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SOLDIER



- BELIZE: BATTLE GROUP SOUTH
- UDR IN ACTION

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FRONT COVER

One of their comrades lies wounded from an artillery attack so men of 1 Royal Anglian must get medical help quickly. The scene captures all the shock and tension of war but this casualty walked away — for it was only a training exercise by Battle Group South in Belize. Story — page 26.

Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Royal Signals linesman L/Cpl Stephen Coulson sets up a 'telebrief' to an RAF Harrier at Wildenrath in Germany so that the pilot can receive a cockpit briefing. Story — page 13.

Picture by Paul Haley

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



The man who ran away from school to become a war hero bids farewell to a legendary career

— page 18

Soldiers and airmen in Germany team their skills in a striking partnership

— page 13

Out and about with the Ulster Defence Regiment, Northern Ireland's real freedom fighters

— page 20



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Riding for a fall



They had a high old time on Stanley Racecourse when they launched the Falklands 150th anniversary celebrations, but Captain Bill Nelson came down to earth with a bit of a bump. He was pictured just two seconds before becoming airborne during his brief debut as a cow-puncher. Ruefully rubbing his backside afterwards, he commented: "They always said I was a cowboy, anyway."

TANDEM TREK PAIR FLY THE FLAG

SANDSTORMS, freezing desert nights, broken trailer axles and punctures galore! That is the latest news from the first ever 'Trans-Sahara Tandem Trek'.

But it seems that Lieutenant Mandy Dunn and Second Lieutenant Paul Wright, both from 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V) at Bexleyheath, Kent, are faring rather better than some of the entrants in the Paris-Dakar motor rally.

In her latest despatch to *SOLDIER*, Mandy describes their amusement at seeing cars and motorcycles with burnt tyres and blown engines having to drop out or turn back at the desert town of El Golea — "As we pedalled south with our own flag flying and our GB sticker well displayed, it added a comical touch."

The expedition proper started at Ghardaia, she says. "Because up until then we had always found civilisation en route. But now we spent our first nights in the tent, waking up in the morning with ice on the flysheet and a white cover on the sand."

They met so many potholes on the five-day leg from El Golea to Al Salah that they had to extend their travelling hours to keep to their 80 kilometres-a-day target. They completed the last 40 kilometres into Al Salah in a sandstorm, hooded and goggled against the blast.



Paul and Mandy (left) stop for a chat with some overlanders.

After restocking with supplies and re-organising the equipment they sold their trailer to a local.

Then began the 658 kilometre stretch to Tamanrasset. Again the roads were bad and it was often better to ride on the hard sand piste alongside.

The nights were getting warmer and the scenery better and better especially in the spectacular Arak Gorge.

There was hospitality too, from lorry drivers and overlanders who provided hot, black,

sweet coffee as well as dates and oranges.

At Tamanrasset — well over half-way to their destination, Kano in Nigeria — they took a break and toured the Haggars Mountains by Land-Rover and spent two days on a camel trek, just to compare the forms of transport.

As *SOLDIER* went to press they were due to be well into the land-locked state of Niger, but some of the most difficult travelling conditions still lie ahead.

Cheers — it's Penguin

IT WAS all a far cry from the windswept and desolate Falklands. On a new brewery headquarters site only a mile from the M1 motorway, the Falkland flag was raised — in honour of the islands' 150th anniversary celebrations and to herald a far-away pint of beer about to be pulled for the first time.

On hand in colourful uniform was Lance-Corporal Russell Redford of the Life Guards band from Knightsbridge. And shivering in a biting Falklands style wind was receptionist, Charlotte Day (20) wearing a Penguin Ale t-shirt.

After the brief ceremony Mr Anthony Morse, managing director of Everards Brewery — Leicester based but brewing in Burton — talked about how and why his small brewery had been first to jump in and open a real ale brewery in Port Stanley.

He visited the islands last October and the brewing plant was on its way by November. A new company, Everards Brewery (Falkland Islands) Ltd, was formed with four local directors.

Asked by *SOLDIER* how long term the brewery operation was intended to be, Mr Morse said the plant could be there for the next 50 years although eventually it would perhaps be owned and run by islanders. The beer — with a specific gravity of 1041 — would be not dissimilar to Everards' own 'Tiger' bitter although local conditions would change it slightly.

The plant has a capacity of 50 barrels a week — with each barrel comprising 288 pints. Production could be increased to meet the demands of the garrison and local population.

Only two pubs are operating in the islands and the Everard poly-pins will be easily transportable by helicopter, road or boat to outlying settlements and camps.

Naafis will distribute the beer and units will be able to buy their own. Mr Morse said it was hoped to supply ships calling at Port Stanley and to make the beer available to troops in Ascension.

Returning troops who have got a taste for Penguin may be able to purchase it in their messes or Naafis. Mr Morse said that if there was the demand they would consider marketing beer under the Penguin name to the Army in Britain.

And last but not least the most important point — the price. It will sell for just 50 pence a pint.

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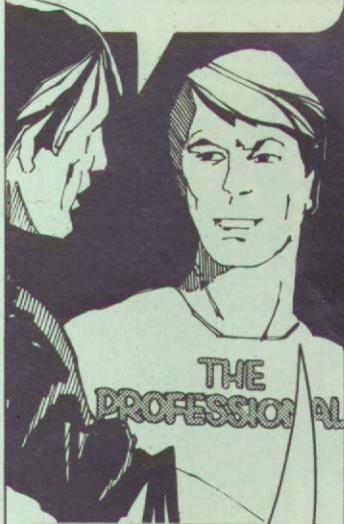
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SOLDIER DOES IT FOR BEBA

BRITAIN'S newest beauty queen, of Hungarian origin, has just "joined" the Army for a day and stepped into a brand new title especially devised for her — Miss Quartering South West District. And it's all thanks to a plea made by her in SOLDIER's Mail Drop column.

She is 22-year-old Miss Judy Beba — or simply, Beba — who is in the latest James Bond epic, *Octopussy*, in which she says she plays a spy for one of the villains.

Certainly at Bulford where she



Forces for peace

THE REAL peacemakers are to be found in the Armed Forces of the Western Alliance, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, said at the end of his first visit to the British Forces in Germany since taking office.

When I look at the position in Germany, the peace marchers are put in their proper perspective," he said. "Of course many of them genuinely believe they serve a cause. Equally some who march are recruited from the stage arm of left wing protesters."

But in British Forces Germany we had men and women who did not talk about peace but actually devoted their lives to securing it, as did those serving in the Royal Navy, he continued.

In the cold calculating world of Soviet power politics they see our forces, working together with those of our Nato allies, as a formidable strength and deterrent to any aggression.

During his two days in Germany Mr Heseltine rode on a Chieftain tank and tried his hand as a marksman.

made her debut she was the "spy" who came in from the fog and at nearby Tidworth where she clambered into a 56-ton Chieftain tank belonging to "C" Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, for a 20-minute ride and drive on their mud-logged training area.

Beba — "there are three generations of Royal Engineer officers on my mother's side" — had originally offered her services as an Army pin-up last year.

Major Victor Seely, who has the responsibility for about 9,000 quarters, six major garrisons and 2,000 acres of barracks lost no time in offering Beba a chance.

Several other units have also come forward to take her on as

their pin-up: the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Scots Guards in Hong Kong, 13 (Martinique 1809) Field Battery, 19 Field Regiment in Dortmund.

While Beba careered about in the mud aboard a Chieftain called "Dinosaur", Major Mike Williams, second in command of 4 RTR said: "It's only right she should have been asked to visit us as we are the best-looking tank regiment in the UK, if not, in BAOR!"

A one-time secretary with a publishing company, Beba said: "I've very much enjoyed spending my first day with the Army and I'm looking forward to my term in office."

Briefly

Peter Smith, 42, from Birmingham, was jailed for 28 days by Aldershot magistrates after he had admitted taking 15 wooden crosses and a Star of David from Aldershot Military Cemetery. They were temporary markers on the graves of Falklands dead — including Sgt Ian McKay VC.

Argentinian corned beef on issue in the Falklands is from long-term stocks an MoD spokesman said after criticism by visiting MPs. Nothing had been bought from Argentina since the conflict, he said, but the stocks were designed to last for years and it would be a long time before all the 'bully' filtered through.

Thirteen Sandhurst student officers and cadets, plus one each from Dartmouth and Cranwell, are to join six young industrial workers on a trek from a point near Kathmandu to Mount Everest. They will walk some 280 miles to the Base Camp.

Disco insult to Falkland heroes

AN INSENSITIVE disco owner in Belize has angered members of the British garrison defending the tiny Central American country by naming his new establishment after the French *Exocet* missile, which was responsible for a high proportion of the British casualties in the Falklands campaign.

Complete with a crude picture of a warship bearing the pennant number D.80 — the number of the stricken HMS *Sheffield* — the sickening sign is balanced by an equally crude picture of a missile in flight.

The eye-catching establishment stands in the mainly Spanish-speaking community of Orange Walk Town.

It was closed when SOLDIER called and we were unable to meet the owner. But it seems that the disco is popular with exiles from Guatemala and El Salvador. The owner is said to be of pure Spanish descent.

But there were harsh words when the subject was mentioned back at Airport Camp where 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers are in residence. They lost four men killed in the Falklands and had a dozen wounded.

The reaction was summed-up by Corporal Pete Harrison, a combat signaller, who lost three personal friends. "I've noticed this disco," he said. "I don't think I would ever go in but if I did I don't think I would be non-aggressive. It's a gross insult after what happened last year. I was at San Carlos and Fitzroy."

And he echoed the fears of many of his comrades who are anxious about the reaction of the men of the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, who are shortly due to take over garrison duties.



"I suggest the owner takes down the sign before 2 Para gets here," said Pete.

The Squadron's second-in-command, Captain John Mills thought the problem was due to a lack of understanding. "They are quite free to call their place what they want," he said. "They don't really know what they are talking about. They've never seen the effects on people caused by an *Exocet* — a lot of people in this squadron have."

But back in Aldershot there

was reassurance for the anxious, from Captain Maldwyn Worsley-Tonks, adjutant of 2 Para which flies to Belize in early April. "Generally, soldiers tend to ignore that sort of stupidity," he told SOLDIER. "The majority of the men — although there may be the odd individual — will just ignore it and see it as the work of sick people. You live with that. They are just a bunch of idiots and the lads will say 'you came second anyway'. What's the use of worrying about it."

NEWS VIEW



Safety Bikes ▶

In what is thought to be the first such arrangement in the country, the Nottingham-based TI Raleigh company has presented eight bicycles to 165 Company RMP at Donnington, as an aid to promoting road safety among school children. Seen receiving the cycles — valued at around £1000 — is 165's OC, Major Mike Collyer. Credit for establishing and promoting the venture goes to Corporal Ron Sowtus and Sergeant Toni Pratlett WRAC.



Road Train ▶

The train now standing... Actually it is a 32-ton diesel locomotive which got an early retirement from the Ordnance Depot Thatcham when British Rail took over the contract for depot movements. The problem was how to get it to its new home with the Great Western Railway Preservation Society group at Southall. That is where 56 (MT) Training Squadron Royal Engineers came in with their own Crusader train. First they had to build a special ramp with railway lines, then they needed a police escort for the 59-ton, 60 ft long train.

Fishy Fare ▶

They didn't tell us what was on the menu but they were a bit taken aback at 1 Armoured Division when they discovered that Corporal Trout and Lance Corporal Haddock were among the prize winners in the divisional cookery competition. Putting the final touches here are Cpl Trout and Lance Corporal Williams, the winning team in the field cookery section.



Damp Start ▶

It was a bit of a disaster when eight Army lorries plunged to the bottom of Stanley Harbour during unloading operations in the Falkland capital. But unabashed Navy and Army divers joined forces to locate them and now the recovery operation is well under way. Here the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Geraint hoists one from the murky depths ready for a wash down with fresh water, courtesy of the local fire engine. The trucks are expected to be back in service soon.



Brush Up ▶

Getting ready for his big day is Billy, the new mascot of 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers. Billy is a gift from the Queen, the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, but he is a bit royal himself. He can trace his lineage back to a pair of Angora goats presented to Queen Victoria by the Shah of Persia. While the keeper does the brushing Lance Corporal Ken Barrow keeps a firm grip on his new charge.



Lady Driver ▶

With or without 'L' plates it is a bit unusual for a WRAC officer to drive a tank, but that is exactly what Major Pam Huggett did during a training weekend for the UKLF TA Public Information Officers Pool. Pam, the TA PRO for South East District, was one of those who tried their hands with the armour of 'A' Squadron, 4 Bn Royal Tank Regiment, the Royal Armoured Corps' demonstration squadron at Warminster.



Terriers Meet ▶

Major General Herbert R Temple, Director of the United States Army National Guard — the American equivalent of the TA — chats with two members of the mortar section of HQ Company 6 (V) Bn, the Royal Anglian Regiment during a visit to the TA centre in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The battalion has twice hosted companies from the National Guard during training in UK and hopes to soon make a reciprocal training visit.



Collector ▶

Eleven-year-old Raymond Forster from Carlisle has added yet another military hat to his already impressive collection after a visit to 4 Bn the King's Own Border Regiment at Warcop. The regimental side-hat presented to Raymond by the CO, Lt Col Chris Day brought his collection to no less than 407. But there was time for a bit of training too and here Raymond gets a word of advice from Privates 'Feds' Hetherington and Leslie Baker.

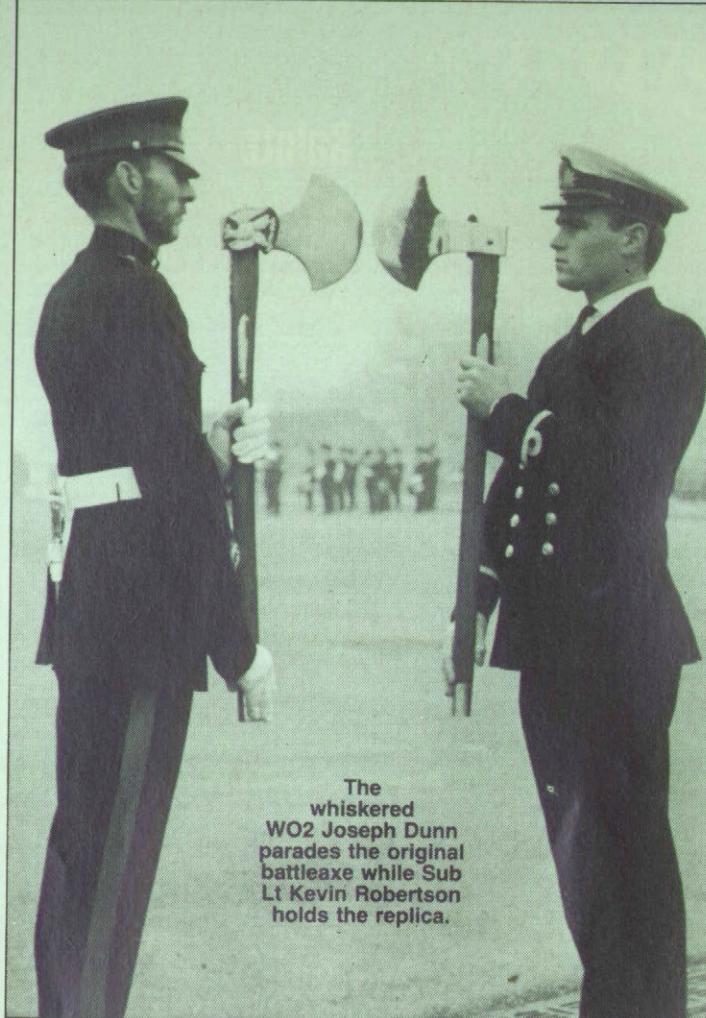


Farewell Battleaxe

A TRADITION stretching back 174 years has come to an end with the last Trooping of the Battleaxe by gunners of 74th Anti-Tank Battery at Bulford.

The battery — known as the Battleaxe Company and part of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, RA — goes into 'suspended animation' later this year. But although this was the last parade for the famous trophy, it marked a memorable first for the man carrying it. The honour always falls to the tallest man in the battery, in this case six-foot-four-inches Battery Sergeant-Major WO2 Joseph Dunn who joined it two months ago and was proudly sporting the luxuriant side-whiskers and moustache traditionally grown by the axe carrier.

"I suppose I have only held the original axe in my hands for a total of one-and-a-quarter hours but even so it was a great honour



The whiskered WO2 Joseph Dunn parades the original battleaxe while Sub Lt Kevin Robertson holds the replica.

to carry it on this, probably the last parade," he said afterwards.

Battleaxe Day commemorates 74 Battery's part in defeating a numerically superior French force in the capture of Martinique on 24 February 1809. The British commander presented the French axe as a battle honour.

Some 60 officers and men of the battery took part in the farewell parade. There too, as the inspecting officer, was a man who carried the battleaxe 31 years ago in Korea as a young subaltern — now Lieutenant General Sir Dick Trant, commander South East District.

Other veterans of the battery's Korean days were also present, together with a small party from HMS *Battleaxe*, a Type 22 frigate which has close affiliations with the company, who were handed a replica of the battleaxe.

The original trophy will go on display at Woolwich.

Paying tribute to the battery's turnout on its last Battleaxe Parade, Lt Gen Trant expressed the hope that the tradition might be revived at some future date.

"Batteries are brought back from suspension into the order of battle from time to time and we must look forward to that time occurring when, once again, this company will parade on this day."

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time prison camp. And now BBC Radio 4 are planning to make a drama documentary about it.

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The team making the programme are anxious to contact anyone who was on the staff at Comrie during that period or who can help with the names and addresses of former prisoners or guards there. The man to write to is: Peter Everett, BBC, Room 4060, New Broadcasting House, Oxford Road, Manchester M60 1SJ or telephone 061-236-8444 ext 2303/4.

☆ ☆ ☆

PENGUIN Ale, the new beer for the Falklands, owes its name to a splendidly democratic selection process. Everards, the Leicester brewers who have started brewing in Port Stanley, ran a competition among the garrison and islanders on what to call their new brew.

Penguin came out tops but apparently there was one other name which got a lot of votes — 'Yomper' — recalling the exploits of the Task Force foot sol-

diers marching across the inhospitable terrain. One suggestion which was speedily discounted was Malvinas Ale!

☆ ☆ ☆

ONE of those enduring pieces of folklore is the one about the Army wives who put OMO packets in the windows of their quarters to signify that their husbands are away. The OMO is supposed to stand for 'Old Man Out'.

This little bit of nonsense has been going the rounds for at least 20 years but David Frost upset a reader of one of our Sunday papers when he apparently referred to it as fact. It would be interesting to know if there ever was an occasion which sparked off the story, or if it is another of those 'cat swallowing chihuahua' myths which go the rounds year after year.



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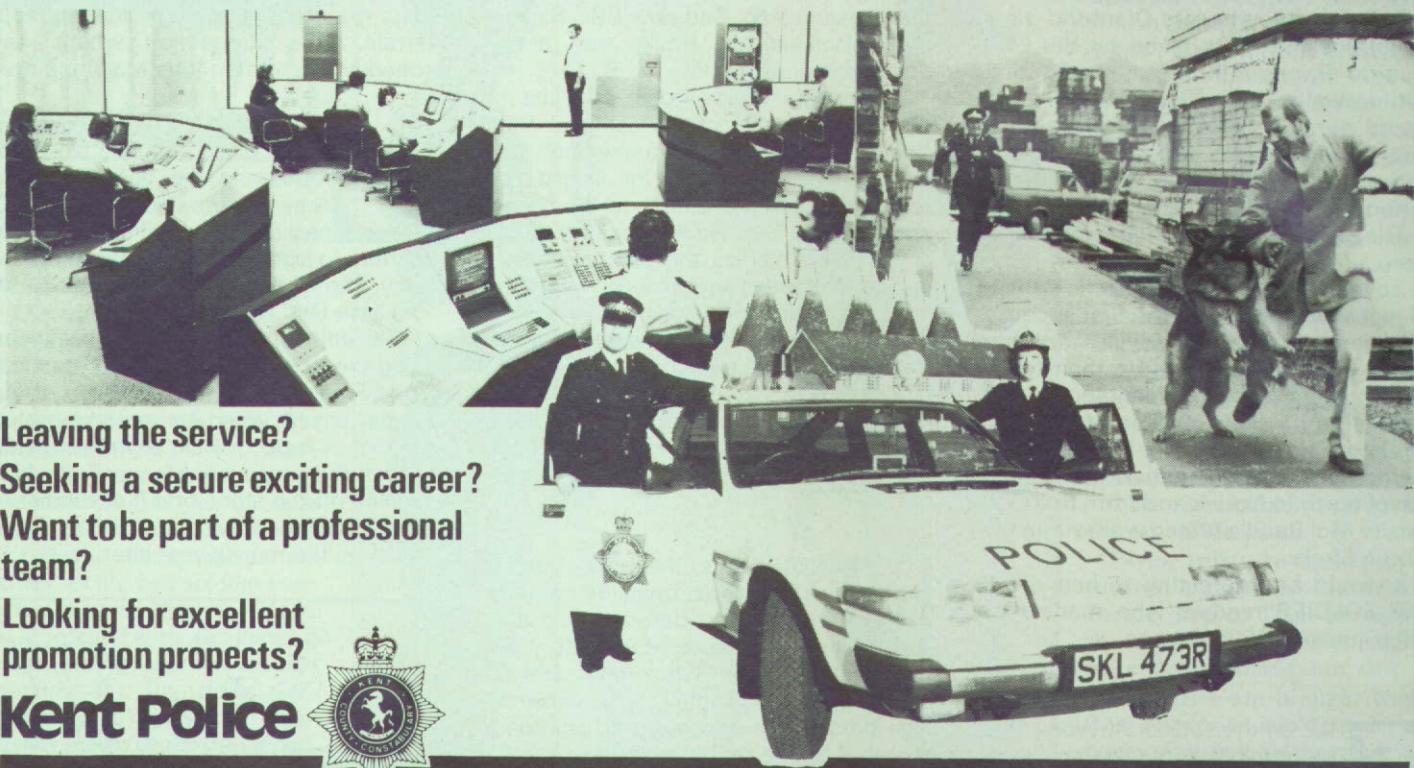
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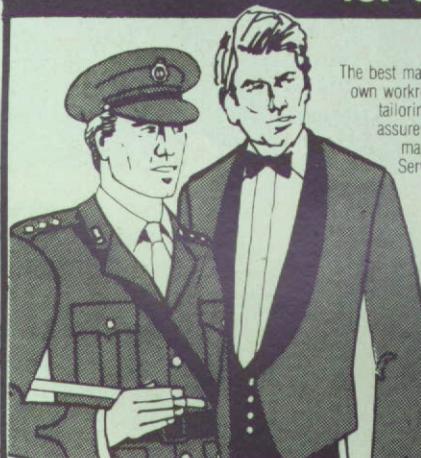
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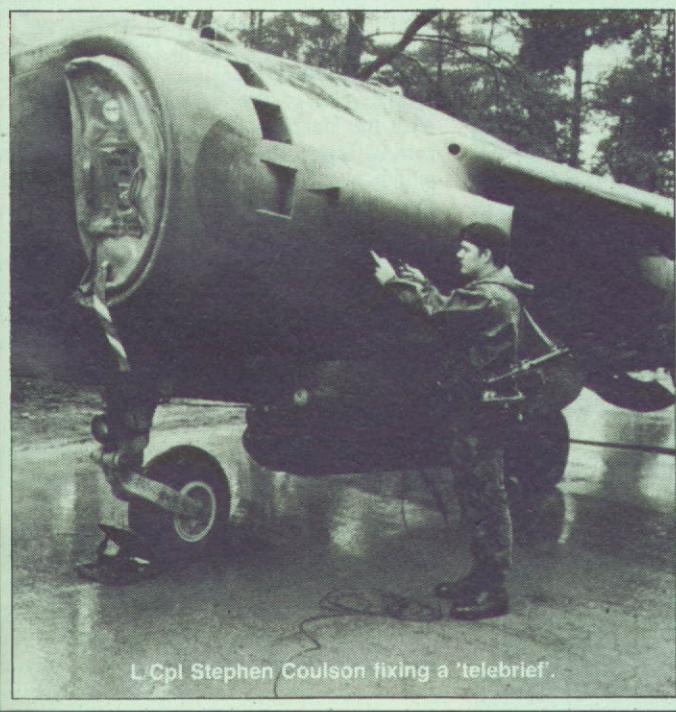
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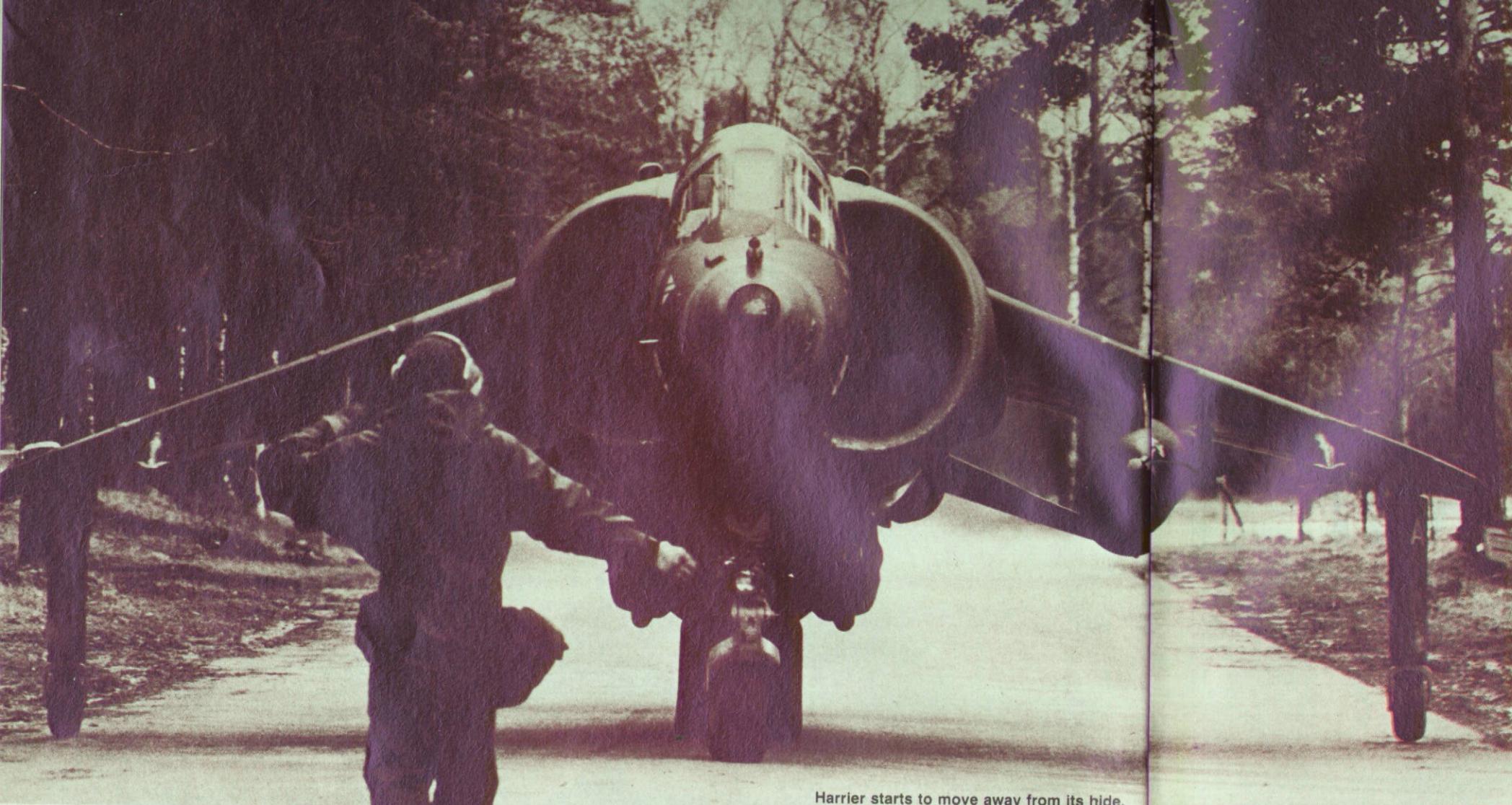


L/Cpl Stephen Coulson fixing a 'telebrief'.

THE EXERCISE was called 'Hard Frost' but as rain and high winds buffeted the woods on Sennelager ranges a more appropriate name might have been 'Noah's Ark'. The magnificent machines for which the exercise was designed — Royal Air Force Harrier jump jets — remained on the ground in their hides while bedraggled Servicemen waited for things to improve.

From time to time the gusts of wind would blow down the camouflage netting around the Harriers. Then airmen, sappers and signallers would all rush to help restore it — there are no demarcation lines at such times.

continued on page 14



Harrier starts to move away from its hide.



◀ L/Cpl 'Geordie' McAllister with radio relays.

And there are precious few anyway apart from the obvious ones of different types of technical skills. For the men of the Harrier Force are fully integrated in teams — all of whom have a vital role in keeping the Harriers fully operational.

The men of the Royal Signals working with the Harriers are members of 2 Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment (AS) — a squadron which was formed at the same time as the Harrier was introduced into Germany.

Based at Wildenrath their job is to provide the ground communications. Out on exercise they not only link up the various parts of the Harrier Force but provide a link with the 1st British Corps mobile communications system.

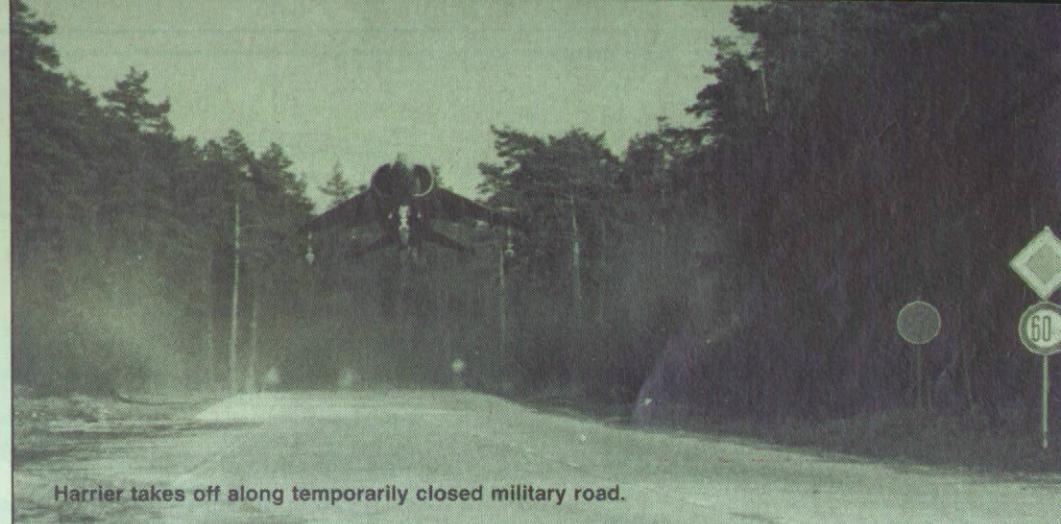
Hard Frost was one of a number of Harrier exercises held throughout the year in Germany. Among its objects was to introduce newer pilots to cold weather and winter drills as well as to flying in the field.

The Harriers were based in small groups at various flying sites around the ranges and the Royal Signals' task was to provide communications to the Forward Wing Operations Centre as well as outside communications back to the Harrier base at Gutersloh and to the rest of the RAF and Army in Germany. They also provided a 'telebrief' — a direct line into the cockpit so that a pilot could be briefed as the engines warmed up.

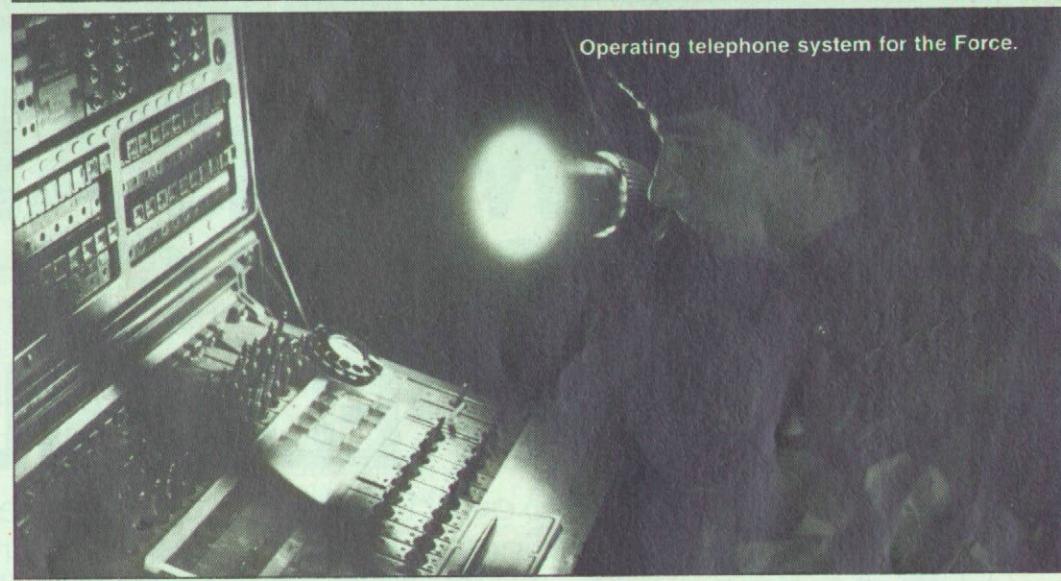
Despite the miserable weather Major David Richardson, who commands the



◀ All hands help as wind blows down camouflage.



Harrier takes off along temporarily closed military road.



Operating telephone system for the Force.



Sapper of the Harrier Force digging a trench. ▶

squadron, reported no damping of spirits. "There is no doubt the weather affects us to some extent but not our morale. A lot of our people are in vehicles so whether it is raining or snowing they are set up to work. But of course, even when there is no flying, all of the chores and guards have to be done and we still have to change generators and maintain cables."

Equally involved are the sappers. Men of 10 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, construct and maintain hides, landing and take-off strips and help to maintain mobility for the support echelons by clearing tracks and hide areas.

Said Lieutenant Mark Parrish, troop commander: "It's very different from the normal field squadron deployment in Germany. It's quite exhilarating to work with the Harriers and to see the fruits of our labours when they fly."

"The actual work we do is basic combat engineering but adapted to suit the Harrier Force. In exercise conditions you can never tell just how good a Harrier is — but we all find it very impressive."

Back to Major Richardson: "The job we do is unique in the Army and there is a feeling of the Harrier Force transcending boundaries — a lot of esprit-de-corps. This is a good squadron to command. It has a degree of independence you don't find in many other Signal regiments in Germany and has a very high reputation among Army signallers and with the RAF."

continued on page 17



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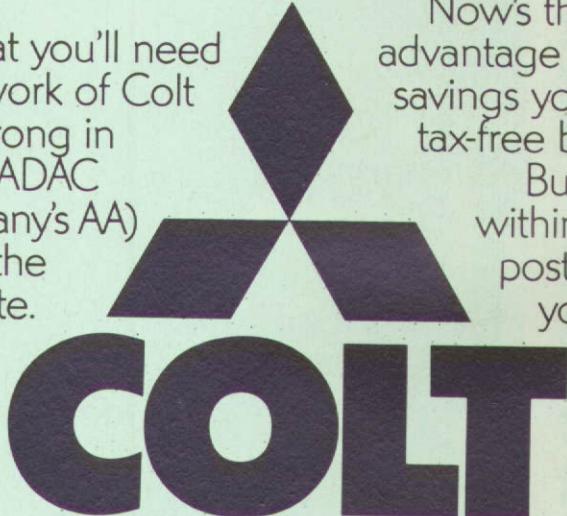
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Puma of 230 Squadron on the move.



NBC exercise as they wait for weather to improve. ▼



Manning a message centre in a woodshed. ▼



Wing-Commander Hamilton-Rump and Lieutenant Carol Lee WRAC discuss a possible move.



MEANWHILE A FEW miles away in the countryside around Lippstadt another group of signallers who work with the RAF were also out on exercise. Again the ultra-high winds were preventing the Puma helicopters from flying, but J Troop from 1 Squadron of 21 Signal Regiment (AS) were in the middle of an NBC attack exercise.

Like their colleagues with the Harriers, J Troop's normal job is to provide ground communications for the RAF Pumas as well as to maintain links with the Army so that the helicopters can easily be tasked.

The headquarters for 230 Squadron RAF during this phase of Exercise Frozen Tiger was one of those farm complexes beloved of World War II film makers — all farmyards and barns and woodsheds, the latter housing the Signals.

Their radios and teleprinters are easy to move around and need to be as mobile as any Army unit in the field. I expect to move at least as frequently as a brigade headquarters if not more. The troop does not get the opportunity of just settling down after getting their communications working nicely, because as soon as they do we are on the move again and they have to

maintain communications throughout the move."

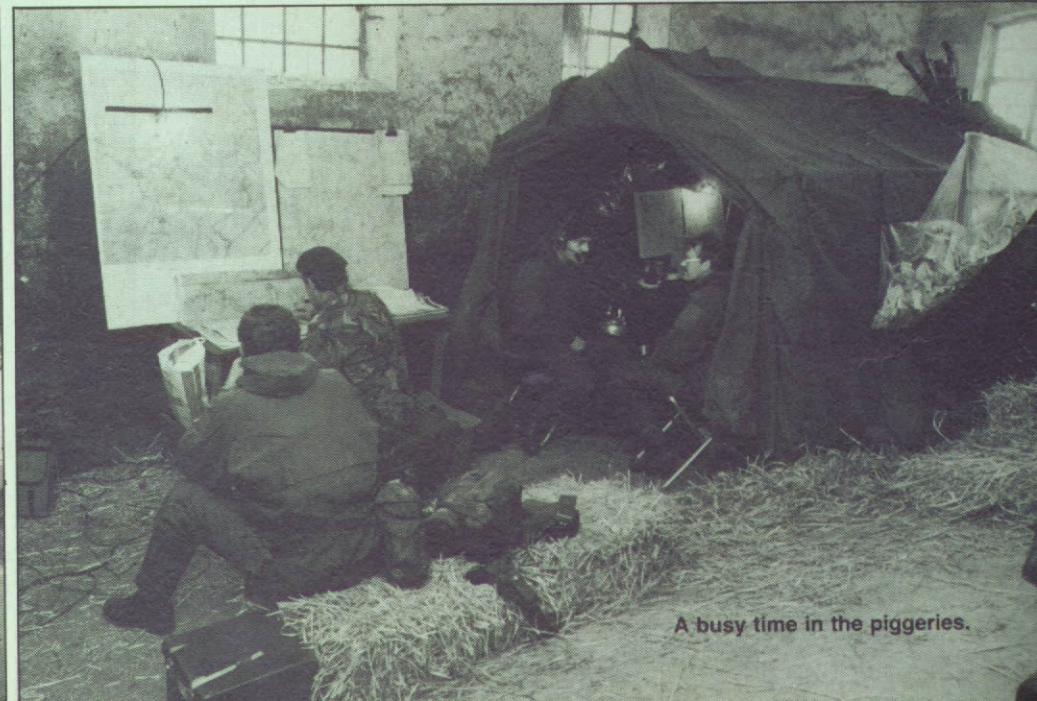
The Wing Commander is very appreciative of J Troop. "We regard them as part of the squadron and they feel they are too. Our training is very frequent and we have worked well together as a cohesive unit over the past five years.

"As a task deployed air unit we are very communications dependent so the presence of J Troop is very vital to put it mildly. We cannot produce 24 hours a day activity without their support."

The Pumas were also spread out at flying sites throughout the district and at each site were more Royal Signals personnel. Squadron Leader Neil Mitchell, commanding a flight based upon an aromatic piggery, was equally enthusiastic.

"J Troop are terrific. I can talk to my boss and he can task the aircraft. It is essential that the boss knows what we are doing all the time so J Troop are essential to the operation of the aircraft."

Old if friendly rivalries are forgotten in Germany as airmen and soldiers work together to keep the aircraft in the right places at the right time. For any future enemy they will be tough teams to beat. ■



A busy time in the piggery.

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley won an MC at 21, fought with the 'Glorious Glosters' on the Imjin and rose to hold some of the Army's biggest, and toughest, jobs. Shortly before his retirement last month he talked to Sally Daniell about a fascinating career with . . .

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

HOW DOES a General with 42 years' unbroken service view the prospect of retirement?

Many have found that they are just as busy after retiring as they were before — and General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley believes he will be no different. "The picture of an old man shuffling round the house in bedroom slippers isn't true — it just doesn't exist. I really have so much to do that I'll continuously be looking for some spare time."

As the author of eight books he hopes, for one thing, to have more time for writing. He currently has two more books on the stocks as well as his work as official historian for the Korean War and on finalising the history of the Parachute Regiment.

General Farrar-Hockley in his last appointment as C-in-C AFNORTH.

General Farrar-Hockley's association with the Airborne Forces goes back to well before the inception of the Parachute Regiment. Running away from school at fifteen-and-a-half he joined the Gloucestershire Regiment and was made a sergeant at 17.

"I was on a course at Tregantle Fort and whilst I was there I saw a bunch of bright and lively NCOs. I asked them who they were with and they said the Airborne Forces. Then, in early 1942, when they were looking for more people I thought 'Gosh! well I'll volunteer!' And that was that."

At 20 he was commanding a rifle company in the 6th Battalion the Parachute Regiment seeing wartime service in the Mediterranean. He was awarded the Military Cross for his part in the long running battle in Athens and was later Mentioned in Despatches.

"It was our job to reactivate the Province

of Thebes which was left destitute after the Germans had gone. Various relief agencies were sending in supplies and we had first of all to stop the Communists getting hold of the stuff and also ordinary crooks. Then we had to get it out to people on a 'most need' basis. We also got them seed for the next harvest. We brought the Province back on its feet and I think it was the best thing I've ever done really."

In fact, during his gallant and distinguished career, General Farrar-Hockley GBE, KCB, DSO, MC, ADC Gen, B Litt, has earned himself almost as many letters after his name as in it.

The next action he saw was in Korea at the battle of the Imjin River, having rejoined the Glosters after the war there being no regular peacetime Parachute Regiment.

"Fighting the Germans had been a very valuable war apprenticeship but fighting the Chinese and Koreans was a very different thing altogether, chiefly because they were in such large numbers. We were sent to guard one of the river crossings and we knew if we were left up there on our own we would very soon be surrounded — and we were. Despite our defence we were smashed to pieces."

Unlike many of his regimental colleagues, he escaped with his life but was then imprisoned by the Chinese as a prisoner of war for more than two years.

'I thought I knew everything but I began to learn a few things about life that I really needed to know . . .'

"The enforced idleness of being a prisoner of war was the hardest thing to bear, and of course we didn't know how long we were going to be there. The Chinese only told us what they wanted us to know about the war so we didn't know how it was progressing. They interfered with our mail as well. I think I got four or maybe six letters from my wife during the whole period, even though she wrote every day."

"We felt it was our duty to go on struggling for as long as we could. I planned a series of escapes none of which were successful — at least not for me. I did manage to get down as far as the coast once, where I hoped to get a boat, but I was caught. It was very hard to escape from a North Korean prison because we looked so different — blue eyes and fair skin meant we were easily identifiable outside."

After one of his six escape attempts instead of being returned to a POW camp he was held in the North Korean political prison at Pyong Yang. He was the only white person there and was tortured.

On his return the General wrote his first book *The Edge of the Sword*, the story of the Glosters in Korea and he is now Colonel of that Regiment.

"The Glosters are a wonderful regiment,





As battalion commander of 3 Para in Bahrain, chatting with the CGS, Field Marshal Sir George Baker.

When I joined them straight from school I thought I knew everything but I began to learn a few things about life which I really needed to know — about people and the meaning of the word 'service'. As a regiment, the Glosters have a certain stability which some others lack."

After Staff College he returned to the Airborne Forces taking part in the Port Said landing in 1956 and in counter-terrorism operations in Cyprus. The Parachute Regiment was formally constituted in 1957/58 when all its members, including officers, were able at last to join direct rather than on secondment from other units. In 1962, General Farrar-Hockley became Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion which he led during the Radfan operations of 1963.

"The 3rd Battalion was ordered to put

down the Radfan guerrillas. We first broke up their food stocks and then we showed them we could get right into their heartland which they didn't believe we could do. We didn't use the passes at all but came down the cliffs on ropes. They woke up one morning and found us right in their area."

After his appointment as principal Staff Officer to the Director of Operations in Borneo, and having also commanded the 16th Parachute Brigade, the General found himself doing something completely different. This was a Defence Fellowship at Oxford where he prepared a thesis on the subject of conscription in Britain.

It is something which he recognises is needed in some countries, but he does not believe it would be appropriate here at the present time. He is a supporter of the volunteer army believing that this means an army of men who, largely, want to be there. The advantages are obvious.

As a newly promoted Major General he found himself the first Commander Land Forces in Northern Ireland as the urban rioting and terrorist activity was reaching a peak.

He rose steadily to the rank of General fulfilling several command posts on the way, his last as Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe.

Being such a senior officer, he could not expect to escape a job in the Ministry of Defence, but he says that he thoroughly enjoyed his job as Director of Combat Development (Army) which he held for three years.

"I always prefer doing duty with troops but that's not to say I pined at my desk in the MOD. On the contrary, I found it a very interesting and educative experience.

"I can honestly say that all the jobs I've had have been absorbing and I've enjoyed them all very much indeed. None were jobs I would rather not have done. Far from it.

"The thing about the Army is that you are working with such nice people who understand, explicitly or implicitly, the meaning of the word 'service'. It is a very wholesome and satisfying way of working and spending your life."



Flashback to Korea — as adjutant to 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment with whom he fought and was captured on the Imjin.

Sadly, General Farrar-Hockley faces his retirement without the company of his wife who died in 1981. He lives in a restored and converted barn in Oxfordshire with his former orderly of 24 years, Sergeant Ted Olive, who sometimes lets him indulge his pleasure in cooking.

"I quite enjoy cooking", he modestly told SOLDIER. "I believe in the quality of life and so also in the quality of food. So much food in this country is desperate although it has got better in recent years."

Apart from his house which he says he will be working on "forever" and his writings, he also has interests in various organisations and is chairman of a board of school governors. Even so he hopes to find time to devote to his chief hobby, sailing.

Whatever he does in his retirement, General Farrar-Hockley won't regret one minute of his Army career. "I feel greatly for these people who wake up in the morning and say to themselves, oh, not another day in that dreadful factory or whatever. What's been so marvellous about my job is that I have actually been paid for what I like doing." ■



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It takes a special kind of courage and determination to be a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Sally Daniell takes a closer look at a unique body of men and women whose aims are reflected in their motto . . .



IT IS 1500 hours in Portadown in Co Armagh and the part-time soldiers of the 11th (Craigavon) Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment are starting to turn up for the night's duty. Having changed into uniform and collected their weapons from the armoury, they present themselves at the briefing room. Twenty minutes later they are off into the night to patrol Lurgan (police) sub-division and counter any terrorist activity.

The part timers, vital to the total strength of the UDR, are acknowledged to be some of the bravest men in the British Army.

At night, normally three times a week or at weekends, they don the all green uniform of the Army's largest infantry regiment. But it is by day — as factory workers, business men, farm workers and delivery men — that they are most at risk from terrorist attack.

Going about their civilian jobs they are ordinary members of the public, and often alone, particularly in the rural areas. Since 1970, 128 UDR men and women have been murdered, most of them while off duty.

On 1 April 1970, for the first time in post-civil war history, a regiment was raised for the sole purpose of serving the local community in helping to bring about *peace through strength* — the regimental motto. Its role, according to the instigating legislation was "to support the regular forces in Northern Ireland . . . in protecting the border and state against armed attack and sabotage."

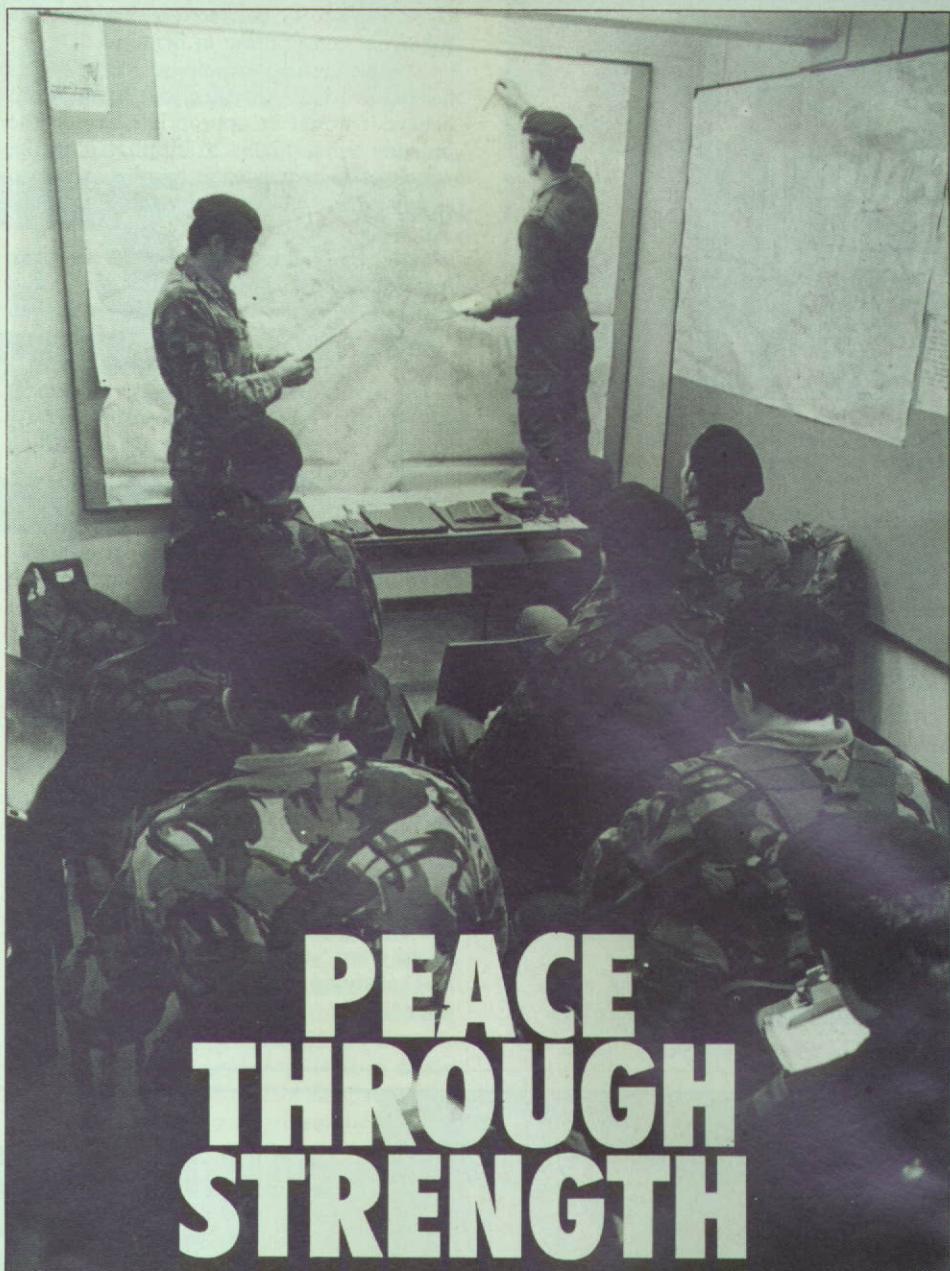
Today, some thirteen years later, the UDR has earned respect as an integral and fully operational part of the British Army.

Its role has changed since 1970 to the extent that it now provides the first line of support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in most of Northern Ireland. Over the past decade its tactical areas of responsibility have been increased to encompass 80 per cent of NI, although in the hard line republican areas, such as West Belfast and some border areas, the regular Army still provides back-up for the RUC.

The biggest asset soldiers of the UDR bring to the job of the Security Forces is their local knowledge, being able to supply valuable information regarding local history, terrain and personalities. This sort of knowledge clearly cannot be provided to the same extent by regular troops on either resident or rota tours.

At over 7000 strong the regiment has 11 battalions of whom nearly two-thirds are part-time. A number of regular soldiers on secondment from their parent units occupy the posts of commanding officer, training major, quartermaster, RSM and PSI (Signallers).

The Commander UDR, currently Brigadier Peter Graham, late of the Gordon Highlanders, is based at the Regimental Head-



quarters co-located with HQ Northern Ireland at Lisburn.

Women in the UDR, affectionately and operationally known as Greenfinches — their radio code name — form 10 per cent of the entire regiment. Unlike the WRAC they do not wear a separate cap badge but are recruited directly into the regiment and perform most of the tasks carried out by their male colleagues. They do not carry weapons but they do go out on patrols and provide valuable support services.

Required originally for search purposes, Greenfinches now also carry out first aid, work in operations rooms and man the radios while on patrol.

Woman's voices are clearer and come over better on the radio. In the regimental

Each patrol must be carefully briefed before setting out on duty.

annals, there is a story of one Greenfinch signaller who would radio battalion headquarters with the legendary words "I now have all my positions mounted". The innuendo never ceases to amuse.

Political and military chiefs agree that since 1977 when the police took over primary responsibility for security operations, the situation in Northern Ireland has become steadily quieter with the return to 'normality' more and more in evidence.

Paradoxically, in order to maintain this pattern of peace, the Security Forces dare not relax their guard and the UDR makes a major contribution to this overall vigilance.



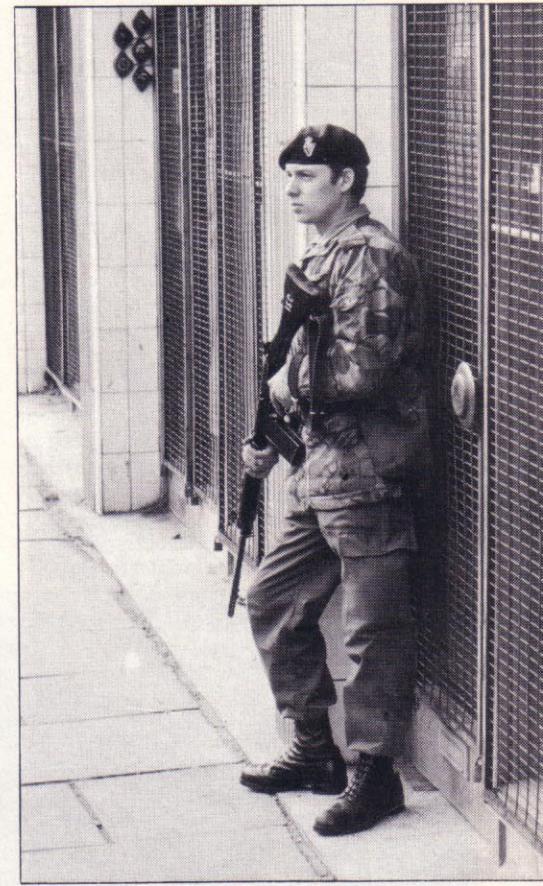
A friendly word for a Belfast shopper.



Colour Sgt Robert Taylor:
"We very rarely get any hassle these days."



Issuing weapon to part-time UDR member.



Keeping a lookout inside the segments.

Pictures: Les Wiggs

Their role is fulfilled by the normal round of duties — patrols, guards, searches and checks on vehicles and passers by.

SOLDIER was able to witness some aspects of their work in two areas of operation.

10 UDR is based in the City of Belfast and its responsibilities include the security of the largely pedestrianised city centre known as the segments. At the segment gates they provide cover for staff of the Civilian Search Unit carrying out personal and baggage searches of people entering either for shopping or business purposes. Where there are no female CSU officers

available for searching women, Greenfinches carry this out. Both mobile and foot patrols are another aspect of segment security.

Military and police presence has been a part of life in Belfast city centre for so long that SOLDIER wondered how the public now view the task performed by the UDR. Platoon Commander, Colour Sergeant Robert Taylor, an ex-Regular, explained: "I think people accept us for the job that we do. We very rarely get any hassle these days. We also get involved with funny things like getting people taxis late at night, which nobody minds because it's all part of the PR. And at Christmas time people offered us

drink — which I must add was refused; but they came up to us and said what a good job they thought we're doing."

The results achieved through the UDR's work are good if they are negative, that is, when incidents do not occur. "It's all very routine work," admitted Captain Harry Hutton, Admin officer for 10 UDR. "But it still means that we have to have a lot of men on the ground and put in a lot of hours in order to achieve our aim."

During SOLDIER's visit to 11 UDR, co-located with the police divisional HQ in Portadown, a search for arms or explosives was under way in a derelict property. For

continued on page 22

this operation one of the battalion 'stars' was deployed. Coco, a liver collie, is a sniffer dog and was responsible for finding a massive amount of explosives at Ballynery late last year — 1000 lbs was found hidden in a barn.

Coco's handler, Corporal Brian Russell, a full time soldier, calls him Wonderdog "or anything that'll make him come when I call him!"

"He's still a young dog, only three, and this business is still a game to him which is a good thing because once it stops being fun and he actually has to work at it, he won't be as good."

On this occasion nothing was found, which is not unusual. But the deterrent effect of the operation is just as useful. Captain Brian Armstrong, HQ company second-in-command explained "You don't always know if someone has been stopped from doing something. But sometimes, maybe weeks after, we hear that a job planned didn't go ahead because of our action, and although not as sweet then, it is still rewarding.

"They will know that we've been here today, and that we could come tomorrow even to do the same thing. So hopefully we've messed up their plans somehow. We try to keep one step ahead of them all the time. Sometimes we don't, of course, and then we all soon hear of it — but that's the idea anyway."

Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Alan Hobbs, who is on secondment from the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, was frank about the misgivings he had when he first heard of his posting to 11 UDR. He admits he was not looking forward to it and was ill informed about the professionalism of the regiment. Now he has changed his mind.

"The UDR are as good as regular soldiers and their local knowledge makes them even better value. It's true they're not trained in many aspects of ordinary warfare but they learn specifically about the job in Northern Ireland.

Men of 11 UDR check for hidden arms.



Climbing aloft to search derelict building.

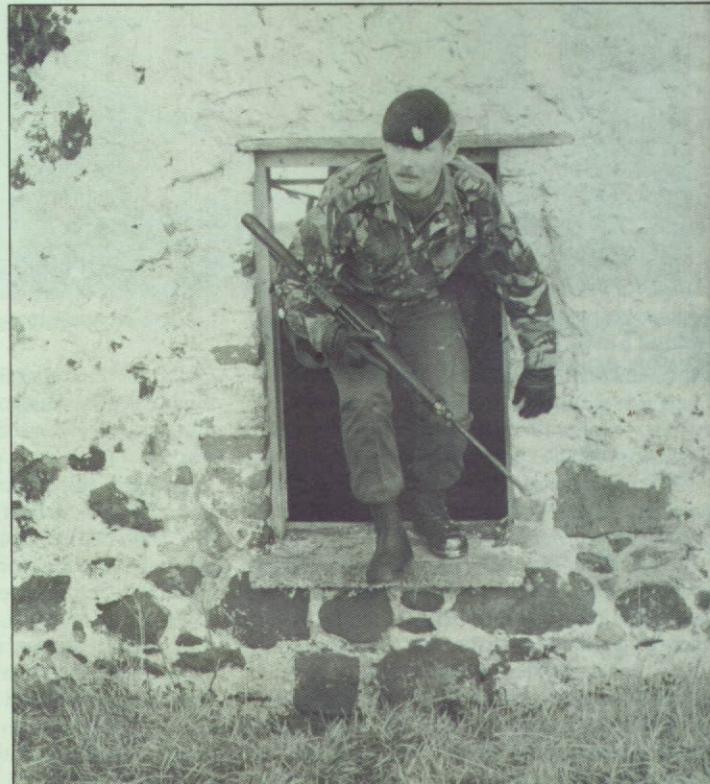
"They are as good as the standard you set and I make no distinction between permanent cadre (full time) and part-timers as far as turn out and discipline are concerned. They are responsible and pleasant and work all the hours God sends."

In each UDR battalion there is an officer in charge of the Greenfinches. 11 UDR has the services of vivacious and conscientious Rosemary Gregg who has been a part timer since the Greenfinches were first recruited ten years ago.

She has learnt from other people's mis-

takes and refuses to be the type of OIC who pays only lip service to the job. "I like the girls in this battalion to know there is someone to talk to about any problems they may have if they want to. Of course, they are already highly motivated anyway or else they wouldn't be doing this, but I try and make their job as interesting as possible.

"I wouldn't make them do anything that I



All clear — this time.



Checking identities at segment gates.

regimental life as the job itself.

Sport too is taken very seriously and the UDR now poses quite a threat to other units in the Army sporting calendar. Football is a favourite of course, but their biggest success last year was when 4 UDR became the Army tug-of-war champions.

The essence of the regiment's work was summed up succinctly by one of its officers. "It's nothing dramatic, just routine and sometimes boring, but very necessary and if you wanted to describe the quality we require in the UDR, persistence would be the word." ■

haven't already done myself. I completed an assault course the other week — nearly killed myself doing it mind, but I'm arranging for my girls to do it now. I think they'll enjoy it really and they'll get a lot of satisfaction from having done it."

There is a social side to life in the UDR as much as in other parts of the Army. No living or sleeping accommodation is provided since members all live in their own homes, but they often have their own clubs and messes inside the camp where they can go with their families and meet their colleagues knowing they are less at risk there than in pubs and clubs outside. Discos and dinner nights are almost as much a part of



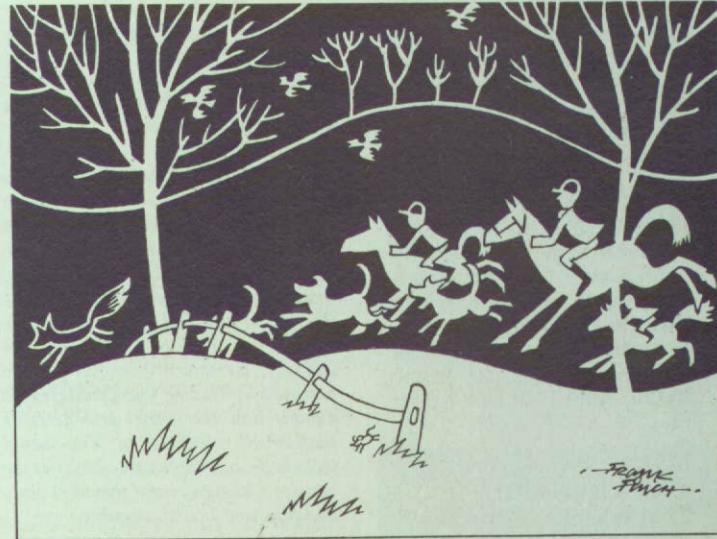
A Greenfinch of 10 UDR. Women provide a vital 10 per cent of the regiment.



Searching waste bin for bombs.

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.

How observant are you?





SSAFA HAS COME right up to date in 1983 with the issue of the revised *Ssafa Flag Book* and the introduction of a new, revised and comprehensive *Ssafa Overseas Handbook*.

The unmistakable Union Jack on the cover of the *Ssafa Flag Book* points to the enormous role that Ssafa plays in helping serving and ex-Service families in need. This looseleaf book is the Ssafa workers' bible and an excellent reference book.

It covers every aspect of the Association's work from state benefits, income tax, pensions and budget counselling to training and branch case work. It includes information on applications for grants from national or local charities and even breaks down the individual areas of Service support that can help solve problems such as housing, illness or unemployment. There is guidance on filling in the Ssafa common application form for help and all the information that a Ssafa worker, whether of long standing or newly recruited needs.

The *Ssafa Overseas Handbook* has been rewritten by Controller, David Smithers and, inside a cover depicting the role that the Ssafa uniformed branch plays in overseas commands, contains sections on The Royal Charter, Rules and Regulations together with an introduction to Ssafa's background.

The Handbook is the first contact that many Ssafa workers overseas have with the Association after they have volunteered and so there are chapters devoted to organisation and administration that include explanations of the role of Ssafa volunteer workers, their nursing and social work, and the financial aspect of the organisation.

The *Ssafa Overseas Handbook* costs £5 per copy so the Controller has given permission for it to be copied locally to help out. You should tell Ssafa HQ though so they can send you amendments. More information can be had from Ssafa Head Office, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ. Tel: 01-222 9221.

Anne Armstrong

I have included a few of the many letters I have received from you asking questions about Child Benefit and I hope that the article on the facing page will make things clearer.

I am writing to you in the hope of information and advice about Child Benefit.

I was under the impression that in Germany now I could have my Child Benefit paid in one of two ways: through my husband's pay or into a UK bank account.

Just before leaving UK I took my Child Benefit book into the local DHSS and got a receipt for it. On our arrival in Germany I made enquiries at the pay office to have my Child Benefit paid into a UK bank account. They told me to write to the DHSS in Newcastle which I did. I received from them a standard printed letter saying I should see the unit paymaster with regard to the payment of Child Benefit. I went back to the unit pay office and made more enquiries but they only deal with Child Benefit paid through my husband's pay.

I know it is possible to have Child Benefit paid direct because a neighbour of mine is being paid this way now, but a further letter to the DHSS has had no results yet either. I am worried now because it has been three months since my last payment. Should it be this difficult to get the benefit paid direct?

Mrs C, BFPO 31.

Can you please ask the DHSS why it is so difficult to have Family Allowance paid in arrears, by cheque, to the wife of a Serviceman? Is there any simple system for doing this whilst in BAOR?

Mrs W, Verden.

At a recent meeting of the Mönchengladbach Ladies' Club, 31 wives out of 70 signed to say that they would like their Child Benefit paid to their UK bank account direct instead of through their husband's pay. Why is this not possible?

Mrs B, Mönchengladbach.

Both my husband and I would like the Child Benefit for our new baby to be paid into a deposit account at our bank but presumably it will be paid into my husband's pay at the moment. When will the new regulations come into effect in BAOR?

Also, according to the unit paymaster, there will be no change in our tax code on the birth of the baby. Is this correct?

Mrs T, BFPO 33.

Child Benefit is at present paid three monthly in arrears if you want it paid to a UK bank account instead of through your husband's pay. If you want to do this (and as the mother you have the choice) you should write to the Overseas Branch of the DHSS in Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1YX for form CH54A. Be sure to give full identity particulars including your Child Benefit number and the names and dates of birth of all your children. You should include the full name and address of the bank to which payments should be sent, and also your account number.

I am hopeful that the present proce-

dure will change by the end of the year and come into line with the UK where it is paid monthly in arrears to mothers who do not wish to have it paid weekly.

With regard to your query on tax changes, Mrs T, I'm afraid that the tax rebate was faded out some years ago and there is now no change.

ASK ANNE

At the beginning of last year I had a threatened miscarriage. I was 16 weeks pregnant at the time and it happened without warning. Although we had a blanket and mattress cover on the bed, blood went through it all on to the mattress.

I was given a doctor's note to explain this but on march-out we were told it would not be accepted and that we had to pay for the mattress. Everyone I spoke to agreed that it was unfair, but said there was nothing to be done.

If this is the case, perhaps other people could be warned and advised to take out an insurance policy as we have now done.

Mrs J, Aldershot.

I asked Logistic Executive (Army) at Andover for an answer to your letter, Mrs J, as mattresses are one of the greatest problems for wives and families in quarters.

They said that the ASAs in each station necessarily have discretion in deciding the categories for levying charges where occupants do not qualify for a free replacement mattress. It would seem therefore a very sensible move to take out special insurance to cover any accidents that might involve charges for replacement.

They also quoted the prices which may be charged for replacement. These are from the JSP 307 Price Supplement for 1982 so it is likely that the 1983 charges will be more, but they do give some idea of the costs that might be involved: The full replacement cost for a 4' 6" mattress in BAOR is £49.37 and £35.20 for a single, 2' 6", mattress. The re-covering charges are £17.75 and £14.24 respectively.

Logistic Executive (Army) has a mattress re-covering contract for UK and BAOR which accounts for the differential rates charged according to the degree of soiling or damage. The Supply Overhead charge (35 per cent in BAOR, 30 per cent in UK) is added to the basic price less an allowable standard depreciation charge of 25 per cent. Thus the BAOR charges are slightly higher than in UK because of the higher Supply Overhead charge. There might also be a smaller charge in some areas in UK for merely stripping and cleaning where a small degree of staining is involved.



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Unto us a child is born

HOW MANY OF US actually stop to think what our family is costing us? It's probably just as well that most parents never add up their family outgoings because it can make horrifying reading.

The *Which? Book of Money* published in its 1980 edition by the Consumers' Association puts the cost of two children at around a staggering £48,500 over 18 years.

But help is at hand for parents from the Department of Health and Social Security in the shape of the Child Benefit or family allowance. This is a non-contributory, tax-free grant of (at present) £5.85 per child per week and is available to anyone responsible for children under 16 or between 16 and 19 years in full-time school or college education.

Until recently payment was made through the post offices up and down the country in exchange for the payment books and counterfoils which could be cashed each week. But this system was altered from 15 March 1982 when, unless mothers opted for weekly payments, the benefit payments went monthly in arrears.

New system

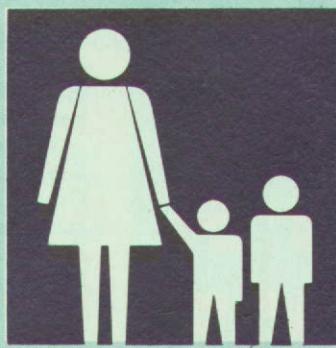
Now more changes are on the way. The DHSS intend going over to an Automated Credit Transfer (ACT) system of Child Benefit payments, putting the money (again monthly in arrears) into the wife's bank account, a National Giro account, Trustee Savings Bank or building society account.

There has been a mixed reaction to the introduction of this new system. Some mothers have preferred to collect their Child Benefit monthly anyway but others have experienced genuine hardship in adapting their budget to a monthly rather than a weekly payment.

Service families on UK postings during the last year have, of course, had the same choices, the same problems and the same adjustments to make as civilian families affected by the changes in Child Benefit payments. They too will be offered the chance to be included in the new ACT payment system when it takes effect and this could be the first step towards a simpler and more comprehensive payment system for Service wives everywhere.

At present, problems arise whenever Service families leave the UK for an overseas posting. Getting out of — and then back into — the benefit stream involves inevitable paperwork and delays of, in some cases, months and often means a quite significant drop in income for families with a number of children. Even a posting to Northern Ireland means filling in forms since benefit is paid from Stormont not the DHSS in Newcastle.

A posting overseas, however, means a total change in procedures. The MOD can make the Child Benefit payments through



the unit pay office and these come to families through the husband's pay each month. At the very least this means that families who have been used to a weekly budget have a four-week period to cover before their first Child Benefit payment comes through.

There are more serious drawbacks to the system though. Some husbands do not pass on this money to their wives.

There are also wives who, for various reasons, do not want to ask their husbands for the allowance. One wife explained: "I used to manage very well when I had my book for the three children. Now I always seem to be asking him for money. At £16-odd a week it's quite a sum and I just wish it was mine."

Another added: "It goes into his account and that's the end of it. I can't ask for a weekly amount although I always used to rely on my Child Benefit and when he goes away on exercises or courses it's even more difficult."

There are two alternatives to receiving Child Benefit through the pay office and some wives have managed to find their way through the necessary forms and rigmarole to have the benefit paid direct to them by payments into their UK bank account or by payable order in sterling paid to them in BAOR. Under the pre-

sent regulations, however, either of these methods involves payment quarterly in arrears and many wives find this is just too long to wait.

There are other problems here too. The bank charges for transferring three months' worth of Child Benefit from a UK to an overseas bank are considerable and the amount is also subject to the fluctuations of the exchange rate.

If you do opt for either of these systems of payment, the crucial form to ask the DHSS for is a Form CH54A. You can apply to the Child Benefit Centre at Washington, Newcastle upon Tyne for it either before you leave the UK or when you arrive overseas.

Clearly neither system is really satisfactory for Service families overseas but, with the introduction of ACT in UK, there is a ray of hope. The DHSS appears to have no objection to extending ACT to Service wives overseas in the future although there are practical difficulties in adapting the system and its computers to include them. This would then give the wives the choice between continuing to receive the benefit through their husband's pay or having it paid into their own UK bank account or building society account monthly in arrears.

There is still some way to go before this happens though and the MOD is in consultation with the DHSS to see how it can best be achieved.

Procedures

So, meantime, we must make sure we use the existing system as efficiently as we can. There are fixed procedures which bypass most of the pitfalls but there are too many people who get confused and so delay their payments.

If you are paid Child Benefit through your husband's pay while you are overseas, it is important to make a note of your Child Benefit number as you will have been taken off the Child Benefit computer during this time. Any queries that arise, therefore, will take time to trace and investigate unless you can quote your number.

Since I first realised, in 1975, the extent of the confusion and problems with Child Benefit for Service families, things have improved slightly with Child Benefit numbers now being re-



corded on pay documents and the introduction of Form CH 182 G as a result of points I raised at a Ssfa conference.

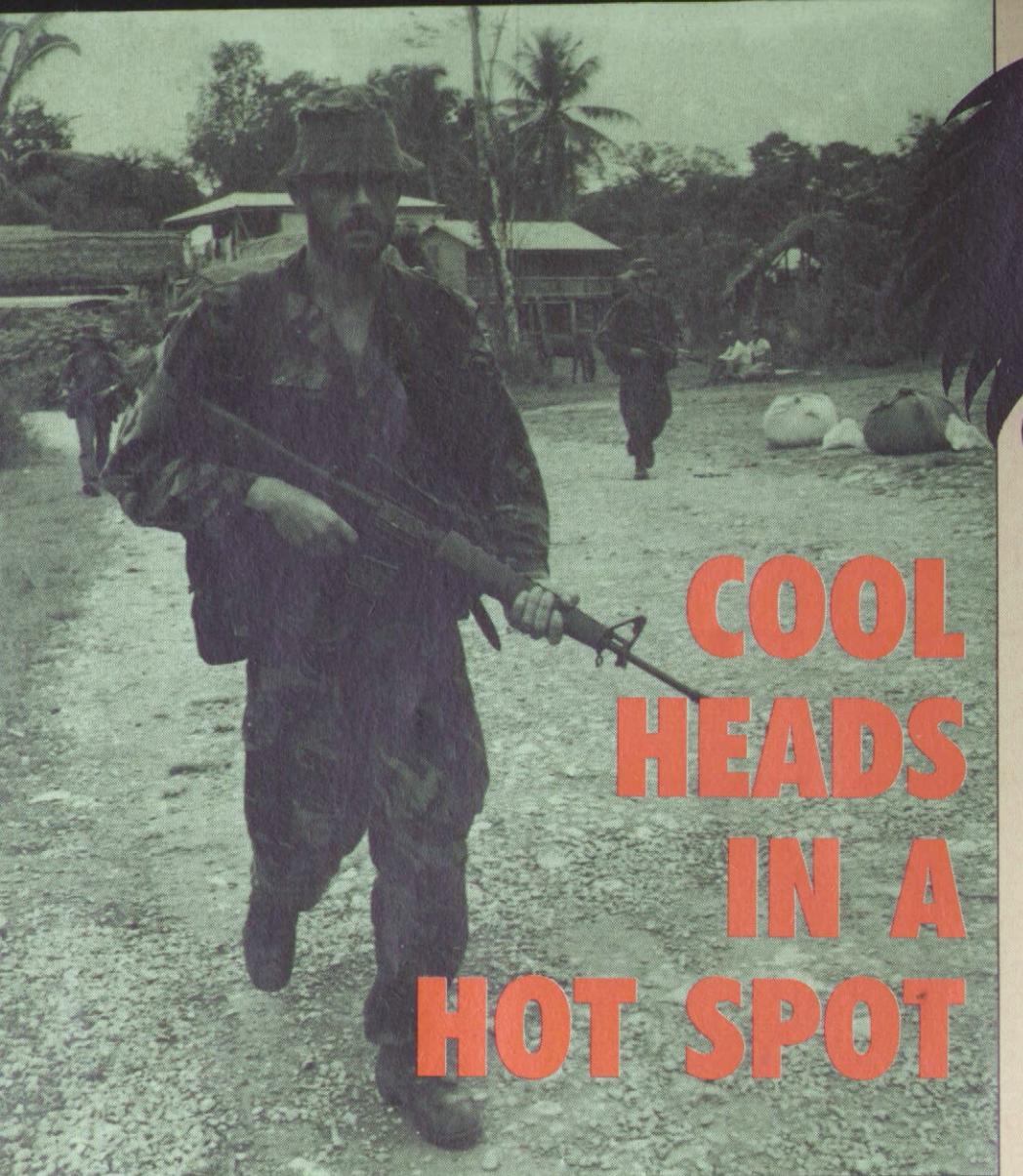
Form CH 182 G is the key to successful re-entry into the Child Benefit system in UK. You should make sure that you obtain, complete and sign this before you leave your overseas station so that you have the necessary documentation to enable you to claim on your return.

Another important point about CH 182 G is that the wife (unless you are a one-parent family) must be the one to sign. If the husband signs, the form is null and void and you have problems. Child Benefit can only be backdated for one year so it is important to make sure that you do what is required.

As a further concession to Service wives returning from overseas, the DHSS has agreed that a wife who was with her husband overseas on 15 March 1982 — and therefore did not have the opportunity to opt for a weekly payment — may do so on her return if she wishes. So remember to make sure you register for weekly payments if you want them. Otherwise you will automatically be paid monthly.

Some of you may wonder whether there isn't a better way to pay for children but, for all its problems and anomalies, the present system of Child Benefit is the fairest yet implemented. It is a form of tax relief that excludes the poverty trap where any increase in wages is offset by tax increases and loss of benefits, it excludes means testing, and it helps those too poor to be liable for tax at all and benefits mothers directly rather than being made with reference to the husband and his earnings.

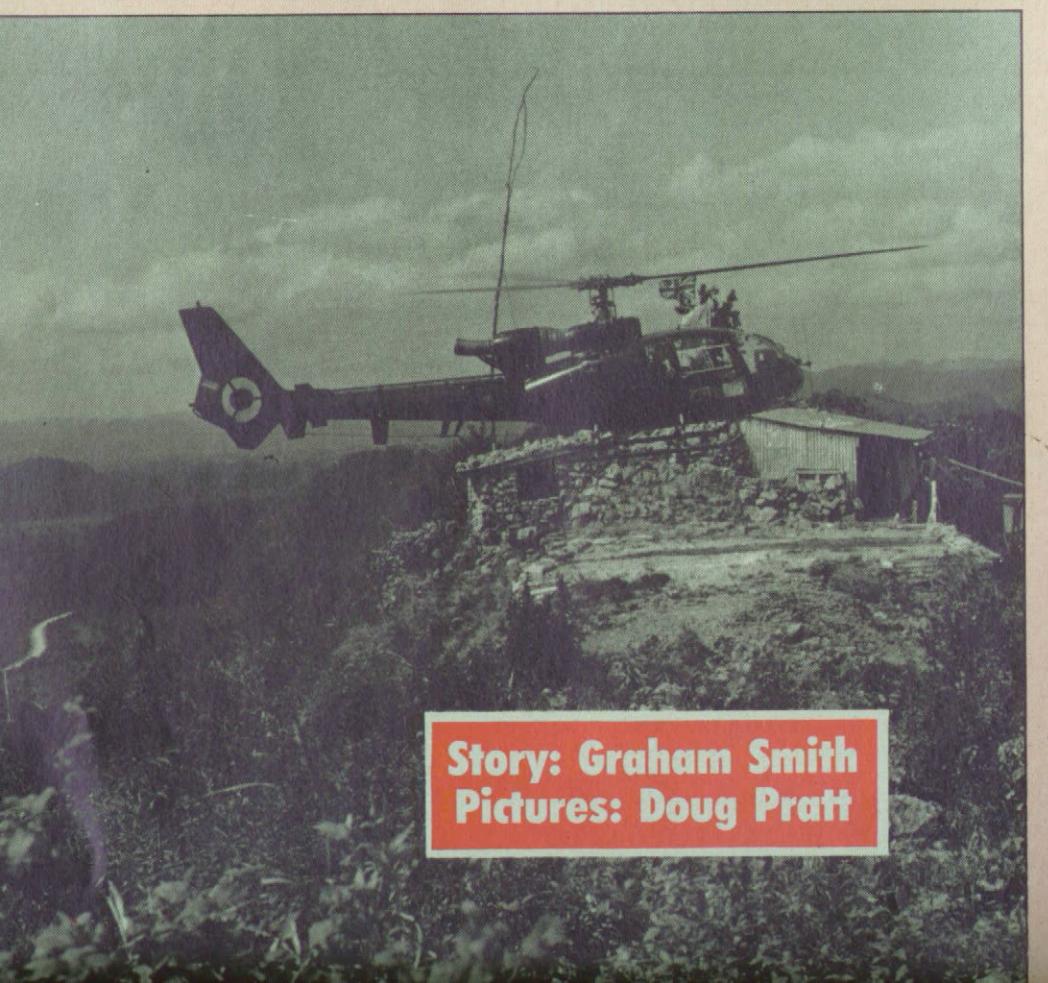
Service families, as usual, deserve particular consideration where Child Benefit is concerned. If any of you have any problems or views on this, I shall be pleased to hear from you and will do my best to help.



COOL HEADS IN A HOT SPOT

Jungle patrol in village of San Antonio.

AAC Gazelle lifts off from Cadenas OP.



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

**In the steamy jungles of Belize
SOLDIER meets up
with Britain's Battle
Group South — men
who can be counted
on for...**

THERE'S A NEW vogue saying doing the rounds in the swamp-strewn and jungle-matted former British colony of Belize in Central America — "Seein' is Belize'n." A few years ago, there was another: "You'd better Belize it!"

Whatever the significance of the latest Creole catchphrase, the neighbouring Guatemalans seem to have taken this typically gauche pun of the happy-go-lucky Belizeans to heart since our victory in the Falklands.

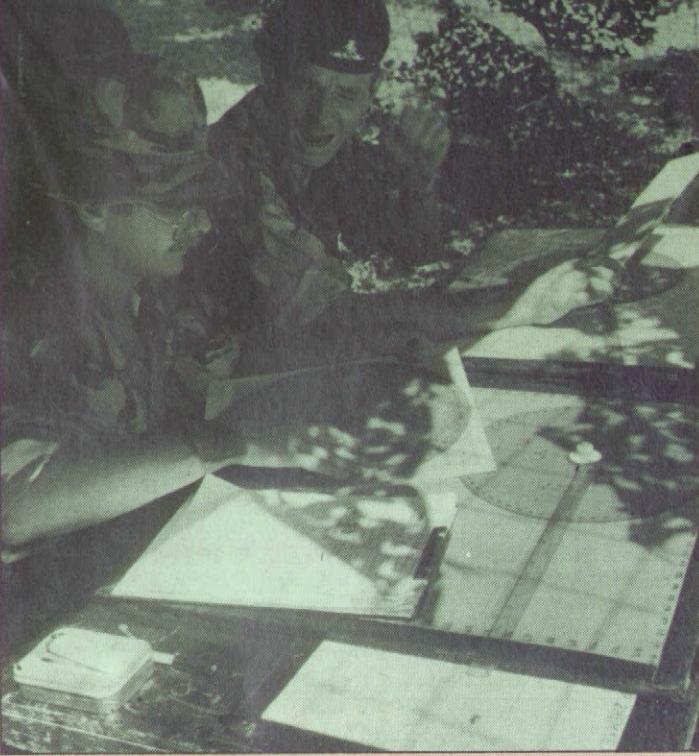
Founded 300 years ago by swashbuckling pirates and seafaring loggers, Belize was given its independence on September 21, 1981 with the promise that the 1700-strong British Garrison would remain there "for an appropriate time".

As Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Calder, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Commander, Battle Group South (BGS), told SOLDIER during our visit to his Nissen-hutted 'village' HQ of Rideau Camp, just 20 miles east of the Guatemalan border: "The indications are that since the Falklands war has been won, there is a greater respect throughout this part of the world for the capabilities of the British Army and the Royal Air Force."

It is within Lt-Col Calder's immediate 1600-square-kilometre 'parish', the Toledo District, which is mostly jungle terrain and separated from northern Belize by the 3000-foot-plus Maya Mountains, that the Guatemalans covet land that would thrust through lush tropical rain forests and the remnants of the 1400-year-old Mayan empire to the white, sandy beaches giving them access to the Atlantic; a significant climb-down in its old claim to sovereignty over the whole of Belize, a country the size of Wales and home to 140,000 people of varying ethnic origins and hues.

Rideau Camp, built in 1977 in a race against the elements by men of 32 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, RE, is ringed by jungle-crowded hills and boasts its own 'jewel carriageway' — half a mile of it — made up of onyx marble. The sappers came across seams of it during blasting operations but it went into the crushers all the same to help make what must be the most valuable road on any British Army base.

The role of the 250-strong camp has



Bdr Ted Rowe, right, and Sgt Nigel Deakin, go through fire drills on the 105mm Light Guns of 127 (Dragon) Battery, RA.

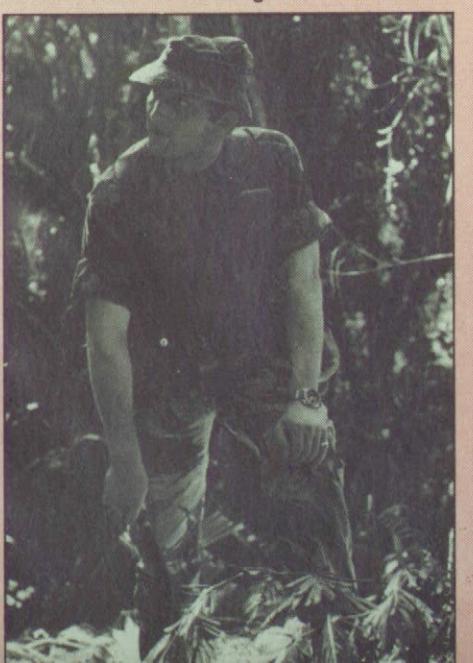


Questioning Guatemalan pedlars who had crossed illegally into Belize.



105mm Light Gun drill with 127 Battery.

Pte Bob Andrews, 1 Royal Anglian, tries out the comfort of an improvised jungle shelter.



continued on page 28

The Vikings in their 'cabbage kit' — combat dress — also man observation posts including the fixed site perched 550 feet up at Cadenas which overlooks the Guatemalan border.

All traffic passing from Petén in Guatemala's north-west must pass along a road linking it to Puerto Barrios and every movement is routinely monitored from the British eyrie.

Patrols are also sent to the 30-mile offshore island of Hunting Caye which squats parallel to Belize's Caribbean seaboard and provides the site of another OP.

According to Lt-Col Calder, the location is a very popular weekend resort for the Guatemalans. "About 100 of them descend on it by boat and we send out a patrol from Friday to Monday — with a Belizean policeman in support — to make sure everybody formally enters Belize. It's a typical Caribbean island with white sands, palm trees and a lighthouse — idyllic when it's sunny."

Other tasks allotted to Battle Group South include giving help in any possible hurricane relief operations and guidance in the continuation training of the six-year-old Belize Defence Force (BDF). (See SOLDIER 19 Oct '81).

"We do what we can by organising cadres, teaching OP procedures and general day-to-day training," said Lt-Col Calder. "We train the platoon-strength BDF at Punta Gorda, a town about six miles from here, and train officers to be officers."

Although geographically isolated, the quality of life at Rideau is surprisingly good and many think better than at Airport Camp, 168 road miles to the north.

WO 2 (RQMS) Bob Bowden, for example, told SOLDIER: "We actually live a nice, comfortable life here but a swimming pool would be marvellous. Rideau needs such a place to plunge your body in. If we had that, I'd never want to leave this place."

"The big thing to avoid is 'atap fever' which is caused by being in close contact when you get on each other's nerves. It usually happens after about five months. You just have to get out and about but you get to know everybody here. It's not like Airport Camp where people keep coming and going."

Out in the field, literally, SOLDIER was taken to a two-gun position of 105mm Light Guns, manned by six-man crews from B Troop, 127 (Dragon) Field Battery, RA. They were sited in a field just off the five-yard-wide Southern Highway, a dust-covered artery based on hardcore foundations and 101 miles from the nearest metalled road — the Hummingbird Highway.

"It's a completely different kind of soldiering out here and we enjoy it," said Captain Paul Glover, the Troop commander. "Every week, Harriers from Airport Camp fly down here which gives us valuable training practice."

"We also get a good knowledge of the jungle. In the first three months every gunner was put into it to become proficient in survival skills. This is the only chance for BAOR gunners to get into the jungle as infantrymen. We concentrate on that aspect here and we aim to be out every week, training by road and helicopter deployment. We also let other arms here at Rideau train on our guns."

in the Falklands.

It was he, in fact, who passed the signal starting the overnight 300-round barrage on Tumbledown, just days before the end of the war.

"I learned a lot about infantry skills while there and about the way in which they move forward tactically," he admitted. "But out here it's the OPs which have the physically demanding jobs — especially all the digging."

Captain Glover summed up the view of the artillerymen — they are called the 'Rideau Raiders' — when he said: "We have, as gunners, every confidence to give anyone who invades a bloody nose. We know the Harriers are good; we know the infantry is good; and we know we could smash anybody who tries to get through."

Meanwhile, in the jungle, Lieutenant 'Max' Marriner, OC of a recce platoon was showing how to put up three survival shelters in a matter of minutes from moho and atap leaves with machete-cut strips of timber bound with indigenous vines.



Tri-lateral training. Infantrymen from 1 Royal Anglian, the Bermuda Regt and local BDF pause during a village patrol.

Part of this training, he explained, was done with the BDF. It was the only experience they would ever get of seeing artillery and they had been invited to train on the gun positions during live firing.

"A lot of lads think that Rideau is the best camp in Belize," said Captain Glover. "People may shirk about living in shacks but it's well away from everybody. It's not even out in the sticks like Salamanca and the delights of Punta Gorda are only a 10-minute drive away. We also organise fishing trips and barbecues."

"Professionally, here in the south, the artillery get a better chance to integrate with the infantry and the engineers with whom we get on particularly well."

127 Troop's next location is somewhat less exotic — a return to Topcliffe, north Yorkshire, and the FH 70. They had converted specially to the 105mm Light Gun for the Belize tour.

At the gun's well-concealed OP with its HASE (Head Angulation-Sighted Equipment) laser range finder device, was Gunner Bob Bailey an OP Signaller who was attached for two months to the Scots Guards

"It takes three weeks to acclimatise but we spend most of our time in here," he explained pointing at the jungle canopy 170 feet above him and his six-man patrol. "Our 24-hour day is split into two 12-hour cycles.

"The basic problem is sleeping on the ground which is health hazardous. Most insects get vertigo more than 18 inches off the ground, some carrying Black Fever, Leishmaniasis or Dengue Fever. We spend a minimum of four days and up to a fortnight in the jungle."

He then introduced SOLDIER to the sharper side of the female cahoun tree, more commonly — very commonly — known to his men as the bastard tree.

Corporal 'Cal' Callaghan explained why. "It gets its new name quietly called out every time you bump into it and its two-inch-long spikes. You can hear the lads on patrol hissing . . . 'bastard tree!' And that's what we call it."

According to Lt Marriner, initiates to the art of jungle warfare training must always take account of 'the green nightmare'.

"Looking at the jungle overall, it's a mass. Always look at the bottom of it, near the ground, and then you start to get depth of field. You don't just look at the jungle, you look through it. And you've got to have



Lt-Col Tony Calder: "Our responsibility is to defend Belize against aggression . . ."

a sense of humour in here or it will get you down. You also need to be dainty of foot moving round."

Some 20 miles up what could just about be called a road at hilly Salamanca Camp, a former logging cantonment, they also take their jungle patrolling seriously.

The 150-strong camp is right in the heart of Indian country — Ketchi and Mayan — and Major John Sutherell is OC of the Combat Team's B Company there. "So much of what we do out here is totally dependant on the RAF's Puma helicopters based at Airport Camp in the north," he admitted. "We can get to quite a lot of places by vehicle and by foot but you can't get to everywhere like this."

"The problem is how much you can carry over long distances, especially water and rations. You could probably carry seven days' worth. Pumas come in here on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays inserting patrols, recovering and re-supplying them.

"We have, at any one time, three rifle platoons out on jungle patrol. The gunners of 127 (Dragon) Field Battery and the mortars obviously do their own training but they also go out on patrol. The sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron, RE, are re-building a gun shed and carrying out other light construction tasks like providing a Landing Site where there isn't one."

One of his young platoon commanders is Lieutenant Nigel Spinks.

"We, too, spend a lot of our time in the jungle, perhaps more than anyone else in Battle Group South," he said. "One of our commitments is the fixed OP at Tree Tops when we monitor the formal entrance into

Belize of Guatemalan pedlars who come over here for three or four days to sell their big bundles of clothes and plastic goods.

Another platoon commander Second Lieutenant Piers Pollard, had just spent 19 days on foot with his five-man patrol. The son of Brigadier Tony Pollard, Commander British Forces Belize, he said: "The soldiers have really walked a long way in our 160-square-mile area of responsibility. We were dropped off by Puma and did a lot of walking as we searched for new tracks and completed a patrol right on the border with Guatemala at Jalacte where we carried out various recce's.

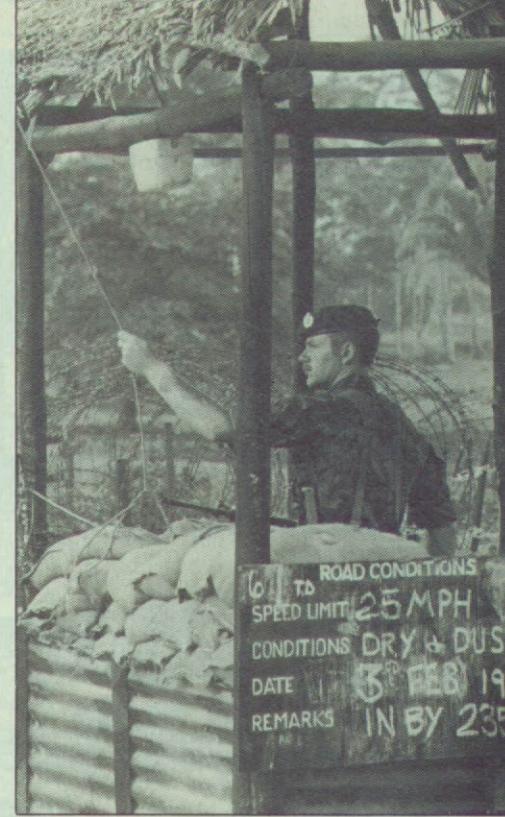
"Once you get to know the area and your local people the job becomes easier to do. You know exactly where you are going and what you are doing.

"The standard of our guys is very good. They are very fit and well up to living in the jungle now and looking after themselves. The only problem is the re-supply by helicopter. Kit weighing 80 lbs and food for seven days gets very heavy.

"Soldier out here and you'll soldier well anywhere because it's such a bloody difficult climate. For doing your job, Salamanca camp is really the place to be. Of all the Belize locations — and I'm not knocking the others — Salamanca is where I get a lot of job satisfaction."

For all the members of Battle Group South, training is a continuous process — and extremely realistic. On one simulated artillery attack the staged incident — complete with cries of the wounded, the flowing 'blood' and the aftermath of thunderflash-and-petrol activity — was so lifelike that two passing Mayan Indians offered to run for help!

Jungle camouflage for 105mm Light Gun.



Up goes the barrier at Rideau Camp, Battle Group South HQ.

It is training with a strongly defined purpose though, for the men are constantly aware of their role as Lt-Col Calder summed up. "Our responsibility is to defend Belize against external aggression in a war role and to deter such aggression in peacetime. The professional standards and the domination of the area not only show the locals we are here but should prove to any would-be invader that we are truly professional soldiers." ■



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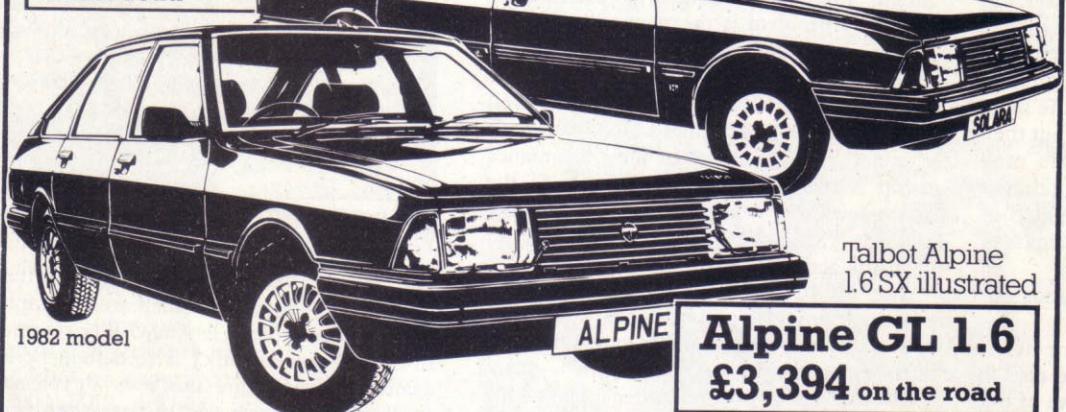
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PEN PALS WANTED

My name is Tracey and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 1in tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include discos, swimming, writing letters, travelling and cooking. — *Tracey Williams, 11 Chasden Road, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 3NL.*

My name is Suzanne and I am 5ft 9ins tall with brown hair and grey eyes. My hobbies include driving, squash, walking, cooking, knitting, records and travelling. I would like to write to anybody aged between 24-32. — *Suzanne Carrick, 26 Victoria Avenue, East End Park, Leeds, LS9 9DG.*

My name is Cherry and I am 31 years old. I like writing, reading, animals, travelling, dancing, music and watching most sports. All letters answered. — *Miss C Roxburgh, 13 Richlans Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hants, SO3 4HU.*

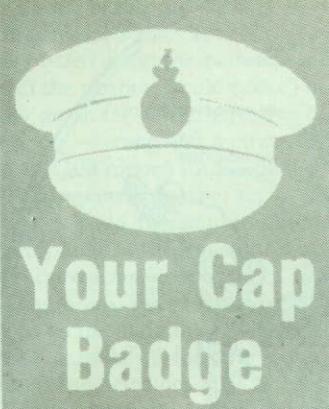
My name is Marie and I am 21 years old. I am fairly tall with long brown hair and blue eyes. I like music, walking, travelling, going out and I belong to a squash club. I am returning to the UK this year. — *Marie Bowtell, c/o Family Jeurissen, Lorentzstraat 15, Heer, 6227 TJ Maastricht, Holland.*

My name is Judith and I am 15 years old. I am doing a project for my Civics CSE called 'Life in the Army' and would be pleased to hear from anyone, particularly the Royal Engineers, who could pass on any helpful information. — *J Humphreys, Brereton Hall School, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 9RZ.*

My name is Lesley and I am 37 years old. I have blonde hair and green eyes. — *Miss Lesley Johnson, 37 Sighthill Avenue, Edinburgh, EH11 4QR.*

My name is Samya and I am 33 years old. My interests are dancing, music, horse-riding, squash, tennis, swimming and writing letters. I like to keep fit and I've done some modelling. All letters answered. — *Samya Xema, 8 Marshall Gardens, Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0HQ.*

My name is Jane and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with red hair and green eyes. I am a nursing student and I like discos, driving and going out. All letters answered. — *Jane Lindsay, 91 John St. Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 6LJ.*



Your Cap Badge

No 36

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS

FOLLOWING THE publication of a White Paper on Defence in July 1957 the whole of the British Army infantry were grouped into 14 regional brigades. Confirming a system first introduced in 1948, all regiments in a brigade were to wear a common cap badge and among those grouped within the Lowland Brigade were the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment). On 20th January 1959 these two regiments became the Royal Highland Fusiliers

(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment).

The first mentioned regiment was raised in 1678 as The Earl of Mar's Regiment of Foot and by July 1691 had become one of the only two fusilier regiments, itself enjoying the commonly used title of 'Scots Fusiliers'. Following the Treaty of Union in 1707 'North British' was substituted for 'Scots' with the Royal designation being granted circa 1713 under the official title of 'Royal North British Fusiliers'. It remained as such until 1877, when the 'North British' once again became 'Scots'. The regimental number of 21, added in 1751, was discarded in 1881, and for the 78 years which followed the head-dress badge took the form of a fused grenade bearing the Royal Arms on the ball. The design, with the appropriate changes in crown, saw service under six sovereigns. Pipers wore different badges in silver or white metal.

The Highland Light Infantry had been through the experience of amalgamation before, having formerly been two regiments combined under the Cardwell scheme. The 71st were raised in 1777 as the 73rd (MacLeod's) Highlanders and renumbered 71st in 1786 when



the Army list was tidied up after the Rebellion of the American Colonies. Their badge of the stringed bugle horn, common to all Light Infantry regiments, was introduced shortly after 1809 when the designation 71st Highland Light Infantry was accorded to them, the French hunting horn with '71' in the curl being introduced in 1846.

The 74th were raised in 1787 as the 74th Highlanders and as such came to amalgamation in 1881. The badge for the com-

bined regiment is described as "The star of the Order of the Thistle bearing the bugle horn with the monogram HLI in the curl, above it a crown, and below, the elephant." The elephant was granted to the 74th as a reward for its services in India, particularly the Battle of Assaye, which appeared on a scroll below the animal. All were in white metal.

At first the Royal Highland Fusiliers wore the badge of the Lowland Brigade, officers in silver plate and the soldiers in silver anodised, for although the design shown here dates from 1959 it was not taken into use until 20th April 1970. It is worn by the officers, warrant officers and sergeants in silver and gilt and by the remainder in the appropriate anodised materials. Pipers, drummers and bandsmen wear a different badge, an extension of the old custom of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, being briefly described as the Star of the HLI on which is superimposed the grenade of the RSF and the motto scroll *Nemo Nos Impune Laccasset*, in white metal or silver anodised.

Hugh L. King

Next issue:
The 22nd (Cheshire)
Regiment



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Gurkhas on exercise in the USA get to grips with a new training system that promises . . .

MILES OF ACTION

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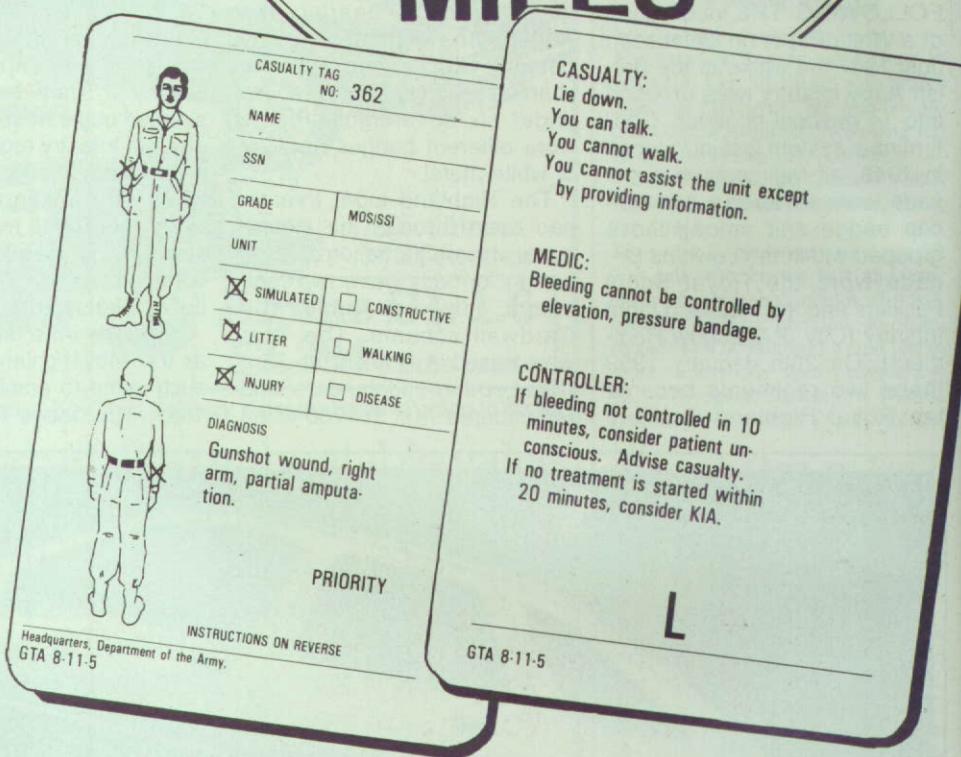
Just how real is something the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles have been finding out during Exercise Trumpet Dance at Fort Lewis in Washington State, USA.

And if they come back claiming that their training on the other side of the Atlantic was miles different from the UK, they won't be exaggerating. For MILES is what they've been using — an exciting new development in infantry training, the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System.

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US instructor Lt Jon Harlan holds master ray gun as Gurkhas practice on MILES. Laser projector is on top of barrel. ▼



Two sides of a typical casualty simulation card.



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At the start of the exercise the controller activates the laser transmitter assembly with his green key which puts 210 rounds or laser shots into the transmitter. This represents the soldier's personal ammunition load and he can set the laser projector to fire on single or automatic. Automatic will give him only seven 30 round bursts before he needs resupply — so he must be careful and, of course, he must have blank rounds to activate the laser.

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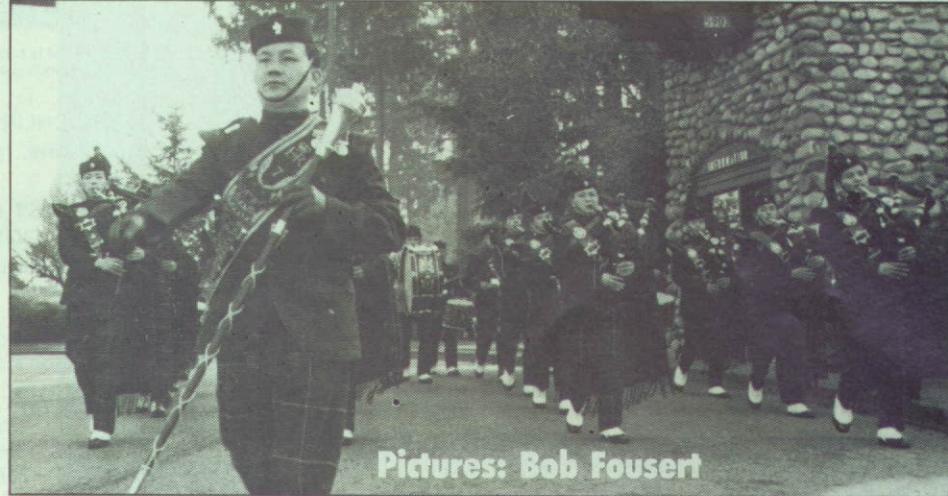
show how many clicks up, down or across are needed to zero the beam to the firer.

The controller has a hand held ray gun which can not only reset the individual system but also create casualties in individuals or vehicles to simulate other aspects of the battle such as air attacks, artillery fire or mines. Claymore mines which emit laser beams and helicopter laser missile systems are in development.

If all this ray-gun technology sounds a familiar echo among SOLDIER readers, they'd be right. For Britain has been trialling a similar system, SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulator) at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (SOLDIER 14 Dec 1981).

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The Battalion's pipes and drums proved a popular attraction during Gurkhas' visit. ▼



Pictures: Bob Fousert

actually superior. But one particularly interesting aspect of the total MILES system is the follow-up when a man becomes a casualty.

Each man is dealt a card from a pack containing 460 variations. When his buzzer goes off he reaches for his card which tells him the extent of his injuries, what he is allowed to do, what the medic must do and in what time frame and how soon he must be evacuated before his wounds become fatal. Finally, it tells the controller how to assess the medical treatment and whether the green key may be used to put more miles in his MILES.

Lieutenant Hakabahadur Rai, the Assistant training officer of the 1/7 Gurkha Rifles, said that MILES is "a very useful system which will teach our soldiers both fieldcraft and weapon handling". ■



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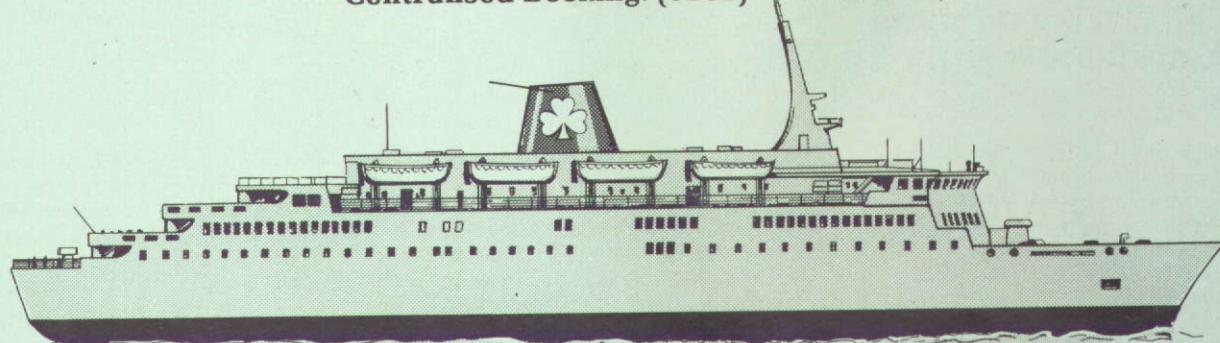
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Lucas, 210 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd. 0248 51855.

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, WIR 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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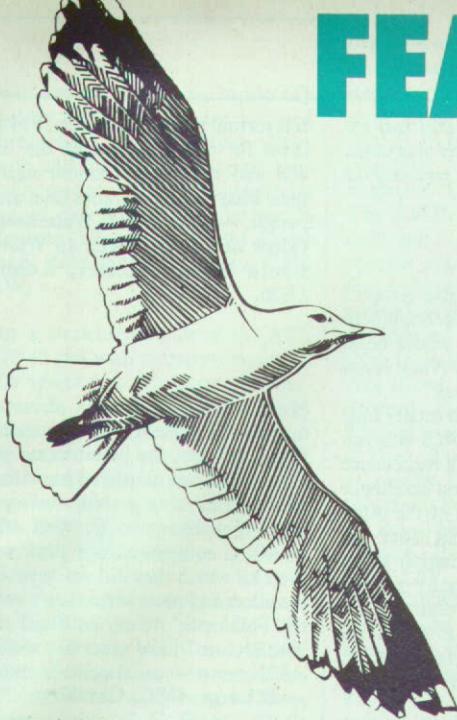
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Personal

I am 38 years old, divorced with two children, boy aged 13 years, girl aged 12 years. Privately educated. Have not known any other life but the Armed Forces, and have thoroughly enjoyed the life. Enjoy all forms of outside activities, plus reading, travelling, gardening, driving, all forms of music, going to the pictures, going out for a meal occasionally, but most of all, sadly miss the life which we had while attached to the Forces. If any Senior NCO or above, would like to correspond with me, on a genuine basis, who is not married, I would very much like to hear from you. All replies answered. Replies to 'Jane', c/o SOLDIER.

FEATHERED FRIENDS

COMPETITION 312



HERE ARE the names of twenty-four well-known birds. In each case a clue is given to the missing letters (which are of two kinds). The missing letters marked with a cross (X) are the letters you use to balance the clue. The letters marked 0 are the letters you use to complete the name of the bird.

For example OXXXOO has as a clue HOSTELRY. The word hostelry can be translated as INN therefore the letters you add are LET and the name of the bird is LINNET.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 8 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 2 May 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 312' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 312' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

CRYPTIC CLUES

1 OXXXX000	WANT	16 OXXX	SICKEN
2 XXXX0	CUT	17 OXXX	CRY
3 XXXX0	BRAVE MAN	18 OXXXXXX	ROLL OVER
4 XXXX00	BLOW	19 XXX0	INFUSION
5 OXXXXX0	BOY'S NAME	20 XXXX0	SPEAK WILDLY
6 OXXXX	TINGE	21 XXXXXX0	SEVERE
7 OXXX	PALE	22 X0XXXX	AILMENT
8 XXXX0	TAUNT	23 XOXOXX	GANG
9 X0XX	BED	24 OXXXXXXX	ROVING
10 X0XXX	KIND OF WALK		
11 X0XX	TUMOUR		
12 O0XXXXXX	COVER		
13 XXXX0	PLUNGE		
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15 OXXXXX	SWAIN		

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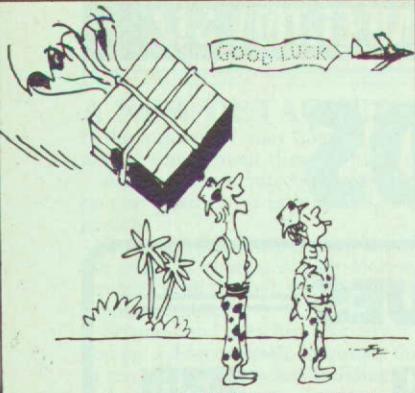


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HEALTH HAZARD

As the NCO whose job it is to try to preserve the health of soldiers and airmen serving in Belize, I was horrified at two of the photographs which accompanied an article 'Caribbean Christmas' (10 Jan.)

The first depicted a soldier apparently allowing a tarantula to run across his arm. Though this particular spider was a stuffed specimen it nevertheless creates the impression that they can be handled with impunity by amateurs. This is not the case.

A tarantula bite can cause sufficiently severe symptoms to require the victim to be admitted to hospital, thereby imposing an unnecessary burden on manning.

The second showed a Cota Mundi being allowed to lick a soldier's face and eyes. The potential hazards here include the possibility of severe eye infection, which is endemic in Belize, septic conditions arising from bites and scratches and, more importantly, rabies. An outbreak of rabies here last year cost the lives of three Belizean Nationals, so I feel that I am not overstating my case.

For these reasons, the keeping of pets within camps is discouraged and my advice when briefing new arrivals to Belize is always to leave the local wildlife well alone. — Sgt N G Kerr RAMC, Environmental Health Team, Station Hospital, Airport Camp, BFPO 12.

These pictures were not taken by SOLDIER photographers but we're sorry if, in publishing them, we were unwittingly promoting a health hazard. We're sending you our £5 letter prize Sgt Kerr for putting the record straight. — Ed.

TA TREAT

As an ex-Army cadet, ex-soldier of 1914-18 war and post-war operations, then in the TA, and a regular reader of SOLDIER, may I say how pleased I am to know that the TA Magazine is going to be amalgamated into such a splendid book.

This has occurred to me in the past as a good idea and now I hope to see the venture come to light.

Although my own soldiering days

ended some 50 years ago, reading your magazine gives me new life nowadays. In my mid-80s, disabled through arthritis, and unable to get about, I shall look forward to your magazine more than ever.

I am interested in regimental histories so I hope that you will be able to include how the present-day volunteers' regiments are made up from the old TA which stood down from 1967 to 70. — H Flood, 2 Vincent Close, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 9LL.

SUN SPOTS

I read with amazement and then increasing anger your attack on *The Sun* newspaper in SOLDIER to Soldier (7 Feb.) True enough, in this instance *The Sun* did have the wrong end of the stick and the soldiers' complaints were indeed minor.

However, to proceed to attack the newspaper is most unfair. Of all the newspapers *The Sun* has always supported "our boys" ie buying videos for troops in Ulster, attacking defence cuts and giving the Army a very good press in general. We have enough enemies in the media constantly writing to attack and snipe at the Army without attacking our allies. So lay off *The Sun*.

And talking of whinging, do you not employ a professional whinger in the shape of Anne Armstrong? Every issue her page is full of complaining wives and she seems to encourage them to moan about the slightest thing. Only recently did we not have a wife regaling us with tales of hardship in America? Well I, and no doubt thousands of other single men, would jump at the chance of going there — LOA cuts or not.

So before you start on *The Sun* remember, people who live in glass houses, shouldn't throw stones. — L/Sgt Hingle, No 3 Coy, 2 Bn Coldstream Gds, BFPO 38.

CAM AND KHAKI

You invited comment from your readers regarding the magazine (10 Jan.) I would like to take the opportunity to raise two points.

Why since the new format has your cover feature concentrated almost without exception on what one would loosely describe as 'camouflage and khaki' illustrations? Where are the illustrations showing ceremonial uniforms that used to grace the magazine cover from time to time? How about a regular feature showing the traditional uniforms of various regiments? They are, after all, only seen at very few occasions these days.

Why did the articles on military museums stop without the inclusion of the many splendid Scottish Regimental Museums? Perhaps we can hope to see these reviewed in due course? — M Moon, 21 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 8LP. One in six of our fortnightly front covers (six out of 36) has featured a ceremonial subject — surely not an unreasonable proportion given that ours is very much a working Army. Your suggestion for a series on uniforms is one we may develop when our cap badge series is concluded.

As for museums, we felt they had enjoyed a good run after nearly nine years, but we have not ruled out resuming the series one day. — Ed.

NO HARD INFO?

When I retired from the Army I subscribed to SOLDIER NEWS in the hope that in time it would be as excellent a periodical as *Navy News* and *Royal Air Force News*.

Sadly, and in my mind totally mistakenly, SOLDIER NEWS was killed off before it had had a real chance to reach the broadness and excellence of the house periodicals of the other two services. SOLDIER does not produce the hard information about the Army which so many retired members want rather than the interest stories. — Col C E Taylor MC, The Old Rectory, Lea, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7JY.

COLOURFUL

I notice that you lump together the Corps of Drums of the 1st Bn The Staffordshire Regiment with the Regimental band (7 Feb.) I must point out that, unlike the musicians in the regimental band, the Corps of Drums is an integral part of an infantry battalion and are infantrymen first and foremost, as the many drummers who served in the Falklands campaign can testify.

It is interesting to note that today the Corps of Drums is probably the

last resting place for the pre-1914 full dress for the battalions of the line, and add a splash of colour against their khaki-clad comrades on many a parade. — Dmr B W C Waterhouse, Corps of Drums HAC, 16 William Booth Road, Anerley, London SE20.

BERET CHOICE

Martin Day (24 Jan) is obviously unaware that Army berets come in twelve colours, the palest being grey and sand. Some soldiers I know have now started dying their own pale camo-type berets to go with other unofficial equipment they carry with their kit which they did not have time to collect and pack when they went to the Falklands. As an unofficial civilian advisor I have great fun seeking out the more unusual items for them. — R Large, GSC, Cheshire.

BOOK WORM

I would like to endorse the letters by A V Andrews and W C Hunt (7 Feb) regarding the composition of SOLDIER Magazine and the fact that it caters for all tastes from the 'old soldier' to the modern-day professional.

Also, I would like to praise the books page which is very informative. — A R Owers, Almar, 38 South Meadows, Wrington, Bristol, Avon, BS18 7PG.

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Can You Help?

Could any reader help me to identify a crown size bronze badge: crossed sabres, star at bottom, royal cypher at top and the words 'Overseas Service' across centre 'all surrounded by ring of oak leaves'. — Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6LW.

I am a student/collector of the ATS 1938-45 and wish to correspond with ATS veterans to document their experiences, locate photos and memorabilia, and trace their overseas and UK service. All letters answered. I would really like to hear what you ladies have to say! — Janet G Reese, 1906 Brisbane St, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, USA.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of a Miss/Mrs Judith Trenfield? She used to live in Old Coach Road, Bulford Village, but between 1964-1970 her father was posted to Hong Kong. — Mr G G Webb, 31 St Leonards Close, Bulford Village, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 9DL. Tel: Bulford Camp 3214 (09803).

Collectors' Corner

Alan Llewellyn, 74 Abercorn Crescent, South Harrow, Middx. Seeks French Foreign Legion kit, uniforms, kepis, badges and documents to make up a new collection.

G Stevens, 4 Stonebridge Way, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7RX. Requires the following: Royal Marine shoulder titles, singles or pairs, in brass, staybrite, bronze; Royal Marines RMFVR, RMB, RMLI, also any cloth RM badges. Also requires Army cloth division and formation badges (singles or pairs) Army cap badges brass, B/M, W/M, staybrites; Royal Navy and foreign navy cap ribbons and badges. Has for exchange Royal Marines peaked cap. Plus large collection of Canadian navy cap ribbons, some RN ribbons, also some RN badges, shoulder titles and collar badges, cloth badges etc Army and Navy.

G A Baldwin, 221 Repton Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 9JD. Wishes to dispose of medal and badge collection. Send SAE for lists.

A C Sweetnam, 186 Overdown Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG3 6NT. Has for sale SOLDIER 1955-1980, a few missing prior to 1962. Sensible offers please, but buyer collects or pays carriage (very heavy). Also badges, buttons etc for general collector only. Send SAE for lists. Would be pleased to hear from anyone with badges, buttons etc of Berkshire regiments (including 49/66 Foot and OTC) for sale or exchange.

Reunions

4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry. The colours of the battalion will be laid-up in the 6th Bn Light Infantry TA Centre, Bath on Saturday 28 May at 4pm. Details from: Regimental Secretary (Somerset), 14 Mount St, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3QE.

Light Infantry Regimental Association. The Regiment exercises its

Freedom of Bath on 28 May at 3pm. The Massed Bands and Bugles of the Regiment will Sound Retreat in Victoria Park, Bath starting at 8pm. Details from: Regimental Secretary (Somerset), 14 Mount St, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3QE.

The XVIIIth The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse. Annual reunion dinner, The Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London, SW1, Saturday 4 June at 7.30pm. Tickets £7.25 payable to Royal Irish Regiment OCA from Major M B Lee, 15 Blairsville Grove, Leeds, LS13 2HT.

Annual *Cenotaph Service of Remembrance*: Sunday 5 June 1983 at 11am. Assemble in King Charles's St, nearby. Lounge suit, medals. Details from: Secretary, The Irish Club, P J Boyce MBE BEM, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 2AY.

RAMC/RADC WOs & Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club. The 1983 annual dinner and reunion is to be held on Saturday 14 May 1983 at the RAMC Training Centre. Further details are available from: WO1 (RSM) R R McFaulds RAMC, RAMC Training Group, Keogh Bks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU11 5RQ.

Pen Pals

My name is Eunice and I am 26 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are dancing, drinking and having a good time. My friend's name is Janet and she is 24 years old. She is 5ft 4ins tall with sandy hair and blue eyes. She enjoys discos, driving, swimming and socialising. — E Plant, 40 Plane Tree Road, Bebington Road, Wirral, Merseyside. **Penpals wanted** to correspond with female soldiers serving in London area, especially military police. — SFC M H Johnson, 554th MP Co. APO 09131, 7000 Stuttgart 80, W Germany.

Competition

The complaint we received about Competition 308, 'Triangles' was that it was too easy! This was clearly reflected in the number of entries we received — over twice the usual amount. Yes, it was easy — all you had to do was to arrange the triangles in such a way so as to make the numbers at the angles xxxx, yyyy, vvvv, zzzz and www each add up to 42. To prove this you had to say what the angles at mmmm added up to, which was 90. Prizewinners were: 1st Mr J A W Carson, 39 Marksbury Avenue, Richmond, Surrey. 2nd Q Pte P Welch, QEMH, Stadium Road, Woolwich. 3rd Mr David Underwood, RAC MRO, Queen's Park, Chester. 4th Mrs G M Johns, Berry Park, Derriton Road, Plympton, Devon. 5th Mr M J Bideau, 5 Keith Park Road, Uxbridge, Middx.

How Observant Are You?

1 Top right branch of tree third from left; 2 Position of bird third from left; 3 Top of main trunk of right tree; 4 Tail of leading horse; 5 Jacket of leading huntsman; 6 Front ear of right dog; 7 Rear hoof of biggest horse; 8 Fox's tail; 9 Fence post second from right; 10 Right end of grass clump at left.

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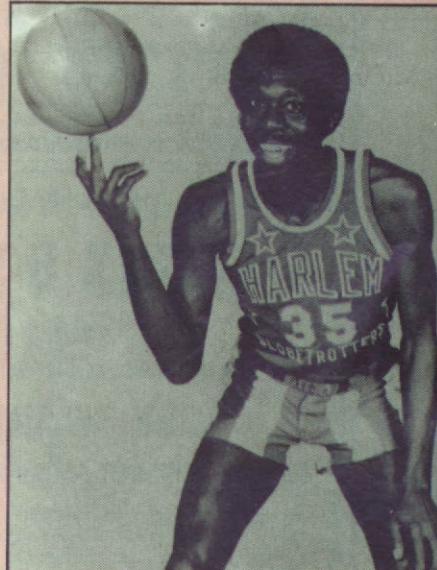
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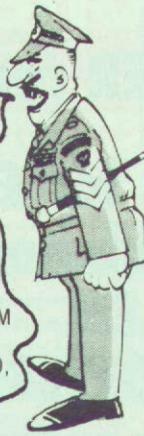
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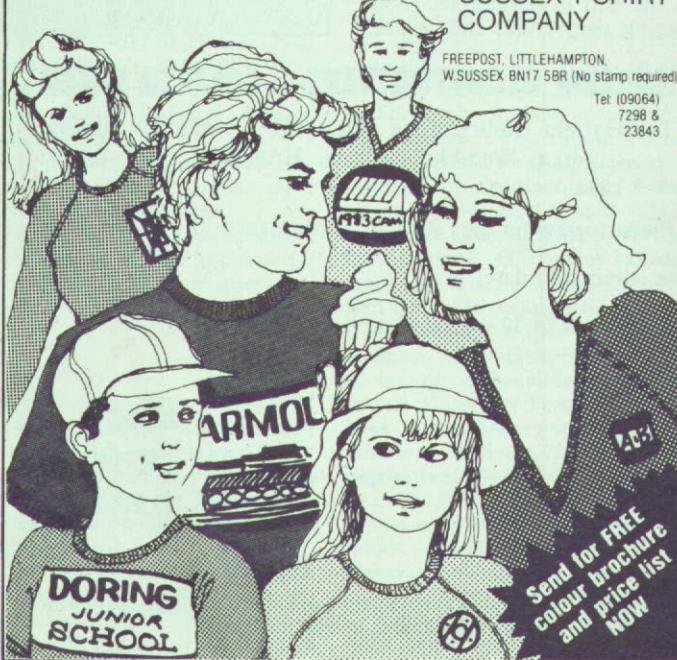
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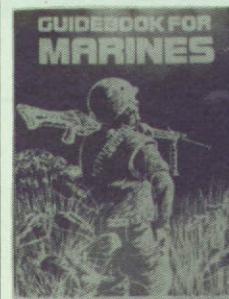
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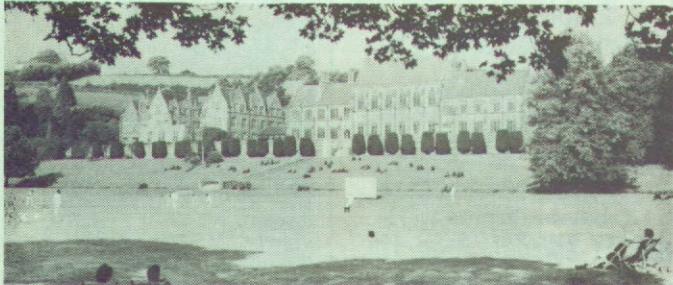
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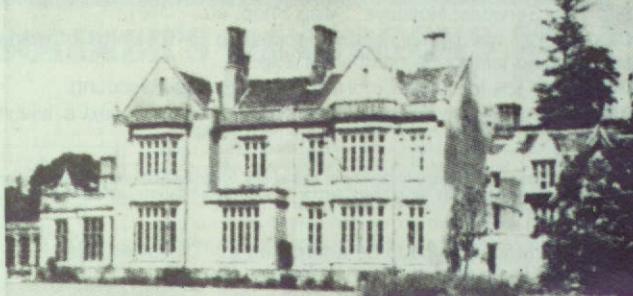
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or write to:
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The Blue Coat School,
Harborne,
Birmingham B17 0HR.



RUGBY

No welcome in Hillsides

ARMY COLTS 4 BOYS CLUBS OF WALES 22

NO LESS than three Welsh youth selectors turned out on Sunday lunch-time to watch the Boys Clubs of Wales overrun the Army Colts at the Junior Prince of Wales Division Depot, Crickhowell in a game played in the best traditions of youth reports Doug McArthur.

The Army, at the end of their short South Wales tour, had total forward supremacy only to see play break down in the backs. The Boys Clubs on the other hand had a set of backs which always looked dangerous despite their lack of clean feed from the scrum.



Gunner Stephen Commander:
"My game is improving."

Even so, the score line of three tries, two conversions and two penalties to one try was hardly a true reflection of what was a very close game.

In all, the Army fielded six lads from Wales, two of them — Stephen Commander of Cardiff and Andrew Phillips of Narbeth — Welsh trialists. Both had a strong impact on the game and undoubtedly impressed the watching selectors.

Gunner Commander is now serving with 7th Royal Horse Artillery in BAOR. The regiment has undertaken to make him available for representative games, both for Wales and the Army, and in the meantime have introduced him to one of the highest standards of rugby available in the Army. This is bound to stand him in good stead when the regiment returns to the Aldershot area next year.

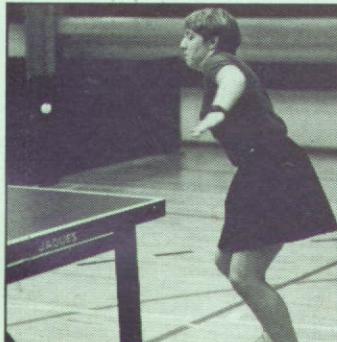
"I am playing a better standard of rugby in Germany but obviously I am unlikely to get the same chances of Welsh selection that I would at home," he said. "But I am happy with the way things are because I think my game is improving. When we come back to Aldershot, I will probably be looking towards London Welsh."

Army scorer was Doc Halliday, an apprentice tradesman at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

Jill makes it six in a row

Corporal Jill Armstrong (pictured) had little trouble in holding on to her title as Army Women's Table Tennis champion this year as she soundly beat her opponent in two games 21-10, 21-11. This is the sixth consecutive year of her reign and in each final she has met WO 2 Pat Swales — always the bridesmaid but never the bride.

Swales in fact has a lovely



touch especially in her hard smashes, keeping the ball low over the net and deep. But she is inconsistent and often sends the ball too long. Against Arm-



STILL OUT OF LUCK

The Army Women's Shooting team trotted out their dog mascot, Morag, as well as a special Valentine's card for their annual tilt at the Inter-Service Rifle Shooting Championships — but all to no avail.

Once again the WRNS walked away with the trophy with 1,934 points leaving the Army trailing in third place some 31 points behind. Not quite a St Valentine's Day Massacre but the championship seems as far away as ever — the Army has never won the event in 25 years of competition.

Corporal Jo MacDonald took the Mason Trophy for the highest Army score with 194 points out of a possible 200. Les Wiggs's picture shows Lance-Corporal Karen Hook with the card and mascot.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

RUGBY

Former England International, Brigadier Dennis Shuttleworth, who is Commandant APTC and Inspector Physical and Adventurous Training (Army), will have a special Rugby match played in his honour at Aldershot on 30 March. The Brigadier, who leaves the Army later this year, will watch an APTC XV play an Army side.

SQUASH

The Army whitewashed both the Navy and the RAF in the Inter-Services Squash Tournament at RAF Uxbridge. The Army team of Warrant Officer 1 Robbie Robinson, Captain Chris Wilson, Captain Neil Stewart, Staff-Sergeant Sharkey and Corporal Clark Adam beat both of the other Services 5-0.

★ ★ ★

JUDO

Royal Pioneer Corps judo star, Corporal Stuart Travis, narrowly failed to win the under 86 kgs category in the recent British Judo Trials at Crystal Palace. Competing against 24 other men, Travis won all of his fights until he met Stuart Williams (South) who narrowly shaved the decision after a full four minute fight.

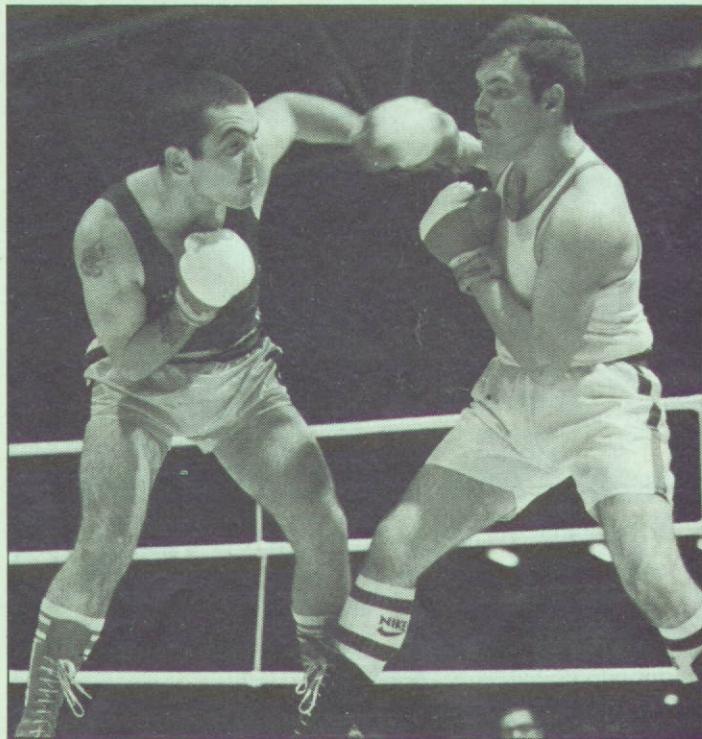
★ ★ ★

CROSS COUNTRY

The Army came second in a four-cornered cross-country match against Wales. Wales were first with 32 points followed by the Army at 56, North Wales 117, and Welsh University 154. First man home was Lance-Corporal N. Wilson of the Glosters.

Three time champion loses

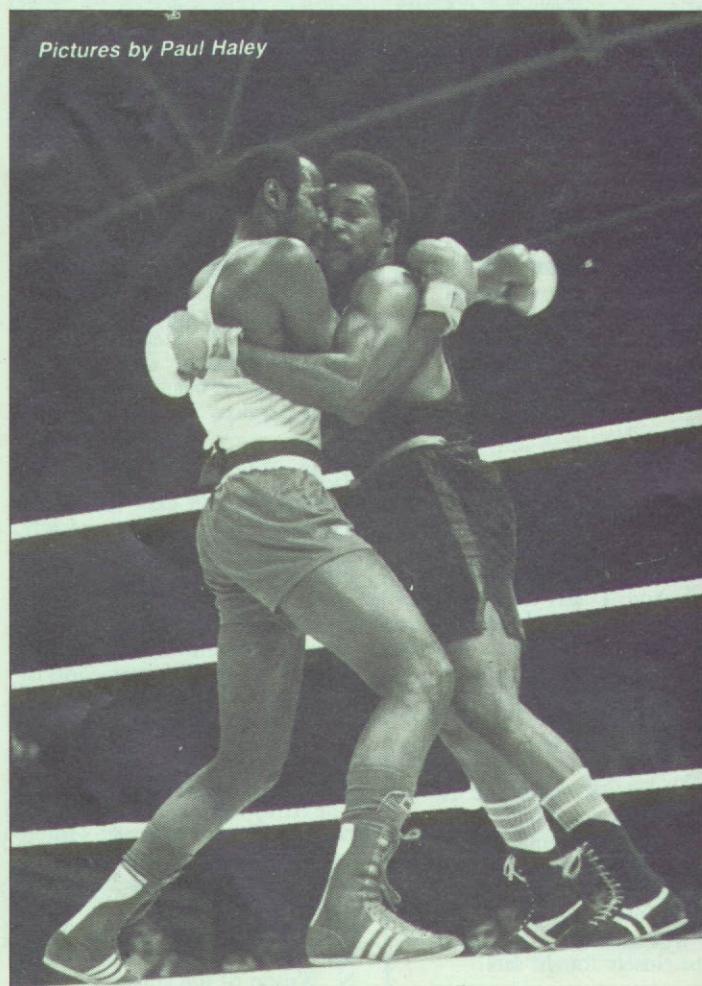
Horace is King of the Heavies



Above: L/Cpl Kenny Gilroy (left) and L/Cpl Charlie Gray battle it out toe to toe in an exciting last round at light heavyweight.

Below: Do you come here often? Bdr Crawford William (left) and L/Cpl Horace Miles in uncharacteristically close embrace. William's points defeat was the first of his Army boxing career.

Pictures by Paul Haley



BOMBARDIER CRAWFORD WILLIAM, at 33 approaching the veteran stage, failed in his bid to take the Army heavyweight title for the fourth time in the Individual Championships at Aldershot. William, last champion in 1980, was beaten on points in the final by another former champion, Lance-Corporal Horace Miles of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets reports John Walton.

It was the first defeat for the gangling William in his Army career but Miles, who had stuck to his task well, deserved the title. His only moment of uncertainty came towards the end of the contest when one of William's looping blows temporarily turned his legs to rubber.

Another exciting no-holds-barred contest was at light-middle where Fusilier Robert Rossi (1 RWF) gained the verdict over Private A Craft (1 Para). In the first two rounds Rossi built up an impressive lead and cut Craft over the eye. But in the final round the paratrooper battled his way back into contention with a performance which brought the biggest cheers of the night for both men.

New bantamweight champion is Lance-Corporal Steve Johnson (10 Regiment RCT). He got the unanimous verdict over Rifleman Lincoln James (1 RGJ) in a clean and skilful bout.

Not so entertaining was the middleweight final where dancing Fusilier Nigel Benn (1 RRF) overcame SI Frank Turmel (APTC). Turmel had little answer to frenetic, whirling attacks from Benn and resorted to holding so often that the match at times resembled a tea dance.

Lance-Corporal Kenny Gilroy (15th/19th Hussars) took the light-heavyweight title when he beat Lance-Corporal Charlie Gray (10 Regt RCT). After two rounds of comparative inaction

the cavalryman came to life in the final round and downed his opponent several times.

Lance-Corporal Peppy Muir (Depot Royal Irish) was again one of the most impressive fighters on show. From the opening bell he stalked his opponent, Lance-Corporal Michael Stacey and had him down before the bell. Midway through the second round the referee called a halt.

There were also three Under-19 finals — the best at light-weight between Private Kevin Haines (521 Coy RPC) and Craftsman Paul Neen (SEE Arborfield). Both men went at each other like fighting cocks from the opening bell and Haines's face was a crimson mask by the end of the second round. In the third round Neen again piled on the pressure but Haines fought back gamely and Neen was taken all the way for his win.

Rifleman John Dublin (1 RGJ) took the Under-19 feather title on points from Driver David Ingram (52 Port Squadron RCT) while Driver Philip Harrison (10 Regiment RCT) won the light-welterweight final when the referee stopped his bout with Gunner I. Collins (4 Regt RA).

CRESTA BESTA!



Major Jonathan Woodall (4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards) in action during the Inter Services Cresta Run Championship. He clocked 56.24 seconds to win the Auty Cup for the fastest time in the event. The Army took the Prince Philip Trophy.



The mass start from the Tweseldown clubhouse.

Cain beats off Barlow

FRESH FROM A RUN in the tropics Sergeant Billy Cain, from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate returned to near freezing conditions at Tweseldown, near Aldershot, to take the Army Senior Cross-Country title. But not before a tremendous battle with 20-year-old Private Anthony Barlow of 3 Para, who is thought to be the youngest runner ever to finish second in the six-and-a-half mile endurance event.

Private Barlow's magnificent performance enabled his battalion to retain the inter-team championship — fending off a strong challenge from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Afterwards the new individual champion told SOLDIER: "I was pretty confident of winning. Barlow seemed to be content to do all of the work. I just sat behind him until I felt he was starting to weaken — then once I had opened a gap it was just a

case of maintaining it.

"For a junior he ran a fabulous race but with a bit more experience he might have done better. That was the difference between us — I was a bit more experienced."

Sergeant Cain had been running for Great Britain in a 22 kilometre race in the 85 degree heat of Puerto Rico only ten days earlier. At Tweseldown conditions were muddy in parts with some snow and a biting wind.

Barlow and Cain had moved away from the pack after one-and-a-half miles — leaving other well known runners in their wake, including last year's champion, Lance-Corporal Geoff Wade (40 Army Engineer Support Group). Wade faded to sixth at one stage but a late revival saw him home in third place although a long way adrift of the leaders.

Barlow accepted his defeat philosophically. "It was lack of experience on my part and they still have not had the best out of me."

He said that his visit to the Falklands during the conflict had played havoc with his running schedule this year. "That cost me a full summer and I ruined my feet. After I got back I didn't run for a month until I'd got used to this climate again."

Winner of the Youths' Individual title was Junior Trooper Holden of the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC.

In the Women's Race, recently married Corporal Maggie Smith (formerly Allerton) easily won the Individual title. Maggie, who



After five miles Cain leaves Barlow behind.



Winning youngster Jnr Tpr Holden, Junior Leader Regiment RAC.

is stationed with 16 Signal Regiment at Rheindahlen, is the current Army 1500m and 3000m champion and holds the Inter-Service 800m crown. She has won the Cross-country title twice before.

Her colleague, Sergeant Du-rate Franzese, finished third and the remaining members of the team came in together at 16, 17 and 18 to give BAOR the Women's Inter-Zone title for the first time for many years.

Corporal Smith said later: "I felt quite strong today. I like to take the lead and once I am out on my own I always feel good."

TEAM RESULTS: Seniors — Major units — 1st 3 Para 109, 2nd 1 PWO 117, 3rd 7 RHA 223; Minor units — 1st 65 Sp Sqn RE 60, 2nd 3 PC Regt RE 75, 3rd 1 Inf Bde 93; Youths — Major units — 1st AAC Chepstow, 2nd AAC ACC, 3rd J Ldrs Regt RCT; Minor units — 1st RAOC App College, 2nd J Ldrs Regt RE, 3rd RAPC App College. Women — 1st BAOR 62, 2nd London & Eastern District 91, 3rd SE District (West) 134.

SOCCER

Soldiers creamed

Devon 4 Army 0

The Army went to Devon without eight of their regulars who were involved in the Army Cup. They never threatened the home side and from the start were at sixes and sevens. With the Army lacking cohesion Devon took the lead after 30 minutes and the signs looked ominous.

The second half was to prove the end of the South West Counties championships for the Army this year. They conceded further goals in the 68th, 72nd and 85th minutes without managing a reply. Few credits were earned in defence and not many more up front. A disappointing performance.

In the Army UK Cup semi-finals SEME Bordon scored an incredible six goals in extra time to beat 10 UDR by eight goals to two. In the other match Training Regiments RE beat 22 SAS Regiment 1-0.



"Don't forget — hooped shirts are the good guys, plain shirts are the baddies."

Bravery not enough

French Armed Forces 3

British Armed Forces 0



The penalty incident — Bowen falls forward.



Lomas saves the spot kick brilliantly.

THE DREAM of QMS1 Alfie Coulton and his men died in pouring rain on a French Third Division ground more redolent of something belonging to Farmer Giles than to a billiard table. But the main reason for the failure of the British team to bring home the Kentish Cup for the first time for 14 years was that they were completely outgunned. Grit and determination were not enough.

The French, who had not looked impressive during their outing to Belgium a fortnight earlier, dominated play for most of the match — spurred on by 5000 whistling and horn-blowing partisans. Their team, which included two full internationals and several B internationals, put their passes together as easily as onion sellers stringing together their wares, and only bulldog determination by the British Servicemen kept the score reasonable.

The British, after their draw with the Belgians, went to the cathedral city of Chartres with high hopes.

A wet time on the bench.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

balls the sallies were soon snuffed out by a more than competent defence and as the game progressed the ball spent more and more time in the British half.

Belgian referee, Constantin, was quick to punish hard tackling and five yellow cards were awarded during the match — four to the British side — although at no time was it an ill tempered affair.

The English goal had a couple of narrow squeaks as the rain got heavier, and the crowd showed its frustration at the blank scoresheet. When the deadlock finally broke after 32 minutes it was with a superb Bobby Charlton style shot from Planque from 30 yards out which gave keeper Lance-Corporal 'Spider' Lomas no chance. The French forwards jumped all over each other in delight — and one had to spend a few minutes off the field after a clash of heads.

The British team held out until the interval and after the break came out fighting without ever really threatening to score. Their runs always foundered short of the box and the French were still the masters.

Twenty minutes into the half Sergeant Mark Bowen felled a raider in the box but Lomas saved the penalty brilliantly. He

followed this up with two more saves before World Cup star Bellone slotted home the second goal to seal the result.

After this the British, while still fighting for every ball and running themselves ragged, never looked to have a chance and it was no surprise when the French added a third through Garande.

Afterwards coach Coulton praised the efforts of his players which had gone unrewarded. "It was a big hill to climb and it was pleasing to see their attitude." What he did not say was that as long as this competition consists of British amateurs playing top Continental professionals the chances of the Cup returning to these shores will always be a slim one. The friendship between the three teams is undeniable but three evenly matched amateur sides would make for a more worthwhile contest.

The British move into a rare attack.



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