

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 4-17 APRIL 1983

SOLDIER



- SOLDIERS AT SEA
- ARCTIC AIRMEN

It takes quite a soldier to march 115 miles with this lot and still be able to fight.



"Yomping." A year ago, hardly anyone had heard the word. But then events in the Falklands made it part of everyday speech.

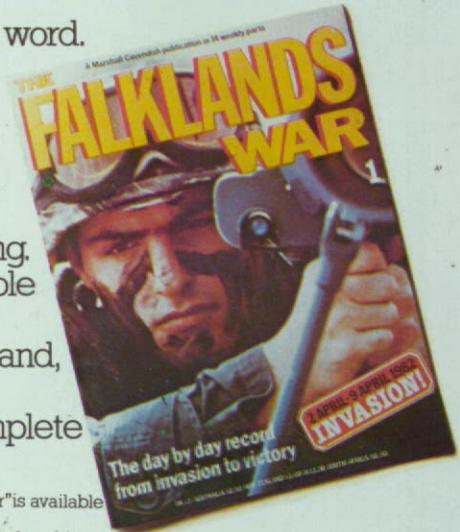
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FRONT COVER

On the decks of *HMS Zulu*, guard ship in the Caribbean, a flash-hooded soldier tries his marksmanship skills on a veteran Oerlikon gun. Full story — page 20
Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

From the ruins of the Mayan temple at Xanantunich in Belize, men of the Royal Anglians keep lofty vigil for any signs of incursion by neighbouring Guatemala. Story — page 22.
Picture by Doug Pratt

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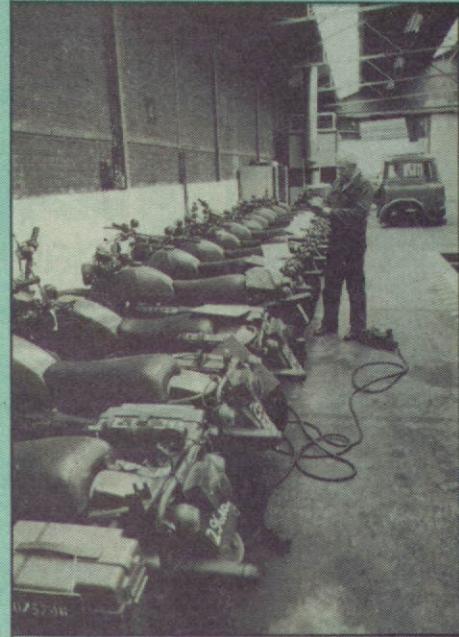
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



► Happy landings in Norway: we look at the Army's arctic helicopter support — page 26



The workshops with something special to celebrate this month — page 13

Why the Scots Guards came back to take Tumbledown again — page 41



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Gus makes his dream come true

CAPTAIN GARETH 'Gus' Pugh of the Royal Artillery, a Forward Observer in the Falklands who was involved in the final push on Port Stanley, has just crossed hemispheres to become the first Briton to take part in a gruelling 90-mile world championship race over the Arctic wastes of Alaska — by dog sledge.

For Gus, aged 25, the feat was the accomplishment of a "dream of a lifetime", thanks to a national vodka company who sponsored a competition of that theme. There were more than 52,000 entrants but only seven winners.

The former gun troop commander of 132 Field Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop), Support Regiment, at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, also received further recognition of his epic achievement; he is now a member of ADMA, the

Alaska Dog Mushers' Association.

With 14 straining huskies to pull him and his heavily-laden sled, Gus had only put in a fortnight's training in Alaska to prepare himself for the test of endurance in temperatures of minus 20 Farenheit.

Yet he managed to take 13th place out of 19 and received a standing ovation from the locals for beating vastly more experienced rivals.

"I always wanted to work with dogs and my lead dogs, Rusty and Willow were wonderful," said Gus as he arrived back at London's Heathrow.

"The course was tough, cold and very, very competitive. But I never had any intentions of giving up. How could I after winning the competition? I had spent eight hours a day training in Alaska to prepare myself for the ordeal.

"The actual race was peaceful. It had a wonderful soporific effect. My dog team was working well to their four-word team vocabulary. At one time, I did not think I would finish and there were dangers like getting the reins of the team tangled up when another team could pass you. I just wanted to finish to see how I did relatively. I made it in just under four hours.

"I would like to go back — I already have an invitation to do so — to take part, perhaps, in the 39th World Dog Sledge Championships. In fact, I would like to see something like this introduced into Army Adventurous Training."

Gus reckons he only used the word 'mush' once and he will certainly not be using it again for some while as he has now to take over as OC at St Kilda in the remote Outer Hebrides.

A spokesman for the vodka



company commented: "We carefully interviewed all the potential candidates.

"We had to be sure that the winners could achieve what they wanted to do and Gareth did awfully well."

FAMILIES OFF TO THE FALKLANDS



CAPTAIN DAVID HURLEY of the Royal Australian Infantry was proud to become an adopted 'Mick' for the day when he received his shamrock from the Queen Mother. She had flown over to Munster specially to present her traditional St Patrick's Day gift to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Guards, with whom Captain Hurley is serving a two year attachment.

Looking radiant in turquoise, the Queen Mother — who has been handing over the shamrock since 1928 — was herself first presented with a spray by the Regimental Quartermaster, Major Ray Cowap, who has previously performed this pleasant duty four times.

ROYAL SCOTS' AWAY DAY

A TOTAL 546 members of bereaved families — including 92 children under the age of 18, the youngest only six months — are flying and sailing to the Falklands this month under a joint scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The families are flying courtesy of British Airways, at no cost, from London's Heathrow to Montevideo, Uruguay, where they will travel 'in bond' — without customs formalities — in coaches from the airport to the docks for the three-day sea journey aboard the Cunard ship, the *Cunard Countess*.

Shipboard entertainment will be provided for the youngsters, who will include the sons of VC winner, Colonel 'H' Jones.

The families will be accommodated on board throughout their stay. They will attend a dedication ceremony at Blue Beach Cemetery, San Carlos where 14 British servicemen lie buried and, on the second day, a ceremony aboard the *Cunard Countess* for those lost at sea. On the third day they will have a chance to meet the Falklanders.

One hundred and sixty six of the deceased families accepted the invitation to make the trip — 255 men lost their lives but several bodies were brought back to the UK.

A Ministry spokesman confirmed: "Families were offered three places. Additional places were granted on a special case basis. The families are expected back on about the 17th April."

AN IMPRESSIVE calendar of events to mark the 350th anniversary of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) has already got under way. And initial celebrations to mark the milestone moved south to London when a special-train-for-the-day — 'The Right of the Line' — pulled out of Edinburgh's Waverley Station with 150 members of the regiment aboard, bound for King's Cross.

By tradition the regiment takes precedence in the British Army as 'The Right of The Line' and the send-off to the heart of Sassenach country was made by Lieutenant-General Sir David Young, a former Colonel of the Regiment.

Royal Scots soldiers in the uniforms of 1633 pikemen and the 1st Battalion's Pipes and Drums added colour to the ceremony.

On board the train, too, were special commemorative postal covers with colour inserts, which will only be obtainable from the Army's Philatelic Bureau at Mill Hill in London.

Later events, starting in May, will include an evening race meeting at Musselburgh, various Freedom Rights marches and the Royal Review of the regiment by Her Majesty the Queen in Holyrood Park. SOLDIER will be publishing further details in future issues.

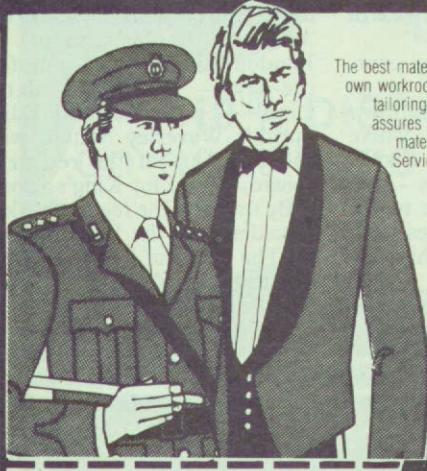
The celebrations will end with Remembrance Day services in Edinburgh and Glencorse on 13 November.

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FOR THE PAST year an 80-year-old Army widow has been calling into her local newsagent, buying up to 20 newspapers out of her pension each week and then sending out the bundles each Wednesday, courtesy of the local Army Careers Information Office at Acton.

The Postal and Courier Communications HQ at Mill Hill was so impressed when they heard of what Mrs Kathleen Procter has been doing to keep the lads in touch with home that they invited her to take a 'cuppa' with them and post her bundle of papers from there.

Mrs Procter, a widow for 27 years whose husband was with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, explained: "When I saw ships leaving for the Falklands on my television I felt I just had to do something. I felt so distressed to think of another generation of our young men who were going off and, at that time, it was touch and go."

"It was just one of those things I wanted to do from my heart. I don't count the cost. I have no extravagances. It truly distressed me to see them going away. They had such a bad climate to face."

"Anything I can do to make life easier for the lads if only by links with home through the

Training system pays off

A WRAC TRAINEE has passed her data telegraphists' course with a top 'A' grading in less than half the time taken by average students.

Private Jacqueline Woodland, 21, used the sophisticated new training system known as FMVT — Fixed Mastery Variable Time — which allows students at the 8th Signal Regiment Trade Training School in Catterick to work individually at their own chosen pace.



To ensure that their skills are being fully developed, the semi-automated system sets regular tests which must be passed before the course can continue.

Jacqueline enlisted with the WRAC six months ago and will now be going to Germany to join 28 Signal Regiment in Krefeld.

SPECIAL DELIVERIES MAKE KATHLEEN A VIP

newspapers I will continue to do as long as that special person, my guardian angel, gives me the strength to do it. It's my tribute to the boys. I just feel so happy now that I had the inspiration to send the papers and to know that I was helpful to them. We all have our little niche in life that we fill and that's just what happened to me."

Sergeant Matt Nolan, of the three-strong Acton Army Careers Information Office, told SOLDIER: "She's a smasher, really switched on. She keeps us enthralled and makes the three-

mile-round trip every week from her flat with the papers and she is here when we open at 8.45. We look forward to seeing her."

Sgt Nolan, of the Irish Guards, added: "She regularly gets letters from lads in the Hampshire Regiment. I live near the Mill Hill PCC Depot and my wife drops the papers in each week for me. We've only missed one week since Christmas. Mrs Procter turns up religiously."

At the Postal Courier Depot, Mrs Procter, wearing her husband's cap badge on her left lapel, was given a tour of the



postal wing by its OC, Major Barry Cash, pictured here showing her the franking machine. The wing sends 2000 lbs of mail each day to the Falklands and 500 lbs to Ascension Island.

She was asked to sign the visitors' book and an entry with a Falklands commemorative cover of which she will receive a copy.

Briefly

Sapper Philip Maton is now back on normal duties in Bovington after a period of close arrest following his joyride in a tank which he drove to his parents' home in Basingstoke. An MOD spokesman said no action has been taken against him or his duty officers.

★ ★ ★
A VC which was awarded to Lieutenant George Renny of the Bengal Horse Artillery for his bravery during the Indian Mutiny, has been returned to its owner Mrs Margo Renny, the recipient's great granddaughter-in-law. The medal, stolen five years ago, was found on Sheen Common in South London.

★ ★ ★
Arts Minister, Mr Paul Channon, has announced that the papers of the first Duke of Wellington, which the Government accepted in lieu of estate duty, are to go to Southampton University.

★ ★ ★
Some 130 cadets from Kent, Sussex, Surrey and London will be competing again this month for the Queen's Regiment Cumberland Sword — the highest honour any cadet of the regiment can obtain. Competition skills include marksmanship, map reading/orienteering, first aid, field cooking and tackling an assault course.

★ ★ ★
Mr Frederick Luke, VC, who won the award for his bravery at Le Cateau during the Retreat from Mons in August 1914, has died at the age of 87. Serving with the RAF Regiment during World War Two, he returned to Le Cateau in 1963 and was granted the freedom of the town.

Freak accident kills soldier

A 21-YEAR-OLD Chieftain tank radio operator has died as the result of a freak accident on a night exercise on Salisbury Plain when the 56-ton machine turned over on its turret as it was travelling along the side of a valley.

The soldier was named as Trooper Alastair McCrorie of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment who, it is said, had his head and shoulders above the hatch when the incident happened.

Also injured in the accident — believed to be the first fatality involving a tank on the Plain — were the tank commander and driver who suffered shock and superficial injuries.

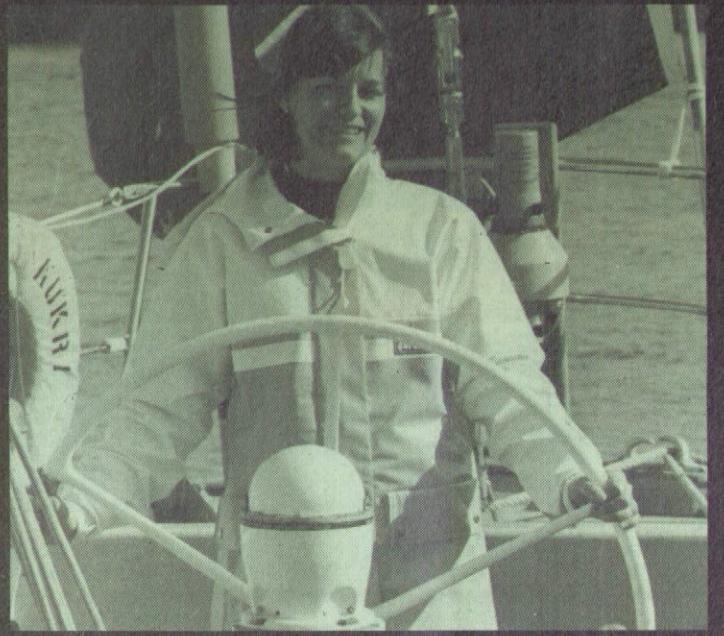
Army authorities were impressed at the speed with which the Salisbury civilian ambulance

authorities responded to the 40-mile-round-trip, in drizzle.

An Army spokesman said: "The accident happened at 0418 and the tank commander and driver were in Salisbury at 0540. Trooper McCrorie was taken to a Devizes hospital. It was a freak accident, the first of its kind in living memory and happened on a night exercise on the Plain involving about 40 tanks and men from 4 RTR from Tidworth. It is the first time a tank has turned upside down on the Plain."



The CGS, General Sir John Stanier, leaps from a Challenger at ROF Leeds after formally accepting it into service. The Royal Hussars will be the first regiment to get the new tank — not the 13th/18th Royal Hussars as stated in our last issue.

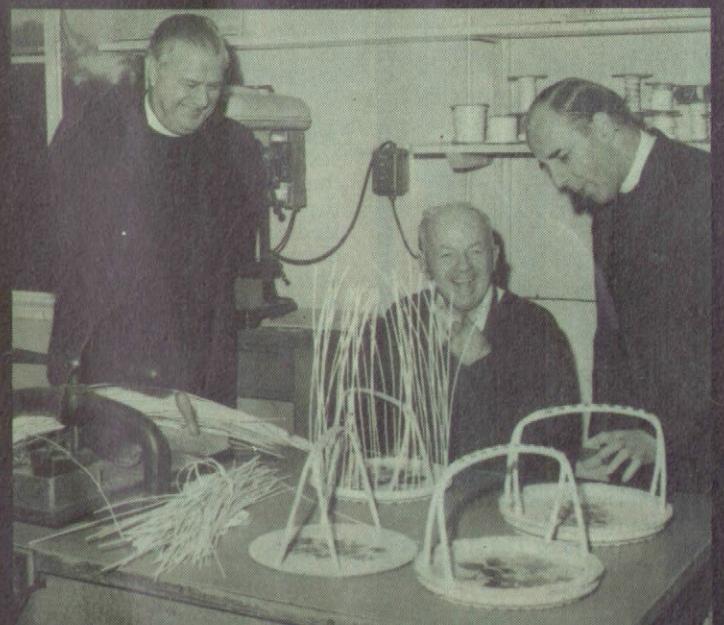


▲ Skipper

Yet another male bastion fell when WRAC Captain Cherry Hume-Lewis became the first servicewoman to qualify as a yacht skipper. Seen at the helm of the 55ft HMSTY *Kukri* just before taking her out to the Channel Islands with a crew of ten, Londoner Cherry was also the first servicewoman to qualify as an offshore yachtmaster.

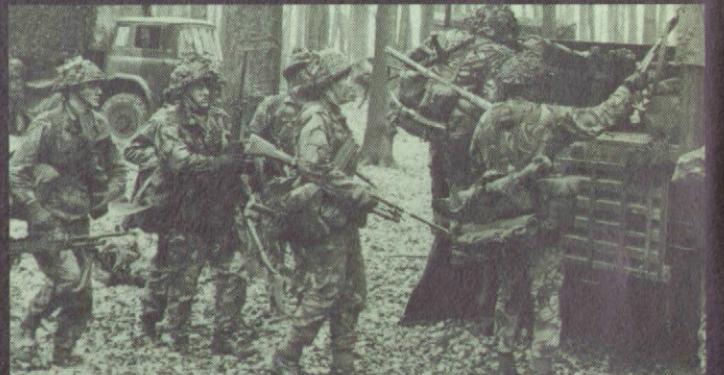
Gun Mount ▶

Shooting down fast moving aircraft is a difficult job but it might be a little easier in future, thanks to the ingenuity of an officer in 4th Armoured Division at Herford. Designed and produced on a self-help basis, the new mount allows both the GP and light machine guns to swivel freely so that the firer can attack both aircraft and ground targets.



◀ Joke

Critical acclaim did not stop a fast joke from Jimmy Jack, ex-Royal Scots, when the Chaplain General to the Forces, Archdeacon Johnson, right, called at the Linburn Workshops of the Scottish Institution for the War Blinded. Jimmy turns pieces of cane into works of art.



◀ Change

Engineering plant left behind, a group of Sappers from 4th Armoured Division became infantrymen for a day during their annual inspection. Suddenly told to re-role, it seems they came out with flying colours — even meeting some of their targets ahead of time.

NEWS VIEW

Thanks ▶

Dealing successfully with the British for 16 years is no mean achievement but that is just what Lieutenant Colonel Knut Strøm, the senior Norwegian liaison officer to the British contingent of the ACE Mobile Force, has managed to do. He even got the MBE. So it was hardly surprising that there was a warm "thank you" from Major General Tony Palmer, the DGEME, when Col Strøm's army service came to an end just before the end of the annual arctic training season.



Easy Rider ▶

Wolverhampton Terrier Lance Corporal Bernie McGloin took things easy when he joined his colleagues from 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers on a 20 mile charity walk. But then he was the official passenger and they carried him all the way on a stretcher. The walk from Wolverhampton to Cannock and back was in aid of a kidney machine for the children's ward at Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital. It raised £200.



◀ Please Open

Of the 17 intrepid volunteers who took part in a sponsored jump at Sennelager only one, Sergeant Albert Hooker, was a qualified parachutist. Now the rigger at the Joint Service Parachute Centre, he still led the way — despite having lost a leg in Bahrain. But the other 16 also managed to face up to their moment of truth, spurred on by roars of encouragement from friends and relatives. And it was all worth while, for they raised DM 3500 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Lion Dance ▶

When 50 Command Workshop REME opened its new purpose-built detachment at Osborn Barracks, Kowloon in Hong Kong, it was inevitable that the close and long standing ties with the local community would be recognised. Sure enough it was a Chinese ceremony complete with a mouth watering selection of food and wine laid out as an offering for the gods, prayers for good "joss" and a lively 'Lion Dance'. The move to the new site is another step towards the final evacuation of Sham Shui Po Camp, first occupied by the Army in 1927.



◀ Away

They're off, as the mayor of Sefton, Councillor Christina Kirwan, sends the 88 runners away in the annual 235 (Liverpool) Squadron, RCT, cross country, won by 156 (Merseyside and Greater Manchester) Transport Regiment. A member of the team, 19-year-old Driver Dave Flitcroft, was also runner-up in the individual competition and even the Adjutant, Captain Edward Marvin, finished a creditable 30th.

CHECK-UP FOR A HERO

WAR HERO Rats took it all in his stride when he had to be X-rayed for shrapnel at Canterbury Veterinary Hospital.

But then, when you've jumped in and out of hovering helicopters and been on night patrol in Northern Ireland, a visit to the vet is nothing.

The little cross-terrier shot to fame when he was adopted by British troops stationed at Crossmaglen and accompanied them on patrols. ■

Despite being blown up twice, he survived five years' service in Northern Ireland.

Rats, aged about 10, now lives in well-earned retirement with a former Army officer and his young family in Kent.

His X-rays are to be used at a planned national exhibition of animals and war.

He was a "model patient" said vet Mr Robert Thomas who gave the dog a clean bill of health, although about 13 small pieces of shrapnel showed up on the X-rays. ■



Rats gets a comforting pat from veterinary nurse Louise Valette.

Story and Pictures
by Mike Waterman

SOLDIER to Soldier

AYEAR has passed since Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands.

The events which that act of unprovoked aggression set in motion are history now. So too are the deeds of courage that lit up that brief and bloody conflict.

But the memories linger on; in the debris of the battlefield, in the shattered limbs of survivors and — most of all — in the hearts of those whose loved ones did not return.

The arguments about the Falklands campaign, the political and military debates about future Falklands strategy — these are likely to rumble on for a long while yet.

But this month our thoughts go out to the bereaved families who are making an 8000 mile pilgrimage to those bleak South Atlantic shores to see where their menfolk fell and are now laid to rest.

Their visit is a chastening reminder that while the rest of us talk about freedom, our Servicemen must be prepared to fight for it — and die for it too.

☆ ☆ ☆

NOW AN appeal to all our TA readers.

In a fortnight's time the first issue of soldier incorporating the TA Magazine will appear. And that

means we shall be increasingly on the lookout for stories on the Territorial Army.

From 18 April we hope to devote a couple of pages each issue exclusively to TA news and also to carry a feature on some aspect of TA life. We also aim to include TA personalities in our Profile series from time to time.

So please, let us know what your unit is up to. Give us a ring or drop us a line. Bombard us with letters and suggestions. And don't sit on your news until it becomes history — tell us about it when it happens, not weeks afterwards.

Finally, a word to all TA units and TAVR associations. Remember, you can obtain substantial discounts on bulk orders of the magazine. Our distribution manager Seela McIntosh will be pleased to give you details. So give her a ring on Aldershot 24431 or Aldershot Military extension 2583 and make sure of your copies every fortnight.

☆ ☆ ☆

QUITE CO-INCIDENTALLY — and nothing to do with our TA Magazine link-up — we regret to announce that our annual subscription rates must rise slightly from 18 April.

This is due to postage costs which are going up from 5 April.

Happily the increases will be very modest — just 10p a year for UK/BFPO readers and 50p for overseas subscribers. The new rates will thus be £11.00 and £12.50 respectively.

☆ ☆ ☆

WHERE HAVE all our soldiers of vaulting ambition gone?

At this year's Army Gymnastics Championships (see page 47) there were only two male competitors in the Class 1 Olympic Six competition. Of the handful who went in for the Intermediate competition, two were Royal Marines. And there were no junior entrants at all.

The Trampoline, Tumbling and Ladies Championships were not much better supported either.

The Army Gymnastics Union is worried that the sport is fast dying a death amongst soldiers and is keen to generate more interest. The trouble is that good gymnasts should really begin training at a young age — the younger the better.

But surely in a young and fit Army there must be a few who see themselves gracefully swinging over the parallel bars or turning somersaults in the air? It is a grand sport and one which hones the body to the peak of fitness.

So how about it all you aspiring Andrianovs and Comanecis? Why not start warming up those muscles and give our gym champions a better run for their money? Captain Dennis Martindale, APTC, Secretary of the AGU awaits your call on Camberley Mil 281.

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**British soldiers
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Sally Daniell meets
the men busy . . .**

MAKING THE WHEELS GO ROUND

ABOUT TWENTY miles south of Antwerp lies the village of Olen, home of 60 Station Workshops, REME, the only one of its kind in all Belgium and Holland. This month it celebrates its 30th anniversary, and to mark the occasion its doors will be open to the local community.

Present generations of Belgians have been used to British Servicemen since 1944 but in recent years, with a shrinking British Army and in the interests of security, there has been rather less social contact between the

two communities than is desirable.

For this reason, although regarded for administrative and logistic purposes as part of British Forces Antwerp (BFA) stationed 16 miles away at Emblem (see SOLDIER 21 March) 60 Station Workshops have decided to go it alone in showing its thanks and goodwill to the village that has provided its workforce for thirty years.

As Officer Commanding, Major Harry Bray explained: "We are considered part of BFA and all the occasions like the Queen's Birthday Parade are organised by them. But we thought it would be nice for the workshops to do something ourselves to involve the whole local community.

"The workshops are one of the largest single employers in the area, but although we do have a very happy relationship, nothing positive has been done to show our appreciation until now. We have never really had the mayor involved with this operation and this is something we want to encourage."

As part of the celebrations the workshops' military staff will run a relay from Olen to Emblem and back to exchange friendship plaques between the mayor of Olen and the Commander BFA. Formalities over, the two communities will then get down to the real business of celebration with a cocktail party for guests not only from Olen but two other nearby towns as well.

Thorough inspection for a Land Rover.

Pictures: Les Wiggs

Thermometer Road — packed with 'patients'.

Later on, all employees and their guests intend to let their hair down at the workshop social. And the following day a group of Belgian orphans will be guests at a children's party organised jointly by British and Belgian wives, at which one of the two Olen bands together with majorettes will perform.

Kicking off the three day event will be a conducted tour of the workshops for the mayor and principal citizens, when they will see, for the first time, the extensive workload which has provided employment for 177 civilians since 1953.

Bigger than station workshops in Germany, but smaller than command workshops, Major Bray's outfit is essential to the Ordnance Depot, Antwerp. All armoured and wheeled vehicles crossing the channel on their way to BAOR are inspected and, where necessary, repaired by 60 Station Workshops.

In addition, every vehicle, its equipment and spare parts held by the Depot in war readiness, plus the prepacked unit equipment (PUE) for use on TA exercises, are subject to the workshops' inspection once a year.

The workshops also provide day to day support for the three dependencies of BFA, SHAPE and AFCENT, so its staff — which includes 15 soldiers and three UK based civilians — have plenty to keep them busy. In vehicle terms alone, they handle 6500 each year.

Apart from the main workshop which

continued on page 14

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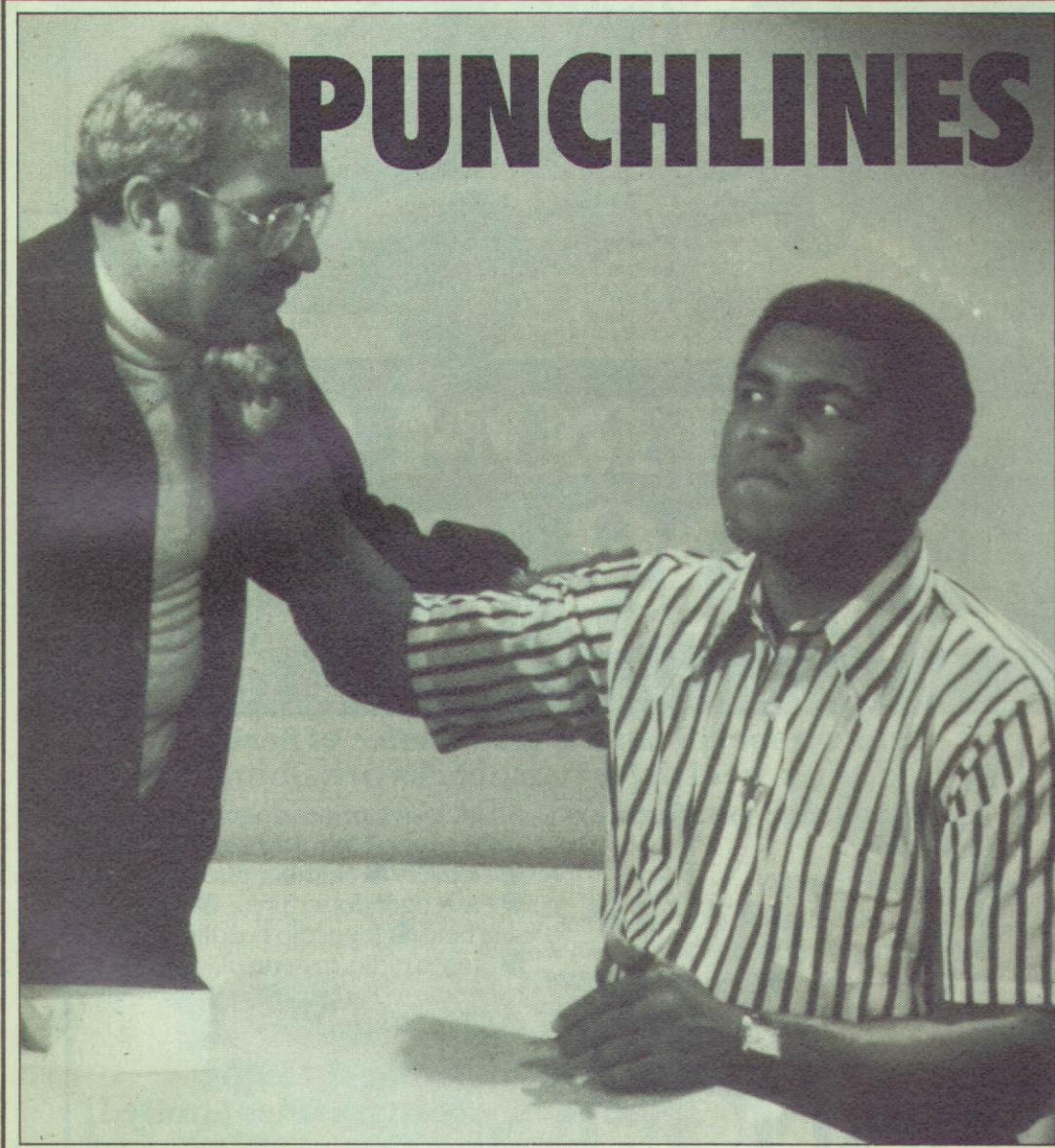
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Even losing a leg in a wartime tank accident didn't knock Reg Gutteridge out of his stride for long. Here ITV's 'voice of boxing' talks to John Walton about his Army days and his life inside and outside the square ring.



WE ARE SITTING in the lounge of a suburban house in Barnet. But the man at the other side of the table is talking about a different world altogether — the world of the big fight game with its fighters, its sharp characters, its excitement and everything which makes up the noble art of self defence.

Great names of the past and present trip off the tongue of Reg Gutteridge — best known as ITV's boxing commentator but a writer on the sport for more than 40 years and someone who has boxing in his blood.

His grandfather, Arthur Gutteridge, a famous second, was the first professional to box at the

National Sporting Club opening in 1891 — "he won of course." And his father and uncle, identical twins, were famous trainers and seconds in their day. His cousin, also named Gutteridge, is Jackie Pallo, well known television wrestler.

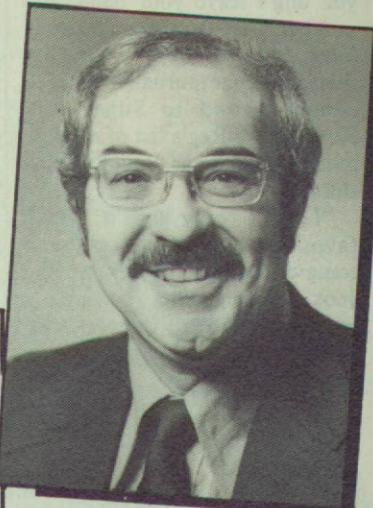
One of Reg's most vivid recollections as a child was when his father and uncle trained Primo Carnera, the mammoth Italian heavyweight. "They used to bring his kit home to dry out in front of our fire and I remember the enormous size of his jockstrap and of his boots, which must have been about size 17."

Reg joined the Army during the last war — initially with The King's Royal Rifle Corps but

subsequently transferring to the Gunners because his father had served with them.

"I was in Scotland for 15 months with the 33rd Field Regiment. They were very experienced men, all in their late twenties and early thirties and had been at Dunkirk. To them I was known as a 'raw arse' until I won the regimental championship at bantamweight when I became the troop pet and did not have to put up with the insults any longer."

There were no ABA or all-Army championships at the time but Reg did become divisional champion before the Normandy invasion that was to see the end of his own boxing career.



◀ Reg takes a playful punch from his friend Muhammad Ali.

In August 1944 Reg was a signaller in a Sherman tank at the Falaise Gap. He jumped out of the tank to help it to turn round and landed on soft ground — and an anti-personnel mine. He lost a leg.

"They chopped it off in Bayeux which is famous for its tapestry and for me. They say 80 per cent of Army injuries are caused by not obeying the rules. Me being young and bloody silly I jumped out on the wrong side. As I was on my way down I saw the soft ground and knew it was wrong . . ."

Reg spent all his journalistic life on the late lamented London *Evening News* until it closed a year or two back. Now he is content to write for a Sunday newspaper while concentrating on television work as well as giving commentaries for closed circuit broadcasts of big fights.

"Evening paper work was a slog. We did eight editions a day at one time. It was fine when I was in my twenties but I don't want to face journalism like that any more. I enjoy TV. There are a lot of marvellous writers around who would be terrible on television but I think it's my style."

Reg doesn't admit to making many blunders while doing television commentaries although one he does recall with affection is when the lights went out at a big fight leaving everyone in pitch darkness. His 'bright' remark? "I've never seen anything like it!"

He never uses the word 'coloured' to describe fighters. "I use black or white. I get very few complaints saying this is prejudice — only the odd nutter's letter."

He became firm friends with Muhammad Ali — and uses an impression of him on his Ansafone — "I'll whup you if

continued on page 18

you don't leave your name and number." In fact Reg claims to have covered more Ali fights than any other journalist. But Ali comes second to Sugar Ray Robinson in Reg's list of all-time greats with Sugar Ray Leonard third.

"I don't really have a British favourite although I enjoyed some of the pre-war fighters like Jock McAvoy. And of course I was fond of Henry Cooper — he always had something about him as a bloke."

Reg has kept up his Army connections over the years and has regularly broadcast on BFBS. "One of my great thrills was going to Aldershot to do some broadcasts for BFBS and meeting seven generals. At no time did I tell them that I reached no more than lance-bombardier in my own Army career."

He admits that covering three round amateur fights live — when he does not know the boxers — is a difficult task. Back in

IThere are a lot of marvellous writers around who would be terrible on TV but I think it's my style.**I**

National Service days he used to regularly cover Service boxing for the *Evening News* when people like Henry Cooper and Joe Erskine appeared for the Army.

"I remember once that an officer fought Joe Erskine. He had only boxed once before and was only in it because it meant his unit got a point! And another boxer was disqualified for dumb insolence because he made a gesture at the referee."

Reg Gutteridge likes nothing more than talking and writing about the sport which has dominated his life. He is currently working on a book called *Big Punchers* and later this year he may make his Combined Services Entertainment debut.

The idea is that Reg will take along big fight 16mm films to Service stations in Northern Ireland and abroad and will be there to commentate and answer questions. He has already given similar shows with great success in prisons.

"I'm quite happy for my first booking to be in the Falklands — providing the Royal Engineers will walk in front of me with a mine detector. I don't want a return clause," says the man who has known so many stars of the ring that he has been a guest on *This is Your Life* no less than five times. ■



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THEIR OUTFITS didn't look very ladylike. And their make-up wasn't the sort you see in posh department stores. But the girls of University of London Officer Training Corps certainly had a winning way with them when they got together for a weekend in the country recently.

They were among 440 members from London District TA units doing battle for the Courage Trophy, one of the Territorial Army's most demanding annual training competitions. And after 30 hours of non-stop mental and physical exertion in the Aldershot mud — including the full rigours of the assault course captured in these pictures — they emerged triumphant to scoop the ladies' prize.

"The enjoyment is still there. You've just got to be a trained masochist to appreciate it," one observer noted wryly as the 55 eight-member teams tackled tasks ranging from para-style forced marches and assault courses to AFV/aircraft recognition.

Other skills tested included marksmanship, anti-ambush

drills and first aid.

With teams crammed into two Land-Rovers each, driving and map reading skills proved crucial to success throughout, and not only in the cross-country section organised by 151 Transport Regiment (V).

At the end of it all, 10 Para(V)'s 'F' team emerged top of the 46 surviving teams to receive the coveted trophy from Major-General Jim Eyre, GOC London District, accompanied by Mr Nicholas White of Courage.

Close second were the 4 RGJ(V) 'B' squad.

All concerned seemed to have enjoyed their muddy ordeal and Brigadier Peter Tower, Chief of Staff London District, summed up the official view: "This sort of competition is of great value to the TA — and great fun, too." ■

How to spend a country weekend with a



**difference,
going . . .**

**OVER
THE
TOP**





How our soldiers in the Caribbean found themselves all at sea . . .

TAKING THE MAIN CHANCE



TWO YOUNG soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, have been sampling the Senior Service for the past three months, the envy of all their landlubber mates serving in Lemgo, West Germany. They were aboard *HMS Zulu* the Caribbean guard ship and SOLDIER caught up with the duo while the ship lay off Belize.

The Welsh battalion enjoys a long affiliation with the 3000-ton frigate, the third Royal Navy vessel to bear the name since the valiant defence of Rorke's Drift in 1879 when seven VCs were won by The South Wales Borderers.

Swabbing the decks in true nautical, if not barrack room fashion, were Lance Corporal Simon Steer, 23, of HQ Com-

pany's Int Cell and Drummer Rudolf Lewis, 23, the CO's bugler and a member of the battalion's Corps of Drums.

Both agreed that their sun-drenched detachment along the Spanish Main was the "chance of a lifetime".

Drummer Lewis even shaved off his moustache in the course of duty so that he could sound the five-second alert on bugle and in

Every inch the sailor, Drummer Lewis sounds the alert.

◀ **HMS Zulu**, the 3000-ton Royal Navy Tribal Class frigate.

sailor's No.1 uniform while off St Vincent for the visiting Governor, Sir Sydney Gun-Munro.

The young Welshman had spent most of their time on *Zulu* with paint brushes in their hands but had also been able to fire the ship's LMGs and take turns in the wheelhouse.

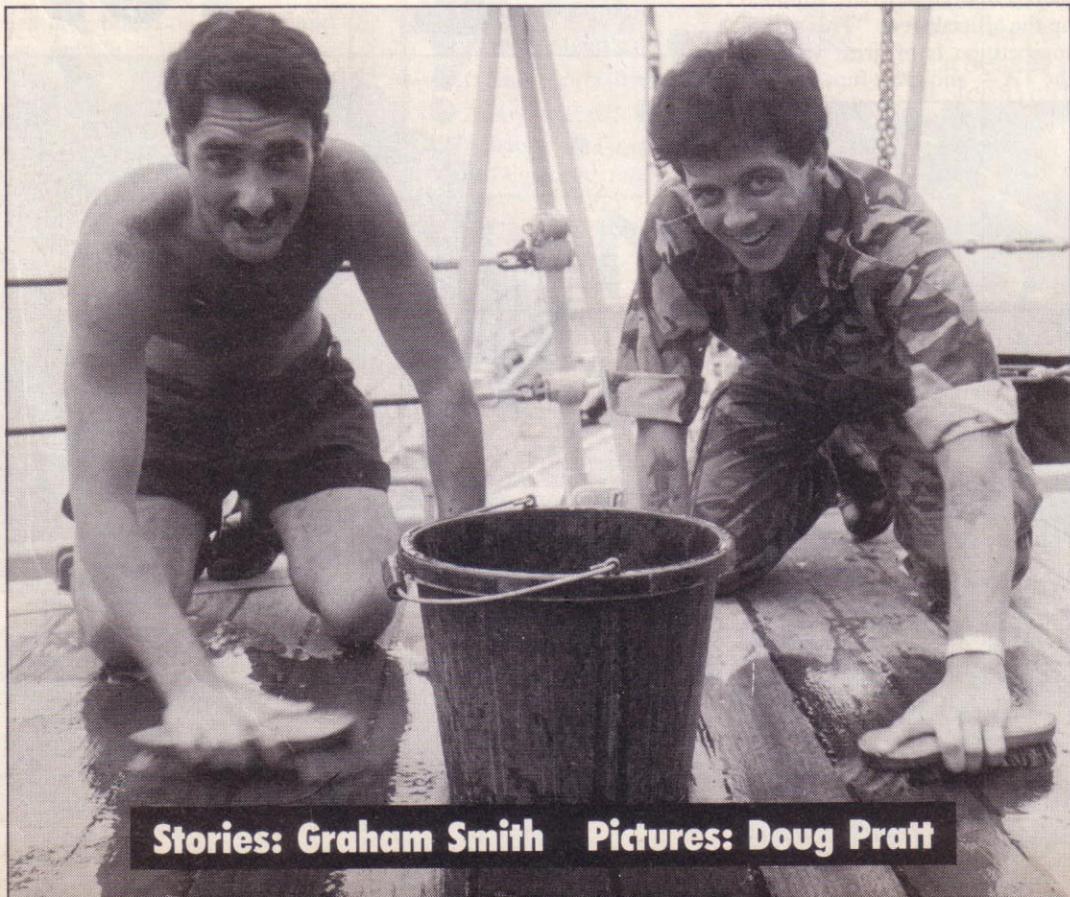
"It's been a chance of a lifetime really but it'll be nice to get back on dry land," admitted Lance Corporal Steer. "It's been a very enjoyable trip. I've done a bit of everything, played the tourist and been swimming. Companies from within the Battalion had been asked to nominate people to take places aboard *Zulu* and we were chosen."

Drummer Lewis said he thought he had been chosen because he gave a good bugle performance of 'The Last Post' in a Stockholm church.

Lieutenant Simon Wilson, a Bridge Watchkeeping Officer, commented: "They really have adapted well in a short time and our lads have accepted them. At times, though, they seemed to get more ship's paint on themselves than on the ship itself."

Neither man intends to forsake the Army for the Navy but their stint on *Zulu* could have been the last by men from 1 RRW. The £2 million frigate is due to be taken out of active service later this year. ■

◀ So this is what the Navy's like! L/Cpl Steer and Drummer Lewis give decks a scrub.



Stories: Graham Smith Pictures: Doug Pratt

Two flash-hooded soldiers get to grips with the Oerlikon.

PARTING SHOTS



IT WAS every schoolboy's dream come true. Except that they were not short-trousered students but fully-fledged infantrymen, firing a World War Two vintage 20mm

twin anti-aircraft gun — live — on the move at 20 knots aboard ship afloat the coral-bedded Caribbean.

It was the highlight of a special day at sea for three young sol-

ders serving in Belize, two of them with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the third an Assault Pioneer.

Each took it in turns to pump off 240 rounds in short bursts

from the deck-mounted Oerlikon guns aboard *HMS Zulu*.

The veteran 500-rounds-a-minute Oerlikon guns, which have a range of 1000 metres, were very much in evidence on frigates in the Falklands Task Force.

Clad in 'tin hat' helmets, ear defenders and anti-flash hood and gloves the trio — Lance Corporal Fred Mulley, a dining room orderly, Private Andrew Shaw and Assault Pioneer Lance Corporal David Archer — all based at Rideau Camp, 168 road miles south of Force HQ at Belize's Airport Camp — really warmed to their task as shell impacts strafed parachute-dropped flares or spattered into the Spanish Main.

The shipboard firing was indeed a golden opportunity for the infantry. Normally the Royal Artillery gunners in Belize are the only ones in the British Army to operate on Oerlikons, examples of which are on concrete mounts at both Rideau and Salamanca Camps, part of the Garrison's Battle Group South.

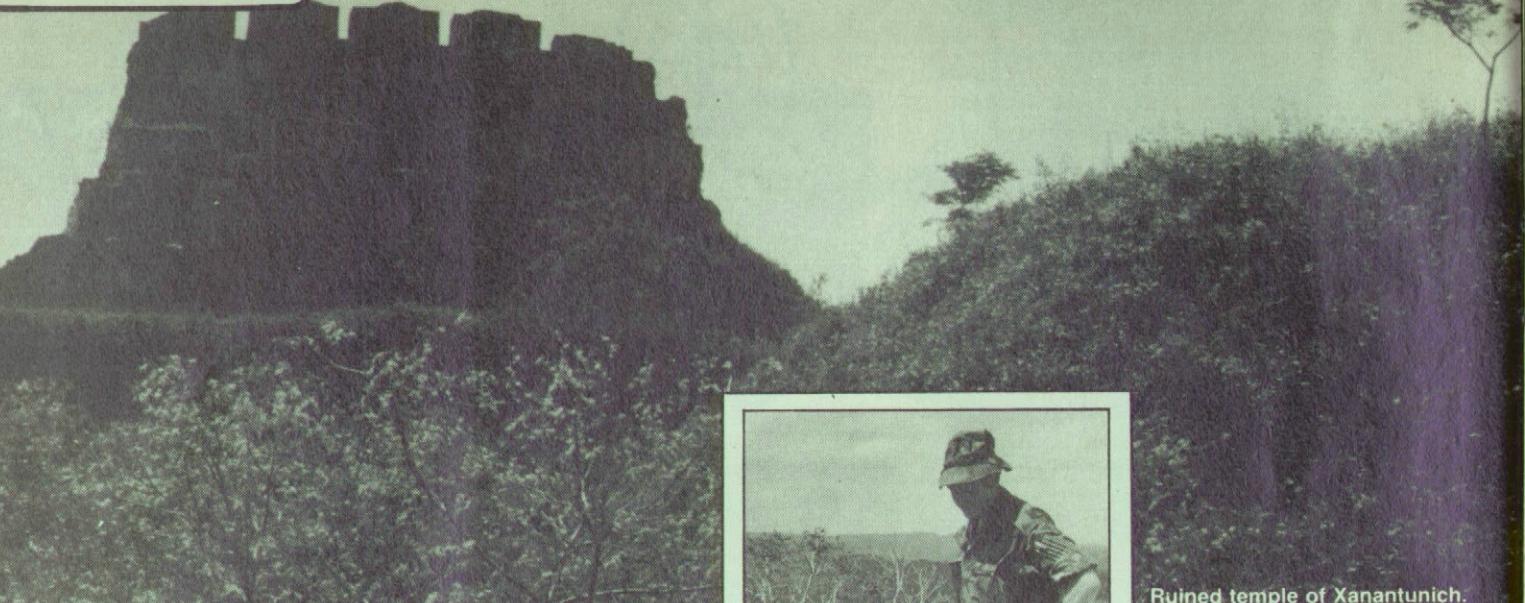
And with *Zulu*, due to be paid off later this year, those literally parting shots by the Army may have sounded the end of a practice era in the waters off Belize.

Making range safety checks before firing.





EYES BEYOND THE BORDER



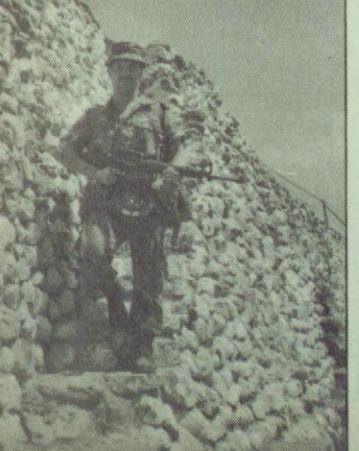
AMAYAN temple ruin dating back some 1400 years now provides a six-foot-square lookout point for British soldiers amid its former vaulted masonry and stucco friezes. From their lofty eyrie on the Belize frontier they keep an eye on a Guatemalan packed-dirt airstrip just 1800 metres away.

Two camp beds squat side-by-side in each of two alcoves, open to the elements, in rooms once used for keeping religious and ceremonial artefacts.

Normally, say the soldiers, not much really happens in view of their 127-foot-high vantage point, El Castillo, at the ruins of Xunantunich — until Sundays.

That's the day the 'beasting' starts when, for about five hours, 200 or so of the residents-turned-reservists militia are put through their unwilling paces in the

Cpl Rob Neal finishes duty stint amid the Mayan ruins.



Guatemalan town of Melchor del Mencos — a community renamed about 20 years ago after a surgeon who once led an unsuccessful force against Belize.

For the rest of the week the town is about as interesting as its former name Plancha de Piedra, Spanish for 'stone flat-iron'. But on Sundays the spectacle starts — with the full knowledge of the Guatemalans who know the British are watching them — when men in civvies are bullied and physically coerced by the Kaibal, that country's Special Forces.

On occasions, DC 3 and Aravo transport aircraft put down on to the strip disgorging rations and men. On one recent training session, amazed culture-starved American tourists staying in Belize City, 80 miles away, found their interest in archaeology being dramatically diverted by frantic activity within the lee of the monument they had just been holding in awe.

Hundreds of men were running up and down the airfield and a nearby football pitch clutching Galil assault rifles and M1 carbines, their steps badgered every inch of the way by the threatening Kaibal.

As one Xunantunich observer told SOLDIER: "The locals were getting kicked and punched. There was lots of beasting. They work bloody hard. I feel sorry for the poor bastards sometimes."

Conditions at the ceremonial temple ruin for its current occupants — men from the 1st Batta-



Ruined temple of Xunantunich.

point manned by the Belize police force.

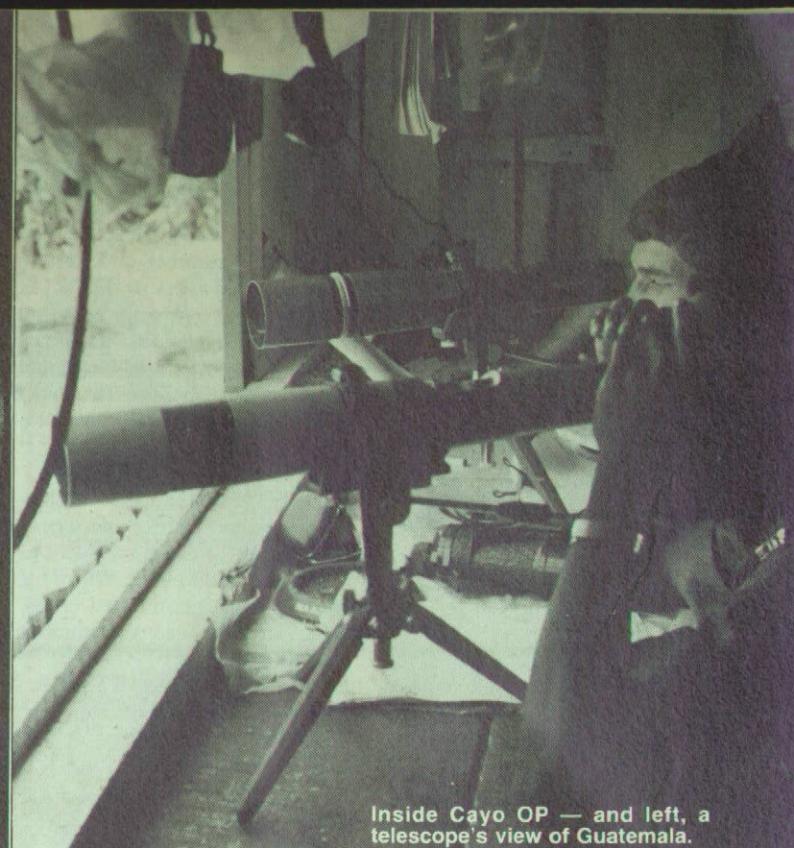
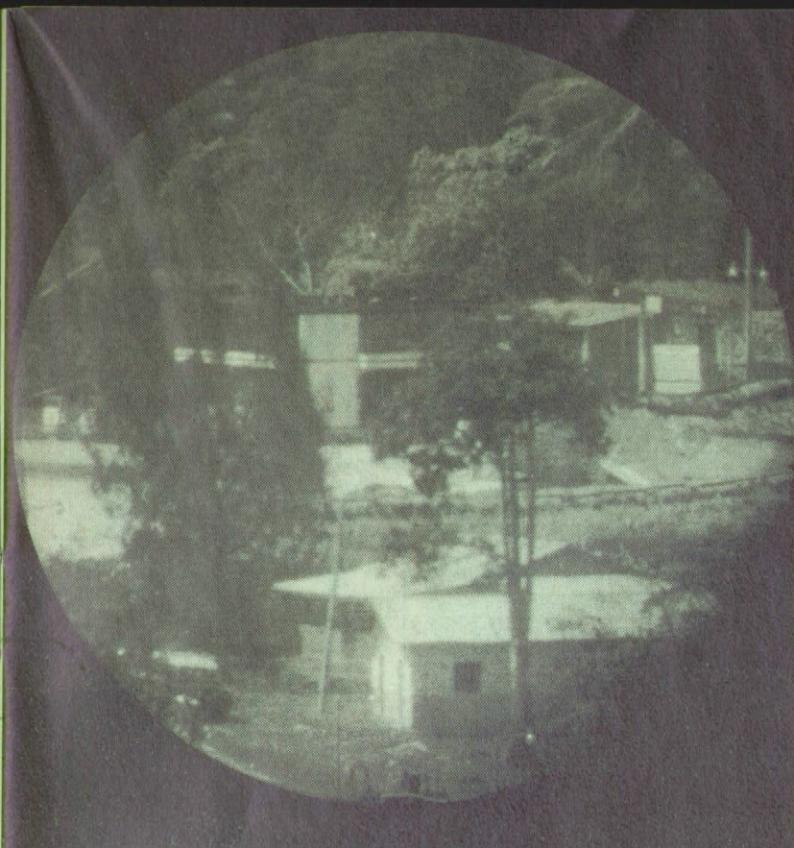
The accommodation is hardly five-star luxury but life at Cayo is "not too bad" according to Corporal Chris Soames, the OP commander. "We feed on fresh rations. We've not had a bad meal since we've been here. Give the lads some sausages, eggs, chips and beans and they cook as well as your missus."

Corporal Dean Stefanotti, a patrol commander, said: "We don't have heat or mosquito problems up here but the main trouble is the ants. They would carry off the camp beds if you gave them the chance!"

A mile away and within sight of the ancient Xunantunich is another isolated outpost with the task of watching the Guatemalan garrison town of Melchor del Mencos. It is Cayo OP, sitting on a grass upland not far from Benque Viejo de Carmen and about 15 road miles from the Battle Group North camp at Holdfast.

The Cayo OP perches in country near Belize's most westerly town which used to be an area once noted for its bold banditry and border raids.

At Cayo, five Royal Anglians — a corporal plus four others — and four men from the fledgling Belize Defence Force mount their weekly watch on the town which lies 1500 metres away, just past the official border crossing

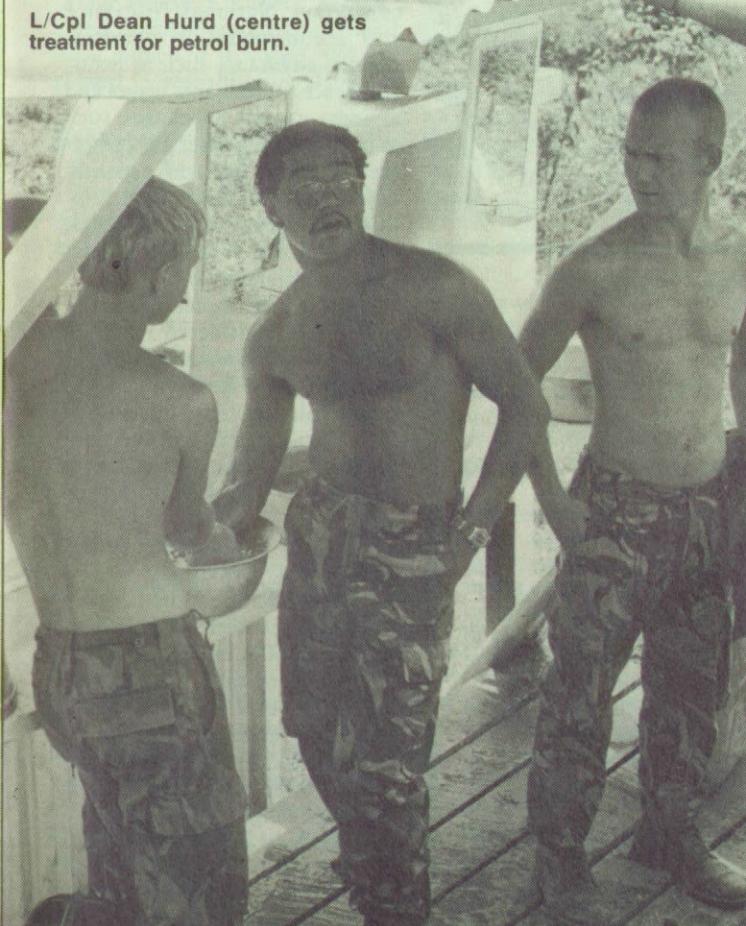


Inside Cayo OP — and left, a telescope's view of Guatemala.

down the airstrip half-a-dozen times and then doing sit-ups and press-ups. The Guatemalan sanguar men smoke, drink and read books, the sort of thing we could get locked up for."

The biggest threat to the Anglians has come from scorpions, tarantulas and two outsized rats.

"I was doing some sit-ups in our gym when the board suddenly moved and a bloody great tarantula moved out from under



L/Cpl Dean Hurd (centre) gets treatment for petrol burn.

it," Corporal Soames recalled. "As for the scorpions, I think they have a fetish for corrugated iron. We've also got two resident rats and two resident cats who are scared of them."

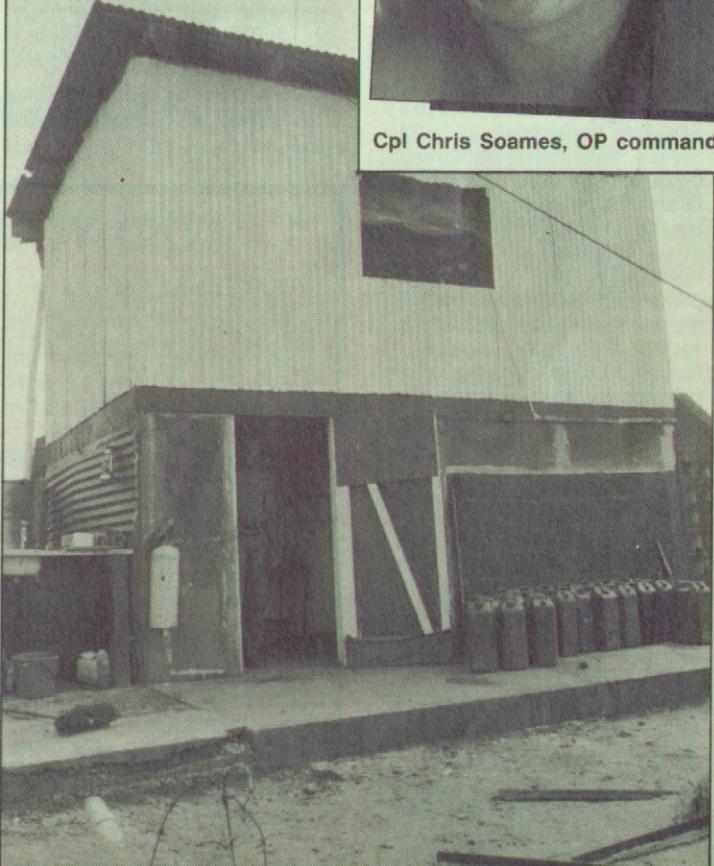
But even though business at Cayo is often slack, discipline is certainly not. When SOLDIER called, the men had received an order, by radio, to get ready for a top brass inspection that meant cutting back neighbouring undergrowth to ground level, up-

above it all, dwarfing even the mighty Xunantunich by his depth of perception.

One bronzed squaddie was heard to grumble: "That's right. Never mind what the Guatemalans are doing as long as we all get our bleedin' landscape gardening certificates!"

It is amid humour like this, an indispensable ingredient, that the watch goes on in one of the world's most uncomfortable climates. The British squaddie rises

Hardly the Hilton — but at least it's got a roof.



Cpl Chris Soames, OP commander.





WITH THE LATEST cuts in Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) in many overseas stations, Service families' budgets have taken yet another hard knock. Changes in the rate of LOA are becoming a regular occurrence and each cut means a readjustment in the family budget and can cause serious financial problems if families find themselves over-committed.

As the economies of UK and other countries are far from stable, changes in LOA rates are inevitable and the efforts of individual families to balance their budgets are almost in vain. We are told with every cut that LOA is simply an allowance and should not be relied upon but, surely, by its very nature it is a necessary addition to the Serviceman's pay and cannot be discounted. Most families find that it becomes part of their income as a whole and is incorporated into their general budget.

And the problem of benefit anomalies remains. Neither LOA nor the Armed Forces Pay Review Body nor the 'x' factor takes non-payment of many DHSS and DES benefits into account. I have not been able to find another group of people who are disenfranchised by both the country they are in and their own country as are Service personnel serving abroad. We have no unemployment benefit after the initial three months in an EEC country, no unemployment benefit at all in other countries, no maternity pay, no supplementary benefit for unemployed youth, no NCIP and no redundancy pay — even though many of our wives and families would be eligible for such benefits if they were in UK.

The 1981 BFG LOA review which became effective in 1982/3 meant that an 'average' married corporal with one child suffered a reduction of around £600 over a 12-month period. The 1982 LOA review effective during 1983/4 added another £260 to this figure — a big hole in any budget and an indication of the hard facts behind Service life overseas.

Anne Armstrong

LOA: THE FACTS

THE LATEST LOA review prompted a number of letters to Service newspapers in BAOR, in particular, as strong personal views were expressed. This correspondence made it clear that the reasoning behind the LOA reassessment and the considerations that led to the cuts were not fully understood.

As LOA cuts are now becoming a regular feature of Service life in most overseas stations this confusion could not be allowed to continue and a combined Army/RAF initiative has been launched to put the record straight in BAOR at least. The BFG steering committee on pay, allowances and conditions of service has just produced a helpful leaflet entitled *20 Facts About Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) in Germany*. This will be issued to every Serviceman in BFG in an attempt to explain the nature of LOA and the reasons behind the cuts.

LOA is a non-taxable allowance designed to cover the essential extra costs of living in a country overseas instead of in UK and to meet the reasonable extra cost of adopting an appropriate lifestyle in that country. It is not an inducement for serving aboard, nor is it intended to provide the extra money needed for expensive items such as cars, hi-fi or videos.

It is intended to meet the reasonable needs of the 'average' man and it is obviously not possible to have separate rates of LOA for each person, although their lifestyle may be different in some respects from that on which

LOA calculations are based.

A team from MoD, which includes Service representatives, assesses LOA by comparing the prices of certain goods and services in similar shops and establishments in UK and overseas. If these things are more expensive overseas than they are in UK, we get LOA to meet the extra cost. If they are cheaper abroad, we get less LOA.

The items the team consider fall into two main categories: first, the goods and services that are the 'essential extra costs' of living abroad, the things that we do or buy overseas as much as we would in UK such as buying food for the family; second, the things that we do more often because we are abroad. These latter are called the 'reasonable extra costs' of adopting a different lifestyle while we are living overseas and include such things as making more telephone calls or writing more letters to keep in touch with our families and friends back in UK, perhaps having to do more mileage in our cars and the higher costs of holidays and newspapers. These extra costs are called local standards and it is these local standards that make up most of our LOA.

The local standards are not fixed by an arbitrary and purely subjective assessment by the team. They visit units and talk to representative Servicemen and their wives, who are known as markermen, compare their findings with a UK Serviceman's spending patterns and only then do they reach agreement on what they consider to be reasonable



"Of course there aren't any moths in my wardrobe — since the last LOA cut they've all died of starvation."

extra expenditure. Even the markermen are not chosen at random. All LOA calculations are based on corporals and captains/flight lieutenants and the other rates are worked out from these.

The spending patterns of UK Servicemen were last examined in 1981 when a UK Expenditure Survey was taken over a cross-section of Servicemen and their families. This survey broke down a Serviceman's income and expenditure into four main parts: **standard deductions** such as income tax, National Insurance and accommodation charges; **regular payments** such as insurances, school fees, mortgages and savings; **capital purchases** such as cars, washing machines, freezers and hi-fi; **general expenditure** which includes food, clothing, motoring costs, holidays, entertainment, cigarettes, telephone calls and so on.

It is only this general expenditure that is considered for LOA purposes as it is assumed that the amount of pay spent on this will be the same in UK as it is overseas. LOA is therefore only intended to meet the essential extra cost of this type of expenditure outside UK.

The UK Expenditure Survey is reviewed periodically since a significant change in the UK Serviceman's pattern of spending will affect LOA rates. Local standards are normally reviewed every three years and local prices for those 'essential extra costs' such as food are compared each year. If these costs change, LOA too will change.

If you have any further queries about LOA, or if the latest cuts have left you in difficulties, ask for advice in your unit.

DID YOU KNOW?

YOUR FORM P45 has become more important than ever. The P45 is the form that your employer will give you when you leave your job. It shows how much you have earned and how much tax you have paid in that employment and your new employer or the benefit office will need your form to work out your tax position and make sure you do not have too much tax taken from you.

Since July 1982 part of any benefit you get because you are unemployed is now regarded as taxable income. So if you are claiming benefit the benefit office will need the information on your P45 to make any refund due to you either when you stop claiming benefit or at the end of the tax year. Although no tax is taken from your benefit when it is paid to you under the new arrangement, you cannot get an Income Tax refund while you are claiming the benefit.

When you get a new job, you should tell your benefit office straight away so that they can send a new Form P45 to your new employer and you will not have too much tax taken from your wages.

Remember too, if you are overseas, that all income must be declared, even if it is below the tax threshold, either as part of your husband's declaration or on a separate return for you as an individual.

Are you sitting comfortably?

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things . . ."

IT WAS 1975, International Year of Women and the year that saw my first article on furniture and furnishings in Army Housing Journal No 6, entitled 'Can't we be more involved?', in which I asked whether we Service wives could put forward our ideas and opinions on this important subject. After all, we spend most time surrounded by the results of such decisions and have to live with mistakes that we might have averted had we been consulted.

Less than a year later, the Army Housing Journal reported the first-ever PSA presentation of the new Modec range of curtains to 100 wives at Benbow House, London for their comments and a new era of involvement had begun.

Since then, wives have been consulted from time to time and asked to comment on the three-piece suite covers, carpets and curtains and the colour co-ordination chart was born. This year we reached another milestone in wives' involvement as representatives from the UKLF Federation of Army Wives' Clubs met other wives from the Navy and the RAF at Southbridge House in London to view a new range of replacement furniture, which it is hoped will be phased in when finance allows.

Furnishings

The RAF took over responsibility for furniture and furnishings in all married quarters, offices, messes and schools in 1964 on behalf of all three Services and Air Commodore Ross Lambert, Chairman of the Joint Services Furnishing Committee, welcomed the wives and PSA and MoD representatives to the informal meeting.

He explained the importance that JSFC attached to the wives' views and asked them to consider carefully the furniture proposed, adding: "When you are satisfied that you have had sufficient time, return here and complete the questionnaire in front of you. I do apologise for asking you to fill in a form but we do want to ensure that we correctly interpret your views and we do need a way of being able to analyse them quickly this evening so that I can be sure that I am representing your opinion properly at the formal JSFC meeting tomorrow."



Mrs Feild (left) and Lady Burgess discuss the new furniture proposals as a Ministry official looks on.

There were four items under review, the three-piece suites, the bunk beds, the kitchen table and a redesigned occasional table — all of which are due for introduction into quarters over a number of years as the current designs need replacing.

The Air Commodore emphasised that any changes would take place gradually and that the new designs would be part of a long-term project. "This makes the decision that much more difficult," he said, "because, make no mistake about it ladies, you are now involved in the JSFC's decision making process and the results of your views will be directly felt by Service wives and their families for a number of years to come. You are joining the ubiquitous 'they' who never get it right!"

Representative

It was a responsibility which the wives at Southbridge House took very seriously. There were wives of all ranks representing the Army from lance-corporal to general and as they brought practical considerations to their examination of the furniture, several general points of agreement emerged. The occasional table was approved, the kitchen table was declared necessary still, and one particular make of bunk bed was voted the best, although there was some discussion about the merits of sturdy construction versus the versatility of a design that allowed the bunk beds to be separated into two singles when

desired.

The question of the three-piece suite was the most taxing and no firm decision on style was taken. The wives, generally, favoured a design with a high back and this, and their other suggestions and criticisms, was carefully considered by the formal Committee at their meeting next day. They also noted the wives' suggestion that when the new suites were eventually introduced this should be done area by area to avoid any discontent in a station.

General forum

The meeting ended with a general forum discussion which provoked questions on other aspects of quartering, most of which were answered by Mr John Leggett, the Deputy Director of Supply and Management. He emphasised the importance of every wife asking to see the colour co-ordination chart at her unit in conjunction with the sample books of patterns for curtains, carpets and covers. It had been brought to his attention that some quarters were still furnished with very strange combinations of colours and patterns.

He confirmed that the unsatisfactory Goblin vacuum cleaners were gradually being replaced with Electrolux models, that the white calico undercovers on the suites were, at last, being replaced by multi-coloured, fire retardant calico covers which would be more acceptable and which were being fitted to all

new suites and he tackled the question of sales of surplus furniture and the requirement for more unfurnished quarters.

The sale of surplus furniture is governed — and therefore limited — by a Treasury ruling, although an exception has been made during the present descaling exercise when a one-off sale of certain items is available to each quarter occupant.

Mr Leggett repeated that a recent study has shown that the overall number of unfurnished quarters meets the requirements, although demand is higher in some areas than others, so there are no plans to increase the numbers of these at present.

Frank views

He was impressed by the wives' contribution at the meeting. "They let us have their views very frankly but were equally appreciative of the problems we face and, of course, the overriding constraint of a cash limit."

The channels are open now "to talk of many things" and it is up to us all to take an interest and use the voice we now have. Mrs Jane Watson, who is on the staff of SM 42 (RAF) at Harrogate, home of Services furnishing, will be co-ordinating future discussions with wives and if you are interested in taking your place on committees such as this, then make yourself known through the Federation. Service families of the future could be sitting comfortably because of you. ■

IN THE MIDST of winter and high up on the frozen windswept expanses of the vast Hardangervidda, Norway's central plateau, farmers have been known to exercise their livestock into the early hours of the morning to prevent them freezing to death. In the same environment Puma and Gazelle helicopter pilots of NATO's ACE (Allied Command Europe) Mobile Force undergo their arctic survival and flying training.

The helicopter has long been the most efficient workhorse of the ACE Mobile Force when operating on NATO's Northern flank. Number 33 Squadron Royal Air Force from Odiham in Hampshire contribute four Puma helicopters to the Force Helicopter Unit.

These speedy aircraft powered by two Rolls-Royce Turmo (not turbo) 3C4 engines, each capable of producing 1350 shaft horsepower, can lift over 5000 lbs. So an arctic trained section of 10 soldiers — fully equipped with skis, pulks (Norwegian sledges), weapons, bergens and survival equipment — can be very quickly deployed into combat positions. And the 105 mm Light Guns of the Royal Artillery or vital bulk stores and combat supplies from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps can be moved around the arctic wastes at will.

The lighter sleek Gazelle helicopters of 2 Flight Army Air Corps, based at Netheravon in Wiltshire, play a different but no less important role. These nimble machines are ideal platforms from which urgent casualty evacuation, reconnaissance, liaison sorties and artillery firepower direction can be carried out.

Flying the helicopter in temperate climates requires a fairly straightforward technique, but operating it in arctic conditions is far more complex and exacting.

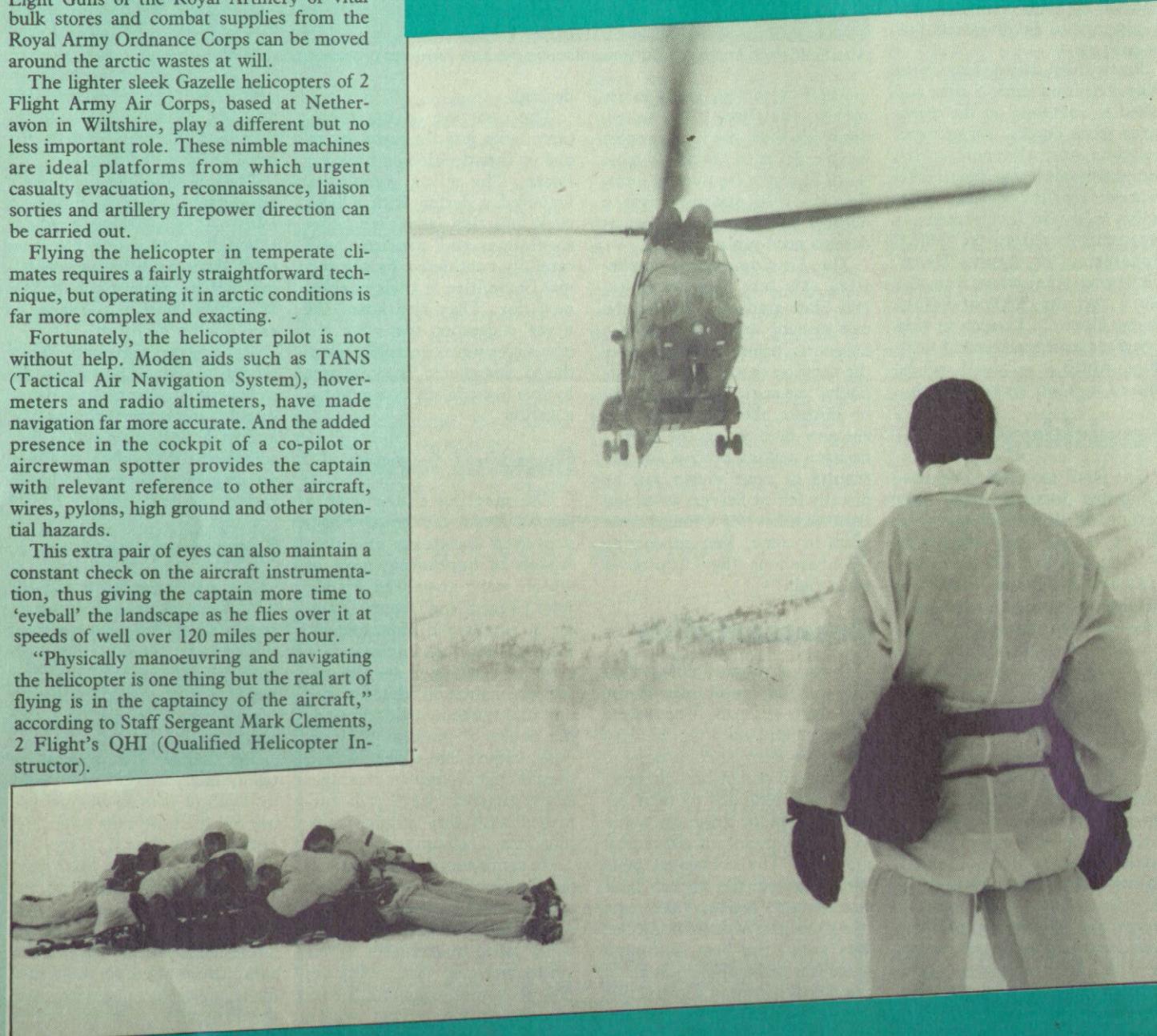
Fortunately, the helicopter pilot is not without help. Modern aids such as TANS (Tactical Air Navigation System), hovermeters and radio altimeters, have made navigation far more accurate. And the added presence in the cockpit of a co-pilot or aircrewman spotter provides the captain with relevant reference to other aircraft, wires, pylons, high ground and other potential hazards.

This extra pair of eyes can also maintain a constant check on the aircraft instrumentation, thus giving the captain more time to 'eyeball' the landscape as he flies over it at speeds of well over 120 miles per hour.

"Physically manoeuvring and navigating the helicopter is one thing but the real art of flying is in the captaincy of the aircraft," according to Staff Sergeant Mark Clements, 2 Flight's QHI (Qualified Helicopter Instructor).

In our last issue we looked at helicopter pilots operating in the steamy jungles of Belize. Here Graham Cooper reports on the men who fly at the other end of the weather scale — in arctic Norway — men who must master . . .

THE ZERO ZERO OPTION



Men of 2 Flight AAC carry out vital maintenance on one of the Gazelles.

Weather, terrain, altitude, load and tasking are all factors which directly influence flying capabilities. All can have a bearing on fuel consumption and the hours which the aircraft can remain airborne from any given moment.

The ultimate consideration for the pilot is 'Have I enough fuel to land?' Suddenly having to divert to a 'casvac' or fly around low cloud are the kind of unexpected factors that his contingency planning must take into account and which train him in the more common fuel, time and distance appreciations.

Flying a helicopter in the arctic, indeed the whole concept of its deployment, depends largely on one factor — the weather. Learning to cope with the unpredictable and often nerve-racking elements makes pilots and crews constantly aware of the dangers as veteran instructor, Squadron Leader Iain McCluskey, pointed out after a difficult early morning sortie: "The flying conditions here are normally harsh and very difficult. Freezing cloud, whiteout conditions and high gusting winds produce a hostile weather map almost daily."

The fear of 'icing up' confronts a pilot when low temperatures and water vapour combine to form freezing cloud. If the helicopter is flown above the dewpoint (cloud-base) during cold weather, ice can form on the aircraft in seconds.

The weight and mass of the ice which forms on the rotor blades alters their aerodynamic form and radically reduces the helicopter's lift capability.

Left: Puma approaches on course for zero zero landing. Right: Once snowcloud has dispersed, waiting infantry can emplane.



For the pilot, a frosting cockpit windscreen obscuring his view or the fluctuation of his tachometer needle (indicating engine surge from an iced up air intake) are unpleasant reminders of the consequences of continued flying in such conditions.

Other weather factors too can hamper and sometimes ground ACE Mobile Force aircraft. Artificer Quarter Master Sergeant Chris Chapman, the chief technician with 2 Flight, reckoned "condensation on the electrics" to be the main problem in maintaining the Gazelle's airworthiness.

"The early morning air warms up quicker than the aircraft and sometimes this results in a shorting of the aircraft's electrical connections."

By far the most difficult aspect of arctic flying though is the snow landing — 'The Zero Zero Option'. On landing, the down-draft from the rotors causes a massive recirculation of snow outwards from the Puma and forms a snowcloud which completely engulfs the aircraft.

The captain must at all costs keep visual contact with a ground marker (a bush or a soldier's bergen) in order to maintain his orientation with the landing zone below.

The only way he can accomplish this is to maintain forward motion during the approach to the zone and thus keep the snowcloud behind him. But should the helicopter flare into a hover, the marker disappears in the resulting blizzard as the spindrift rushes forward from the rear of the aircraft. Once the marker is lost, the orientation is lost and the 'option' to opt out for another attempt is taken willingly by all pilots.



Off for two nights 'snowholing'. All crews must practise arctic survival.

"Zero feet at zero speed, that's what the aim is," explained Puma pilot Mark Everson as he moved his gloved hand through the air to demonstrate the zero zero landing. "You must go straight in without hovering or you'll be caught in a huge myopic snowball."

Aiding the captain during the Puma's

continued on page 28





Puma shows its strength in mountain rescue role.



landing approach is the helicopter crewman who monitors the size and position of the recirculation in relation to the altitude of the helicopter.

"Eighty, fifty, snowcloud forming aft, forty, thirty, snowcloud forming cabin door, twenty, fifteen, snowcloud forming cockpit, ten, five, three, two, down," urgently clipped the aircrewman, Flight Sergeant Bob Todd, into his microphone as he leaned out of the Puma's doorway to monitor the approach for his captain. After a perfect landing the snowcloud settled around a confident and satisfied crew as the Rolls-Royce Turmo whined to a halt.

Flying Officer John Braysmith summed up arctic flying from the co-pilots seat. "Instruments are useful but they do not bring you down the last ten feet. That's up to pilot endeavour. Unlike the motorist we can't afford a mistake. No matter what height you're at it's always a long way down."

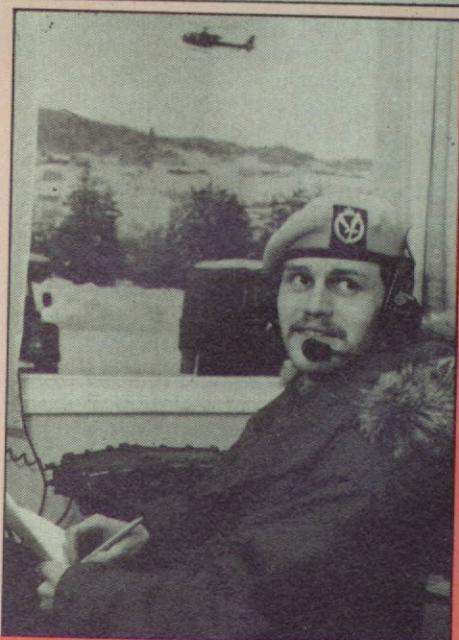
De-icing a Puma's rotors. ▲

2 Flight AAC's L/Cpl Christopher Wynn monitors the air safety radio net from the operations room. ▶

Captain of the Puma, Flight Lieutenant Paul Noble, a former fast jet pilot now content to fly a somewhat different breed of aircraft, echoed that view.

"In arctic conditions every landing is a major event. It's like driving a car in the fog with two extra dimensions. At the end of the day there are no options except the zero zero and that's always an exciting challenge." ■

Pictures:
Dave Morris



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

How observant are you?



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Trip meter	High grade cloth trim	

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For the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, a two-year posting to Northern Ireland is a chance to pick up the threads of family life again.

Time for togetherness



Hobbit – perfect pony for the 'nippers'. ▲

◀ Wives get together over coffee.

JUST SETTLING DOWN to their first accompanied tour of Northern Ireland in Omagh are 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. After two years at the regimental headquarters in Canterbury, when most of their time was spent away either in Belize or on exercises, they can now look forward to seeing a bit more of their families.

In addition to their role as a resident battalion, the emphasis at Lisanelly Barracks is quite definitely on family life. Taking their lead from their enthusiastic commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Paddy Panton they are determined to make the most of their two years in the Province.

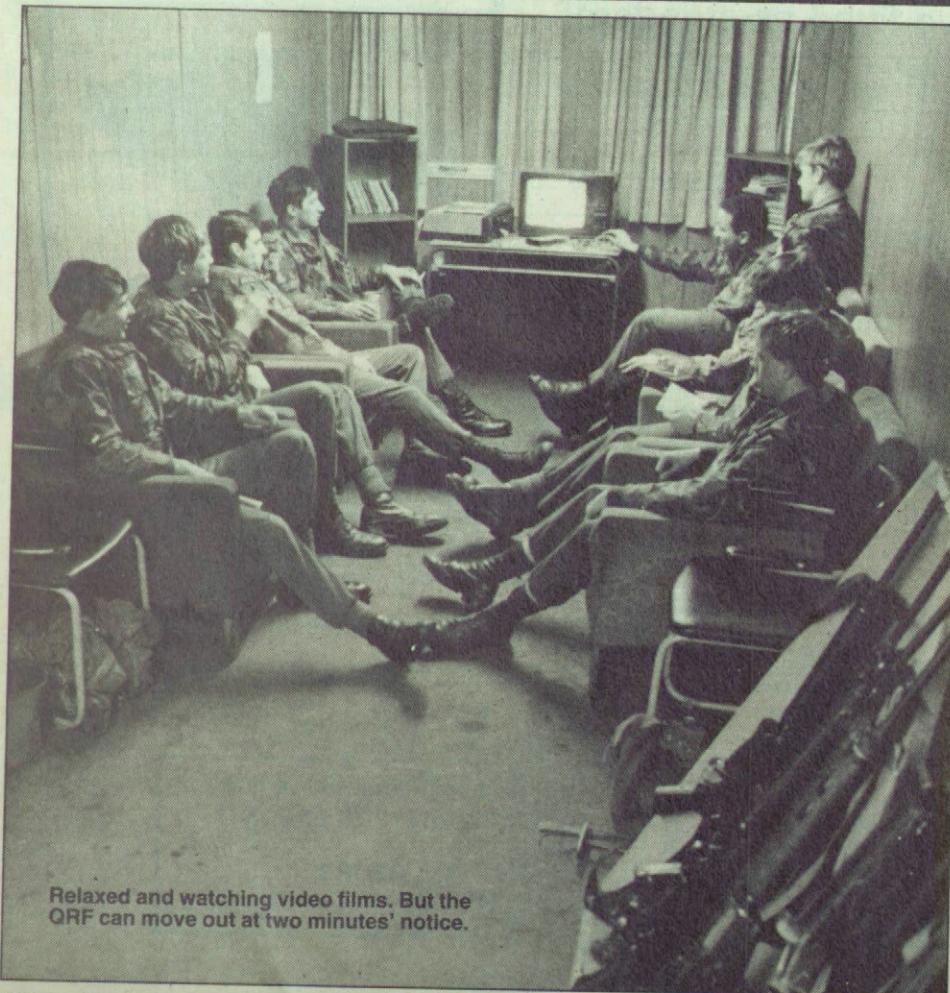
"It's a great camp," said Lieutenant Colonel Panton with gusto. "There's so much going on all the time."

"We have twice as many soldiers than our predecessors and so twice as many wives and nippers. It's a bit of a squeeze at the moment with all of us trying to fit in, but there is a lot of new building going on as well – new messes, and a training theatre, for instance – and we have a brand new library."

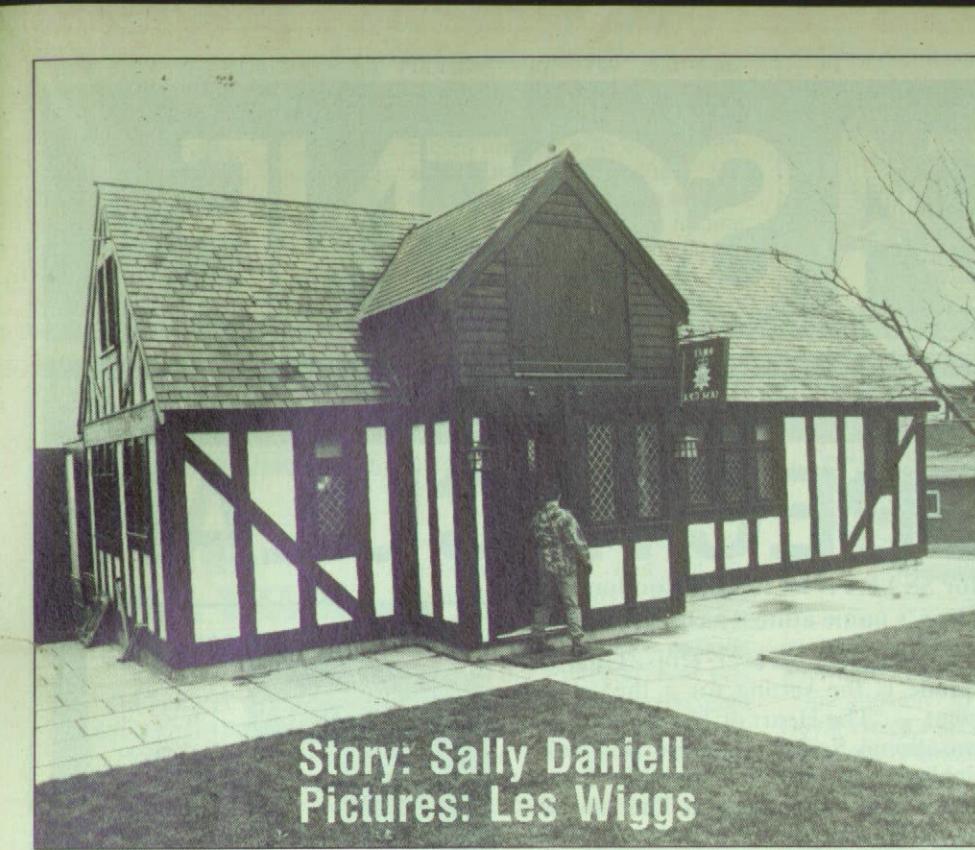
With that, SOLDIER was whisked away from the CO's office and taken on a whistle stop tour of the camp by Company Sergeant Major Kevin Brown who, endorsing the CO's words, said this was the best camp the battalion had ever had.

First stop was the community centre where the Thrift Shop was open for the first time since the battalion arrived. The goods on sale were a bit sparse but the organisers confidently expected the scheme to snowball. Already though, £24 had been taken, 10 per cent of which was to go to charity.

Behind a screen was the 'Coffee Pot' where some of the wives were meeting for a cosy chat over a cup of coffee. This again was the first meeting but it had all the hallmarks of success, being well supported and with plenty of toys for the pre-school children who were largely responsible for



Relaxed and watching video films. But the QRF can move out at two minutes' notice.



**Story: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

the noise level.

Everyone seemed very happy with few grumbles apart from one old chestnut – the Naafi!

"It's too expensive to shop regularly in the Naafi," complained one wife and others echoed her sentiments. "It's all right if you want something in a hurry but normally I wouldn't dream of getting my weekly shop there."

Wives and families are encouraged to make use of the sporting facilities on the camp and this suits Mrs Jean Dale whose husband is a sergeant with C Company. "It's great for me as I'm very sporty. There's lots to do, badminton, squash, swimming, keep fit – anything you like really."

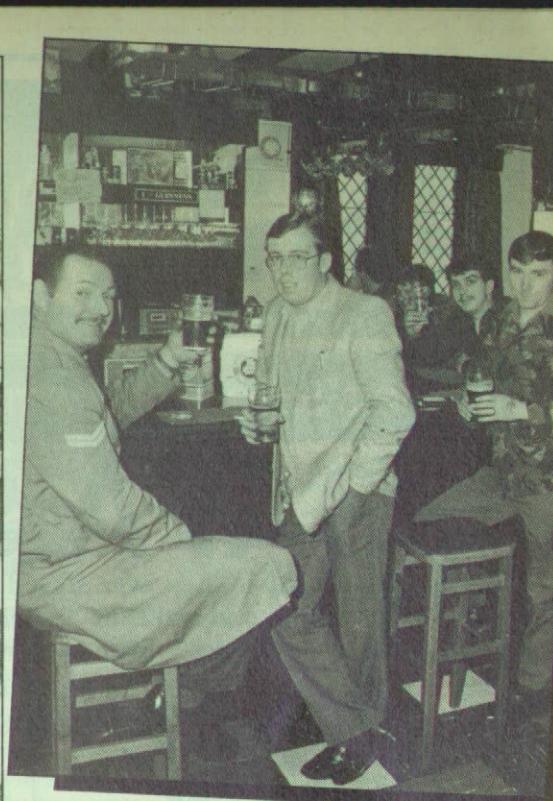
Becoming more and more popular in the Army is horseriding and the battalion inherited a few ponies which are looked after by a corporal aided by a volunteer group of sergeants' wives.

Hobbit, an adorable Shetland pony is just the right height for 'the nippers' to learn to ride on even though she was behaving rather like a prima donna when SOLDIER saw her being reshod.

All the ponies are gentle creatures, possibly a bit too gentle for some of the more advanced riders, and the battalion is negotiating to buy some bigger horses for the soldiers.

Many local cinemas in Northern Ireland were closed during the 1970s because of the threat to security. Like some other towns in the Province, Omagh has no cinema or theatre, so the battalion makes its own entertainment with regular film nights and CSE shows.

The Lamb and Star, the Queen's own pre-fabricated 'plastic pub', provides a popular change from the messes and Junior Ranks Club as an evening venue. Being centrally located, it is even well patronised at lunchtimes as well – perhaps too well patronised judging by the embarrassed faces of the men when CSM Brown walked in! Rather surprisingly, the Guinness was just being taken off because it had proved a poor



... but the beer's real enough anyway! ▲

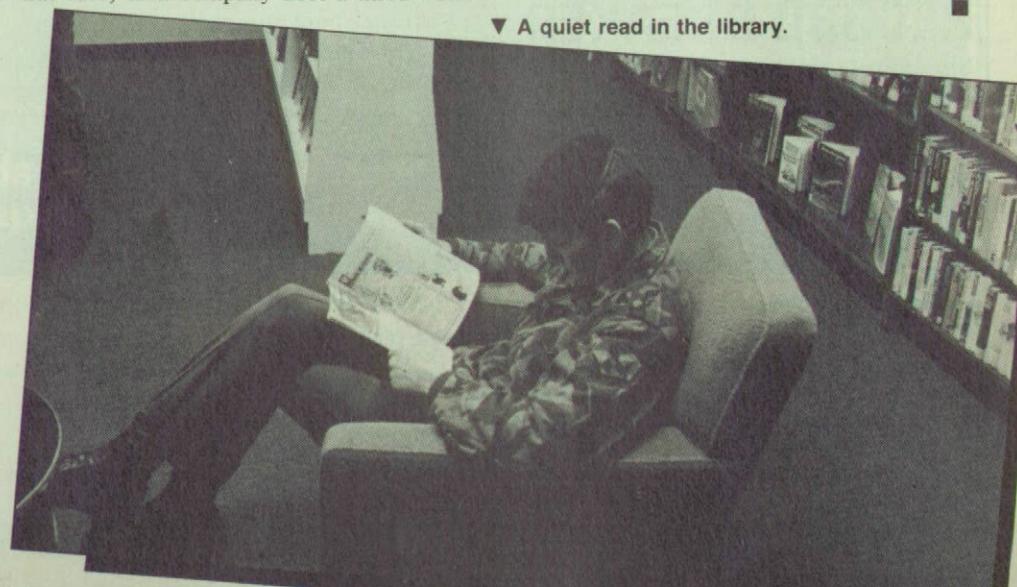
operations stint during which they man vehicle check points and provide the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), while the rest of the battalion is occupied with guard duties, training and leave.

Keeping boredom at bay is a difficult task for the lads of the QRF but the provision of a video recorder makes life a bit more interesting, even if the films are mostly in blue covers. A nearby shop, open all hours, caters for most other basic needs.

The battalion believes that on an accompanied tour, making life comfortable for the wives is just as important as keeping the soldiers themselves busy. Many of the Queen's wives are very young, several pregnant and some are even teenage mums.

For some, it is the first time they have ever been away from home and they naturally have a lot to learn about being Army wives, but they get a lot of help from the families office and the older hands. Mrs Marwin Clarke, the wife of the families sergeant, told SOLDIER what she tells all the new wives: "You're here for two years so you make the best of it. You have to do that when you're married to a man in the Army."

▼ A quiet read in the library.



SSAFA SCENE



Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association

SPRING 1983

SSAFA SPECTACULAR

The most spectacular show ever staged for SSAFA is set to take London by storm this summer, and make the Association's name almost as universal as the galaxy of superstars taking part.

VITAL LINK

WHEN the grandmother of a soldier serving in Germany died, his mother asked SSAFA to get the news to her son.

Her local SSAFA representative asked the Ministry of Defence to pass the message to the soldier's Commanding Officer. Within two hours the soldier telephoned his mother.

One recent case concerned a Naval Rating, badly injured whilst serving in a remote part of the world. The RN Family Welfare Officer contacted SSAFA's local representative who broke the news to the Rating's family.

For the next ten weeks the only communication the parents had with their son was through SSAFA, who acted as comforter and friend.

Every SSAFA division can reach — and can be reached — from any location overseas where UK Servicemen or women and their families are stationed. Thus SSAFA acts as an international communications link between those abroad and their families or dependents wherever they may live in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

RECORD BREAKER

Six-figure sales and news that more Mountbatten roses have been grown for sale than any other licensed variety have planted the Mountbatten rose firmly into the record books.

Which is exciting news for the Harkness family of Hitchin, who bred the rose, and great news too for SSAFA, because every bush sold benefits the Association.

You too can order the beautiful rose bush, which bears glorious clear yellow flowers and lustrous olive green leaves, for just £2.75 each plus postage and packing. Bushes will be delivered for planting in November. Send s.a.e. for an order form to: SSAFA Rose (A), PO Box 5, London SW1H 9BZ.

For the first time ever, Horse Guards Parade is the setting for a theatrical event — "The Heart of The Nation", a sensational Son et Lumiere that will highlight the capital's nightlife from Wednesday 17 August to Thursday 8 September.

It is based around the young Ensign of Foot Guards who is to carry the Colour which is being trooped the next day, and dramatises British history from Tudor times. So many famous people and incidents are associated with Horse Guards Parade that it becomes a natural stage.

Generous discount for party bookings

A story so great demands an equally powerful cast to perform it, and a glittering array of actors and actresses are taking part.

Anthony Andrews, Peter Barkworth, Isabel Dean, Maurice Denham, Rupert Everett, John Gielgud, Hannah Gordon, Robert Hardy, Jeremy Irons, Gordon Jackson, Penelope Keith, David Langton, Philip Madoc, Keith Michell, Paul Scofield, Barbara Windsor—all enthusiastically agreed to lend their voices in aid of SSAFA.

Advance bookings suggest that "The Heart of The Nation" will be a sell-out, so order your tickets now, using the form below.

Special rates for party bookings of 10 or more. Limited coach parking facilities.

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Actress Barbara Windsor in fine voice as she helps spread the good news of SSAFA's spectacular.

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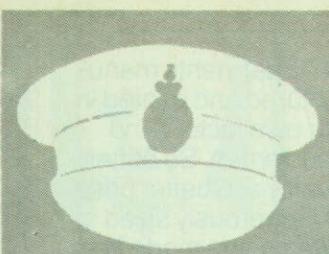
The Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association works independently offering confidential help, advice and friendship to the families of Service and ex-Servicemen and women, including those with the T.A. and Reserve Forces, wherever they may be.

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No 38

THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

THE REGIMENT was formed on 16th March 1689 as Colonel Lord Herbert's Regiment of Foot and was known by its colonel's name until 1702 when it was entitled The Welsh Regiment of Fuziliers. In 1714 the connection of the regiment with the Prince of Wales was granted to appear in their title which thus became 'The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers'.

The coronet plume and motto of the Prince was borne on the

Colours from 1747 and elsewhere on the uniform. A report dated 1788 records "Brest-plates uniform with three feathers engraved" and that "The three feathers of Wales worn in the hats of the Battalion appear showy and give height to Battalion men in undress". To this day the feathers in the shape of a white hackle are worn at the back of the cap badge.

The spelling of Welch (old English) or Welsh was variously used in the regiment's title until 1920 when an Army Order promulgated 'Welch' as the official spelling. In 1751 the number '23' was introduced on the adornments and was not removed until 1881. The only other device to appear on the head-dress badges besides that of the Prince's crest has been the Sphinx superscribed 'Egypt' awarded to commemorate their services in the campaign of 1801.

Since 1898 the cap badge has been standardised in size and design, and has remained so until the present day apart from the period from 1958 to 1969 when the regiment was obliged to wear the cap badge of the Welsh Brigade. It must have been with a sigh of relief that wearing the grenade badge was resumed, for tradition dies



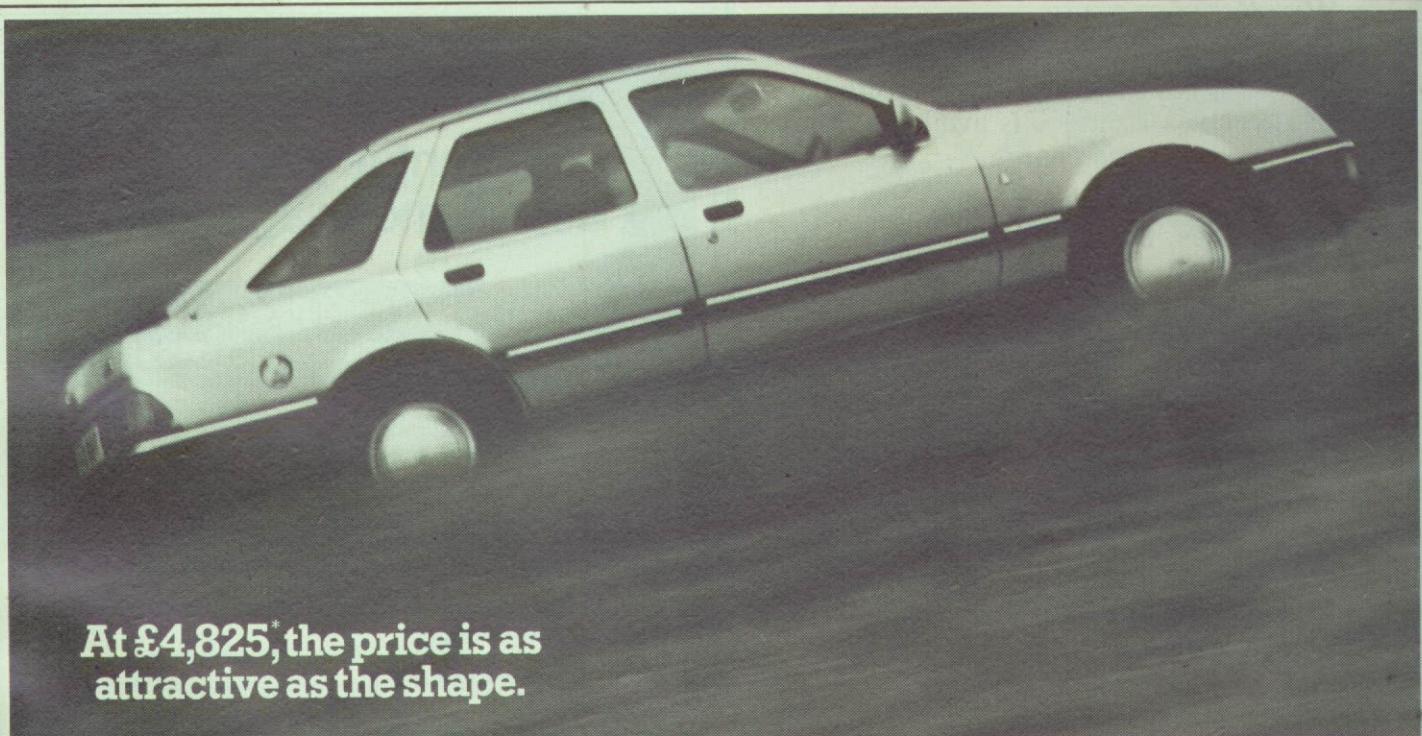
as hard in Wales as it does anywhere in Britain.

In addition to 'Egypt' the Royal Welch Fusiliers have won honours in Flanders, the Peninsula, Waterloo, Crimea, Africa, India, China (where they were the sole British infantry at the Relief of Pekin in 1900), South Africa, the Great War and Hitler's War. The regiment has a distinction of dress that is accorded to no other. This is the 'flash' of five black ribbons worn attached to the back of the collar. The ribbons represent the 'queue-bag' which protected the

red coatee from the powder and grease of the pig-tail worn throughout the Army. In 1808 the pig-tail was officially discontinued but the regiment, being then in Nova Scotia, continued the practice for some time thereafter. To commemorate their being the last to abandon the pig-tail, the officers attached the black ribbons of the queue-bag to the back of their collars. In 1834, arriving home from Gibraltar, an order was given to remove the ribbons but a hurried journey to London by their colonel brought back letters from King William IV granting their continued use as a "peculiarity whereby to mark the dress of that distinguished Regiment". Since 1900 all ranks have been permitted to wear the flash. In 1905 vigorous attempts were made to prevent it being worn but were only successful for a short while. A final unsuccessful attempt to end the custom was made in 1915 and so the flash has remained to adorn the backs of all Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Royal Regiment
of Wales



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†Government test figures - mpg (litres/100 km) for the 2.0 litre 5-speed GL illustrated. Constant 56 mph (90 kph) 49.6 (5.7), constant 75 mph (120 kph) 38.2 (7.4), simulated urban driving 26.9 (10.5).

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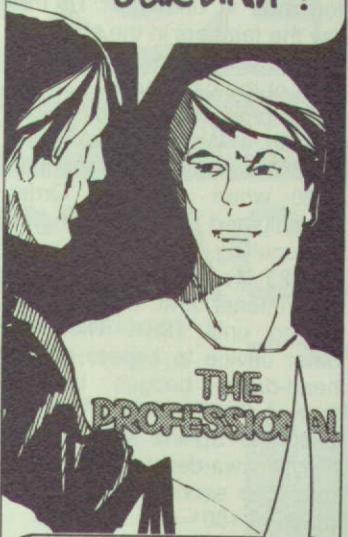
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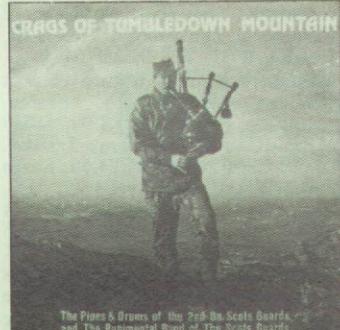
with Rodney Bashford

Crags of Tumbledown Mountain
Pipes and Drums 2nd Bn Scots Guards.

Band of the Scots Guards.
Conductor: Major D R Beat.
Pipe Major: J Riddell.
Ross Records SWGR 007.

Tumbledown is a lovely name for a mountain, and for some years yet will evoke memories of a sad little war in far away climes. For the Scots Guards especially the name, in a decade or two, will invoke thoughts of "was I really there, did it really happen?". This little Single 45rpm disc will reassure them, and Pipe Major Jimmy Riddell will have no doubts, for there he stands on one of the hill's tumbling slopes like Tennyson's eagle — close to his crag in a lonely land, ringed with the azure world, the wrinkled sea beneath him crawls; the Scottish warrior incarnate.

The Pipe Major composed the tune on the spot with the adrenalin still flowing. And it shows. If you sassenachs can imagine a pipe tune to possess heart and feeling then here it is, imaginatively set with band accompaniment by Musician Gray of the Regimental Band. On the reverse



side is another very pointed tune *The Dark Island* which alternates the pipes and drums and band to fine effect. The sleeve picture is alone worth whatever money you care to send for your copy; I don't know what the enemy felt as they saw such an apparition but he frightens the hell out of me.

From 2nd Bn Scots Guards, Chelsea Bks, London SW1 8RS, at least £1.70 in aid of Scots Guards charitable funds.

Past and Present
Band and Corps of Drums 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment.

Conductor: Bandmaster T S Davis.
Drum Major: R J Baker.
Phonogram 067 142.

The origins of this band, and particularly its present owners, are fully explained on the sleeve but leave this dunderhead in some confusion. Suffice it to say its name refers only to the counties it is expected to serve. And lucky counties they are to have a TA band of this quality. A *coup de théâtre* to open the programme with no drum rolls but straight into those three crashing chords which presage perhaps the finest of all regimental marches — knife, fork, spoon, razor, comb and lather brush — but a devil to play on a cold morning. Whenever its strains rose up the hill to our Rifle Depot at Winchester the words of this order-of-kit-laying aide memoire could be heard from every rifleman within earshot. Other regimental marches included here are those of the Dorset, Devonshire, Royal Berkshire, Wessex, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire Regiments, all of which are somewhere back there in those complicated origins I spoke about.

These leave room for some

pleasant items of light music and the band does itself justice in such old favourites as Gounod's *Marche Militaire la Ronde*, Harold Walter's *Jamaican Folk Suite* and *Capricious Aloysius*, the latter a clarinet run-around well played by Cpl Brown. Ronald Binge's *Cornet Carillon*, a medley *The Best of the Seekers*, and the Deer Hunter theme *Cavatina* make up what I found to be a rewarding programme by these once or twice-a-weekers.

From Bandmaster, TA Centre, Newburgh St, Winchester.

PAST & PRESENT

MUSIC BY
THE HAMPSHIRE
AND DORSET BAND
(Territorial Army)
conducted by
WOI Raymond L. Alberry

"All together now — 'we shall overcome'!"



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With crude oil prices falling and Japan making significant inroads into the whisky market traditionally dominated by Scottish distillers and bottlers, the Highlands and Islands are feeling the pinch.

Yet despite a growing number of redundancies in the oil-supply and whisky industries house prices are holding up well. Consequently you will find property reasonably priced but never cheap.

Because of its remoteness the Highlands' market tends to be insular. It rarely has booms or busts. The tourist industry has been extremely sensitive to the current recession but bookings for summer '83 are highly satisfactory say local hoteliers and guest house owners.

Like the Scots, houses and bungalows tend to be sturdy no-nonsense structures built to last rather than impress the casual passer-by. One-bedroomed flats start around £14,000. Two-bedroomed terraces are priced from £19,000 and the popular three-bed semis start at around £22,000. There is little detached property below £26,000.

The cost of living is probably higher than England or indeed the lowlands of Scotland, but the life-style is leisurely and attractive.

Bingham, Hughes & MacPherson & Inverness (0463) 224343

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

Houses for sale

Warminster. Modern semi-detached well maintained chalet-style house in quiet cul-de-sac. Three bedrooms, coloured bathroom suite, pleasant lounge, kitchen/diner, garage, gardens front and rear. To include all carpets. Oil central heating. £24,650. Mrs M Crean, 24 St Andrews Road, Warminster, Wilts. Tel: Warminster 21439.

Bolton-Harwood/Breigmet border. Three-bedroomed detached home with attached brick-built garage. 18' kitchen-diner, full gas central heating. Price reduced from £20,950 to £18,750 for speedy sale. S/Sgt B Houlette on Aldershot Military 24431 ext 2648 or at home on Aldershot 314844.

Aldershot. Immaculate modern 4-bed detached house. Quiet, private cul-de-sac south of town on exclusive small development. Lovely open aspect over playing field to wooded hill. One mile town centre. Very near schools, local shops etc. 18 months old. Double aspect lounge/diner, kitchen, bath, cloakroom, four bedrooms, garage, utility/workshop, gardens. Full GFCH. Three telephone points, two TV points, double electric points throughout. Happy and comfortable family home. Owner posted. £52,500 freehold. 01-218 7932 business hours.

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PRIs and Museum Curators are offered design and production facilities for acrylic tableware, car badges etc. Also regimental badged bridge sets and playing card packs by 15A, Oaklands, Bagshot Road, Worplesdon. Phone 0483 233 848.

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Kirkby, Fleetham. Four-bedroomed detached centrally heated house, integral garage, hard standing for two cars. Cloakroom with WC, bathroom, separate WC. Double-glazed sealed units to ground floor windows including sliding 8' patio doors from L-shaped lounge/diner onto patio and large rear garden. Kitchen is plumbed for washer, split level cooker and hob and double width glazed doors to side garden. Village 1½ miles A1, on bus route serving Richmond, Catterick (5 miles), Northallerton (8 miles). Village school, shop, pub and cricket team. Property divided from neighbouring cottages by thicket hedges or 6' fencing.

Tel: Weekends McLoughlin, Northallerton 748347; office hours Scarborough 64345.

House Letting

If you need to let or have problems with letting property in Devon, Dorset, Somerset or Cornwall, contact:

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Peter Wright, 18 Mayfield Drive, Bare, Morecambe, Lancs; Morecambe 424345.

'Mud and Khaki' by Clapham plus any other books, publications, paintings or other items with Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) connotations.

Gordon Brown, 01-505 1041 or 01-283 5266.

Wanted by TA soldier, green foulweather clothing, combat smocks, army/airborne bergen. Please write with details to: R P Barnes, 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS7 3PT.

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Kirby, 22 Moorlands, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. 029668 (Wing) 676.

Personal

I am 38 years old, divorced with two children, boy aged 13 years, girl aged 12 years. Privately educated. Have not known any other life but the Armed Forces, and have thoroughly enjoyed the life. Enjoy all forms of outside activities, plus reading, travelling, gardening, driving, all forms of music, going to the pictures, going out for a meal occasionally, but most of all, sadly miss the life which we had while attached to the Forces. If any Senior NCO or above, would like to correspond with me, on a genuine basis, who is not married, I would very much like to hear from you. All replies answered. Replies to 'Jane', c/o SOLDIER.

ENDS TO THE MIDDLE

- 1 UR
- 2 GIB
- 3 RISCO
- 4 LUVI
- 5 AFFIN
- 6 CTARI
- 7 REWI
- 8 URIO
- 9 BL
- 10 FFE
- 11 LIV
- 12 GRA
- 13 SSELLA
- 14 RONGE
- 15 SUL
- 16 RMI
- 17 LU
- 18 MAT
- 19 PTU
- 20 RGIVERSA

HERE ARE the exact centres of twenty words, some common, some not so common. To complete each word place two letters in front of each central group and the same two letters in the same order after the central group.

For example: GRA may be turned into

COMPETITION 314

the word DEGRADE by placing the two letters 'DE' in front and behind. Now see if you can complete the list below.

Incidentally, the answer to 12 is not DEGRADE as in our example but another word. In all other cases though — since there may be alternative solutions — any authentic word that satisfies the conditions will be accepted.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 6 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 30 May 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 314' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 314' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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†Motor magazine test figures.

††Government test figures — mpg (litres/100 km). Constant 56 mph (90 kph) 43.4 (6.5), constant 75 mph (120 kph) 32.8 (8.6), simulated urban driving 28.2 (10.0).

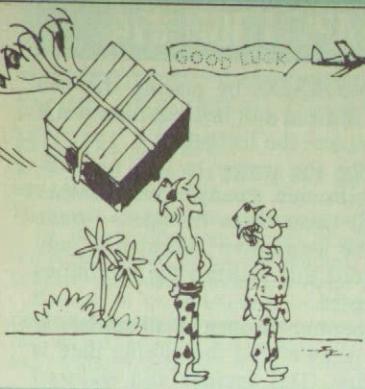
Ford Personal Import Export Ltd.



MAIL DROP

AFRICA STAR

Writing on the subject of the Africa Star Mr J J Stokes (7 Feb) states "The Royal Navy who did not go ashore were awarded the Africa Star minus clasp". Not so. As a member of the Royal Marine Band of the light cruiser *HMS Argonaut* my Africa Star carries a clasp with the words 'North Africa 1942-43'. Prior to this, I had also served in the Mediterranean on board *HMS Bonaventure* and *HMS Warspite* (before the North African landings). — J S Gilbert, 149 Brandon, Hough Green, Widnes, Cheshire.



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

WRONG BADGE

Poor Green Howards! The article by Hugh King (21 Feb) attempted to chronicle their various badges but fell a little short.

During the course of researching for my book *Military Badge Collecting*, first published in 1971 and a third edition out this month, I discovered a chapter of accidents.

The first cap badge, the Dannebrog within a wreath of roses, in bi-metal finish, incorporated correctly the prized princess's coronet as did its successor in 1908, a pattern known regimentally as the Eiffel Tower from its slender, distinctive appearance.

During the Second World War a variant inexplicably appeared, without authority, carrying the Imperial crown and it was this design which appeared in Major T J Edwards' *Regimental Badges* in 1951. I presumed charitably that this was produced in haste during a conflict when cap badge production was a low priority but a retired officer of the regiment described it as regimental incompetence.

In 1950, the first badge to appear with the title Green Howards carried, not the coronet, nor the Imperial crown but a flat-topped variety, often referred to by collectors as the Indian crown.

The present badge, issued in 1970 incorporated correctly the appropriate coronet, the figure XIX and the title. To go back to the beginning of the present regimental system in 1881, the very first helmet-plate centre bore, incorrectly, a crown! All these patterns are shown in *Military Badge Collecting*.

Finally, since your artist has used actual badges for the illustrations in the past, why has he indulged in a flight of fancy for The Green Howards, incorporating the present St Edward's crown rather than the cherished coronet? — John Gaylor, Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society, 38 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UA.

Sorry, Green Howards. The artwork referred to came from an official, but incorrect, source. Apologies. — Ed

MAIL DROP

AFRICA STAR

end, which, on striking its target, was forced back into the dummy rifle. A protective wire mask was worn over the face and a long protective padded 'mat' covered the body front from chin to crotch. It was similar to the old spine pad which was worn at one time.

I must admit that I do not care for the use of the word 'pugil' which comes from the Latin word for 'a boxer'. — Capt A Whitbread, 75 Barton Court Avenue, Barton-on-Sea, Hants.

FEARLESS

With the Falklands still very much in everyone's mind, it was refreshing to turn up among some old papers of my grandfather's, an extract from a letter written by Captain Norman Leslie, Rifle Brigade, shortly before he was killed in action during World War One.

His words make us remember those who fell in the Falklands: *We live our lives and die. To some are given chances of proving themselves men, and to others no chance comes. Whatever our individual thoughts, virtues or qualities may be it matters not, but when we are up against big things let us forget individuals and let us act as one great British unit, united and fearless. Some will live and many will die, but count the loss naught. It is better for to go out with honour than survive with shame.*

— David Benbow Sales, 26 Sharonmore Ave, Carnmoney, Co. Antrim, N Ireland.

SCRAPBOOKS

We have boxing scrapbooks to give away, period 1930, to serving and former soldiers. We would appreciate, say, £1 (cash) towards postage — the actual postage cost is £1.57. They are full of interest featuring both amateur and professional fights.

Incidentally, we the CSABC, rate SOLDIER a real knockout magazine. Splendid articles, first-class photography, super sports column. Lots of success. — Tommy Lovesey, Hon Secretary, Civil Service Amateur Boxing Club, Civil Service Staff College, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1.

RHINE CROSSING

To mark the reformation of 4th Armoured Brigade in BAOR a painting by Terence Cuneo was commissioned. The painting depicts the 44th RTR of the 4th Armd Bde crossing the Rhine at Xanten on 24 March 1945. A limited number of prints of the painting were also made and each bears the signatures of the artist, of Field Marshall Lord Carver who was commanding the Brigade at that time and of Maj Gen Hopkinson who was CO of the 44th RTR. The prints were originally priced at £15.50 incl p & p but, due to the current exchange rate, are now being offered at £13.50. Money should be enclosed with the order and cheques are to be made payable to HQ 4 Armd Bde Central Fund. All enquiries should be addressed to Capt J D Beaumont RE, HQ 4 Armd Bde, BFPO 17.

I was only a boy at the time but, at Bangalore in 1924, I used to watch him training the troops in bayonet fighting. I can recall the dummy wooden rifle used. The 'bayonet' was a steel rod, a plunger of bayonet length, with a large flat button on the

I realise the chances of finding this soldier are slim but if anyone can identify him from these scraps of information I should be so grateful and my son thrilled. — Jean Simone, 9 Woodlands Crescent, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight.

Can You Help?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Para/medic Allan Bowes, home address Bushey, Herts? — Cpl D Burrell, 26 Kerrison Road, Norwich NR1 1JA.

I would like to get in touch with John Hobro, with whom I served in the 2nd Bn Scots Guards in 1964. — John Sowerby, 38 Barkston Close, Wolviston Court Estate, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EY.

I am trying to trace Ann and Brummie Coles RCT whom we were in Colchester in 1979/80. When posted to Berlin we lost touch. Ann is a Sunderland girl and stayed with me before she married Brummie (Ken). — Barbara L Howat, 5 Almond Walk, Catterick Garrison, N Yorkshire DL9 3DN.

I am trying to locate Steve Ruscoe 24113584, who served with me in 25 Regt RA from 1968-1970. I last saw him in 1977 at P&EE Shoeburyness, Essex. — Mr R D Davis, Upper Norton Farm, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Hants SO21 3QF.

I am about to write a book on the Infantry Demonstration Battalion (IDB), and as one of only 27 men who served from its formation to disbandment, would be grateful if any past members of the battalion could assist me with any interesting facts. — Cpl P J Toms, QM Tech WSU, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts.

I am recently divorced and have custody of my fourteen year old son.

Over the past months both of us have suffered a very difficult time. Nevertheless, throughout this period, my son, Leon Robert, has remained strong and composed and has been a great comfort to me.

On 4 August 1982 we met a man who was making a night crossing from Portsmouth to Guernsey for a month's leave from the Army. Leon Robert and this man talked happily together during the trip and it became clear to me that my son was impressed with and greatly respected this soldier: it is for his sake that I would dearly love to trace the man.

Unfortunately, I have very little information on him and do not even know his name, rank, number or unit. I do know, however, that he is in his early thirties and unmarried. He joined the Army at 18 having first trained in the police force. He comes from Somerset and has a cottage which he rents out in Sherborne. His parents moved to the Cotswold area of Guernsey three or four years ago and are now retired. His married sister lives in Vienna. I know he was stationed in Germany when he was sent to the Falklands. He was involved with bomb disposal and was attached to the Royal Marine Commandos. A very keen soldier, he was, I believe, returning to Germany after his leave.

Cpl J Hollins, 54 Sqn RCT, Workshop, BFPO 22. Seeks cap badges, collar badges, cloth badges, medals and ribbons of the Armed Forces of Southern Ireland from 1921 to present day, especially Irish UN insignia of Congo, Lebanon. Has some old/new British Canadian for exchange.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Scuola di Applicazione, Via Arsenale, 22 Torino, Italy. Wishes to exchange Royal Navy cloth insignia and wall plaques for Italian Army enamelled crests.

Pen Pals

Steve Graham, 116 Kozlov St, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, L4N 4P9. Wishes to contact ex or present members of the Military Police to trade police items of uniform eg hats and police patches.

B Butler, 68 Gould Road, Barnstaple, N Devon. Seeks the following: 'Great War Adventures: True Stories by ex-Servicemen'; 'Letters from Lady-smith', Lt Col Park; 'We Landed in Sicily and Italy', A W Valentine; 'Devonshire Regiment', C L Flick; 'Bideford Home Guard', D C Crombie.

L Stillman, 211 Bolton St, Eltham, Victoria 3095, Australia. Wants post-war W German Armed Forces badges. Has British and Australian badges for exchange.

Reunions

The Chindits Old Comrades Association. The Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner will be held at Coventry on 18th June 1983. Details available from: Hon Secretary, The Chindits Old Comrades Association, National HQ, TA Centre, Wolseley House, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton.

CLC Josef Maes, Vuurkruisenstr 29, B3970 Leopoldsburg, Belgium. Wishes to obtain the following: current Russian Army sleeve patches, traffic controller, pipeline troops, construction troops. Has for trade artillery, chemical engineers, MoT Rifle units.

W Wiggins, 12 Southlea, Cliddesden, Basingstoke RG25 2JN. Wishes to purchase badges and swagger cane of The Hampshire Volunteers.

D Wright, 6 Abingdon Avenue, Woolston, Warrington, Cheshire WA1. Seeks militaria: Falklands, Foreign Legion, American Special Forces, Rhodesia, Security Forces, bayonets, medals, insignia, kit and anything else of interest.

Frank Whittle, 4 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford ST16 1LR. Requires the following cap badges and is prepared to pay any reasonable sum or exchange from interesting spares: Somerset LI KK606, Yorkshire Regt KK 615, Inniskilling Fusiliers 1990KK, Border Regt QVC KK 642, Dorsetshire KK 650, Notts & Derby QC 2006, KRR QC KK 2021, Wiltshire Regt KK 2013, DLI QVC KK 680, Rifle Brigade KK 704 and 2019; also the following officers' badges of current infantry regiments: Royal Regt of Fusiliers, Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Royal Irish Rangers.

Cpl J Hollins, 54 Sqn RCT, Workshop, BFPO 22. Seeks cap badges, collar badges, cloth badges, medals and ribbons of the Armed Forces of Southern Ireland from 1921 to present day, especially Irish UN insignia of Congo, Lebanon. Has some old/new British Canadian for exchange.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 28)

1 Flag on building; 2 Lower window of lighthouse; 3 Shape of small cloud second from left; 4 Number of lines on boat's sail; 5 Zigzag of grass at right end of cliff; 6 Sea at base of cliff on right; 7 Soldier's cap badge; 8 Boy's elbow; 9 Top of rock arch; 10 Breaking wave between arch and cliff.

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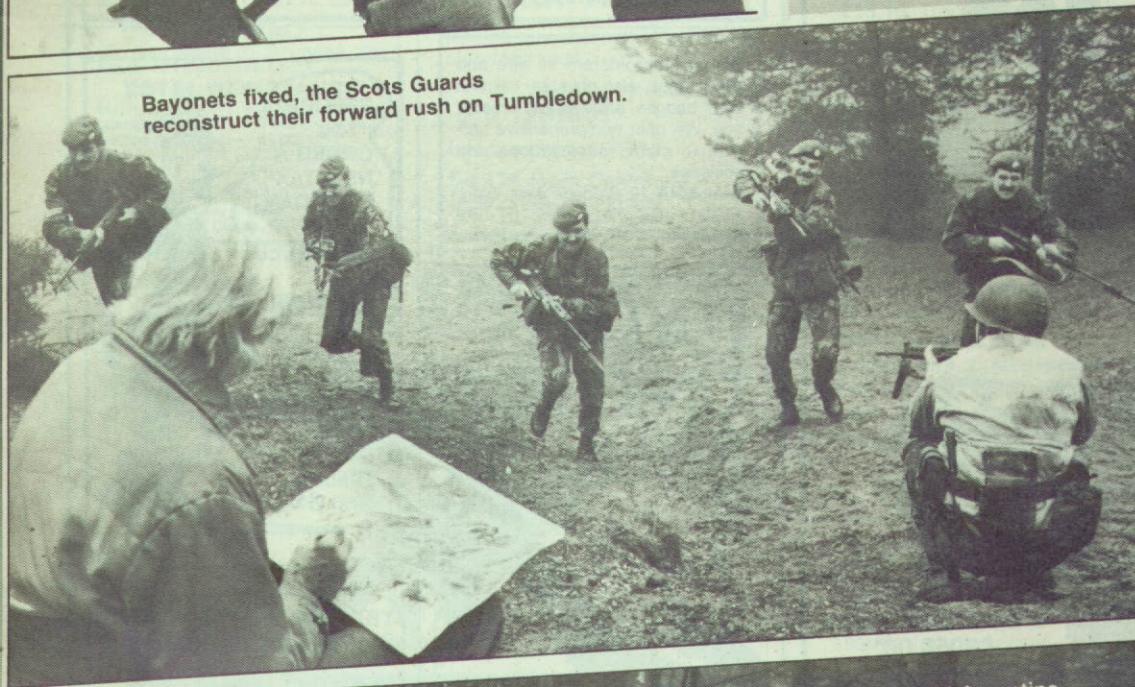
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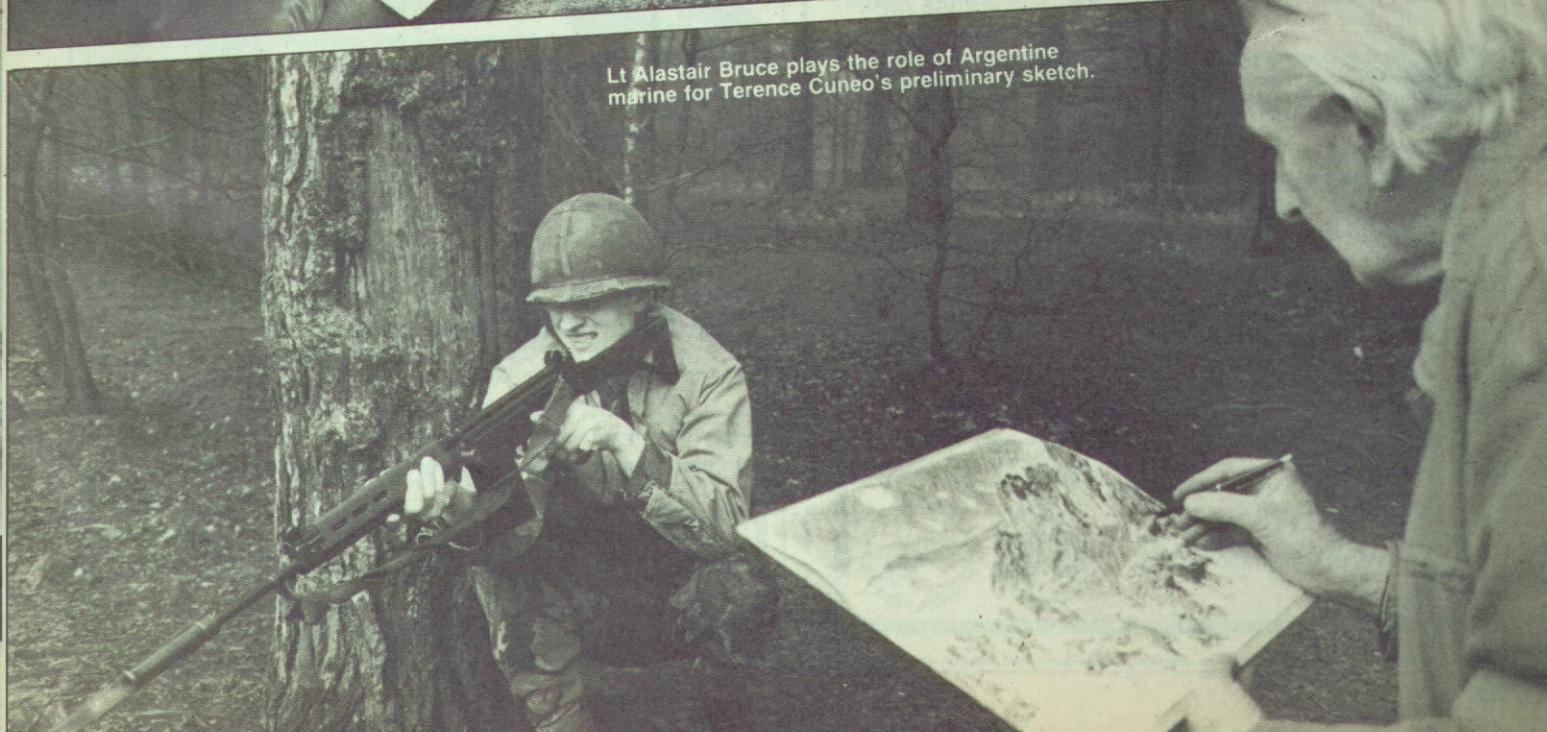
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Lt Alastair Bruce plays the role of Argentine marine for Terence Cuneo's preliminary sketch.



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The six Guards went into battle once again for military artist, Terence Cuneo, who has been commissioned by the regiment's 2nd battalion to paint the first official picture of the Falklands war.

They travelled by truck to Ox-

shott Heath near Cuneo's studio at East Molesay.

There in a sandpit, the artist made preliminary sketches for his 5ft x 4ft canvas as the Guardsmen re-lived the night of June 13/14 last year when Tumbledown Mountain remained one of the last Argentine strongholds before the prize of Port Stanley. A few hours later, the white flag of surrender flew over the capital.

The 2nd battalion's Tumbledown assault saw eight Guards killed and 43 wounded, among them two who will be featured in the Cuneo painting. They fought against a crack regular unit of Argentine Marines who left 25 dead on the battlefield.

Terence Cuneo said: "It was a most moving experience seeing these young men re-enacting for me what must have been a terrible experience and in such appalling conditions."

For Lieutenant Bruce the scene brought back particularly poignant memories. He was on special support duties when the Scots Guards, including the Cuneo five, overcame the Argentine Marines. As the surrender flag was raised over Port Stanley, he was told that his orderly had been killed in the fighting.

Story:
PAUL SARGENT
Pictures:
JON HOFFMAN

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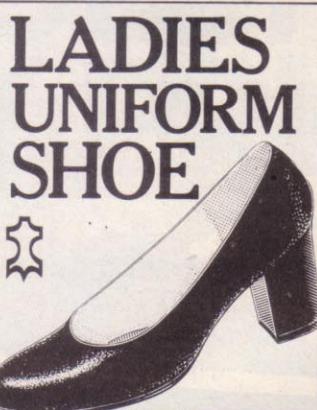


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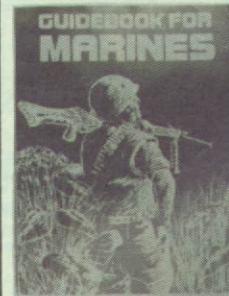
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Andy Halliday on his way to a hat-trick.

MIXED FORTUNES FOR FAVOURITES

CORPORAL JAN HARMSWORTH, three times former holder of the Army Women's Gymnastics title, was toppled from her number one position at this year's championships by newcomer Lance Corporal Michelle Craven from the WRAC Centre, Guildford.

But it was close. Of the four disciplines — floor, parallel bars, vault and beam — both girls won two each and tied with a total of 13.6 points. The winner had to be decided by the better mark on the floor where Lance Corporal Craven was 0.3 ahead.

Although a bit disappointed not to retain her title, Corporal Harmsworth was not down-hearted. She told SOLDIER, "I think I did very well really considering I have had practically no training this year. Being stationed in Ireland (Lisburn) at the moment I haven't any facilities so I have only been able to practise this week since I came over for the championships. I didn't do badly really, and I know my OC will be pleased."

Not all was lost for her though as she easily kept hold of the Women's Services Trampoline title for the fifth year running. She was well ahead after the compulsory exercises (or sets) and

although coming second in the voluntary section, she won overall by two tenths short of a whole point.

In the Men's Gymnastics there were only two entries, Sergeant Instructor Andy Halliday APTC, going for his hat trick, easily getting the better of his game challenger, Corporal Richard Wilkinson, Light Infantry.

As in previous years, Sergeant Instructor Alan Billings started favourite in the Men's Trampoline and Tumbling, but he faced some keen competition from Corporal Terry Fry, Light Infantry, and SI Halliday.

After the compulsory trampoline exercises, Billings was actually down slightly but he pulled ahead in the voluntaries to win by 17.4 points to Fry's 16.6. Similarly, in the tumbling, he surprised everyone by coming second in the sets but gained ground in the voluntary exercises snatching a narrow victory.

21 get revenge

THE ARMY VOLLEYBALL final this year was an all-Rhine Army affair with BAOR champions 13 Signals meeting the runners-up 21 Signals. And the result of the BAOR final was reversed with 21 Signals taking the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

The first set had gone to 13 Signals 15-13 but 21 Signals fought back to take the second 15-8. The third and final set was a cliffhanger with excellent rallies and 21 Signals just



managed to find that extra finishing touch to take the set and the title 16-14.

SOCcer ROUND-UP

Lethal Stant sinks airmen

ARMY 3 RAF 1

PRIVATE PHIL STANT, RAOC, who has been turning out for Third Division Reading this season, produced some lethal finishing to give the Army a rather flattering win in the Inter-Service championships. He had only two clear strikes at goal in the whole 90 minutes — and scored from both of them.

The RAF set the pace for most of the first half and it was no surprise when Bartley put them ahead after 24 minutes. But the Army struck back 10 minutes before the break with two goals in as many minutes. First Stant latched onto a clever pass from Lance Corporal Phil White REME to edge past a defender and tuck the ball home. Then Staff Sergeant Mickey Doig RE lobbed the ball over an advancing defender and Lance Corporal Steve Butler REME applied the finishing

touch.

The RAF fought hard to get on terms after the break and the Army goal survived several narrow escapes. The Army had their near misses too though, and it was Stant who made sure of their win, rifling home a fine shot from the edge of the box after Corporal George Torrance RE had supplied the pass.

It was tough luck on the airmen who matched the soldiers in every department except the most important one — sticking the ball in the net.

ROCK SINKS 'EM

28 Amphibious Engineer Regt 3 1 Bn King's Regt 0

THE SAPPERS of 28 Amphibious saw their hopes of winning the Army Cup come a step nearer with victory over 1 King's in the BAOR Major Units final at Bielefeld.

It was their third Rhine Army final in as many years and they now meet SEME Bordon at Aldershot on 13 April to decide who is the Army's top team.

After a fast and furious start by both sides, Corporal Billy Smith put the engineers ahead

after 15 minutes and Corporal 'Rocky' Rock added a well-taken second ten minutes later.

The King's came close to cutting the lead early in the second half but a second goal by Rock made sure of the sappers' victory and a place in the Challenge Cup Final.

Coppers take silver

RMP Training Centre 2

TWO SHREWD pieces of football by RMP skipper, Sergeant Joe Walker, decided a spirited struggle in the UK Minor Units Cup Final. The first was an immaculate pass down the left flank which sent speedy winger, Corporal Andy Webb, clear of a rather square defence. His centre was not a perfect one but it was enough to cause confusion in defence and it left Corporal Brian Dupree the simplest of scoring chances. The second, after 56 minutes, was a lance through the heart of the Depot defence for Wild to shoot home.

Walker, pictured with the Cup, looked a class above the rest and sent a buzz of expec-

Depot POW Division 0



tancy through the crowd whenever he was going forward in possession.

WOOLWICH STILL THE CHAMPIONS

THE GIRLS from Depot Regiment, Royal Artillery, Woolwich had little difficulty in retaining the title of Army (Women) Inter Unit Netball champions this year in Aldershot.

Woolwich were unofficially seeded as the favourites in this American tournament style competition and they played true to expectation. Winning all their games they met their closest challengers, D Company, 16 Battalion Royal Army Ordnance Corps from Bicester in the last scheduled game of the championship.

As expected this turned out to be the fastest and most exciting game with both sides playing furiously. Woolwich opened the scoring before the first minute was up, but Bicester's equaliser followed almost immediately. For most of the first half the scores remained level but Woolwich appeared to have the edge when it came to team management — former Army team captain, Sergeant Pat Darby pulled the parts together to make a slick and confident unit.

Again Woolwich scored first in the second half but promptly lost the advantage when Bicester got

what turned out to be their last goal. The RA Depot side then pulled ahead with an impressive goal shot right from the edge of the circle. They were now in an almost unbeatable position, Bicester having to win the game by seven clear goals to stop their opponents winning on points.

Racing to a five goal lead the defending champions then seemed to relax and play became scrappy at both ends. Bicester made some silly mistakes when the ball was in their goal circle and Woolwich put the final nail in their coffin seconds before the bell to clinch the match 11-5.



Runners-up, RAOC Bicester, find the net against 16/28 Sig Regt.

Walk-over tips it for Leaders

THE SCALES were tipped in the Army Junior Inter-unit boxing finals not in the ring but at the weigh-in. For the middleweight contender from the Junior Regiment Royal Signals failed to make the weight and Junior Lance-Corporal Paul Holmes of the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion got a walk over. The two teams battled for four bouts each and Shorncliffe took the trophy because of the fight that was conceded.

The event was held at Gamecock Barracks, Nuneaton, the home of the Junior Leaders Royal Artillery — an appropriate name for many of the fighters came out like fighting cocks with plenty of guts and flailing fists. Science may have been in short supply but excitement aplenty was there for the large crowd.

Babyfaced bantam, Private

Philip Atherton, was the first of the all out assault school of fighting to achieve success when he disposed of Junior Signaller Shaun Martin in the first round. But the North-East based Signallers equalled the score with a points win for Junior Signaller Chris Mellors.

Non-stop fury from Junior Leader Kevin Leach at light-

weight gave him a first round victory but again the scores were equal when Junior Signaller Ian Cleaver took the points verdict in a hard fought contest with Junior Leader Laurence Cracknell.

Junior Corporal Richard Stacey was another of the Shorncliffe fighting cocks. He pressed his man hard but eventually ran out of steam in the third round. However, his early aggression was enough to gain the verdict.

But a similar attack by a smaller infantryman on a gangling signaller eventually came to nought. Junior Signaller John Feeney withstood the pressure and landed more and more hard blows until at the final bell both boxers were almost out on their feet. Feeney got the decision.

The trophy was sewn up by light-heavyweight Junior Leader David Graham. The burly youngster clobbered his opponent round the ring for the quickest win of the night.

In the final contest it was the Signallers' turn to pit aggression against skill. Junior Signaller Martin Sloan showed lots of courage and took the verdict against a more stylish boxer, who spent most of the contest warding off blows.

Afterwards Shorncliffe coach, Mr D Jones, told SOLDIER: "I think we gave a very gutsy performance although a few of the contests didn't go as I thought. It was a pity we won on a walk-over although I am sure that the lad would have won anyway."

SPORTS SHORTS

TUG O'WAR

Germany based teams came away with the honours in the Army Indoor Tug o'war championships. The 560 kilos event was won by 26 Field Regiment RA with Rheindahlen Garrison runners-up and in the 640 kilos class the results were reversed between the same two teams.

★ ★ ★

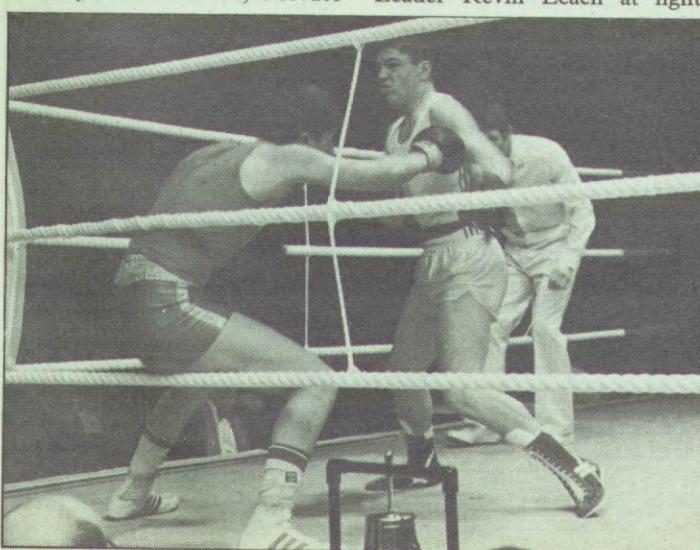
SNOOKER

Sergeant Len Salisbury and his team from the HQ RAOC Sergeants' Mess at Deepcut are off on another snooker tour at the beginning of this month. They will play matches against local players at RAOC stations at Emblem in Belgium and Bracht and Viersen in Germany. A second tour will be to Cyprus in June.

★ ★ ★

DARTS

Driver Lee Murray from 66 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, serving with UNFICYP, won the British Forces Darts Championships on the island.



Jun L/Cpl Kameran Melford (dark vest) wards off another attack by Jun Sig Martin Sloan.

RUGBY

LAST GASP WIN AGAIN

FOR THE SECOND year running the Army left it to the final seconds to beat their arch-rivals from the Senior Service and win the Stewart Wrightson trophy. On this occasion it was the sure foot of penalty taker, Lieutenant Geoff Nield, which snatched victory from the jaws of defeat two minutes into the time added on for stoppages.

The sailors left Twickenham bitterly disappointed having dominated the match for long spells and having surrendered a first half lead of nine points which had looked unassailable. But for the large and enthusiastic crowd it had, as usual with these encounters, proved a match of enthralling excitement.

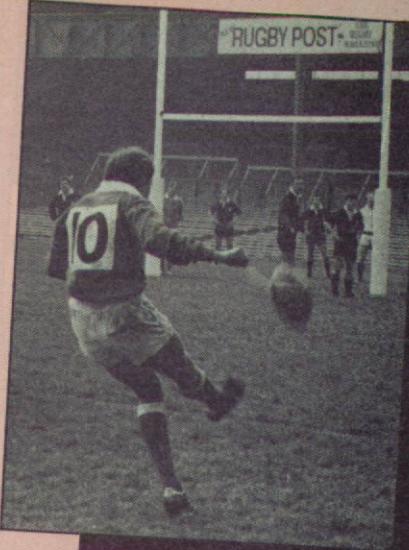
Bright sunshine over the vast ground saw the Navy press from the opening whistle. A penalty attempt went narrowly wide and soon afterwards a certain touchdown was prevented when the Navy's Lieutenant Trevor Newsom saw the ball skim across his outstretched fingers.

In the first quarter of an hour the ball hardly left the Army half and the Navy appeared to be altogether more workmanlike. But then the tide turned and the Army entered their first purple patch of the game — the nearest approach to scoring coming when Nield hit the upright with a penalty.

The Navy withstood the pressure to take command again and got their just reward after 34 minutes when marine commando, Lieutenant Stephen Hughes, latched on to a loose ball and barged his way through the defence and over the line. The conversion by MEM (L) Gerry Price was a beauty and the Navy were six points clear.

At this stage there seemed to be dark blue shirts for every red one and it was no surprise when Price added a further three points for a penalty just before the interval.

News over the loudspeaker that the Navy Colts had seen off the Army youngsters 11-0 was hardly calculated to improve Army morale and the second half opened in a similar fashion with the Navy catching more cleanly and looking to increase their lead.



Nield despatches winning kick. ▲

◀ A tick off for the Army as boots and bodies go flying.

**ARMY 10
ROYAL NAVY 9**

Gradually the Army began to take the battle to their opponents and they were given a fillip 24 minutes into the half when Nield notched a longish penalty goal. With new heart the soldiers raided deep into Navy territory and were only held just short of the line.

Excitement mounted in the stands as first the Army missed a penalty then the Navy fought back. But in the 36th minute Army right wing three-quarter, Corporal David Johnson, who had shown his pace from time to time in the first half, took advantage of a fumble by a Navy defencer to grab the ball and flash down the wing to score. There was no conversion but clearly everything to play for.

The temperature in the stands seemed to have risen ten degrees as both sets of supporters urged their teams on. Then, with seconds to go, Nield took the decisive penalty kick and the cup of victory was dashed from naval lips.

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley**

GIRLS SHOW PLENTY OF DRIVE

ARMY WOMEN'S GOLF really got off the ground last month with the first match between the WRAC and a male Corps. The match at Aldershot resulted in a 5-1 victory for 1 and 3 Training Regiments, Royal Engineers. Sole lady winner was Lance-Corporal Carol Hampshire, daughter of a golf professional.

But both sides were happy. Captain Dick Jenkinson, the sapper captain, said: "The aim was not annihilation but a fun day."

Warrant Officer 1 Kate Bettison, WRAC golf secretary, explained that several other invitations had been received to play matches. She said golf in the WRAC had really taken off since their first championships last June. Brigadier Helen Meechie, Director of the WRAC, plays off 21 herself.

Now the WRAC are about to become members of the Army Golf Association. There are about 25 keen golfers in the Corps at present but WOI Bettison said more and more were taking the game up. Another member of the six member team which played at Aldershot (pictured by Doug Pratt) is Sergeant Lisa Eadie, who is lady captain of a club at Barnsley.





21 Engineer Regt 8

Duke of Wellington's Regt 4

A BRILLIANTLY INCISIVE and decisive try in extra time was all that separated these two sides in a grim struggle in soggy conditions at Aldershot. In the end the sappers took the Whyte & Mackay Cup for the first time and it was a fitting result. Against one of the Army's most famous rugby playing regiments they had always appeared to have a slight edge which they had been unable to convert into points.

Played throughout in a dispiriting drizzle and with the heavy clogging ground hampering any attempts at open play, the final was, to quote the famous Duke, "a close run thing."

The Engineers had had two penalty attempts in the opening minutes without success and despite having the lion's share of territory rarely came close to

CLOSE CALL FOR HAPPY SAPPERS

opening their account. The Duke's hit back from time to time but it took a mistake of the kind which give soccer players psittacosis to break the initial deadlock. Corporal Mickey Blomquist, with all the time in the world to dribble the ball into touch, somehow failed to move it more than a few inches and Lance-Corporal Andy Kay eagerly pounced on the gift and sped



down the wing to give the Duke's the touch-down.

Four points adrift, the sappers piled on the pressure right up to the infantrymen's line. After twice being foiled just short, a pile-up right on the line saw Lance-Corporal Jeff Cherryman emerge from a heap of bodies to claim an equalising try.

Both sides struggled for mastery, and although the Engineers'

catching and touch kicking looked more effective, the end of normal time came with no further score.

Extra time of ten minutes each way was ordered after which the trophy would have been shared. But only a minute from the restart Lance-Corporal Chris Spowart saw an opening and jinked through to give the Engineers a lead which they never looked like relinquishing despite valiant attempts from the tired Duke's.

CARL HITS THE WEMBLEY TRAIL

ARMY AND Combined Services lightweight champion Private Carl Crook, 1 PARA, is through to the George Wimpey ABA England semi-finals for the second year. He beat Yeovil's star, Dean Taunton, in the Western Counties versus Combined Services Quater Finals clash at Salisbury and now goes through to meet the cream of England's amateur boxers at Gloucester.

But Crook's hard won victory over the southpaw Western Counties champion was the only success for the Army's three representatives in the Combined Services team.

Fusilier Robert Rossi, 1 RWF, deputising for Commonwealth Games silver medallist Nick Croombes (Royal Navy) won many admirers and the best loser award for a gutsy performance against Gloucester's experienced John Melfa but Lance Corporal

Horace Miles (RGJ) had a night he will want to forget.

Just 15 seconds into the first round of his heavyweight contest he dropped his guard after an intervention by the referee and was knocked out by reigning heavyweight champion Harold Hylton.

That apart, it was a splendid night for the Services with one RAF and five Royal Navy boxers joining Crook for the first step on the hard road to Wembley.



WINNER OF this year's Grand Military Gold Cup was Brigadier Harvey's Burnt Oak ridden by Colonel Andrew Cramsie, with Roman General owned and ridden by Mr Broderick Munro-Wilson in second place.

The 100-1 outsider Golden Trix was third, while favourite Ballyross, running in the colours of Anne, Duchess of Westminster, finished sixth.

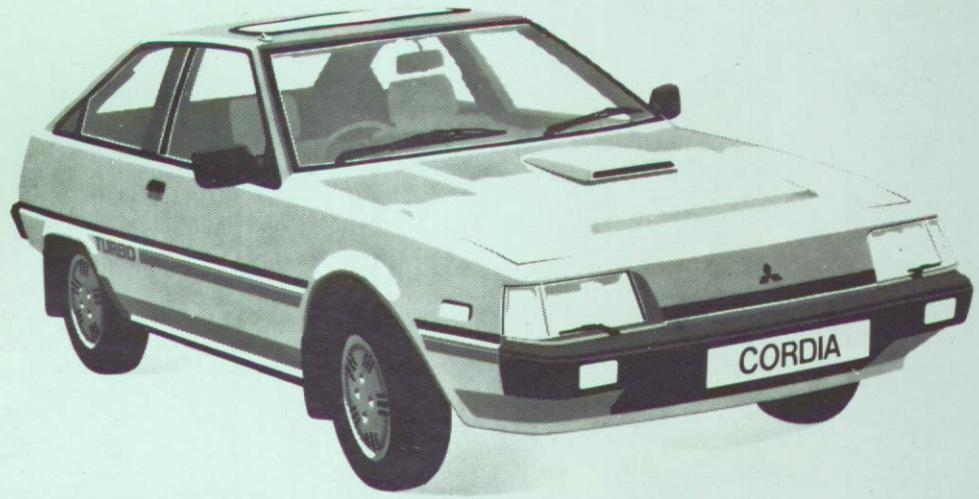
The three-mile steeplechase over the testing Sandown Park fences is one of the most historic events in the racing calendar having been first run in 1841. Entry is restricted to five year olds and upwards who must be currently owned by a past or present member of the Services and ridden by a current member.

The race was sponsored by *Horse and Hound* as it has been since 1977.

Champagne SUCCESS

THERE WAS a giant bottle of bubbly for Rifleman Scott Dobson, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets a member of the winning Army team in the British Inter-Services Ski Championships. The bottle came from sponsors, Moet et Chandon, the champagne producers. Dobson was the Combined Champion.





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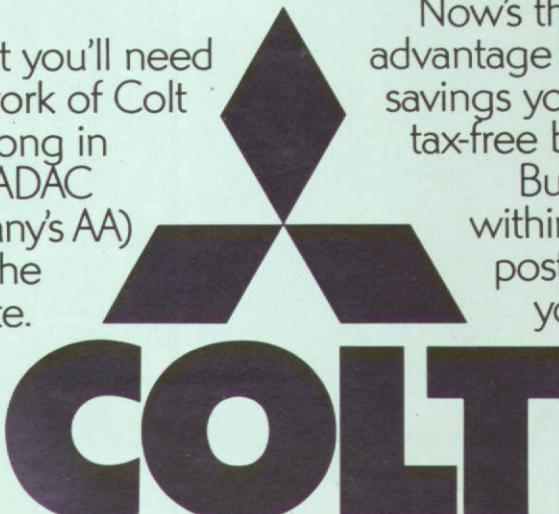
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