

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 9th APRIL 1984

SOLDIER





UGANDA SPECIAL — see p.26

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FRONT COVER: British and French troops laying dummy mines in Berlin. See page 14. Picture: Paul Haley

OPPOSITE: RQMS Chris Forrest on loan service in Uganda from 1 Para gives some "jambo sweets" to children in Jinja. See the special series starting on page 26. Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER: Operation Raleigh hopefuls take a wet walk back to lunch. See page 38. Picture: Les Wiggs

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SOLDIER

NOW INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

TERRIERS GET AIR SQUADRON AND OTHER NEW UNITS

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY WILL TAKE TO THE AIR IN ITS OWN RIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER EXTENSIVE NEW PLANS FOR THE TA ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE MICHAEL HESELTINE.

SIX NEW INFANTRY BATTALIONS ARE TO BE FORMED, A NEW ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON RAISED IN THE NEWCASTLE AREA, THERE WILL BE A NEW AIR DEFENCE REGIMENT AND A FURTHER BATTERY ADDED TO EACH OF THE CURRENT THREE REGIMENTS, NEW LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT UNITS WILL BE STARTED AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE IMPROVED.

Air defence will be given a significant boost by the new moves. The new air defence batteries will all be equipped with the Javelin guided missile, and the first-time TA Army Air Corps Squadron will fly Scout helicopters with a home defence role.

Known as 666 Squadron AAC(V), the squadron will be formed in 1986, probably based at Netheravon in Wiltshire. Previously the AAC has maintained pools of ex-Service volunteer pilots and aircrewmembers who train with the regular Army and would augment AAC squadrons in wartime. The TA Scout crews will be drawn from this pool which will be enlarged. And groundcrew will be found from former members of the AAC.

By forming the TA squadron, a regular squadron will be made available for service within NATO.

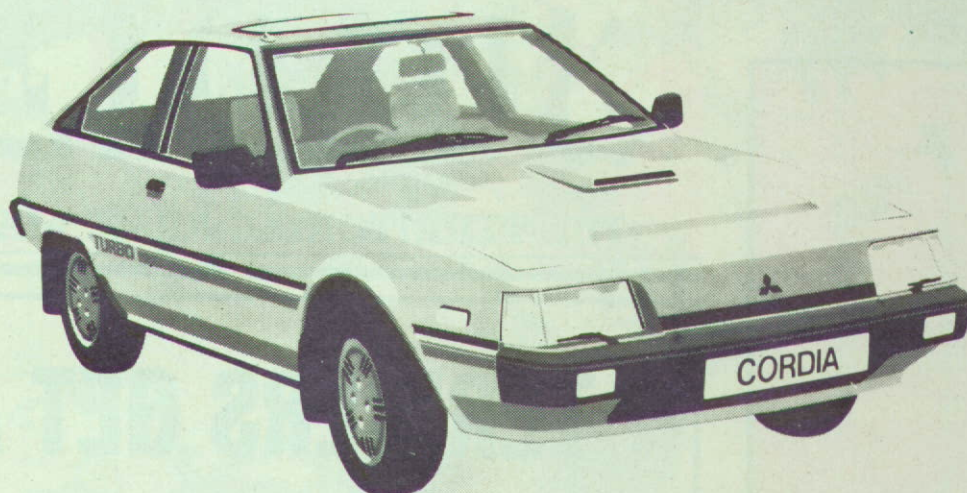
The six new infantry battalions announced by Mr Heseltine will be raised in North Yorkshire and Cleveland; Yorkshire; Greater Manchester and Cheshire; Devon and Cornwall; Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; and London. Three will have a role in Germany and three have a home defence task.

The improvements in equipment will include increasing the number of guns in Field Artillery Regiments. The infantry will continue to receive the same equipment as its regular counterparts including the new anti-tank weapon LAW 80 and later the small arms for the 80s family of personal weapons. Those battalions which form part of the 2nd Infantry Division will be equipped with more mortars to increase their fire power.

These significant new plans for the TA are the second phase of the expansion following the 1981 Defence Review which envisaged a TA strength of 86,000 by 1990. The first phase, involving the formation of some new units, increasing strength and capability, and improving the support area and training, was announced in March 1982.

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Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants. GU11 2DU (phone Aldershot (0252) 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1984.



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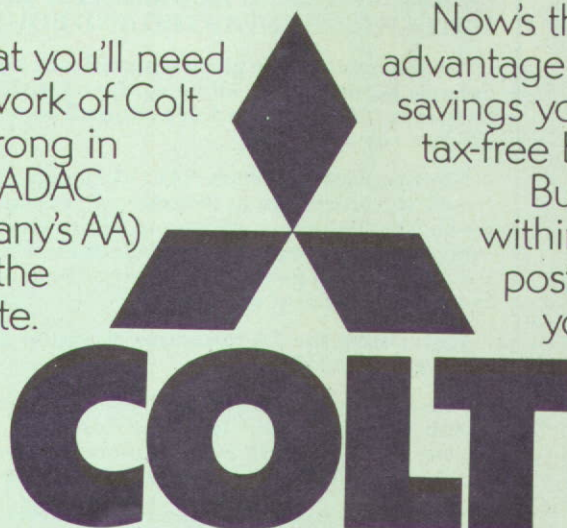
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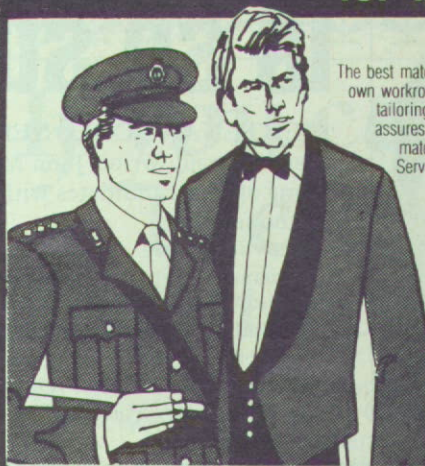


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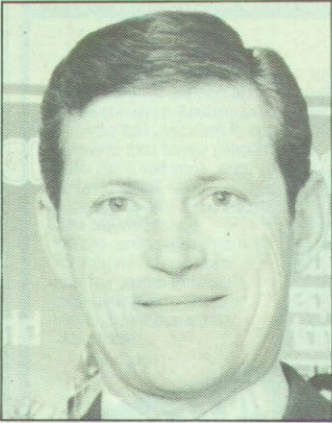
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Army's space candidate is so surprised



Lt Col Tony Boyle

LIEUTENANT COLONEL Tony Boyle, 43, could be Britain's first astronaut, writes John Margetts. The Royal Signals officer is one of four candidates with a chance to be named as the first Briton in space.

The others are Royal Navy Commander Peter Longhurst, Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, RAF, and MoD civilian specialist Christopher Holmes. They were introduced to the world's Press by Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine in London.

The service trio, together with Mr Holmes, make up the Skynet 4 satellite team from which two will be selected to fly with the US Shuttle.

The first one will go into orbit with the Shuttle next year to launch Skynet 4A and the second on part two of the programme in 1986.

Skynet 4 will give the services their own communications satellite providing long-distance link-ups.

But before Britain's first spaceman is named, all four must undergo a year's training here and in the USA.

The final selection of the first two astronauts will be down to Mr Heseltine.

"I will make the final choice," he said.

Asked how it felt to be a potential spaceman, Colonel Boyle, from the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, where he has been an instructor, replied that his selection came as "an enormous surprise".

At 43 he is the oldest of the four candidates and married with three teenage children.

His biographical handout says he keeps fit by playing hockey and that he once led an expedition to Borneo.

IDEAL CHOICE

"His wide experience of military communications makes him an ideal choice for the Skynet team," adding that he went to Cambridge for three years to gain a degree in mechanical sciences.

Then followed service in the Far East and Germany and staff training before working on the Army's computer controlled battlefield communications system.

He has also commanded 20th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signals Squadron in BAOR.

Now he is in line to be Britain's first space traveller. "My wife thinks I'm mad, my daughters are excited and my son still can't believe it," he said.

Asked how he viewed the prospect of being feted a hero like the early American spacemen were, he answered that heroics didn't enter into it. "We're all part of a team," he replied.

Said Mr Heseltine: "Whichever one is selected to be the first he will take the envy and the admiration of the whole nation with him."

NEW COMPUTER AID FOR YOUR TRAVEL

COMPUTERS and micro chips are providing an instant flight booking service for soldiers and their families around the world.

No longer will service passengers have to wait — sometimes days — to find out whether they are booked on a flight.

From now on information will be on the spot and an airline-style ticket issued at the same time.

In one giant step the Services Booking Centre (SBC) in London, has moved forward 20 years to adopt modern technology and kissed goodbye to their old-style method of flight bookings and letter post confirmations.

Now, when a soldier asks for flight information, he can be told all at the press of a button, and the scan of a visual display unit screen (VDU) will reveal everything he needs to know.

From now on speed and efficiency is the name of the bookings game. It will cut costs, too, it was claimed at the launch of the new Movements Management and Air Reservations System (MMARS) at SBC's London HQ.

Part of British Airways passenger reservations system, bookings for servicemen and their families will be through 52 computer

terminals located worldwide.

These are sited in the UK, BAOR — including Berlin — Cyprus, Hong Kong, Brunei and North America. There are plans, too, to extend the system to Ascension Island and the Falklands.

While computerised bookings are not new, this particular system — developed in the 1960s — is brand-new for the SBC and the Army and is designed to handle 300,000 routine movements by servicemen, their families and MoD-sponsored civilians in a year.

"For us at SBC it will be a much improved method of working," said WO1 John Richards RCT.

So, with a tri-service team of experts to back him up, Brigadier Compton Boyd, Director of Movements for the Army, pressed a few buttons on a computer keyboard to send congratulatory messages flashing around the globe and to declare project MMARS launched



Red Devils get new sponsors

A Red Devil drops in (above) flying the banner of the new sponsors for the famous skymen of The Parachute Regiment — Coloroll. The new 'marriage' was announced at a special function in Aldershot.

It was so special that some members of the firm were given the chance to try a little parachuting themselves.

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Tented torment

THE TRI-service expedition to Brabant Island in the Antarctic have reported trouble with their tents.

Winds of more than 70mph, together with six feet of snow in six days on the west coast, plus a washout for those encamped on the east coast with two inches of freezing rain in two days, has reduced three of the tiny tents to strips of flapping material.

On the way to join them in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Fort Austin*, are the nine-strong winter team consisting of four soldiers, a Royal Marine, a sailor, an RAF man and two civilians.

They make up the team for stage two of this "old fashioned" adventure expedition and will spend the next nine months of the Antarctic winter in tents similar to those blown away by the worst summer weather in the world.

But in their latest communique the resident team report all is well, with the prospect of temperatures dropping to minus 60 degrees.

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NEWS VIEW



On exchange duty "down under" Major Peter Darroch RAMC, accompanied by the RSM of Victoria Barracks, WO Darrel Tinson, casts a smiling but critical eye over an Australian guard. Maj Darroch is serving with Headquarters Field Force Command and was well qualified to inspect any guard, having held the appointment of RSM during his rise through the ranks. The guard was provided by Holsworthy's 1 Field Hospital, and 1 Preventive Medicine Company.

FAMOUS FACES



Well now ... who is this with Corporal Terry Anderson of 21 Engineer Regiment? The answer: JPR Williams of Wales and British Lions Rugby Union fame coming to terms with something heavier than a charging All Blacks pack — a combat engineer tractor.

JPR was in Neiburg, Germany, to present a Regimental 'cap' to skipper Jon Davies and colours to selected players.

And on the left — who is this without a beret and surrounded by men of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers?

The laughter on the faces of the troops should give a clue to those still in doubt — it is Jim Davidson, the famous comedian.

Jim, whose travels to give the lads a laugh have taken him to the Falklands and Beirut took the chance to visit the Regiment in Tidworth — and gave free tickets to 30 wives for a show he was giving in Salisbury.

The comedian recently met other men of the Regiment in Beirut before they were withdrawn.

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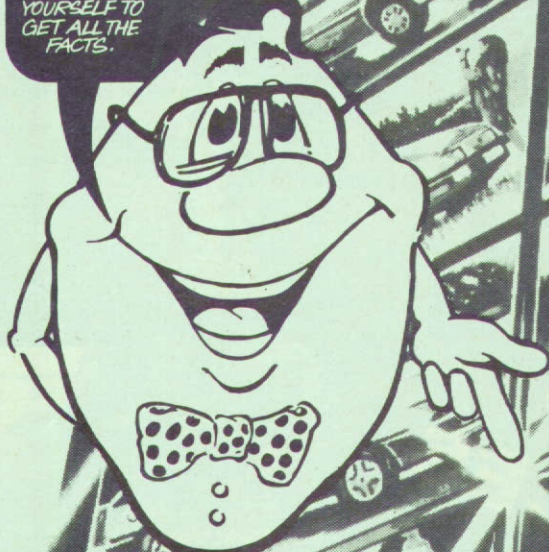
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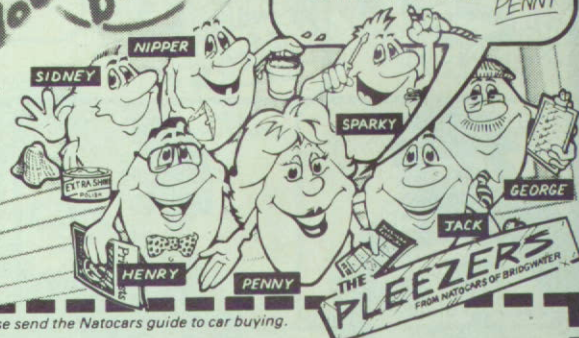
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ALL PALS MEET AT THE SWAP SHOP

ALL was sweetness and light when the gunners met the infantrymen to swap information and know-how.

"Let's have a look at your Milan anti-tank weapon and we'll let you have a go at our Blowpipe simulators," said the gunners of 213 Air Defence Battery to 'D' Company of the 5/8th Battalion King's Regiment.

Led by Troop Sergeant Major Bob Young, (left) the men from Albert Road, Widnes, descended on Warrington's nearby Peninsular Barracks for the lowdown on the latest in anti-tank tactics, before inviting the infantrymen back to their HQ for a return visit.

"It was a great success," said Major Chris Vere, TA public information officer for the north-west district.

While Bob Young and his men listened, Sergeant Tom O'Toole from Norris Green, Liverpool explained the finer points of Milan.



■ Sergeant Tom O'Toole instructing, WO Bob Young and company listening: part one of a two-way visit.



TOPICS

More time, please, says Duke



■ The Duke of Northumberland: time needed for a proper job.

Urging employers to allow TA volunteers time off for camps and courses, the Duke of Northumberland said: "Many, I know, give this concession and I would urge other employers to do likewise."

The Duke, Honorary Colonel of the 6th (V) Battalion RRF, was opening the new £0.75 million TA centre in

Alnwick before inspecting a guard of honour.

"If the TA is to do its job properly volunteers must be allowed time off from their jobs," he said.

The centre was due to be opened last December, but the weather intervened and the official opening went ahead last month.

Colonel hangs up his spurs . . .

As a wartime battery commander in Italy, Colonel Tom Forman Hardy earned the dubious distinction of being the last Gunner officer to have his horse killed beneath him in action.

Last month he retired after seven years as Honorary Colonel of the South Notts Hussars Yeomanry, RHA, and hung up his spurs for the last time.

He was commissioned into

the regiment in 1939, serving with distinction throughout the war.

In 1958-62 he commanded the unit, then a TA field regiment, and served four more years as deputy commander of 148 Infantry Brigade (TA) as a full colonel before this last honorary appointment with the South Notts Hussars.

His successor is Colonel J. M. A. Gunn.

Recruits flock to F Troop

A flood of applications by would-be TA recruits has been received by F Troop of the Bolton Artillery.

"A most encouraging response," said troop commander Captain Peter Jordan. "We've had more than 80 through our doors in answer to

our recruiting campaign.

"On our first selection weekend 42 out of 45 candidates were accepted by the selectors of 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V), headed by WO2 Bernie Vincent.

"Obviously, we need to keep standards high."

New 'boss' for 'Geordies'

The new commanding officer of 101 Field Regiment (V) RA, is Lieutenant Colonel A. A. E. Glenton. He took over from Lieutenant Colonel S. D. Lambe who has left the Newcastle-based unit for the Royal Military College, Shrivenham. The unit has a BAOR reinforcement role.

Runners raise £600

More than £600 was raised by 350 runners participating in a fund-raising 10-mile "bash" organised by C Company 3WFR, based at Derby. The money went to the Army Benevolent Fund and each of the 330 finishers received a medal. The team winners were — C Company!

Local man takes over

Major John Griffith Jones, 29, is the new commander of B Company, 4RGJ, based at Fulham House, London. A local resident, Major Griffith Jones is an accountant and joined the TA in 1972. He took over from Major David Travers who is now 2i/c of the battalion.

SOLDIER DIARY

MEDAL ACE CALLS IT A DAY

THE Army's most decorated peacetime soldier has retired. After 22 years in uniform, bomb-disposal expert Warrant Officer Kevin Callaghan has left for "civvy street."

Among his collection of "gongs" he has the distinction of being the only holder of both the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal, both awarded for bomb clearance work in Northern Ireland.

Kevin, 40, tackled 30 bombs during his two tours of the province including an IRA multiple rocket launcher and a

booby-trapped tanker lorry.

Others included a 600lb radio-controlled device which he believes was meant for the bomb-disposal man sent to deal with it.

"I think it was meant for me personally," he said later. "It was near the end of my tour and I think they wanted to lull a demob-happy bomb disposal expert into thinking it was a hoax. I nearly fell for it."

Kevin's other medals are the General Service Medal with NI

bar, the South Atlantic Medal with rosette — he was there clearing bombs round Stanley — and the LS and GCM.

We want to know more about the interesting people in your unit. Contributions please to "People Page" at the SOLDIER address on page 3.



■ WO KEVIN CALLAGHAN: two tours 30 bombs.

FRED'S LAST WALK 1,800 miles for charity

Before Sergeant Fred Welland leaves the Army he plans a return walk from Land's End to John O' Groats.

Fred reckons to walk 30 miles daily to complete the 1,865-mile course in 60 days.

He sets out on April 16 and is doing it

to raise cash for two charity groups which look after mentally handicapped children of British servicemen serving abroad.

If you would like to sponsor Fred, contact him at HQ 6th Airmobile Brigade, BFPO 106.

LEARNING that Major General Sir David Thorne, who recently moved to BAOR as Commander 1st Armoured Division, had links with Suffolk, Herr Heinz-Joachim Bartels wrote the General a letter saying that, he too, had connections with that renowned county.

He had been a prisoner of war in 1946 at Brandeston Hall near Woodbridge, which at the time was an Army HQ, and wondered whether the General could get a photograph of the building for him.

The General in turn wrote to Brandeston Hall — now a school — and in return received a water-colour painting of the Hall.

It transpired that Mrs Rix's father was the local publican in those early post-war days and served many a pint to PoWs awaiting repatriation.

Now, after having the painting personally delivered by General Thorne to the Bartels, the picture occupies pride of place in their home.

★★★★★

Thirty-three years Joe Bailes was the Army's top shot. He held the Young Soldier title and the Army title when he slammed the opposition in BAOR by scoring 224 out of 240.

The same year at Bisley with Corporal Fifield of 1 DWR, they became champion Bren gunners of the Army and still they were not 18.

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES



■ MAJOR GENERAL SIR DAVID THORNE AND THE BARTELS: memories recalled.

The previous years he had also claimed the title, only that time he had Lance Corporal Jack Lister as a partner.

But, while all this is a matter of record, Joe still doesn't know if his hot-shot record has even been broken.

And it seems he'll never know. For the Rhine Army championships ceased about 20 years ago and no records were kept.

But he did get something

out of his inquiries to SOLDIER magazine — an invite to shoot with the Army Rifle Association, the chance to meet up with some old Army pals, a photograph from the ARA's archives showing him and the DRW team of those years and a new sniper's badge which he lost when he went to Korea.

★★★★★

The search is on for a patriotic

song for BLESMA — the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association.

Their musical director for this year's annual bonanza charity evening at Blackpool's Winter Gardens, David Windle, has put out a plea to all budding songwriters to get cracking and get crochets and quavers down on paper in time for "Tribute to BLESMA 1984" on October 17.

All entries to: David Wagstaff, 45 Gateside Drive, Layton, Blackpool FY3 7PN by June 1.

★★★★★

Two AAC men are determined to add to their list of three-legged walk records.

Already they are recorded as having been the first pair to climb a mountain with their legs tied together; and the first duo to reach more than 20,000 ft in this uncomfortable state.

Ace climber Chris Bonnington on hearing this is reported to have said: "An outstanding record of human achievement."

It's not hard to guess what Mr B will say when he hears of their next three-legged bid — to walk the 108-miles of Death Valley, Arizona.

The world's most inhospitable area, temperatures will exceed 103 degrees.

But AAC pilot WO2 Pete Flynn and Staff Sergeant Don Craven, chief clerk at the AAC Centre, Middle Wallop, will be putting their best feet forward on operation "Hot Foot" in a world record bid and to boost funds towards the AAC's museum appeal.

WHEN the Duke of Gloucester declares open the new Aldershot Military Museum on April 19, the organisers are keeping their fingers crossed that he will be spearheading at least 20,000 visitors a year to the little red brick building in Queen's Avenue.

"That's our hoped for figure," said Brigadier John Reed, the man behind the £60,000 venture to preserve the military history of the "Home of the British Army."

"Our aim is to tell the story of the Aldershot Garrison in pictures and models and present it to the public."

About 25 years ago the old Aldershot that had housed the Army since the mid 1850s, started to disappear and be replaced with modern concrete structures.

"It went fast," said Brigadier Reed, "and by 1978 when I was Garrison Commander it had almost gone."

"It was then I got the idea for a museum. When I retired from the Army a couple of years later I started work on a brief of what was needed and compiled a brochure telling the story of Aldershot and what the Aldershot Military Historical Trust planned to do."

Now the one-time barrack room, built about the turn of the century, is having the finishing touches put to it in time for the royal opening later this month and its first public visitors.

"For me it's a dream come true," said Brigadier Reed, telling how land to house the Army of Queen Victoria was bought for £12 an acre in 1854.

Within a few years the bulk of the Army was stationed at Aldershot, the majority living in wooden huts.

Forty years on most were still in the old huts, but there were moves to replace the wooden buildings with brick-built barracks, schools, hospitals, gas works and power stations to make Aldershot the only complete military town built in Britain since Roman times.

In the 1960s the demolition men moved in again to flatten the old Victorian buildings and for builders to replace them with modern-style blocks.

"It is the story of the military town from the 1850s to today, and how soldiers lived and worked that we want to show," said Brigadier Reed.

One exhibit in the museum shows a Victorian barrack room complete with beds, paillasses, table and benches, which will not be too unfamiliar to a good many ex-national servicemen, let alone "old sweats" of pre-war Army days.

But that is how service life was in those days, and the barrackroom, together with the Brigadier's choice

SOLDIER to Soldier



MRS SARA JONES, widow of the late Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones, pictured beneath a new painting of the action which resulted in the posthumous award to her husband of the Victoria Cross. With her is Colour Sergeant Barry Norman, 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, who appears in the painting and was with his Commanding Officer when he was killed attacking Argentine positions in the advance on Darwin and Goose Green, Falkland Islands.

The painting by Terence Cuneo was commissioned by the officers of the School of Infantry and is now hanging in their mess.

● See page 34 for a feature on artist Terence Cuneo — at work on a D-Day painting.

of 300-plus "blown-up" photographs and models on show in the galleries, tells a graphic story of Army life over the past 130 years.

"Of course we can't exhibit everything we have," said the Brigadier, "we just haven't the room. We have ten times as many photos in our archives, but as yet no space to show them."

"Perhaps when we start phase two of the project we'll be able to put more on view."

He indicated that this was something for the future and that it would cost a packet.

In a plea in the brochure for funds towards the project he says:

"Aldershot is part of the national heritage and we owe it to posterity to preserve its history and its treasures and present these to the public."

"The museum will be a fitting memorial to the thousands of soldiers who have passed through Aldershot, and who have given their lives in action in every corner of the world."

The Trust is a registered charity and if you would like to help write to: The Appeal Director, Aldershot Military Historical Trust, Free-post, Aldershot, Hants., GU11 2BR.

OUR recent appeal for D-Day memories has already brought a marvellous response — but for those veterans who haven't seen the message yet ... a gentle reminder.

We are keen to gather as many personal reminiscences as possible of this momentous day — so please tell us what you were doing on 6 June 1944.

If you were in uniform then please let us have your full name, number, rank and unit.

We obviously require your full address and telephone number, the latter not for publication but as an invaluable aid should our writers and photographers wish to talk over detail.

Please let us have your D-Day memories, happy or sad, and send them to: D-DAY Memories, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2DU.

ROUND the world, sailing between each of the four legs, as far as you, the wind and sails can make the boat go. And go you do — down the Southern Oceans. Speeds of in excess of 34.5 Knots have been recorded whilst the whole boat virtually hums with vibration and crew move with caution.

The competition to get onto such a boat competing in such a race is fierce. The Fourth Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race, for which approval has been given for the Services to enter a Tri-Service Yacht, is due to start in September 1985 and finish by May 1986.

The race which will start at Southsea will be of 4 legs with stops at Capetown (approx Nov 85), Auckland (approx Jan 86) and Punta del Este (approx Mar 86).

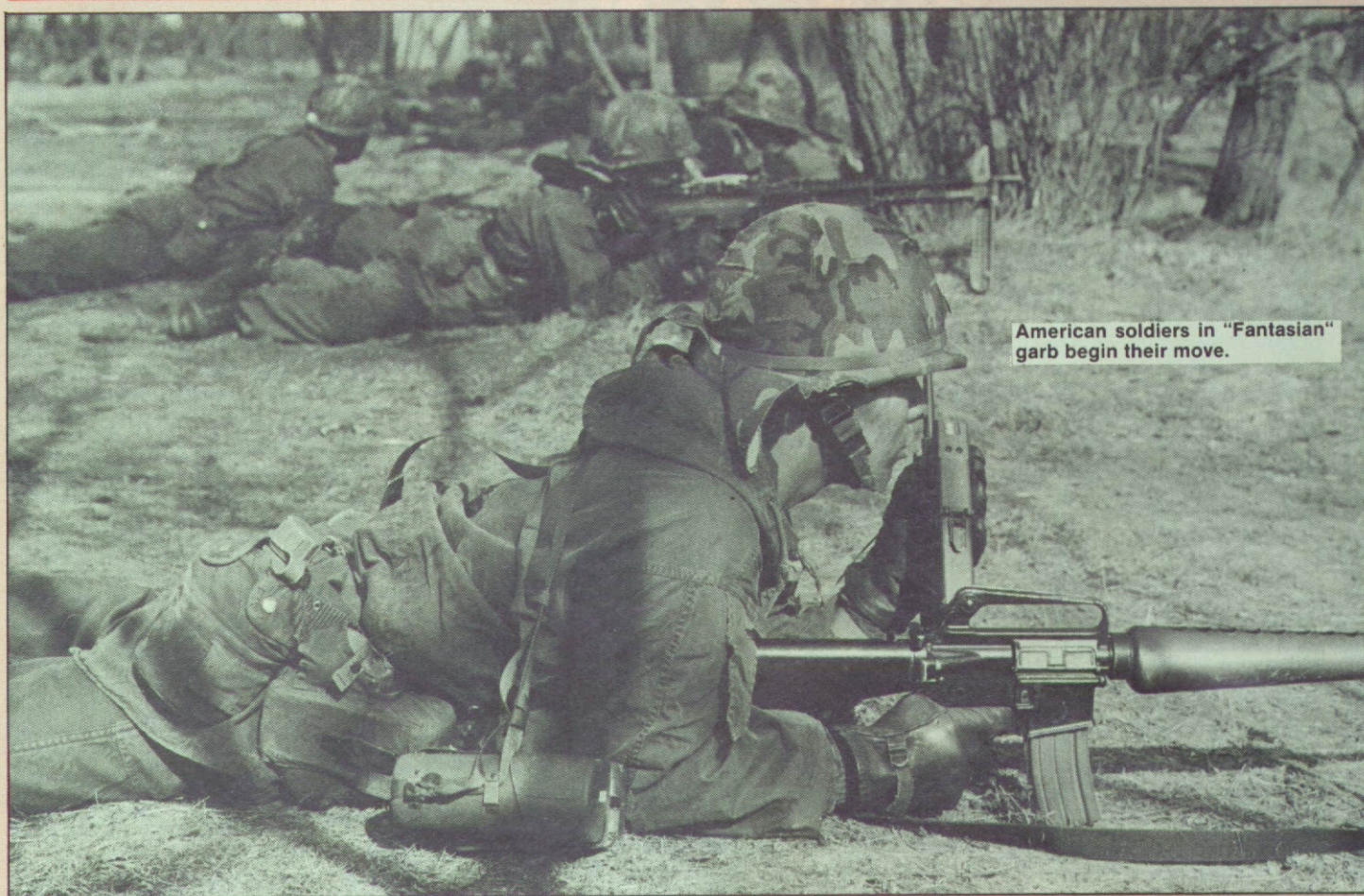
Should any man or woman of the Armed Forces wish to apply to be considered as a member of the crew, they should write or phone for an application form to either:

Project Manager, WRTWYR Tri-Service, Project Team, HMS EXCELLENT, Portsmouth, Hants, or Captain C D Hume-Lewis WRAC, Trg Bn & Depot RAOC, Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey. Tel: Blackdown Mil Ext 509.

AGROUP of 12 soldiers from 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset, are involved in a unique training exercise to help the Swanage Railway.

The idea came from Corporal Frank Roberts who is an active member of the railway in his spare time. He suggested to his Regiment that if they could help restore the telephone network it would be invaluable training for the soldiers involved.

BERLIN 1: ALLIED EXERCISE



American soldiers in "Fantasian" garb begin their move.

Fantasians Heading ...

NO-ONE in the Berlin British Infantry Brigade got away with an easy time of it during March.

In just one week, troops faced an overnight Inter-Platoon competition, a Brigade call-out (or 'Rocking-horse' as it is known in Berlin) and an Allied Fighting Troops Exercise (FTX).

On this occasion the FTX, code-named Exercise March Kessel, was run by the Americans and involved two companies from each of the Allied Infantry Brigades. Training in Berlin for the Allies concentrates on FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) and for these purposes the Ruhleben Fighting City, built four years ago, and the American equivalent, Doughboy City, are especially designed.

Both, in effect, are ghost towns. In Ruhleben, whole buildings of various shapes and sizes, including a church, stand empty on paved streets named after those whose initiative and muscle built the place. Deserted, the village reminds you of a latter day Klondike community when the gold ran out; they just upped sticks and left everything intact.

Story:
Sally Daniell
Pictures:
Paul Haley

It was by no means deserted on the day we first visited. 'Y' Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment had moved in about midday and had set about building up their defences. Just a few yards away — on the other side of the railway line in fact — a French company from the 46th Regiment of Infantry was doing exactly the same. Both expected a combined US and British attack at any time.

Battalion Headquarters was located in the cellar of a small three-storey building. Here radio and landlines were connected to the Combat Team now busy 'digging' themselves in. Radio and telephone also connected HQ to the British Liaison Officer at the US Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) several kilometres away. With the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hastings Neville, the mortar controller and a French Liaison

Officer as well, the place was fairly crackling with anticipation.

At ground level the Regimental Aid Post was gradually taking shape behind the sandbags. This was to play an important role since one of the aims of the exercise was to practise medical evacuation to the American Brigade Hospital and prisoner-of-war handling. Both were made all the more real because of the language difficulty with the French — and the Americans, too, come to that!

Meanwhile, the industry in the Combat Team was frenetic. Machine-gun positions has been strategically sited to avoid 'dead' spots, wire and mines were being laid and every window in the defended houses was destined to be sand-bagged, grilled and hessianed. Escape routes and enemy cut-offs were being effected whilst more soldiers from the three-platoon Combat Team laid booby traps, decoys and other obstacles in the path of the advancing enemy.

The Command Post, like BHQ, was in the cellar of a defended building and it was there that Officer Commanding the Combat Team, Captain Peter Emery ex-

plained the techniques of FIBUA and its peculiarities.

"One of the special problems is communication. As OC I have got to know what every man in every platoon is doing. But I can't go out and take a look because otherwise I'm dead. Therefore I have to rely on landlines to BHQ and each of my gun positions and if that breaks down, I then have the radio as back-up.

"In FIBUA a very big threat is from heavy artillery and so your gun positions must be adequately protected from collapsing roofs and falling masonry. So we build sandbag 'coffins' for the men to fall into if they come under heavy shelling. You cannot have too many defences.

"The really important thing, though, is to position your weapons so that you have interlocking arcs of fire mutually supporting each other." And with that, Captain Emery went off in search of the French CT Commander, Major Bois to discuss the finer details such as area designations and the use of passwords during the im-

(Continued on page 16)

British soldiers prepare to defend their "ghost town".



... For Big Surprise!

Defender prepares to repel "Fantasians" with a general purpose machine gun.



Liaison is very important

(From page 14)

pending attack.

Berlin in March is not exactly Springlike, the weather pattern tending more towards snow showers and northerly winds than anything else. A weak sun appeared from time to time but as the light faded the temperature dropped to around zero degrees.

Throughout the night work on defences continued relentlessly; Wombat and Milan were deployed and the French brought in their own anti-aircraft guns; positions were made more secure and lines of communication tested.

By the time we made our second visit to Ruhleben the French were still humping netting and sandbags around but the 'Brits' had gone to ground with only the silver orifice of the one Wombat visible in the glinting sunlight. Like in a scene from *High Noon*, eyeless buildings concealed both the lethal power and tense expectation within.

Intelligence gleaned during the dark hours from TOC and also a couple of captured enemy revealed that an attack from a Motor Rifle unit equipped with Soviet T64 tanks and BMPs (armoured personnel carriers) was expected some-



time after 1300.

Two to three kilometres south of the village in the Grunewald training area the orange (or opposing) forces were mustering. 'B' Company, 1 Royal Hampshires, under the command of Captain Nigel Williams, together with a

**BERLIN 2:
Inter-Platoon
competition —
see page 18**

Proving the point about liaison — Captain Peter Emery, second left, in discussion with French and American officers.

company of 6th US Infantry donned OpFor or 'Fantasian' uniforms, checked their ammunition and prepared for attack.

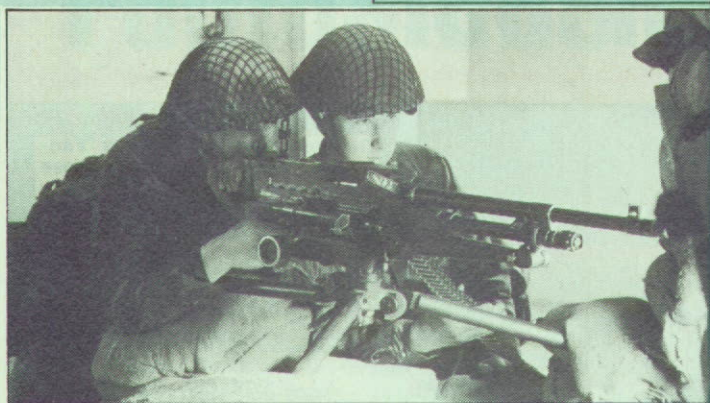
This FTX was to be useful to them also, giving them an opportunity to practise standard (and some likely non-standard) offensive FIBUA techniques, as Captain Williams described: "Every individual has a job to do in FIBUA whether it is recce, using grenades, wire cutters etc. We have had three or four days training only in this type of warfare and this is the first time we will have come up against a good enemy. Of course, if any of us gets captured by the French it will be very good training because we don't know the language. Still, I think we're all looking forward to it even though we are expecting a few surprises!"

Well, if you think you are going to read the end of this story you are wrong! At that point, just

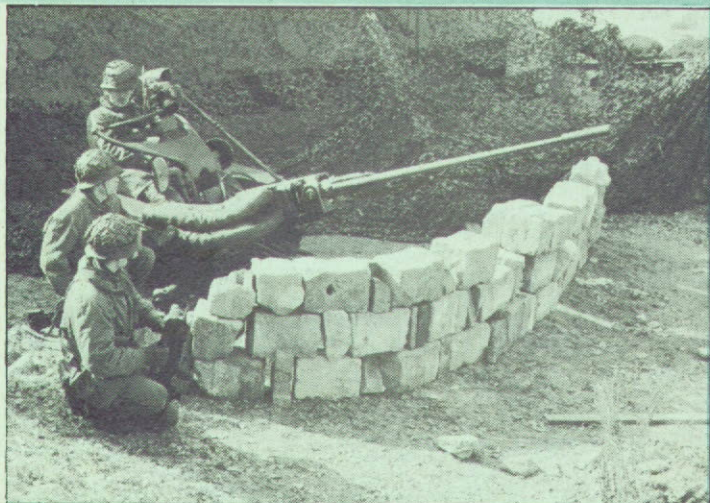
minutes before the 'third act', SOLDIER had to leave. We can tell you, however, that the Fantasians took an early lead having taken out the advance posts but thereafter failed to take any ground. In other words — a draw.

"The value of this exercise," said Lieutenant Colonel Neville, "has been in practising operations on the ground with both French and British companies. Liaison is very important — both face-to-face for tying up details and also radio contact to the Allied Brigade HQ. Of course, in an exercise like this, you just don't know how long you have got to prepare so you must get your priorities right."

After Exercise March Kessel, you might think priorities would change to those of a more relaxing nature — but not for 1 R Hamps. The whole battalion was barely going to draw breath before it was off for three weeks conventional training in Schleswig-Holstein. As for the Fantasians, well, they'll live to fight another day, too, no doubt.



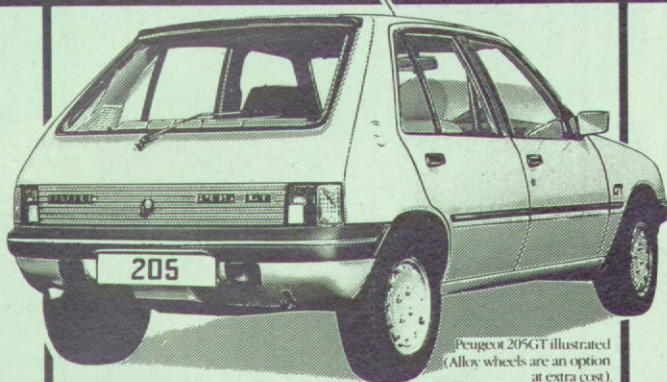
Above: Sustained fire position for Privates Paul George and Adam Hocken. Below: French anti-aircraft gun in position ... ready for their first customers.



Railway coaches and lines are part of the urban environment. Below: Lieutenant Colonel Hastings Neville and Brigadier General Leroy Suddath, US Army.



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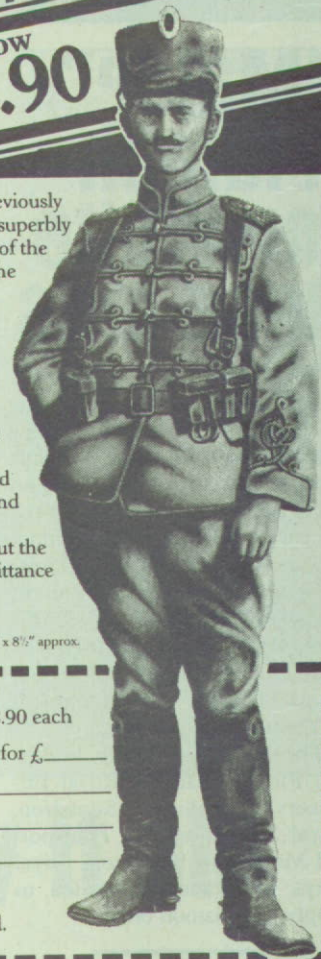
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BERLIN 2: THE UNITS COMPETE

“Major” triumph for White Rose lads

IN SEPARATE competitions the three infantry regiments of the Berlin British Infantry Brigade and the Brigade support units pitted their wits and skills against one another in the annual Inter-Platoon Competition.

Taking part in the Major Units were nine platoons each from 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment and 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The three Minor Units, 38(Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, 229 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals and 62 Transport and Movement Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport needed to supply one platoon only.

Story:
Sally Daniell

Pictures:
Paul Haley

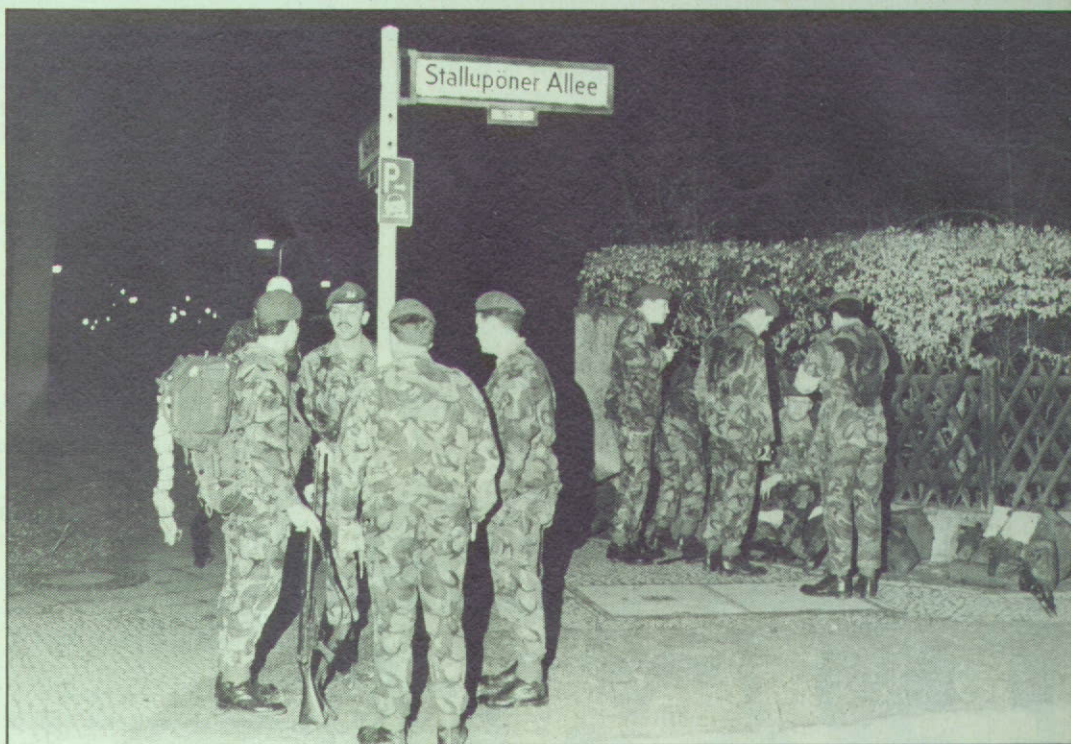
At the final count, 6 Platoon 1 PWO were more than forty points clear of the nearest rivals in their competition but to some people's surprise and certainly to the Infantry's chagrin, 38 Fd Sqn — the winners of the Minor Units, and 229 Sig Sqn both beat the Infantry on points.

However, the Minor Units were not required to use the general purpose machine gun on the shooting tests, but that did not stop either the Sappers or the Signallers from walking round with their heads in the clouds for the next few days.

The Competition began in the US training area of 'Doughboy City' where at spaced intervals each of the thirty competing platoons formed up for kit inspection, every member of the platoon being spot-checked on different items.

A reporter from the Berliner Zeitung, invited to view the proceedings, wanted to know how much a man's pack weighed. "Too much," came the wry reply from someone who knew only too well how much heavier his pack would become over the next 18 hours.

A swift briefing on the night



Above: Crossroads discussion.
Below: Lieutenant Colonel Rory Forsyth, CO 1PWO

navigation march followed and with a warning to take the front gate out of 'Doughboy City' rather than the back — which would lead them into the German Democratic Republic — they were off into the cold night lit only by the grim, stark lights of the Wall.

The route took each platoon through both urban and rural areas. If they achieved the bogey time, they arrived at the Heerstrasse (the approach to the 1936 Olympic Stadium now inside the British Sector Headquarters) some four hours and 15 minutes later.

Yet before they could enjoy their well-earned rest and a brew, there was the old stretcher trick again — guaranteed to lower the morale of an already tired team. Carrying this 180lb stretcher several hundred yards was the last stage of the night march and after the static tests on NBC, First Aid and Vehicle Identification the teams had a few hours 'off' before the forced march and assault course.

Those few hours 'off' were no picnic, being designed for rest rather than sleep. Those who started on the first night of the Competition were lucky — the temperature did not fall below freezing. The 'second sitting' including both winners, endured a rather colder night.

In daylight a 23-minute run down from the stadium to Ruhlleben Fighting City preceded the assault-course-with-a-difference. Instead of the usual ropes and obstacles, now it was a question of scaling building walls and scrambling through drains.

Course designer, Major Phil Hargreaves, Army Physical Training Corps explained: "We have just taken the basic obstacle course and transferred it to a Fighting City environment which after all, is the environment Berlin troops would be in.

"This is the first time we have used the village for this competition and it has worked very well.



Fastest on the run down and assault course was 7 Platoon 1 R Hamps but they still could not catch the leaders and finished sixth overall.

Watching the 1 PWO platoons match up to the Fighting City obstacles was Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Rory Forsyth who was impressed with this improvisation: "If we are supposed to be a Brigade which specialises in FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) then this," he said, gesturing towards the scrambling troops, "has got to be of value. There's something in it for everyone. It's great!"

After the shooting the statistics were finalised and in the Major Units, 1 PWO emerged as victors winning three out of the first four places and 1 R Hamps taking six out of the first ten. ■



The dreaded stretcher test for the anti-tank platoon of 3 RRF.

On the face of it ...



... the expressions say it all!

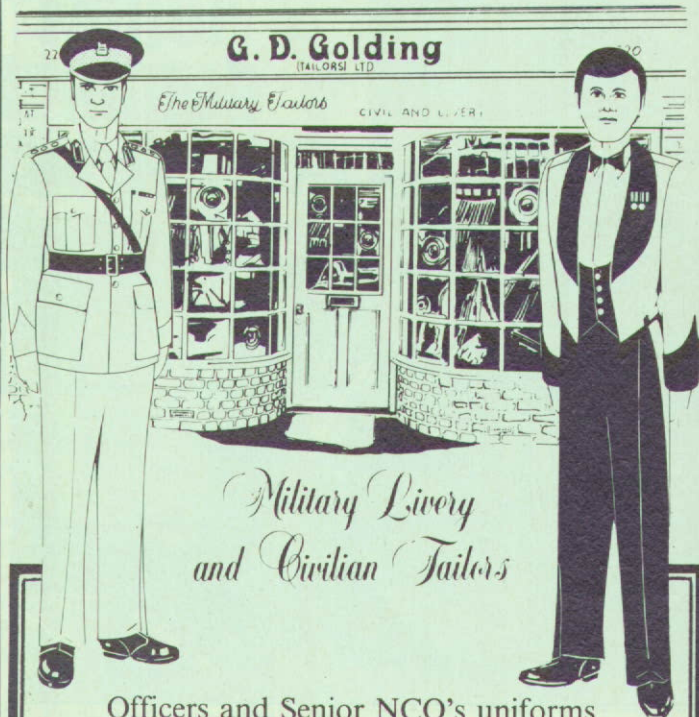


In this page of action pictures from the Fighting City stage Berlin Inter-Platoon Competition



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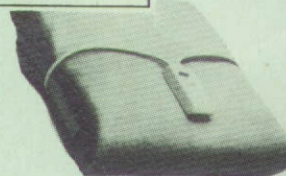
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I WONDER if you can please help me with some information, as you have done in the past?

We are keen to purchase one of the surplus Army quarters which are being sold off through the new discount scheme. We have in fact viewed, and put in a bid for, two adjacent houses in Falkirk, Scotland DISNOT 5004 and 5005. Either of which would be most suitable. This was all done in rather a rush, and with a great deal of difficulty in obtaining the keys/permission to view from the people named in the directive. After many phone calls I eventually viewed the houses. May I add that people were most helpful, they simply knew nothing about 'who, where or how' they were involved.

Having returned to BAOR we could only send our bid in writing to the address of the key holders who had all originally denied it was their department's job.

As the houses were exactly what we need and are situated where we wish to settle, I feel very insecure and out on a completely useless limb here. Could you please tell us if our bid should have gone to the key holders or to HQ Scotland perhaps?

Could you also assure me that these quarters are disposed of by an impartial party and that local people, be they Army or TAVR will not be able to influence anyone concerned?

We desperately need to get a house in Scotland, both for our children who are due to start university and college in Scotland and for us to use soon. These quarters are excellent value and we really do appreciate the opportunity this scheme gives us. I am not suggesting that things will not be done fairly but for us in BAOR, or any other foreign posting, it would be helpful if you could clear up the finer points of the scheme.

I expect I am worrying most unnecessarily, but as this is such a big step for any of us I do hope you will understand. If you can put my mind at rest I will be most grateful. — MRS L, BFPO 44.

It is regretted the houses in DISNOTs 5004 and 5005 have had to be temporarily withdrawn from the sales for reasons which are in the interests of the purchaser. It is hoped the difficulties will be overcome, but we can not estimate how long this will take. Mrs L. or her husband, should go to his unit orderly room to read reference B. He/she will then see that applications to purchase houses under the scheme should be made on the application form attached to the DCI, and then forwarded to JSMQSO, HQ

UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury. The selection process is scrupulously fair and strictly in accordance with the rules in the DCI. The key holders of properties merely hold the keys so individuals may obtain them to view the houses. Key holders have NO say, whatsoever, in the selection process.

Raw deal for ROs

As a retired officer who became re-employed as an RO in Germany, I believe that I and similarly employed persons have been badly treated by the latest House Purchase Scheme Rules.

The Discounted Scheme applies only to personnel actually serving in the Forces, not to those like myself who are employed by the Army, or Navy/RAF for that matter.

Many ROs serving abroad were recruited whilst still serving and took up employment immediately upon retirement. In my case I actually started work in the RO appointment on the day my full-time Service ended. Because I was abroad at the time and living in a married quarter I had no need for a house in the UK.

Because I do not live in a council house in the UK I have no chance of qualifying for a discounted house under that particular legislation. Having retired from the Army I am not eligible under the Forces

scheme. It seems to me that those ROs who do not and have never owned a house in the UK should be included in the House Purchase and Discounted schemes. — Mr. A. Dusseldorf.

It is the aim of the MOD to give serving personnel, who do not already own a house, the opportunity to purchase whatever surplus married quarters may be made available under this scheme.

Before the DCI was published all aspects of eligibility were looked at by MOD with regard to civilians being made eligible under the scheme, the result of which was that no civilians would be eligible, be they retired officers, TA personnel, MOD police or civil servants.

As mentioned above, this scheme was introduced for the benefit of regular servicemen. As the selection of successful applicants is by the greatest number of years service, it would be quite unfair to expect regular servicemen to compete with civilians in the categories mentioned above.

A widow in search of medals

I am a war widow and a friend told me that I am allowed to have my late husband's medals. I don't even remember seeing them and he died overseas. How do I go about getting them?

Write to: Ministry of Defence, Army Medal Office, Government Building, Worcester Road, Droitwich, WR9 8AJ, with as much information as you can. Army Number, date of birth, rank, which regiment or corps, date he died and where.

Why you should check your income

Service families are entitled to claim Family Income Supplement both in UK and overseas. Remember, once in receipt of FIS, it lasts for 52 weeks. You can claim:

1.) If you're a low wage earner with

a family, and you're working full-time. Why not check to see if you're entitled to FIS.

2.) You can now claim if you've one child and your income is up to £85.50 a week, or two children and your income is up to £95 a week. Your income can be up to £9.50 more for each additional child you

can still claim FIS.

3.) You can apply whether you're employed or self-employed; or a one or two-parent family.

4.) There's a leaflet FIS.1 in post offices and BFPO and unit pay offices which tells you more about Family Income Supplement, and has an application form with it.



THE recent LOA cuts are now being assessed by the families. With every cut in LOA a series of questions, queries, discussions, arguments take place and rumours circulate over what is taken into account.

What items are considered when disturbance and education allowance are discussed? Likewise, what are the ingredients that are considered in LOA?

As to the mysterious X-Factor... may I make a plea to the Ministry of Defence that in 1984 we are told what items are considered in these allowances. A clear, concise leaflet would stop all these rumours.

In March 1983 BFG produced a LOA leaflet explaining the whys and wherefores, but under para 10 it said: "There are about 30 main headings under General Expenditure (see para 9(4)) and it is ONLY THESE that are considered for LOA purposes."

But para 9(4) only mentioned seven items for example: food, clothing, motoring costs, holidays, entertainment, cigarettes, telephone calls. Yet this leaves 23 unmentioned items which are taken into account. What are they?

Likewise, the need to know for disturbance allowance. What percentage is put aside for TV rental and telephone rental losses, the enormous losses for store cupboards and deep freezers?

The advice is don't rely on your LOA. Why did your disturbance allowance not cover your move? The answer is usually in the time-honoured phrase: "it is in the X-Factor."

Wives have to budget and in more and more cases are the ones who do the budgeting and cope with financial difficulties as husbands are spending more and more time away. Yet how can they heed their financial commitments if they do not know what is covered by these allowances?

It is only right we should have a simple guide so that we can easily decide in advance the sort of items which can, for example, fall under the LOA hammer.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

Naafi to launch new budget scheme

BUY NOW PAY LATER PLAN THIS YEAR

A NEW buy-now-pay-later scheme for servicemen and women is to be introduced this year by Naafi. It will be available for soldiers and their wives and servicewomen and their husbands from July.

The scheme will provide a continuous credit system for all Naafi goods except food and drink.

Information and application forms for the credit plan will be in Naafi shops from late July onwards.

The scheme will allow card holders up to 24 times the value of a direct debit repayment, or ten times a regular cash-over-the-counter payment.

But lower limits could be imposed, warned a Naafi spokesman. It depends on the rank and age of applicants.

The new credit plan was revealed by Naafi's managing director Brian Whitaker at an all-ranks meeting at Naafi HQ in London.

He also told how Naafi had to cover a staggering loss of £387,000 by a number of their shops and clubs.

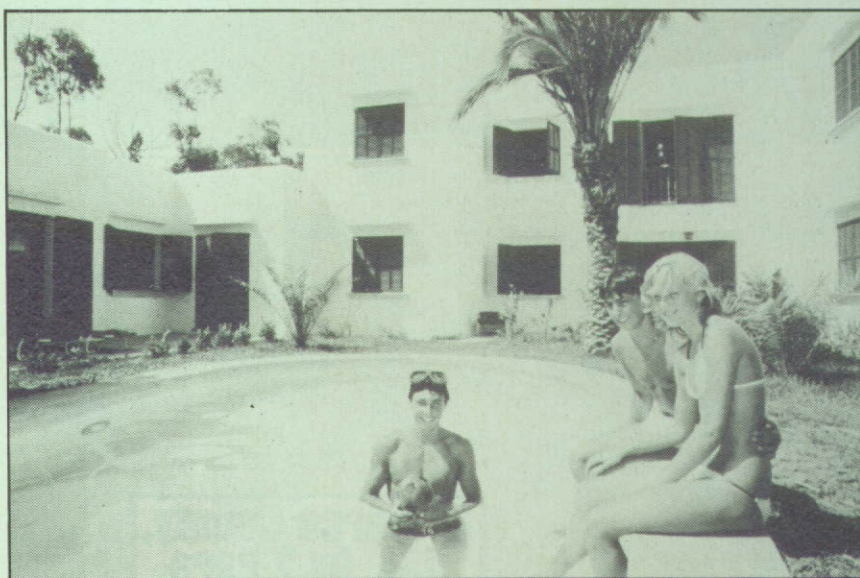
But despite this fallback, the

organisation managed to show a six per cent improvement over last year. This meant the Army got £254,000 rebate — 25 per cent more than last year.

Mr Whitaker pointed out that continuing LOA cuts and, in some areas, fewer personnel and families using shops due to Service commitments, made a considerable dent in Naafi profits.

I asked what Naafi could do to stem the so-called apathy among its customers which often results in no customer-relation meetings at local and district level.

I was told it was not within Naafi's jurisdiction to call customer-relation meetings, but was the Army's responsibility.



■ Sunshine ahead — all yours at ten per cent off.

Book now for the sun

A RANGE of cut-price sunshine holidays are now available to Naafi's UK customers.

The special ten per cent discount on brochure prices covers all packed holidays booked direct by entitled Naafi customers with Falcon, Sunstart, and Churchill, family holidays.

The same discount will also be offered on all Falcon Flights which leave 11 UK airports for 25 destinations on the continent.

The holiday resorts include Lanzarote, the Costa del Sol, and Costa Blanca; the Algarve;

Italy's Adriatic riviera; and the islands of Malta, Majorca, Ibiza, and the Greek archipelago.

Falcon also have sailing holidays available in Greece and Turkey.

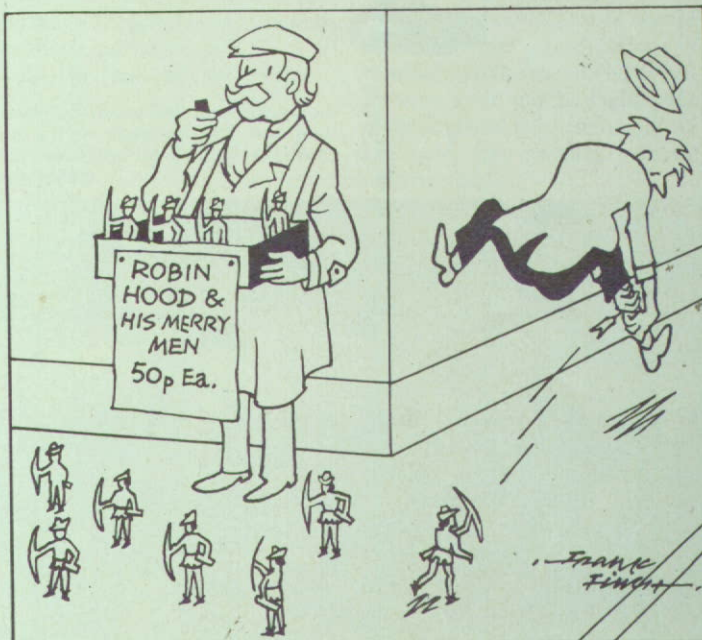
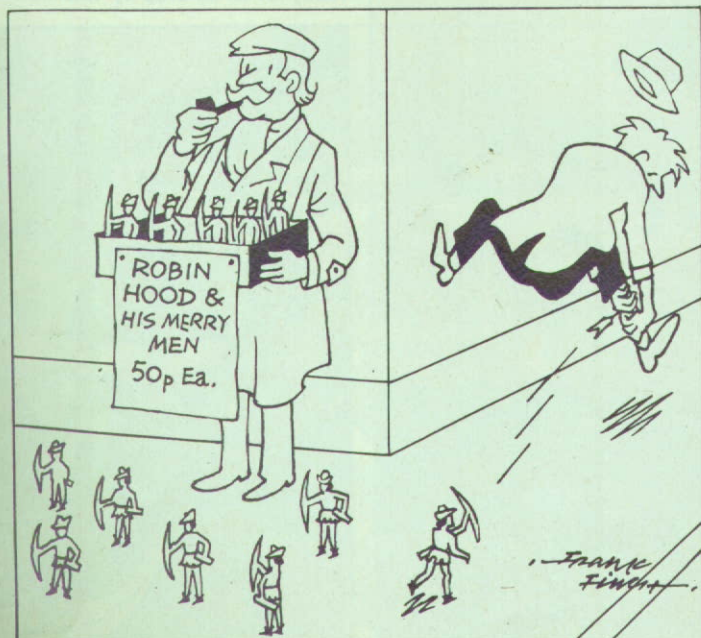
A family of two adults and two children could save almost £90 on a 14-night, self-catering Falcon holiday at a villa apartment at Cala D'Or on Majorca's Cala Esmeralda.

Details how Naafi customers can make their direct bookings from Falcon, Sunstart, Churchill, and Falcon Flight brochures, and from Naafi shops in the UK.

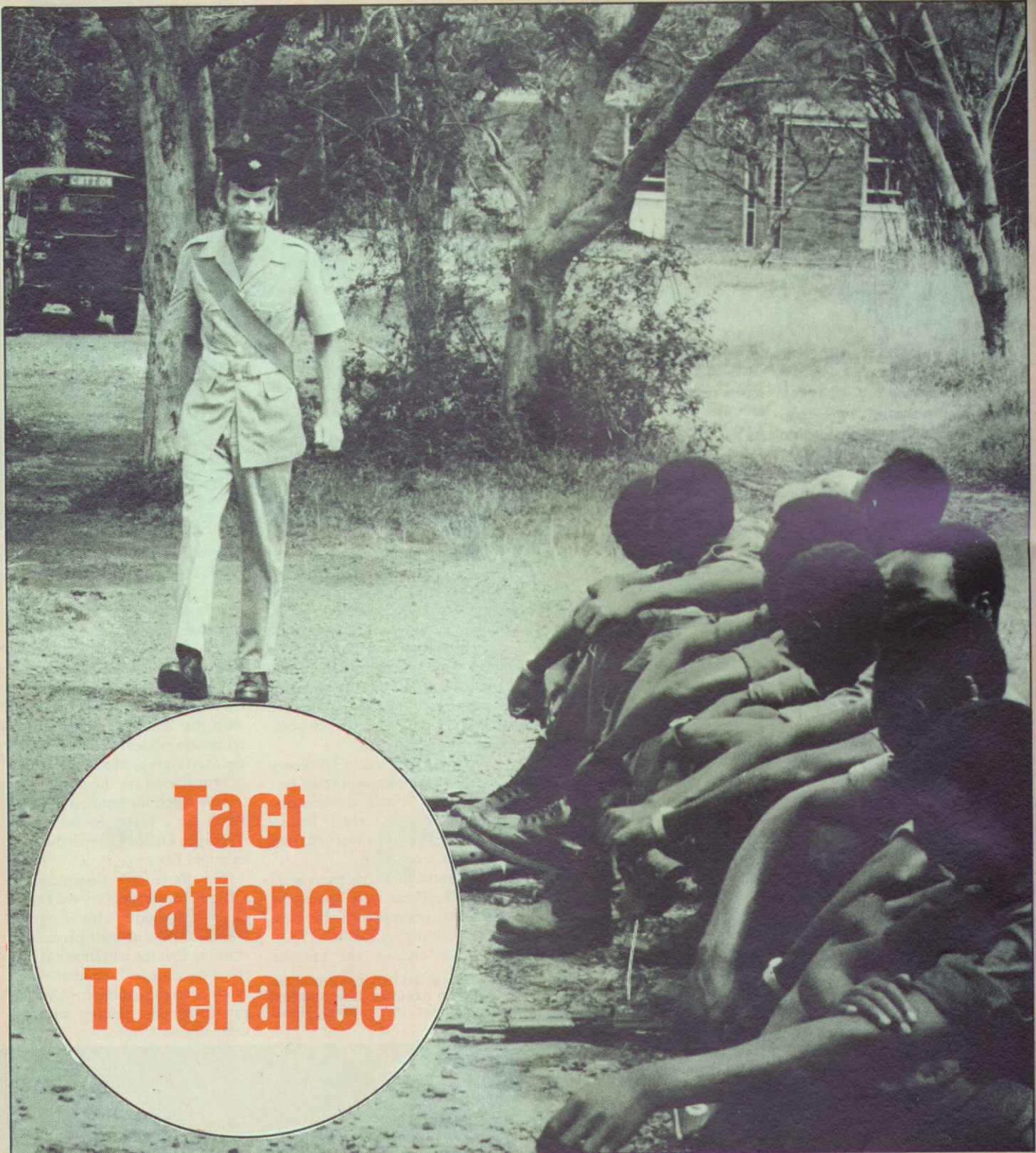
How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.

Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.



LOAN SERVICE: UGANDA



**Tact
Patience
Tolerance**

The first of a SOLDIER special series looking at the work of our men helping friendly nations overseas

Colour Sergeant "Mo" Morrison —
"we not only aim high..."

**Report:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Doug Pratt**

A

TEAM drawn from seven Commonwealth nations involved in training just over 3,500 potential infantry commanders and instructors has just finished a two-year programme for the latest embryo Ugandan Army.

In a panoramic setting nearly 4,000 feet up within sight of Africa's largest lake, Victoria, and less than a mile from a source of the Nile discovered by Speke in 1862, a total of 33 officers and senior NCOs from the UK, Australia, Canada, Sierra Leone, Guyana, Jamaica and Tanzania had evolved a series of just over two dozen courses until the end of last month.

Their task — involving 15 British Army Loan Service personnel on six months' tours — as part of CMTT (the Commonwealth Military Training Team) was set up at Jinja, Uganda's industrial centre and second largest community. The hand-picked members from each of the seven contributing nations were located near a barracks where the former President Idi Amin had once trained as a private.

The bid for the team's constitution had been made by Uganda's Milton Obote in October 1981 during a Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Melbourne, Australia. Six months later, the first courses were being organised at Jinja and a "boot neck" camp at Kabamba, seven bone-shaking hours and 200 miles away by road.

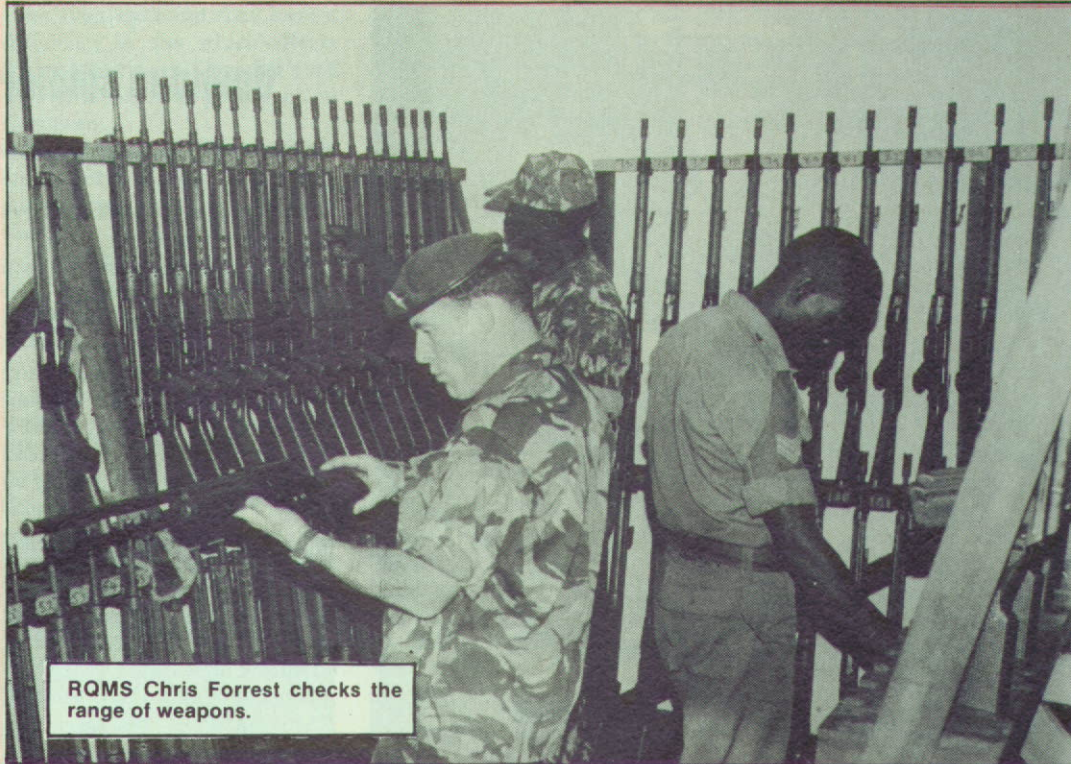
President Obote had pointed out that such military training was "an essential ingredient to Uganda's programme of reconstruction and economic recovery" after the disastrous Amin regime.

Backbone of the CMTT have been the British Loan Service officers — each team member wearing a unique blue beret — who have been posted out to Uganda, as elsewhere, on six-month tours.

The £4-a-month Ugandan soldiers have been taught infantry firearms skills on a miscellany of small arms including not only the FN rifle but the American Garand, Heckler & Koch G.3 and the Soviet AK-47 assault rifle.

Loan Service experience in the Muscat and Oman behind him in 1969 and in Zimbabwe at its independence in 1980, Colour Sgt "Mo" Morrison, Irish Guards, said of the Loan Service system: "It's tailored for the individual who is prepared to work and suffer frustrating inconveniences. Money does not have to mean that much.

"Volunteers must learn that tolerance, patience and tact go together. The aspiring Loan Service man must also realise that he is going to have to accept slightly lower standards. We not only aim high but we try to bring them high.



RQMS Chris Forrest checks the range of weapons.

Team Spirit and Sense of Humour needed

"Loan Service does not adversely affect people's careers. You may be out of sight, out of mind but, at the same time, you are representing the regiment, you are wearing their badge; that's the main thing. The British have got more than 30 years' experience offering our second-to-none expertise to developing armies."

Married man applicants to the system had, he suggested, the advantages of the wages which "kept his wife happy at home anyway".

He added: "Six months is not a long time when you consider four-month tours unaccompanied in places like Northern Ireland and the Falklands. In fact, married men

someone without a sense of humour, nor those who cannot stand separation from their families, nor the moaners because they affect a team's spirit.

"There is no running away from anything in Loan Service. You are not hiding anything and anybody who thinks he is coming out as a mercenary is, quite honestly, a bloody fool. If a bloke comes out here just to make a lot of money he will just sit in his room, like anywhere else, and ruin the morale of the team wherever they are. It all boils down to one thing; team spirit where everyone works as one unit."

And completing that element of team spirit the British contingent

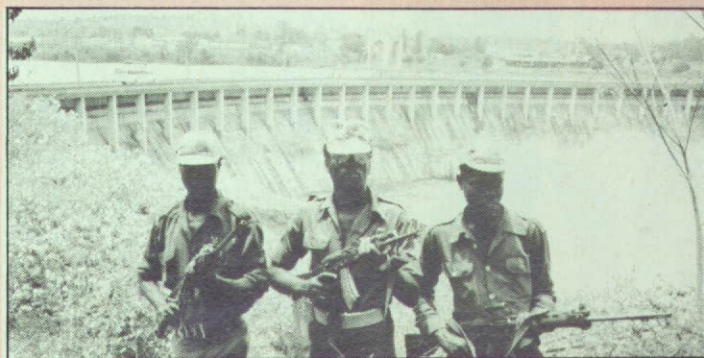
are now known are specialists from the REME, RAOC, 17th/21st Lancers, The Queen's Regiment, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Irish Guards, the Blues and Royals, Scots Guards, the Gloucestershire Regiment and even a Royal Marine making a mélange of technical and trade experience unsurpassed for their East African hosts.

Staff Sergeant Mal Rosser, 1 QDG, on his third stint of Loan Service and at Jinja, 40 miles east of the Ugandan capital of Kampala, since August of last year said: "The enjoyment I am getting out of the job is that I feel I am doing something to try to help developing Forces to get on their feet again.

"I'm not just here for the money, though it's good — £1,025 a month compared with nearly £700 back in the UK — out of which I spend about £3 a day on food."

His previous Loan Service experience was in Zimbabwe, again as a Chief Clerk, instructing on Service writing on the staff officer courses.

"On Loan Service you have got to be prepared to accept lower standards than you would from British squaddies but it's still a challenging job. The failure rate is acceptable though we do have what we call a 'pass-in' system for initial acceptance. But Loan Service jobs



Guarding the dam at Jinja.

are an asset to the Loan Service; they bring stability.

"But what we don't want is

of the Uganda CMMT or, BMATT (British Military and Advisory Training Team) as they



Sgt Dave Ziggars, RAA — instruction on 7.62 AKM folding stock rifles.

would not appeal to the ordinary British senior NCO; he has got to have special qualities.

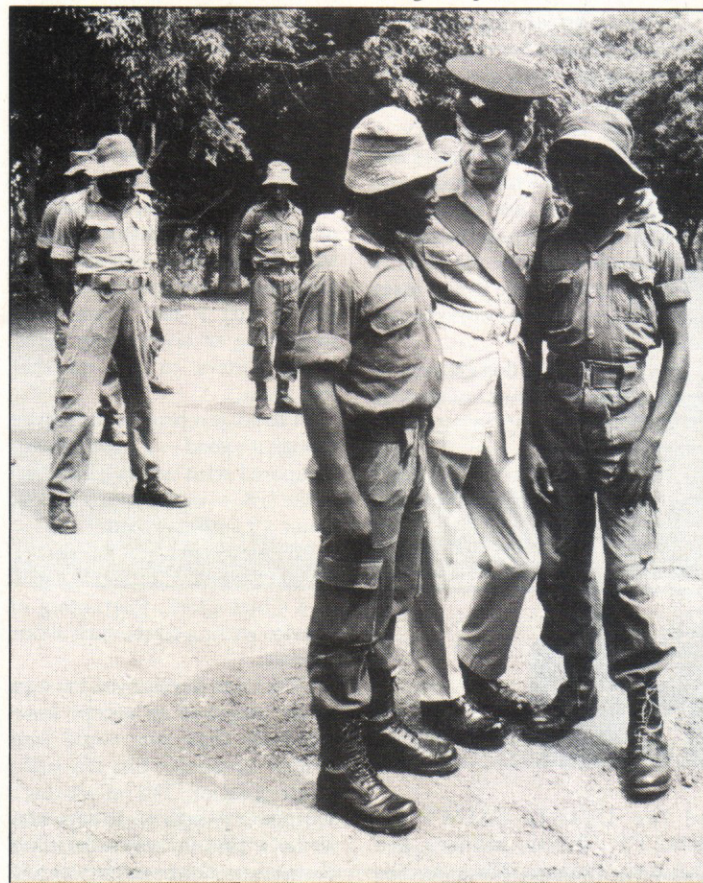
I think the Brits enter into the training with renewed enthusiasm and drive using training methods which have been tried and tested over the years.

"I get personal satisfaction of going to these countries and helping to train their soldiers. Eventually, it adds to the stability of that country. Loan Service is

vital in my view but it does seem that COs are reluctant to let their people go for a variety of reasons. I am hoping to volunteer again when my present tour here ends."

Another Brit with the Jinja team is Staff Sergeant Ken Hope, REME, who was at SEME Bordon and previously on curtailed loan service to Iran — in his Chieftain mechanic specialisation — before his current ten-month stay in Uganda.

He said: "I enjoy helping to build up a country's Army again using the particular knowledge I



'Ugandan soldiers are enthusiastic'

have gained by the world's foremost trade trainers.

"My own career, I am sure, will still run its course again after Uganda. You are never forgotten by your regiment or corps."

CMTT has also helped build up to completion the resident School of Infantry, and CMTT itself was made up of an HQ and five sub-sections comprising an Officers' Wing, NCOs Wing plus specialist, medical (run by the Canadians) and recruit training largely mounted from the Kabamba "boot camp" through where an estimated 2,000 soldiers have passed during their courses.

Since June of last year, a total of 3,566 personnel has taken advantage of the two dozen-plus courses on offer until the end of March. These ranged from senior officers to platoon commanders, from staff officers to basic signals, from clerks and storemen to platoon sergeants and senior NCO courses.

Major Nick Cann, 2 Queens and Chief Instructor of the Officers' Wing said: "My tip is to get your bid in early for Loan Service as quickly as possible for a move in 18 months or two years' time. It could be a shrewd move.

"It's a popular misconception about Loan Service that if you go away from your unit other people will take your place and you will lose ground in your future career.

"In my case during 1970 — I was commissioned in 1967 — I applied for Loan Service and one of the things I was told was that I would be out of favour if I carried on with the application. I was told if my face was not there I would be forgotten. There I was — only 23. What was the Army going to do with me for the next thirty years. Of course, I applied. And I applied again in 1976.

"One of the great benefits of Loan Service is there for everyone; you get given responsibility that you would never get elsewhere and this helps develop the individual far quicker.

"I don't think Loan Service is looking for the really old-in-the-tooth guy but the younger thrusting senior NCO who has been promoted to sergeant and is having to wait around for a period of time before his next promotion. Loan Service gives such men tremendous scope to develop in rank.

Major Cann added: "A lot of people who apply are not really suited to Loan Service because they

have domestic or money problems. It's not the fault of Loan Service, they have to fill certain jobs. The important factor is for COs to know the person applying because that person is an ambassador for his country and the regiment.

"The British are judged by Loan Service personnel in many countries. Loan Service people live in small environments and must pull together. It's not good for the loner, secretive person or poor mixer.

"The sort of person who over-reacts to certain situations soon loses the total respect of the locals. You have not to mind or be embarrassed by being really close to the people you work with. You do need an adventurous spirit and Loan Service is no place for the man who does not want to work.



S/Sgt Malcolm Rosser, QDG.

You get out of Loan Service what you put in. It's very rewarding in job satisfaction terms as well as financially."

The strength of the Ugandan Army has been variously put at between 40,000 to 45,000 and the basis of its recruits is drawn from 16 tribes.

Major Mike Athesly, from the Guyana Defence Force — he is returning there to run a Special Forces Battalion — and second-in-command at CMTT for nearly a year said of the team's passing: "I think we had a great opportunity for the seven Commonwealth nations to get to know each other professionally and socially. It's got to be sad that we are no longer going to have the opportunity to do this.

"But we are leaving some really good groundwork for the Ugandan Army recruits which any subsequent team will be able to exploit well."

One of the Team's problems, he said, had been the "moon-lighting" for more pay by some of the recruits who, on courses, had found it difficult to concentrate.

Commenting on the wide mix of Western and Warsaw Pact small arms systems used for training

Friendly word from Colour Sergeant Morrison.

purposes, including RPGs, he said: "These are a legacy of Amin's regime when he bought weapons from Colonel Ghaddafi. Eventually, I think President Obote will strike up such a good relationship with the West they will buy from that market place again. Currently, the economic situation is so poor they cannot afford to buy new weapons and have to make do. But we still have plenty of the old ammunition with which to complete their training!"

And how is the Ugandan recruit behind his rifle, be it FN G.3 or AK-47?

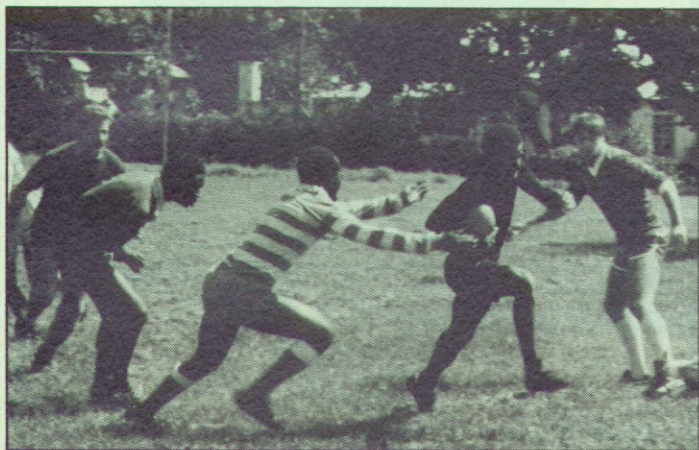
One team member told me: "They have a natural tendency to

close their eyes and they have a deficiency in diet which affects their night vision. They don't see as well at night as your average European.

He went on: "They are very enthusiastic in terms of training and exercises and we feed them on those.

"I think we are doing a good, professional job. Trying for results that are expected of us in the best of military traditions.

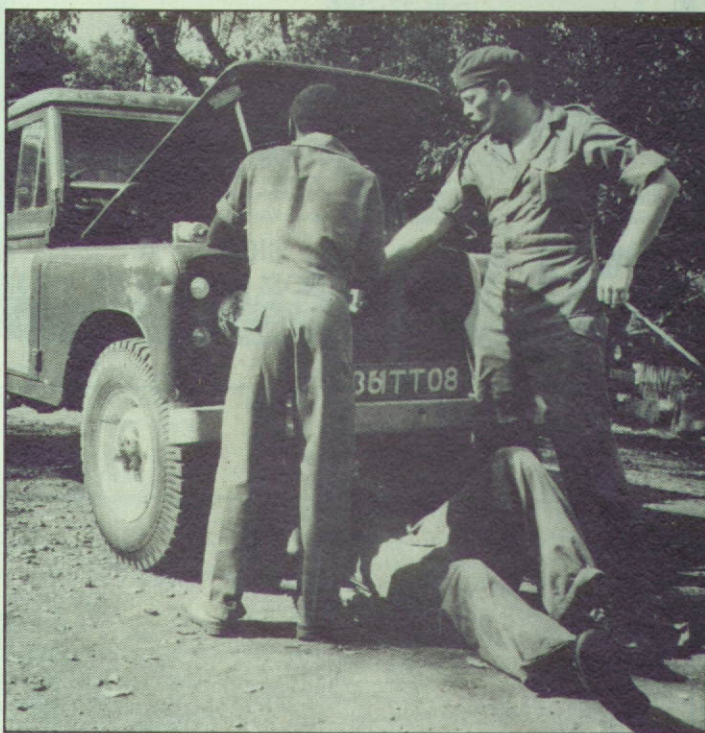
"The Ugandan soldiers are enthusiastic about training and I believe they want to be good soldiers. We are having a damned good go at helping them achieve that aim."



Top: Relaxation with rugby. Above: Road checks between Entebbe and Jinja.



Regimental Corporal Major John Midwinter presents a plaque to Warrant Officer 2 Keith Lea.



Sgt Ken Hope, REME and students work on a Land Rover.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS JINJA GRAVE

THIRTEEN YEARS of scouring through his local church records have failed to turn up trumps for a former National Service ROAC corporal living in Uganda who has been trying to solve the mystery of a

solitary headstoned grave containing the remains of a British Army officer.

Ted Puttick, who teaches 30 under-privileged children woodwork at the invitation of the Uganda Roman Catholic Church — he is also known as Brother Ted — is stumped in his search for information on Wilfred Holroyd Ratton, a second lieutenant with the 22nd Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's) who died at Jinja, 40 miles to the east of Kampala — on July 19, 1915.

A barrister-at-law, Lt Ratton was only 24. Whether it was a bullet or Blackwater Fever that downed him has been per-

plexing former 22490386 Cpl Puttick, E who once served in Aldershot and at the RAOC's March Road Depot in Cambridge.

But there was a faint glimmer of hope just recently.

Brother Ted explained: "Nearby, there is a Commonwealth Military Training Team which includes about a dozen British soldiers who are helping to train Ugandan Army recruits. One day, a colonel from The Queen's Regiment visited them, got to hear of the grave, came and looked at it and went away saying he would have some inquiries made about it. Now, we are waiting to hear from him.



It's really our last hope unless some SOLDIER reader holds the answer, perhaps from an elderly relative."

Meanwhile, every year, Brother Ted makes sure that Lt Ratton is remembered in some small way. He places a wreath on the grave on the occasion of the young officer's birthday.

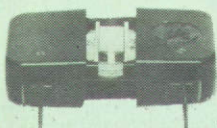


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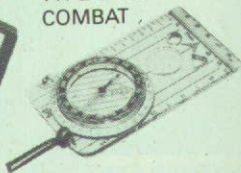


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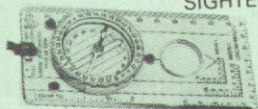


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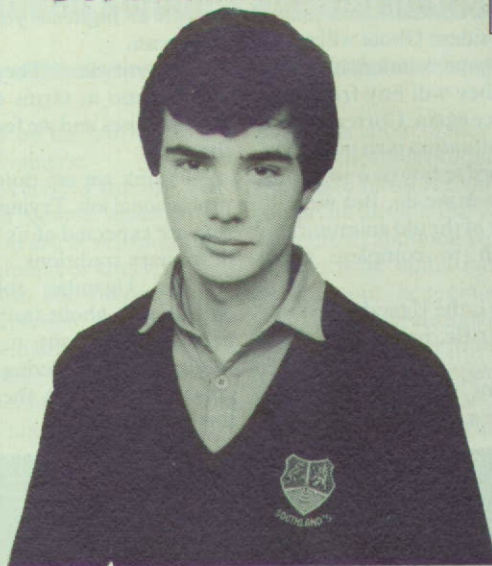
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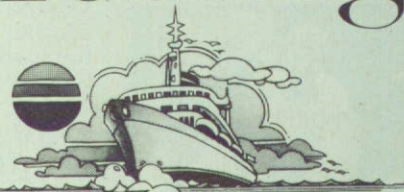
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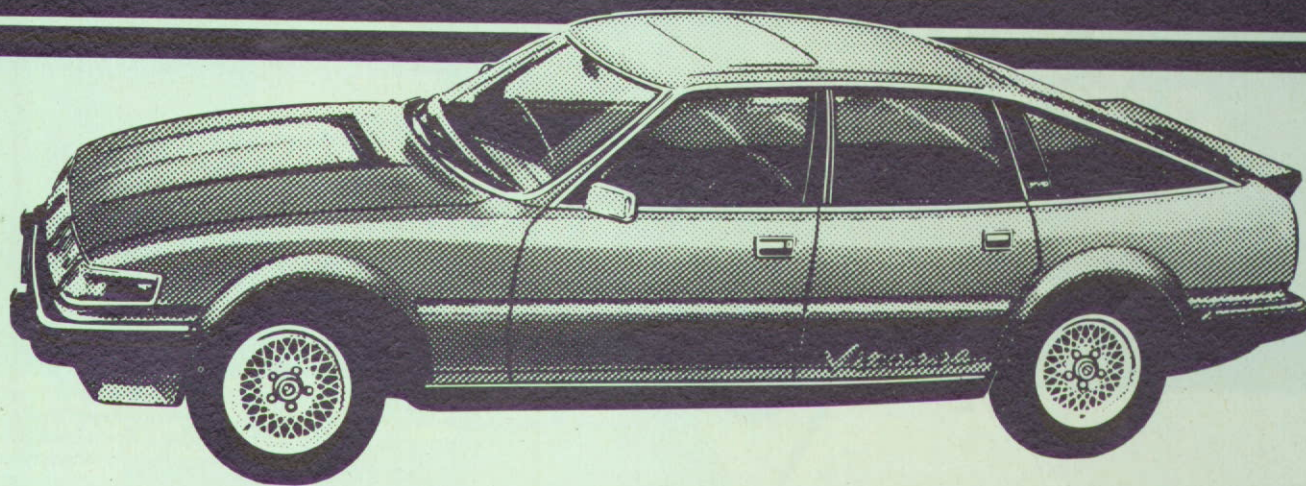
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EVEN BETTER THAN TAX-FREE

In the last issue, Part One of this feature told how 42 Field Squadron Royal Engineers prepared for their tour of duty in the Falklands. Now here is Part Two, completing the picture of men so busy . . .

TIME PASSED SO QUICKLY

Compiled from words and pictures supplied by 42 Field Squadron, RE



IT HAD been a calm and relaxing sea odyssey for the men of 42 Field Regiment, Royal Engineers, aboard the cruise liner SS Uganda as it plied the South Atlantic from Ascension Island to the Falklands.

Defying even the most ardent pessimists among their coterie of combat engineers normally based at Hameln in BAOR, the arrival at the outer harbour of Port Stanley was in blazing sunshine. It certainly compensated for the earlier strong winds and sea mists. Gales and freezing snow were not there to greet the sappers as some had feared.

No sooner had the sappers — they are part of 35 Regiment, Royal Engineers — unpacked than they were deployed on their first tasks with many of the specialists and

tradesmen detached from the squadron at the very outset.

Combat Support Boat operators found themselves finding their sea legs at a very early stage as they mastered the choppy waves under the ever-vigilant eyes of the Queen's Harbour Master. Squadron divers, meanwhile, began to familiarise themselves with the special tools and kit used in the cruel waters of the South Atlantic.

Within days, electricians and fitters were operating the power station giving impetus of day-to-day life in Stanley. HGV drivers bounced and bumped behind the dusty wheels of huge dumper trucks, delivering stone to the busy work sites, starting each journey from the RE quarry at Mary Hill.

However, nothing runs smoothly all the time and the necessary

assignment of manpower to specialised tasks left the three Field Troops rather short of sappers to meet the many projects heaped upon them.

Exploiting the variety

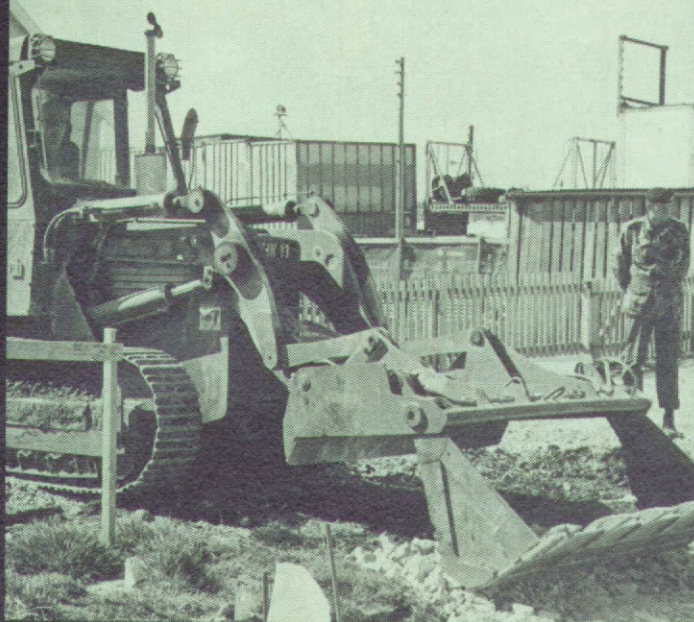
Yet all had anticipated a challenge from the outset back in BAOR which would mean long hours exploiting the full variety of their skills on offer.

Nominated as "fire brigade" troop were the men of 7 Troop. They had to plan and carry out the smaller projects which arose at short notice and needed a quick completion time. An early job was

the military ward extension to the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Stanley.

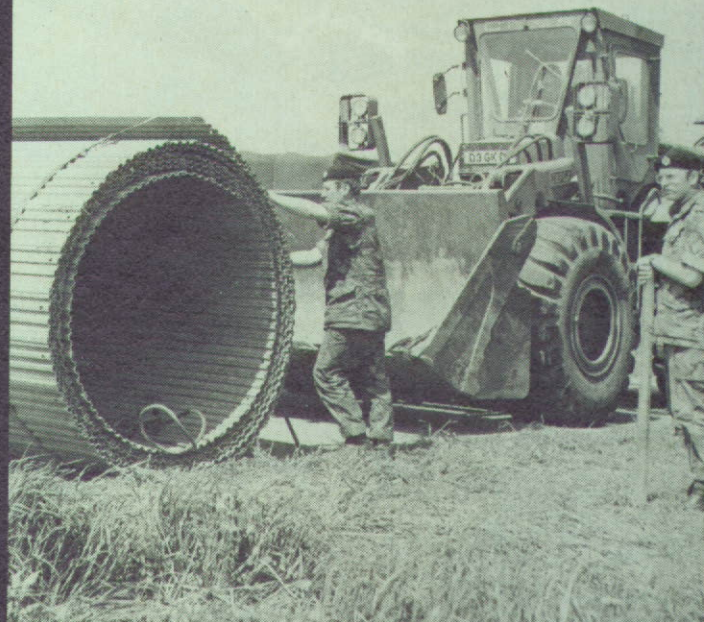
Major Cedric Sloan, OC of 42 Field Company, said: "25 Field Squadron had done sterling work in providing the basic building. Our task was to complete the interior fittings to hospital standards and provide covered access and fire exits. This demanding job for the carpenters, plumbers, electricians and bricklayers presented many detailed problems to test their ingenuity and skills."

The squadron's services were also in demand by the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service (FIBS). They were expanding to include elements of BFBS and they had a requirement for more studio and workshop space for additional broadcasters and technicians second-



Above left: "Now, we can just about get the base for a Portakabin in here . . . left a bit, right a bit . . ." The man who did the measuring got his sums right!

Above: Clearing the way for a car park — a light crawler tractor prepares a base.



Above right: About to lay a strip of metal — and very useful material it is too.

Left: CSB, or Combat Support Boat — said to be the "workhorse of the Falklands". Well, horses can swim — can't they?

Right: Preparing a concrete road by hand. Those non-engineers who have laid garage bases or garden paths know just how demanding this work can be!



ded to the Service. They would need a Portakabin.

It was not so easy. The site, on a small plot, was hemmed in by private property and surrounded by expensive antennae and dangerous power cables. The only access was through a low archway. This was removed and re-instated. FIBS got their much-needed accommodation.

And then there was the Canache project. The Canache is the local name given to the lagoon at the eastern end of Stanley Harbour separating the life-line airport — now RAF Stanley — from the town.

8 Troop were involved in a five-part military task which included the completion of six large Romney huts with full electrical services and concrete access roads, the

installation of interior partitions on Portakabins, the completion of a large Packway stores and power installations. Also needed was a large hardstanding for vehicles, the linking of these areas with a stone road and a further road between the whole complex and the Falklands Island Port and Storage Site. The latter is a major, multi-million-pound purchase of a floating port.

Time for a break

The third Field Troop — 9 Troop — was busy at Navy Point with the task of improving its access and facilities there. All men,

materials and equipment had to be moved to that site across Stanley Harbour.

The squadron, happy in its useful work, is also pleased with the administrative support it had been receiving during their detachment which finishes next month.

Major Sloan said: "The provision of the floating hotel, Coastel Safe Esperia, as accommodation was extremely welcome at the end of a long day on a wind-swept work site. Facilities on board include a squash court, swimming pools, NAAFI shop, video room, bar, messes for officers and senior NCOs, a gym, cable radio plus, of course, good food. Compared with the conditions many of our predecessors had to face, we certainly lived up to our motto of 'Fortunate Four-Two'.

"Despite the pressure of work and demands on the squadron it has been a deliberate policy to find time to release people for a break from the task site. Individuals have seized the opportunity to spend a few days adventurous training at Hill Cove, to visit the Squadron's detachment on South Georgia, attend one of the battlefield tours or simply take part in sports competitions."

It seemed early in the Falklands tour that time would pass quickly. It has. Projects were taken on in rapid succession often with a pressing deadline to meet. Few of the tasks were similar in nature and each had its own unique problems for solving — normally through the two indigenous sappers skills of ingenuity and improvisation.

John Margetts visits a quiet spot in Surrey to see modern soldiers helping master artist Terence Cuneo to

RECREATE D-DAY AGAIN!

Mr Cuneo getting down to the action.

TWO YOUNG Royal Corps of Transport soldiers dressed in 40-year-old battle dress, have been charging round a Surrey sandpit to help "create an impression of the Normandy landings on D-Day."

Armed with 1940 .303 rifles, and a Sten and Bren gun of the same era, Drivers Ray Johnston, 23, and Gary Chapman, 20, of 61 Squadron, based at Aldershot, hurled themselves around the area while master-artist Terence Cuneo took their photographs.

The photos will help Mr Cuneo complete a 6ft x 3½ft painting of a beach landing on June 6, 1944 — D-Day.

"It is necessary for me to have something authentic-looking to work from," said Mr Cuneo, who has been commissioned by the Army Benevolent Fund to paint an "impression" of a day on a Normandy beach 40 years ago.

"And the painting will be just that," he emphasised. "It will not feature any particular stretch of beach or unit.

"But the uniforms, weapons, ships and equipment must be correct, hence the need for photographing these lads in 1940-style battle dress."

A wartime corporal in the Sappers, Mr Cuneo is renowned for his paintings of the royal family and all things military. "I think I can claim to have done more work for the British Army than any other artist. And the same applies in the case of royalty," he added.

"I've painted the Queen at least 20 times and, as for my pictures in Army messes, well, there must be scores of them. I don't know exactly how many I've painted, but in every one — if you look carefully — you will find a tiny mouse.

"It has become my trademark and now I dare not leave it out. People look for the Cuneo mouse.

"It started in 1953 when painting the official coronation picture. My cat brought in a dead mouse and dropped it at my feet.

"It was not mutilated in any way. I think the old 'moggie' intended it as a present for me.

Pictures:
Les Wiggs

"And I drew the mouse which eventually became the first picture to be sold at my first one-man exhibition.

"Since then I have included a mouse in all my pictures. It was not intended as a gimmick, but now I'm associated with it and I have to include one in every picture.

"Now I get hundreds of tiny mice sent to me from all over the world. I get wooden ones, china ones and clay ones and every now and again I have to clear them out to make room for those arriving."

But where was Mr Cuneo on D-Day? "I honestly can't remember," he said, snapping away with his camera at Ray Johnston and Gary Chapman.

"Although I was with the Royal Engineers I spent most of my time being sent round the country drawing information and propaganda sheets, I even got to lecture on tanks.

"I became regarded as something of an expert because I'd produced so many illustrated maintenance sheets.

Getting it right — with a Lee Enfield and a Sten gun.

At the double — for the sake of posterity.

"Those in charge thought I knew a lot about them and I have a number of talks, specially at the RE base at Ripon, Yorks."

But even though Mr Cuneo was illustrating official pamphlets and posters and being sent round the country to do it, he was never, he claims, recognised as an official war artist. "It used to infuriate me," he said.

Other things infuriated him, too. He told how he and two friends volunteered at the start of the war for an officers' emergency reserve force.

"They accepted my friends, but they turned me down on account of my name being Italian," he said.

"My father was an American with an Italian name and because

of that it was no go for me."

But before long he was in the Sappers with two stripes up, but not before he had been to France for the Illustrated London News, who commissioned him to get there ahead of the Germans and draw armament factories and dumps.

"This was just before the Germans overran France and I left just ahead of them on what I believe was the last ferry to Dover. I've never seen so many people on a boat. It was packed solid."

Now 76-year-old Mr C, far from taking it easy, is still painting royalty, military and engineering subjects.

One of his latest paintings to go on public view is that of Lieutenant Colonel "H" Jones,

VC, and the Falklands battle in which he died. The CO of 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, "H" was killed storming Argentinian positions on the way to Darwin and Goose Green. The painting was commissioned by officers of the School of Infantry, Warminster, where the colonel was once an instructor.

And while Mr Cuneo puts the finishing touches to his mammoth six by three painting for the Army Benevolent Fund, he is busy planning his next big job for the Army — Lionheart '84.

And of course tucked away somewhere in the picture will be the Cuneo mouse. "That'll be in there. But you'll have to look closely to find it," he said.

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Your Cap Badge

No. 60.

THE GURKHA TRANSPORT REGIMENT

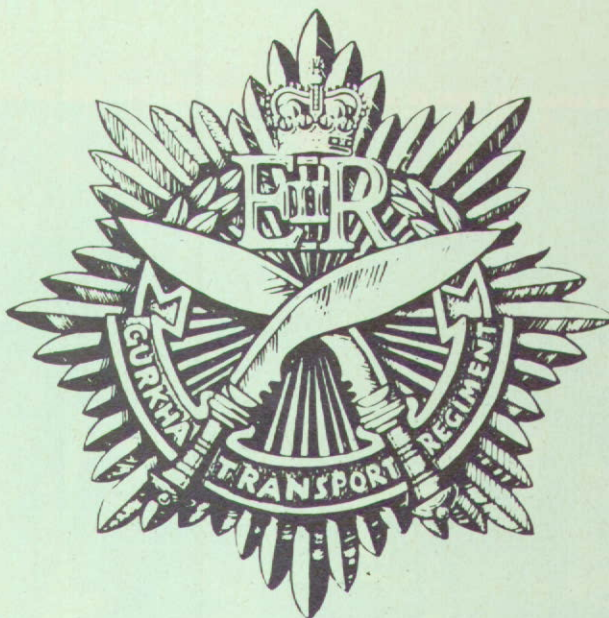
Volunteers from Gurkha infantry battalions seconded to the Gurkha Army Service Corps serving under RASC officers formed the raising cadre of this Regiment in July 1958.

The badge adopted initially was, in essence, of the same design as that now worn, only the title differs due to the change in November 1965.

As might be expected the Regiment owes a great deal to the RASC, now the Royal Corps of Transport, as it was due to the officers and the training teams of high calibre NCOs provided by that Corps,

who by their skill and patience succeeded in imparting a very high standard to the Gurkha ASC drivers.

In the year following the raising at Singapore The Queen was pleased to approve the affiliation of the Gurkha ASC to the RASC.



The badge consists of an eight pointed star on which is mounted a three part scroll bearing the title of the Regiment, above and behind the scroll a wreath bears the Royal cypher and crown, overall a pair of crossed kukris, cutting edges downwards and crossed

left-over-right the handles dividing the scroll in three parts, the points crossing the laurel wreath. The star and kukri blades are in silver plate, the remainder in gilt. Soldiers wear the badge in the appropriate anodised materials.

Early in the Regiment's career the first two companies divided, 28 Coy going to Hong Kong and 30 Coy to Malaya, two further companies, 31 and 34, being raised at Nee Soon, Singapore, in July 1959.

In 1962 30 Coy moved to Tidworth in the UK to become part of the Strategic Reserve, an experiment that proved highly successful not only for the training received under European conditions but also from the social angle.

Companies have served in Brunei, Borneo and Singapore but currently reduced in number are based mainly in Hong Kong where they are responsible for all second line transport in that Colony.

Fully aware that they are the most junior Regiment of the Brigade, they are also concerned with the maintenance of the good reputation they have earned in so short a time and are determined to uphold the fine tradition of the Brigade of Gurkhas. *Hugh L King*

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OPERATION RALEIGH



**A long,
hard
road!**

THE HUNT is on to find the 500 British youngsters who will take part in three month phases of the mammoth four year round-the-world expedition "Operation Raleigh" which will start next November.

Already the selection weekends have begun. After an initial sifting of the 8,000 applicants some 1,500 will be taking part in demanding weekend courses designed to find those who are most suitable.

At the Old Surgery in Ludgershall on the edge of Salisbury Plain 30 youngsters gathered on a recent Saturday morning. Coming from Hampshire in the east to Wales in the west, the applicants ranged in age from 17 to 23 — a third of them girls.

James Locke, an Arctic and desert explorer who runs his own adventure courses from Ludgershall, told them that if the going got tough and they removed their numbered bibs they would be deemed to have withdrawn. "Then you can either walk off Salisbury Plain or you can come on the wagons and help out."

In fact, not one of the 30 was to withdraw — despite experiences which some clearly found arduous. One girl with a sprained ankle continued to struggle throughout. All knew that whatever the difficulties they were faced with they were as nothing to those they might meet in the jungle or desert.

JOHN WALTON reports on the selection process

Judges watched the applicants throughout the weekend — to assess their leadership qualities, their physical fitness and general aptitudes. Not all of the youngsters taken on the voyage will be tough gung-ho types — there are many other tasks which require different qualities. Commonsense will be put at a premium.

Major Roger Chapman, national selection co-ordinator and one of the mainstays of the previous "Operation Drake", was on hand to watch the groups go through the Army assault course at Perham Down — which followed a one-and-a-half mile walk with packs.

He told me that the 40 odd selection weekends being held up and down the country throughout the summer would all be different. "But they will follow a formula of tiring them out and then bringing them into the sort of situations which occur on expeditions. In the morning we shall do mental agility tests to see how they are surviving and how they think when they are tired."

Disadvantaged youngsters will be given every opportunity to go on Raleigh — and while every "venturer" selected will have to

raise money to go those from more affluent backgrounds will be expected to raise extra to help those who are less fortunate.

After three goes across the assault course — ending with the carrying of full packs, the sheep were being sorted from the goats. Some were coping with the course — others were already leaden footed.

After an afternoon spent navigating around the countryside the group found themselves facing a river crossing. With the choice of rubber tyres, jerricans, ropes and sticks they had to get across a fast

flowing stream.

"You are not allowed to wade and all of the equipment used must also cross the river," they were told. They were allowed one "friendly native" on the other side and after a tremendous throw of the rope and a lucky catch with a stick the first group was able to set up a system which saw their rubber raft transport all of the youngsters and kit across.

That night they camped out on the plain. But this was to be no campfire singsong — until 1.30 am they were faced with a series of problems both physical and mental including a radio test, changing a wheel and assembling a cooker.

At four o'clock they were roused again — on a casualty recovery exercise, which was immediately followed by reveille and a map



Candidates watch a demonstration.

Smiling through the challenge ..



Carrying the can across the chasm.

drawing and navigation exercise.

Then came the 'chasm crossing'. The tired would-be venturers had to climb a rope ladder high into some trees, cross by rope and then abseil back to the ground. Said James Locke: "For some of them this is the first time they have been more than eight feet in the air. They have to go up 35 feet scrambling off the rope into the branches and then onto a free abseil. They sit and look up and it seems horrific but once up there they cope really well and enjoy it."

Only one girl failed to make the ascent and most echoed Locke's words. Said 19-year-old Andy Hurst from Reading: "I was more frightened about the swing down because I didn't know what to expect but now I wouldn't mind doing it again."

Jacqueline Cotton, an 18-year-old schoolgirl from Bristol, told

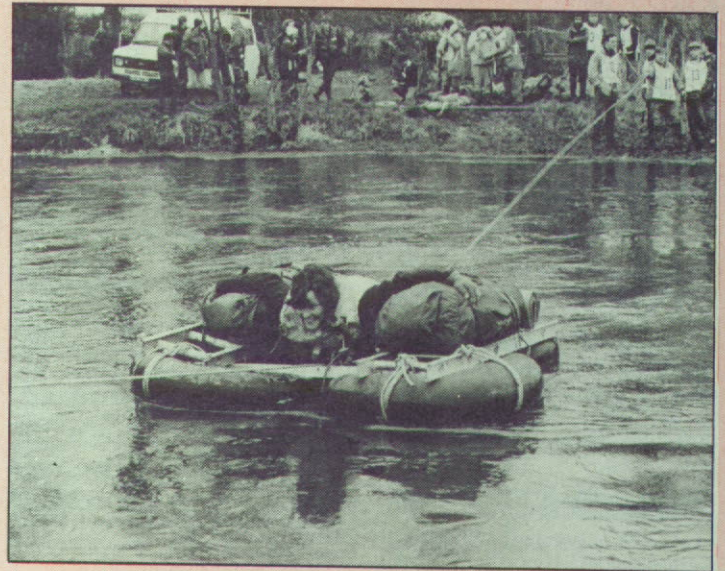
me: "I was terrified but once you got up there was no alternative but to go on. The weekend's been good fun and hard work."

It was not quite over. A few miles away everyone got a wetting in a tank splash and then had to carry their kit to lunch a mile or so away — without using any of their bags, which had been taken away.

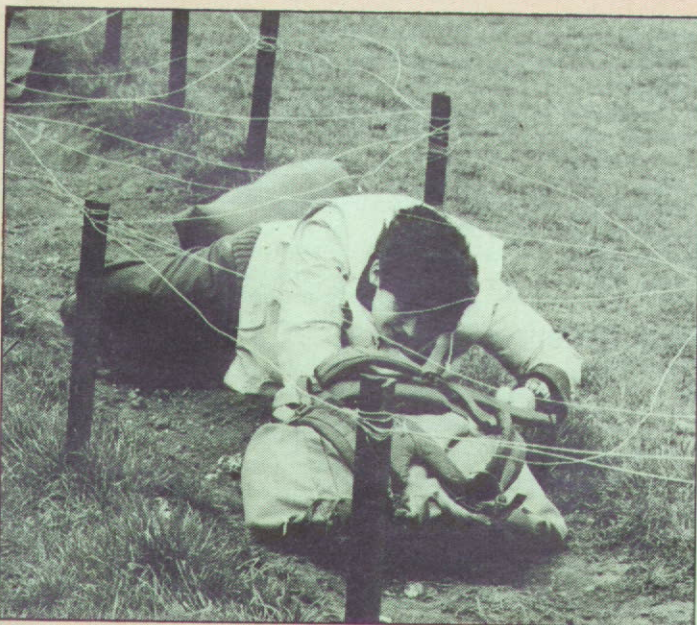
James Locke and his instructors had only one complaint — with the short weekend they had not been able to get the youngsters tired enough. Said ex-Royal Green-jacket, Wilf Owen: "I actually had smiles when I woke them up this morning and I was a bit taken aback by that!"

Now the 30 youngsters will have to wait for a few months before they know if they have been selected for the most ambitious expedition ever mounted for young people. ■

Pictures: LES WIGGS



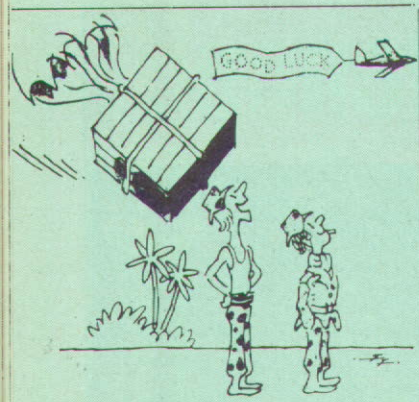
Keeping kit dry on river crossing.



Head down ... hugging the ground.



Up and down the scramble net.



MAIL DROP

However, any record of this or any indication as to why AT was not adopted in Malaya during this specific period is certainly not indicated in the most recent history of the RAVC.

Perhaps the readership of **SOLDIER** with its vast aggregate knowledge and experience might be able to supply the answer. — **R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.**

Best Bands

It is with concern that I read of the intentions to cut back on the Regimental Bands of the British Army to which years of hard work and dedication have been given, making them the best military bands in the world.

Not only do they contribute to well-known charities, concerts, tattoos, tourism etc, but are a very important morale booster to their respective battalions, this being all the more valid reason why each battalion of a regiment should keep their own band.

These bands are a part of the treasured traditions of the British Army and are unique in their expertise. The Bands and Bugles of the Light Division are proof enough.

The regiments of the British Army (what's left of them) have suffered too much already from previous governments. Now to take away a major part of their tradition is unforgivable.

I have written to the Queen, Defence Secretary, Prime Minister and General Sir John Stanier, in the hope that my letters may help the cause; if all the readers of **SOLDIER** put pen to paper regarding the matter it could do some good for saving our magnificent military bands.

To see the Massed Bands of the different regiments of the British Army gives one a strong sense of patriotic pride. At least we must be allowed to keep these. — **D J Macleod, 18 Beachcroft, Lancing, Sussex.**

The Army currently has 78 bands with 2,500 personnel and an annual cost of 25.4 million pounds. Apart from disbandments announced many months ago and already in train I know of no further planned cuts — Ed.

Shrinking?

I must raise the matter of the shrinking 'Mail Drop'. Surely you can do better than three letters as in the 27 February issue?

Although you print some excellent articles written by soldiers they do not tend to air views, but inform and educate.

'Mail Drop' is an excellent forum for viewpoints and debating controversial subjects in a medium usually denied to Servicemen. The 27 February issue of **SOLDIER** consisted of space wasted by apologies for errors in your competitions and two pages of classified ads, all of which appear to be from impecunious Cadets begging for clothing!

Please, let's have a letter page with... well, letters. — **Capt C A W Ratcliff, C Coy, 5/8 Vol Bn, The King's Regt, Ardwick Green, Manchester.**

Can readers themselves do better? We need good letters in order to publish them! — Ed.

Two Gordons

I refer to your magazine dated 30 January 1984, page 31 — the Band of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment.

I question the location of the old photograph of 1912 at Brompton Barracks, Chatham. In the background there is a statue of Gordon of Khartoum on a camel. To my knowledge there was only one statue.

This stood in Khartoum until quite recently (ie the last 20 years?) when it was moved from the Sudan to stand on the playing fields of Gordons School (near Camberley). — **Major A J Martin RRW, HQ1 British Corps, BFPO 39.**

We know of at least two Gordon statues — the one moved from Khartoum in 1959 to Gordons School near Camberley... and the duplicate at Chatham. — Ed.

Reunions

The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards Past and Present Association will hold their Annual Reunion Dinner at The Forum Hotel, Cromwell Road, London SW7, on Saturday 5 May 1984 at 7pm. Tickets £9.00 from: The Regimental Secretary, HHQ 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, Peronne Lines, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3JS.

The XVIIIth The Royal Irish Regiment & SIH OCA Final Reunion and Stand Down Cenotaph Ceremony on Sat 2nd June, and Sunday 3 June (see **SOLDIER** 27 Feb), dinner tickets, £8, obtainable from: Major M B Lee (Chairman), 15 Blairville Grove, Bramley, Leeds LS13 2HT. Dinner venue: The Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1.

Competition

Again, we apologise for the non-appearance of a competition page. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Despite the "technical hitch" for which we have already apologised, sufficient readers overcame the problem with Competition no 335 "Sum Like it" (13 February issue) and the prizewinners are:
1st M Hodgson, c/o PCAU, RAF Brize Norton, Oxon OX8 3LX. 2nd J A Johns, 28 Devonshire Road, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3NW. 3rd Mr J Walker, 61 Hillside Grove, Chelmsford, Essex. 4th R W Jackson, 99 Kelvin Grove, Portchester, Fareham, Hants PO16 8LF. 5th Major M S Wilmot, Foxlair, Fifehead St Quintin, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AP.

How Observant Are You?

ROBIN HOOD TOYS

1. Number of toys in tray. 2. Vendor's pipe. 3. Bottom of vendor's right trouser-leg. 4. Hat of toy third from left on pavement. 5. Bow of toy fifth from left on pavement. 6. Fold of vendor's coat near left calf. 7. Pedestrian's right shoe. 8. Pedestrian's hatband. 9. Zigzag shadow below pedestrian's right foot. 10. Left point of vendor's moustache.

Can You Help?

I am trying to trace former British soldiers who were patients at the 4th Northern General Hospital on Wragby Road in Lincoln during World War I. My interest in this matter has its basis in a research project involving the life stories of several British Army officers and men whose medals form part of my collection and eventually, I plan to write a book about them. None of these soldiers survived World War I except for Private Arthur Horner of the West Yorkshire Regiment who died at the 4th Northern General Hospital on 16 November 1918, a mere five days after the Armistice. — **B Cory Kilvert Jr, 241 Perkins St, Jamaica Plain, Mass 02130, USA.**

I would like to hear from any old soldier who has worn — officially or otherwise — any of the following arm badges during the last war or, indeed, at any time. These letters surrounded by a wreath: AG over I; BC; BG; BR; DM; DO; DR; FS; GC; GM; GO; HA; LA; LP; MC; MM; MT; MMG; RMT; RS; SB; SLO; T; TM; TG; TO; TP; also any of the following letters above a winged wheel: BC; BG; DM; DR; IC; MC; MT. If anyone has photographs of these badges 'in wear' I should be glad of the opportunity to borrow them for copying, or I will pay for copies which may be sent on to me. — **D Edwards MSM, 8 Clos Ffordis, Prestatyn, Clwyd, LL19 8TP. Tel: 07456 3944.**

I am interested in tank transporters as used by the British Army since their introduction before WW2 to date. I have a serial number H5829126 which was allocated to an American, Pacific M26 or M26A1, a six-wheeled tank transporter, tractor chassis number 399. Can any reader confirm this? Another vehicle I require information on is the Rotinoff, Super Atlantic and Atlantic, six wheeled tractors, which were tested for possible use as tank transporters. Also I am trying to obtain photographs of these tractors for my records. — **W P Hancox, 10 Apple-dorne Gardens, Birmingham, B34 6TN.**

I am trying to contact Simon Weston, Guardsman of the 1st Bn Welsh Guards as I am doing some private research into the aftermath of the Falklands War. Perhaps he would contact me if he so wishes. — **Miss Jayne Mansfield, 2 Ford Cottages, Bradworthy, Devon.**

May I appeal to all ex-Army Emergency Reserve (AER) Royal Engineers of 155 Railway Squadron (formerly of Longmoor Camp, Hants) to write to me if interested in attending a day out at Beverley Army Transport Museum RCT North Humberside? Curator is Major J A Robins TA RCT TAVR. Preferably those who were volunteers during 1950-1966 are invited to enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Hopefully, a day in July 84 can be arranged. — **Ex-Sapper L/Cpl L Jones, 155 Railway Sqn, 17 Rly Group (60 Railway Regt), 3 Bungalow, Brownheath Road, Christleton, Chester, CH3 7PP.**

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

No Mules?

At the risk of boring the 'Blimps' of mechanisation to distraction, I wonder if I might be allowed to again broach the subject of transport mules — this time in connection with the Malayan Emergency (1948-60).

During these years of operations in Malaya, the Army, the Royal Marines and the jungle platoons of the Malay Police, all used an enormous variety of transport, ranging on the mechanical side from the helicopter to motorised native boats, while in the sphere of pure muscle power everything from elephants to lines of Sakai porters was pressed into service.

Nowhere, as far as I have been able to ascertain, during the whole of this particular phase, was the transport mule used on operational service in the jungle. This seems incredible when one considers that just a few years before, in a not very distant country (Burma), whole brigades had been put on an Animal Transport basis with thousands of mules committed.

It must be recognised that mule transport would not have been suitable in the coastal swamplands of Selangor or for that matter in some of the thick and matted Belukar (secondary jungle) areas of Johore where the cutting necessary to facilitate the passage of pack animals would certainly have proved tedious, time-consuming and tiring in the extreme.

However, the jungle hill terrain of the States of Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Perak and so on, should have been ideal 'bongo' country, affording troops so equipped a much extended range beyond the normal four days or so between 'air-drops' (weather permitting); a procedure which by its very nature must often have destroyed the concept of 'silent pursuit'.

By this time too, the scourge of 'Surra' and other equine diseases in the East must have been largely avoidable — indeed the idea of SE Asia being an area unsuitable for equines must go by the board when one has heard that the Royal Thai Army had been importing Australian 'Walers' in considerable numbers in the very recent past.

It has been hinted to me trials with mules were carried out (by a battalion of the Malay Regt?) during the Emergency but that these provided unsuccessful.

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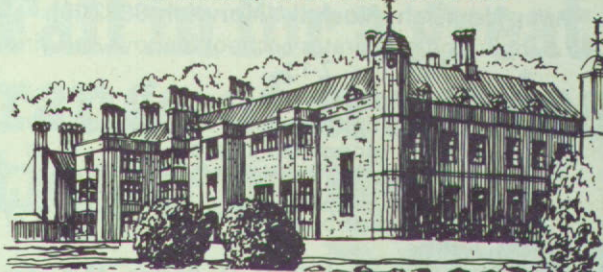
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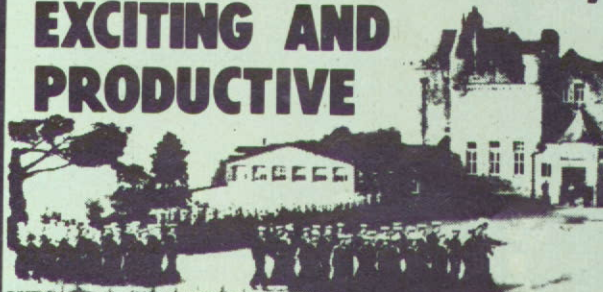
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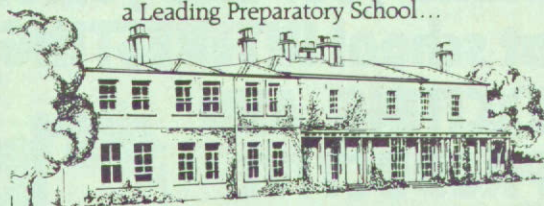
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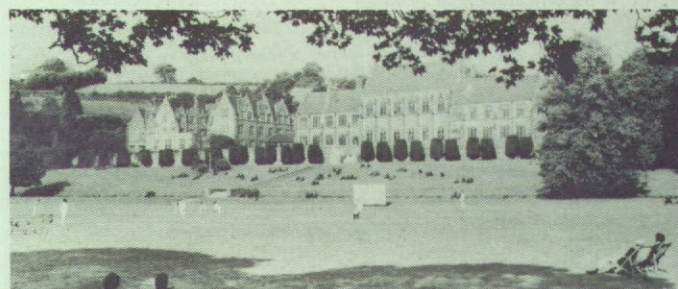
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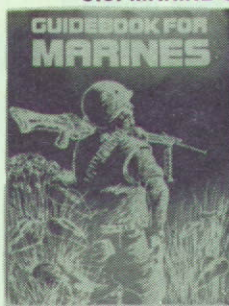
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CLOSE SHAVE FOR BORDON

SEME BORDON 1 SEE ARBORFIELD 0

SEME BORDON retained the King's Cup when they beat their emerging REME rivals by a single goal. But it was mighty close and many of the neutrals present thought the best team lost. The game itself never rose to great heights — consisting of a dour struggle in which the outcome was on the brink right until the end.

SEME opened smartly with three corner kicks in the opening two minutes. Deadball kicking specialist, Craftsman Paddy Smyth hoisted early warning signs with his deceptive corner kicks and it was from an early corner that SEME scored.

A ball flighted on to the near post was headed on and Lance-Corporal Dickie Briggs headed it under the crossbar. He completed a similar move eight minutes later but the referee stopped play for a foul on Briggs just before the ball entered the net and the resultant free kick came to nothing.

Towards the end of the opening

half SEME lost their way and SEE nearly scored on two occasions through Lance-Corporal Gordon Ashworth and the ever-menacing Lance-Corporal Steve Butler.

After the restart it was all Arborfield and they set the pace for the remaining 45 minutes. There were near misses for Sergeant Steve Oldfield and Corporal Rudi Fleming but SEME skipper Briggs marshalled his defence and they rode out the storm. The Cup was presented to Briggs by former England captain, Billy Wright. In the Army final SEME will meet 45 Field Regiment RA.



Billy Wright, former England captain and onetime Army player, is introduced to the Army team by skipper Dickie Briggs. Picture by Eric Marsh.

sports round-up

JUDO

The Army retained its stranglehold on the Inter-Services Judo championships — winning the open team championship for the 16th year in a row. The Royal Navy took the Kyu grade championship.

Army gold medal winners: Over 95 kgs — L/Cpl Painter; Under 95 kgs — Cpl Stuart Travis; Under 86 kgs — S/Sgt Williams; Under 78 kgs — Cpl Armstrong; Under 65 kgs — Craftsman Morton; Under 60 kgs — Spr Bondfield.

BOXING

The 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment had a resounding victory in the UKLF final of the Intermediate (Grade 2 and 3) Boxing Championships when they beat 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets by eight bouts to one.

In the Army Junior Inter-Unit Championships The Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Shorn-

cliffe, the holders were narrowly edged out 5-4 by the Junior Leaders RA. Bramcote.

ATHLETICS

Winners of the Pickfords Poster Competition for the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships 1984 were: Large poster — 1st (£100) Captain 1 King, 9 Field Workshops REME Bordon; 2nd (£50) Cpl T McLaren, 1 Sqn RCT Workshops REME, Colchester; Small poster — 1st (£100) WO 1 J Smith, SASC TAG (South); 2nd (£50) Sgt A Blan, HQ Rheindahlen Garrison.


BADMINTON

Three of the five titles went to the Army in the Combined Services Individual Badminton Championships at Worthy Down. Captain Roger Green and Lance-Corporal Judith Haynes took the men's and ladies' singles titles and Captain Green won the men's doubles with WO 2 Mike Feehily.

OLYMPIC APPEAL

A special effort has been mounted by the Army to raise money for the British Olympic Appeal. Half of the donations will be retained by the Army Sport Control Board to assist Army competitors in both Los Angeles and the recent Winter games at Sarajevo.

Units who have a strong following in a particular Olympic sport will be able to stipulate that their contribution goes to one or more sports of their choice. All donations should be sent to the Army Sport Control Board (Olympic Appeal), M Block, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2BG.



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SCOTLAND'S FIRST NORDIC MEETING



Services Nordic ski-ing has arrived in Scotland. After some years of talk and several months of planning by the Army Ski Association a three day Nordic meeting was held near Ballater.

Exactly 100 starters took part in the first event over 10 kms and it was won by Gunner Thow of 25 Field Regiment in 38 minutes 34 seconds. Last man home took 163 minutes illustrating the wide spread standard.

The 15 kms race was won by Gunner Newnan of 39 Heavy Regiment and relay races were won

by 1 KOSB and Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC. The first langlauf meeting in Scotland was voted a success and it is expected to be repeated next year.

Picture by Lance-Bombardier Kelly, Depot RA shows Lieutenant Simms of 15 Heavy Regiment RA at the start of the 15 kms event.

SOCCER

Army Stumble

ARMY 3. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 4

The Army needed just one point from their final game in group A of the South West Counties Championship to qualify to take on the Navy in the final tie. They failed, beaten with the last kick of the game, but to be honest they didn't deserve a win or draw.

Amazingly enough all seven goals came in the second half. The visitors went ahead in the 52nd minute and followed with another 18 minutes later. But ten minutes afterwards the scores were level again with goals from Sergeant Mickey Halligan and Corporal Kevin Parkins.

Gloucester got a third and

Lance-Corporal Steve Butler equalised again just before the 90 minutes. In injury time Parkin missed a good chance with a tame shot and from the clearance Gloucestershire forced home the winner.

POACHER POWER

'The Poachers', 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, won the UKLF Novices Grade 3 boxing contest when they beat 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment by six bouts to three in the final at Catterick. They now meet 26 Engineer Regt., BAOR champions in the Army final.

MINOR UNITS SOCCER CUP

Third Time Lucky for Lichfield Men

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The Lichfield depot, after twice losing in the Army Minor Units final in the last three years, made no mistake this time. They brushed aside the challenge of the posties and soundly beat them.

The depot opened in great style and Lieutenant F Dodd (Royal Hampshire) volleyed them ahead after only four minutes. Goal number two came on the half hour when another Hampshire, Corporal T Purser broke down the left, swerved inside his marking

defender and shot into the roof of the net.

Ten minutes into the second half the infantry side knocked in two more goals through Corporal T Kirkland DERR and Corporal M Benniston ACC thus breaking the back of any resistance.

TENPIN BOWLING

MIKE'S NEW RECORD

A record entry of 273 Servicemen and women and a high standard of bowling were achieved at the 17th Army Tenpin Bowling Championships reports Staff-Sergeant Mal Jordan.

Top bowler of the three day tournament was Sergeant Mike Downes RAPC from 23 Engineer Regiment. He became All Events Champion and Army Masters Champion and on the way notched a championship record of 677 pins in the high series.

Runner-up was Sergeant Mick Langley from SHAPE and third Lance-Corporal Dave Taylor (RAC Bovington). Staff-Sergeant Paul Harkinson brought along his mobile computer to help the committee work out details of each bowler.

Next year's championships will be at Tolworth on 8-10 March with the Rhine Army championships at Bielefeld on 30 Nov-2 Dec. Further details from Captain R J Aquilina, c/o Officers Mess, 3 RTR, BFPO 16.

Results: Men's Singles — Bdr Dave Morelli (Depot RA); Men's Doubles — Sgt Mick Langley and Sgt Mick Dixon (SHAPE); Team Unit Winners — SHAPE 1; Non-Unit Winners — Strikers; Men's Outstanding Performances — High Games — Bdr Dave Hughes (Depot RA); High Series — Sgt Mike Downes.

Women's Singles: — Cpl Sue Horton (3 PC Regt); Women's Doubles — Cpl Val Bellamy and

Cpl Horton; Women's Trias — The Dragons; Women's Outstanding Performance — High Game — Cpl Horton; High Series — Cpl Jan Pardo (17 RSME Squadron).



Sergeant Mike Downes — new record.

FAR, FAR AWAY . . .



EIGHT THOUSAND MILES away from the crowds at Twickenham the Army and the Navy met in another Rugby match — in the Falklands. On a blustery overcast day the Army went down to defeat 9-7 in front of a handful of spectators. One thing was the same — Stewart Wrightson had supplied a trophy for the match.



'Jay' — winner in her first competition since she was 12.

HOCKEY

PAY CORPS GET USUAL PAY OFF

THE ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS team from Worthy Down raced to their eighth win in nine years in the Army Hockey UK Major Unit Cup Final at Aldershot. Their opponents 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards fought valiantly but the teamwork and expertise of the paymen was too much for them and Worthy Down finished 7-2 victors.

Played in sunshine on the first day of Spring the match was only three minutes old when the RAPC side struck for the first time. Skipper, Staff-Sergeant Frank Rodgers blasted home a penalty stroke.

For the next 15 minutes there were lots of near misses for the red-shirted Worthy Down attackers until the menacing centre-forward, Corporal Graham Cottrell ran in a second goal.

Far from being downhearted QDG went onto the attack and in the 21st minute Lance-Corporal 'Parky' Parker reduced the deficit. The euphoria was short lived, however, for six minutes later Worthy Down regained the initiative and Rodgers scored from a short corner.

Six minutes into the second half Rodgers completed his hat-trick by bamboozling Trooper S Hough in the QDG goal with a first time penalty stroke.

Cavalry spirits rose for a while with a penalty from Corporal Stuart Russell but in the final minutes the traffic was mostly one way. Cottrell got his second goal, Rodgers his fourth and Captain Graham Horsman another as the

RAPC reached their tally of seven. In the dying seconds Hough did redeem his pride with a save from another penalty stroke.

Now RAPC Worthy Down travel to Germany for the Army final against the BAOR winners to be held at Rheindahlen on 11 April.



Champion sits on sidelines as gymnastics title is decided.

'JAY' TAKES TOP GYM GIRL TITLE

A PULLED LIGAMENT three days before the Army Gymnastic Championships cost Corporal Janine Harmsworth the chance of taking the women's title for the fourth year in a row. And it opened the door for a newcomer, 19-year-old Private 'Jay' Tuke to take the honours in a close contest.

Private Tuke from the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich, told **SOLDIER**: "Surprised? You are not kidding. The best that I hoped for was to take first place on the bars. I have only been training a month although I used to represent Somerset when I was about 12."

Ironically it was Corporal Harmsworth's encouragement which saw Jay through to victory. She also strained a ligament a week before the contest and had not planned to take part in every event until persuaded to by the retiring champion.

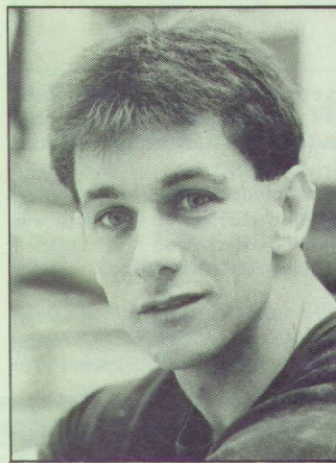
For Corporal Harmsworth it was a sad day: "I had just got my routine sorted out and had lost a lot of weight in preparation. I was really annoyed when it happened and will have to save my routine for next year."



Muir — up and coming challenger.

She did take part in the trampoline — landing on one foot — but failed to gain her usual first place.

There was no such ill fortune for men's champion, Sergeant Instructor Andy Halliday who again beat off allcomers. But Halliday pointed to strong challenges from new young gymnasts, Craftsman Duncan Muir and Private Andy McAffey of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters as evidence that after four years dominance he will be under pressure next year.



Halliday — still top of the tree.

The excellent shot by camera-man Paul Haley opposite is a reminder of the Army's recent Twickenham triumph over the Royal Navy.

A scene repeated frequently in the final as keeper Hough takes on one of the marauding Worthy Downs forwards.

SOCCER SHOCK

The Army went down to a shock 2-0 defeat at the hands of the RAF in the first leg of the Inter-Services competition at Uxbridge. A full report and on the match with the Navy will appear in our next issue.



SOLDIER

