

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 6-19 SEPTEMBER 1982

SOLDIER



• QA_s INTO BATTLE
• 50 YEARS OF BLESMA

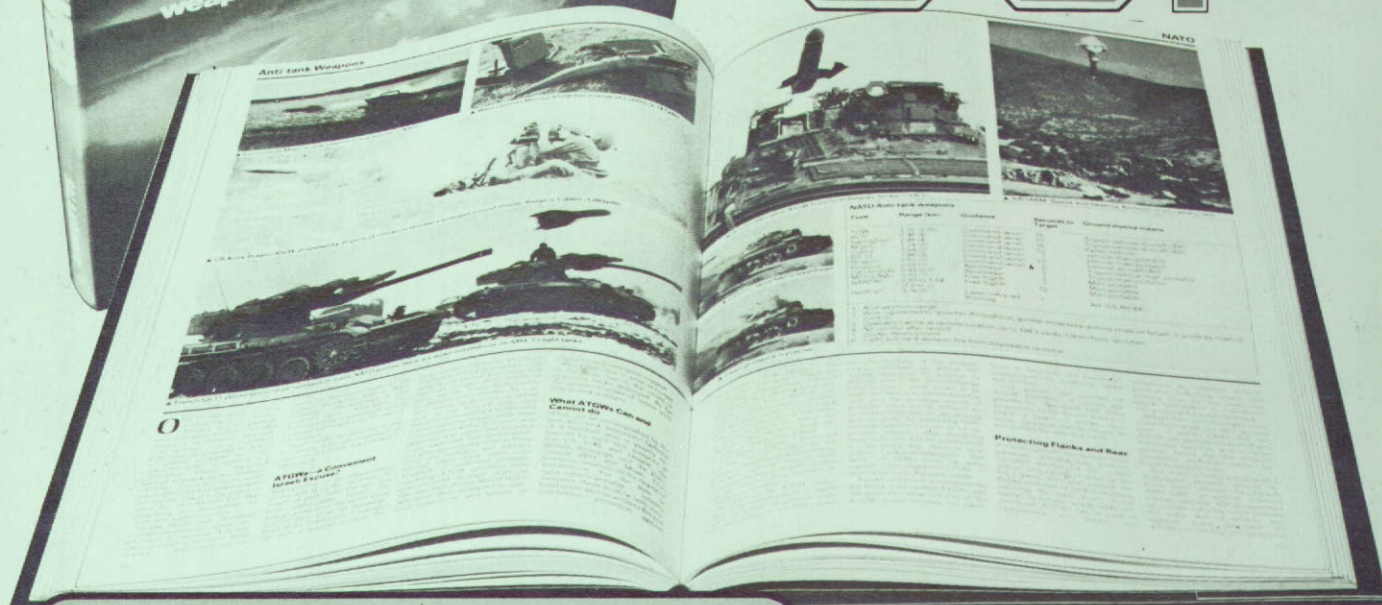
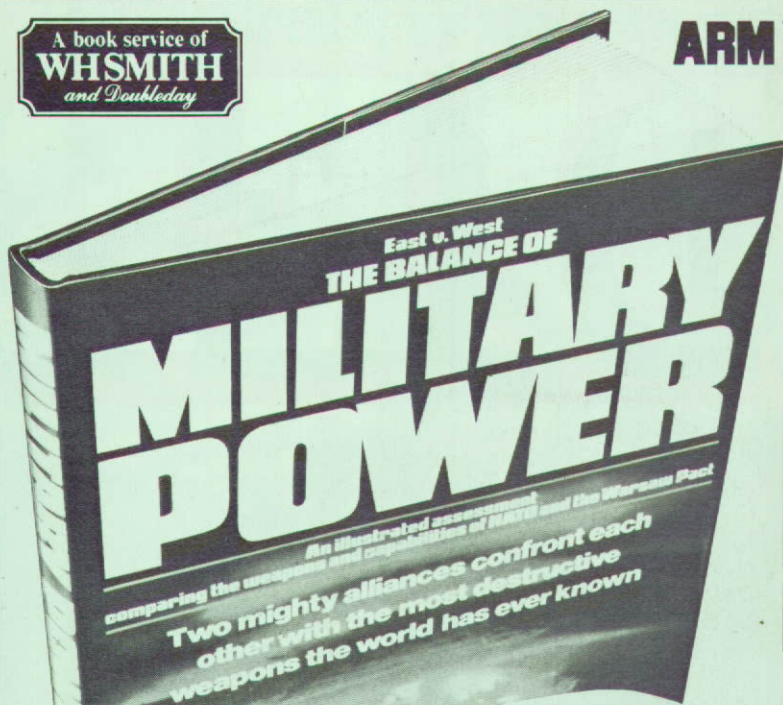
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CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 11 The Crowborough ghost
- 12 Helping the CCF
- 13 BLESMA's 50th birthday
- 17 Home from home: Herford
- 19 Profile: Jimmy Perry
- 21 Humour
- 22 All in the family
- 26 QAs into battle
- 30 Book reviews
- 31 The great gun library
- 32 How Observant Are You
- 33 Gurkhas in Fiji
- 34 Pen Pals
- 35 Self defence for girls
- 36 On the record
- 36 Your cap badge
- 37 300th Prize Competition
- 38 Mail Drop
- 40 Paymaster Organist
- 41 Barrack room graffiti
- 47 Sport

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



◀ Why Aldershot's ladies have a new secret weapon —
page 35

The real story behind that Royal Artillery concert party —
page 19 ▼



The men who just laugh at adversity —
page 13 ▼



FRONT COVER

Newly-commissioned officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps get an early taste of battle action as they rescue a 'casualty' from a burning APC. An article on the QAs' field training appears on page 26.
Picture: Andy Burridge

BACK COVER

Immaculate turnout and drill from officer cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on the 79th Sovereign's Parade.
Picture: Doug Pratt

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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE FANTASTIC public response to the South Atlantic Fund appeal is the most moving reflection of the regard in which the British people hold their Armed Forces and their Merchant Marine.

And it is wonderful that the dependants of those killed will be taken care of and that there will be no shortage of funds to look after those who have been maimed.

But how long will it be before the Falklands campaign slips to the back of the public mind?

In this issue we report on the 50th anniversary of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, formed when a group of crippled Scottish veterans of the Flanders trenches banded together because they could not live on their pitiful pensions.

They succeeded but like other Service charities their successors have to conduct a constant battle to raise the funds they need to provide the facilities necessary to ensure that their members can live decent, dignified lives.

Is there perhaps a danger that the very success of the South Atlantic Fund could create a feeling that there is a privileged elite among the victims of shot and shell?

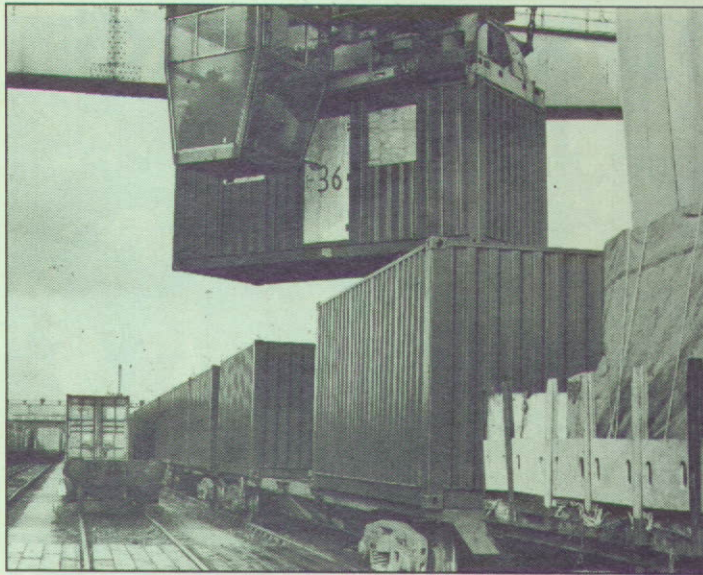
The carnage goes on in Ulster. Are not its victims and those of World Wars I and II, Korea, Malaya and so on, entitled to ask "What about us?"

A total of 30 servicemen lost limbs, feet or hands in the Falklands. After World War I there were 40,000. Today BLESMA still has 10,500 members.

But it is not just BLESMA which needs help. There is the Army Benevolent Fund, St Dunstan's, the Royal British Legion, the Cheshire Homes, SSAFA, the Regimental funds and many others.

All have one common bond. They seek to help those in need as a result of service to Queen and Country.

Let us make sure that they are not forgotten.



The last container is loaded ready for the trip to the Falklands.

'HOMES' HEAD SOUTH

RELIEF IS ON THE WAY for members of the Falklands garrison still living under canvas in the harsh South Atlantic winter. It was in the shape of some 40 freight containers converted into accommodation, ablution and kitchen blocks and it left Manchester's Trafford Park Freightline terminal at the start of the 8,000 mile journey.

Appropriately the train was pulled by the locomotive "Royal Corps of Transport" on its trip to Middlesbrough for loading onto a waiting ship.

Meanwhile Stanley airport was closed while the Royal Engineers began their crash programme to strengthen and lengthen the runway. Operation 'Tin Lion' will add an extra 2000 feet to the runway so that it can take high performance aircraft like the RAF Phantoms needed for long term air cover as well as "eye in the sky" Nimrods.

The Sappers were hoping that the airfield would be closed for only two weeks as they went to work on their dramatically short programme, with the aid of 400 helpers and 120 pieces of plant.

While the work is in progress vital supplies and mail were being air-dropped by RAF Hercules operating from Ascension Island. And they put into operation their new snatch technique for picking up mail.

As reported in SOLDIER the technique was developed in just six weeks because of the problems in the Falklands. A grappling hook trailed by the aircraft snatches the bag from between two poles set up on the ground.

And despite appalling weather it worked.

Among the loads dropped in

Too Much

That is the message from the Falklands garrison because they have received so many welfare parcels that they have reached saturation point.

Although grateful for the parcels they are now overwhelmed with gifts, including books, magazines and sweets and ask that no more should be sent, at least until further notice.

was a package of 100 commemorative china thimbles ordered by the Upland Goose Hotel.

But the Sappers' other mammoth task will not be completed for a long time to come. They still face the daunting prospect of clearing the thousands of mines indiscriminately sown by the Argentinians.

The Stanley-Darwin road is one of the priority tasks and the six-man EOD team tackling it estimate that they will have to walk 3000 miles as they trudge backwards and forwards over the 62-mile link between the two main settlements.

First units formed

RECRUITING has started for the first pilot units of the new Home Service Force announced earlier this year by the Ministry of Defence.

Tasked initially with guarding key points in their home areas in an emergency, the force is planned to eventually reach a strength of some 4500 if the pilot scheme is successful.

The first four company headquarters opened for business at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk; Perth in Scotland; Reading, Berks; and Shirley in the West Midlands.

Home Service Force members will be liable for service only in the UK and will be called out only when the Army Reserves as a whole are mobilised, or in defence of the UK against actual or anticipated attack.

The minimum age will be 20 and the maximum 50 and all recruits must have had a minimum of two years satisfactory service with either the Regular or Reserve forces.

Three legged climb

Two senior NCOs from the Army Air Corps are off to Tanzania next month to climb the 19,565 ft Mount Kilimanjaro — three legged!

Warrant Officer Pete Flynn of 7 Regiment AAC and Staff Sergeant Don Craven of 4 Regt AAC hope to set a new world record with Exercise Silver Mountain.

The climb will take a week at the beginning of which an official from the British Embassy there will seal the bonds round the men's ankles and break it only when they reach the summit.

£10,000 is the sum they want to raise from sponsors in aid of a charity for mentally handicapped people and also the AAC Benevolent Fund. Anyone wishing to help with the money should contact 7 Regiment AAC at Netheravon.

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Mud-lark on the Watt?

MUD, glorious mud — twelve barefoot kilometres of it. That was the prospect facing a team of British soldiers when they set out at low tide to hike to the island of Neuwerk off the seaside resort of Cuxhaven on Germany's North Sea coast.

The team, from 1 Squadron 14 Signal Regiment based at Langeleben, were visiting Cuxhaven on a combined adventurous training and Anglo-German exercise to help in a series of projects for the town's tourist authority, and the visit to Neuwerk was provided as a reward for their hard work.

The projects were similar to those undertaken last year; the volunteer soldiers cleared drifted sand from roads and buildings behind the sea front, re-built fences and repaired damage to woodland paths caused by erosion and tourists.

The hike over the mud-flats — known locally as the Watt — is no picnic. Going barefoot is best, because although part of the flats are sandy other areas are clinging, squelchy mud — and there are patches of water to be forded.

A start of 0630 was necessary to catch low tide, and the team had the benefit of a guide provided by the tourist authority — a precaution for "Watt-wanderers" because of the danger of being cut off by the tide. The mud-flats themselves are caused by Cuxhaven's geographical position between the estuaries of the Elbe and the Weser, and the tides can be complex. The remains of the odd wreck shows the Watt to be just as dangerous for shipping as for walkers.

A series of towers are built on the flats to provide a haven for walkers caught out by the tide. Those cut off can climb to safety and fire flares to attract attention but a rescue boat costs DM 500 . . .

Less adventurous souls can make the journey to Neuwerk in wagons drawn by pairs of sturdy horses, and a ferry takes an hour-and-a-half to make the journey at high tide.

The team from 14 Signal Regiment found the island itself fascinating. A former pirate stronghold, it is surrounded by a dike to protect it from the North Sea and contains several small farms.



There was a lesson in skinning and cooking a rabbit for Defence Secretary Mr John Nott when he visited the Services' Youth Adventure Training Scheme in Western Scotland. The lesson came from survival instructor Corporal Sean Keniery with an audience of Fort George Volunteers.

CRACK-SHOT ARMY CADETS

AN 18-STRONG team of British Army cadets has inflicted the second shooting defeat in a matter of weeks on their Canadian cadet opponents by outscoring them 1681 to 1674 to win the Michael Faraday cup on the Connaught ranges in Canada.

During July, at Bisley, the British lads also took the Alexander Graham Bell trophy in the home event of the annual exchange Army Cadet Force/Combined Cadet Forces with the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Forces shooting match.

Since the cup was put up for competition in 1932 the Canadians have won it 23 times while the British total now stands at 15. At the half-way stage of the match the British team were 23 points in arrears but rallied to more than make up the deficit by the end. The last occasion the UK team won the cup was in 1978.

Winner of the individual competition was 18-year-old Corporal

Ben Caves from Clophill, Bedfordshire, who is a student at Bedford School. He carried off the Imperial Cadet Cup.

Also shooting on the Connaught Ranges at the same time were the Adult Great Britain teams and five of the cadets were also selected to shoot for the under-25s team who won their section of the competition.

Briefly

Sefton and the other seven horses injured in the Hyde Park bomb blast have all recovered sufficiently to be put out to grass although they are not expected to return to duty for some time.

Lieutenant Roger Hiscock of 15 Para was killed and four others were injured in a parachuting accident in high winds over Salisbury Plain.

The former RAF base on Thorney Island, near Chichester, Hants, is to be turned into a permanent base for the Royal Artillery. Costing £11 million the new centre will open in 1984.

An official list of decorations for service in the Falklands is expected to be published in October.

New pint-sized mascot of 3rd Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers — now known as Billy the Kid — has made his first public appearances. Not yet six months old, he marched in front of the Corps of Drums at several engagements in North Wales.

Bovington's Tank Museum, housing the finest collection of historic armoured vehicles in the world, is to close on Saturdays between October 1 and March 31 as an economy measure.

'Nils Olav', the Edinburgh Zoo penguin adopted by the Norwegian King's Guard in 1972 has been promoted to Korporal to mark the Guard's visit to this year's Edinburgh Tattoo.

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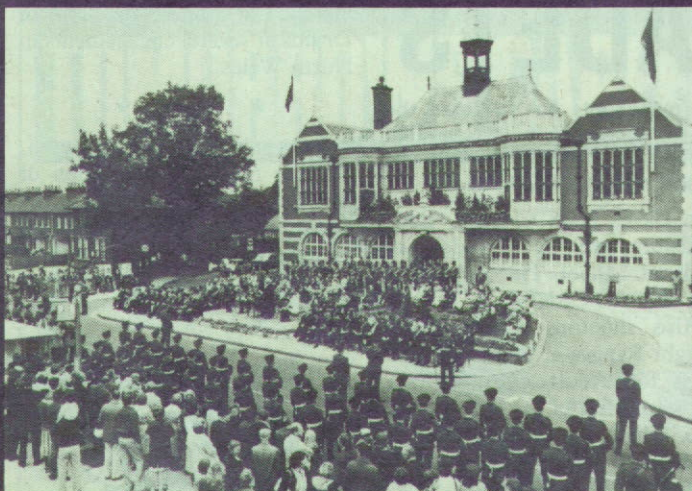


▲ Hello Luv

It was a great welcome for all the men of 12 Air Defence Regiment when they arrived at RAF Waddington from the Falklands but this young lady could hardly wait for them to get off the aircraft and no barriers could stop her. The Regiment's Rapiers claimed 14 Argentine aircraft during the campaign.

Posties' Freedom ▼

In their centenary year the Postal and Courier Depot, RE at Mill Hill have been granted the Freedom of the Borough of Barnet, to mark the Corps' "eminent services . . . and as an expression of the high esteem in which they are held." The ceremony took place at picturesque Hendon Town Hall.



Dad's Footsteps ►

A proud moment for Junior RSM Kevin Phillips as he leads the pass-off parade at the Junior Soldiers' Battalion, Norton Manor, Somerset — his father was the first RSM of the battalion when it re-opened in 1979. The parade also marked the departure of the last RCT juniors for the foreseeable future.



Brolly brigade ▼

Suitably armed in readiness for the rainy season in Nepal were members of 1/7 Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles at Heathrow before flying out on special home leave following their return from the Falklands.



Cash in Hand ►

The Army's first Regimental cash point has been opened at 8 Signal Regiment, Catterick. Already nicknamed "Cash Point Charlie" it will provide ready access to money on demand for the soldiers.



◀ Champers Launch

They have waited a long time for the Naafi extension at Hildesheim and there was a special treat for Mrs Rose Jones and Mrs Jackie Hampshire when they opened it — not just champers but hampers of food as well.



▲ Key Ceremony

Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Boswell, the GOC Scotland is escorted into Edinburgh Castle during the ancient ceremony in which he formally became The Queen's Governor of the castle. The key to the castle was carried by the General's son, Lieutenant Leslie Boswell, A and SH.

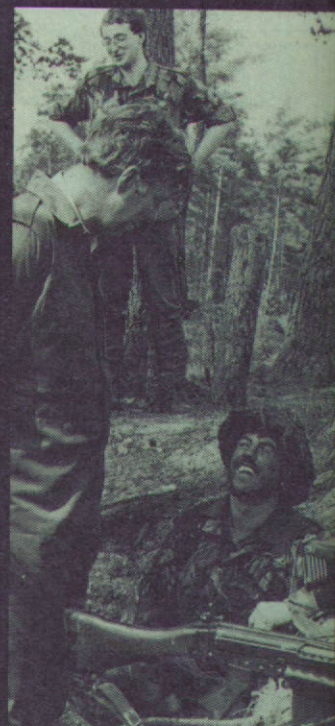
Sue's Cup ▼

Accepting the silver trophy on behalf of 59 Squadron, 33 Signal Regiment (V) is Officer Cadet Susan Hartley at the close of the Regiment's gruelling two-day combined communications and infantry skills competition.



On the Spot ►

There is nothing like seeing for yourself but for Mr Jerry Wiggins, Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, there was time for a joke during his two-day visit to units in the Soltau training area. Here, he paused for a word with a member of the 2 RGJ Battle Group.



Wild West ▼

When the cow-pokes came to town it changed the atmosphere a bit in Wolfenbuttel and the traditional German Rathaus made an unusual backdrop when the 2 i/c of 2 RTR presented a stetson to the burgermeister to celebrate the visit of Rodeo USA.



Prove It ►

Modern soldiers have to be tough and 11-year-old Ian Byrom wants to be a soldier. So just to prove that he was the right sort of material he sent a picture of himself to the local careers office in Liverpool. Result: "Sgt" Byrom had a special look round the St Helen's Show and Tattoo as the Army's guest.



◀ Fund March

All three Services took part in a march through the historic streets of York in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal on behalf of the South Atlantic Fund. They were led by the Band of the Junior School of Music of the King's Division Depot.

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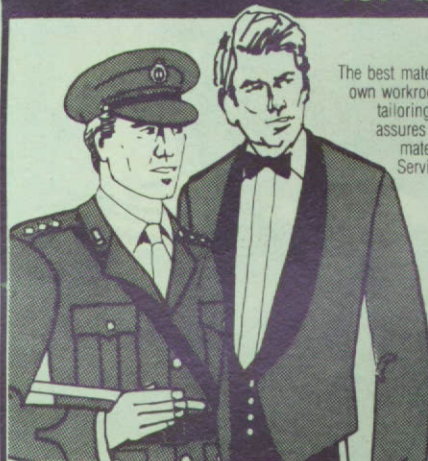
These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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UNIFORMAL

Whose sad chanting is heard in an empty room? And what made a young soldier flee in terror? John Walton investigates the mysterious goings-on at Crowborough camp

NAAFI'S CHILLY SECRET

THE NAAFI JUNIOR RANKS CLUB at Crowborough Camp in Sussex usually resounds to the noise of jukebox music interspersed with the frenetic bleepings of 'Space Invaders' type machines. But when the crowds of soldiers have gone another sound is heard — a high pitched sad chant from a woman who has been dead for nearly 70 years.

At least, that is the belief of the camp staff, who have heard the eerie singing and are at a loss to account for mysterious rattlings of shutters, breaking of glasses and dropping of objects on to the floor.

Mr Peter Chick is quartermaster of the camp, which is becoming more widely used every year — mostly by cadets but also by TA and Regular units. At first he discounted stories by staff who claimed to have heard the singing — until one November evening.

"Naafi was not in situ then and I was running the building as a canteen for the camp commandant. I came in at about six pm ready to open. Before I had the chance to switch the lights on I heard this high pitched singing from the back room. As soon as I opened one of the shutters onto the room it stopped. All I can say is that it was not a recognisable tune — more like a chant but very sad."

His wife, Sheila, the Naafi manageress has a number of stories of spooky occurrences. One of the oddest was early one morning when she was cashing up the previous night's takings.

"I knew I had shut the door but I heard it slam. So I went and locked it and put the bolt across. I went back into the office and I heard it slam again!"

Mrs Chick still does not know whether to believe what she glimpsed one day when she was working alone in the building.

"From the corner of my eye I saw a black skirt walking past my desk. When I looked up it had gone. It was a pretty horrible experience. I have always said that if I saw her I would speak to her. But there is no way

**"he said that he
had seen a
presence"**

I could have spoken to what went past my desk."

There is a collection of military headdress on the shelves behind the bar. For some inexplicable reason a Royal Marines hat continually falls onto the floor — no matter where it is placed. And sweet packets have been known to fly off the shelves rather than just drop.

"A mirror in a cardboard box fell seven feet from a shelf overnight. But it hadn't broken. It was just as though it had been laid down on the floor."

There is a former canteen, a large barn-like room, which is part of the complex and is used from time to time for discos. One young Serviceman who ventured into the room on his own came out with an ashen face.

"He could not speak," says Mrs Chick. "We gave him a stiff drink and he said that he had seen a presence. The next evening we had a disco in there but he would not even go into the room."

The disco room has its own 'cold spot' where many people notice a distinct change in temperature. Says Mrs Chick: "I can feel the presence there, although it's not at all times. What I do is to get the visiting lads to go round the room and see if they can find

the spot. More often than not they do."

SOLDIER laid on its own experiment after writer, John Walton, had been unable to locate the cold spot. Three young sappers from the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, undertook to explore the room. All three had grins on their faces and were highly sceptical as they began their tour.

Twice round the room the three sappers went — without any signs of picking up anything unusual. Then suddenly Sapper Ian Collingham stopped and said: "It's cold over here." It was exactly the spot which Mrs Chick had pointed out to SOLDIER earlier that morning.

The Naafi staff at Crowborough are very loth to go into the room at all. Mrs Iris Carey told SOLDIER: "I've not seen anything as such. I feel something is in there and it's horrible. If I have to clean the big room I keep the shutters open so that I know someone else is about."

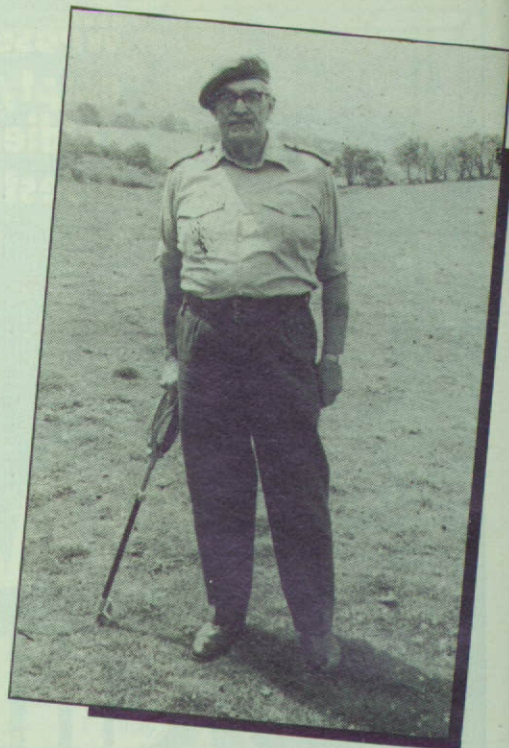
And Miss Maria Arnold said: "I find it spooky. I will never go into that room on my own. I start shuddering as soon as I go in."

So if the presence exists what is it? Local ancients have told the Chicks that during the First World War the disco room was used as a mortuary. The story was that a nurse saw one of the bodies in the mortuary — and it was her boyfriend. She was so overcome with grief that she hanged herself in the room.

The Chicks and the rest of the camp staff are convinced that her wraith remains there to this day. But they have no intention of having her exorcised. "Some of the units who have been here have offered to call in their padre to lay her to rest," says Mrs Chick. "But I have always said 'No'. She is not doing any harm to anyone — she's dead after all . . ."



Live firing for cadets at Sennybridge



**Doug McArthur
meets the ex-RSM
who's still
passing on words
of wisdom...**

The voice of experience

THERE IS AN OLD saying that keeping active is a sure way to stay young. This could not be truer than in the case of Major Jack Hedditch, who although admitting to being over 70 packs more activity into his day than many men a quarter of his age.

An ex-RSM in the Welsh Guards, Jack is well known in Combined Cadet Force circles for the wisdom and help he passes on to young cadets. He is the administration officer at Kingston Grammar School, and Quartermaster of the Royal Russell School, Croydon. That would be enough for most people, but Jack is also Division Sergeant-Major of the Queen's Bodyguard, Yeoman of the Guard and also coach to the England Schoolboys Shooting Team.

Jack joined the Welsh Guards in 1931 and served with them throughout World War Two. He was in Gibraltar at the outbreak of war, but soon found himself in France where, after bitter fighting, he was evacuated from Dunkirk.

In 1944, he returned to France and was mentioned in despatches in Normandy. After service in Palestine he joined the Colonial Forces — first in Malaya, then, Mauritius with the King's African Rifles.

After retiring from the Army he joined Kings College Wimbledon as Staff Sergeant Instructor, and moved to the Royal Russell in 1978.

All his interests and activities keep Jack busy, but sometimes he has to choose which has to

take priority. For instance he should have been officiating as a 'Beefeater' Yeoman of the Guard at an investiture at Buckingham Palace, but instead was giving his boys the benefit of his vast military experience at the CCF Central Camp at Sennybridge Ranges, in South Wales.

Over 500 boys from 11 schools took part in the camp, highlights of which included tackling a nerve-stretching assault course and taking part in a 24-hour exercise that involved an arduous march and some live firing.

"I have always had an interest in youth work," says Jack, "but I really started to do something about it when I left the Army. As long as my health holds I have no intention of retiring."

When asked if he ever had any spare time Jack just laughs. "Of course. I make time. I have to make time so that I can play with my grandchildren. They are really delightful."



SOUTH ATLANTIC FUND

The Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund have been enormously moved by the generosity, concern and admiration for Britain's fighting Services, civilian supporting staff, members of the Merchant Service and others involved in the South Atlantic Operation which have been expressed through and with the donations received. They wish to thank all those people, groups of people, children, pensioners, schools, firms, societies, trades unions, associations, governments and charitable trusts both at home and abroad who have so spontaneously and generously contributed to date £11.5M to the South Atlantic Fund.

The South Atlantic Fund is a Registered Charity (Number 285161) and to meet the various wishes of donors its governing instrument (Trust Deed) has been framed to enable the Fund to relieve the needs of members of the Armed Forces, associated Civilian Personnel, and their respective dependants, involved in the South Atlantic Operation, whenever and wherever they arise.

All money will be disbursed through existing charities, principally the King George's Fund for Sailors which covers all Seafarers and the Royal Marines the Army Benevolent Fund the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and each individual Services Amenity Fund.

The Trustees have already authorised grants totalling £1.5M to these Charities, to cover expenditure already incurred as a result of the operations, and to the Services Dependents Funds to reimburse them for the grants they immediately made to the widows and dependants of their members killed in the operation.

Substantial additional grants totalling £1.8M have been made to widows and dependants of those killed to meet their immediate needs. All dependants and those injured will be informed individually of how they should seek assistance in the future. All Charities in any way connected with relief of the needs of Servicemen, ex-Servicemen, Merchant Navy Personnel and Civilian Personnel associated with the Services will be asked to ensure that any suffering or need arising as a result of the South Atlantic Operation, which comes to their notice, is brought to the attention of the South Atlantic Fund so that funds may be made available to alleviate some of the suffering and meet the needs.

David Evans
Air Chief Marshal
Chairman of the Trustees



"Horrocks, you're a Master of Arts, Aren't you?"

BLESMA celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

Sally Daniell has been meeting some of the officers and members of ...

THE CLUB WITH A HIGH PRICE FOR MEMBERSHIP



FORTY THOUSAND LIMBLESS and eyeless Servicemen returned after the Great War from the carnage of Flanders' fields to a land 'fit for heroes'.

Sadly, when the victory euphoria died and the world money market crashed, the land could not support this vast band of heroes who increasingly found themselves forgotten and forlorn.

But that spirit of comradeship which first flourished in the trenches rose again to meet the new offensive launched by that other recession fifty years ago. Unable to support themselves on their meagre pensions, a group of limbless Glasgow men formed an association that was determined to help itself even if society could not.

With some measure of success behind it the Association grew and grew and, in 1932, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association was formally constituted.

Unlike some associations BLESMA does not seek to swell its ranks. Out of those original forty thousand only 1500 live on today. But their number is increased regrettably by the casualties of World War Two and many other theatres of 'peacetime' conflict such as Korea, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo, Belize and Northern Ireland.

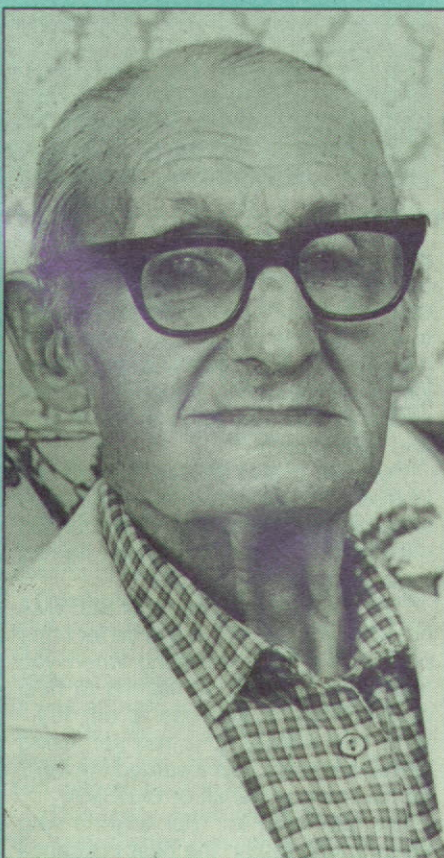
The recent Falklands campaign too, sadly, can be expected to bring it still further recruits.

At its headquarters in Frankland Moore House in Chadwell Heath, Essex, BLESMA now employs two officers who are not limbless. One of these is the General Secretary, Brian Fox, who says BLESMA members "are the most incredible people I've ever come across. They don't want sympathy — they just want to be treated as ordinary people. They are dignified and proud people who want to help others. They're a real family drawn together by this affliction."

Apart from the three officers, one of whom, the Assistant General Secretary, is a below-the-knee amputee, all help is given voluntarily and the Association is funded purely by donations. In this, their Golden Jubilee year, BLESMA is trying to keep

continued on page 14

Northern Ireland veterans lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of their less fortunate colleagues.



BILL DEADMAN joined the Army 73 years ago. Today, at the age of 90, he lives in sheltered housing with his wife.

Like many others Bill lied about his age to get into the Army — and that was before war was declared. Gunner Deadman was amongst those Kaiser Wilhelm II called "this contemptible little army." But this 'old contemptible' served right throughout the war until six weeks before the end when he caught a bullet through the right elbow.

Back in England, at Lord Howard de Walden's rest home, Bill was fitted with a new arm, but it was never a success and he gave it up at the end of the last war. "The arms were never as good as the legs" says Bill, "although it wasn't so bad if you had your own elbow joint."

Bill earned his living after the Great War as a clerk at Woolwich Arsenal until he retired at 65. It was only after he retired that he joined his local branch of BLESMA. "I was on a very low pension and BLESMA sent me to London for a medical. After that my pension went up a hundred per cent. It was a good day for me when I joined."

Bill suffers now from some deafness and recently learned from his doctor that he has anaemia as well — "whatever that it is" he says! "I'm an old crock now, I know — but a lucky one."





JAMES HART was injured at the battle of Falais Gap when the Allied Forces temporarily lost the enemy. James maintains he re-established contact — with a bullet in the hip.

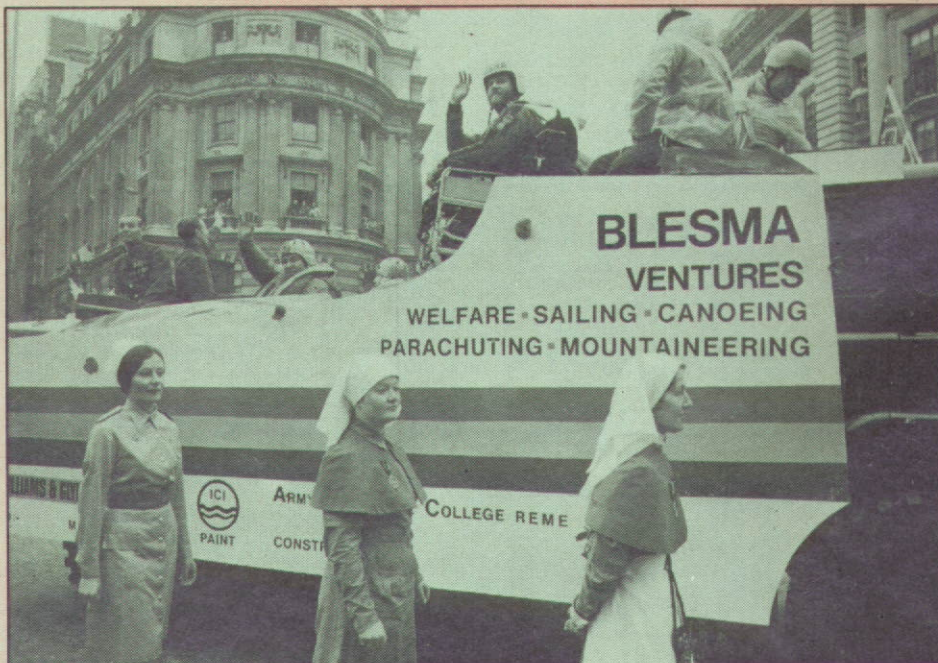
But it was not until 1951 that his leg was amputated. "That was seven years of sheer misery," remembers James. "I knew it was coming off, of course. I never had the shock like some other poor devils who are going along and suddenly their world goes dark and they wake up to find they've lost a leg or two."

James claims he is not typical of BLESMA members. He says his story is not as terrible as some and he did not

get involved with the Association until some time after his amputation.

"I didn't want to be associated with the disabled — I wanted to strike out on my own and prove I was as good as the next chap. Then in 1965 I started to attend meetings and I thought perhaps I could do things for other people."

Since then James has become increasingly involved with the work of the Association and is now a member of its executive council as well as Secretary of his local branch. When he retired from the Civil Service recently he immediately called into the headquarters and offered his services towards the Golden Jubilee arrangements.



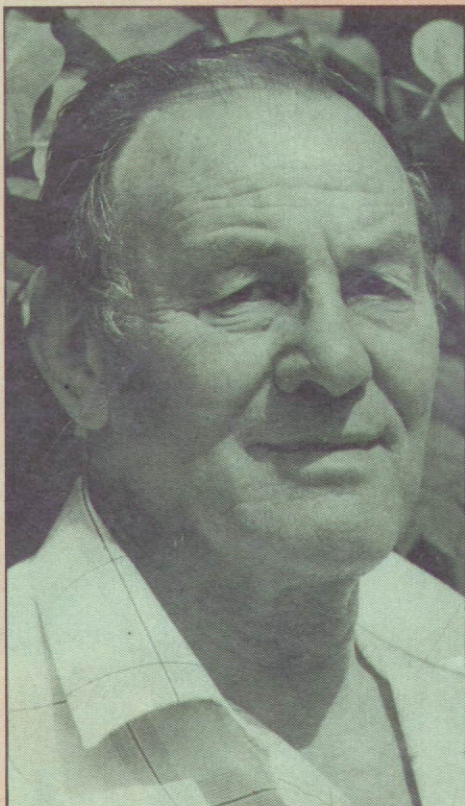
▲ The float at the 1978 Lord Mayor's Show showing BLESMA activities.

itself in the public eye so that more and more people know of its existence.

"I think the public ought to know about BLESMA, says Brian Fox, a former officer in the Royal Artillery. "I was a schoolboy in the last war but I am extremely grateful to these chaps and I am very aware of the debt we owe them. They're fantastic people and I'll work my bones off for them."

There are 106 branches of BLESMA throughout the country, linking limbless ex-Servicemen and women in comradeship and service, and ensuring that none suffers undue hardship or loneliness. There are also two residential homes which are available both for long and short term stays.

Short visits provide welcome holidays not only for the limbless but for those who look after them. They enable all concerned to get relief from the extra pressures these disabilities impose on their lives. Costs are borne by the Association which also pays for the upkeep of the homes and staff salaries. Footing these bills adds up to more than £1 million a year which is why BLESMA



BILL MOORE was a regular soldier before the outbreak of war in 1939 and his regiment, the Dorsets, were amongst the first to be sent to Belgium.

Defending a canal against the German advance Bill took a slug in his right leg and when the action was over found himself on top of a German tank which dumped him on the side of the road.

For two days he lay unattended apart from two separate incidents which showed how German attitudes could vary. One soldier approached him sympathetically and gave him a packet of cigarettes. But as he smoked one later, a passing stormtrooper kicked him viciously in the base of the spine causing Bill to black out leaving him a painful legacy that still bothers him even today. Coming round a second or two later, Bill heard a German officer haranguing the soldier and on the point of having him shot for his cruelty. Through his pain he heard the officer use the words 'grand blessé' — severely wounded.

German doctors then bandaged his leg but by the time he was hospitalised gangrene had taken hold and his leg was amputated at the thigh.

Bill spent the rest of his war in a

succession of POW camps in both Poland and Germany where he and his fellow prisoners suffered appalling privations with only the odd, rare Red Cross parcel to alleviate the misery.

He was repatriated in 1943 and attended a rehabilitation course where he learnt to be an instrument maker, and he feels lucky because he was able to work until he was 65. "In those days, just after the war" explains Bill, "if you lost a leg the public thought you'd lost your brains as well. And you had to fight and fight to work."

Because of this attitude towards the limbless Bill was drawn more and more towards BLESMA and in 1948 founded the Woolwich Branch of which he has been secretary ever since.

"It's not what you get out of BLESMA but what you can put in and do for other people. It's very satisfying when you feel you are doing something to help others. Their happiness is our joy." With this attitude it is not surprising perhaps that Bill was awarded the MBE for his work on behalf of BLESMA.

His last word is: "For anyone who loses a limb today, the best insurance he can have is to join BLESMA."

welcomes all the help it can get.

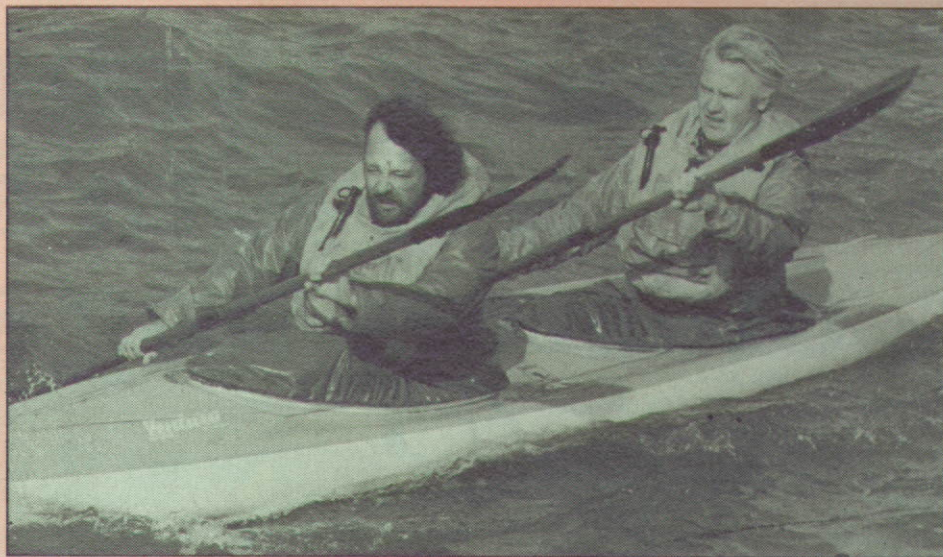
At this year's Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition all the coins thrown into the moat went to BLESMA — swept up with the sweet papers and cigarette butts and needing to be cleaned before presentation to a bank.

Perhaps the most important part of BLESMA's work for its members is in the form of counselling. When legs and arms are blown off, as happened in Caterham nine years ago, no one knows more about what difficulties lie ahead or are better qualified to help than the limbless themselves.

The Welsh Guards suffered appalling injuries in the bomb explosion in 1973 and BLESMA were with them almost immediately to give help and comfort. Since then the regiment has not forgotten the Association, being present at the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph just before

Two members taking part in the ►
1979 BLESMA Canoe Marathon.

BLESMA's competitor in the
Javelin during the paraplegic athletics. ▼

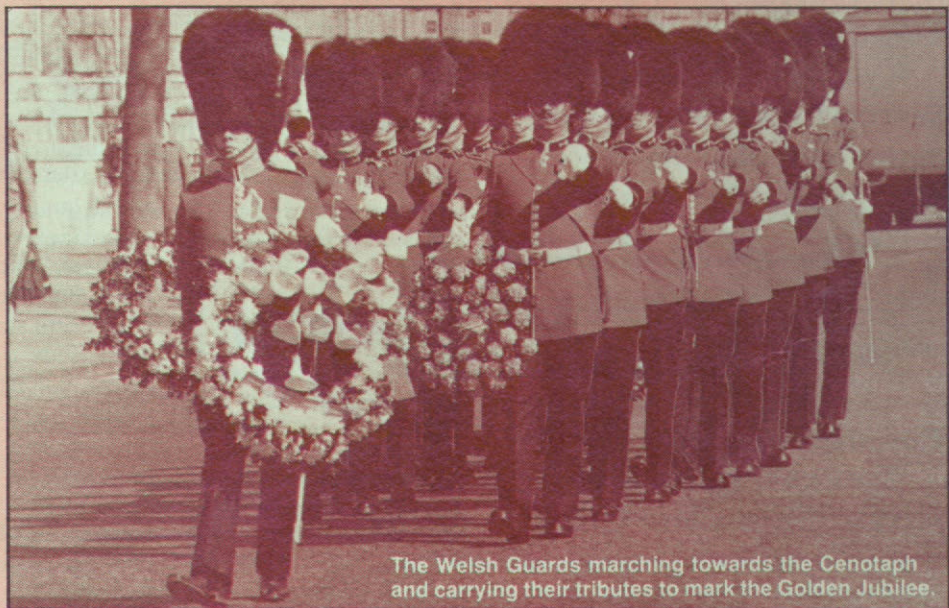


they boarded the QE2 for the South Atlantic.

In their work for the limbless, which includes running rehabilitation schemes, training and resolving pension problems, the Association does not forget the widows. Some £100,000 a year is paid to those who struggle for years on inadequate State funds

to ease the lives of their limbless loved ones.

Nor do you have to be a member to qualify for the benefits of the Association. Anyone who was maimed in the fight for freedom and in the service of their country — or his widow — needs only to contact BLESMA to receive their care and be welcomed into the family. ■



The Welsh Guards marching towards the Cenotaph and carrying their tributes to mark the Golden Jubilee.

GEORGE TOMLINSON is BLESMA's Assistant General Secretary and has been involved in its work since his injury.

George saw wartime service in Egypt, Cyprus and North Africa before transferring to the Royal Fusiliers and participating in the Italian campaign. It was at the River Reno, just before the final push, when he trod on the anti-personnel mine that took his foot off — the toe cap from his boot embedding itself in his arm.

"I was taken to the forward hospital and was feeling very down in the dumps. The chap in the next bed wondered why I was so miserable and I said it was all right for him but I had lost a leg. 'You should worry,' he said and threw back his bedclothes — he'd lost two both above the knee.

"That really made me think and over the years when I've felt a bit low I've remembered how I felt then. I've never

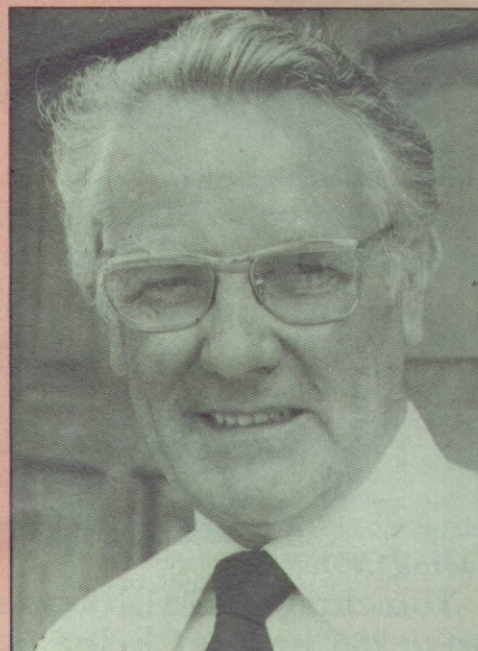
found that chap, although obviously I've looked for him through BLESMA."

Back in England and being fitted for his artificial limb, George was asked by the old Ministry of Pensions if he would be a walking instructor. He agreed and once his own limb had been rushed through started his new job of teaching limbless people how to walk.

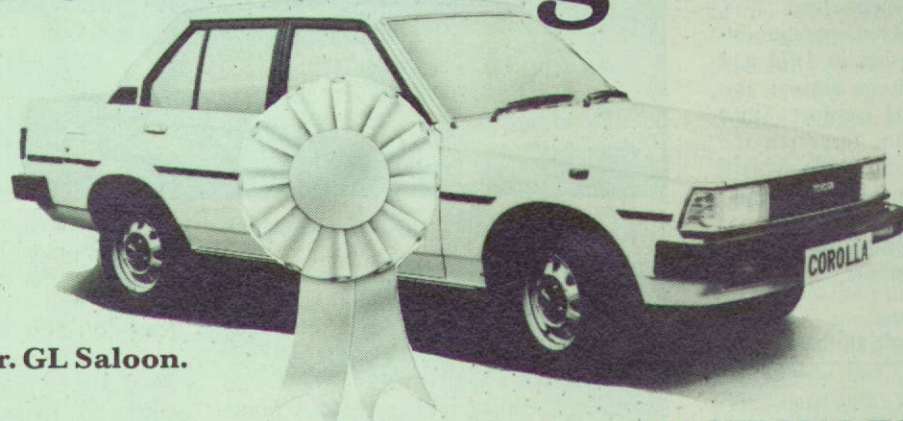
"That job really helped me come to terms with my own disability," he admits.

Thus committed to helping others overcome their difficulties, George founded the Leigh Branch of BLESMA and has held offices in the Association ever since.

"It can be fun being limbless," says George, "because you meet such nice people. I've gained a lifetime of friendships and I've friends everywhere. We enjoy the good times and the bad times and we all share them together.



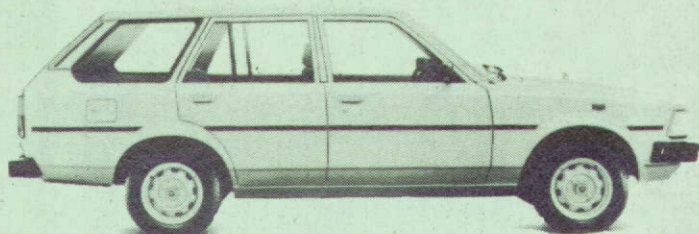
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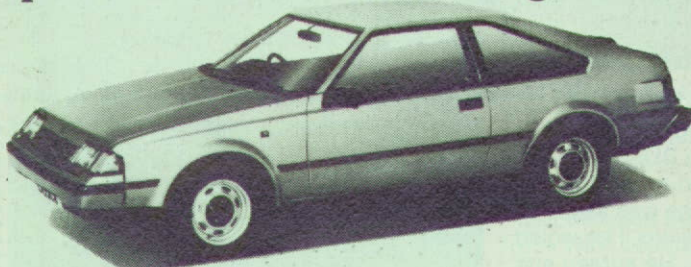
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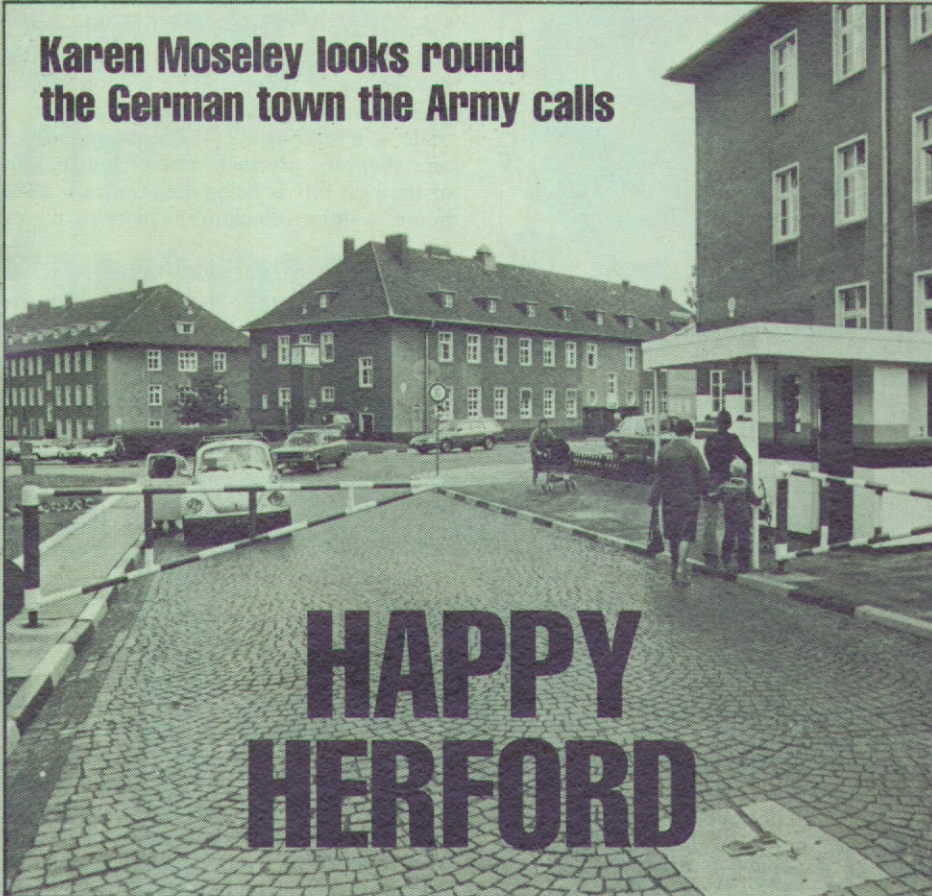
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SLD/9

Karen Moseley looks round the German town the Army calls



HERFORD GARRISON has earned the name Happy Herford and for good reason. The people stationed in this small town in West Germany have excellent facilities provided by the Army, as well as all the usual superb amenities supplied by the Germans.

The units in Herford are HQ 4th Armoured Division; 4th Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, 7th Signal Regiment and 1RTR (which is being replaced by 13/18 Hussars in November). It is home for 5500 military personnel and dependents.

What immediately strikes the newcomer to Herford is the friendliness — both of the Germans and the British people stationed there. It is not too large a garrison and the main barracks are close to one another with all the facilities being centralised rather than spread out among the estates.

The town, which has good shops and restaurants, is centrally placed offering easy access to larger towns such as Minden and Bielefeld, and thanks to the autobahns Hannover, Münster and Gütersloh are all within comfortable reach. Trains link directly with the Hook of Holland and Paris, and the countryside is attractive with plenty of opportunities for long walks.

With a thriving saddle club, hacking is a popular leisure activity, and there are a number of Army outdoor swimming pools as well as a German indoor heated one.

The youth club, which caters for nine-to-18-year-olds, is very well patronised and there are a number of clubs within the units including sub-aqua, CB and skiing. The Gallows Folk Club, one of the original forces folk clubs, and the amateur dramatic society, The Herford Players, are both successful. There is also a large Naafi and a library.

For a lot of people though the most useful part of the garrison is actually inside Ham-

mersmith Barracks where a venture has been carried out by the 4th Armoured Div HQ and Signal Regiment that they believe is unique in the Army.

Nearly every amenity provided by the regiment has been brought together under one roof in what is called the Bradley Centre. Brightly painted walls, spotlessly clean rooms, flowers in every corner and friendly service make for a relaxed and very 'un-Army' atmosphere.

The Bradley Centre was the brainchild of Captain Tony Widdowson, the Families Officer, and was opened at the beginning of June by HRH Princess Anne.

When a new family arrives in Herford,

'There's plenty going on, you just have to look around. It's very important to mix and not stay in the house by yourself'

they will go first to the Families Office, a bright and cheerful room where all the families' needs are dealt with — schools, medical treatment and all kinds of welfare.

"We like to think of ourselves as more of a Citizen's Advice Bureau," Captain Widdowson explained. "All the soldiers working in the centre wear blue overalls rather than a uniform to get away from the military image. It makes people feel much more at ease."

The money for the Bradley Centre was raised solely from the PRI which is based just down the corridor with a wide selection of goods for sale. Next to this is a video library which has about 500 different tapes, all of which are changed every five weeks.

A craft shop contains many items submitted by the wives such as dolls, scarves, pottery and cushions; holidays can be booked at the travel agents to anywhere in

the world; the small coffee shop has become as popular with the soldiers as it has with their wives; and at the far end is a hairdressers for both sexes and the BFG office where everything to do with cars can be dealt with.

The Wives' Club has its own lounge and Secretarial Office. No space is wasted and the basement houses the regimental sports store which loans out equipment for 35 major sports including golf, skiing, windsurfing and mountain climbing. There is even a printing press and a laundry.

"I think we are the only regiment in the British Army which has done something like this," Captain Widdowson said, "But I really think it ought to be started by other units. For too long the Army has been prepared to take second best."

Mrs Pauline Jelly, whose husband is a sergeant in the Dental Corps, has been in Herford for six months. She was full of praise for the Centre: "It's fabulous and it's amazing how many wives use it," she said.

"There's a lot for the wives to do — I've joined a scuba club to learn how to dive! There's plenty going on, you just have to look around. It's very important to mix and not stay in the house by yourself."

Mrs Debbie Campbell is married to a Lance Corporal in 4 Div. "I enjoy myself very much here in Herford," she said. "It is so clean in Germany and I like their customs. The language is a bit difficult, but I do my best and travel around on the buses and use the shops."

There are three main schools in and around the town: two primary and one secondary which caters for 11 to 18 year olds. This school has a good reputation, and although the bus journey is long, families realise they are lucky to have it when some garrisons in Germany have no secondary school facilities at all.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) Tony Taylor is the Staff Station Officer in charge of what he calls "preventive welfare" which includes quartering, schools, medical services, Ssafta, creches and mother and toddler groups.

There are five main 'patches' in and

around Herford with buses running from all of them to cover medical and dental services and the Naafi. The 173 officers' quarters and 951 soldiers' quarters available for the garrison are based in Herford, Bad Oynhausen (16 kms away), Bad Salzuflen (9 kms away), Brake and Enger (7 kms away).

"We have a slight young-married problem at the moment," Lt-Col Taylor admitted. "It seems that because of the unemployment problem, young soldiers are unwilling to leave the Army, and we have 27 soldiers whose wives are having to live in England because we have no accommodation for them. The older soldiers with children have no problem, and officers usually work on the basis of 'one out — one in'."

From the feedback I get, this is an extremely happy garrison, because of the facilities. The quarters are excellent, and there

continued on page 18



◀ Plenty to choose in the craft shop.

is a good back-up service."

Corporal Michael Everton of 1RTR who has married a German girl from the town certainly enjoys his life in the garrison. "It's not too big — there aren't a million people walking around, and there are many things to do — a bowling alley, swimming pools, a nice shopping precinct. And of course, one of the best bits is being able to drink after hours — three o'clock in the morning if you like!"

Corporal Vic King, also from 1RTR, is single. "I sometimes wish I was back in England as the social life is much better. But the sports facilities are much better here, and I go for long runs in the countryside. It's a friendly town though and there is no hostility at all towards the British." ■

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Seeing the funny side of failure

THE BLOODTHIRSTY veteran, Corporal Jones, in *Dad's Army*, the child hating Punch and Judy man in *Hi-de-hi*, the blustering sergeant-major in *It Aint 'Alf 'Ot Mum* — all these people really existed. The man who met them all and then proceeded years later to turn them into characters to set millions laughing, is Jimmy Perry, an actor who turned to script writing as an afterthought but found himself co-author of some of television's most successful comedy series ever.

The first series to appear from the pens of Jimmy and his partner, David Croft, was the never-to-be-forgotten *Dad's Army*. Writing a programme about a bumbling group of Home Guard in the early days of the war might not have seemed a recipe for instant success in the Swinging Sixties but that is just what happened.

The reason for that success was perhaps not just the richly funny dialogue, it was because the characters were based on real people. The 'stupid boy' was based on Jimmy himself — at the age of 15 he lied about his age and joined the local Home Guard.

"Corporal Jones was based on a drill sergeant we had in the Home Guard. He had been at the battle of Omdurman as a boy soldier, in the Boer War and the start of the 14-18 war. He had not been a soldier for a quarter of a century. He was a lunatic — nearly 70, wiry and thin and a crack shot. He used to say 'the old, cold steel. They don't like it up 'em.'"

As soon as he was old enough Jimmy found himself in the Royal Artillery. After six weeks basic training at Colchester he went to Oswestry, where he started to play a big part in camp entertainment.

"When I got into the Army I started telling jokes and doing impressions because if you are bored and stuck somewhere anybody who can remotely entertain is welcome. I could also sing — terrible old ballads like 'The Road to Mandalay' and things like that."

Just before D-Day almost all of the troops moved out and Jimmy found himself sleeping alone in a barrack room which had previously held 50 soldiers. He asked why he had not gone and was told it was because



there would have been no-one left to do the shows. The section he would have gone with was badly hit — "the fact that I could do a turn probably saved me."

But his war was not to be seen out in Shropshire. "A very upstart captain, a nasty piece of work, decided to take part in the show and turned up slightly drunk. Being a

'I have no qualifications whatsoever and I couldn't get a job cleaning lavatories at the BBC'

dedicated artiste I got very cross. And being a lance-bombardier you can't get cross with a captain . . ."

Jimmy suddenly found himself with a posting to the Far East. And to make things worse as he sat in the train on his departure there was a knock on the window. The captain was waving mockingly as the train pulled away.

"That shows how nasty he could be. But this is not just in the Army — I have met people just as nasty in civilian life. He just used his position to get his own back on me."

Jimmy was to stay in India until 1947. He was at one time stationed on the North-West Frontier, the only place in the world which lived up to his expectations.

"I had been brought up on tales of the Khyber Pass and it was exactly as I had read about it. The air was fantastic and there were lots of little forts and horse transport."

But tribesmen often took pot shots at them although their local copies of short Lee-Enfield rifles tended to blow up after a few shots.

The concert party in the final part of the war had all the characters we know and love.

"The sergeant major existed except that he was Cockney not Welsh. The colonel was a company director who wanted a quiet life. Gloria existed. So did the Indian bearer played by Michael Bates, who so sadly died.

"They could not send ENSA concert parties so ours was really a fighting concert party of serving men, not an entertainment unit. A lot were Burma veterans — like the Scotsman on whom we based the character Atlas. He had a bullet wound and was covered in tattoos. The amazing thing is that we were all only about 22. We were boy soldiers and yet when you look at newsreels the men look old."

When he came home in 1947 Jimmy got a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art — his diploma is the only professional qualification he has. "I work at the BBC with people in their twenties and thirties who are graduates. I have no qualifications whatsoever and I couldn't get a job cleaning lavatories at the BBC."

For nearly 20 years he was a performer, appearing in West End musicals and working with people like John Hanson and Joan Littlewood. For nine years he was manager and director of his own repertory company at Watford.

It was while on summer leave from RADA that he spent two seasons as a Butlin's Redcoat, which gave him the inspiration for the latest Perry-Croft smash hit *Hi-de-hi*.

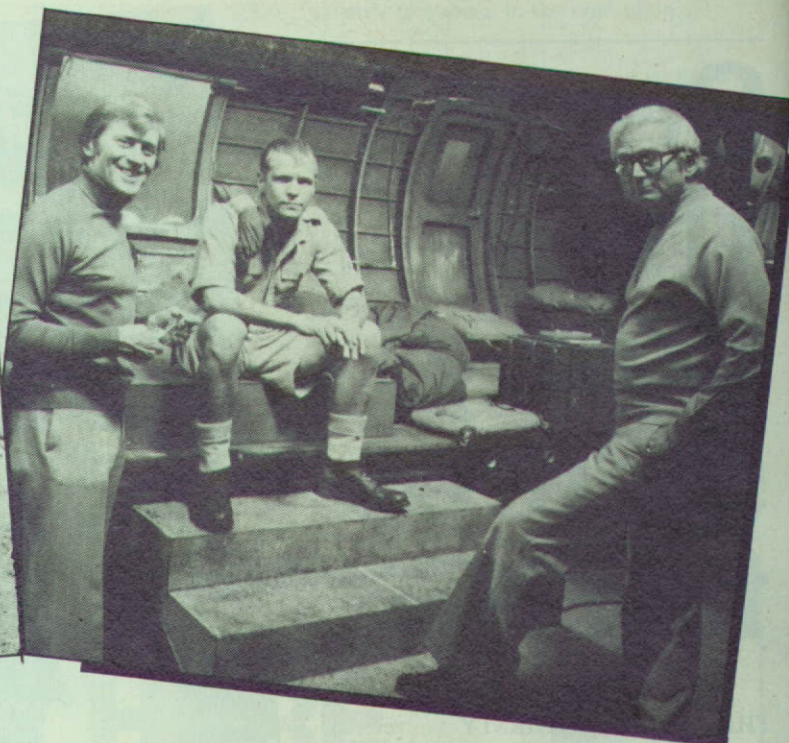
"All the characters were there. The Punch and Judy man who did not like kids. The rather faded and elegant ballroom dancers. It was a graveyard — they were all failures. But then, 90 per cent of people are failures. There are no funny programmes about people who are rich and successful. That's just not funny — but failure is."

There had been several attempts to write comedy series about holiday camps before but none had succeeded. The reason, Jimmy

continued on page 20



Jimmy pictured on the set of *It Ain't 'Ot Mum* with the late Michael Bates and (right) with co-author David Croft.



feels, is "because they tried to make out that the camp was terrible. We decided to make it a successful holiday camp where people had a wonderful time. We set it in 1959 because holiday camps now are so terribly up-market."

There is no burning the midnight oil for Jimmy and David. They work normal office hours and write everything in longhand because "a clattering typewriter disturbs your flow. After all Shakespeare and Dickens did not use typewriters." The two men, both ex-actors, act out the dialogue to

get it just right.

David Croft does the directing and production and Jimmy is also present. The scripts are written with a particular type of actor in mind.

"The main thing is to find the right artiste to do the material. What we don't do is to write the script with no idea of who is going to play it. We then hold auditions and let them read speeches rather than the script. You have to understand acting to be able to work that way."

Jimmy Perry still takes a keen interest in

the Army and helps the Army Benevolent Fund when it wants to obtain the services of an artiste for a charity concert.

Looking back on his Army career he says: "My four years in the Royal Artillery were interesting and they gave me a lot to write about. But then there were a million men in the RA. It bore no resemblance to the modern professional Army. The Army today are the crème de la crème and I think we have probably the best trained and fittest Army in the world."

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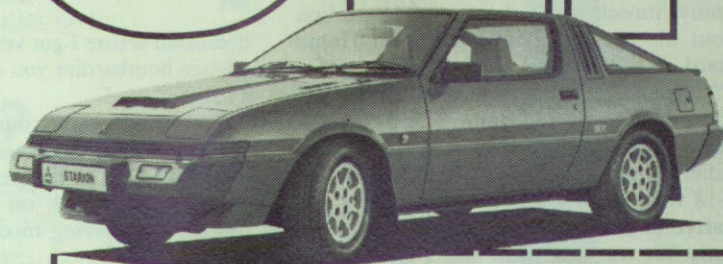
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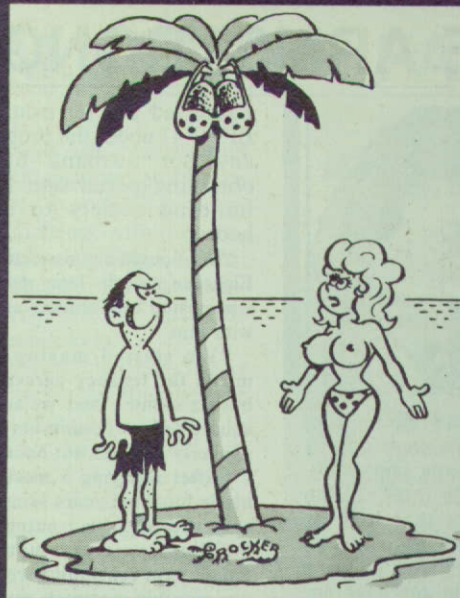
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"Are you sure those coconuts are in danger of falling on our heads?"

Humour



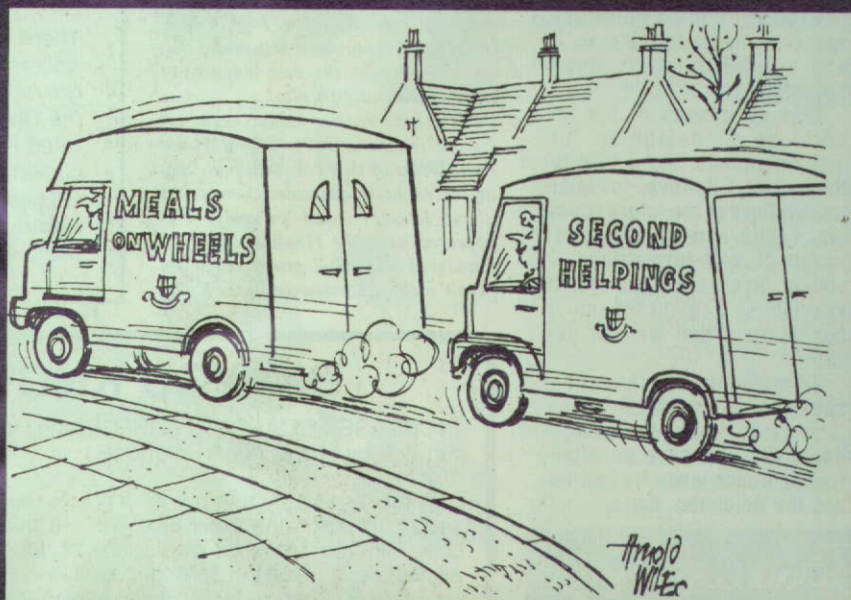
"... and here we are downstairs again."



"If he says 'Stand by your beds' one more time..."



"Have a fiver back. You're my one hundredth mugging."



ANNE ARMSTRONG



I KNOW IT MAY be hard to believe but furnishings in Army quarters are really improving. There may, it is true, still be houses or flats that look as though they were absent when the best covers and curtains were handed out and have ended up with all the left-overs, a dazzling combination often of green carpets, orangey-brown covers and blue curtains that can make even the most indifferent head whirl. But with the magic of MODEC their days, well, at least their years may be numbered.

John Leggett, Deputy Director Supply Management 6 (RAF) where it all happens, was optimistic about the future of Army quarter furnishing: "In general, the MODEC range with its basic theme of colour compatibility is now firmly established and we intend to make the minimum of changes in the patterns consistent with keeping the range up to date."

"The new colour co-ordination chart is now available for all those who hold MODEC pattern books so do ask to see this in conjunction with the pattern books."

During the Falklands conflict, 7 Maintenance Unit's combined military and civilian staff worked long hours to despatch urgent accommodation stores as soon as possible but now the pressure has eased slightly, they are even managing to design and build items to specification, like the new wardrobes for instance, 3000 of them designed to make the most of the limited Portakabin space available to the men — and still produced in under seven weeks.

This awareness of the importance of design in furnishing sounds like a turn for the better, I believe, for quarter dwellers of the future. Combined with a relatively stable range of soft furnishings, it should give us all the chance to establish a colour scheme in our quarters that we can live with.

John is one of the guest speakers at the UKLF Wives' Seminar in September and, no doubt, he will have an attentive audience when he addresses the delegates there.

Anne Armstrong

I received a letter from Mrs B, BFPO 41 about the problems she and her husband have had obtaining permission from the building society to let their house.

"We bought a maisonette in 1979. Eighteen months later my husband was posted to Germany and I came with him.

"We started making arrangements for tenancy agreements etc but six months later we are back to square one as permission to let the property has still not been given.

"After repaying a mortgage regularly for three years I feel we have received shabby treatment. The building society demand that a tenant pays rent which would cover our monthly mortgage repayments, plus general and water rates, but I believe that the rent should only cover the repayments and that the rates are nothing to do with the building society."

I raised this problem with the Head Office of the Halifax Building Society who replied:

"This Society's primary objective as far as lending policy is concerned is to make funds available to people who wish to purchase and occupy their properties. For this reason, the Society does not publicise a willingness to agree to the letting of properties in mortgage and, in fact, the Society's mortgage deed clearly precludes letting without the Society's consent.

"Having said this, the Society receives approximately 200 requests each week from borrowers who wish to let their properties for one reason or another and a good proportion of these requests come from Service personnel.

"In the main I do not think that the Society's requirements cause problems for the majority of borrowers but there is one condition in particular worth commenting on. Up until the beginning of this year it had been the Society's practice to insist on the rent to be obtained on the letting covering the outgoings, including mortgage repayments and the rates. However, it became clear that, with an interest rate as high as 15 per cent, it was becoming increasingly difficult for borrowers to obtain a rent which would cover both items. We now look for the rent to cover 75 per cent of outgoings only. As far as I am aware, this reduced requirement now means that we can consider the vast majority of requests without difficulty.

"We have regular contact with the Forces' resettlement service and Major Paul Watts of that service tells us that as far as he is concerned, complaints about lettings have virtually disappeared since the Housing Act 1980 introduced additional provisions to aid people such as Servicemen in the letting

of their properties.

"One final point; I accept that as far as Service personnel are concerned, it would be helpful if the Society gave a clearer picture of what its requirements are with regard to the letting of property since, as you rightly point out, the majority of Service personnel are likely to be posted after taking up a mortgage. I have asked the Society's advertising department to look into the possibility of making some reference to letting in the special leaflet we produce for Service people."

J N Rayner, Mortgage Controller.

ASK ANNE

My wife has just left me and the children. I should be grateful if you could give me the address of the organisation which helps one-parent families as I shall shortly be posted to UK where we have been given a quarter.

The organisation I expect you mean is 'One-Parent Families', 255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX. Tel No. 01-267 1361.

I am sure also that you will have contacts with the Ssafa social worker and the unit Families Officer when you return to UK and they should be able to put you in touch with the local social services. The local Citizen's Advice Bureau will be able to give you the address of the nearest Gingerbread Group too.

Remember that as a single parent, you are now eligible to claim One-Parent Benefit (see DHSS leaflet CH II/April 81) which now comes to £3.30 a week tax free.

PLEASE NOTE

There is a new contact address for Mrs Cosgrove, the Secretary of the Divorced and Separated Army Wives Association: 3 Trajan Walk, Andover, Hants. Telephone (Andover) 0264 51440.

DID YOU KNOW?

INCREASED BOARDING SCHOOL and Handicapped Children's Allowances come into effect with the Autumn Term 1982.

The revised amounts per term are as follows: For first and second children the allowance is £746 per term, for a third child £887 per term and for a fourth or handicapped child an allowance of £924 per term is payable.

REMEMBER, those of you who are claiming maternity grant, payable from 11 weeks before until three months after the expected confinement date, that there is now a NEW form. Make sure that you complete F INS 98 (Rev II/81) as the old form is no longer acceptable.

* * * *

REMEMBER, if you are a Serviceman in marital categories three or four and wish to transfer your leave warrants to your family, you may do so under certain conditions. Your children must be dependants i.e. be unmarried and under 18 or under 21 and in full-time education or at home because of some medical reason. They may then travel from the normal family residence to join the parent at the duty station or leave destination subject to production of the correct documentation. More details from your unit orderly room.

* * * *

REMEMBER, that wives whose husbands are serving in the Falklands can claim for transferred leave journeys. They should sign AFO 1771 (Mil) and this should then be certified by the Families, or equivalent, Officer. Check with your husband's unit if you think you may be eligible.

* * * *

REMEMBER, ask for your set of DHSS leaflets on medical treatment abroad. A new range of leaflets, including 'How to get medical treatment in other European Community Countries', 'Protect your health abroad' and 'Medical costs abroad — What you need to know before you go', is available from DHSS offices, travel offices and BFPOs.

* * * *

REMEMBER, if you want to make sure of your vote next year, you must complete and return F/Vote/34 (revised 1980), which is a green card specifically for Service dependants available from your husband's unit. This must be done before 15 October for UK addresses or 15 September for addresses in Northern Ireland if you want to make sure you have the chance of exercising your democratic right from overseas postings.

* * * *

REMEMBER, the Pre-School Playgroups Association BAOR Conference takes place on 23/24 October. Further details from Mrs C Pascoe, Dortmund Garrison Kindergarten, Suffolk Barracks, BFPO 20.



THE LIST OF distinguished people who have been invited to give a Basil Henriques Memorial Lecture is rather exclusive. Even so, Brigadier Gris Davies-Scourfield accepted the honour with mixed feelings as it also marked his last attendance at a National Association of Boys' Clubs conference as General Secretary after nine years.

He chose as the title for his lecture, "Come wind, come weather — Boys' Clubs in changing times" and spoke about the part that Boys' Clubs will play in the future of our young people faced as they are with the spectre

of unemployment from the day they leave school.

He stressed, as had Basil Henriques the founder of Boys' Clubs before him, the importance of the clubs. "We have changes and difficulties to face but the Boys' Clubs have so much to offer. Whether the boy is under 14 or over 21, there is a wealth of opportunity for him and we must strive to achieve full employment for all our members and all those who leave school."

This was the theme of the 1982 conference and, giving the Keynote address, the Director of Manpower Services Commission Geoffrey Holland, said "We keep on talking about youth unemployment, regarding it as inevitable. We must now talk about young people and work".

He praised the work done by the NABC, much of which has been done in conjunction with the MSC at local and national level, and welcomed the appointment of the NABC Boys and Work project officer and the Department of Education and Science grant which will enable the Association to encourage local developments.

There are over 2000 affiliated

clubs in the NABC representing some 18,000 members and Brigadier Davies-Scourfield took on the huge challenge with the same enthusiasm and dedication that took him through his first career as an active soldier with the Royal Greenjackets.

And what a challenge! The NABC offers its members a seemingly infinite choice of activities besides the sports and outdoor pursuits. For some, there is rugby, soccer, boxing, athletics, angling and canoeing for example, while, for other less sport-orientated members, national chess and snooker championships, drama competitions, film-making courses and photography and art opportunities — not forgetting the rock and pop concerts of course.

Senior member training remains a high priority with NABC to encourage boys to develop their confidence and leadership qualities. International exchanges, candidates' weeks and leadership development programmes help the boys gain in stature which they can put to good use at one of the 16 Boys' Clubs training and adventure centres.

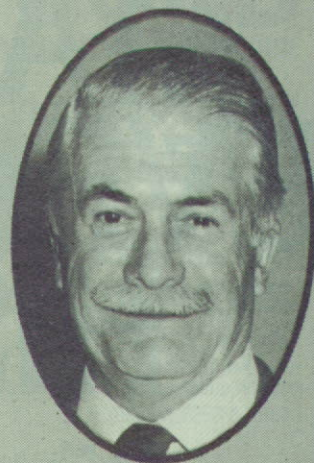


Photo by Geoff Terrill, NABC

The 1982 conference closed with a short but dynamic speech from Clement Stone, a 1981 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and the newly-elected vice-president of NABC, who had flown in from America in Concord. He left us all fired with enthusiasm to help young people in any way we could, particularly during Boys' Club Week which runs from 22-30 October.

If there's a club near you, why not go along or write to NABC, 24 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA. They will be pleased to give you any information you want.

Tyneside show as BFBS-UK goes live

THE FACE BEHIND the voice of Tommy Vance, host of the popular afternoon show BFBS-UK, was revealed when the programme took to the road and was broadcast from the Tyneside Summer Exhibition.

From inside the BBC Radio Newcastle marquee, came the usual varied programme with local celebrities interviewed in front of a crowd of some 500. Dedications were played for relatives stationed abroad and members of the audience themselves made the rather daunting walk to the microphone to make requests personally over the air.

Among those interviewed by 'TV on radio' as Tommy describes himself for BFBS listeners, was Arnold Deane, Head of the Overseas Branch of the DHSS. He answered several questions about unemployment and other benefits and described the latest DHSS move to help overseas claimants. 1st Battalion, The Royal Tank Regiment have offered to monitor all claims submitted, to help the DHSS produce a set of guidelines. They will be doing this when they re-

turn to UK in Autumn and Mr Deane is hoping for another similar offer from a regiment moving from UK to Germany.

Star of the show, however, was BBC Newcastle's own top DJ, Frank Wappet. Frank hosts the local morning show and has his own following of loyal fans. For some, even some who one would have thought had reached the years of discretion, it was too much to see their idol on the stage and they rushed forward to touch and cuddle him — or was it Tommy they were after?



and . . .

FOR THOSE OF YOU who have been wondering what the face behind another well-known BFBS voice, that of Alan Clough in Berlin, is like, we have included the photo above.

It was taken during a live interview with Dr Juergen Lange, curator of the Berlin Aquarium, who was accompanied by a baby python, when he was a guest on the nature and conservation 'spot' which goes out every Monday lunchtime.

Pictured left to right are: Alan, Juergen (with Monty) and Debbi Dewhurst who presents the conservation items.



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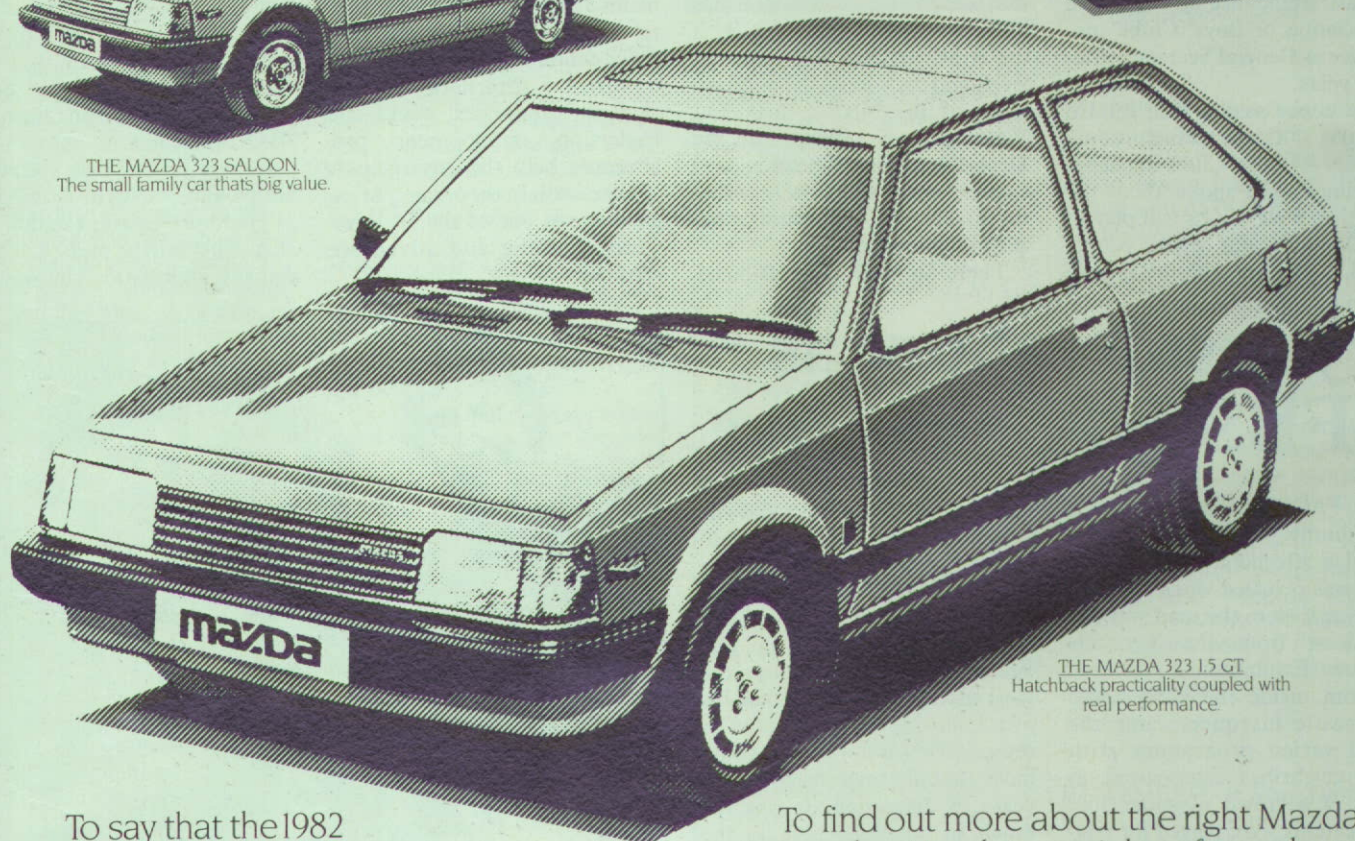
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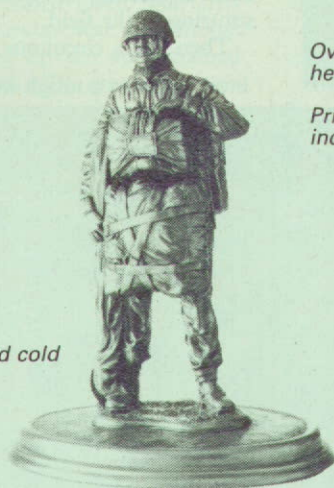
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ANGELS GET A GLIMPSE OF HELL

Rescuing casualty from burning APC.



Carefully easing casualty on to stretcher.

JUST FOUR WEEKS after joining the Army, the newly commissioned officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps are relentlessly put through their paces — not in a clean and warm Army hospital, but roughing it in the field.

For two-and-a-half days at the tail end of their induction course these girls, all of them qualified SRNs, go out on the Ash Ranges for a formal exercise designed to give them first hand experience of the job of a medic.

QA Training Course 14 rose on the Monday morning at six, loaded a four tonner with their kit and went off to the RAMC Training Centre where they met their persecutor-in-chief, Major Roger Thayne RAMC and his three Sergeant instructors. The rest of the morning was spent on practical exercises in putting up intravenous drips and suturing in the field.

Then, by a circuitous and disorientating route, they were taken out onto the Ranges where they put up all their tentage with accompanying camouflage and dug their latrines.

"I want you to dig a hole three feet deep by two foot long and 18 inches wide," explained Captain Brigit McEvilly, the QA training officer. Twenty minutes later she found a trench three feet wide and 18 inches deep!

"We knew 'three foot' came into it somewhere," said the girls when they realised their mistake and wondered how they would straddle a three foot grave!

After their first meal of compo which they found "constipating, but really not that bad" this intrepid bunch faced their first gruelling exercise under war conditions. This meant running up the aptly named 'heartbreak hill' in full NBC kit, collecting a casualty hidden by green 'gas' and bringing him downhill again on a stretcher.

This proved by far the hardest part of the whole exercise and in spite of regular PT over the previous four weeks the girls felt the strain. One of them, Lieutenant Alison Hughes, fell heavily on the way down with the stretcher and injured her knee. "But it was for real," said Alison. "Even though I was in agony with my knee, I had to wait the full half hour decontamination period in all my kit before they'd look at my knee."

Sadly, her injury meant that Alison was put out of action and had to retire from the exercise. SOLDIER asked her if she felt just a bit relieved, but not a bit of it: "After you've been together for five weeks and such a close course too, it's terrible to have to just sit and watch."

Up at five the following morning a two mile run was the first item on the agenda followed by an assault course that any soldier would have been proud to complete. And all before breakfast. Instruction and revision in making weapons safe and first aid followed in preparation for the afternoon's casualty exercise.

Imaginatively stagemanaged by Major Thayne, the exercise's two scenarios left the girls in no doubt as to their 'reality'. Broken and gory 'bodies' lay hideously draped over and around burning vehicles which had just



QAs take the strain — and it shows.

come under air attack.

The female 'medics' arrived in the field ambulance and swiftly, though with some chaos, set about collecting the casualties. Strength and size were against them. Two small women have considerably more difficulty in hauling an inert soldier from the inside of an APC than two trained male medics.

Smoke and thunder flashes, which they had never come across before, seriously hindered their work but Major Thayne was determined his students should see the situation for real.

**Story: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Andy Burridge**

The second scenario, this time on 'heartbreak hill' was one of simulated artillery fire from which wounded men had to be rescued from their dugouts. The walking wounded were helped to the waiting ambulance, their weapons made safe and the stretcher cases carried back down the hill to the Regimental Aid Post (RAP.)

All the time under fire the girls had to administer first aid wherever possible and appropriate.

Back at the RAP another group was waiting for the onslaught of casualties. They arrived moaning wildly with the pain of blown off limbs and gaping chest and head wounds. ("Moan louder," bawled the in-

structors at the 'casualties' played by grinning RAMC recruits.)

In the midst of frenzied documentation and medical treatment one plaintive female voice was heard: "Has anyone got a plaster? I've cut my finger!"

For this and other parts of the exercise a group leader is appointed. "This gives them all a chance at leadership and it's very interesting to see how they get on with it," explained Captain McEvilly. "You see, they don't shout at each other in the NHS and they've got to get used to giving commands."

At last it was over, with all the casualties safely evacuated from the battle area, and the 'medics' set about brewing a cuppa and having a smoke — a habit curiously prevalent amongst nurses.

"When we got back to the tents," admitted one honest lass, "I just wanted to cry — quite a few of us did. I was exhausted and felt I just couldn't take any more. But once we had a drink and started talking about it we were really pleased that we'd managed to do it and were all right then." Which was just as well, because they then had a two hour session at the RAMC training centre on map reading.

"They'll never have to work as hard as this again," said Captain McEvilly who resolutely goes out with every course. She does allow herself one 'luxury' though which is denied the students and that is a burner for cooking; the girls have to make fires.

continued on page 28



"They learn a lot about themselves out here and their level of endurance. Most of them don't believe they could ever do the things they actually do. If I'd told them exactly what to expect they'd be horrified. But faced with the situation they just get on with it."

Badly in need of rest and some levity, the girls could relax from nine o'clock on the second night and enjoy the 'barbecue' — sausages, onions, steak, a mean red sauce and, incongruously, chow mein — all served sumptuously on paper plates.

Traditionally during this evening the QAs give their own special tribute to their instructors in the form of a floor show. Raising the canvas roof of the 'eighteen by twenty-four' Course 14's effort made the London Palladium look tame. Naturally the instructors were the butts of the good-humoured jokes with Captain McEvilly ('a real ring-dinger! Good-looking, so divine') and Major Thayne bearing the brunt.

Excused guard duty for the night the valiant nurses fell into exhausted sleep, gathering their strength for the final hurdle — a five mile map reading exercise. At nine the next morning, tentage down and no visible signs of occupation, the RAMC Sergeant instructors set off with their 'men' clutching maps and magnetic compasses.

The instructors, used to their own raw recruits, say the QAs almost always put their all into this field exercise. Sergeant Danny Sweeney for instance, who has taken several groups of QAs out over the last year reckoned: "we get far more out of them than the



Lifting wounded soldier from dugout.

lads — they really work one hundred per cent."

Back at the RAMC training centre three-and-a-half hours later, the map-readers returned tired and hungry and looking forward to a bath. Nurses have a professional hatred of dirt and found one of the more uncomfortable aspects of their spell in the field was being unable to keep as clean as they would like.

"Coming into the training centre and a clean environment we could smell something — then we realised it was us!" exclaimed one horrified nurse.

There was no doubt though that the exercise had achieved its aims. Some of the nurses had met soldiers for the first time; they had come across and started using field terms; and, most important, they could now appreciate the work of the medics and understand what they and the casualties suffer before reaching military hospital.

"We can't teach them much in two and a half days," said Major Thayne, "Except a knowledge of what's gone on up ahead. It's unlikely they'll ever be this far forward. But now when they're in a nice, clean ward at Rinteln, say, and a nasty, dirty chap comes in from exercise they'll understand what he's gone through."

And what did the QA officers think themselves? "Fun", "useful" and "when can we do it again?" were some of the comments.

Despite the rigours, deprivations and aching muscles, all had found it worthwhile, none more so than Lieutenant Jo Naylor making her second entry into the QARANC. In her view the Corps has changed "an awful lot — and for the better".

"There is far more emphasis on the military side now and having done this exercise we feel like Army officers as well as nursing officers."

There is a feeling generally in the Corps — heartily endorsed by Course 14 — that QAs could be used effectively further forward rather than always in a main hospital. Perhaps the future will see them going out with the troops as the RMOA — Regimental Medical Officer's Assistant. After all the training is the same, particularly if field exercises become more commonplace.

But now, their metamorphosis from NHS to Army nurses complete, it was time for the course members to disperse. Some were taking up postings in Aldershot, others in Catterick and some were even off to Hong Kong.

However their individual careers develop they are unlikely to forget their days and nights on Ash Ranges. Lieutenant Tricia Smith, an experienced NHS ward sister and midwife, said she would never regret joining the Army. "I think it's because we're a Corps and the uniform is rather special. We're all very proud of it."

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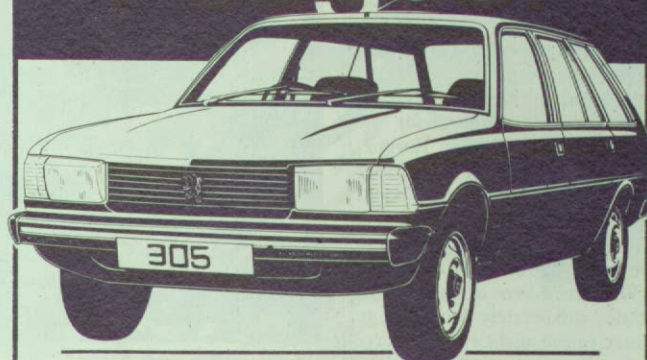
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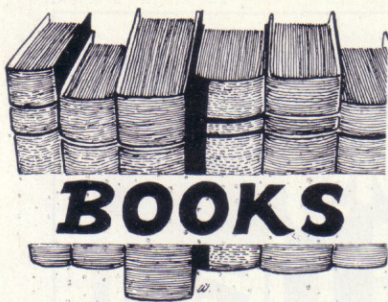
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FIRST FOR EXPORT



BOOKS

X-Troop: James Leasor

X-Troop, No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando, brain-child of Lord Mountbatten, was made up of anti-Nazi Hungarian, Austrian and German refugees. They were mainly Jewish; many of them progressed to the Troop through British internment camps and the Royal Pioneers. Much of what they did, and the identities of many, will remain secret until 2042, and even then not much will be revealed because one of the rules was that as little as possible about members of X-Troop should be put on record.

It does seem that a German-Jewish volunteer went to France in 1944 with the express purpose of helping to deceive the Germans about the Allied plans for landing in Europe, and it is on this man that Mr. Leasor bases the major part of this book. The trouble with "faction" is that it is difficult to know just how much to believe, and this story is no exception. Were members of the French Resistance deliberately sacrificed to give force to the agent's cover-story? Did he really get to meet Hitler and encourage the Führer in his intuitive mistakes? Both seem unlikely — but the unlikely often happens in war. Anyway, it is interesting to speculate and the book is a good read for anyone with a few pinches of salt handy.

Corgi edition, Transworld Publishers, Century House, 61-63 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 — £1.50. RLE

And the Walls Came Tumbling Down: Jack Fishman

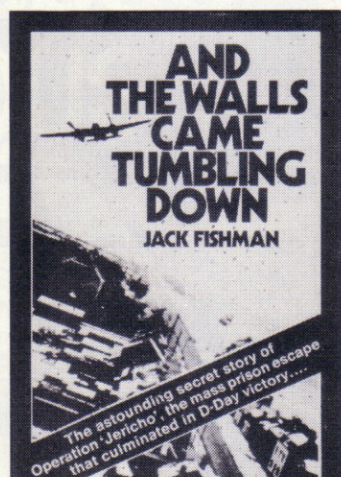
Jack Fishman's style is one of probing detailed narrative with plenty of dialogue and an obvious enthusiasm for his subject. In addition, this book shows an extraordinary insight to life in prison, RAF establishments and brothels — due to his research interviews, it must be said — as well as the lives and personalities of the component characters in the story.

The book is a detailed account of *Operation Jericho* (or *Renovate* as it was called in the early stages), in which a prison at Amiens was attacked at less than treetop height by Mosquito bombers on 18 February 1944, in order to give a chance of freedom to its seven hundred inmates: 'Spies, burglars, saboteurs, pickpockets, Resistance couriers and common murderers and forgers, guerilla fighters and prostitutes, pimps and black marketeers, thugs, shoplifters, evasion line aiders and vagabonds...' It was not a compassionate gesture on the part of the Allies, but a seemingly indispensable part of build-up to the *Overlord* invasion;

in particular, to remove from German custody Raymond Vivant, a prominent Resistance man.

Many stories are woven into the 444 pages of this book, each of which would stand up as a book on its own strength. Fishman introduces the characters and sets the atmospheric scene in no less than 192 pages before the Mosquitoes of 21, 464 and 487 Squadrons become airborne for their mission, and a further 27 pages before the bombs actually fall. Throughout, the author never lets up his consistently compelling style. The bombing and its bloody aftermath is graphically described, followed by the ordeals, not always without humour, of the hunted escapees.

There are underworld tips for those who may one day find themselves on the run, such as when



breaking open a safe it should always be tackled from the rear, that sardine tin openers make very good skeleton keys, and if being pursued by dogs, it is possible to take their minds off the chase by urinating against a tree or barn.

The publishers claim the book is a 'gripping war story' and Wing Commander Stanford Tuck calls it 'absolutely enthralling'. These are no exaggerations; it is one of the most difficult to put down and brilliantly structured books to have its roots in World War Two. It is certainly destined for dramatisation and we hear that New Zealand Television is preparing a documentary on the raid — the BBC and the other television people may well have boomed by missing it.

Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1 — £8.95. BJ

The Secret War 1914-1918: Stuart Ramsay Tompkins

There were secret diplomatic moves going on behind the scenes in World War One that were aimed at the ending of hostilities, the disrupting of old alliances and the discouraging of new ones. Britain was active almost from the beginning of the war but, so too were most of the major nations of both the Central Powers and the Entente.

Attempts were made unsuccessfully to disrupt the alliance between Germany and Austria and to prevent one between the Germans and the Turks. The latter was defeated when

the German battleships *Breslau* and *Goeben* eluded the British and French fleets in the Mediterranean by escaping eastward by Sicily and into the Sea of Marmara aided by the Turks. However, much of the German secret moves were directed at getting their adversary Russia out of the war and most of this monograph records the course of these events.

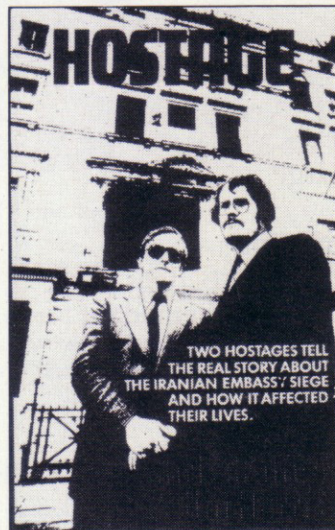
The author, a Canadian, was a well known historian whose many works on Russia reflect his deep study of the minds and progress of the people through the ages. His analysis of the secret moves in Eastern Europe is therefore of interest today in so far as they may reveal something of the workings of the mind of that enigmatic bear of the East.

Morriss Publishing Ltd, 1745 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2J8 — \$10.00

GRH

Hostage: Chris Cramer and Sim Harris

On Wednesday, April 30 1980 two BBC newsmen, Sim Harris and Chris Cramer went to the Iranian Embassy to pursue the main news story of the day, the plight of the American hostages held in Iran. Ironically, terrifyingly, they arrived just in time to be caught up in Britain's own hostage drama. Six Arab terrorists stormed the building, threatening to kill some twenty-six innocent men and women if their demands were not met. One



of the BBC men, Chris Cramer, suffering from a stomach complaint picked up on a recent assignment in Africa, was released. The other, Sim Harris, remained a captive for the six days of the siege, and was present inside the Embassy during the dramatic and famous assault by the SAS.

The book is a racy, direct account of the siege as they knew it. Cramer, on the outside, had some insight into the proceedings of the Anti-Terrorist Squad and SAS as they prepared to attack, and Harris, on the inside, was painfully aware of the fluctuations in tensions as the terrorists' moods changed, and the bizarre relationship which existed between captor and captive. Both men were deeply grateful to the SAS for their professionalism and courage, and the account of the final bloody shoot-out is compelling.

John Clare Books, P.O. Box 404, 106 Cheyne Walk, London SW10 — £6.95.

IJK

'I counted them all out and I counted them all back'; The Battle for the Falklands: Brian Hanrahan and Robert Fox

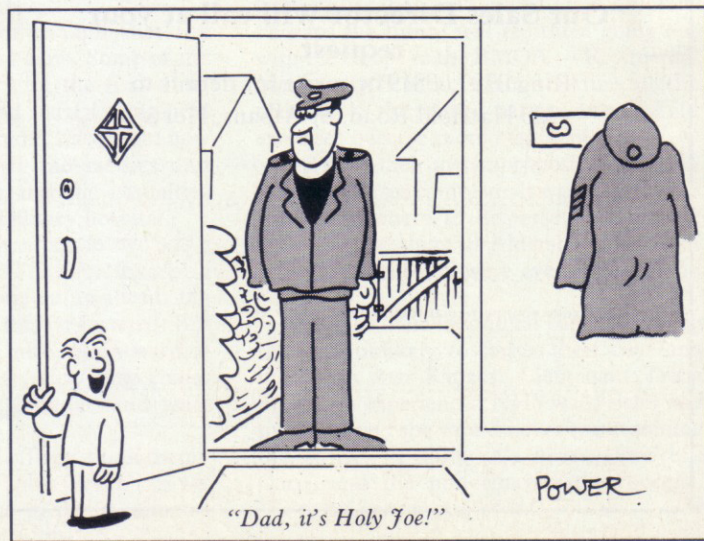
The despatches from William Russell, 'The Times' correspondent during the Crimean War, were the first to bring the horror of war to the breakfast table of the citizens of this country. Few since can have had the same effect until Brian Hanrahan and Robert Fox set sail for the Falklands early in April this year. They brought the news of the operation first by radio and later with accompanying film to counter the flood of propaganda from Argentina although much was not heard or seen until after the conflict, when the BBC ran the series 'Task Force South'.

Now one can read all their reports in this excellent pocket size edition published by the BBC, which records in their inimitable style, almost daily, their view of the conflict.

Many books will be written about this operation but this is the first and none will be able to capture the intimacy of these two first-class reporters.

BBC Publications — £1.95

P.S.N.



**Graham Smith
visits a unique
'reference library'**

PATTERNS OF FIRE

IN A DRAB cluster of Victorian buildings a sniper's shot away from the London's North Circular Road, is a veritable Aladdin's cave of modern military small arms from all over the world.

And every year, rather like library books, about 800 of the weapons are loaned out for a week at a time to British Army units for familiarisation and recognition training.

The 'library' is the Quality Assurance Directorate (Ordnance) Pattern Room at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, which boasts around 5000 major equipments from every manufacturing country — including the seven-nation Warsaw Pact and China.

Among its latest additions is the Soviet AK-74 assault rifle which uses 5.45mm ammunition, now replacing the veteran 7.62mm AK-47. But the interest of visitors and borrowers is not just confined to the 40 or so weapon systems of Eastern Bloc countries sequestered in the Pattern Room. Much of it is focused on Nato weapons enabling soldiers of member nations to learn more about the American M.16 carbine or the M.60 machine gun for instance — or perhaps the Bundeswehr's 9mm Heckler and Koch MP5 sub-machine gun.

Of the AK-74, Mr Herb Woodend, the Pattern Room's curator, said: "It's a good, solid little gun but it has got its drawbacks. It's reliable and easy to maintain but one handicap is the distance between the rear and front blade sights.

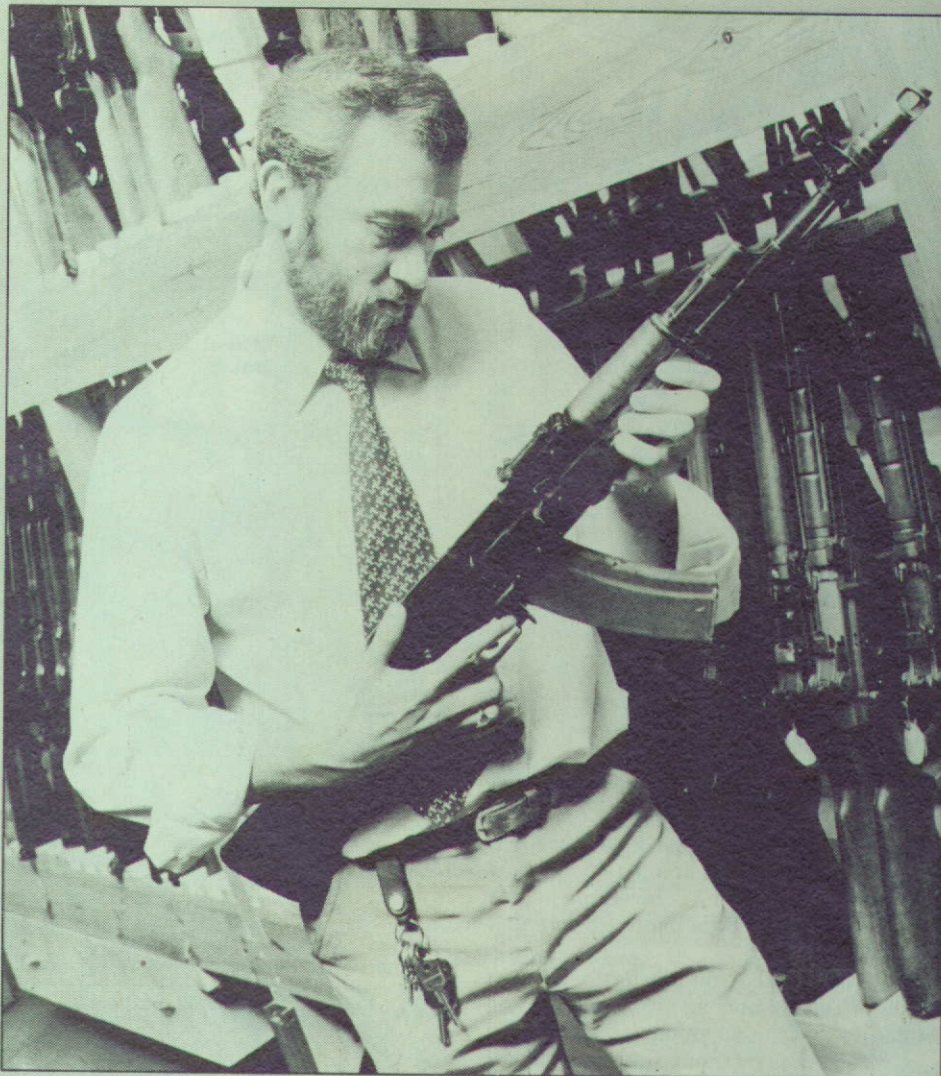
"Our collection includes nearly every design improvement in small arms. Weapons from all over the world are tested and evaluated. The Pattern Room is an internationally recognised reference point for serious students of military small arms. It is also used by our own designers here at Enfield.

"It is not open to the public though certain sponsored personnel including bona fide historians and authors do make private tours and visits. We hold the world's most comprehensive collection of military small arms."

And among the row-upon-row of pistols, rifles, machine guns, wire-cutter bayonets, grenade launchers, luminous night sights and trench fighting clubs were, he said, several examples of captured home-made weapons from Northern Ireland.

The most elderly exhibit amid the half-miriad of modern weaponry is a flintlock musket dating from 1695. Also in pride of place is George Luger's personally monogrammed carbine. Another prize is the Sealed Pattern breech-loading cavalry carbine

**The first Maxim machine-gun,
made at RSAF Enfield in 1892.▶**



A visitor studies the new Soviet AK-74 assault rifle.

of 1865 designed by Westley Richards.

Mr Frank Caldwell, the Principal Quality Engineer, told SOLDIER: "The Pattern Room was set up in 1850 to provide a store of patterns against which the standards and quality of newly-made weapons could be measured. It is used extensively by design and development engineers and also by researchers, writers, private collectors and by contractors. We just hate the word 'museum' but prefer to call it a reference room of small arms hardware.

Pictures: Les Wiggs

"There is nothing on show which is classified and we have an unofficial agreement with the Tower of London that they will handle weapons up to 1850 while we take on weapons from that time. We don't overlap too much. They are specialists in antique weapons whereas our reference room deals with the times when muzzle loaders began to

move out and breech-loading, bolt-action and automatic rifles began to come in.

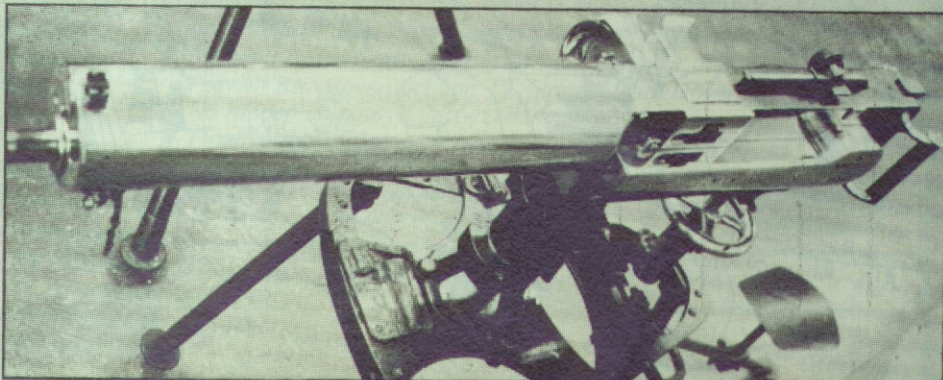
"In those early days, drawings and specifications were not sufficiently detailed to define the full-build standard of a weapon and an acceptable example or 'pattern' would be selected and kept as a reference for all future manufacture.

"Even today, patterns are still used to supplement drawings, as it is often very difficult to specify the finer points of such items as the embossed details on swords, for example, and their surface finish. It is much more convenient to see, handle and compare the actual article.

"The Pattern Room's contents now cover the whole field of small arms such as pistols, rifles, machine guns, swords and bayonets. They are constantly being added to so that they provide a comprehensive source of reference.

"There are always people who want to look at sights, mountings, ammunition. It

continued on page 32





Mr Woodend with renowned 'Brown Bess'.

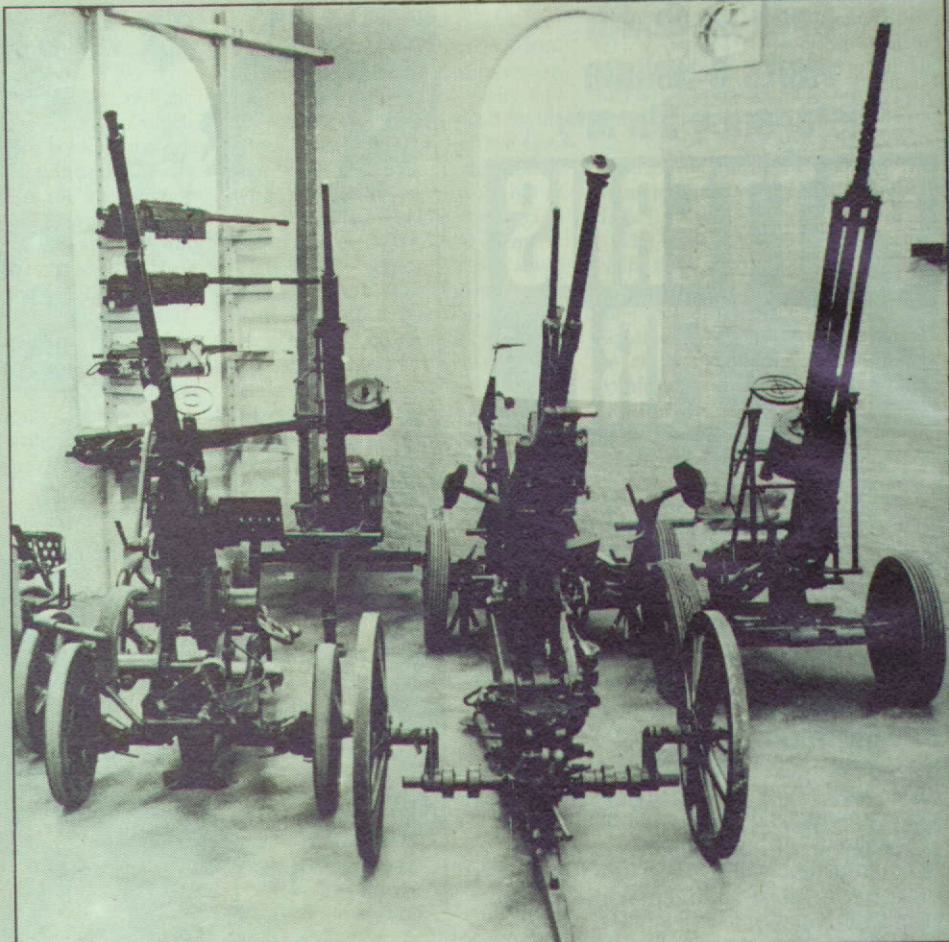
isn't every day you design a gun and you may want to mount a gun on a new vehicle when, at this point of its involvement, it's better to have a piece of hardware here that they can play with."

But the Small Arms Factory's Patterns Room does have one big problem. It has no authority to claim anything.

"We could not get any weapon from the Falklands which had been used by the Argentinians. This would have been very interesting because although an FN rifle is the same rifle, different methods of production in various countries may prove to be more cost-effective. After all, it is we who supply the patterns to the contractors!"

Although the Enfield Pattern Room has acquired a vast collection of small arms over the years, "99 per cent of it has been basically scrounged" according to Mr Caldwell.

"We have contacts with the police forces and also with HM Customs and Excise who charge us a fairly nominal sum for them. But it's still cheaper than list price!"



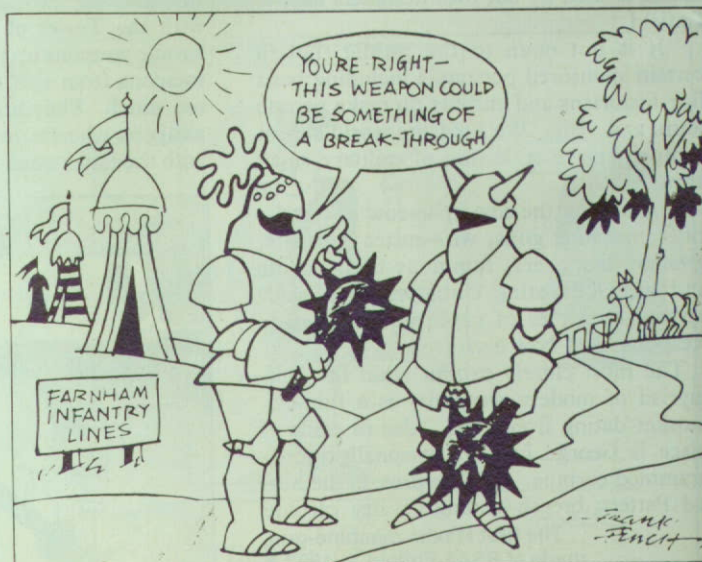
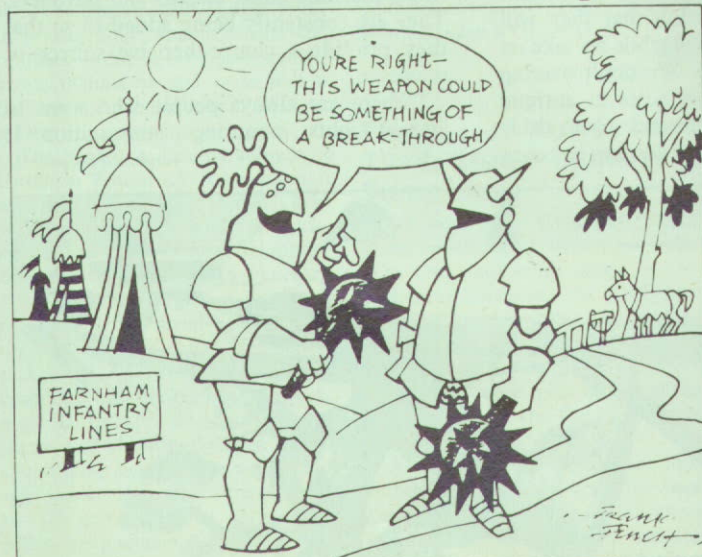
A fine assortment of anti-aircraft guns. ▲

Part of the large machine-gun display. ▼

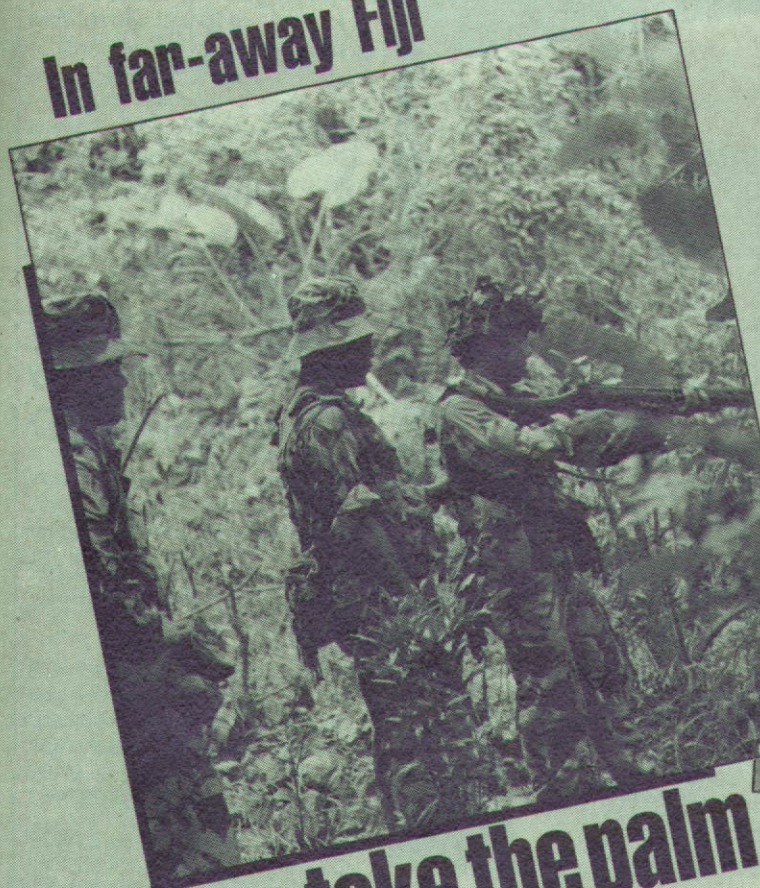


How observant are you?

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.



In far-away Fiji



Gurkhas take the palm

WHILE HUNDREDS OF their fellow countrymen were braving bitter cold and barren terrain in the Falklands, men of 'C' Company 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles were battling with six foot grass and blazing temperatures in the hot, wet jungle of Fiji.

For six weeks the company and attached personnel were able to put the hectic life of Hong Kong behind them and enjoy training and recreation on the main island of Viti Levu.

'Palm Frond 24' involved the company in a progressive programme, starting with section and platoon exercises and working up through a United Nations-style reporting exercise and an adventure training camp to the final Company Exercise.

The latter included a seaborne assault, infiltration by boat through mangrove swamps and the swift seizing of enemy positions dominating the beachhead. Rocky ground and giant grass coupled with high temperatures and the added risk of bush fires made this a testing few days for the Gurkhas.

The company also had the opportunity to carry out live field firing on farm land and to practise tank stalks, night patrol contacts,

Left: Preparing for action on jungle close quarter battle lane; Above: Ready for night beach landing.

tactical grenade throwing and jungle close quarter battle.

All ranks — including those attached from REME, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Queen's Gurkha Signals, RE and RAMC — were able to take part in this phase of the training which also provided valuable experience in the art of building 'bashas' — temporary shelters — in heavy rain.

As a welcome break from the hard work there were trips around the neighbouring resort islands and the Gurkha Village in Singatoka, together with a visit to the capital city Suva. The company was very lucky to have as its Admin Officer Captain Philip Brown, of the Cheshire Regiment, a Fijian who served previously in the Royal Fiji Military Forces and whose contacts proved invaluable.



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FORM A

Register of Electors 1983

Representation of the People Acts

Register in force for twelve months from 16th February 1983
Qualifying date 10th October 1982

No one may vote at elections to Parliament, local councils or the European Assembly unless his/her name appears in a register of electors. A new register is produced each year and the law requires the householders to ensure that the information necessary to ensure that the register is accurate is up to date.

To vote, your name must be on it.

Are you registered as a service voter?

If you're not, you could lose your vote.

As a member of HM forces, you only need to register once and your vote is assured for the rest of your service career, no matter where you're posted.

Registration forms are available from your ship or unit at all times.

Your completed form should be sent to the electoral registration officer for the area in which you wish to register.

Wives or husbands of members of HM forces can register as civilian voters if they prefer, while living in the United Kingdom.

But if they move overseas they have to register as Service voters in order to vote.

All registration forms must be signed and dated on or before 10th October 1982, and sent to the electoral registration officer as quickly as possible.

Otherwise you could find yourself without a vote at the next election.

It's your vote ~~x~~ don't lose it.

Issued by the Home Office.



PEN PALS WANTED

Two 18-year-old country lassies wish to hear from any soldiers, 19-25 years old, based in and around the Midlands area. All letters answered. — *Angela and Alison Higgs, 14 Pit Hill or 110 Main St, Smeeton Westerby, Leicester, Leics LE8.*

My name is Linda and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall, brunette with green eyes. I like dancing, drinking, theatre, reading and supporting Liverpool. — *L Balmer, 23 Hilbre Road, West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside.*

My name is Maria and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall, with long brown hair and blue/green eyes. My hobbies are football, badminton, cycling and going for long walks. — *Maria Head, 1 New Cottages, Cliftons Lane, Reigate, Surrey.*

We are two nurses. Carole is 18½ years old and is 5ft 2ins tall with short brown hair and light brown eyes. She would like to write to someone aged between 19-23 years old. Jackie is 5ft 4½ins tall with long brown hair and light brown eyes. She is 21 years old and would like to write to someone aged between 22-28 years old. — *Carole Austin, 61 Hoppett House, Darenth Park Hospital, Dartford, Kent. Jackie Horsnell, 8a Parry House, Darenth Park Hospital, Dartford, Kent.*

My name is Sheelagh and I am 18 years old. I've got dark brown curly hair and hazel eyes. I like having a good laugh and I love motorbikes. I'd like to write to someone aged 18-25. Photos if possible. — *Sheelagh, 11 Thurlstone Road, West Norwood, London SE27 0PE.*

My name is Stephanie and I am a 19-year-old secretary. I am 5ft 7ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. I like dancing, going to pubs, swimming and squash. I like travelling and my job gives me lots of spare time and long holidays. All letters answered. — *Stephanie Carter, 4 Westfield Terrace, Hartley, Cranbrook, Kent.*

My name is Grace and I am 15 years old. I will be emigrating to Chicago, USA and am interested in finding a penfriend in the American forces. My interests are soul/disco music and I hope to become a fashion designer after passing my exams. — *Grace Kamber, 21 Riverview Road, Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9NJ.*

A HANDFUL OF MURDERS in the Aldershot area over the last year has made women in the district more than usually nervous about attacks.

With this in mind one instructor at the Army School of Physical Training is doing something to help women protect themselves from brutal and sexual assault. QMSI George Bryson has now run his third course of Aikido for the female civilian staff in the Garrison.

Aikido (or in military terms Realistic Defence Technique) is a method of self defence which can be used against any form of assault. Its goal is to neutralise aggression and render the attacker harmless without causing him any serious injury.

There are three stages: release from the attacker, immobilising him and finally arrest. When teaching Aikido to soldiers as a form of unarmed combat (see **SOLDIER** October 1980) George covers all three stages, but with 'his girls' he is concerned only with the first.

"What I aim to do," explains George, "is to give women a bit of confidence when they're out on their own, say late at night. At the end of the course they ought to be fully aware of all the ways a man's going to attack them and how to get away from him."

One point George stresses is that there is only one opportunity to repulse the attacker.

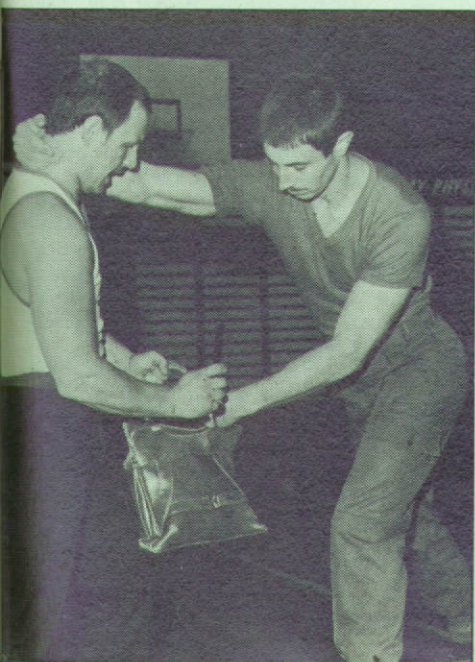
"If a man's got you from behind in a bear hug," he tells the class, "there is nothing you can do. Nothing at all. You've got to wait for the right opportunity, like when he's got you on the ground and slackens his grip. Then he's weak and you can get away."

He then demonstrates how this is done with the long-suffering Staff Sergeant Bob Martin playing the part of the rapist or murderer.

The anatomical fact is that even with Aikido a woman is at a disadvantage against a man when it comes to strength. She might be able to gain a release but if she cannot get away fast enough her attacker can get hold of her again and overpower her. To help women in this situation George teaches them how to use a new six-inch long low profile baton (LPB).

Ingenuously disguised and used as a key ring (and therefore not considered an offensive weapon) the LPB can be used with great

Q Bryson, on left, demonstrates (with props) how to cause pain with the key-ring.



A six-inch baton and an Army self-defence expert are giving women in Aldershot more confidence in . . .



STICKING UP FOR THEMSELVES



effect to apply pressure and pain.

This 'keyring' was invented by the world's masters of the martial arts, the Japanese, but developed in America as a self defence weapon for women. George Bryson however, sees it having a wider usefulness. He hopes it could be a future aid to our Army and police forces — as it is for the Los Angeles Police Department in California.

With so much controversy over recent rape cases and also the possibility of women being sued for Grievous Bodily Harm after over-reacting to an assault, George emphasises the need to justify any reaction.

"It won't do you much good if a guy just takes hold of your arm and you turn round and take his eye out with this," warns George, indicating the LPB. "He might only want to ask you the time!

A wide arm turn forces the attacker (Staff Sergeant Bob Martin) to release his victim.

"All that's necessary is a quick release. If he's got you on the ground, however, and is ripping your clothes off . . . or worse . . . then you can do what ever you like to defend yourself. *But you've got to justify the action.*"

After being shown the basic techniques the girls then practise them on each other. But being unwilling to hurt one another they restrain themselves and reduce the effectiveness of the action.

How they would react in a real attack is still an unknown quantity. Q Bryson hopes that with their new knowledge together with their desperate fear they would have the strength and will to get free.

Anyone interested in attending one of these courses, which normally run for an hour a day for a week, should contact the Army School of PT and speak to Staff Sergeant Bob Martin.

Story: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Andy Burridge



No 24

THE IRISH GUARDS

UNDER ARMY ORDER of the year 1900 Queen Victoria formed the Irish Guards "to commemorate the bravery shown by the Irish Regiments in the operations in South Africa in the years 1899 and 1900". The appointment of the famed Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar as their first colonel brought them their first nickname of

'Bob's Own'. This later gave way to the more appropriate, and current, appellation of 'The Micks'. Rudyard Kipling, whose son was killed in the Irish Guards at the Battle of Loos in 1915, which became one of the earlier battle honours to be borne on the Colours, wrote in 1918: "We're not so old on the Army List, but we're not so young at our trade." In those few words he captured the essence of the national martial qualities of a comparatively young regiment, which in two World Wars gained six Victoria Crosses.

The badge worn in the forage cap, depicted here, is that of the Star of the Order of St Patrick, bearing the motto of the Order *Quis Seperabit* (Who shall separate us) and the Roman numerals MDCCLXXXIII (1783 — the date of the Order's foundation) with the St Patrick's cross in the centre on which is superimposed a shamrock leaf with three crowns on the leaf. Officers

wear the badge made in silver, gilt and enamels, warrant officers and staff sergeants likewise but theirs differ slightly in construction. All other ranks wear it in gold anodised material.

Distinctions in dress are the green band worn round the forage cap, buttons grouped in fours on the full dress tunic and the blue plume worn in the bearskin. In common with all Guards regiments there is a military band, but in addition — as a national feature as it is with the Scots Guards — there is an excellent Pipe Band. Further, alone among the regiments of the Division, they boast a mascot — an Irish Wolfhound. The Piper's uniform consists of a green doublet, hose and sleeveless knee-length cloak, saffron kilt and garters, a broad black waist belt all topped by a green cap or 'caubeen' with blue hackle bearing a large version of the regimental cap star in white metal. The Pipe Major,



however, sports a similar sized star made in silver, gilt and enamels.

A great day of celebration each year is, of course, the 17th March — St Patrick's Day — when everyone wears a sprig of shamrock, even the wolfhound. After a special parade, and often inspection by a member of the Royal Family, comes a full programme of rejoicing.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Welsh Guards



On the Record with Rodney Bashford

In Concert

Band and Bugles of 2nd Bn The Light Infantry. Conductor: Bandmaster A S Leeming. Music Masters MM 0587

The second battalion's programme pays tribute, and rightly so, to the various regions of England where light infantry foregather, with particular reference to Cornwall, Yorkshire, Shropshire and Durham. And very effectively it is all played too. Mr Leeming provides a bugle slow march for the *Governor's Guard* of Gibraltar, and RB a tongue in cheek arrangement of the *Cornish Floral Dance*. Good programme-building this. Two other bandmasters are represented in John Wood's cheek in tongue arrangement of the Ilkley tune *On Richmond Hill Baht'At* and RAF bandmaster Gordon Harrison's medley of Geordie tunes *Northern Echoes*.

From show-biz come the famous *Cavatina* from 'The Deer Hunter' and a medley called *Boney M in Concert*. At first I took this to be refer-

ence to a folksong but find it is the name of a German pop group. And if TV commercials are show-biz then include *Homeward*, an arrangement of the slow movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony for (wait for it) band and bugles. It goes though, just, but what the Hovis people would make of it I don't know. Alfred Reed's Battle Hymn and War March of the Vikings are from his *A Nordic Trilogy*; L/Cpl Gray does a Barry Manilow in *I Write the Songs* while yet another *High on the Hill*, and the *KSLI marches*, make a very buyable package.

From 2 LI, Weeton Camp, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 3JQ, price £4.60 plus p&p.

The Rifles

Band of the 3rd Bn The Royal Green Jackets. Conductor: Bandmaster J Seddon. Music Masters MM 0589

This one is right up my street, if only because Mr Seddon wisely starts with a RB march called *By The Left!* and even though he calls it a bugle quick march instead of a retreat march and omits the all important exclamation mark. To old soldiers it has an altogether more significant meaning with it; can you still hear the cry of anguish "by the effing left" as a squaddy is confronted by the unacceptable?

A pleasant programme pleasantly played, the buglery and riflery not overdone and nicely interspersed with tuneful fripperies. The *Light Division Assembly* and the Rifle Brigade march *I'm 95* are followed by Retreat March *By The Left!* (!!!) and Alf Young's charming *Bugler in Vienna*,

with a march by Mr Seddon *Copenhagen*, the popular *High on a Hill*, and the *Regimental March* also involving the bugles. Nestico's *Cab-ecar*, Ron Goodwin's *Luftwaffe March*, *Thunderbirds*, *Bavarian Bugle Boy*, the fine *Alter Jager Marsch*, and the theme from *Chariots of Fire* serve as light relief. A march medley of *London Airs* and a *Lennon & McCartney Portrait* complete the programme.

From Band Office 3 RGJ, Trenchard Bks, BFPO 23, price £4.60 inclusive.

Marching and Waltzing

Band of the Scots Guards. Conductor: Major D R Beat. DR 38

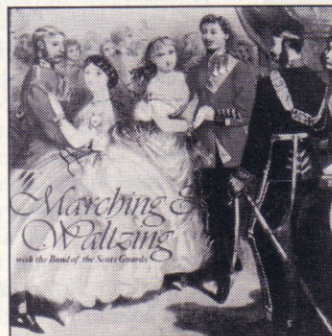
With imagination and no little courage the Scots Guards, who have been

absent from the recording studio for some time, give us eight examples of unknown marches by famous composers. The habit should spread.

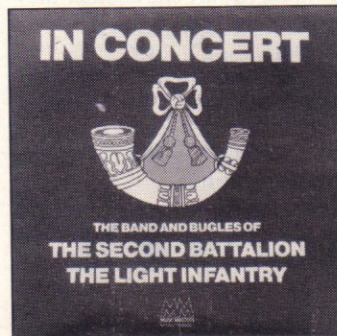
Since the waltzes are all familiar it would have been criminal to have interspersed them with the usual Alford and Sousa so Major Beat has chosen four marches each from two unlikely contenders for the privilege — the Austrian J F Wagner and the American Arthur Pryor. Arthur who? you may well ask, so I'll tell you. He was Sousa's principal trombonist, later had his own band, and composed over 300 pieces including that great tune 'The Whistler and his Dog', and 'Love's Enchantment'. Josef Franz Wagner was a 19th century Austro-Hungarian bandmaster whose main claim to fame is 'Under the Double Eagle'. Wagner is represented with *Victorious March*, *Maria Theresia*, *Erzherzog Johann-Jodler*, and *Entry of the Village Band* — all highly characteristic of the mid-European style and little masterpieces. Pryor has *Liberty Hall*, *The Victor*, *The Triumph of Old Glory*, and one which cleverly incorporates many American popular tunes *Heart of America*. Collectors' items all.

The waltzes are nicely varied in mood, from Leroy Anderson's perky *Belle of the Ball*, dreamy *Under the Bridges of Paris*, the *Cavatina* from 'The Deer Hunter', a catchy *Gordon Waltz Medley*, and the evocative *Love's Roundabout* by Oscar Strauss. Worth the money for a sleeve which will adorn your record rack in a place of honour.

From Band Scots Guards, PO Box 73, 56 Regency St, London SW1, price £4.60 plus p&p.



The Editor and RB have received several comments from readers of long delays in their requests for records direct from bands. In spite of "the exigencies of the Service" would bandmasters and PRIs please try to speed up the despatch of records to purchasers.



300TH

THE NUMBERS UP!

- 1 The horsemen of the Apocalypse
- 2 The Commandments
- 3 "Round the world in days" (Verne)
- 4 The sages of Greece
- 5 The Fates
- 6 The deadly sins
- 7 The points of Woodrow Wilson
- 8 The Wise Virgins
- 9 "The Guardsmen" (Dumas)
- 10 "The First " (Hay)
- 11 " Men in a Boat" (Jerome)
- 12 The days of Lent
- 13 " Weeks in a Balloon" (Verne)
- 14 The Muses
- 15 The labours of Hercules
- 16 The Minutes Silence on Armistice Day
- 17 hours from Tulsa
- 18 The highest possible break at snooker is
- 19 "Possession is points of the Law"
- 20 The Heavens
- 21 The sides of an undecagon
- 22 " loaves and small fishes"
- 23 of them rode "Half a League
Onwards" (Tennyson)
- 24 "He's had over the"
- 25 " Leagues under the Sea" (Verne)
- 26 " Men on a Dead Man's Chest" (Stevenson)
- 27 The span of a Man's life is score years
and Steps" (Buchan)
- 28 "The Nights"
- 29 "The Arabian Nights" or "The"
- 30 "Pieces of"
- 31 "Anna of the Towns" (Bennett)
- 32 The days before Waterloo
- 33 The Dodecanese is a group of islands
- 34 barleycorns make one inch
- 35 The Dog Watches are from p.m. to
p.m. and p.m. to p.m.
- 36 There are links to a chain
- 37 The Pins are situated in Western Galway
- 38 " Gentlemen of Verona" (Shakespeare)
- 39 Rip Van Winkle slept for years
- 40 Only books of Spencer's "Faërie Queen"
were completed
- 41 The Graces
- 42 The chief points of the mariner's compass
- 43 The Old Testament has Books and the New
Testament
- 44 The days of Christmas
- 45 Sunset Strip
- 46 Rome is known as the "City of Hills"
- 47 An ell is equal to inches
- 48 Easter Monday of the year was known as
"Black Monday"
- 49 The minimum length of a football pitch is yards
- 50 Mile Beach is in Australia

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION reaches a major milestone this issue — it's our 300th in an unbroken line stretching back to July 1958! To celebrate the birthday we've got a bumper quiz with a bumper first prize — £25 — as well as all our usual runner-up prizes.

All you have to do is supply the missing numbers in each of the following statements. There are fifty statements but more than fifty numbers are required as you will see. Some of them are easy. Others more obscure. But don't worry if you can't list all of them — we'll be awarding prizes for the highest correct entries.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 8 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 1 November. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 300' label. In the case of ties winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 300' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

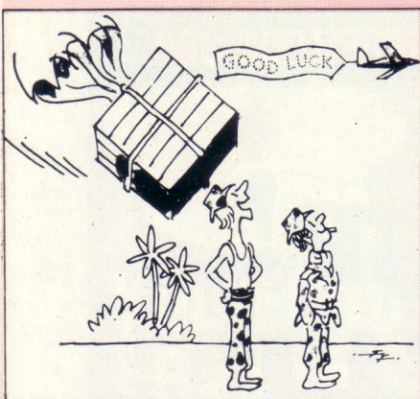
PRIZES

1: £25

2: £10

3: £5 4-5:

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of SOLDIER
posted to
you direct.



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. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. 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.**

AND SOCKS . . .

Cpl Howat's letter in Mail Drop (9 August) on the topic of clothing and equipment was well worth the £5 prize. It was pungently written and entertaining to read, though a bit light on accuracy. First, the 'woolly-pully' is 100% pure wool. If made from polyester fibre as he says, we would presumably call it the 'poly-pully' wouldn't we?

Next, the steel helmet. There is a new helmet being trialled at the moment. It may well be lighter and it may (or may not) continue to damage Cpl Howat's specs and nose. It will, however, continue to give some protection against shell fragments which is its purpose. Believe me, our developers do not forget specs and noses when designing helmets. It's just that other factors, like saving lives, take priority.

Next waterproofs. If serving in Northern Ireland or BAOR, Cpl Howat would already have a wind-proof and waterproof DPM smock and trousers to wear as an alternative to his 'flashers' mac' and poncho. As more money becomes available, the DPM smock is being issued to all units in UK, starting with the Infantry.

Finally, socks. And here Cpl Howat is absolutely right. As soon as we can, we will replace the polyester combat socks by ones with a much higher woollen content because, although very hard-wearing, the polyester socks are not very comfortable, as most of us know to our cost.

We are always grateful here at Andover and at the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment at Colchester to hear from anyone on the topic of soldiers' kit and all letters will be acknowledged. Keep it up Cpl Howat! — **Col J A Hulme, Logistic Executive (Army), Portway, Monxton Road, Andover, Hants SP11 8HT.**

To be fair to both sides Col Hulme, we're sending you a fiver, too. Perhaps it will help offset the cost of the research! — Ed.

. . . TO BOOT

I think I found the answer to cold feet whilst wearing Army boots.

MAIL DROP

I used to wear rubber anti-gas overboots over my Army boots in snow and icy conditions. They were loose, and flapped about a little and strapped firmly round the ankle. They were comfortable, cheap and did not hamper movement. My feet were in fact encased in 'bags of warm air'. They were easily and quickly removed when necessary, to reveal warm, dry, polished boots!

Even on Hohne ranges in mid-winter, I always had warm feet! — **J K Brewster, 14 Pier Road, North Woolwich, London E16.**

HUSSARS RECORD

Sincere thanks for publishing the review of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Band Record *Ho'way The Lads* (26 July). It is noted that no mention was made that the records are obtainable from Home Headquarters, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP, price £4.50 plus 50p postage. — **Major B O Simmonds (Retd), Home HQ, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP.**

BELISHA BEACON

Does anyone remember the story about the belisha beacon globe which went to war?

It is a story about a group of British soldiers who on the night before going overseas went out on the town of Margate and took back to camp with them a belisha beacon globe.

Wherever the unit went during the war the globe went too and sometimes was seen perched on the front of vehicles. It was given great honour and the outstanding milestones in its three year wanderings were duly inscribed on the globe.

It was handed back to the town after the war and is now on display in Margate public library. I have just received photos of it which were kindly sent to me by the Mayor of the town. — **B J Green, PO Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada POB 1CO.**

OLD SONG

During wartime service in India 1942-45, I was often mystified by old Indian hands singing in their cups a song about 'blue lights'. The song was about the familiar tune of a well-known hymn and the refrain seemed to refer to nothing but those mysterious blue lights:
*Blue lights are blue lights
Blue lights are blue
Blue lights are blue lights
'Cos blue lights are blue . . .*

Can some old soldier please enlighten me. Eric Partridge's *A Dictionary of Historical Slang* says, "In the Indian Army, a blue light was the symbol of temperance". Surely there must be more to blue lights than that? — **John Yeowell, 10 Trinity Green, London E1.**

A Dictionary of Forces Slang defines blue light as "a wild and exaggerated rumour"; North African Army term in eg Keith Douglas' book *'Alamein to Zen Zen* (1946-47)' in reference to a

'blue light rendering the desert sky eerie at nights'. Also 'blue' or 'in the blue' meaning in the desert and indicating a lonely outpost. — Ed.

MEMORIAL

The officers and members of the National League of the Veterans of King Leopold III (UK Branch, BEF, Belgium 1940) are anxious to erect a lasting memorial to men of the Allied Forces and civilians who died in Belgium between 1940 and 1945, before the generation involved have all disappeared.

To this end we have obtained permission from the Burgomaster and Council of the town of De Panne to erect a large memorial window in the foyer of the Town Hall, facing the main entrance. A Book of Remembrance will be placed nearby.

This memorial, we think, will be unique in that it will commemorate all of the War dead in the Belgian sector in one place and will include members of the Belgian Secret Army, the Resistance and civilians.

As De Panne is easily accessible from Ostend in Belgium and Dunkirk in France it will be very easy for relatives to visit to pay tribute and not being in a religious institution will be completely inter-denominational. The cost of this stained glass window will naturally be high but it is our hope that we shall receive many contributions to help provide this memorial. Telephone enquiries to: 01-381 2419 (8-9.30am/5-6.30pm).

Contributions to, and further information from: **E G A Rabbets, 8 Browning Court, Turneville Road, London, W14 9PS.**

FAMILY TIES

I am setting up a pen friend/pen family system, whereby civilian and military families and persons in New Zealand can write to members and families of the UK forces, at home and the garrison in the Falklands, I would like to add Falkland Island people as well.

New Zealand people shared the long wait with the British people, and I'm sure many friendships could be made during the long re-establishment of the Falklands where families will still be apart. — **Mrs Lorena Taylor, 11b Kaputone Place, Belfast, Christchurch 5, Canterbury, New Zealand.**

OBSOLETE

I have to agree with the remarks of L/Cpl McLean (25 June) regarding Army Cadet Force equipment.

I am a civilian instructor with the ACF and I must say that our equipment is outdated and obsolete.

Lee Enfield rifles, 37 webbing etc, I know are better than nothing, but trying to train the soldiers of tomorrow with these leaves a lot to be desired.

Yes of course cadets can buy their own 58 webbing, at a cost of £30 for the basic set, then consider mess tins and poncho, and one is looking at a bill for £45. What lad can afford that? Come on Army, let us have some up-to-date equipment.

Note, we have fifty cadets in our platoon, and our compliment of stores is fifteen sets of 37 webbing, which I'm told is standard. — **Sgt Stan King, 107 Brempons, Basildon, Essex, SS14 2BB.**

I was very surprised to see the letter about the regular Army giving little assistance to the ACF (25 June).

May I point out that the Regimental HQ of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in HM Tower of London gives unstinted assistance to Fusilier Cadet Units in SE London through their Regimental Information Team.

In my own cadet company, we receive regular support from three regular NCOs of the RRF who give help with transport, organising training exercises and who turn up weekly for our parades. They also came with us in February when we spent ten marvellous days with 2 RRF in Berlin. Altogether first class support! — **Cpl John Scott, 94 Cadet Coy RRF, Riverston School, 65-69 Eltham Road, London SE12.**

SALLY ARMY?

I feel I must apologise for the cynical, even hostile anti-British reporting in the German media — 'Der Spiegel' in particular — on the Falklands conflict — commentaries usually made by so-called intellectuals who do not know the difference between a Royal Marine Commando and the Salvation Army.

By victoriously carrying out such an extremely difficult operation HM Forces have proved once more that they are still second to none.

On a different topic altogether — I am sure I am not the only British Army buff who wonders what has become of the Famous Regiments series, published by Leo Cooper. It would be a pity if such a popular series should come to an untimely end — with only half the regiments covered — after such a brilliant start. I call on all readers to write to Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL and urge them to continue and complete that marvellous series. — **Michael Wackers, Wingerstr 9, 6798 Kusel 2, West Germany.**

Leo Cooper Ltd regret that while we might expect the occasional addition to the series, there are no plans to complete the full range. This is largely due to economic factors. We can, however, look forward to the reprint of some of the more popular volumes. — Ed.

ST KILDA

Since 1957, a steady succession of soldiers have served for short periods of time on the island of St Kilda as part of the 30 strong detachment based there from the Royal Artillery Range, Hebrides. Men of many different Corps have been involved in service with the St Kilda detachment and I should like them to know that my account 'Soldiers on St Kilda' is now on sale at £2 a copy. The book is fully illustrated and historically detailed and is available from myself at this address. — **Brigadier R A Spackman, Commander, RA Ranges Hebrides, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland PA88 5LN.**

Can You Help?

I am trying to collect as much information as I can on the Falklands conflict, before it is lost to the past. I would greatly appreciate help from any soldier who was with the Task Force or involved in work at home connected with it. Anything would be gratefully received, especially personal experiences. Any material can be returned if requested. — **Graham Thompson, Collingwood College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LT.**

I am interested in cap badge backings and would like to hear from other SOLDIER readers who also share this interest.

In particular, can any reader please describe the backings worn by the 23rd Hussars, 27th Lancers and the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Buffs (RWK)? — **Mr D E Walls, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Co Antrim BT37 0DW.**

Collectors' Corner

Richard C Fuller, 5397 Twidale Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, L2E 4Y6. *Seeks numbered battery badges of the Canadian Field Artillery, CEF, as well as badges of the Canadian MG Corps. Has badges (British and Canadian) to trade, or will purchase.*

Sgt W J Haslam, 229 Sig Sqn, BFPO 45. *Has for sale or exchange, a Denison smock in excellent condition, interested in Airborne insignia worldwide. Quote offers from Bragg & Turner please. All letters answered.*

P Ladbroke, 62 Gander Green Lane, Cheam, Surrey. *Wants a copy of 'The Rifle Brigade in the Second World War 1939-45' by Major R H W S Hastings. Colin Thurston, 61 Dukes Wood Avenue, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 7JY. Collects all Royal Marine badges and is anxious to get any pre-1950 badges. Also seeks various badges after that date. Willing to buy or exchange.*

Mrs Sara Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. *Seeks to buy war campaign medals awards before WW1 and WW2 and after. Also in groups.*

S Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. *Has GB, European medals 1834 to 1944 for sale. Collector disposing.*

Klaus Scharley, RR1 Carrying Place, Ontario, Canada, KOK 1LO. *Would like original uniforms with insignia of British Airborne units as worn during WWII and Suez era. Any other memorabilia of elite units will also be appreciated. Will pay top prices.*

Robert J Russell, 1425 Slater Place, Victoria BC, Canada, V8P 3R2. *Offers cap badges from extensive collection for exchange only. Many British, Canadian and other Commonwealth cap badges. Canadian spares include most WW2 issues, over 200 CEFs, as well as some pre-1914 and 1920-36 issues. Wants similar categories as spares and lists sent on request.*

T P McNicholas, 138 Keyham Road, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon PL2 1QZ. *Wishes to obtain for reasonable price 1st The Royal Dragoons (Royals) militaria, shoulder titles, 'Eagle' magazines etc and Terence Cuneo print of 1963 Freedom of City of London March; would also like to hear from any old chums from the 'Royals'.*

Pen Pals

My name is Sally and I am 31 years old. I am 5ft tall with light brown hair and green eyes. I enjoy writing, reading, art, dancing, keeping fit, good films and most music. — **Sally Pile, 31 John Gray Road, Forches Estate, Barnstaple, N. Devon.**

My name is Freda and I am a 43-year-old divorcee with two children. I like disco and pop music, swimming, TV, cinema, sport, travel, etc. — **Mrs F Wright, 44 Middlesex Court, Garfield Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey.**

My name is Elizabeth and I am a 31-year-old divorcee with two children. I am 5ft 10ins tall with auburn hair and hazel eyes. My hobbies are music, dancing, drinking, CB radio and generally making a fool of myself. — **Mrs Elizabeth Whitelock, 57 Beechen Drive, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 4BY.**

My name is Jackie and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I work for Marks & Spencer at their Kingston-upon-Thames branch. I like all sports and music, dancing, discos and I like a drink. — **Jackie Freeman, 8 Garden Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 2HQ.**

My name is Maxine and I am 19 years old. My hobbies are corresponding, reading and dancing. I am a domestic helper. I would like to write to someone aged between 25-40 years old. — **Maxine Bailey, Bunkers Hill PO, Trelawny.**

My name is Tricia and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall with short dark hair and dark eyes. I like discos, swimming, badminton, and meeting new friends. I would like to write to any male or female between 18-20. All letters answered. Photos if possible. — **Tricia Lidgard, 19 Essex Avenue, Heap Bridge, Bury, Lancs.**

Competition

The burgeoning vases, the subject of Competition 296, 'Flower Power', caused little difficulty. These logic puzzles prove a popular pastime obviously and you all did blooming well. Following the order of *white, yellow, pink, scarlet and crimson*, the girls' vases held these blooms: *Daisy — 4, 3, 1, 5, 2; Marguerite — 1, 5, 2, 4, 3; Ursinia — 2, 1, 4, 3, 5; Viola — 3, 2, 5, 1, 4; Poppy — 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.* Each vase contains 15 blooms. Prizewinners were: 1st Bdr M E Dyer, 40 Fd Regt RA, Kirkee Bks, Colchester, Essex. 2nd Mr H J L Mansell, 59 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent. 3rd Lt R L H Long RGJ, 24 Forest Road, Piddington, Northampton. 4th Spr S W Kenny, Plant Troop, 4 Fd Sqn, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48. 5th Mrs Heath, 15 Ashgrove Road, Ashford, Middx.

How Observant Are You?

1 Pennant on large tent; 2 Rivets on left man's helmet; 3 Plume on left man's helmet; 4 "T" in "RIGHT"; 5 Right man's toe; 6 Horse's tail; 7 Horse's reins round fence; 8 Left man's left little finger; 9 Bottom right spike of left man's club; 10 Bottom of middle tent.

This proud moment, as men of the Royal Marines raise the British Flag over the Governor's House on Port Stanley, is recorded for ever in this specially commissioned painting by Charles C Stadden, official Marines artist.

To swell the funds of the Royal Marines Association, prints of this painting are available from Soldier Print Society, 1 High St, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 1NZ. The print, which measures 12" x 10" costs £1.50. (Telephoned orders quoting Credit Card accounts will be accepted on 0903 36201).



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PLAY NOW— PAY LATER

AWAY FROM his working day world of military cash flow, Captain Peter Sheehan, the paymaster of 13th/18th Royal Hussars likes nothing better than to escape to a church or cathedral to play the organ.

Peter has given recitals in Canterbury,

Bristol, Edinburgh, Pau in France, Voss in Norway, Paderborn in Germany, in Hong Kong and — more recently — in Louisiana.

His interest in the organ started at the age of 15 and his repertoire embraces both classical and contemporary works. He has

also composed a number of his own pieces soon to be assembled in one volume.

Five years ago, he started to construct his own seven-foot-long harpsichord for a total outlay of £200.

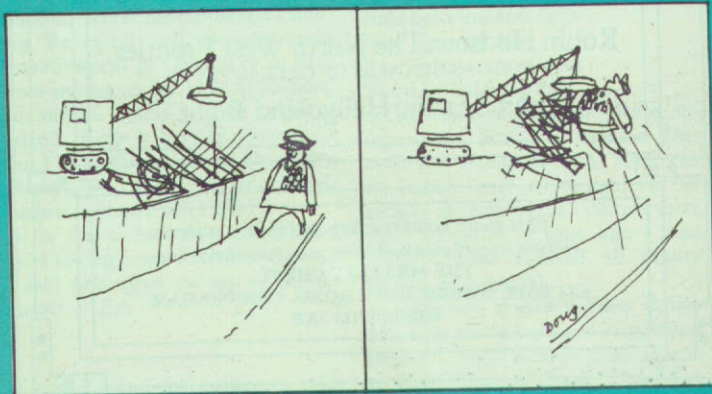
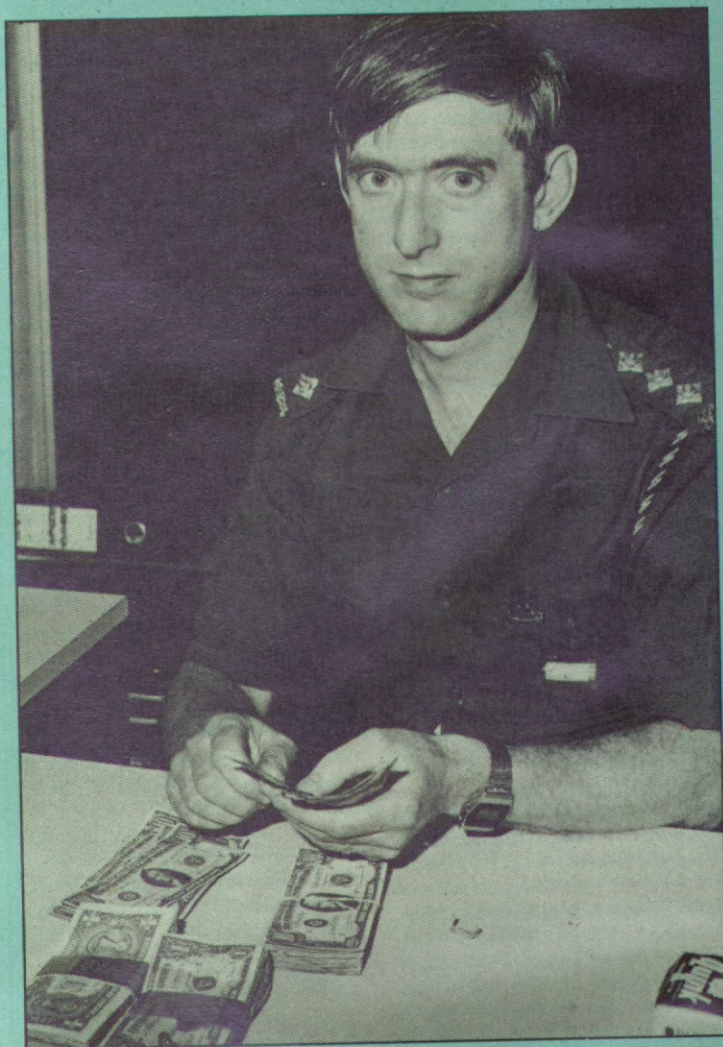
"I've built everything in it myself from scratch including the 136 keys on two keyboards made from different kinds of wood", he said.

As well as being a talented organist Peter is also something of a calligrapher — "based on ninth Century round hand" — and a pen-and-ink artist.

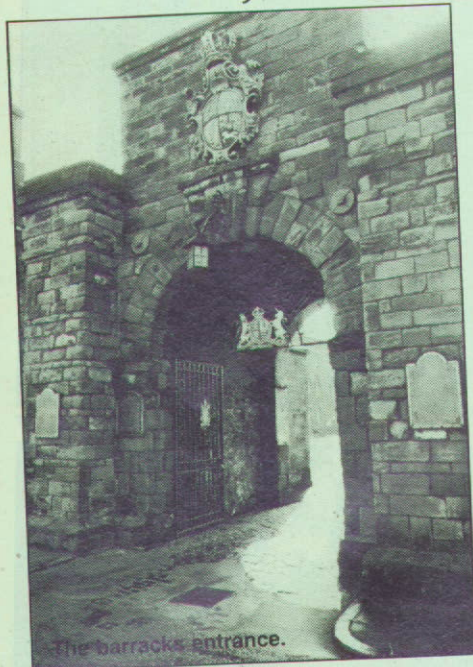
He executed the illuminated scroll commemorating the hand-over of Hong Kong's Victoria Barracks that hangs in Flagstaff House there.

But the organ has first call on the paymaster's leisure.

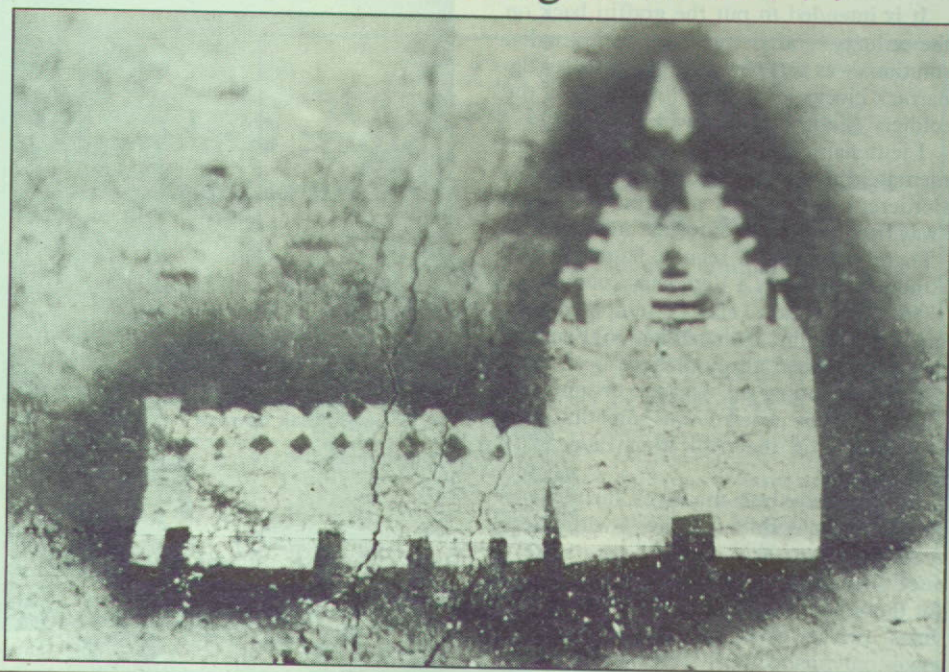
He said: "I play what I like and I don't have to worry about the box-office returns either!"



Life for the soldier of 250 years ago was no laughing matter but a little barrack room art helped lighten the gloom. Now, in Berwick, historians are uncovering some of . . .



The barracks entrance.



A church — but not a local one.

The pictures that went up in smoke

THE LARGER-THAN-LIFE amusing — and abusing — graffiti to be found in so many public places these days has usually been put there with the help of an aerosol paint spray.

Three miles south of the Scottish border, however, and more than 250 years ago, private soldiers took out advertising space, primarily for family amusement, in the simplest of art forms using candle smoke on the seven-and-a-half-foot-high ceilings of their squalid living quarters in Britain's prototype purpose-built barracks at Berwick-upon-Tweed.

These discoveries literally came to light during restoration work undertaken by the Department of the Environment on the

town's Ravensdowne Barracks which were built between 1717 and 1721.

Now, some 65 slabs of graffiti on fragile hair plaster depicting rabbits, churches and soldiers lie carefully re-assembled — some like mosaics — on trestle tables.

Among the artwork memorabilia are names like *James Beddie 1737 . . . IB 1761 . . . John Parker . . . Thomas Hastie . . . Fox . . . Cox . . . WP . . . TH 1757* (Thomas Hastie again?) . . . and *James Parkins*.

In the years up until the completion of Ravensdowne Barracks, soldiers and their families were compulsorily billeted in local ale houses. Many times they absconded without paying their dues.

So the owners of the ale houses — there

were no licences granted in those days — pestered the authorities to build special accommodation for the military in the fast burgeoning garrison town on the route between England and Scotland. They petitioned for 20 years, it is said, against the mandatory billeting in their hostleries, before the Ordnance Board relented.

The barracks were built to accommodate 36 officers and 600 enlisted men and each company was allowed six women kin folk to travel with it.

The Barracks had no welfare services and no hospital. But there was a convenient graveyard in the nearby church to accommodate the victims of typhoid, cholera, pneumonia and other diseases imported from European campaigns.

There were, so far as is known, eight men to a room and four double beds.

And even that small comfort owed much to the Berwick publicans who had a 'whip round' among themselves to furnish the barracks.

Miss Doreen Thompson, a Department of Environment researcher involved with the graffiti when they were taken down from their lofty lairs, explained: "Conditions in those times were dreadful in the barracks with a mortality rate higher than the London slums. Before the 1790s the soldiers had their wives with them. The men and wives slept on wooden cots and the children on benches."

Each barrack room had its own stove and an allowance for coal and candles. There was, she said, a chamber pot in the corner which was swilled out in the morning and "occasionally re-used for the day's rations or for washing water".

"The stench must have been awful particularly before 1719 when a rule was introduced that windows must be opened for two hours a day for ventilation."

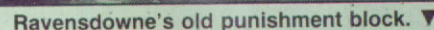
The silhouettes of rabbits were made with paper cut-outs, the candle smoke etching



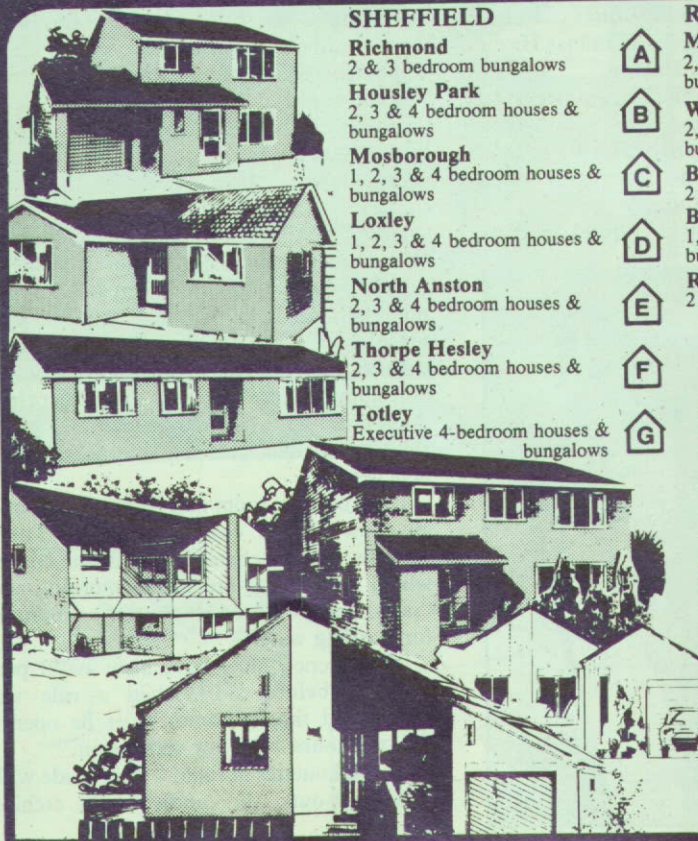
One of the restoration team surveys graffiti slabs.

continued on page 42

But one thing seems certain. Kilroy was never there . . . or *was* he? ■



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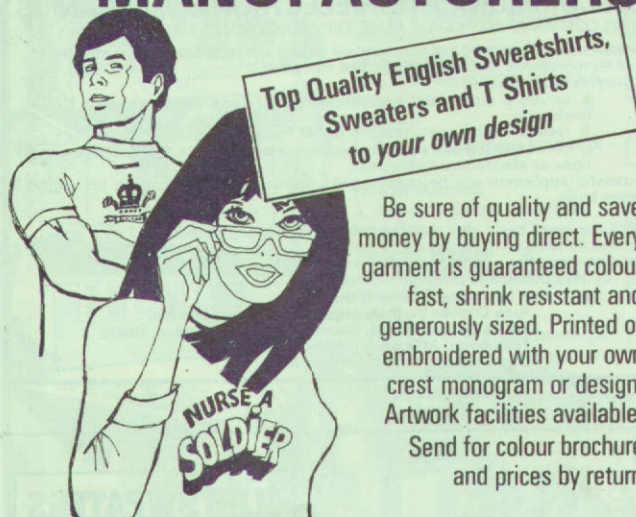
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Winter sport — in high summer

THE SUN was beating down and only a few yards away shirtsleeved day trippers were licking ice creams. But in the midst of the multifarious attractions of the Surrey leisure playground — Thorpe Park — a group of athletes were honing their skills at a winter sport — bobsleighting.

For the first time Britain's bobsleighters, who for many years have included a high proportion of Servicemen, can now practise bobbing all the year round with the opening of the country's first artificial bob track at Thorpe Park.

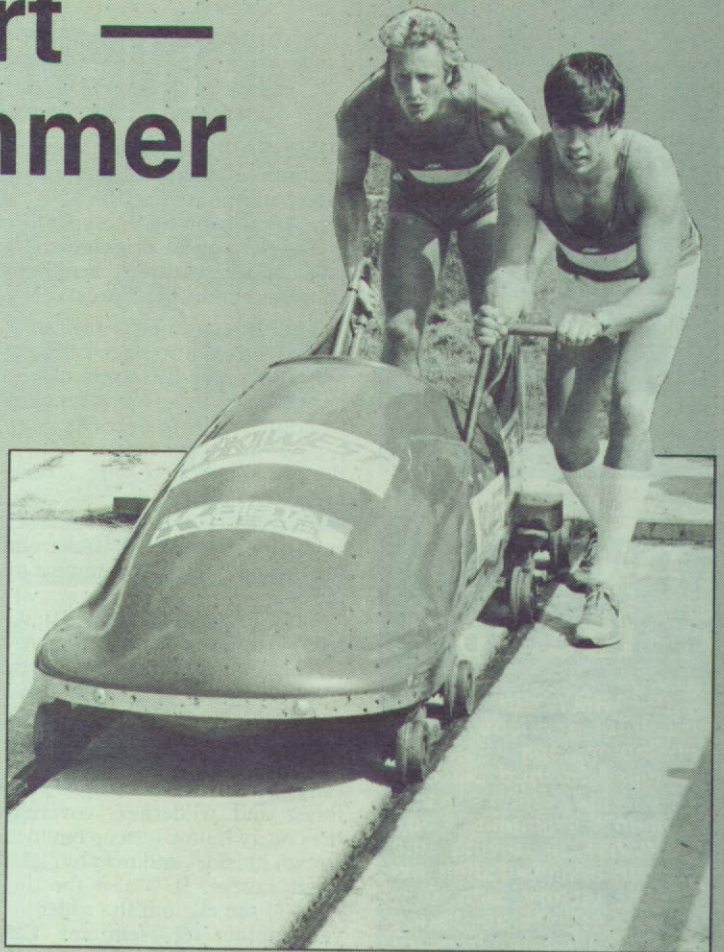
Of course there is no ice involved — the bobs run on wheels down metal tracks with concrete comprising the rest of the track. And the training is basically designed only for the vital start phase — the first 40 yards decides the ultimate speed of a run.

Captain Mike Pugh, a 2 RTR officer stationed at the RAC Centre, Bovington, is Britain's current Number Three driver. One weekend a month throughout the bobbing close season he joins Britain's national squad in prac-

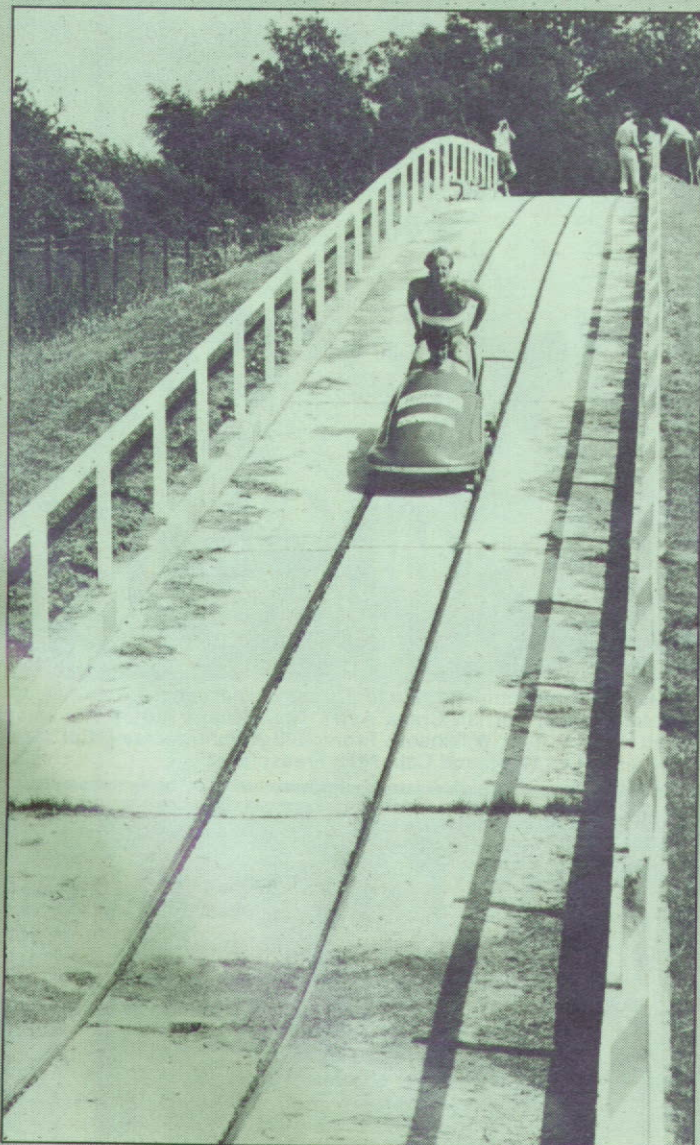
tising on the new slope.

"People's techniques are already improving and it gives you more of an incentive," he says. "It's very difficult to dedicate yourself when you are away from the sport during the summer. I'm fitter now than I was at the start of the season in November last year so by the start of this year's season I should be a lot fitter and stronger."

Captain Pugh began his bobbing back in 1976 as a brakeman. In the 1980 Olympics he was



Mike Pugh (right) and Alan Cearn, get ready to make their dash.



Off to a fast start down the Thorpe Park bob run.

brakeman for the Great Britain two man bob. After the Games he switched to driving and in his first year won the British junior championship.

Last year he finished third in the British senior championships and raced for Britain in the European and world championships as well as being a member of the Army team which clinched the Inter-Service title at Lake Placid.

Now the run up to the 1984 Olympics in Yugoslavia has begun and both Captain Pugh and another 2 RTR driver, Corporal Adrean Parrock, are searching around for sponsors.

Last year the captain bought himself a new bob — which cost £3000 of his own money. Add to that the cost of travelling and hotel accommodation, usually in sky-high cost ski resorts, and it is an expensive business.

"I do get some aid from the Army but of course I cannot expect total help from them," he says. "To succeed completely in this sport I will have to have guaranteed sponsorship otherwise my endeavour to get to the Olympics will grind to a halt."

Corporal Parrock, who is 23, was only able to get to Thorpe Park because he was in England on a gunnery course. He is stationed in Rhine Army. "The only thing we can do is to get a bob with wheels and push it around the tank park," he told SOLDIER.

Parrock also started as a brake-

man but switched to driving. He was tenth in the British senior championships last year but came third in the junior (under 26) two man bob and second in the four man.

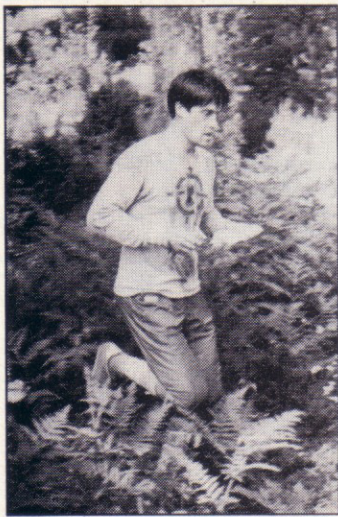
"The people are really good and the sport is great," he declares. "You watch it on the telly and it looks really dangerous. But each time you get down to the bottom you just have to go up and come down again."

It is a sport which has claimed a number of fatalities over the years. After all, even the slowest track is reckoned to have a top bob speed of 68 mph and on some of the faster runs it can reach the 'ton'. But most accidents are due to driver error and the aim of constant training is to make the drivers better.

The layman might think that the bobs find their own way to the bottom of the run — but not so. It is the precision driving which makes for the fast, accurate run — a bob which was not steered would never make it.

Today's Army bobber still tends to come from the Royal Armoured Corps — although there have been exceptions. But according to Mike Pugh that is gradually changing.

"It is probably because of the image which bobbing used to have. But if you look at these people here they are all serious sportsmen and athletes. There is no longer any place for the Hooray Henry."



Author Nick Fresson speeds by.

Divers on the up

THE ARMY did well in the Inter-Services diving championships but slumped to third place in both the men's and women's swimming competitions. In diving the women achieved their expected victory with Corporal Leslie Eyre taking the individual honours for the sixth year in a row.

And the men divers had their best result for several years — managing to tie the championships with the Navy. But in swimming the RAF reigned supreme in both the men's and women's events. The Army girls were handicapped by the absence of one of their top swimmers, Corporal Jeanne Challinor.

Sapper orienteers in Sweden

ENGELSMÄN I SKOGEN

NINE SAPPERS were amongst the 15,000 competitors from 32 nations to compete in this year's Swedish 5-Day Orienteering International just south of the Arctic Circle. It was the first time any Army team had competed in this world famous event and, as one of the largest British teams there, the local press were quick to take an interest with headlines such as "Engelsmän i Skogen" (Englishmen in the Forest).

The International was split into 87 different classes catering for both sexes, all levels of experience and age groups ranging from under 10s to over 68s.

And the sapper team reflected the cosmopolitan nature of the event — being selected from both regular units and the TA, from BAOR and UK, and from ranks ranging from apprentice to major.

Only TA NCO, Cpl Les Hunt, had been to the event before.

The competition was held over five consecutive days (19-24 July) and was centred in the North Baltic coastal town of Lulea.

The countryside here is typically glacial with natural pine forest and wilderness covering the craggy hilltops, steep boulder strewn hillsides and marshy, lake filled valleys. It is also the domain of the elk and the adder — yet another problem for the harassed orienteer trying to navigate with precision and speed over terrain which is both physically demanding and mentally challenging.

Major Peter Marett and TA S/Sgt, John Mursell, were entered in the M35A2 Class (Age Group 35-42), competing against top internationals such as Rolf Pettersson from Sweden.

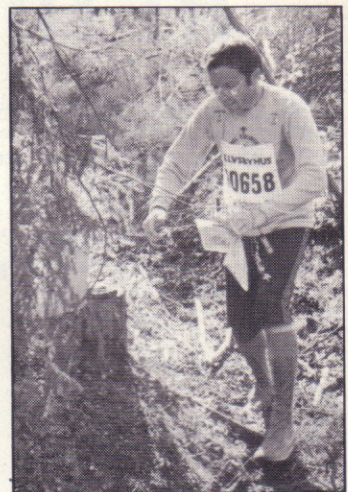
The rest of the team were in the M21A1 Class (ages 21-34) — one class down from the elite and

Report by NICK FRESSON

a particularly tough test for 17-year-old App L/Cpl Richard Griffin, running two age classes up against much more experienced orienteers.

The closest anyone got to the leaders in their class, over the five days was 66th — achieved by former Welsh Junior International Lt John Wilkinson who was also the most successful overall, finishing 131 of the 250 in his class.

Placings though were rela-



Les Hunt about to punch at the 'ditch corner' control.

tively unimportant. For the sappers it was enough just to be taking part in this unique event and well worth the effort.



The sapper team complete with Pink Panther mascot. Back row (l to r): Lt Peter Riches, Spr Ian Craig, App L/Cpl Richard Griffin, Maj Peter Marett and Lt John Wilkinson; Front: S/Sgt John Mursell, Cpl Mick James, Cpl Les Hunt, and Capt Nick Fresson.

Peerless Wigan!

LARRY LLOYD, the former England, Liverpool and Nottingham Forest defender, is now manager of Wigan Athletic. He also happens to be the younger brother of WO1 Bill Lloyd, RSM of the Light Infantry Depot at Shrewsbury and took his newly-promoted Third Division side to give the Depot a pre-season friendly. The professionals won 12-0 but it was good preparation for their next two warm-up games — against Swansea and Nottingham Forest. Picture shows both teams flanked by Bill and Larry Lloyd prior to the match. Wigan are in the stripes.



Last over win for Navy

THE NAVY FINALLY got home with four balls to spare to take the Inter-Services Cricket title at the end of the triangular Cricket Festival at Aldershot. So the Army, the title holders, had to be content with third place instead of the share in the championship that victory would have given them.

The Navy had got off to a flying start in the first match when they chalked up 179 for 8 wickets in their 55 overs and then proceeded to demolish the RAF for only 121.

But there was better luck for the airmen in their game against the Army. Batting first they set the Army a target of 175. Top Army performer with the ball was Sergeant Paul Presland, who took five for 34.

Opener Lance-Corporal Graeme Bird with 27 and 2nd Lieutenant Edward Gordon-Lennox, who notched a spirited 47, were the Army's top scorers. But they struggled to reach 126 before they were all out.

By coincidence that was exactly the score the Army was to make in the final game against the Navy. Going in first they again found problems not only with the Navy bowling but with the pitch.

The hard and true pitch which was needed did not materialise. It soon began to break up and the ball bounced awkwardly, turned and lifted to inhibit free scoring.

The Army lost three wickets in quick succession before Captain Tim Checketts and Sergeant Steve Dove-Dixon stopped the rot. They put on 52 runs to take the score to 67 before Checketts was caught. Two more wickets fell quickly before Captain Peter Sharland joined Dove-Dixon in a stand of 41. But the innings ended with only 126 on the board.

The Army managed to take



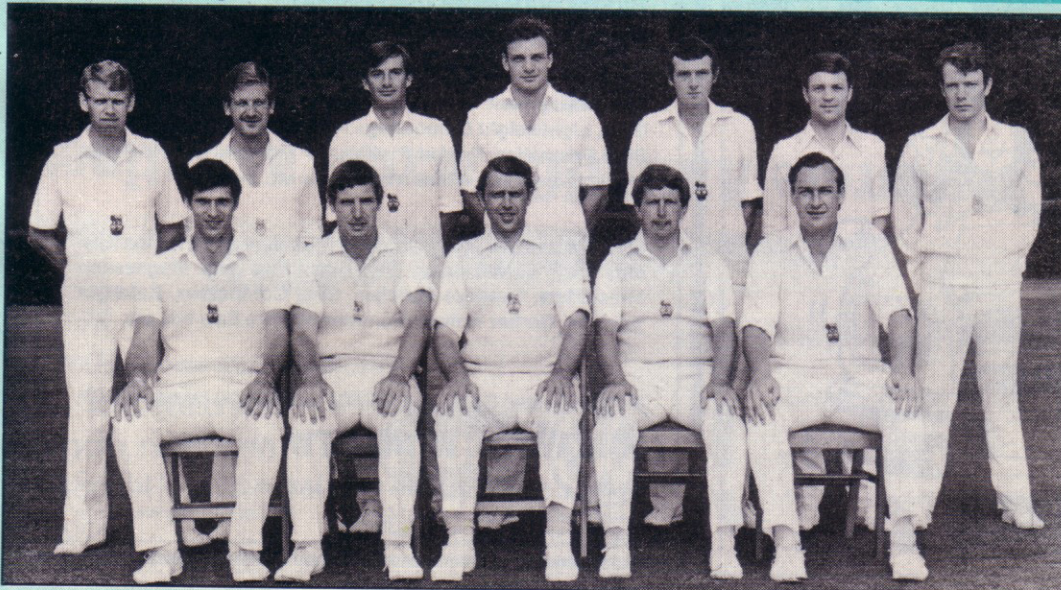
Sgt Paul Presland sends down another delivery against the Navy.

two early Navy wickets but then Moyland-Jones and Izzard came together and took the score to 67 before they were parted. The sailors then appeared to be coasting towards the target as the score reached 110 before Izzard was finally caught for 41.

This seemed to inspire the Army bowlers and the Navy found themselves at 114-6 in the 51st over. But the seventh wicket pair stayed together and a thumping four in the penultimate over left only two runs for victory. They got these off the second ball of the last over.

Presenting the trophy after the nail-biting finish Major-General Bill Withall, President of Combined Services cricket, paid tribute to the young players coming through. He attributed this to the Under-25's competition, which he said was now a healthy contest with a good fixture list.

Below, the Army squad for the Inter-Services Festival. Back (l to r): Sgt Neil Willis; L/Cpl Graeme Bird; Capt Tim Checketts; 2Lt Edward Gordon-Lennox; Cpl David Gelling; Capt Peter Sharland; Lt Nick Roythorne; Front: Sgt Steve Dove-Dixon; Sgt Paul Presland; Major Richard Brooks; Cpl Nigel Scott; Maj Andy Stewart.



*So you want
to be a
sailor*



*but don't
like the
sea . . .*

SOLDIERS OF 1st Battalion The 22nd (CHESHIRE) Regiment currently stationed at the old RAF base at Ballykelly in Northern Ireland have come up with a novel way of how to make use of the vast runways which still exist. They have hit on the idea of Landsailing, a new and up-and-coming sport. It is similar to Windsurfing in technique and the Landsail consists of a compact triangular board mounted on a carbon-steel frame, with two wheels at the rear and one at the front for steering. The technique is readily mastered after a couple of sessions and with a good breeze sailors can find themselves cruising down the main runway at speeds of up to 40 mph.

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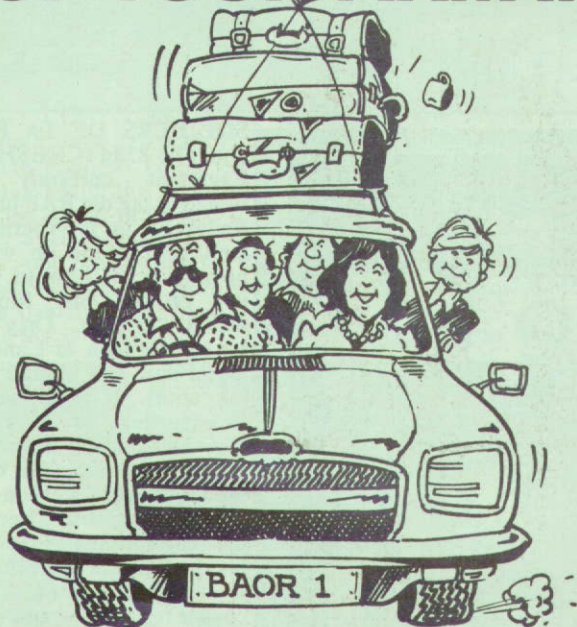
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