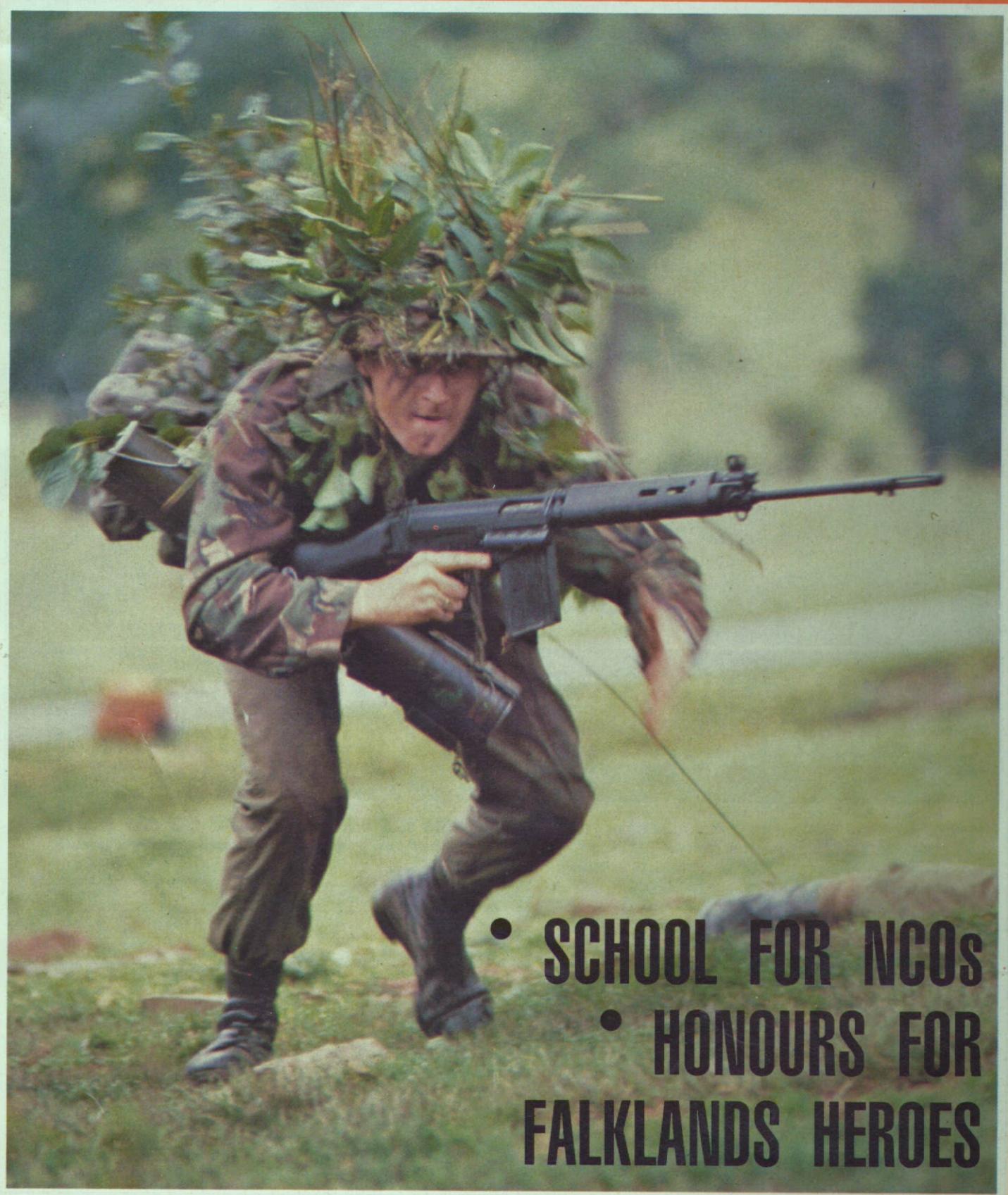


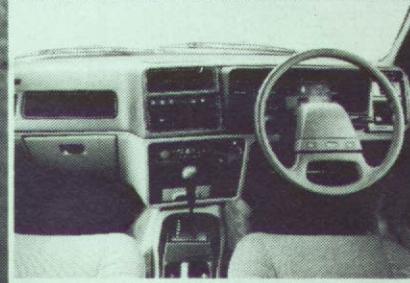
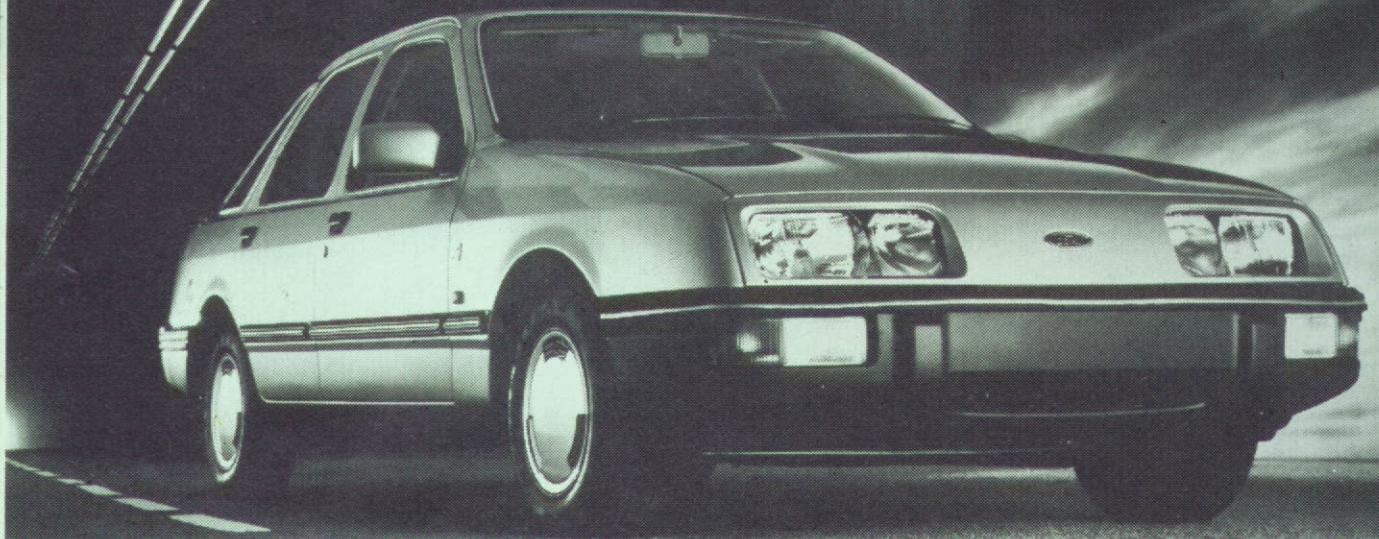
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 18-31 OCTOBER 1982

SOLDIER



- SCHOOL FOR NCOS
- HONOURS FOR FALKLANDS HEROES

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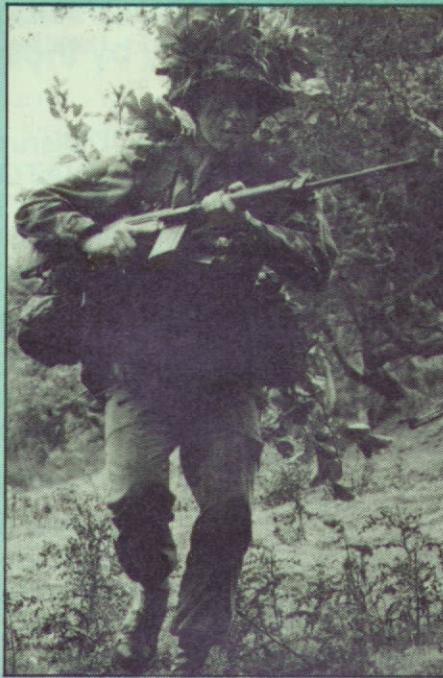
FRONT COVER

Full of concentration and determination, an NCO sprints for cover during an exercise on the Brecon Beacons. He was taking part in one of the courses run by the NCOs Tactical Wing — full story on page 18.

Picture by Paul Haley

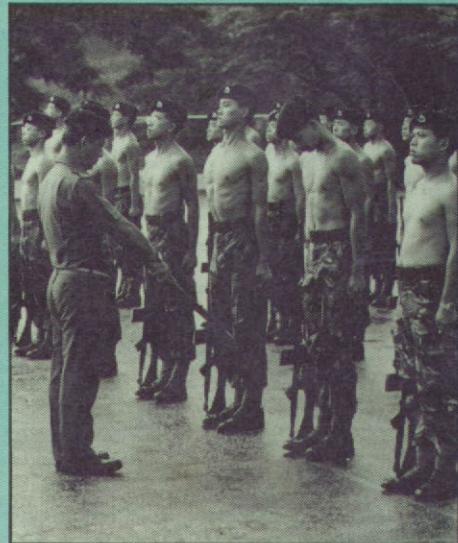
SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Out in the wilds of Wales, NCOs get some tough lessons in leadership — page 18

Full of eastern promise — a look at Hong Kong's own special 'army' — page 12



"A very gallant gentleman" — fresh facts on a popular hero — page 41



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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE POSTHUMOUS award of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Colonel 'H' Jones and Sergeant Ian McKay has set the seal on a chapter of gallantry without parallel in recent British military history. And there has been richly deserved recognition too for many other feats of valour performed in the South Atlantic.

For a campaign of such brief duration to yield so many awards for gallantry and meritorious service is an eloquent testimony to the professionalism, dedication — and sheer guts — of our fighting forces.

How fitting that the day after the awards were announced the nation should have the opportunity to publicly salute its heroes as they marched through the streets of the capital. And how fitting too, after earlier confusion and controversy, that the ranks of those on parade should include those wounded and disabled in the conflict.

Amidst all the effusions of pride and emotion that have followed the Task Force's homecoming, it has been easy to overlook the cost of its victory in human terms — the poignant, personal tragedies of wounding and bereavement.

But medals are no substitute for brave men who will never return, no consolation for lost comrades, fathers and husbands. And for many of those that have come back the real battle — against the problems of painful disability — are only just beginning.

The tumultuous reception given to our returning Task Force and the massively generous public response to the South Atlantic Fund is proof of how the nation regards its Servicemen — now.

But memories, alas, are all too short and today's glory will soon be tomorrow's history. Will we — as a nation — still be honouring our heroes as warmly a decade hence?

The collection box will always have its place in providing extra comforts for those who have served their country well, but it must never be looked on as a substitute for practical State support.

We have honoured our heroes with words and medals. Perhaps now is the time to review the whole question of how we care for all our casualties of war. It is a national debt of honour that must be paid in full.

VCs FOR FALKLAND HEROES

TWO MEMBERS of the Parachute Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert ('H') Jones, the former CO of 2 Para, and Sergeant Ian McKay of 3 Para, have been awarded posthumous Victoria Crosses for their parts in the liberation of the Falkland Islands.

They are the only VCs to be awarded for the campaign and are the first since that of Lance Corporal (now Captain) Rambadur Limbu in 1966.

The Army's list of Honours and awards totals some 230 names, plus two Army sponsored civil awards. No less than 173 of them are for gallantry and 15 are posthumous. Some 800 awards were announced altogether.

Awards on the other lists include a Life Peerage for the then Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin and knighthoods for Rear Admiral "Sandy" Woodward, the Task Force Commander, and Major General Jeremy Moore, the Land Forces Commander.

A total of 26 women have also been honoured, among them Mrs Patricia Nutbeem, chairman of the 16th Field Ambulance RAMC Wives Club at Aldershot.



Lt Col Jones

Mrs Nutbeem becomes an MBE, a specially touching award as she continued her work for wives and families despite being widowed herself when her husband, Major Roger Nutbeem, was killed in the Sir Galahad attack.

Four soldiers are appointed to the Distinguished Service Order: Major Cedric Delves of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment who led the SAS squadron which carried out a series of brilliant operations in South Georgia and behind enemy lines in the Falklands; Major Patrick Keeble who took over command of 2 Para at the height of the Battle for Darwin and Goose Green following the death of Colonel Jones; Lieutenant Colonel Hew Pike, CO of 3 Para, whose Battalion marched every foot of the way from Port San Carlos to Stanley;



The CO fills Maj Keeble's glass as 2 Para celebrate.

and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Scott who commanded 2 Scots Guards in the nine hour battle for Mount Tumbledown.

The Distinguished Service Cross goes to Warrant Officer 2 John Phillips, a Royal Engineers EOD specialist who was finally



Sgt McKay

seriously injured when a bomb he was trying to neutralise exploded aboard HMS *Antelope*.

Other awards include Military Crosses, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Distinguished Conduct Medals, the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal and the Military Medal. There are 122 Mentions in Despatches.

The citations reveal an amazing series of tales of heroism, determination and dedication.

The citation for Colonel Jones describes "an action of the utmost gallantry by a commanding officer whose dashing leader-

ship and courage throughout the battle were an inspiration to all about him."

He died in the first major action of the campaign, the battle for Darwin and Goose Green. The 2 Para assault had been held up for over an hour by well sited and well dug-in Argentinian defences.

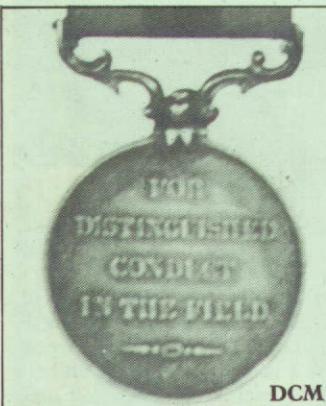
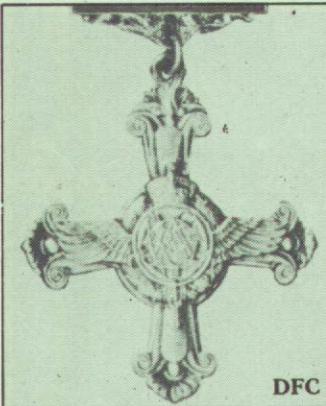
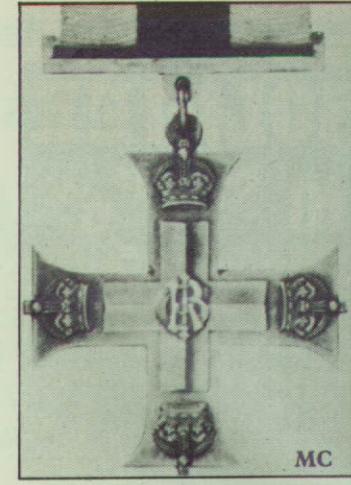
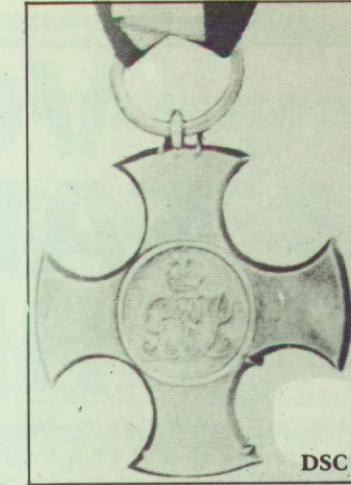
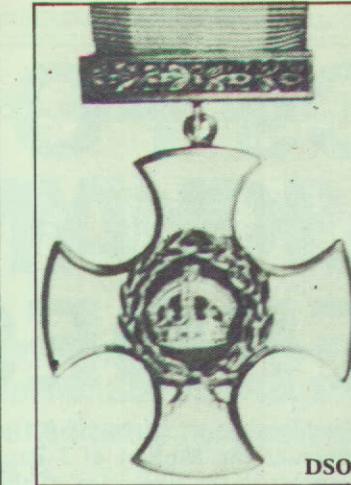
It was then that Colonel Jones grabbed a sub-machine gun and led the charge. It succeeded but he was hit by fire from another trench and fell within feet of his objective.

Sergeant McKay's citation says the dangers must have been too apparent to him beforehand. Undeterred he performed with "outstanding selflessness, perseverance and courage".

He took over command of his platoon when the commander was wounded during the assault on Mount Longdon. They were under heavy, accurate fire and it was clear that instant action was needed. With three men he broke cover and charged the enemy position, only to be met by a hail of fire. One of his companions was killed and the other wounded.

But Sgt McKay went on alone, reached the position and dispatched the enemy with grenades. But at the moment of victory he was killed and his body fell on the bunker.

Full Army list Page 6.



SOUTH ATLANTIC CAMPAIGN ARMY HONOURS AND AWARDS

Gallantry awards

VICTORIA CROSS

Lt Col Herbert Jones OBE (deceased), PARA; Sgt Ian McKay (deceased), PARA.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

Maj Cedric Delves, D and D; Maj Christopher Keeble, PARA; Lt Col Hew Pike MBE, PARA; Lt Col Michael Scott, SG.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

WO2 John Phillips, RE.

MILITARY CROSS

Maj Michael Argue, PARA; Capt Timothy Burls, PARA; Maj David Collett, PARA; Lt Colin Connor, PARA; Maj John Crosland, PARA; Maj Charles Farrar-Hockley, PARA; Capt Gavin Hamilton, (deceased) GREEN HOWARDS; Maj John Kiszely, SG; Lt Robert Lawrence, SG; Capt William McCracken, RA; Capt Aldwin Wight, WG.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Capt Samuel Drennan, AAC; Capt John Greenhalgh, RCT.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

Cpl David Abols, PARA; S/Sgt Brian Faulkner, PARA; Pte Stephen Illingworth (deceased) PARA; Sgt John Meredith, PARA; WO2 William Nicol, SG; Sgt John Pettinger, PARA; Gdsm James Reynolds, (deceased) SG.

CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY MEDAL

S/Sgt James Prescott, (deceased) RE.

MILITARY MEDAL

Pte Richard Absolon, (deceased) PARA; Cpl Ian Bailey, PARA; L/Cpl Stephen Bardsley, PARA; Sgt Terence Barrett, PARA; L/Cpl Martin Bentley, PARA; L/Cpl Gary Bingley, (deceased) PARA; Sgt Derrick Boulby, RCT; Cpl Trevor Brookes, R SIGNALS; Cpl Thomas Camp, PARA; Pte Graham Carter, PARA; Gdsm Stephen Chapman, WG; Cpl John Foran, RE; Sgt Desmond Fuller, PARA; Pte Barry Grayling, PARA; Cpl Thomas Harley, PARA; Bdr Edward Holt, RA; Sgt Robert Jackson, SG; L/Cpl Dale Loveridge, WG; Sgt Joseph Mather, R SIGNALS; Sgt Peter Naya, RAMC; WO2 Brian Neck, WG; Gdsm Andrew Pengelly, SG; L/Cpl Leslie Stan-dish, PARA; Sgt Roman Wrega, RE.

Meritorious Service awards

COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Col Ian Baxter MBE, late RCT; Col John Bidmead OBE, late RCT; Col (Now Brig)

David Colley OBE, late RCT; Col Bruce McDermott OBE, late RAMC.

OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Lt Col Anthony Berry, RGJ; Lt Col Ivar Hellberg, RCT; Lt Col Michael Hollroyd-Smith, RA; Maj (now Lt Col) Peter Hubert MBE, QUEENS; Lt Col William MacGregor, RAMC; Lt Col David de Courcy Morgan MBE, 7 GR; Lt Col John Rickett MBE, WG; Lt Col (QM) Patrick Saunders, RE; Lt Col Ronald Welsh, RAMC.

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Maj Edward Barrett, RCT; Maj Charles Batty, RAMC; Maj Christopher Davies, RE; WO1 (RSM) Anthony Davies, WG; Major John East, RAMC; WO1 Leslie Ellson, WG; Maj Andrew Gale, R SIGNALS; Maj Charles Griffiths, RAMC; Maj (QM) Gerald Groom, RCT; WO2 (Act WO1) Thomas Haig, RE; Maj Laurence Hollingworth, RAOC; Capt Terence McCabe, RAMC; WO1 Michael McHale, RAMC; Capt Ronald Marshall, INT CORPS; Capt (QM) Norman Menzies, PARA; Lt (now Capt) Frederick Moody, SG; WO2 Derek Moore RCT; WO1 Robin Randall, RE; Maj John Riddig, RAOC; Maj John Stuart, R SIGNALS; Maj Michael Taylor, R SIGNALS; WO2 Philip Williams, RCT; Maj Timothy Wilton, RA; Maj Guy Yeoman, RCT; WO2 Robert Yeomans, R SIGNALS.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

S/Sgt William Blyth, RCT; S/Sgt Edward Bradbury, RE; Sgt Roger Brown, RE; S/Sgt Michael Dent, RE; S/Sgt James Fenwick, REME; S/Sgt Robert Griffiths, R SIGNALS; Cpl Norman Hall, RE; Sgt David Harvey, RAOC; S/Sgt Colin Henderson, ACC; Cpl Graham Herrington, RPC; S/Sgt John Holmes, RAOC; Cpl William Hopkins, RAOC; Pte David Hunt, ACC; Sgt Denis Pasfield, RE; S/Sgt Paul Rayner, RE; S/Sgt (A/WO2) Malachi Reid, RAMC; S/Sgt Christopher Taylor, REME; Cpl (A/Sgt) Anthony Worthington, RE.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

Sgt Ian Aird, PARA; Pte Simon Alexander, PARA; Lt Col James Anderson, RAMC; Cpl Raymond Armstrong, (deceased) RGJ; Maj the Hon Richard Richard Bethel MBE, SG; Capt Anthony Bourne, RA; Pte Andrew Brooke, PARA, Dvr Mark Brough, RCT, Capt Christopher Brown, RA; Gdsm Gary Brown, SG; Capt Ian Bryden, SG; Maj William Butler, R SIGNALS; S/Sgt William Carpenter, 16/5L; L/Cpl Leonard Carver, PARA; Lt (QGO) Pradhan Chandrakumar, 7 GR; S/Sgt Trevor Collins, RE; Pte Kevin Connery, PARA; Chaplain David Cooper, RACHD; Lt Mark Coreth, RHG/D; Pte Adam Corneille,

PARA; Cpl Ian Corrigan, REME; Lt Mark Cox, PARA; S/Sgt Phillip Currass QGM (deceased), RAMC; L/Sgt Alan Dagleish, SG; L/Cpl Neal Dance, PARA; L/Sgt Ian Davidson, SG; Maj Peter Dennison, PARA; S/Sgt George Dixon, RA; Piper Steven Duffy, SG; L/Cpl Kevin Dunbar, PARA; Gnr Gary Eccleston, RA; Capt Martin Entwistle, RAMC; Lt Col Keith Eve, RA; Capt Paul Farrar, PARA; Pte Mark Fletcher (deceased), PARA; Cpl David Ford, RE; WO2 John Francis, RA; Lt David Franklin, RCT; L/Cpl Roy Gillon, RE; Pte (now L/Cpl) Darren Gough, PARA; L/Sgt David Graham, WG; Pte David Gray, PARA; Maj Patrick Gullan MBE, MC, PARA; Pte (A/Cpl) Joseph Hand, PARA; L/Cpl (A/Cpl) Stephen Hardinge-Demster, PARA; Cpl David Hardman, (deceased) PARA; Pte Patrick Harley, PARA; Maj Richard Hawken, RE; Lt (now Capt) Robert Hendicott, RE; Cpl (A/Sgt) Joseph Hill, PARA; Lt Col George Holt, RA; WO2 Graham Hough, WG; Capt (now Maj) Euan Houstoun MBE, GREN GDS; L/Bdr (A/Bdr) Owain Hughes, RA; Capt Stephen Hughes, RAMC; Cpl Stephen Iles, RE; Lt the Lord Robert Innes-Ker, RHG/D; Bdr John Jackson, RA; Gnr Jeffrey Jones, RA; L/Cpl Kenneth Jones, RCT; Sgt Richard Kalinski, PARA; Capt Simon Knapper, STAFFORDS; S/Sgt (A/WO2) Anthony La Frenais, RE; Maj Brendan Lamb, RA; Lt Clive Livingstone, RE; L/Cpl Christopher Lovett (deceased), PARA; Lt Jonathan Lowe, RCT; S/Sgt Clive Lowther, PARA; L/Cpl Duncan Maccol, SG; Maj Roderick Macdonald, RE; Piper Peter MacInnes, SG; L/Cpl John Maher, RE; Capt Robin Makeig-Jones, RA; Pte Andrew Mansfield, PARA; Maj Timothy Marsh, PARA; Sgt Peter Marshall, ACC; L/Sgt Thomas McGuinness, SG; Capt Joseph McManners, RA; Lt Alasdair Mitchell, SG; L/Sgt Clark Mitchell (deceased), SG; 2 Lt Ian Moore, PARA; Pte Richard Morrell, PARA; Maj Philip Neame, PARA; Cpl Thomas Noble, PARA; Pte Emmanuel O'Rourke, PARA; Lt Jonathan Page, PARA; Pte (A/Cpl) David Pearcey, INT CORPS; Cpl Jeremy Phillips, PARA; Pte (A/Sgt) Brian Pitchforth, QUEENS; Pte Anthony Potter, RAOC; L/Cpl Barry Randall, RE; Sgt Peter Ratcliffe, PARA; L/Cpl Graham Rennie, SG; WO2 Malcolm Richards, RA; L/Cpl Julian Rigg, AAC; Lt Col John Roberts, RAMC; Maj Barnaby Rolfe-Smith, PARA; Capt Christopher Romberg, RA; Lt Col (now Col) Hugh Rose OBE, Coldm GDS; Sgt Ian Roy, RE; Capt Julian Sayers, WG; Lt (A/Capt) Mathew Selfridge (deceased), PARA; WO2 Michael Sharp, AAC; Cpl John Sibley, PARA; Maj Colin Sibun, AAC; Spr (A/L/Cpl) William Skinner, RE; Maj Graham

continued on page 7

Briefly

Rifleman Kalambahadur Roka of 1 Bn 2nd KEO Gurkhas, based in Hong Kong, has just won £20,000 in a local lottery.

British Rail is to continue the Forces Railcard scheme for a further two years. Eligibility will be as before and new cards should be distributed by 31 December.

For the second year in succession No 1 Resettlement Centre at Catterick Garrison has qualified for the British Safety Council's National Industrial Safety Award.

The embargo on welfare packages for forces in the Falklands is to be lifted for Christmas. Members of the public can send small packages to BFPO 666, consigned to 'CLF for Attention G1'. But they must be despatched by 20 October.

A training course for the St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate is being run at the Army Hang Gliding Centre at Sennybridge from 19-22 November. Cost will be £10.

The Engineer Support Group based at Barton Stacey, Hants, has moved to Waterbeach near Cambridge, where it is now known as HQ 12 Engineer Brigade (ADR).

Birmingham Mint has announced a set of nine silver medallions depicting the principal events and actions of the Falklands Campaign. Measuring 1½ inches in diameter, they cost £21.50 each.

The Verdon Garrison/Royal Signals Marathon is to be run on 27 November. Closing date for entries is 1 November.

The South Atlantic Fund, set up to aid the families of Falklands Task Force victims is to close on 31 December. It currently stands at over £13 million.

SOUTH ATLANTIC CAMPAIGN HONOURS

continued from page 6

Smith MBE, RA; Capt Royston Southworth, RAOC; CoH Paul Stretton, RHG/D; 2 Lt James Stuart, SG; Lt William Syms, WG; Cpl (A/Sgt) Robert Taylor, R SIGNALS; Maj Anthony Todd, RCT; L/Cpl Gary Tytler, SG; Pte (A/Cpl) Peter Walker, STAFFORDS; Sgt Richard Walker, AAC; 2 Lt Gary Wallis, PARA; Lt Mark Waring, RA; Capt James Watson, RA; Lt Geoffrey Weighell, PARA; Lt (now Capt) Mark Williams, RA; Lt (now Capt) Maldwyn Worsley-Tonks, PARA.

CIVILIAN AWARDS (ARMY SPONSORED)

Mr A M Cleaver, Correspondent Press Association — MBE (Civil); Mr J R R Fox, BBC Reporter — MBE (Civil).

QDG FIRST TO CONQUER PEAK

SIX OTHER international climbing teams have attempted it since 1939—and failed. Three people have lost their lives. But a 12-strong party of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards have conquered one of the major peaks in the Himalayas — the 20,940-foot KR 4 in the Koa-Rong range — and left a box of sweets and various compo items on its snow-tipped summit as "an appeasement to the gods".

The team, including four young troopers, from the Ulster-based regiment were welcomed back at London's Heathrow airport by one of their patrons, their regimental colonel, Major General Desmond Rice.

He told SOLDIER: "This is the first time KR 4 has been climbed by anyone and they were all successful. All the men had given a month's pay towards this expedition. I am absolutely delighted."

The team — they brought 376 kilos of climbing equipment and personal luggage back with them — had Colonel Dick Hardie, RAMC, who has Everest experience, as their overall climb leader.

He said: "We had only one bad day. Seven of the team made the climb to the summit in just six days in temperatures of 20° below from the base camp at 15,900 feet. Two others, unfortunately, had to descend because of altitude sickness. No-one suffered frost bite though we did get frost nip.

"We started brewing up at

Back to normal

RESTRICTIONS which have affected the Army's training levels and the general use of oil have been lifted by the MoD. The first public announcement of the relaxation came from Defence Secretary Mr John Nott, when he addressed the Conservative Party Conference at Brighton.

"Lately I gave instructions that, because the budget is back in better shape, restrictions on training levels, on activity and on oil consumption should be lifted," he said.

The cut-backs arose when the MoD tried to keep within its cash limits and a three phase programme was introduced.

The first, announced in July 1980, involved deferring some works projects and some items on the equipment programme. It resulted in a saving of £250 million. A month later the decision was taken to defer defence contracts across the board, saving another £100 million.

Finally fuel restrictions were imposed on all three Services.



Naturally happy at their success in the Himalayas, the QDG team pictured at London Airport on their return.

0330 in the icy blackness and moved off at five, gasping in the cold dry air as the sun rose and the white upper couloirs started to fry in the tropical glare. We reached the summit at about 0800 and spent some 20 minutes there. I left a tube of Rolos there and everyone left something from his compo rations, as is the custom on such climbs. They will either stay there for ever or finish up in a stream or river. They were an appeasement to the gods."

He added: "As for the climb, if I were honest, it was too fast. We went too quickly. The climb, though, was a huge success."

Captain Charles Hookey, leader of the overall team expedition — he was on the climb of neighbouring KR 3 two years ago — and second in command of 'B' Squadron, 1 QDG, said: "The weather was pretty good. We got to the summit quicker than we expected, though we had a couple of frights. Two of the guys were held up by bad weather and were 24 hours late in coming down. I was vaguely worried. Compared with the KR 3 climb, the degree of difficulty in the climb was similar."

Part of the plan called for a three-day march over a 16,000-foot pass with 20 mules, each gallant animal straining under 120 lbs loads.

Since 1939, teams from Poland, the UK, Austria, Japan, Switzerland and even Hohne Garrison have tried to climb the KR 4 without success.

Sappers build it

FIFTEEN sappers from 53 Field Squadron, 39 Engineer Regiment, RE, based at Waterbeach, have just finished four months' work on building the first phase of an indoor riding centre for 120 handicapped children at a residential school near Royston, Herts.

Princess Anne has just opened the centre at Meldreth Manor School for Spastic Children.

The sappers, under the direction of Captain Barry Wells and Staff Sergeant Derek Friday, started the scheme from scratch, putting in the foundations, brickwork and structural steel-work. About £27,000 had already been raised — £10,000 of it by local primary schoolchildren — towards the project.

Mrs Royda Lewis, the Centre's manager, said: "Someone suggested in a light-hearted manner that they should ask the Army to build it for us. For the physically handicapped child, horse riding — we have nine horses and one donkey here — provides a feeling of freedom and adventure while giving leisure and therapy."

"The indoor riding centre will enable us to extend the training we feel is an essential part of the curriculum for every child."

NEWS VIEW



2000 Up ▲

Unemployed 17-year-old Michael Morgan, centre, from Blackheath, London, became the 2000th youngster to attend the Army's Youth Adventure Scheme at Fort George. Among his instructors were famous survival expert Eddie McGhee, left, and Corporal Sean Kinealy of 3 Para.

They're Off ▶

Setting off for the first leg of their 2222-mile two-week relay marathon are 22 men of 28 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment. The event was organised to mark the Squadron's 22 years in Hong Kong with each man covering 104 laps of the circuit, with temperatures in the 90s. They all succeeded and raised over £3000 in aid of the disabled.



Home Again ▶

It was back to work for Sefton the Household Cavalry horse badly injured in the Hyde Park bombing and he was obviously happy to be re-united with his rider, Trooper Michael Pedersen, who has also recovered from his injuries. But Sefton had to share the occasion with Grand Canyon, donated to the Army as a replacement for one of the dead horses.



Haircut

Former 'Avengers' star Gareth Hunt found himself back under military discipline in the shape of CSM Chris McNamara of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers when he reported for duty in his role for a forthcoming film to mark the 75th anniversary of the TA.

Richtfest ▶

A traditional German Richtfest marked the 'topping-out' of three new buildings at Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück, with the hoisting of the *Krone* (crown) in the presence of representatives of 7 RHA, PSA and the German construction firm.



Drop In ▲

Despite her hectic schedule Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher found time to drop in on the men and families of 1 Scots Guards in Hong Kong during her Far East tour. She last saw them in Northern Ireland at the height of the hunger strikes. This time she sipped a glass of soda water while she chatted on the lawn outside the Sergeants' Mess.



Tasty Dish ▶

It was a nice change for Sergeant John Knight, ACC, to have breakfast provided for him — and served by pretty model Beverly Pollington. John normally cooks breakfast in the Royal Guards' mess but this time he was attending a special Great British Breakfast which helped to launch London's Jermyn Street Festival.

Cool It ▼

Time to cool off for some of the 39 soldiers of 3rd Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT, first uniformed team to finish the second Duisburg International Marathon.



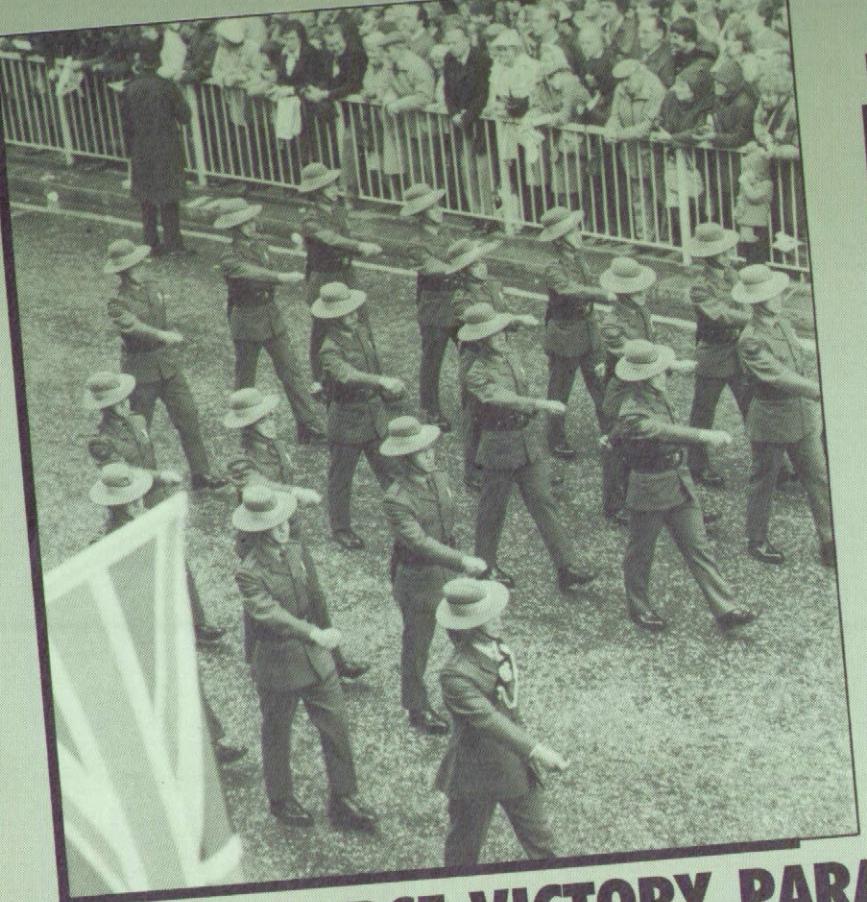
Flower Power ▲

When Major General John Chapple said goodbye as Commander British Forces Hong Kong, he got a traditional send-off from a group of Gurkha officers. So it was a much garlanded general who set off for his new appointment in London as Director of Military Operations.



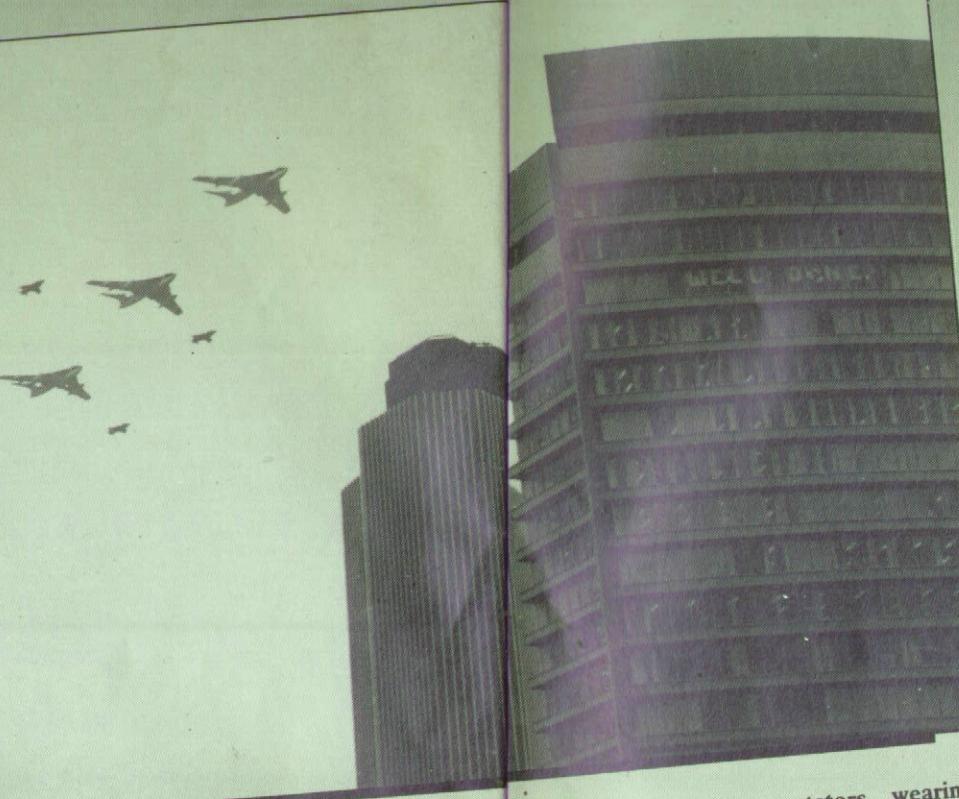
Thirsty Work ▲

A welcome thirst quencher for the three-man team from 29 Commando RA who blazed a trail across the Brecon Beacons to win 'Mountain Express' the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. The team, WO Phil Watkins, Sgt Dave Boxell and Bombardier Wayne Girdlestone, completed the 40-mile course, carrying 40lb packs, in just 7 hrs 59 mins.



TASK FORCE VICTORY PARADE

SALUTE TO THE BRAVE



THE CITY of London's salute to the liberators of the Falklands was a show fit for heroes; a spectacle that we, the unruffled British, do so well when the occasion calls for it.

More than 1200 men and three women — two naval nurses and a purser — from the Task Force who, just six months ago, sprang from ships in the stormy South Atlantic or flew there to defeat the 'Argies' now strode proudly through the City's streets, albeit under sullen skies, the mile from Armoury House to the Guildhall for a sumptuous champagne lunch.

In all, there were 186 units represented, among them, 13 Army regiments and Corps backed up by eight musical contingents drawn from the RA, the Welsh Guards, the Scots Guards, The Parachute Regiment, the Gurkha Rifles and The Blues and Royals.

The saviours of Port Stanley . . . the gladiators from Goose Green . . . the brave men from Bluff Cove and the undaunted from Darwin marched past an



estimated 250,000 spectators wearing celebration hats and wildly waving Union Jacks as they lined the route.

Men from the RA, RE, 1st Bn Welsh Guards, 2nd Bn Scots Guards, the Paras, 1/7 Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, RAMC, Royal Signals, RCT, RAOC, REME, Army Air Corps, RMP, Int Corps and one man each from the Army Physical Training Corps, Army Catering Corps and the Royal Army Pay Corps had their pride of place during the 25-minute tribute.

Hardware used to vanquish the Argentines trundled past, too. It included four AFVs — two Scorpions and two Scimitars — accompanied by The Blues and Royals; four 105mm Light Gun detachments from 4th Field Regiment, RA; and four anti-aircraft Rapier missile systems from the 12th Air Defence Regiment, RA.

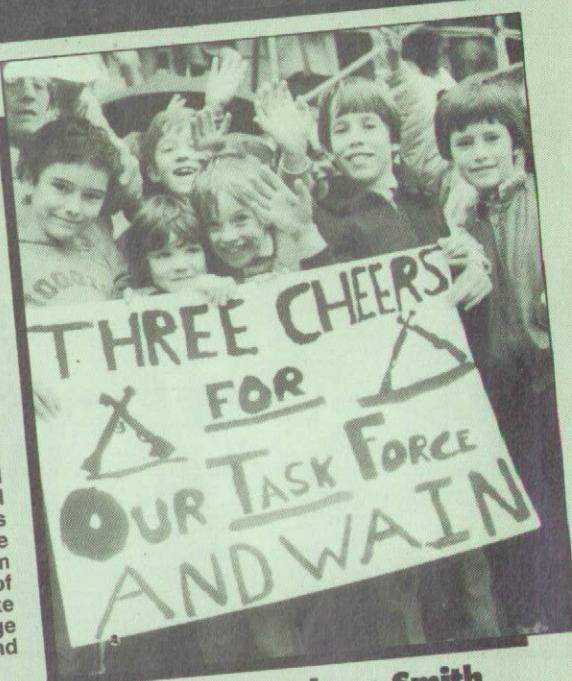
Though not actually on parade, others on the Falklands Roll of Honour — the Royal Army Dental Corps, the Royal Pioneer Corps, SAS, RAEC and the Royal



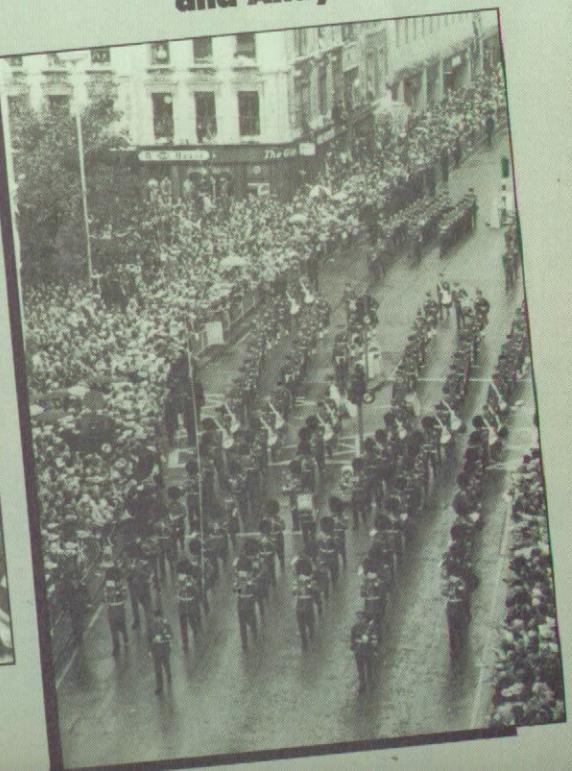
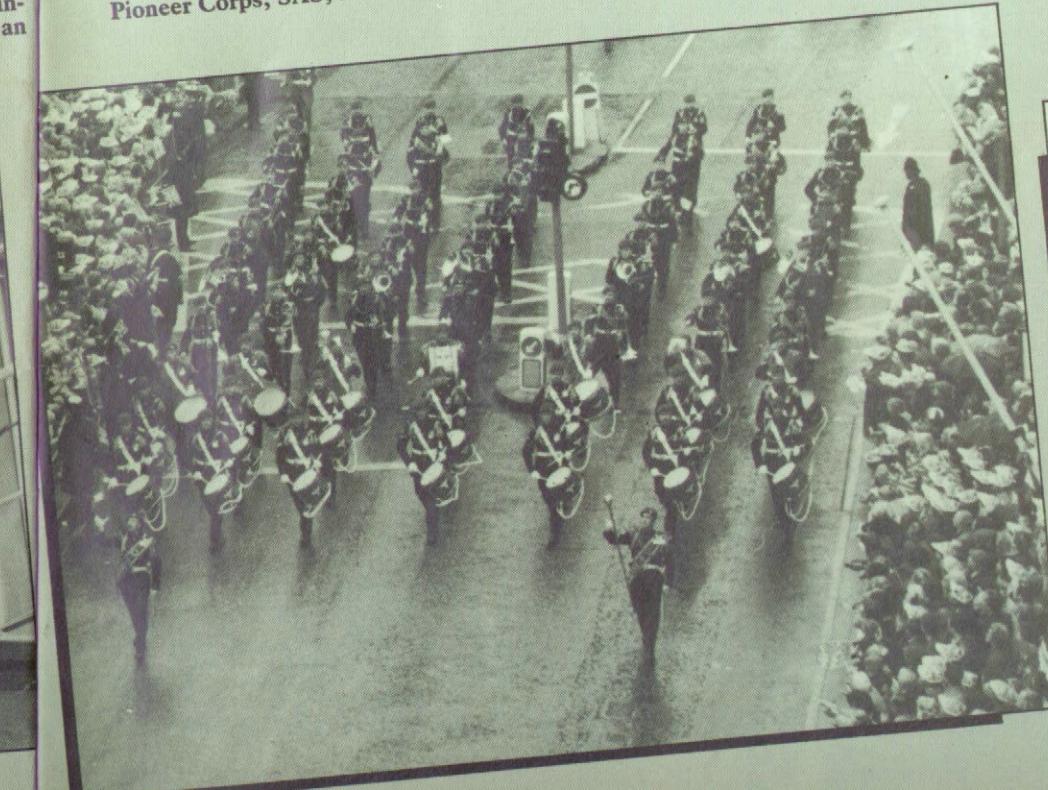
Army Chaplains' Department — shared the magnificent moments of glory as the phalanx passed through the streets in the biggest-ever military march-past in living memory organised by the City of London.

The salute was taken by the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, the host Sir Christopher Leaver, Lord Mayor of London and Sir Terence Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff at the time of the conflict.

Pictured clockwise from top left: Men of 1/7 Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles who earned a particularly massive cheer from the packed crowds; three Victor Tankers and four G3 Harriers in RAF Flypast; Admiral Lewin, Sir Christopher Leaver and Mrs Thatcher on the reviewing stand outside the Mansion House; plenty of enthusiasm from the younger generation; composite band of Scots and Welsh Guards, the Parachute Regt Band and Corps of Drums; a message that said it all; Scorpion of the Blues and Royals trundles past.

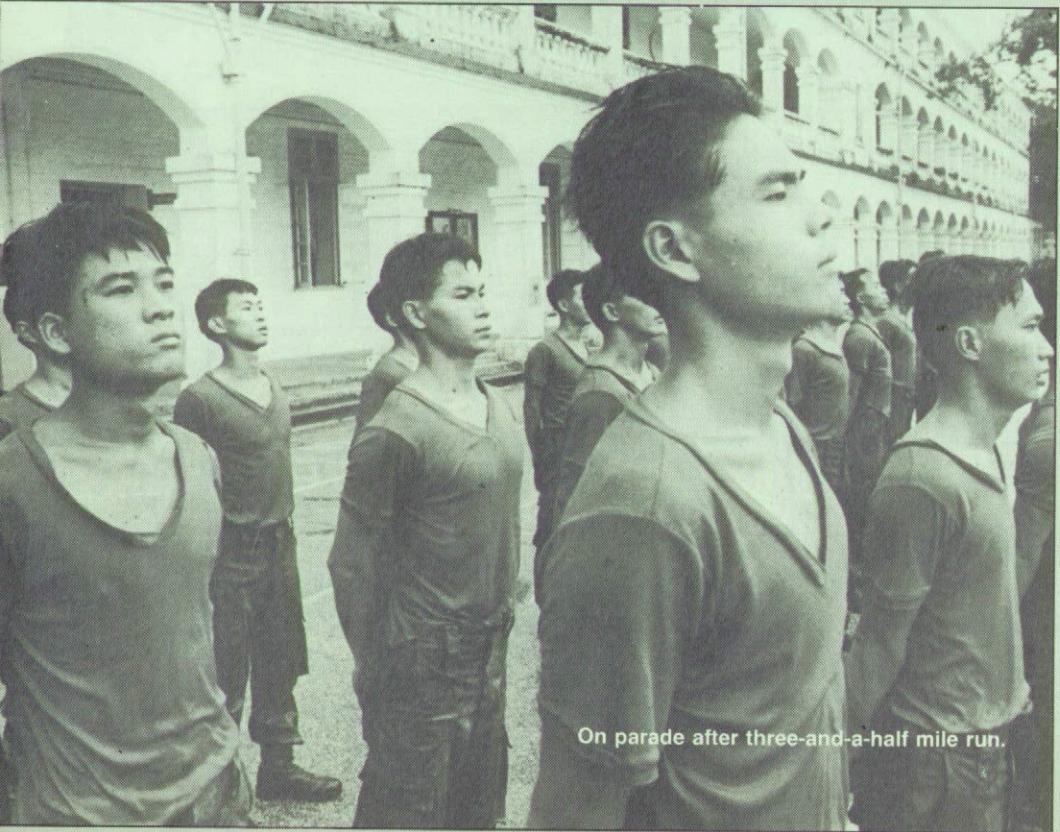


Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley
and Andy Burridge



Such is the popularity of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps that there is no need to advertise for recruits. John Walton takes a look at this unique formation of

CHOPSTICK SOLDIERS



WHEN A LOCAL Chinese paper visited the barracks at Lyemun on Hong Kong island recently they likened it to that legendary monastery in China where Kung Fu apprentices go to learn their discipline.

That article caused some hilarity at the Hong Kong Military Service Corps depot at Lyemun but while there are no shaven headed monk martinets driving their charges there is a lot of discipline and hard work which leads to a great transformation in the Chinese youngsters who join up.

A few years ago when recruits were needed for the HKMSC, which is employed throughout the Territory, a notice used to be put in the papers and hundreds of would-be soldiers would flock to Lyemun. The staff had difficulty in getting to their offices and it was realised that enough recruits could be obtained without advertising.

Now a letter goes out to each of the many units employing HKMSC personnel saying that a new intake is forthcoming. More than enough recruits appear by this word of mouth process. This also means that many friends and relatives join the regiment in which there is already a strong father and son tradition.

The present Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hollingsworth, of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, describes the Chinese soldiers in the Corps as: "Very like the city soldier in the British Army. They are quick witted city men, intelligent and very capable and trainable."

Back in 1890 Chinese soldiers were used by the Royal Engineers to work on road maintenance and garrison works. One of their first jobs was a fort at Lyemun — the present home of the depot.

The Hong Kong and Singapore Coast Artillery Regiment, formed shortly before the war, can be regarded as one of the HKMSC's forerunners. They fought at Lyemun where the Japanese began their invasion of Hong Kong and the Corps believes it is the only British Army unit to train its soldiers in a depot which was once a battleground on which its soldiers fought.

After the fall of the colony many of the Chinese soldiers made their way to China where they joined the British Army Aid Group and later served with the Gloucester and Border Regiments. Others returned to Hong Kong as agents.

After the war the unit went through several names until it was organised into the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit at Lyemun. It took its present title in 1962.

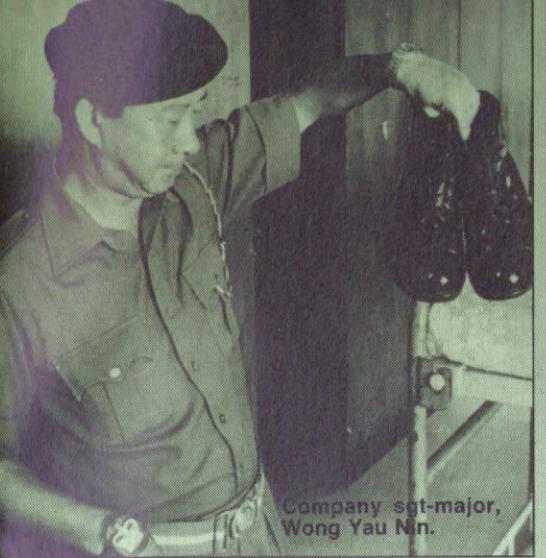
Today the HKMSC is 1256 strong with 12 officers and is serving with 24 units in Hong Kong. Fifteen different cap badges are worn and the soldiers serve in a variety of trades ranging through intelligence officer, hospital operating theatre technician, laboratory technician, marine engineer and dog handler to the many drivers serving with 29 Squadron RCT.

The soldiers are regarded as very retrainable and once they have progressed to the highest rank obtainable in a particular trade they often change trade to move further up the ladder.

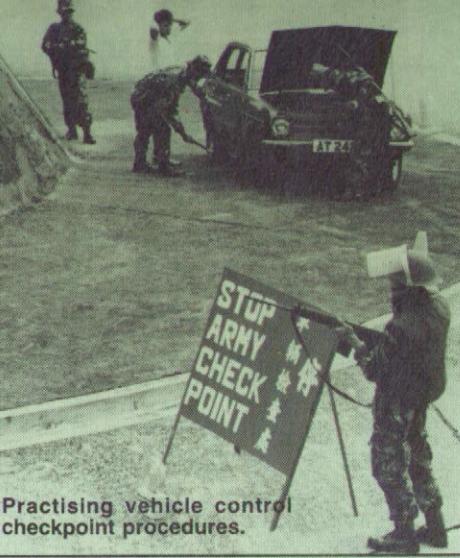
The nearest thing the HKMSC has to an infantry company is the Hong Kong Guard Company, which is entirely Chinese with the job of guarding installations in Kowloon and in an internal security role should it prove necessary.

The HKMSC has only six British personnel — three officers and three warrant officers. The rest of the officers are Chinese — but they have to serve a minimum of 12 years in the ranks before getting their commissions.

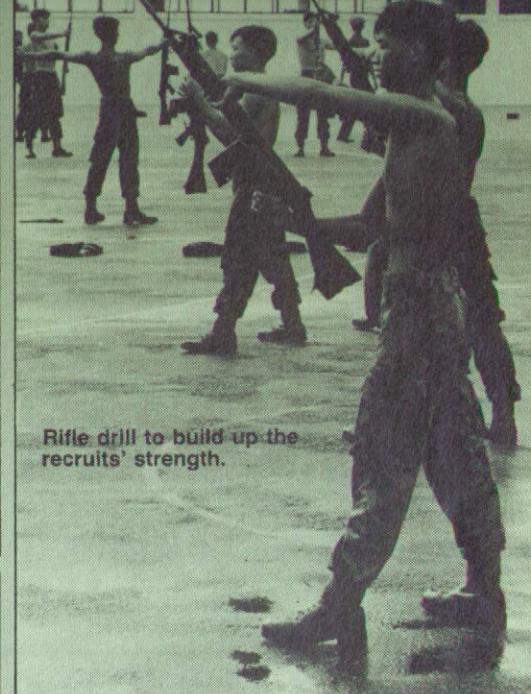
At the depot all the recruits are trained and there are also NCO cadres. The young re-



Company sgt-major, Wong Yau Nin.



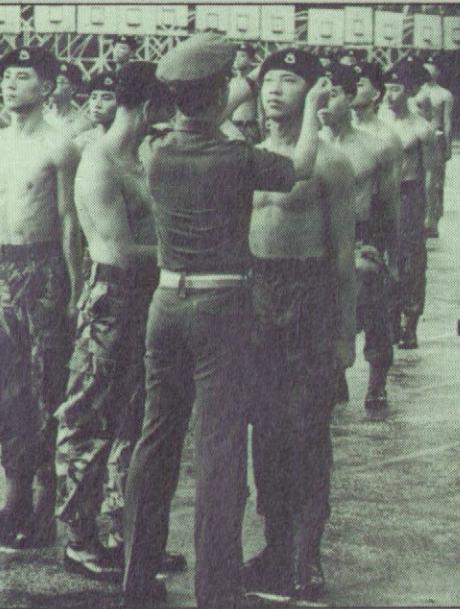
Practising vehicle control checkpoint procedures.



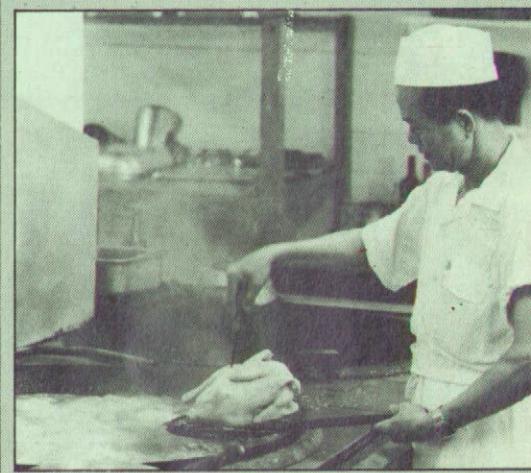
Rifle drill to build up the recruits' strength.



Mr Wong Kam Chau has HKMSC service records back to start.



Lieutenant Albert Wu — putting British training into practice.



In the British Army's only Chinese cookhouse.

For the first six weeks period all recruits are confined to barracks and they will be fed and accommodated throughout the training period. After that they will live out in their own homes. After eight weeks they have the option of buying themselves out for a nominal sum — wastage is only about ten per cent, somewhat less than in UK.

At the end of their training they will be allotted to their particular trades. Driving is often over-subscribed and some have to be steered in other directions but usually the youngster is allowed to take up the trade for which he volunteered.

Major Mulcahy sums up his men thus: "Extremely industrious, very ambitious and whatever you teach them they swallow it hook, line and sinker. Disciplinary problems are virtually nil. They are very loyal and tenacious and have a great sense of humour."

The HKMSC men do well when they go to England for specialist courses. This year alone a corporal obtained a 'distinguished' mark from Warminster, a sergeant came top of a mess stewards' course at Aldershot and a lance-corporal topped a drill course at Pirbright.

One of the recently commissioned Chinese officers, Lieutenant Albert Wu, has been a medical orderly and a clerk during his 14 years service. Now he is second-in-command of the training company and told SOLDIER: "I learned from the last intake that the recruits are not strong so this time

they have started early with the physical training. Here I can really put into action what I have learned in the UK."

Living out can have its disadvantages and make for a very long day. For instance weapons instructor, Sergeant Yeung Man Chung, leaves his home in Kowloon just after six each morning and because of travelling problems does not get home until 7-7.30 pm.

The Corps has two regimental sergeant-majors. The Chinese one is responsible for the Corps while the Briton, currently WO1 Frederick Williams of the Staffords, deals with the depot.

WO1 Williams came to the post from what appeared to be a similar position at the Prince of Wales's Division Depot at Lichfield. But he found a lot of differences.

"Before I came here I had not heard of the unit as such and imagined them as a pig-tailed brigade. But they are very Westernised, so willing to learn, very hard working and well disciplined. With the British recruit you have to bring discipline to them — these people arrive and are disciplined by tradition. They are very tidy in their ways — an exercise area tends to be tidier when they leave than when they arrive."

Next autumn the Hong Kong Military Service Corps will say farewell to Lyemun and move to brand new, purpose-built barracks on Stonecutters Island.

Says Lieutenant-Colonel Hollingsworth: "The training facilities will be better. But we shall be sorry to leave these lovely old colonial barracks at Lyemun with which we have been connected since 1890."

Pictures: Les Wiggs

Before you drive in Hong Kong, you may have to learn to be a pedestrian — a special problem if you come from a country with few roads and little traffic. But despite the problems the Gurkha Transport Regiment is . . .

IT IS THE BIGGEST Royal Corps of Transport Regiment. It is also the only one which employs three groups of different nationalities. And the Gurkha Transport Regiment also carries out the remarkable feat of taking soldiers who are from the remote hills of Nepal, where there are no vehicles or even roads, and training them to drive on the harum scarum streets of bustling Hong Kong.

The Regiment consists of three squadrons, two manned by Gurkhas and the third by Chinese of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, who wear an RCT cap badge. There are also Chinese sailors — men of 415 Maritime Troop RCT.

The Regiment is particularly delighted with one of its newest recruits — named Claude. He is neither Gurkha nor Chinese but is a microcomputer and has already helped the Regiment to make considerable savings in mileage and fuel.

Major John Harrison is Claude's boss. He says: "This micro computer is unique to the RCT with the applications we have attempted and in which we have succeeded."

The Regiment has a vast fleet of 430 vehicles and the three squadrons operate as three separate transport support units while at the same time they are controlled by the regimental headquarters at Gun Club Hill Barracks in Kowloon.

Major Harrison tells the story of Claude's arrival: "There is never enough transport and in the financial climate of two years ago there was not enough fuel and money to go round. Human beings could not get to grips with the information available — we attempted a manual system of information control on fuel and it was taking 600 man hours a month on top of everything else."

The Regiment covers 2½ million miles a year with much of it in heavily congested areas where even a Mini is unlikely to get better than 30 miles to the gallon. Only in the New Territories, where 31 Squadron operates, are consumption figures better.

"We decided that a computer could solve many of the management problems and if

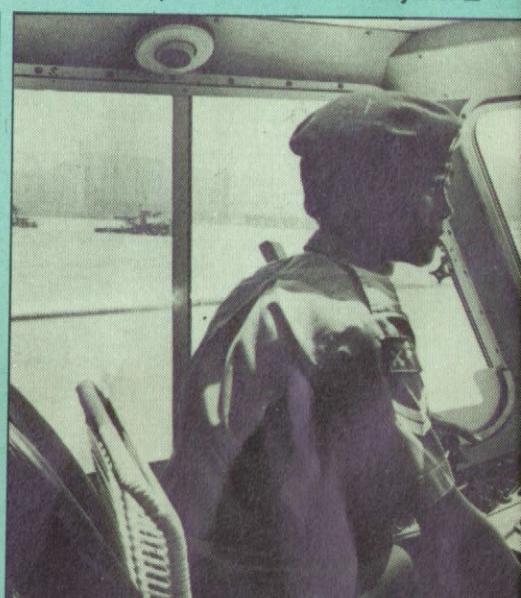
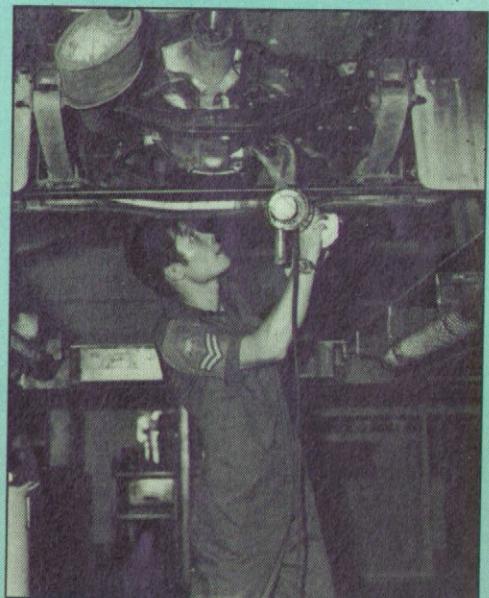
ALWAYS ON THE GO



Keeping the fleet of vehicles on the road. ▼

Maritime Troop boat and Kowloon skyline. ▲

▼ Joseph Hughes coxswain, Cpl Li Kam Biu.



managed correctly could give us the basis for better planning and a better transport fleet for Hong Kong."

The computer is funded by HQ British Forces rather than MOD, but the latter's formal approval is now being sought. The software was all produced by Major George Lonsdale-Hands, RAPC, a computer buff, doing the work in his own spare time.

Two Gurkha clerks and a British sergeant were trained at Blandford to operate Claude and the machine is now being extended to the personal records system and ultimately may be used to analyse the causes of road traffic accidents in which the Regiment is involved.

The Gurkha drivers who are responsible for Army transport in the Kowloon area belong to 28 Squadron. In addition to moving mail, stores, baggage, schoolchildren and personnel, the squadron provides the armoured personnel carriers for the Gurkha Field Force with its 15 Saracens.

Squadron commander, Major Chris Green, says that Gurkha drivers vary from very poor to extremely good. "Our Saracen and staff car drivers are selected for their ability but it is a problem when within a year of leaving their homeland where there are no roads or electricity they are driving in Kowloon. It is murder and I am glad I don't have to do it. You have to remember that when

they are brought to Hong Kong on basic training they are actually taken out on the road to learn how to be pedestrians."

Staff-Sergeant Keith Hawkes, the transport controller doing the day to day administration for Kowloon transport, says the job is far busier than his last in Northern Ireland. The main problem is that the vehicles, which are not radio controlled, can often get stuck in traffic jams for long periods.

The Chinese are in 29 Squadron RCT — a split organisation in three locations but scheduled eventually to be rejoined in new buildings to be erected on the Hong Kong island waterfront.

At Gun Club Hill the squadron has its

RAZOR SHARP DANCERS

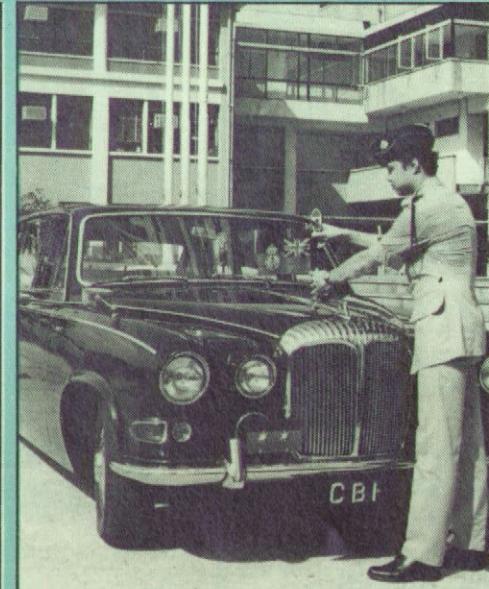
ONE OF the most popular attractions in Hong Kong these days are the Kukri Dancers belonging to 28 Squadron, The Gurkha Transport Regiment. They appeared at eight major shows this summer including an arts festival, a summer fair and at a big shopping festival.

The dancers, the only troupe of its kind, were formed back in 1962. In 1978 they expanded to 32 dancers plus six musicians. They wear traditional Nepalese dress but the kukri dance as such does not exist in Nepal but was designed to practise soldiers in handling kukris.

Lieutenant (QGO) Ramprasad Gurung who runs the dancers, told SOLDIER that the majority of new recruits to the squadron are tested for their aptitude for the dancing.

"We currently have 82 trained kukri dancers but because of leave and commitments it is very difficult to muster 32 at any one time."

There have never been accidents during actual shows but some have occurred while practising in limited space. The kukris are razor sharp and Lieutenant Ramprasad Gurung says precision timing is essential. "If one man is not concentrating and starts dancing when others are listening to the tune it can be deadly."



British Force Commander's Daimler limousine.

heavy vehicle troop and the mechanical transport wing where the HKMSC drivers learn their trades. Classes range from learning to drive, to staff car driving, to cross country driving, which will be used by the small detachment which serves in the jungles of Brunei.

The squadron has an ambulance troop serving the British Military Hospital and workshops at the British Forces HQ at HMS Tamar. It is from Tamar that Captain Roger Hooper controls the transport requirements for the HQ, the Royal Navy and forces on the island.



Fitting grills on coaches as typhoon precaution.

The Commander British Forces has his own garage with six Chinese NCO's and drivers. His official car is a Daimler for which there is a special driver.

Captain Hooper describes his job as "a constant battle with the traffic problems. There are nine phones in the office and it's not uncommon for them all to be ringing the whole day long."

The squadron also boasts its own motorcycle display team. The team performed at last year's Edinburgh Tattoo and is becoming well known throughout Hong Kong. All

continued on page 17

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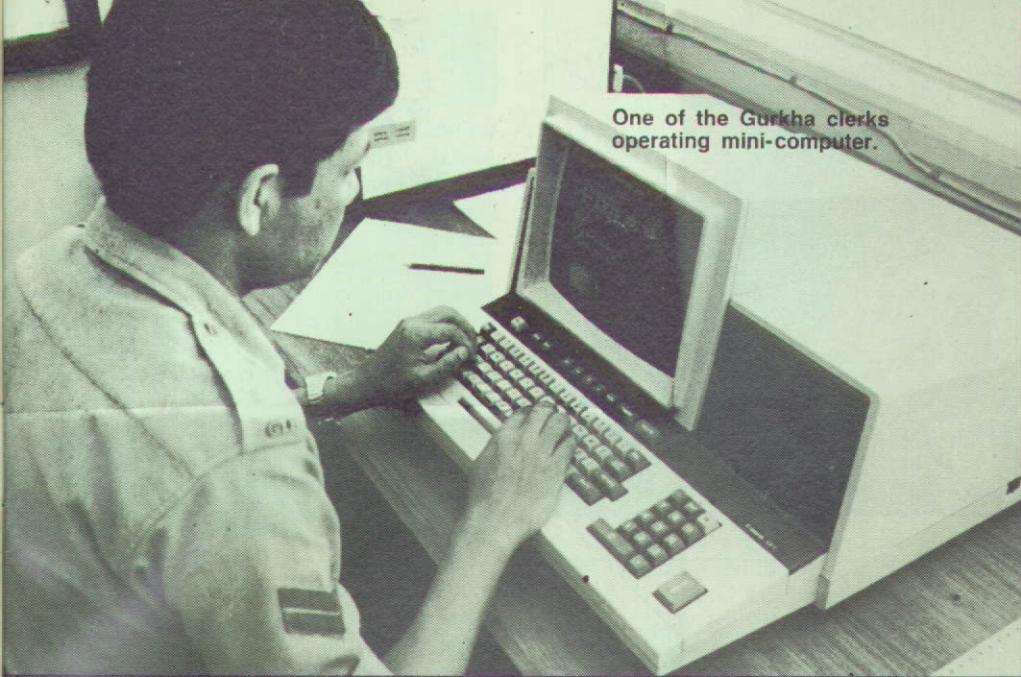
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TURBO TECHNOLOGY
THERE'S NO GETTING AWAY FROM IT



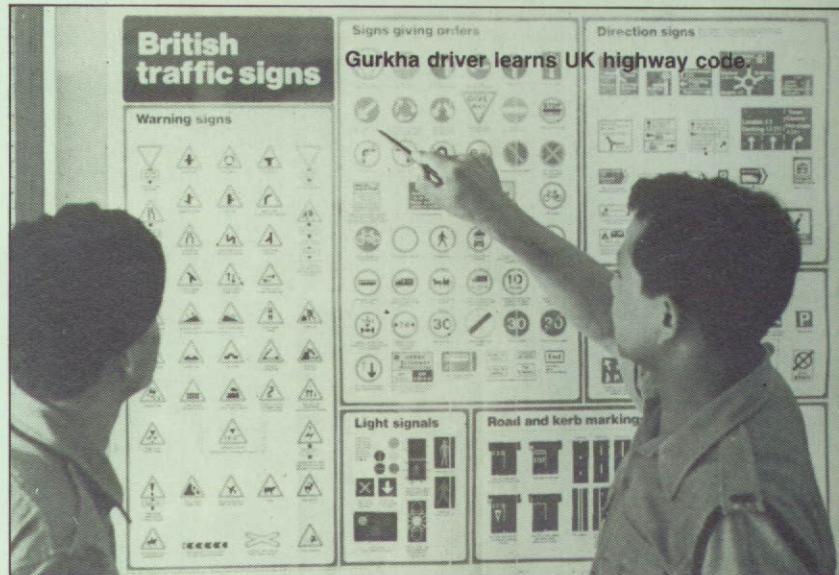
One of the Gurkha clerks operating mini-computer.



Captain Dipak Bahadur, who next Spring becomes the Queen's Gurkha Officer.



Trade testing for driver at Gun Club Hill.



continued from page 15

the men are volunteers and train in their own spare time.

Remote coastlines and islands are often used for exercises and here 415 Maritime Troop RCT comes to the fore. Says the Troop Commander, Capt Neill Wright: If it needs moving by sea, and a lot does, then we do it."

The Troop is based on Stonecutter's Island, a one-and-a-half-mile entirely military island in between Hong Kong and Kowloon. During the 1978/80 illegal immigrant crisis the Troop assisted with the capture of the floods of immigrants from China but now the numbers have reduced they only help to move them to holding camps pending their return to China.

The Troop has eight vessels. Four are ramped powered lighters due to be replaced over the next few years by ramped craft logistic of the type recently introduced in the Falklands. They have four launches, including the range safety craft *Joseph Hughes* (named after a young RASC soldier who was awarded a posthumous George Cross after he drove a blazing ammunition truck away from the depot at Lyemun before it exploded).

The Chinese seamen go home each night and go over to the mainland a mile away for their lunch. Most of the British staff live in quarters on the island, which is scheduled

for major expansion in the next few years.

Says Captain Cooper: "Living on the island you are totally dependent on the Royal Navy ferries. If a typhoon comes along you have to stay put and every house is required to keep in four days stocks of food.

"On the other hand we live in houses rather than high rise flats and there are no civilian vehicles on the island so it is secure for families."

One drawback on the island is a legacy of the Japanese. They kept snakes in pits and at the end of their occupation released them. So the island is now infested with species not normally found around Hong Kong.

A larger Naafi is being built and so is a new range, the first of its kind, as the island awaits the arrival of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps depot. Reports Captain Cooper: "The island is like a building site and has ceased to be a tranquil and peaceful haven. They used to call it 'Fantasy Island' but not any more."



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs

Cleaning one of 28 Squadron's Saracens. ▶

Colour Sergeant Tyrone Smith said, simply: "Everything now is taught before they are assessed. Before, it used to be the other way round."

Sergeant Major Terry Ellison, 36, The Staffordshire Regiment, said: "I think a bloke should come here with a very good attitude. If he really wants to pass a course he is a guy who will pass it. If you get a weak student who has been sent just to pass the course he is the guy you will have a problem with. But the men are much more ambitious now earlier in their professional life. I think they can see the top of their pyramid."

"You can always tell a good student, a guy who knows he has worked hard and given 100 per cent. At the end of the course he will come and shake your hand. The tosser just slides out of the gate."

Colour Sergeant Peter Burke, 35, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, said: "A lot of students who come here are very scared. You can see it in their faces for the first two or three weeks. It takes them this time to get to know each other when they should have done this in the first week. If they just forgot about promotion and got on with the course I think they would all do even better."

Captain Peter Appleby, Royal Marines, said: "All the students here can absorb what is taught them although there is a fairly high pressure of work here. A lot is crammed into a day."

Out in the hills of Brecon punctuated with sheep and the team support of his section for company, was Lance Corporal Phillip Smith, 22, 2nd Bn Grenadier Guards, based at Chelsea, who was on the Junior NCOS course.

Face camouflaged and combat kit covered with camouflage, he said: "I'm here in my first week — I've already spent my two weeks at the Guards' Pirbright Depot — and I've been learning everything from scratch, tactics-wise. I'm thoroughly enjoying it and I've gained a lot of knowledge already. I've just spent three years in a signals platoon and this is a great change for me. At the end of six weeks I'm sure I'm going to go back a far better soldier than when I came here. I could be a lance-sergeant by next Easter. I've found the course mentally stimulating and physically hard, putting in days from 0630 to 2100. It's tough physically but it's your own fault if you've not prepared yourself for the course."

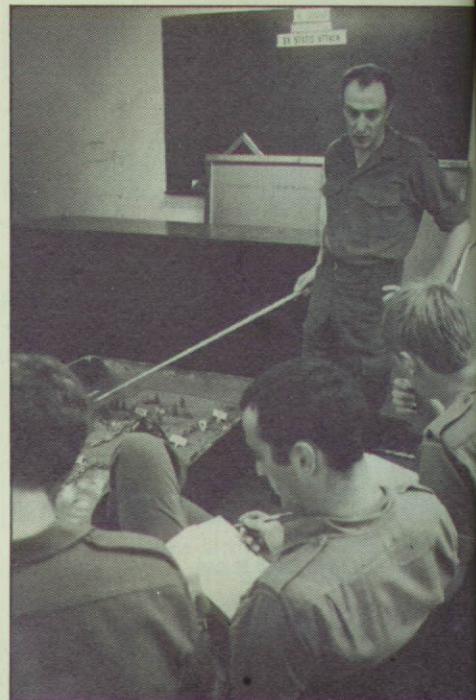
Not far away, Colour Sergeant Bill Mawhinney, 34, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, was taking Course Number 30; ten young men hanging on to every word of his sometimes blunt oratory on the arts of infantry warfare.

He told SOLDIER: "They're not too bad but, at the moment, a bit out of their depth. Their military tactics knowledge and skill is not as good as it could be. My advice to recruits is always to put in consistent effort if they want to do well and prepare themselves even before they get to Brecon. But I believe the standards are still as high as when I was here as a student in 1972. Then, there were ten or twelve PT lessons. They used to murder you. There is certainly less of that here now and students don't finish up as weary."

Lt-Col Houchin summed up: "Students who are not up to the starting standards will undoubtedly be at a considerable disadvan-



Instructor Colour Sgt Bill Mawhinney



Classroom sequence at Dering Lines



All cammed up and raring to go

tage — there are no passing-in tests for our courses — and are unlikely to benefit fully from the instruction. Conversely, those students who arrive with the appropriate standard of skills and fitness will begin the course with confidence and can concentrate entirely on absorbing the instruction on tactics and leadership.

He went on: "Students here must be fit enough to cope with the mental and physical demands made of infantry commanders working in rugged terrain like Brecon. An NCO who is not fit simply cannot inspire his men by active leadership and, in strenuous operations, may not be capable of doing all the command tasks required of him."

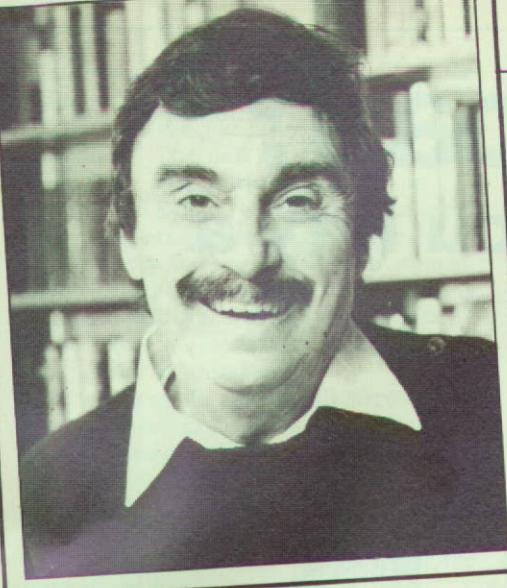
"It is recognised that Battalions cannot always send the right man at the right time but it is important both for the individual and his unit that care is taken to choose NCOs who are ready for the course and who are properly motivated. An NCO short-listed for promotion is an obvious choice."

For instance, a lance corporal who has never done a battalion cadre and has not served recently in a rifle company will undoubtedly find the course difficult.

"Ideally, section commander students should be lance corporals with section commander potential, have spent time in a rifle company and passed a regimental cadre and already have experience of command or practice in instruction."

"The difficulties of maintaining personal skills in units and of choosing NCOs at the best time are fully appreciated by my staff at Brecon. It is also recognised that many students are young and apprehensive. Students who arrive below the start standard have a harder task but can still succeed if they are well motivated."

The NCOs Tactical Wing welcomes visits by COs, Company Commanders, Ops/Training Officers and RSMs for briefings on the Wing, its approach to training and a sight of students at work.



One-time National Serviceman Leslie Thomas says humour is the key to successful authorship and his time in Singapore inspired three best sellers, perhaps best described as

Private Stories

FORMER DR BARNARDO's boy, Leslie Thomas, whose first novel *The Virgin Soldiers* has sold two million copies worldwide, did most of his National Service in Singapore with the Royal Army Pay Corps when he wrote short stories under his desk lid to avoid detection.

Since that first best-seller he has written two more — *Onward Virgin Soldiers* and *Stand Up Virgin Soldiers*.

Now 51 and living with his second wife, Diana and young son, Matthew in a 17th century house in a remote Somerset village, Leslie recalls: "I really was anxious to get into the Army — and quite anxious to get out once I was in!"

In fact, his entry in *Who's Who* simply records: Army Service 1949-51. Rose to Lance Corporal.

Leslie, a junior reporter on a Woodford, Essex, weekly newspaper — Barnardo's gave him his first typewriter — signed on for National Service at the Labour Exchange in Walthamstow. Both his parents had died when he was 12 — his father aboard a torpedoed merchantman and his mother from cancer. He and his brother were placed in the care of Dr. Barnardo's.

At that Labour Exchange the clerk, in bored fashion, asked Leslie what his job was. "Junior reporter", came the helpful reply.

The clerk snapped: "I'm fed up with all you people coming in here telling me you've

Leslie (arrowed) celebrating an athletics victory in Far East Army days.



all got posh jobs. Now, what do you really do?"

He was told again. "He must have thought I said 'junior porter' because I spent a lot of time going round with stuff on my head!" Leslie joked.

He added: "I even had the temerity to write to the War Office saying I would like to join an Army news service. I would like to have worked on SOLDIER!"

But 22157741 Pte Thomas L.J. did not get his wish.

"I ended up in the Pay Corps. I still cannot add up. I can't help my young son with his long division. That's true," Leslie admitted.

Private Thomas was sent to Devizes — "I really enjoyed it to start with" — for his basic training when he also played sport like cricket and football.

He was earning 15-bob-a-week and recalls an anecdote as a fully-experienced soldier of just two weeks eagerly awaiting the next recruit intake to tell them a few of the wrinkles of Army life.

It appeared his luck was in. Young Thomas spied a soldier festooned and weighed down by kit bag, rifle, helmet and bedding as he staggered into the barrack room.

Thomas looked at him, shook his head and commented: "You don't do it like that. Let me show you!"

The soldier straightened up, dumping his load on the bed in one positive movement. Turning to the helpful Thomas he snarled: "As it happens I'm just being demobbed. Why don't you ... off!"

The aspiring author's next move was to the Orderly Room at Whitchurch and then... Singapore.

"It was the greatest thrill of my life. I'd never been abroad. I'd never had any money to do anything like that," said Leslie.

It was also the time he met the "love of my life" ... at the transit camp at Slough on the eve of his departure for Singapore via Liverpool.

"We went to a dance and I took her home. In those days everything was very chaste. A goodnight kiss and I was on my way. I was in love for ever then," he recalled with a smile.

Thomas set sail for the Far East in a Force Ten gale aboard the troopship *Orbita*, a journey which would see a mutiny — not by the soldiers but by the crew.

"The Pay Corps was not called in to quell it, though," Leslie said.

Army life then, he says now, was wonderful "in a foreign place" for him but it was also "bloody boring."

He explained: "I just sat in this office doing all those clerical jobs. I'm sure the Army uses its manpower a lot better in these days. I could do shorthand and I could type but they were employing Chinese to do all this. I was doing all the terrible work, filling up forms and dealing with pay allowances."

It was so "gruesome", in fact, that he volunteered to take on the job of a departing staff sergeant — and got it. He was also promoted to lance corporal but lost his stripe after only three weeks because he turned up late for a sporting fixture!

"That job was a damned sight more interesting than the first one," Leslie said, "but I was still sitting in a hot office in Singapore. I never, in all my life, waited for five o'clock like I did then. It would have been far more interesting doing other things."

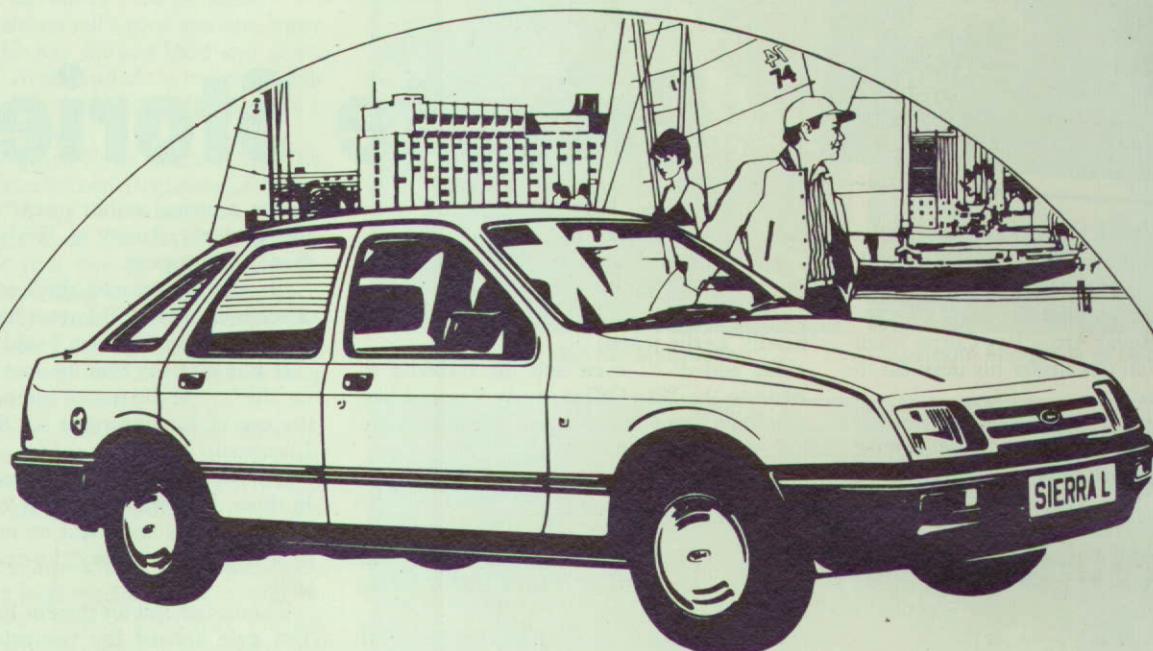
Interest there was, at times. Like the couple of times the trains he was travelling on were ambushed. "A small baby sitting opposite me had its foot shot off," he remembered.

Yet Leslie was not to have his "first real novel", *The Virgin Soldiers*, published until 1966 based, in part, on his relationship with a cabaret girl he used to meet regularly on his recreation afternoons.

In the book he called her Juicy Lucy but in real life the girl used to change her name every week, depending on the name of the

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female lead star in the big feature at the Cathay Cinema.

One week she called herself Rita after Rita Hayworth. The next week it might have been Doris after Doris Day and so on.

Rita... Doris or whoever had run away from a pre-arranged marriage in Penang.

"I'm very impressionable with women, aren't I?" asked Leslie of his wife, expecting a murmured agreement, which readily came. "Rita... Doris was the first woman that I knew as a woman."

Not long ago he and his wife were visiting Singapore and Leslie wondered if he and his first paramour would ever meet again and what his reaction would be if they did. He need not have worried. They did not meet.

Leslie's Army service in Singapore was extended by six months because it was the time of the Korean war.

"I was convinced Korea was really turning into the Third World War. I was sitting on the bog one day and wondering if I should sign on for the £2 or £3-a-week or whatever. If I didn't, I thought, I'm likely to be in forever. I don't think anyone was not convinced Korea was turning into a global war. I didn't sign on."

He went on: "I wrote for the Leicester Mercury and The Liverpool Post on things like sacred snakes of the east. There were articles about the Chinese New Year and lanterns. I used to get a guinea each for those. I once wrote something for the regimental magazine and someone said he thought it was so good it must have been written by an officer!"

Of his three novels dealing with the Singapore-inspired soldiery, Leslie likes his second, *Onward Virgin Soldiers*, the best.

Twelve months in the writing and 70,000 words long, Leslie said of *The Virgin Soldiers*: "This was my first real novel but the second one took the hero, Brigg, to Hong Kong and the New Territories. I'd learned a lot more about writing by then."

Leslie quietly admits to losing his own virginity to the cabaret girl during a "one night thing" at Georgetown, Penang. He said: "I went back to the leave camp and jumped on air. I had done it at last!"

Nowadays, Leslie — he has 16 novels and three non-fiction books behind him — rises

to a cup of tea brought in by his wife at 0930. An hour later he will spend the next two-and-a-half hours typing out five pages and about 1000 words.

His next book, *The Magic Army* — four years in research and writing — has a wartime theme and is the 200,000-word story of a huge Army waiting in the south of England for six months before D-Day in June 1944. It also involves a family in the New Forest.

"I think wartime is remarkably untouched, despite all the action books of military feats there are around, when it comes to stories involving the civilian population. We were living in a bubble," said the former chief reporter and feature writer of a London evening newspaper who visited 80 countries, covered the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem 21 years ago and reported on Churchill's funeral from a lavatory seat in

"I'm very
impressionable
with women"

the House of Commons.

An avid reader of books, poetry and collections of letters Leslie — he has a flat in London and a home in Spain — says: "I have a good life. I'm very concerned about my professionalism. Writing is a craft. I don't think you can take readers for granted. I try to make each book better than the one before."

Leslie also rates humour and not sex as the high point of entertaining authorship and he should know — 10 million copies of his books have sold in the UK alone.

He explained: "I've written 12,000 words in a new book and nobody has touched anybody yet. I think humour is much more important."

As for his days in the Army of 30 years ago, he says simply: "I'm sure I would have been persuaded to stay in the Army if only I'd had a more interesting job. I was stuck in the office, with the fan going as I used to write short stories under the desk, hoping I

wasn't going to be caught out."

When he is not writing, Leslie's other interests include cricket — he is a Lords Taverner — golf, gardening, antiques, music and islands.

He hopes to visit the Falkland Islands next for a documentary-type book.

Yet despite his output of books there is a Japanese proverb clinging to his study wall which he says is his own personal philosophy. It reads: "In the hustle and bustle of the market place there is much money to be made. But under the cherry tree, there is rest."

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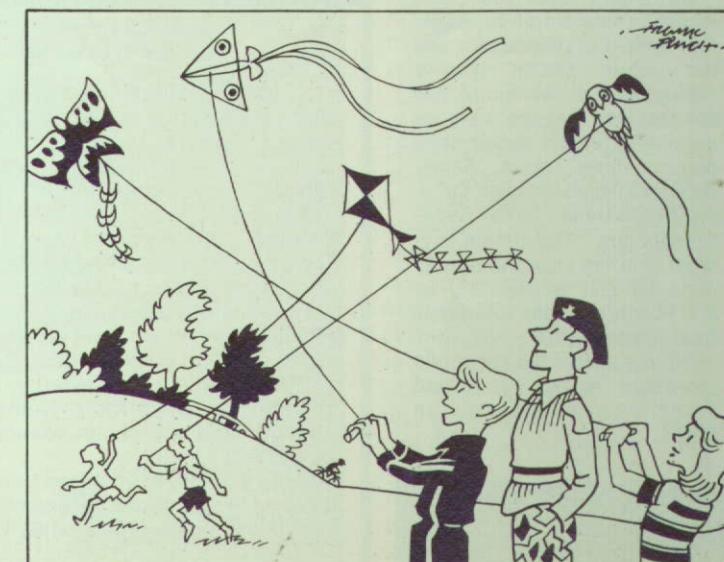
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How observant are you?

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





AN INVITATION FROM the American Boys' Clubs to attend their Fifth International Federation of Keystone Youth Organisations Annual Conference was the key that opened the door on America for me.

Until my all too fleeting visit last month, my knowledge of America had been confined to Dallas, Hollywood spectaculairs and Alastair Cook's letters.

I combined the Boys' Clubs conference with a meeting with Jean Hilsman, President of the National Military Wives' Association which represents one-and-a-half-million wives, and Joyce Ott of the Family Action Committee.

The main thing that struck me was the tremendous emphasis placed on volunteer programmes by Americans in both the private and government sectors. The commitment and enthusiasm that youth and adults alike bring to their schemes is, importantly, backed by 'seed money'.

I am more than ever convinced that this is where all our best schemes fall down. We have so many worthwhile programmes, with all the necessary expertise, willingness and commitment, but do not have the resources to put them into motion. Prince Charles, himself a staunch supporter of such voluntary schemes, has recognised the lack of finance as a problem: "Give them a cash start and they will forge ahead. Give them nothing but words and they will never start."

So where does the 'seed money' come from? In America, both the government and the public sector sponsor schemes and there are tax concessions that are a big incentive to private sector companies. Jerry Inman, Senior Advisor Educational and Cultural Affairs United States Agency, explains: "The simple payment of hiring a co-ordinator is often all that is required, so this is why we help with funds from government."

What a shame we cannot do the same for our Pre-School Playgroups' co-ordinator in BAOR.

Anne Armstrong

A shocking article in the 'Law in Disorder' series in the *Sunday Times* of 29 August this year prompted Mrs J to write from BFPO 40. The article described the plight of Mrs Ann Crosley, "A mother of three who was left so poor that she finished up in hospital suffering from malnutrition". She moved into an unheated and sparsely furnished bungalow in Salisbury after her husband, a naval commander, left her and she lived at that time on just one pound twenty-five pence a week. Her husband meanwhile had moved into the officers' mess when they had to move out of married quarters. Mrs J writes:

"As a Serviceman's wife I read with a sense of amazement and then outrage about the inhuman treatment of Ann Crosley by, first, her husband and then by bungling and possibly dishonest solicitors.

"To know that British justice can treat a mother of three in such an insensitive way is horrifying enough, but to learn that the system in the Services regarding family welfare can, albeit unwittingly, cause such hardship should give us all, and in particular Service wives, cause for grave misgivings.

"Could not Servicemen be told that if they contemplate divorce they must inform the appropriate authority that they intend changing their marital status, that they wish to vacate their quarter and show that satisfactory alternative arrangements have been made to house the family and ensure financial support — the least that is required of the civilian citizen?

"Could not wives be allowed to remain in their quarter until alternative accommodation is shown to be provided by the husband or until the divorce has been made absolute? After these conditions have been fulfilled, the AFO 1700 'Change of Marital Status' could be signed.

"If we in the Services do not put our house in order and insist that each of the participants in these situations act responsibly we could well have a major social scandal

made public to the detriment of the good name of British Servicemen."

I have been in Germany for four months and have still not been able to find a job. I did receive unemployment benefit for a short while when I arrived but, as I have no children, I want to safeguard my state pension — my pension not my husband's.

I have been told that I will be penalised as I am overseas with no children. Will I be an awful lot out of pocket? What shall I do?

Mrs S, BFPO 39

our name down on the council housing list there for eight years now.

"I have just heard that there has been a rule passed that ex-Servicemen can now buy council houses without having to live in them for any length of time, and that we can get a third off the price after the first eight years of marriage and one per cent for every year on top of that.

"Does this mean that all we have to do is to go down to the council offices in Dover and say that we would like a house for a certain date?"

I have not come across this new ruling Mrs L but I suggest you write to Dover Housing Department direct and ask them. It could be a local rule that the council there has introduced.

Also, I suggest you get hold of a copy of DCI Army J 51/81 which explains the procedure for Army families with regard to council housing. The pamphlet 'The Right to Buy: A Guide for Council, New Town and Housing Associations' Tenants' which is a housing booklet No 2 is available with other information from Department of Environment Regional Office South East, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W1L 8QH.

Another useful address is the Housing Corporation, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN.

Now to turn to a problem from Sgt M, BFPO 53, who wants advice and information on buying a house for when he leaves the Army.

"I would appreciate information on buying and leasing a house for short periods. I am serving here in Cyprus for the next three years but am returning to UK in the near future to buy a house ready for my last tour of duty on completion of this one."

There are three main things that you can do to help yourself in this situation. You should contact your local Army Education Officer and ask to see the new, up-dated video film on house purchase together with all the relevant information that goes with the film.

Ask them too for the leaflet No 5 'Letting Your Home or Retirement Home: A guide for homeowners and Servicemen who want to let their homes temporarily'. There is a possibility that new guidelines to help Servicemen with letting their houses will be published towards the end of this year. If so, we will bring you all the details as soon as we have them.

If you are trying to buy a house at a distance, you should also contact Kerry Stephenson (see Homehunter on page 46 of this edition of *SOLDIER*) who will be able to help you.

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU MUST APPLY in good time for an import form before taking up postings in Germany or Holland, to cover any items that you intend to transport in your private vehicle into these countries. The forms are not necessary for unaccompanied baggage moved by GFA.

With effect from 1 Jan 83, you will be able to obtain the form (BFG 60) from your UK unit. It will be over stamped MOD Form 653 and will mean a simplification of the old system when applications had to be made to the new unit.

You should still complete and return the form to the British Frontier Service who will issue a customs form to cover you at the German customs post.

Those heading for Netherlands postings still have to apply to their new units for a Netherlands Form 35K, and UK Supply Flight will obtain licences on request for personnel joining HQ Afcent.

Units will still retain some forms for use by those who may return to UK on leave, for example, and purchase some items for import into Germany while they are there.

ARE YOU SEEING YOUR
SOLDIER REGULARLY?
MAKE SURE WITH AN
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
DETAILS ON PAGE 3

Alias Smith or Jones?

IT MAY COME as something of a surprise to find that hotel registers are not the only places where one can find a plethora of John Smiths. It seems that every day of the year no less than 17 John Smiths celebrate a birthday and, to keep them company, no less than 1500 Elizabeth Smiths were registered in 1962 alone.

For those of us who are not among the 600,000 Smiths on record, these statistics may merely raise a rather superior smile and, it must be admitted, the Smith case is an extreme. There are, however, 78,000 popular surnames and more confusion arises with 21 different spellings of Shephard and eight different ways of spelling Nicholls. These facts and figures are the daily concern of the employees at Smedley Hydro in Lancashire, the National Health Service Central Registry and, on occasions, they turn out to be a nightmare.

Smedley Hydro, housed in an impressive old building where once people came to take the waters, seek a cure and relax, is responsible for processing 45 million records. It acts as a registry and also as a clearing house for the transition of documents and information between areas. Service personnel represent only a small proportion of the registry

but their documents tend to pass through its system more often than those of the average civilian as they move from location to location, in UK and abroad.

I first visited Smedley Hydro two years ago in response to your queries on delayed or lost documents. I was the first visitor with Service connections to make the trip to Southport and afterwards I passed on my findings to the MOD. Two years on, I made a return trip and discovered that some of the problems have been ironed out, although there are still improvements to be made.

Most of the delays are caused



The impressive facade of Smedley Hydro.

by incorrect or incomplete information on form F Med 246, which has to be completed when you arrive at a new posting. If wives, medical practitioners, units and medical documentation officers were to take more care to make sure the forms are properly filled in, delays would be few and far between. One wrong initial or number on the form — particularly if your name is John Smith — can cause problems that will hold up your documents.

The sheer volume of documents passing through the Central Registry is staggering. During the course of a typical year,

between 11 and 12 million documents are processed. In 1981, 100,000 documents were received and 107,000 dispatched.

The part of Service families in this may only be a small percentage but we can at least try to make sure that our documents pass through quickly and efficiently. The vital key to trouble-free moving is your National Health Service number (not to be confused with your National Insurance Number as, I must confess, I did on one occasion). Everyone has their individual number and this can go a long way to making sure your documents can be traced easily.

Audrey, one of the team, explained the importance of the NHS number: "If wives could help us by making sure they fill in their NHS number, then we are half way there. I have two sons in the Army so I know how important it is to get wives' documents on the way as soon as possible."

Unfortunately for some efficient unit medical documentation officers, Smedley Hydro prefers the F Med 246 forms to be completed individually. Another of the staff explains: "Some units think they are helping by sending a note of the names of wives who are moving overseas and we have sent 100 or so documents direct to the new unit overseas. Then we discover that some wives never went on that day, some were delayed and some never went at all for some reason. Each wife's documents must be treated individually to safeguard the family."

Working as a team to sort out Service documents.





The Falklands campaign was the main talking point for Allied forces as The United Kingdom Mobile Force swung into action when Nato practised its

BOLD GUARD

"Halt — Moo goes there?"

"Hay, where did you get that hat?"



SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN was the venue for Bold Guard, the first major overseas exercise involving British troops since the Falklands operations.

It came as no surprise that the 9000 soldiers of the United Kingdom Mobile Force were the centre of attraction among Nato allies, the German media and a large number of observers including Warsaw Pact officers there under the CSCE agreement.

Everyone wanted to know "Were you in the Falklands?". And some, like the Scimitar crews of The Blues and Royals were not only able to reply in the affirmative — they could also describe how they shot down two Skyhawks with their Rarden guns.

The very presence of the UKMF, fulfilling its commitment in the strategically vital land of lakes, windmills and cows despite all that has happened elsewhere this year, was itself significant. German, Danish, American and Dutch allies taking part in Bold Guard certainly got the message and it is to be hoped that the Warsaw Pact observers did, too.

From the start, the UKMF Commander, Brigadier Edwin Beckett and his staff hit the right note giving a detailed briefing to landowners and farmers entirely "auf Deutsch" (in German).

This made for first class co-operation with the farmers, helped by good weather which kept exercise damage to half the figure for the last Bold Guard.

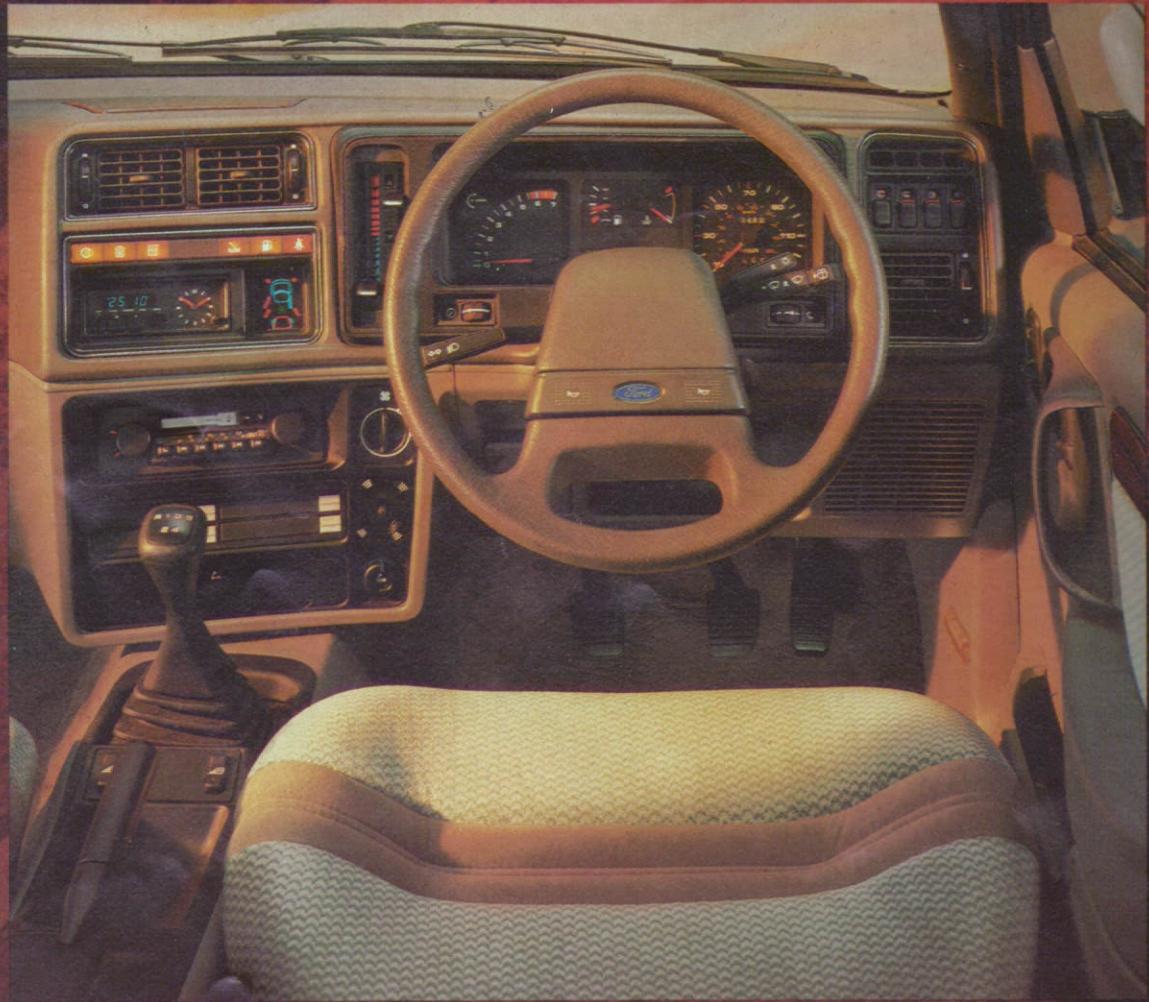
Behaviour was good, even by those who went off to reccce the dubious delights of Hamburg on their R and R day.

The exercise enabled the UKMF to test its deployment expertise, arriving with its 2325 vehicles through the ports of Brunsbuttel, Hamburg, Esbjerg in Jutland and the German Air Force base at Hohn.

Brigadier Beckett praised the turnout and excellent performance of the many TA units

continued on page 28

**The new Ford Sierra.
Man and machine in
perfect harmony.**



Sierra is a dynamically engineered driver's car.

This is Sierra, the car that replaces the Ford Cortina.

It uses less fuel than the Cortina, needs less service, has more space, a hatchback and a bigger boot.

But Sierra is more than just another efficient family car.

It's a dynamically engineered driver's car – taut, beautifully balanced and instantly responsive.

If you enjoy driving, Sierra will be your kind of car. As you'll see from the Ghia featured here.

The man machine relationship.

Everything in the cockpit is designed to make you feel at one with the machine. The Ghia's contoured driver's seat adjusts for height and rake as well as reach so that you can establish just the right relationship with the controls.

Steering and brakes are engineered to give you plenty of 'feedback'. They let you feel the road. And the response to the accelerator is instantaneous. 2.3 litre 5-speed models do 0-60 mph in 10 seconds and maximum speed is 118 mph.*

The effect is to make you feel almost like part of the car; man and machine in perfect harmony.

Its average drag coefficient is 0.34 – 24% better than Cortina's. Even the wheel covers and bumpers are designed to reduce turbulence. And Sierra's windscreen and back windows are bonded directly to the body by a special process called direct glazing. This makes a flush fit, reducing drag. The effect on fuel consumption is most noticeable at motorway speeds. At a constant 75 mph the 2.0 litre 5-speed model does 38.2 mpg**

The dashboard is angled towards the driver so that all the instruments face you and the controls fall naturally to hand. The instruments are divided into zones according to their function.

It bristles with electronic warning systems which continuously monitor the health and safety of the car. There's even one that alerts you if black ice is likely.

While, overhead, there's a console which houses a pair of swivelling map lights and the sun roof control.

Car illustrated is a 2.3 Ghia with 5-speed manual transmission and optional metallic paint.

Tall passengers please note.

Overall, Sierra is just 1.8 inches longer than the Cortina.

It has more head room and more leg room. And the contoured back seats are just as comfortable as the front.

In the GL and Ghia they have folding centre-armrests. Ghias have rear seat headrests, too.

The body: lighter but stronger.

These days a car doesn't have to be 'built like a tank' to be durable.

Many components are made of the latest lightweight materials like High Strength Low Alloy Steel (HSLA) which is as strong as ordinary steel but 10% lighter.

Sierra's bumpers are made from another lightweight material – a polycarbonate. The benefits of light weight are brisker acceleration and better fuel economy, so it pays to shed pounds.

Aerodynamics: save fuel at 70 mph.

Sierra is one of the most aerodynamic five-seaters that has ever gone into production.

Sierra's aerodynamic shape minimises drag. Airflow keeps back window clean.

With one back seat folded,† you still have room for two back seat passengers.

If, by any chance, the Sierra hatchback isn't big enough for you, don't give up.

There's always the Sierra Estate. It has a load capacity of 69 cu.ft.

But that's another story.

big as Sierra this advantage is outweighed by other considerations.

Rear wheel drive gives well balanced handling because the weight of the car is distributed equally over the front and back wheels.

It's also easier to service, better able to transmit the power of the big engined variants and, incidentally, gives better traction when towing.

The suspension: sporting handling without hard springs.

Sierra is an agile car.

It corners quickly and accurately with hardly any body roll. And it takes rough surfaces with uncanny smoothness.

Even when the car is heavily laden, it still feels light and positive. This is because it has a supple new all-independent suspension system with McPherson struts at the front, and semi-trailing arms at the rear.

It strikes just the right balance between sporting handling and a comfortable ride.

Yet another reason why Sierra is such an enjoyable driver's car.

The hatchback: spacious and versatile.

Sierra is a hatchback. But, from the inside, you'd never know it. Because the boot is sealed off by a thick, hinged parcel shelf.

Like most hatchbacks, Sierra has folding back seats. But unlike most they are split 60/40†. This makes the car a very versatile load carrier.



The dashboard: information at a glance.

The dashboard is angled towards the driver so that all the instruments face you and the controls fall naturally to hand. The instruments are divided into zones according to their function.

It bristles with electronic warning systems which continuously monitor the health and safety of the car. There's even one that alerts you if black ice is likely.

While, overhead, there's a console which houses a pair of swivelling map lights and the sun roof control.

Sierra's aerodynamic shape minimises drag. Airflow keeps back window clean.

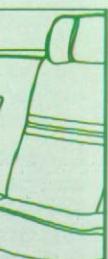
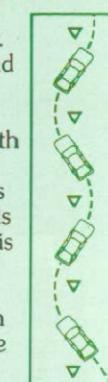
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There's always the Sierra Estate. It has a load capacity of 69 cu.ft.

But that's another story.

*Ford computed figures. **Government fuel test figures overleaf.



† Except base model.



Engines: evolutionary development.

Sierra has a wide choice of engines. There's a 2.3 litre V6, and a range of 4-cylinder OHC units of 2.0, 1.6 and 1.3 litres. And a refined 2.3 litre diesel.

Outwardly they look similar to Cortina engines.

Inside, however, there are numerous developments which have increased their performance and decreased their fuel consumption. The figures below prove the point.

5-speed gearboxes: 70 mph at less than half engine speed.

Besides the 4-speed manual and 3-speed automatic boxes, a 5-speed is now available.

With this, some models reach 70 mph at 3000 rpm which is only half the engine's maximum capability.

Economy and performance: this is where they meet.

The fastest Sierra does 118 mph and 0-60 in 10 seconds.* And at a constant 56 mph, even the 2 litre Sierra 5-speed does 49.6 mpg.

Government test figures (mpg)

Saloon Models	Constant 56 mph	Constant 75 mph	Urban cycle	Max speed* (mph)
1.3 4-speed	44.8	35.8	30.7	94
1.6 5-speed	47.9	36.7	28.0	103
2.0 5-speed	49.6	38.2	26.9	115
2.3 V6 5-speed	44.8	35.3	23.3	118

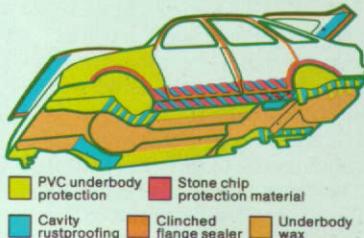
Government test figures - (litres per 100km).
 1.3 litre 4-speed 90kph (6.3), 120kph (7.9), urban (9.2); 1.6 5-speed 90kph (5.9), 120kph (7.7), urban (10.1); 2.0 litre 5-speed 90kph (5.7), 120kph (7.4), urban (10.5); 2.3 litre 5-speed 90kph (6.3), 120kph (8.0), urban (12.1).

Corrosion protection: the 20-stage treatment.

Sierra bodies are totally immersed in anti-corrosive primer.

Box sections are injected with wax. And wheel arches, and vulnerable underbody areas, are protected against stone chips by a tough PVC undercoat.

Only then is Sierra ready for the paintshop, where in addition to the primer, three coats of enamel paint are baked on.



Equipment: Ford gives you more.

The Ghia is very well equipped. Both front seats have adjustable lumbar supports. Door mirrors are electrically controlled. Electric front windows and power radio aerial are standard. The Ghia also has a glass sun roof which tilts or slides and has a sliding sun blind. And you can adjust the ventilation system, (our designers call it a Modular Climate Control System) to supply hot air to your feet and cooler air to your face simultaneously so that it doesn't make you drowsy.

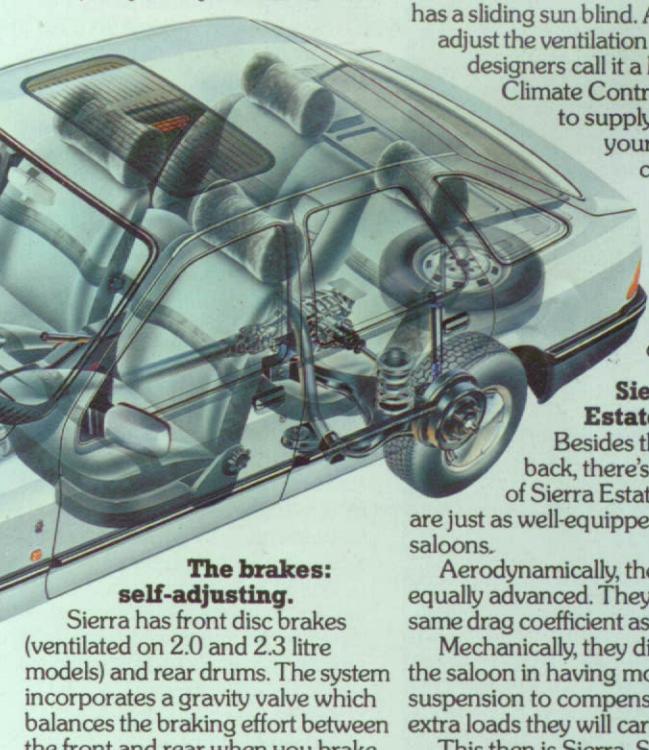
Sierra Estates.

Besides the hatchback, there's a range of Sierra Estates which are just as well-equipped as the saloons.

Aerodynamically, they are equally advanced. They have the same drag coefficient as the saloon.

Mechanically, they differ from the saloon in having modified rear suspension to compensate for the extra loads they will carry.

This then is Sierra. Solidly built yet light in weight. Aerodynamic yet spacious. Taut and positive yet smooth and comfortable. Powerful yet economical. Man and machine in perfect harmony.



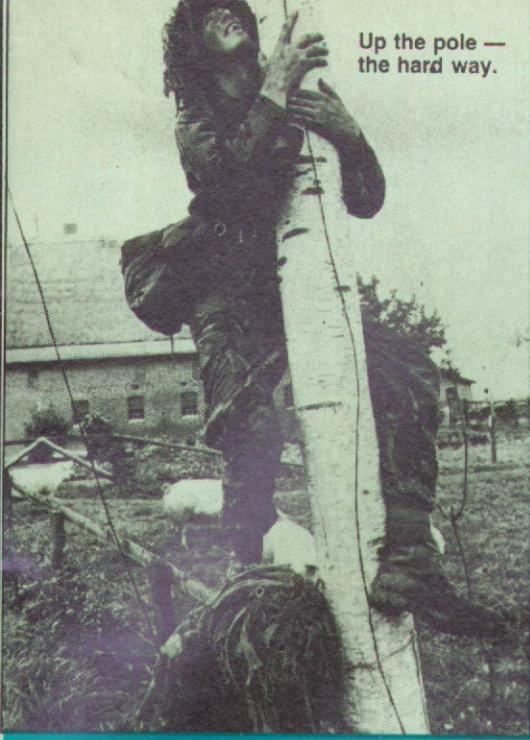
The brakes: self-adjusting.

Sierra has front disc brakes (ventilated on 2.0 and 2.3 litre models) and rear drums. The system incorporates a gravity valve which balances the braking effort between the front and rear when you brake hard. The brakes are self-adjusting and pads can be checked without removing the wheels. GL and Ghia models have lights to warn you of brake pad wear.

Export enquiries: Ford Personal Import Export Ltd., 8 Balderton Street, London W1Y 2BN. Tel: 01-493 4070.

*Ford computed figures.





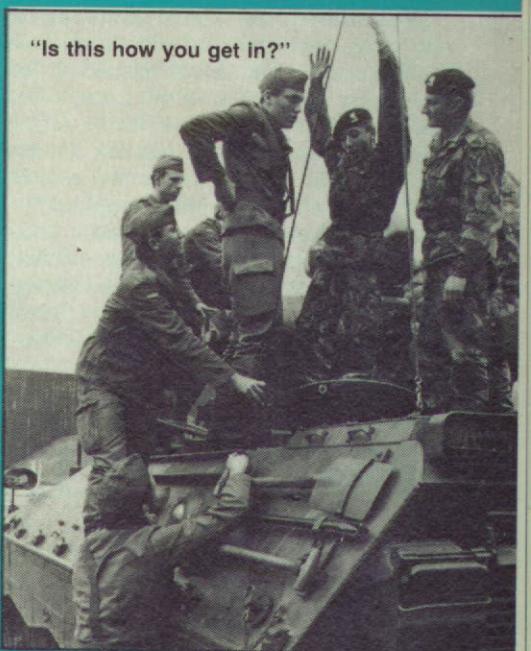
Up the pole —
the hard way.



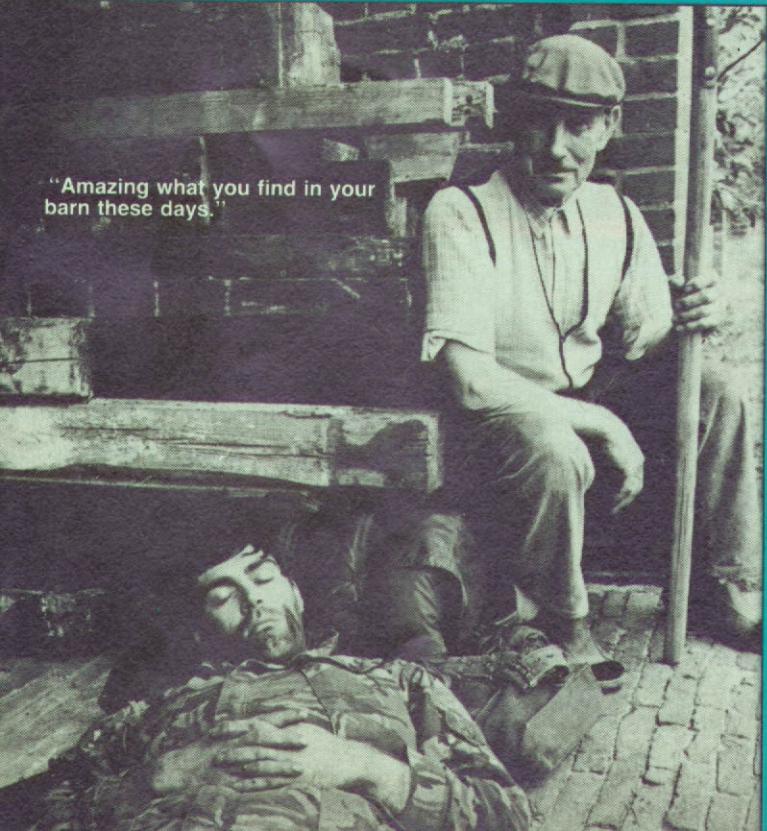
Sappers laying their instant road.



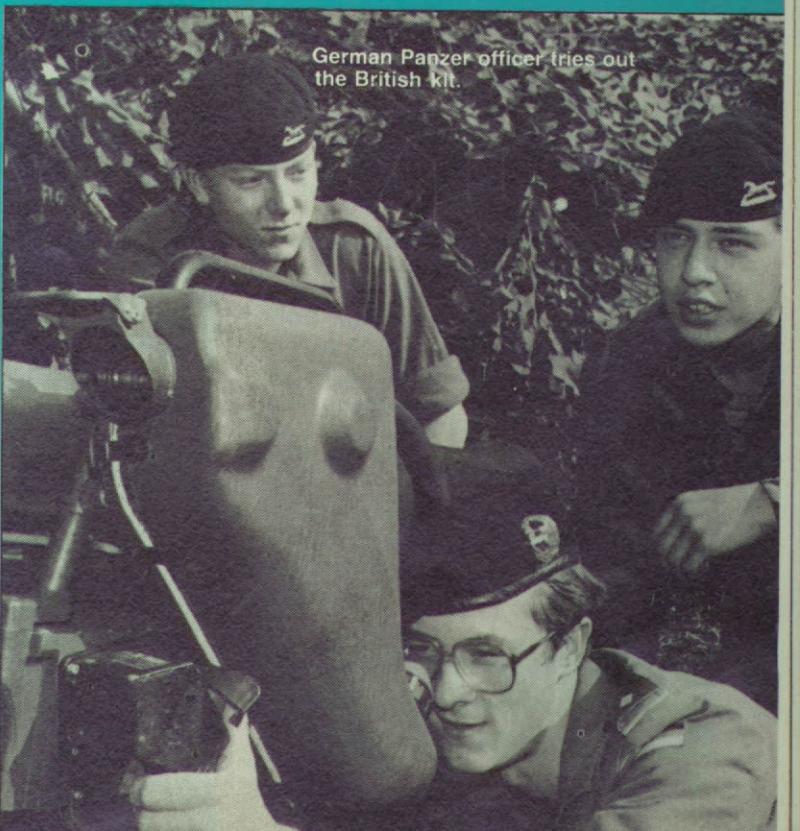
Chatting up the local children.



"Is this how you get in?"



"Amazing what you find in your
barn these days."



German Panzer officer tries out
the British kit.

taking part, including 1 Wessex, who were always to the fore. Many of the TA units were in the Logistic Support Group which performed the usual unsung miracles that give the UKMF its great flexibility.

It was a mixed group of Regular and volunteer REME and RAMC men who gave first aid to a German civilian trapped in an overturned lorry and freed him when all attempts by the normal services had failed.

The British units spent a week doing their own training, including live firing of Milan and other weapons on the Putlos ranges. Then it was down to the exercise proper, with the UKMF playing first Blue and then Orange forces and the US Marines making a major amphibious landing.

There were moments of humour. For the associated medical exercise Bandage Barter a Scottish RCT corporal who had a "no duff" broken right hand was detailed off to be an exercise casualty. He drew a card which called for him to have his left arm in a sling too and was last seen puzzling out how he was going to eat and perform other vital functions. As one of the doctors said: "He'll soon find out who his real friends are!"

Then there was the umpire and his driver who were stopped by an ultra-suspicious German sentry. The driver pointed to the white cross on the side of the Land Rover and said: "Can't you see we're effing umpires?" Next day, the German got his own back. He saluted smartly and greeted them: "Guten Morgen, effing umpires!"

"Halt — moo goes there?" was a challenge that caught on during the exercise. There were 1,619,000 cattle in Schleswig-Holstein at the last count and most of them seemed to be in Lance Bombardier Robertson's field.

Removing his Noddy suit after a chemical attack alert in one of 49 Field Regiment's FH 70 gun positions, he said: "We've got a minefield of cowpats round here. Its supposed to be lucky to step in one. If so, I reckon I'm the luckiest man in the regiment."

Private Jim McAndrew of the Devon and Dorsets, will not forget Bold Guard in a hurry.

He encountered a new enemy in a hungry horse that had a go at the grass he had used to camouflage his helmet.

The lads of 1 PWO, normally with the ACE Mobile Force, joined the UKMF on this exercise and many of them had more than a passing acquaintance with the Force Commander — Brigadier Beckett used to command the Battalion.

Endex and the exodus began, but there was one more important commitment. On a windy Sunday morning at Schestedt beside Kiel Canal, Major General Mike Gray, GOC South West District, laid a wreath on the memorial to the men of the 4th and 15th Battalions of the Parachute Regiment who died there during the 1974 Bold Guard. The Devon and Dorsets' Band played "He Who Would Valiant Be."

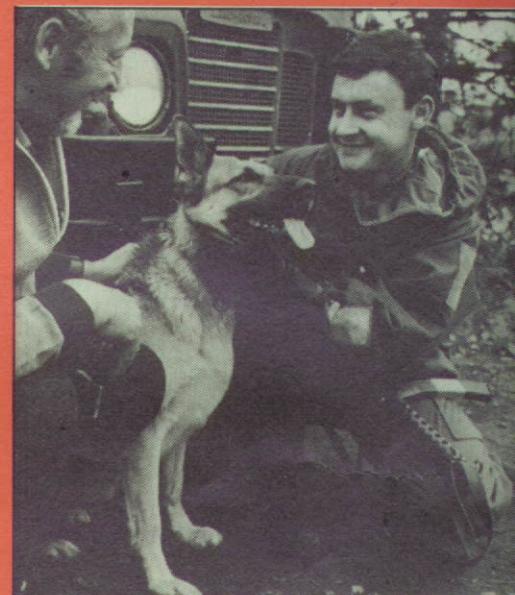
It was a simple but telling act of remembrance and it was heartening to see the fine condition in which the local people keep the memorial.



German Shepherd dog meets alien ... but all friends, below, right



Two of the Blues and Royals' Scimitar sharpshooters.



No entry for 'Orange'.



Brigadier Beckett renewing old friendships.

**Story and pictures by
Public Information staff**

Other TA soldiers have been busy in Germany like these spare-time sappers building . . .

A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

STRADDLING THE SWIRLING waters of a fast-flowing German river — with a special 60ft portable bridge — Royal Engineer Territorials from the Midlands have been playing a key role in a mammoth Rhine Army exercise.

More than 150 of the spare-time sappers, from 575 Field Squadron Royal Engineers (V) — which includes volunteers from Mansfield, Derby, Chesterfield and Buxton — were among more than 12,000 Territorial and Regular troops, who were specially embarked, by sea, land and air from the United Kingdom to take part in Exercise Keystone.

The spectacular two-week exercise, located over a wide area just South of Hanover, involved more than 24,000 soldiers and represented one of the Army's most ambitious troop movement operations.

Spanning the Emma with their 10-bay, double storey medium girder bridge was more than just a test of the sappers' engineering skills. As well as making elaborate preparations for the traversing of the river they had to conceal themselves in 'hide' locations around the bridge-task site, maintaining a constant Alert state of readiness,

MORE PICTURES OF EXERCISE KEYSTONE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

masked up, and appropriately dressed to protect themselves in the event of simulated gas and chemical warfare attacks.

Masterminding the Terriers' big bridging operation at Bad Pyrmont near Hameln was 35-year-old Major Roger Eyre, a civil engineer out of uniform. And for at least two of the men under his command, Sapper Malcolm Peart and Officer Cadet Graham Morris, the chance of working in the fresh air made a refreshing change from their normal working conditions — 'down under' in the coal mines.

Malcolm is a face worker at the Bevencote Mine and Graham a mining engineer at Shirebrook Colliery, both near Mansfield. It was the first time either of them had been to Germany and both found it a welcome change from their usual daily toil hundreds of feet underground.



Officer Cdt Graham Morris and Spr Malcolm Peart manhandle bridge section bracers.

Equally enthusiastic were two of their fellow Terriers from Buxton, Sapper Philip Salt, a chemical process operator, and Corporal Jim McLeish, a former six-year Regular and now a machine operator.

"The opportunity to do an exercise in Germany is just tremendous," Jim enthused. "Obviously, being in a foreign country, the location is much more exciting for our volunteers, and we are able to play things for real, in a way."

"Added to this, meeting Germans is a whole new experience for many of our newer recruits. The German people are among the friendliest I have ever come across in all my travels in uniform — both as a TA man and a Regular."

SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST 1982/83 — MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 48

KEEP THESE RULES HANDY

- 1 The competition shall be run on a team basis and open to readers of SOLDIER.
- 2 A team shall consist of up to six players, any four of whom must play in one game.
- 3 No player shall play, or be nominated, for more than one team.
- 4 The competition shall be on a knock-out basis, each tie consisting of one match, best of three games, 601 up, straight start and finishing on a double. 50 shall count as double 25.
- 5 All matches shall be played on a standard clock board. The board shall be hung with its centre at a distance of 5 feet 8 inches from the ground. The throw is to be made from a toe-line 8 feet from the face of the board.
- 6 In a postal match a team shall play three games, recording a total number of darts taken from the start of the game to achieving the required double. Each player shall throw three darts in turn. If a player exceeds the required total in aiming for the finishing double with the first or second dart, the turn will be considered as completed and three darts will be added to the total.
- 7 Once a postal match has started, the three games shall then be completed and the scores recorded in the order in which the games are played. The scores should be certified by an independent witness and sent to SOLDIER by a prescribed date. Failure to do so will result in elimination.
- 8 Any matters arising from these rules shall be dealt with by the organisers at their discretion and their decision shall be final.

SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST 1982/83 — ENTRY FORM

Name of team

Team secretary (to whom all correspondence will be sent):

Official address:

Official 'phone number:

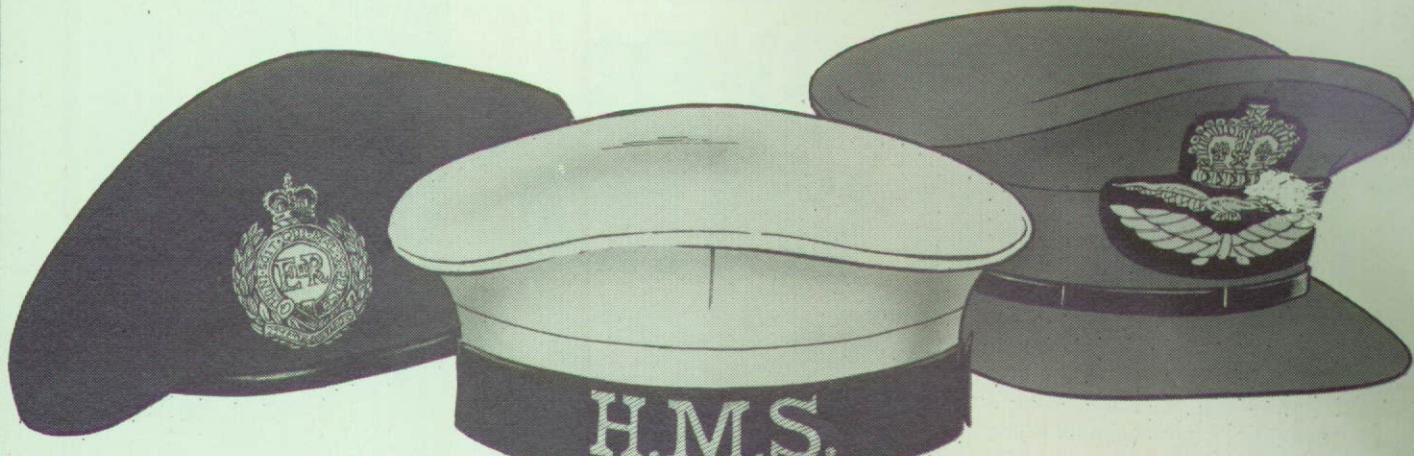
MEMBERS OF TEAM (ONLY FOUR TO PLAY IN ANY ONE GAME)

NAME

SIGNATURE

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

All entries should be sent in an envelope marked 'Darts Contest' to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU not later than Monday 15 November 1982. Entries using OHMS envelopes will not be accepted.



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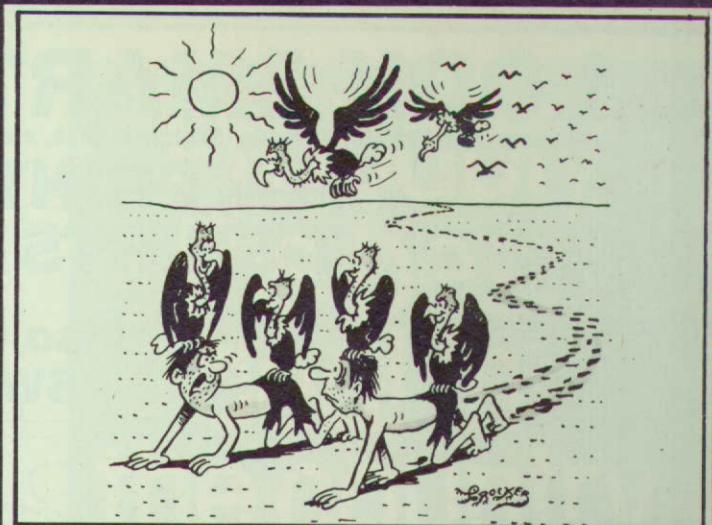
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With all these services, NatWest has to be the bank for the Services. Open a NatWest bank account.

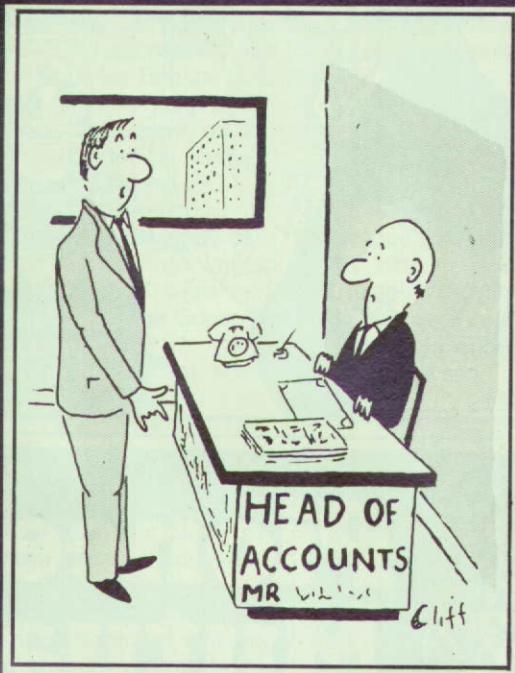
**NatWest
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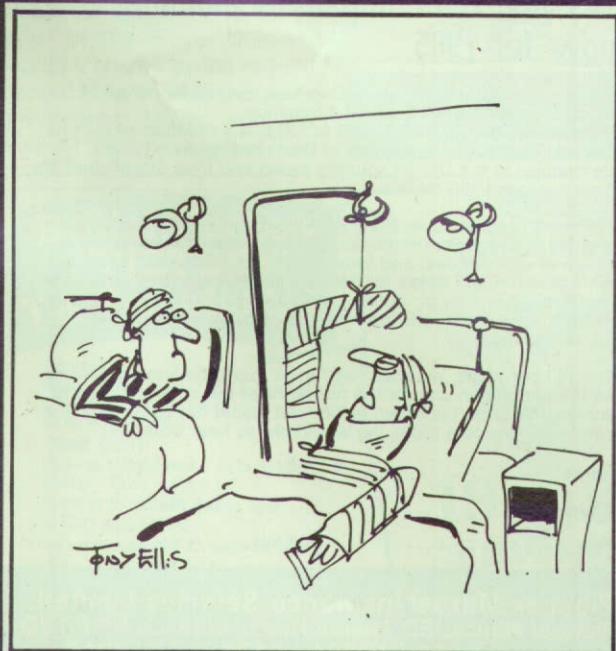
"Thanks for stopping. Do you happen to be going the other way?"



"It's the last time I come on an ornithological trip with you!"



"That computer you installed in accounts. It's calculating your redundancy pay right now!"



"I didn't see any action. I got this lot from an over enthusiastic welcome home hug."

Humour



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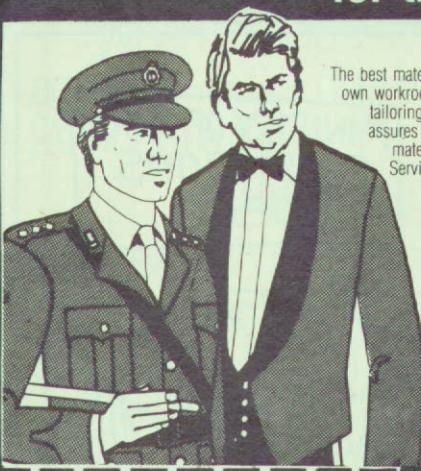
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Brian King (Krefeld 0215 771328) any evening after 6 pm 25, 34, 35, 40, 42, 43, John Bosworth Berlin (030-795-4926) or write to us direct at
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No. 27

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

On the last day of 1966 four regiments that had constituted the Home Counties Brigade became The Queen's Regiment. These four had themselves been formed from six former excellent county regiments.

Such are the combined and individual records that they demand a roll call, bearing in mind that originally there were ten regiments of Foot: The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Rgt. (2nd Foot); The Buffs (East Kent Rgt.) (3rd Foot); The East Surrey Rgt. (31st & 70th Foot); The Royal Sussex Rgt. (35th & 107th Foot); The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Rgt.) (50th & 97th Foot); and the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Rgt. (57th & 77th Foot).

The present head-dress badge here depicted will be seen to contain elements of some former badges of the various units; they are: The Dragon of The Buffs, already an ancient badge when confirmed as a Colour badge in 1751, The Garter of the Royal Sussex, adopted it seems by the regular regiment from the Royal Sussex Light Infantry Militia, and the Prince of Wales's coronet and

plumes from the badge of the Middlesex Rgt., which in the past had been worn by the 77th Foot.

The badge is now worn by the soldiers in anodised material, by the officers in gilt and silver and is described as "The Dragon surmounted by the Prince of Wales' plumes and coronet in silver anodised, all surrounded by the Garter proper with below, a scroll inscribed "Queen's" in gold anodised. It was sealed on 10th July 1966.

Although the Royal West Surrey and Royal West Kent Regiments both bore titles incorporating the word "Queens" it has been left to the collar badges and buttons of the present Regiment to carry the Paschal Lamb of the R.W.Surrey Rgt., the White Horse rampant of the R.W.Kent Rgt, the white Plume of the Royal Sussex Rgt., and the Star of the East Surrey Rgt, to keep alive those former familiar and honoured crests.

The badge of the Home Counties Brigade (sealed 22nd May 1958) worn until the present badge was issued, was "A Saxon crown enfiled with a sword point upwards. Underneath and over the hilt a scroll inscribed "Home Counties". All in silver anodised.

Hugh L King



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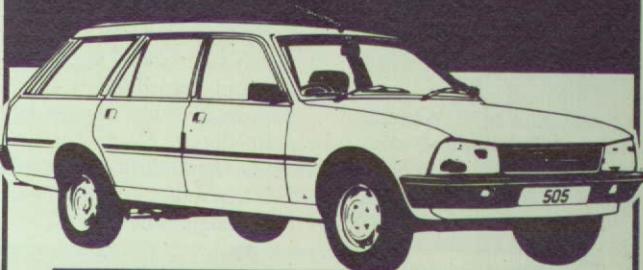
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Advancing British infantry take cover behind knocked-out enemy tank.



Desert rats remember

IT WAS AT just twenty to ten on the night of 23 October 1942 that the desert night was shattered as "a thousand guns" opened up to pound Rommel's Afrika Korps facing the British Eighth Army at El Alamein.

In fact there were only 800 guns but they were spaced every 23 yards along a six mile front. For twenty minutes they poured thousands of shells into the enemy positions.

On the hour they stopped and the infantry began their assault for what was to become the great turning point of the Second World War. As Prime Minister Churchill put it: "Before Alamein we never had a victory; after Alamein we never had a defeat."



'Monty' in typical desert pose.

For almost the whole of July the two armies had slogged at each other in what came to be known as the first Battle of El Alamein. Then they retired behind their wire and minefields.

By late October both were at peak strength. Montgomery had 200,000 men and 1100 tanks as well as artillery and air superiority. Rommel had 53,000 Germans, 43,000 Italians and 500 tanks. But it was twelve days before the British armour broke through to open desert and the Axis withdrawal began.

Alamein II cost Montgomery's 'Desert Rats' 13,560 men, killed, wounded or missing. The enemy lost 55,000 — 25,000 killed or wounded and 30,000 taken prisoner.

This month, 40 years later,

3000 survivors of the battle, including some Germans and Italians, are expected to mark the anniversary at the Eighth Army Veterans Association reunion in Blackpool.

On Sunday morning after the reunion they will march to the town's cenotaph for a short service and wreath-laying.

One man who recalls that moonlit desert night vividly is Mr John Churchill, an ex-Seaforth Highlander. As part of the 51st Highland Division he was one of the first soldiers to go into the attack. "We stood in awe," he says, "as we watched that fantastic scene and wondered at the terrified feelings of those on the receiving end of the barrage. Then we fixed bayonets and went forward."

Roy Brett, 61, was with the 2nd Rifle Brigade and won the Military Medal in the battle as one of the youngest sergeants in the Regiment. He was just 22 and was wounded.

He recalls: "El Alamein was something really indescribable. We went forward with the whole battalion in the night attack at Kidney Ridge, with six-pounder anti-tank guns.

"We were completely cut off for two days but we knocked out 92 tanks in one day. We had to blow up the guns and crawl out because we were completely surrounded.

"We went back about five miles and Monty presented us with our ribbons.

"For me, it was the battle of the whole war. It was more organised and it was a precision thing completely."

● In celebration of the 40th anniversary, Phillips the auctioneers will be holding a special sale of some 70 of Jon's famous 'Two Types' cartoon originals at 7 Blenheim Street, London W1 on Wednesday 20 October. Proceedings start at 7 pm and viewing will be between 9 am and 4 pm.

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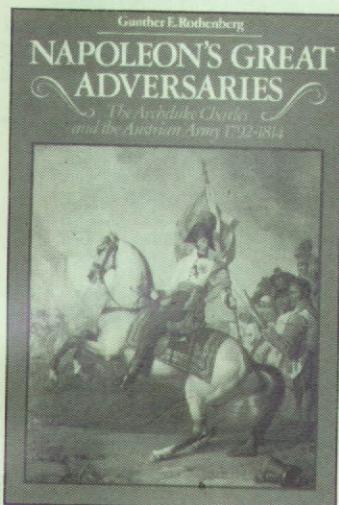
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BOOKS

Napoleon's Great Adversaries: Gunther E Rothenberg

The much tried Austrian army was the largest force to be continually engaged against Napoleon and it was responsible for Bonaparte's first defeat — at Aspen-Essling in 1809. Later in the same year at Wagram, a mere 11 miles from Vienna, the Emperor fought his last decisive victorious battle. Both engagements emphasise the scale and determina-



tion of the Austrian army's resistance which for the most part, let it be said, has been neglected by military historians.

Working mainly from Austrian reference sources Gunther Rothenberg has produced a major work which deals in depth with the leadership, tactics and strategy of the Austrian army as a whole and carefully analyses every major campaign and battle. Singled out for particular attention are the remarkable qualities of its commander, the Archduke Charles, young brother of the Emperor Francis. As a military leader he was outstandingly successful and there is little doubt that by the

time he handed over command in 1809 he had become the Habsburgs' most renowned soldier.

The new Commander-in-Chief, Fieldmarshal Prince Liechtenstein, took Count Joseph Radetzky, an experienced and able soldier, as his Quartermaster General and they with other, mostly military, personalities and the part they played in the war against Napoleon are reviewed in the concluding chapter.

This scholarly work brilliantly fills a gap in the huge range of Napoleonic literature.

Batsford, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH — £9.95 JFPJ

Animal Heroes: Military Mascots and Pets: J J Kramer

And why not? It is about time some of these unsung heroes were given a modicum of attention in military literature.

From Hannibal's elephants to the present day explosive-sniffing dogs, animals have served the armed forces well. But it is not only the 'utility' animals that deserve some praise; as the author says, 'a veritable zoo of animals have served faithfully as mascots in both American (J J Kramer, being an American, naturally puts his country first) and European military regiments. There has been an extraordinary assortment: from dogs and cats to goats and ponies, birds, bears, deer, mules, pigs, monkeys, snakes and alligators'.

This is a profusely illustrated book, with pictures collected from many sources, mostly American; this is slightly disappointing for a book published in London, the capital of a notoriously animal-loving country. The readers of *SOLDIER* could surely tell tales and provide pictures of many more British mascots and pets. However, there are some interesting examples, such as Jacob the Goose of The Coldstream Guards (1830s); the lineage of goats belonging to The Royal Welch Fusiliers that started in 1775 with a mascot that stood with the regiment on Bunker Hill; Fan the Antelope of The 108th Regiment — later The 2nd Battalion The Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers (1875); Crauchan the pony of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1953). Then there are the dogs: Scout of the Royal Dragoons (1899), who was a predecessor of a Goose called Jock (1921); Billy of The Royal

Ulster Rifles (1900); Fritz of The Royal Hampshire Regiment (1944); Brags of The Gloucestershire Regiment (1925); and the first Brian Boru of The Irish Guards (1902).

Prizes for the most original mascots must go to the Americans for Happy the Seal of the US Coast Guards and Speedy the Anteater of the 6th Army Task Force in World War Two.

Secker & Warburg Ltd, 54 Poland Street, London W1 — £5.95 BJ

White Heat: The New Warfare 1914-18: John Terraine

In this his tenth book on World War One, John Terraine expertly examines his subject from yet another angle. Strategy and politics have been avoided in favour of what can only be described as a study of the inner nature of the war.

An instructive introduction furnishes the background mentioning among other things, Napoleonic and Wellingtonian strengths at various battles and comparing them with the millions of men who went to war in 1914; or that in the same year the Royal Navy had some 435 ships in service equipped with wireless telegraphy; or again, the fact that in November 1918, the newly formed RAF had 200 squadrons and 22,171 aircraft to make it the largest air force in the world.

This in-depth work is divided into two sections with part one concentrating on the new dimensions of war



on land, in the air and at sea. Part two carries the analysis forward through all its different phases to the ultimate victory of the allies.

Sidgwick & Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG — £9.95 JFPJ

XIV Army at War: George Forty

Montgomery once asked General Christison, who fought under Slim in the South East Asia campaign in World War Two, why battles in Burma took so long before a decision was reached. The gist of his reply was that while vast numbers of prisoners were taken in Africa and Europe, "in Burma scarcely a prisoner was taken by either side. Fighting was continuous till one side or the other was the victor."

While Slim's Fourteenth Army was slogging away at an enemy that was considered by many to be unbeatable in jungle warfare, other events nearer home were occupying the attention of the Press. Also, priorities in arms, ammunition,

armour, landing craft and aircraft were given to other theatres, while in South East Asia the troops doggedly held on against the fanatical untiring hordes that were battling against them. Thus was the legend of the "Forgotten Army" born.

This book is not a history of the campaign but a good picture of a remarkable army that suffered early setbacks and yet won through against a relentless dedicated enemy who performed suicidal operations rather than surrender or retreat. An enemy who fought like demons in jungles where malaria, leeches and typhus ticks were rife, on razor back hills that tanks could not climb, and in monsoons that brought deep mud.

This is a story of troops who beat at their own game an "unbeatable" enemy of a warrior nation trained never to surrender.

Ian Allan Ltd, Shepperton, Surrey TW17 8AS — £11.95 GRH

The Chilwell Story: M J Haslam

Never judge a volume by its cover or its title. This book gave expectations of being a dry-as-dust corps history about vast sheds, stores and dowdy civilians, with a few stereotype photographs of 60 years ago — unrelieved, as are regimental histories, by the echoes of battles fought afar. How wrong can first impressions be?

The Chilwell Story of the vast RAOC supply depot at Nottingham is alive with people, fully, wholly, flesh and blood characters; and their thoughts and actions over the years are recorded here in their own words.

This was no "humdrum static Army unit" but a vast hive of activity, with tentacles that stretched, but never severed, all round the world. Here the "most successful shell filling factory of World War One" changed the course of that war at the Battle of the Somme.

In 1918 nearly 10,000 were employed, 4000 of them women, and 46,725 shells were filled in the shifts of each 24-hour day.

In three years there had been 17 explosions but only three men had been killed, when on 1 July 1918, an extremely hot day, ice had to be brought in to cool the TNT. That night the unbelievable happened when eight tons of explosives mushroomed skywards and 134 died with 250 injured.

There are many reminiscences of the horror, the courage, the tenacity and the patriotism shown at this time of cruel devastation. Next morning the staff was back at work and public reaction was that Chilwell deserved the Victoria Cross. From then on until its closure in 1982 it was known as the "VC Factory".

Later there were to be other great hours: succour for the exhausted survivors of Dunkirk, the despatch of ice-proofed tanks "with love" for Russia and the extensive, exciting preparations for the invasion of Normandy. And behind it all the loyalty and tenacity of the workforce, military, including ATS, and civilian men and women.

That is the real Chilwell Story, told as many remember it.

RAOC Corps Secretariat, Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey — £4.95 (plus £1.34 p&p) GRH

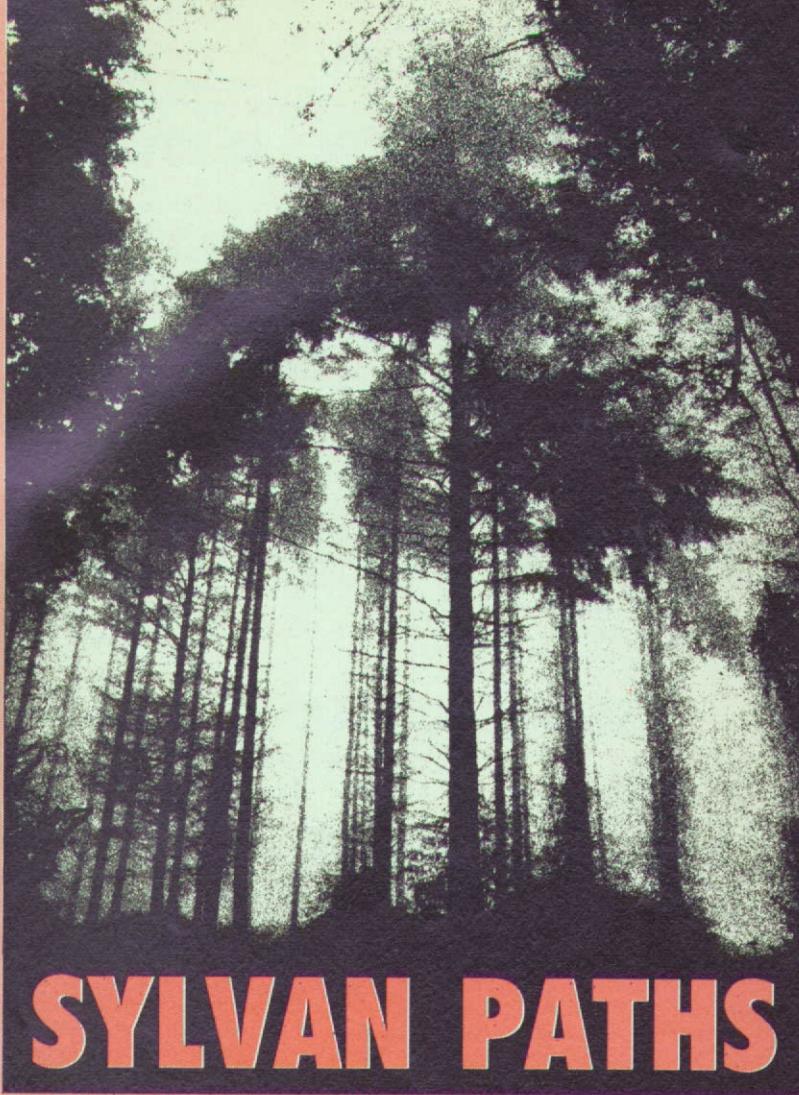
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SYLVAN PATHS

MR LUMBER'S wood consisted chiefly of young chestnuts but in the wood he had five favourite trees — a lovely silver birch, a copper beech, a turkey oak, a Scots pine and a superb sequoia.

Four straight pathways led from the sequoia to each of the other four trees and these also were linked together by means of

straight paths.

It was as far from the oak to the beech as it was from the Scots pine to the oak. The distance between the oak and the birch was the same as that between the beech and the sequoia but it was twice as far from the Scots pine to the birch as it was from the birch to the beech. From the beech to the birch was

as far as from the oak to the sequoia. From the oak to the sequoia was half the distance of that from the birch to the pine but equalled the distance from the beech to the sequoia.

The copper beech was due north of the sequoia and it was three hundred yards from the beech to the birch. Also, the sequoia was halfway between the pine and the birch.

How far was it from the copper beech to the Scots pine?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 19 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 13 December. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 303' label. In the case of ties winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 303' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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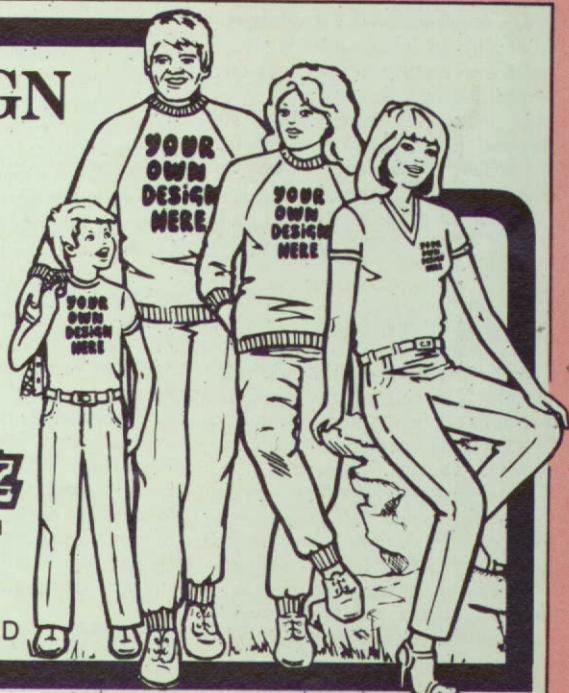
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HOSTLY CAMP

I am one of the many people who read SOLDIER from cover to cover, and I was most interested to read about your investigation into the Crowborough Camp Ghost (6 Sept.).

Soon after I had told my own ghost story to the Sun newspaper I went over to Crowborough Camp. I have known Sheila Chick for quite a few years now and she said, "After that story, will you come with me, and tell me if you can feel anything in the other room?" She did not tell me what I was supposed to feel, but as soon as I walked into that room I felt the coldness of it. "Right" said Sheila, "walk round, and tell me if you feel anything else." I started to walk down the right hand side of the room from the door, and halfway down I stopped, and looked up at a beam in the roof. Sheila saw me stop and asked me why. I said "whatever happened here happened on that beam." She then told me to come further forward and when I did, I got a very cold blast of air on to my forehead which took my breath away.

So you see the story has now been proved by an independent witness, and I am sure Sheila will verify my part in this for you.

M F Johns, 4th Queens ACF, 40 Rankine Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3BH. — No need, Mr Johns, we believe you and we think you deserve our £5 prize for suffering such a chilling experience and for telling us about it. — Ed.

MALAY MEDAL

I refer to the letter from Fg Off Edwards (23 August) in which he questions the reasons for the 'cut off' date for GSM Malay Peninsula being June '65. Perhaps I can help.

Two points to make first; one — this medal should not be confused with the GSM Malaya issued for the Emergency 1947-59 (approx); second — during the sixties Malaysia consisted of Malaya and Singapore (i.e. those on the Malay Peninsula), and Borneo where the Indonesian confrontation took place, besides I think Brunei.

Some years after completing my tour in Borneo and qualifying for GSM Borneo, I found I also qualified for GSM Malay Peninsula. Having seen no action other than in Borneo I wondered why.

During the early days of the Indonesian confrontation ('62-'64 say) the brunt of the fighting was done by UK and Gurkha troops from Malaya and Singapore; Australian and New Zealand troops, then serving in Malaya with the Commonwealth Brigade mainly, were barred from Borneo service. From time to time the Indonesians landed on mainland Malaya and were more often than not met by Aus/NZ troops from Teverdale (Command Bde base.) Hence two medals were struck — one for each side of the China sea. The political decision banning Aus/NZ troops from Borneo was I believe, lifted in mid '65 and they all speedily fell in to do their stint in Borneo.

So I can only assume the need for two medals ceased to exist in June '65 and GSM Malay Peninsula was no longer awarded — only GSM Borneo. I am still slightly puzzled as to the reasons for my receiving both, except that I served in the Commonwealth Brigade when I wasn't in Borneo (45 Fd Regt RA) and as we said at the time "if the Aussies can get it — so should we!"

Final thought — thank heaven they are actually going to give a proper medal for the Falklands job. Yet another clasp for the GSM would have been too much! — Lt Col J Ollerhead, RA, MOD, Defence Operational Analysis Establishment, Broadoaks, Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey KT14 6LY.

HOUSEWIFE

One thing I can thank my National Service for is the 'housewife' and the ability to cope with stitching up seams and sewing on buttons. This has proved useful in my later bachelor life.

But there was one occasion when, rushing on parade in the Army, I nearly came adrift due to a split seam. Dragging my greatcoat on, I was hurriedly buttoning it with my left hand before I realised that my right hand had gone through a hole in the armpit and was trapped between the sleeve and the lining.

It was too late to do anything about it. And as duty runner for the weekend I had to fall out on one side of the square and await instructions. Even today I shudder to think of my fate if the orderly officer had come along — and I had saluted him with one sleeve and no hand!

Fortunately he did not appear; but perhaps my predicament can still serve as a present-day reminder that a stitch in time could save nine (days in the glasshouse perhaps?) — Kenneth Harker, 28 Cobble Carr, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 6NR.

WHICH WAY?

I wonder if anyone can solve the mystery of the order of medals shown

on the front of SOLDIER (23 Aug.)

The cover shows 'Chichester's Big March' and the gentleman leading the parade is wearing the UN Peace Keeping Medal for Cyprus followed by a British General Service Medal. Yet the gentleman behind is wearing the GSM followed by the UN medal. Who is right? I would be most interested to find out.

Thank you for a most interesting magazine. — WO2 B Smith, Royal Signals Training Wing (BAOR), 13th Signal Regiment, British Forces Post Office 42.

We believe they are both right, Mr Smith. An extract from 'Dress Regulations of the Army' states: "The order of wearing of (these medals)... will vary, and will depend upon the dates of participation in the relevant campaigns." — Ed.

GONG COMMITTEE?

The whole nation would have been outraged if those who took part in the Falklands campaign had not been awarded a medal, and rightly so. Equally those who have been on active service, in the odd spots of the world, deserve recognition. I personally have medals for my service in Burma and Malaya but nothing for the NW Frontier — an entirely different sort of war.

It must be most unfair, and unjust, that active service in the Falklands and Rhodesia can be acknowledged and these many other campaigns not. Is it not possible for some form of Committee to be set up, to re-examine these anomalies in our medal award system and where appropriate issue campaign medals to those who have earned and deserved them? — Mr M E Sawyers, 44 Imber Road, Warminster, Wilts.

NO MACHINERY

May I be allowed to enlighten Sgt King (6 September) as to the reason why we in the ACF are scaled so low regarding the issues of arms and equipment and why what little we do have is so out of date.

Some years ago I attended my son's passing out parade at Chepstow and the QMG was the Inspecting Officer. During a brief conversation with him I spoke about the parlous state of affairs in the ACF and why we couldn't be issued with modern equipment which was classed as surplus before the dealers got it — most probably at knock down prices. His answer stunned me: "Sgt Major, there is no machinery set up to do it." And to my knowledge the system is still the same.

But I also believe very strongly that the people at the top who could improve matters dramatically in a short space of time have no idea of what is involved in keeping the interest of little Johnny Cadet alive and above all of the standards of Training and Proficiency laid down to be achieved at the different Star Levels.

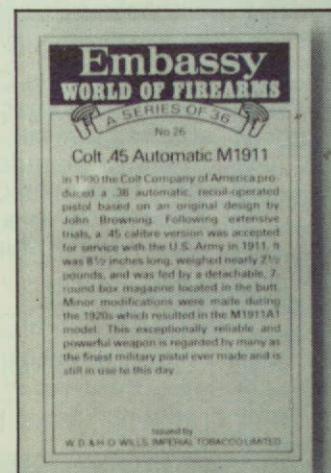
I have known Colonels and above say "Good God, I didn't know the training was anything like this" when they have seen the Training Manual for the first time. If a Cadet has been well trained according to the Manual I think he could beat most TA Infantrymen and would not be disgraced alongside the Regulars either. So until the system gets altered we instructors must be prepared to borrow, beg or spirit away anything that will help us to run our units. — CSM D Panther, D Company, Royal Anglian Army Cadet Force, Rear of Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, Northants.

A new set of military cigar cards is now being issued with packs of Embassy Slim Panatella fives and fifties and Embassy miniature cigar tens. It is the first military series to be issued by the Wills section of Imperial Tobacco but follows on series issued by Player with Doncella cigars.

'World of Firearms' is a series of 36 colour cards tracing the history of firearms from 14th century English hand guns through wheel-lock and flintlock pistols to rifles, automatic pistols and submachine guns. Brief details of each weapon are printed on the back and the whole set makes a small pocket encyclopaedia of the subject.



Colt .45 Automatic



Can You Help?

I am trying to write a small book about the human, personal, everyday life of the British soldier serving in India between the two wars (1919-1939).

I would appreciate hearing any interesting and amusing anecdotes from former soldiers and I am especially interested in contacting anyone who served with the 22nd (Cheshire) and The Somerset Light Infantry Regiments who were in India during part of this period. I will pay all postage costs. — Mr N Christenson, 4552 Ridge Road, Dallas 75229, Texas, USA.

Would you please print the following appeal for help in trying to trace my son (24027147) Sgt John Sorrenson, RAOC. I last saw and heard from him between 1976/78 when he was serving in Germany. He could now be in Ireland or in civvy street. His wife's name is Janet, née Brieley, born in Bilborough, Nottingham and they have three children.

I would be most grateful if someone could help me as I would like to see my grandchildren. — J H Sorrenson, (Ex 3rd King's Own Hussars) 32 Burlott Garth, Gower Road, Boothferry Estate, Hull, N Humberside.

I have in my possession a pair of Cross Shell cases made into ornaments. One is decorated with a pair of flags and bears the words *Bon Allies. Messines & le Marne 1914-1918*. The other is similar. Underneath they are marked with place of manufacture and date (1 March 1910 the other April 1917).

I understand these to be collectors' items and would like to know if any readers know what they are worth. — Mrs S E Sheldon, 91 Lorne Road, Greenlands East, Lincoln LN5 9TP.

Collectors' Corner

Walt Barrington, 2 Thrush House, Marlow Drive, Salford M6 6FR. Wants WWII Bakelite Cap Badges, Kings Own, S Lancs. Will exchange WLA HG and Tank Corps. Also some CEF. S.A.E. please.

Julian Tennant, 4 Garrison Drive,

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Bulletin No. 44 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

Bulletin 44 SUMMARY

Type 5	1 in Reading, Berkshire	£45,000
Type C	1 in Lower Wick, Worcester	£22,000
	1 in Wallingford, Oxford	£26,300
	3 in Orton Longueville, Peterborough	£21,250 -£23,000

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

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in bulletin number 44 is 3 November 1982

Glen Waverly, Victoria 3150 Australia. Wants anything to do with the SAS. In exchange can offer modern Australian army badges and militaria. Thomas, 31 St Chads Road, Bishops Tachbrook, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV33 9RB. Offers for sale collection of 500+ American badges, wings, collar badges, insignia etc of USMC, Airborne Forces, Special Forces, WW2 USAF and Infantry etc. £750 for quick sale includes postage and insurance.

SFC M H Johnson, 554TH MP Co, APO09131, 7000 Stuttgart 80 West Germany. Wants United Kingdom Air Forces Pocket Badge (UKAIR) and Allied Forces Zealand (Landzealand). Also Royal Marine Insignias.

Reunion

The Annual Dinner and Dance of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Staffordshire Regimental Association will be held at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London on Saturday 27 November 1982. Tickets from Secretary B J Harris, 29 The Square, Pevensey Bay, Sussex.

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Competition

We thought we would try something different in Competition 299, 'Puzzling Places' but we never thought it would stump you all to such an extent. Entries were well down on normal and only one was a hundred per cent correct! Not wishing to be too hard-hearted we decided to put those entries with only one place name wrong into a secondary draw for the remaining prizes. The answers were Andover, Brighton, Windsor, Dover, Lowestoft (this was the one that caused all the trouble), Nottingham, Flint, Sunderland, Haddington, Caledon, Elgin, Bodmin, Braintree, Kingston and Congleton. Prizewinners were: 1st Mr G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ; 2nd Cpl John Watson, USD, Ord Depot No 1, BFPO 806; 3rd Cpl F Peach, HQ RCT, British Forces Antwerp, BFPO 21; 4th Myra Hendstock, 60 Williams Crescent, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs OL9 8BJ; 5th Keith Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts SG6 4PQ.

How Observant Are You?

(See page 23)

1 Lower tail ribbon of highest kite; 2 Pattern of lower wing of left kite; 3 Left upright of railings below trees; 4 Waist of left running boy; 5 Size of owl-kite's beak; 6 Right point of soldier's collar; 7 Soldier's belt; 8 Pattern of girl's shirt below hair; 9 End of lowest kite's tail; 10 Slope of ground behind girl.

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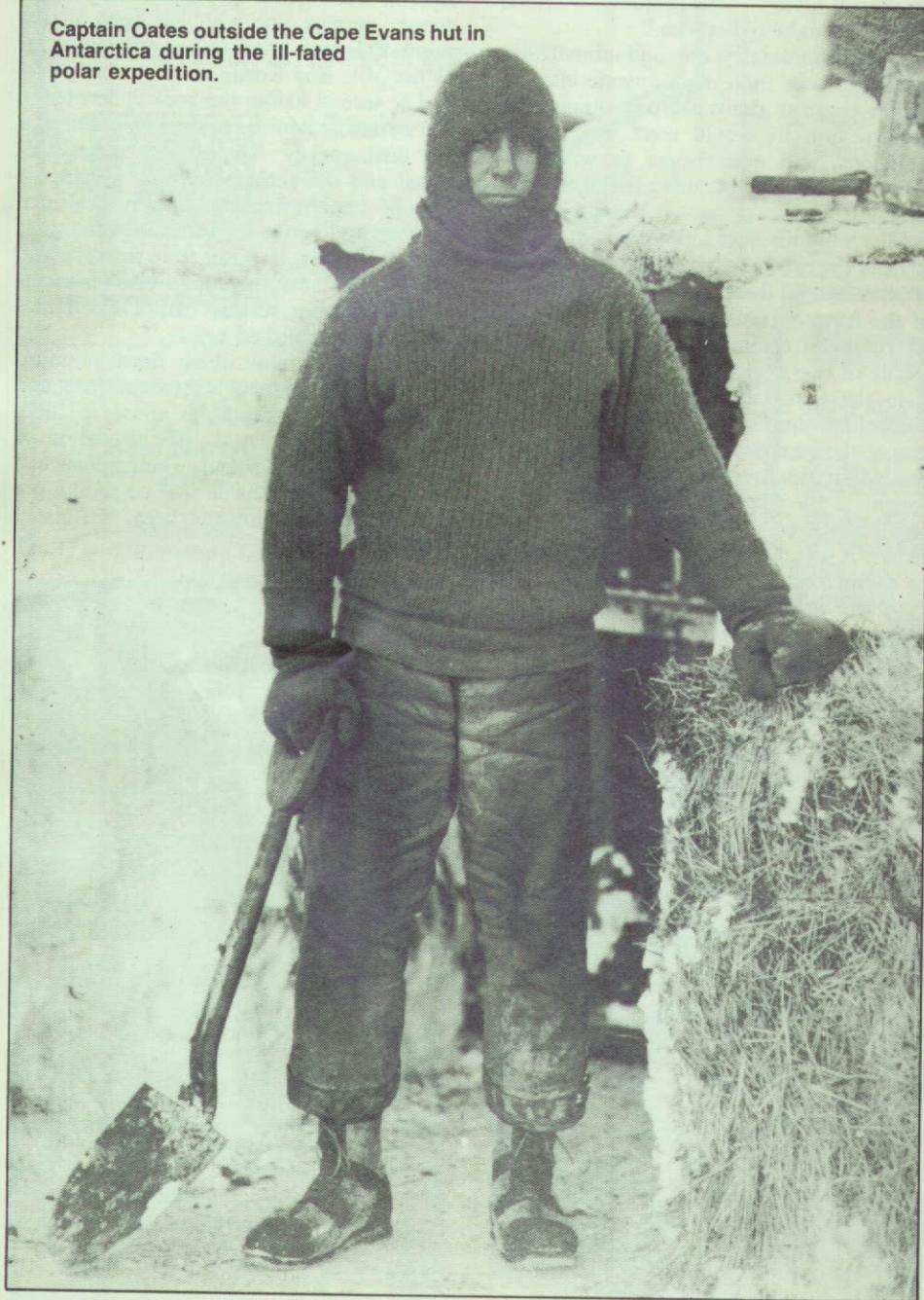
Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer, recently published by Batsford and written by Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Cordingley and Miss Susan Limb, refreshingly and unashamedly sets out to prove that Captain Lawrence Edward Grace Oates of the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons who died returning from the South Pole in 1912, aged 31, was a hero worth cherishing.

His life has, for the first time, been extensively researched by the authors, and this gives a fascinating insight into the char-

acter of a man who walked out of a tent into a freezing blizzard so that his fellow travellers would have a better chance of surviving.

Oates's example and final words, "I am just going outside and may be some time", fired the imagination of the Western World. A Belgian newspaper said, "When the question is asked, what is a true gentleman, our neighbours will have no need to search their history or their Shakespeare. It will suffice to reply that he is a man who behaves like Captain Oates". But since then doubt has been cast on the whole affair of Oates's

Captain Oates outside the Cape Evans hut in Antarctica during the ill-fated polar expedition.



CAPTAIN OATES
Soldier and Explorer



SUE LIMB AND PATRICK CORDINGLEY

death, in particular, by the controversial book *Scott and Amundsen* by Roland Huntford.

The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons was amalgamated with the 5th Dragoon Guards in 1922, and is now the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, which every year commemorates Oates with a memorial parade and church service.

It was during one such service that one of the regiment's officers, Patrick Cordingley, began to wonder about the story and what sort of man could have walked out to his death so unselfishly. He felt the time had come to find out and contacted the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge, and so his three-year study of the man began.

After a year he started a series of lectures on the subject, and on the day of the first lecture Roland Huntford's book was published. "As far as the Regiment was concerned this book was extremely disappointing, particularly in the treatment of Oates's death" he said.

"Huntford said Oates was in such a bad condition he was almost dead anyway, that he never muttered the famous words, and that Scott's account of the death was really a whitewash to cover up their own incompetence and bungling. From a regimental point of view this was really astounding and had to be refuted."

As fate had it, Lt-Col Cordingley then met Sue Limb, a journalist, who when in her teens had become enthralled with the story of Scott's expedition.

She had also become very friendly with Violet Oates, Oates's sister, and had been given access to letters written by Oates to his mother from childhood until his death, and also to the remnants of Oates's polar diary. She had already tried to write a biography, and so it was decided they would combine their talents and rewrite this, researching the early years and Oates's Army career.

They found the task fascinating and over the next two years set out to demonstrate that Oates's last act, of which there is no documentation or proof apart from Scott's diary, was totally in Oates's character.

"I had the conception of him being a

continued on page 42



Above: Oates with ponies and huskies sailing south on the *Terra Nova* and (below) on land with 'Snippets'.

typical cavalry officer of the time", Lt-Col Cordingley said, "but had no idea he was such a good one and liked so much by his



brother officers. Neither had I realised how important Oates was to Scott; he was in charge of the main method of transport to the South Pole — the ponies — which turned out to be old crocks."

Patrick Cordingley has undoubtedly researched Oates more than anyone else. "I almost began to think like him, know how he felt, how he would react in different situations, and even began to write my letters like him. He became a friend and was very much alive to me — I could almost predict what his next actions would be."

After the two years of research the authors were convinced that his renowned behaviour in the Antarctic was very typical of Oates. Even his last comment, they believed, was totally in character.

In the first half of the book there are compelling descriptions of the Army as it was at the beginning of the century. Oates served in northern Ireland, Egypt and fought in the Boer War where he was injured and recommended for a Victoria Cross. It was during a posting in India that he was chosen for the Antarctic expedition.

Oates wrote countless letters to his mother, many of which are quoted, describing the life in detail — complaining bitterly about conditions, enthusing over his horses and commenting on his fellow officers.



Officers of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons in Egypt. Oates is seated far left.



Oates as a boy (right) with his brother Bryan.

When he heard he had been chosen to accompany Scott he wrote, "It will help me professionally in the Army. If they want a man to wash labels off bottles they would sooner employ one who has been to the South Pole than one who has only got as far as the Mile End Road."

The second half of the book is devoted to the agonising journey to the South Pole and the final tragedy. The account is very detailed and the authors sensibly sought the help of modern explorers and medical men who could describe the conditions and what it would be like to suffer from frostbite and scurvy. The book includes over 60 fascinating photographs, at least half of which have never been published before.

"The inevitability of his death is unimportant. What matters is the timing of it and the manner in which he chose to die", Patrick Cordingley said. "He walked out, I believe, to give his friends a better chance to live, and should that be true he should not only remain a regimental hero, but also a national hero."



Lieutenant-Colonel Cordingley, 38, has recently completed a tour as second in command of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards based in Osnabrück, West Germany, and is now instructing at the Staff College, Camberley. He joined the 'Skins' in 1965 and has served with them in Cyprus, Libya, England and Germany. *Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer* published by Batsford is obtainable from UK bookshops price £12.50. Alternatively, it can be obtained from The PRI, 5 Innis DG, BFPO 36, for DM 39.

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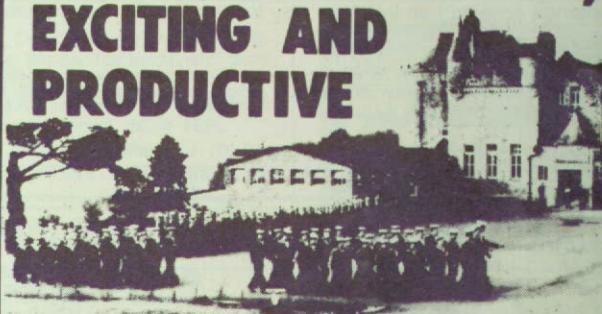
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Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

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Minor Units Rugby Final

PARA SAPPERS RETAIN TITLE

9 PARACHUTE SQN RE : 16

14 TOPOGRAPHICAL SQN RE : 13

A BIT EARLY in the season perhaps for a final but it just goes to show that the Army does have better things to do than play sport all the time. For this was the Minor Units Challenge Cup 1981/1982 postponed from April when 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers were preparing for another scrum — in the Falklands.

All but one of the side fielded by 9 Squadron sailed to the South Atlantic and despite their hazardous job of clearing the mines ahead of the advance on Port Stanley, all returned safely.

Their opponents, 14 Topographical Squadron RE, meanwhile spent the summer peacefully in Germany. With former Army captain Andy Hoon in the side they looked set to give 9 a fright and perhaps unseat them from the premier position. This all-Sapper final was a repeat of the previous year when the Paras won by a whisker with a score of 9-8.

The forwards featured strongly in this game due to the slow and sodden Aldershot pitch. The rain fell steadily all day, not letting up for a moment during the game. The holders are known to like open running play and if the ground had been drier it would have been a different game altogether. Even so there were several good breakaways from both sides.

It was the Para outside half, Corporal Derek Sowden, who scored first and last, both with penalty goals. The first came within three minutes of the start but was almost immediately followed by an unconverted try from the red-shirted 'Topos' wing forward, Caisley. Two

more tries from Smith and Bassett, the last converted by Sowden, put the Paras well in the lead but the 'Topos' gained much ground with a pushover try by the No 8, Huish, converted by Mayor, bringing the score to 13-10 at half time.

Mayor again scored early in the second half, this time with an equalising penalty goal. Signs of tiredness and injury now began to show as the teams struggled with the stop-start play to get a lead. This came when the red shirts' replacement full back, Gatley, was caught in front of his goal and conceded a penalty. Sowden's kick gave 9 Squadron back the lead and this proved to be the last score at 16-13.

The game now became very tough and even a bit scrappy as the 'Topos', desperate to catch up, fought hard to recreate the pushover try in the first half. Despite taking a beating, the Paras stood their ground till the end with skipper 'Adge' Iles, (looking anything but agile), soundly effective in the full back position.

'Adge' said afterwards, "It was a very hard game and 14 should have won really, but they played too hard in the second half, hurting their own game, so it didn't come off — luckily!" He also



Above: 9 Para score one of their tries while (below) they swarm into the attack again.



said the game had been tiring and wondered if his side had really been fit enough. "We've not had long to train — only three weeks since we came back off leave after the Falklands."

With one victory after another 9 Squadron, flush with success, are ready for anything — even Belize in January, their next posting. So this year's final will see at least one different side.

Army are Services small bore crackshots

DESPITE MISSING three of their number who were competing in the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, the Army team swept the board in all the events in the 1982 Inter-Services Long Range Small Bore Championships.

In the team scores the Regular Army's total from both the long range and 50 metres matches exceeded that of their nearest rivals by more than 130 points. Five Service teams took part and the TA team came third. In the PSK the regular Army ended up with a score of 6542 — over 500 points ahead of the next team, the Royal Naval Reserve.



The wet and squally weather made conditions unpleasant and difficult and generally affected the standard of shooting. This did not seem to bother Major Alan Glasby RAOC, though, who won the PSK Individual Championship for the second year running scoring 1129 points out of a possible 1200 — an improvement of four points on

his winning score of 1981 which was shot in far better conditions.

The name of Major Peter Martin DERR, familiar to SOLDIER sport readers, appears again as the third time champion in the long range Individual Championship. His score was 1960 points out of a possible 2000 — 11 points clear of the rest of the field.

WIN FOR POLICY HOLDER

LIEUTENANT John Caiger of 22nd Air Defence Regiment together with Brigadier Mike Jones, Commander Royal Artillery 3rd Armoured Division, were the mens double winners of the Dortmund Garrison Tennis Tournament, sponsored by the Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society. John has a policy with the Clerical Medical so was more than happy to be the joint winner of a handsome shield and a set of tennis balls.

Captain Ron Coleman of 19 Field Regiment was the mens singles winner narrowly beating Brig Jones.

Darts players, please!

Testing time for sailors

TORRENTIAL RAIN on the first day of the Inter-Services Single-Handed Dinghy Championships did not dampen the spirits of the record turnout of 42 helmsmen who went to Netley Sailing Club on Southampton Water for the two-day event. And they were rewarded with brilliant second day sunshine.

There was a fair breeze for most of the time which resulted in some testing sailing for the three Services' top Laser dinghy sailors.

With last year's champion, S/Sgt Dave Leslie, and runner-up S/Sgt Dave Miles on overseas postings, the field was clear for fresh blood to tussle for the titles.

But many of the top helmsmen were far from newcomers to the sport. The top Army contestant who came second overall was veteran dinghy expert Lt-Col Stuart Jardine, Royal Engineers.

He admitted to being "over 45" to qualify for — and win — the veteran's cup among his other prizes of the day.

Keeping sailing in the family was Col Jardine's son, Apprentice L/Cpl Robert Jardine, RE, who finished as leading under-18 sailor of the meeting at 20th overall.

The top trophy went to the Royal Navy with Sub-Lt Dane Halling winning two of the four races and coming second and third in the others.

SHARPEN your 'arrers'. Stand by your boards. We're off on the darts trail again with our second great worldwide SOLDIER Darts Contest.

Last year's event proved a great success with 42 teams entering and the final being fought out between Cyprus and Norway — a truly international darts battle.

This year we'd like to see twice as many teams tilting for the title. Entry is absolutely free and you don't need to travel any further than your nearest dart board. If you can't meet your opponents face to face you play them by post instead. Just how is explained in the rules on page 29.

As we stressed when we launched our first contest you don't need to be a darts wizard to take part. We're not looking for a handful of experts representing a whole corps or regiment. What we want to see — again — is lots and lots of small groups entering, soldiers and civilians.

The only condition of entry is that each team *must* be a regular purchaser of SOLDIER (you'll need coupons from future issues to prove it) and *must* — in the case of non-serving entrants — be members of an organisation with military affiliations (eg an MOD establishment or an Old

DARTS CONTEST ENTRY FORM SEE PAGE 29

Comrades' Association.)

All fixtures and results will be published in SOLDIER and they'll be individually notified to each team. There'll be trophies for the winners and runners-up plus individual replicas and some other prizes, too. We'll be giving full details later.

All you have to do is get your friends together and fill in the entry form on page 29. The contest will run for quite a few months so to take care of temporary absences you can nominate up to six players — but only one can play in any one game (there are three games to a match).

All entries must be submitted not later than Monday 15 November. So get your friends together, fill in the form and send it off right away. It could be your first step on the road to darts stardom!

The ones that didn't get away

WARM SULTRY WEATHER for the third year running greeted the Army and Inter-Services Fly Fishing Competition at Rutland Water. There were 32 entries for the Army match competing for best bag and best fish trophies.

After a day of fine sport and



Sgt Woolacott and Capt York pictured after the Army event.

agonising stories of monster fish breaking heavy lines, Captain Donald York, Life Guards, stationed at MVEE Kirkcudbright, weighed in with a startling 15 lbs 2½ ozs bag including a brownie of almost three-and-a-half lbs. He took the overall competition and the best fish trophy went to Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Leech RA with a handsome fish tipping the scales at 4 lbs 8 ozs.

Other notable bags were taken by WO 1 Mike Wall RRF, Sgt David Woolacott RAOC and Captain Peter Holdsworth QDG. The fourteen man team was then selected for the Inter-Services event. Undoubtedly favourites were the RAF with their local knowledge and predominantly lure stripping team — and so it proved. They had a total catch of 112 lbs 8½ ozs followed by the Army with 68 lbs 6 ozs and the Navy with 35 lbs 8 ozs. But Sgt Woolacott took the best individual bag with 11 lbs 13½ ozs.



MARATHON PIONEERS

PICTURED LIMBERING up for the Berlin Marathon are men of the Royal Pioneer Defence Company's team based in Bielefeld. Rhine Army units made up almost a quarter of the 4000 competitors from 37 countries who took part in the race through Berlin's main streets on a hot Sunday morning. Major Lawrence Stacey, OC of the Company, led the Pioneers, all of whom successfully completed the course.

SOCCER ROUND-UP

Fine Start Army 2 Uxbridge 1

With most of their senior players touring the Caribbean with the Combined Services, the Army feared the worst in their opening game of the season against the Isthmian League newcomers. But they fought with great determination to earn a fine win.

Sgt Tom Armstrong gave them a dream start with an early penalty after hand-ball on the goal line. But after near misses at both ends Uxbridge levelled when Cfn Vince Davey turned a cross into his own goal under pressure.

The ding-dong struggle continued after the break but it was the Army who made the decisive breakthrough, Cpl Wayne Perry sending over an inch perfect centre for Sgt 'wee' Willy Morton to head home.

Big let down AFA 3 Army 0

Army euphoria at their opening success quickly evaporated in this clash with an average Amateur Football Alliance side. At full strength the soldiers would have expected to win comfortably, but in the end they were relieved to escape an even heavier drubbing. The Army looked bereft of fitness and ideas and were already three goals adrift by half-time.

Gale force win

Army 3 HM Prison Services 1

Despite the problems of an end-to-end gale force wind, both sides served up some reasonable entertainment with the Army just getting on top in the final stages.

Still experimenting with their team for the coming season, the Army took a first half lead through SI Jim Faulkner after a fine pass from Cpl Rudi Fleming. But the 'warders' equalised after the break with a thunderous shot from one of their midfield men.

Just when a draw looked on the cards SI Tom Armstrong cashed in on a goalkeeping fumble to restore the soldiers' lead and five minutes later Faulkner rounded off some good approach work to score his second goal.

Best to date

Carshalton 0 Army 4

This was the Army's best performance for a long time and sweet revenge for a 5-1 defeat on their last visit to the Isthmian League Premier Division side.

With their more experienced players back from the Caribbean sunshine the Army were quickly into their stride, Sgt Gary Kilsby volleying home from the edge of the box in their first attack. And the soldiers increased their lead before the interval through L/Cpl 'Scouse' Munro.

The Army went further ahead after the break when Sgt Ali McDonald strode through a square defence to score from outside the area, and L/Cpl 'Ginger' Butler cracked home the fourth after good work by Spr Malcolm Briggs.

SIX-A-SIDE SIGNALS SINK THE SAPPERS

TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL ENGINEERS, winners of the Army Six-a-Side Football Championships for five out of the last seven seasons, crashed out of this year's competition in the semi-finals when they were well beaten by the 8 Signal Regiment B team from Catterick.

The signallers went on to narrowly defeat the competition's shock team, 10 UDR from Belfast, in a hard fought final. The Ulstermen had beaten 1 Gordons A team 2-1 in the second semi-final.

Fifteen teams representing all the eight UK Home Commands took part in the competition, which is sponsored by Pace Petroleum. One team failed to appear and the rest were divided into two sections with all teams playing each other on a league basis. At the end of this gruelling marathon three semi-finalists had been chosen but the Gordons had to replay the Depot RA to decide the fourth.

The Belfast team had won their way to Aldershot from a packed Northern Ireland competition in which 35 teams were entered. Their manager, WO 2 Tom Black, said the team had been almost completely rebuilt from the side which won the Infantry Cup in 1980.

"We are the largest battalion in the British Army at 1100 strong and so we should have a decent selection of footballers," he said. "But we have heard rumours from certain people here that we are playing professional players. What I want to say is that every one we have here is an amateur. The rumours are just sour grapes."

Mr Black said his team were unable to train together due to

operational commitments and only met to play actual matches. One or two players had been left behind for the same reason and the inside right was playing in goal.

QMSI Chris Brown, his opposite number with 8 Signals, expressed no surprise at reaching the final. "I came here feeling confident with the quality of the players and thought we had a good chance."

It was the Catterick team who took an early lead in the final through their lanky striker, Corporal Phil Welham. He added two more including a penalty and 8 Signals looked home and dry. But just before the turn round Lance-Corporal Andy Hill in goal made a rare mistake and the Ulstermen pulled back to 3-1.

In the second half the Irish team piled on the pressure and a flying header reduced the deficit to one. But when the ten minutes ran out 8 Signal Regiment had emerged the winners from a long hard day of football.

The rest of their team was: L/Cpl John Tayne (captain), Sig Mick Halligan, Cpl Robbie Hall, Cpl Ally Mackenzie, Cpl 'Sugar' Barclay and Sig Martin Oxley.

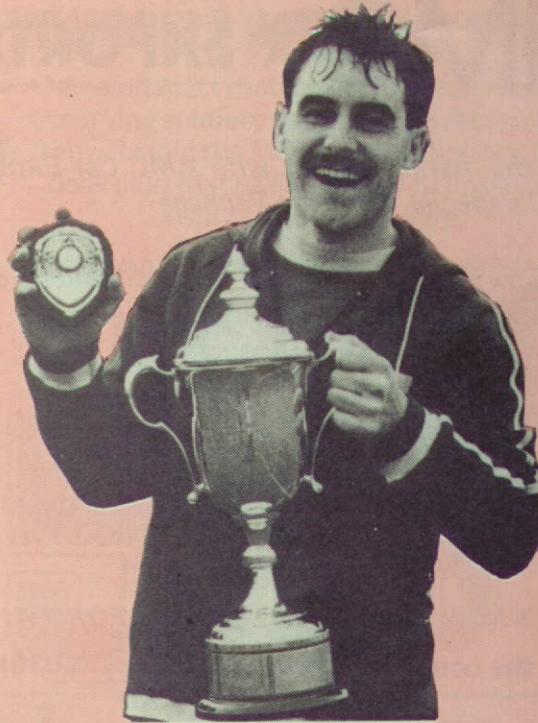
The Ulstermen (light shirts) put up a heroic struggle in the final.



NEW MARTIAL ARTS GROUP

THE ARMY Karate-Jutsu has opened in the training hall of the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot. Open to Army personnel of any age or sex, the classes are on Monday evenings and will include a beginners course.

Chief Instructor is Mr Stuart Reed and he will provide basic training as an introduction to the martial art. Training fees are £1 per session and further details are available from Mr Reed on 01-218 2783.



Delighted skipper, John Tayne, with the Sixes trophy.

Brisbane medal crop for Army marksmen

SERGEANT BILL MacNEIL of the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games at Brisbane. In the air rifle team shooting MacNeil and his partner A Allan, representing Scotland, scored 1137 points to beat England by eleven.

Two other Army marksmen were also taking part in the Games. They were WO 2 Jim Cairns of the Small Arms School Corps, stationed at Warminster (also appearing for Scotland) and WO1 Chris Godwin, ACC Aldershot, for England.

Cairns got a team silver medal in the rapid fire — an event in which Godwin's team came fourth. Allan and MacNeil took a bronze in the smallbore three position team event. In the centre fire team competition Cairns and his partner H Hunter took a bronze while Cairns also picked up a silver in the individual centrefire pistol.

There was bronze for Godwin in the individual rapid fire pistol while MacNeil came eighth in the air rifle event.

On the track, Army women's sprint champion and record holder, Captain Angela Carter WRAC (Mrs Angela Owen) represented the Isle of Man, where she was born. But she failed to survive the heats in the 100 and 200 metres.

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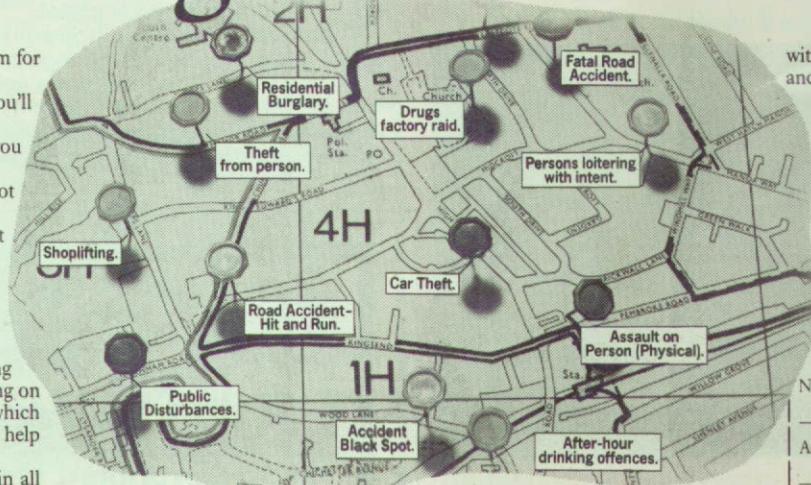
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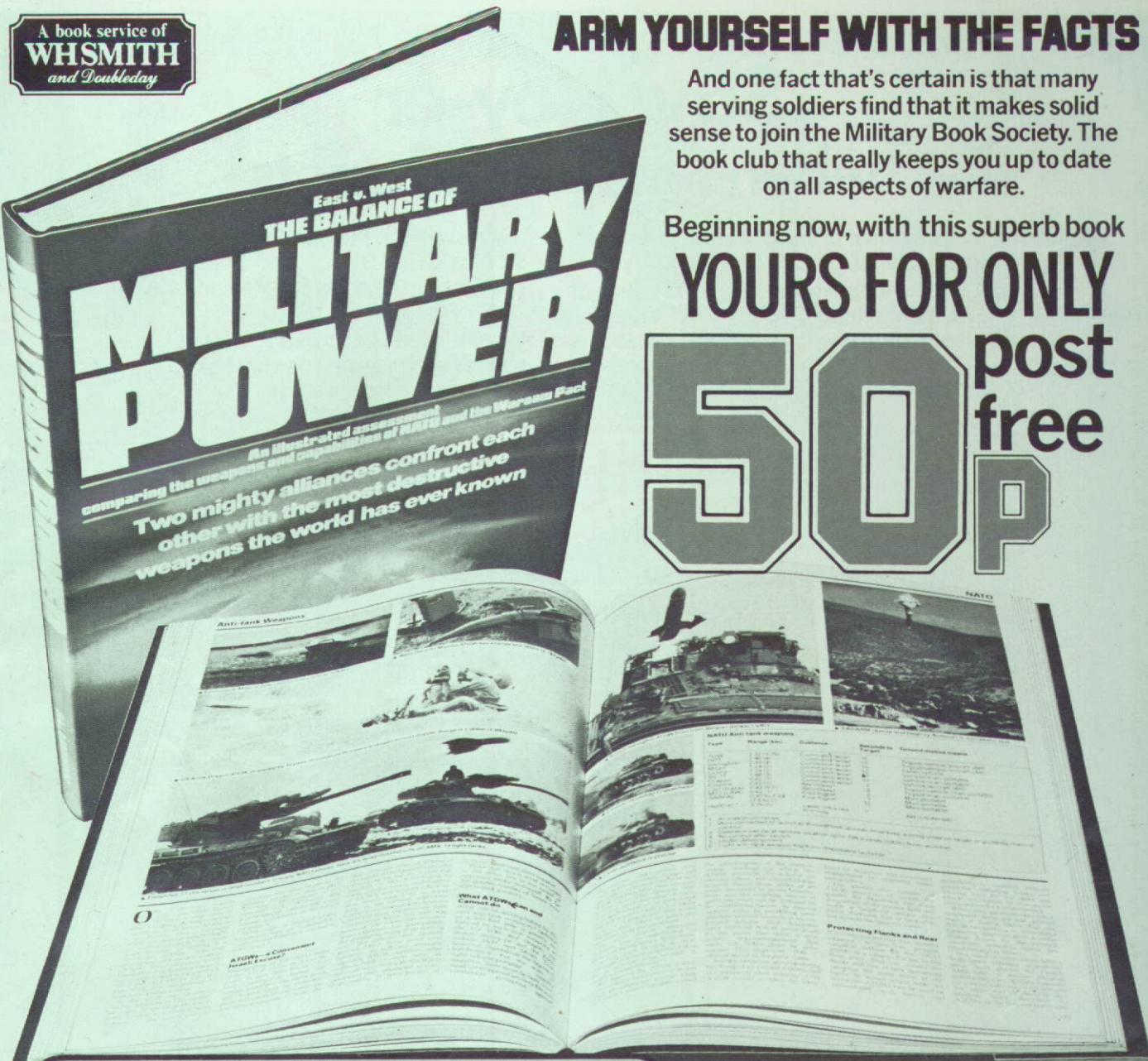
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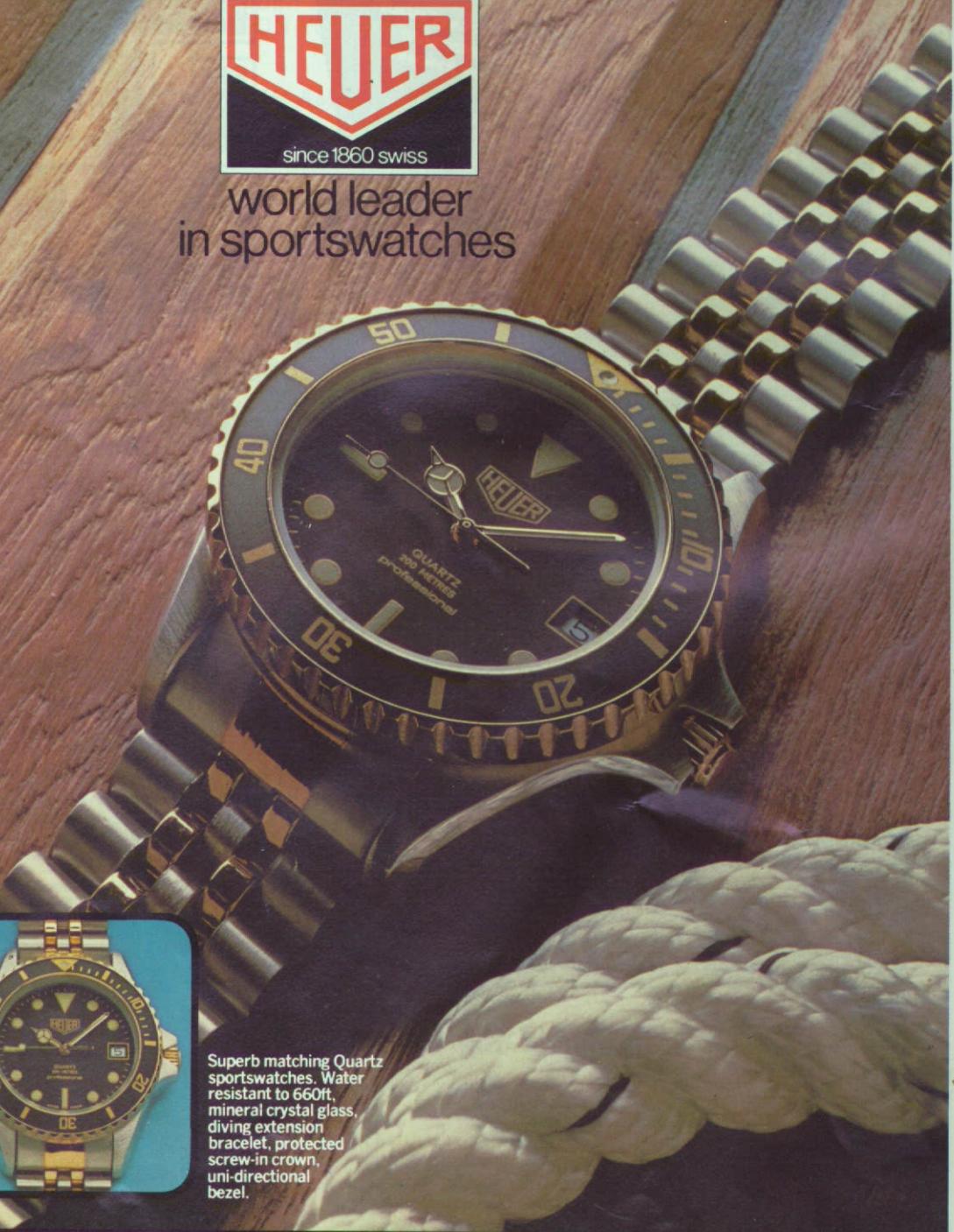
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