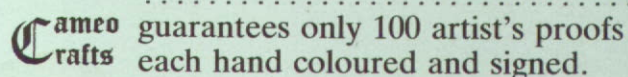


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 4-17 OCTOBER 1982

SOLDIER



- NATO MUSIKFEST
- XANTEN, MÜNSTER
- FREEDOM PARADES
- CAMBRIAN MARCHES



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FRONT COVER

The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Black Watch, taking part in the 1982 Nato Musikfest at the Bökelberg Stadium in Mönchengladbach. See page 11.
Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Major Ian Pearce, ACC, in action at the 5th tee at Little Aston Golf Club.
Picture: Doug Pratt

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Three German cities honour British Army units — page 11

Ex-Servicemen "on the beat" — page 29



Dutchmen take Cambrian Laurels

— page 26



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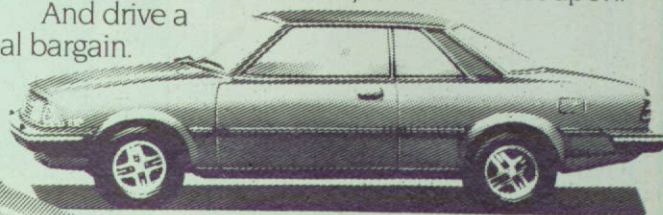
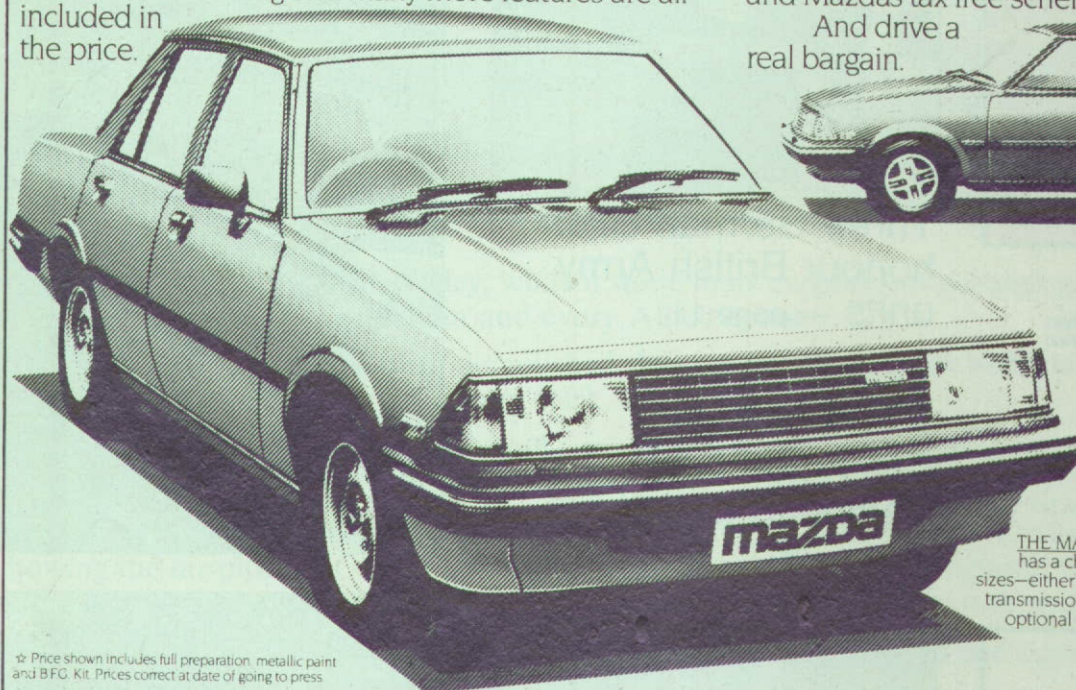
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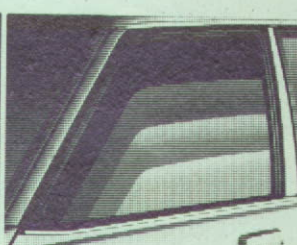
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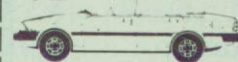


Musical chimes are also standard on the SDX to remind you if you've left the lights on or the keys in the ignition.

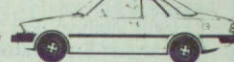


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SOLDIER to Soldier

SOON THE ancient streets of the City of London will reverberate to drums and trumpets as representative units of the Falklands Task Force parade to mark the Islands' liberation.

A fitting conclusion to a brilliant operation and the first real test that British forces have experienced in recent times.

And as Armed Forces Minister Mr Peter Blaker put it to an American audience, it was one which brought patriotism once more to the fore and awoke the slumbering bulldog.

While that wave of patriotism swept the country the terrorists and the wreckers kept quiet, as they always do when they cannot secure front-page coverage for their nefarious activities.

But hardly was the ink dry on the Argentinian surrender document than the bombers were at it again, gleefully claiming responsibility for killing and maiming. Men, horses — it makes no matter to those whose sole purpose is to destroy the society which soldiers fight and die to protect.

Now the latest outrages in Belfast have cost the lives of two young schoolboys and one soldier in a nail-bomb blast, a soldier who died in a rocket attack on his Ranger and another who died when a boobytrap blew up in his face.

Meanwhile other soldiers have again been diverted from their proper jobs to replace strikers. Happily only one of the Army ambulances on stand-by in London during the "Day of Action" was needed but a lot more had to be there — just in case.

Soldiers are trained to fight. Going to the Falklands to throw out the invader is the sort of job they expect to have to do. They did it so well that there can be no doubt about their skill, determination and training. But they are neither trained for, nor do they expect, to play dustman, fireman, prison warder or whatever, every time some section of the community decides to repudiate its responsibility to society.

The soldiers will do it, of course. Not because they have to but because if you are prepared to fight and die for what you believe in, you will not stand by while a tiny minority destroys it from within.

FALKLAND AUCTION MAKES £ $\frac{1}{4}$ MILLION

IT WAS certainly a far happier, faster-talking Ministry of Defence spokesman, Mr Ian McDonald who turned auctioneer — "in keeping with family tradition" — during the Great Falklands Charity Auction held in London when over £52,000 was raised.

Mr McDonald, who was the Ministry's senior spokesman during the Falklands crisis and became a celebrity in his own right with his bulletins given in measured tones, was one of 16 guest auctioneers during the 4½-hour marathon event held at the RAC Club.

In all, 728 lots fell under the silver hammer and it was hoped that the bids of the day, coupled with previously donated souvenirs and mementoes, will amount to more than £¼ million.

The auction started 11 minutes late — held up by the media adjusting a battery of mikes on the podium — and each of the guest auctioneers had a clutch of items to sell.

Mr McDonald opened by saying: "I've been told not to rush but I will go a little more quickly than some of you have heard me before."

So, smiling and ad-libbing through the proceedings, Mr McDonald — aided and guided by Lt-Col David James, Deputy Chairman of the Appeal and CO of 6 Royal Anglian Regiment, TA at Bury St Edmunds — promptly romped through his nine lots which raised a total of £805 towards the South Atlantic Fund.

Mr McDonald started the day's bids by auctioning a photocopy of the actual instrument of surrender signed by General Menendez, Major-General Jeremy Moore and autographed by Mrs Thatcher.

Bidding started briskly from the reserve price of £300 and then leapt in five- and ten-pound segments to reach £400. The first telegram to come out of the Falklands after they had been liberated and addressed to the Governor fetched £110.

A beaming Mr McDonald confided to the experienced punters who filled the hall in front of him: "I'm quite enjoying this."

For one minute, however, the auctioneering spotlight of fame turned from him to an upright piano and its player, Mr Alan Chew, who played an excerpt from the next lot — the complete score sheet and individual instrument parts for the military march, "Nuestras Malvinas", specially composed for the occupation of the Falklands by Argentina. It made £100.

Next, as he put it, came a "truly tasteful piece," an English porcelain dessert plate given by Mrs Thatcher. This realised £60.

Then there was the Falkland



A buoyant Mr McDonald with Gen Menendez' topper and two of the pretty assistants who helped at the sale.

Islands tea towel presented by Mr Ian Gow, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. He had bought it on a visit there several years ago.

With it, was a letter of authenticity, confirming that it had been used for the washing-up at Number Ten.

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Andy BurrIDGE**

"By whom, we are not told," said Mr McDonald with mock seriousness. "Am I bid £30 for this historic tea towel?" He was bid £55 for it.

At the end of the sixth lot with just three more to go, a radiant Mr McDonald confided: "I'm really getting into the stride of this now!"

He had just auctioned a poster colour painting called "Falklands '82" by a 16-year-old. His rider: "It's a precocious talent we are bidding for." Nevertheless, it raised £35.

Another item to fall under his genteelly-wielded silver gavel was an autographed copy of the book entitled "How to be a Failure" by Cardew (The Cad) Robinson. It went for a fiver.

Remarking on its title, Mr McDonald said: "I may just say here, my father was an auctioneer, my brother still is one. I hope I have done well in the family tradition."

Other guest auctioneers included BBC's Brian Hanrahan,

Nicholas Parsons, singer Diane Solomon, Cindy Buxton (Anglia TV's wildlife film-maker), Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward, ITN's Martyn Lewis and Michael Nicholson, cricketer



In action with the gavel, aided by Lt Col James.

Geoff Boycott, football manager, Terry Neill, Captain Nick Barker of HMS Endurance and Mary Whitehouse.

Among the other memorabilia sold were Prince Andrews' autographed flying gloves (they went for £500) and the richest prize of the day — the ceremonial top hat once paraded by General Menendez as his crowning glory for capturing the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. It went for £5,000 to the Falkland Islands Company.



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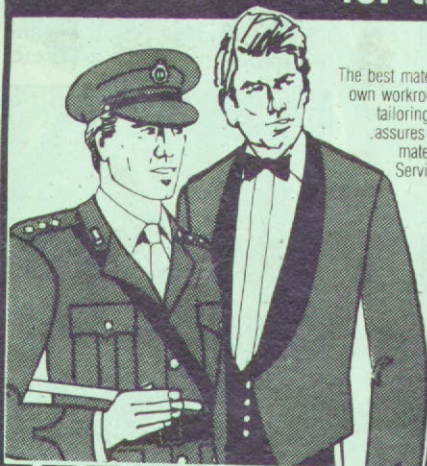
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Five die in lorry crash

FIVE MEMBERS of 94 Battery, 45 Field Regiment, RA, were killed and 25 others were injured when their 4-ton truck careered down a steep hill in Southern Germany and overturned in a stream.

Civilian rescue workers fought to free the trapped soldiers who had been attending a small-arms camp at the US Army ranges at Baumholder, North East of Saarbrücken.

West German and US Army helicopters helped ferry the injured to hospital.

The gunners were on their way back to their base at Bergen in Northern Germany when the driver suddenly began to wrestle with the steering wheel, then the truck left the road and crashed through a guard rail. Then it struck the bank of the stream and overturned onto its soft top. Several of the soldiers were thrown out and others trapped.

The five dead were later named as:

Bombardier Linval Wainwright, 28; Gunner John Clark-Patterson, 23; Lance Bombardier Barrie Austin, 27; Gunner William Watson, 24; and Gunner Alan Waite, 26.

In a separate incident an American soldier was killed and three others injured when their lorry overturned near Karsbach.

Life for gun duel soldier

A SOLDIER who killed his stepfather in a shotgun duel has been jailed for life by Birmingham Crown Court.

Alistair Moloney, 23, a private in the Gordon Highlanders, killed his stepfather Mr Patrick Moloney, 49, in a drunken test of skill as both armed themselves after a wedding anniversary party at their Cambridgeshire home.

He told the court that he could not remember how he came to pull the trigger, but was alleged to have told police: "It was kill or be killed."

His stepfather had challenged him, he said, saying he was quicker with a gun. "I loaded before him and pointed it at him and said, 'You have lost'. He said, 'You would not dare pull the trigger'. I did and he died."



Setting off in style for Germany these members of 5 LI were among the first contingent of the massive airlift.

EXERCISE TROOPS FLY THE FLAG

BECAUSE THE RAF's transport fleet is still heavily committed to the Falklands, 11,500 Regular and TA soldiers moving to the Continent for the annual Autumn Forge series of exercises travelled in style — by British Airways.

The week-long airlift, using Boeing 747 jumbo-jets and Lockheed TriStars, involved 31 flights from Heathrow, 21 from Newcastle, eight from Manchester and

two from Glasgow.

The 6000 territorials were taking part in Exercise 'Keystone' and the regulars in 'Bold Guard' and 'Quarter Final'.

Bulldog awakes says minister

ARMED FORCES Minister Mr Peter Blaker has told Americans that the lesson of Britain's determination and military success in the Falklands will not have been lost on the Soviet Union.

Speaking to The World Affairs Council in San Diego, Mr Blaker added: "Resolute defence of freedom in the South Atlantic is directly relevant to the defence of freedom in Europe. Our action will have encouraged our NATO allies and enhanced the prospects of peace by showing that when the chips are down the British are prepared to fight for what we believe in."

He believed the Soviet Union had "noted this well" and "The West must be stronger as a result".

Describing the mood of the British people, Mr Blaker said: "The Falklands brought out a

spirit and a patriotism that many thought had gone for ever. You could say the bulldog awoke from his slumber".

But none of this changed the principal threat to which Britain's defence policy must be addressed — the threat from the Soviet Union. Britain's commitment to NATO was "inescapable and fundamental".

Speaking about lessons learned in the Falklands, Mr Blaker said the Governments and Armed Forces of many nations were queueing up to learn the secret of our success. The most important factor was the men who did the fighting. "Men — not just machines — win battles. And the conflict in the South Atlantic proved this yet again — proved that courage, resilience and sheer physical fitness carry the day; demonstrating that the British forces are still among the best."

Briefly

An offer by Fiona Richmond to fly the cast of her latest show — "Space in my Pyjamas" — to the Falklands has had to be turned down by Combined Services Entertainment because the only aircraft currently available, the Hercules, does not have proper facilities for females.

A Life Guards officer's helmet dating from 1817 was sold for £1600 at a sale of spiked and plumed military headgear in East Sussex. The sale totalled £91,000.

Four boys were hurt when they were hit by debris from a blank shell fired by a German tank crew during a Nato exercise near Nuremberg.

Prince Michael of Kent has become President of SSAFA. He is the fourth Royal president, succeeding Earl Mountbatten, Queen Mary and the Association's founder, Queen Alexandra.

Services strength 3 pc down

THE TOTAL strength of UK Service personnel at 30 June 1982 was 324,311, some 10,000 (3.0%) lower than a year ago. Strengths at 30 June 1982 do not include members of the Services recalled to full time service because of the Falklands conflict but do include personnel retained in the Services who would otherwise have left during the conflict.

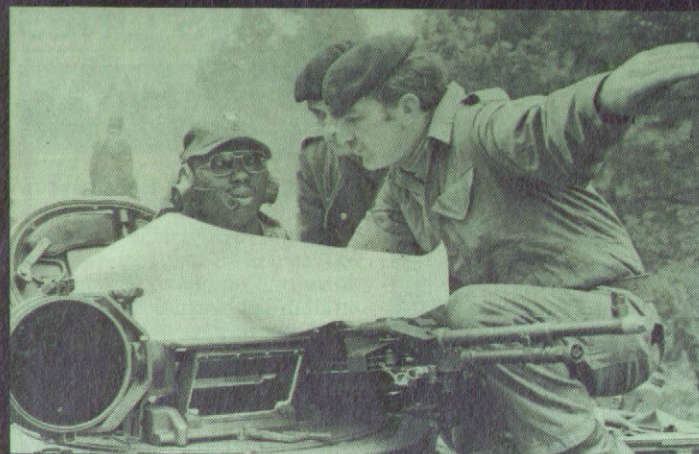
Outflow continued to fall slightly but is now showing signs of levelling off. This quarter's outflow figure includes losses sustained in the South Atlantic conflict.

Recruitment continued to be strictly controlled with the total for the quarter being only 51% of that of a year ago.

Outflow from the Army increased by 8% over the same quarter of 1981, but one-third of the increase stems from losses in the Falkland Islands. Total intake was 63% of that of a year ago with the greater share of the reduction falling on entries of adults/young soldiers rather than juniors and apprentices.

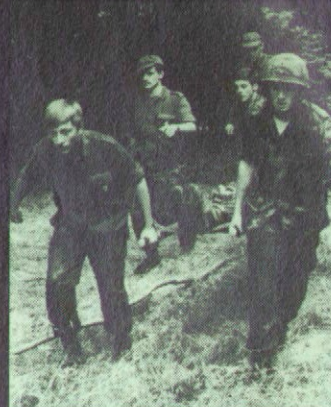
The strength of the Army at 30 June 1982 was 162,108, about 5,200 (3.1%) lower than a year ago.

NEWS VIEW



Swapping skins

Cpl Andy Aughey, 5 INNIS DG, shows an American sergeant the way during an exercise at Achmer Training Area, West Germany, part of a four day exchange visit by a platoon from 2nd 66 Armd Regt of the US Army's Hell on Wheels Division. A four-tank troop of 'Skins' visited the Yanks' base at Garlstadt at the same time.



Tough test

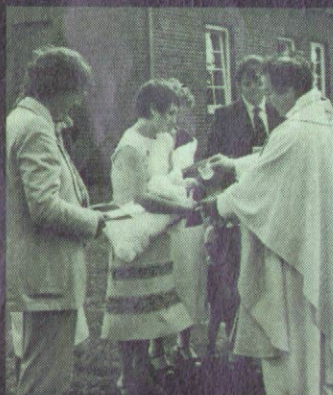
Men of D Coy RRF proved the fastest competitors when 181 four-man teams of soldiers and civilians tackled the Army's assault course at Holcombe Moor Training Area in Lancashire, used by Granada TV for *The Krypton Factor*. The TA Soldiers gave other competitors a helping hand, too (right) and the event raised over £13,000 through sponsorship.



PICTURE: BURY TIMES

Field service

One of Father Adrian Poole's last duties as Roman Catholic chaplain to HQ 1 Armd Div in Germany was to baptize five-week-old Benjamin John Hall in an open air service at Diensthof, Near Verden. Father Poole's next Army job will take him to Hong Kong.



Feat of clay

One of the most striking features of the new TA Centre in Colwyn Bay will be a giant crest of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, painstakingly sculpted in clay by joiner Stuart Millward before being bonded into glass reinforced concrete. Pictured with the 45 piece 'jigsaw' are Stuart (left) and Mr Ronald Owens, a partner in the architects designing the new building.



Marching on

As part of Verden's Anglo-German celebrations, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, exercised its right to march through the town under the freedom granted it two years ago. The weekend festivities also included a fete at the regiment's barracks and sports in the town stadium.



Stretcher power

A forced march, a stretcher race, as well as shooting and various sporting events, kept a team of ten soldiers from 1 Armd Div Fd Amb pretty busy when they took part in a friendly Nato competition at Marburg, West Germany. L/Cpl Brian Kerr did especially well as the only non-German to win the coveted Bundeswehr sports badge.



Long Play

The fund for the victims of the Regents Park bombing has benefited by over £2000 from a marathon 12-hour concert in the town centre of Celle by the band of 3 Bn the Royal Green Jackets which is based in the town.

Too Much

Wet sponges hurled by enthusiastic young ladies proved just too much for many of the contestants on the greasy pole in the 'It's a Knockout' contest at Verden's Anglo-German fete. First prize went to the Sergeants' Mess team from 1 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment.



Lady of Lujan

Left behind in the Falklands by the departing Argentinians, this statue of Our Lady of Lujan is now installed in the Roman Catholic church of St Michael and St George at Aldershot. It was brought home by Father Alfred Hayes who served with the Forces throughout the campaign and despite being made of china survived the journey without mishap.



Boss's Visit

Getting a Jock's eye view of exercises in Sennelager recently was General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe. During his tour he stopped to chat with Royal Highland Fusiliers Sergeant Major Willie Ross, second in command of the mortar platoon, right, and Fusilier Bobby Largue.



First Time

TA Gunner Tommy Briggs, from Speke, Liverpool, got the air defence gunner's equivalent of a hole-in-one by bringing down a MATS B target aircraft with his very first live Blowpipe shot. Tommy is with 208 Air Defence Battery.



Home Again

Marking their return from the Falklands the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards spent three days visiting the towns and cities of which they have the Freedom. Here they are marching through Cardiff Civic Centre and they also visited Swansea, where their old colours were laid-up, Caernarfon, Aberystwyth and Carmarthen.



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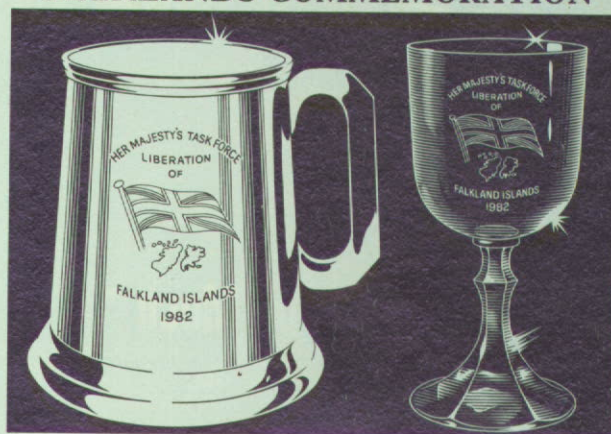
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Nearly 40 years of co-operation and growing friendship have been cemented by three German cities which have granted their Freedom to British Army units. Sally Daniell took a look at the ceremonies.

ENEMIES THEN, FRIENDS NOW

GRANTING THE FREEDOM of the City is a curious custom which has its roots in the early Roman Empire but since the Middle Ages in Britain has come to mean an honour bestowed on soldiers who were generally distrusted by the townspeople and forced to encamp outside the city walls.

Sometimes units were granted the Freedom of the Town or City signifying the trust and friendship that had grown up between the citizens and soldiers. In demonstration of this confidence the unit would march through the town with bands playing, bayonets fixed and colours flying. This is still the form of today's ceremony.

In the past the tradition has been peculiar to Britain but recently German towns have

Brigadier Charles Guthrie accepts the Scroll of the Freedom of Münster from the city's Oberbürgermeister Dr Werner Pierchalla.

seen fit to so honour British units and Garrisons stationed there in recognition of their mutual friendship. In 1980 the town of Osnabrück granted the Freedom to the Garrison there and this year has seen three similar occasions in Münster, Xanten and Soltau.

Forty years after the battle for El Alamein in 1942, 7th Armoured Brigade, the descendants of the famous 'Desert Rats', was granted the Freedom of Soltau which has been its headquarters since 1949. At Münster and Xanten SOLDIER was there to see the two historic if contrasting Freedom parades.

Captured in April 1945 by 6th Guards Armoured Brigade, Münster, a principal university town, is now the headquarters of 4th

Armoured Brigade and the whole Garrison was honoured by the townspeople.

On parade were the Bands of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and 17th/21st Lancers, the Drums and Pipes of 1st Battalion Irish Guards, the Band and Bugles of 1st Battalion The Light Infantry, contingents from these regiments, Second Field Regiment, Royal Artillery and members of various logistic and support units.

Before the impressive university building at the Schlossplatz, the city's Oberbürgermeister, Dr Werner Pierchalla handed over the Scroll of Freedom to the Commander of the Garrison, Brigadier Charles Guthrie, who in turn presented the Freedom sword as a token of the Garrison's thanks. After the General Salute the parade moved off to exercise their new right to march through the town to the Rathaus or Town Hall.

continued on page 12

Second Field Regiment, RA give eyes right to the saluting dais during the parade through Münster.





Civilian riot police disperse demonstrators.



The honour guard parade the Freedom Scroll of Xanten through the ranks.



The Irish Guards' Drum Major leads the Münster parade followed by the Band of the 17th/21st Lancers.

Pictures: Doug Pratt

All had gone well so far and the authorities wondered if there was any truth in the threats of protest by left-wing anti-militarists. Despite a few jeers and demonstrators dressed as wounded soldiers, two-thirds of the parade, led by the Drums and Pipes of the 1st Bn Irish Guards, passed without incident. Support was general with spectators marching alongside the troops, waving the Union Flag and enjoying the carnival atmosphere in the Indian summer.

The bands and units were immaculate and it was hard to understand why such a glorious, happy sight should be provocative but as the parade neared the Rathaus the demonstrators made their presence felt. They rushed at the Irish Guards, momentarily checking them, but the civilian police, also out in force, quickly escorted them out of the way. Second Field Regiment, RA were forced to come to a halt as bodies lay down in their path but again the police moved in swiftly. Whistles were blown in the attempt to drown out the bands and bogus commands given to distract the troops — mostly unsuccessfully.

Once through the bottleneck of demonstrators and past the banners screaming 'Demilitarize Münster' and 'Freedom from the Army', the parade met a solid phalanx of wellwishers and the second salute was witnessed in good spirit. Later, though, the demonstrators infiltrated the crowd outside the Rathaus and for a period the atmosphere, whilst never violent, became definitely hostile.

Inside the Rathaus, Dr Pierchalla expressed his sorrow at the apparent opposition to the Freedom parade and assured everyone that the decision of the Stadt to grant the honour was unanimous and that the demonstrators represented a very small percentage of the city's population — less than one per cent. He then went on to say that despite the unpleasantness we should remember that freedom of expression is the essence of democracy and be glad that in West Germany peaceful demonstrators are tolerated.

In his speech thanking the Stadt for the honour bestowed on the British Army, the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir

Michael Gow, also referred to the protest and said 'I'm a pacifist. On my desk is a plaque which reads *Peace is our Profession* — and that's what we're here for.'

Two days earlier in the small cathedral city of Xanten, which lies south-west of Münster, a quieter yet more poignant ceremony took place. Thirty-seven years after their first dismal entry into the city, former Privates Maycock and Fowles returned; this time though as guests of the Stadt and their old unit 101 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, which was to receive the Freedom of the City.

In March 1945, 101 Provost Coy was attached to the 15th (Scottish) Division which was to cross the Rhine at Xanten and form a bridgehead on the far side. On that occasion 101 faced the fierce determination of snipers secreted in the ruins of the city — even in the single remaining cathedral spire.

Now the Bürgermeister and Stadtdirektor met them with broad smiles and open arms as they buried the past and granted the company this rare distinction.

As he handed over the Scroll of Freedom to the Provost Marshall, Brigadier Jack Thomas, Bürgermeister Derith said that in 1945, 101 Provost Company and the citizens of Xanten were adversaries "and it seemed we would be irreconcilable enemies. It was the task of your Company to prepare the Rhine crossing at Xanten, whilst our city was bombed to ashes.

"Today we can be glad that the terrible events of the past have at last given way to good neighbourly relations between our peoples . . . May the friendliness between the two countries, especially the friendship between your unit and the citizens of the city of Xanten be deepened."

Whereupon the company exercised their new right and marched through the city followed by the veterans of the action, proud once more to be with the company — the dark days of 1945 forgiven if not forgotten.

"I'll never forget it," said Ron Maycock who sold one of his oil paintings in order to finance this trip, "there was mist and rain and all we wanted to do was to get the job over and back home. It was deathly still and then we heard the sound of the organ com-



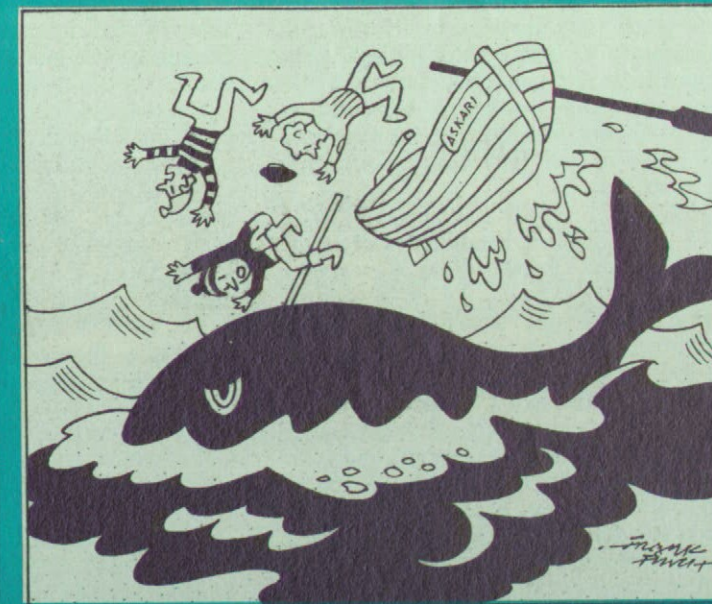
German 'punk rockers' staging their own protest outside the Münster Rathaus.

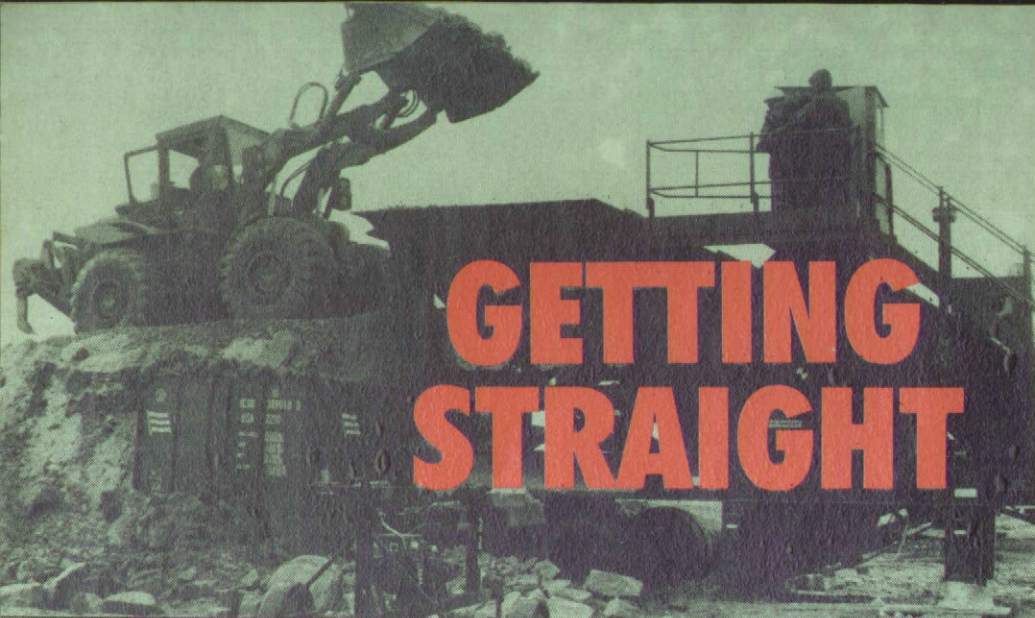
pleted to a high standard with typical German regard for traditional architecture. This was the first time a single company of the Royal Military Police had been so honoured and presenting the Bürgermeister with the two Cavalry lances used on parade, Major Richard King-Evans, Officer Commanding, said he hoped they would serve as a "unique memento to commemorate the relationship and friendship we have sealed today."

Today Xanten looks very different from the shattered city of nearly forty years ago. The twin-spired cathedral of St Victor which dates from the thirteenth century has been restored to its former magnificence, and the postwar rebuilding programme

How observant are you?

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





In our last issue we carried a brief account of the massive clearing up job being carried out by our soldiers in the Falklands. Here (David) Hamill describes the operation in more detail.

AS THE ECHOES of war fade on the Falklands, the long task of restoring the strife-torn community to normality is perhaps the biggest single task faced by Army units on the islands. It's a job of epic proportions, a clean-up operation on a scale rarely seen since the Second World War.

At the end of the hostilities on June 15, the prospect seemed bleak. With the Falklands in the icy grip of the long southern winter, Stanley, the capital, was in chaos. The Argentine occupying forces left its streets strewn with live ammunition and equipment. Many buildings were in poor condition and essential services were badly disrupted.

It's a mammoth task but the signs are that with the arrival of spring, it is well on course and fully up to speed.

The Army is working in many ways to assist the community, but undoubtedly the biggest single responsibility falls upon the broad shoulders of the Royal Engineers.

Under the command of Colonel Derek Brownson, approximately 1000 sappers were carrying out a bewildering variety of tasks ranging from mainstream civil engineering to bomb disposal.

This figure will rise towards 1400 towards the end of the year, when the full sapper complement on the islands will consist of an RHQ, six field squadrons, a field support squadron, an RE works unit and a detachment of 49 EOD Squadron.

In terms of sheer manpower and resources their largest task is the reconstruction and enlargement of Port Stanley airfield. Built originally for light aircraft transport operations, the airfield was heavily bombed during the fighting with the strip itself cratered and left with over 1000 'scabs' in the concrete surface.

Now it is being developed into a major RAF base capable of handling both fast jets and transport aircraft under all weather conditions.

One aspect of this metamorphosis is the much-publicised extension and re-surfacing of the runway with American AM2 metal matting, but the job is considerably more comprehensive than this. New perimeter roads and hardstandings, rotary hydraulic arrester gear (RHAG) units to slow down fast jets on landing, hangar and technical accommodation; these are just some of the many construction projects required on the airfield.

The work is divided into 'vertical' and 'horizontal' aspects. The vertical side of life — hangars, essential buildings, fuel farms for safe storage of bulk aviation fuel and submerged pipelines for offshore replenishment — is handled by 30 Field Squadron.

50 Field Squadron specialise in horizontal engineering, the most notable example of their handiwork to date being the re-surfacing of the runway.

Accordingly, Operation Tin Lion was conceived, with the men of 50 Field Squadron, augmented by 3 Field Squadron and 69 Independent Gurkha Field Squadrons, laying heavy sheets AM2 aluminium matting by hand over the existing runway.

Despite truly appalling weather conditions (at one point work was halted by snow blizzards for 36 hours and winds of up to 100 knots were recorded, over 4000 feet of matting was laid in less than two weeks, bang on schedule for the first in-bound Hercules flight from Ascension Island since the airport closure.

Additionally, the first of the airfield's RHAG facilities were virtually completed.

Currently the squadron's main priority is the runway extension. Working on peat up to three metres deep — just about the worst imaginable construction surface — the sappers are using the most modern engineering techniques available to extend the runway for use by RAF Phantom air defence aircraft. Reinforced mesh fabric and semi-permeable membrane are interspersed with layers of sand and crushed rock to provide a bearing surface of sufficient strength to lay AM2.

The two airfield squadrons are backed up by 60 Field Support Squadron, with responsibility for co-ordinating the huge quantities of stores and engineering plant and equipment needed on the project, erection of prefabricated accommodation buildings and the operation of a quarry established on the airfield to provide hardcore.

The latter is a major undertaking in its own right. Six rock drills are constantly in use and thousands of tons of tough quartzite rock is blasted each day. This is fed into the ravenous jaws of two Goodwin-Barsby Goliath rock crushers, each weighing 77 tons and capable of reducing 100 tons of rock per hour to pebble-sized hardcore.

In Stanley itself, the level of engineer activity is no less impressive, with 3 Field Squadron and 69 Independent Gurkha Field

Squadron based in the town. Also based in Stanley are the staff of CRE Works, Lt-Col Leslie Kennedy. Responsible for the overall design of the airfield and camp projects, CRE Works also controls a wide variety of activities of direct benefit to the community.

He is responsible for assistance in the running of Stanley's public utilities — providing 25 per cent of the town's water and electricity — and helping to run its water purification and pumping facilities. This extends to sampling water to ensure that it is drinkable and repairing burst water mains.

Two new slipways have been built to handle cargo coming ashore from ships anchored in Port Stanley harbour; the storm-battered jetty has been extensively repaired; many badly damaged roads have been mended; and existing accommodation for troops on the Falklands is being refurbished.

Future projects include a complete reconstruction of Stanley's water supply system

and a full structural survey of the islands' jetties.

69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron meanwhile have special responsibility for mine clearance and the marking and fencing off of known minefields which do not need to be cleared immediately. In addition they are taking over the running of some public utilities from CRE Works, and will shortly begin construction of a camp at Navy Point near Stanley.

When two modern armies meet head on, the one sure result is that vast quantities of unexploded weaponry will be left strewn around the area of battle. The Falklands were no exception, and the problem is nightmarishly compounded by the Argentine minefields which surround Stanley with the threat of instant death or mutilation.

The men who face the exacting and highly dangerous task of clearing this deadly residue of war was a detachment of 49 EOD Squadron, Royal Engineers.

During their month-and-a-half on the Falklands, the 33-strong sapper detachment have dealt with virtually every type of weapon in use by modern armies, from tiny plastic anti-personnel mines which can take a man's foot off, up to 1000 lb bombs buried deep in peat and detectable only by the tell-tale remains of retard parachutes above ground.

Between these extremes is a lethal assortment of rockets, missiles, mortar bombs, grenades, shells and even the now notorious Argentine napalm factory found at Goose Green.

Also present in considerable quantities are booby traps. The Argentines proved surprisingly adept at constructing unpleasant and often fatal surprise for the unwary. Some were sophisticated radio controlled devices, others crude but no less deadly.

A typical example was recently discovered on the outskirts of Stanley and made safe by Captain Brian Lloyd. It consisted of a steel

car wheel with a primed grenade at the centre surrounded by blocks of TNT and heavy bolts nicknamed 'shipyard confetti' by the bomb disposal men.

An indication of the scale of the problem can be gained from a detailed Argentine minefield plot which was recently handed into the authorities anonymously. It provides for no less than 903 booby traps in a single 50 square-kilometre area.

Another aspect of the detachment's work can be seen out on the road from Stanley to Darwin, where a section led by Corporal 'Sandy' Sanderson are working to re-open an important link between major settlements. Painstakingly combing the road itself and an area of up to five metres on either side, the section advances slowly, carefully using a combination of sophisticated metal detectors and 'Mark One Eyeball' to clear every potentially dangerous object.

Unstable ammunition, mines and other ordnance is blown up on a nearby site. The road itself is 63 miles long and already the 15 miles to Bluff Cove have been cleared. The hope is that the section will reach Darwin before they return to Britain.

Recently, a single section led by Sgt Chris Duncan covering an area of Wireless Ridge discovered no less than 16 tons of ammunition in a day.

The plastic anti-personnel mine problem is formidable. Various techniques of dealing with these virtually undetectable devices have been tried, but as yet there is no 100 per cent certain method of destroying them. The real tragedy is that the areas of beach and common land most affected are those used by the residents of Stanley for recreation.

Major John Quin, who commands the detachment, realises the importance of restoring these much needed amenities to the community. As a temporary measure until this happens, he is investigating various mine-free beaches along the coast which can

be reached on safe roads. This will ensure that Stanley's inhabitants have at least one area to relax in during the Falklands summer.

'Our aim is to make the islands as safe as the UK mainland,' he explained. 'We have now cleared Stanley and we are making an intensive effort to clear Sapper Hill just outside the town. Our most important long term job after this will be to make the settlements safe so that life can return to normal.'

Another major amenity area in Stanley is the racecourse, scene of the bi-yearly race meetings which are among the main social events of the islands. Strewn with wrecked helicopters and aircraft and scarred with deep waterlogged pits containing vast caches of ammunition, the racecourse was a very sorry state when the British Army entered Stanley.

FALKLANDS FILE



The first steps to recovery are being taken with the help of a team of ammunition technicians from the Composite Ammunition Company RAOC and Pioneers attached to the Falklands Islands Logistic Battalion.

Working in quagmire conditions, often up to their waists in mud, they are carefully locating, removing and storing thousands of boxes of ammunition from the pits. All the ammunition recovered from these and dozens of other sites from around the islands is then rigorously checked for stability and compatibility with British weapons.

If rejected it is removed to remote sites and safely detonated. If it is earmarked for return to the UK it is removed to an RAOC dump and stored.

Pictures: Peter Tearall,
Central Office of Information



THE WINTER WAR

The Falklands

Patrick Bishop, of the Observer
and
John Witherow, of The Times

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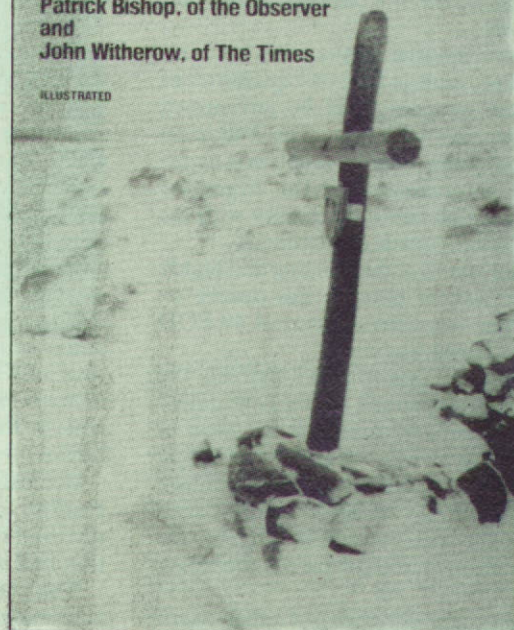
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THERE'S NO GETTING AWAY FROM IT

Dennis Williams
may just have left the
Army but he still has

A BUSY TIME ON THE CARDS



MAJOR DENNIS Williams walked out of his office in the Rifle Depot at Winchester and left the Army after 31 years. The next day he walked back into the office in civilian clothes — to continue the same job but as a retired officer.

Dennis Williams is the project liaison officer for the Army's biggest new barracks project for many a year — the construction of a new Light Division Depot on a site at Flowerdown, near Winchester, which will eventually replace both the Rifle Depot and the present Light Infantry depot at Shrewsbury. The first phase is scheduled to open in 1985.

Dennis, who also deals with Soldiers' Manning for the Division, says: "It is an enormous job. It could well be the last virgin site which the British Army will develop as a barracks."

He joined the Royal Army Pay Corps as a National Serviceman, decided he liked the life and signed on as a Regular with the Rifle Brigade. Over the following two decades he saw service in Kenya, Malaya, Germany, Cyprus, Borneo, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Northern Ireland.

Only in the last ten years has he led a more settled life in the United Kingdom. Which gave him the chance to take up a collecting hobby — he is a cartophilist or cigarette card enthusiast.

"My father started collecting before the Great War in a minor way and fortunately he

never disposed of his collection. I got the bug from him and I was at last able to take it up seriously when we got settled.

"I had his collection complete and since then have added to it — but with a tendency to buy only things military. In terms of other card collectors I only have a modest collection — about 30,000."

Two years ago Dennis was a founder member of the Hants/Surrey Borders branch of the Cartophilic Society. This brought him in touch with about 50 other collectors and he has unearthed many fine cards at their meetings.

"I still hunt around for cards in antique shops" he says. "But have only ever had one find. From a stall in London I got some early military uniform cards for 20p each which are worth £5 or more."

**'My father started
collecting before
the Great War . . . I
got the bug from him'**

But it is not the investment side which appeals to Dennis. He says that modern cards issued with things like tea and soap compare very unfavourably with cards from the turn of the century.

Interview by John Walton
Pictures by Doug Pratt

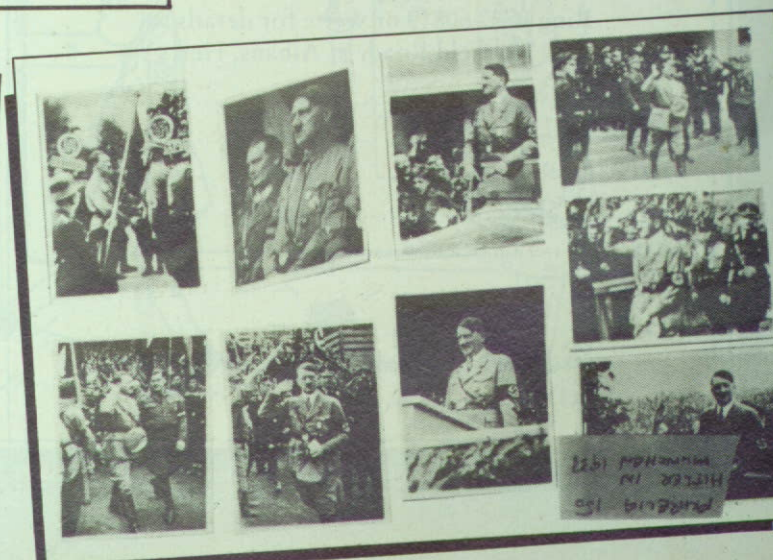
"I like the fine printing and the accuracy of the uniforms" he says. "You don't have to have an enormous library of books on military history. It's all written on the backs of the cards."

"They are so accurate that I have used them to settle arguments on uniforms. All of the regiments are covered. I have tried to get as many Green Jackets cards as I can but there is no way of knowing just how many there are."

Among his collection he has many cards issued with 'Scissors' cigarettes, a Wills brand which was shipped out to the troops in India before the First World War. Many of these had a military flavour showing such things as drum horses and Victoria Cross winners' as well as uniforms.

His most recent prized acquisition is a set of photographic cards showing the German Army and Hitler. "They are fine photographs and there are not many of them about. At the end of the war no-one in Germany wanted to be connected with the Nazi Party so the sets of cards were destroyed. To have a set of them would have been risky for the average German at that time. But a few sets were looted and brought back by British soldiers."

Dennis is particularly interested in getting in touch with other military cartophilists. "I've only ever come across two or three," he says. "I'm sure there are more, although the travelling life does seem to stop people collecting things."



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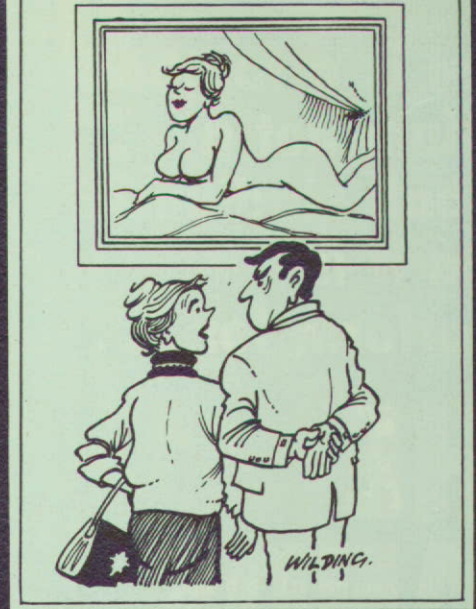
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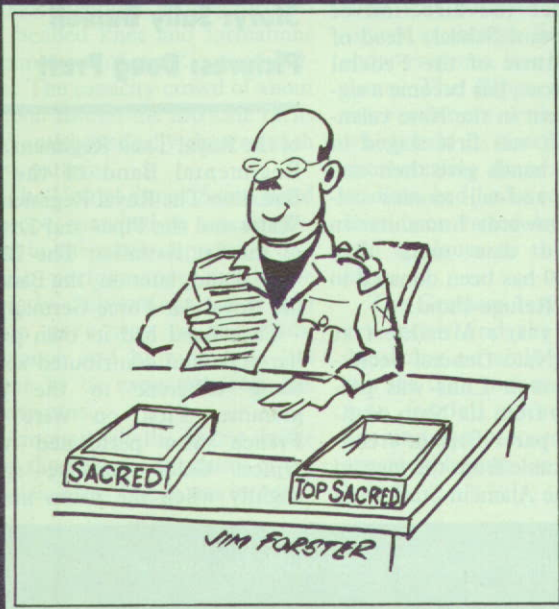
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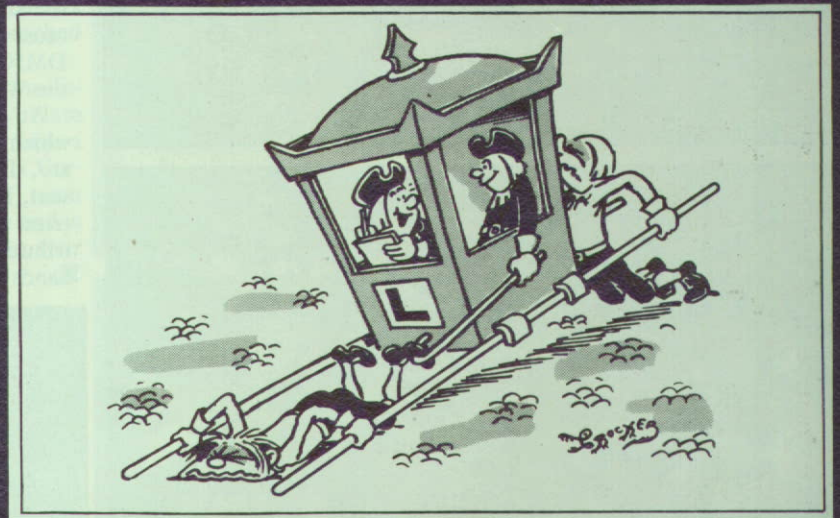
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"I certainly did **not** pose for him — he did it from memory!"



Humour



"That was an excellent emergency stop."



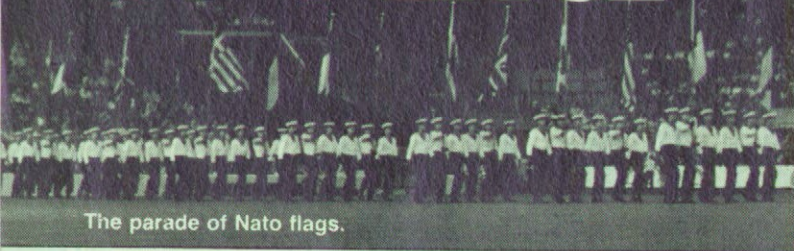
"It's a beautiful birthmark, miss, but a banker's card would be sufficient identification."



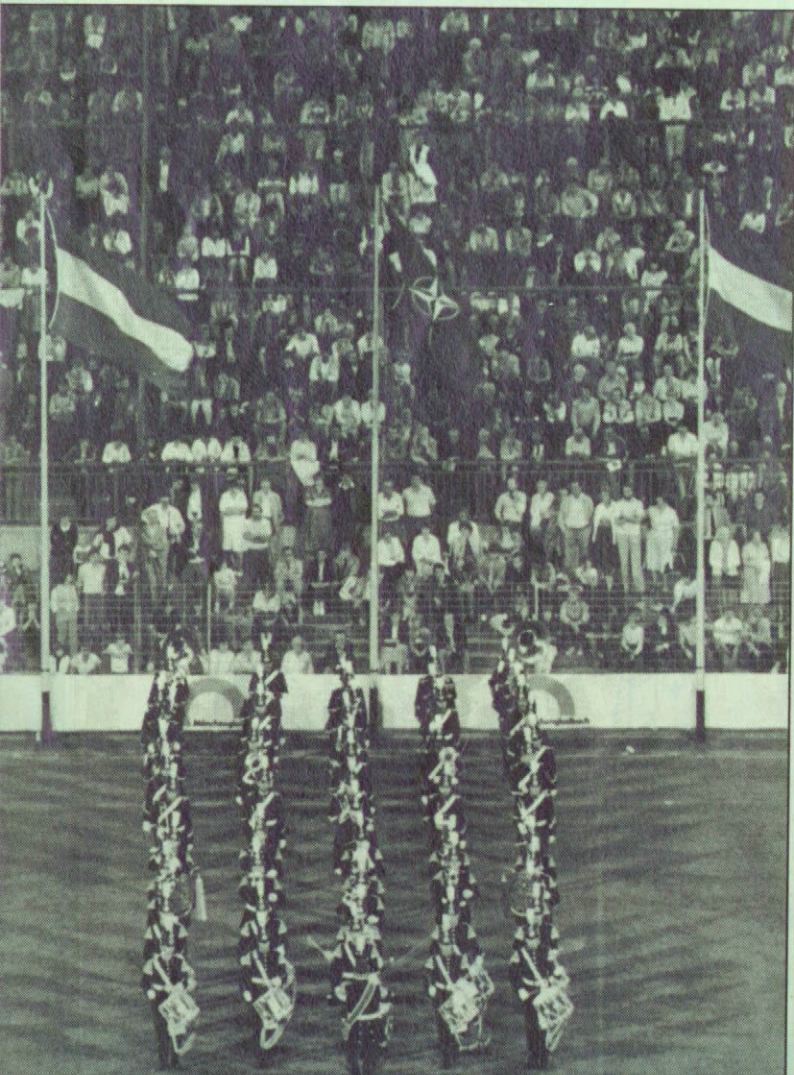
"And another thing — I wish you'd stop cleaning your boots with the cat."

When is a football stadium not a football stadium? When it is a platform for . . .

THE BANDS OF PEACE



The parade of Nato flags.



The Johan Willem Frisco Army Band from The Netherlands.



Brass of the United States Army Band Europe.

THIS IS THE scene of the Nato Musikfest, one night in every two years when army and air force bands from many nations meet in the Bökelberg Stadium at Mönchengladbach as a musical manifestation of the Alliance and a symbol of the world peace for which it stands.

The Musikfest which is organised under the direction of Oberst Helmut Schaal, Head of Military Music of the Federal Armed Forces, has become a significant event in the Nato calendar since it was first staged in 1960. The bands give their services free and all monies collected go towards humanitarian causes. To date more than DM500,000 has been donated to the World Refuge Fund.

At this year's Musikfest at which the Nato General Secretary, Dr Joseph Luns was present, bands from six Nato countries took part. Britain's contributions came from the massed bands of the Alamein Staff Band

Story: Sally Daniell

Pictures: Doug Pratt

of the Royal Tank Regiment, the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch and, later on, the Band of the Royal Air Force Germany.

Each band had its own peculiar style and contributed something different to the programme. First on were the French who performed with typical Gallic panache spoilt slightly when the drum major,

with his hand on his hip, hurled his mace some thirty feet in the air — and dropped the catch!

Fashionable these days with some bands is showy drill which could almost be called a routine — side-stepping, leaning forward on bended knee and formations reminiscent of the Ziegfield Follies. The capacity crowd of about 35,000 adored the intricate turns and enthusiastically cheered each new pattern.

The United States Army Band Europe, marched on soberly giving the mistaken impression that their performance would be strictly conventional. But that soon gave way to the flamboyance and humour that has come to be expected from the Americans.

Amongst all the razzle-dazzle and showbiz the formality of the British Army bands was impress-



The Gallic panache of 42nd Regiment de Transmissions.

ively refreshing. They gave a tight and polished performance almost as though they meant to show everyone how it should be done. The Pipes and Drums were winners with the crowd which held its breath during the show-stealing drum salute. If the stadium had had a roof, it would have been raised by the cheers and applause as they marched off.

The Germans love their military music and the 1982 Nato Musikfest certainly gave them a run for their money with a German freefall parachute team opening the proceedings and a spectacle lasting for almost four hours.



The host nation's band, Heeresmusikkorps 6.

Show-stealers: Pipes and Drums of the 1st Bn The Black Watch.



Oberst Schaal, the chief organiser, conducting the finale.

Dr Joseph Luns under the escort of the Nato flag after taking the salute.





THE PUBLICITY THAT centred on St George's School, Suffolk, following a BBC Radio's "Checkpoint" broadcast, highlighted the need for all parents to give careful thought to the choice of school for their children.

The allegations of brutality at the school, which has a high percentage of Service children, were refuted in a subsequent newspaper report but, whatever the truth of this particular case, the importance of choosing wisely cannot be underestimated.

It is, inevitably, something of a gamble for any parent but you can cut down the odds by seeking advice before you make the final decision and some help in this direction is given in our "Did You Know?" item on this page.

Or better still, visit the school for yourself and see at first hand what it is like. Most schools are more than willing to let you do this and you can tell a lot from the atmosphere and the teaching that you will see around you. For some people, the cost may make a personal visit out of the question. If this is your problem, do drop me a line and I will see what I can do to help.

Now some good news for all of us: a work study team is looking into the problems we face every time we move. You could all no doubt write your own horror stories of the months before and after a posting date.

The project officer of PROJECT 305 (as the study has been called) is anxious to base his initial survey on some concrete evidence and would welcome your comments, suggestions and experiences to help him see where the problem areas are. The study will examine the documentation and the physical aspects of both unit and individual moves and make recommendations for improvements based on the findings, so let me have your views and your horror stories and I will pass them on to the PROJECT 305 team.

Anne Armstrong

One of the most rewarding things in my work for SOLDIER is receiving letters from people who have information that will be of help to others and who have taken the trouble to write to me with it. One such letter comes from Major Tim Wakefield in Colchester:

"It has taken me some 20 years to find out that BUPA has an Army Group Scheme which offers the standard terms with a 25 per cent discount on the annual premium charge, a saving that must be good value for the security of knowing that specialist treatment is readily available in the area of UK in which one lives.

"The Army Group is at Gresham House, 44 North Road, Brighton BN1 1YT and cover is given in Europe too for a sterling payment.

"The scheme has been of great benefit to me and my family."

Concern for families prompted Mrs B to write from Wiltshire with a question.

"Isn't it about time something was done to resolve the quartering situation in BAOR?"

"There is so much separation for Service families that it seems totally wrong that adequate quartering cannot be provided for families when they could be together. If adequate quarters cannot be supplied then surely a more efficient hiring set-up could be organised?"

"Second, it seems quite ludicrous that the Housing Committee can inform you only a month prior to your planned arrival whether or not there is a quarter available. For people with school-age children this is hardly a realistic period.

"People seem very reticent to complain on their family's behalf. I do feel that a lot is said in sympathy but can't something be done?"

My husband has just bought me a chipmunk and I don't know if it will have to be put in quarantine when we go back to England. Can you help?

Mrs D, BFPO 104

Anyone intending to import an animal should obtain an import licence as the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 gives powers to destroy animals landed without an import licence.

Animals to be quarantined in England or Wales need an import licence from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF. Applications should be made eight weeks beforehand.

I am soon to be posted to Germany and, although we do not want to get married, my girlfriend would like to accompany me.

Could you tell me the Army's views on this? Does the Army recognise a "common law wife" and would I still be liable to food and accommodation charges if I lived out of barracks?

Name and address supplied.

No, the Army does not recognise a "common law wife" and this would mean that your girlfriend would not be entitled to any of the allowances or facilities, such as Naafi, medical or travel arrangements available to wives of Servicemen.

You would not be entitled to a married quarter so she would have to find her own accommodation and, as all Service personnel in Germany have to live in recognised Service accommodation, you would still have to pay food and accommodation charges in barracks.

The British Embassy in Bonn will be able to help you with immigration regulations should your girlfriend decide to settle in Germany as a civilian.

I am writing to ask what the position is for a wife who has worked in Germany paying a full stamp and income tax through her husband and who wished to claim unemployment on return to UK.

Mrs R, BFPO 24

Provided that you have paid the required number of contributions in the correct tax year, you should be eligible for unemployment benefit when you return to UK.

You must sign off at the Arbeitsamt before you leave Germany and then sign on within seven days of your return at the local office in UK. Complete a UB 461 form and you should receive your benefit.

The second UKLF Wives' Seminar (see report opposite) has already generated correspondence and Avril Woodward, the representative from Benbecula, makes some valid points in her letter:

ASK ANNE

"I hope that the main topic discussed, the proposal to form the UKLF Federation of Army Wives' Clubs, is supported and eventually gets off the ground. I shall certainly spread the word around Benbecula.

"I was disappointed with the Open Forum as I felt that the shortage of time meant that many points that I'm sure people had worked hard to draw out of other wives were not brought up. I am a little upset to be going back to Benbecula with no specific answers but I did take the opportunity to give the other questions to Brigadier Brown in writing. The number of delegates meant that at times the Seminar gave the impression of organised vocal chaos as wives tried to put their questions.

"What a refreshing change though to be introduced and known for oneself instead of the usual "wife of" situation!



"Tricky things — chilblains. See me every week for the next two years."

And Winona Wall, the wives' representative from Wales, adds: "Has Lady Kitson succeeded in persuading the Army to recognise that Army wives are human, think, and are a source of considerable and relatively untapped potential?"

"Lady Kitson deserves our admiration for her solitary struggle to create a central platform combining dignity and credibility from which problems collated in any district can be brought to the attention of the Army at the relevant level.

"I feel that the Seminar would have been much more productive if the wives had been able to study the syndicate discussion questions before their arrival. It proved impossible in the short time allocated for group discussion to debate any of the questions in depth and the end product in each case was a hesitant, self-conscious and superficial breakdown of each question delivered by the unfortunate spokeswoman for each group.

"In the afternoon session, the Seminar listened to carefully generalised and low profile presentations on Furniture and Furnishings and Family Housing and Welfare, emotive subjects which initiated discussion and placatory response.

"It is to be hoped that the 1983 meeting will see a much more structured and slimline agenda with topics for discussion specifically outlined and concrete proposals for finance and administration clearly detailed."

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN GET advice and help direct from the Service Children's Education Authority when you are choosing a boarding school for your child.

Finding the right school for your child, particularly when you are overseas, is not easy and parents are strongly advised to consult their local Education Officer and read JSP 342 "The Education of Service Children" before committing themselves to any one school. JSP 342 also contains further details of the direct advisory service run by the SCEA.

Make sure that you make the right choice for your child.

Communication or Coffee?

IF THE DELEGATES to the second UKLF Wives' Seminar at Bagshot Park were indeed representative of the Army's wives, then the Army has reason to feel proud.

Fearful by some as a breeding ground for militancy, feminism and agitation, the Seminar was, in fact, an outstanding example of rational, perceptive and constructive debate on the subject of the formation of a Federation of Army Wives' Clubs.

Lady Elizabeth Kitson stated the case for an organised Federation and declared that she had become more and more convinced of the need for better communication between wives, the Army and the Government. "The question is" she continued, "how are we going to do it? At the moment the wives' clubs have a coffee house image but we must have wives' clubs that do something. Why not use them more for information? It is immensely difficult for the Army to realise there are problems but if they are aware of it they are more likely to be able to help."

The proposal put to the delegates was the creation of a central

The changing image of the Wives' Club

organisation that would provide a platform from which problems could be aired coherently and forcefully enough to ensure that somebody, somewhere listened. This platform would also be used to feed information back down to wives' clubs at garrison level so that all wives would be kept up to date with latest developments in areas that concern them.

Justification, if justification were needed, for the Federation was evident at almost every turn. It appeared that few delegates had even known the main proposal to be put to the Seminar, despite the fact that letters had been sent to districts well in advance of the date.

The Open Forum, when questions relating to furniture, housing and welfare were invited, showed clearly the extent of ignorance among wives in matters closely affecting their daily lives and the role that the Federation could play in interpreting

the bland replies that greeted most of these questions.

It was regrettable that so few queries could be raised in the short time allowed but the formation of a Federation should, in time, give all the answers and suggest changes in policy and practice where necessary.

Lady Kitson stressed the need for compromise and restraint in the introduction of a Federation. "The thing that frightens the Army a bit is the Armed Forces' Wives' Association which was born out of frustration and is militant. That's no good — we must have our own set-up and make it work. An awful lot of it is compromise and it has to be."

Given that none of the delegates had seen the question for group discussions, which might have made them more valuable, one could hardly have expected a comprehensive grasp of the problems and pitfalls inherent in setting up the Federation and it was

encouraging that enough ideas were expressed to give a small working committee the basis for drawing up a more detailed modus operandi. They will be working with military advice from UKLF.

The idea of a communication network is not altogether new as a very successful system has been operating for some time already in Western District under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel John Bromley and it was suggested that this could serve as a model for the Federation.

The UKLF Wives' Seminar took a step forward this year and credit goes to all those who have worked long and hard to establish a forum for discussion and, on occasions, dissension.

The proposals to form a Federation had to run the gauntlet of 37 individual opinions which were, by no means, unanimous in their support on every point or unilaterally seduced by a vision of "power for the wives".

The Federation of Army Wives' Clubs has every prospect of fulfilling an important and vital need for Service families — the need to know.

More questions in the House

WE CONTINUE our 'Questions in the House' feature from the last issue of SOLDIER with some words from Clement Freud, MP for the Isle of Ely, on the Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension, NCIP.

Mr Freud: There are those who are not covered by the DHSS in the same way as those serving in Britain, despite the fact that they pay taxes to the United Kingdom. Non-Contributory Invalidity Pensions are not available to Service wives who return from abroad until they have established residence here.

AA: I have raised this question many times and Ssafa too has taken up the issue but Service wives are still denied NCIP unless they have been in receipt prior to departure from UK. The qualifying period is 193 days residence in UK.

The problem of unemployment among Service wives came to light during the debate on Banffshire, Scotland, when Mr Myles suggested that the 1981 unemployment figures for Forces are "somewhat distorted by the number of Service wives there

who are registered as unemployed."

AA: I wonder why Mr Myles made a differentiation between Service wives and other wives. Surely if Service wives "distort" the figures in this one area, they must also "distort" them in any other area where they have registered as unemployed.

If there was any possibility of initiating a six-month survey to discover the extent of Service dependants' unemployment, perhaps we should find that the results merited help from the European Social Fund. This Fund can provide financial support for training and retraining schemes for special groups such as migrants, women, young people and the handicapped. I have already done some research into the Fund and our way of life seems to make us eligible for this aid.

Bob Cryer (Keighley): The Government have set up a fund for the relatives of the Servicemen killed in the Falklands. Does the Minister feel that many of the relatives of soldiers killed in Northern Ireland may feel badly dealt with in comparison?

son?

Mr Blake: Existing funds care for the relatives of those killed in Northern Ireland. The Army Benevolent Fund, for example, has funds for that purpose. The fact that the South Atlantic Fund will be available specifically for the relatives of those who suffered in the South Atlantic will release the other funds of the Army Benevolent Fund for other purposes, including Northern Ireland.

Debate of any sort is a healthy way of airing problems and bringing to light anomalies, particularly when the debate is held in front of such a distinguished audience as the Members of the House of Commons. Clement Freud gave an accurate and considered description of the role of a wife in the Army when he told his colleagues:

"She has no say in running the community because, despite the loud words of feminism in the civilian sector, in the Army a woman is still an 'Army wife' with no rights. Such wives follow the flag loyally. It seems a mindless waste of resources,

especially given the cost of and limits on staff officer provision, not to cater for such women properly, caring and compassionately."

The last word, however, I leave with Gerry Wiggin, Secretary of State for Defence, who summed up at the end of the debate.

Mr Wiggin: The Hon Member for Isle of Ely (Mr Freud) cast some unhappy aspersions on the various aspects of the welfare of our Forces. I accept that there can be improvement in community relations and domestic welfare. I am, however, happy that the Services work enormously hard on these aspects. I refer not only to the Army. All three Services go out of their way to make their contribution and to be good neighbours. An enormous amount of time and trouble is spent on welfare. This is not always easy. There are problems. In all organisations with which I have been connected, I do not believe that the Services can be surpassed in this matter.

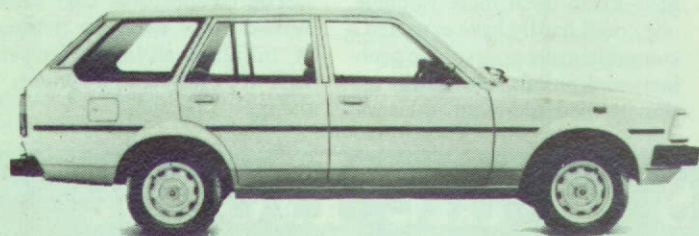
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GUNNER WIZARDRY



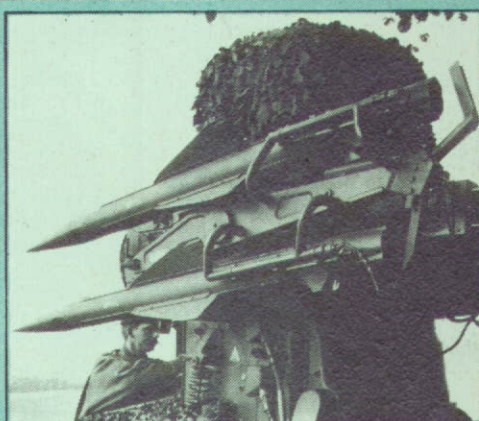
'Orange' forces deploy from a Puma helicopter.

Story: Sally Daniell

Pictures: Doug Pratt

With the grain harvested and Army bloc leave almost forgotten, now is the time British troops in Germany come together with other NATO units for the major formation exercises.

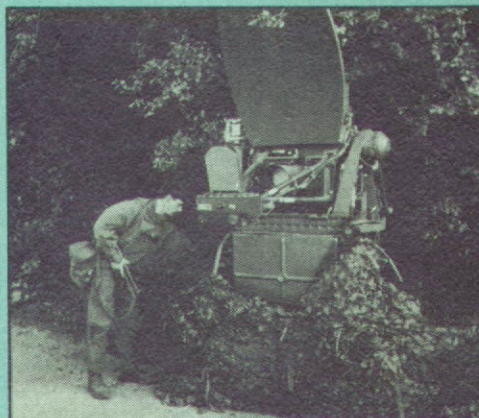
Exercise 'Vengeful Merlin' is often considered the baby of the British Army exercises because it concentrates on training the heavy artillery and air defence units of the Artillery



Changing IFF code on the Rapier missile launcher.



'Blue' forces defending the bridge.



Rapier missile tracking equipment.



Planning the sites for the Rapier missile.

Division. It is important, though in that it gives the Gunners the opportunity to practise their role in war by themselves before being tasked by 1 (British) Corps in support of the armoured divisional exercises.

Also, it is run in conjunction with Exercise 'Cold Fire', the biggest close air support exercise of the year with aircraft from six NATO nations taking part. In particular the Harrier aircraft of No. 4 Squadron and the Puma helicopters of 230 Squadron, Royal Air Force Germany were tasked to 'Vengeful Merlin' allowing the Artillery Division to gain valuable experience in air support operations and protection against air attack.

Describing the aims of Vengeful Merlin' the divisional commander, Major General Guy Watkins said "it gives us practice in finding and attacking things that the Armoured Divisions won't see and can't hit."

Taking part in the exercise were 50 Missile Regiment, 16 & 22 Air Defence Regiments, 5 Heavy Regiment, 94 Locating Regiment and 8 Regiment RCT.

Paying a fleeting visit to the exercise

training area between Hameln and Hildesheim, SOLDIER was able to see one of the operations. The target for the Harriers was a bridge. After the air strike, counteracted by the deployment of several Rapier batteries, four Pumas disgorged their troops who then took the bridge.

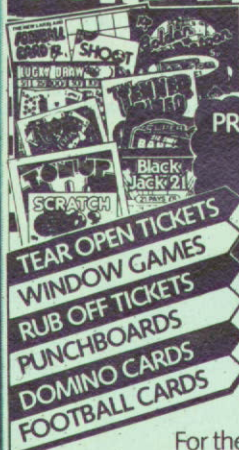
The battle for the bridge was fierce while it lasted and intrigued local motorists who ran the risk of having their windscreens smashed by spent casings!

30 Battery, 16 Air Defence Regiment meanwhile was having a tough time not only failing (for the purposes of the operation) to take out the Harriers, but coping with a stream of interested visitors, amongst whom was the Director of the German School of Artillery.

The Commanding Officer of the regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Wiseman explained what advantage is gained by an exercise of this nature.

"Being out here gives us the chance to practise against real aircraft. We can practise tracking in barracks but coming out here lends realism and we always get better."

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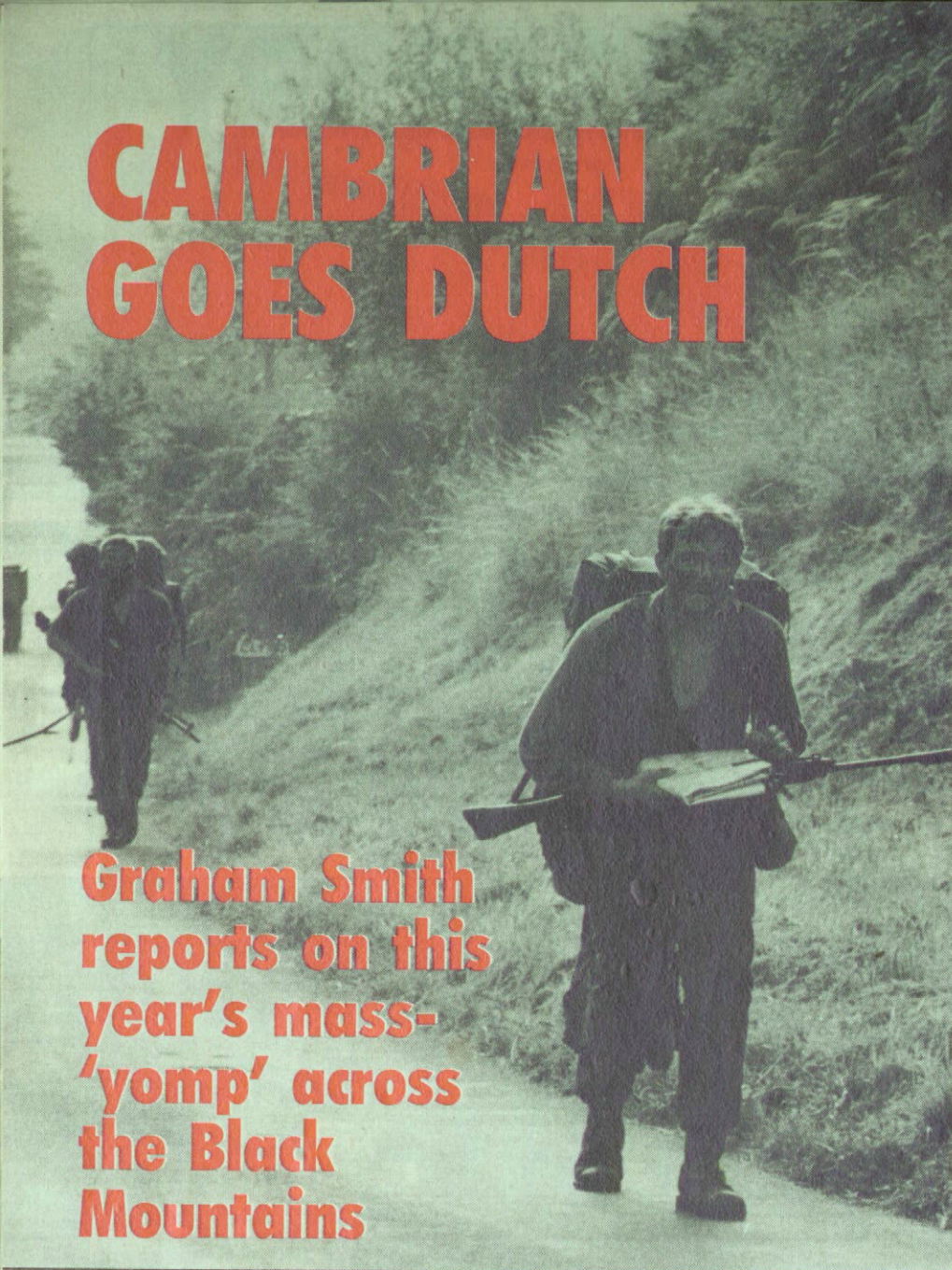
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CAMBRIAN GOES DUTCH

Graham Smith reports on this year's mass-'yomp' across the Black Mountains



Country code:
"Follow me and shut that gate!"



THE CAMBRIAN MARCHES went Dutch this year — won, at the eighth attempt, by the 1st Amphibious Group of the Royal Netherlands Marines. They beat last year's winners, 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, into second place over 55 miles of some of the toughest terrain in mid-Wales including the 3000ft Black Mountains.

This year's event, the 22nd, attracted a record entry. Fifteen 9-man teams — including a cavalry unit from BAOR for the first time and a squad from the RAF Regiment, Cranwell — entered the major four-day event intended primarily for regular units.

Another 16 teams, mainly drawn from the TA, were fielded for the two-day weekend march over the same demanding landscape.

The scenario dictated that the nine-man patrols were to seek out 'enemy' long range patrols and then destroy them. And the culmination of both events was a stamina-sapping speed run in full kit with personal weapons into Sennybridge camp.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Hayes, Chief of Staff, HQ Wales in his welcome to the 279 entrants at Monmouth said: "The teams from the 1/7 Gurkhas perhaps now have an unfair advantage on the rest of us. They have come back from the Falklands and have had more experience at 'yomping'."

This was true. The distance, for them, was almost identical in length to that they marched from Port San Carlos to Port Stanley. But the Welsh weather was decidedly more benign.

Colonel Hayes stressed to all competitors the need for "tactical awareness."

"It forms a vital part of the competition when you keep the scenario at the back of your minds. You are operating in a 'friendly' country — I am Welsh and I can say that fairly — and you are looking for the 'enemy'. Follow up and destroy those patrols. You must maintain a high level of

◀ The 249 Signal Sqn (AMF) team plods on its way

Lt-Col Hayes chats to a team entrant. ▼

alertness during the competition.

"I hope we shall not have casualties. We have made provision for them in case they occur. It is up to you to play your part to see that what has started out as a minor casualty does not turn into a tragedy.

"You will need to use your maps intelligently. It is challenging country to put it mildly. You will see the shortest route is not necessarily the quickest. The only guaranteed way to get eliminated from the competition is by cheating and the spirit of the competition does not lend itself to cheating. You must resist all offers of help."

Then the Chief of Staff turned to the vital issue of — feet.

"This competition is won by your feet. You must carry clean, dry socks however tedious that may be. There is, perhaps, a misplaced feeling to pretend there is nothing wrong with your feet. There seems to be a feeling in the British Army that it is undignified to inspect peoples' feet whereas if you had your feet tended to, you stand a very much better chance of carrying on the next day. Patrol commanders must accept this responsibility."

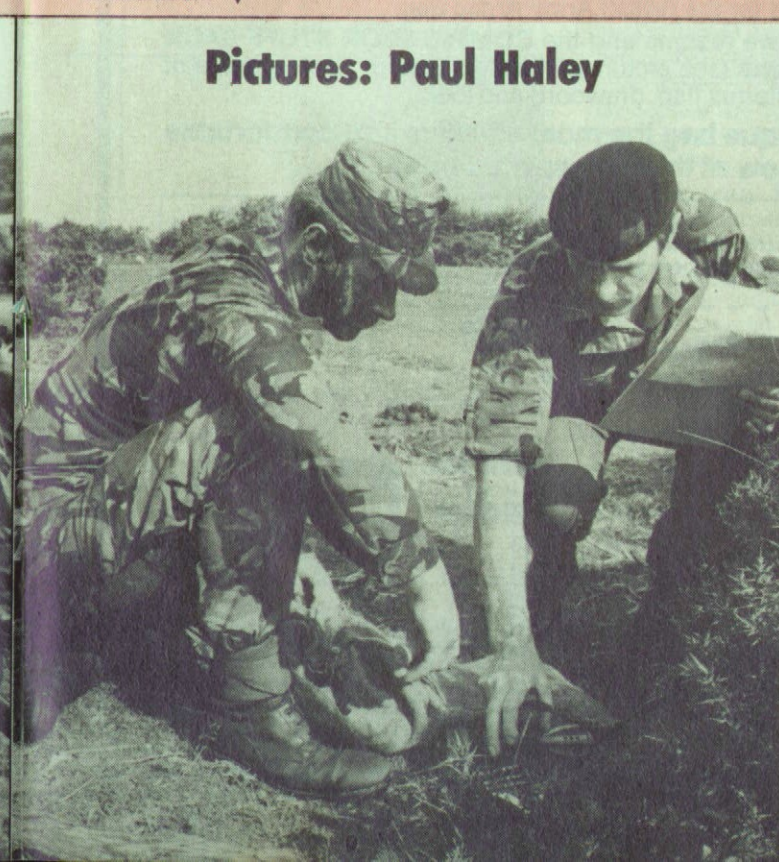
Finally, he reminded all entrants: "It's a team effort as a whole. It's not a gladiators' competition. I wish you the best of luck and the best of skill and endurance in this competition to win it. I hope each one of you will be able to hobble about to get your certificate at the end of it."

The Cambrian Marches, one of the toughest competitions in the Army calendar, took nine months to prepare with some 100 landowners being approached for permission to cross their estates. Teams set off at 15-minute intervals and marks were broken down into 30 per cent for marching, 20 per cent for shooting and 50 per cent for military skills.

The Gurkhas had cancelled their entry when they sailed to the South Atlantic with 5 Infantry Brigade in May, and it looked as if, for the first time, there would be no

One of the military skills tests: competitors had to feel in a sack to identify ammunition. ▼

Pictures: Paul Haley



Paras prepare their kit before the off.



Dutch courage. Two victorious marines.

Gurkha representation. On their return from the Falklands, however, the organisers accepted their bid to re-enter, even though the marches were already over-subscribed.

This year though, despite their recent 'yomping' practice in the Falklands, the Gurkhas had to yield the four-day event — and the overall Cambrian Marches Trophy — to the Dutch marines. Third place went to the Junior Depot, Prince of Wales Division, Crickhowell, and fourth position to 4 PARA, TA.

In the two-day event, the winners were 5 Royal Anglian, TA. Second place went to 157 Transport Regiment, RCT; third place to 3 RRW and fourth slot to 4 RRW.

Major General Lennox Napier, GOC Wales, later told the competitors: "I feel proud to be a soldier among all you soldiers. This is the toughest patrol competition in Nato, if not, the world."

Gurkhas — their boots were made for 'yomping'. ▼



British Patent 1568103



28

John Walton looks at a body of ex- Servicemen who now wear a different uniform to work **Fair, Firm and Kindly**



THE RECENT DISCOVERY of a loaded Smith and Wesson revolver in the handbag of an American woman tourist at the Tower of London was just the latest in a whole arsenal of offensive weapons found by members of the Royal British Legion Attendants Company, the ex-service organisation responsible for searching bags at the Tower. They have included flick knives, gas guns and anti-rape devices.

But the Tower is only the most prominent of the sites protected by the RBLA security personnel, numbering 900 and with service spanning the years from the Second World War to Northern Ireland. Others include the car park and MPs' offices at

A typical job for the RBLA — providing security at a guarded lorry park.

Westminster, Kew Palace and nuclear power stations.

Gross turnover in 1980-81 for the RBLA rose to £6.8 million. Although the company operates on strictly commercial terms it is non-profit oriented with its prime purpose being the employment of ex-Servicemen and women.

Far from being an organisation of old timers the RBLA claims to have an increasing number of young, fit and capable men who have been in the Services. And because of the nature of the job all have their backgrounds scrupulously investigated before they are taken on.

At Poole in Dorset a team of 11 ex-servicemen are responsible for security at the roll-on roll-off terminal where three French ships ply each day between Poole and Cherbourg. The Attendants have been working on the site ever since it opened in a small way back in 1973.

In those early days only 4,750 freight units passed through the Poole terminal. In the last financial year this reached 62,729 with nearly 20,000 Fiat cars arriving there as well. In fact another group of RBLA men provide security at Fiat's car import and UK distribution centre also in Poole.

The Attendants work in teams of two and the service is spread over 24 hours a day for every day of the year. They are responsible for controlling vehicles in and out as well as people on foot and they also patrol the whole dock area — particularly at night.

They work closely with Customs officers and Ports Squad Special Branch and the southern area manager for RBLA, Mr Geoff Elliott, describes their role as "a final backstop". They check the documentation

◀ **Michael Wilkins checks a lorry out of the terminal at Poole.**



John Jones — "you settle in straight away".

of lorries leaving the terminal and are entitled to inspect them. Often they find things which have escaped notice.

It's not only smuggling and theft which the security men at a port have to watch out for. There is the ever present possibility of rabies being imported from the Continent. One day two RBLA men in the guard house saw some German seamen with a dog returning to their ship. By the time the authorities got on board the crew were denying that the dog had ever left the ship and no action was taken. But it was through Poole a few years ago that a Frenchman brought a cat and was subsequently fined.

Wine, brandy, whisky, washing machines — even homing pigeons on their way to France for release and flight back — are just some of the goods that pass through Poole. It is one of the biggest harbours in the world in surface area — although only a small deepwater channel is actually used.

The drivers are often French and Spanish without any knowledge of English. Mr Elliott produced a set of learning cards for his men so that elementary phrases like 'you can't park here' could be understood by the foreign drivers.

The ex-Servicemen are all local residents and there is quite a waiting list with Bovington and Lulworth just up the road and the Royal Marines in Poole.

Geoff Elliott himself was a staff-sergeant in the 9th/12th Lancers until 1972. He had never heard of the company until he met one of the directors at York Tattoo.

"I joined as a supervisor and my first job was to set up the car parks in Dorchester. To get a job like that straight out of the Services was quite a headache. I had not got the first idea of how to set up a car park."

continued on page 30



◀ Inset: Helmeted security warden at Heysham nuclear power station; left: Len Wood and four-footed helper on patrol at Poole dock-side.

A more recent arrival is John Jones, who spent 34 years in the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards and only left last year. He was sent to Poole on attachment as part of his resettlement course — a job came up and he was offered it.

"It's a lot different to Army life" he told SOLDIER. "You are only here for eight hours a day. But because we are all ex-Service and speak the same language you settle in straight away."

Len Wood, a former Redcap corporal, told us of the difficult people encountered at the gate. The drunks, the holidaymakers wanting to look round and the people insisting that there is a public footpath through the terminal — "I told them there was only one person who ever walked on water. This was reclaimed land."

Another guard, Michael Wilkins, ex-Royal Horse Guards, spotted a group of American sailors one night carrying large road signs. He tipped off the police and they were relieved of their 'souvenirs'.

Then there is the occasional bomb scare plus the really unusual occurrence such as happened in a blizzard one heavy winter. A young Marine turned up at the terminal in his car in the midst of the snowstorm he had been following lorry tracks.

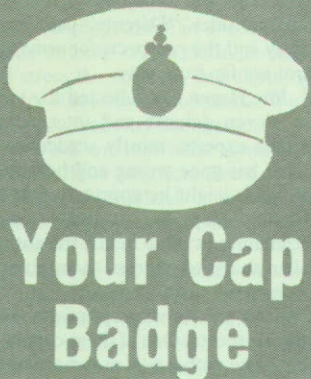
The Marine, who was heading for Plymouth, was unable to get his car out of the snow and the RBLA security men, far from playing heavy handed bureaucrats fed and watered him for three days until the snow had cleared.

This, according to Mr Elliott, sums up the type of man who is a success as a Royal British Legion Attendant.

"The Service background is essential, starting at the basic fact that they are used to wearing a uniform. These men are good — they have a difficult job which they do well."

A training session for some of the Attendants with Geoff Elliott in the background.





No 26

THE ROYAL SCOTS

BY FAR THE oldest regiment in the British service, the Royal Scots have been at the business of fighting longer than most. They commenced their career as Hepburn's Regiment in 1633 and have changed their title many times since, but since 1688 they have always incorporated the 'Royal' association apart from a very brief period in 1881 when they were known as The Lothian Regiment.

This extraordinary record of service to the Crown is to be seen in the list of battle honours displayed upon their Colours, but even this tells only half the story. They have fought in China, India, South Africa, America, the West Indies, Crimea, Europe, and Egypt — in fact a case of 'you name it and they've been there'.

Being a Lowland unit and

dressed as normal line infantry there seemed a chance that this senior regiment, The First of Foot, might be overlooked in the minds of a press and public more attracted by the colourful garb of the kilted Highland regiments. But in 1881 they were granted Scottish dress and allowed to wear trews of Black Watch tartan. This was changed in 1901 to the Hunting Stewart tartan, and in 1903 the distinctive Kilmarnock bonnet was adopted as regimental head-dress.

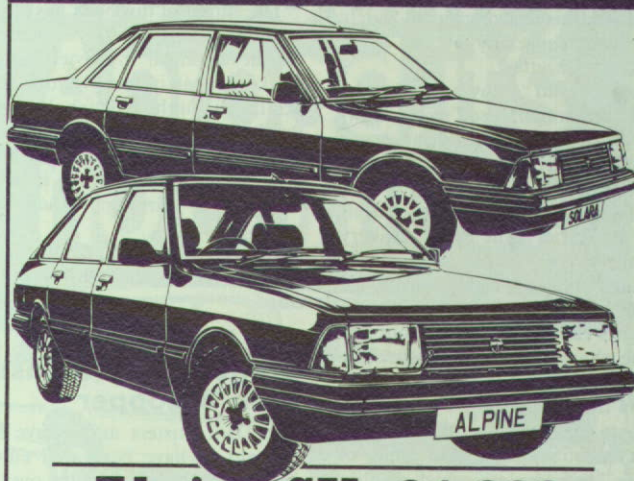
The insignia of the Order of the Thistle, the Royal association and the figure '1' were long depicted on the earlier head-dress badges, some of the officers' badges being fine examples of the jewellers art incorporating the Chain of the Order. The current badge, shown here, is described as "the Star of the Order of the Thistle in silver anodised material, in the centre St Andrew and Cross above a scroll inscribed 'The Royal Scots' in gilt anodised, the centre voided to show a red cloth backing." Formerly the badge was made in white metal and gilding metal. Officers wear a similar badge being the Star of the Order in silver, with a raised circlet on the Star inscribed *Nemo me impune Lacessit* in gilt. Within the circlet on a ground of green enamel is the Thistle in gilt.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Queen's Regiment



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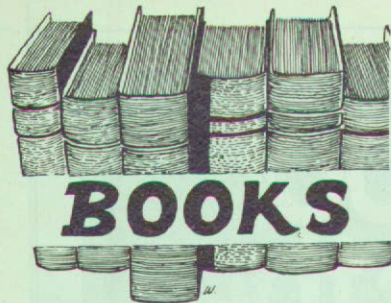
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RANGERS TALBOT

FIRST FOR EXPORT



Simkin's Soldiers: The British Army in 1890 Lieut Col P S Walton

Richard Simkin flourished as a water colour artist from about 1875 until after the first World War. He specialised in Army figures, showing great detail, and his drawings were widely published, especially by the Army and Navy Gazette.

Probably all Army units of the period are immortalised in his drawings which show the uniforms, arms, accoutrements, mounts and artillery of the time.

This volume, the first of two, deals with the Cavalry, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Marines and includes 18 colour plates specially positioned at the end of the book so that enthusiasts can easily cut them out and frame them if they so wish. The pictures are repeated in monochrome within the text.

There are also many other contemporary photographs and drawings of badges, uniforms, etc, which amplify the text that goes into great detail to explain the various differences in the attire of officers, privates and gunners, non-commissioned officers and warrant officers.

Much research has gone into the preparation of this volume which, inter alia, records organisations, establishments, strengths and even the location of units at that time.

The various Mounted and Dis-mounted Orders of Parade are shown including review order, marching, field day, drill and watering order. The appendices include a list of the first 112 "military type" prints published as supplements to the Army and Navy Gazette between 1888 and 1897 and must have included most regiments of the Army.

This is a book of interest, reference and joy for the military enthusiast, the student, the war-gamer and the historian.

The Victorian Military Society, Coombe Lea, Inholms Lane, North Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4JH—£7.95. **GRH**

The Third World in Soviet Military Thought: Mark N Katz

The Soviet Union has been advancing westward in recent years seeking to spread Communism ever wider and more menacingly far across the world. The Third World is increasingly threatened, by direct military involvement as in Afghanistan, and by ideological infiltration and various methods of aid in many parts of Africa and Asia.

The nuclear advantage once held by the United States of America has now given way to parity, and Soviet military thinking is no longer deter-

red from active interest and involvement in Third World conflicts, national aspirations and internal ambitions.

The progress of Soviet military thinking on nuclear war and on war in Europe have been studied by Western authors, but little research has been done on how the Communists have developed their military thinking about conflict in the Third World.

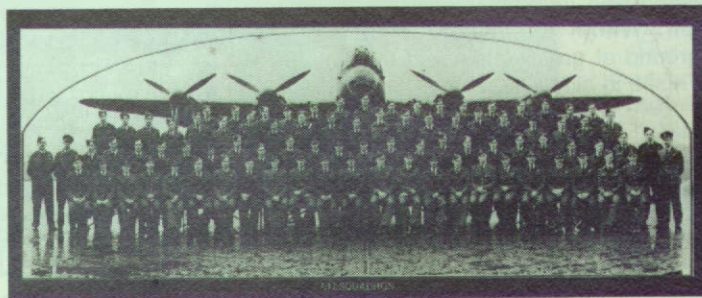
In the past 20 years, however, Soviet interest and involvement in Third World affairs has increased to a most important position in their foreign policy — and this has been reflected in military pronouncements, judgements, and the aid provided to further the ambitions of world-wide Communism.

The author of this book has set out to collect and assess the evidence of this development in Soviet military thinking, in all its complexities, from Stalin through Khrushchev and Brezhnev to the present day. It may in some ways be heavy reading but it must surely be worthwhile if we remember the warning: "Know your enemy!"

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11 1PN, £10.95 **GRH**

The Men Who Breached the Dams: Alan W Cooper

The Dam Busters might have been thought to have been well enough covered in print and film over the years. The story of 617 Squadron and



Barnes Wallis's bombs "the size and shape of the front wheel of a steam roller" and how they attacked the Mohne and other dams must be known in outline to every schoolboy.

But Mr Cooper, an official at the Public Records Office, was attracted to the story by the release of official papers on the subject seven or eight years ago and has produced a very detailed account of the raid, with records of all the aircrew and even the numbers and histories of the aircraft.

He has also spoken to survivors of the squadron, of whom there were not many by the end of the war, and to Germans who were on the receiving end of the attack, including one who was on the Mohne guns.

He quotes a German estimate of the result of the raid, 1294 people drowned, 6500 cattle and pigs lost, 125 factories destroyed or damaged and 3000 homes ruined, as well as damage to power and water supplies. For this the attacker paid dearly: of their 19 aircraft, only eleven returned; 53 crew members died and three were taken prisoner.

Mr Cooper's book is marred by patches of extremely sloppy writing, sometimes irritating, sometimes

ludicrous, sometimes just confusing like his description of the squadron's special bomb-sight: "Construct a triangle of plywood with a peep-hole (or backsight) and fix two upright nails, one each to the frontmost corners . . ."

William Kimber, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AE — £9.50 **RLE**

The German Sniper 1914-1945: Peter R Senich

The sniper has long played a significant role in modern warfare and this extensively researched book is a comprehensive study of German sniping methods in World Wars One and Two. Germany was quick to realise the value of the sniper and highly trained Scharfschützen or Sharpshooters were used with deadly efficiency in both world wars.

In the 1914-18 war the German High Command lost no time in fielding first class marksmen armed with telescopic-sighted rifles. Optically-sighted hunting rifles were pressed into service to be followed by the bolt action Mauser Gewehr 98 adapted to the special needs of the sniper. These weapons proved their value in the Great War but by the time the Wehrmacht emerged as a vital part of Hitler's Third Reich the sniper had all but disappeared.

It was in World War Two when highly trained Soviet sharpshooters took an alarming toll of German infantry that the Wehrmacht was spurred to take urgent remedial action

and, as Peter Senich clearly indicates in an instructive chapter, it was the prowess of the Soviet sharpshooter that determined the direction of the German sniping programme from late 1941 until the end of the war.

Among the various sniping rifles to be examined in this encyclopaedic work are the highly accurate and adaptable Selbstladegewehrs 41 and 43 which were the first semi-automatics to be mass produced for the German army.

A feature of this remarkable volume is the many photographic illustrations of weapons and equipment used by the German sniper with such deadly effect. All in all this is a classic in its field which should prove of the greatest value to the small arms connoisseur. *Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ—£28.50* **JFPJ**

The Crisis in Western Security: Editor Lawrence S. Hagen

In this age when freedom from major war is paradoxically maintained by the existence of nuclear weapons, two factors seemed to offer hope for a surer peace and a cheaper one:

"détente" between East and West and talks on arms control between the two sides. "Détente" has slipped away and the prospects for arms control are far from rosy.

Mr. Hagen has collected the views of eleven defence and international affairs experts, mostly academic, on what has gone wrong and how these subjects might be approached in the future. Happily, unlike so many academics in these fields, the authors all manage to express themselves in reasonably plain English.

They are not very optimistic about the prospects. One of them concludes his piece with a neat summary of the problem: "A stable situation in Europe, in Soviet perspective, is one where they can seize and retain the military initiative. NATO need not, and should not, accept that definition of stability."

Croom Helm, 2-10 St. John's Road, London SW11 1PN — £13.95 **RLE**

Arms Control and Defense Postures in the 1980s edited by Richard Burt

An American book with contributions by a dozen authors who consider, each in his own sphere, the efforts to ban nuclear tests, the reduction of forces and armaments in Europe, the Soviet policy for arms control and defence planning, theatre nuclear forces, arms trade control and the Indian Ocean, restraints in outer space and other kindred subjects.

This list alone shows how wide and intricate is the subject of control and, therefore, how difficult it is even to try for a solution. Especially when any nation that may be ahead with scientific advances — as America is in outer space — would be required to forego its advantages to ensure that extra-terrestrial conquests, exploration and exploitations be for the benefit of all mankind.

There are arguments both ways but there is urgent need to make enforceable agreements now. It needs only the quotation of one footnote to show how frightening the future might be should any one nation become master.

It is: "The next decade could see the development and possible deployment of very large sophisticated satellites that will permit the processing of information to take place in space. This, in turn, will reduce the size and costs of ground receivers which, given advances in micro-circuitry, could literally mean the use of Dick Tracy wrist receivers. The battlefield management implications of these technologies are revolutionary to say the least."

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11 1PN, £15.95 **GRH**

A Higher Form of Killing: by Robert Harris and Jeremy Paxman

This history of chemical, biological and generic warfare has been drawn from British, American, Russian and miscellaneous European sources, most of which were previously classi-

fied or unavailable; information gathered in preparation for a BBC television programme in 1980.

The authors take a definite stand and stress the ominous and alarming aspects of recent developments. With their journalistic backgrounds — both work on television news and current affairs programmes, it is inevitable that emphasis is placed on the horrific aspects of the use of these weapons.

It is, however, necessary to view this insidious group of weapons from more than one level: strategic, tactical and moral, as well as in a comparative context with other inhumane (can any weapon be humane?) and generically harmful means of waging war.

Whether or not the book succeeds in doing this objectively depends on the interests, vested or otherwise, of the individual reader. On the other hand, no one can sanely ignore the message and warning it presents.

The authors were given help by prominent scientists, soldiers and academics during research, resulting in a remarkably comprehensive and readable history covering a period from 22 April 1915, when chlorine gas was first used around the village of Langemarck, near Ypres in Belgium, the Allies World War Two biological programme, lethal experiments with anthrax and DNA, to modern binary weapons.

Assassination by chemical means is examined, including that of Heydrich in 1942 and the injection of poison transmitted to George Markov in a London street in 1978.

Messrs Harris and Paxman are to be congratulated for succeeding in finding out so much about this little-known and poorly understood arsenal of weapons. It is a fascinating and disturbing book and not recommended for reading with the bedtime Horlicks — unless one gets their kicks from nightmares.

Chait & Windus, 40 William IV St., WC2 — price £9.95

BJ

The Third World War: The Untold Story (General Sir John Hackett)

Hot upon the heels of General Sir John Hackett's "The Third World War" which not only achieved best seller status in Britain but has enjoyed a phenomenal success worldwide, we now have a second volume on the same subject. It is not a continuation of the story so compellingly told by Sir John. It is, rather, a reappraisal of the same theme in which some gaps are filled in and various aspects of the tale amplified.

In "The Third World War: The Untold Story" the whole spectrum of conflict is re-examined with new areas such as the implications of the fall of the Shah of Iran and the rise of Solidarity in Poland, which could not be included in the first book, now being given an airing.

There is much food for serious and calculating thought in this disturbing work, for disturbing it undoubtedly is. Without preamble or adornment the horrific scene is set on the first page with the outbreak of war on 4 August 1985 between the United States and her Allies on the one hand

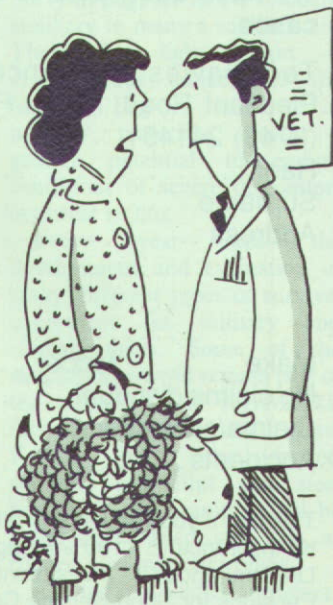
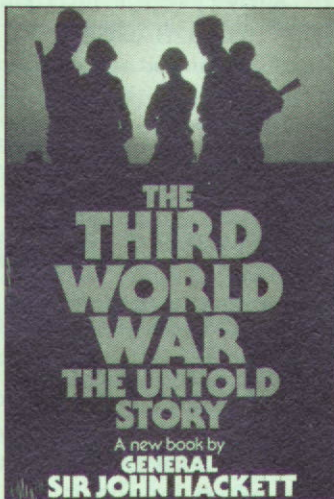
and Soviet Russia and her Satellites on the other. Lasting three weeks, the weapons of the day wreak appalling devastation on men, women, children and cities.

The war is fought largely on the central European front and this is dealt with in intriguing detail with supporting chapters on the Scandinavian campaign and the war at sea, in the air and inevitably the clash in space.

The parts played by the volatile Middle East, the Far East, Central America and Southern Africa in the global conflagration are carefully assessed and in the final pages the war moves to the Soviet Union itself lightened by fascinating sections of dialogue between high ranking Russian officials, junior officers and even the murmurings of a grumbling populace hopefully queuing for food.

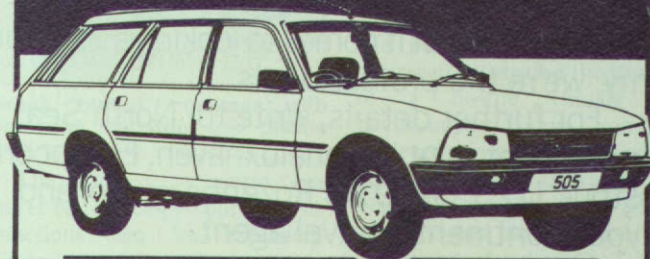
Illustrations of weapons, ships and aircraft plus some explanatory sketch maps all contribute to this thought provoking book in the preparation of which Sir John Hackett (see SOLDIER 23 August) has been assisted by a distinguished team of contributors including two Russian defectors, Viktor Suvorov and Vladimir Bukovsky.

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FIRST FOR EXPORT

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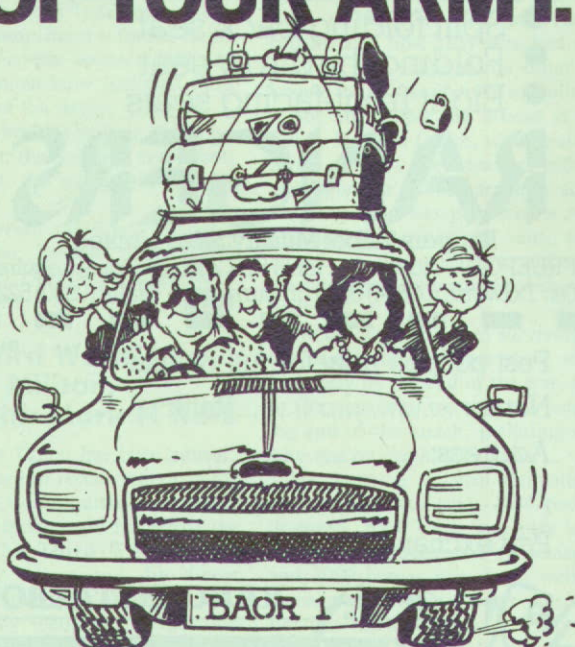
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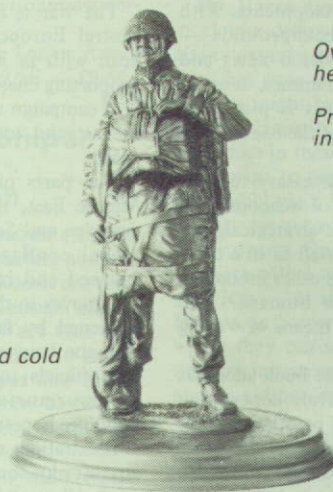
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IF THE VALUE of a soldier's life is measured solely by the cost of training his replacement, it's hardly surprising that the concept of 'cannon fodder' went the same way as the cannon. Apart from the human tragedy, every soldier killed today means the premature loss of a £100,000 investment spent on his recruitment and training; for an RAF pilot, the figure is more like a staggering three million pounds.

But although equipping soldiers in the skills of modern warfare is expensive, the returns are high. Miniaturisation of weaponry, made all the more accurate by electronic enhancement, means that just one man can carry and deliver an enormous knock-out potential against air, sea and land targets.

It hardly needs a strategist's training to appreciate the sense of deploying a small 'crack' unit to front or execute a military offensive with the advantage of easy concealment, speed and surprise on its side. Just as obvious, though, is the importance of keeping these men alive in the field since a single loss will have a much greater impact on the unit's efficiency.

Increased awareness of the soldier's more crucial role has now resulted in an even greater emphasis on survival training. The range of survival equipment available to the Army has also increased in scope and sophistication, thanks particularly to the growth of adventure sports and outdoor pursuits such as backpacking.

Whenever a new piece of survival clothing or equipment is designed, though, it must compete for pack-space with up to one hundred and twenty pounds of kit now carried by a soldier on operations. Light weight and minimal bulk are therefore given high priority. Items such as the Gore-Tex bivi-bag can actually help reduce pack

by Freddy Markham

poundage by replacing a bulkier, less efficient piece of kit.

The bag weighs just twenty ounces yet has extremely high insulation qualities; the Gore-Tex provides total water and windproofing but allows the outward passage of water vapour so as to prevent condensation.

Field reports from soldiers in the Falklands who used the bivi-bag indicate a hundred per-cent 'thumbs up' for its efficiency, comfort and light weight.

Other developments in recent years, such as the multi-use Survival Bag, are now a standard auxiliary to many a soldier's kit. Their ultra light weight — around four ounces for the Survival Bag — and use of modern materials means a greater potential to endure conditions of severe discomfort or threat to life.

Every year sees the development and evaluation of many different types of survival equipment for military and civilian users. Some of the simplest items will remain part of the soldier's basic survival kit forever; the burning glass, Kendal mint cake, button compass and flint and steel firelighter, for example, will be much more tried and just as trusted a century from now.

For today's soldier, however, modern offshoots from all these items are now available to make

life not just simpler but more comfortable, too. By adding just a few more ounces weight, for example, the flint and steel firelighter can be supplemented by the flint and magnesium firetool which includes its own tinder.

Ration packs too have seen some welcome and tasty-changes. Emergency food of low weight and high energy content no longer has to taste like pre-masticated cardboard. New pouching methods and advances in food technology mean that gourmet standard meals can now be carried which provide all nutritional needs and are no fuss to prepare.

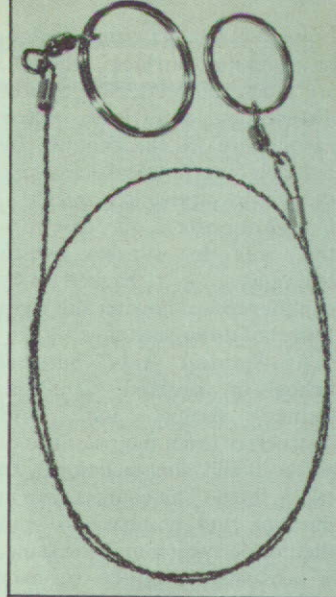
Approaching checkpoint on the Brecon Beacons during SAS combat survival course.



Brass 'button' compass with luminous dial (top) and plastic mini compass.

The compass, of course, can never be replaced — but its basic functions can be extended. Today's navigational equipment includes, for example, compasses

Below: Gore-Tex hooped bivi (bottom) bivi-bag in the same material.



Eight-strand Commando wire saw can slice through wood, metal and bone.

on which declination can be manually adjusted, so the user does not have to work out the difference between Magnetic and True North.

Survival experts believe that life preservation is not just a matter of combating the problem of a hostile climate and environment; this can be achieved with proper training and only a basic survival kit. But being deprived of normal comforts and having to exist at a subsistence level can adversely effect the essential "survive come what may" attitude.

Standard issue chlorine tablets, for instance, will kill



bacteria in suspect water. Iodine-based water purifiers, though, are much more effective against diseases and don't leave such a nasty taste in the mouth. By reducing the physical hardships the will to survive is increased.

And ultimately, of course, it is the will to survive which triumphs — backed by confidence in knowing the right things to do to stay alive.

At Survival Aids' Survival School in Morland, Cumbria, former Army and SAS instructors teach the priorities of survival and the techniques to tackle them. The courses vary in duration and emphasis — but their underlying aim is the same; to arm the would-be survivor with sufficient confidence in his own ability to keep the destructive emotions of panic and depression at bay.

In their absence, both mind and body are able to call upon those hidden reserves of strength which have never been realised — but which offer the key to staying alive. ■

The author is a director of Survival Aids Ltd. Further details of the company's equipment and Survival School — and a copy of the Survival Aide-Memoire can be obtained by sending £1 to: Survival Aids Ltd, Morland, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3AZ.

Soldiers practise trapping skills that could help keep them alive.



My name is Shirley, I am 26 years old, divorced with children and would like to write to any soldier. I am 5ft with black hair and grey eyes. I'm presently a student of social science. My hobbies include squash, karate, cooking and music. *Shirley Calderwood, 113 Oliver Street, Foleshill, Coventry, Warwickshire CU6 5FD.*

My name is Cathy. I am 15 years old and I would like to write to a boy in the forces aged between 16-18 years. I am 5ft 5in tall, slim with long blond hair. My hobbies are reading, cooking, eating, playing the piano and I also like animals. *Cathy Higgins, 1 Roseleigh Ave, Burnage, Manchester 19.*

I would like a penpal in the WRAC in England or abroad. My hobbies are military tattoos, cricket, football, tennis and military bands. I am 50

years old. *Mr G Harland, 6 Eastward Ho, Leiston, Suffolk P16 4AY.*

Hi, my name is Julia. I am 16½ years old. I would like to write to a single male between the age of 18 and 21. My interests include new romantic music, fashionable clothes, discos and concerts. I have blue eyes, brown hair and I am 5ft 9ins. — *Julia Welsh, 13 Coomside, Collingwood Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6HW.*

PEN PALS WANTED

My name is Helen. I've got blonde hair, blue eyes and I'm 5ft 6ins. I would like to write to any young soldier. My hobbies are music, sport and I like travelling. — *Helen Marsden, 39 Hawthorn Grove, Southport, Merseyside.*

I am 24 years old, divorced with a 2½ years old daughter. My hobbies are dressmaking, keep-fit, horse-riding, swimming and woodwork. — *Pat Carter, 59 Bathgate Close, Battlehill Est, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 9SX.*

My name is Irene and I am 28 years old. I would like to write to a soldier between 28-35 years old. I am 5ft 5ins and have dark brown hair and grey-blue eyes. I have a boy of 7. My interests are sports and pop music of all kinds. I also like walking and going to places. — *Irene Smith, 32 Bleasdale Road, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, Manchester MC22 6SH.*

My name is Christine, I'm 16, 5ft 6ins with brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to write to any soldier

stationed anywhere. — *Christine Goulden, 69 Milton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7AJ.*

My name is Carole, I am 18½ years old and I have brown hair and eyes. I am a nurse at a hospital in Dartford. I like all sorts of music. I am doing the Duke of Edinburgh awards at the moment. I would like to write to someone between 18-23 years old. — *Carole, 61 Hoppett House, Darenth Park Hospital, Dartford, Kent.*

I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall, with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I like disco music and going for long drives. I like writing to people who like writing to me, and having lots of fun. — *D Rolfe, 3 Burnaby Close, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6UJ.*

I am Julie Maguire, and I am 16 years old, 5ft 2ins with dark brown hair and blue eyes. My friend is Julie Furze, who is 16 years old, 5ft 5ins, with light brown hair and green eyes. We would like to write to people between the ages of 17-19. Please enclose a photo. — *Julie Maguire and Julie Furze, 69 Wensley Road, Coley Park, Reading RG1 6DQ, Berks.*

I am 24 years old, quite attractive, with long brown hair and blue eyes. I am of medium build. I have three children. My interests are going out and cooking. At the moment my main interest is my family. I class myself as a caring person and will listen to or help anybody with problems. — *Miss Pam Catchpole, 14 Gonville Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 7JU.*

My name is Elaine and I am 16 years old. I am in the sixth form at school. I enjoy listening to music like jazz-

funk and some new wave. I like going to parties and playing squash. I also like Spurs but don't get to see them much because I have a part-time job. — *Elaine Radburn, 122 Northwold Road, Upper Clapton, London E3.*

I am 31 and single. My hobbies are reading, writing, driving (I have my own car), dancing, watching TV and listening to music. I am also in the TA. — *Jeannette Rice, 4 Thirlmere Court, Hebburn-Upon-Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE31 2RP.*

I am 18½ years old and work as a doctor's receptionist. I will be starting training as a nurse in November. My hobbies are squash, tennis, horseriding, swimming and reading. I would like to write to someone between 18 and 24. — *Margaret Kelly, 24 Wentworth Park, Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 9DR.*

My name is Sandra. I am 31 years old and single. My interests are films, especially westerns and music, ie: Abba and Bucks Fizz. — *S Hall, 56 Trevelyan Place, Peterlee, Co Durham SR8 2LN.*

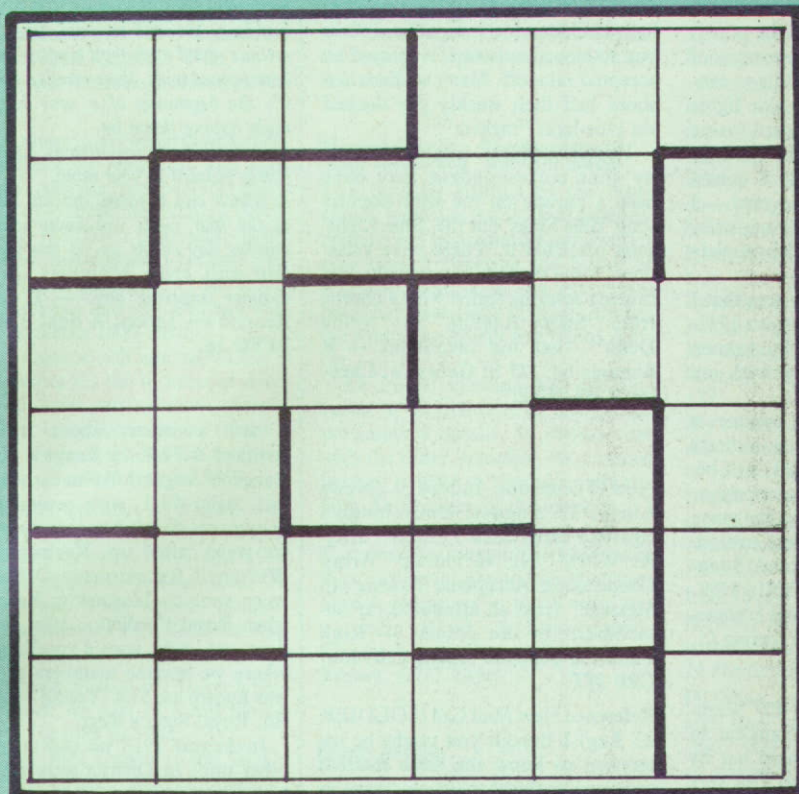
I would like to write to a young soldier abroad. I'm 16 years old and C of E. My hobbies are badminton, swimming and reading. I would like to write to people between 17-20 years old. — *Tracey Heslop, 26a South View, Tantobie, Stanley, Co. Durham DH9 9TJ.*

I am a 14 year old girl. I enjoy sport, letter writing and music and dancing. — *Sally Adams, 187 Grosvenor Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear.*

More pen pals on page 39

ROMAN CROSSWORD

COMPETITION 302



IT'S DOUBTFUL whether Julius Caesar's conquering legions ever had much time for crosswords, but they might have enjoyed the sort of puzzle set out here. All the letters in the answers are Roman numerals — I, V, X, L, C, D and M. The clues are set out below but the numbers have to be inserted as you go along — the figures in brackets indicate the number of Roman numerals in each answer. When you've worked out all the solutions, just send us a copy of your completed grid.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 5 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 29 November. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 302' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 302' label to: **Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.**

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- 4 Grind (4)
- 6 Effected (3)
- 8 The old Sixty-eighth foot (3)
- 9 Medal (2)
- 10 Decoration (3)
- 12 Animated (5)
- 14 Relating to a city (5)

DOWN

- 1 At the dance (2)
- 2 Isle of Wight car registration (2)
- 3 Unwell (3)
- 4 French girl (4)
- 5 Furious (5)
- 6 Foreign currency (2)
- 7 Doctor (2)
- 8 Part of the USA (2)
- 11 Degree (2)
- 12 Award for heroism (2)
- 13 Northampton car registration (2)

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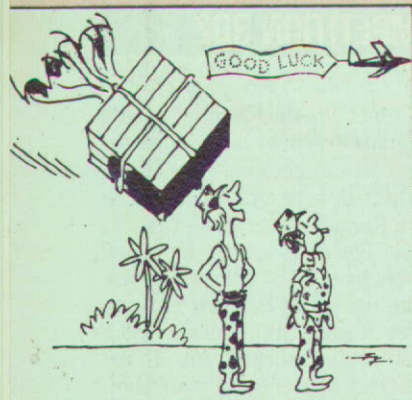
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BLUE LIGHTS

May I be the one to enlighten John Yeowell (Old Song, SOLDIER 6 Sep.) The song *Blue Lights*, that he heard the Old Hands singing referred to money. I served with the 1st Bn Leicestershire Regt in various stations in India between the years 1931 and 1937 and, when in training areas, was paid blue lights in lieu of hard cash.

Blue lights were cardboard pieces, three inches by two and coloured thus: Red = 1 rupee, Yellow = 8 annas, Grey = 4 annas, White = 1 anna.

They first came into existence in the early days of the British occupation of India, to prevent troops spending money to obtain sex with Indian prostitutes, who were called Sand-Rats, and were in all cases pox ridden.

VD amongst the forces at that time gave the War Office and Army HQ cause for grave concern as in some cases regiments had up to 55 per cent of its Bn strength in hospital, and thereby no longer a fighting force. So Army authorities took steps to stamp out the menace. First they established what became known and dreaded as punishment stations — regiments who exceeded 10-12 per cent VD casualties were sent to such places. One such place was called Multan situated on the Sind Desert (Fahrenheit temperature often exceeded 126 degrees in the shade, average daily temperature for the year 113 degrees) — a truly horrid place. Maximum period at such a place two years.

The next step taken by Army authority was the blue light already described. This idea at its birth was considered to be the ultimate in drastically cutting down numbers stricken with VD and many Brass-Hats breathed freely.

It was not long, however, before word was spread far, and wide, by army canteen staffs (contracted out to Indian personnel), that Indian prostitutes and Sand-Rats could accept blue lights, in lieu of cash, for sex. (It should be pointed out at this stage, that for a maximum of

four annas a soldier could take his pick, among women.)

After the day's business the prostitutes could approach the manager of any one of the many military canteens and exchange their blue lights for real cash. For a Red-card (value 16 annas) they would be paid 14 annas. Yellow-card (value 8 annas) they received 6 annas, Grey-card — 3 annas. Canteen managers naturally became richer men than they already were!

In every Army training area that I had occasion to serve, between 1931-1937 we were pursued by women saying "You want to lay with me Sahib, I take blue lights".

Blue Lights rapidly became a laughing stock among the military and civilians, and remained, so I believe, to the end of British occupation.

Sadly they failed to solve the grave problem for which they were created. — **S Leaning**, 5 Tetley Road, Scunthorpe, S/Humberside, DN16 1PN. For your full and fascinating explanation of *Blue Lights*, we are sending £5, Mr Leaning. — **Ed**

Whilst serving with 1st Bn Seathforth Highlanders in Shanghai in 1938, a scheme was brought out by the battalion PRI whereby O/Rs were allowed to sign for a book of vouchers worth five dollars.

These were available on Wednesdays (a day when a squaddie was usually broke) and could only be cashed in the Naafi. They were called 'blue lights' and I am almost sure that this derived from the fact that the Company Pay Ledger was called the Blue Book.

Repayment was easy! On the following pay day the Colour Sergeant called out your pay, then what you owed for blue lights, which you handed over to the PRI.

The battalion moved to India in 1941 but blue lights had ceased to be issued before we got there. So maybe what John Yeowell heard was the old hands bemoaning the fact that those blue lights were no longer available! — **V Carmichael**, 150 Marrowbrook Lane, Farnborough, Hants.

Shortly after World War One I was transferred to India where Naafi was not instituted until many years later. Wet & dry canteens were contracted to responsible Indians who, to keep custom within barracks, had books of blue credit chits made over to each company quarter-master sergeant. He then during mid-week, signed them over to soldiers who could only change them for eats and necessities in the contractor's canteen. (The only cigarettes sold in Indian Army canteens were 'Scissors' — popular and cheaply priced as remembered by many thousands of old sweats.) Value of 'blue-lights' was deducted from weekly pay; then between fifteen and twenty rupees for a private. Quite good pay in those days.

Blue-lights were not to be spent in 'wet' canteens: an order easily evaded. My quartermaster sergeant seemed always too busy to sign-out 'blue-lights' during office hours but obligingly made them over from his room later as a "favour" when the

recipient was asked to check the number of coupons inside the blue-light booklet which was always short but no-one complained: it seemed an accepted rake-off. Many soldiers had about half their weekly pay docked via blue-light "rackets".

The 'Blue Light' song mentioned by your correspondent may have been a parody on the later popular song 'Blue Skies' but the 'Blue Light' song preceded it. There were variations; some crude but invariably, wet canteen sessions ended with a chorus from "Sweet Adeline" or "Nellie Dean", then old favourites — **R Rimmer GC**, 27 St George's, Chester, CH1 3HG.

MAIL LIFT

New Technique Indeed!!! (News Lines, 23 August) Churchman's cigarette cards circa 1935/36: "RAF At Work" No 46 shows "Army Cooperation Aeroplane Picking up Message" from an armoured car detachment in the desert. — **Rick Field**, 32 Johnson Road, Croydon, CR0 2JT.

Reference New Mail Call (SOLDIER 23 Aug) I though you might be interested to know the same method was used by Cavalry Signals troops in the 1920s and 30s. Two lances were placed in the ground a distance apart with a line attached and a pouch slung over containing messages and the aircraft with a hook would swoop down and retrieve the pouch and deliver to its destination. — **W H Wanstall MSM**, (Ex Trooper 14th/20th Kings Hussars, Armourer Staff Sergeant, RAOC, REME, Regular Army 1919-1946) 35 Albert Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1NO.

PORRIDGE POEM

After spending a considerable amount of days in close arrest with still more to do, I have written some words — half in total darkness — that you may like to publish. I am sure other comrades in the nick will understand them and people in the outside world will now know and think of us.

THE FOUR WALLS

As I lie here within these four walls I know so well, so silent, so still, the mind begins to wander.

Sixty-five days a soldier under close arrest. It's time for bed, the door slammed shut, bolted.

Such a common sound, but one which brings pain to the heart.

Darkness fills the room, seconds, minutes tick by, the eyes forever adjusting to the sudden lack of light.

So quiet and peaceful, yet Oh so lonely. The heart grieves once again for the one most dear.

The day's events flash by in one's mind, the good and the bad times slowly begin to unwind.

It's time to relax, to bring your mind and thoughts back down to earth, to once again become human, no longer a robot, jumping to every command that's so harshly given.

People passing by, going out to paint the town red, to them you don't even exist, yet in here you picture them in your

mind, and yet again you slowly begin to unwind.

Suddenly the cell becomes bright, the distinct sound of the bolt banged and the door opened wide, there stands a soldier, it's the beginning of a new day, the night having flown by.

You recall the present dreams, some still firmly planted in your mind.

A stretch and a yawn, quickly looking at the four walls you know so well, another day clocks up, is this the day that will bring happiness, or just another lingering day. — **L/Cpl K Rear**, Two Troop, A Sqn, 3 RTR, BFPO 16.

OPERA RANGES

I saw a report about a Nato Artillery & Training Range at Hohne Range (9 August). At an early age of just under 18 I, with several other youngsters decided to join up before we were called up. Registering at Whitehall Recruitment Office we were sent to Hounslow Barracks (then Royal Fusiliers). After several days, we were posted to Aldershot where we became members of what was known as: 51st (Young Soldiers) Bn, Royal Sussex Regt.

In August 1918 we and countless other units in District were severely hit by the 'flu epidemic which reduced troop numbers drastically and luckily deferred our posting to France until after Armistice Day. However, in March 1919 we were sent across the Rhine to a place called Wahn. It was a big German artillery range about 23 miles southeast of Cologne.

Cologne was a fantastic place for troops, I knew most operas in German by the time I got home, chiefly through Cologne Opera House. Also, whilst in village or town billets the women or girls would be singing opera tunes, while scrubbing floors or doing the washing up.

We travelled to Cologne by tram from barracks about 1½ miles or so to the station and went on return journey by train. We never paid any train fare to my knowledge although some of us would give a few pence to drivers but not on the tram (we got DM40 to £1 and beer was 10 pf a pint!!)

What I am interested in, is what has happened to this artillery range. It was very extensive and there were large barracks, blocks of officers' and NCOs' private quarters, and perhaps some of your readers may have some recent news — **L W Jones** (aged 82½), 24 Mill Lane, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7ED.

NO SENTIMENT

May I assure you that old soldiers from the last war, like myself, find SOLDIER a source of excellent articles many of which do show that the writers take the trouble to research all the facts before writing them up into good articles.

I especially liked the piece 'The horses that wouldn't lie down' (23 August) which was written without the usual sloppy sentimentality. Well done! — **Dr Cameron Stewart**, 'An Caladh', Flat 1, 74 Richbourne Terrace, London, SW8 1AX.

Can You Help?

I wonder if anyone can assist me in locating the source of Polish Army badges of rank. I have tried most of the obvious sources but so far without success. — **Dr Cameron Stewart, 'An Caladh', Flat 1, 74 Richbourne Terrace, London, SW8 1AX.**

I am anxious to get some information on the following regiments who were in India during the periods mentioned: a) 41st Native Infantry, 1845-1865; b) HM 55th Regiment, 1840-1870 (did this regiment become 2nd Bn Border Regiment?); c) 9th Bombay European and 9th Bombay Native Regiments 1800-1810.

Can anyone tell me to whom I should write for the location of these units in India during these periods and their records/campaigns (if any.) — **E F Harben, 11 Milton Avenue, Fullaton, South Australia 5063.**

Would any member of REME who served at HQ REME Inspectorate, Düsseldorf between 1954 and 1956 please contact **Mr Albert Hall, 39 West Road, West Heath, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4HH** or ring **12602-3219.**

I have been tracing my father's service record, as part of a full family history. He died in 1933.

During 1981 I wrote to the MOD, Archives Office, Bourne Avenue, Hayes. It was claimed that no records of his service could be found; these must have been destroyed in 1940 in the bombing.

It was after this that his Army Pay Book was found with other papers. There is a period of two years which interests me. There is a memo from General Staff Intelligence dated 18 July 1917 requesting him to attend the Intelligence Office situated on the Left Bank, to be examined in Arabic. His next known location was the Citadel, Baghdad on the 25 February 1919.

Both he and his brother Albert served in the AOC. (The Records Office has sent me a complete service record on Albert.) Can any reader help fill in the gaps? — **D A Warrington, 29 Bromley Drive, Dornend, Bristol, BS16 6JQ.**

Collectors' Corner

P Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Rd, Wembley, Middx., HA0 2QT. Has for sale WW1 & 2 picture postcards — France, Belgium trench scenes. POW WW2 covers, books. Medals. All collectors' items. Moderate prices. SAE. **S Gilmore, 37 Salmond Rd, Andover, SP11 8HF.** Wants old service pocket compasses, levels, clinos, small surveying instruments. Private collector.

Ken Jackson, PO Box 596, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Offers ASC Officer's Home Service full dress helmet circa 1910. Complete, in superb condition with metal hatbox bearing original owner's name and unit. Will exchange for two Britain's RHA gun teams at the walk ref 2077 in good condition.

Dean Gordon, 62 Mourneview Ave, Lurgan, Craigavon, Co Armagh, N Ireland, BT66 8LA. Seeks colour pix of and anything relating to the Guards. Also wants SAS beret and badge. Offers Royal Irish Rangers items in exchange.

C J Young, 33 Lytham Street, London, SE17 2PN. Requires Commonwealth Monitoring Force Armband as worn by troops in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia — will purchase for reasonable price. Also interested in contacts in Commonwealth and South Africa with a view to exchanging elite force insignia. All letters answered.

Normandy Veterans

The founder branch of the Normandy Veterans Association at Humberside, are now opening yet another new branch covering the South of England, following the successful branches launched in East Anglia, the Midlands, North and West Country.

An initial meeting will be convened in the Autumn to discuss the preliminary details, in conjunction with the other branches, for a return landing in 1984 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the invasion.

If you served in any of the Armed Forces taking part in the 1944 landings and would like to join this latest branch please get in touch with me. — **Eric Reed, 4 Summerhill, Charterhouse Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2AN.**

Pen Pals

Hi! My name is Debi McVicar. I am 16 years old and am 5ft 6in tall, with brown hair and blue eyes. I like going to discos and listening to New Romantic music. I would like to write to a single soldier between the ages 18-21 years old. Please send letters and photo, if possible. — **Debi McVicar, 1 Wilkwood Close, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6JA.**

Divorced lady aged 42 would like to correspond with someone 40-50. I am a sincere and homely person with 2 grown-up children. My height is 5ft 5in, hazel eyes and dark hair. **Mrs Ruth Clayton, 115 Watkinson Road, Illingworth, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 9B2.**

My name is Melissa and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 5in tall and I have brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies include swimming, reading, horror stories, listening to music and jogging. I would like to write to a male soldier either in the Army or Junior Leaders. — **M A Sheppard, 35 Orchard Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2BW.**

My name is Alyson Green and I am 16 years old. My hobbies include writing and answering letters, reading books, going to discos, listening to all types of music and sport — especially snooker. I would like to write to a pen-pal up to the age of 22 years old. — **Alyson Green, 10 East Terrace, Stakeford, Choppington, Northumberland NE6 5UJ.**

Jayne (late 20s) would like to write to a man in the Forces. I teach the piano and guitar. I have a little girl who is nearly five. I am 5ft 6in tall, slim with fair hair and blue eyes. My interests are writing songs, keeping fit, walking in the countryside. — **Jayne Higgins, 473a Kingsway, Burnage, Manchester 19.**

I am German, 45 years old and would like penpals, male and female. **Ruth Michael, 5 Laburnum Grove, Greenstead Est, Colchester, Essex.**

I am Angela Maria Holt and I am a 25 year old single parent of a 2 year old daughter. My interests are jogging, cooking, dancing and writing letters. — **Angela Holt, 3 Woodside Way, West Way Park, South Shields, Tyne & Wear.**

I am 21 years old, divorced with 2 young children. I have a house and a car. I enjoy most music, discos, drawing and tennis. I am presently studying for an 'A' level at night school. — **Sheila Giles, 81 Tynemouth Road, High Howden, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 0BB.**

I am 19 years old. I have blonde hair, blue eyes and I am 5ft 5ins tall. I will answer all letters and if possible include a photo please. — **Kim Gall, 19 Liddiards Green, Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire SW8 1SP.**

My name is Carol and I am 16 years old. I enjoy playing squash, listening to music, jazzfunk and being with friends. My hobbies include gardening and fashion design. — **C Pusey, 16 Hayworth Road, Clapton, London E5 8DR.**

I am 16 and I am looking for a penpal between 16-17 years old. My interest is motorbikes. — **Miss Lees Sharpe, 14 Heyford Road, Leicester LE3 1SR.**

Hi fellas, get your biros at the ready and start scribbling to a group of 16-17 year old females. We come in all shapes and sizes, so please state your preference. We're all new romantic/futurists and our interests are listening to music and going to gigs. Write to: **Julie Hammond, 77 Gainsborough Ave, Maghull, Merseyside L31 7AU.**

My name is Freda. I am a young 44 year old, divorced and I have a son who is 16 and one daughter who is 12½. — **Mrs F Wright, 44 Middlesex Court, Garfield Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey.**

Competition

Competition 298, 'Hidden Treasure' did not put the bounty-hunters and code-crackers on the wrong track. The only void entries we had were from those of you who forgot to attach the competition label to your entry. Once you understood the riddle, the rest was easy of course, and just a matter of translation. The treasure was *Gold, Silver and Pearls* and could be found on the south east slope of the hill. Prizewinners were: 1st WO1 D Smith, 2nd Sgt, Comms and Sy Gp (UK), Garats Hay Camp, Loughborough, Leics. 2nd A F Anderson, 5 Traquair Park East, Edinburgh. 3rd WE2 G A Boss, 57 Oxford Close, Basingstoun Bks, Royston, Herts. 4th R C Santon, 157 Ellesmere Road, London, NW10. 5th Cpl Geoff Salmon, 3 PO Regt RE, BFPO 34.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 13)
1 Mouth of top left man; 2 Top of lower man's cap; 3 Shape of wave at right bottom border; 4 Top elbow patch of man on right; 5 Position of water-drop below top oar; 6 Whale's eye; 7 Lower rib on right of boat; 8 Boat's rudder; 9 Slope of wave above whale's eye; 10 Top of whale's tail.

SALE OF SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS UNDER THE NON DISCOUNTED SCHEME

Bulletin Nos 42 and 43 contain details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

Bulletin 42

Type 2	1 in Gaydon, Warwickshire	£37,500
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	1 in Colchester, Essex	£100,000
Type 4	11 in Gaydon, Warwickshire	£25,600-£30,000
Type 5	28 in Gaydon, Warwickshire	£22,000-£27,000
Type C	1 in Clapham, Bedfordshire	£19,500
Type B	1 in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire	£19,500

Bulletin 43

Type 4	1 in Portsmouth, Hampshire	£45,000
Type 5	1 in Portsmouth, Hampshire	£35,000
Type C	2 in Prestatyn, Clwyd	£14,400
	1 in St Ives, Cambridgeshire	£25,000
	1 in St Ives, Cambridgeshire	£19,000

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

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 42 is 6 October 1982 and for Bulletin No 43 is 13 October 1982



The impressive frontage to Broadoaks the home of MACS(A).

Armed with pens, calculators and computers, a group of highly specialised soldiers travel the world to help fight the Army's war on waste
CALLED TO ACCOUNT

BURIED IN THE Surrey countryside behind great security — albeit not primarily designed for them — are the Army's Management Accountants, a team of professionals devoted to cost efficiency in the Army.

It's true that the image of accountants — whey-faced, bespectacled, dull-looking men in pinstriped suits and carrying rolled umbrellas, uniform briefcases and a copy of the *Financial Times* is not so far removed from the members of Management Accounting and Costing Services (Army) (MACS). The difference is that like Clark Kent, a quick change and they become Superman. Well, maybe just Action Man.

For the job of these professionally qualified men, under the command of Colonel Duncan Bennett, is to investigate the economics of any given operation and present the facts to Army management so that informed and, one hopes, correct decisions can be made regarding that operation's cost efficiency.

Dull? Not a bit of it, according to Colonel Bennett who speaks for all his team when he says the work is "fascinating" especially as they have to be prepared at 24 hours notice to go anywhere the Army is and tackle a new problem — a new set of figures. Adopting their Action Man role, they exchange their brollies for kitbags and become full time soldiers again.

For instance, one of their number, Major Tom O'Donnell, set sail for the Falkland

**Story: Sally Daniell
 Pictures: Paul Haley**

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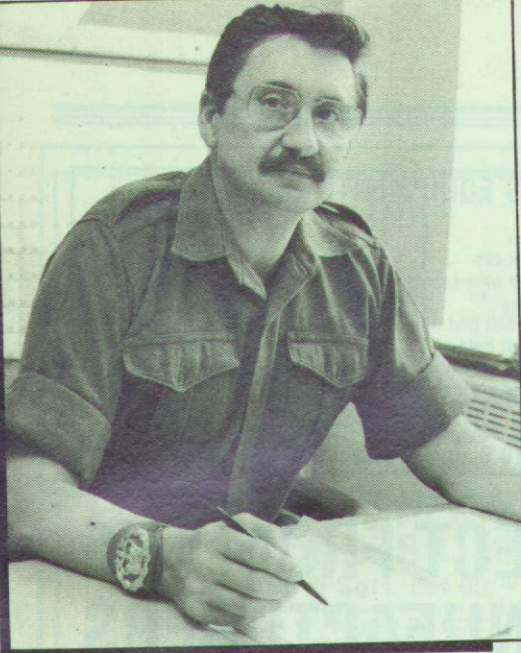
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WO2 Barrie Hingley relishes the varied work rather than just "stamping bills all day."

Islands on the QE 2 with the Welsh Guards as their paymaster, and was wounded at Bluff Cove. Another, Warrant Officer Ken Taylor is currently at the Forward Base Pay Office, Port Stanley.

The MACS team believe they are unique for they are the only single professional organisation in the Army staffed both by officers and SNCOs. But as Colonel Bennett emphasised "the training is exactly the same. It's a long, hard, terribly hard course and it's uphill all the way."

The course is undertaken partly at The Royal Army Pay Corps training centre at Worthy Down and on two correspondence courses which have to be fitted in around the duties of a normal RAPC post. Success in the final examinations — some ten hours long — results in becoming a member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA).

One of Colonel Bennett's team, WO 2 Barrie Hingley, was nine years in the Corps before attempting the course and he passed the exam only at the third attempt. But he is glad he made the effort.

"I've seen Pay Corps Warrant Officers in Germany sitting at desks stamping bills all day." And with a gesture Barrie made it quite clear that was not a job he would relish. Joining MACS (A) has meant him being able to use his accountancy skills in a highly specialised way such as nipping off to Norway and a thorough cost analysis of the Outward Bound Centre.

MACS(A) men can find themselves in some pretty high level situations as well and like to think they can react swiftly to any request and meet whatever deadlines are imposed.

In 1981, for instance the team in Hong Kong pulled out all the stops, cancelled their leave and worked without a break to produce a complete costing of the Garrison there including the Nepal and Brunei detachments. This provided the baseline for negotiations with the Hong Kong Government to reduce the Garrison bill. The savings were enormous, and for his unstinting efforts the team leader, Major Ray Thomas, was honoured by the Queen with the MBE.

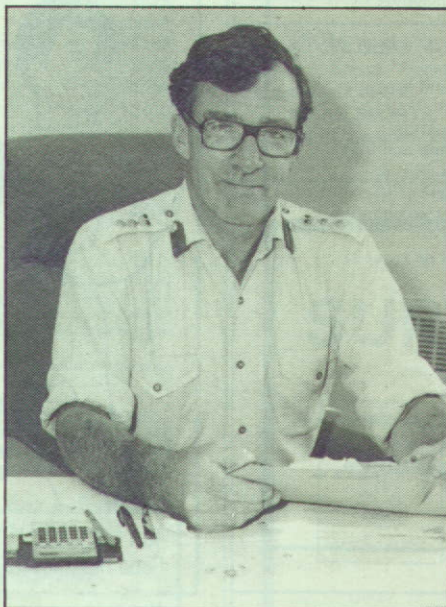
MPs asking questions in the House of Commons is a frequent source of work for the team which has to drop whatever else it

might be doing and provide the pecuniary information required perhaps by a nervous junior minister keen to thwart any criticism of Defence expenditure.

But life at MACS(A) is not all crisis management. For much of the time the team is engaged on the necessary job of costing Army training. Some 80 training units need to be inspected annually so that the MOD may make the most of the available resources.

"And the information is never divulged to a third party" explained Colonel Bennett, "without the permission of the sponsor, and it's theirs to use how they please. We're not in the cutting business: we just give them the figures and it's up to them."

It is strange that this organisation functions with a mixture of both commissioned and non-commissioned officers. In other Corps, where there is a single function, they have become all-officer Corps like the RAEC. But MACS(A) where the minimum



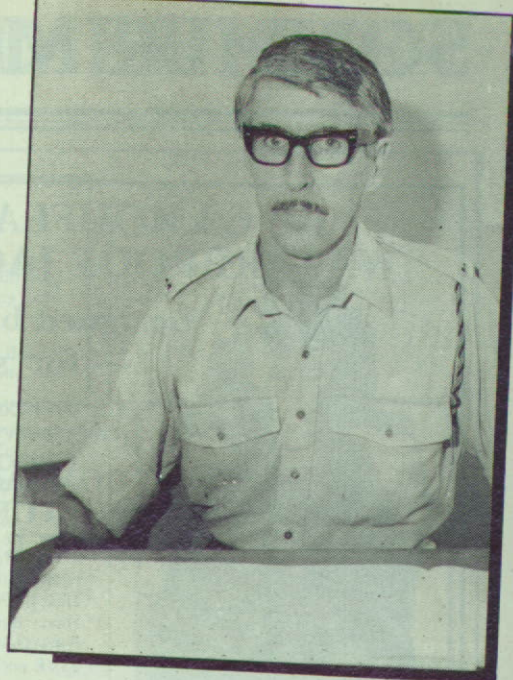
Colonel Duncan Bennett, head of MACS(A) finds the work "fascinating."

rank admissible is Staff Sergeant, is different possibly because it is only a part of the whole — the RAPC — and the cap badge worn is that of the RAPC which overall needs both officers and NCOs.

Neither is being a member of the ICMA a quick ticket to the RCB. "I firmly support the method of officer selection we have in our Army" says Colonel Bennett. "and I don't believe you should be commissioned just because you're a 'beastly swot'. Other qualities are needed too. Here at MACS(A) if someone wants to have a go and we think he's got a chance, well, we'll let him do it. But if he fails, then he's just got to suck his teeth and get on with the job." Which could be on temporary duty in Norway, a ski school in the Alps or working in Hong Kong — but staying in the Sergeants' Mess.

Plenty of warrant officers and staff sergeants in MACS(A) have gone on to take a commission but others — perhaps because of their age and particular circumstances — are content to remain as they are.

"But it's different for them, anyway" explained Barrie Hingley's boss, Major Tony Hollis, "we give them their head. Each Warrant Officer has ten (training) units to look after, and they're respected as accountants wherever they go rather than just soldiers."



"We're good because we know the firm," says Major Tony Hollis.

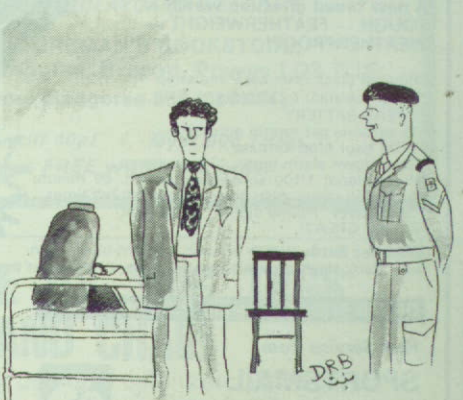
Promotion prospects within the MACS(A) set-up are not particularly bright which is why members of the team return to the main RAPC fold every now and again for duty "just so's they don't miss the bus, so to speak," said Colonel Bennett.

This is a busy team. In their new offices in Byfleet you get the impression that you don't have to be mad to work there, but it helps. Whilst talking to SOLDIER, Colonel Bennett, who says a sense of humour is essential for a MACS man, managed to complete a longhand document and rush it out for typing and despatch. "We just don't know what's coming next so we've got to be prepared."

And not only is the Scouts motto appropriate during working hours, but all being keen on physical fitness, each man can pass the under 29 BFT. Colonel Bennett himself, once a cartoonist for SOLDIER, has a passion for adventure training and when he could tear himself away from the shop this summer, he took himself off to Wales leaving his family at home, to do the Adventure Training Appreciation Course.

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Major Hollis summed up: "In our job we temper cost effectiveness with commonsense and knowledge of soldiers, and we're good at it because, if you like, we know the firm."



"The chair is to get up and rest on during the night." — One of Colonel Bennett's cartoons which first appeared in SOLDIER in January 1954.

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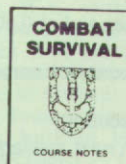


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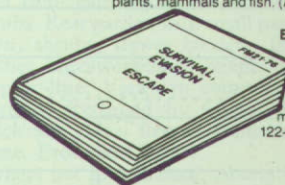
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Marathon runner Cheryl Page is only 11 years old but this Army officer's daughter already has her sights fixed on Olympic gold in 1992

DIMINUTIVE CHERYL PAGE is eleven years old and the daughter of Major Brian Page of Ord 2 Logistic Executive, Andover. She loves to run marathons, all 26 miles and 385 yards of them, and has become the darling and also the target of the media.

Despite her size and her years, Cheryl has already run four major marathons. The first was in Berlin, where the family was stationed, in September 1981 when Cheryl was only ten. Running with Major Page, she completed the course in 4 hours 53 minutes and has since gone on to complete the Winchester, Abingdon and San Francisco, USA, marathons, her best time being 4 hours 6 minutes.

A *Sunday Times* article in May 1982 described Cheryl as "probably the most controversial athlete of the moment" and as "fuelling a massive and unwell-

Will this collection include an Olympic gold medal one day?

25 km, to short distance running, to a half marathon, and — finally — to the inaugural Berlin City Marathon.

Prior to returning to England, Cheryl had been running with

STILL A LONG WAY TO RUN

the eleventh hour.

But such was Cheryl's urge to run, she and her father hit on a ruse to get round the bar. Cheryl hid around the corner from the start and joined Major Page as he came past, staying with him all the way. They finished together in 4 hours 48 minutes, the undulating course being described by the winner as "one of the most difficult he had run".

This subterfuge made Cheryl something of a celebrity and she found herself appearing in most of the daily newspapers, as well as being interviewed on TV and radio.

At the end of a heady week, however, the dialogue had changed from 'unfair AAA for not letting Cheryl run' to the possible medical and psychological problems associated with child marathons. The national debate had been enjoined and Cheryl was, unwittingly, at the centre of the stage.

Despite getting the support of the Lord Mayor of London for her application to run in the London Marathon, Cheryl was, again, caught up in the age rule. Christopher Brasher, the organiser, wrote to say "sorry — but you shouldn't be running marathons. Try shorter distances and improve your speed". Women's AAA rules allowed children of such tender years to run only up to 1500 metres on the flat or 4 miles junior cross country events. So where was Cheryl to go from here?

After the London Marathon and the furore about Cheryl's running had evaporated, the Page family looked forward to some peace and quiet out of the media spotlight. But it was not to be. Central Television latched on to the controversy and the Pages were invited to the USA so that Cheryl could be filmed running in the San Francisco Marathon for a documentary film.

There were 7,800 other competitors and by the 16 mile mark Cheryl had parted company with her father. She finished 14 minutes ahead of him in a very creditable 4 hours 10 minutes — the youngest competitor home.

Once again, Cheryl found herself the centre of the media's attention, and the debate about child marathons still goes on. The prestigious *USA Running* magazine is to feature Cheryl in a forthcoming article and she has recently been interviewed for features in magazines and newspapers in Norway and Sweden.

Although Cheryl finishes her marathons fresh as morning dew, some experts think that children who run such long distances may be storing up medical problems for the future. But when asked about such problems, Major Page draws the distinction between a pressurising parent and a non-pressurising parent. As an example of the former he cites the father of 13-year-old Leslie



Cheryl and her Dad enjoy a training spin together.

Paul of the USA, the youngster who has run marathons in under three hours and even written a book on marathon running.

In the Taiwan Marathon, Leslie was in great difficulty and should have been pulled out, but his father threw buckets of water over him at intervals from a mini bus. The youngster suffered from stomach cramps, headaches and other discomforts and was almost 'out on his feet' when he finished.

"If Cheryl did show signs of severe discomfort, I would stop her running," says Major Page emphatically.

Despite the glare of publicity and controversy, Cheryl keeps running and enjoys it — an attitude which should show through in the documentary *Kids' Eye View* due to be networked on ITV in the New Year.

Amidst the controversy, Cheryl values the words of 87-year-old Ivor Welch who ran in the San Francisco Marathon and who started marathon running when he was 83 since he "wanted to make sure he was mature enough".

He was filmed talking to Cheryl and told her: "Don't let the authorities scare you and stop you running. You have the makings of a top class international runner and you are smart as well".

There is to be a women's marathon for the first time in the Los Angeles' Olympics in 1984 but Cheryl is looking beyond this, to 1992. Spurred on by Ivor Welch's words the youngster who loves to run marathons plods on undeterred and unaffected by her media image. ■



come growth in child marathons". These were strong words to be levelled against an eleven-year-old who simply wanted to run... and run... and run. What had caused the controversy?

The Amateur Athletic Association rules do not allow children under 18 to run in marathons held under their auspices. Whilst the Page family were stationed in Düsseldorf and Berlin, Cheryl progressed from walking events over distances ranging from 10 to

Major Page at German Athletic Club meetings on most weekends — winning 140 medals in the process — and had come to favour competitive long distance running events.

Back in England the AAA age limit presented a major obstacle to Cheryl's progress as a marathon runner. And even though the organisers of the Winchester marathon indicated that they would allow Cheryl to run in an unofficial capacity, they withdrew this concession at

ARMY (WOMEN'S) ROUNDERS INTER UNIT TOURNAMENT

THE BATTLE WAS between WRAC Woolwich and Womens Services Northern Ireland in this year's Army (Women's) Rounders Inter Unit Tournament, leaving last year's winners, the WRAC Centre, Camberley, out in the cold. And it was the London team who came through to take the title.

Woolwich and Northern Ireland were running neck and neck until they played each other just before lunch. This was the shortest and most exciting game of the tournament with the two main contenders locked in combat. Northern Ireland batted first and were out in five minutes with no rounders.

Woolwich needed only one rounder therefore to take the lead. This they got early on but there was little opportunity to increase their lead as Northern Ireland proceeded to tumble the rest and they were all out in just four-and-a-half minutes. Woolwich's captain, Lance Corporal Lesley Davison summed up the match when she said "It was a needler!"

After lunch Woolwich added to their success and took five and a half rounders off 10 company from Aldershot. By this stage it was fairly certain the London girls would win the trophy and the spotlight now shifted to the fight for second place.

Northern Ireland looked over their shoulder and found that

since lunch CAD, Kineton, the SW Western Wales district team, was creeping up on points. When the two met Kineton got three and a half rounders to Northern Ireland's two. The Army's system of awarding bonus points for bowling out the opposition in under ten minutes and for scoring more than five rounders, saved second place for the girls in green but only by a whisker.

The WRAC centre, the trophy holders for the past three years, came fourth with the contenders from BAOR, North East/North West/Scotland and South East West trailing behind.

Each of the regional teams playing in the tournament had played six others from their districts and the standard this year has been higher than before. Captain Lucie Fox, the Secretary of the Rounders Association said "we're trying to promote the game and it is getting more popular particularly during the last 18 months. I think it is because the game is getting more interest nationally."

NO STOPPING WOOLWICH



Hoping for a rounder is Cpl Lesley Davison, Captain of the WRAC RA Depot team.

£400,000 PAVILION APPEAL LAUNCHED

AN APPEAL for a new sports reception centre, which will replace Edwardian changing facilities, has been launched by the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. It is hoped that a £400,000 extension to the present cricket pavilion will be completed by the end of 1983.

The President of the Appeal is General Sir John Mogg and the eight committee members are all Generals who have been Commandants at Sandhurst. The appeal was launched a year ago with £50,000 from Sandhurst funds.

So far the total raised from "This is all we've got at the moment," says Brigadier Mike Perkins Assistant Commandant of the RMA.

Army sources is another £35,000 — £20,000 of which came from two countries, Jordan and Bahrain. Leaflets were sent out to every officer in the British Army as well as to the TA and retired officers.

"The response has perhaps not been as good as we might have expected," says Brigadier Mike Perkins, the assistant commandant. "It is only the older person who has tended to produce covenanted sums."

Now the appeal has gone public with a letter from General Mogg to the Lord Mayor of London and 96 livery companies appealing for help and a further letter from the present Commandant, Major-General Geoffrey Howlett, to the top 50 companies

on the Financial Times Index.

At present the main sports pitches are half a mile away from the gymnasium containing most of the changing facilities. There are small changing rooms in the cricket pavilion but these are inadequate to cover cricket, tennis and athletics in the summer and rugby, soccer and hockey in the winter.

The original plan was to have a new physical and recreational centre which, on 1982 prices, would probably cost a million pounds. But the economic climate and deterioration of other buildings at Sandhurst meant that the Property Services Agency was unable to proceed.

"The Old College is now covered in scaffolding and is deteriorating as are many of the buildings in Sandhurst," says Brigadier Perkins. "Over the next four to seven years the PSA has agreed to spend £15 million on refurbishment and renovation of existing buildings at Sandhurst. So they could not consider spending another million on a super sports place."

So Sandhurst decided to go it alone. A plan has been drawn up which involves adding six changing rooms with full showering facilities to the 1910-built cricket pavilion. The existing pavilion will be used as a reception area with each team likely to have its own clubroom. Tenders are currently being invited and a decision on the project is expected to be taken in November.

Brigadier Perkins sums up the need thus: "Our present facilities are very scruffy. We visit top rugby clubs and see their facilities which are of a high standard and we are embarrassed when they come here."

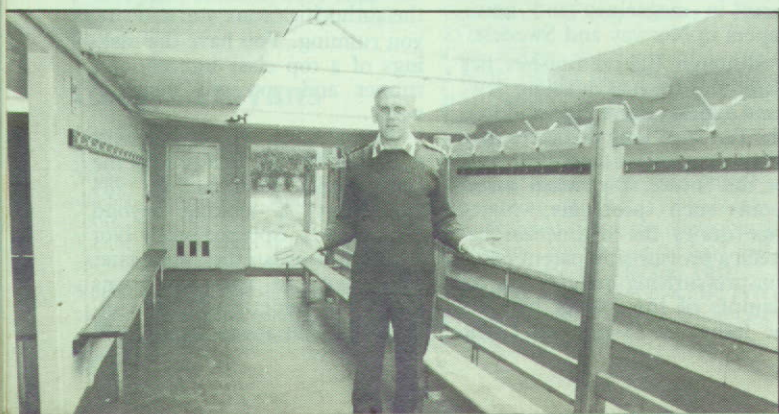
It is also intended to have the facility of shutting off each changing room for women in the event of the WRAC College moving into Sandhurst.

Any SOLDIER reader wishing to make a contribution or make an enquiry should write to Holt's Sandhurst Trust Appeal Fund, FREEPOST, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7BR or telephone Farnborough 544355 and ask for Mr Adler.

SPORTS SHORTS

Captain David Taylor, of 62 Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, recently established a Cyprus hang-gliding record by soaring from Ancient Curium for five hours and six minutes. He has been a hang gliding enthusiast since 1976 and raised £450 for the Army and RAF Benevolent Funds with his record glide.

The Army football team got the new season off to a good start with a fine 2-1 win over Isthmian League newcomers Uxbridge. Sgt Tom Armstrong, APTC, put the Army ahead with an early penalty and Sgt Will Morton, RAOC, headed the Army's other goal in the second half.



GOLF WIN FOR RAF

THE ARMY failed in their bid to retain the trophy which they have held for four years in the Inter Services Golf Championships this year at Hayling Island.

Although beating the Royal Navy 8-4, the Army team lost to the Royal Air Force who beat them 7-5 on the second day of the Championships. The RAF ran home into first place after a similar result against the Navy the following day.

Lieutenant Colonel John Arthur, Army team captain said "the RAF putted extremely well. Although we've won the trophy for four years, perhaps it's someone else's turn now. It's not very pleasing for me though, as team captain."

Colonel Arthur can take heart however, at the performance of some of the new faces in the Army squad who all came through with flying colours. In fact it was the senior players who came to grief this year, although the appalling weather could have been held partly responsible for the drop in standard.

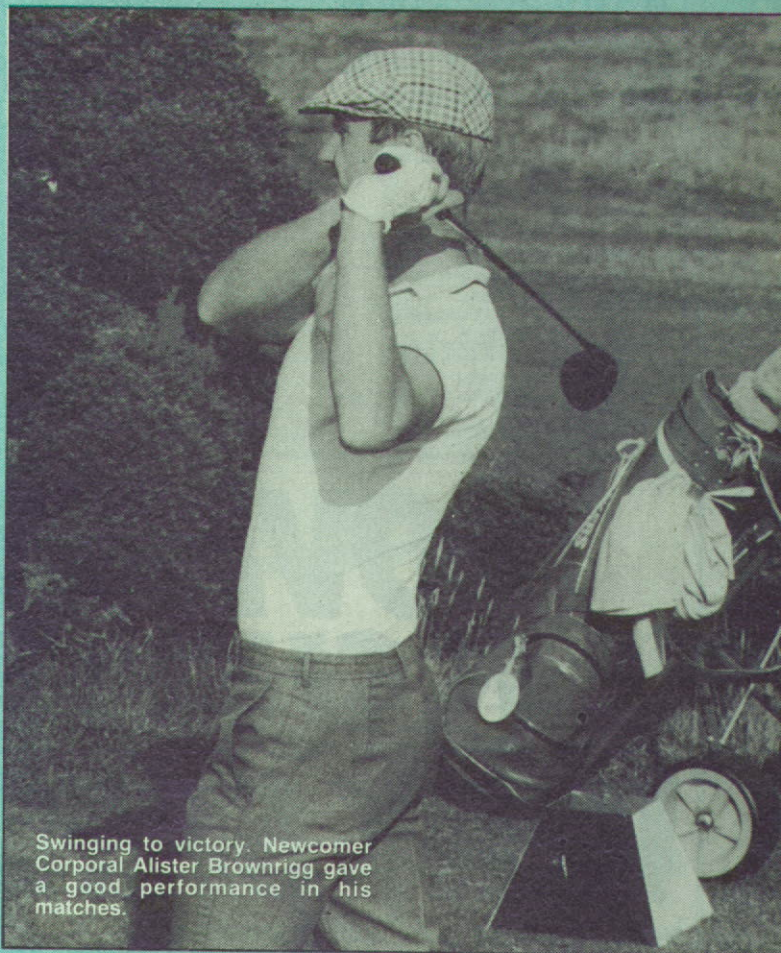
The morning foursomes in the first match between the Army and the Navy were played in gale force winds and driving rain and resulted in a win for the Army 3½-1½. The afternoon singles were played under much better weather conditions but proved to be a closer fought contest — the Army just inching ahead to take the lead 4½-3½ with an overall victory of 8-4.

The Army's foursomes against the RAF the next day was also a close battle with never more than two holes between the sides in all three matches. In the end luck was with the airmen who beat their opponents 2½-1½.

The afternoon's singles proved to be just as interesting — the early matches involving the Army senior players who found it hard going against some fine golf from the RAF. Army Champion, Corporal Doug Spillar found himself three down with five to play against his opposite number. But he rallied strongly to snatch a fine half over the closing holes. After five years of remaining undefeated in the Championships Major Ian Pearce was finally beaten by his RAF opponent 4-3. When the score was at RAF 5-Army 2, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Wallace temporarily stopped the rot with a win over the 1981 RAF champion.

WO1 Bob Hanna, the BAOR Strokeplay Champion, had a fight to keep up in his match with his opponent whose birdies at 13 and 14 put Hanna two down. Winning at 15 he looked set to pull back to all square but another fine RAF birdie at 17 sealed Hanna's fate and the Army were faced with having to win the following three matches

Swinging to victory. Newcomer Corporal Alister Brownrigg gave a good performance in his matches.

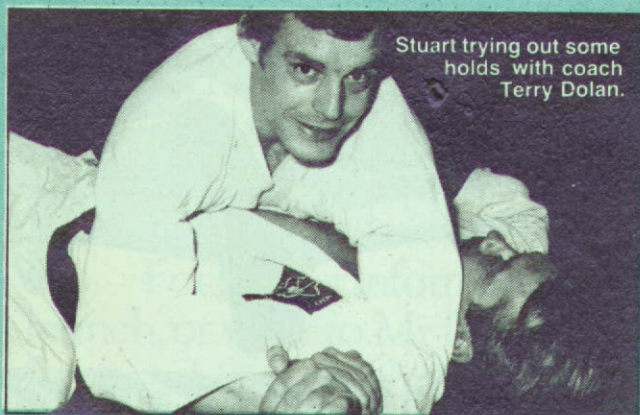


to win the contest. At one point they were up in all three and were feeling confident particularly after the wins from 'youngbloods' Corporals Alister Brownrigg and Steve Mariner.

Everything now depended on the last match between Major Harry Meekings and Flight Lieutenant Terry Brady. This was a real cliff-hanger. Meekings

was two up with three to play but, before the large crowd, found Brady's last charge to much to handle. Brady won the last three holes to win the match one up and the result in favour of the RAF, 7-5.

On the final day of the Championships the RAF beat the Navy 7-5 and the trophy passed from khaki to light blue hands.



Stuart trying out some holds with coach Terry Dolan.

JUDO CHAMP AIMS HIGH

JUDO BLACK BELT Corporal Stuart Travis last month won the British Closed Judo Championship Gold Medal, and is now all set to be the Number Two in the British Squad.

Stuart, a 26 year-old member of the Royal Pioneer Corps, is currently training with the Combined Services Judo Team under coach, Staff Sergeant Terry Dolan at the UKLF PT School at Bulford Camp and has his eye on Internationals and the 1984 Olympics.

Staff Dolan hopes that Stuart will follow in the footsteps of his former pupil, Corporal Arthur Mapp, who took a Bronze Medal in the last Olympics.

SPORTING SAPPERS

SAPPERS of 21 Engineer Regiment at Nienburg pride themselves on being good sports — and they've got four Rhine Army trophies to prove it.

The regiment, which already held the BAOR rugby and the BAOR Rothmans Six-a-Side soccer trophies, notched up their quadruple by winning the team angling and cricket competitions.

The fishermen — the Catch 21 Angling Club — beat 52 other teams from all four divi-

sions, Rhine Area and Berlin, in a match on the Weser — their own home waters.

Meanwhile, at Rheindahlen, the regiment took the BAOR major units cricket knock-out cup by beating 8 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport by 61 runs.

Pictured with the trophies are (left to right): Sapper Steve Bailey, soccer; Captain Barry Bennett, cricket; Corporal Michael Blomquist, rugby; WO 2 Ray Smith, angling.



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