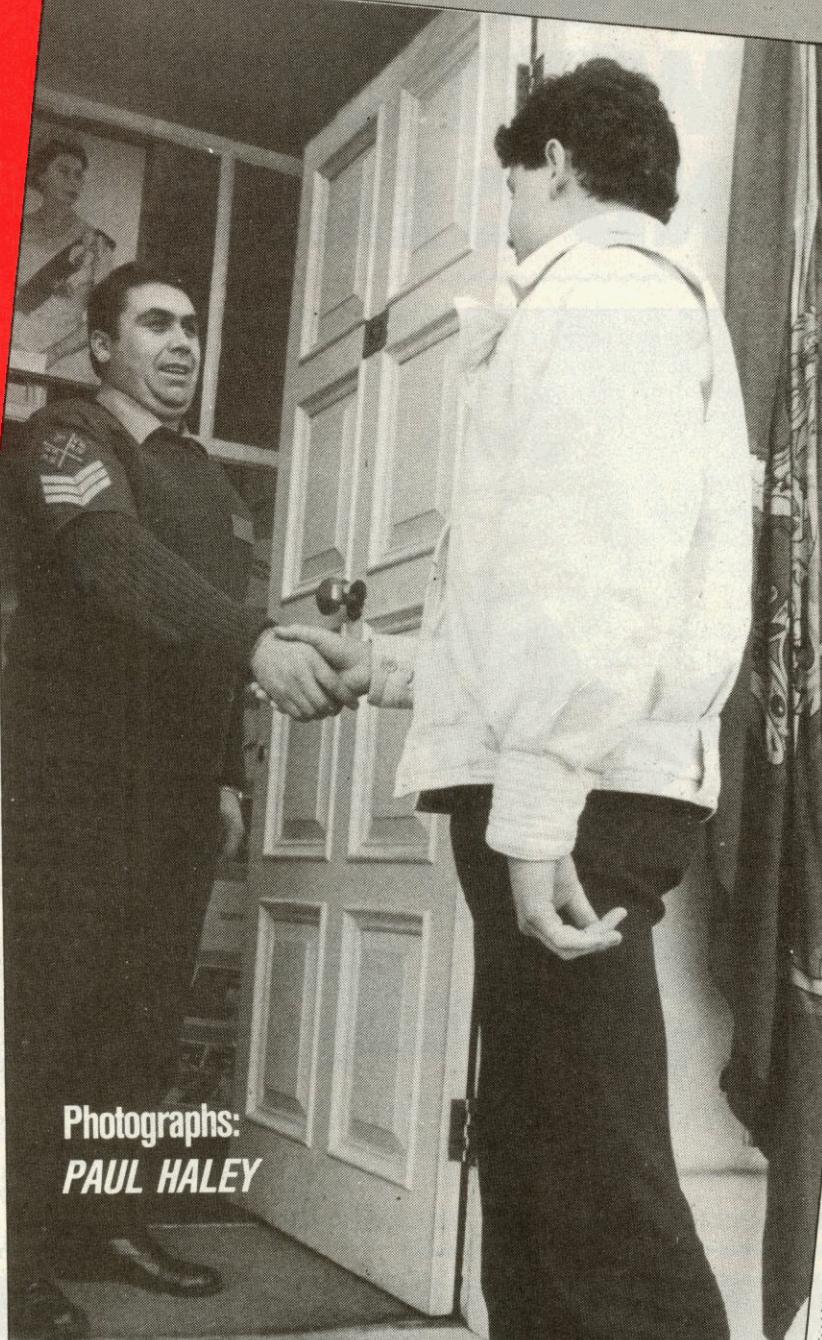
"The Army is a way of life demanding 100 per cent commitment and we make that clear from the start.

"But even so the Army is becoming increasingly technical and with it the educational level rises."

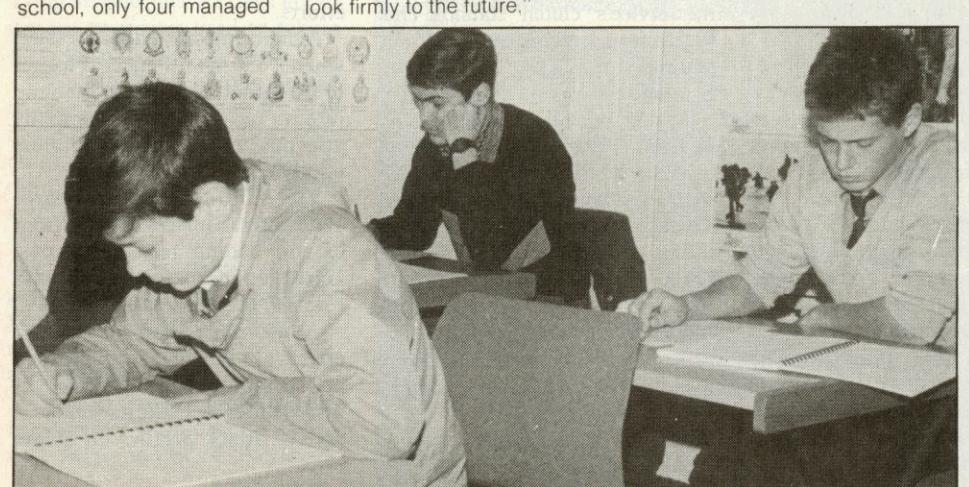
So in addition to a higher educational demand, what else does the Army require of a young man or woman candidate?

"British citizenship — foreigners cannot join — and the necessary mental and physical levels," said the Major.

"One thing we don't want is a long story of how Dad spent his time in the Army. That's all in the past. We must look firmly to the future."



Photographs:
PAUL HALEY



Above: Staff Sergeant Alastair Moar and Peter Whitman. Left: eyes down time for would-be soldiers

TWELVE SECONDS TWIXT LIFE AND DEATH



ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

IT TAKES just 12 seconds to engage his designated target. Twelve steely-nerved seconds during the notional moment of impending high-speed air threat for a 23-year-old bombardier detachment commander exercising tactical control within his advanced training as an air defence system operator, notably on Rapier.

A dozen taut seconds that could be the most vital time-scale such a specialised gunner would be ever likely to face for real. And, chances are, he will be miles away with his five-man detachment from his battlefield "boss" and tactical adviser.

There is no doubt about it. It has to be an unerring bull's eye every time his operator presses the firing button to engage contour-hugging, ECM-laden fast jets. Perhaps several at a time. Hurting towards specific targets at tree-top

level and 250 fleeting metres a second.

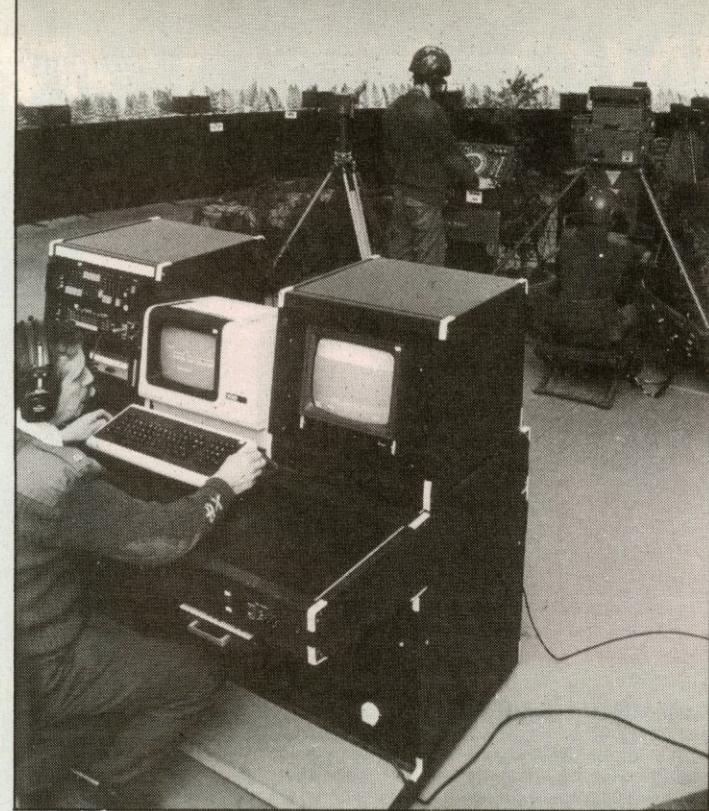
And, more recently, the "pop up" helicopter gunship threat.

Such hostile marauders could be in aggressive, purposeful mood at 10,000 feet or as far away as six miles.

At the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, they recently brought into full operational role the fourth of five Air Defence Tactical Training Theatres, simply known as ADT 3s.

Computerised and TV-monitored wonders forming a £1 million simulator complex housed in a huge, white golf ball shaped dome.

Inside the planetarium-type installation at Larkhill the air defence gunners, two at a time — the detachment commander and his tracker operator — put in 20-minute, high concentration sessions. In all, 56 periods or seven days out of a six-week advanced AD course within the School of



Inside the dome, high concentration in a 20-minute test

Artillery.

Their targets: realistically sized and distanced fixed and rotary-winged aircraft. Friendly and hostile. The scenario backed by sound effects and projected the 360 degrees round the theatre's ample circumference.

Yet it is not just the Army's eagle-eye operators who are involved in this split-second world of air defence engagement training. Strategic airfield guardians in the shape of the RAF Regiment are also tutored into razor-sharp reaction times and sure-eyed accuracy.

The theatres are impressive indeed.

The first of the five was installed at RAF West Raynham, a name associated with the venerable Bloodhound surface-to-air missile system. The second came into being at Dortmund, home of HQ 1st Artillery Division, BAOR. The third at RAF Wildenrath, one of the Service's "clutch" stations. The fourth is at Larkhill and a fifth is planned for RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland.

At the Larkhill ADT 3, some 90 per cent of training is undertaken by Army personnel, sent there by their parent units, as part of their advanced course.

The syllabus calls for an agile brain and very sharp reflexes. Students training under the dome must learn to react within a handful of seconds to hostile single and multiple raids by fixed and rotary-winged assault.

Vital perception is the criteria. A detachment is normally alerted by radar. An IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) interrogation is made (if it is hostile the weapons

system and operator are alerted and the system activated).

The launcher, optical and radar trackers are aligned to the target. This is tracked by radar or optically recognised — in visual mode — and the missile launched to knock it out of the sky.

Added to all of this in the quest of battlefield realism in the wrap-round auditorium of air defence mayhem are the simulated noises of battle. Those of aircraft, shellfire and small arms chatter.

The alarm received, electronics activated, a computer controlled simulated red laser-like flare streaks out, tracks and then destroys any incursion aircraft.

Friendly aircraft are exempt. Hostile invaders are given scant chance of survival.

Video recordings are made of each engagement as seen through the weapon sights. Individual print-outs tell the tale of progress for each gunner's concentrated efforts.

A daunting task under pressure when a 450-knot Fencer, Flogger or Frogfoot is coming inbound intent on causing terminally grievous bodily harm in great numbers!

The ADT 3 equipment incorporates aircraft images flying in front of and behind terrain features. Hardly a consolation for the rapid reaction Rapier detachment men.

All of these realistic training effects are achieved with the help of 24 computer-controlled projectors, 80 differing battle terrain slides and 73 attack profiles on 16mm film.

Added to the special effects are variable sky-lighting facilities. Night. Dawn. Dusk.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley



WO2 George Barrett with one of the 24 projectors

Scenarios are drawn from BAOR, the UK and may eventually include the Falklands.

WO2 (SMIG) George Barratt, one of the School's air defence instructors with the responsibility for the latest trainer said: "The great benefit of the ADT 3 system is that we are saving the taxpayer thousands of pounds during instruction periods.

"Actual, live rounds are expensive. There are no repetitive live practice sessions needed tying up real aircrew and aircraft. No live firing ranges have to be booked. No support facilities are needed. The weather presents no problems as it would externally and in here our aircraft can fly every day.

"We can literally turn day into night and back again at the tap of a button on the instructional master console. No training time is lost. The equipment is identical to that operationally used in the field.

"We have not forgotten the increased importance of battlefield helicopters, either. In future, there are going to be so many helicopters flying around that we have got to get our operators used to taking them on and defeating them.

"We can fly up to four aircraft from any direction at any one time in this theatre. I can decide at what range the Rapier team will acquire the target, visually or by radar, and I can bring the invading aircraft to short range. The crew can be made to identify it and we get good aircraft recognition results here. An operator is trained to recognise up to 40 different hostile and friendly aircraft."

Weapon faults, missile failures, interference from other surveillance radars and ECM (Electronic

Counter Measure) tactics can be incorporated into the training syllabus all carried out within the 17-metre-wide and ten-metre high ADT 3 complex.

Warrant Officer Barratt, added with a grin: "If I wanted to, I could make the students do their training in NBC 'Noddy suits' for added realism. One detachment of UK-based air defenders on the Rapier system is coming here to use the ADT 3 facilities for up to 12 hours at a time.

"We have here a trainer which is working in real-time. If a detachment commander and his tracker operator are not up to scratch then we will find their faults. Each man has a print out of his performance. We can run tests of AD units' personnel if they require it. In fact, it's the most comprehensive real-time trainer we have ever had."

A sentiment shared by joint user,

RAPIER operators — detachment commanders and tracker operators — are reminded continually of the considerable threat from enemy Fighter Ground Attack aircraft and from helicopters, particularly the new breed of "pop up" gunships.

They are reminded that these aircraft may be armed with cannon, rockets, bombs, guided missiles and napalm. They would be used in large numbers to disrupt operations and to destroy installations, men and equipment.

Fighter Ground Attack aircraft, they are reminded, are capable of

supersonic flight at low level, can carry up to three tons (3,000 kilos) of bombs and have a combat radius of 620 miles or 1,000 kms. Thus delivering a devastating attack with pin-point accuracy.

Helicopters, the operators are told, can carry more than one hundred 57mm rockets, four anti-tank guided missiles, a multi-barrelled machine gun plus large numbers of combat troops.

They can fly tactically at very low level at 160 mph and have a combat radius of 150 miles or 240 kms.

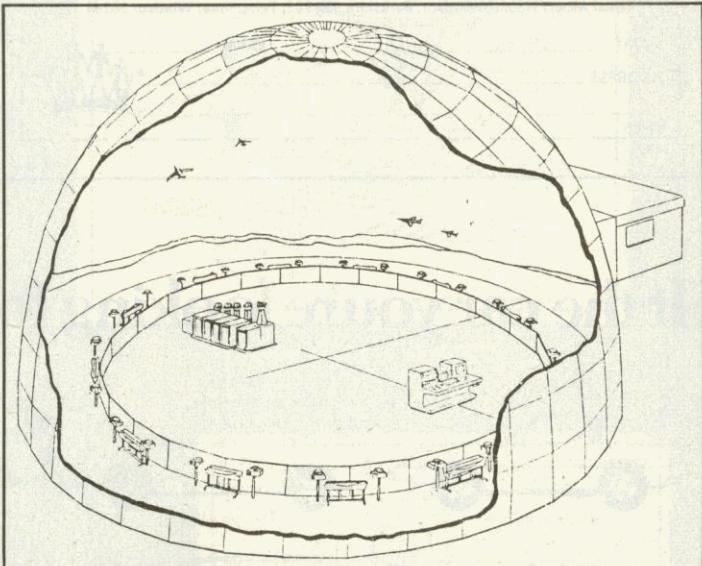
Squadron Leader John Shackell, RAF Regiment, who endorsed: "Although these ADT 3s were commissioned only last year we still have to realise the full potential of the system. Refinements and modifications will, of course, continue to be made to it. There are plans, for example, to have an interface with the shoulder-fired Javelin missile system which is replacing Blowpipe now."

Rapid response... instinctive reactions... tactical awareness. A

tall order for a young bombardier detachment commander with just 12 seconds at his instant decision disposal. The time it took, perhaps to peruse the opening paragraph of this story.

That is some tight deadline. But the Rapier air defence operators passing through Larkhill's ADT 3 training facility are achieving it. All of the time.

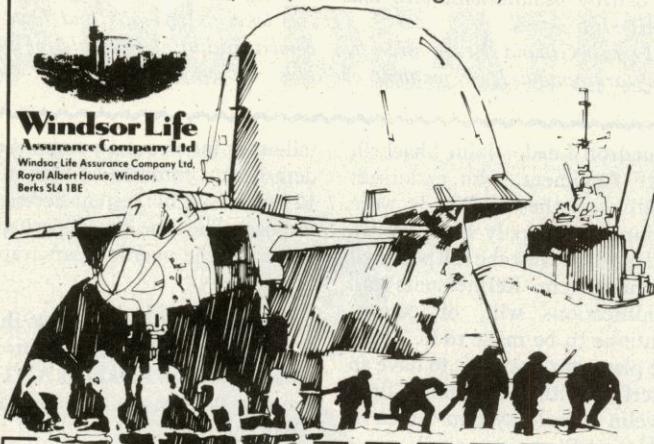
In twelve seconds. The difference between life and certain death.



Right: The console, WO2 Barrett at the controls; day into night at the tap of a button

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A. PUPIL



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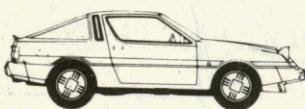
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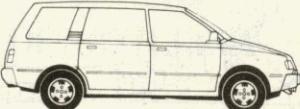
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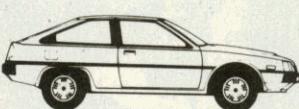
The Galant



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The Shogun 3 door



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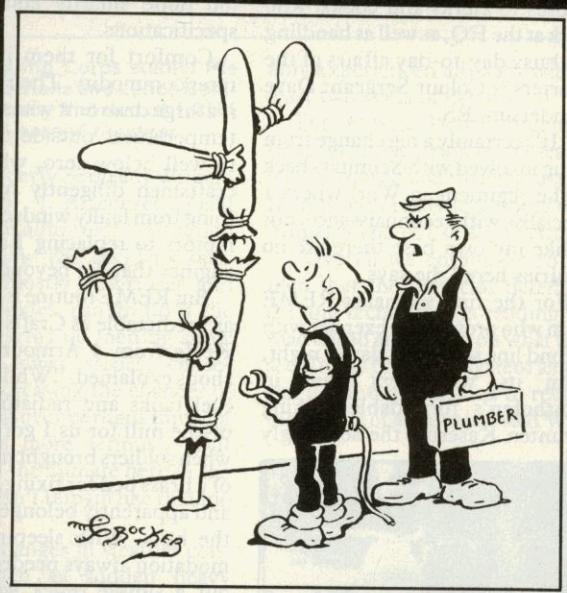


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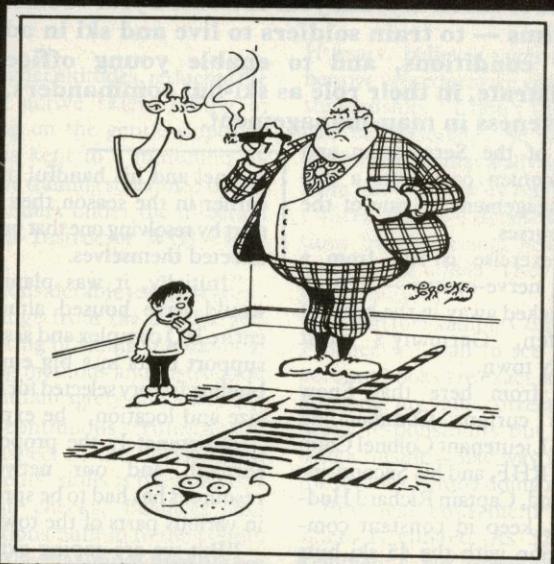
Humour



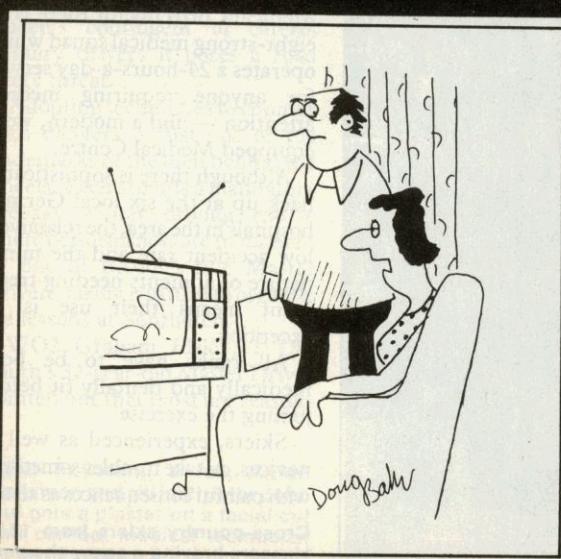
"That's a piece of modern sculpture you've just lagged."



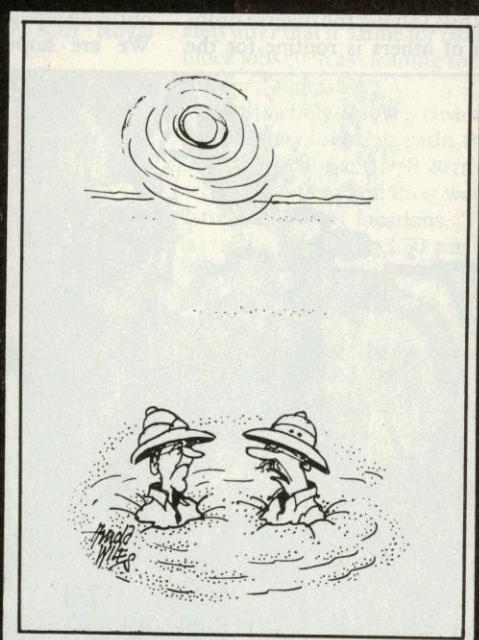
"Try again, lad — I'll let you have 25 more guesses"



"Did you fall on it, uncle?"



"Turn the volume up loud, dear — it's almost bedtime and I haven't got a headache yet."



"Mind you, Carruthers, I've been trapped in quicker quicksand."

SNOW QUEEN — A HARD MISTRESS

SNOW QUEEN takes place in a winter wonderland but is certainly no holiday on ice.

It's challenging, tough, exhausting — but enjoyable, although after 14 hours a day of being alert and using muscle power, the 8,000 or so soldiers who this year will pass through the **Snow Queen exercise in Bavaria**, will mostly be too tired to think of anything but rest.

Snow Queen is one of the longest running winter training projects of the Army, this year in its 23rd year of existence.

Its aims — to train soldiers to live and ski in adverse winter conditions, and to enable young officers to demonstrate, in their role as ski-hut commanders, their effectiveness in man-management.

Each of the Servicemen and Servicewomen completes a two week engagement on one of the seven courses.

The exercise is run from a bustling nerve-centre — a small office tucked away in the heart of Sonthofen, Germany's most southerly town.

It is from here that Snow Queen's current Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Colin Winter, RHF, and his Second-in-Command, Captain Richard Hodson, LI, keep in constant communication with the 45 ski huts and numerous support bases in the region to cater for the training, security, discipline and health as well as morale, of all concerned.

While solving the diverse problems of others is routine for the

colonel and his handful of aides, earlier in the season they had to start by resolving one that primarily affected themselves.

"Initially, it was planned we would have housed almost the entire HQ complex and associated support units in a big empty ski binding factory selected for its ideal size and location," he explained. "Unfortunately the proposal fell through and our network of resources has had to be spread out in various parts of the town.

"But we are coping extremely well despite, for example, the disadvantage of having HQ personnel travelling 17 kilometres to duty every morning from the outlying alpine village of Morgen. We are hoping this particular

situation will be resolved perhaps even before next season starts."

Responsible for keeping content and well fed the 50-odd personnel ranging in trade from drivers and medics to clerks and cooks, who work at the HQ, as well as handling the busy day-to-day affairs of the quarters is Colour Sergeant Dave Henderson, RS.

"It's certainly a big change from being involved with Scimitars back at the regiment in Werl where I specialise with reconnaissance, but unlike my own base there are no luxuries here", he says.

For the tiny specialist REME team who provide the exercise with second line servicing, day or night, from its windswept base in Sonthofen's formidable looking Grunten Kaserne, the seemingly

Cpl Nathan McMahon, a REME armourer with 13/18 Hussars, satisfaction after a five kilometre cross-country race

irresistible impetus is getting the job done smartly and to strict specifications.

Comfort for them is an even rarer commodity. Their workshop is a large drab tent where day time temperatures outside often drop to well below zero, while inside craftsmen diligently tackle anything from faulty windscreen wiper motors to replacing Land Rover engines that are beyond repair.

But REME routine is not always as predictable as Craftsman Chris Keefe from 4 Armoured Workshops explained: "While mending fuel tanks and radiators is run-of-the-mill for us I got a surprise when soldiers brought in the frame of a brass bed for fixing. It was old and apparently belonged to one of the huts. With sleeping accommodation always needed I carried out a simple quick welding job making it as good as new again."

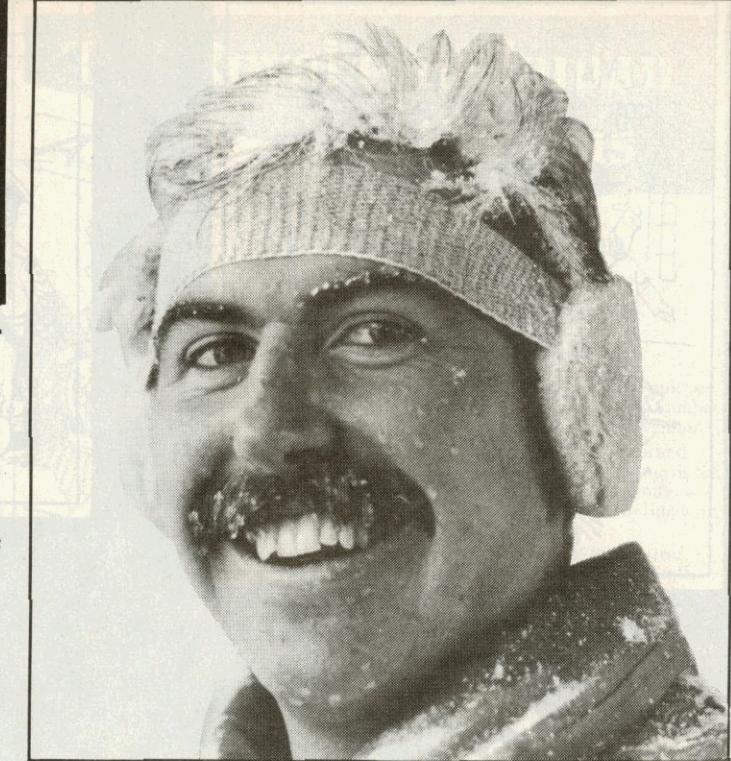
Headed by a Royal Army Medical Corps doctor there is an eight-strong medical squad which operates a 24-hours-a-day service for anyone requiring medical attention — and a modern, well-equipped Medical Centre.

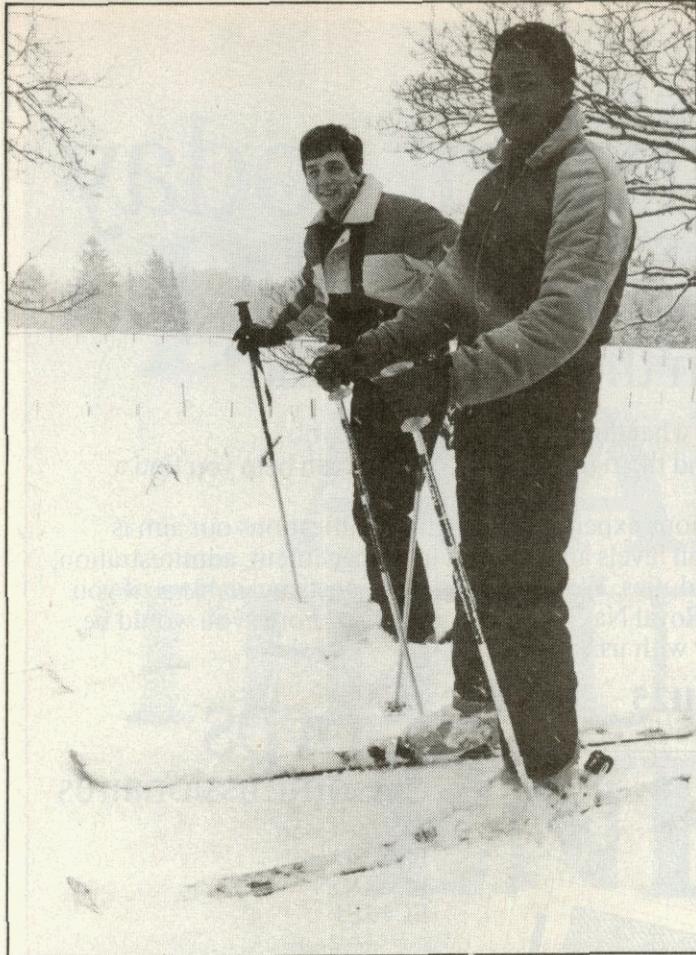
Although there is sophisticated back up at the six local German hospitals in the area, the relatively low accident rate and the minor nature of ailments needing treatment means their use is an exception.

All ranks have to be both medically and dentally fit before joining the exercise.

Skiers, experienced as well as novices, do take tumbles sometimes with painful consequences as senior

Cross-country skiers from 13/18 Hussars braving a snow shower





Army Catering Corps soldier Pte Graham Nicholls and Lance Bombardier Fitzroy Thomas of 1 RHA take a well-earned breather

medical orderly Sergeant William Haggert of 4 Armoured Field Ambulance admitted: "Although normally low the accident rate, made up mostly of bruises and sprained ankles, can go up if the weather warms up melting snow from the lower slopes, consequently increasing the chances of guys falling over perhaps injuring themselves more seriously. But thankfully the climate here in the Allgau doesn't remain like that too long."

Rapid changes in weather conditions such as sudden heavy snowfalls may be exciting news for athletic cross-country and downhill skiers alike, but for Snow Queen's contingent of careful military drivers it poses a road safety threat.

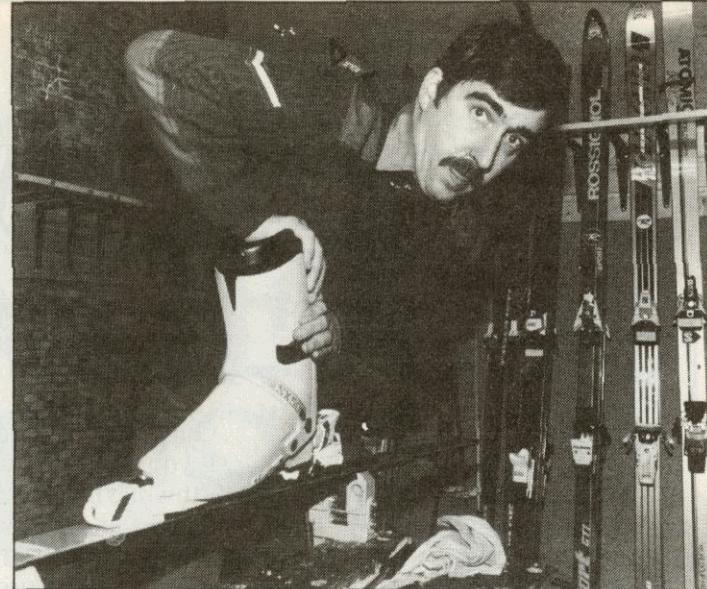
Adopting techniques to counter such dangers is just one of the trademarks of the men behind the wheels. Each attends a mandatory one-day winter driving course where performances are monitored by one of BAOR's five Master Drivers, taking it in turn to organise the lessons at Sonthofen.

WO2 Graham Elsley, 1 Div South's 32-year-old Master Driver pointed out that most are reason-

ably experienced anyway, with at least two years of driving.

The Master Driver organises lectures and instructional ideas as well as snow chain fitting practice. It ends with realistic training on a properly laid out skid pan circuit.

"Overall we emphasise to the men that the secret of defensive driving techniques is reading the road ahead and acting on what they see. It's as fail safe a system as you can get and guaranteed to reduce the chance of accidents," said WO2



Busily fitting a boot to a binding, LCpl Dave Reid, RCT, working in the Corps hut at Fastenoy, north-east of Sonthofen

Elsley.

At higher altitudes, reducing the risk of active skiers falling or crashing on the gentle slopes or pistes is kept to a minimum by intensive training scheduled by hut commanders under the direction of Chief Instructor WO1 Terry Hewitt.

His considerable terms of reference range from the control and monitoring of skiing standards to teaching methods and instruction on mountain safety and survival.

The continuous scrutinising of every aspect of the development of students' skills is only one of a host of checks, balances and precautions built in to the system so that the maximum benefits are gained not just by individuals but in the longer term by the sponsors, Headquarters 1 British Corps.

Hut Commander Lieutenant Tim Martin, 13th/18th Royal

Hussars, believes such comprehensive procedures are vital to good stewardship. "I don't think they can be bettered," he said. "In addition to regular analytical visits from Snow Queen's Commanding Officer, we have detailed inspections from catering, health, fire and finance chiefs. They keep us on our toes."

"Soon for example Commander Finance will call to see that the account books are exact and that I am doing my sums correctly. It's a heavy responsibility but meeting it in a business-like way is one of the reasons I enjoy doing my job."

Practical enjoyment for the skiers is elusive. As 32 Heavy Regiment's hut commander, Lt Chris Bradley, RA, explained: "The hectic ritual of daily chores starts with reveille at 6.30 am. Breakfast is at seven and immediately after that it's time for barrack block jobs such as cleaning rooms, showers, toilets.

"Following snow clearance around the building's paths there is a staff briefing and by 8.20 troops are kitted out and on their way by 4-tonners to ski locations. They leave the slopes by 3.30 pm and apart from a 30-minute lunch break they have been on the go all the time."

"On return to the hut at 4.30 chores start again. They sort out books, sticks, check skis for repair and prepare them for waxing. By this time it's 6 pm — mealtime."

"Later there is usually a lecture with explanatory videos on some aspect of skiing or winter survival which finishes at around 8.30 pm."

"But with a good night's sleep, it's positively all systems go the next morning".

It is such enthusiasm combined with the skills, talent and experience hard at work on Snow Queen that continues to set it apart as a uniquely demanding winter exercise with a proven track record second to none.



Right: Following a fall, REME Craftsman and ski instructor John Paul gets a plaster on a facial cut from combat medical technician Pte James Pike



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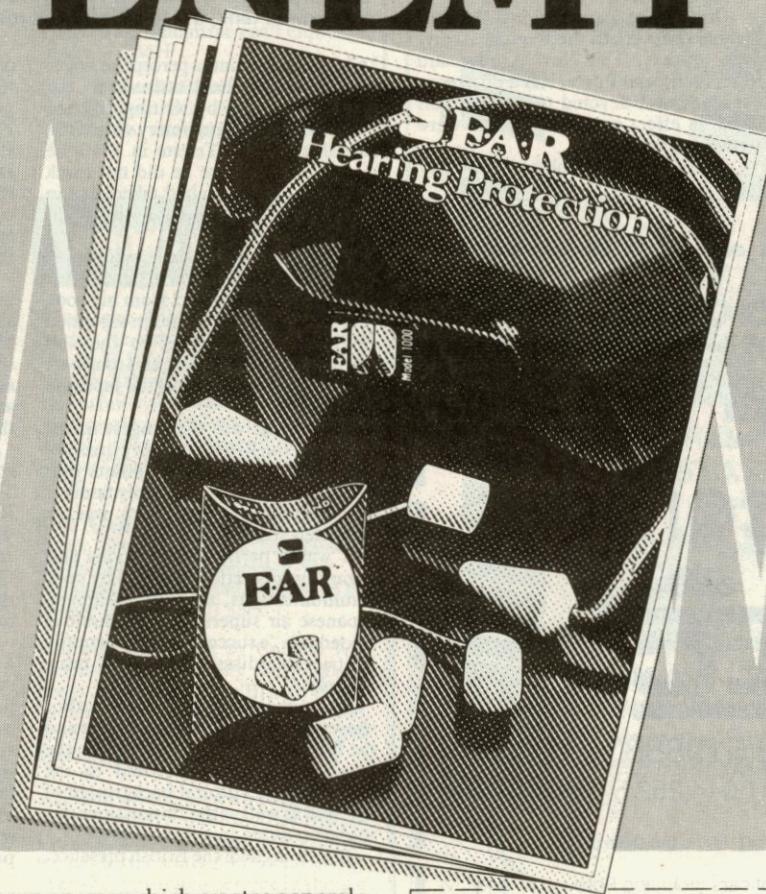
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S/2/86

BOOKS

Kitchener calls — but the Army can't cope

LECTURERS at Sandhurst, Ian Beckett and Keith Simpson have done historians a service with their social study of the British Army in the First World War, and their intention was obviously to fill a gap in shelves groaning with volumes on the "war to end all wars".

Certainly, the price will frighten all but the real enthusiast or student. It is, nevertheless, a fascinating study — as distinguished historian John Keegan says in his introduction.

The British Army at the outbreak of war in 1914 consisted of 200,000 regulars, 80,000 of whom were dead or wounded by Christmas. Forecasts of the war being over by then were being laughed at, and the regulars were the sharp end of what was to prove an Army of four origins — if not four armies in one.

The Territorial Army was second in line, even if few of its members saw fighting before Kitchener's New Armies, the third element. Then, as the war dragged on and casualties mounted, came the fourth line — the conscripts.

The editors (as Beckett and Simpson modestly describe themselves) tackle some of the myths which still surround this horrific war. We still tend to think that every able-bodied man dashed to the colours at the first bugle call. Not so.

Kitchener's call to arms did work wonders, but the Army just wasn't able to cope initially with such a vast influx of men, either in terms of equipment or training.

The Terriers had their problems, too. A few units went abroad more or less immediately — some not to fight but to replace regular units who then headed for the fray — but the second line TA units took on average 27 months to train!

The regulars were acknowledged as being at the peak of professionalism in 1914, and the Germans got a shock when they met the BEF. Some Terriers also got a shock when they reached the front and found their regulars did not hold a very high opinion of the part-timers.

Kitchener preferred the New Armies, believing it was better to train men who had no knowledge rather than those who had some. The conscripts, too, were disparaged by some, but there was consolation for all in that when it came to fighting most did well, whatever their sort of engagement... and most regulars were generous enough to say so.

The book gives a useful "feel" for the mood of the times, the social background which provided men for the Army, and the changes the war brought about.

One minor carp: having devoted whole chapters to the Regular Army, the officers, The New Armies and the Territorial Force, it is a pity more space wasn't devoted to conscription and its effect on the men who were forced to serve.

This apart, the book has obviously

been superbly researched and there is a first class bibliography for further reading. — PMH

A Nation in arms (A Social Study

of the British Army in the First World War), Ed: Ian F W Beckett & Keith Simpson, published by Manchester University Press, £25.

Britain's Longest Retreat



Soldiers of the British 14th Army advance on Meiktila under cover of a Sherman tank, the long retreat turned into attack

JAMES Lunt points a perceptive finger at a popularly held attitude to the Burma campaign by writing, "When Field Marshal Montgomery visited the British troops in Trieste in 1946, he made it plain to me he did not think highly of those who had taken part in the Retreat from Burma. I felt I owed him an apology."

Unlike many of today's writers on Second World War events, James Lunt experienced the subject from his book first-hand as a Staff Captain seconded from the British Army to the 2nd Burma Infantry Brigade and took part in the retreat in the face of the Japanese invasion.

The retreat was the longest in the history of the British military involvement and, as the author points out, "British generals are certainly familiar with retreats, almost every war or campaign starting with one."

It was a particularly arduous and hazardous operation, plagued by poor communications, unfriendly climate, Japanese air superiority and dubious leadership "a succession of apparently irretrievable disasters saved by near-miracles."

Throughout the book, the author shows an affection for the country and the Burmese people, some space in the first chapter being devoted to the historical and cultural background of the land as well as the impressions of a soldier arriving in a foreign place.

The strength of the British presence,

or lack of it; the isolation of Burma in relation to India; the stern-wheeler paddle-steamer of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, immortalised by Rudyard Kipling; and the fact that Japanese agents were liberally scattered through the country. These are the components of the scene set by the author before starting his account of the drama.

Underestimation of the enemy is the primary accusation but the author shows more benevolence than most historians: "It is a great misfortune in the British Army to find yourself in senior command or staff appointment at the outset of a war... it is certain that you will be sacked..."

Such sackings are, of course, not confined to the start of a campaign. The key battle for Sittang, which lost Rangoon to the British — if not the whole of Burma — resulted in the callous dismissal by Wavell of Major-General John G Smyth VC, despite the fact that Wavell himself was never to get the measure of the Japanese.

This book of 318 pages is written in a straight-forward and highly readable style. It is essentially one officer's personal account of an ill-fated period but the author does, in the wider spectrum, present the reader with a well-considered post-mortem in the final chapters. — BJ

'A Hell of a Licking: The Retreat from Burma 1941-2' by James Lunt, published by Collins, £15.00.

Gurkhas: The exacting years

RECORDING regimental history is a remarkably drawn-out business. The Steadfast Gurkha is the third volume of the 6th Gurkhas' history; Volume 1 by Major DGJ Ryan, covering the period 1817 to 1919, was published in 1925, and Volume 2 (1919-1948) by Lt-Col HRK Gibbs appeared in 1955.

In some ways the years covered by this latest volume were the most exacting for the gallant Nepalese hillmen, whose connection with the British and Indian Armies goes back to mutual respect as opponents estab-

lished in a conflict of 1814 when the Nepalese attacked British police posts.

It was a respect that laid the foundation for a long partnership, as strong today as it was when Frederick Young obtained permission to enrol a corps of Gurkha soldiers.

Charles Messenger takes the reader through the turbulent times that followed independence in India, the protracted Malayan emergency, action in Borneo, as well as the regiment's service in Hong Kong, Belize and Brunei.

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Gurkhas training for a recent trouble spot, the Falklands

Also chronicled are the other less spectacular duties, such as the time in 1953 when the 2/6th provided Corporals Sobaram Pun and Prembabadur Tamang as escorts to the porters of Colonel John Hunt's successful Everest expedition.

The book is a studious work and not confined to the Gurkhas' involvement in trouble spots.

It also presents informed political background to the countries and areas where the 6th Gurkha Rifles have served, beginning with the complexities in Malaya that led to the Gurkhas' hazardous anti-terrorist role against such insurgents as Tan Fook Lung ('Ten Foot Long') and the 'Coffee King', who had a 10,000 dollar price on his head. It was a role that did not end with 'Merdeka' (Malayan independence) on August 31, 1957.

The Steadfast Gurkha is all that is to be expected from a regimental history: well-documented accounts of each engagement and landmark through chapters and two annexes, the latter covering incidents at Batu Gajah (Perak) and Mun Kam To (Hong Kong) in 1953 and 1968 respectively.

In addition, Charles Messenger has provided the usual appendices comprising Roll of Honour, Honours and Awards, Colonels of the Regiment and lists of officers. — BJ

The Steadfast Gurkha: Historical Record of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles — Vol 3 1948-1982 by Charles Messenger, published by Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, £15.00.

Entertaining Anecdotes

ANYONE who keeps track of Max Hastings knows how busy is this prolific writer on matters military. Surprising, then, that he found time to edit a new book of military anecdotes.

He has done well, too. So well, that there is the temptation to read this work as you would a novel, and bosh on. Not really the best way, for some of the gems selected need reading when you have plenty of time, with no distractions.

The genuine military buff will have read some of the anecdotes from the books on his own shelves. That's inevitable, for this work covers most periods from the Bible and Herodotus through to Chaim Herzog and Hastings himself. He can be forgiven for selecting his views of the last moments of the Falklands drama — "it was like liberating an English suburban golf club."

It is also inevitable that some will be upset with omissions, and even inclusions.

Says Hastings: "A collection of this kind is not designed to rival Creasey's or Fuller's studies of decisive battles of the world, but to divert and entertain by exploring the margins of experience."

All shades of human behaviour can be found in over 500 pages, and this is one of those books not likely to gather dust on the shelves. It will come down in moments of relaxation for a 'refresher' as the readers want to enjoy, yet again, a particular favourite.

Hastings inherited the task of compilation from Lord Ballantrae — "incomparably worthier hands." It is a pity Lord Ballantrae can't enjoy the work. — PMH

The Oxford Book of Military Anecdotes, Ed: Max Hastings, published by Oxford University Press, £9.50.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

When the Moon Rises, by Tony Davies. Re-issue of the adventure of a trio of POWs who set out to walk through 700 miles of German occupied Italy to rejoin the Allied lines, following the capitulation of Italy in the Second World War. Published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £9.95.

Roll Call at Oeyama, by Frank Evans. The author recalls the traumatic experiences of prisoners-of-war in Oeyama Camp in Japan. Published by Gomer Press. Price £3.95.

Raj and Post Raj, by Colonel W I Moberly, published by the Pentland Press. Experiences of a British officer commanding Indian troops before, during and after the Second World War. Price £9.

All Hell on the Irrawaddy, by John 'Tim' Finnerty, published by Anchor Publications. The author's view of events of the early 1930s and eleven years of continuous service in the Far East in a Northern Irish infantry regiment. Price £8.95.

Defeat into Victory, by Field Marshal Viscount Slim published by Papermac, a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd. His own account of the Burma campaign. First published in hardback in 1956. Price £7.95.

1918 The Last Act, by Barrie Pitt, published by Papermac. An account of the final year of the First World War in which the author analyses the warring powers' policies and describes the savage battles along the Western Front. First published in 1962. Price £5.95.

Aspects of Conflict 1916, by Peter Liddle, published by Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd. Letters, diaries, sketches, photographs and official papers illustrating some of the varied experiences of Britons during the war year 1916. Price £9.95.

The Edge of the Sword, by General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, published by Buchan and Enright in the 'Echoes of War' series. The story of The Glosters in the Imjin Battle of Korea, told by the then Captain Farrar-Hockley, adjutant of The Glosters, and of experiences as prisoners of the Chinese. Price £5.95 in paperback.

The Recollections of Rifleman Harris, by Christopher Herbert, published by Century Publishing. Re-publication of the personal record of John Harris, who started his working life as a Dorset shepherd, ended as a Soho shoemaker, and in between spent his time on active service as a soldier in the Napoleonic Wars. Price £3.95 in paperback.

The World War II Fact Book, by Christy Campbell, published by Macdonald and Co Ltd. All you need to know about the facts and figures of the Second World War. A handy reference book. Price £12.95.

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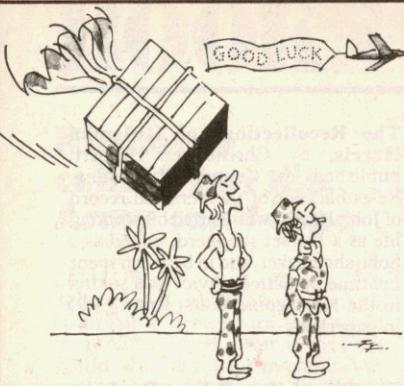
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WHY NO MEDAL?

Although it is now well over forty years since Dunkirk, there are still many ex-Servicemen who feel they have been badly let down by successive governments since the end of World War 2.

I refer to the BE Force that was sent out to France, badly trained, and badly equipped to take on the might of a well trained, well equipped German army sweeping everything before it.

It is a well known fact that many of our lads had one rifle between three of them, besides many other anomalies in uniform, arms and equipment. What they did not lack was courage.

This was proved by the rearguard actions fought which enabled the bulk of the BEF to be evacuated. But many were captured and spent the duration of the war in POW camps throughout Europe.

When Mr Churchill was approached regarding a medal for Dunkirk his reply was: "The Government does not give medals for defeat".

Is it not strange that after the war the word 'Dunkirk' appears on the Colours of some regiments which signifies a Battle Honour? Surely, if it is worthy of a Battle Honour then it was worthy of a medal, but even a bar or clasp to be worn on the 1949-45 star ribbon was denied them.

I understand that the 1939-45 star began as 1939-41 (for Dunkirk), then was extended for other actions (1939-43, then 1939-45 to cover the whole war) so they even lost out on this.

The crunch goes even further. Those captured at Dunkirk were even denied the 'France and Germany Star'. Yet troops who were captured by the Japs in the Far East campaigns quite rightly received either the Burma Star or Pacific Star.

An example was the fall of Singapore when troops were marched straight off arriving troopships, straight into captivity, unable to fire a shot. We also had many defeats and disasters in the beginning of the Far East campaigns.

So why the difference in awarding POWs in the Far East their well earned campaign star and yet denying the POWs of Dunkirk, not only a Dunkirk award, but a right to the France and Germany Star.

Surely after all these years it is not too late to right this injustice, or is it a case of "it's all over, who cares"? These old veterans do! It's a matter of pride and justice. — **J J Stokes, 32 Adderley Street, Hillfields, Coventry CV1 5AT.**

SCORN FOR BEF

In late May 1940 the call went out to all soldiers in the British Expeditionary

Force — "Get to Dunkirk at all costs".

Thousands of them did just that and after a rough time did get back to England, thanks to brave full-time and part-time sailors in boats of all shapes and sizes.

But thousands of BEF men did not get away, brave officers and men of the RAMC who would not leave the wounded, regiments that said we will fight on and did. Groups of weary soldiers were rounded up and ordered to be rear guard, even though very few had rifles and had never been issued with them. Many were killed in action, thousands were taken prisoners of war, but they did something that you will not read about in any WW2 history books — they bought time for England to prepare for a long war.

But never in the history of any battles, or wars, since time immortal have such a small army as the British Expeditionary Force been so humiliated and scorned by the War Office.

The lads who got away at Dunkirk lived to fight another day, there were those who gave their lives — "we will remember them" — but the ex-POWs were sacrificed, and the few who are left are still suffering from wounds or ill treatment received in POW camps.

Even though they were the first to fight in Europe they were refused the France and Germany Star. Also many were TA and signed Territorial papers stating so, but were refused the TA Medal after 13 years' service.

Why don't the top people in the British Legion get together and put right this injustice to all BEF ex-POWs? All men captured in Singapore, and there were thousands of them, got the Burma Star Medal. Old soldiers never die — they simply fade away. Don't you believe it: all ex-POWs die of broken hearts through injustice done to them. — **Jack Buckley (ex-sapper), 8 Little Field, Stoke Heath, Coventry.**

DEFORMED PEAKS

As an ex-regular Royal Navy Chief Petty Officer, and a wearer of a peaked cap, please solve a puzzle which I have had recurring over the years.

The front page of SOLDIER (January 13) issue shows two men in the same uniform, yet one suffers from a "deformed peak". Is this a complaint common to the Army, RAF, Redcaps and officious traffic cops or can anyone contract it? It appears that once the cap has had "the chop", the nostrils have to be pointed at the horizon so that the eyes get the benefit of the views that the body faces.

The man next to the deformed peak does not suffer from the complaint, which returns me to my puzzle.

Why aren't they all the same and haven't they got someone on parade to make sure they are the same?

Perhaps someone will inform me through your good magazine. — **Morley Wescomb, 28 Church Street, Mevagissey, Cornwall.**

CASSINO NURSE

In the spring of 1944 a firm rumour swept the 8th Army that the Americans were offering a reward for the recovery of the body of a nurse who it was

believed was in one of the many shell holes around Cassino Town.

For many years we have tried, without success, to verify this story.

We know for certain that the nearest US Army Medical Unit to Cassino around that time was the 94 Evacuation Unit, plus support from the 10th and 11th Field Hospitals. The 54th Medical Batt provided stretcher bearers and medical aid personnel.

The American Records department state that no nurses would be sent into the front line, and so officially they discount the story. However, over the years that rumour has persisted, and we would be grateful if readers could pass on to us any information about this matter which could help us to finalise the story.

We do know that some nurses were in the front line at Cassino as one of our members holds the Polish Cassino Medal. We also know that the 2nd New Zealand Hospital was in the area with support from the 17th, 26th and 32nd Indian Field Ambulance units. It could be that a nurse from one of these units was in Cassino town. — **J Clarke, Hon Secretary, The Monte Cassino Veterans Association, 41 Aldermanry Road, Manchester M21 2QW.**

PUTTEE PUZZLE

In SOLDIER (December 16), you published a photograph accompanying the article 'A VC's Story'. In the photograph which shows Sgt Robert Bye, VC, Welsh Guards, I notice that he wears two Vs in his puttees.

I served in the 1st Bn QO Royal West Kent Regiment, and we also put two Vs in the front of our puttees. I know that the N Stafford Regiment wore them in the back of their puttees in India in 1935.

I vaguely remember a story that it had some connection with battle honours but am not sure if this is correct. There is no reference to this in any of our regimental histories.

Perhaps some of your readers know the origins of this custom. — **K T Clarke, 6 Berkshire Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NB.**

SILVER IS SAFE

Reference your letter from Mr J Brian Forde (SOLDIER 2 December) about the missing silver of the Leinster Regiment.

Mr Forde can rest assured that the whole of the silver of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess is safely lodged in a special showcase in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess of The Royal Regt of Canada in Fort York Armoury, Toronto (2B) Ontario, Canada.

As far as the silver of the Officers' Mess is concerned, I have no knowledge. — **Major E Crichton-Daniels CD, 6 Moresby Walk, London, SW8 3AU.**

WOOFERS ERRORS

I have just seen a copy of SOLDIER (January 13). Inset on page 32 with the article on 1st Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, is an item "The Woofers are sweet sixteen". There are two errors in this piece. First,

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are yours.

Please keep letters brief and type them if possible. Use only one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines.

Readers' letters must give full name and address, but not necessarily for publication.

Keep your letters flowing to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Unfortunately, SOLDIER does not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militaria etc, but will try to provide answers on matters of general military interest through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, and insertions for the Reunions columns, must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted for free insertion.

the reference to the infantry county regiment and secondly to the location of our regimental headquarters.

We are the county regiment of Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Although some other Arms and Services do unofficially use a county title they are only permitted to do this by linking the county name to their Arm/Service, eg the Nottinghamshire Gunner Regiment. The infantry, as the official title holder, are the county regiment.

RHQ of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment is located at Norton Barracks, Worcester, albeit with a sub office or outstation at Nottingham. — **Lt Col K G Allen (Retd), Regimental Secretary, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.**

REUNIONS

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association, London Branch, will hold their annual St David's Day Dinner on March 1 at the Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, Davies Street, London W1. Details from Hon Secretary, Mr J M Smith, phone 01-249 2878. The St David's Day Parade will be held on March 2 at 1200 hrs, at Horse Guards Parade.

CALL SIGNS

D A Knight of 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich SE18 5HZ would like to hear from some of his old comrades who served with him in Corunna Pltn, QRR 1933-34, 8 Light Bty RA 34-35, 12 Hvy Bty RA (Hong Kong) 35-37, 15 Hvy (Coast) Bty (Ceylon) 37-44, 231 Medium Bty (NWE) 44-50 and REME/AER 1950-1963.

Competition

Mr and Mrs R A Spencer of Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs, were the winners of the last of SOLDIER's old style competitions, before they were replaced by HOAY. Competition No 328 asked readers to put names to photographs of former Chiefs of the Defence Staff.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION
382

HERE'S another chance to win £50 by spotting the differences between our two pictures.

The pictures differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture and send it to SOLDIER. Photocopies are acceptable.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is March 28. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our April 21 issue.

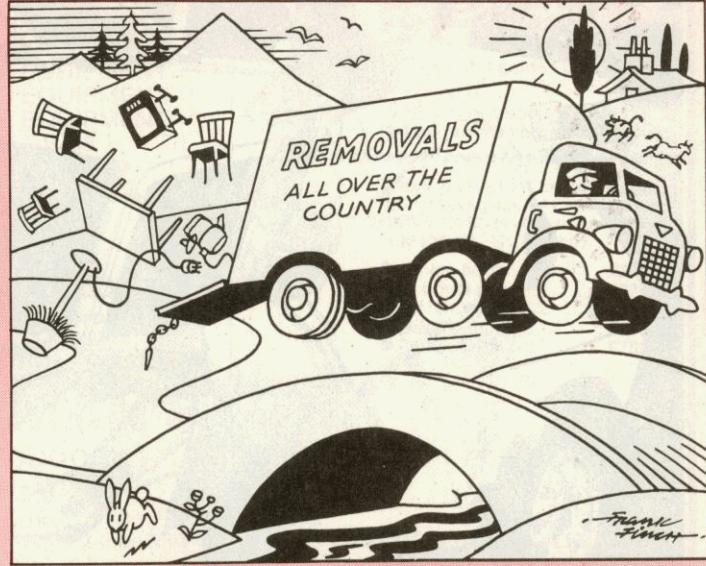
More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition

382' label (not a photocopy).

In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

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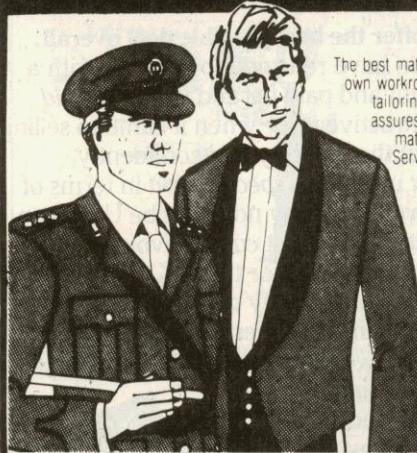
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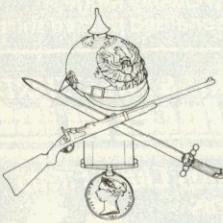
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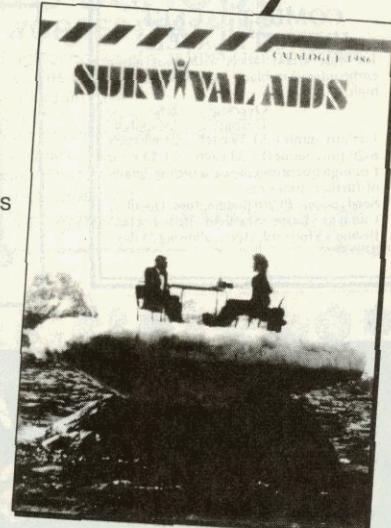
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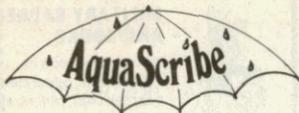
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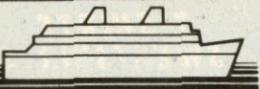
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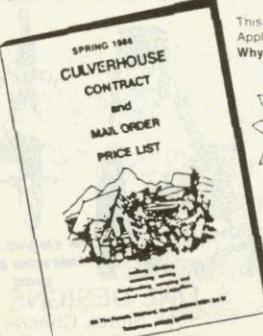
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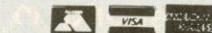
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ARCTIC WEATHER HITS SKI MEET

HEAVY snow falls, high winds, and the occasional unexpected thaw made conditions difficult for the 24 teams taking part in 4th Armoured Division's nordic and alpine ski championships at Galtür and Ischgl.

Because of the risk of avalanches, the road in the Paznaun valley was closed several times, causing the busy programme to slip and limiting the choice of loipes for the nordic skiers.

The Nordic 10 km race was won by gunner Jimmy Rimmer, 3 RHA, in the excellent time of 36 mins 39 secs, more than two minutes ahead of the next finisher. He continued a fine performance by turning in the third fastest time in the 4 x 10 km relay race, boosting his time into second place. The event was won by the very strong 'A' Team from 22 Sig Regt, who achieved remarkable consistency throughout the meeting.

In the 4 x 7.5 km biathlon race, impressive shooting and a tremendous performance by Sapper Tim Bomberg gave 35 Engr Regt's 'A' Team victory despite a determined challenge from 3 RHA.

The traditional 15 km race on a demanding course around Galtür and its outlying farms, was won by Lance Corporal Dixie Dixon, 35 Engr Regt, in 47 minutes and nine seconds. Good supporting performances by Spr Bomberg and LCpl Jock Thompson earned 35 Engr Regt the team prize.

35 Engr Regt's blend of youth and experience proved the decisive factor in the 25 km patrol race. Accurate shooting, good speed and teamwork won them the race, with 39 Hvy Regt's spirited team putting in a battling performance to take second place.

This year the alpine meeting was again dominated by LCpl Scott Dobson, 2 RGJ. In what is likely to be his last season in Army racing, he produced some very fine performances, winning the individual slalom, giant slalom, and downhill.

Because of the weather conditions, the slalom events had to be run on the lower slopes of the Pardatschgrat, which unexpectedly proved to be an excellent course. Under the eagle eye of the Chief of Course, Major Tim Dumas, and his assistant, Staff Sergeant Chalky



White, the racers boot-stamped and side-slipped to make suitable pistes.

The team slalom event was won easily by 22 Sig Regt with 3 RHA taking second place. This was the first appearance of the WRAC

Almost gone: Lt Paul Ford, 22 Sigs Regt, struggles to regain his balance

team, and although lacking experience, they had good results.

The individual giant slalom took place in arctic conditions. The wind gusted at up to 50 km/h, the summit temperature recorded -13°C and the light conditions made it very difficult to read the required line. But there were some good performances. Maj Mike McKechnie, 39 Hvy Regt, skied well to take second place behind LCpl Dobson, narrowly beating LCpl Andy Brown, 22 Sig Regt. In the team event, another dynamic performance by the 22 Sig Regt 'A' Team easily took first place.

LCpl Brown skied well on the downhill course to take second place, and his team, led by the Army team captain Lieutenant Paul Ford, 22 Sigs Regt, added the 3 RTR cup to their list of trophies. This clean sweep in the Alpine team events won them the Lermoos cup, the Royal Norfolk cup and the title of Champion Unit.

The Champion minor unit (15 km race and team giant slalom) was won by 3 Armd Fd Amb.



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ALLO, ALLO, GO!

Kim Hartman — Helga in Allo, Allo — will be giving the "Go" for the half marathon being organised by HQ Engineer Resources at Long Marston, near Stratford on Avon on March 2 — and presenting some of the prizes.

It's the unit's first half marathon and will also incorporate the Royal Engineers first half marathon.

The course is a single lap of fairly flat country roads.

Western District units and many local civilian runners are expected to take part, and all finishers will be presented with a medal specially struck by Birmingham Mint.

Squelchy win for David

RUNNING in appalling weather conditions and inches of mud, Lance Corporal David Harper of Aldershot came first overall in the South East District Territorial Army cross country competition.

David and his team mates from A Company 6/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment based in Farnham and Camberley, also came first in the battalion inter-company competition which was held at the same time, although

they were narrowly beaten into third place in the district competition.

Set in the rolling countryside around Pirbright, the six-mile course consisted of tough and varied running conditions including boggy ground and gruelling hills.

David joined the local Territorials in 1984. A former Regular Army physical training instructor, he now works for British Airways in their personnel department.



Lance Corporal David Harper, personnel man in a hurry

'GREEN CUBES' RALLY AROUND EUROPE

THROUGHOUT last year a rally team of soldiers from BAOR set out into the world of international rallysport to raise money for the Topstock Charity Rally Appeal — an appeal to provide money for the children's departments of military and RAF hospitals in Germany — to tackle the International B-D-NL Rally Championship in standard Land Rovers.

The B (Belgium) D (Deutschland) NL (Nederland) Championship is made up of six rallies, two in each country and attracted more than 180 registered competitors in 1985, many coming from as far afield as Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the United Kingdom.

The BAOR team was led by the current Army driving champion Staff Sergeant Alister Hopkinson and co-driver Sgt Simon Battson from Rheindahlen, and included the talents and experience of Sgt Mick Elliott from Hameln and Cpl Ian Barley from Bracht. Service support throughout the main part of the championship was managed by Cpl Bill 'Face' Mansen, also from Hameln.

As all other competitors in the

series were driving fairly powerful cars, most were initially bemused at the sight of three Land Rovers on the start line.

By the final event in the championship however, the majority of competitors looked upon the crews of the 'Green Cubes' with great respect and admiration for their skill and

determination.

When the championship results were announced SSgt Hopkinson and Sgt Battson were positioned 20th overall, 1st in Class and 1st British Crew.

The Topstock Charity Rally Appeal has so far raised nearly DM5,000 and will continue throughout the 1986 season.

SIX TIMES A CHAMPION

CAPT Robbie Robinson became the Army squash champion for the sixth time when he beat his old rival Major Chris Wilson in the Army Squash Championships at Woking.

Throughout the contest 40 and 50 stroke rallies were not uncommon as Wilson matched the reigning champion stroke for stroke.

But there was consolation for Wilson when earlier in the day he retained the over-35 event title after a hard match against a fit and skilful Capt Dave Bradley of 4 Armd Div Wksp REME.

Lance Corporal N Hissey from 26 Engr Regt Iserlohn put up a determined defence against Sapper N Turfon in the Under-25 final, but went down 10/9, 3/9, 9/5, 9/6.

Brig Mike Perkins played in his last Army championships as a serving soldier, an Army squash career spanning more than 34 years, losing to Lt Col John Woodliffe in the veterans event.

Capt Debbie Foggin won her first women's championship by beating last year's runner-up Staff Sergeant Kathy Johnson.

ARMY TAKE TEN

IT WAS no contest when the Army met the Royal Air Force at Halton in the first match of this year's triangular Inter-Services boxing competition.

The Army won all ten bouts and only two of them were close encounters. Now the soldiers must be in high hopes of beating off the stiffer challenge expected from the Royal Navy and retaining the title for the third year in a row.

Points winners were Rifleman Alan Lesbirel (2 RGJ), Driver Neil Haddock (RCT), Lance Corporal Dean Hunt (1 Welsh Guards), Rifleman Tony Velinor (3 RGJ), Pte Ian Carmichael (1 King's Own Border) Fusilier Danny Coyle. The latter is a newcomer to the Army team but has already represented Wales as a civilian.

First round winners were Driver Neil McCallum (RCT), team captain Lance Corporal Keith Howlett (RE) and the new heavyweight hope, S1 Paul Davies. Davies (APTC), who is German clubs' champion put his man down three times before the first round was halfway over. The Army's tenth winner was Fusilier Erroll Holder (1 RRF) who put his man away in the third round after an exciting contest.

REME WILL HOST THE AMERICANS

FOLLOWING a year in which the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers rugby teams from UK and BAOR gave Service rugby and BAOR a shot in the arm by embarking on a tour of the United States, this year they are acting as hosts to the USA Combined Services Select side who are visiting England from March 13-25.

The tourists will be accommodated at the School of Electronic Engineering Arborfield but are playing games against a variety of teams other than REME. Matches are arranged against the Royal Artillery, Royal Air Force Brize Norton, Clifton RFC (Bristol) and United Services Portsmouth, interspersed with training, coaching and sightseeing.

EIGHT WINS TO TITLE

A BREATHER for REME (right) as Major Paul Roach gives tactical advice to Staff Sergeant Paul Smith, Corporal Bob Lambton and Captain Mike Smith in the Army Inter Corps basketball tournament.

REME snapped up the championship, winning all eight of their matches. In the last match of the tournament REME met APTC, the previous year's winners, both of the teams previously unbeaten.

In a thrilling game, REME drew ahead in the second half to win 79-64.



SOLDIER

