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FRONT COVER: Recruits Ian Melville (front) and John Swell practice swimming for survival. See story page 16.
Picture: Les Wiggs

BACK COVER: An Army Resettlement Centre student tries his hand at welding. See story page 28.
Picture: Doug Pratt

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SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

DELICIOUS!

FOOD of unexpectedly high quality, with a variety of choice truly amazing almost everywhere'. That's the finding of an inspection team sent out by no less an authority than Egon Ronay to find out how well the Services eat.

The accolade to Service caterers has just been published in Mr Ronay's Lucas Guide 1985 to Hotels, Restaurants and Inns. After visiting junior ranks messes at 17 units in Britain and West Germany last spring, and sampling 220 dishes, the team concluded that the level of catering in the Armed Forces is much superior to that in civilian mass catering — the food is 'infinitely better', the choice and variety great, the management far more conscientious, efficient, intelligent and concerned to please.

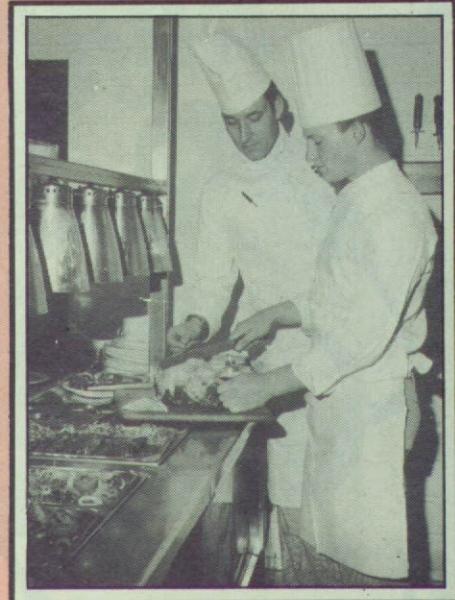
The inspection team was given a free hand by the Ministry of Defence, and visited ships at sea, air force bases under operational conditions, field kitchens and a military hospital.

The Guide (published by Mitchell Beazley at £7.50) comments that cleanliness of the junior ranks messes at the 17 units visited was 'universally remarkable'. Food preferences of the personnel were sounded out constantly.

English puddings — 'beautifully cooked' — were the strongest points. Several dishes they found were as good as in a starred restaurant. The inspectors mentioned among their outstanding examples 'model' croquette potatoes and delicious spring rolls and Singapore noodles at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich; a mushroom omelette — 'soft in the centre as the French like' — at the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Depot, Mill Hill, London; and 'the best creme caramel the inspectors have tasted in years' at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.

They were so impressed with the Army School of Catering at Aldershot, where the 54 kitchen classrooms are shared with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, that Mr Ronay himself asks "Why not privatise in reverse?". If you look at the school with civilian eyes its potential goes far beyond its present use, he says. His 'unorthodox' (his word) suggestion is that if there is unused capacity, why not put the 'wonderful and highly successful' training facilities to private use, perhaps by supplementing its personnel.

"Many catering chains, who have a lot to learn, would jump at the opportunity,



Succulent slices of meat like these being carved at the Army School of Catering help make the Army's food such high quality.

and the financial quid pro quo might go a long way towards covering the budget of Army catering training," he suggests.

As a complete contrast to their inspection of the Army School of Catering, the inspectors visited a cooking unit in the field. They tried pork chop, mash and peas cooked over a petrol-fuelled stove only minutes after the cooks had left defensive positions in a camouflaged copse. 'Tasty and entirely satisfactory' was their verdict. A tinned mixed fruit pudding in operational packs which they tasted on one of their operational sorties was, they thought, 'a knock-out'.

Other Army units visited by the team were the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield; Headquarters 36 Regiment, Royal Engineers, Invicta Barracks, Maidstone; 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, Tidworth; and 1st Royal Horse Artillery, Haig Barracks, and Army field units in West Germany.

The Guide points out that in serving the 'awesome' number of 430,000 meals a day, the Services have to maintain the vital link between morale and food. A Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy commented: "Fifty per cent of morale comes out of the kitchen."

From the Egon Ronay findings, morale must be very high!

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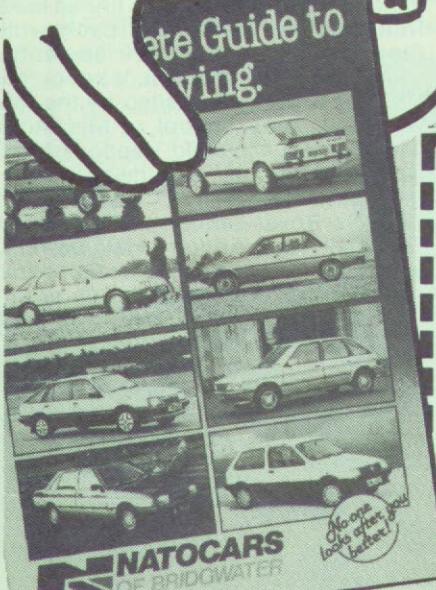
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BATTLE OF THE BULGE

THEN AND NOW

Jean Paul Pallud

Nine days before Christmas 1944 Hitler played Germany's last card, on which he staked everything to turn the tables in the West. The massive, stunning blow he struck in eastern Belgium caught the Allies totally unawares, yet a week later the panzers had still not crossed the Meuse in the first phase of an ambitious attack aimed at recapturing Antwerp and cutting off the Allied forces to the north.

What lay behind this all-out offensive which Hitler acknowledged would decide whether Germany was to live or die? An integral part of this book is concerned with the plans and preparations for the so-called 'master stroke'. The various options considered, the operational orders, the precise armoured strengths of forces scraped together, the measures to keep the build-up in the Eifel a secret — these are some of the elements that add fresh detail to the mounting of the offensive under the deliberately 'defensive' codename of 'Watch on the Rhine'.

From zero-hour on 'O-Tag', the German onslaught along eighty miles of lightly held American front line in the Ardennes is traced, culminating in the attacking forces dogged defence to prevent the 'Bulge' they had driven into the Allied line from becoming a trap as Patton's Third Army battered away from the south and the US First Army struck back from the north.

The siege of Bastogne . . . the 'Malmedy Massacre' . . . Skorzeny's commandos . . . Kampfgruppe Peiper . . . the defence of Saint-Vith: the varied impact of the Ardennes Offensive assured a lasting place in the history books for the lore of the Battle of the Bulge — of events that captured the headlines at a time when the Allies were wrapped up in planning Germany's defeat.

This is the first time that an attempt has been made to cover the entire salient in order to present the battle in the 'then and now' format for which *After the Battle* publications are renowned. Hundreds of miles have been travelled by the author throughout every corner of the battlefield to search out the scenes of past events, and the fact that many previously published photographs have now been pinpointed has enhanced their significance accordingly. Every known photograph belonging to combatants, civilians, and in public collections and private sources has been sought or considered. All the cine film has been examined frame by frame and certain sequences illustrated and analysed. In this way a number of classic pictures almost always used — or misused — in depicting the Ardennes battle are not only placed in their context in the German advance but are also shown to be not always quite what they seem!

Nowhere in Western Europe is there a battlefield of this significance that contains so much of continuing interest in relation to what still remains to be seen, and the book concludes with a survey of the relics, memorials and museums that remain — including a prolific amount of armour that vies both numerically and for authenticity with anything to be seen elsewhere in the West.

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Cheers for the Grenadiers

AS AN assault course it probably wasn't the most demanding ever made. But men of the 1st Battalion, the Grenadier Guards, designed and built this particular series of obstacles with no intention of training soldiers. The aim was to provide mentally handicapped school children with a means of improving physical fitness and co-ordination.

The Battalion lives in the Cavalry Barracks at Hounslow and the first they knew of the needs of Oaklands School in the nearby district of Isleworth was a telephone call from Ms Edith Card, the headmistress, asking for help.

Ms Card runs what claims to be the world's first secondary school for the mentally handicapped. Such an institution has, naturally, special requirements and its headmistress candidly admits to having no reticence at all when it comes to soliciting aid from the local community.

Her call to the Grenadiers was not in vain.

"We went across to Northern Ireland and the project went into abeyance until about March or April this year when we took it up again," said Major James Scott-Clarke, the OC of Support Company.



"We found all the materials — paving slabs, trunks of trees and so on — from the Royal Engineers down in Minley Manor. Just a few odds and ends they didn't need and would probably have thrown away.

"It took about three weeks to build. It's a very simple project because it is not an assault course nor an actual playground as perhaps you and I would imagine it, because we are dealing with mentally handicapped children who are subsequently physically unco-ordinated and who have physical handicaps as well.

"So really it's a very simple, low profile little play area which suits them very well."

QMSI Richard Wilson came down to see what was required

and assess the children's abilities before going away to design the half dozen or so obstacles.

He described his few PT sessions with the children as a "very rewarding experience. It's a test to see what they can get out of them."

Ms Card, for her part, was most impressed with the Army instructor. "It's so different from the way our teachers would speak to them," she said. "And the children responded very well. I think they liked the uniform."

It was decided that there would be no elaborate ceremonies for the official opening. But Major Scott-Clarke came down with some of

the assault pioneers from Support Company who had done much of the actual building. And QMSI Wilson was there to issue a challenge.

"We have designed and built it," he told the assembled children. "But you've got to win it."

"If you don't," he added brandishing a pick and shovel at them, "we are going to dig it up and take it away!"

So the race was on against the clock. First a group of more able children went across the paving stones and wooden planks, scrambled through the plastic tunnel, and over the log bridge, before hauling themselves through the tyres at the end of the course.

Then QMSI Wilson followed with his assistant, Guardsman Mark Holgate. Just to make matters more interesting they roped their legs together and tackled the course in such a way that a careful observer might have concluded they were trying to catch the match.

Their time was just two seconds outside the school effort, according to the official timekeeper who had been briefed beforehand to rig the time if necessary. And Oaklands School, much to the surprise of no-one, kept their prize.

HAPPINESS IS TWO TAPES



On Parade for the Mayor

LIFE BACK home seemed just that little bit closer for the men of 14th Signal Regiment (EW), Royal Signals, when they hosted a visit by Cr Terry Wathen, Mayor of Gloucester, a city with which the Regiment has strong connections.

The Mayor appeared to have brought sunshine to Scheuen, and a parade in his honour was a glittering occasion, with marching music provided by the band of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

The parade provided an opportunity for the Mayor to present

LS and GCMs to Warrant Officer 2 Neil Mapp, Sergeant John Grogan, Corporals Raymond Clarke and Robert Henderson, and the South Atlantic Medal with Rosette to Lance Corporal Steve Harrison.

Before flying back to UK from Hanover Airport, the Mayor and Mrs Wathen were taken on a conducted tour of the Inner German Border, accompanied by Lieutenant John Davis of 14th Signal Regiment, and Mr Tom Jones of British Frontier Service.



SIX Yorkshiremen with broad smiles and extra weight on their shoulders. They had all just been told of their promotion to full Corporal by their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Bill Merchant-Smith.

All six Tykes are members of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards at Osnabrück with BAOR.

Left to right are Battalion Boxer, canoeist and rugby player Cpl Keith Dobson; Cpl Ian Metcalfe; Cpl Dave Clark; Cpl John Duffy; Cpl Paul Attwood; and Regimental Clerk Cpl Phillip Blades.

'JAWS' HUNTERS

SIX MEN from 12 Ordnance Company based at Osnabrück, BAOR, are planning to swap spanners for rod and reinforced line 'Down Under' next year during a shark-hunting expedition called Exercise Jaws Diamond.

The men, who will be based at Port Lincoln, South Australia, will be after the 30-foot-plus predators which tip the scales at more than five tons each.

Led by WO 2 (CSM) Danny Daniel, the BAOR big game fisherman designate plan to beat the present record of a 2,600-lb catch. Before their departure for the other side of the world, the sextet will be getting in some practice in Cornwall.

A video film will be made of the venture hopefully showing the one that didn't get away!

MARATHON MONEY ...

MEN from 259 Signal Squadron based at Episkopi, Cyprus, raised £200 for a local institute for the mentally and physically retarded by taking part in a sponsored run to mark the Queen's birthday, selling firewood around the married quarters and then a car-washing morning at the Episkopi shopping centre, 'Dodge City'.

And a marathon based on the Depot of the Royal Irish Rangers at Ballymena has raised £270 towards a local charity — the Ballymena Gateway Club, one of 30 in Ulster and part of a nationwide organisation with the aim of providing recreational activities for the mentally handicapped.

... and more

IT TOOK four days for them to do it — but they did. A sponsored 276-mile run through the recruiting areas of The Queen's Regiment by the regimental information team which raised £1,661 for charity.

Brigadier H Millman, Colonel of the Regiment — he is also the Eastern Regional organiser of the Army Benevolent Fund — received a cheque for half the amount from Private Michael Southen. The rest goes to a fund for the mentally handicapped in Maidstone.

CANNES WANTS GORDONS BACK



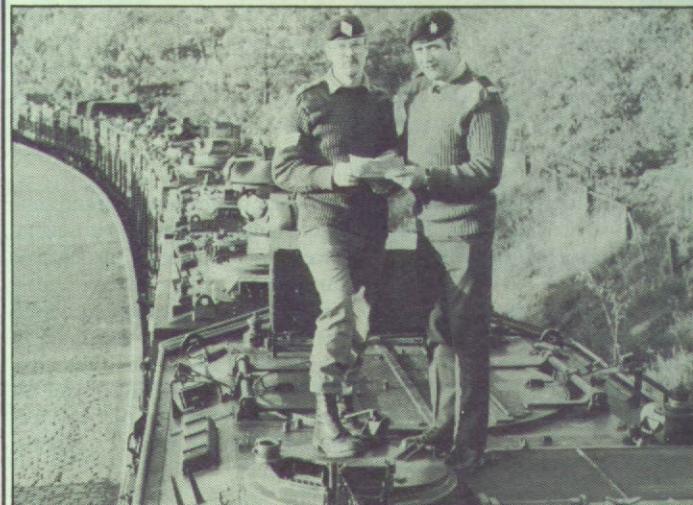
A NORTHERN IRELAND Signal Squadron — No 233 — started its own brand of advanced driving skills two years ago and, since then, 28 of them (and former members, too), have passed the

THE GORDON Highlanders, whose pipe and military bands made the entente even more cordial when they took part in the 150th anniversary celebrations of the British community in Cannes, have been promised a return trip to France next year after high praise for their performance.

As they were leaving, the Hon Angus Ogilvy made a point of adding his own congratulations to Pipe Major Ronnie Henderson. Many of the bandmen were wondering if a hiccup in French cuisine had given them tummy upsets which caused a few musicians to fall out for a while. But the honour of France remains intact: the Gordons probably imported a viral form of gastro-enteritis which is running round their base at Hemer in West Germany.

Photograph shows Princess Alexandra and her husband talking to Bandmaster WO1 David Knox.

Passing on the Panzers



"I DON'T care if you think it was an excellent hand-over and we've given bags of assistance — you're not taking my panzers away till you've signed for them!" jokes Sergeant John Hyde (right) with Sergeant Paul Salt. John was seeing off the last of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters' armoured vehicles from Hemer to Paderborn where they will now serve the Queen's Lancashire Regiment. The Woofers are returning to UK to become demonstration battalion at Warminster.

BETTER THAN AVERAGE DRIVERS

Advanced Driving Test.

In addition, they have also become members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, each having had a maximum of ten hours 'on road' training from their resident MT Staff Sergeant, D Sparkes.

He says: "For the Security Forces, driving in Northern Ireland means additional pressures, therefore, it is only sensible that we should encourage our members to be better than average to deal with various situations."

YOUR
MOVE!

IT'S all change for the fast-stepping (140 paces-to-the-minute) men of the Light Infantry. The 2nd Battalion moves out of Wootton Camp near Blackpool after three years in station and heads out to Hemer near Iserlohn while the 1st Battalion moves into Wootton from Munster in BAOR.

QDG — 'VALIANT PEACE KEEPERS'

THE DIFFICULT and dangerous mission undertaken by the Queen's Dragoon Guards last year when they acted as peace keepers in that decidedly unpeaceful region known as the Lebanon, has been honoured by the award of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for 1983.

At a ceremony held at Cardiff Castle, the QDG CO, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Ferguson, received the sword from the Armed Forces Minister, Mr John Stanley.

According to the Minister, who had visited the troops in Beirut, it was "a most valiantly conducted international peace-keeping operation."

The official citation said the QDG were frequently under fire as they strove to bring a semblance of peace and stability to a country torn apart by political and religious hatred.

"They lived with uncertainty and yet brought a degree of stability and reassurance to all communities in Beirut. This undoubtedly saved lives and enabled the leaders to continue discussions."

QDG's actions, in the best traditions of the British Army, had won both the respect and confidence of the people of Beirut in a dangerous and delicate situation.

Major Mike Boissard, the commander of A Squadron, QDG, said: "In the midst of all the devastation the men proved again that the British soldier is a superb ambassador."

"Their professionalism and constant vigilance together with a large slice of luck enabled them to come through the entire tour without a single serious casualty. Although there were frequent incidents in which they came under direct fire, both in the British Base and on patrol in the city, the soldiers showed great self-control and never fired back."

The horrific bombings of the American and French contingents were grim reminders of what could happen if the guard was dropped, Major Boissard added. Operations were conducted in the midst of fighting that ranged from sniping to all-out battles.

Staff Sergeant Dave Freeman, troop leader of A Squadron was amazed at the gratifying reception from the local people which was apparent from their very first Ferret patrol through Beirut.

"They were overjoyed at the sight of the Union Jack," he said,



A smiling Lt Col Ferguson, QDG Commanding Officer, accepts the Sword from Armed Forces Minister John Stanley, at the Cardiff Castle ceremony.

"and we were proud to display our Regimental crest alongside. The most rewarding aspect of the tour came when the British contingent was asked to guard the militia leaders during the peace talks."

The sword will go on permanent display at QDG's Regimental HQ and will be carried by their Commanding Officer on cere-

monial occasions.

The presentation might almost be seen as a curtain raiser to next year when the Regiment celebrates its tercentenary. The QDG was formed in January 1959 with the amalgamation of the 1st Kings Dragoon Guards and the Queen Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), both of which were raised by James II in 1685.

CASH HELP FOR WAR WIDOWS' VISITS

WITH £150,000 of the Government's money to spend, the Royal British Legion is anxious to hear from war widows who have yet to make a visit to their husbands' graves.

The grant was announced by the Armed Forces Minister (Mr John Stanley) who told the House of Commons: "We have come to the conclusion it would be far better to provide assistance at last to a considerable number of widows rather than to go on giving no assistance at all."

The Royal British Legion immediately welcomed the Government's decision and agreed to assume all responsibility for making arrangements for the visits.

In the words of General Secretary, Major Bob Tomlins: "We gladly undertake to extend our existing expertise in this field as rapidly as possible, in order to make available, with the minimum delay, pilgrimage facilities which will allow the maximum numbers of widows to be taken abroad to war cemeteries in 1985 and thereafter, by the most economic means acceptable."

No one can begin to guess the demand until applications from war widows have been received and collated. But it seems fairly certain that the Far East will be the centre of most interest.

After the war the Legion ran a similar scheme on Government

money, but concentrated on North Africa, Italy and the Near East.

Widows who went on that scheme will not be eligible under the present arrangement. And neither will women whose husbands died on Service abroad after 1967, because since then it has been Government policy to allow one free trip to any Forces widow whose husband is buried abroad.

All this would seem to concentrate attention on the Far East and on the widows of those who died fighting in Japanese, or as prisoners of war, and those who were casualties of the Malayan Emergency.

This is unfortunately the most expensive theatre of war to visit

(the Legion estimates that it could cost as much as £900 a head) and it is also one of the most demanding, in the sense of the time it takes to get there and the tropical temperatures the visitors will face.

So another restriction has had to be added for the Far East pilgrimage — those going along must be physically fit.

While this Government sponsored scheme goes ahead next year the Legion will continue to run in tandem its own programme of war graves visits. Each year about 300 people are taken on between eight and ten separate pilgrimages, and the Legion wants to ensure that this programme will not be interrupted.

Anna's Last Customer

FRAU ANNA KISNAT, who has served three generations of soldiers at Münster Field Post Office, was

just leaving on her last day at work when there was a special delivery — for her!

And the postman was special too, Brigadier Andy Evans, Commander 4th Armoured Brigade, who dropped in to congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for 39 years' service with the British Army.

Frau Kisnat began working with the War Graves Commission as a waitress in 1945, she joined the NAAFI in 1951 as a charge hand and eight years later joined what is now the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Service as a civilian counter clerk.

BEST STUDENT

Cfn Martin Hoolachan has been presented with an award for the best student, Vehicle Mechanic A, at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, for the year 1983/84. Cfn Hoolachan received the award from Lt Col JMFC Hall, CO of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who are based at Sennelager.

The course involves many aspects of engineering and workshop practice as well as specified vehicle equipment training. The award is considered a very high achievement.



SOLDIERING BEATS BIRDIES SAYS PETER

PART-TIME soldiering licks the jet-setting lifestyle of a professional golfer any day, claims postie Peter Booth.

It's a view many keen young Army golfers might doubt but part-time TA soldier Peter, aged 41, should know.

A veteran of the international Pro-Am circuit for 19 years Peter

turned his back on the pressures, pace and promises of the European golf scene.

He now leads a less hectic but more satisfying existence as a postman five years ago.

Having always had a hankering for the Army and with more leisure time on his hands he joined the Territorials three years ago as a

Sapper with 63 Postal and Courier Squadron, Royal Engineers.

"Neither decision have I regretted one jot," said Peter.

He has been in Germany completing his TA annual training stint with 14 Postal and Courier Squadron based at 4th Armoured Division Headquarters at Herford.



PETER BOOTH...

...a mail sack replaces golf bag.

THE WEST COUNTRY ULMSTERMAN

EXETER paper mill worker Roy Stevens, a part time Signals corporal, has been packing his kit and setting off for training camps over a long number of years.

At first sight he is just like thousands of dedicated men and women who volunteer for the

Territorial Army. But there is a big difference.

The re-organisation of Army units in the late '60s made Roy a member of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteer) based in Belfast.

"I suppose I could have shouted

a bit and maybe been transferred to a unit based a lot closer to home," he says. "But when I met the rest of the lads I knew I couldn't find better mates anywhere."

It has meant thousands of miles of arduous travel for the soft spoken Devonshire man.

"If there is a camp in Scotland then I get a train up on Friday, stay with the lads and leave them on Sunday night to get a train back home."

"I suppose some people might say it's a bit daft getting trains and boats all the time to be with your

mates, but then that is the way it is."

Unfortunately, Lionheart was Roy's last big exercise. Age has caught up with him and he is due to retire from the TA. He says, somewhat wistfully: "Look at it this way, I will have more time maybe to get the boat over to Belfast to be with the lads on big nights at the camp."

And his wife and two children? "I suppose they also think I'm daft but they've got used to it, and believe me, I couldn't have found better comrades anywhere."

DAWN'S SKILLS NOT ENOUGH

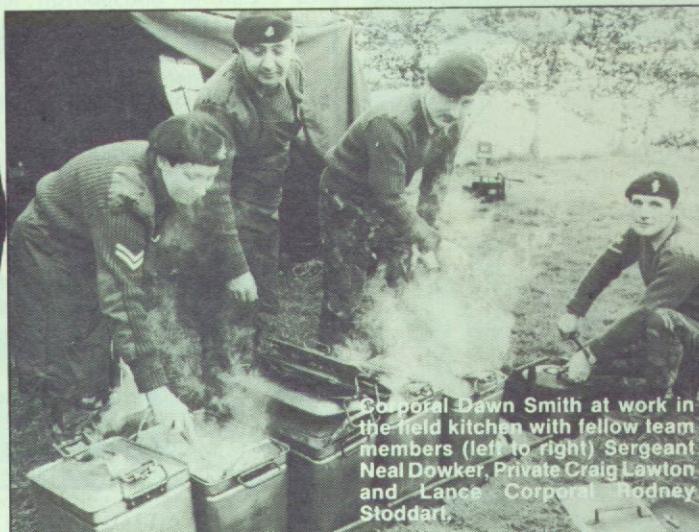
Government's big thank you

LORD Trefgarne, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, has been touring the country to express the Government's gratitude to employers for releasing their TA staff for Exercise Lionheart.

He was due to visit the London area, Bristol, Edinburgh and the Lowlands of Scotland to thank employers for their part in what he termed a very gratifying result.

"The turnout was in excess of 92 per cent of the TA soldiers expected on the exercise," the Under Secretary said. "It was a marvellous result which reflects the greatest possible credit on the volunteers themselves, their unit commanders and the employers who gave their support."

"This surely indicates that employers appreciate the crucial importance of the TA to the defence of our nation."



Corporal Dawn Smith at work in the field kitchen with fellow team members (left to right) Sergeant Neal Dowker, Private Craig Lawton, and Lance Corporal Rodney Stoddart.

ALL EYES were on one team when Territorial Army cooks competed in a test of their culinary and military skills — the team with the only woman cook in it.

For the 'feminine touch' in the four-strong team of the Sheffield based 212 Field Hospital was expected to give them the edge over the 18 other all-male teams taking part at the Army's Warcop (Cumbria) Training Area.

But despite an all out bid 25-year-old Corporal Dawn Smith and her three male team mates were only placed 14th with 195 points out of a possible 300.

Said Dawn, in civilian life a cook with the South Yorkshire Police at Doncaster: "It was the first time we had entered and the tests were harder than I thought they would be."

Winners of the competition, for teams of TA cooks from through-

out the Army's North East District, were 223 Field Ambulance, from Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, who were third in the competition last year.

They notched up 234 points and will go forward to represent the North East in the Territorial Army National Cookery Finals at Aldershot next April.



Winners 223 Field Ambulance from Bishop Auckland receive their prizes from Brigadier Michael Aris, Commander 15 Infantry Brigade.



FALKLANDS fire rescue hero, Corporal Malcolm Crawford of the Royal Corps of Signals has returned home from the South Atlantic outpost with a very special certificate packed in his case.

It is a certificate of commendation presented to him by Major General Peter de la Billiere, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands.

The award arises from an act of bravery while Malcolm was a detachment commander at a remote site on the Falklands. He found dense smoke filling a narrow corridor leading to a radio room.

Unable to open the door he forced it from its hinges by brute force. Behind it were two unconscious soldiers who he carried to safety to give them first aid before calling for a rescue helicopter.

The citation reads: "His ability to make instant decisions in an emergency and his leadership and coolness under stress were magnificent examples to others."

FACES AND PLACES



PIPED INTO PORT

FUSILIER Brian Coutts, of the 1st Battalion, Royal Highland Fusiliers, plays the pipes to herald the arrival of the RN ship HMS Newcastle into... Newcastle. The Type 42 destroyer was paying a five-day visit to her 'adopted' town and Fusilier Coutts was loaned out for the musical occasion.

GONGS FOR GURKHAS

UNITED NATIONS and Gurkha history has been made at Nicosia with the presentation of the United Nations medal for the very first time to thirteen men of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, a detachment from 69 Independent Field Squadron based at Chatham, Kent.

The presentation took place during the Medal Parade of the British contingent of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), an organisation of seven nations which have controlled the 135-mile-long buffer zone between the Greek and Turkish ceasefire lines since the 1974 war.

The Gurkha detachment includes a variety of skilled construction tradesmen and has provided excellent engineer support in the camps and OPs of 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

Photograph shows men of the detachment installing a new water tank on an OP.

Peak Perch

A CLUMP of rocks? Certainly, not! It's the top of Ben Nevis (4,406 feet) and seven of a group of nine men perched there from the Army's Logistic Executive at Andover, Hants. The nonpareil nine went on to conquer Scafell Pike the same day. After a short rest they were up at dawn for the drive to Wales to tackle Snowden. The conquest of the UK's three major mountains took them just 33 hours.

MEDICS SHOW THEIR PEDAL POWER

IT WAS not all Challenger, Tracked Rapier, Saxon and MCV 80 which were stealing the limelight during Exercise Lionheart last month. No, sir!

There was LICV, too. The Army's latest battlefield high tech development, better known as the Leg-Powered Infantry-Carrying Velocipede.

The reason that the LICV was not seen in any numbers during the BAOR blockbuster exercise was because the vehicle was on secret trials and the unit doing it was 3 Armoured Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps based on Sennelager.

It was they who successfully trialled the RPS — the Remotely Piloted Stretcher and, more recently, the PGS, Precision Guided Syringe.

As Major Robert Leitch, revealed: "The LICV has good night



fighting ability — as our picture shows — a good cross-country performance and it is planned to add an NBC and all-weather enhancement by the simple expedient of a large poly bag. A bolt-on litter is also possible."

MUM would never have allowed it, playing with water, that is. But the Army did.

Boys from 19 Durham schools were given a lesson in operating one of the Army's water sterilisation units during a five-day stay with 38 Engineer Regiment at Ripon.

The unit draws water from streams, lakes and rivers in any part of the world to produce drinking water at the rate of 8,000

litres-an-hour. The Durham boys were there as part of a Government-sponsored Pupil Work Experience course. They built a bridge, had an introduction to mines and demolition charges, map reading and a night exercise.

They also spent a day at Catterick Garrison seeing the work of the Royal Armoured Corps training establishment and 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

You're in the Army now



Anxious faces as the bridge is tried out.

CLAIRE TAKES HER PEN TO WAR

WITHIN DAYS of landing a trainee journalist job with BAOR, Youth Training Scheme entrant 18-year-old Claire Norman-Bailey was rubbing shoulders with and sensing the expertise of the world's Press first hand during Exercise Lionheart, operating out of the Allied Press Information Centre (APIC) at Hildesheim.

She was literally out in the field — the battlefield — for her assignments either on escort duties or helping editorial staff at the APIC as one of the HQ 1 (BR) Corps public information staff.

Stop Press: Claire's dad is Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Norman-Bailey, CO of 6 Ordnance Battalion, Bielefeld.



A pretty 26-year-old Russian woman from the Soviet fishing fleet who was rushed to Brewster Hospital in the Falklands with suspected appendicitis led to a very red-faced British soldier.

The treatment should have been a routine matter, except for the fact that the young woman could not speak a word of English. Eventually the Army came to the rescue and supplied the civilian medical staff with a soldier fluent in Russian who helped during the examination.

"Much to the considerable embarrassment of the soldier", said the hospital's Senior Medical Officer, "he had to use words which weren't in his vocabulary". After days of care the young woman was allowed to rejoin her comrades fishing around the Falklands. She was, no doubt, grateful to the medical staff and a young embarrassed British soldier.

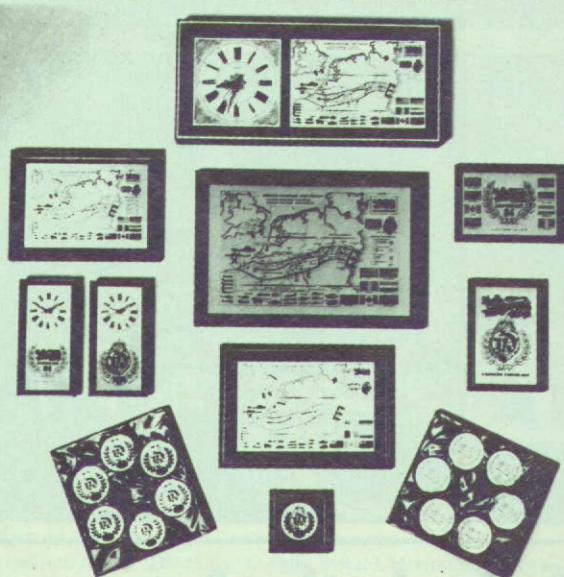
The story comes from Penguin News, Port Stanley's civilian weekly newspaper, which has recently been revived. The soldier's blushes are spared — he is not named.



Er...
aa...
um...

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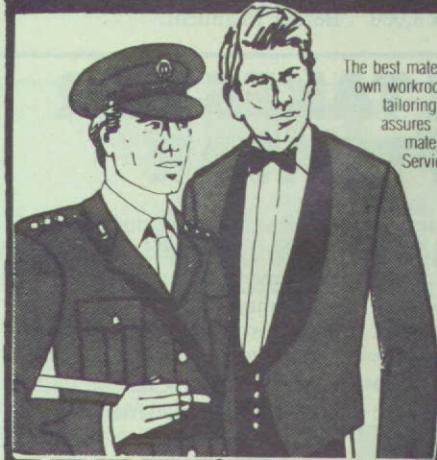
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UNIFORMAL

IAN army marches on its stomach, as someone reputedly once said, then the British Army must be in fine fettle.

Reading the latest Egon Ronay report (see story page three), one sees a picture of soldiers tucking into the most mouth watering creations — at Tidworth when Mr Ronay's inspectors visited they were serving a pork fillet stuffed with ham and cheese and coated in light breadcrumbs, followed by a superb golden syrup sponge, beautifully presented in the shape of a log, with a melt-in-the-mouth lightness. The description comes from the inspectors who said the pudding would linger in their memory.

Other Army units seemed to be eating pretty well too. Look in at the Army Apprentices College at Chepstow and you might find a few Scottish dishes (why Chepstow, one wonders?) like an Arbroath smokie with a fine flavour, haggis which is not the usual palate-deadening stodge but moist and meaty, and rich laird cake impregnated with good liqueur and studded with chopped walnuts. The inspectors' words again.

The evidence all builds up to what the Ronay report describes as 'food of unexpectedly high quality, with a variety of choice truly amazing'. Unexpected perhaps because, as Mr Ronay recalls, there have been music hall jokes over the years about army food, and they apparently echoed his own experience of abysmal army food in his native country (he came to Britain from Hungary).

The inspection team travelled some 5,000 miles sampling 220 dishes (in junior ranks', not officers' messes) at 17 units of the three Services.

When one considers that about 430,000 meals on average are served every day to Service-

SOLDIER to Soldier

men, the team could hardly sample them all.

So **SOLDIER** thought that it would be interesting to hear what you, the Servicemen, think of your food. We are not seeking complaints. If you have something good or bad to say about the food you eat, or anecdotes which are interesting, let us know.

Oh, there was one thing the Ronay inspectors seemed generally to dislike. That English traditional drink, the cup of tea. They found it 'generally abysmal'. How about you?

★ ★ ★

Twelve regiments of the British Army celebrate their tercentenary next year, and appropriately the Army calendar for 1985 devotes 10 of its months to commemorating the award of the Victoria Cross to members of some of those regiments — the remaining two months depict the only serving VC holder and the first award of a double VC.

Included in the VCs won by the tercentenary regiments is one of the VCs awarded for a deed of valour performed even before the Royal Warrant instituting the medal was issued on January 1856.

It was awarded to one Private Samuel Parkes, 4th Light Dragoons, for his action during the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava on 25 October 1854. Parkes was orderly to Lord George Paget, Colonel of the Dragoons. After the charge Parkes and Hugh Crawford, the Colonel's trumpeter, were unhorsed, and

Parkes saved his unarmed colleague's life by fighting off two Cossacks. The two men and another private who had joined them then found one of their officers lying fatally wounded, and as they prepared to pick him up they were attacked by another party of Cossacks. Parkes was shot in the hand and both he and Crawford were taken prisoner, only returning to their regiment a year later in an exchange of prisoners.



The Victoria Cross.

The 4th Light Dragoons and another regiment of dragoons eventually evolved into the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars who are now serving in BAOR equipped with Chieftains, and will celebrate their 300th anniversary next year.

Parkes' heroism is among the deeds of courage illustrated in the calendar which will no doubt become prized, particularly as a collector's item. It is available (see page 48) to **SOLDIER** readers at £3, including postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to Command Cashier UKLF and

sent to Army Calendar, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

★ ★ ★

Still on the subject of medals, the George Cross awarded to one of the men who saved St Paul's Cathedral from destruction by an unexploded German bomb in 1940 is on display at the Imperial War Museum.

Lieutenant Robert Davies led a Royal Engineers bomb disposal team which spent three days digging 25 feet into the ground to uncover a one-ton bomb that had fallen close to the Cathedral. The bomb was loaded onto a lorry and driven at great personal risk by Lt Davies to Hackney Marshes where it was detonated, leaving a 100-foot crater.

Also on display in the Museum's Victoria Cross and George Cross Room are three Albert Medals and two Edward Medals which were exchanged by government decree for George Crosses in 1971. The Albert Medals include one awarded to Lance Corporal Sidney Williams, who rescued a soldier from a burning dugout in 1918.

★ ★ ★

After all that talk of gallantry and medals it is sad to record that the vicar of All Saints' Church at Wickham Market in Suffolk has banned the singing of the hymn 'O Valiant Hearts' at the local Remembrance Day service. He apparently finds some of the words ethically unsound and theologically unsuitable, in that they imply that anyone who dies on the battlefields is assured a place in Heaven.

The local Branch of the Royal British Legion have decided to boycott the service. Explains branch secretary Mr J Laidlaw: "There are some of us who feel it is more or less the Legion hymn, and whatever can be read into the words it is in remembrance of our fallen comrades."

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S23/84

THEY'RE CHANGING THE GUARD...

THE Guards, naturally as well as literally, take it all in their stride. But for a Line regiment, which had been practically everywhere but the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, the first experience of Changing the Guard can be quite a test of nerves.

Think of it. You are about to take part in what has become one of the most famous free shows on earth. Previously, on those few occasions when you have done formal parades, your audience has been mainly relatives and friends.

But now you march in with, to some extent, the eyes of the world upon you. Tourists from many lands will be among the thousands of spectators who have assembled to watch the ceremony, and in their eyes the reputation of the British Army for smartness and drill rests, in no small measure, upon you.

"I was extremely nervous," Major Anthony Lake admitted quite candidly. He is OC A Company, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and he was talking about his first time as Captain of the Guard.

"It is probably the most nerve-racking thing I have done in my military career. And it wasn't just the first time I did it. It was the second time as well."

Major Lake led 150 men of the battalion who came with the Corps of Drums and Regimental Band from their base in Canterbury to London for a three week stint of Public Duties — that is mounting guard on three of the capital's most visited sites, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and St

James's Palace. About 100 of them actually did guard duty. The rest were a back-up staff of cooks, signallers and drivers.

They lived in the Cavalry Barracks at Hounslow and operated on what was basically a 48-hour turn round with battalions of the Guards Division.

And such a duty could have come as quite a traumatic shock to soldiers whose main preoccupation is with the nitty-gritty of field training for modern warfare.

Under normal circumstances, said Major Lake, the battalion did very little drill. Even in recruit training, drill had been cut right down in favour of more tactical work. In fact to prepare for their current assignment a fair amount of new drill had to be learned — particularly the slow march.

James's Palace. About 100 of them actually did guard duty. The rest were a back-up staff of cooks, signallers and drivers.

They lived in the Cavalry Barracks at Hounslow and operated on what was basically a 48-hour turn round with battalions of the Guards Division.

But luckily, this year was a bit of an exception.

As Colonel Mackereth explained: "Our Colonel-in-Chief, Prince Philip, came up and presented us with new colours in June, for which we had a three week intensive period of drill. So we weren't totally out of training.

The Gurkhas, the RAF Regiment, and several infantry battalions have all taken turns guarding what might be termed the heartland of the British Crown.

But this was the first time that the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment had been granted what their CO, Lieutenant Colonel Bill Mackereth, described as an enormous privilege.

The battalion came into being in 1959 as the result of the merger of the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Wiltshire Regiment. Three weeks before they were due to visit London a Public Duties Company was formed under the

Reserach, said Colonel Mackereth, had shown that neither the Royal Berkshires, nor the Wiltshires had ever done this duty before.

Colonel Mackereth

Command of Major Lake with the RSM and soldiers drawn from all companies. They rehearsed under the watchful eye of a drill sergeant from the Grenadiers who went to Canterbury with an assistant.

Colonel Mackereth was asked back in February or March whether his battalion was prepared to take on the job. He replied: "Yes, absolutely delighted."

But was there any feeling of trepidation?

"Yes and no," he said. "I know that my soldiers can cope with a duty like this perfectly as well as anybody else. But it is something new and one never treats these things lightly. One must always

take the job fully seriously. And therefore yes, one is anxious to do one's very best."

Colonel Mackereth admitted to being slightly nervous on the one occasion he acted as Captain of the Guard: "But immensely relieved when we marched off. A great feeling of pride too, marching down the Mall behind one's own regimental band's superb music."

Initial stage fright was certainly the most common problem. Captain John Rylands, second-in-command of A Company, who commanded the Buckingham Palace Guard detachment on a couple of early occasions, said: "I could never be an actor if that's

what it's like."

Captain Rylands frankly admitted some mistakes: "But I am not going to tell you what they were, it's too embarrassing." Though he did say that on one occasion he had given the wrong order.

"But the soldiers were in fact so well trained that they did the right thing almost regardless of what they were told, as long as someone was making the right sort of noise at the right time."

"We have all enjoyed it," said Major Lake in the last week of their duty. "I think it is wearing a little bit thin now and we are quite pleased we are not Guardsmen. But, by jove, there aren't too many

people who haven't been pleased to be up here."

Colour Sergeant Toby North was the senior sergeant on duty at St James's Palace. The thing he liked most was the crowds and the whole form of the ceremonial.

"I think it's brilliant," he said. "Having people watching, it's a bit like being a celebrity. It's been a good, a very good experience, but I'll be glad to get back to prepare for Cyprus."

Private Lawson Smith did sentry duty at St James's where there are no railings to keep the public away from the guards.

"People come right up next to you," he said. "Sometimes they speak to you — generally just say hello, how are you and all that. The policemen are quite nice. They come along and tell you how long you've got to do."

It was always a one way conversation because sentries, of course, are not allowed to reply.

For Private John Gilbert, being on guard at Buckingham Palace was "a nice change from the usual soldiering. It's a novelty at first — quite good fun. Something you'd like to do once, but not again."

"It's all right, but it gets a bit repetitive," said Corporal Alan McIntyre who marched with the Colour Party and posted sentries at St James's. "If you like drill, fine, join the Guards. But I don't like drill. I'm more of your field soldier type — I prefer field work rather than barrack work."

He added that the sentries at St James's seemed to have enjoyed themselves. There were stories of

Second Lieutenant Peter Dennis, 1 DERR, shoulders his battalion's Queen's Colour. Alongside, the Colour of the 1st Battalion, the Scots Guards.

Immensely relieved... and with great pride. 1 DERR march back to Wellington Barracks after dismounting the Guard.

phone numbers slipped into their pockets in the dead of night. Whether they had been able to do anything about them was another matter — there hadn't been too much free time during their stay in London.

For most of the three weeks the Queen was absent from Buckingham Palace. But then, to crown all as it were, the battalion's last few days, the Sovereign returned. Out

Story:
Robert Higson
Pictures:
Ronnie Jones (RepS)

came the Queen's Colour, presented by Prince Philip last June, and the sentries were doubled in accordance with the custom.

With the Queen in residence and a State Visit (by President Mitterrand of France) in progress, Major Lake estimated that his soldiers would have to give between 30 and 40 Royal Salutes on their last few days.

All in all it was a right Royal occasion for a battalion which next year celebrates the granting of the word 'Royal' to its regimental title. In March 1885, the Berkshires won that honour for their part repulsing a typically ferocious attack by the followers of the Mahdi at the Battle of Tofrek.

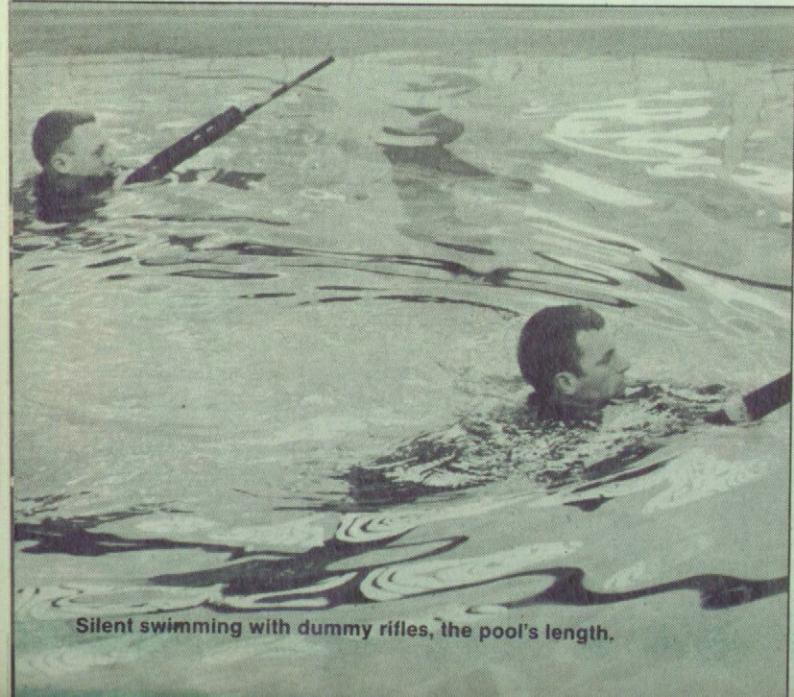
Ninety-nine years later, the modern descendants of those valiant Berkshires have at last had the Royal duty of guarding their Sovereign — the great great granddaughter of the Queen who made them Royal.





GUARDSMEN SWIM FOR FUTURE SURVIVAL

Off the top of the three-metre board in quick succession.



Silent swimming with dummy rifles, the pool's length.



Coveralls off. Flotation gear assembled.

AT LEAST THREE young Welsh Guardsmen have good cause to thank, with genuine sincerity, the brainchild scheme of Mr Pat Carthy when they were aboard the ill-fated Sir Galahad at Bluff Cove in the Falkland's two and a half years ago.

For their very lives depended on what 44-year-old Mr Carthy, the swimming pool superintendent at the Pirbright Guards Depot had taught them.

They — like an estimated 800 others before and after them — had been tutored in the rigorous and demanding Battle Survival Swim Test (BST) devised by Mr Carthy; a test done in coveralls and carrying 9-lb dummy rifles.

Mr Carthy, who has never been in the Forces himself, put the idea up to his Depot military peers at Pirbright, after reading some old books belonging to his father in which swimming tests were done but not with weapons.

Over recent years not one young Guardsman has left the world's most famous training depot for seven Guards regiments — including two in the Household Cavalry — without passing the basic military swimming test.

The waterborne BST was introduced in 1980 and is an amalgam of all the techniques previously learned in some 16 hours' of intensive instruction.

In the six months of this year from March to October, for instance, a total of 502 recruit guardsmen, most of them in the Army for only 23 weeks, plunged into the full-size pool.

In the BST and clad in coveralls while clutching rifles the recruits



Arrival on the other 'bank' — in silence.

day have to survive in water for any length of time we believe, at the Depot, that his chances of survival are increased. We hope that this scheme may spread to other units within the Army, if it has not done so already.

He said: "I devised the syllabus to help them survive. If they have an idea they have got a chance."

Major Patrick Johns, Irish Guards, Training Major, Guards Depot, said: "We do not pretend it is an easy test but rather like learning to ride a bike, once mastered it is never forgotten.

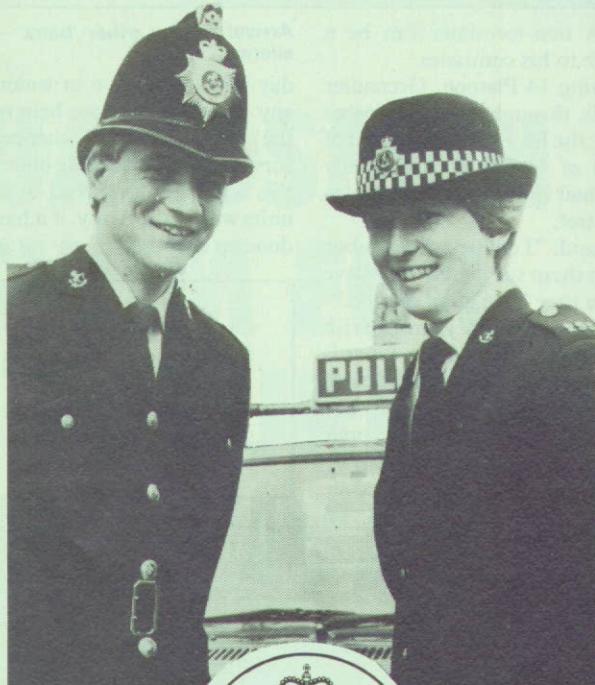
"Should one of our recruits one

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Les Wiggs



Mr Pat Carthy, the swim test deviser, briefs the students.

YOUR SECOND CAREER CAN BE AS CHALLENGING AS YOUR FIRST



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Personal Export Sales

THE ARMY, it seems, fared quite well during the country's largest ever assembly of potential employers in one place — all 175 of them — when Wembley's Conference Centre was turned into a bustling bazaar of opportunity with 10,000 jobs on offer. More than 4,000 applicants made for the unique mecca of employment on the first day alone.

Ironically, about 50 per cent of aspiring recruits to the Army were in-work, highly-qualified — some of these degree-trained — girls seeking to leave the security of their routine careers in search of a life of excitement and travel plus a commission with the WRAC.

Heading the Army's four-day contribution to diminish the nation's dole queues during Job 84 with his 'seat-of-the-pants' intuition for ferreting out possible



Apprentice Craftsman Junior WO2 Richard Nicholl chats to a potential recruit (above).

Captain Sharon Cozens, QARANC explains the ways of the WRAC to a by-passenger (below).

'GISSA JOB ... SIR!'

entrants into the Service was Major David Metherall, REME, who runs the Army Careers Information in Wembley itself.

And helping him hand out 'literally hundreds' of colourful brochures, and most of these on the WRAC, were other members of the Army including QA captain, Sharon Cozens and Arborfield-based Apprentice Craftsman Junior WO2 Richard Nicholl.

Major Metherall, formerly OC of the Training Regiment Workshop, REME, at Church Crook-

ham, near Aldershot, told me: "Some of the girls were, academically, red-brick stuff. We also saw a male doctor who wanted to escape from the National Health Service into the RAMC and an engineer who wanted to be a sapper.

"We had hoped for a lot more younger people who we could have directed to opportunities with the Junior Soldiers, Junior Leaders or Apprentices.

"There were several inquiries from people with teaching skills and we directed those to the Royal



Army Educational Corps. Nurses from general hospitals asked about a career with the QAs. They wanted a change from routine and wanted to get out of a rut. With the current unemployment figures of more than three million there were quite a number of potential recruits at soldier level.

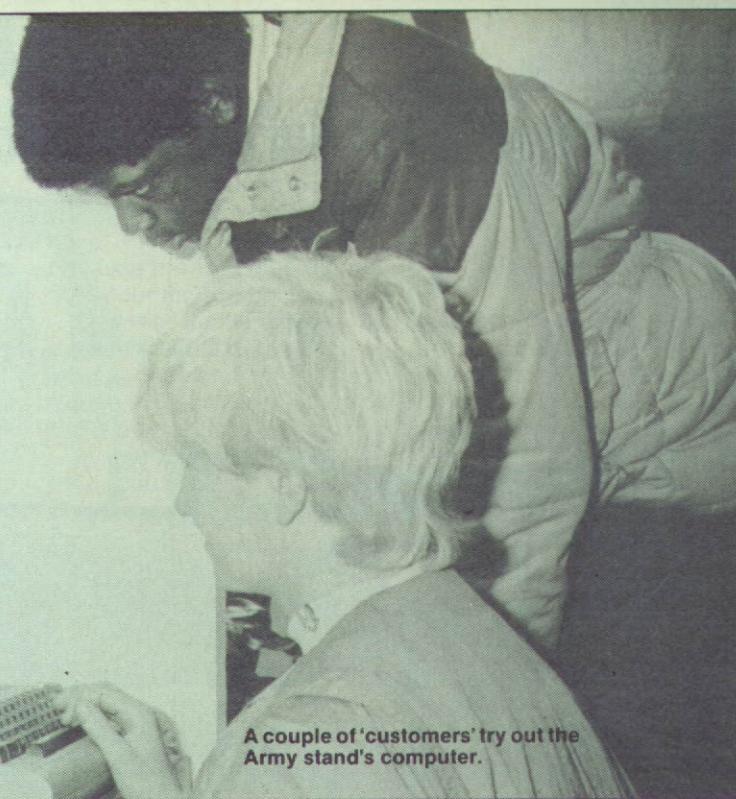
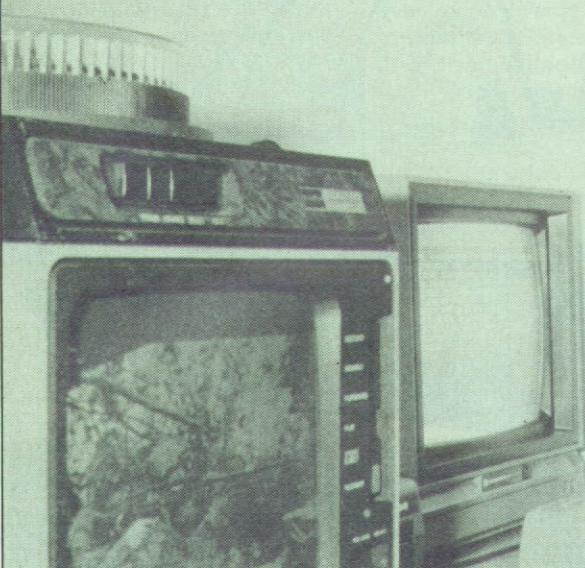
"One set of parents had travelled down from Newcastle on behalf of their son asking about Welbeck College, the Army's science Sixth Form."

He added: "I think the Falklands have had a lot to do with a renewed interest in the Army. I think the campaign brought home the professionalism and expertise of the soldier and the broad spectrum of skills that are required of him in sheer professional qualities. That really has regenerated public interest and I have been pleasantly

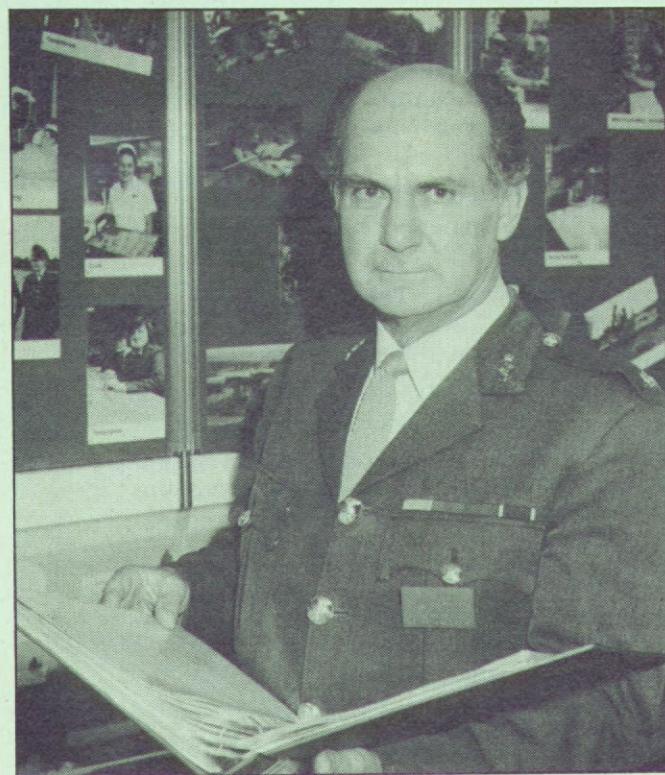
Major David Metherall, REME, Wembley Army Careers Officer lends moral support to Capt Cozens during a career chat.



**Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Doug Pratt**



A couple of 'customers' try out the Army stand's computer.



**Major David Metherall, REME:
"Recruiting is all seat-of-the-pants
stuff."**

surprised at the response here."

Major Metherall said the four-day event at Wembley had been of great mutual benefit to his Stand Number 31 and the people visiting it. It was beneficial meeting such large numbers of people instead of in trickles as in typical Army Careers Information Offices.

He likened the stand visitors to 'disciples' going out into various parts of the UK spreading the 'gospel' about the Army.

"They will be pushing our product further afield as those disciples," he said. "They may talk

to ten people and those ten people may talk about the Army to another ten on a scale above and beyond we are able to in the ACIOs. Job 84 has been a very worthwhile exercise from our point of view."

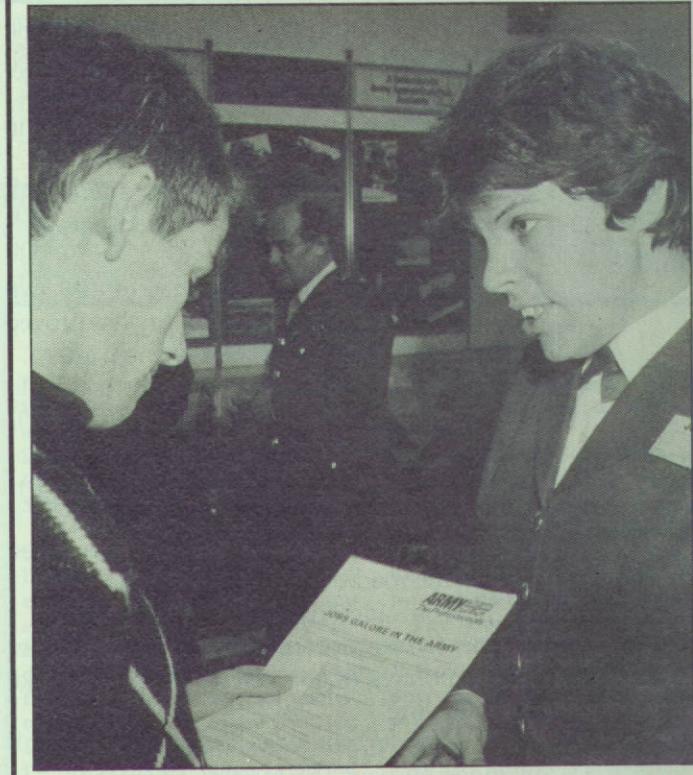
The Army, he added, was looking for people with good maths, physics and electronics results — in electronics there were 145 vacancies and 52 had been forwarded for assessment. The Intelligence Corps was looking for linguists; there were 26 vacancies and 11 put forward for tests.

The Parachute Regiment was always well-subscribed and drew a large number of inquiries, many of them just not suited to that way

of Army life. In the infantry the Light, King's and Queen's Divisions were seeking about 100 personnel.

"We are looking for motivation here at Wembley as we are back at the Careers Information Office," said Major Metherall. "It's all seat-of-the-pants stuff. We can assess a potential recruit after a 20-minute chat. I can get a good idea of his suitability.

"If twenty per cent of our visitors to the stand follow up on our advice and approach their nearest ACIO, then we feel we will have done extremely well at Job 84. We are not a press gang. All we are doing is to encourage



The leaflet says it all and Capt Cozens is there to amplify.

them to look further into an Army career. If they have an interest we try to motivate that interest."

Lucky Dip: Perhaps the most gainfully-employed visitors to the Wembley jobs jamboree were the most work-shy of all who were looking for immediate, lucrative tax-free returns on the easy, if risky, basis... a gang of freelance pickpockets whose deft-handed efforts at private enterprise were advertised through the organisers' public address system.

The new Galant. If it wasn't so reliable you'd think it came from Germany.



It is a commonly held belief amongst Europeans that the most technically advanced cars are European.

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(Especially not in the case of our own range, which in survey after survey has proved amongst the most reliable in country after country. Including Germany.)

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But consumes petrol like a four.

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SM 19/11/84

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Leading the way in car technology.

WHILE IN our medical centre waiting room I picked up a copy of **SOLDIER**. I only had a moment to see a section on what we should or should not have to pay for, on march-out from a quarter. I have never truly understood my position on march-out. Is there any way in which you could help me acquire a copy of that issue of **SOLDIER**?

The second problem I am writing to you about is that of a friend of ours. His wife left him with the children. While he has managed very well indeed to keep a beautiful home going here in Germany for them, he has now applied for a compassionate discharge (I have acted as foster mum, general help over the past year). So I am writing to ask if you could send him any information on leaving the Army — tax, rebates, and in what way the DHSS may help. If the children will be allowed free school dinners until he has a job etc. The gentleman in question has been an example to us all, showing what love and hard work can do. We know he deserves all the help there is. The problem of providing for the children once he has left the Army is a great worry to him. — (Name & address supplied).

YOUR LETTERS

Do ask your friend to make sure he has a house before he leaves Germany. SSAFA can help in this area both in BFG and UK with advice, support and maybe financial help. Contact the SSAFA Social Work Dept, SSAFA HQ, 27 Queen's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ.

Also see DHSS FB3: Income Tax and One-parent Families. And contact the National Council for One-parent Families, 255 Kentish Town Road, London, NW5 2LX. 01-267 1361.

Dear Anne

I RUN an Army Cadet Force unit in the London area. I have my fair share of lads from one-parent families and boys who have left school and are unemployed. I like to get these lads away on training weekends and other activities and I'm very interested in the ASYTS. I've tried to get leaflets etc but so far I haven't had any luck. Could you help please? Also, is the Government Youth Adventure Training Scheme at Fort George still in operation? If so, how do I arrange for some of my lads to get on it? — Sgt S, London.

The National Federation of Boys Club has an enormous variety of activities which would, I am sure, appeal to your ACF members. They also have programmes for unemployed youth and you may be able through the Boys' Clubs to find many openings including their adventure centres. Contact Mr Vic Betts, c/o NABC HQ, Highgate, London.

The Fort George Operation only ran once and the AYTS replaced it. There are, of course, many Army opportunities through the Army. Your local recruiting office or chain of command can help on Army YTS.

OPINION

EVERY BRITISH citizen has the right to appeal against a judgment made by a Social Security officer or an unemployment benefit office. However, recent events have led me to think that Service wives are at a disadvantage when they wish to appeal against a judgment made after claiming DHSS benefits.

First, the booklet on 'How to Appeal' NI 246/May 83, and 'Suspension of Unemployment Benefit UBL 48' there is no guidance for those who have to conduct an appeal from overseas.

Booklets like CAB's 'Social Security Appeals', 'A Guide to National Insurance Local Tribunals and Medical Appeal Tribunals', 'I want to Appeal': A guide to Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunals, 'Women's Employment Rights Labour Research Dept' can help. So can other agencies such as your solicitor. However, apart from the Army Legal Branch, there is little information on this important subject readily available to wives.

The difficulties have been

brought to my notice by a number of cases in which wives are appealing.

These cases arise from the wives having their claims for Unemployment Benefit turned down on the grounds that they left their jobs voluntarily. In one case the appeal was lost because the wife died did not have four days in UK to claim.

The time limits impose 28 days to send in notification of your appeal, and only 10 days notice is given for the date of the tribunal hearing.

In one case the letter sent took four days to get to Germany, arrived on Saturday for a hearing the following Thursday. This gives no time to send documents, or brief someone to act on your behalf, so unless you can get a letter requesting a postponement to the chairman in time, the tribunal will go ahead regardless.

The DHSS leaflet says "Please try and go to the hearing. You don't have to but it helps the tribunal if you explain your side of the case, and people who go to these hearings usually do better than those who don't."

The leaflet also says "When



you receive the papers of the original decision, read these papers and ask the clerk or your office or advice centre about anything you do not understand." And it also advises you to seek help when writing the appeal letter from agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The question remains — that it depends whether the interpretation of 'voluntarily leaving your job' should be applied to Service wives who are joining their husbands overseas.

I have brought the lack of information to the attention of the Dept of Employment and DHSS. Hopefully the situation will soon be rectified.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

Dear Anne

WE ARE writing to you with a query into our current situation, being that our husbands are both undergoing detention here for periods of four months and six months. At the moment our husbands are being held in the Guardroom, but in time should be transferred to the Military prison in Colchester. The questions we would like to ask are as follows:

We are receiving money from the Army for our day-to-day housekeeping. We have been told by our husbands' pay office that when their sentence expires every penny of the money will have to be re-paid.

The Army also is paying our rent, but say again that when our husbands finish their sentences all this has to be re-paid. It is the same case with our electricity bills.

If we were civilian wives and our husbands were in prison would we have to pay the State back for handouts received during this time? We would like to know if we are entitled to anything at all. If not we are liable to be paying the Army for some time to come. — Mrs H & Mrs R, BFPO 53.

I have checked with MOD. The position is that the allowance which you are given is called FAM/GRANT. This is paid for two months. Before you receive it the rent has been deducted as fuel and light charges.

This FAM/GRANT does not have to be re-paid. It is not a loan. After two months different rules apply, ie if you stay in Cyprus — or in some cases come home — each case is different.

So contact your unit pay office and

ask for the Army Allowances and Charges. This lists all the items deducted before you receive FAM/GRANT.

Also contact your SSAFA Social Worker, Unit Families Officer, padre or unit.

ALLOWANCE EXPLAINED

I WAS asked at the recent Federation Army Wives Club district meeting if details of the Disturbance Allowance and the X Factor could be published in **SOLDIER**.

Disturbance Allowance is intended to cover the following main items of expenditure: Provision of curtains, floor coverings and electrical fittings; Losses of unexpired telephone rentals and new connection fee; Insurance of furniture and baggage in transit or store; Making of inventories; Cost of searching and advertising for new accommodation; Legal and other fees; Hotel or boarding house expenses pending entry to new accommodation or while awaiting passage; Cleaning new accommodation; Alterations to, or losses on, children's school uniforms; Packing expenses, including provision of crates etc; Storing furniture or baggage in excess of the permitted amount for refund; Incidental costs of staying in the United Kingdom between two

overseas tours; Losses on the unexpired portion of television licences.

Wives, what about doing your own assessment and keeping bills etc on all these items to see if you are within or over your entitled allowance? And also all the other items which are not covered. This would help to assess the cost.

The 1984 Armed Forces Pay Review Bodies Report explains the X Factor, which was first introduced in the AFPRB's report in 1972.

This year's report comments: "We are (also) concerned that the nature of Service life is in the present economic climate making it especially difficult for Service wives to find employment."

The Army Wives Concerns Committee and the MOD have issued a survey into this aspect of employment for wives. It is now estimated that 70 per cent of wives work or wish to work.

The full report is available from HMSO price £4.15 net.

to extend the service to London by next Spring.

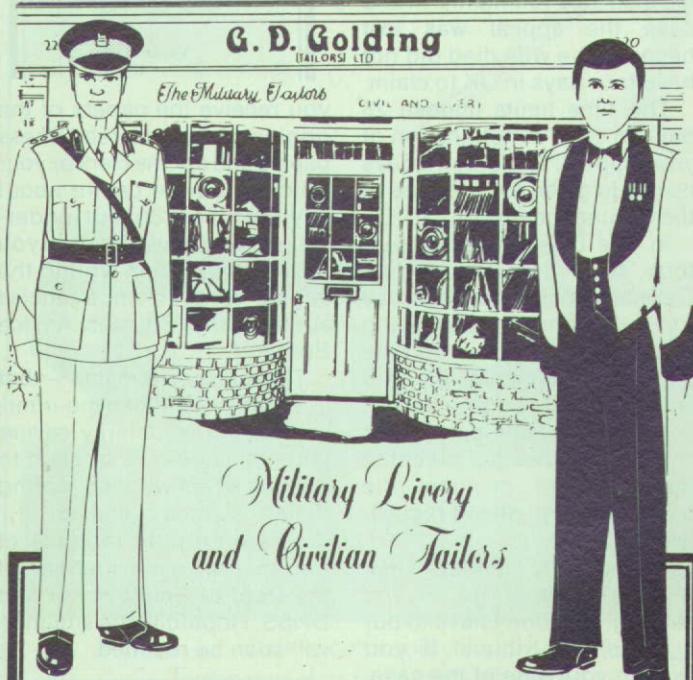
So by dialling 100 and asking for DHSS Freephone, the operator will connect you to the nearest Freephone Centre. The staff's knowledge will cover both local and national issues, but cannot go into specific details covering individual cases.

DHSS Freephone

TO HELP anyone with a DHSS problem, a new DHSS Freephone Service has been started throughout UK. The main centres are Birmingham, Bootle, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield, Stockton and Sutton. It is hoped

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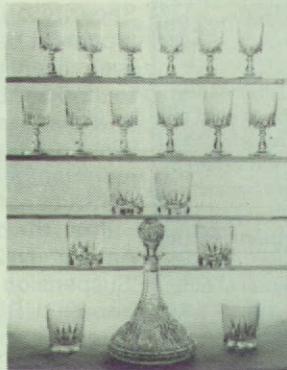
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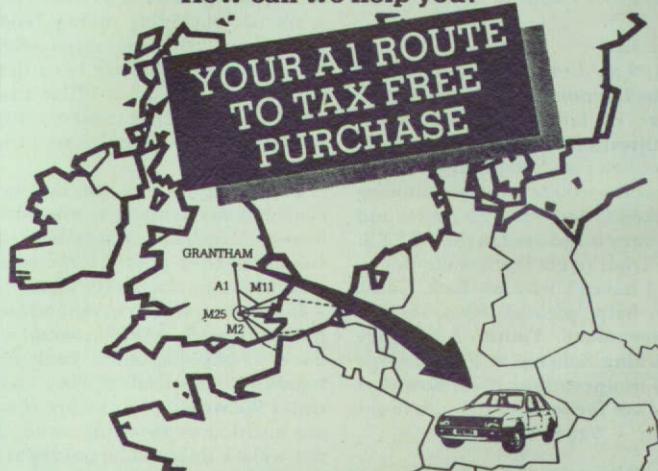
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ACCORDING TO the old song, a policeman's lot is not a happy one. But evidently Major Ken Greenland, late of the Royal Military Police, cannot get enough of it.

Having left his desk at HQ UKLF, Ken is about to embark on the daunting prospect of policing an area roughly the size of Wales.

As police chief designate of the Falkland Islands he will have a force of 15 men to help him keep the peace in that remote part of the South Atlantic.

Ken is the son of a policeman who advised him — "don't join the force simply because I've been in it." He took this to mean — make up your own mind. And after a six year spell with the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment, he did just that.

"I realised that actually I would quite like to be a policeman," he said, "and thus I transferred to the RMP."

Ken Greenland thoroughly enjoyed his 10 years with the military police. He served with the Special Investigation Branch — "you spend all your working time doing investigation of crime which is tremendous". And he specialised in close protection, the security of diplomats and others, which took him to such places as Beirut and Uganda.

"I have done general police duties as well with all that this entails," he said. "For example in BAOR with a Divisional Provost Company I did operational traffic control in the Division."

"It was all good stuff and quite interesting. But the fact is now I have reached a stage in my career when I can no longer expect to do pure police work because I am going to become a staff officer whether I like it or not. And that's not the same as getting your hands

After 10 years with the Royal Military Police...



A lonely beat

dirty which is the thing I have always appreciated.

"So the only way I could continue to do police work was to come out and join the police."

It was a six month tour of the Falklands last year that really provided the opportunity. As Force Provost Marshal, Ken was also effectively deputy police chief as all members of the military police, whether Army, Navy or Air Force, are sworn in as constables.

In this capacity Ken got to know the present police chief very well. This officer, on secondment from the Metropolitan police, was due to retire after 30 years service, and he expressed to Ken some worries about who would replace him.

This planted the germ of the idea and when Ken was eventually approached and asked if he would care to take on the job he had his answer ready.

"I had already said that I was destined to become a staff officer and that I wasn't too keen on that," he recalled. "So it all happened at the right time, one thing after another, until I decided: Yes, that

is what I would do."

Ken's enthusiasm wasn't shared by his wife, Liz. In order to persuade her he promised to commit himself for no more than the initial three year tour. After that they would think again.

"The children, on the other hand, think it is a tremendous idea," he said. "They are really over the moon about it. Though perhaps they are a bit too young (ages ranging from eight to two) to appreciate what it is all about. But I've told them about the Falklands and shown them photographs and they seem to think it is a good idea."

The family will have the use of a new prefabricated Swedish bungalow which will at least keep them warm while Ken gets to grips with his new responsibilities.

Before the war, he said, what little crime the Falklands produced tended to be the product of high spirits. There was the rare murder but that was well within the capabilities of the local police.

"Since the war, of course, you have a very large garrison down

Major Ken Greenland... and Fitzroy — just a small part of his new manor.

there — large in relation to the local population — which has brought some problems," Ken said. "Although really to be fair, we have to say that the troops have been incredibly well behaved."

On top of this there was the presence of a large number of contractors working on the airfield and approach roads, and there was also the prospect of another influx of workers if the recently granted oil exploration licences produced commercially viable results.

"You are faced with the problem of unaccompanied men who are receiving quite a good salary, bored out of their minds and really with nowhere to let off steam.

"So you've got all the problems that that is going to bring."

In addition to normal police work, the Falklands force is also responsible for helping out with Customs and Excise, controlling immigration, issuing licences for vehicles, firearms and so forth, and acting as conservation wardens.

"We are talking about a local population of some 2,000 with a transitory population of 8,000 in an area approaching the size of Wales," Ken explained. And 15 men to cover that is really asking quite a lot — to do it efficiently and get out and about.

"If we have to send someone off to South Georgia, for example, which is also part of the patch, to do a two day inquiry, he could well be gone for three weeks because that's the time it takes to get there, do the job and come back again. That means, with very limited manpower resources, I have really got to be careful how I deploy them, otherwise I simply won't be able to carry on doing the job."

The sappers have now cleared most of the mines, but some problems don't go away — like long distances and poor communications.



Story: Robert Higson

COLLECTIVELY and simultaneously, it is said, all 18 of their Chieftain tanks could fire off just over 5,000 lbs or 72 rounds of High Explosive Squash Head (HESH) rounds 'comfortably in under a minute'. **GRAHAM SMITH** visited the heart of infantry country at Warminster to take a quick look at Scotland's proud showpiece: its sole Royal Tank Regiment and Royal Armoured Corps demonstration squadron.



FIFE'S FRIENDLY PERSUADERS

DAREDEVIL'... 'Dazzling'... 'Darius'... 'Daffodil' and 14 of their heavyweight stablemates will be changing Celtic hands later this month after a highly successful two-year-three-month spell in Scottish care as the resident 18-strong 'rent-a-tank' organisation.

They were, of course, operated by men of 'A' Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, the all-but-four-man Scots recruited Demonstration Squadron of the Royal Armoured Corps who were equipped with venerable Chieftain main battle tanks.

Their successors will be 'D' Squadron, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Their immediate predecessors had been 'C' Squadron, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

In the two years plus just ended 'A' Squadron had been based at the School of Infantry's Harman Lines housed in a purpose-built offices and hangar complex dating from 1978. During their stay the tankies had completed 58,500 tracked miles, three times a normal squadron average.

Normally though, their well-patronised area of operations is within the huge tracts of Salisbury Plain Principal Training Area with two weeks of differing activities sandwiched between the cycles. These include a fortnight's regimental exercise and another fortnight's annual firing.

'A' Squadron in its present demonstration role has four Troops each of four Chieftains with a two-Chieftain HQ element.

Explaining his squadron's role, its Leader, Major Charles McBean said it was one of "selling the Royal Armoured Corps to the rest of the Army, particularly the infantry, in terms of fighting capability."

His 56-ton battlefield charges

and three long-wheelbase Land Rovers.

"Our REME fitters are first class", said a beaming Major McBean. "We do all our own prophylactic maintenance and the REME can anticipate when something may go wrong and get to it in time. They are quite remarkable people. They start work when we stop.

"We've had some very good service out of our Chieftains. In BAOR they are rebuilt every 2,000 miles at base workshops. Our tanks would normally complete 4,000 miles before being replaced.

"On Exercise Lionheart I think I lost three tanks for periods of not more than eight hours. I lost another for slightly longer because of spares availability. The rest of my tanks motored extremely well during our two weeks' participation. I was satisfied with their performance, certainly."

Because his men had worked and lived with Chieftain for so long, he said, there was an 'enormous affection' for it. "You do get very fond of them."

Major McBean — he is soon to be Brigade Major (RAC) at 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld — went on: "The great advantage of having an annual commitment cycle with a fixed programme fairly well in advance is that you can make plans for a lot of other activities, in particular, training courses when

Major Charles McBean, 'A' Squadron Leader lectures the ladies on the operating wiles of Chieftain.

converted to the IFCS (Improved Fire Control System) by the New Year, being the last Army squadron to do so. The crews, in readiness for their BAOR Move, have been practising on the resident Gunnery Training Simulator (GTS) housed in one of the Harman Line buildings.

Formerly in Lemgo, 'A' Squadron was the unit who showed elements of the infantry how to use Saracens, the first purpose-built British Army APC to enter service. They have also been the independent Berlin squadron.

"We've only had one major firepower 'disaster' in two years of operation at Warminster and that was traced to an ammunition fault," said Major McBean.

"We have enjoyed living in an infantry environment. There's not another tankie or cavalry unit within miles."

Servicing and maintenance of the 'A' Squadron tanks is done assiduously, their keepers ever mindful that their battlefield steeds must be as near perfect as possible when under Army or general public approbation.

Captain Philip Skinner, the squadron's second-in-command, said: "Chieftain mounts the best armament gun in the world. It really is fabulous. The Fire Control System is unrivalled but one might concede that there are possibly areas of overall performance that might be improved. We have a certain degree of independence here serving several other masters and we enjoy doing it."

Keeping the show on the road, or rather the ranges, has been a big task in terms of stores and spares.



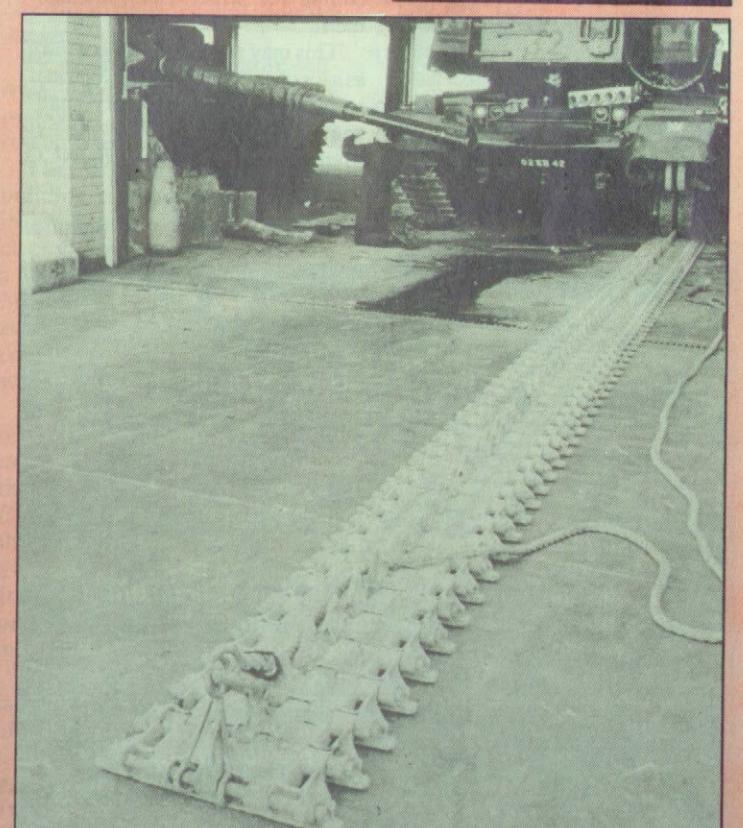
A clan of Chieftains in the squadron workshops.

other aspects of armoured warfare. We are, if you like, 'selling' the RAC concept to the Army and the world.

"It's certainly been one of the most satisfying jobs I've ever had and it's been enormous fun. It's a very special squadron and the tanks in it are fantastic — there's no doubt about that."

Parting shot: The men of 'A' Squadron, 4 RTR, are bound for Osnabrück, BAOR, to take up an armoured regimental role.

**Pictures:
Les Wiggs**



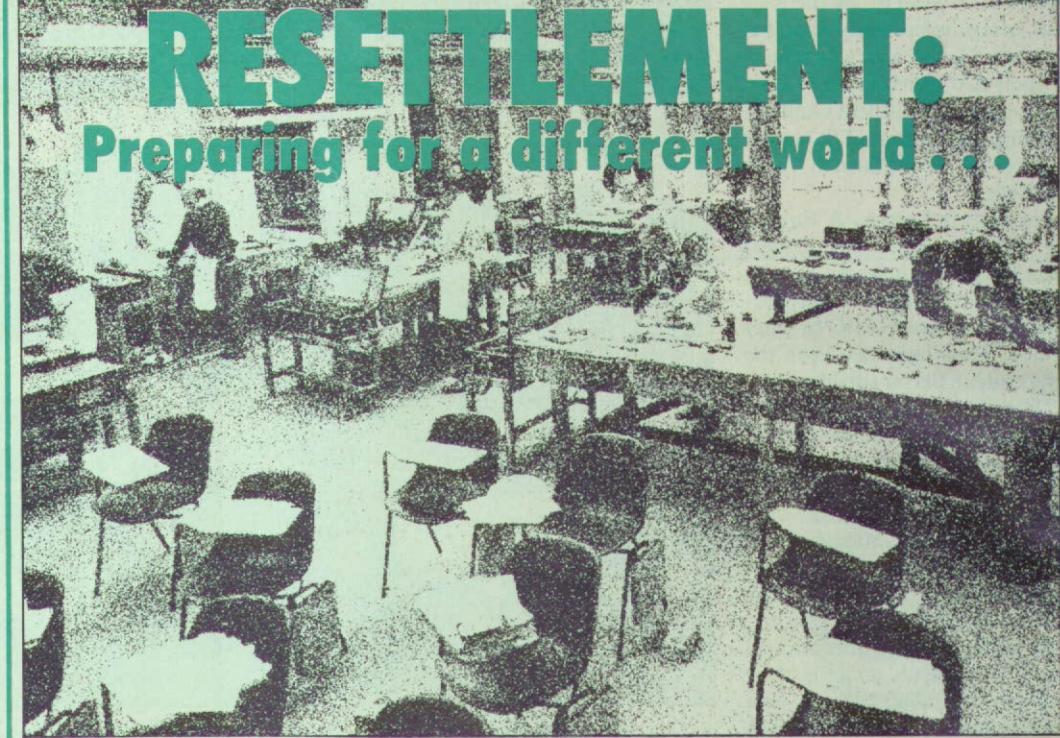
THE WORKSHOPS of Number 2 Army Resettlement Centre, Aldershot, have seen a thing or two in their time. Where else, for instance, could you watch the occasional Field Marshal being instructed in the gentle art of bricklaying, or observe a full colonel blistering paint with a blow torch?

This, it must be said, is really one extreme of the resettlement business and hardly typical of the massive effort to ease old, and not so old, soldiers, sailors and airmen out of uniform and back into Civvy Street.

Every year thousands of men and women leave the Armed Forces to face what can be the tough job of re-adjusting the civilian standards and values in a far from encouraging economic climate.

Theoretically many of them are eligible for a 28-day resettlement course during the last six months of their military career. For non-commissioned ranks over the age of 18 this applies to those with more than five years unbroken service. Officers qualify after a three year engagement.

The range of subjects available for study is impressively large, but getting on a course — especially at one of the Army resettlement centres — is becoming increasingly



difficult.

The demand for places, according to Lieutenant Colonel Alan Saville, Commandant of Number 2 Resettlement Centre, has become very competitive. But generally, he says, the longer you have served, the more chance you have.

Recently Colonel Saville totted up a few figures which showed that about 3,500 people had attended courses at the resettlement centres in Aldershot and Catterick over a one year period. Most of them had concentrated on various trades but a fair number had taken the general studies course for supervisory management.

This may seem a bit unnecessary as a lot of experience in the Services is to do with supervisory management. As Colonel Saville explained: "It's not as if an NCO

◀ Artists in the making.

WO2 Michael Pharoah — planing.

Some jobs easier to find

Against the grim background of 13 per cent national unemployment, ex-members of the Regular Forces found it slightly easier to get jobs during the past financial year.

The Regular Forces Employment Association reports that the number assisted (over 9,500) rose by nine per cent on the previous year, placings by ten per cent and the proportion placed to those assisted by three per cent.

In his annual report, the association's president, Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, admitted that an extra 360 placings and a placing to registration ratio of 40 per cent may not sound particularly exciting.

But he added: "It is the first recorded improvement since 1979/80 when the recession started. We have a degree of confidence that this upward trend will continue as, up to the end of August, our placings from April are up some 12 per cent on the same months the previous year."

The main increases were for skilled and semi-skilled manual workers, postmen, salesmen and security workers.

wears big boots, has his hair cut up to the top of his head and spends his time ranting and raving on the square. These days a sergeant major drives a desk a lot of the time and has to have management skills."

The only problem is that soldiers and civilians don't always talk the same language.

"You have to remember that National Service stopped in the early '60s so that the majority of hirers and firers these days have no idea of what soldiering is about — other than 'It Ain't Half Hot, Mum.'

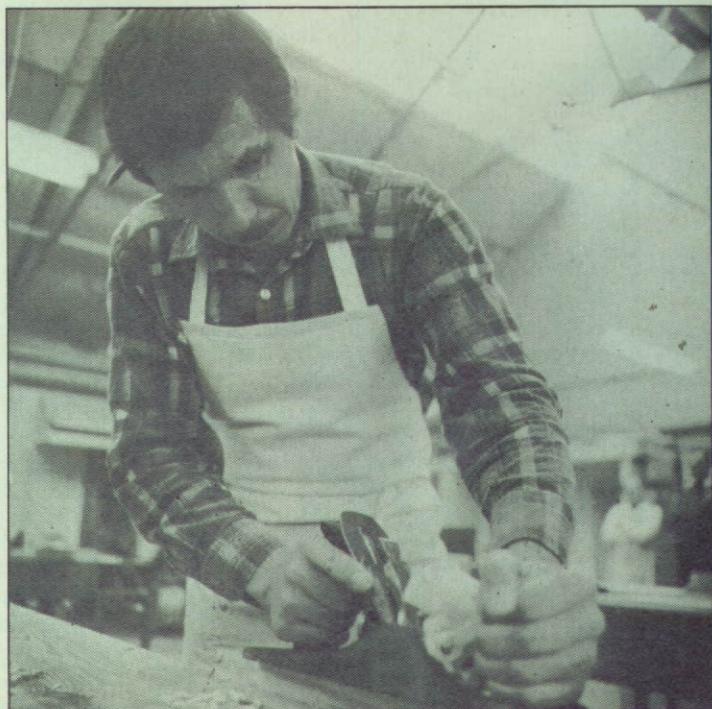
"Teaching our students the right language is part of the civilianisation process."

Colonel Saville divided his students into three basic categories

— those who want to brush up on a skill they previously acquired, those trying to develop new skills, and those trying to gain a little technical experience.

"You'll realise in 28 days we can't go too deeply into a specific subject," he explained. "But we have an arrangement with the City and Guilds of London whereby they can accredit a lot of our courses with a skills test certificate. Now this is not a crafts certificate, the sort of thing you spend years learning, but it is an indication that you've acquired some basic skill."

As part of the business of preparing Servicemen and women for the world outside, the centre has to pay particular attention to current trends and developments.





Lt Col John Tudor — paint scraping...

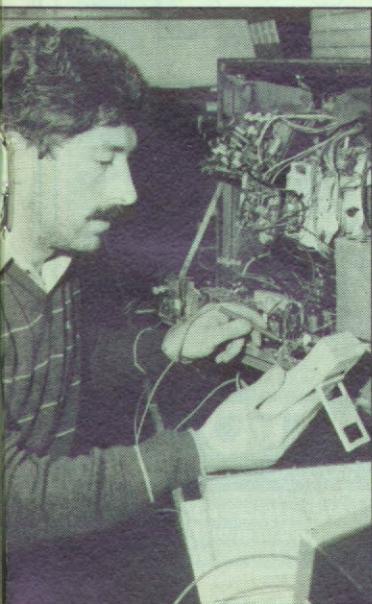
This is especially true in the engineering department where the national decline in manufacturing and expansion of service industries is reflected in the courses now on offer.

"Five years ago we had three welding shops," said Mr Bernard Pearcey, the head of the centre's Department of Engineering. "Now we are down to one. The reason for that, I suppose, is the recession.

"The only really manufacturing course we had — machine shop practice — that's now closed. So from a manufacturing point of view we don't really offer a course. It's all service related."

Mr Pearcey said that TV servicing was one of the courses that had been introduced, but even this was likely to meet with drastic changes as the result of new technology.

"At the moment you've got something like 300 components in a TV set and you're going to end up with five micro chips. We can see that within the next five years or so we'll have to be moving in



that direction."

The students' reasons for going on a particular course vary from the necessity of brushing up on a work skill, through to the business of trying something new to see if they like it sufficiently to undertake further study, or gaining experience that might be useful later.

In one workshop Warrant Officer 1 Barry King, REME, was tinkering with a diesel engine — a bit of a contrast to the helicopter engines he's been used to working on with the Army Air Corps.

"I feel that diesel engines are going to predominate in the future," he said. "So I felt I ought to get to know a bit about them."

In the TV repair shop Lance Corporal Mahoney of the Queen's Own Hussars, a former control signaller, was grappling with the interior of a colour set. He has got a job with GCHQ in Cheltenham and, as he put it, TV repair "is more of a personal interest than anything else."

Working alongside him was Sergeant Tom Daly, Royal Signals, recently employed with computers on Project Wavell. He was there because he wanted the chance to brush up on his electronics theory.

Lance Bombadier Stephen Smith, until recently an MT driver and storeman, was busy painting a design on a door as part of the four week painting and decorating course. For him this was a means of seeing whether it would be worth his while going on to a technical college.

Sapper Andrew Scouler, a plant operator with the Royal Engineers, was also trying to wield a sure and steady paint brush. "It's a lot of hard work for not a lot of money," he reflected. "But I just wanted to try something new."

For more senior students the Building Maintenance Course remains consistently popular. This course, which has among its old boys no less a personage than Field

Sgt Tom Daley — TV repair.

Story: Robert Higson Pictures: Doug Pratt



... and towing out

Marshal Lord Carver, gives practical experience in bricklaying, tiling and painting.

Colonel Saville explained: "Those who are looking for an interest in their retirement are really a very minimal number. Many do building maintenance, not only for general interest, but because if you do this course you know what should be done, even if you can't do it terribly well yourself. And that suits you to be anything from a caretaker of a block of flats to a bursar in a school or any sort of general administrator with responsibility for buildings."

This was certainly true in the case of Lieutenant Colonel John Tudor, who has spent 37 years in the Catering Corps. He spent a month laying bricks, plastering walls and stripping paint to add some experience of maintenance to his extensive knowledge of catering in the pursuit of a job as a domestic bursar.

He added: "Rather more selfishly, I hope to maintain my own property, rather than getting cowboys to do it."

The fear of the much publicised building cowboys had obviously inspired other members of the class. Colonel James McCormach, a physician at the Cambridge Military Hospital, saw the course as a means of avoiding heavy labour costs or at least of being able to supervise any work.

Colonel Martin Jones, formerly of the Parachute Regiment and until recently Defence Advisor at the British High Commission in Cyprus, said the course had shown that there were many little things you could happily do on your own. It made you more aware of the problems and what was involved in their repair.

All the students were particularly impressed with the standard of instruction. Group Captain



Private 'Willy' Wilson — arc welding.

Ronald Wood, who was busily scraping paint alongside Colonel Jones said it had all been "really tremendous".

And Colonel Tudor was also full of praise for a course that had helped him to know about material and tools, to know how to use them and to appreciate their restrictions and capabilities.



Ex-REME Staff Sergeant John Turner explains the mysteries of a car engine.

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ACCOMMODATED IN a single-storey office building set in the lee of HQ South-East District, Aldershot, are a dozen tri-Service personnel who are confidently waiting but fully prepared for the unexpected. The unexpected that may flare up at any time such as an international incident encompassing a request for help involving British nationals as part of their out-of-Nato-area remit.

Headed by Colonel John Holman, QUEENS, their Chief-of-Staff, the unique cell comprises the Permanent Planning Group (PPG) of a Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ); a nucleus of experts in their fields who have been quietly doing business since September of last year.

Events in the Falklands, sudden in their happening, re-emphasised the need among planners for such a HQ (as the one at Aldershot) and a staff to train them; a staff with 'double-hatted' responsibilities, those of tutors, and in the event, actual operators in the non-Nato battlefield.

The last time the UK Forces had a similar dedicated, active 'think tank' for international emergencies involving military in-put was up until 1978 when the former 3 Division moved from Bulford to BAOR.

Over the years since the end of the Second World War the

"It all starts from here, gentlemen," Colonel Holman tells his joint Service colleagues at Aldershot.

JOINTLY PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED

calendar of ex-colonial requirements for British assistance has been studded with no less than 72 incidents, the Falklands apart.

The lessons of that conflict in the inhospitable South Atlantic have been well impressed and, since last autumn, the Permanent Planning Group has been busy setting up and overseeing the development of a two-star JFHQ. As a result it has been out on exercise once this year, will take part in one more before its close

Story: Graham Smith

and will carry out three — one at sea and two using air-landing options — next year.

In its infancy of the first few months, the PPG started off with nothing but bare office walls but soon established contacts and built up a strong rapport among themselves for inter-Service understanding of operating procedures. The in-office relationship has been excellent, says Colonel Holman.

Imparting the expertise on behalf of the PPG have been Col Holman, his three majors, an RAF wing commander and squadron leader, a Royal Navy commander,

and a Royal Marines lieutenant-colonel; the whole supported by three Army and one RAF admin back-up.

The two main functions of the cell are chartered for Service assisted evacuation (Cyprus of 1974 would have been a prime example) and Service-protected operations (a hapless solution to the Rhodesian conflict of 1979 could have been another) for British nationals.

"We are essentially involved in tri-Service operations overseas," said Col Holman, a former CO of 1 Queen's and a former CO of the Commonwealth Military Training Team (CMTT) in Uganda. (See SOLDIER, April 9).

"It was the events of the Falklands in 1982 where the need for a Joint Force HQ was again realised. We work with 5 Airborne Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade. Our other two roles are assistance to the Third World — unwelcome incursions from unfriendly neighbours, for instance — and schemes in conjunction with the United Nations in other countries plus the protection of British Sovereign Territory.

"We are answerable to a sort of Board of Directors comprising Flag Officer Third Flotilla (FOF 3),

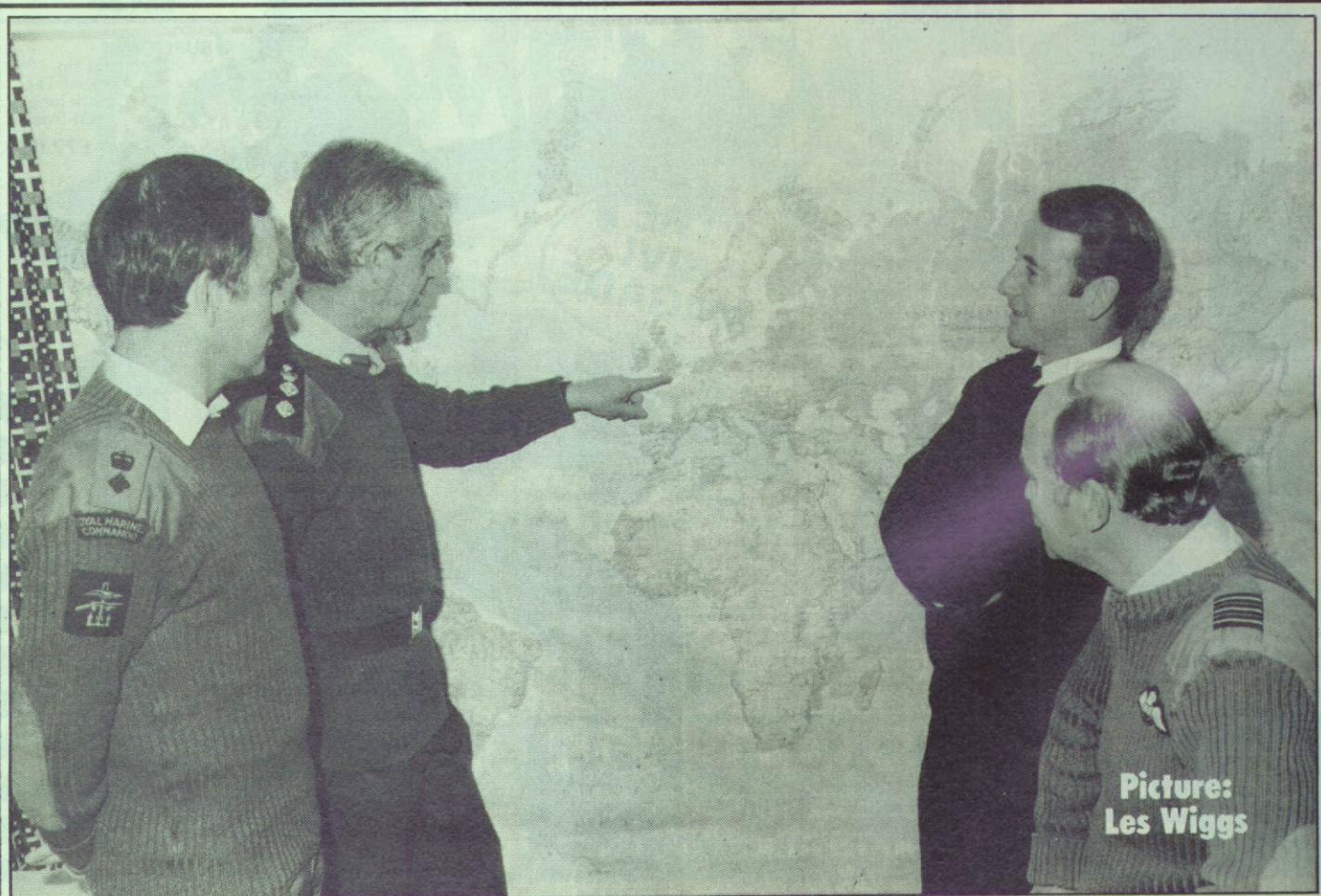
Major General Royal Marines (MGRM), the RAF's AOC 1 Group at Upavon and the GOC South-East District acting as chairman. Our role is looking at the concepts of inserting Forces by air-landing and by sea thus putting something together which has been lacking in our organisation.

Putting into field practice what they preach, the JFHQ will swell in numbers to take part in three exercises next year, one of them at Otterburn in Northumberland, ostensibly a 'foreign country', to improve their out-of-area role using all the procedures procured from the PPG.

But what about for real? A flash point like the Lebanon, a natural disaster on the Indian sub-continent or an overnight coup in Africa?

Colonel Holman, naturally, was saying nothing but confirmed there was always the possibility which further endorsed his unit's vital *raison d'être*. His troubleshooters would doubtless be involved.

"We are here to ensure that our Forces are never needlessly caught with their pants down, in the situations I have described," he said.



**Picture:
Les Wiggs**

LOOKING AT BOOKS



The author, Don Henderson at work — now working on a new novel.

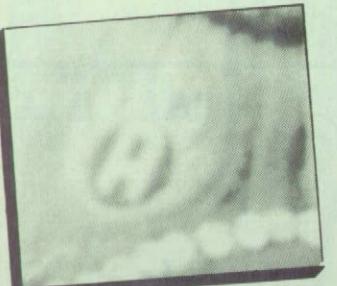
GALLANTRY

DRAGONS

Two George Medallists from different walks of life meet over a drink at the Man of the Year lunch in 1973. Warrant Officer Michael Coldrick RAOC received his award for his part in combatting terrorism in Northern Ireland and Sergeant Gordon Meredith of the Warwick and Coventry Constabulary won his after overcoming an armed raider. Both men were awarded the George Medal in 1973.



PROFICIENCY BADGES



ONE way to make a name for yourself in a competitive field like military history or memorabilia is to find something that everyone else has ignored and then produce the definitive work.

This has evidently been the aim of Denis Edwards, a retired Warrant Officer with 32 years service in the Royal Artillery, and David Langley, the Principal Meteorological Officer at the Leeds Weather Centre and a former

forecaster at several RAF stations. Both men are keen students of Army insignia which is a rather overcrowded field of interest these days. In fact demand for regimental badges is such that some firms are manufacturing them for sale to collectors, much to the disgust of the purists.

So for the past three years Messrs Edwards and Langley have devoted their spare time to researching and writing a book on the hitherto neglected subject of British Army proficiency badges — the insignia which decorated (sometimes unofficially) the uniforms.

Denis Edwards says the book is a means of preserving history: "Soldiers have worn proficiency badges to show what they've done for the past 150 years, but there's no definitive book to say what they all are. So we decided that they should all be recorded before they disappear."

And in fact they are disappearing fast. Mr Edwards explains: "Most

of the information on the subject has been destroyed. Ordnance depots simply destroy the material. When old uniforms come in with badges on them they are just burnt. Even metal badges are simply used for scrap. No one until now has been interested in recording them for posterity."

The other main problem is simply one of changing fashion. Combat jackets and jerseys don't seem to suit proficiency badges in the way the old battle dress once did. And Mr Edwards believes that modern commanding officers don't like seeing their men festooned like Boy Scouts. He estimates that the 250 basic badges shown in the book have now been reduced to about 30 of which only half are in common use.

Mr Edwards describes it as the definitive book. But he knows there will have to be a second edition. It just is not possible for a book like this to appear without someone somewhere pointing to omissions and mistakes.

British Army Proficiency Badges by Denis Edwards and David Langley (Wardley Publishing) £8.75.

Dragons Can Be Defeated is a complete history of the George Medal, the gallantry award the author himself won after defusing a 30lb IRA time bomb outside a London restaurant in 1976. It was packed full of six-inch coach screws designed to cause maximum damage and injury.

One of a team of 12 and the very first Civilian Explosives Officer (readers will remember his colleague Ken Howarth who was killed by a bomb in Oxford Street in 1981) Don Henderson defused the monstrosity with just seconds to spare.

He has already written one novel, *Bomb Two* which is based on his experiences with the Met but this new book is his magnum opus and has taken seven-and-a-half years to collate.

The original draft was written in prose and amounted to nearly 400,000 words. Not surprisingly the publishers balked at its length and the result was his second manuscript written largely in table form and giving details of the 2,005 George Medals plus the 34 honorary awards to foreigners.

Of the title of the book, Don Henderson explains in his first chapter: *The figure of Saint George*

Dragons Can Be Defeated by Major Don Henderson (retd). Published by Spink and Sons, price £12.

killing the dragon, reproduced on the reverse of the George Medal, is an allegorical one signifying the overthrow of evil by the forces of chivalry but, in the sense that it is worn by holders of the medal, the dragon can be considered to represent fear, the emotion that is, to a greater or lesser extent, part of the human make-up. In subordinating this feeling, whether by reflex or after deliberation, and demonstrating a concern for public safety, ie the safety of others, each man, woman or child awarded the George Medal can truly be said to have defeated the dragon but, since there is always thought to be more than one dragon, the emotion survives to require defeat on other occasions.

A widower and father of four grown-up children, Don describes himself as 'chief cook and bottle-washer' around his five-bedroomed house in Surrey. Yet, even with his consultancy work which takes him to many countries in the world, he still finds time for writing and is currently at work on a second novel, a sequel to the first.

Dragons Can Be Defeated by Major Don Henderson (retd). Published by Spink and Sons, price £12.

THE YEOMEN CELEBRATE 500 YEARS

NEXT year, on the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth, the Yeomen of the Guard will have notched up half a millennium of devoted service to the Monarchs of Britain.

Originally the personal bodyguard of Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, they became, by his victory at Bosworth and his seizure of the Crown, the official protectors of the Sovereign.

"It is rather a strain to have to stand behind someone eating at a state banquet, but this is what they do," said Sir Julian who recounts in his book the occasion when King Alfonso of Spain approached the Exxon (a Yeoman officer) after one protracted banquet and said: "I hope you are not as hungry as you look."

With the creation of Sir Robert Peel's Metropolitan Police in 1834, the Yeomen lost their responsibility for the security of the Royal Family. But they still continue their ritual search of the cellars of Parliament before the State Opening as they have done ever since Guy Fawkes tried to remove both King and Parliament with gunpowder in 1605. And they have attended the Opera with their Sovereign since the time someone took a pot shot at George III in the Drury Lane Theatre.

"They fought with him in battle, they made his bed at night (to make sure that nobody had put a bomb underneath it). They tasted his food and they did everything to protect him. It must have been a very special, responsible role.

"In fact 100 of them were doing what the Special Branch, the police, the Household Division and everybody else does now."

Yeomen of the Guard are no longer required to wrestle, as they were when they served Henry VIII.

The ability of outsiders to make the distinction hasn't been helped



by almost identical uniforms and the fact that Gilbert and Sullivan entitled their famous operetta on the Warders 'Yeomen of the Guard'.

The Yeomen Warders are virtually full time civil servants with their duties confined to the Tower of London. The Yeomen of the Guard, on the other hand, are all part timers who are called by duty order from around the country to attend various State occasions.

It was William IV, with the support of the Duke of Wellington, who started the present practice of recruiting the Guard almost entirely from the ranks of retired Warrant Officers and senior NCOs.

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WORKS OF REFERENCE

A *World Atlas of Military History 1945-1984* by Tom

Hartman with John Mitchell. Published by Martin Secker and Warburg Ltd, price £12.95.

Uniforms of the Indo-China and Vietnam Wars by Leroy Thompson. Published by Blandford Press, price £.95. *World Tanks and Reconnaissance Vehicles since 1945* by Noel Ayliffe-Jones. Published by Ian Allan, price £11.95.

Airborne: The History of the American Parachute Forces by Edwin P Hoyt. Published by Stein and Day of America and distributed in UK by Patrick Stephens Ltd, price £6.95. *World Bayonets 1980 to the present (An Illustrated Reference Guide for Collectors)* by Anthony Carter. Published by Arms and Armour Press, price £6.50.

"I think it is so interesting that the Bodyguard now does consist almost entirely of Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeant of the Army, the Marines and the RAF," he said. "And they are virtually the same stock as the original yeomen who fought under Henry VII, and I think that is something really worthy of note."

Next year, to mark the anniversary of the Battle which brought them into the Royal establishment, the Yeomen of the Guard will receive a new Standard from the Queen (their first since 1938) and they will visit Bosworth on the actual day of the anniversary, 22 August.

"But I don't think they are going to do anything very special," Sir Julian said. "After all they are a Royal Bodyguard and, you know, 500 marks just another century." *The Yeomen of the Guard* by Sir Julian Paget, published by Blandford £10.95

For Sale

Birmingham mint collection 52 line regiment, solid silver medals each with cap badge with presentation chest. Medals inscribed with battle honours. Will be in UK 6 December '84. D Graham, SNCO, Mess 4, PO Box 897, Sultanate of Oman.

British Canadian cap badges, titles, patches, worldwide Para wings, hats, berets, exchange/sale.

Dave Tite, 92 Eaton Road, Kempston, Bedford.

British Army DPM combat jacket. Latest pattern, almost new, size 36", fully lined with drawstrings, complete with DPM hood, only £20.

Stuart Cook, 22 Parkside, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8NG. 0440 703046.

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M H Taylor, 221 West End Road, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 6QG.

Military history, many books available, old and not so old. Send 1st class stamp for list.

M G Pearson Books, S1, 13 Aintree Crescent, Barkingside, Essex, IG6 2HD.

Complete set of 58 pattern webbing, excellent condition includes poncho, water bottle and mess tins £50 ono, includes P&P.

J Robbertshaw, 133 Ovenden Way, Halifax, W Yorks, HX3 5NG. Halifax 68339.

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Diane, Top Flat, 84 Southgate St, Gloucester.

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British military cap badge collection, selling the lot, 500 at approx £2.50 each. Regiments, Hussars, Guards, Infantry, Dragoons etc. Naval cap tallies and badges. 3 x 16p stamps for lists.

HM (Govt Surplus), 28 Church St, Mevagissey, Cornwall.

Para Wings, Australian Air Force, PJI, NZ Air Force PJI, £4.50 each. Indonesia cloth Police Para Wing £2.00, others available. SAE for list of elite items.

G W Peacock, Hillview, Bosworth Road, Wellsborough, Nuneaton, Warks, CV13 6PA.

Royal Signals Mess kit. Jacket size 40", trousers waist 38", inside leg 29", bow tie, waistcoat. £65 secures the lot, including post and package.

Paul Leniston, 17 St Andrews Road, Warminster, Wilts.

Militaria. Send SAE for list of latest British worldwide and Rhodesian militaria.

G W W, BCM 8191, London, WC1N 3XX.

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V Henderson, 6 Thames Crescent, Melksham, Wilts.

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W Coy, 6 RRF, TA Centre, Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1DQ.

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H Carter, 28 Ropebank Avenue, Wistaston, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 6RP.

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F R Reed, 104 Cherry Garden Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8HG.

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Penpal mag for lonely people. Approval copy from: Matchmaker (X66), Chorley, Lancs.



Your Cap Badge

No. 68

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

Within the Garter the shield of arms of the Board of Ordnance; above the St. Edward's crown, the base of which rests upon the inner rim of the Garter.

Below the Garter a scroll inscribed with the Corps motto 'Sua Tela Tonanti' (To the warrior his arms).

The shield of the arms in silver plate, the remainder in gilt.

The old Office and Board of Ordnance which originated in the 15th century ceased to exist in 1855 when the duties of the Board were transferred to the Secretary of State for War and it is proper that the arms of the Board should be a principal feature of the design.

The Crimean War brought into prominence the need for an efficient supply and support system for the Army which was under military control and led to the formation of a Military Store Department on 1 April 1857 staffed by officers charged with the supply of equipment and stores to make good the startling deficiency.

In 1865 the Military Store Staff Corps for soldiers was established for general service at home and abroad and placed under the command of officers of the Military Store Department.

Various additional reorganisations occurred until 1896 when the officers were grouped into the Army Ordnance Department and the soldiers into the Army Ordnance Corps which also included the Corps of Armourers and Armament Artificers.

Lessons were learned in the South African War but 1914 found the Army without a trained supply organisation capable of dealing with the vast operations encountered and many senior officers did not understand the importance of logistics.

However the Department and the Corps acquitted themselves admirably and in recognition of these efforts King George V awarded the prefix 'Royal' to the Corps in 1918, when it embraced both officers and other ranks.

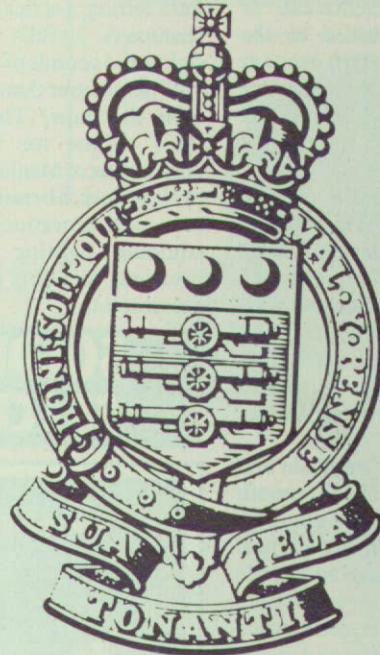
At the outbreak of World War 2 the RAOC underwent a very considerable expansion, being reclassified from having a non-combatant role to that of a combatant status.

In 1942 the function of repairing vehicles and equipment was placed in the hands of the newly formed REME.

Since the Second World War the duties of the RAOC have further expanded and currently the Corps provides practically everything the Army requires to live, move and fight.

In addition, the Corps also supplies certain items to the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

HUGH L KING



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The offer is available for seats on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 3pm or 7.45pm, Fridays at 7.45pm and Sundays at 5.30pm until the show closes on 24 February, by completing the application form below and sending it to 'Holiday on Ice' Box Office, Wembley Stadium Ltd, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0DW.

Reservations can be made and payment deferred until one month before the performance if required.

The show opens with a nautical flavour amid the hustle and bustle of a big naval port — ice-bound, of course! Sailors explode into a dazzling fusion of music and movement, and the show has begun.

The mood changes to a make-believe fantasy for children of all ages as a little girl creeps into a kitchen late at night and discovers a family of mice about to embark on their nightly escapades. The little girl and the mice introduce themselves and together they spend a night full of fun and games.

Suddenly, the haunting opening of Ravel's Bolero changes the mood of the show again as this bewitching, ever accelerating dance is stunningly choreographed to build into an unforgettable conclusion to the first half.

Following the intermission, Holiday on Ice is transported to Shangri-la, deep in space, the setting for a brilliant fairy tale full of romance and danger as a handsome god fights an evil queen to win the love of her beautiful younger sister.

Back on earth, the scene shifts

to nineteenth century New York, where, in a richly colourful Central Park setting, a series of fascinating characters joyfully re-enact the sights and sounds of a bygone age.

Where better than New York to close the show? The entire cast takes to the ice with all the razzamatazz of Manhattan in Salute to New York, a breathtaking finale to a most sensational show with stunning lighting effects and fireworks rounding off a thrilling presentation.

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Bolero ballet



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The camera outfit which you can win comes complete with Kodacolour CVR Disc film which is simplicity itself to load, a metal snake-chain wrist strap, instruction booklet

and five-year warranty.

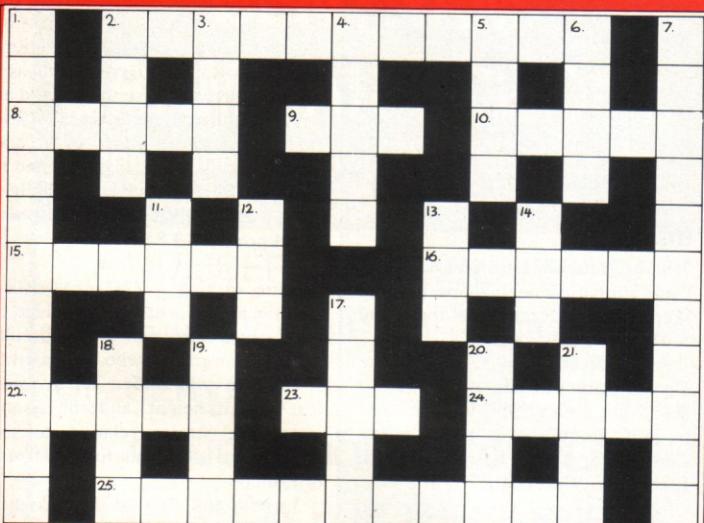
Rules of the competition are the same as usual. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 21 December. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 28 January.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 351' label.

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

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 351' label, to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

COMPETITION 351



SPORTING CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 2 'The Fighting Blacksmith'.
- 8 Noted Olympic runner — 'The Brown Bullet'.
- 9 A singular five down.
- 10 Won the FA Cup at Epsom.
- 15 Played for Sussex.
- 16 Derby winner 1909.
- 22 Jockey of note.
- 23 High and over.
- 24 Open golf champion 1910- and other years.
- 25 His Sansovina won the Derby in 1924.

DOWN

- 1 Joe Louis.
- 2 Arches, Fox or Darling.
- 3 Before the kick-off.
- 4 Played for Lancashire.
- 5 9 to 4 when Sun Chariot won the St Leger.
- 6 Hyperion had a good one.
- 7 1917 Derby winner.
- 11 Australia won these test matches against the MCC 1920-21.
- 12 United from the North.
- 13 On an Australian cricket cap.
- 14 Number of times a reigning monarch has owned the Derby winner.
- 17 'Won' the original FA Cup in 1895.
- 18 Sussex and MCC 'scorched earth' bowler.
- 19 South African batsman.
- 20 Racing 'handicap'.
- 21 This after 'Tar' for Sam Langford.



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OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>	STATE _____	

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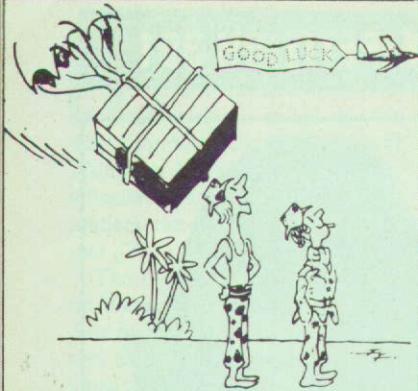
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MAIL DROP

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

SCRAP HEAP

Well done Pte Robinson of A Coy, 1 PARA (24 Sept.). I am one of the 60,000 others who certainly will rejoice when those itchy KF shirts are consigned to the scrap heap. Why has it taken so long to come up with a better shirt? I suspect the boffins don't have to wear KF. — Cpl C. W. Ibbsen, 229 (Berlin Infantry Brigade) Signal Squadron, BFPO 45.

SNAP!

Reference your story 'Major's Rare Double' (24 Sept), answer from 4 RRW — SNAP! Major Norman Lawson, Royal Army Pay Corps has served with this battalion for 33 years. He joined the old 4th Welch Regiment after completing his National Service and has soldiered on to date.

Commissioned in 1972 he had previously received his Efficiency Medal in 1963 and his Territorial Decoration was presented by Lt Col David Bromham, the Commanding Officer, at Annual Camp this year on a Battalion Scale 'A' parade; so his achievement was properly recognised by all personnel who serve with him. — Major R V Williams, 4 RRW, North Dock, Llanelli, Dyfed.

INADEQUATE

I was glad to read Mr Parker's letter (10 December) in which he welcomed the award of the Campaign Service Medal for service in Lebanon but, at the same time, suggested that the question of an award for service in the Suez Canal Zone 1951-4 should be reviewed in the light of this decision.

Your readers will be disappointed to know that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP, who has been representing the case for an award for Suez Canal service in the House for the last seven years, raised the matter again on 25 April with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces but he received a very inadequate answer. Lord Trefgarne suggested that, in spite of the Lebanon award, there were "no new factors which would lead me to conclude that the Army Council's decision (1952) should be reversed."

Perhaps he should have watched the recent TV programme on Channel 4, Sweet Water Memories, when he could have compared the conditions in the

Suez Canal Zone, especially from October 1951 to March 1952, with those in Beirut 1983/4, as far as British soldiers were concerned. He might then have revised his opinions and taken steps to ensure that due recognition is given to those Servicemen who endured the hardships of the Zone in the cause of freedom and to the relatives of those 54 Servicemen who lost their lives — Colonel P S Newton, Secretary Army Museums Ogilby Trust, Connaught Barracks, Duke of Connaught Road, Aldershot.

NO OFFICERS

In January 1933, I enlisted in the Army and after completing my training, some of us decided to spend a weekend in London — my first trip to the Big City!

We went to the UJ Club for a meal and really enjoyed ourselves.

During the war I was commissioned, and was overseas many years, but I never forgot the UJ Club.

Years later we had a reunion of ex-India *wallahs* at the Club. I went and, amazed to see such a lovely building, joined as a member and stayed there when ever I was in London.

When the time for renewal of my membership came my subscription was returned. I could not be a member, it seems, because I was an ex-officer and therefore ineligible. I only really wanted to help the Club out financially. I noticed that all the officers of the Club were retired top ranking officers. So why don't they heed the rules?

I am sorry the Club is short of members but are we still unwanted because we were unfortunate enough to be officer material? — Capt H A Miller (Retd), 40 Orchard St, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7LA.

Mr Lewis Moulton, secretary of the Union Jack Club, says that quite a few letters have been received on this subject from ex-officers who were commissioned from the ranks. The trouble is that the charter of the club describes it as a memorial to Other Ranks and its articles of association specifically exclude commissioned officers. However the question of accommodating officers is being looked into by the newly formed 'Way Ahead' Committee in its review of the users of surplus space. One of the options is the establishment of an officers' annex. — Ed.

STILL REMEMBERED

In cemeteries in this area, and I suppose in other areas also, one will see the graves of RAF personnel looked after very well, with usually a lovely red rose bush on each grave. (I believe this is done by the DOE on behalf of the War Graves Commission).

This must be a comfort for the families of the deceased, even though some of the graves are of South Africans, Rhodesians, Poles and even some Germans, some of whom today would cause demonstrations to be held because of their birth place, but who we were glad to know in those dark days. It is nice to see them still remembered today.

Yet in many towns I have been the cemeteries are not well tended. The local British Legions could I am sure at least see that these graves are kept

tidy and like the RAF put a little wooden cross on the graves at Armistice time.

In Runcorn, where I was born, the majority of the soldiers' graves date from 1914-18, and are of men who died in the local hospital after being fetched home wounded from France.

In these days of the Legion clubs of which many are quite big and prosperous through their tie up with breweries, I would have thought they could possibly do something to improve their condition.

I have asked in two or three towns but no one seems to want to know.

By the way, carry on the good work — in this day and age SOLDIER is great value for money. — J Burnett, Warmington Hall, Derwent Road, Grantham.

TOBRUK

I was very interested in the report of John Mason re the Tobruk Truth. I was there and have a copy of that paper printed on the back of an Ordnance map.

I was stationed about 18 miles up the road at a place called Marrassis. I was then Trooper Pierson of the 43rd Royal Tank Regiment.

After the Jerries were pushing forward I ended up in the 62 General Hospital, then transferred to a hospital in Ismailia. — Joseph Pierson, Stratford Grove, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 5AT.

Reunions

7th Armoured Division Officers' Club annual dinner will be held on Wednesday 5 December at the Naval & Military Club, Piccadilly.

Any officers who served in the Division either during or after World War 2 are both eligible and welcome to join. Enquiries to the Steering Committee, 3 Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcs, WR7 4LP.

Any former members of 20th Bn Royal Fusiliers are asked to contact me with a view to attending a reunion to be organised at RHQ. Those responding will also receive a copy of our newsletter. Bill Bailey, Hon Sec 20th Bn Royal Fusiliers Reunion Association, 36 Freston Gardens, Cockfosters, Herts EN4 9LX.

Exeter Branch of the Royal Artillery Association will hold their Annual Dinner, Draw and Social Evening on 23 November 1984 at 8 pm at the Salamanca Club, The Drill Hall, Barrack Road, Exeter. For full details write to D C Scholfield, ISM, 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AH.

Collectors' Corner

R Rees, 3 Settle Road, Airton, Skipton, Yorkshire. Wishes to purchase any copies of 'Mars & Minerva' or exchange for 'Leatherneck', USMC magazine. A Younger, 23 St Bedes, East Boldon, South Tyneside, Tyne & Wear, NE36 0LF. Wishes to obtain full volumes/copies of SOLDIER up to and including December 1982. Full sets of 'Rugby World' from 1971/1981 inclusive, available if wanted or swap. Also one copy of 2 July 1984 edition of SOLDIER

required.

Myles G Penny, 97 Lawrence Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7A 6X7. Wishes to obtain pictures, drawings or post cards of any form of Mess Dress from any armed force of the world. Also wants to collect Canadian military buttons, especially CEF. All letters answered.

A E Innes, 3 Old Scott Road, Ganges BC, Canada, V0S 1E0. Canadian cadet urgently requires any unwanted British combat clothing (height 5' 7", waist 36", chest 38") or any 1958 pattern webbing. Will gladly pay postage.

Can you help?

I am gathering material for a book which I hope to produce on various aspects of Army life. To this end I would like to hear from any former member of Boys Company RASC who served there during the period 1954 to 1956. Also anyone who served in 90 Sqn RCT in Aden, from 1965 to 1967. — Mr A F Judge, Chatham Block, Rhine Centre, BFPO34.

Can anyone tell me the origins of the shirt widely worn as tropical dress by the Eighth Army and other formations during World War Two? This was a model with two breast pockets and an attached collar. I am anxious to find out when it was first authorised, and by whom, and also first issued, and to whom. — Peter Abbott, 13 Charles-town Road West, Davenport, Stockport, SK3 8TW.

We are making a TV series called London at War which is scheduled to be screened next year. We would like to hear from anyone who was based in London in 1940 (when the invasion fear was at its height), and who has any interesting stories relating to the preparations being made for the defence of London.

In particular, we are interested in stories about the preparation of anti-tank lines, the placing of obstacles on arterial roads to prevent planes landing and the general atmosphere of the time.

If anyone with these sort of memories could write to me, I would be very grateful. Whilst we will welcome assistance from all readers, whatever their rank at the time, it would be nice if an officer who was active in London has any memories to share with us. If anyone has a particularly outstanding memory, we might ask them to be interviewed as part of the series. — Steve Humphries, London Weekend Television, South Bank Television Centre, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9LT.

Competition

In the first of our competitions for which we offer the Kodak Disc 4000 Camera as the only prize, you had to find the names of thirteen birds from our compiler's riddle. These were 1 wren, 2 jay, 3 finch, 4 pigeon, 5 sparrow, 6 robin, 7 nightingale, 8 swan, 9 martin, 10 swift, 11 woodcock, 12 quail, 13 merlin. The lucky winner was Major (Retd) W H Moulder who lives in New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall. Congratulations, Major Moulder.

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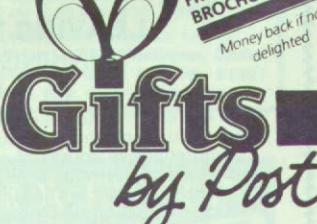
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THE MILITARY Stadium in Aldershot probably has never looked better. The green 'carpet', relaid last July, seemed so perfectly manicured that it was hard to believe that the ground staff had not cut each blade of grass to the statutory military length, individually, with a pair of scissors. The sun was as warm as the touring Wallabies' jerseys, the band of 3 Para entertained, and then, out of the sky, complete with the match ball, came the Red Devils to set the scene.

The eighth Australian Wallabies to tour the UK and Ireland were in Aldershot and they and the Combined Services XV, with three warm up matches behind them, were set to do battle. The Australians, mindful perhaps of the coming internationals against England and Ireland on the following two Saturdays, fielded a near Test team against the Servicemen. The Australian dominance showed as they won six goals and two tries, to three penalty goals.

Twice in the opening 10 minutes, the powerful Australian CAMPESE, playing on the left wing, stormed through the Services defence, once to put his captain, SLACK, over and then to score himself, for LYNAGH to convert. Ten points at the rate of one per minute and with an 80 minute game, the scoreline look as though it could be massive! The following 20 minutes did nothing to suggest otherwise as GRIFF and CAMPBELL scored with CAMPESE and SLACK each getting their second. LYNAGH made four conversions by half time and, at the whistle, the score stood at 32 pts to six.

The second half proved to be a more satisfactory period for Combined Services. They conceded only two tries in the last 40 minutes and the ever present scrum half WORRAL converted his third

Combined Services Australia

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penalty. WORRAL was undoubtedly one of the stars of the Services team, often matching the Australians for unorthodox, yet very effective play. The Services forwards came more and more into the game, as some of the less experienced Servicemen realised that they could take on the international men. ORWIN and PEACOCK beavered away in the boiler room, the lines out and the loose supported as always by M McCALL and WILLIAMS, the latter playing his usual forceful and dynamic game. Considering WILLIAMS has only played a couple of matches, since his return to the UK from Gibraltar, his efforts were even more significant.

The not unexpected result of the game and the attacks in some quarters of the British rugby press on the Combined Services having this fixture at all, will, no doubt, cause discussion again. However, the setting, the professional approach of all involved in the match and, not least, the post match dinner will linger in the minds of the touring party, as it has done with previous tourists, as one of the memories of the tour. For this reason it is not hard to understand why major touring sides insist on retaining this fixture

rather than accept one of the alternative options. For the sake of young ambitious Servicemen, keen on their rugby, long may this continue.

COMBINED SERVICES
Sub Lieut CALCOCK (RN); Sgt D JOHNSON (Army); Lt M GREENHALGH (Army); F/O I GOSLIN (RAF); P/O R UNDERWOOD (RAF); Cpl M EVANS (RAF); Cpl S WORRALL (RAF); Cpl M WITHCOMBE (RAF); Lieut I THOMPSON (RN); Cap C HARVEY (Army); Cpl J ORWIN (RAF); Sgt Instr S PEACOCK (Army); Sgt G WILLIAMS (Army); Cpl M REECE (RM); Capt B McCALL (Army). Replacements: AEM G WOOD (RN) for PEACOCK 57, AB R JOY (RN) for THOMPSON 59.

THE ARMY beat the TA 2-1 in a soccer match at Aldershot. Full report and pictures in our next issue.

POLICE WIN PAIRS EVENT

CORPORAL Graham Groves on 'Sherrie' (left) and Warrant Officer 2 Michael Blakey, on 'Bob', members of Mounted Troop, 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, were winners of the 7th Queens Own Hussars Cup in the Pairs Sweepstake at the Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials held at Larkhill.

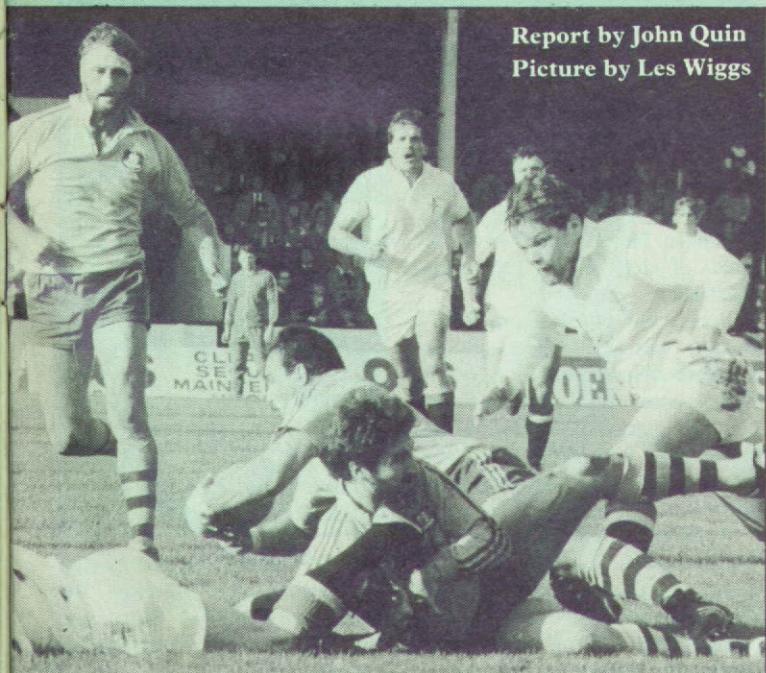


WO Blakey and Bob are no strangers to this annual event. Three years ago they won the Services Novice Section. Last year they came fifth in the Services intermediate: this year they were fourth. WO Blakey says they intend to take the title next year without graduating through the minor placings.

A total of 224 hours ran the course for the various events. Eighty-three of them were Service entries, including three from the Royal Navy and 11 from the Royal Marines.

Gunner Pritchard, of King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, was the winning Service novice on 'Tamalin'. Warrant Officer 2 McCread, Household Cavalry, won the Services intermediate section on 'Helsinki'. In the Open Class Sergeant Burns on 'Alibi' took the Kings Royal Irish Hussars Cup and the D'Arcy Cup.

Report by John Quin
Picture by Les Wiggs



Treatment with a difference

ONE of the grounded men is Wallaby prop Enrico Rodriguez. Before emigrating to Australia earlier this year Rodriguez was a citizen of Argentina, and when he had the misfortune to be injured during the match he received first aid treatment from Corporal Roy Haley, of Parachute Clearing Troop, 16 Field Ambulance, RAMC, whose previous experience of treating Argentinians was in the Falklands Islands.

Rodriguez's exit from the game, with a gash to the head that required six stitches, was the first of a string of injuries. His replacement, Cameron Lillicrap, lasted only a few minutes before retiring with badly torn ankle ligaments. He was on the pitch for such a short time that he was able to join the man he replaced in the same ambulance for Cambridge Military Hospital.

A last minute fellow passenger was Sergeant Instructor S Peacock, the Services' lock, who retired from the game with damaged ribs. Then Lieutenant I J Thompson, RN, the Services' hooker, and Andy Slack, the Australian skipper, both left the field in the same period which meant the Australians played the second half one man short.

WIN FOR THE 'IRON MEN' OF MUNSTER

THE IRON MEN of 3 Armoured Division are to be found in the ranks of 8 Regiment, RCT, whose five-man triathlon team has just carried off a title in convincing style.

On a bitterly cold morning and in driving rain, the five men from Munster showed that their strength, stamina, all-round fitness and teamwork were more than a match for the rest of the competition in the Moehnesee Triathlon.

With a winning total of 14,419 they finished over 4,000 points ahead of the 5 Armoured Field Ambulance team who came in second.

8 Regiment took the first three individual places with Lieutenant Bob Pearce, first, Lance Corporal Peter Monk, second, and Private Andrew Nichol, third. All three scored over 3,000 points.

The triathlon involved an 800-metre swim across the Moehnesee,

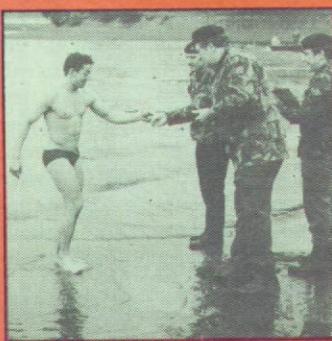
a 10-kilometre run through the surrounding hills and woods, and an archery competition (five arrows in two minutes).

Lieutenant Pearce came first in both the swimming and running with his team mate, Corporal Monk narrowly beating Private Rockwell, of 5 Armoured Field Ambulance, in the archery.

Ninety-six finished the course — most of them competing in teams of five although there were more than 30 individual entries. 101 Provost Company entered the only ladies' team. Lance Corporal Fox was the best, 54th overall.

The event raised over 2,000 DM for the stained glass window fund for St Luke's Parish Church in Soest, and thanks were expressed to the staff of the Moehnesee Yacht Club, and to ASPA Sport of Minden who donated prizes.

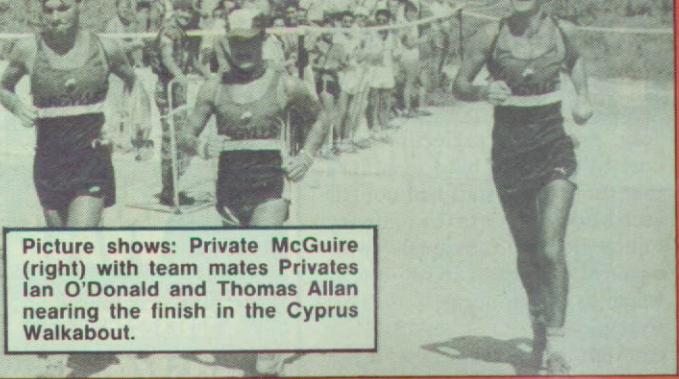
Gunner Stuart Locke, 26 Field Regt, comes ashore.



Army Golf's New Contest

SOUTH-EAST District has emerged victorious from the newest competition to be added to the Army Golf Association calendar. This is the Inter-District Championship, sponsored by Saab (London) Ltd, which was inaugurated recently. South-East took the title and the Saab trophy with a margin of 24 strokes over Scotland. North-East was third, two strokes further behind.

Pictured are members of the winning team: (left to right) Staff Sergeant Mick Middlemiss, REME; Warrant Officer 2 Mick Bryant, REME; Colonel John Holman, HQ SE District (holding trophy); Major (Retd) Mick Farrell, HQ Aldershot Garrison; Sergeant Tim Gathurum, Parachute Regiment; Warrant Officer 2 Bryan Smy, REME.



Picture shows: Private McGuire (right) with team mates Privates Ian O'Donald and Thomas Allan nearing the finish in the Cyprus Walkabout.

KEVIN LEADS FOR THE ARGYLLS

FOR THE second year in succession the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, have won the Cyprus Walkabout. And, as before, their success depended a great deal on Private Kevin McGuire.

The Walkabout requires the competing teams to cover 72 miles of rugged Cyprus terrain (from Episkopi at sea level to Troodos at 6,000 feet) in under 24 hours. With Private McGuire setting the pace, the Argyll's 'A' team did it in 11 hours 59 minutes, with 40 Commando, Royal Marines, coming second, some 40 minutes behind.

Kevin's own preparation for the event involved three gruelling

Scottish races — the Oban Fell Race and the Ballater Fell race (both of which he won) and the 1984 Edinburgh Marathon, in which he came fourth.

This last was a considerable achievement as he was an outsider up against the national teams from Scotland, England and Ireland. Right up to the final 50 metres he dominated third place, only to be pipped at the post by a determined last effort from one of the Scottish team runners.

The 1st Battalion reckons that with this sort of track record Kevin must have a very good chance of representing the Army in the near future.



SLALOM CHAMP

LANCE Corporal Scott Dobson, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, has the distinction of being Services slalom champion of the Southern Hemisphere — or, at least, of that bit which covers Australia.

Scott, who comes from Edinburgh, was a member of the Combined Services ski team on its highly successful visit 'down under' for the Australian Services Skiing Association International and the Northern Inter-Services championships.

At Mount Hotham, high in the Victoria Alps, he won both the giant slalom and the slalom to help the team win the international competition for the third time. Then, over the border at Thredbo



in New South Wales, he repeated the performance to assist the visitors with another three time win in the Northern Inter-Services competition.

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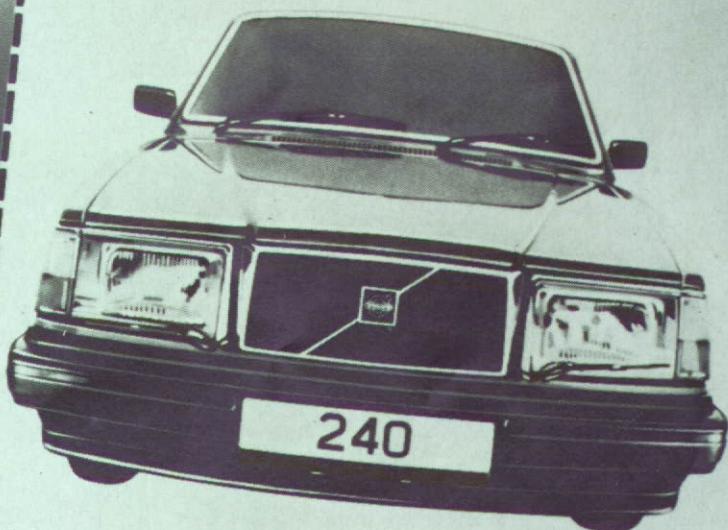
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