

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 22 MAR—4 APR 1982

SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER

Two 'sticks' of paratroops jump from a Hercules C130 over Norfolk during the biggest airborne exercise staged in the UK for several years. More pictures and story on page 14.

Picture by Andy Burrige

BACK COVER

One of the White Helmets motorcycle display team jumps through a blazing hoop during practice. SOLDIER watched the team prepare for the new season — story on page 26.

Picture by Doug Pratt

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

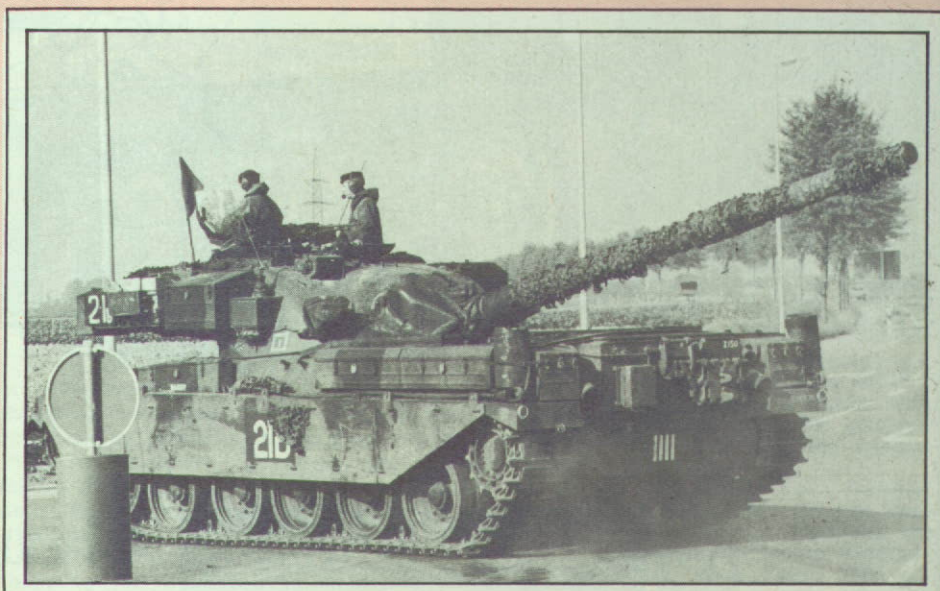


Force levels in Northern Ireland have been reduced but not the Army's vigilance — page 12

▶ Sappers in Cyprus show how to win friends with hard work — page 23



Why the number will soon be up for some famous cavalry regiments — page 11 ▼



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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE PACKAGE of measures announced by Defence Secretary John Nott for strengthening our Reserve Forces included a welcome vote of confidence in the Territorial Army.

But perhaps Mr Nott's most imaginative proposal was the creation of a new Home Service Force, linked to the TA.

Scarcely had the announcement left his lips than the media were digging up the old chestnuts about 'Dad's Army'. Some even sought to ridicule the plan by postulating legions of ageing Captain Mainwaring and Private Godfreys tasked to defend key installations.

All good for a laugh of course. But a little sober reflection suggests that the new Force has much to commend it.

The HSF — to be launched initially on a trial basis — will not just be for the old and bold. Many of those selected, it is intended, will be at the younger end of the 18-59 spectrum — men who possibly lack the time for full TA duties but who nevertheless wish to serve Queen and country in a practical way. And the emphasis in recruiting will be on experienced men who have served in the Regular Forces or in the police and whose maturity, self-reliance and discipline is proven.

To suggest that such a body of men — properly briefed, trained and armed for specific tasks — could not make an important contribution to our future Home Defence seems dangerously defeatist.

What is particularly welcome about the HSF is that it provides a further link between the Regular Army and the community at large. And in this context Mr Nott's decision to provide adventure opportunities with the Services for young people is equally to be applauded. The scheme is not a back-door recruiting drive. But it may give some youngsters an insight into Service life that could interest them in joining the Reserves.

As John Nott has pointed out, the defence of our realm must not just be seen to depend on the quality of our professional armed services but on a wide spread of popular commitment.

The stronger the links between the military and civil community the more secure we shall be.



Members of the British contingent in Sinai. Left to right: Tpr Robert Boyd, QRH, Tpr Paul Gill, 4/7 DG, Gnr Steve Pulfer, D Bty RHA, and Sgt Andy Moring 4 Armd Workshop, REME.

BRITS BRING DESERT RAIN

BRITAIN'S SMALL contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Desert has flown into Israel. The 37-strong British contingent, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Martin of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, will provide administrative support at the Eitam headquarters of the MFO in North East Sinai.

The MFO is an independent force with the primary role of observing, investigating and reporting on border movements after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai on April 25.

The United States, Colombia and Fiji are providing infantry battalions, with communications and military police coming from The Netherlands, coastal patrol vessels from Italy, transport from Uruguay and helicopters from Australia and New Zealand.

Britain is providing the camp commandant and quartermaster, two staff officers and a variety of headquarters specialists as well as drivers.

The British advance party arrived among the first Americans of the US Corps of Engineers who are building all the facilities at the former Israeli airbase. Using pre-fabrication the Facilities Support Team (FAST) are erecting air conditioned accommodation for the base which will face high desert temperatures in the months to come.

Currently Eitam is cool by night and hot by day but the first British discussion of a sporting programme produced an unusual heavy rain storm in the desert. They were talking about cricket!

The Fijians have already thrown out a rugby challenge and the British, with help from the ANZACs, hope to put up a creditable performance.

There are 29 different cap badges among the British con-

tingent but all are proving useful allies to the Americans who have only limited experience of wearing berets. Lessons in shaping the MFO's bright orange beret and positioning the dove of peace badge have been much in demand.

Postings to Sinai are expected to be for six months with a trickle rotation planned.

The week-long briefing at South Cerney before the party left had emphasised the dangers of snakes, scorpions and creepy-crawlies of many kinds. But the only bug seen by Sgt Andy Morin from 4 Armoured Workshops, REME, in Detmold, had four wheels, a big engine and was painted yellow. "I knew it was a Caterpillar, though," he said. "It had it painted on the side."

Four for Uganda

ONE BRITISH OFFICER and three men have arrived in Uganda to join the Commonwealth military training team.

The 36-strong team is to work at Jinja Barracks, 50 miles east of Kampala, originally the base of the Ugandan battalion of the King's African Rifles before the country became independent in 1962.

The team was created in response to a Ugandan request as a step towards improving discipline and efficiency in its Army.

Plenty left-Nott

DESPITE THE Government's decision to buy the Trident II D5 missile system, the three per cent growth in the defence budget until 1985-6 will mean that several billions of extra pounds will still be available to spend on conventional forces, the Defence Secretary, Mr. John Nott, told the Commons when he announced the Trident decision.

At current prices an average of somewhat under £500 million a year would be spent on Trident, he said, against total defence spending of £14,000 million.

That meant that the Trident expenditure was a far smaller amount than the planned expenditure on equipment for our major conventional forces.

An explanatory pamphlet issued at the same time as Mr Nott's announcement shows that the percentage of the equipment programme for 1980-1995 taken by Trident will be only fractionally more than that for UK air defence. Biggest single factors in equipment expenditure are anti-submarine warfare at 20 per cent closely followed by land forces and offensive air operations at about 18 per cent.

The pamphlet also draws a comparison between the cost of the Tornado multi-role aircraft project and Trident. Costed on the same basis, the Trident D5 programme amounts to £7,500 million compared to £11,300 million for Tornado. Over a 15 year period, it says, Trident is likely to take a smaller proportion of the defence budget than was the case with Tornado and also a substantially smaller proportion of the equipment budget.



Brigadier Helen Meechie, who has become Director WRAC in succession to Brigadier Anne Field, is at 44 the youngest officer to hold the appointment.

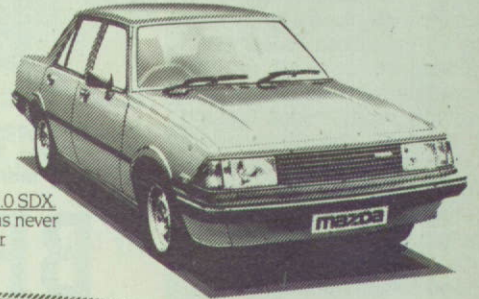
A native of Dundee, Brigadier Meechie was commissioned in 1960 and has served in Cyprus, Germany and Hong Kong. She was promoted colonel last July when she was appointed Deputy Director of the WRAC.

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TA AID FOR RAF

A PILOT SCHEME to see if part-time soldiers of the Royal Engineers can give vital support to the RAF by repairing bomb-damaged runways at high speed is under way at RAF Leuchars, Fife.

UK airfields would be vital in war, and the scheme has shown that the TA can cope with new and sophisticated methods of 'rapid runway repair'.

The soldiers involved at Leuchars are all members of 117 Field Support Squadron, RE(V) whose main base is in Dundee.

"I think we have proved that we can do it," said Major Bill Pagan, a Fife solicitor who commands 117, "and I hope to see other Sapper TA units starting training in a few months' time."

The 60 men involved in the experiment have their base at RAF Leuchars, and have certainly shown that they can learn — and work — quickly. A team of around 20 men with an assortment of plant can repair an average crater in a very short time.

The method is similar to that used by the regular Army in Germany — and the part-timers need the same skills in the use of plant, cranes and other engineer equipment.

"Establishing a TA unit in the heart of a regular RAF Station is an acid test of TA standards," said Major Pagan, "and the Leuchars soldiers have come through with flying colours."

The RAF Walking and Road Marching Association annual two-day march will take place on May 8-9. This is a qualifying event for the Nijmegen Marches and entries close on April 23. Details and entry form from Cpl J B N McAlister (Events Secretary) RAFCommcen, Block 1, MoD, St Georges Road, Harrogate, HG2 9LB.



Princess Anne chatted to Cpl Brian Winton, Sig 'Nobby' Clarke and Sgt Gerry Peck, all of 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) radio relay detachment when she visited Lisburn as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals. As well as seeing the activities of the soldiers, the Princess attended a reception and lunch with warrant officers, SNCOs and their wives and in the evening a reception given by Royal Signals officers, their wives and guests.

REUNION SEARCH

Actor Windsor Davies, "Sergeant Major Shut-up" of TV's "It Ain't 'Alf 'Ot Mum" is being invited to a "Past and Present" dinner for members of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Messes of the Queen's Regiment and its founder regiments.

Although it will not be held until 11 September at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, the search is already on for ex-members who may wish to attend.

Warrant Officer A Hill, Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, said: "We hope to get a good response. Anyone interested should ring me or the Chief Clerk on Canterbury 57411 Ext 234, or write to me at Howe Barracks, Canterbury."

NOTT GIVES BOOST TO RESERVES

REACTION TO THE plan for a new Home Service Force announced by the Defence Secretary, Mr John Nott, was swift. Would-be applicants were offering their services within 24 hours although the pilot scheme is not due to be launched until September.

Many of the details for the Force still have to be worked out but the plan is for four 95-strong trial companies to be formed first. If the trial is successful the Force could reach a strength of 4500.

Their task will be to guard key-points in their home areas.

Although linked to the TA the new force will not be part of it — but instructors will come from the TA and the HSF will be paid on a similar basis. They will have their own uniform and perhaps their own cap badge.

Because training will be limited to four or five weekends a year, it is hoped to attract men who already have a Service background. The scheme will be open to men between 18 and 60 but the target age group is the middle twenties and early thirties. It is felt that there are many who would like to make a contribu-

tion but cannot spare the time for a full TA commitment.

But all those aspiring volunteers will have to wait for local announcements during the Summer in preparation for the Autumn launch.

There was good news too for the TA with Mr Nott's announcement of new units to be formed, extra training hours for independent units and provision for 'overbearing' where units can make good use of the extra numbers. Twelve new TA centres are to be started this year as well as modernisation programmes for others.

New units will include the equivalent of two new regiments of Royal Engineers for home defence tasks — six squadrons in all — one extra company each for the Royal Irish Rangers, the 51st Highland Volunteers and the Royal Regiment of Wales.

Reconnaissance platoons are to be formed for 15 of the infantry battalions with a Nato role and signals rear link detachments will be provided for Nato battalions which need them.

Three yeomanry regiments are to be re-rolled to meet the need for improved reconnaissance in home defence.

Mr Nott also formally announced his plan for 'Outward Bound' type courses for young people. All three services had

spare training capacity, he said, and as a result up to 7000 young people were to be offered short two or three week courses, with applicants from cadet forces getting priority.

Applications are to be accepted from 29 March and the first courses will be held from mid-April. Applications will be invited through an advertising campaign and handled by local recruiting offices.

Army courses will be based on Fort George, Invernesshire, under the direction of soldier-explorer Lt Col John Blashford Snell. The Royal Navy will base its courses on HMS Raleigh at Torpoint, Devon, with part of the spell spent on Dartmouth under Royal Marine direction. The RAF will have three centres, at Cosford near Wolverhampton, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire, and Catterick, Yorks.

British personnel are among 1800 soldiers of five nations taking part in Exercise Southern Safari 82 in New Zealand's South Island. They are joining troops from Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand itself. The two-week field exercise is the third to be held under the auspices of the Five Power Defence Arrangements between the five countries.

PENDLE

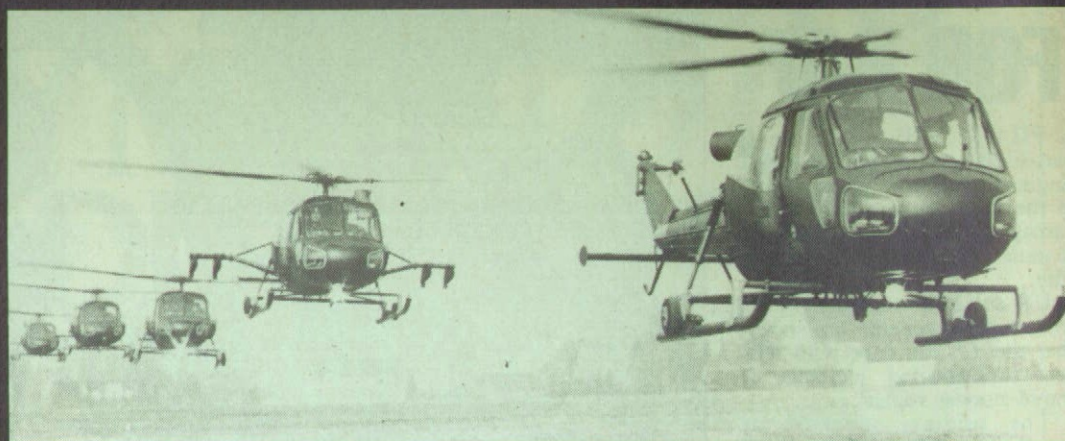


PADRE, I FEEL IT TIME YOU ADMINISTERED A SMALL MIRACLE!

NEWS VIEW

Last Scouts ▶

BAOR has finally said goodbye to the Scout helicopter. The last five were serving with 2 Regt AAC at Bünde as part of 2 Armd Div. In line astern they set out to return to UK after completing their last training mission when the GOC, Maj Gen Martin Farndale, who is also Colonel Commandant of the Corps, took part as an air gunner.

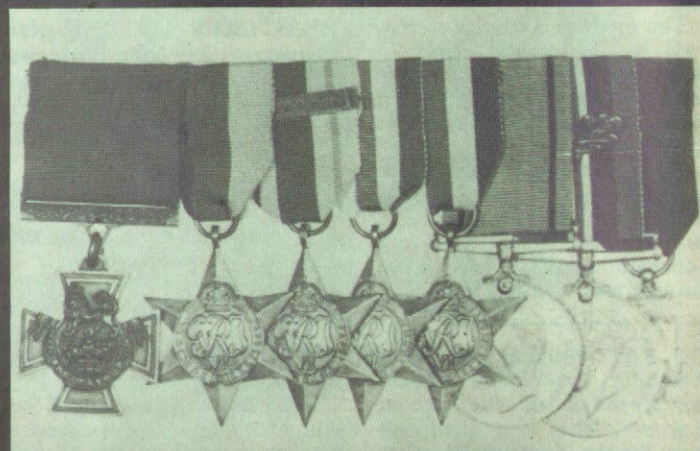


◀ Raid Recalled

Veterans of the famous WWII combined service raid on a German radar site at Bruneval in France gathered at Aldershot to celebrate the 40th anniversary. Here Mr Bob Dobson, once a corporal with C Coy, 2 Para, takes a close look at a Milan anti-tank missile — a bit different from the kit he knew in 1942.

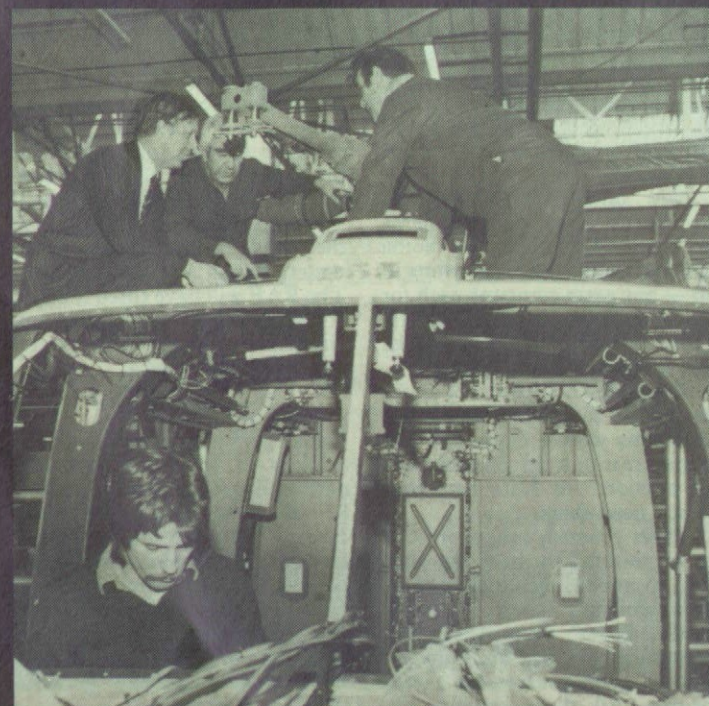
Record Price ▶

A medal group including the only VC award for action on D-Day 1944 has been sold at Sotheby's for the record price of £32,000, beating the previous record by £5000. They belonged to CSM Stanley Elton Hollis of the Green Howards. The citation said he appeared wherever the fighting was heaviest and twice prevented the enemy from holding up the advance.



◀ Close Look

Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, Mr Jerry Wiggin showed a keen interest in equipment programmes when he visited the Westland helicopter factory at Yeovil and saw Lynx for the Army.



Stamps Galore ▶

Such has been the enthusiasm of staff in the children's ward at the Princess Alexandra Hospital at RAF Wroughton, Wilts, that their bid to aid the Blue Peter Appeal by collecting used stamps and foreign coins has blown the top off their "progress pipe". The initial target of 15,000 stamps was reached before Christmas, so the target was raised to 25,000 — but the current total is 38,000 stamps and 2700 coins.



Model Soldiers ▶

This festive occasion was the third annual fashion show run by CRE Rhine Area, based at Willich, in aid of SSAFA, the Wives' Club and PRI. But it was the first time that men's clothes had been included and they were all modelled by soldiers from the unit. Each of the charities will benefit by about Dm 400.

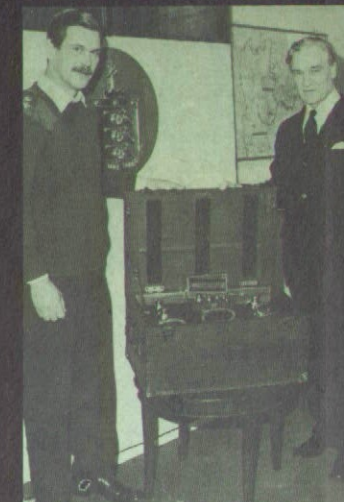


Taste Test ▶

Judges sample the fare in the South West District TA cookery competition. Winners were C Coy, 1 Wessex (Dorchester) with B Coy, 1 Wessex coming second and Bristol University OTC third. At the same time 16 teams took part in a gruelling section competition on Salisbury Plain. Winners were 1 Wessex with 232 Sqn RCT second and 245 Sqn RCT third.

Weighty Gift ▶

This magnificent set of Imperial standard weights which was in regular use at 44 Command Workshop REME, Ashford, Kent until recently were presented to the RAOC Corps Museum to ensure that they were not melted down for scrap. They were used to check and calibrate scales and weighing machines but metrication has taken over. Lieutenant Colonel R V G Kirby, CO of the Workshop presented them on behalf of REME to the museum's curator, Colonel E Ridgeway.



◀ Top Phot

Corporal John Pullen of 2 Bn The Queen's Regiment is the first student at the Joint Service School of Photography at RAF Cosford to receive the Simon Gregg Memorial Trophy for achieving the highest standards of any student in the previous year. The trophy has been donated by the parents of a young RAF student killed in a motorcycle crash last year.



◀ Wife's Tale

Mrs Georgina Hamson broke new ground when she took part in a briefing for 50 Press, radio and television executives in York. Mrs Hamson, 21, gave them a first hand account of life as a soldier's wife. Her husband, Bombardier Nick Hamson is serving with 1st Regiment RHA at Topcliffe.

Plain Talk ▶

Commander Allied Forces Baltic Approaches, Lieutenant General Otto Lind of the Royal Danish Army, took the chance to observe and talk to British soldiers on exercise, during a visit to Salisbury Plain. Here he is chatting to men of 1 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Sqn while Lieutenant General Sir Frank Kitson (centre) looks on.



If you think today's youth needs teaching a thing or two, here's your chance.

By and large, today's youth gets a bad press. True, there are some louts about.

But we know of at least 45,000 young people between 13 and 18 who most decidedly aren't.

They're all members of the Army Cadet Force.

They joined, in part, to burn off their excess energies in a constructive way, pursuing a whole host of outdoor activities and learning one or two military skills in the process.

In addition, they tend to discover first-hand some of the values that, today, seem all but forgotten.

Self-respect, for instance.

Trust. And discipline—the kind that comes naturally when you've got a bit of confidence and pride in yourself.

We need people to help them do all that.

To bring out the best in

them, as well as teaching them first aid, target shooting and the mind and body-stretching delights of various adventure training exercises.

Right now we're looking for officers and instructors with officer potential.

Military qualifications would, of course, be helpful but they aren't essential.

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You see, becoming a part-time volunteer ACF officer or instructor can take up to a year or even longer.

That's because, before you start training and organising cadets we first have to train you.

All in all, it takes up quite a few weekday evenings, some weekends and up to two weeks a year at summer camp.

We'll pay you for your time, of course.

But thanks to the cadets, it's the job itself you'll find most rewarding.



For further information contact your local County ACF HQ or TAVR Association (they're in the phone book under 'Army') or fill in the coupon and send it to: Capt. John Black, Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5HD.

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Officer
ARMY CADET FORCE

CAVALRY GET THE POINT

SEVERAL FAMOUS Royal Armoured Corps units are to be re-designated in a British Army move to keep up with the times and conform to metrication policy.

The changes result from the success of coinage decimalisation and the European Community's commonsense approach to the 'rule of ten', sweeping away the confusing and old-fashioned systems involving ounces, yards, perches, poles and so on.

Cavalry regiments have long been a source of confusion to our Nato allies — or, rather, their titles have — particularly in the case of amalgamations which sometimes require two lines to write out in full.

Under metrication the fraction is abolished and replaced by the decimal point. The Army Board has therefore considered it logical to extend the policy to clumsy regimental titles; the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) for example, become the

much simpler '0.75 Lancers' and the 14th/20th King's Hussars the '0.7 Hussars'.

Regiments with titles involving more complicated fractions, such as the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, will be adjusted to two decimal places. They will be re-designated 0.72 Hussars and 0.57 Dragoons.

The 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars will become the 0.79 Hussars, the 17th/21st Lancers the 0.81 Lancers, and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers will be titled the 3.2 Lancers.

The new system has already been given a successful trial with some Rhine Army units and has proved as popular as the adoption of new Nato staff terminology. It has been particularly welcomed by Nato's International Army Personnel Register which has long been pressing for greater standardisation in Alliance nomenclature.

Britain's representative on the IAPR, Lieutenant-Colonel A Legge-Poole, himself a former cavalry officer, said: "The changes reflect the Army's businesslike approach to the Eighties. We realise that a few diehards will be reluctant to give up the old traditional names but we're sure most people in these units will see the point."

Colonel Legge-Poole also predicted that the changes may well be extended in future to do away with such anachronisms as lancers, hussars and dragoons. In their place, a simplified designation would be adopted for units in the main battle tank or reconnaissance roles.

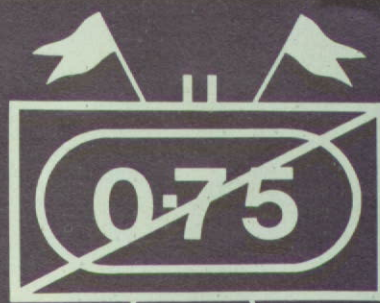
The new designations will come into effect on 1st April. It may take a little time before all cap badges, shoulder titles and so on carry the new titles, but staff at COD Bicester are already working flat out sorting and despatching the new decimalised numerals.

16/5L

Shoulder title of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers — and the new decimal version.

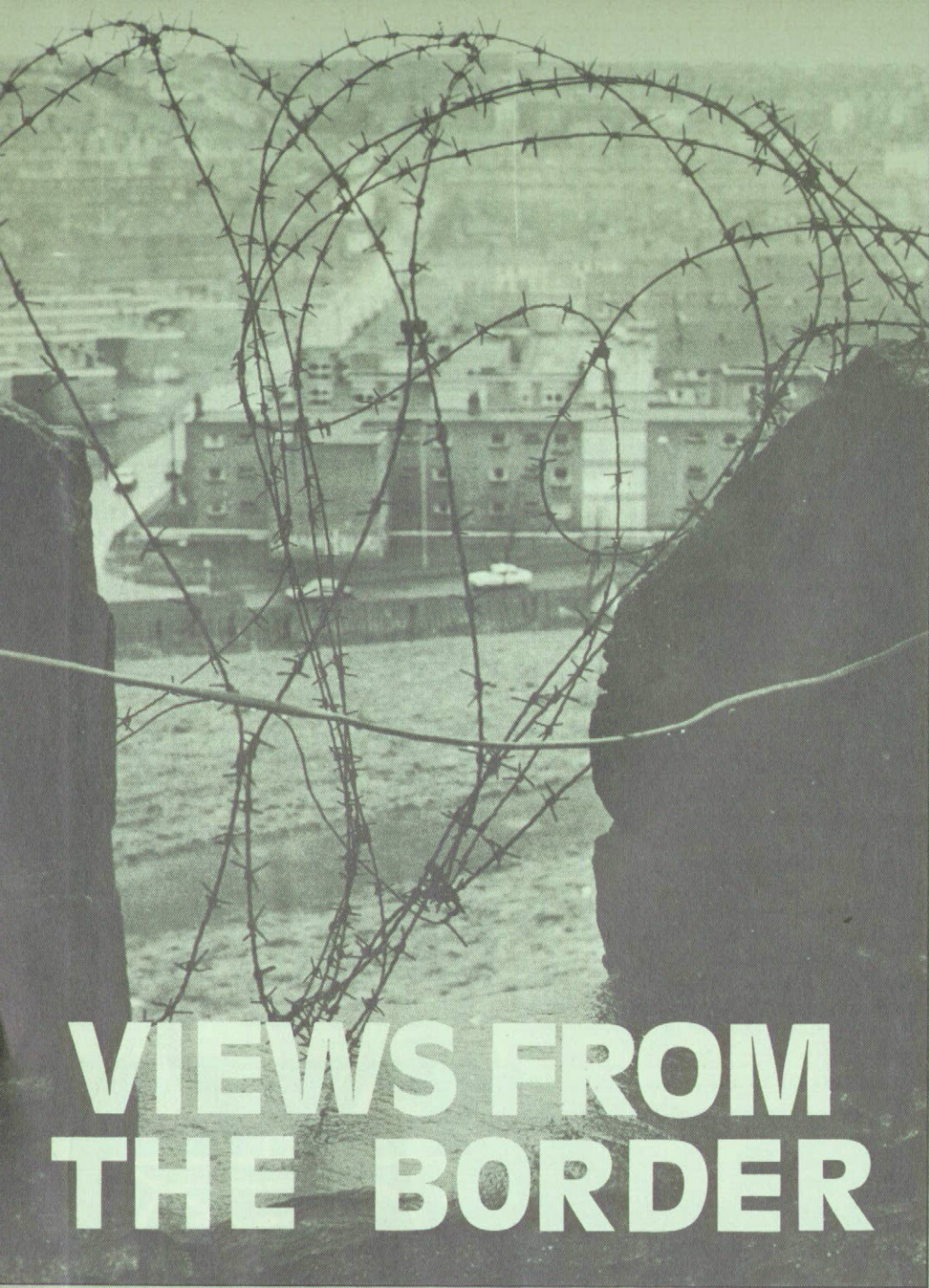
3.2L

Scimitar of the 0.75 Lancers — formerly the 9th/12th Royal Lancers — with updated badge.



Mrs Alice Lund prepares a batch of No 7's for despatch to units from COD Bicester.





VIEWS FROM THE BORDER

THE MASONIC BASE high above the centre of Londonderry looks out over the Bogside and many of the now infamous trouble spots of the city. It is one of three bases manned by soldiers of the resident battalion from Ebrington Barracks.

Headquarters for the men on city duty is Fort George and from here they are deployed to the Masonic or Rosemount bases, spending some time at each location during their four weeks away from home. Their tasks during their tour cover operations in response to calls for assistance from the police, searches — which have been increasingly successful in recent months — vehicle checkpoints and the overall maintenance of security by patrolling.

Major Brian Davenport of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, explained the role of the patrols: "Putting soldiers on the ground acts as a deterrent. We find that foot patrols can maintain contact with the local people so that we're seen to be human and not the ogres that republican propaganda would have them believe."

The four weeks are hard work and the pressure is considerable. "It is real graft for a month and then the soldiers go off on leave," said Major Davenport. Lance Corporal Graham Raven, who has done a previous emergency tour in Northern Ireland, still feels relief when he goes off city duty. "It's not like a four month tour, you need the block leave to unwind when you come back from the city," he said.

The ancient City wall in Londonderry has been a symbol of protection and division, its sturdy gates, over the centuries, keeping some in and some out of the city. Nowadays things are different and although the ritual of closing the gates in the evening can be dangerous, the fact that one company now covers the area once covered by three battalions shows how much progress has been made. The gates are being rebuilt and repaired by the Royal Engineers who, after a

◀ The panorama of the Bogside from the city wall.
Part of a border patrol in County Fermanagh. ▼

number of incidents, now work with the protection of an escort.

Outside Londonderry, 8 Infantry Brigade's 'patch' extends along the border with the Republic south and eastwards to Newry, criss-crossed with narrow lanes and dotted with isolated farmhouses. There are two roulement and four Ulster Defence Regiment battalions covering this border area at any one time.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment are in residence at St Angelo near the County Fermanagh town of Enniskillen. They have been in the county since they took over from 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment at the beginning of the year, although they have yet to replace the Vikings that adorn the bleak walls of the camp with their own Tigers.

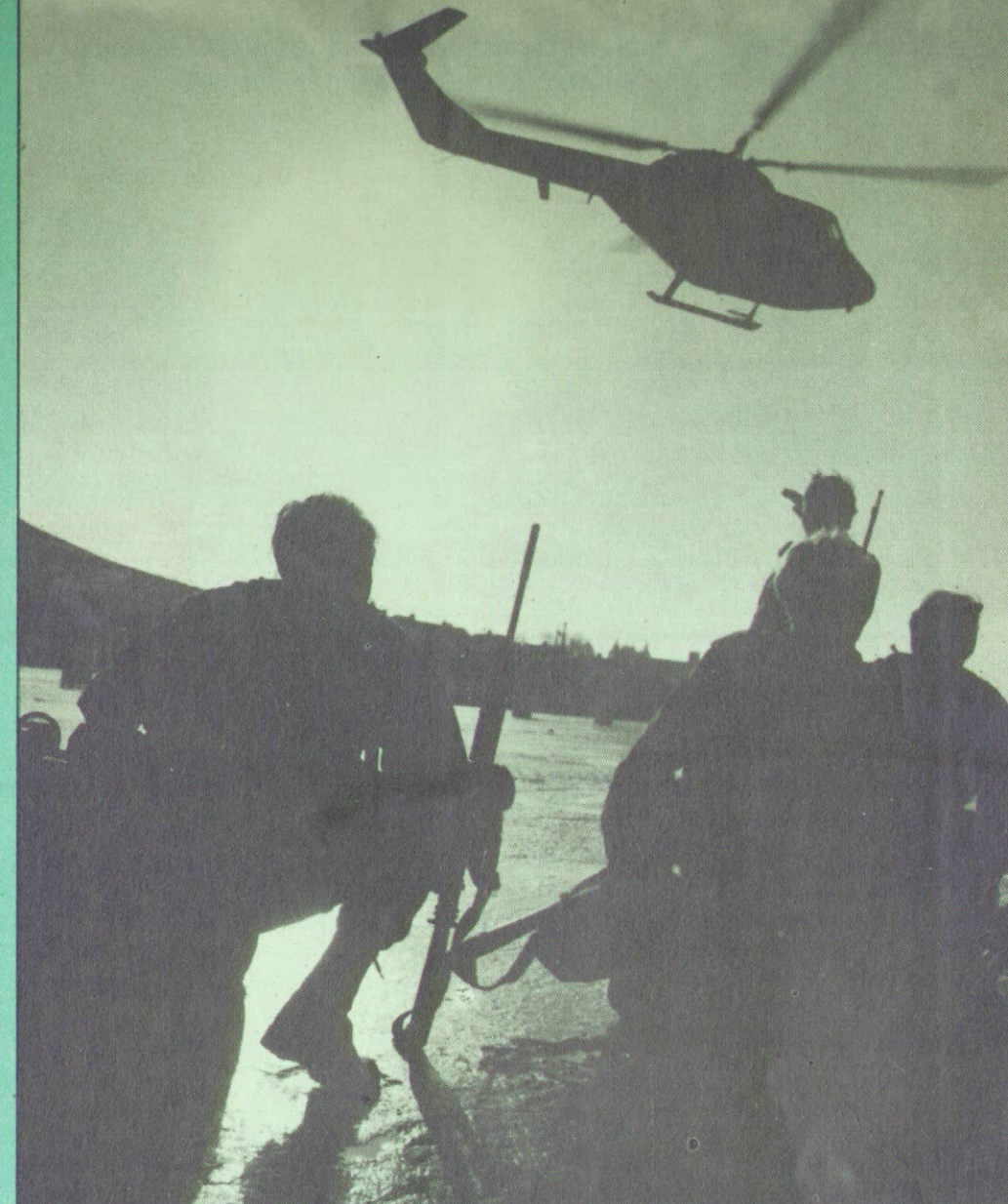
Captain Bert Wolfe spelt out the problems in Co Fermanagh: "There are over 100 miles of border in the county with over 100 crossing points, about half of which have been closed by the security forces. It's difficult to get through Fermanagh because of the lakes, so most terrorist action is concentrated on soft targets near the border. Patrolling is a better deterrent than VCPs but the locals like to see soldiers on the roads."

Lieutenant James Laybourne endorsed this view: "Although some of them don't like to be seen talking to you, the majority are friendly and happy to pass the time of day."

The checkpoints are placed across the main border roads and are manned continually. The living accommodation is not plush but is adequate as the posts are essentially bases from which the men simply work, from the time they are deposited by helicopter until the time they are relieved by the next patrol. Incidents at the VCPs are rare, but one is being rebuilt after it was largely destroyed by a car bomb which was rolled down the hill into it just before Christmas — happily without causing any casualties.

In line with the general reduction of troops in Northern Ireland, 8 Infantry Brigade was amalgamated with 3 Infantry Brigade in the latter part of 1981. There is

Rebuilding at Mullen Bridge after the car bomb. ▼

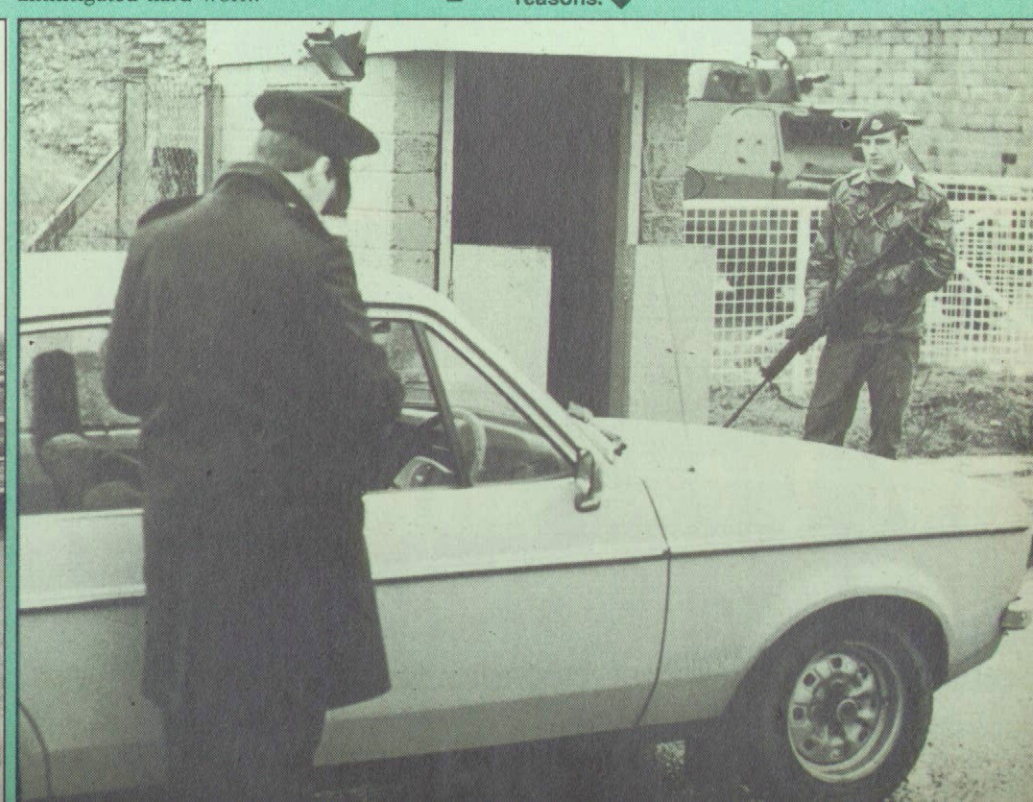


B Company move out from St Angelo by helicopter. ▲

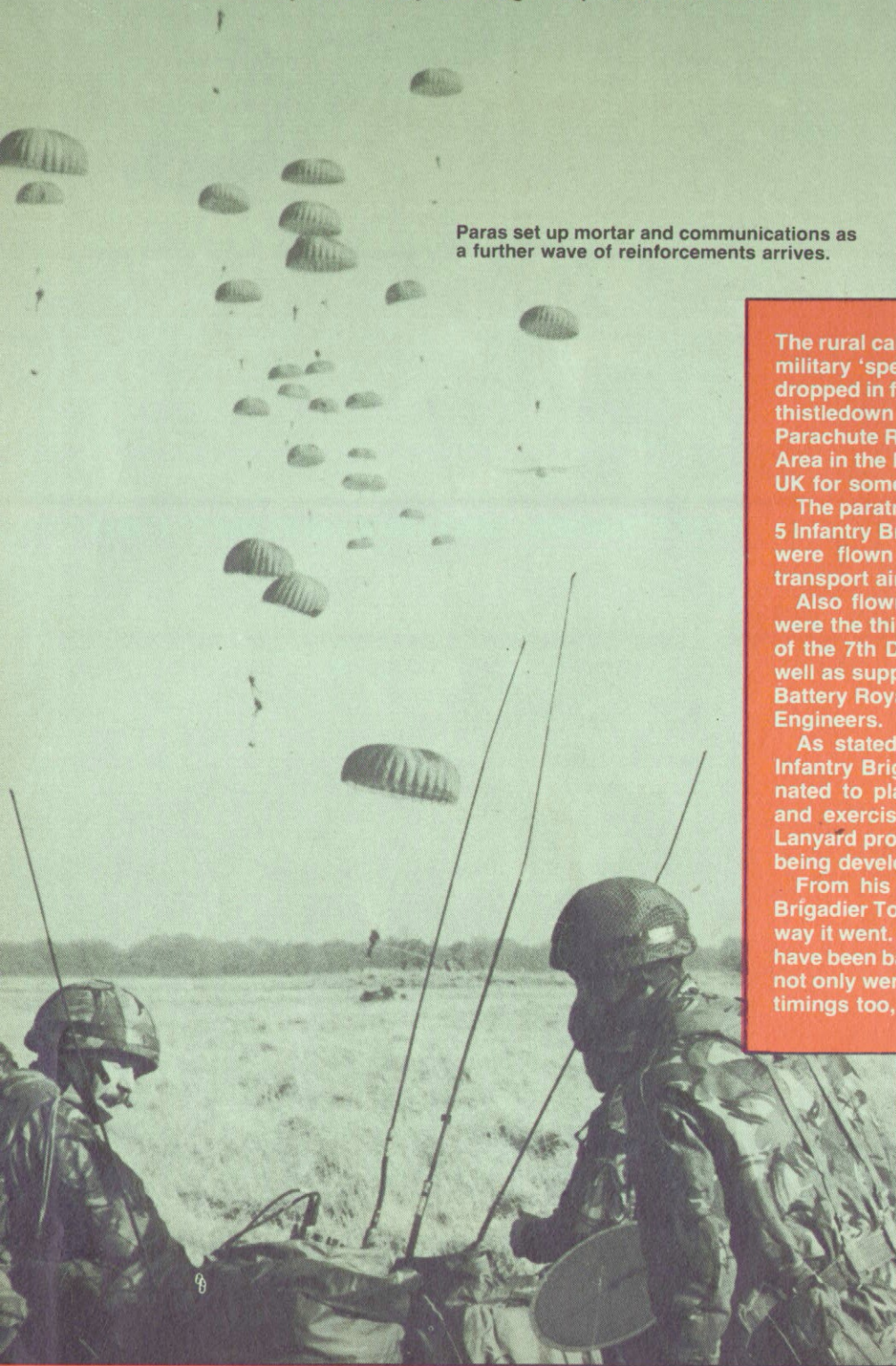
Story: Ann Beecham
Pictures: Doug Pratt

however, plenty to occupy the troops until their tour of duty is over, and many find their time in Northern Ireland has been instructive and rewarding — not just unmitigated hard work. ■

Vehicle and driver checks for security reasons. ▼



It was the biggest airborne exercise to be held in the UK for years
— Paul Haley and Andy Burridge captured the action.



Paras set up mortar and communications as a further wave of reinforcements arrives.

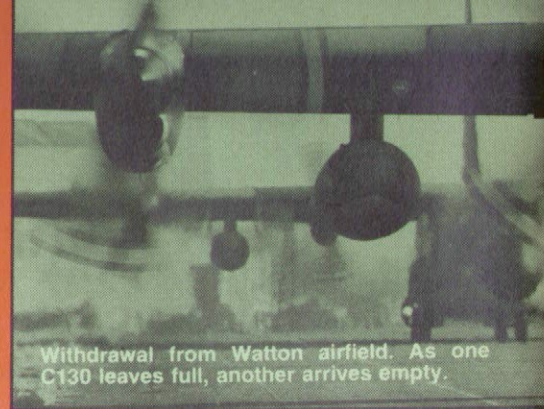
The rural calm of Norfolk provided the backdrop to a rare military 'spectacular' when over a thousand Red Berets dropped in for the weekend. Canopies dotted the sky like thistledown as men from 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Parachute Regiment parachuted on to Stanford Training Area in the largest airborne exercise to take place in the UK for some years.

The paratroops were taking part in the recently retitled 5 Infantry Brigade's latest exercise, Green Lanyard, and were flown to the exercise area in Hercules C 130 transport aircraft by 38 Group RAF.

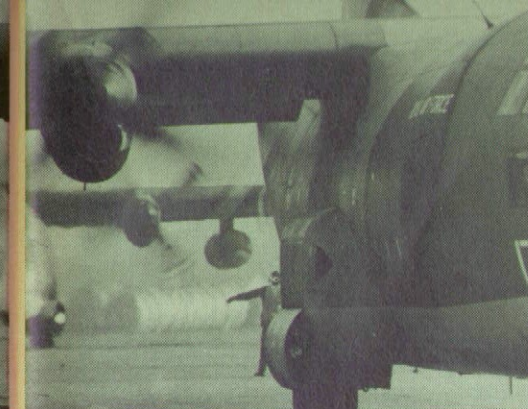
Also flown into the exercise through Watton airfield were the third battalion of the brigade, the 1st Battalion of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, as well as supporting arms and services including 29 Field Battery Royal Artillery and 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers.

As stated in last year's Defence White Paper HQ 5 Infantry Brigade (then HQ Field Force) has been designated to plan and command contingency deployment and exercises in the out-of-area role. Exercise Green Lanyard provided an example of the enhanced flexibility being developed in this field of operations.

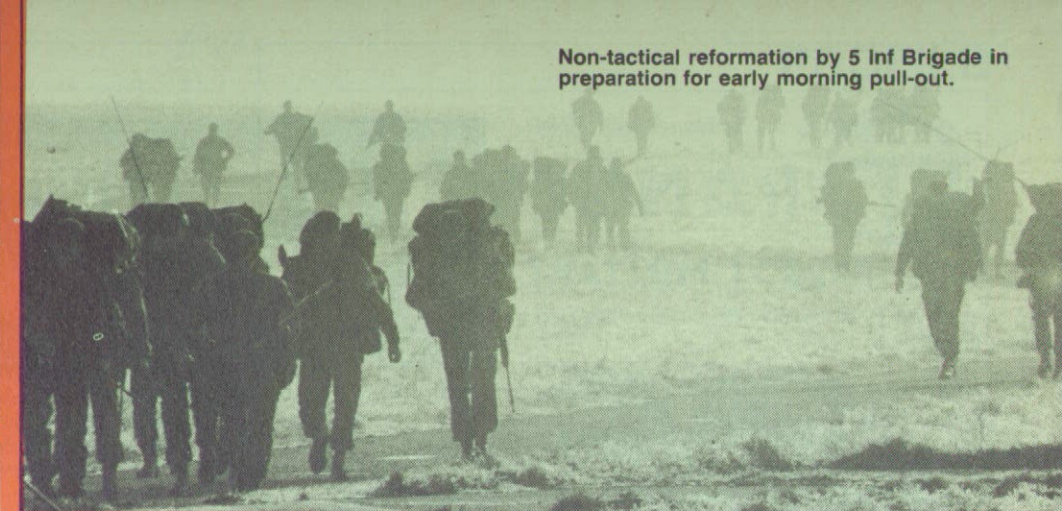
From his Aldershot Headquarters after the exercise Brigadier Tony Wilson said: "We were delighted with the way it went. We were lucky with the weather which could have been bad at this time of year. As it was, the exercise not only went exactly to plan, but exactly to our forecast timings too, which is quite something."



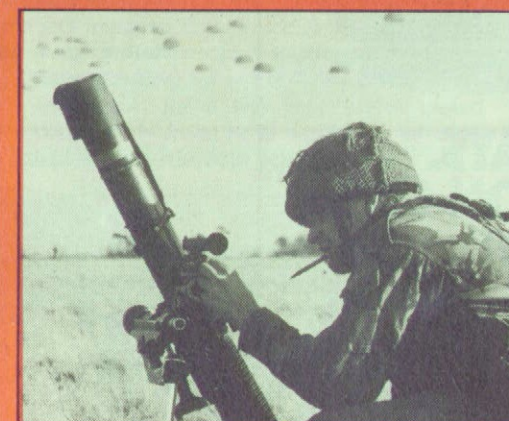
Withdrawal from Watton airfield. As one C130 leaves full, another arrives empty.



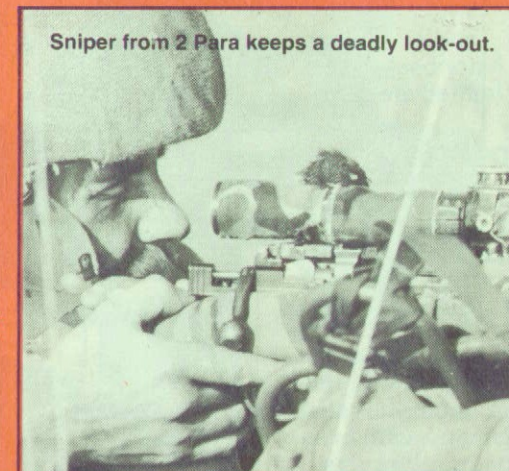
All set to storm the control tower.



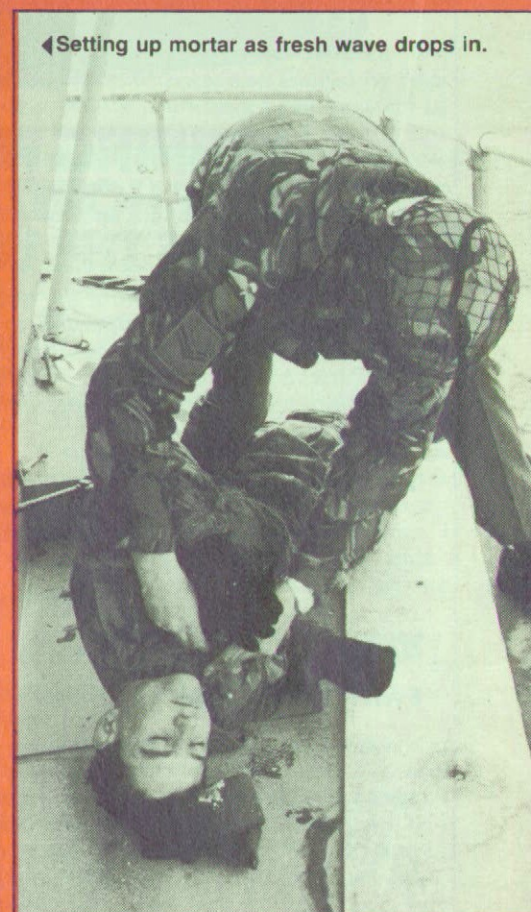
Non-tactical reformation by 5 Inf Brigade in preparation for early morning pull-out.



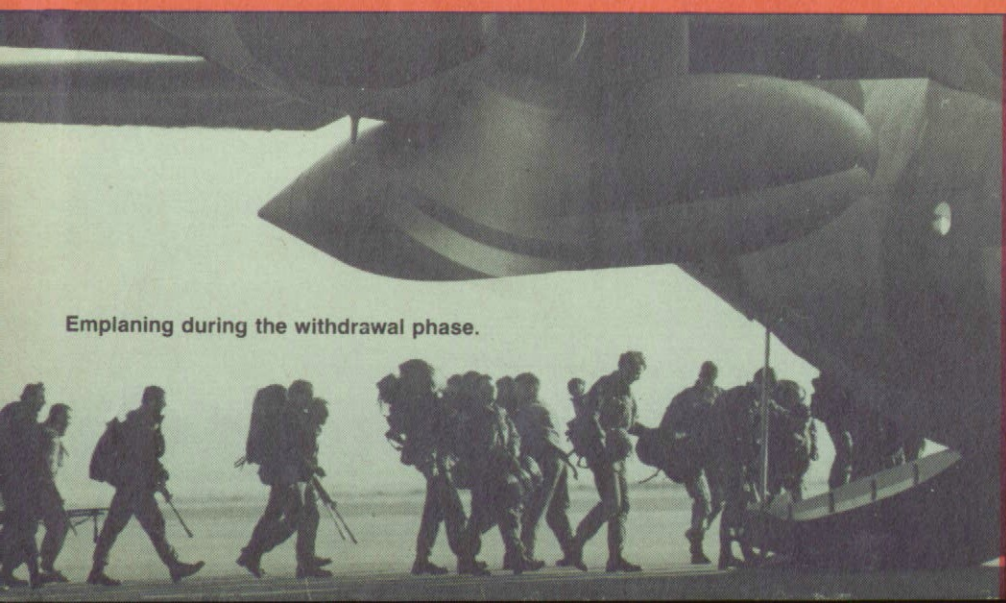
Setting up mortar as fresh wave drops in.



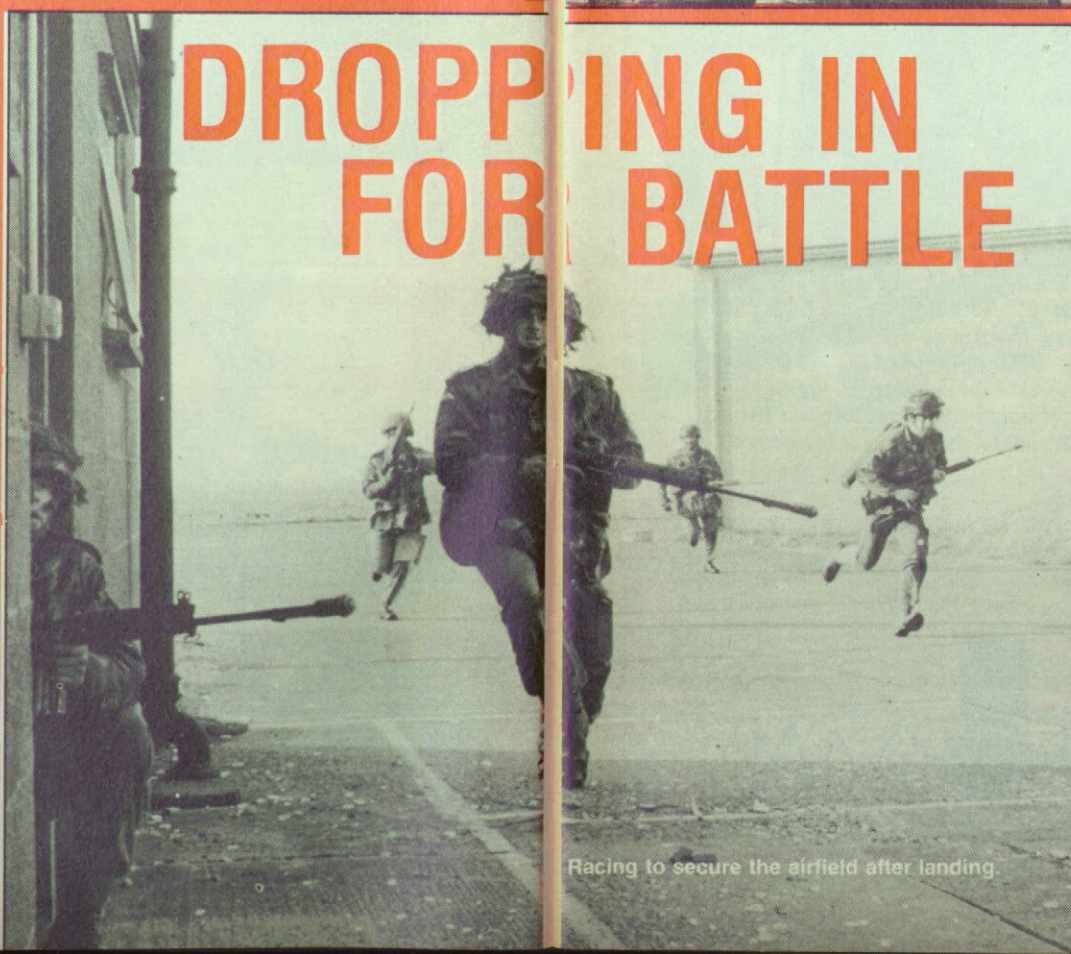
Sniper from 2 Para keeps a deadly look-out.



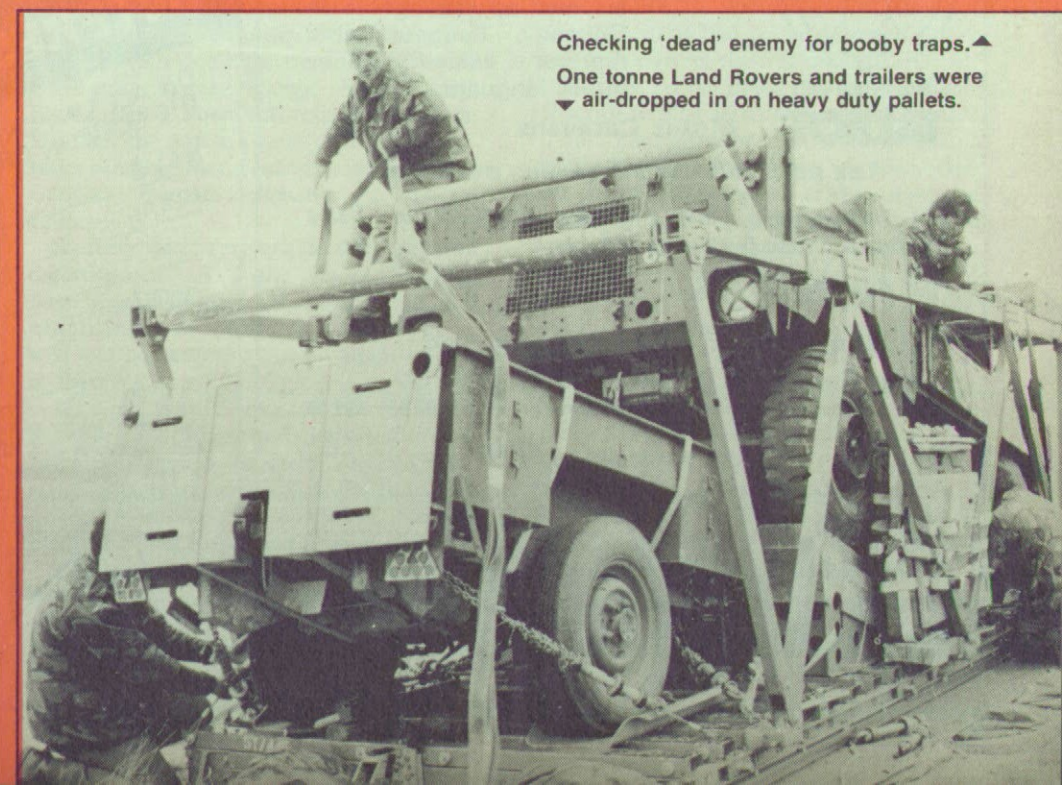
DROPPING IN FOR BATTLE



Emplaning during the withdrawal phase.



Racing to secure the airfield after landing.



Checking 'dead' enemy for booby traps.▲
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UNIFORMAL

FRANKIE'S FIRST SMELL OF THE GREASEPAINT

NOW, LADIES and gentle-men! Frankie Howerd, doyen of the *double entendre*, is quick to affirm that the comedy techniques he accrued behind the footlights during his wartime Army concert party days helped to make him the household name he has become over the years.

And he repays what he terms his "debt of conscious duty and sentiment" of those years by appearing, whenever possible, in Forces'-sponsored shows.

A self-confessed failed Royal Academy of Dramatic Art student with a speech impediment . . . an indifferent, dismissed London docker . . . and an inept insurance office clerk, in that order, the Eltham-based teenager joined the Army and the Royal Artillery for initial training at Shoeburyness.

After his rejection by RADA, Howerd admits he sat in a field near Eltham and "cried and cried for about an hour". It was ridiculous, he recalls now, showing a "lack of courage" but it spurred him to try something else — comedy.

Francis Alick Howerd says today: "War was declared and I promptly volunteered — for ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association). I got an audition with them at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane — and failed that, too.

"I didn't want to dodge the column but imagined it would be a form of service I would enjoy. I felt I was capable of doing it. I felt this obsession. But they said 'no'. I was an awful soldier. A nervous, stammering, clumsy, introspective youth and painfully shy."

Little did he realise then that he would later twice defy danger in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles, become "well versed" in Borneo jungle-clearance operations and perform on hill tops in Korea as part of the debt he still owes the Army for his showbiz beginnings.

"I tried to go wherever there were trouble spots," said Howerd, just turned 60. "And over the years and of all the celebrities I am one of the most travelled but I've been doing it for a long time — 40 years now. I don't think I've ever refused anything offered by ENSA's successor — CSE — Combined Services Entertainment."

Just before his introduction to Army life, Frankie had been a Sunday School teacher.

"War broke out and I reluctantly realised that I would not make a very good saint at all," says the man who did not smoke or drink or "try to take liberties."

Frankie remembers well the severity of the winter at Shoeburyness in 1939-40, the bromide in the tea, and the "agonies of the barrack square."

He says: "Being so clumsy and uncoordinated, marching and counter-marching, forming fours and wheeling to the left or right in column of route turned me into a one-man disaster area — whose ineptitude

could transform an entire parade into a lunatic shambles.

"As for shouldering, sloping or presenting arms, or stripping-down my rifle — my antics would have been considered too outrageous for even the most primitive and undemanding farce on childrens' television. Some protective angel must have saved me from spending my entire Army career in the glasshouse, for it was generally supposed that nobody could be so useless by nature. I had to be a truculent rebel."



Frankie the aspiring bombardier survived his basic training and was transferred to another part of the barracks for indoctrination as a gunner in the Royal Artillery.

Though inhibited by his new professional circumstances the youngster still dreamed of a career in show business.

Fortunately for him, the YMCA was in that part of the camp. The British Expeditionary Force was retreating to Dunkirk and the gunners were confined to barracks pending what was assumed would be a German invasion following the fall of France.

So there was an urgent need for garrison entertainment. And the young Howerd, more confident now in surroundings and material, put on a patter act. It went down well and he became a Sunday night regular at the YMCA.

With no sign of invasion imminent the Shoeburyness troops were dispersed to give defensive cover to the entire Thames Estuary. It was a large area and as Shoeburyness garrison was relatively small, the available manpower had to be used economically.

Frankie explained: "The defence of Southend-on-Sea and its 200,000 inhabitants was entrusted to me and one other. The two of us. On our first night we were told to make sandbags and take up position behind them — a rather formidable initiative test in

itself since Southend, for all its popularity as a seaside resort for Londoners has a beach made up almost entirely of shingle!

"But we created a few lumpy sandbags on the foreshore, lay spreadeagled behind them, and with our rifles pointing through the barbed wire towards the Kent coast on the other side of the estuary, were ready to defend our cherished heritage against the Hun.

"God alone knows what would have happened if the German High Command had actually chosen that stretch of beach below the Palace Hotel as the focal point of an invasion, defended as it was by two raw recruits with Lee-Enfields and ten rounds of ammunition between them!

"Fortunately, all that attacked was cramp. My mate was also assailed by boredom, but the hours passed easily enough for me. I worked out scripts and devised concert party sketches."

Suddenly it was time to move on. There were fears that the invasion might not come by sea but by disguised German paratroops, and an eight-man task force was sent inland to Woking, among them young Howerd.

They patrolled in pairs. But while his Welsh colleague "terrified by it all" elected to stay in a trench, Frankie spurned such sanctuary to march up and down with cocked rifle.

"I enjoyed patrolling," he recalls. "It provided a sort of privacy in which to work out concert party sketches and jokes for my patter act. I was fearless only by default. I was never aware of danger. It simply didn't occur to me. I was so wrapped up in my own egotistic dream world."

The threatened invasion never materialised of course and Howerd returned to Shoeburyness and the YMCA concert parties.

"I had enthusiasm and an experience of amateur entertainment which led to colossal arrogance. For me the smell of greasepaint had the same effect as a whiff of cocaine on a junkie," says Frankie. "I would also be bossy with the officer-performers, impatiently brusque when they got their lines wrong, since in the context of shows I treated them as bad performers and not as men with pips on their shoulders."

Duty rosters cut down the times available for script-writing activities and these needed all-out concentration particularly for a "military nincompoop" like Howerd. Getting the casts together all at the same time became difficult too and Howerd started to develop his own solo style.

"My act as you know it today was born of natural shortcomings and weaned on necessity during those days at Shoeburyness. They were happy days in their fashion."

Howerd was up for posting but the garrison padre pulled strings to have him retained as part of the administration in the Quartermaster's office. This way, he could still put on his concert shows.

"I suffered a dreadful agony of indecision," Frankie reflects. "On the one hand, I felt I should go with my mates. After all, I was in the Army, there was a war on and duties had to be performed. But, on the other hand, I could see the sense of staying and doing something for which the padre

thought I was better suited.

"I knew I was never likely to become much of a combat soldier and certainly no threat to Montgomery as a super-strategist. If I stayed I might at least be of some use organising entertainments. It was something I knew and could do. For months afterwards, half of me suffered outside pangs of conscience for not having left with the others. I was promoted to bombardier."

Soon it was time for Bombardier Howerd to be posted — to the Experimental Station at Foulness Island.

His duties left him plenty of time for organising entertainments but in 1942 he was posted to another Experimental Station, this time at Penclawdd on the Gower Coast near Swansea, where scope for concert parties was scant.

Howerd applied four times to get an audition for a concert party — 'Stars in Battledress' — which was touring the fighting areas. He got his four auditions — and failed every one of them.

The young bombardier was desperate. He wanted to do something for the war effort and told his CO so. "Even if it was only my destiny to get my name in the papers as one of yesterday's casualties. Anything was better than dying of creeping rust caught from the Nissen huts," says Frankie.

He found himself on a commando course at Plymouth and behind the wheel of a lorry-load of soldiers which careered into a hedge. He was a sergeant by this time, but Frankie's career as a driver was over.

France was the next destination on a merchantman taking troops across the

Channel for the D-Day invasion from Tilbury.

Of this episode, he says: "Being in the Royal Artillery they put me in charge of a Bren gun on a conning tower hastily soldered to this sad, old vessel. And with the sort of madness of fate that has always been my destiny in one form or another, when we arrived off France the sea was so rough the DUKW landing craft couldn't come alongside to take off the troops.

"The only port operating in the storm was Mulberry Harbour, and that was so crowded they couldn't accommodate us. So, for eleven days, this creaking tub pitched and tossed, rolled and yawed, while Sgt Howerd lay coiled up on the floor of the conning tower dying of flu and seasickness — a horrific combination, I promise you. God alone knows what I would have done if German bombers had attacked.

"By the time the sea calmed down I had mastered the movements of ocean and stomach — and was extremely hungry. But since no one had allowed for eleven days at sea, there was no food left but ship's biscuits — and I was close to starvation. When we got off I was so thin that only the sergeant's stripes on my arm distinguished me from the barrel of the Bren gun!"

A smattering of French got him the job of an interpreter located in Brussels seconded to the Military Government.

French linguists were in short supply and

**"I was so thin
that only the
sergeant's stripes
on my arm
distinguished me
from the barrel
of the Bren gun!"**

Howerd landed the job by saying "oui" and "non" in the right places during a rapid oral test. But his one, carefully rehearsed and grammatically researched sentence went drastically wrong.

He was supposed to inquire if there were any pregnant women in the neighbourhood. The version *à la Howerd* simply asked if there were any women in the neighbourhood who wanted to become pregnant!

His next stop was Holland and by now the self-admitted callow youth was fully acquainted with the facts of life.

"I was in a chauffeur-driven staff car without any badges of rank on my uniform," he recalls. "We were mobbed by the Dutch. God alone knows who they thought I was. The people of The Hague were the most appreciative audience I've ever had. I was cheered, carried shoulder-high and made to sign autographs. And I can assure you that all the girls in Holland aren't interested only in Edam cheese!

"I was never told whether Montgomery was jealous of me, whether Churchill decided to exploit my success as liberator extraordinary or whether it was assumed my demoralising presence would destroy any vestige of German resistance."

With an Army captain he was sent to a place called Stade near Hamburg — to form the Military Government. Just the two of them.

"The poor captain had a nervous breakdown and despite my lack of manual dexterity I managed to type and send a signal asking for help. In typical fashion the Army did send reinforcements. Two hundred of them! There were now more Governors than governed! I let them get on with it and started to organise a concert party and it went down well — almost as a one-man show."

Frankie at last succeeded at an audition and was put in charge of a concert party touring north-west Germany. But his glory — after so much striving to attain it — was short-lived. Three months later he was demobbed.

It was back to Eltham with a chalk-stripe demob suit, pork pie hat, a gratuity of less than £100 and a good reference praising his concert party work.

Howerd tried to "sell" himself to agent after agent. "There I was. A shuffling, awkward yokel petrified with fear. But I did manage to do a couple of shows up at Butlins holiday camp in Filey for a total of three guineas. Over the years though my luck changed."

His success story speaks for itself.

Frankie Howerd — he was born 'Howard' but changed it to avoid confusion with the others, Trevor, Arthur etc. — has been the star of more than 40 theatre productions (including seven Royal Variety Shows), 17 films and countless radio and television appearances. He is also the holder of ten major awards for his contribution to show business as an entertainer.

To many people, he is best known for farce — the *Carry On* series, *Up Pompeii*, *Up the Chastity Belt*, *Up the Front* and so on.

But his acting has a serious side too, with roles like Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Old Vic and operatic parts such as the admiral in Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and Frosch, the drunken jailer, in *Die Fledermaus* at the London Coliseum.

Yet, during all those triumphs, Frankie Howerd has never forgotten his early days at Shoburyness and beyond.

"Because I was very sentimental towards those wartime days with the Army I have tried ever since then, as best I could, to do shows whenever it was necessary for them because I was conscious of duty. Whenever there was trouble — Cyprus, Borneo and Korea — I did my level best to help out. I've been over to Northern Ireland, twice — but not in recent years."

Frankie has also made a nostalgic trip back to Shoburyness to look over his old barrack room — a "very sad sight" — and other locations associated with his concert party formative years.

"I found it all very sad and all" very nostalgic. It all seemed such a long time ago. But looking back, I was happy there with the black-outs, the comradeships. The Army today has got very technological. There's a choice of menus now. It's absolutely right. There are married quarters. Absolutely right, too. The Army sense of humour is more sophisticated because people today are more sophisticated."

So, titter ye — not! Frankie Howerd, the man who coined the catchphrases of Not on Your Nellie! . . . Ladies and Gentle-men! . . . the best of luck! . . . and I was am-AZED! . . . still has a very soft spot for the Army.

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STICKING TOGETHER

THE HISTORIC CITY of Londonderry straddles the River Foyle in the far north west of Ireland. It is the most westerly city in Great Britain, a fact that no doubt accounts for the excessive rainfall in the area. There has been a settlement on the site since 546 AD when St Columba founded a monastery at what was then known as Doeire Calgach.

Today the population is around 88,000 and the city boasts some fine old buildings. A large proportion of the old city wall still stands and from the headquarters of 8 Infantry Brigade at Ebrington Barracks, in the Waterside area of Derry on the south bank of the Foyle, you can look out across the river to the rest of the city — which is as near as some families ever get.

It is not easy adjusting to life in some Northern Ireland postings and the sense of isolation can be strong in Londonderry.

Major Simon Hopkins is the Families Officer for the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who are currently the resident battalion at Ebrington. Some young wives feel nervous and frightened when they first hear that they are going to Northern Ireland and it is the battalion's task to tell them what to expect and how to cope, as well as telling them how to make the most of the posting.

"Families must be aware that there is a problem and they must take reasonably sensible precautions, but are encouraged to lead as normal a life as possible," advises Major Hopkins.

Jennifer Tubby felt as apprehensive about a tour in Northern Ireland as the other wives. "I was petrified when I arrived but I've relaxed a lot now," she said. "Wherever you go you've got to make the best of it and I'm really quite happy here."

And, as another wife Christine Underwood explained, it makes a big difference to the men themselves to have their wives and families with them.

In the way of small mining communities, the battalion wives and families stick together and this solidarity helps many of them through a difficult tour. It has its reverse side though and families find that their lives are centred around the patch and the other Service families.

According to Jean Ogle many wives felt

the worst thing about a Londonderry posting was that they could not get away from the Army. "They work, eat and sleep the Army and have to keep to their own environment."

Quarters, however, are usually no problem. The headquarters normally manages to provide a roof over the heads of all the

**'I was petrified
when I arrived
but I've relaxed
a lot now'**

families in the garrison, although the presence of specialist units along with the resident battalion means that families have to be quartered at Ballykelly, a small village some 13 miles from Ebrington Barracks.

Others live rather nearer and the remaining families are spread between three locations within a mile-and-a-half of the HQ. There is a considerable amount of renovation going on with improvements to existing quarters and conversions being made to other buildings for use as quarters.

Major Hopkins explained that this spread of accommodation created problems. "The resident battalion in Londonderry is always fragmented because of the layout. At least, generally speaking, we have never experienced delays with quarters even for newly-marrieds. It will make a great difference when another 60 quarters are taken over, by October, in an area close to the barracks."

Many quarters have an open fire instead of, or as well as, central heating and bills for heating, even excluding coal and logs for the fire, can be as much as £25 per week in the winter. However, the fact that prices are rather higher than on the mainland is compensated for. Single soldiers do not pay food or accommodation charges and married soldiers pay much less for quarters, and receive a food allowance. All ranks receive Northern Ireland pay.

As a rough guide a married private, or JNCO is about £15 per week better off than his counterpart in England,

◀ A group of wives with their special bus.

and a SNCO about £18 per week. For single soldiers the figure is slightly higher. These figures are after tax has been deducted.

Another scheme which applies solely to Northern Ireland concerns leave. The Army will pay the cost for the entire family to move back to England, by air or car, twice a year. The same facility is available to single soldiers.

Higher rates of insurance are another expense which may surprise new arrivals to the Province. A car is of course the most obvious answer to the problem of isolation but a few families find it too expensive an option and have to make do without their own transport. However, the Army has recently announced a scheme to start in April which will go some way to compensating for the higher insurance rates.

Major Hopkins and the other battalion officers concerned with the welfare of the men and their families are aware that the restrictions and limitations are irksome. There is chronic unemployment in the area which prevents wives and school-leavers finding a job.

So it is a busy life for a Families Officer in Londonderry and each resident battalion has to find its own answers to the problems of communication, contact and possible boredom. The 'Poachers' issue a fortnightly newsletter which is delivered to every quarter and gives details of activities and trips, together with lots of information that helps families keep in touch.

There are Keep Fit classes for the wives, coffee mornings at the 'Teapot', a thrift shop and a library as well as visits to local potteries and shirt factories and regular shopping trips to Coleraine and to Belfast.

A 39-seater bus partly solves the transport problem for the wives further afield and an enthusiastic youth leader is a great help in keeping the younger people occupied.

There are also sports facilities at the barracks, the squash courts are popular, the building of an indoor air hall court is well under way, and there are opportunities to play a round or two of golf on local courses. A Saddle Club at Ballykelly has horses suitable for all ages and degrees of experience.

In addition, the battalion has bought a car, a caravan and a 14-foot motor launch for hire at low cost should any families want to get away for some sailing, fishing, or simply sightseeing in the beautiful countryside.

There is a limited social life for the single soldiers in the garrison. A local club offers the chance of a drink or the occasional disco in the evening as most pubs in town are out of bounds, but meeting girlfriends is difficult as there are restrictions on soldiers going out alone. The unit runs discos in its own club, so does the Naafi, and CSE shows are frequent and popular.

Service children in Northern Ireland go to the local schools and they can start attending at four years instead of five as in England. "One of the big plusses of Northern Ireland is the standard of primary education," said Major Hopkins. "The rest of the education is good and they have a grammar school system here too." In fact, the standard is so high that many parents find their children are way ahead of classmates when they move to their next posting.



House purchase is a subject that is still generating a steady flow of correspondence. Sgt M from Germany reminded me of the proposed House Purchase Schemes which have had to be deferred. He writes:

"At the moment there are two House Purchase Schemes available to the Serviceman. The first is applicable to Servicemen over the age of 50 and the second applies only to Servicemen who are in their last two years of service on a 22-year engagement.

"Two or three years ago, two further House Purchase Schemes were introduced and then shelved. These two schemes were delayed due to defence cuts, initially for one year, then for a further year — with a Government promise that both would be introduced as soon as possible.

"The main idea of both schemes was to enable a Serviceman to purchase a house while he could afford to do so and before he left the Army, so that he would have no housing problem on leaving the Service.

"In view of the very high cost of housing, perhaps the Government will now keep their promise and introduce the two shelved schemes before 1 April 1982."

PS10 have explained the position as follows:

"An improved Assisted House Purchase (AHP) Scheme, which has Treasury approval, has been designed as a measure to improve retention and to encourage accompanied service.

"The principal ingredient of the scheme is an interest free loan of six months pay for any Serviceman or Servicewoman on a pensionable engagement who is aged 30 and above, repayable over 12 years.

"The scheme also includes a package of mobility measures covering repossession, storage costs for moves within the UK and refunds of legal expenses. In addition, Disturbance Allowance and Removal Expenses would be extended, at appropriate rates, to single servicemen.

"A scheme for discounted sales of

surplus married quarters to Servicemen and women has also been developed. Unfortunately, funds are not available at present for either scheme. AHP is top of the list of improvements in conditions of service for introduction when funds

ASK ANNE

do become available but unfortunately this is not likely to be before 1 April 1983 at the earliest.

"Meanwhile the existing House Purchase Schemes for those over 50 and for those within their last two years of pensionable service, as well as the non-discounted scheme for the purchase of surplus married quarters, will continue."

We are returning to UK in about six months and will be looking at houses with a view to buying.

We would appreciate the address for the property lists you have mentioned before.

Mrs S, BFPO 53

The property lists are available from National Homes Network, Suite 303, Radnor House, 93 Regent Street, London. Your Education Centre and the Pay Office should also be able to give you some helpful advice.

I am starting on the Pre-School Child Community Studies Course with the Open University. I am living in Celle and have use of a video recorder. Can you tell me if there is anyone else studying the same course in the Celle-Hohne area? Mrs B, BFPO 23.

I have just made my second visit to the Open University and as a result we hope to set up a system of putting people in touch, on similar lines to the scheme in UK. Until this can happen I have sent you the name of

Swings and roundabouts

BECAUSE ACCIDENTS happen without any warning their unexpectedness adds an element of shock to their effect. We cannot always expect the unexpected but we can minimise the number of accidents that befall us by taking a few basic, sensible and logical precautions.

Not surprisingly it is children who are most at risk from accidents. Accidents are the commonest cause of death among children and it has been said that as many as four children are killed each day by accidents. One child in every six goes to a hospital accident or emergency department every year, one in three patients admitted to an emergency department is a child and nearly half the deaths of children between the ages of 10 and 15 are due to accidents.

Many parents mistakenly believe that they will protect their children if they keep them indoors where they can keep an eye on them, but in fact most accidents involving toddlers happen in the home. Older children of around 12 or 13 years old are prone to 'adventure' accidents from which it is difficult to protect them.

However, there are a great many things that can be done to reduce the horrifying accident



▲ An old tyre can be a hazard as well as fun.
▲ Neglect and weathering make this swing a danger.

statistics. A new series of programmes is currently showing on BBC TV and BFBS TV called 'Play it Safe'.

There is a booklet which accompanies the series and which has a foreword by Jimmy Savile. It contains graphic photographs taken by consultant paediatrician, Hugh Jackson, who is medical secretary of the Child Accident Prevention Committee, which originated the current national child safety campaign. They show young victims of common accidents — choking, suffocation, scalds, falls, poisoning, drowning, car accidents; the list is almost endless.

Ironically a percentage, too high a percentage, of accidents happens when children are playing in what should be the com-

parative safety of a playground. Some playgrounds are well maintained and supervised but too many are potentially lethal with no adults on hand and old and dangerous equipment.

In 1978, the National Playing Fields Association and Fair Play for Children jointly produced a safety checklist, 'Danger on the playground', which has now been revised. The checklist can help to identify the more common playground hazards and set out the safety problems inherent in the layout, installation and maintenance of fixed equipment playgrounds. Many superficial playground faults are easily recognised and there is no excuse for a lack of repair and maintenance once these faults have been reported.



the nearest group, in Bielefeld.

I have had a number of similar enquiries and would be pleased if anyone studying one of the short Community Studies courses would drop me a line.

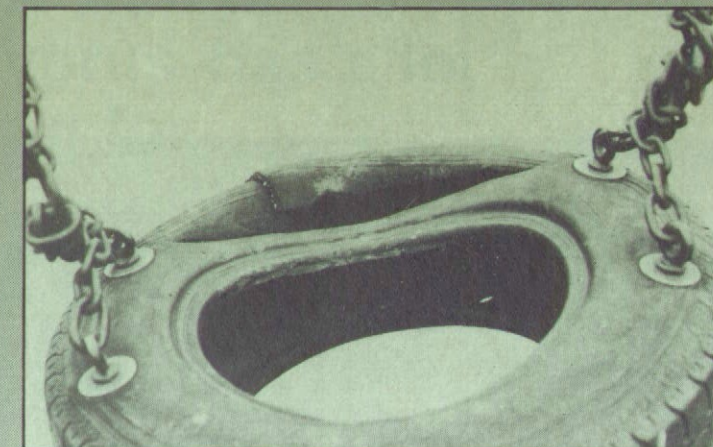
Prior to my posting to Hong Kong in July 1981, I bought a house in UK. Since then I have paid over £150 in rates and almost £50 in water rates.

The house is unoccupied and I plan to live in it on my return from Hong Kong in 1983.

However talking to other people with unoccupied houses in UK, I find that I am the only one paying rates. Is this right? Sgt W, BFPO 1

Each Local Authority has different rules about paying rates and water rates. I suggest that you write to the Housing Department of your Local Authority and give them the details of your case.

You could also ask for the leaflet 'How to pay Less Rates'.



▲ An old tyre can be a hazard as well as fun.
▲ Neglect and weathering make this swing a danger.

These two organisations are concerned to encourage an increased awareness of the dangers of playgrounds and the subject was raised at the UKLF Wives' Seminar.

It was agreed in principle that all playgrounds on new estates would conform to the specifications of the British Standards Institution and ROSPA and would be planned in consultation with the National Playing Fields Association — and that this could be taken up with PSA. There was, however, the question of the cost of replacing adequate facilities which would have been considered safe in the past and were still useable. This would be prohibitive, although this was not an excuse for allowing clearly dangerous equipment to remain. The question of parental responsibility for supervising young children was also considered.

I spoke to Major General Lane, Director of Army Quartering, about the problem and he agreed to look into the matter personally. "I agree with the concern of wives over the safety

of playgrounds on our married quarter estates and will do what I can to improve the situation," he said. "Some of the playgrounds I have seen are dangerous and, in cases where we cannot rectify the problem, it may mean they will be closed as we must ensure that, wherever possible, accidents must be avoided. Of course, financial restraints will have some bearing on what we can and cannot do."

Play it Safe booklet free from: Health Education Council, PO Box 224 London SE99 6YE

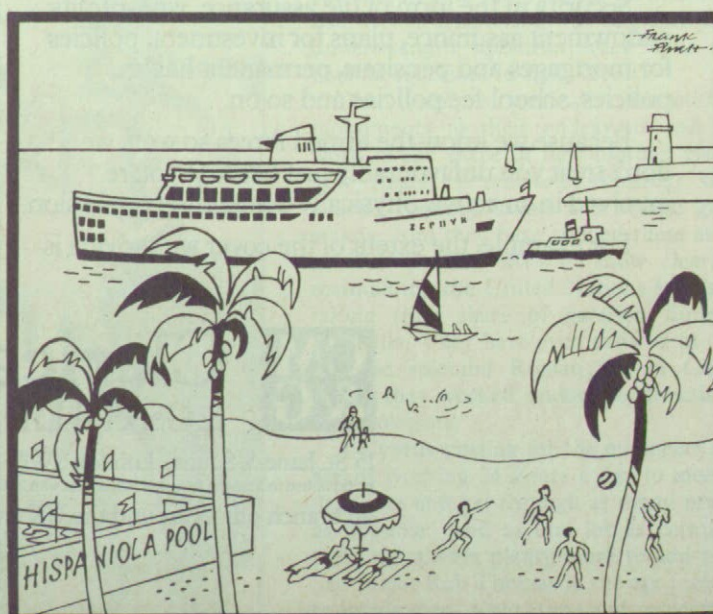
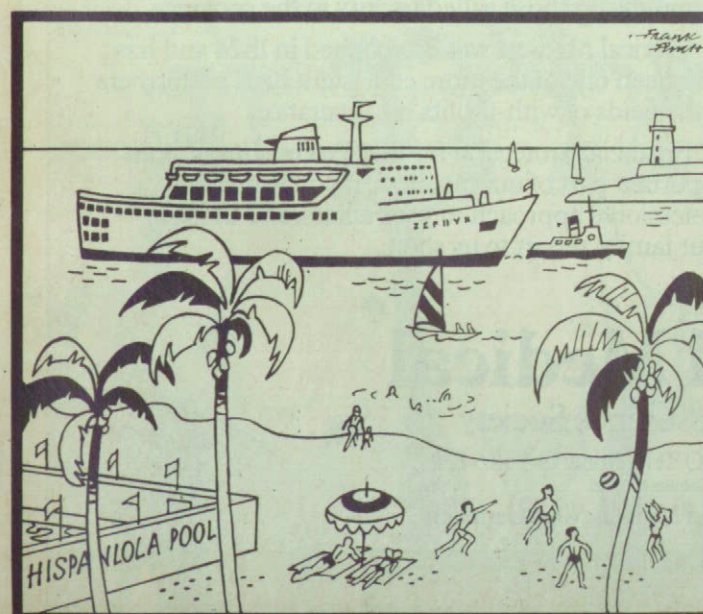
or Scottish Health Education Group Network Downhill, Glasgow G12 9JN

Safety Checklist (£1.25 inc postage) from: National Playing Fields Association, 25 Ovington Square, London SW3

or Fair Play for Children 248 Kentish Town Road, London NW5

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 36.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY has asked for a little extra help from Servicemen intending to save with the Society under the House Purchase Savings Scheme (HPSS).

Unit pay staffs should make sure that Servicemen fill in Form AF 01796F correctly before submitting it.

The completed form should include the full forenames of the Serviceman making the deposits as initials alone are not enough.

It should also show clearly whether the applicant requires an 'Ordinary' or a 'Special' Share Account. An 'Ordinary' Share Account pays less interest than a 'Special' Share Account but is not restricted by the Society's rule that only allows for one withdrawal a year from the account. If neither is deleted, the Society will allocate an 'Ordinary' Share Account.

Anne Armstrong

What serving soldiers should aim for



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the ground but Cyprus has a lot
to thank them for . . .

NON-STOP SAPPERS



Sappers clear the ancient site at Curium. ▲

The team who rehoused a church. ▼



FOR THE SAPPERS of 62 Support Squadron the Royal Engineers' motto 'Ubique' — Everywhere — means exactly that. They are spread throughout the length and breadth of Cyprus from the Akamas training area in the extreme west to the Troodos mountain tops and over to Dhekelia in the east and, for an understrength squadron, they have some notable successes to their credit.

The island is gradually accumulating monuments to their endeavour and hard work in the shape of new football pitches, new roads, a renovated church, tennis courts, running tracks and village grandstands. And they have tackled these as well as their routine tasks of snow clearance, maintaining the United Nations tracks and taking their share of garrison duties at Dhekelia. They have even assisted in clearing the splendid Roman site at Curium where they worked under the direction of archaeologists.

A Cyprus posting for the engineers often means working 24 hours a day to meet the deadlines and get through as many projects as possible. And as one job is completed there are always plenty more to add to the list. Major Rob Thomas in the ops room has to juggle men, plant, time and projects in a

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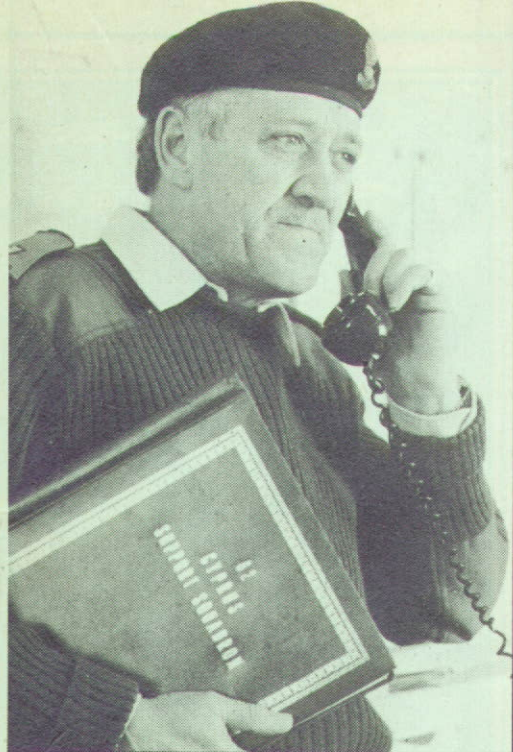
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Maj Thomas and the Sword of Peace submission. ▲

seemingly endless round of tasking requirements.

"We never have less than 37 projects on the list at any one time and it's impossible to get round to them all," he explained. "In

Spr Vince Kerr working at the Victor Beach Club. ▼

fact we have to overplan here. The plant is in constant use for exercises as well as for our own jobs. It's worked into the ground really. I've never come across a situation in my whole service where the lads are at it non-stop as they are here. There's no breathing space!

"The guys like it here even though they don't have much time to spare. The 'planties' technically have a very good time. They are never out of the saddle!"

Other units island-wide are quick to recognise the contribution the sappers make to the quality of life in Cyprus in undertaking the MAMC (Military Aid to the Military Community) tasks that fall to them as a result of the reduction in funds available for improvements. They have a deserved reputation for being the hardest worked unit on the island.

The bright new St Andrews church just off Mandalay Road in Dhekelia is a far cry from the old clapboard construction that was so near to the main road it used to shake every time a lorry rumbled past. A disused 30-metre range was completely renovated in three months and transformed into a sparkling and impressive new church building in time for a visit to Cyprus by the Chaplain General.

Another project in hand is the redesigning and improving of the Victor Beach Club for senior NCOs and their families. It is a popular place in the summer and the sappers are extending the facilities and giving the club a face-lift before the season gets underway.

There are occasions when the squadron has been able to combine a MACC (Military Aid to the Civil Community) with a MAMC task, as in the case of the new road at Akamas, just north of the tourist centre of Paphos. "The road was in desperate need of repair," explained Major Thomas, "because the Cyprus government was using that route to open up the area — it also leads to our ranges. . . ."

Roads such as that to Akamas and another through Limassol Forest that was cleared by the sappers to provide easy access for the Cyprus Forestry Commission, are much in demand — but it is the individual tasks that are most sought after. A village or town will see a sapper-built football pitch or stadium in a neighbouring village and ask for one of their own.

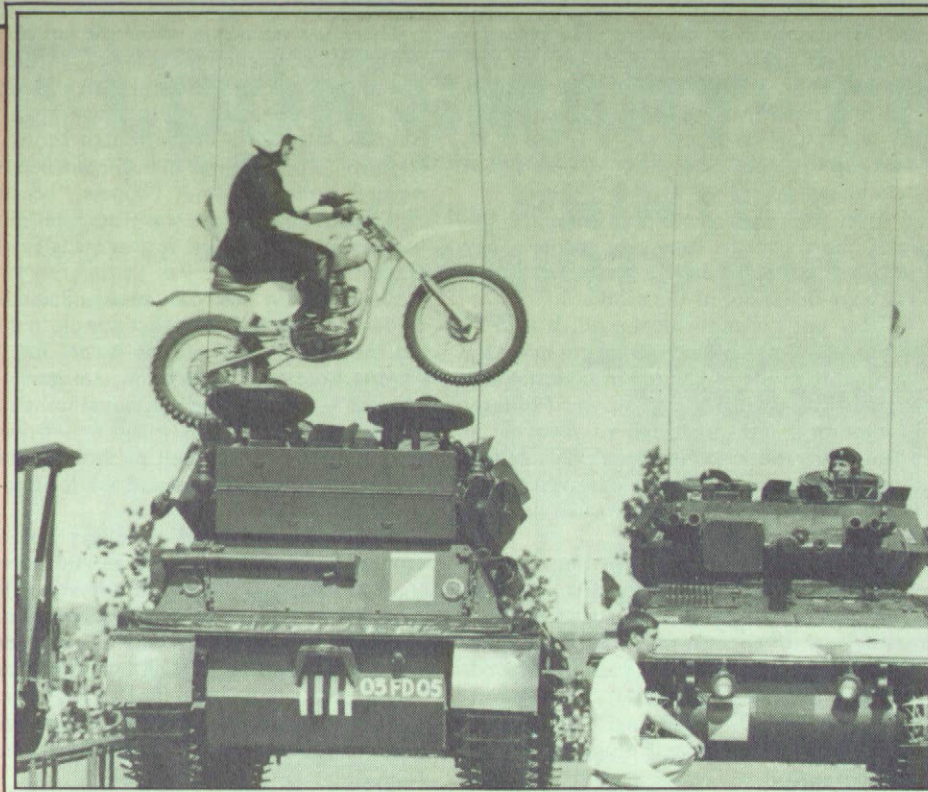
This creates a knock-on effect but the sappers do their best to oblige and have a sheaf of thank-you letters to prove it. They have even submitted a fully-documented account of their achievements for consideration for the 1982 Wilkinson Sword of Peace award, and have selected nine varied tasks to illustrate the broad spectrum of their work in Cyprus, over and above their usual Charter.

Whether they win it or not, they are certainly winners with many of the islanders. "We get letters from locals all over the place," said Major Thomas, "and I am as full of admiration for what some of the guys do as the locals are." ■

The finishing touch for the transformation. ▼



Story: Ann Beecham



Catterick 1976 — a White Helmet jumps ▲ Balancing nine men on a bike takes a lot of nerve and skill — and hours of practice. ▼



Sgt Fred Alexander BEM, on right, lines up with this year's hand-picked squad.

Every year thousands of spectators hold their breath as the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team puts on its dazzling displays of skill and acrobatics spiced with danger. John Walton went behind the scenes to see how the team is chosen and trained.

THE SPILLS BEHIND THE THRILLS

A YOUNG SOLDIER was attempting to do a handstand on the pillion of a motorcycle ridden by another soldier. Watching were a squad of troops — and one of them sniggered. Seconds later he found himself running round the drill square and immediately afterwards had to do the handstand himself.

That brief incident illustrates the strict training regime which goes into making the Army's oldest motorcycle display team — the Royal Signals' famous 'White Helmets'.

Every Spring the White Helmets go out on the road. During the summer they will thrill crowds the length and breadth of Britain with the occasional trip abroad such as to Canada or the Berlin Tattoo.

Each year a third or more of the squad, which comprises about three dozen motorcyclists, has to be replaced. What we were seeing was the beginning of the final stages of training for the 1982 team — nearly half of whom were newcomers.

Towards the end of last season a signal went out to all Royal Signals units seeking volunteers to join the team. About 30 men were eventually called to Catterick for the selection course but only 16 made the final squad and in most years it is fewer than that.

The course takes two weeks and is a

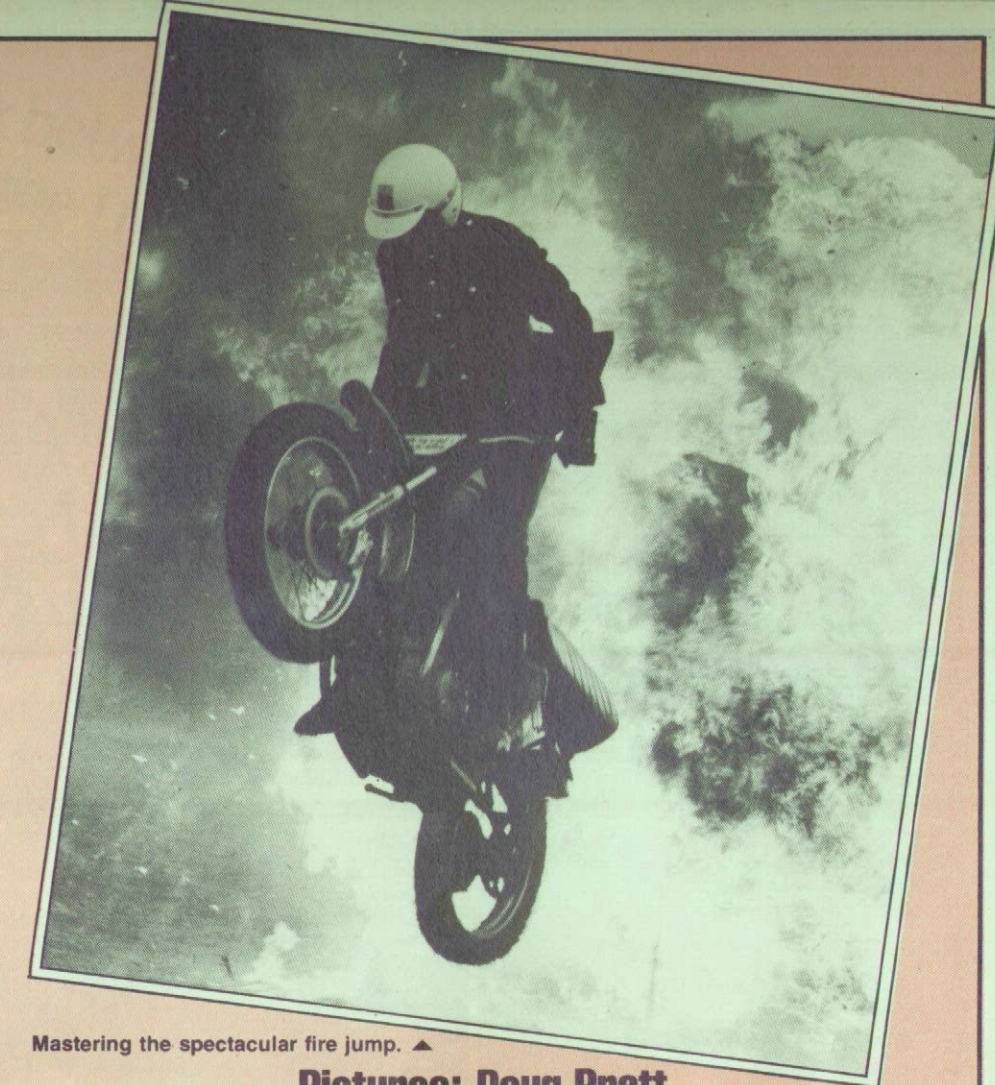
gruelling one designed to sap the candidates both physically and mentally. What is surprising is to find that most soldiers who make the White Helmets do not even know how to ride a motorcycle before attending the course. It is reckoned that non-riders are easier to train because they have not picked up any bad riding habits.

Team captain, Captain Tony Roberts, took part in the course this year and according to the team's trainer, Sergeant Fred Alexander, proved to be the best student.

Sergeant Alexander, who was awarded the British Empire Medal last year for his services to the White Helmets, admits to being a hard taskmaster on the selection course.

"Throughout the course they are up at 5.30, have PT for half an hour at 5.45 and are working by eight o'clock. They then work out on the moors on their bikes until the evening then wash them down and do maintenance. They work until nine or ten each night and then go and do their kit for the next day."

The men are tired and under pressure for the whole fortnight and this soon sorts the sheep from the goats. Says Sergeant Alexander: "In the first three or four days you can whittle them down from 30 to 20. We lose



Mastering the spectacular fire jump. ▲

Pictures: Doug Pratt

the guys who thought it would be a fortnight in England and a bit of a swan and are left with those who are really keen to get in the team. I have known guys leave the first morning after finding it wasn't what they were expecting."

The idea of piling on the pressure is to find out just how the would-be White Helmet reacts. For he will be living as part of the display team for months at a time.

Captain Roberts describes the requirements: "They have to be smart because they will be on public show, not only in the arena but afterwards. They have to be confident because they have to talk to the public. And we have to be able to trust and rely on them because if someone does make a mistake there could be a nasty accident."

And there is no guarantee that the most brilliant rider will make the team. This year's hopefuls included two former members of the White Helmets seeking to return. "They thought they were certs but they didn't make it," Sgt Alexander remarked laconically. It is the attitude of mind which the selectors are looking for rather than riding ability.

Out on the moors around Catterick the trainees, divided into rider and non-rider groups, learn to put BSA B40 motorcycles around a circuit which includes streams, hills, mud patches and rough ground. There are of course lots of spills.

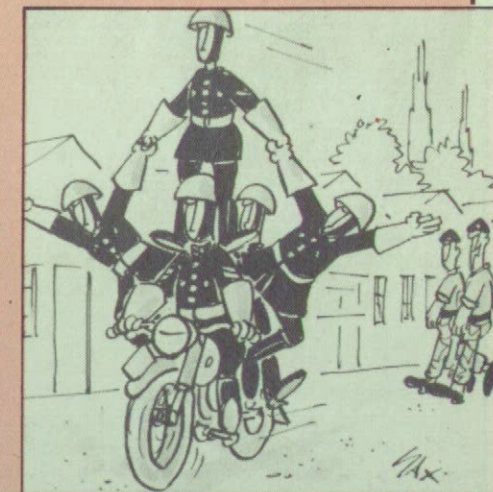
Most accidents to White Helmets occur in training. Fred Alexander himself was in a bad one in 1979. While training for a jump ride he came off his machine and the rider behind ran into him.

"I bust five ribs, punctured my lung and crushed the vertebrae of my spine. But I was back in the saddle in five weeks," says Fred in the offhand manner of an Evil Knievel.

The Signals Motorcycle Display Team was first formed in 1927 although there are records of despatch riders putting on shows as far back as the First World War. The display included horses until well into the nineteen thirties.

During the Second World War a TA signals unit took over the role until the regular team reappeared when peace arrived. In 1968 they took the name White Helmets. Their ranks have included some famous names in the motorcycle world,

continued on page 28



"Some kind of economy drive, I suppose."

Flashback to the 30's — a Royal Signals rider jumps over men and horses. Pictured on this postcard from the collection of Mr Arthur Moon.

among them well known trials riders and the post-war speed ace, Geoff Duke.

There has always been a link with the British Triumph firm and the White Helmets still use Tiger 750 machines built by the workers' co-operative at Meriden. This winter the bikes went down to Meriden for a complete overhaul — and the co-operative paid half the cost. Other British sponsors include Dunlop, who provide free tyres and Leyland, who give a Princess.

With selection complete the new squad begins training in earnest. The more experienced members of the team are used for the more complicated rides and tricks but the newcomers, who won't get their White Helmets until the show season actually gets under way, are used in the others. And the veterans instil confidence in the new men.

Some of the more spectacular parts of the White Helmet show are fire and car jumps, a six bike fan carrying 22 men, and the Irish Whip — said to be so fast and dangerous that many spectators prefer not to watch. It consists of three machines converging on the centre of the arena from different angles and missing each other by a hairsbreadth.

In fact the White Helmets display has not altered much in recent years. The last trick to be invented was in 1978 — the 'Reverse Maltese Cross.' Says Captain Roberts: "There is a limit to the number of things that you can do in terms of tricks. And something that is difficult is not necessarily pleasing to the eye as far as the crowd is concerned."

There is also a policy of trying to get by with as few extra props as possible. As it is, keeping the show on the road involves a lot of hard work. Every man in the team will have a second job — he may be a mechanic, be part of the truck crew, help to load props or motorcycles or deal with accommodation. When you have a show in Inverness and another in Folkestone only 48 hours later everything has to run like clockwork.

The riders themselves are a mixture of the long and the short. Shorter men go on the top of the set pieces. And the team are quick to allay fears that promotion prospects may suffer for the man who spends three years as a White Helmet.

Two of the new 'blue helmets' are Corporal John Marooth and Signalmán Mark Anderson. Neither had ridden a motorcycle before joining the selection course and they have still to pass their tests to take a machine on the open road.

Corporal Marooth had wanted to join the White Helmets ever since he joined up ten years ago but this was his first real opportunity. Signalmán Anderson had had his ambition fired by a detachment commander in Germany who had at one time been a White Helmet.

Said the corporal: "It is an advantage to be a non-rider because they have been able to teach us to ride the way they want us to ride."

And Mark declared: "I think it is the hardest course I have ever done with the longest hours and the hardest work. The whole time you are continually tired and you are really put through your paces both physically and mentally. You had to come up



No let up on the training course. After riding practice it's time for maintenance.

smiling when you fell off because you always knew that you could fail the course for a very small reason.

"The problem is that you are in competition for places and yet you still have to work together as a team. It must have been very disheartening for the five guys who went through the course and then didn't make it.

"Before I came here I did not realise how much pain is involved in just staying on the bike. And I collected a lot of niggling little bruises which I really noticed when I was doing PT at 5.30 in the morning!"

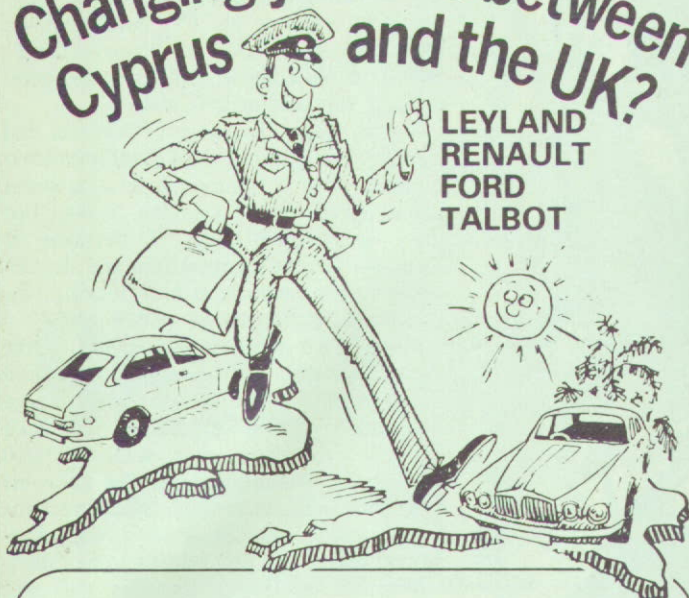
In fact some applicants apparently failed because their language was too ripe when things went wrong. Said Signalmán Anderson: "You can't be effing and blinding when you find yourself talking to someone like Princess Anne."

Corporal Marooth believes the course was well worthwhile. "There were a lot of spills when we were learning out on the moors. There's a lot of technique to it. They do say if you go down with the bike it's a lot safer — and funnily enough it works."

Members of the White Helmets say they don't know if they are the best motorcycle display team in the Army and point out that since they are never on the same bill as the others they are unable to make comparisons. But their unspoken air of confidence tells you that each and every member is dedicated to the belief that they have no equals.

Dates and venues for some of the White Helmets' 1982 appearances — together with those of other display teams, bands etc — will be published in our 'See the Army Diary' as soon as all the details are available.

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GRAHAM SMITH VISITS A WORLD OF MILITARY MAKE-BELIEVE



ADDICTS OF WAR FILMS can certainly never complain about a lack of choice. New releases are always in the offing. Old favourites regularly reappear on TV. And whatever their favourite period of history, there's bound to be a battle from it somewhere, lovingly captured on celluloid.

Yet although the range of subjects and locations is enormous, most of these cinematic epics have a common link — a street corner in London's Camden Town. For there stands the home of Bermans & Nathans, Europe's largest film and theatrical costumiers who have been making costumes for 192 years.

Head of the military department — the most comprehensively equipped of its kind in the world — is 52-year-old Mr George Bennett, a former corporal in The Life Guards. He looks after some 200,000 multi-national modern and period uniforms as well as an extensive armoury and reckons "there will always be another war story around the corner just waiting to be told."

When it is, George and his staff will certainly be ready for it. "It is always our proud claim that we could put 3000 American troops on the beach at Anzio in June 1944 and kit them out right down to their underwear!"

Thousands of Allied and Axis uniforms were supplied by the costumiers for the film *Patton* — and a third of them were destroyed. But this was quite expected under the terms of hire.

"These things have to be built in and we have to know how many uniforms will be destroyed in battle sequences," explained George. "Invariably, you very rarely have a war film without somebody being blown up. But we have an excellent tailoring section here who are experts in their own right and who not only can turn out the uniforms to meet film directors' deadlines but also replace the written off uniforms quickly."

In some films — two, three — or even ten — versions of the same outfit may be needed if there are lots of action sequences involving stand-ins.

"It is very important that the top part of principals' clothes have special attention which, in period costume, can involve hand work rather than machine work.

"Consideration has to be given to the magnified picture presented to the public on the screen and the greatly enlarged detail on show," said George.

Ironically, that attention to minute detail came in handy during the last war. One of the firm's sidelines then, was to dress the agents who were parachuted or smuggled into occupied Europe. The Gestapo, they say, were none the wiser.

From the same era, but being enacted out in Munich aboard a mock-up submarine, George told *SOLDIER* of a film which called for 150 uniforms — five per man — for a U-boat crew.

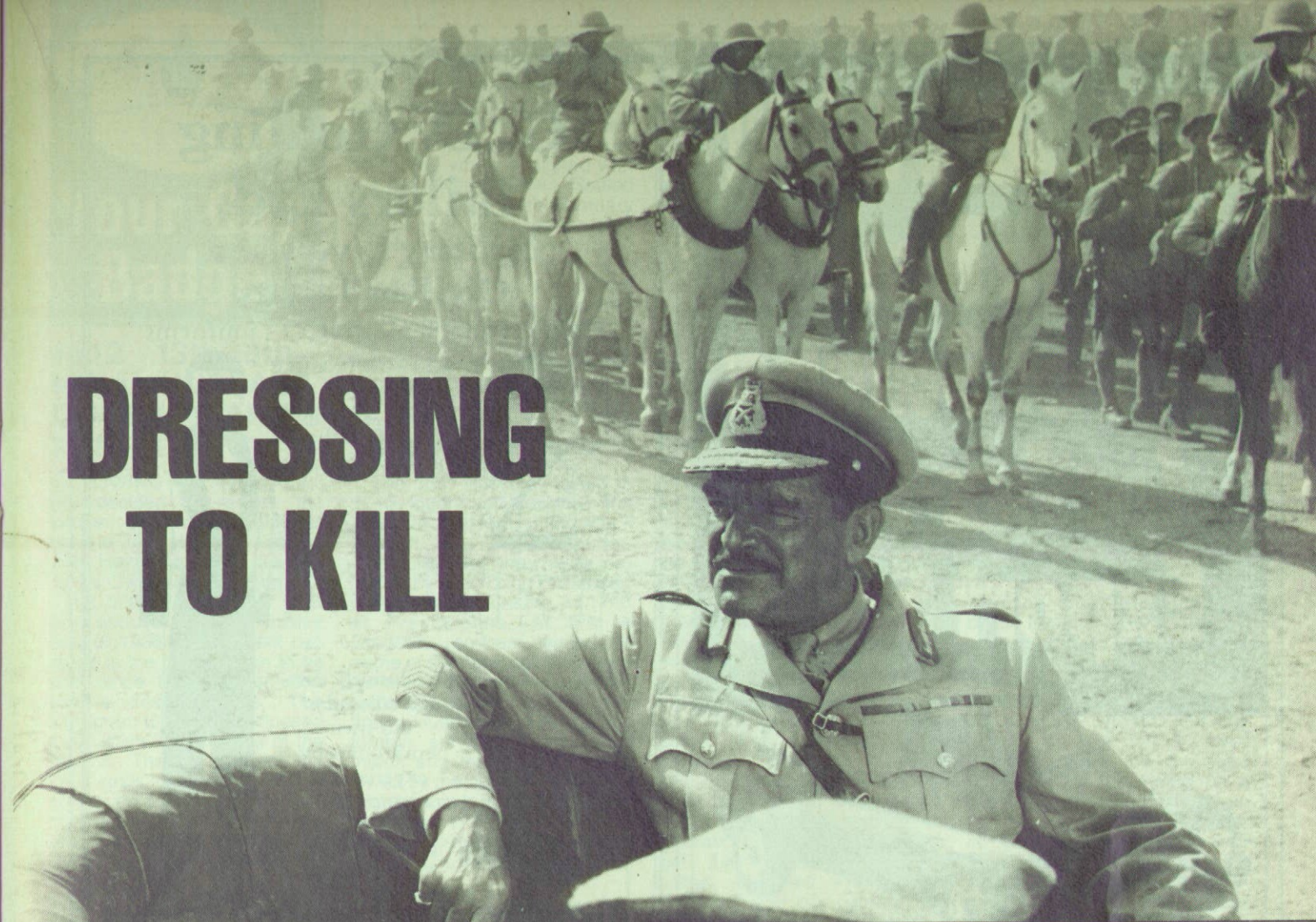
The uniforms were needed to show soaking by the sea, acid stains from the sub's batteries and the effects from various wounds.

Authenticity is paramount for a firm that has been associated with 15 Oscars for best costume design and handles up to 50

Top left: Steve Kirby, former Royal Pioneer Corps dog handler, checks a period rack.

Left: Patrick Allen and John Mills in a scene from *Dunkirk*; uniforms from Camden Town.

DRESSING TO KILL



Jack Hawkins (General Allenby) in a staff car sequence from *Lawrence of Arabia*.▲

different productions at any one time.

"We try to keep as accurate as possible within the limits of the film-makers' budgets," said George. "Contemporary military uniforms are continually in demand and vast stocks have to be made available. That's where we come in."

One of Colonel Frost's men depicted in the Cornelius Ryan epic, *A Bridge Too Far*.▼



That meticulous attention to detail — lavished on hats, berets, badges, buttons, shoulder flashes and so on — embraces a range of uniforms from Cromwell's Roundheads to the combat gear of contemporary Ulster and deep shelter fall-out suits.

British military personnel who have visited the Camden Town premises have been amazed, according to George.

Pop fans were not slow in spotting a good outfit, either, in a recent TV video promotion involving Adam and the Ants. Bermans & Nathans had supplied Adam with a Light Brigade officer's tunic for the number. The Camden Town couturiers were besieged with thousands of phone calls for replicas of the eye-catching jacket.

George reckons that a military costumier has to know a lot about his subject.

"I'm still learning — something new every day. I spend 90 per cent of my time reading, researching and sorting out problems for our clients. There's no end to it. The British Army is probably changing parts of its uniform as we talk."

A lecturer in his spare time on the Bayeux Tapestry, medieval history and heraldry and Trooping the Colour, George added: "I have to remember everything else people are allowed to forget. I'm literally a walking dustbin. The expertise gained over many years cannot be learnt at any art college on a three-year course. It is the sheer physical act of handling costumes and spending several years under the guidance of an experienced and skilled technician that eventually produces the professional costumier."

Currently, George — with twinkle in eye — is intent on disproving three popular

historical theories.

They are that Nelson was **not** blind ("it was fashion to have an eye patch"); Harold was **not** shot in the eye ("his legs were cut off"); and that Richard III did **not** murder the princes in the Tower — answer awaited on that one.

Three themes for films perhaps, and who better to provide the costumes for such ventures than George's very own department!

Mr George Bennett with cavalry sword.▼



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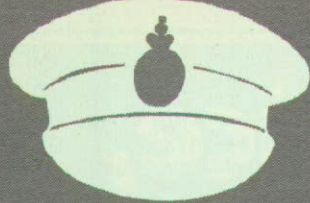
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Your Cap Badge

No 12 13th/18th ROYAL HUSSARS (QUEEN MARY'S OWN)

FOLLOWING THE Great War it was decided to reduce the number of cavalry regiments and the 13th Hussars and the 18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) were merged.

The title in its present form came about in the Silver Jubilee Year of 1935. The current cap badge is the third pattern to be worn since the amalgamation and is described as "The monogram QMO superimposed upon which is the shape of the letter Z. The top arm of the scroll rests on the top of the monogram and is inscribed with the numerals XIII. The lower arm of the scroll supports the

bottom of the monogram and is inscribed with the numerals XVIII. The diagonal of the scroll joins the right end of the top arm with the left of the bottom arm and is inscribed 'Royal Hussars'. The whole ensigned with the St Edward's crown. Sealed in gilding metal 15th February 1955 and in anodised material 7th May 1962." Previously it was worn in gilding metal with the Imperial crown and before 1935 the format was described as: "On the centre of the letter H the monogram QMO. In the top half of the letter the Roman numerals XIII and in the bottom half XVIII. The whole ensigned with the Imperial crown. The monogram in white metal, remainder in gilding metal."

The 13th Hussars, raised in 1715, fought and won their first battle at Preston for George I against the Old Pretender, James III. But they were defeated by the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie, in 1745 at Prestonpans. At first a Dragoons regiment bearing the name of their colonel, they were numbered 13th in 1751, became Light Dragoons in 1783 and finally Hussars in 1861. Early foreign service in the West Indies and the Peninsula, followed by memorable conduct at Waterloo, in the Light Brigade at Balacava, in the Boer War and all major conflicts since, added

to their list of battle honours. The first cap badge of the 13th was "Within a laurel wreath, a circlet inscribed *Viret et Aeternum* (It flourishes forever). Below the circlet a scroll inscribed 'Hussars'. The numerals in white metal remainder in gilding metal." After 1901 the Imperial crown replaced the Victorian. A field service cap badge somewhat smaller in gilding metal was also adopted described as "On the numeral 13 a Z-shaped scroll inscribed 'Hussars' surmounted by an Imperial crown."

The 18th has had a chequered career. Commencing in 1759 as the 19th Light Dragoons, they were quickly re-numbered 18th and suffered disbandment in 1821 after very active service in the West Indies, the Peninsula and at Waterloo. Revived in 1858 as the 18th Light Dragoons (Hussars) and generally, but not completely, accepted as the lineal descendants of the old 18th, they were permitted to bear the honours of 'Peninsula' and 'Waterloo'. Six changes of title were made after re-raising and finally, as the result of their Great War services, they became 'The 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars'. These many changes in title caused the adoption of a number of different cap badges starting with the Victorian pattern "A circlet inscribed *Pro Patria Conamur* (For our country we strive) surmounted by the Victorian crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. On the wreath on the left a scroll inscribed 'Peninsula' and on the right a scroll 'Waterloo'. In the centre in white metal the numeral 18 above the letter H. Remainder in gilding metal." After 1902 the



Victorian crown was replaced by the Imperial crown. The third pattern was "An oval inscribed *Pro Rege, Pro Lege, Pro Patria Conamur*, surmounted by an Imperial crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. On the wreath on the left a scroll 'Peninsula' and on the right 'Waterloo'. In the centre on a solid background the Roman numerals XVIII above the letter H. Below a scroll inscribed 'Princess of Wales's'." This was followed by a similar format but with the scroll altered to read 'Princess of Wales's Own'. Lastly came a version in white metal being "A circlet inscribed 'Queen Mary's Own' surmounted by an Imperial crown. Below the circlet two sprigs of laurel. In the centre Roman numeral XVIII."

By Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

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Next issue: 0.7 Hussars*

*As explained on page 11 of this issue, a number of regimental titles are being metricated from 1st April.

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New Horizon Ultra

The Horizon Ultra, a limited "special" edition of the internationally successful five-door hatchback from Talbot, is on sale now.

This new addition to the Horizon range will feature Talbot's 1500cc economy engine, capable of returning 51mpg at a constant 56mph, and the "Economiser" - praised highly as an aid to judicious driving.

The new Ultra incorporates such additional practical features as a push-button radio, quartz clock, cigar lighter on the console and a glovebox - as well as the normal standard features which include rear fog lights, load-adjustable headlamps, reverse lights, hazard warning lights, heated rear window, two-speed screen wipers with electric screen wash, tailgate wash/wipe, dipping rear view mirror and reclining front seats.

Trimmed with eye-catching tartan seat covers, the Horizon Ultra is finished externally in a choice of three exterior colours - silver metallic, black and cherry.

Luggage carrying capacity is impressive with 6.7 cu. ft. of space, and with the rear seats folded down 42 cu. ft. - providing estate car versatility.

The Horizon Ultra has a 9.9 gallon (45 litre) petrol tank allowing a range of over 400 miles between stops.

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A Talbot named Samba

After analysing the results of major research surveys into product name selection, during which dealers and the public took part, Talbot have decided that the identity already established for the Samba in the mainland of Europe will prove a major selling advantage for the car in the UK.

Called the Talbot Samba in Europe in October last year, this three door front wheel drive hatchback will be available initially to four levels of interior trim - LE, LS, GL and GLS, with a cabriolet version being introduced in the summer - and three engine sizes 954cc, 1124cc and 1360cc. The Talbot Samba 954cc LE and LS are tuned to run on 2 star petrol.

The impressive and distinctive range of Talbot Sambas sets new standards in economy and reliability with over 60 miles per gallon at a constant 56 miles per hour achievable from the 1124cc GL model.

MAIL DROP

Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

SUPERCOOK

We have read the recent spate of 'cook bashing' and feel that our comments may redress the balance.

This platoon is located in an independent base on an Op Banner tour. Some 60 men are stationed here, both Royal Hampshire and RUC. Our cook, Private Paul Fox ACC does an excellent job. He works an average 15 hour day, producing varied meals of a high standard. In addition Pte Fox regularly volunteers for patrol duty. He has been called upon to man sangars during incidents, and on one occasion deploy as a member of the Quick Reaction Force. He has maintained a cheerful 'Wilco' manner throughout.

For our part we keep the kitchen clean, do all the dioxies and occasionally cook our own meals to give Fox a break. The secret, for want of a better word, is to make attached soldiers a part of the team. A word of praise instead of a constant stream of moans also seems to do the trick. — Capt P R Newton, Anti-tank Platoon, 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regt, Rosslea, Co Fermanagh, N Ireland.

This paean of praise wins our £5 prize — we hope Pte Fox gets something out of it! — Ed

POOR TASTE

I feel that once more attention has to be drawn to your article 'Food for Thought' (14 Dec) and your subsequent reply to Maj Nelson's letter on the subject. The editorial staff of your magazine are following in the footsteps of the more squalid sections of the British press in trying to hide from the responsibilities for the effects of your articles.

I am extremely interested in the initial conception of the article and the philosophy behind it. If it was to take a sample of opinions about Army food, why did you choose such a small unrepresentative population? One regiment can hardly be seen to represent the opinions of the whole Army and is thus not a random sample. If it was to vilify and hold up to public criticism one small department within a regiment, then it was a success, but SOLDIER Magazine is following that section of British press that lives in a world of sensationalist gossip.

I have always found your magazine to be a positive influence in reporting Army affairs. This article was at the very least extremely clumsy in conception. What is as distasteful to me is the attempt to evade the point by saying that because the article was compiled in an honest manner its

negative effect is not your responsibility.

In your reply to Maj Nelson you stated that you would continue to follow this line of article. If this is the case you can justifiably go to a particular regiment now and ask soldiers' opinions about their Provost staff, clothing storeman or any other department and publish those. It is all encompassed by the same negative philosophy that underlies your initial article. — WO2 J A Norton ACC, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Athlone Bks, BFPO 16.

We cannot accept that asking a random selection of soldiers for their views on a given subject is a 'negative philosophy'. Many opinions thus gained are informative, enlightening and stimulating and your implied suggestion that we are only seeking to solicit adverse comments in our 'Soldiers Talking' features cannot be supported by the facts. So far as doing justice to the cooks is concerned, we hope our 'Straight from the Hotplate' piece (8 Feb) has taken some of the heat out of this particular issue. — Ed.

DATES PLEASE

After many years of being a very avid reader of your excellent magazine, I felt it was time I wrote and complimented you on a splendid bi-weekly production. It has always lived up to its aim, in giving a true story of the British Army. I enjoy all of your splendid articles, especially 'Your Cap Badge'.

I do hope, sir, you will start 'See-the-Army' Diary again. Being a great follower of Army displays your Diary is the only means of 'civvies' like me keeping up with all the dates. So please let us have that particular article revived. Thank you. — A L Page, 171 Eastern Road, Milton, Portsmouth, Hants. PO3 6EH.

See page 28 for information on the 'See the Army' Diary. — Ed.

WHAT RIGHT?

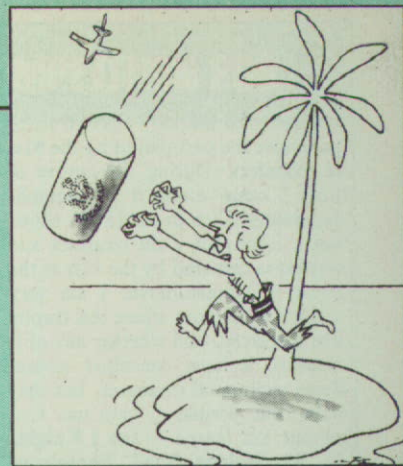
With reference to the article 'Customs nobble Haggis' (14 Dec), I should be interested to know why the Americans are allowed to impound cargo whether foodstuffs or other, travelling by RAF transport en route to the West Indies for British Servicemen. — B H Upshall, 16 Melcombe Road, Oldfield Park, Bath. BA2 3LR.

RECORD SERVICE

Mr Seatter's criticism of the lack of response after ordering military band records certainly does not apply to the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

I wrote to Church Crookham in November for their 'Men of the Hills', several months after its being highly commended in your Record Review. The record arrived promptly, together with a covering letter, by Air Mail from Hong Kong, to where the band had moved.

Moreover, I received a telephone call from the Director of Music, Major Bently, to whom I had written in the first place requesting the



record (as directed in Record Review), stating that he had now retired and could not be responsible for any delay in the supply. — Commander Ian Hamilton RN. 2nd Gurkhas — you have a satisfied customer! — Ed.

DRESSING DOWN

The Scots Guards sergeant in your article 'Hello and goodbye Jock' (11 Jan) is in my opinion incorrectly dressed. The cap badge should be centred ie above the nose; the peak of the cap should be one finger's distance from the nose; the angle of the feet should be 30° not around 20° as the photo predicts; the trousers should 'break' at the footwear and not be 'baggy'.

Had the late RSM Ron Brittain seen this guardsman on parade his feet would not have touched the ground.

With respect to Sgt Bathgate, had he joined the Coldstream Guards, those remarks would not have been necessary. — Mr L Hillaby, 85 Ward Point, Hotspur St, Lambeth, London SE11.

CHESS CONCERN

May I offer some belated comments on the excellent profile of Corporal Martin Cook REME, three times Army Chess champion (2 Nov).

It is clear that the Army champion spends much of his spare time and indeed some of his money, maintaining his high standard of competence. Furthermore, there are around 300 players in the Army, who are required to foot the bill for their expenses when playing in Service organised tournaments.

There are indeed some similarities between the skills required in a top class chess player and those which we seek to develop in our officers and NCOs. Apart from the ability to concentrate over a four hour period of tense, challenging play, chess players apply sound tactical principles, involving the judicious use of resources.

Such arguments apart, we ought to be particularly proud of soldiers who travel long distances representing the Army at inter-service and international tournaments. It must, however, cause some concern that such individuals are required to approach their regimental fund holders and commercial organisations for assistance with their travel expenses. — Capt T J Magee, British Exchange Officer, Canadian Forces Base Borden, Borden, Ontario, Canada.

Can You Help?

I've recently been doing some research into the 1879 Zulu War, in particular the part played by the 91st Highlanders. During the course of this, I came across a photograph, apparently taken in the 1880s, showing a trophy of Zulu weapons and war-dress captured by the 91st at the battle of Gingindlovu. I am very anxious to find out where this trophy was displayed, and whether any of it remains. I have consulted several Scots regimental museums, but they have been unable to help me. Can anyone out there? — **Ian J Knight**, 12 Windlesham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.

I am writing a book about the human/funny side of service in Ulster — from the soldier's point of view. I would love to hear from any soldier who has anything funny or unusual to relate from his service in Ulster. I am sure there must be a great many interesting stories — so please write. — **Mr Roger Lovibond**, c/o RGYC, PO Box 150, Geelong, Victoria 3220, Australia.

I urgently need to acquire a 38in-40in chest Sergeant's mess kit — preferably of the Parachute Regiment but not essentially as long as the jacket is red and is of shawl type. My tailor will make colour alterations as necessary. I am prepared to go to £50 for good kit — so can anyone please help? I cannot afford the £200 or so for a new kit when I only wear it twice a year. **Sgt C Foster**, 12 Edendale View, Ermine West, Lincoln, LN1 3RW.

Collectors' Corner

F A J Wright, RR2 Knowlton PQ, JOE 1VO, Canada. Offers for sale or trade large assortment of CEFs, Nazi items (daggers, banners etc), old German helmets (lobster-tail Friedrich Ein — with Latin motto, solid brass), Fenian Raid swords, cavalry sabres, Canadian Militia Officers dress or parade sword. Wanted — RAF Ferry transport Command KC Civilian Air Crew items (cap badges, rank insignia, uniforms etc). Will trade Babin 35-2 (Can Military Police) for Babin 29-1 (1st Can Motor Machine Gun Bde). Serious types please send \$3.00 Can with SAE for list (overseas \$4.00). Specifics in first letter, PLEASE! No phone calls accepted — first come first served. (Note: due to mail strike reply may be delayed).

R J Parkes, 154 Wyken Avenue, Coventry, CV2 3BZ. Requires tartan trews of Black Watch (42nd set) and Gordons, to complete uniforms. All letters answered.

Mike Johnson, 554th Military Police Company, HQ US European Command, APO New York 09131, USA. Wants information on NATO Command badges to add to 20 page of notes and illustrations. Particularly CENTAG/ATAF type badges in red, yellow and white background.

L Gunn, 2 Goldsmid Road, Hove, BN3 1QA. Wishes to purchase the book 'The Green Howards in Malaya' by Lt Col J B Oldfield, printed 1954.

Pen Pals

My name is Shona and I am 31 years old, and separated with 2 children. I am 5ft 6ins with long fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are reading, listening to music and cooking. Please enclose a photo if possible. — **Mrs Shona Butterfield**, 7 Gemma Close, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2JT.

I am an ex-soldier and would like female penfriends of 25 upwards, divorced or single women with children. My interests are watching TV, swimming, 60s music, Clint Eastwood and having a good night out. Anyone interested please send photos. — **Mick Bird**, 25 Aberporth Drive, Birchwood, Lincoln.

My name is Anna and I am 28 years old. My hobbies are cooking, walking, travelling, reading. I would like a pen friend of 23-40 years old or older. — **Miss Anna Pappas**, 135 Archer Road, Millhouses, Sheffield 8.

My name is Kay and I am 17 years old. My interests include writing letters, walking and listening to music. — **K Ward**, 33 Theydon Gardens, Newtons Corner, Rainham, Essex.

Are there any lonely fellas, who would like to write to a lonely female. If you are aged between 19-24 and can enclose a photo, then you can be sure of a reply. — **Kay Bellamy**, 33 Newstead Way, Birley 1, Sheffield, S12 3BN.

My name is Tina and I am a 19-year-old waitress. I would like to write to soldiers in the UK or Germany. — **Tina Mottram**, 74 St Christophers Park, Ellistown, Leicester.

My name is Wendy and I am a 37-year-old-divorcee. I am 5ft 2ins, with brown hair and blue eyes. — **Wendy Mussenden**, 95 Sheppey Road, Dagenham, Essex.

My name is Lisa and I am 21 years old. I would love to write to any soldier and will answer all letters. — **Lisa Dennis**, 19 Duke St, Hucknall, Notts.

Guidon ceremony

HRH Princess Margaret, Colonel in Chief, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars will visit the Regiment on Saturday/Sunday 3/4 July 1982 and will present a new Guidon on 3 July at a parade in Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn, Germany. Regimental Association Members wishing to visit the Regiment and attend the Guidon Presentation Parade should contact Major B O Simmonds, HHQ 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Tel: Newcastle (0632) 329855.

Reunions

58th Combined Cavalry 'Old Comrades' Parade & Memorial Service and weekend will be held on 1 and 2 May 1982. 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars will hold an Association Dinner in the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London — Saturday 1 May 1982. 58th Combined Cavalry 'Old Comrades' Parade & Memorial Service, Hyde Park, London — Sunday 2 May 1982. Regimental Association members wishing to attend dinner and parade, please apply to Major B O Simmonds, HHQ 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP. Tel: Newcastle (0632) 329855 by Friday 9 April 1982.

The Coldstream Guards. A dinner is to be held on Saturday 26 June for those who joined fifty years or more ago. This is a unique occasion and those interested are requested to contact (preferably in writing) Major (Retd) F P Horsfall MBE, The Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW.

The Aldershot Branch Royal Signals Association Annual Dinner will be held at The Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants on Saturday 8 May 1982 at 8pm. Assembly is at 7.30pm. All applications for seats should be made to A V Ient MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3SQ. Tel: Aldershot 23658.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades Association's annual reunion will be held in The Guildhall, Winchester on Saturday 19 June 1982 at 7pm. Tickets, price £5.50 from Secretary, Serle's House, Winchester, SO23 9EG.

The annual Gloucestershire Regimental Association Reunion dinner will be at Cheltenham on Saturday, 24 April. General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley GBE KCB DSO MC will preside. Applications for tickets please to Lt Col H R Gilliver MBE, Secretary, 31 Commercial Road, Gloucester GL1 2HE.

11th Royal Tank Regiment 14th annual reunion will be at the West-

over Club, West Beach, Bournemouth, Dorset on Saturday 1 May 1982. Followed next day Sunday 2 May with annual visit to Royal Armoured Corps Gunnery School, Lulworth Camp, Wareham, Dorset. Details from: J E C Fraser, 14 Westbury Court, Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EH. Tel: Parkstone (0202) 749662.

Competition

From the comments on the entries — a good number, by the way — we gather Competition No 284, Highland Games, (25 Jan) caused many headaches! Well over half the entries had the right answer, but those of you who got it wrong seemed to have made the same mistake. The caber tossing champion was McGavish and his village was Glenmuckler. Most of you got the right village but the error was in deciding who the caber tosser was. Anyway, congratulations to those who had the correct answer and to the prize-winners who were: 1st Sapper Kennedy, Plant Trp, 4 Fd Sqn, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48. 2nd Egon Maarup, Snerlevej 6, DK 7500 Holstebro, Denmark. 3rd Lt J P Simpson, RMCS Shrivenham, Swindon, Wilts SN6 8LA. 4th Mr A Reed, 11 The Grove, Yarm, Co Cleveland ST15 9HA. 5th Mr B Campey, 60 Grange Road, Eversley Park, Chester.

How Observant Are You?

(See page 21)
1 Vents on ship's funnel; 2 Bridge of tug; 3 Prow of nearest yacht; 4 Number of coconuts on left palm; 5 Second nearest flag on pool wall; 6 Spelling of HISPANIOLA; 7 Left arm of right sunbather; 8 Funnel of tug; 9 Lines on top right frond of middle palm; 10 Trunks of beach figure second from right.

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- Big guns at Eskmeals
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COMPETITION 288

BITS AND PIECES

THE PIECES above fit together to form a square which carries a quotation from a best-seller of recent years. The black squares indicate spaces between words. If the quotation is not one with which you are familiar, you can discover the author and title of the book by following the instructions in the block below.

What is the quotation? And what are the names of the book and its author?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 23 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 17 May. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 288' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 288' label from this page and your name and address to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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BOOKS

Guns of the Regiment: S N Gower

This may be unfamiliar territory to many UK readers, being an account of the guns used by the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and its predecessors. From 1852 and the earliest days of the colonial volunteer units up to the present, the regiment has employed a pretty comprehensive selection of ordnance, from simple smooth-bores to rifled muzzle-loaders and the heavy and complex guns of the two world wars, Malaya, Korea and Vietnam. The guns themselves are described and their performance assessed in a conversational style which avoids becoming too

technical or esoteric. There is a good selection of photographs which chronicle the regiment from the early days, and a detailed appendix sketching each gun dwelt upon in the text. Along the way the book also presents a fascinating cross-section of the regiment's history, and the campaigns in which it fought.

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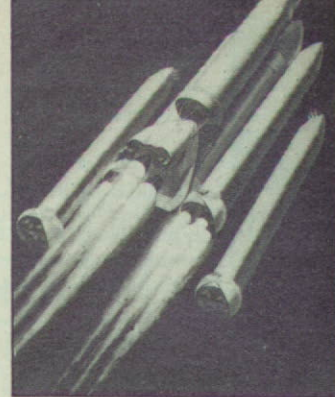
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equipment to be used is already being tested. Furthermore it is now becoming clear that the potential destructiveness of controlled energy emission devices not only relegate the inter-continental ballistic missile to the nuclear stone age but give nations with a viable space programme unparalleled opportunities both for defence and offence.

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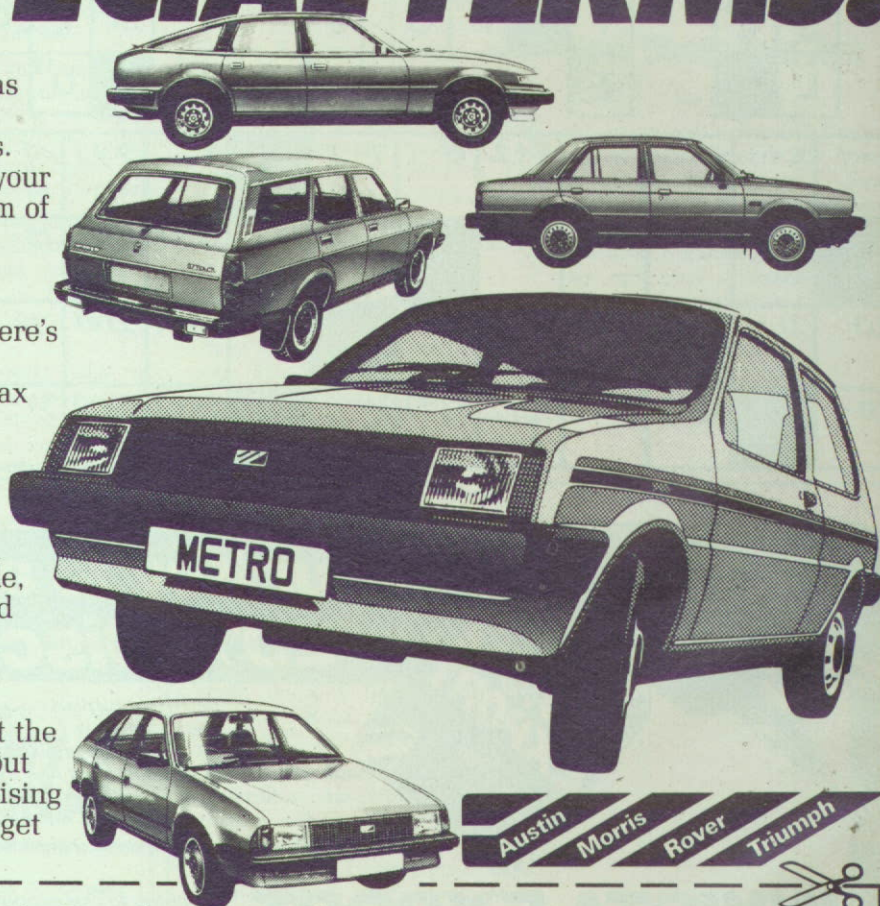
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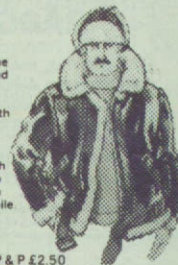
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Frank Innes, 74 Granby St, Leicester. 0533-551558.

John Shipman, Shakespear McTurk & Graham, 53 Belvoir St, Leics. 0533-542626.

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2. These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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Putting sport on the map

THERE ARE NO two ways about it — you have to join in to get the best out of orienteering. Although a rather limited spectator sport, it is tremendously adaptable for participants and this is perhaps one of the main reasons for its increasing popularity. There are tough courses for the fit and the expert and the string events for the youngsters and beginners, with all the shades of ability between the two.

Whichever course you opt for, the aim and the method is the same. Each participant is allotted a start time and, armed with compass and map both vital to his success, he makes his way round the course punching his card in the appropriate place at each checkpoint.

His finishing time is recorded and the final time for his performance is calculated and hung on the 'washing line', a string of cards fluttering in the wind outside which make or break reputations. The successful orienteers are those that can interpret their maps and find the easiest and quickest route from one checkpoint to the next using to its utmost the natural lie of the land.

Captain Nick Fresson is a keen orienteer and secretary of the Royal Engineers' Orienteering Club. He started orienteering at the tender age of 14 at school and now would put himself about 10th in the Army — "when I'm fit!" "The idea of the sport is to test your navigation and your ability to read a map," explained Nick. "A lot of people are quite happy just to compete against the



More like a scrum as three orienteers arrive together at a checkpoint.

map. A lot of people do it to get fit — jogging with a purpose — but you really have to be fit to start. If you aren't, you can't make the rational decisions you need. The first place the oxygen goes from is your brain because there is more demand from your legs. Everybody has their own standards. Some people want to win while others just want to enjoy themselves."

For those who are just seeking, enjoyable leisure the 'Wayfarers' course is ideal. Though often referred to as the 'prampushers' circuit by those who look to stretch themselves beyond its civilised demands, it is very popular and was well supported at the recent event at Rushmoor organised by the British Army Orienteering Club.

There were almost a thousand

participants at this badge event, which was one of the largest that Rushmoor has seen. The badge events are part of a national ranking system and a dedicated orienteer can use his performance at them to improve his national standing. They are thus named because performances in each category of a sufficiently high standard qualify for a badge.

Captain Tony Vickers' 11-year-old son Edward, was eagerly expecting his first gold medal for his time of 57 minutes 19 seconds for the three kilometre course. He started orienteering with an interest in cross-country running and then participated in Wayfarer courses before tackling a more demanding circuit.

Tony was the Rushmoor event co-ordinator: "The sheer numbers were the difficulty on this. I

was asked whether the BAOC could put the event on and from then on it was with me. At 10 this morning it was chaos! The biggest snag was that it was originally planned for an area in Alice Holt Forest that had never seen orienteering before, but there was a hang up with the map so we had to change the venue. Orienteers are fussy about their maps."

Rushmoor is in fact a good area for orienteering because the landscape and therefore its 'runability', remains pretty much the same.

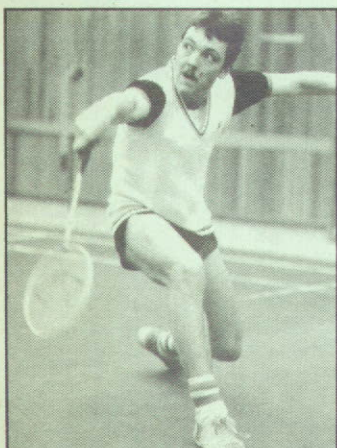
Orienteering is advertised as a family sport and even young children can be faced with a challenge. String or tape events are prepared especially for unaccompanied children from 6 to 10 years old, who follow a line so that they do not get irretrievably lost. They have a map with them and are asked at control points where they think they are on the map. The Rushmoor event was also the first meeting to have a special group for the over 62s at the other end of the age scale.

But enjoyable though it can be, orienteering also has great value as a military discipline, exercising both map-reading and physical skills. Nick Fresson looked to future military applications of the sport. "It could be that Army orienteering will go the same way as the Swedes who are doing it with shooting under pressure as training," he said.

Meanwhile, orienteers across the country are "doing it in the woods" — and more and more people are joining them.

Fetherston in fine form

FOR THE FOURTH year running Lance Corporal Chris Fetherston REME won the Men's Singles event in the 1982



Chris Fetherston in action at Worthy Down.

Army Badminton Championships.

In the two game match, Fetherston never let his opponent, Staff Sergeant Graham Orszewski RAOC get the advantage, keeping well on top to take the match 15-3, 15-7.

The result of the Ladies' singles final was less clear-cut. Corporals Lynn Thomas and Veada Walker battled hard for the first game which ended in a win for Walker who then lost the second game. Both girls rallied well in a fast and furious final game, the match eventually going to Thomas 10-12, 11-7, 11-6.

In the Men's Open Doubles the No1 seeds Fetherston and Orszewski steamed ahead with an early lead against opponents Lance Corporal Adrian Quinney ACC and Craftsman Jim Hewitt

REME, but the two Ladies' Singles finalists failed to take the Doubles title in their match against Lance Corporal Judy Haynes and Private Viv Bancroft who won the match by a resounding 15-3, 15-4 margin.

Apprentice Tradesman David Hindmarsh won the Junior Singles title against Apprentice Tradesman Graham Capell and together they beat the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion team in the Junior Unit Doubles competition.

The most entertaining match was the Mixed Doubles. Chris Fetherston seemed untiring as he and his partner, Captain June Dabbs WRAC, chipped away at the defence of their opponents Lance Corporal Eddie Smith RCT and Viv Bancroft, taking the match 15-10, 15-10.

Badminton in brief

● A Royal Signals team from BAOR bent on revenge for the defeat of their UK counterparts in the UK Final beat the Royal Army Ordnance Corps pairs at the first-ever Army Inter Corps Badminton Final held at Worthy Down.

RAOC No1 pair, WOII Ferguson and Staff Sergeant Orszewski won all their rubbers without dropping a game but the Signals had strength in depth and, as the last two rubbers started, they were ahead 4-3.

Sergeant James and Corporal Nonis, the RAOC No2 pair, beat the R Sigs No3 pair, Captain Hargreaves and Sergeant Chettri in a see-saw three games to level the score, but seconds later the other rubber finished with Corporal Canning and Lance Corporal Moore, R Sigs No2 pair beating RAOC No3 to clinch the match 5-4.

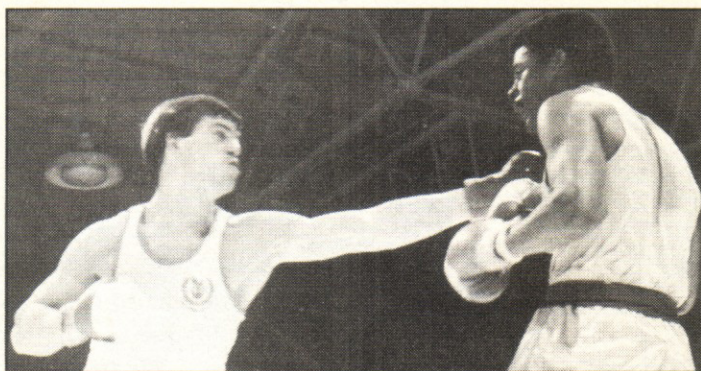
● Worthy Down was also the setting for the Army Women's Inter-Zone Badminton Championship. Winners were South East (West).

Navy get the gravy

THE NAVY SAILED away with the majority of the awards in this year's Combined Services Boxing Championships at Aldershot. They took nine out of the eleven open titles, including three walkovers, leaving the Army with only two winners and the RAF with none at all.

There was some consolation for the Army in that paratrooper, Private Carl Crook, not only won the lightweight title but took the cup for the best Service boxer. The only other soldier to win and go on to the next round of the ABA Championships was Guardsman Denis Bailey of the Irish Guards at light-heavyweight.

Bailey's Air Force opponent, SAC P McNamee, was never allowed to get into his stride by the hard hitting guardsman (see picture). As a result of Bailey's clubbing blows the airman took standing counts in both the first and second rounds and although he jabbed away well in the third, the majority verdict went to the Army boxer.



Crook, too, only obtained a majority decision in a skilful duel with SAC Steve Snagg of the RAF. Snagg's reach advantage and flurries of punches tapped the claret from Crook's nose and it must have been a close run thing. But Crook certainly has a lot of skill and ringcraft.

Other Army finalists were not so fortunate. At bantam Lance-Corporal Norman Shanley of The Green Howards came up against a fast moving, dancing Seaman Evans. Shanley did his best to stop the hornpipe but Evans's class told and after one standing count of eight, the referee stopped the uneven contest.

Lance-Corporal Peter Kearney, Irish Guards, also failed to last the distance at light-welter. He launched a frantic onslaught but the clever AB Wayne Green

picked his punches and the fight was stopped after Kearney sustained a nasty cut over the left eye.

The Army's heavyweight hope, Corporal Paul Davies, Royal Signals, looked to be on the way to an early defeat as well when the Navy's MEM N Rawlins pursued him with a fierce two handed attack.

But Davies put up a brave showing and the scrap continued toe to toe until the final bell when Rawlins got the majority decision.

SPORTS SHORTS

Lance-Corporal Elaine Ward, stationed at Brize Norton, retained her over 9½ stones title in the Army Women's Judo Championships. She has been the only winner since the contests started three years ago. Under 9½ stone champion was L/Cpl Zoe Bloomfield (N Ireland) and team winners were 3 PC Regiment, Royal Engineers. Novice winners were: Pte June Digby (20 Coy WRAC) and Cpl Fay Williams (WRAC College).

Anyone who would like to be a crew member of the Army's new yacht, *Redcoat* (see last issue), should ring Lt-Col A S Carlier (MOD Main Building ext 7306).

The RAF again took the inter-services cross-country championships. The Army came second.

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Veterans in verse

*Those Phyllosan runners to Hawley they come
To enter as veterans the cross country run.
There are runners galore, three short of eight score
Their ages from thirty to sixty and more.
Four miles and eight furlongs the distance to race,
Keep running old heroes and step up the pace!*

*Down a steep slope run the earth trodden tracks,
Winding their way where bridges cross gaps.
On past the lake, where waves hit the shore,
It's two miles complete with three miles in store.*

*Through evergreen shrubs a steady incline,
You've caught second breath and feeling just fine.
Uphill and down dale for the next mile or so
It's here you might pass a friend or a foe.*

*Out of the blue four miles looms in sight
Summon your energy and fight the good fight.
Now for the last part the course levels out
You hear distant voices, the spectators shout.*

*And here come the winners; the first three placed
Were Steggle and Spacie and Ponting — what pace!
The School of PT were the team least scattered
So, till next year dear readers from yours, Truly Shattered!*



One of the oldest runners, 62-year-old Lt-Col (Retd) Jack Ellicock, came 8th.

Full marks for BAOR



A COD Donnington player (left) comes to grips with a member of the winning 16/28 Signals team.

SEME UK champs after two-day slog

THREE-AND-A-HALF hours of slog spread over two days finally saw the holders, the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, emerge as winners of this year's Army (UK) Challenge Cup Soccer final. A replay took place only 16 hours after SEME and their opponents, 22nd Engineer Regiment had battled to a one-all draw at Aldershot.

The first game was disappointing for the 500 spectators and relieved only by two fine goals in the opening half hour. SEME had taken the lead after 18 minutes when skipper, S/Sgt Doug Aitchison, dropped a corner kick on the near post and current Army and Combined Services striker, Cfn Phil White, flicked it into the net with a back header.

The persistent sappers levelled the scores 12 minutes later following a free kick on their right flank. L/Cpl Wayne Sinclair worked his way into a central position and laid on a short square pass for Spr Geoff Crook to blast home a fierce shot from 20 yards out.

Most of the second half was spent bogged down in midfield and as extra time arrived neither side seemed prepared to risk losing a late goal and scoring chances became less frequent.

The next afternoon the Military Stadium was unfit for play and the match was held on the adjoining Aldershot Services

ground. On the less spacious pitch SEME were able to close down the threat of the sapper twin strikers much more quickly.

The Bordon side enjoyed most of the early play and went ahead in the 16th minute when a long corner kick from Aitchison was headed down by S/Sgt John Woodward for White to slam the ball in.

Ten minutes before the interval SEME extended their lead when, from a long ball out of the SEME half of the field, White dummied his marking defender, causing him to miss the ball, and L/Cpl Tom MacFarlane raced in to shoot home along the ground.

The sappers opened the second half with some pacy attacking football and pressed the SEME defence. White, who had been cautioned in the first half, was sent off following a further altercation but 22 Regiment were also reduced to ten men when Crook sustained an ankle injury.

Midway through the half the Tidworth side did score when L/Cpl Steve Lehaney slipped the ball to Sinclair, who guided it home just inside the upright.

But although they strove hard to equalise, the SEME defence was in no mood for compromise and rode out the storm for victory. Despite four cautions and a dismissal, it was a physical rather than a dirty game but certainly not a great spectacle. SEME just had the edge and deserved their win.

THE GIRLS of 16/28 Signal Regiment from BAOR had a landslide victory in the 1982 Army (Women's) Hockey Association Inter-Unit Hockey Tournament.

They won all their matches against six other District League winners to score maximum points in the contest, and finish two points ahead of their nearest rivals, 12 Company WRAC, from Mill Hill. To underline their superiority they trounced 12 Coy 8-0.

The contest had been entirely open with no team tipped to win and WOII Susan Taylor, a PT assistant with the Association, described the 16/28 Signals team success as a very nice surprise. "They are a very fit team, very fast and they play for each other," she added. Last year's Trophy holders, WRAC Centre, were in third place with six points.



IN A NAIL-BITING finish, with four teams in contention right until the last round, the team from the Depot of the Prince of Wales' Division, Lichfield, emerged the winners of this year's Junior Soldiers' Small Bore Target Rifle Match.

They narrowly defeated ACC Chepstow, who have virtually monopolised the championship in the six years it has been running. Chepstow had won five times, including the last three years in a row.

The Lichfield coach is Major Peter Martin, current Army and Combined Services and reigning British champion. He was delighted with their victory.

"To bring boys up from nothing in such a short time to win is a great thrill. It's as pleasant as to win something yourself. And the thing about these boys is that they only come from a company of 100 and are competing against colleges and battalions of 700 to 800."

The individual gold medal winner was Junior Leader Paul

STOP PRESS

The Army beat the Navy by 11 points to 7 in a tense hard fought rugby match at Twickenham.

Full story and pictures in next issue.

A good showing for the Army senior and junior hockey teams in the Inter-Services Tournament held on the all-weather pitch at Portsmouth was marred only by the senior team's 2-0 defeat by a faster RAF team in the final game.

The juniors beat the RAF and went on to beat the Navy 2-0 in an exciting match. The Navy also lost to the Army senior team who thus regained the Wilkinson Sword Trophy that the Navy won last year.

AWARD FOR PHIL

Craftsman Phil White from SEME, Borden has been chosen as Army 'Footballer of the Year'. The Youth Award went to Driver Andrew Page, Junior Leaders RCT.

Lichfield hotshots topple Chepstow



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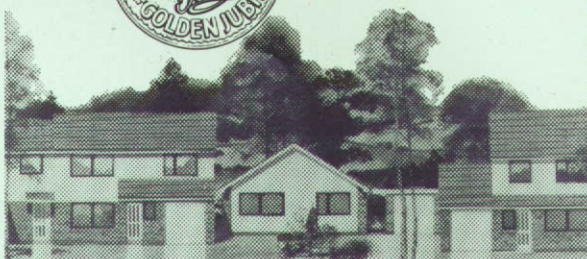
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