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SOLDIER



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VIEWPOINT

After a year of invaluable contribution to the multi-national peace-keeping effort in Beirut, the British Force has left. The political arguments are for others — but SOLDIER wishes to pay tribute to all those who have valiantly upheld the good name of the British Armed Forces. In praising the men of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, we do not forget the men of other units who have served with the cavalrymen and supported them — including the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

That the operation has been difficult and delicate no one can deny.

Again the unusual has been challenging, and Beirut can be added to a long list of rare tasks tackled with professionalism, tact, and the never-failing good humour so long the hallmark of the British soldier.

Lebanese — sadly they seem to agree on little — have welcomed the British presence and with it our traditional love of fair play which helped to keep peace talks going for so long.

Praise is also due to the families, whose menfolk know that being involved in tricky situations, and knowing what is going on, is often less of a strain than sitting at home... wondering and waiting.

British servicemen can feel proud of their efforts in Beirut.

■ ■ ■

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SOLDIER

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THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



BEIRUT: THE BRITISH DEPARTURE

News background pages 6 & 7

Feature: Cyprus back-up pages 26 & 27

Pictures: Year of peace-keeping pages 28 & 29

FRONT COVER:

One of the last colour shots taken of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers Ferrets moving through shell-shocked Beirut.
Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER:

A section of 1st Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers deploying from Saxon, the latest wheeled armoured personnel carrier.
Picture: Les Wiggs

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

SIX PAGES OF

NEW EQUIPMENT

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16 & 17 SAXON

18 & 19 MFDC

KENTISH



First British

win for

14 years

— p48

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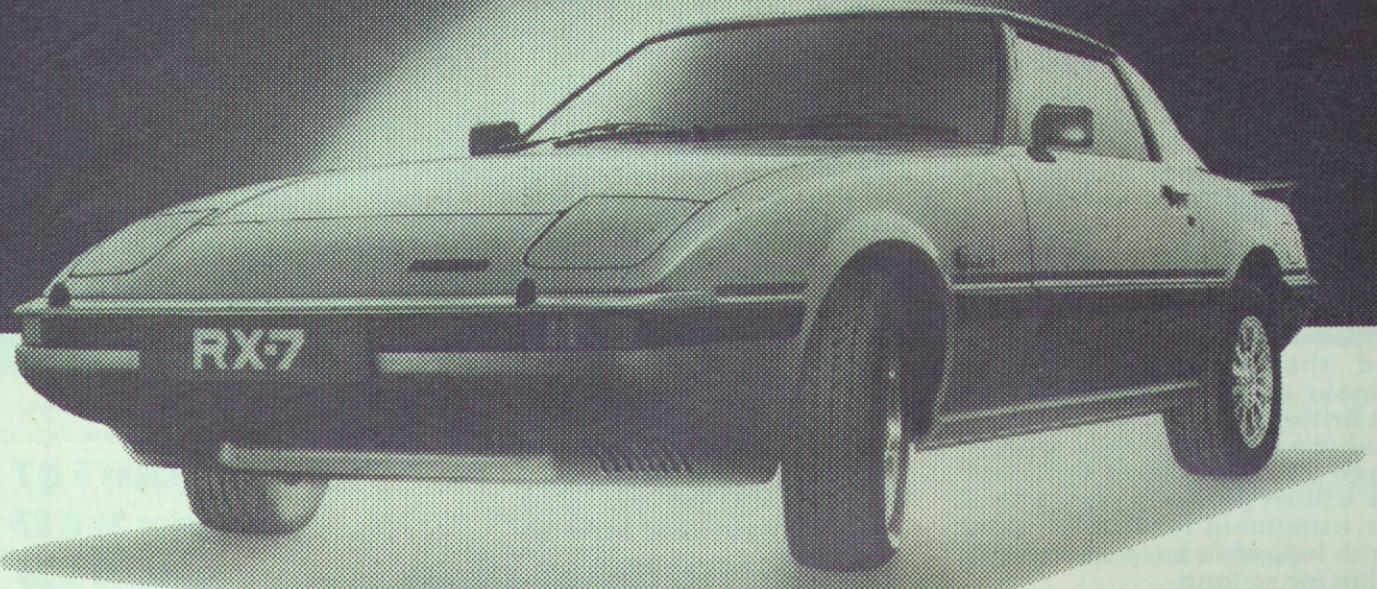
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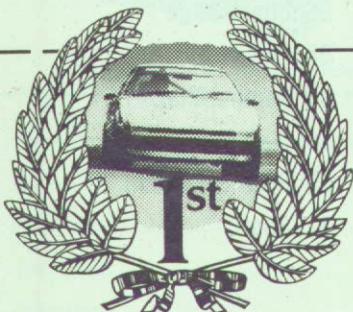
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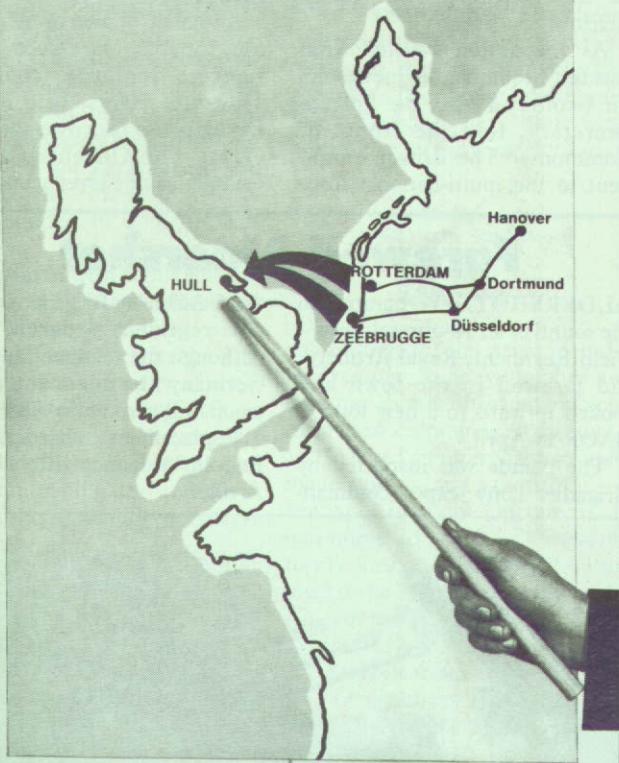
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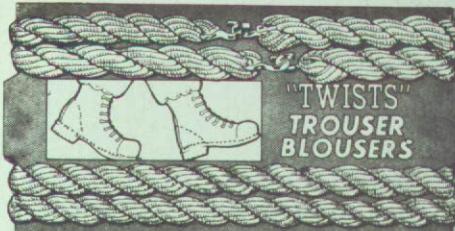
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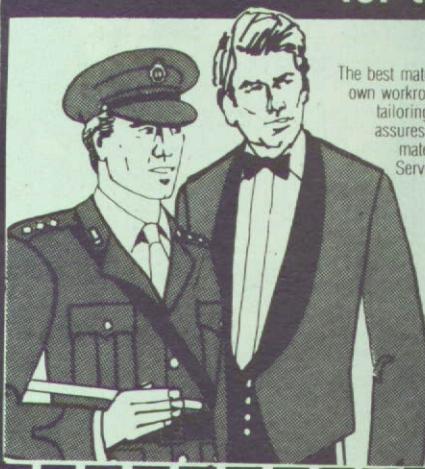
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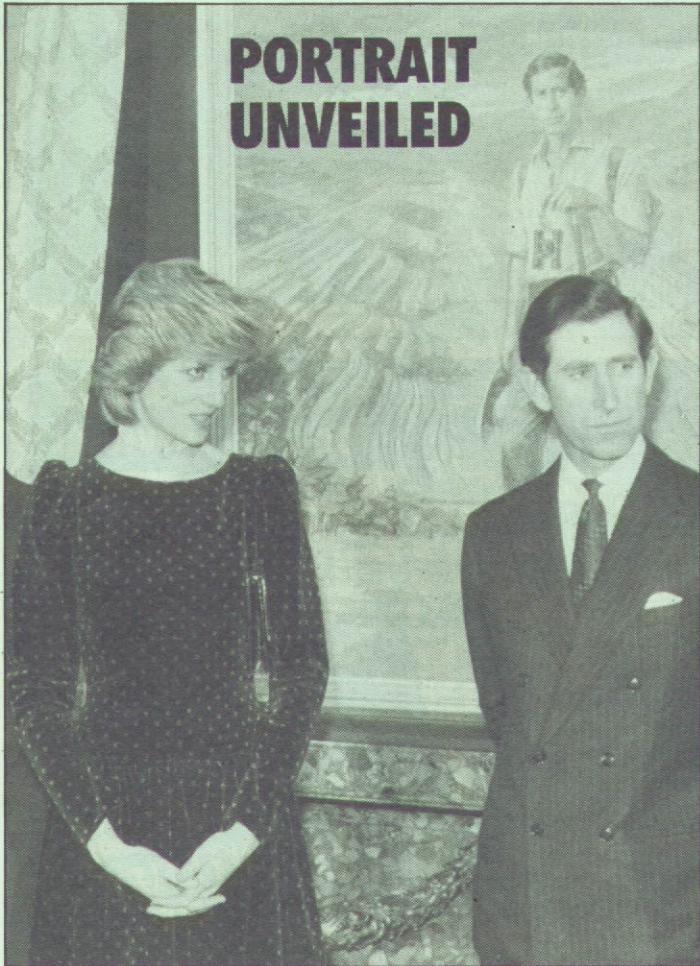
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UNIFORMAL

BEIRUT: BRITISH FORCE MOVES OUT



The Prince and Princess of Wales pictured in London at the unveiling of a portrait of Prince Charles as Colonel in Chief of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles. The painting, by Michael Noakes, was commissioned by the Regiment.

ALLIED PRAYER

THE Cardinal Archbishop of the Cologne Diocese, Cardinal Joseph Höffner invited Catholic British Servicemen to join with NATO allies and himself in prayer in Cologne Cathedral, to demonstrate the joint solidarity

in the desire and search for harmony and peace.

More than 3000 uniformed British, German, Belgian, French, Dutch and American personnel packed the Cathedral. Over 100 British Service men and women from the Army and RAF attended.

FTER JUST over a year to the day, the British Forces contingent to the four-nation peace-keeping force on the Lebanese mainland is over with the redeployment — as SOLDIER went to press — of the men from 'A' Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers to an offshore Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Reliant.

It was about a year ago that another cavalry squadron, 'C' Squadron of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards took up their role in the war-torn capital in a former tobacco factory at Hadath in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

As the nation awaited what was fast becoming the inevitable, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons: "The British contingent to the multi-national force

has been performing two important tasks; carrying out street patrols in Beirut and, at the request of all the parties, providing an impartial guard for the cease-fire talks.

"Within the recent deterioration in the situation, it has become impossible for it to fulfil this role, and the danger to the contingent has been greatly heightened.

"The Government have decided that our troops should be moved to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant which is stationed off the Lebanese coast and remain there until the situation has become clearer."

A total of 74 men of 'A' Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers deployed from their Tidworth, Hants, base in early December to take over the duties of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards using Ferret scout cars.

Farewell Aldershot

ALDERSHOT reverberated to the sound of an 18-gun salute as 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, bid farewell to the town and looked forward to a new tour in BAOR in April.

The parade was inspected by Brigadier Tony Jeapes, command-

der 5 Airborne Brigade, the gunner regiment's parent unit. Although the regiment are off to Germany the regiment's radar troop will stay on in Aldershot.

Replacement unit for 4 Field Regt is 7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.



EXERCISE ABANDONED

A squad of young Army cooks had a taste of Dartmoor at its worst when they were forced to abandon a 25-mile navigational exercise because of dreadful weather conditions.

"They did the right thing," said their company commander Major Mike Murphy. "When one of their group of 19 started to suffer a bit with exposure, they went to ground."

"Five of them then went off for help while the rest stayed put and waited."

All from the ACC Apprentices College at Aldershot, the 19 were part of a group of 75 from the College on a regular training exercise.

The young soldiers — all 17 and 18 year-olds — should have reached their pick-up point by nightfall, but gales and driving rain forced them to find shelter on the moor when one of the lads became exhausted.

So five of them trekked six miles into Okehampton to get help leading police and the Dartmoor Rescue Group back to the others.

The lad suffering from exposure was taken to hospital by police car and two others were airlifted by helicopter. All three were discharged next day after treatment.

The remaining 11 completed the exercise on foot.

IN BRIEF

BAOR: SIB are investigating possible drug offences. Eight soldiers are helping the inquiry, said an MoD spokesman.

DORSET: Corporal James Dunlop and Signalman Colin Gardner, 30 Signal Regiment, rescued a child from a stream in the village of Tarrant Monkton.

IT WAS 9.45 a.m. in her Tidworth married quarter. Sally Snell had just been attending to the needs of 12-week-old son, Benjamin, when the telephone jangled.

Someone from the Families Centre of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers — a hastily improvised cell to cater for men serving simultaneously with three squadrons overseas — was phoning to tell her that men of 'A' Squadron were to be withdrawn from war-torn Beirut.

The news was joyous for Sally, wife of Captain Julian Snell, who had deployed in early December as part of the 74-strong squadron joining the four-nation peace-keeping force.

It was the culmination of weeks of watching the three main newscasts on television from Beirut. Sally gave their baby son a hug and got herself ready to head to the Families Centre master-minded by Captain Bob Causer.

In common with about a dozen other wives and their offsprings — 'A' Squadron had 38 wives and 50 children back in the UK following their fortunes at their former tobacco factory HQ in south-west Beirut — they watched BBC's early afternoon news at 12.30 confirming the redeployment of their menfolk to a Royal



Mrs Helen Roberts

BEIRUT: How The Lancers families heard

Fleet Auxiliary lying offshore.

"It was very exciting. I was really pleased they were getting out without somebody getting killed," she told me. "I had been continuously watching developments in the war on both TV channels. The Regimental Families Office here have been very helpful in organising activities

Story:
Graham Smith

Pictures:
Paul Haley

and outings for the wives including regular Sunday lunches to take our minds off events which have been keeping us all on edge.

"I visited a pottery factory and made a pot — and a mess of it — leaving it in about four pieces. I had hoped to give it as a present to my husband, Julian. We also visited the NAAFI warehouse at Amesbury."

Mrs Helen Roberts, wife of Sgt Steve Roberts in the British HQ Ops Cell at Hadath to the south-east of the seaboard city, said: "I happened to be in the Families Office on other business when I heard the news of the re-deployment. Basically, I felt relief because the news had been making the wives a little bit edgy but we realised they were not in

any danger because they were not targets.

"In two months of letter writing from Steve I don't think there has ever been a period in which his feelings there were very low. Now, we are planning a holiday, probably in Minorca. We've never really had a holiday before but Beirut has made that possible.

"I had been on a Government job training programme which took my mind off some of it but all the school friends of my nine-year-old daughter, Anne-Marie, were full of questions at her



Mrs Sally Snell

school. She is obviously very pleased he is out of Beirut and this is the first time where she has had enough understanding of where he was and just what he was doing."

Captain Bob Causer, normally the Regimental QM, not only



Captain Bob Causer

had the Beirut wives of 'A' Squadron to solace but those of 'B' Squadron with the UN Forces in Cyprus and those of 'C' Squadron with three months' detachment in Norway on Exercise Hardfall with AMF (L).

He said: "We looked at Tidworth Garrison facilities and organised tours and outings plus the Sunday lunches at which more and more people attended, usually about 30 or 40 at a time. I expected more serious problems than we had but the wives were marvellous.

"They gave us their ideas on what they wanted to do. I am told there will be champagne parties when their husbands return."

Lt-Col John Wright, CO of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, said: "Given the very difficult task they have had, I think they have done remarkably well. They maintained a strictly neutral position throughout. They were able to assist at the peace-keeping talks when they took place and I don't think that any other Forces could have done that.

"They remained friendly with all involved and they were careful to take every precaution not to get involved in any unnecessary dangerous situation but, obviously, from time to time, they were in very great danger. I am absolutely delighted they are safe and sound."

EXERCISE TRAGEDY

After extensive searching for several days, Army mountaineering instructors discovered the bodies of two soldiers who had been exercising in the Cairngorms, Scotland.

The men who lost their lives in some of the worst weather to hit the region for many years were Staff Sergeant Paul Rodgers, APTC, an instructor at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Camp Tulloch near Fort William, and Colour Sergeant William Scott, of The Royal Scots.

HELPING THE DRAGONFLIES

Soldiers from Perham Down, near Tidworth, Hants, have been helping create breeding pools for rare dragonflies.

Men from 8 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, led by Lieutenant John Deverell, were called in to help blast three holes in bogland on the Arne Peninsular, Dorset.

Some 200lb of explosive was used to blast the holes which are some 21ft across and 8ft deep.

The 1,200 acre site is situated between the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve and the Hartland Moor Reserve.

Preparing the plastic explosive are Sapper Paul Ludlow (left) and Corporal Gerry Merrett of 8 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, based at Perham Down, near Tidworth, Hants.



NEWS VIEW



HORSEY . . . HORSEY . . . ▲

HORSEY . . . horsey . . . don't you stop! Foremost in the anti-riding lobby at HQ 3 Armoured Division, BAOR, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Waugh got his revenge on adjutant, Captain Andy Forster, when he discovered how he was to be towed round the HQ on his final parade. Col Waugh is to take up an appointment in MoD.

When staff officers at the HQ started fencing in some of the areas on his patch the RSM, WO1 Steve Marshall warned it was only the thin edge of the wedge and that the Colonel would end up riding out of barracks on horseback. The RSM, as ever, won his bet. And the adjutant? As ever, he got the blame!



GUNNER HAT-TRICK ▲

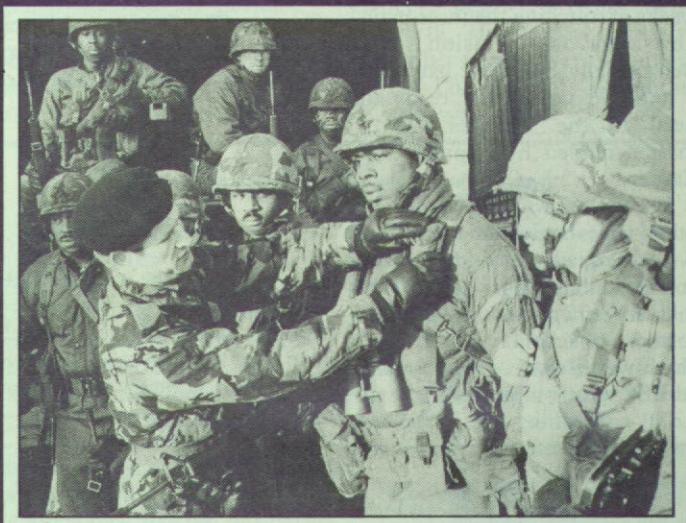
THE ROYAL REGIMENT has scored a hat-trick in recruitment. For like his father and grandfather, Keith Field, 18, has joined up. He even enlisted in the same place, Colchester, as did his grandfather in 1919.

As a memento of the day, Major Bill Smith (Retired) presented Keith with a regimental tie — watched by Keith's proud dad. Keith must surely be destined for a Field Regiment!

'RABID DOGS' BARK ▼

THE 'RABID DOGS' of 3rd Platoon, a company of the US 3/41st Armoured Infantry Regiment get a final inspection by Yeoman of Signals Pete Baron as they prepare to do some arduous training with 3rd Armoured Division. The Americans, from the 2nd US Armoured Division (Forward) at Garstedt near Bremen had come to the Sauerland to join the clerks and staff officers based at Korbbecke on one of their periodic exercises to brush off cobwebs while showing military skills are not extinct as they sit behind their in-trays.

The manoeuvres were carried out in 10 cm of drifting snow and a temperature of two-below. It is reported the Americans held their own, punctuated by a stream of transatlantic oaths during the night!



VETERAN'S PRIZE ▼

Sergeant BRIAN DESMOND of 5 Heavy Regiment, RA, gets the 15-km race Veteran's Trophy from Brigadier Brian Pennicott during the 1st Armoured Division Ski Meeting held at Axmas in the Austrian Tyrol.

More than 200 soldiers took part in this, the 12th year of the competition. Brigadier Pennicott is chairman of the competition and Commander Royal Artillery 1st Division.



HOME SECRETARY'S VISIT ▼

HOME SECRETARY Mr Leon Brittan in his role of local MP visited men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, following their spell in the Falklands. Greeted at the gate of Somme Barracks, Catterick Garrison, by battalion CO, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wolverson, followed by an inspection of a Quarter Guard, Mr Brittan chatted to the lads about their experiences in the South Atlantic.

He also saw displays of equipment now in service including a session on the Milan simulator which, for him, was a direct hit.



APPRENTICES' GIFTS ▼

MEN FROM REME based at Princess Marina College, Arborfield, have just presented ashtrays made at the College to The Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at Richmond-on-Thames. The presentation was made by Major Jack Young and Mr Colin Hunt on behalf of the apprentices.

The picture shows, front: Messrs Allan Cuell, John Sharman and Ken Smith. Standing: Mr Hunt, Major Young and a party from the Training Battalion and Depot REME.



CHAPPIES CHORTLE ▲

THE COMBINED Services Saddle Club at Episkopi, Cyprus — or "the Chappies" as they are known at BFBS — issued their challenge and then went on to win a show jumping contest. Each team had to complete a course of eight fences.

The "Chappies" — left to right — are Farrier Lance Corporal Nigel "Felix" Philips, Private Laurence "Bo" Bissett, Lance Corporal Stuart "Skin" Fairlie and Lance Corporal Dave Birchall.



TYKES TIDY-UP ▲

THESE ARE the men who renovated the assault course in Mercer Barracks, Osnabrück home of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards. Rusty oil drums . . . frayed ropework . . . and a dangerously-sited scramble net were all put right by the "Tykes". The clean up of the Garrison eyesore had been ordered by Brigade Commander, Brigadier Peter Davies.

Cash was the incentive as part of the all-unit competition to facelift the area. The "Tykes" who completed the project in five months in between exercises spent their DM 100 prize on flowering plants . . . to improve the view of Mercer.

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TOPICS



THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL Hospital's Bone Marrow Transplant Appeal is now £2,201 better off thanks to the efforts of the St Helens and Huyton Troops of 107 Field Squadron.

The picture shows Cpl Mike Cunningham presenting the cheque to Professor Alistair Bellingham, head of the Haematology Department at the hospital. It was Cpl Cunningham and Staff Sergeant Dave Forber who seized on the idea of a sponsored parachute jump, making their first descent at Cark in Cumbria from 2,000 feet.

The project of raising cash is part of 75 Engineer Regiment's contribution to the North-West's 75th anniversary good citizenship schemes.

BIG RESPONSE

MORE THAN 600 young men and women answered the TA's call for new blood among its officer ranks in the Eastern Counties when more than 200 were picked to attend a series of selection weekends at the Queen's Division training depot at Bassingbourn near Royston.

As Major Geoffrey Cook, organiser of the selection weekends, said: "It's not a question of whether they manage to complete the test, but rather how they approach it. Their ability to lead others and to be part of the team when they are being led, is vitally important."

Out of the original 600 only about one tenth will make it — and Andrew Scott-Weijers, clambering over the obstacle below, hopes he is one selected.



ENGINEERS RAISE OVER £2000



FACILITIES FOR YOU . . .

THE TA has an excellent Headquarters Club in London, for those not already in the know. It lies within the Duke of York's HQ in King's Road, Chelsea, just west of Sloane Square.

All members of the TA are entitled to use its facilities — officers and other ranks — which are run on a contract basis providing a lunch at very reasonable prices. Dish of the day or à la carte are on offer from Monday to Friday between noon and 1400 hours.

Upstairs there is an Officers' Mess and a dining room and bar for the other ranks is downstairs. Tables in the Officers' Mess for four or more people can be booked through the contractor: Mr L. Lelyveld, Britannia Catering, 15 Littleton Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3SY. Tel: Britannia Catering 01-422 4932; HQ Club 01-730 1831.

Visitors to the club should carry some form of identification.

21-GUNS

THE 21-GUN salute to mark the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne was fired at Edinburgh Castle by men of the 207 (Scottish) Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers).

Decanters mark their fine service

TWO part-time soldiers are first-time award winners under a Lloyds of London scheme.

Centre of the world's leading insurance companies, Lloyds Volunteer Forces Fund hands out grants to City units with Lloyds volunteers among their ranks, and makes individual awards to Terriers who prove to have above-average qualities of leadership and team spirit.

Lance Sergeant Simon Cooke,

33, of the Honourable Artillery Company, and Lance Corporal Duncan Southcott, 21, of 4 Royal Greenjackets — both of whom work for Lloyds-based firms — last week received cut-glass decanters from Mr Peter Green, chairman of Lloyds, at a City reception to mark their awards.

The fund was set up in 1982 to encourage young people from the Lloyds insurance community to join the TA and a committee was

formed to decide how best this should be done.

They decided that granting prizes to those who successfully completed their military training was an important aspect and would recognise this achievement.

"It will also give service with the volunteers a cachet of respectability and distinction," they say.

Financial help is also forthcoming to those units recruiting

at Lloyds. Grants for equipment and recreational facilities are available under the scheme.

The Fund's organisers say: "Both HMS President and C Company (the old Lloyds Company), the 4th (V) Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, are likely to be relocated in the near future. The Volunteer Fund may be able to make contributions towards such things as a simulated operations room for the Navy and video equipment for the Army."

COLD BED SO APTLY NAMED!

THE EXERCISE planners certainly got the name right: Exercise Cold Bed. For, taking part in it were men from 33 Signal Regiment with squadrons drawn from Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and HQ from Huyton, Merseyside, occupying sites in Cannock Chase, The Wrekin and Swynnerton.

There was an estimated foot of snow or more and, as Major Edward Emmett, of HQ Squadron observed: "There is no doubt that survival in these zero temperatures is something that needs a very positive attitude. We had diesel fuel waxing and water carriers frozen solid but

everyone survived and rather enjoyed things, too."

It was the first exercise of the year for the Regiment that spans Liverpool, Manchester, and Chester as a warm-up — as it were — for summer camp in June in BAOR.



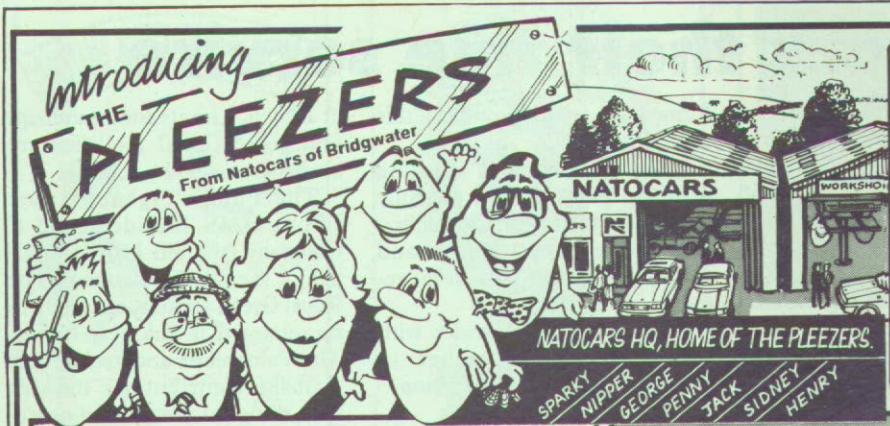
Major Colin Ford and Sergeant Ken Almond helping 'patient' Private Lynn Allen. ▼

Signalmen Dave Fleming and Bill Hazeldine keeping the cold at bay. ▲



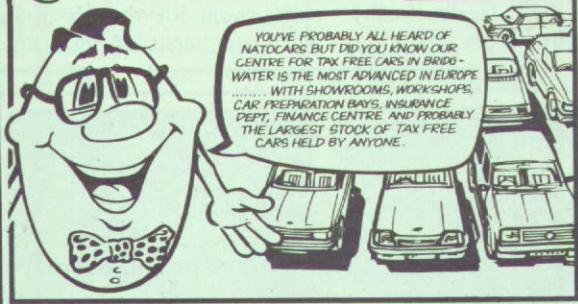
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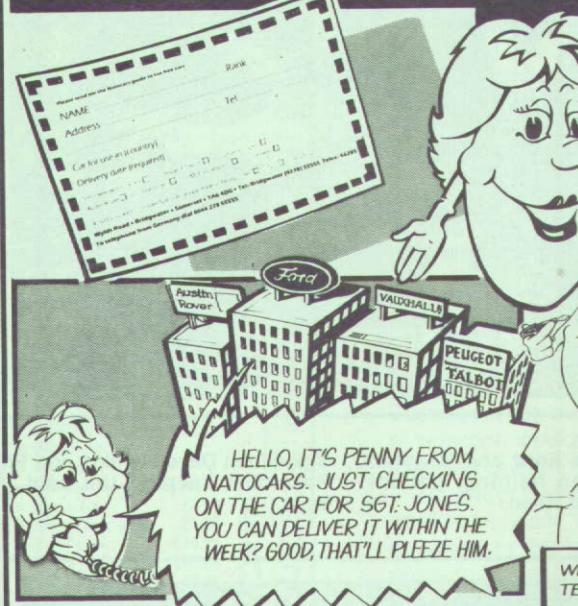
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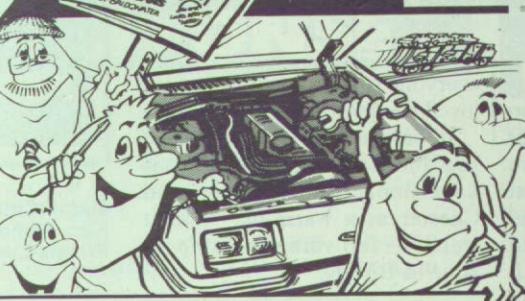
BUT THE REAL BEAUTY OF OUR SERVICE IS THAT WE HANDLE THE WHOLE TRANSACTION BY POST. OUR TEAM OF PLEEZERS DO ALL THE WORK WHILE YOU RELAX IN YOUR FAVOURITE ARMCHAIR UNTIL THE TIME COMES TO TAKE DELIVERY OF YOUR NEW CAR.



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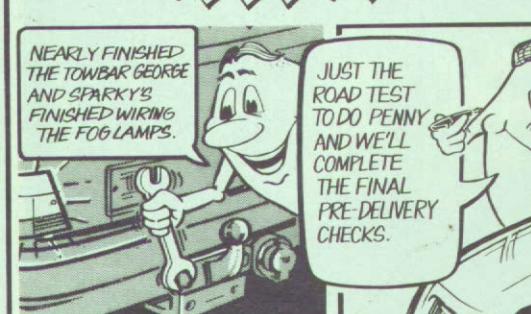
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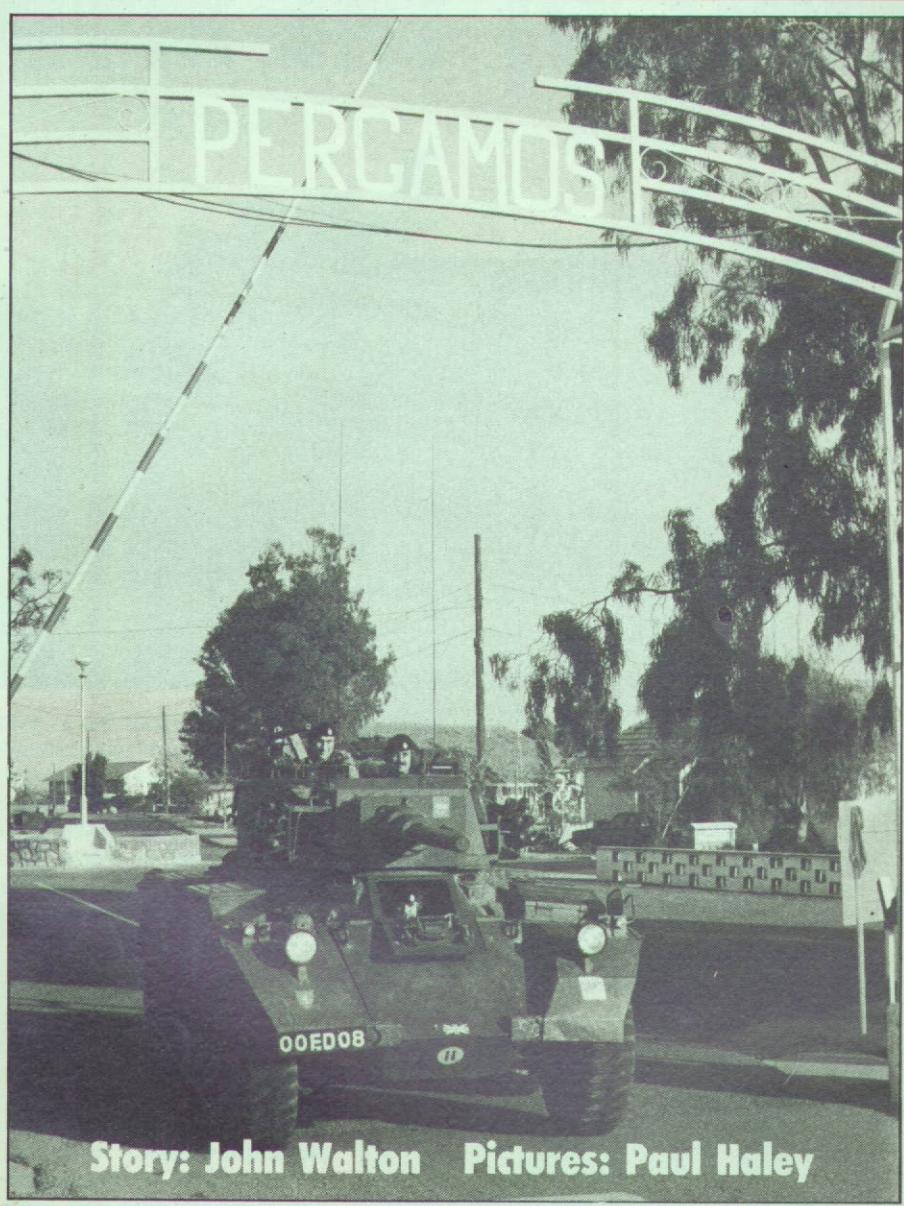
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SALAD DAYS WITH SALADINS



Story: John Walton Pictures: Paul Haley

A QUARTER of a century after they first entered service the Saladin armoured reconnaissance vehicles are still very much in use — on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus where their current users are C Squadron, The 1st Royal Tank Regiment.

The Saladins, which have been phased out everywhere else, have been in Cyprus for nearly 20 years but according to the squadron commander, Major Tim Hall, their guns are still in first class working condition. "The last time we took all 12 out for a week's firing we had no problems at all."

The difficulties arise from the automotive parts. Says Major Hall: "When you are dealing with vehicles as old as this it is a major struggle to keep them going. If you go on a long trip they may break down."

The Saladins are still very much in use for training and the squadron has the capacity to form Saladin troops. Normally two of the six troops on the island are on the eastern sovereign base at Dhekelia and Ayos Nikalaos patrolling with Ferrets. They provide a quick reaction force for the infantry battalion in Dhekelia.

The troops rotate their tasks but those left behind at Episkopi are tasked to assist major and minor units visiting the Army for exercises. All of the squadron is operational and on rapid notice to move. "There is a fair degree of separation here which is something you might not expect in Cyprus" Major Hall told SOLDIER.

In the autumn the Regiment returns to Germany and Chieftain tanks after ten years in an armoured reconnaissance role. Already the build up has begun with soldiers regularly away on Chieftain conversion courses. Soon a training wing will be formed on the island complete with models for the men to train on tank tactics. The Saladins, relics of bygone days, will soon be left behind as the men take on the modern armoured role in NATO's front line. ■



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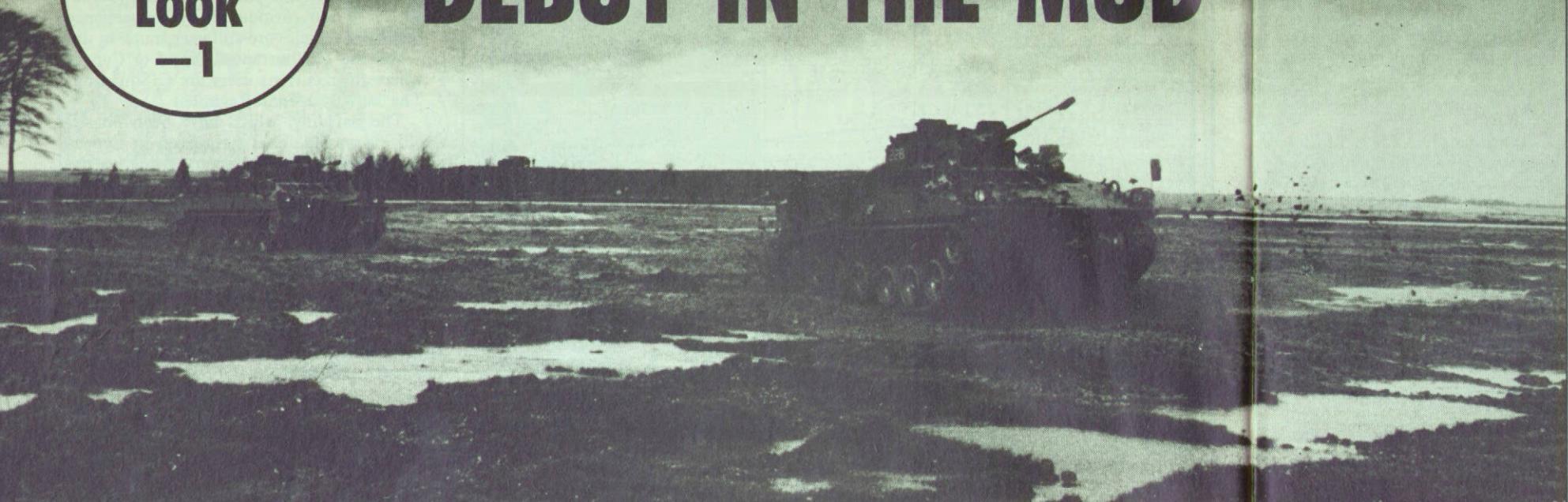
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MCV 80: LIVELY DEBUT IN THE MUD



Troops emerging from MCV 80.

IT COULD have been somewhere on the inhospitable wintry North German Plain as sleet slanted towards them at a 45-degree angle boosted by a merciless bone-chilling blast followed, eventually, by a weakly-smiling sun.

But nearly a dozen sturdy press and TV cameramen, swaddled in an assortment of highly-coloured waterproofs with only a couple of canvas-topped four-tonne trucks for added protection, found the blustery discomfort worth while.

For on show for them and by way of making their first public appearance, rather like two new generation gladiators squatting in the mud, was an estimated £120,000 pair of lithe middleweight aluminium-armoured APC prototype contenders of the future called MCV 80 (Mechanised Combat Vehicle) which is destined to enter Army service before the end of the decade.

Toting a 30mm Rarden cannon each and side-armed with a 600 rounds-a-minute Hughes 7.62mm Chain Gun a-piece, the pair of 24-tonne tracked APCs — they can carry a section of ten men — put on a lively show of speed and endurance as they lunged at deep water-filled runnels to rear up a second later on their home training ground ranges at Battlebury near Warminster.

Hosts for the spectacle of the new APC's handling versatility for press approbation was the School of Infantry's ITDU — Infantry Trials and Development

Unit — which has been testing for months the robust, go-anywhere military man-carrying armadillo.

A section attack was laid on for the clicking shutters. Coloured smoke was hurled from its lateral dischargers to lie expiring amid the quagmire.

Fusilier Paul Adams, one of the two "duty" drivers from the resident 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, his face a murky shade of cam-green between chin and eyebrows, told me: "I've been driving AFV 432 Armoured Personnel Carriers for some time, mostly in BAOR, and this MCV 80 is excellent."

Young Adams — like his fellow MCV "chauffeur" Fusilier Jake Tucker — learned the art of handling the 75 kilometre-an-hour APC in a day.

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Doug Pratt

"It's unbelievable," said an equally travel-stained Tucker. "The suspension is good and it's beautiful to drive. It's not only faster than the 432 with the new 17½-litre Rolls-Royce engine but it can leave a Chieftain behind."

MCV 80 has been under development by GKN Sankey Ltd, since 1977 and they say that the aluminium alloy armour combined with extensive use of lightweight components for the hull and running gear give a high

degree of protection and battlefield mobility.

Acceleration, too, they say is "considerably better than any comparable vehicles."

Mr Ewart Woolley for the Company said later: "The radical improvement in battlefield performance provided by MCV 80 has been achieved by the extensive use of computer-aided design techniques and a new SqueezeForm process which enables high strength aluminium components to be produced in a very cost-effective way."

Young Adams — like his fellow MCV "chauffeur" Fusilier Jake Tucker — learned the art of handling the 75 kilometre-an-hour APC in a day.

"The hull design gives greatly improved protection from mine blast, direct fire weapons and air burst attack while allowing a low profile vehicle with high ground clearance and low ground pressure."

GKN Sankey Ltd., he said, also used the computer-aided design to investigate suspension systems — a vital influence on mobility — crew comfort and, of course, battlefield performance.

Production of the first vehicles believed to number about 250 and costing an estimated £600,000 each could start next year. The four Warminster prototypes are due to take part in

BAOR's Exercise Lionheart this autumn.

Colour Sergeant Charlie Holmes, Coldstream Guards, of the ITDU's Mobility Section, said of MCV 80: "Stowage space development has come along very well. During the APC's development we've found space for everything they've thrown at us in new kit like the First Aid kit, jerricans and ammunition."

"The driver has to pick his ground and drive sensibly. It's a better ride than the 432. It's a flatter ride. It's got to get to the main armament fast and, having done so, keep up with it. The 432 cannot do this."

Major Iain Dalzel-Job, who heads the mobility section of ITDU, said: "MCV 80 is still in its very early stages yet. It's not coming out for a while although it is a replacement for the 432."

"It has got its own proper gun which will kill other APCs, it has heavier armour and it goes faster. It has been said it looks more like a tank but its great strength comes in its suspension and cross-country versatility. ITDU has driven the MCV 80 — a couple of them — more than 2,500 kilometres and we have trialled them on exercise."



View from the front.

MCV 80

Overall length: 6340 mm
Overall height: 2735 mm
Overall width: 3034 mm
Maximum road speed: About 75 km/hour
Endurance: Designed for 48-hour operational missions
Maximum gradient: In excess of 50 per cent (fore-aft)

Engine: Rolls-Royce CV8-CA directly coupled to a cross-drive transmission with four forward speeds and two reverse speeds

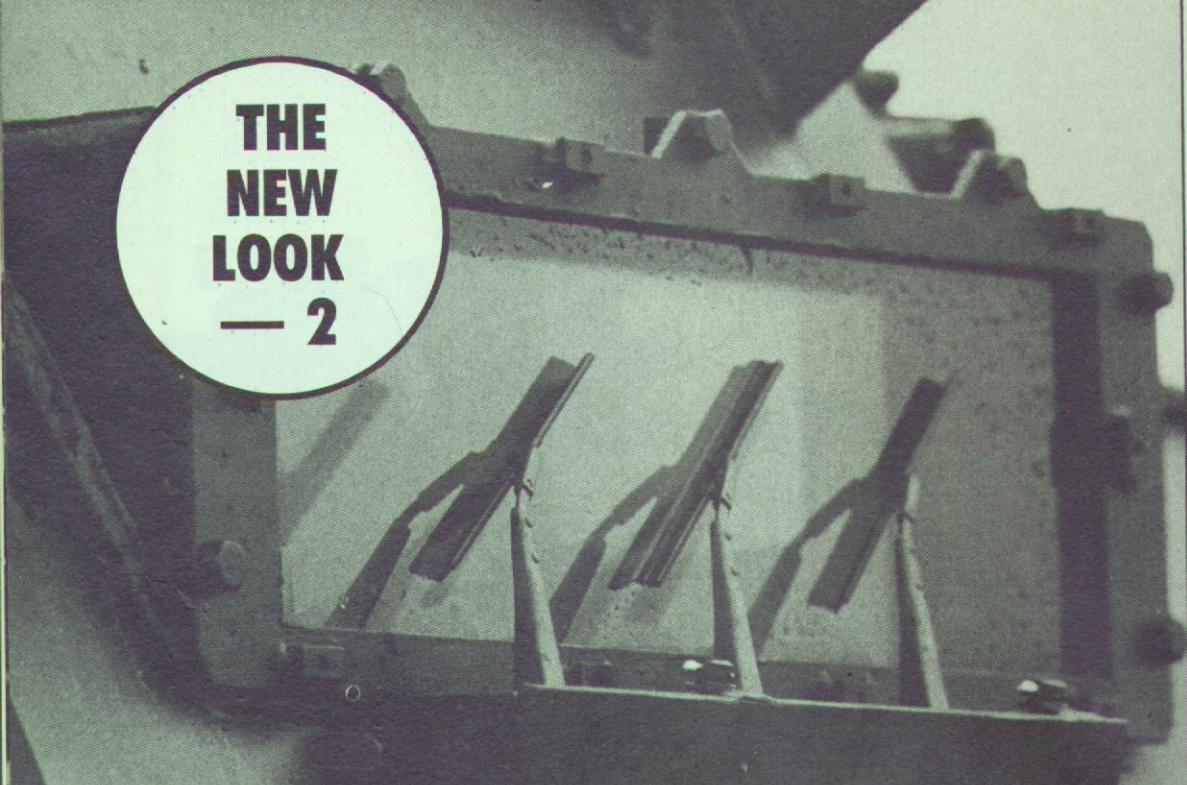
Hull: Aluminium armour plate

Running Gear: Conventional rubber bushed steel track with aluminium road wheels. Transverse torsion bars with high efficiency rotary dampers.

All-up weight: About 24 tonnes

Armament: 30 mm cannon and Hughes 7.62 Chain Gun

Accommodation: Section of ten men including commander, driver and gunner, and their equipment.



THE NEW LOOK — 2

AND MINES and point blank armour piercing rifle fire, including tungsten rounds, have all failed to make any deep impression on the latest offering of wheeled armoured personnel carrier, the Saxon. The new vehicle has so impressed the Army it has just been officially accepted into service after months of intensive testing by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster.

More than 30 soldiers of "all shapes and sizes", 10,000 miles of driving and over 250 hours of night testing in two Saxons was involved.

SOLDIER had a quick peep at the versatility of the APC for which an order has been made for 481 costing £100,000 each with the manufacturers G.K.N. Sankey Ltd.

The first issue of 43 of the "battlefield taxis" is going to the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, based at

SAXON: Infantrymen will be pleased

SAXON Specifications:

Length: 5170 mm
Height: 2630 mm
Width: 2490 mm
Unladen Weight: 8.64 t
Maximum speed: 96 km/h
Turning Circle: 7520 mm
Wheel base: 3070 mm
Maximum payload: 3.03 t
Engine: Bedford (GM) Type 500, six-cylinder
Maximum gross vehicle weight: 11.67 t
Range: 480 km average. Extra tank optional
Accommodation: Driver and Commander/Gunner; 8-10 fully equipped men.

Catterick. The Borderers will be taking the APCs with them to BAOR for this year's Exercise Lionheart.

According to the makers, the over eight-tonne Saxon — it can carry up to 12 men and equipment — will give a cost-effective solution to the problems of equipping infantry units with armoured mobility along autobahns or cross-country tracks at speeds up to nearly 60 miles an hour.

And with the advent of Saxon, troops can be deployed rapidly over long distances into positions supporting forward battle groups.

Mr Ewart Woolley, for the firm, said: "The Saxon has superb protection against attack by modern weapons. It has successfully demonstrated the ability to survive mine blasts and is immune to very close range armour-piercing rifle fire. None of the rifle fire produced any hull penetration even at point blank range. There are high levels of protection provided by a combination of a 'V'-shaped hull, vision blocks and substantial armour. Claymore mines, surface



mines and pressure mines have been used against Saxon without any internal damage. Any occupants would have been fully protected."

He went on: "The superlative protection demonstrated by the Saxon is not provided, in our opinion, by any other wheeled armoured vehicle currently available in the western world."

Colour Sergeant Charlie Holmes, Coldstream Guards, the ITDU Mobility Section Colour Sergeant said of Saxon: "It's a good ride across country and tracks. It's certainly faster motoring than the four-tonne truck and more comfortable in every respect. The infantryman will be well pleased with it."

Saxon driver for the SOLDIER demo, 18-year-old Private Craig Mallinson, of the 1st Bn, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment said he had only driven a three-quarter-tonne Land Rover before conversion to, and trials since October, on Saxon when he was putting in six hours a day.

"It's fully automatic combined with a transfer box giving two- and four-wheel drive," he said. "We've done trials on some of the roughest terrain we can find and taken it through a foot of water; it just glided through. Internally, it's very quiet in the padded cab."

He added: "If the worst thing were to happen to the vehicle — a broken axle, for instance — Saxon could be out of the garage and back on the road again in eight hours."

Major Iain Dalzel-Job, Scots

Guards, who is in charge of ITDU's Mobility Section, said: "The vehicle, as it is, looks as if it has been designed by committee but, as a vehicle, it does all it should."

"It's excellent. It will not float . . . fly . . . or tell you to fasten your seat belts and it could be termed a battlefield taxi in the true sense if you need to be pulled out."

"A vehicle like this which is based on truck parts is pretty

easy to maintain. It's not like an APC. It does not require enormous maintenance of track and running gear. It's rather like a four-tonne truck from the point of view of maintainability. I think it is very much needed."

"ITDU did 10,000 miles in three months on two Saxons and we have actually done realistic driving — more than 250 hours' night driving — and used more than 30 different drivers of all shapes and sizes to see if they

found it was all right. It was a tremendous spectrum of people ranging from six-foot-three to five-foot-six."

Saxon is to be fitted with a Danish gun mount — the DISA — which will take a 7.62 mm GPMG. The mount, on the cupola, has been described as an "sideways angle-poise lamp". Its use is for Low Level Air Defence (LLAD) and replaces the standard pintle mount which gave limited traversing capabilities.



THE NEW LOOK — 3

HEY SAY that any bright schoolboy could use the device given sufficient knowledge of the subject. It would certainly knock spots off any TV video game of battleships for him.

More importantly, the Army is convinced it is going to help knock the spots off any troop positions, trenches or soft-top

vehicles to a tolerance of plus or minus two mils or a couple of metres in range.

Out in front were two three-man 81mm mortar detachments furnished by men of Support Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, the demonstration battalion, based at nearby Netheravon.

As Major Dick Foster, the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and former chief instructor of the Mortar Division at Netheravon, told the truck-borne assembly: "This is the forefront of 20th century micro-chip technology. MFDC is very simple to use and the clever part is the only thing you have to know is what each key does and, thereafter, react to a series of prompts. You don't have to learn lengthy procedures of the old plotter. Weighing only 625

topped four-tonne "classrooms" for the occasion.

grammes and in a protective case which is dust and waterproof, it's easy to carry and 'ruggedised'. It's just what the infantryman on mortars wants. It will record ten mortar lines, ten OPs and up to 58 targets.

"Any 16-year-old could operate it with a knowledge of charge, elevation and bearing and the basics of mortar and fire control. There are other countries developing similar equipment but none of them is comparable to this."

A total of 585 sets have been distributed to the Army's infantry battalions — it is understood the TA will also be equipped with them — and 150 teachers of the new system have been taught the virtues of MORZEN or MFDC by nine instructors of the Royal Small Arms Corps at Netheravon. They are back with their units.

One instructor, Sergeant Steve Szymendera, told me: "For knowledge up to basic standard we gave six 40-minute periods. To be fully conversant with the system, you need about twenty 40-minute periods. It's a vast improvement on the old plotter. It's easy to teach, easy to learn and it's fun.

"Once they play with MFDC they go away at night and sit up for hours practising. I understand initially there will be one MFDC between two mortars and then eventually two per section."

Mr Peter Turner, for the Company, Zengrange Ltd., of Leeds said: "The thing I have learned

from feedback is that the computer has reduced training time currently on mortar plotting in excess of 20 per cent. The other factor is that soldiers have found the system to be sufficiently comprehensive to feel happy with it.

"It is, in our opinion, the first hand-held computer to be in a front line Army in the West. It's not corruptible. The contract was placed in April 1981 and delivery started in December last year."

Later, he made a presentation of a statuette of a hand clutching an MFDC to Major-General Colin Shortis, Director of Infantry, who, in part of his remarks, said: "Unless you have an Einstein capacity to crunch figures in your head despite the fibre glass plotter, this idea, an exceptional idea, has from the very beginning been dependent on people who are going to have to use it.

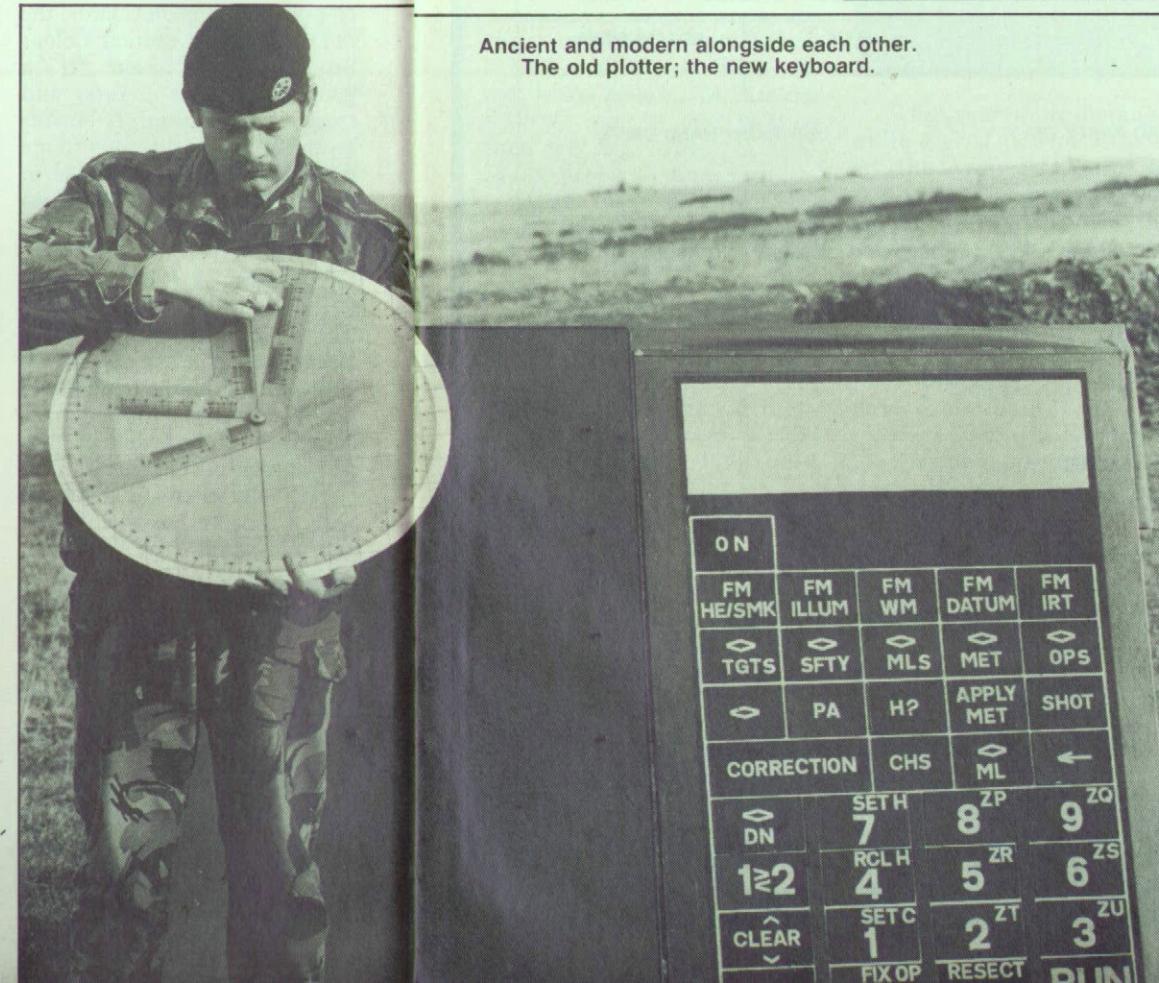
It's a pretty rugged bit of kit designed to withstand the British soldier at his most enquiring. The equipment is going to save an awful lot of our own soldiers' lives and makes us more effective when closing with an enemy."

Included in the MFDC's fire drills are grid reference, correct from grid reference, stored target, correct from stored target, quick action, co-ordinating illumination, indicating round technique, without-maps operation, datum firing, multiple target registration and dual missions. ■

This is how it's all done — by MFDC methods, hand-held.

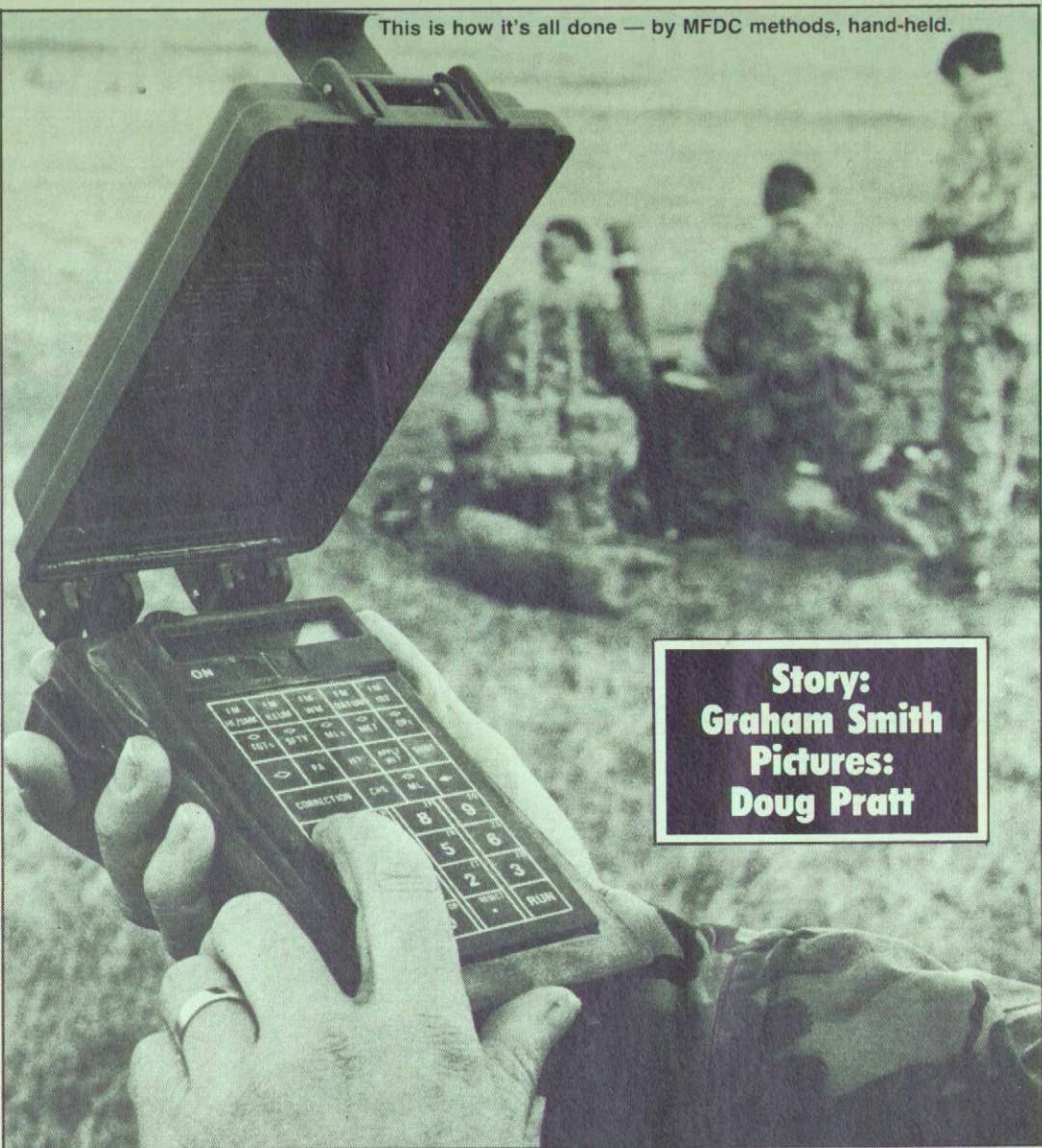
MFDC: MICRO-CHIPS FOR MORTARMEN

Going up! The 81mm shell screams away on demo by men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.



Ancient and modern alongside each other.
The old plotter; the new keyboard.

It's going to be a hit — direct — thanks to the new system of sums.



Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Doug Pratt





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MIDDLE WALLOP'S BIG AIR SHOW

— Box office is open

PLANS for Middle Wallop's international air show are fast gathering momentum ready for take-off in July.

Home of the Army Air Corps and scene of the world's first international helicopter meet in 1982, nearly 50 teams from 36 countries have accepted invitations to participate in the five-day show at the AACs Hampshire headquarters.

"We did send invitations to a number of Communist countries — including China and Russia — but we haven't heard anything yet, so I don't suppose they will be coming along," said Lieutenant Colonel George McMeekin, military co-ordinator of the show.

"But that doesn't matter since we will be providing the setting for one of the largest displays of military aircraft in Europe to mark the 40th anniversary of D-Day and Arnhem," he said.

Those fortunate enough to attend either of the two public days on July 7-8 will be treated to a five-hour flying display of historic and modern aircraft, masses of helicopters, an airborne assault, hot-air balloons and free-fall parachute teams showing off their skills.

In addition there will be an extensive exhibition and trade fair, a fairground and swings for the kids, displays by military bands and motorcycle teams and scores of static aircraft to look at.

"All in all a good family day out," said Colonel McMeekin. "All we want is good weather then we can expect at least 50,000 people to come along.

"That's the minimum number we are budgeting for. Of course

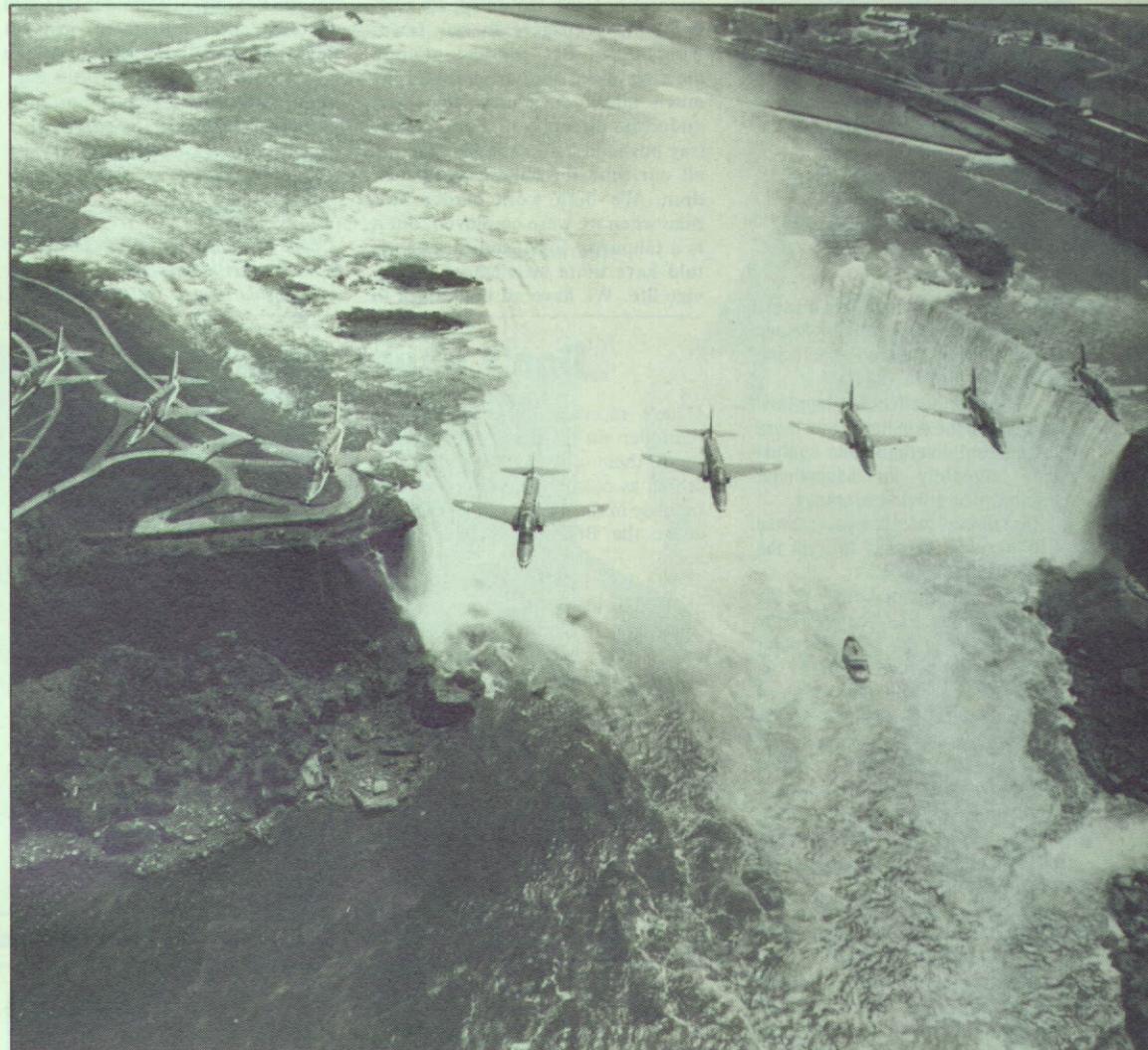
Story: John Margetts

we're hoping for many more than that and at £4 a ticket and £1 for youngsters from eight to 16 — it's free below the age of eight and free parking — it'll be good value."

Colonel McMeekin and his fellow organisers are also hoping that, in addition to good weather throughout the show, there are no rail strikes or terrorist bombings to keep people away.

"Unfortunately in '82 the show coincided with the Hyde Park outrage by the IRA when a number of soldiers were killed and injured, and a rail strike," he said.

"And while we didn't get quite the number we expected, we still made about £10,000 for various charities.



"This year we're hoping to make a good deal more money for the Army Air Corps and Army Benevolent Funds, the AAC Museum and other charities.

"While '82 could be thought a financial success — we didn't lose money — we're putting into effect this year a number of lessons we learned then to help us increase our charity donations.

"For a start we are having just the two public days instead of three as in '82. And secondly we're running the show in conjunction with professional organisers."

Colonel McMeekin explained that a two-day public display would greatly reduce overheads and help boost profit and therefore their charitable payments.

And referring to the D-Day 40th anniversary celebrations, many of which will be held throughout the summer, Colonel McMeekin said that because of the AACs past links with the Glider Pilot Regiment and the Air Observation Post Squadron

of the RAF, he and his team of organisers would be "trying to weave into the show a strong D-Day association".

"All three services will be taking part along with many of the foreign show participants," said the Colonel.

Other attractions will include a specially-formed helicopter display team from Middle Wallop. This is likely to be a team of four aircraft flown by instructors from the Centre; the RAF's Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight of Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane and the USAF's Thunderbirds team.

So make a date in your diary for July 4 through to July 8 when the outline of events is:

Wednesday July 4 — Exercise Helimeet. An international helicopter contest to be staged at Middle Wallop, Broadlands at Romsey and over Salisbury Plain. Broadlands — former home of the Lord Louis Mountbatten — will be open to the public.

Thursday July 5 — Helimeet

The Red Arrows over Niagara Falls last year. This year their programme will take in Middle Wallop.

Photo: Royal Air Force

symposium at Bulford for participating aircrew, military aviation staffs and the helicopter industry.

Friday July 6 — trade and Press day by invitation with a rehearsal for the main display, helicopter ground competitions and prize giving.

Saturday and Sunday July 7-8 — public days for the major air display. The airfield will be open to the public from 9am to 8pm with flying throughout the day. The formal air show will run for three hours from 2pm till 5pm and will be opened by a paratroop and battle scene involving paratroops, transport aircraft, helicopters, guns and tanks.

And if you book early the adult admission is reduced by 50p and children's by 25p. The advance booking office is now open on Middle Wallop military extension 277 or 389 or Andover 62121 (same extensions).



‘Anomalies which affect the families budget’

Since Christmas I have had a spate of interesting letters raising issues which show up the problems facing forces families in 1984.

The majority affect the families' pockets on the one hand, and there is apparent discrimination against their eligibility for educational grants when serving overseas.

It is now at least six years since I first raised the need to right the balance.

The recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body are due to go to the Prime Minister in the coming weeks. However, as I write, they are still unable to take into consideration when assessing the serviceman's pay, the anomalies which affect the families budget; such as the non-payment of Unemployment Benefit, the difficulties of maintaining enough National Insurance contributions to be eligible for i.e. Maternity Allowance; the non-availability of Unemployment Benefit, Redundancy Pay, Maternity Pay, Supplementary Benefit and Education Grants for Further Education. These all affect the family budget. When LoA is again cut in BAOR these losses of £1,000 and more will be difficult to tolerate.

In the 1983 AFPRB report, there was one crucial line:

“It was also put to us that it is more difficult for service wives to find employment”.

I wrote that, surely the AFRB should be allowed to widen its remit, to include all aspects which affect the serviceman's budget, especially when it is now acknowledged that wives in civilian life need to work, if they are to maintain the standard of living that they wish for their family.

So why is this crucial part of the budget not considered?

There is NO independent group who can assess this loss; the LoA teams, not the AFPRB, are allowed to consider this aspect when assessing the pros and cons.

Wives play a vital part not only in maintaining the standard of living by bringing in income, but by doing an enormous amount of voluntary work.

So, why are they denied what is right?

Anne Armstrong

We are always happy to read of the activities of young servicemen for handicapped young people, but spare me a little space for a band of ex-servicemen (retired) and wives who each week spend much time collecting goods, and each Saturday run a mini market to sell the goods to help to build a special centre (recreation) for handicapped children and teenagers in our town. The market has become quite a meeting place and each Saturday much hilarity is there. It is run under the direction of Tom Coyne, (my husband), who spends like me, all our time for handicapped children. We both work harder now than when we were employed, but it is a labour of love, and the stories told have quite an element of service life. We have all been back to

Dunkirk (Tom and I several times), and this year have applied for leave to go to Normandy. To date, in two years, £9,000 has been handed in to Association funds. Dedication to help to save life did not end in 1945, it still goes on in Shaw. We met Prince Charles in Manchester in December with two of our handicapped children. So much can still be done after retirement, just get involved; and lads, “Keep up the good work”.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. E. F. Coyne,
Compton Handicapped Childrens Association, 2a Eastway, Shaw, Oldham.

I hope I can help the Officer who wrote to me and wishes to remain anonymous; if he would ring me on (0276) 29653 I

Don't abuse the system

I have received from the MoD a reminder for families who wish to send their children to boarding school as recently there has been an increase in the number of cases which abuse the Boarding School Allowance.

The problem is that if you do abuse the rules it could cost the family the allowance, or if it has been paid, a requirement for a refund of all or part of the allowance already drawn.

The MoD say the main problems arise from the following:

- Lack of forward planning, e.g. not visiting schools before deciding on one and not seeking qualified advice on boarding schools.
- Not taking all aspects of boarding school education into account, e.g. full or weekly boarding (the service family's need is for full boarding), child care at half term

and during compulsory exects and out of hours activities.

- Financial difficulties developing because of an increase in costs or change in circumstances.
- Parents either not reading the regulations or not understanding them.

The parental action which is causing most concern is that which leads to the removal of a child from school, or a change of schools, without MoD approval, at a time other than the primary or secondary stage of education when a break is acceptable. Such action can lead to financial penalty. The need for a change with a stage of education must be justified by the parent and agreed by the MoD. The O/A level break point is NOT normally recognised.

When in doubt, ask for advice at your Education Centre.

Special Education Advice

To seek advice and assistance from SCEA on the education of any children who have a physical disability or who require education may do so by communicating direct with SCEA (Special Ed) Directorate of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR (Tel: 01-859 2112) Ext 272/282/285.

Advice on Boarding Education

Parents may communicate direct or through their Unit Education Officers, with SCEA (Advisory Service) Directorate of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR (Tel: 01-859 2112) Ext 277/279. Parents are normally requested to complete a questionnaire before advice is given. Copies are available from Education Officers or from Schools Branch at the above address.

Useful references

Documents relating to the Education of Service Children: a General Information and Regulations

JSP 342 The Education of Service Children.

JSP The Education of Service Children Overseas.

b Boarding and Day School Allowances

Regulations of Army Allowances and Charges, Chapter 12, Section 1.

c Handicapped Children and Special Education

Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges, Chapter 12, Section 2.

JSP 356 Chapter 8 Special Education — Travel Arrangements for Handicapped Children.

d Visits to Parents by Schoolchildren of Service Personnel Serving Abroad

JSP 356 Chapter 7.

ASK ANNE

may be able to help him more . . . but I need confirmation this is a genuine case.

For a start if both your Station Guide and the booklet "Now you are posted to Germany" which is being reprinted, do not cover the information you require, then let me know. In the meantime, the following information may be of assistance:

Marriage Guidance: Rheindahlen Mil. Ext. 2826; 02161-47-2826

Alcoholics Anonymous: 02161-47-2202 (Monday 8 p.m. Church Centre).

Samaritans: Not in BFG but do ring the U.K. numbers. See the guide. SSAFA Social Worker: at Local Medical Centre, or JHQ Mil. Ext. 02161-47-4751

Padre: do contact him please.

Do seek help; don't try and solve the problem on your own. There are many agencies that can help and you can still remain anonymous.

Reference Lady Grover's Hospital Fund. Please could you send me the address or who I can get details from?

Mrs. P. York.

Lady Grover's Hospital fund for Officers Families, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5IX. Tel 01-930 0125.

I have recently received a few letters from wives who have been turned down by the DHSS for Maternity Allowance. The reasons have been varied. However, if you have or know someone who has then resubmit your claim with supporting evidence to your husband's Unit Pay Office to MoD F2b (AD) who may authorise an ex gratia payment.

Remember that Maternity Grant Overseas are to be made using Army Form F INS 98 (Rev II/81).

My husband and I are interested in the purchasing of a surplus married quarter in the Peterborough area.

At present we are serving in Cyprus but are posted back to UK around early mid-May.

We would be grateful if you could supply us with any information, details on how to go about the purchasing of the surplus married quarter. — Mrs. B., B.F.P.O. 57

I did suggest to the JSMQS office when the scheme was first started that those overseas interested parties could submit their names for a list, with details of the areas of interest, so that details of that area can be mailed direct to the service man and so save time.

Some families may remember that I did just that when the sale of surplus houses started many years ago.

Submit a bid to Joint Services Married Quarters Sale Office, H.Q. Wilton, UKLF, Salisbury SP2 0AG. Salisbury Mil. Ext. 2684 Salisbury 0722 336222. Closing date for applications, i.e. Bulletin I 84, 11 Jan 84, 14 March 84.

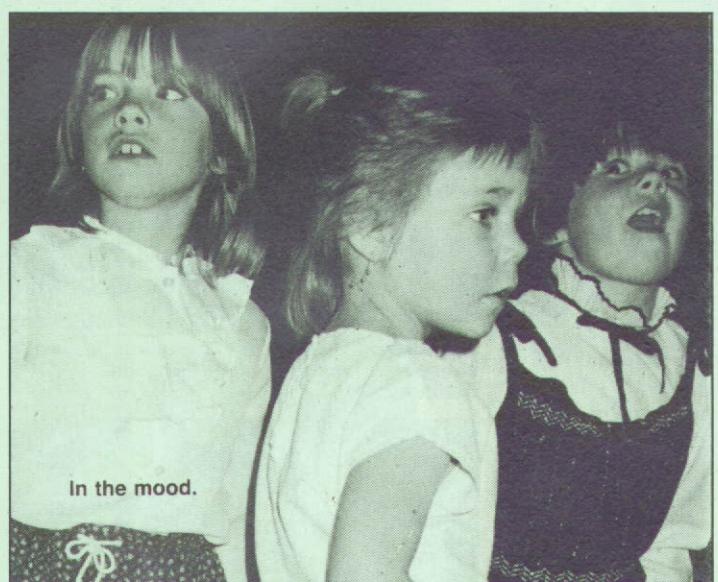
CHILDREN HAVE FUN IN LONDONDERRY

H.Q. Northern Ireland and Mrs Greta Mattingly invited me over to talk to the wives about the formation of the Federation of Army Wives Clubs and to see if Northern Ireland would be interested.

Northern Ireland are now in the process of forming their own Federation with links with the

UKLF Federation and so Mrs Sue Craft attended the PPA day laid on by the Pre-School Playgroup Association and supported by the Army Benevolent Fund.

However, during my visit I spent some time with the children who were busy with Brownie and Cub activities and the Junior Disco.



Testing the peppermint cream mix.



Brighten Your Environment!



Community Projects Scheme. I am sure you already appreciate that we receive a large number of requests for assistance under the scheme and in order to be absolutely fair donations are decided by a totally independent panel and therefore completion of an application form does not guarantee you will receive a donation.

*Yours sincerely,
R. C. Mitchell, Public Relations*

A challenging exercise in itself, to find the best community project, and maybe you can come up with a new idea, a novel way of improving a listed building, or an adventure playground or play area.

Application forms from: Welbeck Limited, 2 Endell Street, London WC2H 9EW. Tel: 01-836 6677. Competition closing date is 31st May 1984.

Do you want to brighten up a playgroup centre, church hall or play bus? Perhaps an old peoples flat or home, even your youth club or hospital ward. Then why not add some interest to your project and take up the challenge which has again been extended by Dulux. The 1984 Dulux Community Project Scheme.

Last year 175 projects received help and a lucky 15 went on to take part in a special selection which will be held at the Dulux Community Projects Exhibition in November and received £3,000 from the prize money.

The paint, a retail value of £40,000 is waiting to be used, so put on your thinking caps and maybe a service group might be lucky.

However, no mention was made about overseas entrants so I wrote and asked if our groups within British Forces in Germany could enter (distance being the main consideration):

Dear Anne,
Thank you for your letter which has been passed onto me as I am responsible for Public Relations for Dulux paints. In principle there is absolutely no reason why British dependents who are stationed with British Forces in Germany should not apply for donations under the

Cards for mum.



Knot practice at the home of Akela Leslie Parsons.



NOT THE COTSWOLDS BUT CYPRUS!

PASSERS BY in Episkopi's famous Wild West style shopping centre of 'Dodge City' were amazed to see a colourful spectacle more redolent of a Cotswold village green. The Amazing Headbangers Morris Men have been delighting audiences in Cyprus for more than two years.

The team, a mixture of Servicemen and British civilians, got off the ground in late 1981 when Gwilym Davies, who had been Morris dancing in Gloucestershire for ten years, arrived in Dhekelia.

A Ministry of Defence civilian employee he had not intended to carry on dancing — "But as soon as I got here I was pounced upon by people who said they wanted to do it. We advertised and ten people turned up — I was appointed teacher and I decided to teach Cotswold Morris dancing as being the best form."

The dances which the group use were all collected in the village of Bucknell near Oxford, where a Morris team operated until the turn of the century. After their first booking at the Phoenix Folk Song Club the



The Amazing Headbangers treating shoppers to a little touch of English tradition.

group went from success to success and they have appeared in many parts of the island.

Local Cypriots have also taken a great interest in the dancing and the Headbangers (the Amazing was added later) have appeared at festivals in Nicosia and Limassol.

"We have collected over £400 for charity including £125 for BLESMA. We felt a Service charity would be appropriate as we had soldiers in the side" said Gwilym.

Morris dancing is hardly the spare time occupation you would associate with soldiering but the current 'squire' or leader of the group, Sergeant Martin Leighfield of 262 Signal Squadron, is quick to point out that traditionally it was only men who danced.

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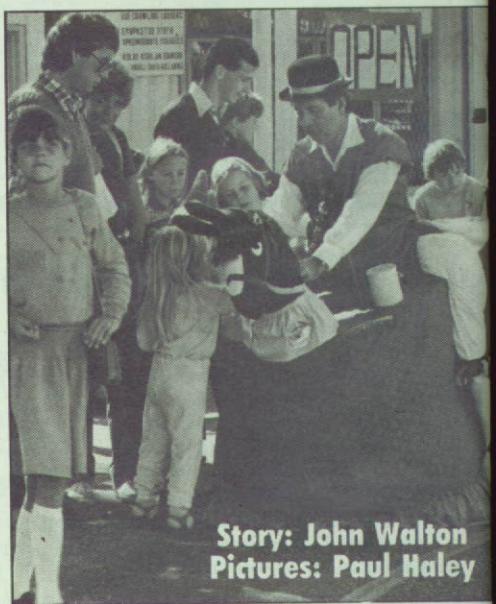
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LAKELAND Leads in Lotteries



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

"I gotta horse" . . . and a collecting tin as well, it seems.

you really lose some liquid then."

His wife, Carol, heads the team of musicians on piano accordion and as Sergeant Tony Heaton of 9 Signal Regiment says: "It's a big happy family. Rank structure is irrelevant and it doesn't matter what Service you are from or if you are a civilian — you all muck in together."

Tony is not yet a member of the dancing side. "Slowly and surely I am getting there" he says. Initially he is expecting to take over as 'the horse' — the traditional collector of the money.

The fourth soldier in the side is Sergeant Paul Thomas, also from 9 Signal Regiment. He told SOLDIER: "I was conned into doing it in the first place but I do enjoy it. It's good fun and energetic."

POACHERS OUTSHOOT THE REST

'The Poachers', the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, followed in a great British tradition when they won the annual UNFICYP rifle meeting on Dhekelia Ranges in Cyprus. With an overall score of 1044 points on rifle, machine gun and pistol, they left the other contingents' teams trailing badly — nearest were the Swedes with 890 followed by the Canadians with 851.

The teams, comprising 12 men in all, had been training hard for three weeks before the event. They included a former Queen's Medallist, Major Tony Domeisen.

Individual winners on the rifle were Sergeant Vic Anderson and Lance-Corporal 'Nidge' Scarborough with 113 while machine gun honours went to Corporal Andy Kilby and Private Alan Melville, each with 108.

Declared a jubilant skipper, Captain Tony Greenfield, afterwards: "You still cannot beat the British weapons — I believe that quite firmly."

The overall trophy, an 1864 rifle, remains in British hands — it was won last year by the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

● The next issue of **SOLDIER** will contain a special feature and pictures on the Poachers in Cyprus.

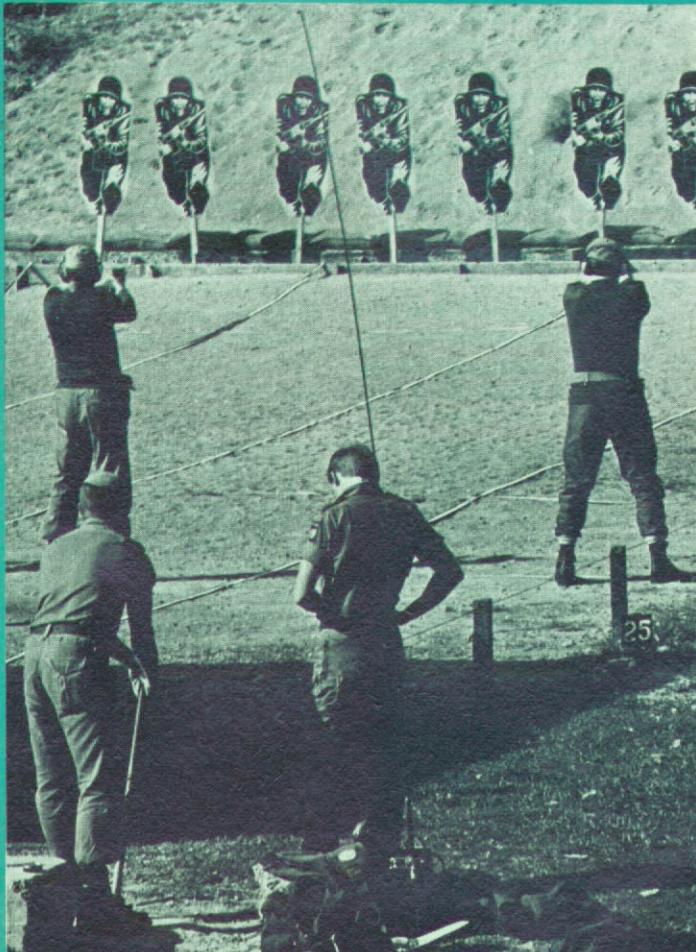


On this and facing page

Stories: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley



The Poachers winning team.



25

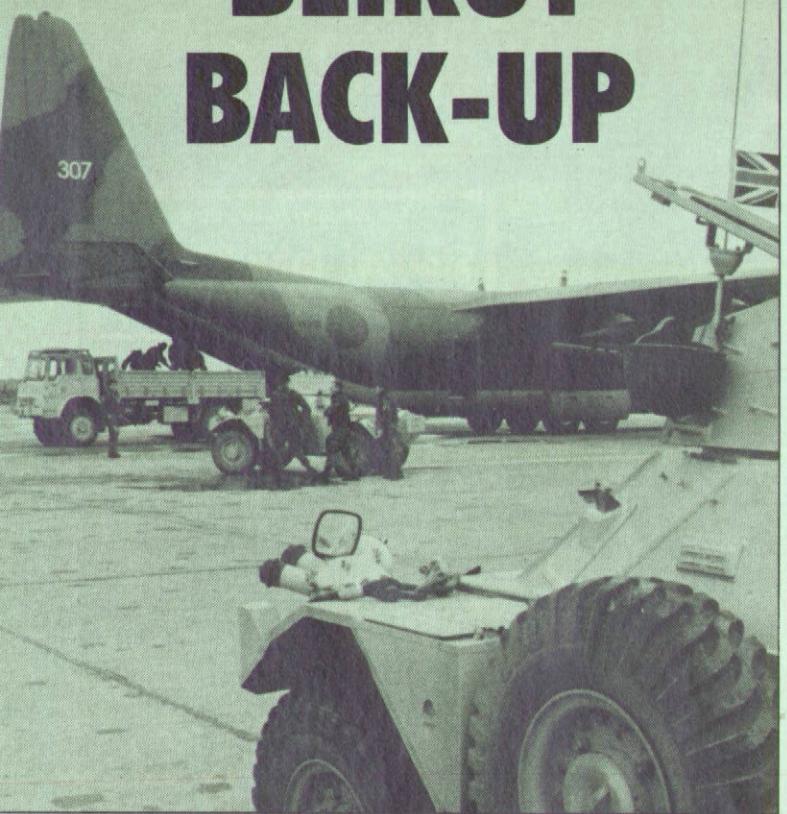


Major General G. G. Greindl, Force Commander, presents prizes.

For troops on the sunshine island of Cyprus the Lebanon crisis meant a big increase in the support workload . . .

BEIRUT BACK-UP

307



At Beirut Airport an RAF Hercules is unloaded. ▲



Sergeant Larry Graham tests Clansman in workshops.

WHEN the British Force moved into Beirut a year ago it was fortunate that a large scale British Services back-up was only a stone's throw away and ready and able to support it.

For the British presence in Cyprus in two sovereign base areas, a legacy of colonial days, already had the capability to supply most of the Lebanon Force's requirements.

Things like fruit and vegetables and bread were purchasable on the local market (see SOLDIER 13 February) but the supply of dry and frozen foods was only a small addition to the work of the Supply Depot at Dhekelia in the eastern sovereign base area.

For the depot already supplied not only the British Army in Cyprus, but the UN peacekeeping force on the island and more recently the United Nations force in southern Lebanon. Major Alan Bowen, the depot commander, says that Lebanon now comprises about 70 per cent of his workload.

Not that all has been plain sailing this last year. At first the RAF were able to get a regular Hercules aircraft run into Beirut. Then the airport was closed after another bout of violence.

"For three to four weeks a variety of means had to be used including Hercules, Wessex helicopters and the range patrol vessel Michael Murphy", recalled Major Bowen. But the arrival at RAF Akrotiri of Chinook helicopters ensured the resumption of a regular service.

The United Nations force in southern Lebanon has been there since 1978 and at present comprises soldiers of 26 different nationalities. At first a lot of British Army supplies were used but after costs had been added on these were competitive in price terms and now 98 per cent is bought through Cypriot wholesalers.

The differing food tastes of so many countries means that the variety of goods passing through the depot is greater than anywhere else in the Army. Major

Bowen gives some examples: "The first we knew that the Nigerians had pulled out was when there was a drop in demand for rice. They take things like tomatoes and peanut butter in large drums. And we found we were getting through tons of hot chutney for curries only to discover that some of the African troops liked eating it with bread and butter or toast.

"Because I import and export straight out we import duty free. We act virtually as a bonded warehouse. I am far more of a Cyprus businessman for much of my day than I am an Army officer. It is very interesting — one of the best supply depots in the British Army", says Major Bowen, who calculates £6 million sterling will be spent on food this year.

At the biggest food offtake in the Middle East the depot can have a great effect on the local economy in Cyprus. Major Bowen recalls one occasion when he bought two container loads of poultry locally — "there were no chickens available on the island for six weeks!"

With 900 items in stock the depot has four or five times the range of its equivalents elsewhere. For southern Lebanon the goods come in by container, are inspected, resealed and then shipped on to Haifa. At one time they went to Beirut but last August eight of the depot's containers were shot up. Some of the goods were salvaged but there was a rush to replace many of the staple items lost.

Another supply depot at the other end of the island in Akrotiri supplied the Beirut troops with items like clothing, motor transport, radio and defence stores. Being on the same base as the Chinooks was a great help for the emergency requirement.

Corporal Geoff Wood told SOLDIER: "If we get a high priority we can ring up and they may give us 15 minutes to get it down to the helicopter. We often get half a day's notice — we have a flight going tomorrow and there were 15 priority demands over the weekend."

The differing food tastes of so many countries means that the variety of goods passing through the depot is greater than anywhere else in the Army. Major

Stationery, Union Jack shoulder badges and even soft toilet paper were among the items sent to Beirut. Cyprus is currently using hard toilet paper but Beirut got soft — because the drains in their five storey block were becoming blocked by using the traditional Army material.

At 48 Command Workshop nearby they have done 1600 hours of work on Ferret scout cars (used in both Cyprus and Beirut) in the last year. They also repair radios and small arms and one of the special jobs for Beirut was the beheading of oil drums so that they could be filled with concrete and used as barricades.

The Land-Rover damaged in a road accident in Beirut (see last issue) had just been replaced when SOLDIER visited the workshops. After looking at it Warrant Officer 2 Barrie Yetman of the inspections department declared: "I've seen vehicles in better condition than that after crashes in which the occupants have been killed. They were very lucky."

He said the Land-Rover was beyond repair and after usable parts have been removed for spares it will be sold as scrap. The Ferrets, once repaired, were sent back to Beirut as quickly as possible.

As in the supply stores the Lebanon contribution has led to more overtime for the mainly civilian employees. Some of the equipment in use is very old — dating back half a century but according to Artificer Sergeant Major Tony Watson: "It is still good solid kit."

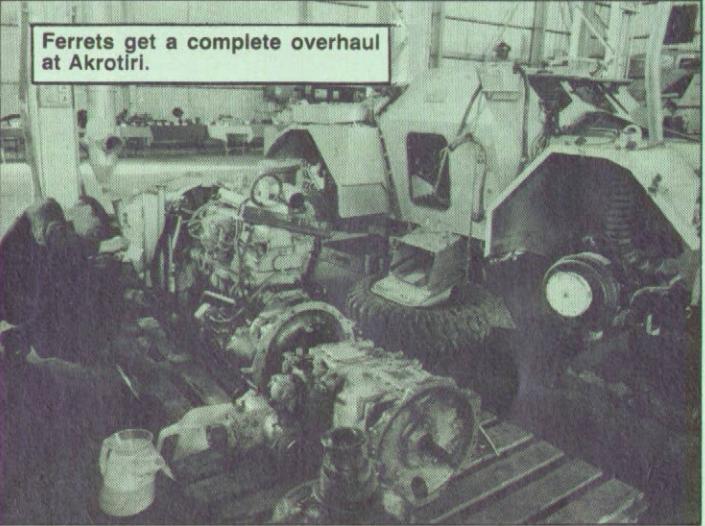
The diversity of the workshops includes many old tasks. Recently they made a gear for a potato peeling machine on a Royal Navy ship. "That may sound funny but it's not so funny for a lot of starving matelots" declared WO 1 Watson.

At the Princess Mary's Hospital, Akrotiri, a number of troops from the Lebanon have been treated in the past year for routine illnesses and accidents but none for war wounds. The RAF hospital, which also has 32 Army personnel, has 60 beds but

can expand to 200 in an emergency.

Their biggest job came after the lorry bomb attack on the Americans. Some 25 were evacuated to Akrotiri and treated for their injuries — the operating theatre was running for 19 hours. The men of 259 Signal Squadron not only provided communications between Cyprus and Beirut but sent volunteers over to relieve the signals detachment from 30 Signal Regiment so that they could spend a week's rest in Cyprus.

Squadron commander, Major Alan Wallace, told SOLDIER that communications were also operating between Cyprus and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant which sits between the island and Beirut, at the time of writing. The link from the Troodos mountains had to be rebroadcast



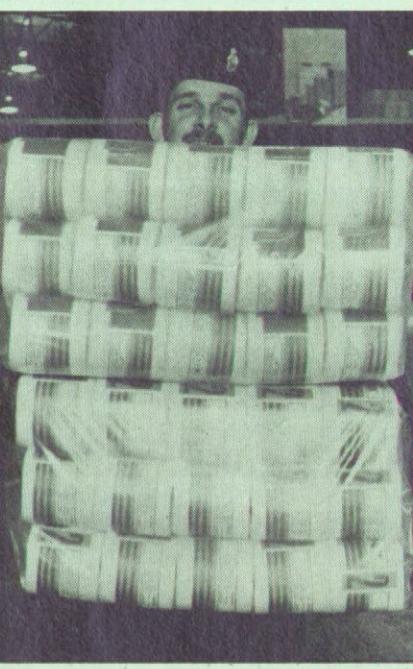
140 nautical miles and weather does affect the signal. During one recent storm the antenna was struck by lightning every 16 minutes and partially melted. Now threatened snows on the mountain may also affect the communications. But the link with the ship provided another line to the British force in the Lebanese capital. "It's not been a very busy net but it's there in the background when it's needed" said Major Wallace.

Other Servicemen on the island, notably the RAF and the Royal Engineers have also made their contribution to the BRITFORLEB back up. As the 110 men carried out their task in the scarred Lebanese city they had the consolation of knowing that in the words of a recent film — WE ARE NOT ALONE. ▀



The Union Jack patches used in Beirut.

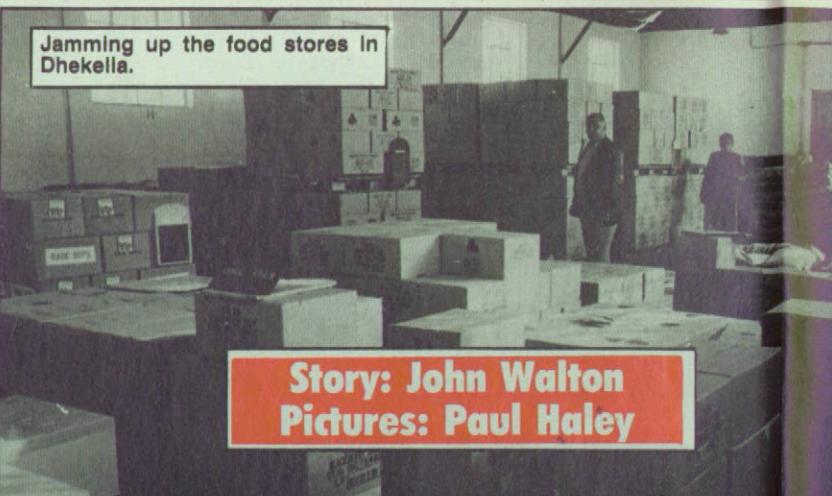
Corporal Geoff Wood with soft toilet rolls bound for Beirut.



Spraying a Ferret the sand colour used by BRITFORLEB.



Jamming up the food stores in Dhekelia.



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



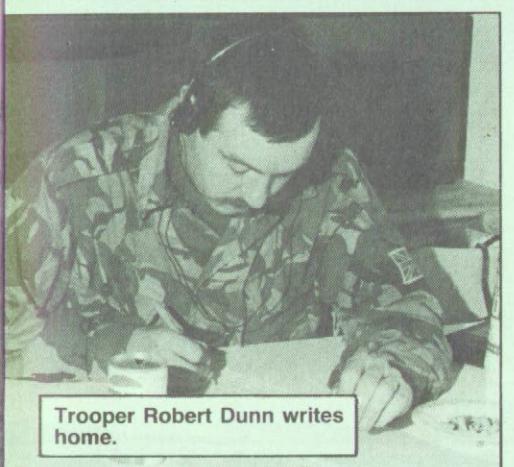
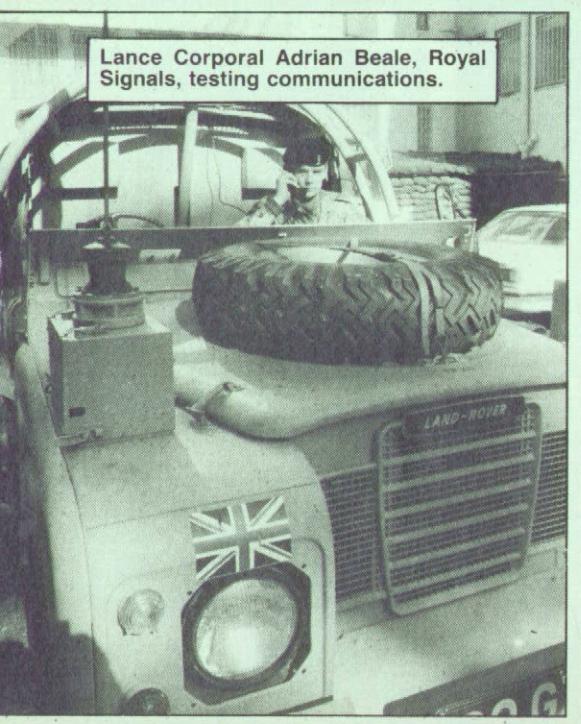
Repacking a general purpose machine gun.



BEIRUT: A YEAR OF PEACE KEEPING



Lieutenant Colonel Peter Woolley surveying the city scene with Lance Corporal Peter Cox, left, and Corporal Dale Archer.

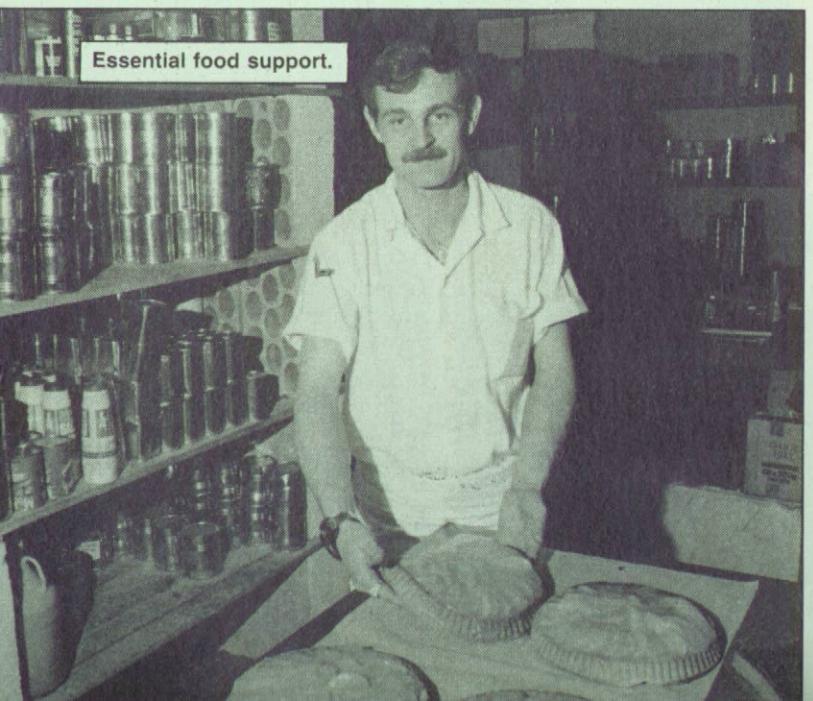


For the British Forces involved, the first anniversary of their contribution towards the multi-national peace keeping was quickly followed by their redeployment to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant.

The news aspect of the rapid change is dealt with on pages 3, 6 & 7 but we are using these pages to pay tribute to everyone involved — with the aid of more pictures, most of them previously unpublished, most from the camera of our own Paul Haley (see SOLDIER 13 February). Other pictures by Press Association and British Forces Cyprus.



One of the previous commanders — Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Ferguson QDG.

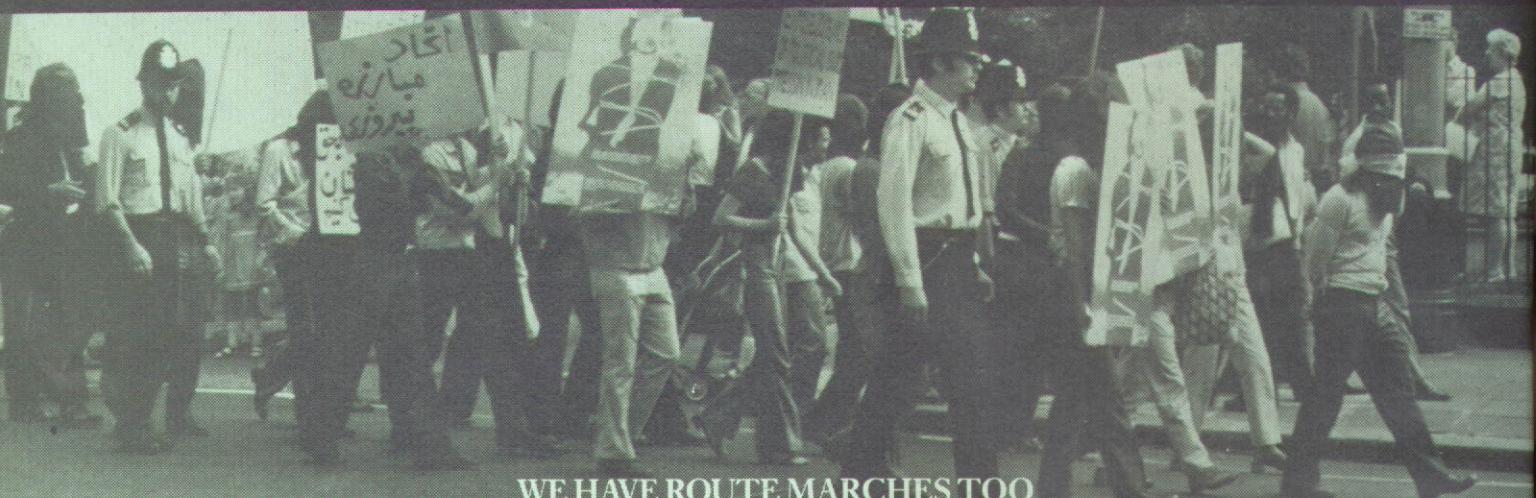


Corporal Mick Simpkins QDG shares a laugh with a member of the Irish contingent (UN Force in Lebanon).

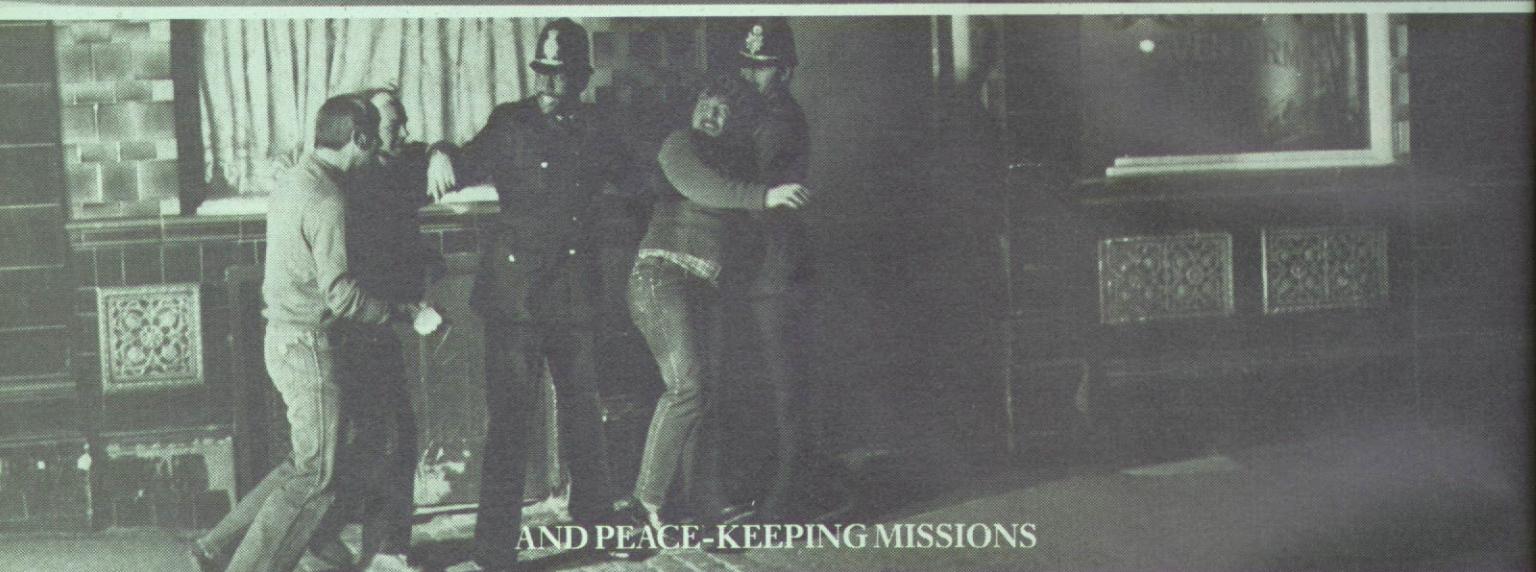


Men of the Royal Signals with (centre) Lebanese liaison officer.

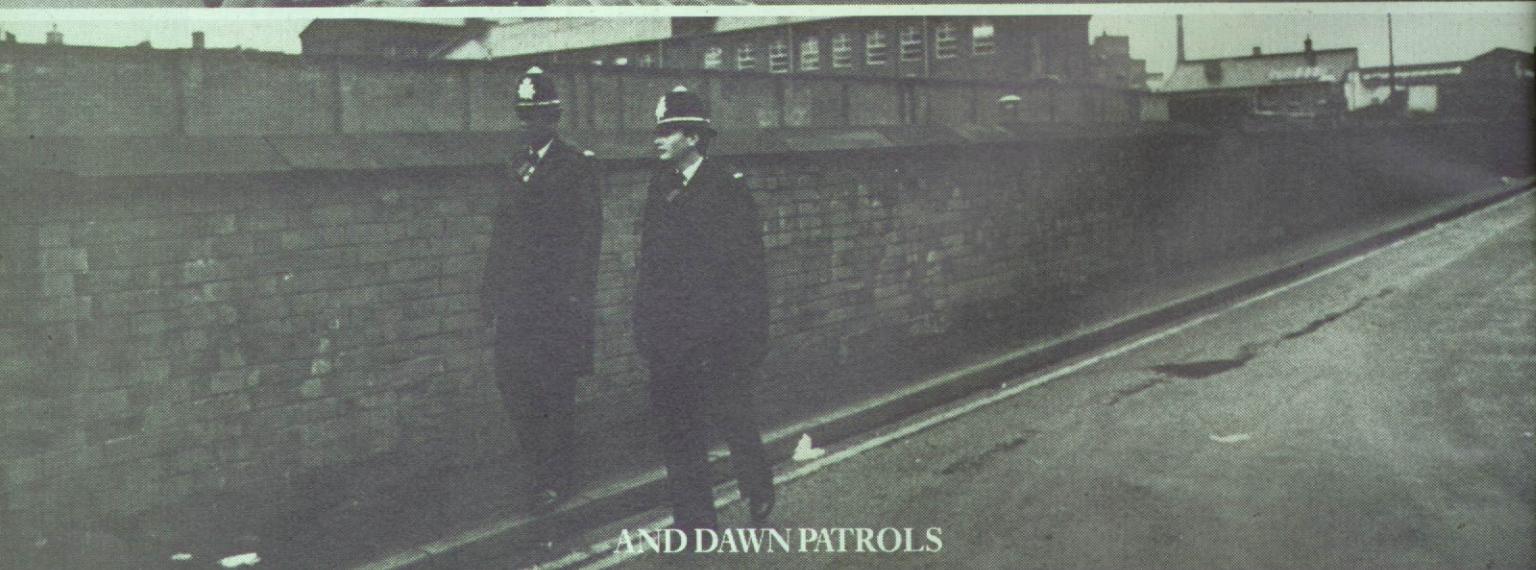
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There are other similarities too. In the Police you work as part of a team. You'll rely on your mates just as they'll rely on you in times of trouble. And you'll earn good money. If you're over 22 you start on £8,010, and there's free housing or a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

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MEN MESSIEURS HERREN SIGNORI

STAFF writer GRAHAM SMITH and photographer DOUG PRATT took, as it were, time off in loo, away from their more usual military assignments to make the 40-mile trip to London just to go to the toilet — figuratively speaking. There, they saw a unique first awarded to two former soldiers who have created Britain's best of its kind to receive . . .

THE 'SUPER LOO' SEAT OF HONOUR

THE BEMUSED, heavily-bewhiskered but articulate middle-aged gentleman of the early morning road in battered trilby and clutching his belongings in two shiny waste disposal sacks finished his standing call of nature, dutifully scrubbed his hands and politely left just as a phalanx of newspaper and TV cameramen swarmed into the subterranean surrounds in Covent Garden aptly post-coded WC2.

The occasion was the award of a lustrous mahogany loo seat complete with inscribed bur- nished brass plaque to two ex-soldiers who have won a nation- wide competition to find Britain's best-kept public toilet.

And on parade, showered, shaved and shampooed with semi-characteristic short-back-and-sides of their era were former 22322950 Staff Sergeant Harding, L., late of the Royal Artillery and 23864455 Corporal Bedwell, R. W. late of The Durham Light Infantry. Both were dressed in knife-edge creased black trousers and pristine white jackets with the word "Attendant" in gold reposing where their Army 'gongs' would be.

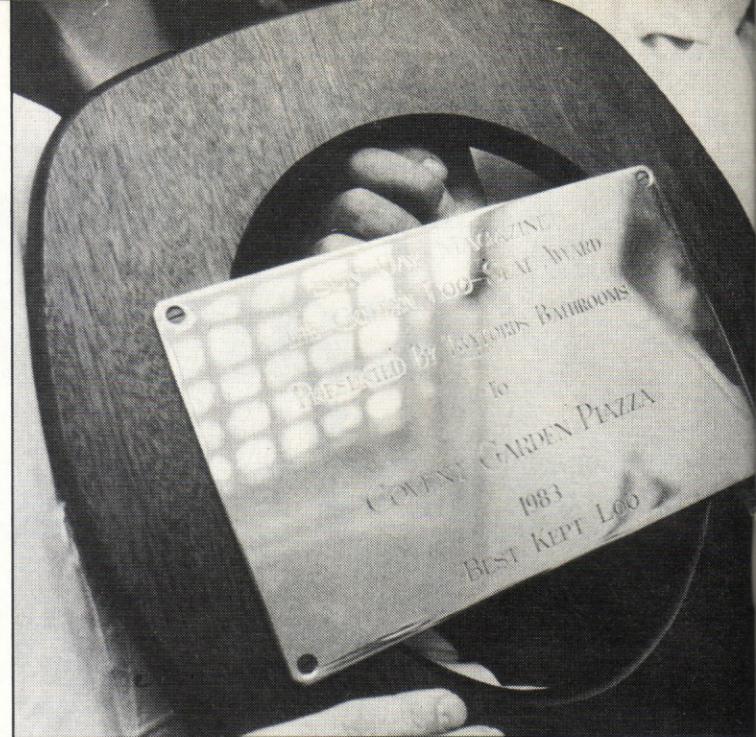
The pair of former veterans in khaki have been in charge of the country's top public 'casi' for 18 months located in the cobbled Covent Garden Piazza flanked by

a bank and a church badly in need of £300,000 to survive.

In the nationwide competition sponsored by a Sunday magazine with the award donated by a Midlands purveyor of porcelain artefacts of that ilk, both men polled an outstanding 50 per cent of the 2,500 nominations throughout the length and breadth of the realm.

The landslide public approbation for the former squaddies' artistic decor not only secured top honours for them but also for Westminster City Council's Environment Committee which spends an estimated £2 million a year on their 70 standing and sedentary facilities, said to be most of any local authorities in the Western world.

The Covent Garden loo with the distinctive view has its gents section done out in shades of pastel blue and cream, with blue



left: A quadri-lingual scene setter in Covent Garden W.C.2.

The brass-bound lavatory seat tells it all.

matching motif tiles over the three wash basins, flanked by two hand dryers and fronted by four cubicles. On the walls, nine prints including a full-sailed clipper on the ocean. Added to this, is the non-stop stereo music provided by Les and Reg out of their own pockets.

But it is the Ladies who enjoy the pièce de resistance. Their six-cubicle section with four hand basins and four fluffy pink hand towels on mirror hooks is decorated in pastel pink. Ten prints of delicate taste adorn the walls and the spaces above the cubicles, each of these furnished with toilet brush holder and air freshener — in pink, of course — clamped to each cistern. Above the concourse twixt cubicles and sinks, potted silk plants — four in each — dangle in gay profusion.

For the ladies, too, coloured blocks of Imperial Leather soap and nail brushes. Gainsborough's Blue Boy is the only male intruder and he's on canvas.

Music plays here, too, but there was not much room for any would-be female subscribers aching to spend that penny as pressmen surged in for the presentation of the coveted Golden Loo award, the first of its kind.

Les Harding, 53, formerly of the 61st Field Regiment, RA, who left the Army after 31 years service just three years ago, told me: "When I came out of the Army work was a bit of a problem and I had to come here. But a job is a job and I've been here for the last 18 months, just like Reg there."

Reg Bedwell, also 53, in The Durham Light Infantry from 1959-63 and a former lieutenant-colonel's batman in BAOR,

rifled through a handful of fan mail — they get three deliveries a day courtesy of the local postman — and said: "We work in two shifts from 0730 to 1500 hours and from then until 2300 hours. We get lots and lots of written and spoken compliments about our loo. It'll all be different next year. This is only the beginning. We aim to defend our new title then."

Both men have dipped into their £127, seven-days-a-week earnings to refresh the interior decor which now has won national acclaim and includes £280 on hand towels, a score of prints at £19 a-piece and four larger prints at a fiver per copy.

The stereo record system set them back about £100 and pushes out music ranging from country and western to Barry Manilow and Max Bygraves and his 'Singalong' series.

"We'd like some more Bygraves records," confided Les with Army service in Oswestry, Sheerness and Hong Kong behind him. "We had some records pinched and had to move them into our office."

Les gets his bars of colourful soap at the bargain price of six for £1. The country's top custodians of a public convenience par excellence have also saved a further £50 which is destined to buy some paint for yet more adventurous interior decorating projects.

"The women keep their place tidier than the men — and there are more of them," said Les. "I suppose we get about 200 clients in here a day, but we don't count them in and we don't count them out!"

Reg chipped in with equal enthusiasm: "Apart from a change



Les Harding hits the high spots; ▲
Reg Bedwell on the towels.

◀ A gentleman of the road slips away.

Notices — all of sheer acclaim — ►
from nationwide fans.

scented soaps and prints by the score. Who could possibly ask for more?"

Now the former gunner and infantryman have been flushed with sudden acclaim and success is the win likely to lead to a series of chain reactions?

Les, cradling the joint award, told me: "We are both really proud. Next, I would like to enter the British Rail competition. The Army training leaves this sort of thing in you. They have clean barracks and toilets, so why shouldn't the general public have clean toilets, too?"

Reg, in endorsement, echoed: "Nice though, to get respect, innit?"

But it was, of course, the Ladies who had the last word on the subject. For not only was it decided that the assembled media would carry out their functions within its dainty confines but, it was revealed by the two public concierges extraordinaires, that the actual Golden Loo Award will hang in there, too.

It would, alas, have to be a replica that would find pride of un-tarnished place in the Gents.

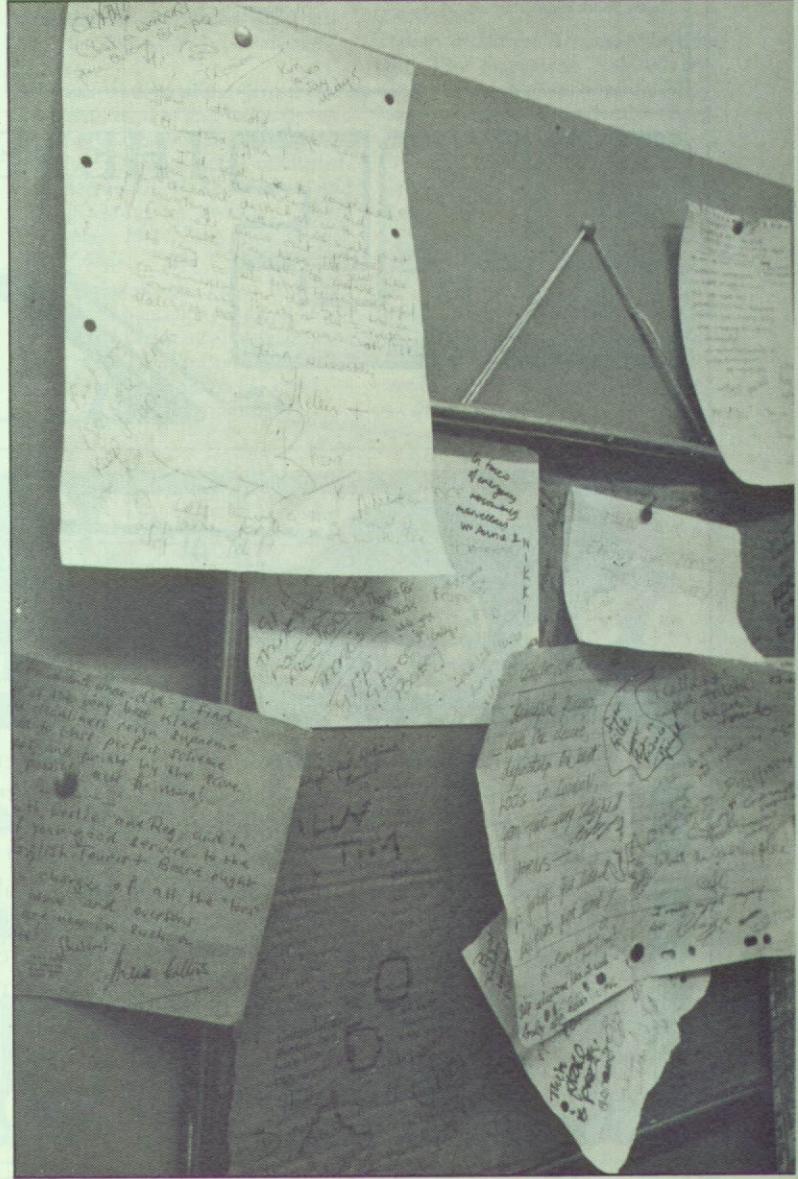
The late, much-travelled Kilroy would, indeed, have liked it in there!

in decor next year we will soon be bringing in soft toilet paper instead of the hard stuff."

Mr. Les Tench, deputy managing director of the firm donating the seat-of-honour told the one-time soldiers: "It's absolutely magnificent. It's nearer an art gallery and it must give some trouble getting people out rather than getting them in. It's a testimony of your hard work."

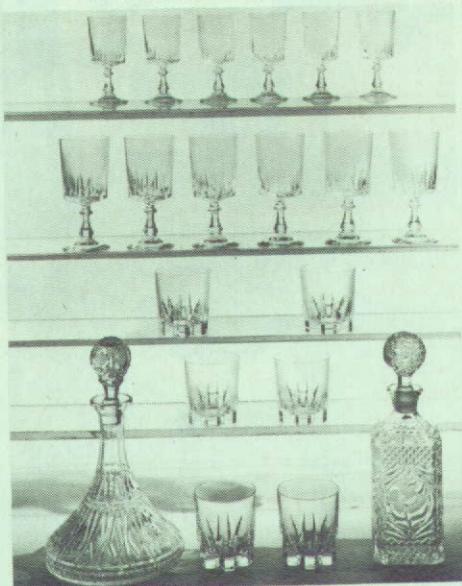
Courtesy and cleanliness . . .

More of that testimony to those joint efforts lie on a notice board clustered with letters of congratulation one of which in verse, says: "I looked around and what did I find? A superloo of the very best kind; Courtesy and cleanliness reign supreme. And to add to these perfect scheme,



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L  **Peugeot Talbot Piccadilly** 

MILITARY BOOKS are, it seems, marching into 1984 in even greater numbers. So much so, that the Book Marketing Council has chosen its first Special Interest Group Promotion for the year as the March for Military Books Campaign.

The BMC has chosen no well-known authors, no million sellers, no best 20 military books ever published. Instead, there are some 100 titles which the ten publishers taking part consider the best and most interesting on their lists.

The ten publishers participating in the promotion, aim to increase public awareness of the range of titles available, and Chris Lloyd, Blandford's marketing director and Chairman of the campaign working party, hopes that the promotion (running from 12-24 March) will generate sales in excess of £100,000.

The publishers (Ian Allan, Arms & Armour, Blandford, HMSO, Hamlyn, Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, Orbis,

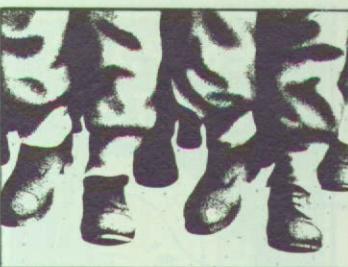
Newnes Books, Routledge and Patrick Stephens) having chosen 100 of their most interesting titles, are asking booksellers to make their own selection via a specially produced order form.

The titles cover a wide range, including biography and memoirs, recent popular and social history, weapons and also the highly popular illustrated books on medals, uniforms and insignia, tanks, aircraft and technology. Prices start as low as £1.95.

Some sales reps have reported difficulties in the past, in selling military titles to booksellers, and so one aim of the promotion is to encourage buyers to stock the range by making selection easy and, in some cases, by offering incentive terms.

These publishers have found that previous spring military book promotions have sold extra books, and they are keen to demonstrate the economic viability of stocking special interest titles.

NAAFI is among the organisations supporting the campaign.



**March for
MILITARY
BOOKS**

A Special Interest Publishers Group Promotion
from the Book Marketing Council
12-24 March 1984

The special order-form includes an offer of free publicity material: posters, competition forms and a press release to enable booksellers to generate local publicity. A cash prize of £100, and two second prizes of £50 have been offered for photographs of the best in-store or window displays.

Surveys suggest that military titles are collected by ex-service men, enthusiasts, modellers and teenage boys.

Bruce Quarrie, author of several books including *Hitler's Samurai* and *Napoleon's Campaigns In Miniature*, has devised a special crossword competition. The winner will enjoy a four-day

D-Day commemorative tour in France (sponsored by Townsend Thoresen), visiting the battlefields during the celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1944 Normandy landings.

Other prizes include a weekend (for two) war-gaming with figure designer Peter Gilder in Scarborough in October, and a tour of the Aldershot home of the Parachute Regiment, and the RCT's Medals Room.

This promotion has been timed to allow booksellers, particularly in the south of England, to take advantage of the very high public interest and media coverage of the D-Day celebrations.

A Companion to the British Army 1660-1983. For the first time in a single volume, a record of this remarkable institution from its origins to the present day. *Harrap Books, 19-23 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7PD.* — £14.50.

This is the SAS by Tony Geraghty.

A pictorial history of the Regiment — now in paperback. *Fontana Paperbacks, 8 Grafton Street, London WIX 3LA.* — £4.95.

Badges and Insignia of the Third Reich 1933-45. Illustrated. *Blandford Press, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1LL.* — £9.95.

Scallywag Poems: Ian E Kaye. Another volume from the 'Pick and Shovel' poet. *Arthur H Stockwell Ltd, Elms Court, Tors Park, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8BA, England.* — £4.50.

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German Light Panzers 1932-1942 and The M113 Series. Illustrated. *Nos 33 and 34 of Osprey Vanguard Series. Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP.* — £25.

The Encyclopedia of British Military Aircraft. Illustrated paperback. *Arms and Armour Press (see above).* — £5.95.

Ribbons and Medals. Illustrated. Twentieth edition and twice the size of the previous edition published 10 years ago. Minute detail on British Commonwealth, United Nations and foreign countries awards. *Osprey Publishing, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP.* — £20.

Cromwell Tanks and Churchill Tank. Illustrated vehicle histories and specifications. *HMSO Publications Centre, 51 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5DR.* — £5.95 each.

Italian Medieval Armies 1300-1500 and The Scythians 700-300 BC. Illustrated. *Nos 136 and 137 of Osprey Men-at-Arms Series. Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP.* — £3.50 each.

British Army Uniforms and Insignia of World War Two. Illustrated. *Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ.* — £11.95.

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Outline's Military Series. Titles include Naval, Uniform, Weapons, Military vehicles and Aviation. Write to Outline Publications Ltd, 137 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HR for order form. — £2.50 each.

Modern Air Combat. Illustrated study of the technology and tactics of modern air warfare. *Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 3AF.* — £9.95.

The Complete Encyclopedia of Battleships and Battlecruisers. Illustrated. *Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 3AF.* — £11.95.

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My name is Angela and I am 35 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I like music, reading and dancing. I would like a penpal in the same age group. —Angela Hickman, 14 Ledbury House, Shirestone Road, Tilecross, Birmingham, B33 0BY.

My name is Diane and I am 39 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with dark hair and brown eyes. —Diane Pearse, 8 Barbican Terrace, Barnstaple, N Devon.

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T.S. 27.2

PEN PALS WANTED



My name is Pauline and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with fair hair, and spend most of my spare time looking after my four horses, three dogs and two budgies! I also enjoy football, dancing, riding and showing the horses. —Pauline Thompson, 51 Ellenboro Road, Malin Bridge, Sheffield, S6 4QT.

My name is Angela and I am 27 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and I like music, dancing and walking. I would like to write to someone of a quiet nature with the same interests. —Angela Allen, 6 Fern Grove, Blackpool, FY1 5PD.

Again we ask readers seeking pen pals to note that in future their requests will only be accepted if they have completed the printed form below.

It is necessary to introduce this new system to help our staff cope with increasing numbers of requests. Those already in stock will be published but anyone writing in from now on will be asked to resubmit details on this form. Only completed forms from the magazine will be accepted (no photocopies please). The form will be published frequently and as regularly as space will allow.

There is still a backlog of letters which will steadily reduce over the coming months. So, if your letter has not yet appeared, take heart... it will eventually!

My name is Marlene and I am 42 years old. I am 5ft tall with chestnut hair and green eyes. My interests are walking, swimming, shooting and darts. I would like a penpal aged 35-42 years old. —Marlene McGaffey, 17 Kennedy Courts, Kilton, Worksop, Notts.

My name is Stephanie and I am 24 years old. I have blonde hair and green eyes and will answer all letters. —Stephanie Coleman, 36 Woodland Rise, Sheringham, Norfolk.

My name is Rosemary and I am 40 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with auburn hair and green eyes. I am a nurse and I enjoy the countryside, dancing, swimming and music. I would like a penpal aged 35-45 years old. —Rosemary Rodgers, Flat 1, Iden Park, Iden, Rye, East Sussex.

My name is Jayne and I am 27 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with dark brown hair. I am well-travelled and enjoy reading, long walks and visiting historical places. I would like to hear from a soldier aged 27-35 years old. —Jayne Smith, 141 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 1EH.

My name is Susan and I am 27 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with auburn hair and hazel eyes. I am a hairdresser and I like music and writing. All letters answered. Photo if possible. —Susan Belcher, 37 Summerfield Road, West Wittering, Chichester, Sussex, PO20 8LX.

My name is Gillian and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. I like most music and sport, and follow all football. —Gillian Skerritt, 152 Bader Way, Rainham, Essex.

My name is Theresa and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blonde hair and hazel eyes. —Theresa Davis, 11 Park Close, Cadbury Heath, Warmley, Bristol, BS15 5ET.

My name is Valerie and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. I like most music, reading, writing, cooking, stamp-collecting and cycling. —Valerie Belcher, 37 Summerfield, West Wittering, Chichester, Sussex.

My name is Wilma and I am 27 years old. I would like to write to someone aged 27-30 years old. —Wilma McDowell, 23 Stonecrop Place, Kincaidston, Ayr, KA7 3XA.

My name is Jeanette and I am 29 years old. I would like to hear from anyone around the same age. —Jeanette Kelly, 12 Trefoil Place, Kincaidston, Ayr, KA7 3XA.

My name is Yvonne and I am 32 years old. I like music, dancing and keep fit. —Yvonne Thorpe, 12 Winifred St, Masbrough, Rotherham, S Yorks, S60 1LW.

We are three friends, Christine 23, Caroline and Shirley 22, all brunettes with a variety of interests. —Christine Mitchell, 58 Croft St, Lincoln LN2 5AZ.

My name is Julie and I am 20 years old. I would like to correspond with any sergeant serving in the Falklands. I enjoy backpacking, wargaming etc. Photo if possible. —Julie Usher, Holbrook House, 105 Rose Hill, Oxford.

My name is Alison and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with blonde hair and green eyes. I like most music and football. —Alison Markwood, 29 Randall Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

My name is Lynne and I am 24 years old. I used to be a nurse and now work in a steak house. I would like to hear from anyone stationed abroad, and in the same age group. —Lynne Ehlen, 14 Hilton Court, Sefton, Merseyside, L30 0PF.

My name is Debbie and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. My interests are soul and jazz funk music and I work for a Building Society. —Debbie Skinner, 54 Davison Drive, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 0SX.

REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN-PALS

NAME: _____

STATUS: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

(not for publication)

*OCCUPATION: _____

*NAME OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE/OTHER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT: _____

*SUBJECTS/EXAMINATIONS: _____

*complete as appropriate

INTERESTS/HOBBIESTS: _____

AMBITIONS: _____

WHAT SORT OF PEN-PAL DO YOU SEEK? (ie, age, sex, status, interests, etc) _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY PREFERENCE FOR WHERE YOUR PEN-PAL IS SERVING? _____

PHOTO REQUIRED/NOT REQUIRED (delete as appropriate) _____

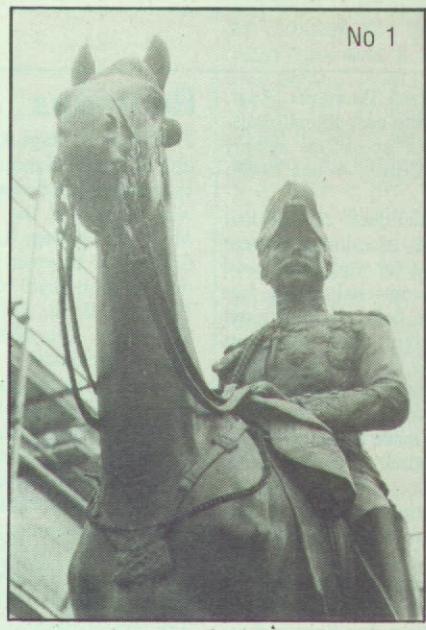
SIGNATURE _____

DATE: _____

QUESTIONS

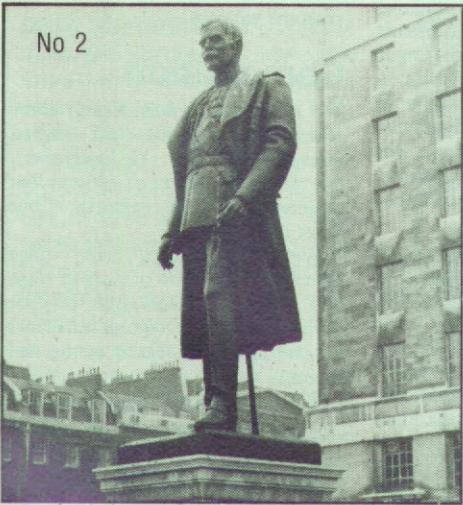
PICTURE No 1

- Viscount Wolseley served in the Indian Mutiny. Right or wrong?
- How is he connected with the "Pirates of Penzance"?
- Did he serve in World War 1?



No 1

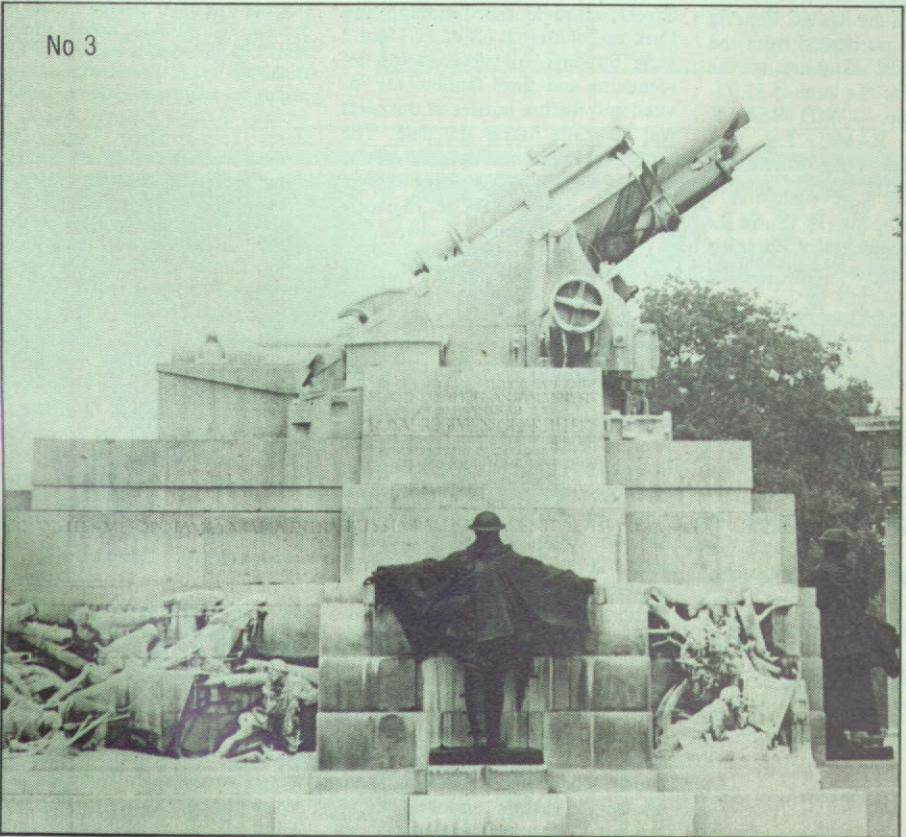
No 2



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No 3



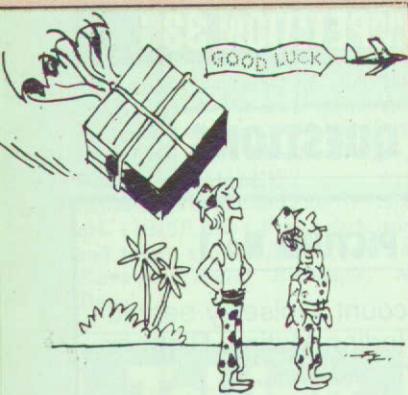
PICTURE No 2

- Was Marshal Trenchard made a Duke, an Earl or a Viscount?
- How was he connected with the Police?
- This statue stands in Parliament Square, London. Right or wrong?

PICTURE No 3

- Which regiment is commemorated by this memorial?
- Fill in the missing word in the inscription "Here was a royal — — — of death"?
- The memorial stands in (a) St. James Park (b) Constitution Hill (c) Whitehall?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 23 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 23 April and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 336' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 336' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.



MAIL DROP

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

Over the top

The recent criticism of the soldiers flying the Union Flag upside down seems to me to be a bit over the top. After all, they are only two out of the millions in this country who are unaware that there is a right way. I doubt very much if this lack of knowledge affects anyone's performance.

A provost sergeant I know solved the problem by marking 'top' in ball-point in the appropriate corner of the guardroom UJ as insurance against the inevitable error and the screams from RHQ.

As the difference is barely discernable from a distance perhaps the designer in 1801 should have adjusted the three crosses to be equidistant. The dreamer who came up with the idea that an upside down flag could be used as a distress signal would then have been hard put to find an alternative.

Perhaps the correct way up should be explained to all recruits in Day One! — **Mr M E Mackay**, 25 Avon Drive, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4EL.

Mule trains

Further to Maj R A Hill's interesting letter (Pack Transport; **SOLDIER** 12 Dec 83) and the possibilities of pack transport living off the country for a limited period, I was once given to understand that this was the actual procedure successfully followed by

the 1st Bn Royal Berkshire Regt, when converted to part animal transport (mules) for operations against the 'Shifta' in Eritrea — late 1940s, early 1950s.

After the initial 'feed' carried, had been exhausted, the animals were allowed to 'fend for themselves' and although they obviously soon lost condition while being hard worked over wild terrain, my informant vouched for the fact that they never faltered in their tasks and soon recovered condition on return to barracks and a more substantial regimen, the duration of patrols being relatively short.

One would presume that this particular procedure was carefully monitored, at the time, by the At Sqn, RASC then stationed in E Africa.

No doubt, any former 'China Dragon' reading these few lines and remembering AT being used in Eritrea, might — from the non-specialist's point of view — be able and willing to expand, into a little more detail, the generalities mentioned above. — **R Travers-Bogusz**, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

Digital error?

In your issue of 16 January, you published a small item mentioning Medical VCs, saying that 32 have been awarded to the RAMC in all.

Although obviously proud of our unique tally, it would be remiss of me if I failed to point out that the total should be only 31, won by 29 individuals.

Only 3 times in the history of the VC has a bar been awarded, and 2 of them were won by RAMC men. These being Col Arthur Martin-Leake and Capt Noel Chavasse.

Readers may be interested to know that a booklet on the RAMC Victoria Crosses may be purchased from the RAMC Historical Museum at the above address for the sum of £2.75, including postage. — **WO1 (RSM) R R McFaulds**, RAMC Trg Gp, Keogh Bks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 5RQ.

The disagreement appears to be with the Corps — source for our article, but thank you for your observations. What a glorious record! — Ed.

Reunions

2 RHA/2 Fd Regt RA all ranks reunion. The third annual reunion for all ex-members and attached personnel will be held at the WOs and Sgts Mess, 40 Fd Regt RA, Kirkee Bks, Colchester, Essex on 5 May. Further details send SAE to: J White, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3AA. Tel: 0206 864333 evenings or weekends.

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association. The 65th Annual Reunion Dinner is to be held in the Burleigh Suite, Strand Palace Hotel, Strand, London WC2 on Saturday 5 May 1984, 6pm for 7pm. Tickets and information from: Major B O Simmons, HHQ 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Bks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP. Tel: 0632 329855.

Old Victorians Association, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. Grand Day Parade will be held at the School on 13 June 1984. Parents and friends of boys at the School, and former pupils and friends are welcome to attend. We would very much like to hear from former pupils now in the Services with whom we have lost contact over the years. — **J W White**, 5 Old Doune Road, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0JY.

The XVIIth The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse OCA. The Final Reunion and Cenotaph Laying of Wreaths Ceremony will take place on Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June. The Stand Down of the Association which has been in existence since the disbandment of the Irish Regiments in 1922, is due to the decline through deaths, and old age of its surviving members. The Reunion Dinner at The Irish Club will be at 7.30pm for 8pm. The Cenotaph Parade will assemble in King Charles Street, close to the Cenotaph and form up for March off at 11.15am 3 June (Sunday). All survivors and descendants and their families are invited and further notices in the press will be made nearer the date. The cost of the Dinner this year will be approximately £8. Enquiries to: The Chairman, Major M B Lee, 15 Blairsville Grove, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 2HT.

At the conclusion of the Second World War, Australia's component of BCOF (British Commonwealth Occupation Force) was formed at Morotai (Army) and Labuan (RAAF) in the South West Pacific. This force was reinforced by personnel from Australia including members of Women's Services. The group became part of a large Commonwealth Force in the occupation of Japan 1945-55. Many of these people also served in the Korean War (K Force). In 1985, during the month of June, a National Reunion of former members is to take place at Dubbo (Central NSW Australia) which is being organised by members of the BCOF Association. We have a strong group of former members of the Force amongst whom there are several ex-United Kingdom service personnel. To any visitor a big welcome is assured — the wet canteen will not run dry, no beer ration at all, and

plenty of back-ups. — **Eric Butler** OAM, Secretary, BCOF Assn of Australia, 1123 Eyre St, Ballarat, Victoria 3350, Australia.

Collectors' corner

Howard Blane, 2 Pollen Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4HA. Requires shipping company cap badges and buttons. Some swaps available.

J B Allen, 211 Dunvant Road, Killy, Swansea. Seeks 9th Lancers officers cap badge, bronze, KC.

'Sum like it!' Riddle

An error occurred in the pyramid Competition 335 Blind Mice/Turtle Doves question, some may have guessed that the square root symbol was out of place and should have read 3^2 , however, our apologies, and we will take this into account when we pick the winners.

Competition

We have had problems with some recent competitions — and suffered more with no 332 (12 December), one which by nature of content was designed to test the memories of our older readers.

We asked you to marry stage names to real names of stars of stage and screen . . . and some of your replies were quick to point out errors on our part with regard to the real names!

We used Betty Pepske — readers claim Betty Perske is the correct name; we said Edythe Marriner, some say Edythe Marrender.

Here is the Answer: Anna Neagle, Marjorie Robertson; Douglas Fairbanks (Senior), Julius Ullman; Susan Hayward, Edythe Marriner; John Wayne, Marion Michael Morrison; Lauren Bacall, Betty Pepske; Bud Flanagan, Robert Winthrop; Mary Pickford, Gladys Smith; Cary Grant, Archibald Leach; Ginger Rogers, Virginia McMath; Laurence Harvey, Larushka Skikne; Marilyn Monroe, Norma Jean Baker; Tommy Steele, Tommy Hicks; Julie Andrews, Julia Elizabeth Wells; Ted Ray, Charles Olden; Virginia Mayo, Virginia Jones; Cliff Richard, Harold Webb; Kathryn Grayson, Zelma Hedrick; George Robey, George Edward Wade; Veronica Lake, Constance Keane; Gale Storm, Josephine Cottle.

Winners:

1st Mrs L M Simms, 13 Ribble Croft, Chapelton, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S30 4HP. 2nd Mr C R Marsh, 3 Rotherstone, Devizes, Wiltshire. 3rd Cpl C Rumney, L Tp 21 Sig Regt, RAF Laarbruch, BFPO 43. 4th Mr M J Wolff, 6a Vincents Close, Allerton, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 5JH. 5th Major Egon Maarup, Snerlevej 6, DK 7500 Holstebro, Denmark.

How Observant Are You?

The Editor apologises to the many readers who enjoy How Observant Are You — a regular feature conspicuous by its absence this issue. Pressure on space, mainly brought about by events in Beirut, means HOAY being left out. It will appear again in the next issue.

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COLLECTION

No. 2

THE UXBRIDGE SABRETACHE

'By God, I have lost my leg.'
'By God, Sir, so you have.'

The date — 18 June 1815. The place — the battlefield of Waterloo, where, according to tradition, these words passed between the Duke of Wellington and his cavalry commander, Lieutenant-General Henry, Earl of Uxbridge. A grapeshot, one of the last rounds fired in the battle, had passed in front of the duke and shattered Uxbridge's knee-joint, only the duke's strong arm preventing him from falling from the saddle.

Uxbridge, who started the battle in command of 14,500 sabres from 31 regiments, plus horse artillery and rockets, was rushed to his headquarters where his surgeon quickly decided that the mangled leg had to come off. The cool behaviour of the patient under the saw and knife (which he reckoned was blunt) was astonishing. Perhaps the thrill of a great victory helped him overcome the horrors of an amputation without pain-killing drugs. The leg was buried in the HQ garden and a weeping willow planted over it. Alongside, a plaque told the gruesome story in a French inscription, to which some joker is

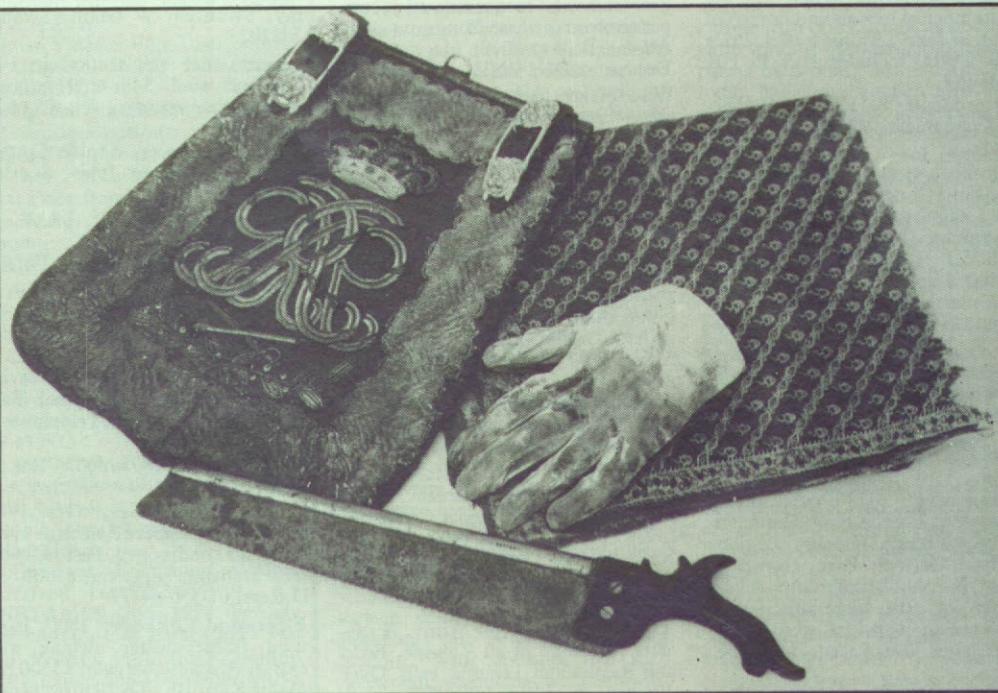
said to have added the couplet "Here lies the Marquess of Anglesey's limb. The devil will have the remainder of him".

In 1793, Henry had raised an infantry regiment from his father's tenants and was

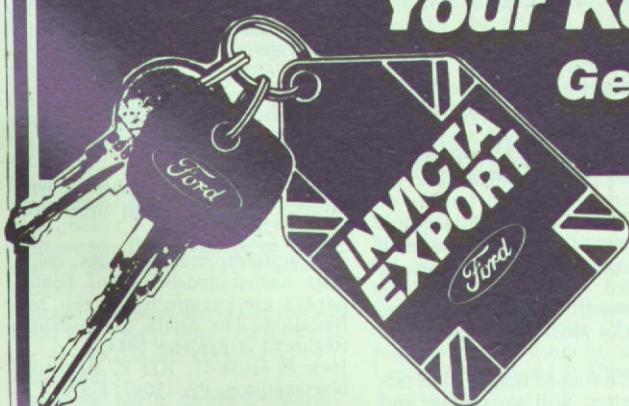
appointed temporary lieutenant-colonel, but his first permanent rank was a lieutenancy in the Royal Fusiliers in March 1795. He changed regiment three times in as many months to become lieutenant-colonel of the 16th Light Dragoons in June. In April 1797 he was gazetted lieutenant-colonel of the 7th Light Dragoons and after serving in the Helder Expedition of 1799 took over the colonelcy of the regiment in May 1801, soon to make it one of the best in the Army. He distinguished himself in command of the cavalry during Sir John Moore's Corunna campaign of 1808 and commanded an infantry division in the Walcheren Expedition of 1809. After five years of scandal and unemploy-

ment he was given command of the cavalry, light and heavy, and the horse artillery in Wellington's army in Flanders in 1815. Less than three weeks after Waterloo he was created Marquess of Anglesey in recognition of his services. He died in London in 1854 aged 86.

His wooden leg, patented by James Potts of Chelsea as 'the Anglesey Leg', is preserved at Plas Newydd, Anglesey, but the most intimate relics of the conflict that settled the face of Europe for a century are in the National Army Museum. His sabretache as a General Officer of Hussars, his white cotton glove and red bandana, all stained with his blood, are shown beside the surgeon's saw.



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

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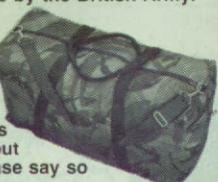
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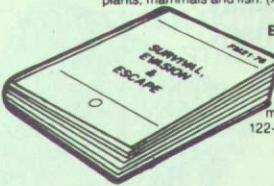
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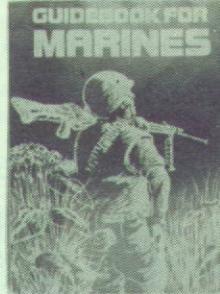
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OLD GAMES SEE NEW CHAMPIONS

The departure of Captain Mark Nicholls from the Army left a vacuum in both the Army Real Tennis and Rackets competitions this year. Nicholls had won both titles for the last two years.

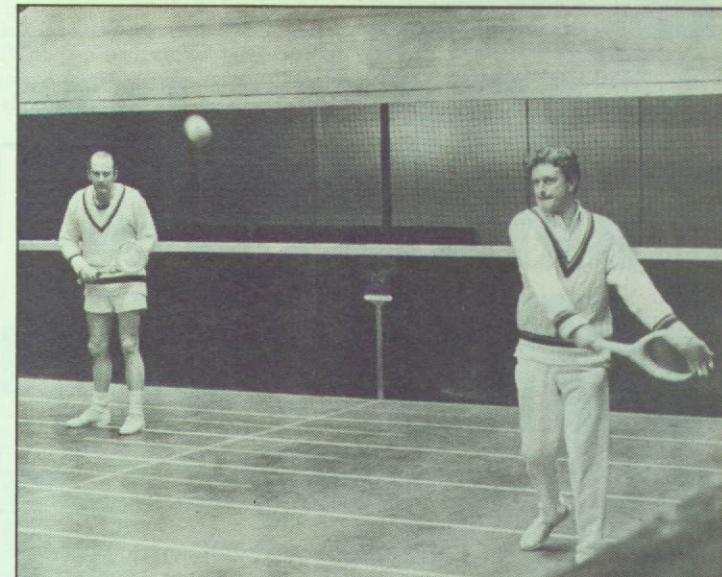
In the Real Tennis final Major David Reed Felstead of The Blues and Royals won a closely fought final with Lieutenant Colonel Charles Vyvyan (BAOR) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Reed Felstead also reached the Rackets finals where he came up against Major Christopher Braithwaite. Both men had won the title prior to the Nicholls era and eventually Braithwaite became champion for the sixth time winning 15-4, 15-6, 15-4.

"It's been nice to win it for the first time since 1979. I play a lot of squash so it's been a question

of adapting to the faster ball", said the new champion, who has also won the Army Lawn Tennis title more than once.

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards won the regimental doubles for the first time. And in the last final connoisseurs had the chance to see the skills of former Grenadier Guards officer, Geoffrey Atkins, who was World Rackets Champion 18 times. With his partner Tom Pugh, Atkins took the Combined Services (Past and Present) title in four straight games against Reed Felstead and Brigadier Andrew



Real Tennis — the game which began in monastery cloisters.

Myrtle, Assistant Commandant at Sandhurst.

Entries were down this year but Major Barry Aitken, Secretary of the Army Tennis and Rackets Association, blamed this

on unit moves. He said there were new young players coming along and the future was assured for these two forerunners of two of today's most popular sports, squash and lawn tennis.

RUGBY COLTS

The Army Colts Rugby team have so far won five and lost four of their nine matches. Recently excellent victories have been achieved against Cheltenham (20-14), London Welsh (14-0) and Nuneaton (18-4). Two of the defeats were by narrow margins against Harlequins (9-10) and Blackheath (15-18). A powerful Leicester side beat the Army 20-7 but the young Servicemen gave a good account of themselves.

Eight Army players were in the Combined Services side for a preliminary England trial against South Western Counties. The South West won 20-4 with the Services points coming from a try by Apprentice Lance-Corporal 'Snelly' Snellgrove from AAC Chepstow.



Goalie stares dumbfounded as 238 Squadron RCT head along the Cup glory trail once again.

cup holders 238 Squadron RCT from Merseyside.

Already through to the semi-finals are 119 Recovery Company REME (V) who beat B Coy 6 Royal Anglian 3-1 in their quar-

ter final and 232 Signal Squadron RCT who scraped through on penalties after a 1-1 draw with 265 Signal Squadron (V). The final is scheduled for 1 April at either Catterick or Aldershot.

IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL

7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery won the 1st Armoured Division Basketball Championship for major units with 201 Signal Squadron taking the minor units title.

SHOOTING

The Army Target Shooting Club will be holding their open pistol meeting 26-29 April at Bisley. Entry forms are obtainable from Major D K Mumford, Secretary ATPC, 17 Port Regiment, RCT, McMullen Barracks, Marchwood, Southampton.

HANG GLIDING

The Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre has moved from Sennybridge to RAF St Athan, Barry,

South Glamorgan. This year's championships will be 26-29 July and they will be followed by an expedition to Spain in August. Anyone interested should contact the centre. Continuation flying for those who have completed the basic course is now being offered at the cheap rate of £3 a day.

CROSS COUNTRY

The 8 Signal Regiment A team won the Regular Army Women's team competition in the Northern Area Cross-Country Championships. Winning TA Women's team was 49 Squadron, 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V).

RUGBY

The Army will make its annual attempt to sink old rivals the Royal Navy in the Rugby contest for the Stewart Wrightson trophy at Twickenham on

Saturday 3 March. Kick off is 3pm and tickets are available from the Secretary Army Rugby Union, c/o Army Sports Control Board, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants (tel Aldershot Mil 2573). Prices are £3.50 West Lower Stand reserved and £2 unreserved and they will be available at the ground.

BOARDSAILING

The ASA (UK) Individual Boardsailing Championships will be held at Netley (ASA) Sailing Club 30 June-1 July. Entry forms are available through District Headquarters. Cost of entry is £5 and it is open to competitors from commands outside UK but on an honours basis only. Further details from Major R C Vaughan on Tidworth military ext 2489.

STOP PRESS

Army boxers got off to a flying start in the Inter-Services team championship when they thrashed the Royal Air Force by eight bouts to two at RAF Hereford. Apprentice Tradesman John McLean (Chepstow) started the night with a points win and Sapper Keith Howlett had a two round win at Bantam.

Craftsman Dave Oag won on points and big hitting Guardsman Dean Hunt stopped his light-welter opponent in two rounds. W Dykes took only a round to win and Sapper G Bosher at light-middle knocked out his opponent in the second. Walk-over wins went to Private Carl Crook and Corporal Horace Miles.

VICTORY AT LAST!

BRITONS WIN STRUGGLE IN FLANDERS MUD

BELGIAN ARMED FORCES 1
COMBINED SERVICES 2

AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS the Kentish Cup is coming home to Britain. In a match played in chameleonic weather conditions on a sodden pitch at Eijsden the Combined Services recovered from an early Belgian lead to bang in two second half goals which gave them outright victory in the tri-nation tournament.

They emerged triumphant from a game in which they stifled the flair of the team of young Belgian National Service professional footballers as well as coping with appalling weather — ranging through hail, rain, sleet and sunshine during the 90 minutes.

It was the culmination of four years of hard work by their coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton — himself a member of the last winning British team back in 1969-70.

Afterwards an elated team captain, Sergeant David Dodds of the RAF, told me: "Everybody is delighted. The atmosphere in the dressing room is something else. The older players are particularly

happy because they know about the years of effort that have gone into this. Everybody on the field battled hard and that's what won it for us. In the end we had more guts than the Belgians did."

A special Man of the Match award was made by the Combined Services football committee to a defender, Bugler John O'Connell of the Royal Marines. Throughout the match he defended resolutely and in the second half his ball winning and placing provided a rock like bulwark against the Belgian attackers as well as leading to the first British goal.

For the first time in six years a Kentish game was played in the afternoon — on the pretty little ground at Eijsden. A crowd of 1000 included a small group of vociferous British supporters from Germany, notably the team from 28 Amphibious Regiment, Hameln, who had travelled to support their two members of the Services team, goalkeeper Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas and defender, Sergeant Mark Bowen.

But even before the game began there were signs that it was going to be heavy going. There was water lying on parts of the pitch, including one goalmouth, and a six inch deep moat ran along one touchline.

Belgian trainer Richard Schmid said before the match that three of his 'B' internationals were on the injury list. However, his team included players of high professional standard including goalkeeper, DeWilde, a Belgian First Division regular and 'B' international. Last summer the Belgians reached the final of the World Military Football Championship — although most of those players have now returned



Ee-Ay-Addio. Delirious team and supporters celebrate their win.



Goalscorers Torrance and White dance a victory jig.

to civvy street.

The game opened in a fierce hailstorm but the British coped well with the early Belgian attacks and even launched some of their own in conditions which tended to level things out at the expense of good football.

After 11 minutes disaster struck when the Belgians worked their way through the British defenders for Meeus to head home a well constructed goal. Soon afterwards the hail began to peter out and the Services strove manfully not only to contain the Belgians but to get back on even terms.

Solid tackling upset the Belgians who displayed a flair for amateur dramatics which impressed the French referee at this stage of the match. Players writhed on the ground in agony after collisions only to get up and lop away like gazelles moments later. This was to rebound on the home side later on.

One genuine injury was to the keeper, who cut and bruised his face after diving to snatch the ball away from the toes of Lance-

something like Cup tie fever after this. Both sides had chances and the referee, having evidently decided he had seen enough histrionics for one afternoon, began to leave injured players littering the ground and allow play to continue.

In the 73rd minute with one Belgian defender prone at the other end the British forced a corner. Torrance took the kick and it went straight to the head of White, who made no mistake.

The Belgians remonstrated with the referee about their injured player but to no avail — the British were ahead. This setback incensed the Belgians and soon they were in further trouble. A cynical tackle by Noe on O'Connell saw the Belgian get the red card. Fury erupted with every player including the goalkeeper surrounding the hapless referee in a vain attempt to make him change his mind.

Bright sunshine now heartened the British team as they played out the remaining minutes with verve and confidence. The remaining ten Belgians seemed to have lost their way and resorted to more atrocious tackling — including a

chopping down of Bowen just outside the box. Torrance's resulting free kick was almost nodded in by Warrant Officer 2 John Woodward, who had scored from a similar move in the French game. Butler also went close in the final stages and nothing the Belgians could do really threatened a fine victory — the first by a British side in the Kentish Cup in Belgium for nearly 20 years.

That evening at a reception for the two teams a Belgian colonel said that the British side had given his team a lesson — that technique alone was not enough. Winning also required morale and physical condition. The Belgian press were not all so gracious — one reported that the Belgians had been beaten to tough soldiers and a blind Frenchman!

But such complaints found no receptive British ears. They knew that together with the French game they had won two famous victories and breathed life into a competition in which the professionals from the other two countries have held sway for too long.

Coulton was ecstatic. "I felt

In a final tribute to his team he added: "You can't beat the British Serviceman once he is going forward. He's going to go all the way."

Report: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

GLORIOUS GOALS



GOAL! Torrance evades the keeper on his way to the equaliser.



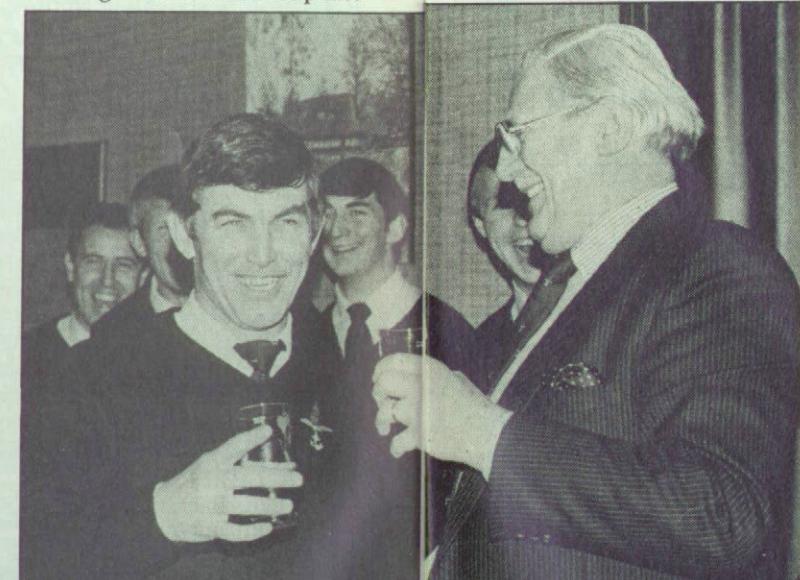
GOAL! Corner kick passes over heads of defenders to waiting Phil White.



A concerned Torrance comforts Bowen — felled by a desperate Belgian in closing minutes.



The Kentish Cup began in 1921. It was the inspiration of Brigadier-General R J Kentish, then secretary of the Army Football Association. He saw it as an annual reminder of the comradeship of the First World War between the British, French and Belgians. Since then it has been played for every year since 1928 and during the last war. The French have won it 21 times, the Belgians 19 and the British 15.



QMSI Alfie Coulton (left) and Army FA Secretary, Major Alan Dobson, toast their long awaited success.

The 'moat' on the side of the Eijsden touchline.

from the start that at last I had the squad of 16 players with the great strength and determination needed to overcome professional opposition. I felt at half time we were stronger in all departments in terms of ball winning and understanding. Although they got the early goal they did not control the game."

Last summer Coulton almost left the Army but he confessed "I am as pleased as Punch that I stayed. It's a great day for service football."

The remarkable thing is that throughout two hard games Coulton persevered with the same 11 players and did not use a substitute. "Although I knew I had strengths on the bench I kept my cards back and didn't have to use them."

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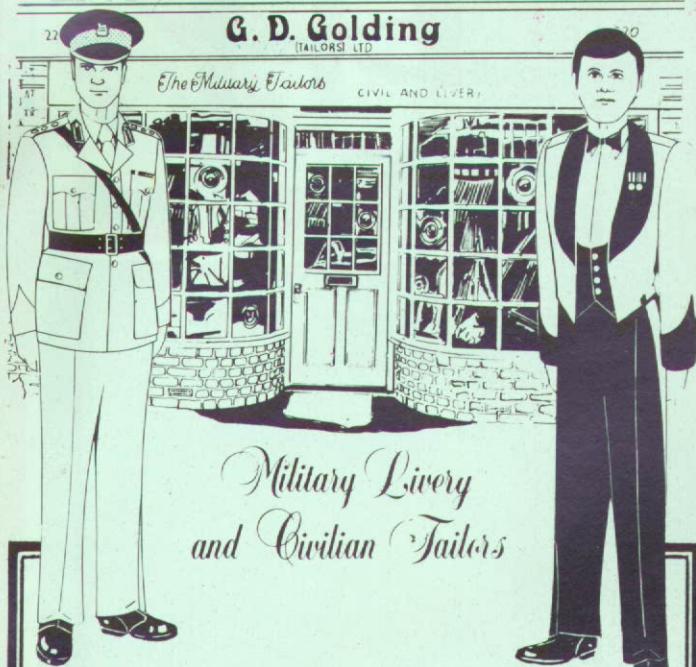
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