

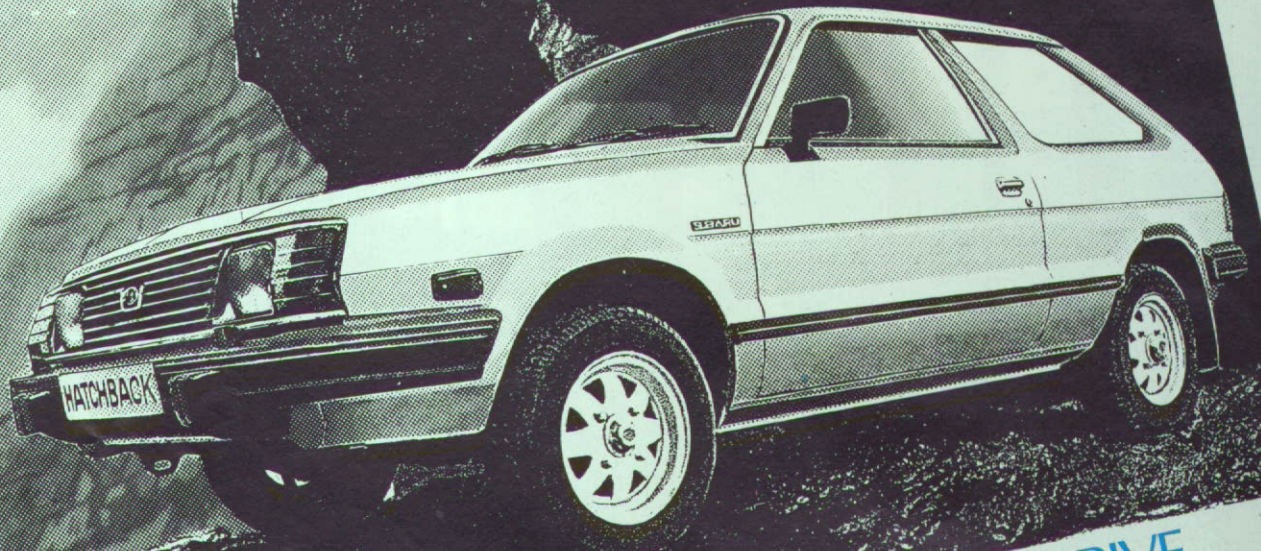
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 16 JANUARY 1984

# SOLDIER





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## FRONT COVER:

Royal Engineers in action in Northern Ireland — seeking terrorist devices. See page 30.  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

## BACK COVER:

The setting is Beirut — home of the British Force Lebanon. See page 12.  
Picture: Maj. C. Le Hardy

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# SOLDIER

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## A message for 1984

*from the*



### CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF GENERAL SIR JOHN STAINER

The tradition of making New Year's resolutions has been long established. Many of these resolutions do not survive the year, however, as they are overtaken by unexpected events. There may be many in the Army, for example, who will be resolving that 1984 will be a year of stability, during which achievements and reorganisation can be consolidated and in which changes should be kept to a minimum even though change has been part of our lives for as long as any of us can remember.

As professional head of the Army I look forward to 1984 and contemplate my resolutions for the year. I do so not with anxieties about change but with considerable optimism and excitement at the challenges that lie ahead. I do not believe that the standing of the Army in the eyes of the public has ever been higher. We are embarked on a major re-equipment programme that will leave us better equipped than ever before. Wherever the Army is deployed — in BAOR, Beirut, Belize, Berlin, Brunei, Cyprus, the Falklands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Sinai, Zimbabwe, Great Britain, or Northern Ireland — it is admired not just for what it does, but for the way that it does it. And, in 1984, the biggest exercise since World War 2, Exercise Lionheart, will take place, providing an opportunity for the Army to demonstrate to our NATO allies and indeed to the world, the strength of the deterrence that we all pray will never be required to be tested and will continue to keep the peace as it has done so successfully for nearly 40 years.

I would not want to pretend that 1984 will be a year without change nor that all the challenges we may have to face are apparent at this moment. But I do know that each one of you will respond to whatever challenges may come to you, in whatever capacity you are serving, with the same spirit of positive determination that you have always shown. As I look back over 1983, I do so with admiration and gratitude at what you have achieved. As I look forward to 1984, I do so with confidence and optimism at the success you will have. In sending you my best wishes for a happy and rewarding 1984 I share with you my resolution that, during the year, I shall enjoy doing everything in my power to enhance the performance and reputation of the Army, an Army which the country is fortunate to have and in which we have the pride and privilege to serve.

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## SAIL-AWAY BRIGADIER . . .

Sailing off into the sunset is Brigadier Mike Jones, Commander Royal Artillery, as he left HQ 3 Armoured Division to take up his new appointment as Deputy Commander, HQ North Eastern District in York.

A keen all-round sportsman, the brigadier has wide ranging interests and it was in his capacity as chairman of the British Forces Germany Board Sailing Committee that he set sail for UK.



## RIGHT HAND DOWN A LITTLE!

Brigadier CRL Guthrie, Commander 4 Armoured Brigade on a farewell visit to 2 Field Regiment Royal Artillery one he found most memorable.

Here the Brigadier gets to know an Eager Beaver, with the aid of Lance Bombardier Johnson of HQ Battery. The Brigadier was also given a certificate of competence to drive an M109. Quite a day!



## BRIDGE-LAYING SALUTE

7 Armoured Brigade's Battlegroup organised this special bridge-laying salute when the Brigade's might was put on show as 1st Armoured Division in Germany hosted a visit by VIPs.

The visit was organised as part of a tour laid on for the Royal College of Defence Studies, the Joint Services Defence College, the Spanish Chief of Staff (General Don Ramon Ascanio Y Togores) and his colleagues and others.

## YORKSHIRE WELCOME IN BERLIN

Who is that standing between Lance Corporal Terry Franks from Leeds and Private Graham Collins from Bradford? One of Yorkshire's best known faces — show-jumper Harvey Smith.

Naturally enough, the visit of the famous Mr Smith for a big event in Berlin aroused special interest among men of 1st Battalion the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.





# After 40 years in the desert . . . LRDG Truck finds an oasis

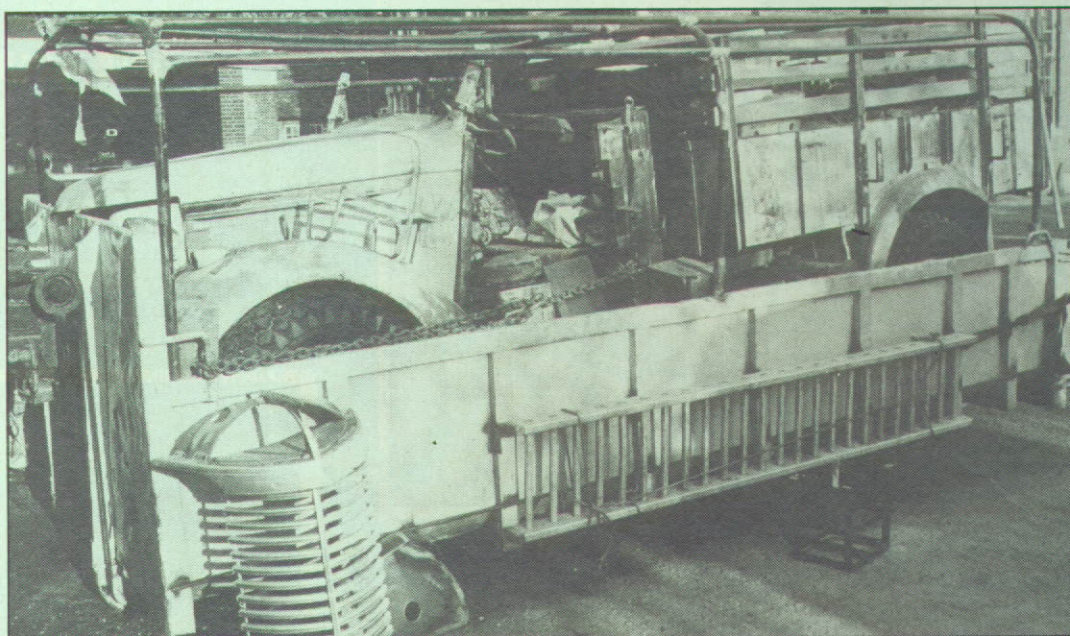
**M**ORE than 40 years after it was abandoned in the Egyptian desert one of the first vehicles used by the Long Range Desert Group, a forerunner of the SAS, has been recovered and brought to Britain.

The five week rescue mission was carried out by a five man team including the secretary of the Long Range Desert Group Association, 63-year-old Mr Jimmy Patch and Piers Lloyd-Owen, son of Major-General David Lloyd-Owen, a former commander of the LRDG.

The Chevrolet truck, in excellent condition considering its 40 year stint in the desert, was first discovered by geologists in 1980. Major-General Lloyd-Owen, who was in London to welcome back the expedition and its prize told **SOLDIER**: "Once I was convinced of its authenticity I was determined to get it back."

The general set up the Waikaha Trust to raise the money. Waikaha is a Maori name painted on the Chevrolet's bonnet which shows that it was used by a New Zealand patrol of the LRDG.

An anonymous benefactor provided a large amount of the required money, the Association some more and General Lloyd-Owen is still hoping to raise the remainder from donations. After getting clearance to travel through a military area of Egypt and getting an export licence to bring the vehicle out of the country the expedition set off at the end of October.



For Jimmy Patch it was a nostalgic return to the desert for the first time since the Second World War. "It was marvellous being out in the blue again with no other human beings around."

The nearest point of civilisation was an oasis 250 miles away but there was a road which took the party within 40 miles of the abandoned truck.

But Mr Patch has not so far managed to find out just why a vehicle in good condition was abandoned in the desert and remained there all these years. He has circulated the Association members in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other places without success.

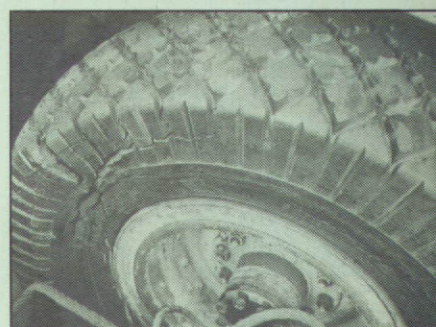
"It's a bit of a mystery. No-

**The old Chevrolet truck sits in the trailer which brought it back.**

body is admitting it and it was our normal practice to return to our vehicles without fail. We were very keen on salvaging vehicles because in those days transport was very short. There must have been a very compelling reason."

The patrol which abandoned the vehicle constructed a cairn out of old petrol tins. The rescue party rebuilt the cairn and left a piece of Welsh stone engraved with the details.

Now the vehicle is to go to the Grange Cavern in North Wales, billed as the world's largest underground military museum. The museum owner, Tony Pearce, who also led the expedition, told **SOLDIER** it would be rust proofed and put on display in a diorama. Also included



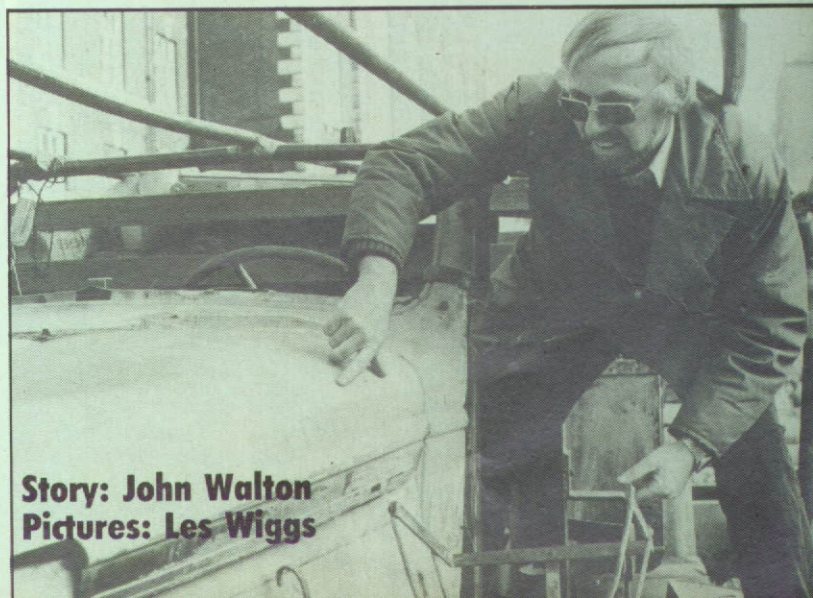
**Still with a first class tread — if a little cracked after 40 years in the sun.**

would be half a dozen snake skins which were found under the bonnet.

"Whether we shall restore and repaint it will be decided after we get to know the feelings of the Long Range Desert Group Association", he said. "But this has certainly been our most adventurous trip yet."

◀ **As they were. A New Zealand patrol of the Long Range Desert Group in WW II.**

**Museum boss, Tony Pearce, points out the faded name Waikaha on the Chevrolet's bonnet. ▼**



**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Les Wiggs**



# NEWS VIEW

## ◀ GOLD AWARD TRIUMPH

Two years effort in community service and self development projects within the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has resulted in the Gold Award for Corporal Julie Waumsley, 29 Company WRAC, based in Rheindahlen, West Germany.

Julie, 24, will be invited to Buckingham Palace next year to receive the award which is the highest of the three stage Scheme. To qualify for the Gold entirely on work done overseas is unusual.



## MACRAME MAGIC ▼

The work of a combat powerman is not exactly delicate and refined but in his off duty time Signaller Clive Giddings, makes intricate and attractive objects in the old style of knot tying. He began by using the discarded string from the Army packing cases which were delivered to his isolated hilltop signals site in the Falklands, but when the string ran out he used bootlaces.

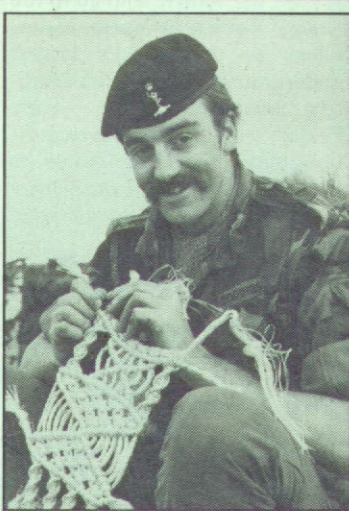
"My mother sent me a book of the basic knots and I taught myself from that. The designs are my own and I used to spend about four hours a night working on them. My lanyard I made myself and I have made a toggle for my jacket".



## STAR MEETING IN SINAI ▲

Life isn't all hard work for Sapper William McPake, who is serving with the 37-strong British Contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Desert. Spr McPake, 26, was one of over 1,000 men and women of the 11-nation force who were treated to Country and Western at its very best, when Loretta Lynn, known as the 'coal miner's daughter', visited the MFO at el Gorah in the Northern Sinai.

When not converting the MFO to her style of music, Loretta Lynn found time to visit soldiers at their place of work, where she soon fell for the charms of Spr McPake!



## HEAVENLY ▲ VEHICLES ONLY?

Reverend Peter Bayley, padre to 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, stops for a moment's meditation near Sedan Strasse NAAFI, Osna-bruck before receiving the route for God's vehicles — or should it be goods vehicles?

## MINISTER VISITS ANTWERP ▶

Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley recently visited the British Forces Antwerp — the first ministerial call for a number of years to servicemen and families in the Belgian city.

He is pictured presenting a tug-of-war plate to Staff Sergeant Pennie watched by team members, from left: Lance Corporals Nuttall and Jeffers, Private Balogh, Lance Corporal Leadbeatter, Corporal McKeown, Lieutenant Holmes, Corporal Leandowski, Lance Corporal Mounsey and Warrant Officer 1 McDonald.





# Marius — man of many titles

... civil official ... magistrate ... postmaster ... special constable ... assistant Queen's Harbour Master ... Deputy Collector of Customs ...

**A** PART from commanding the British military force on the Falkland Islands dependency of South Georgia, 28-year-old Captain Marius Coulon of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has other duties ... civil official, magistrate, postmaster, special constable, assistant Queen's harbour master, deputy collector of customs.

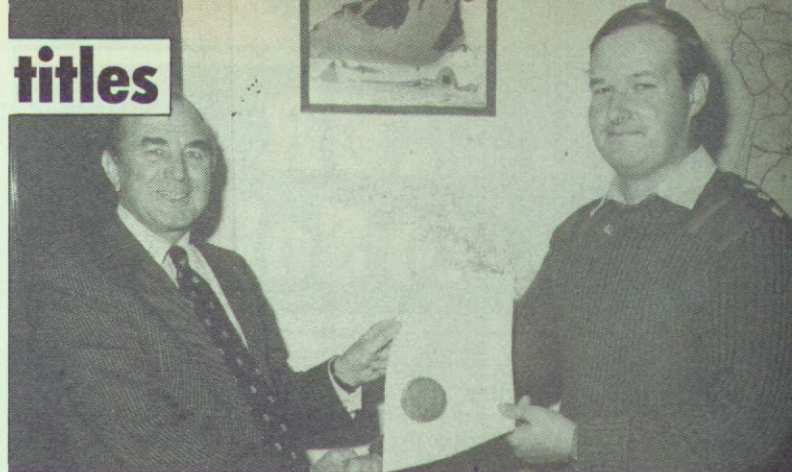
Marius has landed and taken command — serving with 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, currently serving a four-month tour of duty on the

Falklands — though Fusiliers under his command are on South Georgia.

With the arrival of Capt Coulon, civil administration was re-established on South Georgia — and he was empowered to perform his many civil duties in a special ceremony in Stanley, Falkland Islands, by the Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt.

South Georgia had been under British military control since recapture from the Argentines on 25 April 1982.

Captain Coulon's force share South Georgia with the British



Sir Rex Hunt presents Captain Coulon with his authority

Antarctic Survey team who had a presence there since 1969. Until then the Falkland Islands Government had an administra-

tive office in Grytviken Harbour to look after the many visits by fishing fleets in the South Atlantic.

## IN BRIEF

THE ARMY Board is raising three new brigade headquarters in the Wales, Western and South West Army Districts.

Headquarters 43 Infantry Brigade forms at Exeter on 1 April and HQ 143 Infantry Brigade, at Shrewsbury and HQ 160 Infantry Brigade at Brecon formed on 1 January.

PARACHUTIST and pilot, Acting WO 2 Edward Wroe who is serving with the Management Services Unit, RAOC, at Thatcham has beaten off 400 national and international contenders to win the Currie Medal which is awarded annually by the Institute of Management Services.

WO 2 Wroe who is 36 is expected to be presented with his award early next year. He is currently "solving the many varied problems" that face Army Works Service personnel in the field of technology one of his latest projects being the streamlining of materials handling.

MAJOR GENERAL A K F Walker is the new Colonel Commandant Royal Tank Regiment.

MAJOR GENERAL Sir David Thorne, former Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, has taken over command of 1st Armoured Division.

## Remembering D-Day

WEYMOUTH and Portland will be remembering in their special way the embarkation of a vast Allied Army of more than 500,000 troops forty years ago, including 144,000 vehicles, on their way to Normandy for D-Day — June 6, 1944.

It had been a climax of an "occupation" which had turned Dorset into an armed camp. New roads appeared; old ones were widened. Many of the historic features in the area became military landmarks, command posts,

supply depots and camps. Chesil Beach changed overnight as bulldozers shaped them to receive the hardware of war.

Weymouth and Portland start their celebrations on May 19 with the annual Maritime Festival incorporating the trawler race, Olympic yachting trials, concerts, the opening of the Nothe Fort and Museum D-Day exhibitions, annual reunion week for all the Services and, the organisers promise, "much, much more".

## RETRACING MOORE'S STEPS



**T**EN Royal Green Jackets spent Christmas and the New Year hiking through snowcapped Spanish mountains wearing early 19th century uniforms. The party, comprising men from the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment, were retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's historic withdrawal to Corunna exactly 175 years ago.

The march was the brainchild of the expedition leader, Captain Charles Blackmore who said before the team's departure from Tidworth that the aim was to recreate exactly Moore's gruelling 300 mile march.

Many died on that trek but this year's expedition will not face harassment by Napoleon's troops nor will they be barefoot

as were many of Moore's men. They will be wearing the new combat boots designed to give first class protection against water and ice.

Captain Blackmore said many of the original soldiers had to walk barefoot because their boots, made out of cardboard, disintegrated after only two days march. An unscrupulous quartermaster given money to buy boots had pocketed three-quarters of the money and used the rest for the cardboard footwear.

The team, all volunteers, started their walk at 5 o'clock on Christmas morning and covered 18 miles the first day. The route entailed 19 days solid marching and was due to end with a civic reception at Corunna.

Each man contributed £50 to the cost and gave up his Christmas leave. The expedition is also being financed by the Regimental Headquarters, the Army and Spanish sources and any surplus is going to the Riflemen's Aid Society.



DURING HIS BRIEF visit to Beirut just before Christmas, Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine inspected British Headquarters. He praised the "remarkable job" done by the British contingent — currently a squadron of the 16th/5th Lancers — and reaffirmed Britain's commitment to the peacekeeping force.



# SOLDIER to Soldier

**TEN MEN** — eight of them soldiers — and one woman have departed from BAOR in their adventurous training quest to travel 4500 miles in two trucks across seven countries to Tanzania's Serengeti Game Park in a World Wildlife Fund plea for help in thwarting the deeds of elephant and rhino poachers.

The Brits' task: to repair 40 or so 'grounded' vehicles owned by the Fund which are badly needed to monitor the herds.

The soldiers from 4 Armoured Workshops, REME, at Detmold and helped by Staff Sgt Ray McGrath, of 14th/20th King's Hussars LAD (Light Aid Detachment) from Hohne, left in two white, 12-tonne trucks costing £14,000 a-piece.

Among the party led by Captain Ted Stephenson were Sgt Chris Mighall and his wife, Jackie (an ex-WRAC driver and HGV 3 cert holder) and Mr Bryan White, 63, a member of

**BLESMA** who lost his left leg just above the knee and two fingers in a mortar bomb explosion during the Normandy invasion.

Early last month, five of the party had been wished well on their trans-Africa travels by Lady Donaldson, the Lord Mayor of London.

The expedition had been planned for a year and the team spent many months seeking sponsors for the overland venture managing to raise £10,000 of vehicle spares which were flown direct to Tanzania.

## PUT YOUR SHIRT ON IT

Prizes worth £17,000 are being offered in a Services (including Territorial and cadet units) competition jointly organised by Naafi and Trust House Forte.

The competition marks the launch through Naafi shops and clubs of a range of high quality tee-shirts and sweat shirts manufactured in Britain by the Co-operative Wholesale Society exclusively for Naafi.

The standard range will include designs for the Navy, Army and RAF, but others will be printed to order for units, ships, teams and other groups to their own designs.

Each design submitted from December to March will automatically be included in the competition. There will be separate categories for entries from the Navy, Army and Air Force, and one for the most humorous design, with a top prize worth £500 in each category and up to 400

other prizes for highly commended designs.

No artistic skill is needed as the manufacturer's own art staff will produce the necessary finished artwork from customer's rough designs.

Prizes will take the form of Trust House Forte leisure cheques which may be used in any THF hotel or restaurant. The winning design from each category will be shortlisted for the top design award — a holiday for two at the Forte Holiday Village in Cagliari, Sardinia.

## £100 PRIZE FOR FORCES ART

Top prize in the 53rd annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society in London in March will be £100. Altogether the society will be awarding £225 in prizes at the National Army

## Medical 'VCs' parade for General

Twelve of the Army Medical Services Victoria Cross holders paraded proudly on the Sennelager Training Centre square.

The occasion was the visit of Lieutenant General Sir Alan Reay, Director General Army Medical Services, to 3 Armoured Field Ambulance. The holders of Britain's highest award for valour were represented by the unit's Armoured Ambulances, named in their honour.

General Reay inspected the vehicles and their crews on parade and took the salute from a drive past, led by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Short RAMC. The thirty four vehicles, about half the un-

it's fleet, were manned by soldiers of the Royal Engineers, RCT, RAMC, RAOC, REME and RADC, six of the eight Corps who make up the Field Ambulance.

3 Armoured Field Ambulance has 21 Armoured Ambulances, 20 named after recipients of the Victoria Cross from the Army Medical Services and one after Driver Masters, Army Service Corps, who served with 141 Field Ambulance in World War 1. To honour all the Corps Victoria Cross holders would require a sizeable increase in the vehicle fleet, as thirty two have been awarded to the RAMC in all.



Lady Donaldson, with chain of office, sends the team on their way to Serengeti.

It is planned that the two trucks and their occupants will reach their Serengeti destination in early March.

Captain Stephenson said: "Sgt Mighall, one of the expedition planners, has lived with this idea for more than five years but it is only in the last few months that the project has really begun to take shape.

Museum in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea between 8-18 March.

"There is no particular bias to military subjects", said Colonel Miers. "Indeed most paintings tend to be landscape or portraits and the Services with their opportunities for travel have many advantages".

Receiving day for entries is Wednesday 15 February. The society will accept any original work in oils, tempera, pastel, water colour, black and white, woodcuts, screen prints, etchings, linocuts, sculpture, carvings, engraved glass and marquetry. However, Col Miers pointed out sign writing is not

From my point of view, this expedition will provide its members with experience that cannot be achieved in any other way."

The trucks, supplied by British Leyland, will stay in East Africa, one of them to undergo evaluation trials by the Kenyan Army.

Making up the team are Staff Sgt Dave Kirk and Lance Corporals Ian Buchan, Mick Gittins and Bob Sugden.

**REGULAR READERS** will be quick to notice the change of date-line on the front cover. This has been done for a variety of reasons, the main one being to avoid confusion. As from this edition we shall just use one date ... but don't worry, we shall still produce the same number of issues!

admissible.

Entry forms, and further details, are available from the secretary, Lt. Col. C J P Miers, 6 Wellington Square, Chelsea, SW3 4NJ (telephone 01-730 4407). Enquiries should include a stamped and addressed envelope.





*Sergeant, 13th/18th Royal Hussars*

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*Right: Stuff Sack before and after.*

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David Ross intends to hold the world record for nights spent camping out. For 2½ years he used a pile fabric bag continuously to test its durability. He gave up as there was no indication of loss of performance. This is equivalent to 20 years of normal use. A more expensive hollow fibre bag lasted only four months.

The two layer system of a separate Inner and Outer allows you to make up a combination to suit the conditions. In Britain the 3 lb Outer can be used on its own or with a Gore-Tex Bivi Bag for most of the year. The Inner can be added in winter. The two separate layers trap more heat than one thick layer. One user in Norway reported he was quite comfortable at  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

An equivalent down filled sleeping bag would cost around twice as much. Furthermore, a down or hollow fibre filled bag has a limited life but the Allweather fibre pile bag will last indefinitely. The cost per night of use is therefore far, far less. It can also be machine washed and spun dry while down requires expensive and time consuming dry cleaning.

"I used the 4 Season Outer and Inner for three nights in a snowhole and was as warm as toast. I used it inside a Bivi Bag. It so happened that the other two people in the snowhole had a much more expensive down bag and a hollow fibre bag, so we were able to compare results. The down bag was a soggy mess after three nights and the guy in it had a miserable time. The guy in the other bag was never really comfortable although his bag was about the same weight and cost as mine and a bit bulkier. I like the layer principle because I can leave half the bag behind except in winter." — *Greg Smith.*

Fibre pile is a synthetic material looking and feeling like wool. It is very hard wearing but soft to the touch. It retains heat in the pile **even if wet**. It wicks moisture away from the body through to the Pertex cover where it evaporates quickly.

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Both bags have full length centre zips which can be pushed open together in a hurry if necessary. They also have 18" shoulder zips so that equipment can be operated whilst still in the bag. Both bags have a fibre pile lined hood but the Outer has an extra face flap for extreme cold weather.

Each bag weighs just 3 lbs and the combined 6 lbs total is only half the weight of the British Army Arctic Bag.

Save £12.95. Until 31st March 1984 we are giving a **free** Compressor Stuff Sack with each Allweather Sleeping Bag. This very tough Stuff Sack has four vertical webbing straps which, when tightened, compress both bags into the space normally occupied by one, thus saving valuable space in bergeris. Extra Compressor Stuff Sacks cost the normal price of £12.95 (£11.26 ex. VAT)

Only £85.00 in the UK. Only £73.90 (ex. VAT) outside the UK. 10% discount on orders of 2 bags or more makes the price only £76.50 each (£66.52 ex. VAT). Plus a FREE Compressor Stuff Sack, worth £12.95, with every bag until 31st March 1984. We have stockpiled a large quantity of Allweather bags but order early to be sure of getting yours.

Capillary action Pertex covers.  
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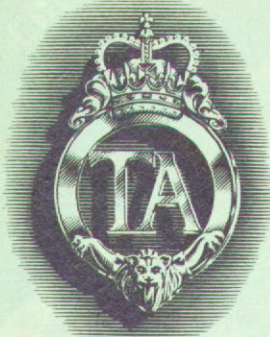


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**GUARANTEE:** The Allweather Sleeping Bag is fully guaranteed against faults in workmanship or materials. If you are not completely satisfied, you can return the goods within 14 days for a full credit or refund. Please allow 28 days for delivery. You will be notified of any longer delay.





## TOPICS

### Bridge has gone — but only for a week

Those who know the Altcar Range complex at Hightown, Merseyside will remember with affection the veteran Bailey Bridge that crosses the River Alt to the firing point. But the bridge recently had a week's holiday. Dismantled by the local TA Sapper Squadron — 107 Field Squadron RE, whose HQ is at Birkenhead with Troops at St Helens and Huyton — the bridge was inspected, refurbished and had parts replaced. From being in pieces one Sunday it was back in good shape a week later.

252 Provost Company Royal Military Police has started to recruit a new platoon of women. The Norton based unit which lost its WRAC element when the TA was reorganised in 1967 has now been given the go-ahead to recruit girls again.

Lieutenant Judith Skilbeck, a graduate of the University of Newcastle, at present undergoing training at Dishforth as a policewoman for her civilian career, has been appointed the commander of the newly formed platoon.

Girls wishing to join this platoon will be expected to do exactly the same jobs as their male

counterparts and a high standard of fitness and commitment is required. Those selected will have to undergo the basic training of an infantry soldier in addition to which they will receive instruction specific to their military police role.

Starting a platoon from scratch is not easy; it can take a number of years for a rank structure to develop. It is hoped that former members of the WRAC and members of the civilian police will be interested in joining 252 Provost Company to take up the challenging role of a woman 'Redcap'.

For further details contact



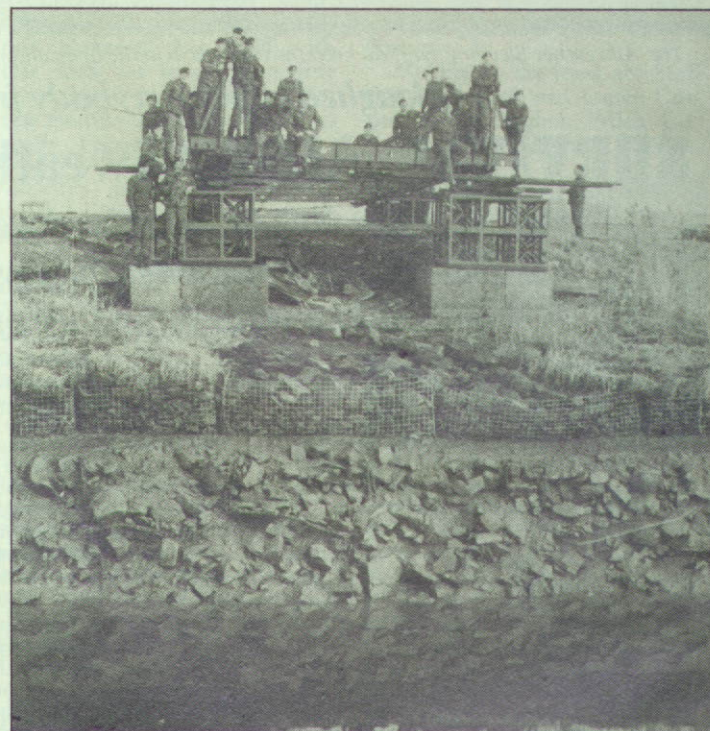
Lieutenant Judith Skilbeck — appointed commander.

Captain Alan Barley, the Training Officer of 252 Provost Company, Telephone: Stockton 553149.

Squadron Commander, Major Richard Parker told Soldier: "The Bailey is a remarkable piece of practical engineering, and although it's heavier than our current combat bridges, it's still a very competent structure. Members of the Squadron have learned a lot from this exercise, and we would like to thank members of Liverpool University OTC for undergoing a 'sapper apprenticeship' with us on site."

Bearing in mind how exposed a site the Alt crossing is, the bridge was in remarkably good condition — it is good for quite a few more years!

**The dismantling stage is complete and the Alt is temporarily without its bridge to the ranges.**



### ANNA TO THE RESCUE

placement was needed — at 4 hours notice.

However — W.R.A.C. Officer Cadet Anna Martindale came to the rescue. A call to her TA unit — 207 (Manchester) General Hospital from the TA PIO, Chris Vere who was hoping to find an ACC warrant officer available found Anna working at the Hospital HQ at Kings Road, Manchester and she immediately volunteered.

'I've done a Cordon Bleu catering course' she said — and was at once signed up as the replacement judge! Anna — from Bolton — joined 207 in June, and recently passed out in first place on her Camberley pre-commissioning course. Previously she served with the East Midlands Universities Officers' Training Corps.

Picture shows Anna sampling the pub grub. "Delicious", she said. I'd like to do this every week!"



### Highland farewell

Officers from 2/51 Highland Volunteers tow out Lieutenant Colonel Robin Fawcus, Gordon Highlanders, at the end of his

tour as Commanding Officer.

The man who has stepped into his place at Elgin, is Lieutenant Colonel G S Johnston.

Whitbread West Pennine were having a 'Pub grub' competition with entries from their pubs and hotels all over the North West. The final was at Hollins College, Manchester on 30th November, and then disaster struck. One of the judges was ill — and a re-



## Army raises new brigade HQ

The Army is to raise a new Brigade Headquarters in the South West. Headquarters 43 Infantry Brigade will form on 1 April, in Exeter.

The Headquarters, which will consist of only four officers, is designed to improve the supervision of peacetime training of the currently unbrigaded units in the South West. In line with this it will have under its command the Royal Wessex Yeomanry, with squadrons in Cirencester, Stroud, Devizes and Gloucester; 6th Battalion The Light Infantry, with companies in Bath, Yeovil, Camborne and Ross-on-Wye; and the Officer Training Corps of Exeter and Bristol Universities. The Headquarters will also have the responsibility for Home Defence Training of TA units in the South West.

The creation of Headquarters 43 Infantry Brigade constitutes the final phase in the provision of one star headquarters for United Kingdom Land Forces, begun two years ago, to enhance the effectiveness of the command structure.



## Welsh win walk-over double

Exercise "WALKOVER" is an annual competition between Army Medical Units (TA) from all over the UK designed to promote endurance and adventure training and to test volunteers in military and medical skills. This year's competition took place at Surrey Common Training Areas, where teams competed for the Walkover Shield (overall winners) and the 'Grimshaw Cup' (best female team).

Twenty-two teams entered and after a tough and exacting weekend teams from 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC(V) won

both trophies.

The winning men's team of Captain Bob Hannam RADC(V), Corporal Paul Morling RAMC(V) Lance-Corporal John Davies RAMC(V), Lance-Corporal Pete Ball RAMC(V) and Private Mark Arnold returned to Wales in triumphant mood.

Not to be outdone the Welsh girls won their cup to ensure a memorable double. Sergeant Kath Lewis QARANC(V), Corporal Zenia St Redwick-Jones QARANC(V) Private Karen Price QARANC(V), Private Annette Maggs QARANC(V)

## ON BEHALF OF . . .

Staff Sergeant William Anderson Gilroy (right) receives his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott . . . who was acting on behalf of his opposite number in Edinburgh, Tom Morgan.

Although S/Sgt Gilroy is a native of Edinburgh, his unit is in Aldershot.

He has served 24 years in the TA since joining Central Volunteer Headquarters, Army Catering Corps and has proved a loyal and ardent member of the unit —

despite the mileage gap!

The investiture was held at the TA Centre, Newburgh House, Winchester, when the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet award was made to a number of cadets including Cadet Staff Sergeant Stephen George Stoker, Army Cadet Force, of Hythe.

He will take turns with other recipients during the year to accompany the Lord Lieutenant on important ceremonial occasions.

Picture: E A Sollars

and Lance Corporal Julie Adams QARANC(V) beat off considerable opposition.

Both teams included representatives from the Unit HQ at Cardiff and its detachments at

Swansea and Newport.

The Commanding Officer of 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC(V) Colonel Derek Stafford RADC(V) was clearly delighted with his teams' success.

## NEW CENTRE FOR TA

General Sir Michael Gow, (right) accompanied by Captain Steve Pope, OC of the Belfast Detachment, opened the new TA Centre for 23 Security Company (Volunteers) at Abbotscroft, Newtownabbey.

The Company have a NATO role in North West Europe. All seasoned weekend travellers they spend much of their time with their parent units in Edinburgh and London and the odd long weekend and annual camps in Holland and Belgium.





# Musical welcome home for Beirut detachment

The band waits to strike up again . . . and the children wait patiently for the first glimpse of Daddy.

**T**HEIR HOMECOMING to Britain amid a monsoon-like late night downpour was, at least, a resoundingly musical one in a cathedral-size hangar on an RAF fighter station in East Anglia.

For the last of the men forming the second of the British contingents over ten months of the four-nation peacekeeping force in Lebanon — 'A' Squadron, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards — had arrived home in time for Christmas, New Year and some well-deserved leave.

There to meet them at RAF Wattisham near Ipswich in Suffolk after an 8½-hour Hercules flight from Cyprus battling against delaying head winds was a small knot of patiently-waiting dependants, ten women and seven young children.

On hand, too, was the Queen's Dragoon Guards Band who played . . . and played . . . and played the Welsh cavalry unit's regimental march.

Once through customs clearance the soldiers, in combat kit and initially impervious to the attentions of the attendant media, moved across what must have seemed like miles of hangar floor to be reunited with their loved ones.

The men, normally based at Wimbish, near Saffron Walden were home again after a four-month stint in Beirut during which time their Hadeth HQ to the south-east of that troubled city had been hit "several times". Just a week before their departure for Cyprus and safety, one of their Land Rovers had burned out from the effects of a stray machine gun round.

Emotion was obvious but rationed within the hangar confines as flash bulbs and TV cameras recorded the reactions of the occasion. Shortly afterwards, the families were on board coaches for the 60-mile drive in

drenching rain and buffeting winds back to the barracks in neighbouring Essex.

Major Mike Boissard, the Squadron leader, told me "The performance of my men was quite outstanding. We were in the middle of a war but, nevertheless, even in these difficult conditions all of them displayed an attitude enabling a very small force like ours to achieve results out of all proportion to our size. It was rewarding to be able to do a little bit to help the Lebanese government. It is a beautiful country.

"We came under a lot of fire but not all the time, every day. Basically, it was not directed at us but resulted from battles between various factions who were either close to our base or coming into the areas where we were patrolling.

"The HQ was hit several times and we had one slight casualty: a scratch. Damage was insignificant. We believe it was the result of mistaken identity. You must remember that some of these so-called fighters are only 14 and 15 years of age and they get very excited. They are not trained soldiers like us and are likely to shoot at anything that moves.

"If we were on patrol and got fired at, our job was not to get involved at all. We would report what was happening, pull back to a safe location and, really, the risk was minimal."

He added: "We were living in a block of flats. It had been used by the Syrians when they were in Beirut. It was in a pretty awful state when taken over by our 'C' Squadron in February and they had done a great deal to bring it up to standard. It was not too bad at all. We had running water and we were pretty comfortable. I don't think there was a great deal of time for boredom. We had a TV link-up with the American Sixth Fleet and videos were sent out from the UK. It's

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▲  
"My Daddy's out there somewhere!"



Major Boissard —  
the men were "outstanding".

obviously marvellous to be back home again for Christmas and the New Year to see one's family and friends again."

The 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards have since been relieved in Beirut and the roles of liaison, patrolling and observation taken up by men of 'A' Squadron, The 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers based at Tidworth.

● Colour photo of the British base in Beirut — see back page.





Newly promoted Cpl Linda Crisp and, right, receiving the good news.

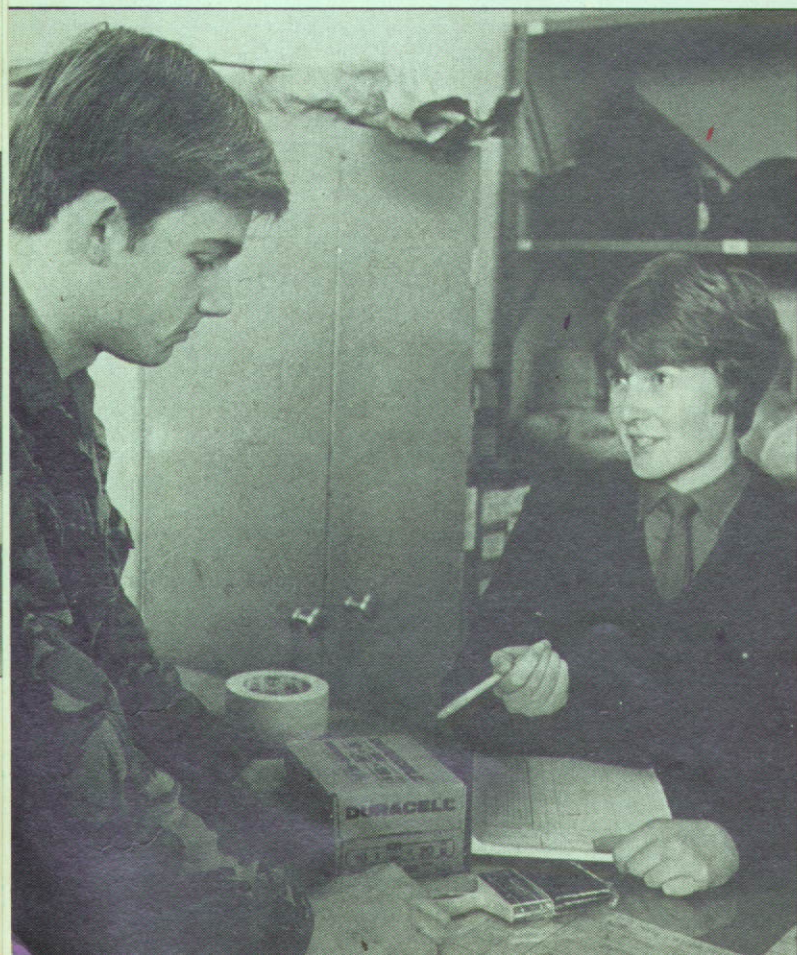
**I**T'S A woman's world . . . Who said so? Fifteen WRAC girls, that's who. And they're telling it to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards based at Armagh, Northern Ireland.

And the Guards are lapping it up. For the 15 girls are claiming and proving that, at certain jobs in the "forward operational" base, they are just as good as any man. "They are marvellous," declared Commanding Officer Lt-Col Alexander Heroys.

"On arrival here we were short of manpower and I asked for assistance. I got it — in the form of girl power from the WRAC. "They are doing all sorts of jobs which frees 15 men for field duties. They are a good bunch, smart and professional and we L/Cpl 'Mo' Sammons issuing equipment.

**Writer John Margetts and photographer Doug Pratt visit girls of the WRAC serving with the Grenadier Guards in Northern Ireland. In some jobs, the Guards agree . . .**

## THE GIRLS ARE AS GOOD AS MEN



are delighted to have them."

Said Adjutant Captain David Hutchison: "We would be lost without them. We're most impressed with the girls and the work they do. I don't know whether our successors will keep them on, but we will certainly recommend they do."

"They do exactly the same job as a man," said Major Jonathan Lloyd, OC HQ Company. "And they do it well."

"Total equality across the board," cut in Lt Jo Dunn, who is in charge of the 15 girls, "and what's more, they're a tremendous morale booster," said Captain David Webster, the QM.

"This is the first time we have had the WRAC in tow and they are proving an enormous help in every way.

"Just take swearing," he said. "Soldiers are now aware that women are around and moderate their language accordingly. But apart from that, the girls are doing a great job. The guys know it, too, and respect them for it."

But while all this praise shows on the backs of the 15 WRAC

girls, what do they think of the Grenadiers.

"Great," said Private Debbie Simpson, typist for the adjutant and her boss, Lt Jo Dunn.

"I've no problems at all, except we can't get out very often because of security, and what's more," said Debbie, "I'm the only one of the group on leave at Christmas."

Said Technical Storewoman Class 1 L/Cpl 'Mo' Sammons: "I'm really enjoying my job with the Guards. They keep me busy, but I don't mind as it helps pass the time."

On to the medical centre where medical assistant Cpl Valerie Stedman works with Private Sharron Harper — who was on leave — and Captain Gareth Vincenti, RAMC.

"I worked with the Grenadiers at their Hounslow base and came over here with them," said Valerie. "I enjoy what I do even though it often means a seven-day week."

Said Captain Vincenti, over from BAOR for the tour: "These girls know a lot more than their male counterparts. They are





Pte Debbie Simpson  
tapping on a typewriter.



Pte Tracy Bell.



◀ Pte Paula Sampson  
— clerking duties.

from 8.30am till the job's finished," said Paula, who is on her first tour in the Army and in her first year of service.

"It's only to be expected, of course, but the Guards have very regimental ways. I won't be sorry when my time here is up."

Slightly different view from L/Cpl Linda Mickleburgh, 22, and the only married woman in the group.

A comcen operator, teaching switchboard operators Privates Jeanette Dallimore and Marie Hornsby the mysteries of receiving and transmitting signals, Linda rated her time working for the Guards as "not too bad."

"It's made a nice change," she said. "They are more regimental than I am used to. But I can cope. I can hack it," said Linda, whose husband Sgt Paul Mickleburgh is the Forces Environmental Health Advisor in Belize.

"We have had only one day out since we have been here. A shopping trip to Lisburn. It was great. It was like a kid's party. Now we're all looking forward to the next one."

Privates Angie Robinson, 20, and Mandy McKelvey, 19, both of whom joined up a year ago and share waitress duties in the sergeants' mess, described their time with the Guards as "super".

more interested in the job. These girls are motivated. I am very impressed with them," added the Captain, who is on his first tour in the province.

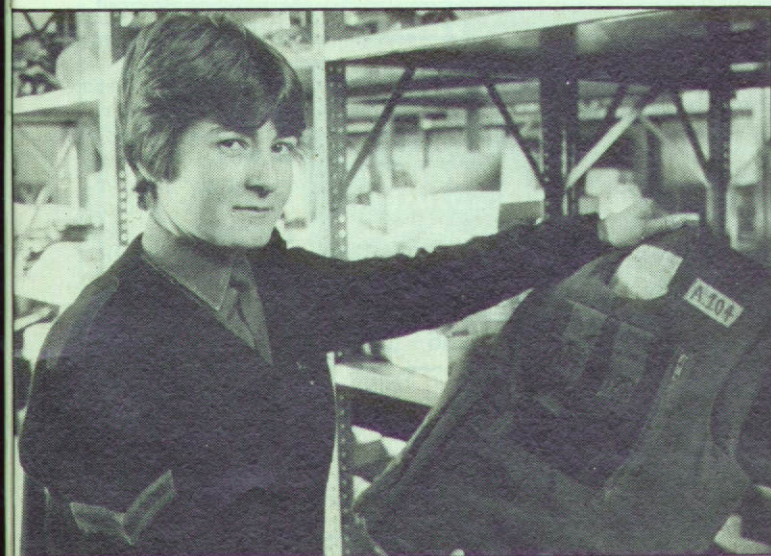
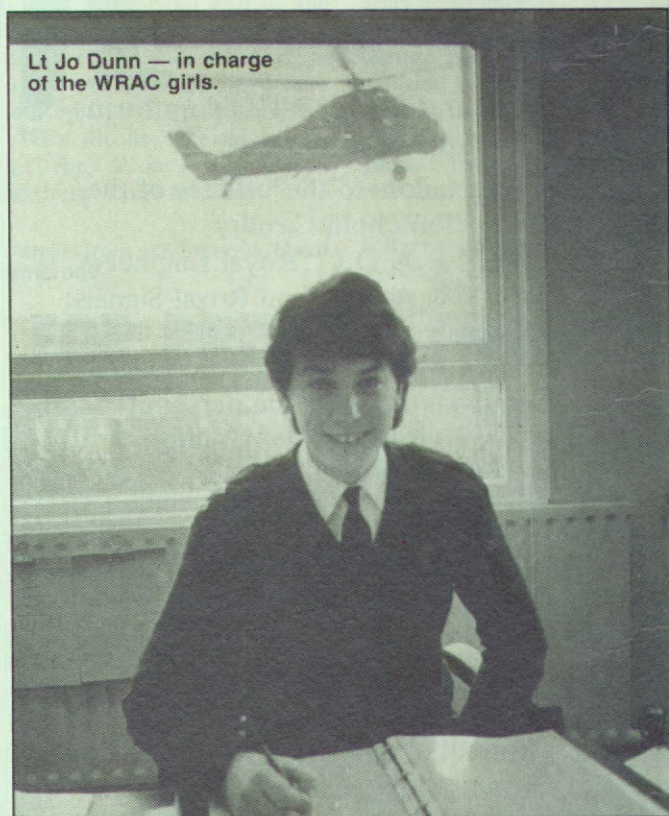
High praise indeed from the man in charge of the every-day health of the battalion.

But reciprocal admiration from the fair sex dipped a bit when Private Paula Sampson 22, was asked what she thought of the WRAC taking on a Guardsman's role.

"I don't think it's working," said Paula, who arranges all the "R and R" for the battalion.

"It's a 6½-day week for me,

Lt Jo Dunn — in charge  
of the WRAC girls.



Said, Mandy, who recently celebrated her 19th birthday: "They made me a birthday cake and presented me with it. They're a great crowd."

Not so for Private Josie Hoyle, though. Said Josie, four years in the WRAC and a waitress in the officers' mess: "I came here from the Royal Artillery at Woolwich. There we provided a real service. Here I'm just doing general kitchen work. I'm not happy in my work at all.

"Not being able to go out is another big constraint and the social life on camp doesn't compensate for being shut in."

L/Cpl Sammons — and more kit.

One day's leave for each month of the tour just isn't enough, agreed Josie.

But from the other end of the scale, pert little Yorkshire lass Private Tracy Bell rang out a clear note of praise for her job and the Grenadiers: "It and they are wonderful," said Tracy.

Similar sounds from Cpl Lyn Crisp who received her second stripe from Lt Col Heroys — the first WRAC to be promoted in these circumstances.

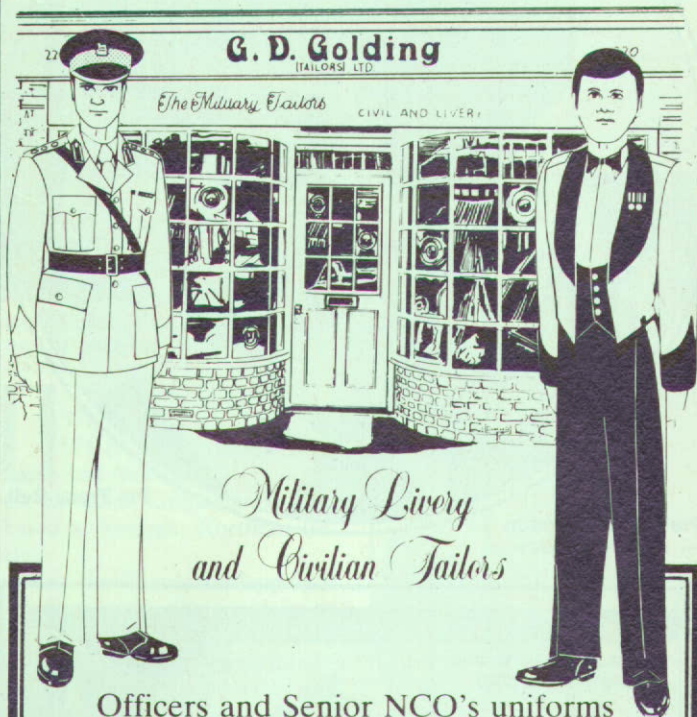
"Why did she get a second stripe?" queried Sergeant Major Stan Halford.

"Because she bloody well deserved it, that's why."



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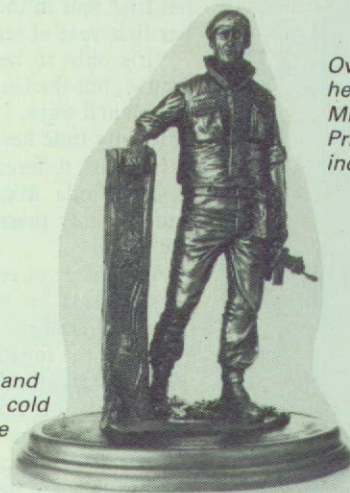
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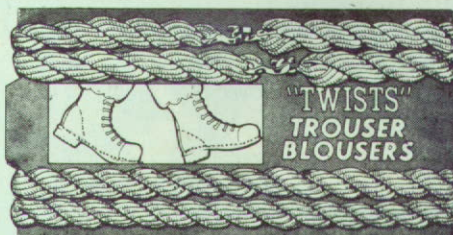
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# Writer John Margetts visited the Royal Engineers bomb disposal experts to witness **THE COURAGE OF MAJOR HAMBROOK**



**Pictures: Paul Haley**

A year ago Major Steve Hambrook had his left foot blown off by an Argentine mine in the Falklands.

A few days before Christmas he strapped on an experimental plastic foot which he had been using for just a few weeks — and walked ten miles for charity.

Before starting his personal true grit test, Steve said he had been promised £1,000 by sponsors for the Pilgrims' Hospice in Canterbury, but was hoping to raise a good deal more than that.

"This has been my first chance to do something practical to help others since my accident," said Steve, whose wife Gill works in the hospice for terminally ill people.

Seen off by television cameras and officers and men of 33 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers — the Army's only full-time bomb disposal unit — the 50-year-old Major vowed: "I'll complete this walk if I have to bloody well crawl round. I have made up my mind to be normal."

What did his wife think of it all? "She's all for it. But I think she thinks I'm a bit crazy."

**A smile from courageous Major Hambrook.**

Crazy or not, there was no question of Steve having to crawl round the ten-mile course, for he actually ran through the gates of his Lodge Hill Camp base to the rousing cheers of his fellow EOD men.

Always keen on physical fitness, the end of the walk was the first time Steve had completed that distance since he lost his foot while at Fox Bay in the Falklands.

A Sapper for the past 30 years Major Hambrook is a veteran bomb disposal officer of many years experience.

In 1970 he was awarded the George Medal for successfully defusing a 1,200kg German landmine in London.

Said fellow officer Major John Quin: "The response to Steve's walk has been overwhelming and is a tribute to the determination and courage of a man's fight back to fitness."

**O**NE of the last of the Army's all-male bastions has been breached by a nineteen-year-old girl.

A month ago Private Amanda Threlfall, a hazel-eyed brunette, joined the REs 33 Engineer Regiment — the Army's sole full-time bomb disposal unit — to become the first woman to wear the coveted red and gold badge of the bomb disposal boys.

Now Amanda proudly sports the famous badge on her left sleeve and is the first WRAC to join the EOD team.

Said OC Major John Quin: "While Pte Threlfall won't be tinkering with any unexploded bombs — she's our pay clerk really — if the opportunity arises we will try and get her on to a basic course and possibly take her out on a few jobs with us."

Said Amanda: "It's great being the first WRAC to join the unit and I'm very proud. They're looking after me extremely well."

For 43 years 33 Engineer Regiment and its predecessors have been clearing bombs, mines, missiles and munitions.

They have a continuing commitment in the Falklands, where two of their experts have been seriously injured, having feet blown off by Argentine mines.

The past year has also seen the regiment take on tasks in Hong Kong and Germany in addition to answering constant calls in the

## **AND DELIGHT FOR PRIVATE THRELFALL**



UK where they responded to 165 "bomb calls".

Those "calls" meant 27 1939-45 bombs being made safe and a further 950 dangerous items disposed of.

In all they cleared more than 23,000 explosive items.

Private Mandy Threlfall received the coveted badge from Regimental Sergeant Major John Phillips, who holds the rare distinction of the naval Distinguished Service Cross. He was seriously injured trying to defuse an unexploded bomb in HMS Antelope during the Falklands Conflict. He was then WO2 and colleague Staff Sergeant James Prescott, who was killed, was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.



# Mother's pride and joy

FOR THE second time in seven years, Sapper David Lewis's mum has pressed and ironed a uniform of his fit, for Royal approval at palaces and the awards to go with them.

On both occasions, David, 23, who is serving with 8 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, has received awards for his Venture Scout activities. The latest — at

St James's Palace — was his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award (he already has bronze and silver) which was presented to him by the Duke himself.

The young sapper, a blacksmith within the regiment based at Perham Down near Tidworth, was obviously not only mum's pride and joy again — he received the Queen's Scout Award from the Queen seven years ago

at Windsor Castle — but he was also the envy of 20 other Venture Scouts from his Ammanford, Dyfed troop.

David earned part of the coveted award while serving with the sappers at Hameln and 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment and more effort towards the achievement came when he went 50-mile hiking and then skiing with the Army in Norway. He


also had to learn about police work in his native Welsh town.

But it was mum, Joan, who shared the limelight of his right royal occasion, having brought his uniform up to London the night before ensuring it was in pristine condition. "She's very proud of me," said David. "She was chuffed to monkeys."

The same face — and two uniforms of David Lewis



Story: Graham Smith  
'Impossible' photo: Les Wiggs




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A ski-bound cameraman all set for snow-bound action on the mountain slopes.

Writer Graham Smith looks at a bid by Army Public Information to bring itself up-to-date and finds

# ELECTRONIC NEWS GATHERING IS HERE

four Army operators, three of them RAOC photographers, who make up mobile teams with overseas options. The third set will find its new home at HQ BAOR who already give a similar service using older equipment to Visnews through resident cameraman Gerd Medoch.

All of the future operators are expected to undergo a fortnight's training on the new systems.

Lt-Col Peter Mackie, Royal Engineers, of Director of Public Relations (Army) staff showing off the new kit to the Army District public information officers later told me: "The equipment will undergo a year's trial and will be of particular use during this year's BAOR autumn Exercise Lionheart. We are planning to spend another £60,000 on additional TV video and sound recorders.

"This move brings the Army into the electronic video age and will be of particular value if we are going into the business of getting newsworthy material on national television the same day. Video tapes will be rushed to the nearest regional station who can then beam them to London for later transmissions. We have been waiting until now to find a suitably durable and reliable system. Now, we think we have it thanks to Sony."

He added: "Stories may or may not be 'ordered' by the TV networks — though it is up to us to place them in good time — but we always hope we will have something interesting to offer the companies."

And the outlay. Will that be re-couped?

He added: "Prime TV advertising costs £120,000 a minute — that is early evening and main news times on ITN — and we hope that we will get our money back eventually on this investment on kit. Above

all, it's all new to us and we don't want to run before we can walk."

Mr Keith Lohan, Chief Public Information officer HQ UKLF said: "This electronic equipment will considerably enhance our creative effort and give us the ability to record the activities of the UK Field Army, particularly in operations and training overseas."

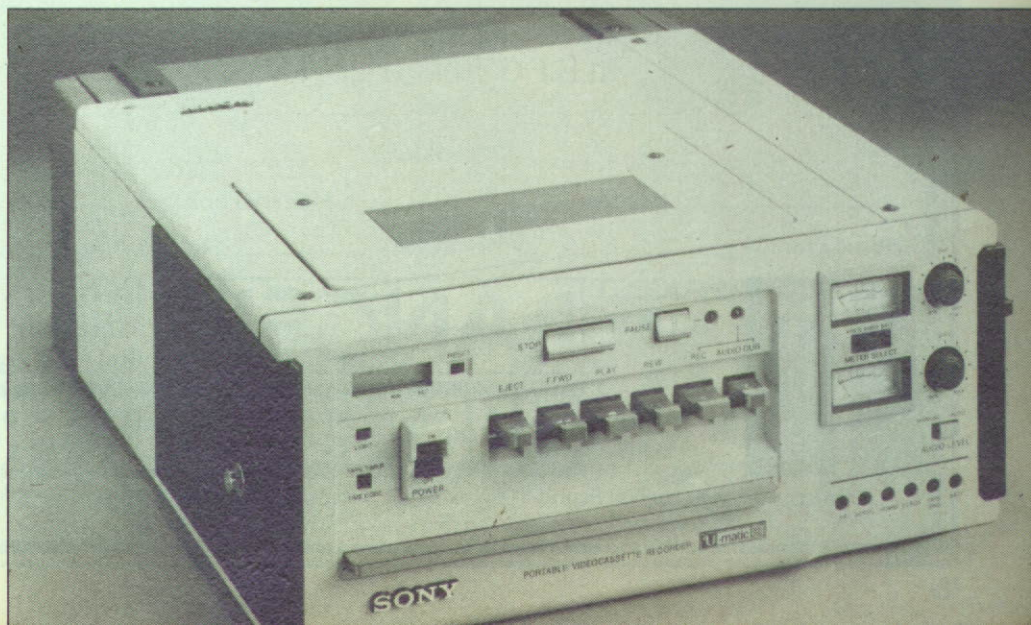
Col. Kay Coates, Chief of Public Information HQ BAOR, said of the new system: "The main advantage is one of speed. At the moment, we have to persuade TV stations in the United Kingdom they need our film. We then have to despatch the film by post or plane, the TV company has to collect the film and process it — we do not have colour processing facilities here — and attach the sound track and then edit it. All this takes time.

"With ENG we will be able to edit the film ourselves, and despatch it by post or plane direct to the TV stations. Now, we will be able to file our films via the international TV link to anywhere in the world — which saves an enormous amount of time."



Through its eye the instant recording of ENG events.

A recorder; part of the ENG story.



**T**HE WORLD of Army public information is taking a bold stride forward into the competitive field of Electronic News Gathering — ENG — with the issue of £100,000 worth of equipment to the operators of HQ UKLF Wilton and HQ BAOR at Rheindahlen.

This technological advance which will eventually oust the tried, tested but somewhat tardy results of the cine camera will, it is claimed, enable the Army to offer a same-day service like the BBC and ITV networks.

Two sets of the bi-pod mounted equipment including "editing suites" — more plainly, accessories — will be made available to the HQ UKLF mix of one civilian and

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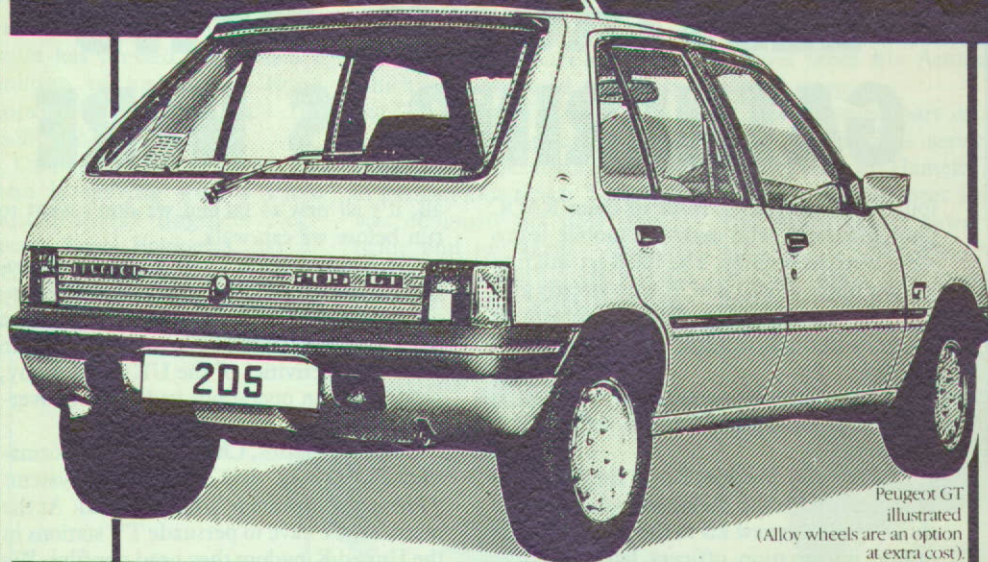
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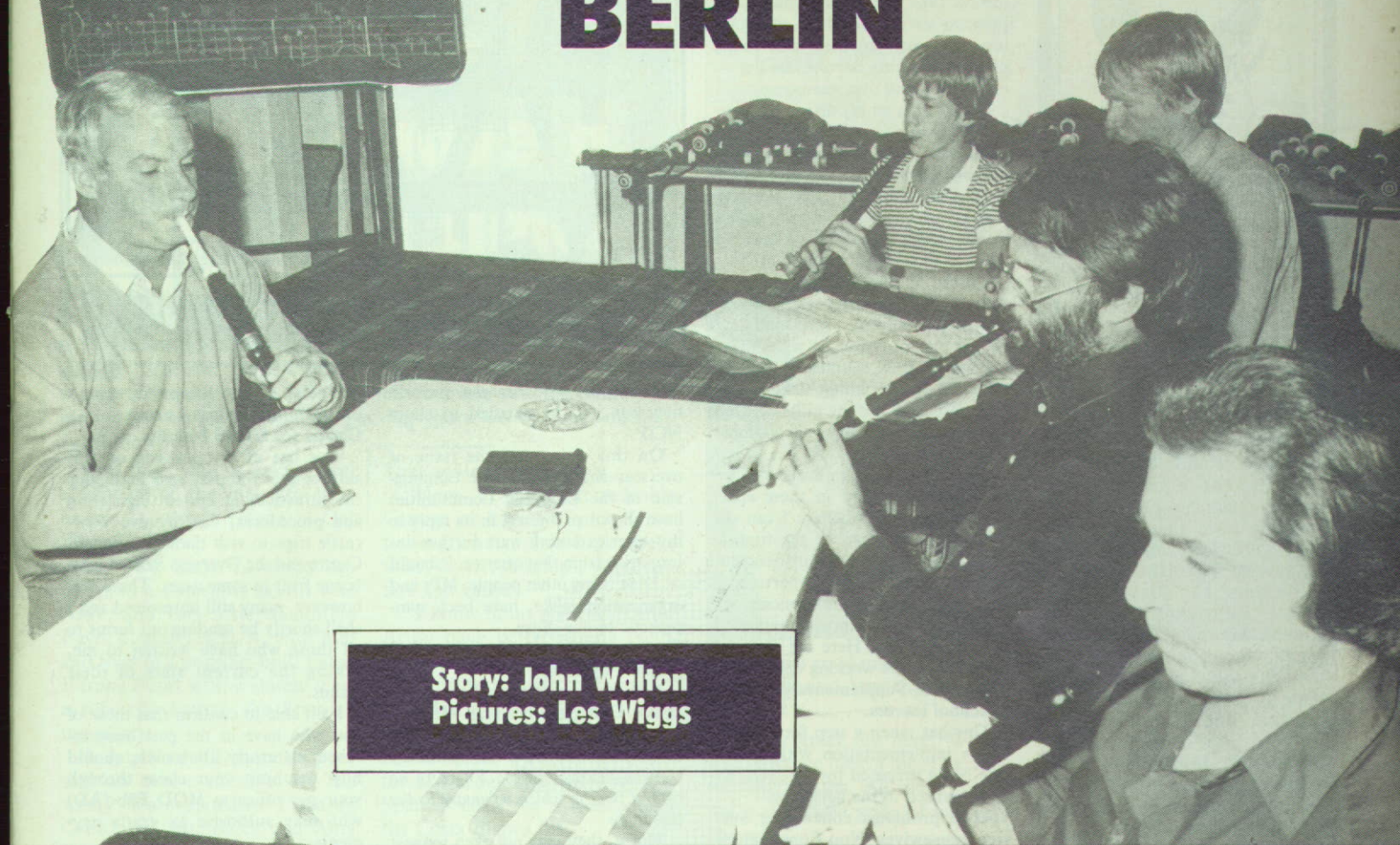
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# SKIRLING BERLIN



**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

If Berlin ever gets its own Pipe Band it will have the Royal Irish Rangers to thank. For when the 1st Battalion moved from Berlin in 1981 they left behind them a small nucleus of local bagpipe enthusiasts — and the 2nd Battalion took over the tuition when they arrived in the city.

Twelve local pipers or would be pipers rolled up at the Rangers' base at Wavell Barracks on two evenings a week. In charge of the tuition: Pipe Major Mickey Moore who is very impressed with his charges.

"They are unbelievably keen and will spend any amount of money. Nearly all have their own bagpipes and one has a Highland dress which cost him a fortune."

The group divided itself naturally into three — there are three who Pipe Major Moore rates as quite good pipers, while the rest are intermediate or novices. Two of the group are learning to be drummers — another essential ingredient of a band.

Gunther Haussknecht, a 19-year-old student, fell in love with the bagpipes when he saw a set in a shop window at the age of 14. He bought them and muddled along on his own until the 1st Battalion began classes.

"It started off as the idea of a 14-year-old boy but I have got more and more interested in the music. People in Germany sometimes say that the pipes are the

only instrument where you cannot divide the beginner from the expert — all sound the same. This is just not true — I have found them a fine instrument."

Gunther has his own kilt and sporran in Hunting Stewart but rarely wears it these days. "Now I think that for a German to wear a kilt is like an American wearing lederhosen."

Burkhard Seiler, who works for the Berlin Senat, is the man who has his own Highland dress. He plans to go to the College of Piping in Scotland this year to

learn classical piping.

Mrs Carol Jaxson-Jäger is an American married to a German and started playing the pipes at the beginning of the year. "The first months were very difficult. I had taken piano lessons for nine months but my fingers didn't want to do the right thing."

With the Royal Irish Rangers returned to England there will be no piping regiment in Berlin until the arrival of the Royal Highland Fusiliers in 1985. But the students are determined to keep together and keep practising the

**Pipe Major Mickey Moore, left, with his enthusiastic class of Berlin pipers.**

skills they hope will eventually turn them into a pipe band.

Pipe Major Moore, who says he finds them easier to teach than his own soldiers, has no doubts that they will succeed. "What I am trying to do is to train the senior ones among them so that they can teach the others. We are also trying to get some sponsorship for them. It's very expensive . . . but they will do it." ■



**Drum practice for two Berlin youngsters aided by friendly Rangers.**





MY THANKS to all the people in Government, Government Departments and other national organisations who have given me their time and help over the last 12 months. One particular person, Anne Thompson, earns my special gratitude for turning my rough copy into readable and understandable text for these pages. Now married to a soldier and living in Germany, Anne will soon be fully occupied with her first baby and relieved of the task of deciphering my copy!

Now a word about bettering the conditions of Service wives. The feminist movement at its worst has done nothing for the reputation of moderate women except give men the ideal peg on which to hang their chauvinist attitudes. They think all women with views are militant and that women's groups are hysterically preaching revolution and creating unnecessary problems. (Visiting an MOD official recently — male of course — I saw what looked to be a photo of myself peering through a sea of red pinheads. I commented on the likeness and the reply was: "whenever I receive a query from you, another pin goes in your picture!" I'll be sending him a new one for 1984!)

Why are my friends and I so often wrongly associated with extreme feminist groups instead of moderate groups like the WI, The Towns Women's Guild, National Women's Clubs, the PreSchool Playgroups Association and others? It's all nonsense! I firmly believe that Service wives are thinking, caring, people whose talents remain largely untapped.

If wives have ideas to help the community in which they live and serve, then I do wish they at least be given a fair hearing. So — to all you men — put aside the picture of griping, destructive wives and view the new Federation of Army Wives Clubs with constructive realism. Together we can work for the benefit of all in the Army.

Good luck to the Federation in its second year and let us hope 1984 brings happiness and security to all in the Service and their families.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Anne Armstrong

I THOUGHT for this issue, instead of the usual 'Ask Anne' column, I would take a look back at the burning issues which have concerned us all during 1983 and update you on the progress we have made in overcoming the many financial and social difficulties facing Service families — especially those overseas.

I remember in my article in January last year ('Counting the Cost') I asked, *will 1983 be the year in which the anomalies in benefits for Service families are finally resolved?* Here we are, a year later, still fighting and I wonder that I could have been so naive as to ask such a question!

On the 'unresolved' list, there remain still the problems of no unemployment benefit, or redundancy pay, or maternity pay for wives moving within EEC countries, plus the difficulties surrounding sickness benefit. There is also the pressing need for the automatic issue of National Insurance numbers.

But, (and it is a significant but) we are moving forward in these areas and, at times I do believe I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. With a little help from our friends in various Government Departments and other organisations/agencies, we are beginning to improve conditions in various fields. Here are some of the areas we are working on:

**Payment of Supplementary Benefit to school leavers.**

This has taken a step forward towards implementation with a new case being prepared by the MOD to be submitted to the Treasury.

**Special problems concerning Service housewives' Non Contributory Invalidity Pension (NCIP).**

In his letter to me in November Mr Tony Newton, the Minister for the disabled said: *Under the new regulations which come into force on 9 December (1983), a spell of continuous incapacity while abroad can in this case (sic) count towards satisfaction of the NCIP test. As a result, some men and women will be able to qualify for NCIP as soon as they return to Britain, while for others the usual waiting period will be considerably shortened. . . People who think they have lost benefit which would have been payable had the rules we are now introducing applied between 1979 and 1982, should get in touch with their social security office.*

I have asked the Minister for clarification on the 10 in 20 years' residence rule for claims and have asked

also if wives who become disabled overseas will be entitled to claim NCIP.

On this point and the issue of overseas employment, the Commission of the European Communities have shown an interest in its reply to my queries and I wait further information from that quarter. I should add that many other people, MPs and organisations alike, have been sympathetic to our cause.

**Government funds for voluntary projects overseas.**

Not much progress here I am afraid. Under the heading 'Ministry of Defence', the booklet issued by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations states: *There is no general fund to which voluntary bodies can apply.*

Worse, they may not even request grant aid (as UK voluntary organisations may) from DHSS, the Department of Education and Science (DES) and the Voluntary Consortium. (An application for pre-school playground funding has been refused by the latter).

However, a big 'thank you' goes to the Royal Jubilee Trust which was most understanding and very generous with its grants in the youth field during 1983.

**Insurance cover for Bus Escorts employed in overseas Service schools.**

In February last year I raised this question with the agencies concerned (MoD, SCEA etc) and I am given to understand that I can expect a co-ordinated reply) before the

anniversary — so I hope to report a satisfactory conclusion soon.

**Claims for DHSS benefits**

The size of my post-bag on this subject over the past year highlights the injustices of certain legislation and procedures, but my two Newcastle trips to visit the Child Benefit Centre and the Overseas Branch have borne fruit in some cases. There are, however, many still unresolved and I shall shortly be sending out forms to all those who have written to me, asking the current state of their claims.

I am able to confirm that those of you who have in the past been refused maternity allowance, should now resubmit your claim through your pay office to MOD F2b (AD) who may authorise ex gratia payments.

Many claimants have received back payments from DHSS including a £400 sum for sickness benefit and £300 for unemployment benefit. These may have taken up to twelve months to sort out but the moral of the story is to keep trying!

With regard to procedures whereby Forces families should claim Unemployment Benefit in EEC countries, the revised Department of Employment form UBL 22 should assist and new instructions have been sent to all the Department's local offices. Anyone still having difficulty with their claim should drop me a line and I will do what I can to help.

The same goes for all of you who are concerned about the issues affecting you and your families. Last year you wrote on myriad subjects including loss of jobs, low wages, overpayments and underpayments, the lack of job prospects, adult education, availability of DES grants, youth activities, various financial difficulties and the problems of moving. This list is by no means exhaustive.

I am glad to say that in some cases, I have been instrumental in resolving the difficulties and I will continue to work on your behalf to bring all the problems which beset Forces families to satisfactory solutions. So keep your letters coming.

#### OPERATION RALEIGH:

Application forms for those overseas (except personnel in Hong Kong) can be obtained from Anne Armstrong, SOLDIER magazine — address on page 3.

## 1984 DIARY DATES

Womens Corona Society, 501 Eland House, Stage Place, London SW1E 5DH. Tel: 01-828 1652/3. One day courses on Living Overseas: 2 Feb, 29 Mar, 17 May, 19 July, 20 Sept, 22 Nov, SSAFA, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 Tel: 01-222 9221. HQ training days: 17-19 Jan, 20-22 Mar, 15-17 May, 17-19 Jul, 18-20 Sept, 13-15 Nov. Federation of Army Wives' Clubs UKLF and NI, c/o the Secretary, FHWS, UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG. AGM and Seminar: 18/19 October. Neighbours publication dates: 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Sept, 1 Dec. (Write to: Neighbours, c/o CSP, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hants.) Guild of St Helena, Room 5, Block E, Duke of Yorks HQ, London SW3 4RX. Tel: 01-930 4466 ext 369 Tues and Thurs only. AGM 2 May; Guild Day: 11 Jul; Handicapped Children's Holiday: Jun.



# GIBRALTAR — where a family have a sail of a time!

**L**OVE it or loathe it the Rock of Gibraltar is giving the Duke of Wellington's Regiment a chance to act in the lordly style their nickname suggests.

For the 'Duke's' based in Gib since the start of the year, can for £20 a day hire a £12,000 yacht and mix with the millionaire mariners who jostle for boat parking space on Spain's southern sunshine coast.

One man who is taking full advantage of the high-life offer he just couldn't refuse is Cpl Barry Walker.

Barry, a Duke from his cap badge to his toecaps, has his wife Amy, and two little daughters Faye, 6, and Tricia, 4, with him and lives in a purpose-built flat at Europa Point with a stately view across the bay to the Spanish mainland.

A qualified off-shore skipper and an active member of the Army Watermanship Training Centre on Gib, Barry and Amy agree that life for them on the Med is "just great".

"It's better in every way", they chorused. "And much warmer and safer than the UK," added Amy, a diminutive red-head from Edinburgh.

Safer? "For the children," said Amy. "We have no fears for their safety here. They can run around as they please and we know they won't come to harm."

Said Barry: "If there is any problem on the Rock for soldiers it's boredom.

"It's so confined here, but there are facilities to help beat it.

Take sailing for example.

"Here, at the Watermanship Centre, we have two yachts, two fishing boats, two high-speed safety boats, dinghies, wind surfers and canoes.

"I know of no place where the Army have better sailing facilities. It's just a pity that more soldiers don't take advantage," said Barry.

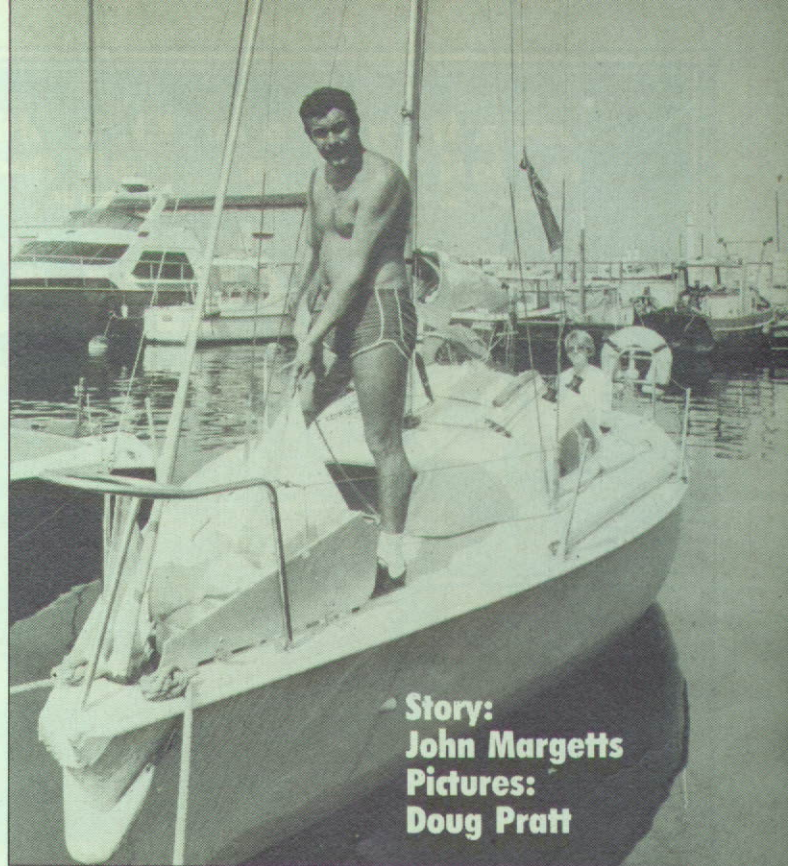
"We've just had a week's holiday in Spain. We hired the yacht for £20 a day and sailed up the Spanish coast for a week doing the Costa Blanca bit.

"We had a marvellous time. It was tremendous if only for the change of scenery from the Rock.

"Of course we can get across the border into Spain and make excursions at least once a week, not necessarily for cheaper food, but again simply to get a change of scene.

"If there is anything we miss," said Barry, "it's the greenery of the UK, fish and chips — although you can get them here, but it doesn't taste like Sheffield F and C — and the use of a car."

He admitted that, while others allegedly "loathed" the place —



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

especially a good many single soldiers — he and Amy thought Gib the tops.

"It's a great life here. We're well paid, we have a nice flat, the sun and the sea. All that's missing is the green grass of home," he said.

Echoing Barry and Amy was a man who reckons he has "cracked the system."

WO2 Alan Dowley is the bosun at the sailing centre. A "long service" man he completed his time in the Royal Artillery and is now employed to run the centre in his old rank of WO.

"I was born on a boat and have been messing about in them ever since," he said.

"But it was the Army that gave me the chance to sail the large trans-ocean yachts and I took full advantage to make a number of trans-Atlantic voyages in Joint Service boats. "Now I'm doing my hobby as a job and what better place to do it than Gib

**Sergeant Barry Walker about to sail away with his family.**

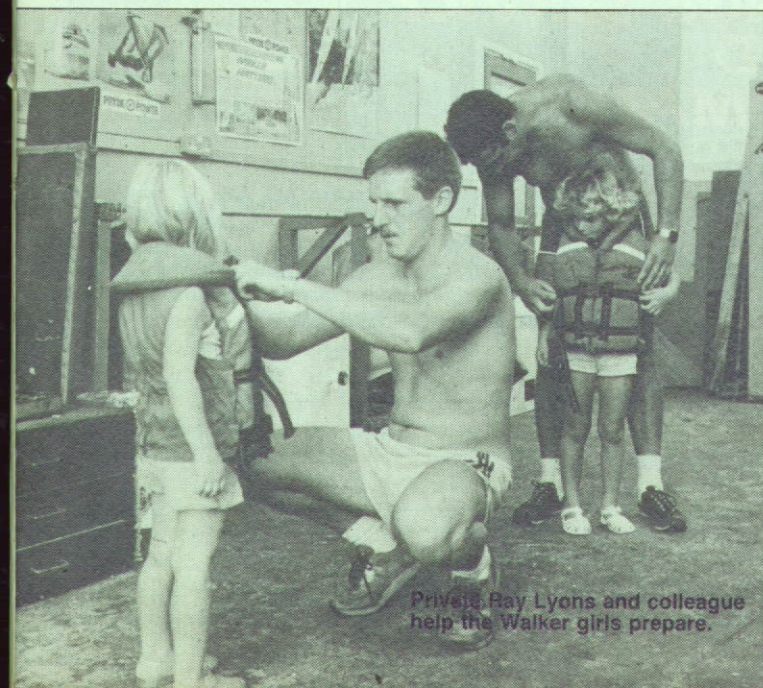
with the sun and sea so handy?"

But while the 'Duke's' may not be taking full advantage of learning how to sail, as suggested by Barry Walker, the centre is kept busy, specially in the school holidays when the kids come over and visit their parents.

"We also cater for soldiers families here with special lessons for the children. The TA, too, come in to have a go. So what with maintenance and lessons, we're kept pretty well on the go," said Alan Dowley.

Overseeing the whole set-up is Lt Robin Pugh of the Battalion. With Sgt Dave Tooley and Pte Ray Lyons he runs caving and rock climbing offering the lads an alternative. "And if they don't fancy either of those, there is always diving, which is a Joint Service venture," he said. "There's plenty to do here," said unit press officer Captain Denis Whittaker. "It's the chance of a lifetime. All it needs to enjoy it is to give it a whirl."

**The canoes weren't intended for obstacles, but...**



**Private Ray Lyons and colleague help the Walker girls prepare.**



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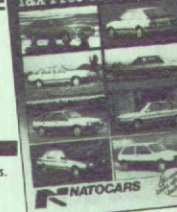
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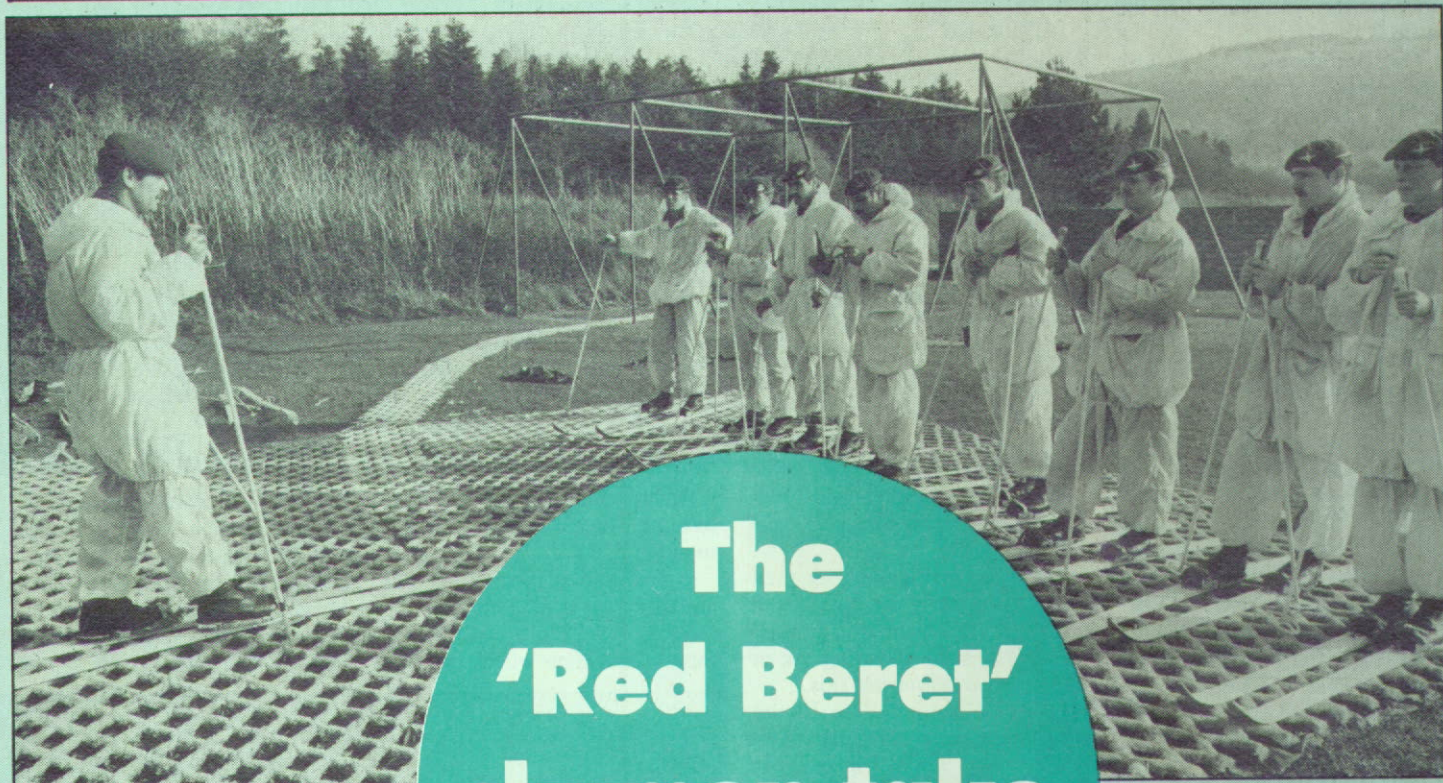
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**NATO Challenge Cup winners, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment are off to the Arctic conditions of Norway early this year as part of Britain's AMF (L) infantry battalion commitment. Staff writer GRAHAM SMITH and photographer PAUL HALEY went to greenest Wiltshire to see . . .**



## The 'Red Beret' skymen take to their skis

Men from Support Company listen to instructor L Cpl Pete Elcock.

There's a long, long trail a-skiing!

**A**N IMAGINARY foretaste of the impending sub-zero temperatures of Bardufoss, well inside Norway's Arctic Circle, was staged for the media recently at Bulford as a Company of Paras, more used to the freedom of the skies doggedly took to the discipline of the skis.

They were men from 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who have just taken on the infantry battalion commitment as part of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force AMF (L).

The special public eye training session was held on the circuit of an assault course as — without the benefit of snow — they practised their langlauf or cross-country movements on a horizontal "ski-slope" complemented by Arctic clothing, tentage and the latest in tracked vehicles, the prototypes of the Haagland.

This is a three-litre vehicle with a Mercedes fully-automatic gearbox which has a road speed of 34 mph and water speed of three knots. It is intended as a replacement for the tried and tested Volvo BV 202 Es. The Paras move this month and Captain Hugo Fletcher explained: "We have started our dry training in preparation for our deployment to Norway. The battalion will spend upwards of two months there, exercising in conjunction with the Norwegian

forces and other NATO forces. 1 PARA will have a commitment to defend the northern flank of NATO for several years, so Arctic warfare training will become a regular feature of our lives. It is the first time we have taken on the AMF role."

He added: "It is totally new to us and we are trying to get our men to 'think Norway', as it were, before we even arrive there. Training for our new role started over a year ago and we sent 30 or 40 instructors over there and three or four people on language courses. Basic skiing was held in Scotland and more instructor courses have been held in Norway.

"Obviously we cannot simulate the cold of Norway — perhaps minus 20 or 30 degrees — here at Bulford but this dry training provides a useful chance to familiarise soldiers with arctic

*continued on page 26*





issue kit, and, at the same time, teach them to use some of the equipment.

"This is particularly relevant regarding our new snow vehicles which the drivers must learn to handle prior to our deployment. If they can do this when we arrive in Norway, we can at least move around, and that is half the battle."

The Battalion — it recently took top place in the prestigious NATO Challenge Cup competition in Denmark — will spend the first part of its training at Voss in youth hostels finding out the basics of Arctic living.

Some of the youngsters slithering along on their skis at Bulford had got their qualifying "wings" as paras just a month before. Others, like Private Dennis Hayes, 24, were more experienced.

A "veteran" of 48 jumps since 1978, he did not escape without a stumble at the rear of a line of trainees. "I've been at it for 20 minutes," he said with a grin, "but I think I'll get to like it."

Another skier was Lance Corporal William "Sharkey" Larnach, 23, with the signals platoon who already had the benefit of a three-month stint on skis in Norway. With a 60-lb pack on his back, an Armalite rifle in one hand and a radio set phone in the other, he said: "I like skiing now."

Reaction was good to the new snow vehicle as Cpl Gary Stephens endorsed: "I am very pleased with it. It can carry 18 blokes whereas the old Volvo BV 202E could carry 11. This one has an automatic gearbox which saves on clutch wear. It's warmer and it's bigger."

Just yards away, Cpl Pete Hunt was instructing on the introduction of a 40 or so layout of Arctic clothing ranging in size from items as small as a whistle

**Cpl Pete Hunt gives instruction on Arctic clothing items.**



and ski wax to the skis and sticks themselves, the whole worth about £1000.

On average the lads with their heads usually in the clouds but with feet firmly on the ground now have been spending six or seven hours mastering skis.

Lance Corporal Pete Elcock who has been ski-king since 1972, said: "They have been making out very well. Only three of this bunch have ever been on skis before."

And he should know. For Cpl Elcock who learned to ski at the Joint Services ski centre at Silberhütte in the Harz Mountains recently took 20th out of 70 places in the UK championships.

"The lads have been getting in the right frame of mind and they have decided they are going to

learn how to ski," he said. "They have still got a lot more tumbles to come."

1 PARA was formed in 1941 and taking over its AMF (L) role moved from Edinburgh to Bulford the location where the unit

was established 42 years ago.

The battalion which is equipped for both temperate and Arctic warfare is beefed up with Milan, the anti-tank weapon, 81mm mortars, Scimitar tracked vehicles and snow vehicles. ■

**A Canadian Bell Tent heading for final assembly.**

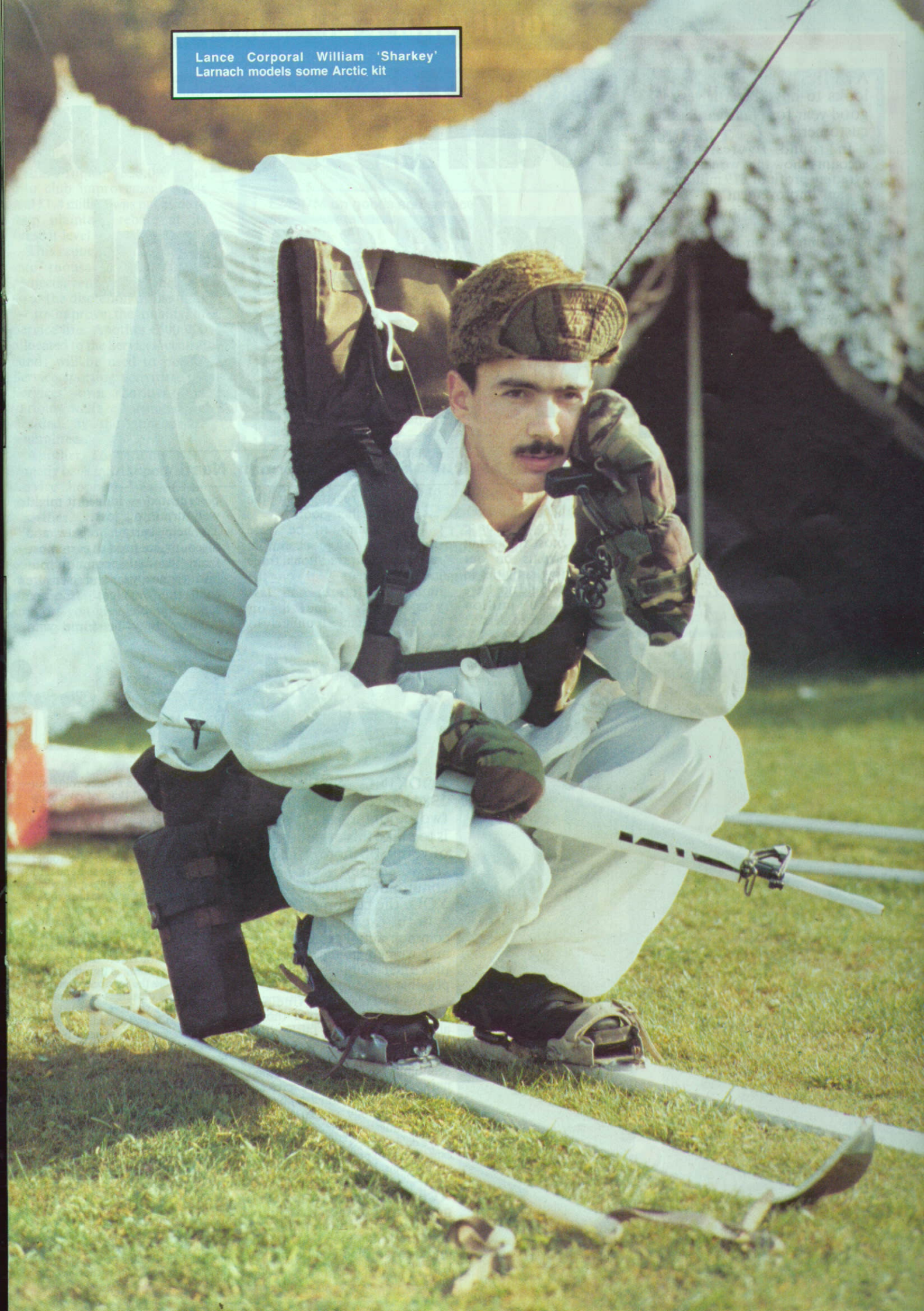


**Cpls Brian Marshall, Richard Ackroyd and Gary Stevens with new snow vehicle. ▼**





Lance Corporal William 'Sharkey'  
Larnach models some Arctic kit





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Additionally, our customers benefitted from about £4 million income from entertainment and gaming machines in Naafi clubs.

It is only when one looks behind the figures that the picture appears less rosy.

Some £5 million of our trading profit was due to exchange profits (one lucky outcome of the fall in the value of Sterling and, mainly, the appreciation of the Deutschmark).

# Healthy surplus masks several potential ills

By Sir James Spooner, Chairman, Naafi

This, and the profit earned on non-traditional activities, such as our car hire purchase business, was most important because the surplus on our traditional trading activities in shops and clubs would not have covered the £10 million distributed to our customers. It

is for this reason that the outlook is rather gloomy.

There seems to be little prospect of any substantial recovery in our traditional trade in the current year on the immediate future; and last year's lucky 'windfall' on currency exchange is unlikely to

be repeated — indeed it might well turn into a loss.

To help sustain rebate and discount, we need to earn more from the mainstream of our business next year and so ensure that the Services' 'Co-op' remains viable.

There may be some who

regard Naafi's ability to remain viable as a matter of little consequence, but the figures speak for themselves.

From Naafi clubs, units took £6 million directly into their welfare funds, £850,000 went into club improvement funds and £1.4 million was put aside to help maintain rebate at its present level in the future.

This money will find its way into thousands of different projects, ventures and facilities — at the discretion of the units — to improve the quality of Service life. Another £500,000 allocated to the Services' central funds will be used to bolster Service sporting activities, the Services' own charities, and various welfare projects, as decided by the appropriate committees.

Another £6 million went directly back into the pockets of Service shoppers. In all, £14.6 million from one year's activities.

I hope this helps to give you some perspective of the contribution made by Naafi to the Service community which is only possible through the support you give to your own trading business — Naafi.

Naafi sales 1982-83: £342.6 million

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

£248.7M on goods and services

£60.1M in staff expenses

£7.6M on heat, light, and other overheads (including interest on loans)

£10.6M in VAT

WHICH LEFT £15.6M WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS...

£4.6M transferred to reserves

£0.3M set aside for development

£5.7M paid in dividends and discounts

£3.1M paid as rebate to unit funds

£1.4M set aside for future rebate

£0.5M paid to central welfare funds

**PLUS BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ACCOUNTS:**

- ★ £3.1M gaming machine revenue paid to unit funds
- ★ £0.8M from entertainment machines paid to club improvement funds

Total cash benefits to customers from 1982-3 trading: £14.6 million

## What's in it for you?

LOOKING AHEAD to 1984 I have set my sights on two major targets. The first is to make this organisation of yours still more efficient; the second is to communicate better with YOU, the customer.

Both exercises have a common aim — to give men and women in the Services, plus their families, the best possible value for money.

The chances of finding dramatic savings beyond those already achieved are fairly slim because the business is already run on very disciplined and economical lines. It is more in the nature of a fine-tuning exercise. Times change, your demands alter, technology rushes ahead, and we must keep pace.

We do not expect our research and experiments to produce a panacea to our problems: If all the resources of the

◀ Customers sample the goods from Bordon's 24-hour 'chippie', one of a number of vending machines currently under test in Naafi clubs in the UK.

organisation cannot find a quick route out of recession (and that, of course, is part of our problem) what hope is there that Naafi will stumble upon a miracle cure? Nevertheless, the fact that we have successfully reduced our operating costs, that we have found ways to release assets for sale and thus reduced our borrowings, is some measure of the success we have so far achieved.

But being an efficient sales organisation also means selling more — and that is a tougher nut to crack. We cannot attract more customers — because we are limited by our charter to trading with the Service community only — so we must try to sell more to the customers we have.

And that is easier said than done when the spending power of those customers is restricted. In Germany, for example, reduction of the local overseas allowance has had a significant effect on our sales. At home, our market was reduced by the restrictions on recruiting — now thankfully lifted — and there is increasing competition.

The Falklands (where happily we have been able to make significant improvements to our service over the past year) is another drain on our overall sales. While the head of a family is away, a Service wife's spending drops by as much as two-thirds.

Many families go 'home to mother' for the duration and we lose their business altogether. Because the

By Brian Whitaker,  
Managing Director,  
Naafi

troops are on four-month tours, travelling time (up to two months) to and from the Falklands is disproportionate, and for most of that time Naafi loses their custom.

While on the Falklands, our customers' needs are comparatively few and simple: They do not spend money on goods which they would have to abandon within four months — or transport home and pay customs duty.

So, circumstances over which we have no control make our task that much more difficult. Nevertheless, behind the scenes a constant reappraisal goes on — of the goods we sell and the way we sell them, of the services we provide and the methods we employ. New products and new services are identified — and introduced if appropriate.

Currently we are in discussion with all three Services concerning the introduction of a budget account scheme for our customers — which we hope will be launched early in the new year.

We have recently negotiated a new deal for our customers on the British mainland which should greatly improve the speed with which repairs are carried out on hi-fi and video

equipment under guarantee.

We are experimenting with hot chip vending machines in clubs.

We are negotiating with a holiday company to provide holidays to the Service community at a discount.

The first sea-borne video game is undergoing sea trials on HMS Endurance.

Every aspect of our service is currently under the microscope as we seek ways to consolidate the trade we have, and expand where any opportunity exists. And the microscope is also trained on our methods of providing that service.

I believe, that if more of our customers understood the kind of organisation we are and the benefits we provide — and constantly strive to improve — they would offer greater support for our efforts and understanding of our special problems.

And that is where my second target comes in: improved communication. I hope to see, in the months ahead, a window opened wide on Naafi. We are currently examining ways to achieve that — among them the greater use of video.

Not least among the messages we need to communicate is that of the value of Naafi as an investment. To put it at its most basic: in Naafi, the Service community owns assets currently valued at £63m on which, last year, they received a 'dividend' of £14.6m. As a return on secure capital that would be difficult to beat.

But even that is not the end of the story. That £63m was not merely involved in earning a high cash return, it was employed to provide a service from Benbecula to Belize, to support the Task Force in the battle of the Falklands, and to make life a little more comfortable for the garrison who continue to keep the islands safe.

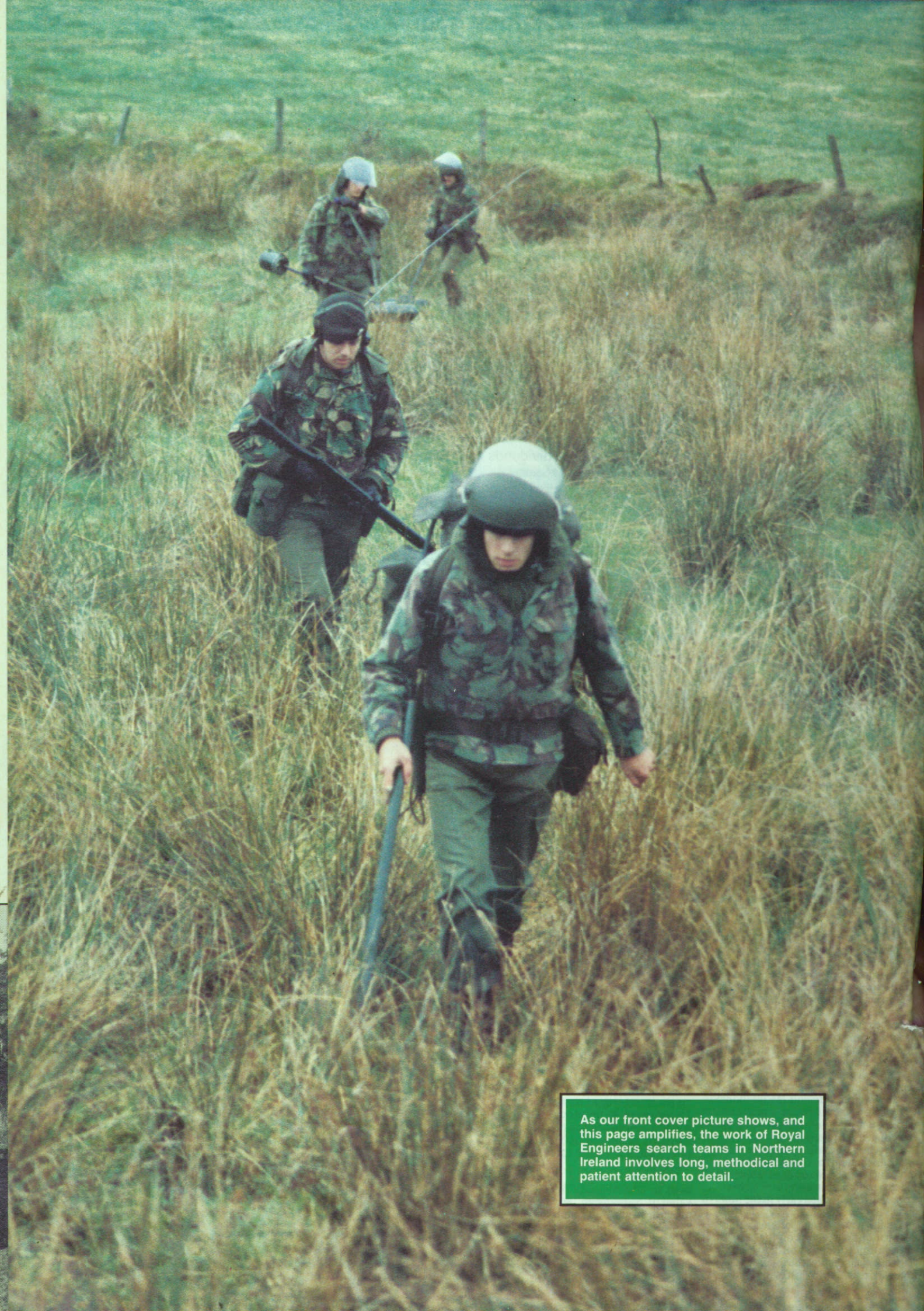
You can increase your return on your investment in the business which you own at any time, simply by switching some of your current 'Civvy Street' spending to your own Naafi shop or club.

It is impossible to think of a better investment for the Services, as a whole or as individuals, because it also reaps a reward from the investment of enthusiasm, affection and loyalty of thousands of Naafi staff striving to provide a good service to their customers wherever they may be, in peace or at war.

Lieutenant Jophy Dehnel ▶ (previously a Naafi official in the Aldershot area) left for the Falkland Islands in November, where she will lead a volunteer team of six members of the WRAC EFI (Expeditionary Force Institutes). They are the first Naafi girls to don uniform since World War II.







As our front cover picture shows, and this page amplifies, the work of Royal Engineers search teams in Northern Ireland involves long, methodical and patient attention to detail.



From bridge-building in Germany to searching for terrorist arms and explosive devices in Northern Ireland is a big change of scene. Yet as writer John Margetts and photographer Doug Pratt discovered when they visited the Royal Engineers in the Province . . .

## There's no shortage of volunteers



The concentration . . .

◀ Queue for helicopter. ▲

**I**F Northern Ireland falls a bit short in the popular postings stakes, don't tell the RE bomb-search troop currently scouring the Province for terrorist bombs and bullets.

For when Captain Robert Tickell called for volunteers from his troop of Sappers in BAOR to make up bomb-search teams for that troubled place, each and every one of them surged forward to clock on for the short-term tour.

"Everyone wanted to come over," said Captain Tickell.

Bridge-builders with 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron based at Hameln, Germany, they swapped their over-the-ground role for a more down-to-earth job — searching for the death-dealing devices of terrorists.

While a tour in Northern Ireland is nothing new for many of the troop, the job of looking for bombs meant breaking new ground for all of them.

Now, instead of erecting bridges over German rivers, they scout and scan the province for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) — bombs made from milk churns and gas cylinders — and ammunition.

Basically it means clambering over fields, through hedges and every inch of ground marked for "clearance".

An "area" can be any size up to 1,000 metres long and 200 metres either side and take days to clear.

It can also be a lot smaller, like the bullion van that was hijacked with £30,000 on board. The "snatch" happened close to Crossmaglen, a few weeks before Christmas.

A high risk area, the van and surrounding ground came under the umbrella of RE search adviser Sergeant Phil Hogan. Said Phil: "Working on intelligence information, I decide how, when and where my two teams work."

Search troop in action in Armagh countryside.



Phil and his men eventually cleared the area, but not before the hijackers had cleared the cash.

"It's what we expected," said Captain Tickell. "But we did expect a booby or two, so care had to be taken."

"It's our first priority. And it takes time. But that's something we have plenty of and we will search anywhere at any time."

"Sometimes we'll leave any area alone for several weeks, even though we have our suspicions."

"There is no particular time pattern. We switch around, but we do work closely with the RUC and our protective cordon units."

It is the RE search advisers based around the Province who give the green light for the teams to go into an area.

"If they say the word then our teams move in and work till the chosen area is clear," said Captain Tickell.

"Should a device be found the bomb experts are called to handle it." So far with several weeks of search experience behind them, the six six-man teams have been working in increasingly bad con-

ditions without so much as a sniff of a bomb. sure the surrounding ground is safe and, if it is a bomb, that someone is not nearby waiting to detonate it by remote control. "It's happened before," he added.

While the Sappers checked every square yard of ground, men from the RUC and UDR acted as protective cordons. "Couldn't really work without them," said Scholey.

This device turned out to be a hoax. Mixed feelings for the lads in the search teams — all that work for nothing, "but at least the bomb boys will be pleased," said Alan Scholey.

The work-for-nothing routine was described by Sgt Phil Hogan who told of the time he and his teams were faced with the job of "clearing" the approach to two hijacked fuel tankers, parked opposite each other in a narrow lane.

"The whole area was riddled with bridges and culverts. All of them ideal hiding places."

"It took us three days to clear that space and in the event we found nothing. Inspection of the tankers, once declared safe, revealed the petrol had been drained from one, while the other was still full of diesel oil."

"An explosive situation, really," said Hogan. "And all my lads were well aware of it. You have to be on the ball here all the time. But I don't have to keep reminding them of the dangers. They know. They're a tremendous bunch of blokes with fantastic morale and team spirit."

But while the teams have each other to boost morale and spirits, Sgt Les Brown, the search adviser and lone RE representative at one location plans his daily work surrounded by eight UDR girls!

"So far as work loads go it's a peaks and troughs situation," said Les. "When I first arrived I was extremely busy. Day four saw me working a clearing follow-up operation after a culvert bomb exploded."

"It seems the remote controlled bomb was intended for the occupants of an RUC car, but the terrorists blew the bomb just too soon."

"As the car approached the culvert, the bomb was set off blowing a huge hole in the road."

"But the police car couldn't stop in time and plunged straight into the crater. Luckily nobody was hurt."

"The trouble is," said Les, "the terrorists have the initiative in these situations."

But if Captain Robert Tickell and his men have their way, they'll not only be in step with the terrorists style of thinking, but way out in front of them. ■

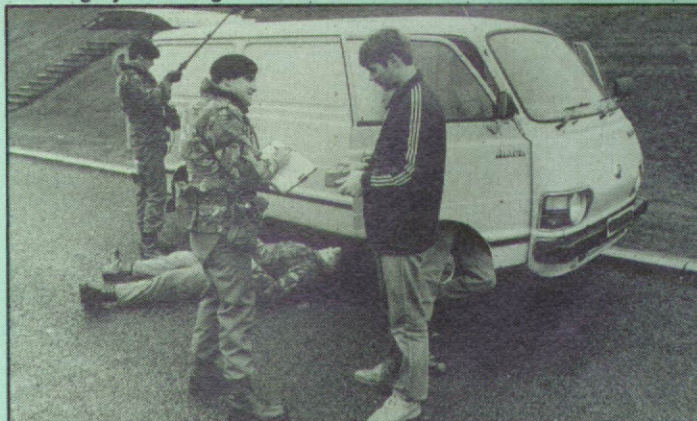
Burdened with kit — but ever vigilant.



Essential preparation.



Thoroughly checking a vehicle.



Equipment checks before a task.



Making the most of modern aids.

ditions without so much as a sniff of a bomb.

But a pre-Christmas search did yield a horde of bullets which cheered up Staff Sergeant Alan Scholey's teams. All their hard work was not in vain, they thought.

Only hours earlier the same two teams, under Alan's guidance, were clearing a narrow country lane for 900 metres and 200 metres either side.

A length of electric cable, lying in a field and leading to an old barn, had been spotted by a UDR patrol.

Further searching revealed a battered, low-pressure household gas cylinder close by.

"That's our object," said Alan Scholey. "But first we must en-





# Your Cap Badge

No. 57

## 10TH PRINCESS MARY'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES

Part of the force raised to police upper Burma in 1885 was an obscure unit entitled The Kubo Valley Police Battalion recruiting its personnel from among the peasant farmers of neighbouring Nepal. Destiny ordained that the unit was not to remain obscure for too long, the process beginning when in 1890 Lt. Col. C. R. MacGregor raised the 10th (Burma) Regiment of Madras Infantry from the original formation.

In the year of the Accession of King Edward VII they were re-designated The 10th Gurkha Rifles and as such were to win 39 Battle Honours, a formidable list which by no means sufficiently reflects the Regimental record of fighting service.

In the Great War both battalions went to the Middle East to fight the Turk on Gallipoli, at the Suez Canal and in Mesopotamia.

They experienced further fighting after the Armistice against Arabs, Afghans and Kurds in numerous rebellions but were allowed some periods

of "peace" in the years up to 1939.

Global war breaking out once again, the 2nd. Bn. fought in Syria, Iraq and finally in Italy whilst the 1st. Bn. in company of the recently raised 3rd. and 4th. Bns. fought it out with the Japanese; at one time they fought back to back at Imphal. As with the end of the Great War "Peace" did not mean the cessation of hostilities for there was trouble in Palestine, revolt in the Dutch East Indies and power struggles in Indo-China — to claim their attention and their lives.

In 1949, by gracious permission of The Princess Mary and by Army Order 135, the Regiment was granted the title it currently enjoys "10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles" and on 11th July 1951 the head-dress badge shown here was Sealed.

It takes as a basis the former badge of the bugle horn with strings having a kukri interlaced with the bugle, above the kukri and below the strings the numerals "10", the cypher of Princess Mary being added to occupy the space previously devoted to the numerals, which were then placed below, between the kukri and the bugle.

A further addition of a scroll inscribed "Princess Mary's Own" was made below the bugle.

Since 1949 the Regiment has done sterling work in Malaya, during twelve long years, but it was during the Confrontation with Indonesia that a young Lance Corporal of the 10th earned the Victoria Cross.

Happily the now Captain (QGO) Rambahadur Limbu continues to serve his Regiment

and is alone among the regular soldiers of the Queen entitled to wear the dull bronze Cross upon his breast.

This he does upon certain ceremonial occasions when his presence is required in support of Her Majesty as one of her Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers.

HUGH L. KING

## GURKHA MIXED DOUBLES

Anyone can be forgiven for seeing double at Perowne Barracks the home of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers — there are five sets of twins around the place — and all of them under the age of five years.

The case is unique, claims the barrack's health care specialist Barbara Walsh, of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Photograph shows the five sets



of twins from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. They are Ganga and Jamina, daughters of Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Sambahadur Rana; Babita and Sugita daughters of Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Jogindrasing Gurung; Ganga and Gita daughters of Sergeant Maniram Thapa; Sabram and Sabita daughters of Corporal Bhaktabhadur Rai and Durgaderi and Derendra, son and daughter of Corporal Dambahadur Gurung.



## MILITARY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

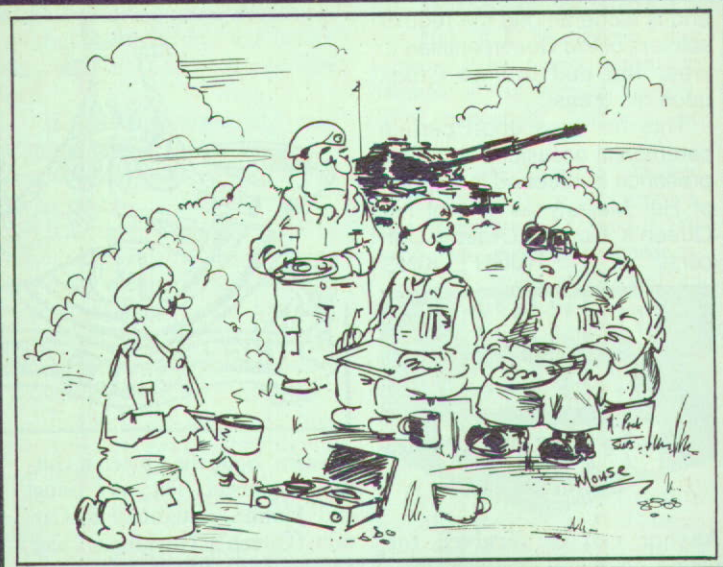
A Full Range of Protective Clothing and Military Clothing  
Manufactured to MOD Standards

Waterproof DPM Suit	S.M.L.	£23.00
Waterproof DPM ¾ Jacket	S.M.L.	£18.50
Waterproof DPM Basher	90" x 65"	£13.50
Waterproof DPM Map Case (with pen, notebook pocket, web and hook attachments)	Size closed 12" x 7"	£8.00
	Size open 24" x 18"	

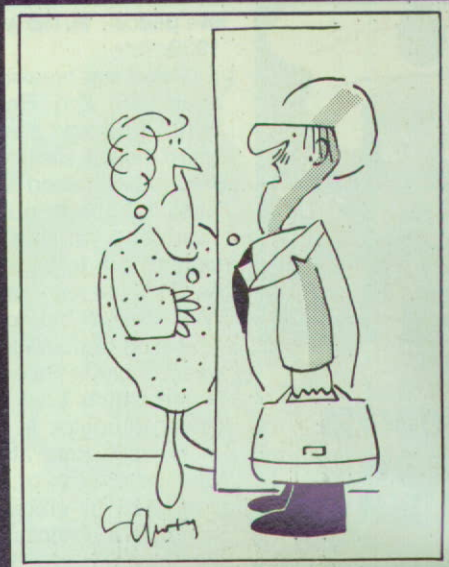
Waterproof clear map case with zip fasteners	24" x 20"	£4.50
	40" x 28"	£5.50
	40" x 36"	£6.50
One piece DPM sniper suit	S.M.L.	£30.00
Northern Ireland leather combat gloves		£11.00

**All prices include postage and packing.** When ordering please state size, style and item. Allow 28 days for delivery. Cheques made payable to: SES Mail Order, PO Box 3, Hedge End, Southampton, SO3 4ZY. Tel 0703 612417.

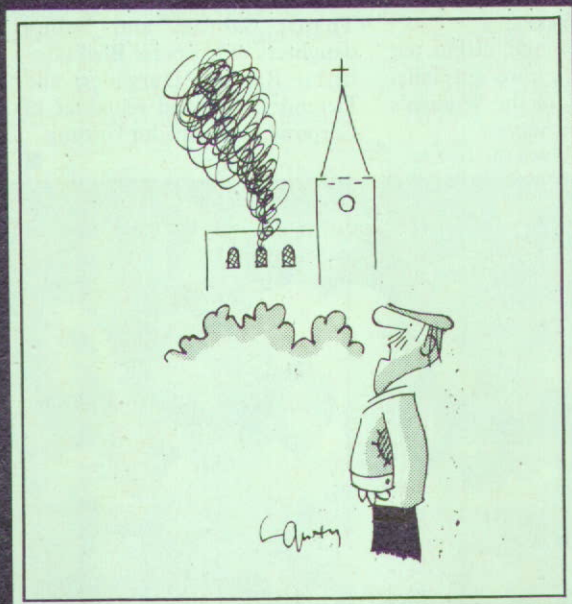




"Done in oil — engine or gearbox?"



"The boss's wife turned down that rise you told me to ask for!"



"Holy smoke."

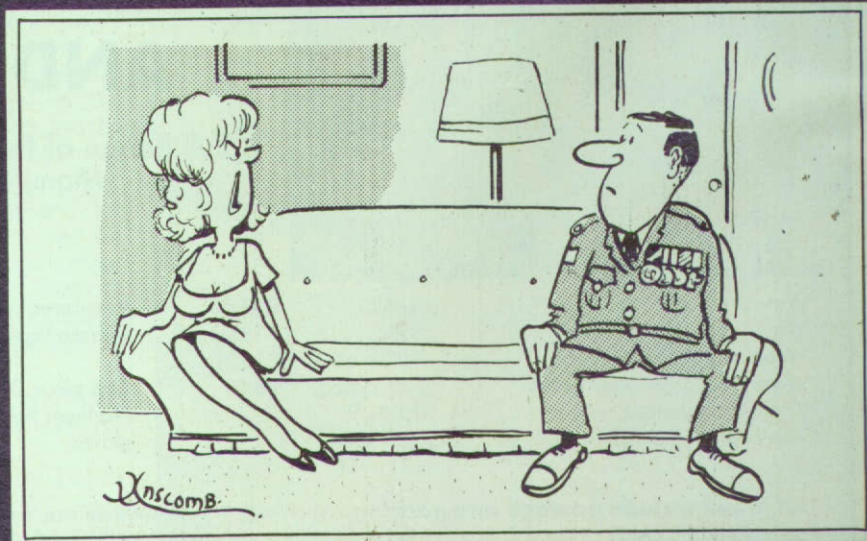
# Humour



"I was an under cover agent."



"It is a super birthday party Pat, but you've had lots of practice."



"I can see how you won the good conduct medal!"



# CLASSIFIED

## For sale

**26 Boer War magazines.** £500 or nearest offer. Also picture Queen Victoria awarding VC Capt Tonse, South Africa 1898. Offers. Mr G Mayers, 159 Griffiths John Street, Brynmellin, Swansea.

**Secretly mark personal possessions** with your Service number, post code, etc. Our security marking kit contains: special marking pen, the ink is only visible under ultra violet light; 25 page register to record details of your valuables; four warning stickers for doors, windows, to help deter thieves. The kit is only £3.95 post paid. Goods dispatched within 14 days. Please send cheques/postal orders (sterling only) for £3.95 to: Sten-Sec+ Security Services, 60 Grosvenor Place, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 9DL.

**Military Modelling, Vol 4 No 8 to Vol 7 No 6.** £20 ono. Sword and lance issues 1 to 14. £5 ono. Slingshot Jan 1975 to Nov 1976. £2 ono. Matt Lazenby, 83 Harland Way, Cottingham, North Humberside, HU16 5PT. Tel: 844744.

**Frames.** An attractive frame for your medals. A smart white-gloss wood frame will display from one to six medals. Standard size 7" x 7". Clear perspex-type glazing. When ordering state number of medals and branch of Forces, or send SAE for leaflet. Price £6.25 (CWO) includes P & P, UK and BFPO.

END products, 8 High St, Emberton, Olney, Bucks, MK46 5DH. 0234 712568.

**Books for the medal collector.** New editions 'Ribbons & Medals', Dording, £20; 'Spink's Metal Catalogue' £12.95 plus £1.50 per book postage. Kellaway, 30 Coventry Road, Burbage, Leics, LE10 2HP. Tel. 0455 39262.

**Trumpet calls for the Army.** A cassette recording of all Routine, Field and Regimental Trumpet calls. Over 190 calls. £5.50 inc UK P&P. D Richards, 233 Charlton Road, Charlton Village, Shepperton, Middx, TW17 0SH. Sunbury 84956.

**Limited edition by Birmingham mint** of 'Great British Regiments', silver medallions with regiment battle honours and regiment insignia with certificate of authenticity housed in military chest. 52 regiments in all. Value £1300 offers. Also the Queen's Guards limited edition of regiments of the Guards Division plus the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery with officer's insignia, value £300 offers.

Mr C Dickens, 196 Foxlydiat Crescent, Redditch, Worcs.

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**Wire blazer badges — competitive prices.** Send for catalogue of over 150 different types to: Miniature Medals (SM), 30 Coventry Road, Burbage, Leics, LE10 2HP. Tel. 0455 39262

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**Genuine French Foreign Legion** white kepis £12.50. Legion Infantry Sergeant's kepis, dark blue and red. £22. Cavalry £23. Legion Sergeant Major's kepi (Infantry) £25. Cavalry £26. Foreign Legion Captain's kepi, very ornate, £28. All £1 P&P. Green Foreign Legion para berets with badge, £8.50. French red para berets with badge, £6.50. French 1950s (Indo-China) khaki para berets with badge, £6 + 50p P&P. Illustrated list of Foreign Legion badges and Militaria 60p.

M. Miles, 151 Malmstone Avenue, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey. 0406 24708.

**Two old pattern Denison smocks** sizes 1. & 2. Swop for Tiger stripe shirt or trousers or any U.S. Army cloth badges.

C. A. Edwards, 9 Rye Croft Smithies, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S71 1OR.

**Identity name tapes, standard US style, one inch wide, black on green.** Up to 18 characters per tape. Three tapes £4, six tapes £5, postage 25p. Combat Central Trading, Trendle St, Sherborne, Dorset.

**Falklands Task Force, superb colour poster 20" x 28" approx., featuring map, badges, crests of all military and civil units involved** £1.50 inc. post.

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**British Military History Books.** Send large envelope for catalogue. John Spencer-Clarke, 162A Archway Road, London N6.

**Combat kit, knives, name tags and other useful gear.** SAE list, UK or overseas.

Combat Central Trading, Trendle St., Sherborne, Dorset.

**Military Prints.** Genuine antique and modern prints for sale. Send large S.A.E. for list. Miliart, 25 Bagnell Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B13 0SJ. Tel 021-444 4377.

**100 adhesive address labels 25 x 50mm** by return of post only £2. Printed to your requirements, cash with order.

Q Print, 35 Cowgill Close, Northampton, NN3 4PB. Tel: (0604) 406401.

## Wanted

**Cadet Sergeant** requires one combat smock (cheap please); 16 yrs old and finances very limited.

Geoff Newport, 6 Howard Street, Oxford OX4 3BE. Telephone (0865) 724192.

**Tartan kilt** to fit piper 6'0" tall, 34" waist; preferably dark green tartan. J. J. Ward, 8 Gypsy Lane, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 8NG.

**Wanted** fairly recent edition complete Encyclopaedia. Lt Col Fields. MOD MO1 Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1. 01-218 2260.

**Military books, regimental and unit histories.** Send details, condition and price required.

Derek Hayles, 35 St Marks Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6DJ. Telephone 0628 39535.

**Wanted** to buy WW2 officers' 'pips' in purple cherry and royal blue. Also British and Commonwealth rank 'slip-ons' with same colour pips. Gary Packer, 17 Tanyrallt Road, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5JR.

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# CLASSIFIED

Cadet wants DPM 'Basher' and/or DPM waterproof jacket 36", height 5' 7". 14 years old and very limited finances (cheap please).

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**Wanted** to buy RACHD KC cap and collar badges (Christian). Also coloured side hat to same size 7½-8.

Gary Packer, 17 Tanyral Road, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5JQ.

**Wanted.** British Army scarlet tunic (not Guards), ORs preferred. Good condition essential, top price paid. Details to:

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**RAF** Busby badge and plumes, Canadian Army regimental pouch belts, Nazi German belt buckles and militaria, DP camouflage jackets, large size, worldwide foreign pilot and para wings. Fairburn commando daggers. UN, Nato enamelled breast badges. Japanese WWII sword and insignias. Canadian army WWI CEF cap badges. For exchange: Canadian army cap badges, formation signs, and trade badges, US wings, badges, medals and patches. RCMP tunics and caps, etc. RCN trade badges and tallies. Canadian and foreign aircrew and para wings, US police patches. Pacific coast militia rangers and Canadian rangers WWII armbands. Mr G E Biss, PO Box 113, Gold River, British Columbia, CANADA, VOP 1G0.

**Medals,** decorations, and long service awards, purchased. Send full description and price required.

P. A. Burman, Blackborough End, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Kings Lynn (0553) 840350.

**Cadet** Sergeant 16 yrs old requires one large nylon framed Bergan. Any condition but cheap please. Finances very limited.

Geoff Newport, 6 Howard Street, Oxford OX4 3BE. Telephone (0865) 724192.

**Wanted** to complete collection. Indian general service medal and African general service medal, singles or as part of a group.

Mr P Francis, 88 Kingsley Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants.

**Large** nylon framed Bergan. The tatter the better. Will pay postage and up to £10 for Bergan.

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# A RIDDLE AND A RIDDLE-ME-REE

COMPETITION 333

## THE RIDDLE

MY beginning's where I finish and my  
end is where I start  
And although I'm here for ages yet I'm  
always gone in part  
I am higher when I'm younger, ere my  
brothers boldly come  
And I'm older when I'm lower and my  
brothers' day is done.  
I'm a cause of death and famine; I'm  
the bane of many a race  
But though often causing hunger yet I  
have the saving grace  
Of feeding many millions; giving  
mighty power to man;  
And I knew the ancient landmarks ere  
the human race began.  
I've known many a mighty battle; I've  
known fugitives and slaves;  
Though I've helped to build the nations  
I have brought some to their graves;  
Never sleeping, never resting, noon or  
night or early morn:  
When the wheel has turned full circle I  
am back where I was born.

## THE RIDDLE-ME-REE

MY first is in SCOTLAND and  
SWITZERLAND too;  
My next's in AUSTRALIA not in  
PERTH  
My third is in QUEENSLAND —  
VICTORIA — "NO"  
My fourth's in BALUCHISTAN not  
BORNEO  
My fifth's found in GERMANY,  
BELGIUM and MAINE  
MASSACHUSETTS and  
LUXEMBOURG — never in SPAIN:  
My sixth is in GREECE and in  
GREENLAND we see  
And DENMARK and deep in the  
AEGEAN SEA:  
My last's to be found in the far  
BERING STRAIT;  
But not in TAHITI, TAIWAN or  
KUWAIT.  
My whole's in the kitchen and once on  
the line;  
The HOOGLY will know me and so  
will the RHINE:  
I serve to remind you of "SHOW  
BOAT" serene  
Yet carry your thoughts to the  
"AFRICAN QUEEN".

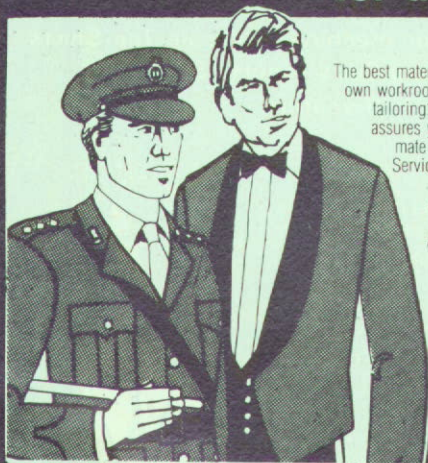
The answer to the riddle and the riddle-me-ree in proper sequence will give the answer required. So . . . What am I?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday, 10 February. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 12 March and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 333' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 333' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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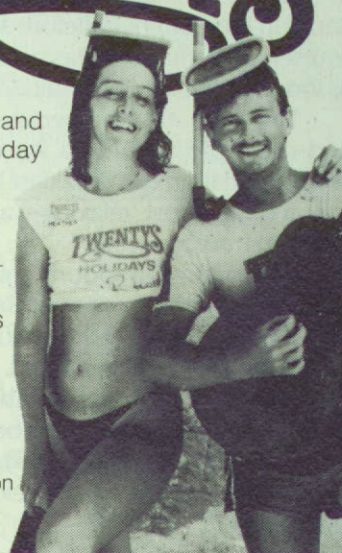
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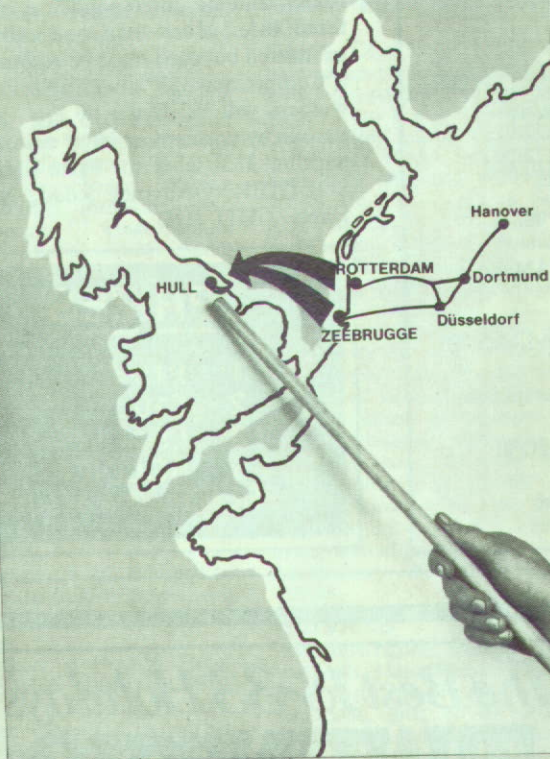
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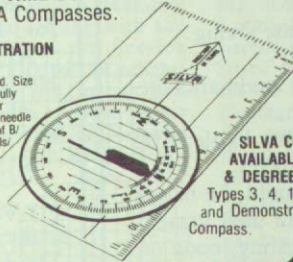


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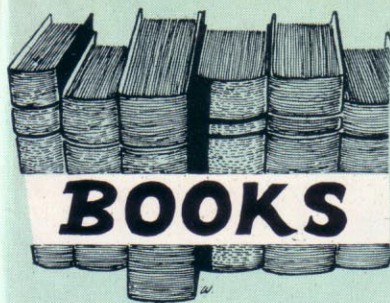
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# BOOKS

## Normandy — Overlord: Tonie and Valmai Holt

It comes as a shock to some of us of that certain age to realise that we are approaching the fortieth anniversary of the Normandy landings. The stretch of French coast from Cherbourg to Caen has been an area of pilgrimage since the end of the war to add to its customary tourism. There will be even more visitors to Normandy in 1984, and there will be, undoubtedly, a rash of new books, both guides to the area and histories of the campaign.

One such publication to appear in good time is *Normandy-Overlord* in the Holt's Battlefield Guide series compiled by Major Tonie and Valmai Holt, who organise battlefield tours in Europe and the USA.

It is a modest book of 64 pages but is surprisingly informative and comprehensive, with a concise chronology of events from the outbreak of the war until D-Day on the 6 June 1944, authoritative notes on the battle, and itineraries of three tours covering the British and American sectors and Airborne Dropping Zones, aug-

mented by suggestions of special visits to fit in when time permits.

We learn that Madam Gondrée and her husband Georges in 1983 still keep the café by Pegasus Bridge, as they did all those years ago when Major John Howard brought his six gliders to within 50 yards of the bridge; that the resort of Ouistreham-Riva-Bella originated as a Roman camp, and that the Department of Calvados in Normandy owes its name to a corruption of *San Salvador*, one of the Spanish Armada ships that was wrecked on the rocks off Arromanches in 1588.

Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg Ltd, 54 Poland Street, London W1V 3DF. £1.95. **BJ**

## Militarisation and Arms Production: Ed Helena Tuomi and Ramio Väyrynen

This book examines two widely held beliefs about the 'arms race' and concludes that both are false, but the 300 or so pages of laboured text and 30 tables are far from easy to follow, so much so that your reviewer was unable to discover why those conclusions were reached.

The first of the popular beliefs is that the stockpiling of arms acts as a deterrent to the outbreak of another major war, but the assertion that '... the grand total of military preparations ... has never contributed to an increased sense of security, ...' did not seem to be explained, unless the key is supposed to lie in the remark (on p.289) that there

have been 130 wars since 1945 with 30 million casualties.

The second of the popular beliefs which is claimed to be false is that such large quantities of man power and associated material are involved in manufacturing weapons and in maintaining standing armies, navies and air forces, that the economies of the developed nations would be thrown into disarray if a sudden halt were to be called to the whole affair. In denying this, there are various discussions of the 'conversion' of 'arms manufacturing units', but even the 'Case Study of Norway' (given in Chapter 12) was hard to follow.

It is pointed out that a change in emphasis occurred at the end of the eighth decade of this century because the costs of weapon systems have increased so greatly (for example £1.5 billion per day in 1980, four times that of 1945 and 25 times the annual OECD aid), and non-renewable resources are now seen to be becoming scarce, so that everyone — and particularly those in developing countries — are being caused to suffer unduly. Use is made of a U.N. study which admittedly failed to establish a reliable data base, and the book appeals for the collection and publication of better information.

The third main claim, that the cessation of expenditure on armaments, armies, etc., could make more funds available for expenditure in developing countries, is self-evident, but more information is required before your reviewer would accept the first two claims. Those who already accept the first two propositions may well find much encouragement from this book, but those who want to enquire further will need great persistence and concentration to pursue the discussions. Croom Helm, London & Canberra. — £15.95. **RGN**

## Gallipoli to the Somme: the story of C E W Bean: Dudley McCarthy

Charles Bean was the first war correspondent to be accredited to accompany the Australian Imperial

Force, first on the misadventurous Gallipoli campaign and then on the Western Front. After the war, Bean was appointed overall editor of the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*, writing six of the twelve volumes himself. This was a task that took more than twenty years to complete, so it can be said that for a quarter of a century Bean lived with the war and in its shadow.

This is a big book of 400 pages, seventy three of which are concerned with the subject's life before the outbreak of war. But it is a biography and, justifiably, the author obviously feels it is essential to understand Bean's character and upbringing.

Bean was a 'counting the bullets' type of chronicler and was present at almost all the battles he reported. To many, the strength of the book will come from the insight it gives to the everyday working problems to be overcome by writers in the field. Bean had a particularly frustrating obstacle at Gallipoli; although permitted to go in with the assault, he was directed not to send any reports back! Eventually the order was rescinded, by which time others, on board ship and at far away bases, had cabled their hearsay copy. We read of Bean preparing his dugout, writing up his reports blindly in the dark and hoping he would be able to decipher them in the morning.

The utter destruction and carnage at the village of Pozieres on the Western Front had a profound effect on Bean and one of the minor but most memorable moments in the book is when he salvages a road sign 'CENTRAL — WAY IN' for the museum of the Australian War Memorial; Pozieres had no 'Central', no 'Way In' and certainly no way out.

Dudley McCarthy, the author, is an Australian diplomat, who joined the Army in 1940 as a private and was one of the Rats of Tobruk. His war finished as a major in New Guinea fighting the Japanese. Like the subject of his biography, McCarthy has contributed a volume of the official Australian war history.

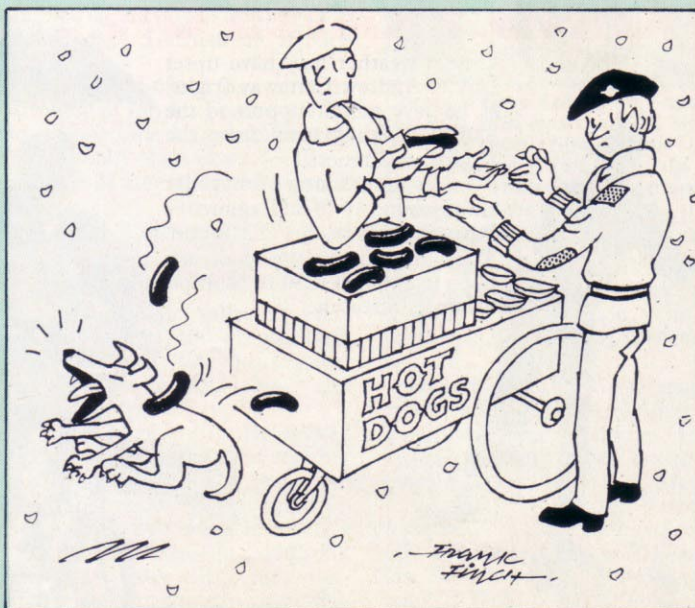
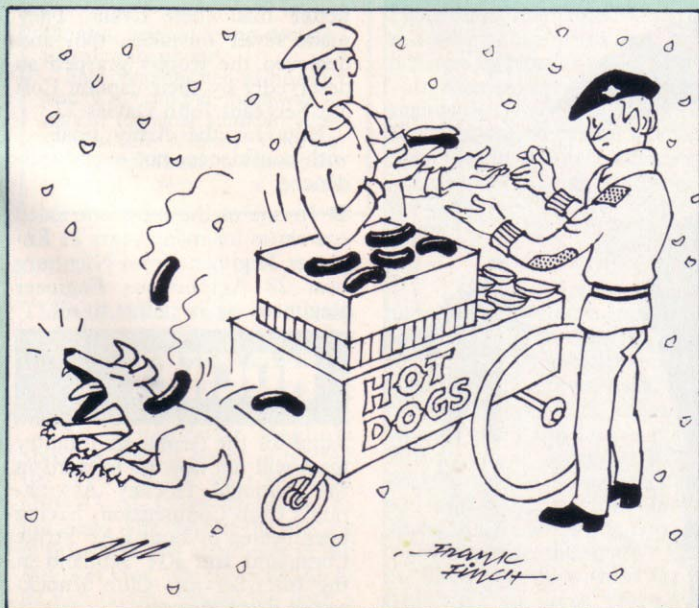
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## How observant are you?

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.





# Welsh Guards march on!

UK Major Units Rugby Final

1st Bn Welsh Guards ..... 17  
RAOC Training Centre ..... 9

The Welsh Guards go marching on. Beaten finalists last year, they have gone one better this time and now have time to prepare for the big one in Germany.

Their opponents from BAOR for the Army Final will not be known for some time but whoever faces them is in for a stern challenge for this young side left many spectators at Aldershot's military stadium with the impression they won the UK final with something in reserve.



That's mine! Welsh guards No 8 Lance Sergeant Paul Keepin sets up another attack.

The men from Blackdown tried hard enough, no doubt about that, but they seldom showed the flashes of inspiration needed to break down resolute defence.

It was fitting that the Pirbright-based team should end victors, for they crossed the line twice — and this is what Rugby Union should be about. Yet these two tries were scored in the first 16 minutes and thereafter the game settled down to a mainly forward battle with backs and three-quarters given little sight of the ball let alone the chance to shine.

Again, as in the Minor Units final the previous week there was too much kicking. Perhaps this wasn't surprising in view of it being a final and the 'local derby' atmosphere gave both sides chance to bring along large, and welcome followings.

Welsh Guards coach RQMS Evans was, understandably, pleased with the win. "We have a very young team — six guardsmen and two lance-corporals included — and we had lost to RAOC before. After that we said we had to go back to square one,

and we did.

"There was no way we could match them for size so we had to get there first. We did that too".

He was right — and one reason the Blackdown backs had little opportunity was the tigerish and speedy tackling of their rivals.

The match began in style with winger Guardsman Steven Whitehouse going over for a try in the corner to cap a magnificent move of crisp handling and running from left to right. Whitehouse is a name to note, even though little was seen of him later apart from one brilliant tackle to stop his opposite number Corporal Ian Crawford. The young lad from Pontypool, who has played for Abertillery, has considerable potential.

RAOC hopes rose when Lieutenant Paul Millward kicked a penalty to bring chants of "easy, easy" from supporters — hardly justified at 4-3 arrears. Welsh supporters saved similar taunts until the match was in the bag!

And when Millward, a full back with a lot of talent, shook everyone by being caught in possession the Guards pounced with

Sergeant Spencer Walford going over for the second try. The flanker with 14 years service is one of the more experienced men in the team with Army, BAOR and London Welsh credits — and it showed.

Having failed with his conversion attempts, front row man Lance Corporal Darrell Jones kicked a penalty with 36 minutes gone and one could understand RAOC desire to get points from anywhere at this stage. Staff Sergeant Brian Dovell, outside half, obliged with a neatly taken drop goal — aided by a fortuitous bounce off the cross-bar.

The second half was dour, with RAOC exerting considerable pressure without ever really looking like taking the initiative and though Millward kicked a penalty — this was preceded and followed by the now in-form boot of Jones 73 doing the same. Millward was forced to limp off with an injury and was replaced by Sergeant Donald Robertson.

Yet now the Welsh Guards didn't look like losing and in short handed, kicked and ran better than their rivals. They made fewer mistakes, too, and deserved the trophy grasped so deservedly by their captain Colour Sergeant John Davies 77.

Now for the Army final — with confidence, not over-confidence.

● In one of the most one-sided scorelines for many years 21 Engineer Regiment from Nienburg beat 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment by 78 points to nil.

## HOCKEY

Sadly for the Army, its Infantry team will not now go forward in the National Hockey Association's Club Competition, having been beaten by both RAF Strike Command and RN Scotland at the Inter-Services Club Knock-out at Brize Norton.



Colour Sergeant John Davies holds the trophy aloft.

## SKIING SKATES ON

Dismal weather may have upset Lt Col Andrew Cattaway (right) as he gave moral support to the four-man skiing team from the Highland Gunners.

In 24 hours non-stop roller skiing round 19 Field Regiment's Barrack Square in Dortmund. They covered 750 kms in all, and hope to donate £1250 to Multiple Sclerosis research.







Above: It's the third leg and the Yorkshiremen are already lapping stragglers. Below mass start in winter sun.



## SOCCER ROUND-UP

### Ref blamed

#### Army 1 Essex 2

This was a match that the Army were very unlucky to lose. It finally hinged on a couple of refereeing decisions in the second half. In the 52nd minute, with the score at one apiece Essex broke on their left flank. A defender went into the tackle just inside the penalty area and on the frosty pitch both came down in a heap. Referee, Sergeant Peter Kitson, Royal Signals, pointed to the spot and Essex went ahead.

Five minutes later, at the other end of the ground, there was an almost identical situation when Craftsman Mickey Spencer REME appeared to have been brought down by a double

footed tackle. This time the whistle remained silent and there certainly seemed to be grounds for the grumbles from the Army bench.

The Army had the lion's share of possession in the opening half but Essex took the lead against the run of play after 16 minutes. The Army equaliser came a quarter of an hour later when Lance-Corporal Steve Butler REME stretched to flick home a cross by Lance-Corporal Sandy Brown, Royal Signals.

## INDOOR HOCKEY CRASH

Last year's champions, the Army, tumbled all the way to third place in this year's Combined Services Indoor Hockey Tournament at RAF Newton in Nottinghamshire.

In their opening game they lost to the RAF 8-6 and then came up against the Navy, who had already disposed of the Air Force 6-4. The Navy took an early four goal lead and although the Army team battled their way back into contention they eventually went down 13-10.

However, all was not lost for the Under-21 side managed to retain the Combined Services Cup.

## ARMY DRIVERS RALLY ROUND

THE ARMY's two major driving endurance rallies, Exercises Magnum Spirit and Roadmaster, have shown that interest in rallying is on the up and up.

The ever-popular Magnum Spirit, a BAOR event, attracted 107 crews at the start although only 43 of these qualified as finishers. The bulk of the driving in this three day event was in the Münster area, which, living up to its reputation, demanded both a

high degree of concentration and endurance on the part of all, as well as reliable vehicles.

Eight UK crews took part, coming through with honours in second, third and fourth places, but winners were a BAOR REME team — Sergeants D Tilson and Ellicott from 35 Engineer Regiment Workshop.

Roadmaster, the Army's Driving Championships, held for the first time in three years, was

concentrated on Salisbury Plain and attracted 100 crews, both Regular and TA, plus guest crews from the RAF, Navy and Royal Marines.

The 130 mile first leg proved difficult enough in grim weather conditions, but it was the second half that really applied the pressure. The organisers' mean trick of substituting the roadbook after the crews had already plotted what they thought was going

# BERLIN RELAY TEAM COME IN FROM THE COLD

Last year The 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire were pipped at the post by 3 Para in the Army Relay Championships. This year they returned to the annual cross-country event with a large supply of the legendary Yorkshire grit and determination and eventually ground all their opponents down to win by nearly a minute.

Conditions were bright and cold but with a soggy course from the previous day's rain as the first runners went off for their two laps each of three-quarters of a mile at the back of the RAOC Training Centre, Blackdown.

Staff-Sergeant Alex Rodgers gave 2 Para a flier finishing 250 yards in front of the field. Rodgers admitted that his three colleagues were unlikely to hold their lead against the remorseless Yorkshire 'A' team and so it proved.

The PWO had fielded four teams and by the end of the second leg they held first and second places. Only in the final leg did the 'B' team slip back into fourth place.

The 'A' team of Private Paul Medley, Corporal Barrie Dowson, Corporal Tony Wilson and Private Chris Smithson were already celebrating their win when the second team home

passed the finishing line. It was 3 PC Regiment Royal Engineers, who thus took the minor units award with a fine performance.

Home team RAOC Blackdown came third with PWO 'B' fourth, 1st Battalion Irish Guards fifth and AAC Harrogate sixth. But top honours went to the Berlin men who came in from the cold.

## SAD LOSS

Army football is mourning the death of one of its keenest supporters, Colonel Bert Tunnuci, the Curator of the RAMC Museum. Colonel Tunnuci, an honorary Vice-President of the Army Football Association, died aged 64.

He played for the Army both before and after the Second World War.

## TENPIN MASTER



Corporal Dave Lok of 38 Squadron RCT who was the 1983 Master in the recent Rhine Army Tenpin Bowling Championship at Bielefeld. It was Lok's swansong as he has now left the Army.

to be the route, demoralised many teams even before they had to cope with repeated vehicle trouble and the gusting squalls of icy rain.

Disorientation afflicted many crews, affecting the number of qualified finishers but the individual winners were another Rhine Army team — Staff-sergeants A Hopkinson and M East. First overall team and first UK team was Captain P Douglas, RCT and Major P Waterman, REME.



# ARMY MARKSMEN GO DOWN UNDER

Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. (Larry) Orpen-Smellie, Parachute Regiment, generally recognised as the Army's most experienced all-round marksman, is the captain of the 22-strong Great Britain Rifle Team, which left on New Year's Day for a seven week tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Colonel Orpen-Smellie, at present serving on the staff of the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, was captain of the Army VIII for 14 years, last year captained the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces team which won the Methuen Challenge Cup, and is equally skilled with both service rifle and target rifle.

It is in the target rifle discipline that he has made a name internationally, with two previous tours of Australasia and five Great Britain "caps" for Canadian tours, as well as shooting in teams in Africa, Channel Islands and more than a score of home internationals.

His team for Australasia contains a strong Army element, including the Army's youngest 'star', 2nd Lieutenant Nick Crawshaw, 20, who is on his second major international trip this year after winning two Bisley championships and the Canadian overall championship in Ottawa.

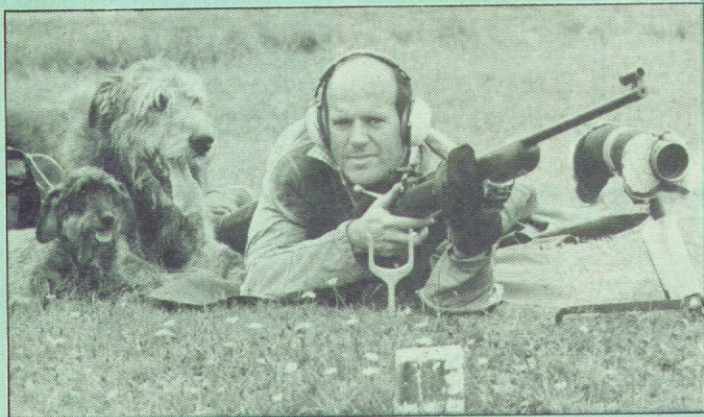
Crawshaw, who obtained a short service limited commission with the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment before going to Essex University to read economics, was a schoolboy international while shooting captain at Uppingham School. Since joining the Army he has won the

shire, England and Great Britain, started smallbore shooting when he was a vicar in Yorkshire, and graduated to fullbore target rifle events with the Army Target Rifle Club. He is often described in the shooting world as a member of the "Great Britain team to the Falklands Islands 1982," a tour during which he was probably the best shot on either side but unable to take his rifle with him. He had only been back from the Falklands operation for two days when he and NCOs of 2 Para won the target rifle team cup at that year's Combined Services Rifle Meeting, and Major Cooper tied for first place in the individual target rifle event.

The fourth member of the Army Target Rifle Club in the team is Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Cheshire, formerly of the Royal Tank Regiment, now sales manager, Army Systems, in Ferranti Computer Systems Ltd.

Colonel Cheshire, while serving, shot in several Great Britain teams, including four Canadian tours, two of which also included the prestigious Palma Match in the United States. He won the Bisley Cup the army target rifle championship in 1978 and the Bisley All Comers Aggregate in 1981.

The team arrived in Auckland,



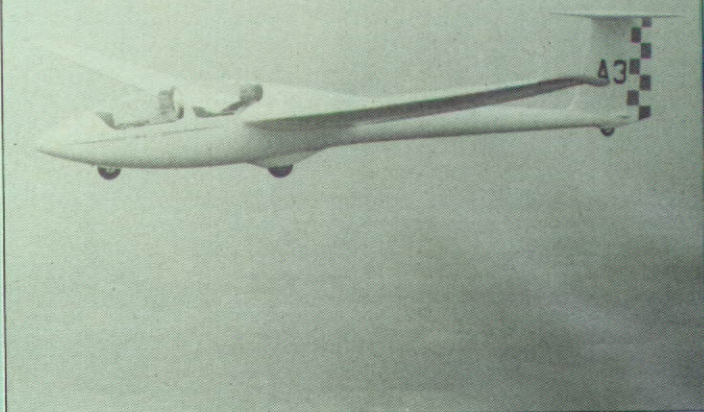
Grand Aggregate of the Combined Bisley Clubs Easter Meeting, and the 1983 Army Target Rifle Club Open Championship, took third in the English XX Club open and capped the summer season by winning the overall championship of the Canadian national meeting as well as many individual event medals.

Another member of the GB team who is making his second international tour this year is Major David Cooper (above), the chaplain of 2 Para, who was also among the individual winners on the Canadian tour in July. Major Cooper, who has shot for Hamp-

New Zealand on January 3rd and the first international test, after local matches and the New Zealand national championships, were due against New Zealand, Australia and Canada on January 15th, the same day as the New Zealand Queens Prize for which all the British competitors were entered.

Later events in the tour include the Empire Trophy match against Australia, New Zealand and Canada at Brisbane on February 6, after which the team splits into two sections to tour the Australian states before returning to London.

## KESTRELS FLY HIGH



The first of the Army Gliding Association's new glass reinforced plastic aircraft takes to the air over the Hampshire countryside. Piloting it, from the rear seat is Flight Lieutenant Bob Bickers while the passenger having his first flight in a glider is Corporal Chris Bridgeland of 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, Aldershot.

The glider, made in West Germany, was recently acquired by the Kestrel Gliding Club based at RAF Odiham. The AGA, which owns all of the aircraft used by the Kestrel and its sister club, the Wyvern, based at RAF Upavon, is running a five year replacement programme to convert them from the traditional wood/fabric/steel tubular framed gliders to the new high performance models.

The new ASK 21 will be used by the club to train qualified pilots to gain confidence and skill in crosscountry flights. Despite being an advanced high performance glider it is easy to fly and suitable for training to solo standard.

The Kestrel has 154 members and is open to servicemen and women, their dependants and a limited number of civilians. Day membership is available and charges to Servicemen are very cheap compared with civilian clubs. Picture by club secretary, Peter Andrews.

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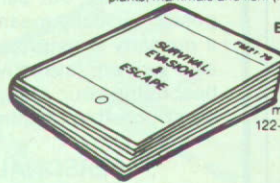
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DISCOUNT overseas orders 13%

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Westborough, Newark, Notts, NG23 5HJ.  
Telephone: 0400 81492.





# SCHOOL POOL



## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARDING EDUCATION

North Yorkshire Local Education Authority maintains four secondary schools with boarding provision. Places are available for boys and girls for September 1983. Further particulars of the schools and application procedures may be obtained either by writing to the Head of the school or direct to the County Education Officer, County Hall, Room 143(SB) Northallerton DL7 8AE.

Admission to the three grammar schools is subject to the pupil's suitability for grammar school education. No charge is made to parents in respect of tuition.

### ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Grammar School for some 575 boys situated on the eastern outskirts of the City of York having accommodation for about 45 boarders in a modern, purpose-built Boarding House on an attractive site within easy reach of the City. The School, founded in 1546, is now accommodated in modern premises (built between 1963 and 1974) and provides a wide range of GCE 'O' and GCE 'A' level courses. Each year 60 boys proceed to full-time courses of higher and further education. The Education Committee have published proposals for the reorganisation of secondary education on comprehensive lines in the City of York in 1985. Boarding facilities will continue for boys aged 11-18 thus including some boarding provision for pupils attending the proposed York Sixth Form College.

*Head Teacher:* Dr J M Frost BA., Hull Road, York YO1 5HA.

### ERMYSTED'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Voluntary Aided Grammar School for some 500 boys situated in the market town of Skipton on the edge of the Dales National Park, having accommodation for about 50 boarders. The school is of ancient foundation and the Boarding House is integral to the school's historic premises. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils proceed to courses of higher and further education.

*Head Teacher:* Mr D M Buckroyd, M.A., Gargrave Road, Skipton BD23 1PL.

### RICHMOND SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Comprehensive School for some 1,500 pupils (with a sixth form of about 230 pupils) having two well appointed Boarding Houses set in their own attractive grounds, with accommodation for about 35 boys and 12 girls. There is a wide range of courses based on strong academic traditions, for pupils of all abilities leading to CSE, CEE, GCE 'O' and 'A' level examinations.

*Head Teacher:* Mr J D Dutton, M.A., J. P. Darlington Road, Richmond DL10 7BQ.

### RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A County Co-educational Grammar School for some 660 pupils having two attractive boarding Houses with accommodation for about 55 boys and 45 girls. A wide range of GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses is provided and a high proportion of pupils go on to courses of higher and further education.

*Head Teacher:* Mr D B Stanley, B.Sc., Clothierholme Road, Ripon HG4 2DG.



## ARNOLD LODGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

(Founded 1864)

Boarding and day school for boys and girls up to the age of 13. Weekly and termly boarders accepted from the age of 7.

Pupils prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarships to all the Public Schools.

Prospectus available from:

**Headmaster's Secretary, Arnold Lodge School, Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Telephone: 0926 24737.**

## MOFFATS SCHOOL

BEWDLEY WORCESTERSHIRE

An ISIS/IAPS preparatory school for boys and girls 7 to 13+

Moffats is a family school with close ties with HM Forces

- small classes give individual care
- a settled, secure life, no matter how often parents move
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All games and riding on 200-acre Home Farm

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A private College of Further Education with excellent accommodation and leisure facilities, offering residential courses in the following areas.

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*CATERING STUDIES*  
*HOME ECONOMICS*

Annual or termly enrolments: **Cherwood College, Buckingham Road, Bicester, Oxon. Tel. (08692) 45005**

## For Your Daughter's Education THE ROYAL SOLDIERS' DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL

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*An uninterrupted education for girls between the ages of 8 and 18 to 'A' level standard at Inner London Education Authority day schools*



Photo by courtesy The Soldier

High staff to pupil ratio \* Ideally situated close to main air, rail and coach termini to and from which younger girls are escorted \* Open to daughters of serving and ex-service soldiers and airmen \* Excellent facilities \* 95% of Fees covered by Boarding School Allowance \* Bursaries available in cases of need.

For Prospectus & full details write or telephone NOW  
**The Secretary, The Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School**  
**65 Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, LONDON NW3 5UD**  
**Telephone: 01-794 7707**



# SCHOOL POOL

## THE Blue Coat School

HARBORNE  
BIRMINGHAM

**A Boarding and Day  
Preparatory School for  
boys and girls from 7 to  
14 years**

Excellent location and facilities

Preparation for Grammar and Public Schools

Escorts arranged to meet children travelling by rail and air

Reduced fees for Forces' families

For details of entry tests and prospectus please telephone: 021-454 1425

or write to:

The Admissions Secretary,  
The Blue Coat School,  
Harborne,  
Birmingham B17 0HR.



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## A SECURE AND HAPPY EDUCATION FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

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Edinburgh EH10 5BJ  
Telephone 031-229 1500

**BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR  
GIRLS**  
Aged 9 to 18 years

We offer a sound education in a caring atmosphere. Preparation for Scottish Examinations. Ordinary and Higher Grade and G.C.E. A-level. Small classes permit individual attention. Full range of sports and extra-curricular activities.

Termly fee  
Board and Tuition £935-£1045  
Tuition only £400-£510

10% reduction for children of serving members of  
H.M. Forces

All inquiries welcome

Send for Prospectus to the Headmistress and come and visit the school when on leave

## MOYLES COURT SCHOOL

Ringwood, Hampshire

An independent boarding and day preparatory school for boys and girls aged 3-12 years.

Traditional academic education in small classes with individual tuition. Homely atmosphere in beautiful 17th century house set in 14 acres of grounds on the edge of the New Forest.

Tuition bursaries available.

Applications to the Headmistress: Telephone Ringwood 2856 or 3197.

## TAVERHAM HALL

near Norwich, Norfolk (Norwich 868206)

I.A.P.S. boarding preparatory school for boys and girls  
7-13

- Set in beautiful parkland.
- Excellent facilities for a wide range of activities.
- 115 children, nine small classes.
- Fine academic and musical tradition.
- Music Scholarship.
- 12% reduction in boarding fees for children of H.M. Forces.

Contact the Headmaster, R. S. G. Barton, M.A., for prospectus or visit.

## CHILTON CANTELO SCHOOL, YEOVIL, SOMERSET.

(0935-850555)

Co-ed. (Age Range 10-18) 100+ Pupils. Established nearly 25 years.

**GIVE YOUR CHILDREN ALL THE BENEFITS OF A  
BOARDING SCHOOL**

Our fees are within the budget of nearly all Service families. Continuity in schooling. Happy "family" atmosphere in beautiful country. Keep brothers and sisters together. Highly qualified staff. Small classes and up-to-date labs. Self discipline, good manners and self confidence. 20 acres grounds and playing fields. Highly regarded Sea Cadet Unit. Sailing and many activities. We have even made provision for you to pay by Barclaycard.

Phone or write for free illustrated Prospectus. A few vacancies for January.

## OUR FEE IS YOUR GRANT

Holmwood is a Preparatory School which provides a sound academic grounding for children aged from 5 - 14 years in a happy, family atmosphere where courtesy and self-discipline play an important part in the development of each child. It caters for boarders from the age of 7 as well as day pupils.

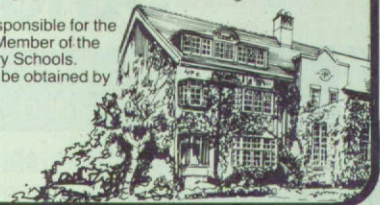
The school fees amount to exactly the same as the Service Education Grant you can obtain for your child.

The fully qualified staff with a teacher:pupil ratio of 1:9 is able to provide caring individual attention as well as a wide range of cultural activities resulting in a most impressive examination success rate.

The Headmaster's wife is directly responsible for the welfare of each child. The School is a Member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools.

A Prospectus, giving full details may be obtained by writing to:

**The Headmaster:**  
Johnston O. Cassidy Esq., M.A.,  
**HOLMWOOD SCHOOL,**  
Barkfield Lane, Formby. L37 3JR.



## MOORLAND SCHOOL, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE

Co-educational Day and Boarding School of 250 with Kindergarten, Junior and Senior Departments. Boarders accepted from the age of seven. The school preserves traditional standards and offers a sound education to 'O' level. Curriculum includes 3 Sciences, Computer Studies, Domestic Science and Woodwork. A member of The Independent Schools Association.

Full details from the Principal,  
Telephone Clitheroe (0200) 23833

Parents are advised that schools advertising in Service newspapers and associated publications do not necessarily have the support or the approval of the Ministry of Defence. It is therefore essential that parents ensure that a particular school has the facilities and accommodation suitable for their child by visiting the school. Parents are reminded that help and expert advice on boarding education can always be obtained from the Schools Advisory Section of SCEA at the Directorate of Army Education, Court Road, ELTHAM SE9. (Tel: 01-859 2112. Ext 244 or Eltham Military 244).



# SCHOOL POOL

## WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

HMC GBA IAPS  
Co-Educational Boarding and Day

Age 5-18

Entrance Tests and Scholarship Examinations for entry to Senior and Junior Schools in September 1984 will be held on 11 February 1984.

Academic Scholarships and Exhibitions will be offered on the basis of Entrance Test/Scholarship Examination results. Senior School candidates must be over 10½ and under 14 on 1 September 1984. A limited number of Senior School places may qualify for help towards tuition fees under the Department of Education and Science's Assisted Places Scheme.

Two boarding Bursaries are available in the Junior School. The school is designated one of four Specialist Music Schools in England and Wales for up to 50 boys and girls of outstanding musical ability in National terms. Auditions for Specialist places will be held at the same time as Entrance Tests. Up to 8 places each year on this scheme will be eligible for financial aid from the Department of Education and Science for children aged between 8 and 16 years.

Boys accepted as Cathedral Choristers qualify for Choristerships of 35% of fees. A Choral trial will be held on 4 February 1984 for boys aged between 8 and 10 years.

Sons and daughters of Clergy are granted Bursaries irrespective of other awards.

There is a reduction of fees for younger brothers or sisters at the School. Junior School pupils are guaranteed entry into the Senior School at 11+.

For further particulars apply to:

**(Senior School)**

The Head Master (SN)  
(A. K. Quilter, MA)

**(Junior School)**

Master of the  
Junior School (SN)  
(P. M. Peabody, B.Sc.)

Wells Cathedral School, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2SZ.

## Bentham Grammar School

Independent, boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 8-18

A number of scholarships are available for children of Service personnel which could amount to free education for these pupils.

For further details and prospectus, please contact:

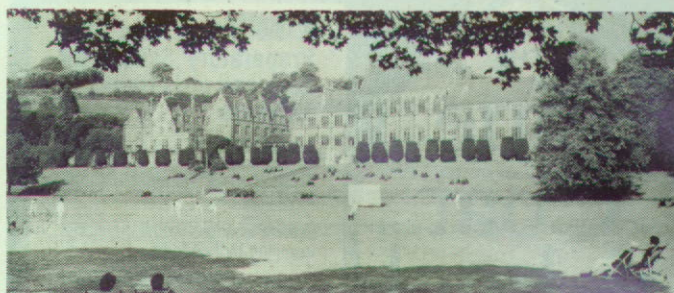
**The Headmaster,  
Bentham Grammar School,  
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7DB or  
Telephone Bentham (0468) 61275**



Bentham,  
Lancaster,  
LA2 7DB.

Telephone: BENTHAM  
61275

## KELLY COLLEGE Tavistock, Devon



HMC Public School (boarding) for 260 boys 11-18 and 65 sixth form girls. Scholarships and Service Bursaries of up to £2,500 pa.

Leaving Exhibitions to Oxford and Cambridge. Excellent academic results, strong games, CCF, sailing, canoeing etc.

Telephone 0822-3005 or write to Headmaster for Prospectus.

## LIVERPOOL COLLEGE

Founded 1840

HEADMASTER

R. V. HAYGARTH, M.A. (OXON)

**An Independent H.M.C. Boarding and Day School**

700 boys aged 6-18. Girls are admitted into the Sixth Form.

Full curriculum leading to 'O' and 'A' Level and university entrance.

Particular attention is paid to career advice and to individual counselling both to the majority who go on to degree courses and those going directly into employment.

Wide range of games and extra curricular activities.

Bursaries available for sons and daughters of Clergy and members of H.M. Forces.

Assisted places for those leaving primary school and for direct entry to the Sixth Form are available under the Government Assisted Places Scheme.

The school is situated ten minutes drive from Liverpool airport and close to the M62.

Entrance examination. For admission in September 1984 entrance examinations will be held in March 1984.

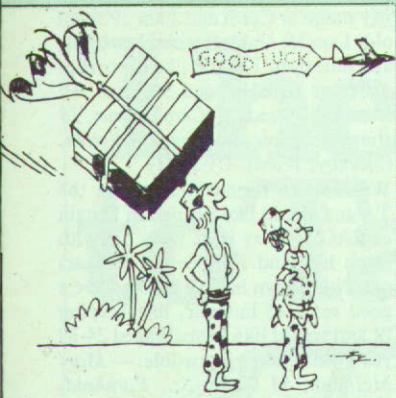
For free prospectus or any further details write to The Headmaster's Secretary, Liverpool College, North Mossley Hill Road, Liverpool L18 8BE, or telephone 051-724 2359.

## ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

TENBURY WELLS, WORCS, WR15 8PH

A Preparatory School with a Choir of National Repute. Both Musical and Non-Musical Boys and Girls are educated in a homely atmosphere. For under 75p per day Service Children can receive a full boarding education. Write for details or telephone (0584) 810282.





# MAIL DROP

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

## SOWERS REAP?

From what I have seen on a few visits to the National Army Museum, I am inclined to agree with its Director when he commented (31 October) on the disappointing attendance and apparent lack of interest displayed by Servicemen in the museum and its work.

Could I suggest, however, that some blame may rest with the museum itself. Unless arrangements have improved over the past two years, I found it intensely annoying and frustrating, after making a journey of many miles solely to visit the museum, to find some of the galleries closed. Not once was I able to view all the exhibits and displays.

On one occasion I asked to refer to a book in the museum's library but not kept on its general shelves. The arrangements necessary for me to do so were, to my mind, extraordinarily cumbersome and time-consuming. I was also made to feel less than welcome. My enthusiasm for visiting the museum was considerably blunted. Perhaps things have now improved, but Mr Reid will not need me to remind him that we generally reap where we sow. — **M J Bush, 'Hillbrook', Common Lane, Bromeswell, Norfolk.**

*Reply from Mr William Reid, Director National Army Museum:*

Everyone who works in the National Army Museum would sympathise with Captain Bush's frustration at finding galleries closed. Civil Service cuts and recruitment freezes have led to the museum's staff being more than 10% below its necessary complement for the past three years. This has inevitably meant closed galleries; something that we dislike intensely, perhaps as much as our visitors do. If anyone wishes to see some particular part of the museum it is best to telephone in advance to ensure that it will be open.

Captain Bush's complaint about the Reading Room service is a different matter. For security reasons tickets are issued to accredited students who, in theory, are the only people who may use the library facilities. We do our best to help others who do not know the rules, or who may, on the spur of the moment, wish to consult a book and we almost always succeed.

We may have failed to satisfy Cap-

tain Bush, but most **SOLDIER** readers will appreciate the paramount need to ensure the safety of valuable books. To the best of my knowledge none of our 3250 ticket-holders has complained about our arrangements. Far from being "extraordinarily cumbersome and time-consuming" they are perhaps as informal as any in London and are operated by a dedicated and knowledgeable team whose prime duty is to help every reader from the young modeller to the distinguished historian.

## GRAVE PIX

On a recent visit to Israel I made a point of visiting the war cemetery at Ramla, formerly known by the British Army as Sarrafand.

Having served in Palestine, as it then was in 1947, with the 9th QR Lancers, I took photographs of the graves of the following members of the regiment who are buried there: Tpr V Ward (20 4 47), Tpr D J Banbury (6 4 47) and Lt K C Okell. Later in 1947 I transferred to 1st King's Dragoon Guards and so I also photographed the graves of the following of that regiment: Sgt T W Smith; LCpl C J Franklin (23 1 47).

I will gladly forward these photos to any relative, regimental friend, etc.

I would add that although difficult to find, the cemetery is very well kept and the Arab gardeners were most helpful. — **G A Smith, 2 Mansion Drive, Tring, Herts, HP23 5BD.**

## FINE TRADITIONS

I read with great interest your review of 'The Uniforms of the British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914 No 5: 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)' (14 November).

It may be of interest to your reviewer to know that the fine traditions of the KCLY (Sharpshooters) is also carried on by 265 (Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V). The Squadron forms part of 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (V) which is a home defence signals regiment consisting of entirely Yeomanry Squadrons. The other squadrons are 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry), 70 (Essex Yeomanry) and 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry).

Each squadron continues to maintain the fine traditions and style of their Yeomanry predecessors. — **Maj P W Acda, 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V), TA Centre, Watling St, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7DP.**

## JUSTLY PROUD

It was kind of you to publish the article (14 November) on the King's Own Royal Border Regiment's service in South Georgia, which was much appreciated by our officers and men who served in that far-off island.

However, I feel I must point out that our soldiers below Lance Corporal are NOT known as 'Kingsmen' but are proud to bear the title of 'Private' an abbreviation of 'Private Man'. I mention this as the soldiers of the King's Regiment carry the title of 'Kingsman', of which they are

justly proud.

— **Lt Col J Petty MBE MC (Retd), The Castle, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8UR.**

*Point taken, thank you — we'll try to do better next time! — Ed.*

## D-DAY VISIT

We have arranged a 40th Anniversary visit to the 'D' Day Beaches on 6 June 1984.

We have had great support from old KOSB but we would be delighted if any 'D' Veterans of 9 Brigade 3 Division would like to join us. We are looking for ex-members of 2nd Ulster Rifles, 2nd Lincolns, 33 Field Regiment RA, 253 Field Company and anyone who served in the Brigade from other Arms. Passports will be required. — **Lt Col D C R Ward, RHQ KOSB, The Barracks, Berwick upon Tweed.**

## SOLDIERPROOF

Mr P T Stevenson's letter (28 November) calls for a reply. First, although the IW80 may look like the 7mm rifle he refers to, it is, in fact, very different inside. After all, the decision to abandon that project was caused by politics, not by lack of strength or mechanical failure on the part of the weapon.

Secondly, I think that the SLR and ArmaLite have been developed as far as they can be, so that it is time to try something new. As I understand it, the new weapons are accurate, effective, easily handled, easily maintained, easily taught and easily produced. Above all, I think it looks right. (The RAF has a saying: if it looks all right, it will fly all right. I think this also applies to small arms.)

Finally, it really is not on to keep stocks of obsolete weapons for ceremonial purposes. Mr Stevenson appears to have forgotten that in these days, unfortunately, troops on Ceremonial duties may find themselves engaged with terrorists, consequently they must be armed with familiar and effective weapons. I realise that the drill will need to be changed but so be it — it really does not matter what the drill is.

I doubt if IW80 is as fragile as it appears: Enfield Lock has over a century's experience in making weapons 'soldierproof'. — **L S King, 70 West Hill Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, E Sussex, TN38 0NE.**

## Collectors' Corner

R Jardine, 66 Hayhurst Street, Clitheroe Lancs BB7 1ND. Offers WW II books from 1944 also books on N Ireland; George crown cap, collar, cloth badges. Ditto Victorian crown. Seeks RM, Para or SAS rucksack, SAS windproof smock/jacket size 42-44" chest; also the books 'Survival against the Elements' published by HMSO.

## Competition

In our Competition 329, 'A Factual Cryptogram' we asked you to work out a statement from the list of 38 clues. The statement was: *The Battle of Waterloo was fought on the 18th of*

## Can You Help?

I am trying to obtain or borrow a copy of a record made in 1978 by the Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC, Bovington called 'Leaders on Parade'. — **B W Fuller, Manorside, High St, Grendon Underwood, Bucks, HP18 0SU.**

Have you served with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment? Would you be interested in joining an RBMR Association in UK? If so, please contact: **Maj P Laverack, Army School of Transport, Leconfield, N Humberston, HU17 7LX.**

Can anyone help me find 24562507 Cpl Robert Clewley last heard of in the Falklands, now believed to be stationed in BAOR? Would he please get in contact. — **Miss D Embleton, 6 Whitecliffe Terrace, Reeth Road, Richmond, North Yorks, DL10 4HB.**

I am attempting the difficult task of contacting all persons who served on Christmas Island in the late 1950s. I decided to form the Grapple Club last January and sent out circulars to all local radios and newspapers, but the response has been very poor.

The whole object of the Club is to put Christmas Island veterans in touch with each other again after 25 years and to have a national reunion, if we can get sufficient people interested, plus a Grapple Tie (similar to 1950s design) is planned. Our Club has nothing to do with the Christmas Island Veterans Association, which it appears, is taking a somewhat different approach. Please would anyone who was on the Island during this time please get in touch. — **K M Cox, Secretary, Grapple Club, 10 St Mary's Hill, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2DP.**

*June 1815 — Wellington was aided by the Prussians — Here at Waterloo Napoleon was finally defeated and from this fact it became common to refer to a final defeat as meeting one's Waterloo. Prizewinners were: 1st Dr J A L Derlien, 10 Churchfields, Dowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. 2nd Maj D K M Innes-Wilson, 1 KOSB, BFPO 36. 3rd W H Moulder, Gypsy Hill, Tanners Way, New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall. 4th M Chappel, 77 The Grove, Hipperholme, Halifax. 5th M S Wilmot, Foxlair, Fifehead St Quintin, Sturminster Newton, Dorset.*

There was an error printed in the answers to Competition 327 (28 November). It should have read: 1-18 as printed, 19 Venus, Hesperus, Lucifer (all names associated with the planet Venus). 20 Visor, Beaver, Greave (all pieces of a suit of armour from the Middle Ages).

## How Observant Are You?

1 Size of sausage above small wheel; 2 Number of sliced rolls on right of truck; 3 Dog's right hind paw; 4 Offside hub of small wheel; 5 Soldier's right cuff; 6 Snowflake between large wheels; 7 Position of dog's tooth; 8 Length of vendor's scarf; 9 soldier's right heel; 10 Size of soldier's left elbow patch.





Readers seeking pen pals are asked to note that in future their requests will only be accepted by the Editor if they have completed the printed form below.

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

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

## PEN PALS WANTED

**My name is Karen** I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include music and writing. Photos appreciated. — *Karen Wright, 19 Headington Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, Hants.*

**My name is Treena** and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are music, driving and writing. — *Treena Norris, 6 Birch Road, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6LW.*

**My name is Marie** and I am 16 years old. I am a nursing cadet and I like reading, writing, sport and acting. I am 5ft 8 ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. — *Marie Hunter, 50 Colville Road, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2ET.*

**My name is Sandra** and I am 33 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with blue eyes. I enjoy music, and the countryside. I would like to write to a soldier who is lonely. — *Sandra Kennell, 28 Bulleid Place, Newtown, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0PW.*

**My name is Susan** and I am 16 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes and my hobbies are music, reading and writing letters. I would like a penpal aged 17-19 years old. Photos if possible. All letters answered. — *Susan Waterston, 42 4th Avenue, Stobhill, Morpeth, Northumberland.*

**My name is Penny** and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 6 ins tall with blonde hair and brown eyes. I like dancing, swimming and music. — *Penny Dunn, c/o 8 Wessex Close, Worksop, Notts, S81 0SD.*

**My name is Jackie** and I am 21 years old. I would appreciate photos with replies. — *Jackie, Ramblers Rest, 6 Hope Terrace, Upper Green Road, St. Helen's, Ryde, IOW.*

**My name is Sue** and I am 25 years old. I enjoy dancing, travelling and swimming. — *Sue Blackmore, 2 The Poplars, Rowde, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2PQ.*

We are three lonely ladies with a good sense of humour. We would like penpals aged 26-36 years with a sense of humour. — *Glenys Burton, 25 The Chase, Sinfen, Derby, DE2 9PD; Maureen and Lynn Nicholls, 43 Shakespeare St, Sinfen, Derby, DE2 9HE.*

**My name is Lorraine** and I am 25 years old. I would like a penpal aged 25-30 years old who is stationed in the Falklands. — *Lorraine Lancaster, 6 Burnsall Close, Burnley, Lancs, BB10 2EL.*

We are two student nurses in our early twenties who would like penpals. — *Wendy Davis, Room 31 Nurses Home, Jersey General Hospital, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands; Maria Kirk, Room 30 Nurses Home, Jersey General Hospital.*

**My name is Soderia** and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 2 ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies are sports, keep fit, music and theatre. I would like to write to soldiers aged 24-28 years. — *Soderia Tryphonas, 22 Auckland Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3ES.*

**My name is Simone** and I am 19 years old. I have dark hair and blue eyes. My interests are music, walking and writing. — *Simone Vernalis, 45 Elm Crescent, Mosborough, Sheffield, S19 5AS.*

If you are tall, handsome (I love moustaches), with a good sense of humour, I would love to write to you. — *Karen Turner, 67 Osborne Road, Litherland, Liverpool 21.*

**My name is Brenda** and I am a 45-year-old divorcee. I am 5ft 6ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes, and I would like penpals of the same age group (single/widowed/divorced). — *Mrs B Weaver, 1 Clive Avenue, Prestatyn, Clwyd, N. Wales.*

**My name is Karen** and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies are reading, swimming and discos. All letters answered. — *Karen Purchase, 37 St Michael's Road, Yeovil, Somerset.*

**My name is Lorraine** and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with long brown hair and green eyes. I like reading, writing and country and western music. Would any sincere lonely soldiers like to write to me for friendship and marriage? — *Lorraine Tompson, 64 Chaucer Road, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 4HA.*

**My name is Carol** and I am 29 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I would like to write to males or females aged 30 plus. All letters answered. — *Carol Davies, 18 Binswood Close, Woodend, Bellgreen, Coventry, Warks, CV2 1HJ.*

We are two friends who are in the TA and would like penpals in Britain or BAOR. Mary is 22 years old with black hair and Kathleen is 29 years old with brown hair. We both have a good sense of humour, like keeping fit and would like penpals aged 24-29 years old. Photos if possible. — *Mary McIntosh, 54 Gales St., Parkhead, Glasgow, Scotland; Kathleen O'Donnell, 142/3 Calvary Road, Barlanark, Glasgow, Scotland, G33 4RE.*

**My name is Julie** and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 2in tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. My hobbies are reading, skiing and cooking. I would like a penpal aged 16-18 years old. — *Julie Sutton, 95 Raphael Drive, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9UP.*

**My name is Sara** and I am 20 years old with red hair and green eyes. My hobbies are walking, wildlife and writing. — *Mrs Sara Lyford-Smith, 33 College Glen, Maidenhead, Berks.*

**I am 21 years old** and would like a soldier penpal around the same age. — *Miss D A Jeeves, 61 Chubworthy St, New Cross, London, SE14 6JD.*

**My name is Denise** and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall and my hobbies are reading, discos and swimming. Photos if possible. — *Denise Chesterman, 25 Beech Grove, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 5BD.*

**My name is Suzanne** and I am 20 years old. I have brown hair and eyes and I like swimming, reading and jazz funk. — *Suzanne Coles, 11 Highfield Lane, Oving, Chichester, W Sussex, PO20 6DL.*

We are two friends who would like penpals. Kim is 23 and Tracy is 18. We both enjoy writing and travelling. We would like to write to anyone aged between 19-26 years old. — *K Weldon, 32 Earl St, London EC2.*

**My name is Teresa** and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall and I like darts and all sorts of music. — *Teresa, 21 Elbury Drive, Custom House, London E16.*

## REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN-PALS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

(not for publication)

\*OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAME OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE/OTHER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\*SUBJECTS/EXAMINATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*complete as appropriate

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: \_\_\_\_\_

AMBITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT SORT OF PEN-PAL DO YOU SEEK? (ie, age, sex, status, interests, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

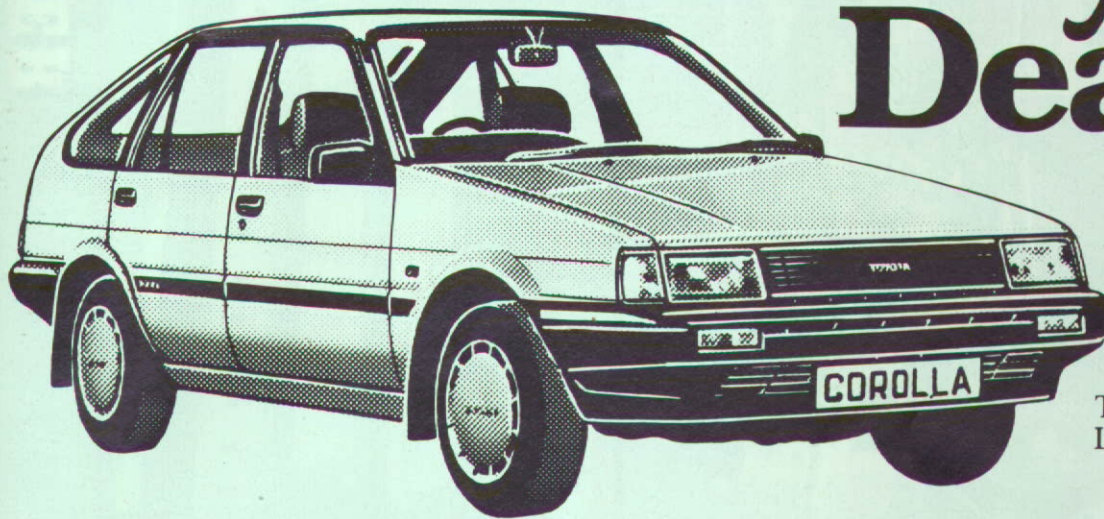
DO YOU HAVE ANY PREFERENCE FOR WHERE YOUR PEN-PAL IS SERVING? \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO REQUIRED/NOT REQUIRED (delete as appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



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