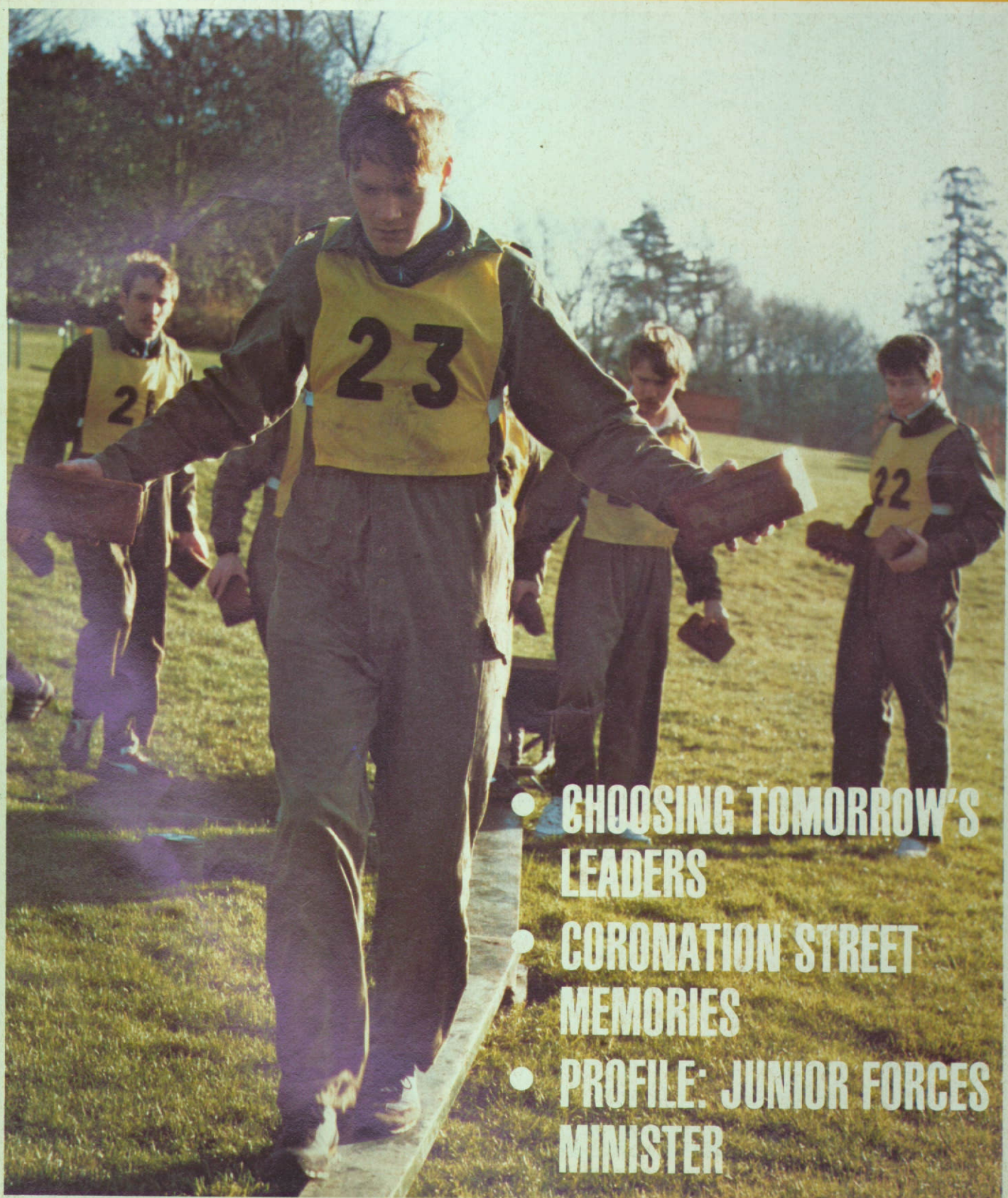


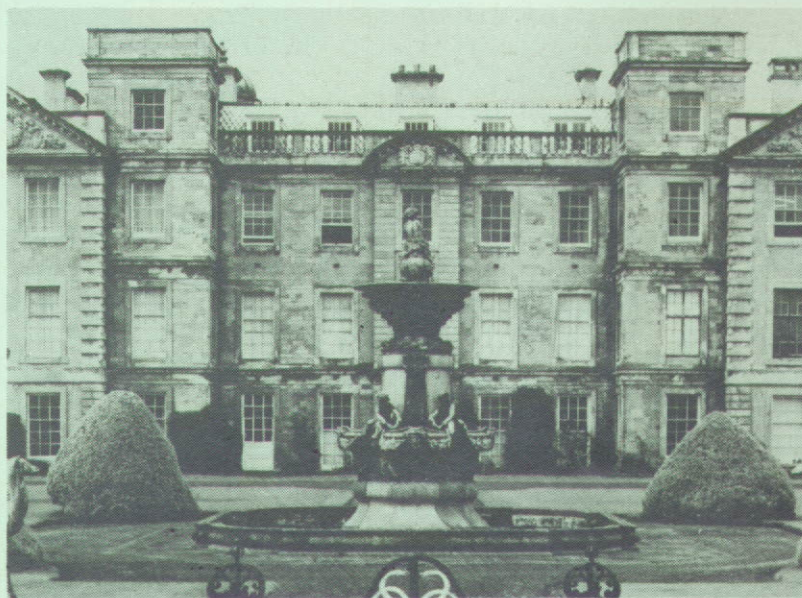
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 22 FEB - 7 MAR 1982

SOLDIER



- CHOOSING TOMORROW'S LEADERS
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- PROFILE: JUNIOR FORCES MINISTER

If your son is bright enough to be an Army Officer, we'll help with his education.



Welbeck College, Notts. A boarding school for potential Officers in the Army's technical Corps.

The Army has its own boarding school, Welbeck College for boys who want to be Officers one day.

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(It will, incidentally, be largely at the Army's expense. Your contribution towards maintenance is very reasonable.)

What your son will get is basically a 6th form education to 'A' level standard in maths, physics and related subjects.

Since there are only 150 boys at Welbeck, we can afford to give a great deal of individual tuition.

Academic standards have to be high because success at Welbeck guarantees a place at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

And not only this; once commissioned, the majority of Welbeck boys go on to University at the Army's expense.

Most boys are commissioned into the REME, R Signals, RAOC and RE. Some go to the RA and RCT and a few to the RAC and Infantry.

We ought to point out that it is only at Sandhurst that your son will begin to wear uniform. At Welbeck he is a civilian.

And apart from some adventure training plus Cadet corps training, the syllabus is little different from that of a first-class school.

There's plenty of sport too. As well as school games, he can go sailing, rock climbing and orienteering.

And as you can see from the photograph, Welbeck is an old stately home which is set in beautiful grounds.

Applicants for the term starting in January 1983 must have been born between 1st July 1965 and 1st January 1967. The closing date for applications is 1st May 1982. For the September 1983 term the birth dates must be between 1st March 1966 and 1st September 1967 with the closing date for applications being 15th December 1982.

To obtain our prospectus fill in the coupon and post it to the Headmaster.



To: The Headmaster, Welbeck College,
Dept. F12, Worksop, Notts. S80 3LN.

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School _____

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FRONT COVER

A Regular Commissions Board candidate tackles one of the command tasks at Westbury. On page 26 we see what is involved.

Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Behind the scenes in The Rover's Return. On page 23 some of the "regulars" recall the days they spent in the Army.

Picture: Paul Haley

SOLDIER

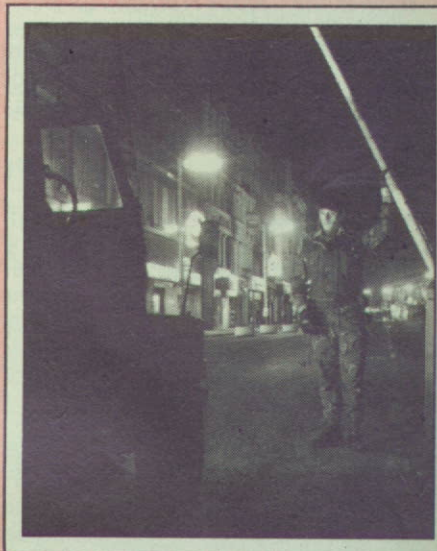
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Westbury puts would-be officers through their paces — page 26

The Changing face of Northern Ireland

— page 14



Coronation Street cast recalls forces days — page 23



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SOLDIER to Soldier

THEY SAY nothing turns a bloke's head faster than suddenly 'coming into the money'. But Staff Sergeant Graham Mottley has proved them all wrong.

Having landed the coup of a lifetime by scooping half a million quid on the football pools, it would hardly have been surprising if Staff Mottley had jacked in his job as an Army medic and swapped first aid on Salisbury Plain for fun and games in the South Pacific.

But not a bit of it. Staff Sergeant Mottley likes his job and his mates. His family are settled. And he plans to stay with the Army and continue his military career.

What a magnificent advertisement for Army life! And how refreshing to find there are still some things — like peace of mind, good fellowship and job satisfaction — that even half a million just can't buy.

★ ★ ★

NOTHING BRINGS bureaucracy into disrepute more than heavy-handed, inflexible officialdom sticking rigidly to 'the rules' at the expense of natural justice.

Lance Corporal Paul Maher's car is a classic case. The luckless NCO and his wife flew home from Germany for a few days compassionate leave last summer to attend the funeral of their baby daughter — a tragic cot death victim. Later, when they drove home to take up a UK posting again, they were told by Customs officials that — because of their earlier visit — they had been in possession of their car abroad for less than a full year and would have to fork out £543 for VAT and car tax!

Fortunately common sense and compassion have now prevailed. And thanks to the personal intervention of Mr Winston Churchill MP, HM Customs and Excise have agreed to make Lance Corporal Maher an ex gratia refund for the full amount.

But isn't it a pity that someone couldn't have turned a blind eye to the small print when Lance Corporal Maher and his family first set their wheels on British soil? That would have saved a lot of distress. And shown that Britain is big enough to waive the rules, even when she no longer rules the waves.



Another job well done. The team with its trophy.

AIRPORT BOMB DEFUSED

WITH JUST a week left of their stay, men of 49 EOD Squadron, Royal Engineer who were carrying out checks at the Brighton, Hove and Worthing Municipal airport at nearby Shoreham in Sussex, have made safe a 500-kg German bomb dropped in a low level raid 40 years ago.

The bomb was buried in the middle of the airfield at a depth of eight feet. The bomb disposal squad from Chatterden had been doing airfield surveys since last November as part of the airport's plans — it flies commercial flights to Jersey every other day — for runway improvements.

Heavy gear, including a compressor and "steamer" were brought to the airfield — opened in 1936 and once the war-time home of the French Armée de l'Air — from Kent by road.

Major Guy Lucas, 36, OC of 49 EOD Squadron, told SOLDIER: "During our search on the airfield we came across a positive reading of something down there. We investigated and found this 500-kg, electronically-primed, single-fuse German Bomb."

The windswept airport and its parallel railway line were badly bombed during the war.

Major Lucas had arrived at 16.10 and by 17.30 the fuse was "immunised," then a hole cut in the casing for five hours of "steaming" from dusk until about 2000 hours.

Explosives were removed to a nearby trench and burned off and the attendant press corps on the following day had its share of controlled bangs and belching palls of black smoke scudding across the airfield.

Major Lucas said: "The work was done in the middle of the airfield and there was no need for any evacuation. People at local factories left at normal cease-work time and police went round to houses near the airfield to get the owners to open their windows — just in case!"

The casing of the bomb was taken back to Chatham where it will be "tarted up" and repainted for probable presentation to the airport as a souvenir.

Ex-Squaddie moves on



The GOC takes his leave and, below, the 1946 lance corporal.

IT WAS a happy homecoming for Lieutenant General Sir Paul Travers when he became GOC

become Quartermaster General has been ceremonially towed out of his headquarters, escorted by a small band from the Royal Corps of Transport, his parent corps.



South East District in January last year because in an earlier 'life' at Aldershot he was a lance corporal with the Parachute Regiment.

Now Sir Paul, who is to

Equerry

Major David Bromhead, a company commander with 1 Bn Royal Regiment of Wales at Aldershot, is to be the new equerry to the Prince of Wales, Buckingham Palace has announced.

A descendant of Captain Gonville Bromhead who won the Victoria Cross at the famous Rorke's Drift battle with the Zulus in 1879, Major Bromhead takes over his new post in August.

NEVER BEFORE HAS SO MUCH BEEN OFFERED TO SO MANY FOR SO LITTLE

Mazda are fast building themselves a reputation not only for the quality of their engineering, but also for their high level of equipment.

Items that other manufacturers offer as optional extras can often be found as standard on Mazda Cars.

For instance, just take a look at the fast and luxurious 626 2.0 SDX Saloon.

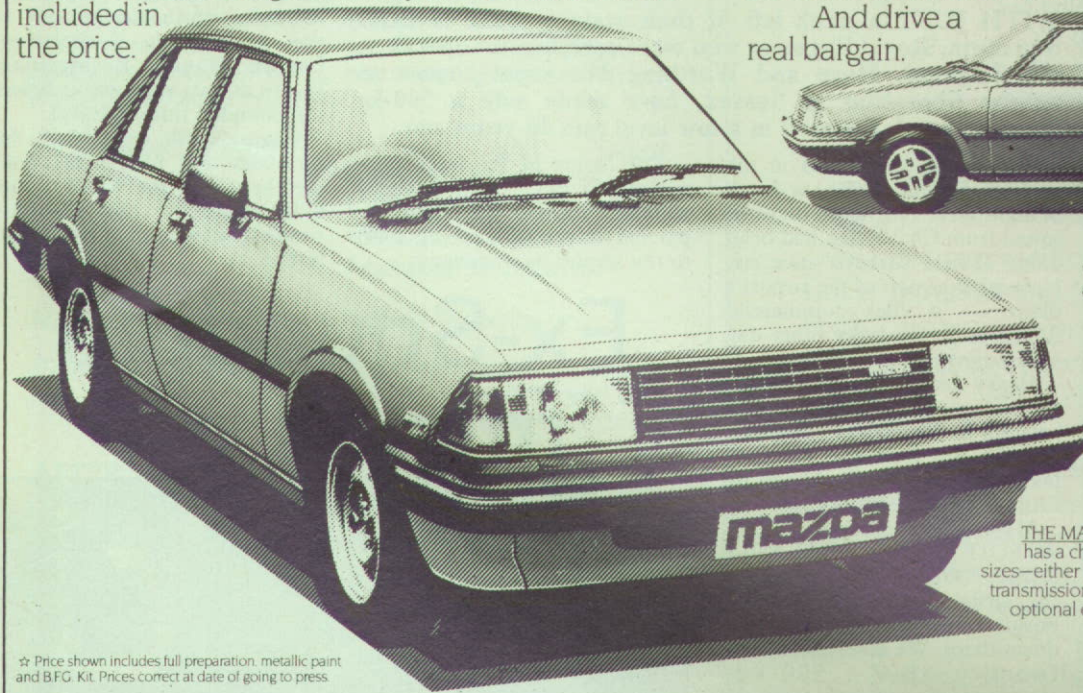
A 5-speed gearbox, electric windows, push-button radio, central locking and many more features are all included in the price.

And what a price. If you're serving in Europe you could be eligible to buy a brand new 2.0 SDX for as little as £3,549*.

You'll find the same incredible value for money with the 2.0 SDX Coupe. At only £3,749* it's got the same luxurious features as the Saloon plus, as a built in extra, a distinctly sporty feel.

To find out more about the whole Mazda range and Mazda's tax free scheme, just fill in the coupon.

And drive a real bargain.



THE MAZDA 626 COUPE is as sleek and powerful as it looks with its 2.0 litre engine and 5-speed gearbox. (Automatic transmission is available as an option.)

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

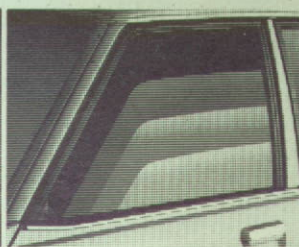
* Price shown includes full preparation, metallic paint and BFG Kit. Prices correct at date of going to press.



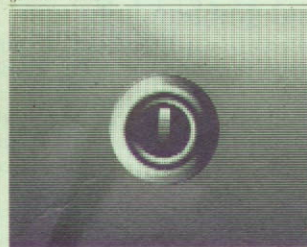
The individual drop rear seats give the added versatility of being able to carry awkward loads like golf clubs or skis.



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



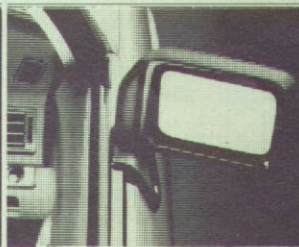
For a touch of real luxury electric windows are standard equipment on 2.0 SDX Saloon and Coupe.



On SDX Models an illuminated door lock and ignition are fitted to save you from fumbling around in the dark.

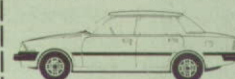


Musical chimes are also standard on the SDX to remind you if you've left the lights on or the keys in the ignition.

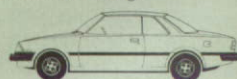


Another feature normally found on much more expensive cars, is the SDX's electrically operated drivers door mirror.

Please send me details of the Mazda 626 Range.



THE MAZDA 626 SALOON



THE MAZDA 626 COUPE

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Sex cases — new guidance

DESPITE PRESS reports implying that the Army was to show greater leniency to homosexuals, new guidance to commanding officers and appropriate higher authorities simply reminded them of their discretionary powers, a Ministry of Defence spokesman told SOLDIER.

He emphasised that while it was true that commanding officers had been reminded of the flexibility they have in handling such cases, homosexuality remains a serious offence under the Army Act.

"In keeping with normal practice the Army has recently reviewed its procedures in these cases," the spokesman said. "As a result fresh guidance has been issued which should lead to cases being treated more consistently and equitably."

The new Army General and Administrative Instruction to be published shortly points out that homosexual acts by servicemen are expressly excluded from the liberalising provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 and that the provision was endorsed by the Commons select committee on the Armed Forces Bill in May last year.

"Similarly," says the instruction, "it remains Army policy that there is no place in the Army for practising homosexuals."

Medical advice is mandatory and advice is given to medical officers and psychiatrists and in most cases RMP investigation is called for. The AGAI gives no guidance on sentencing but advises that the main factors are the preservation of military discipline and the protection of other men.

Between 1977 and 1981 more than 250 men and 160 women were discharged from the Army for homosexual offences.



Staff Sergeant Graham Mottley, happy but horizontal with Marti Caine and friends, after receiving his Littlewoods' cheque.

POOLS WIN FOR MEDIC

EIGHT CROSSES on a Littlewoods' coupon have made Staff Sergeant Graham Mottley of the Royal Army Medical Corps the richest NCO in the Army and given him a bank balance well over the £1 million mark.

Graham, 33 and currently stationed at Tidworth, almost needed a stretcher himself when he heard of his win of £574,884 — and 98 pence — which was presented to him in a cheque by comedienne Marti Caine at a London hotel.

Despite being "quite overwhelmed" by the money and all the fuss, Graham said: "I'm staying in the Army. It's a good 'firm', I've good friends and it's a good life."

So what is he going to do with the money? Well, his immediate plans are to "spend a little on a house and a car, and invest the rest." But first there are a few luxuries to buy — son Stephen (8) wants a trumpet and 11 year old Sue a disco unit with flashing lights. His wife Pat can now learn to drive before the arrival of the new car and Graham himself wants an electric organ.

"We will have no more finan-

cial worries," said Graham, "but, when the publicity dies down and we get back to normal, I hope it will not affect our life in the Army and with our families and friends."

Sappers are No 1

THE MOST COVETED of all Army ski-ing trophies — The Princess Marina Duchess of Kent Trophy — has been won for the first time ever by 35 Engineer Regiment from Hameln in West Germany.

The Princess Marina was awarded to the champion unit team of the British Regular Army and it is judged on a points system for six events — three Alpine and three Nordic — in the Army championships.

The Sappers clinched victory by just two points from their old rivals 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 22 Signal Regiment on the last day of the British National and Army Nordic meeting at Zwiesel by taking fourth place in the patrol race. 94 Locating Regiment were the winners of the event, but they had a disastrous eight points against them from the Downhill which proved decisive. 94 Regiment gained some consolation by taking the Kentish Cup for the best results in the Nordic events.

Briefly

The Army intends to stage a spectacular "At Home" at historic Fort Burgoyne in Connaught Barracks, Dover, on Saturday, 31 July.

A programme of top military displays, acts and music is being organised for what promises to be the best family entertainment of this kind to be held in Dover for many years.

The new TA Centre at Shawfields Road, Rutherglen in Scotland will be opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon on Saturday, 3 April.

Sir Arthur Hockaday, at present Second Permanent Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, has been appointed Secretary and Director-General of the War Graves Commission from early October this year.

A month-long field training exercise with participating forces from 8 Nato nations is due to start in Norway on 24 February. Exercise "Alloy Express 82" will involve about 15,000 troops.

A new Ferranti laser range finder which has recently undergone successful trials in five AFV sighting systems both in the UK and overseas, has won its first major export order. An important feature on the new equipment is the very narrow beam divergence. This all but eliminates the problem of ambiguous or double targets and, say Ferranti, will considerably simplify training and the engagement procedure.

D-Day VC in medal sale

THE ONLY Victoria Cross awarded for D-Day, 1944, is to be sold at a Sotheby's medal sale on 4 March. Awarded to CSM Stanley Hollis of the Green Howards, the VC together with seven of his other medals, is expected to fetch about £18,000-£20,000. It is the first Second World War VC to be offered for public auction.

Part of the citation reads: "... he displayed the utmost gallantry and on two separate occasions his courage and initiative prevented the enemy from holding up the advance at critical stages."

Appropriately in later life, CSM Hollis became landlord of a pub called "The Green Howards".

PENDLE



THEIR SOULS MAY BE YOURS
OLD BOY, BUT I OWN
THE REMAINDER!

NEWS VIEW

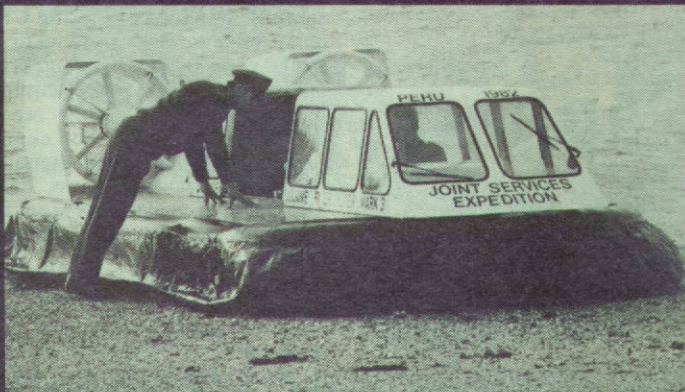


Fair Swop

When young Andrew Walker went along to the Army Careers Office in Wembley the Royal Signals gained a recruit and so did the Metropolitan Police. Andrew's father, a Detective Chief Superintendent, persuaded the recruiting sergeant, Sgt Peter Hewson that the Met was the place for his second career. The two recruits met again when they had completed their initial training.

Peru Bound

Sqn Ldr Michael Cole RAF inspects one of the 'River-Rover' hovercraft which the 1982 Joint Service Expedition to Peru will use to explore the headwaters of the Amazon before handing the craft over to the Amazon Trust for use by medical teams in areas impassable to conventional craft. Four soldiers will be taking part in the expedition.

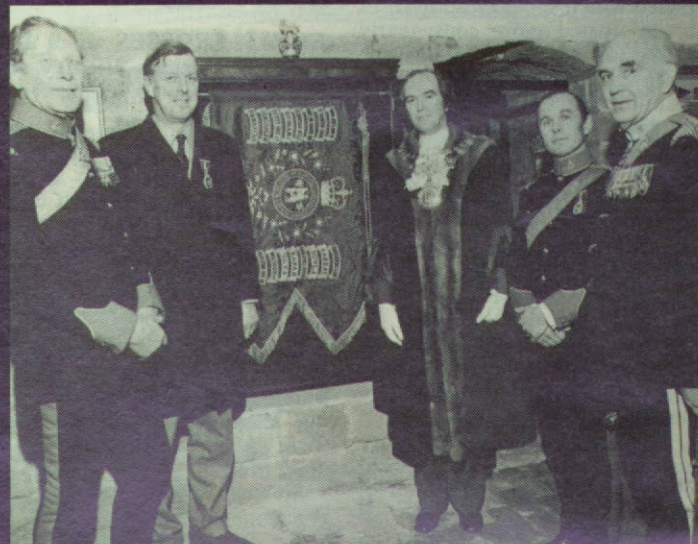


Low Lynx

Modern tank-busting techniques mean keeping your head down and showing just how easy it is was this TOW-armed Lynx from 3 Regt AAC, based at Soest. It zipped neatly under an autobahn during Exercise First Look.

Lay-up

Mr Jerry Wiggin (second left), Under Secretary for the Forces took part in the ceremony when the Guidon (pennant) of his old TA regiment was laid up in St Mary's Church, Warwick. The Guidon, which equates to the colours carried by an infantry regiment, belonged to the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry, now part of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.



Crack Shots

Posing with their trophy, the Duke of Norfolk's Cup, are members of the D Troop 233 Sqn RCT(V) team who were overall winners in Division 1 of the TA National Small Bore Competition.

Star Piper

Pipe Major Charlie Clark of 1 Bn the Royal Scots was a star attraction when he took part in the anniversary ceremony of the siege of Brimstone Hill on the Caribbean island of St Kitts. Charlie even composed a special piece which he played at the ceremony.



Picture: Reading Evening Post.



◀ Chammers!

The 'chammers' really fizzed for the opening of the new community centre and Naafi shop at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, by Mrs R Vickers, wife of the Commandant.



◀ Fireworks

Now you see it — soon you won't. Men from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) — the Welsh TA sappers — prepare to blow up a dangerous bridge in a beauty spot, in a gorge, near Merthyr Tydfil. The bridge used to serve a gunpowder works but became a hazard to playing children.

Big shot ▶

The man in the Homburg and dark coat is Dr Joseph Luns, Nato Secretary-General on a visit to RAF Bruggen where he watched men from G Battery (Mercer's Troop), Royal Horse Artillery, put on a demonstration featuring a 25-pounder field gun.

Shooting stars ▶

Team mascot, Morag, makes up the sharp-shooting WRAC trio who took part in the Womens' Inter-Service Small-Bore Rifle Team championships when the WRAC came third with 1887 points. Capt Alison Treherne (left) was top WRAC scorer with 195. With her here, L Cpl Karen Hook (centre) and Cpl Jo MacDonald.



Boat show ▶

Messing about in boats they were not! But a team of soldiers from Belgium, Holland, BAOR and the UK had a busy nine days manning the Nato information stand at the Dusseldorf Boat Show when 318,000 visitors took away an estimated four tons of brochures and 60,000 stickers. In the picture, Black Watch pipers entertain.

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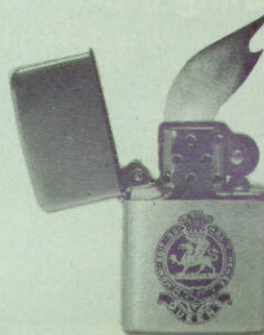
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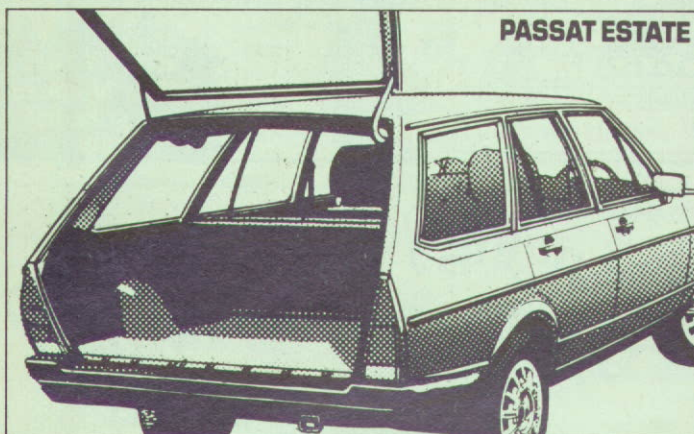
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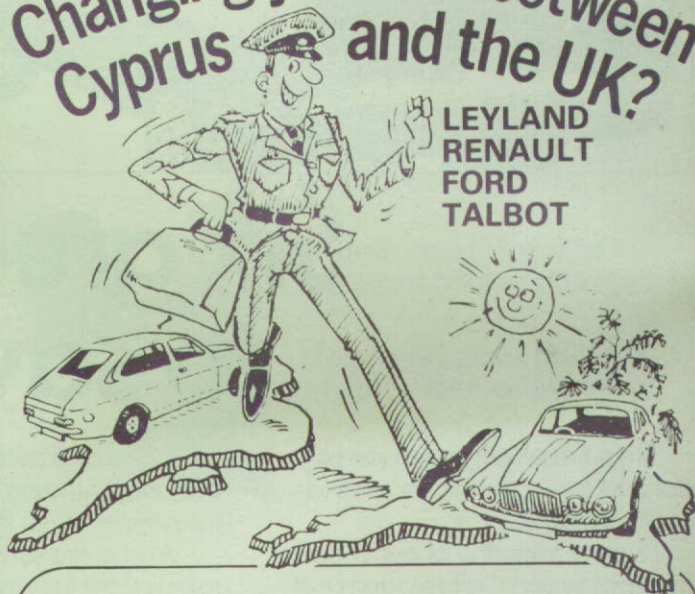
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SOLDIER meets the latest recruit to the ranks of the soldier poets **VERSED IN ACTION**

FEW PEOPLE who meet the modest young Corporal in the pay office at the Army Air Corps base at Middle Wallop would guess that in his spare time he writes poetry. Or that the first book of his poems has recently been published.

Corporal Claudius Johnson, who is 24 and has been in the Royal Army Pay Corps for five years, hardly conforms to the conventional image of a poet. He is a self-confessed fitness fanatic, plays a host of games including cricket, basketball and volleyball, has been a boxer and finished 52nd in last year's Army cross-country championship.

It was a couple of years back that he joined the long line of soldier-poets. While stationed in the steamy environs of Belize he saw an advertisement in a newspaper inviting poems for possible publication.

"I just sat down and wrote two poems — one called 'Maya' and one 'Trees'. It was just to kill a bit of time. But to my surprise they thought they were quite good and included them in an anthology."

*Oh Maya,
My sweet and gentle flower,
You have turned your back
You have run away.
But I shall come again
To take you away.*

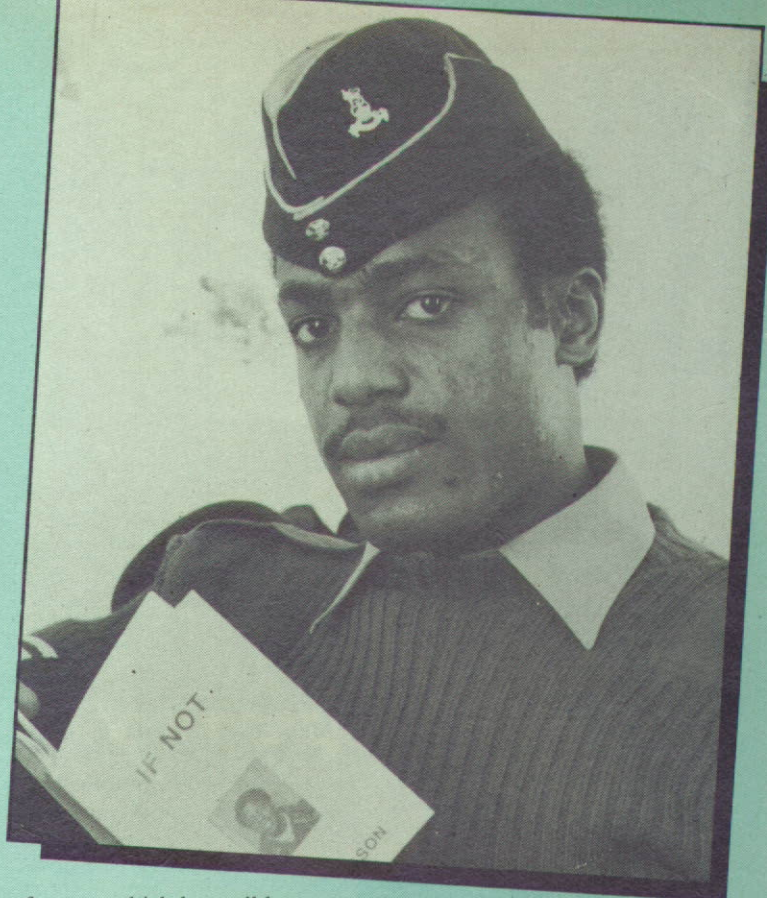
Thus encouraged, Corporal Johnson (known as 'Johnno' to his Army friends)

wrote a series of poems which have all been gathered together in his new book *If Not*.

They include a message to people in South Africa and poems about such black idols as Muhammad Ali and Bob Marley. There are philosophical essays and others inspired by Army life.

Stranded by the RAF in Edmonton, Canada, for three days while an aircraft was made serviceable he wrote a poem about the incident. And in 'Another Dead Soldier' he writes of the tragedy of Northern Ireland.

*There is a shadow at the door,
A figure she has never seen before.
He wears a brown coat
His looks, demure
He has been before
To another, and another door.
Time and time again he has said
'I'm sorry Ma'am,
But your son is dead.'*



Corporal Johnson probably expected some ribbing from his Army mates when he first started to write poetry. But they liked the poems and encouraged him.

"People who know me as a shy person say they didn't know I could express myself like that", he says. Now he is a member of a writers' club in Andover and says that criticism from fellow poets has been helpful in developing his style.

He does not intend to remain just a poet either, for he has started writing a romantic novel. But for the next few months his literary work will have to take a back seat. "I have been missing out on my fitness and sport. I shall write when I find time." ■

'If Not' is published by Arthur H Stockwell Ltd, Elms Court, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 8BA. Price 97 pence.

DID YOU SERVE IN ALDERSHOT?

**Cold Water!
Sergeant Majors!
Drill every morning!**

AND YOU DID NOT GET A MEDAL?

To raise funds for the Aldershot Military Historical Trust which was established in 1981 to tell the story of the most famous military town in the world, The Tower Mint have been specially commissioned to produce: Solid Golden bronze medallions, an impressive 44mm diameter as an unlimited edition, price £5 inc pp. With a frosted design and a mirror like proof background the medallion comes complete with a high quality presentation case. *A solid sterling silver edition limited to 1000 at £25 (inc pp) is also available.

The aim of the Trust is to raise £400,000 in order to create a Visitors' Centre and Museum to tell the history of the "Camp at Aldershot" — the only complete military town built in the United Kingdom since the Romans.



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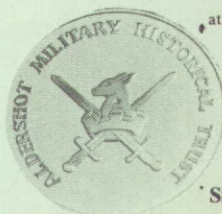
at £25 each £

My cheque payable to "Aldershot Military Historical Trust Appeal"
OR please charge my Access/Barclaycard acc no

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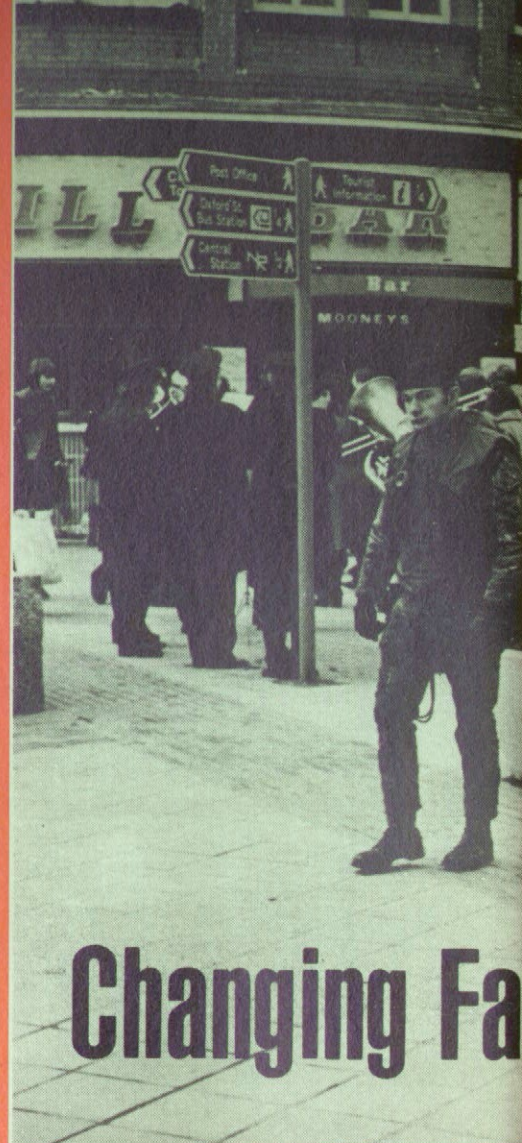
Signed Date

To: Aldershot Military Historical Trust, Garrison HQ,
Cavans Road, Aldershot, Hants.





The RUC on foot in Belfast with Army back-up. ▲
Six years ago there were troops on patrol. ►



Changing Face of Belfast

SOLDIERS WITH MIXED memories of Belfast from previous Northern Ireland tours have been agreeably surprised, on returning to the city, at the extent to which things have changed for the better.

New arrivals find that the Army has slipped quietly from the centre of the Belfast stage. Troops are now playing a supporting role to the Royal Ulster Constabulary and are less often caught up in the harsh glare of publicity which once was part and parcel of their daily lives.

The active peace-keeping role that kept the Army patrols very much in evidence in the past has given way to a more discreet presence, giving military support when it is needed to enable the police to maintain law and order.

But there has been no abdication of responsibility. As the Commander Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir Richard Lawson, has told Belfast City Council: "Where a task exists for the Army we will carry it out with all the professional expertise at our disposal — and we will go on doing it until the task is complete."

The other side of the coin could not be ignored however, and the permanent presence of armed soldiers in the street was not an acceptable long-term solution for any part of the UK. "So when no task exists we remove our soldiers from those particular streets as soon as it is considered safe to do so," he said.

Ten years ago force levels in Northern Ireland reached a peak of 21,776 with 26 major units on duty there. By 1977, when

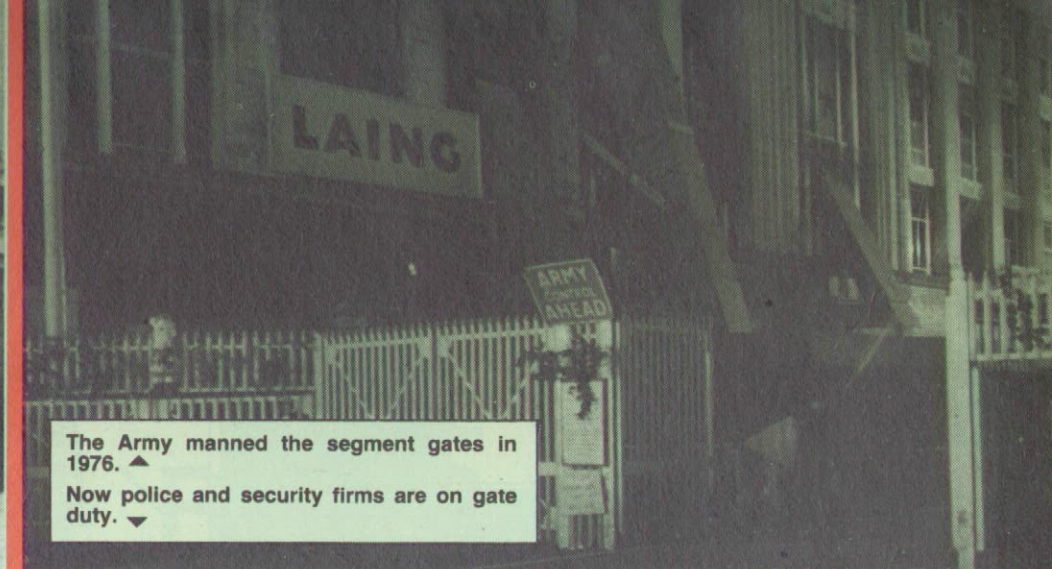
the policy of police primacy was introduced, the total had fallen to 14,300 and today the figure is 10,600 a measure of how well the policy is working. These figures do not include Northern Ireland's own Ulster Defence Regiment whose strength of 7,500 has remained virtually unchanged during that period.

The soldiers in Belfast are part of 39 Infantry Brigade, which now consists of two resident and one roulement battalion and two UDR battalions. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the last unit to occupy Belfast's Grand Central Hotel, one of the city's best known landmarks and an Army base for eight years, 'booked out' as long ago as November 1980 and the hotel has been handed back to its owners.

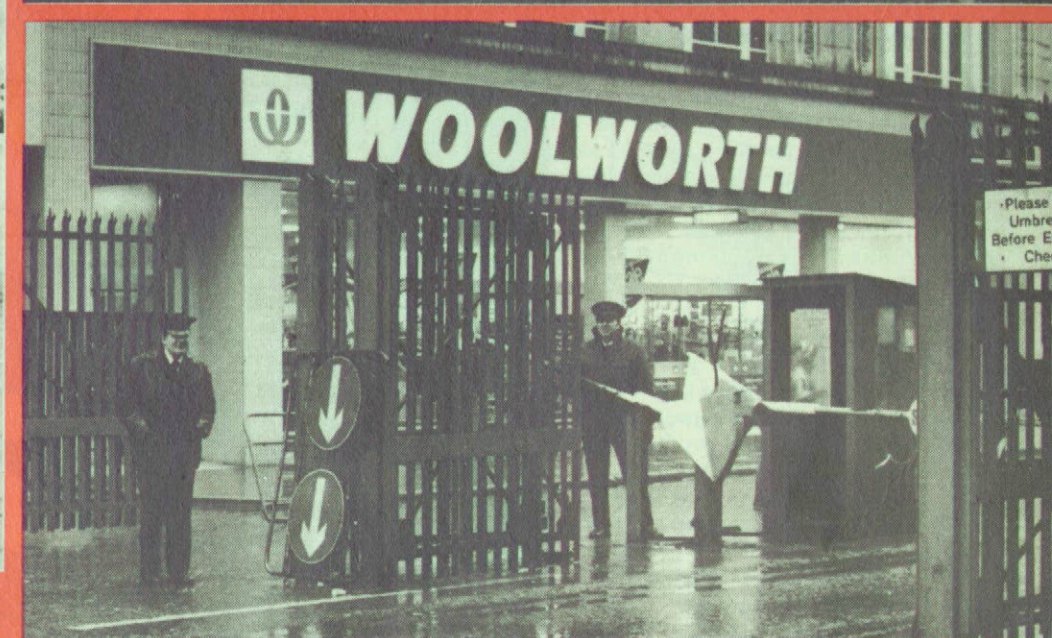
In the city centre, all the segment gates, erected to help beat the bombers, are with one exception manned by private security personnel who are responsible for searching people entering the area. There is some joint Army RUC patrolling but, for the most part, the RUC carry on their normal duties quite independently.

And Belfast is also a happier place these days for Service wives and families. Restrictions are kept to a minimum and many wives visit Belfast and neighbouring towns regularly on shopping and sightseeing trips.

Their gradual release from policing duties has been generally welcomed by the soldiers. They have been able to concentrate more on countering terrorism and have notched up successes in arms and ammunition finds and in the apprehension of people wanted by the RUC for terrorist offences. ■



The Army manned the segment gates in 1976. ▲
Now police and security firms are on gate duty. ▼



Troops moving out of the Grand Central in 1980. ▲

Two years later it has different occupation. ►

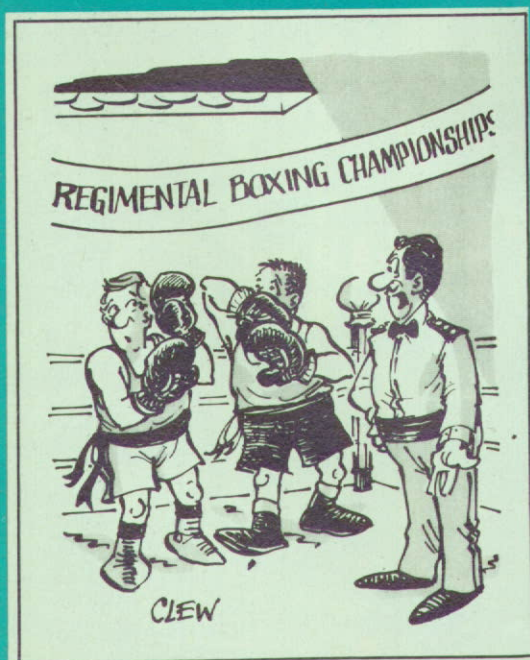




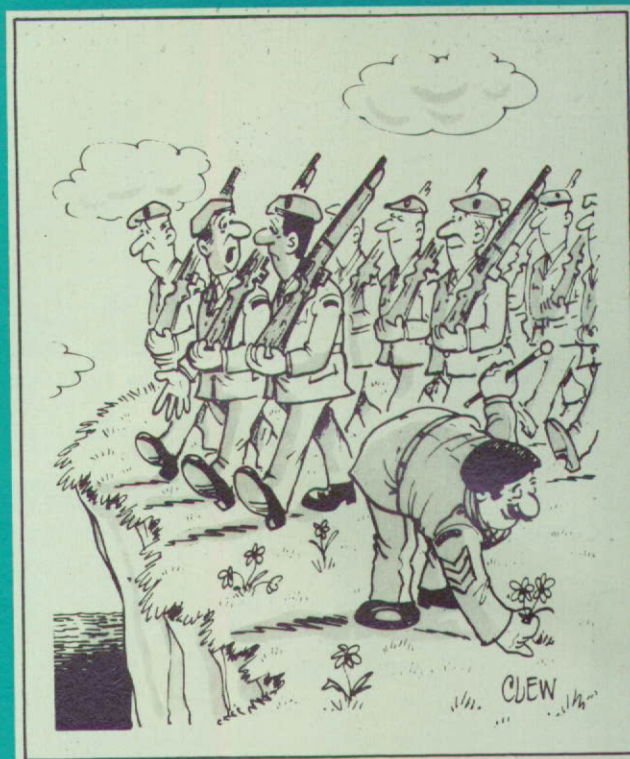
"The only thing that's ever aroused these days is my suspicion."



"Never mind the gottle o' gear, what are the girls doing now?"



"Have you two entered into a mutual defence pact or something?"



"Well, to cut a long story short...!"

Humour



"Missing Persons? She's come back."

SPEAKING UP FOR THE FORCES



THE TERRITORIAL ARMY may feel justifiably pleased that it has one of its own as Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, but Jerry Wiggin, the former TA major who took over the job in the last Cabinet reshuffle, is at great pains to point out that there will be no favouritism.

His predecessor, Philip Goodhart, was critical in his resignation letter of the decision not to have separate ministers for each of the three Services. Jerry Wiggin doesn't agree.

"I do see considerable merits in not getting involved with one particular service. It is very important that I am seen to be and am a tri-service minister. I sit on all three Service boards and I am briefed on a tri-service basis."

Waving a hand in the direction of a bulging in-tray he adds: "It does mean that I have a heavy workload."

The Wiggin family have a long association with the TA. His father joined at the time of the Haldane Reforms in 1907 and when Jerry joined the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry in 1959 he was continuing more than half a century of family service in the same regiment. In the First World War his father took part in the last cavalry charge to capture guns.

Jerry Wiggin's credentials as a Tory Defence Minister could not be more impeccable. He went to Eton where he was a member of the Combined Cadet Force — "I don't think my career was particularly distinguished." After Cambridge he started farming in Worcestershire.

Any military ambitions he might have had took an early blow when he was rejected for National Service because of a bad back. In 1957 he joined the TA as a trooper — "because of my medical problems it took me quite a long time to get my commission — I had to do one-and-a-half years in the ranks."

On amalgamation the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry converted to armoured cars and he started his commissioned career as a troop leader.

"This is one of the most demanding and at the same time one of the most enjoyable jobs in the Army," he says. "If you have to

command your own vehicle, operate your own wireless set, read your map and look out for the rest of your troop you have to keep your wits about you. And my squadron leader was an ex-Regular who had done it for real and he was a hard taskmaster."

When the next round of economic cuts came, the Daimler armoured cars were taken away and the Yeomanry became a reconnaissance regiment with a few Scout cars and the rest of their work being done from Land-Rovers.

"Then when the famous Carver axe fell in 1967 we were faced with having to maintain the whole show for well over a year mostly from bar profits. That was all we had to pay the soldiers with. We provided our own vehicles and begged, borrowed or stole any

'I do see considerable merits in not getting involved with one particular service. It is very important that I am seen to be, and am, a tri-service minister.'

equipment we could. It was a substantial and tough effort to keep it going."

After re-organisation the unit became a squadron of the 37th Wessex and Welsh Signal Regiment. A month later Jerry Wiggin, who had made two previous attempts to get into Parliament, was adopted as prospective Conservative candidate for Weston-super-Mare.

"I felt obliged to give up the job of squadron leader because of pressure of work and remained with the regiment in no specified role until I joined the Royal Yeomanry. There I became intelligence officer and did two or three years with them to complete my service."

Elected at a by-election in March 1969 he found himself Parliamentary Private Secre-

tary to Lord Balniel at the Ministry of Defence after the 1970 General Election.

"The job is being a sort of Parliamentary fag — gathering information and looking after your minister's problems in the House. That job enabled me to visit a certain amount and to get to know a number of people in this department."

He came to his present job from the Ministry of Agriculture and says: "Of the two subjects I know best and enjoy most I have had the chance to be a junior minister in the departments concerned. As one of my colleagues said to me 'it is not given to many to turn their plough shares into swords.'"

Despite the demands of his job in Whitehall and those of his constituency, Jerry Wiggin is still keen to get out and about among the Services. "Otherwise you don't know what the soldiers are thinking and saying. The modern soldier is very good at telling you what he is thinking."

Of the future for the TA he comments: "There is a very natural in-built pressure that where money is tight or programmes are under pressure the regular forces have a priority. I am conscious, however, that the fact that the front line of the British Army is 30 per cent TA will have to be increasingly taken into account."

"I am pleased to find that Clansman and Milan are being issued to front line TA regiments. But I also have to say that in times of stringency the TA cannot expect to get away without some reflection of that, and that the expansion programme is a ten year proposition."

Morale in the Services he maintains is extremely good. "This is due to pay and the fact that everybody is recruiting up to their full strength. Morale is a tender flower and has to be constantly nurtured if it is to be maintained. We are most anxious to do what we can to keep up training activities but pressures are very severe."

In answer to the question he is always being asked — why go into politics? — he declares: "Anybody who becomes a Member of Parliament would be dishonest if he did not admit there is an element of personal ambition. But also there is a feeling that one has some contribution to make to the great public debate on how the country might be run. This recedes somewhat as one becomes more familiar with the powerful force for democracy that is the House of Commons and you appreciate the need for consensus."

As a junior minister Jerry Wiggin gets some satisfaction in being able to resolve problems. But he explains that any major decisions taken by the Ministry today would be unlikely to have any instant effect.

"An organisation spending more than a billion pounds a month doesn't react to instant decisions. One would hope it would be possible to achieve something that would be of material benefit to the fighting soldier. But decisions I take now may be eight or nine years in implementation."

The interview over, the Minister returned to his desk and overloaded in-tray. After that there would be the evening session of the House of Commons. And even at weekends his red despatch box pursues him home to his constituency. It's a demanding job all right.

ARMY AIR 82

MIDDLE WALLOP

23/24/25 JULY 1982



THE ARMY AIR CORPS AIRFIELD AT MIDDLE WALLOP WILL PROVIDE THE SETTING FOR A UNIQUE AVIATION EVENT AND ONE OF THE LARGEST DISPLAYS OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE DURING 1982. THE EVENT WILL MARK THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE GLIDER PILOT AND PARACHUTE REGIMENTS. MIDDLE WALLOP IS SITUATED 5 MILES SOUTH OF ANDOVER AND 60 MILES SOUTH WEST OF LONDON ON THE EDGE OF SALISBURY PLAIN. IT IS THE LARGEST GRASS AIRFIELD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WAS A FAMOUS NIGHT FIGHTER STATION DURING WORLD WAR 2.

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Please return this complete form to The Secretary, Friends of the International Air Tattoo, Building 91, RAF Greenham Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG15 8HL.

I, Mr/Mrs/Miss
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of
.....

Wish to apply to become a Friend of International Air Tattoo (RAF Greenham Common) and I agree to abide by the Rules as attached.

I enclose a *cheque/postal order/International money order for £ *PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND'

Signed Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian
(if applicant is under 14 years old)

Age (if under 14) Occupation

Nationality

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received

Membership number

ADVANCE BOOKING FORM

I wish to support the Army Air Corps Benevolent Fund by advance purchase of tickets for Army Air 82 to be held at Middle Wallop, Andover, Hants on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 23, 24 and 25 July, 1982. Tickets are valid for any day but admit only on one day and are not refundable.

PLEASE SEND ME:

.....£4 Adult Tickets at £3.50

Total £.....

.....£1 8-16 years old Tickets at 75p

Total £.....

Total cost £.....

I have enclosed postal money order/cheque for £..... payable to Army Air Corps Centre and a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE for reply.

Name

Address

(please print)

Post to: ADVANCE BOOKING MANAGER, ARMY AIR 82,
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BERKS RG15 8HL.

Steeped in history

FLYING OUTSIDE the Garrison headquarters in York is a flag — on it is a bull — the same bull used as a banner by Roman troops stationed in York almost 2000 years ago. And the city has had a military presence of one sort or another practically ever since.

And the signs are that York will continue to grow in military importance. Next year sees the setting up of a headquarters in the city for the new 2nd Infantry Division which will mean an influx of 570 personnel plus dependants to add to the existing military population.

York's garrison days began with the 9th Roman Legion back in AD 71 and the links

between the famous old city and the modern Army are continuous since the Civil War.

It is currently the headquarters for North East District and other offices include the Infantry Manning and Records (North), Regimental Pay (North) and the Royal Artillery Manning and Records.

About 200 soldiers are based at York but only about 80 of those are junior ranks. There are some 60 WRAC girls — “they actually outnumber the single soldiers two to one” says the adjutant, Captain Alison Trehern.

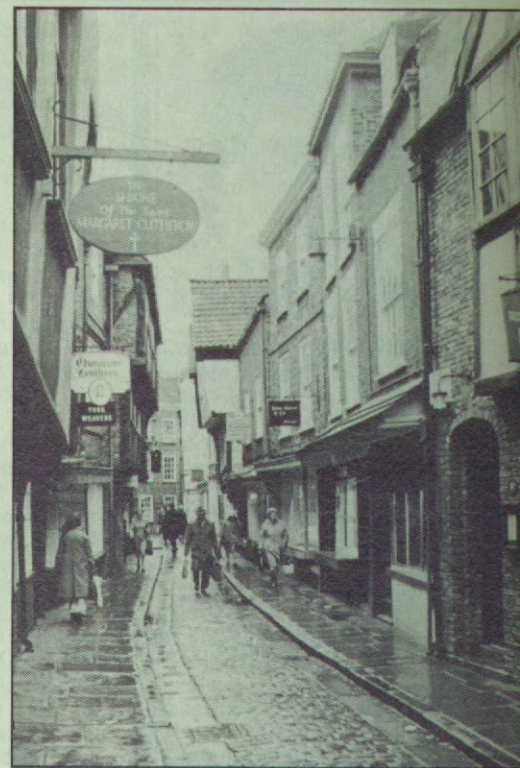
But the garrison also covers the King's Division Depot at Strensall, seven miles away. In fact the garrison church is now at Strensall — the one at York having been deconsecrated.

Housing and Welfare Commandant, Major Billy Garbutt, administers 130 quarters in York and 230 in Strensall. They vary from very old Victorian dwellings up to houses built in the last three years. Major Garbutt describes the standard as “fair to

‘The Army is regarded as an integral part of city life ...’

poor in York and bad to very good in Strensall”.

Because of its architecture and history York is a highspot on the tourist circuit and in the summer is full of visitors. It abounds in museums and archaeological digs and says



Narrow cobbled streets — the Shambles.

Major Garbutt “is full of interest for anyone who is intelligent”.

Restaurants are good, there is a theatre and a cinema and good shopping — although no really big department store. Just what you might expect from a city with a University and lots of tourists. But things do cost that little bit more.

There are a few small night clubs and discos but nothing on a large scale. The area abounds with racecourses and within the city you can find most sports including a currently Fourth Division football team.

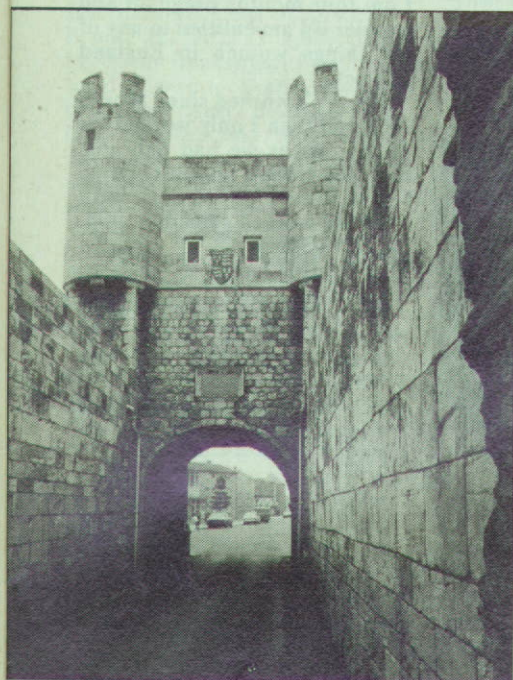
The UKLF School of PT (North) is based on York and there are garrison cricket and football teams but most soldiers who play sport do so with local civilian clubs.

This is all part of the high degree of integration achieved in York between the military and civilian communities. Along with two chocolate factories the Army is among the city's biggest employers and relations are good at all levels. Even garrison activities such as playgroups often have civilians taking part.

Garrison Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 Harold Scott, reports: “Ninety nine per cent of the local people are friendly but there are always the odd few who run the Army down. I have been here since 1976 and have only had one major incident between soldiers and civilians.”

Garrison commander, Brigadier Brendan McGuinness, says he has found “an immense military tradition and an immense reservoir of goodwill towards the military.” In particular when York was flooded recently for the second time in recent years the joint operation between the Army, the police and the local authorities went well.

“This is a tribute to the relationships our forebears built up over many years” says the Brigadier. “The Army is regarded as an integral part of city life and it is difficult to meet a local person who has not got any military links.”



Elegant towers and historic stone walls.



ANNE ARMSTRONG



I KNOW SOME of you are confused about what is required under the new legislation governing Child Benefit for 16 to 19 year olds. And there have been a number of cases of parents losing part of their entitlement. Under the new procedure you are required to advise DHSS and the Army pay authorities that your child is approaching his 16th birthday and also what he intends to do after leaving school. As before, if your child continues with full time non-advanced education, you can claim CB up until his 19th birthday. If, however, he goes on to advanced education such as a degree course, or takes up employment, then CB ceases. Assuming your child chooses the former and is still eligible for CB then you must submit a claim at certain specified intervals declaring that the status quo is unchanged. These fixed intervals or 'fixed dates' fall on the first Monday in January, the Monday following Easter Monday and the first Monday in September. (In the case of 19 year olds CB ceases on the Monday following his 19th birthday.) Please remember that unless you keep both the DHSS and the Service pay authorities informed CB will automatically stop at the next 'fixed date'.

Good news now about the AFO 1700, the Declaration of Marital Status — a hot chestnut on these pages! A revised form will come into use from 1 April.

Celebrating its twenty-first birthday this year is the Pre School Play Group Association, whose membership increases annually. Conference this year, entitled 'Tomorrow's People — Our Key to their Future' will be held in London on 2-4 April. Many other events have been planned and 22 May-29 May designated as Playgroup Week.

Often my mail highlights the agonies of the 'moving game' as back and forth we go around the world. Help in this direction may well be on the cards now that the Adjutant General's office is to undertake a study of the problems of the biennial uprooting.

Anne Armstrong

My fiancé is at present with the Royal Engineers at Tidworth. We are getting married in April and he suggested you might be able to give me some information that might be of help when I become an Army wife.

Miss R., Humberstone, Leicester

Ask your fiancé to contact his unit for a copy of the Army Wives Guide, Army Code 61391 and for the Emergency Card, Army Code No 61391A. The second edition will be available later this year.

Could you please advise me as to the correct procedure for obtaining Unemployment Benefit when my husband and I are posted to Germany in May? I have been in full time employment for the last seven years and had we been posted within England I would have been entitled to Unemployment Benefit. Besides the loss of earnings I am concerned that my National Insurance payments will cease and I will be behind with my stamps. Is there any way that these can be continued as they would have been if I were in England?

Mrs T., Salisbury.

You must sign on at your local Unemployment Office between at least 2 days and up to 4 weeks before you leave. Then sign on within 7 days at your nearest German Arbeitsamt. The PCLU office will give you the address. Under EEC reciprocal agreements up to three months Unemployment Benefit can be paid. Providing that sufficient notice of departure is given, the DHSS Overseas Branch can issue an E303 and send it to you direct so you can present it to the Arbeitsamt. If this is not possible the office at which you register will contact the Overseas Branch who will then send it but this will incur some delay.

To safeguard your contributions read DHSS leaflet N142/Feb 80 National Insurance Voluntary Contributions. Also DHSS leaflet N1208/Apr 81 National Insurance contribution rates.

Apparently children over 18 do not qualify for accommodation with their parents even though they are still living at home. It seems that, for example, a

family with four children two of whom are over 18 and two under, is entitled to only a 'C' type quarter. (Four children under 18 qualify a family for a 'D' type quarter.) Heaven help the family with four children all living at home when three are over 18 and one is under — that family is expected to live in a 'B' type quarter. Are we supposed to throw our children out when they reach 18?

Mrs J., BFPO 20

The policy for the allocation of quarters is laid down by the MOD although BFG rules may differ from those in UK. There are no hard and fast rules about the allotment of quarters being partly determined by the ages of the children. If a larger quarter is required then you should submit a case for a change or

ASK ANNE

apply for the correct size on posting saying why the children will be accompanying you. These cases are always looked at sympathetically particularly when a handicapped child is involved or your child has just left school and waiting to go to college or has no job.

My sister has just become a one parent family and has three small children. I have heard somewhere of a group who give advice and help to people in my sister's position. I am in Germany so am not in touch with UK. Can you help?

Mrs E., BFPO 42.

There is an organisation called the National Council for One Parent Families, 225 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX, Tel: 01-267 1361. They have excellent fact sheets and can answer just about any query or else will direct you to the right department or other organisations that can help.

DID YOU KNOW?

AS WELL AS the Health Service Ombudsman and Parliamentary Ombudsman there are also Local Ombudsmen.

They deal with complaints against local authorities and water authorities. These include such things as failures to repair Council Housing, planning permissions that affect your home, placing your child in a school you do not like, mistakes by local social services and so on.

Ask at your local Council offices or Citizens' Advice Bureau for a free booklet about the service or write to the Local Ombudsman — the address is in the phone book.

Many wives have expressed a great interest in the UKLF Wives Seminar which took place recently. Is it possible to receive a copy of the minutes and is there a possibility of a similar seminar being held in BAOR?

Families Officer, Germany.

I am advised by A Branch HQ BAOR that if you write to them they will look into your request. As far as I know to date there are no plans afoot to have a similar one in BAOR. The next UKLF seminar will take place at the end of September at Bagshot Park.

I am four months pregnant and wonder if I am entitled to any of the things women in England can get.

I haven't worked since March 1981 and then I only worked for 10 months as we had only just returned from a tour in Cyprus. I have never claimed dole and I have not worked since our posting to Belgium.

Mrs B, BFPO 18

You should find all the information you need in DHSS pamphlet NI 17A Sep 80 'National Insurance Maternity Benefits'. You can also refer to NI 196 and NI 208 which are available from BFPOs and GPOs.



A holiday for handicapped service children sponsored by the Guild of St Helena is planned for 18-25 June at St Martin's Plain Camp, Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, Kent.

The holiday is for children who should be between the ages of 9 and 14, of moderate disability and not requiring regular, specialist, medical attention or continuous medical care.

The holiday will be at no cost to parents but they are expected to bring their children to a central point in London on 18 June and to collect them from the same point on 25 June.

Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible and not later than 30 April 1982 to: Services Children's Education Authority, Schools Branch (Special Education Section), Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR.

IYDP ROUND-UP

A review of the Army's contribution

NEARLY HALF a million pounds was collected by the Forces and given to thousands of charities during 1981 — the International Year of Disabled People (IYDP). £200,000 from the Army Benevolent Fund was handed over to charities which care for Army disabled and their families and the sterling efforts of regiments, units and families both in UK and overseas brought the total funds up to almost £500,000.

Speaking on BFBS Lord Snowdon, President of the England Committee, thanked those in the Forces for their magnificent contribution and said "the response to the challenge from all sections of the community in all parts of the country has more than justified the holding of the year".

Servicemen, their families, Ssafa, the Guild of St Helena and many others have all worked together on an amazing array of projects — some of them almost bizarre. The Sub Aqua Club in Hong Kong, for instance, raised £12,000 in an underwater marathon.

Hundreds of cheques have flooded into hospitals and homes for research purposes, special projects and equipment. One of these cheques intended for Jimmy Savile's Stoke Mandeville Hospital Appeal measured 24in by 14ins: you cannot get much bigger than that! But it did not matter how big the sums were — all donations were welcome and gratefully received. One Brownie pack managed £50 and Melton's Mount School, a school for disabled children, benefited by £60 raised by Old Dalby's Wives Club Handicraft competition and Dutch Auction.

The list of contributions is impressive with the sum of £22,000 coming from Northern Ireland, £7,000 from the small service population in Gibraltar and HQ Brunei Garrison Gurkha Fair raising £1,851. Well in excess of £100,000 came from BAOR/Berlin. Certainly worth all the blood, sweat and tears of the valiant organisers.

Not all the efforts meant fund raising. Just twenty-four hours after the appalling bomb at Chelsea Barracks, the Irish Guards erected tents for a party

for handicapped children in Battersea Gardens. A disabled children's home in Lytham St Annes got a new road and a refurbished playground, courtesy of 58 (Eyre's) Air Defence Battery who pitched in and laid 3,000 cubic feet of concrete.

Handicapped children from various schools in London visited the 1st Bn Royal Hampshires at their barracks in Dover for a day's training with Army vehicles. The visit was organised in conjunction with the Royal Variety Club of Great Britain. Its representative, Mr Tom Eggerdon who accompanied the children, is an ex-Corporal of the Regiment.

Research and invention was another area where the Army lent their support. The Chairman of the Rehabilitation Engineering Advisory Panel said "the Army apprentices from the College at Arborfield have been particularly helpful in the manufacturing side of things. Whilst the panel has the ideas and design ability, it does not have access to a workshop



A binocular support system designed by engineer apprentices at Fort Halstead.

for the machinery necessary for some projects. They have helped with a number of designs and modifications to motorised wheelchairs, especially in the field of communication aids".

A very different challenge was taken up by the Engineer apprentices at Fort Halstead. They designed and made a binocular support system which allows disabled children especially, to discover and enjoy the wealth and fascination of all different forms of wildlife.

"Forward with Courage", the

title of a record made by the Royal Artillery band to mark IYDP, is the approach Lord Snowdon hopes everyone will adopt now that the year is over. "The year has laid foundations for a continuing involvement and awareness of the problems of handicapped people." The Snowdon Council will now carry on coordinating the work begun in 1981 for handicapped people in this country. This is only part of a world-wide effort to improve the quality of life for the handicapped.

Mr Tom Eggerdon of the Royal Variety Club with handicapped youngsters during their day's visit to 1st Bn Royal Hampshires. Picture by PPS.



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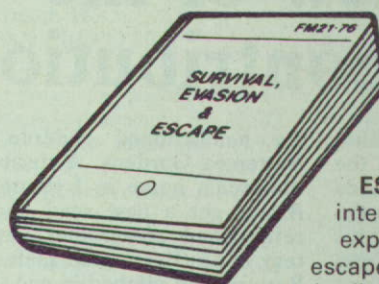
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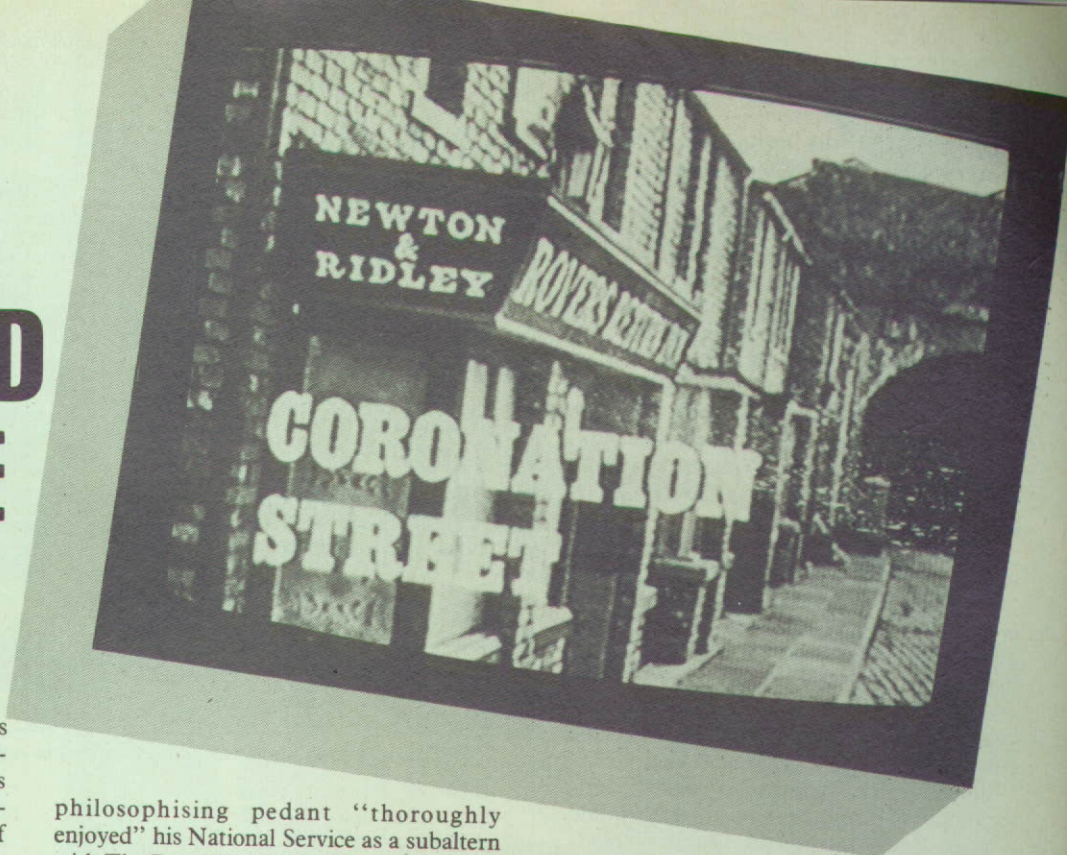
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Six of the cast in Britain's longest running TV serial recall their Forces days

THE SQUAD FROM THE STREET



CORONATION STREET, television's twice-weekly everyday saga of homely Lancashire folk, has just marched into its twenty-second year of undiminished popularity and, with it, half-a-dozen members of its celebrity cast who once marched in the Forces — four of them in the Army.

All, with one notable exception, enjoyed their obligatory stints in uniform.

The exception is Bernard Youens who plays the idle, obtuse Stan Ogden, the beer-swollen, hen-pecked husband of the hair-curlered Hilda Ogden, the chatterbox cleaner at The Rovers Return.

Youens, 67, who served for six war years with the 1st Battalion, the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), simply "hated and detested" the Army and, rather surprisingly, still does with evident feeling.

Yet, by marked contrast, Bill Roache as urbane Ken Barlow, the Street's

philosophising pedant "thoroughly enjoyed" his National Service as a subaltern with The Royal Welch Fusiliers and later, as a captain on secondment with The Trucial Oman Scouts when he lived among the Arabs in the desert for two-and-a-half years.

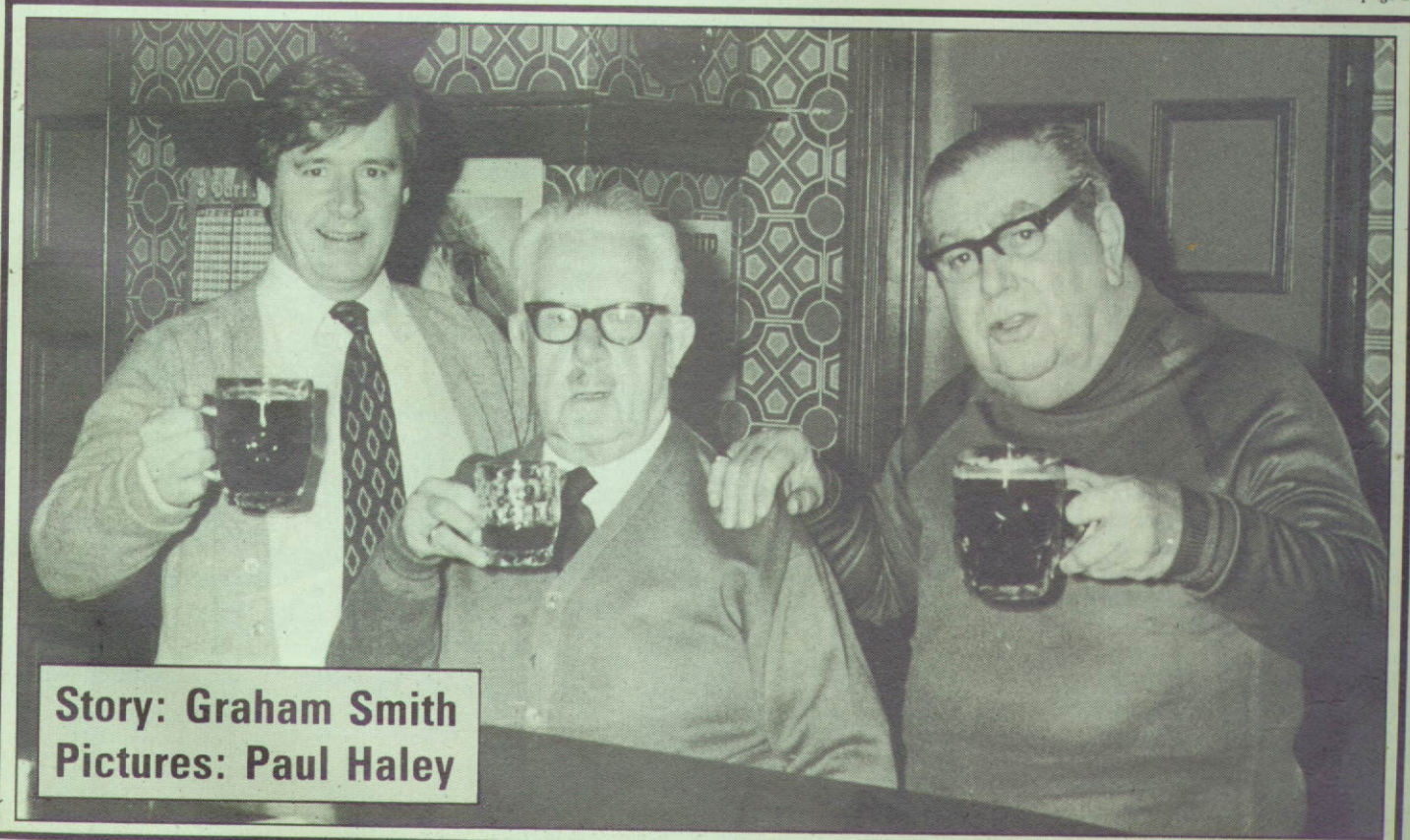
So did Jack Howarth, 86, the tetchy, tight-fisted Albert Tatlock who often recalls his time on the Somme. Jack really was on the Somme with The Lancashire Fusiliers for what he calls the "last do" there. He was "wounded" twice, both times through self-inflicted carelessness — once with a chisel (the mark on his thumb is still there) and then with a pair of pliers pulling out a nail!

Johnny Briggs, 46, the brash, big-spending clothing factory boss Mike Baldwin is another member of the Street who

liked his National Service days from 1953-55 with the 8th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

But former 3861841 Private Youens, B A, girding his loins for yet another conflict with Hilda from his sparse wardrobe in a private dressing room serving Granada Television's Studio Six in Manchester, recalled: "I was not called up; I was dragged up — on June 21, 1940. I was told to report to Fulwood Barracks, Preston, by a certain time. I thought to myself that this was my last bloody day of freedom. What I was going into, I didn't know. I thought I'm going to have a bloody good meal and a drink before I report in."

continued on page 24



Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

But luck that Midsummer's Day was not on the side of the 26-year-old actor who had been playing in repertory theatre in South Shields.

On arrival at the station two military policemen immediately sent Youens on his way to the barracks.

"Bang went my meal and my drink. I was in the flaming Army," he told SOLDIER with obvious impending rancour as he recollected that event and others later on.

Youens eventually found himself with the First Army in North Africa and then in Sicily, the Catania area, for assault landing training. On one occasion his boat sustained a direct hit from an armour-piercing shell.

Unscathed that time, Youens was later wounded in both legs and says he still carries the shrapnel in them today.

His last job in the Army was teaching recruits about assault landing techniques.

"I thanked the Army very much on my last day of service and then told them to get lost!", said the burly actor who, as Stan Ogden, has supped countless pints of Newton and Ridley's best bitter over the past 18 years while propping up the bar at the Rovers Return.

Stabbing the air with an admonishing forefinger — a gesture with which he would scarcely dare confront the hectoring Hilda — Youens stressed: "You can write this down and you can quote me on this. I hate and detest the Army. I hate everything about it. I don't like it — never did!"

So what was it like for Stan being married to the tart-tongued Hilda, then? Was that grim, too?

Youens' alter ego grumbled: "It's bloody murder! She's far worse than any sergeant-major I ever experienced. She puts me in permanent jankers."

Five minutes later on the set, back-dropped by the 'muriel' with the three badly-formed flying wildfowl, Stan had the temerity to complain about his dinner offering... cold pilchards. It was just not fit for a working man.

"Quite right, Stanley — it's not," snapped the head-scarfed Hilda, "but, then, you hardly fit into that category, do yer?"

A yet more senior view of the Army is seen through the octogenarian eyes and memories of Jack Howarth (one of the original four members of the Street still with the series) who served with The Lancashire Fusiliers' 17th Battalion — "the Bantams."

Jack had joined up at the age of 20 in a hut at Bury in 1915 and was discharged from there five years later. He had volunteered for an extra year in the Service.

"I was a full private," he joked backstage. "Up until the time I joined I was property master at the Palace Theatre, Rochdale. I liked my job in the Army. I was not fighting very much. I had volunteered to become a cinema operator and had to take a test for it."

"I was only a short time on the Somme. It was more or less at the end of the battle. I was not brave. I never did nowt."

But there was one occasion when he says he nearly got himself killed — by his fellow soldiers.

He jumped out of one trench to go over the top to another and, in a mix-up, four 'Jocks' from a Scots unit almost put him to the bayonet.

Jack recalled: "They bloody near stuck me. I reckon I was lucky and they told me so."



Albert Tatlock (Jack Howarth) makes his point to Deirdre Barlow on a Street set ▲

The other actor in the Street from its December 1960 start, Bill Roache, had a more varied Army career.

He was called up for National Service with The Royal Welch Fusiliers at the time of the Korean War.

"It was assumed one would be going to Korea which was not a very happy thought," he remembers. "I did my training at Brecon and Wrexham and I have done the odd trip back to Brecon and seen my Nissen hut's solitary coke stove which only gave out heat if you were no more than six inches away. That hut used to be freezing, dank and dusty and I felt permanently tired and weary. I went to bed with more clothes on than during the day."

But Roache did not go east — but west — to the Caribbean and Jamaica for twelve months where, at times, he says he "got smashed" on rum at twopence-a-tot and

played cricket five times a week.

He and his men were responsible for the security arrangements during the Big Three talks in Bermuda involving Britain, France and America. The detachment was on the island for two months.

"There were cocktail parties every night," he said with a grin. "I remember we were a very happy band but perhaps not a very efficient one. I went to Germany for six months later, stationed at Dortmund. It was horrible. Really hard work involving big schemes with the Americans."

Roache then spotted a request seeking volunteers for The Trucial Oman Scouts.

"I don't know why, but I volunteered, and within weeks I was out there. I stayed there for two-and-a-half years. They hadn't struck much oil then and we lived in the desert with the Arabs and I had to speak the language. Food and water came by camel

Stan Ogden (Bernard Youens) gets an earful from wife Hilda in the corner shop ▼



and dhow.

"I don't regret one day of my Army service. It was a very interesting experience taking me to see people and places I would not have otherwise seen. I think conditions for soldiers now are more sensible, much nicer. It was really quite horrid in my day. Today's Army is very much more technical, too, so very different and efficient. I have great admiration for the soldiers."

Johnny Briggs, formerly Trooper Briggs with 8 RTR, was a driving, gunnery and wireless operator instructor on Centurion tanks, training at Catterick and then serving at Bovington and Paderborn in BAOR.

He said: "I can only remember the good times and there were plenty of those. I think the Army did me good. I was a bit big-headed."

The other two members of the Street serial, set in 'Wethersfield' which has already transmitted over 2000 episodes, are both former RAF men.

Bryan Moseley, 50, who plays the corner shop's unlucky-in-love Alf Roberts was a National Serviceman in Air Traffic Control from 1949-51 at Prestwick and Acklington at a time when the Canberra bomber was, he says, "still on the secret list" and Strato-cruisers were still in the skies.

Fred Feast, 51, who depicts the disgruntled barman Fred Gee is a one-time Physical Training Instructor and a Parachute Jumping Instructor who saw service at Abingdon and Upper Heyford from 1948-52. He joined the RAF in 1947 and, at one stage, trained the men of the SAS.

Never in uniform but winning over the hearts of the lads, just the same, from 1941-48 was Betty Driver otherwise the Rovers Return's big-hearted barmaid, Betty Turpin. Betty not only sang with the Henry Hall orchestra but also entertained the troops for up to eight weeks a year with ENSA, the fore-runner of today's CSE.

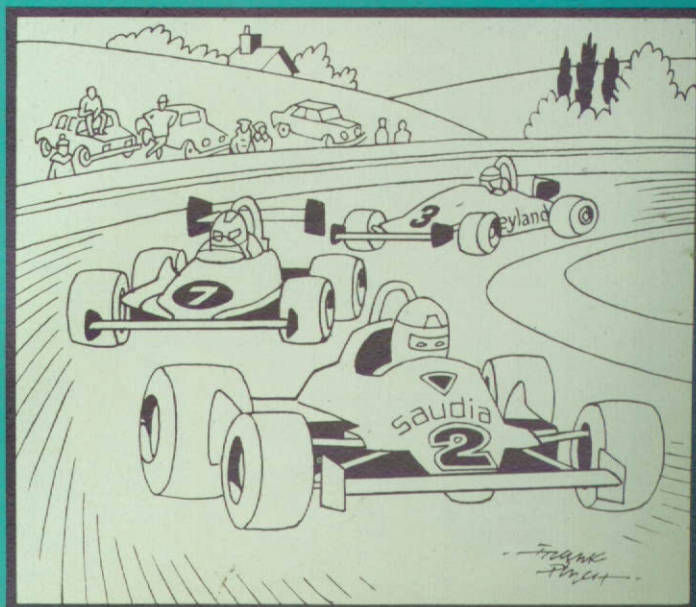
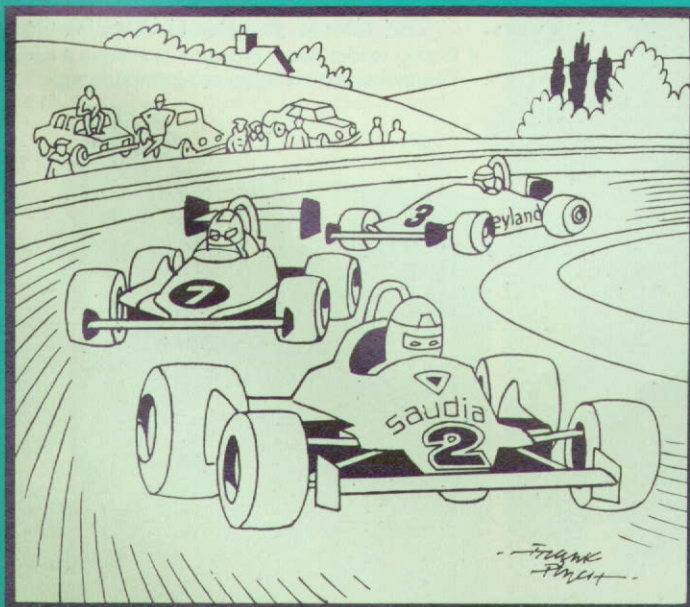
Meanwhile, life in the 'eighties still goes on in Britain's best-known and most widely-publicised Street — after Downing Street, that is!

Some Street favourites at the Rovers, Julie Goodyear, Johnny Briggs, Fred Feast and Betty Driver.



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 37.





Choosing tomorrow's officers is a demanding process — perhaps as tough for those who must make the selection as for the candidates themselves. Ann Beecham has been visiting the Regular Commissions Board at Westbury to see how the system works.

Pictures: Doug Pratt



A TEST OF QUALITY

THERE ARE THREE letters of the alphabet that can still strike a chill into the heart of an officer in the British Army even after several years of service. The details of his RCB may have long since been lost in the mists of time, but the shadow of the emotions, hopes and fears that filled those four days at Westbury will have remained with him — even though he was one of the successful ones for whom the Regular Commissions Board was the gateway to the future.

The RCB of today had its roots in a study of the German Army made in 1941. Britain adopted their group testing system of contrived situations in which candidates were observed by psychologists. After the war, the psychologists were replaced, in the British Army system, by serving officers and, after the end of National Service in 1961, the whole boarding procedure was concentrated at Leighton House in rural Wiltshire.

The title of the Regular Commissions Group leaderless tasks give everyone a say. The tasks can be physically demanding.

Board is something of a misnomer since the Board reviews candidates applying for any type of commission; regular, special regular and short service. There are also about ten courses a year for potential WRAC officers.

Apart from slightly less stringent physical demands, the girls are subjected to the same scrutiny over the four days of testing and the standards are as high, if not higher, than those demanded of the male candidates.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Simmons is the Training Officer at the RCB. "We are looking for leaders. We are looking about a year ahead and want to see how a young person responds to pressure and to training and how he will develop in that time. Potential can be difficult to find."

This is slightly different for the girls. "We ask more from the WRAC because they only have a very short course if they are graduates and have to demonstrate their personality as of now, particularly as they may be the only female in an all-male unit."

Each candidate has to demonstrate that he

possesses the qualities that will make him a 'leader of men', within the guidelines laid down by the psychologists and bearing in mind the three variables of the individual, the group and the tasks.

He has to show that he is mentally and physically capable of coping with the demands of the job, that he can keep a cool head under pressure, that he can take and keep the initiative giving clear and intelligent commands, that he has a sense of the priorities in any given situation and that he has a good breadth of personality.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons summed up the requirements: "It is particularly important that his basic personality pattern is appropriate to cope with the rough and the smooth of Service life."

Assessing these qualities is a difficult task for those evaluating the performance of each candidate and a responsibility that nobody takes lightly. There can be few places with such a high concentration of majors, lieutenant-colonels and brigadiers — the selection of potential officers has to be entrusted to senior officers with years of experience behind them.

The Board makes every effort to maintain a consistent standard of passes. So courses

Working out the best way to tackle things. ▲

are not competitive and everyone who reaches the required standard will pass, even in times of limited recruitment.

Major-General David Houston is President of the Board and he described the procedure as being "as objective as this sort of subjective exercise can be. A lot of self-examination goes on here the whole time and it is fairly obvious that the people we pass are seen in much the same light when they get to Sandhurst." He stressed that the results of the RCB are kept strictly confidential and have no bearing on any candidate's career in the future.

The secret of the Board's remarkable degree of objectivity lies in the independent approach of each member to the individual candidates in his group. Each starts with different amounts and pieces of information and makes his or her own notes and observations as the course progresses.

There are two interim meetings to make any special recommendations about candidates but it is not until the final Board meeting — at which each candidate is discussed for anything up to an hour — that a firm decision is made.

There is a course most weeks of the year

Continued on page 28

The girls of Blue Group discuss their plan. ▼



Maj Dangerfield comes up with yet another task. ▼



at Westbury. The Board can assess up to 48 hopefuls in each course and the candidates are divided into groups of seven or eight.

Groups are mixed as much as possible in terms of age, experience, and background and each has its own Group Leader, who is usually a major, and a lieutenant-colonel Deputy President. These officers are concerned exclusively with their group and are augmented by a Royal Army Educational Corps Education Advisor and a brigadier in the capacity of Vice President, who both have two groups to observe and assess.

The Board presents the candidate with four main situations with which he or she must be able to cope. There are written papers, interviews, group leaderless tasks and individual challenges to be met so that by the end of the course, the Board has a full and accurate picture of each individual. Each candidate is given a number which, although rather impersonal, makes identification and organisation very much easier for the Board members.

Testing starts in the afternoon of the first day with written papers on current affairs and general essay topics. The Education Advisor uses these results, together with details of school and further education reports, to determine the Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) of each candidate.

Colonel Ken Ferrier, an ex-headmaster of the Duke of York's School, thinks that youngsters are cleverer now. "The trend of the last 20 years has been to more intelligence. On the whole they are brighter and we have had to adjust the OIR to take account of the higher innate intelligence. They are also a more caring generation and more aware of their fellow human beings."

The OIR forms a basis for the interview the following day, one of three which candidates have to undergo. The Deputy President and the Vice President also interview the candidate.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Griffith was Deputy President for the Yellow Group of Board No 1162. "You get a feel of the guy," he explained "even though many of them don't make the most of the chance and could give a lot more of their personality."

There are also a certain number of inter-

views conducted by the President himself who sees a selection of candidates from each course.

Major Mike Dangerfield is one of the Group Leaders at RCB and is responsible for briefing the group about their projects and tasks and guiding the candidates through the Board programme.

Group Leaders are given only the basic facts about each candidate and their observations are therefore based solely on course performance. They, more than the other members of the Board, can apply the selective stress that in extreme cases — has been known to make candidates faint.

Things at Westbury have changed little in the last 20 years. RCB candidates submit themselves to the same rigorous and demanding tasks that their predecessors tackled.

Lieutenant-Colonel Griffith described his approach to the job. "We are looking for dominant people, practical, sensible people and people with a sense of urgency. We just sit back and see what happens here. They usually make it too difficult and complicated."

"When they come to the command tasks we see whether the chap can control his task, whether he has practical ideas and whether he considers the ideas of others in the group. In the group tasks, they decide as a group what to do, but some float to the top. No two groups are the same."

Many more potential officers now are attending pre-RCB courses or introductory courses arranged by the unit they wish to join. According to Lieutenant-Colonel Griffith this is not always an advantage because the stress factor of the RCB is an unknown quantity.

"If they have been told how to tackle the tasks, they are far more likely to give the game away under the pressure here than to show how clever they are."

But nobody on Board 1162 was admitting to having shown how clever he was. Number 23 felt that the Board had been a fair test: "There's no other way to do it really unless you come for about a month so that the staff get to know you. The whole thing in the Army is teamwork and the only

things I found really difficult were the leaderless tasks."

Number 27 agreed with him and added: "It's a nice balance between the physical and the mental. It's taught me about myself."

The Army life is not for everyone and inevitably there are failures at RCB. At the end of their course most candidates are notified simply that they have passed or failed.

However, there are shades of grey for the failures. Some are given special recommendations and some are encouraged to try again at a later date.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simmons is very much aware though that some may still fall through the selection net. "How we can monitor the people who fail has always defeated us. If you pass them you find out if you're right. If you fail them you never know."

"I don't think this is the way to do it!"



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S4/82

Two combat engineers prove many hands make light work in spreading aggregate.

SAPPERS FIGHT THE FREEZE AND WIN



THE top priority of most people caught up in the Arctic grip of winter is to keep themselves cosy and snug. But for Sappers labouring in a chilly part of South Armagh it was the work that got their extra warmth and attention.

The teams of outdoor builders made up from 2 Troop 4 Field Squadron and 3 Troop 8 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers used an array of heaters, tents and mattresses to keep their concrete mix from freezing, at the Security Forces base being built at Forkhill.

The extreme cold which had midday thermometer readings regularly showing minus seven degrees centigrade was one of the biggest headaches they faced since tak-

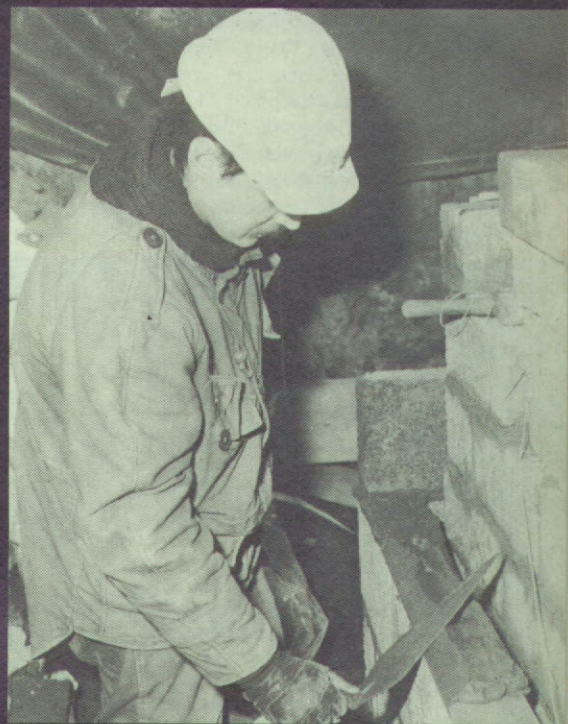
ing over the construction programme early in December.

For in temperatures below four degrees centigrade the mixing and laying of concrete is doubly difficult, demanding delicate pre-heating precautions to allow it to set properly.

And the icy weather not only affected the bonding strength of building compounds but played havoc with the fleet of diesel powered trucks and machines used by the Engineers to keep supplies flowing smoothly.

In a bid to keep the wheels, literally, turning the only two vehicle mechanics on

continued on page 30



A Sapper laying a breeze block wall under ▲ chill proof tarpaulin covers.

With an energetic engineer at the controls, ▼ the double wheeled motor roller levels gravel in half the time.



A Sapper defrosts a metal mixing chute while his colleagues fill it up.



the site were often at full stretch. They worked late to repair breakdowns, successfully devised ways of preventing the diesel fuel in pipes and tanks from thickening, and became experts overnight at 'cold-starting' lifeless engines.

However, despite the harshest cold snap to hit the border region for years, the men busily shortened their lost working time to less than a day.

The new five acre camp, which will be home to a combined contingent of police and troops, is now well on target towards its completion date with a modern furnished accommodation area already occupied.

Although the pace of industrial life inside Forkhill has been hectic, the soldiers have been able to unwind in the evenings by taking in a film from a huge video library or by book reading and dart throwing.

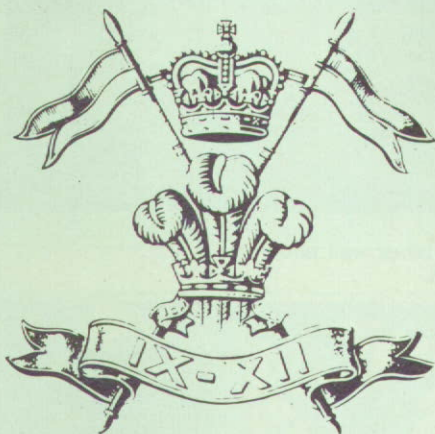
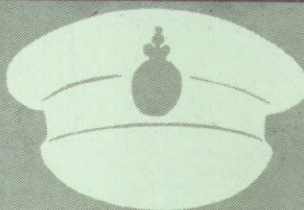
And for the educationally minded there are classroom lessons too. Troop commander, 24 year old Captain Graham Phillips RE, teaches his men mathematics and military studies which should help them pass their Education Proficiency Certificate examination.

Said Captain Phillips: "The wealth of experience the men are getting is second to none. As well as broadening the knowledge of those experienced soldiers it also gives an extremely useful start to those seeking promotion early on in their career." ■

Directing heat under a pile of aggregate using a gas fire and a metal tube made from oil drums.



Your Cap Badge



No 10 9th/12th ROYAL LANCERS (PRINCE OF WALES'S)

THE 11th SEPTEMBER 1960 saw the amalgamation of two fine cavalry regiments each boasting over two hundred years service, originally as Dragoons, later as Light Dragoons and finally as Lancers. Impressed by the performance of the Polish Lancers in the French service six Light Dragoon regiments were converted to be Lancers. They went the whole hog, copying the dress in detail. Even the lance pennons were in the Polish national colours of red and white. The badge adopted and currently worn is depicted here being described as:- "On crossed lances, the Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto. Above these plumes the St Edward's crown. Across the butts of the lances a scroll inscribed IX-XII. The plumes, motto and lower portion of the lance pennons in silver anodised, remainder in gold anodised."

The 9th was the first regiment raised, at that time bearing the name of its Colonel, General Wynne. During that year,

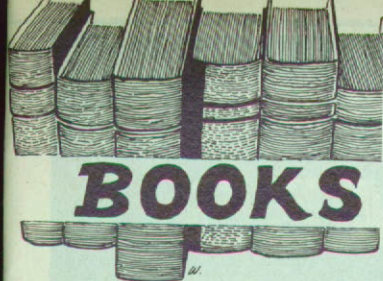
1715, the Army was being expanded as the result of the First Jacobite Rebellion. The 9th's first eighty or so years were spent in the Home Islands, followed by varied service in South America, Holland and in the Peninsula before returning to England. In 1783 they became Light Dragoons, later, in 1831, received the appellation 'Lancers' and the title 'Queen's Royal' in honour of Queen Adelaide. Long and honourable service in India gained many honours to be borne on their standards, fighting against the Sikhs, the Mutineers and the Afghans. To these were to be added many more from the Boer War and the Great and Second World Wars. Their original cap badge was similar to the present pattern being, "On crossed lances the numeral 9 surmounted by a flat topped Victorian crown. Across the butts of the lances a scroll inscribed 'Lancers'. In white metal." The Imperial crown replaced the Victorian on July 30th 1903 and this in turn was followed by the St Edward's crown on 9th July 1954. This last pattern was also worn in silver anodised material.

The 12th, also raised in 1715, followed a similar pattern to its present partner, quickly being placed on the Irish establishment. At one time it had in its ranks a certain Lieutenant the Hon Arthur Wellesley, who went on to greater things. In 1793 the Regiment was accorded the title of 'The Prince of Wales's Light Dragoons' and late in the 18th century left for service abroad for the first time. To Corsica, Egypt, the Peninsula, Waterloo, South Africa, the Crimea, India and back to South Africa went this much travelled regiment during the 19th century, unwittingly preparing it for the grim carnage of the two German Wars in the first half of the 20th.

Lances have formed the principal feature of most of the cap badges of the Army's Lancers — and distinctively so. However, in the British Army there always seems to be at least one exception to every rule, and the first cap badge adopted by the 12th at the end of the 19th century until 1903 was different in that it featured the Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto resting on a scroll inscribed 'XII Royal Lancers'. The coronet and scroll were in gilding metal, the remainder in white metal. The second pattern, more familiar, was "On crossed lances the Prince of Wales's plumes coronet and motto. Above the Imperial crown. Below, the Roman numerals XII. Plumes, motto and lower half of the lance pennons in white metal, remainder in gilding metal." From December 1st 1954, the St Edward's crown replaced the Imperial and this pattern was also worn in anodised material.

Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

Next issue: The Royal Hussars



Voices from the Great War: Peter Vansittart

This is a book of quotations — but with a difference. It concentrates on the years of World War One, includes both prose and poetry, bawdy doggerel and fine literature, long pronouncements and short phrases, patriotic pride and pacifist ponderings. The Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, writes to "Papa" from France when night duty officer somewhere just behind the front line: "We have completely obliterated the road W. of Pilkem by shellfire." Next is a news entry: "400,000 British killed or wounded lost in the mud for 500 yards of swamped earth. 250,000 German casualties." Sang Siegfried Sassoon: "They died in Hell, they called it Passchendaele."

The book is in seven sections — one for each of the years from 1914 to 1918 plus a Prelude and an Aftermath — which keeps a nice chronological order and allows the news entries to give backbone to the whole. Authors known and unknown are included, among them the Duke of York, later George VI, who was sitting on top of a gun turret at the battle of Jutland when an enemy vessel started firing. "I jumped down the hole at the top like a shot rabbit." In 1914 Lieutenant Bernard Montgomery wrote: "At least the thing will be over in three weeks."

Bertrand Russell, Churchill, H G Wells, Harold Macmillan, T E Lawrence, Anthony Eden, even Hitler and Mussolini, Foch, Kaiser Wilhelm and Sigmund Freud — and many others — all have their words of wisdom, woe or nonsense recorded. There is much to laugh at and much to wonder at in this comprehensive selection. Perhaps one of the most unusual is this unexpected anecdote told by Lady Cynthia Asquith in London in 1917. It concerned Queen Mary, the always so correct and revered consort of George V. Said Lady Cynthia: "Going round a hospital, she was struck by a fair-haired mother with a very dark baby. She commented on this and returned to the woman's bedside again after completing her round, saying: 'His father must have been very dark — wasn't he?' To which the woman breezily replied: 'Sure Ma'am, I don't know — he never took his hat off.'"

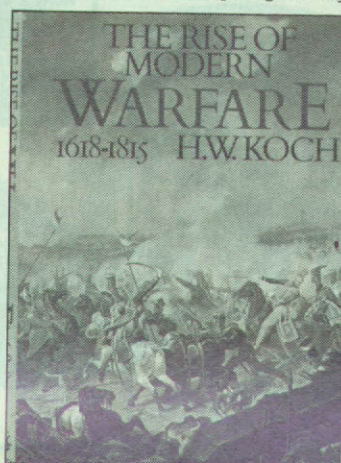
Jonathan Cape Ltd, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1 — £7.95 GRH

The Rise of Modern Warfare, 1618-1815: H W Koch

The first thing to strike one about this book is that it must be very good value for money. Its 250-odd shiny, large-format pages carry more than 400 illustrations, well selected and admirably reproduced. The volume

can rest on a coffee-table and hold its own with others costing two and three times as much.

Professor Koch's text is good value too. The main change in the period he covers is from the mercenary armies of the 17th century to the mass armies which were raised from the people they were supposed to serve. One of these was the rebel army in the American war of Independence and a curious fact often forgotten is that it owed its training to a Prussian officer named Steuben who had served with Frederick the Great. He introduced rigorous Prussian drill and training methods and, says Professor Koch, "To this day if one wants to see truly Prussian infantry drill, one has only to visit either East Germany or West Point". Adapting Prussian rules to American needs brought the rebels success. Europe's first mass army, that of revolutionary France, was winning battles before Napoleon; in it, the stern discipline of the past gave way



at first to the excesses of revolutionary fanatics. In the same period, the partisan or guerrilla emerged to play a key role.

Professor Koch writes interestingly of developments in Europe, particularly Germany, but Britain gets only a small amount of attention apart from a chapter which deals in some detail with the career of Oliver Cromwell. The author regards him as brilliant as a leader of men and in generalship, but with a brilliance that relied on the successful adaptation of techniques and tactics already in practice elsewhere. (Nothing wrong with that, one might retort.) In another way he was not so able: "Cromwell's role as a politician was resoundingly negative... His military ability may well explain his failure as a politician since it is very rare to combine brilliance in the profession of arms with an ability to manipulate politics". Tell that to some of today's Third World leaders! Hamlyn, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex — £7.95. **RL**

Russia's Military Way to the West: Christopher Duffy

With the current preoccupation with Soviet intentions towards the West, it is easy to forget that the Russian desire to win footholds in Europe is nothing new.

Mr Duffy considers the emergence of 'modern Russia' from its prolonged and almost medieval isolation, and the way in which it sought to

make itself a European power in the eighteenth century. In particular, he describes the reforms of the despotic Tsar Peter the Great, which introduced Western style military organisation and dress, and the wars with the great northern empire of Sweden which marked the course of Peter's attempt at expansion. The story is continued through the century, marking the military consolidation of Peter's successors and discussing in detail the effect Russia had on the Seven Years War — and vice versa. To round off there are a few notes illustrating the links between the Tsarist past and the Soviet present, and the whole thing is neatly illustrated with crisp campaign maps and uniform drawings.

Routledge and Kegan Paul, Broadway House, Newton Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 1EN — £15.00. **IJK**

The Indian Army: Boris Mollo

If you were an officer of the Bengal Horse Artillery around the middle of last century, the girls might not flock around you but they could hardly miss seeing you. Your "dress helmet" was of black metal, with gilt fittings, a broad leopardskin pugri (cloth wound round helmet) and long, red horsehair mane... Jacket... dark blue with red facings heavily laced in gold... Pouch-belt with gold train, silver pickers and silver pouch. Around the waist was a red and gold barrel sash and waistbelt and sword slings of gold lace with a red train. Overalls were dark blue with a dou-



ble gold stripe...

That is just one of the gorgeous outfits described by Mr Mollo, Deputy Director and Keeper of Records at the National Army Museum. His book is primarily about uniforms and is well illustrated, but includes a concise military history of the British in India.

If you are not interested in uniforms, there are intriguing and resounding names to be investigated, like the Mhair Regiment, the Mooradabad Levy, and the Erinpoorah Irregular Force. There could be more, but Mr Mollo has confined auxiliary forces, state forces and frontier battalions to his index. Otherwise you could look up the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Regiment, the Ratlam Rifles and the Dharangadra Makhwan Infantry. Well, he had to draw the line somewhere to keep the book to a manageable size.

Blandford Press, Link House, West St, Poole, Dorset — £10.50. **RL**

IN BRIEF

Forged in Strong Fires edited by John Crouch and Ian J. Knight. A booklet produced by the Victorian Military Society on the First Boer War of 1881, illustrated with black and white drawings, historic photographs and maps. Available from John Crouch, The Victorian Military Society, 'Combe Lea', Inholms Lane, North Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4JH. Price £2.50 (£1.50 to serving members of HM Forces).

Field Surgery Pocket Book edited by Major General Norman G Kirby OBE QHS FRCS FRCS (Ed) and Guy Blackburn MBE MA (Cantab) M Chiv FRCS. An updated new edition of the standard book first published in 1944 by HMSO. Available from all Government Bookshops, price £7.95.

An Illustrated Guide to Weapons of the Modern Soviet Ground Forces edited by Ray Bonds. Major equipment of today's Red Army. Published by Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester St, London, WC1N 3AF. Price £3.95.

An Illustrated Guide to Military Helicopters by Bill Guuston. Full colour directory of combat rotorcraft. Published by Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester St, London, WC1N 3AF. Price £3.95.

Modern Combat Vehicles 3: Leopard by A J Barker. The story of the first German Panzer built since 1945, of its development, service, variants and current re-development to Leopard 2 standard. Published by Ian Allen Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS. Price £6.95.

Flags of the World by Captain E M C Barraclough CBE RN and W G Crampton. New edition of standard reference book published for over 80 years. Published by Frederick Warne Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HE. Price £12.50.

The Military-Naval Encyclopedia of Russia and The Soviet Union by David R Jones. Price \$31.50. **USSR Facts and Figures Annual** by John L Scherer. Price \$42.50. **Soviet Armed Forces Review Annual** by David R Jones. Price \$45.00. All published by Academic International Press.

Royalist Officers in England and Wales, 1642-1660 by P R Newan. A biographical dictionary. Published by Garland Publishing Inc, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Price \$90.

The Register of the Victoria Cross. An alphabetical list of recipients with accompanying photographs. Published by This England, PO Box 52, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1YQ. Price £12.95.



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Car News from Natocars

Ford's Fastest Fiesta

The Fiesta XR2 will be the fastest production Fiesta yet built by Ford and has a top speed of 105 mph. It has been developed from the already successful Fiesta 1300 S variant and the 1.6 litre model. It also incorporates much of the knowledge and experience gained by competitors in the series of races for special 1600cc Fiestas which have been held in Britain during the past two seasons.

The Fiesta XR2 is powered by a 1600cc overhead-valve engine developing 83 PS, fitted with electronic breakerless ignition, a high-lift sports camshaft and a Weber twin venturi carburettor.

Transmission is by a four-speed all-synchromesh gearbox and acceleration through the gears from 0-60 mph is less than 10 seconds.

The Fiesta XR2 is in production now and the first factory-fresh models are now arriving at Natocars' Bridgwater base.



Fiesta XR2

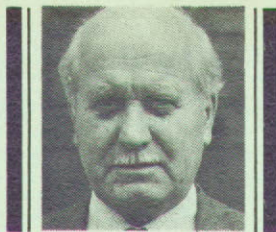
New Triumph stakes its claim

Economical, sporting and totally equipped. That's BL's Triumph Acclaim.

With an all-alloy OHC 4 cylinder 1335cc engine and a rugged yet light body-shell, it combines class-leading economy with sporting, fun-to-drive performance. Official fuel consumption figures show an urban cycle consumption of 32.8 mpg, 48.8 mpg at 56 mph and 34 mpg at 75 mph, yet the 0-60 mph acceleration time is 12.5 seconds and the top speed 96 mph.



Triumph Acclaim



The Royal Military Music Show 1981

Producer and Conductor: Major G Turner. Guest Conductor: Major A J Richards. DR 39

Here are excerpts from the musical content of the annual Muenster show, this time recorded in studios there and in London. Bands of the Life Guards, 5 Innis D G, 9/12 L, 17/21 L, RTR (Cambrai), 1 LI with its Bugles, and the Pipes and Drums of the 4th RTR are involved in a well played programme which, for better



or for worse, includes no crowd atmosphere.

The Life Guards alone in their London fastness start things off with Major Richards's fanfare *Rejoicing*, Lumbye's sparkling *Champagne Galop*, and Don Pryce's march *The Queen's Division*. The massed bands give us the *Light Cavalry* overture, and medley of tunes *Parade of the Nations*, and the *Toreadors March* from Carmen, both arranged by Major Turner. David McBain's *Mechanized Infantry* and a pipes and drums medley from the respective experts, a *Fantasy on Negro Spirituals*, Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, and the *Triumphal March* from Aida, along with the rest, give you some idea of how little one needs to adapt our normal fare for German audiences. American tourists, I know to my cost, are always disappointed to come a long way to see and hear the Changing of the Guard and are given *Oklahoma*, *St Louis Blues*, and endless Sousa.

From DR Services, 36 Garrick Gdns, West Molesey, Surrey, £5 inclusive.

March of the Toys

Cambrai Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment. Conductor: Major G Turner. DR 40

In addition to my new Hi-Fi this disc has the misfortune to come under the microscope of a sentimental old sucker for all things childlike; dream children, A A Milne, R L Stevenson, Paddington Bear and all that stuff. And here Major Turner fails me. In an otherwise completely acceptable programme he led me up (or was it down?) that magic garden path with his emotive title and superb sleeve picture by Paul Sharp. At the

shadowy, secret bottom of the path were no goblins or foul fiends, no fairies — no magic.

If for me the programme is a disappointment of missed opportunities, and dire lack of communication with we his audience, Major Turner provides half a dozen marches which should attract collectors of rarities on record, plus a few token items to the toys of the title. Even here, in Victor Herbert's masterpiece, the band chooses to play a disastrous arrangement by some anonymous child-molester when there is a well-known version for band which retains the original purity of Herbert's own childlike vision. Leon Jessel's *Parade of the Tin Soldiers* (poor Major Turner, I was a tin soldier at the Duke of York's School too) and Pierné's *March of the Little Leaden Soldiers* both lack characterisation, and like most of the items are too sluggish in tempo. The *Teddy Bears Picnic* of course, *Drummer Boy*, and at a push *The Wee MacGregor*



and *The Phantom Brigade* make up the toy element of the programme, the latter piece an ideal scene-setter for what could have been a marvelous fireside magical mystery tour.

The aforesaid marches are Sousa's *Salvation Army March*, Alf Young's *Captain McDandy*, *The Vanished Army*, *Brass Buttons*, the conductor's *Snow Queen* (named after a BAOR exercise), a catchy *Slagelse Tappanstreg* by an old Danish bandmaster, and Arthur Bliss's *Things to Come*.

Whatever happened to Leroy Anderson's *China Doll*, *Belle of the Ball*, *Horse and Buggy*, and *Syncopted Clock*; Bartok's *Bear Dance*, Elgar's children's pieces, all the lullabies, Toy Town this and Toy Town that? I think 'toy' should have been the inspiration, not 'march'.

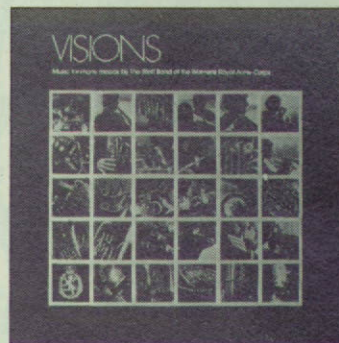
From Cambrai Band, I RTR, BFPO 15, prices £4.50 inclusive.

Visions; Music for many moods

Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Conductor: Captain Lynette Hopkin. WRAC 4

In their wisdom the powers that be have, with perhaps a sideways glance at the laws on equality for the sexes, allowed the only women's band to survive the recent cuts in bandpersons. A close-run thing though. And having escaped the surgeon's knife (unlike the surgeons' own band) they

come under the microscope of this old quack with his brand new, very posh Hi Fi equipment which registers clarinet key-work, heavy breathing, and even nylon-clad knees rub-



bing together. But fear not girls, for as always subjectivism is my motto, and within reason errors and omissions accepted, likewise minor blobs, fluffs, and boobies. Not that there are many here. As a programme of light music of many moods, to quote the sleeve, it is put across with style and flexibility of mood but just lacking in the vitality and attack achieved by the best male bands, which is hardly a criticism but a fact of life.

Anyway to begin a record with a march by RB is always good thinking, and I must say *The Queen's Company* does rather set the seal on a fine programme; collectors please note. And we have a Gordon Langford arrangement of *Blaydon Races*, two pieces in characteristic Raymond Agout settings — Monti's famous *Czardas* and some eastern promise in *Bazaar*. Alfred Tubb, another military bandsman, provides a medley called *Tell the World* and based on Revival tunes, and also a pastiche of the medieval style in *Ye Olde Suite*, both very acceptable. Major Terry Kenny's growing list of works for band includes an arrangement of Handel's *La Rejouissance* (from the Royal Fireworks music) and a catchy little duet for cornet and trombone *Just Good Friends*.

Two pop-ish numbers are Brian Reynolds's *Sweetcorn*, and Peter Green's *Albatross* in Captain Hopkin's arrangement, and the record has a bright and breezy ending with a *Mexican Parade* and the brilliant *Ratataplan* by Verdi.

There are also copies still available of a disc made in 1977 by the WRAC Band (not reviewed) which includes the marches *Children of the Regiment*, *Staffordshire Knot*, *Drum Majorette* (Steck), *Thin Red Line*, and the WRAC march *Lass of Richmond Hill*; also *Clarinate*, *Can Can*, *Clarinet Polka*, *Cachucha* (Curzon), *Drums Ride On*, *Tyrolean Tavern*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *Brazilia*, *Theme and Rockout*, and *The Dargason* (Holst).

Both from WRAC Band, Elizabeth Park, Guildford, price £4.75 inclusive. Cassette £5.

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FAR AWAY PLACES

If you were to write the name of the city of Newcastle omitting all vowels and semi-vowels (A, E, I, O, U, W, Y) you would have N C S T L. Again, should you write Weymouth in the same manner you would find M T H only.

Now, here are the names of twenty of the world's towns and cities which have been treated in similar manner. Could you give twenty names to satisfy the conditions? In such a vast subject as world place names of towns and cities so very often more than one

answer is possible which satisfies the conditions. But credit will be given for all names (remember — of towns and cities only) which are made up from the given letters and added vowels and semi-vowels.

1 D L D

2 T L S

3 R S

4 L S N G L S

5 D N D

6 N R L N S

7 N Q

8 S N S

9 L L L

10 T T

11 B R D R

12 N N T N

13 S T B R N

14 M H

15 B T V

16 K H M

17 L H R

18 D N D N

19 S N T G

20 M M

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The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 26 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 19 April. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 286' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 286' label from this page and your name and address to: **Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.**

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TROUBLE-SHOUTER

I suppose that most of us who have spent some time in the Army (or other Service) must find something that rubs off — even if it is only putting white lines on the back door step. My wife won't let me have them at the front door!

Recently in my job as manager of a small factory, I was involved in a management/union argument, and as the discussion progressed, so the young shop steward's mouth opened wider and his voice became louder.

Finally I said "Now look here, don't raise your voice, because I spent seven years on the barrack square and no matter how loud you shout, I can shout a ——— sight louder!"

This created a laugh, broke the tension, the argument became a discussion again and the problem soon solved. — **Harry B Brand, 30 Salmons Road, Edmonton N9 7JT.**

Another plus for the Army, Mr Brand and your letter wins our £5 prize. — **Ed.**

SPECIAL BREED

I was surprised to read in your article on Military Bands (11 Jan) the reference to bandsmen being "trained to set aside their drums and bugles in the event of war and move into the thick of action as drivers, medical orderlies and stretcher bearers". I will also be surprised if you have not already received letters from bandsmen telling you that they do not use drums and bugles to start with! The odd drum, yes, but bugles, never! Drums and bugles, and flutes too, are the instruments used by the Corps of Drums of the Infantry battalions to provide the traditional music associated with the Infantry and to give added volume to the military bands when playing together.

Unlike the bandsmen, 'Drummers' of the 'heavy' Infantry, the term used regardless of whether he plays drum, bugle or flute, and Buglers of the Light Division, are trained Infantry soldiers of the highest standard who voluntarily under-

take the additional work of blowing duty calls as well as providing the showpiece in any musical display, and do not put their instruments aside in wartime!

Now that the strength of the military band is going to be cut to about 22, it would appear that the requirement for battalions to have a strong Corps of Drums, particularly their flute section, to be able to play more often with the band, is now very important.

As a very keen supporter of the Corps of Drums in general, I undertook on behalf of The Corps of Drums Society, a group of enthusiasts who are concerned with the promotion and preservation of the customs and traditions of Drummers, to write to virtually every Drum Major in the Army. The feedback from these SNCOs and WO's was as I suspected. Many of them said that their Corps of Drums were under strength (some were over strength too). Most said that few, and in some cases none of their Drummers could read music. Many complained that they didn't have time to practice and very little to teach.

Whilst they all appreciated that their first and most important job was to train for war, they all without exception bitterly complained that they were expected to produce a Corps of Drums capable of Beating Retreat and give musical displays, at the drop of a hat! I have been campaigning for years, trying to bring home to Commanding Officers in particular and more recently The Director of Infantry, that Drummers must receive proper musical training and more importantly, a system of improving their learning through properly run courses sponsored by the Army.

As a proud, old soldier of an English County Regiment, it hurts me to learn of The Army School of Piping in Edinburgh which teaches Pipers of the pipe band playing regiments whilst we have to struggle on our own, with no one to turn to who will listen to our cries. It is simply not enough to assume that this special breed of man and boy who take up the drum is prepared to put in hours of his spare time trying to improve what little knowledge he has gained, whilst his chums go out on the town. He needs proper instruction, time to practice, but more than anything else, he needs the interest and encouragement of his seniors. — **Major (QM) J A Barrow MBE DERR, The Junior Soldiers' Battalion, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6PF.**

TA BRIGADE

Referring to the article 'Brigades are Back' (25 Jan) I would point out that 49 Brigade contains a significant number of Territorials from the six counties of the East Anglia TAVR Association area, including practically the whole of an Infantry battalion and two Gunner batteries. It is by no means a Midland Brigade. — **Col W Pakenham-Walsh (Retd), Springfield Tyrells, 250 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6BU.**

MAIL DROP

JUST DESSERTS

First I would like to allay the fears of L/Cpl Saetta of the Army Catering Corps and remind him that the minority opinion is not that of every Scottish regiment. ('Food for Thought', Soldier 14 Dec.)

As a member of our Battalion Messing Committee, I listen to compliments and complaints alike from the majority and invariably the compliments outweigh the complaints. I would also like to inform all members of the Army Catering Corps that the whole of the British Army not only the Jocks appreciate the work you do.

Finally to L/Cpl Saetta I would like to say that the eating habits of the British Army does not vary throughout different battalions. — **Cpl B Forsyth, D Coy, 1 Bn The Gordon Highlanders, Ritchie Camp, Kirknewton, Midlothian.**

YOUNG COLLECTOR

I am eight years old and have collected Army cap badges for three years. I have 3 Victorian badges, one is British and the other two are Indian. I also have two French badges, they are the Colonial Paras and the Metropolitan Paras. I have over sixty badges in books. My first badge was the Durham Light Infantry. My favourite badge is Victorian, it is the 42nd Regiment of Foot (Black Watch). — **Graeme Williams, 8 Quebec Grove, Billingham, Cleveland, TS23 3PY.**

You're well on your way to a good collection there, Graeme — keep it up. — **Ed.**

CRACKING BAND

Did I detect a note of disapproval in Rodney Bashford's recent review of the record made by the Band of the Royal Air Force, Germany? (14 Dec)

Such comments as "With no help from ———", "I'm not sure ———", and "I have to assume ———", will do little to sell what may be a nice record to listen to and to suggest that a subscription to SOLDIER would have made a difference to Alan Mossford's choice of music is ludicrous.

Army Directors of Music and Bandmasters do not seem to profit from the information available to them through this excellent magazine and, may I say, informative, well written and sometimes very amusing notes by your 'On the Record' scribe RB.

I have on file every word he has written for SOLDIER for a good many years and also a good selection of the records he has reviewed.

It is a great pity he didn't receive this band's other record first: 'A European Excursion' Parade (PR 2005) available in F W Woolworth's.

Ranjet Banerjee would not have learned much about the disposition of our NATO Air Forces from the sleeve to report to The Bangalore Light Camel Corps unless, of course, he was so disenchanted that he wanted to blow up the Band Office at

Rheindahlen. He would, however, have heard some almost original music played beautifully by a cracking good bunch of musicians.

The two solo spots are particularly good. Kelvin Brewster playing 'The Watermill' on oboe and Chief Technician Geoff Ingram with 'The Lonely Shepherd' on flute. A first for each on Service Band records I believe.

These two pieces, together with a nice arrangement of music from Zorba the Greek, Eye Level, Swedish Rhapsody, Parisian Street Dance, A Walk in the Black Forest, Italian Festival, A French Collection, El Corrida and Fernando make up what is, to me, the gem of my collection. I agree with Pete Kerr, the Producer, when he says "you will never hear a more enjoyable sound".

One last word, dear Editor! What has happened to the 'Diary of Events'? I am sure many retired Servicemen relied on it to plan the year's outings to see our Army at its best. Please can we have it back! — **A V Andrews, 37 Picquets Way, Banstead, Surrey.**

Don't worry, the Diary will be back just as soon as it has been produced and in plenty of time for you to catch the major events. — **Ed.**

CONTROVERSY

With regard to previous correspondence (16 Nov and 11 Jan) I would recommend to both Major Gian Singh and D J Richardson, the book written by one J Connell (a pseudonym by the way) which charts the life of the Auk in very fine detail. It reveals one thing quite clearly — it is difficult if not impossible, to serve a wayward and wilful genius like Winston Churchill and preserve your professional career. Alanbrooke, the CIGS for most of the war period, managed it — but there were not many more in the highest of high places.

Mr Richardson errs somewhat in his recollection. The Auk did not take over in the Middle East until June 1941 — and he did not serve under Archie Wavell before that time. The Auk had commanded in the Norway campaign, and had been in the UK meantime. History suggests that Monty inherited a far from quiet front — shortly after his arrival he fought and beat off Rommel's lot at what is now called Alam Halfa. Also there were no Yanks at Alamein — there were some training units in the Desert at the time, but the Order of Battle shows no US Army units present.

It is, perhaps, fair to say that the problems of the day were bedevilled by the lack of resources due to peacetime parsimony, and the political needs of the time. The Auk went on to distinguished service in other spheres, and he should be remembered for all his other services — not for his historic 'sacking' by Churchill. Otherwise you'll start off another 'Brass v Frocks' controversy — shades of Lloyd George and World War I! — **Peter Redman, 46 Sunningdale Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2NH.**

Can You Help?

On behalf of my daughters and myself, may I ask the help of any present or former members of the 2nd Bn Royal Tank Regiment who may have photographs of my son L/Cpl Nicolas Bushwell.

Nicolas died as the result of a road accident whilst on service in Northern Ireland in October 1980, and we would be willing to pay for any negatives, photographs and postage.

Jill Milnthorpe, 56 Burr St, Dunstable, Beds.

I write on behalf of Mr George Augustus Corten of 12 Brynglas Court, Newport, Gwent. Mr Corten served in the 16178 X-Detachment Royal Engineers Stevedores Battalion between 1940-1947.

During the period 1940-1942 Mr Corten served in Iceland and his Army Number was 2002693. He would like to contact any of his old comrades in arms, and wants to know if the Stevedores Battalion of the Royal Engineers has any periodic reunion. — **Malcolm Keane, Welfare Officer, National Dock Labour Board, 9 St Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff, CF1 3RJ.**

I write to say I am leaving the Army this year. I will have had 39 years and 80 days service of which, except for periods of home leave, I will have spent 37 years 320 days unbroken service in Asia. A long first tour! Is this a record? — **Lt Col J P Cross OBE, British Gurkha Centre, Pokhara, Nepal, BFPO 4.**

Collectors' Corner

T McBride, 27 Chalons Road, York. *Requires any surplus cap badges to start son's collection.*

P G Redman, 46 Sunningdale Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2NH. *Offers 14 Pan/Ballantyne/MacDonald 'History of the Second World War'. Excellent condition. £1.00 each plus postage. Titles: Okinawa, Operation Torch, Battle of the Ruhr Pocket, Tarawa, Guadalcanal, Chindits, Merrill's Marauders, The Guns 1914/18, Raid on St Nazaire, The Raiders (LRDG), Vimy Ridge (actually WWI), Boda Fomm, New Georgia, New Guinea.*

T Carragher, 17 O'Halloran Road, Christies Beach, S Australia 5165. *Wishes to get in touch with any collectors of cap badges, collar badges, titles etc — of any of the Welsh regiments, regulars, TA, Vols, Militia etc — and also of any of the Fusilier regiments, with a view to purchase/exchange.*
F Coldwell, 109 Sibthorpe Road, London SE12. *Wants pair QC collar badges, brass or anodised, pair anodised shoulder titles, also WM or embroidered NCO's arm badge for 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars.*

John F Sukey, 5860 E River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85715, USA. *Seeks sling for Lewis gun, grenade projector for Nol Mk 3 and wire cutting attachment for same. Also willing to help or correspond with anyone interested in American Indian wars.*

A J Read, 35 Martins Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside, L44 1BA. *Wishes to buy LP 'Songs and Music of The Redcoats' with Martin Wyndham-Read (or cassette) also any record or cassette containing the song 'Ballad of The Green Berets' from the film 'The Green Berets' with John Wayne.*

British Model Soldier Society

On Saturday 24 April 1982 the British Model Soldier Society annual competitions will be held in the Civic Suite of Wandsworth Town Hall, High St, London SW18. Doors open at 12 noon and admission is 25p per adult and 10p per child (unaccompanied children under 12 will not be admitted). Refreshments with a licensed bar will be available. The competitions are open only to fully paid up members of the Society. Membership and further details can be obtained from Mr I Webb, Hon Treasurer, 35 St John's Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

Reunions

The 45th Annual Reunion of the York and Lancaster Regimental Association will be held in the Gimcrack Rooms at York Racecourse on Saturday 24th April 1982. Full details from the Regimental Secretary, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association London Branch: Annual Reunion will be held on Saturday 1st May 1982 at the Carisbrook Hall The Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London, W2 2HF. Details from Hon Secretary, 1134 Eastern Ave, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

The Annual Reunion of The Royal Hussars (PWO) will be at the Porter Tun Room, Whitbread Brewery, Chiswell St in the City of London on Saturday 1st May 1982, at 7.30pm. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Bks, Winchester.

The Queen's Own Hussars Reunion Dinner, Saturday 1st May 1982, at The Baronian Hall, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7DP. Dress optional. Tickets £7.50 obtainable from: Major J S Sutherland MBE (Retd), HHQ, The QO Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

Competition

At last we got you! The number of correct entries for our Competition No 282 were only a third of the total. It seems Christmas dinner in the Cutdash household was far too complicated an affair for a satisfactory seating plan — unless you hit upon the idea of a round table, then it's quite easy to meet all the conditions we specified. Obvious, isn't it? There must be a lot of people kicking themselves now! Prizewinners were: 1st Mr W C Hunt, 5 Crantock Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3EX. 2nd Mr M J Donovan, 23 Pagitt Street, Chatham, Kent. 3rd Mr J Johns, 38 Devonshire Road, Salisbury Wilts SP1 3NW. 4th Patricia Dight, 58 Corbett Road, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5LP. 5th The staff at ACIO, 26 Chequer Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3XZ.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 25)
1 Spectator third from right; 2 Left end of house roof; 3 Rear wheel of left saloon car; 4 Cap of left spectator; 5 Rear end of right saloon car; 6 Shape of No. 7's nearside tail fin; 7 Top of No. 7's helmet; 8 "Y" in "eyland"; 9 Black triangle above "Saudia" lettering; 10 Width of No. 2's nearside rear tyre.

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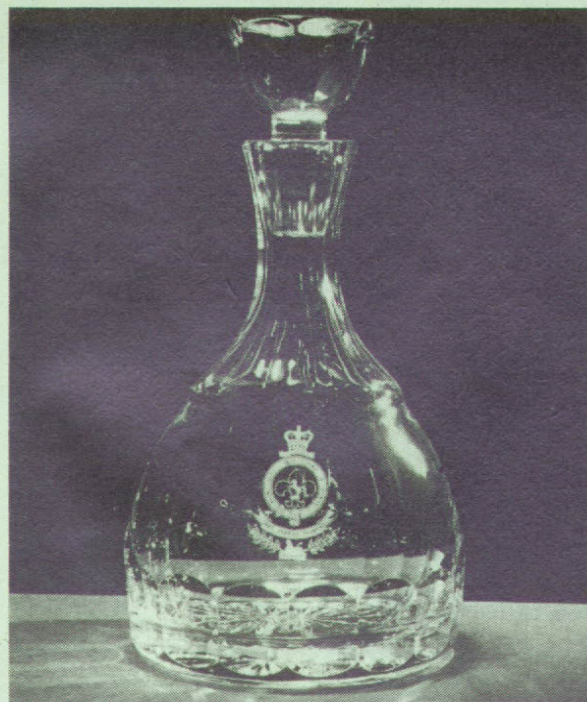
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An Army giant gets a new lease of life



Barry Curtis teams up with Antar, 'The Hulk'

SOMETHING BIG IN ESSEX

SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS alike stop to look at what has rapidly become one of the landmarks on the A127 arterial road near Rayleigh in Essex — 'The Hulk', a former Army Antar tank transporter now 'customised' into a giant white recovery vehicle reminiscent of American trucking movies.

Its owner, Barry Curtis of B Curtis Motors 'Big Rigs' is a bit unsure of its actual past. Members of a tank transporter squadron from Germany, who contacted SOLDIER after the Antar appeared at last autumn's Supernational Custom Car show at Earls Court, felt it might have once been one of theirs.

"I bought it from a mate, who I believe had bought it at auction. It was still in its original Army colour when I first bought it a couple of years ago. And I have a feeling it had been used for experiments as there were some differences in the engine."

Mr Curtis admits to having two reasons for buying the giant vehicle. He needed a good winching motor for breakdowns and "I wanted to have the biggest privately owned thing on the road".

While SOLDIER was at Big Rigs a passing van driver called in and asked permission to take a picture of 'The Hulk'. Said Mr Curtis: "That happens all the time. We get truck drivers stopping, kids wanting to climb in it and we sometimes get Army vehicles stopping for a look."

"Once an Army convoy of three Antars with trailers and escorts passed along the arterial road — they just pulled up as soon as they saw it and had a look around."

One lorry driver even addressed a postcard to one of Mr Curtis's guard dogs 'c/o

The Antar by Rayleigh Weir' and the long suffering Post Office actually delivered it.

One of his firm's specialities is customising vehicles, especially lorries. For the benefit of the lay reader Mr Curtis explains customising as "creating something which is personal to you".

The Antar itself was a big job. It was suffering from rust and had to be covered in places with stainless steel. And the special paint alone cost £320 and four-and-a-half months' work for one of his assistants.

The recovery gear on the back was taken from a 40 ton Coles crane and adapted. Eventually the Antar, at an unladen weight of 38 tons, became the biggest thing on the roads of south-east Essex.

It has been used for towing broken down trucks — although its slow speed does not help in an operation like that. But its finest role has been in winching out lorries which have been in smashes and gone over onto their sides.

And in recent times the Antar has become something of a celebrity in the charity fund raising field. It took part in carnivals at Chelmsford and Southend ('the biggest thing in either') and was involved in a tug of war to see how many people it would need to pull it. "It took 380 but even then I gave them a bit of help" says Mr Curtis.

"This last year it has got known hand-somely and has been more of an advert than anything else. Now this year we shall revamp it again."

Mr Curtis finds that his only problem is getting tyres for the mighty vehicle. But 'The Hulk' is very much his pride and joy. "It's the biggest and most expensive toy I've ever had in my life."

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Andy Burrige**

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In very approximate terms, a terrace property that costs £29,000 in London will cost £22,000 in one of the London commuting areas, £18,000 in the South West, £20,000 in Scotland, £18,000 in the North West and West Midlands and only £13,000 in Wales or the East Midlands. In Yorkshire a new terrace could cost £5,000 more than an old one yet the position could be completely reversed in London and the South East, simply because of location.

The first rule when purchasing property is to ask yourself 'If I have to leave this area will I be able to sell my house easily?' If the answer is 'No', one should consider thinking twice about buying that particular property in that area.

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

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, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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POINT TO POINT BEGINS

They're Off!

To the accompaniment of the usual 'they're off' roar and the thunder of hooves, the point to point season at Tweseldown racecourse near Aldershot began with the "Molesey Refrigeration Members, Subscribers and Farmers Race." It was a far cry from the Derby or the Grand National but a fair crowd stood on the hill at the centre of the Army course during the six races which followed to make up the Staff College and RMA Sandhurst Drag Hunt point to point.

The 'horsey' fraternity was well in evidence — bowler hats or check caps, jodhpurs, weather-beaten faces and big cars parked nearby at £5 a time. But the point to point also attracts the urban dwellers from the surrounding areas — jeans, anoraks, headscarves and a few quid to hazard with the row of book-makers.

The weather was good and so was the crowd. So much so that racecards were quickly sold out. Last year the event was held in pouring rain and only about 400 cards were sold — this year more than a thousand were snapped up.

This season is only the second since a syndicate of civilian leaseholders took over the running of the course from the Army. And Tweseldown has now moved into the video age.

Course manager, Charlie Bullen, told SOLDIER: "There have always been disputes about the finish of this course because the crowd standing on top of the hill reckon they can see better than the judge in his box. Now we have moved the box to give the judge a better view and we shall be making a video of the start and finish of each race to prevent any disputes."

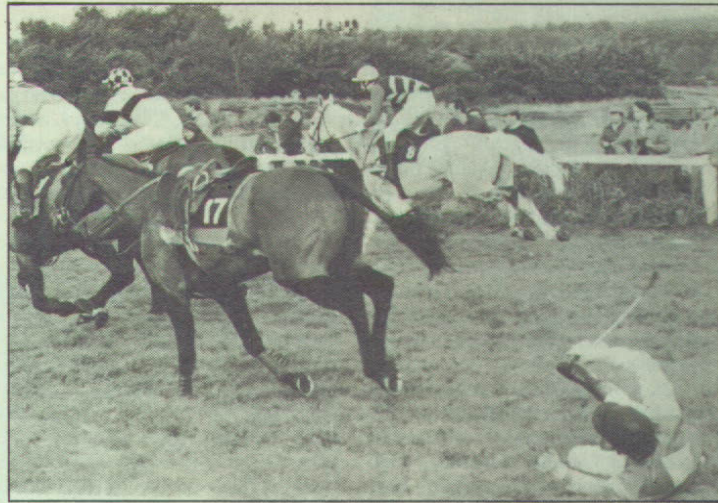
Mr Bullen said new railings had also been erected and a drop fence had been piped. This was because people walking their dogs on the course had allowed them to go into the ditch and made it dangerous to jump.

The event with the greatest military interest was the sixth race — The Williams and Glyn's Bank Army Saddle Clubs Race for government horses or horses belonging to Servicemen, including TA.

Captain Guy Prest on De Pluvinel had rushed down from London having taken part in firing a salute with the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery earlier in the day. And the Hon L Aitken, of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps on Warrenbayne Prince was the first woman rider to appear in the Services' event.

But Captain Prest had to be content with second place. The winner was Border Mark, owned and ridden by Mr James Evetts. Mr Evetts, who recently completed a nine year stint with the 16th/5th Lancers and is still a member of the TA, said afterwards: "I am delighted. It went jolly well and I am very pleased with the old boy."

Six more point to point meetings, eight British Horse Society trials, other trials and pony club camps make up a busy season for Tweseldown. The new operators have also opened a members' club — to be a founder member costs £250 but an annual subscription costs £25 and there is also a Racing Member category. This costs £15 a year and entitles the member to ride in the three Club races, use the Club Room on race days and school over practice fences at reduced rates.



▲ FALLING FROM A RIDE . . .



▲ RIDING FOR A FALL? . . .

SPORTS SHORTS

CHESS

This year's Army Chess Championships will be held at the School of Electronic Engineering over the Easter weekend (9-12 April). Championship organiser is Sgt N Townson, Weapons Department, School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield, Berks, RG2 9NH. Tel 0734-760421 ext 376.

RUGBY

The Army meets the Royal Navy in the first prestige Inter-Service Rugby fixture of the season on

Saturday 13 March. Tickets are £3 for the West Lower Stand reserved, £1.50 for elsewhere in the stand and £1 for juniors. They can be obtained from Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Dawson, MOD (ASCB), 'M' Block, Clayton Barracks, Thornhill Road, Aldershot GU11 2BG (Tel Aldershot Military 2582).

BOXING

New UKLF Minor Units Novices boxing champions are 51 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers. They beat 521 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, Bicester by six bouts to one in the final.

SOCCER

The Army seriously prejudiced their chances of winning the South West Counties Championships with a Jekyll and Hyde

home performance against the holders for the past three seasons, Somerset and Avon F.A. In a lively game, which the Army should have secured long before the interval, both sides had to be content with a 1-1 draw (the fifth of six games played to date in this year's championships).

The Army got off to a bright start and were rewarded for some early pressure when Ssgt John Woodward, REME, rose to head home a fine cross by Cpl Gary Brooksby, RGJ, in the tenth minute. They should have increased their lead when Cpl Mark Bowen, RAPC, hit a defender, on the goal-line, with an open goal yawning ahead of him. Despite territorial superiority, the Army were unable to turn all their pressure into goals and the teams changed around with the homesters leading by a single counter.

After the break, it was Somerset who set the pace and wrestled superiority from the Army. It was no surprise when they equalised midway through the second half. Despite a complete reverse of the opening half play, the visitors never looked likely to win and both teams were content to share the spoils. But really, it was a game the Army ought to have won and, despite being unbeaten in the first two games of their programme, the Army will now have to overcome a three goal aggregate deficit held by Sussex, if they are to reach the finals of this year's championships. At least they will have home advantage when they meet Sussex.

DARTS

Second round results in the SOLDIER darts contest will be published in our next issue.

SOLDIER SPORT

Rugby

DURHAM UNIVERSITY 25

ARMY 12

After flourishing briefly like a flower in an Arctic summer the Army team were comprehensively beaten by the lively Durham University side. The match, on the old Racecourse ground in Durham, was the first ever meeting between the two sides and the Army can take some consolation from the fact that Durham are the current Universities Rugby champions.

Durham fielded six county players and one international, John Phelan, who plays for Canada. And after the opening skirmishes the purple shirted students began to press the Army.

Durham looked fast and sharp but for all their huff and puff it was 20 minutes before the defending soldiers found their citadel breached. A penalty kick from Chesworth, who was not to have a very good day with his kicking, put Durham in front.

This seemed to inspire the Army and with a series of solid if unspectacular moves they gradually gained ground. In the 27th minute Corporal Kevin Ahearne went over for an unconverted try.

In the next six minutes the Army scored twice more. Warrant Officer 2 Trev Johnson burst over the line with several students clinging to him like leeches and soon afterwards Corporal Kevin Bassam went over at almost the identical spot. Neither kicks succeeded but the Army had a solid 12-3 lead.

But it was not to last. Three minutes before the interval a

loose kick by an Army defender saw Bruce-Lockhart snatch the ball and run through unchallenged to put down between the posts. Chesworth converted.

The second half began much the same as the first with Durham pressing strongly. It took seven minutes for them to regain the lead when Halsey cut a swathe through the Army defenders and again placed between the posts for an easy conversion.

The Army made a brief fightback and Corporal Barry Abbott was unlucky with an Andy Irvine type long penalty kick which slapped against the crossbar. Both sides were striving for the crucial breakthrough and tempers began to flare.

Chesworth missed two penalties in a row but the Army luck could not last and three minutes from time Durham reaped the reward for their dominance when Halsey was sent through again for a try which was converted. Just afterwards Ralston made a spectacular run almost the entire length of the field to touch down and complete the victory.

Drubbed by Durham



Above: Giant student fends off an Army challenge.

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Rugby

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Kentish Cup

French give us the old one two

BRITISH HOPES of regaining the tri-nation Kentish Cup, last won by the Army in 1970, quickly evaporated when they met the holders, the French Armed Forces at Aldershot and went down to a 2-0 defeat.

Although the Combined Services team, including a number of players new to Kentish Cup football, struggled manfully throughout the match they never looked like scoring against the young French side. The visitors were faster on the break and deserved their victory.

Now the Combined Services squad faces a long overland journey to Brussels for their second match knowing that secondplace is the best they can achieve. For France and Belgium battled to a one-all draw in the first match of the triangular tournament.

In contrast to the Continent where the Kentish Cup matches attract great interest there were only a few hundred spectators at Aldershot's Military Stadium to see the teams come out for the 56th annual tussle.

Both sides were tested in the opening minutes and the Combined Services looked very safe at the back. Thus it came as a complete shock when the French went in front from a well taken corner in the 20th minute. Pierre Morice sent in a curling shot which sliced its way through the goalmouth defenders, helped by a deflection, into the net.

The British side battled away and got into the French goalmouth on several occasions but their attacks were always blunted and the French keeper, Le Maox, rarely looked in any trouble. Belgian referee, Jan Peters, who has officiated in these matches for several years, kept a schoolmasterly grip on the game and particularly the tackling. The Navy's Kevin Maddocks was shown the yellow card after one clash.

Before the game both teams stood in silence in memory of the secretary of the Army FA From 1953 to 1970, Lieutenant-Colonel Gerry Mitchell. A life Vice-President he had been associated with Army football since the nineteen thirties. He died on 3 February at the age of 89.

The game settled into a battle of Anglo-Saxon durability and grit and the at times more silky skills of the French, who usually include mostly professional footballers doing National Service.

Le Maox had to make a number of saves and just before the half-time whistle the home side almost equalised only for the goalie to claw a goalbound ball out of the air.

The second half saw the Combined Services desperately needing a goal but looking no sharper up front. So coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton, began to ring the changes. After 57 minutes Maddocks was taken off and replaced by Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Butler.

The defenders still punted long balls hopelessly forward but all attacks petered out and the spectators were becoming increasingly frustrated. The French continued to be quick on the break and veteran goalie, Mick Patterson, made one fine diving save at the feet of an advancing French forward.

In the 74th minute Corporal T Lowe of the Royal Marines replaced the RAF's Corporal M Edwards. Soon afterwards the yellow card score was equalised when Amoroso was ticked off for arguing with the referee (see picture).

Combined Services finally found the back of the net when substitute Butler, who had been showing some fine turns of speed, banged the ball in nicely. But the lineman's flag had been up before he even shaped to make the shot.

And a minute later the match was settled beyond all doubt when Amoroso fired in a shot which gave Patterson no chance. A couple of corners, a few more dashes down the wing by Butler and a lot of shouted instructions

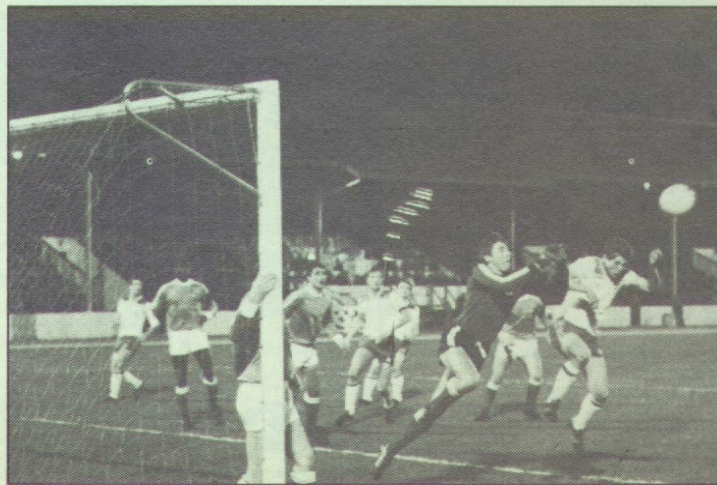


which brought the ironic cry from the stands "I wouldn't worry about tactics!" That was the sum total of the final ten minutes.

Afterwards a disappointed Alfie Coulton, told SOLDIER: "On the night the team that had the composure and played the pitch the way the pitch should be played won the game."

He said that at half time he had urged his team to slow the game down but the new young players had found the Kentish Cup harder than they expected. "They worked hard for me. It was a disappointing result in view of all the hard work by the players and I felt for them because sometimes the ball did not seem to go right. It did not break well but you do have to make your own breaks."

Now Coulton has the task of lifting the team's morale for the final match near Brussels on 24 February. And he warned that in the French-Belgian game it was the Belgians who looked the sharper side.



French goalkeeper Le Maox in command of the situation.

Title 5 for Jill

CORPORAL JILL ARMSTRONG is the Army's Women's Table Tennis champion again — for the fifth year in a row. Jill, a physical training instructor stationed at Dusseldorf, said before her final with Warrant Officer 2 Pat Swales, a former champion, that she was not over confident because she did not get enough match practice.

However, she shrugged off the doubts and the challenge of the senior player and with her powerful hitting won the final in two straight games, 21-14, 21-12.



Winning through — Cpl Armstrong.

Corporal Armstrong and her partner, Major Margaret King, also retained their doubles title. But only after an exciting battle in the final against Captain Chris Daybell and Pat Swales.

The challengers took the first game easily 21-10 and looked to be racing to an easy victory when they led 10-5 in the second. But the reigning champions pulled back level 13-13 and managed to win the second game 21-19. The deciding game started in a similar fashion with Daybell and Swales leading 8-2 only to eventually go down 21-17.

There were 38 singles and 18 doubles entries for the tournament at Aldershot. In the Inter-Zone team championships South East (East) took the title, followed by Rhine Army with last year's winners South East (West) third.

Squashed

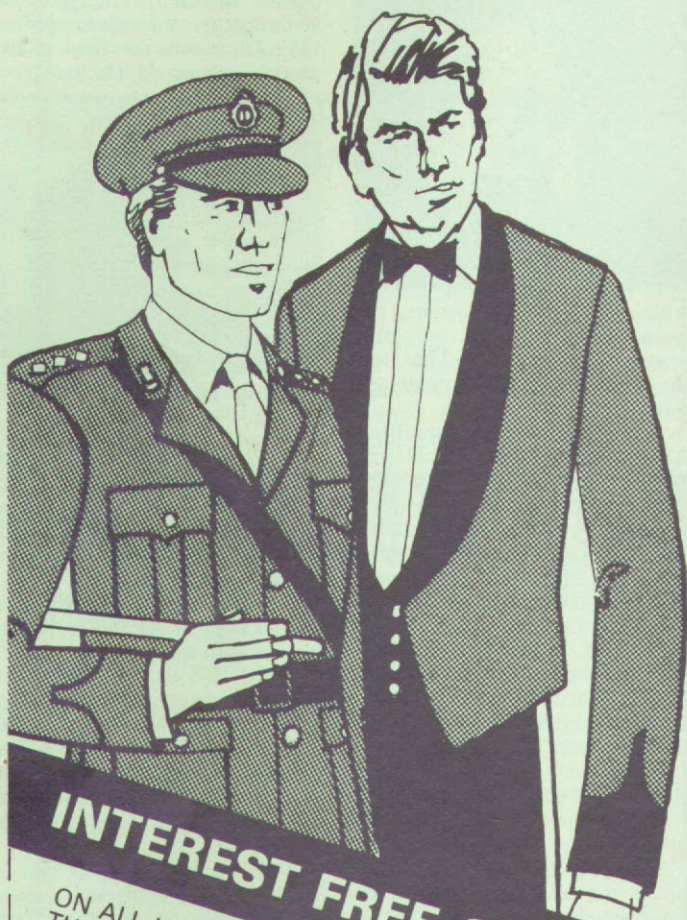
THE ARMY won the Inter-Services Squash championships for the eighth year in a row easily beating the Royal Navy and having only a slightly harder tussle with the Royal Air Force.

Fielding three internationals the Army soon torpedoed the Navy at the Lakeside Club at Frimley Green, Surrey and then went on to win the championship, only one of the five third day matches against the airmen going beyond three straight games.

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