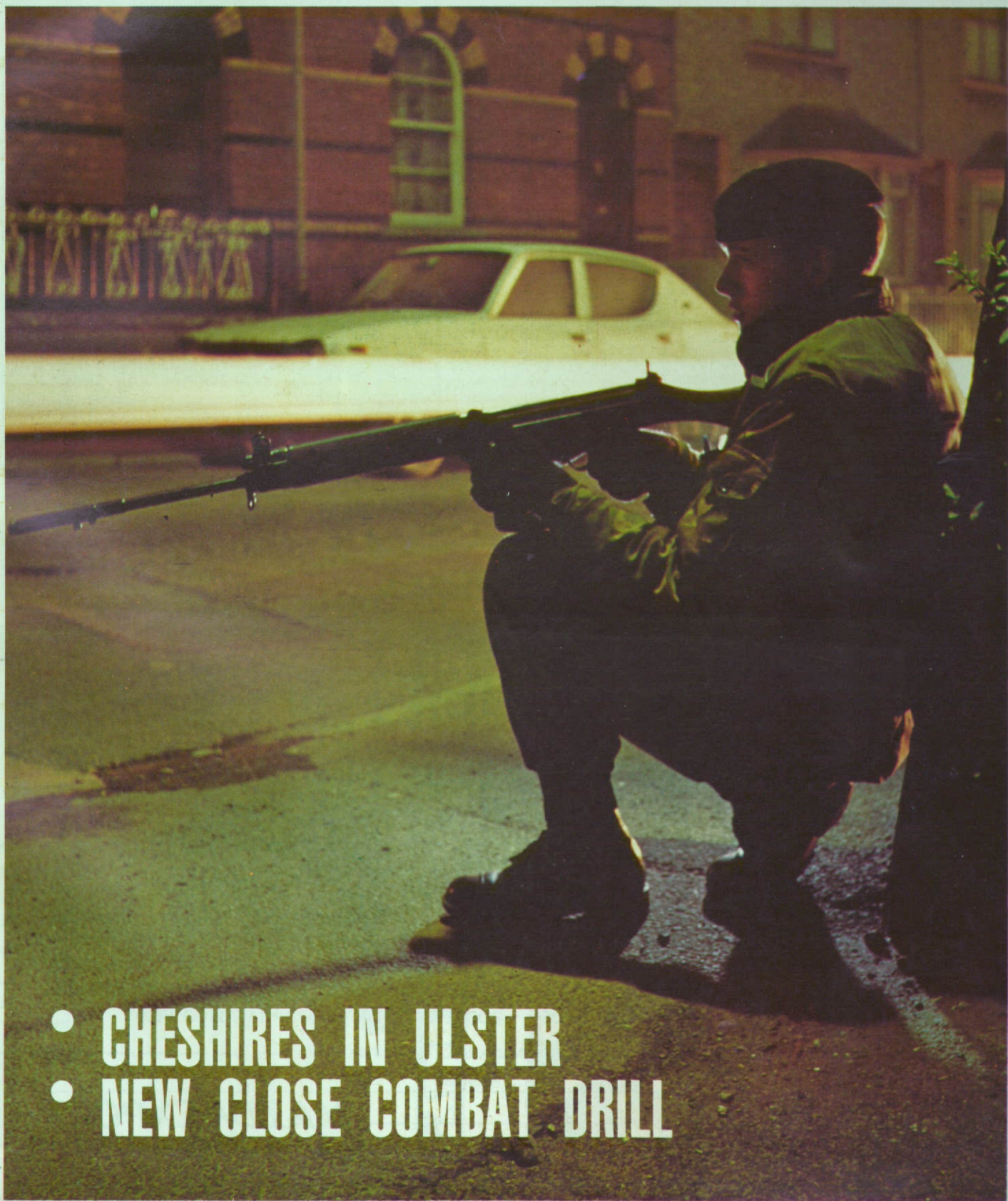


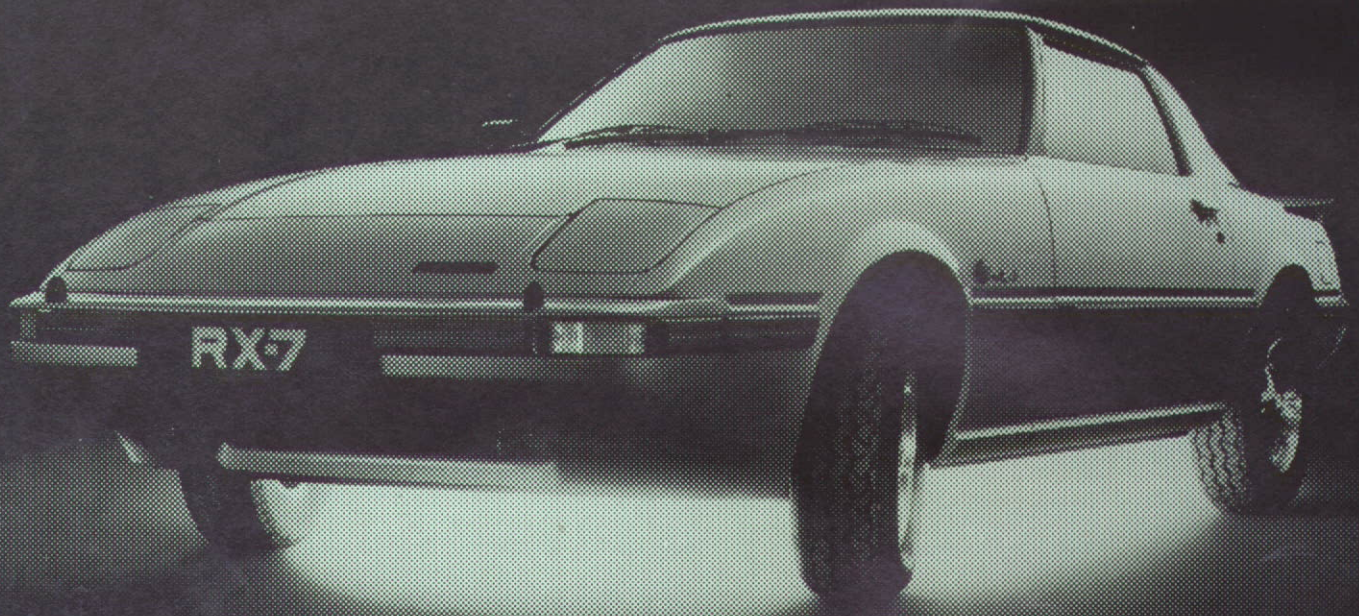
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FRONT COVER

Briefly lit up by the headlights of a passing car, a soldier keeps vigil on an Ulster street corner. On pages 26-28 we visit the Cheshires in Northern Ireland to find out how they're recovering from December's bomb outrage that claimed the lives of eight of their men. Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Action from the Army v RAF Combined Services Team Boxing event at Aldershot. The night ended in a 10-0 triumph for the white-vested Army, but they came down to earth against the Navy two weeks later — see page 47.

Picture by Paul Haley

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



After the bombing:
how the Cheshires are
bouncing back —
page 26

Big bangs can be bad
for you — but Army
experts aren't turning a
deaf ear — page 21 ▼

Going round the Rock:
a look at Gibraltar's
backroom boys —
page 14 ▼



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TRAFFIC PROBLEMS FOR BEIRUT DRAGOONS

TRAFFIC CONDITIONS in the war-torn Lebanese capital were one of the first problems to be faced by men of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Dragoon Guards when they set out on their first patrol as part of the multi-national peace-keeping force in Beirut.

The 97-strong party had rolled ashore with their Ferret scout cars two days earlier. They had flown to Cyprus in late January to take over their vehicles and complete their training.

Smallest contingent in the force, the Dragoons are now working alongside troops from France, Italy and the USA. They made their headquarters in part of an old tobacco factory on the South East of the city and hardly had they arrived than the Israelis set up what the British commander, Lieutenant Colonel John Cochrane, described as "a battalion headquarters and infantry company base" 300 yards away.

But Colonel Cochrane believed that the proximity was just coincidence and that the real reason for the presence of the Israeli post was to secure their main



The Ferrets driving through Beirut's Sin El-Fil neighbourhood shortly after their arrival from Cyprus.

supply route running through the suburb of Khalde. He did not foresee any trouble.

The first patrol was made up of four Ferrets, two Land-Rovers and a lorry and they discovered that at least one thing has not changed in Beirut. The traffic was just as bad as in the halcyon days when the city was a mecca for the rich and famous.

One soldier's comment summed it up: "It's frightening. These cowboys drive like they shoot — at anything."

When the column did stop, the troops were showered with gifts of bread and fruit.

But it is a nervous city and the Dragoons have bricked up the windows of their new quarters, just in case.

Left: S/Sgt Robert Brown puts up the force sign. Below: Sgt Dave Regan and L/Cpl Francis Bath, both ACC, cook dinner.



Defence costs a 'peace tax'

PEACE CANNOT be bought cheaply and cannot be won without cost, the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, told the Young Conservative Conference in Bournemouth.

The cost of Britain's defence is the price we pay to prevent war, she said. The money for our Armed Forces is truly our peace tax.

"What a cruel irony it is that the word 'peace' has been hijacked by those who seek one-sided disarmament," said Mrs Thatcher. "Irony because if only one side disarms, the other is far more tempted to aggression. Unilateralism makes war more likely."

Rejecting the argument that unilateralism was a moral gesture towards creating a more peaceful world, she said that it simply meant one nation relying on another country for its defence because it was unwilling to defend itself.

"It is an odd kind of moral-ity which allows you to renounce your own nuclear weapons, secure in the belief that you are protected by someone else's."

"Evidently the nuclear bomb is too horrific for the

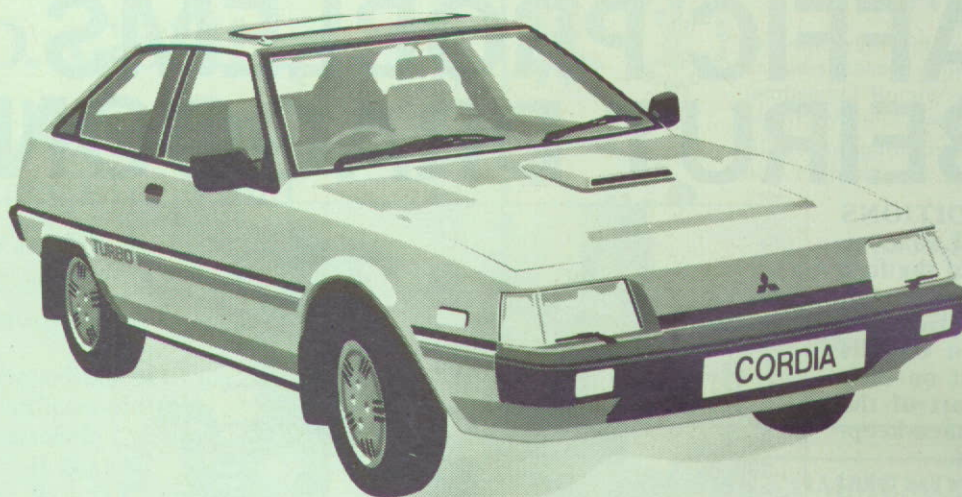
British to own but not too horrific for the Americans to protect us with, so long as they do it from their soil and not from ours."

If the West gave up its nuclear weapons, it would leave the Soviet Union with a virtual monopoly. "That tyrannical regime, which cares not one jot for human rights, uniquely able to blackmail mankind?"

"If, in the 1930s nuclear weapons had been invented and the Allies had been faced by Nazi SS 20s and Backfire bombers, would it then have been morally right to have handed to Hitler total control of the most terrible weapons which man has ever made?"

"Would not that have been the one way to ensure that the 1000-year Reich became exactly that? Would not unilateralism have given to Hitler the world domination he sought?"

● The official Soviet news agency, TASS, was quick to attack Mrs Thatcher. Without quoting her, it accused her of slander, irresponsibility and sacrificing Britain's real interests. It said the Soviet threat was "mythical".



GERMANS ADMIT COLT IS TOP OF CLASS FOR RELIABILITY!

Their reliability is so great that the German Motor Magazine 'MOT' put Colt as the overall leader in gruelling tests for reliability, performance and price.

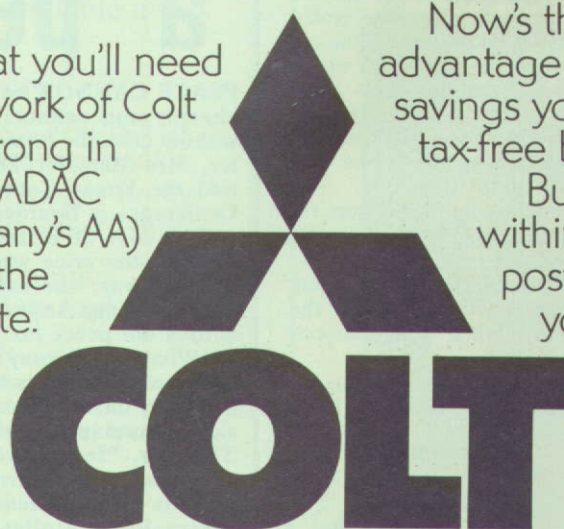
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MEDALS ARE NOT FOR SALE

REPORTS that some Servicemen had sold South Atlantic campaign medals have not been confirmed, says the Ministry of Defence, but a spokesman warned that if the stories were true both the holder and the dealer could find themselves in trouble.

"While a soldier is still serving his medal is part of his uniform," he said. "He is not allowed to part with it and would find himself on a charge if he did."

And it is illegal for a dealer to sell a medal if he knows the holder is still a serving member of the forces.

A London dealer was reported as saying that he was offering up to £1000 for medals won by SAS men in the Falklands and £200 for those awarded to paratroops. He was alleged to have claimed to have already bought two from soldiers as well as five from ex-Servicemen and three from Merchant Navy personnel.

Other dealers claim to have been offered medals by Scots and Welsh Guardsmen.

Cheshires' hot trek

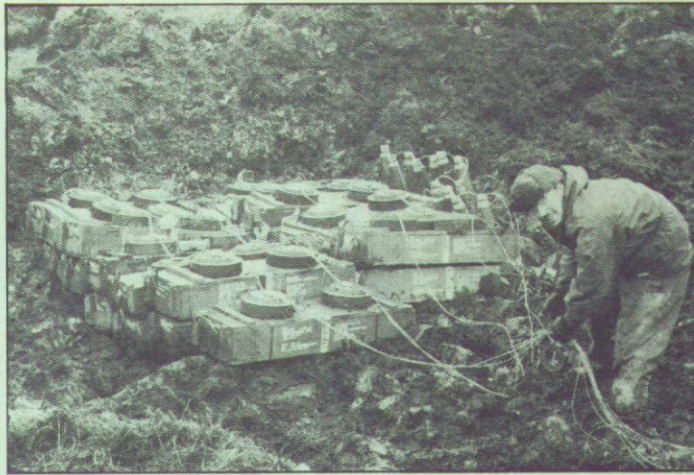
A TWELVE-MAN team from 1st Bn the Cheshire Regiment is to embark on a six week expedition to the Khumbu-Everest area of Nepal in the Spring.

They will have a 110-mile trek over the hot plains from Dharan and then tackle Himalayan peaks of Pokalde and Mehra, both over 19,000 feet.

Lesser heights will be climbed on the way so that the team, drawn from all ranks and all levels of experience, including novices, will gradually get used to the altitude. Under the leadership of Major Brian Kerslake, the Cheshires will undertake some scientific work, medical and botanic, as well as carrying out a survey for the World Pheasant Association.

Exercise Himalayan Acorn will be funded privately, each member of the expedition making a personal contribution to supplement a lot of help received from commercial sponsors. So far over £11,000 has been collected.

Taking a break from fund raising, the team has just returned from a week's training in Wales in preparation for the real thing.



Corporal Geoff Palir prepares to blow another batch.

BOMB HEROES HOME AGAIN

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY disposing of 45,000 items of unreliable Argentinian ammunition left in the Falklands, the specially formed Composite Ammunition Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is back in Britain.

Made up of 33 RAOC Ammunition Technical Officers and soldiers and 26 Royal Pioneer Corps personnel, the unit was formed last August in the depths of the Falklands winter specially to deal with the hundreds of tons of loose and often dangerous ammunition left scattered by the Argentinian forces.

The mighty task involved clearing unexploded mines, shells and other ordnance as well as a million rounds of unusable small arms ammunition.

A major job involved 250 tons of ammunition and explosives dumped in water-filled pits on the Stanley racecourse, but the overall problem was to clear 47 battlefields.

Finally the company, commanded by Major Peter Courtney-Green, RAOC, established ammunition storage areas for the British garrison.

Their work earned them much praise in the islands as well as a tribute from the British commander, Major General David Thorne, who said: "They have made a major contribution to the rehabilitation and future protection of the Falklands and deserve our congratulations."

Car death

ALTHOUGH the Ministry of Defence declined to confirm it, Corporal Thomas Palmer, 31, who has died in a motor accident in Northern Ireland, is widely believed to have been one of the SAS heroes of the Iranian Embassy siege in 1980.

Corporal Palmer, a Sapper, died when his car left the road.

After the Embassy siege Tommy Palmer received the Queen's Gallantry Medal but the citation was never published.

Briefly

Brigadier Keith Spacie, 47, is to be the next commander of the Falklands garrison. He will be promoted Major General and will succeed Major General David Thorne in April. The previously announced appointment of Brigadier Charles Waters had to be cancelled for temporary medical reasons.

Gymnasium staff at the Royal Military Police training centre at Chichester, have handed over a cheque for £1064 to the Army Benevolent Fund after a 72-hour sponsored basketball marathon throw. They clocked up 35,779 points from the free throw line.

An attaché case containing a cheese sandwich and a vacuum flask was blown up by an Army EOD squad after it had been found near a boiler room at the Wiltshire County Council HQ in Trowbridge. The owner has not been traced.

Signalman N Saville of the Royal Signals who was attached to the Royal Hampshire Regiment in the Falklands, died at Port Howard when he was apparently electrocuted while taking a shower.

Local people in Dewsbury, Yorks, have clubbed together to buy a headstone for the grave of WW1 VC Sgt William Ormsby who died 31 years ago.

COOLER CLIMES



AFTER THE mild British winter there was a much chillier reception for 20 part-time soldiers of 289 Commando Battery, RA (V) based at East Ham, London, when they arrived in Norway for Arctic training. Most had no previous Arctic experience and were tackling the basic Arctic warfare course run by their parent unit, 29 Commando Regiment, RA.

As a result of the course most of 289 Bty will now be Arctic trained but they should all find it a bit warmer when they head for Germany in August for a two-week exercise with 3 Commando Brigade.

NEWS VIEW



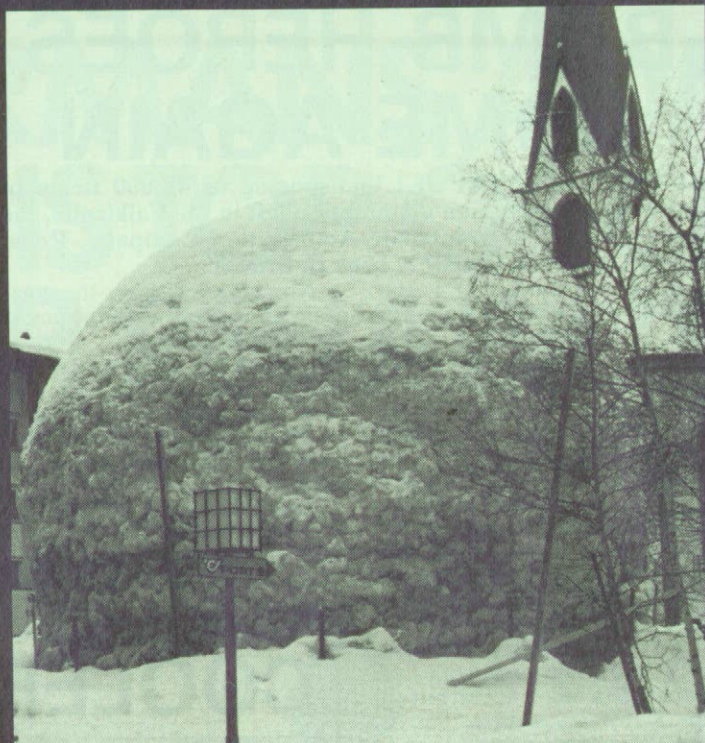
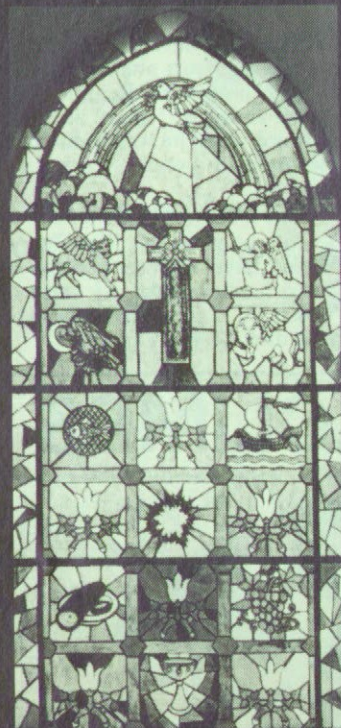
Trim Sir? ▶

How would you like it, sir? Whatever the answer it seems that hairdressing student Paul Cox, a mere 5ft 9ins tall, and 6ft 8ins colleague Tony Wright will be able to keep the Falklands garrison in trim. They have joined the Naafi contingent in answer to an SOS for "scissors please".



Memories ▲

Dramatic moments in the Falklands were recalled for these four soldiers from 43 Air Defence Battery when Short Bros of Belfast presented them with silver statuettes to mark their success with Blowpipe. Each scored a direct hit on an Argentine aircraft.



▶ Tribute

This hand painted window in St George's Church at Ayrshire Barracks in Möenchgladbach, has been dedicated to those who fell in the Falklands. It took artist Mrs Alyson Newis-Edwards 120 hours to complete.

Big One ▲

While many were bemoaning the lack of snow for winter sports, members of 1 Armoured Division who arrived in Seefeld, Austria, for the divisional Nordic meeting found a fair hunk of it. As snowballs go this one, made by the good burghers, must measure up quite well.



Rookie ▲

Although Goat Major David Joseph seems to be keeping a wary eye on him, 'Taffy' the newly recruited mascot of 1 Royal Regiment of Wales, apparently did very well on his first parade at Cwrt y Gollen. When he has passed his medical and gained a bit more experience he will be off to Lemgo in Germany to begin his proper duties.

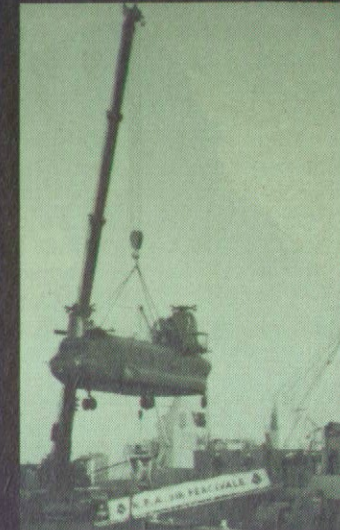
▶ They're Off

More accurately, members of the new Home Defence Force are now in training for their role of defending key installations in the UK. There to share a joke with the Hereford contingent at Swynnerton near Birmingham, was Defence Under Secretary Mr Jerry Wiggin, who was on a visit to No 4 Company.



Big Lift ▶

As the Royal Fleet Auxiliary LSL *Sir Percivale* prepares to return to the South Atlantic, the giant De-Mag crane of 17 Port Regiment RCT lifts aboard one of the three heavy-lift Chinook helicopters which she is carrying. On her previous visit *Sir Percivale* was the first Task Force ship into both San Carlos Water and Stanley.



Ready Sir ▲

Parading for the first time with complete Arctic kit, all 118 lbs of it, 'C' Company of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire were able to show Major General Mike Reynolds, Commander of the ACE Mobile Force (Land), that they were ready to face the rigours of winter training in Norway.



King's Men ▶

Although the modern policeman gives the game away, this parade could have taken place almost any time in the last few hundred years. In fact it was the annual parade of The King's Army — part of the English Civil War Society — as they passed through Horse Guards in London to mark the route taken by Charles I to his place of execution.


▶ Doughboy

There was a bit of expert help for Andreas Theophilou, a baker at the RAOC's Dhekelia, Cyprus, bakery when Chelsea Pensioner Sergeant George Barber, 69, dropped in. George was one of several scarlet coated pensioners visiting the island.


Honoured ▶

Another cook in the news was Private David Foster, 19, who has just made the trip home from Berlin to attend a court luncheon of the Worshipful Company of Cooks in London. It is an honour which the Company extends each year to the Junior RSM of the previous year's intake at the Army Catering Corps College. But now it is back to work with 2 RRF in the divided city.





CROSSED KUKKRIS — A TEST OF GURKHA STEEL



AN ISLAND in the sun-drenched South China seas may sound like quite a pleasant spot for a military exercise. But Lantau Island provides one of the toughest exercise areas used by the British Army anywhere.

The largest of Hong Kong's islands, it is mostly uninhabited, generally trackless and consists of a series of mountain peaks rising to 3000 feet.

All movement, even by infantry, is extremely difficult — in places well nigh impossible. And when Hong Kong's Gurkha Field Force spent their annual four day exercise on Lantau they not only had to battle with the hostile terrain but with typhoon-type winds and torrential down-

Smiling through the rain — 2/7 Gurkhas occupy the high ground on Sunset Peak. ▲

pours as well.

Aptly codenamed 'Crossed Kukris' the exercise called for a landing of British troops on a South Pacific island in support of local forces overrun by enemy. The Scots Guards spearheaded the invasion, landed by patrol craft from the Royal Navy's Hong Kong Squadron and flown in by Wessex helicopters from the RAF 28 (Army Cooperation) Squadron.

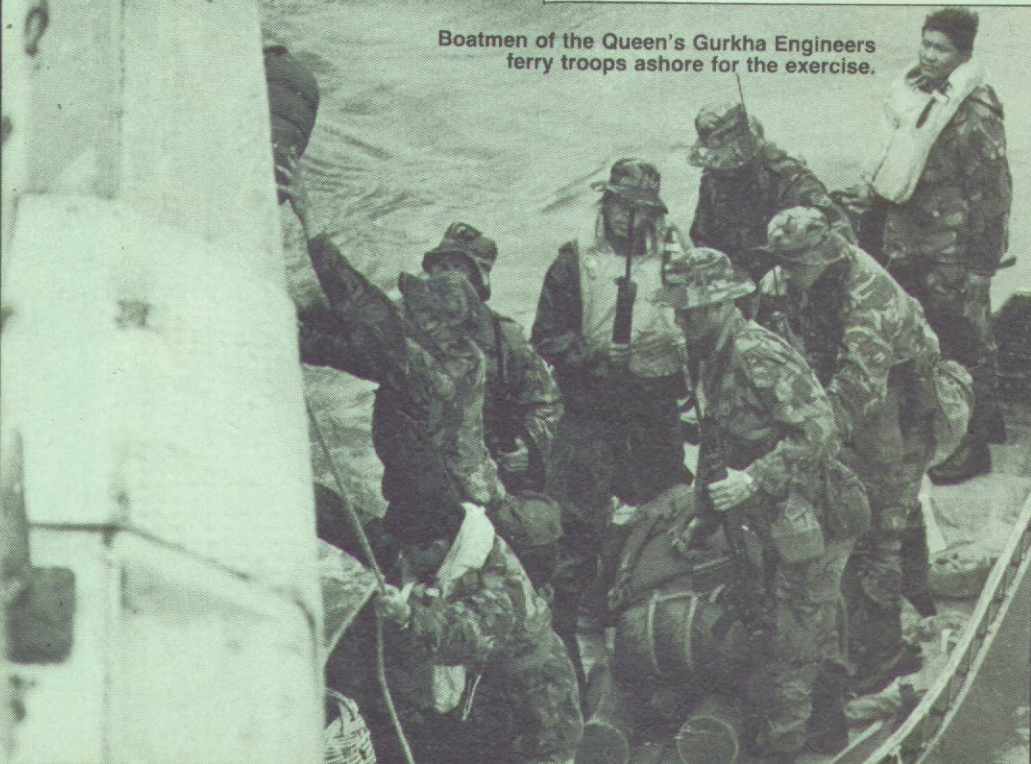
Gurkha units marched from their bases in the New Territories and were ferried to the island. Heavy equipment and vehicles used civilian ferries. With over four thousand men taking part in the exercise, the logistical problems of transport were enormous.

Briefing reporters at the outset of the exercise, the Commander Gurkha Field Force, Brigadier Morgan Llewellyn, said: "The exercise is designed to exercise the force in all aspects of its battle role and to test its military skills. It will be hard work but it will be fun."

The importance of such training, he pointed out, had been vividly demonstrated by 1st/7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles who had trained for twenty years on just such exercises in Hong Kong and had acquitted themselves with such skill during the Falklands campaign.

Though all facets of the Force's training were tested, on Crossed Kukris the early deterioration in the weather made the exercise above all a test of stamina and physical fitness; especially when the climatic conditions produced casualties from exposure.

In true British Army exercise fashion the good guys won in the end, though with units taking their turn at being both attackers and defenders there wasn't an outright winner as such. At 'endex' it was apparent that many



Boatmen of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers ferry troops ashore for the exercise.



Spearhead troops from 1 Scots Guards are landed on Lantau by Wessex of 28 Sqn RAF.



Men of 2/2 Gurkhas — still fighting fit after 48 hours on their feet.

With eight thousand men the Gurkha Field Force is larger than a normal infantry brigade. Though it has no armour or artillery it is backed up by Queen's Gurkha Engineers and an Army Air Corps Squadron together with normal logistical support.

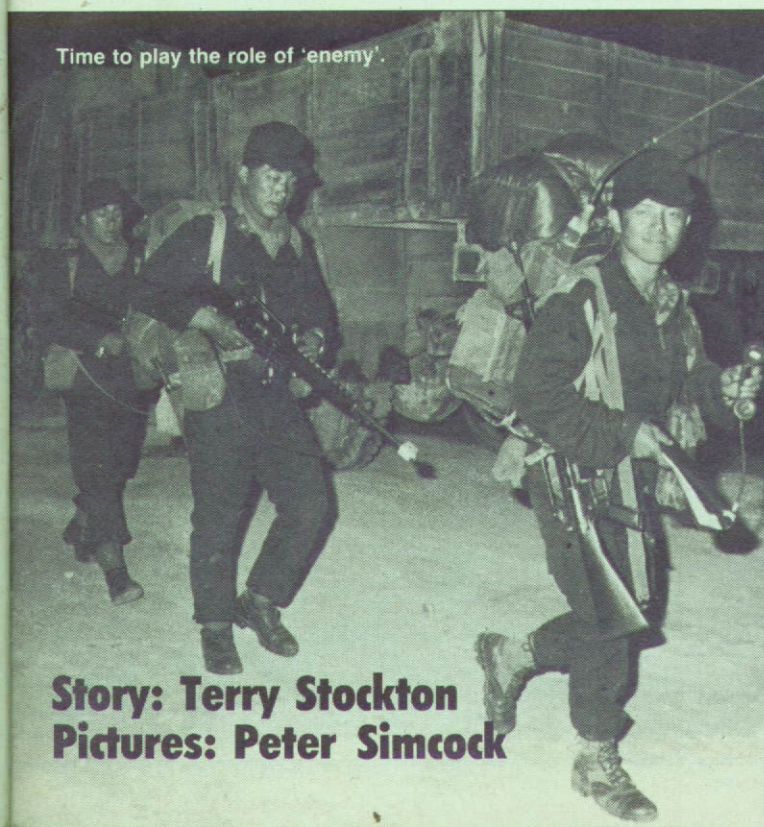
Not to be confused with the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Force is a unique ethnic mix. Three fifths of its strength are Gurkha soldiers, one fifth are British and one fifth are Chinese locally employed servicemen. Its role in Hong Kong is four-fold; primarily it supports the Hong Kong Police in providing internal security for the territory. In addition it has to train its fighting soldiers to meet all eventualities; to protect the Chinese border with the police and contain illegal immigration; and finally, it has an important role in community relations in helping Hong Kong with natural disasters such as typhoons.

The Gurkha Field Force is always keen to stress the difference between itself and the Brigade of Gurkhas. It points out that a member of the Brigade is a member wherever he is; a member of the Gurkha Field Force is a member only when serving with the Force in Hong Kong.

lessons had been learned and many of the troops taking part had pushed themselves to personal physical limits.

It was inevitable that parallels with the Falklands operations were drawn as the Field Force spent four days fighting their way over Lantau in ferocious conditions.

Some men who fought in the South Atlantic claimed that conditions on Lantau were even tougher. The weather was worse, the hills were higher and the marching and advance-to-contact situations were more difficult. But even the veterans had to admit that Lantau offered one crucial advantage over the Falklands — the ammunition was blank.



Time to play the role of 'enemy'.

**Story: Terry Stockton
Pictures: Peter Simcock**



Brigadier Llewellyn explains the exercise to local Hong Kong TV interviewer.

Recruits on the gruelling log race.



THE PARAS ARE COMING!

A FASCINATING NEW documentary series — *The Paras* — comes to BBC TV screens on Thursday 3 March. Seven half-hour programmes will follow the 41 young men of 480 Recruit Platoon from the day they join to the end of their 22-week training and posting to their battalions.

It's a tough journey and not all of them make it. *The Paras* traces the tears and the triumphs along the way as it spotlights those who succeed — and those who fail to measure up.

The first programme covers the initial

seven days of training — the medicals, the marching, the drill and PT. The recruits are given their Red Beret — but they are not allowed to wear it. And they meet the RSM and the NCOs who, for the next five months, will be with them every step of the way.

Although begun before the Falklands crisis blew up, much of *The Paras* was filmed while the Parachute Regiment's 2nd and 3rd battalions were fighting in the South Atlantic. The knowledge that they too may soon be 'doing it for real' underscores the import-

Pictures courtesy of BBC TV.



Learning the basics of field craft.

ance of the recruits' training and the need to learn their lessons well.

Making *The Paras* evoked strong memories for the programme's researcher, Frank Hilton — who has written a book on the series to coincide with its screening — and its executive producer, David Harrison. Both are former paratroopers themselves.

Their efforts look set to become compulsive viewing for everyone interested in knowing what makes the Paras tick. ■

SOLDIER to Soldier

PUBLIC relations. To many people the phrase immediately conjures up an image of smooth-talking executives in Savile Row suits wining and dining media men on huge expense accounts.

But 'PR' is not just about oiling the wheels of commerce. In a democracy it is also about explaining to taxpayers how their money is spent — and why. Which is one of the reasons the Army takes public relations very seriously.

The Army, however, has no need to resort to phoney image-building or buying popularity over a bar. Its deeds have always spoken far louder than its words and last year's events in the South Atlantic have only served to reinforce its superb professional reputation.

In the new TV series, *The Paras*, which we trailer opposite, the Army will once more be speaking for itself, this time through the recruits and NCOs of one of its crack regiments.

Like the men it portrays, the series will pull no punches. The story will be frankly told, without frills. And the language may bring more than the occasional blush to the cheek of a maiden aunt.

But underscoring the action is the indisputable fact that Para training works; that the men it produces are match winners. Forget the fancy phrases, the gimmicks

and the gewgaws. When you've got a 'product' as good as the Paras to talk about, truth is the best PR of all.

★ ★ ★

HAWK-EYED readers who go through each issue searching for our not-so-deliberate mistakes, may notice a name missing from our staff list on page 3.

Photographer Andy Burrige has left the military for the medical world, and will now be covering a different theatre of operations — for publications such as *Nursing Mirror* and *World Medicine*.

Although Andy only spent three-and-a-half years with *SOLDIER* he became our first photographer to win the title of



Army Photographer of the Year — in 1981.

Readers will recall, particularly, some of his fine cover shots — including the soldier on the Porton Down battle run which won him another award in 1981 for the best single Army colour picture.

Now he will be donning mask and gown to capture the miracles of modern surgery. Careful where you leave your lens cap, Andy!

★ ★ ★

WE'VE always known that soldiers are a big-hearted lot. Scarcely a day goes by without us receiving a picture or a story about some Army charity success story.

So we hope this little item will help Gunners in Münster to raise £25,000 by the middle of March for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

The Second Field Regiment, RA, have been raising money for BLESMA for some years now, but this is their most ambitious target so far. Various commercial firms have donated prizes for a Grand Draw, and first prize is a new Mirage Hatchback from the Colt Car Company.

Draw tickets have been made available to all BAOR units and the winners will be drawn by the Lord Mayor of Manchester on 15 March following a sponsored run from Münster to Manchester Town Hall.

Any direct donations from the UK or elsewhere will be greatly appreciated and should be sent to the Regiment at Waterloo Barracks BFPO 17. Cheques should be made payable to Central Bank, 2 Fd Regt RA, BLESMA Appeal.

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SOLDIER ON THE ROCK

Stories: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Continuing their look at Army life in Gibraltar, our team shine their spotlight on some of the backroom boys there.

WATCHERS OF THE WATERS

LAND-ROVER mounted mobile radars are used by 8th Surveillance Troop, Royal Artillery, the men who watch Gibraltar waters. The troop lives with the RAF at the airfield but much of its surveillance work is carried out from posts high on the Rock.

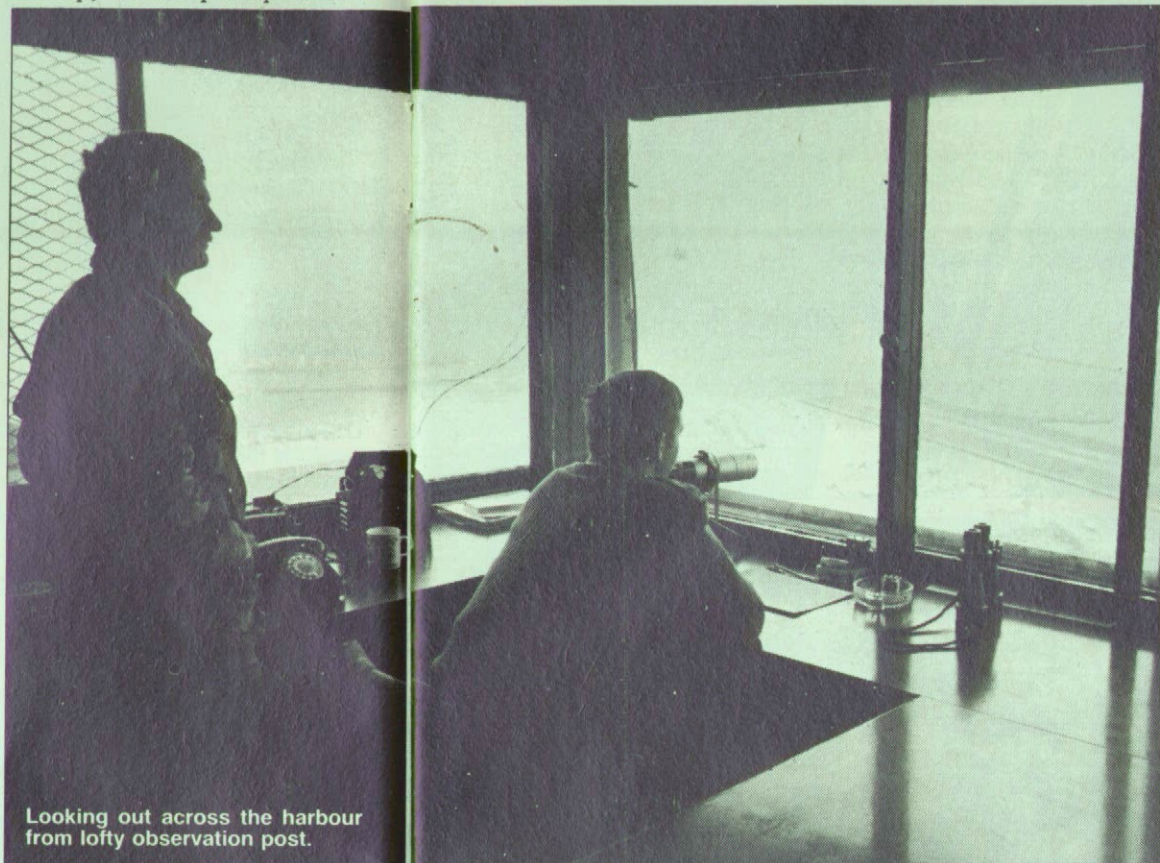
At Farrington's half way up the Rock, and at Rock Gun on the top, the troop keeps a 24

hour watch — each man accompanied by a soldier from the resident battalion as an assistant.

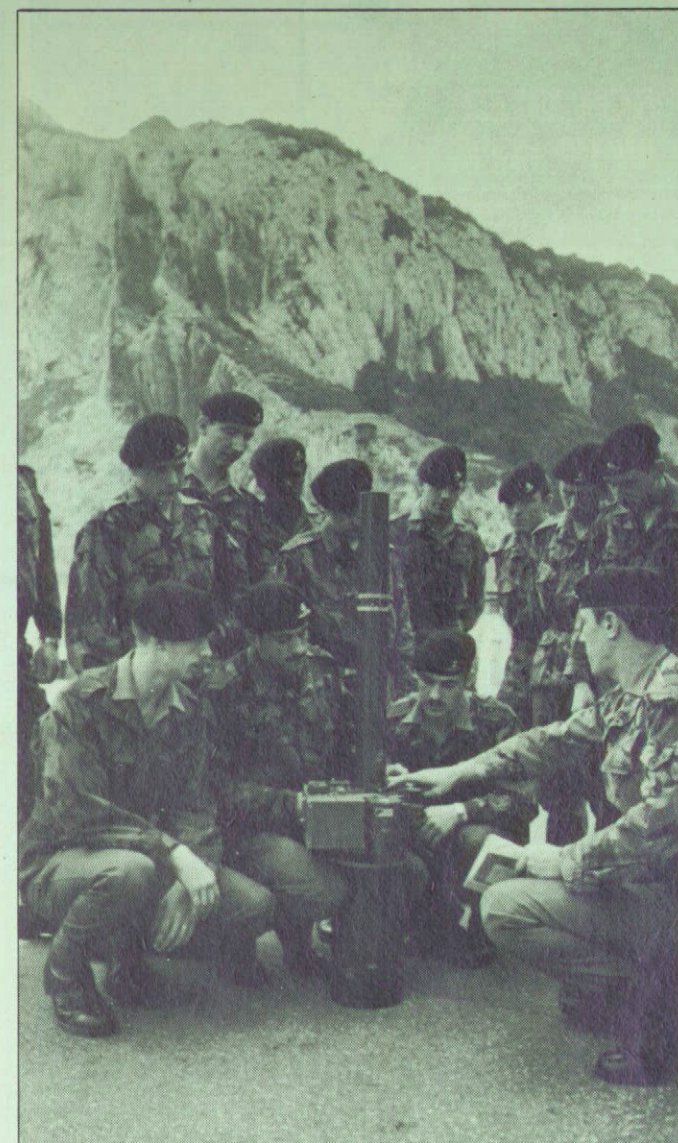
Also under the troop for discipline at the moment are D Troop from 43 Battery (Lloyd's Company) AD part of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, Bulford. The 26 man troop is taking the opportunity for some winter sunshine training with its Blowpipe missiles and is assisting the Gibraltar Regiment in its conversion

to the same system.

Commanding them is 2nd Lieutenant Paul Goad, who told SOLDIER: "Because we are not involved in normal duties and fatigues here we have been able to write a training programme which is valuable for us all because we can learn new things. It is also valuable to me because I have no-one above me and can work far more closely with the men than in the UK."



Looking out across the harbour from lofty observation post.



Instruction on Blowpipe for D Troop from 43 Battery.

Moroccan labourers pay out cable being fed into Lathbury shaft and tunnel 200 feet below.

EXCHANGE FOR THE BETTER

A BRAND NEW computerised telephone exchange serving all three Services in Gibraltar will open in July. It will replace the present three exchanges operated by the Navy, Army and RAF and will be housed in tunnels deep in the Rock.

Over the last 18 months 642 Signal Troop, which consists of ten soldiers and 60 civilians, has been cable laying throughout the Rock. For the new system uses four wires instead of two.

Says the Officer Commanding, Major Iain Morris: "Wherever we have laid cables before, both inside the Rock and outside, we are having to do it again. This includes a lot of work, some of it in fairly old tunnels which have not been used for some time but which connect places which are important to us."

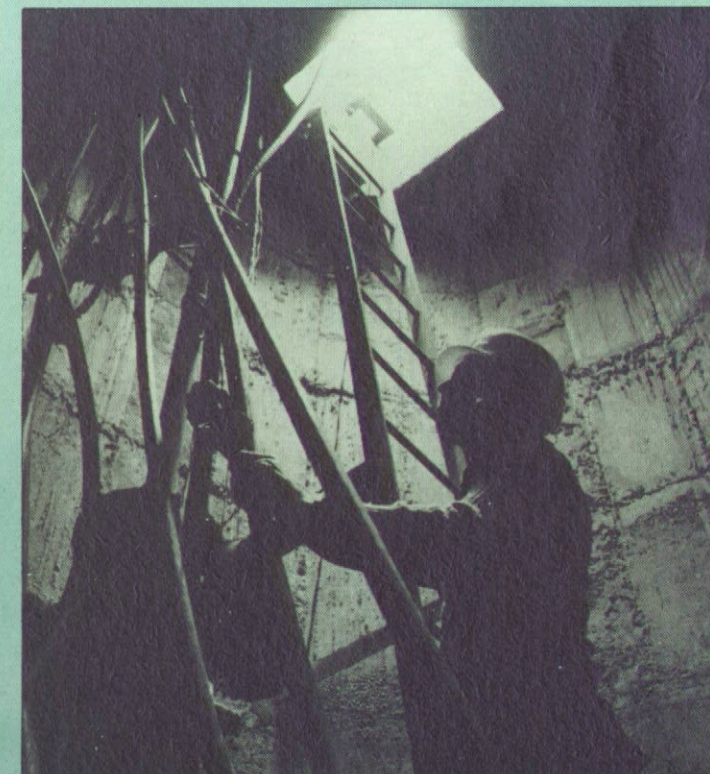
The new exchange is the forerunner of others expected to go to Belize, the Falklands and

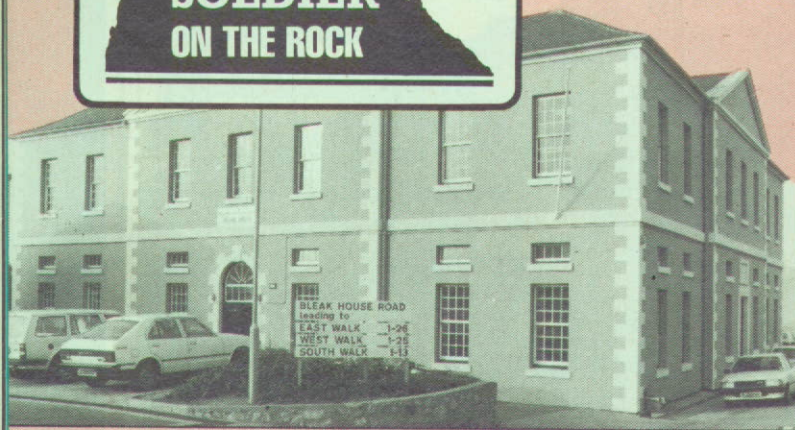
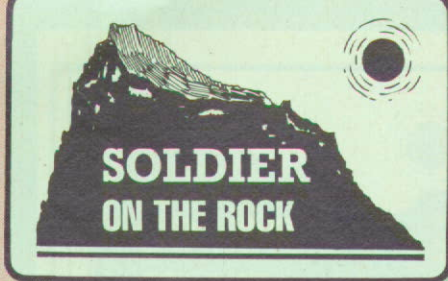
eventually throughout the Army. The actual installation will take three months and with a lot of cable jointing to do the Troop are currently learning how to use a new machine which cuts a three hour job to 30 or 40 minutes.

"We used to bare wires and twist them together by hand — we could never rely on getting a perfect joint. Now they will be crimped together automatically by a machine which will give the same result every time as well as saving so much time", explains Major Morris.

One of the modern facilities provided by the new exchange will be to help when numbers are engaged or a person is out. Now the number will automatically ring again once it is no longer engaged or after the recipient has returned to his office and made his first telephone call out.

Inside Lathbury Shaft: ▶
Cpl Stan Holden
inspects power cables.





NOT-SO-BLEAK HOUSE



Art teacher Mrs Olympia Reyes gives tips to Service wives.

AT BLEAK HOUSE, the elegant early 19th century mansion which serves as the Army Education Centre in Gibraltar, they have noticed quite a change in the few weeks since the border opened with Spain.

"Since the border opened the demand for leisure classes has nosedived," admits Major David Bowman RAEC, who commands the centre. "But despite the drop the demand is far larger than I have come across elsewhere."

Another change has been the introduction of military Spanish classes for soldiers. The centre already ran Spanish classes but soldiers attending the new class will learn a different vocabulary and work towards the Army's colloquial language examination.

Bleak House, despite its name, predates Dickens. It was built in 1828 as a fever hospital for

officers but was never used for that purpose. It went into its latest incarnation in 1966 when it was taken over by the RAEC.

And the name scarcely does justice to the building which Major Bowman contends "must be one of the pleasantest military buildings in the world." The balconies look down on to a leafy central courtyard.

The centre is responsible for both soldiers' and officers' education and the Command Library on the ground floor issues 60,000 books a year to British personnel on the Rock. Daytime and evening classes cover a variety of subjects and the centre is also responsible for the garrison theatre, which houses the annual Gibraltar Drama Festival and will be the venue for a special summer drama school to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Festival. ■



Time for tea in the courtyard.



A typical classroom scene.

MEMORIES WORTH PRESERVING

THE COMMONWEALTH War Graves Commission is currently carrying out a big improvement plan on war graves in the North Front or Garrison Cemetery adjoining the airfield. More than 700 Commonwealth war dead from both World Wars are buried or recorded on memorials in Gibraltar.

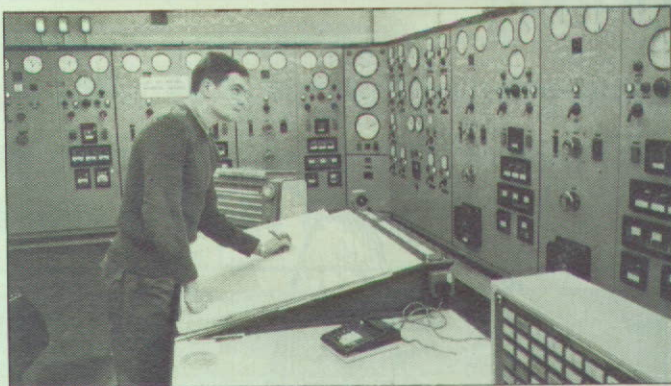
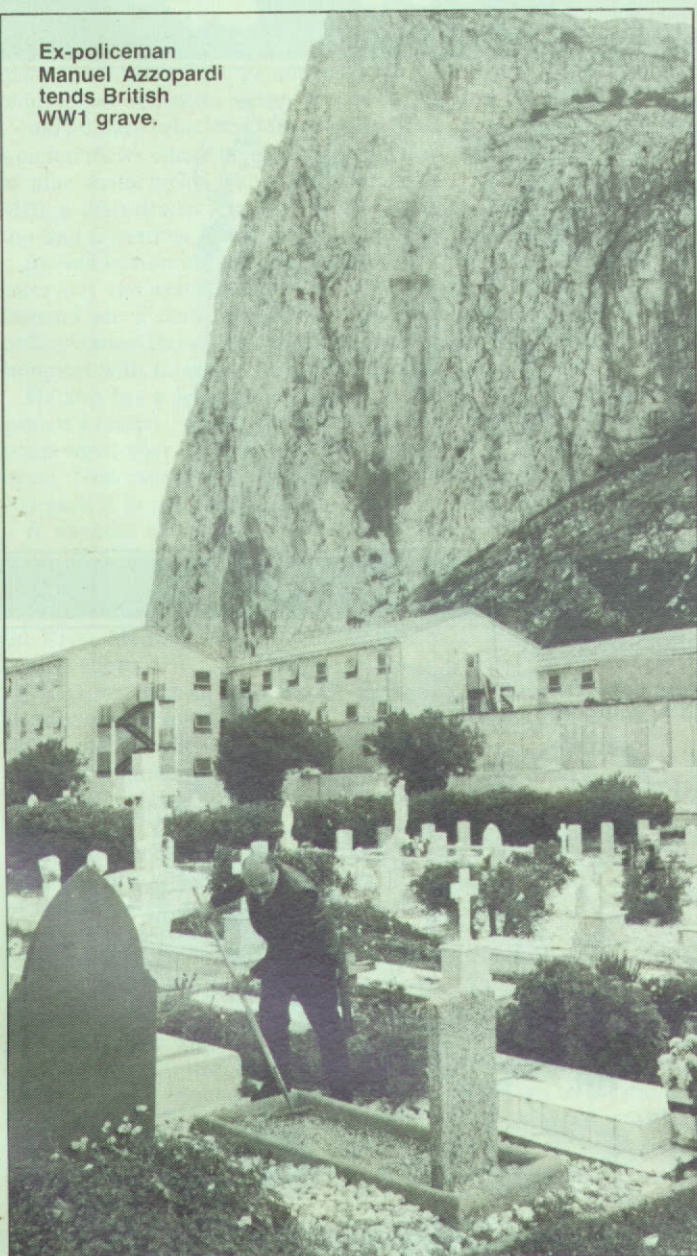
The aim of the clean-up has been not only to improve the standard of maintenance but to carry out long term improvements including the provision of stone chippings, cleaning of headstones and the use of

weed-killers.

The 326 First World War graves include Gallipoli victims who died later from their wounds and there is a memorial to seven Royal Army Service Corps men who died in 1915 when the SS *Woodfield* was captured and sunk by a submarine.

During the Second World War the defence of the Rock meant a large garrison and 347 Servicemen are buried in the Cemetery. Most of these graves are in two adjacent plots but others, like the First War victims, are scattered throughout the cemetery. ■

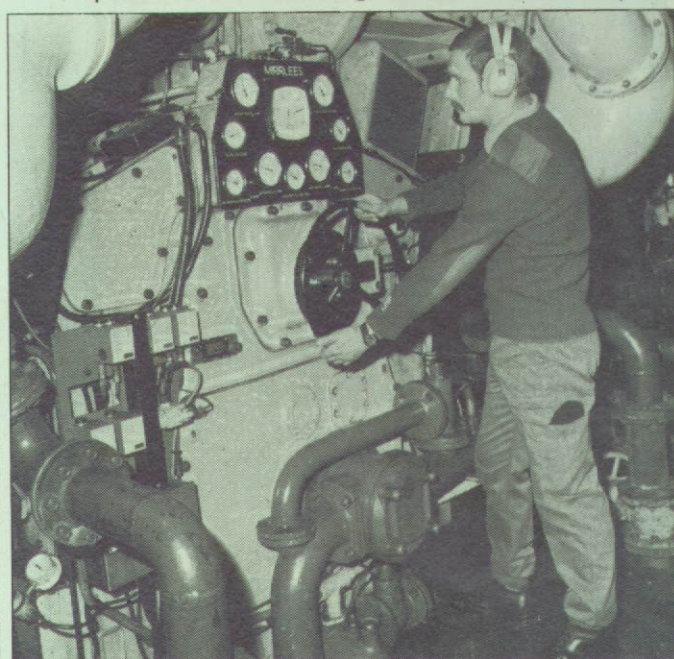
Ex-policeman Manuel Azzopardi tends British WW1 grave.



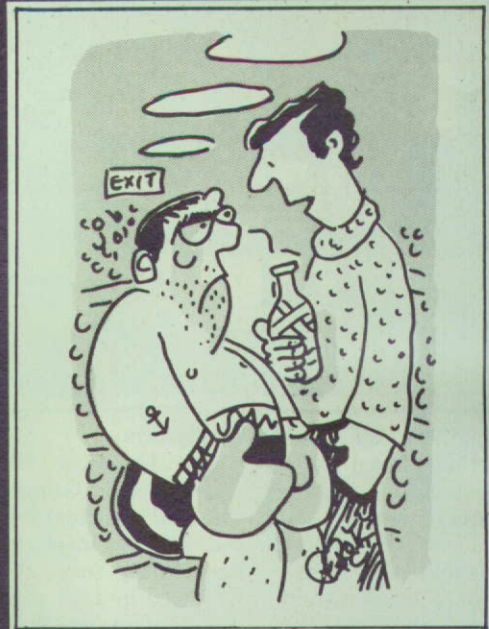
POWERFUL SAPPERS

The Inter-Services Generating Station personnel, part of 1 Fortress STRE follow a long line of Sappers on the Rock. Based at the power station in the Dockyard they would take it over in place of civilians in a crisis. The power station serves all of the military installations in Gibraltar. ■

Spr Rob Brannon checks ▲ Spr Cal Syme starts major load on power station console. ▼

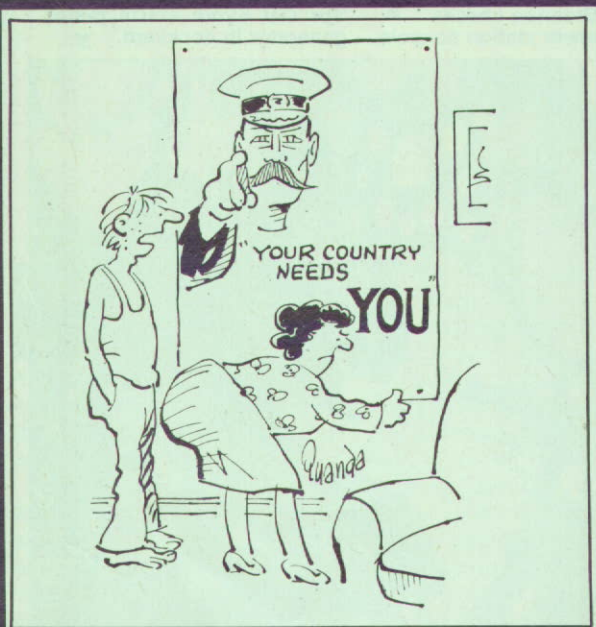


A German grave in need of upkeep.

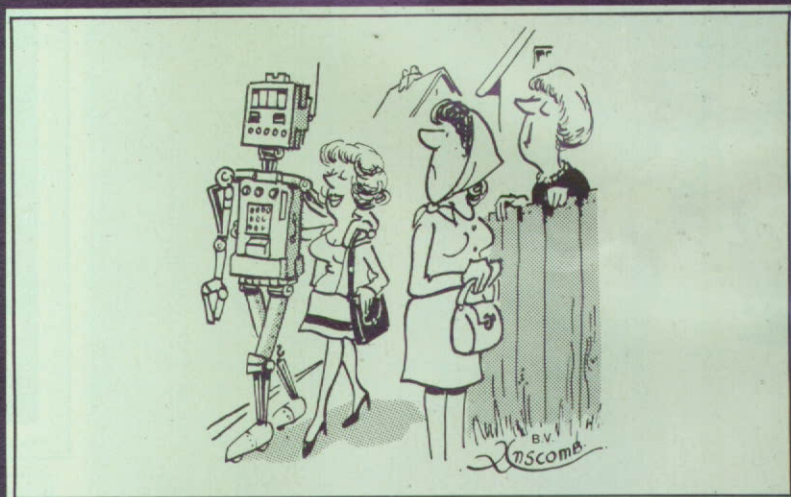


"Would you mind taking a dive in the next round? The ref's double parked."

Humour



"Why don't you come right out with it and say you want me to leave?"



"She's going out with one of those new car workers."



"So it's cloudy. What did you expect — thunder and lightning?"



"I can promise you sir, it's genuine cow hide."

Doubling up for danger money

John Walton talks to a former paratrooper and military vehicle collector who's found a hard way to make a living . . .

EVERYONE HAS SEEN Jim Dowdall on the screen — yet no-one knows his name. He is one of that select band of highly skilled professionals who double up for the stars on dangerous shots and provide the villains who come to spectacularly sticky ends. The 34-year-old former paratrooper is on Equity's register of stunt men.

His hair still cropped from playing an SS man, Jim spoke of the pleasures and perils of his job as well as the second love of his life — old military vehicles. Outside in the West London mews where he lives stood his fleet of nine motorcycles which include a BSA M20, a shaft-driven wartime Harley-Davidson and a wartime BMW combination.

As well as running them for fun, Jim also hires out the vehicles for films. Most in demand are a matching pair of American police Harley-Davidsons which he supplies complete with riders in the correct dress.

He also has a Jeep but no longer runs it around London. "I did it for two-and-a-half years when they were not such collectors' items. Now people start taking bits off it if you park it in the street."

A member of the Military Vehicle Conservation Group he is also part owner of an amphibious DUKW as used in the Normandy landings. On its first outing it sank in the River Medway but now it tours the old vehicle shows.

"It is taxed as an amphibious hearse or fisherman's tractor. You don't need an MOT and are allowed to do 2000 miles a year. On summer evenings we take it out on the Thames and pop in at riverside pubs for a pint."

Jim left school at 16 "with not the greatest academic record" and had a number of jobs including circus roustabout and a spell in the Parachute Regiment. His first contact with the film industry came when he worked for a company which supplied weapons for films.

"People seem to think that we use plastic guns in films but they are all real," he says. His work as an armourer and weapons technician stood him in good stead later when he did technical writing on small arms for the compendium *Brassey's Infantry Weapons of the World*.

Films and stunt work really attracted Jim and he started doing work as an extra in



Jim with some of his vehicle collection outside his London home.

"I don't feel the basic criterion for a stunt man is to have broken every bone in his body because that means he has screwed up a lot."

order to obtain his Equity card. Once he got on to the stunt register things were easier, but work still had to be hustled for.

"You have to keep on the phone and when you hear a rumour about a job you go down to the studios. In between times you have to fill in with all sorts of other things — I've written two books on stunts for 13 to 14 year-olds."

Films in which Jim has appeared include *The Eagle Has Landed*, *A Bridge Too Far*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *Force Ten from*

Navarone, *Superman 2* and *The Empire Strikes Back*. He will also be in the next James Bond film *Octopussy*, whose star, Roger Moore, was the subject of SOLDIER's last profile.

On television he has been in *Tales of the Unexpected*, *The Saint*, *The Professionals* and *The Avengers* among many others. But he is most uncompromising about historical accuracy, particularly on things military.

"The one thing which gets my goat is

Continued on page 20

when something is desperately wrong and the film makers say people will never notice. Anyone who is ex-Service knows about things like when Jeeps had external petrol caps and when they didn't."

Jim particularly likes working with cars and motorcycles but crashes always have their risks. He has collected lots of bumps and bruises as well as losing half a finger in vehicle crashes.

"But I don't feel the basic criterion for a stunt man is to have broken every bone in his body because that means he has screwed up a lot. The old image is no longer applicable — it is now high technology."

The second Superman film brought Jim two impacted vertebrae. He was one of two villains who got into the White House and were thrown along a corridor by Superman. He was supposed to crash into his fellow crook but instead hit the floor on his head. And while playing the part of an astronaut who had a fatal meeting with the arch villain, Terence Stamp, he almost passed out — through lack of oxygen in his space suit.

Last year Jim spent £600 on safety equipment for himself including a fire suit which he bought after seeing it displayed at the British Army Equipment show in Aldershot.

"I know that suit will offer me far better protection than anything before because it is in a new material and I can wear ordinary clothes on top. That is what they employ you for — to give an effect. You need to be able to jump out of a five storey building five times a day, then go and wreck a car on the



Jim defies gravity as an astronaut in *Superman II* watched by Terence Stamp.

second day, then set yourself on fire on the third."

Learning to say 'No' is an important part of a stunt man's survival. Jim turned down one role which involved swinging on a rope from one tower to another. The man who took the job smashed into the second tower and was so badly injured he had to retire.

"You have to know your own limitations and the limitations of the set and the people you are working with. They think because you are a stunt man you are going to don a pair of underpants over your suit and shoot off to 40,000 feet. The reason you survive in this game is because you eliminate as many risks as possible.

"Preparation is what it is all about. Like

the Army it functions as a team — the moment you have people functioning as individuals it breaks down. You have to work closely with the production team and know how to make the camera lie for you. Just as a good cameraman can make a mediocre stunt look fantastic, so a bad one can make a fantastic stunt look nothing by using the wrong lens or angle."

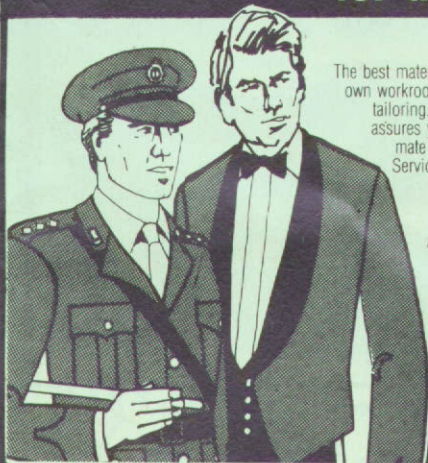
Jim finds the life "fabulous" and admits that he sometimes expects to see his mother come marching on to the set, grab him by the neck and take him away to "a responsible job". He concludes: "You are being paid to play cowboys and Indians."

But there is no point in SOLDIER readers due for discharge rushing to apply for jobs as stunt men. Today no-one is considered for the Equity register unless they have held a union card for at least two years.

"Although lots of lads come out of the Army with splendid qualifications they would need the experience of working in front of the cameras because you often have to act. It is much easier to employ a stunt man than have an actor for a small role and then have to double him."

What happens to the stunt man when he becomes middle aged? Replies Jim: "I have been working with someone who is 72 and started with silent pictures. I don't look further than the next job. I believe something will turn up if I get smashed up and can't carry on. Or I might go on and be an arranger which is tremendously satisfying. On the other hand I might get bored with it and go to the country to raise children, dogs and motorbikes..."

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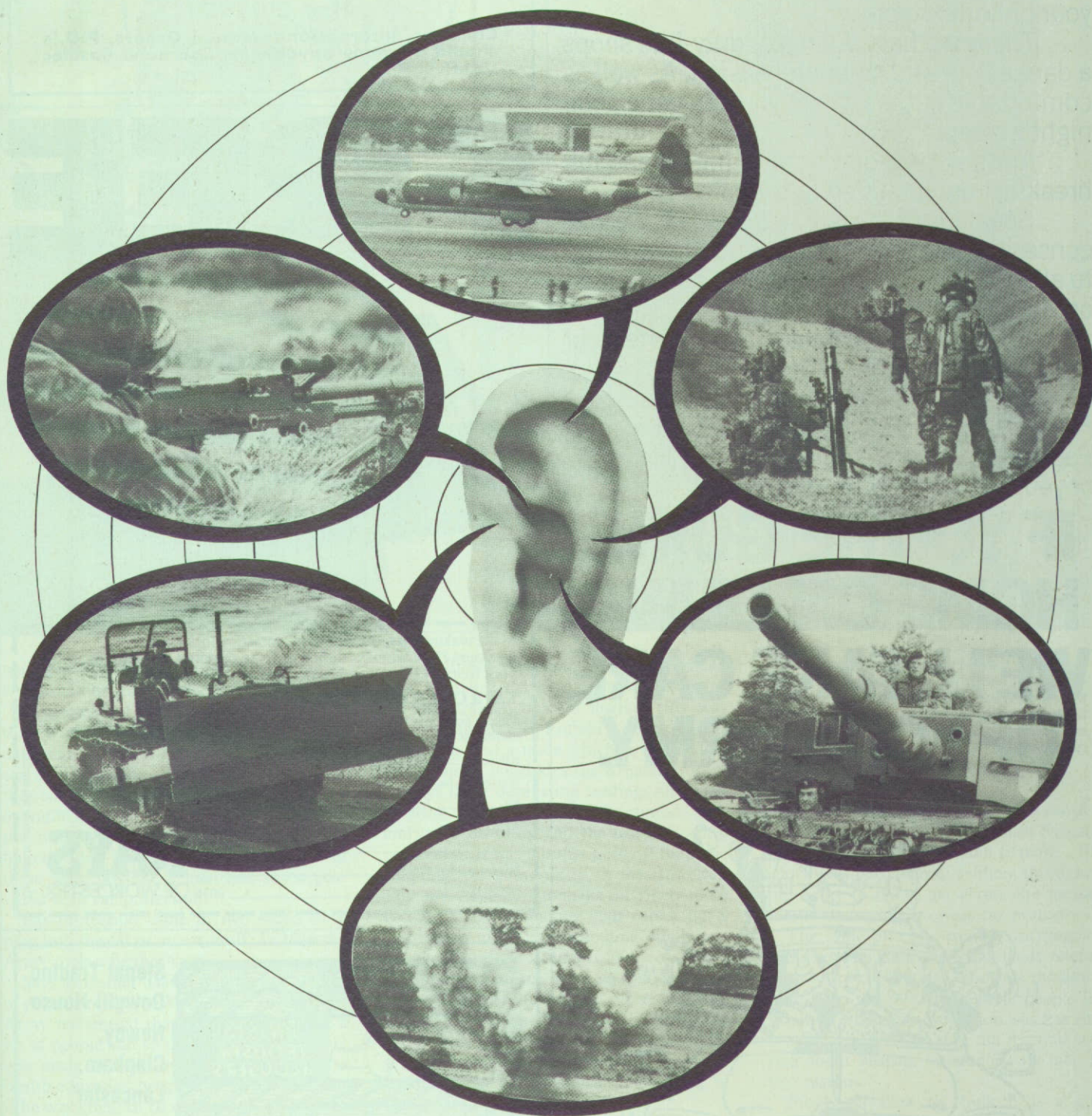
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Army medical experts believe that premature deafness among soldiers is the Army's greatest single preventable problem. John Walton finds out what is being done to counter it.

SAYING NO TO NOISE



THE AMERICAN magazine *Eurarmy* recently recounted the story of a young soldier moving rapidly up the promotion ladder who failed to become a helicopter pilot because, at 26, his hearing was that of a man of 90. The soldier recalled telling his platoon sergeant that 'ear plugs were for wimps'.

Being a soldier has been a noisy profession ever since weapons moved on from bows

and arrows and spears to explosive projectiles. And the human ear is extremely susceptible to excessive noise — either in the form of sudden bangs or continuous noise from aircraft engines or in factories.

Loud noises can either cause temporary threshold deafness which will disappear over a few hours or permanent damage.

In the 1939-45 war, weapons tended to get

a lot noisier. In particular this was due to the introduction of very high velocity weapons, especially the 17 pounder anti-tank gun, but at the same time many other things started getting louder.

More and more men were exposed to aircraft noise and to noise from armoured fighting vehicles and larger vehicles such as

continued on page 23

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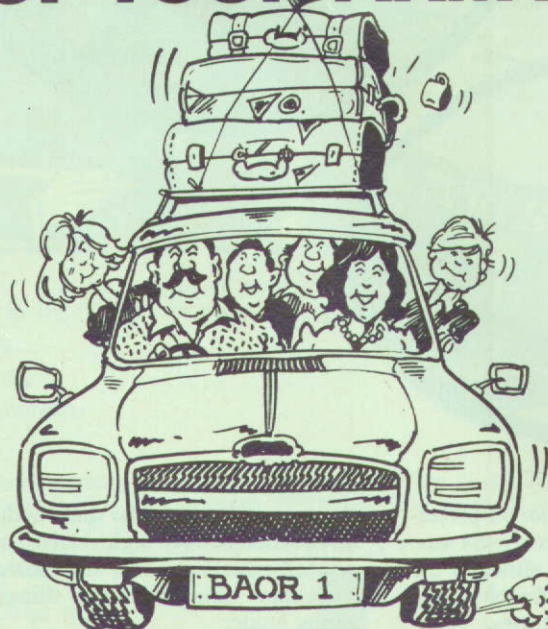
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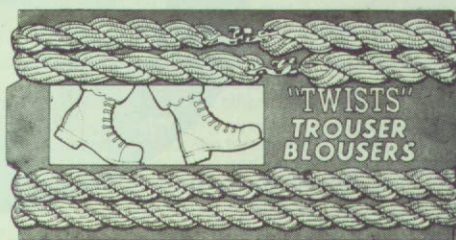
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tank transporters. Later the arrival of the jet engine and helicopter added to the problem.

At the end of the war it was recognised that a number of soldiers were being deafened by excess exposure to noise. Several options were open to the Services — they could make machines quieter, move the operator away from the machines, insulate the noise source or limit the number of hours a man was exposed to it. If none of these were possible a man had to be provided with ear protection.

Ear protection came in two forms — a plug into the ear or an ear muff. In 1966 the Army took a further step.

Says Brigadier David Worsley, Director of Army Preventive Medicine: "In 1966 the Army recognised that we were deafening a lot of people and so the issue of an ear plug was made to every soldier. With it went a health education programme to tell him that if he was going to be exposed to loud noises such as gunfire he must wear ear plugs."

But a survey ten years later revealed that little had been accomplished. "We discovered that despite this use of ear plugs for a decade we still had about the same number of soldiers suffering from noise-induced hearing loss. We had not actually stood still because weapon noise had got louder and if we had not had some sort of protection the situation would have been worse than it is now."

Over those years mortars and bazooka type weapons had become noisier and for the infantryman the self loading rifle was louder than the Lee-Enfield it replaced. "It is hard to find a trade which is exposed to more noise", concludes the Brigadier.

After these depressing findings an Army Hearing Conservation Programme was embarked on to expand the use of hearing protection. It was felt that perhaps the same thinking was going on as in the American example. "We have to make the Army more conscious that protecting your ears is not a cissy thing to do but something vitally important," stresses Brigadier Worsley.

As a result, three years ago, audiometry tests were introduced for all recruits to eliminate those who try to join the Army and are already deaf. And regular audiometry tests now take place throughout a man's career as well — periodically according to the degree of risk in his job.

Deafness may not be immediately apparent as it starts at levels beyond ordinary speech. Since people tend to lose some hearing anyway as they grow older, a man with noise-induced hearing loss could be deaf by the time he reaches his fifties.

Discos are often blamed for deafness in young people but Brigadier Worsley says there is no evidence to show that they are affecting the hearing of soldiers. Audio tests of Service bands have also not revealed any

Audiometry test for new recruit. Different sounds are played to him through headphones and he presses a button as he hears them. His response is then plotted on a graph for comparison with the sound level. Inset: A Welsh Guardsman back from the Falklands being tested.

evidence of impaired hearing from music.

The Army Occupational Health Research Unit at Farnborough is about to make a film which will be shown to soldiers throughout the Army to try to get across the message that it is not 'soft' to wear ear protectors.

The same unit is currently carrying out audio tests on about 1000 Falklands veterans from support platoons. These are thought to have been the most vulnerable people in a situation where ear protection was less easy.

Brigadier Worsley says the Army is worried about hearing loss among its men for two reasons.

Firstly, it likes to think it is a good employer and does not wish to damage its employees during their service. And secondly, good hearing is essential for the soldier.

"If the man on sentry duty or out on patrol cannot hear the rustle of leaves or someone cutting some wire with a high pitched 'ping', he's a menace to himself and his comrades. It is the greatest single preventable problem that we have got in the Army at the moment."



ADVANCE NOTICE this week of two forthcoming attractions in 1983: 'The Heart of the Nation', a *son et lumière* production in aid of Ssafa, and the 1983 Guild of St Helena holiday for handicapped Service children.

There could be no more fitting place than Horse Guards Parade for a pageant entitled 'The Heart of the Nation'. The Ssafa spectacular will take place there nightly from 17 August until 8 September, including Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday. It is written by Rosemary Anne Sissons, directed by Christopher Venning and produced by Michael Parker who is already well-known to Royal Tournament and Wembley Musical Pageant audiences. These top names will be joined by a glittering cast of voices, including Anthony Andrews, Hannah Gordon, Robert Hardy, Penelope Keith and Paul Scofield.

The Box Office opens 28 February and tickets and all information will be available from 'The Heart of the Nation' Box Office, Ssafa, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ (Tel: 01-222 9228). All the seats will be under cover and prices are £5.50 and £4.50 with special rates for party bookings of 10 or more.

I have also received details of this year's holiday for handicapped children. It will take place at St Martins Plain Camp at Shorncliffe from Friday 17 June 1983 to 24 June.

There are places for about 20 Service handicapped children of moderate disability between the ages of nine and 14 years and the holiday will be at no cost to the parents of children who are accepted. They will, however, be expected to deliver and collect their children from a central point in London. Families with British Forces Germany are eligible to apply.

Applications should be made, in writing, as soon as possible and not later than 30 April 1983 to Service Children's Education Authority, Schools Branch (Special Education Section), Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR.

Anne Armstrong

Claire Wyatt has written to me in her search for employment as a mother's help to a Service family. I am including her letter on this page in case anyone needs help from this enterprising young lady. It's good to hear of youngsters who are trying to solve their own unemployment problems.

"I am writing to ask how I should go about seeking employment as a mother's help to a Service family serving overseas, starting from the beginning of August 1983 until the end of February 1984.

"I would particularly like to work in either Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Naples or West Germany.

"I shall be 18 in January and in April 1984 I start my State Registered Nurse training at the Royal Free Hospital, London."

Claire Wyatt, 1 Chestnut Avenue, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0NJ.

I suggest that you write to The Lady magazine at 39-40 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ER who will also be able to give you advice on such employment.

While in France during 1916-18 I heard a monologue several times that was entitled 'The Old Soldier's Dream'.

In this dream he died and went to Heaven where he was directed to the section reserved for ex-Servicemen and was greeted by RSM St Peter who barks at him in good military style demanding name, rank and number. He gives his whole military history and is grudgingly admitted and ordered to report to St Michael, the RQMS, to "get fitted with wings, 'alo, sandals and draw 'arp". As his service continues he suffers the standard training adapted to the heavenly host, attends "flyin' and 'arping" classes and gets pegged for appearing on parade "wif a dirty 'alo". Eventually he and the RSM have quite an argument and he requests his release because " 'e jus' can't stand this 'ere sittin' around on damp clouds all day an' wifout trousers!"

I heard the thing several times and each time it was told with a cockney accent. It is, to anyone who knows the Army life, one of the best take-offs ever written and would have well-matched the Stanley Holloway 'Sam Small' stories.

I have tried to get hold of the story either in writing or, if possible, told and recorded on a cassette, but without success. Can you help?

Major (Ret'd) H L Nixon, Canada. Well, can anyone help Major Nixon? If you know the monologue, please contact me and I shall pass the information on to him.

ASK ANNE

I have been told that storage charges were increased in Autumn 1982. If I have to store my furniture for the first time if I am posted overseas, what can I claim?

Pte W, Catterick.

The maximum rate for storage charge refunds has been increased to £416 per annum for each 600 cubic feet of furniture stored.

This took effect from 1 Aug 82 and for full details you should ask at your unit pay office.

I have been trying to find the addresses of Blesma and Wireless for the Blind without much success. Can you help?

Also, do you have the address of a Union Jack manufacturer, please? L/Cpl B, Hampshire.

The address of Blesma is 185/187 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 6NA. Wireless for the Blind is at 224 Great Portland Street, London W1 and

Union Jacks can be had from Zephyr Flags and Banners, Middle Road, Thrapston, Northants NN14 4LX.

Some time ago you publicised our Service Wives Cookery Book in your pages. In December we were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £5200 to Mrs Sara Jones who received it on behalf of the South Atlantic Fund.

Thank you to everyone who helped in writing and selling the book.

In fact, Sara Jones later wrote in a letter to us: "It's very encouraging, I find, that so many people are involved enough to do something positive for those who suffered because of the Falklands. It certainly gives me courage to keep going." Cynny Sharp, Herts.

Congratulations!

My husband is due to finish his engagement, after many years' service, in approximately one year's time. We have been lucky enough to obtain a rented cottage in the area where we wish to live and, because our children would be at a critical stage of their education when we would have to move, we decided to move now in order to give them time to settle in our new home and at a different school.

We have since found out that because I moved from his duty station solely for resettlement reasons, this is classified as personal and no separation allowance is allowed. There never has been any allowance for disturbance or removal expenses for the final move and now, with the introduction of food charges for married unaccompanied men, we are going to be far worse off financially than before I moved.

There was some talk some time ago of introducing a discounted house purchase scheme for surplus married quarters, similar to that offered to council tenants. This seems to have fallen by the wayside with surplus married quarters being offered at full market value. I wonder if the discount type of scheme is ever likely to get off the ground and if there is any likelihood of any other financial help being given to resettlement in the future? Mrs H, Dorset.

MOD would like to see the equality of conditions for removal and disturbance allowance extended to cover the final move for resettlement purposes, but no changes in this respect are anticipated at present.

Higher priority is currently being given to the extension of the assisted house purchase scheme to make all ranks over the age of 30 eligible and it is hoped that an announcement will be made shortly.

The discounted selling of quarters has been under consideration for some time, but the high cost of launching such a scheme has so far prevented its introduction.

In the meantime, under the discounted scheme, surplus married quarters are offered for sale at local area estimated values. Price levels are often lower than the full market value and have attracted many Service customers.

DID YOU KNOW?

IMPORTANT CHANGES came into effect on 1 Jan 83 concerning the Change in Marital Status Form AFO 1700.

There has been some concern over this in the past months and as a result pay offices now have instructions to instigate proceedings that will leave officers and soldiers who change their marital status from 1 or 2 to 3, 4 or 5 with a liability for charges on quarters for which they are the licence holders.

Previously, an officer or soldier changing his status in this way would start paying food/accommodation charges instead of quartering charges from the date of the change of status. Now the pay office concerned will leave quartering charges as a deduction against pay until they receive a form AF K1325 recording termination of a licence to occupy the quarter. At the same time the Serviceman will also be charged for food from the date of the status change on the assumption that he has moved into single accommodation. On receipt of the AF K1325, the quartering charges will stop and be replaced by the single accommodation charge at the standard rate. In cases where a married quarter is not occupied, food and single accommodation charges will be imposed from the date of the status change.

Unit Pay Offices will have full details about the changes and will be able to advise Servicemen in this situation.

Making Tracks

— a success story —

As an Army wife who has spent one year in UK after two tours in BAOR, I am writing to ask if there is anything that can be done to prepare us a little more for our return to UK, especially financially.

It was quite a shock to lose our LOA and have half a dozen bills to pay at the same time. Initially, our LOA was paid to us even after our return to UK which consequently meant that we were paid very little the following month as the Army took back the LOA. We also had to pay out £40 car tax, £46 television licence and bills were due for electricity, gas and telephone. Would it not be possible to buy TV licence stamps and telephone stamps in BAOR post offices as you can in UK, so that we can save well in advance?

We had to wait quite a while for a quarter and lived first with relatives and then in a temporary quarter before we eventually moved in. However, in spite of these two moves, we were not entitled to any further disturbance allowance, although the moves were not our fault. We also had to pay our own storage charges while we waited for our quarter even though the Army pays storage charges for people posted overseas who leave their belongings in UK.

Mrs E, Camberley.

There are some enlightened units who are trying to do just what you suggest, Mrs E, with regard to preparing families for the changes and costs they will find when they come back to UK — and also when they move out to Germany or other overseas postings.

However, there are certain precautions that you should take for yourself. I asked MOD for advice on the question of overpayment and received the following reply from the F9 Branch:

"The soldier has a personal responsibility to check his own pay statement and notify the unit pay office of any irregularities recorded thereon. Where wives have queries and their husbands are not on station, they should in the first instance contact the unit pay office."

"Improvements to our systems have been devised and implemented with the aim of averting such situations in the recovery of overpayments. However systems depend on human beings and regrettably we do get the occasional lapses but, even then, units have the authority to take action locally to alleviate financial hardship to the soldier or his family."

"The Paymaster-in-Chief's Directorate introduced a system in 1978 to prevent the overissue of LOA to officers and soldiers returning to the UK. However, if overissues still arise and the soldier's account is charged with the total amount of the overissue, which results in the soldier receiving an unduly small payment, the soldier's unit has the facility to make an immediate cash payment to the soldier or, in his absence, his wife. Depending on the amount of the overissue, the unit can also arrange to have the sum recovered over a period of months."

"When unduly small payments are made to a soldier's bank account, the unit is notified on the soldier's pay statement prior to the payment date, ie the last day of the calendar month."



Lt-Col Steward (left) with Tim Imms, John Suller and the wives of 1RTR. Photo by HQ RAC Centre.

WHEN 1ST ROYAL Tank Regiment returned to UK after its Germany tour the watchword was 'preparation'. Thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Steward of the Families Housing and Welfare Service at Bovington — 1 RTR's UK destination — wives and families were well-briefed with all they needed to know about benefits and claims in time to take full advantage of their rights.

Lieutenant-Colonel Steward offered to help with the project I wanted to set up to monitor the difficulties of wives returning from an overseas posting. I had received countless letters highlighting the range of problems encountered, whether it was a regimental move en masse or a trickle posting (and letters like those on these pages are still

coming in). It was obvious that something had to be done and I felt a demonstration would be the most effective way of putting the problems into perspective. That was where 1 RTR came in.

After a consultation with Lieutenant-Colonel Steward and Mr Pulman of Project 305 — which is looking into the whole question of 'Service families' moves — Mr Hewlett, Head of the Overseas Branch of the Department of Health and Social Security, visited the 1 RTR wives in Germany with Mr Nesbitt, also of the DHSS Overseas Branch to hear at first hand what was worrying them.

They gave advice on claiming benefits, answered specific queries and cleared up much of the confusion that surrounds the how, what, where and when of benefit claiming.

This stage was followed by a further meeting, this time in Bovington after their return, where Lieutenant-Colonel Steward had assembled a formidable group of 'useful' people to meet wives and again answer questions. Mr John Suller from the Department of Education and Science and Mr Tim Imms from the local Jobcentre in Wareham were besieged with questions on employment, while Mr Dibben, a training officer and Mr Wilcox, an unemployment specialist were

◀ Tim Imms is consulted by a wife about the local job situation. Photo by HQ RAC Centre.



also popular in the wives' search for answers. The DHSS representatives included Mr Harvey from the Pensions Branch, Mr Etheridge of Supplementary Benefit and Mr Stacey who answered questions on Maternity Benefit.

These local contacts were able to give the wives information on the particular situation in the Bovington area with regard to jobs, make themselves known so that wives would know who to go to for help if necessary and hear for themselves what are the main worries for families returning from overseas.

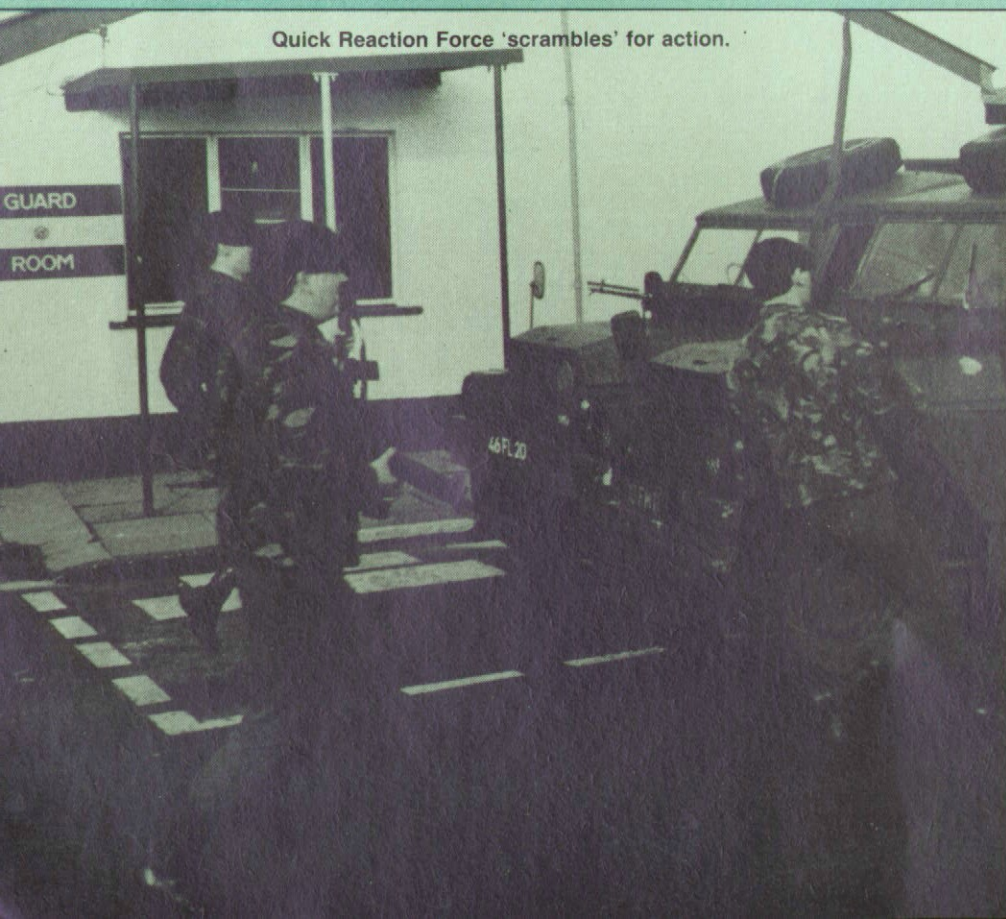
Lieutenant-Colonel Steward was in no doubt about the value of the experiment he had helped to success: "It has been a most worthwhile project, not only for the wives but also for FHWS. Contact has been established with the many departments and it has resulted in more jobs being filled by wives and has cut down the delays which might have developed with the wives not knowing the correct procedures."

The DHSS and the DES representatives too were enthusiastic about the scheme and agreed that a comprehensive package of information would be most helpful to the wives. They said they would take this up with their respective departments so perhaps we can look forward, in time, to easier and more informed moves for Service families.

Though shocked and saddened at the deaths of eight comrades in the Droppin' Well bomb outrage, the Cheshires are wasting no time on self-pity. Two months after the tragedy Sally Daniell meets the men who are . . .



STILL CRACKING ON



Quick Reaction Force 'scrambles' for action.

THE AIM is to make life as pleasant as possible in Ballykelly.

So said the Families Officer of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment who are now into the second of their two years' tour of Northern Ireland at Shackleton Barracks on the windswept coast of Lough Foyle.

This is the regiment's seventh tour of the Province and in the six preceding it had only ever lost one soldier. Then, last December, tragedy struck when the lives of eight Cheshires were claimed by the cowardly INLA bomb attack on the Droppin' Well inn. Three more soldiers and six civilians were also killed.

First numb with shock and then bitterly angry, the regiment faced a bleak Christmas preceded by the anguish of the funerals. The country shared their grief and, completely unsolicited, money poured in from well-wishers hoping their gifts would go some way towards alleviating the sorrow and suffering.

Now £3000 has been set aside for building a memorial in the centre of Ballykelly and a further £16,000 will go to the Cheshire Association.

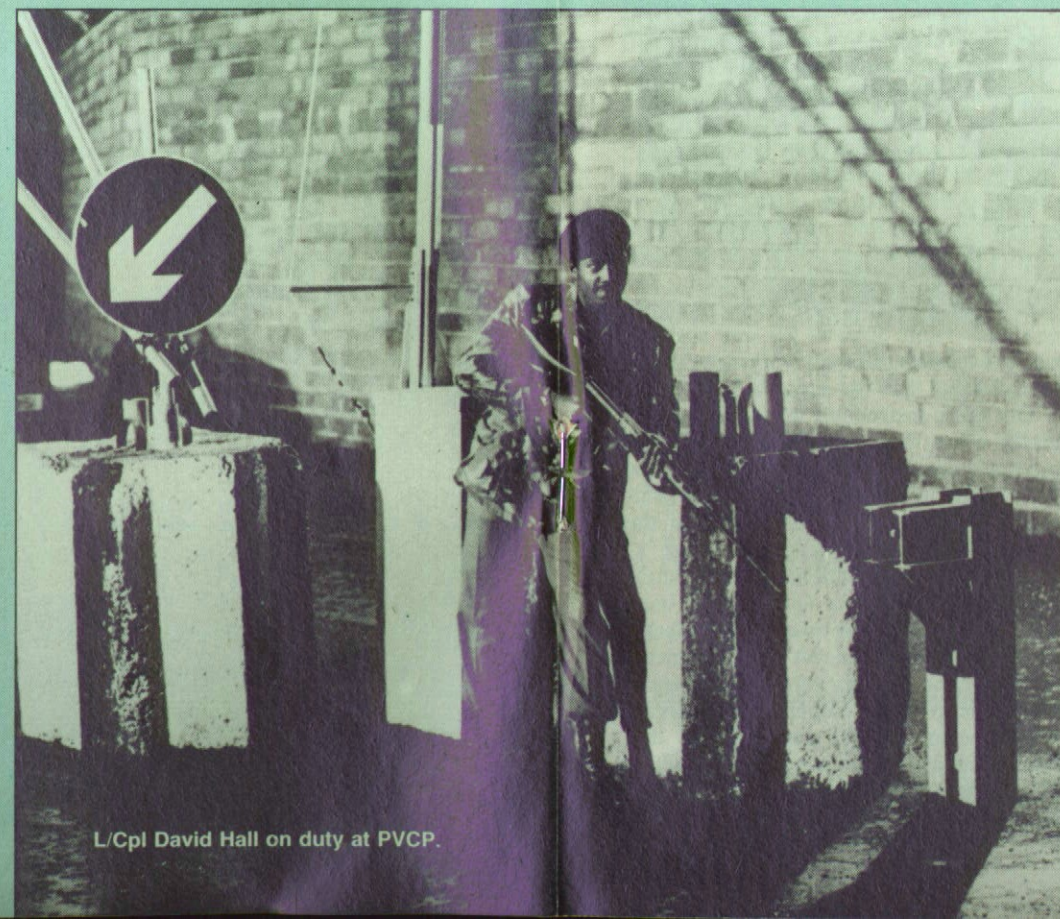
Compensation for criminal damage will follow in due course from the courts.

Money of course can only dull the pain, not heal the wounds. But two months after that shattering blow, the Cheshires are already picking themselves up again.

The spirit of the regiment is reflected in the words of Regimental Sergeant Major Ron Goodwin: "It was very rough to begin with — we were all so shocked, but life carries on and we just crack on with the job."

One of the few regiments to have retained their county identity and title since their formation, the Cheshires are no strangers to sustaining losses, a process sadly begun on their very first visit to Ireland and the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

◀ **Footsore but still smiling at Magilligan Point on march and shoot competition.**



L/Cpl David Hall on duty at PVCP.

Since then the Cheshires have featured in many theatres of war, gaining their major battle honour on 17 February 1843 in India at Meeanee in the Province of Scinde. The commander of the Queen's forces, Sir Charles Napier signalled his victory to Her Majesty's Government by sending his famous one word message, "Peccavi" meaning "I have sinned".

Much of the regimental silver dates from this time, in particular an impressively detailed centrepiece, now old and fragile and lovingly cared for by the Officers' Mess manager, Sergeant Alan Joseph.

Meeanee Day is still celebrated and this year it meant something more as well — the first time during their current tour that the whole regiment had been together. Normally one company is permanently deployed on rotation down on the Tyrone border at Auchnacloy.

During SOLDIER's visit it was A Company's turn and the Officer Commanding, Major Bob Stewart, explained that whilst there the company's job is to assist 8th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment in operations within its tactical area of responsibility. The platoons are engaged in foot patrols and manning the permanent vehicle check point (PVCP) on the border between the north and south.

This routine 24-hours-a-day job can make persistent demands on a soldier's patience and mental stamina. Not for him the sometimes dramatic action of more traditional military skills, but rather the need to maintain interest and alertness while merely watching and waiting.

For an hour at a time men are in post in sangars looking out over the area surrounding the PVCP, while others stop and check every car travelling in either direction. Tedious work perhaps, but absolutely vital if terrorists are not to use the legal crossing points at will.

It is not just a question of preventing the movement of arms and explosives; there is also the essential task of monitoring the



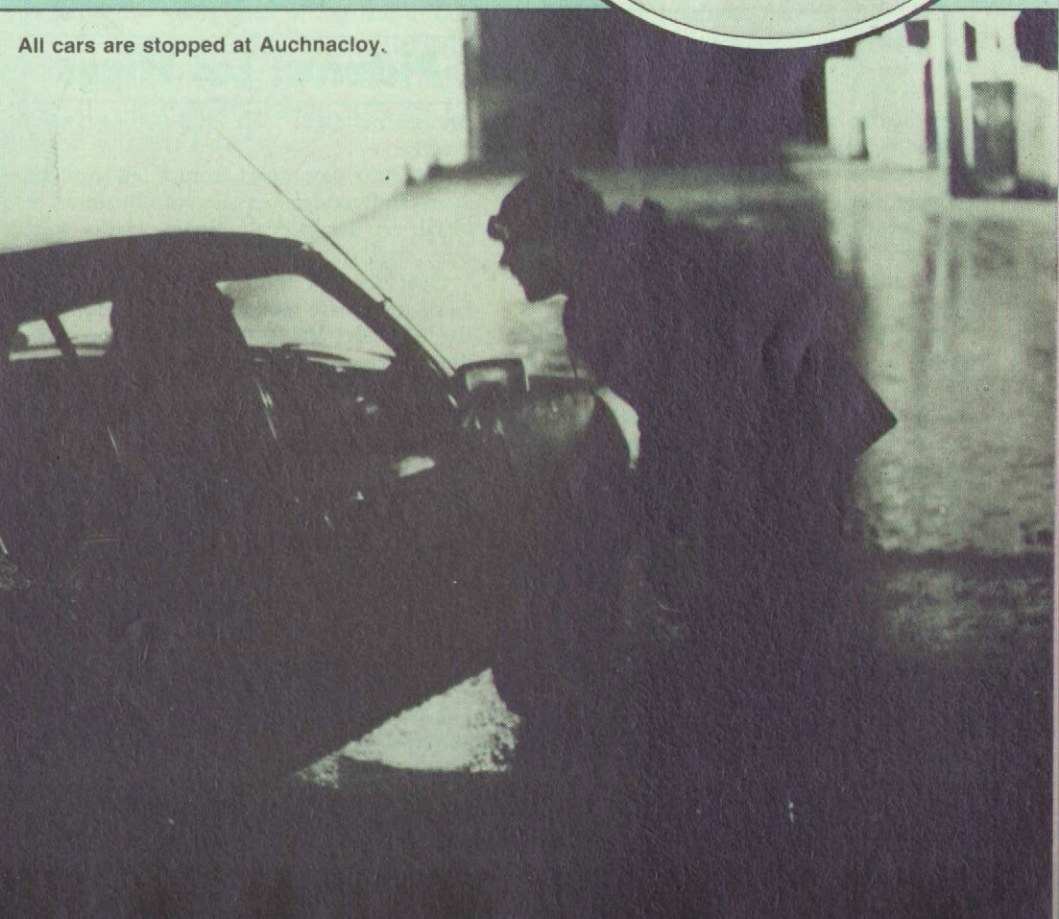
Dog team practises apprehending a well-padded 'miscreant'. Inset shows the Red Paw of Ulster, worn by all Army dog handlers in Northern Ireland.



movements of suspected terrorists. Prevention of terrorism is a painstaking business, particularly when nothing might happen for days, weeks and even months on end, but the security forces, whilst maintaining a low profile, cannot afford to relax their vigilance.

The men at Auchnacloy are no exception and Sergeant Phil Clapperton explained that an hour is as long as an observer can remain fully effective. "So we try and vary it as much as we can. After an hour in the sangar,

continued on page 28



All cars are stopped at Auchnacloy.



Cpl Michael Harmsworth, on attachment from REME, splices a tow rope.

a bloke probably wants a smoke, so we change over. It's up to the platoon commander really, but if we don't do it, it gets very boring. He's got to keep his men interested."

Major Stewart is in no doubt about the integrity of the soldiers under his command: "It's the grinding boredom of a place like this more than anything else, and it just shows the true professionalism of the soldiers to be able to put up with it — and they never let us down."

The lack of space at Auchnacloy means that they all live on top of one another with a door off the Officers' and Sergeant's Mess leading to the kitchen. Here Sergeant Roger Cox, ACC and two cooks work an average 14 hours a day, preparing three meals a day for 120 men with servings right round the clock according to operational needs.

"The lads haven't anything much better to do here," said Sergeant Cox, "so we try and put a lot of effort into the meals. But as long as they get their chips, pies and sausages they're happy enough."

Meanwhile, back at Ballykelly, the rest of the regiment lead a more relaxed life with a familiar pattern of deployment. One company forms the Brigade reserve and provides the quick reaction force, another carries out guard and duty functions, while the fourth is either on leave or training.

Built as a Royal Air Force station, the camp has plenty of room for a wide variety of activities. Among the facilities are a 25 metre swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, sauna, gym and multi-gym and there are also two areas, both over a mile long, which are suitable for outdoor sports. The only problem is that since the land is below the water table, it is soft and muddy. At high tide spectators may suddenly find themselves knee deep in the ground.

Given the area and its proximity to the sea, the soldiers at Ballykelly can pursue virtually any leisure activity they like — sailing, surfing, sub-aqua, fishing, canoeing, shooting, golf, parascending and hang gliding to name but a few. The Cheshires, renowned for their cross-country prowess, use the one-and-a-half mile air



Tuning up for busy summer season.

strip for their Pierson Cup competition, a weekly inter-company race.

Recently the regiment was engaged in a marathon length march and shoot competition. After an inspection and pistol shoot, the platoons moved out one by one on the 13 mile walk across country to Magilligan Point, arguably the windiest spot in the British Isles.

Abseiling down a 60 foot Martello Tower, a 50 metre night shoot, signals and first aid exercises and the return march ensured that they were all pretty tired by the time they got back to camp, and then they had to tackle an assault course.

At the night shoot post SOLDIER was there as the Signals Platoon stomped in wearily. What do you think of it so far? "Terrible" came the unequivocal reply from one soldier, grinning wryly — or was it the pain? "My feet are sore" he said, "but you've just got to keep going and think of

Pictures: Les Wiggs

something nice." He did not say what exactly!

The next day, apart from a few strained faces and tender feet, it was business as usual. In the Orderly Room, clerks were busy organising 1400 new passports.

Over the past 16 or 17 years, apart from Germany where passports are not required, the Cheshires have not enjoyed an accompanied overseas tour. But with the prospect of Hong Kong early next year, everyone, including wives and families, must have their documents up to date.

Also based at Ballykelly is the Army Dog Section and for the first time the Cheshires have eight guard dogs of their own to look after. One of these is the Northern Ireland and UK trials champion Sham but he is no problem for his new handler, Private Haydn Mayers. These two had to get used to each other to begin with but now, as Mayers said, "Sham and me — we're just great!"

Down in the practice room, the regimental band were tackling a new score for their programme. Under the direction of their bandmaster, Warrant Officer 1 Eddie Pickering who previously served 11 years as a



Sgt Alan Joseph with regimental silver.



Processing passports in the Orderly Room. euphonium player with the Alamein Staff Band, they are gearing themselves for their summer commitments, most of which will be in the Province but which will also include this year's Wembley Pageant.

After the pub bombing in December, these bandsmen found themselves changing hats and fulfilling their role as medics. Their job was to give first aid to the less seriously injured and cope with rising hysteria.

One bandsman recalled: "The training all came back to me once we got into it and it wasn't that much different working with the real casualties than the simulated.

"Our basic instruction was useful, particularly when dealing with the ones with temporary deafness. It was helpful to know how to reassure them that it was only temporary and that they'd be all right in the morning."

Naturally the bandsmen hope their medical skills will not similarly be used again during this or any other tour of Northern Ireland — as do the rest of the regiment. But you cannot keep good Cheshires down. Lieutenant Colonel Tony Gauvain and his regiment have demonstrated that their spirits are far from low, their lives as full as ever and they are looking forward to Hong Kong.

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HITLER'S SAMURAI

The Waffen-SS in action



BRUCE QUARRIE

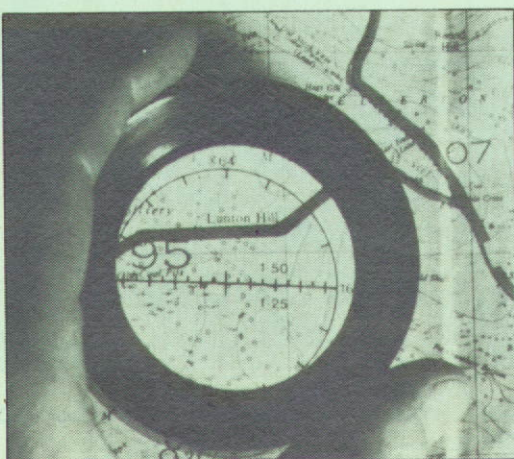
Few people realise that the fighting arm of Hitler's SS obeyed a warrior code brought back from Japan in mediaeval times by Jesuit missionaries. This is only one of the surprises in this new, heavily illustrated book on the Waffen-SS. Individual chapters cover recruitment, training, uniforms and insignia, weapons and equipment and the war record of the SS. Published February 28. 160 pages, 206 photos & 78 drawings. Hardcover. ISBN 0-85059-572-X. £9.95 net (£10.95 by post from Dept S/2/83 at the address below). You may also order by phone (24-hour answering service) using Access, Mastercard, Barclaycard, Visa or Diners Club.



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'MAIL GETTING THROUGH?'

ONE OF THE MOST important things for any soldier on a tour of Northern Ireland, and especially the four-monthers, is to get his mail without delay. This, amongst other things, is the job of 22 Postal and Courier Unit, Royal Engineers based at Headquarters Northern Ireland in Lisburn.

Here the 29 staff, including 12 WRAC, man the unit 24 hours a day in order to move five and a half thousand kilos of letter mail a month — the equivalent of seven 10-ton trucks every year.

Major Howard Stanley, the Commanding Officer, explained that all the mail is flown in and out by the national carrier and once it has been brought to Lisburn it then has to be screened, sorted and documented before being moved to the various Forces Post Offices all over the Province.

"From there it is collected by the units to distribute to their soldiers themselves since they know where they're likely to be. Unless a guy is out on a three or four day patrol they should all get their mail the day after it arrives here at the latest."

At Christmas the 'posties' coped with the extra workload created by the *Daily Express* appeal to readers to send a Christmas card to a soldier serving in Northern Ireland. Possibly stimulated by the Ballykelly bombing, the appeal yielded a staggering 175,000 cards — an average of 17 for every regular soldier there.

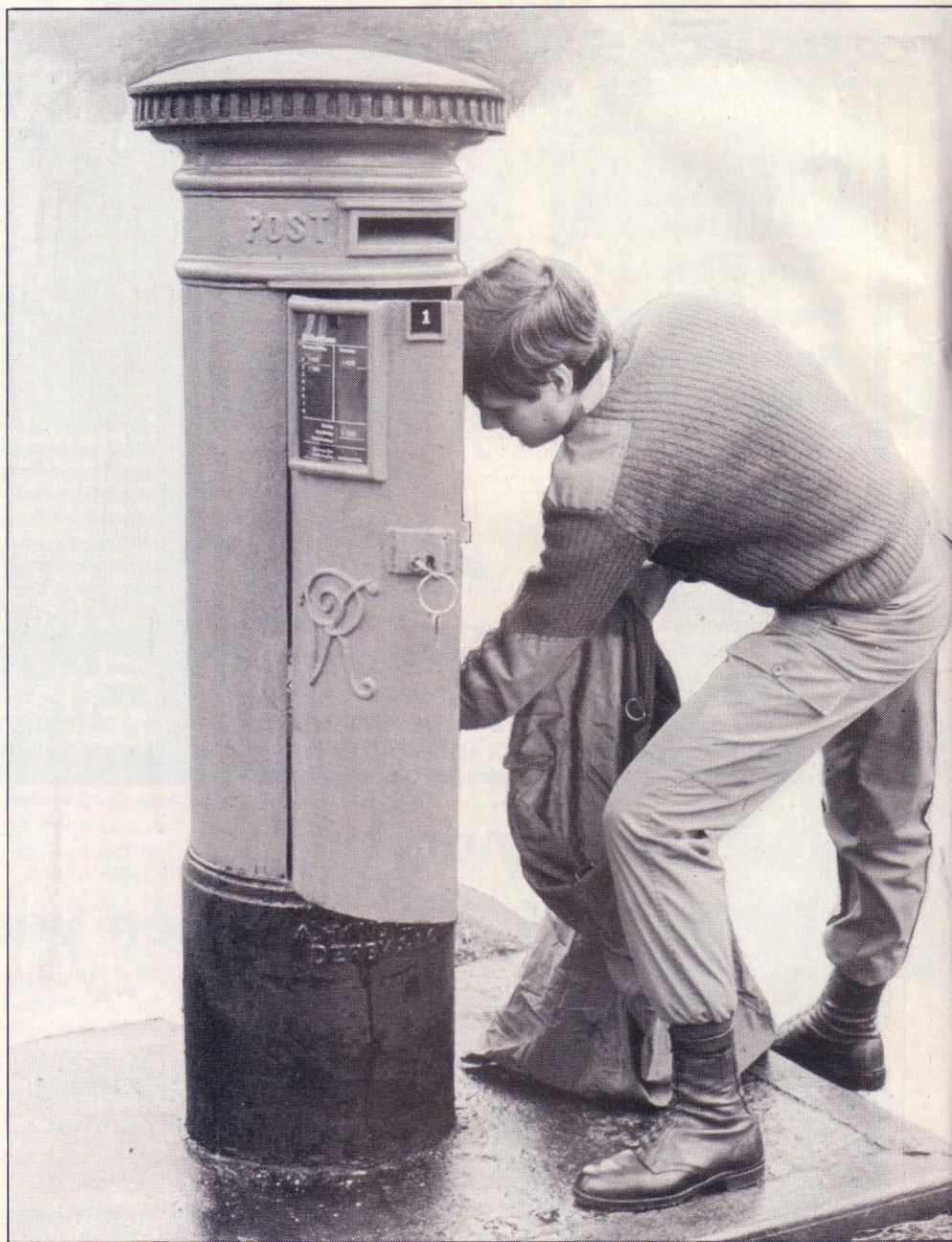
"It didn't cause us too much of a problem in fact, because Christmas is a busy time anyway and we were geared for the rush," said Major Stanley.

"Also, since they were all addressed to 'A Soldier — Northern Ireland' we had no sorting difficulties and just handed them over in bundles to the units. It went down very well with the troops and some kind people even sent cheques and cash as well as invitations from pen pals."

Apart from the tons of letter mail, 22 P&CU is also responsible for the classified mail passing between various places in the Province and back to the mainland. Since the demise of the Official Paid system this means that someone has to stand and weigh each envelope to discover how much it will cost to send. When you have been doing that for an eight hour shift you are ready to sit down!

This is possible in the unit's own club

It's a question everyone in Northern Ireland asks, from visiting top brass to soldiers on their first four-month tour. Sally Daniell finds the answer ...



Collection time at the Victorian pillar box outside the Lisburn PO.

house, the Post Coach, where the staff can relax with a pint of beer or a Black Bush, perhaps over a game of darts. No rough and ready drinking house this; it might be just a portakabin from the outside but inside it could just as well be The Bunch of Grapes or the Marquis of Granby and on disco nights you could be forgiven for thinking you were in Tramps or Wedgies!

Parcels arrive in bulk containers from the main civilian post office in Belfast and each is sent through an X-ray machine. No chances are taken if one looks the slightest bit suspicious. The bomb disposal people are alerted immediately and the package is blown up. Particular care is taken over padded envelopes or Jiffy bags — a favourite means of secreting explosives.

This safety-first approach means, inevitably, that innocuous packages occasionally get blown up too — like the time some thoughtful soul sent a vibrator to a loved

one, but it never reached its destination!

With the exception of the very flimsy envelopes, such as the free aerogrammes and telemessages, everything passing through the unit is screened. So far as they know, nothing has yet slipped through the net, but maintaining this success depends upon constant vigilance and experience in identifying packages through the X-ray.

Corporal Gary Pearce's job is to scan the VDU while a parcel is under scrutiny: "It can take a long time to identify some things," he explained. "For instance, these video games that use remote control guns look very suspicious because on the screen they look about four foot long. Anything electrical really can be difficult to identify because of the wires, and also the shape — you can imagine what a hairdryer can look like in the machine, can't you?"

When the Army first took over responsibility for Forces Mail in 1969 it had to 'borrow' equipment from the civilian Post Office. One of the items was a filthy, disused pillar box. It was only when they cleaned it up that they discovered it was an antique with the letters 'VR' grandly embossed in italic. As it is now, fortunately, cemented into the ground, it cannot be returned.

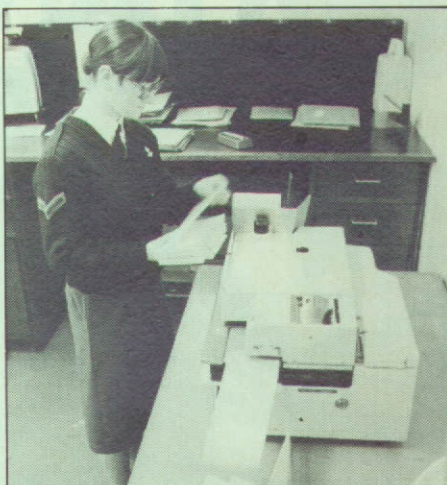
The men and women of 22 P&CU (43 in all) also man the FPOs in other main areas of operation such as Aldergrove, Ballykelly, Omagh and Londonderry. Apart from the main task of sorting the mail, they also provide the normal post office facilities of issuing child benefit, cashing unemployment benefit giro and managing allotment accounts.

Those in the areas serving many soldiers and their families can expect to handle up to £18,000 a week. In addition to this, and keeping all the records and documentation up to date, the books must be balanced at the end of every day.

Corporal Jane Bridgman, although now back in Lisburn with responsibility for classified material, has done a couple of stints manning the FPOs at Aldergrove and Ballykinler singlehanded. "That's definitely the best job," she told SOLDIER enthusiastically, "very challenging and of course you meet lots of people."

Major Stanley is proud of the level of competence in his staff and is in no doubt about the responsibility they readily accept. "If they were in the Pay Corps," he said with a wicked smile, "they'd all be officers!"

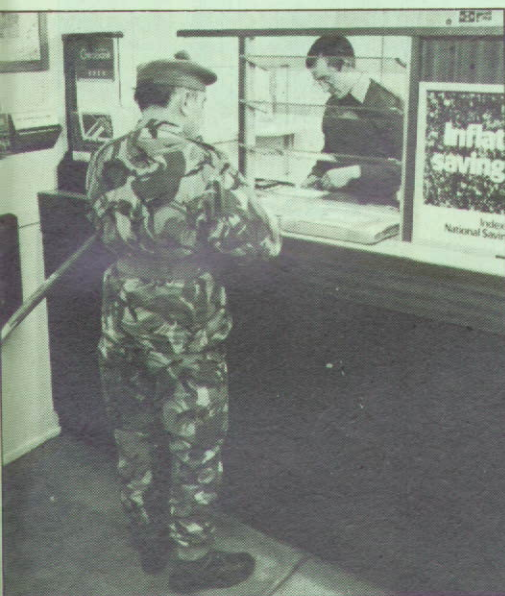
Banks of mailbags representing all the areas served by 22 P&CU. ▼



L/Cpl Maureen Dickens looks after the certified official mail. ▲



Pte Kim Jones X-rays a Jiffy bag, a common way of concealing a bomb. ▼



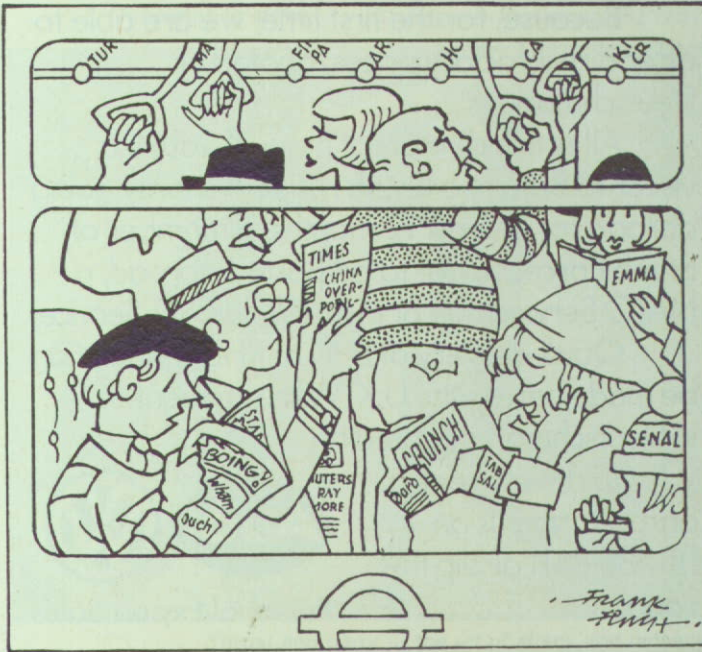
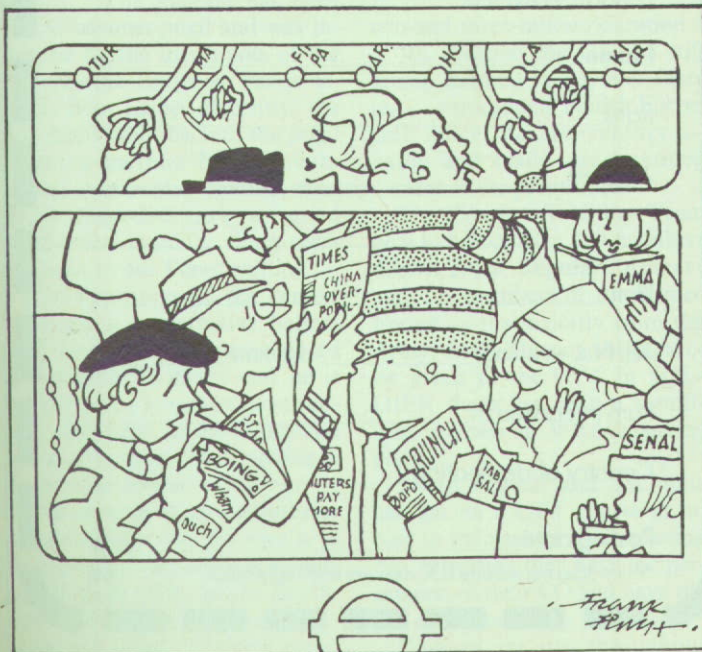
The counter service at Lisburn also serves the Belfast roulement battalion — currently the Black Watch.



Pictures: Les Wiggs

How observant are you?

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



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S13

BAYONET-PUGIL

— a chance to learn a new combat skill



THE FALKLANDS conflict has given some military instructors a new perspective on unarmed combat according to Mr James Shortt, Director of an independent organisation called the Combat Training Team (see SOLDIER 5 April, 1982).

"Before that, all one heard was that micro-chip technology had made bayonet fighting and unarmed combat redundant. The experience of many of those in the hot spots during the campaign seems to suggest differently," he claims.

His Combat Training Team has now introduced a new style of close-quarter battle training to its curriculum as Mr Shortt explains: "The method has been called bayonet-pugil and was invented by the instructors of the US Marine Corps at Parris Island, Boot Camp. Recently, the US Army went back to the pugil training method having abandoned it after the Vietnam war. It is regarded now as good motivation training, along similar lines to our Paras' milling.

"In bayonet-pugil the contestant wears a protective helmet and face covering, groin guard and protective gloves and he is armed with a four-foot stave padded with foam in the centre and top and bottom. The padding is covered in canvas.

"In contests of one-against-one or one-against-two the idea is to use thrusts, cut and butt strokes of the pugil stick against attackers while side-stepping and parrying his blows. Contests are of

Warily circling each other...



two-and three-minute duration.

"In addition the CTT is still giving training in bayonet fencing — a traditional British Forces skill since the last century — baton and blade and unarmed combat in its programme."

The Combat Training Team now has more than 200 members drawn from Regular, Reserve and TA members of the Armed Forces — the majority from the Army. And following the publicity given to the CTT in SOLDIER there has been a significant increase in WRAC participants.

"Both Regular and TA units can get on a CTT course at no cost to themselves by contacting me, providing they have the permission of their CO and have the use of a gym," says Mr Shortt.

Courses are run throughout

the year, usually at weekends.

Such has been the response that the CTT, this year, hopes to stage a British bayonet fencing championship with teams drawn from members of the Services as well as an individual event.

Entries are needed and Mr

Shortt would particularly like to hear from any former Royal Tournament bayonet fencers irrespective of whether they are still in the Forces.

"We are interested to hear from any soldiers of either sex who want to get in on our training," he says. "The Army has never abandoned bayonet skills and we would like to see the Services take on this new pugil-bayonet responsibility full-time. We are not instructors to the Services, just advisers; the joy of being adviser is when he does not have to do that any more.

"It is a labour of love and we provide a whole bank of knowledge and teach those going back to their units how to share what they've learned."

Mr James Shortt can be contacted at 49 Avondale Road, South Croydon, London, CR2 6JE (Tel: 01-688 4276). The BAOR contact for the CTT is Staff Sergeant George Burroughes of Recce Troop, SHQ, 44 Field Support Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31.



Preparing to strike...



Thrust and parry — the art of attack and defence.

FALKLANDS FILE

THE LAST HEROINE RETURNS



THE CHEERING CROWDS have gone. The welcome home celebrations are over. Now the salt-encrusted *Norland* waits in her home port of Hull for a facelift before resuming her duties as a North Sea Ferry.

Behind her lie 10 months and 66,000 miles of memories of her days spent as a troopship in the South Atlantic.

It was the *Norland* — last April — that took the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment to the Falklands and became home to them for four weeks as they practised their military skills and kept fit by pounding her decks.

In San Carlos Water she was narrowly missed twice when 500lb bombs landed beside her.

She helped ferry troops of 5 Brigade from the QE2 in South Georgia. And it was the *Norland* who shared in the Parachute Regiment's triumphant return as she brought men of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions back from Port Stanley to Ascension Island.

Now *Norland* has finally come home to her own victory laurels — the last ship to carry fighting men to return. But even her homecoming brought memories of the storm-tossed South Atlantic as gales and heavy seas prevented her entering King George Dock.

So, while *Norland* wallowed offshore, the festivities on land were already under way. Representatives of all the three Services attended the 600-strong reception, orga-

Inset: Pipe Major Nick Gordon, 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders, plays his special composition 'MV Norland' at the reception. The battalion travelled from Ascension Island to the Falklands on the ship in July.

nised by North Sea Ferries, but many had to return to their units before the ship finally docked six hours late.

But, as she finally tied up, 3000 people were there to greet her and the Band and Drums of 2 Para — who had joined the ship the previous night — sounded a fitting musical tribute with tunes such as *Land of Hope and Glory* and *Rule Britannia*.

The Quartermaster's staff of 2 Para have presented the ship with a plaque incorporating the cap badges of every regiment who sailed on her during the Falklands campaign. And the ship has also received a framed piece of music written by the Battalion's bandmaster.

Soon those mementoes will be the only tangible reminders of *Norland's* days of glory as — refitted and freshly painted — she returns to her old ferry run from Hull to Rotterdam. But the memories will remain; of a ship who answered the nation's call — and helped shape a little bit of history. A genuine heroine of our time. ■



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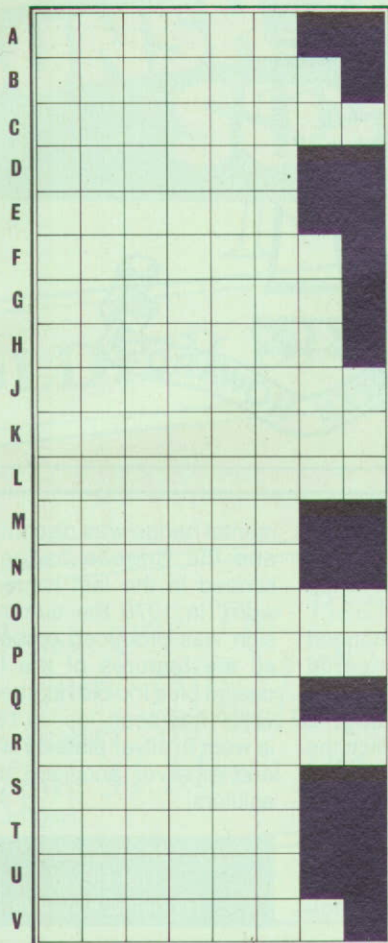
ANYTIME - DAY, NIGHT OR WEEKEND



Off South Georgia during the Falklands crisis, where *Norland* helped transfer troops from QE2.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



- Bright red fruit
- Came out of the egg
- Stringent
- Make one of Guy in November
- Provide
- Twelve times a year?
- Notice
- Bring to naught
- Contribution
- Out of the ordinary
- Great effort
- War plane
- Ship's hand-brake?
- Part of exploded shell
- Menace
- Send to Coventry
- Large waterfall
- Japanese garment
- Primitive light
- One of the VW range
- Closely packed

COMPETITION 311

A TWO PART puzzle this. Solving it shouldn't cause you too much trouble but it may take you time to write the answers!

Put your solutions to the clues in the grid on the left. Reading down the first column (1) you should find the name of a writer, and hidden in another column (letters evenly spaced, though not necessarily consecutive) the name of one of his books.

Transferring the letters from the left-hand grid to their appropriate places in the grid below will give you a passage from the book.

What do we want? The author, the book title, and the quotation, please.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 25 March 1983. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 18 April 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 311' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 311' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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O4	E3	U1	M6	A6	K7	C7	P2		S3	B2	N6	R1	B1		G2	D6		A1	O2	T6		T1	V2	G5	E4	O1		J5	A2
	U4	S6	E2	R8	B5	J4	M3	O5	V7	L7	H1		D1	K6	M1	A4	K5	S1	U2	C5	L6	S4	Q3		H6	G1	R5		
V1	F6	N1	R7	F4	N5	L8		R2	J3	C1		O8	R4	P8	B7	S2	K3	Q2		D2	P3	Q4	F1		G3	V3	P5	H3	K8
	K2	J7	R6	B3	C4		K4	O6		P1	M2		D3	H4	J2	T2	U6	J6	T3	D5		V4	C6	G7	L4	E1			
L1	O3	P7	V6	P6	M5	T4		M4	H7		R3	N4	L3		Q5	F2	E6	V5	T5		N2	U5	G6	F7					



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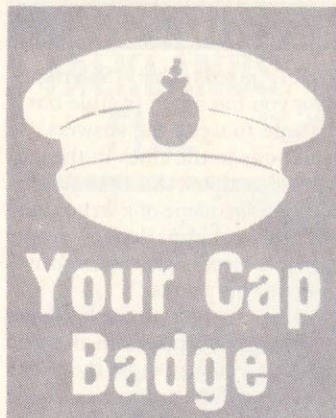
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No 35

THE GREEN HOWARDS

THERE WAS a good deal of adverse reaction when the Cardwell Reform of 1881 swept away the valued numberings of the Infantry regiments. A few regiments still proudly cling to their former numbers, but only one, the 19th, currently incorporates its Foot regimental number in its head-dress badge.

Formed in 1688 and known by the names of its successive colonels, the regiment was entitled The 19th Regiment of Foot in 1751 and was associated with the North Riding of Yorkshire in

various titles from 1782. In 1881 it became The Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment underwent a further change when the Princess Alexandra became Queen and in 1920 emerged as The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment).

Cap badges, as we know them nowadays, have been worn since just before the turn of the century and in that time the badge of the 19th has undergone six changes. Its first comprised the letter 'A', cypher of the Late Queen Alexandra, with thereon the Dannebrog inscribed 1875 (this being the date when the Princess's title was conferred) surmounted by a coronet and surrounded by a complete wreath of roses with two scrolls, the top one inscribed 'The Princess of Wales's Own' and the bottom 'Yorkshire'. The wreath and scrolls were in white metal, the remainder in gilding metal.

The second pattern was considerably altered in shape but its content remained largely the same; the letter 'A' and Dannebrog were surmounted by the coronet and on these were the date '1875' and 'Alexandra', all resting on a tablet inscribed 'Yorkshire'. Below was a scroll



inscribed 'The Princess of Wales's Own Regt' and below that a rose. All were in white metal.

The next design exchanged the coronet for the Imperial crown and on 27th July 1950 a new pattern was Sealed, a rather squat design in which the coronet reasserted itself; the Dannebrog and date remained but the smaller scroll now reads 'The Green Howards'.

Upon the formation of the Yorkshire Brigade the Regi-

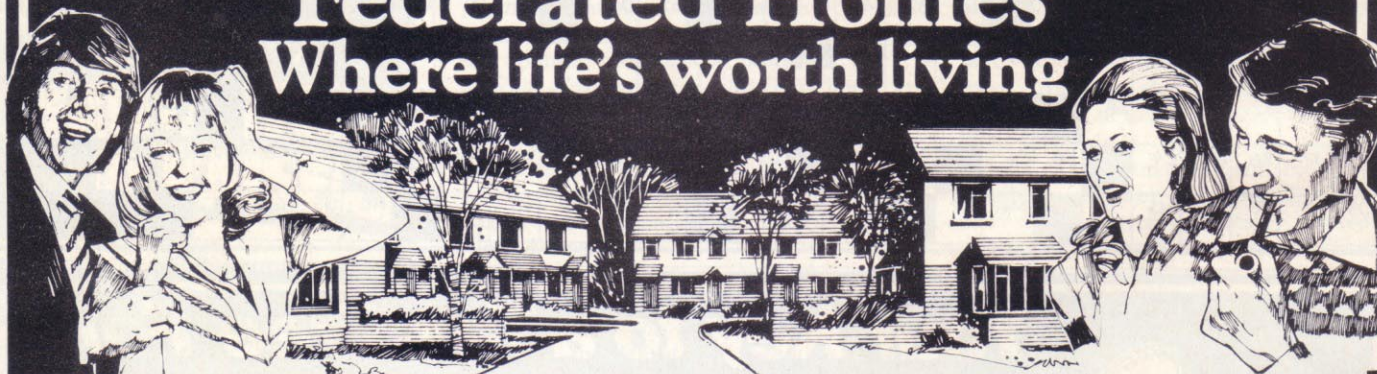
mental badge was discontinued and the Brigade badge, described in the last issue, was worn. In 1970 the current design was produced embodying all the features of the fourth design plus the old number XIX, which had been 'lost' in 1881. It is worn in silver plate by officers and in silver anodised by the soldiers.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Royal
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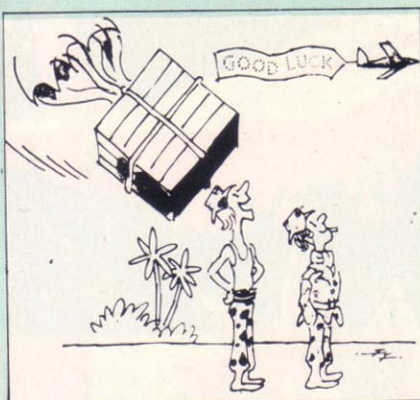
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VERY READABLE

After reading SOLDIER for 32 years, I must disagree with your correspondent Mr Kirby (10 Jan). SOLDIER is still a soldiers' magazine.

We all know, one way or another, that all magazines must adapt and modify to meet the changing of time just like the old 303 rifle had to.

It has always been and still is highly well-illustrated and readable with, I may add, many intriguing anecdotes. For it to be anything otherwise would be like 'England without a Monarchy'.

I have no further comments, only — keep up the good standard of reporting. — **M J Atkinson, 72 Portland Place, Northampton.**

STOP KNOCKING

I felt I must reply to S J J Kirby (10 Jan) about SOLDIER being a family magazine. What rubbish! There's nothing wrong with it compared to a couple of years ago — it's better now than it was then.

Stop knocking a great magazine. As for the pen pals page my only complaint is the six months' wait. Can you not make it a bit longer instead of just a couple of letters. — **Carol Howie (ex WRAC), 77 Beechcroft Ave, Darcy Lever, Bolton, Lancs.**

Your plea is answered in this issue, Carol, with a bumper crop of penpals on this page and page 42. — *Ed.*

CARRY ON

My father is an ex-Queen's Bay and I was a member of The Queen's Dragoon Guards. The pleasure that your magazine has brought to both of us cannot be written in a few lines. So please do 'Carry on soldiering'. Best wishes to you from Canada. — **Steve Graham, RR 3, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, L4N 4S5.**

OUT OF PLACE

Congratulations on maintaining (usually) your high standard which I have enjoyed continuously since about 1950. However, since you went to two issues per month, I have noticed that you are tending — too much in my opinion — towards Anne Arm-

MAIL DROP

strong and families and pen pals. These are quite out of place.

If you are going to continue catering for families and single young soldiers (which in any case I am sure are a minority of your readers) then what about special features for us old contemptibles. Fair enough? Or go back to appearing monthly and cut out 'AA' and penpals. — **Major T F Pearson (Retd), Hill View, Llanfair Road, Newton, Powys, SY16 2DQ.** The items you refer to, Major Pearson, represent about five per cent of our total pages. We aim to cater for a wide spectrum of readership — serving soldiers and their families, those whose soldiering days are behind them and those who just enjoy keeping in touch with what the Army does. We shall continue to carry articles on past events and personalities as appropriate, but our main emphasis has to be on the current and future Army scene. — *Ed.*

1ST CAVALRY

I was interested in the letter (10 Jan) of Col Dowdall, concerning the horses of the 1st Cavalry Division. Although a Grey at the time (1940/41) I was not serving with the Division but in the 3rd (Horsed) Cavalry Training Regiment, Edinburgh. I was in fact, on the last course in the Cavalry of the Line to train for operations. This training included fighting with the sword.

The Greys and Royals had been posted to Palestine as horsed cavalry during the emergency in 1938. Following the outbreak of World War II they were joined by a composite regiment of the Household Cavalry and seven Yeomanry Regiments to form the 1st Cavalry Division.

After about twelve months the regiments were gradually mechanised, the Cheshire Yeomanry taking part in the last action of horsed cavalry in the British Army. This was against the Vichy French in Syria in 1941. Most of the older horses were put down and of the remainder some served as chargers in Pack Transport Companies and some as draught animals in Horse Transport Companies in garrison towns in the Middle East. One of these latter units remained in the Canal Zones for several years after the War. Of the Training Regiment in Edinburgh, part was formed into No 2 Pack Transport Company RASC under the command of the late Lt Col (then Major) 'Joe' Dudgeon, Royal Scots Greys. I myself returned in 1976 after 36 years spent almost entirely with horses and mules.

After the disbandment of the Cavalry Division, the British Army only used equines to any extent as pack animals for mountain and jungle operations, mainly in Italy and Burma. Some were also used for draught work in various garrison towns. This still represented a total of many thousands of animals but only a fraction of the numbers in use with foreign armies for cavalry, artillery and transport. In particular, between 1939 and 1945, the German Army used about 2,750,000 horses — roughly twice the number they used in the First World War — whilst the

Russian Army utilised approximately 3,500,000. — **Maj R A Hill (Retd), 8 Melbourne Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0JA.**

BLUE NOT BLACK

I feel sure that the infantrymen Martin Day (Mail Drop, 24 Jan) saw on television were wearing blue berets. The wearing of black berets is a privileged distinction of The Royal Tank Regiment only, and by other arms of the Service a contravention of dress regulations.

The Guards and some other infantry regiments do wear khaki berets. — **J L Echlin, 10 Copthall Road East, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middx.**

HORSE SENSE

In the interests of accuracy I wish to protest at the reference to "turning an infantryman into a non-mechanised cavalryman" by Sally Daniell in her article 'Geeing-up the Rangers' (24 Jan). This is SOLDIER after all, not a popular tabloid!

Soldier plus horse does not equal cavalryman in most cases. Soldier plus horse may equal gunner, or driver, or sapper, or signaller, or even military policeman.

Cavalry and infantry are separate arms with different roles — even when they are both on a horse. Infantryman plus horse equals mounted infantry and they are nothing new; they were particularly prevalent at the end of the last century and during the Boer Wars.

The difference is, Sally, that the cavalryman fought on horseback whereas the mounted infantryman used the horse as a means of transport and dismounted to fight. — **M C Wood, 4 Long Acre Road, Dronfield, Derbyshire.**

UNBREECHED

I enjoyed your article covering the mounted infantry course being run in the Riding School at Beaumont Barracks, Aldershot, but after reading "... despite his smart jodhpurs (your spelling) ...", I wonder if I might offer a small word of advice.

Mounted units of the British Army (leaving aside the complications of full dress) wear breeches (or pantaloons, really a modification of breeches) of various 'cut' — full, medium etc — and these finish below the knee leaving the rest of the leg and foot to be covered by the long (jack) boot, or leggings and ankle boots, or puttees and ankle boots.

On the other hand, jodhpurs, although similar to breeches as regards the part from the knee upwards, continue down to the ankle, tight to the lower leg and finish with a straight section below the calf, the whole being often finished with a small turn-up and held tight with either elastic or zip around the ankles; worn with shoes or short jodhpur boots (sometimes called 'high-lows').

Jodhpurs are meant to be worn as informal civilian riding kit and therefore are never worn as uniform by the British Army.

In the pictures with your article, all those in riding kit seem to be wearing breeches (albeit some of the modern 'stretch' type; fine for the washing machine but quite useless for wearing when riding in cold and wet conditions) and boots; the SM Riding Instructor best shows this uniform in its smartest form. — **R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.**

IT'S STEALING

In attacking RB's review of the RCT's 'Gilbert & Sullivan on Parade' (Mail Drop, 24 Jan) D J Glossop says "The arrangements are refreshingly different". In other words, we are not going to hear what the composer wanted us to hear, but what some amateur thinks we should hear. Andre Cluytens stated that "A conductor should read the directions in the score and then interpret them in an attempt to recreate the inspiration which caused them to be put there".

There is nothing more annoying than loud music swamping the dialogue on TV. Then one hears a melody which one has heard or played many years ago. After much thought the tune still eludes you. Then at the end of the programme one sees 'Music composed by so and so'. It's just plain stealing. — **D McIntee, 49 Central Drive, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LH14 3HX.**

KOREAN TOUR

I am planning a trip of Korean War Veterans to the Republic of Korea on or about 1 May this year. The trip will last 11/12 days with the outward journey via Paris and will include five days in Korea and four in Hong Kong. The approximate all-up cost, exclusive of the London-Paris transfer, will be £800.

If anyone wishes to join the tour, would they please write to me as soon as possible as I must firm up the numbers by 1st March 1983. I should emphasise that in order to qualify for special concessions on accommodation and meals, and tours within the Seoul area, participation is restricted to Korean War Veterans, their wives and immediate families. — **Lt Col R P Barker (Retd), 28 Kingston Park, Pennington, Lymington, Hants SO4 8ES.**

WORTHY WALK

Once again, we are holding our annual 24-hour Sponsored Marathon Walk at Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent on the 9th and 10th July 1983. In the past, Army units of South East District have made up the majority of the walkers, and in 1981 300 walkers took part, raising over £6000 in sponsorship. Last year the Falklands crisis prevented many Army personnel from participating, and the sponsor money dropped.

For the 1983 Starlight Marathon we are widening the range of invitations, in the hope that many new walkers will join the Army entrants. The money raised goes directly to providing grants to finance medical research into all kinds of crippling

diseases, especially those affecting children, as the majority of crippling occurs in early life. I should be pleased to supply potential entrants or sponsors with full details. — **Mrs E Knopp, Chant Meadow, Burwash, East Sussex.**

Pen Pals

My name is Samantha and I am 16 years old. I enjoy reading, walking and listening to music. — **Samantha Stobart, 51 Rodstock Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0AJ.**

Can You Help?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of S/Sgt and Mrs Hobbs (Gordon and Evelyn)? Gordon was attached to 73 Indep Fd Sqn RE in Osnabruck until last Nov/Dec and is now posted somewhere in England. — **Mrs M Minty, 7 Canute Drive, Bransgore, Dorset, BH23 8AH.**

Ex-private Ted Watson would like to hear from old comrades who served in either The Leicester Regiment in 1942/43 or The Oxfordshire & Buckingham Light Infantry from 1943 to the Normandy Landings when he was wounded and lost touch. — **Mr E Watson, 33 Holmes Carr Crescent, Rossington, Doncaster, Yorks.**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of L/Cpl Colin Dixey RCT who served in Germany and was posted to Belize but is believed to have left there? — **B S Isaacs, 7 Hovingham Mt., Leeds 8, Yorks.**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Roy Dowers who served with the 1st Queen's Dragoons Guards in Omagh, Co Tyrone and was a cook. He returned home to Dagenham last year. — **Miss D Watson, 24 Leekworth Gardens, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co Durham, DL12 0TE.** I am trying to collate information in order to compile a book on Wiltshire prisons and prisoner of war camps from both world wars, in particular Devizes prison when it was a military prison during the first world war. — **Jon Black, 10 Falmouth Road, Bishopton, Bristol, BS7 8QT.**

I, Sidney Johnson, known as 'Johnny' served in the Royal Artillery and was radio operator to Captain Donald MacDonald of the South African Army with Special Forces in Macedonia (Yugoslavia) from January to September 1944. We worked with the 2nd Macedonian Brigade. I would like to hear from any other radio operator who was in the area at the time and from the British sergeant with 1st Brigade who received me when I 'dropped in'. — **Sidney Johnson, 63 Willow Crescent, Blyth, Northumberland.**

I am trying to trace my mate, 24622935 Dvr Creser, who passed out from Depot and Training Regt RCT on 13 August 1982. He left there for Leaconfield to undertake 10 weeks driving training. — **L/Cpl L B Comer, 1 Tp 36 RSME Sqn, Depot Regt RE, Brompton Bks, Chatham, Kent.**

I am seeking any information/memories from ex-Army personnel who were involved with the building of runways and fighter pens at Takali, Luqa or Hal Far airfields during 1941-43. At present I am researching my family's flying history

My name is Melanie and I am 14½ years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with blue eyes and dark curly hair. I like reading and competing in athletic competitions, and really like rock and roll. I would like to write to anybody between the ages of 16-20. All letters answered. — **Melanie Lacey, 51 Tro-mode Park, Douglas, Isle of Man.**

My name is Margaret and I am 38 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blue eyes and black hair. My hobbies are music, cooking, dancing and reading. — **Mrs M Hammond, 35 Varney Road, Warners End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 2LW.**

My name is Vicki and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are reading, writing letters, dancing, music and photography. I would like a penpal older than myself. All letters answered. — **V Bradley, 62 Glendale Cres, Belmont, Ayr, KA7 3SB.**

My name is Tracy and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. My hobbies are reading, darts and painting and decorating. — **Miss T Sansom, 121a Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3ND.**

My name is Keren and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to hear from soldiers at home or abroad. All letters answered. — **Keren Movea, 78 Stockwell Road, East Grinstead, W Sussex.**

My name is Pauline and I am 21 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are modern music, dancing and cooking. I would like to write to someone in my age range. — **Pauline Smith, 16 Polefield Gardens, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 5NW.**

between 1914-56, which includes F/Lt Raoul Daddo-Longlois (Daddy-Longlegs!), 249 Sqn RAF, and I would be pleased to hear the ground crews' versions of the squadron's activities, particularly as I understand that they took their individual pilots' exploits personally. — **Mrs Z V Thomas, The Ashes, Ash Road, Ashurst, Hants, SO4 2AT.**

I am trying to locate the following: Sgt Ken Rogers REME (armourer) at Rheindahlen in 1961/62 (whose wife's name was Beth and had three boys. I was his armourer, No 2 and was sergeant, when he left, in the HQ QM Compound, Armourers Shop; also WO1 D H Dodd RACC, who made Princess Anne's wedding cake and was loaned to the US Army in Fort Lee in 1977. **Mr A Newbury, 2H Brookvale Road, Olton, Solihull, Birmingham, B92 7HY.**

I am trying to locate W J Harriot (Wally), born 1912 who was sergeant at 208 Field Coy RE, Army number 822644, at Ordnance Yard, Seaside, Eastbourne, Sussex. Last known address: 6a Albert Parade, Eastbourne. — **Mr G Holly, 2 Rose Cottages, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 8EH.**

I am trying to locate any old members of the then 2nd/10th General Hospital, later becoming the 63rd General Hospital, at Helmich outside Cairo from 1939 — members of the RAMC and QAIMNS or anyone who served in the MEF especially the 7th Armd Div. I was 7520643 P/C M Abbey RAMC. — **Maurice Abbey, 48 Micklegate, York, YO1 1LF.**

My Name is Anne and I am 30 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall, with short brown hair and brown eyes. My interests are country and western music, walking and looking after my two daughters. Photos appreciated. — **Mrs Anne Parsons, 65 Roseneath Court, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 0EA.**

I am 22 years old and my hobbies include keep fit, swimming, discos and cocktails. — **Miss J Hutton, 11 King's Gardens, Ilford, Essex.**

My name is Maggie. I like dancing, swimming, reading and cooking. I would like to write to anyone aged 20-30 with a sense of humour. Photos appreciated. All letters answered. — **Maggie, c/o 19 Alder Drive, Ambrosden, Bicester, Oxon.**

My name is Tanya and I am 5ft 6ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like most music, tennis, writing letters and meeting people. I'd like a penpal aged between 17-20 preferably stationed near the North East. Photos appreciated. All letters answered. — **Tanya Fleming, 3 Cullin Close, Lambton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 0PU.**

My name is Carol and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 4in tall with auburn hair. I would like to write to any soldiers aged 19-30 years old. All letters answered. — **Carol Kilby, 9 Church St, Helmdon, Brackley, Northants.**

Collectors' Corner

A Virtue, 63 Quarry House Close, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 0HS. — *Wishes to obtain regimental tea towels of disbanded or amalgamated regiments.*

D S Gregory, 1 Stuart Court, Collingwood Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 3AZ. — *Would like to purchase LP 'By Land and Sea' HMV CSD 1469 (or CLP 1607) by HM Royal Marines School of Music, Deal.*

G W Peacock, Hillview, Bosworth Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV13 6PA. — *Wants cloth and metal insignia relating to the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, Surrey/Sussex Yeomanry, Surrey ACF. Metal and cloth items offered in exchange. For disposal and/or exchange for similar items, a selection of foreign elite insignia.*

Jack Burch, 45 Beatty Avenue, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2BZ. *Wishes to obtain a copy of the book 'The Blue Flash: The Story of an Armoured Regiment' by Col Sir Allan Jolly who had a limited edition published privately about 1945-46.*

Reunions

St David's Parade: The Comrades of The London Branches of The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The Royal Regiment of Wales will be parading on Horse Guards Parade on Sunday 6 March. A march and wreath-laying ceremony at The Cenotaph will be led by the Band of The 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers. Some comrades from South Wales will also be present and the proceedings will be followed by refreshments at The Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard. Further details from John M Smith, 1 Queen Margaret's Court, Queen Margaret's Grove, Islington, London N1 4BQ.

The RAPC Association. A reunion dinner will be held for members, serving and retired, at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London on Friday 22 April 1983 at 7pm. Tickets £8 and further details are available from: Secretary, RAPC Association, Corps HQ, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG.

The Royal Regiment of Wales (24/41st Foot) will hold its 15th Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday 16 July 1983 at Cardiff City Hall at 1900hrs. A Drumhead Service will also be held at Maindy Barracks on Sunday 17 July at 1100 hrs. Accommodation and Messing is available in the Barracks. Details from: Major P L Cutler MBE, RHQ The Royal Regiment of Wales, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, CF4 3YE. Tel: Cardiff 27611 ext 215.

The York & Lancaster Regimental Association will hold its 46th Annual Reunion in Ranmoor House at Sheffield on 16 April 1983. Details from: Regimental Secretary, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) London Branch Association will hold its Annual Reunion and Buffet at the Carisbrook Hall, The Victory Club, Seymour St., London W2 on Saturday 30 April 83. Tickets from: Mr J L Foreman, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

The United Services Rugby Football Club will be holding a Centenary Dinner to celebrate its 100th birthday at Portsmouth Guild Hall on Wednesday 9 March. The final date for applications to attend will be Friday 4 March. Details from: Lt Robert Haden, The Wardroom, HMS Collingwood, Fareham, Hants.

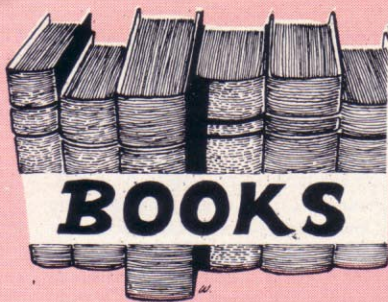
Competition

Despite our printing the wrong number on the coupon, Competition 307, 'Festive Fare' did not prove too hard a nut to crack. You had to find out which of the traders sold the second greatest numbers of (a) filberts and (b) walnuts and which two varieties of nuts were not sold by trader Hazle. Most answers were correct but some entrants failed to notice that we asked for the second greatest number of nuts, not the greatest. The answers should have been (a) Schell (b) Kobb and (c) chestnuts and filberts. Prizewinners were: 1st (£25) Mr S Thomas, 1 Bramley Park, Bodmin, Cornwall; 2nd WO1 R Harrison, Ordnance Services Berlin, BFPO 45, 3rd Mr J D S Langley, Heath House, Aylesbeare, Exeter, Devon. 4th Keith Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts. 5th H C Daniel, Stonegarth, West End, Ampleforth, Yorks.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 31)

1 Forefinger of man in black hat; 2 Moustache of man in black hat; 3 Soldier's ear; 4 Coat lapel of man with newspaper; 5 Pocket flap of man in stripes; 6 Front hairlines of tall girl; 7 Ring on finger of seated woman; 8 Underground logo below window; 9 Shape of window at bottom right; 10 Seat buttons behind soldier.



BOOKS

A History of Warfare: Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

"If I were you, I'd read the first two chapters and the last three first," recommended Field-Marshal Montgomery offering a copy of this book to Field-Marshal Lord Carver when it was first published in 1968. Lord Carver records the incident in a new foreword to this 1982 edition.

The first two chapters give the author's thoughts about the nature of war and generalship; the last three look at the Iron Curtain and Cold War, the nuclear age and finally the ideal of peace, ending with a fanfare of uncharacteristic rhetoric: "The true soldier is the enemy of the beast in man and of none other; and it is a soldier's hope that one day will come a golden sunset when the Last Post will be sounded over enmity and strife, and a glorious sunrise when Reveille will waken the nations of the world to an era of goodwill and peace."

Between these chapters comes the history, happily in much more direct language, and enlivened by personal comment. Thus, of the Battle of the Dyle in 891: "The battle is of interest to me personally, since my first encounter with the German army in the 1939-45 war was in this very same area... I can confirm that the river valley was still marshy in 1940." And, of course, his own great moments in World War Two, Alamein and Normandy, are succinctly described.

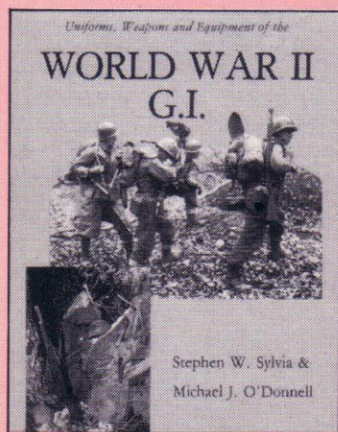
Lord Carver says such a "wide-ranging, authoritative and perceptive review of the whole history of warfare" came as a surprise to many people who did not credit Montgomery with a profound knowledge of military history. In his chapter on

generalship, Monty claims his readings and study of military history to have been extensive, but confined mainly to books written by British historians during his own life-time. He did try Clausewitz and Jomini, "but I couldn't take them in." This may be some comfort to young students of warfare with a similar problem. They will certainly find Monty's own history more digestible, as well as nourishing.

Jane's, 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU — £15 **RLE**

World War II GI: Stephen W Sylvia & Michael J O'Donnell

By the spring of 1945 the Quartermaster organisation of the United States army in the European command was, according to Brigadier-General Hal C Pattison (presumably of the Quartermaster Corps but this is not made clear in a short preface),



feeding, clothing and providing necessities and comforts for more than seven-and-a-half million people. A truly colossal task and this book endeavours to illustrate through photographs, all of which are informatively captioned, the many types of clothing, weapons and equipment most commonly used by the American infantry soldier in the Second World War.

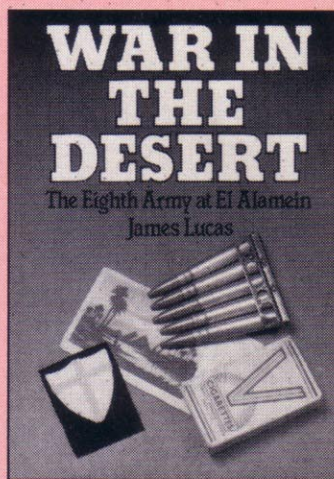
From boots and buttons to mortar, pistol and rifle — not forgetting such minor but necessary items like toilet paper and spectacles — all are shown in this painstakingly assembled com-

pendium. In short, an invaluable reference for the collector and a work of no little interest to the military researcher.

Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £13.50 **JFPJ**

War In The Desert: James Lucas

The story of the Eighth Army and the battle of El Alamein, which raged throughout the last week of October 1942 and arguably marked a turning



point in the war, has been told many times. What makes this account different is that the author, himself a veteran of the North African campaign, has chosen to concentrate on the action as it appeared to the ordinary soldiers fighting on the ground, drawing heavily on their reminiscences. Apologetically but deliberately ignoring the role of the RAF and Navy, he sets the scene by focusing on the daily life of the various British Army groups — infantry, gunners, armour, sappers, Empire troops — the type of warfare each was involved in, and the hardships of their routine, plagued by heat, flies and disease in a hostile environment, deprived of most comforts, including female company.

The perils of relying on eyewitness accounts, especially those recorded many years later, are two-fold, since few soldiers have much idea of the course of a battle beyond what goes on in their immediate front, and their recollections are in risk of distortion by nostalgia or failing memory. Aware of the dangers, Mr Lucas fits each account carefully into the framework of his detailed description of the broader tactical actions. Though a trace of nostalgia still shines through, it is overshadowed by the vivid images which emerge of the fighting; the terrifying excitement of a tank attack in the dark, the numbing artillery barrage, the tension of clearing the expansive minefields, or the sheer horror experienced by a recon patrol rifling the black, bloated, fly-blown corpses of dead Germans for papers and information.

Such intense images are the book's great strength, and they evoke the dusty, confusing, frightening battle better than many a drier academic study.

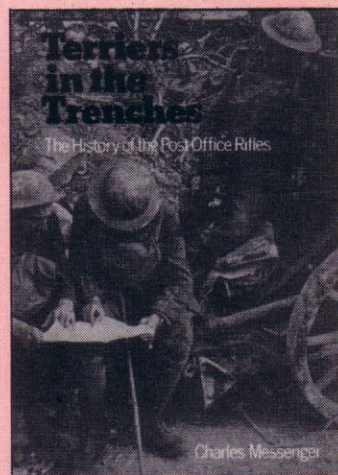
Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd., 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £9.95. **IJK**

Terriers in the Trenches: Charles Messenger

This is an excellent little history of a regiment whose exploits during WWI have so far been largely overlooked, the 8th Battalion City of London Regiment, the Post Office Rifles. Originally raised in 1867 to protect Post Offices from the outrages of the Fenians, the POR proved one of the most efficient rifle volunteer units during Queen Victoria's reign, and saw active service during the Arabi Revolt in Egypt in 1882.

To describe the part played by the PORs in the First World War, Charles Messenger uses the currently fashionable technique of illustrating his narrative with contemporary accounts from members of the regiment. Here it works perfectly, illuminating his lucid and readable history with vivid glimpses of life in the trenches during some of the most famous and infamous battles of the war: Festubert, Loos, Vimy, the Somme, Bullecourt, Messines, Third Ypres and Cambrai.

Terriers in the Trenches is well illustrated with maps and photos, and



includes a list of decorations and awards earned by the regiment — including a VC, to Sergeant A J Knight, for capturing an enemy position at Ypres — and a complete roll of honour of those killed. An interesting and useful book, not merely to those interested in the PORs, but to students of the war on the Western Front generally.

Picton Publishing, Citadel Works, Bath Road, Chippenham, Wilts — £12.95. **IJK**

A History of the British Cavalry 1816-1919; Volume 3, 1872-1898: Marquess of Anglesey

The third eagerly awaited volume of the Marquess of Anglesey's much admired history of the Cavalry covers an interesting period. The hey-day of Empire, it boasted no major European War, and active service chiefly comprised sporadic campaigning against native foes in the four corners of the globe. And yet it was a period which saw the first faltering steps towards the creation of a modern army, the improvement in organisation and efficiency which followed the Cardwell reforms, and the gradual improvement in the physical



Sally Daniell talks to the Dunkirk veteran who went on to study strategy on the Stock Exchange and has just produced a book about it.

LATE OF THE Royal Hampshire Regiment and the now disbanded Reconnaissance Corps, Donald Cobbett is also a veteran of Dunkirk and a war time editor of the Royal Military College magazine. He joined the Supplementary Reserve in 1932 and remained on the list until he reached 50.

Wryly recalling his Army experiences, he remembers the Reconnaissance Corps as an improvised outfit running extraordinary vehicles "with civilian chassis and just a bit of armoured plating stuck on it."

But his time in uniform was really a sideline. He admits to liking the Army but did not stay in after the war because his roots were always in the Stock Exchange and in and around the portals of Throgmorton Street.

With parallel careers as both a broker and a financial writer, he has become well known as a valued freelance contributor on the city desks of numerous journals and newspapers ranging from *The Banker* to *Honey*.

Now, at the age of 71, he has published a collection of his articles and has been surprised by its success — so far 10,000 copies

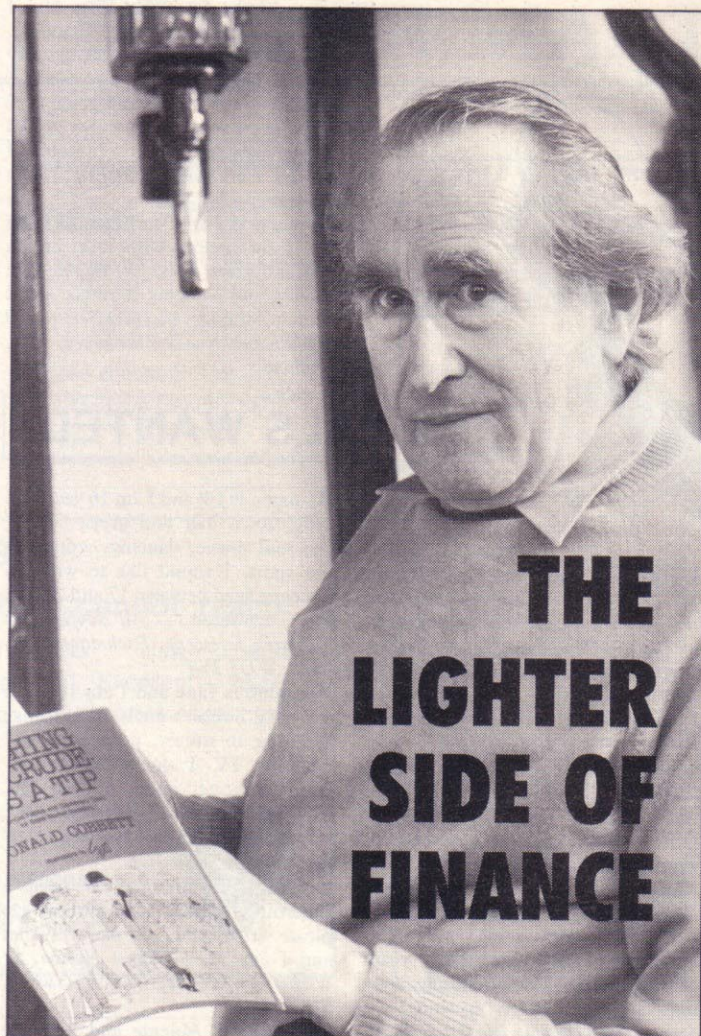
have been sold and another 5000 are being printed.

The book, entitled *Nothing so Crude as a Tip*, is no weighty, learned tome of interest only to City cognoscenti, but rather a brisk attempt to show that there is humour on the floor of the Stock Exchange and that brokers and their ilk are only human.

"It's just something to dip into when you've got a spare five minutes" explains its author, "like when the points are frozen at Waterloo and you're waiting for a train!"

Subtitled *Financial Fables and Cautionary Tales for Stock Market Investors*, and illustrated by cartoonist Gus, the book has a wider appeal than one might first imagine. When selling it before Christmas, Donald Cobbett observed that "even in Aldershot, which one imagines to be all tattoos up the arm, I sold many copies — 40 in the space of only two hours, and to all sorts of people including soldiers and their wives."

Nothing so Crude as a Tip is unlikely to provide readers with the answer to their financial problems, but they may be encouraged to 'play the market'



THE LIGHTER SIDE OF FINANCE

now that it has been stripped of some of its mystique.

With one success under his belt, SOLDIER asked Donald if he had any plans for other books. He replied: "Well, I thought I might even have a go at a Mills

and Boon or a Silhouette but my wife says I don't know enough about the subject!" ■

'*Nothing so Crude as a Tip*' is published in paperback by Milestone Publications of Horndean, Portsmouth, price £1.95.

MORE BOOKS

and intellectual standards of the recruits.

As ever, the Marquess paints a vivid picture of life in the Cavalry, the pay, conditions and punishments, not only of the British regiments, but also of the Indian Army at its glittering pinnacle. In action, the Cavalry found itself moving away from involvement in the set-piece battles of the previous decades in the Napoleonic Wars and the Crimea.

The late nineteenth century spawned only two significant charges, that Cavalryman's delight; at Ulundi, in the Zulu War, where the 17th Lancers pursued the routed enemy in text book style, and Omdurman, in the Sudan. Ulundi, a success, is largely forgotten, whilst Omdurman, where the 21st Lancers charged an unbroken Dervish formation and were badly cut up as a result, has been set in the same pantheon of glory as the Charge of the Light Brigade.

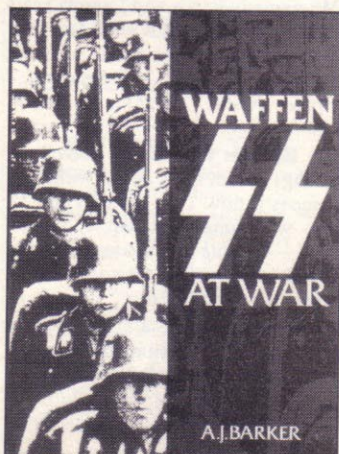
As ever, these events are brought to light with a graphic and intelligent use of eyewitness accounts and, to make the story complete, the de-

velopment of Cavalry arms and accoutrements is fully charted.

A bit pricey, perhaps, but otherwise an essential addition to any military bookshelf.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54, Poland Street, London, W1V 3DF. — £35.00 **IJK**

Waffen SS at War: A J Barker



To those who fought against Hitler's armies, the Waffen-SS were respected for their fighting qualities but despised for the numerous atrocities which they perpetrated against all their adversaries, including the Royal Warwickshire and Royal Norfolk Regiments. It is to the author's credit that he lists some of these in what is primarily a pictorial record filled in with some bare facts and anecdotal material. The photographs are excellent and the growing band of collectors of Nazi militaria will find the book useful for identification purposes although it cannot be considered a definitive history.

Ian Allan Ltd, Shepperton, Middx TW17 8AS — £9.95 **PSN**

British Infantry Uniforms since 1660: Michael Barthorp

There have been many books written about the uniforms of the British Army but there can be few, if any, with such a wealth of accurate information and none graced by such detailed and beautifully executed paintings. It is appropriate that this book should be written by a former

infantry officer as he imparts his undoubted knowledge of his subject with the feeling of that intangible quality acquired only by direct experience of the regimental system. There are admirable appendices giving details of facings, lace, button settings etc as well as titles, weapons and Colours. This book is a must for the militaria collector, model maker and interested historian.

Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset — £10.95 **PSN**





PEN PALS WANTED

My name is Lanie and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with fair hair and brown eyes. All letters answered. — *Lanie, Main Nurses Home, Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3NG.*

I am 16 years old and my name is Elaine. My main interest is pop music, mainly Duran Duran, Japan, and ABC. I would like somebody who shares this interest to write to me, preferably somebody who has no family of their own. — *Elaine Davies, 60 Bathurst Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG11 5JB.*

My name is Sally and I am 19 years old. At present I am attending catering college. All letters answered. — *Sally Jane Gregory, Blackwell Hall, Taddington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9TQ.*

I enjoy reading, cooking, gardening and dancing. I am 5ft 2ins with long dark blonde hair. My name is Doreen and I am a 30-year-old divorcee with three children. I would like to write to someone in a similar position who is lonely. — *Doreen Price, 25 Spur Cres, Workop, Notts.*

My hobbies are going to discos and listening to music. My name is Karen and I am 15 years old. I would like to write to someone under 18. — *Karen Shaw, Roger Cottage, Melville Road, Ladybank, Fife, Scotland.*

My name is Marion and I am 15 years old. My hobbies are discos, reading, listening to music. I would like to write to someone under 18. — *Marion Forbes, 9 Queen's Gardens, Ladybank, Fife, Scotland.*

I would like to write to someone with a good sense of humour. My name is Joyce and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are all types of music, reading, writing letters and meeting people. — *Joyce Forbes, 9 Queen's Gardens, Ladybank, Fife, Scotland.*

My name is Gloria and I am 26 years old. My interests include reading, walking, music and plants. I enjoy writing letters and would like to correspond with someone of similar interests. — *Gloria Newton, 26 Shaftoe Close, Woodside Grange, Crawcrook, Ryton.*

I am 16 and my name is Sian. I have light brown hair and blue eyes, and I like music, going out and all outdoor pursuits. All letters answered. — *Sian Mansfield, 39 St Mary's Ave., Northwood, Middx.*

I am in the Sheffield girls Naval Training Corps and I like canoeing, boat-pulling and disco dancing. My name is Kim and I am 17 years old. I have light brown hair and green eyes and a good sense of humour. — All letters answered. — *Kim Jackson, 34 Norfolk Park Drive, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S2 3QG.*

My name is Joyce and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 8ins with short brown hair and green eyes. My hobbies are jogging and listening to music and I am fond of dogs. — *Joyce Selbie, 550 Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Fife, Scotland.*

My name is Jill and I am 16 years old with brown hair and green eyes. I like soul music, dancing, going out and sport. I would like to write to someone aged between 17 and 21. All letters answered. — *Jill Bayfield, 60 Eastwick Crescent, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 2YJ.*

My name is Jane and I am 16 years old. My hobbies include reading, listening to music, going out and watching TV. I would like to hear from anyone aged 17 to 20. All letters answered. — *Jane Beasley, 157 Ram Gorse, Little Parndon, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1QB.*

If there is anyone lonely or needs a cheerful letter who is around my age please write to me. My name is Janet and I am 39. — *Janet Halton, 51 Waverley Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3JX.*

My name is Maggie and I am 22 years old. I have brown hair and hazel eyes and I like enjoying myself. All letters answered. Please send a photo. — *Margaret Fellows, Room 57 Winghouse, St Ebbos Hospital, Epsom, Surrey.*

My hobbies are walking, music, dancing, reading and knitting. My name is Jean and I am 33. — *Jean Cooke, 32 Smithfield Road, Blakenall, Walsall, WS3 1ND.*

My name is Karen and I am 22 years old. My interests are discos, music, cooking, reading and walking. I would be pleased to hear from anyone about my age. — *Karen Galloway, 22 Martindale Way, Sawston, Cambridge, CB2 4BT.*

I am at college and I like clubs, discos, and pubs, music, sports and food. My name is Alison, 16 years old and 5ft 2ins with brown hair and green eyes. All letters answered. — *Alison Loughlin, 16 Sevenoaks, Chorley, Lancs.*

My name is Ann and I am 28 years old. My hobbies include dancing, playing badminton, cooking, reading and writing letters, and most kinds of music. — *Ann Machers, 92 Capes-thorne Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8PU.*

My name is Jean and I am 40 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. I like writing, dancing, reading, animals and music. All letters answered. — *Mrs J D Greenwood, 2 Albert St., Mytholmroyd, Halifax, West Yorks, HX7 5NN.*

My name is Marina and I am 17 years old. My hobbies are swimming, writing, stamps and music. — *M Guthrie, 324 Heath End Road, Nuneaton, Warks, CV10 7HQ.*

My interests are badminton, tennis, playing the guitar, animals and music. My name is Carol and I am 18 years old. — *Carol Milne, 6 Hillside Road, Forfar, Angus, Scotland, DD8 2AW.*

My interests are varied and I like having a good time. My name is Heather and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and I am a nurse. Photos if possible. — *Heather Webb, 11 Gladstone St., Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3BH.*

My name is Jane and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall with blonde hair and green eyes. My hobbies include jogging, sport, dancing and music. Photos if possible. — *Jane Lythgoe, 37 Robarts Road, Anfield, Liverpool, L4 0TY.*

I like swimming, discos and having fun. My name is Sonia and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. Photos if possible. — *Sonia McNamara, 13 Great How, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 4HH.*

I have long brown hair and blue eyes and I like most music. My name is Tracy and I am 16. All letters answered. — *T Atkinson, 22 Duchess Drive, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB5 8AQ.*

I like going to discos, swimming, writing letters and music. My name is Helen and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 4ins with brown hair and brown eyes. — *Helen Orton, 6 Garden Road, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6JZ.*

My name is Mandy and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with black hair and brown eyes. My interests are going to discos, music, swimming and keep fit. — *Mandy Norris, 6 Birch Road, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6LW.*

Music, badminton, squash, tennis, photography and reading are my hobbies. My name is Lorraine, I am 23 years old and 5ft 2ins with black hair and green eyes. — *Lorraine Norris, 6 Birch Road, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts.*

My name is Tanya and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are music, sport and writing letters. I would like to write to someone aged between 17-19. — *Tanya Butland, 146 Queen's Road, Withywood, Bristol, BS13 8QA.*

I would like a penpal aged between 29 and 40. I am Julie and I'm 28 years old. My interests include music, films and animals. — *Julie Hemming, 14 Loring House, Conan Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants, PO2 9ND.*

My name is Betty and I am 35 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair and blue eyes. I like music, cooking and watching films. — *B Prichard, 8 Fraser Road, Thorplands Brook, Northampton.*

My hobbies are skiing, travelling, sailing, music, films and driving. My name is Judith. I am 24 years old, 5ft 6ins with long dark hair and hazel eyes. — *Judith Williamson, Freedom Fields General Hospital, Nurses Home, Plymouth, Devon.*

I love horse-riding and the outdoor life. My name is Elaine and I am 39 years old, 5ft 7ins tall with dark hair and hazel eyes. — *E Phillips, 22 Bron-y-wawr, North Cornelly, Pyle, Glam, S Wales.*

My name is Tricia and I am 19 years old. All letters answered. — *Patricia Collins, 4 Kemble Close, Birchwood, Lincoln.*

My name is Jill and I am 23 years old. I have long light brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies include swimming, squash, dancing and music. — *Jill Thompson, 26 Owens Way, Brockley Park, Forest Hill SE23.*

My name is Sharon and I am 16 years old. I have dark hair and dark brown eyes. My hobbies include skating, swimming and music. — *Sharon Davies, 3 Pottery Road, Oldbury, Warley, W Midlands.*

My husband and I would like to write to soldiers in the Falklands who have no one to correspond with. — *Mrs Rita Mills, 82 Blenheim Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 7BA.*

My name is Dennis and I am 15 years old. My interests are camping, hiking and football. — *D Hartherm, 65 Earle St., Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2AS.*

My name is Marie and I am 21. I like discos, grass track racing, swimming, reading and music. — *Marie Taylor, 33 Risington Road, Gaws-worth, Macclesfield.*

My name is Karen and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 6ins with brown hair and green eyes. My hobbies are tennis, swimming, reading and music. — *Karen Mitchell, 48 Rowan Close, Portslade, Sussex, BN4 2PT.*

I am 24 years old and my name is Helen. My hobbies are badminton and skiing. I would like to write to someone around my own age. — *Helen Clark, 99 Linthaugh Road, Glasgow, G53 5XB.*

I work as a medical technician in London. My name is Caroline, I am 22 years old, 5ft 2ins with light brown hair and dark brown eyes. I would like to write to someone aged 27-31, preferably who doesn't smoke. Photos appreciated. — *Caroline Bedford, 56 Pentney Road, Balham, London, SW12 0NY.*

I am a student nurse and would like to write to someone who is homesick like me. My name is Carole and I am 18 years old. — *Carole Wright, Helen Savage Nursing Home, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3NG.*

If you want a penfriend, please write. My name is Hannah and I have a lot of free time. — *H Robins, 4 Montagu Gardens, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8ER.*

My name is Alison and I am 15 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with auburn hair and blue eyes. — *Alison Hume, 87 Inwood Road, Hounslow, Middx, TW3 1XH.*

My name is Paula and I am 5ft 1ins with light brown curly hair and blue eyes. I am 17. My hobbies are discos, music and swimming. — *Paula Dockrill, 4 Seymour Road, Tilbury, Essex, RM18 7AP.*

I'd like to write to anyone who likes animals, sport, cars and music. My name is Susan and I am 19. — *Susan Houston, Fair View, Sutton on Forest, York, YO6 1HB.*

I enjoy music and driving and I work in a bank. My name is Anita and I am 21 years old. I would like to write to anyone aged 21 to 26. — *A Sutcliffe, 38 Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Ware, Herts, SG12 8HT.*

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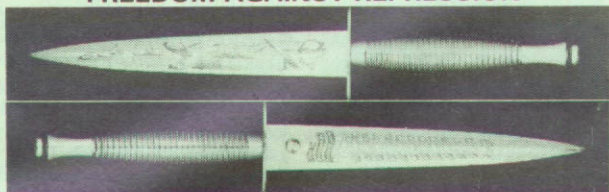
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THUMPED!

Army stunned by Navy barrage

THE ARMY'S high hopes of victory in this year's Combined Services Team Boxing Championships crumbled under a Navy barrage of passion and punching power at HMS Nelson. They never recovered from a disastrous start and were eventually beaten by seven bouts to three.

Fighting the Navy in their own Portsmouth backyard is always a daunting experience, and as the sailors lined up for the preliminaries to the strains of *Hearts of Oak* and thunderous cheers, it was clear that the Army had a tough night ahead.

Even so, after their resounding 10-0 triumph against the RAF, the Army were in confident mood. But the optimism was soon badly dented when the first bout, a flyweight contest between Fusilier Mo Ullah and Seaman Tony Martin, ended in controversy after just a minute-and-a-half of the first round.

There looked little to choose between the two men when Martin suddenly caught Ullah with a straight right and put him down for a compulsory eight count. But to everyone's astonishment, and a wideawake Ullah's disgust, the referee ruled that the fusilier was not in a position to defend himself and counted the full ten.

It was a set-back from which the Army never recovered and within twenty minutes their prospects were looking even bleaker as first Lance Corporal Steve Johnson 10 RCT, their experienced skipper, and then Craftsman Dave Oag, SEME, were beaten on points at bantamweight and featherweight.

Bob Hooper at the ringside

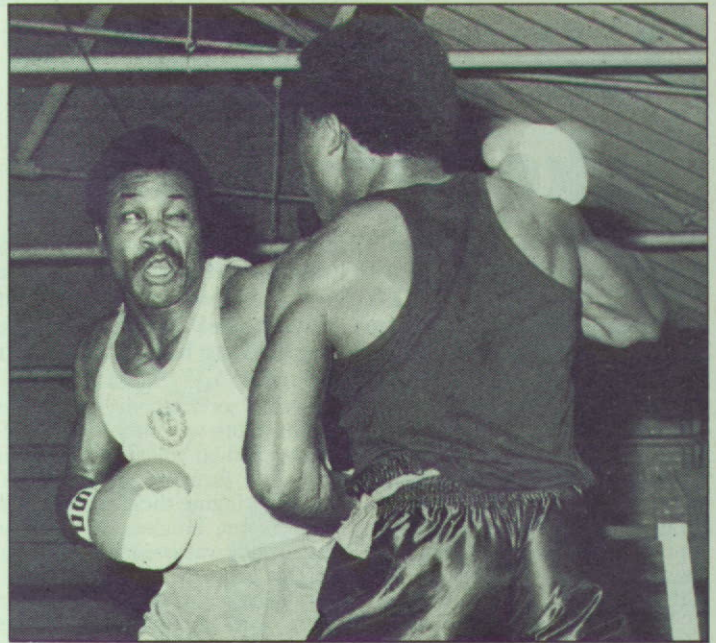
A typically aggressive display from Private Carl Crook, 1 Para, at lightweight saw the referee intervene after only two minutes 30 seconds to save Seaman Mickey Thorne from further punishment and reduce the Army's deficit to 3-1.

And hopes of an Army comeback were further raised in the next bout when Irish Ranger Peppy Muir put MEM Brian Kearney on the canvas with a fine left hook in the first round.

But Kearney, a Young England light welterweight and a fast, stylish mover, kept his man at range and began harvesting points with stinging lefts. Afterwards Army coach 'Smokey' Lloyd was critical of Muir for not getting inside more and although he fought gamely in one of the best bouts of the evening, the Navy points victory made the Army's position desperate.

There was no comfort for the Army at welterweight either, where Private Pete Crook, 1 Para, seemed overawed by Able Seaman Wayne Green, a former England captain with a reputation for a big punch.

There looked little between



Miles moves in for the kill — but too late to save the Army.

the men on boxing ability but Crook always seemed to be backpedalling and inevitably lost the verdict.

Trailing 5-1, the Army needed to win all four remaining bouts to keep their hopes alive and Fusilier Robert Rossi, 1 RWF, made sure of one of them with a well deserved points win over his light middleweight opponent the taller SA Brian Chambers.

But the Navy had no doubt that the next bout would be theirs when Able Seaman Nick Croombes, a recent Commonwealth Games silver medallist, climbed into the ring against Sapper Rob Mota.

Mota, himself a Welsh international, clearly knew how to look after himself but seemed more intent on keeping out of trouble than making serious inroads on the points, and Croombes' only anxious moment came when an accidental head clash drew blood over his left eye.

The light heavyweight clash between Irish Guardsman Denis

Bailey and Seaman Brian Schumacher, produced an explosive, if all-too-brief, encounter that had the packed crowd on their feet. Fellow Liverpudlians and old, none-too-friendly rivals, they set about each other with the ferocity of a bar room brawl.

Within two minutes however, Schumacher dumped Bailey with a fierce left hook, and although he stumbled to his feet on rubber legs the referee quickly stepped in to halt matters.

So it was left to Lance Corporal Horace Miles, 1 RGJ, to salvage some Army pride at heavyweight against MEM Ned Rawlins. Rawlins began well showing plenty of aggression but Miles' superior skill soon began to make its mark. A superb right cross-left hook combination put Rawlins down for his second compulsory count two-and-a-half minutes through the third round, and the referee was quickly in to save the Navy man.

Despite finishing on a high note, it was a bitterly disappointing night for the Army and particularly for their coach, Colour-Sergeant 'Smokey' Lloyd who leaves the service this year.

"Surprised and disappointed," was his reaction afterwards. "If we'd fought the right sort of fights, things might have been different," he said, admitting that one or two of his men had looked "overawed" by their opponents' reputations.

"The start was an absolute sickener. We'd been looking to win the first three bouts and instead found ourselves trailing 3-0."

He was full of praise though for Rossi's performance at light middleweight. "If they could all show his guts and aggression, they'd all be champions."

As for the jubilant Navy it will take a miracle now for the RAF to stop them clinching their sixth Combined Services team trophy in a row.



The referee moves in to stop the contest as Schumacher pins Bailey on the ropes.

Pictures by
Les Wiggs

Jeffrey rallies to take indoor title

CURRENT ARMY Lawn Tennis champion, Captain Mark Jeffrey of REME staged a fighting comeback to collect the indoor title at the ALTA Round Robin tournament at Aldershot. Sixteen top Army players took part in a fixture now in its second year and looking likely to become a regular part of the Army sports calendar *writes Sally Daniell.*

Competitors were divided into four groups with the group winners playing off to establish the finalists. These eventually emerged as Captain Jeffrey and Major David Hughes RAEC who immediately threatened an upset by racing to a 4-1 lead in the first set.

Despite being on his favourite surface Jeffrey seemed unable to put his game together in the early stages — getting in few first services and making many unforced errors.

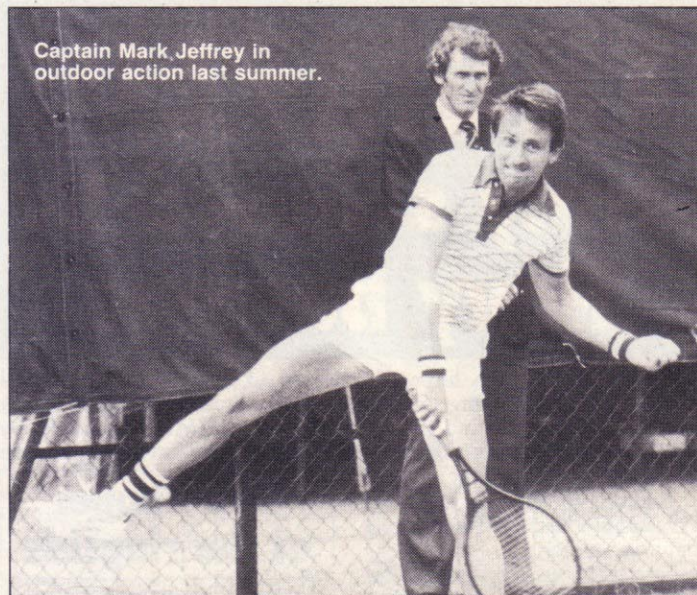
But in the fifth game on Hughes's service he stopped the rot and after a ding dong battle secured the game. Unable to capitalise on this Jeffrey trailed 5-2 before he started to redress the balance.

He broke back again and managed to hold his own service game despite some careless mistakes and a couple of blistering returns from Hughes. Knowing

his first services and deep cross court shots were unreliable, Jeffrey relied on volleying attacks as the best form of defence eventually bringing the score to 6-5 in his favour. Hughes forced a tie break but was eventually broken by his opponent's sure net play.

The two players were neck and neck throughout the second set until Jeffrey led 5-4. In the last game Hughes seemed to try too hard, making too many errors, and Jeffrey's well controlled positioning of the ball, took him to two match points. Hughes saved the first but on the second he was unable to return a fierce cross court volley.

Afterwards, Jeffrey told SOLDIER he was far from happy with the way he had played: "I played very badly and I have done all through the competition. But people keep letting me win even when they're ahead. Early in the tie-break David was



Captain Mark Jeffrey in outdoor action last summer.

two points up and he still let me win. Yes, I won, but that's the only good thing about it!"

Well, not quite, for during this competition a bright new hope emerged in the form of Second Lieutenant Nigel Watts, AAC. Beaten by the eventual winner in the play off, he played for third place against Major Geoff Billingham, RAEC and beat him soundly 6-0, 6-0. ALTA officials will be watching him very carefully over the next couple of years and it will be interesting to see how he fares in this year's outdoor championships.

Champs again

ARMY women pulled off another victory in this year's Inter Services Squash Championships beating the RAF 4-1 and the Navy 3-2. This was the third year running the Army have won the team event and the fifth time Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, the Army Individual Champion finished as overall winner.

Nicholls leaves his mark

CAPTAIN MARK NICHOLLS once again swept all before him in this year's Army Rackets and Real Tennis Championships. Nicholls, who is leaving the Army shortly, repeated his victories last year in the finals of both singles competitions.

In the Real Tennis final his opponent was again Lieutenant Mike Joynson (Scots Guards) who he beat 6-1, 6-1,



6-0. His final opponent at Rackets was Captain C Braithwaite (15th/19th Hussars). Nicholls also partnered Lieutenant-Colonel C Wright to win the Regimental Doubles Rackets Championships for the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SKI-ING

The Army won the Inter-Service Nordic Ski Championships at Zwiesel. Champion unit of British and Commonwealth Armies in Germany and champion British Army team were 39 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

SPORTS AWARD

Decathlete, Daley Thompson, was the winner of this year's British Broadcasting Services Sporting Personality award. The competition is organised by SSVC, the amalgam of SKC and BFBS formed last year.

ATHLETICS

The Army Inter-Unit Athletics

Championships will be sponsored by Pickfords Removals this year.

SOCCER

In the final of the North West TA football championship, 238 (Sefton) Transport Squadron could not lose — they provided both teams. Eventually their A team won a close fought final on penalty goals.

SNOOKER

Nine members of the Training Battalion and Depot, Army Catering Corps, will be taking part in a 24-hour sponsored charity snooker marathon in aid of the Surrey Branch of Toc-H on 25-26 February.

Kentish — it's there for the taking

THE BRITISH Armed Forces football team have their best chance of winning the tri-nation Kentish Cup competition in recent years when they meet the French Armed Forces in the cathedral city of Chartres on 26 February.

The team, coached by QMSI Alfie Coulton (right), must beat the Frenchmen to take the trophy for the first time since 1970. And Major Alan Dobson, secretary of the Army Football Association, who saw the French and the Belgians draw 1-1 in Liege, believes they can.

"If we hit good form we can beat them. They are not that strong," said Major Dobson. A draw will not be enough though, for the French start with a one goal advantage over the British team who drew their game with Belgium 0-0.



Travis ends Armstrong jinx

CORPORAL STUART TRAVIS of the Royal Pioneer Corps, who is the British Closed Middleweight Judo Champion, finally laid one of his bogies to rest in the Army Championships at Bulford. In the final of the Over-71 kgs open section he narrowly edged out the other brilliant Army star, Corporal Richard Armstrong from the School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield. It was the first time Travis had won in four meetings between the two men.

But the margin was so close. Judge, Sergeant Jeff Archer gave it to Armstrong and the second official, Lieutenant Chris Johnson opted for Travis. It was left to referee, Staff-Sergeant Graham Harrison to decide the issue.

Afterwards a delighted Travis said: "It was very close and I thought I had let it slip. Today I had had too many easy bouts before the final."

Travis now has 14 Army titles to his name — having also taken the Under-95 kgs event. Armstrong had to be content with winning the Under-78 kgs title. He said of his duel with Travis: "It has always been close between us. I thought I had got it from aggression but I think his attacks might have been stronger."

Both men are going on to the British trials as is double gold medal winner, Corporal Bob Kubath of 1 Para. He took the Open title for lighter weights as well as the Under-65 kgs event. Kubath, too, was jubilant in having repeated his successes of two years ago after losing two finals

A brave grin from L/Cpl Billy Butler on his way to hospital.

Travis gets on top. ▼

**Report by
JOHN WALTON
Pictures by
PAUL HALEY**



Blond-haired Armstrong muscles into the attack.

last year when he was flown in from Northern Ireland without being able to train for the championships.

Oldest man to take part was 45-year-old Captain Dave Roy on the permanent staff of 32 Scottish Signal Regiment, a TA unit. He recently took up judo again after a 14 year lay-off — having been Singapore welterweight champion back in 1966.

"I just took it up to keep fit and thought I would have a bash at the championships," he said. "It's been like coming back home again except that now I'm the father figure and am up against youth and strength which you cannot beat."

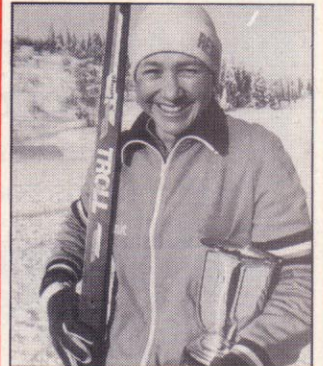
Captain Roy, who reached the semi-final of the Under-71 kgs event, was amazed at the interest being shown. This year there was a record entry of 80 and Army judo appears to be poised for take-off.

"When I started in 1960 there were very few people taking part in this sort of thing. The standard has got better and better because the Army lets them compete outside where they pick up skills. There is far more skill than brute strength now."

One novice who won't remember the championships with affection is Lance-Corporal Billy Butler from the AMF (L) Workshops, Bulford. Butler, who only took up the sport in September, was carted off to hospital with a broken arm.

Other winners: Special Kyu A — Corporal Doug Peters (4 RTR); Special Kyu B — Captain R N Wardle (1 DERR); Under-60 kgs — Gunner Mac McDonald (26 Regt RA); Under-71 kgs — Cpl Paddy Barnes (26 Regt RA); Under-86 kgs — Pte Tony Butler (3 Para); Over-95 kgs — Lance-Corporal of Horse Carl Jones (Household Cavalry).

On top of the world!



WRAC Corporal, Lauren Jeffrey, a PTI at the Army's School of Intelligence in Ashford, has won the Ten Kilometres World Nordic Ski Lowlander Championship.

In a gruelling event held in sub zero temperatures in Sweden, she sprinted the last kilometre to snatch the title from the current Italian champion by just one second.

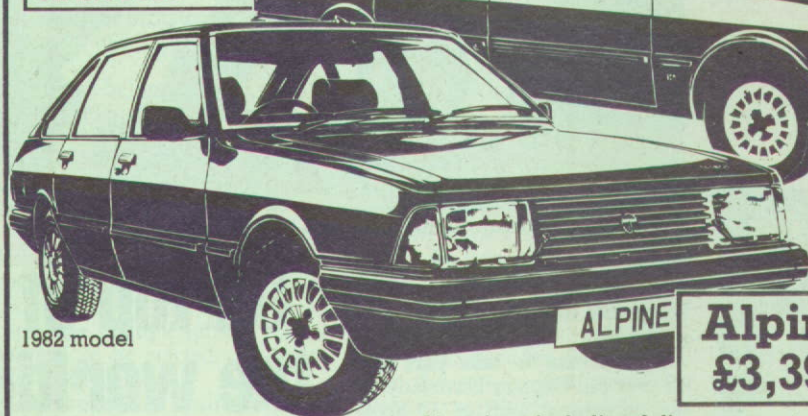
"I couldn't believe the scoreboard when the results came up," she admitted afterwards. "I have a fast finish but I thought I had chosen the wrong ski wax."

Lauren joined the Army in 1978 and has been skiing for just three years. She was in the British Ladies ski team selected for the World Championships in Norway last year and now goes on to Yugoslavia where she will compete in the pre-Olympic competition.

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