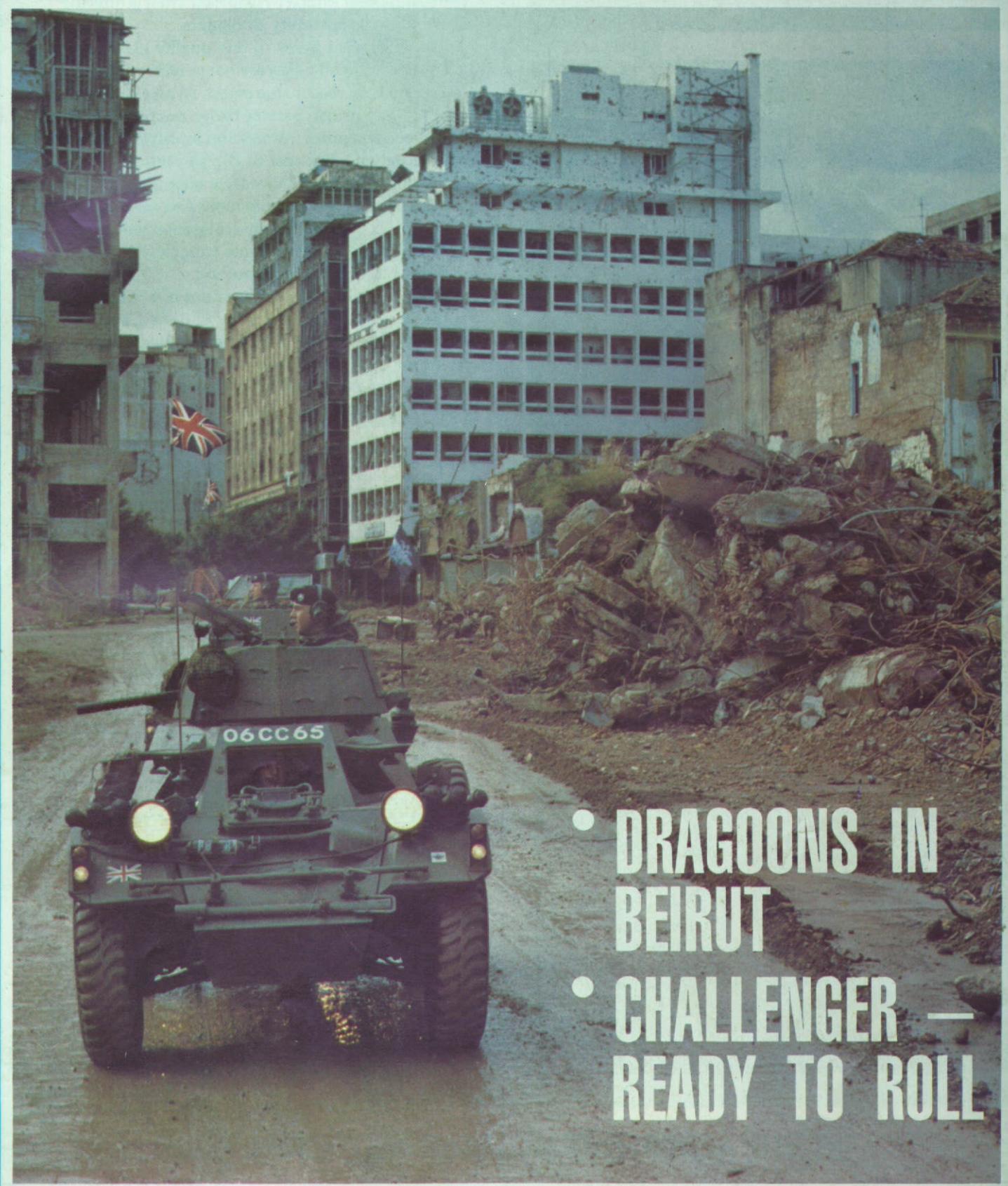


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 21 MAR-3 APR 1983

SOLDIER



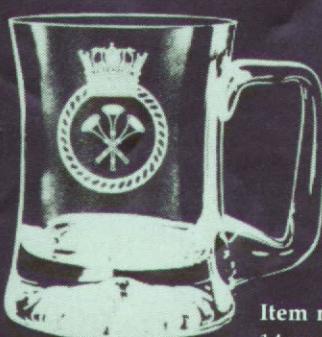
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CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 10 End of a 41 year tour
- 11 SOLDIER-to-Soldier
- 13 Challenger joins the Army
- 14 Dragoons in Beirut
- 19 Profile: Colin Mason
- 21 British Forces Antwerp
- 24 All in the family
- 27 TA to the rescue
- 29 Your cap badge
- 30 Exercise Trumpet Dance
- 32 Humour
- 33 Books
- 34 Polishing up parades
- 35 How Observant Are You?
- 36 Falklands File
- 37 Prize competition
- 38 Mail Drop
- 41 Army Air Corps in Belize
- 47 One man and his dogs
- 48 Sport

FRONT COVER

A Ferret scout car of C Squadron, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, trundles through Martyr's Square in the heart of devastated Beirut. A four page feature on Britain's peace keeping contribution in the shattered city begins on page 14.

Picture by Sgt Paul Montgomery, UKLF

BACK COVER

The Army's new Challenger tanks take shape on the production line at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds. One of the first production models has just been handed over to the Chief of the General Staff to mark the introduction to service. Story — page 13.

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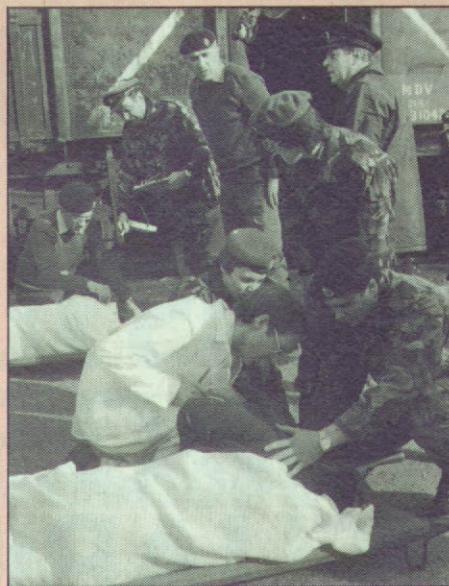
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

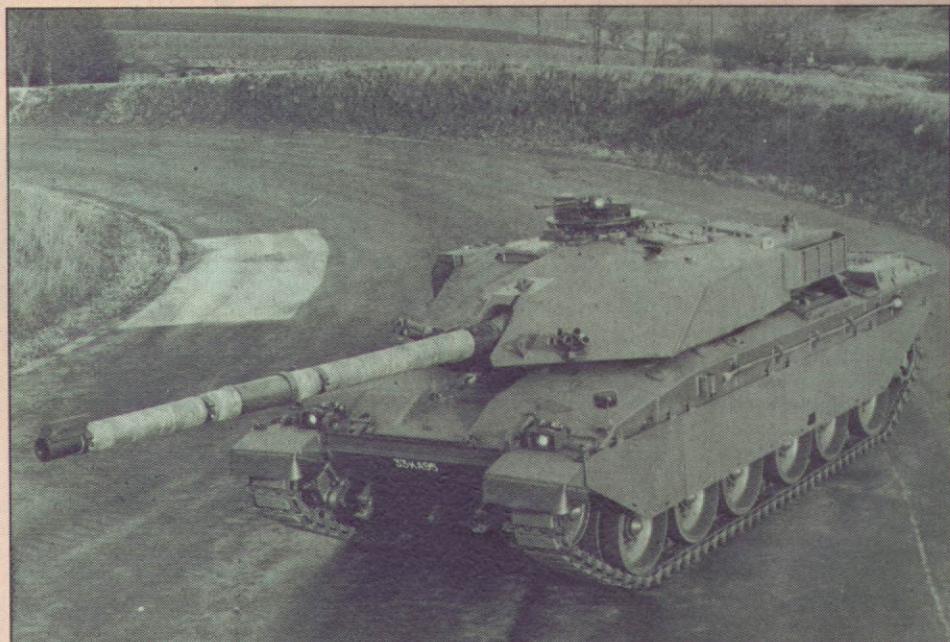


Tragedy in the West country — but TA medics are ready for the call — page 26

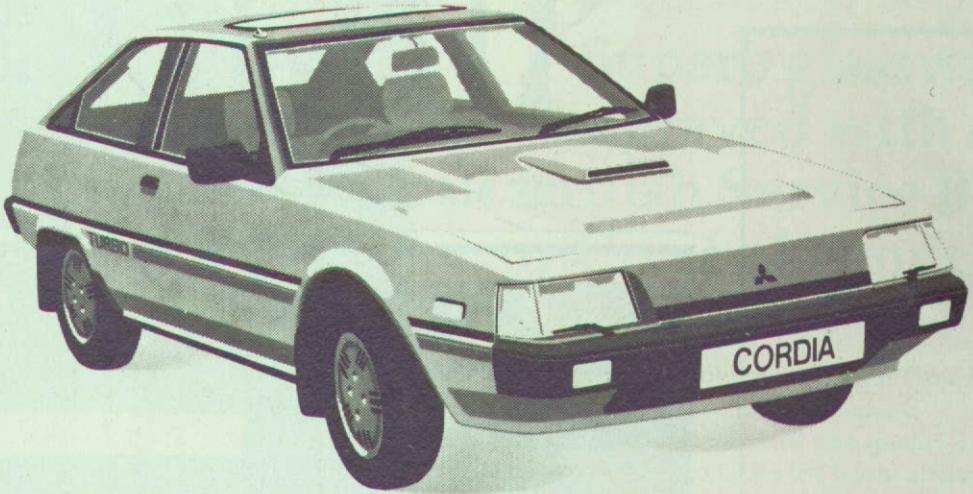
The new device that will soon be polishing up the Army's image — page 34 ▼



Enter the Challenger, Rhine Army's new peacekeeper — page 13 ▼



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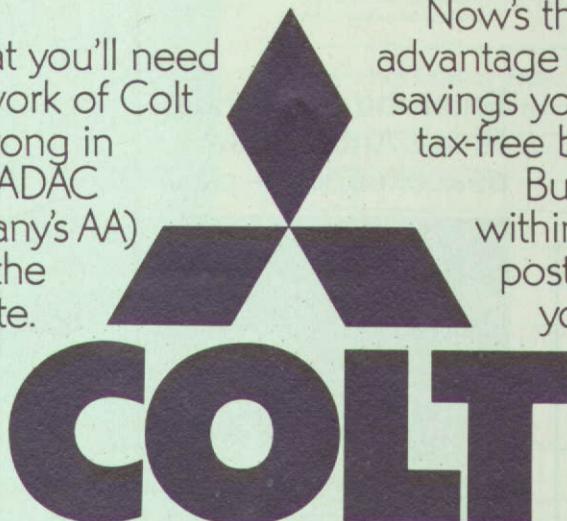
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Triumph turns to tragedy

SEME BORDON's triumph in the Army UK Football Cup final had a tragic aftermath when one of its stars was knocked down and killed after the team coach arrived back at Bordon from the game in Aldershot.

Sergeant Alan Trussler (25) alighted from the coach and was struck by an Army staff car driven by Lance-Corporal Michael Griffin, also stationed at Bordon. Attempts were made to keep him alive at the roadside but he died before reaching hospital. An inquest has been opened and adjourned sine die.

Sergeant Trussler was married with a three-year-old son and lived in a quarter at St Lucia Park, Bordon. His wife is expecting another child.

Football officer at SEME, Major Jack Smith, told **SOLDIER**: "He was a very fine footballer and had played for the Army and captained the Corps by the age of 22."

Army and Combined Services coach, QMSI Alf Coulton, who was Army skipper at the time of Sgt Trussler's Army appearances, said: "It is a tremendous blow. He was a super bloke and had played for the Army this season against the TA. I was very keen to get him to come back again."

"He was a very strong determined player with a tremendous appetite for the game. Alan played for every minute of a game and he is going to be badly missed."

(Match report Page 48).



Alan in action during his last game — the Army (UK) Cup Final.

MoD cool on new force

THERE WAS a cool reception from the Ministry of Defence to proposals that a new home defence force of up to 700,000 men should be created to protect key points from Soviet sabotage squads.

The campaign was launched in London by former Chief of the Defence Staff Lord Hill-Norton, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey and Sir David Wills.

They advocate the setting up of a nationwide force recruited from unpaid volunteers over 18 and open to both men and women. The main body would be land based but there would also be naval and air units.

It was emphasised that the force was in no way intended to be a private army but was designed to provide local auxiliary support for the Regular and Territorial forces.

But an MoD spokesman said later that while the Government welcomed any debate on the important subject of home defence, if additional funds became available they would be more likely to use them to improve the TA and the new Home Service Force.

Plans were already in hand to expand the TA to 86,000 and if the pilot scheme for the HSF was successful that would be expanded to 4500. Plans were also in hand to increase the number of Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment squadrons from six to 20.

Give me a home...

PEOPLE might be frightened by the big bangs of field guns or the chatter of GPMGs but it seems to be increasingly clear that nature's wild creatures are not.

The success of wildlife living alongside the military is already well documented but the latest survey of 36 Ministry of Defence locations has come up with even more startling figures. Carried out by 4000 volunteers from 179 conservation groups, it shows that 628,000 acres of MoD land now supports no less than 185 species of birds.

Habitats ranged through everything from woodland and chalk downs to salt marshes and coastline, and the sightings varied from single birds to 2000 fulmars seen in Benbecula.

ALDERSHOT CLUB SAVED?

ALDERSHOT — 'home of the British Army' — still has a good chance of saving its venerable, 148-year-old building, The Royal Aldershot Officers Club which seemed destined to close because of a falling off in membership and a loss on projected trading figures in the coming year.

The decision had been taken to shut down at the end of March but now the members themselves have rallied round to raise the necessary cash by way of donations with their renewal subscriptions. As **SOLDIER** went to press nearly all the money had been raised towards the £10,000 target.

Membership has been falling off in recent years — the club costs more than £45,000 a year to run — and its coterie boasts only 26 serving officers plus 166 retired officers and 292 civilians.

But, as of April 1 last year, there were 623 individual members of which 185 — or about 29 per cent — had failed to renew their subs, bringing the number down to 438. The current increase has been brought about by pending applications for new membership.

Club Secretary, Mr Arthur Channon explained: "The projected loss of £10,000 on next year's trading was made on the assumption of last year's performance. The Trustees were not prepared to underwrite this figure and said we must close unless the £10,000 was on the table before we started trading again on the 1st April. Because they would not underwrite it, members themselves have been doing just that — sending in donations with their subscriptions. The figure stands at nearly £10,000 now with a lot more to come. It certainly looks from the money side that it's going to be all right with the strong possibility that membership will be maintained at a certain level."

The club was built, it is said, by a Victorian wine merchant on the site of a bargees' pub and was frequented by Sir Redvers Buxton. The club has, in the past, the venue of a court martial and, in recent times, used for antiques fairs, rallies and, of course, dances.



Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, as it looks today.

Aside from its own swimming pool — there are also neighbouring cricket, squash and tennis facilities — the club is renowned for its sprung ballroom floor.

As the *Illustrated London News* of 1859 chronicled at the time, the decor of the newly-built club was "chaste and appropriate" with the cost of fixtures and fittings said to "exceed £4000."

That same ballroom has been, in the past, the venue of a court martial and, in recent times, used for antiques fairs, rallies and, of course, dances.

Earlier this month BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions* was held at the club.

Chairman of the Trustees is

Lt-Gen Sir Richard Trant, General Officer Commanding South-East District.

Until about eight years ago, all officers serving in the garrison had to become members but now each Mess makes its decision to join by ballot. But many, it is known, have failed to do so.

Consequently, membership fees were discussed by 220 of the Club's members and it was decided to increase the annual subscriptions by £30. Currently, membership fees range from between £40 and £80 annually.

During this meeting members gave well over £1000 to the fighting fund to keep the Victorian-built club alive.



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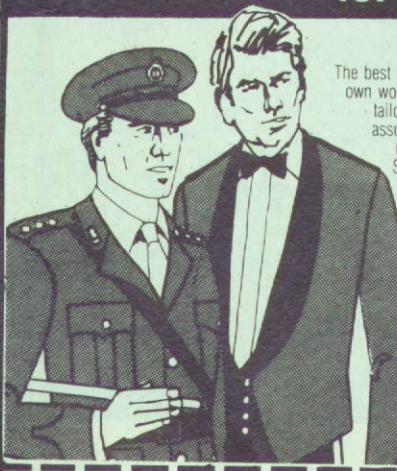
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GCHQ

LOA CUTS FOR OVERSEAS FORCES

LOCAL OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES for personnel serving with British Forces Germany have been cut following last November's review. The new rates are to be introduced in two stages, from April 1 and August 1.

Falklands inspire artists

THE TEN-DAY Armed Forces Art Society Exhibition which has just ended — the 52nd — attracted a record 446-strong entry including 172 exhibitors (51 still serving) and 16 from wives of serving personnel. There were three entries from Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff.

On display at the National Army Museum, the second prize in the Racial competition went to the Army in the shape of Lt-Col Giles Le Maitre of The Black Watch with his watercolour of 'Edinburgh from Carlton Hill'.

The Falklands conflict did not inspire any award-winning exhibits but the full drama of the battles, the weather, and the people were told in full.

Lt Alastair Bruce who served with the Scots Guards showed his views of Ajax Bay, Mount Tumbledown and San Carlos Water while Lady Elizabeth Kitson, wife of General Sir Frank Kitson, painted her husband's cousin, Linda Kitson, the artist who went down to the Falklands to cover the campaign.

New Army launch

A new 24-metre launch has been handed over to the Army for service in Cyprus, by the Brightlingsea shipyard of James and Stone Ltd.

Named the *Michael Murphy* VC, costing £1.5 million, she will be commissioned as a range safety and target towing launch.

Manned by a crew of eight and powered by two 1000 horsepower Paxman diesels she is capable of 24 knots.

She is the second vessel of this type to be operated by the Royal Corps of Transport. The RCTV *Alfred Herring* VC has been based for five years at the Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range at Benbecula, Scotland.

A single corporal serving in the main British Forces area will drop from his present £3.44 a day to £3.00 on April 1 and to £2.56 on August 1. A married corporal with one child will not be affected until August when his LOA will be cut from the present £6.85 to £6.12 a day.

A single captain currently getting £5.39 a day will drop to £4.71 on April 1 and £4.03 on August 1. A married captain with one child suffers a single cut from £8.20 to £7.71 on April 1.

Explaining the cuts in a special BFBS broadcast, General Sir Michael Gow, Commander-in-Chief BAOR, pointed out that LOA is designed to meet essential extra costs.

"We are only talking about the things everyone has to buy and do whether they are in UK or overseas," he said, "not what we

choose to spend on cars, hi-fi and other personal commitments."

The basis of the process is what the average Serviceman spends in UK, on essentials, Sir Michael explained. The results were then compared with similar costs in Germany but with an extra element added in recognition of the need to adopt an appropriate lifestyle in Germany.

The survey of UK expenditure has not been done in any depth since 1974 and a very comprehensive study had begun in 1981.

The difference in Servicemen's pay between 1974 and 1981 was significant, he said, and the survey found that his spending patterns had changed a great deal.

"The result has been to narrow the gap between his lifestyle in the UK and most Servicemen overseas, not just in Germany," Sir Michael continued.

Briefly

Awards in the 1 (BR) Corps Environmental Cleanliness Campaign were due to be presented by Sir Harry Secombe in a ceremony at Bielefeld School. More than 50 clean-up projects from garrisons, units, schools and youth clubs have been entered.

On May 3 Sir Harry will be on his way again, with the CSE, to entertain troops in the Falklands. Jim Davidson is to follow in June.

★ ★ ★

A 74-mile sponsored walk by six members of the 67 Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcester Yeomanry Signal Squadron raised nearly £1000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The walk was in memory of Private Jill Butler, a WRAC member of the squadron who died from the disease.

★ ★ ★

The third annual Gainsborough Walk, organised by the local Lions Club and the Air Training Corps is to take place on April 17 over 15 and 19-mile courses. Entry forms from Mr R G Woolard, 37 Enderby Crescent.

007's Tonic Saves Regimental Honour

ROGER MOORE, millionaire in his own right, alias James Bond, the world's most famous secret agent who has sworn to turn in his 007 'licence to kill' has suddenly had an unexpected windfall . . . fifty pence! And he has already decided on how he is going to spend the money.

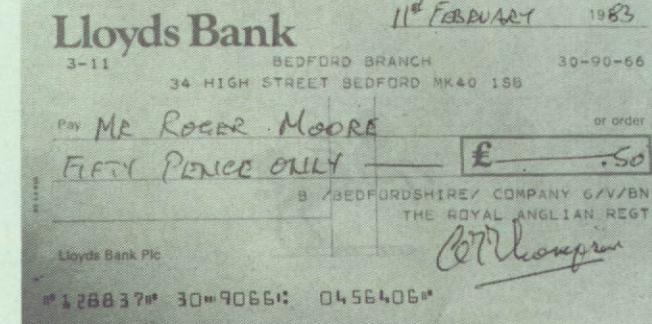
A cheque for fifty pence arrived in SOLDIER's editorial offices following our profile on him (SOLDIER, February 7) when it was revealed that a sneak thief stole his wallet and the ten shillings in it, sent to him by an actor pal to buy a Christmas drink.

The wallet and the cash disappeared while he was doing his basic training with the Beds and Herts Regiment in Bury St Edmunds in 1945.

Aroused by the implications of the mean theft, Captain Alan Spearing, who is also second-in-command of the 119-strong B (Bedfordshire) Company, 6th (V) Bn, the Royal Anglian Regiment, just had to put pen to paper and write to Mr Moore via SOLDIER.

He wrote: "All members of our Company were distressed to read in SOLDIER's interview of the theft of ten shillings which you suffered while serving with the Beds and Herts.

"We feel great sympathy for any ex-Bedfordshire suffering hard times and, although confident your ten bob was 'nicked'



by a member of another Corps or Regiment, in order to clear the name of the 16th Foot, we enclose a cheque for fifty pence to cover your loss."

The letter adds: "If you are in Bedford on a Wednesday evening between 8 pm and 10 pm, call in at the TA Centre and we will even replace the drinks you missed due to the theft."

But Captain Spearing and his men need not worry.

Roger, speaking from Pinewood where he was on a day visit from his Gstaad, Switzerland home, told SOLDIER: "I didn't say the sneak thief who

stole my wallet on Christmas Eve was a member of the Beds and Herts Regiment or even in the Army."

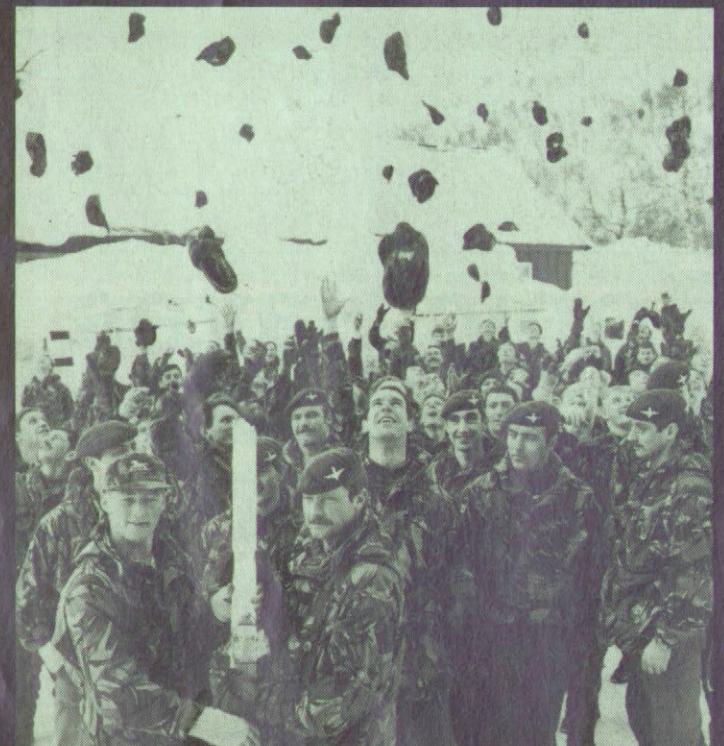
"In fact, I am sure it was a Russian spy who knew that at some point I would be joining MI5. Anyway, thanks for the ten bob. I shall buy myself a large tonic to go in my gin."

Captain Spearing, who is the deputy headmaster of a 400-pupil Comprehensive Middle School in Bedford said later: "We are obviously very relieved to learn that the stain on our regimental history has been removed, one which has persisted for nearly 38 years."



Close encounters ▲

Watched by Lt Paddy Allison of 2nd Royal Tank Regt, Sir Jock Taylor, Britain's Ambassador in Bonn, took a close look at a Scimitar during a trip to the Inner German Border. Taking a closer look at Sir Jock and his party were three East German reconnaissance troops, busy adding a few more snaps to an album that must, by now, be fairly bulging with pictures of decadent western imperialists.

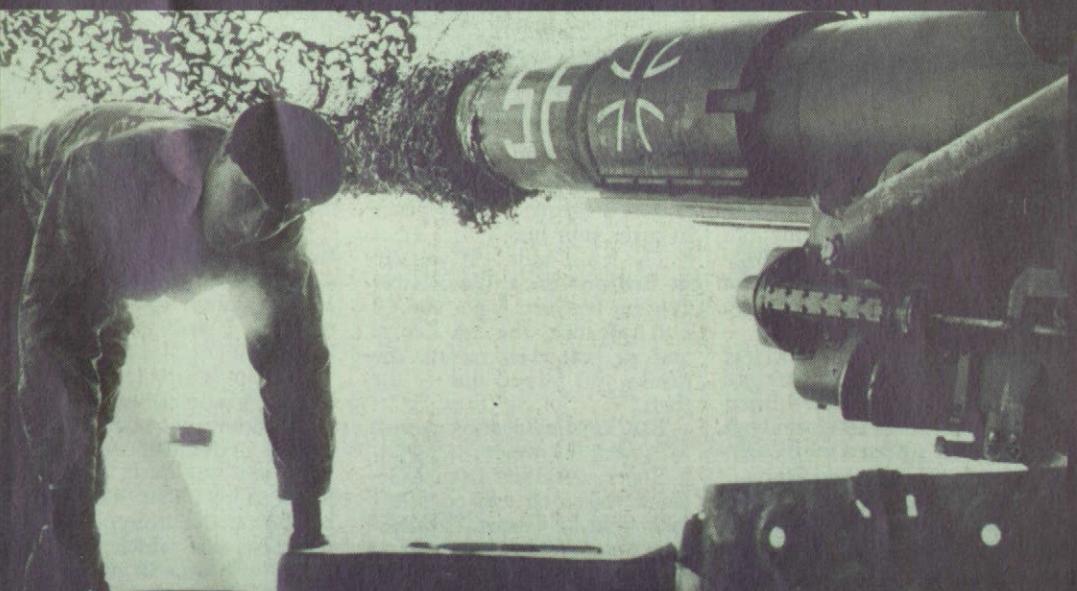


Hats off ▲

After five years of braving Arctic winters in northern Norway, 1st Bn The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire didn't seem too upset at finishing their stint with Nato's ACE Mobile Force. Treading in their frozen footsteps will be 1st Bn The Parachute Regt, seen here being handed the traditional broken ski as a symbol of their new infantry role.

Sharp salvo ▲

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine showed himself quite a marksman on his first visit to British Forces in Germany. He fired a sustained burst at his critics too, particularly 'one-sided' nuclear disarmers. Here he gets some tips on the GPMG from a member of 3 Bn Royal Green Jackets at Sennelager.



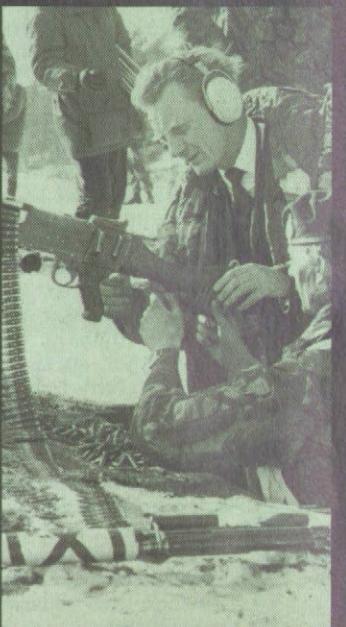
Noisy exchange ▲

L/Cpl Geoff Smith, a driver with 3rd Armd Div Transport Regt, found himself in a different sort of driver's compartment during an exchange visit with the Bundeswehr's 3rd Panzer Division Artillery — that of a self-propelled 8-inch M110 gun. British transport units rarely get a chance to support German artillery but 35 Sqn RCT made sure the right ammo always got to the right place at the right time.



Grounded ▲

Lieutenant General Eimler of the German Air Force had his feet firmly on the ground when he visited BAOR units in Osnabrück. The General, who is currently Deputy Commander Allied Forces Central Europe, even got a driving lesson in a Scorpion under the guidance of Trooper Garry Hunt of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.



Big Break ▲

Corporal Steve Barnes makes the first break to launch the Army Catering Corps' snooker marathon at Aldershot, while Corporal Ken MacDonald waits his turn. They were part of a team of eight who played the 24-hour marathon to raise funds towards a minibus for Toc H. They were expected to make over £400 from sponsorships.



Drop out ▲

Warrant Officer Stewart 'Mac' McQueen decided to drop out in style when he retired after 22 years soldiering. Rated as the Western World's most experienced sky-diver with over 8,500 drops, he made his farewell jump into Sunderland Airport, only 10 miles from his new civvy job with 101 Field Regiment RA (V) at Newcastle. And he arrived only seconds after his new CO, Lt Col Sean Lambe. For the last 10 years 'Mac' has been chief instructor at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Lippspringe.



Clearing ▲

While people at home in UK turned their thoughts to Spring, heavy snowfalls in Cyprus led to a big job for a small team of Sappers from 62 Support Squadron RE. Here Sapper Eddie Edmondson clears a road watched by Corporal John Beveridge.



Expert ▲

There was a spot of expert advice for the Army Air Corps when Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, second from right, visited their museum to study plans for the new one. Lord Montagu is famous for his successful motor museum.



Home again— after 41 years

A REGIMENT which sailed from Britain when the tune *We'll Meet Again* was sweeping the country and the population was having its first taste of soap rationing, has returned home after being overseas for nearly 41 years.

And that is the longest overseas posting for an Army regiment in living memory.

The 2nd Infantry Division Signal Regiment, which left Liver-

pool for India in April 1942, made their return at Hull — 16 miles from their last base in Britain at Pocklington.

The first 60 troops of the 450-strong regiment were given a ceremonial 'Welcome Back' after disembarking from the North Sea ferry *MV Norwind*.

With them came 39 vehicles including mobile radio and communications trucks, trailers and special fuel tankers normally only seen on roads in Germany

— their home for the last 35 years.

And there to welcome them ashore was Brigadier Claude C Fairweather, the former Commanding Officer who took the regiment out on the two-month voyage to India 40 years ago.

Following the Japanese crossing of the Chindwin in 1944 it took part in the Burma campaign including the decisive battle at Kohima.

For the last 35 years the regiment has been based in Germany, moving to Bunde 25 years ago. ■

The former and current COs greet the first troops home.

quarters 2 Infantry Division from Germany to York.

It is part of the restructuring of the British Army of the Rhine and designed to enable the Division, with its Signal Regiment, to return quickly to 1st British Corps in Germany should war threaten.

The 'mouth and ears' of the 2nd Infantry Division, the regiment was born in 1907 as the 2nd Divisional Telegraph Company, Royal Engineers. In those early days its equipment included heliographs and flags — a striking contrast to the sophisticated technology in use today.

The regiment was with the Division when it crossed to France in August 1914 with the British Expeditionary Force.

In the last war it supported the Division in the campaign in France in May 1940 and later on coastal defence duties from Filey to Spurn Head, Yorkshire, before sailing for India in 1942.

With him was the regiment's present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Taylor.

The arrival of the 2nd Division Signal Regiment completed the major part of the move of Head-

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE LONG-AWAITED arrival of Challenger off the production line (see page 13) should give a valuable boost not only to our own Rhine Army forces but to those of our Nato partners.

It is a tank of awesome potential that would give a bloody nose to any enemy foolish enough to take it on. And it is a remarkable success story for often-maligned British industry.

No doubt its production will provoke predictable mutterings about Western 'warmongering' in the columns of *Izvestia* and *Pravda*. And probably a few strident voices will be raised in the West too among the so-called 'peace movement' at the addition of another lethal machine to the devastating armoury already ranged either side of the Iron Curtain.

But Challenger is a tank to keep the peace — not to fight a war. It is there to deter not to destroy. It reinforces Nato's determination to resist Soviet aggression and adventurism — a commitment that has helped keep Europe at peace for nearly 40 years.

As Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine pointed out on his recent visit to BAOR: "In British Forces Germany we have the men and women who don't talk about peace but actually devote

their lives to securing it."

Challenger is coming to help them keep that peace. It represents their challenge — and ours.

BRITISH soldiers may still put their trust in God. But, for Russian soldiers, believing in the Almighty is out — and that's official.

The unholy orders have been issued in a pamphlet to top commanders in the Soviet Army and Navy telling them how to ensure that their men become atheists and dedicate themselves to 'defending the socialist homeland'.

It points out that 'religion is a variety of ideology alien to us' and details how new recruits, if Christian or Moslem, should be forcibly fed with atheist propaganda.

Some Western experts fear that this 'God ban' confirms that the Soviets are bent on producing a new breed of fanatic to man their terrifying weapons systems.

It's an approach that certainly contrasts starkly with our own Army which, as recently as the Falklands campaign, showed that its religious traditions are still a positive source of comfort and inspiration.

Whether all our soldiers believe in God is another matter. Many do, of course. But perhaps not quite as many as the OC of one junior soldiers unit claimed when SOLDIER visited him a few years ago.

Asked whether an agnostic or atheist in his unit had the right not to attend compulsory church parade, he barked: "In thirty years we've never had one!"

FYOU'VE ever asked 'Why did it have to happen today?' you will feel more than just a pang or two of sympathy for the Army chefs who lined up recently for a visit by their district commander.

Everything was set to make a good impression. Immaculate uniforms. Gleaming pots and pans. Carefully prepared examples of the highest culinary arts.

Then the General's eye alighted on the doughnuts.

"They look delicious. May I try one?"

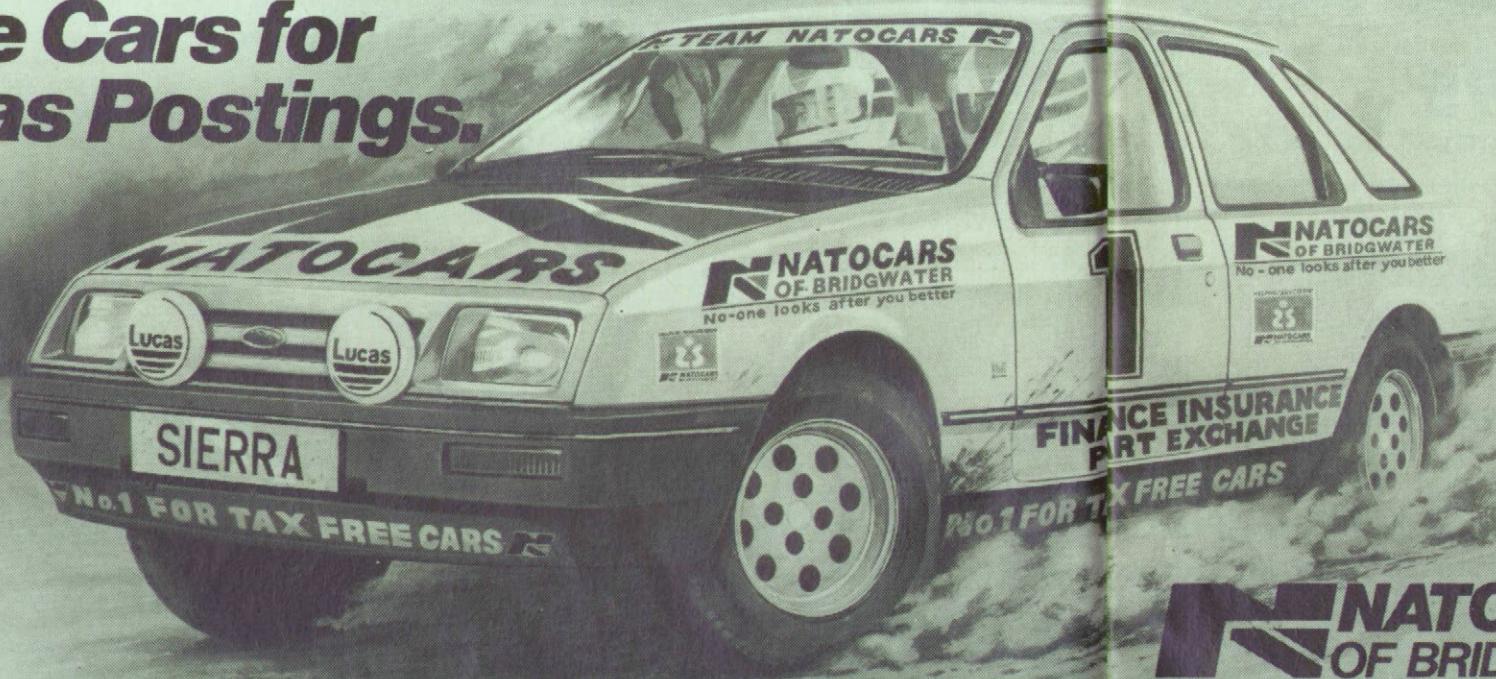
The general tasted. Chewed. A pause. Then a slightly worried look came over his face. "Aren't they just a little bit, er, well, sort of... salty perhaps?"

Chefs leapt forward. Snatched doughnuts. Tasted. Chewed. Shock, horror! That fine white powdery stuff they'd just mixed into the entire day's batch of doughnuts wasn't sugar at all... you've guessed it!

The general thought it was hilarious. What the chefs thought isn't recorded... but it wasn't very sweet!

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MICHAEL JOSEPH

SWIFT, SMOOTH & DEADLY

— that's Challenger, the new recruit with a mighty punch

BRITAIN'S WONDER TANK, the Challenger, has joined the Army. By any standards, one of the most advanced armoured fighting vehicles in the world, it is a machine that will add a considerable punch to Rhine Army's front line.

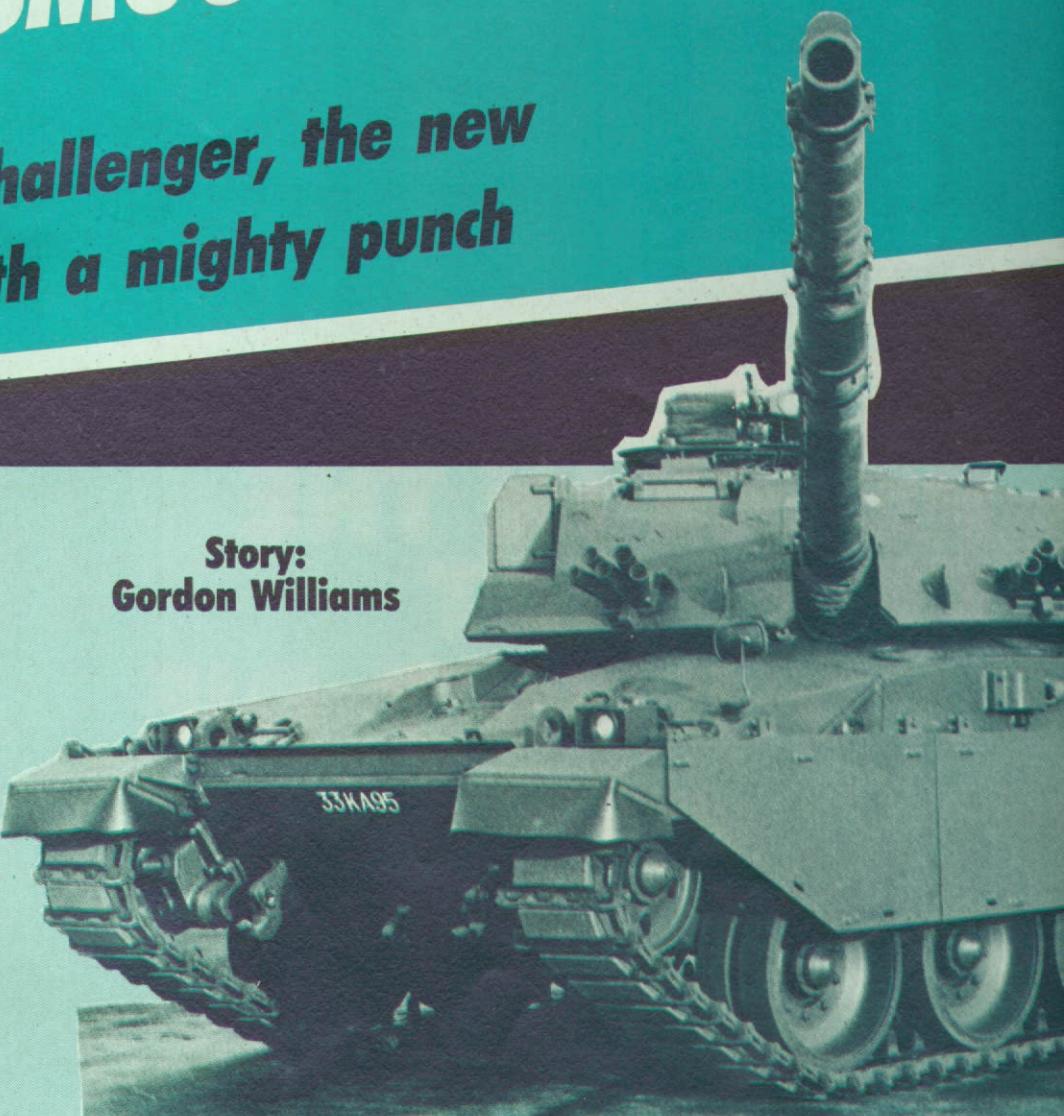
To mark its entry into Army service one of the first production models was formally handed over to the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Stanier, in an impressive ceremony at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Leeds.

The first regiment to be equipped with Challenger will be the 13th/18th Royal Hussars but eventually enough will be produced to equip four regiments, plus training and support vehicles. The first units are expected to arrive in Germany in the Autumn, after troop trials to assess the impact on tactics, training and logistics.

The combination of its revolutionary 'Chobham' armour, its battle-proven L11 120 mm gun and its computerised fire-control system give it the capacity to defeat any Warsaw Pact tank from any angle and at all ranges. And because of the British-in-

Turrets for the new tank in production.

**Story:
Gordon Williams**



vented 'Chobham' armour its crews will have protection second to none.

Even hollow charge ammunition, once seen as the weapon which would make tanks obsolete, is ineffective against 'Chobham'.

Although Challenger is very much an evolutionary design, drawing heavily on Chieftain, it is a considerable step forward. Powered by a 1200 horse-power Rolls-Royce engine and equipped with a hydrogas suspension system it is fast and amazingly smooth. Despite a combat weight of around 60 tonnes it has achieved speeds of up to 70 kilometres an hour in tests on Salisbury Plain and in a battlefield exercise its mobility compared well with the Scorpion.

And it will be even more lethal when a new anti-tank round, currently under trial, enters service. Provision has also been made for a thermal imaging system which will turn night into day for the commander and gunner, to be installed when the equipment becomes available.

The engine and transmission, together with their associated cooling group are built into a single power pack which can be changed in an hour — it has been done in much less. Tests have shown that it will be capable of operating at full power at temperatures up to 52 degrees centigrade and even above that the tank can still operate. The

engine control system will automatically reduce power to prevent overheating.

The silky smooth hydrogas suspension system is based on 12 completely independent units — a broken one can be replaced in an hour — and they have established themselves as being very reliable with a typical life of over 8,000 kms.

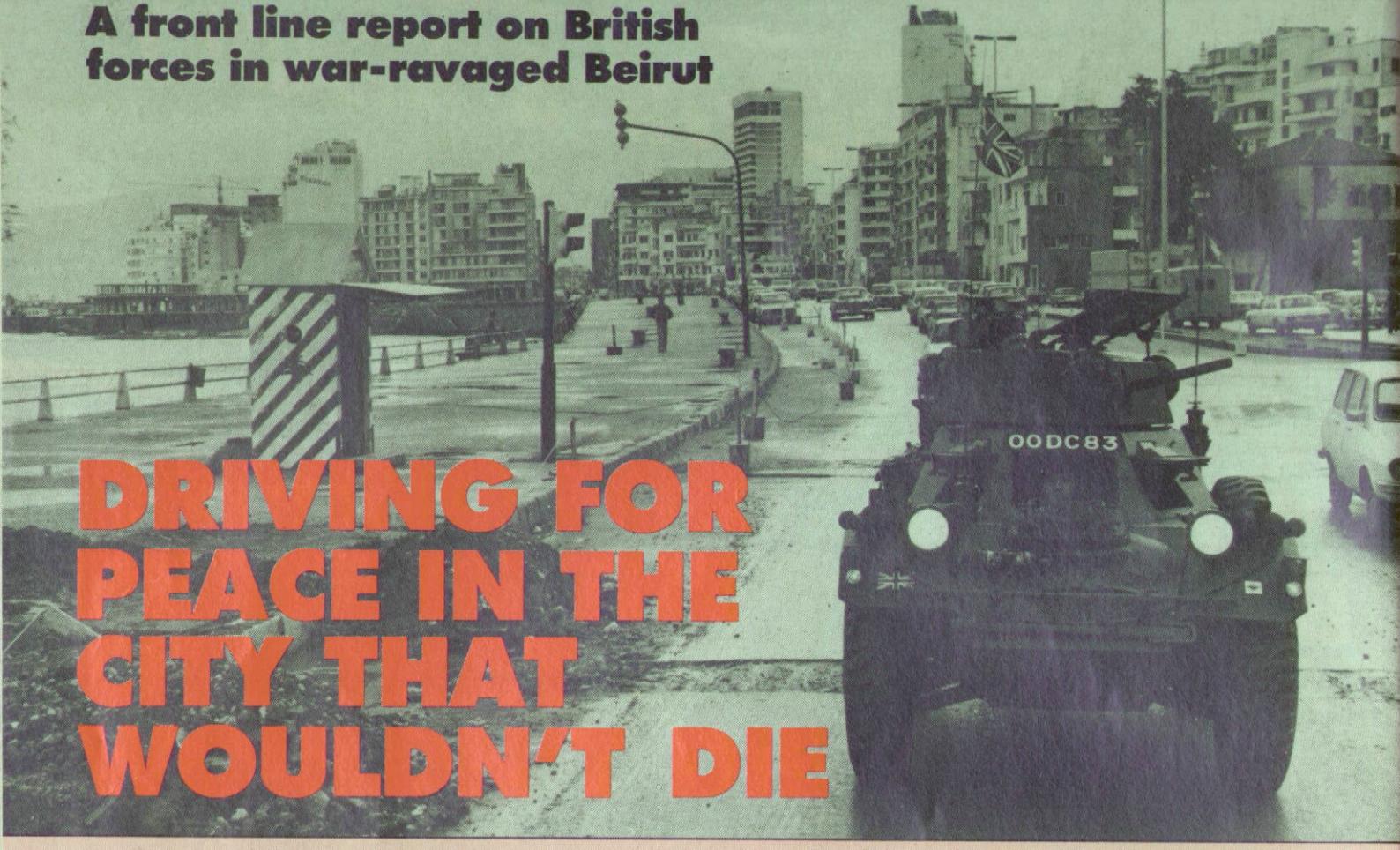
General Stanier said he was "delighted" to formally accept Challenger into service on behalf of the Army and the Royal Armoured Corps.

"In terms of fire power, mobility and protection Challenger represents a significant increase to our armoured capability in BAOR and thus enhances our contribution to deterrence and Nato's ability to maintain peace in Europe. In welcoming this latest and most important addition to our armoured vehicle fleet, I would like to express my gratitude to all those in the Procurement Executive, the Royal Ordnance Factories and British industry who have worked so well together to produce Challenger so quickly and absolutely on time.

"I am sure that those who now have responsibility for taking Challenger into service will appreciate very soon what a magnificent tank it is and that it will prove to be an outstanding success." ■



A front line report on British forces in war-ravaged Beirut



DRIVING FOR PEACE IN THE CITY THAT WOULDN'T DIE



Above: A QDG Ferret patrols the Corniche on the seafront — once the 'Millionaire's Playground' of the Middle East.

Below: Other parts of Beirut have not escaped so lightly.

'WELCOME INGLEEZE!' Shouts, cheers and a few tears of joy and relief greeted the arrival of BRITFORLEB (the British Force in the Lebanon) as the Ferret scout cars of C Squadron 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards made their first patrol of the war torn city of Beirut as part of the multi-national peace keeping force.

Less than 100 strong, compared with the thousands of American Marines, French paras and Italian mechanised infantry that now help the Lebanese Government in its efforts to bring peace to the once-beautiful city, BRITFORLEB is, nevertheless, a welcome sight to a people who have seen full scale battles and massacre devastate their country.

The Union Flag and the guidon of the QDGs have been greeted enthusiastically wherever the 18 scout cars of the force have shown their presence in the first weeks of active recce patrolling.

While the people of Beirut see the force as an indication of Britain's commitment to restoring peace and government authority to the Lebanon, their fellow peace-keepers in the multi-national force recognise that they now have "eyes and ears" and a mobile presence on the ground.

Based in a deserted block of flats in Hadath, the south east suburbs of Beirut, the British contingent with its sappers, signallers and support troops is still busy making its battered base into a home from home.

Without doors or windows and with a limited water supply and power the building has been transformed in a few days of hard work. This part of the city is relatively unscathed but only half a mile away the destruction caused by last year's armoured battles as the Israelis advanced into the city is marked by shell-scarred high rise blocks. In the centre of Beirut, along the line that divides Muslim west and Christian east, the ravages of the 1976 civil war are more in evidence.

"Staggering . . . its unbelievable," said Corporal Shaun Riddings after he had driven Force Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John Cochrane of The Royal Irish Rangers, on a tour of the city. "We just didn't expect it to be like this. Northern Ireland just can't compare with it. Whole areas of the town are in ruins."

Like all the contingent Shaun expressed admiration for the stoicism of the people of Beirut. Amid the ruins life goes on surrounded by tanks and guns.

For days at a time the continuing war in the Shouf — the mountains around the city — rattles into life as heavy calibre

continued on page 16

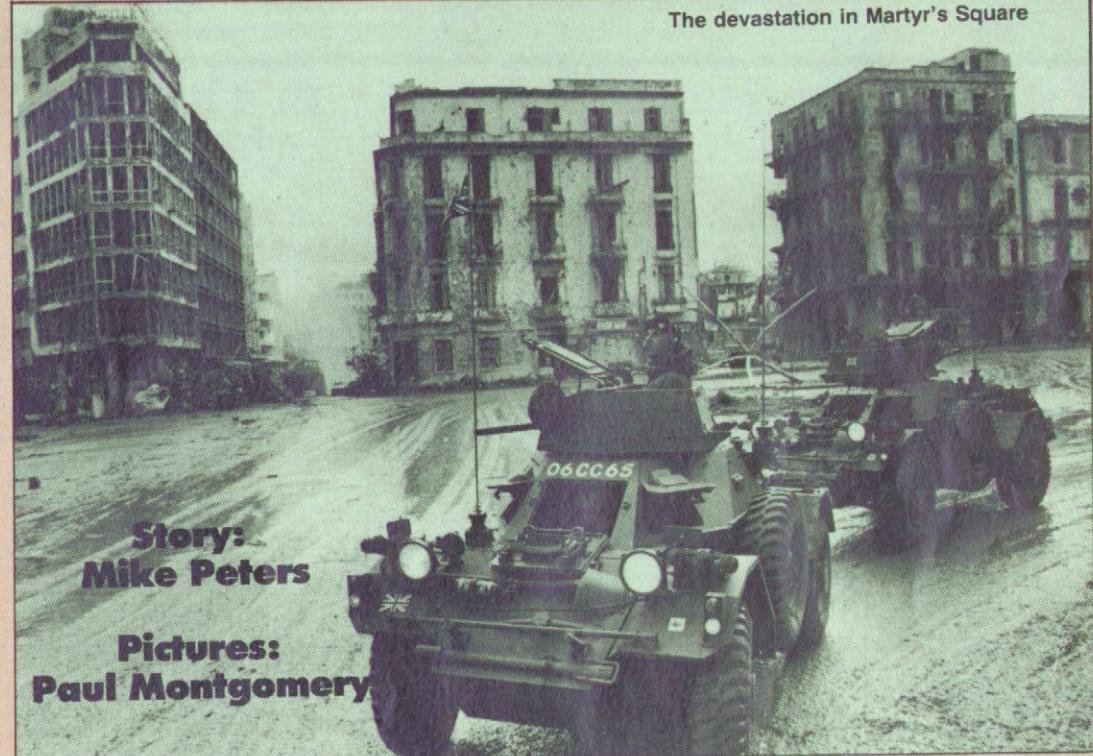
Beer costs two pounds a can . . . even a letter home costs a pound for the British contingent in the Lebanon. But relax says paymaster SQMS Pete Bridgen (left), there are six Lebanese pounds to one Sterling.

"It causes no real problems now," said Pete, "but there were some raised eyebrows at the start."

"Everyone gets a weekly payment of 100 Lebanese pounds which works out at £16.66 and I'm dealing in a monthly budget for the force of 150,000 Lebanese pounds (£25,000). You put it in perspective at two Lebs to a Mars bar."



The devastation in Martyr's Square



**Story:
Mike Peters**

**Pictures:
Paul Montgomery**

SAPPERS COUNT THE STEPS TO SUCCESS

"I counted them all up and I counted them all down," that's the memory of the 41 steps to the top of the British base at Hadath that will stick in the memory of Staff Sergeant Nick Brown from 62 Cyprus Support Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Nick and his 11 sappers have good cause to remember the four flights of stairs because they carried 1500 building blocks each weighing 30 lbs into the building to block off windows and build sangars before the main body arrived.

Sand and cement came in shoulder-humped bags as they set about making the shell of a building alongside the state tobacco factory habitable.

"We've had to modify the plumbing to suit our needs, fix the electrical power, make doors and windows and construct defensive positions," ex-

plained Nick whose small band returned to Cyprus after a two week stay in Beirut. Nothing was too much trouble for the

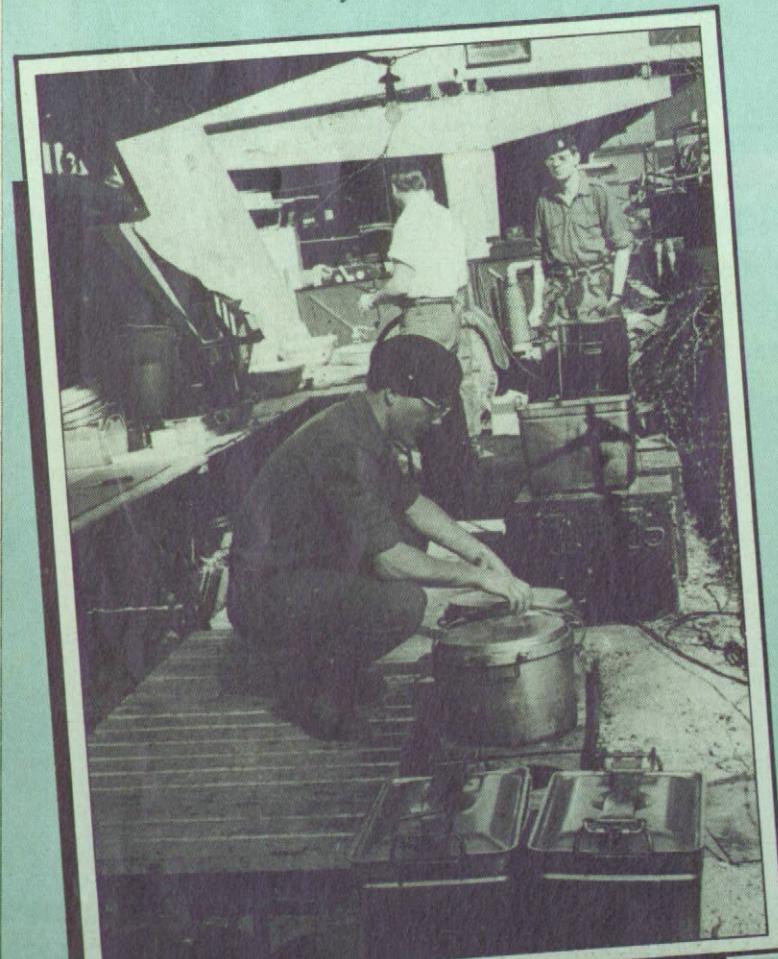
sappers — when the cooks said they didn't have enough space they rattled up a 150 square foot extension in a day.





▼ Cooking up lunch in the temporary cookhouse at Hadath is L/Cpl Francis Bath, AAC. The force has a kitchen now but cooks had to improvise in a shattered car dump for the first few days.

▲ Hand of friendship — Sgt Brian Pritchard meets a French para on duty with multi-national force.



machine guns spray the hills and artillery shells and rockets whistle overhead.

Standing on the top of their Hadath Base, Staff Sergeant Bob Waller of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps supply depot in Cyprus said: "It was like a fireworks display one night. A jeep with a .50 calibre machine gun came out of the buildings about half a mile away and fired a belt and then drove away. Straight away another man jumped out and let fly with an RPG-7 into a building. Later a few stray rounds hit the building so we left the sentry to his sangar."

The British contingent is scheduled for a three month stay in Beirut before it returns to its United Nations duties in Cyprus, explained Colonel Cochrane who twice a week sits in on a meeting of Lebanese ministers to discuss MNF matters.

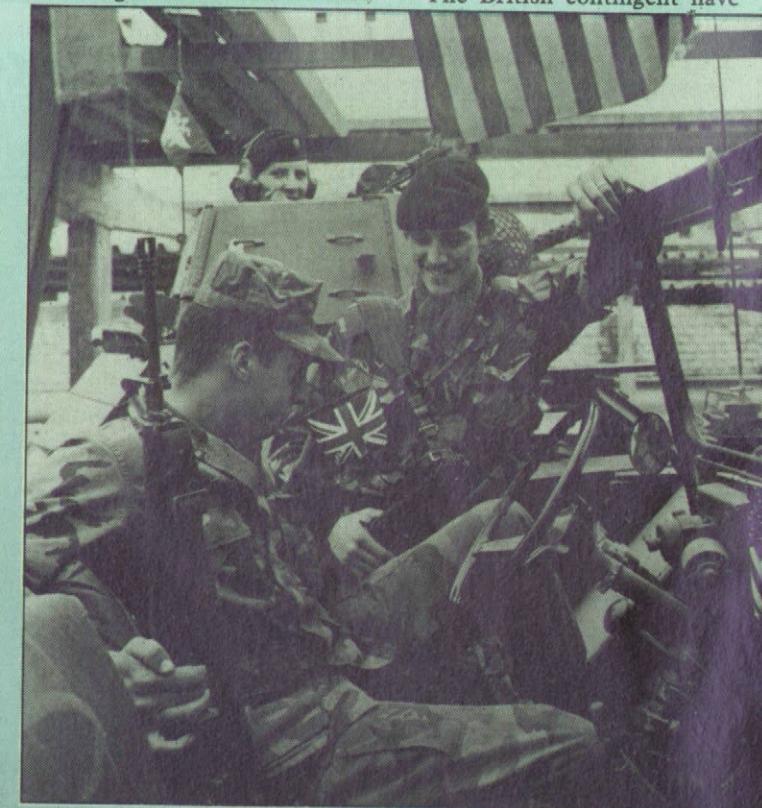
"The Lebanese are extremely grateful that Britain has provided a contingent to the MNF. There

is no criticism of the size of the British force because they are conscious it is a demonstration of the United Kingdom's commitment to help the Lebanese Government to bring peace to the area."

Alongside the British position the Israeli Army has set up a company position to cover the Old Sidon Road used as a main supply route to their forces. APCs and a Centurion train their guns on the road but there are no problems between the two forces.

Said Col. Cochrane: "The Israelis retain use of the road and they have had problems with attacks on their vehicles. As a result they have deployed off the road near us to secure the area. Our relationship is restricted to ensuring there is no accidental clash and the safety of our troops. I have met them several times and their attitudes have been correct at all times."

The British contingent have



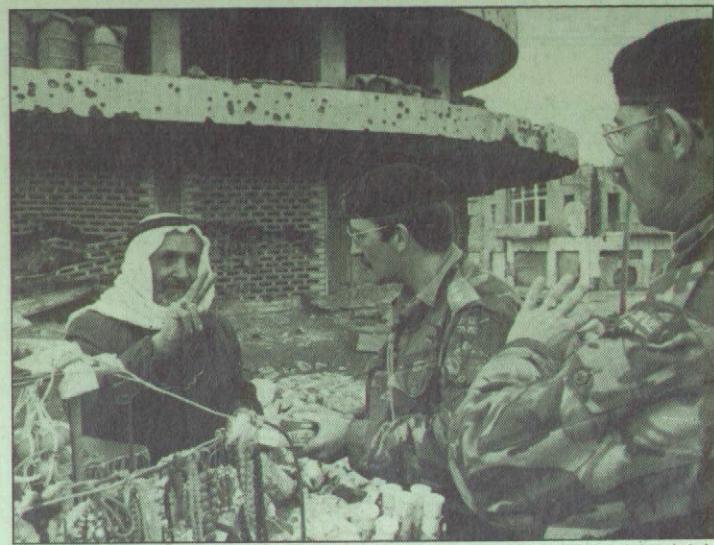
MAKING SURE OF A GOOD DEAL

Nowhere has the British welcome to Beirut been more amply demonstrated than through the experiences of the three Royal Army Ordnance Corps members of BRITFORLEB, admitted Captain Mike Southworth (centre).

"We had an order for 1000 running metres of wood for defence stores. We asked a price; the wood needed to be resawn to our requirements and then the businessman concerned gave it to us free of charge as a gift to the British."

The supply operation has gone really well, he said. After signing demands in UK he flew to Cyprus to find that high speed at Bicester and Donnington had produced the goods on the island almost as he arrived.

Local purchase has kept the RAOC lads busy. "We're on 110 volts and need to buy adaptors and plugs to step up the power. Curiously enough the Americans are having to buy adaptors to step down," said Captain Southworth whose forays into the markets have produced huge quantities of the local pitta bread — a popular item on the menu.



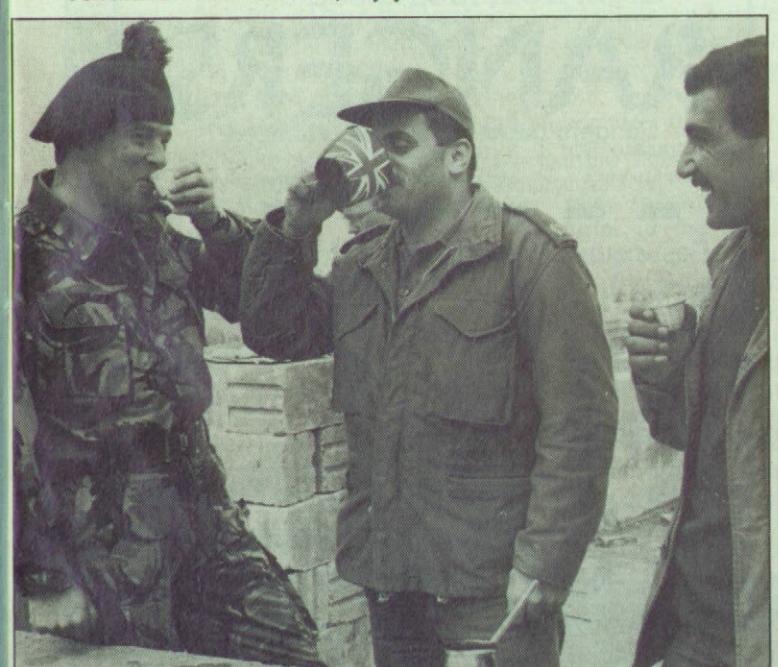
REME READY

"We'll repair anything as and when it breaks down," confirmed Staff Sergeant Nigel Anstey who leads the Light Aid Detachment at Hadath.

"I've got five different trades among my eight men and while we really only look to do first line repairs we can improvise. A petrol pump sheared and we spent seven hours making the bit to go inside, for example. The drivers here are good at fault reporting and that's helping us. To date we've no problems but with the state of the roads I think there will be plenty of work on suspensions in the future."



Time for a cuppa. Left: Pfc Joe Fioretti, US Marines, tries some British tea watched by Tpr Graham Owen. Below: Lt Col John Cochrane, Commander BRITFORLEB, enjoys a coffee with Lebanese officers.



other close neighbours in the United States Marine Corps amphibious unit that guards the international airport. But the meetings have become more than exchanges between members of the MNF. Marines have helped 'hump' defence stores, provided billets for the advance party and even shared their rations in the

early days of the British force.

The Stars and Stripes on American jeeps frequently find their way into Hadath and the Marines have even taken to a cup of British Tea. "But then anything tastes better than C ration coffee," said Pfc Joe Fioretti of the 24th Marine Amphibious unit. ■

GETTING THE WORD ACROSS

Five of the ten strong Royal Signals detachment with BRITFORLEB are veterans of the Falkland Islands conflict and they're finding the communications game in Beirut just as busy — if different. Drawn from 30 Signals Regiment at Blandford and supported by 262 Signals Squadron from Dhekelia, the signallers have established links with the United Kingdom via the Cyprus bases.

Said Lieutenant Mark Campbell, the detachment commander: "There seems to be little frequency discipline here. There are so many people on the air in this city we pick up everything from taxi drivers to Israeli tanks."

French, Italian, Arab and the varied accents of English — from the southern drawl of the United States to a Brooklyn twang — are now mixed with the predominantly Welsh voices of the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

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RANGERS TALBOT

FIRST FOR EXPORT

Whether running a busy radio station or helping put the Territorial Army in the public eye, Colin Mason is . . .

A MAN WITH A SOUND FUTURE

SITUATED IN A onetime Victorian primary school in Dunstable is the headquarters of a recently launched local radio station. And the man who sits behind a desk in an old classroom as managing director of Chiltern Radio is Colin Mason, who is also an Army officer.

Colin, a broadcaster since he left university, has also been in the Territorial Army since those days – apart from a spell in the United States. As he says: "The dedicated soldier often wonders which is his part-time occupation – the TA or his civilian job. Being in uniform has always been an important part of my life."

His broadcasting career began in the mid-sixties when he went to Houston, Texas on a graduate fellowship and at night began to help out a local radio station.

"That was the time of James Bond and that sort of thing and with an English accent I couldn't go wrong. I used to go out in a radio car on Thursday nights because that was pay night and you knew there would be a couple of murders."

In those days there was no network of local radio stations where broadcasters could get their experience before moving to the BBC. "A lot of people went to BFBS but I got mine in the United States."

Over the years he worked for the BBC and Ulster Television and was a staff producer on one of the first local stations in Durham. Then he went to Swansea as programme controller for a new station.

During these incarnations he had to change cap badge several times but remained a TA stalwart. "I suppose TA was most fun when I was an active soldier out in the trees with my men. My best days were as a company commander. But it is pleasing to



There is now a tremendous pool of talent available to the Army covering civilian life in all areas'

be able to give the Army my expertise in broadcasting."

Colin does that in his role as Public Relations Officer for the TA in Eastern District. "When I go to cover an exercise I often feel I would rather be in the dug-out. But wherever I go I take a tape recorder because I think the TA is a pretty remarkable organisation."

Getting a new radio station off the ground while still finding time to be a part-time major in the Royal Regiment of Wales, would be more than enough for most people. But Colin still manages to go out running several mornings a week near his home at Woburn. He covers a three mile circuit in full Army kit around the Wildlife Park.

Colin was appointed managing director designate of the new station even before the franchise had been allocated.

"It was the experience of a lifetime. I started with just a map of the area. We had to gather a board of directors, gather the documents together and win the application

then find a property in which to put the radio station. Then I had to hire the staff and get the equipment. I had two years to get on the air."

Now Chiltern Radio exists as twin stations. One is based at Dunstable and the other at Bedford. Between them they reach an area with a population of 1,250,000 and covering farming areas, the industry around Luton and the commuter belt. Colin says: "It's a tough area with a lot of competition and not for the squeamish."

Colin sees that the Services get their fair share of air time and has sent reporters out to Germany and Belize since the station went on the air. "We think there are lots of interesting stories. People should be made aware of the Forces and what they are doing in their name and our listeners should be made aware of what soldiers from this area are doing."

He maintains that the TA is in its best ever shape and concludes: "The privilege accorded to the TA soldier by the Army that we are all one family is serving to stimulate that soldier. There is now a tremendous pool of talent available to the Army covering civilian life in all areas." ■

Interview by
John Walton

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S15



Unloading an AFV 432.

Pictures: Paul Haley

**Their numbers are small but their job is as big as any in the Army.
John Walton meets some of the British soldiers in Belgium . . .**

MANNING THE LIFELINE

UNSUNG AND YET providing vital links in the chain between the United Kingdom and Rhine Army — that is British Forces Antwerp, a complex of camps set around the Belgian port from which they take their name. About 230 soldiers, plus dependents and a force of more than 800 Belgian civilians, keep open a lifeline which is important in peacetime but becomes even more vital in war.

Then their principal task would be to establish the line of communication throughout the Low Countries as well as to funnel British reinforcements through to Germany. In the reverse direction they would take charge of the evacuation of Service families and non-combatants to be followed later by battle casualties.

During the big Crusader exercise in the autumn of 1980, Antwerp came into its own as reinforcements poured in through Ostende and Zeebrugge. In war this could

be through any of the Dutch and Belgian ports, and some will cross the Channel by air.

At the Forces HQ at Emblem camp, built on the site of a World War One fort intended to defend Antwerp, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps keep vehicles and equipment for the many thousands of Territorial Army soldiers who will pass through.

After collecting their vehicles the reservists move to a vast stores shed where equipment is stored for over 100 units — ranging from 260 tons excluding medical supplies for a general hospital down to quite small units.

About a quarter of those units pass through Antwerp every year on their way to exercises. Says Major Barrie Jeffrey, who commands the Composite Ordnance Sub-Depot: "This has a double advantage because it lets them see what equipment they've got and what they really need so we

can change it in the light of experience."

The sub-depot can completely load a four ton truck in about three minutes and an average unit can be on its way in convoy in less than three hours.

British Forces Antwerp boasts some 6700 vehicles — including 1000 based in Germany at Moenchengladbach. Most of these are stored about 15 miles away at Olen camp and they include not only replacement stocks for units as they write off vehicles but also the war vehicle reserve.

It's an unusual posting for Servicemen and their wives. Unlike Rhine Army the British Forces in Belgium were never an occupation force and they need Belgian licences for vehicles, televisions, radios and so on. Dependents have to hold Belgian identity documents which, in the case of wives, are in their maiden names.

continued on page 22



IT'S ALL QUITE simple really — if everyone spent just one pound a week more in their local Naafi shop or club, the Naafi nightmare of diminishing rebates and discounts could vanish almost overnight. It has become almost a way of life for some people to complain about the Naafi. But the remedy is in their own hands.

There are a number of ways in which you can get the best out of your Naafi but too few people seem to understand what Naafi is all about, much less how to make it work for them. To put this right, Naafi have produced a new 30-minute film, starring Lewis Collins and Gordon Jackson — Bodie and Cowley of *The Professionals* — which gives you the Naafi message straight between the eyes. Why not show it at your next wives' club meeting? You can get it free through your Naafi manager.

How many of you have ever shown an interest in your unit Naafi Customer Relations Committee? How many of you even knew that these are held at least quarterly and that wives of all ranks are to be represented along with a Naafi representative? Then there is the Annual General Meeting to which local committees can nominate representatives and at which you can ask questions and raise points to improve your Naafi service, with answers coming from the people at the very top.

Naafi profit goes back to its customers in rebate which, in turn, reflects the amount of business done in each Naafi. Sir James Spooner, the chairman, told the Naafi council at this year's AGM that, in spite of all the difficulties they had encountered as a result of recession — cutbacks in recruiting and the spending power of Servicemen have contributed to an overall three per cent reduction in volume of sales in the past year — Naafi still managed to distribute £10,249,000 to its customers, a £237,000 increase on the previous year's shareout. But it's up to each of us to spend that extra quid and make sure we keep that four per cent rebate we enjoy at present.

Anne Armstrong

I knew I could rely on someone to come up with the answer to Major Nixon's plea in the 21 February-6 March issue of SOL-DIER. Major Nixon has been haunted by the monologue, 'The Old Soldier's Dream' for years but we have managed to track it down for him. It may be found on page 125 of Martin Page's anthology, *For Gawd's Sake Don't Take Me*, published by Granada, PO Box 9, 29 Frogmore, St Albans, Herts. AL2 2NF (Tel: No 0727 72727). Another satisfied customer I hope!

We don't always get complimentary letters though. Take the following one from Mrs P: As an ex-Army wife of 30 years standing, I am sick of the continual moans on your page. It seems as though you really want superiority rather than equality in comparison with civilians.

In the Army you have no need to pay rates, water rates, maintenance or repairs on your home. Even the light bulbs are replaced and the rents are peppercorn rents. Try coping with a bill for £30 for a simple plumbing job or £150 for a short length of fence.

We visited BFG again this year and there is certainly no need for LOA: newspapers and magazines are the only dear items and are balanced out and more by the cheap drink, cigarettes, petrol, ferry fares and the enormous boarding school allowances and free travel for boarding school children.

Believe me, it may be a far far better life outside the Army but it's a hard one.

Mrs P, Wokingham.

Our thanks Mrs P for drawing our attention to some of the hardships and costs that beset civilian life. So often families leave the security of an Army life without the least idea of the problems they will face as civilians.

However, as regards the complaints and moans you mention, I must make

the point that correspondents to this page usually ask for advice on coping with the anomalies and conflicts that they come up against when their entitlements as UK residents are in jeopardy because of their Service life. We have more complaints about the non-payment of Unemployment Benefit to wives who have moved overseas with their husband and have had to give up their job than complaints about quartering charges.

Most of us realise the benefits we have as Service families but this is no reason why we should not also be entitled to our rights as UK citizens.

ASK ANNE

Now for a topic that simply won't lie down — Service double beds! The subject has had quite an airing in the national press recently and Wing Commander Keith Carley at MOD, Harrogate, has sent us this letter putting the official point of view.

In recent editions of the *Daily Mirror*, articles have been printed headlined 'Army Beds are Passion Killers' and 'It Sags, Groans and it's Built to Last ... but not for Love', with a couple of publicity conscious Servicemen's wives airing their personal opinions about the Service-issued double bed. This bed has been in our homes for at least the past 22 years and I, together with all married Servicemen who have lived in quarters, know the item very well.

I, by the way, am the Service officer currently responsible for the design and standards of furniture and furnishings (and for those who read the *Mirror* articles I can assure

you that I am neither blind nor celibate!) and I thought I ought to let the numerous readers of your column have some information about these beds from an official source.

Firstly let's get the size of the subject sorted out so we all know the kind of problem I and my colleagues contend with:

- a) There are over 130,000 Service supplied double beds in use at present and we have to replace only 1700 (1.3%) of them each year.
- b) We hold sufficient stock of these beds to last us for another four years at current usage rates.
- c) It will cost us at least £10m to replace all our double beds.
- d) The total annual budget allocated to us to support the accommodation requirements of all personnel of the three Services and their families is just over £36m.

When the time comes and we need to purchase more double beds, you can assure your readers that the recently introduced consultation with Service wives will take place and, having the benefit of their knowledge, we hope we will again be able to satisfy the requirement of the majority of our customers, who appreciate that beds are primarily designed to be slept on, and not for over-energetic gymastics.

Thanks for your letter Wing Commander which certainly puts the problem in perspective. Somehow though, I doubt if we've heard the last on this creaking issue!

My husband joined the Army two years ago and it looks as though he is likely to continue as a soldier for a number of years to come.

I had to give up my own career in the social services when he signed on but would now like to study for a further qualification so that while he remains in the Army I will at least be able to continue my own career, perhaps as a Ssafa social worker.

We are posted back to England later this year and it seems from my enquiries that I would meet the entry requirements to follow a course of study. However, I should appreciate any advice you could give on the question of a grant. Most Local Education Authorities demand a three-year residential qualifying period prior to an applicant being considered for a discretionary grant. This of course I am unable to meet so could you please suggest any trust, charity or special facilities afforded to wives of Forces personnel who wish to follow a course of training.

Mrs S, BFPO 34.

You could write initially to Ssafa, Mrs S, at Ssafa HQ, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ. They will no doubt be able to advise you.

Otherwise, a book entitled 'Fresh Start: a guide to training opportunities' and produced by the Equal Opportunities Commission, is available free of charge from their offices at Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN. They will also be able to advise on grants and other means of funding.

DID YOU KNOW?

SPECIAL PROVISION has been made to ensure the British Citizenship of Service children born in BFG.

Under the terms of the new British Nationality Act 1981 which came into force on 1 Jan 83, restrictions are placed on the transmission of British Citizenship to children born outside the UK. But a new Services registration system that records and documents the parent's crown service overseas at the time of the birth will mean that children born in BFG will be in the same position for citizenship purposes as if they had been born in UK.

Births that occur in BFG are to be registered by post with the Services Registering Officer, HQ BAOR (G1) BFPO 40. The hospital issues a certificate that a birth has occurred, the parent (or a person who was present at the birth) completes Form ORS 1 at his/her unit which is attested and stamped by the unit records officer and the two forms are forwarded to the Services Registering Officer.

This Service registration ensures that a full and permanent record of the birth is lodged at Somerset House, the General Register Office in London and the Services Birth Certificate gives the parents a certified copy of the entry in the register.

Registration of births should be done as quickly as possible and is the responsibility of parents as is the entry of the new-born child on their passport. The unit office will have full details of all procedures that are necessary.

An Exercise in Harmony

THEY CAME INTO Church House two by two as the animals had headed for Noah's Ark, not knowing quite why they were there and wondering just what they had let themselves in for. The 11 young soldiers and their wives who were to make up the very first Army course for young married couples in BAOR reported for duty together. They were to discover that Church House and marriage have a lot in common — they are both full of surprises.

Padre John Bolton, the Warden at Church House, practises a very special down-to-earth and essentially caring Christianity in which spiritual and practical welfare go hand in hand. He also has a warm sense of humour which he shares with Padre Paul Mears who, with the same concern and aims, pioneered marriage preparation courses in UK at Bagshot a number of years ago. They have got together in BAOR to provide marriage preparation and follow-up courses.

Postponed

There have been three marriage preparation courses to date and engaged couples have had the chance to learn about marriage before finally committing themselves. There have been couples who have cancelled or postponed their wedding until they felt more confident about their ability to cope.

The padres pull no punches when they tell the lads and their fiancées the truths about sex, Army life and living together — but it works. It was the response to these courses as well as requests from the lads themselves that led to the next, inevitable, step and the introduction of this first course for newly-weds.

There was a time (and not so long ago) when many people reckoned that if soldiers had been meant to have wives they would have been issued with them along with their boots. You can still hear echoes of this carried on hot air from certain quarters but most people have realised that wives are not just so much extra kit and that a soldier needs to know how to keep his marriage, as well as his boots, shining.

The couples were all aged between 17 and 25 and had been married for between two months and three-and-a-half years so there was a certain amount of variety in experience and views.

Story by
Ann
Thompson

None of them had reached the seven year itch stage but John Bolton soon dispelled that particular myth as he explained the idea behind the course.

"Marriage is a contract of faith with no proof whatever that it will work. You are each taken on trust and couples don't look seriously enough at what it means to give a promise and keep it. This course is designed to educate and assure people so that they can make a successful relationship based on honesty. Unless they've got this right they can't go on to the other stages. But never has honesty been such fun!"

And that's not just his opinion. The course members discussed, thought, talked and, above all, laughed their way through the week's sessions as they explored the meaning of the catchword behind the course — honesty. There was a significant amount of soul-searching, confession and revelation between partners as they established firm foundations for their marriages and for the rest of the course.

It is almost impossible to structure such a dynamic course along rigid, pre-set lines and, while the basic content was covered by the end of the week, the way in which it developed depended largely on the demand from the course members themselves.

There were plenty of opportunities for informal discussion between and after sessions and these often went on past midnight as couples discussed with others or between themselves what they had discovered. This was, arguably, the most valuable part of the course.

Great help

Tina and Mick from Paderborn have been married nearly three months but had known each other as friends since they were 12 years old. They had found the course a great help in these early months of living together.

"We have been going back to our room and talking for hours," admitted Mick. "This course has opened up new aspects and we have realised the mistakes we have already made like when I've come home and fallen asleep straight away."

"We've got more understanding and patience now with each other because it has made us sit down together and think of the little things that might be annoying each other," added Tina.

The course started with basics — the consideration of the marriage partnership with films and discussion about sex and sexuality and how the stress of daily life



Sharing a sex manual may be one way of overcoming shyness.

can so easily lead to frustration and disappointment in bed.

Even in today's 'liberated' generation there is shyness and ignorance, sometimes even between partners, when it comes to discussing sex. Paul Mears takes these sexuality sessions: "Our bodies are the greatest gift the Almighty has given us but you can usually cut the atmosphere with a knife when I'm talking about sex," he commented.

First step

The films raised questions of communication and the importance of being open and honest with your partner as the first step to a strong relationship, particularly when there are outside stresses, as there are in Army life, that can be disastrous.

Even relatively seasoned campaigners in the marriage game like Roger and Andrea appreciated the value of the course. Said Roger "I was always told the first six months were the worst and we've been married nine months now. We used to argue every day but we're over that and the main difficulties of living together. All the same, it has made us understand each other. It has come at just the right time for us."

As the course developed, the young couples took their new awareness and consideration into practical areas. They decided how they, as a couple, would spend an imaginary £10,000 by window shopping in town. They listened as Rod and Di, two teachers from Rheidahlen, gave highly convincing portrayals of extreme characters who might, one day, be living next door and tried to decide how they would deal with the awkward situation this might produce. They considered the problems and solutions to finding their feet and friends in a community and they looked to the future when they would have a family.

A number of sessions were devoted to a close look at the advantages and drawbacks to Army life and Anne Armstrong, Lieutenant Chad Lacey — Families Officer with 2RGJ — and the Commanding Officer's wife from 3 Armoured Division Field Ambulance, Annabelle Short, backed up padres Paul and John in a lively Think Tank discussion.

Much has been written about the irresponsibility of today's youngsters but those who made it to Church House showed how prejudiced such a view can be. They were as determined to make sure they spent their money wisely and had some left over to save as they were to make a success of their marriages.

Awareness

Ricky and Lorna were married a few weeks before the course but marriage had already worked wonders for Ricky: "I came on this course because my battery commander thought it'd do me good. He was right. It has given us an awareness and we'll be able to talk now when we get to a problem which is one reason why it's a good idea to have it so soon after marriage."

There are always those who know a good thing when they see it and come back for more — Mac and Sabine, for instance. They first came to Church House on the marriage preparation course and enjoyed it so much they decided to come again after the wedding.

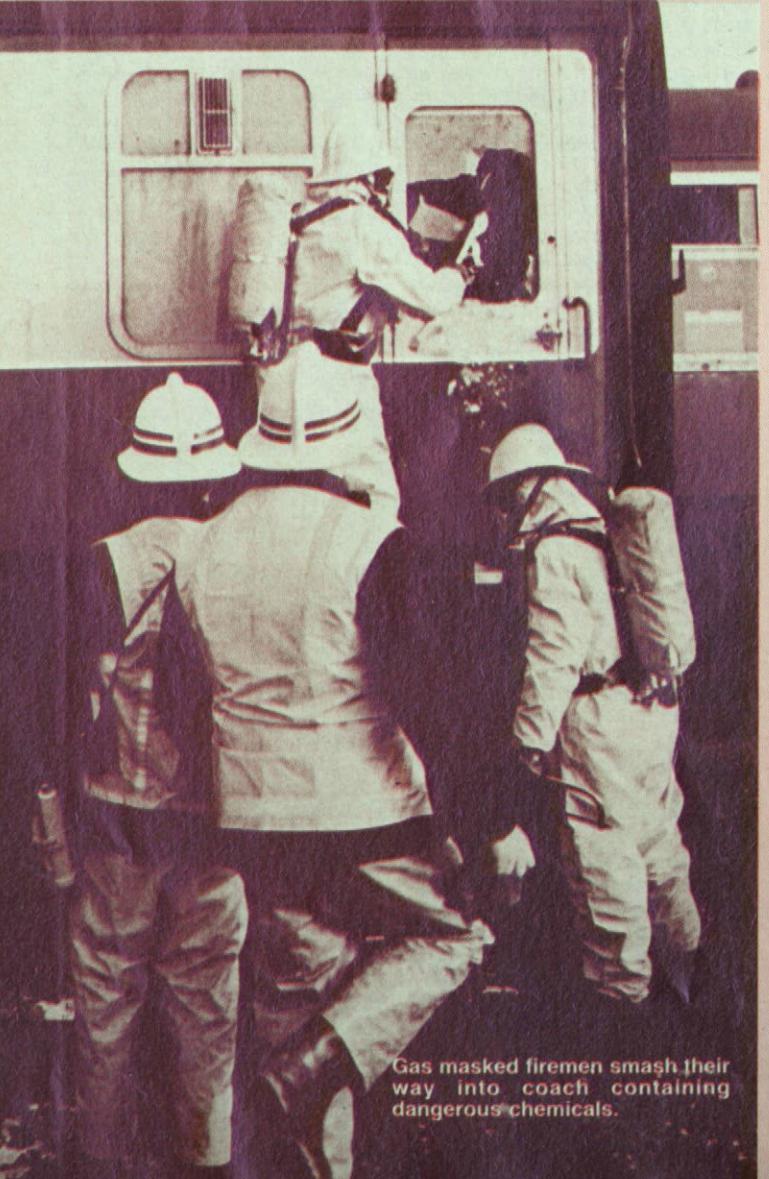
"The first course tells you what to look out for and the second is to prove you're on the right lines," he explained. "I don't think you can ever find out enough. There's always something more and I want to know as much as I can because I want our marriage to be a very good one. Anyway, this has to be the best exercise yet!"

An express train crashes at 90 mph and TA medics answer the call for help

DISASTER!



◀ Head bleeding casualty lies in the wrecked train.



Gas masked firemen smash their way into coach containing dangerous chemicals.

EMERGENCY SERVICES raced into action when an express train carrying members of local social clubs went off the rails at 90 mph. The train was also carrying dangerous chemicals and among the 200 or so casualties amidst the train wreckage were several badly burned people.

Immediately the local emergency services went into action. A swarm of ambulances from all round Bristol homed into the accident scene near Temple Meads station. The police, the Red Cross and St John's Ambulance Brigade and even the WRVS moved in while the local fire brigade prepared to free the victims.

Meanwhile six miles up the road a hospital was waiting to deal with the casualties — at the TA Centre at Keynsham, headquarters for 219 (Wessex) General Hospital RAMC. Something like 200 Terriers were taking part in Exercise 'Felix' — the first joint exercise to be held between the local authority rescue services and the Army in Avon.

While everything was done to make the exercise as realistic as possible, everyone was at pains to point out that a TA manned hospital would not actually be in use in such an emergency in peace-time and that dangerous chemicals were very unlikely to be

carried on the same train as a social clubs' outing.

But the casualties were realistic enough. About 60 of them were members of the Somerset Army Cadet Force — the rest from the local Casualties' Union. These people, mostly of a Thespian bent, play casualties in all sorts of exercises and are experts in making themselves up to look suitably mangled as well as at simulating the state such victims would be in.

Thus the first casualties, the walking wounded, came off the wrecked coaches looking stunned and shaken. Those who were released by the fire brigade (who smashed their way into the coaches with axes to create the appearance of a football special,) emerged on stretchers with hideous bloodstained bandages and the look of people at death's door.

A mother was ushered gently but firmly away crying: "My daughter is still in there. I want to see her."

Back at Keynsham the TA medics start to patch up the victims. ▲

and the Army were agreed — the exercise had been a great success. Said project officer, Major Mitch Allen: "They all seemed to have learned a lot and they may change some of their procedures as a result of today."

Meanwhile at Keynsham as the ambulances began ferrying in the casualties, members of the General Hospital began their work of patching them up and sorting out the seriously wounded from the minor injuries.

At the end of the four hour exercise both the civilian workers

Girl is pinned to floor by spars — ambulance man moves in to help. ▼



◀ TA mobile team helps ambulance men at scene.

be at the rear of the battlefield on mainland Europe.

Their Commanding Officer John Jones, a London based general practitioner who had the idea for the crash exercise, explained that training for this role was of necessity repetitious.

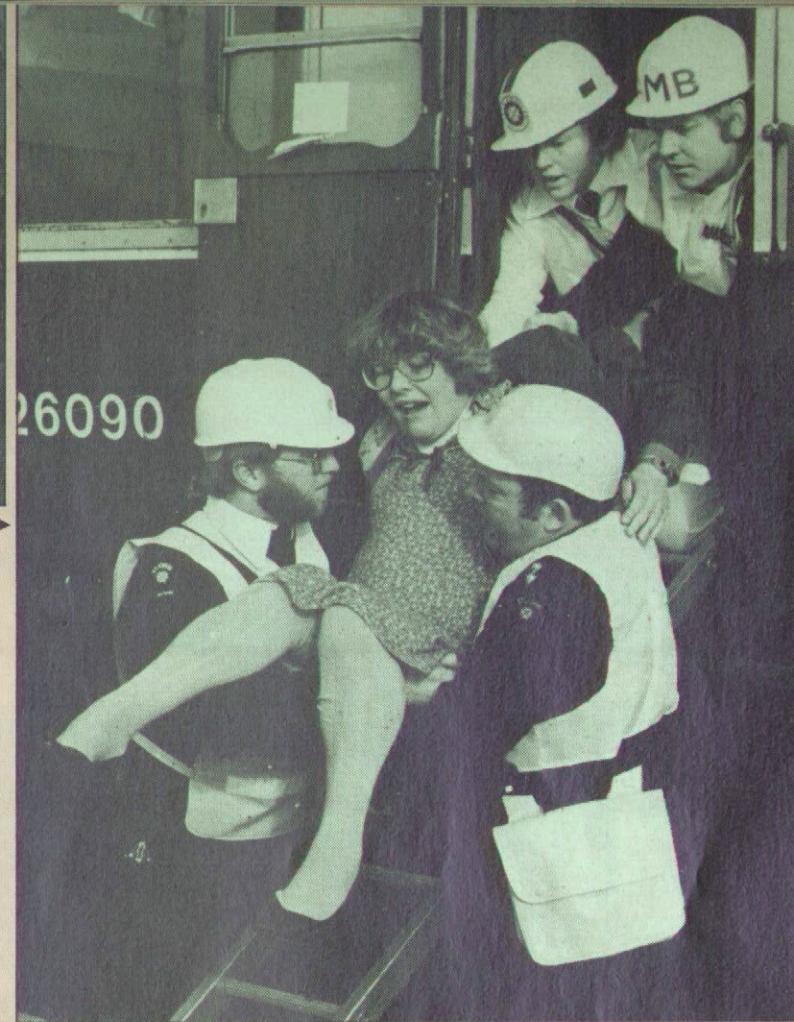
"You can't alter the format of what they've got to do, so if you can introduce something a little bit different into the training it gives them an added fillip. Having professional casualties who can act has given them some more realism — we don't want a soldier who is supposed to have a broken leg yet sits there with a great grin on his face."

Major Allen the only Regular soldier among the 86 officers in the Hospital, most of whom are medical trained, is a great enthusiast for the TA. He told SOLDIER: "I volunteered to come for what is my second tour with the TA. I get a great deal of job satisfaction because there is 100 per cent enthusiasm. This is because for most of them it is something completely different to what they do during the week. It does my morale and self confidence good just to be associated with them."

Major George Hudson, a Bristol dentist and commander of the Avon detachment, added: "I did a short service commission in the

Continued on page 28

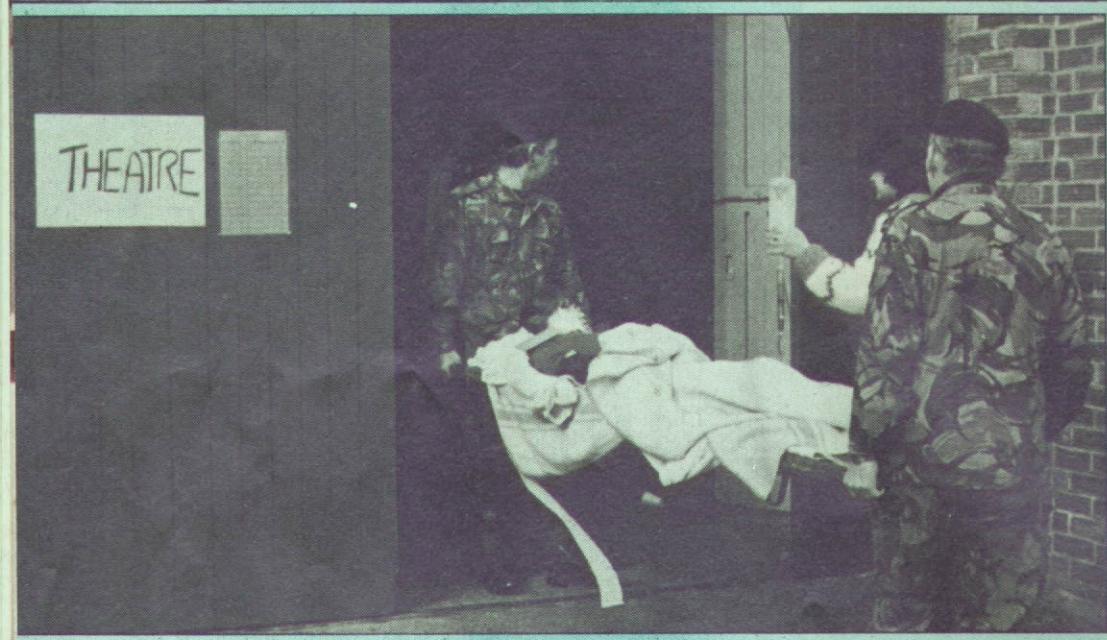
Story:
John Walton
Pictures:
Doug Pratt



Shocked passenger is carried from train.



Ticketed casualty is escorted through reception area.



Regulars but I have done more medical training in the TA than ever I did then."

As the exercise came to a close the TA volunteers began to dismantle the hospital which they had spent several hours setting up the previous day. This summer they will go to Germany to practise their wartime role — but an interesting exercise is planned for this time next year. Colonel Jones promised that it would be different yet again — but providing that vital spark of realism which was so evident in Exercise Felix. ■

◀ Stretching casualty into makeshift theatre.

▼ TA surgeons in the operating theatre.





Your Cap Badge

No 37

THE 22nd (CHESHIRE) REGIMENT

READING THROUGH the histories of the British Army regiments it is often found that old traditions die hard. Such is the case with the 22nd Regiment of Foot, known today by the title they enjoyed from 1782 until 1881.

Although raised in 1689 it was not until 1782, when they were garrisoning the Bowery district of New York, that George III ordered them to assume the name of the county that saw their birth. Upon the

abolition of numeration their title became, simply, 'The Cheshire Regiment' but, in common with many other regiments, they did not regard the loss of their beloved number lightly. They bided their time and now it is once again proudly proclaimed for all to see.

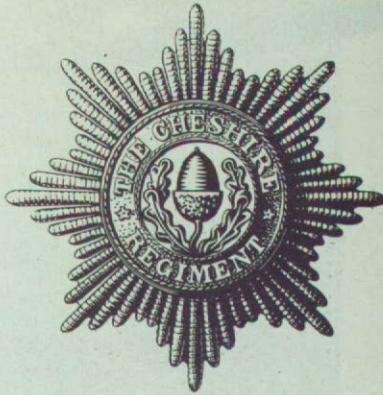
From 1881 until 1898 the badge which featured on the helmet plates of both officers and men contained the Prince of Wales's plume, coronet and motto on a star. But the forage cap badge of the officers was a more pleasing design - a cross-cut Brunswick star on which was superimposed a gilt circlet inscribed 'The Cheshire Regiment' and within this, on a silver green background, the acorn and oak leaf.

In 1898, to satisfy a craving for uniformity by the War Office, a new design was accorded to the regiment. The Brunswick star was now presented showing converging rays with, placed centrally across it, an acorn and oak leaves and, below, a scroll inscribed 'Cheshire'. The star and scroll were in white metal, the remainder in gilding metal. The revised design caused much displeasure and indignation within the regiment because they considered it out of

proportion and unattractive. Nevertheless, thousands of men fought and died under it in the holocaust of the Great War and it is still cherished by the, now all too few, survivors.

In 1923 the regiment returned to the badge depicted here, described as "On an eight pointed star in white metal, a gilding metal circlet inscribed 'The Cheshire Regiment' with, in a voided centre, an acorn with oak leaves. This pattern has remained in almost continuous use and is worn currently, it being Sealed in anodised materials on 26th May 1966.

For many years the regiment has held the belief that the device of the acorn and oak leaves was presented on the field of Dettingen by George II to a detachment of the Grenadier Company of Handasyd's Foot, later the 22nd Regiment of Foot. No-one has proved or disproved this excellent story but hard facts show that the device was authorised to be borne on the Colours in 1921 and that the tradition of wearing oak-leaves at the head of the Colour Pikes in the presence of the Sovereign was confirmed in 1933. Their most memorable action was at Meaneey on 17th February 1843 when Sir



Charles Napier led a Force totalling 2500, mainly native infantry and cavalry with the 22nd as the sole British Regiment, against a 30,000 strong Baluchi Army of the Ameers of Scinde, resulting in victory for Napier. This brought three Honours to the 22nd - 'Meaneey' and 'Hyderabad' which are shared by others - and 'Scinde' awarded to no other Corps. At the conclusion of the campaign the regiment returned to Bombay where the entire garrison paraded and saluted them.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Royal Welch Fusiliers



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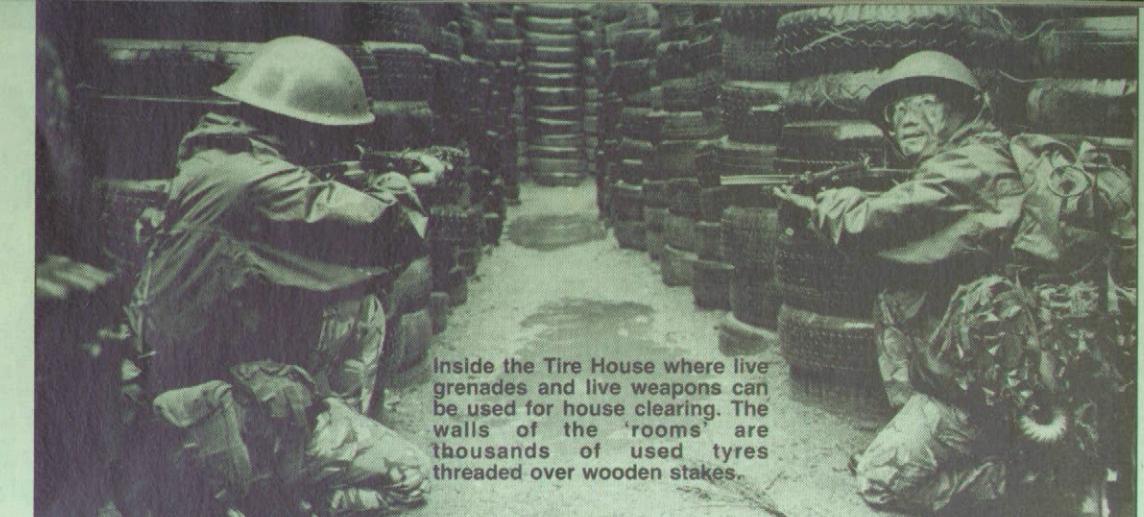
Gurkhas practise abseiling from helicopters.



Clearing the square in the Regensburg mockage.



Inside the Tire House where live grenades and live weapons can be used for house clearing. The walls of the 'rooms' are thousands of used tyres threaded over wooden stakes.



tactics and fieldcraft.

And they tasted further realism at the Regensburg training area with its German village.

Companies were also able to familiarize themselves with the new Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter. Amazingly quiet, it has a lift capacity of 10,000 pounds, a range of 1100 miles and can take 14 fully armed men.

Second phase of the training was the Ranger week. The 2nd Battalion of the 75th Infantry is a non divisional unit, one of the only two Ranger battalions in the US Army and, in its various roles, a cross between the Royal Marines and The Parachute Regiment.

They introduced the Gurkhas

to the whole range of US infantry weapons and conducted two sided exercises in patrolling, ambushes, escape and evasion and close quarter battle.

But the most valuable part of the Gurkhas' training was still to come — at the Yakima field firing range some fifty miles from Fort Lewis across the Cascade Mountains. Its acres of sage brush country are covered with a fine layer of volcanic ash from Mt St Helens, the volcano which erupted in 1981 and which threatened to try again whilst the Gurkhas were there.

Being on the continental side of the mountains, it is much colder than coastal Fort Lewis. But the field firing opportunities are

magnificent and the Gurkhas took full advantage to fire everything that they had with them.

After those three hectic weeks the Gurkhas were glad to relax a little and try some snow shoe and skiing training at Huckleberry Creek, as well as take in some sightseeing.

But there was still a high note to finish on. Just before they returned to England they provided a Guard of Honour for the Queen on her visit to Seattle in the Royal Yacht Britannia accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh whose name the regiment bears.

Halfway between Nepal and Edinburgh was probably as good a place as any to meet! ■

A US Ranger explains M67 90 mm anti-tank weapon.



DANCE WITH A YANKEE TUNE

THE GURKHAS had never seen anything quite like it before. A German village complete with church, school, butcher's, baker's and candlestick maker's shops, a railway line and over fifty dwelling houses; and, at the far end, 'The Tire House', a unique eight-roomed house built entirely of rubber tyres.

But there was no time for sight-seeing — just grim house to house fighting, live grenade throwing and bursts of SMG and pistol fire. For this was not Germany but the USA, where the Gurkhas were getting to grips with some superb American training facilities on Exercise Trumpet Dance.

Trumpet Dance is an annual affair which gives British battalion groups a unique opportunity to train in the United States. As well as seeing the equipment, methods and soldiers of another Nato army, they are able to use the vast and unfamiliar field firing areas available in the USA.

For years past Trumpet Dance has been held in Kentucky, at Fort Campbell, but this year saw a switch to Fort Lewis in Washington State — headquarters of 1 Corps and also home of the whole of the 9th US Infantry Division, 'The Old Reliabes'.

1st Battalion The 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles,

Story:
David Dunn
Pictures:
Bob Fousert

together with small contingents of the Blues and Royals and 4th Field Regiment, were the first group to go to Fort Lewis this year. A Gurkha battalion had never trained in the USA before and their visit excited great interest.

The first week saw the battalion introduced to MILES which, as reported in our last issue, is a laser training system that introduces more realism into



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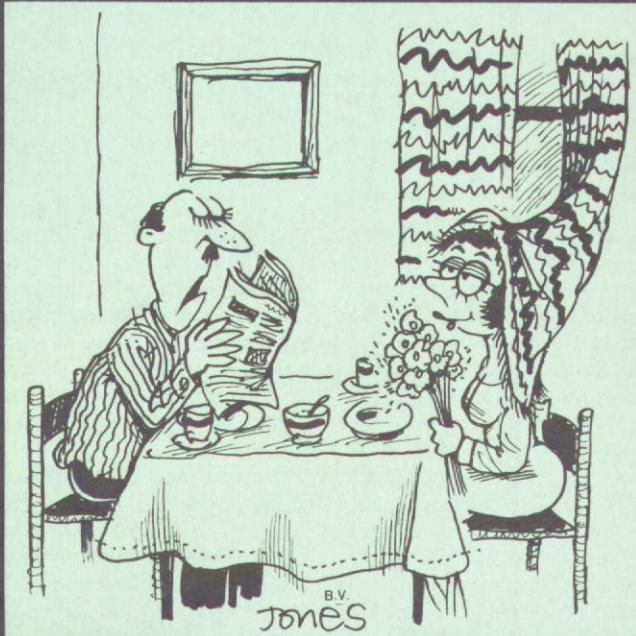
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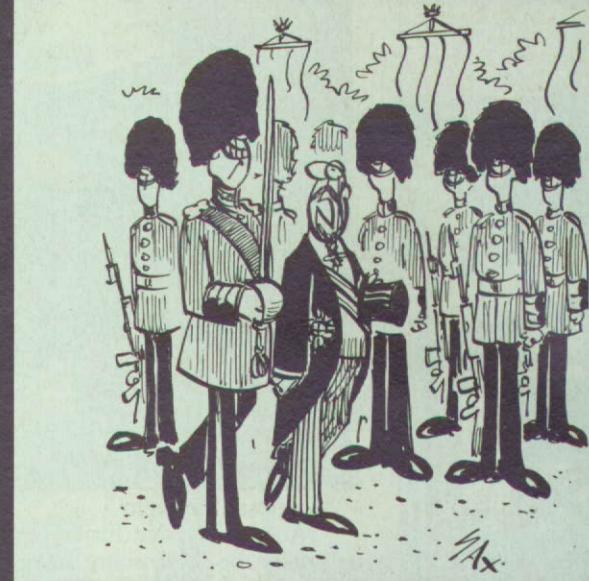
*Maximum tax-free price as at February 21st, 1983, for Escort XR3i (with alloy wheels) £4,749.94, includes front and rear seat belts. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

*Ford test figures.

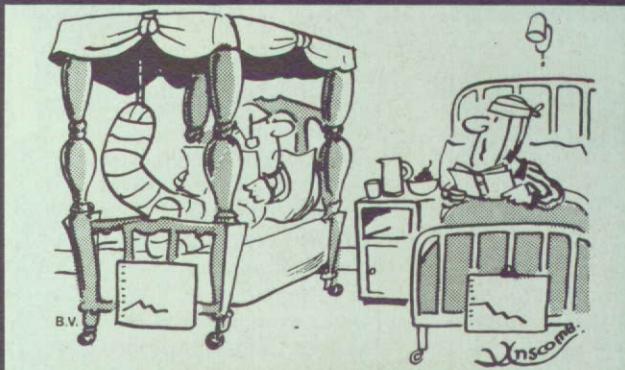
Humour



"Let's see — don't we have an anniversary coming up some time?"

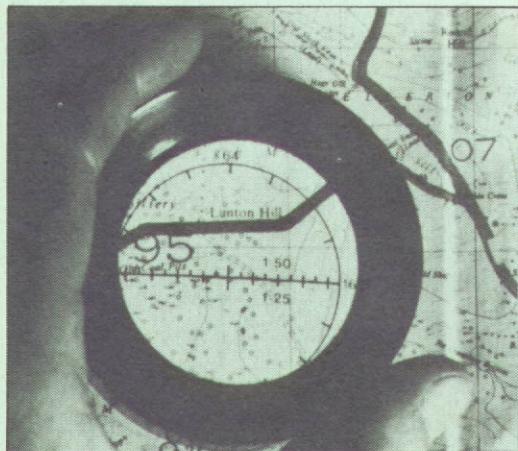


"Who does one see about political asylum?"



"Been here long?"

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BOOKS

The Volunteer Artillery: 1859-1908 (Their Lineage, Uniforms and Badges): Norman Litchfield and Ray Westlake.

This is a previously unexplored field and the authors freely admit that, as far as uniforms, badges and insignia are concerned, "there must be many more about which they know nothing and about which they will be pleased to receive information". It is a pity they did not include the Army Museums Ogilby Trust among the sources they explored, as they would have found several readily available additions.

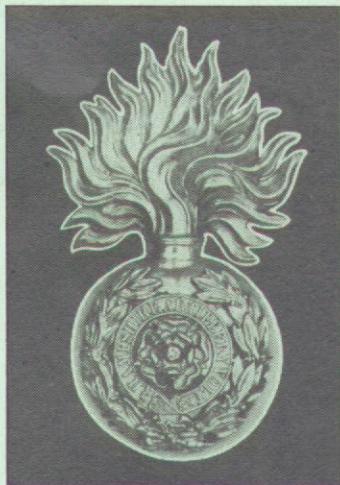
The book is well laid out by countries, each dealing with lineage, uniform, etc., and the detail appears to be accurate and clear; the latter cannot be said about some of the photographs and it would perhaps have been better to use line drawings in some cases.

There are also comprehensive introductory chapters on organisation and dress as well as appendices on

strengths.

A valuable reference book for researchers and collectors alike. Printed by the Sherwood Press, Nottingham. Available from 18 Bakehouse Lane, Derby DE7 3RH — £10 plus £2 p&p.

PSN



A Drop Too Many: Major General John Frost

These memoirs made a considerable impact upon military scholars, and indeed upon the general public, when they were first published in 1980. Titled to emphasise the tragedy of the Arnhem operation by British Airborne forces, they include a fine detailed account of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment's epic stand at Arnhem's Rhine bridge. John Frost commanded that battalion and his

men held on for three days and four nights against repeated German armour and infantry assaults. They were equipped, rationed and munitioned to hold for a day but the relieving van of Montgomery's army did not force a way through in time.

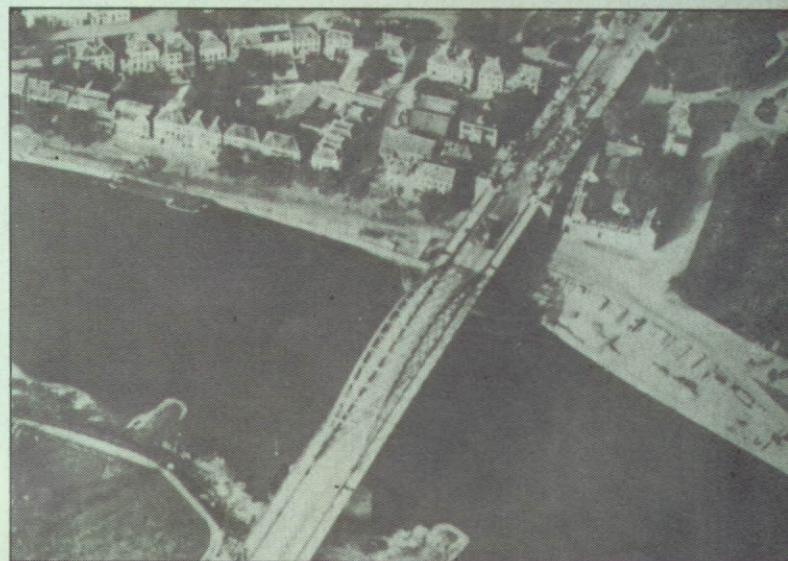
The Dutch people have never forgotten the bravery of the British parachutists and the new post-war bridge is named after John Frost. But these memoirs include much more than the Arnhem epic, gallant and controversial though it was. The author's early days with the Iraq Levies are included and then the formation and training of the first of the Parachute Regiment. The raid on Bruneval was a vital test and a morale boost for the troops and the nation.

Later came Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, all proving grounds for the tough 'Red Devils' — so dubbed by their enemies — whose fame was continuously growing.

Those who missed the first edition in 1980 should make sure of a copy now. The detail of the background, and the highlights, of a parachutist's life are keenly portrayed, while the photographs and maps put the history into perspective. Three new chapters have been added to the original volume to round off the story and give some further thoughts on what did happen during that epic at Arnhem.

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THE GLEAM MACHINE



A DEVICE DESIGNED to help new furniture keep its showroom shine longer could soon be adding lustre to the sparkling turnout of soldiers on parade.

It is claimed that it can measure exactly the degree of shine on anything from a piece of regimental silver to a pair of boots, DMS. And if trials with the new equipment prove successful the Army plans to lay down precisely measurable standards for keeping its gleaming image up to the mark.

Known as the Automatic Polish Reflection Indicator, the equipment is the brainchild of Geste Brothers, a Midlands firm specialising in high quality polishes and varnishes for the furniture industry.

Managing Director, Mr Justin Geste, explains: "When it comes to selling new furniture, research has shown that there is a direct correlation between showroom shine and showroom sales. The longer a product can retain its brand new lustre, the more attractive it looks and the greater its chance of being snapped up.

"We developed the Indicator because we wanted some way of accurately measuring this 'gleam factor' and the length of time it takes to wear off."

The Indicator consists of a telescopic sight linked to a small box with a dial and needle. The user simply focuses the sight on the object under scrutiny and special photo-sensitive cells transmit the information through a complicated relay of circuits to give a Gleam Factor reading of between zero (total darkness) and 100 (direct sunlight).

The cost of the 'Gleam Machine' is about £250 per unit according to Mr Geste and its

uses are universal.

"We've been using it for about five years now and it's proved invaluable. An operator can learn to use it in less than ten minutes and providing the instructions are followed properly it will give an accurate, consistent reading every time.

"I happened to mention the device to an Army friend one day and he persuaded me to lend him one to show to the Ministry of Defence."

Major Peter Rank, who heads a small Whitehall team responsible for issuing Army parade regulations and instructions, takes up the story.

"For years we've been rather worried that when soldiers take part in ceremonial occasions there is no objective standard for determining the brightness of their boots or the dazzle of their cap badge.

"Up to now, deciding whether kit is up to standard has been a highly subjective business — and

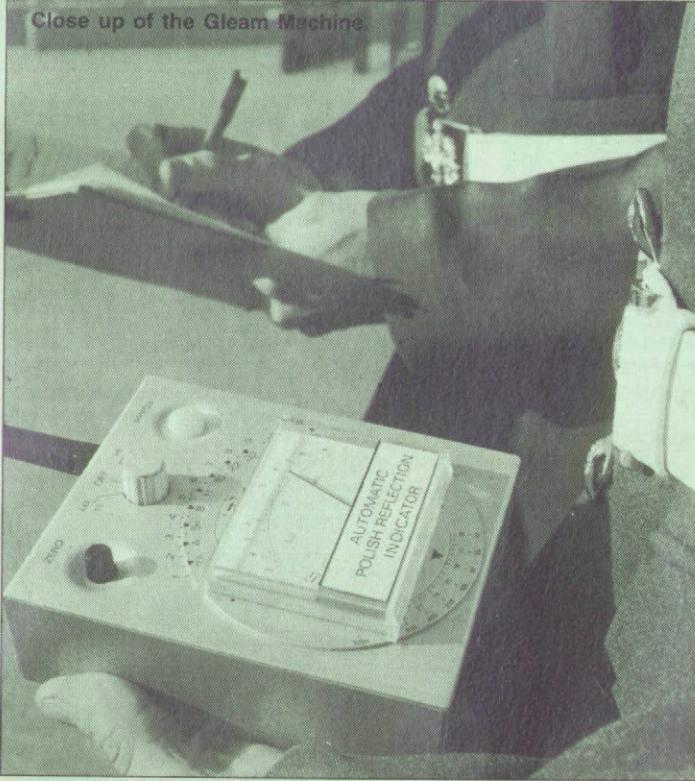
therefore inconsistent.

"We are not just a spit-and-polish Army and the days of endless, senseless 'bull' have long gone. Even so, pride in turnout — particularly on public occasions — is very important for the Army's image. So having a precise way of measuring it is very important.

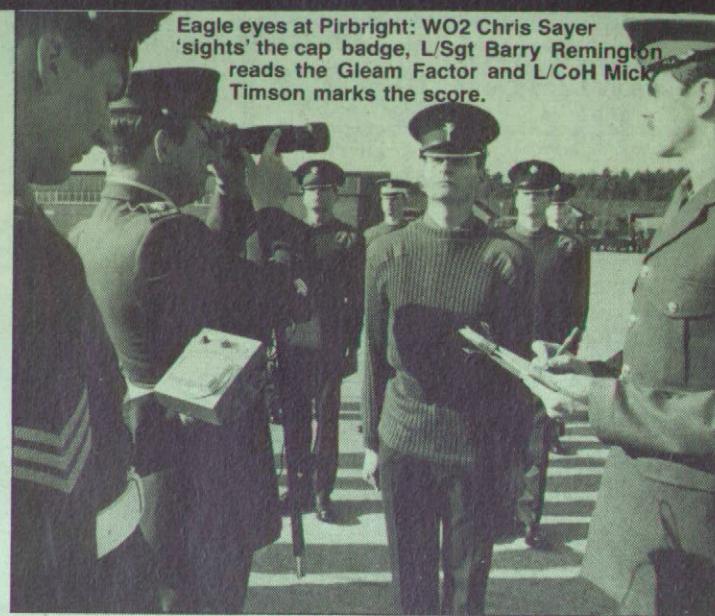
"Initial indications are that the Automatic Polish Reflection Indicator is just the foolproof device we've been looking for.

"About 50 units will be getting the equipment to begin with and we shall be asking commanding officers for their comments. We shall also be monitoring the equipment directly with our own control equipment to ensure that standards are being properly applied. ■

Close up of the Gleam Machine.



Eagle eyes at Pirbright: WO2 Chris Sayer 'sights' the cap badge, L/Sgt Barry Remington reads the Gleam Factor and L/CoH Mick Timson marks the score.

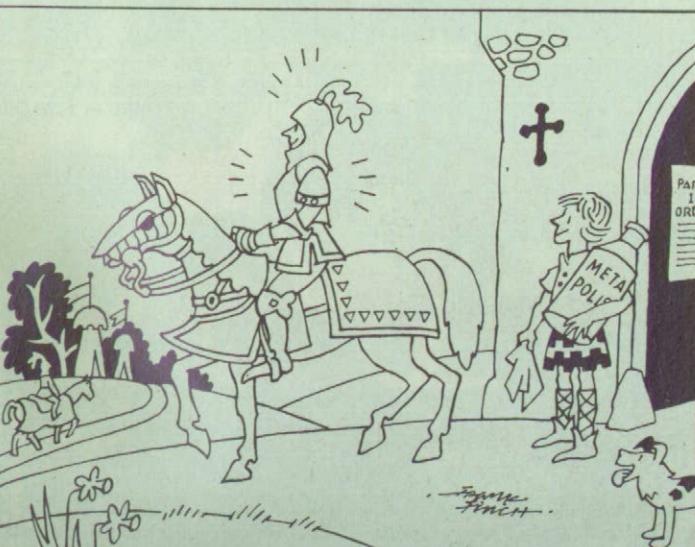


It takes about 15 seconds to check each man.



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.





7 Platoon march into
Goose Green after 60-mile 'yomp'.

THE FALKLANDS may be better known for sheep than for tigers, but that could all change if the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, have anything to do with it.

Traditionally nicknamed the Tigers, they have been busy helping the islanders find their feet again after the ravages of last year's invasion.

This has meant some fairly unusual tasks, including helping in the renewal of the Stanley racecourse in time for last month's 150th Anniversary celebrations. The course took quite a pounding during the Argentine occupation and bomb craters had to be filled in and the grandstand repaired and repainted.

But the deadline was met and racing was able to go ahead watched by a large, enthusiastic crowd.

Then it was time for the soldiers to smarten themselves up and join in the big anniversary parade through Port Stanley where Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, took the salute.

The Tigers have also been busy on less ceremonial, but much tougher, marching duties — a series of 'Tiger' marches which are a strong regimental

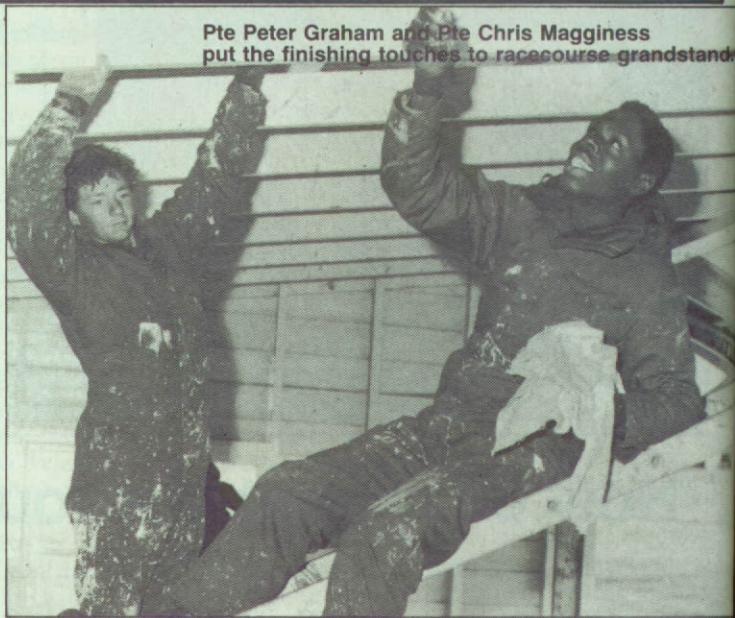
A SMILE ON THE FACE OF THE TIGER

tradition. The first of these saw platoons 'yomping' the 60 miles from Port Stanley to Goose Green in just under three days carrying full kit and ammunition — about 80 lbs per man.

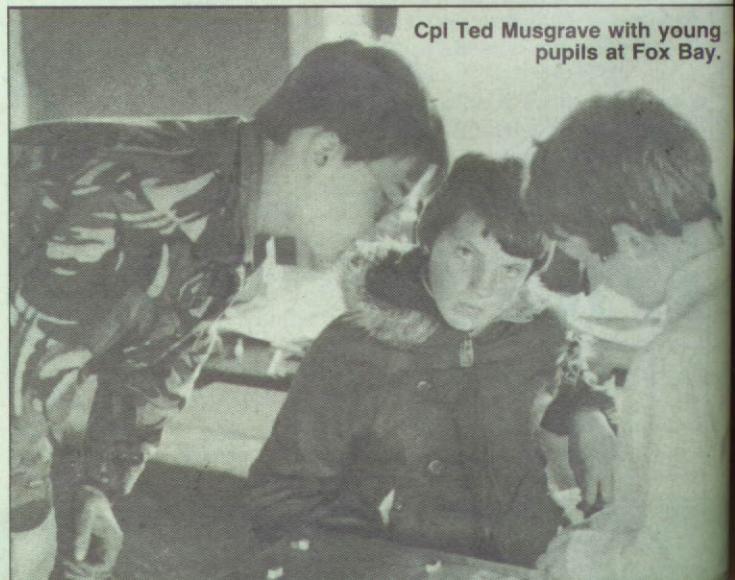
Operating in such difficult and inhospitable terrain is a learning experience for the whole battalion, but for Corporal Ted Musgrave the tour in the Falklands has meant literally going back to school.

Based at Fox Bay, West Falklands, he spends every morning at the local school teaching primary youngsters Maths, English, History and Geography. It's a vital service for local parents who would otherwise have to send their children to school in Port Stanley, over a hundred miles away. And although it's a far cry from Corporal Musgrave's normal duties as Pay Corporal, he says he finds it "very rewarding". ■

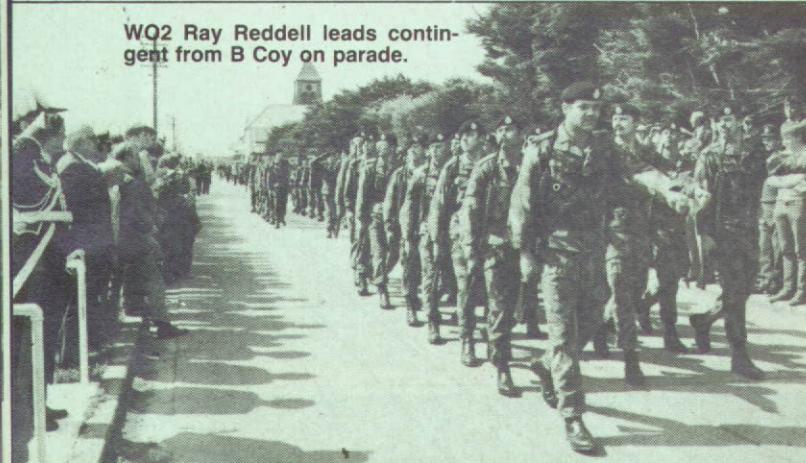
Pte Peter Graham and Pte Chris Magginess put the finishing touches to racecourse grandstand.



Cpl Ted Musgrave with young pupils at Fox Bay.



WQ2 Ray Reddell leads contingent from B Coy on parade.



THE TRADESMEN



JONES, BROWN, Smith and Robinson are four tradesmen who live and do business in the sleepy little town of Fortiewynks. Three of the tradesmen are married: one is unmarried. One of the married traders has two sparkling daughters - Ruby and Pearl; one has two sons named Mark and Antony; one has one son (Jack) and one daughter (Jill). They live on the little hill in the west of the town.

The bachelor, who may or may not be the grocer keeps a dog

named Wilf (short for Wilful) and two budgerigars, Ding and Dong. One of the wives is ash-blonde, one brunette and one is greying a little - possibly due to worry. Having said which - to confuse you a little, otherwise it would all be too easy, wouldn't it? - it must be said that of the four tradesmen one lives in Round Road, one in Park Place, a third in Straight Street and a fourth (who may or may not be the father of Pearl) in Curly Crescent.

One of the four tradesmen is a greengrocer, one a grocer, one a

COMPETITION 313

mason and one a draper. Jones lives nearer to Brown than he does to either of the others and the nearest of the tradesmen to Robinson is a mason.

The draper lives in Park Place which is not so near to Jones as is Brown's business. Smith lives in Straight Street and his average weekly takings fall short of those of the greengrocer.

The nearest of the tradesmen to Jones lives in Round Road and neither he nor Jones sees much of the mason.

All we want to know is the name of the greengrocer - knowing, of course, that it is the grocer who lives in Curly Crescent.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 22 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of May 16 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 313' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 313' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2 DU.

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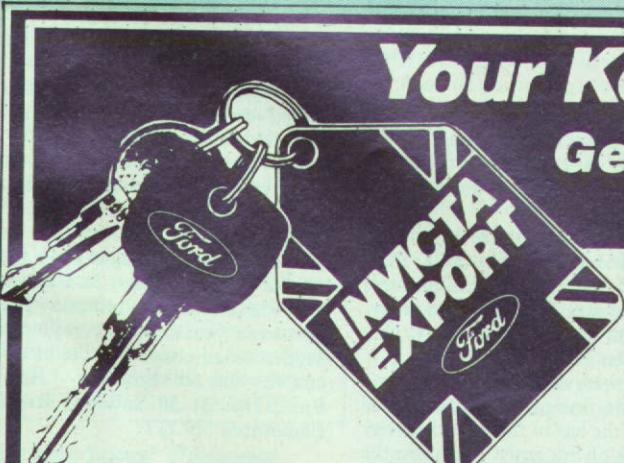
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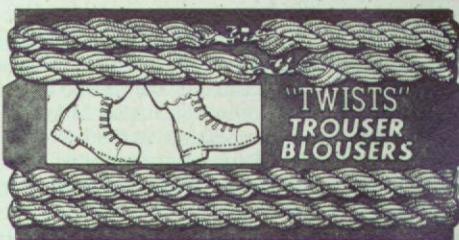
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In remote parts of Belize helicopters are an essential — sometimes life-saving — form of transport. But flying and maintaining them in such a hostile environment means plenty of headaches for the Army Air Corps.



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

JUNGLE JUMPERS

BELIZE MAY BE a "harsh, unforgiving" climate for Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopter pilots, yet, at the same time, it presents an "incredible learning process needing original thought" according to Major Keith Reid, OC of the 20-strong detachment which flies four of the £4 million-plus turbine powered aircraft.

The Belize Flight's primary role from its Airport Camp site, nine miles from Belize city, is liaison work — flying people to the south of the former British Caribbean colony which is about the size of Wales.

Major Reid, formerly at the Empire Test Pilots' School (ETPS) and a veteran of 3600 hours' flying on 16 aircraft types, mostly rotary, told SOLDIER: "Pilots leave here better pilots and groundcrew leave as better technicians who tend to go up in responsibility level. I've learned a hell of a lot out here. We have an Air Trooper and a technician doing jungle training with the resident infantry battalion — the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — and we try to get all our detachment members on jungle survival courses.

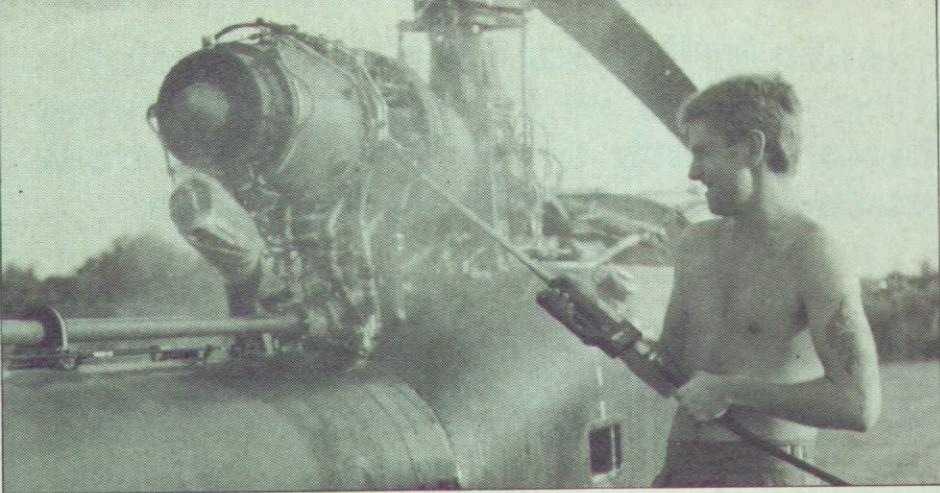
"Belize is a good place for any aircrew to come and pick up experience because it is not run-of-the-mill out here. Most of the stuff you deal with needs originality and original thought."

His pilots have had their share of drama, too. One picked up two Mayan Indians in one day, 25 miles apart. One of the casualties had a stomach condition from which he later died in hospital; the other had been bitten by a poisonous fer-de-lance snake.

On another occasion, a Gazelle from the Flight helped RAF Pumas and Harriers to

continued on page 42

Top: An AAC Gazelle lands at Rideau.
Left: S/Sgt Jon Brereton, AAC, ready to set off on another sortie.



Cpl Bill Spencer carries out a high-pressure engine clean.

search for an overdue pleasure boat which had broken down overnight with Service personnel on board. The floundering vessel was found within 15 minutes.

The jungle, explained Major Reid, can be quite an unnerving experience for the first-time 'chopper' pilot in Belize. He can often find himself flying for a full 15 minutes with nothing below but the tight-packed jungle canopy throwing up CAT — Clear Air Turbulence — and nothing but a spinning rotor blade and endless sky above.

"We are probably the only Army Air Corps Flight to fly with a crewman on board. It's vital. They can help pilots at some of the more remote and barely accessible landing sites which are very rough.

"We operate in a hostile environment — in weather, topographically and atmospherically. It's very corrosive. We have to carry out a three-working-to-one-flying-hour schedule out here on the helicopters because we wash out the inside of the compressors every night and the combustion chambers every month."

This is done by high-pressure water, an idea developed jointly by Staff Sergeant Pete Crosby and Sergeant Malcolm Rae. This novel technical suggestion is, in fact, currently being evaluated by Rolls-Royce and could have vital worldwide implications for other military users of the Gazelle in similar climates.

Staff Sergeant Crosby, an aircraft artificer, who gained his Private Pilot's Licence while out in Belize, said: "I think perhaps more challenges are presented to us technicians on the ground than in the air, taking into account all the engineering problems created in a salt-laden atmosphere where

high humidity causes engine corrosion.

"We used to swap over our aircraft at one time because they were in such a poor condition. But now there is a greater ratio of husbandry and anti-corrosion work to repairs compared with the UK and BAOR. It's a constant battle.

"We found engines were running too hot in flight and reached a point where we were changing 20 a year, but now it's down to two a year — thanks to the high-pressure water spray which cleans out the carbon and atmosphere salts from within the engines. The accumulated dirt acted like a heat sink not allowing that heat to dissipate. We believe its cause to be the combination of atmospheric substances, fuel and oil."

The detachment flies roughly 1500 hours annually and has enjoyed a 90 per cent serviceability rate in the past six months.

Its 20-man complement at the time of SOLDIER's visit was made up of three pilots — including Major Reid — two aircrewmen, five senior NCO technicians, three junior NCO technicians, four AAC junior ranks, a sergeant administrator, a stores NCO and a storeman.

Of these, 13 came from 3 Flight, AAC, based at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, who were due to be replaced earlier this month by men from 656 Squadron at Netheravon, the only AAC squadron to serve in the Falklands.

Having to land on positions as precarious as the Observation Post at Cadenas, perched 550 feet high on a narrow ridge-top, demands consummate flying skills from the Gazelle pilots. And they can never be sure



S/Sgt Pete Crosby, an aircraft artificer.

what they may be called to do next.

In winter, for instance, they overfly the Belizean roads every day to see if any bridges have been washed away. And during hurricane threats although the four aircraft are dispersed to protect them from damage, they are soon back on the scene to take part in any subsequent searches.

Gazelles are also involved in casualty evacuation work for soldiers injured deep in the jungle on patrol and even, on occasions, in searching for patrols or groups that have got lost, perhaps through a communication breakdown.

Usually, such disorientated parties put up orange marker balloons which bob above the jungle's densely-knit canopy.

"We have even dropped water to patrols who have become lost," said Major Reid. "One such patrol had only one day's supply left and we lowered long plastic tubes, covered in canvas for protection, on the end of 100-foot-long straps."

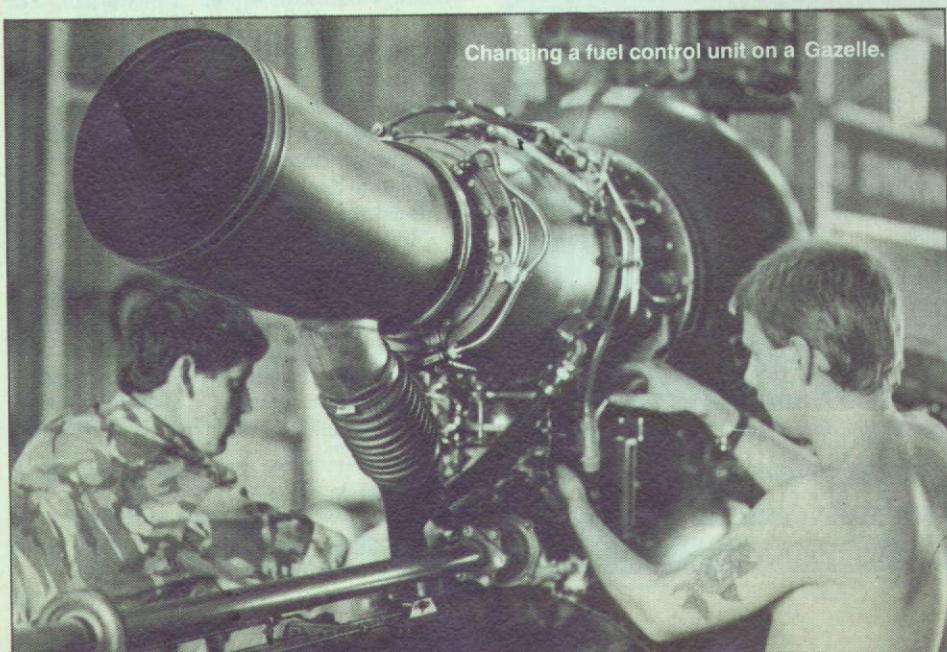
"But these are the hazards of the local terrain. The patrols go into these regions and cannot find a new water supply; it may have dried up. The helicopter is the only way you can help these people at times like that. There is nothing else you can do to provide all the essentials."

As a further aid to their versatility the Belize Gazelles also carry sand filters and flotation gear because they spend a lot of time ferrying between the mainland and the many offshore cays.

Major Reid is full of praise for the Gazelle which he believes is hard to beat for serviceability. "In very hot weather — 30 degrees plus Centigrade — and very high, at 3500 feet, its performance is occasionally limited. But, as an all-round aircraft, it's far superior to the Scout."

Working in Belize, he believes, is something that every Army helicopter aircrew ought to experience. "I think it's a great shame that everyone cannot come here as part of their military rotary wing education. In a perfect world, I would like to see every aircrewman and every groundcrewman come out here to learn about jungle operations."

"We already go to Norway and Cyprus getting both ends of the spectrum. The air or groundcrewman coming out here could end up going anywhere in the world, and Belize is just one leg of that experience which is invaluable. Four months out here increases your professional ability an enormous amount." ■



Changing a fuel control unit on a Gazelle.

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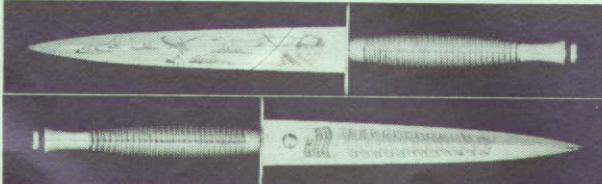
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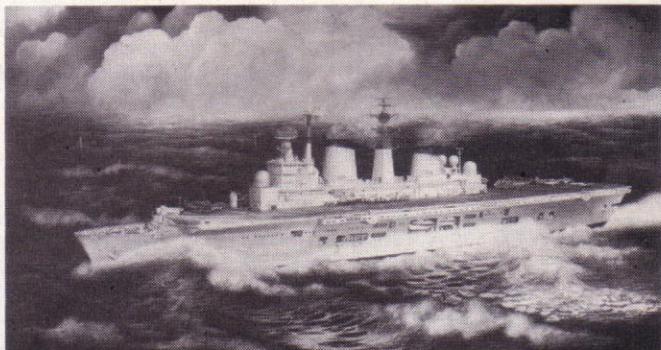


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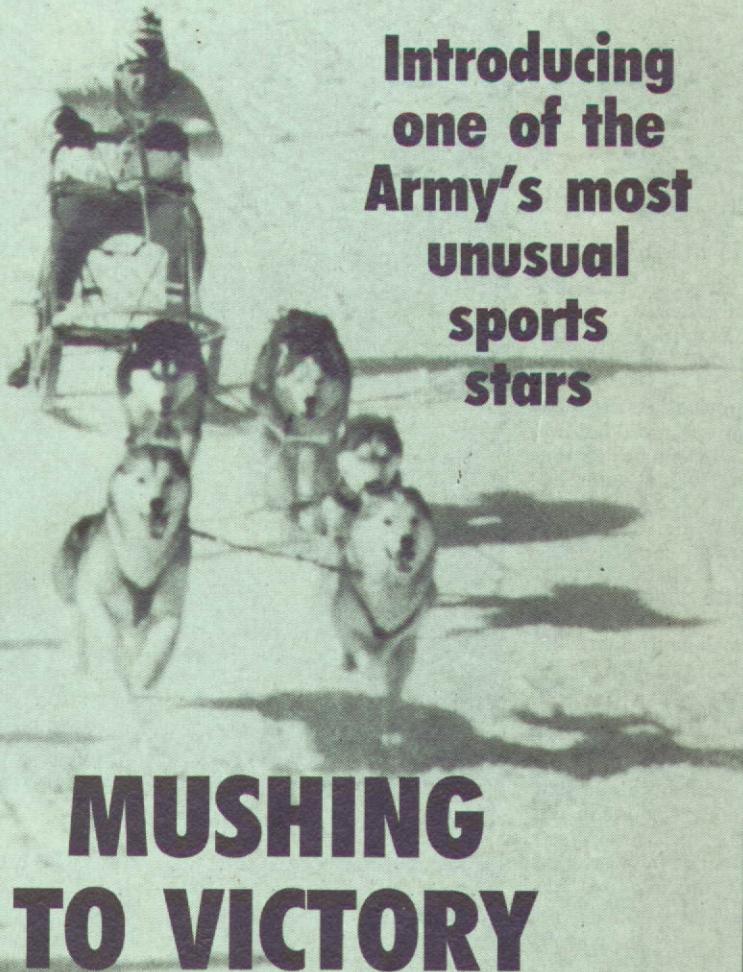
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Personal

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

Replies to 'Jane', c/o SOLDIER.



Introducing one of the Army's most unusual sports stars

MUSHING TO VICTORY

BRITAIN'S SOLE competitor in the world of international dog sled racing, WO2 Mick Hillier-Jackson, is unmistakable.

Before a race, he stakes out his team of Siberian huskies on snow under a British flag which he carries with him. In the race itself, he runs wearing a hat in the design of the Union Jack.

Better still, he wins. In the current racing season, he has taken first place in the five dog team category in two major European Championships, in Austria and in Italy.

Last month, however, at the combined Dutch-North German Club Championships in Eckenhausen, Germany, a fall forced him to settle for third place.

Dog sled racing, insisted Mick afterwards, is not a dangerous sport although it can lead to "perhaps the odd broken nose". His own worst moment was a year ago, competing in Bernau in the Black Forest. "There was a fast downhill section with two 'S' Bends, and I lost control of the sled just before the first one. I ended up being dragged under the sled for half a kilometre, and lost quite a bit of skin on my thigh."

Eighty dog teams from seven nations took part in the Eckenhausen meeting, which Mick described as "small". Bigger championships attract as many as 200 dog teams. At Eckenhausen, even so, the presence of a television team, and a radio reporter giving 'live' coverage on the German networks was a measure of the growing popularity of a sport that its followers know as 'mushing'.

In UK, strict quarantine laws more than lack of snow, have prevented its development on any serious level.

Story: Dermod Hill

A 36 year old 'Brummie' based with 1 Squadron, 14 Signal Regiment, in Brunswick, Germany, Mick Hillier-Jackson became involved in the sport in a way which will strike a chord with every Service family. An unaccompanied posting to Northern Ireland decided him to buy a young dog as both company, and reassurance for his wife.

"In fact I already had a huskie for about nine years, an old housepet that I still have. I got the name of a German sled dog racer from some friends in England, and we bought another. Then I found you only need three to actually start racing. So, we acquired another and raced."

That was three years ago. The Hillier-Jackson family now has seven Siberian huskies, and they breed and show huskies as well.

"In fact, they have been bred for hundreds of years, as human companions," said Mick. "They like people too much to be good guard dogs. But they will hunt other animals, so you must keep them on a lead. All huskies love to run, and some run better than others. The biggest problem is finding a dog that will 'lead'."

Mick's lead dog is one of two which lives all the time in his quarter in Brunswick. The remainder are kennelled on a patch of land lent by German friends.

"My lead dog is called, believe it or not, Bambi. It was born in Canada, and was imported by the current European reigning A champion partnership — Mick and Bambi. ▶

champion in the Open Class (dog teams of unlimited size).

"The dog was too old for his team, and it had also lost a toe in a racing accident. We were lucky enough to be there when he decided it was time for him to go, and I got him, quite honestly, at a give-away price. He's now eight-and-a-half years old and is still probably one of the best lead dogs in Europe, although he's not as fast as some."

Of Mick's present racing team, two were sired by the lead dog. "Bambi refuses to run unless he is kept at home. But all the dogs come to the house once or twice a week just for a change.

"The huskies do not fight for lead position. A younger dog in the kennel might fight for supremacy of the pack itself, but you don't get a lot of trouble with the dogs. It is normally the bitches that fight most — the worst problems are always with them."

In summer, Mick trains on a wheeled trolley called a 'rig', and there has been some attempt in UK recently to promote rig racing as a sport in itself.

Dog sled racing is not a cheap sport. Lightweight racing sleds, from 14-25lb, can cost up to £500 and are usually made in Switzerland. Mick's own sled though — bought in Scandinavia and made of Finnish Ash — cost only £200.

A Siberian huskie pup costs about £250, but a good lead dog is hard to put a price on. The dog food bill in the Hillier-Jackson House is over £50 a month.

Costs like these are probably the main reason why more British soldiers in Germany do not take up the sport says Mick.

"Soldiers in Germany don't normally go mad enough to buy enough dogs to have a team. It is an expensive sport. If you race huskies, you don't really do anything else in the year. We don't have holidays. We don't go away or anything, except in winter when I use my leave to travel around the different race events."

At the end of the year, Mick Hillier-Jackson is due to return to UK, and the brief but spectacular career of Britain's only dog-sled champion will probably come to an abrupt end.

"There is no way I can afford to quarantine seven dogs. But we are hoping to bring two stud dogs back to UK, and the rest will go to German kennels." ■



Army (UK) Soccer Final

SEME TWINS BLAST RE'S

TRRE 1

SEME BORDON retained the King's Cup when they brushed aside the challenge of the Training Regiments, Royal Engineers. They did so with style, flair and three fine goals from their Army and Combined Services twin strikers, Lance-Corporals Steve Butler and Phil White.

For once White outshone his more stylish team-mate getting two goals. As captain for the night he received the cup (pictured below) from Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Burgess, President of the Army FA. It was all in sharp contrast to last year's final when he was sent off and had to watch disconsolately as his team-mates collected their medals.

Sizzling finishing

ALTHOUGH THERE were only three first round matches to be played in our SOLDIER Darts Contest, two teams have already given warning that they are in sizzling form.

Newcomers Aldershot Chefs 'B' needed only 61 darts (23-21-17) to dispose of Scrattoft Valley Ex-Servicemen's Association, Corporal Sobanski weighing in with three 'tons'. And Vehrte CC, losing semi-finalists last year, went one better against Bury All Stars, their 20-18-22 adding up to just 60 darts.

Four of their players each scored 140 or better in a single visit to the board, among them Corporal Jimmy Haque whose 147 finish wins him our £5 for the performance of the round.

Bury couldn't match that sort of scoring but they did have the satisfaction of chalking up five individual tons.

In the other tie 6 Field Support Squadron's 23-27-25 saw them through against Herford Crusaders.

Second Round Draw: Berakas Ladies v RAFA Club; Kolsas Killers v Artful Dodgers; Eskmeal Owls v Odds and Sods; High Numbers v E Troop 233 Sigs; Aldershot Chefs 'B' v Ore Place Social Club; Herdewykes v 6 Fd Supp Sqn; Vehrte CC v The Whalers; B Coy Bombers v Chefs A.



2ND ROUND 1983

SEME Bordon 3

The warning signs were flashed for the sappers when, as early as the fifth minute, a cross from the right was headed on by Butler to thump the upright. Minutes later a long throw by Sergeant Alan Trussler was headed on by White for Butler to nod just wide.

SEME were beginning to impose effective control in midfield and opened their account in the 25th minute. Craftsman Vince Davey on the right flank headed to White in the penalty area and the striker slipped a defender to shoot home.

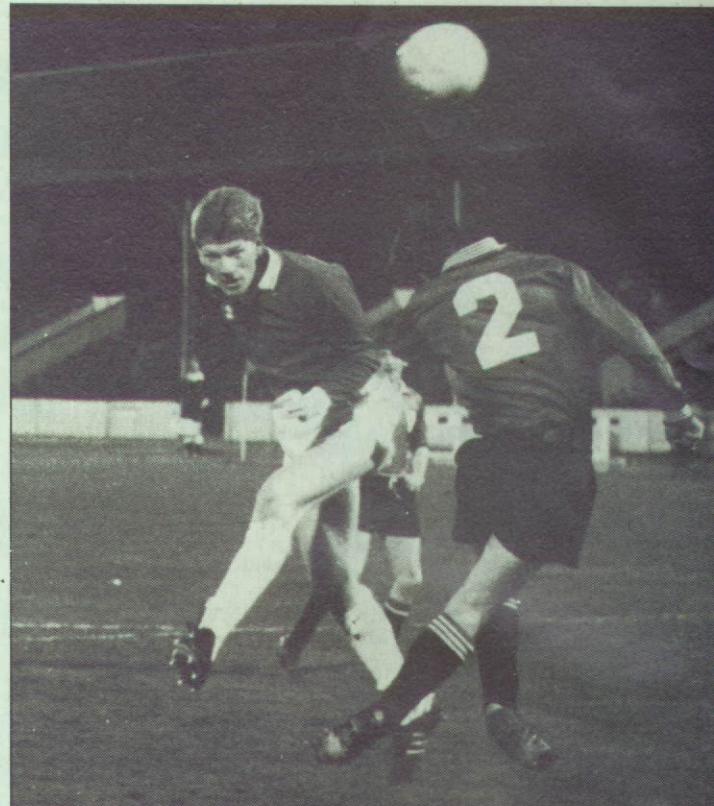
Long throws from SEME continued to cause problems for the sapper defence but there was no



A Shining New Star

WITH THE Number One player, Lance Corporal Chris Fetherstone, nursing a leg injury, the field was wide open in the 1983 Army Men's Singles Badminton Championships at Worthy Down. The surprise winner of the title was Private Geoffrey McKillop of 1st Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment. Private McKillop has only been in the Army since May last year and was quite surprised to find himself winning a championship so soon.

McKillop won the first game against his opponent Corporal Guy Nonis easily by 15 points to one. In the second game Nonis fought



Sappers battle to contain a Butler attack.

further score before the interval. Warrant Officer 2 Geordie Hood was taken off with a suspected broken ankle after a collision with the SEME keeper, WO2 Mike Gibson.

The Training Regiments opened the second half in great style and for a while the SEME defence was stretched. But in the 53rd minute, against the run of play, SEME broke away and got the ball into a crowded penalty area. White controlled the ball with his chest, half pivoted and fired a looping shot into the roof of the net — a remarkable piece of finishing.

Any chance of a sapper revival

was killed off when Butler produced home another goal from close in. Sapper substitute, Chris Pinchin, scored a consolation goal two minutes from time.

SEME's triumph was shattered by tragedy later that night when Sergeant Alan Trussler was knocked down and killed after a collision with the team coach had arrived at Bordon (see Page 5).

STOP PRESS

THE ARMY rugby team snatched a last minute 10-9 victory against the Royal Navy at Twickenham. Story and pictures next issue.

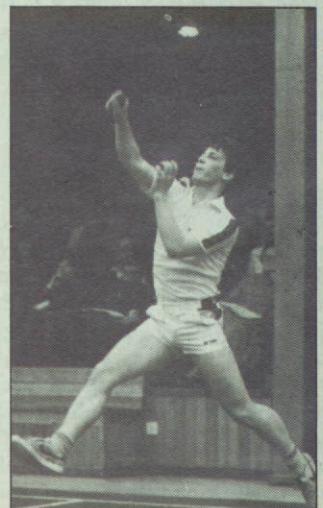
his way up to 11-8 before McKillop saw the danger but then the UDR man forged ahead, overtaking his opponent to win the game 13-11.

Afterwards McKillop said the match had not been as easy as it had looked to spectators, especially in the second game when the rallies stretched both players. "But I was glad it didn't go to three games," he said. "I wanted to get it over in two if I possibly could."

In the Ladies Singles another new star was discovered in the form of Private Nickie Coleman WRAC who was beaten in the semi finals. She too is a newcomer to the Army having only been in four months.

The final was between last year's winner, Corporal Lynn Thomas and Lance Corporal Judith Haynes.

Haynes admitted she had been practising hard this year and it showed in her decisive win by 11-1, 11-4.



McKillop in smashing form.

Crook and Miles win but Navy are . . .

Still the Senior Service

THE NAVY ONCE AGAIN DOMINATED this year's Combined Services Boxing Championships held at RAF Halton. Their dreadnought fighters took eight titles, including three walk-overs, leaving two apiece for the Army and the RAF. Sole khaki winners were Private Carl Crook of 1 Para, who retained his lightweight title, and the redoubtable Lance-Corporal Horace Miles (1 RGJ), who moves on to the next stage of the ABA championships at heavyweight.

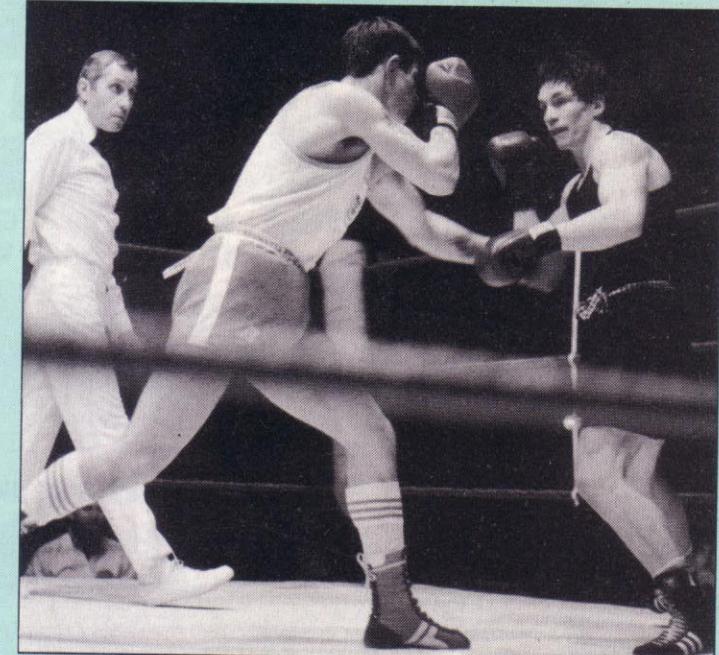
Crook faced a repeat of last year's final against the RAF's Junior Technician Steve Snagg. Snagg, with a longer reach and lots of quick punches, looked the part but Crook appeared to have his measure. His heavier and more accurate punching gained him the unanimous verdict.

For Miles it was the climax of a wonderful Services boxing season. His opponent was again the lumbering giant, MEM Ned Rawlins of the Navy. Rawlins came at Miles like a bull at a gate but with toreador-like precision Miles aimed a superb right which spreadeagled the big sailor on the canvas. A standing count followed then another wicked

punch saw Rawlins reel against the ropes and slump to the floor. All in about half a round.

For most of the others it was a tale of woe leavened with some spirited efforts. At flyweight Fusilier Mo Ullah took three counts to lose against Cook Dave Pope of the Navy. Ullah was still standing and dancing when the referee declared the contest over but he was clearly outclassed.

Featherweight hope, Craftsman Dave Oag met the Navy's reigning Inter-Services king, Seaman Stuart Gill. The skinheaded Gill always looked the more effective and workman-like of the two although Oag boxed well. The only surprise



Rossi (light vest) takes the battle to the experienced Croombes.

was that Gill only got a majority decision. The second Crook brother, Private Pete, had the misfortune to come up against the man who got the award for the best boxer of the night — SAC Mark Gilson of the RAF. Crook was persistently aggressive but as the fight wore on so the number of telling blows from the airman increased. Gilson got a unanimous if close verdict to a storm of applause.

At Light-middle Commonwealth Silver Medallist, AB Nick Croombes, was an odds-on favourite. But Fusilier Robert Rossi attacked him throughout the three rounds although Croombes's superior ringcraft and mauling gained him the crown. But Rossi got some of the best cheers of the night for his non-stop assault.

Lance-Corporal Kenny Gilroy ran into trouble at light-heavyweight against the light-footed SAC Paul McNamee of the RAF. In the first round Gilroy's face was cut and in the second he walked straight into a blow which poleaxed him. Long after the count Gilroy, who had twisted his leg as he fell, was struggling to get to his feet and he had to hop from the ring.

And the final event for super-heavyweights (more than 200 lbs) proved to be an anti-climax. Giant coloured marine, Keith Ferdinand, took just 59 seconds to twice down the Army's Lance-Corporal Glen Drennan — with Drennan scarcely landing a blow.

The Army did manage to take two Under-19 titles. Private Dave Spencer won through at light-welter in a well matched contest with Marine Karl Jones that ended with the Marine looking the worse for wear.

This was followed by Fusilier Kevin Phillips beating another Marine, Keith Owen. There was very little defence on show in this contest just toe to toe hammer-

ing, and both men went down for counts. Phillips got the majority decision and both men were congratulated by the referee.

The third Army under-19 contender, Rifleman John Dublin, was forced into the role of punch bag for Marine Colin Day and the fight lasted just 100 seconds.

DAMP SQUIB

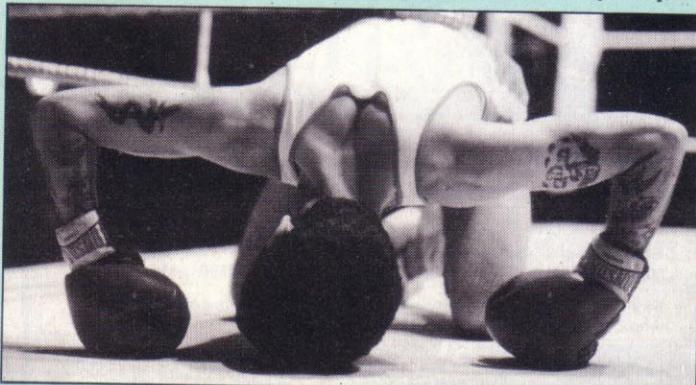
THIS YEAR'S Inter-Services Youth Football Tournament proved to be something of a damp squib. The Royal Air Force withdrew having been unable to raise a team of under-18's so the tournament was reduced to a single match between the Army and the Navy.

That match ended in a 1-1 draw so the two Services will share the trophy for the next year. Both goals came in the first half with Private Malvern (1 Royal Scots) being the Army scorer.

Junior judo

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, took over the crown as Army Junior Judo champions at Bulford. They were followed by the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers and the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe.

Unfortunately the Junior Gunners were unable to stay for the Individual Championships the following day but a high standard was reported. Entries were down on last year and in 1984 it is planned to hold both events on a single day in order to maximise numbers.



Symbol of Army dejection — Fusilier Mo Ullah bites the dust.

Oldies save the day

THREE VETERANS salvaged the Army's pride as it took a mauling in the Inter-Service Cross-country championships. The Royal Air Force had the first man home in both the senior and junior events and easily took the team titles — with the Army second and the Navy third.

Sergeant Billy Cain, the Army champion, could manage no better than fifth in the senior run while Private Tony Barlow of 3 Para came third in the junior event.

But WO2 'Taff' Davies came home as first Veteran followed by another soldier, Staff-Sergeant Bill Venus with Brigadier Keith Spacie, shortly to take over command in the Falklands, third.

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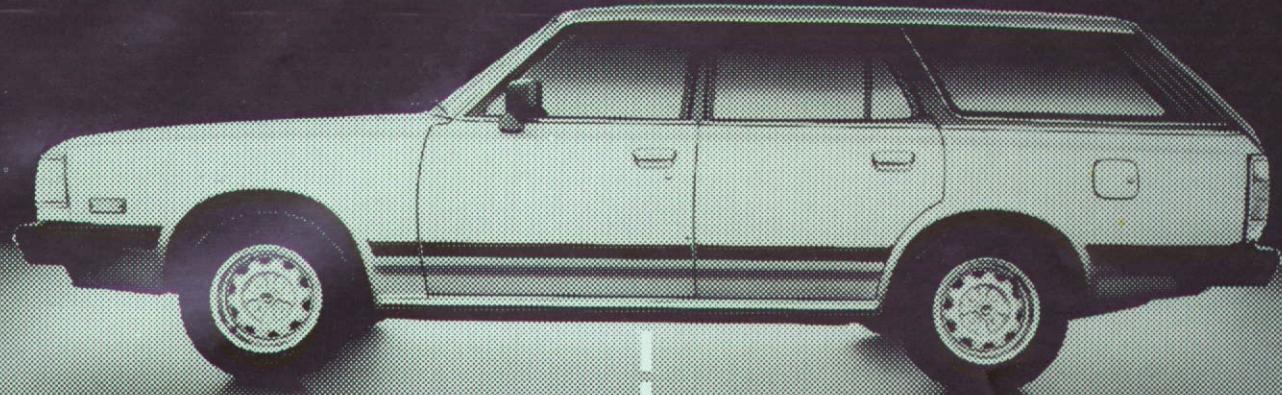
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