

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 13-26 JUNE 1983

# SOLDIER



- BUSY TIMES AHEAD  
AT CRICKHOWELL
- 5 BRIGADE BACK  
IN ACTION



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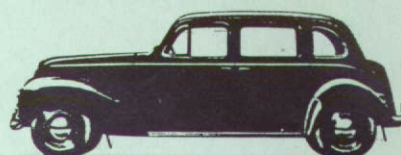
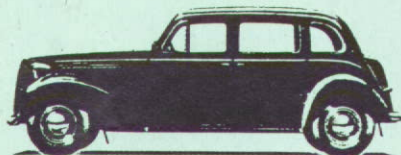
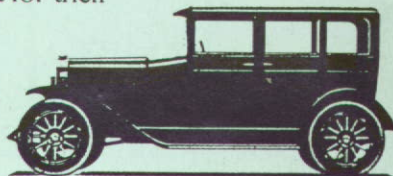
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### FRONT COVER

The art of camouflage as demonstrated by a young recruit at the Depot Prince of Wales's Division. Life at Crickhowell will soon be getting busy again — full story on page 35.  
*Picture by Paul Haley*

### BACK COVER

The pipes, drums and regimental band of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, march down High Street, Edinburgh. The regiment was providing a guard of honour at the Royal Proclamation to dissolve Parliament.  
*Picture by Paul Haley*

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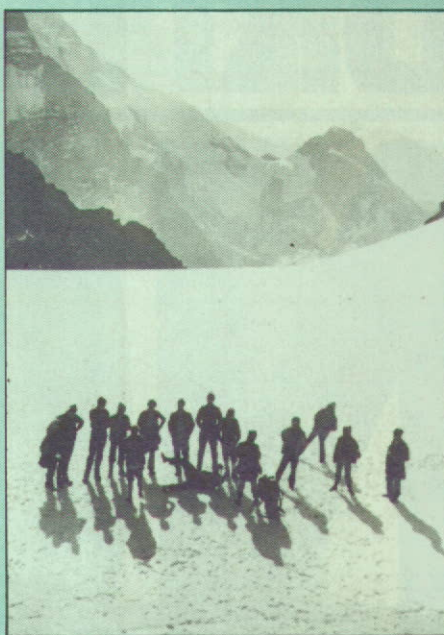
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# SOLDIER

**NOW INCORPORATING  
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► A year after the Falklands fighting 5 Brigade gets down to business again — page 26

◀ From Northern Ireland to Nepal: how the Cheshires hit the high spots — page 22

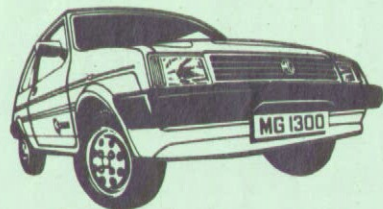


Our 'Enery takes a stroll down memory lane — page 19 ▼





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# End of the Road for Ruddington

**T**HE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE's big surplus sales, which began after the Second World War, finally come to an end this week (13-17 June) with the last sale at the Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot at Ruddington near Nottingham. The depot will close at the end of this year.

The last sale will feature more than 2400 vehicles and is expected to raise a million pounds over the five days. In future MoD surplus will be sold at smaller regional sales.

At least £1000 million worth of property in present day terms has been sold at Ruddington over the years. The items sold have ranged from armoured vehicles with the guns removed to searchlights, binoculars, razor blades and even ATS bras.

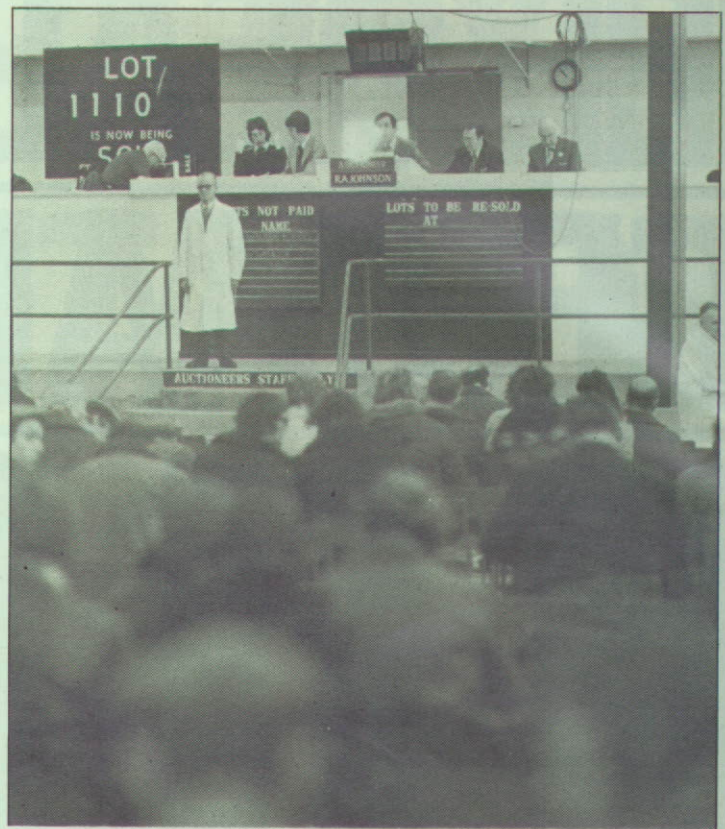
As war surplus stocks were exhausted the sales became the venue for embassy, Service and Government officials' cars and commercial vehicles. Many of the regular bidders have been attending ever since the sales began.

Among them is Nelson Green, from Lincolnshire, who says: "I've spent millions and saved every catalogue since 1947. I started going to sales in a Ford 8

van and now I drive a Rolls-Royce."

Mr Green remembers the days when two Ford 15 cwt. lorries could be picked up for £25 and five big lorries for £100. Another dealer, John Richards of Shropshire, summed up: "We'll never see anything like it again."

Senior auctioneer, Robert Hanson, of the Nottingham firm, Walker, Walton, Hanson, recalled some exciting days: "The day after the Great Train Robbery I arrived at my office and found six policemen waiting. They wanted to know who had bought the vehicles used by the train robbers. It turned out to be a private dealer in the area and through



him they traced the purchasers."

There have been lots of other incidents — a woman who bought a car which had no ignition key made the 'That's Life' programme. Other purchasers'

bargains had no engine.

"The vehicles arrive here in a wide variety of conditions. Some are only fit for spares while others are immaculate," says Mr Hanson.

## New discount medical scheme

A new private medical insurance scheme for the Army, offering 40 per cent discount, is to be introduced by the British United Provident Association from 1 July. It replaces the existing scheme which gives 25 per cent off.

Army personnel are of course well served by military medical facilities and BUPA, recognising this, have expanded the group concession to permit

Army personnel about to leave the Service to join and still enjoy the benefits of group membership after retirement.

The basis of the new scheme is that in return for a monthly subscription, cover is provided for the cost of hospital accommodation and specialists' fees. There is a choice of three levels of cover — London, National and General. London covers top London teaching hospitals

as well as the BUPA Hospital and Nuffield Nursing Home Trust; National covers NHS Provincial teaching hospitals; and General covers NHS general hospitals.

A family of husband, wife and children in the 18-29 age bracket would pay £27.30 monthly for London cover, £18.60 for national and £15.12 for general. In the 50-64 age bracket the subscriptions would be £42.47,

£28.95 and £23.49 respectively.

The Army BUPACARE group also covers Army families for normal overseas tours for periods of up to three years automatically without the need for additional cover. North America is the obvious exception. However, the World Wide Travel Scheme removes this worry for a small charge.

Information on the scheme can be obtained through the Army Families Advice Bureaux or from BUPA at Gresham House, 44 North Road, Brighton BN1 1YT.



## NEW PARA HELMET ON THE WAY

A new combat and parachutists' helmet is to be accepted into service. Army contracts will go out later this year for the new helmet which will eventually replace the weighty steel helmet.

The helmet's completely smooth surface prevents snagging by parachute cords and a soft lining and reduced weight increases wearer comfort. The largest size weighs 1.2 kilos and the shell is made of a resin

impregnated nylon fabric.

Internal padding, a height adjuster and two types of chin-strap — general purpose and winter — allow for individual comfort.

## PO AT WAR

An exhibition featuring the Post Office at war from 1920 to 1953 is to be held at the National Postal Museum from 6 July to 30 December. The museum is in King Edward Building, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP (nearest tube, St. Paul's). Open Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4.30 pm and Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Admission free.

## COLONEL MISSING

Thames Valley Police are still seeking the whereabouts of Lt-Col Anthony Godley, CO of a works study unit at the Royal Military College of Science who has been missing for six weeks. The colonel's car was found abandoned at Folkestone.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "The police are continuing their search for him as a missing person and we are obviously maintaining our interest. Col Godley did not deal with classified information."

"A board of enquiry has declared him to be absent. There are no financial or security aspects involved."





## BATH MARCH PAST

**T**HE DUKE OF EDINBURGH has called for degree courses in military science to give Servicemen a professional qualification. Speaking to the Royal United Services Institute in London he said that some of the most influential men who had ever lived had been military geniuses. "The idea that their profession is somehow not comparable with law, engineering or medicine and that it should rank below Anglo-Saxon poetry, business studies or the obscure sociological studies so popular in most universities strikes me as entirely ludicrous," he declared.

His suggested degree course would include: the organisation of war, including the history of war, and MOD organisation; de-

### MILITARY DEGREES — DUKE'S CALL

fence policy; allocation of resources; deterrence; weapons procurement; terrorism; logistics and deployment.

### ANIMALS AT WAR — KIES

Well known animal lover and trainer Mrs Barbara Woodhouse, is picture on the right, with two of the Army's best known animal friends at the Imperial War Museum in London, where she opened the 'Animals at War' exhibition. With her are Sefton, one of the horses badly wounded in last year's Hyde Park bombing and his rider, Trooper Michael Pederson of the Blues and Royals. And sneaking a ride is Rats, the former doggy hero of Northern Ireland.

**T**O coincide with the Bath Festival the Light Infantry, who have had a long association with the Avon city, staged a Light Infantry weekend. The event included a Freedom march through the streets with 200 men from the Bath based TA unit, 4 LI and 100 from 3 LI on parade as well as the bands of the 2nd and 3rd Battalion and the Bugles of the 6th.

After the parade the old colours of the former 4th Battalion, disbanded in 1969, were laid up. These colours were carried by the 6th Battalion until they received new ones in 1979.



### NEW BLANKET WINS STAN £1000

Among the recent awards made by the Ministry of Defence Non-Technical Staff Suggestions committee was one for £1000 awarded to Captain Stan Brooks, RAMC, for his invention of a special blanket for use in emergencies for the first aid treatment of burns.

Captain Brooks was attached to 2 Para when they were stationed in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland, at a time when incendi-

ary devices were commonly used by the Provisional IRA.

The blanket consists of an inner bedsheet fastened to a specially prepared sheet which keeps water in and the air out. When a soldier is burned the contents of his water bottle and those of his colleagues on patrol are poured into the blanket and he can then be kept cool until he is removed to hospital.

Apart from the medical advan-

tages, this invention is also a great improvement on the earlier saturated heavy blanket which soldiers used to have to carry around. Now they have a much lighter version which does not have to be soaked with water until it is needed.

Captain Brooks told SOLDIER: "Initially we developed it just for our own use but gradually other units got to hear about it and began using it themselves."

### Fatal fall

Private Christopher Kenyon, 21, died from injuries received when he fell thirty feet after the rock face collapsed during a climb near Inverness. Private Kenyon was the only person involved in the fall at Leiterchullin Rocks. He was taking part in Highland Dragon, a training exercise for his unit, 16 Battalion, RAOC, Bicester.

### The return of the Piper

The British garrison in Hamelin took a great risk when they put on a play in the town centre. For it was the story of the legendary Pied Piper who was supposed to have lured the children of the town away in 1284 after the Town Council reneged on a promise to pay him for ridding the town of rats.

For every year the local people put on their own German play of the Pied Piper story and this version followed immediately after the British one. But warm applause from German, British and American onlookers proved that the Army version was not overshadowed. The Pied Piper was played by Major James Johnson, the third time he had appeared in the role.

### Inquest set

THE INQUEST on the two TA soldiers who were found dead in the cab of their lorry during a weekend communications exercise on Salisbury Plain will be held at Devizes next month.

The men were Cpl William Kerr, 28 and L/Cpl Richard Desmond, 26, who were both on exercise with 71 Signals Regiment. Both had been discovered parked near some generators but all attempts at resuscitation failed.

### UDR DEATH

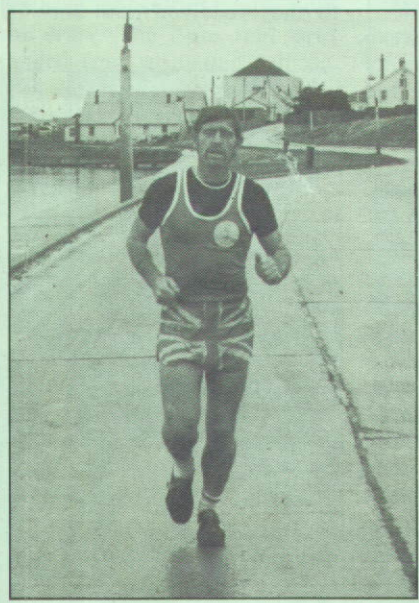
A 35-year old part-time UDR man was killed when a bomb exploded under the cab of his tractor. Andrew Stinson, father of three — two boys and a girl — was a member of 8 UDR based at Dungannon, Co. Tyrone. Another man and a ten year old boy standing nearby in the field were taken to hospital with shock.



# NEWS VIEW

## ▲ LICENCED FOR LIFE

They issue life-long huntin' and shootin' licences in Germany. But to get one means taking and passing a six-months course followed by written and shooting tests. Latest Army recipient of the coveted award is WO1 Peter Philpott of the Ammunition Inspectorate in BAOR. Peter's achievement is considered quite notable since the Jägerbrief course is in German with a high failure rate even among the natives.

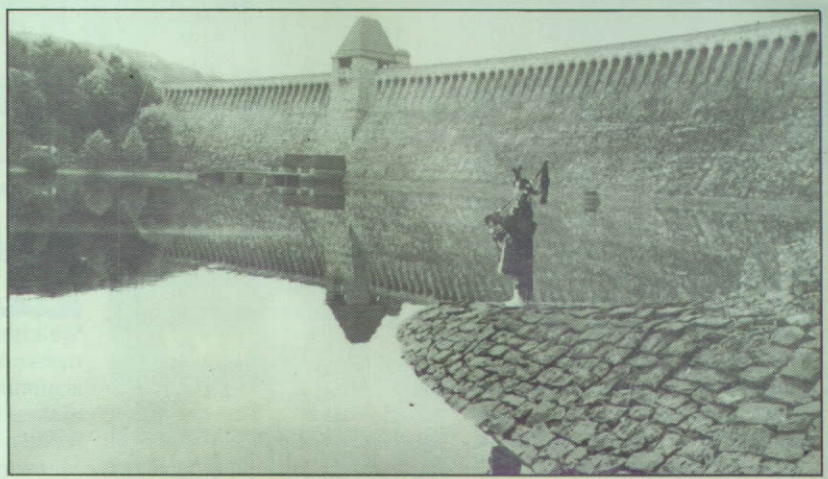


## POUNDING FOR £s ▲

Pounding round Stanley in preparation for the Sheffield marathon, Cpl Dennis Parkinson puts one foot in front of the other in a steady rhythm to build up stamina to beat a record — his own! For Dennis, of the 1st Armoured Division HQ and Signals Regiment, raised more money for charity than any other runner in his home town's first marathon last year. His aim on June 19 is to top his £450 record by collecting £500 from his pals.

## NO JOKING ▼

A 'joke' survey by a pop magazine to find the 'Hero of the Year', had a surprising outcome when the readers of *Blues and Soul* elected the entire Falklands Task Force the heroes of 1982. Publisher Roy Daniell said the 'Hero' poll was included in the magazine's popularity list as "a bit of a joke". But to his surprise his readers responded unanimously for the Falklands Force. The award was collected in London by four Servicemen who had served with the Task Force. Army representative, right, was Cpl John Brown, Scots Guards.



## RAID REMEMBERED ▲

All peaceful now... but when the Dambusters breached the Mohne Dam — with their bouncing bombs 40 years ago, the nearby village of Gunne took the initial impact of the deluge. It happened on 17 May 1943. Last month Brigadier Dick Mundell represented the British Forces at a commemorative service in the village. He was accompanied by Fr Authin Griffin of HQ 3rd Armoured Division and piper L/Cpl Tam Inglis of the Gordon Highlanders, who played a lament.

## FAST LADY'S FACE-LIFT ▼

A dozen Army cadets are helping the Navy give a face-lift to *HMS Cavalier*, a 40-year-old destroyer, now a museum ship at Southampton. The group, from the Bitterne detachment of the Royal Corps of Transport, are chipping away paint and rust in readiness for a fresh coat of cosmetic Admiralty grey on the Navy's old greyhound whose design speed was nearly 37 knots.







## FLAG DAY ▲

Two new boys together... Lieutenant General Martin Farndale, Commander 1st British Corps in BAOR, says hello to Dutch soldier Pte Peter van Ingen when making his first official visit to HQ Northern Army Group at Mönchengladbach. It was also the Dutch soldier's first day at the base and he was part of an international flag guard which turned out to greet the General.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT ▼

They don't care what their entertainment is at the Green Hackle Club, Wavell Barracks, Berlin, so long as it's fast moving and full of go.

They've had everything there from a wild west show to a TV quiz. Now the latest craze is wrestling — by girls!

Just to prove it's no freak show, blonde grappler Tina Star puts a strangle-hold on Naafi manager Jimmy Riley.

Tina was one of a group of pro-wrestlers touring Germany with Naafi entertainments and who provided a lively evening for 2 Royal Irish.



## FOND FAREWELL ▼

A five-year bar to her ten-year medal and a caricature from Prince Michael of Kent for Miss Eileen Purkiss ended a 15-year link with Ssafo. London born Eileen, who qualified as a SRN, midwife and health visitor more than 30 years ago and served as a district nurse in the Australian outback, New Zealand and other places nearer home, was retiring after four tours as a Ssafo Sister with Rhine Army.



## CROWNING GLORY ▼

Judy Beba, who received 120 offers when she asked SOLDIER to publicise her wish to be an Army pin-up, took part in a crowning ceremony with a difference with the Royal Artillery's 19 Field Regiment in Germany. Becoming Miss XIII Martinique Battery she wore a steel helmet and sported a battle axe and hand grenade instead of sceptre and orb. Lucky man crowning her was Lance-Bombardier Dave Cameron.



## CHASE AWARD ▼

When two German youths overpowered armed guards at a signals base in Berlin and made off with their Armalite rifles, they reckoned without the interference of Lance-Corporal Martin Platt and a patrol of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers who were on exercise in the area. Now, for his smart work in apprehending the criminals, Martin, 21, has been presented with a citation by Major General David Mostyn, GOC British Sector.



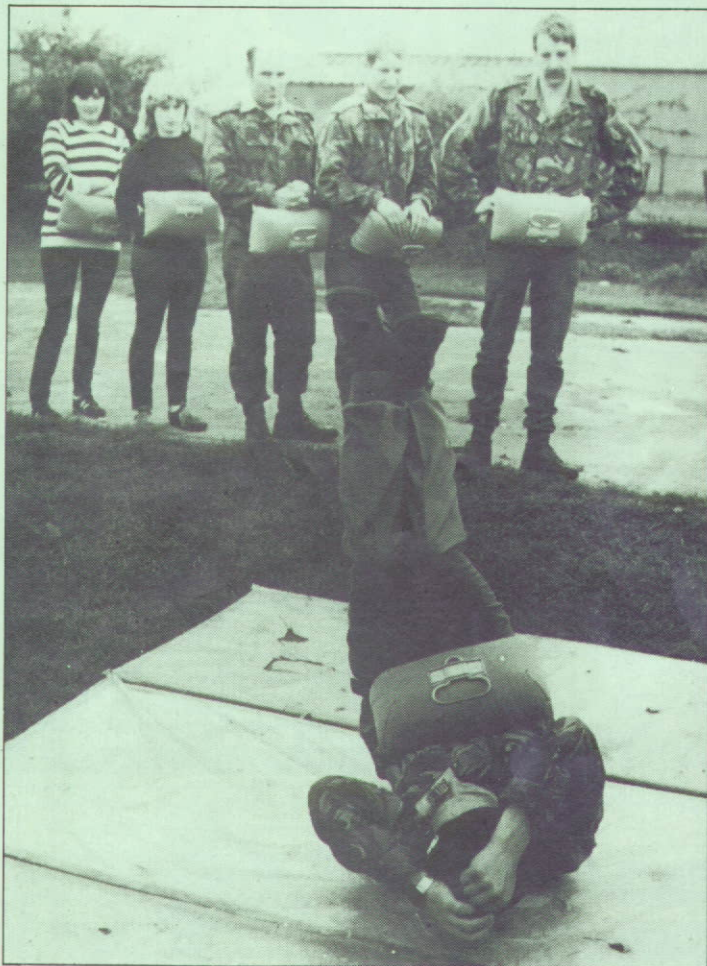




## TOPICS

## Dropping in for Bank Holiday weekend

WITH MORE than £1500 pledged for Liverpool Royal Hospital's leukaemia appeal, 21 members of 107 Field Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment, just had to make a promised first-time parachute jump on Bank Holiday Saturday. Descent venue for the North-West's own TA sappers, was the North-West Parachute Training School and every jumper pledged a day's pay in addition to sponsorship.



## OFFICERS AND . .

SELECTED as potential officers by their own units, 17 possibles turned up at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, York, to be put through their paces by a team of Regulars of the King's Division. Now, after the two-week course, 13 of them know what it takes to become an officer and have moved on in the search for a TA commission, while four of

them have returned to the ranks.

If it's true that good leadership is set by example, then the 13 who emerged with winners' smiles from the TA Potential Officers Training Course (POTC), should make super future commanders. For they did everything from perfecting their "mark-time" style to NBC train-



## Mersey Miss signs on for annual camp

TAKING TO HEART the adage: "If you don't ask you don't get..." the lads of Liverpool's TA RCT put an ad in the *Liverpool Echo* for a local lass to apply for a "posting" as their pin-up. And along came lovely Karen Johnston to sign on. Karen, who is a part-time model, now takes the title of 'Miss 156 Regiment' and will make her formal bow with the unit when she visits them at their annual camp at Grantham, Lincs, in September.

Meantime, some of the lads made the most of a quick visit by Karen to their Liverpool HQ to give her "the eye" together with beaming smiles of approval.

Those giving a smart eyes right are Pte Frank Dawes, SSgt John Dunn, L-Cpl Kevin Hawksby and Sgt Major Andy Brennan.



ing for up to 18 hours a day of the 14-day course.

They came from units and districts as varied as their civi-

lian jobs — including a chemist, a solicitor, a customs officer, a student and some who were unemployed.



# ANGLIANS OUT IN FORCE

A PARADE and a pageant to mark the 75th anniversary of the Territorial Army, saw more than 350 East Anglian "Terriers" exercising their right to the Freedom of Bury St Edmunds. But while they and thousands of spectators defied the teeming rain, it was too much for the Beating of Retreat by bandmen of the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and that had to be cancelled.

Leading the march-past were 56 men from 202 Battery, commanded by Major Mike Lovegrove, with six 105mm light guns and towing vehicles, followed by 100 bandmen of the Depot of

the Queen's Division at Bassingbourne and the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Behind them came 300 men and women of the 6th (V) Battalion Royal Anglians led by their CO Lt-Col David James.

In the pageant, a "son et lumiere" presentation produced by Capt Bob Godfrey, a permanent staff officer with the 6th Battalion's "A" Company at East Dereham, Norfolk, the early days of the Territorials were shown by soldiers from Braintree, Essex, dressed as a pre-First World War cycle platoon. Action from the beaches of Gallipoli, during the war, was recreated by



soldiers from East Dereham.

The Second World War featured in a scene involving men from Cambridge who showed how their predecessors hid their drums from the Japanese in the

Malayan jungle. Finally, the role of today's TA was demonstrated in a mock attack mounted by Bury-based soldiers from both 202 Battery and the 6th Battalion.

## CYCLING COOK RAKES IN CASH

A charity fund-raising cyclist wheeled his bike into the Central Volunteer HQ of the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot and said: "I don't care how much money I make so long as I make something."

"All I'm really interested in is doing the ride. I leave the money bit to the organisers," said WO2 Roger Johnston of the 6th Royal Anglian Regiment TA.

A full-time chef with the Royal

Masonic Benevolent Institute (RMBI) and part-timer with the TA at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, Roger said he was making the 1000-mile ride in aid of both organisations.

"I'm sponsored by old people and staff in the 14 RMBI homes throughout the UK and hopefully there will be a good response from CVHQ here in Aldershot."

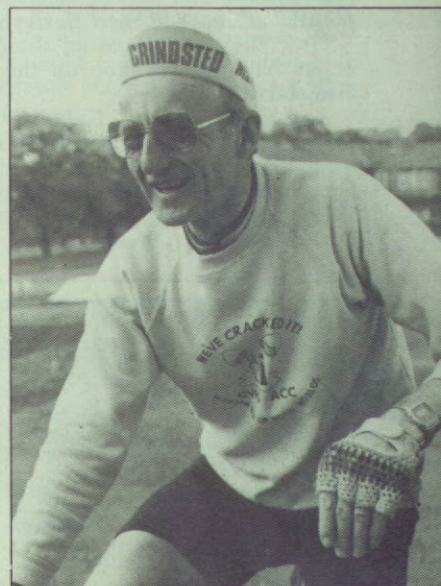
With 200 miles of his 14-day tour of 14 towns to go, Roger

said he had covered 800 miles in ten days without any problems.

"No punctures. Nothing. Despite all the rain we've had I've only got wet three times," said Roger, who only took up serious cycling two years ago after 23 years of Army life.

"I have to keep fit somehow," he explained.

**Roger Johnston — cracked it and no punctures either!**



## Circuit training

GETTING THE MESSAGE loud and clear at the Royal Signals TA Training Centre at Scarborough, Yorks., 550 men and women of 33 Signals Regiment, Liverpool, started their summer camp training.

Lt-Col Tony de Vere Hunt, CO of the Regiment and commanding his first camp said: "We want to use the first-class facilities of Burneston Barracks to confirm skills and to upgrade wherever possible."

"For those who have their full qualifications, the emphasis will be on upgrading military skills, and in the first week, all those not on regimental training will do a complete 'circuit' of training from small arms to the assault course."

The second week of the camp saw the regiment in a field role taking them back towards Merseyside and Greater Manchester.



## THREE DAY TOUR

A military school where more than 7,000 German soldiers are trained each year with almost half that number passing out as parachutists, was among the venues of 12 TA officers holding their first annual conference in Germany.

All 12 were from the Chief Scientist's (Army) Pool of Technical Staff and they spent three days touring German Army establishments and bases, including a visit to a university where more than 2,300 military students study for up to four years, maintaining their military skills at the same time. They rounded off their trip with a call to German Army Engineers' Training school which "gave a significant insight into the operational concepts and training methods of one of our major allies."





## Home at last!

THE two TA officers who rode their £700 tandem bike, the "yellow peril", on a trek across 5500 kilometres of North Africa in five months are back at their Bexleyheath unit.

Now they are planning their next adventure, but this time separately — by canoe up the Amazon and yak riding in the Himalayas.

And one of them, Captain Mandy Dunn — her pedal-powered partner was Second Lieutenant Paul Wright — of 265 Signal Squadron (KSY) cannot wait to turn authoress. Man-

dy, 26, wants to write a 60,000-word book on her adventures coupled with biking advice collected under the blistering Sahara sun and star-studded nights.

The two of them had under-

taken the overland odyssey not as TA officers, but as independently sponsored individuals during which they got through 124 punctures, five inner tubes and all four sets of wheels.

It was a saddle-sore trip that had its moments including a broken rear axle on the tandem, an 800-kilometre, ten-day detour in the quest to get a quick visa, a short period of arrest by the Algerian police for trespass on a tarmac road, and bouts of food poisoning.

When the back axle broke in the heart of Beau Geste country, Mandy recalls: "We just had to laugh about it otherwise we would have cried. But cycling along the sand was very exhilarating. The desert nights were fantastic. Always stars in the sky and you could see from one horizon to the other."

At one stage in the final phase of their trans-Sahara trek, the two of them spent three days by a huge lake.

Paul said: "The temptation of so much water after so long with so little was too much. We spent three excellent days swimming and fishing in the lake. Two days after leaving the lake I became sick and spent an unpleasant time clutching my stomach while I lay underneath a tree with a circle of black faces watching. From then on we were both to have permanent stomach problems which left us exhausted."

Mandy, a troop officer with

265, said she might do it all again one day but on a different route and with a much stronger bike!

"I found Paul very compatible but we did have our arguments, and I won most of them," she said. "Five months is a long time to get to know each other."

Along the route they came across many interesting travellers, mostly French and Italian, and found that their fame as a tandem pair had spread ahead of them 1000 kilometres as far as Upper Volta.

Their diet comprised mainly dates, rice, fruit and sardines.

The only moment they thought they would not make it was the incident of the rear axle when they had to hitch a lift back to a main town to get it repaired. It was then they sustained their only loss during the whole venture — their camera left in the back of the lorry.

At no time were they in danger from thieves and robbers. Mandy explained it away: "I suppose we looked so naive on our yellow tandem which we called the 'yellow peril' that no-one thought it worth while."

What next?

"Canoeing up the Amazon — something like that," said Mandy. "Yak riding in the Himalayas for me," said Paul.

As SOLDIER went to press Mandy was off on holiday to Cornwall to see her mum. The tandem went, too — but by train! ■

## SOLDIER to Soldier

**B**Y THE TIME this issue appears the hustle of the hustings will be over, the votes cast, the democratic will expressed and the shape of our next Government determined.

Among candidates and voters alike there will be jubilation and despair according to how the fateful Xs have fallen. And instead of the endless proselytising and predictions that preceded Polling Day we shall no doubt be stuck with an equally tedious diet of analysis and political post mortems.

Even here at SOLDIER we confess to not having been entirely immune to Election Fever. Readers who failed to find our regular SOLDIER-to-Soldier spot last time round probably noticed that its usual slot was occupied by a Voting Guide for the Armed Forces. And while we make no apology for providing that very necessary information, we're sorry if it further inflamed those already suffering from an acute dose of electionitis.

It is ironic to reflect though, that in an election where defence was one of the key issues under discussion, nearly half the Army and a third of their spouses were to be without a vote.

It has long been a sore spot with Servicemen and women overseas that they can only exercise their democratic rights

by nominating a proxy to cast their vote.

Those who believe that the privacy of the election booth should be as sacred as the confessional are naturally reluctant to tell even close relatives how they propose to vote.

And unlike the rest of us who can cast our cross personally, the individual who votes by proxy has no guarantee that his wishes have been faithfully carried out.

If recommendations made by an all-party House of Commons committee are given legislative effect, many of the anomalies involving overseas voters will hopefully have been ironed out by the next election.

Meanwhile it remains a supreme irony that the very people most concerned with defending our freedoms — our Armed Forces — should be denied one of the most fundamental democratic rights of all. The right to cast their vote in secret — in person.

**T**HE ARMY is to issue a set of six official first day covers to coincide with the issue of the British Army postage stamps on 6 July which we reported in our last issue. The Army cover, approved by the Army Board, will carry the full issue of five stamps and bear an illustration of the five infantry regiments featured plus other supporting arms with

Windsor Castle in the background. It will be cancelled by BFPO No 1983, bearing the Army insignia of crossed swords with crown surmounted by a lion and the legend 'British Army Series'.

A limited number of 500, each individually numbered, will be signed by the five military members of the Army Board. The five regimental covers will carry the stamp specific to the regiment and limited numbers will be available signed by the respective Colonel of the Regiment/Colonel Commandant. Six special cancellation handstamps have been approved. Profits from the venture will go to Army charities.

Prices are as follows: Army cover (full stamp issue) £2, signed by Army Board £10; The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) £1, signed by Colonel £2.50; The Royal Welch Fusiliers £1, signed by Colonel £2.50; The Royal Green Jackets £1.20, signed by Representative Colonel Commandant £2.50; Irish Guards £1.20, signed by Colonel £2.50; The Parachute Regiment £1.20, signed by Colonel Commandant £2.50.

Regimental covers bearing the full set of stamps will cost £2 and a complete set of six covers only £7. Covers provided for addresses in the UK attract 15 per cent VAT. Overseas addresses including BFPO, Channel Islands and Island of Man are VAT exempt.

Orders with remittance made payable to 'Army Philatelic Account' should be accompanied by a 23 x 14 cms stamped addressed envelope and sent to Philatelic Officer, DPCS MOD (A), BFPO 777.

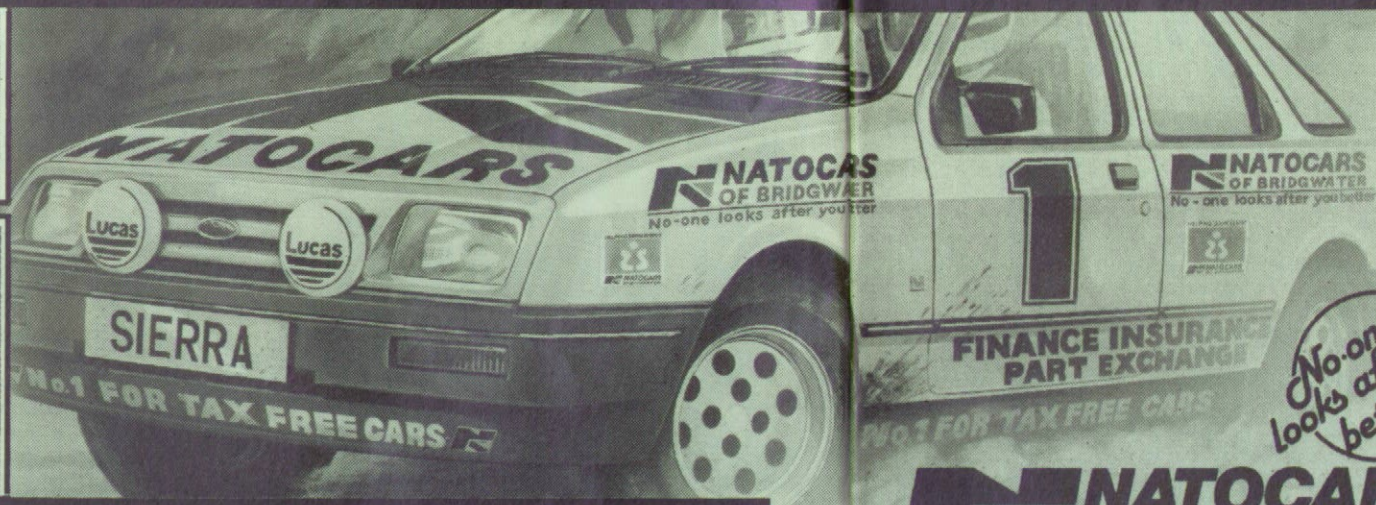
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## FALKLANDS FILE



**A year after the battle to win back the Falklands SOLDIER's John Margetts went to see how the Army is tackling the islands' peacetime problems. Here is his second and final batch of on-the-spot reports.**



S/Sgt Muggieridge and Maj Haskell  
— facing a never-ending task.

## Making friends with the birds

BIRD-WATCHING is proving popular with the lads in the Falklands.

Not your actual nylon clad type — although they rate high with every island-based squaddie — but the various species of feathered friends which can be found in every cove around every one of the South Atlantic islands.

Donning his force conservation officer hat — his other one is joint force training officer — Major Paddy Chambers said: "Since training has a tremendous impact on wildlife, we have rules which seek to limit that damage."

A member of the Falkland Islands Trust, controllers of the islands' wildlife sanctuaries, Major Chambers explained that units must get permission before entering a protected area and that aircraft were restricted to a minimum of 2000ft over the sites to avoid frightening birds and animals.

"Obviously penguins have a lot of appeal with the lads, being friendly, docile creatures except in the breeding season when they are best left alone. And, of course, they make good pictures as do the numerous types of seal which abound round the islands.

"Even birds which are considered by the islanders as vermin — starlings and the Upland Goose — have a close season so far as the Forces are concerned.

"There's no shooting for us from the beginning of August to the end of February and no game fishing from May till the end of August. Even in the open season permission is required from the land-owners, so the Forces can be seen to be doing their bit for wildlife conservation.

"And if a Serviceman sees a ringed Upland Goose he is expected to report it to us for information towards a survey.

"Yes," admitted Major Chambers, "life for the sportsman can be tough in the South Atlantic, but in reality he can 'shoot' anything he likes — so long as it's with nothing more than a camera." ■

## A DROP OF THE HARD STUFF

**T**AKING DIAMOND as 100 per cent hard, the rock on the Falklands rates at around 70 per cent.

Which makes it pretty hard stuff.

It is the hardness of that rock and its abrasive quality that bothers Major Chris Haskell and his men of 52 Field Squadron (Construction) Royal Engineers.

For Major Haskell has the unenviable task of providing the stone to repair the roads in Stanley and the surrounding areas.

With two 43-ton stone crushers working 12 hours a night every night non-stop, each producing 1000 tons of suitable-sized stone, it might be tempting to think the job a doddle.

Not so. For the machines are only working at half capacity and so hard is the stone the massive toughened crushers are reduced to battered stumps every 30 hours and have to be changed.

"That's not all," complained Major Haskell. "Caterpillar tracks which should last weeks are worn out in days. Vehicle tyres are ripped to pieces in no time. And as for footwear, well, it lasts no time at all."

His story was echoed by plant foreman Staff Sergeant John Muggieridge who said: "Maintenance is our biggest problem. It takes four hours a day to tighten the bolts on a D6D tractor. In other words, for every one hour it works it needs three hours' maintenance. Other machines require similar repair time."

A visiting machine engineer confided that some of the wear was caused by inexperienced soldier operators. Major Haskell agreed, but added: "We're learning how to use this kit. It's all civilian stuff and this is one of the biggest operations taken on by the Corps in years.

"In fact there is no end to this job. All the time there is a need for roads — and remember there are very few, so to get around we have to build them — we'll be blasting and crushing rock.

"Most nights we blast up to 5000 tons. To shift that takes three-and-a-half tons of explosives. Very often, because the rock is so hard, we move only about half that amount."

If you are due for a posting to the Falklands and when there you here a muffled explosion, don't think that 'they' are back.

It'll be Major Haskell and his men removing another 5000 tons from the Stanley quarry area. ■





**T**HERE'S ONE major snag with the video tape service in the Falklands. Episodes of firm TV favourites like *Crossroads* and *Coronation Street* often get seen out of sequence.

Consequently video viewers — and that's just about every Serviceman on the island — are likely to see last week's show before last month's.

"All very frustrating," admitted librarian Bombardier Graham Carlson of the Army Education Centre, Stanley, who

◀ All change in the video hut — key source of entertainment.

considered that despite the wrong sequence problem, everyone was very lucky with the supply of SSVc tapes.

"It's nail-biting," said Major Ian Jones, OC of the Centre, "but not surprising when you consider we supply 98 locations with tapes."

To meet the demand Graham Carlson opens his little hut ten hours a day and there is always someone in there.

Located on the race course in two patched-up, bullet-riddled huts, the Education Centre is in constant use and packed tight with corporals and sergeants taking the Education Promotion

Certificate (EPC) for promotion. Up to 20 at a time cram in taking the four subjects for three weeks.

"For those that can't get in from the outlying areas, we lay on a special course on the homeward ten-day sea journey to Ascension. It's very popular and a good way of passing the time on the ship," said Major Jones.

"But we do manage to get to some areas, specially some of the Rapiere sites, where we give lessons to the lads in their 'holes in the ground'."

For those not taking EPC there is an abundance of subjects to study. So far the Centre is running 28 different courses including Welsh and Arabic with plans to extend the range to include German, Spanish, French and basic computing.

"As soon as sufficient people enrol, we'll get cracking," promised Major Jones.

Meanwhile, for those who don't fancy putting their noses to the grindstone, the Centre offers a library of 2000 paperbacks from which to choose. "That's in addition to the thousands we've given away," Major Jones pointed out.

With a constant turn-round in the Service population, classes quickly rotate.

Helping to keep up the momentum and stuff the students full of useful information are Major Jones's assistants, Captains John Higgins, Keith Gordon and David Shepherd.

Teaching is a tough game, they agreed. But in this case it's well worth it because everybody wants to learn. And that makes the job a whole lot easier. ■

◀ EPC teach-in at Stanley.

## No let-up on learning



## PILLARS OF THE POST



Ldg Reg Michael Brown:  
"I just keep on going."

THE POSTMAN doesn't have to knock once let alone twice at delivery time in the Falklands.

The customers are up there and waiting, ready to grab their letters from home.

"There's a noticeable quiet when the mail comes in," said Captain Stephen Elliott, OC of D Company 40 Commando Royal Marines. "Guys love getting letters from home."

Heading the eight-strong crew of sappers of the Falkland Islands Postal and Courier Service, Royal Engineers, is newly-arrived Captain Peter Redfern, who described the work as "most satisfying".

There only a few days he referred to Sergeant Dick Mackenzie, Corporal Stuart Tennyson and Lance-Corporal Andy Collins for a few facts and figures. They revealed that the Services post up to 3000 letters a day, seven days a week and receive about 4000 every day.

Over the counter stamp sales add up to some £2000 a week and on Bank Holiday Monday the incoming mail totalled more than 120 bags.

"We work when we have to," said Dick Mackenzie. "And that's most days of the week, just like everybody else."

But one mail man who has worked every day since early March is Leading Regulator Michael Brown. He's the sole Navy 'postie' ashore in the Falklands and is responsible for mail deliveries to all the ships in the Task Force.

"I'm a Navy policeman, really," explained Michael, "but I've been doing this job from the day I arrived and, since I'm alone with no other RN help, I just keep going when the mail comes in. It very often means a 12-hour day, but I'm too busy to think about time off."

No wonder the posties are the most popular troops on the islands. The golden rule is: 'Never knock the postie'. ■



Cpl Tennyson and L/Cpl Collins  
— no need to knock even once.



**A** TOUCH of adventure coupled with the chance to get away from the mud, the potholed roads and the never-ending work rotas of Port Stanley, is an offer Falklands-based soldiers are finding hard to refuse.

The opportunity comes three times a month for five days at a time and includes a 40-minute flight to the north coast of West Falkland. It is the APTC adventurous training course and with two trial courses already completed, Captain Don McBurney, the man in charge, reckons that he and his three tri-service assistants are on to "a winner".

The first two courses, although limited to hill walking because canoes and dinghies did not arrive in time, proved extremely popular. Now names are coming in from adventure seekers who want to try their hands at all the various activities on offer.

"With winter coming on we'll be limited to walking and climbing the Shingley mountains, which form a backdrop to the camp location, and to winter survival courses," said Captain McBurney.

"But with night exercises and orienteering planned, it will give the lads a totally different view of the Falklands from that of Port Stanley."

Each course takes 20 men and lasts five days. The first two courses slept and lived in one large tent, but with the onset of

# THE CALL OF THE WILD

## FALKLANDS FILE

**QMSI Tofield and Capt McBurney — offering a taste of adventure.**

winter, accommodation will be in a large bungalow close to the shoreline, hired from farm managers Tim and Sally Blake.

It has more mod cons than a good deal of accommodation currently used by many troops in Stanley. "So that in itself is a bit of a bonus," said QMSI Chris Tofield, the APTC instructor.

"For five days it will be a real

back-to-nature existence," he added "giving the lads a break and a complete change of environment. It will mean fetching water from a mountain stream and cooking on a peat stove. Real away-from-it-all stuff."

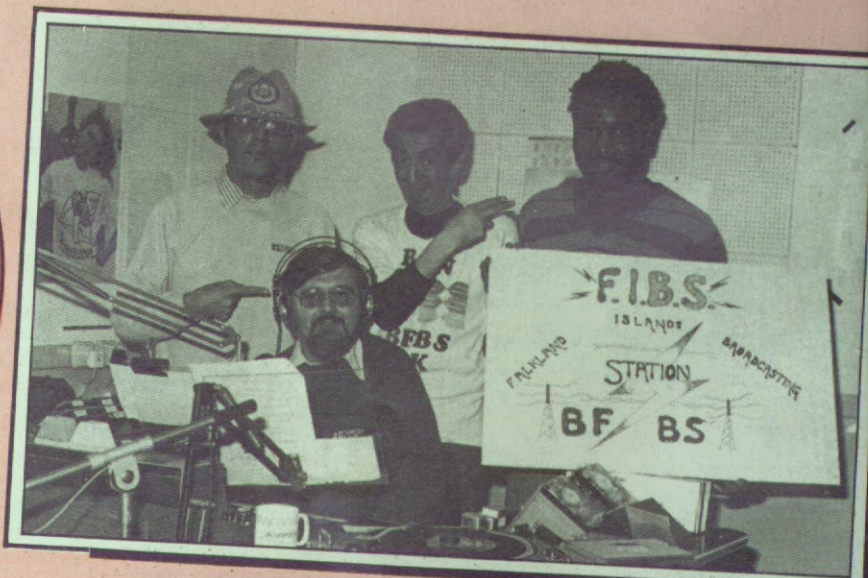
Although the course takes place in a remote area, help is at hand, should it be needed, from Tim and Sally who have radio contact with everyone on the islands. And each course will include a medic.

"But we don't anticipate any problems," said Captain McBurney. "We're just being careful."

And with 400 square miles of Tim Blake's farm to wander around, that is plain common sense.

**Pictures by  
BRIAN GAMBLE**

## PLAYING IT STRAIGHT WITH FIBS



**W**HEN THE RED light came on RAOOC storeman Lance Corporal Calvin Francis started to sweat.

It was his first broadcast and the red light indicated the mike was 'live'.

Calvin was presenting a mid-afternoon programme of reggae and soul music for Service listeners, helping out the regular team of BFBS presenters who in turn are in the Falklands in support of the islands broadcasting service

(FIBS).

"When that light went on I suddenly realised it is not as easy as it sounds, confessed Cal, who volunteered his services and time to the BFBS team.

"He did an interview with me, followed by a couple of practice runs, then straight on the air," said senior producer Peter McDonagh. "He has a nice, easy style and his three 30-minute weekly sessions should go down well with our listeners."

Cal, who works on the store

ship *Tor Caledonia*, anchored in Stanley harbour, explained that all his music is by request and his script "right off the top of my head".

"He's doing all right," said Pete McDonagh, who wears a mini stetson festooned with regimental badges when on the air.

Well known to BFBS — now SSVC — listeners around the world, he, too, started as a 'volunteer broadcaster' in 1969 when in Berlin with his parents.

From there he graduated to

Peter McDonagh, Terry Nicholas, Ron Smith and Calvin Francis — ten hours a day every day.

Singapore then Cologne as link-man on *Family Favourites*. Other places familiar with his smooth tones include Hong Kong, Cyprus, the London studios and now the Falklands.

"I like it here," he said, "the only snag being a 5am start with the early morning show which I split with fellow presenter Terry Nicholas."

On secondment from the



BBC for four months, Terry has wide experience on local radio. The stint with FIBS was his first experience of BFBS and he said he was "totally impressed" by their professionalism.

Aware of the home links that he and Pete McDonagh can provide for the lads in the Falklands, Terry urges anyone who wants a request with a message, to send it to him at FIBS, Stanley, Falklands, BFPO 666.

Third man in the SSVC trio is senior engineer Ron Smith.

Twenty-eight years with Services broadcasting Ron is about to leave the organisation after serving behind the scenes in Nairobi, Germany, Malta, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Gibraltar and London.

"When we arrived here to support FIBS they were putting out about six hours a day," he explained. "But with us here the station now transmits 16½ hours a day, which means that the engineer — me in this case — is on call 24 hours a day, every day.

"So far I've not had any real problems except for a shortage of spares. But with a little ingenuity we get by.

"It's real wet string radio with just two rooms doubling as studio, workshop, library, office and tearoom. But it has been great and I shall be sorry to leave. We like to think that what we do is appreciated by the lads."

## ALL PART OF THE SERVICE

**T**HERE'S NO shortage of Naafi customers in the Falklands, just a shortage of things to sell.

"As our supplies come by sea, delivery is the problem," explained Lieutenant David Moth of the Expeditionary Force Institute (EFI), a TA outfit that works for Naafi in outlandish places such as the South Atlantic.

"If we had the stuff we could stay open 24 hours a day instead of the 14 we are now doing seven days a week."

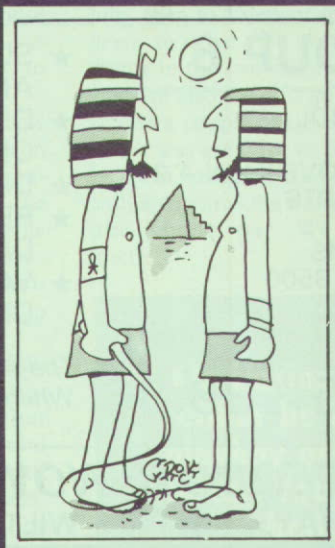
With stock worth £600,000 and an estimated turnover of £25,000 a week, it's not hard to see that David Moth and his 36 men need constant supplies.

Part of the RAOC port squadron headed by Major David Hammett under Lt Col Larry Brown's umbrella (see last issue), the EFI lads do the same tour as the Regulars.

"It's the same for us as for them," said David Moth. "There's no such thing as normal hours here. But we see it as all part of Naafi's service and all of us are happy to see it through."



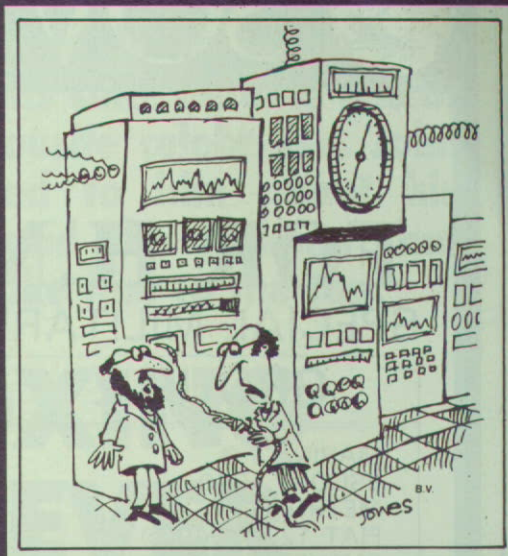
"If I hadn't fetched help you could have been shut in there with that lady all night."



"You must try to relax — you're simply flogging yourself to death."

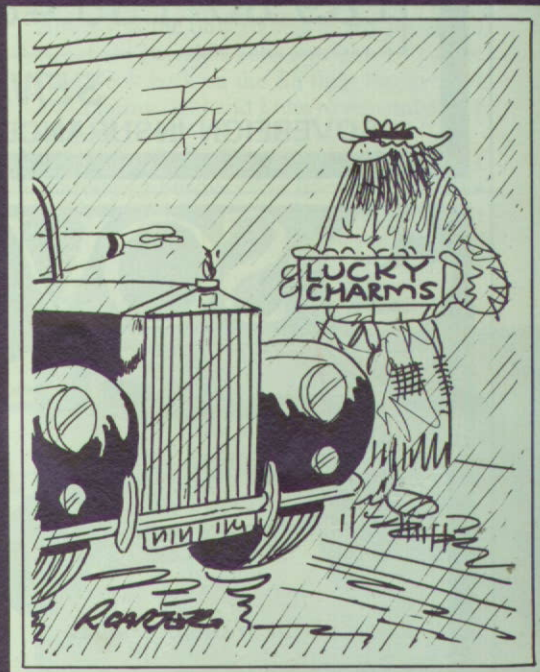


"I like this camouflage gear. You can spill your meal down your front and nobody notices."



"It's demanding a sacrifice of ten virgins."

# Humour







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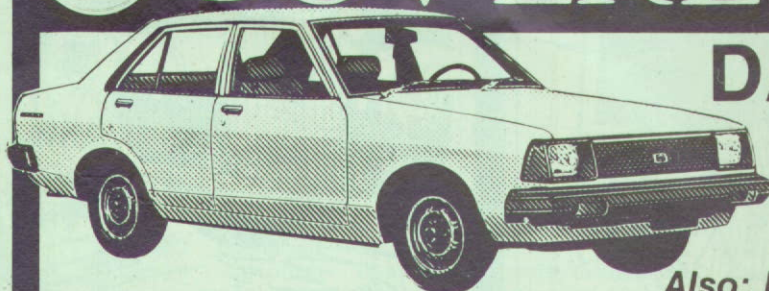
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Henry dons his old uniform again.

**Henry Cooper made his name as a fighter and has since become one of Britain's favourite celebrities. John Walton talked to him about his Army days and the training that helped take him to the top.**

## BOXING CLEVER

**T**HIRTY YEARS ago **SOLDIER** carried a report on 19-year-old twins in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, who were then at the top of the tree in Services' boxing. Today one of those twins is still at the top of the tree — as probably the best loved personality to emerge from the fight game.

South London born Henry Cooper now lives in a fashionable part of North London and enjoys the life of the celebrity he undoubtedly is. After notching up one of the greatest British boxing records of all time he became a successful businessman and showbiz personality — something he could hardly have dared to dream of when he joined up for National Service back in 1952.

That year Henry went to the Helsinki Olympics and became ABA champion. Shortly afterwards he and his brother George went into the RAOC and found themselves at Deepcut near Camberley together with a host of other good boxers, including another famous name, Joe Erskine.

"I was going to go into the Scots Guards because it was one championship they had never won. I agreed, but then I was told that

Watched by his twin brother George the youthful Henry weighs in. ▼

I would have to do regimental duties. At Deepcut we were basically there just for boxing.

"We went to Blackdown to do basic training, then to Deepcut just down the road to learn to drive. We must have had 60 or 70 bouts in the two years we were in the Army and we also used to go and box in London shows a couple of times a week.

"It was great for us because we spent two years in which we trained like pros but were still amateur. One thing — it kept us out of the Korean war. We didn't want to go there."

**"In boxing you can either be the best playboy or the best boxer. You can't be both."**

Henry's company sergeant-major at Deepcut was also a keen boxer. "I had knocked him out six months before and then, blow me down, I got there and he was the company sergeant-major!"

But there were no hard feelings and Henry won the ABA, Imperial Services and Army light-heavyweight titles in 1952 and 1953. His brother, George, meanwhile was runner-up to Joe Erskine as Army heavyweight champion.

"Our battalion team could have represented Great Britain," Henry recalls. "We had all top class fighters, including four or five ABA champions. Other battalions didn't stand a chance. We would usually win 11-0 and if we only won 9-2 there was always an inquest because two of us had lost."

Looking back on his Army days Henry feels it helped to give him a bit of discipline. Although boxing was the main activity he was still responsible for keeping himself and his uniform clean and there were regular barrack room inspections.

"A few weeks ago I went to a reunion at

Blackdown and could not recognise where I was stationed because the barracks we were in then were 100 years old and had been condemned for years. Now it's all green grass and modern blocks. It's like being in Buckingham Palace compared with what we were in.

"I sat between two major-generals and I thought 'when I was last here I was a lance-corporal'. How times change!"

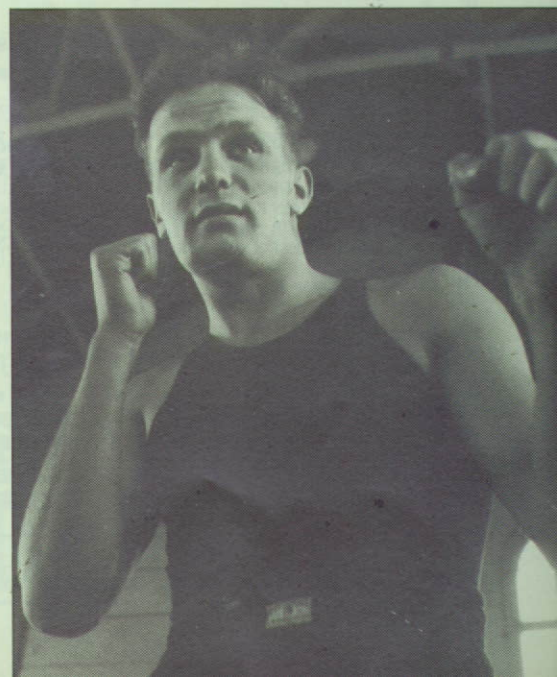
Henry turned professional soon after he was demobbed and fought for 17 years. The public always remember when he dumped the young Cassius Clay on the seat of his pants with the feared 'Enery's 'Ammer' but Henry himself has two prouder memories.

"I was the longest reigning British heavyweight champion of all time — over ten years, beating Bombardier Billy Wells. And I was the only fighter at any weight to win three Lonsdale belts outright. Of course I also look back on the Ali fight but to me it was a losing fight and I like to remember my winning ones."

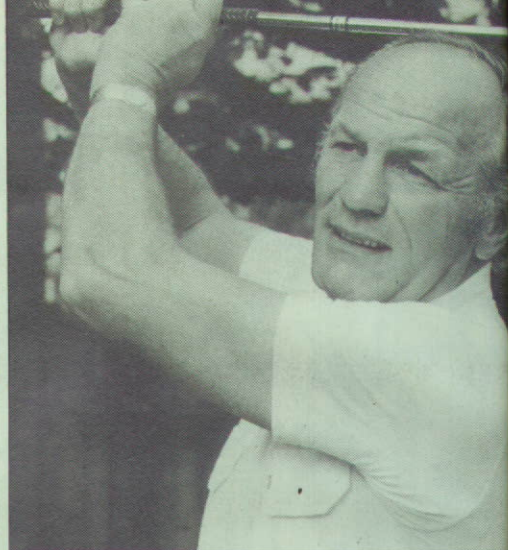
Brother George has his own plastering contracting business and lives in Kent. The twins swore never to fight each other but in

*continued on page 20*

1953 — and Henry is Army champion. ▼







The twins head an Army boxing squad out on a training run in the Aldershot area. Second from right is Joe Erskine.

fact the question never arose. While they were in the Army they fought in different weight divisions and British Boxing Board of Control regulations would not allow them to meet as professionals.

"That was a bit unfortunate because I was heavyweight champion all those years. I think he had the ability to win it in his own right if I hadn't been champion. He beat Dick Richardson and Brian London and knocked out Johnny Prescott."

Henry's move into business, wisely guided by his manager, Jim Wicks, began a few years before his retirement. Now he has various directorships and makes many personal, television and radio appearances as well as extolling after-shave and other pro-

ducts in commercials.

"I never get bored. Two days are never the same with me. That's what makes life interesting. I have tried to analyse how I did it. If you have made a name and you have a certain sort of way and can mix with the public and talk to them you can get on.

"I enjoy meeting the public. A lot of celebrities hate it, but I have always looked at it that they are the people who pay your wages. If you don't have time for them you're cutting your own throat. I have seen people ignoring kids asking for autographs and that's very shortsighted."

The legend of rags to riches, and back to rags again, which surrounds boxers, is not really true Henry maintains. For every Randolph Turpin there are five who have done well out of boxing and some are millionaires.

"It's just the odd one who falls on hard

The only time Henry's left hook appears these days is on the golf course. "I play whenever I get the chance," he says.

times and you can never legislate for frailties in people's make up. Some go bird mad and they want to be Jack the Lad and a playboy. In boxing you can either be the best playboy or the best boxer. You can't be both."

Henry Cooper has enormous glass cabinets crammed full of trophies and mementoes. The more valuable ones, such as the Lonsdale belts (one of which is solid gold), have to be kept in a bank.

But some of the trophies which give him the greatest pleasure are those which he won as Army champion. Even though he admits: "I once saw a bill for them from Naafi and they were about 18 bob a dozen. And that's what we were fighting our guts out for." ■



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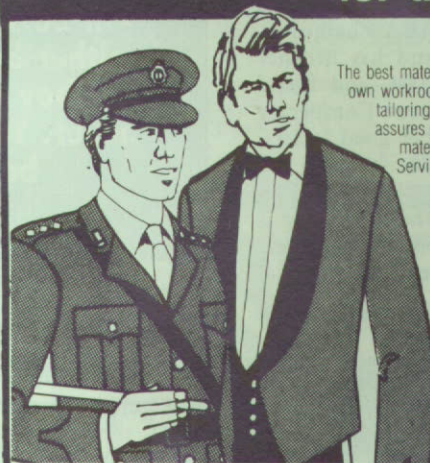
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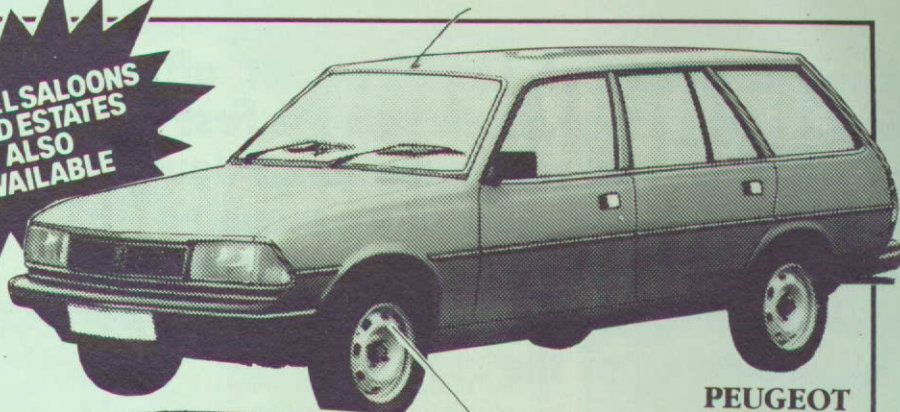
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## RANGERS TALBOT FIRST FOR EXPORT



When a group of Cheshires set off for Nepal earlier this year it was the first time a battalion on an operational tour in Northern Ireland had ever mounted its own Himalayan expedition. Now they're back down to earth again in Ballykelly, but still dreaming of the ...

## LAND OF THE LOST HORIZON

On the summit of Kola Potar North, 18,370 ft, with Purnima, 5000 ft higher, behind.

View across gorge from Chorten Buddhist shrine — smoke is from forest fire which nearly cut the Cheshires off.

**G**OOD WEATHER for snowmen — abominable or otherwise — dogged the efforts of 14 men from the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment heading for the Himalayas. Such severe conditions so early in the year were hardly within living memory of their Nepalese hosts.

Within a short time the young soldiers who made up the bulk of the party were experiencing extremes of heat, cold and altitude only to be encountered on 'the roof of the world'.

Led by Major Brian Kerslake RAEC, Group Education Officer of 29 AEC at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly in Northern Ireland, they flew to Kathmandu via Delhi and travelled by coach to the Gurkha recruitment centre at Dharan. Here they picked up their supplies to start a 130 mile walk-in to the Everest base camp

area. The way they chose was little travelled by westerners — they met only four during the first two weeks — and the 60 mile trek along the semi-tropical Arun river valley was hot and steamy.

Towards the top of this, as the team approached Kumbu, they crossed several high level passes

over 10,000 ft before descending to Khumjung. Then it was time for two days' acclimatisation to the altitude.

Phase II of the expedition, a fortnight's high altitude trekking with the ascent of some minor peaks, began with a stiff climb up the 17,900 ft Gokyo Kang — which afforded superb views of some of the highest mountains in the world, including Everest.

"It became clear at this point, however," reported Major Kerslake, "that a number of the team were not acclimatising well to the altitude so I split the party before crossing the Cho La pass.

"This is almost 18,000 ft high and we had a lot of fun getting seven of our team and 15 porters over — we had to set up fixed ropes to get them down the glacier on the far side."

The other party went down to Khumjung for more low altitude journeys which eventually led them to the monastery at Tengboche.

No signs of great age among the Buddhist monks here — most were young Tibetan acolytes — but Medical Officer Captain Tim Coulson was kept busy seeing to minor ailments among the local population encountered on the way.

"We checked over their ears and eyes and I had to treat a couple of porters for dog bites,"

he reported.

"Rabies is endemic among the Nepalese and all of us were vaccinated before we went out. But I had to be careful in offering medical assistance. Once the word got out, they would all come running — and quite apart from the fact that our supplies were limited, we wouldn't be doing them any favours.

"Treatment for most conditions and illnesses needs to be prescribed over a period and we weren't there long enough to do that."

For the most part, the general health of the British party remained good, although two went down with bad attacks of the 'Kathmandu Quick-Step' — local version of the familiar traveller's tummy trouble.

There was one worrying moment when Sergeant Ron Wallert suffered a nasty fall, landing on his back. This was initially painful, but the bruising settled down after a few days.

Meanwhile the main party carried on via Lobuche to Gorek-shep where they camped in the shadow of Everest.

In deep snow they climbed Kala Patar north and south, the north peak at 18,730 ft being the highest they were to achieve.

"Then the weather really took charge and for the last week ruled out any chance of doing anything but walk out," said Major Kerslake ruefully.

"It was very uncharacteristic of conditions for the time of year but there was no time to wait for any improvement — we had to think about getting back to Luk-la to pick up the return flight to Kathmandu."

There were a few light moments to leaven the disappointment of defeat by the elements. No-one had any close encounters with the Yeti, but they met a professional explorer who had spent several years on the trail of the elusive man-ape legend of the high Himalayas.

Scotsman Bill Grant, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, was discovered camping just below Everest base. He regaled his fascinated fellow travellers with new theories about the origins of the 'abominable snowman', of whom there have been several recent sightings.

One idea is that a large ape-like creature was hunted out of Africa many centuries ago and travelled north-east to find sanctuary in the remote mountain fastnesses of Nepal.

Most of the latest glimpses of the Yeti have come from respected observers and top calibre mountaineers like Don Whillans, Doug Scott and Chris Bonington — all now convinced it exists.

One evening, while camped at the foot of a 19,000 ft peak, there occurred the 'Adventure of the Mad Italian'.

Snow falls that day had thwarted any further planned ascents and the expedition was lying huddled in its tents when the camp came under attack. Captain Coulson will long remember one of the more colourful incidents of his medical career...

"We were asleep in the mess tent when it started to shake vigorously and we could hear a loud foreign voice outside shouting: 'Its no good — I'm ill!' again and again.

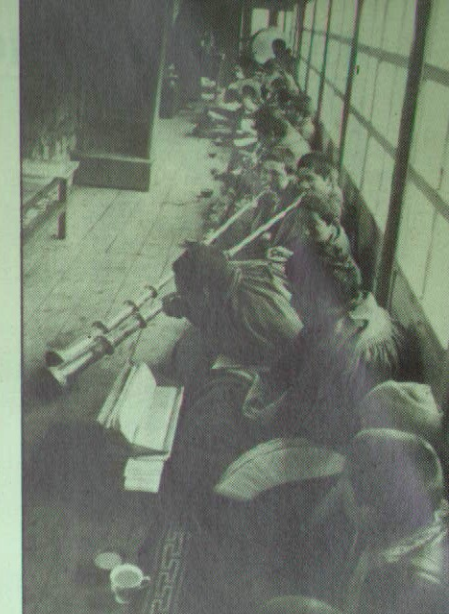
"We thought someone was dying at the very least — but once he had found his way into our tent we were confronted with a very emotional Italian who said he was suffering from altitude sickness.

"He was given a couple of paracodol tablets and sent off to bed — but 15 minutes later his friend came back and said he was very worried because the chap's face had turned black..."

Thoroughly alarmed, Coulson grabbed his bag and shot out of the tent into the freezing night. When he returned from his nocturnal trek through the snow he was strangely silent. Eventually his companions, fearing the worst, asked after the Italian's welfare — and learnt that he had accidentally rubbed ash from his fire over his face. The unnaturally dark complexion, while superficially alarming, had been entirely cosmetic...

There was time on the way, however, for some serious medical research — thanks to a £2500 gift from the expedition's chief sponsors Roche International.

The pharmaceutical company had asked the team to test a new sleeping tablet — amazingly, you can have trouble getting to sleep in the mountains, even after a heavy day's climbing.



Oriental overture from young monks at Teng Poche.

It was an ideal opportunity to monitor the changes in sleeping habits through different time zones among men of various age groups eating different foods and moving through extremes of climate and altitude.

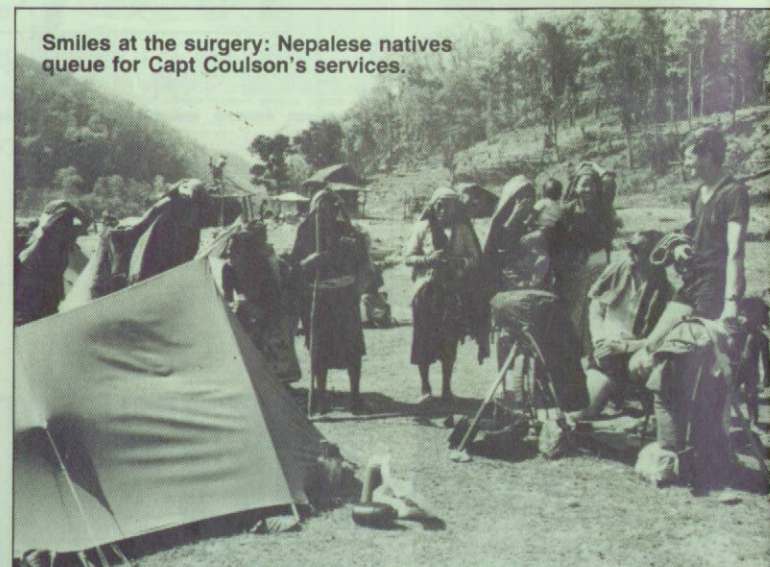
Major Kerslake's verdict on the trip made light of the failure to reach the highest peaks on the itinerary — you cannot help the weather, he concluded philosophically.

Understandably, he considered the real value of the expedition lay in its training and educational value — it was definitely not the sort of knowledge you could acquire from books.

"We all — especially the younger members — learnt a lot about different styles of life, different cultures and different landscapes," he said.

"But most of all we learnt a lot about ourselves and what we are capable of and our ability to get along with one another in the most trying conditions. Those, I think, were the most valuable lessons of all."

Reproduced by courtesy of 'Visor'.



Smiles at the surgery: Nepalese natives queue for Capt Coulson's services.



Maj Kerslake and porter crossing the Cho La.





APPLYING FOR RENT or rate rebates these days is quickly losing the stigma of "charity". It comes as quite a shock to read through the DHSS/COI leaflet "Who pays less rent and rates?" and to see the wide range of people with differing circumstances who are all eligible for the rebates. They all have one important thing in common and that is that their earnings fall below the UK Needs Allowance, a figure determined by the DHSS that leaves millions of people eligible to claim.

Council tenants, private tenants and even home owners can apply for a rent or rate rebate and the amount you get depends on the size of your family, your income and how much you pay in rates and rent. The leaflet gives some enlightening examples: David and Patricia, for instance, both have jobs and earn over £800 a month. They live in their own house and have three children of school age. Their rates bill is twice as much as it was when they bought their house six years ago and they get a rate rebate.

The elderly and the young may well, according to the leaflet, be eligible for rebates. Rose is widowed, has a state pension and lives on the interest of savings of £10,000, and she qualifies for help with her rates. Jane and Leila are sharing a flat. Jane is unemployed and Leila is a trainee hairdresser and they get help with their rent.

These examples help to show that even though you may not think you are eligible for help, it is worth applying. Service families overseas as well as those at home in UK are already receiving rent and rate rebates. In fact 46 per cent of married privates, 17 per cent of married lance-corporals and four per cent of married corporals in BAOR are getting help with their hiring or quartering charges. LOA is excluded from the income calculations so you are considered to be earning even less than you might think.

If you think that you and your family may be entitled to a rebate, ask at your unit orderly room for details.

*Anne Armstrong*

During the past weeks there have been a number of letters regarding the employment of dependents in BFG. For the past five years I have been working to get some of the anomalies affecting them put right.

Overseas, dependents are eligible for sickness benefit which is dependent on the payment of the correct number of Class I contributions in the correct year, however the correct year, apply to the same does not apply to Unemployment Benefit. The PCU's are acknowledged as bona fide employment agencies for German workers, yet they are NOT acknowledged as bona fide in the UK. DHSS to

Furthermore those Servicewomen who take their discharge in EEC countries such as Germany do not even receive Unemployment Benefit for the first three months if they are unable to obtain employment

Unemployment Benefit claims etc. The non-payment of Unemployment Benefit, after the initial three months payment which under the EEC reciprocal agreements, is the only claim allowed for wives moving to an EEC country - see DHSS leaflet FB5 - is a considerable

My article in the LOA Review Team, The Armed Forces Pay Review Body or those who decide the extent of the X factor take any of these particular aspects into consideration, perhaps, have said in Soldier's magazine could present our should the European Parliament and apply to the European Social Fund for help in the retraining of women so that they have an additional skill.

We are no different to wives in UK, as Soldier's Trends 13 states over the total of

"... I went to the Arbeitsamt to register as unemployed here and was immediately told to come back with an interpreter. I did this and was then sent to another Arbeitsamt the other side of Münster. Here I filled in more forms and was told to go to the Ausland office in the middle of town. I went to this office and had to pay for an Anmeldebestedätigung which cost me 30Dm. I was then sent to get a tax card and a police certificate.

"Two weeks later I received a letter saying I was not entitled to any money due to Section 169A (I think it was) of the Common Market rules book. I appealed against this decision but lost.

"I was extremely upset to think that I had paid tax and insurance for eight or nine years and couldn't benefit from it. I did get in touch with the DHSS Overseas Branch who said they couldn't help as it was nothing to do with them..."

Mrs B, BFPO 17

"I do not go out to work at the moment but hope to do so later this year. What seems to be grieving most people is that now we have to pay Class 1 contributions and yet we receive little or no benefit from this."

Mrs P, BFPO 33

The letter that started it off: Some fragments of the original letter sent to *Sixth Sense* by Anne Armstrong and published in the 20 April 1983 issue.

## New magazine launch



The presses roll as the first edition of the Federation of Army Wives' Clubs

new magazine, *Neighbours*, makes its debut.

Anne Armstrong was

there with members of the team that put the new mag together for UKLF wives.



"... When I married and came to Germany three years ago I did not work for 12 months as I could find none. I had been working for seven years before, paying full contributions, and yet could claim no benefit.

"I notice that one is entitled to pay contributions on earnings here although there is no entitlement to all the benefits from these contributions. I assume the percentage rate of these contributions is the same as that paid by people who receive the whole range of benefits?

"It would be difficult to assess the income lost by Service wives through non-availability of work abroad, not to mention poor wages and some sort of special case should be made for the loss of potential benefits.

"I feel this issue is not confined just to LOA and our lack of rights to all the range of National Insurance benefits but should be taken into consideration when Forces' pay scales are determined. As a newly-promoted Executive Officer in the Civil Service, my pay was not much less than my husband's as a Sergeant with 20 years' service. I find this rather degrading to the Armed Forces in general. Even the civilian police in UK have better pay and conditions and the wives and children have all the advantages of a permanent residence ..."

Mrs H, BFPO 25

"... Before I left England I signed on the dole and was given a letter to take to the German Arbeitsamt in German and English. I went to the Arbeitsamt in Verden and was told I would have to take a translator before I could register as no-one at the office speaks much English and I do not speak German. As I did not know anyone who speaks German this was impossible and I was unable to register.

"I spoke to another Service wife who did manage to register at this office even though she does not speak German. However, she never received any payment even though she was entitled to it in England. I would be interested to know whether any wives in Germany ever actually receive any money from the UK Unemployment Benefit Office.

"The LOA in no way compensates for the loss of my wages and I have found that the cost of living in Germany is higher than in England, whatever the LOA Review Team may say to the contrary. I have found that food and essential items are more expensive in both the Naafi and the local German shops than they are in German supermarkets, with the exception of milk and some German bread which is cheaper ..."

Mrs G, BFPO 38

"Upon leaving UK last year (where I was employed as a Civil Servant) I enquired at my local DHSS office about claiming my first three months' Social Security benefit. I was promptly told that there was no such benefit available and if I chose to live in Germany I could not expect benefits from the UK ..."

Mrs W, BFPO 17

"Your article in Sixth Sense mentions a European Social Fund which helps in the retraining of people for alternative employment.

"I wonder if this fund would help provide fees towards full-time German language lessons which would enable us to approach the German work market and widen our job choice?

"Wives of serving members of the Forces cannot, except for a limited few, plan a structure career unless we stay put in one place while our husbands live in messes — an option which does not appeal to most families."

Mrs A, BFPO 29

"... When we first arrived here I went along to the German unemployment office to sign on. I had the bilingual letter and knew I was entitled to benefit. I did get some in the end but it was very difficult.

"I know for a fact that several women who were entitled to the three months' benefit did not get any, because of the obstacles. I who have a smattering of German found it a nerve-wracking process. I queued for hours to be 'harangued' in German and receive mounds of forms to be filled in in German.

"I really do feel that we wives get a poor deal ..."

Mrs K, BFPO 15

## "YOURS, BEWILDERED!"

WELL, I CERTAINLY TOUCHED a raw nerve when I aired my views in Sixth Sense (20 April 83 issue)!

Your response was overwhelming and far more disturbing than I could have anticipated even with the steady flow of letters that I normally receive from those of you who have tried to penetrate the EEC benefits maze. Who would have imagined that there would be so many different problems in receiving unemployment benefit or so many hurdles to cross?

For those of you who hint darkly that there can't be anyone who does actually manage to get the benefit to which they are entitled, let me just say that I have known some determined (and lucky) wives who have eventually come up smiling with their

three months' worth of benefit so there is still hope.

What we are aiming for is a system, known to every DHSS Unemployment Office and every Arbeitsamt, that will take us across the gulf that lies between the legislation and procedures of the two countries. After all, there are a few thousand Service wives overseas not just one or two.

To give you all a comprehensive and clear picture of what you might come up against when you move to your next Germany posting, I am including a selection of letters (and extracts from the longer letters) which might strike terror into the hearts of those of you who shrink from a pitched battle — but, remember, faint heart never won fair lady nor a fair deal.

"... I have been a Service wife for 23 years and have often felt that this also meant second class.

"My local DHSS office told me that I had been wrongly informed in the various MOD booklets on going to Germany and so I wrote to the MOD on the subject of unemployment benefit, only to receive a very 'sit on the fence' reply. After that was eventually sorted out I did all the right things at the right time but have as yet still not received any communication apart from a printed form stating that the DHSS required a Form E303 in order to consider my claim. That was four and a half months ago and still I wait not knowing where to turn for assistance.

"I have not spoken to anyone here who has actually received any money and I'm beginning to wonder whether claiming is just a complete waste of time and effort."

Mrs S, BFPO 47

"When I left UK last year to join my husband here in Germany, I was given a letter by the DHSS to take to the German benefit office which explained to them, in German, about the EEC agreement. I took this to the office in Goch a few days after arriving in Germany.

"After examining my passport, the official there explained that as I had a status stamp in my passport and that as I had come to Germany to join my husband and not specifically to look for work, I was unable to claim the three months' benefit.

"We then contacted the community relations representative in Laarbruch who said that I was the first one he knew of to be refused the benefit but that he had been wondering how long it would take the Germans to realise that they were paying benefit to someone who had never contributed anything to their tax or National Insurance system."

Mrs H, BFPO 43

"I have worked for the Army on and off for the 11+ years of my married life and find many of the anomalies you mention. For example, the fact the previous service does not count in the form of increments and therefore each time I move, I'm back to square one on the pay scale.

"My main grievance though is that when it comes to seeking assistance in claiming unemployment benefit no-one seems to know or wishes to help. The unit post office has copies of various leaflets displayed on its noticeboard which are supposed to be available from the unit orderly room but frequently are not.

"I have written to the Overseas Branch of the DHSS requesting leaflets and advice as to whether I am entitled to claim.

"I refuse to become one of the many dependants who do not claim the benefits to which they are entitled because they have been fobbed off."

Mrs B, BFPO 17



**A year after helping win back the Falklands, 5 Infantry Brigade tackles another tricky island operation . . .**



## FAST FALCON TO THE RESCUE

**T**HE FALKLANDS FIGHTERS of 5 Infantry Brigade who a year ago were at war in the South Atlantic have just been in action again — but this time without an actual shot being fired. They were taking part in the largest logistic exercise to be staged in the UK this year and the first to be held by the formation and its predecessor for six years.

The five-day exercise, codenamed Fast Falcon, saw the Brigade not only testing its out-of-area logistic element roles but also exercising a pretty vivid imagination. For the battle scenario was supposedly set in the

sun-soaked Caribbean and that took some conjuring up on a shower-sodden Salisbury Plain.

For the 600 players huddled under dripping canvas and cam nets in a small copse, there were no idyllic sunsets, balmy breezes or carefree calypsos to enjoy. But sleepy lagoons there were in plenty — brackish, dormant ones in deep furrows filled daily by non-tropical downpours.

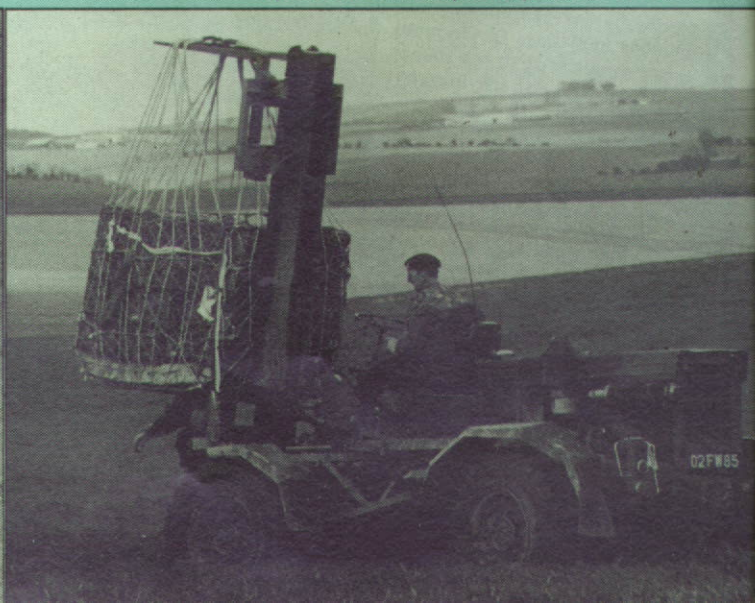
For the men of 2 and 3 Para it all brought back vivid memories of their campaign in the Falklands mud.

The Brigade's vital logistic support ele-

ments had, for exercise purposes, been flown by Hercules transport aircraft to the fictional British colony of Lancia, a tourist and tax haven island squatting on the fringes of the Spanish Main but now fraught with civil unrest generated by one disaffected Flight Lieutenant Walmo and a 'hard core' of some 50 dissident Lancia Air Force and Army personnel.

His Excellency A Fish, the Colony's Governor, had called for British aid as trouble rapidly spread on one half of the island with

**An Eager Beaver about to deposit air-dropped load onto Supacat, pictured left.**





Containers tumble from the Hercules.

its 32,000 population, some 300 of them British ex-patriates.

The Governor's plea was for help to calm the situation as well as to oversee the safety of the British population now under increasing harassment by Flight Lieutenant Walmo, second-in-command of a Lancia Air Force spear-headed by two armed Jet Provost Strikemasters.

The Brigade set up a Brigade Maintenance Area (BMA) at Kobble on the 29-square-mile sister island of Antiba (population 1500) — for exercise purposes 100 miles to the north-west but more usually known as RAF Keevil 30 miles distant.

From there, a constant chain of supply was maintained by, among others, a Combat Supply Platoon, as RAF Hercules ferried one-ton air-dropped containers assembled by 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT, from Lyneham, and tandem-rotored Chinook helicopters lifted underslung six-ton loads.

In all, 3000 rations, 6000 jerry cans of water, 600 twenty-litre fuel jerry cans and 178 tons of ammunition made the trip to Lancia (a huge hunk of training area bounding Ludgershall, Everleigh, West Lavington, Amesbury and Bulford).

Major Martin Romilly, the Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS), who developed the Brigade's out-of-area logistic concept, said: "Having completed this exercise and brought the Army and Royal Air Force team together it is most gratifying to see the system working in a realistic scenario."

As he spoke, strikes were developing on Lancia, particularly in its capital Tidton, and a week of rioting and looting was getting out of control in the chief port of Luderama where two police had been killed. The dissidents had grouped elsewhere on the troubled island.

Although some 200 or so of the British had managed to escape by sea to Antiba, things on Lancia were looking bad. Brigade

*continued on page 28*

Leaving the scene of the ambush. The 'dead' are evacuated by Puma. ▼



No jungle here. Men of 10 Gurkha Rifles sample life on the Plain. ▲

The medics practice their skills on simulate casualties. ▼



**Story: Graham Smith**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**



too were to suffer some initial setbacks. Two 4-tonne lorries were ambushed with the loss of five dead and 16 seriously injured, the latter evacuated for treatment by an Army Air Corps Scout helicopter from 656 Squadron, based at Netheravon, and an RAF Puma.

Later, a desperate Flight Lieutenant Walmo was to seize 70 British hostages — 12 of them said to be in "a bad way" — and including the Deputy Governor (played by Lieutenant Kevin Middleton, a platoon commander with 1 PWO based at Bulford).

Chinook picks up load for transit. ▼



Maj Roger-Smith: "a learning exercise".

But they were all subsequently saved in a Brigade rescue action.

Taking part in Exercise Fast Falcon were 80 men from 'C' Company, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles who, just ten days before, had arrived in the UK from Hong Kong.

Company Commander, Major Chris Jeffery, said: "It's first class limited war training for us. Our last opportunity for practice was at the end of last year. We have a lot of inexperienced soldiers with us, men who have never worked with British soldiers in this sort of environment. It's also a first class chance to become integrated into 5 Brigade and to find out about the sort of people you are working with."

"We are engaged on perimeter defences, covering the main infiltration routes and carrying out patrolling and ambushing, mostly by night."

Their particular 'enemy' was provided by men from 1 Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

One of the exercise players in the watch-keeping role was TA officer, Major Mervyn Roger-Smith, a North Sea oil engineer and a member of 2 Wessex based at Reading. He joins 5 Infantry Brigade on exercises and

explained: "The value of this exercise for me is that I became au fait with 5 Infantry Brigade and how it works. If it were called to war I feel I could play a useful part. It's a learning exercise for me."

Meanwhile, the situation was developing on Lancia with RAF Hercules dropping their parachute-borne one-ton containers from 400 feet.

Keeping all the helicopters flying were men from the RAF's Tactical Supply Wing (TSW) with their 430-gallon APFCs (Air Portable Fuel Containers) looking like huge Edam cheeses but black in colour.

Recovering the containers on the ground were Eager Beaver fork-lift trucks and a new piece of kit being trialled for the first time during Exercise Fast Falcon. It was the six-wheel, 28-mph Supacat, an all-terrain vehicle costing £13,000, powered by a 1300cc Citroën engine and capable of carrying loads of up to one tonne.

Brigade Commander, Brigadier Tony Jeapes told SOLDIER: "It is not difficult for any commander to work out where he wants to put his troops, only what he wants them to do. The problem comes in supplying and maintaining them once they are there. And that is what this exercise is all about, practising our logistic system."

"A lot of lessons have come out of it already, lessons which have been forgotten since the run-down of our Forces over the last nine years. We are having to re-learn these lessons and I am very pleased indeed by the speed with which they have been re-learned."

"Fortunately, there is still a hard core of expertise among the older soldiers and they are now passing this expertise down to the younger ones. There is a great spirit of get-up-and-go which I like to see."

"Exercise Fast Falcon is held to get our systems, routines and organisations right and, above all, our ability to re-act to the unexpected. If the logistic system cannot re-act to the unexpected then, suddenly, your tactical plans don't work." ■

**M**  
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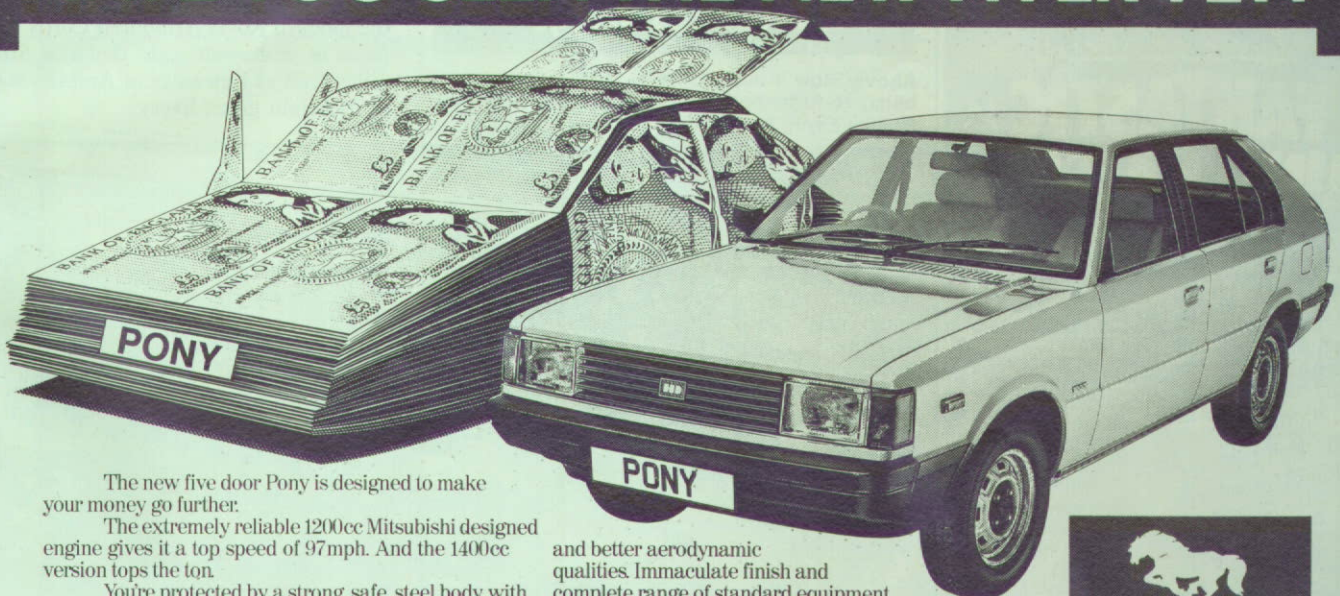
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The new workshops — big enough for two football pitches.



**S**ET ON the site of the world's first tented tank workshop of 1916 at Dorset's Bovington Camp, the £7 million purpose-built 18 Command Workshop REME has just been officially opened as the world's newest — and probably the best.

Doing the honours was Major-General Tony Palmer, Director General of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who watched a drive past of some of the vehicles repaired at the workshop — among them Chieftain, Scorpion, Scimitar, Fox and Ferret — before unveiling the commemorative plaque.

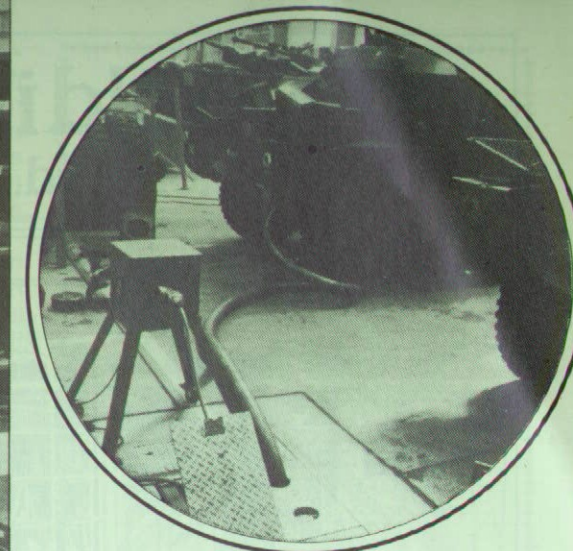
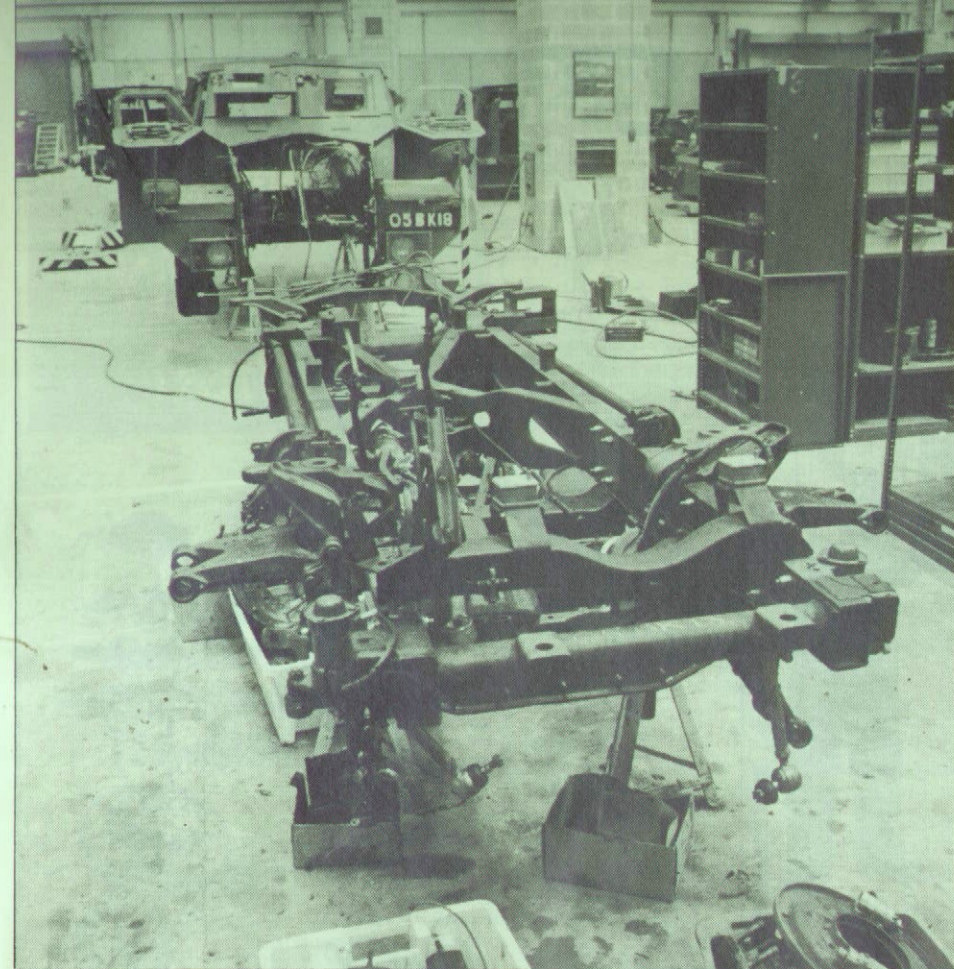
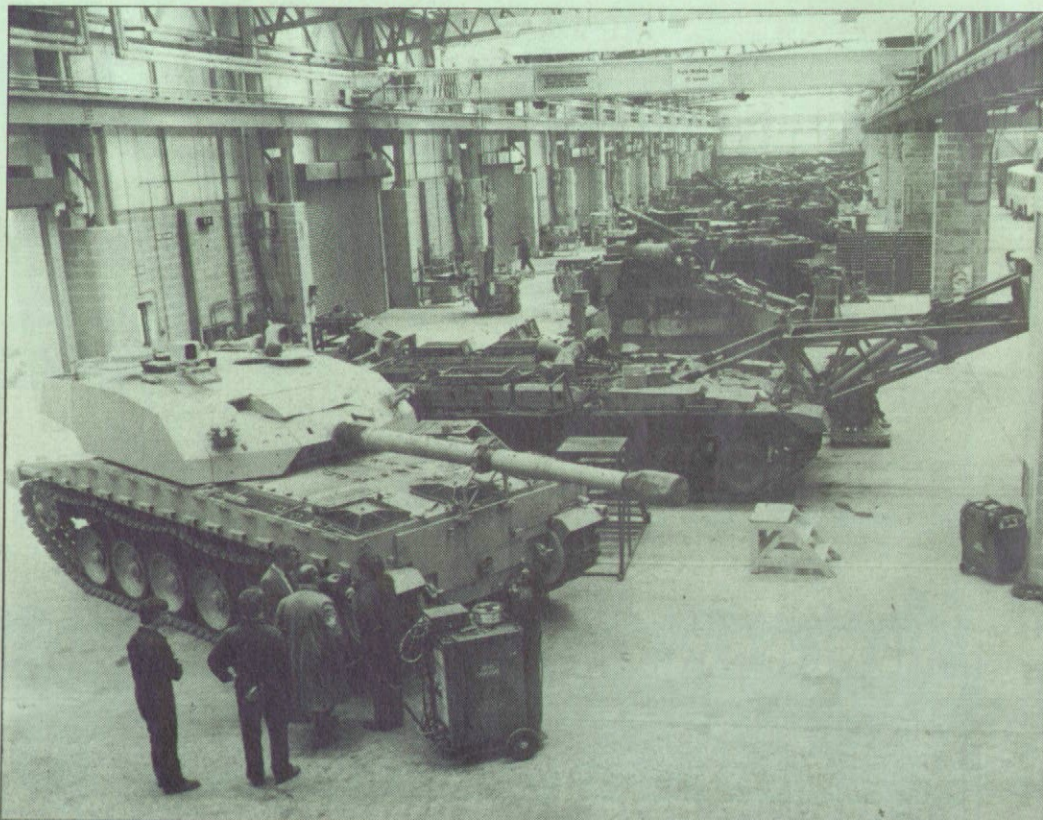
The new workshop building spread over three-and-a-half acres or the equivalent of two football pitches employs 280 civilians and about 60 soldiers on detachment there.

The rebuild of 18 Command Workshop started in May 1979 and the premises, which boast 42 huge bays and underfloor heating, have been in operation for nearly a year.

The workshop not only undertakes repair work on all of the armoured track vehicles of the modern Royal Armoured Corps but also those of yesteryear right down to Museum relics such as Lawrence of Arabia's staff car in its bright green livery.

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

Above: How it used to be — Mark V Female being re-furbished during World War One.  
Below: Every bay busy in the new complex.



▲ Exhaust gases from vehicles under test are fed under the floor.

◀ Dismembered 'pig' — chassis in foreground, body at the rear.

lawn mowers — all find their way to Bovington's new installation of overhaul and repair.

It is a far cry from 67 years ago when the original accommodation was under canvas on the site of the present workshop, for it was in late 1916 that the camp at Bovington was converted for use by five tank battalions, a depot and the workshop.

Mr Patrick Lane, the man in charge of Management Services at Bovington said: "We are now up to date with current technology and, hopefully, we will now be able to cope with all the new work coming in. We will be the designated Challenger workshop from September.

"We have now switched over to the electronic age. The basic skills are still required in tank technology but we have got to have the best of both worlds." ■

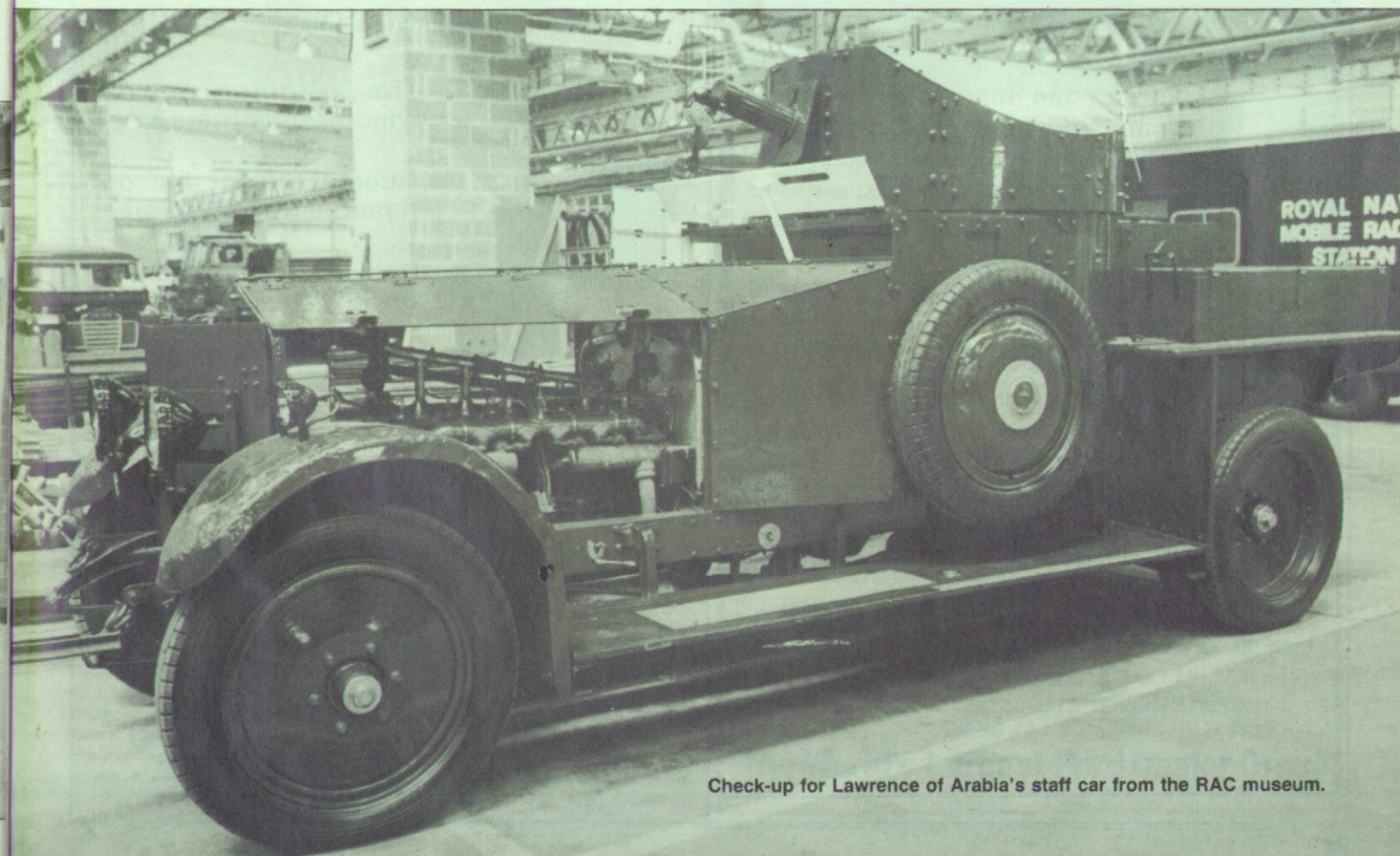
Among the 20,000 items in store are units ranging from a Challenger tank's main power pack down to the humblest washer. Usually, there are never less than 40 vehicles being worked on at a time in the huge hangar-like building.

Also under regular repair are the Humber armoured personnel carriers used in North-

ern Ireland — affectionately called 'pigs' — which come in to the Bovington workshop battered by petrol bomb burnings or brick dents. The vehicles are stripped down to their chassis for the intensive overhauls.

Work is carried out, too, for the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

Motor-bikes, outboard motors — even



Check-up for Lawrence of Arabia's staff car from the RAC museum.

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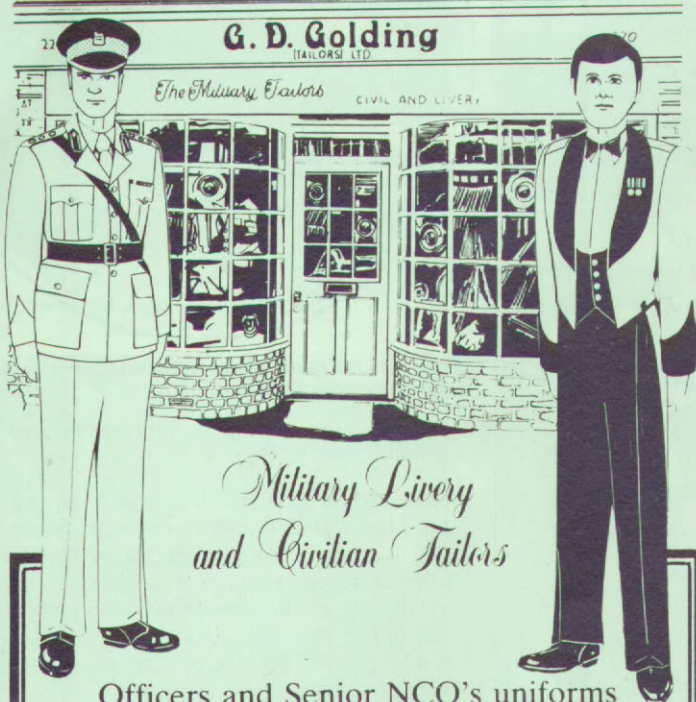
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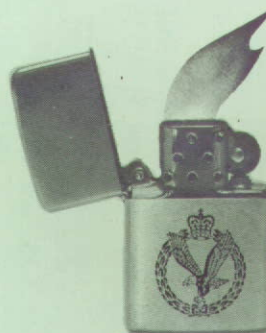
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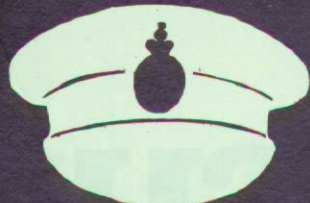
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## Your Cap Badge

No 43

### THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHERWOOD FORESTERS REGIMENT (29TH/45TH FOOT)

ALTHOUGH in its present title the Regiment attributes its origins only to two former regiments it must not be forgotten that, prior to the Cardwell Reform of 1881, the Worcestershire Regiment had been the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot, formed 1694, and had allotted to it as its second battalion the former 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot, formed 1702.

Likewise the Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire) Regiment sprang from The 45th (Nottinghamshire) Regiment, formed in 1741. It was given the additional title of the Sherwood Foresters in 1866, having as its second battalion the 95th (Derbyshire) Regiment, formed in 1823 and being the sixth regiment to have that number.

The current head-dress badge shown here preserves these associations with those former units in an attractive and well balanced design. The elongated star and garter of the old 29th came to them with the officer who raised them, his former regiment being the Coldstream Guards. The motto 'FIRM', to be found at the base of the Maltese Cross, had belonged to the 36th from 1773 and may well have been in use before that year. The Maltese Cross is attributed to the fact that when the 95th was raised it contained many officers and men from the 95th Rifles, which became The Rifle Brigade and whose badge has taken that form. However there is no evidence to support this.

The white hart, in the centre of the badge, is an old badge of Derby being adopted in 1881 by the Regular battalions of the Sherwood Foresters. During the period of the brigade system the Worcestershire Regiment wore the badge of the Mercian Brigade. But the Sherwood Foresters were shunted around somewhat after the Second World War being firstly part of the Midland Brigade, quickly re-named the Forester Brigade, whose badge they wore until its dissolution. They too then became a component of the Mercian Brigade and finally, in 1963, found themselves part of



The Prince of Wales's Division. The badge is worn in anodised materials by the soldiers and in gilt and silver plate by officers. The star and hart in silver, the cross and motto in gilt.

Hugh L King

Next issue: The Queen's Lancashire Regiment



## PEN PALS WANTED

**My name is Anna** and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I like pop music and some rock. — Anna Barton, 22 Kingsfield Ave, Ipswich, Suffolk.

**My name is Lois** and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with dark hair and blue eyes. I like music and I am studying to go to university. I would like to write to someone up to age 25. Photos appreciated. All letters answered. — Lois Carey, 161 Holynedge Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M22 7UE.

**My name is Sara** and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I like most music and belong to the GNTC. — Sara Palmer, 32 Damask House, Flower House Estate, Beckenham Hill Road, Catford, London, SE6 3PH.

**My name is Ruth** and I am 27 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. I am divorced with three children, and I work in a newsagents. All letters answered. — Ruth Edwards, 25 Charles Price Gardens, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, Cheshire, L65 2DP.

**My name is Beverley** and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with blonde hair and green eyes. I like discos, horse-riding and CBs. I would like to write to soldiers aged between 18-25. Photos appreciated. — Beverley Phypers, 23 Beechmere Rise, Etching Hill, Rugeley, Staffs.

**My name is Sue** and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. I would like a penpal aged 25-30. — Sue Hutchings, 234 Woodene, Queens Road, Peckham, London SE15.

**My name is Edith** and I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. My interests are writing, reading, music, gardening, decorating and swimming. I would like to write to penpals aged 28-30. — Edith Wallingford, 114/38 Keeble Way, Balga 6061, Perth, W Australia.

**My name is Linda** and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I enjoy skiing, badminton and discos. — Linda Jobes, 55 Richmond Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV3 9JH.

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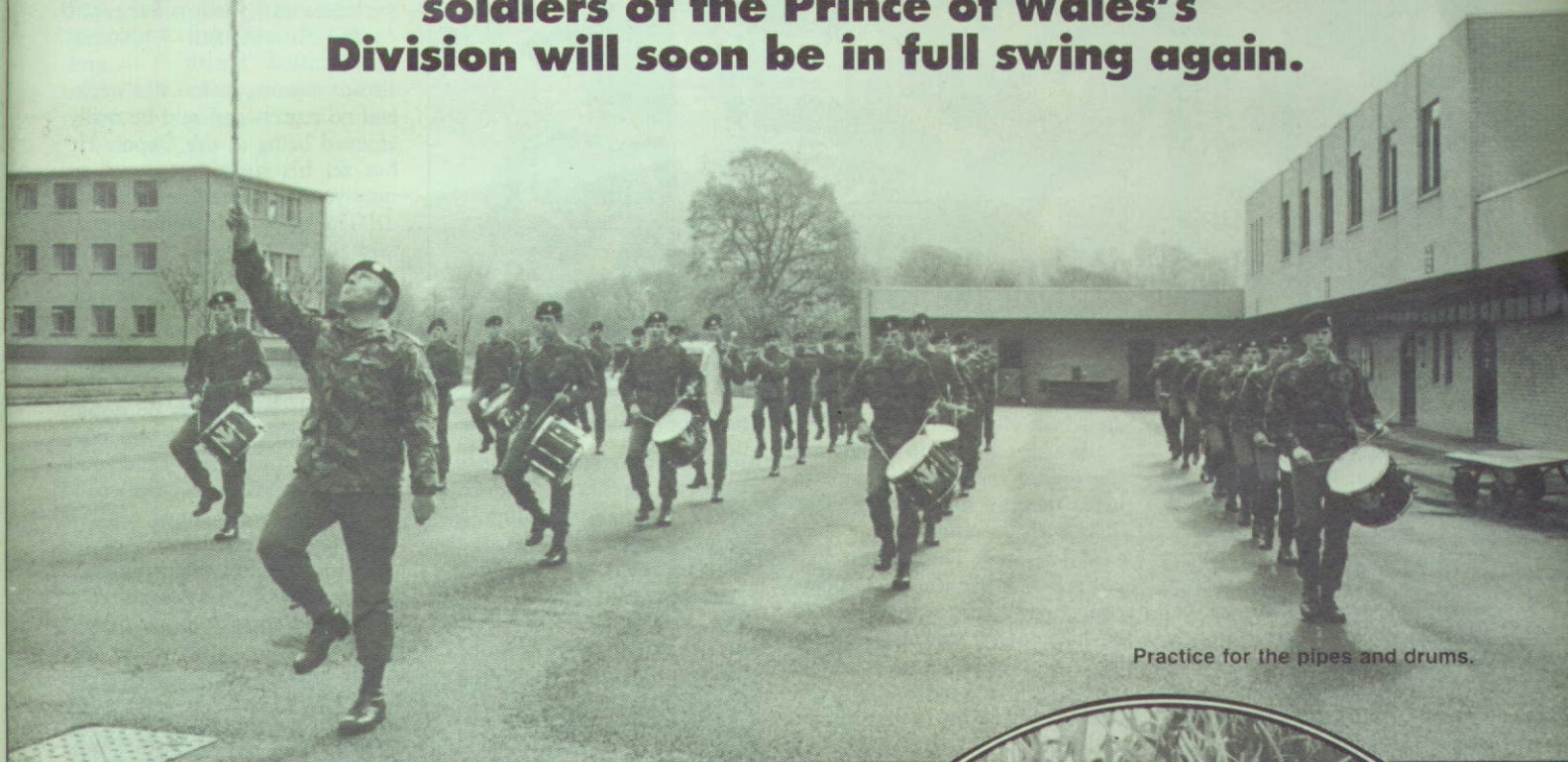
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**After two quiet years, training young soldiers of the Prince of Wales's Division will soon be in full swing again.**



Practice for the pipes and drums.

# STEPPING UP THE PACE

**C**OME SUN, come rain, life at the Depot, Prince of Wales's Division in Crickhowell will be hotting up again at the end of this month. For, in the words of its CO, Lieutenant-Colonel John Garnett, "the recruiting taps are turned on again" and a fresh intake of 144 junior soldiers will soon be keeping the training staff at full stretch.

Set amid the Brecons and the Black Mountains six miles north-west of Abergavenny, the Depot at Cwrt-y-Gollen — Welsh for Hazel Court' — occupies the site of a World War Two hutted camp for American Servicemen.

In 1959 it was the home of the Welsh Brigade serving three infantry regiments. Then, in 1974, it became part of the Prince of Wales's Division training adults, junior soldiers and bandsmen for the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Royal Regiment of Wales and the Gloucestershire Regiment.

A year ago five more regiments were added to the resident population: the Cheshire Regiment, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Royal Hampshire Regiment, the Staffordshire Regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

But the last adult training platoon passed out in December

**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Paul Haley**

1981 and since last June the Depot has been responsible for all junior entry recruits between the ages of 16 and 17 for all nine regiments of the Prince of Wales's Division.

Adult recruits moved to the Division's sister depot at Lichfield in Staffordshire — a move about which there was strong feeling according to Colonel Garnett.

"The Welsh identity is maintained as strongly as possible — we've just won the Army Minor Units Rugby Cup — with all our strong Welsh fervour behind it.



J/Sgt Andre Kujawinski — £80 a week and no regrets on joining.

He hopes to spend six or nine years in the Army.

Yet, in many ways, it's a great pity that the true Welsh identity has been lost from Crickhowell by leaving Welsh adult recruits at Lichfield.

"There has been non-stop pressure by senior officers of Welsh regiments to bring them back to South Wales. It's the Welsh dimension and the hierarchy in this area are saddened by the loss of our adult recruits."

But while there will always be a welcome in the Usk Valley for their now-departed adult sol-

diers, life at Crickhowell still goes on in earnest.

And now the Depot will be all the busier coping with a big influx of new arrivals from as far afield as Newark, Chester, Reading, Plymouth, Cardigan and Anglesey under the watchful eye and expert guidance of an instructor and admin staff that includes 20 officers and civilians.

Colonel Garnett, a training subaltern himself at Crickhowell from 1964-65, explained the dif-

*continued on page 36*





ference this would make to Depot life.

"Currently, we have only got 30 bandsmen and 60 junior soldiers, half of whom train as drummers and half as infantrymen. This is because of restricted recruiting during the past two years which was a national thing, but the taps have been turned on and we are getting 144 boys at the end of June and a smaller size intake in mid-September.

"The superb facilities for training junior soldiers in the Black Mountains and the Brecons will be utilised completely — natural facilities which are the great attraction of Crickhowell. It's a beautiful part of the world for rock climbing, fell walking, caving, canoeing, wind surfing, sailing, orienteering and the more normal military training."

"Here, we have our adventurous training on tap in a Depot where we can offer the outdoor life to young men joining the Army on a greater scale than

anywhere else bar Scotland.

"We also do our bit by hosting the TA for some of their courses here, thereby maintaining close links with those units."

Major Hugh Thomas, the Depot's Senior Education Officer, explained: "Our methods have to be different because of the nature of the person being trained. There is no comparison between adult recruit and junior soldier training. The adults get 18 weeks' of training, the junior soldiers need 42.

"The curriculum spreads over three terms and is designed to give all Juniors as good an opportunity as possible to develop mentally and physically and to prepare them to take their place in their battalions.

"Emphasis is placed on military studies, games and adventurous training as well as the military aspects. All of the Juniors go on adventurous training in the Brecon Mountains and Black Checking on camouflage skills. ▶

#### The Depot's nine cap badges.

Mountains to learn skills like campcraft, trekking, map-reading, climbing and abseiling, sailing and canoeing. They can also ski in Germany or Scotland."

Instructor Corporal Gareth Grey of The Glosters, a former Junior at the Depot himself,

thought highly of his young recruits and the system which gives them 42 weeks there rather than — as in his day — a year or so at Depot followed by a 12-week spell with a training company elsewhere.

And the recruits echoed his enthusiasm. Junior Sergeant Andre Kujawinski — "sometimes called 'Smith'" — and already earning up to £80 a week, had no regrets and said he really enjoyed being at the Depot. He has set his sights on a six- or nine-year engagement.

"The work is out in the open," said the 17-year-old, "and I've been getting more confidence and feel more competent day by day. I hope to become a section commander and a full sergeant in the future."

Colonel Garnett has no doubt that his young charges will take away good memories — and good habits — from Cwrt-y-Gollen.

"Crickhowell has always generated an atmosphere of its own for training infantrymen," he explained. "Irrespective of where you come from, it makes you feel you've come home." ■



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# Getting it together

COMPETITION 319

A CHESSBOARD of 64 squares (32 black, 32 white) has been cut to make fourteen pieces — most of different shape. Fitting them all together again may not seem too easy, but to help you reconstruct the board

every square has been given a number from 1 to 64.

When your chessboard has been correctly re-formed you will find that every horizontal row, every vertical row and both major

diagonals add up to a total of 260 each.

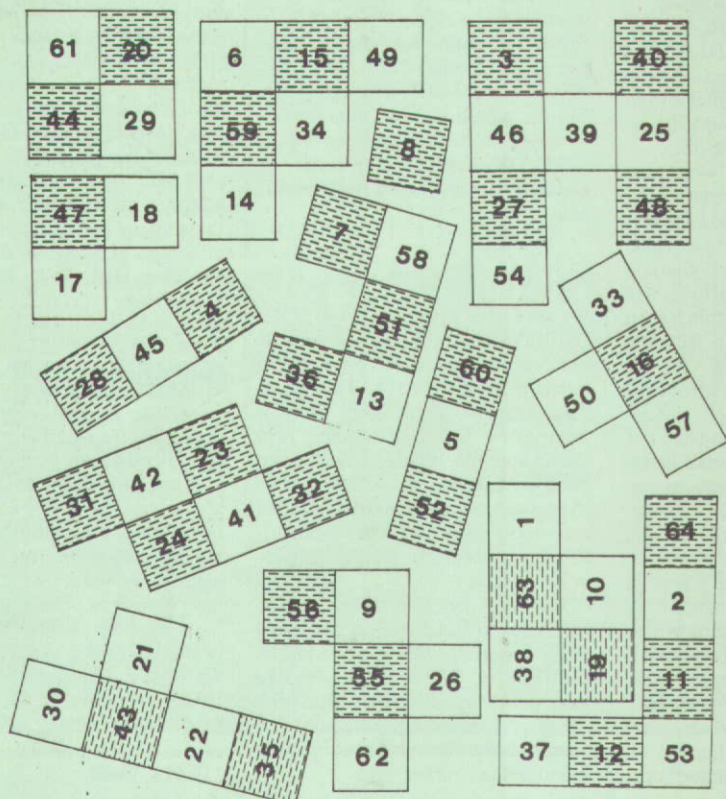
So, with that information at your fingertips what could be easier? To help you still further it must be pointed out that the numbers on the pieces are not always written horizontally on the pieces — some heading left, some right and some even upside down. For example the piece 60 5 52 may be 52 5 60 on your completed board or, for that matter,

60 52  
5 or 5  
52 60

Here, then, are the fourteen pieces (nicely jumbled). We suggest you cut out the pieces from this page and paste them on to cardboard and then cut out the pieces with the cardboard backing. You will find it so much easier to handle the cardboard than thin pieces of paper.

Now, can you send us a diagram showing how your completed chessboard looks?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 15 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 8 August 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 319' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 319' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.



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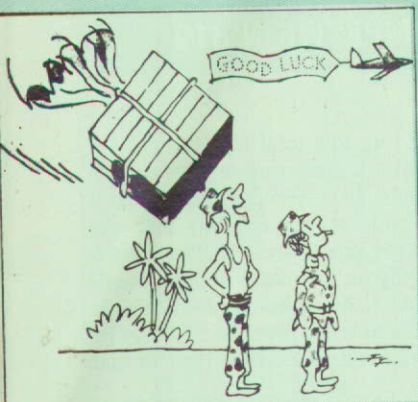
## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.

Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.







# MAIL DROP

by being used for providing equestrian facilities and courses for members of the RA, or the Army or Services generally.

Finally, can we please have less, or preferably no Glockenspiels — it seems a most un-British instrument — and more fifes? — **Michael Wood, 4 Long Acre Road, Dronfield, Derbyshire, Sheffield, S18 6UQ.**

## CORPS OF DRUMS

We were very pleased to see the return of 'See-the-Army Diary' and particularly so as specific reference is made to Corps of Drums in addition to bands, bugles, pipes and drums etc which have always been shown.

We have suspected for some time that you did not actually know what a Corps of Drums was, a theory which was supported by 7 Feb issue which described the front cover photograph as the 'band' of the Staffordshire Regiment, and the Drummers on page 17 as 'musicians'. In fact, the band hardly featured in any of the photographs, which was rather hard on them!

To clarify the point, the Corps of Drums in English and Welsh battalions of infantry is the direct descendant of the drums and fifes of old, and as such, is by far the oldest form of military music still in existence. All private soldiers in the Corps of Drums hold the appointment of Drummer regardless of which instrument (side-drum, flute, cymbals, bugle etc) they actually play.

Drummers are infantrymen first and musicians only when time allows. Unfortunately, time has not allowed for very much practice in the last 20 years, which has led to a decline in standards. However, things are now improving as witnessed by the excellent photos of 1 Staffords in Gibraltar. A few years ago they were not able to play their flutes. — **R J Davenport, Hon Sec, The Corps of Drums Society, 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.**

## GERMAN GRAVE

Your picture of a German war grave in desolate condition in Gibraltar (SOLDIER 21 Feb p.17) was the reason for my contacting the German War Graves Commission, responsible for taking care of German war graves.

That commission informed me that the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Maidenhead is under contract and thus responsible for the care of the above grave. Since last autumn the German organisation has been trying in vain to remind the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that also German war graves should be kept in a decent condition. — **Herr Herst Schepplmann, Munchhausenstr 12, D-3250 Hameln 1, W Germany.**

*Reply from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission:*  
"The large metal memorial commemorates four German sailors from the SMS 'Stein' which sank in 1894. Therefore

this grave is not the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which is only responsible under the terms of its Royal Charter for the commemoration of all those Commonwealth servicemen who died in the two World Wars.

However, in some circumstances the Commission does care for the war graves of other nationals on a reciprocal basis and in Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery it is responsible for three German war graves, but not the grave you illustrated since it does not relate to the two World War periods.

The Commission has submitted a report to the German War Graves Commission on the three German war graves and has offered in addition to arrange for some remedial work to be carried out to the 1894 grave and memorial although the latter is not really repairable."

## FIRST GIRLS

We are rather upset to read in SOLDIER (16 May) that a group of girls was reported to include the first girl cadets to visit Germany. This is untrue since two years ago a party of twenty-five boy cadets, five girl cadets and five officers from Queen Mary's Combined Cadet Force (Army section) were invited to spend two weeks with 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, III Dragon Battery in Dortmund.

Whilst on the camp we took part in a forty-eight hour exercise, modern arms shooting. We drove various Ministry of Defence vehicles and were shown weapons from basic rifles up to and including the Lance nuclear missile. We also took part in orienteering courses.

Apart from an annual camp every July we also take part in an adventure training week in the Brecon Beacons, at Easter. — **Cpl Delia Rush and L/Cpl Sallyann Havard, Queen Mary's CCF, The Vyne School, Vyne Road, Basingstoke, Hants.**

## GUN MOUNT

Reference 'Gun Mount' (News View, 4 Apr). This invention isn't new, we had the same kind of thing in Palestine in 1937/8. The type we used would take both the Bren gun and Lewis gun, either static or on the move. When on the move the attachment connecting the gun was sunk into a socket screwed to the bottom (base) of the vehicle.

Another type we used was a bar on a strong spring which would swing the gun in any direction with the minimum of effort. — **Charlie Gay, 63 The Hill Ave, Bath Road, Worcester.**

## INDIAN PALS

I think the Pen Pals column is a very good idea; the fact that it is so heavily subscribed shows how popular it is.

If any girls in the 16-23 age group are interested in having a pen pal from India, I can put them in touch with Indian girls over here. These girls are well educated in English and have similar hobbies and interests to their English sisters. I know they would be thrilled to have someone to write to in England or anywhere in the Commonwealth. — **Major Gian Singh (Retd), Block 6-36, Jangpura — B, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 014, India.**

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

## WRONG CORPS

In your 2 May issue you published an article 'Medics in Belize' and mentioned the Resuscitation Officer as being a "WRAC Lieutenant Colonel from the Royal Army Dental Corps".

Female dental officers of the RADC are not members of the WRAC but belong entirely to the RADC in a similar manner as female medical officers are members of the RAMC.

No doubt however the error has been brought to your attention by my RADC colleagues!

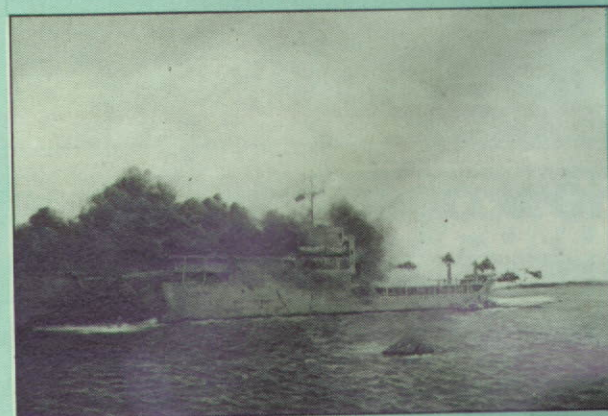
Nevertheless I hasten to add that I do enjoy the magazine and wish you continued success. — **Lt Col Tam Cook RAMC, 2 Fd Hospital RAMC, Thornhill Bks, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DF.**

## UN-BRITISH

I note that you intend to give "more space to bands in future" and would like to see a series of articles on the composition and development of military bands over the years explaining differences and changes, together with the present set-up and proposals for the future.

If the number of bandsmen has to be reduced, it seems a pity that this should be by reducing the size of bands. I believe that earlier this century, when infantry regiments commonly had more than one battalion, there was one regimental band, plus a corps of drums for each battalion, not one for each battalion as now. Thus the number of infantry bands could be reduced without offending regimental 'amour propre'; at the same time possibly retaining the existing number of RE and RA bands, surely justified in view of their size, and allowing the Army Air Corps to gain a band! Incidentally, why doesn't the AAC have a band?

On the subject of RA bands, would it not be fitting for the RA to retain their 'mounted' band in view of the regiment's past dependence on and use of horses — possibly at least as much as the cavalry? (The cavalry, in effect, retain their link with tradition through the Household Cavalry mounted bands.) The horses could also, perhaps, have a secondary role



The Wardroom at RNAS Cudrose has recently commissioned a painting by Mr John Hamilton, the noted marine artist, to commemorate the involvement of RN helicopters and particularly 825 Squadron during Operation Corporate. The subject chosen was the RFA Sir Galahad affair and the painting is now complete. A limited edition print of the painting will be available to the Services if enough interest is generated in the project. Prints would be 20" x 30" on cartridge paper colour offset litho, and signed personally by the artist.

By the rules of limited editions, the maximum number is 850 prints, and the minimum 500. The cost per print, including VAT and packing will be approx £5.50 if 850 are ordered or £9.00 if 500 are ordered. Prices will be adjusted to ensure no profit and any slight margin will go to Fleet Air Arm Charities. Cash with firm orders will be asked for probably in July if the project goes ahead. Enquiries to Lt Commander H S Clark DSC RN, 706 Naval Air Sqn, RN Air Station, Cudrose, Helston, Cornwall TR12 7RH.



## Can You Help?

I am currently compiling an account of the Volunteer & Territorial Forces of Paddington, from 1860-1960, and would very much like to hear from any reader who can offer information on the following battalions: 36th Middx RV, 1860-1881; 18th Middx RV, 1881-1908; 10th Bn London Regt, 1908-1912; 3rd London Regt, 1913-1937; 625 LAA Regt RA (RF), 1937-1960. Any information would be welcome. — **J P Kelleher, 5 Thetford Close, London N13.**

I am trying to trace ex-Cpl Noel (Bungy) Williams, last known in Shropshire, whom I served with during the war. We were in the Royal Marines and served in the Far East, Middle East and on the continent. The last time I saw him was when we were demobbed in April 1946. Our unit was Royal Marine MNBDO Transport Company. I would like to hear from him or any other RM I served with. — **Patrick Melia, 90 Spofforth Road, Liverpool 7.**

Could anyone possibly lend us an old Service Dress (WW1 battle dress) as we are parading in our local carnival and the theme is 'Cadets through the ages'. — **Sgt J Woodgate, No 10 Eastbourne Cadet Platoon, Queen's Regt, Sussex ACF, TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne.**

nial insignies, world parachute wings and berets. SAE for lists. Wants interesting steel helmets and peaked caps of the world.

**G L Borden, 3421 Stuart Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221, USA.** *Wishes to purchase imperial Russian, Soviet and East German military medals, insignia etc. Send details for good prices.*

**V H Gough, 81 Churchwalk House, (Multi flats), Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 3DJ.** *Requires the following issues of SOLDIER Magazine: 1945-48 complete; 1949 Jan-Mar, May, Jul, Sep; 1950 Jan-May, Aug, Sep, Nov, Dec; 1952 May-Dec; 1953 Jan-Nov; 1954 Mar-May, Jul-Dec; 1955 Mar, Apr, Jun-Aug, Dec; 1956 Apr-Jun, Dec; 1957 Jul, Dec; 1958 Jan, Jun, Aug; 1959 Jan, Mar. Will buy or exchange for copies from 50s and 60s or exchange for para/elite forces wings/cloth patches.*

**Mark Baker, 40 Avenue Road, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0AQ.** *Requires full set of 1958 pattern webbing for collection. Offers roughly £10-£20. Also requires vehicle camouflage 'drape' netting.*

**Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, West Yorks, WF12 7ET.** *Has for sale small collection of postally used covers of military, RAF interest. For list please write.*

1630hrs. Tickets may be obtained in advance from: RHQ The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Bks, Exeter, Price £3.00.

**The 7th Annual Reunion of St Boniface Church, Rheindahlen, Germany** will take place at the Chapel of Chelsea Barracks, London, on Sunday 26 June 1983. It will take the usual form of Choral Evensong at 1800hrs, followed by supper. The Choir assembles in the Chapel for practice at 1400hrs. Anyone who has served at the JHQ, Rheindahlen is cordially invited to attend. Those who belong to any of the JHQ Church's Choirs will be especially welcome to sing in the Choir at the Reunion Service. Those interested, particularly intending choristers, should contact: **Lt Col A P M Hole OBE RA, G1 Division, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.**

## Pen Pals

**My name is Jean and I am 31 years old.** I am 5ft 7ins tall with reddish-brown hair and brown eyes. I like squash, walking, music and dancing. — **Jean Dunk, 3 Burnaby Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 6UJ.**

**If you are in the Army and are aged 17-21 then I would love to correspond with you.** — **Ms Kay Bellaney, 33 Newstead Way, Birley, Sheffield, S12 3BN.**

**My name is Joy and I am 30 years old.** I am 5ft 2ins tall with auburn hair and I like fast cars, motorbikes, music and dancing. I would like a sincere penpal. — **Joy Todd, 45 Monkton St, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 2BB.**

**My name is Linda and I am a 27-year-old divorcee.** I like soul-funk music, dancing and a good curry. — **Linda Crompton, 56 Beechcroft Ave, Bolton.**

## Competition

The military history of the world is a pretty broad subject, so in our Competition No 315, 'Historical Ups and Downs' we made it easy for you by not giving cryptic clues. So they were all straightforward — you just needed good general knowledge or a few reference books to hand. The answers were: Across: 7 *Ur of the Chaldees*, 8 *Peel*, 9 *Percy*, 11 *Agra*, 14 *Holy Roman Empire*, 15 *Jena*, 16 *Comyn*, 18 *Skye*, 20 *The First Crusade*; Down: 1 *Rump*, 2 *Hohenlinden*, 3 *Ship*, 4 *Mary*, 5 *Genghis Khan* (various spellings), 6 *Isca*, 10 *Realm*, 12 and 13 *Empire*, 15 *Jute*, 16 *Corn*, 17 *Nery*, 19 *Even*. Prizewinners were: 1st **D R Hollis**, 180 Crammavill St, Grays, Essex. 2nd **G H Bndell**, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton. 3rd **Evan Thomas Smith**, 19 Bridgeman Road, Oswestry. 4th **Keith Sell**, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts. 5th **R P Jenkins**, Fairfield Cottage, 60 Newton Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire.

## How Observant Are You?

1 *Shape of right tree*; 2 "H" of "ALDERSHOT"; 3 *Front bumper of car*; 4 *Road-marking right of rear bumper*; 5 *Car's door handle*; 6 *Width of notice board*; 7 *Leading edge of car door*; 8 *Rear offside lamp cluster*; 9 *Flag on building*; 10 *Back of driver's seat*.

## Collectors' Corner

**Andre, 10 Cordery Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon, EX2 9DH.** *Has French Foreign Legion items for sale: kepis, epaulettes, berets, insignies and uniforms. Also French Army and colo-*

## Reunions

**The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association Annual Reunion March, Cathedral Service and Dinner** are to be held on Saturday 16 July 1983. Form up Bury Meadow

- 6 **Sounding retreat at the Light Division Depot, Winchester 9pm-10.30pm** (Plus free fall parachuting display). (Also same time on 7 and 9 July).
- 7 **Green Jacket Week, Winchester** (1 RGJ Band, Depot Lt Div) (7-9 July).
- 7 **Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 9 **Lord Mayor's Show, Norwich** (1 R Anglian, Coldstream Guards and SG Bands).
- 9 **RAF St Athan Mentally Handicapped Fete** (RA Motorcycles).
- 13 **The Royal Tournament, Earls Court** (13-30 July).
- 14 **Yeovil Festival of Transport** (RA Motorcycles).
- 14 **Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 16 **RCT Corps Week, Aldershot** (150(N) Tpt Regt (V) Band) (16-17 July).
- 19 **East of England Show, Peterborough** (R Anglian Bands) (19-21 July).
- 21 **Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 23 **International Air Tattoo, RAF Greenham Common** (Aviation's Tribute to Sir Douglas Bader includes seven hour flying display, motorcycle teams, military bands) (23-24 July).
- 28 **St Helen's Show** (R Signals Band; RA Junior Leaders gymnasts, Blue Helmets, TA) (28-30 July).
- 28 **Grand Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 29 **Dover Tattoo, Fort Burgoyne, Connaught Bks** (Band 1st Bn Royal Hampshire, Junior Leaders gymnastic display, Red Devils, RA Motorcycles) (29-30 July).
- 31 **Open Day and Tank Battle, RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset.**

## AUGUST 1983

- 3 **Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo** (WG Band, LI Massed Band, RE, QDG, 1 RWF, 1 D & D, 2 Para, 3 RRW (V), 157 Tpt Regt, RCT (V) H Cav Quad, Royal Signals Display Team (White Helmets), WG Guard Mounting, RAF Police Dogs) (3-13 August).
- 4 **Royal Salute** (King's Tp RHA).
- 4 **Kneller Hall Club Night, Grand Concert, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 6 **Burnley Services Tattoo** (Grenadier Guards and 1 King's Own Border Bands; RA Motorcycle Display Team, Red Devils, RA Junior Leaders gymnasts, RN, RAF, TA) (6-7 August).

Please note that due to limits on space this Diary does not include all the many TA events that are being held this year to mark the TA 75th anniversary. Details of these are available on request from Centre Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SG price 25p inc p & p.

# See-the-Army

# DIARY

Previously unpublished events are written in bold type. A full diary for the year was published in our 18 April issue.

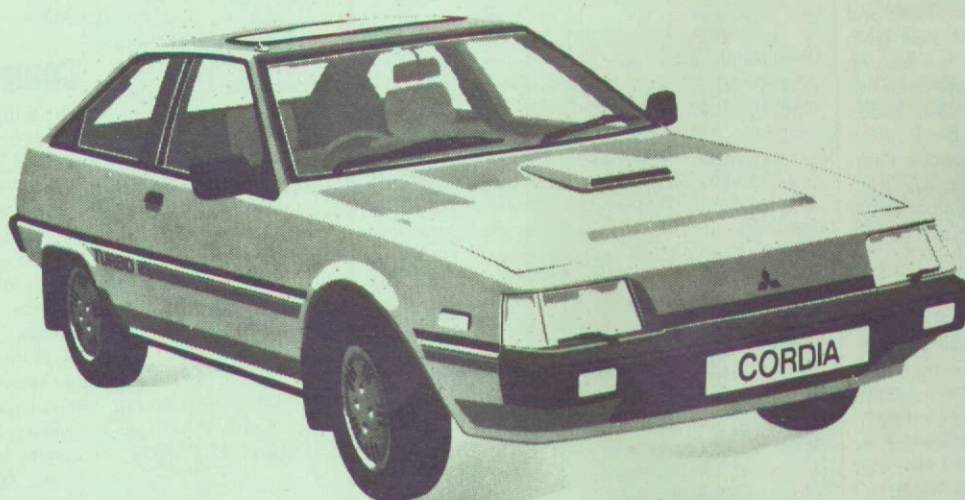
## JUNE 1983

- 14 **Royal Ascot** (WG Band).
- 15 **Marching Display, Christchurch** (1 D & D CD, 1 R Hamps CD, 1 DERR Band).
- 15 **Beating Retreat, HQ Wales, Brecon** (1 RWF CD, 1 RRW CD, 1 Glosters CD).
- 16 **Mountbatten Memorial Display, Duxford IWM Airfield** (Red Arrows, Canadian Air Force, White Helmets, Massed Bands).
- 16 **Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 17 **Essex Show, Chelmsford** (3 R Anglian Band) (17-18 June).
- 21 **Lincoln Agricultural Show** (Musical Drive, King's Tp RHA) (21-23 June).
- 23 **Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**
- 24 **Wembley Pageant** (36 Bands; HAC; Musical Drive King's Tp RHA) (24-25 June).
- 30 **Grand Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.**

## JULY 1983

- 2 **Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.**
- 3 **Forces Fun Day, Northampton** (2 R Anglian Band; Gds Free Fall).
- 6 **Army Exhibition for Schools, Basingbourn** (R Anglian Bands, Junior School of Music, Queen's Division; Red Devils, White Helmets, Junior Leaders Regt, RA gym display) (6-8 July).





# GERMANS ADMIT COLT IS TOP OF CLASS FOR RELIABILITY!

Their reliability is so great that the German Motor Magazine 'MOT' put Colt as the overall leader in gruelling tests for reliability, performance and price.

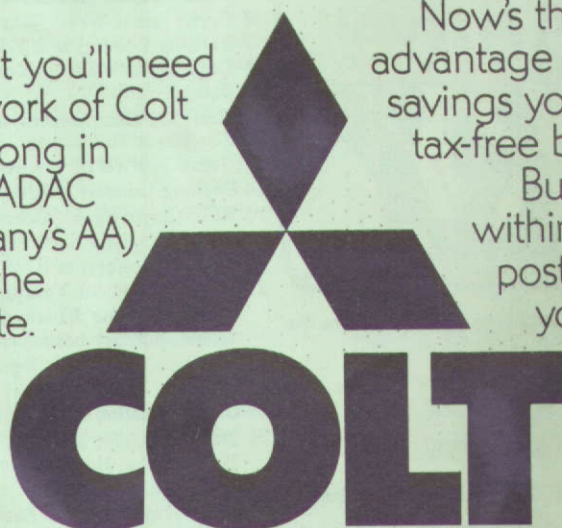
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Colt in Germany. The Colt Car Co. Hoch Strasse 66, 4057 Bruggen, W. Germany. Tel: 02163 7036.



**T**HERE WAS a time when the Army Catering Corps had a number of training establishments spread throughout the Army worldwide. But today there is only one catering school operating outside of Aldershot and that's eight thousand miles away — in Hong Kong's New Territories.

The school forms part of the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas based at Sek Kong. Known as the Catering Instruction Wing, it specialises in training Gurkha soldiers to be regimental cooks, though it does also teach some locally employed Chinese soldiers too.

The Catering Wing is under the control of British Forces Hong Kong Chief Catering Officer and is commanded by WO1 John West, Army Catering Corps. He has a staff of Gurkha senior NCOs as his instructors.

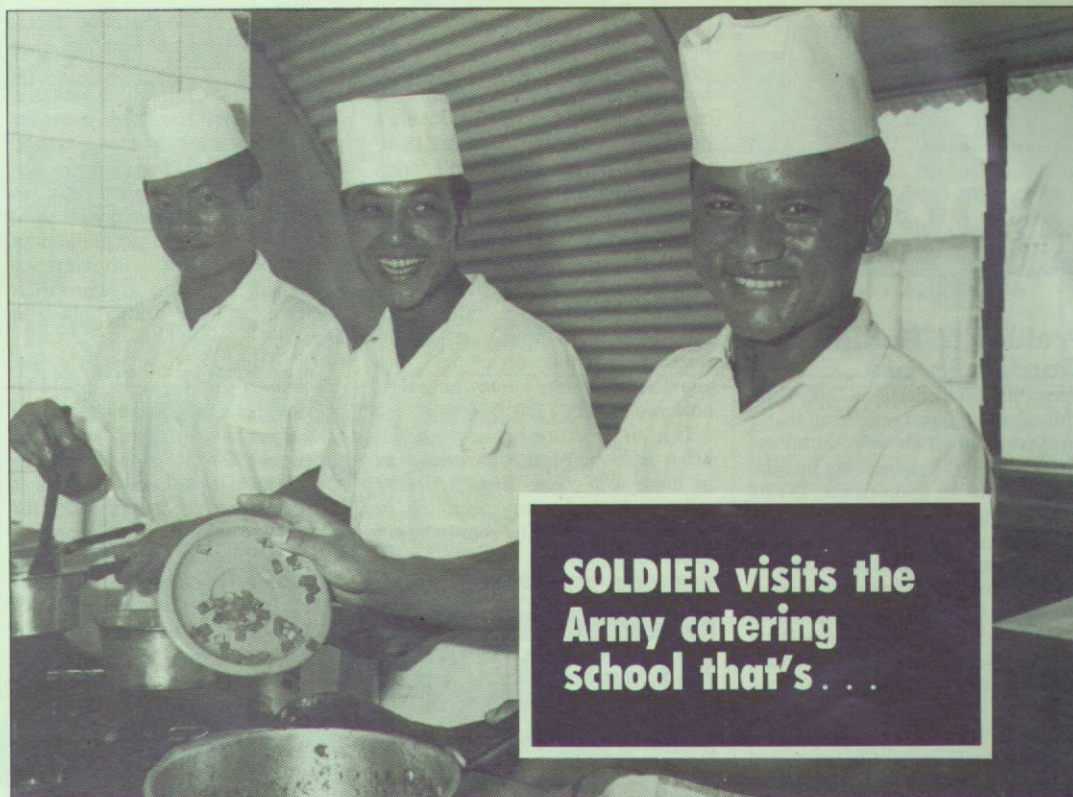
Not only is the school a long way from Aldershot geographically, its teaching staff have to surmount a quite different set of problems to those faced in England.

For a start, in his homeland, cooking is contrary to all customs for the Nepalese male. There is no tradition of men working in kitchens — cookery is quite definitely woman's work.

Then there are the different diets, imposed by religious custom, to be taken into account, with half the country not eating pork and the other half not eating beef.

But if the Sek Kong Catering Wing proves one thing, it is that the Gurkha soldier is one hundred per cent adaptable. Not only does he take to cooking, he can become very good at it.

The wing runs three basic



**SOLDIER visits the Army catering school that's...**

## FULL OF EASTERN PROMISE

courses, the first for regimental cooks followed by an upgrading course, with an extra course to teach Gurkha cooks British cooking. There are also facilities for training ration clerks, regimental messing officers and senior NCOs in management.

Students on the regimental cooks' course have often never been on the wrong side of the cookhouse hotplate in their lives. So their instruction starts from the very basics, from mixing and grinding their own curry spices and preparing rice the Gurkha

**All smiles from trainees of ▲ 10th Gurkha Rifles as they prepare tomato chutney for first stage of trade test.**

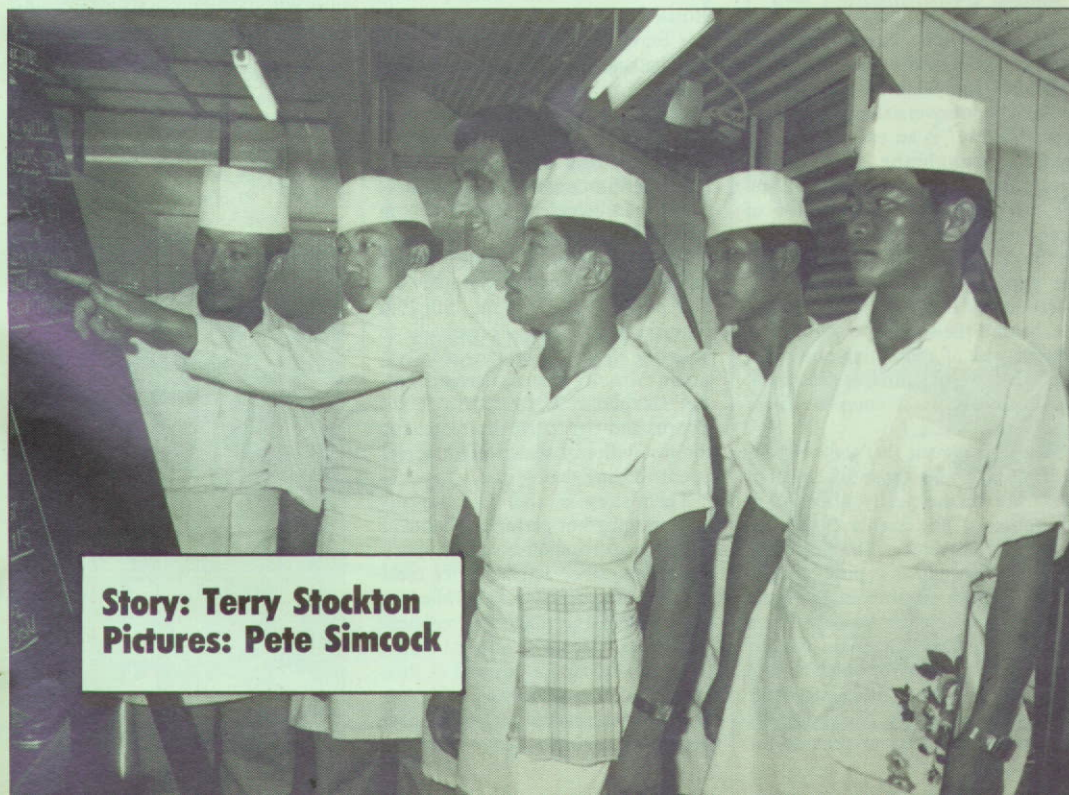
way to learning how to recognise, bone, and prepare meat.

The trainees are taught bulk cooking as well as the preparation of individual dishes and although their progress is closely monitored throughout the course they have a stiff trade test at the end, usually by outside catering experts.

Soon, the wing hopes to move into a purpose-built new school on a site only a few yards away. This will extend the range of tuition and provide students with more space and a better kitchen environment.

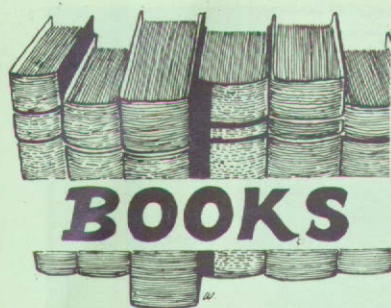
In the past there has been a tendency to select regimental cooks from the soldiers who might just not make the grade in other selection tests, but Mr West claims this attitude is changing. "A good selection of would-be chefs who volunteer for the course makes for excellent Army cooks in the long run." ■

◀ WO1 John West and 10th Gurkha pupils who were completing the regimental cooks' course before posting to England.



**Story: Terry Stockton  
Pictures: Pete Simcock**





## Prelude to Battle: Gordon Moore

There are compensations that come with advancing age; one being that a yarn can be spun about youthful experiences and the chances are that the memoirs will be appreciated. If this book had been published some 35 or 40 years ago, there would have been hundreds of thousands of serving or ex-Service men wondering what gave this chap the right to tell his tale while they had possibly more adventurous experiences. However, years have gone by and Gordon Moore has put down in print some of the impressions of his formative years, and social history literature is the richer because of his decision.

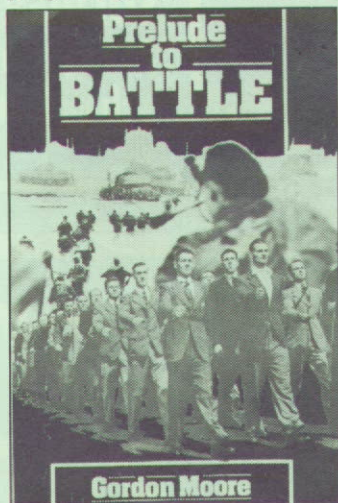
The book is the personal and subjective account of the training and everyday life of a young infantry recruit in wartime Britain from the time of enlistment until embarkation for Normandy in 1944; an 18-year-old with a thirst for adventure and 'lead in his pencil'.

In 1942 Gordon Moore volunteered to join the Middlesex Regiment, and the reader follows him through preliminary training and more specialist preparation for service with Infantry Support Groups; the Vickers Machine Gun and the 4.2 inch mortar being the focal points of his life at that time. But it was not all work and no play; parents, brothers and sisters — and girlfriends — had their rightful and expected place in this young man's world.

There have been many changes in Army life over the years; recruits' palliasses no longer have to be stuffed with straw from the bedding stores and civilian attitudes to tyro service-

men are less spiced with disdain. But the early months for a recruit are still something of an upheaval and with not a few surprises and shocks. We can all identify with Gordon Moore's impression: 'Blimey! Already there were a lot of things you don't forget — your rifle is your best friend; you salute all officers, of all Allied nations and both sexes, you don't salute the RSM, on pain of death! You don't walk across the square, if you know what's good for you; you don't turn up late, for anything. You volunteered to join this sort of mob, but you don't volunteer for anything else, now you're here'.

It is an evocative book which will bring back half-forgotten memories to those who went through similar mills and is certainly revealing to those who did not. And some who are going through them now will find a



degree of comfort through its pages, possibly getting ideas about publishing their own stories in forty years from now.

Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0NS — £7.50 **BJ**

## GOTCHA!; The Media, the Government and the Falklands: Robert Harris

It's an oft-quoted cliché that in war, 'truth is the first casualty', and the extent to which this was true of the Falklands campaign remains one of the most controversial aspects of the crisis. *Gotcha!* is an extremely lucid tip-toe through the minefield of Press/Government relations during the war, drawing on the House of Commons Defence Committee report on the management of the media, and the experiences of journalists and bureaucrats involved, spotlighting the behind-the-scenes wrangles and tangled web of conflicting objectives which led to one journalist describing the relationship as "a complete disaster".

It can be argued that the needs of the military and those of the free press are diametrically opposed in war-time — "The essence of successful warfare is secrecy. The essence of successful journalism is publicity" — and there were certainly many in the Navy, responsible for the Task Force expedition, who thought so. Caught up in the speed with which events unfolded, with many more important things on their minds, Naval officials overlooked the need to provide for

journalists accompanying them. Bowing to Ministry pressure, they allowed the Press on board, but remained decidedly unsympathetic. The journalists themselves, many expecting little more than "a sail round the Isle of Wight", were deeply unprepared for what awaited them. In the confined space onboard ship, tempers frayed, and accusations of obstruction and interference abounded, mirroring greater struggles which were taking place at home.

The Ministry, very properly, was determined that the news should be presented in a fashion which not only refused technical information to the enemy but also caused the least damage to morale at home. In this it underestimated the media's thirst for knowledge which resulted in the BBC's use of Argentine footage and the subsequent infamous 'Panorama treason' row in the Commons. To cap it all, the story broke at a time when Fleet Street was involved in a bitter circulation war, and the tabloids adopted widely different viewpoints, resulting in some cases in a less than savoury comic-book style of jingoism. With so many different pressures, it is perhaps not surprising that the experience should have been such an unhappy one. Yet in many respects it is difficult to see what lessons can be learned, since Government and Press alike are unlikely to be involved again in such an essentially old-fashioned campaign, which placed journalists in the field so much at the mercy of official interference with such potentially damaging effects to the credibility of both.

A thought provoking book, essential to any wide understanding of this country's Falklands experience.

Faber and Faber Ltd, 3 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AU — £2.95 **BJK**

## The History of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, 1945-1980: Jeremy Bastin

The 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars are to be congratulated on this brave effort to record their history between the end of the Second World War when in Germany until the end of 1980, when they were back where they started; this is especially so, as they had subsequently seen a remarkable amount of active service, either as a complete regiment or in detached squadrons.

It was the lot of many cavalry regiments to remain in Germany for long periods but not so the 15th/19th Hussars who went successively to Palestine, Sudan, Germany, Malaya, Aden, Muscat, Ulster, Barnard Castle, Germany, Ulster, Tidworth, Cyprus and Germany, thus equalling the instability of many infantry regiments during that period.

Their story is, therefore, equally wide ranging but perforce it contains a high proportion of social and sporting events, since active service came in short, sharp spells and at times the book reads rather like their regimental journal. Since it is called a history, the geo-political background of their various stations overseas, although very briefly touched on, could have been expanded in order to interest a

## The History of The 15th-19th The King's Royal Hussars (1945-1980)



larger audience; this book is very much for internal consumption with a prize to see whose name is missing. Keats House Ltd., 10 Eastgate Square, Chichester, West Sussex — £6.95 plus £1.18 p&p **PSN**

## Military Badge Collecting: John Gaylor

This is the third edition of a guide that many collectors treat as their 'first reference', the initial impression of which appeared in 1971 under the Seeley Service imprint.

Over 750 military head-dress badges from 1881 to 1983 are illustrated in this edition which has been improved by the addition of appendices dealing with the tartan backings worn by Scottish infantry regiments and a complete listing of the Infantry Volunteer Battalions before the formation of the Territorial Army in 1908.

In his opening chapter the author introduces the hobby of cap badge collecting, explaining the complexities of sealed patterns and restrikes. The following 120 pages are concerned with regimental lineage; more than adequate to meet the needs of most collectors.

Head-dress badges are surprisingly difficult to document in a clear concise way and John Gaylor succeeds in making this a much easier reference book than other, more expensive, publications.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1V 3DF — £11.95 **BJ**

## Military Badge Collecting

JOHN GAYLOR

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Kerry Stephenson 0277 232913

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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## AFTER WEEKS OF RAIN

# HERE COMES THE SUN — AND CRICKET

FOR THE FIRST TIME in weeks the sun shone from a cloudless sky. Butterflies appeared and fluttered across the still damp grass as did another, larger endangered species — the Army's cricket squad, many of whom had hardly put bat to ball this year because of the rains.

The Army had gathered together more than 30 players, a mixture of seasoned veterans, under-25 stars hoping to get their full caps and young hopefuls, for four days of cricket on the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club ground. And no-one was more delighted to see the sun than Army Cricket Association secretary, Colonel Roy Brennan.

"Let's hope we can cut the webs that have grown between our toes in the wet weather," he quipped as some of the 'stars' went to the nets for coaching by former Sussex player and Southern area national cricket coach, Les Lenham. The remainder of the group would be practising on the neighbouring pitch to the sodden Army ground.

Pace bowler, Sergeant David Gelling, of 9 Ordnance Support Battalion, RAOC, was among those hoping that summer had arrived at last. "May has been a complete wash out for me. Fortunately I have been able to have a few indoor nets."

Hoping to break into the Army team this year is young Coldstream Guardsman, Mark Williams. The tall, redhaired fast bowler played for the Under-25 side last year and also got a few Army games.

His pedigree would appear to be impeccable: "I went to school in Australia and when I was 16 I was coached by Dennis Lillee. Then I went to another club where Bruce Yardley was the coach."

Mark returned to Australia for a holiday

during the winter and played a few games for his old club. He had also managed eight civilian club games this summer despite the weather.

"I have been training for the last three or four months and I really want my cap this year," he declared.

Northern Ireland, Belize and the Falklands have taken some cricketers away from the centre of things this season but new faces will be battling for places. This year the captaincy has been taken by Captain Andrew Stewart of the 13th/18th Hussars.



▲ Pace bowler Gelling: "Washout so far".

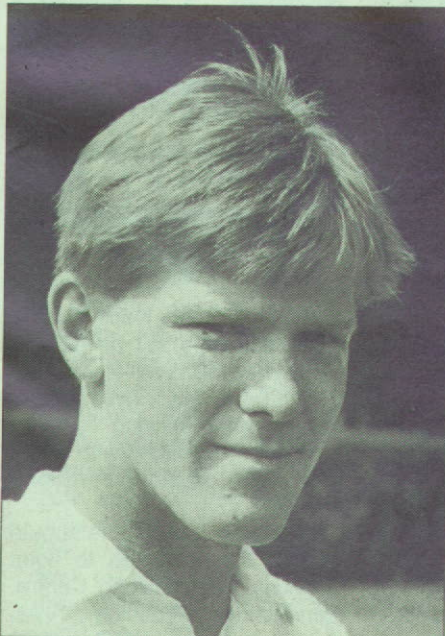
## BOSTON RUGBY PARTY



The Army Rugby squad which recently flew to America to take part in a seven club International Rugby Festival at Boston. Other teams taking part are Hawick, Orrell, Dublin Wanderers and from the United States, New England, Eastern and Golden Poppies. Squad manager is ex-British Lions, Combined Services and Army captain, Colonel Mike Campbell-Lamerton. The Army got off to a great start by beating New England 29-12 in their first match.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

★	One of the biggest grumbles for Army	★
★	and Combined Services cricket has	★
★	been that despite opposition of county	★
★	second team standard, hardly any-	★
★	one turns up to watch. SOLDIER read-	★
★	ers who wish to see Army players in	★
★	action this summer can visit the fol-	★
★	lowing venues. This is not a full fixture	★
★	list.	★
★	ALDERSHOT 29 Jun Sussex 2nd	★
★	COLCHESTER 24 Jun Essex 2nd	★
★	TIDWORTH 28 Jun Gloucs 2nd	★
★	18 Jul Middx 2nd	★
★	26 Jul Glamorgan	★
★	2nd	★
★	PORTSMOUTH 8-10 Aug Inter-Services	★
★	Festival	★
★	30 Jun-1 Jul CS v New	★
★	Zealand	★
★	★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★	★



▲ Guardsman Williams — Aussie trained.



# SOLDIER SPORT

Training for the world's toughest race

## "I'LL DO IT" SAYS ROY

### King's men in hot form

VEHRTE CC, the Rhine Army men from 1 King's, look firm favourites to win this year's SOLDIER darts contest. They kept up their fine run of scoring to win their third round match against 6 Field Support Squadron needing only 60 darts (22-20-18) to earn a place in the semi-finals.

Corporal Jimmy Haque, who took the prize for the best first round performance, weighed in with a couple of tons again, one a superb 160, and there were also a pair of tons from Corporal Brian Gibson, including an 80 finish.

Man of the round this time though was Corporal Phil Sobanski of Aldershot Chefs 'B' who chalked up a total of four tons to see the cooks through against Kolsas Killers.

### LADIES THROUGH

On the distaff side, Berakas Ladies from Brunei also won a place in the last four, Pat Hare scoring a couple of tons and Carole Tibbs, Ann Green and Bridgit Watson each chipping in one apiece.

And completing our semi-final line-up are High Numbers from Engineer Resources at Long Marston, Private Andy Miles and Sapper John Machin scoring three hundreds between them in the final game.

The semi-final draw pairs Vehrte CC with Berakas Ladies and Aldershot Chefs 'B' against High Numbers. So whatever happens the final will have an international flavour with a team from Germany or Brunei lining up against opposition from the UK.



Corporal Roy Smith of 22 Signal Regiment is training hard for what is billed as the toughest race in the world — the Quadrathon. The event, to be held in Sussex and Kent the weekend of August 20-21, involves a two mile swim in the sea at Brighton, a 50 kilometre walk to Tunbridge Wells, a 100 mile cycle to and around Brands Hatch and at the end of it all a full marathon to Gravesend.

Corporal Smith told SOLDIER: "I have always wanted to do an endurance event. Everybody was doing marathons and I wanted to do something a bit out of the ordinary."

He is something of an all round sportsman having represented the Royal Signals at rugby and the Army at hockey Under-21 level. When at AAC Harrogate he was a member of the athletics side which won the Army junior championships.

His punishing training schedule is five hours a weekday and up to eight at weekends. Each day he does the four events in sequence in order to monitor his total performance.

"I'm confident of completing the event — it's just a question of being able to put in a fast enough time over the whole period" he declared.

The Quadrathon aims to raise



Cpl Roy Smith: "What I've always wanted to do."

money for Jimmy Savile's National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville. Anyone wishing to sponsor Corporal Smith should write to Sergeant Billy Hughes, M Troop, HQ Squadron, 22 Signal Regiment, BFPO 107.

Race director, Nick Jenkins, told SOLDIER that there are still vacancies for the competition and he is hoping other Servicemen will take part. Details can be obtained from the Quadrathon Administrative Office, 350 High St, Rochester, Kent.



The team from 135 Field Survey Squadron, Royal Engineers, who led throughout in the men's team competition of this year's TA orienteering championships. Left to right: Corporal Les Hunt; Staff-Sergeant John Mursell; and Sapper Steve Tarling.

## CALLING ALL ARMY HANG GLIDERS

The Fourth Army Hang Gliding Championships will be held in the Hawes area of Wensleydale from 20-24 July. The area is said to offer exciting flying in most wind directions with a 200 mile flight possible from one site.

Would-be competitors should send a £5 entry fee to Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre, Sennybridge Training Area, Brecon, Powys, Wales LD3 8PN.

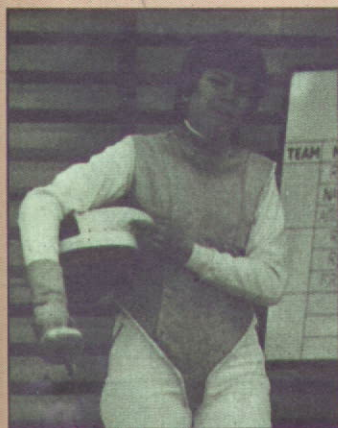


## FENCING

# IT'S FOUR IN A ROW FOR EILEEN

TO ACHIEVE her fourth successive win in the Women's Army Fencing Championships, Captain Eileen Frank had to fight off fatigue and conquer terrific tension in a needle bout against fellow QA Lieutenant Sue Reid in which the final outcome was not decided until the very last point of the championships.

With twelve competitors, four from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps, the num-



Whew! Captain Frank breathes a sigh of relief after a close contest.

ber of entries was much higher than in previous years and competitors were divided into two pools with the best players forming a second round pool.

As expected, the three most likely to contest the title emerged half way through this round, and spectators settled to what they thought would be the final play off between Frank, Reid and Corporal Leeann Relf, WRAC. But with four victories apiece a replay was ordered.

Both Frank and Reid defeated Relf, who thus came third, so when the last bout was fought between these two everything was still in the balance. Scoring four points off each other, the two tired combatants fenced skillfully and with equal aggression while onlookers anxiously waited for the coup de grace which came



Lieutenant Camilla Aitchison finds her way through the guard of Captain Frank (facing).

**Report by  
SALLY DANIELL  
Pictures by  
DOUG PRATT**

eventually from Frank.

Afterwards Captain Frank admitted feeling very worried by her opposition but delighted she had won again. "It was quite tough last year when Corporal Challinor came very close, but this year's was worse" she declared.

In the Men's Championships, QMSI Peter Brierley APTC won the foil, Lance-Corporal Tim Haddon, 13/18 RH the epee and QMSI Stan Godfrey, APTC the sabre.

In the under 20 category first and second places were hotly contested by two young sappers, Gary Clarkson and Mark Elder, who won the epee and sabre.

The inter-unit team competition was won for the second year running by 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery based in Osnabrück. They were the favourites to win even though they came up against the School of Electrical Engineering from Arborfield who fielded no fewer than four international pentathletes.

Winning team captain, Lance Corporal Paul James, after it was all over breathlessly declared: "We'd like to make it a hat trick next year! Even though some of the lads will be posted, the backbone of the team will be there."

## FENCERS BURST RAF BUBBLE

There was sheer delight for the Army's women fencers as they battled their way through to win the Inter-Service title at Aldershot. The last time the Army girls had taken the title was back in 1970 although there was a three-way tie in 1976.

Fencing secretary, Major Val Batchelor, told SOLDIER: "We are absolutely delighted. We did not believe we were strong enough to take the title this year as we are still in the process of building up."

## Moscow Win

Sergeant Steve Jackson, R Signals, together with his partner Alan Williams won the K2 10,000 metres event at the recent International Canoe Regatta in Moscow. He was one of only five top-class paddlers selected by the British Canoe Union to represent the United Kingdom. The next few weeks look busy for Sergeant Jackson as he competes in various international events culminating in the World Championships in Helsinki in July.

Water conditions provided an exciting and sometimes hazardous course for the 39 Unit teams competing in the 1983 Army Slalom Championships held on the River Teifi in Wales with rescue canoes well employed helping capsized paddlers to land. Lance Corporal Paddy Eaton, AAC Harrogate won the Open Slalom Championship, Lance Corporal Julie Maycock, WRAC the Ladies Trophy and Warrant Officer Bill White the Veteran prize. 19 Field Regiment, RA took the Unit Team Trophy, with AAC Harrogate winning the Junior event and the Corps Team Cup going to 3 Royal Tank Regiment.

## HURRY PLEASE

Sports contributors are reminded that SOLDIER is a fortnightly news magazine and as such needs its copy to be as up to date as possible. Reports of events should be posted to us as soon as practicable after its completion or results can be phoned through to the Sports Department on Aldershot Military extension 2591.

## KREFELD CRACKSHOT

Captain Richard Hoole, adjutant of 16 Signal Regiment, Krefeld, with the trophies he won as outstanding individual marksman at the Rhine Area Skill at Arms meeting. Champion major unit was 21 Signal Regiment from Wildenrath and minor unit, Ordnance Services, Viersen.

WRAC teams took part in the five day competition for the first time. They fielded six of the 23 entries and best WRAC team in the sub-machine gun match was 29 Company WRAC, Rheindahlen. Best women team on pistols were 154 Forward Ammunition Depot.





# MILITARY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT



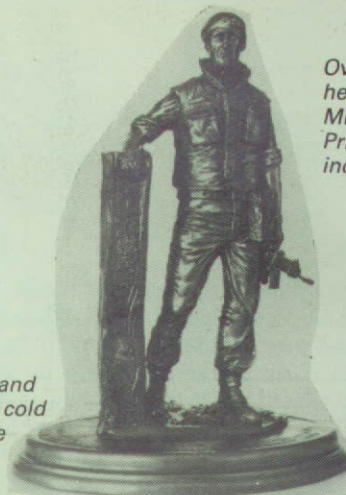
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