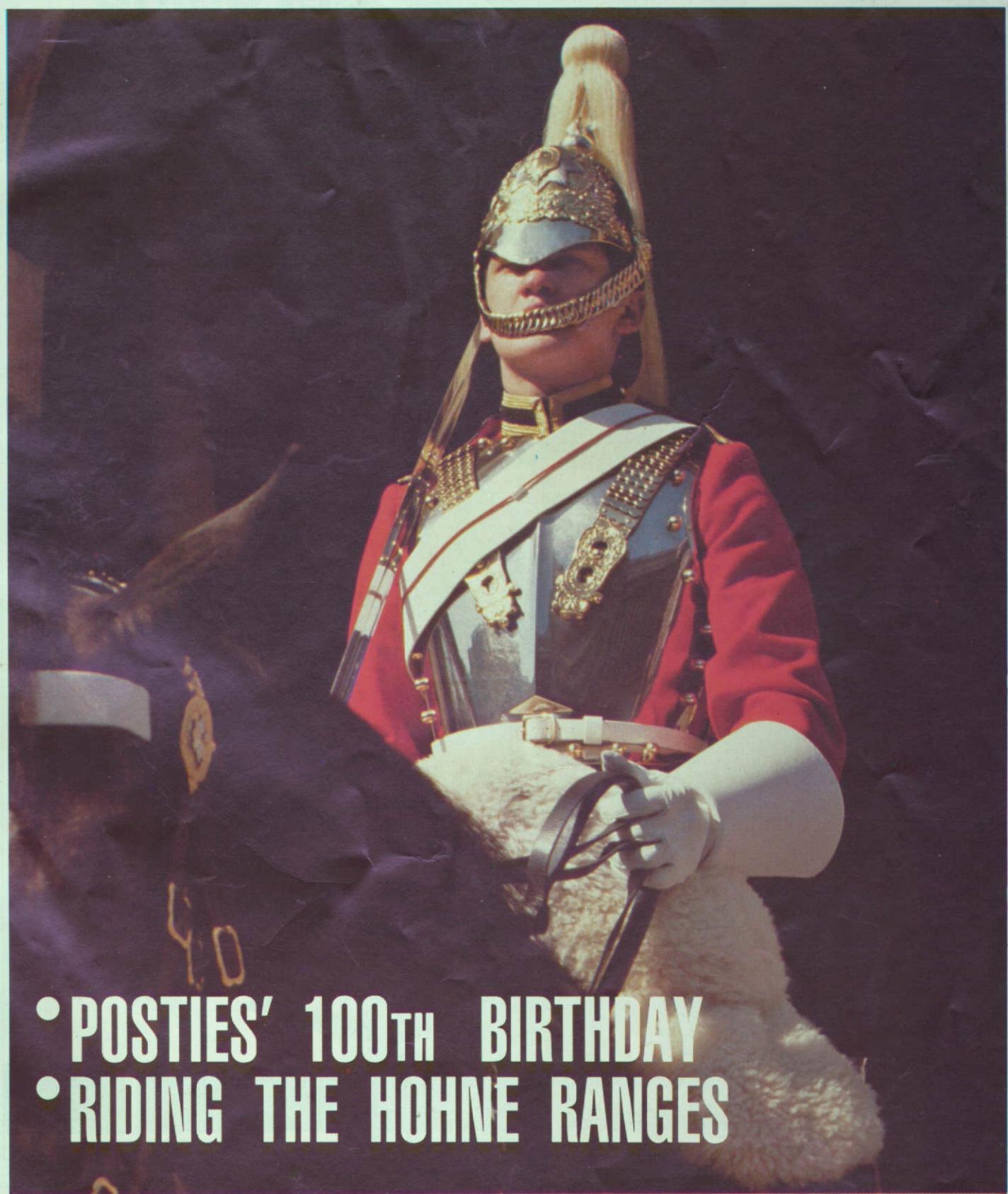


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 9-22 AUGUST 1982

SOLDIER



- POSTIES' 100TH BIRTHDAY
- RIDING THE HOHNE RANGES

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FRONT COVER

This striking picture of a Life Guard on duty at Horse Guards captures all that is best in Army ceremonial and the proud traditions that command the nation's admiration and affection. For a few warped minds though the Army is an object of hatred, and the recent cowardly bomb attacks in London's parks brought a grim reminder that Britain's soldiers are never out of the terrorist firing line.

Picture by Andy Burridge

BACK COVER

Private Phyllis Hylton from D Coy WRAC, Bicester, shattered the women's long jump record by more than a foot in this year's Army Athletic Championships. A report on the championships appeared in our 25 June issue.

Picture by Andy Burridge

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Riding the Hohne Ranges — Western Europe's biggest training ground

— page 26

100 years of Forces' Postal Services: 5-page special report

— page 14

In the Falklands the big clearing up job goes on — page 10



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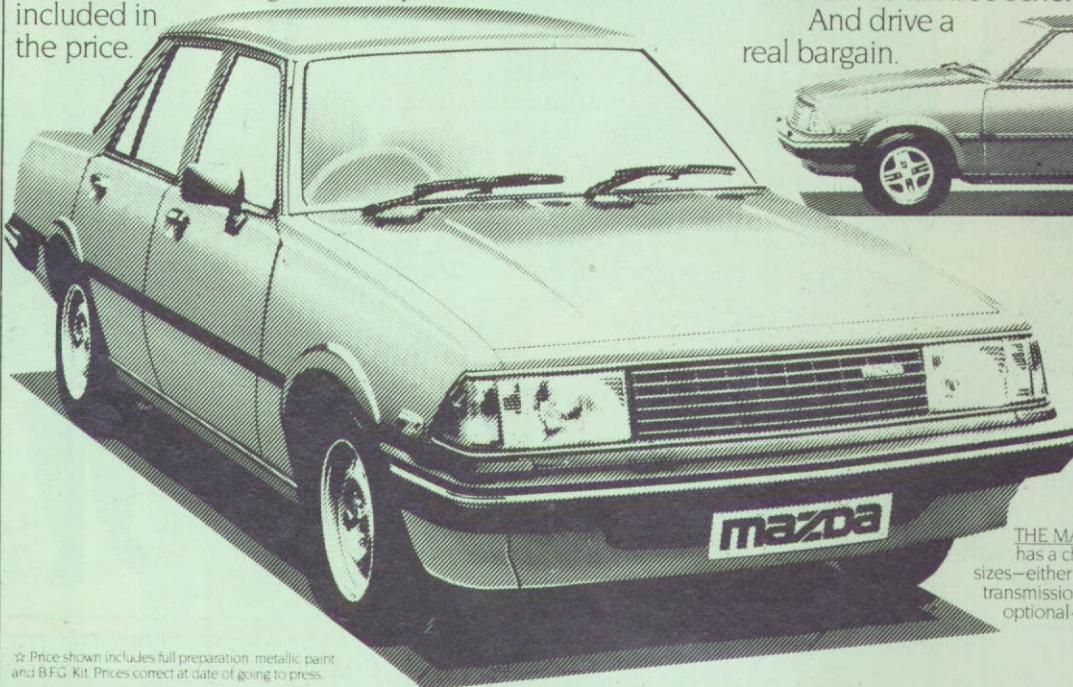
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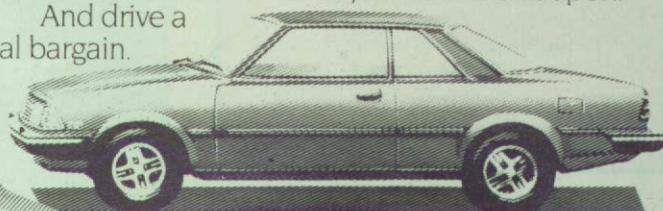
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THE MAZDA 626 COUPE
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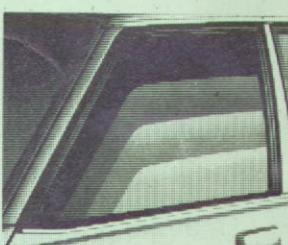
THE MAZDA 626 SALOON
has a choice of two engine sizes—either 1.6 or 2.0 litre. Automatic transmission is also available as an optional extra on the 2.0 SDX.



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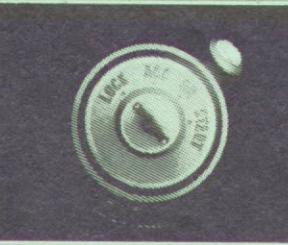
A 5-speed gearbox is fitted as standard on the 2.0 SDX Saloon and Coupe for greater economy and effortless high speed cruising.



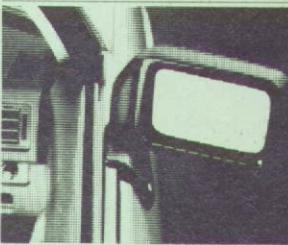
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SOLDIER to Soldier

HOSTILITIES in the South Atlantic are generally thought to be over but no one can be quite sure because of the odd little bit of sabre rattling from Buenos Aires.

So we have to keep a garrison there for the foreseeable future — temporarily, at least, in wretched conditions — while Argentina comes to terms with her defeat.

Perhaps injured pride should be swallowed and the blame laid squarely at the door of the now deposed adventurers who sought to divert attention from their own problems by despoiling the Falkland Islands, costing hundreds of children a parent and ruining the future for countless young brides.

After all it could be argued that if the Falklands belong to Argentina, then the Faroe Islands belong to Britain. They are about as far away as are the Falklands from Argentina and a damn sight closer to Britain than they are to Denmark.

But the people of the Faroes are Danish — by tradition, by language and by custom. Would Britain be likely to mount an expedition to take them over, just to divert attention from, say, the unemployment problem? Hardly.

But whatever the misguided actions of the latter-day Mussolinis in South America, they weigh comparatively light when set against the depravity of the handful of Irish terrorists who believe that the Irish people actually want the sort of Government their twisted minds would offer and that they can bring it about by blowing the men and horses of The Queen's Guard to bits, or a group of bandsmen serenading people enjoying an hour in the open air of a London Park.

Do they even realise that the war role of a bandsman is as a medic, trained to bring succour to the injured?

They neither know nor care. The cowardly pawns of the wider plot of international terrorism seek only to destroy. The softer, more vulnerable the target, the better — be it ceremonial soldier or innocent bystander.

They will go on killing and maiming until society at large rejects them totally — and utterly condemns, too, their 'patriotic' friends overseas who fuel their mindless bloodletting with money and munitions.



Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher chatting to RGJ Bandsman Ian Lynch during her visit to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington to see the injured from the bomb blasts. Looking on is clarinetist Paul Palmer.

BE ON GUARD WARNING

IN THE AFTERMATH of the latest terrorist outrages in London stern warnings have again gone out for every soldier to be on his guard.

"Report everything suspicious, no matter how trivial," is the advice.

The warning came as the death toll from the two blasts rose to eleven — four members of the Blues and Royals and seven Royal Green Jackets bandsmen.

Fifty others, including civilians, were injured.

The first blast came as the Blues and Royals detachment rode through Hyde Park on their way to Horse Guards for the Changing of the Guard ceremony. Four soldiers died as a result, including the detachment commander who had been married for only 27 days. Several soldiers were injured, as were a mounted policeman and a number of civilians. Seven horses either died in the blast or had to be destroyed.

Two hours later the second blast shattered the bandstand in Regents Park where the band of the Green Jackets was playing. This time it cost the lives of seven bandsmen and again civilians were among the injured. The men who died were:

Blues and Royals: Lieutenant Anthony Daly, 23; Trooper Simon Tipper, 19; Lance Corporal Jeffrey Young, 19; and the standard bearer, Corporal Major Roy Bright, 36.

Royal Green Jackets: Bandsman George James Mesure, 19; Bandsman Keith John Powell, 24; Warrant Officer 2 Graham Barker, 36; Corporal John Robert McKnight, 30; Bandsman Laurence Kevin Smith, 19; Bandsman John Heritage, 29; and Sergeant Robert Alexander Livingstone, 31.

Help for garrison

THE PRIME MINISTER has assured an MP that the Government is determined to do all it can to improve living conditions for servicemen in the "atrocious" conditions of the Falkland Islands.

Mrs Thatcher told Mr David Ennals that she had been "very disturbed" at his claims, based on a letter from a member of the garrison.

As well as 6000 extra sleeping bags which would mean that wet or damaged ones could be replaced, Mrs Thatcher said that 333 Portakabins had arrived at Port Stanley and would house some three thousand men. Portable lavatory units had also arrived and further canteen and other units were about to be shipped.

STOP PRESS

A GUARDSMAN who had been listed as missing since the battle of Tumbledown, one of the final actions of the Falklands conflict, has turned up alive. Seven weeks after the fighting, Guardsman P Williams of the 2nd Battalion, The Scots Guards, walked into a farmhouse at Bluff Cove a few miles away.

Guardsman Williams was uninjured but in a tired and emaciated state. He was taken to a field hospital in Port Stanley and was initially thought to be suffering from amnesia.



There was a trumpet fanfare for General Sir Edwin Bramall when he left the Ministry of Defence on his last day as Chief of the General Staff. And it was sounded by five junior buglers of the Royal Green Jackets, of which Sir Edwin is Representative Colonel Commandant.

Sir Edwin becomes Chief of the Defence Staff in the rank of Field Marshal in October.



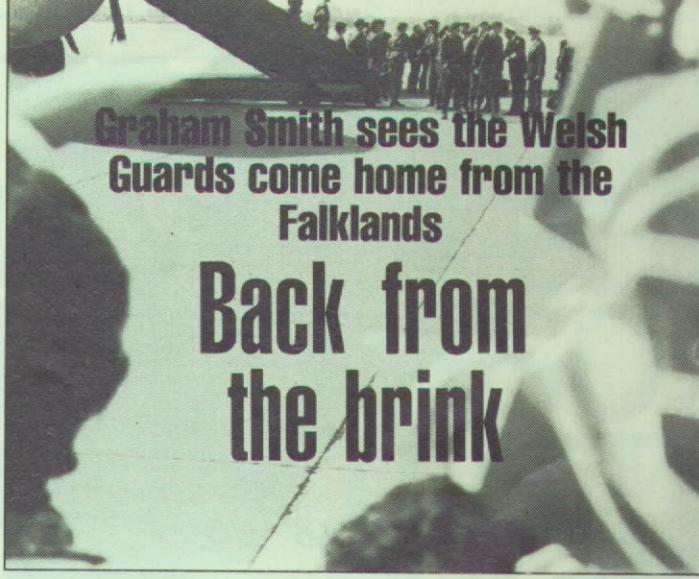
▲ Lt-Col Johnnie Rickett.



▲ Hello, Dad! ▼



Prince Charles meets the families. ▼



Graham Smith sees the Welsh Guards come home from the Falklands

Back from the brink



Brigadier Tony Wilson. ▲

THAT ETERNAL WELCOME usually kept in the hillsides and in the dales travelled 100 ebullient miles into rural Oxfordshire and RAF Brize Norton as another 450 heroes of the Falklands fighting — this time men from the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards returned home.

And there to meet them, on his first wedding anniversary, was their Regimental Colonel, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, who saluted and had a handshake for every man.

The officers and men from the Pirbright-based battalion landed in four VC 10s, one every fifteen minutes, after their night-long flight from Ascension Island and eight-day sea journey from Port Stanley.

Their welcome was no less ecstatic or emotional than previous homecomings at the Oxfordshire airfield. Yet the RAF was taking no chances. Mindful of the recent IRA bombings in London, bonnets and boots of all incoming coaches and cars were searched.

First off the aircraft was Lieutenant-Colonel Johnnie Rickett, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. He was greeted by the Prince of Wales, General Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the General Staff and Lt-Gen Sir Frank Kitson, C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces.

Welsh fervour erupted as the first file of serious-faced young soldiers left the aircraft, to be greeted by a forest of red dragon pennants, banners, and Union Jacks.

And there too, of course, was the Band of the Welsh Guards.

The Regiment's 1st Battalion had lost 39 men with another 90 wounded or hurt — the biggest loss by any Army regiment, according to Lt-Col Rickett, since the Glosers' action at the Imjin in Korea.

He was asked about his reaction to his battalion's experiences in the

Falklands and admitted: "It's hard to know where to begin. Every war is a bloody and nasty experience and, frankly, it had its ups and downs. There were good moments, bad moments."

Of the aerial bombing by Argentinian aircraft of the LSL *Sir Galahad* on June 8 at Bluff Cove, which cost so many lives, he said: "We all felt very sad about the *Sir Galahad*. Not bitter in any way. I don't hold anyone responsible in any way for what happened whatsoever. These things happen in wartime. We were determined after this tragic incident that we would pull ourselves together and look forward from that moment — which we did."

Recalling the moments leading up to the bombing, Lt-Col Rickett added, "I was actually on a motor-bicycle at the time going forward to a forward company with my sergeant major. Suddenly, some aircraft came in from the west and I turned to the sergeant major and said, 'What are they? I don't think I recognise those.' We confirmed they were Argentinian aircraft and, at the same time, a pall of smoke was seen over the LSL. We got off our motor bike and took cover. Our hearts sank at the thought that our ship had been sunk."

"Ten minutes later I was told there were Welsh Guard casualties and I got myself down to Fitzroy as soon as possible. I found the survivors all coming ashore. They were in extremely good heart and their morale was very high considering the circumstances. Their courage was

magnificent to behold."

Lt-Col Rickett said he wanted to pay particular tribute to the Army Air Corps helicopter pilots who were "absolutely marvellous searching all hours" for survivors of the attack. He also praised other helicopter pilots for the risks they had taken "flying amid the burning smoke to get my people out".

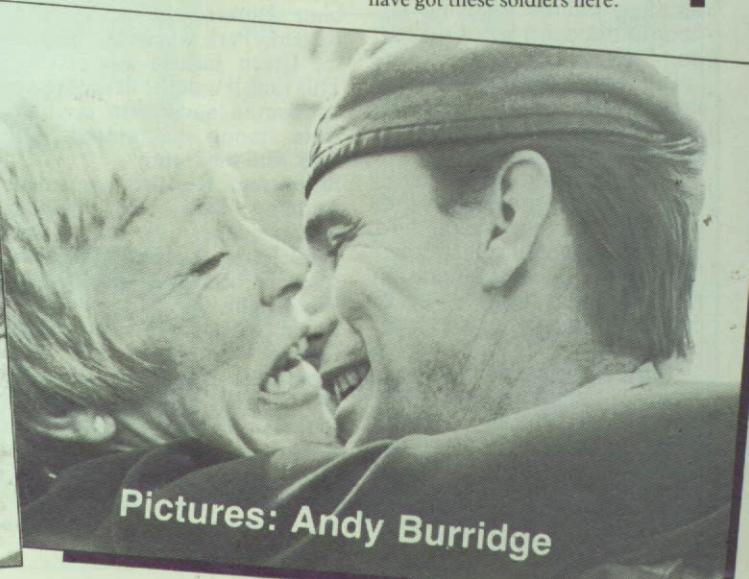
Pressed on his opinion of the Bluff Cove action, Lt-Col Rickett replied: "Bluff Cove was not a mistake. It was a very bold step. I'm sure resistance would have been very much longer. It was a justifiable risk."

He said that his men had "grown up from boys into men" and discounted press assessments that they seemed "subdued" on returning home.

"I think 'over-awed' is perhaps the right word. We are all jolly tired after our experiences in the Falklands, tossing and turning in our ship and coming back in an aircraft where you cannot sleep."

With the returning Welsh Guards was the only woman close to the fighting, artist Miss Linda Kitson — niece of Lt-General Kitson — appropriately fitted out in combat jacket and sitting alongside Lt-Col Rickett and Brigadier Tony Wilson, Commander, 5 Infantry Brigade, at the Brize Norton Press Conference.

"It was all very, very moving to see what men — boys — can do, untried and untested as they were," she said. "I think I did in the region of 350 sketches but not all of them will survive. The conditions were appalling — wet, freezing, hail. I'm slightly embarrassed to be sitting here talking about drawing when you have got these soldiers here."



Pictures: Andy Burridge

▲ Great to have you back, son! ▲

NEWS VIEW



What No Sand? ▲

Not a sand dune in sight as these members of 14/20 King's Hussars celebrated reaching the top of the highest peak in North Africa, Jebel Toubkal. It was the main objective for their expedition to the high Atlas mountains and they went through some pretty rough country to get there.

Fancy Free ▼

'Fancy Free' was the name that ILI gave to the special exercise but all 44 taking part were wives. They wanted to know what the old man gets up to — and found out. Apart from inspection and drill they practised the skills of every section and for good measure finished off with an escape and evasion exercise.



German Jock ▶

Young Karsten Wagner, he's four, thought his own trumpet was a bit tame after he had tried his hand with Trooper Bruce Hamilton's pipes and his dad is a bit worried that his son might now become a 'Dudelsack' enthusiast. Karsten is the youngest member of the Fanfarezug Taubenborn and Bruce of the Scots DG just had to let him try.

York Jocks ▼

No need to ask who were the most popular members of the Scottish Universities OTC massed pipes and drums when they appeared in York. They were the only two girls in the band, Christine Ross, left, and Elaine Marnoch. Elaine is the reigning Scottish Ladies champion piper.



Hello Mum ▶

Cpl Thomas Chapman has a new job — looking after 'Bobby' the Blackbuck fawn. Bobby is the latest recruit to 5 RRF at Coventry and seems to like his new 'minder'.

For You ▶

That most popular of Mums, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, got a rather special gift when she visited 3 Armd Div and Sig Regt at Korbecke. Everyone was giving her flowers so young Stephen Lewis, back to camera, did the same. He picked them from the flower beds beside the Royal route. But they were of course, graciously received.



Commons touch



Big smiles as Defence Secretary John Nott meets members of 2 and 3 Para at the House of Commons during a lunch organised by MP Jim Spicer, himself a para during the Suez crisis. Mr Nott was said to have come for five minutes and stayed for an hour when the Falklands veterans took the opportunity to bend his ear about the shortcomings in some of their kit, like hairy shirts and leaky boots.

Mass Start ▼

The race is on for the finale to 25 Engineer Regiment's Troop Competition. The mystery event at the end of the competition turned out to be an assault boat race with a couple of obstacles thrown in for good measure — taking a trailer across the river and back and a 4500 metre land carry. 1 Troop 12 Field Squadron won the overall competition.



At St Paul's



Falklands widow Mrs Eva Sweet and her 15-month-old son Jonathan were among the 2500 congregation at St Paul's Cathedral for the service of thanksgiving. Her husband Lance Corporal Phillip Sweet, 22, of the Welsh Guards died on the *Sir Galahad*. The Queen led the Royal party which included the Princess of Wales making her first public appearance since the birth of Prince William.

Chat Time ▼

During a two-day visit to the Catterick-based 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, the Duchess of Kent stopped for a chat with Troopers Colin Mason, right, and Nigel O'Hara after her eye had been caught by their 56-ton Chieftain tank.



First Winner ▲

Bombardier Steven Pengilly who is serving with 1 Regiment AAC in BAOR is the first recipient of the new Ferranti Trophy for the Army aircrewman of the year. The presentation was made by Mr Derek Alun-Jones, Ferranti's chief executive, watched by AAC Director, Maj-Gen Bill Withall.

Gun Girl ▶

Trying out the new handgun issued to the German police — the Walther 9mm P6 — is Lieutenant Helen Thompson WRAC. She was a member of a party from 16 Signals Regiment which spent a morning at Krefeld's police headquarters. The new weapon has no safety catch but instead has a special mechanism which prevents it firing if dropped.





JACK FROST HELPS CHEAT DEATH

UNUSUALLY ICY WEATHER may have saved Falkland Island drivers from death by freezing two deadly booby traps on the road between Stanley and Goose Green. Sappers discovered a command wire on the road near Mount Harriet and sensitive detection equipment later revealed aircraft bombs and packs of TNT buried to trap vehicles.

Major Guy Lucas, of the Chatham based 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Royal Engineers, said: "The frozen ground has probably saved drivers from setting off the booby traps. There were two — each consisting of a 130 kilogramme aircraft bomb packed around with 25 lbs of TNT blocks linked to an anti-tank mine.

"Even an armoured vehicle would not survive such a blast and there could also have been a sympathetic detonation."

The Sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, who are responsible for detecting and clearing mines, discovered the command wire and called in Major Lucas and his specialists who had just completed defusing two 500 lb unexploded bombs at Ajax Bay.

The bombs were lodged in the old refrigeration plant that was used as a hospital during the San Carlos Water action and later taken over by the Scots Guards for accommodation. Major Lucas said the bombs were retarded aircraft bombs and the casings were being returned to the United Kingdom for expert analysis.

The Sappers have warned Islanders not to drive on any road until full clearance checks have been made. The Goose Green and Darwin roads are being closed twice a week to all traffic while they detonate unexploded and loose ammunition.

SAPPERS HAVE THE POWER

FLICKERING LIGHTS and electrical black-outs are hopefully things of the past as the Royal Engineers bring power to the people of Stanley. The Sappers have repaired the war damaged public electricity supply and are operating three 255kw containerised generation sets to assist the overloaded system.

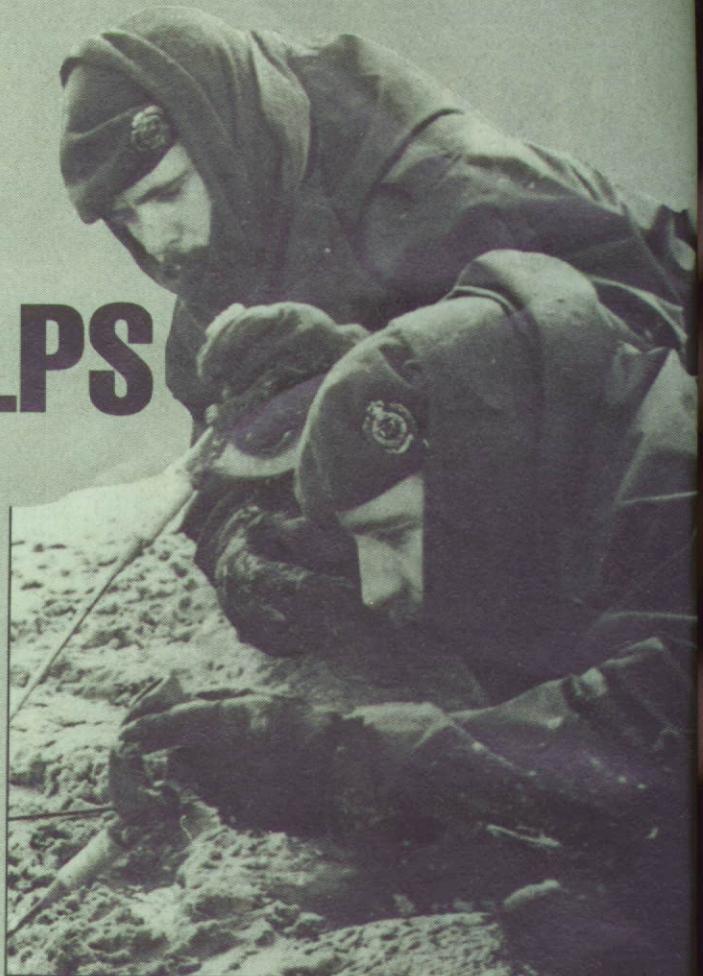
The civilian power station had been running at heavy loads ever since the Argentine invasion and badly needed maintenance.

One substation was heavily overloaded — sometimes by as much as 150 per cent — and was blowing fuses, as frequently as two a night. Another substation was overloaded because of the huge extra power demand in an area with many properties occupied by soldiers trying to shelter from the freezing weather.

Staff Sergeant Keith Walker

is the Clerk of Works and Control Engineer for the Sapper power specialists. Making up the shift system are Corporal Malcolm Dyson, Lance Corporal Stephen Runacre, Sappers Tim McCutcheon and Ben Bullock of 61 Field Support Squadron of 36 Engineer Regiment; Lance Corporal Terence Purcell, REME attached to 9 Para Squadron and Sapper 'Ivan' Sentkovsky of 9 Para Sqn; Sapper Jim Sterriks and Sapper Francois Slingerland of 11 Field Squadron.

The Sappers installed two of the Rolls-Royce powered Dale sets in John Street in 48 hours — a remarkable achievement which included levelling a muddy site. When the town's Pump Green substation blew the last of its reserve of fuses an emergency field station was integrated into the system within 20 hours.



Sappers carry on the hazardous job of probing for mines.

**FOR THE MANY SOLDIERS STILL
ON THE FALKLANDS THE
AFTERMATH OF BATTLE HAS
BEEN A TIME FOR REPAIRS, FOR
REFLECTION AND FOR
REMEMBRANCE.**
MIKE PETERS REPORTS.
PICTURES BY RON HUDSON

Fresh from the oven

Thousands of loaves of bread are being baked each day by the AMFL Bakery Section which has landed at Stanley in the Falkland Islands. After weeks of compono biscuits the Army is now getting baking hot bread every morning. Pictured here are WO1 SSM Robert Ross, the Master Baker, and his team who have set up behind the post office in the island capital.



Salute to the Airborne

HUNDREDS OF THE PEOPLE of Stanley turned out in bitter South Atlantic snow showers for the march past of 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers on Airborne Forces Day.

The little cathedral of Christchurch in the capital of the Falkland Islands was also packed with military and civilians as they paid tribute not only to the airborne who have died since the force was formed in 1940 but to the dead and injured of the battle to repossess the Falklands.

Overhead, the ever present helicopter clatter that fills the islands' skies gave a reminder



FALKLANDS FILE

that the battle is still not over.

Consolidation of the garrison continues and the Para Sappers and their colleagues of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps are fully occupied clearing booby traps, unexploded munitions and the thousands of Argentine mines.

Major Chris Davies, OC of 9 Para Sqn, in his address to the cathedral congregation paid tribute to his men who had died in the Falkland Islands campaign — to Corporal Scotty Wilson, a

very fine soldier and a key man in the squadron soccer team who was killed on Mount Longden; to Lane Corporal Pash Pashley, a thoroughly professional soldier and an excellent weapon training instructor who died in the battle for Mount Tumbledown; and to Corporal McIlvenny and Sapper Tarbard, both of whom joined from 20 Squadron. Fine examples of Sappers determined to do their best whatever the difficulties, they were both killed on the

Sir Galahad.

Afterwards Major Davies said: "The battle still continues for us. The minefields have claimed more victims — four sappers have suffered leg injuries since hostilities ceased and an Argentine volunteer was also hurt this week when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine."

Airborne Forces day was also marked by the Royal Navy who flew a force of Harriers and support helicopters over Stanley.



A SIGNAL TRIBUTE

TWO SIMPLE IRON crosses standing high on Mount Pleasant on the East Falklands have been erected in memory of four 5 Infantry Brigade soldiers killed in the advance on Stanley.

Major Mike Forge and Staff Sergeant Joe Baker of the Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and Staff Sergeant Chris Griffin and Lance Corporal Simon Cockton, both of 656 Squadron Army Air Corps, were killed when their Gazelle helicopter was hit by missile fire on its way to a radio rebroadcast station on the side of Mount Pleasant.

Since hostilities ended the crew of the station and other members of 205 Signal Squadron and the air squadron have worked hard to erect another permanent memorial to their colleagues. Three huge numerals — '205' — have been carved out of the mountainside and filled with white boulders so that they will always be visible from the air.

Explained Lieutenant Mark Edwards of 205: "This is our tribute to our friends who lost their lives. We felt it worthwhile that we should make a lasting tribute to them."

The prayers at a memorial service on the 1000 feet high mountain were led by Falkland Islander, Mr Dick Goodwin of Fitzroy Farm who played a leading role among the islanders in assisting survivors of the attack on the *Sir Galahad*.

Stanley's new radio star

MOST NIGHTS Falklands Islands Broadcasting Station includes the voice of Lieutenant Colonel John Mills as he carries out his job with the Public Information team in Stanley. But his virtuosity with the church organ is now also a regular feature on the local radio station.

John, normally based at UKLF, has been playing church music for a number of years on an occasional basis. He has played for services in Malta, Germany and Belfast and tackled the harmonium at HQ UKLF.

John volunteered to help out in Christchurch Cathedral in Stanley when Padre Harry

Bagnall said he had problems finding someone to accompany all his services. As a result John found himself playing some familiar hymns. But the big surprise was his first Sunday evensong . . . he had to play a 15 minute recital that was broadcast throughout the Falklands!

"My first reaction was 'you must be joking' but I'll have a go," said John, pictured here in Christchurch Cathedral. He also roped in another member of the public information staff when power failed — David Ridgeway of the Foreign Office quickly found himself pumping air to keep the service going.



While the battle to retake the Falklands was unfolding, another less publicised — but equally significant — struggle was taking place on a remote volcanic outcrop thousands of miles away in mid-Atlantic. Ascension Island, with its 10,000 ft runway and strategically important location, became the hub of a vast tri-Service logistic support organisation — including a number of Army units — essential to the Task Force's success. Now that the battle is over, David Hamill tells the story of two of these units, both predominantly staffed by specialists from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps . . .

IF AN ARMY marches on its stomach, then the lifeblood of an airforce is undoubtedly aviation fuel — and never more so than during the Falklands crisis. With intensive long range maritime reconnaissance and re-supply missions being flown, bombing missions on Port Stanley and air-to-air refuelling being carried out daily, vast quantities of aviation fuel were needed on a regular, reliable basis.

The unit responsible for satisfying this enormous thirst was a specially created RAOC Pipeline Detachment led by Captain Trevor Couch. It was formed on 3rd May under the sponsorship of the RAOC Petroleum Centre at Westmoors near Bournemouth, with men drawn from various fuel supply units; two days later they were en route for Ascension.

Their brief, quite simply, was to provide bulk fuel for RAF operations from the island's Wideawake airfield. Using an existing shore terminal near Georgetown, the main settlement, a Royal Engineers team had laid a 4.1 kilometre pipeline up to the airfield, and constructed a 'fuel farm' holding area with eight portable 30,000 gallon pillow tanks, within six days.

To cope with greatly increased demand, fuel was pumped ashore from tankers anchored off the island before going up the line into the new system. Finally two distribution hydrants were set up so that RAF fuel bowsers could fill up prior to supplying aircraft on the ramp.

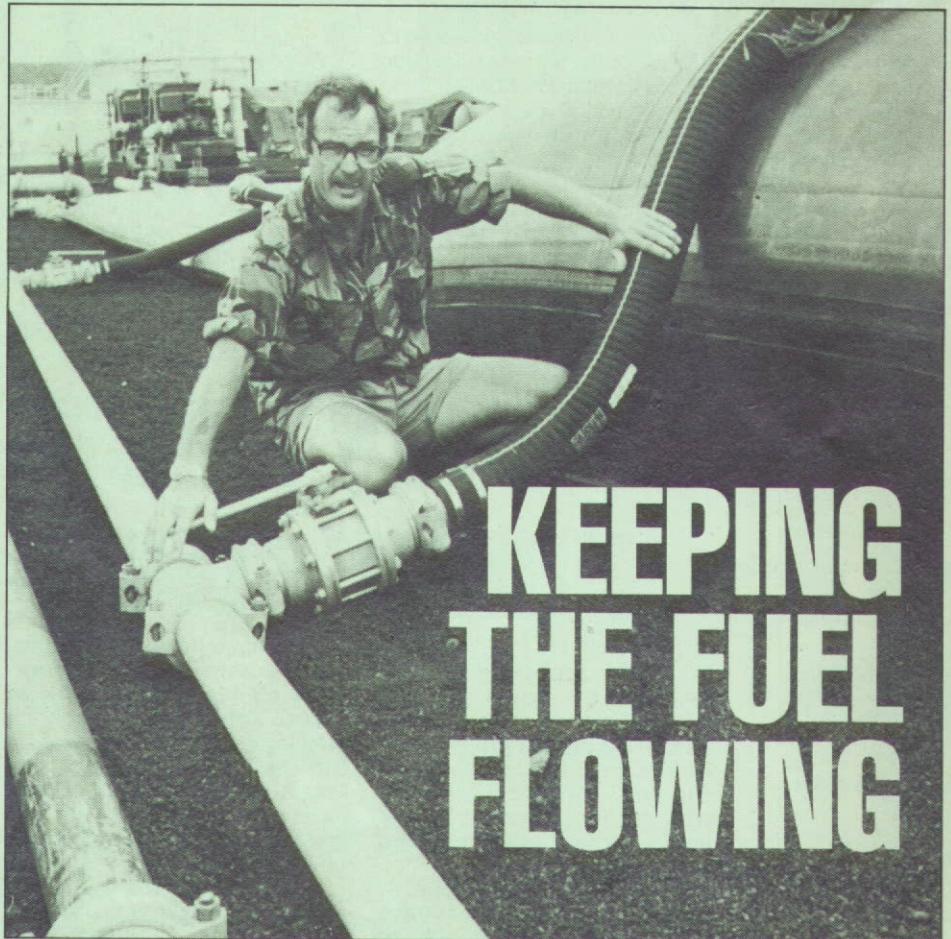
Despite its total capacity of 240,000 gallons, the fuel farm was hard put to keep up with demand in early May as operations intensified. With a fully laden Victor air-to-air tanker requiring some 17,500 gallons of fuel, and a Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft carrying up to 10,500 gallons, a request to "fill 'er up" takes on epic proportions.

Little wonder then that the Pipeline Detachment were handling an average of 250,000 gallons per day, with consumption on 4th June (when two Vulcans bombed Port Stanley with 18 Victors in support) reaching an all-time high of 320,000 gallons.

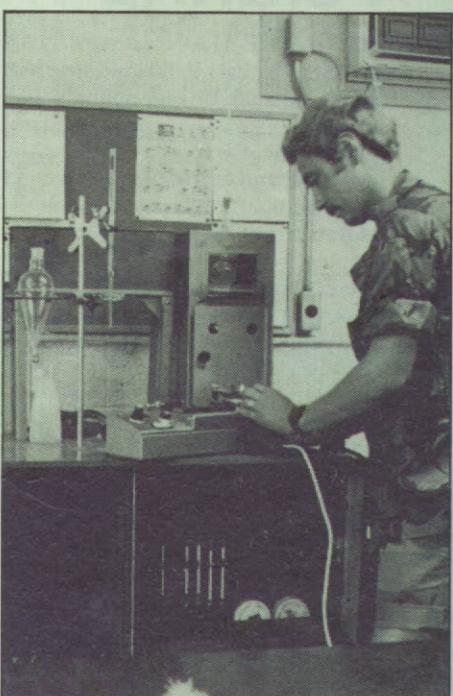
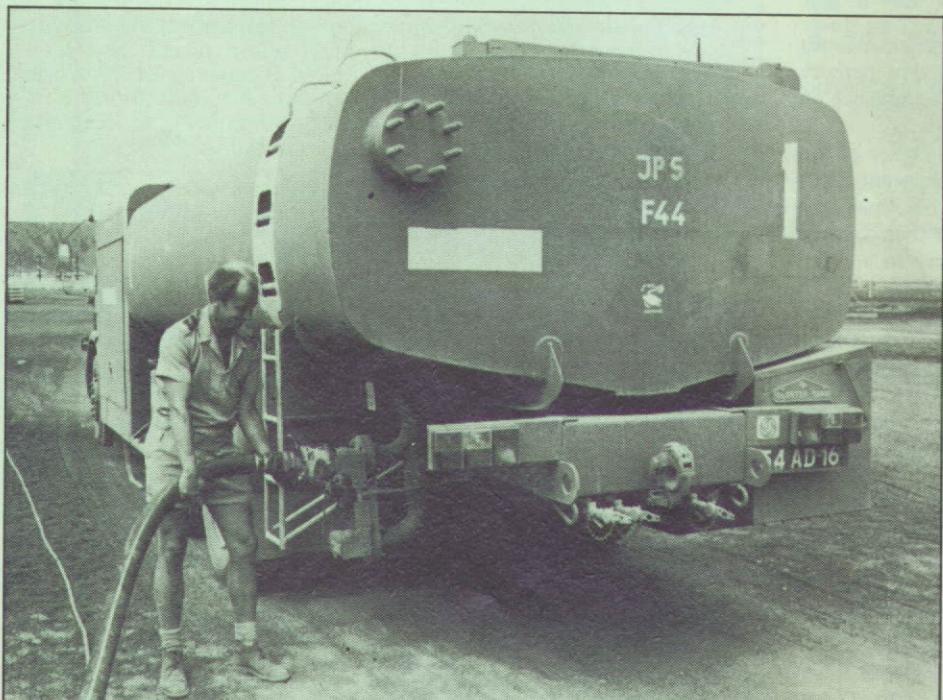
Pumping a quarter of a million gallons into the pillow tanks is an operation which takes the best part of 16 hours and that,

Cpl Alan Bateson in mobile fuel testing lab.

KEEPING THE FUEL FLOWING



Sgt 'Geordie' Baynham on the fuel farm. ▲ Filling up RAF bowser for airfield delivery. ▼



appropriately enough, was the length of shift that each man in the detachment worked in those hectic days. Besides continuously inspecting every inch of the pipeline for leaks while it was in use, they had to man the booster pumps situated every two kilometres, and organise the running of the fuel farm.

They later acquired another responsibility — ensuring that the fuel being supplied matched up to the RAF's stringent specifications — which was carried out in a portable quality surveillance laboratory manned by two specially trained members of the team.

Another new demand came with the arrival of the converted North Sea ferry *Norland*, in use as a troop carrier between Ascension and the Falklands. In preparation for its new role a number of 10,000 gallon pillow tanks had been fitted in the ship as extra water storage. Unfortunately some had leaked, and the detachment were called in to repair, and in one case completely replace, a defective tank.

Trevor Couch remembered the operation well. "It was hot and dirty down there in the bowels of the ship, and the sea was choppy, but we managed to do the job and it certainly was a new experience." ■



Cpl 'Dodge' Green (left) explains a technicality to Pte Luke Ashton.

SUPPLIES THE LIMIT

IT WAS THE FRONT LINE fighting forces who gained most of the glory in the Falklands campaign. And no-one grudged them it. But they would be the first to admit that they owed an enormous debt to the logistics specialists who kept them supplied with everything from ammunition to Arctic clothing and made sure it arrived at the right place at the right time.

Providing this vital back-up was a small but highly efficient team of Army and Royal Marines personnel, led by Captain David Collins, RAOC, drawn from the Ordnance Squadron of the Commando Logistic Regiment, Royal Marines. All members of the regiment are commando trained and its purpose is to support the Commando Brigades wherever they may be operating — which can be anywhere from Norway to Nepal.

At the height of the Falklands crisis these logistics experts, based on Ascension Island, were unloading, sorting and trans-shipping a massive 162,000lbs — more than 71 tons — of stores every day.

After three months on Ascension, the detachment had developed a slick, efficient routine, identifying, shifting and routing incoming freight with a well practised precision. It wasn't always that way though, as team Sergeant Clive Walker explained. "When the first detachment of four men led by Captain 'Tugg' Wilson arrived in mid-April, there were two weeks' worth of supplies stacked upon the apron to a considerable height. We set up camp in tents alongside the runway and worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week, to clear the backlog."

Veterans of that gruelling period remember above all the searing heat of the tropical Ascension summer, with temperatures regularly exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit. "You could still feel the heat rising off the runway at 1am in the morning," recalled one.

The backlog disappeared, but the pace of work never slackened. With the arrival of Captain Collins and an augmented team, the detachment were soon faced with the exacting task of clearing one Hercules — carrying between 20-27,000lbs of stores — every four hours.

Shifting freight by a combination of fork



lift trucks and sheer musclepower, the team was able to guarantee that priority freight would remain on the ramp no longer than one hour before being trans-shipped. What's more, they were also tasked with maintaining the vital paperwork and records on all stores passing through their hands so

that, in the event of a query, they could be at least 90 per cent certain as to where an individual item, however small and insignificant, had gone.

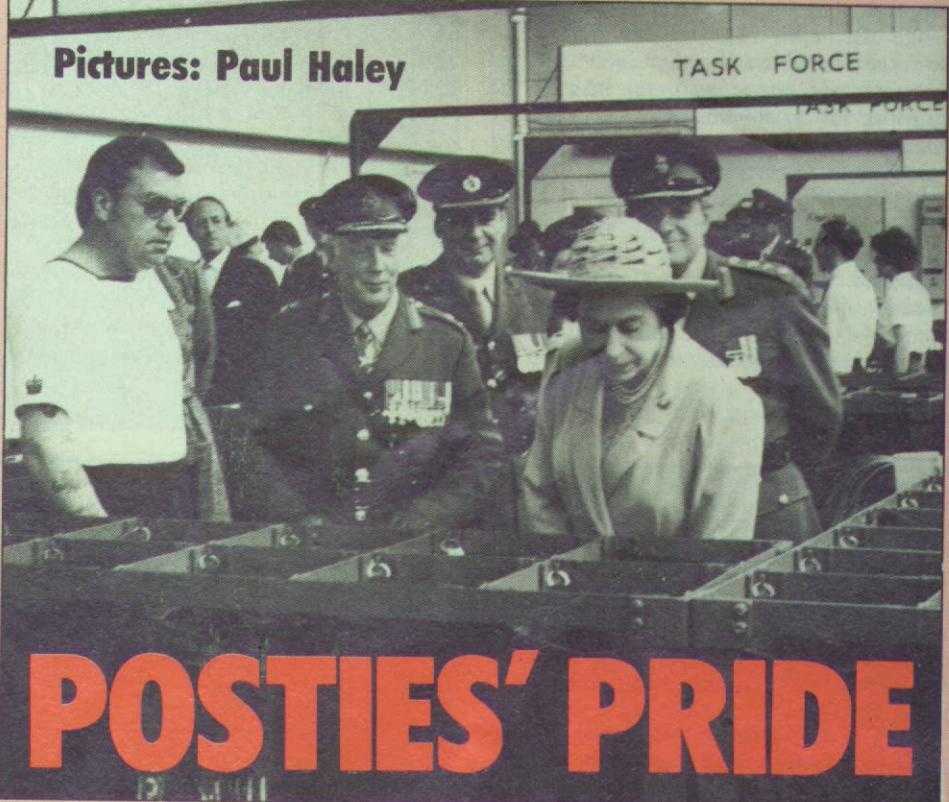
Quite an achievement, and a record which the men of the Ordnance Squadron continue to maintain. ■

Graham Smith reports on the Queen's visit to Mill Hill to mark the centenary of the Forces Postal Service. And on the following pages we look at some of the Army's Postal and Courier Services in action . . .



Chief Royal Engineer, Sir David Willison, and Her Majesty study presentation scales. ▲

Meeting staff of the Philatelic Bureau. ▼



POSTIES' PRIDE

THE COMBINED EFFORTS of an Army cross-country running champion and a waiting Lynx helicopter ensured a speedy start to the journey of a special letter bearing a Royal commemorative cover from the Queen to her son, Prince Andrew, still 8000 miles away in the Falklands.

The extraordinary 'collection' was arranged as the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Engineers, was visiting the Corps' Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill, north London, which was celebrating the centenary of the Forces' Postal Service.

The Queen handed the commemorative cover to Sapper Mark Lasseter, the Army and Combined Services Junior Cross-Country champion who, two minutes later, had handed it to a crew of an attendant Army Air Corps Lynx bound for RAF Brize Norton and a VC10 flight for Ascension Island. Already on board were nine sacks of mail weighing a ton destined for the Task Force.

The centenary event had earlier got under way with the Queen unveiling an eight-foot-high bronze-and-polyester-resin statue called 'Letter from Home' which had been

Getting the mail to the South Atlantic — the Queen sees how it's sorted.

18 months in the making by sculptress, Jill Tweed and colleague, Mike Smith.

The statue is a near replica of one by Charles Jagger which stands in a niche on Platform One at Paddington Station.

As the Queen visited a variety of special static displays, her tour was punctuated by the cheers of hundreds of flag-waving children.

First stop was an 1882 Army Post Office in the Sudan. Dressed in period uniform were Second Lieutenant Lee Cooper, Sergeant George Kehoe and Sapper Alan McGrory who, as the youngest tradesman, was chosen to present the Queen with a replica set of silver scales similar to those used in field post offices during the Sudan Campaign.

It was at the north-west Europe Forces Post Office display, a hundred years on and manned by TA personnel, that the Queen received the commemorative cover addressed to Prince Andrew. And a third display on her itinerary depicted a location in Arctic

A chat with husband-and-wife teams. ▼



Norway and an AMF(L) field post office complete with snow-coloured cam-net background and a section of soldiers in appropriate clothing.

Marital bliss was also on the Queen's crammed schedule when 16 married couples from the unit — said to be the greatest number of husband-and-wife teams in any one service location — were on parade. She also visited the Sorting Office and saw the x-ray search equipment used to detect any type of parcel or letter bomb.

The Postal Service's history was not forgotten, either. As well as showing the Queen a variety of First Day Covers, the Depot's Philatelic Bureau had some more unusual items on view including a biscuit addressed, stamped, franked and posted from the Western Front during the First World War and a painted coconut recently posted from Belize.

Before she left, the Queen was presented with a leather-bound album with philatelic covers posted at Forces post offices in wars and campaigns since 1799 — each supported by an appropriate campaign medal.

The Postal and Courier Depot, RE — it has been at Mill Hill since 1962 — is responsible for the processing of mail for the Army, Royal Navy and RAF and their families serving overseas as well as ships afloat.

The unit has 15 RE officers, 209 soldiers, 104 WRAC members, 101 civilians and 1500 TA and RN reservists.

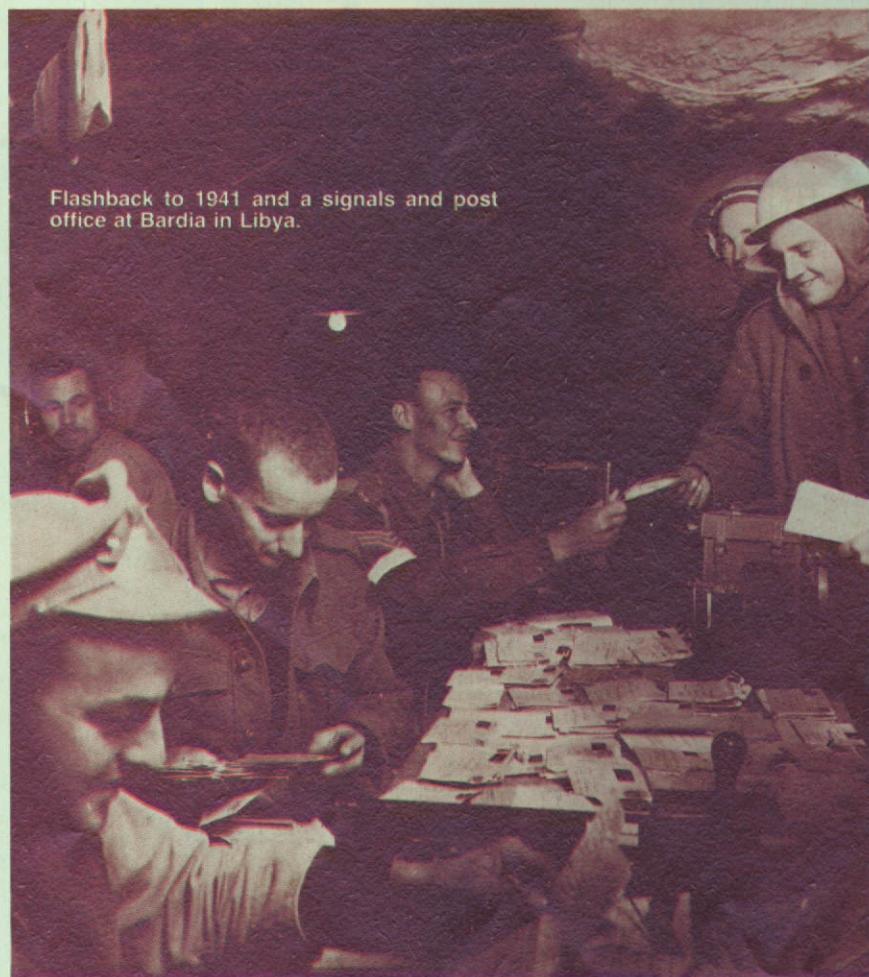


'Letter from Home' — the new statue.

As Colonel Ralph James, Colonel Commandant, remarked: "There could be no finer tribute to the Centenary of the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services than the visit today by the Queen, our Colonel-in-Chief.

"Throughout its history, the Corps, and its forebears, has provided British and other Armed Forces with postal services that are second-to-none and which seek nothing short of excellence in operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.

"Today is a day of special celebration where we can both look back with pride at our past and look forward with confidence and enthusiasm to our future." ■



Flashback to 1941 and a signals and post office at Bardia in Libya.

EVEN IN THE early 17th Century the need for a postal service for troops in the field was regarded as an essential boost to the soldier's morale. But it was not until during the Peninsular War, in 1808, that a properly organised postal service was set up by establishing the first British Army base post office in Lisbon.

Another followed in 1840 in the first Chinese War and a permanent arrangement was made on 22nd July, 1882, when Queen Victoria authorised a Royal Warrant to form the Army Post Office Corps. Formed as a Company from the 24th Battalion, Middlesex Volunteers — the Post Office Rifles — this served, initially, in the Egyptian campaign.

Two years later, there followed a second Army Postal Corps, known as the Royal Engineers Telegraph Reserve, to serve in the Sudan. Both reserve Corps were re-organised in 1889 with two supplementary companies which provided an efficient postal and telegraph service during the South African War.

In 1908 the two companies merged to become the Royal Engineers (Postal Section).

The new organisation was fully tested during the First World War, its contribution being described as "one of the unadvertised marvels" of the war. By 1918, some 7000 officers and men had served with it in France, Belgium, the Dardanelles, Egypt, Palestine, East Africa, Greece, Italy and northern Russia.

Up to 12 million letters and one million parcels were sent forward each week from the Home Postal Depot — set up in 1914 — which acted as a central sorting point for Forces' mail and as a training centre for RE personnel.

Return mails made the journey home in a variety of transport — trawlers, mine-sweepers, by rail to Baghdad and even a 400-mile sleigh journey round the shores of the White Sea.

In March 1919 the world's first scheduled airmail service began with a regular route between Folkestone and Cologne, serving British troops occupying Germany with the fastest possible mail service. It was so successful that civilian post offices followed suit world-wide.

The Second World War saw sterling service by the postal units as a primary factor in boosting morale. One commander was quoted as saying that his troops could march for three or four days without food on the strength of one letter!

Mail was landed by parachute and glider with the Sixth Airborne Division during the opening of the second front while postal personnel among the sea assault troops with the Fifth and Sixth Brigades set up field post offices on the beach-head within hours of arrival.

Today, the personnel of the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services serve in Canada, Belize, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Brunei, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Nepal, Cyprus, Italy, Sardinia, Gibraltar, Portugal, BAOR, Belgium, Holland and Norway. Most recently, a detachment on Ascension Island has played a vital role in speeding mail to and from the Falklands Task Force.

Letters from loved ones at home do wonders for the morale of soldiers serving overseas. Ann Beecham traces the journey of one such letter from Colchester to Cyprus...

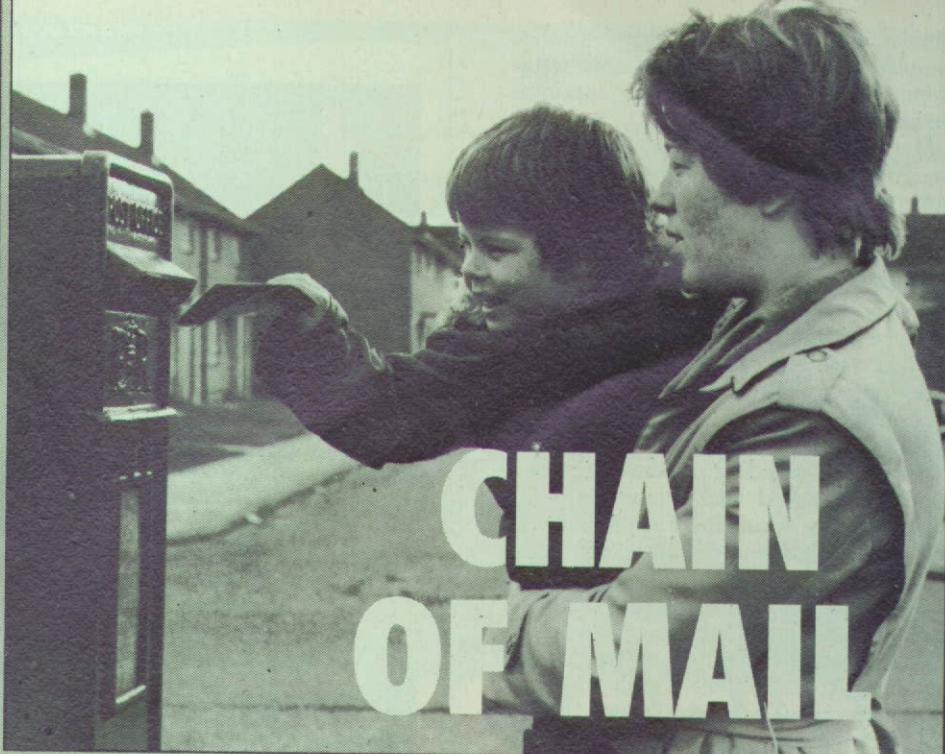
COMMUNICATIONS HAVE COME a long way since the days when airmail and surface mail probably meant pigeon post and the pony express. It may not be the personal hand delivery service that the nobility enjoyed in the good old days, but each of the 300,000 letters that pass through the main sorting office for Forces Mail at Mill Hill each week receives first class treatment.

The Postal Wing of the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, deals with all the unclassified mail to and from overseas stations. The OC of the Postal Wing is Major Bill Whiting and he explained the system that takes a letter from UK to a Forces Post Office and so to an individual in a unit based there.

"All mail for the military, their dependants and so on has to go through here. It is all beamed in to us and, no matter where it is posted in the country, we have a despatch bag. All the normal post office functions take place before it leaves us for the port or airport."

A letter — take the one that Lynne and son Mark sent to her husband Private Charles Coogan serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment in Cyprus — will be taken from the post box to the local sorting office, from where it will go to one of the 82 main forwarding offices that collect

Receiving mail order parcels at Mill Hill. ▼



CHAIN OF MAIL

BFPO — British Forces Post Office — addressed mail.

When it then arrives at one of the main London rail termini on an overnight train, the responsibility of the civil post office comes to an end and the Army takes over.

Major Whiting takes up the story: "We have an MT set-up with a fleet of vehicles that do around a million-and-a-half miles a year. The letter and parcel mails are collected and brought to the London 'glory pot', here, from the stations and from the Watford parcel depot. The mail order parcels come in direct every day."

The mail addressed to BFPOs goes at exactly the same rate as if it were simply going from Scotland to Somerset. This is a Post Office concession in respect of the business done across the counters of FPOs which would otherwise be lost to them.

As a result of this and the direct mail and philatelic aspects of the Depot — marketing First-Day covers and so on — the Army postal service is one MOD department that actually makes money. They also have contracts with BFBS to transport TV pro-

grammes overseas and their business with WH Smith for books and magazines for garrison shops accounts for 25 tons of mail a week.

At this stage, the day she posted it, Lynne's letter is still being sorted according to its BFPO number, but by the time it leaves the Depot it will be in a bag that will have been numbered, weighed, vouched and documented under the name of its final destination, Dhekelia.

Every location is allotted a BFPO number and most permanent overseas stations have a number between 1 and 200. The bags bound for Cyprus are taken up to Heathrow or Gatwick and will fly out early the next morning.

Work at the Depot goes on around the clock. There are vans waiting in Fleet Street for the morning papers when they come tumbling off the presses at 4.30 am and mail is despatched on night flights as well as early morning ones if this will make collection at the other end easier, taking the time changes

Sorting mail — a bag for every destination. ▼





General view of bustling Mill Hill Depot.

into account. There is at least one airmail despatch each day and locations in BAOR and Northern Ireland usually manage three.

Surface mail meanwhile, which accounts for around 35,000 of the 185,000 packets through the Depot each week, is being processed and loaded into 40 foot containers. These use the cross channel ferries to make a daily trip to North West Europe and leave about once a fortnight for Cyprus.

The Cyprus containers are usually only 20 foot long but, at peak times, the number required is usually increased. Overseas locations not easily reached by sea rely on the RAF and the mail is stuffed in around other cargo on a fill-up basis.

Major Whiting attributed the efficiency of the Army postal system in part to the scale of their operation. "We are like a miniature post office," he said. "It's a sausage machine basically and we couldn't store all this even for 24 hours. We have to turn it round quickly."

In fact the Depot is designed for maximum efficiency and all the various departments are located under one roof which makes for an even faster turn-round of mail.

All Cyprus mail comes into the island through Dhekelia. Airmail sacks are collected from Larnaca Airport daily by men from 23 Postal and Courier Squadron RE

when they come off the British or Cyprus Airways flights from Heathrow.

Lynne's letter to her husband is cleared, along with the others in the sacks, by Sovereign Base Area customs' officials.

The Dhekelia mail remains in the post office to be sorted into units and early every morning except Sunday, a vehicle takes the other sacks to Akrotiri and Episkopi where it is sorted in its turn. The unit post orderlies collect it and take it back to their units for delivery. The UN mail is collected daily by the orderlies who bring down outgoing mail into Dhekelia.

When the container with the surface mail arrives there are usually 150-200 bags of letters and parcels to be cleared and sorted. It usually takes between three and six weeks for a surface parcel to reach the island and between two and four days for an airmail letter to travel from a UK post office to the unit.

Surface mail goes back to UK courtesy of the RAF from Akrotiri, usually twice a week. Airmail letters and packages are collected at Dhekelia and taken down to Larnaca every evening to go out on the next available aircraft, normally the next morning.

Major Ken Smith is OC of the squadron and has to cope with any problems there might be. He admits that industrial action in

Unloading sea container at Dhekelia watched by island customs officials. ▼



FORCES POST OFFICE DHEKELIA

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SUNDAY ONLY : 0830-1030 HOURS

(FOR DELIVERY COLLECTION
MAIL ONLY)

All Cyprus mail comes in through Dhekelia.

UK has a disastrous effect.

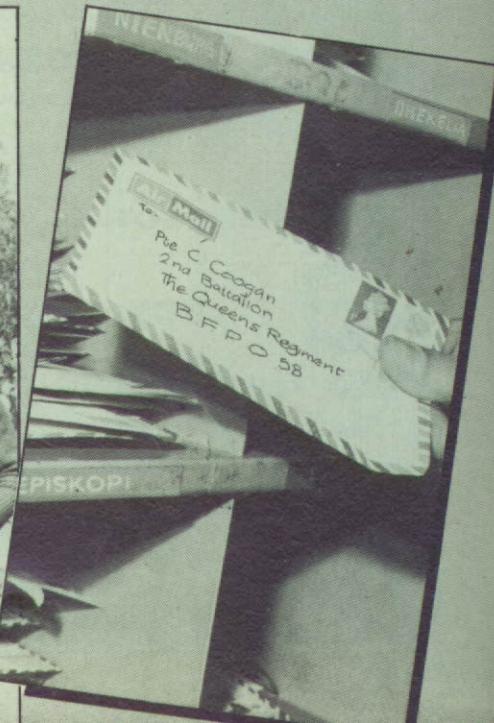
"We have to do what we can. It's one of those things you have to play off the cuff. If we can't get it off we are told not to send it. There are all sorts of contingency plans but one hopes one doesn't have to use them."

Every FPO has counter facilities and the Dhekelia squadron is 35-strong to cope with the services and the mail demands from its customers on the island. The only thing they will not do is take the mail to private addresses. "We're not a delivery service" explained Major Smith, "We just have to get it to the nearest FPO."

There is even a CYTA link at Dhekelia for urgent telegrams. These come in to Larnaca and are transmitted onto the machine at Dhekelia. The message is phoned through to the addressee and confirmation follows in the post the next day. It is one-way traffic though and outgoing telegrams have to be sent through the Cyprus post office in Larnaca.

A letter can bridge those thousands of miles between UK and Cyprus and bring happiness and news to the recipient. It would be much harder to bear the separation that Service life brings if it were not for the first class service of the Postal and Courier Depot, today's pigeon post *extraordinaire*. ■

Nearly there — the letter that means so much. ▼



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MEN OF LETTERS



With a third of the Army to look after, life's always busy for the Forces' posties in Germany . . .

WITH SOMETHING LIKE a third of the British Army and their families stretched out across the northern plains of West Germany, the British Forces postal service is kept at full stretch. Two units, 1 and 3 Postal and Courier Regiments, RE based at Hannover and Dusseldorf deal with all the inbound mail from Mill Hill.

At Dusseldorf, in the shadow of the civilian airport, the bags of air mail letters are collected three times a day and then taken by road to the various district offices for sorting. No inbound sorting is done at Dusseldorf except for the local area.

Mail on the return trip does not go through Mill Hill at all. It is bagged and sent by air to Manchester, Gatwick and South-WO2 Thomas O'Grady and £40,000 of stamps. ▼

end, where it goes into the Civilian Post Office system. A recent concession has been the introduction of a second class letter that travels by air in the normal way for a 12½ pence stamp but is only given the second class treatment once it reaches the British postal network.

Within BAOR a quick delivery is guaranteed. Major John Nicholls told SOLDIER that any letter posted before 5pm will be available for collection at any other Forces' Post Office by nine o'clock the next day. And the charge for internal BAOR mail and mail to German civilian addresses is only three pence!

Surface mail comes out by container three or four times a week having travelled from Felixstowe to Rotterdam. This side has grown in recent years, mainly because of



▲ Commemorative cover to mark PCS centenary.

◀ Over the counter service at Dusseldorf.

mail order shopping with big catalogue firms delivering direct to Mill Hill.

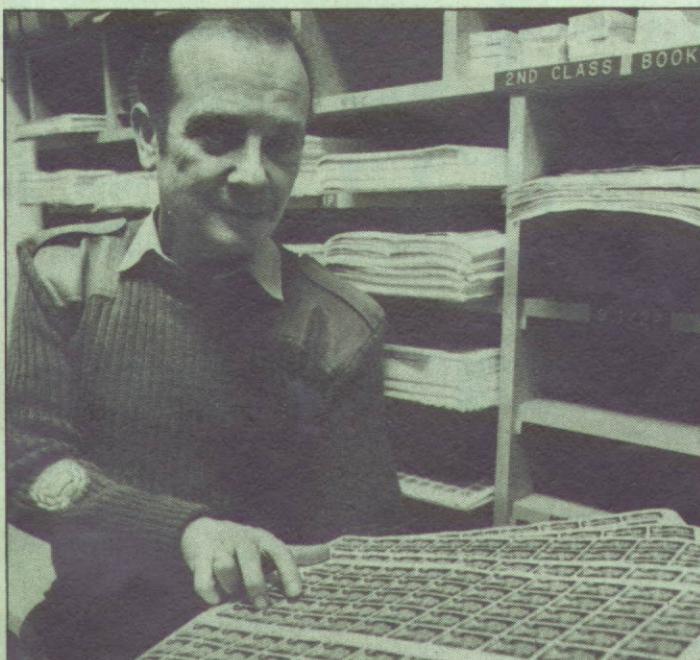
Dusseldorf also deals with the accounts for all the BFPOs in North West Europe and the system is to be computerised shortly. It covers supplies of stamps and postal orders, which also go to exercises in just the same way as Post Offices in camps.

Stamps are good business in the collecting field too. Sergeant James Dempsey runs the philatelic bureau at Dusseldorf. Although not allowed to sell mint British stamps to collectors he does a thriving business with first day covers at German philatelic exhibitions. The range includes 45 Royal Engineers' covers, plus others from the rest of the Army and from the other two services. Biggest seller last year was the Royal Wedding — which was selling for four marks against the price of up to 20 marks charged by German stamp dealers. ■

Story: John Walton

Pictures: Paul Haley

Sorting letters for despatch to UK. ▼



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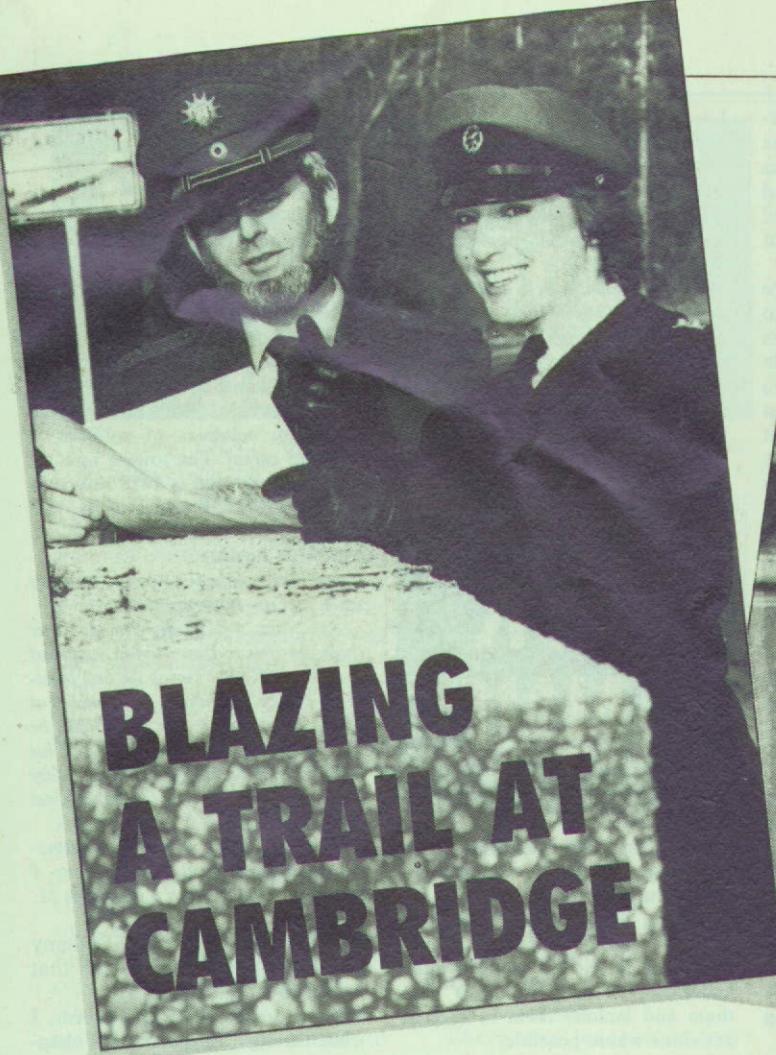
Address

Car for use in country

Present car

SR/9/8

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BLAZING A TRAIL AT CAMBRIDGE

LIFE FOR LIEUTENANT Caroline Paxton, a vivacious 24-year-old, has taken a different turn from what she might have expected when she joined the WRAC five-and-a-half years ago. For she is the first WRAC officer to study for a degree at Cambridge University.

Spurning further education when she left school, Caroline decided to embark on a career straight away. "I didn't want to be poor, and I didn't want to be a burden to my parents; I also wanted a commission in the WRAC."

Four-and-a-half years later, despite tours with the Provost Branch in Northern Ireland and Germany, Caroline wanted to broaden her horizons and thought again about a degree. Cambridge had not occurred to her as a possibility but after her initial interview with the Army Board, she had an invitation to attend a selection interview at Cambridge. "I was delighted," said Caroline, "and as anyone would I jumped at the chance."

Now, one year through her history degree course at St Catharine's College and with good first year results under her belt, Caroline looks back with mixed feelings. "I know now I'm not very good at academic work! I'm much more of a practical person and I think three years of this will be quite enough. This has been one of the hardest years of my life."

Used to a military environment, Caroline found she had some re-adjusting to do once she found herself within the ancient halls of learning.

"I found I had to re-evaluate things I'd previously taken for granted. After spending so many years with people mostly five years

my senior, then to go into an environment where my contemporaries were five years younger, there was in effect a culture gap of about ten years."

Caroline describes college life at Cambridge as "totally self-absorbed" where each student is encouraged as an individual and virtually anything goes. A strange mixture of academic and social demands mean a pressurised life far removed from life in the Army.

For administrative purposes Caroline comes under the Cambridge Officer Train-

||| **'... I think three years of this will be quite enough. This has been one of the hardest years of my life.'** |||

ing Corps but during term time, apart from the odd dinner night, she can almost forget her military links although the college porters joke and call her 'the Wing Commander'.

Commissioned officers taking degree courses at national universities are not normally expected to excel academically but rather to obtain 'the best degree they are capable of whilst leading a balanced life'. And according to Caroline there is plenty of opportunity for this.

"There are societies for practically everything you could think of," says Caroline who herself belongs to the Union and takes full advantage of all the sporting facilities

(she is an Army Canoe Instructor).

"I used to row — that's the thing to do at Cambridge you know — but it took up too much time, so now I stick to tennis and squash."

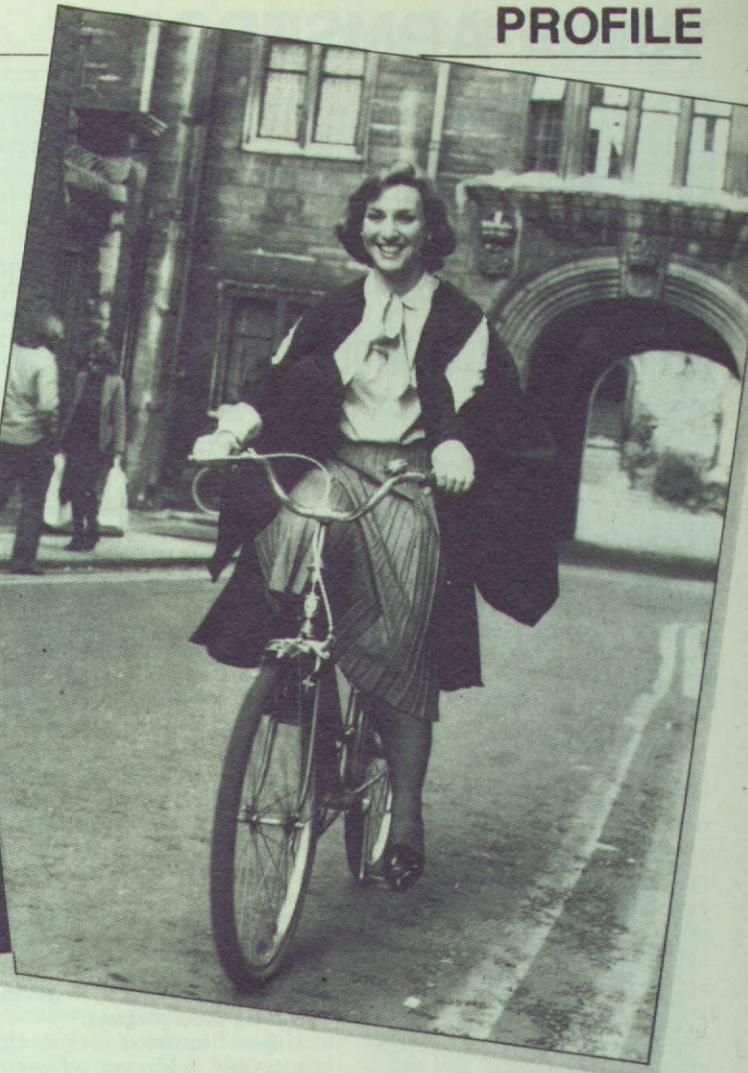
Socially the distractions are numerous with tea parties and long lunches being particular favourites. But living in college as Caroline did before she bought her own house in the area, can be restrictive. "For instance, in my college, if you have more than eight people in your room at a time, that constitutes a party and you have to have the Dean's permission to hold parties."

What to do in the long summer vacation is a difficulty as officially the Army cannot give Caroline three months leave. This summer she has been doing an Initial Investigation Course at the Royal Military Police Depot in Chichester. When that is over she is off on leave to cross the interior of Australia from the Great Barrier Reef to Melbourne via Alice Springs and Ayers Rock.

But with a third of her course completed, have Caroline's horizons been broadened in the way she had expected? "No, not really, although it has extended me academically and given me a new insight."

One condition of her attending Cambridge for three years is that she stay in the Army for five years afterwards. "Then with my Army experience particularly in police work, and hopefully a degree from Cambridge, I should be able to offer something to somebody!"

And does she recommend others to follow in her footsteps? "Yes, it's wonderful, but I'd go either earlier or else much later as a mature student."



ANNE ARMSTRONG



EMOTIONS RAN HIGH at 'A National Salute', the British Theatre's recent tribute to the Task Force in aid of the South Atlantic Fund. We recalled those who died in the Falklands and hoped the injured can take comfort from knowing they have the nation's gratitude and their sacrifices were not in vain.

But the euphoria of victory was brutally swept away only two days later by the vicious bomb attacks in London's Regents and Hyde Parks in which eleven died and nearly fifty were injured.

The horror of it all brought to mind the bomb blast in November 1974 at the Kings Arms in Woolwich which was where I first saw the effects of the nail bomb. And things have not changed. Then as now there were both military and civilian casualties.

In the wake of the Falklands Crisis it is all too easy to forget the victims of Northern Ireland. But clearly they deserve the same support that we gave to the Task Force and I hope financial aid will be as forthcoming. After such drastic events money problems are bound to occur and official compensation cases can often be long, drawn out affairs. Many Northern Ireland casualties have had to wait several years for their money.

Let us hope bureaucracy does not cause any delay in distributing the South Atlantic Fund.

Terrorists strike indiscriminately, so ask yourself, are you and your family properly insured? If in doubt, check with an insurance broker or with your unit pay office.

Over two thousand men took out Army Dependents Assurance Trust (ADAT) units of insurance on their way to the South Atlantic. Yet statistics show that our soldiers are more likely to die from road traffic accidents and natural causes than enemy action. If you have ADAT cover, keep it — you might need it tomorrow when you try and cross the road.

Anne Armstrong

I have received one or two heart-rending letters on adoption. It is a subject that often occasions much distress and upset and there are relatively few successful applications for the adoption of an unwanted baby.

As ever, things are even more difficult for Service families who wish to adopt and your letters have proved this. It is a little known fact, I suspect, that Ssafa is now a registered Adoption Society and that, even before it was given this recognition, it was deeply involved in adoption work.

I quote below from their Summer '82 publication which contains an article 'Adoption and the Service family' by Pauline Bibby:

"We find that our adoption figures reflect the UK pattern of availability. In 1979 we successfully placed five babies from BFG but achieved only three completed adoptions in 1980 and again three in 1981. Despite these low numbers we regard our adoption work as extremely important. All concerned feel immense satisfaction when a child is successfully placed with caring parents and a couple becomes a family in the fullest sense.

"Where we are unable to help, we do try to put such couples in touch with UK adoption agencies, in the hope that their next UK posting may bring some progress."

I have included below the names and addresses of some adoption agencies in the UK:

Local Authority Social Services Departments

National Adoption Society
47a Manchester Street
London W1M 5PD
01-935 7211/9978

Adoption Resource Exchange
40 Brunswick Square
London WC1N 14Z
01-837 0496

National Children Adoption Association
71 Knightsbridge
London SW1X 7RF
01-235 6436

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering
11 Southwark Street
London SE1 1RQ

I work for an American marketing company here in Germany.

I would like to keep paying my stamp. Is there any way I can do this even if it means my mother buying them in a UK post office?

Mrs M, BFPO 107

There are a number of National Insurance leaflets available that will tell you all you need to know about keeping up your NI contributions when you are abroad. They are all obtainable from your BFPO. Ask for NI42/Feb 80 Voluntary Contributions, NI48/July 79 Unpaid and Late Paid Contributions, and also NI 208.

Army 'Where are you now?' and we already have a number of names, hence the birth of this idea.

DASAWA

Midway, 10 Adelaide Terrace
Truro, Cornwall
TR1 3EJ

My son and his wife were posted to Hong Kong last September and we should like to visit them.

Do you know of any club or organisation which arranges overseas travel for relatives of soldiers at reduced rates? The lowest fare we have been quoted is £418 return in November but, for four of us, this would be too expensive.

Mrs M, Cheshire.

Hong Kong always seems so far away when you are trying to visit!

Ask your son to discover whether there are any welfare flights organised from Hong Kong. This is the best possible way of getting there, particularly at holiday times, and your son should be able to organise your flights from his end. Unfortunately, even if you are ex-Service, indulgence flights are not available.

If anyone has any 'inside' information on cheaper travel to Hong Kong, I should be happy to pass it on to Mrs M.

A letter from Sgt P in Germany has highlighted a problem that can crop up all too easily.

I was posted in April last year. I went through all the normal channels in getting quotes for storage fees and the pay office checked all the details.

My first bill arrived three months later. It was £226 for a quarter's storage fee but the pay office would only give me £192.50 so I lost out on that bill. Up to the present time I have lost out to the tune of over £116.

I have checked with our pay office here and they say I am entitled to the £192.50 a quarter but think that, as my previous unit was in London, I should be entitled to a higher fee — but they don't know what this is.

Storage fees and entitlement to refunds can be confusing and the only safe answer is to double check the costs and entitlement and then check it again so you know what you are supposed to be paying.

As a point of interest, it is now possible for claimants who are presented with monthly storage bills to be refunded monthly instead of once every three months as previously.

ASK ANNE

We are interested in starting an Association for divorced and separated Army wives, DASAWA.

As you will appreciate, Service widows tend to remain in contact with Service friends and the units endeavour to keep in touch with them and include them in various activities where possible.

It is a sadness to many divorced and separated wives that, along with the inevitable distress and upheaval in their lives following divorce and separation, they also lose touch with friends. We felt that it would be a good thing if there could be a central point of contact, although the idea is not necessarily to give direct contact in the first instance.

This Association would be for all ranks, provided they are still one-parent families. There would be a small yearly subscription of £1 to cover postage, duplicating etc and it is intended to have a yearly newsletter and perhaps a yearly get-together for the mums and their children.

I would stress that this is, in no way, intended to be a 'Marriage Mart' but rather an extension of an

DID YOU KNOW?

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS who took part in Operation Corporate and have now returned from the South Atlantic and the Falkland Islands may be entitled to claim compensation for personal articles lost, destroyed or damaged because of the operation.

Compensation will not be granted for items of uniform or Service kit which can be replaced free through Service sources but claims for other items of uniform clothing, Service kit and personal effects will be considered.

Claims should be detailed on a Form 441 and may be processed through any unit. Articles which are covered by insurance should not be included on the form unless, subsequently, the insurance company refuses to give compensation for any reason. A supplementary claim should then be submitted.

Each individual claim will be forwarded through normal staff channels for any necessary valuation to MOD, Claims 4a, Room 226, Lansdowne House, London W1X 6AA.



Stars come out in aid of South Atlantic Fund

IT SEEMS THAT just about everybody is staging some salute to the men of the Task Force, as the nation still rides high on the wave of nationalism and pride that swept UK after our success in the Falklands.

One of the most glittering was the 'National Salute to the Falklands Task Force from the British Theatre', a spectacular performed by some of the biggest showbiz names in front of Prince Charles at the London Coliseum and organised by the Army Benevolent Fund.

The National Enterprises Organisation section of the ABF consists of a small staff of two: Brigadier Gerald Landy and his typist. It is this section that struggles daily with the enormous task of bringing in funds to swell the donations made to the ABF to the annual total required of one and a half million pounds — and it is this money that the Fund uses to help those in need.

Even to someone so well-versed in staging large scale shows, the idea of the 'National Salute' must have presented a staggering challenge, but the National Enterprises Organisation coped as usual.

The idea for the show came from Harry Secombe and the

stars were ready in under two months for the great day. In fact, putting the cast together was the least of Brigadier Landy's problems. There were bands from the Army, the Royal Marines and the RAF together with State trumpeters, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Members of the National Theatre, the Royal Ballet and the English National Opera companies — as well as a host of other famous names.

The producer was Robert Nesbitt of Talk of the Town fame and Robert Bell of London Weekend TV was responsible for the live coverage. All the stars willingly gave their services free in aid of the South Atlantic Fund and some even sold programmes to the audience.

There was feverish activity during the few short weeks allowed to organise the million and one things that make a smooth-run production. The date had to be fixed and a theatre booked that was not only free but also available earlier for rehearsals. A Sunday at the Coliseum was the answer. It also had the added and important advantage that it could accommodate all the stars, the band, the TV paraphernalia and, of course, a sizeable audience.



Prince Charles meets some of the stars backstage — Dickie Henderson, Twiggy, Les Dawson and Roger Moore.

The programmes were the next priority. Garrod and Loftouse, who produced the souvenir programme for the Royal Wedding, printed a range of programmes — from a gold page special priced at £1200, a price that included two £200 tickets, to more ordinary programmes at lower prices. They also offset printing costs to the tune of £3000 to help towards the target of £500,000 that the Army Benevolent Fund hoped to realise from the show.

The arrangements for transport, meals and accommodation for the cast as well as the protocol and security entailed by the attendance of Prince Charles all fell to Brigadier Landy who spoke about the undertaking in his small office in the Duke of York's Barracks only four days

before the show.

"Changes, changes and more changes will occur right up to the last minute," he acknowledged philosophically. "The generosity, goodwill and support from everyone has been remarkable. All the stars who were in the country and not committed accepted our invitation and we have had many replies from the 1200 invitations to advertisers to be included in the programme."

It is perhaps a good time to remember how much the Army Benevolent Fund does for the Servicemen and women who call on them in times of need. Their running costs are among the lowest of any charities and much of their effectiveness is due to the selfless and dedicated work of their staff.

Going from strength to strength



Sue Lumsden — success story.

IT IS ALMOST a year since Harry Secombe opened Squire House, the short stay accommodation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich for family and friends visiting patients — a year of hard work and good management which has put the venture on a more secure footing than many thought possible.

The astronomical sum of £45,000 needed to launch the project was raised from generous donations in good time to offer accommodation to the families of the Falklands injured who are being treated at the QEH.

Much of the success of Squire House is due to the warden, Sue Lumsden. Sue looks after the day-to-day running of the hostel and is always there to help and to chat to any of her visitors who may be feeling worried as well as

dryer and irons and drying facilities.

"We also have cots, potties, and bottle sterilizing equipment for visitors with babies," she added. "It's hard to believe that for £3.50 a night and half-price for children, guests can stay in comfortable and homely surroundings. Even with the purchase of meal tickets for meals in the hospital cafeteria, it is very reasonable."

The hospital is only three minutes' walk away so visiting is very easy.

If there is a drawback to Squire House, it must be its very popularity. It is usually booked at weekends and, although it is likely to be more readily available midweek, it is always a good idea to book ahead if you can, either through a unit signal or direct to

the Chief Wardmaster, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London SE18.

Squire House has the full support and backing of the hospital and the Squire House Committee yet, as always with such charitable ventures, new funds are always needed to keep it viable.

"Bills for the maintenance of the building and equipment will start coming in eventually along with replacements and repairs so any donations are very welcome. We should also be grateful for adult and children's books, magazines, games and puzzles as these items are expendable," said Sue.

Donations and gifts should go to the Squire House Fund, c/o SO3 G1, HQ Woolwich Garrison, Woolwich, London SE18 6XR.

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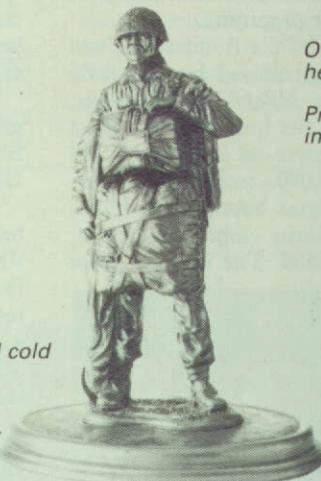
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This year, as every year, around 23,000 British soldiers — and nearly 100,000 from other Nato armies — will be training at Hohne. And whatever skills they need to practise they'll find . . .

A BIG RANGE OF OPTIONS

FOR ELEVEN months of every year there are few days when Hohne Ranges — the biggest training ranges in Western Europe — are not reverberating to the crump of shells or the crackle of gunfire.

The ranges, run by the Bundeswehr and near Bergen, are patronised by five main Nato users — the UK, USA, Belgium, Holland as well as the host country, West Germany — and cover an egg-shaped 115 square miles or 750,000 acres of open moorland, marsh and forest bounded by Lüneburg Heath in an area embracing Soltau, Celle and Fallingbostel. The facilities there

serve the whole of the Rhine Army.

Last year, for instance, more than one million rounds of 20mm calibre and above were fired from AFVs to streak towards targets across the sandy-soiled expanses of heathlands covering an area nearly as large as West Berlin.

Co-users of the range, which costs £10 million a year to run, are the French Brigade from West Berlin and, occasionally, the Danes.

In all, about 120,000 soldiers — nearly half from the Bundeswehr and a fifth from Rhine Army — annually use the 30-range facilities where gunfire booms in the ten surrounding villages nearly all day and most of the night.

Night firing takes place three times a week. And on any given day, 4000 soldiers — 800 of them British — are likely to be training. Weekends are devoted to tactical exercises.

Palls of Lower Saxony dust spume out behind any of four tank families and their variants — British Chieftains, American M.60s and M.48s, French AMX 30s and West German Leopards 1s and 2s — as they conduct battle runs on the ranges which could, in practice, handle up to 600 tanks a day.

Costs for the use of the relevant ranges are paid for by the subscriber involved. On Range Nine, for example, a six-lane battle run facility spread over 20 square kilometres,

◀ Inside the range control tower.

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

Life Guards' Chieftain starts battle run. ▲

an eight-hour-day's use costs £10,000.

But the Bergen ranges do not cater just for the tanks and what the Bundeswehr call "earthbound weapons". There are facilities too for firing various missiles, laser range-finding programmes, and areas for NBC decontamination and survival training, tracked vehicle driver training and close quarter infantry practice.

And from the air, the ranges become the focus of jet-powered attention for close air support with strafing, ground attack runs by Harriers, F.4 Phantoms, F.104 Starfighters, A.10 Thunderbolt 'tank busters' and anti-tank Lynx helicopters with missiles.

As 56-ton Chieftains and 50-ton Leopard 2s lumber across the expanses to loose off ammunition from their respective 120mm main armaments, much of their ordnance, including machine guns, is directed at pop-up and laterally-towed 'tank' targets.

The targets are head-on or lateral view tank simulations in timbered hessian or the "cardboard comrades" (Pappkameraden) pop-up infantry targets who appropriately clutch assault weapons or lie prone behind machine guns.

All the targets are radio-controlled from a total of 136 push-button, £25,000 cassette consoles spread among the ranges, each unit controlling the destinies of ten targets.

As Sergeant-Major Willi-Walter Eberhage, Range Officer at Bergen since 1974, told SOLDIER: "It takes 15 men to operate the moving targets, electrical generator maintenance and so on. We have 18 kilometres of wire lying round Range 20, for instance, just to operate the moveable

German tank crew with new Leopard 2. ▲

targets."

Targets are meant to be hit. So the ranges have their own Target Factory staffed by 57 personnel (carpenters, painters, welders, and smithies) who produce 35,000 new hessian-clad targets each year at £17 each and repair another 45,000. In all, there are about 100 differing target simulations.

Rough pine is brought in from the ranges or purchased elsewhere. Oak is used for those targets which stand in water.

The smithies and welders tend to any armoured patching up needed for Centurion and M.47 tank hulks.

There are no impact ranges at Bergen. Every range is given to tactical training. But for a month each summer the guns fall silent as the vast acres are closed for maintenance purposes.

Even the restricted airspace over the training area is muted. And on the ground amid the heathland, marshes and forest, the wildlife must breathe a sigh of relief, too.

There are an estimated 2000 red and fallow deer, 500 roe deer, 500 wild boars and, in the height of flowering heather,

Chieftains get ready for the battle run. ▼

In store — a 'cardboard comrade' ▶

some 6000 hives of bees.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Emson, CO of The Life Guards from Detmold, whose men were operating their Chieftains, told SOLDIER: "The wildlife here is remarkable. The wild pigs come in every night among us when we are in camp and rummage for food. It's an ornithologists' paradise, too."

"Bergen is a completely natural habitat for the wildlife. It's between day and night they do their moving about. I'm sure they read our firing instructions!"

The abundance of flora and fauna amid the firing lines was borne out by Sgt-Major Eberhage: "Sometimes I've seen 70-strong herds of deer roaming about but they know their hiding places."

Then, with a grin, he added: "One of the biggest problems we have here is human. It is litter. I'm sure the troops bring it in with them specially from all over the place. But we have some very good watchers here — the wild boar."

"We use an NCO and four men to clear up the tank ring roads. We could use a battalion! But it's becoming better than it was because schools are teaching the kids

about pollution. Another generation and there will be no litter lying around the ranges."

Reality during training is one of the keynotes at Hohne Ranges. And the terrain's variety is helped by three farming sections which plant potatoes and barley while foresters plant trees and shrubs damaged by heath fires and soil corrosion.

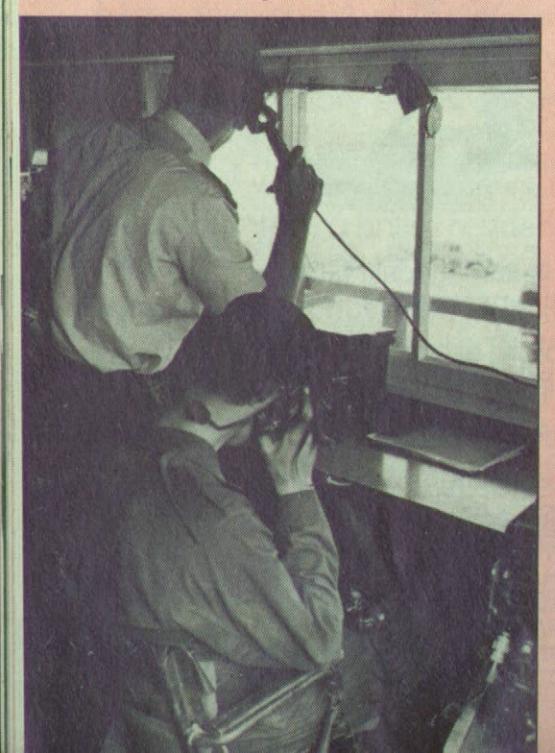
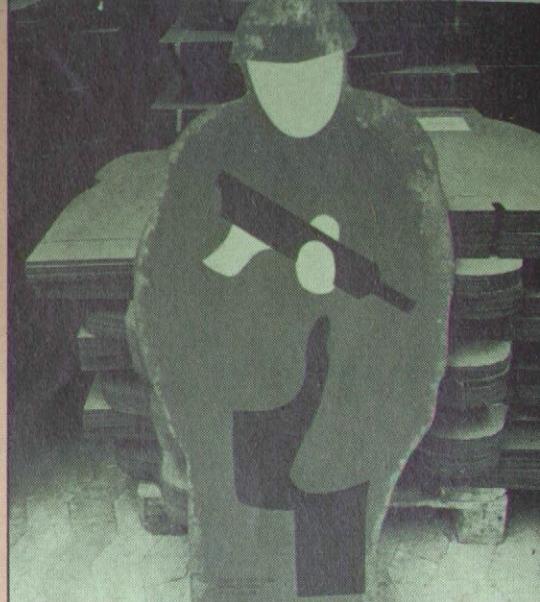
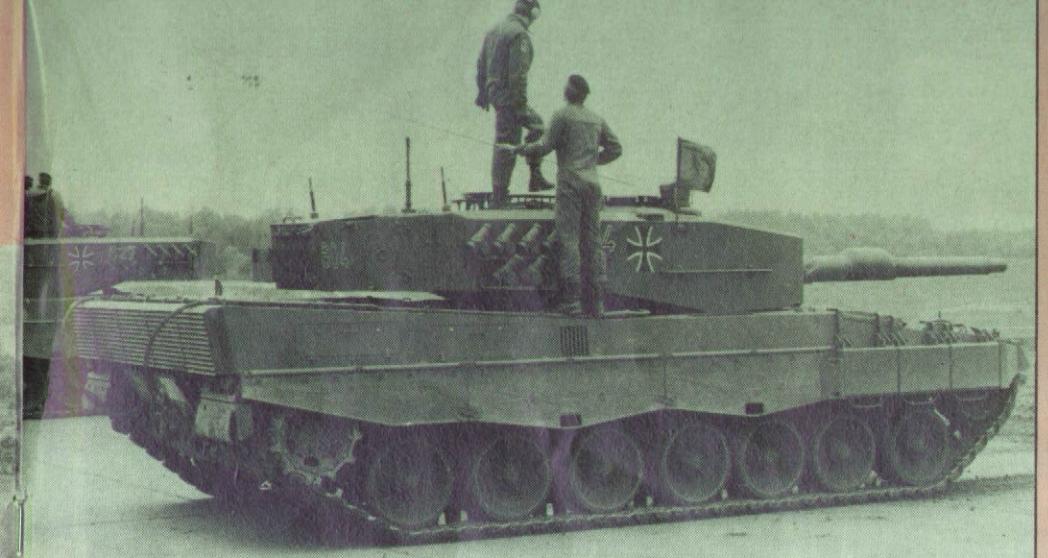
"We don't want it to look like a desert which it did about 15 years ago," said the sergeant-major. "We have replenished the area by putting down tank matting through which plants can retain their roots and grow.

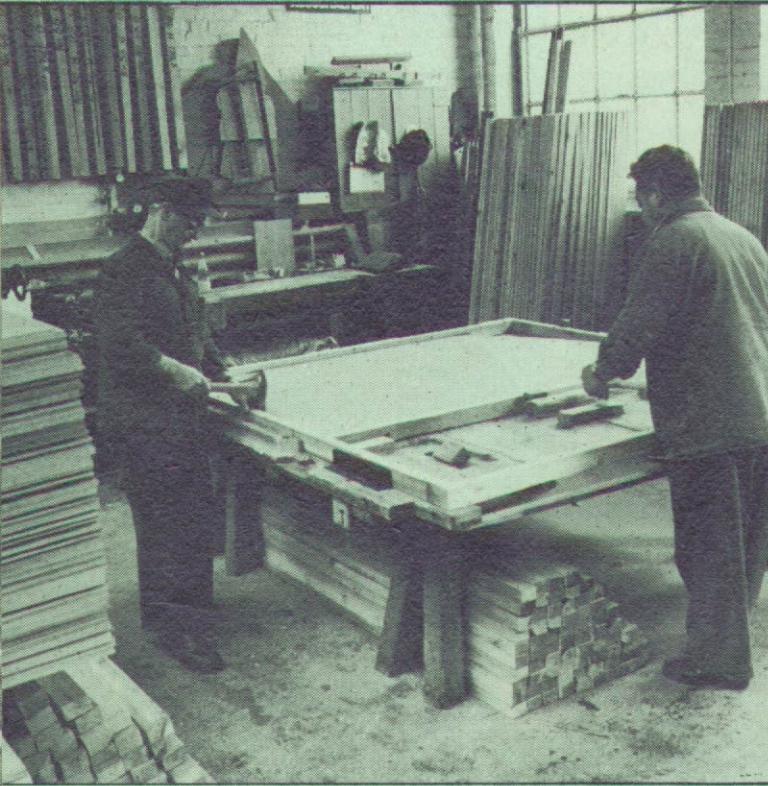
Fifteen years ago you could not breathe in nearby Bergen village when a westerly was blowing. Everything was covered in dust and sand."

As with all ranges in constant use they have to be cleared of 'blind' or live ordnance. The Bundeswehr, at weekends, provides an NCO and four men from its 25-strong resident specialist bomb disposal unit.

Despite their vast size, there are plans to make Hohne Ranges even bigger. An im-

continued on page 28





German civilians at work on targets.

proved layout to assimilate the needs of the American Abrams tank, and, eventually, Britain's Challenger, is promised "very soon".

Next year, too, the Canadian Army Trophy will be back at Hohne Ranges after moving south last year to Grafenwoehr near Nuremberg. The tank skills under test, the



Canadian crew with Leopard and shells.

organisers revealed, will be an inter-armoured group contest: NORTHAG versus CENTAG.

As the rounds fly overhead from Bergen via Wietzendorf to land on the ranges at Munster, 15 miles away, there are inevitably occasional noise complaints to deal with for Hohne Camp's Kommandantur or HQ.

But life at Bergen generally runs very smoothly. As its Commandant, Oberst Ulrich von Coler explained: "From our point of view, we live quite happily with other NATO users. We, the Germans, get on quite well with the British and Dutch but you will have to ask them how they get on with us!" ■

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As £250,000 worth of treasures go under the hammer at Knowle Hall, John Walton sees the Royal Welch Fusiliers obtain two more important additions to their museum...

Bidding for Glory



Major Kirby signals a bid. ▲

▲ The auctioneer keeps the sale moving.



▲ Old French infantry flag — £210.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY was only just born when events began which were to shake a world already concerned with the Boer War. The Boxer Rebellion and siege of the legations in Peking, which only ended with the arrival of an international expeditionary force, later inspired the Charlton Heston film *55 Days at Peking*.

Those events have a particular significance in the annals of one of the Army's oldest regiments, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who were the only British infantry battalion in the force which ended the siege.

Now the clock has moved on more than eight decades and the scene is a dripping marquee in a country estate south of Birmingham. Outside a storm rages and the auctioneer, Mr John Haycraft, of Phillips, struggles to make himself heard against the incessant tom-tom of rain on tarpaulin.

Included in the sale of the contents of Knowle Hall are a number of military items including souvenirs from Peking, brought back by an owner of the hall, Major Sydney George Everitt of the RWF. The sale is by direction of the executors of his

son and it will ultimately realise nearly a quarter of a million pounds for paintings, jewellery, furniture and other items gathered during several generations at the Hall.

The militaria sale includes guns and a pair of William Powell & Sons double barrelled shotguns go for the staggering price of £2950. Then a late Victorian Officer's pattern sword which formerly belonged to a member of the Peking Legation Guard, Sir H. W. McMahon, of the RWF, is knocked down for £140.

In the section devoted to medals and militaria of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Major Peter Kirby, representing the regimental museum, makes a number of attempts to obtain items but is defeated by the high prices.

A Waterloo medal fetches £190, a Crimea medal with four bars £180 and an LSGC to a sergeant in 2nd Bn, 23rd Foot realises £25. A China silver medal with bar 'Relief of Pekin' is sold for £200.

Two RWF scarlet mess jackets and a scarlet tunic together with belts and epaulettes, all contained in a tin trunk, make £150 and the same price is achieved by an RWF officer's bearskin.

Continued on page 30



RWF uniforms from Everitt scrapbook. ▲



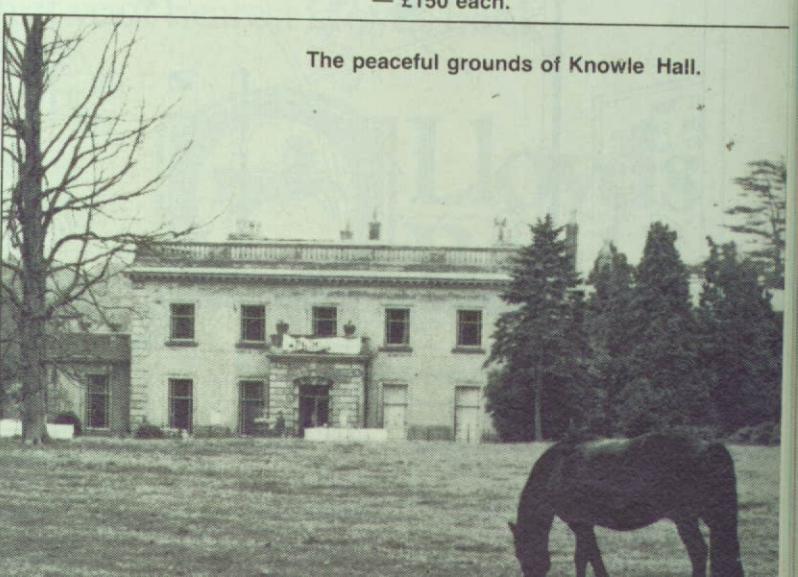
Bearskin and Sandhurst helmet — £150 each. ▲



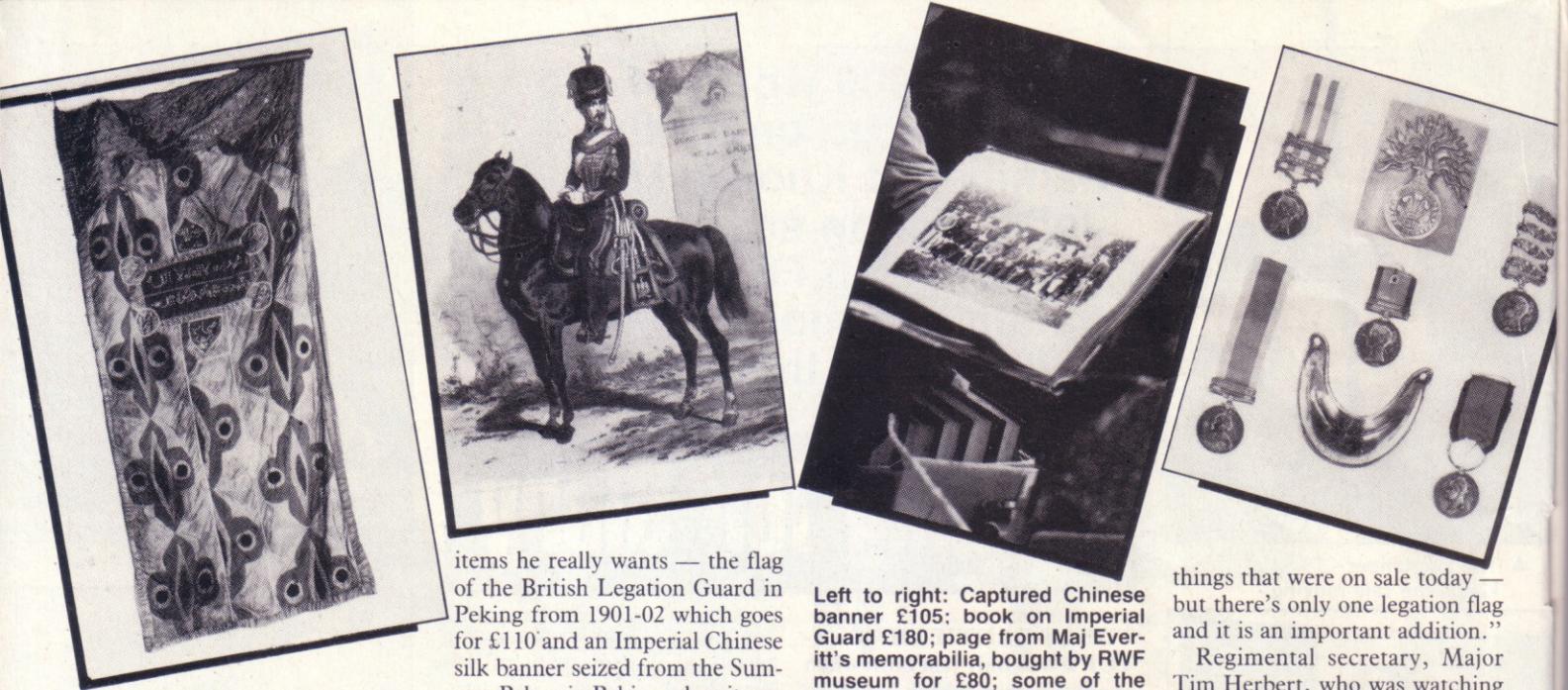
▲ French colour captured Quebec — £110.

Phillips

FINE ARTS
One of the Phillips' staff with selection of RWF mess kit.



The peaceful grounds of Knowle Hall.



continued from page 29

Major Kirby is runner-up again for a rare George III officer's silver gorget at £400 and also misses a collection of RWF photographs, prints and other memorabilia at £48.

But the major finally gets the

items he really wants — the flag of the British Legation Guard in Peking from 1901-02 which goes for £110 and an Imperial Chinese silk banner seized from the Summer Palace in Peking when it was taken and occupied by the Royal Welch Fusiliers. There is spirited bidding for this and it finally goes for £270.

Other high prices are paid for a Dervish flag at £370 and a stand of silk painted colours of the forerunners of the Scots Guards,

issued in 1815 after Waterloo. These have badly perished through time but still command £260.

In the afternoon, during the book section, more RWF memorabilia goes for £80 to the museum and Major Everitt's scrapbook containing watercolour, pen and sketch contributions, reaches £140.

Major Kirby said afterwards that he was pleased to have obtained the two flags. "We would have liked more but they were going for silly prices. We are not Government sponsored and we have to make the money in order to buy."

The flags will join the Boxer Period section at the Museum in Caernarfon Castle, which has more than a quarter of a million visitors each year. "We have a good collection of most of the

things that were on sale today — but there's only one legation flag and it is an important addition."

Regimental secretary, Major Tim Herbert, who was watching the proceedings, told SOLDIER: "For some of these special regimental things the museum is the best place. The families from which they come usually prefer them to be lodged in the museum for posterity. We are not buying and selling — just putting them in their proper place."

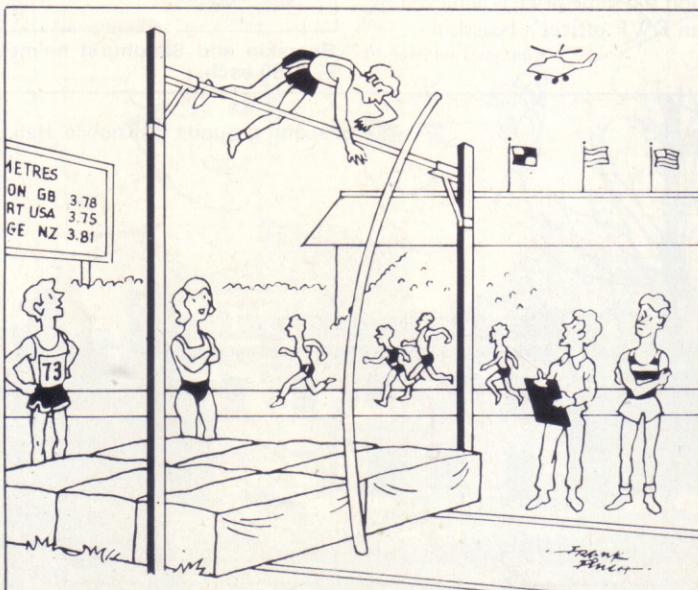
Phillips, the auctioneers, have produced an illustrated booklet *Rags of Glory* on a collection of British regimental colours bequeathed to the National Army Museum by the late Horace Everitt.

The booklet is available by post at £3 from Phillips, The Old House, Station Rd, Knowle, West Midlands, B93 0HT. Cheques should be made payable to The South Atlantic Fund to which all proceeds are being given.

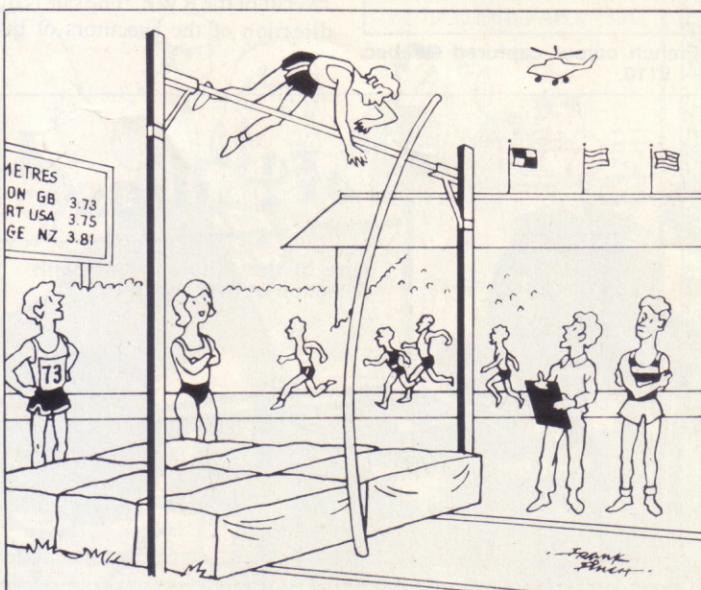


Maj Everitt, lying down at front, in a group picture from RMC Sandhurst taken in 1880.

How observant are you?



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





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Whether patrolling the Northern Ireland border or preparing for a march in the Himalayas, men of the Cheshire are always on the move . . .

TYRONE'S POWERHOUSE



A familiar site around camp is RSM Ron Goodwin, pedalling his bike painted in the regimental colours of cerise and buff. The 41-year-old warrant officer says jokingly: "With 21 years in the regiment I'm starting to feel in tune with it."

Pte Crowther — being kept busy in the Ops Room.

Sgt Priera — sharp man with a saw.

Drummers Swindells and Fisher practise for the big day.

A SQUAD OF SOLDIERS march two-abreast towards the parade ground, their glistening boots crunching on the gravel road. Nearby in a classroom their colleagues are being trained how to spot terrorists.

Such scenes mean it's business as usual for the 1st Battalion The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment based at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly, about 20 miles east of Londonderry city.

The 650 soldiers of this unit, which is among the oldest in the Army and one of the few to retain its county identity and title since its formation in 1689, are on a two-year engagement in Ulster. It's their eighth in the Province.

This time they are responsible for security along a 30-mile stretch of rugged border near Aughnacloy, County Tyrone.

They must also be ready to move to any trouble spot in the 8th Infantry Brigade area that covers the western half of the six counties.

Inside the base the 120 men comprising one of the battalion's four rifle companies make last-minute checks on their ammunition and ration supplies.

Soon they will move out to take over the Aughnacloy command post. But behind them they leave a busy hive of activity as the rest of the battalion goes about a typical day's routine.

Getting in some practice for the imminent Beating the Retreat ceremony are Leading Drummer David Swindells and Drummer Paul Fisher, both professional soldiers and trained musicians, and part of the battalion's 30-strong Corps of Drums.

Another of their number, Private Paul Jones, is doing his third guard duty in a week at the regiment's main gate checking every arrival at the base. "It's a hectic time for me," he admits. "Soon I'm off to clean my kit for the next musical display."

Keeping the base in flawless condition is the task of the Assault Pioneer Wing run by 43-year-old Sergeant Jose Priera. A former blacksmith, he can tackle almost anything from clearing minefields to fixing saws, but at Shackleton Barracks his men are kept busy mending doors, windows and painting signs.

Fortunately the sounds of sawing and hammering do not disturb the calm of the

classroom where Instructor Lieutenant Gordon Wilde, RAEC, teaches promotion-seeking soldiers management and mathematics with the aim of helping them gain that extra stripe.

But there is no such cloistered calm in the Battalion Operations Room, where the description 'hectic' is an understatement. Radio calls are constantly being made and received with the foot soldiers out on patrol.

"It's vital work," says the duty operator, 22-year-old Private James Crowther.

There is some respite however for the all-action Cheshires. Firm believers that bright minds are sharper when accompanied by fit bodies, the battalion pays a lot of attention to exercise and sport.

The Cheshires have won the Army Athletics Championships three times but their interests extend well beyond the traditional track and field events. Gliding and parascending are particularly popular diversions on their vast airfield home and those keen to keep their feet nearer — but not on — the ground can try horse-riding with a choice of a dozen mounts.

Explains the groom, Private Howard Ferns: "Since we've had Scrumpy, a ten-year-old mare from the King's Troop in London, pony-trekking has become very popular."

Next spring the Cheshires will be putting 'Shanks' pony' to the test — led by Major Brian Kerslake, RAEC, Group Education Officer (West). He aims to take eleven hand-picked men from the battalion on a high altitude walking exercise, 20,000 feet up in the Khumba-Everest region of East Nepal.

It's an ambitious undertaking but typical of the spirit that the Cheshires have brought to Shackleton Barracks during their stay.

As Private Crowther in the Ops Room puts it: "Being always ready for action is our style." ■

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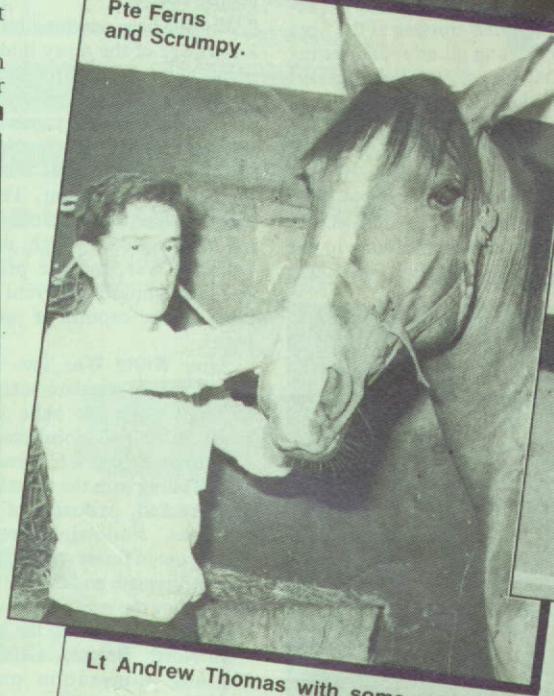
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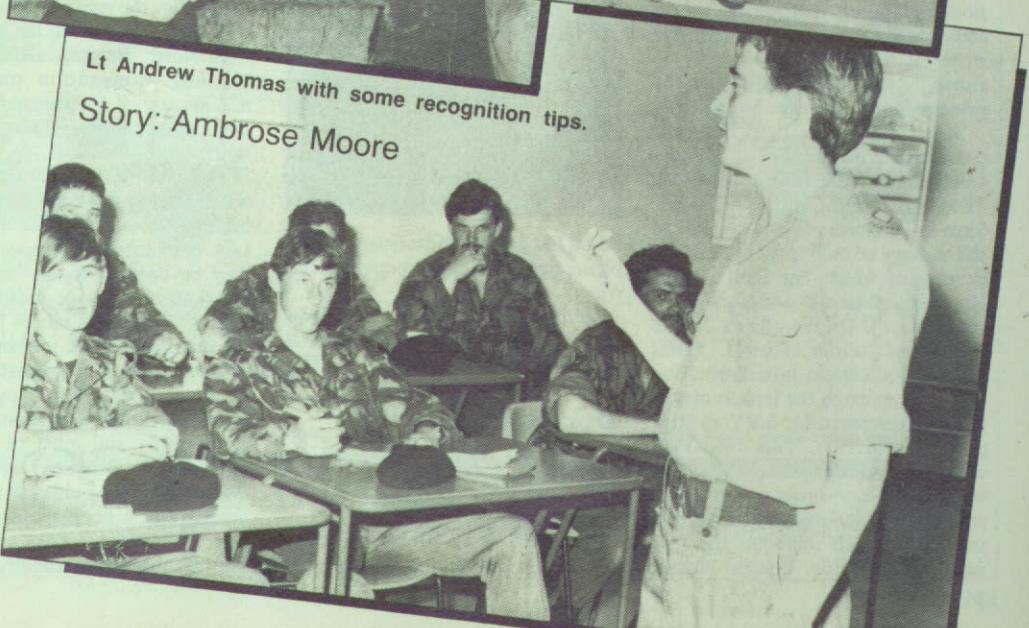
The officers' mess boasts a magnificent collection of silver and the man with the job of keeping it clean is the regiment's silverman, 19-year-old Private Paul Callin, pictured here with an antique candelabra. "Just seeing them gleam is sheer satisfaction," he says.

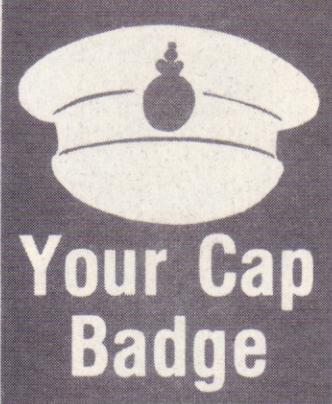


Lt Andrew Thomas with some recognition tips.
Story: Ambrose Moore



Pte Jones on
guard duty.





Your Cap Badge

No 22

THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

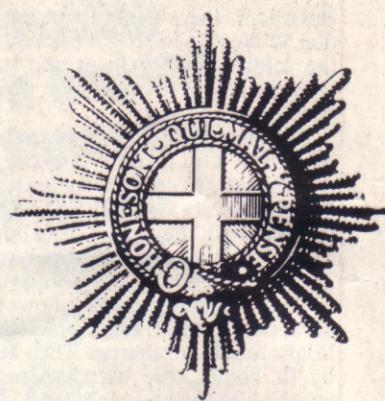
'SECOND TO NONE' is the translation of the motto *Nulli Secundus* for although the Coldstream Guards rank second in the List, they claim an

earlier origin than the Grenadier Guards and admit to no inferiority whatsoever — indeed it would be a brave man who suggested such a thing.

Raised on the order of Oliver Cromwell to form Monck's Regiment of Foot, they served ten years in the New Model Army before beginning their service to the restored monarch, Charles the Second, on Saint Valentine's Day in 1661. From that day began their long career as personal guards to the Sovereign. In 1670 the secondary part of their title, hitherto only common usage, was made official and they were designated the 'Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards', a title that continued until 1817 when the shortened version in use today was adopted. When referring to this regiment one is bound to use the term 'The Coldstream' or possibly 'The Coldstreamers' but never under any circumstances, barring dangerous ignorance, 'The Coldstreams'!

The regiment's history runs

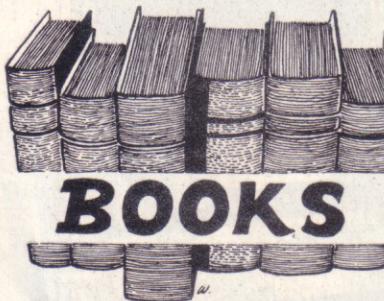
on much the same lines as the Grenadier Guards, commencing with the honour 'Tangier 1680'. These battle honours seem legion when borne for all to see as they are on both Colours. Small wonder that when they pass in view one can observe men of advancing years, whose bearing stamps them forever as Guardsmen, stand even more erect, remove their hats and remain silent. The badge of the regiment is the Star of the Order of the Garter and the dress distinctions are as follows: the red plume worn on the right side of the bearskin, the tunic buttons worn in pairs and the white band round the forage cap. The cap badge is never referred to as such but is known as the 'cap star' and is currently worn in anodised gold finish material, having been previously gilding metal. As such it is worn by all ranks with the exception of warrant officers, drum majors, orderly room sergeants and band sergeants who wear a badge similar in



shape to that depicted but in silver with the Garter motto backing in blue enamel and the cross backed in red enamel. Officers wear an elongated star in silver with the backings as previously described in the forage cap but a smaller, half-size, format is worn in the field service cap.

Hugh L King

Next issue:
The Scots Guards



The Arab-Israeli Wars: Chaim Herzog

Major-General Chaim Herzog has been a soldier since, as a teen-age boy, he was sworn into Haganah in a dark Jerusalem cellar in the 1930s. This did not stop him from serving in the British Army in World War Two. He was one of 30,000 Jewish volunteers in the British service whose training, experience, organisational and technical background were to be invaluable to the infant Israeli forces in the late 1940s.

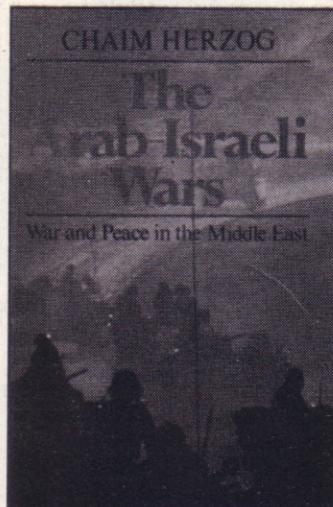
Now he chronicles their campaigns, from the improvisations of undercover days under the British mandate to the quick, very professional planning that earned world admiration for the Entebbe raid. He writes succinctly and his accounts are enhanced by word-pictures of the principal officers on the Israeli side.

Some of the campaigns have had considerable significance in the development of the military science. Thus the Israelis' campaign in the Sinai in 1956 was a classic example of the strategy of indirect approach, the prophet of which, Sir Basil Liddell Hart, described the campaign as "a work of art". On the other side, the Egyptians under Anwar Sadat mounted a classic misinformation campaign to catch the Israelis almost totally unprepared for the Yom Kippur attack in 1973. This same 1973 campaign was the first missile war in which surface-to-surface, surface-to-air and air-to-surface missiles were all used and which included the first naval missile battle. General Herzog

claims "the entire science of military strategy and technique has had to be re-evaluated in the light of the lessons of this war".

But there are also echoes of World War Two. Thus the Israelis had a plan, and some installations, to prevent an Egyptian crossing of the Suez canal by floating oil on it and setting it alight, similar to the plan conceived for the South Coast of England. In the event though, it was not used.

There are also examples of gallant improvisation, one of the more hair-raising of which was the use of Mustang piston-engined fighters to cut off Egyptian communications in the Sinai in 1956. They flew at 12 feet



above the ground and destroyed telephone lines with their propellers and wings.

Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1PR — £11.95.

RLE

Documents on the Laws of War: edited by Adam Roberts and Richard Guelff

"Protected by the Geneva Convention" is a phrase not infrequently

heard in the Army. It occurs in conversations about wounded and the Red Cross, about 'dum-dum' bullets, historic buildings and incidents affecting refugees. And recent events in the Falklands have made it particularly topical.

Yet few have anything but hearsay knowledge of the many international agreements signed through the years and which the authors of this book present in some 500 pages. Here are set out nearly 30 declarations, conventions and protocols that contain the agreed laws of war. The first is the 1856 Paris Declaration Respecting Maritime Law which, during the Crimean War, forbade privateering and harmonised different national rules on the capture of property at sea.

After World War Two an effort was made to up-date many of the agreed laws in the light of experiences in the two global conflicts. In 1949 there were new Geneva Conventions dealing with the wounded, sick, shipwrecked, prisoners of war and civilians. Following the United States' use of forest and crop destruction in Vietnam and their attempts to manipulate the weather in Indo-China with a view to flooding the land route from North Vietnam, a 1977 United Nations' Convention prohibited military use of environmental modification techniques. Thirty-one nations signed.

The most recent UN Convention was signed in 1981 and aims at prohibiting or restricting the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be "excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects". Protocol I names fragments not detectable in the human body by X-rays. Protocol II restricts the use of mines and booby traps — they must be directed against military targets only and must be fully recorded or self-destructive. (Shades of Argentine minefields in the Falklands.) Not a book the average soldier would need to keep on his shelf but one that could usefully be avail-

able in military libraries.
Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP — £10.95.

GRH

No Heroes, No Cowards: Hawtin Mundy

Hawtin Mundy was a young apprentice railway worker in Wolverhampton when the First World War broke out. Like so many others, motivated by patriotism and a youthful thirst for adventure, he hurried to join up. He was in it, as he says, "from the first week to the finish", taking in the battle of the Somme, the battle of Arras, 20 months as a prisoner of war and collecting three lots of wounds along the way. In 1981, aged 87, Mundy recorded his reminiscences and these have now been transcribed.

What makes Mundy's experiences so fascinating is that they were not especially unusual; in chatty, colloquial style he recounts incidents which must have been typical for thousands of young men who joined up in the first few months of the war. He takes us through the high spirits and camaraderie of his enlistment and training and on to life in the trenches, where he was captured after being cut-off and pinned down by shellfire in No Man's Land. As a prisoner he was housed in a small village camp and loaned out as a labourer to local farmers. His description of his colleagues is as appropriate an epitaph for his generation as any:

"I don't believe there was such a thing as heroes or cowards in that war . . . We were not really soldiers at all, we were just civilians with guns in our hands, mainly young chaps . . . I saw a coward one day and the same man to be a hero the next day, so I don't believe there's any such thing at all because in war you're not human."

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IJK

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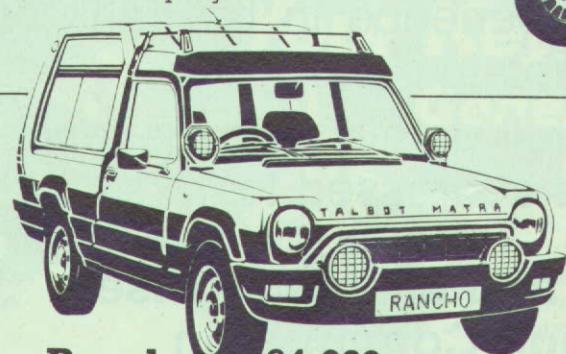
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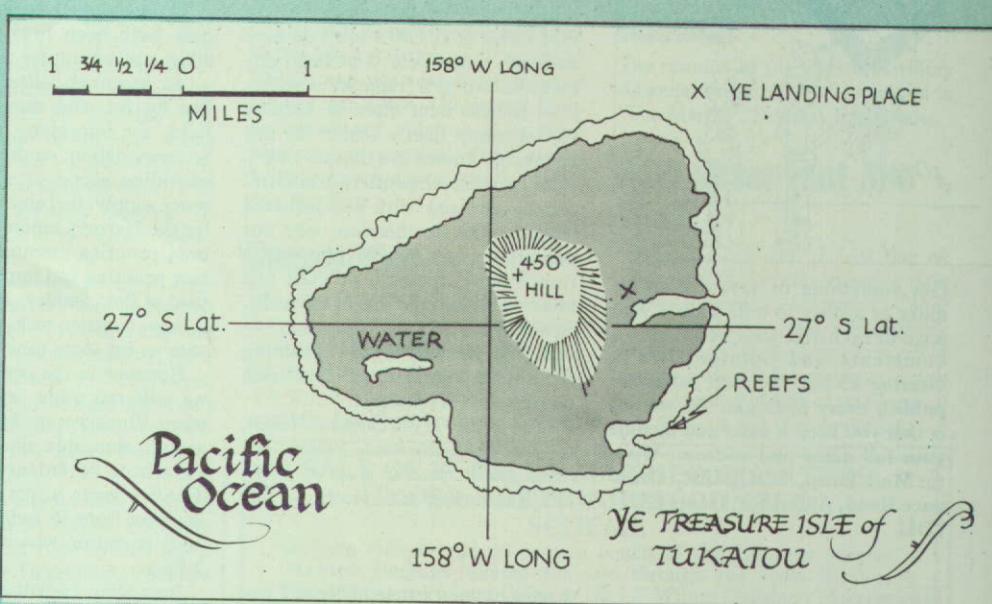
Hidden Treasure

COMPETITION 298

JACK STAFF, a friend of ours for many years, was fascinated by old maps and had a fine collection of them. One day he came into possession of an old chart of an island in the South Seas which, according to legend, contained a vast hoard of buried treasure. A fair copy of the chart is shown on the right.

Beneath the map was written:

I'm one at three and six at seven
 At one I'm three; at eight eleven
 I'm two at four; five's half a score
 Eleven is nine; yet nine is four
 Ten will give eight; two's five not nine
 Sixes are sevens — that ends the line . . .
 Repeat.



On the back of the chart a long message in code was written:
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the message continues . . .

Can you break the code of the above message, read the message and from your reading say (a) what did the treasure consist of (b) where on the island was it located?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 10 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 4 October. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 298' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 298' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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BOOTS . . .

As a serving soldier, I have been following keenly the exploits of our forces in the Falklands Campaign, and am very proud of the victorious outcome.

However, having read the 'News Lines' column (12 July) I was very shocked to read of one of our soldiers suffering from 'trench-foot'. Who would have thought that the soldier of today, the era of the silicon-chip, space shuttle etc, would suffer from the problem that dogged his predecessor way back in the 1914-1918 war?

I then started to think of the inadequacies of other items of personal equipment issued to the soldier of today, for example the 'Woolly-Pully', admired by many, but which is in fact made of polyester as are the issue socks — cheaper than, but not nearly as heat retaining as wool; steel helmets which are far too heavy and cumbersome, and if you wear spectacles, as I do, bang up and down on your specs whenever you walk or run, doing no end of damage to one's nose; gloves which when wet are worse than useless; puttees which again, should have gone out in the First World War.

You state in your 'bootnote' to the article that a new combat high boot has been under trial since May 1981 or even earlier. Come on now, a year or even more to test and accept a boot? I do know the problems involved having visited the Stores and Clothing Research & Development Establishment Colchester, but surely this is an excessive period of time to decide if a boot is right for the job or not. Or is the combat high boot to end up on the reject shelf? (See letter following.)

I had the good luck to spend the last two years in Cyprus, and in the height of summer our working dress was beret, shirt No 2 dress, trousers lightweight, socks polyester and boots DMS. I then returned to Catterick last September and my working dress was exactly the same. Even in the depths of last winter, all I had to add to this list was a woolly-pully, and a combat jacket, a flimsy gar-

ment at the best of times. Water-proofs? Only if purchased by the individual, currently advertised in SOLDIER at £24.00 a set. I do have an issue, somewhere, a pathetic garment known as a 'raincoat' a shapeless, useless item more in keeping with a tramp than a soldier (in fact commonly known as a 'flasher-mac').

As a soldier who suffers 'sun-burn' can be charged with self-inflicted wounds, can he therefore take our military masters to task if he suffers trench-foot, frostbite, or even just mind-numbing cold due to the inefficiency of his personal equipment? — **Cpl J R Howat, Trade Training School, 8 Signal Regt, Catterick Garrison, N Yorkshire.**

£5 is on its way to you Corporal Howat, for your lively discourse. Perhaps you could put it towards a set of SOLDIER-advertised waterproofs! — Ed.

... ISSUE

I refer to your article in News Lines — 'Boots Bother Queen' (12 July). Your readers may like to know that the new combat boot has been accepted for general introduction into the Army and issues will start in the late Autumn. Most combat troops now in the Falklands are already equipped with them. — **Col J A Hulme, Logistic Executive (Army), Portway, Monxton Road, Andover, Hants, SP11 8HT.**

TASK FORCE '39

Even after 42 years the BEF or British Expeditionary Force are spoken of all over the world with pride and rightly so — remember Dunkirk, Calais, and St Valery.

But those gallant 1939-40 BEF lads were shunned by those who allocate campaign medals, and decided a 1939-40 Campaign Medal for the Boys England Forgot (BEF) was too good for them because it was a defeat, and they do not give campaign medals for a defeat.

But surely there must now be a glimmer of hope.

A few months ago the Argentines invaded the Falkland Islands and defeated the few Royal Marines there. Later on our wonderful Task Force went back and retook the Falklands — just like their dads did in 1944 (D-Day) in France.

Of course the Task Force should have a campaign medal, plus an MM each. But don't forget the young lads also 17 years to 22 years old, who as a Task Force in 1939-40 were sacrificed to give England time to beat Germany. — **Jack Buckley, 8 Little Field, Stoke Heath, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV2 3HB.**

DOING THEIR BIT

The Royal Engineer contingent involved in the Falkland Crisis numbered more than any individual battalion or commando unit and since the end of hostilities we have sent out further squadrons. We had many sapper casualties in the number killed and it has caused considerable distress to our families that there has

been incorrect reportage of the death toll.

Throughout all the operations Sappers have been providing support afloat and ashore, for the Task Force — on Ascension Island, with a pipeline for fuel and storage at the airfield, for improving and restoring accommodation; on the Falklands, in providing access over the beaches, water supply, fuel and operating pads for the Harriers ashore, accommodation, restoring essential services and now restoring and improving the airfield at Port Stanley. Mine clearance is now a major task which will be with us for some time.

However in the operational phase we suffered quite severe casualties when Sappers were operating in the assault alongside the Commandos, Parachute or Infantry Battalions. The first green berets into Port Stanley were from 59 Independent Commando Squadron who were there with 2 Para.

Regarding casualties we have for RE, 9 Killed In Action; 23 Wounded, many seriously, these casualties occurring in 59 Independent Commando Squadron, 9 Parachute Squadron, 3 Troop 20 Squadron, 11 Field Squadron and 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD). Many of the casualty lists have either failed to show the unit identity of the participants, eg that the bomb disposal work on HMS Ardent and HMS Antelope was carried out by Royal Engineers, or claimed that individuals were 'attached' to other units. I can assure you that the Sappers were there operating in support of the Commandos, the Parachute Squadron, the Infantry Battalions of 5 Brigade and the RAF and were certainly not 'attached'. — **Col J B Wilks, RHQ Royal Engineers, Brompton Bks, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4UG.**

WOUNDED

The story about my part in the Battle of Cambrai was published as I told it to your reporter in Arras ('Tankies Back on the Somme' 25 June) but following that you say that I was wounded thirteen months later; in actual fact that would have been December 1919 one month after the war ended.

The action in which I was wounded and taken prisoner took place on 24 March 1918 near Bapaume.

The German in the picture which you state is Kurt Meyer is in fact Gerhard Remell who became very friendly with me during my week in Arras which I thoroughly enjoyed. — **George Brown, 111 Lord Lane, Failsworth, Manchester, M35 0RZ.**

ROLL OF HONOUR

I've just been reading my latest issue of SOLDIER (25 June) and came across the Roll of Honour of our soldiers killed in the Falklands campaign. It certainly brings it home to the reader when you see rank, name, age and unit given.

I realise that SOLDIER is our Army magazine, and no doubt the

Navy News and RAF News have only published the names of their lads killed, but since this was a combined operation and all three services were so closely involved with each other, all personnel who gave their lives could have been mentioned. This may have taken up more space, but I don't think a double page is too much for those who gave so much.

Also, how about a similar Roll of Honour, name, rank, unit, age etc for personnel killed in Northern Ireland? While we are holding thanksgiving services all over the country for those who did not make it back from the South Atlantic, I think it is important that we also remember those who have died in Ulster since 1969 and show their relatives and loved ones, that we have not forgotten the sacrifice made by them.

I often read in SOLDIER the lists of mentioned in dispatches and other awards for Service personnel in Ulster. But there is little mention of those who gave the most — their lives. — **Rhys Eales Griffiths, 77 Union St, Central, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales.**

We take your point about a tri-Service Roll of Honour for the Falklands, Mr Griffiths, but we just didn't have the space. As for Ulster, we always try to publish names of those killed in action. — Ed.

FUNDRAISER

I am writing to ask if any of your readers would like to do me a favour and benefit the South Atlantic Fund at the same time.

I collect sweatshirts and T-shirts and I have always wanted some of the type worn by soldiers seen in your magazine advertising their unit or regiment. If any regiment or unit would be kind enough to sell me one (medium size) I will donate some money to the South Atlantic fund for each shirt I can get. I'm only a poor nurse so that at the moment I can only give £1 a shirt but this may be more depending on how many I get.

However, if some kind unit would give a shirt, then I will gladly donate the cost to the South Atlantic fund. I'll be happy to answer all correspondence and I am prepared to drive anywhere to collect a shirt. — **Miss Elaine Smith, 38a Hamstel Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 4PF.**

ARMY MAKETH MAN

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your excellent magazine.

My husband is the Hon Secretary of the Portsmouth & District Branch of the Royal Engineers Association and is always loaned a copy of SOLDIER. With your magazine and 'The Sapper' we keep in touch with the many interesting events in the Army.

We are of course now pensioners, but take great interest in any event concerning the modern service. The Falklands of course proved that a few years in the services would make men of most of the layabouts.

My regards to you all and many thanks for a good read. — **Audrey E White, 150 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5DH.**

Can You Help?

I am writing a book on the last war in the Arras area and would like information from British veterans who were in the Guards Division in September 1944 or 4th and 7th RTR; 6, 8, 9, 10 & 11 DLI battalions May 1940; 4th RNF May 1940. All information on their action will be welcomed. I also collect military badges, relics and equipment and wish to make contact with collectors for exchanges. British material and badges only, WWI and WWII and present day. — Monsieur Andre Coilliot, 71 Rue Raoul Briquet, Beaureaine, 62000 Arras, France.

I would like to hear from any men from the 6th Bn Somerset LI during the 1939-45 war. I was with this unit from 1939 until being posted to Burma with the 10th Glosters. — Mr D R Shearn, 10 Ringwood Road, Oldfield Park, Bath, BA2 3JJ.

I am hoping that someone may be able to help me put a 15-year-old boy, who is at present living with foster parents, in touch with his two older brothers who are in the Regular Army. I am unable to obtain their address through the usual channels because the only information I have is the soldiers' names and birth dates.

The names are: Colin Duff (dob 2.1.61) and Ricky Duff (dob 18.10.59). It is their younger brother Stephen (dob 7.7.67) living in Harlow, Essex who has lost touch with his family and would very much like to contact them again.

If they write to me I can put them in touch with each other. Mrs Greta Bennett, Social Worker, Essex County Council, Social Services Department, Harlow Area, Level 10 Terminus House, The High, Harlow.

Pen Pals

My name is Leila and I'm 18 years old. I'm 4ft 8ins (small, but cute!) with black hair and brown eyes and dark skin. I adore Tamla Motown and soul music. — Leila Smithhaynes, 69 Prospero Way, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambs.

My name is Julie and I am 19 years old with blonde hair and blue eyes. I enjoy parties, discos, being a gorilla and most sports. I am a 5ft 8ins model and I would especially like to write to a soldier from Arborfield Garrison. All letters answered. — Julia Cox, 15 Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham, Berks.

My name is Eileen and I am 28 years old and separated with two small boys. I am 5ft 2ins tall with short brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are reading, writing, country and western music, travelling and theatre etc. I would like to write to someone aged between 28 to early 30s. All letters answered. Photos if possible. Eileen Pedge, 128 Macaulay Drive, St Giles Estate, Lincoln, Lincs, LN2 4ES.

My name is Helen and I am 16 years old with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are dancing, art, writing, music and reading. I would like to write to anyone between the ages of 16-19. All letters answered. Photos appreciated. — Helen Imrie, 19 Bonchory Green, Collydean, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland.

I am in the RAMC serving a two-year tour of Northern Ireland. I would like to write to female penpals aged between 20-35 years old. My hobbies include most sports, writing, socialising and having a good time all round. I am 20 years old, 5ft 8ins tall with light brown hair and green eyes. Photos if possible. — Pte S L Horvath, MRS Ballykelly, BFP 802.

My name is Beverley and I am 16½ years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with auburn hair and brown eyes. I like discos and music. I would like to write to a soldier aged between 17-20 years old. — Beverley Gooding, 29 Dawberry Road, King's Heath, Birmingham 6 RU.

My name is Alison and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are music, travel, writing, reading, etc. I would like to hear from soldiers aged 19-23 at home or abroad. All letters answered. — Alison Turner, 16 Richmond Close, The Leys, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 7QS.

My name is Donna and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with long brown hair and blue eyes. I am a member of the Dagenham Crusaders drum and bugle corps. I like discos and soul music, George Benson and Earth, Wind & Fire. — Donna Riley, 11 Wellington Drive, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9XX.

Collectors' Corner

R A Shaw, 287 Gristhorpe Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 7SN. Seeks 'Staybrite' cap badges and tunic buttons in good condition. Badge and button of: Jewish Chaplain; Veterinary Corps; Provost Corps; Mons Officer Cadets; Royal Hospital Chelsea; Royal Malta Artillery; Gurkha Staff Band; 2nd KE 7th Gurkha Rifles; Hon Artillery (Inf & Battery); 11th Hussars; Lowland Brigade; Lancastrian Brigade; Yorkshire Brigade; Wessex Brigade; Welch Brigade; Herefordshire Regt; Berkshire Regt; Cambridgeshire Regt; East Surrey Regt; Middlesex Regt; Monmouthshire Regt; Royal Norfolk Regt; Suffolk Regt; Royal Sussex Regt; West Kent Regt; Wiltshire Regt; Artists Rifles; Durham Lt Inf; K Shropshire Lt Inf; K.O. Yorkshire Lt Inf; Lovat Scouts; Reconnaissance Corps; Somerset Lt Inf; KR Rifle Corps. Badge only of: Royal Regt of Wales; D of Wellington; Education Corps; Dental Corps; Army PT Corps. Collar badges of 2nd and 4th Bn Anglian Regt. Send list prices etc.

A F Clarke, 341 Muirfield Road, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts, WD1 6JZ. Seeks a copy of LPs by the 1st HLI, 5/6 HLI, Welch Regiment and Royal Irish Fusiliers. Please write stating price.

B Butler, 68 Gould Road, Barnstaple, N Devon. Private collector wishes to purchase anything on the Devonshire Regiment.

R Lambert, PO Box 526, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. Wants cloth 'patch' type insignia. Does not have any badge swaps, but has a fair selection of mint and used South African stamps for exchange.

Gary Want, 128 Gravel Hill, Tile Hill South, Coventry, CV4 9JN. Wishes to purchase any items connected with the SAS, in particular: SAS Regimental stable belt; SAS collar dogs; beret (with cap piece); shoulder-strap rank slides

(from trooper to staff-sergeant). Good price offered.

Lt Col I R McIntosh, 1 de Vaux Place, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2SJ. Offers back numbers of *SOLDIER* from 1952 to 1981. Almost complete set.

Arthur H Silvester, Khanpur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6LW. Has a collection of 40 near-mint British campaign medals for offers of not less than £400. Also several books on medals and militaria in excellent condition, lists available. SAE please. Seeks foreign badges especially Middle and Far East.

satisfy all the stated conditions, and whilst we received a handful of brave entries, we have had to declare this competition void. But we shall be repeating the puzzle, correctly, at a future date.

Reunion

The reunion of the Ceylon Artillery Association is on 18 September in 'The Marine', Seaside, Eastbourne.

How Observant Are You?

1 Jumper's left foot; 2 Left flag on grandstand; 3 Leading runner's right arm; 4 Girl athlete's left hand; 5 Collar of man second from right; 6 Helicopter's middle rotor; 7 Angle strut at top left of jumping frame; 8 Top right numeral on results board; 9 Angle of stand roof at left; 10 Grass tuft, foreground left.

Competition

The diagram in Competition 294, 'Rare Wines' was incorrectly drawn. The letter E should have indicated the far right vertical row and not the row previous as shown in the diagram. It was therefore impossible to

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Bulletin Nos 39 and 40 contain details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

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The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and applications forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 39 is 18 August 1982 and for Bulletin Number 40 is 8 September 1982.



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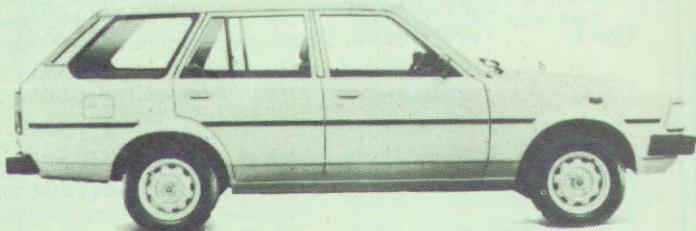
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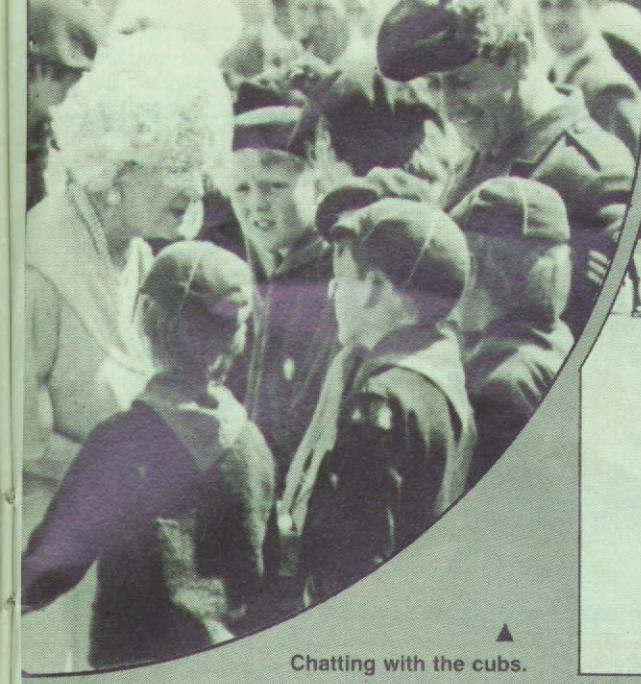
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When the Queen Mother visits the Black Watch it's always . . .

AFTER RECENTLY seeing an addition to her immediate family, the Queen Mother visited over one thousand members of her other, Scottish, family — the 1st Battalion The Black Watch — at their camp in Werl, Germany.

The Queen Mother first inspected the Regiment of which she became Colonel-in-Chief in 1937 after the death of King George V, and she has now visited them almost 100 times. She congratulated them on their outstanding smartness and bearing, and reminded them that they were guardians of a superb tradition of service to the country in many parts of the world. As their Colonel-in-Chief, she was proud that they had earned distinction in so many places.

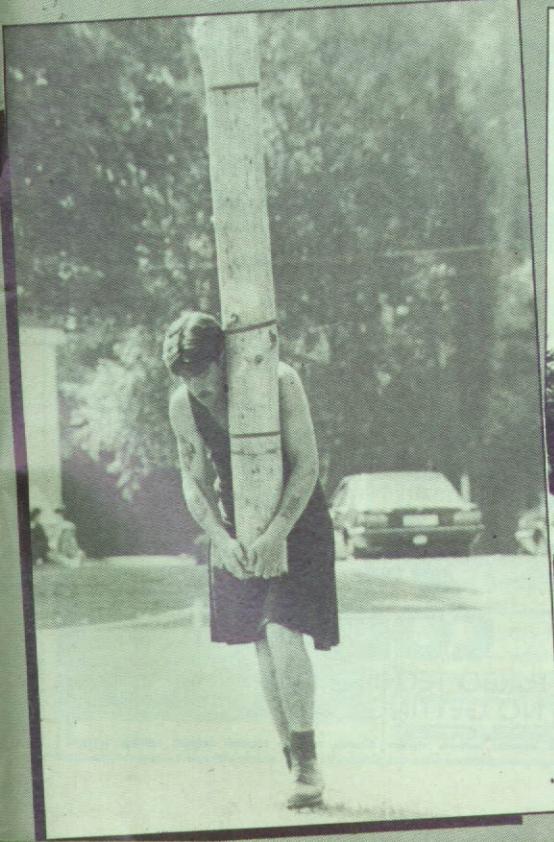
She was particularly pleased to see so many families present. They were an integral part of the Regiment, she said, and in their own way served Queen and Country

just as their husbands, brothers and sons did.

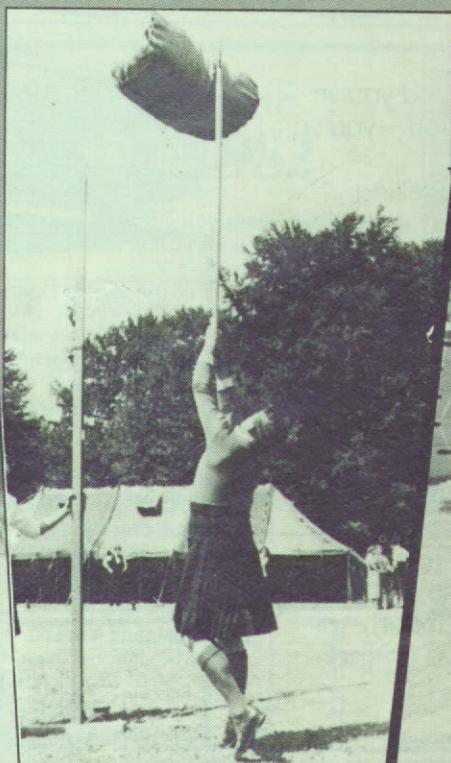
Among those watching the impressive parade led by Lieutenant Colonel Garry Barnett was the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Andy Watson, whose son, Captain Alistair Watson, marched past with A Company. Boys from the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, were also on parade — with the Black Watch Boy Scout Troop. They form Hook Patrol, named after the Regiment's Korean battle honour.

A highlight of the Queen Mother's visit was the Regimental Highland Games. As well as the usual events such as piping and dancing competitions, caber tossing and tug of war championships, the Jocks were able to demonstrate their skill at 'bog' leaping and tossing the sheaf. Sergeant Geordie Buist won the latter by hoicking the hay 15 feet — they couldn't put the bar any higher! ■

Concentration for Cpl Les Shaw. ▼



The bar wouldn't go any higher! ▼



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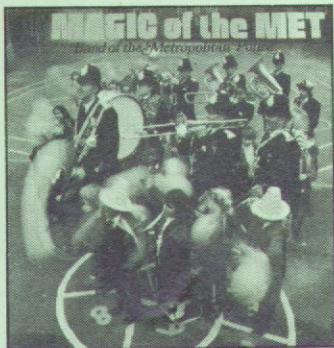


On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

The Magic of The Met

Band of the Metropolitan Police. Conductor: Captain C Taylor. DR41. Most of the musicians in the Met Band started their careers in the Services and by now have much experience of the wind band repertoire and style. My old band sergeant must be in his fifties but still blows a nifty trombone, and there seem to be plenty of greyish locks among others. This maturity shows in a nicely played programme of light music with only one of the police puns involved. Captain Chris Taylor's own *Special Beat* certainly avoids the PC Plod style in a melodious march, as does Alan Street's *Metroforce, Cornets*



A-Go-Go, and *Frankfurt Polka*, give the cornets and clarinets a chance to shine and, as always, the Met vocalist, PC Alexander Morgan, gives pleasant voice to a couple of ballads, this time *When We Believe* and Cavaretti's *Let Me Try Again*. The band completes its programme with Glen Osser's *Music for a Summer Night* and *Bandolero*, Christopher Paul's *Latin Magic*, Osterling's *Sunburst*, an *Overture for Winds* by Charles Carter, and a medley of tunes from the show *Curtain Up*.

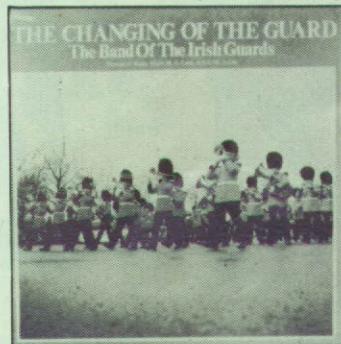
From Band of Metropolitan Police, HQ, New Scotland Yard, Price £4 plus p&p, cassette or LP.

The Changing of the Guard

Band of the Irish Guards.

Conductor: Major M G Lane. Band-leader, BND 1002, 7 Garrick St, London WC2.

Although not an actual simulation of the ceremony, Changing of the Guard is a convenient peg on which to hang a few slow and quick marches, and play a short programme of concert music to drown the clicking camera-shutters outside the railings. It's quite a time since we heard from the Irish Guards, and they take the opportunity to give us a few old, and



several new, marches with suitably opposite titles.

Wellington, *San Lorenzo* (in its full version acquired when the band was on a visit to Argentina of all places), and *Sons of the Brave* are the standard marches, with a new one named after the regimental motto *Quis Separabit* by an ex-bandsman, now a student at Kneller Hall, Brian Cunningham. Other items of Irishry are *Let Erin Remember*, *Cormac of Tara*, a new march by Major Lane named after the Regiment's present wolfhound mascot, *The Star of St Patrick* also by Major Lane, *The Kerry March*, *St Patrick's Day* of course, and three Irish airs.

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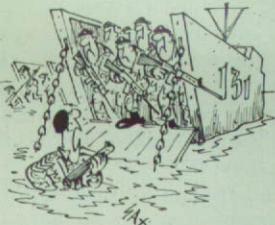
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Malcolm Arnold's *HRH The Duke of Cambridge*, Suppé's overture *Pique Dame*, and Bizet's *Farandole* are also performed in sparkling fashion here, but would normally get short shrift whilst the musicians took the opportunity to relax, loosen their bearskin caps, scratch their noses, de-sweat, and pray for rain.

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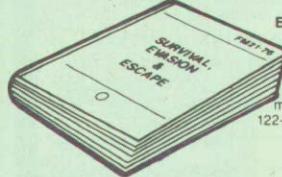
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LARKHILL

Underdogs triumph in softball final



Major Dennis Radnoti. ▲



Putting his beef into it. ▲

IT WASN'T EXACTLY the New York Yankees in a World Series — but the softball match on the Piggery ground at Larkhill had plenty of runs and excitement and revealed that seeds from the top American summer game had fallen on fertile ground at the Salisbury Plain artillery centre.

Softball, a less frenetic version of baseball, which is in itself related to the playground game of rounders, (also indulged in by the WRAC), has been a feature of Larkhill summers for several years now.

The man who has the task of organising the Larkhill softball league is the American exchange officer in the Gunnery Wing. This year's incumbent, Major Dennis Radnoti, was flabbergasted when he arrived to hear what his duties would include. Fortunately he had been a keen baseball player during his various US Army postings.

"I had to spend a lot of time explaining the rules" he said. "There were only three people in the league who had played baseball — two Canadians and myself. But it surprised me how enthusiastic they were — it was a startling transformation from cricket for them to find that they had to run every time they hit the ball."

But the softball attracted ten

teams, each of 12 players plus reserves and despite some walk-over scores most matches were keenly fought. So the stage was set for the final between the two best sides of the year — Gunnery Wing, unbeaten all summer and including Major Radnoti, and the outsiders, Gunnery Staff Course (Locating). "I don't think either of them would beat an American team but they are pretty good" said Major Radnoti.

Umpire was the Commandant of the Royal School of Artillery, Brigadier Derek Jones, a keen softball enthusiast. "I used to play a lot at Staff College. I think it is a lot of fun, even for those who are not great players. Almost anyone can swing a club."

In the first innings the locators went into a surprise 6-3 lead. Hitting well was Australian, Captain Mick Lovell, who maintained he was more at home with a tennis racket.

Pitching in softball has to follow a gentle arc — so there is none of the 90 mph intimidation seen in major league baseball. Both pitchers were in their first seasons in the job — WO2 Harry Waller, of Gunnery Wing, said that at a practice session he had managed to get a couple of balls over the base plate and was immediately saddled with the job.

Captain Chris Allinson, first



The Brigadier — 'Strike One.'

pitcher out of the bull pen for the Locating side, said he was the fourth pitcher for the team this season. "Nobody else wanted to do it. Today the cross winds tend to blow the ball off line quite easily."

Gunnery Wing battled away to score runs but never looked like completely closing the gap and when they came out to bat for the seventh and final innings they needed six runs to make their opponents bat again. In the event they failed to score at all and the underdogs had won 18-12.

But the title was not their's yet. For under the league rules the two sides were now level on points so a deciding match would have to be played. Locating captain, Canadian, Captain Jim Petryk, confessed that just to have beaten the hitherto unbeatable Gunnery Wing once was a great achievement in itself.

So the softball bats (these days they are metal with rubber insides) were lifted again and the second game began. Gunnery Wing got off to a great start with five runs in the first innings but Locating hit back with four, including two home runs. In the second innings both batting sides went on the rampage and the score went to 12-12.

From then on Gunnery Wing maintained a narrow single run lead into the sixth innings when the locators slammed six more and eventually ran out winners and Larkhill champions 21-17.



A slide towards the base but it's too late — ball arrived first. ▲

WHEELERS' WEEK SUCCESS

ARMY CYCLING'S annual high spot, the week-long Festival of Cycling, held this year at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, attracted 25 per cent more Army riders than the first Festival in 1981.

The events were held on 'sporting courses' — a cycling euphemism for hilly terrain — on both the English and Welsh sides of the Severn bridge. The only disappointment was that this year junior riders only appeared from the three Apprentice Colleges at Harrogate, Chepstow and Arborfield.

Veteran rider, WO 2 Geordie McLeod, who was riding in Army events before today's juniors were born, feels that the Festival has been a great success in attracting the best Service riders.

"When the events were spread throughout the year you never got a good quality field. This way everybody can make plans to get here for the ten days and there's no excuse."

One of the most successful Army riders in the Festival was 21-year-old Corporal Tim Rogers, of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. Recently back from Cyprus he took the opening ten mile race among others.

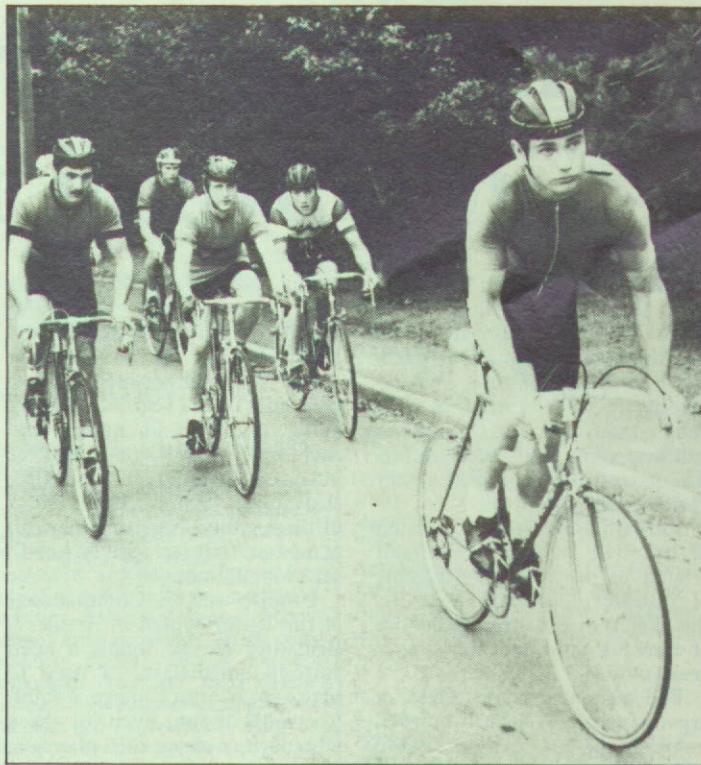
"I did a bit of cycling in Cyprus but not as much as I would have liked because of UN commitments," he said. Rogers, a former civilian rider, took up the sport again last summer and is rapidly coming to the fore.

ARMY GOLF ASSOCIATION captain, Sgt Chris Carveth, despite having bags of organisational work to do in between rounds, won the AGA stroke play championship at Little Aston by ten clear strokes from Cpl Doug Spiller. In third place, a further two shots behind, was Cpl Alistair Brownrigg.

The Little Aston course, although in excellent condition, was at its most difficult reports Doug Pratt. The greens were hard and fast with no chance of pitching the ball onto the putting surface and stopping it. In fact of the 30 qualifiers, all single figure golfers, only one in six went below 80, over 120 rounds.

Carveth had rounds of 81, 76, 74 and 78. His last round was a Jekyll and Hyde performance. Out in 33 he wilted in the heat on the return to add another 45.

RAOC Training Centre, Blackdown, won the inter-unit championship while the handicap trophy went for the third year running to the Recruit Selection Centre, Sutton Coldfield.



Tim Rogers leads the cyclists on a practice run.

Most successful junior was Apprentice Tradesman Sean Ellis from Princess Marina College, Arborfield. But he had his share of bad luck. A puncture put his team out of the three man race and he finished the ten mile race with a broken rear spindle — but was still the leading junior home.

Other results: Junior circuit race — 1 A/T Ellis; Senior circuit race — 1 Sgt

Bob Edwards (22 Air Def Regt); Up TTT — 1 40 Support Group RE, 1st Junior — AAC Chepstow; 50 mile TT — 3 Cpl Rogers (1st Army rider); Junior 2 Up TT — 1 Ellis and Foulkes (Princess Marina); 10 mile TT — 5th Cpl Rogers (1st Army rider), 11 A/T Ellis (1st junior); 30 mile TT — 1 Cpl Rogers, 8 A/T Ellis (1st junior); Junior road race — 1 Hughes, 2 Pickford, 3 Jones (all Chepstow); Senior road race — 3 Millard (38 Engineer Regiment) (1st Army rider); 25 Mile TT — 2 Cpl Rogers (1st Army).

Promising youngsters

THIS YEAR'S Army Under-25 cricket squad, captained by 2nd Lt Eddie Gordon-Lennox, narrowly beat the RAF Under-25s in a high scoring match but went down to defeat at the hands of the Navy.

In the RAF match the Army notched up 209 with Gordon-Lennox contributing a hard hitting 77. In reply the RAF went for the runs and reached 205 in the 55 overs — Craftsman Lawrence Flynn taking 4-53.

But against the Navy the Army



Graeme Bird — sparkling 68.

could only muster 93 all out and the sailors knocked this off for the loss of only four wickets.

In the run-up matches the Under 25s beat Huntingdonshire by 37 runs with opener Lance-Corporal Graeme Bird getting 68 of their 168 runs.

They lost to the Fire Service by three wickets but did beat RMA Sandhurst. Sandhurst batted first and scored 106 for five in 40 overs (Russell 36), the Army reaching this total with three balls to spare.

All round Anne

SERGEANT ANNE PATTERSON confirmed her position as the Army's best all-round woman athlete when she took the Pentathlon championships for the third time. In fact Sergeant Patterson, now stationed at Mill Hill, is the only champion since the event was started.

Each year she has amassed a greater number of points and this time passed the 3000 mark. Her score of 3117 will now be treated as an Army record.

Anne, who said she was well pleased with her performance, is currently looking for a civilian athletics club to join — her former club has disbanded. She is also Army shot putt champion.

Carveth takes Army golf title — by ten!



Even Chris Carveth found the Little Aston bunkers.

Grant smashes record in long distance duel

Captain Glen Grant produced the finest 10,000 metres run of his life in the Army championships to knock 19 seconds off the old Army record with a time of 29 minutes and 50 seconds.

The in-form Grant had battled stride for stride with the previous record holder, Corporal Andy Robertson, until 500 metres from home. Then from his comfortable position at Robertson's shoulder he raced ahead to win by 100 yards.

Robertson, too, should have been pleased with his performance. He also bettered his old Army record and only two other runners in the field were not

lapped. Picture (right) shows Grant trailing him closely while waiting to pounce.

Captain Grant was one of those who pressed for the re-introduction of the 10,000 metres event three years ago after a number of years in which it had not been held. He told SOLDIER: "I pushed to get it back again for other people but now seem to have become the main beneficiary."

Top ten Tegid



Lance-Corporal Neil Killen of 2 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment lost his Army decathlon title at Aldershot. And to rub salt in the wounds Killen's conqueror, Lance-Bombardier Tegid Griffiths (above), from 50 Missile Regiment RA, also beat his Army record by just five points.

New champion, Griffiths, who scored 6465 points, told SOLDIER afterwards: "I thought I had a good chance when I was in the lead after the first day. That is usually sprinters' day and I am certainly not that. This is my best ever score and the scores we saw today mean that we have to have a bit of confidence for the Inter-Services event."

Killen came second with 6231 points. Third and fourth were also from 2 Armoured Div HQ and Signal Regt — Sig A Lewis 5937 and L/Cpl C Anderson 5255.

Missile on target

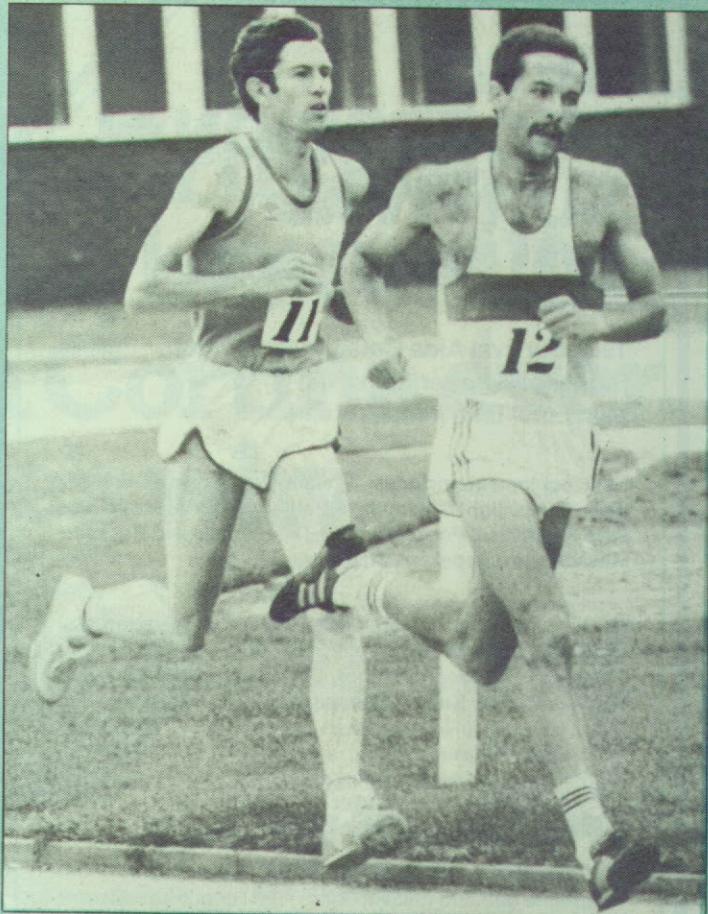
After a dramatic shoot-out at Aldershot, which saw the final relay race having to be run again an hour after the match should have ended, 50 Missile Regiment RA from Menden narrowly won the Army major units team athletics championships from the 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards. The full story of this tense tussle and its exciting finale can be read in the next SOLDIER — make sure of your copy NOW!

Canoeing Jackson warms up

There were 238 competitors in the sprint events and 134 in the long distance at the 15th Army canoe racing championships at Monmouth. Prominent among this year's winners was Sergeant Steve Jackson of 10 Signal Regiment — warming up for the European championships in which he represents Great Britain.

At the prize presentation competitors stood in silence in memory of canoeists killed in the Falkland operation, particularly Major Roger Nutbeam RAMC, who had given much of his time to Army Canoeing.

The senior sprint trophy was won by 16 Signal Regiment and the junior by the Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow. The same teams won the senior and junior long distance trophies.



7 RHA IN THE SWIM

Taking advantage of the absence of holders, 36 Engineer Regiment, through Falklands commitments, last year's runners-up, 7 Royal Horse Artillery, took both the major inter-unit swimming title and the water polo trophy in this year's Army championships at Caterick.

But it was a close run thing. At the end of the swimming events 7 RHA were level on points with another Rhine Army team, 21 Engineer Regiment. And victory was decided on who had won the medley relay. 21 Engineer Regt were also water polo runners-up.

In the minor units championships the winners for the past five years, 229 Signal Regiment, Berlin, had little difficulty in retaining their title from SEE Arborfield.

In the women's championships, Private Louise Harvey left an indelible mark. A Great Britain swimmer, she joined the QARANC last year, but not in time for the championships.

This year she won four of the five individual events and came second in the other. At the same time she set new records for the individual medley, backstroke, butterfly and freestyle events.

Team winners were Women's Services, Northern Ireland, fol-



lowed by WRAC Centre, Guildford.

Corporal Lynn Bradley, seen in this unusual picture by Andy Burridge, won both the women's springboard and highboard events in the Army Diving Championships at Crystal Palace. The overall entry was low but standards have improved — largely due to the efforts of Sgt Mike Kempson APTC.

Kempson won the highboard event himself and Sgt Danny Bryan APTC took the springboard.

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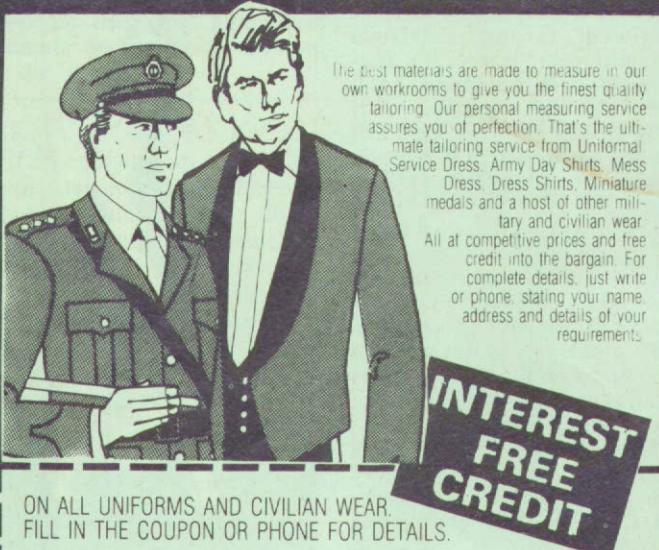
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The whole cabin area feels like a much more expensive car.

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CORTINA CRUSADER



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*Max. tax-free prices for the single-tone 1.3 saloon at time of going to press. Car illustrated 1.3 two-tone at £3,709. Seat belts included. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

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