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FRONT COVER: Lance Sgt Rick Henson of the Scots Guards all dressed up for the dance! In this case it is Exercise Trumpet Dance II in America. See Page 23 and back cover.

Picture: Sgt Arthur Thomson

Managing Editor
Roland Thick Ext 2355

Editor
John Elliott Ext 2356

Assistant Editors
Graham Smith Ext 2358
John Margetts Ext 2361
Mervyn Wynne Jones Ext 2362

Art Editor
John Rushworth Ext 2169

Picture Editor
Terry Champion Ext 2357
Photographer
Paul R G Haley Ext 2357

Librarian
Bill Stroud Ext 2351

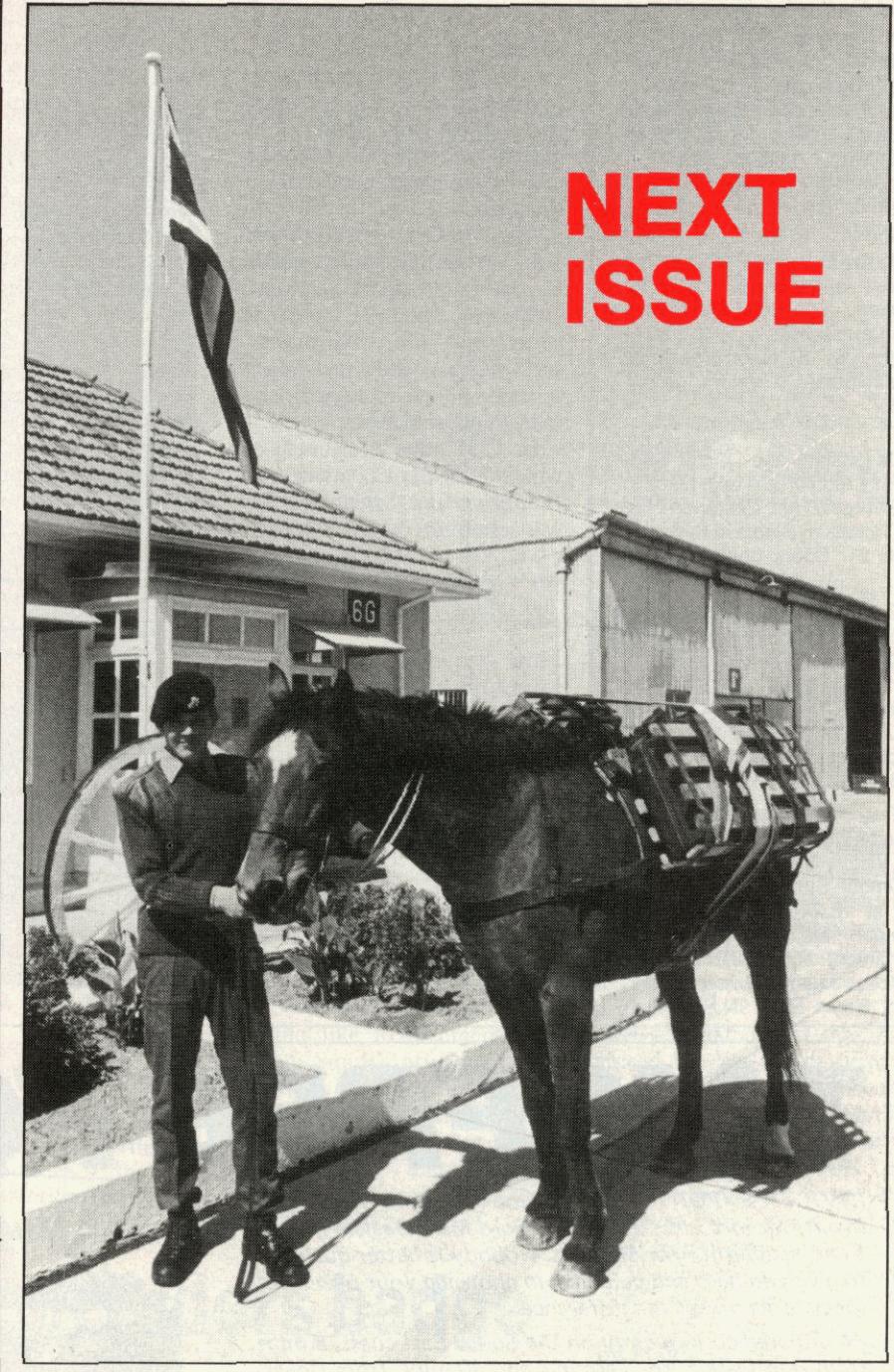
Advertising/Promotions
Lindsey Cleave Ext 2352

Accounts/Distribution
Andrea Seager Ext 2353

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**NEXT
ISSUE**



Pack horses are still used by the Army – in Cyprus. Dvr Ray Arnott of 58 Sqn RCT and his trusty steed prepare to venture into the wilds. If you want to know how the Army works and relaxes on the sunny Mediterranean island don't miss the next issue of SOLDIER.

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LETTERS

Write to:
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Reunions

• Old Contemptibles, holders of the Mons clasp and Star (August 5 to November 22, 1914) are asked to contact Mr G M S Sprake, Hon Secretary, London and SE Area, Council of the Old Contemptibles, 42 Wear Bay Crescent, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6BA (tel 0303 53035) giving name, address, regiment, dates of service. Mr Sprake is organising a national reunion of Old Contemptibles to take place in 1988.

• Royal Pioneer Corps Association annual old comrades reunion, June 20. Details from general secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, Westminster, London SW1V 4DE.

• Devonshire and Dorset Regimental reunion will take place in St George's Hall, Exeter on May 16. Tickets available at the door, price £1. Doors open 1930.

• Combined Ex-Services Association military weekend, June 19-21, in Bridlington, Yorks. Ex-Service and friends welcome. Details from Mrs Eileen Yould, 25 Belgrave Road, Bridlington YO15 3JP (tel 0262 673483).

• The Armourers Association reunion will be held on May 16 at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London, starting at 1830. For more details contact Mr W J Thorne, Armament and General Wing, Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Berks RG2 9NJ.

Sapper put the zing in science

PRIZE LETTER

I read with interest the article regarding the 'Sappers' Story'. As a teacher in civilian life, may I be permitted to add one more piece about the Royal Engineers and civilian scientific and technological education in Britain.

From the outset, the Department of Science and Art was staffed by sapper officers, who acted as teachers, advisors and inspectors. Indeed for over 30 years the department's head was Major General Donnelly, RE. Donnelly sat on three Royal Commissions examining science and technology in schools and universities.

In 1857, the forerunner of what is now the Department of Education and Science (DES) was established, the Depart-

ment of Science and Art. Its offices are located in the building now housing the Science Museum in Kensington.

Donnelly is remembered today by the Gilbert and Sullivan lampoon, *The Very Model of a Modern Major General!* Notwithstanding this, Donnelly was the first educationist to use the term 'technology'. Science and technological education would have been all the poorer without the Royal Engineers. — John Black Cpl RAPC (V), CVHQ RAPC, Worthy Down.

Military balloons director was in reserves

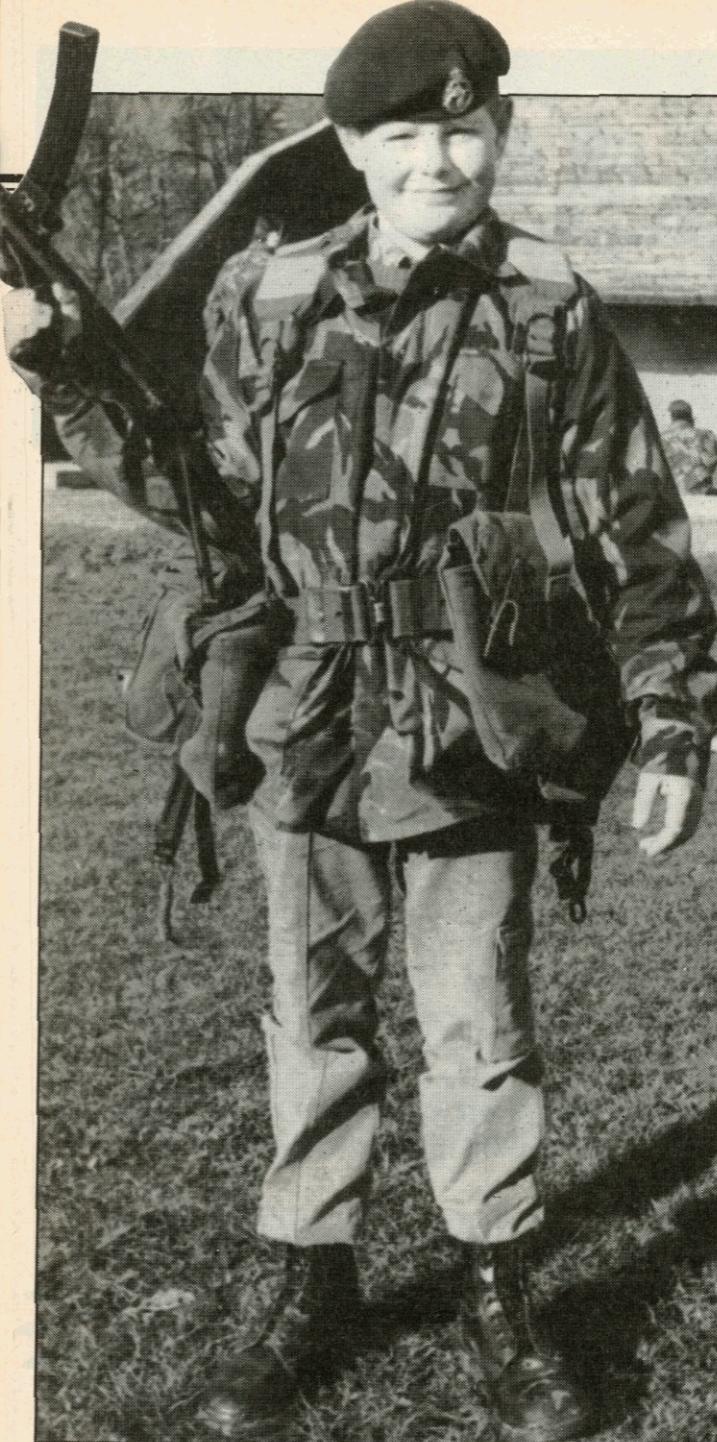
Thank you very much indeed for the last particularly splendid issue concerning the Royal Engineers. However, I feel I must point out an error which occurred in the March 25 issue concerning Col James Templer, RE, Director of Military Balloons.

In fact Lt Col J R B Templer was not a sapper as he belonged to the Middlesex Militia, later becoming 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps when the Territorial Army was formed in

1908. Neither of the two were embodied (before the First World War) so their members did not draw or become entitled to service rates of pay except when undergoing annual camp training.

Col Templer was classified as a Civil Servant.

He was not liable for the Regular Army dates of retirement on age. — Captain Henry W Corke, 249 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5HS.



Kind-hearted medics from the Territorial Army's 208 General Hospital based in Liverpool made sure 11-year-old Alec Walker received a birthday present he will never forget. Alec often passed Halton Training Camp near Lancaster and always wanted to look inside. His mum, Jackie, wrote to the Camp Commandant asking if the youngster's dream could be fulfilled as an 11th birthday present and, thanks to 208, who were in the camp at the time, it was. He is pictured sporting a beret bearing the Royal Army Dental Corps cap badge belonging to Sgt John Weightman RADC

No trace of Rough Riders badge

May I reply to Mr J Smith whose letter entitled 'Rough Riders' badge' appeared in SOLDIER February 10, 1986.

Apparently the Earl of Hardwicke made a point of wearing a Rough Rider forage cap whenever appropriate and it is possible he may have procured an issue of these for his men.

However, the forage cap described by Mr Smith does not correspond with the Rough

Battery, of which the Earl of Hardwicke was the first Officer Commanding.

Rider forage cap at that time, which had no green panel.

I feel that 283 Battery when

serving in Malta may well have

been part of a regiment and it is possible that that is the 308 Regiment referred to by Mr Smith. — R J B Gentry, Major and Curator of the Museum, 68 Inns of Court and City, Yeomanry, Signal Squadron (V), 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London.

HOAY prize for Marchwood

Latest winner of SOLDIER's HOAY competition is Mrs S A Souter, Station QM Department, A Block, McMillen Barracks, Marchwood, Hants. A cheque for £50 will be going to Mrs Souter, whose entry in competition 408 was first out of the hat. You can enter the next competition on Page 39.

Yorks and Lancs not forgotten

Your recent article headed "Death of a Regiment" brought back very sharp memories, for after serving in the RA for six years, we were posted to the 1 Bn Yorks and Lancs, just in time for Sicily and Anzio.

For an artillery man to be posted to the infantry was quite something, having to march instead of ride and having to cope with a long bayonet and bugles instead of whistles, and to wear that stupid tiger in our hats, instead of the cannon or grenade!

I served with the Yorks and Lancs till discharged disabled in 1945 and even now when asked I always straight away say: "I was with the 1 Bn Yorks and Lancs" and not the RA. — G E Jagger 866666, ex-11 County of London KRR; 61st Royal Artillery; 1 Batt B Company, 1 Yorks and Lancs; Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Battle honours

I would like to comment on Graham Smith's article (SOLDIER, 23 March) on the York and Lancaster Regiment, in which he states that the regiment won more battle honours than any other in the First World War.

Many regiments were granted more battle honours than the 59 awarded to the Yorks and Lancs — The Royal Scots, The Queens, Royal Welch Fusiliers, East Surreys, The Welch Regt, Somerset Light Infantry, South Wales Borders and the Worcestershire to name but a few. — N Anthony, 9 Coronation Road, Garnant, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 1LY.

New breed of dispatch riders

I found the excellent article by Mervyn Wynne Jones about the history of the Army dispatch rider (SOLDIER, February 23) both interesting and enlightening, as I am sure many other readers did.

As was stated, few may have noticed the passing of dispatch riding as a trade when it officially ceased in October 1962. Similarly, few will have noticed that the Royal Engineers (Postal and Courier Services) have been operating motor cycle dispatch riders for a number of years now. RE Postal and Courier Operators on two wheels may be found at all formation headquarters in 1 (BR) Corps as part of the Rapid Response Courier Service (RRCS) provided, using both motor cycles and Land-Rovers.

The roots of motor cycle dispatch riders lie with the sappers and the service flourished with the Royal Signals from 1920. A full circle has turned and once again the sappers maintain the traditions of the Army dispatch rider. — Maj G J Meacher, 13 Postal and Courier Sqn, RE, BFPO 106.

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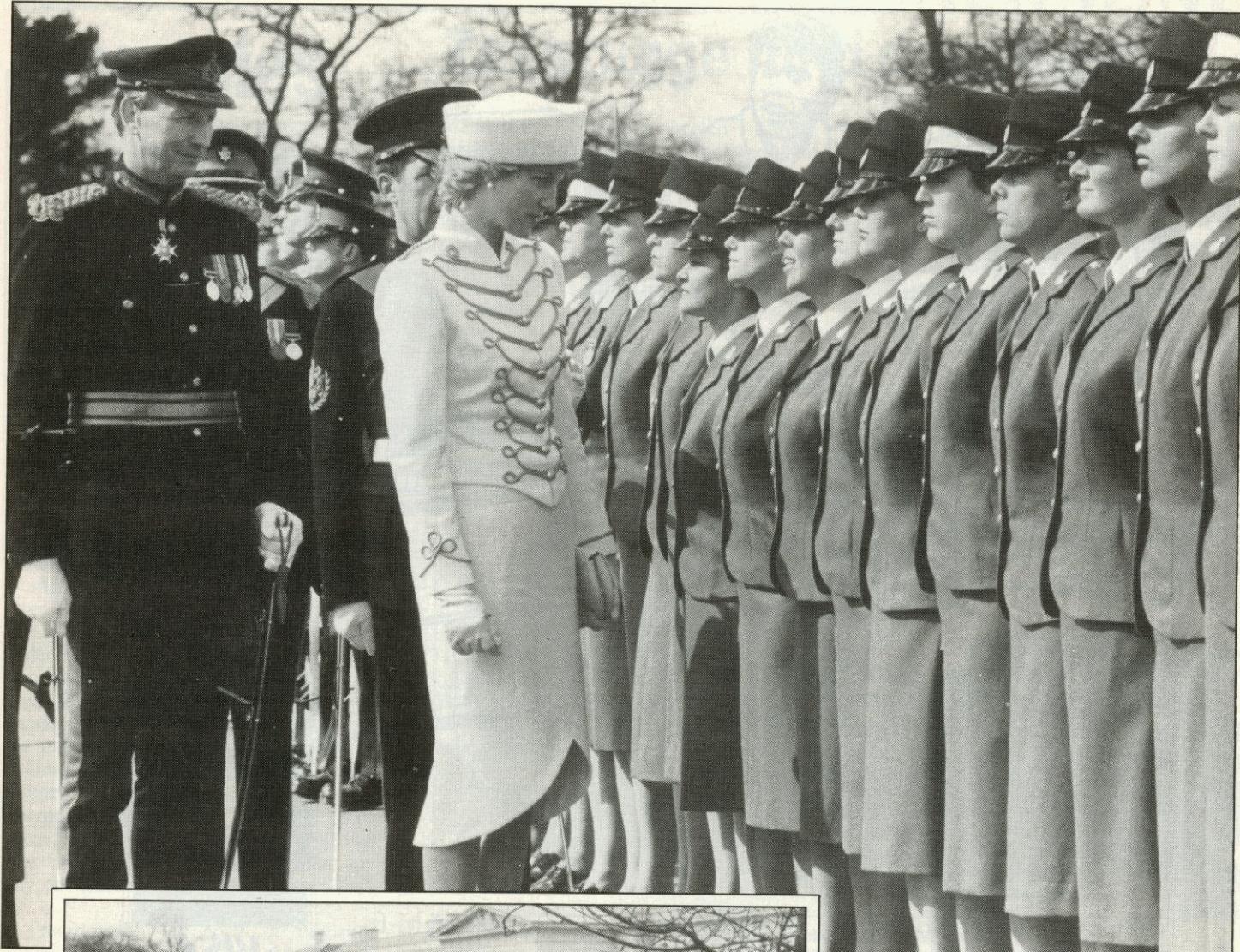
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Above — Accompanied by Royal Military Academy commandant Maj Gen Richard Keightley, the Princess of Wales reviews the cadets on parade

Parade of sovereigns

ATTENDED by two kings, three queens, four princes and eight princesses, the 93rd Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade took on a distinctly regal air. Watching as the Princess of Wales reviewed those on parade were members of the Jordanian, Greek, Spanish and Danish royal families.

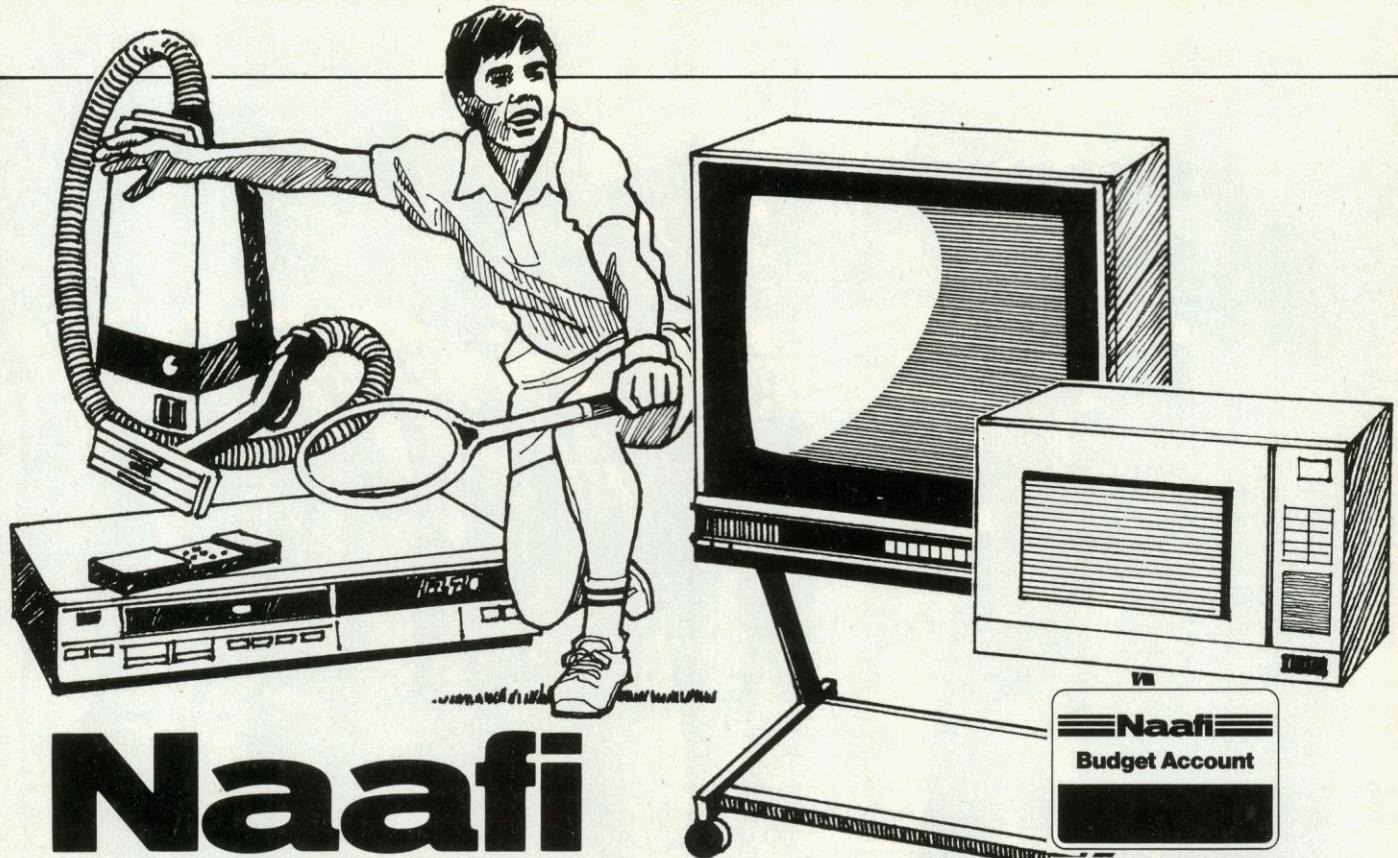
Among the 600-plus Student Officers and Officer Cadets — of whom some 400 were awarded their commissions — were Princess Aisha, daughter of former Sandhurst graduate King Hussein of Jordan, and Prince Pavlos, son of King Constantine of Greece.

Prince Pavlos is joining the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Princess Aisha will read a degree in politics, philosophy and economics at a British university before returning to Jordan where she hopes to form a women's army unit.

Left — In the grounds of the academy the Princess plants an oak tree to commemorate her visit



Pictures: Terry Champion



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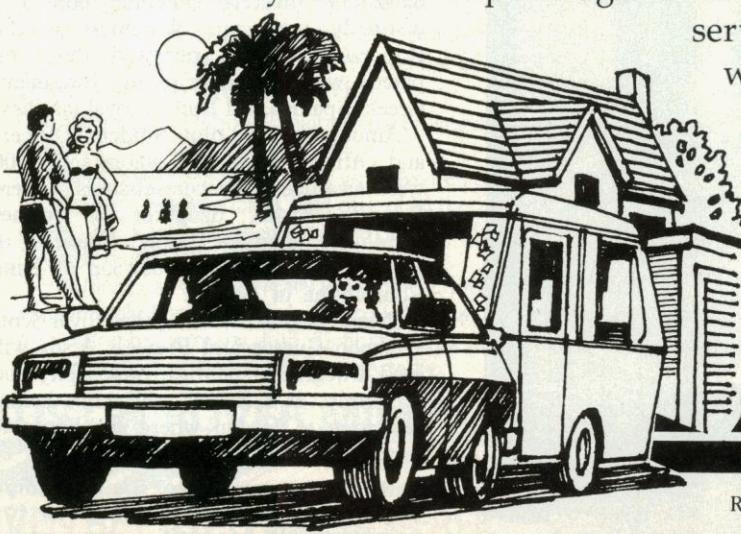
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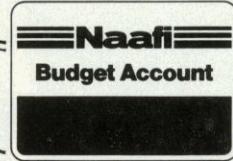
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New rules to benefit TA jobless

UNEMPLOYED members of the Territorial Army will be able to receive pay for up to 16 drill nights a year - about £50 - without loss of employment benefit.

New regulations announced by Mr Nicholas Lyell, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, have removed the anomaly that an unemployed volunteer can lose a day's unemployment benefit (worth £5.15 to the single man or woman, £8.30 to the married) as a result of attending a drill night for which he or she receives about £3 net.

Mr Lyell told Parliament that the new regulations, which came into effect on April 28, meant that the annual bounty would no longer be regarded as earnings for unemployment benefit purposes.

Until April 28 all TA pay and annual bounty had been treated as earnings for unemployment benefit purposes. The catch for unemployed TA personnel was that the benefit was not payable for any day on which a person earned more than £2.

Traditionally, the north of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which have the main unemployment problem, provide a large proportion of the Territorial Army. For example, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland and County Durham provide nearly twice as many soldiers to the TA as does the more heavily populated South East.

Scots keep their link with Berlin

THE Scots have maintained their link with Berlin despite a changeover of regiments.

The 1st Bn, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) moved from Edinburgh to Berlin, their Colours flown over in a Hercules transport aircraft.

The Black Watch, the senior Highland regiment, replaced the 1st Bn, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, who immediately took over the guard of Edinburgh Castle from the 2nd Bn, 52nd Lowland Volunteers (TA).

The regiment had completed a two-year stint in Berlin and was last in Edinburgh at Clinton Barracks in 1979.

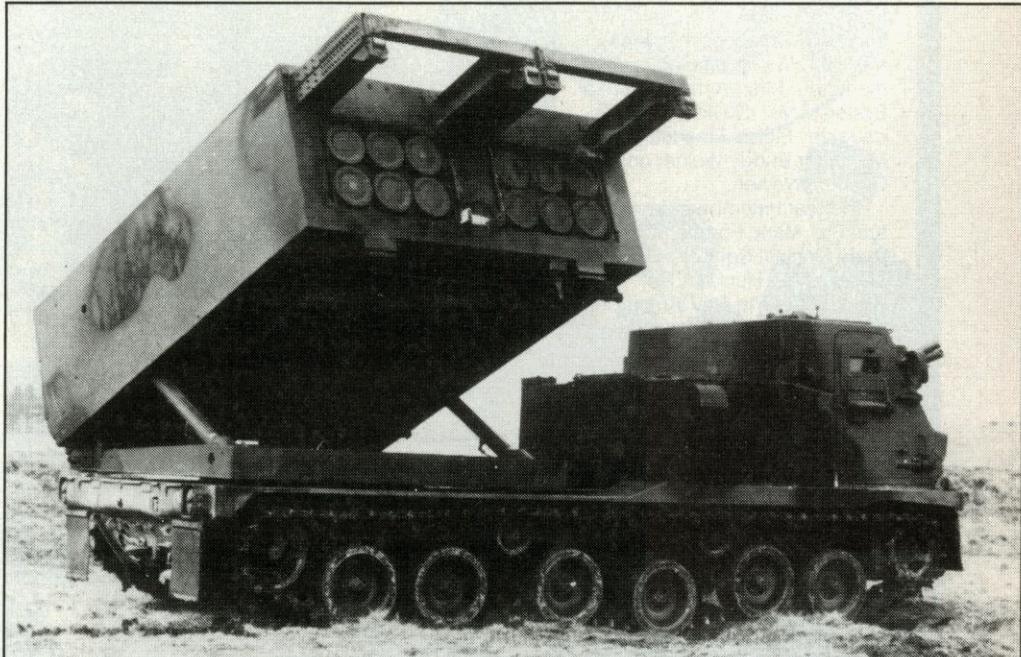
Zeebrugge fund donations

MEMBERS of the Armed Forces worldwide are able to make donations to the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster Fund directly over the counter at post offices using standard Girobank Transcash forms and quoting the account number "Freepay 2275".

The Forces' account has been opened by 227 Signals Sqn which is circulating all

BFPOs with posters carrying the account number and forms for organising sponsored events.

Any funds raised will be passed to the Lord Mayor of Dover's Appeal. The money will not be used specifically for Service personnel although a number of Servicemen and relatives were among the victims.



The Army's new Multiple Launch Rocket System which will replace tracked guns of the 1st (BR) Corps in BAOR

MLRS fired at Otterburn

THE Army has fired the Multiple Launch Rocket System for the first time on Otterburn ranges. It is buying 71 MLRS in a deal worth more than £600 million. The system can deliver 2½ tons of high explosive to one square kilometre in ten seconds, or 12 rockets - each carries 644

anti-tank bomblets - over 30 kms.

The Ministry of Defence has also announced an order for a further 16 Lynx helicopters for the Army Air Corps as part of a £300,000 million deal with the Westland Helicopter Company involving the Anglo-Italian EH101 project.

Skins mark Oates's death

EVERY year men of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards honour the memory of their most celebrated son, Capt Lawrence Oates, the man who made the supreme self-sacrifice on Capt Scott's ill-fated Polar trek of 1912.

The regiment usually recalls the event on the Sunday nearest to that of Oates's

death but this year it had to be changed because of a visit by their Colonel-in-Chief, The Prince of Wales, and an exercise commitment in Soltau.

Instead of the customary church parade, the regiment staged a weekday commemoration. Oates was, in fact, an officer in the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons.

Leicester TA centre opens

A new TA centre has opened at Glen Parva, Leicester to house four TA units, two ACF units and an ATC squadron.

The four TA units will be 46 Signals Sqn, R Sigs; 118 Recovery Coy, REME; Leicester Platoon, 16 (Lincoln) Coy, The

Parachute Regt; and HQ B Sqn, 9/12 Lancers. The new centre was opened by Col Andy Martin, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Each unit will have its own specialised offices, training areas, lecture rooms, garages, workshops and stores.

Oliver Emanuel, son of royal wedding dress designers David and Elizabeth, spent his ninth birthday in style as a guest of the Red Devils parachute display team.

An avid observer of the team in training, young Oliver was given a flight in the Red Devils' Norman Britten Islander where he sat in the cockpit beside team commander Capt Mickey Munn.

Oliver is pictured kneeling in front of the team and behind them are, from left, Mr Bill Dobie, managing director of team sponsors Coloroll, Mrs Elizabeth Emanuel, her mother Mrs Betty Weiner, their business manager Mrs Anne Theresa Eyston, Mr David Emanuel, daughter Eloise Emanuel, Capt Munn, Mr Buddy Weiner and Mr Charles Weiner.

The team members, from left, are Pte Mark Forbes, Col Sgt Andy Sinclair, Sgt Keith Hopper, LCpl Zip Hunt, LCpl Joe Willoughby, Pte Ray Armstrong and Pte Ian Barraclough.

Frilling time for royal dress designers!



THE RED DEVILS AND OLIVER: birthday treat for a young fan



THERE'S nothing like a get-together to cement tentative relationships... The 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, the naval air station HMS Seahawk, Culdrose, and the Trevera Male Voice Choir did just this with a concert

to raise funds for a memorial to naval airmen who have died in the past ten years.

The concert, voted a huge success, has paved the way for closer links between the "Tankies" and the "Andrew" who have

now accepted an invite to the RAC Centre, Bovington.

■ Capt Terry Nolan presents choirmaster Edward Goldsmith with a regimental plaque, flanked by Lt Mike Lynch and Able Seaman Sweet.

Tactics put Richard top of the class

Back at his unit now and the proud possessor of a pair of military binoculars, is Lt Richard Jefferies who beat 90 other subalterns to come top of the platoon commanders' battle course at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

He collected his prize when the commandant of the school, Brig H M Rose, visited his unit, the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, at Sennelager.

The 16-week course includes nine weeks of intensive tactics training, which, said Richard, "I enjoyed most of all." As commander of 7 Platoon in B Coy, the "bins" will come in handy, too.

RTR and Navy strike a cordial note



Thrift bonus for Scouts and Guides

Living up to its name, the Berlin thrift shop collected DM2,000 and then split it two ways with the Berlin British Guides and Scouts.

A gift welcomed by the youngsters, the cash came from the 10 per cent commission taken on each item sold.

Claire Powell, chairman of the Berlin Thrift shop committee, hands DM1,000 to Lesley Werb (left), divisional commissioner, Berlin British Guides and DM1,000 to Janet Hall, district commissioner, Berlin Scouts. Also pictured are Val Kent (far left), former manageress of the shop and Elaine Gilfellon who took on the job at Easter.

KIDS SING A SONG FOR SSAFA

THESE young music-makers from King Richard School, Dhekelia, Cyprus, have warbled their way to winning a worldwide radio jingle competition.

Organised by SSAFA to promote their services to soldiers, sailors, airmen and families, Service schoolchildren were encouraged to write a song and sing the praises of the association.

Overall winners against some stiff opposition were the songsters from King Richard's whose song, *A Friend For Life*, was declared the best.

While the schools were delighted with their prizes – a microphone and speakers to King Richard School and record vouchers for the rest – the biggest thrill is that their jingles have been professionally recorded by well-known TV and recording star Maggie Moone with some of the children themselves singing backing vocals for broadcasting on the BFBS worldwide network.

Other prizewinners were St John's School, Episkopi, Sir John Mogg School, Detmold, and Trenchard School, RAF Gutersloh.



JINGLE CHAMPS: King Richard School, Dhekelia and Maggie Moone

PEOPLE

Tie up with a memory

The bigger the order the cheaper the price . . . that goes for ties, too, as Capt Charles James, RAEC, found out when he went to order 30 for wartime veterans of the 15th Scottish Division. To get costs down he wants to hear from past members of that unit who would be interested in buying a memory of those wartime years. "The more we get, the cheaper the ties," he says. His address is: 27 AEC, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.



Regimental return

AFTER 24 years and three million miles the BR Deltic loco which carried this nameplate has been retired. But the gleaming brass plaque has been handed to the PWO regimental museum in York for safe keeping and regular polishing. It was received there by Maj Gen Anthony Crowfoot, colonel of the regiment (front right) from Mr David Rayner,

BR's Eastern Region manager (left), with Lt Col Bill Harris (centre). Present at the handover were Brig Malcolm Cubiss, Retd, now regimental secretary, and former junior drummer Rob Bradley, now RSM of 2 Yorkshire Volunteers in York. They were among those who saw the locomotive nameplate unveiled at York Station in 1963.

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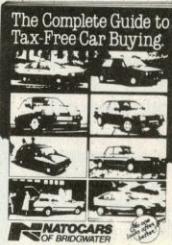
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FEPOWs urged to take tropical disease tests

Veterans of the Far East war (better known as FEPOWs among their comrades) are still paying a high price for their sacrifice 40 years ago. But help is available to them in one particular aspect of their suffering.

Many of the 37,000 British prisoners released from captivity in the Far East were riddled with tropical diseases. More than 40 years later many may still be harbouring residual diseases within their bodies, according to Col DB Long,

Wanted: a 3in mortar

The REME Museum at Arborfield near Reading needs your help. Its curator is seeking an authentic three-inch mortar for a tableau he is planning. It will show an Aden armourer in action in a desert setting.

The corps museum, on its present site since 1985, was started in 1958 (the corps marks its 45th anniversary this October) and, like Topsy has grown and grown.

The main museum is in a new building at Arborfield where the smaller exhibits are housed – photos, models and documents – and a number of life-size tableaux and large model dioramas help to show the many-sided and worldwide employment of REME soldiers.

And the three-inch mortar? Man most pleased to hear about its acquisition, on a gratis basis, would be assistant curator Mr Brian Baxter, 30 years himself in the corps.

Views expressed in *SOLDIER* are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

SOLDIER to Soldier



Does anyone know what happened to the wagon (illustrated above) which Lord Roberts used as his mobile headquarters in South Africa during the Boer War. If so could they please let Brian Jewell, The Broadwater Collection, Broadwater Court, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5PE know. He has been researching the vehicles of the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Waggon Company, who built Lord Robert's wagon, and has been unable to discover its fate, apart from the fact that it was displayed in Gloucester after the war.

chairman of the Lancashire North War Pensions Committee.

The most common disease found in FEPOWs is a worm infestation known as *Strongyliodes stercoralis* which is symptomless but gives rise to skin rashes periodically.

It can be detected and cured within three days during the

course of a tropical disease investigation which can be conducted at six different centres – four of which are MoD hospitals. Admission is usually for five days at the most.

Investigations are arranged by the War Pensions Branch of the DHSS who will pay all travelling and necessary ex-

penses. Usually three or four FEPOWs are admitted at the same time and the atmosphere is quite informal.

Any FEPOW who has not undergone a tropical disease investigation is urged to ring Col Long on 0524 62187 or write to him at 5 St Mary's Parade, The Castle Precinct, Lancaster LA1 1YX.

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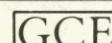
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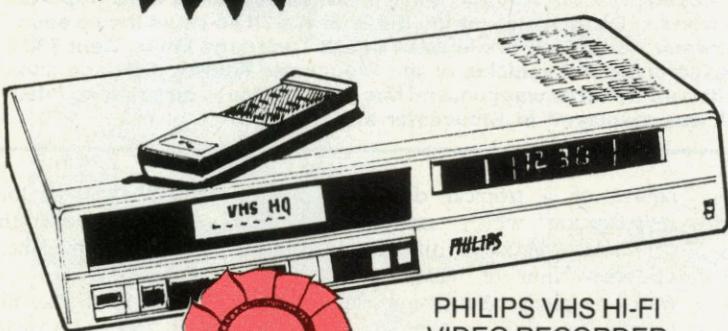
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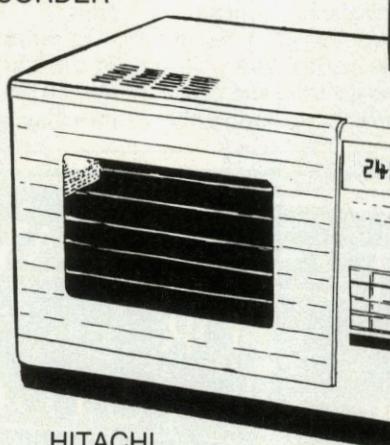


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Inside Dover's secret bunker

A "missing link" in the history of wartime Dover and the defence of the UK will, in three years time, be revealed for all to see.

Carved into the famous white cliffs of this historic Channel port are nearly three miles of tunnels which, until recently, were still on the Government's secret list.

Now they have been handed over to English Heritage, which administers the castle overlooking the town, and which plans to turn the wartime bunker into a museum. Opening day is expected to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 1990.

It was in these tunnels that Sir Winston Churchill made some of his most important decisions of the war, and until last year the place was designated a regional seat of Government in the event of a nuclear war.

But now the wraps are off the fortress beneath the 900-year-old castle and its secrets, dating from Napoleonic times, revealed.

Tunnelling started there in the early 1800s to guard against invasion by Napoleon. They were big and deep enough to house a large garrison and weapons.

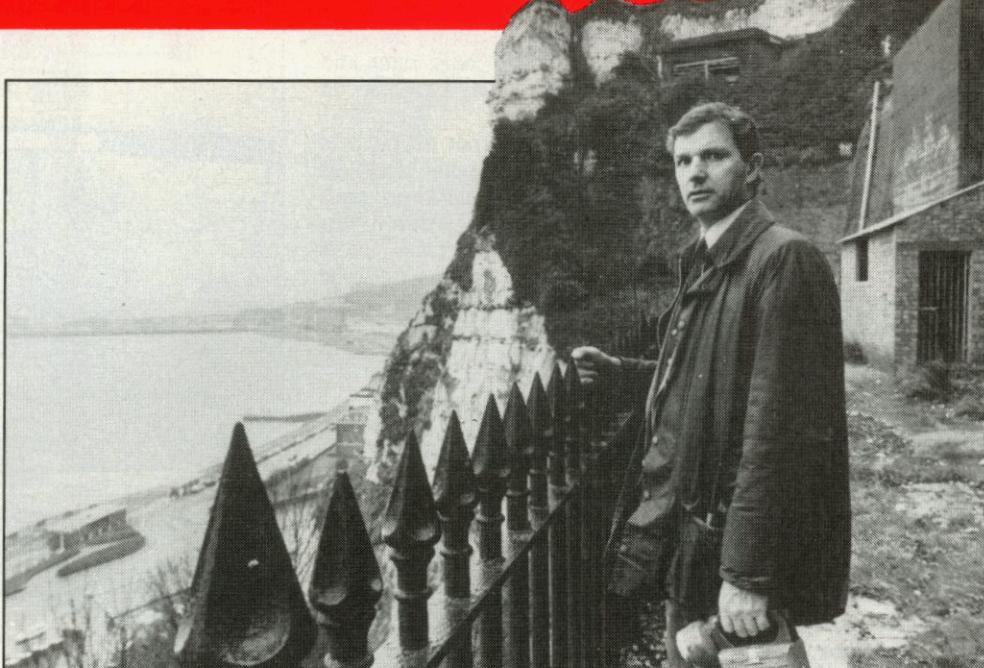
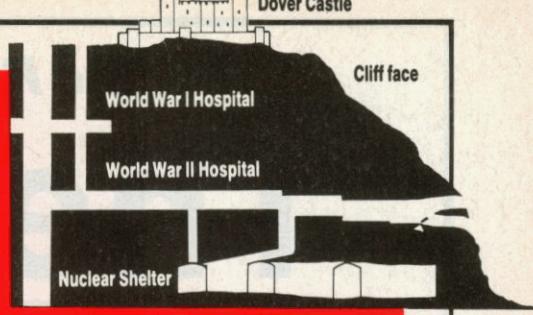
In the First World War huge guns were installed and a 500-bed hospital built to accommodate injured from the trenches.

Relics of those days are still to be seen as are those of the last war when Level 2 became the nerve centre for the Dunkirk evacuation and later the invasion of Europe in 1944.

Beneath that lies a broadcasting studio, and for the last 30 years, the emergency seat of Government for south east England.

Now it has all been handed over to English

The three-level layout of Britain's front-line wartime bunker inside the white cliffs of Dover, topped by the town's ancient castle



A cliff-face balcony. Mr Ken Scott looks out from a site where Churchill and military chiefs watched aircraft dogfights and Channel battles



Back to 1940... Mr Ken Scott, general manager of Dover Castle, pictured inside one of the steel-lined caverns in the bunker beneath the famous white cliffs

Heritage, the body which looks after hundreds of England's castles. They have added the Dover labyrinth to their list and look to it as a future moneyspinner for their

hard-pressed coffers.

Manager Ken Scott has said: "It is potentially a tourist goldmine. Decisions made inside these walls were crucial to the history of the world. Each of the

floors could be turned into a different time capsule.

"Now we have a piece of missing history that can be easily displayed."

by John Margetts

For the Royal Engineers Junior Leaders, it's . . .

The unkindest cut

IF there are two things the young soldiers at Old Park Barracks, Dover, don't like it's the old-fashioned Army haircut and week 13.

"None of them like the feel of the clippers going up the back of the neck," said 67-year-old Bert Turner, who has been cutting soldiers' hair for the past 43 years and is still practising his skill on the 16-year-old lads of the Royal Engineers Junior Leaders' Regiment.

"And none of them look forward to week 13 which means seven days on Dartmoor to see how they cope with the elements after three months of basic training," said Maj John Quin, OC 82 Sqn, UXB expert and SOLDIER rugby correspondent.

But even though the lads live rough on the Moor for a week, nothing is left to chance so far as their safety is concerned.

"Safety is our No.1 priority with these lads," said Maj Quin. "But that doesn't mean we have to be 'wet' about the exercise as they have to put into practice what they have learned over the past 12 weeks.

"It is such times as this the leaders start to emerge and, since we are dealing with the future NCOs and possibly officers of the Royal Engineers, we take careful note as to how they behave and react.

"It's not easy being a Junior Leader as most of the boys have come straight from school and find adapting to Army life somewhat hard.

"But all, except for around 10-15 per cent of our 750 entrants a year, stay on for the three-term course and join the Army proper."

Referring to recent allegations of bullying at another Kent camp for junior soldiers, Maj Quin was empathetic in his belief there was nothing of that nature going on in Old Park Barracks and certainly not within his own squadron.

"We monitor that sort of thing very closely," he said. "We go to great lengths to reassure parents and boys on this point."

"About a month before the boys actually arrive, we meet the parents of the new intake.

"It's obvious they are worried about this sort of thing, but few, if any raise the question. So I raise it for them. Their concern shows on their faces and it is only right and proper that I allay their fears on this score.

"Bullying is not tolerated in any way and should it be discovered in any form swift action is taken to stamp it out.

"But I haven't come across anything like that here," he said. And a number of boys, although pressed, denied any knowledge of bullying.

If anything it was the other way round, with the lads of 82 Sqn expressing their admiration for outgoing instructor Sgt David Croll by presenting him with a silver tray and goblets.

Their admiration was heightened when he promised to return from Germany to see them pass out "in a proper manner".

But life is tough for the young soldiers, with their day starting at 6am, although that's the earliest they are called because they are so young. And it's lights out around 10pm. "But in that time their feet hardly touch the ground," said Maj Quin.

"They're kept busy throughout the day until they get to week 13 and then it hardly stops for the rest of the year-long course."

"It's all go," said SSM Denis Payton. "But we know the system works and the boys will prove it for us by showing how much they have learned over the past 12 weeks when we get to Dartmoor."

If ever the lads need proof the system works they have only to go to Lt Col Paul Scoble, the regimental quartermaster, who was a one-time boy apprentice at Arborfield. He left there in '52 to join 9 Para Sqn in the Canal Zone and was involved with Suez in 1956.

Like one or two other permanent staff at the camp he is living proof there is room at the top for boy soldiers.

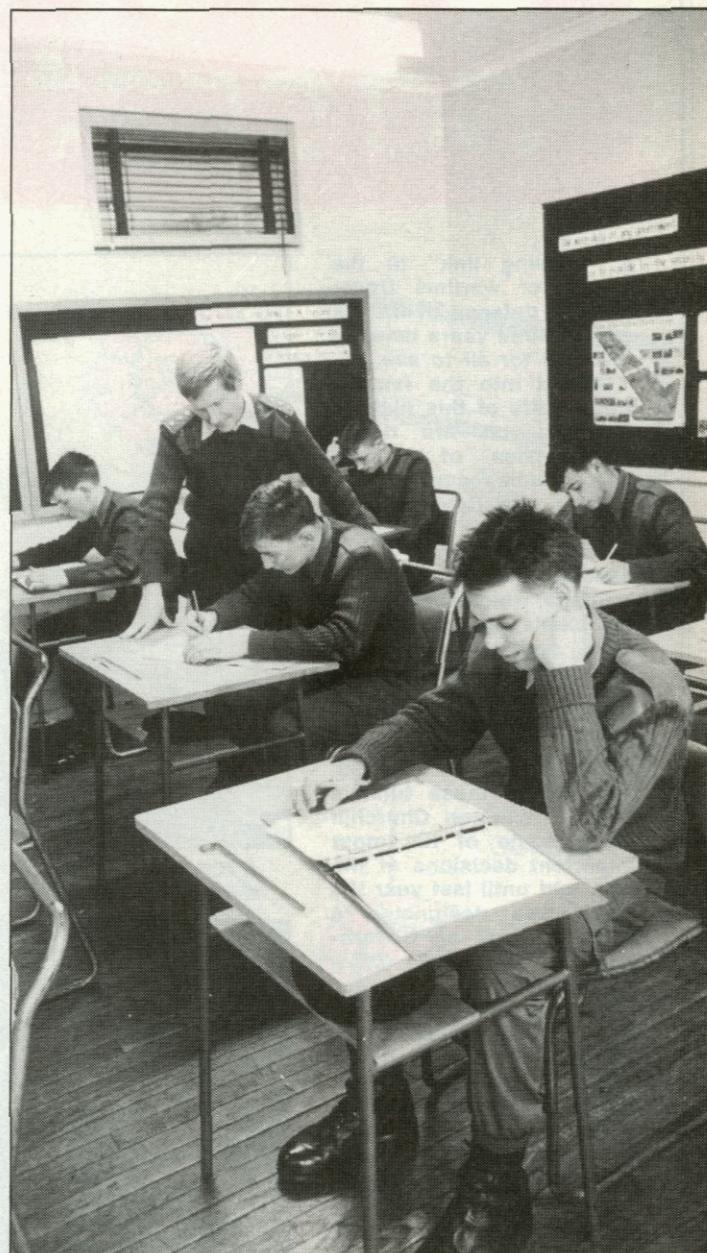
But they have to work to get there and Capt Martin Rose, an ex-Royal Navy lieutenant and one-time teacher, is one of a

team helping them attain the necessary educational qualifications to reach that goal. Subjects such as the Army and the contemporary world, English, maths and many other lessons are all part of the syllabus to bring these lads up to the level required.

"For a lot of them it's like starting where they stopped



BERT TURNER: old-fashioned Army haircuts for young recruits



CAPT MARTIN ROSE: ex-Royal Navy, now steering young soldiers on course



STORE KEEPER DANNY MOORE, LT COL PAUL SCOBIE: webbing issue for five youngsters with ambitions and high hopes

... and week 13 isn't much better!

when they left school - which for most is not long ago," he said. "It's all a bit of a challenge."

But it's a challenge which pays quite well. Between £160 and £220 a month cash in hand. There's not a great deal to pay out of that except for haircuts which cost £5 a term, and for that sum they can have as many

as they like.

Said ex-sapper and now

**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Terry Champion**

regimental barber Bert Turner: "None of the lads like the clippers up the back of the

neck. Sometimes I get tears as I trim those with extra long hair. But it soon grows again and they quickly get over it. But there have been times when I've cut a lad's hair, the instructor didn't think it short enough and back he's come for another trim."

But as Bert said, recovery of hair length - which is trimmed

Army style not only as a tradition, but for hygiene, too - and morale is swift and, as millions of ex-Servicemen can testify, has no lasting effect.

Unlike Bert Turner's clippers, the padre hopes that his words and advice have a more lasting quality than that of a near-shorn scalp.

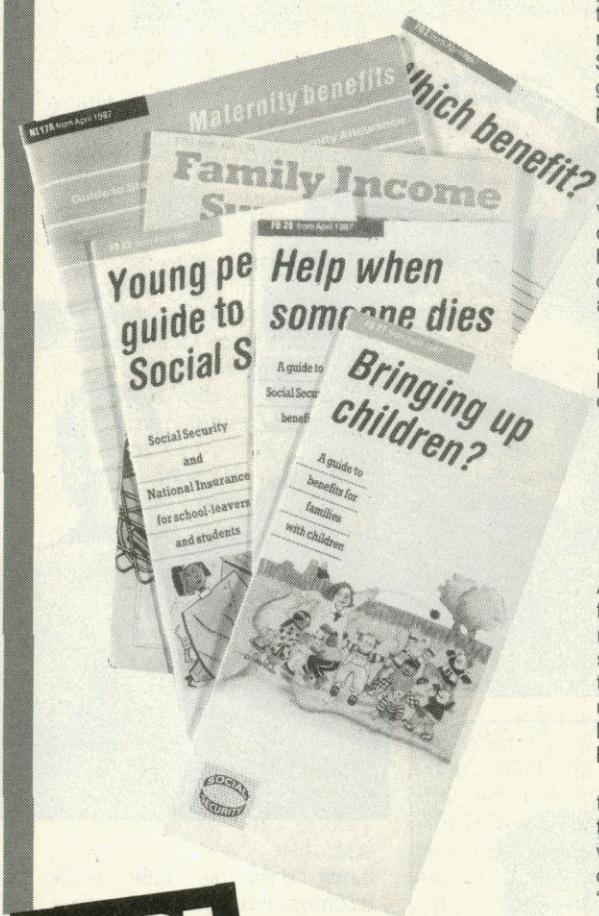
To this end church parades are compulsory. "There's no choice, even for the permanent staff," said Maj Quin. "And while it may be hard to believe, the weekly padre's hour, which is also compulsory, is extremely popular. It really is tops with the lads."

As usual in a military environment, sport comes high on the list, with three sessions a week plus hobby sessions offering a choice of 48 different pastimes and activities.

And just to keep the boys busy outside the base, 82 Sqn are planning a trip to France in the summer to repair a war memorial.

"It'll not only keep the lads busy, but provide them with some good sapper training," said Maj Quin. "And that can't be bad."

HOW TO GET DOLE MONEY ABROAD



INSIDE LINE

A WORD of warning to those wives of Servicemen who do not hold a British Passport, are not EEC nationals and do not hold an EEC resident's permit and who are considering making a claim under the EEC reciprocal agreement for unemployment benefit.

Even those who have been receiving unemployment benefit in the UK, or intend making a claim, cannot, unless they hold one of the above, be entitled to benefit under EEC rules.

This means, for example, that those wives who are American, Canadian, Filipino, Malay, Chinese or Australian, will not be able to claim.

But to make absolutely sure, write to Home Office Immigration, Lunar House, Wellesley Road, Croydon, Surrey. For those in the UK, ring the new DHSS freephone hot-line on 0800 666 555 for details.

IT'S a wise man, or woman, who knows his or her rights and entitlements... Did you know, for example, that a Service family receiving Family Income Supplement (FIS) can still get this money when posted abroad?

Faced with this question from an inquiring Service wife, a unit paymaster couldn't tell her whether her FIS entitlement would continue on posting abroad and rang me.

The rules are: those in receipt of FIS before a posting are eligible for continued benefit plus 23p

a day for each child below the age of five years one month.

This is paid into the husband's bank account and is in lieu of the free milk tokens payable in the UK. See your unit paymaster about payment.

And FIS may be claimed by families whose total weekly income is less than £88.80 plus the child allowances listed below.

For example, a family with one child aged eight and another at 14, will be able to get FIS if their total weekly income is less than £113.65 (£88.80 plus £11.95 for the child under

11 and £12.95 for the 14-year-old). The allowance for each child over 16 is £14 a week.

Remember, total income is defined as the combined gross income of husband and wife, excluding child benefit, children's income, boarding or day school allowance, local overseas or kit upkeep allowance, overseas rent allowance and rent and rates rebates. None of these count as income.

And a further point to note is that FIS is a non-taxable benefit. Full details in DHSS leaflet FIS 1, April '87.

Pitfalls loom with 12-year posts

A Service wife who worked for seven years in Germany and paid German social security contributions, has been refused unemployment pay by the DHSS now she is back in England.

Her bid for money was turned down because, due to the length of time she was out of the UK they couldn't consider her to be "habitually resident" here.

In addition they said her "centre of interest" was in Germany and therefore her German insurance contributions couldn't be used to provide her with British unemployment benefit.

All true and to the point, but their reply raises the

issue that, if Service wives are going to be penalised in this fashion because of the number of years they spend outside the UK, untold problems are in the offing as some units stay overseas for up to 12 years.

Time to shine the light on wives IN MY VIEW

THE FIRST two major changes in the new Social Security Act concern maternity and funeral benefits and will hit hard at many Service families overseas. For some the changes will mean loss of benefits immediately.

With the introduction of Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP), I can foresee many mothers-to-be being declared ineligible to claim SMP and possibly find themselves unable to meet the criteria to claim DHSS

maternity allowance and finish up by applying to the MoD for an ex-gratia payment.

Twelve years have passed since I was first alerted to the problems of claiming the then Family Allowance... now, no sooner do we overcome one problem then new ones come to the surface.

If the Government can look at minority groups such as marine fishermen, political refugees and frontier workers and grant them special legislation – the latest is the Voluntary Service Organisation (VSO) whose members have been granted the right to pay special Class 1 NI contributions to retain

ALL their benefits intact when working overseas – surely the Government should start looking at the plight facing Servicemen's wives.

It's time they decided to help the wives of Servicemen who accompany their husbands and clarify their position in the complicated world of the EEC and other countries.

For a family to lose the income of a working wife because of a posting, plus the possibility of no unemployment benefit, now standing at £31.45 up to £39.50 a week; no SMP (the higher rate is 90 per cent of average earnings and the lower rate £32.85), alternatively, if they are ineligible for this, they can apply for maternity allowance of £30.05.

To lose these amounts will cause hardship.

Click for a prize

submit pictures of Service family life.

Imagination, flair and some technical skill are needed, but give it a go and send your entries to Public Information, HQ UKLF, Erskine Barracks, Salisbury, Wilts, by September 30.

Entries should be captioned with the date the photograph was taken, home address and daytime telephone number.

Special forms for this, which are available from units, should be attached to the reverse of photos.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

ALL CHANGE

THE maternity allowance will change on June 21 and so will its name. As from then it will be called Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and be paid by employers to women who have worked for them for at least six months. The main changes are:

- Women who have worked for the same employer for between six months and two years will get 18 weeks at £32.85. But women who have worked for at least two years will get a higher payment for the first six weeks — 90 per cent of their average earnings.
- Women can choose to give up work and receive SMP from any time between the start of the eleventh and sixth week before their baby is due.
- Women who do not qualify for SMP because they are self-employed or have recently changed jobs may still be able to get maternity allowance of £30.05 per week for 18 weeks from DHSS.
- Introduction of a new maternity payment of £80 from the Social Fund to low-income families receiving supplementary benefit or family income supplement instead of the £25 universal maternity grant and supplementary benefit single payments for maternity.
- Abolition of the universal £25 maternity grant which has not been uprated since 1969.

Expectant mothers should claim SMP on DHSS forms MA1 and enclose MAT B1. Those overseas can get the forms from SSAFA sisters. Full details are available in DHSS leaflets NI 17A and FB 8 April '87 *Babies and Benefits*.



LCPL FIONA GRACIE, QARANC, AND MUMS-TO-BE: big changes coming

Know what to do

THE first changes in the 1987 Social Security Act came into force on April 6 with the abolition of the £25 £25 maternity grant. After that date women who are receiving Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement (FIS) will be able to claim the new grant

of £80 paid from the new Social Fund.

There are Service families receiving FIS and they, and anyone else who might at some stage be receiving FIS, must follow the rules laid down in DHSS leaflets NI 17A *Maternity Benefits*, and

Babies and Benefits FB 8 which is a guide to benefits for expectant and new mothers.

This leaflet has a check list which explains exactly what to do.

Overseas: SSAFA sisters will hold the claim forms SF100 and MAT B1.

Pay up to keep your benefits

April 6 saw National Insurance rates change: wives overseas and unemployed can pay Class 2 contributions to keep benefits intact except for unemployment benefit which is excluded.

The same applies to wives in work but earning insufficient to pay Class 1 contributions.

For the self-employed, Class 2 rates are now £3.85 a week (see DHSS leaflet NI 27A — *People with small earnings from self-employment*).

Class 3 contributions, which are now £3.75, keep the State pension intact.

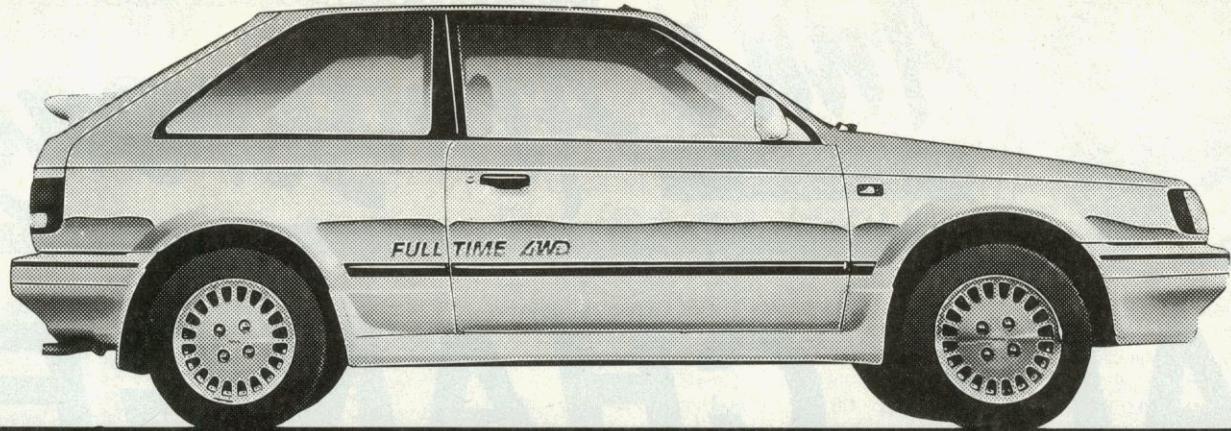
More increases... child benefit is now £7.25 and the one-parent payment £4.70.

The eventual retirement pension of those receiving child benefit is safeguarded by the Home Responsibilities Protection, but this does not cover sickness benefit, maternity allowance or the soon-to-be introduced SMP. Class 2 contributions must be paid to retain this record.

MONEY-SAVER

Holiday time is approaching so read DHSS leaflet SA30 on medical costs abroad. It could be a money saver as DHSS insurance is free.

For those visiting or driving to a new posting in one of the countries listed in the leaflet, complete the leaflet attached to the form stating it is required for a year. DHSS will then issue form E111 which should be carried at all times when travelling abroad.



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Heroes of *cannibal island*

Royal Army Medical College

Assistant Surgeon Campbell Douglas stands in the bows as Pts Bell, Cooper, Griffiths and Murphy row through pounding surf to the rescue of colleagues threatened by cannibals

THE BOLD rescue of 17 officers and men from cannibals through dangerous surf in a small boat exactly 120 years ago resulted in the award of the five most unusual VCs ever.

This adventure in the Indian Ocean off the Little Andaman Island involved five men – three of them Irish-born – from the 2nd Battalion, the South Wales Borderers, the predecessors of today's Royal Regiment of Wales.

All were serving as part of a three-officer and 100-man detachment in the Andamans. The main battalion had been transferred to Rangoon, Burma, in the autumn of 1865.

They were to distinguish themselves on May 7, 1867.

The commander and seven crewmen of the ship *Assam Valley* were reported murdered by the flesh-eating indigenous natives. A party was sent to investigate.

At the scene of the reported massacre two boats, manned by sailors, were rowed inshore through heavy surf pounding the tropical island.

One crew waded ashore through deep water and began moving towards a rock while the second boat stayed parallel through the surging surf to keep station on their movements.

The lurking natives "let fly their arrows freely" but failed to deter the rescuers who arrived on land to find a European skull.

Ammunition nearly spent, the shore party tried to get away.

But their boat capsized and they

by
Graham Smith

were swept back to the place where they had landed. There they made the grim discovery of four more crudely buried Europeans.

Boats and rafts were launched but failed to reach the stranded men.

Assistant Surgeon Campbell Douglas, the 27-year-old MO to the 2nd Bn, and four privates – David Bell, James Cooper, William Griffiths and Thomas Murphy – volunteered to crew a gig and renew the rescue bid.

They made three attempts. The swell was high and the boat in danger of being swamped, but Surgeon Douglas handled it with "extraordinary coolness and skill".

The citation went on: "He stood in the bows of the boat and worked here in an intrepid and seamanlike manner, cool to a degree, as if what he was doing was an ordinary act of everyday life."

He was "splendidly supported" by the four men from his regiment who, in turn, showed no signs of "hesitation or uncertainty, keeping cool and collected".

Eventually, the whole of the 17-strong shore party was rescued from the "virtual certainty of being massacred and eaten by the savages".

Their bravery was brought to the attention of Sir William Mansfield, C-in-C India, who recommended that the five men should be awarded the VC.

All five were decorated by Maj Gen Faunce, GOC Pegu Division, Rangoon, on April 16, 1868.

THE GENTLE TOUCH

'Magnificent Seven' sign on to be trained in bomb disposal

IT'S a fundamental belief of many that girls and unexploded bombs just don't go together.

But seven brand-new recruits to 591 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron RE (V), intend changing the views of those who think a woman's place is anywhere but near a UXB.

The seven, all with the gentle touch so necessary when handling such death-dealing devices, answered a recruiting advertisement to join the squadron at its Greenhithe, Kent, headquarters.

"We needed to boost our numbers and it was decided to go for women volunteers," said Maj Andrew Mumford, OC of 591. "These seven answered the call - although only six of them are on parade tonight - with most of them travelling more than 50 miles to get here.

"So far as I know we are the only unit in the Army, or even Nato for that matter, training girls to be bomb disposal engineers. And we plan to recruit at least another three, giving us a ten per cent female strength."

Great news for the believers of sex equality - and it's almost impossible to get more equal than tinkering with an unexploded bomb, mine, shell, rocket or whatever. But what of the lads of 591, how do they view women as partners?

Said Sgt Franks Sels, 28 years a TA sapper: "Fine. They're all keen and willing to have a go at anything. Even to digging holes deep in the ground."

"But they'll get no favours. They will be sappers and treated the same as anyone else. When there's work to do, and there's plenty of it, they will be expected to do their share."

"And when they are trained they will be able to deal with any type of unexploded ordnance, even that of the Warsaw Pact countries."

"They will get the chance to put their training into use as

Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Terry Champion



SIX OF THE 'MAGNIFICENT SEVEN': Anything the sappers can do . . . Time will tell whether Victoria Culledge, Jane Chamberlain, Heather Wilson, Lorraine Freemantle, Anne Phipps and Diane Jarrett - plus the absent Maria Broom - can live up to and cope with OC Maj Andrew Mumford's training schedules

there is enough stuff lying around this country for 40 years' work."

"If we know of a UXB and it's in an unbuilt area, we get to work on it. They will also get involved in clearing certain areas we know of which are still

'contaminated' to this day, and have been since the war. So there's plenty for them to do."

"And we're looking forward to it," chorused the girls. "It can't come quick enough for us."

Meanwhile the "magnificent

seven" brush up their saluting, marching and drilling, before tackling the combat engineers' course followed by the theory and eventual practice of bomb disposal.

"They will be trained to the same standard as a sapper and



do the same job," said Maj Mumford. "We reckon it will be 18 months before they become really useful and an asset to the squadron and, in turn, to 33 Regt RE, of which we are a part. They will do every job until they become proficient."

But while their training programme is mapped out for



DANGER! MEN (AND WOMEN) AT WORK: Testing time for Victoria Culledge, Diane Jarrett and Anne Phipps

the next year or so, there is some confusion as to whether they are Royal Engineers or WRAC.

"It's not yet been decided," said Maj Mumford.

Like most WRAC they wear the cap badge of the corps or regiment with which they are serving, and these wear the RE badge.

"But these girls, because they are a one-off affair and being trained as bomb disposal engineers, we're hoping will be Royal Engineers proper and not WRAC wearing the corps badge."

Time alone will tell on this, but for blonde Heather Wilson, a local authority building officer, civil servant Jane Chamberlain, State Registered Nurse Victoria Culledge, student Lorraine Freemantle, lab assistant Diane Jarrett, computer operator and ex-WRAF Anne Phipps and hairdresser Maria Broom (not

on parade), it doesn't matter a jot.

For them the job is the thing: "We see no reason why a woman should be excluded from being a bomb disposal engineer," said Heather Wilson.

"There's nothing we can't do or are not willing to do. Even digging great big holes. We can always have a rest."

"And what's more," she added with spirit, "we all expect to be treated the same as the men, don't we girls?"

"Yes," came the enthusiastic response ". . . anything they can do . . ."

"That's right," agreed SSgt Sels, "their presence certainly sets up rivalry between the sexes, and it will be a feature of their training."

"But it won't count for a thing with me, they'll all be treated the same. Right, you two, bring that bomb here!"

Scots Guards go West!

THE redcoats are back in America! For the first time in more than 200 years, soldiers of the famous Scots Guards regiment are firing their weapons on American soil. Some 650 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards are taking part in the transatlantic Exercise Trumpet Dance II.

Training facilities around the massive Fort Lewis Army Base near the west coast city of Seattle offer the battalion the ability to conduct realistic live fire exercises under varying battlefield conditions ranging from arctic warfare in the nearby Cascade Mountains to desert fighting in the Yakima scrublands of Washington State.

Lt Col Julian Lancaster, CO, said: "In Britain the size of our training areas limits our ability to plan realistic field firing exercises above platoon level."

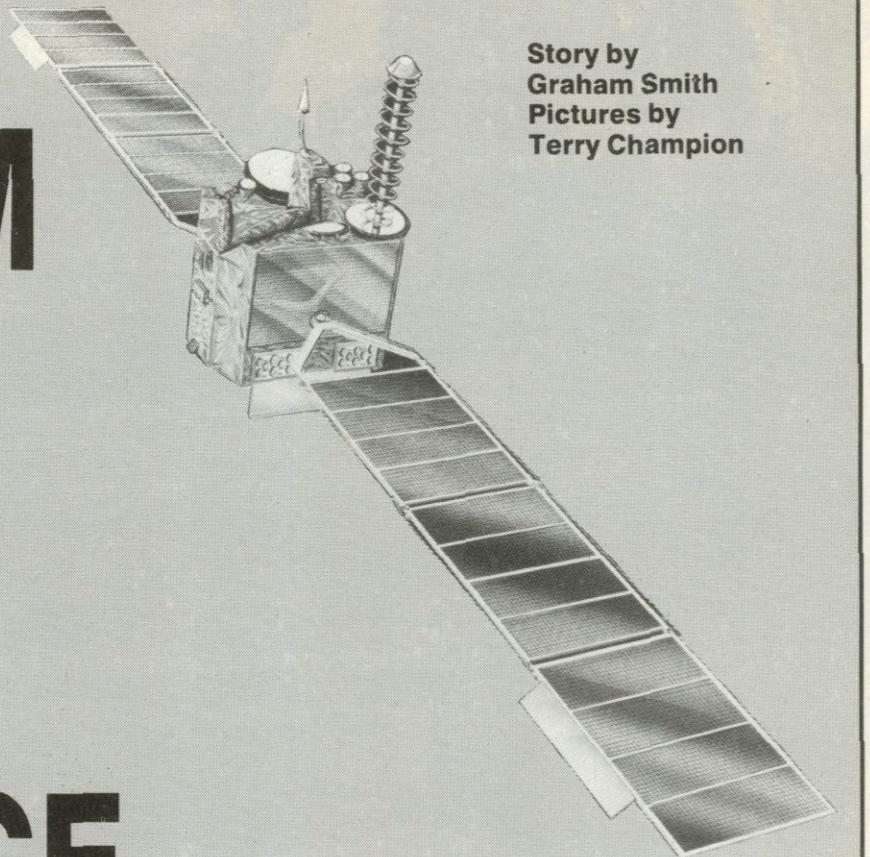
"Trumpet Dance II is a golden opportunity to progress to a very high standard of training. If we approach it with our usual enthusiasm, determination and motivation, I am sure we will benefit greatly from the exercise and have a chance to see something of America and her people."

The Scots Guards were formed in 1642 on March 16 and in the ensuing 345 years have gained battle honours in famous campaigns all over the world. In 1776 they visited America on a less cordial mission! Since then, happily, the famous Pipes and Drums of the regiment have toured the continent many times as musical ambassadors of Scotland.



LCpl Maria Lawson, a stewardess in the Scots Guards officers' mess, chats to Patrolman John Muse of the South Seattle Precinct during a tour of the city.

HOW SATCOM DISHES UP THE MESSAGE



Story by
Graham Smith
Pictures by
Terry Champion

SATELLITE communication – Satcom – within the Corps of Royal Signals should get a big lift next year with the planned launch of British Aerospace's Skynet 4 series, the satellite dedicated exclusively to British military message passing in space for the benefit of battlefield and divisional commanders.

The Blandford-based 30th Signal Regiment and its 1 Squadron have been using the dish-configured system since Christmas 1980 and the days of the Commonwealth Ceasefire

Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe. Then, a dish unit was set up behind a school used as Force HQ in Salisbury, now Harare.

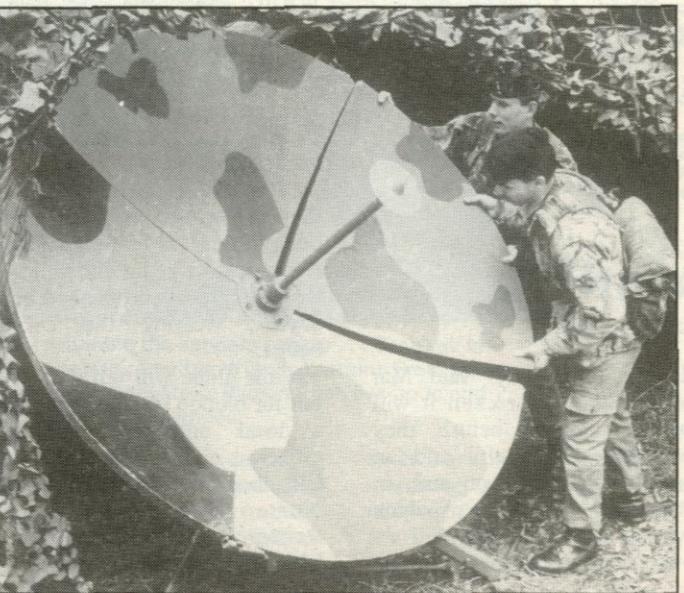
The Satcom system proved invaluable in the Falklands five years ago, providing an 8,000-mile umbilical cord of information between British commanders and the Prime Minister and her Cabinet in Whitehall.

Nowadays the 24-hour notice, go-anywhere communicators have the capability of taking their air-portable Sat-

com kit, weighing up to 4,000lbs and packed into 16 crates, to any trouble spot and setting it up for operation within the hour.

Under existing arrangements the signallers have to "book" time on satellites, nerve centre intelligence forwarding agencies hovering 22,000 miles above the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Eight-man Satcom detachments made up of an officer or a Yeoman of Signals and seven more signallers (two technicians, a combat powerman to operate the generator and four operators) are dab hands at doing their sums with the help of a compass, an elevation meter, and a special plastic overlay on an admiralty chart from which they zero in



Cpl Ted Warburton and LCpl Adrian Beale put the finishing "slice" into the air-portable Satcom dish

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unerringly on the requisite satellite.

The detachment commander is neither the officer nor the Yeoman of Signals as one might expect. He is a corporal, often a 24-year-old or so soldier upon whom the success or failure of setting up "air-time" rests fairly and squarely.

Comms have moved quickly with modern battlefield technology, somewhat dating the use of High Frequency for long distance links because there is no guarantee of reliable 24-hour service. Satcom provides not only secure voice connections but real-time telegraph or telex facilities.

Capt Don Macaulay, second in command of 30 Regiment's 1 Squadron said: "We have an out-of-Nato-area responsibility and have to provide the necessary comms to go with it. To this end we practise, for example, fairly regularly in Hong Kong.

"By the time this is being read we will have spent two weeks in the Bahamas using Satcom links, along with 5 Airborne Brigade, back to the UK, alongside HF links to Belize and then out across the Atlantic to Gibraltar."

His squadron is currently using the TSC (Transportable Satellite Communications) 502 terminal but hopes next year to acquire the improved vehicle-mounted 501 variant.

Man-pack versions with a much-reduced dish size – down to about 12 inches – are currently undergoing "activation trials" with 5 (AB) Brigade Signals Sqn, 249 (AMF(L)) Signal Sqn and 264 Signal Sqn. The system demands much less power as it bounces messages between satellites and ground stations, in this case, RAF Oakhanger, near Alton, Hants.

Capt Macaulay added: "The smaller, dish version will be invaluable to small formations such as 5 Brigade but Joint Force HQ still requires the wider facilities offered by the 502.

"At the moment only two channels are provided but this could be increased to four and include a computer management system. Satcom has the advantage of being as quick as the commander wants it to be."

He speaks from experience having done part of the Satcom experimental training as a mobile communications centre team member in a sand-flanked foxhole in the Omani desert during last autumn's joint UK/Omani Exercise Swift Sword.

"Satcom brings battlefield comms all the way forward to a

series of decisions made at source and instantly. It's so much more immediate compared with the times when it took minutes to type and send a message to a receiving station in the battlefield. You have now got a one-to-one secure personal communications system.

"We are unique here because our technicians are thrown at the equipment so that they can make friends with it and understand it. It takes a good technical knowledge and each eight-man Satcom detachment has two such specialists who

work closely with the system's four operators. Technicians are such a vital part.

"They have to point the dish to get it centred on the satellite from a position worked out from the chart. It calls for fine tuning.

"On exercise we can set up operations within 20 minutes of arriving, for real we could do it within the hour. There is no built-in test equipment to help them. No series of checks available. It's really all up to the detachment commander.

"If he was not up to it – and

none has been told so yet – he would have been directed to other comms work long ago. Most detachment commanders stay in that role from three to five years."

Satcom provides an immediate and secure tactical link to the commander on a faraway battlefield.

The commander's decisions and the precise relaying of that information to all who need to know could be in the hands of a two-star signaller who knows his business as thoroughly as the two-star general.



The most daring, skilful pilot the RFC ever had

NO fewer than 13 Victoria Crosses were awarded to aircrew during the First World War along the Western Front and in Mesopotamia. Intrepid young aviators sitting amid wood, canvas, metal and fragile wire struts with Vickers machine guns and hand-tossed bombs for protection and attack, writes Graham Smith.

They were the derring-do predecessors of today's fliers of the Army Air Corps, Fleet Air Arm and RAF. Their operational life in August 1916 averaged just 92 hours.

Over the four-year duration of the war 7,589 flying personnel died. In 1916 32 RFC squadrons were in action on the Western Front.

One of the most colourful British "aces" – a word disliked by them – who gladly took on the "Hun" above the battlefields of France and Flanders was Capt Albert Ball VC, a singing and violin playing pilot credited with 44 "kills" who became the most decorated member of the Royal Flying Corps by the age of 20. He was the first officer to receive three DSOs.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of the inception of Britain's highest military honour for bravery, and this month is the 70th anniversary of Capt Ball's untimely death which has been surrounded by mystery and controversy.

A loner, the story leading to his posthumous VC has faded over the seven decades since his death on May 7, 1917.

Capt Ball was the well-heeled son of a wealthy businessman who was also the Mayor of Nottingham. His death has been shrouded in conjecture from the last moments when he and his 120 mph SE5 made their final landing near the village of Annoeulin between Lille and Lens, France.

Just how did Capt Ball, MC, DSO and two Bars, French Légion d'Honneur and the Russian Order of St George (Fourth Class) die that May evening after a frenetic clash with a superior German force?

Was it through a cunning land-based ambush laid by the German army or just cruel fate?

Various theories persist.

Understanding this retiring young man is no easy task and depends on hazy reports of the time and how his character came across to those who knew him during 14 months of Western Front airmanship.

Ball was certainly an individualist. Some said "eager, intense and immature." He doted on his mother and she on him. He was a former Boy Scout, educated at Nottingham's grammar school and interested in books, painting and music.

He had entered an engineering business when the war started.

Like thousands of others he rallied to Kitchener's call to arms and joined his county battalion, the 2/7th Sherwood Foresters Regiment (The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regt) as a

private in October 1914. He served with the Robin Hood Company.

Ball's impatient potential as a man of action soon showed itself. Within a month he was a sergeant. Then an instructor.

But, above all, he wanted to fly. He would not be denied. He had heard about the aerial successes of Lt William Rhodes Moorhouse, of 2 Sqn, who became the first RFC flier to be awarded the VC.

Ball, it transpired, would become the tenth. A top ace before the age of 21.

One morning in May, 1915 –



Capt Albert Ball VC (second from left) pictured with members of 13 Squadron RFC

an airman, Capt Ball won for himself a prominent place in a most gallant Service. His loss was a great one but the splendid spirit which he typified and did so much to foster, lives after him. The record of his deeds will ever stir the pride and imagination of his countrymen and act as an example to those who have taken up his work."

Woofers' pride

TODAY's "Woofers" – the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment – are heirs to a unique record. Theirs is the only regiment to have won two air VCs (only 13 were awarded during the First World War).

One was won by Capt Albert Ball of the 2/7 Sherwood Foresters; the other by Capt William Leefe Robinson of The Worcestershire Regt who won his VC on Sept 2, 1916, flying a BE2C of 39 (Home Defence) Sqn when he shot down the first German airship, the Schutte Lanz 11, over Cuffley, Herts.

Commissioned from Sandhurst in 1914, he had joined the RFC the following year. In May 1917, he was brought down at Douai while flying and remained a PoW until December 14, 1918. He died four years later at Stanmore aged just 23.

but Ball, thanks to his compassionate squadron commander, was allowed to go home to recuperate in time for the assault on July 1.

The young flier had led a stressful career aloft in France. He had survived three crashes and time and again his own aircraft was raked by German machine guns. Many of his aircraft had to be scrapped.

Ball knew events were taking their toll of him. After his fourth escape, he wrote to his mother: "I just feel absolutely through, all in. I am going to ask them for a rest. I don't think they can refuse me. I have flown a patrol every day this year."

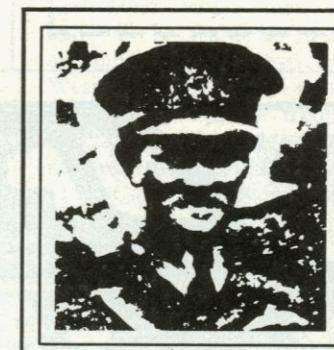
He registered the first of his 44 kills on May 22, 1916. In August he shot down a German kite balloon – for which he was awarded the MC – and on August 21 bagged three aircraft and another four on August 28.

Things were on the up. At the start of the year, the Germans had achieved air superiority. During the first five days of the Arras offensive 75 RFC aircraft were shot down and 56 wrecked in accidents – just over a third of the total available strength of 365 aircraft. "Black April" marked the heaviest RFC losses of the war.

Soon after the award of his MC, Ball and some FE 2s tangled with half a dozen Roland. They downed two.

Later that day he left on promotion to 13 Sqn as a captain to fly Nieuport Scouts, an aircraft he admired greatly.

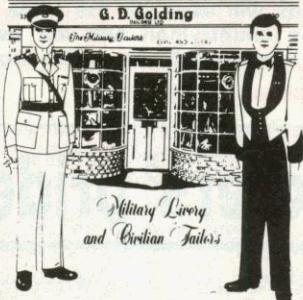
● Turn to Page 29



The work was demanding and Ball seemed to be indefatigable. So keen was he to take on the Germans, whatever the odds against him, that during the offensive flight logs showed that he would be airborne at 0230 and still flying at 2130.

Curiously, he nearly missed action over the Somme. He suffered a mild physical breakdown and was due to be sent home. All leave was cancelled

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The biggest gunner regiment of them all!

THE Allied Command Europe Mobile Force Land component – AMF (L) – takes its role as guardian of Nato's northern and southern flanks very seriously, particularly when its eight member nations exercise together as a club of unique expertise and operating procedures.

Exercise Ardent Ground, the formation's annual live firing exercise on Salisbury Plain last month, was no exception.

Another member formation which takes itself seriously is the Army's largest gunner regiment, 94 Locating Regiment based at Larkhill. The only unit of its kind, it boasts the Royal Artillery's most widely dispersed membership and the nucleus of the RA's medium and long-range surveillance and locating devices.

The regiment's brief is to identify and analyse targets, its recce drones providing intelligence in less than an hour from launch as well as locating enemy gunfire.

94 Locating Regiment is not only widely scattered with seven sub-units, but it has no fewer than four disciplines – artillery locating, enemy mortar detection locating, air defence

and field artillery input.

This unique unit, totalling 950 personnel, moved to Larkhill in October 1984 from Celle, BAOR, its home for 28 years.

The regiment produces target acquisition facilities which look not just over the hill

by
Graham Smith

but over several hills to spot targets that can be engaged.

To this end it operates the 3.73m-long remotely piloted AN/USD 501 Midge recce drone.

The Midge system is due to be replaced in two years by the state-of-the-art Phoenix.

The unit's second function of sound ranging involves clusters of ground-buried microphones – equipment dating from both World Wars and Korea – which are activated to detect the location of enemy guns by recording the sounds they emit.

This elderly system is due to be superseded by a weapon locating radar.

Thirdly, the regiment runs its own portable weather forecasting unit, 20-man troops

forming AMETS – Artillery Meterological System – which has been in use since 1974 (see SOLDIER, March 9).

Each of the regiment's two locating batteries – 22 and 156 – comprises a drone troop, survey and sound ranging troop and a met troop.

22 (Gibraltar) Locating Battery supports UKMF's 1 Infantry Brigade in the Schleswig-Holstein area as required; 73 (Sphinx) Mortar Locating Battery (unique to the Regular Army) with two marks of Cymbeline Mortar radar detectors, also supports 1 Inf Bde and the 1st and 3rd Armoured Divisions in BAOR.

156 (Inkerman) Bty – only one of four original batteries still existing since 94's return to the UK – supplies a met troop to the 2nd Infantry Division for its BAOR reinforcement role and will be featuring in this autumn's Exercise Keystone in West Germany. The battery also supplies a drone troop to BAOR's 3 Div and a sound ranging troop to 4 Div.

That same battery is currently supplying manpower for the Phoenix user trials.

Other components of 94 Locating Regiment include 5

Gibraltar (1779-1783) Field Battery with its half dozen 105mm light guns, HQ Battery with an AMF (L) role incorporating shoulder-launched Javelin air defence systems and its own REME workshops.

In early April the regiment lost its Bulford-based 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyd's Company), the sole UK-based Regular Army battery equipped with Javelins, which moved to another "firm", 26 Fd Regt, RA, at Thorney Island, Hants.

94 Locating Regt as a whole supports a range of higher formations, including AMF (L) and UKMF.

Regimental CO Lt Col Mike Smythe wears two hats. His other, six months of the year, is as the AMF (L) Commander Force Artillery – CFA – heading up the half-dozen multi-national light gun batteries.

The regiment, in effect, provides preparation for seven deployment options including Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey, Italy and Greece.

Not only is 94 Locating Regiment, RA, big – it is also very busy!

● From Page 27

ALBERT BALL VC

Capt Ball was mentioned in dispatches many times, his name was raised in the House of Commons, and the honorary freedom of the City of Nottingham was conferred on him on his birthday, August 21, 1916.

It is said he retired to his cubicle to play his violin every time he shot down an enemy aircraft. He also tended rabbits in a hutch at the tented camp site on the airfield.

An engineer by choice until the war, Ball took great care to ensure his mechanics looked after his aircraft meticulously. The same went for his 47-round Lewis drum magazine gun. He apparently kept himself fit.

Withdrawn on the ground, he was merciless aloft. He once said: "I always sing when I'm up in the clouds. I am never afraid. I am looked after by God."

Ball got his first DSO in

September, 1916, and was awarded his first Bar soon afterwards. King George V invested him with it on November 18. The *London Gazette* recorded the Bar to that DSO on November 25.

It is thought Capt Ball, ever eager to tackle the Hun, must have been involved in more than 100 aerial duels.

Those who did get close to him said he had a "savage enthusiasm" for the task. Some said he took dangerous chances and others that he had the "tenacity of a bulldog, the expression of a poet".

By October 1916, Capt Ball had notched up 32 victories. He left 60 Sqn and flew with both 11 and 13 Squadrons for three months before being sent back to Britain and a training school until February 1917.

He was appointed flight commander of the new 56 Squadron, RFC, which had been equipped with 11 SE5s for the express purpose of taking on ex-cavalry officer Manfred von



An artist's impression of aerial combat in the First World War

Richtofen and his deadly 14-aircraft fighter squadron. The Prussian revered RFC pilots for their skill and daring and would, with 80 "kills", eventually outscore every other pilot.

Ball had to forsake his favoured Nieuport in favour of the SE5, of which, originally, he was highly critical.

He variously described it as a "dud" and a "rotten machine".

Ball, ever the individualist, modified his metal and celluloid windscreens, removed the top Lewis gun and lowered his seat eight inches.

He soon found that the SE5 could climb to 10,000 feet in less than 15 minutes. In eight it could reach 6,500 feet. The aircraft had a 2½-hour endurance and a 22,000-foot ceiling.

At the start of 1917 the Germans had superiority of the skies over the Western Front and young Ball was determined to dent that advantage. From April 22 until his death on May 7, 1917 he accounted for another 11 aircraft, bringing his tally, including the balloon, to 44.

Between March and May, however, 1,270 RFC aircraft were shot down or damaged by the Germans.

● Turn to Page 38

The world is their oyster!

FORTY years ago 658 Squadron was flying Austers in India as an RAF air observation post (AOP) unit, having previously served in north-west Europe.

Nowadays, their remit is worldwide – wherever the British may have to go as trouble-shooters in the national interest as part of 5 Airborne Brigade. Now, however, they get about in helicopters.

By virtue of its variety of tasks, particularly in the 5 AB out-of-Nato-area role, the squadron could claim to offer the Army Air Corps' most sought after postings.

It forms a proud and indispensable part of a brigade which, under its former infantry brigade title, made such an impact on the Falklands fighting, particularly at Goose Green and Fitzroy.

The 93-strong squadron – motto: "Vidimus Delemus" ("We see and we destroy") – moved to its current base at Netheravon, Wilts, in 1978 to assume responsibility for two independent flights with roles of VIP and liaison flying.

As a result of the Falklands conflict and its priority of out-of-area operations, 5 AB took on the services of 658 Sqn in May 1983. The brigade's title of "Airborne" was adopted in November the same year.

Although under the command of the resident 7 Regt, AAC, at Netheravon, the squadron – it flies six Gazelles in the recce role and the Army's last batch of half a dozen Scouts toting ageing, wire-guided SS11 anti-tank missiles – gives its operational training priority to support of 5 AB.

Its dozen aircraft have a mix of airborne duties – recce, liaison, casevac, utility (movement of men and stores), while the Scouts also have a Helarm role. Their SS11 projectiles are guided by the roof-mounted AF 120 sight perched over the left hand seat.

These elderly aircraft and their missiles – 60 of which have just been fired during a two-day meet on the Otterburn ranges, Northumberland – are due to be replaced "in the near future" by the Lynx/TOW partnership.

SOLDIER's visit to the disused airfield at Keevil, in deepest Wiltshire, found 658 Sqn heavily involved in the self-generated Exercise Maroon Eagle, the first shake out this year of the squadron, which was practising out-of-area procedures, basic drills, first aid training, NBC, cam techniques, tactical flying and, naturally, Helarm routines.

The week-long manoeuvres involved five of the unit's Gazelles and three Scouts. Their aim was to achieve up to 30 tasks daily, including night ops. Training with them as elements needing 658 Sqn support

sends men and aircraft on overseas detachments to accrue full training benefit for their go-anywhere-any-time role. Elements of 658 have been to BAOR, the Falklands, Cyprus, Belize and Oman – the latter during last autumn's Exercise Swift Sword when pilots flew with the Omanis.

The unit has also been involved in detachments to Kenya, the USA during Exercise Trumpet Dance at Fort Lewis, Washington State and Wainwright, Canada, for Exercise Pond Jump West.

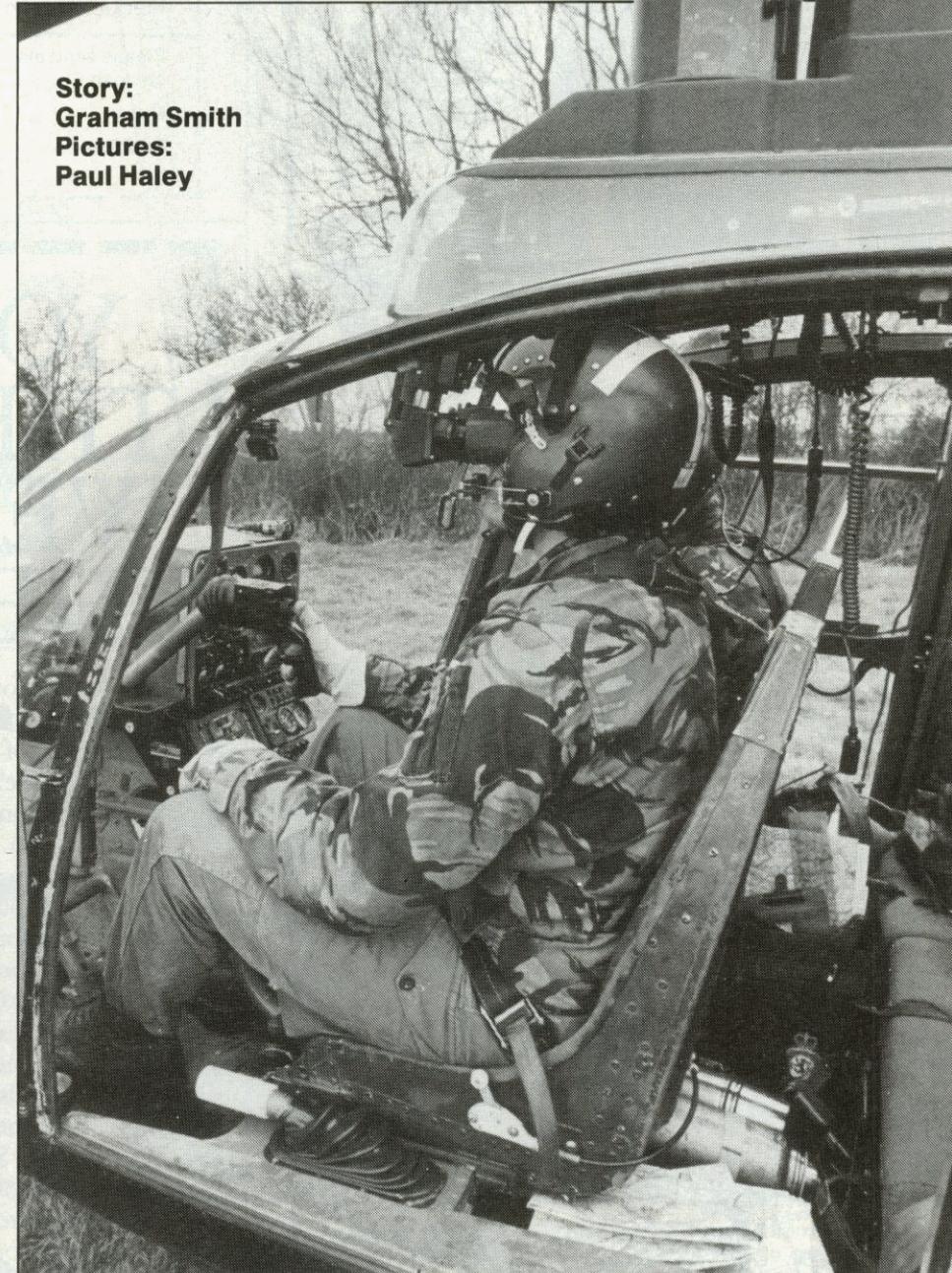


Two squadron members in "Noddy" suits load an SS11 missile on to a 658 Sqn Scout during Exercise Maroon Eagle

658 Sqn puts the Airborne in 5 Brigade

were men of the Life Guards and 40 Commando, RM.

The squadron frequently



A 658 Sqn Gazelle readies itself for a mission during Exercise Maroon Eagle. Note GOA - Gazelle Observation Sight - on its roof mounting

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Paul Haley

Last month, 658 took part in an intensive night flying exercise for a week during which aircrew members were hoping to get in 15 hours' flying. The squadron has six Gazelle and six Scout pilots.

Maj Nick Parker, OC of 658 since May 1984, who has logged up 2,000 hours on five types of helicopter, said: "We turned night into day for that one, crews reporting in at 1630 hours and flying until dawn."

Two more 5 AB exercises – ABXs – are planned with squadron involvement later this

year, excluding its own regimental and summer tactical flying programmes.

In November the squadron will be participating in the large scale 5 AB exercise in Western Scotland.

Two more features of flying enhancement are its parachuting capability and its acquisition some months ago of GOA – Gazelle Observation Aid – which effectively does away with the age-old "binos" and allows the helicopter to stand off farther than hitherto, giving at the same time far more

accurate means of surveillance.

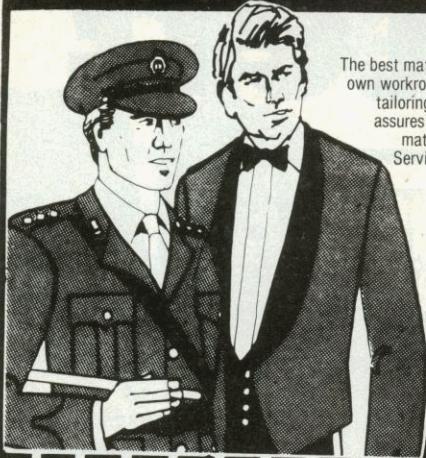
The parachute capability centres round the squadron's second-in-command, Maj Jim Hogg, and three of the unit's signallers whose operational role would be insertion by 'chute along with 5 AB elements ahead of 658's eventual arrival on the scene of the secured area.

Maj Parker said his unit was unique because of its light air mobile skills which put soldiers on site with just the uniforms they are wearing and essentials carried in back packs.

"We have limited vehicle support, 15 Land-Rovers, for the squadron, which demands from soldiers a very high degree of self-discipline, stamina and resilience. The role of our squadron is different from the norm. Ours is far more flexible to suit the conditions of the time in which a soldier-flier may find himself. Out-of-area responsibility is particularly interesting."

It is all a far cry from the 658 Sqn of old, formed on April 30, 1943, at Old Sarum, Wilts, and disbanded in India in 1947.

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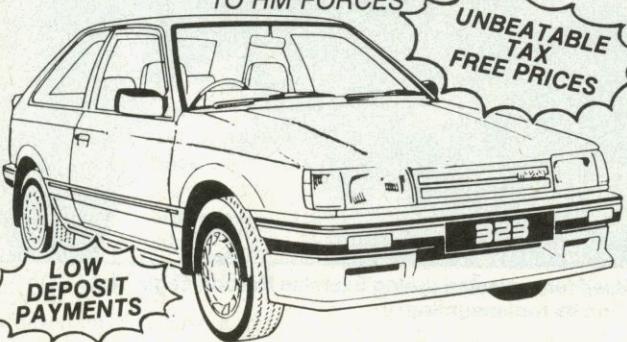
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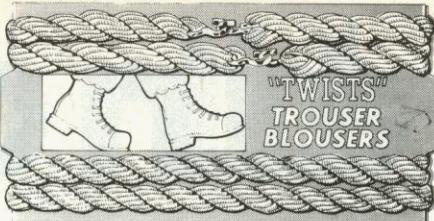
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Getting the
message
across in
the Falklands
is now a
joint effort

Story by Lt Kit Lewis
Pictures by SSgt Kevin Langan

South Seas Signallers

APRIL FOOLS Day meant far more than practical jokes to members of the Royal Signals serving with 266 Signal Squadron (South Atlantic), for on that day the Falklands communicators disbanded and reformed as the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands.

Formed immediately after the 1982 conflict, 266 Signal Squadron was one of the longest serving units on the island. As a roulement or "trickle posting" squadron, there have been few Regular regiments in the Royal Corps of Signals that has not sent men and women to serve with 266 at one time or another.

Consequently it has packed a great deal into the past five years and has a proud history of providing communications to the men and women defending the islands.

Commanded by Maj Tim Mountford, Royal Signals, the new unit is made up of communicators from all three Services, although the Royal Signals will provide the largest number.

Says Maj Mountford: "The new unit is going to break new ground. We have proved that we can manage and maintain communications on the islands as 266 Signal Squadron, and the challenge will

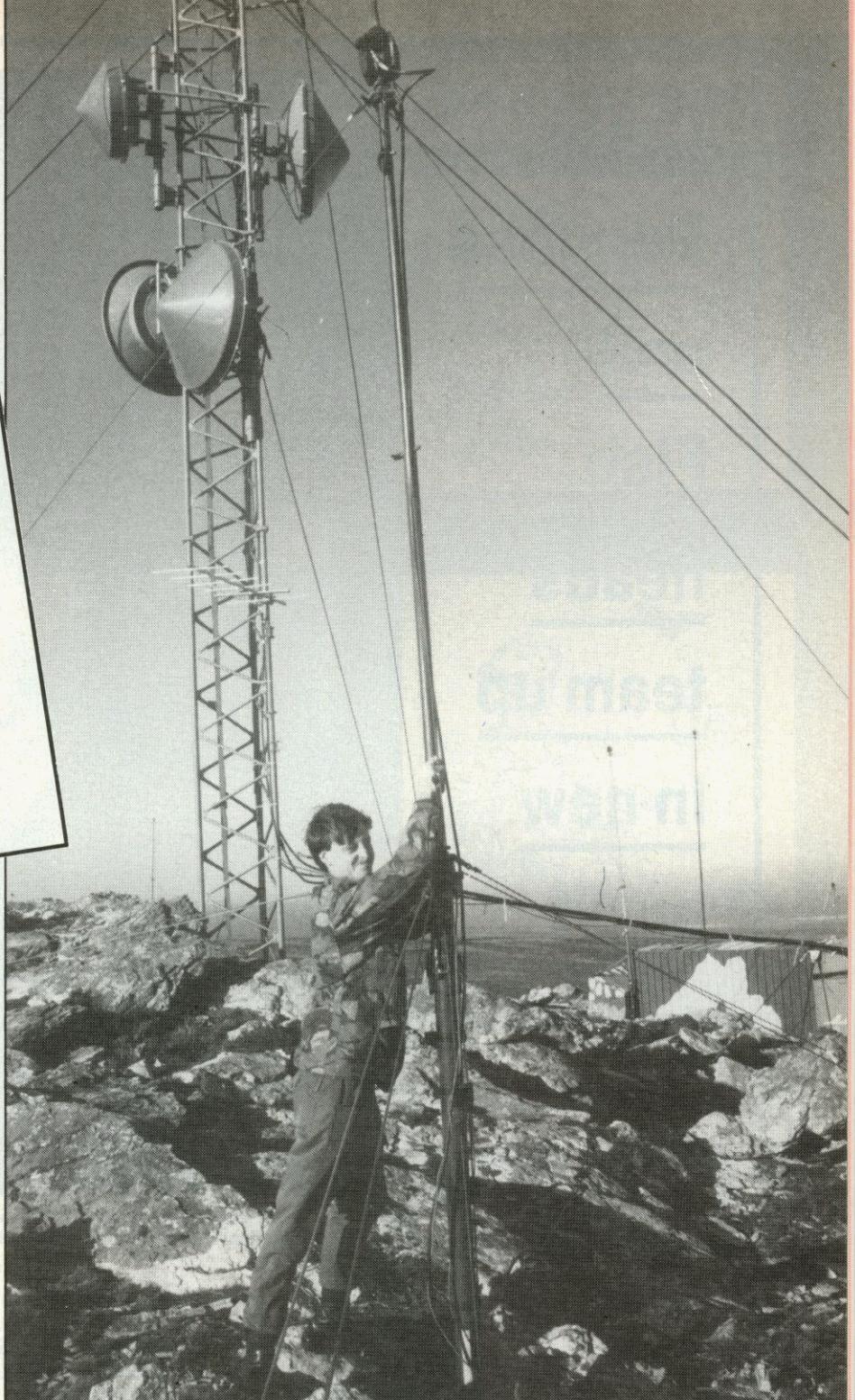
On hill tops where the wind can reach hurricane force, the slightest error in mast siting, or a loose guy rope, can mean a loss of communications. Sig Dave Cooke makes good use of a sunny spell to begin some routine maintenance

be to try and maintain the momentum and the skills that we already have in a tri-Service environment.

"We have a lot to learn from the other Services and vice-versa, but I am confident that we will not only succeed, but will thrive in this unique environment."

Based at Mount Pleasant and a stone's throw from the new airfield, the new unit controls one of the most up-to-date and comprehensive communications systems ever deployed by the Ministry of Defence.

● Turn to next page



Crabs, Pongoes and Fish heads team up in new outfit



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Fish heads, Pongoes and Crabs together! Sgt Roly Orchard RAF, Sgt Ian Scott Royal Signals, and PO Wren Kim Williams Royal Navy in the commcen at Mount Pleasant

● From Page 33

The Falkland Islands Trunk System, more commonly known as FITS, was purchased "off-the-shelf" to rapidly provide fixed communications.

Although there were initial teething problems, FITS is now serving all the remote and sometimes isolated locations around the islands.

Several members of the new unit have hardly had time to appreciate the modern facilities available at the new Mount Pleasant complex. These men are the Royal Signals operators who man the permanent detachments on the remote mountain tops of the Falklands.

They spend the majority of their four month tour living in stark and inhospitable conditions maintaining vital radio links throughout the islands.

Despite the sometimes appalling weather and the isolation, the job is a coveted one and one which can bring its own rewards. Relying totally on helicopters for their every need, these detachments are friendly and welcoming

places as their visitors books' testify.

Four other communicators, however, can rightly claim to be the most isolated in the Forces. They serve in South Georgia and control the only link with the outside world.

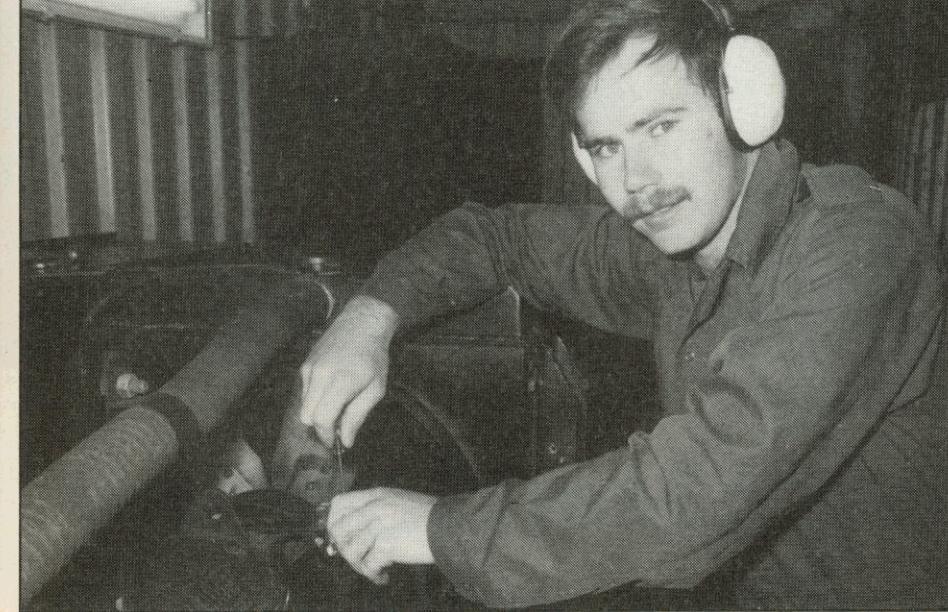
The weekly Famgrams which keep those serving among the snowy peaks and glaciers in touch with their families and loved ones originate from the radio shack at King Edward's Point.

Picturesque surroundings and teeming wildlife are big attractions in South Georgia and members of the detachment have time to experience many of the varied and spectacular facets of the remote island.

The need to have men ready to move at short notice to cope with faults wherever and whenever they occur means that there are usually several teams of technicians at unmanned FITS sites at any one time.

These teams never know how long a repair will take until they arrive, and as the sites are usually on hill tops, the notorious Falklands weather often means

Mail is extremely popular at the isolated detachments, running a close second to the men who deliver it! Maj Clive Lawrence AAC hands over the "blueys" to Cpl Dusty Miller



Many of the remote sites have to produce their own power. LCpl Andrew Potter makes some fine adjustments to a generator

an enforced stay that can lead to food and water supplies running low.

SSgt John Smith, SNCO in charge of the teams, explains: "Survival is a real skill out here. We are dropped off to fix a fault and to all intents and purposes we are self-sufficient and have to deal with each problem as it arrives.

"It is exciting and often demanding work but it would only take a small mistake and things could get very serious very quickly."

It is in the commcen, the outlet for all the signal traffic that flows between the island and the UK, that the new Joint Service attitudes are most apparent. Despite having enough members of each Service to work Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force shifts, the men and women of the commcen chose to work mixed shifts, and so far the experiment has been an unqualified success.

PO Wren Radio Supervisor Kim Williams was posted to the Falklands commcen from HMS Mercury in Petersfield, Hants, and has enjoyed the first two and a half months.

"Working here is certainly different and as far as I'm aware it's a pretty unique commcen. Although we all come from different backgrounds, it doesn't take long to settle in, I think that the friendly inter-Service rivalry helps us a lot.

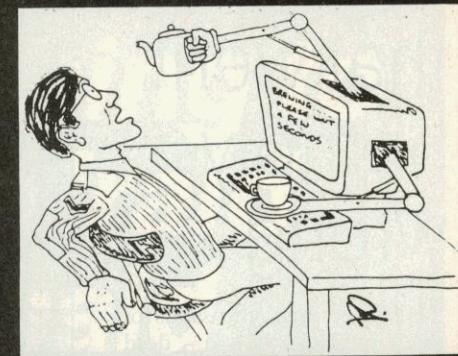
"We call the Army "Pongoes" and the RAF "Crabs" but they call us Navy "Fish heads" so no one minds!

"On the shop floor we just get on with it and pretty soon we are all working together. We soon find that we have a lot in common!"

On islands with a surface area equivalent to most of Southern England and with the only road running from London to Reading, there is a continual need to maintain the operational communications upon which the defence of the island rests.

That the work is being shared successfully between all three Services speaks volumes for the spirit of co-operation and the professional attitude of the communicators of the Southern Seas.

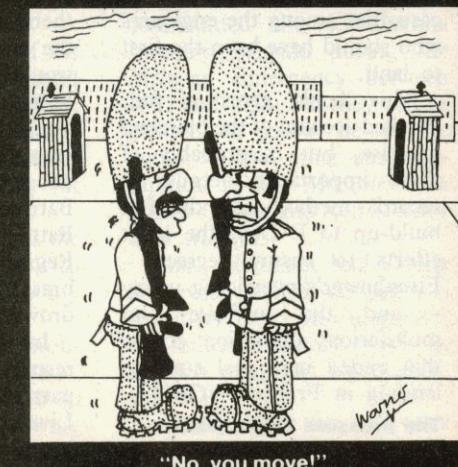
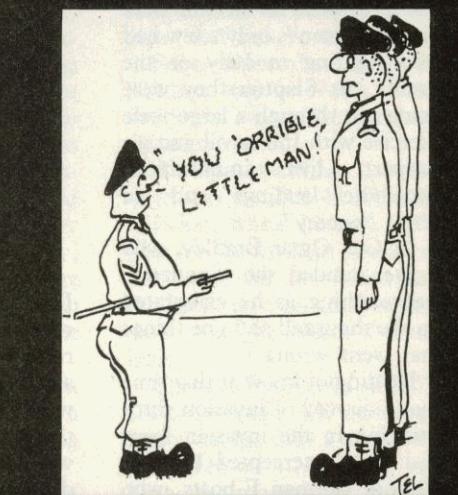
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'Invasion' that went horribly wrong

THEY lay upon the sands of the "invasion" beach – dead American soldiers washed up by the rising tide. A group of US engineers, who should have been energetically unloading the invasion barges and making beach exits safely passable, were gathering and gawking.

"Christ, haven't you men ever seen a dead man before? Break it up," shouted Maj Gen Clarence Huebner. The engineers rushed to their jobs; but over 700 men had been killed earlier that day in late April 1944 and were later buried in the area in secrecy.

This was a practice invasion exercise at Slapton Sands in Start Bay, just south of Dartmouth, less than six weeks before D-Day.

The million US troops who had assembled in Britain were mostly "green", only a few had seen fighting in Italy or the Pacific. At Slapton they were being put through a large scale exercise with full naval and air support, live ammunition, parachute landings and an active "enemy".

Lt Gen Omar Bradley, who master-minded the "inquest", was scathing as he elaborated on the thousand and one things that went wrong.

He did not know at that time that a convoy of invasion ships bringing in the invasion force had been intercepted by nine 40-knot German E-boats, who sank two of the transports and caused the great number of casualties among the engineers who should have been the first to land.

This book gives a full, detailed account of the blotched exercise, but is probably of more importance because it records methodically the full build-up to D-Day, the great efforts to ensure secrecy – Eisenhower's overriding worry – and the intricate and multifarious deception efforts that ended in a real surprise landing in France. – GRH

The Invasion Before Normandy by Edwin P Hoyt, published by Robert Hale Ltd. Price £12.50.



Barnsley Pals relax while on a route march near Whitby, Yorks. For many their carefree days were to end in tragedy on the Somme

A town that lost its when the pals went

IN just over three weeks, roughly 1,000 Barnsley men responded to Kitchener's call and joined the Barnsley Pals; within one day hundreds of them would be killed or wounded in the maelstrom of deadly metal that was the Battle of the Somme.

After a spell guarding the Suez Canal against a non-existent Turkish attack, the Barnsley Pals left the sand and scorpions and entered the trenches in France near the village of Serre.

The people who cheered them on to war, in the streets of the northern mining town, would never have believed the horror and ferocity of the struggle they were entering records *Pals*, the history of the two Pals battalions raised in Barnsley – the 13th and 14th Battalions York and Lancaster Regiment. The clamour of the brass bands would have drowned any such suggestion.

In other towns and cities the response and the fervour of patriotism were the same. Liverpool enrolled a battalion in a morning. From Glasgow to Grimsby, from Salford to

Sheffield, the "pals" flocked to the recruiting offices.

After a spell guarding the Suez Canal against a non-existent Turkish attack, the Barnsley Pals left the sand and scorpions and entered the trenches in France near the village of Serre.

Their task, with other Pals battalions of the 31st Division, was to capture Serre as part of the "Great Push" on what was to become probably the most infamous day of the First World War – July 1, 1916.

"We went across in waves,"

wrote one of the Barnsley Pals.

"They told us to walk." The theory was that after such a tremendous artillery bombardment by the British guns, the German wire would be in tatters, the German trenches virtually empty of living soldiers.

The reality is tragic history. "The Pals walked into a flailing

youth to war In brief

The Campaign of Waterloo by Sir John Fortesque. The complete account of the campaign and battle of Waterloo. First published in 1920 as part of the author's *A History of the British Army*, reissued by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

Sharpe's Regiment by Bernard Cornwell. Another in the series of Bernard Sharpe's adventures, this time in the invasion of France 1813. First published 1986. Reissued in paperback by Fontana. Price £2.95.

Commando Extraordinary by Charles Foley. The story of Otto Skorzeny, chief of Germany's special troops during the Second World War and daring rescuer of Mussolini from his mountain prison. First published in 1954. Reissued by Arms and Armour Press in the Special Forces Library series. Price £10.95.

Telephone enquiries for *The History of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment: 1959-1970*, reviewed in *SOLDIER*, April 6, should be directed to 0227 457411 ext 252.

Nothing to be afraid of, said Monty!

IT HAS been said that every soldier has a book in him, a story of adventure, far away places and human nature that could be usefully read by others. The past 20 years have been rich in military autobiography, with soldiers of all ranks adding to a wealth of material that will be invaluable to future historians, and which is, at the same time, highly readable. *An Image of War* is such a book.

In May 1940, Mark Henniker was a 34 year old captain in the Royal Engineers. On returning from leave to his Divisional HQ at Wavre in Belgium he was given command of his first Field Company RE, and was told by a certain General Montgomery, GOC 3 Division, that "there was nothing to be afraid of in the Germans – we shall see them off".

It could not have been appreciated then that this was a far-seeing crystal-gazing observation.

The author has the habit of bringing out nice little snippets of information that most people of his age have forgotten.

For instance, writing of his time as adjutant of Second Divisional Engineers in 1939, he tells us that everything was marked "Secret" (the expression "Top Secret" had not yet come from America).

Another pleasant touch is the way most chapters end with "Extracts from Letters to my Parents".

After some hair-raising problems, Henniker, in company with two other officers and 30 men, was seaborne in rowing boats that had found their way from Teddington to the Belgian

coastal resort of La Panne. The journey back to England was completed in a Royal Navy pinnace, found abandoned, and on a gunboat that happened to be going their way.

Back in England, the author was appointed CRE 1 Airborne Division and was a pioneer in the conception of airborne military engineers. He was a planner of the 1942 airborne raids on the Bruneval RDF station and the Heavy Water plant at Rijukken, Norway.

From November 1942 the Division was in North Africa and Sicily, where Henniker was wounded.

His last wartime appointment was as CRE 43 (Wessex) Division, which he took up in time for the Arnhem operation, the battle for the Rhineland, the Rhine crossing and the final dash over the North German plain.

That the book ends with 553 Field Company RE building a Bailey bridge over a canal near Cuxhaven on 4 May 1945 may

be a disappointment to some who knew or served with Brigadier Henniker when he commanded the 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade during the Malayan Emergency between 1952 and 1954, but they will be pleased to know he is the author of two other autobiographical books, *Memoirs of a Junior Officer* and *Red Shadow over Malaya*.

Mark Henniker had a long and event-packed war and it is fortunate for all with an interest in military history that he decided to record his memories. – BJ

An Image of War by Mark Henniker, published by Leo Cooper. Price £18.

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ALBERT BALL VC

● From Page 29

On April 7, the whole of 56 Sqn flew from London Colney to Vert Galand on the Amiens road in France.

The squadron's first operational sortie was on April 22. Ball bagged himself a couple of Albatri. Squadron chums shot down two more.

But the tireless Ball retained a Nieuport and took to the skies Hun-hunting while his regular squadron steed, the SE5, was being serviced!

A month after arriving in France – May 7, 1917 – Ball's squadron took to the skies again. It was to be his final act.

Two versions of his death persist.

The first suggests the whole squadron became airborne for a second patrol. Conditions were calm but there was some threatening cloud. The squadron flew in formation at 18,000 feet. Suddenly, they saw six aircraft flying below them and behind enemy lines. They pounced.

Unknown to the RFC fliers, two German "Jastas" – fighter squadrons – were flying at the same height two miles away. The Germans tagged on behind.

For more than an hour the RFC pilots battled their surprise attackers in fading light.

Of the 11 RFC aircraft locked in individual duels, only five returned.

Capt Ball was last seen swooping over an Albatros.

A second version of the action claims that even as he faced death, Ball squared up to three German aircraft, shooting down two and driving off a third. He was seen to be shot down by "anti-aircraft fire".

The events of the preceding fortnight during which he took part in 26 "combats in the air", destroyed 11 "hostile aircraft", forced down two more out of control and forced several more to land, were to earn him the posthumous VC.

Perhaps the most colourful account of his death involves his alleged predilection for church clocks.

May 7 coincided with a big push on Arras, the first big offensive of the year. Efforts concentrated around Bullecourt village. The commander of 9 Wing, RFC, decided to put up a formation of Spads, Camels and SE5s throughout that fatal day. Ball was leading a 56 Sqn flight.

He was seen dodging cloud over Bourlon Wood and suddenly dived after an Albatros.

From that moment fact and fiction become fused. One source suggests that Ball then turned for home well under cloud cover, passing the village of Annoeulin.

Ball's religious upbringing had given him a fascination for church clocks in which he put all

his trust, even though he wore a wrist watch and a clock had been fitted in his aircraft.

He knew the village clock tower well. The locals knew he did, too. Had the Germans got to hear of his eccentric "time keeping" as he "buzzed" the tower in his SE5 with its distinctive red nose-spinner?

The story suggests the Germans were waiting. A machine gun had been set up in the tower. As expected, Ball flew past to catch a glimpse of the time. It was the last clock he ever saw. A fusillade of machine gun fire smashed into his fragile flying machine.

It is said that a French peasant woman found Ball by his shattered aircraft. He had a head wound and died cradled in her arms.

What is known is that it was the Germans who laid to rest their honoured adversary in a

● Mrs Thatcher flew back from Moscow on an RAF VC 10 bearing the name "Albert Ball, VC". All 13 of the RAF's four-jet VC 10 fleet are named after the air VC winners.

German cemetery in the village. And there Capt Ball has remained.

In peril of his life, one of the German scout aircraft flew over British lines to drop a cylinder containing details of how the gallant and bold Capt Ball met his death.

Three weeks later, German newspapers carried a story that it was Lothar von Richthofen, brother of Manfred, who had shot down the British flier. Ball, he said, had been flying a tri-plane. Ball's SE5 was, of course a bi-plane.

Quizzed subsequently, von Richthofen admitted he could have been mistaken, tending to confuse bi-planes and tri-planes in the heat of battle.

Another source suggests that Lothar was actually in Berlin on sick leave having been wounded and in a state of shock and it could not have been he who shot down Capt Ball.

Doubt was also cast on the nearby presence of brother Manfred, whose "Jasta" allegedly found 56 Sqn that evening. He was alleged to have been on leave in Berlin from May 1 to June 14.

Ball's posthumous VC was gazetted on June 3, 1917. He had died just three months before his 21st birthday in the year of the battle for Arras, the third battle for "Wipers" and the big push towards the killing grounds of Passchendaele.



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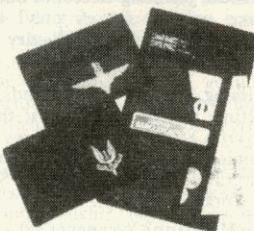
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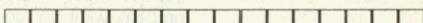


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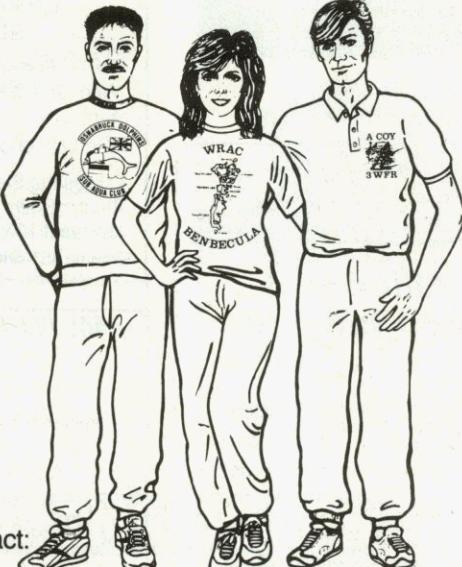
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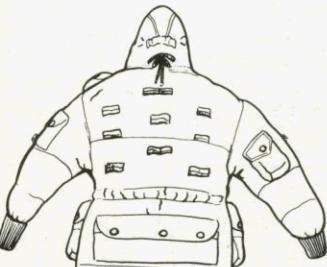
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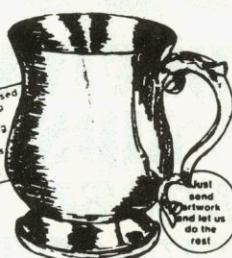
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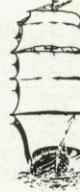
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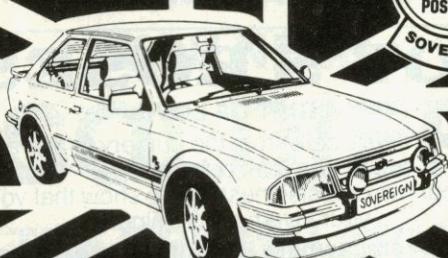
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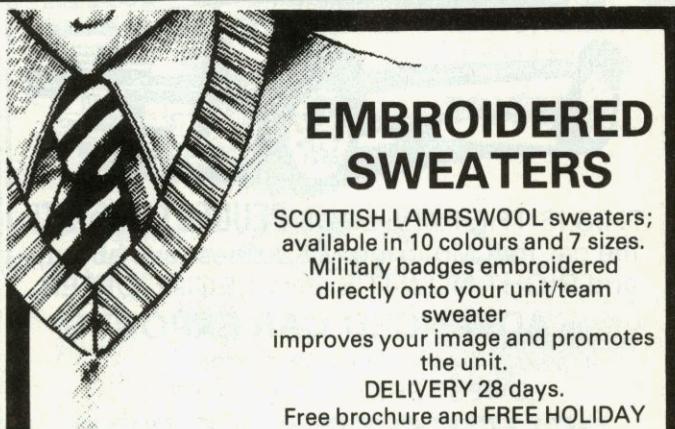
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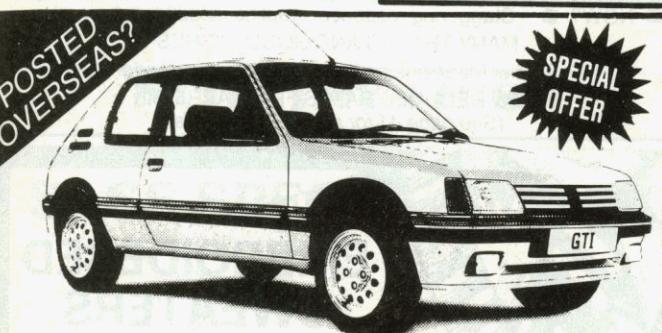
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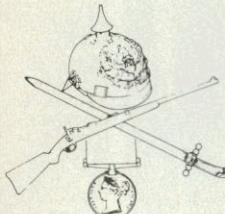
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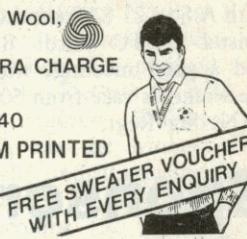
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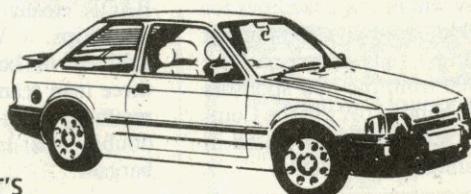
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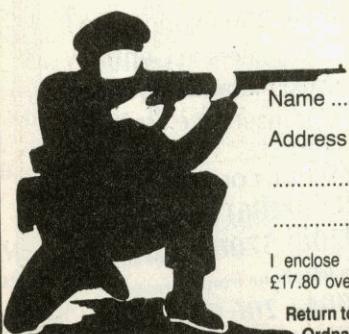
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Regulars hold off TA challenge

PTE Hawkins of HQ Coy 3 Yorks led the field home in the annual cross country match between the Territorial Army and the Regular Army at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, although his efforts were not enough to prevent the Regulars taking the honours.

But it was a close run thing, with just four points separating the teams.

In the women's race the Regulars dominated the proceedings, filling five of the first six places.

HQ Coy 3 Yorks comfortably took the TA men's team trophy with A Sqn 21 SAS second and Bristol UOTC third. Bristol had a good meeting, winning the women's race from 50 Sqn 34(N) Sig Regt.

Sponsors sign on

THE £15,000 first instalment of a three year programme of sponsorship for Combined Services sport has been presented by the chairman of Allied-Lyons, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, to Lt Gen Sir John Chapple, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff.

Presented on behalf of Allied Breweries National Sales, the money will provide facilities for a wide range of sporting activities. The remaining £30,000 from the new sponsors will be handed over to the Combined Services Sports Board in two annual instalments.



Fencing sappers and their trophies. From left to right are LCpl Graham White, Sprs Stephen Mair, Gordon O'Shea, Bruce Donachie, Maj Neil Sutherland, Sprs Tony Tanner, Tony Davies, Jonathan Sayers, Ian Neve and Thomas Pratt

Sappers make their

FRESH from a four month tour on Operation Flogger in the Falkland Islands clearing military debris, the fencing team of 25 Engineer Regiment made a clean sweep in the BAOR team fencing championships. Victories were attained in both the six and three man team events and the regiment achieved a unique double hat-trick into the bargain.

Fencing has always been a favourite sport of 25 Eng Regt but the double win was unexpected in view of the difficulties of training in the Falklands. However, the double was achieved with the Challenge Cup having been won every year since 1982.

A cliff hanging finale to the three man event developed when 16/5 Lancers needed just five points to win. Spr Ian Neve

(sabre) fought a remarkable bout against seasoned fencer Cpl Barry Ryder and managed to hold off his strong challenge. Spr Tony Davies (epee) and Spr Gordon O'Shea (foil) also fought exceptionally well to take the team to victory over five other teams in the event.

The six man team led by Army fencer Maj Neil Sutherland were keen to do well and, with a combination of fencing



Picture: LCpl Hodson

point!

skill and quick reactions, edged to convincing victories over 2 Queens and 5 Heavy Regiment RA B teams.

Against 5 Heavy Regiment A team, Sprs Tony Tanner and Stephen Mair provided an excellent display of lightning attacks with the sabre while Sprs Thomas Pratt and Jonathon Sayers won difficult bouts against determined opposition in the epee.

Maj Neil Sutherland and LCpl Graham White earned success in the foil with a combination of simple and compound attacks against their opponents. The 11-1 win was watched by the CO, Lt Col Kevin O'Donoghue.

The Challenge Cup and plaques were presented by the chairman of BAOR Fencing Union Lt Col Day, Kings Own Border.

Individual results:
Maj Neil Sutherland - 2, Men's foil; 1, Men's epee (3rd after bastage).

LCpl Graham White - 3, Men's foil; 3, Men's sabre.

Novices promise much for future

AN abundance of raw talent with enough skill to suggest that there will once again be sharp competition for places in next season's Army boxing squad. That was the conclusion drawn from the Army Novices Grade Two and Three tournament at Aldershot, when one of the biggest entries in recent years - 85 - took part in competitions over three and a half days.

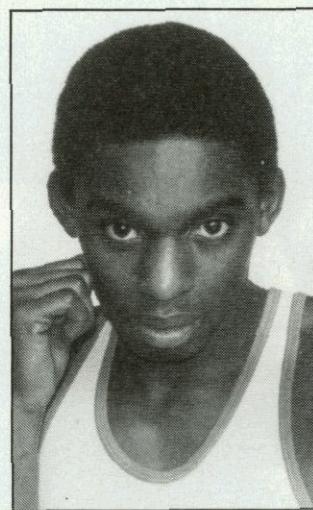
Army coach, Staff Sergeant Mick Gannon, who expects to lose at least half of this year's senior squad, was well pleased with what he saw. "I think that at least seven of these boxers will join other newcomers on the squad in the autumn," he said.

The finals, covering ten weights from fly to heavy, saw BAOR units take most of the titles.

Cpl Horace Miles, former Services heavyweight champion, who has finally retired after an Army career spanning 13 seasons, is now training boxers with 3 Royal Green Jackets.

Two of his three man squad took titles. Lightweight Cpl David Frazer gave a competent and impressive performance as he bobbed and jabbed to keep away the awkward Gnr Philip Murphy (47 Field Regt RA) and take a unanimous points decision.

And light heavy Rfn Andrew Lewis scored a unanimous points win over Pte Jason McCreanney (15 Bn RAOC), who was bleeding heavily from



Cpl Keith Howlett, called up by England

a cut behind the ear by the final bell.

Another excellent prospect is former Welsh and British junior champion Pte Dennis Grant (1 RRW). He took less than a minute to floor his heavier opponent Pte G Porter (15 Bn RAOC).

The two heavyweight finalists, while inexperienced, showed enough to suggest they may have Army futures. Cfn Steven Burford (4 Armoured Workshop REME) gained a hard fought majority decision against LCpl Stephen Murray (10 Regt RCT). Murray's older brother, Tony, is a Royal Marine who boxes for the Navy.

Spr Nick Cox from 38 Engr Regt withstood all that Pte W Tredaway from 2 RGJ had to offer and gradually pierced

Tredaway's defence until the referee stopped the contest midway through the third round.

Bantams Pte A Smith (1 RRW) and Rfn Alan Ruddock (2 RGJ) put on a crisp display for three closely contested rounds with Ruddock getting the unanimous decision.

Also evenly matched but not showing as much class were feathers, Pte Richard Coffee (2 LI) and Pte M Carroll (1 RRW). Coffee won on points.

Cleaner punching finally got Gnr C Lewis (22 AD Regt RA) a majority points verdict at light welter. His opponent was Rgr Peter Roberts (1 RIR).

Cpl Andrew Williams (1 RRW) was the winner of a generally undistinguished bout at welter with Cpl Peter Vearncombe (32 Armd Regt RE).

Two Wilsons met at light middle. Eventually the aggressive LCpl Adrian Wilson (1 RRW) got a split decision over Rfn Robert Wilson (3 RGJ).

Among the spectators was this year's Army captain, Cpl Keith Howlett, who a few days later was scheduled to box for England for the first time in a multi-national tournament in West Germany. Last month he transferred to the APTC.

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The Combined Services football team travelled to Southampton Sports Centre to meet the Saints reserve squad in the inauguration match on the centre's new all-weather ground and celebrated with a three goal win over the young professionals.

The Services went ahead in the 12th minute through Parkins. Five minutes later, the Services won a free kick on the right. Brown's shot was charged down but Lowe fired the rebound goalwards and Thompson was on hand to tap home.

A quick clearance saw Sharpe racing over the half way line where a quick shimmy sold the Saints' cover a delightful dummy leaving them stranded and him to lob the ball over the advancing 'keeper.



Goalmouth action during the Challenge Cup replay at Aldershot as 28 Sig Regt 'keeper LCpl Bunkle punches away a dangerous SEME Bordon cross

SHATTERED!

Challenge Cup marathon

AFTER a gruelling four hours of uncompromising cup football, 28 Sig Regt, the BAOR champions, finally wrested the Wilsons Hogg Robinson Army Challenge Cup from 1986 winners SEME Bordon, writes Pat Massey.

The second of two tremendously exciting games - televised to Army outposts all over the world, was drawing to a close, 14 goals having been shared between the sides, when luck finally deserted the defending champions from Bordon.

A leg-weary tackle inside the SEME box led to the only penalty awarded in either game - and produced the winning goal.

It was a strange quirk of fate that such a decision should decide a tie only minutes away from being settled on a penalty shoot out.

The first game was a nail-biting affair by any standards. SEME got off to a

cracking start and were headed into a ninth minute lead by Nelson. McQuade equalised for the signallers, Whittingham restored the Bordon advantage and then Wilkins and McQuade put the BAOR side ahead for the first time.

Stubbington's tap in goal put the final into extra time. Booth scored for 28 Sig Regt, Whittingham replied for SEME and a replay was necessary.

With legs having taken a battering the previous day the early exchanges in the replay were pedestrian by comparison.

Berwick shot SEME ahead when a deflection wrong-footed 'keeper Bunkle, and Nelson put them two ahead midway through the second half. In doing so, Nelson maintained a record of scoring in six successive ties.

The BAOR battlers fought back with a goal from Weyman and an astonishing equaliser from Cheetham. He was the only attacker in attendance as Eades and Burns looked to be in control on the edge of their penalty area.

But they made a horrible

mess of controlling the ball, Cheetham got a toe to it, and players and spectators watched in amazement as the ball trickled inside the post.

Stephen broke the deadlock in extra time with a goal that seemed to ensure SEME Bordon taking the trophy for a second year. Not a bit of it!

With the SEME defence in shambles, Cheetham created a chance which Wilkins rifled home for 28 Sig Sqn.

With ten minutes to go referee WO1 Phil Allen pointed to the spot after McGarry had brought Cheetham down in the area and Maloney made no mistake from the spot.

The replay was carried live, via satellite, to the Far and Near East, Belize, the Falkland Islands and BAOR with a commentary by Gerald Sinstadt and Ralph Deller.

Irish Rangers on target

PENALTIES also played a part in the Territorial Army cup final played at Bordon, Hants. The match was all square after extra time and went to a penalty shoot-out, with C Coy of the 4th Bn (V) The Royal Irish Rangers eventually beating D Coy of the 2nd Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers 5-4.

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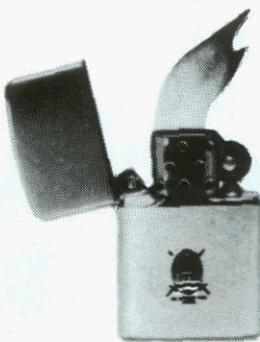
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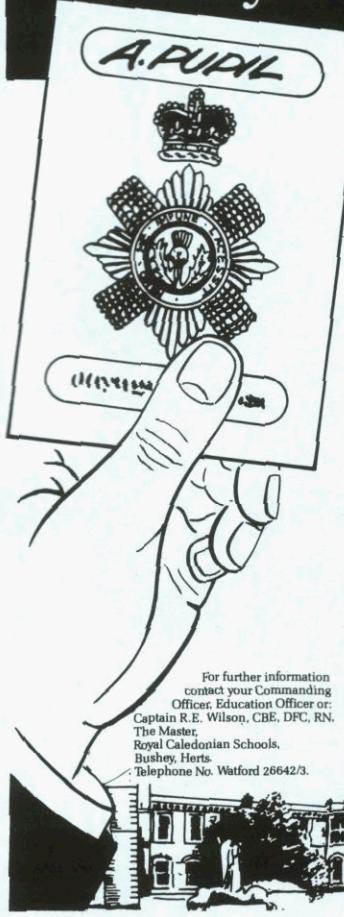
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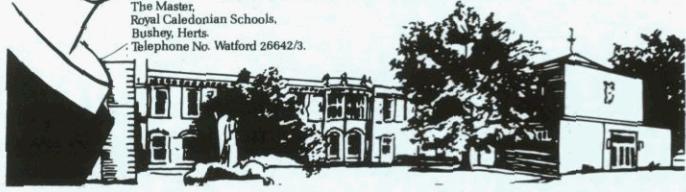
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