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FRONT COVER

Challenger seen at Bovington and now undergoing trials with The Royal Hussars in Germany — also the first regiment to receive Chieftain.

Picture: Les Wiggs

BACK COVER

Starburst. Four girls keen to dance before Army audiences. See also page 28.

Picture: Paul Haley.

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Man with a mission —
page 16 ▲

Marksman with a new
test — page 30 ▼



Girl with a golden gun
— page 14 ▼



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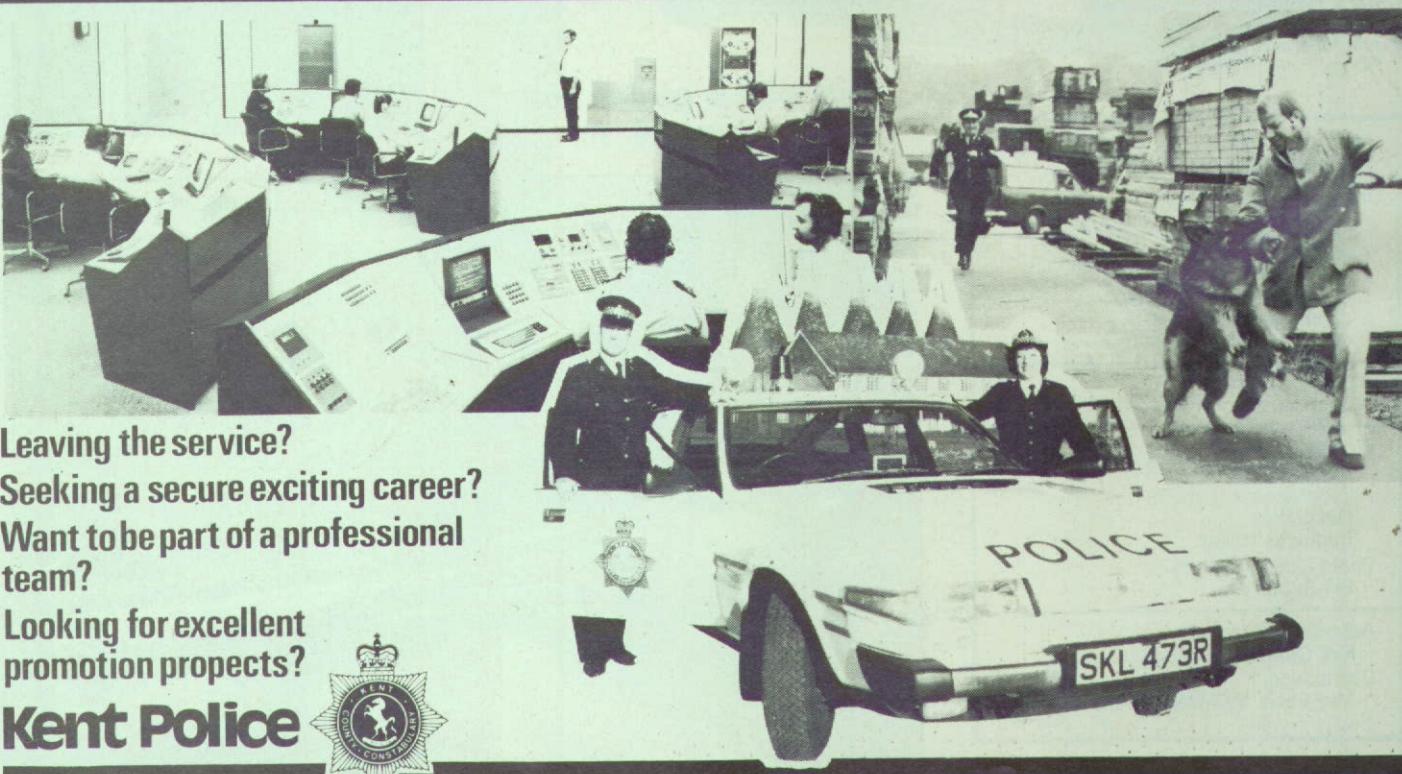
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Saving the sites . . .

A NEW working group, specially set up to study and make proposals to safeguard the archaeological heritage of Salisbury Plain, has met for the first time.

The Group will make recommendations to the Ministry of Defence and Department of the Environment as to which Monuments should be given enhanced protection, and how best to achieve this. Ancient monuments not selected for enhanced protection will be subject to the present conservation measures.

Local military authorities are to take further steps to improve the briefing and education of soldiers, using the Salisbury Plain Training Area.

AIR SHOW

All advance booking inquiries for the Army Air Corps international air show at Middle Wallop in July, should be arranged through International Air Show '84, telephone: Newbury (Berks) 0635 30060. The telephone numbers given in our issue of February 27 are incorrect.

CIVILIAN AID FOR 'MEDICS'

ARMY combat medical technicians are to train with civilian emergency ambulance crews for first-hand practical experience, write **John Margetts**.

Before and since the Falklands Royal Army Medical Corps "medics" have had little or no chance of treating real wounds and have to practise on dummies.

Now a scheme is to be introduced where small teams will do one or two weeks of training at local authority ambulance stations answering emergency accident calls.

Colonel Donald Smith, chief instructor with the RAMC training group at Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, said the scheme should be in "full flow by the middle of the year".

Plans to extend the pilot scheme held with Hampshire ambulance service have been confirmed and dates for two-man teams of combat medical technicians to spend time at other local authority stations are being arranged.

Said Colonel Smith: "There is a big difference between treating a fit soldier with a simulated wound and handling a casualty badly injured and in shock."

"This is a gap we have never been able to close and one that was clearly identified during the Falklands campaign."

"We felt that if our men could go out as observers with an ambulance crew attending accidents and other civilian emergencies it would give them a realistic idea of how to handle casualties."

CAM CREAM RESTORED

CAM CREAM can be used again — and that's official. After weeks during which the Army had to make do with mud for covering up the white bits the cream has now been reissued after being sterilised.

The alarm began when the firm making the cream was taken over and the new firm tested supplies. They found organisms which could cause skin trouble if they entered through cuts.

Immediately the order went out to stop using cam cream until supplies had been treated. All new batches will contain a disinfectant to kill off the organisms.

A spokesman for the Directorate of Army Preventive Medicine said there had been no evidence of outbreaks of rashes caused by the cream. "Almost certainly it was all right but we had to take account of the slight risk and advised the suppliers to have it sterilised."



Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Miers, Royal Green Jackets and secretary of the Armed Forces Art Society got a pleasant surprise when he learned he had won this year's first prize for the best work by a serving exhibitor at the 53rd exhibition, held at the National Army Museum.

Colonel Miers won with "Low Tide at Llanstephan", which he proudly displays in this photograph by Les Wiggs.

Chickens lose rule of Hamilcar roost!

CHICKENS are picking their way in and out of the only known remaining fuselage of an Army wartime tank-carrying glider. Now the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop, Hants., are to launch a rescue mission and refurbish the giant Hamilcar heavy glider built for ferrying tanks into north-western Europe.

The glider was sold off after the war as war surplus and since

it was found by an aviation enthusiast who tipped off the Army Air Corps who plan to buy the remains of the nine-ton glider and restore it for their museum which is due to open in July.

One of 400 built, Hamilcar gliders first flew in 1942 and could carry at least their own weight of nine tons.

With dimensions close to those of a modern-day Hercules transport, a Hamilcar could carry a light tank and its crew, a couple of 25-pounders and at least one 40mm Bofors gun, plus their crews.

It was the boast of the Glider Pilot Regiment, forerunner of the Army Air Corps, that a Hamilcar could be unloaded and ready for action within 20 seconds of touchdown.

"The tank would be started up before the glider came to a halt," said Brian Harrod, associate director of the AAC Museum at Middle Wallop.

The present example, TK777, was obviously never used for a battlefield landing since the flight of a Hamilcar was strictly one way.

Now, thanks to a £10,000 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, who normally help save old masters or stately homes for the nation, TK777 will shortly be leaving its rural surroundings and heading for the AAC Centre at Middle Wallop, where restorers will make a start in time for it to go on show for the opening of their new museum on 2 July.

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1 APRIL: THAT'S COMBAT FITNESS DAY

APRIL FOOLS' Day this year will have more than its usual significance for soldiers.

For on that day a new, annual, three-part physical test comes into effect — the compulsory Combat Fitness Test (CFT).

From then on everybody starts running, marching, carrying, doing press and sit ups followed by a special unit operational test.

All this comes into addition to the twice-yearly Basic Fitness Test (BFT) and all three parts of the CFT must be taken on the same day and within minutes of completion of each other.

The new trials apply to the Field Army and units nominated by Commands or Directorates.

The three parts of the test involve an **eight-mile march** in two hours carrying up to 35lbs of equipment, including a weapon. For the infantry this can increase to 44lbs. Three miles of the march must be across country and there are no age exceptions.

Dress for this test is complete equipment fighting order (CEFO) and will be carried out in groups.

This is immediately followed by a **strength test** where two men of similar weight carry each other for 90 metres — complete with weapons and equipment — in one minute.

But men over 40 will not be doing this part of the test which also includes 20 sit-ups in a minute and seven press-ups in the same time with the legs held at knee height by a partner.

Since the carry and sit and press tests are designed to check

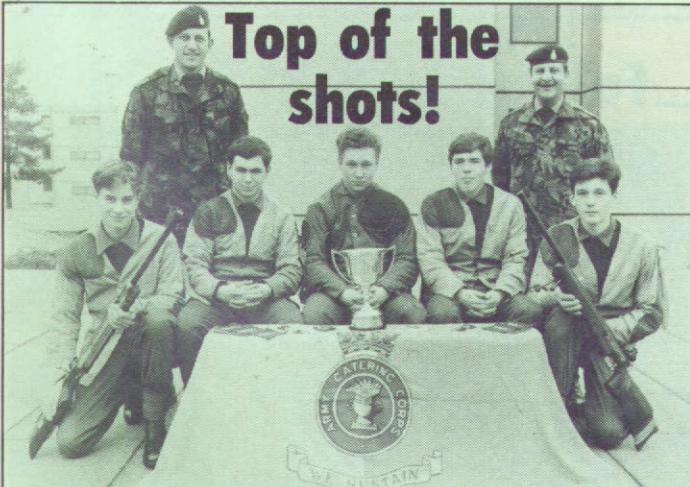
upper body strength, men over 40 are barred because of "medical reservations".

But they won't escape entirely, for hot on the heels of those Part 2 muscle-testing trials comes the Part 3 **operational task** which will test military skill and efficiency to the full.

"It is the efficiency displayed in carrying out known operational tasks after such exertions that shows the combat fitness of a unit," said ex-gunner Major Stan Harrison, the man who, under the direction of Brigadier Mike Perkins, Director of the Army's physical and adventurous training, and his SO1 Lieutenant Colonel Chris Dawson, put the package together and sent to units the first tentative suggestions for the new CFT.

While the actual tests were devised and compiled by the Directorate of Army Training, it was the trio from the Inspectorate of Physical and Adventurous Training — the Brigadier, the Colonel and Major Harrison — who gave the green light for the introduction of the CFT.

Said Major Harrison, 56, 14½ stone and a former gunner who has been in the "PT business" since 1967: "Just out of personal interest I completed a 1½-mile run in 11 minutes, followed by the seven press-ups in a minute. It was hard work but by no means impossible.



The Army Apprentices College (Army Catering Corps) had a clean sweep of the Junior Soldiers Target Rifle Match at Warminster, their smallbore team collecting the team and first and second individual prizes. Under the guidance of Sergeants Eddie Middle and "Stumpy" Taylor, Apprentice Michael Breckon finished best in the individual shooting, with fellow apprentice Lee Pearce runner-up.

Not content with all this the ACC apprentices also won the Best Reserve competition — apprentice Dale Kempshall. The team group: back, left to right the coaches, Sergeants Middle and Taylor. Front: Apprentices Tim Englefield, Jeff Downie, Michael Breckon, Lee Pearce and Dale Kempshall.

by JOHN MARGETTS

"Colonel Dawson, 42, did the whole test within the time limits to prove that a reasonably fit person could do it without too much trouble. Of course, when we first put out circulars about the CFT we met opposition from some units."

"Some scorned our suggestions and wanted to see tougher tests, while others would have preferred to see a return to the old-time trials of the forties and fifties. In those days it was a short stamina test of two miles in 18 minutes in full battle order.

"The whole thing came about because of the Falklands," said Major Harrison. "The Basic Fitness Test changed the shape of the Army and has proved invaluable.

"But the Falklands indicated that a CFT was required which related specifically to the Army's military role.

"Because of the heavy gear-lifting and load-carrying the lads had to do in the Falklands conflict, upper body strength was

brought into question. The terrain there and the lack of cover meant gunners had to store their ammunition considerable distances from their guns.

"That meant humping the ammo by hand. Others, too, had similar strength-sapping tasks.

"Since sheer muscular strength and power was called for, the CFT was devised to supplement the BFT which does little to improve upper body power. The BFT is valuable in helping to strengthen the heart, lungs and legs."

What happens now the green light is flashing for an April 1 start? "We sit back and wait for results," said Stan. "We have asked for returns after a year to give us an insight as to how the tests have gone.

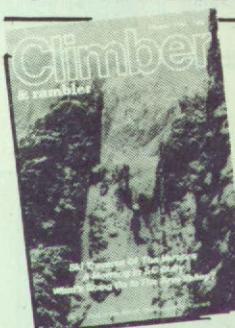
"Soldiers are busy people and there's nothing worse than a test that doesn't do good.

"The aim of the CFT is to see how men operate for real when tired. We think they will be tired after this lot, but not too tired to do their jobs, because of the general high fitness of the Army.

"This test is designed solely to make them even more fit to fight."

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'TANKIES' TRACK LEOPARD MEN

When four young "tankies" from 4RTR at Tidworth took part in an exercise in Denmark with their Chieftain tanks, they had to wait for the green light for the exercise to start. So while they

waited they accepted an invitation to the Danish tank school at Oksbol to see how our Nato allies train on their Leopard tanks.

How to sort men from boys!



Second Lieutenant Chris Mills, Tpr John Johnston: D Squadron gets ready to move in for the "Ansell Cup".

Discovering who has what it takes in endurance, leadership and initiative, is the idea behind the "5th Skins" annual "Ansell Cup" test. An inter-troop contest it sorts the men

from the boys and entitles the winners to a year. Divided into four phases, the tests comprise NBC drills and casualty treatment in

"Noddy" suits, searching and questioning prisoners, tank battle tactics, command and initiative tests. So far 2 Troop of A Squadron are in the lead. But more tests must follow.



Tpr Chris McGinley.



Tpr Stuart Craig.



Tpr David Ross.



Tpr Ken McConnel

Map artist draws praise



Detachments to exotic places like Fiji and Jamaica have earned for map-maker Sergeant Neil Smith RE, an LS&GCM. And Neil has done such good work in

his 15 years' service, Major General Charles Grey made a point of presenting him with his medal before retiring as Commander Royal Engineers, BAOR.

Falklands' first for Ed



Sergeant Major Ed Wheeler didn't waste any time after receiving from CSE star Don McClean a trophy to be played for by the islands' golfers. For REME man Eddie went

out straightaway to slam the opposition and be the first to get his name on the new shield.

NEWS VIEW

Lance Bombardiers Jock McClurg and Andrew Wilson together with WO2 "Tug" Wilson (centre), explain the complexities of a laser range finder to the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Cllr Peter Jones, who was visiting their BAOR-based unit, the 1st Regiment RHA. Since the regiment recruits heavily from his city, the Lord Mayor needed no better reason for a visit and before leaving presented pennants to Captain Jock Inkster of Ross Troop which has the closest regimental links with the city.



■ Cold hands for Lance Bombardiers McClurg and Wilson, but hot "info" on the laser range finder for Lord Mayor Jones from WO2 "Tug" Wilson.



PETE PLAYS IT COOL!

How to survive if your aircraft "ditches" in cool country. Staff Sergeant Pete King found out when he attended the RAF winter survival course in Bavaria. But Pete's used to the cold, for he's the resident helicopter instructor with the AAC detachment in Alberta, Canada.



TIN LIZZIE VISITORS

Rusting away at one end of Stanley Harbour, the 87-year-old iron wreck of the *Lady Elizabeth* drew Majors Mike Phillips RA (left) and Mike Greenhouse 2i/c 2 RRF, like a magnet draws steel. Since both are based on the Falklands and both come from the Isle of Man and the ship, which once sailed from the IoM and now features on its postage stamps, they thought to compare the picture with the real thing. Their verdict: "Remarkably accurate. Despite the ship being stuck fast for the past 48 years."



TOPICS

BRAVE LISA'S ROYAL DAY

THE after effects of an operation to remove a bone tumour from her left leg had Lisa McRobbie



■ Lisa and the Princess (inset Major Ian McRobbie) buoyed up by TA gifts.

hobbling around on crutches.

But it did not deter her one little bit from perfecting her curtsey in readiness to present the

Princess of Wales with a posy.

The daughter of Major Ian McRobbie of 151 Greater London Regiment, RCT (V), nine-

year-old Lisa overcame her painful disability to welcome the Princess when she visited the Royal Marsden Hospital at Sutton, Surrey, which has a unit specialising in the treatment of cancer and leukaemia.

At the time of the royal walkabout Lisa was a patient there, but now she is at her Horley, Surrey, home making a recovery.

"She's a proper little Terrier," said her father. "She's full of courage and spirit which was buoyed up by visits and gifts from Members of my Croydon-based unit.

"They were all very kind," said Major McRobbie, who has served 20 years in the TA.

REVEALED

The secret of what royalty say to youngsters like Lisa was revealed when Major McRobbie told how the Princess asked Lisa her name and age and whether she liked the doctors and nurses.

Later they met again when Lisa was baking jam tarts in a cookery lesson and offered the Princess one.

It was received with thanks and a big smile, but quickly passed to a lady in waiting.

"It was just a bit too hot and sticky," said Major McRobbie.

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■ Practice for four "NatWest" girls over the KF course helped by Sergeant John Ogden (1RRF) and Fusilier Chris Critchel (3RRF).

Tough Deal dish it out

Top craft title is theirs again



For the second year running Deal platoon of 133 Corps Troops Workshop REME (V), have won the exercise Southern Craftsman

competition. Now they are out to make it a hat trick.

To notch up their second win at Longmoor, they beat 14 other teams

from the London and Eastern districts in trade tests and military skill trials. Although no walkover for the men from Kent, two first places and three

seconds was enough to see them through.

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BRIEFLY . . .

Brotherly . . .

■ Brothers Albert and Peter Brandwood came first and second in a JNCO's cadre run by HQ Battery 103 Ad Regt (V) based at Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool.

New Co

■ Lieutenant Colonel Peter Durbin, a Plymouth solicitor, is to take command of 155 Regiment RCT (V). He will be the first TA officer for many years to command the unit.

Rescue

■ TA Fusilier Stewart Bennett escaped from his flat when fire broke out, then grabbed a ladder and rescued a woman from the flat above. Stewart, 21, joined Y Company, 6th Battalion RRF, Newcastle, a year ago.

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PRINTS of two paintings which now have pride of place in the Officers' Mess of 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and mark their feats in the Falklands, are now on sale.

So too are bronze statuettes — exact copies of a silver version presented to the Battalion by Jack Abbott, whose own house in the Falklands was offered for use by men of the Battalion immediately after liberation.

It was in appreciation of the Paras' efforts that Mr Abbott was moved to commissioning the silver piece, a fighting soldier, as a mark of the gratitude he and the Islanders felt.

The silver addition to the Battalion collection, and the paintings, have won the approval of the men who fought some 21 months ago.

The paintings were commissioned by the Regiment, and the well known war artist David Cobb left for the Falklands as soon as possible after the end of hostilities to familiarise himself with the ground at Darwin, Goose Green and Wireless Ridge, near Stanley.

Detail of the items offered for sale at the Battalion PRI Shop, Bruneval Barracks, Aldershot:

Cold Bronze Statuette 2 Para Fighting Soldier: Height 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Flat oval base 7" x 5". Price £40. Produced by Phoenix Reproductions. For recorded delivery by post add £3.02. Allow 28 days for delivery.

Print of the Battle for Goose Green 27/28 May 1982. Size 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Price £6.00 (unframed). The reproduction prints are produced on special heavy paper giving an oil painting effect finish. For recorded delivery by post in a protective tube add £1.42.

Print of the Night Battle for Wireless Ridge 13/14 June 1982. Size 26" x 21". Price £6.00 (unframed). For re-

SOLDIER to Soldier



corded delivery by post in a protective tube add £1.42.

If both prints are required add only one recorded delivery cost.

All cheques to be made payable to PRI 2 PARA.

● Staying with the 2 Para theme, the book by their former com-

manding officer, Major General John Frost — "2 Para Falklands" — is reviewed on page 51.

AS WE ALL know, this is Centenary Year for NSPCC — National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Not so many people will know the Liverpool Society was a year ahead of the National organisation, and this year the Merseysiders have generously decided to make their 15th Annual World Record Walk Weekend at Aintree an extra-special event towards the big Centenary fund raising.

Naturally, the organisers are hoping for a very big turn out and are hoping there will be a good number of soldiers taking part. And why not?

Soldiers are renowned for their good deeds when it comes to helping children.

The walk organiser, Mrs Joan Gregory tells SOLDIER that if sufficient military people enter then they will have a special trophy for the winning soldier — in addition to the usual trophies for event winners.

The Aintree Walks — sponsored, of course — take place from noon Saturday 5 May to noon the following day for the 24-hour individual walks; 2pm Sunday 6 May to 2pm the following day for 24-hour team relay

walks and also starting 2pm Sunday 6 May is the Ramblers' Association 12-mile walk.

Every mile helps the NSPCC cause, whether or not you fancy a single mile or 100.

It is a fun weekend for participants, with a worthwhile return for the less than fortunate children helped by NSPCC.

Those who would like to join in can get full details from:

Mrs Joan M Gregory,
99 Tanfields,
Skelmersdale,
Lancs WN8 8NS

SOFTSPUN the Second, the regimental goat mascot of the TA's 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, used to be a "bit of a tearaway" when he was young — no kidding!

So says his Goat Major and civvy street postman Barrie John who has just taken the veteran of five Cardiff Tattoos and three meetings with the Prince of Wales up to London Town.

Softspun was a guest of the BBC TV children's programme Blue Peter and he was there — as progeny of the Royal Herd at Whipsnade — to mark his ten years with the 4th Battalion, a TA unit, an advance of his 11th



The bronze statuette of a 2 Para fighting soldier ...

birthday celebration and, of course, to mark St David's Day.

Also in the studio were the Drums of the 3rd and 4th Battalions and Goat Major John, 11 years in that post and 13 years with the Battalion, was well pleased with the performance and manners of his bearded charge on the day.

Unlike others of his breed, Softspun does not eat a packet of cigarettes to keep down his worms. "He's a normal sort of goat liking to eat normal sort of goat fare," said Goat Major John.

THE ROYAL Scots Regimental Museum in Edinburgh Castle has a special display showing the design proposals for the Post Office's 1983 special stamp issue which depicted the British Army.

1983 was the 350th anniversary of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and the most popular stamp was the 16 pence which showed a Pikeman and a Musketeer in 1633, the year of the founding of the Regiment.

The special interest of the display is that it shows two other proposals for the series and the modifications of the final selection. One proposal by Harry Eccleston, was based on famous Army Commanders, including Wellington and Montgomery; while Stanley Paine's designs were based on modern fighting vehicles.

The selected proposal of Eric Stemp showed five regiments, including The Royal Scots and The Parachute Regiment, in different uniforms over the past 350 years.

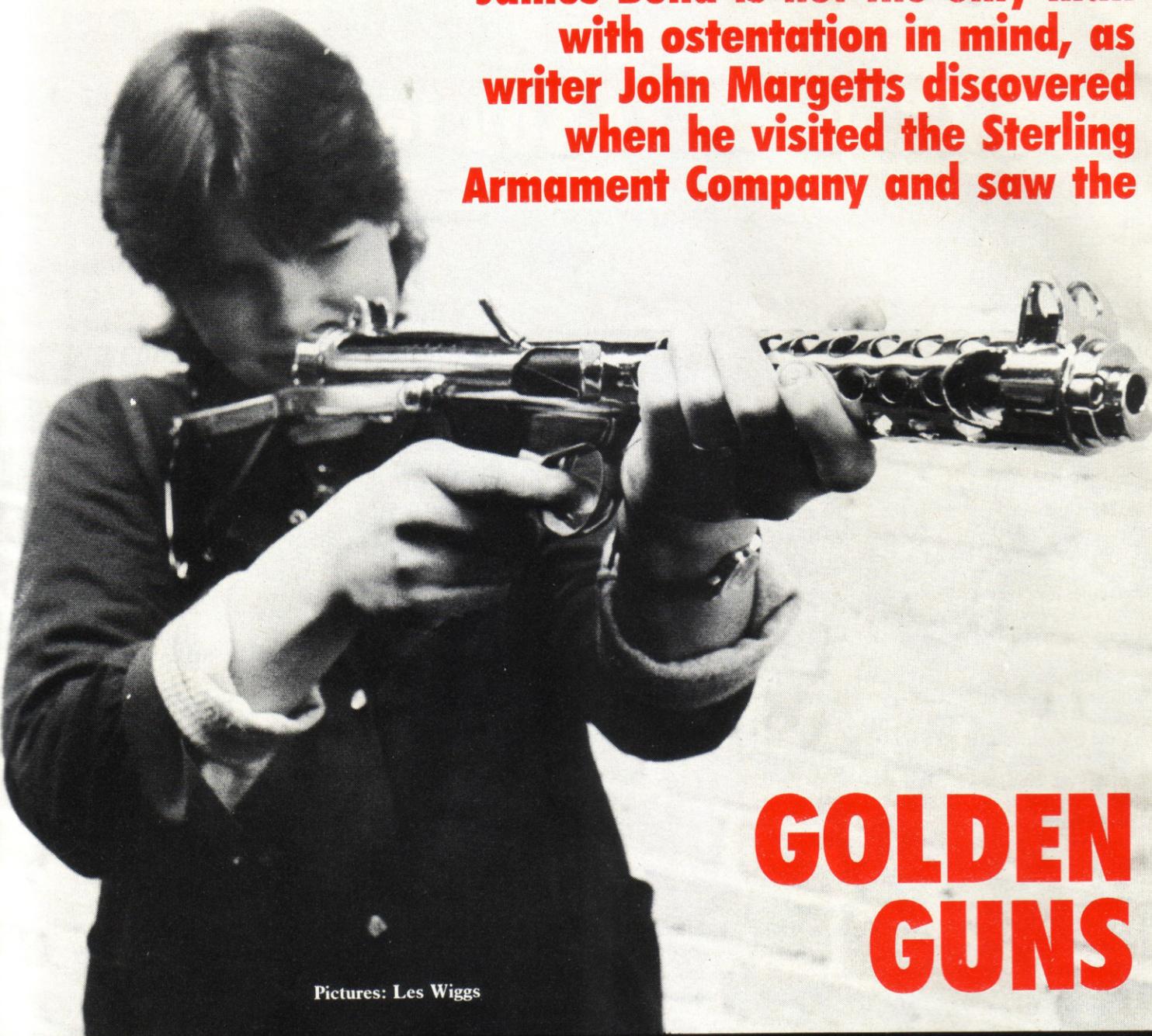
TN OUR last issue we mentioned the Everest Round Britain Offshore Powerboat Race — and the organisers hopes for entries from the Armed Forces.

Since then we have learned that Prince Michael of Kent has agreed to start the race at Portsmouth on 14 July ... an appropriate choice. The Prince took part in powerboat racing at international level some years ago.

THE 35th annual SSAFA Air Display will take place on Sunday 10 June at RAF Church Fenton, near Tadcaster, Yorkshire. Last year more than 50 aircraft of 30 types featured in a star-studded programme and this year's show is expected to be even bigger.

Admission charges remain the same as last year: Adults £2; Children £1.30; Car and all occupants £6. Gates open at 10 a.m. and the flying programme is from 1.30-5.30 p.m.

James Bond is not the only man with ostentation in mind, as writer John Margetts discovered when he visited the Sterling Armament Company and saw the



Pictures: Les Wiggs

Above: Sandra Wallis and the gold plated Mk 4.

Below: Walter Ingham and Mk 7 — plastic butt.



GOLDEN GUNS

LUXURY knick-knacks such as gold bath taps, door handles and other household fittings are common among the oil-rich potentates of the Middle East.

But there are those among them who, while striving for the ultimate in opulence and one-upmanship, go even further in the ostentation stakes. They go for golden guns.

No names, no pack drill, but there are sheiks around who insist that weapons for their bodyguards come plated with 22-carat gold.

Ace spy James Bond and his arch enemy Scaramanga wouldn't get a look-in on this league with that golden

peashooter of theirs.

For when the Sterling Armament Company gets orders from these gold-loving sovereigns, they supply them with glittering, golden SMGs for the top men's personal guards and equally gleaming chromium plated ones for those patrolling their palace courtyards.

Apart from the colour — which is absolutely stunning — the weapons are exactly the same as those issued to you — the British Army.

But while your Sterling Mark 4 comes with a black crackle finish — "it doesn't reflect the light painted like that," said David Howroyd, the man re-



Above: Sandra with the gold plated, silenced Mk 5 Sterling. Below: Ron Howton brazing a barrel casing. Right: Walter Ingham with the Mk 7 para pistol.



sponsible for much of the development of the Sterling SMG over the past 30 years — the sheiks' specials come dazzling in fine English leather cases.

While all that glitters is not gold, these weapons truly are what they look — gold. And they are just as lethal as the non-reflective issued to the British Forces and many others world-wide.

Originally known as the Patchett gun, the Sterling SMG entered service about 30 years ago replacing the Sten gun. A few modifications followed and the Mark 4 was developed which, even today, is still the standard sub-machine gun in British service.

Now ex-RAF fitter David Howroyd and his team are working on Mark 9 — a totally new design and currently on test with special forces. But between marks four and nine they have five, six, seven and eight, all of which have been developed for specialised use.

Their two most recent versions of the Sterling — "a great name", said company chairman Giles Whittome — are the Mark 6, with a longer (410mm) barrel for the US market, and the Mark 7 para-pistol which comes with a choice of barrel lengths (89 or 198mm) and is designed specially for tank and AFV crews who have not much space in which to use a personal

weapon.

Their para-pistol with the "closed bolt" action offers "impressive accuracy", claims the company and, like all Sterling SMGs is useable after days of lying in salt water and mud. "All you have to do is wash off the mud and carry on firing," said David Howroyd.

All encouraging stuff for the guys in the field, but true, says 22-year-old Walter Ingham, final product inspector and test-firer for the firm.

Walter, like many of the 100-strong workforce, has strong family ties with the company dating back to the early 1900s. Another is 22-year-old Sandra Wallis who even now has her

sister Sylvia, two uncles and her father working at the firm. And in the old days her grandad used to work there, too.

Now Sandra is a parts inspector while Walter checks and test-fires the finished product.

"He's probably fired more of these than anyone else in the world," said David Howroyd "except me, of course".

But while young Walter checks and "zeros" the guns on a nearby range, and Sandra runs a practised eye over the 150 parts which make up the SMG, their jobs are all part of the company's determination to produce a product for their free-world customers worthy of the name Sterling.

WANTED: BRAVE MEN

for DCM get-together



ABIG SEARCH has started for heroes who hold the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Major J. C. Cowley, president of the DCM League, is heading the hunt and is determined to "flush out as many as possible" so that he can hold an old soldiers' get together.

"They all seem to be hiding," said the Major, who plans to hold a "muster" of DCM holders to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the award instituted by Queen Victoria in 1854 — before the Victoria Cross.

"I've got 2065 names, but only a few addresses. It appears the records office are not allowed to give out addresses, so I'm appealing through regimental magazines and *Soldier* to try and find these people.

"If we get only ten per cent to come along that would give us 200 plus. That would be tremendous," added Major Cowley, who plans to hold the weekend jamboree in early autumn.

The location for the get-together depends on the response to his plea. "It could be either London or Windsor," said Major Cowley, who is a Military Knight of Windsor, with attendance



Major J. C. Cowley, DCM — with bowler and medals

duties at ceremonial occasions.

He stressed that the gathering was not for "glorifying war, but simply for comradeship and remembering the 'esprit de corps' of service life.

"I'm fairly young," said the 64-year-old Major, and ex-Coldstreamer of more than 30 years and a former RSM of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment with a wartime record of training glider troops in 1942 — "but I don't want to talk about myself, I want to get this search under way."

"Most of the members of the DCM League are getting old. Our chairman is 90, having won his DCM in World War 1. There are not many of us left."

In a brief history of the DCM Major Cowley said: "Since the Crimea war the medal had been awarded to more than 30,000 soldiers for distinguished conduct in the field. More than 3,500 were awarded before 1914; 25,100 in the 1914-18 conflict; 46 inbetween the wars and 1,904 in the 1939-45 war. Far fewer were won in the 1939-45 war because the Military Medal, instituted in 1917, was awarded as well as the DCM. Since 1975, the DCM had been given posthumously — of the eight awarded in the Falklands, three were posthumous.

"We're hoping to make this occasion a Royal ceremony of remembrance and rededication (patron of the League is the

**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

Duke of Kent) and I would be grateful if those who have won the medal would make every effort to get in touch with me.

"A lot of people think that parading with medals is an ostentatious act. But what does it matter so long as we get 'em all on parade?" If you are the holder of the DCM, or the wife or close relative of a soldier awarded the medal, the Major would like to hear from you.

Write to: Major J. C. Cowley, 17 Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berks. He awaits your letter, including as much information as possible.

HANDS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC!

MAJOR GENERAL John Boyne, Vice Adjutant General and Director of Manning (Army) is now an honorary member of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of The Association of the United States Army.

It is a rare honour, and the General received his membership card and chapter tie, plus a plaque in a special presentation at Aldershot.

The story began in October last year when General Boyne visited the AUSA national convention in Washington DC, as the British Army representative.

Such was the impression he made on the New Jersey people, they were determined to keep his services, so to speak, and decided to send a party for a "return fixture" to UK, feeling this would be the ideal time to tie up the formalities.

The Association of the United States Army has serving members, retired soldiers, reservists, industrialists and military 'buffs' in its ranks — all very interested in the doings of NATO's biggest Army, obviously, and all very keen on spreading the word.

Colonel Richard Plechner, an infantryman and Past President of the Northern New Jersey Chapter, headed the delegation to England, supported by fellow Colonel Richard Reed, now a surgeon with the New Jersey National Guard and Sergeant Major Bill Heins, a veteran of the Korean War, treasurer of the Chapter, who has been with the reserve since 1954.

And supporting the men were Mrs Stasia Heins and Chapter member Mrs Petie Dorman, whose Air Force husband was killed in Vietnam and who is proud of the continuing family commitment with two sons in the Army and a third in the Navy.

Colonel Plechner, who commands a reserve training unit, told SOLDIER: 'It wasn't just that the General came to the convention — other people have done that and done well, but he was special. It was the way in which he talked to us above and beyond the 'duty' times; the obvious interest he showed in people of whatever rank —



and his obvious desire to learn as much as he could that impressed us.

"That's not all. He is obviously a man who believes we can do more to further mutual understanding."

In making the presentation to the Vice Adjutant General after lunch in the Army Physical Training Corps officers' mess, Colonel Plechner paid tribute to General Boyne's contribution to the convention.

The General replied that the convention reception "was the biggest I have ever been to in my life — with 3000 folk there" and he regarded membership of the Chapter a "privilege and an honour". One shared by his wife, Mrs Norma Boyne who was not forgotten by the visiting Americans... she was presented with a scarf.

Later, the visitors toured the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Now General Boyne is keen that these firmly established links continue, and, in emphasising the value of professional and social links between the British and United States Armies says they "are an important means of promoting a better understanding between primary NATO allies."



In front of a (field) piece of history at Sandhurst, left to right: Captain Greg Gardner, USLO Sandhurst, Mrs Stasia Heins and Sergeant Major Bill Heins, Mrs Norma Boyne and Major General John Boyne, Mrs Petie Dorman, Colonels Richard Reed and Richard Plechner and Lieutenant Colonel Brian Lockhart, SO1 RMA Sandhurst.

Having just been given his membership certificate by Colonel Richard Plechner, (left) Major General John Boyne hands a paper-weight memento of the British Army to Sergeant Major Bill Heins.

"We have a number of common problems, and the sharing of views and perceptions on them will help each Army to learn from the experience of the other and to develop a common approach.

"Of particular interest in informal discussions with the members of the US Army Reserve was the continuing effort to increase the use and effectiveness of reserve forces in both Armies."

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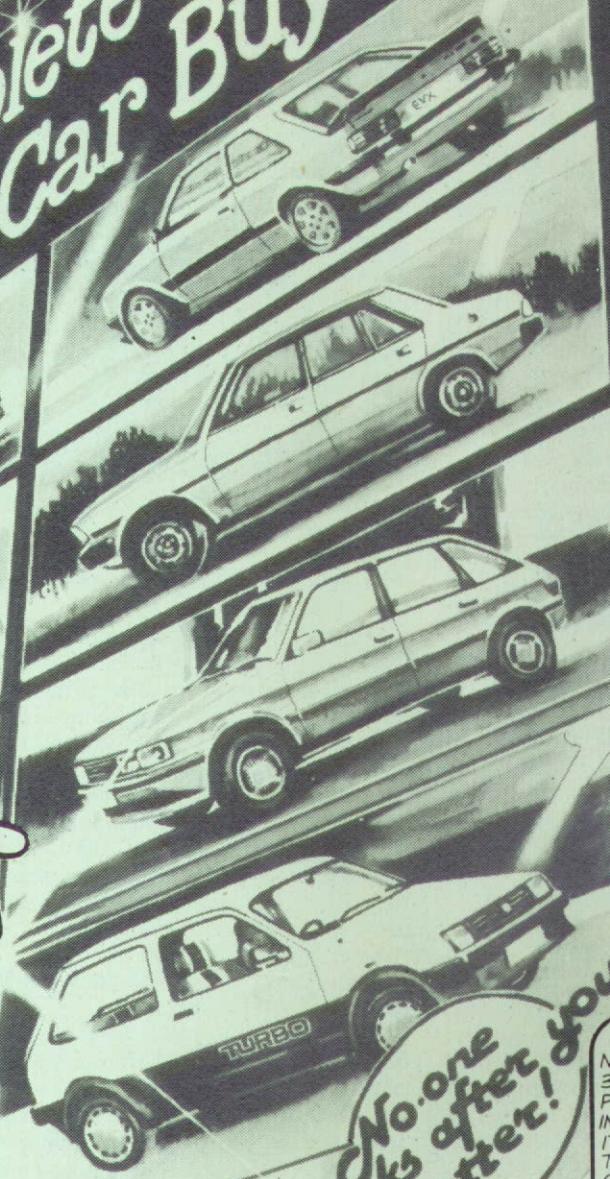
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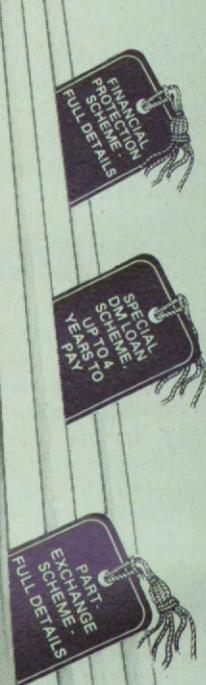
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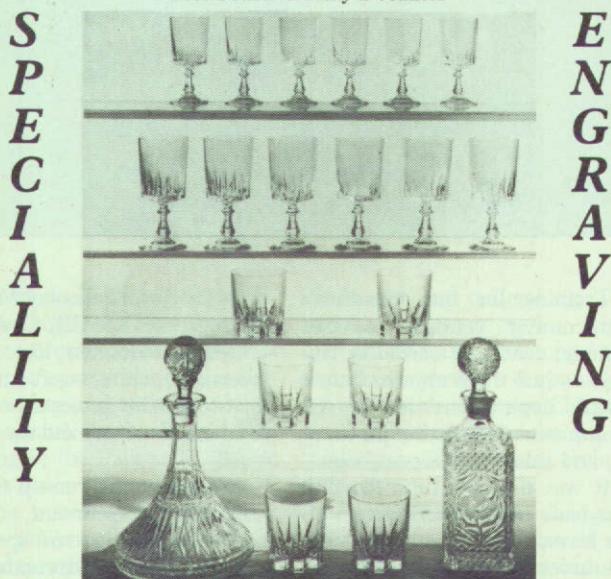
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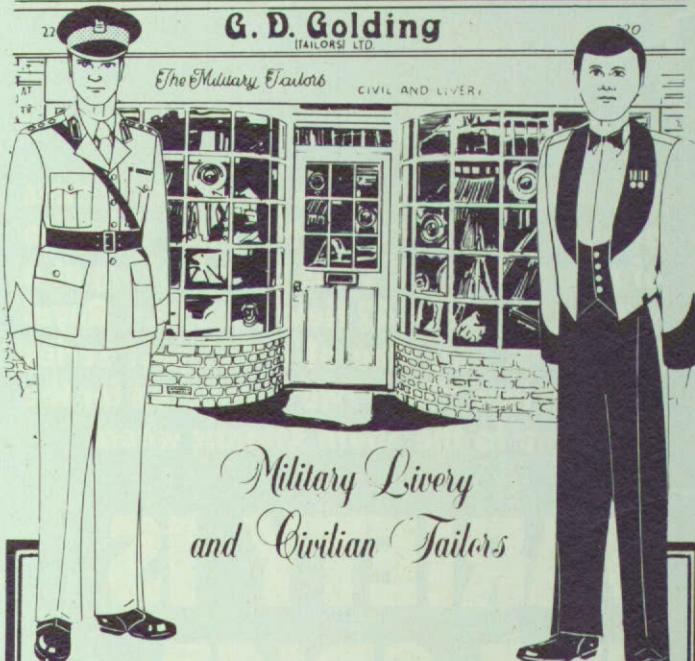
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For some, a move to the Falklands means not just a change of setting, but a change of role and SOLDIER has been looking at a year in the life of 42 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers. Part One of a two-part series looks at how "Four-Two" prepared for the big move to the South Atlantic where

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE!

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

THE NEWS came just as the hardy sappers of 42 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, based at Hameln — the town of rat catcher fame in Germany — were putting down their carrying handles during the end of Exercise Quarter Final, 4 Armoured Division's major field exercise of 1982.

The field troops of "Four-Two" had been dismantling a two-span Medium Girder Bridge fit to carry 56-tonne Chieftain tanks across the River Leine over which the beautiful old castle of Schloss Marienburg towered that autumn day — as it had for centuries.

Squadron OC, Major Cedric Sloan has something to tell them. He was smiling.

Some of the more senior sappers shifted uneasily. Something was afoot, but what?

"We've been warned for a tour

in the Falklands — this time next year," he quickly announced. The reaction was favourable.

But it would mean more than just a move 8,000 miles southward to the near extremities of the southern hemisphere. It would mean a change of role for the men who form part of 35 Engineer Regiment.

That change would be from the role of an engineer regiment with its primary task of battlefield support for an armoured division to an engineer force capable of carrying out a wide variety of construction tasks in the Falklands.

"Four-Two", comprising three well-endowed Field Troops, a Support Troop and an HQ Troop prepared to meet the challenge of the South Atlantic with its outward-bound full establishment of 180 officers and men.

Training for the squadron's forthcoming venture of vast climatic contrasts started in August — just three months before actual deployment for a six-month stint among the hill country and inhospitable peat bogs.

It was the first time the unit was back together at Hameln after leave, exercises and regimental duties had been completed.

— at the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME), Chatham.

Other tradesmen like bricklayers and painters were involved in two small projects; one in southern Germany and the other, locally.

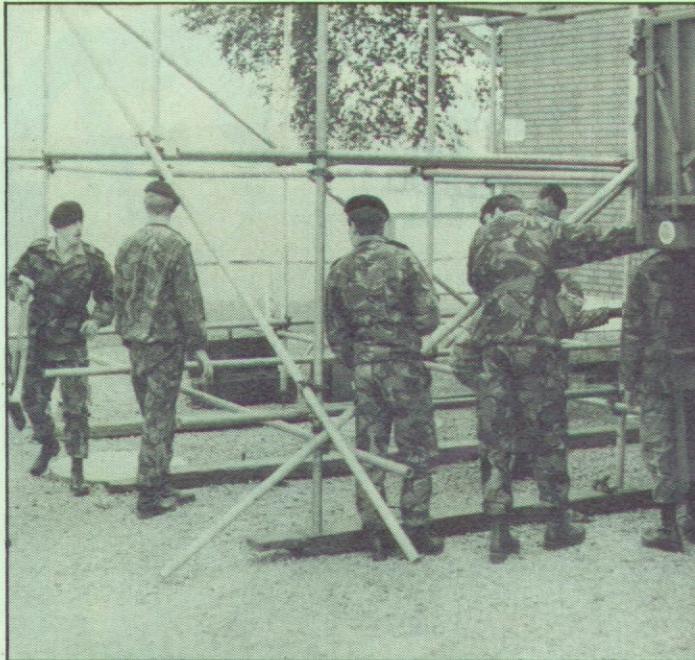
As part of the run-up for the Falklands detachment, NCOs were detailed to attend specialist courses on facets like combat survival, all arms air defence, operation of the combat support boats, the building of prefab hutting and aircraft shelters, the provision of emergency fuel handling equipment, underwater construction techniques and close-circuit TV operation.

Team training took place over four phases in the engineering, military and construction skills needed for the tour. The first segment comprised a revision of purely military skills leading to completion of the annual Person-



Refresher time for tradesmen

One of the early training phases called for refresher practice involving a variety of tradesmen — such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters and fitters



Above left: A Chinook about to lift off with Land Rover and trailer. It all looks very easy — but requires a lot of co-ordination to ensure everyone is happy . . . Army and RAF!

Left: Helping Chinooks is vastly different to messing about with boats in the River Weser. Boats? Well, maybe not . . . but it is wet work all the same.



Above: Now lads, this is the way we do it . . . and it is all part of ensuring that the scaffolding comes first, and then a water supply point goes up. Looks simple, but needs thought and practice. Then everyone is happy.

Above right: they are Sappers, but look like infantrymen — and, indeed, they have to be soldiers first. In this case the "four-two" fighting patrol prepares to emplane in a Puma.

Right: Now get out of that . . . or get onto this . . . or simply enjoy a race with a barminelayer and a bridge across a "chasm". All good for testing ingenuity.



al Weapons Tests and those involving NBC and First Aid.

The second phase involved a fortnight's programme of combat engineering and helicopter skills with special emphasis on likely tasking in the Falklands. Added to this was water supply — scaffolding towers were erected — basic watermanship techniques on the nearby River Weser and the use of Class 16 air portable bridge and raft set.

As Major Sloan pointed out: "Of paramount importance was the familiarisation training on mines used by the Argentinian forces and the methods of detecting and breaching their minefields. Helicopters, we knew, were used extensively in the south Atlantic and a lot of the initial time was spent on the basic rules of safety and helicopter marshalling leading up to practice in the use of both Puma and

Chinooks in underslung load drills.

"This was the first opportunity for everybody in the squadron to work with the huge Chinooks and it proved to be one of the highlights of the whole training period."

Phase three saw a change of pace for the Hameln-based sappers from field training to more leisurely, but equally-demanding, project work. These were usually minor construction tasks with a fortnight's completion deadline.

The Dummersee Military Yacht Club was in need of a concrete retaining wall. Masonry walls at the main entrance and renovation of the regimental Thrift Shop were two more tasks in 35 Engineer Regiment barracks. A third troop was detached to Munsterlager where they not only laid a concrete base

in a large store but managed to refurbish the squadron club, games room and TV area.

Even as they were busy, the plant operators were active on a local training area revising the use of wheeled tractors and tracked excavators, gaining more experience on crawler tractors and graders on a Military Aid of the Civil Community scheme in the neighbourhood; a sports complex project.

the Falklands . . . a presentation of cold weather survival . . . revision on the management side of construction projects . . . and an opportunity to remind drivers of their particular responsibilities for vehicle maintenance and safe driving techniques.

Fitness, too, was not forgotten and this was stepped up in the final period culminating in the whole squadron running a half-marathon!

So, after five weeks of intensive training, "Four-Two" were as ready as they could be for their South Atlantic adventure via Ascension, plus a transfer on to the SS Uganda for the main body and a Hercules transport for the advance party.

"Four-Two" had arrived and, in the next issue of *SOLDIER*, there will be a report on how the sappers settled in to their new environment.

Fitness is not forgotten

The fourth and final phase was a mix of orientation and revision, said Major Sloan. Lectures on

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The Equal Opportunities Commission started the year with a number of campaigns to attract more girls to learning about information technology; to become engineers, and more women to be given better access to further education, and the engineering councils.

In short, the EOC has launched WISE 84 to try and encourage more women into the engineering and technology fields.

The EOC is sending secondary schools in UK a pack containing books, leaflets and a poster which teachers can use to encourage more girls to learn about computers.

Also included is a handbook on computer education, which explains the need for action.

It is obvious that something needs to be done for Dept of Education and Science statistics show that four times as many boys as girls take 'A' level computer science and that the number of women professional engineers in the United Kingdom was as low as 1%, compared with USA 9%.

The vast majority of women working in engineering, 94% generally work in unskilled or clerical jobs.

Both Sir Kenneth Corfield, Chairman of the Engineering Council and Baroness Platt of Writtle, Chairman of the EOC firmly believe that the country is failing to tap this vast pool of talent and ability, and it is vital to remove the barriers that still prevent girls from studying non-traditional subjects.

More information: Mr Wilf Knowles, Asst Chief Executive (WISE 84 Co-ordinator), EOC, Overseas House, Quay St, Manchester, M3 3HN.

'The Video — Not Another Training Scheme' is primarily aimed at schools and careers advisers, or anyone working with young people, and is on free loan to educational bodies from:

CFL Vision,
Chalfont Grove,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

BENEFIT WORRIES ? HELP AT HAND . . .

WHILST I was in Northern Ireland a number of wives raised questions over the difficulties they were having in obtaining their Child Benefit when posted to Northern Ireland.

I passed your queries to the Child Benefit Centre in Washington, Newcastle upon Tyne. I would like to thank CBC for their helpful answers.

Q: If a wife takes her book with her to NI and then sends it to Stormont, the delay seems to be between three weeks to two months. Is this the correct procedure?

A: No. The yellow order book should NOT be taken. Hand them to the Pay Officer in the Unit Pay Office or send them in a BFPO envelope to Newcastle Central Office.

The correct procedure is for the payee to take or send her order book to her local Department of Health and Social Security Office after cashing the last order due before departure.

At the same time, report the date of departure and the Northern Ireland address to which she will be moving.

This address is very important because without it, neither we nor the Northern Ireland authorities will be able to track down the family.

Then the Child Benefit Staff can complete the appropriate reciprocal transfer papers and send them to NI, so that they can be linked with the claim made by the wife on her arrival.

Q: Should there be delays of two to three months?

A: No, if the wife follows the procedure in Q1. But if you can let me have the names and Child Benefit Numbers of the beneficiaries affected, I shall be happy to take a personal interest.

Q: Why can wives who visit UK for more than two weeks be restricted to encashment of a maximum of two orders when in UK?

A: The purpose of this restriction is to prevent lost or stolen order books from being cashed to expiry by a third party.

Two weeks 'grace' also allows beneficiaries to draw their benefit without having to fill in transfer forms whilst on holiday.

This restriction applies to all Child Benefit beneficiaries and is not unique to Army wives.

Q: What should Army wives do when they return to UK? We have so many conflicting instructions.

A: The payee should return her book to the NI authorities, tell them the date of departure, and the Great Britain address to which they will be going.

We at the Child Benefit Centre are currently holding several cases where wives have returned to Great Britain from NI, but we cannot process them because although the necessary reciprocal transfer papers have been received from Stormont, the Great Britain address is shown as 'NI'.

In these circumstances we can do nothing more until the beneficiary contacts CBC Washington, or submits a claim.

Q: What can Forces wives do to ensure that their claims go through with the minimum of delay?

A: 1) By quoting their reference number on all correspondence and keeping a note of it should they need to write again.

2) Returning their child benefit order books to their local office (or even direct to the Centre at Washington) prior to departure and stating that they are army wives going to Northern Ireland. If possible the new address should always be given, and the date of departure.

3) Surrendering their Northern Ireland child benefit order books to the Northern Ireland Authorities before returning to Great Britain. Again they should make it clear that they are Army wives returning to Great Britain, give the expected date of departure and provide a Great Britain address.

Q: I won't know my quarter address until I have left NI. What should I do?

ASK ANNE

A: If you are going to temporary accommodation, transit accommodation, or on holiday, and do not yet know your permanent address, in such circumstances perhaps the beneficiary could provide an address from which she would be prepared to collect her mail, ie a bank address. We could at least then get in touch with her.

Q: Could the words 'Northern Ireland' be added to the OA 1765 or OA 1765A when the wife returns from NI to GB? This might save time.

A: Using the same form as used overseas, but with NI added to the heading in the context that this would help the beneficiary to get Great Britain child benefit order book on return from Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, both these forms are irrelevant in NI cases because they are used by a soldier to claim child benefit paid on our behalf by the Army Pay Office.

ANNE: Even if it only helps those returning to Great Britain, then perhaps this should be looked into by the MOD. I will submit the idea to them.

If there is anyone who is experiencing difficulties in recovering CB and has waited more than three weeks, write to me with your case and CB Number, and Head of the CBC will look into each case for me.

● I also have had a reply from DHSS in Stormont, Belfast, and I quote from their letter to me:

"I appreciate that problems can arise with the system particularly if beneficiaries do not follow the instructions in the child benefit order book but, in the main, the system works well with exceptionally few complaints from the families involved."

"Since your letter was received a detailed examination of our records has failed to show any delay in the transfer of payment to Northern Ireland when the procedure is followed. Child Benefit Office liaise closely with Army personnel to ensure that this remains so and any difficulties which arise are quickly solved. In addition the necessary steps are taken to ensure that all British Field Post Offices are kept stocked with leaflets and claim forms."

"In conclusion I can only say that if you have any specific cases which have caused concern I would be happy to look at these."

OMBUDSMAN'S AID

The Parliamentary Ombudsman may be able to help you if you think you've been wrongly treated by a Central Government Department.

For instance: social security and unemployment benefits, mistakes in your tax assessments or PAYE, alleged unhelpfulness or slowness by departments in dealing with correspondence. But you MUST ask an MP to submit your complaint.

For more information pick up a leaflet from your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau or write for information to The Parliamentary Ombudsman, Church House, London, SW1P 3BW.

There's also an audio-visual programme on the work of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, on free loan from CFL Vision — Tel: Chalfont St Giles (024 07) 4111.

I have had a number of telephone calls and letters asking me for a copy of the Wives Guide, as many wives have not received them yet.

My advice: keep in touch with your unit, families officer, housing commandant, and I am sure they will let you know as soon as they reach the unit.

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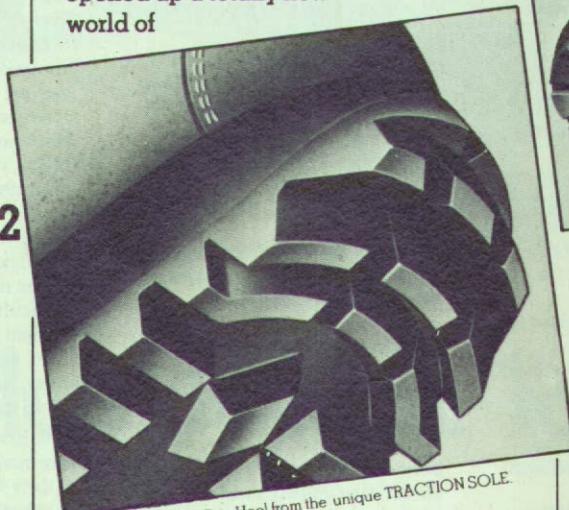
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When descending a slope the Safety Grip Heel design ensures excellent grip regardless of the slope gradient and underfoot conditions. Unlike previous sole designs of this type which have a sloping heel for walking comfort but consequently suffer from a greatly reduced ability to grip.

TRIONIC BENEFIT – increased grip and safety.

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Detail of the Safety Grip Heel from the unique TRACTION SOLE.

walking for today's outdoor people.

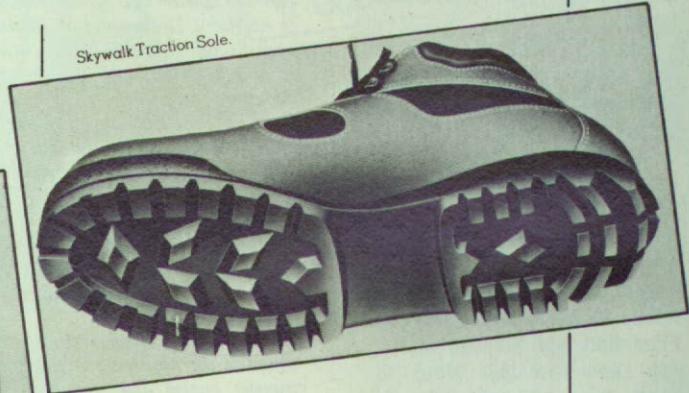
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The unique SKYWALK TRACTION SOLE which is featured on all models is the culmination of three years of intensive research, development and testing by all three companies.

This TRACTION SOLE offers 3 distinct advantages over any other boot sole currently available.

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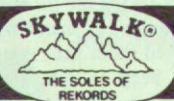


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TV FOCUS ON ARMY FOOD

TELEVISION is to join in the increasing chorus of praise for Army cooking and catering.

Starting next month a new weekly programme by Granada Television called "On the Market" is to be shown nation-wide.

Screened every Friday at 1.30pm, the 30-minute show will feature all that is best in everyday food and cooking.

One of the programmes will feature the School of Catering at the Army Catering Corps HQ at Aldershot.

Said presenter Susan Brookes: "Some people still have a hang-over about Army catering. They have the wrong image and our programme on the ACC school should cure that once and for all.

"The standards set by the school are most impressive and extremely high.

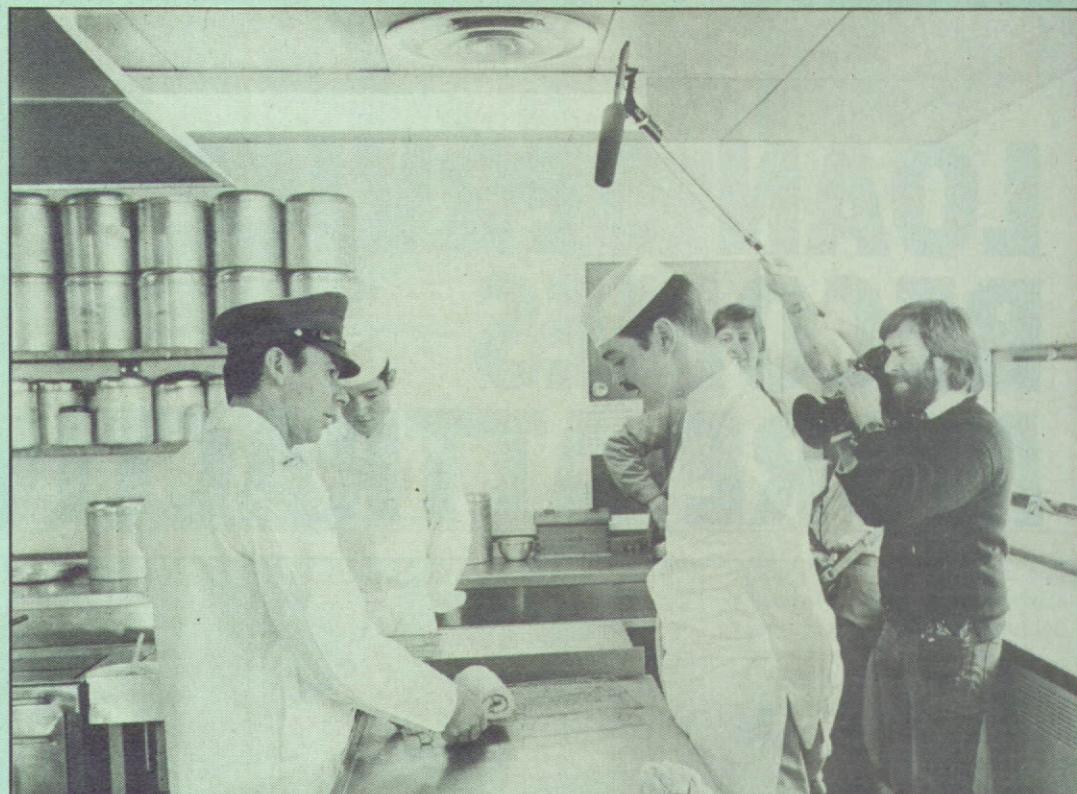
"It's not a bit surprising they collect so many gold medals at this year's Hotelympia, one of the biggest catering exhibitions in the world.

'Products are superb...'

"It's obvious that everything here is thought out and through very carefully indeed.

"That aspect will be one of the facets of our programme — to show the ordinary shopper how to select the best buys and then prepare them.

"The Army's methods and



products are superb," she said as she watched director Nick Peake and his crew film Senior Instructional Officer Major Mike Hann discussing with students Privates Chris Malcolmson, 19, and Philip Keen, 18, the merits of their first attempts at making a Swiss roll.

With only three weeks experience as trainee cooks, they were given high praise by Major Hann

**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Les Wiggs & Granada TV**

Major Mike Hann, Privates Chris Malcolmson and Philip Keen: testing time for ACC student cooks with their first-time Swiss rolls.

Squadron, based at Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot.

"The 24-hour ration packs the men carried were absolutely amazing," she said. "Beautifully designed and tremendous morale boosters."

Now Susan and her team will tell viewers nation-wide that even if the Army still marches on its stomach, it does so in the knowledge that the food the lads get is of the highest standards and prepared by cooks and chefs who are capable of winning applause and gold medals anytime they care to display the expertise.



Susan Brookes and friends: networked television will show how the Army eats. "Lovely grub," she said.



Susan Brookes and men of 5 Airborne Brigade HQ and Signals Squadron: work first, eat later.

If you can help our friends overseas,
you can enjoy not just the scenery, but
job satisfaction and invaluable experience as

LOAN SERVICE BECOMES MORE ATTRACTIVE



ARMY PERSONNEL of proven track record in their specialist fields, sound decision-making and well-endowed with tact and diplomacy are, it appears, lacking in availability for a certain sector of military operations overseas.

For the Loan Service section of the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Military Aid Overseas (DMAO) could be very interested in the services of officers and senior NCOs — subject to successful selection boards — to augment and maintain the 493 Army posts currently serving in 20 countries. By the end of this year, for instance, it is expected that about 150 personnel will have to be recruited.

But any fears that such a move out of the Army's main-

by GRAHAM SMITH

stream for periods ranging from six months to 2½ years — though the average is 18 months — could adversely affect their careers has been discounted as "just a myth" by one of the Directorate's heads.

Colonel Bill Boucher, Blues and Royals, the Assistant Director (Policy & Co-ordination), told me: "We are looking for people who are not only doing their present job very well but also for people who will represent their country well. They need to be people who are admired for themselves and they all have to be volunteers.

"Some aspiring applicants

have the misconception their careers will be badly affected by being too far from normal Army life. This is a myth because the Military Secretariat recognises that only very good people are accepted for Loan Service engagements. The same applies to attachés. If you have done Loan Service you will usually be looked upon favourably."

He added: "An attitude of pomposity is death, figuratively speaking. Skill in the applicant's trade must be proven along with a good track record. Such service abroad — and we have a total of 750 tri-Service personnel based in 30 countries

— should be of appeal to officers and senior NCOs who have joined the Army for travel, adventure and a non-humdrum career. In today's Army the main options are BAOR, Northern Ireland, Salisbury Plain or the Ministry of Defence, not that I am decrying any of those, just stating the options.

"Loan Service is just like any other Army job. It gives the officer and senior NCO a balanced career where he can do more interesting and exciting things than he might otherwise do. He usually does them very well though this does not mean an automatic plus for promotion. Promotion Boards do know the particularly difficult places where it is essential to get on with the locals and those Loan Service personnel do tend



Above: very different from Pirbright, but good drill is important no matter which Army, no matter where. . . .

Left: A little adjustment to the hold makes a big difference to overall appearance.

Right: Phew! Experience and a helping hand prove that the most daunting obstacle can be overcome . . .

to have the edge.

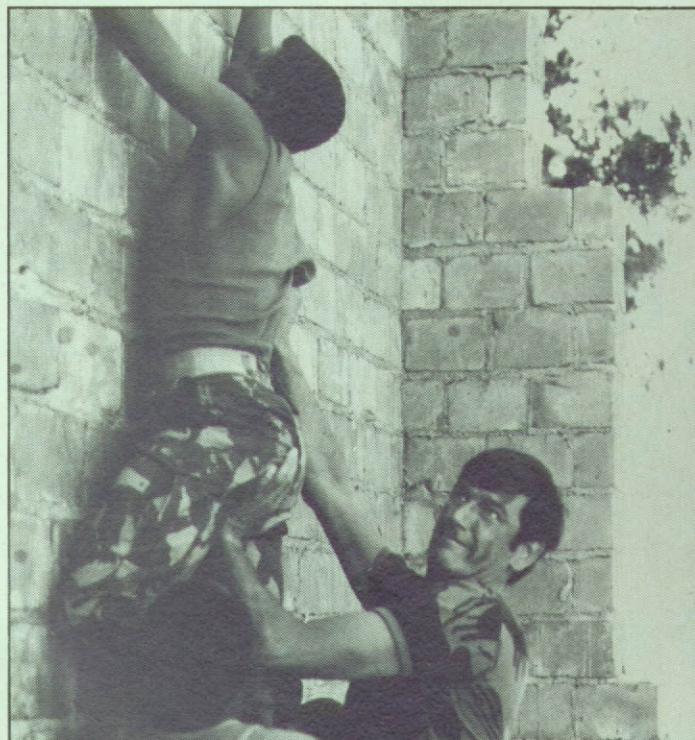
This theme of travel opportunities and job satisfaction was endorsed by Major Nigel Lang, Royal Artillery, who said: "Since withdrawal from the Far East we have not had nearly as many Army personnel travelling overseas on postings and the Loan Service system has become increasingly more attractive.

"You have not only got the scenery but you have got job satisfaction and it is an experience which undoubtedly helps you on your return to the Army. Tours vary from six months in places like Uganda and Zimbabwe to two and a half years in others, though the average is 18 months."

The smallest Loan Service team numbers just two. It is in Mauritius. Among the bigger teams is Brunei, with 116.

Major Jeremy Turner, The Royal Irish Rangers, another member of the LS section, said: "A sergeant's salary, for instance, is almost double in Uganda and Zimbabwe to that which he might expect to earn in a normal mainstream military posting."

Col Boucher said: "We extend our political influence abroad with the Loan Service scheme which is the fifth role in our defence arrangements. The others are nuclear, NATO membership, Home Defence



and protection of our overseas dependencies.

"Military assistance is a means whereby the Foreign Office and the Army help this country to maintain good relationships with others around the world, particularly if we wish to become very influential in certain areas as well as imparting the unique British military way of training. One of the most vital needs is for technical expertise."

The Joint Services aspect of Loan Service was introduced in February of last year and, since 1980, the numbers of all ranks in all three Services volunteering their specialist skills have dwindled because of an apparent lack of availability.

Major-General Alistair Dennis, Director of Military Assistance Overseas, said:

"The deployment of Loan Service Personnel is a means of advancing UK interests in the widest sense and, more and more, is fast becoming recognised as being extremely effective in the provision of a substantial commitment of well-qualified people."

"It behoves us to ensure that they are used to best advantage and since establishment teams do not visit Loan Service stations we have to monitor our own performance without the discipline of outside inspection to help us."

He went on: "As with all other aspects of our military assistance activity the aim of deploying Loan Servicemen is to help a friendly country to improve its defence capability and the security of the area."

"Loan Servicemen can be de-

ployed to fulfil many roles and some of the more usual are sales support, advisory and training teams.

"Sales support generally starts with the provision of help with the assimilation of British equipment into a country's armed forces and the training of the locals to look after that equipment themselves.

Have YOU got what it takes?

"Advisory teams usually have comparatively short tours which end when they have produced suitable reports on the issues involved. Training teams can either be short term — specific functions — or long term such as providing support for staff colleges. In both instances, the aim will be to train local forces to such a standard that the team can be withdrawn."

So, how do applicants go about offering their services in the knowledge that they possibly have the experience, background and temperament to fill a demanding and responsible role?

Officers should apply through their relevant AG branches who are in possession of Loan Service application forms. Senior NCOs should approach their local Manning and Recruiting offices on the same basis for the purposes of registration.

The fact remains that an estimated 150 slots have to be filled. In coming issues of SOLDIER the work of Loan Service teams will be featured from places like Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

FOUR LEGGY schoolgirl lovelies from the Reading area all have one passion in common, it seems. It is Gibraltar . . . and the hope of dancing for the Army.

One of them, 17-year-old Rachel Brown takes regular holidays there with her parents and three of her high-kicking, fishnet-stockinged pals would like to dance there in Army Messes — and particularly in the UK for that matter, as part of their cabaret troupe act called Starburst.

The group, formed nearly 18 months ago, are already veterans of nearly two dozen appearances in a rapid repertoire of 11 programmes ranging from The Roaring Twenties to a Night Out in Paris — but without the blatant naughtiness, it is insisted.

And most of the girls are keen to entertain the lads in khaki in Officers' or Sergeants' Messes — for pay, of course — under the auspices of the Jeannine Greville Dancing Academies and Theatrical Agency based at Henley-on-Thames.

Rachel Brown, the five-foot-seven, green-eyed, blonde leader

Story:
Graham Smith
Picture:
Paul Haley

of Starburst has another showbiz ambition to fulfil — to be in a West End musical with Tommy Steele.

She said: "My biggest ambition, however, is to be a successful TV dancer but I'm taking a secretarial course as something to fall back on — just in case. I wouldn't mind appearing in front of Army audiences — after all my family has military connections going back to 1814 — and it's more experience."

With a smile, she added: "We have all been trained well and taught how to cope with any over-responsive audience participation!"

Rachel and the other Starburst girls rehearse at her spacious home on the Reading outskirts every Sunday for some five hours. "I practise for two hours every night in my bedroom and I go for extra lessons," she said. "I am planning to do a summer season and, eventually, hope to make a successful career before I'm 20 or 21."

"If not, I'll have to think of something else, perhaps working in the office of a theatre as I am learning Tee-line shorthand and typing."

WELLINGTON'S ARMY DIDN'T HAVE STARBURST!



Starburst dancers, left to right, back: Alison Cooper, Sandi Birch. Front: Susan West, Rachel Brown. To see the girls in full colour: back cover.

Spurred on by her mother and father, Rachel has appeared in a Girl Magazine photo-romance serial, has made an appearance on BBC1's Pebble Mill at One and on Scottish television.

A performer over four nights with the London City Ballet's rendition of Swan Lake and a teenager who once trod the boards with Roy Castle and Linda Lewis, the Reading troupe leader was quite philosophical about auditions. "You win some, you lose some. There's always another," she said.

Starburst's offerings include the World War Two Years, Old Tyme Music Hall, a choice of German or Medieval or American Country and Western Nights or Black and White Minstrel Nights or Caribbean Nights. All involve specialised choreography changes, costume changes — some in sixty seconds — and the right choice of music.

Usually, it's the girls' mums who go along as wardrobe mistresses and chaperones. Dads, too, sometimes deploy from the bar as doting spectators filled with pride.

Rachel's mum, Mrs. Rose Brown, told me: "None of the girls is romantically involved yet — no proposals from oil sheiks or millionaires — and they are not allowed to mix with customers afterwards or accept drinks. And they would certainly never go topless or anything like that though they would be delighted to become unit pin-ups."

Hazel-eyed Alison Cooper — "I would like to dance in Greece and Crete most of all" — is a Sixth Form student studying a secretarial and business course, said: "If I don't make it as a dancer then I'd like to teach it as a subject. My two main ambitions are to dance around the

world and appear in a West End musical. I'm no stranger to the military settings, either, having two uncles who were in the Royal Tank Regiment and the Parachute Regiment and a grand-dad who was an officer's batman in the Lincolnshire Regiment."

A winner, she says, of some 3,500 dancing medals including representation of Britain as a champion in Hong Kong and Denmark in ballroom and Latin-American dancing, Sandi Birch — 32-22-32 — won her first medals when she was three. She is only 14 now!

She said: "I'm having to work extremely hard but I've been very lucky doing many shows including fashion, hair modelling, promotional work and, of course, cabaret. I want to become a successful dancer preferably in modern and jazz."

Tallest of the Starburst troupe, Susan West, at five-eight, is studying for her 'A' levels in theatrical studies and, like the others, would like to dance her way round the world.

"It's all good fun," said Susan whose grandfather was a drummer in the Royal West Kent Regiment in World War One, had a great-uncle who won a Military Medal with the Royal Horse Artillery during the same conflict and another great-uncle who died as a Turkish prisoner-of-war. Her father was a National Service medic with the RAMC.

The Starburst troupe also has an acrobat, Suzanne Kelly, 20 — her dad is a former RAF bomber pilot — who is studying dance at college.

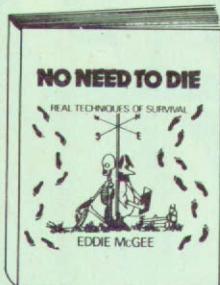
She said: "I've appeared on television on various occasions including the Junior Genius Show for Nationwide. A year later I was on Opportunity Knocks. On both occasions I danced a solo acrobatic dance. For eleven years running I won the acrobatic section of the All-England Arts Competition."

Meanwhile, SOLDIER in collaboration with the Jeannine Greville Dancing Academies and Theatrical Agency is asked by them to make a special introductory offer on bookings to the first THREE Messes who may wish to book the girls for their 30-minute show which culminates in the Can-Can. It is: a 50 per cent discount on the normal dancing fee of £100 plus 50 per cent contribution towards the mileage for any long distance bookings.

Bids then please — to the agency not SOLDIER — in writing or by phone to Miss Jeannine Greville at Melody House, Gillett's Corner, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire or phone 0491-577411.

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BY EDDIE McGEE



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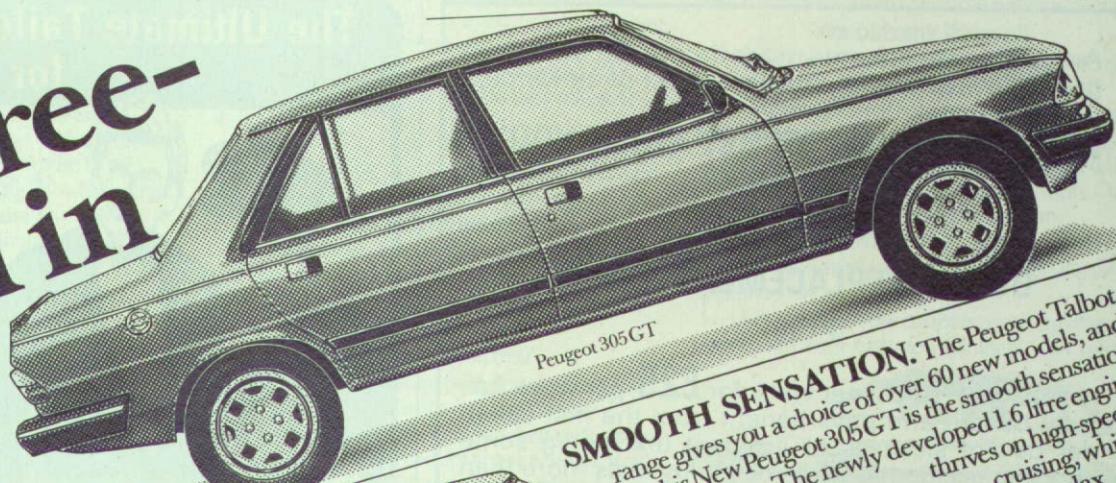
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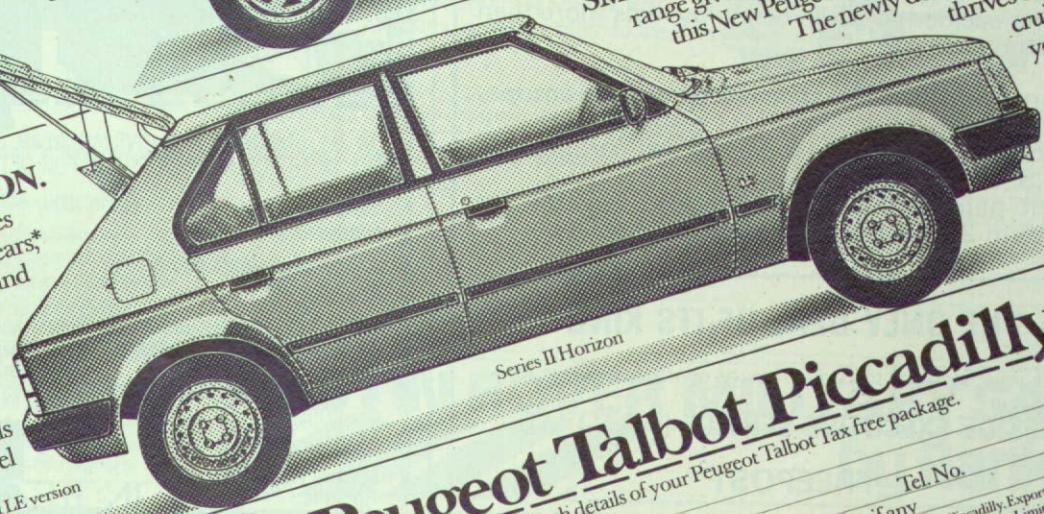
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ALL sorts of military events in all weathers have happened on the bleak and undulating expanses of Salisbury Plain. The latest — and perhaps quaintest — was the Stalkers' Competence Certificates awards sponsored by the Services branch of the British Deer Society.

For one of the less-known activities which take place on Ministry of Defence lands is deer management.

This entails control of the herds of wild deer which are indigenous to the UK and live on almost all the MoD training areas.

But wild deer are healthy and they breed rapidly. The population increases by about 30 per cent a year unless they are carefully and expertly controlled. Uncontrolled, the deer not only do serious damage to forestry and agriculture but, inevitably, outgrow their food supply. This leads to starvation and disease.

And so it was that the country's first ever Stalker Competence Certificate test days were carried out near Bulford involving 17 candidates chosen from among the less experienced MOD deer managers. Of these, 15 passed the written part and the ID exam and all passed the safety test.

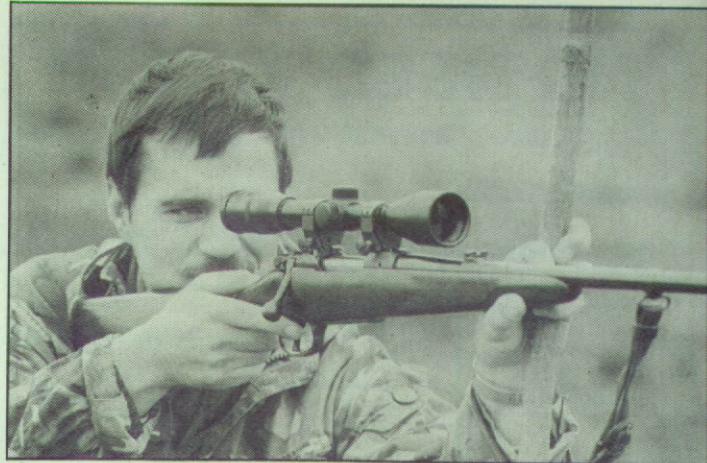
But only four successfully completed the shooting test, many failing on the first practice of three shots in a four-inch circle at 100 metres. Since then six have retaken the test and passed.

Meet The Deer Managers

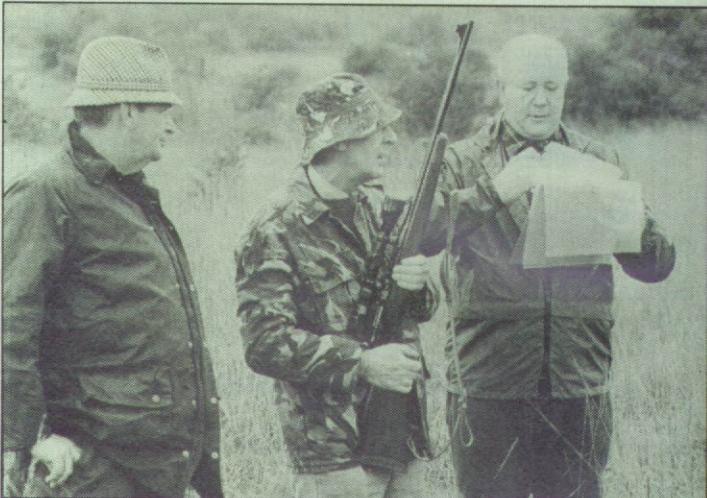
Fair play was ensured by six members of the Wessex branch of the British Deer Society who carried out the invigilation of all the tests while certificates and badges were presented to Mr Mike Cheshire, Major Roger Howard, Royal Army Pay Corps, Mr K. Shaw and Staff Sgt T Sutton, PSC/TA, HQ Company, 6 LI.

As Lt-Col Cyril Wright, Retired, Chairman of the British Deer Society Stalker Training Committee explained: "Deer managers are carefully trained in all the skills necessary for their task and the Society has introduced a Woodland Stalker's Competence certificate scheme to demonstrate that he has acquired the minimum skills in safety with rifle handling and use, skilful use of a sporting rifle of .240 inches or larger calibre, a written test covering the law, natural history, ballistics and an ID test on the species and sexes of deer.

"As these certificates were the very first awarded under this scheme to any stalkers in the UK the Services seem to have shown the rest of the country the way."



Corporal Alan McCormick of 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment gets used to a different form of shooting.



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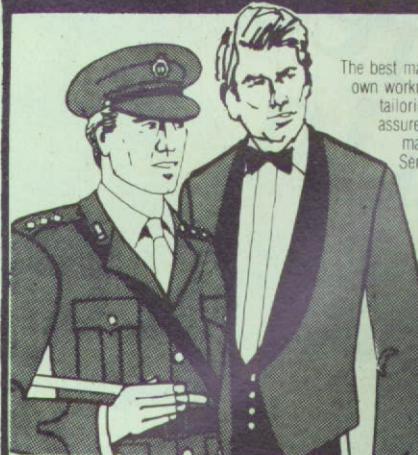
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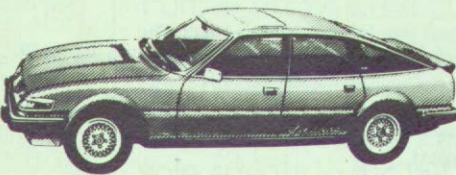


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Syllabub and Cats Tongues . . .

TO ANYONE less than a gourmet, syllabub and cats tongues sound like the kind of ingredients Shakespeare dreamed up for his "Witches Brew" in the play "Macbeth".

Nothing could be further from the truth, however, since in reality they are a tasty chocolate delicacy that helped Private James McCarthy of 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment to win the title "Young Chef of the Year" in the Northern Catering Region Cookery Competition held in Bünde, Germany.

Also on the award-winning menu of this young chef, entering an Army competition for the very first time, were Plaice Indienne and Beef with Pate. Second in line was Private Stuart Mann of 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment, based in Berlin.

Although normally held in alternate years to allow top Army chefs to take part in the "Hotelympia" International Hotel and Catering Exhibition that has just finished in London, the Northern Catering Region's competition, involving Army units from Berlin and 1st Armoured Division, has attracted such great interest lately that it has been held two years running for the first time.

This gave Corporal Graham Haddock, of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, just time to bring a fourth position accolade back from the London event and claim

Story and picture: PI HQ 1 Armoured Division.

RECIPE FOR TRIUMPH!



Private James McCarthy, winner of "Young Chef of the Year" title, is congratulated by Colonel Robin Maddy, Commander Catering ACS (BAOR).

the Northern Region's "Chef of the Year" title, beating Corporal Michael Hunt of 94 Locating Regiment RA into second place.

Although right in the swim of things, Corporal Haddock — who along with Corporal Trout of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron was the subject of many a "fishy story" in the UK press at last year's event, thanks to their names — kept his head well

above water in the Pastillage class.

He won the cup for his exquisite model of a Bernstein grand piano, possibly proving that, in his case, music was the food of love — or rather a labour of love, since he later said it took him many hours to prepare.

But with 12 practical and exhibition classes ranging from cake to compo rations, as well as

the Unit Challenge Trophy to be contended, all 128 entrants stirred themselves to cream off the top awards.

However, the competition had a serious side as Lieutenant Colonel Richard Apperley, Commander Catering Northern Region, explained, "The idea is to bring out new skills in haute cuisine and in the soldiers' kitchens as well as in the field. I am particularly impressed by the high standards and numbers of young entrants — this is most encouraging since the progressing of craft skills is what it's all about."

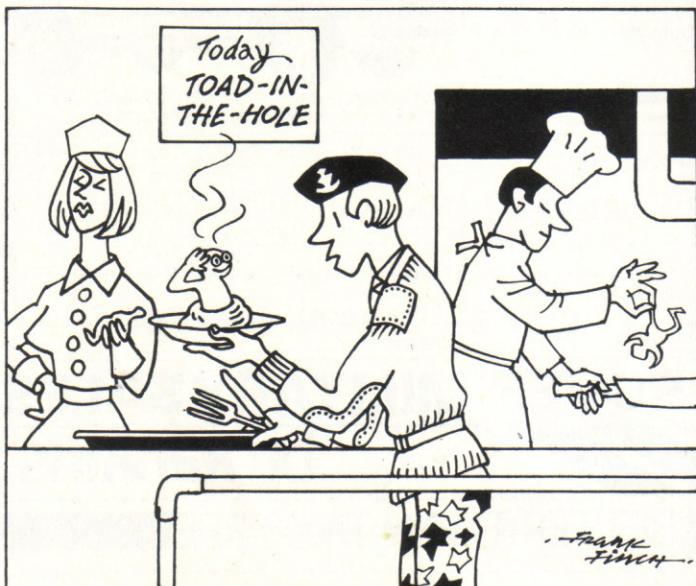
Proving what could be done with basic Compo Rations was Corporal Martin Lewis of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, who took first prize in this class and had a word of encouragement for soldiers "in the field" making a hash of things with compo corned beef and sponge pudding. "I think British Army rations are some of the best in the world and with a bit of imagination you can do all sorts of things to make them interesting."

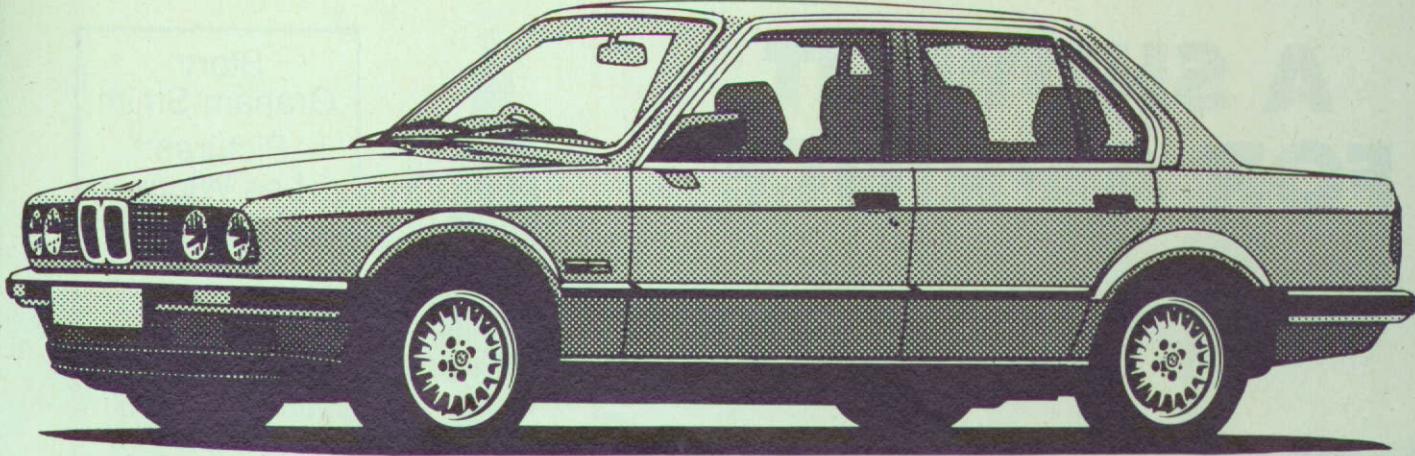
As the going got warm the dishes got cold for Sergeant Glenn Meekings of 1st Battalion The Green Howards — and the judges were delighted. He took first prize in the classes for Cold Buffet, with Galantine of Duck, and for Cold Fish, with stuffed Turbot, while it was just icing on the cake as the judges awarded him yet another Gold Star for his Decorated Cake.

"During hotel work in my school holidays and then nine years of Army catering, I've picked up thousands of tips from experienced chefs," he said later. "Today I put all my culinary skills into one basket and brought out three trophies."

How observant are you?

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





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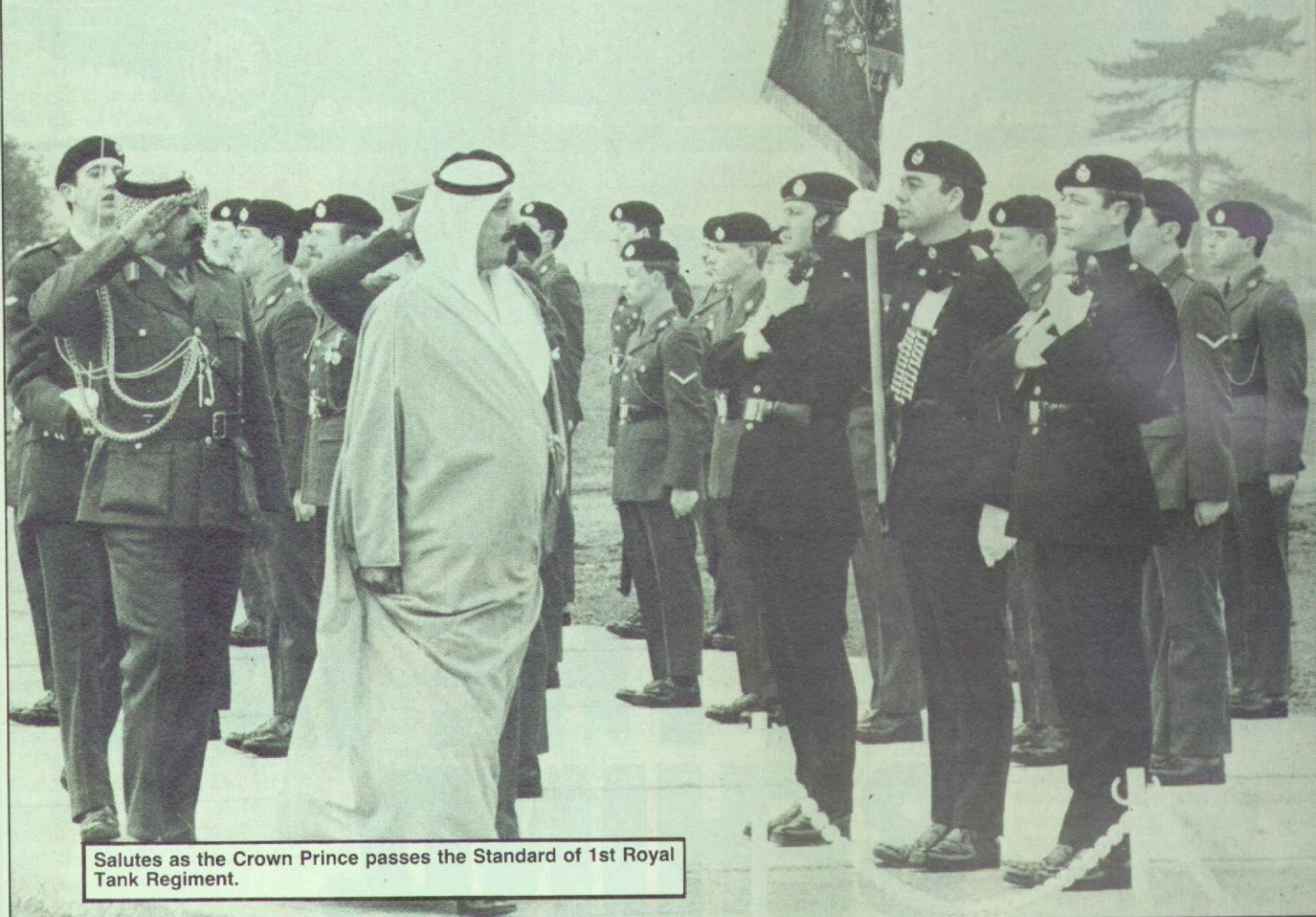
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A SHOW FIT FOR A PRINCE

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Les Wiggs



Salutes as the Crown Prince passes the Standard of 1st Royal Tank Regiment.



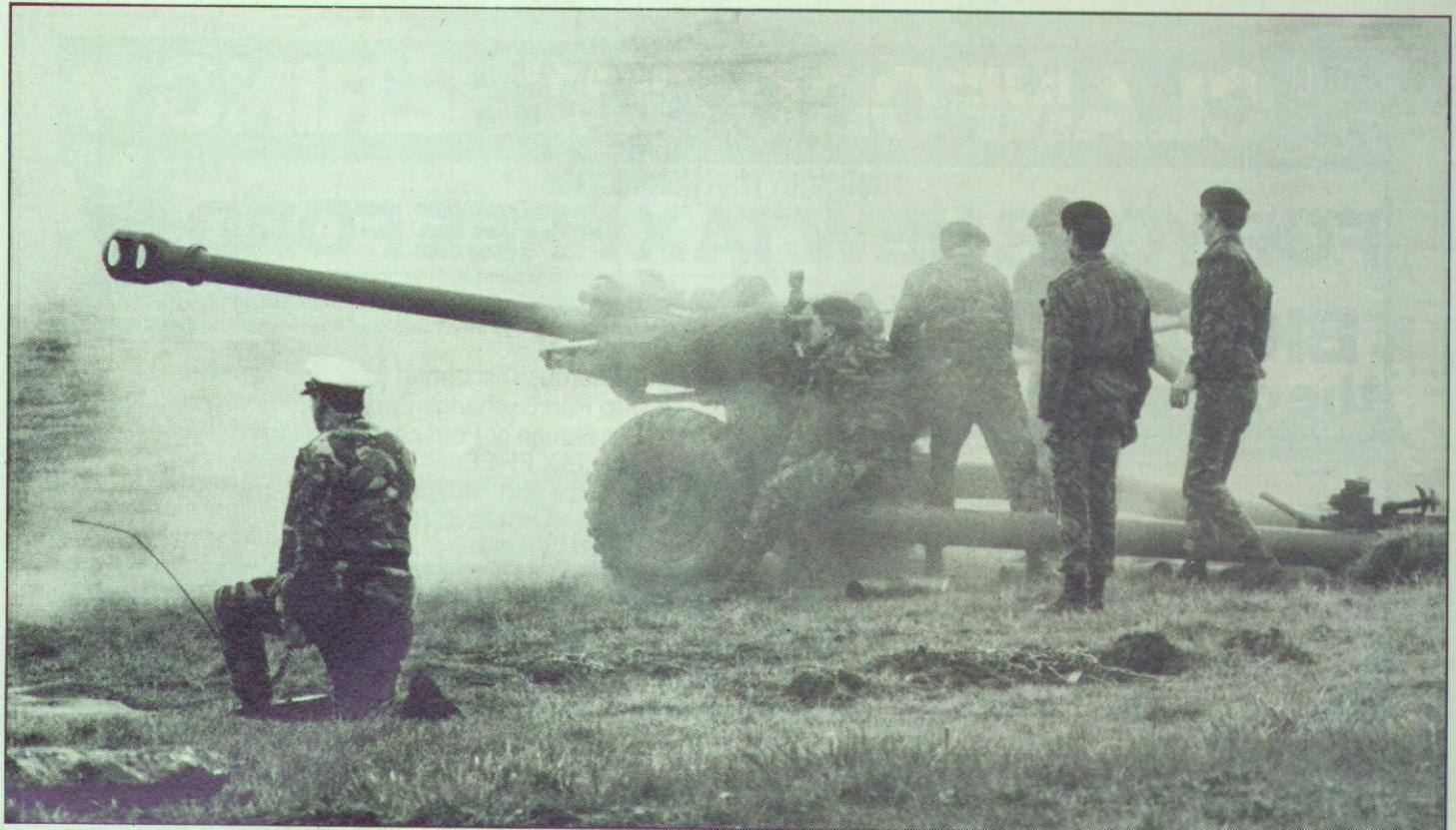
Challenger lays on an impressive firing display.

THE ROYAL Armoured Corps Centre's Lulworth Ranges have, from time to time, had their fair share of visiting Royalty. The latest was Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia who is not only Deputy Prime Minister of that desert kingdom but also Commander of its National Guard.

And a right royal treat was in store for him, too. A British Army-first.

Britain's latest main battle tank, the 60-tonne Challenger and middleweight partner of the battlefield, still under development, the 24-tonne MCV 80 (Mechanised Combat Vehicle) were live firing against target hulks with resounding success in their first public display in teamwork.

Ironically, one of the mobility displays was held at a location called Gallows Hill, an area not unknown to Lawrence of Arabia whose cottage is now a Museum



under National Trust auspices just 400 yards away.

Back on the firing line, two Challengers and a pair of MCV 80s loosed off their variety of high-powered, devastating shells against selected targets on the Bindon Ranges.

An RAF Puma flew in an underslung 105mm Light Gun which also showed what it could do.

Recording the events in a visit by Government invitation and not officially connected with any sales drive but co-incident with His Royal Highness's British visit were five TV crews — two of them American — and his own personal video camera-carrying PR executive.

In addition to firing their respective 120mm and 30mm main

armaments, the Challengers and the MCV 80s also pumped off rounds of 7.62mm machine gun ammunition — the MCV 80 has a Hughes Chain Gun — raking distant targets with marked effect in full view of the official viewing stand.

But the Middle East visitors were taking no chances with the weather. It had been drizzling and was bitterly cold. They borrowed ten city gent type furled black umbrellas for their day in Dorset.

Guard of Honour for the visit

Wreathed in smoke — the 105 Light Gun in action.

was mounted by men of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and the Saudi National Anthem was played by the regiment's Cambrai Band.

During his visit, the Crown Prince met six Saudi Arabian students on attachment to the British Army, one having chartered a Falcon jet to fly into nearby Hurn airport and three of them said to be princes in their own right!

Accompanying the Prince and

his entourage was Brigadier Rhoderick-Jones, Commander Royal Armoured Corps Centre. The 20-strong Saudi party lunched in the RAC Gunnery School Officers' Mess.

Another party had flown into Hurn airport by an Andover of the Queen's Flight while the ground approach to Lulworth had been in a 13-car convoy, including an eight-seater Daimler 'limo', and police motor cycle outriders.



Royal Air Force Puma shows its paces with the light gun.



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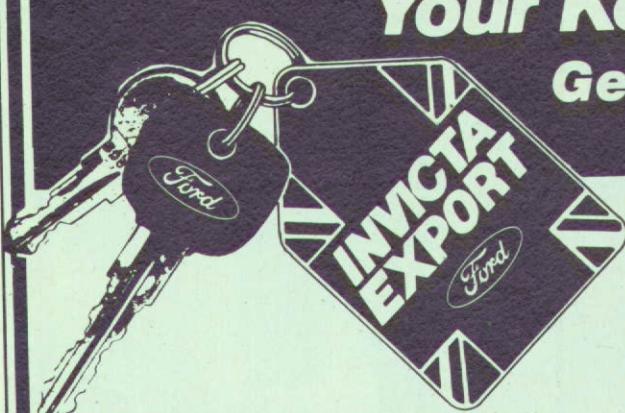
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No. 3

THE DE LISLE SILENCED CARBINE

fied SMLE rifles fitted with Tommy Gun barrels and Colt Model 1911 automatic pistol magazines, were used in commando raids on the French coast in late 1943, mainly for the noiseless disposal of sentries.

Delays caused by further trials and the end of the war in Europe resulted in the cancellation of proposed contracts and the number of carbines finally manufactured was only about 130.

They saw limited service in

Burma and the Malayan Emergency.

Weapon collectors should beware, for at least two fake versions of this rare carbine have been offered for sale in recent years.

COLLECTION

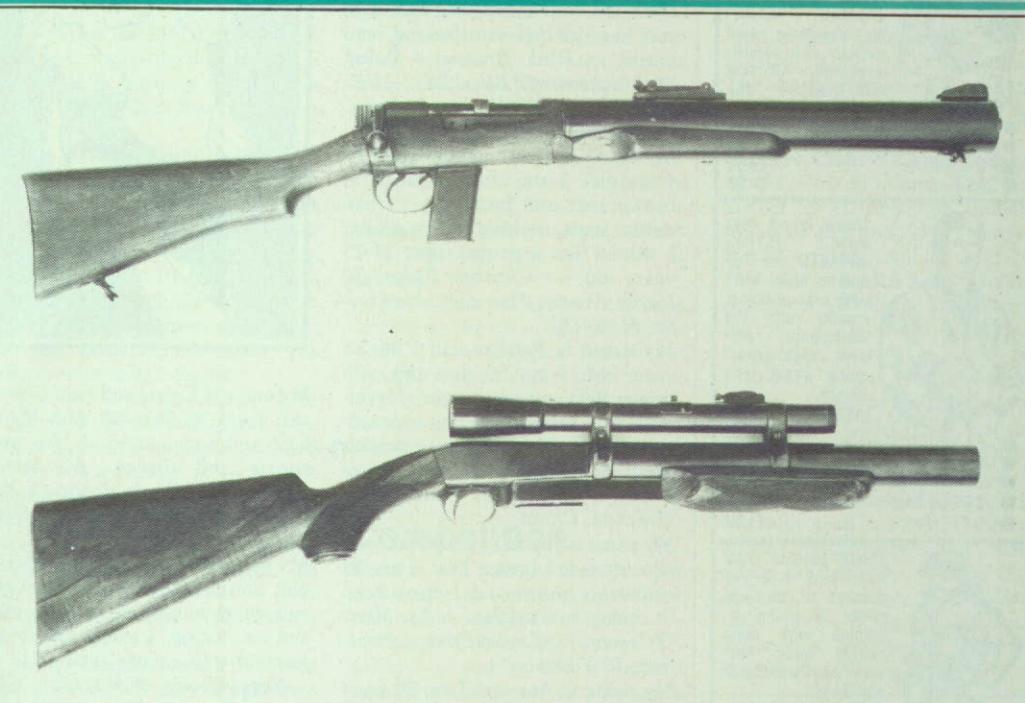
William Godfray de Lisle, a South African by birth, made his first silencers from tin cans to oblige his English school friends in 1921. The local police took a dim view of his efforts and although he retained a keen interest in firearms he did no more work on silencers until the early '40s when he was working for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

A patent for a silencer was granted him in 1943 when he fitted a prototype to a .22in Browning semi-automatic rifle.

Weapon trials among the rabbit warrens of Berkshire proved doubly satisfactory in view of the wartime shortage of meat.

The new weapon was demonstrated to Major Sir Malcolm Campbell at HQ Combined Operations, and more experiments followed with 9mm and .45in prototypes.

This second version was highly successful, and the first production arms, based on much modi-



TOP: .45in service version of the de Lisle silenced carbine. BOTTOM: .22in prototype.

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My name is Maria and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with blue eyes and brown hair. I like snooker, badminton, travelling, walking and photography. All letters answered.

— Maria Elliott, 16 Kingsley St, Battersea, London, SW11 5LE.

We are two friends who would like penpals. Paula is 20 years old, 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes and likes badminton, reading, and music. Janet is 23 years old, 5ft 10ins tall with brown hair and eyes and like driving, dressmaking, and music. — Paula Briatore, 4 Bishop St, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 1DR. Janet Storey, 81 Parklands Drive, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 2SZ.

My name is Christine and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I like music, sport, cooking and travelling. I would like a penpal aged 21-25 years old. — Christine Baker, 70 Haydn Avenue, Moss Side, Manchester, M14 4DE.

My name is Patricia and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. My interests are keep fit, dancing and reading. I would like to write to penpals aged 18-25 years old. — Patricia Evans, 4 Lake View, Borras Park, Wrexham, Clwyd.

My name is Joy and I am 6ft tall with blue eyes and brown hair. I am an ambulance driver and I enjoy keep fit, music and writing. — Joy Marie O'Connor, 11a Linden Terrace, Pontefract, W Yorkshire.

My name is Ann and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. My interests include most music. — Ann Kiriley, 39 Avondale Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9NA.

My name is Jodi and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies include reading, writing, cooking, darts and swimming. — Jodi Hanson, 22 Trotters Lane, Hill Top, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 2QE.

Again we ask readers seeking pen pals to note that in future their requests will only be accepted if they have completed the printed form below.

It is necessary to introduce this new system to help our staff cope with increasing numbers of requests. Those already in stock will be published but anyone writing in from now on will be asked to resubmit details on this form. Only completed forms from the magazine will be accepted (no photocopies please). The form will be published frequently and as regularly as space will allow.

There is still a backlog of letters which will steadily reduce over the coming months. So, if your letter has not yet appeared, take heart ... it will eventually!

PEN PALS WANTED



My name is Lorna and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with black hair and brown eyes. My interests are travelling, sport, music and meeting people. I would like a penpal aged 28-40 years old. — Lorna Morris, Flat 5, 76 Wood End Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, B24 8AN.

I am 27 years old with brown hair and blue eyes and I am 5ft 11ins tall. My interests include knitting, sewing, cooking and going out for a meal or to the pictures. — E Johnson, 22 Bakewell Drive, Top Valley, Nottingham.

My name is Doreen and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. I enjoy sports and reading and would like to hear from anyone aged 19-22 years old. All letters answered. — Doreen Carpenter, 2 Becketts Grove Cottage, Sophurst Lane, Matfield, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 7LH.

My name is Carol and I am 32 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair and green eyes. I like music and watching films. All letters answered. — Carol Kirk, 46 Mulberry Court, 6 Langthorne Road, Leytonstone, London E11.

My name is Diane and I am 22 years old. I have a variety of interests and would like a penpal aged 25-plus, preferably a para. — Diane Taylor, 70 Pool Hayes Lane, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4PY.

My name is Virginia and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I like the countryside, animals, horse-riding, swimming, art and karate. I would like a penpal in the same age group. — Virginia Lee, 4 Southlands Avenue, Orpington, Kent.

My name is Hilary and I am 22 years old. I am tall with auburn hair and I enjoy pool, winemaking, writing letters and collecting foreign T-shirts. I would like penpals aged 22-26 years old. — Hilary Smith, 9 Richmond Terrace, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 3DE.

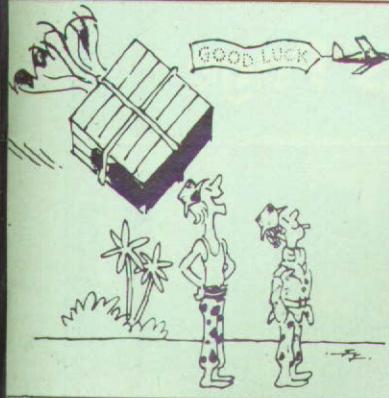
My name is Tracey and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. I would like penpals aged 19-21 years old. Photos if possible. — Tracey Kent, 101 Britannia Drive, Grantham, Lincs.

My name is Helen and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like writing letters, travelling and cooking and would like penpals aged 19-25 years old. All letters answered. — Helen Chapman, 621 Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS7 2NA.

REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN-PALS

Name: _____	Address: _____
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MAIL DROP



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

TREASURED . . .

I am sure readers of SOLDIER Magazine would agree that the traditional dress of Corps of Drums and Regimental Bands of the British Army must be upheld. It is for this reason I wrote to the Ministry of Defence in reference to the issue of police helmets to the Corps of Drums and Bands as a poor substitute for the proper Home Service helmet.

Police-type helmets have been worn in Regimental Bands for some time now, but present-day police helmets are not the same as the pre-1914 blue cloth army helmet and the effect is more like a policeman wearing a red tunic.

In fact, it could be the reason why so many battalions have taken to wearing two chains on the helmet, in a subconscious effort to make themselves look less like policemen in red tunics!

The difference in the military version is more close fitting and is without the outward flare at the lower side edges. This enables the chain when worn under the chin to be attached to the hooks provided for the purpose on the outside of the helmet. Also it is much more smarter and soldier-like.

I have been told by the Ministry of Defence that there is a very good chance the Home Service helmet will once again be worn by Corps of Drums and Bands of regiments (TA please also take note).

While on the subject of keeping traditional dress in regiments, I must mention the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, who have recently discarded their old (quite correct) Drummers tunics and bought new 'rank and file' tunics and green police helmets.

This is an absolute disaster, owing more to someone's imagination than to any Dress Regulations (very American). There is a lot to learn from The Royal Green Jackets who have kept alive the traditions of their predecessor regiments very well.

The traditions of regiments in the British Army are unique and are the envy of other armies of the world, all the more reason why they must be treasured as such. Substitution must not be allowed to break these traditions even with police helmets.

Let us hope now that all Corps of Drums and Bands, of the appropriate regiments, will in the near future be wearing the proper Home Service helmet. — D J Macleod, Beechcroft Place, Lancing, Sussex.

OLD .303

Your letter in SOLDIER of 28 November suggesting that the SMLE Enfield with bayonet be used for ceremonial parades has caused this letter.

Here in South Africa that is done. The State President's Guard, a unit used for Guards of Honour for the President of South Africa, whether in Pretoria, Cape Town or some special place. The shako is blue felt with gold binding, the plume black ostrich feather, tunic grey-green with orange gold lace along the outer seam. The officers wear only a dagger.

With our National Service (Conscription) we are so used to seeing the locally made rifle similar to that used by the Guards that it came as a surprise to see the old .303 at a huge military parade in Pretoria a short while ago. I knew the .303 at school, Territorials, then in Rhodesia, but once in the SA Air Force we were issued with another type just for home aerodrome guard.

The SP Guard is formed by picked men in the call-up, lads straight from school for two years, and in it they usually do duty on the Angolan border in SW Africa, then yearly two week camps for (I think) ten years.

Little ceremonial drill is done, but emphasis on guerilla warfare against SWAPO.

Until some while back the units were issued with a jacket, tie and trousers, shoes for 'walking-out' and ceremonial, but now that is no longer issued. They wear all the time a beret (or helmet), open-neck shirt and trousers and boots.

Not like your grand band uniforms and those of the Guards. A welcome change is that of the few Scottish units — Transvaal Scottish, Cape Town Highlanders — with kilt and claymore. — M B S Laing, 62 Brebner Road, Bloemfontein 9301, South Africa.

TOO FLIMSY

I was interested to read the comments on my article on the SMLE Mk III rifle. The remarks are groundless. The proposed rifle is unsoldierproof and unserviceable. It is too flimsy and highly prone to damage.

The Armed Services on ceremonial parades and major functions are now poles apart. The days of traditional warfare are over. You cannot fight wars on outdated traditions.

In the Second World War I could never understand why the British Army and the US Army did not both have the Garand rifle which was semi-automatic. The buttress rifle is not new; I believe the Japanese had them in WWII. They even discarded rifle and bayonet. So did the Army and the Home Guard; we only used rifles for sniping.

The German infantry usually had sub-machine guns and hand grenades in action, in street fighting, also village and wood fighting. There was a short version of the Enfield Rifle issued at the end of World War 2 in the Far East and also in Malaya. But it was never general issue.

I have seen photographs of land regiments with lances on ceremonial parades. Also cavalry regiments carrying sabres. So why not the old Enfield Rifle Mk III SMLE? Plus the sword bayonet. For all major ceremonial parades and guard mounting for all Regular and Reserve Forces.

It worked better for trooping the colour. The SLR and the sub-machine gun look grotesque; after all it is not what they are for, in all fairness.

The officers of all services carry swords on parade so why not the old SMLE. The German, French and Swedish Armed Forces used the old rifle on major ceremonial functions, so why not the British? — Peter T Stevenson, 57 Primley Park Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds LS17 7HY.

Competition

Readers will have noticed the non-appearance of competition, and this time we are without one again.

This is due to the illness of a member of staff — and we hope to resume normal service as soon as possible.

* * *

The answer to competition number 334 "Outward Bound", in which you were asked to find two celestial objects, were:

A — ALDEBARAN (a star)

B — ANDROMEDA (a constellation)

The clues should have led you to the following

ATHABASCA
LAUNCESTON
DUNNETHEAD
ECUADOR
BORNEO
ARNHEM
RIOGRANDE
AUCKLAND
NEBRASKA

Reading downwards, the first letters of each word, reading downwards, gives you ALDEBARAN and the last letters of each word, again downwards, brings ANDROMEDA. Winners:

1st Miss A Stacey, 13 Humber Way, Donnington, Telford, Salop. 2nd M Chappell, 77 The Grove, Hipperholme, Halifax, HX3 8JN. 3rd M V Prior, 9 Stockers Brow, Rodmersham, Sittingbourne, Kent. 4th E Gaukroger, 1 Clare St, Halifax, W Yorks, HX1 2LF. 5th R Postans, 122 Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 1LS.

* * *

Our compiler hits back on the controversy (SOLDIER 27 February) about the correct spelling of the real names of famous stars of stage and screen.

"There were no errors on our part", he says, "The errors were in the minds of the competitors who, because they thought they were right, thought we were wrong".

Reunions

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) London Branch Association annual reunion will be held on Saturday 5 May 1984 at the Carisbrook Hall, The Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London, W2 2HF. Details from: Hon Secretary, Mr J L Foreman, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

The Loyal Regiment Association reunion dinner, Saturday 2 June 1984 at the Masonic Hall, Saul St, Preston. Apply to: The Secretary, The Loyal Regiment Association, Fulwood Bks, Preston, PR2 4AA. Tel: Preston 709846.

Fiddlers Club: By kind permission of the Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery, the annual reunion of the pre-1939 Trumpeters Royal Artillery, will be held 20/21 July 1984 in the RA Mess, The Royal School of Artillery. Details from: Major J J Dobbs, 5 Glynswood, Camberley, Surrey.

13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO) reunion. Saturday evening 5 May 1984 at Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London. Plus usual Paxtons' Head Meet (Knightsbridge — opp barracks) on Cavalry Sunday (6 May 84) from noon onwards. All serving or ex-Lilywhites welcome. Southerners can recce by phoning 01-857 2641 most evenings. Tickets/details from: Major E Garbutt, Secretary, Regimental Association, OC HHQ, Imphal Bks, York.

Can You Help?

I am hoping to return to Normandy in June for the 40th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. I was in Major Howard's glider which landed at Pegasus Bridge on 6 June ('D' Company, 25 Platoon, Oxford and Bucks) and over the years have lost contact with friends made in the 6th Airborne Landing Brigade. I would be interested to know of others likely to be making the pilgrimage in the hope of arranging a small reunion of our own at the Bar across Pegasus Bridge. — T G Packwood, 33 Braemar Rise, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3QD.

I would love to contact my old pals from National Service days again, 1951/52, but have no addresses. We were in 51/24 HAA Regt RA stationed at RA Barracks, Sheerness, Kent. I was a Dispatch Rider in those days and home was Plush, near Piddletrenthide. — John Kellaway, 23 Cocklands, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 9QE.

Ex-Private Bob Brimson and ex-Private Fred Truman, Royal Warwickshire Regiment 1955 would like to contact Private Reg Chapman of Cambridgeshire Platoon, Royal Warwick. — Mr R Brimson, 17 Greenham Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham.

How Observant Are You?

1. Lower button on girl's dress.
2. Soldier's right thumbnail.
3. Soldier's tie.
4. Cord behind cook's collar.
5. Base of cook's pan.
6. Soldier's cap badge.
7. Girl's hair lines.
8. Girl's belt buckle.
9. Length of soldier's tray.
10. Soldier's sideburn.

2 Para's Battle Progress

TO IMPLY that any one unit emerged from the Falklands campaign with a more heroic record than any other would be as unforgivable as to suggest that such hard-earned kudos was merely media created, but there can be little doubt that the exploits of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, caught the imagination of the general public.

Major General John Frost's excellent book "2 Para — Falklands" is a remarkably detailed and very frank history of 2 Para's role in the Falklands, beginning with their embarkation on the P&O ferry *Norland*, following them through the landing at San Carlos, the tough fighting around Darwin and Goose Green, the advance across country, the final battle at Wireless Ridge, and the victorious entry into Port Stanley.

It's a book that functions on several levels; although written by General Frost, who commanded the battalion at Arnhem in World War 2, the book acknowledges very close association with an officer of 2 Para, for it provides not only a very clear insight into the campaign itself, but also an insider's view of a modern British fighting unit, in action under particularly difficult circumstances.

For a battalion popularly believed to be a faceless fighting machine, the personality of individual soldiers comes across surprisingly well, the hardships of the campaign, from inadequate footwear to unexpectedly determined Argentine resistance, offset by a wry humour.

The account of the actions at Goose Green and Darwin, and the circumstances which led to the tragic death of the Battalion's CO, Colonel 'H' Jones, whilst leading an attack on Argentine trenches, is painfully, precisely detailed, and backed up by a summary from the Brigade Log.

In any combat situation, there are bound to be snags, but the author's honesty elevates this book above the common run of Falklands titles, and makes it not only revealing but compelling and essential reading. — IJK
Buchan and Enright Ltd., 53 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1BE. £7.95



FALKLANDS 2: The John Smith Diary

THE PLETHORA of books on the Falklands will no doubt continue to grow — but one which deserves special attention is "74 Day", sub-titled "An Islander's Diary of the Falklands Occupation".

Understandably the military actions will continue to be chewed over by specialists for years to come but too few books have so far looked in any depth at the sufferings of the Islands population.

The diary of John Smith appeared in a national newspaper soon after the last Argentines had been taken back whence they came, but now we have the longer version in hardback, truly for posterity.

People who know John Smith — and this number increases with the arrival in Stanley of every Hercules and ship — will recognise the character of the man in the first few lines as he talks with pride of his family and friends.

Modest, perceptive and friendly, John Smith's diary reflects the man and is a straightforward account of 74 heart-rending and frightening days for the people in Stanley. There are many facets to

John, who first saw the Falklands in 1957 and settled there in 1960. He runs the Sparrow Hawk Guest House, has served on the Executive and Legislative councils, writer, artist, historian

Perhaps it was the latter — his knowledge of maritime history is tremendous — which persuaded him to commit his thoughts to paper every day during the occupation. Even when the British troops were closing on Stanley and the panicking Argentines forced him to leave his home and carefully constructed dug-out, John's quick thinking in a chaotic situation led him to hide the pages in numerous places. Just in case there was a search.

It is very much a record. Day 19 for example: "Cool, dull, windy and wet. Reports of more Argentine deaths from exposure during the night; numbers vary from three to 10."

Day 22 and a trip to the library . . . "it gave us a fright, as we opened the town hall door, to have a soldier pointing his gun at us. I think we may have given him a bit of a fright as well . . . we deliberately made a bit of a clatter as we were going out so as not to alarm the guard again; he really did look awfully young and nervous."

And on Day 69 the security police paid him a visit — "rather like the sort of things you read about in books but never expect to happen to you . . . I imagine

For everyone the war is over — a SOLDIER flashback to the after-battle scene in Port Stanley as men of 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment guard Argentine prisoners waiting to start the journey home. Photo by SOLDIER staff man Paul Haley.

they may be looking for British Special Forces in local houses. No luck here I'm afraid; it's a cross between a lunatic asylum and a zoo."

When it was all over, there was the joy of seeing the Union Flag restored to Government House: "A terrible price has been paid to get it back there. It makes one feel very humble to realise this whole conflict has been for the freedom of the tiny population of these islands. We are deeply thankful."

It is all here, from disbelief and shock with the invasion; the coming to terms with foreign oppression — even in the Islanders' defiance there are humanitarian thoughts for the hapless conscripts, and for the more-experienced Argentines known to the locals from pre-invasion days. Then, of course, the dreadful noise of the final days and the glorious arrival of British troops.

There is little doubt this chronicle will be enjoyed by the general public, for there still aren't many people around — thankfully — who can claim to be British and to have suffered invasion! For historians of the future it will be invaluable. — PMH.

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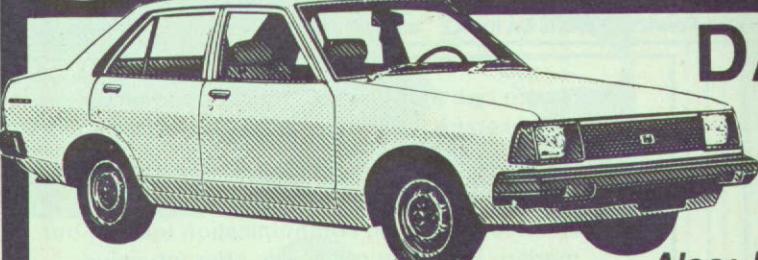
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COMBINED SERVICES BOXING

FISTIC FIVE GO THROUGH

But Navy salvage some lost pride

Report: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs

FIVE ARMY BOXERS moved on to the ABA quarter finals after victories in this year's Combined Services Individual Championships — three more than last year's tally. But the Royal Navy, beaten at Aldershot in the team championships a fortnight earlier, staged a strong comeback to take seven titles. The luckless RAF had only one finalist — and he was poleaxed by Irish Guardsman Denis Bailey.

The night opened with two Army wins in special contests. Sapper Mick Brown from Army Apprentices College Chepstow, who is Combined Services Under-19 featherweight champion, floored his Navy opponent and "Poacher" Private Kevin Leech got the unanimous verdict in an all action lightweight bout with another sailor.

The Army collected its first title without a fist being thrown — 17-year-old Apprentice Tradesman John McLean (AAC Chepstow) was given a walkover in the flyweight class.

Bantamweight Sapper Keith Howlett (26 Engineer Regiment) had gone down on points at Aldershot against Marine M Slater. Slater is a fast worker and Howlett worked hard to crowd him throughout the contest. But a standing count in the third round meant that any chance of snatching a points victory had gone.

Marine Colin Day, a tough resilient character, came out for vengeance in his featherweight clash with Craftsman Dave Oag (60 Squadron RCT). Once again it was a bruising battle but Day remorselessly soaked up what Oag had to offer and after two standing counts in the final round Oag was finally knocked down and counted out.

Signalman Eddie Gajny (207

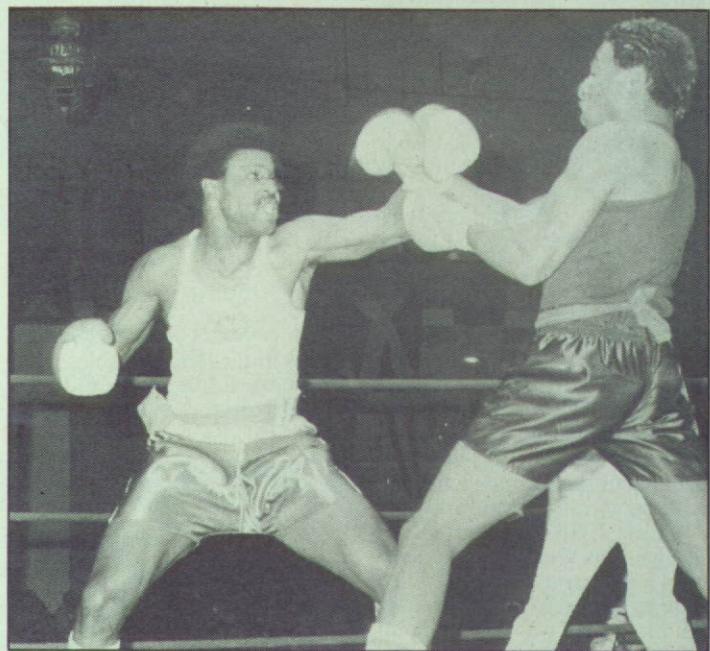
Signal Squadron) and Private Carl Crook had swapped weights and opponents from the Aldershot encounter. Gajny at lightweight suffered from the change for he came up against the talented Young England fighter, MEM Brian Kearney.

Kearney had been put away by Crook but he coped well with Gajny's aggression and at the start of the third round a doctor examined a cut above Gajny's left eye and called a halt. Gajny, an ABA finalist as far back as 1978, was upset at the decision but sportingly congratulated the young sailor.

Crook, who must be in with an ABA title chance this year, clinically dissected Marine David Robb to take his third Combined Services crown. At the end of the first round he put Robb down with a left uppercut and the Marine was counted out.

Welsh Guardsman Dean Hunt at 18 can claim to be the man who ended the Services boxing career of the wily former England captain, Able Seaman Wayne Green. Green got the decision at Aldershot but did not appear in these championships and has said he has retired.

This left the way open for Hunt to take the Services welterweight title. A hardhitting southpaw he handled his game naval opponent, WEM Mandley with



Miles launches ferocious assault on hapless giant.

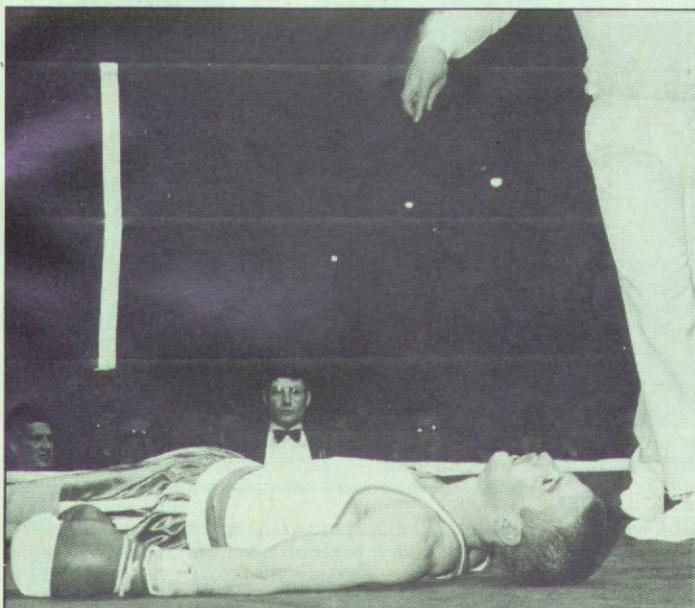


Bailey destroys RAF 'Iron Man'.

giantly giant rushed at him but superb crisp punching saw a standing count of eight before the Navy trainer threw in the towel after only two minutes 15 seconds.

Thus McLean, Crook, Hunt, Bailey and Miles move on to the next stage — also at Portsmouth. And Staff-Sergeant Mick Gannon, the Army trainer, must secretly feel that he has a more than even chance of having an ABA champion in his squad next season.

The Army has won the Inter-Services hockey title for the first time in eight years. In the Festival at Aldershot they beat the Royal Air Force, winners for the last four years 4-2 having already defeated the Royal Navy 2-1.



End of a Hard Day's Night for Oag.

With two victories over Rawlins already Miles was in no mood to hang about. The un-

QUINNEY TAKES CROWN

A new Mens Singles champion emerged at this year's Army Badminton Championships when Corporal Adrian Quinney beat Sergeant Kevin Weaver 13-15, 15-7, 17-15. Both men are in the Royal Army Pay Corps which hosted the Championships at Worthy Down.

In the first game Quinney took a commanding lead of 10-1 but a great effort from Weaver brought them level at 13 all. At 14-13 to Weaver, he fell and clearly hurt his already injured and bandaged leg but went on to win the next point and the game.

After that Weaver appeared to lose confidence for a while and Quinney had him on the run throughout the second game particularly with his drop shots.

It was "Even Stephen" in the final game as Weaver played with more verve and purpose. They went to set at 14 all but it was Quinney who was able to pull ahead and clinch the match.

These two contestants later met and played together in the Mens Open Doubles against the defending champions, Warrant Officers 2 Graham Orszewski and Mike Feehily. Playing for the SOLDIER Magazine Cup, the four men were all quite evenly matched with the first game going back and forth until

Orszewski and Feehily snatched the advantage when it really counted. They lost the next 12-15 but fairly easily took the final game 14-8 from their tiring opponents.

The supreme ladies player this year was once again Lance-Corporal Judith Haynes who had no difficulty whatsoever in dispatching her opponent in the Ladies Singles Final, Corporal Veada Walker in just two games 11-6, 11-7.

This year's winners in the Mens Inter-Unit Doubles were Corporals Eddie Smith and John Pollard of the Junior Leaders Regiment, RCT.



Lance-Corporal Haynes — successful defence.



New king of the shuttlecock — Corporal Adrian Quinney.

PADDLERS PIPPED

The Army were beaten by a single point by the RAF in this year's Inter-Services Wild Water Trophy on the River Nith in Dumfries.

The RAF winners totalled 21 points with the Royal Navy a long way behind on 75.

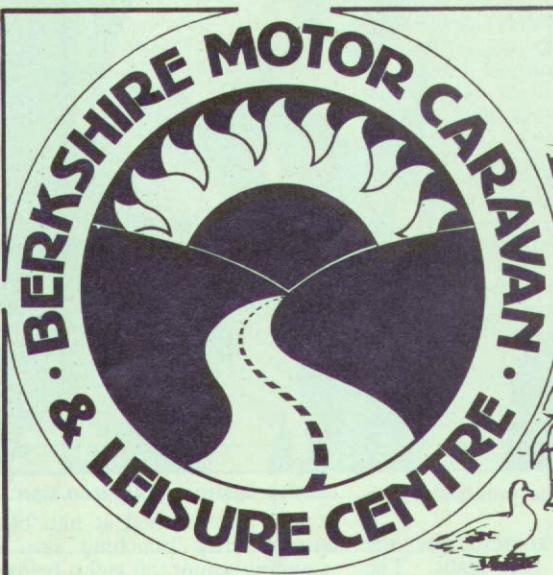
On the first day, which was bitterly cold, the Army won the Canadian canoe event thanks to WO Stan Richmond REME, Sergeant Dobson Royal Signals and Corporal Geoff Page ACC. In another event WRAC Sergeant Coley, despite capsizing four times, battled to the finish.

Sunday was warmer but overnight rain had made the river rise so the course was faster and rougher.

In the individual events the Army's C paddlers again proved their worth.

Richmond won the C1 event and with Staff-Sergeant Neil Martin ACC took the C2 award. In the K1 event Corporal John Speck REME, an international marathon paddler, came second.

So close was the scoring of the championship weekend that the winners were not known until the very last race of the competition.

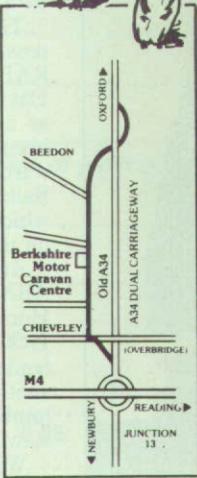


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RUGBY

NAVY BLUE

Peter Howard at Twickenham

The Army began defence of the Inter-Service Rugby Union Championship with a fine 13-6 victory over the Royal Navy at Twickenham to capture the Stewart Wrightson trophy for the third successive year.

It was a triumph for organisation and discipline rather than flair. The Senior Service were exciting and adventurous and in the second half must have won the admiration of the neutrals — of whom there are never many at Headquarters for this fixture. The uncommitted have no place at Twickenham for this annual affair and if you are not Army or Navy it is rather like being at a Rangers-Celtic or Liverpool-Everton clash . . . if you aren't fiercely 'pro' you have the distinct feeling this has nothing to do with you!

However, there was much to enjoy for everyone. Particularly the way the Army overcame the early loss of their captain, Captain Peter Warfield, RAEC, who suffered a cut head and concussion in the third minute. He was taken off, bravely came back after eight minutes and followers of the men in red found their hearts sinking when he was led

COLTS TOO

The same morning the Army Colts beat the Royal Navy Colts 9-6 in a thrilling match at Aldershot. The Army points came in the first half from three well struck penalty goals by AT Ian Beattie RAPC Apprentices College.

After the turn-round the Army came under pressure and the Navy dropped a fine goal and kicked a penalty. But in the final stages the Army again dominated and did everything but score.

Previously the Colts had beaten Orrell 22-0 and won a hard game with Birkenhead Park 7-4.

off for good after 27 minutes — five minutes after the Navy had come back from a 6-0 deficit to level matters.

With the Army playing against the troublesome wind, here surely was the chance for Navy blues to take over against demoralised opposition. Demoralised? Anything but . . .

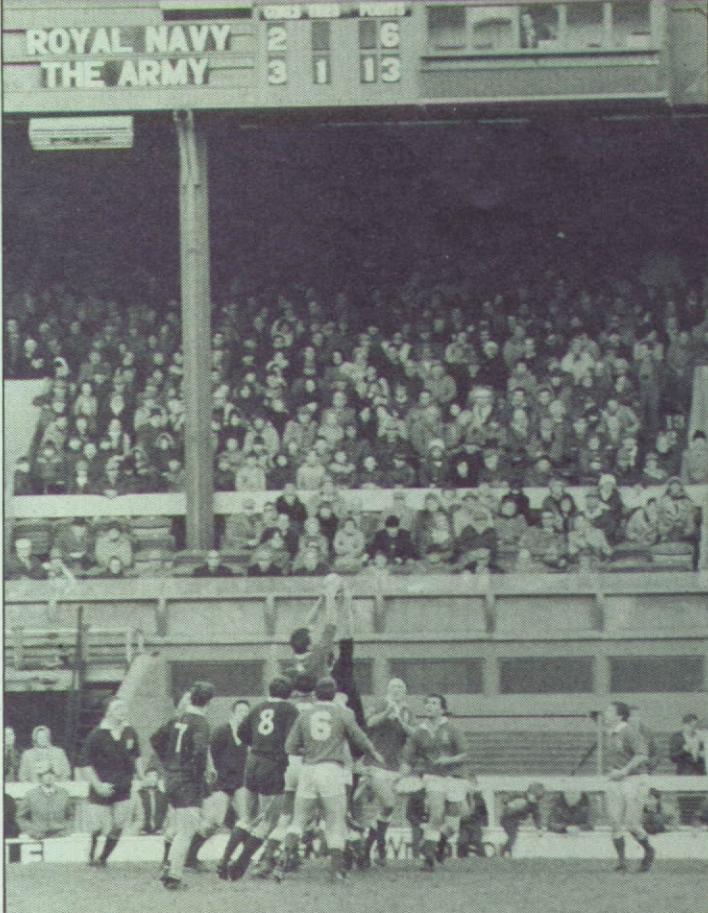
Corporal Peter Lockitt REME came on as replacement and Capt Warfield would have been as pleased as anyone on leaving hospital the following day to hear and read how well his stand-in and the team did. The Army just refused to be rattled and their inspiration was undoubtedly scrum half Sergeant Gareth Davies, brilliant in defence and attack.

The game was just six minutes old when stand-off Lieutenant Geoffrey Nield dropped a crafty goal — adding a penalty four minutes later.

Navy full back Leading Air Electrical Mechanic Robert Henderson and stand-off Marine Stephen Barnett levelled the scores with penalties (11 and 22 minutes) and towards the end of the half magnificent covering stopped them making further progress.

Yet in the dying seconds of the half, and against the run of play, surging and determined work by the Army pack forced the Navy back and Davies gleefully accepted the chance to grab the only try of the game and a 10-6 half time lead.

The only further score, midway through the second half, was a Nield penalty sickening the Navy who had tried valiantly to get back on terms, their suppor-



ters being delighted with attempts to run penalties rather than risk kicks against the wind.

Several times the Navy blues moved the ball magnificently across the field. Good stuff to watch, but the stout red line refused to be impressed, let alone moved off course and in terms of territorial gain the Navy frequently found themselves further back than where they began! They had so much of the ball,

and achieved so little with it.

An excellent team performance by the Army, a tactical triumph in every sense.

One ugly incident apart — behind the referee's back and over in a flash — the match with long traditions was a good advert for the game.

Before the match each service received £3,000 from sponsors Stewart Wrightson — double last year's figure.



Determination shows in every face — and Army forwards (white shorts) win this line-out struggle.

Army RFU secretary Lieutenant Colonel Pat Dawson was obviously delighted with the Army victory at Twickenham — his last in an official capacity, because he retires in January next year.

His first match as secretary, in 1972, saw the Army win 13-3 but then followed a bleak spell with the old rivals winning five of the next six.

Since then the Navy have taken something of a back seat and the latest Army

triumph means that in Colonel Dawson's term each side has won six with one drawn.

"It was a splendid way to finish my involvement", says the man who still has nearly a year to run before his services are lost to Army rugby.

Though someone else will take over as secretary, Colonel Dawson will still be at Twickenham next year, cheering the Army on. There are some things in life you just don't miss!



Perhaps it was the tonic of new kit which helped the Army overcome the Royal Navy at Twickenham — and Captain Peter Warfield is pictured with another familiar face . . . Fran Cotton of England and British Lions fame.

Fran, UK marketing manager of Bukta Ltd., presented the new strip on behalf of PME Ltd, who donated it as a thank you for the support they have received from the Forces.

Director Andrew Cartwright, a TA Gunner officer, explained that PME is almost a cottage industry with strong Service or ex-Service involvement.

TUGETHERNESS!



The Sussex Gunners get into their stride to see off all comers.

WITH EFFORTLESS SUPERIORITY 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery from Dortmund walked away with both titles in this year's Army Indoor Tug-of-War championships at Aldershot. The Sussex Gunners are already outdoor title holders and have not lost an end in competition this year.

In the 560 kilos section the Dortmund team easily disposed of all their opponents including the surprise finalists, Central Vehicle Depot Ashchurch.

Last year 26 Field went down in the 640 kilos final to Rheindahlen Garrison and they were determined to make amends. They emerged top of their pool and only a plucky display by 4 UDR prevented an all gunner line-up for the semi-finals.

The part-timers from Eniskillen twice looked down and out against 40 Field Regiment RA but to tremendous applause they recovered each time to win the tie in two straight pulls.

Their delighted manager, WO 1 Alec Hall, told SOLDIER that his team of part-time soldiers included farmers and bus drivers: "Last year we finished eighth and we just did not know how well we would do this time. Against 40 Field we did it by holding on and waiting to see if they weakened — which they did. Our team have only one night a week to practise because the rest of the time they have to do their patrolling which is of far more importance."

However 4 UDR did not last long in the semi-finals against 26 Field. The second semi-final was a closer contest with 1 Royal Horse Artillery finally proving too strong for 25 Field Regiment RA.

The final emerged as a bit of an anti-climax — each of the two pulls lasting 13 seconds as the Sussex Gunners roared to their second championship of the day.

The man behind their current dominance of the Army tug-of-war scene is coach, Bombardier Des Goodman. He said afterwards that his current team was even better than last year's. "There have been some changes and I have a bit more experience in them than I had last year" he added.

Captain Ray Newall, the Regiment's Tug-of-War officer, declared: "In every regiment there

is the potential to do well but you need a leader. Bombardier Goodman is the best coach in Her Majesty's Forces."

Once again Gunners dominated the competition and only one infantry team appeared in the event. The Sussex Gunners hope to continue their run after they move back to Thorney Island in their own county in September.

TA CUP

CELTIC CLASH



Goodman — 20 years in Tug-of-War and architect of success.

The Irish will meet the Scots in this year's TA Soccer Cup Final. In one of the semi-finals C Coy 4 Royal Irish Rangers, surprise giantkillers in the previous round, proved too strong for Plymouth based 232 Squadron RCT(V) and won 3-0.

The other semi-final was a closer encounter. At half time HQ 15 (S) Para Battalion (V) from Glasgow were drawing 1-1 with 119 Recovery Company REME (V) from Prestatyn, North Wales. But early in the second half the Scots added two goals with the Welsh side getting a consolation goal before the final whistle. The final will be held at Redford Barracks Edinburgh on Sunday 1 April.

SOCCER ROUND-UP

MADBATH

Cornwall 1

Army 2

On a mudheap and with a downpour throughout the Army never let the game slip after Private Darren Scott RRF rocketed them into the lead after only 48 seconds. Corporal Rudi Fleming REME almost headed a second after six minutes and both sides failed to convert good chances during an evenly contested opening half.

Lance-Corporal Kevin Parkins RCT had two chances within minutes of the restart. The first he shot wide and on the second he slipped up. Lance-Corporal Steve Butler also had a number of chances but squandered them.

Lance-Corporal Sandy Brown Royal Signals, the Army skipper, finally prompted the move which gave Fleming the opening to outrun the defence and shoot home from 25 yards. With only five minutes left the Army defence relaxed and paid the penalty with a Cornish goal.

INEXPERIENCE SHOWS

An Army XI 1

English Fire Services 2

The Army fielded an inexperienced side with only one of their Combined Services septet playing from the start. Yet this was a match they should have won. They were given a lesson in finishing and paid the price for frittering away chances.

The Army took the lead after 19 minutes when Lance-Corporal Mickey Spencer REME rounded the defence and flung over a perfect cross to Lance-Corporal Dan Daly, who headed home. On the half hour the Fire Service equalised through slack defensive work.

The visitors went ahead early in the second half and the Army were unable to pull level again despite a lot of chances. But the six newcomers to the Army side will benefit from the experience.

SCRUMPED

Somerset & Avon 0

Army 1

The Army brought off an unexpected away win over the county side which has dominated the South West Championships for the past four years. Following on the win over Cornwall only Gloucestershire stands in the path o' an Army appearance in the championship play-off.

Features of the opening half were the speedy and intelligent running down the right flank of Corporal Kevin Parkins RCT and the commanding control of the Army defence exercised by new goalkeeping find, Signaller Lance Netherton.

The Army goal came early in the second half when Lance-Corporal Steve Butler created the chance for Parkins to fire into the net. Later in the half Butler was foiled by a remarkable save and the home side mounted a final assault with which the Army defence coped comfortably.



2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. The battle for Goose Green — detail from painting by David Cobb

SOLDIER

