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FRONT COVER – Piping among the penguin colonies on Saunders Island, West Falkland, is Sgt William Gordon, Commanding Officer's Piper, 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. More stories inside.

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SOLDIER

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incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

NEXT ISSUE

What the well dressed salesman is wearing!



Cpl Steve Dean, a member of the Warminster-based Infantry Sales Team, demonstrates the Special Forces suppressed version of the Accuracy International L96 sniper rifle, accurate with subsonic ammunition up to 250m. A story and pictures on the Infantry Sales Team will appear in the next issue of SOLDIER.

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LADIES FIRST

It's not only the men who can win HOAY's £50. The latest winner (of Comp No 401) is Ann Hemy, of 22 Ord Coy (V), TA Centre, Ridgeway, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Come on ladies. Let's have some more winners among you.

REUNIONS

● The 40th annual reunion dinner of 249 (Berks RHA) HAA Battery Royal Artillery will be held in Cyclamen Road Ship Hotel, Duke Street, Reading, Berks on April 4. Contact Barry Parker, 20 Balmour Drive, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 8NL.

● University of London Officers Training Corps is forming a regimental association mainly to reunite all members, both past and present. Contact: The Secretary, ULOTC Regimental Association, Yeomanry House, Handel Street, London W1N 1NP.



First World War shells dumped unceremoniously by French farmers beside a road on the Somme

Shell shocked on the Somme!

Col Parkes' comments upon the unexploded ammunition lying beneath the fields of the Ypres salient (SOLDIER, December 15), reminds me of the experience I encountered just outside the village of Serre on the Somme in late May 1986.

Having found the nearest equivalent to a lay-by to have a

break, a tractor with trailer pulled up whereupon five labourers unloaded and quite literally dropped about 50 unexploded shells. The enclosed photograph is proof of this experience! - W G A Deeley, 128 Ridgacre Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1PX.

CALL SIGNS

● Members of 84th HAA Regiment of London Passenger Transport Regiment during the Second World War are asked to contact one of their former colleagues, Mr F H Hick of 638 Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, West Yorks.

● Mr Ben Benton, c/o Olde Keepers, Pondtail Farm, West Grinstead, Horsham, Sussex RH13 8LN, wants to hear from any old comrades from the band of 1 Leicesters with which he served in 1919-28.

● Mr E W Smith of Flat 6, Burnham Lodge, Oakstead Close, Nelson Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, would like to hear from anyone who served with his step-brother, LCpl W J Worby, who was killed in north-west Europe in August 1944. LCpl Worby was in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and served in Ireland with the Royal Inniskilling Regiment 5th Dragoon Guards before embarking for France.



LETTERS

Write to:
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SAFETY FIRST WITH WEAPONS

In SOLDIER (October 20) there is a photograph of four ladies holding SMGs. If you look at the one who is helping the other girls, she has a magazine on and is cocking the weapon.

I have always been taught the safety aspect of never pointing a weapon at anyone, especially with magazine on and weapon cocked.

You never know what might occur. Surely this photograph is not exactly a very good advertisement for your girls.

I hope you do not mind me writing this letter, but I love shooting and caution is one subject people can never have enough briefing about. - Cpl (W) C A Watson, COC Mount Pleasant, South Atlantic, BFPO 655.

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S/26/1B

AIDS scare will not stop Army exercising in Kenya

THE ARMY has no intention of putting a stop to training exercises in Kenya because of the particularly high incidence of AIDS in that part of Africa.

But all Servicemen due to train in Kenya are being advised on the dangers of infection and how best to avoid it.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman told **SOLDIER**: "The Army has a very good relationship with the Kenyan government and army and Kenya provides excellent training areas. We have no plans to change our current pattern of training in Kenya."

The British Army has been training in Kenya for the past ten years, with three infantry battalions spending about six

weeks each between November and March on tactics, fieldcraft and live firing.

Main camp is at Nanyuki, north-west of Nairobi, from where soldiers deploy in company strength to other areas for specific training. For example, jungle training is carried out on the slopes of Mount Kenya.

The Army has a permanent staff of two officers and 20 locally employed civilians in Kenya.

All soldiers training in the country are given a week off for rest and recreation, but certain parts of Malindi and Mombasa, both popular with soldiers on leave, have now been placed out of bounds as a result

of local health advice.

Men of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Highlanders who returned from Kenya in mid-December have been advised that if they put themselves at risk they should get themselves screened. This can only be done after a three month incubation period.

Before the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment left their Aldershot base for Kenya the paras were warned that more than 90 per cent of prostitutes and bar girls in Kenya are infected with the AIDS virus.

"You might just as well play Russian roulette and stick a bullet in every chamber because you have not got a chance of not becoming infected," they were told.

Army medics have advocated a "buddy" system for all men going on exercise to



Picture: Terry Champion

Soldiers of 2 Para are briefed on AIDS by Lt Col Michael Thomas, consultant pathologist in charge of Aldershot's Leishman Laboratory, before their current exercise period in Kenya. Parts of Malindi and Mombasa have been put off limits to the paras as a result of local health advice.

BURMESE TO RETIRE

BURMESE, the Queen's black mare ridden by her during the Trooping the Colour ceremony, is retiring this year to the Royal household and so ends a tradition going back 18 years. In future the Queen will be driven in a carriage for the highlight of London's tourist season.

Burmese, now 24, was a gift from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and was stabled at Rochester Row police station.

Guinea Pig Brigade back

NEW training methods earned the Army's first post-war intake of Regular officer cadets the title the "Guinea Pig Brigade" and on January 17 they were due to meet again at Sandhurst - 40 years on - for a reunion dinner.

The intake of 1947 originally numbered 328 cadets of whom 277 passed out from the Royal Military Academy at Camberley. Some 60 were expected for the dinner.

THERE is no Joint Services policy at present for the dismissal of Servicemen discovered to be carriers of the AIDS virus. However, anyone who contracted the disease would eventually become medically unfit for service as in any other serious illness or accident.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, has admitted that "a very few" Servicemen are carriers of the virus.

Cases where the virus had not developed into the disease would be dealt with on an individual basis, but dismissal from the Armed Forces would only be contemplated after very careful and serious consideration of the case.

sub-Saharan Africa. Keep an eye on your mate and don't let him do something which could kill him, soldiers have been told.

A Health Education Council booklet entitled "AIDS - What Everybody Needs to Know" is being distributed to all personnel. A Ministry of Defence introduction underlines the fact that the risk of viral infection (AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV - Human Immuno Deficiency Virus) is greatly increased through casual sex.

"There are particular areas in this country, as well as countries overseas visited regularly by units on operation, deployment or training exercises, where the incidence of infection is high among both the male and female populations.

"Should you have any suspicion at all that you may have been at risk from the virus - seek advice from your medical officer."

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Gurkhas get their old title back



Gurkha bugler Sgt Roshan Kumar Gurung, Queen's Gurkha Rifles, with Brigade Commander, Brig Ray Pett in front of the new sign

Field Marshal Bramall made life peer

FIELD Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and former Chief of Defence Staff, was made a Life Peer in the New Year Honours List.

Born in 1923, Field Marshal Bramall was commissioned in 1943 into the King's Royal Rifle Corps – now amalgamated in the Royal Green Jackets – and the following year saw action in Normandy and North West Europe where he won the Military Cross.

Married with two children, Sir Edwin was promoted field marshal in August 1982.

Glencorse visitor

LIBERAL party leader, the Rt Hon David Steel took time out to visit the Scottish Division Depot at Glencorse to see the passing out parade for Gallipoli and Aden platoons.



FIELD MARSHAL BRAMALL

ALMOST ten years to the day 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade has regained its old and honoured title. In December 1976 it had been renamed the Gurkha Field Force as part of the British Army's restructuring role.

The reversion to its original title does not change the strength, structure or role of the Brigade whose prime task is in support of the Royal Hong Kong Police and the maintenance of the integrity of the Hong Kong-Chinese border.

48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade (as 48 Indian Infantry Brigade) was formed in 1941 and fought with distinction throughout the Burma campaign and the Malayan emergency. The brigade has always contained Gurkha units and has a record of courage and success in battle.

It moved to Sek Kong in the New Territories in November 1954 as part of the Hong Kong Garrison and was disbanded on December 15, 1976.

Graviner wins fire suppressor contracts

GRAVINER has won a contract to supply crew bay explosion suppression and engine bay fire protection systems for Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicles (ARRV).

The firm's Firewire continuous element fire detection system marks the first British Army General Staff Requirement for an explosion suppression system to protect crew compartments.

The system is designed to suppress hydrocarbon explosions caused by penetration of HEAT – High Explosive Anti-Tank – rounds within 150 milliseconds. Graviner has been refining its system for Challenger for the past three years working closely with Vickers Defence Systems, the prime contractors for the vehicles, who have placed the contract.

It is also supplying fire protection for the Challenger's winch and engine compartments.



Bootmaker adds shine to his career

THE introduction of the rubber-soled boot signalled the end of an era for the Army's bootmakers.

That was more than 20 years ago and for Sgt David Baker it meant a trade switch to storeman.

Now after 29 years service he has been presented with the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), a rare honour going only to those with more than 22 years service.

An RAOC man attached to the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot he is thought to be one of the last Army-trained bootmakers still serving. He leaves the Army in April after service with the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Duke of Wellington's and the RAOC.



Bug hunt starts in Falklands

IT's impossible to see what Maj Charles Kirke is looking at inside the small glass container he is holding, but take our word for it - it's a bug of some sort.

His interest in entomology was aroused when studying at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and moths kept flying in through his window and he wanted to name them.

The only way to do this was to catch them so he bought a couple of traps and the whole thing snowballed from there.

Now he is based in the Falklands and supplies the Natural History

Museum in London with as many local insect specimens as he can.

They are pleased to get them since their collection of South Atlantic insects was low.

Encouraged by their interest Maj Kirke now spends all his free time bug hunting.

He said: "I'm surprised I've not had more ribbing, but the fact is a lot of soldiers have become interested in the hobby and can be seen searching hillsides and hedges all over the place." Could be they've all been bitten by the bug!



Tony's last signal



THE retirement of SSgt Tony Griffiths (left) marks the final link between the TA unit, 67 Signal Squadron, and the Second World War.

At 60 the squadron's military accountant is more than twice the average age of the unit, based at Stratford-upon-Avon, and is the only serving member to have first put on uniform during the 1939-45 war.

He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1944 and served in Austria before being demobilised in 1947. Transferring to the Reserve, he served with the TA from 1950. In 1971, too old to continue with the Royal Signals, he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps.

He joined 67 Squadron in 1983 and retired this month.

MAJ CHARLES KIRKE: bitten by the bug when moths flew in

Sad young 'un laughs again

A LITTLE boy left deaf by meningitis is now able to hear again thanks to the efforts and generosity of the Radio Troop, 29 Signal Squadron in Berlin.

When they learned about three-year-old Richard Watts, whose father Cpl Jeff Watts was serving with the Berlin-based unit, they launched a series of sponsored events which eventually raised £2,500 to buy the little lad a "phonic ear", the training package that accompanies it and five years' maintenance costs.

Now the youngster is as "cheeky as ever" and on the way to leading a normal life.

Since the money raised was more than the cost of the hearing aid, the extra cash has been used to buy hearing test equipment for use in schools.



MR EDWARD ADAMS, SIR WILLIAM DOWNDWARD: another medal to wear with pride

70 years in uniform . . .

We're careful about records, or try to be . . . the biggest this, the youngest that. But the latest to hit the desk is from TA HQ North West District who tell of 87-year-old Edward Adams' 70 years service and still in uniform.

With Regular Army and TA service and latterly as a volunteer helper with Greater Manchester's Army Cadet Force, Mr Adams has added the BEM to the three rows of medal ribbons he proudly wears as a member of the Corps of Commissaires.

He received his award for his long service from Sir William Downward, Lord Lieut for Greater Manchester and president of the NW TA Association, at the HQ of 75 Eng Regt RE (V).

Radio pair tune in to love

Radio instructor Eddie Blakemore found himself on exactly the right wavelength when he teamed with pretty Allison McConkey and tuned in to love and marriage.

They met on a signals training weekend with the TA and now plan to marry in July. Eddie a 25-

year-old miner from Wingate, is with 7LI's Washington-based C company while Allison, a bank clerk, is a signaller at the battalion's headquarters at Durham.

"We met at a disco during a training weekend and just seemed to hit it off," said

Allison, 20, who lives in West Rainton.

But the couple

are not always on the friendliest of terms. While exercising with the battalion at Caterick they traded "shots", albeit blanks, when

Eddie's company found itself attacked by hostile forces which included Allison armed with a sub-machine gun.

Scorpions' farewell



WO2 Forsyth, SSgts Hutton, Myer and Flaxman. (Above): Maj Gen Learmont

KNOWN as the "Scorpions" because of the sting they carry in their support of the Royal Artillery of 1 (BR) Corps, 8 Regiment RCT presented a silver model of a scorpion to Maj Gen J H Learmont (top right), retiring Master Gunner, when he visited them at their Munster base on his farewell tour of BAOR.

The scorpion will be a memento of his long association with the regiment. The general in return thanked the regiment for their "dedicated and professional support of the RA" and presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to WO2 Forsyth and SSgts Hutton, Myer and Flaxman.



CPL EDDIE BLAKEMORE, PTE ALLISON McCONKEY: teamed on the right wavelength

NEWS

With the temperature nudging 100 degrees, Lt Col M G Hodges RA was towed round on a light gun to say farewell to HQ Force Troops, Belize, which he commanded during his tour in Central America.

SPOT

King's make hash of rivals

THE "Kingos" are kings of the cooks again! The team from 5/8th Battalion The King's Regiment, led by aptly named SSgt Alan McCurry, once again proved too hot to handle in Exercise Grebe Grey, North West District's annual field cookery competition, to



record a hat trick of wins. With more than 70 years of Army experience behind



them, their know-how was enough to see off the other teams despite a brave challenge from



the 4th Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment who finished second.



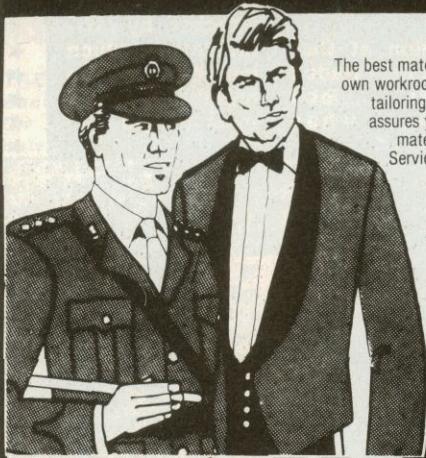
Third were the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and earning special praise from TA Colonel Bill Elder were fourth placed 75 Engineer Regiment, taking part for the first time.

PEOPLE



(L to R): SSgt Kevin Dempsey, DLOY and LCpl David Jones, 4QLR with winners Cpl Ron Davies and SSgt Alan McCurry of 5/8 Kings

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TA training objectives 'too high'

Territorial Army soldiers should find the TA more of a hobby and less of a grind, thinks Maj Gen Charles Guthrie, who commands the biggest group of TA units in their wartime role.

Gen Guthrie, who is GOC North East District, has told a meeting of the North of England TAVRA in Durham that the present level of commitment for TA units to meet training objectives is too high.

"Sometimes unrealistic training targets are produced. Time scales are too tight and standards are unrealistic for soldiers who are not career soldiers but volunteers."

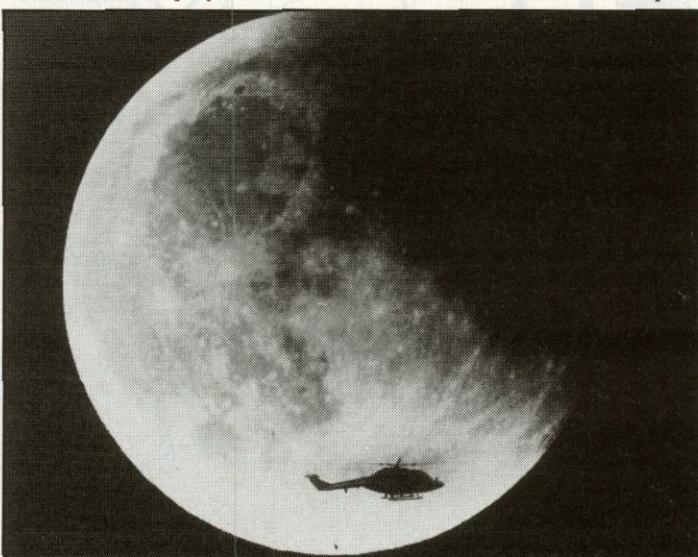
The TA, he said, should be judged by a different criteria, and a better balance was required.

The general said that the burden was falling on TA officers who could not meet the demands. Many were forced to leave and others with potential were discouraged from joining.

It was necessary to be concerned with the long term potential of the TA rather than attempt to achieve a state of

instant readiness for war. Since no war was being declared "this afternoon" many excellent men and women could be frightened away by an effort to achieve unrealistically high standards.

Maj Gen Guthrie added: "If the TA is ground down through pressure of work today many of those officers and soldiers with the most potential may never come near us. They are frightened off and we should always bear in mind their responsibilities to their families and civilian employers."



SOLDIER to Soldier

Photographer Denis eclipses his rivals

SSgt Denis Hayward's shot of the eclipsed moon didn't look right - just a moon and nothing else. So he decided to add to it a very high flying Lynx helicopter.

It was not only the Lynx which rose to record heights, but it took Denis to the top of

the Army's annual photographic competition, winning the title "Army Photograph of the Year".

The montage of moon and helo was the only photograph which Denis entered and it also won the category for best black and white photograph, collecting prizes awarded by Naafi and Ilford Ltd.

Southampton-born Denis started his Army career with REME and then changed to the infantry, but looked for another change in trade in 1969. "They were looking for photographers 'with no prior qualifications necessary'", said Denis. "So I applied."

Now based at the Army School of Ammunition at Leamington Spa, Denis has obviously learned a lot since those early adventures into photography. Two years ago he won a portfolio competition organised by Ilford, and now with his Army win he must be... over the moon!

Wheels of co-operation turn smoothly!

An antique brass cannon, which was probably last fired in anger in the Napoleonic or Crimean wars, has been put back on its wheels again as a result of co-operation between the Army, CoSIRA (the Council for Small Industries

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

in Rural Areas), and a skilled craftsman.

The nine-pounder smooth-bore cannon, which belongs to the Royal School of Artillery, is of a type used between 1750 and 1870. The carriage is dated 1862 but little else is known as the markings on the brass barrel were worn away through years of 'bulling' by the gunners.

The cannon and its dilapidated wheels were brought to the attention of Maj Peter Leigh of REME Wing of RSA, Larkhill, who found he had a problem as REME had not had a wheelwright in its ranks for many years. He contacted CoSIRA at their headquarters in Salisbury, who put him in touch with local wheelwright Peter Brougham, of the new

Wessex Shire Park.

The skilled work included replacement of most of the spokes and making new 'felloes' (outer circles) for the wheels. Finally the iron bonds were heated on a huge bonfire until they were red hot and then shrunk back on to the wheels, which are some 50 inches in diameter and weigh two cwt each.



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DERR leads drive for a healthier way of eating

FATTER CHIPS, THINNER SOLDIERS!

EAT, drink and be merry and tomorrow you could be fat, funless and possibly futureless. For overweight soldiers are not welcome in today's Army.

While the vast majority of soldiers are young, lean and lithe, there are a few portly ones around who have difficulty seeing their toes without the aid of a mirror.

For them it's no joke when it comes to BFT and CFT times, let alone taking part in marathons. But they are not alone as about a third of the UK population is overweight.

To meet the demands of military fitness - which is a No. 1 requirement - units in Northern Ireland have launched a campaign of healthier eating.

Well to the front in this culinary revolution are the officers and men of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, based at Aldergrove.

There, under the watchful eye of their CO Lt Col Alan Kenway, and Maj John Miller ACC, the SO2 Catering for the province-based troops, new-style high fibre think-what-you-eat menus are on offer every day.

"And they are proving extremely popular, too," said Capt Peter Stacey, the regimental mess officer.

"Fat in food is the main problem," said Maj Miller, "followed by salt and sugar.

by
John Margetts

Medical surveys show nearly half the calories consumed come from fat.

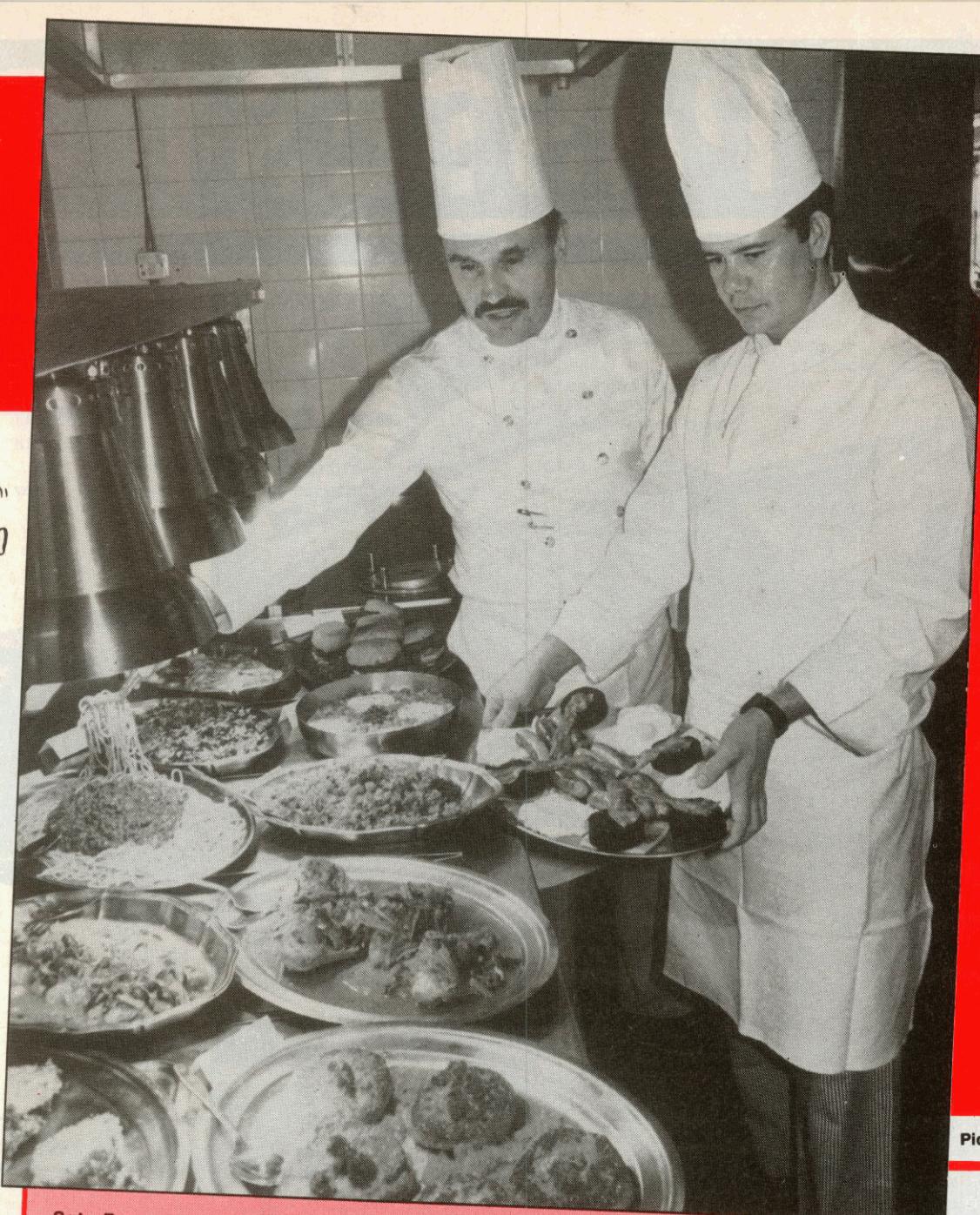
"We want to reduce this in our menus to around 35 per cent of the calorific value of a meal."

Spelling it out, he said one gram of fat contained nine calories (a gram is 1,000th of a kilogram which is almost 2½lb), and a gram of protein and the same amount of carbohydrate each contained four calories.

His message is clear and simple: keep away from fat if you want to stay fit.

But it's not as simple as that to get young soldiers - or older ones for that matter - to change the habits of a lifetime.

"You can't make people eat what they don't want. If we put



Out goes the 'Ulster fry' and in comes the high fibre menu

Picture: Terry Champion

out food that is unacceptable, they will ignore it and go elsewhere. So it has to be a gradual process. It's a matter of re-education over a period of time.

"We've been offering a choice of 'healthier eating' menus for 12 months now, and it's our hope that people will take to eating this sort of food without realising it.

"Of course we don't expect a complete switch by everyone. Some will always want the traditional British fry-up."

What is really boils down to is "nutritional awareness" by the consumer.

To this end in the dining hall of the DERR a typical alternative menu would read: baked jacket potatoes, Edam cheese and pickle, coleslaw, diced mushrooms and grilled bacon with chilli sauce, cottage cheese and chives, curried mince beef, baked beans, individual cottage pies, stir fry vegetables, wholemeal pasta, brown rice, assorted pizza with a high fibre base, fried large chips (in oil, not lard), green salad and fresh fruit.

"We make large chips because they absorb less oil,"

said Maj Miller, "making them crisp on the outside and floury on the inside. It all makes for thin soldiers.

"Sugar, too, is high on our list for reduction with consumption down by about ten per cent overall.

"We can actually reduce the sugar content in dishes without the customer knowing.

"It's all part of our effective nutritional programme throughout the province."

Additionally, in a further effort to keep the lads away from the cow, most kitchens in the province use semi-skimmed milk and, while they still serve eggs and bacon, fish and chips and other traditional dishes, their cooking techniques and principles are gradually changing.

And, so it would appear, are the tastes of soldiers. For a province-wide survey indicated a preference for wholemeal bread, but not the low-fat milk. "They think it's watered down," said Master Chef WO2 Cliff Newton, "but it's not. There's just less fat in it."

With 26 cooks in his charge it's a tricky job to present "healthier food" to young

Sgt Bruce Rimmington offers his "Ulster fry" of sausages, bacon, eggs and black pudding, but finds no room for this popular dish among Master Chef WO2 Cliff Newton's salubrious selection of high fibre dishes.

On display for SOLDIER and the delectation of the diners of the DERR was a sample menu of wholemeal bread and butter pudding, wholemeal

pancakes, apple and cheese biscuits, lamb chops in savoury potatoes, stir fry vegetables, spiced chicken drumsticks, sausage and bean casserole, bean and cheese pancakes, bran burgers and wholemeal roll, wholewheat spaghetti bolognese, lentil patties, bacon and cheese chowder and clear vegetable soup with pasta.

A choice for the gourmet!

soldiers with huge appetites for dishes less healthy. "If you saw how much fat drains from some products . . ." his voice trailed off.

"The idea is to present less fried food - in fact we grill just about everything - less sugar and less salt.

"And if there is one secret about it, it is in the presentation. Food has to look good . . . visually attractive. And of course it has to taste good.

"Preparing this type of food means more work for the cooks, but we don't mind as it provides an opportunity to show off our skills with different dishes."

A man with a firm view of

food he said: "For too long

we've been filling soldiers up

for the APTC to run it off them

to achieve basic fitness.

"It's not that the food is bad in any way. The very opposite. It's excellent. But our 'healthier food' scheme is there to steer

the young soldiers away from traditional dishes and make them aware of possible dangers from a high fat diet and the benefits that can be derived from a high fibre and healthier eating programme.

"We even have 'no fry' days with no chips on the menu, but there is the usual wide choice of everything else."

He offers this advice to anyone who wants to eat in a healthier manner: don't fry, get rid of the fat on meat, reduce

sugar and salt, eat more fibre foods - wholewheat bread, brown rice, wholewheat pasta, fruit and vegetables - use low fat spreads instead of butter . . . and that's just for starters.

But "healthier eating" is not just confined to the soldiers' dining hall, the same applies to the officers' mess.

"Anyone joining us who doesn't like wholewheat bread and pasta is in for a bit of a shock. We're all healthy eaters in our mess," said Col Kenway, a keen marathon man and advocate of high protein food.

"Wholewheat pasta's the stuff for the long distance men. It provides reserves of energy unmatched by any amount of sugar. Of course, if they don't like our 'healthier eating' programme, they can always ask for a move!"

LAW PASSES ITS FINAL TRIAL

And it's a hit with the judges!



Left - Handling trials for LAW 80 and the SA80 rifle, this time from a Puma helicopter

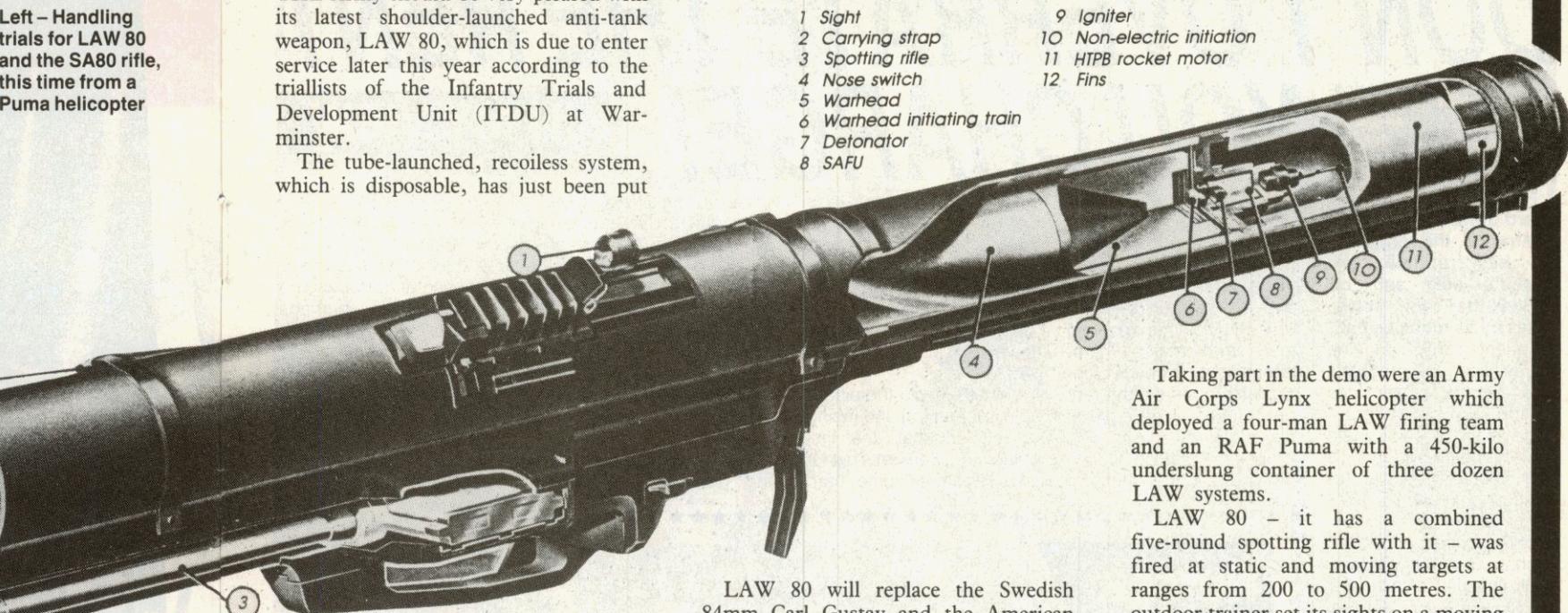
Below - Quick exit with LAW 80 from a Lynx helicopter at Battlesbury Bowl near Warminster



Pictures: Paul Haley

THE Army should be very pleased with its latest shoulder-launched anti-tank weapon, LAW 80, which is due to enter service later this year according to the trialists of the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) at Warminster.

The tube-launched, recoilless system, which is disposable, has just been put



LAW 80 will replace the Swedish 84mm Carl Gustav and the American 66mm (M72) weapons.

Eight tubes or launchers were used for the demo, which included the firing of four HEAT (High Explosive Anti-Tank) rounds and four live/inert practice rounds during the finale at the trials arena of Battlesbury Bowl near Warminster's famed School of Infantry.

through its final trial via a demonstration involving handling familiarisation and live firing watched by Army specialists and members of industry.

The Ministry of Defence recently awarded a £200 million production contract for the system to Hunting Engineering Ltd.

Taking part in the demo were an Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter which deployed a four-man LAW firing team and an RAF Puma with a 450-kilo underslung container of three dozen LAW systems.

LAW 80 - it has a combined five-round spotting rifle with it - was fired at static and moving targets at ranges from 200 to 500 metres. The outdoor trainer set its sights on a moving Warrior P4 early prototype. It was suitably armoured for the occasion!

Another target was a resident manned target tank - one of five soon to become obsolete - an up-armoured, 60-ton Centurion which moved across the field of vision at 10mph with its three crew drawn from the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) of D Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

More used in the past to the impacted attentions of Swingfire and Milan, the ageing "Cents" are, on safety grounds, never fired at when static.

Trials of LAW 80 lasted from October until mid-December before official acceptance into the Army.

WO2 (QMSI) George Wiggs of the Support Weapons Section, ITDU, said of LAW 80: "It's very comfortable to fire. It's certainly got hitting power, enhanced accuracy and the ability to confirm range with its integrated spotting rifle. It also comes with a good training aids package of an outdoor trainer and a classroom trainer.

"LAW 80 is a vast improvement on the 84mm Carl Gustav and the 66mm systems. There is less recoil. It will fulfil the needs of the infantry and is just the job."

Maj David Budge, trials officer with the Support Weapons Section, endorsed this: "The versatility of the outdoor trainer which fires six spotting rounds means it can engage suitably protected armoured fighting vehicles as well as moving targets. The live/inert round will not, however, be going into service."

Story: Graham Smith

How to fly high with BA

SERVICEMEN based overseas will be able to buy shares in British Airways when the company goes public.

While they experienced difficulties last year buying into British

Telecom, British Gas and TSB, the BA issue will be a different story.

Information about buying BA shares is generally restricted to UK residents only, but Servicemen and women wishing to find out how to

apply for shares should write to: The British Airways Share Opportunity, Liverpool X, L69 1BA.

Those writing for information MUST include their Service number and full BFPO address.

Follow this advice if letting your house

DON'T OVERRATE THE RENT YOU CHARGE!

IN MY VIEW

HOUSE-OWNER Servicemen could be asking too much rent when they let their houses on posting abroad.

For in every case I have heard of that has gone to arbitration, the rent officer has upheld the tenant's plea and reduced the rent, sometimes by as much as half.

Tenants sign on the dotted line and agree a rent, then at a later date decide they can't afford it and take the unfortunate Service home-owner to a rent tribunal and plead for a reduction under the 1977 Rent Act.

The consequences of such a cut in rent can well spell financial disaster for the Service owner. For it is the money from the rent that helps pay his mortgage to provide a house for his family when his time in the Army is finished.

What action can he, as a landlord take? Obviously, the first rule is to check that the rent charged compares with similar prop-

erties in the area.

The Service home-owner should also check outgoings such as rates, water rates, maintenance and letting agent's fee.

In addition he may find that, when making comparison rent checks for similar properties, the rent he charges is well up on his outgoings.

For example: the Service owner might be charging

£400 a month to cover his costs, but the actual realistic rent for his property is £250. So if the owner fixed the rent at more than £300, then the tenant could be justified in seeking a lower rent under the Rent Act.

To help avoid the pitfalls of overcharging and facing a rent tribunal, the first thing a Service owner should do is some hard

research in his home area. Second, do NOT appoint a relative to act as an agent.

Employ a competent professional to look after your interests.

Third, ask around before agreeing the rent... take advice from other owners and agents.

The alternatives are to leave the wife and family in the property and serve

unaccompanied, but accompanied service is now Army policy.

A drastic move is to sell the house and, depending on its location, perhaps lose money and possibly be out of the property market altogether.

With these income cuts affecting a good many Servicemen - for that is what a rent reduction is, as the money to pay for the mortgage and other expenses still has to be found - it now seems timely for the Army Legal Services to perhaps come forward with some practical advice and help.

Will this year see such a move? I hope so, as the Service house-owner needs all the help he can get, for this latest housing problem is both serious and extremely worrying.

Nurses must sign on to work

Service wives who are qualified nurses and who have not yet registered with the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting could well find themselves unable to work in the UK unless they get on the list.

The rule is that all qualified nurses must be on the register, the cost of which is £10 a year less a tax allowance.

All queries should be directed to the Council at 23 Portland Place, London W1N 3AF (telephone: 01-637 7181).

YOU WRITE... The key to house buying

I GET many letters from readers requesting information on house buying - especially council houses.

Some people, it seems, have little trouble transferring ownership from a council to themselves. Others, though, flounder until they get started in the right direction. I am happy to help point the way...

A BAOR-based reader writes: "I am hoping to purchase my parents' council house for cash, but it will have to stay in my father's name as only he can buy the house from the local authority.

"Can you explain what capital gains tax is and point out reasons for and against such a situation?

Anne

HERE TO HELP



prices have been escalating at an alarming rate.

For full information on how to set about buying a council house, write to: The Housing Corporation, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN (telephone: 01-387 9466)

asking for **The Right to Buy Housing Booklet No. 2** and **Your Right to Buy Your Home**.

Both of these booklets are guides for council, new town, town and housing tenants.

For guidance on capital gains tax, get the **Daily Mail Income Tax Guide** at £1.50 available from bookshops.

Indicating how easy it is

for some to buy a council house, another reader writes:

"I have recently purchased my father's council house with him. It took less than a year to complete the deal.

"Because he has lived in the house so long he earned a great deal of discount on the purchase price and I managed to secure a mortgage quite easily.

"I encountered few problems, even though I live in Germany. So far as I can see the main problem is poor understanding between the family, especially when buying with your money, but using their discount.

"There must be an understanding as to who

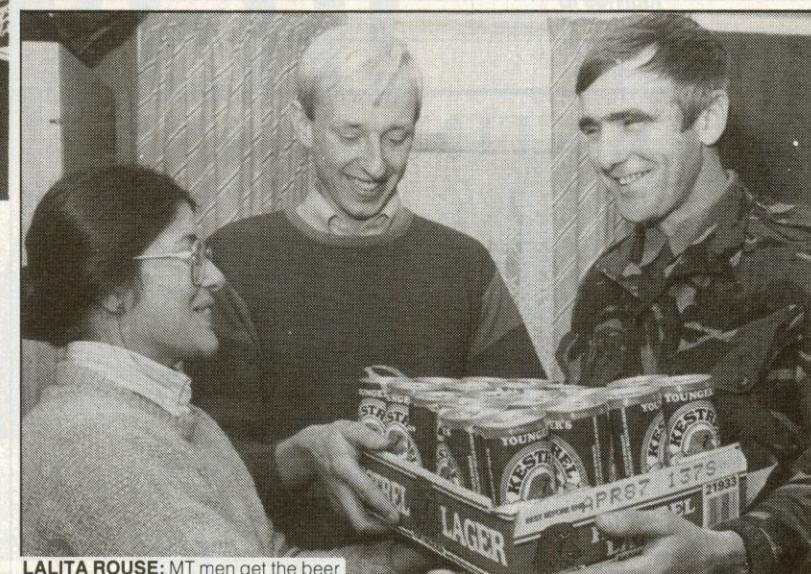
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LALITA ROUSE, FLO REID: lucky leaving prize plus plaque



LALITA ROUSE: MT men get the beer

welcome I can never thank them enough."

In her time there Flo had arranged many of the club's outings and activities and also been its treasurer.

To show the club's appreciation of the help received from the MT section, Lalita Rouse, who also produces the club's newsletter, handed a crate of beer to representatives from the section who also collected chocolate for their WRAC colleagues.

Among those present at the last meeting of 1986 were senior chaplain the Rev Rod Price, Karla Freer, chairman 39 Inf Bde Army Wives Federation, and Helen Sheridan, the first secretary of the Lisburn committee, who was also leaving on posting to England.

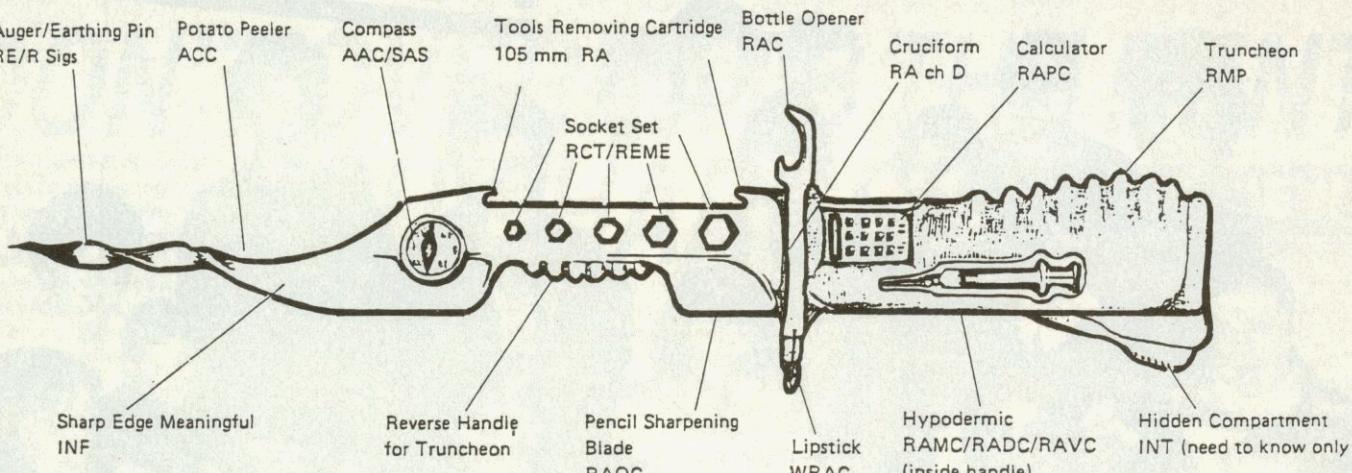
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type All Arms multi-purpose bayonet has something for everyone. Including a lipstick holder for the WRAC!

Secret plans for the weapon were spotted in the foyer of the

Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster, Wilts. SOL-DIER would be pleased to hear from the unknown artist, especially if he has other fiendishly clever modifications up his sleeve . . .

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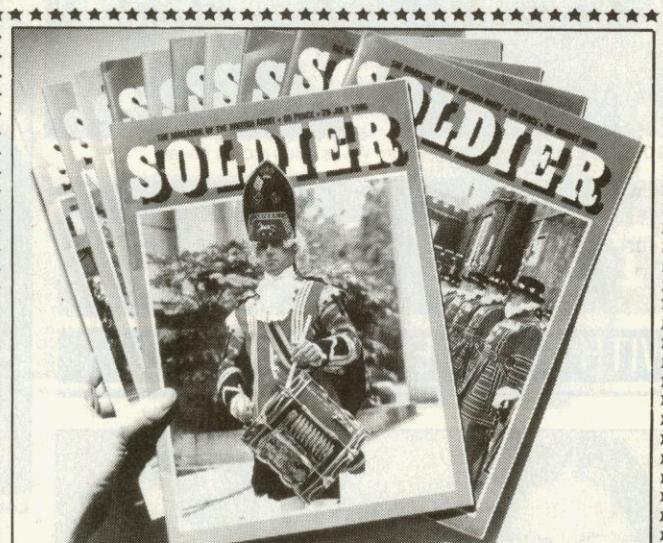
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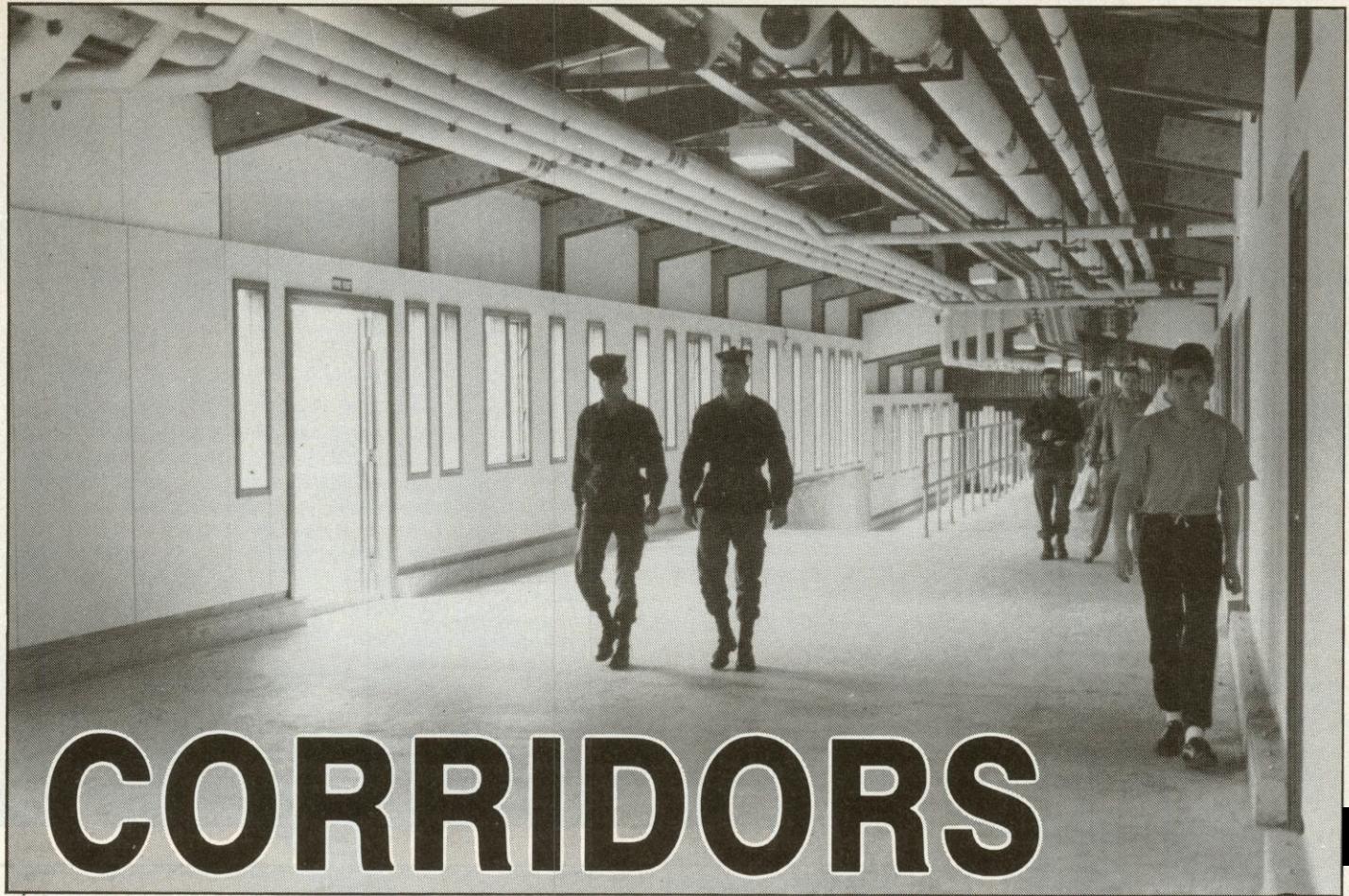
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CORRIDORS OF POWER!

Above - Miles of corridor in 'Death Star' - the Army's new home in the Falklands

GARRISON life on the Falkland Islands will enter another phase with the move into the Mount Pleasant complex.

The new complex, whose several miles of weather-sealed corridor have earned it the nickname Death Star, will next month house the majority of the 3,000-plus Servicemen and women of the Falklands force.

Days are numbered for the three coastels, the floating barracks east of Stanley, which with the Portakabin complex known as Lookout Camp have until now provided the bulk of the accommodation.

Lookout Camp lies on the outskirts of the Falklands' capital and after refurbishment this year will house those personnel left in the Stanley area including the military staff of the joint hospital.

One company of the resident infantry battalion, currently the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, are already based at Mount Pleasant but soon all will operate from the same complex which is some 20 miles to the south-west of Stanley and linked to it by road.

Other Army personnel staying at Stanley after the move will include the staff of HQ British Forces Falkland Islands, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and a small provost unit. An element of 73 Port Squadron, RCT, will also remain to man the Falklands Intermediate



Accommodation blocks at the new Mount Pleasant complex

Port and Storage System (FIPASS) until its closure.

FIPASS, a temporary floating port completed in 1984, is now mainly used for the export of material such as the strategic stores being gathered from around the islands by the Royal Engineers.

The Army, with its petrol depot in the Canache area near Stanley airfield and its ammunition depot on Stanley Common, has been tied to the capital but now the new fuel depot is at Mare Harbour, the logistics supply base south of Mount Pleasant, and the ammunition depot has moved too.

The ammunition storage facility on

Stanley Common was the only one in the Army to which the public had unrestricted rights of access. This was because the islanders had to get to their peat, a considerable factor in deciding to move the depot because the ammunition was slowly sinking into the bog.

Military personnel will be boosted by more than 200 contractors who will man the laundry and bakery among other maintenance and back-up services.

Recreation facilities at Mount Pleasant include gyms, a new water sports centre called Gull Island on a shallow lake nearby and a variety of playing fields and pitches. A bowling alley is also to be built.

A special feature on the Falklands by Mervyn Wynne Jones and Paul Haley

A LEGACY OF DEATH

MINEFIELDS that litter the dunes and beaches around Stanley airfield are well marked but hazards remain undiscovered elsewhere which is why the Royal Engineers' bomb disposal team must be on call 24 hours a day.

Hill walkers, patrols and farmers stumble across unexploded ordnance each week - from belts of 7.62mm ammunition to shells and mortar bombs - and it is the job of the 33 Explosive Ordnance Disposal detachment based at Stanley to destroy such finds.

Backed up by Royal Navy clearance divers and other RAOC and RAF teams, 33 EOD reacts to at least five incidents each week. Bigger missiles such as Roland and Exocet have been found but mines are being washed on to beaches every day.

EOD OC Capt Paul Jefferson told SOLDIER: "This is obviously an important part of our work here. There is all manner of stuff lying around still and things like the BL755 cluster bomblets and 66mm HEAT rounds are very bad news and must be treated with extreme caution.

"The biggest worry for me is grenades. Soldiers find something that they recognise and which they assume they know something about and find it tempting to pick up. This can be a fatal assumption and I can only stress how important it is to leave such finds alone and report them to us," said Capt Jefferson.

There are more than 120 minefields and boobytrap areas around Stanley and the settlements and though few records were found for those in the "camp" area beyond the capital the minefields near it are well documented.

He added: "The quality of Argentine recording varies but their records of anti-personnel and anti-tank minefields are reasonably good for the Stanley area. They were laid by both soldiers and marines and the latter seem, on the whole, to have made a better job of it and to have

kept better records of what they were doing."

Mines are destroyed by the radio-controlled Redfire, a variant of the Northern Ireland Wheelbarrow. It has wide tracks to support it on sand and a boom which can detonate plastic mines with a blow torch or metal ones by placing a charge against them.

The EOD detachment, with the help of the infantry battalion stationed in the Falklands, must ensure that fences surrounding minefields are maintained

throughout the year to prevent people from straying into them.

Their job is not made easier by the elements. Wind and waves move mines around and streams wash them out of minefields. Two of Capt Jefferson's predecessors have been badly injured by stray anti-personnel mines.

Several people were injured by mines after the war and it was the escalation of accidents that brought about the current policy of sealing off minefields rather than clearing them.

Battle area clearance nevertheless remains a function of the EOD detachment and if a spate of finds is recorded in a certain area it will then be swept for ordnance.

The move to the Mount Pleasant complex has meant handing back to the islanders ranges which must first be cleared of all unexploded material. Trenches are cleared when discovered and the EOD detachment has checked Stanley airfield during the lifting of protective matting from the runway.

SPOT THE MINE!

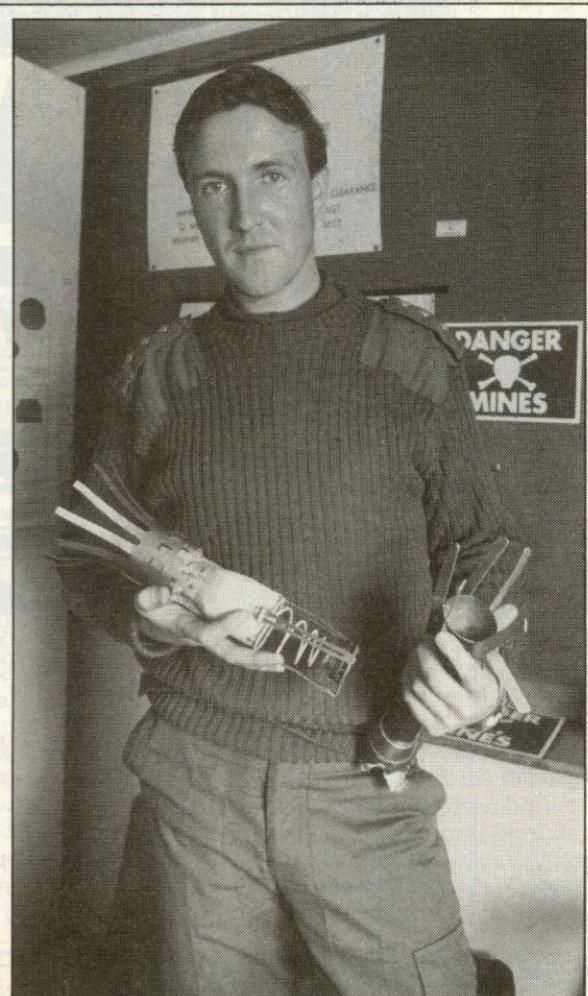
A DEADLY legacy of the Falklands war is the profusion of minefields around the islands. So dangerous is the process of clearing them that British sappers have cordoned them off and left them.

This picture reveals the scale of the danger. Argentine anti-tank mines lie exposed on the beach by tide and rain. Scattered around them - and shifted constantly by the elements - are anti-personnel mines, only three inches in diameter and very difficult to detect.

Two bomb disposal team commanding officers have been badly injured by stray anti-personnel mines.



Above - The controlled detonation of an anti-tank mine on a beach near Stanley airfield
Below - Capt Paul Jefferson RE with the remains of a BL755 bomblet in his right hand and a 66mm HEAT round



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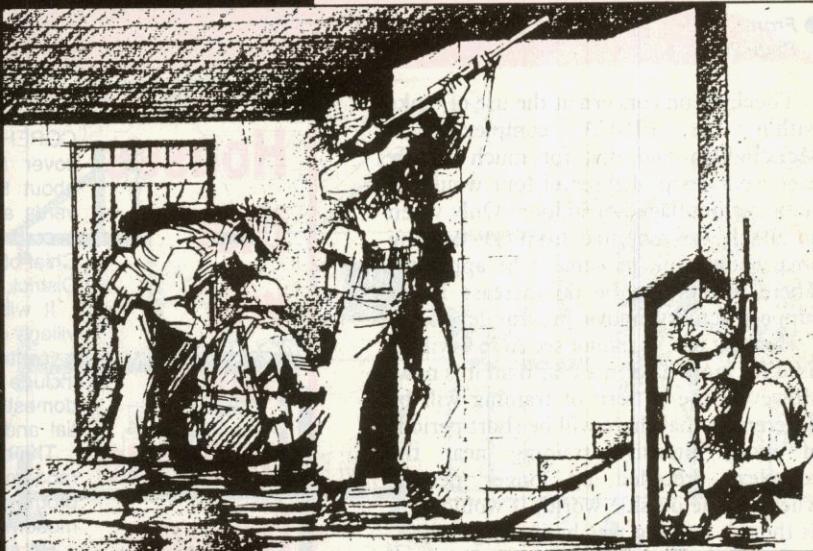
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WHY THE ARMY NEEDS ITS FIGHTING VILLAGES

Report by Graham Smith



SEVENTY or so Wiltshire councillors at county, district and parish level crowded into an Army camp hut with Boer War origins on Salisbury Plain to hear Army "top brass" voice concern at local "misunderstandings" about its proposed £7.3 million fighting village complex planned for Copehill Down.

Construction of the 30-acre FIBUA (Fighting in Built-up Areas) complex, modelled on a typical Lower Saxony village, is due to start this autumn and last for about two years with, says the Army, no increase in disturbance to the nearby clutch of four villages - Chitterne, Orcheston, Tilshead and Shrewton.

Outline planning permission for the 90-building fighting village was agreed by West Wiltshire District Council in April 1985.

District and parish councillors had been appraised of the scheme in the autumn of 1984.

"Very little has changed since the autumn of 1984," Maj Gen Barry Lane, GOC South West District, told the civic representatives who were later ferried on an inspection trip of the barren site in a fleet of Army and PSA Land-Rovers.

He added: "It is very important we clear up any misunderstandings. Frankly, we

have to live alongside you day by day, week by week, month by month, year in, year out. It's very important that those whose livelihoods are here, farmers, smallholders, understand what we are doing.

"We go to enormous lengths to keep in touch with our tenant farmers and with those with whom we work. Our aim today is to put the facts straight."

Complementing the detailed briefing held at the wooden-hutted Westdown Camp, a dozen miles to the west of Bulford Camp's HQ South West District, was an exhibition of artists' impressions, factual captions and a diorama model including the proposed FIBUA site within Area 9 on the 90,000-acre Salisbury Plain Training Area.

Throughout the careful explanations about the FIBUA, the spokesmen reaffirmed there would be no noticeable increase in noise. They also gave other assurances as they outlined the facts, correcting erroneous verbal and printed opinion generated in parish councils and local newspapers.

A training table for 1985/6 showed a total of 351 days' use in the Copehill Down area of Area 9, comprising 168 days of armoured tracked vehicles on exercise and

another 169 days without such vehicles but using pyrotechnics. Signals, logistics and other "quiet" activities accounted for just 14 days.

Under proposed FIBUA arrangements it is estimated that training would be carried out on 350 days. High activity with pyrotechnics could be on 120 days and FIBUA preparation - quiet sequences - on 160 days. Other training would continue as now.

Gen Lane reminded the councillors: "There are many other owners on the Plain. It is our aim and object to discuss with these people, quietly in their own homes, what we aim to do."

His Chief of Staff, Col Ian McLaughlan pointed out that Salisbury Plain was the sole UK training area where all arms - tanks, guns and small arms - could exercise together using live ammunition.

Copehill Down, he reaffirmed, would be a "dry" training complex, one using blanks and pyrotechnics only. There would never be live firing there.

A number of sites for dry use within the live firing areas had been considered and eventually discarded as "unacceptable or unworkable".

It was decided to concentrate on drills and tactics in the defence of a village by a company, sited on a part of the Plain not covered by live firing, the artillery impact area or tenant farming.

Five areas and a dozen sites were scrutinised for good fields of view out to a mile or more and room for manoeuvre.

Considerations that had to be taken into account included safe and easy access to public roads for construction needs, minimum environmental damage, avoidance of rights of way and major sites of special scientific interest. Most importantly, there had to be minimum interference with the lives of the locals. Copehill Down met these needs.

THE CASE FOR COPEHILL DOWN

A Continental village on Salisbury Plain

From
Page 25

Touching on concern at the use of tanks within the FIBUA complex, Col McLaughlan said that for much of any exercise a troop of three or four would be static, camouflaged or hidden. Only when an attack was mounted from the training area would tank movement be apparent. There would also be no increase in air support activity above present levels.

He went on: "I cannot see Area 9 will be used for more days in a year than it is now. However, the pattern of training will be different in that there will be short periods of more intensive training near the complex, preceded by longer periods when, to the outside world, it would look as though nothing was happening there."

Lt Col Tim Nicholson, Chief of Training, HQ SW District, said the FIBUA complex would not be visible from any of the four neighbouring villages except Orcheston. Screen plantations were planned to obscure views from the road connecting the other three communities.

More trees and shrubs would be planted in the complex itself. These would double as tactical training aids as well as "softening and minimising" the visual impact if seen from a distance.

"We appreciate how much local people value their access and have ensured that the training complex will not interfere with rights of way," said Col Nicholson, "In spite of statements we have seen to the contrary and, except for the complex itself, members of the public will still be able to walk over the open land in the vicinity when it is not in use for training purposes."

Artillery and mortar fire would be simulated by explosive charges. Tank fire would also be simulated as blanks are not provided for training. A five-day exercise would involve a staged battle for only part of a day; a two-day exercise, for just a few hours.

"Enemy" tanks and troops approaching the FIBUA would do so through any of the 11 tank crossings giving access and not through the villages.

Nor would the FIBUA defenders be deployed round it for the five-day period, but only on the day of the attack, avoiding agricultural land and dispersing on the same day.

Col Nicholson added: "Night fighting in built up areas is, for real, a highly dangerous activity which commanders would normally avoid. It is particularly dangerous for the attacker and hence staged battles at night are unlikely. Most battles will, therefore, take place during daylight hours although there may be some patrol activity at night.

"Attacking forces might include up to 30 tanks but I must stress this would be an exception. Normally there would be far

Houses that will never become homes

COPEHILL Down FIBUA will cover about 30 acres and be about 600 yards by about 325 yards at its greatest extremities, according to Lt Col Tim Nicholson, Chief of Training, HQ South West District.

It will represent a continental village which has developed from a central cross roads and will include a variety of buildings – domestic, communal and residential and some farms.

The buildings will be set up in a random manner in the centre, progressing to more orderly modern houses on the periphery.

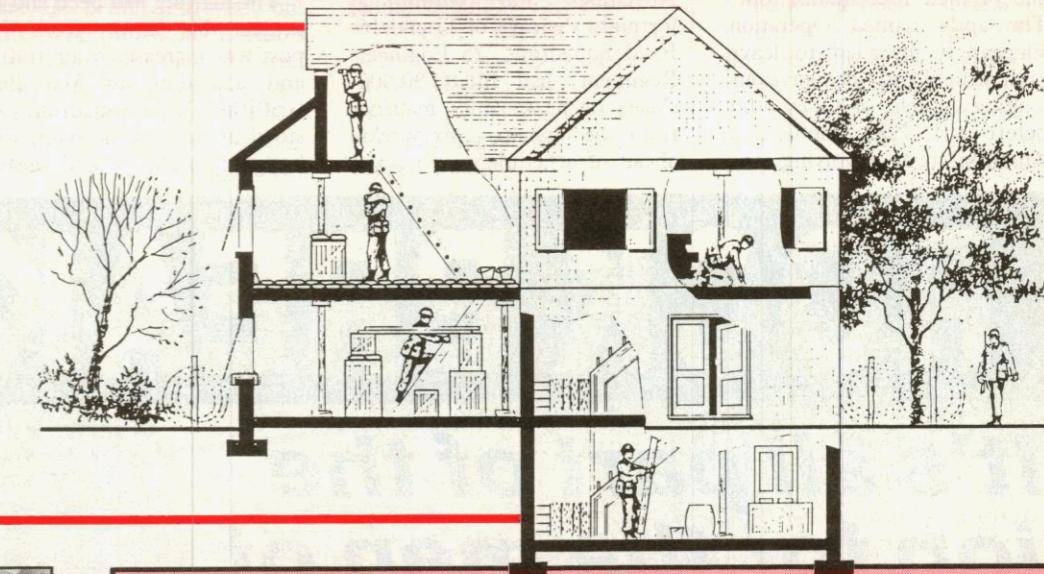
He said: "In case there is any

doubt, the buildings we shall construct will be shells and will not be habitable. The forms of construction have been chosen to provide robust structures which will not easily be damaged during exercises and not require excessive maintenance.

"External walls will be either of brick or coloured concrete blocks. Doors, windows – the latter without glass – will be secured with robust lockable doors or shutters as appropriate. Drainage, water, electricity and heating will be provided to the control centre during exercises and to some other buildings.

"The detailed design of the buildings, including colours and external finishes, will be discussed with the District Council during the detailed planning application process.

"We are well aware of the importance of the training area to conservationists and we ourselves go to considerable lengths to do everything we can to conserve and protect the environment. The selected site for the village demonstrates this fact as does the planting of shrubs and trees to minimise the visual impact of the complex on the surrounding countryside."



An artist's impression of what the fighting village at Copehill Down will look like

fewer and, sometimes, none at all. We don't have many tanks in this country and they are already heavily committed to current training and other activities. The FIBUA commitment would be another task competing for their attention and would take its place in the priorities set. "No doubt some will be allocated to

FIBUA training but we will not get all the tanks we would like to have when we want them.

"However, in the interests of realistic training we will use tanks and other armoured vehicles whenever they are available and the exercise setting is appropriate. Some FIBUA exercises will

not involve armoured vehicles at all.

"Activities generating the most noise will be confined to the immediate vicinity of the FIBUA complex. The most important thing to understand is that we place the most emphasis on preparation for the exercise and a relatively short time fighting the battle."

'We've got to match battlefield conditions'

WHY does the Army need FIBUA sites at all? Currently, there are two in the UK – Whinney Hill, at Catterick, North Yorkshire and at Longmoor in Hampshire – with three more in the offing at Sennybridge, Stanford and Copehill Down.

Col Ian McLaughlan, Chief of Staff, HQ South West District, explained: "Although training frequently has to be carried out under artificial conditions it is nevertheless our aim to design and construct our training facilities to match, as near as possible, actual battlefield conditions.

"In a future war on the continent of Europe, BAOR when mobilised will be more than doubled in size by Regular and TA reinforcements from this country and, because we don't envisage a phoney war similar to 1939-40, our reinforcements could be committed directly to battle on arrival. Thus, they must be fully trained for their war role before leaving this country.

"Much of the North German Plain where our troops would have to fight initially comprises open and rolling countryside with villages separated from each other by fairly flat agricultural land. Most of these villages are less than two miles apart. As in this country, a significant proportion of the countryside has become built up as the villages have expanded since 1945 and ribbon development has taken place along the roads."

"In any future continental war this

expansion of the villages, indeed the urban sprawl in general, coupled with the considerable increase in the range of modern weapons means that much more of the fighting on the continent will inevitably take place in or from such built up areas or FIBUA as we call it."

BAOR troops had only one "very basic" form of training village but there were plans for another.

"Our aim in the UK has been to provide a geographical spread of all FIBUA facilities," he added, "to save travel and limited training time."

Both the Catterick and Longmoor FIBUA sites were estates of redundant Army married quarters which enable a platoon of 30 men at a time to practise FIBUA skills. Both estates, he said, were expensive to maintain and were never intended to be used as training facilities. They were not robust enough and lacked the necessary fields of view.

Col McLaughlan added: "They cannot cope with the number of platoons we have to train. Neither are they convenient for units based in the east and the west of the country. We are providing, therefore, purpose-built facilities at Sennybridge in Wales where there will be about 30 buildings and, to meet the demand in the east, 20 to 25 buildings at Stanford."

"Success in military operations has been proved time and time again to depend largely on our Servicemen being better trained than the enemy both as individuals and as a team."

Sappers dismantle trappings of war in the Stanley area

WORKING flat out to restore the Stanley area to pre-war normality are two squadrons of sappers who are making the most of the Falklands summer to get the job done before the end of their four month tour. The aptly named Operation Flogger is intended to leave both airfield and town environs looking much as they did before the 1982 conflict, a daunting task involving the

collection of thousands of tons of strategic stores and equipment and the demolition of both Argentine and British defensive positions.

Operation Flogger began in November and within a fortnight the men of 12 and 16 Field Squadrons, 25 Engineer Regiment, had lifted 90,000 sheets of heavy duty matting from the airstrip – six weeks ahead of schedule.

Each sheet of the American-made AM2 aluminium matting had to be lifted by hand, cleaned, checked for damage, categorised and then bundled ready for shipment to the UK.

The matting had been laid to protect the runway from the post-war increase in air traffic and according to Maj Bob Griffiths, OC 12 Squadron, had stood up well to the rigours of both jet fighters and heavy

Hercules transport aircraft.

Maj Tom Forrestal, OC 16 Squadron, added: "It has been a pretty thankless job but the morale among the men is astonishing. They have adopted the attitude that the quicker they get on with it the sooner it will be finished."

But the job did not finish there. Troops of both field squadrons, plus members of 43 Plant Squadron and some 120

men of 518 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, were tasked with dismantling several fabric "Rubb Shelters" – temporary hangars – and gathering stores such as contaminated fuel handling equipment and kilometres of coiled barbed wire. In addition they are to close down the theatre depot which houses a lot of equipment.

Another task is the clearing of military debris from the conflict including the many

Argentine defensive positions and British Rapier sites around the airfield. A lot of material such as contaminated fuel handling equipment and kilometres of coiled barbed wire are being destroyed, but other scrap, including jerricans and damaged pierced steel plank, are being dumped in a nearby quarry where islanders can purchase bits and pieces.

Maj Forrestal explained:

Our intention is to leave the area looking like it did before. The weather is our main problem because it varies so much and we have to make the most of what we get for fear of falling behind."

A team, largely from 12 Squadron, has been sent to South Georgia to replace a timber jetty at Grytviken with a steel pile, rock-filled, concrete-capped model.

More than 4,000 different items were listed on the inventory of stores needed for the job and the equipment, including a pile driver, was shipped from the UK.

Team members, several of whom were specially trained for the operation, boast a variety of skills. They include welders, carpenters, divers, fitters, plant operator mechanics and surveyors.

ROCK BREAKERS

It's all part of the job for the men of 20 Field Squadron

PICK and shovel succeeded where modern technology could not when sappers of 20 Field Squadron levelled a track up Mount Kent across one of the stone runs that are so distinctive a feature of the Falklands landscape.

Huge boulders of the stone runs – whose origins have puzzled geologists for more than a century – pose a considerable barrier to communications on the islands and prevented the ascent of Mount Kent by BV 202 vehicles.

The nature of the terrain also prevented the movement of stone-breaking equipment up the mountainside so the men of 20 Field Squadron – part of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment – took with them sledgehammer and explosive and did the job by hand.

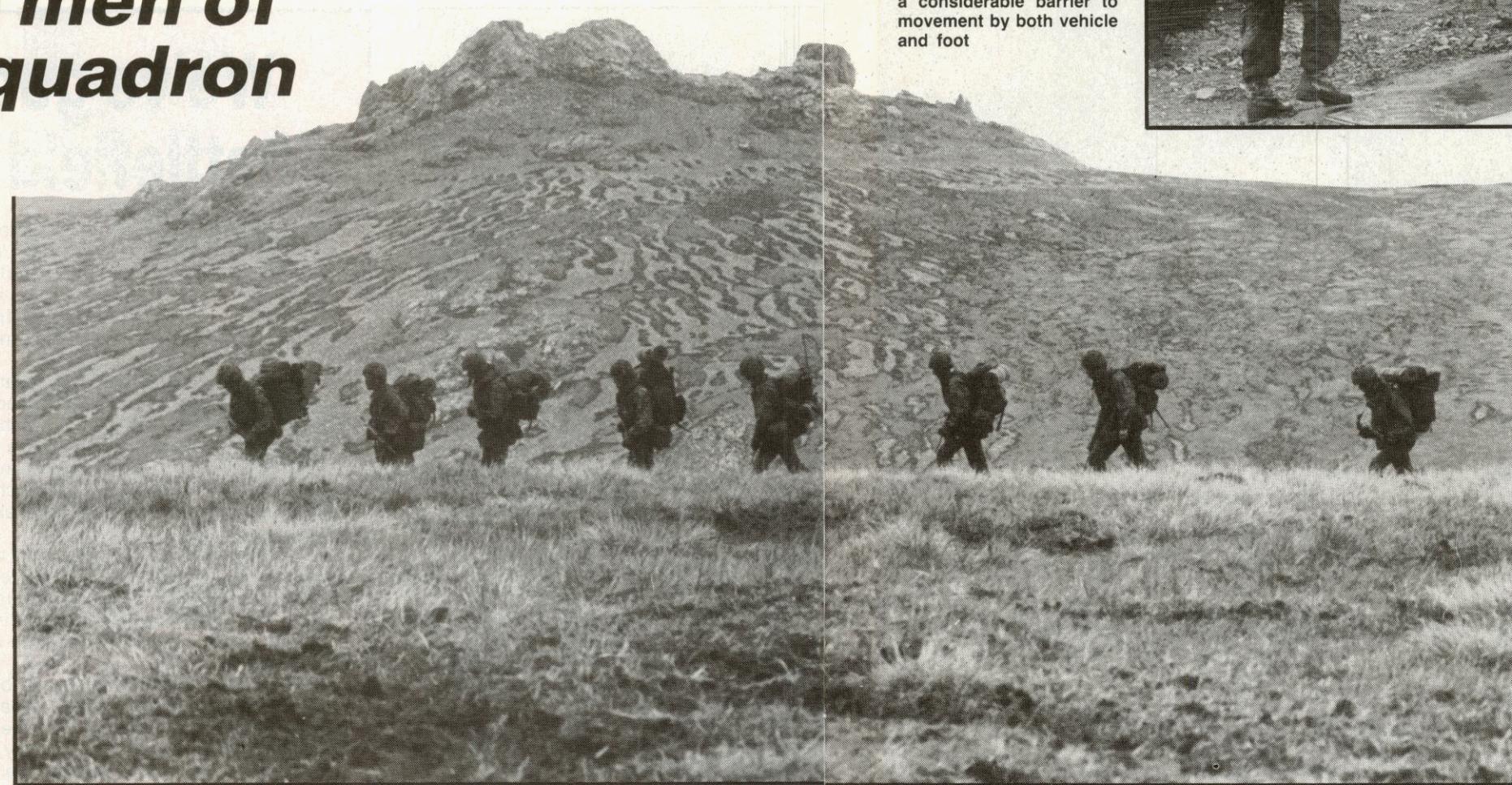
Having levelled a track they then re-roofed part of the accommodation at its summit – just another aspect of the varied role of the roulement engineer squadron on the Falkland Islands.

Primary role of the Falkland Islands Field Squadron – the title which each roulement squadron takes during its four months tour – is airfield damage repair (ADR), a hat not usually worn by 20 Field Squadron and a job for which they had to be trained before the posting.

The squadron allocates two troops permanently to ADR and the third combat engineer troop is designated as engineer support to the resident infantry battalion, currently the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

There is also a 60 strong support troop which, with the REME workshops, looks after more than 200 items of equipment such as cranes and concrete mixers.

ADR troops are tasked with keeping all



essential services at Mount Pleasant Airport operating. They would be expected, among other things, to fill in craters, mend electric cabling and install and repair emergency fuel piping.

ADR personnel continued their training when they arrived in the Falklands, and were also tasked with a variety of jobs such as the Mount Kent trackway, putting down concrete bases for Rapier sites and range clearance.

During the changeover of infantry battalions in November one ADR troop spent a week on patrol. The unit's divers have also been checking the chains on the coastal anchorages, the floating accommodation blocks east of Stanley.

A detachment of combat engineers, eight men under a sergeant, have been sent to South Georgia to support that remote island's infantry unit.

20 Field Squadron are normally part of 5

Airborne Brigade, their role being to maintain an airhead. Being with 5 Airborne has involved more infantry work and squadron OC Maj Phil Lilleman has made the most of the Falklands posting to practise live firing of a variety of weapons, from the 2in mortar to the 84mm Carl Gustav.

SOLDIER caught up with the two ADR troops near The Onion, a remote and hilly part of East Falkland, where the men were

firing weapons and throwing grenades after an overnight exercise to stretch their navigation and survival skills.

WO2 Nat Cole said: "Training like this is scarce in the UK and everyone is obviously enjoying it. It's an opportunity to do full weapons training properly."

A memorial to two men of 20 Squadron who were killed on RFA Sir Galahad during the conflict has been rebuilt and improved by the unit.



The rebuilt memorial to Cpl A G McIlvenny and Spr W D Tarbard at Fitzroy, both lost during the 1982 war, is filmed on video by a sapper colleague

Cpl A G McIlvenny and Spr W D Tarbard were with the Welsh Guards when the Argentine aircraft struck and a cairn and plaque were erected in their memory at Fitzroy after the war. "We went to pay our respects," said WO2 Cole, "and decided it would be an idea to rebuild the memorial. We wrote to their families, who were delighted at the news, and held a special service when we had completed the work."

Scorched

signallers

lay down

the line

on tour in

Ascension

SHARK fishing and sunburn are just two of the hazards and delights of an Ascension tour, as men of the Royal Corps of Signals discovered during their posting to the island.

In between laying 17 kilometres of telecommunications cable to key points on the sun-scorched island the team made sure they made the most of their time off.

One was caught out by the equatorial climate and suffered third degree burns and another, Sgt Ken John, amazed himself and everyone else by catching an 8ft thresher shark on what was only his second ever fishing trip.

The job itself was not an easy one, the men having to cope not only with choking dust and searing heat but in many cases with having to pick up new skills as they went along.

Under the direction of Sgts Ken John and Terry Hague, the team comprised men of the Blandford-based Communications Projects Division - Cpl Terry Smith and Don Bascombe and LCpl Philip Simpson - and others from 30 Signal Regt - LCpl Simon Gifford and Signalmen Ranj Atwell, 'Speedy' Speed and Chris Morton.

The latter are combat linesmen more accustomed to laying field lines connecting vehicles on top of the ground whereas the Ascension job was more a telecommunications mechanics task with the emphasis on technology of a different kind.

It involved the replacement of cable between the airhead and transmitting and receiving stations on the island.



Heat-shrinking a waterproof cable joint hanging beneath the main aviation fuel pipe to the airfields on Ascension Island

Right on course for a little extra money

NEVER let it be said that there is little to occupy your spare time on the Falkland Islands. At least not within earshot of the Royal Army Educational Corps.

They have got plenty on the go and are more than willing to rope you into all manner of courses both academic and sporting.

Apart from the need for courses to cater for promotion certificates, there are sundry evening courses in everything from languages to computer programming.

Any Serviceman with a hobby, qualification or obvious sporting interest can earn a little extra by running a course of his own.

Maj Steve Hughes, OC Force Education Centre, Falkland Islands, said: "We snap up any talent and make the most of it - hence the variety of courses we offer, all of which are well subscribed. We find that people come along and do things which they would not have thought twice about in the UK or BAOR."

"The Falkland Islands offer the lads a good opportunity to pick up on their education because they often have little to do in their spare time."

Specialist education requirements are also catered for. Men of 25 Engineer Regiment working on

Operation Flogger are being taught German in preparation for their return to BAOR.

Major welfare functions of the RAEC detachment at Stanley are the video and book libraries. About 1,500 videos are constantly being distributed among units around the Falklands and on South Georgia.

Maj Hughes is responsible for the production of the fortnightly tri-Service magazine called Southern Star which contains contributed material from different units and local news and information such as where to eat and shop in the Falklands.



Testing the new BIX cable cabinet - LCpl Simon Gifford at work near a Cable and Wireless station on Ascension Island

They'll take good care of you . . .

BOASTING the only specialist surgical facility on the Falklands, the British Military Hospital near Stanley is much in demand among Servicemen, seamen, islanders and contractors for both routine and emergency treatment.

Its main purpose is to provide medical and dental support for British Forces on the islands but the surgery carried out daily is by no means restricted to military personnel.

Ocean trawling can be a dangerous business, especially in the stormy waters of the South Atlantic, and fishermen of many nationalities are brought ashore for life-saving treatment.

Skull fractures and cancer surgery are on the case list and one islander was delivered of her baby by Caesarean section just before Christmas.

The 25 bed hospital is built

mostly of Portakabins though the £1 million operating theatre was purpose designed. It is a back-up to another hospital in Stanley itself which deals with most civilian cases, and has three GPs for day to day medical cover.

Both facilities are to be amalgamated with the opening in the next three months of a new hospital in the islands' capital. The new building, which has a lurid blue roof, has been designed to comply with NHS UK specifications.

Heading the RAMC team at the BMH outside Stanley is Lt Col Ronnie Brown, Force Medical Advisor, who said: "The islanders' lives will never be the same again. Everyone on the Falklands is now within two hours of hospital treatment, door to door, whereas before it was at least double that amount of time to Argentina."



Lt Dorothy Macleod, nursing sister at Stanley BMH, keeps an eye on one of her patients, Lt Victor Matthews, 1 A and SH, who sustained head and arm wounds after being struck by a Figure 11 shooting target caught by the downdraft of a helicopter

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On the beat along Stanley seafront are Cpl Lindsey Pickering, RMP, and Constable Paul Williams who moved to the Falklands from Caerphilly, South Wales, just a year ago. The Falkland Islands police and the Army provost unit work closely together and all RMPs on duty in the islands have Special Constable status with powers to arrest civilians

Keeping a clean sheet . . .

TERRIERS of the RAOC laundry platoon will soon be handing over the keys of the huge laundry complex at Mount Pleasant, East Falkland to civilian contractors, bringing to an end one of the most unusual part time postings in the Army.

Manned by RAOC personnel from Central Volunteer HQ, Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham, the laundry is capable of processing thousands of items of clothing each week and, if needs be, up to 350 bedsheets an hour - vital for the Falklands hospitals.

The laundrymen, mostly TA but backed by a handful of Regulars and RAF, are headed by WO2 Ronald Johnstone who said: "The TA lads are delighted to be here. Most of them are unemployed anyway and are glad of the chance to get away for a few weeks."

The part-time Falklands postings have been between two and three months and more Terriers are travelling to the South Atlantic to bring the laundry to full capacity before the handover in March.

TELEVISION ON CUE

THE finishing touches have been put to the new Services Sound and Vision Corporation broadcasts which went on the air at the Mount Pleasant complex for the first time last month.

Four hours of television programmes taped from both the BBC and independent TV in the UK are broadcast from the purpose built studio each evening to military personnel at Mount Pleasant. Programme video tapes will continue to be distributed to other personnel elsewhere in the islands.



A TA posting with a difference, 8,000 miles away from home - (left to right) LCpl Trevor Rowland, LCpl Phil Wood, Pte Neil Fotheringham, LCpl John Newton and WO2 Ronald Johnstone at Mount Pleasant

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TROOPING THE COLOUR

THE colour went out of the British Army in 1914. After 300 years of splendidly colourful dress which had distinguished individual regiments, drab khaki became uniform.

Fortunately, those magnificent uniforms did not disappear completely. Ceremonial dress was restored to the Household Cavalry and Foot Guards after the First World War, Army musicians gradually adopted

the old uniforms, and they are, of course, worn at tattoos and other military displays.

But the elegant reds and blues, the plaited gold shoulder cords, the cocked hats with plumes, the sashes, the Wellington boots and box spurs, will obviously never again be generally issued.

One man who for many years specialized in the intricacies of military uniforms was Lt Col

Olaf MacLeod, late of Coke's Rifles, Frontier Force, Indian Army; "was" because Col MacLeod tragically died recently before the publication of his book which has preserved hopefully for ever the grace and dignity of the last of the British Army's full dress.

An artist of great ability, a hobby which he started as a child and continued after he retired to Strathpeffer in

Ross-shire, he produced a collection of excellent colour illustrations of the full dress uniforms of officers, NCOs, privates and musicians.

His 90-page volume, which he researched for seven years, is a colourful reminder of past glories. - AT

Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out, by Lt Col Olaf MacLeod, published by Lutterworth Press. Price £30.

Victorian knights – not all with shining armour

THEIR names are indelibly written into Britain's military history – Gough, Napier, Gordon, Roberts, Wolseley, Wood, Macdonald and Kitchener.

Eight top military commanders from the 19th century who nevertheless have been selected by author Byron Farwell for his book *Eminent Victorian Soldiers* as much for their interesting, if somewhat eccentric, private lives as for their military prowess.

However, if this is to be a roll of eminence, there are others who could well have been included; perhaps Grenfell, Wauchope, Hope, Grant and Buller. The latter, at least, deserves a chapter devoted to him, although Redvers Buller inevitably crops up throughout the book so we are presented with him as something of a gratis ninth subject.

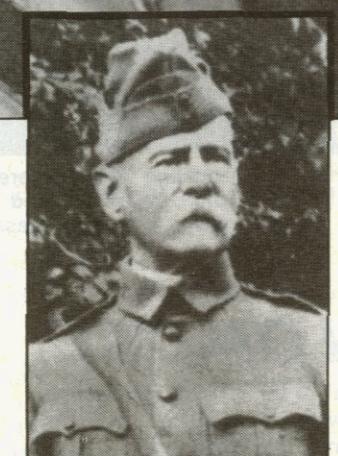
As the secondary part of the title, *Seekers of Glory*, suggests, Byron Farwell had his own strong reasons for the selection. He explains in the introduction that the eight had some things in common:

"All were knighted for their services, and four were raised to the peerage. None attended a university, and only two, Sir Evelyn Wood and Lord Roberts, went to a public school. Six of the eight were sons of soldiers... Five of the eight were born or brought up in Ireland. As Correlli Barnett has remarked, the Anglo-Irish constitute the closest thing the British have to a *Junker* class..."

Both Hugh Gough and



Above – Lord Kitchener, aged 49, photographed at Buckingham Palace on his return from Egypt in July 1899



Right – Lord "Little Bobs" Roberts

Charles Napier were important to the Victorian Empire in that they enlarged the area of British India by adding the Punjab and Sind (now a province in southern Pakistan).

Garnet Wolseley was one of the darlings of the Victorian British although the Queen herself "never cared for

Wolseley, much to his dismay..."

The only time he did not live up to public expectations was

when he failed to reach Khartoum in time to save the besieged "Chinese" Gordon, the "soldier saint", whose "irregular" sexual habits did not attract the attention that was given to the brave but tragic Hector Macdonald.

"Fighting Mac" shot himself in Paris in 1903 rather than face a court martial for homosexual practices.

The author does not hesitate to make his book a critical appraisal, which of course is what should be expected from a serious historian whose previous works include *Prisoners of the Mahdi*, *Queen Victoria's Little Wars*, *The Great Boer War*, *For Queen and Country* and *The Gurkhas*.

Evelyn Wood, whose memorial plaque in St Paul's reads "Intrepid in action, untiring in duty for Queen and Country," and Frederick "Little Bobs" Roberts are both given fair and factual treatment, as is Horatio Herbert Kitchener, who after experiencing the Franco-Prussian war "no longer cried over dead birds, and if he was moved by the sights of dying and maimed men, he did not reveal it. He had already learned to conceal his feelings."

Indeed, it could be said that the concealment of personal feelings is a common denominator in all eight characters in this interesting book, and it needs an investigating author of Byron Farwell's calibre to bring out the real man. - BJ

Eminent Victorian Soldiers: Seekers of Glory, by Byron Farwell, published by Viking. Price £14.95.

Bear 'hug' would nullify nuclear weapons

TIME spent studying a potential enemy must prove of the utmost benefit. Montgomery had a photograph of Rommel in his desert command vehicle – even that scrap of information helped him to know the man he was fighting.

There is no doubt that the potential enemy today is the Soviet Union. A land mass of vast extent and difficult terrain which defied both Napoleon and Hitler; a population of millions; a peacetime army of nearly 2,000,000 with 194 active field divisions incorporating 50,000 modern tanks, which are probably second to none.

Of these divisions 95 are immediately available to drive westward into Europe, while the USSR's six Warsaw Pact allies have a further 55 divisions with about 1,000,000 men.

The nuclear bomb has been the great deterrent that the peoples of the West have sheltered behind for 40 years; but today the Soviet Union cancels that out with its own vast nuclear potential.

Some military strategists believe that in the face of a sudden Soviet drive westward small battlefield nuclear missiles could be used to nullify it. But the Soviet strategy is based on deep penetration attack, never defence, and the army is poised to strike hard and fast and far, with more than one line of advance.

The divisions moving westward would go much quicker, much farther and in greater numbers than Hitler's panzer blitzkriegs. And the battlefield nuclear weapons of the West could not be used effectively because the Soviet formations would "hug" the NATO forces.

There is much food for thought in this book and a great deal of "behind the scenes" information about the character of the Soviet soldier, his commanders and political commissars. - GRH

The Soviet Army, by Albert and Joan Seaton, published by The Bodley Head Ltd. Price £16.

Charging Buffalo was disguised as a zebra!

HOW many people know that at one stage of the First World War members of the East African Mounted Rifles camouflaged their mounts as zebras, or that Kenya gained its name only in 1920?

These are two of the surprises in the outline of Kenya's history which opens a new book on the history of the Kenya Regiment.

The Territorial Force designated The Kenya Regiment

was raised in 1937, almost entirely from the country's settlers. It was to be a regiment with a comparatively short two-part life, the first highlighted by the Second World War, when men of the regiment served with distinction with other East African forces, especially in the Abyssinian campaign in actions against the occupying Italians, in Madagascar and in Burma.

The Kenya Regiment was



Adjutant of the Kenya Regiment during the Emergency was Capt Roly Guy, pictured returning from a patrol in the Aberdares. He was to become General Sir Roland Guy, Adjutant-General

reformed in 1950 and it was during the Kenya Emergency, described in depth by the author, that the regiment carved itself a special place in military history, not only in the provision of guides, trackers, interpreters and local advisers to British battalions and the King's African Rifles, but by forming the basis for the pseudo-gangs that infiltrated Mau Mau territories to counter terrorism with a similar style of warfare.

The history ends in 1963 with the disbandment of the regiment but in a number of appendices there is considerable documentation concerning its personnel, many of whom still live and work in the country in which they were actively engaged during the Emergency, in some cases among the people they were fighting.

The author, Sir Guy Campbell, who commanded the regiment during the Emergency, has written a commendably readable history in which he does not hesitate to be critical of missed opportunities and to tell of the political pitfalls that could have been avoided. - BJ

The Charging Buffalo: A History of the Kenya Regiment 1937-1963, by Guy Campbell, published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £14.95.

Soviet Army – where the norm reign supreme

THE three authors of an American produced volume *The Soviet Ground Forces*, have each spent an adult lifetime closely associated with, and actively studying Soviet military thought, progress and mentality from the time of the "Great Patriotic War", which began when Hitler invaded in 1941, to the present day.

They have come to much the same conclusions as the British authors of *The Soviet Army*.

The authors have concentrated on assessing the capabilities of the Soviet army of today. They go into great detail with a mass of diagrams and consider all operational procedures from attack and withdrawal to

breakthrough and pursuit, river crossings, night, desert, forest, extreme cold, air landings, and urban combat.

Life in the Soviet Union is regulated by "norms". The most efficient and effective way to tackle and complete a task is worked out and that is the "norm".

The Soviet army follows the national pattern. There are norms for logistics and for operations, and they extend through the force right down to the individual. The gunner can tell from his table of norms how many rounds are needed to destroy a given target!

His commander can turn the page to be told how many guns,

planes and tanks he needs to cover any specific area of ground. There are norms for the soldier's food, barrack temperatures and sleep.

Whatever the predominant forces in a Third World War, tanks or rockets, conventional or nuclear, the ground forces (mainly the infantry) will always be necessary to hold the ground gained. The Soviet special airborne formations are trained and able to seize territory as quickly as 15 minutes after a nuclear strike – virtually unopposed! - GRH

Soviet Ground Forces, by John Erickson, Lynn Hansen and William Schneider, published by Croom Helm. Price £25.

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All at sea

ALL at sea in HMS Boxer are (left to right) 2nd Lt Tom Colborne-Malpas, Guardsmen Gary Woods, Garry McKeon, Mike Harper, Steve Hegarty, Sam Taggart and Paul Hughes, Cpl Spud Murphy and Sgt John Thomas. They joined the guided missile frigate in Gibraltar and worked their passages back to the UK doing a variety of naval jobs. Ship and regiment have a close liaison, so while the guardsmen were at sea, several Boxer sailors were given a taste of Army life at Chelsea Barracks, London.

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The Volunteers remained in being into the early 19th century and some units saw action when the French made an abortive landing in Mayo. The banner is pictured being handed over to Maj S J Donaldson, 3 UDR, by Lt Col G E Piper, RPC.

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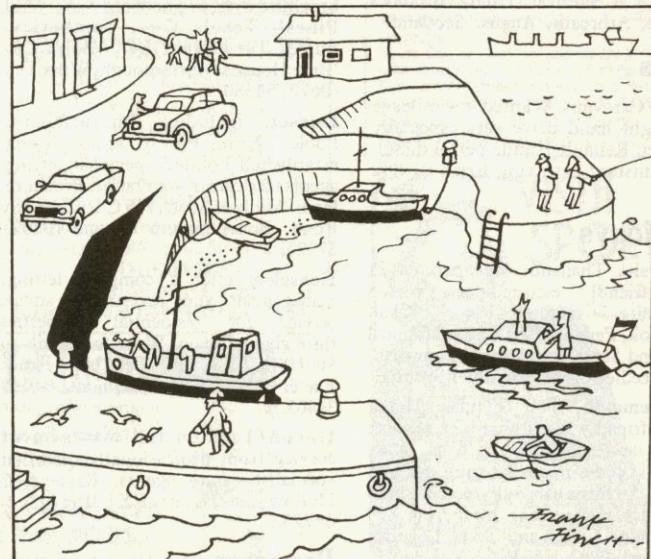
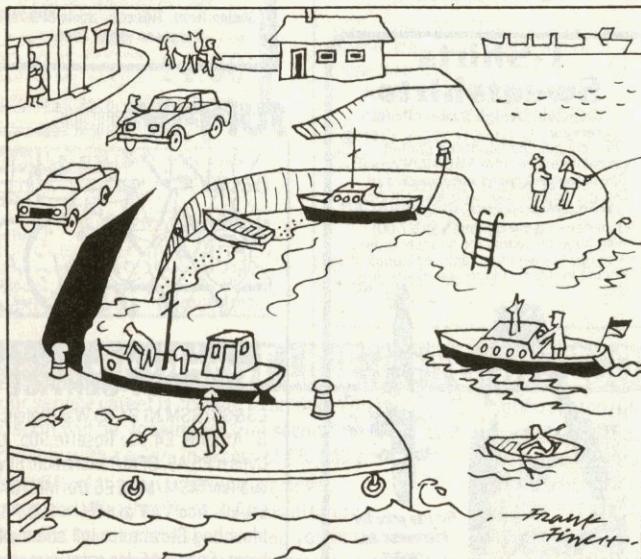
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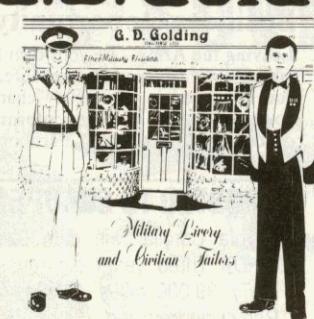
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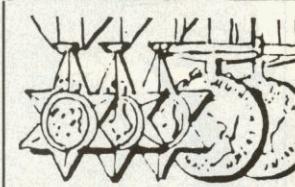
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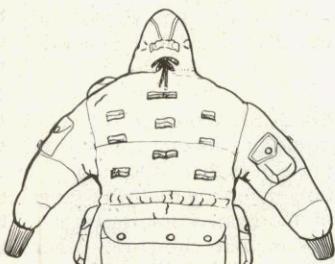
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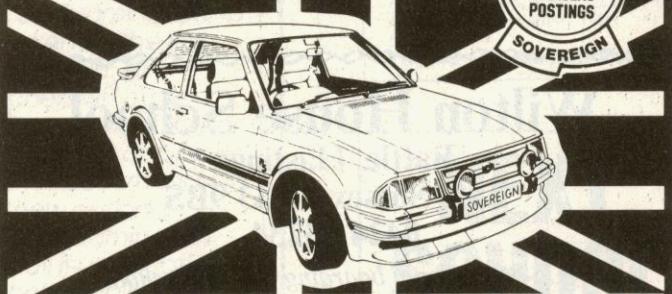
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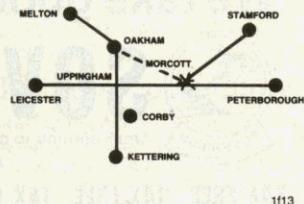
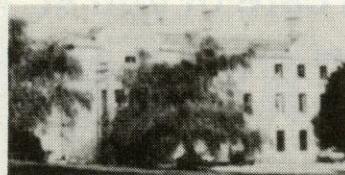
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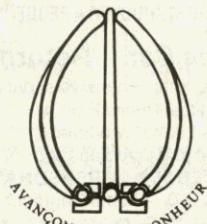
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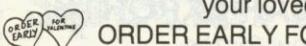


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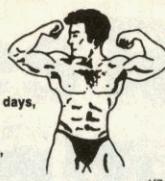
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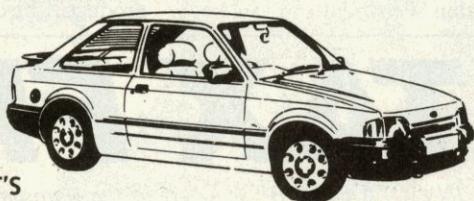
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Pte Jim Scarlett (RRW), a Welsh youth cap for rugby and basketball, outjumps everyone in the match against 8 Signals Regiment

London Div too strong

NINE Army players were in the Combined Services Colts side which played London Division at Aldershot on January 3 in one of the build up matches to the final England Colts trial.

London Division, consisting of Kent, Sussex, Middlesex, Hampshire, Surrey and Eastern Counties, proved far too strong for Combined Services and ran out easy winners 37-0.

Army Colts were playing London Welsh the same weekend and, as a result, had to take the field with several reserves. They did extremely well in the circumstances to hold the powerful and unbeaten London Welsh Colts to 13-13 at

half time. Tries for the Army were scored by scrum half Gnr Grant Jenkins (26 Field Regiment RA), who was captain for the day, and full back Pte Chris Rhodes (Depot POW Division).

Flanker Fus Charlie Claydon (2 RRF) who had an excellent game just failed by a whisker to produce a third try for Pte Mark

In the second half the Welsh gained the ascendancy forward and scored six more times, two of which were pushovers. Five of them were converted to make the final score 45-13.

Gdsm Stephen Berryman (Guards Depot) at No 8, Cfn Duncan Weir (AAC Centre) at lock and hooker Pte Martin Reeve (ACC Apprentices Colleges), all of whom were playing for Army Colts for the first time, were other players to shine.

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SPOT THE BALL

CIVIL Service and Enfield goalkeeper Andy Pape looks a trifle apprehensive as Cfn Steward Greenwood (REME) and Bdr Clint Webbe (RA) - dark shirts - wait for a cross during the Army's match against the Civil Service at Aldershot Military Stadium.

Andy had nothing to worry about - the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

Combined Services teams were due to be in action against the Football Association at Fratton Park, Portsmouth, on January 14, and against the Belgian Armed Forces at Aldershot on January 21.

The latter fixture was the first round of the Kentish Cup competition following the cancellation in December of the Combined Services v. French Armed Forces match. That is now rescheduled for May.

MORE results from the earlier rounds of the Army Challenge Cup (UK) football competition include:

Second round - 14/20 KH, Catterick (2) 0, 1 King's, Chester (2) 2; 2 Bn Green Guards 2, 5 UDR 5.

Third round - 15 Bn RAOC, DWR, Bulford 3, SEE, Arborfield 2;

Donnington (3) 0, 3 LI, Wootton (3) 5; 7/10 UDR 3, 2 UDR 1; 33 (Ind) Fd Sqn RE 2, 5 UDR 4; 38 Eng Regt RE, Ripon 0, 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, York 2; 27 Fd Regt RA, Thirsk 1, 1 King's, Chester 8; CAD Kineton, Temple Herdewyke 2, Army, Hereford 9; 45 Fd Regt RA, Colchester 4, 1 KOSB, Colchester 0; 1 DWR, Bulford 3, SEE, Arborfield 2;

RMAS (PS), Camberley 2, 1 Irish Guards, Chelsea 1; AAC Centre, Middle Wallop 2, 30 Sig Regt, Blandford 3; SEME, Bordon 5, 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn, A shot 0.

Fourth round - 1 DERR 2, 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, York 1; PCD RE, Mill Hill (2) 1, 2 RGJ, Warminster (2) 2; 1/3 Trg Regt RE, Blackwater 3, 3 LI, Wootton 1.

Welsh flair carries RRW through to UK rugby final

THE 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales are through to the UK rugby final on January 29 having beaten 8 Signals Regiment 28-0 in some style.

The Welsh regiment has an enviable blend of youth and experience, with many first class club youth players breaking into the first XV within weeks of joining the battalion.

RRW now boasts what is probably the best three quarter line in the Army, with blistering pace in all positions.

8 Sigs did well in the first half, spoiling Welsh ball and

defending well until the 30th minute when RRW won a scrum deep in the Sigs half. The ball was won and quickly passed along the threequarters. 8 Sigs frantically plugged the gaps but the final pass reached second row Wales youth player Jim Scarlett who crashed over from close range for an outstanding try.

There was no further score until the second half when, with the wind in their favour, the Welshmen took advantage by kicking and running the Signals ragged.

LCpl Phil Ponting added two penalties from long range and

scored a brilliant try within the space of ten minutes.

The fast and mobile Welsh pack dominated and won most of the mauls, driving in hard to win the ball and free the waiting backs on a succession of penetrating runs over the Signals tryline. Sgt Richard Evans, Pte Shadwell Evans and West (twice) crossed the try line and grounded the ball only to have their "tries" disallowed for minor infringements.

RRW refused to get ruffled and the pack continued the onslaught to win a five yard scrum for centre Phil Ponting to burst through the packed

defence to score his second try under the posts.

The other centre, team capt Sgt Kevin A'Hearne then took over the kicking responsibilities to convert both Ponting's try and a brilliant individual try by scrum half Sgt Richard Evans in the closing minutes.

RRW, who have met a succession of strong Irish sides between cup games and suffered only two defeats in 11 matches, are currently the Northern Ireland Army champions.

The UK final against 7 RHA, who beat DWR, takes place on 29 Jan.



Army Challenge Cup results

INVICTA EXPORT

Countdown to the battle of Services

ARMY boxers reassembled after the Christmas break heartened by a series of victories in matches up and down the country.

Now they are beginning the final countdown for the battles against the RAF at Aldershot on February 5 and the Navy at Portsmouth a fortnight later.

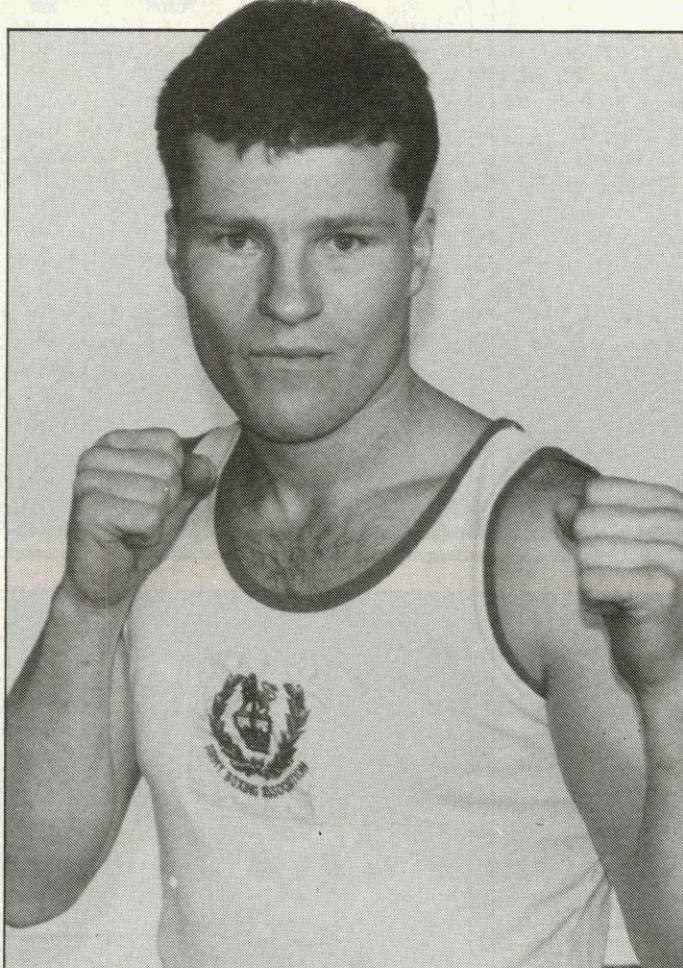
Says coach, SSgt Mick Gannon: "Everything is going according to plan but the Navy is also working hard and it could be a very close match at Portsmouth in front of thousands of Navy supporters."

The Army squad began their run of victories by beating a Coventry Select by five bouts to three and following this up with a 7-3 win over a Kingston Select.

In a hard fought match against Western Counties the Army emerged winners by six contests to five. Probably the most outstanding victory of the night was by flyweight Dvr Neil McCallum (RCT) who outpointed Darren Thompson, a three times ABA semi-finalist. Last year Thompson had beaten both McCallum and the Army's other top flyweight Spr John McLean.

At Stoke-on-Trent the Army notched up its biggest win over London since the National Service days of 1951 when it triumphed 9-3.

And a below strength Welsh team was beaten 6-4 at Cardiff. LCpl Ian Strudwick (3 Royal Anglians) notched a victory over Commonwealth Games



Picture: Paul Haley

LCpl Ian Strudwick (3 Royal Anglians) got a decision over Commonwealth Games medal winner Glyn Thomas in the match against Wales

medallist Glyn Thomas – albeit via a disqualification for holding.

Meanwhile ABA champion LCpl Tony Velinor (3 RGJ) gained a bronze medal in a multi-national tournament in Poland. He also boxed for

England against Ireland and won.

Team captain LCpl Keith Howlett (RE) has also made an impressive start to the season and Gannon says: "He is knocking on the door for an England vest."

CALLING ALL CAVERNS

POTENTIAL troglodytes may be interested to learn that the Army has its very own caving association with more than 200 members actively engaged in the sport.

More information about the ACA can be obtained from membership secretary WOII G Simpson RE, Repro Troop, 14 Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 34. For £2 a year the new member will receive details of meets and expeditions and news of Army cavers around the world.

Membership is open to serving and retired members of all three Services, including women. Experience is not necessary because the Army runs a series of basic, intermediate and advanced caving courses.

Relay result so close

WINNERS of the Major Units competition at the Army cross country relay championships at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, were 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt who held off a strong challenge from 1PWO.

P and C Depot RE were also involved in a real scrap with FOD Dulmen in the Minor Units race before carrying off the trophy, while the women's event was won by QATC who finished just in front of WSNI.

Army Apprentices College Chepstow won the junior race.

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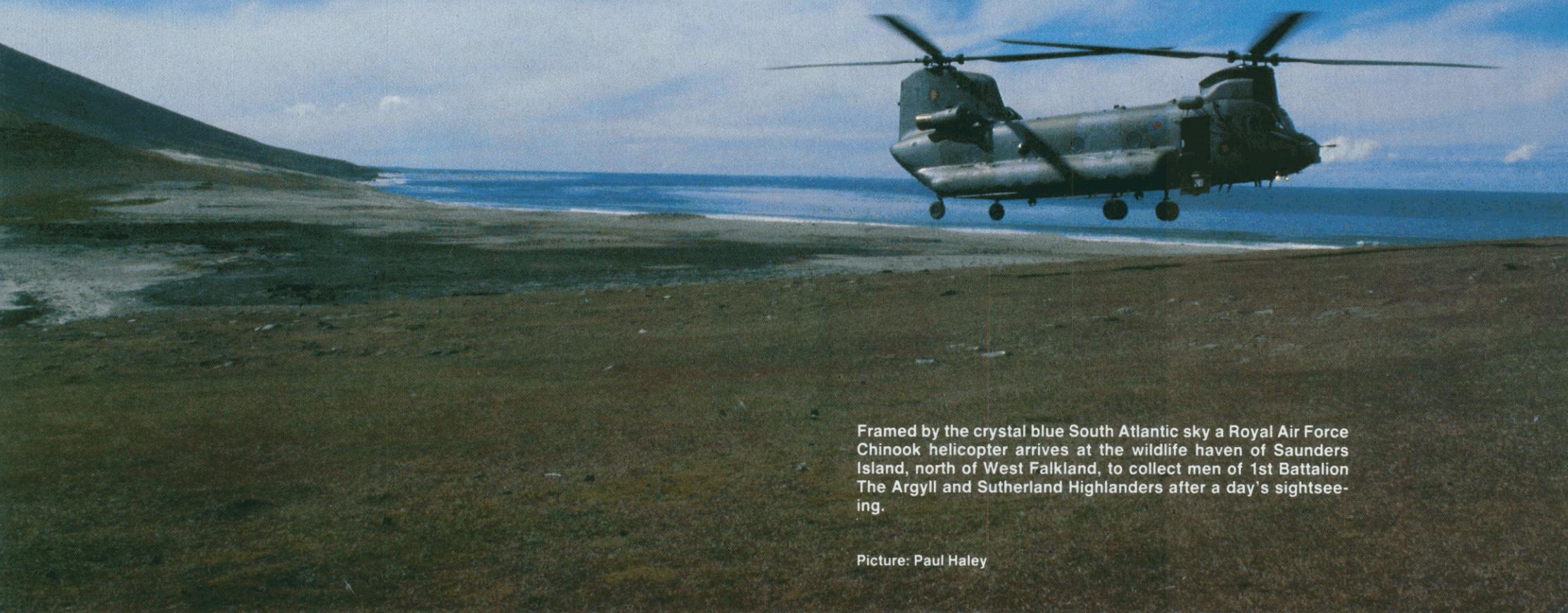
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Minefields still litter the white sand beaches of the Falkland Islands nearly five years after the war. Here men of 33 Explosive Ordnance Disposal, RE, prepare the radio controlled Redfire for the destruction of mines in the dunes behind them.

Picture: Paul Haley

SOLDIER



Framed by the crystal blue South Atlantic sky a Royal Air Force Chinook helicopter arrives at the wildlife haven of Saunders Island, north of West Falkland, to collect men of 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders after a day's sightseeing.

Picture: Paul Haley