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SOLDIER





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FRONT COVER: Members of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT prepare loads for an air drop in Ethiopia. See page 25. Picture: John Upsall

BACK COVER: Standing out... the new badge of the Royal Pioneers. Picture: Paul Haley

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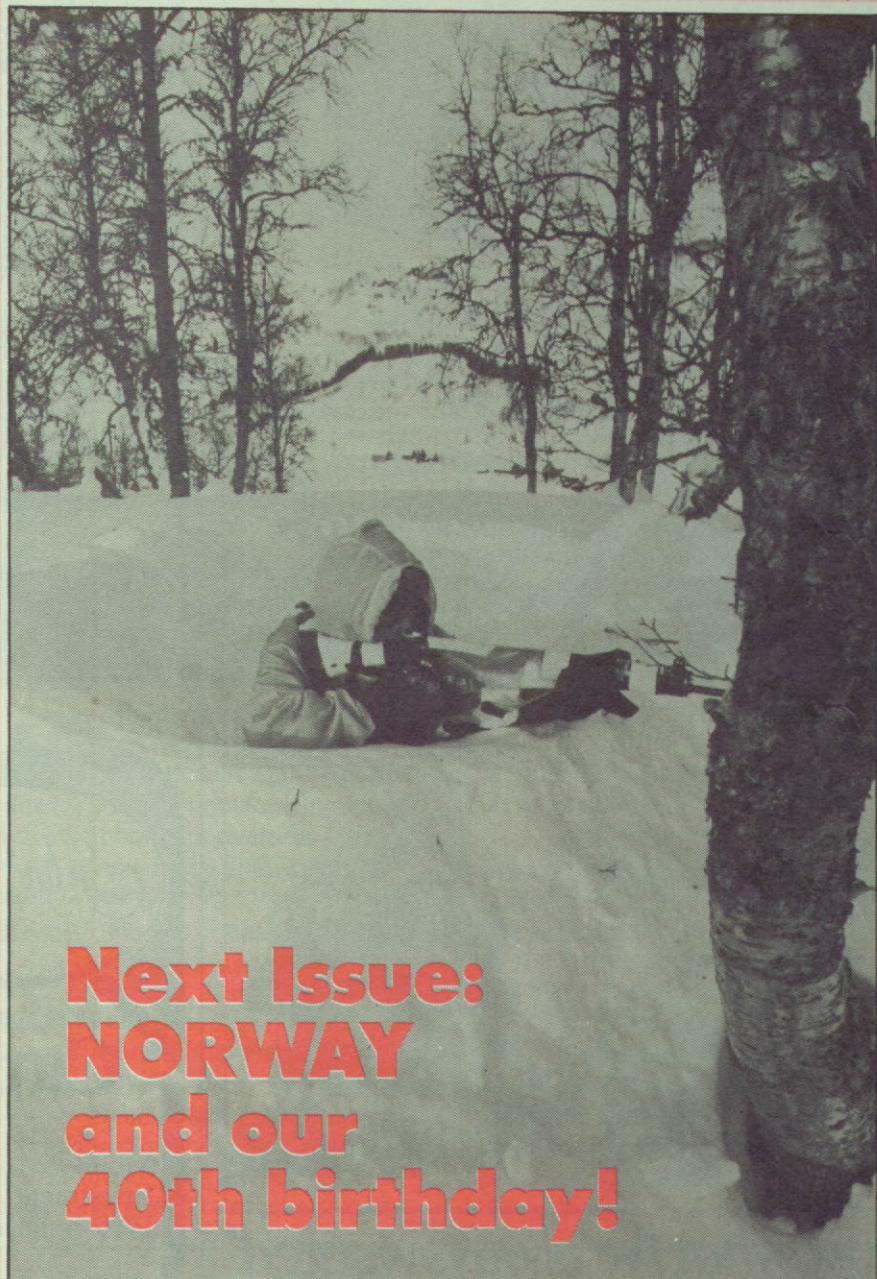
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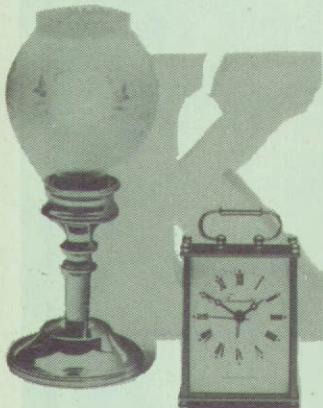
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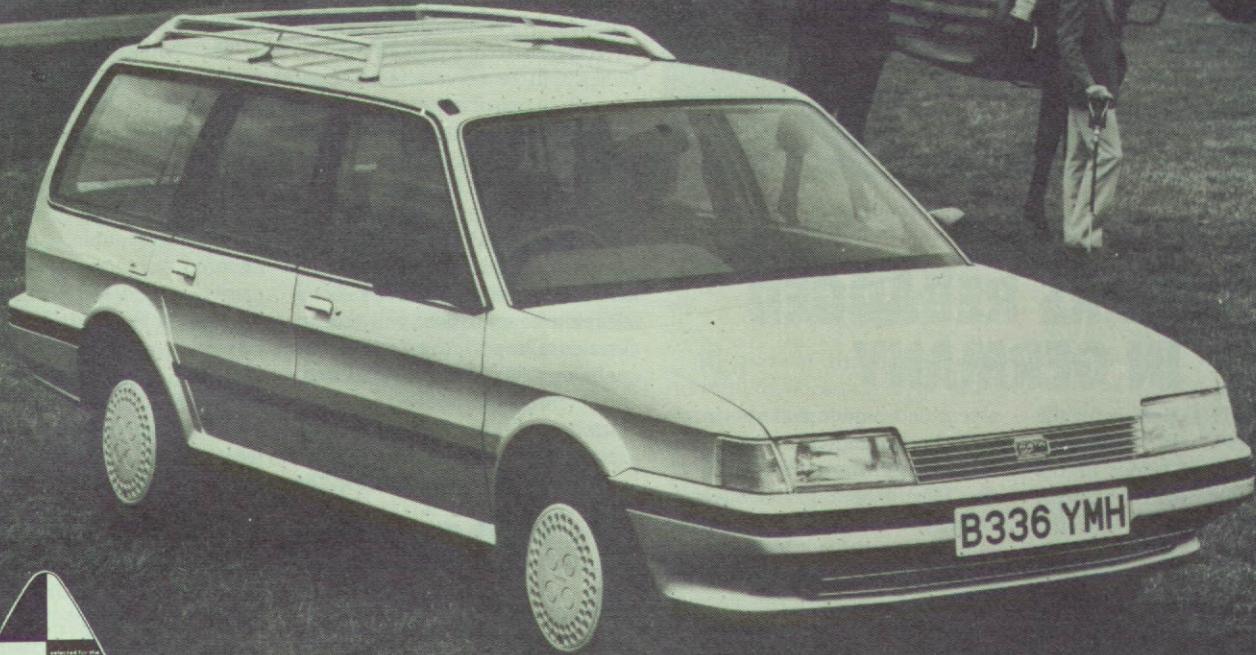
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SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S MAGNIFICENT GIFT



At the Royal Pioneers re-badging ceremony in Bielefeld, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale talks to Corporal Fred Reyat.

PIONEERS REBADGED IN GERMANY

A RE-BADGING parade for the Royal Pioneer Corps was held in Bielefeld in the presence of the Commander 1st (British) Corps, to 'Honour the Old' and 'Welcome the New'.

On parade, commanded by Major John F J Allen were Royal Pioneers from Defence Company 1st (British) Corps and Defence Platoon 4th Armoured Division.

Although a small element of the Army as a whole, the Corps plays a vital role in 1 (BR) Corps, in the defence of Headquarters Installations and Operational assets; and in addition to Civil Labour Support in BAOR, provides world-wide skilled and unskilled labour to the services.

To the honour of the past, the old badge was slow marched with nostalgia and tears, into history, to the haunting skirl of pipes, and its passing was marked to the

assembled parade and spectators in the special address of Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale.

• The Duke of Gloucester attended a special parade at Northampton as Pioneers in England were rebadged. See page 17.

Three killed

POLICE are investigating the deaths of three men shot dead by an Army patrol in Northern Ireland.

Armed with rifles and rocket launchers the suspected terrorists met up with the soldiers just outside the border town of Strabane, County Tyrone, at 5 am on 23 February.

The incident happened in the Foundation Street district, only a few hundred yards from the local police station.

THE SULTAN of Brunei has presented a cheque for £350,000 to the National Army Museum and another one for £250,000 to the Imperial War Museum.

The Sultan, well known for his fondness of British military traditions and himself trained at Sandhurst, made the donations during a visit to Britain.

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, said: "These gifts are an act of outstanding generosity by a good friend of Britain's Armed Forces. They will be of very substantial benefit to two of our great national military institutions."

£100,000 of the donation to the National Army Museum will be used for a computer-based information retrieval system. This will greatly improve access to the collection and archive — a development which will be of immense importance, to the connoisseurs of military objects and, most importantly, the growing number of historians poised to reinterpret key periods.

The remaining £250,000 of the

gift to the National Army Museum will go towards new storage and display accommodation.

The Museum describes the donation as 'a magnificent 25th anniversary gift to a young museum whose holdings continue to grow dramatically'.

The Imperial War Museum, funded by the Office of Arts and Libraries, is a unique institution devoted to the acquisition and display of material illustrating all aspects of the two World Wars and other military operations of the 20th Century involving Britain.

The Sultan's gift will go the IWM Redevelopment Appeal which was launched recently (SOLDIER 25 February).

TERCENTENARY DATES

June

20-26: Band and drums of the *Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire* play in their six freedom towns: Hull, Leeds, Bradford, Beverley, Harrogate and York.

21: 1 PWO at Imphal Barracks, York, Beating the Retreat. Officers and sergeant dining clubs.

22: Anniversary Day for *Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire*. Old Colours laid up in York Minister. Exercise Freedom of the City.

July

Open Day at Colchester in presence of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

21-23: The *Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire* hold celebrations at Imphal Barracks, York. On the 22nd,

Anniversary Day, the Old Colours are laid up in York Minister and the Regiment exercises its Freedom of the City.

22: The 1st *The Queen's Dragoon Guards* move to Cardiff to administer and take part in the Military Tattoo. They stay to 14 August are due to receive the Freedom of the Welsh capital.

28: 2 Royal Anglian hold a Regimental Open Day at Colchester in the presence of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

30: 1 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Ely.

31: 1 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Norwich.

August

1: 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards officers' cocktail party at the Royal Military Hospital, Chelsea.

3: 1 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Bury St. Edmunds.

VC IS TO RETIRE

THE ONLY holder of the VC still serving in the British Army retires this month when Captain Rambahadur Limbu, 45, finishes 28 years service.

He will leave the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles at their Church Crookham, Hampshire, base and return to Nepal.

Captain Rambahadur Limbu was a lance corporal serving in Sarawak in 1965 when he won his VC, rescuing two men who had been wounded attacking a machine-gun post.

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Multi-million worry for Naafi's future

NAAFI INCOME from corporals' clubs tops £29 million a year. This sum represents about 40 per cent of their total 'troop trade' and they are worried that one day they might lose it all. For if the corporals were to buy their bulk supplies from sources other than Naafi the lost revenue would create big problems for the Institute.

But Naafi is safe for the time being since their Charter — drawn up in 1921 — gives them exclusive trading rights with all corporals' and junior ranks clubs.

Delegates to the 15th all ranks meeting at Naafi HQ, arranged by the Army General Institute Committee, heard the corporals' clubs are necessary and will continue.

But club members claim that, if they could place their bulk orders similarly to the officers' and sergeants' messes they could give more favourable prices.

"This is a cause of strong feelings ... corporals form a large part of the Naafi customer base and their independence presents a significant financial threat to Naafi.

"Are there any measures which could overcome this problem? Should purchases by officers' and sergeants' messes be similarly restricted to Naafi?".

These and a score of similar questions are included in a paper going to all commands and districts at home and overseas from Major General J N S Arthur, Director of Army Personal Services.

The General wants answers to all his questions since they form the basis for the Naafi of the future.

'Aired' at the meeting the paper

said: "If Naafi is to continue to fulfil its role in support of Service personnel and their families in a changing Service and commercial environment, it is necessary for the Services to advise Naafi of what its needs are likely to be and what changes and developments are seen as being necessary for Naafi's trading concepts and practices to meet our needs ...".

This alone gave weight to delegates' charges that Naafi's Charter — shaped 64 years ago — is behind the times.

But they were reminded by Managing Director Brian Whitaker that the Charter was still very much in force, stipulating the provision of welfare for the Services and not the creation of a commercial enterprise.

Mr Whitaker emphasised this after being urged to 'go commercial' by one delegate and being asked to put up £1 million towards a leisure centre by another.

Summarising the state of 'your business' — Mr Whitaker justified this by describing customers as shareholders — he said the Institute paid out £9 million to customers, and kept £5 million in the business.

And while Mr Whitaker finished his report on an upward note saying

JOHN MARGETTS
reports Naafi's
big meeting

that the trading result for the current year, which ends in April, is 'reasonably optimistic,' he uttered a few warnings.

'Unit entrepreneurs a threat'

He spoke of 'threats' to Naafi's viability as a trading organisation by 'unit entrepreneurs.'

"In this undertaking there are profitable and unprofitable areas. Unfortunately, the profitable areas often pose an irresistible temptation — despite the rules — to specific groups in the Service to seek their own short-term advantage.

"The result is that your own trading organisation (Naafi) often finds itself in competition with its own shareholders.

"If you extend this to its logical conclusion, eventually all profitable areas of business will be run by unit entrepreneurs while Naafi will be left to provide the unprofitable services ..." Mr Whitaker did not reveal the nature of these entrepreneurial activities.

Threat number two, he said, came with the "reduced spending power of our customers, particularly of family customers who are responsible for the lion's share of our turnover, but for who, at the same time, we run so many unprofitable establishments.

"When we become aware that some of our customers are subsisting at a level where State help becomes necessary, and when we assess the £44 million plus has been lost to spending through reductions in LOA, it becomes obvious there must be an effect on our shop trade."

Added to this, he claimed that "increasing numbers of better-off customers are moving out of quarters and out of range of our shops as they buy their own homes."

Threat number three, he said, was "potentially devastating" in that it came "indirectly from the Government's policy of privatisation."

Naafi currently provides about half the value of UK messing supplies, worth about £40 million.

But if catering for the Services was taken on by outside firms,

contractors would want to do their own buying.

Referring to Naafi's wholesale supply of bar goods to messes, Mr Whitaker said this, too, was "likely to be affected by the progress of privatisation," he said.

He went on to tell how the Navy could buy groceries under Naafi's budget account scheme, but the Army and RAF could not.

"Naafi is not always free to change a service or introduce a new one in the way it would like. We have just not been allowed to do it," he said. "But the authorities have said they will review the position in the light of our experience with the Royal Navy."

His remarks on the budget account scheme prompted one lady delegate to ask why wives were not allowed to open credit accounts. Mr Whitaker replied that it was a question of debt collecting.

If a man goes into debt, he explained, then the money can be recovered from his pay, but that can't be done in the case of a wife.

'Don't forget... think big'

Dismissing this as 'old fashioned', she said: "Working wives are in danger of being treated as second class citizens.

They should be allowed their own Naafi credit cards and take the risks involved."

The Army rules and laws forbidding wives this facility she described as "out of date."

Other delegates had equally strong words, especially when a wife required a husband's permission to sign binding agreements. One said: "Some wives can't even blow their noses without their husband's permission."

Whither the Naafi of the nineties? That is the basic question set out in the paper from Major General Arthur, who requires answers by 12 April.

If you possess a crystal ball, star chart or any other bit of kit that will help with this task, the advice is dig 'em out and polish 'em up.

For even if you personally will be long gone from the Army, there are a lot of people who are in now and who will still be in if and when your suggestions come to fruition.

Last word for the departing delegates came from Major General Davis: "When thinking of the future: Don't forget, think big."

SBC's NEW HOME

A GLEAMING brass finger plate off a door is the sole reminder staff of the Service Booking Centre (SBC) have of the years at their old Westminster HQ in Kings Buildings.

For 14 years they shared the building with BFBS and several military organisations processing flights for Servicemen and women and their families to every part of the world.

Until about a year ago bookings and confirmations were all by post, but today the tri-Service unit is fully computerised with instant seat confirmation and airline-style ticket issues.

Now with their move into the 80s and high technology they have impressive new premises from which to operate.

The new offices were formally declared open by Air Commodore G R Pengelly, Director of Movements, RAF, who unveiled the mounted brass finger plate in the unit's bar.

Suitably inscribed it records the event even though the unit has been in the Thameside building since last November.

Included on the tri-Service and civilian staff are six soldiers under the command of Major 'Bev' Stevens, RCT. In overall command is Wing Commander John Lambert, RAF.

With speed and efficiency their object, SBC conduct their business by using the Movements Management and Air Reservations System (MMARS), arranging flights through more than 50 computer terminals located worldwide.

Pat puts on a smile and a 'gong'

Something to smile about for Sergeant Pat Brandon as she receives her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Major General P A Inge, GOC North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division.

Pat, a recruiter at the Durham Army Careers Information Office, lined up with fellow recruiters Colour Sergeant Bob Bogan, Staff Sergeant Paddy Fox and WO2 Peter Carter to collect their 'gongs' from the GOC.

Pat, Paddy and Peter all work at the Durham CIO, but Bob Bogan of The Light Infantry works at the Bishop Auckland office. He joined up 32 years ago and has served world wide. Paddy Fox and Peter Carter both 15/19th The King's Royal Hussars, total 25 years in the recruiting business.



WO2 PETER CARTER, CSGT BOB BOGAN, SSGT PADDY FOX, SGT PAT MANSON, MAJOR GENERAL P A INGE: smiles, medals and congratulations

Terry and 'Doc' cook up a winner

It's not true that too many cooks spoil the broth... not when you're working in a snow covered field with orders to prepare a three-course meal for 30 in three and a half hours.

You need all the help you can get. But assistance for the two-man Army Catering Corps cooks taking part in the London and Eastern District cooking competition, was limited to themselves plus some basic ingredients.

Overall winners of the contest were Corporal Terry Walker and Lance Corporal David ('Doc') Livingstone who produced a winning menu of pottage bonne femme, steak and kidney pud and steamed

Devonshire roll.

For this little lot they collected 104 points and the cup from Colonel P R S Jackson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Eastern District.

Terry and 'Doc' are based with the 17th Training Regiment, RA Depot at Woolwich, and go forward for the national finals at Aldershot later this year.

Runners-up — but winners of the Eastern District title — were Corporal Steve Warne and Lance Corporal David Tweddle, just 1½ points behind. With the depot Queens Division they produced Vienna steaks, beef olives and stuffed baked apples.



LANCE CORPORAL 'DOC' LIVINGSTONE, CORPORAL TERRY WALKER, COLONEL P R S JACKSON: three courses for 30

ROUND AND ABOUT

Prizewinner returns win

The £10 prize won by Graham Royle in a SOLDIER competition has been given back to the Army.

Mr Royle, of Farnborough, Hants, was so saddened by the death of drill sergeant Danny White in the Falklands that he decided to spend the £10 on a tankard to be awarded to a recruit at the

Guards Depot at Pirbright.

"When I heard that Danny White had been killed at Tumbledown it was pretty shattering," he said. "My son passed through Pirbright and Danny White was very kind to him. I decided to donate the £10 as a small token of appreciation."

Good sports

No doubt BFBS have broadcast it far and wide, but just

"I'm in charge and don't forget it..." Young Derek McLaughlin, 11, was given a Jim style 'fix it' by 5 UDR when they allowed him to take command for a day. He filled his time as Co with inspections, parades and visits and even fined a defaulter £100. Derek's never-to-be-forgotten day was his win in a nation-wide Boys' Brigade "Life at the Top" contest.



★ 'COLONEL' DEREK McLAUGHLIN: in charge for the day

for the record Seb Coe was the winner of their Sports Personality of the Year award, and Corporal Steve Jones was elected Combined Services Sportsman of the Year.

Coe was elected by thousands of service voters, while Steve Jones was nominated for the new award by the Combined Services Sports Board. Coe won the 1984 1,500 metre Olympic gold medal in three minutes 32.53 seconds, but it's probably not so well known that Jones—an RAF man—won the last year's Chicago marathon in a world record time of two hours, eight minutes, five seconds.

28 years: first posting!

Not many people can claim 28 continuous years of service with the same regiment. Major David Roberts is one of the select few who can.

But now he is leaving on his first posting away from his unit — for the MoD where he will oversee Royal Armoured Corps quarter-master postings.

Although 28 years with the same unit, he actually signed on as a boy soldier 30 years ago before joining the 3rd Carabiniers which later, with



the Royal Scots Greys, formed The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

In all that time Dave has never had a posting. He has been with them all the time. Now he is leaving Senne-lager, Germany, for London.

In his time with the unit he has had several tours in BAOR, three in the UK, four in Northern Ireland as well as time in Aden and Kuwait.

He has also seen big changes in the regiment's role of operating Centurion tanks to the armoured reconnaissance and air-transportable role and latterly to the Chieftan tanks which The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards operate today.

Hon Pres title for Lady L

Positive and special help by Lady Langley for disabled people in Cyprus has led to the island's Muscular Dystrophy Association electing her their first honorary president.

The wife of Major General Sir Desmond Langley, Sovereign Base Administrator, Lady Langley was granted the honour at a special dinner in Limassol when guests heard that she was 'top' of a list of people who had helped in a variety of ways.

Lady Langley's help was to organise and run a scheme for crippled people at the Joint Services Saddle Club, Episkopi.

In this scheme 20 sick children a week get to ride. Going for about a year now, 30 wives act as helpers.

Niddle noddle noo — it's Segoon!

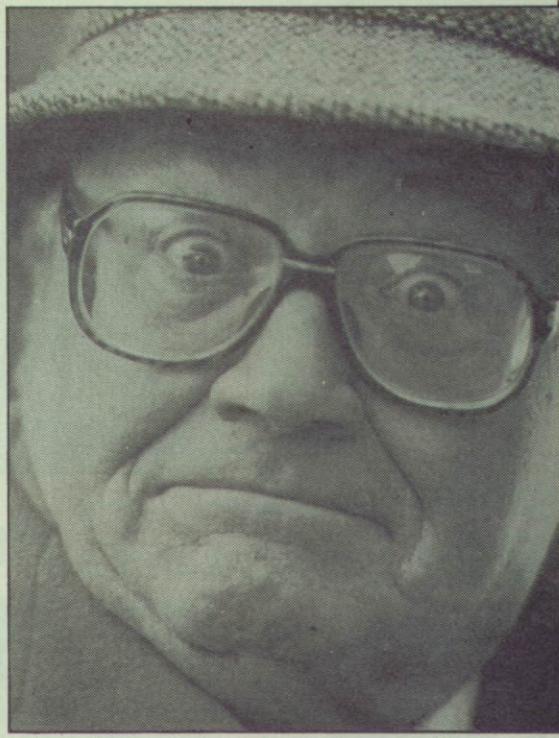
Look at that face. No prizes for guessing its owner. Of course... niddle, noddle, noo, it's Neddy Segoon himself.

Arch goon Sir Harry Secombe, alias Neddy from the Famous BBC radio series, *The Goons*, was in Aldershot (see Page 19) for a few days filming for his Sunday show *Highway*.

A former gunner, he sported the RA tie when he, singer Iris Williams and comic actor Arthur English, put on a short entertainment for recruits from the RCT Depot.

It all went extremely well, specially when he let rip with a couple of his famous raspberries. But when he asked the lads: "Did you ever hear *The Goons*?" only a few raised their hands.

Not surprising, really, when considering the average age of the lads was barely 18 and *The Goons* were at their height almost 30 years ago!



SIR HARRY SECOMBE: Segoon pulls a face

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

'Birds' queue for a little peck!



COLONEL DEREK BROWNSON, GUDRUN MOSLEY, RITA MOSLEY, RITA BRACKENS A quaint old German custom requiring kissproof lips, a heap of ties and a loving wife

How to plant the perfect smacker... Colonel Derek Brownson, Commander Engineers at 3rd Armoured Division HQ BAOR, demonstrates a neat technique with Gundrun Mosley while Rita Brackens waits her turn.

The kissing started when civilian staff 'captured' the

headquarters to celebrate 'Old Women's Day' — a quaint old German custom which involves girls collecting ties and kisses as souvenirs. A great custom. But there are two essentials... kissproof lips and an inexhaustible supply of ties. And an understanding wife!

Cars, tanks, all the same to the Colonel-in-Chief

If there is any difference between driving a royal car and a Chieftan tank it didn't seem to bother Princess Anne when she called on the 14/20th King's Hussars in Germany.

Before driving the tank, when visiting the regiment as their Colonel-in-Chief, she arrived at the controls of a 37-ton Scorpion reconnaissance vehicle.

In khaki overalls, she visited each squadron in turn to watch vehicle recovery, minefield clearing, a defensive tank battle and 'blindfold' tank driving.

Princess Anne handed

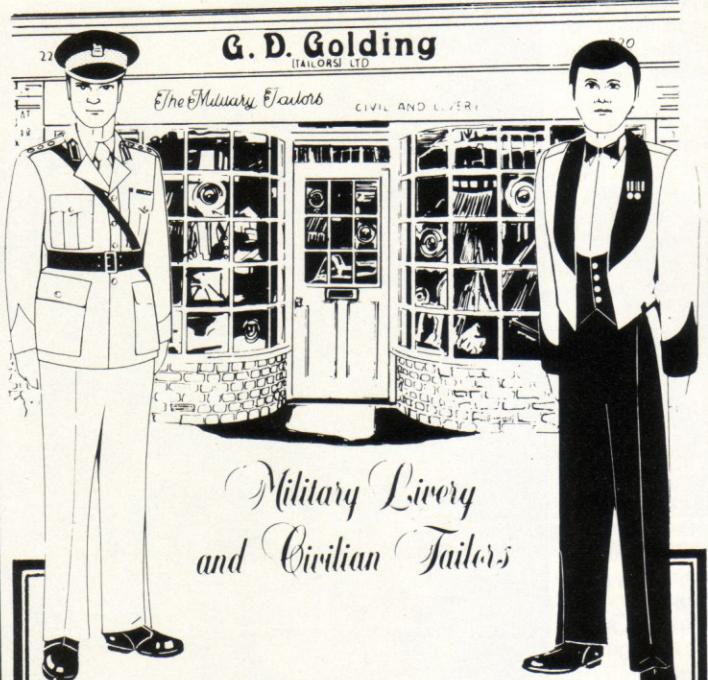
regimental medals to Major Jeremy Moger, Lieutenant Alan Sandford, Bandmaster Richard Sands, Staff Sergeants Barry Collins and Bill Wyper and Sergeant Dave Drummond.

A regimental honour they are worn on the right hand side of the tunic.

But the royal visitor still hadn't finished, for after seeing a demo of the Chieftan's improved fire control system by Staff Sergeant Bob Morrow, Sergeant Dick Whitelock and Lance Corporal Lee Storey, she wanted to have a go herself — and did, firing over two kilometres.

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TWICE A CITIZEN — THAT'S GRAHAM



THE Concise Oxford Dictionary defines veteran as 'a person with long experience of an occupation; especially military'. This description can certainly be applied to WO2 Graham Patterson of 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC(V), whose military career spans 31 years of National Service and Territorial Army service; but in itself it is inadequate to describe the Patterson character.

Graham was called up into the Royal Army Medical Corps in February 1953, when the late Colonel Tennucci was Depot RSM, and took part in the Aldershot Coronation Parade.

His RAMC training took him to Netley on Southampton Water, to learn the basics of mental nursing. On qualifying Graham was posted to Trieste in Northern Italy where he spent just under a year until our forces withdrew.

From Trieste, Graham went to the 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment, for a month, then via The Cambridge Military Hospital to finish his National Service at Tidworth Military Hospital.

On completion of National Service in 1955 Graham went to 3rd (W) General Hospital (TA) in Fairwater, Cardiff where he was later joined by his brother.

Graham was made sergeant in 1959 and each year for the following ten years was the snco in the unit's Challenge Shield Team, winning the Thomas Splint Rose Bowl one year, which probably explains his everlasting enthusiasm for this piece of equipment.

During the same period he changed trades from mental to general nursing with the aid of courses run by the unit and with practical training in hospitals in the Cardiff area.

1967 saw the great reorganisation and reduction in strength of the Territorial Army when 3rd (W) General Hospital was amalgamated with 158, 160, 170 Field Ambulance to form 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC(V).

Graham stayed with the unit

Warrant Officer 2 Graham Patterson, awarded the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent's Certificate of Merit is the subject of this profile — and pictured in the centre, above.

through these very traumatic times, retaining his rank, until in 1974 he went to the RAMC Depot in Aldershot to take his warrant officers course.

Successful, he returned to 203 to become a lecturer in first aid and basic nursing.

In 1980 Graham was tasked by Colonel Thompson, then CO of 203, to assist in the formation of a detachment of the unit in Newport. With the aid of the Royal Monmouthshire Engineers and using his skills as an 'acquirer' the top floor of the TA Centre at Malpas was turned into a very useful set of Detachment Offices.

The Malpas Detachment has grown well since its inception with Graham serving as its CSM.

When 203 (W) General Hospital trains as a complete unit Graham carries out his role as WO in charge of reception. This is a job which at times requires all his strength both physical and mental to ensure that the 'casualties' are unloaded into reception, checked, sorted and dispatched to wards and departments of the hospital quickly.

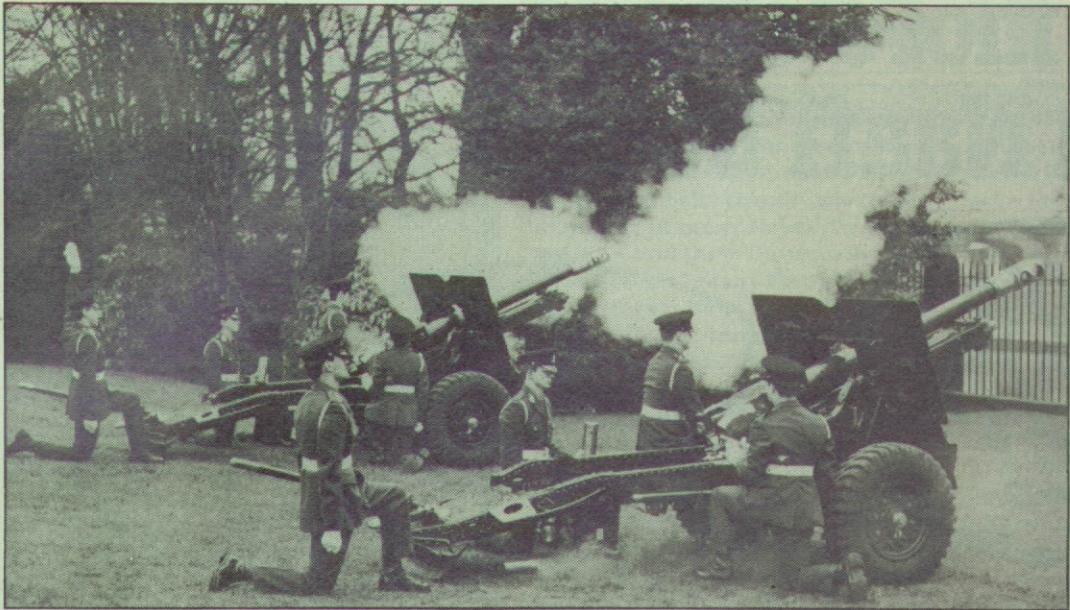
He is also active with youth organisations in his home town of Caldicot, teaching the scouts, guides, Air Training Corps and Army Cadet Force first aid and field-craft.

He is a long time member of the St Johns Ambulance Brigade.

There are two final parts to the character; that of employee at BSC Llanwern and finally but by no means at the bottom of the list of his priorities that of husband and father.

Considering his range of military and civilian activities he is certainly twice a citizen and perhaps is best described as a true Citizen Soldier.

STUDENTS HAVE THE FIRST HONOUR



THE FIRST of six Royal Salutes to be fired by the Army in York this year took place in the Museum Gardens.

The 21-gun Salute, to mark the 33rd anniversary of The Queen's Accession, was fired (left) by members of Leeds University Officers Training Corps using three 25-pounder guns.

Inspecting Officer was Lord Gisborough, Lord Lieutenant of Cleveland, who was accompanied by Major Adrian Orr, a Royal Artillery Officer from the 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters in York.

The Band of The Queen's Own Hussars, from Garterick Garrison, played before and after the Salute.

All smiles - and BEM is the cause



CORPORAL KEITH ASHCROFT

... who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List.

While serving as a permanent staff instructor in 153 (Highland) Artillery Support Regiment Royal Corps of Transport in Dunfermline, Corporal Ashcroft and his wife Margaret, founded and organised the Pied Piper Club.

This is a family club which provides social and sporting outlets for its disabled members.

In its first year it built up a membership of 60-80 disabled and handicapped people.

Last year, Corporal Ashcroft's 13-year-old son Carl, was named 'Junior Disabled Scot of the Year'.

Corporal Ashcroft is currently serving with 25 Freight Distribution Squadron RCT.



TOPICS

YORKSHIRE'S CADETS IN TRIPLE WIN

YORKSHIRE ACF have won the Full Bore Non Central competition organised by the Territorial Army Rifle Association.

The team and individuals fired on Rugeley Ranges whilst attending camp at Swynnerton, Staffordshire.

This was the first time that Yorkshire ACF had entered — and won all three!

Distances were 300 and 500 yards and the Cadet Target Rifle L81 A1 (7.62) was used.

Results

Match 5 CCF and ACF Officers Individual (HPS 100): 1 Capt D Bennett, Keighley, Yorkshire 94, 2 Major G Roberts, Gwent 93.

Match 6 ACF Officers Team (HPS 600): 1 Yorkshire ACF 529 (Major B Johnson, Barnsley, Capt T Scrivens, Rotherham, Lt H Scrivens, Rotherham, Lt G Walker, Barnsley, Lt G McBride, Fitzwilliam, Lt S Ridley, Doncaster).

2 Somerset ACF 496.

3 Gwent ACF 486.

Match 7 ACF Instructors Individual (HPS 100): 1 S/Sgt C Raynor, Rotherham 88, 2 Sgt R Barker, Rotherham 88.

'Cheers' for girls...



THE winning team from Leeds University Officers Training Corps display the trophies presented to them at York for their success in the North East District autumn competition MAIDEN'S SCURRY. The prizes were presented by The Lord Gisborough, Lord Lieutenant of Cleveland. The team leader was Lieutenant Susan Kingham WRAC.

The exercise was contested by teams from the women's services in the North East on the Catterick Training Area and involved the surprise crossing of a lake by dinghy and a test of basic military skills including leadership, fitness and shooting.

Great day for trio

THERE was triple joy for A Company 4th Battalion The Royal Green Jackets when Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, paid them a visit at their base in Slade Park, Oxford.

Sir Ashley presented his Certificates for Meritorious service to Corporal Peter Hunt and Rifleman Gordon Emberton, and presented Sergeant John Hudson with the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

Corporal Peter Hunt is 31, and joined the TA nine years ago. A

vehicle mechanic with British Oxygen he is married with three children.

Rifleman Gordon Emberton, 47, is a paint sprayer and became a part-time soldier in 1969. He is married with four children.

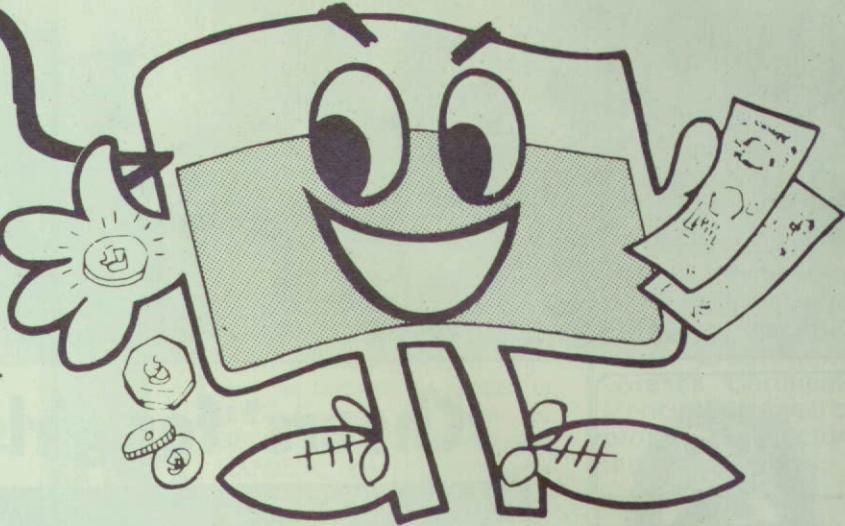
Sergeant John Hudson, 43, is a supervisor in civilian life and signed on in 1971. He is married with three children.

All three live in Oxford and Sgt Hudson and Rfn Emberton both work for Austin Rover.

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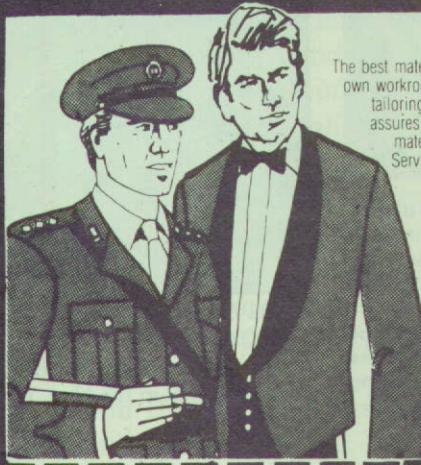
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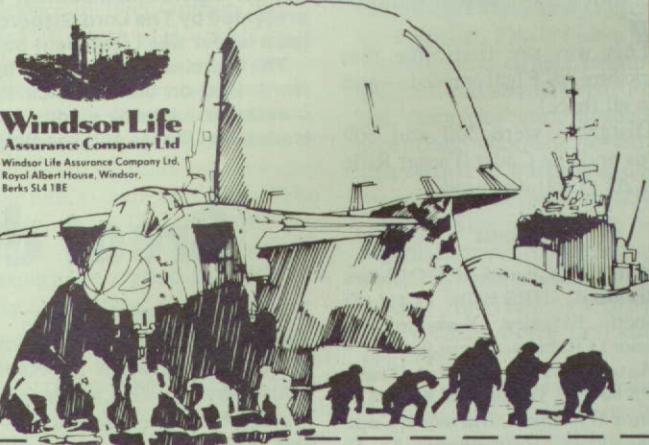
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S3/85



BECAUSE needy veterans and their dependants of Commonwealth units which fought in the 1939-45 war are ineligible for help from the Army Benevolent Fund, a one-off appeal for £5 million is to be launched next month.

Called the Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, it will be sponsored by the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League (BCEL) which has a membership of 53 countries throughout the Commonwealth and the old Empire.

But despite this world-wide link, thousands of old soldiers who fought beside British troops in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, and their dependants, are in desperate need of help.

"We expect the numbers unable to fend for themselves to increase by 20 per cent per year from now till the mid-90s," said Appeal Director Brigadier Robin Middleton.

"The BCEL still has many 1914-18 veterans in its care, and the number of Commonwealth ex-servicemen, widows and dependants now reaching their 60s, 70s and 80s is increasing dramatically.

"Many member countries lack the resources to provide the assistance required," said the Brigadier, and suggested that some countries lacked the "understanding or predisposition to do so."

"So they must rely exclusively on the support stemming from the League's London headquarters.

"But the League is no longer able to meet this demand from within its own resources which have provided money for both administration and benevolence in the past.

"Now, for the first time in its 64-year history, the League is compelled to seek outside financial support to honour its commitments, both now and in the future."

To help with this 'first and only appeal', units throughout the Army will be officially asked to "help in any way they can."

But in the meantime if you, or your unit feel able to help write to: Brigadier R C Middleton, Appeal Director, The Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.



Sergeant Major Cyril Phillips, who spent 37 years in the Welsh Guards and now 15 with the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard, at Buckingham Palace with his Royal Victorian Order, received from The Queen

SOLDIER to Soldier

IT WILL be a long time before the sense of shock eases memory of the German autobahn tragedy which cost the lives of so many Royal Air Force personnel and their German driver.

The loss of so many fine musicians is a shattering blow to the Royal Air Force and the families involved.

For many years the Band of RAF Germany has been synonymous with fine music and, perhaps more than any other RAF band, has been very much appreciated by Army units, especially in the area of Rheindahlen.

There is another reason for Army sympathy. In July 1982 the Band of 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets was decimated by a terrorist bomb in Regent's Park. Vastly differing circumstances, but no less tragic for the loved ones of seven bandmen killed on that dreadful day.

Yet within a matter of months, 19 survivors were back playing with the reconstituted band. There is little doubt that, in time, the Band of RAFG will again be delighting audiences, military and civilian.

When the first notes sound this will be the best possible tribute to the men who lost their lives.

The Royal Air Force has already expressed its gratitude for the sympathy shown by everyone in Germany and the United Kingdom. German individuals and organisations were quick, in their concern for the needs of the bereaved, to send donations — as have those serving in British Forces Germany.

A specific appeal is not being launched, but attention is drawn to the continuing need for donations for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund — which exists to help personnel and their families in such cases. The widows are, of course, entitled to pensions and other benefits from public funds.

If you wish to make a donation, then please send it to: Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, LONDON W1N 4R.

SOLDIER sends condolences to the bereaved, and our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to the injured.



David Summerfield's father left quite an impression on him when he was a young boy. Especially father George's experiences in the North African campaign.

His accounts left such an indelible memory with the youngster that now, David, aged 35, Head of Art and Design at the 750-pupil Arnold School in Blackpool put brush to canvas to produce a Diamond 'T' tank transporter engaged in typical operations during that campaign.

It took the artist three weeks to complete and he has just presented his work to a grateful RCT Museum at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. Needless to say, father George, formerly RASC, is very proud of his son's achievement some 40 years on.

David worked from reference work and pictures supplied by the Museum of Army Transport near Beverley, East Yorkshire. He was initially encouraged by the CO of the Arnold School's 128-strong CCF in which he is a commissioned officer.

The spur to further daubs on canvas resulted from a creation David had made of Col Jones's former unit which was involved in the D-Day landings in Normandy of 1944.

"From a small boy my dad, who is a committee member for the El Alamein reunion in Blackpool this October, always told me about the North African campaign,"

said David. "My initial D-Day painting had been done from verbal descriptions.

"Some of my work was seen by one or two museums throughout the country. That is the reason I have submitted this work to the RCT Museum in Aldershot.

"My dad was amazed on just how I managed to capture the atmosphere of the time. I have since been approached again by the Beverley Museum to do a piece on the military railway used in the Boer War."

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AT HOME IN 'PARADISE'



FOR nearly 50 years Thorney Island was an RAF station and rated high on their list of paradise postings.

From early days flyers and 'erks' alike asked to go there, such was the combined attraction of location and amenities the 1,700 acre island had to offer.

The passing of time, it seems, has not diminished the lure and charm of the place. For following the closure of the RAF station about four years ago and a £14 million refurbishment and repair programme, 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery moved in last November and applications for transfer to Thorney are once again pouring in.

"We're getting them from officers and men alike," said Captain Dick Park, the unit press

by
John Margetts

officer.

And who can blame them asking for a south-coast posting with all the rural and tranquil delights of a country estate as a training area?

That the 'Sussex Gunners' were more than pleased to be 'back home' in West Sussex — the Hampshire-Sussex border runs to

one side of the island — was evident when Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Welby-Everard said: "We are delighted to be here. The accommodation for everyone is first-class, as are the facilities.

"There is boating, fishing, swimming, beaching, tennis, wildlife galore, Roman remains to search for and the 12th-century church of St Nicholas to attend and admire.

"We have our own primary school on the island and plans are in hand for a kindergarten, parascending and diving clubs and new squash courts.

"We have all these in addition

to the normal facilities such as a Naafi club and community centre. But above all we have space.

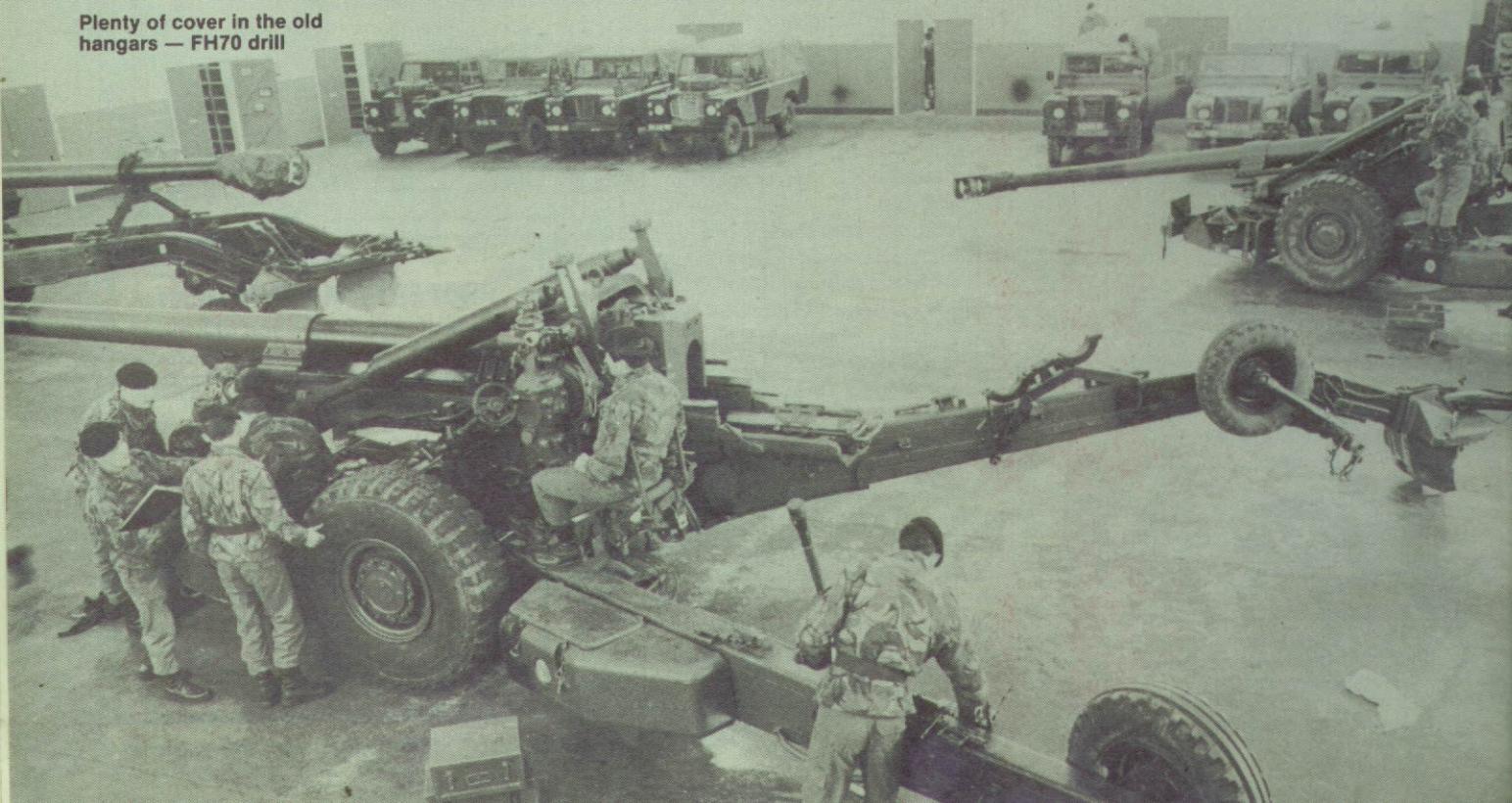
"In Dortmund, where we based for the past ten years, we were tight for space to work on our FH70 guns.

"Here we have all the room we need. Having an ex-airfield as a base — specially in this part of the world — is superb.

"Chichester is nine miles, Portsmouth 12, and Emsworth just two miles from the soldiers' quarters.

"Everyone in the surrounding areas has told us how glad they are to have Servicemen back on the island. They have been most

Plenty of cover in the old hangars — FH70 drill



SUSSEX, SUSSEX by the sea!



Thorney Island Sailing Club: on the doorstep

welcoming and have bent over backwards to be of help.

"Between the RAF leaving and our arrival last November the place was empty except for the billeting of Vietnamese 'Boat People'.

"Now we're in occupation and we're delighted to be here."

But even 'paradise' is not without its problems and the fact that this particular difficulty is not man-made does not detract from its nuisance value.

"It seems Thorney is the happy hunting ground of mosquitoes," said Colonel Welby-Everard, don-

ning his hat as chairman of the local nature conservation group.

Past reports indicate the island gets more than its share of the blood-sucking gnats and 26 Regiment have taken 'controlled measures' to limit the insects breeding.

"We are doing this under the control of MoD scientists to preserve other wildlife and plants," said the Colonel.

"The conservation group in this area is extremely active and takes a great interest in the island.

"But because we can't have

people wandering around restricted areas, they are permitted to use Pilsey Island — a small sandy island on the north side of Thorney — as a bird sanctuary."

As CO of Thorney, now known as and soon to be officially named as Baker Barracks, the Colonel automatically assumes the chairmanship of the conservation group since he controls the area they seek to study.

And if there ever was a Lord of the Manor, then, judging by the size and position of his house, he could readily take on that role as

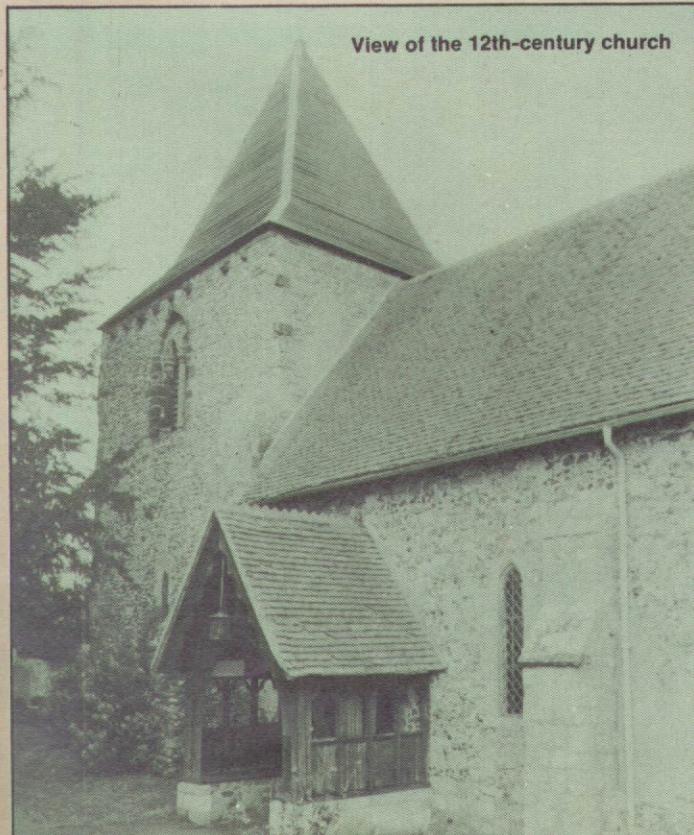
well.

Situated close by the old village of Thorney by the water's edge, it is a large, imposing house typical of those built for RAF station commanders of the 30s.

Nearby are several Victorian houses listed as unsafe and destined to be flattened.

"There are about 30 buildings on the island which the authorities say must go," said the Colonel. "But I've managed to get a stay of execution on one — building No. 13.

Continued on page 16



View of the 12th-century church



Outdoor space as well — light gun drill, ready for Belize



In the 12th-century church graveyard Captain Dick Park looks at the graves of German airmen

Continued from page 15

"This is an old workshop which might possibly be saved and put to use."

"Apparently it would cost more to put these buildings right than start again."

With three months of Thorney life behind them, the three batteries of the regiment — 16 Field Battery (Sandham's Co), 17 (Corunna) Field Battery and 159 (Colenso) Field Battery — are getting into their stride with their FH70s ready for a full programme throughout the year.

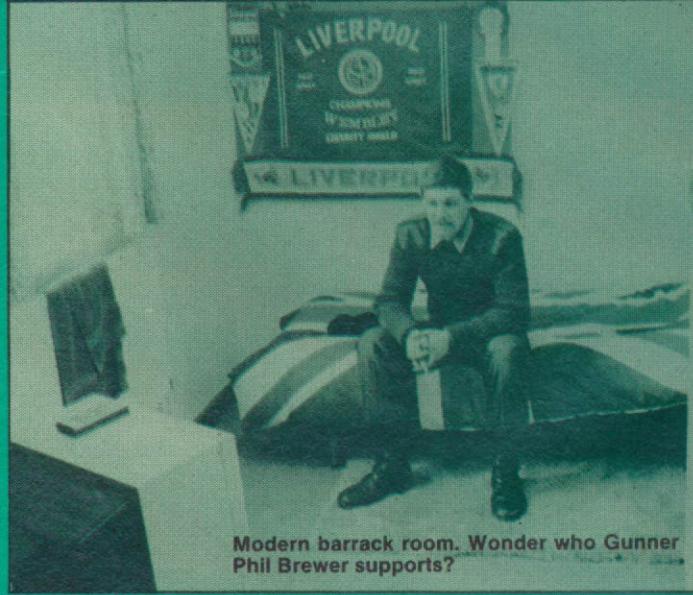
In addition to troop visits to Kenya this month and several officers acting as umpires in exercises in various parts of the world, Sandham's leaves for Belize

in April for six months with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Colenso heads for Denmark to practise their role with 1 Infantry Brigade, based at Tidworth, while Corunna is booked for an exercise in Canada in June.

These individual battery schemes will be followed by a regimental exercise in Denmark in October when everyone, with the exception of Sandham's which will have just returned from Belize, will take part.

"Seems like we're going to live up to our motto 'Ubique' (Everywhere)," said Captain Dick Park.

An extremely apposite remark if those past reports of 'Thorney mossies' are anything to go by, for they could be 'Ubique' too and pose a very thorny problem indeed!



Modern barrack room. Wonder who Gunner Phil Brewer supports?

A 'home' entrance at last for the Sussex Gunners



Royal Pioneers get their new badge

by JOHN MARGETTS

THERE is a distinct advantage in having a designer and architect as the Colonel-in-Chief of a Corps.

For when Brigadier Freddie Lucas, Director of the Royal Pioneer Corps, submitted designs for a new Corps badge to the Duke of Gloucester — their Colonel-in-Chief and a qualified architect — he was able to get some expert advice.

In addition, the Duke suggested alterations which were incorporated in the new badge, which he formally presented to the Corps at their rebadging ceremony at Simpson Barracks, Northampton.

In bright, but biting-cold weather, the Duke inspected the three guards, each of 60 men, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Le Masurier, while the Band and Corps of Drums of The Staffordshire Regiment, under the direction of Warrant Officer J W Bains played a selection of light music.

In a short speech in which he referred to Pioneers past and present, the Duke said despite the success of the recent RAF Molesworth exercise in which miles of wire were erected in a single night, it could well have gone wrong without the help of the Royal Pioneers.

"The new badge will symbolise something very special to those who get to wear it," he said. "May it be worn with pride."

The last act in this rare event came with the lowering of the old flag and the raising of the new to the bugle strains of the Last Post and Reveille.

The rebadging was followed by another little ceremony when the Duke, himself a railway enthusiast, received on behalf of the Corps museum the nameplate from the BR locomotive The Royal Pioneer Corps.

A 22-year-old diesel with 2,500,000 miles on the clock, the plaque was handed over by the aptly-named Mr Colin Driver, BR's freight director.

"It was a totally appropriate name for an engine which was totally reliable, being able to work anywhere at anytime," he said.

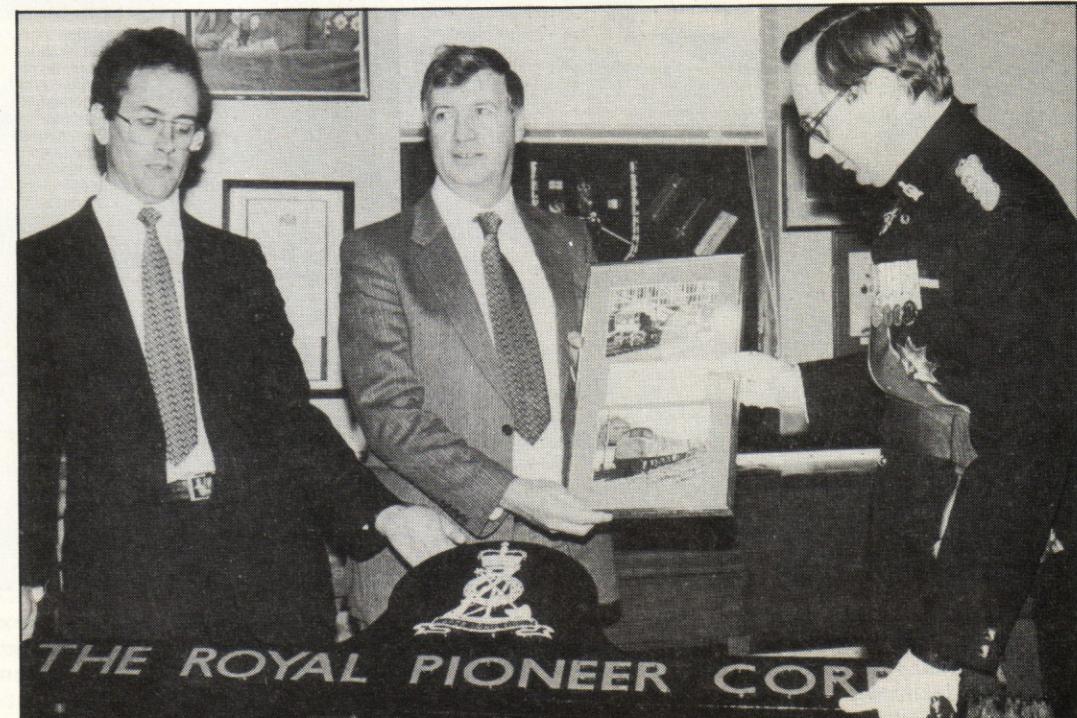
But although the rebadging has given the Corps a new look and brought it more in



EYES FRONT: followed by Major Eddie Ferguson, OC Pioneer Training Centre, the Duke of Gloucester inspects the ranks of Royal Pioneers at Simpson Barracks, Northampton



INTEREST: the Duke pauses by a display case in the Corps museum, presided over by retired Major Bill Elliott; the engine name plate received by the Duke on behalf of the museum, is the second one of that name now in their possession



line with their present-day role, it also costs money — especially for the officers.

"It is not just the cap badge that has to be replaced," said one. "There are tunic buttons on the various uniforms, belt

buckles and collar dogs. It will cost at least £40 to replace that lot."

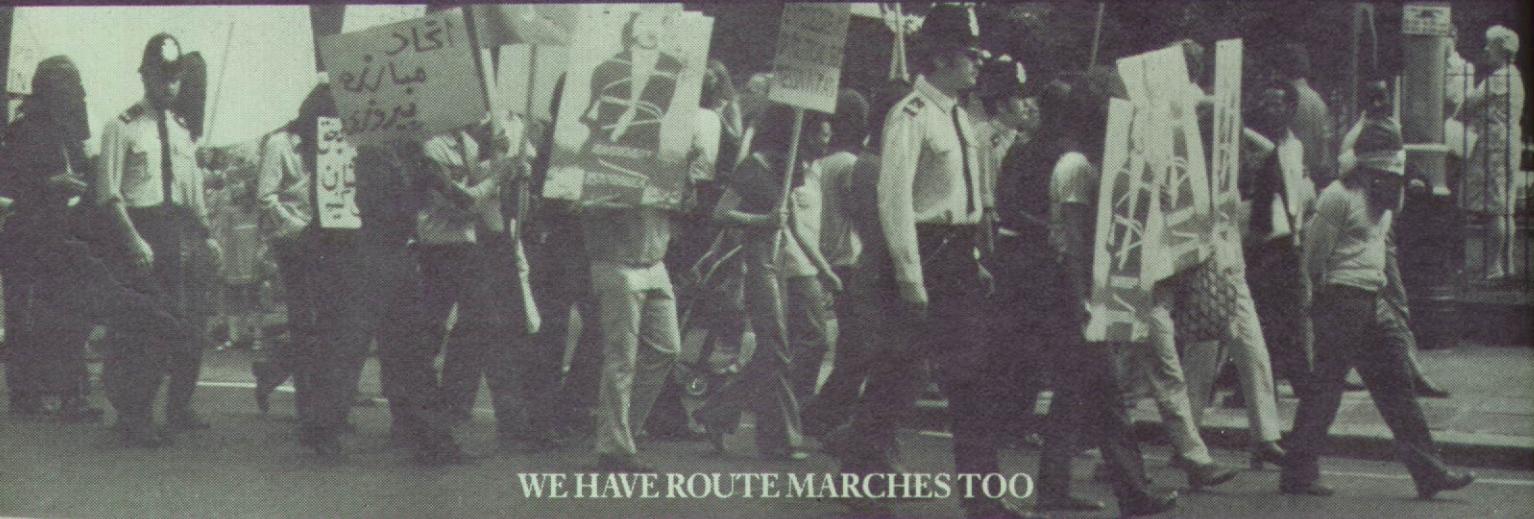
"So what?" asked another officer, as elated at the prospect of sporting new insignia as the other was

dejected at having to pay out.

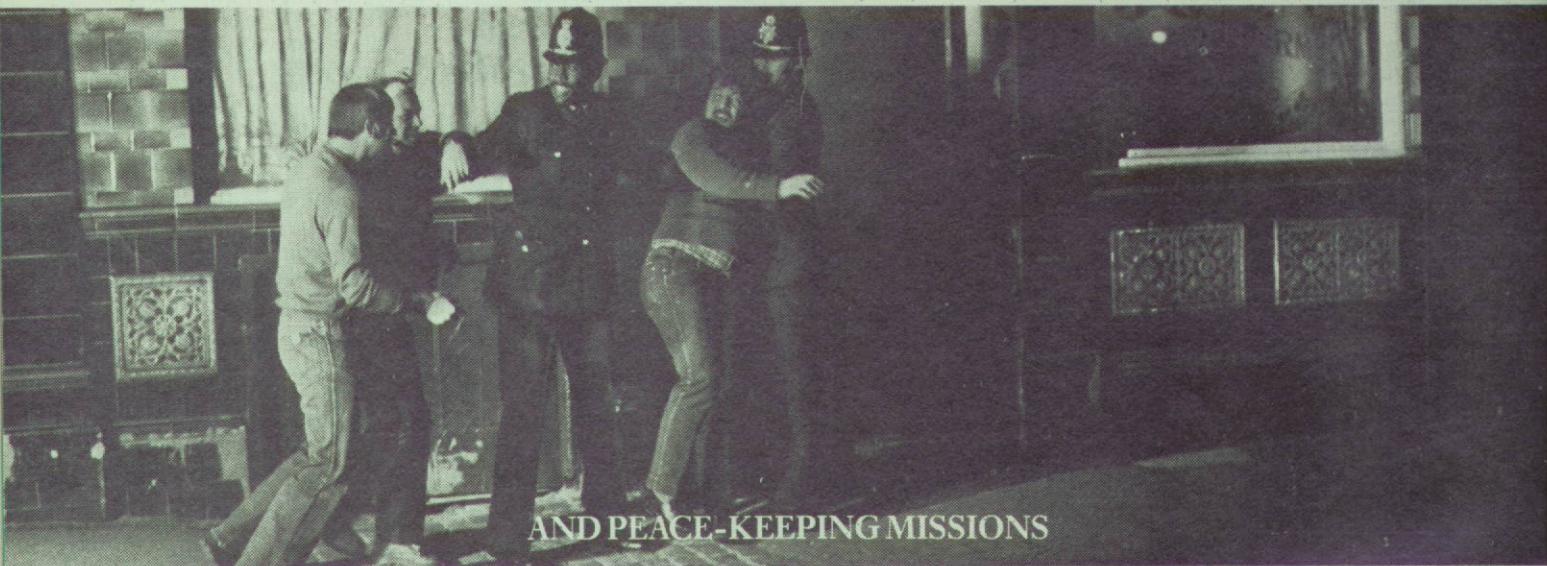
"I'm proud to have the chance to pay for the new badge. And I shall certainly take a pride in wearing it."

● THE NEW BADGE in full colour — back cover.

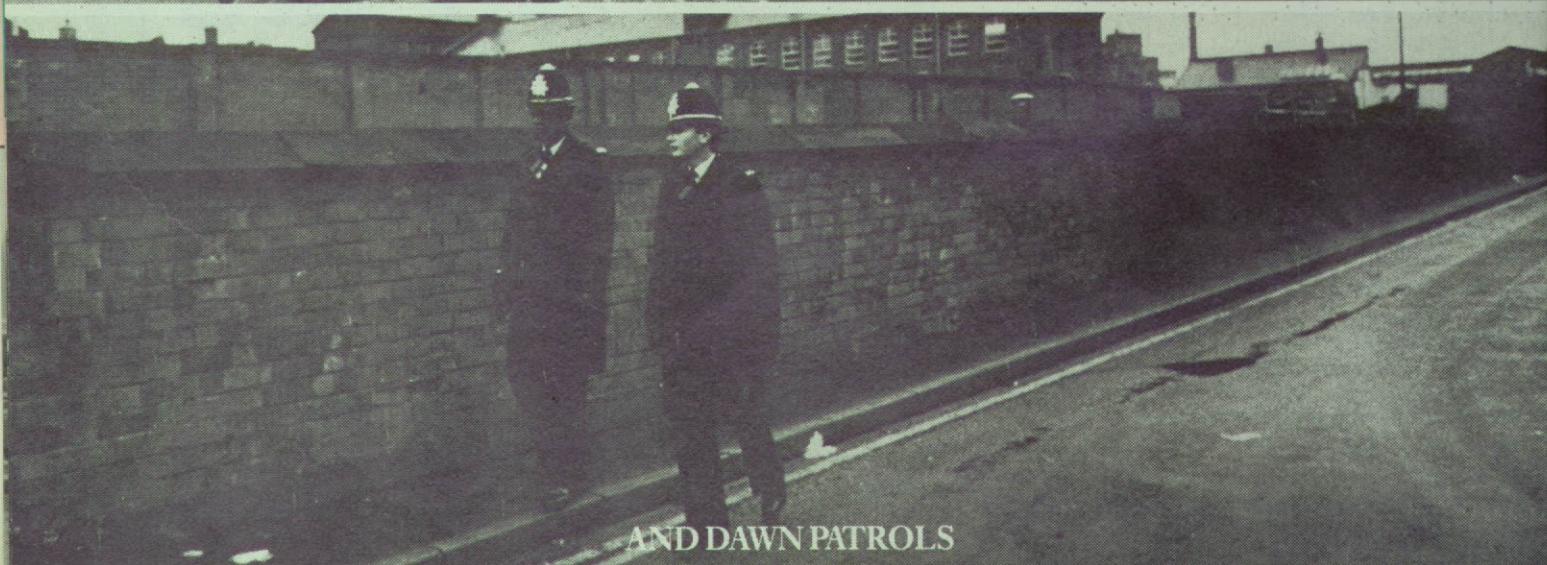
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POLICE OFFICER 

Arch-Goon and former lance bombardier Sir Harry Secombe has been filming in Aldershot. John Margetts talked to the man of mirth.

Sir Harry Secombe giggled with Goonish glee as he recalled his first meeting with that other well-known gunner — Spike Milligan.

"I'll never forget it," he said. "It was in North Africa and my unit, 132 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, had been trying to winkle out the enemy with 25 pounders.

"But we couldn't shift 'em and Milligan's lot were called in to batter them with 7.2 howitzers.

"We were given the job of digging emplacements for the bigger guns, but it seems we didn't dig Spike's deep enough for as soon as they fired it the recoil sent it toppling over a nearby cliff edge.

"We were at the bottom of the cliff in a 15-hundredweight truck when the gun crashed to the ground beside us. "The next thing we knew was Spike sticking his head through the canopy asking: 'Anybody seen a gun?' And that's how we met."

The story of that eventful meeting, which was to lead to greater things, Harry told during breaks while filming *Highway*, the 30-minute Sunday evening show networked by Southern Television.

It was the arch-Goon's third official visit to Aldershot, 'Home of the British Army'.

"My first time here was in 1941 when I was posted to Waterloo Barracks with the Royal Artillery.

"The second time was a few years ago when I gave some blood."

He kicked off his filming schedule by talking to Jo Deaper, secretary of the Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind, who told Harry how her organisation helped blind people to learn to ski on the slopes of the Stainsforth Ski School, Aldershot.

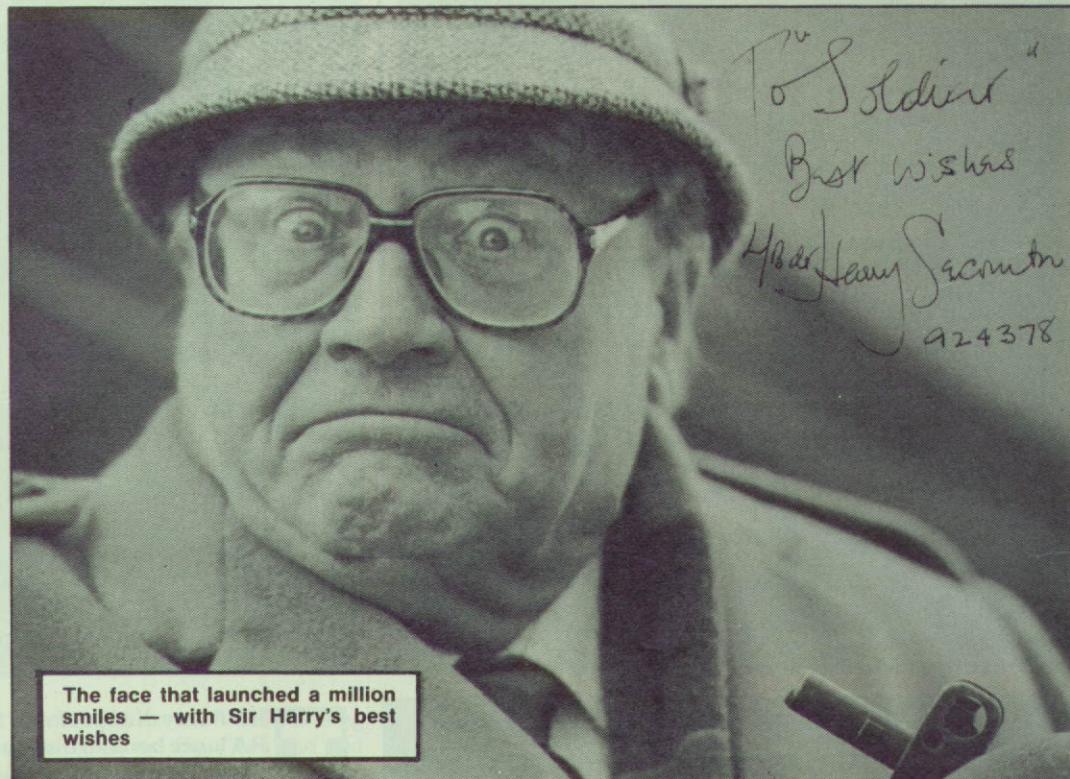
He followed this up with interviews at the military cemetery, then later putting on an ENSA-style show — the wartime forerunner of CSE — and other visits.

All good stuff for the Sunday evening TV programme and its 10,000,000 viewers.

Quickly reminiscing he told how he was called up into the TA the day he made a 'cock-up' with the men's wages at Newlands Colliery in Glamorgan, as a wages clerk.

"I don't know what went wrong, but the wrong people got the wrong money. I was glad when I went home to find my call-up papers waiting for me. I left the next day, 30 September 1939. It was the day I went to war and with that mess up behind me I wasn't sorry."

FROM GUNNER TO GOON



The face that launched a million smiles — with Sir Harry's best wishes



And another face...



And another...



And another...

From there Gunner Secombe joined 132 Fd Regt serving in North Africa, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and Austria, finishing up with a string of campaign medals which, with his Defence and Victory medals, plus his latter-day decorations, create an impressive sight.

"But it was the Army that started it all for me," said Sir Harry, a modest and affable man, anxious to give the Army due credit for its help in his success.

"I was never part of ENSA. I was a regimental comic. Always larking about like tap-dancing on the Naafi table-tops, taking off the sergeant major, which always led to trouble with the RSM but nothing ever serious.

"We were a fighting unit and it was only when I went sick in Italy, after spending some time in a mountain OP and was convalescing, that I became involved in the business proper.

"With the end of the war I joined

a company of soldier entertainers called the Central Pool of Artists. Among them were comedians Norman Vaughan and Ken Platt."

Since those days of 40 years ago Harry Secombe has become a household name — as have fellow Goons Milligan, Sellers and Bentine.

But it wasn't just the radio Goon Show that made his name, for he is an accomplished actor with many stage and film roles to his credit; he has written several books and countless articles.

Now, in his 65th year, he is a TV personality with a weekly show audience numbering millions.

Why did he think he was selected to present *Highway* with its religious overtones?

He wasn't sure, as he was not a devout churchgoer — although his brother was a Canon before retirement and he had a fairly strict religious upbringing as a youngster in Wales. C of E, he said, which

came as a bit of a surprise.

But he was certain when asked how the soldiers of today compared with those of his time. "They're marvellous," he said. "They are always polite and I don't think they like their jokes too blue. It embarrasses them."

"And one thing that comes over to me is that the attitude between officers and men is far more relaxed than it ever was in my day."

With one visit to the Falklands behind him — he went there two years ago — he said how much he enjoyed his visit and would like to go again.

"It was great," he said, "meeting all the lads. I just hope that living conditions for them have improved since I was there."

"But that journey down is something else. That is something anyone can do without."

Harry films in Aldershot — on next two pages.

PICTURES BY DOUG PRATT

HARRY'S HIGHWAY — WITH POLICE ESCORT



MOUNTED ESCORT FROM 160 PROVOST COMPANY RMP: VIP greeting for the former lance bombardier gunner

THE Army did Sir Harry Secombe proud when the former RA lance bombardier and nationally-known Goon visited Aldershot for the second time in 40 years.

Sir Harry was at 'The Home of the British Army' to spend a neat week filming his Sunday evening TV series *Highway*.

His Army welcome began when four riders from 160 Provost Company RMP, escorted his car into the garrison area. "It's the only time a lance bombardier has had an escort like this — unless he was going to clink," quipped a spectator.

His welcome was no less grand when he and former drill instructor Arthur English laid on a display of back-to-front rifle drill for 150 recruits from the RCT Depot.

With Harry giving the orders, Arthur with greatcoat, hat and

special back-to-front boots, gave a display with an old Lee Enfield .303 with the rifle held behind his back, to earn the cheers and applause of the recruits, some of whom had only been in the Army a couple of weeks.

"I don't do this very often," said Arthur, "but when I was in the Army I used to tell the lads I could shoulder and slope arms behind my back better than they could holding the rifle in front."

Songstress Iris Williams sang her latest hit *Hi, There* and had the lads in the first few rows of seats swaying in time and waving their hands.

Before filming started at the Waldram Theatre and the three stars had rehearsed their routines, the floor manager warned the lads not to pick pimples or fiddle with their noses. "If you do," he said, "it will surely show up on the TV when we screen this edition."



SIR HARRY, CHAPLAIN PAUL RICH: talk-time before singing



SIR HARRY AND FRIENDS: fellow gunners from 7 RHA



SIR HARRY SECOMBE, ARTHUR ENGLISH: old soldiers, old times recalled



THE LAUGHING BOMBARDIER: signing in the sergeants' mess at 160 Pro Coy

THE Equal Opportunities Commission's report on Women and Public Appointments has been published.

The chairman of the EOC, Baroness Platt of Writtle, says: "The conclusion of the report is that Ministers should appoint more women to public bodies. The findings show a tremendous gap between the number of men appointed to that of women."

To ignore the contribution which women can make through membership to public bodies is to waste an enormous amount of latent expertise.

Interestingly this subject was raised by Baroness Philips when she spoke at the 1984 Federation of Army Wives'

Clubs AGM. She urged Service wives to take every opportunity to take part in public life. The fact that they could be posted must not deter wives from putting their name forward.

A great number of public appointments are only for two to three years, and knowledge of a particular department is often not required. Many appointments require a cross section of the population — housewives employed and unemployed, young and old, and from all walks of life.

The report says that the reason why women do not participate is they do not use the 'old boy' network, also many of the organisations making nominations are male-

dominated and are unlikely to volunteer women's names.

To help rectify this the EOC has launched a campaign to invite bodies like National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, Women's Institutes and Townswomen's Guilds and other voluntary organisations to nominate women to public appointments.

We now have a Federation of Army Wives' Clubs, a wealth of Service and ex-Service wives with a multitude of talents — surely among them there must be wives who would like to be nominated.

I know from personal experience the tremendous fulfilment of such service.

Think about it, and maybe

BAGGAGE BOOST

SINCE the partial descaling of married quarters in North West Europe and UK in 1982, an extra unaccompanied baggage allowance of 2.12 cu m for officers and 1.70 cu m for soldiers has been added to the wife's entitlement when personnel are posted to BAOR. It has been a condition that the additional allowance may only be sent to UK.

The Ministry of Defence has now formally confirmed that

descaling of MQs has taken place in Cyprus and Gibraltar.

With immediate effect therefore, BAOR personnel who are posted to Cyprus or Gibraltar and whose families will join them there, may forward the additional entitlement to those commands at public expense.

The paper which sets out unaccompanied baggage entitlements is being amended.

TIP

HEADMASTERS in the UK have been informed by SCEA of the M3c(A) telephone number (01-381 2781/2782) and instructed to use it in the event that schoolchildren in their care, whose Service parents are serving abroad, are seriously injured, ill or have died.

To facilitate M3c(A) action, it is most important that headmasters can give the Service number, name, rank, initials and unit of the serving parent. Parents should satisfy themselves that the headmaster is

aware of the M3c(A) telephone number.

Headmasters have been informed that the compassionate cell cannot be used for the passage of routine and non-urgent messages, or in those cases where parents are stationed in the UK.

Officers, soldiers and accompanying wives who are stationed overseas, or warned for service overseas, are each to be given a card for them to pass on to their respective next of kin or in the case of children at boarding school to the headmaster of the school concerned. This includes regular TA and reserve personnel attending exercises overseas.

MATTRESS CHARGES

To help families clarify the position when charges over mattresses are raised on their AFs P1956 and AFs G8183, so that families know the exact reason for the charge and can accept or query, the following explanation must be written beside the mattress concerned. There is a great difference between a re-make charge of approximately £17-£20 or a full charge of over £50.

(a) "Beyond Economic Repair (BER)" — where mattresses are damaged and a full charge is made.

(b) "Soiled — destroy" — where mattresses are too unhygienic to handle and transport and a full charge is made.

(c) "Soiled — remake" — where mattresses are soiled and can be recovered and where a remaking charge applies.

These categories do not of course preclude the change of an old type of mattress, which has been in a married quarter for some considerable time, for a new one without a charge being raised.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

IF YOU have recently paid for goods or services that turned out to be faulty and find your complaints to the trader are falling on deaf ears, don't give up. You can take your complaint further and a new guide just published by the Office of Fair Trading will tell you how to go about it.

Called 'I'm going to take it further', the booklet explains how, if the trader is a member of a trade association which has an arbitration scheme as part of its code of practice, you can use arbitration to resolve your dispute instead of taking the trader to court.

'I'm going to take it further' is available free from Trading Standards or Consumer Protection Departments, Citizens Advice Bureaux and Consumer Advice Centres. Alternatively, contact the Office of Fair Trading, Room 310C, Field House, 15-25 Bream's Buildings, London, EC4A 1PR.

Disturbance Allowance Check

Are you moving? If so, then this table will help. Keep a check and see how your budget fares.

Disturbance allowance is intended to cover the following main items of expenditure:

a) Provision of curtains, floor coverings and electrical fittings	£.....
b) Losses on unexpired telephone rentals and new connection fee	£.....
c) Insurance of furniture and baggage in transit or store	£.....
d) Making of inventories	£.....
e) Cost of searching and advertising for new accommodation	£.....
f) Legal and other fees	£.....
g) Hotel or boarding house expenses pending entry to new accommodation or while awaiting passage	£.....
h) Cleaning new accommodation	£.....
i) Alterations to, or losses on, children's school uniforms	£.....
j) Packing expenses, including provision of crates etc	£.....
k) Storing furniture or baggage in excess of the permitted amount for refund	£.....
l) Incidental costs of staying in the United Kingdom between two overseas tours	£.....
m) Losses on the unexpired portion of television licences	£.....

NAAFI DOES WELL IN NORTHERN IRELAND TESTS

RESEARCH by Service wives in Northern Ireland has shown that Naaifi shops are cheaper than three out of four rival stores.

In their tests, the wives — from 1st Bn Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment, 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders, HQ Northern Ireland, and Lisburn Garrison — checked the shelf prices of a basket of items which are reckoned to be the needs of a family of four for one month.

The stores surveyed included Stewarts, Crazy Prices, Woolco, Greens, Spar, and the Naaifi shops at Holywood, Ballykinler, Lisburn, Aldergrove, and Ballykelly.

At the Lisburn Naaifi shop, the bill for the entire 'basket' was £129.08 compared to £127.85, £131.41 and £131.54½, at Stewarts, Crazy Prices, and Greens respec-

tively. The net price at Naaifi, after discount, was £125.21.

"We compared like for like products — for instance, 'N' symbol goods with rival 'own brands' of a similar size" said Mrs Betty Stamp, a UK Federation of Army Wives Clubs representative.

"Out of twelve stores tested, only three could better Naaifi's shelf prices; after discount, none were

cheaper.

"We had to go to the larger stores because cornershops — to which many Naaifi shops are comparable — refused to take part. Even so, the test showed that a lot of criticism of Naaifi's prices is unjustified."

Location	Cheaper than Naaifi	Same as Naaifi	Dearer than Naaifi
BELFAST AREA			
— Shelf price	2	0	7
— After discount	0	0	9
LONDONDERRY AREA			
— Shelf Price	1	0	2
— After discount	0	0	3
TOTALS			
— Shelf Price	3	0	9
— After discount	0	0	12

NORTHERN IRELAND SHOPPING BASKET — WEEK FROM 24 SEPTEMBER 1984 CONDUCTED BY SERVICE WIVES — BELFAST & LONDONDERRY DISTRICTS

Location	Naaifi shelf price (after discount)	Stewarts	Crazy Prices	J & J Foods	Woolco	Kirby's	Greens	Spar	Cheaper than Naaifi	Same as Naaifi	Dearer than Naaifi
Holywood	127.63 (123.80)	125.61½			Belfast Area 128.80½						
Ballykinler	127.82 (123.98½)					129.59			2	0	7
Lisburn	129.08 (125.21)	127.85	131.41 129.85				131.54½		(0)	(0)	(9)
Derriaghy Ntn'ards		128.83				131.40½					
Aldergrove	128.38 (124.53)										
Ballykelly Spring Farm Limavady Coleraine	127.86 (124.02)		126.32½ 131.74½						1	0 (0)	2 (3)
					Londonderry Area						
									134.72 (0)		
									Total 3 (0)	0 (0)	9 (12)

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 40.



I am due to marry a Guardsman in the summer and he is off on a tour of Germany in 1986.

Hopefully I will be able to join him there, when we will have married quarters.

He has been to Germany before, but I've never been abroad so therefore I'm not very 'with it' on the way other countries work, where the shops are, and so on.

I was wondering if there is any information which you would be able to send which might enlighten me on the situation I'm going to have to face. There must be other wives who are thinking on the same lines. — Ms A, Brentford.

Ask your fiancé to ask at his unit for an Army Wives Guide 1982. This will give you a lot of information and advice. I wrote it specially for those about to marry or newly-married into the Services.

When you join your husband in Germany the Army will send you all the necessary information etc.

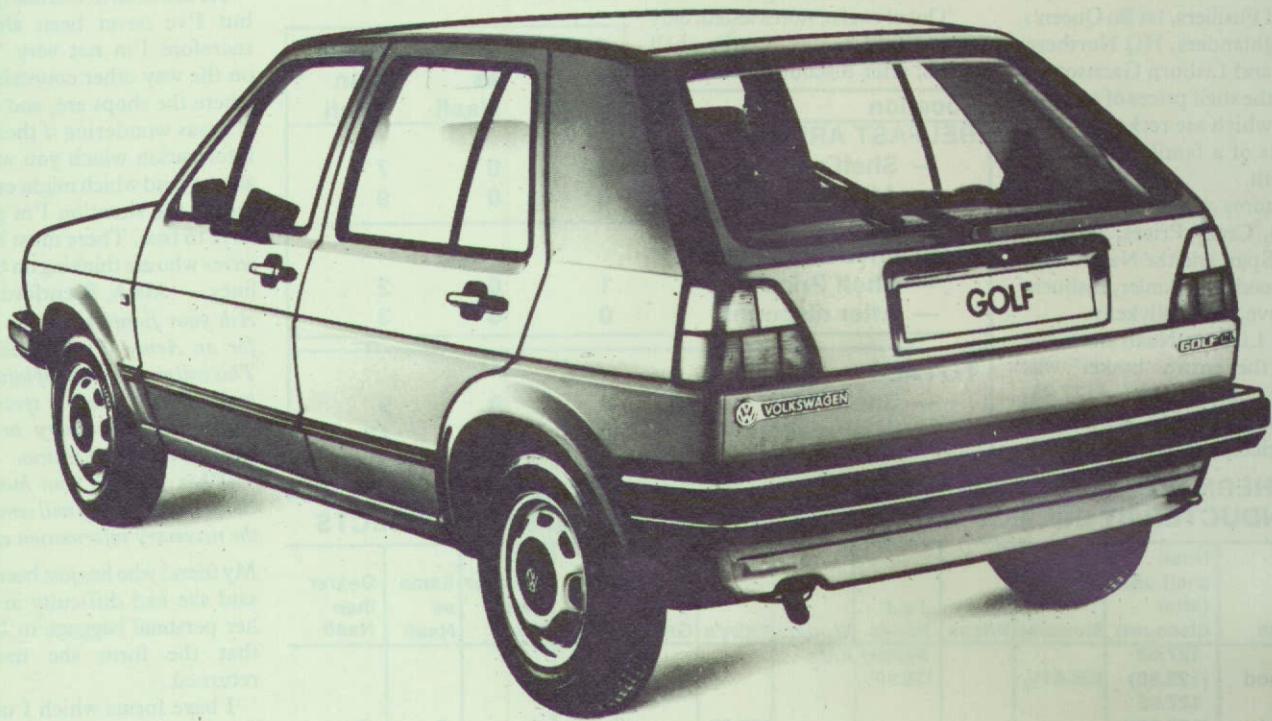
My friend who has just been posted said she had difficulty in getting her personal baggage to UK and that the form she used was returned.

I have forms which I used last time so I should have no problems — Name and address supplied. Your friend most probably used the out of date Form C3 (Forces) to move her unaccompanied baggage to UK from overseas under official arrangements.

This form was replaced in January 1984 and became obsolete on 1 June 84, being replaced by a new form C3 TRIAL.

This is the new declaration form and the ONLY one. So throw away your old form if it is not a Form C3 TRIAL.

The new Golf.



Value added. Tax deducted.

The Golf is one of the most successful cars of all time.

Where the Golf leaves off, the new Golf begins. It's roomier inside - it has better legroom, headroom and elbow room as well as 30% more luggage space.

Aerodynamically, it's the most efficient car in its class. That means better economy and performance - and a larger, 12 gallon fuel tank means fewer stops at the garage. Increased travel on the front and rear suspension produces an even smoother ride and a completely new heating and ventilation system makes this Golf a superbly comfortable car to drive whether you're out on the motorway or nipping around town.

If you're a member of the British Forces with an overseas posting, or a NATO serviceman, you can buy a new Golf tax free which will save you hundreds of pounds.

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And make sure the model you take is right for where you're going. All cars are available with either left or right-hand drive. We can supply most models from stock and even when you've

gone we'll look after you with the world's finest service.

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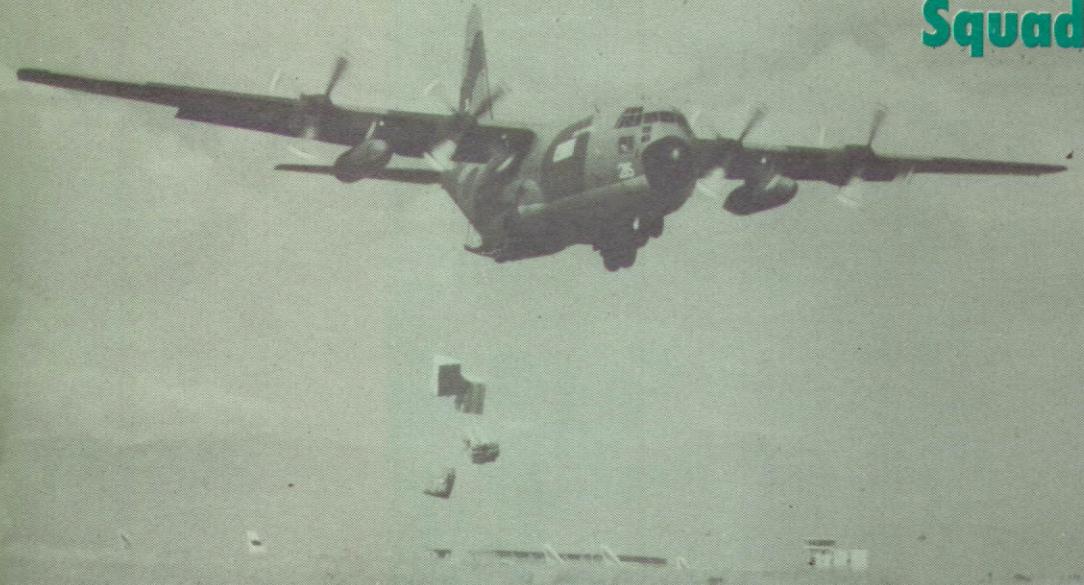
Military Tel. No. _____ Ex. _____

Approx. Delivery Date _____

I am Interested in _____

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Personal Export Sales

47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT meets 47 Squadron RAF in...

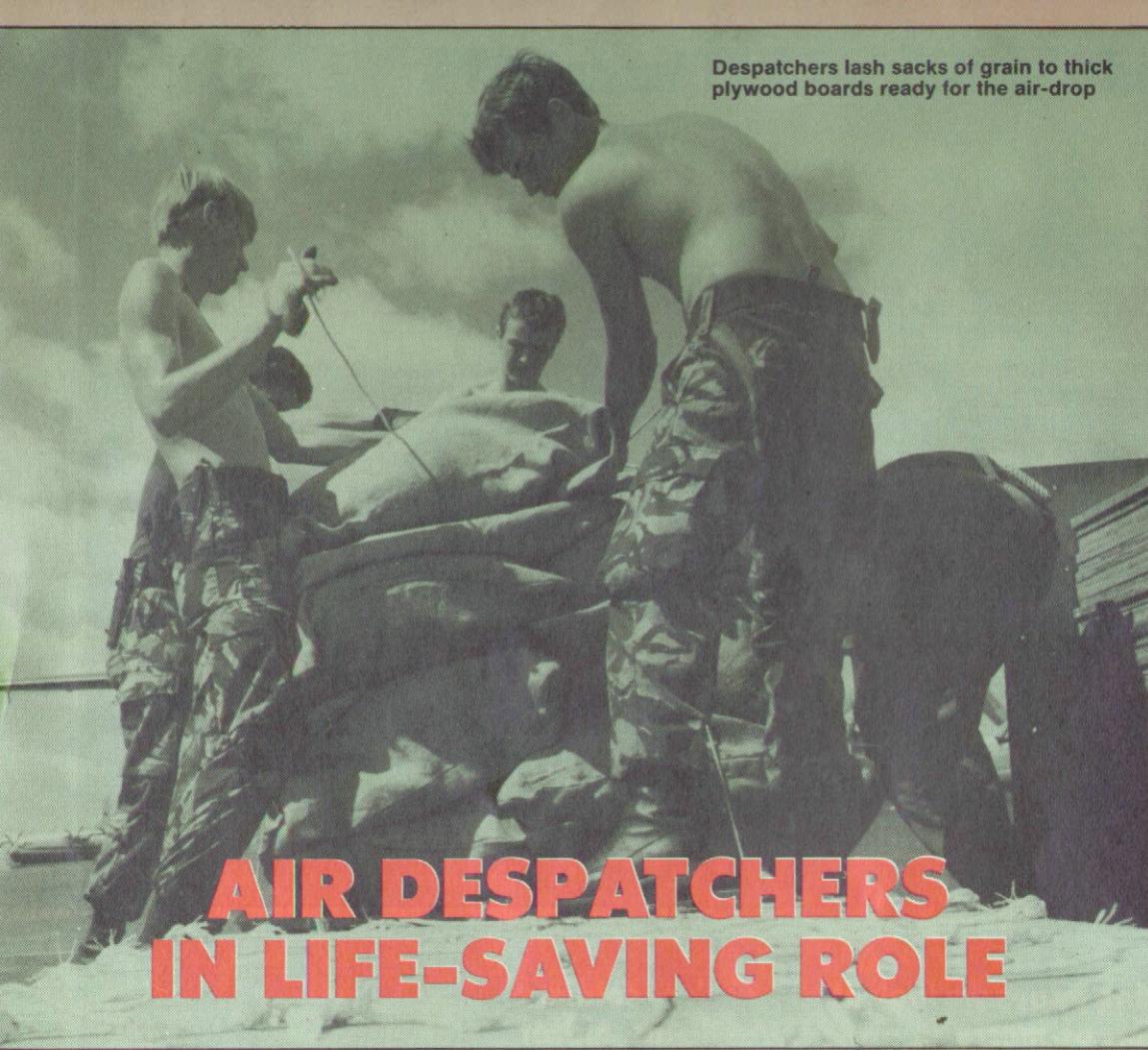


ETHIOPIAN FAMINE RELIEF

On this and the following pages we look at the work of soldiers involved in the mission of mercy in Ethiopia with the aid of words from CHRISTOPHER YORKE-EDWARDS, RAF News, and pictures by JOHN UPSALL (DPR RAF Staff Photographer).

A Hercules of 47 Squadron RAF from Lyneham during a second practice drop at Addis Ababa International Airport. Below: Four men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT despatching grain high in the mountains about 100 miles from Addis Ababa





Despatchers lash sacks of grain to thick plywood boards ready for the air-drop

'ONE CANNOT PRAISE THEM TOO HIGHLY'

AIR DESPATCHERS IN LIFE-SAVING ROLE

THEY are hard men — one cannot praise them too highly." This was how Flight Lieutenant Jim Norfolk described the soldiers of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, after the first and highly successful air drop of grain by the RAF in Ethiopia.

Jim Norfolk was the captain of the Hercules C130, or 'Fat Albert' as the transports are affectionately called, from which the drop had been carried out in the mountainous region of the country some 100 miles north east of Addis Ababa.

The drop zone was on top of a plateau some 7,500 feet above sea level and surrounded by deep gorges with sheer sides and at such altitudes the performance of the four Allison turboprops which power the Hercules is greatly degraded. This fact, together with the unforgiving nature of the topography, means that there is very little room for anything to go wrong.

Jim and his aircrew had every reason to be thankful that the team responsible for despatching the grain out the back of the aircraft as it flew at just 50 feet above the ground at 140 mph knew exactly what they were about.

And if the high altitudes degrade aircraft performance, they also have a similar effect on humans, the thinner air depriving the body of oxygen just when it could do with it most.

For the air despatch crew on this mission, comprising Warrant Officer 2 Paul Foley, Sergeant Geordie Alderson and Corporals Graham Ewen and Alf Darkes, had to push some 10,000 lbs at a time out the back of a non too gently

January. Their ranks were swelled to 14, which represents three despatch crews.

The vision of these soldiers humping and pushing heavy loads

around belies the skill, and scientific approach, that air despatchers need to bring to their work.

Many careful calculations have

to be made if the grain is to reach the ground without the bags splitting and spilling their life-saving contents.

Fortunately, this type of air drop



(Left) Men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron preparing loads. In the background local workforce sew up the sacks. (Above) Sergeant Geordie Alderson, RCT, helps medical officer Squadron Leader Paul Staten explain to a local how to apply antiseptic cream to his damaged thumb. Captain Steve Govan, RCT, looks on

was not new to the squadron as they had carried out similar operations in Nepal in 1980 and in Rhodesia a couple of years before that. Indeed, the method of dropping selected in Ethiopia is known as the 'Nepal Free Drop'.

Up to 20 sacks are attached to thick plywood boards, referred to as containers, using nylon cord. The optimum amount of the grain contained in each sack has to be determined.

Too little and it is wasteful of materials and effort; too much and the bag will simply 'explode' on impact with the ground.

The strength and tightness of the cords can be critical. Too loose or not strong enough and the load could fall apart too soon, such as inside the aircraft during flight. But if the lashings are too tight or don't break at the right time, then they will cut into the sacks causing the grain to be scattered all over the countryside.

The type of sacks used is also important, and the best combin-

ation is a nylon one inside a jute bag. Unfortunately, the nylon sacks are in fairly short supply and if air drops become a regular feature of Bushel, then hopefully, more will be manufactured.

To help prepare the loads, the air despatchers have some local labour at their disposal. Here, previous experience on similar operations proved useful.

Officer Commanding the detachment, Captain Steve Govan said: "Lots of smiles, lots of character and a bit of showmanship work wonders."

No doubt it was the showmanship which came to the fore when the locals were given a break from sewing up the grain sacks only to go on parade and be put through the rudiments of square bashing. They loved it.

Getting the apparent leader of the group on your side is also useful, and WO2 Foley wasted little time in picking his man.

A regimental police arm band

Continued on page 28





Warrant Officer 2 Paul Foley talking to his 'chargehand' Barehanye who is complete with badge of office — a regimental police arm band!

The art of acquiring an ally!

Continued from page 27

for his newly appointed chargehand ensured Paul had a staunch ally when it came to keeping up the quotas of grain sacks being prepared!

The grain having been received, and prepared in the sacks, it then has to be built into the loads before it is rigged — that is tied onto the boards. The next step is to load it into the aeroplane.

Then there is the final check to ensure that the load is safe and won't shift during the flight. As far as possible, one crew, usually comprising a corporal, lance corporal and two drivers will see a given load right the way through the preparation, the loading and the final despatch at the DZ.

There is also one other problem that faces the squadron on this

particular detachment, although happily, at the time of writing, its manifestation has not been too drastic among the despatchers.

Despite all precautions and the administration of the detachment medical officer, there is an inevitability that one will sooner or later become somewhat pre-occupied by one of the more basic bodily functions.

At the best of times, the facilities onboard 'Fat Albert' are not exactly designed to provide maximum comfort in such moments of distress. When the aircraft is in the air drop role, they simply do not exist, for the 'honey bucket' is stowed up out of the way.

"There is nothing they can do about it," said Capt Govan. "It would jeopardise the whole mission.

They just carry a spare pair of pants."

But altitude could still be the biggest problem. "At 10,000 feet with lots of heavy work, it can lead to air starvation," he explained. They could well need a whiff of oxygen."

During the air drop, it fell to Captain Govan to accompany some of the aircrew in a Russian-built Hip helicopter of the Ethiopian Air Force to go and recce the DZ. He remained there to provide the radio link between the Hercules and the ground.

Such a link is vital, for the aircrew need to know that the DZ is clear of people and animals. Thousands flocked to watch the air drop and understandably were very eager to get to the food.

So gracefully do the grain sacks seem to exit from the aircraft that it was not beyond the realms of possibility that some may have attempted to catch them. The grain might be a life-saver, but not 110 lbs of it travelling at some 140 mph.

As well as being the first operational air drop — two practice drops having been carried out alongside the runway at Addis Ababa beforehand — it was by way of a demonstration that this method of getting food to the starving would work.

Officials from the Ethiopian Government, the United Nations and the Embassies of other involved nations were there to watch the exercise which has been dubbed Operation Saint Bernard by the UN.

Another drop took place the next day at the same DZ. The two drops by the RAF Hercules of 47 Squadron with its air despatch crew from 47 Air Despatch Squadron — the squadron numbers are a coincidence — were more than 95 per cent successful, and even then, much of the grain which was spilled was recoverable.

The only way?

At the time of writing, the future of air drops is uncertain. There can be no question that air drops are an effective way of getting food to those areas which are inaccessible by roads and which are not served by airstrips. It might also be the only way if the rains come and wash out the airstrips.

In the meantime, the RAF continues with air land operations and the chances are that the air despatchers will return home pending a decision by the Ethiopians that they want Operation Saint Bernard to go ahead.

"If it does, we shall be ready," said Capt Govan.

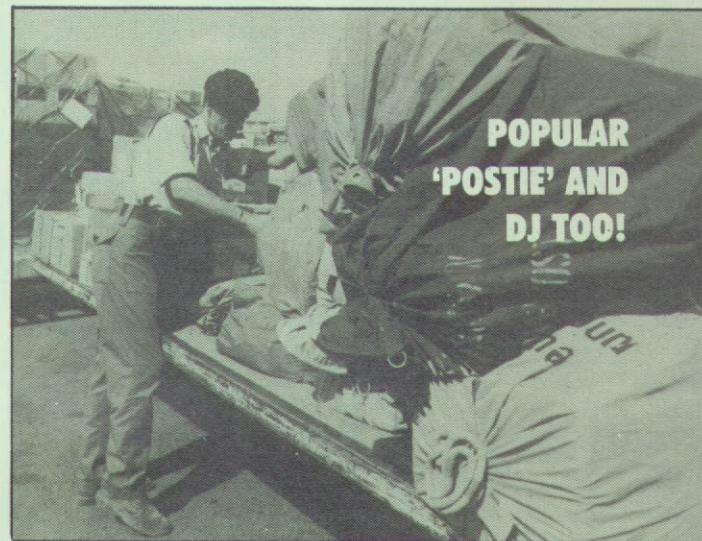
ON FOUR days of each week, Staff Sergeant Ray Jennings, Royal Engineers, became the most popular man on the British Military Detachment at Addis Ababa.

For Ray is a member of the Bulford-based 21 PC Squadron and that means he was the postman.

He has now returned home to the UK after an eight week tour, but no doubt his successor enjoys similar popularity as members of the 70-strong detachment serving in Ethiopia in support of Operation Bushel eagerly await home news.

Although the amount of incoming mail is not particularly large — between 100 and 150 letters per delivery — collecting it at Addis Ababa airport can be quite an art.

It usually starts its journey from the UK on British Airways, changing en-route at Nairobi, Athens or Frankfurt onto an aircraft of Ethiopian Airways. When it arrives three days later, the postie has the daunting task of searching through mountains of



mail sacks for the one marked BFPO 626.

Strictly speaking, soldiers and airmen on the detachment should come to Ray to collect their mail. But often as not, he sorted it out into units and then went round and delivered it personally.

"You have to be flexible in a situation like this," he said. "With

Staff Sergeant Ray Jennings searches for the BFPO bag at Addis Ababa

two crews flying each day, they don't have the chance to come after me, so I make it easier for them."

He also took mail for posting back to the UK at anytime. No post office for Ray.

He despatched mail six times a

RADIO OPERATOR ON HIS SECOND MERCY TOUR

LANCE Corporal Robert Cook — 'Cookie' to his friends — sat engrossed in his book in the operations tent of the British Military Detachment at Addis Ababa.

At his elbow was a radio which

emitted, at least to the untrained ear, a continuous stream of unintelligible chatter punctuated by crackles and hisses that defied any form of interpretation.

Suddenly, amid the cacophonous babble, Cookie put down his

book and picked up the hand set of the radio — "Hello, this is Bushel, go ahead Ascot..."

There followed what seemed to be a one sided conversation — one sided in the sense that only Cookie's responses to the squawks on the radio could be understood — notes were made on a pad and then the detachment's radio operator reported to the operations officer precisely what the message had been from one of the RAF's Hercules transports engaged in the famine relief operation several hundred miles to the north of the Ethiopian capital.

He then returned to his book, having effectively demonstrated the art of being able to concentrate on two things at the same time.

"I've been an operator for nine years," he explained. "I always keep a space in my mind for the call sign."

Cookie, who is from 29 Transport and Movement Regiment, RCT, based at South Cerney, was on his second tour in Ethiopia in support of Operation Bushel.

He came out at the start, returning to the UK at the beginning of December, and then came out again on 17 January.

There are only six operators in his troop which had a heavy commitment in Norway. "So I volunteered to come again."

"I enjoy it — it makes a change and is one of the only times I'm detached to work for the RAF.

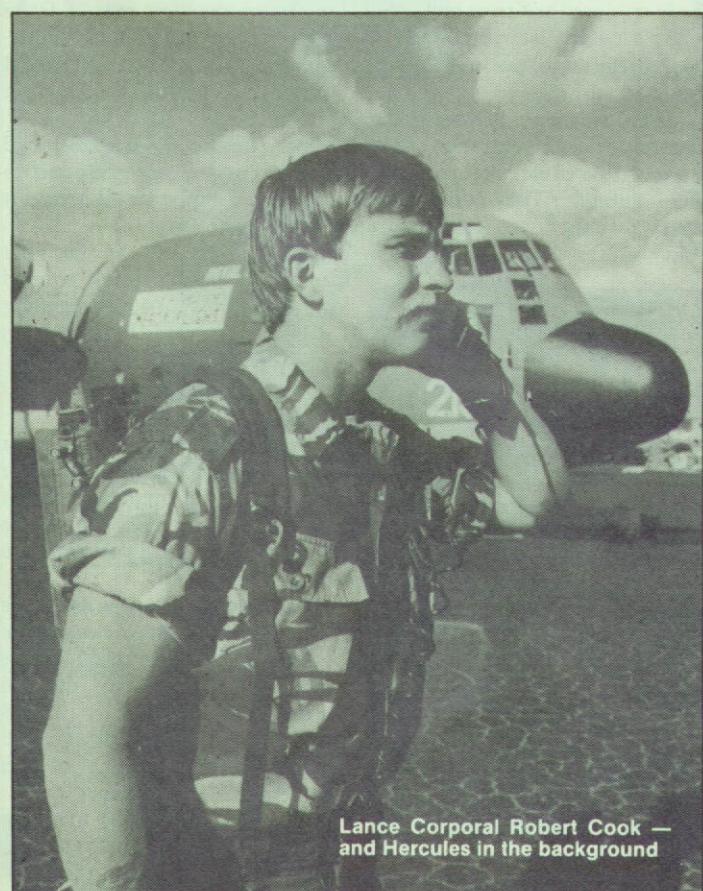
week, those on detachment being able to use concessionary rates the same as inland first and second class post in the UK.

It was the uncertainty of how long Operation Bushel would continue which led to Ray's tour lasting a rather lengthy eight weeks which saw him in Ethiopia over Christmas and the New Year. "Now we know it is going on longer, I am being replaced," he said.

Being there over the holiday period gave Ray a pretty hectic time — "But any problems have been smoothed out now," he added.

The local British residents helped to make sure that Christmas was not too bleak for the detachment. "Everybody was sponsored out to a family," he explained. "We all had a very good time and were treated smashing by the British community."

A party on New Years Eve found Ray in a rather unaccustomed role — that of disc jockey. "I had to scrounge some tapes and I just tried to play the music that everybody wanted," he said.



Lance Corporal Robert Cook — and Hercules in the background

There are a lot of differences. Because of my unit's commitment in Norway, I shall probably be here until the end of March."

At the start of the operation, Cookie used to fly with the aircraft to provide the radio link with operations at Addis while on the ground.

"I've operated from Assab and Alamata. As there is no ground station there, I took a man pack and used a bit of wire for an aerial."

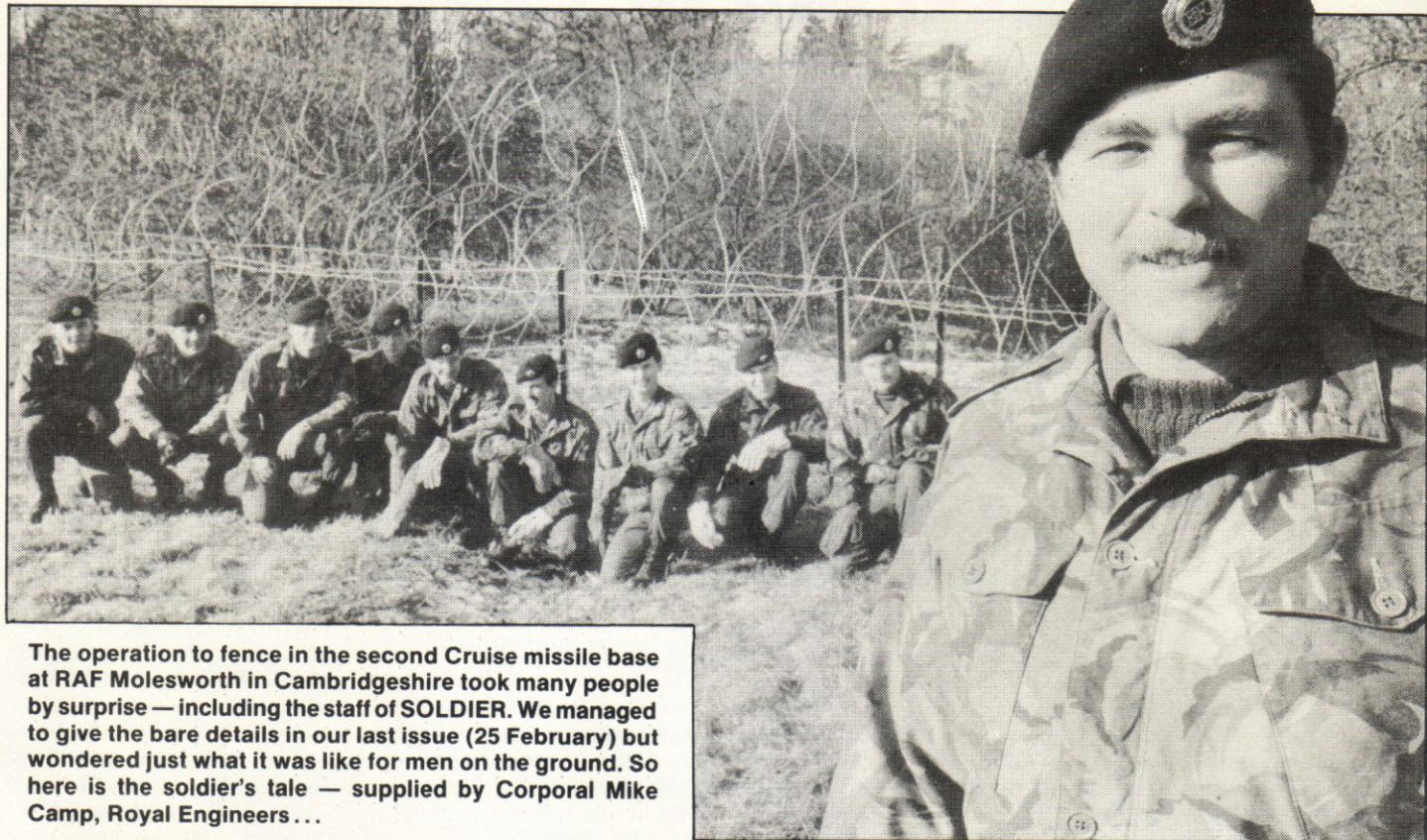
Now the aircraft keep their auxiliary power units running while on the ground so the onboard radio can be used. Accordingly, there is no need for Cookie to fly up country with the Hercules.

But his working day is still long and like most people on this detachment, he turns his hand to all sorts of jobs. "I often come in at 0445 hours," he said.

"I collect the weather from the met office and get the flight sheets signed. I also deal with the transport and if necessary, stand in for the officer of the watch. I generally work until the last flight returns back to Addis, which is usually between 1700 and 1800 hours."

"It can be a long day — especially when it's hot."

Happily Cookie seems to have escaped the worst effects of the tummy trouble which afflicts practically everyone on the detachment, sometimes for days at a time.



The operation to fence in the second Cruise missile base at RAF Molesworth in Cambridgeshire took many people by surprise — including the staff of SOLDIER. We managed to give the bare details in our last issue (25 February) but wondered just what it was like for men on the ground. So here is the soldier's tale — supplied by Corporal Mike Camp, Royal Engineers...

MONDAY 4 February saw 36 Engineer Regiment assembled on the main square of Invicta Park, Maidstone fitted up and ready to move to an unknown destination.

The past three to four weeks the Regiment has been involved in a lot of wiring exercises by day and night and rumour control was running high.

As the light was fading the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Oliver, RE, put us all in the picture up to lunchtime the following day.

We would be staying overnight in Colchester Garrison and picking up some additional men and stores.

Questions were not permitted; all would be revealed in good time. The Regiment mounted up and moved to sunny Essex.

The first elements arrived in Colchester late Monday night and 20 Squadron were among the first in. After a mad dash for the accommodation to secure one of few mattresses available it was down to the cookhouse for a cup of soup then a good night's sleep ready for the following activities.

Reveille at 0600 hrs revealed a dramatic increase in men and transport that had been moving in all night and it was a free for all in the washrooms and down to breakfast before first parade.

I must at this point congratulate the chefs from 36 Engineer Regiment for a magnificent effort in feeding this mini army.

The morning started with a COs briefing to all ranks of our final destination and individual tasks.

Due to the sensitive nature of

We all agreed it looked a fine job

the operation there was still a need for secrecy. The rest of the morning was taken up with the checking of stores and final preparations so that by lunchtime everyone was ready.

The afternoon was spent catching some 'shut-eye' prior to the move out during the early evening.

The first to go were the main party of men and stores who moved to their form up point at Waterbeach home of 39 Engineer Regiment and from there onto

RAF Molesworth.

By 2359 the recce had barely found their 'bits' when the main body appeared as if from nowhere.

By accounts later the move in took all the locals 'not in the know' quite by surprise.

There was a small welcoming committee at the entrance of the base of two protestors and their mini clubman. They pointed out that we would be the 'cause of the end of the world' and then

proceeded to park their car across the road we went around.

By 0600 Wednesday and in quite thick fog the first row of fence was complete, not without complications; some sections encountered buried concrete, thick scrub and a few ditches.

By lunch time our section had the final row of wire 'accrowed' in and over a cuppa we all agreed it looked a fine job.

Alas, four of the resident protestors didn't think so and industriously set about dismantling it, but the fences 'bit back' and they retreated with sore and cut hands. A few minor repairs restored the fence to its former glory.

Towards the end of the day a few protestors took a little more interest in the operation but as sightseers only and the whole perimeter of 7.5 km was complete by last light.

All remaining stores and tools were handed back. As we made tracks for home we could see the fence and some of the 16 observation towers lit by 132 sets of security lights which were still being erected by one of the Waterbeach Squadrons.

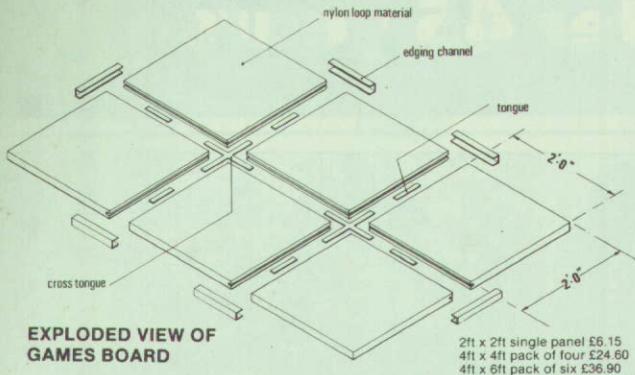
We were all a little 'wire weary' but had a long weekend to look forward to for a job well done.



A tricky handling task — unless you know what you are doing! Men of 36 Engineer Regiment practice building a barbed wire fence

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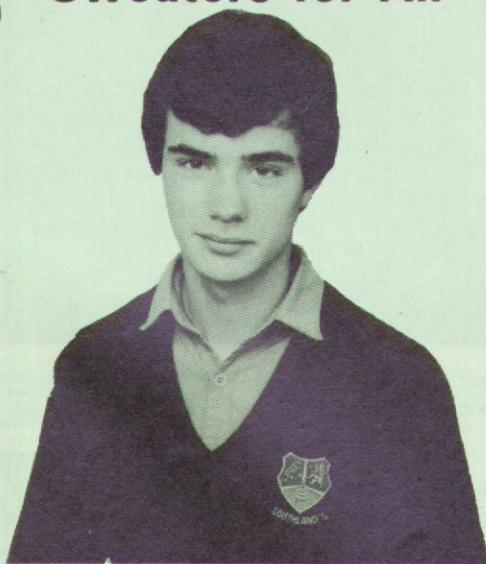
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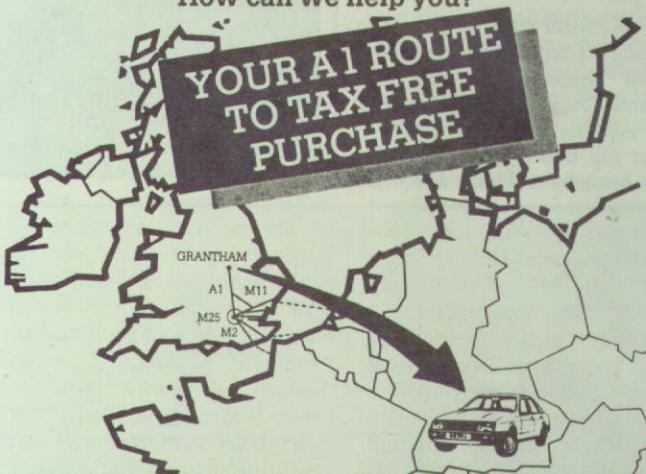
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MAJOR Alistair Craib, second in command of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) cannot afford to be frightened by unexploded bombs ... but he is concerned about becoming 'something of a killjoy'!

In a matter of months, duty calls have meant that he and his men have been involved in cancellation of a Bob Hope show in Portsmouth and, more recently (SOLDIER 25 February) the postponement of a Second Division football match.

The more recent event, in Sheffield produced the biggest bomb Major Craib has had to worry about in his time — a 1,000 kilogram German World War 2 specimen, affectionately known as a Herman.

"It is the first time I have ever dealt with one, and by comparison the Portsmouth bomb (250 kg) was small," said Major Craib, who was alerted by 2 pm on the day in question and who was probably more disconcerted by the weather ('an appalling drive in snow and traffic jams') than by the task in hand.

They reached Sheffield at 7 pm after their drive from Kent and within two hours the Royal Engineers knew they had got a Herman, and problems.

The fuse was awkwardly placed, and covered by an extension cap to hide the markings. Once they had cut off the cap they drilled into the fuse to inject neutralising liquid and the bomb was lifted from the trench to ground level for the next task — steaming out the explosive.

Even here the weather took a hand — the steaming equipment froze!

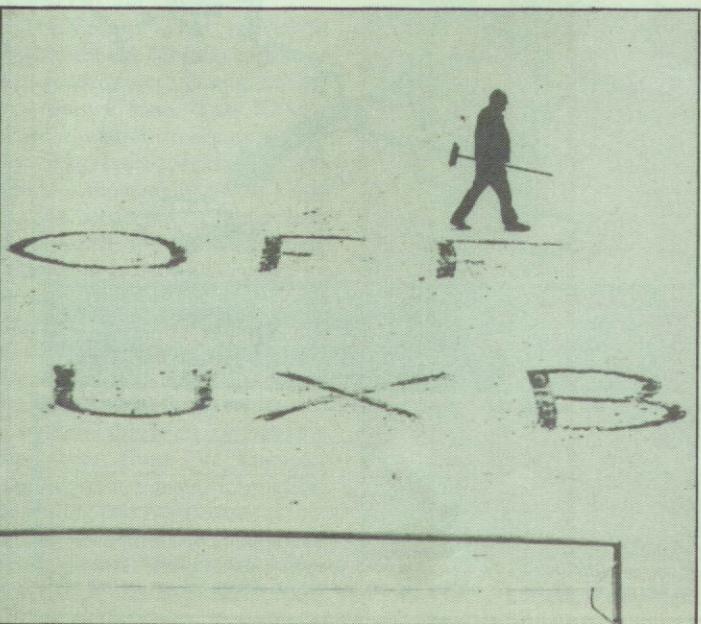
In all, from time of arrival to burning off explosive and packing up for home at the end of a dramatic weekend, 46 hours work were involved.

Yet the bomb was made safe. All the nearby residents were safe.

HERMAN IS HARMLESS — after 45 years



Bomb experts work on Herman



Even Sheffield United, whose Bramall Lane ground was damaged in World War 2 by some of Herman's 'pals', couldn't have been too unhappy for the postponed fixture was played the following Tuesday night. And United beat Oldham 2-0.

By which time the men of 33 Engineer Regiment were back home — and wondering what the next call could entail...

Major Alistair Craib — his biggest bomb

Message in the snow for Sheffield fans



... and after the achievement in Sheffield

NOW FOR THE SOLOMONS!



Picture: DOUG PRATT

EN DAYS after defusing Herman of Sheffield in the sub-zero cold of English winter, Captain Paddy Bowen led his team off to the sweltering jungles of the Solomon Islands to look for similarly old bombs and shells left behind by World War 2.

They had no doubt they would find them, probably in their thousands.

On a previous clearance sorties, more than 12,000 explosive objects ranging from mortars to 1,000 lb bombs were picked up in a 200 acre site.

Some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific campaign took place in the Melanesian islands, the bloodiest of all probably on Guadalcanal in the Solomons, a name which has now passed into American military history.

At the peak of the conflict some 43,000 Japanese and 60,000 American Servicemen battered each other for control of the island.

Thousands of them died. Millions of bombs, shells and bullets were expended.

Some 40 years later, there are probably still millions of unex-

ploded objects lying, rusting, in the dense jungle which covers most of the island.

The sprawling, rugged island of Guadalcanal, the most southerly in the Solomons group, had been chosen as the place for a new American initiative to follow up the defeat of the Japanese navy at Midway.

It was to be the battleground which would check the Japanese southerly invasion, and the beginning of an American amphibious island-hopping counter-attack which would end in Japan itself.

But the Japanese had also chosen Guadalcanal as their next major objective, and the scene was set for one of the most fateful battles of the whole war.

The jungle airstrip, to become known as Henderson Field in memory of a marine major flying hero killed over Midway, was probably the most vital piece of land on the whole island.

The airfield has been extended several times since then, and now serves the capital, Honiara. On each occasion it has been necessary to sweep the land and for unexploded ammunition and other

Captain Paddy Bowen, extreme right, and his men with Herman prior to their departure for the Solomon Islands

objects before work could begin. The Americans have sent EOD teams there, so have the Australians and New Zealanders.

Now the Solomon Islands government plans to extend the runway again to take bigger aircraft, and an area about 1,200 metres long by 300 metres wide will be cleared by the 24-man team from 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from Chattenden, who flew out from Heathrow in mid-February.

"It's impossible to estimate how many explosives are still left on the island, but there definitely is a lot," said Capt Bowen. "Every time there are bush fires the local people hear random explosions in the distance. They find a lot of unexploded stuff and are told to put up notices marking the unexploded bombs."

"One of the locals has set up a small museum with various bits and pieces, including a couple of unexploded shells — we are a little

concerned about that!"

"It's difficult to know how many casualties there have been, but the Solomon islanders believe they have lost quite a few in bush fires and also because they like collecting brass scrap from shells by banging them against a tree."

The team expect to find mostly mortars shells and hand grenades, with perhaps the occasional Japanese 50 lb bomb and probably more likely the 100 lb United States general purpose bomb. "We hope to meet up with a whole lot of stuff", said Capt Bowen.

Before they start their clearance operation, the local people will have bulldozed away the vegetation, and the EOD men will then search with metal detectors which can locate objects buried up to two metres deep.

When they find objects they will have two alternatives — if they are unsafe to move they will be blown up *in situ*, and if they are safe they will be loaded on to barges and taken out to sea for disposal.

Eight weeks after arriving, the EOD men hope to have finished the job and be wondering what the next job will entail...

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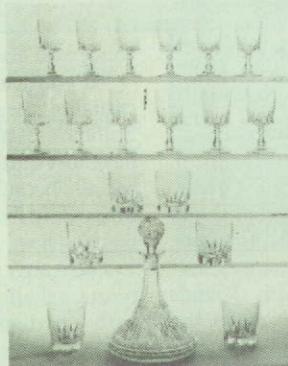
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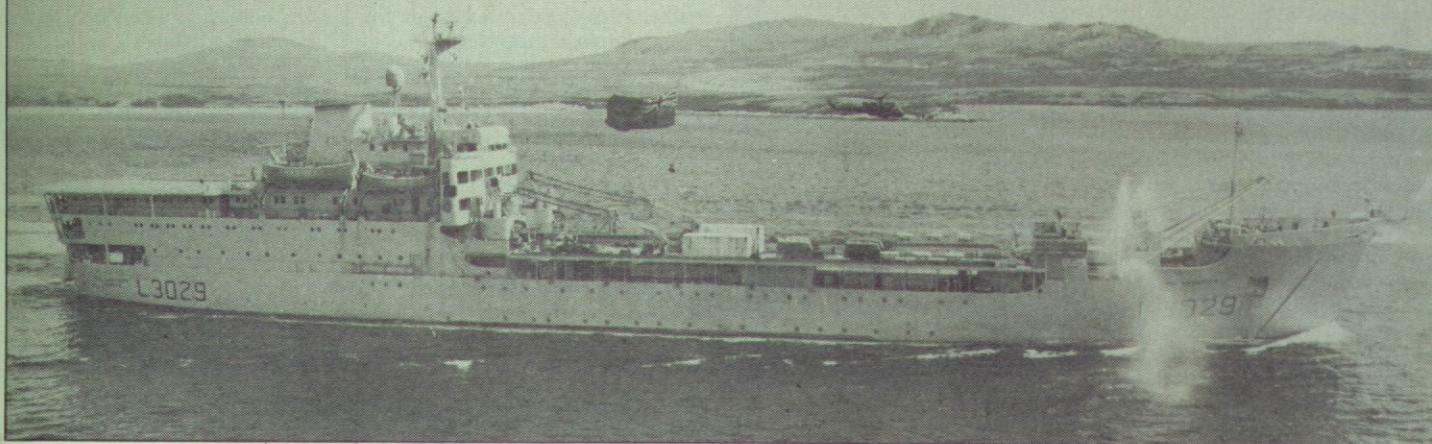
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NOW YOU HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER

DIFFERENT VIEW FOR 652!



652 SQUADRON, 1 Regiment Army Air Corps have been seeing a part of the world very different from their base at Hildesheim, West Germany, over the past few months ... on detachment to the Falklands Islands.

The Squadron has been in the South Atlantic since September, tasked to support the garrison with Scout and Gazelle helicopters.

As for every Service unit on Falklands duty, life has been hectic, with long hours of work.

The Squadron's job has been the movement of stores to remote parts of the islands, much of the time direct from ships anchored in the bay. They have also been heavily committed to re-supplying Rapier sites.

Other work has seen them flying in close liaison with the Royal Air Force during forward air control duties.

Coastal reconnaissance work has provided a dramatic change of scenery from the fields and forests of North Germany. This is a vital task in the Falklands with miles of coastlines requiring regular patrols by sea, land and air to check for signs of unauthorised landings and suspicious objects.

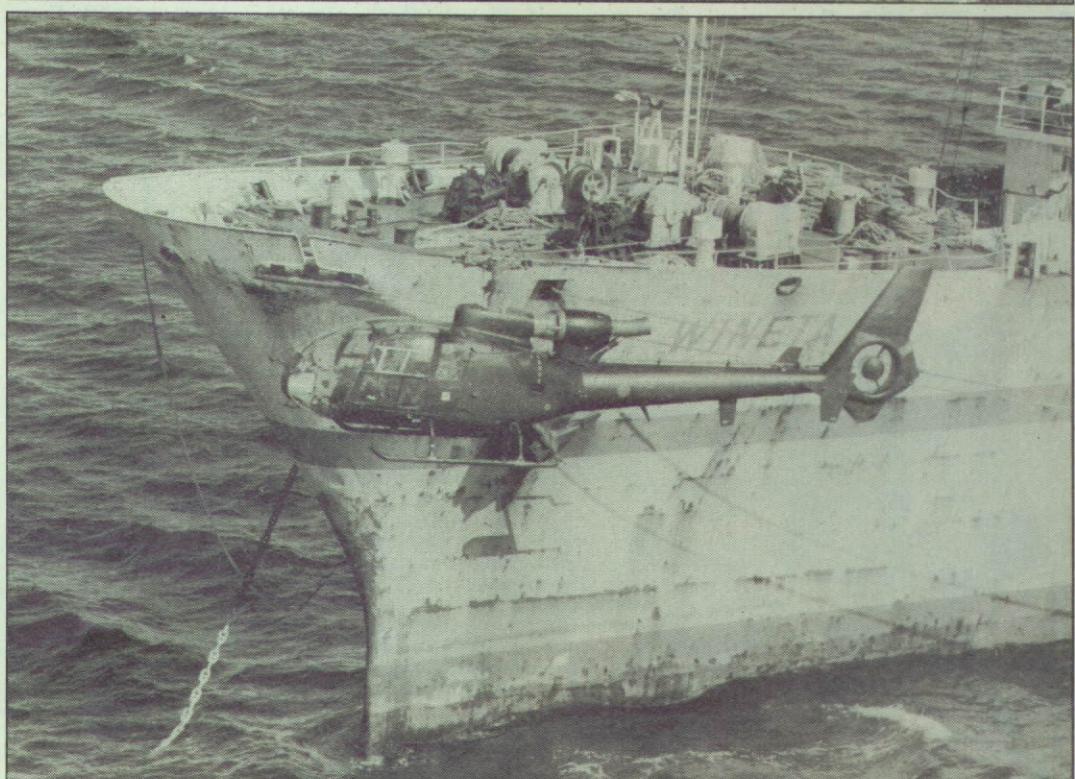
These sorties have given the squadron an ideal opportunity to get a bird's eye view of the breathtaking shoreline.

Meanwhile life on the ground has kept the Squadron equally busy. One of their achievements has been to win the Garrison March and Shoot Competition.

But without a doubt, the highlight of 652 Squadron's tour has been a trip to South Georgia, when they were able to video the route taken by Sir Ernest Shackleton across the island in the early 1900s.

Shackleton led three Antarctic expeditions, during one of which the south magnetic pole was located in 1909.

Something in common ... 652 Squadron helicopters and RFA Sir Lancelot, a ship bearing 652 on the funnel. Below: men of 652 Squadron found ground handling of their aircraft more difficult in the Falklands



Keeping an eye on fishing vessels in the Berkeley Sound was one of the tasks. A Gazelle of 652 with the Polish factory ship Wineta

COLLECTING MILITARIA? SEEK ADVICE!

BOOK REVIEW

MILITARY COLLECTABLES. An international directory of 20th Century militaria. Chief Consultant Joe Lyndhurst.

"The point is", says Joe Lyndhurst, "that in militaria collecting one item inevitably seems to lead to another; acquire a jacket and you will want a hat to go with it and a badge to put on the hat and spare buttons for the jacket and a 'button-stick' and a webbing belt and so on. A collection grows."

If you have the magpie's instinct of hoarding, as most of us have, then you will find this guide to twentieth-century militaria fascinating reading and containing, in general, accurate information.

There are, however, the usual lapses one finds in this type of publication, such as medal ribbons being reversed (eg Nos 14, 18 and 27 on p74), incorrect medal ribbon (No 31, p77) wrong name (No 4, p76 is *Karltruppenkreuz*), inaccurate identification (No 46, p113 is not 21 Army Group sign, which is correctly shown at 34), captions reversed (nos 35 and 36 on p77) and duplication of items (The 1914-18 Memorial Plaque incorrectly called 'Death Plaque', is shown on p73 and 195).

These types of inaccuracy apart, this is a beautifully produced book with over 3,000 excellent photographs and sensible advice on collecting, including



cleaning and conservation, covering edged weapons, metal insignia, medals, headgear, cloth insignia, firearms, ammunition, printed militaria and miscellaneous items, such as compasses, signal equipment, medical, foodstuffs, gas masks and 'trench art' of British, European and USA Armies.

The authors suggest that 20th century militaria items should be collected as 'they lie within the scope of the average collector' presumably meaning financial scope, with which one cannot disagree.

Salamander Books London. Price £8.95. PSN

A RECORD for any set of toy soldiers was set in London recently when a group of Royal Horse Artillery made by Britains fetched £7,200.

Which just goes to show how fascination can quickly turn into costly valuation, as anyone who collects any form of militaria knows.

Cap badges could be bought by boys during World War 2 for a few old pence — now they cost some new pounds! The more rare badges, particularly of Victorian vintage, will cost much more.

For some years now genuine collectors have been worried by the almost inevitable follow-on to a boom — the sale of non-genuine items; "re-strokes" as they are known.

Sometimes it is hard to detect the difference and for the new collectors, especially youngsters, it can prove disheartening trying. The subject is a veritable mental minefield, even more so when some badges which look cheap and non-issue might well be genuine

because sometimes units overseas had them produced locally.

The best advice we can give any newcomer to the interesting hobby and others involving militaria is to spend a few pounds initially by joining one of the organisations where specialist advice and assistance can be obtained from fellow-members. Below are some we know to be worthy of joining and details can be obtained from:

Military Historical Society, Hon Sec: J W F Gaylor, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2UA. The MHS meets at the National Army Museum and also has branches in Merseyside, Dorset, East and West Midlands.

Crown Imperial, Membership Sec: Peter Howling, 17 Moorview Court, Northlea Avenue, Thackley, Bradford.

Aldershot Medal & Militaria Society, Hon Press Officer: Victor Waller, Pinecrest, Regent St, Fleet, GU13 9NP. Meetings at: Public Library Hall, High St, Aldershot, last Thursday of months Jan-Oct at 7.15pm.

British Association of Numismatic Societies, Dept of Coins and Medals, Manchester Museum, The University, Oxford Road, Manchester. Exists to link research of local societies.

Orders and Medals Research Society, Gen Sec: N G Gooding, 123 Turnpike Link, Croydon, CR0 5NU. Fosters interest in orders, decorations and campaign medals, and to publish results of members' researches.

Victorian Military Society Sec: John Crouch, Coombe Lea, Inholms Lane, North Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4JH.

Society for Army Historical Research c/o National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT.

Rozelle House, Monument Road, Alloway by Ayr KA7 4NQ. Telephone 0465 3119. Hours: summer daily except Thur 10-5. Winter by appointment only.

EDINBURGH. The Royal Scots Regimental Museum, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT. Telephone 031-336 1761 (or Edinburgh Castle mil) ext 4265. Hours: June to Sept 9.30-5. Oct to May 9.30-4.

Royal Scots Greys and Dragoon Guards, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT. See previous entry.

YOUR GUIDE TO ARMY MUSEUMS — 7

YORK. Castle Museum (all Yorkshire Regiments including Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry and Territorials), Tower Street, York Y01 1RY. Telephone York 53611. Hours: April to Sept Mon to Sat 9.30-6.30, Sun 10-6.30 Oct to Mar Mon to Sat 9.30-5, Sun 10-5.

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire Museum, Imphal Barracks, Fulford, York Y01 4HD. Telephone York 59811 (or York

mil) ext 2366. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-12.30 and 1.30-4 except public and service hols.

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN. The Gordon Highlanders Regimental Museum, St Lukes, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen. Telephone Aberdeen 38174. Hours: Wed and Sun 2-5. Other times by appointment.

AYR. Ayrshire Yeomanry Museum,

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ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

IN 1975, as an experimental measure, a young graduate of the recently established London Veterinary College, William Stockley, was attached to the 1st Fencible Cavalry and quickly proved the value of veterinary skills to a mounted unit.

The following year Professor Edward Colman, the head of the London Veterinary College was appointed Principal Veterinary Surgeon to the Cavalry and Veterinary Surgeon to the Board of Ordnance.

For the greater part of the 19th century veterinary care in the British Army was organised on a regimental basis, with little or no central organisation.

Various campaigns and wars, notably the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny, demonstrated the inadequacy of veterinary care based entirely on the regimental system.

Your Cap Badge: 74

Individual veterinary officers contributed greatly to the advance of veterinary science and animal care.

The Army Veterinary Department was formed in 1881 — which abolished the regimental system except for the Household Cavalry; for the first time, veterinary officers were on the same list and wore one uniform.

The re-organisation, while bringing a number of improvements, did not provide

for sufficient veterinary officers, particularly during the South African war when poor organisation, insufficient numbers of veterinary officers, and a separate and incomplete remount system resulted in tragic waste of animal life.

To improve the care of military animals the Army Veterinary Corps was formed in 1903 consisting of soldiers and ncos who had been attached to the Army Veterinary Services. It was not until 1906 that the Army Veterinary Department was amalgamated with the AVC.

The period preceding World War 1 was one of intense re-organisation and re-equipping so that by the onset of war the AVC was able to cope with the enormous demands placed on it.

It expanded from an organisation of 372 officers and men to one of nearly 25,000 by the end of the war.

In recognition of the work of the Army Veterinary Corps during World War 1 King George V conferred upon it the title of 'Royal' on 27 November 1918.

There was an immediate and dramatic reduction in both officers and men in the years that followed. It continued throughout the 1930s as the Army was progressively mechanised.

The RAVC expanded greatly during World War 2 although nowhere near the scale of World War 1.

Pack transport was used in most theatres and dogs were used in a number of roles. In the post war years the RAVC has become involved in all aspects of military dog procurement, training, veterinary care and employment while

still retaining its involvement with horses.

The head-dress badge is a Chiron surrounded by a laurel wreath surmounted by the St Edward's crown, and below a scroll inscribed with the title of the Corps.

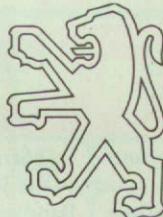
The Chiron, a creature of Greek mythology, is a man with the body and legs of a horse which symbolises the role of the RAVC in providing the Army with horses under the direction of man.

Until 1918 the head-dress badge consisted of the initials of the Corps (AVC) within a wreath surrounded by Tudor crown.

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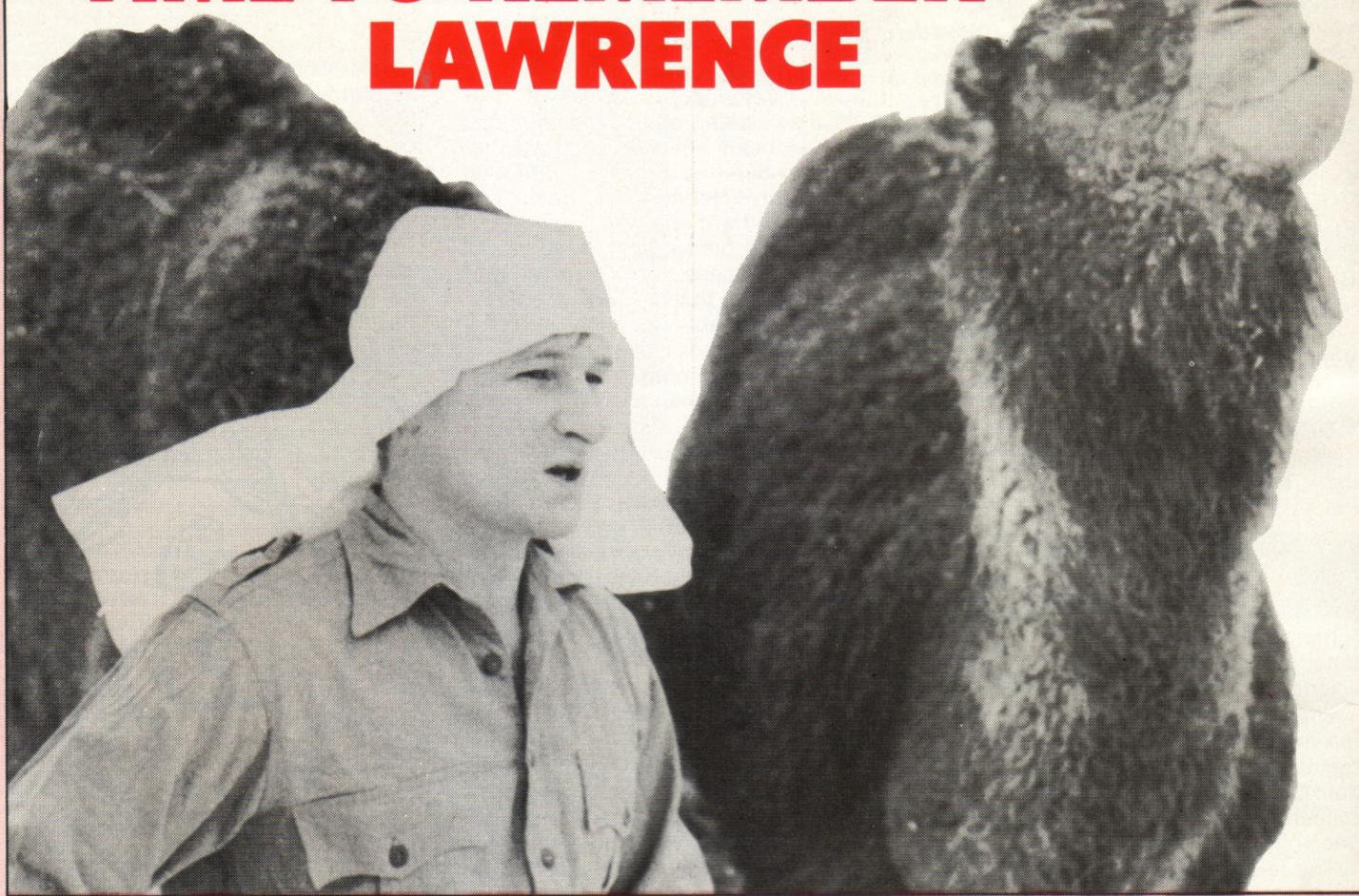
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TIME TO REMEMBER LAWRENCE



A FOUR-man team from The Royal Green Jackets is due back in the United Kingdom this month after tackling a 1,000 mile camel ride to recreate a similar journey undertaken in 1917 by Lawrence of Arabia.

The expedition was planned as a way of marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Colonel Lawrence, who led the Arab revolt against the Turks in World War I.

The four Green Jackets currently testing their stamina and camel riding ability in some of the most inhospitable desert terrain are:

Captain Charles Blackmore, Captain Jamie Bowden, Bandsman Chris Selley and Rifleman Mark West.

TRAIN WRECK

They left aiming to cover 30 miles a day in the Jordanian desert, starting from Aqaba and then heading east to Al Mudawwarah, where Lawrence blew up a troop train — the wreck of which can still be seen.

The journey then takes them north to the capital of Jordan, Amman, and then south again for Aqaba.

The party was aiming to live in the desert on a diet similar to that of the Bedouins — dates, goats milk and cheese ... and whatever the desert might provide.

Help was provided by the Jordanian Armed Forces, who

Expedition recreates feat in desert

provided a camel handler and escort.

Captain Bowden is the only one of the quartet to have any real experience of camels.

He owned one when he was in the UN peacekeeping force on the Israeli-Egyptian border.

Captain Blackmore, the expedition leader, rode camels in-

frequently when he was attached to the Jordan Defence Force, and Bandsman Selley and Rifleman West have never been close enough to touch a camel before, let alone ride one!

Remarkably, when the four men went to Whipsnade Zoo before leaving the UK to get a few tips from the camel keeper, it was Chris

Captain Charles Blackmore — and a friendly camel

Selley and Mark West who got on best with the haughty animals!

The idea of the commemorative journey was thought up by Captain Blackmore who has always been fascinated by the life of T E Lawrence.

The adventure follows that which Captain Blackmore and a group of Green Jackets undertook in 1983/4 when they re-enacted the retreat from Corunna in Spain with a five week march at Christmas time.

FIRST TASK

First task on arrival in Jordan was to contact the Jordanian Army for help in buying four camels for the journey.

"We really don't know anything about buying camels," said the leader before departure, "so we shall be relying on them. It is thanks to Rothmans, the major sponsors of the expedition, that we will be able to buy the creatures, as the money we have been able to put in would not go far."

Once having bought the camels the next task was to teach the men how to ride.

Once again the Jordanians were scheduled to give four days instruction so that they could perch on the humps of the 10-foot tall quadrupeds.



Desert gear — in a cold Whipsnade setting! From left: Captain Jamie Bowden, Bandsman Christopher Selley, Captain Blackmore and Rifleman Mark West

Raise the flag — for £50

COMPETITION

358

1. How many stars appear on the flag of Alaska?
2. Which country's arms bear the wording 'He hath founded it upon the seas'?
3. When did the Faroe Islands adopt their own flag?
4. Which colours are on the Indonesian national flag?
5. What distinguishes the Libyan national flag from those of most other countries?
6. Which country has a large 'R' printed on a yellow background in the centre of its flag?
7. Which colour was added to the flag of Madagascar when it became a republic in 1958?
8. Which country has the longest flag in the world?
9. In which King's reign were the arms of England adopted?
10. What date appears on the United Coast Guard ceremonial flag?

Do you know what a vexillologist is? It's a person who studies flags, a subject which has attracted many new enthusiasts in recent years, probably because of the profusion of new national flags that have appeared since World War 2 as more countries gain their independence and decide to change their national insignia.

SOLDIER's Competition No 358 may be fairly simple for vexillologists but if your knowledge of flags does not extend beyond recognising when the Union Jack is upside down then you may have to rush to a reference book for the answers to our ten questions.

It could well be worth it! Answer all ten correctly and £50 could be yours.

The rules of the competition are the same as usual. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 26 April. The answer and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 20 May.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 358' label at the top of this column. For two entries send two labels (not photo copies), three entries three labels, and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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MAIL DROP



Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address although not necessarily for publication. Write: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

SO RIGHT

I have just been sent a copy of SOLDIER 28 January showing the letter from Mr Dunkley in Mail Drop.

I can confirm that Allan Taylor, the major in charge of B Sqn, 7 RTR in 1944 is the same gentleman, now Lieutenant General Sir Allan Taylor.

I was second in command of A Sqn 7 RTR under Major R A Joscelyne and ever since 1946 we have run an annual reunion in London.

As the years went by we opened it to the whole regiment and Allan Taylor has attended several functions. Other

senior officers who have attended are Rae Leakey, Howard Jones and (very regularly) Reggie Wood.

We still have about 30 attending each year although if everyone attended in one year the total could be over 50. If any ex-7 RTR man would like to join us please contact Frank Newman, 27 Ashcombe Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3ET, our wonderful secretary who is now doing the job for the 40th time.

The next reunion is on Saturday 13 April at the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly. Cost of meal about £13.

— R A Pearson, 39 Greenhill, Burkurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5SQ.

WRONG...

With regard to your issue dated 11 February there is a small error on page 28 in that the .303 rifle you show in silhouette is of course the No 4 Rifle which was introduced in the late thirties/early forties. It was the No 1 Rifle (SMLE) that was introduced in 1902. — T L Pearce, 41 Victoria Park Road, Malvern, Worcs.

Readers are reminded that letters cannot be published (or a reply given!) unless a full address is supplied. However, name and address will not be published if a request is made to withhold them. If Mr P P Johnson of Brighton would care to send his address, the Managing Editor will reply to his letter.

GOOD IDEA?

On reading SOLDIER 11 February on the Guards new weapon of the 5.56 mm SA80, I suggest it would be a good idea to keep the 7.62 mm Self-Loading Rifle SLR for Buckingham Palace drill only.

The new weapon seems out of place with their scarlet uniforms and the traditions of the parade.

They can keep the SA80 at the depot at Pirbright for training and active service. — J W Cole, 5 Ivy St, Wigan, Lancs (ex-Paratrooper).

UNSUITABLE

The Guards looked absurd with the new buttless rifle. Really! The SLR or the old Lee Enfield, please! The new rifle is most unsuitable for their ceremonial duties. — Peter T Stevenson, 57 Primley Park Cres, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7HY.

Reunions

2nd RHA/2nd Field Regiment RA reunion for ex-members and corps attached, serving or otherwise, is planned at Colchester Garrison WOs and Sgts' Mess. For further information send SAE to Mr J White, Reunion Secretary, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3AA or telephone 0206 (office) or 0206 864333 (evenings).

RAPC Regimental Association, reunion dinner at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London on Friday 26 April. Limited overnight accommodation at the club is available. Tickets £9 and further details from Lt Col C J Caws, Secretary RAPC Regimental Association, Corps Headquarters, Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Annual Reunion Dinner, Saturday 4 May 1985 at the Surrey Tavern, Kennington Oval, London. Tickets £8.50. Please contact The Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. Tel Cardiff 27611 ext 213.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association (Carabiniers and Greys) annual reunion will be held at the Carisbrook Hall, the Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London, W2 2HF, on Saturday 4 May 1985. Tickets from J L Foreman, Hon Secretary, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

20 Sqn ASC/RASC/RCT celebrates its Centenary this year. There is to be a reunion dance in the barracks on the evening of Saturday 11 May and a church service and buffet luncheon on Sunday 12 May, both open to all Old Comrades. Write for details to the ACO, c/o 20 Sqn RCT, Regents Park Barracks, Albany St, London, NW1 4AL.

59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE reunion weekend 24/26 May 1985 for serving and ex-members. Details can be obtained from the Admin Officer, 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Barracks, Crownhill, Plymouth. (Tel: Plymouth 772312 Ext. 276).

Call-signs

Does anyone know the whereabouts of John McKeever, a native of Glasgow who was staying with his aunt at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire when he was called up for National Service to Slade Camp, Oxford, on 6 March 1947?

Posted to the Army Catering Corps he went to Germany, returning home a year later, which is when I last saw him. — Kenneth Hill, 9 Trinity Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8LQ.

Any soldiers who served with 219 DCRE in Bad Oeynhausen in 1950/51 are asked to contact Mr (formerly Sapper) K Peacock of 2 Cambrian Terrace, Rhiwbryfdir, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 3HY.

He was taken into Hamburg Military Hospital while there and has not seen any of his pals since.

Mr F G Charlton, Hon Sec RAA Worcester, 22 Cedar Ave, Brickfields, Worcester, WR4 9UD, is trying to trace members of C Troop, 170 Mortar Bty RA who were in Korea 1950/55 to arrange a get together for Imjin Day 24 April 1985.

Can you help?

Between February 1943 and June 1944 I served on the Arakan Front in Burma with an obscure information gathering and signals unit of the Royal Air Force. I am now writing a paper about the Arakan Campaigns of 1943 and 1944.

I should very much like to hear from World War 2 veterans who served in either or both campaigns and who would be willing to write and tell me their experiences of fighting in this region. All letters will be answered. — Ted Dobson (ex 10 Wireless Observer Unit, RAF), 56 Rennetts Wood Road, Eltham, London SE19 2ND.

I wonder if any of your readers has a copy of the book 'And the Dawn Came Up Like Thunder' by Leo Rawlings (which dealt with life as a Japanese prisoner-of-war) which they would like to sell. — Mr P J Carey, 35 Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2AW.

Would any member of 16 Ind Brigade or RASC who served in 1954 with the Mobile Balloon Teams at RAF Cardington and who can help with information about this small unit, please contact — Mr D F Burchmore, 65 South Avenue, Elstow, Bedford. Photos and cuttings welcome, will be cared for and returned.

With the introduction of SOLDIER's new Call-Signs service for readers wishing to contact old Service friends and colleagues, the Can You Help? column will now be discontinued.

How Observant Are You?

- Top right corner of crossbar;
- Goalkeeper's rear foot;
- Right photographer's left foot;
- Referee's whistle;
- Right thumb of player No 9;
- Right stocking of No 2;
- Second 'F' in 'Coffee';
- 'T' in left 'United' banner;
- Shorts of player No 10;
- Left arm of player No 4.

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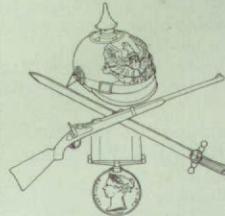
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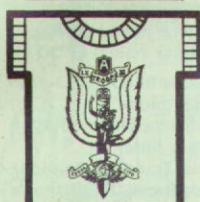
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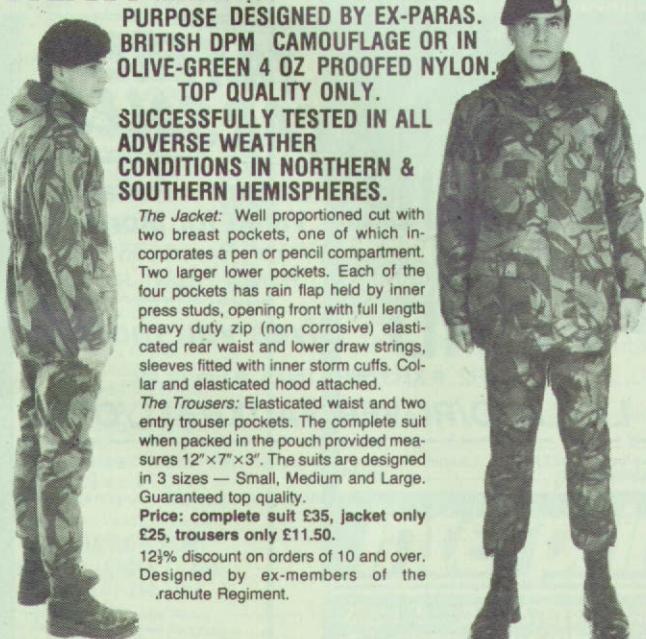
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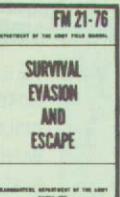
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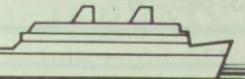
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THE ARMY roared to the Combined Services boxing team championships when they shot down the Royal Air Force by eight bouts to two — exactly the same margin of trouncing for the Royal Navy.

The RAF, wooden spoonists in the championships for several years, put up a spirited resistance and provided an interesting night for the crowd at Aldershot.

Now all eyes turn on the Services' Individual championships, also in Aldershot, in which the Army has high hopes of taking 10 of the 12 titles at stake.

If they do it will be a fitting climax to the two years that Staff Sergeant Mick Gannon has spent as Army coach which has seen a complete transformation.

Staff Gannon has been posted to Sandhurst and will be succeeded as coach by Staff Sergeant Ken Greef. Said Gannon: "I'm delighted for the team and I would particularly like to thank the commanding officers of units who have given full backing to the sport — they can be proud of their boxers."

Lance Corporal Keith Howlett from 39 Engineer Regiment is fast becoming a two round specialist

CHAMPIONS!



at bantamweight. He disposed of his Navy opponent in that time and proceeded to do a similar job on the RAF's Junior Technician John Reynolds.

After sizing up his taller opponent for a minute or so Howlett began to pick his punches and the airman started to run out of ideas. In the second round he was soon rocking and rolling and after a second count of eight the referee stopped the contest.

The talented Driver Neil Haddock did not have things all his own way against Junior Technician Steve Snagg. In fact Snagg may have edged the first round by using

Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny (got him right this time!) in action against Senior Aircraftman Denis Murphy

his longer reach to pick Haddock off. But in the second round Haddock began to take the fight to his opponent and in the final round Haddock took the unanimous points verdict.

The fearless Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny was in remorseless mood at light-welterweight. Once again Gajny went forward like a steamroller and once again his opponent found him too much.

SAC Denis Murphy back-pedalled through three rounds with occasional jabbing forays which made no impression on Gajny. There was one standing count for Murphy and the Gajny juggernaut took the unanimous decision.

By this time the Army were well in control but there was a shock at welterweight. There was just one flurry of punches between Rifleman Tony Velinor (3 RCJ) and his RAF opponent and suddenly the referee stopped the fight because of a wicked cut above Velinor's left eye. Judges were consulted in case it had been a head butt but the decision went to the RAF man.

The fight had lasted an incredible six seconds — which

must qualify for some kind of record.

Sapper Glenn Bosher, who had been left out of the team against the Navy, was in no mood for defeat against SAC Martin Steele. The tall airman seemed well suited to Bosher, who pursued him around the ring throughout the three rounds to gather the unanimous votes of the judges.

Middleweight hope, Lance Corporal Ken Moore, brought his own fan club from 1 Kings Own Border for his middleweight bout with SAC Danny Smith. But at first it looked as though their trip from Catterick might not have a happy ending.

Smith, built more like a weight-lifter than a boxer, startled Moore with some roundarm swings. After the first round Moore began to settle and penetrate Smith's more primitive defense and in the final round he took the initiative sufficiently to take the match on a majority points decision.

Another close contest, the biggest crowd pleaser of the night, followed. Light-heavyweights, Lance Corporal George Jay (1 RRF) and SAC Steve Neighbour battled almost to a standstill.

Jay got stuck into his opponent right from the start, but the airman, all the way from Hong Kong, was a tough customer and soon began to dish out punishment of his own.

By the second round they were mixing it like bantamweights and both men were bloodied. It looked at one stage of the third round as though Neighbour might prevail but Jay fought back and at the end it was toe to toe action. Jay took the majority decision with one judge giving it a draw.

Three contests were walkovers. Flyweight Driver Niel McCallum and heavyweight, Corporal Horace Miles took bouts for the Army and SAC Steve Gunning got featherweight for the RAF.



Sapper Glenn Bosher gets through the guard of Senior Aircraftman Martin Steele

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Oh! The agony ...



ONE OVER THE EIGHT

ALTHOUGH 22 Company RAOC (V) at first looked like taking the lead in their D Company North-East District TA Association cup final, they were nine goals down to 2 Yorkshire Volunteers before they were able to reply!

The RAOC had the ball in the net early on from directly in front of goal, but their effort was discounted for offside.

That narrow escape had the effect of awakening the Yorkshire Volunteers and they ran out 9-2 in a game played in wintry conditions near Thirsk.

Yorkshire Volunteers started to put their game together from the 30th minute and by half time they were leading 5-0.

They started scoring in the second half after three minutes and their total reached nine goals before the RAOC got their first from the penalty spot.

RAOC must be given full credit especially as they scored their second goal in the last minute.

D Coy now go on to represent North-East District in the TA National Cup Competition against the Eastern District Champions, E Coy 3 WFR.

THREE goals from 119 Rec Company REME (V) proved too much for 'E' Company 5th Bn The Light Infantry in the TA National Cup Competition, although they did manage a consolation goal.

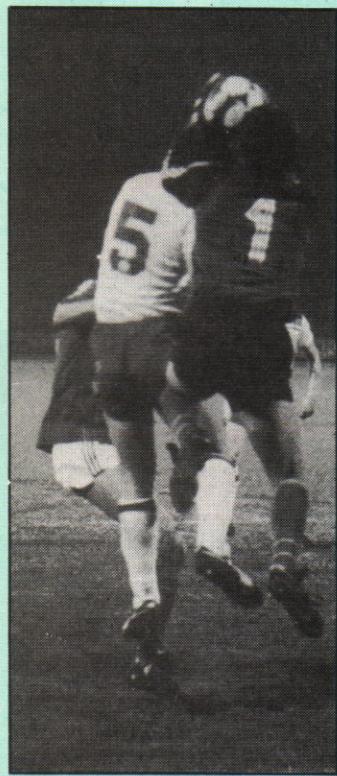
The REME men, representing Wales, now meet the North-West District representatives.

As 119 Rec got into their stride they dominated the first half, scoring a goal shortly before half time.

In the second half 5LI again started well and sustained constant pressure on 119 Rec for the first 20 minutes. They looked as if they would equalise and they deserved to, but 119 Rec broke out of their half and scored against the run of play. The third well taken goal came very quickly.

5LI refused to accept that 119 Rec were the better team as they continued to give a good account of themselves.

Above: Agony for an injured Combined Services player. Below: Hancocks get his head to the ball before the French 'keeper — and makes the score 1-1. Ecstasy! For a while, anyway



DENISE IS TOP SHOT BUT ...

THE Women's Royal Naval Service retained the Women's Inter-Service Smallbore Rifle Championship, held at HMS Excellent in Portsmouth, with a record score for the fourth consecutive year.

Consistent shooting from the WRNS team, who have won the title 18 times in the last 28 years, made a score of 1,940 out of 2,000, two better than last year's record.

The WRAF were second with 1,921 and the WRAC took third place with 1,882.

There was some consolation for WRAC — top score in the event, shot by Staff Sergeant Denise Curran who, on her 39th birthday, scored 199 out of 200.

ONE MOMENT OF MAGIC AND FRENCH REGAIN CUP

IT TOOK just one moment of magic to prize the Kentish Cup from the grasp of the Combined Services, beaten 2-1 by French Armed Forces at Cherbourg.

Pictures:
DOUG PRATT

It happened, on the hour, when the UK side were looking to be well in command of the game and containing a talented and inventive French team.

The home skipper Dominique Thomas (Lille OSC) moved quickly out of defence and slipped the ball to Laurent Fournier (O Lyon) on the French left flank.

He shifted the ball on to his right foot and hit an unstoppable curving shot which entered the net just under the crossbar (shades of Michel Platini who has never hit a better one!).

The match was only two minutes old when the home side scored.

A quick break down the right saw Fournier skip past two defenders, and he sent a high cross which Lomas, in the Services goal, rose to intercept. He appeared to be impeded by a French forward and the ball dropped to Thierry Fernier (FC Sochaux) who side-footed it home.

For 20 minutes the French delighted with their one-touch football but the visitors were content to contain them and counter attack.

The home side tried everything to break down the resolute defence, but the longer the game went the more confident the Services looked.

They even managed a greater number of strikes on goal.

After 25 minutes Skipper Sandy Brown's free-kick floated the ball goalwards. Keeper Robin Huc (Montpellier) looked to be shaping up to collect the ball when Geoff Hancocks made an aerial challenge.

He got his head to the ball and suddenly the keeper was beaten and the visitors level!

The second half followed much the same pattern as the first.

Services grafted away, except for the odd scare never looked in trouble.

John O'Connell and Geoff Hancocks were twin towers of strength in the centre of the Services defence and they always appeared to have enough in hand to help out on the flanks.

The battle ended with the French defence at panic stations and Richie Taylor trying to control a ball which bounced unkindly and he couldn't get in a shot on goal.

Following their 3-0 win over the Belgians, Armed Forces in Ghent, the French regained the Kentish Cup for the third time in four years.

● The Combined Services match against the Belgians, scheduled for 20 February, was postponed. A new date has still to be arranged.



Not this time! Combined Services 'keeper Lomas hugs the ball to his chest and thwarts a French attack

RCT SKIING TRIUMPH

by CHRIS VERE

WITH 14 teams in contention for the coveted Champion Skiing Team title of the British Army, the decider rested on Nordic events run within the British National, BAOR & Army Nordic Skiing Meeting at Zwiesel in Bavaria.

And with results of the Alpine events from Fulpmes still reaching Zwiesel, the result was in doubt until almost the last races.

1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT improved on their consistent third places in the Alpine events — giant slalom, downhill and slalom to get into gear with a 1-2, 1-2 in the four Nordic events to outpoint their rivals — 35 Engineer Regiment and 22 Signal Regiment.

The men from Bunde took the 15 kilometres cross country race — run in that awful condition known as 'snow rain', and with this first race under their belts, managed a second place (in the Army lists) in the Biathlon relay, a first in the 4 x 10 kilometres relay and with only five points between themselves, 35 Engineers and 22 Signals, the clincher was to be the Military Patrol Race for a team of four, carrying 20 lbs.

Although 35 Engineers beat the RCT into second Army place, there were just too many points to catch up, so the Engineers from Hamelin had to be content with second place and the 22 Signals team from Lippstadt the third.

SHOOTING

Womens Interservice Trophy (at Portsmouth): WRNS 1940: WRAF 1921: WRAC 1882. Tait Trophy: D Curran (WRAC) 199; Yorath Trophy: D Curran (WRAC) 391; Newcombe Trophy: S Wenlock (WRNS) 391.

JUDO

Army Senior Open Individual Championships (at Bulford). Special KYU 'A' (Under 71 kgs) gold L/Cpl Kernaghan (Depot Para), silver L/Cpl Gallaway (23 Gp RPC), bronze: Bfn Gee (2 RGJ), L/Cpl Hindmarsh (23 Gp RPC). Special KYU 'B' (Over 71 kgs) Pte Bailey (23 Gp RPC), Sig Harris (30 Sig Regt), Pte Cain (23 Gp RPC), Pte Blaycock (23 Gp RPC). Under 60 kgs Cfn Morton (SEME Bordon), Pte Hunt (1 Glosters), Cpl Williams (PET Centre), L/Cpl Lee (13 Sig Regt). 60-65 kgs Cpl Kubath (Depot Para), Cpl Franklin (5 Ord Bn RAOC), Gnr Weir (26 Fd Regt), Cpl Bishop (Depot Para), 65-71 kgs L/Cpl Gargan (63 Sqn RCT), Gnr Barnes (26 Fd Regt RA), L/Cpl Laws (Pet Centre), Tpr Bannister (1 QDG). 71-78 kgs Cpl Thomas (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), Pte O'Loughlin (Depot Para), Sgt Young (4 Armd Wksp REME), Capt King (30 Sig Regt). 78-86 kgs L/Cpl Gibbs (3 Para), L/Cpl Lee (2 RGJ), L/Cpl Wyman (Depot Para), L/Cpl Chapman (1 Queens). 86-95 kgs Cpl Travis (23 Gp RPC), L/Cpl



The good news from this meeting was that entry levels were up with a wider representation, especially from the BAOR Infantry — The Green Howards and The Black Watch, who adding a Scottish flavour with their distinctive bonnets worn informally with ski gear on the range, and from UK, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry and 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

"There's no doubt that there is a greater interest in this sport," Major General Guy Watkins, MGRA and Chairman of the BAOR Ski Association told me.

After conditions before the

Princess Anne presents Lieutenant Mark Moore of 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery with the British Cross Country Ski Championship Challenge Cup for winning the British National 15 kilometres Nordic event.

meeting had been reported as nearly perfect, the weather factor threw in its own complications, with above freezing temperatures and rain spoiling the snow conditions.

"We've in fact had to do some repairs — with 14 loads of snow re-positioned from the invaluable Skidoos in part of the forest course" General Watkins confided.

In the event, all turned out for

RESULTS

Painter (71 AC Wksp REME), L/Cpl Paterson (5 Innis DG), Cpl Skews (SEE Arborfield). Over 95 kgs LCOH Jones (RCR), L/Cpl Dinsdale (115 Pro Coy RMP), Cpl Vernon (13 Sig Regt), Gdsm Moon (1 SG). Open Class A (Under 71 kgs) Cfn Morton (SEME Bordon), L/Cpl Gargan (63 Sqn RCT), Cpl Franklin (5 Ord Bn), Cpl Kubath (Depot Para). Open Class B (Over 71 kgs) Cpl Travis (23 Gp RPC), Cpl Thomas (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), L/Cpl Gibbs (3 Para), LCOH Jones (RCR).

Inter Services Individual Medals (at West Drayton): Class — Over 95 kilos: LCOH Jones, HCR, Silver (2nd). Over 95 kilos: Cpl Skews, SEE Arborfield, Bronze (3rd). Under 95 kilos: Cpl Travis, 23 Gp RPC, Gold (1st). Under 95 kilos: L/Cpl Painter, 71 Ac Wksp REME, Silver (2nd). Under 95 kilos: L/Cpl Patterson, 5 Innis DG, Bronze (3rd). Under 86 kilos: Cpl Armstrong, NIEW, Gold (1st). Under 86 kilos: L/Cpl Gibbs, 3 Para, Silver (2nd). Under 86 kilos: Cpl Chapman, 1 Queens, Bronze (3rd). Under 78 kilos: L/Cpl Gargan, 63 Sqn RCT, Gold (1st). Under 78 kilos: Cpl Morgan, RAOC Trg Centre, Bronze (3rd). Under 71 kilos: Gnr Barnes, 26 Fd Regt RA, Gold (1st). Under 71

kilos: Capt King, 30 Sig Regt, Bronze (3rd). Under 65 kilos: Cpl Kubath, Depot Para & AB Forces, Gold (1st). Under 65 kilos: Cpl Bishop, Depot Para & AB Forces, Silver (2nd). Under 65 kilos: Cpl Williams, Pet Centre, Bronze (3rd). Under 60 kilos: Cfn Morton, SEME Bordon, Gold (1st). Open: Cpl Travis, 23 Gp RPC, Gold (1st). Open: L/Cpl Gargan, 63 Sqn RCT, Silver (2nd). Open: L/Cpl Gibbs, 3 Para, Bronze (3rd).

SKIING

British National, BAOR and Army Nordic Meeting (at Zwiesel, Bavaria). Main military results: British National & Army 15k Cross Country: 1, Lt M Moore RA (39 Hy Regt RA); 2, Marine A Nash (42 Cdo RM); 3, Pte P McAuley (1 Ks Own Sc Bs). Teams: 1, Armoured Division Transport Regt; 2, 39 Hy Regt RA; 3, 35 Engineer Regiment RE. Inter Service: 1, Army; 2, Navy; 3, RAF.

10 Kilometres Junior Biathlon Sprint: 1, S Danby (28 Amphibious Engineer Regt); 2, S Bomberg (35 Engineer Regt); 3, Dvr Smith (1st Armoured Division Transport Regt). 10 Kilometres Biathlon Sprint: 1, Sgt Bernreitter (Bundeswehr Batt 112 Regt); 2, Cpl T McLeod (42 Cdo RM); 3, L/Cpl McIvor (1st Armoured Division Transport Regt).

Biathlon Relay 4 x 7.5 kilometres: 1, 35 Engineer Regiment 'A' (L/Cpl Thomson, Cpl Morrissey, Cpl Howdle, Cpl Langin); 2, 42 Cdo RM (Mne Moore, Mne Nash, Mne Leat, Cpl McLeod); 3, 45 Cdo RM (Mne Spotswood, L/Cpl McDermott, Mne Wylie, Lt Winterton).

the best — because with the arrival of the guest of honour for the meeting — Princess Anne — the rain stopped, the skies cleared, and the beautiful blue Bavarian skies brought not only the needed sharp frosts in the evenings, but also the bright sunshine and happier skiers.

With the Princess dressed for the occasion in her new Olympic ski suit (for she is the President of the British Olympic Association), she saw the races started, fired on the range with Major (Retd) Arthur Harvey, Chief Range Officer giving expert tuition (he is, after all, the Olympic trainer), followed the course of the Military Patrol Race with her skidoo party, and finally fired the pistol to start the 30 kilometres British National Race.

Among the experts at the meeting, the great debate was whether the new technique of 'skating', described by Captain Glen Grant of 19 Field Regiment RA — and an international athlete in his own right — as "a quantum leap in Army Skiing", would require modifications to the rules for the cross country 'langlauf' events, with it being claimed that the skiers could be 10 per cent faster.

On the other hand, Major John Leaning RA, Chairman of the British Biathlon Committee felt that its destructive action on the 'tracks' could destroy the sport.

But as controversy raged on the techniques involved, the unanimous decision was that the work of 50 Missile Regiment RA in running the event was worthy of the highest praise.

Spr Langin); 2, 42 Cdo RM (Mne Moore, Mne Nash, Mne Leat, Cpl McLeod); 3, 45 Cdo RM (Mne Spotswood, L/Cpl McDermott, Mne Wylie, Lt Winterton).

Youth 6 Kilometres Race: 1, J Spr R Chamberlain; 2, J Spr C Smith; 3, J Spr S Squires, (all Junior Leaders Regiment RE).

Youth 4 x 5 Kilometres Relay Race: 1, J Spr C Smith; 2, J Spr Squires; 3, Spr Chamberlain (all JLRRE).

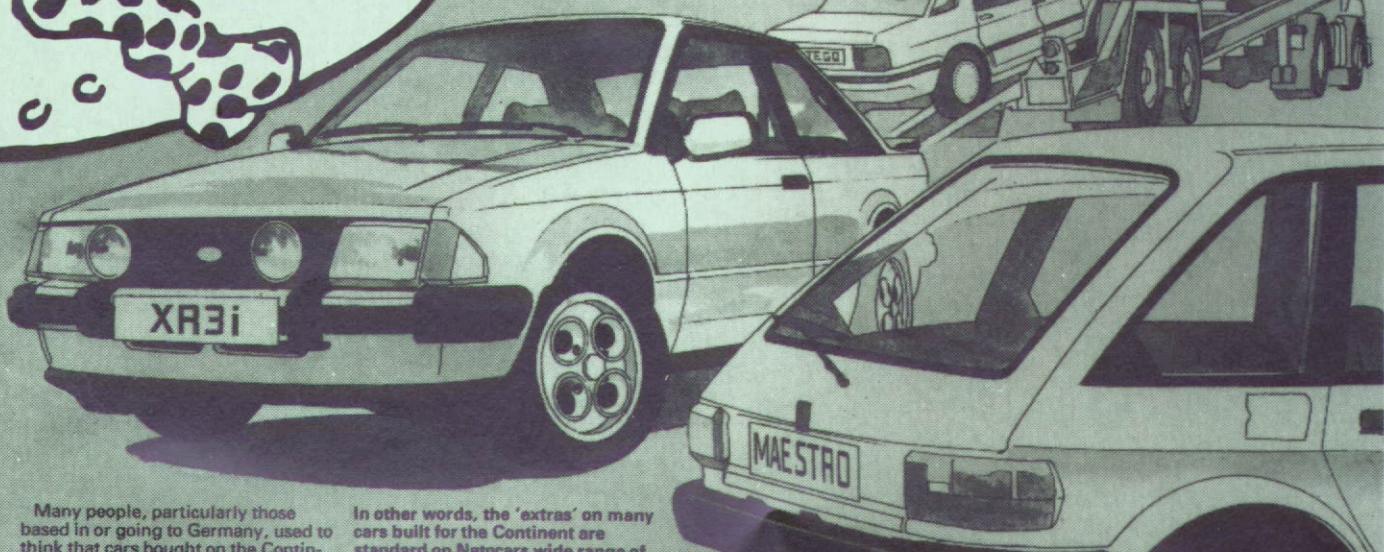
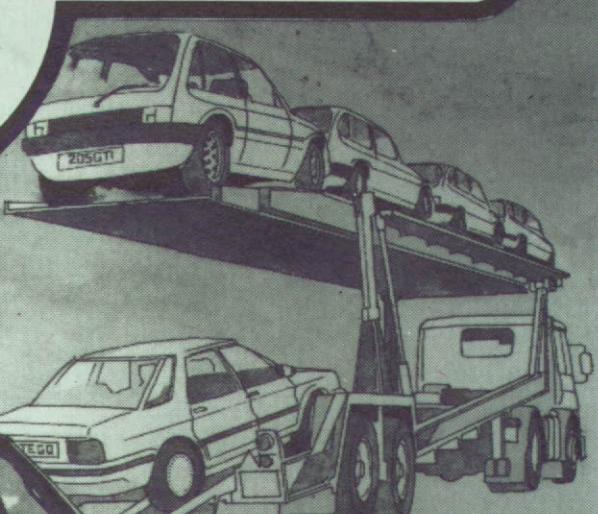
4 x 10 Kilometres Relay Race: 1, 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT (Cpl Gaines, L/Cpl Smith, Watkins, McIvor); 2, 42 Cdo RM (Cpl McLeod, Mne Leat, Nash, Moore). 3, 35 Engineer Regt 'A' (Cpl Howdle, Spr Langin, Cpl Morrissey, L/Cpl Dixon).

The Military Patrol Race: 1, 45 Commando RM; 2, 35 Engineer Regiment; 3, 1st Armoured Division Transport Regt; 4, 22 Signal Regiment (Best Patrol on the Range).

Final Placings: The Military Combination Cup: 1, 1st Armoured Division Transport Rgt; 2, 25 Engineer Regt RE; 3, 39 Heavy Regt RA; 4=, 26 Engineer Regt RE, 22 Signal Regt; 6, 1st Bn, King's Own Scottish Borders. The Princess Marine Duches Of Kent: 1, 1st Armoured Division Transport Rgt; 2, 35 Engineer Regt RE; 3, 22 Signals Regiment.

The Interservice Nordic Champions: Royal Navy.

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