

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 23RD APRIL 1984

SOLDIER



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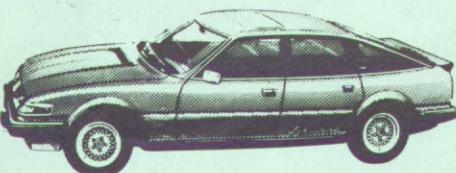


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CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People Page
- 10 TA Topics
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Training Army pilots
- 16 Alamo — Britons remembered
- 18 Beirut men back home
- 21 Families Page
- 22 Restoring Tanks
- 24 RE Demonstration
- 26 Loan Service: ZIMBABWE
- 30 Prolific Author
- 33 Humour
- 34 Avalanche Express
- 37 NAM Collection
- 38 Pen Pals
- 39 Competition
- 40 Mail Drop
- 47 Sport

FRONT COVER

SOLDIER refreshing parts of the world other publications don't reach! Men of Zimbabwe National Army are the readers. Another four-page feature on loan service — page 26.

Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Watched by a group of British visitors, East German guards march outside the Nieuwache in East Berlin.

Picture: Paul Haley

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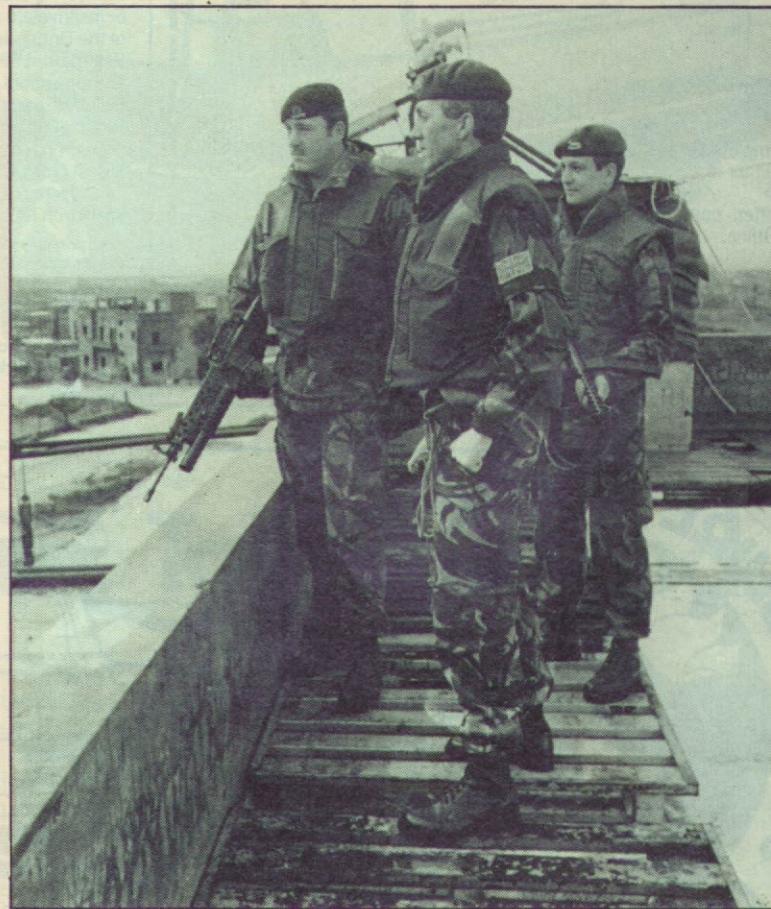
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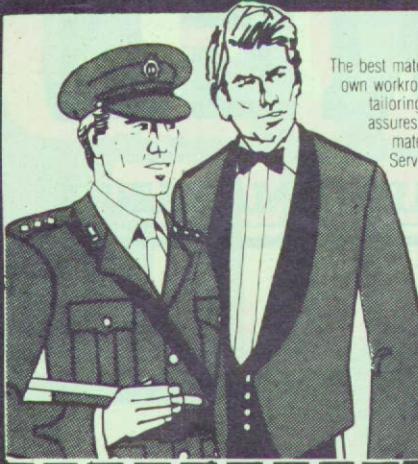
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- **Welcome Home — page 18**

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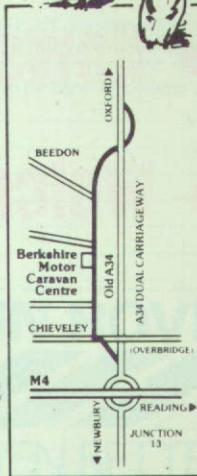
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At the double for twinning

THE Regimental Band and over 80 men from The Light Infantry represented Britain in a special twinning ceremony at Lippstadt, Northern Germany.

The men, based at Münster with their 1st Battalion, are part of Britain's new, elite 6th Airmobile Brigade, and were invited to represent it in a twinning ceremony with a Germany brigade with a similar role, 27 Luftlande brigade.

Commanded by Major David Eliot of Taunton, they paraded with their Regimental Colour and greatly enhanced the German parade with their special Light Infantry drill and their spectacular "March Past at the Double".

MoD HELPS

THE Ministry of Defence is sponsoring a visit to enable 370 veterans to attend the D-Day 40th Anniversary ceremonies in Normandy on 6 June.

The Royal British Legion is co-ordinating the visit, which will be at no cost to the individual (except for incidentals, such as drinks) and application must be made in writing to the Royal British Legion by 4 May. No telephone enquiries.

Applicants should: Be able to prove that they were present in Normandy on D-Day, and that they would not otherwise be able to afford to make the visit; and be physically and mentally able to cope with a long and possibly arduous day trip involving sea/air and coach travel, unaccompanied.

Applications to: The Royal British Legion (D-Day), 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

Brits on Continent may join TA units

BRITISH PEOPLE living on the Continental mainland could become members of Territorial Army units if a small scale study to be carried out under the new TA enhancement plans finds it feasible.

It is envisaged that a pilot scheme would involve raising a Royal Corps of Transport squadron and an Ambulance Train unit, both of which would augment British forces in BAOR. They would not be intended to replace any Regular soldiers currently based in Germany as part of Britain's Brussels Treaty commitment.

If the pilot scheme was successful, the possibility of raising and basing further TA units in BAOR would be considered.

More information has been released by the Ministry of Defence about the new units to be formed and reorganisation under the expansion plans, although so far only two of the six new infantry battalions have been named 8th Battalion The Light Infantry with Headquarters at Wakefield, and 5th Battalion The Royal Green Jackets with HQ at Oxford.

The new battalions and other infantry unit changes are:

NORTH WEST

New battalion will be raised in Cheshire area based on two existing Mercian Volunteer companies at Ellesmere Port and Stockport. HQ will be at Runcorn with new rifle companies at Macclesfield and Crewe. A new company will also be raised at Workington for 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. The 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will take over the Ashton-under-Lyne company of 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, to be replaced by two new companies at Blackburn and Bolton.

NORTH EAST

New battalion for Home Defence will be formed in Yorkshire and Cleveland, with HQ initially at York but possibly moved later to Teesside. Its rifle companies will be based at Middlesbrough, Guisborough, Coulby Newham and Harrogate.

Another new battalion in NE District will be the 8th Battalion Light Infantry, based on existing companies of 5th Battalion in Wakefield and Pontefract. HQ will be at Wakefield with a new rifle company at Batley, and another company to be raised later.

Reformed: 1st Battalion of the Yorkshire Volunteers with companies at Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley and HQ in Sheffield. The Battalion will exchange its Leeds and Halifax companies for the Barnsley and Rotherham companies of the Regiment's 3rd Battalion. Lincoln company of 15 (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment will come under command of 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, based in Northern England.

SOUTH WEST

A new three-company battalion of the Prince of Wales' Division will be formed in Devon and Cornwall, with HQ at Plymouth. It will take over the Camborne and Truro companies from 6th Battalion The Light Infantry (Volunteers) and the Exeter company from 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers). 6th Battalion will have new companies in Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) will lose its Winchester and Exeter companies but form a new company at Swindon, its HQ moving to Devizes.

LONDON DISTRICT

New battalion in the Queen's Division will be based on companies from 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Edgware, 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Balham, and 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment detachment at Camberwell. HQ will be at Clapham. 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will have one new company in East London to replace its two companies outside London.

SOUTH EAST

New 5th Battalion of The Royal Green Jackets will be formed with HQ and a company at Oxford, a company at Aylesbury and another raised in Milton Keynes area. 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment will replace the units it is losing to the new Queen's Division battalion with a new company at Brighton and the Kingston platoon of the Regiment's 5th (Volunteer) Battalion. 2nd Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) will take over the Winchester company from 1st Battalion, and its three companies in North Berkshire will be reorganised into two.

WALES

A fourth company will be raised for 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers in Connah's Quay and Mold area. 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales HQ will move to Swansea where a new company will be raised.

WESTERN

5th Battalion The Light Infantry (Volunteers) will replace its two Yorkshire companies with a new one in Shrewsbury. 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers will replace companies in Stockport and Kidderminster with one at Stoke and a new one at Tamworth. The Regiment's 2nd Battalion will exchange companies at Ellesmere Port and Stoke for one at Kidderminster and a new one at Redditch. 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will lose its London company and raise a new one in Birmingham.

EASTERN

5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment will exchange its Ipswich company with the 6th Battalion company at Vange.

SCOTLAND

15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment will replace its Lincoln company with a new one in Glasgow. 1st Battalion 52nd Lowland Volunteers will eventually reduce to four rifle companies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers will raise a new company in Belfast.

AIR DEFENCE

The number of TA Air Defence Regiments will be increased from three to four, with one of them based wholly in Northern Ireland. HQ will be at Newtownards with a new battery in Belfast area and the other at Coleraine. A new battery for the North West regiment will be formed in Bolton, and a new battery for the Wales and West Midlands regiment will be raised in Cwmbran. The fourth regiment will be raised wholly in Scotland with HQ at Edinburgh, and new batteries in Edinburgh and Dundee to add to those in Glasgow and Arbroath.

It is also planned to enhance the strength and capability of the volunteer SAS Regiments.

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NATO'S 35 YEARS OF SUCCESS

THE NATO defence alliance was formed to protect free societies and enable them to live in peace — and had done so successfully for the longest period this century.

So said Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine when he opened an exhibition to commemorate the 35th anniversary of NATO's founding.

The exhibition was held

in the Royal United Services Institution in London.

Also present were Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, and Dr Fredo Dannenbring, Assistant Secretary General of NATO, representing Dr Luns.

A centrepiece of the exhibition — and on public display for the first time — is

the original NATO Treaty Document which brought the Atlantic Alliance into existence. This was signed on 4 April 1949.

A major feature of the exhibition is a display that highlights the major contribution made by Britain's Armed Services to NATO. A number of scale models of British ships, aircraft and combat equipment are on view.

After RUSI the exhibition has gone 'on tour' to sites including the Royal Tournament and various others outside London; however, the tour does not include the NATO Treaty Document, which has to be returned to the United States.

Also to mark the anniversary the Ministry of Defence has produced a new leaflet '35 years of peace in NATO — the British contribution'.

GSM award for service in Lebanon

TANKS GET ROADWORK...



... AND NEW TRANSPORTER



A RARE sight (top) on English roads as a Chieftain — one of 36 from Tidworth — rumbles along as the Royal Armoured Corps Regiment practises its free running procedures on roads.

A welcome sight (above) is the Army's first new tank transporter for 32 years. The Commander was handed over by Major General W L Whalley, Director General of Ordnance Services, right, to Major General D H Braggins, Director General of Transport and Movements in a special ceremony at the Vehicle Depot, Ludgershall. The Commander will be a worthy successor to the "Mighty Antar", the last of which entered service in 1956.

AN AWARD for service in the Lebanon has been announced — the General Service Medal 1962 — which is good news for the men of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and those who supported them in Beirut.

The last time the campaign medal was awarded was in 1976 for service in Dhofar and Northern Ireland is among the clasps since the medal began in 1962.

The qualification is 30 days or more, not necessarily continuous, in territory of Lebanon or its territorial waters while on the posted or attached strength of any regular military, naval or air force unit, or formation in that area supporting the Multi National Force.

The qualifying dates: 7 February 1983 to 9 March 1984.

Certain air crew members will be entitled to receive the medal, as will some civilians — among the latter category being UK based members of MoD, RFA, Naafi and Merchant Navy personnel.

• See page 18 for a special report on the return from the Middle East of men of 16th/5th Lancers.

As SOLDIER went to press it was learned that Lance Corporal Tony Swierzy, a member of a British SAS-led climbing team attempting to conquer Everest, was killed when an avalanche struck the second camp. Three other members of the team were injured.

3 RHA BACK IN BUSINESS

A REVERED Gunner Regiment that can trace its battling history to the Napoleonic era has been reformed in West Germany after being disbanded for seven years.

The flag of the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery was officially unfurled for the first time since 1977 at a moving ceremonial parade at Paderborn's Barker Barracks which marked not only the re-formation of the Regiment but symbolised the disbandment of 25th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, whose role in BAOR's 4th Armoured Division it assumes.

In the colourful two part ceremony attended by a huge crowd that included distinguished guests and civic dignitaries from the United Kingdom as well as Germany, General Sir Harry Tuzo took the salute after addressing the reorganised Regiment and remembering the outstanding excellence of its predecessor.



General Sir Harry Tuzo takes the salute as the guns and vehicles of 3 RHA drive past.



■ SIR REX HUNT, LANCE CORPORAL JACKIE RAFTER tales of her mum's great uncle!

Lorries back on the right lines?



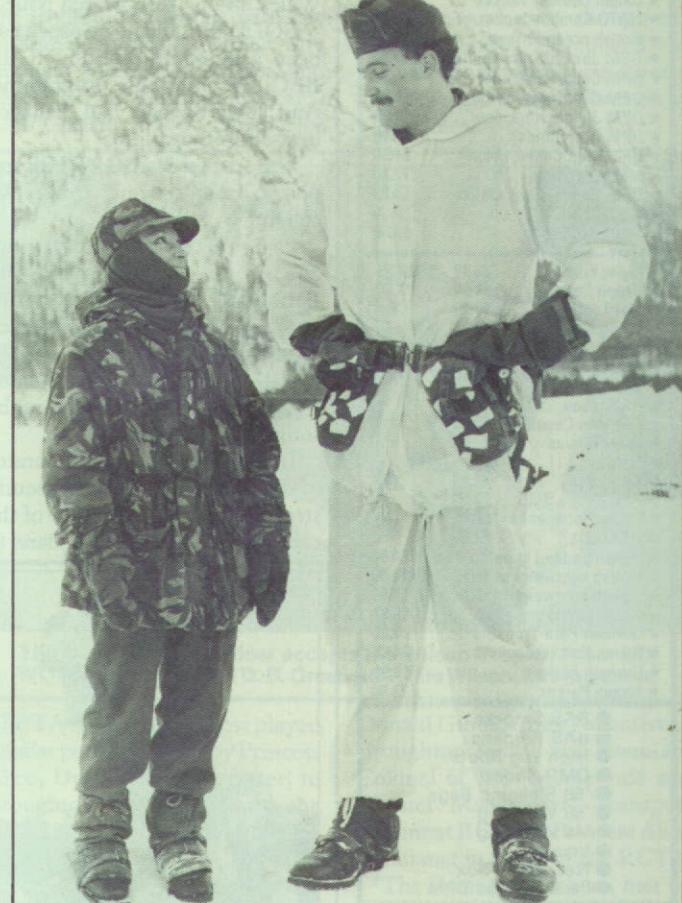
■ Top men and a signal occasion.

Cooks dish up goodwill

Young trainee cooks from the Army Apprentices College, ACC, Aldershot, are spreading the good name of the Corps.

Their latest weekend good-will venture entailed a visit to the Cheshire Home at Godalming, Surrey, where they cleared a fire-break area measuring 250 metres long by 30 metres wide. Warden Gordon Mitchell claimed the work saved £2,000.

FRED FITS 'EM UP!



Talk about the long and the short ... Major Fred Miller, Quarter Master of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, had to dig deep into the corners of his clothing store to equip his unit for

Movie 'gongs' for 'village bobby' Bob

Fourteen years ago Corporal Bob Hornsby was one of an Army medical team sent to Jordan to treat casualties of the Jordanian war.

For that he was awarded the Jordanian Red Crescent medal. Soon after he completed two tours in Northern Ireland and commended by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. More medals followed.

Then Bob transferred from the RAMC to the RMP and served with 115 Pro Company in Soest, BAOR. A second tour followed with 113 Pro Company in Munster before he was posted to Cyprus where he serves with 227 Pro Company and is the policeman at the village of Ayios Nikolaos.

Just like his home-famed counter-part — the village bobby — he lives there with his wife and children.

Now he has added another "gong" to his collection, the LS and GC medal. It was presented to him by Colonel Bill Dodd, deputy commander land forces, Cyprus.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

their Arctic deployment. Captain Anne O'Connor, QARANC, and Second Lieutenant Chris Heathcote, RA proved Fred's system works. For Anne takes size four in boots and Chris size 14!

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FROM BANK TO BARRACKS



She's usually smartly dressed in a city bank in Nottingham rather than camouflaged on a grassy bank at Preston, but Officer Cadet Diane Day was one of 26 potential officers who changed for the weekend to attend a special training course run by Liverpool University OTC at Fulwood Barracks. Diane is with 87 Signal Squadron of 38 Signal Regiment.

Inspection Time

The North West Infantry Band has been put through its paces — its members demonstrating their marching talents as well as their musical ability — during its five yearly inspection by The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Listening and watching keenly were Kneller Hall's Commandant, Col David Loftus, and its Director of Music, Lt Col Duncan Beate. Under the eye (and ear) were Bandmaster WO1 Dave Walters and Drum Major WO2 John Thompson, leading their bandsmen through the formal inspection and demonstration, and then providing a concert for families and friends at Townsend Avenue TA Centre, Liverpool.

Picture shows the final salute, taken by Col Loftus, with Bandmaster Walters to the right and Drum Major Thompson with the mace.



visit Llanelli in the future he should apologise rapidly. He added, somewhat confusingly, that "Sospan" was "an item of kitchenware which when wielded in anger in support of Sospan's far from softspun horns would result in the culprit beating a hasty retreat back across Offa's Dyke in the direction of Aldershot".

Lt B Owen, RN (Ret'd), curator of the Welch Regiment Museum, strongly advised the author of the error that if he had any plans to

But how do you apologise to a goat? Major Williams supplies the answer. "Sospan is his name, not Softspun as you claim. Due to this misnomer, you owe us quite a favour, a picture please of Sospan-Fach in your next edition of Soldiach." Ouch! But agreed. Sorry, Sospan.

The Liverpool Jocks almost wiped the board at the Battalions Skill at Arms Meeting at Altcar Rifle Ranges, Merseyside, as Col Duncan Carnegie-Arbuthnot (right in picture), Honorary Colonel of 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers, pointed out when he presented the Champion Company Trophy to Major Mike Brimage, Company Commander of "V" Company (The Liverpool Scottish). Almost the only event they did not win was the Falling Plate, won by "G" Company (The London Scottish) in a thrilling shoot out. Overall runners up were "K" Company from Kirkaldy, with 17-years-old Pte Kenneth Young the best young soldier.

HOME VICTORY





TOPICS

"289" TAKE COURAGE

Sir Harry Secombe's mood was obviously infectious as he presented the Courage Trophy to 289 Commando Battery RA(V) after 250 volunteers from London District TA units had taken part in the fifteenth trophy competition.

Sponsored by the London brewery, the contest has become increasingly rugged in recent years, and is now a true test of varied skills, ranging from nuclear drills to equipment recognition, from field cooking to first aid.

Sir Harry hands over the Trophy.

"289" were the top of the 32 eight-soldier teams taking part, followed by "C" Company 4RGJ, and "A" team of University of London OTC. The first women's team was 31 Signals Regt RS(V).

Colonel Mike Dudding, TA Colonel London (South) who was in overall charge of the competition, commented: "I think the standard really has gone up this year, and if this is an indication of unit efficiency, as I suspect, it augers well for Bold Guard in which so many units will be participating".

TROPHY AND WINNER 'HOME'

WO2 Andrew Meek, RCT, first winner of the Wilson Trophy while with 907 Coy RASC(TA) back in 1958, is about to rejoin the Company's successors — 153 (Highland) Artillery Support Regiment RCT (V) upon retiring from the regular Army. The trophy, which was given back to the family of the donor, the late

CSM Arthur Wilson, in 1967, is back too. Mrs Betty Sneddon, CSM Wilson's daughter, handed it back to Lt Col David Green, the regiment's CO, at a ceremony in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess in Dunfermline. Now it will be presented annually to the best JNCO on the regimental Corporals Designate Course.



Scarlet guard at Aintree

Adding a touch of military scarlet to the Grand National Spring meeting at Aintree, Liverpool were eight volunteers from Lancashire's own TA Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps — The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry. Wearing replica uniforms and equipment from the 1880s, they furnished a permanent guard on the trophies at Aintree, with five in 'scarlet' uniforms, complete with helmets and drawn sabres, and three, led by Warrant Officer 2 Cliff Gilham, in No 1 Dress (blue

uniform). For the big race, they took the Grand National trophy to the paddock as entries saddled, and to the unsaddling enclosure for the final presentation.

Said their Adjutant, Captain Charles Clarke (14/20th Kings Hussars): "This is a splendid link to the days when the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry were mounted, and even though our horses have now been replaced with light reconnaissance Land Rovers, the Yeomanry spirit lives on in Lancashire."



The Commanding Officer accepts the Wilson Trophy. From left: WO2 Meek RCT, Lt Col D. B. Green RCT, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Sneddon.



The TA in the North West played a major part in the visit by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, to Broughton House, Salford, the East Lancs Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen.

Princess Alice was at the home to officially open the "Princess Alice Ward" where she unveiled a commemorative plaque for the new verandah extension.

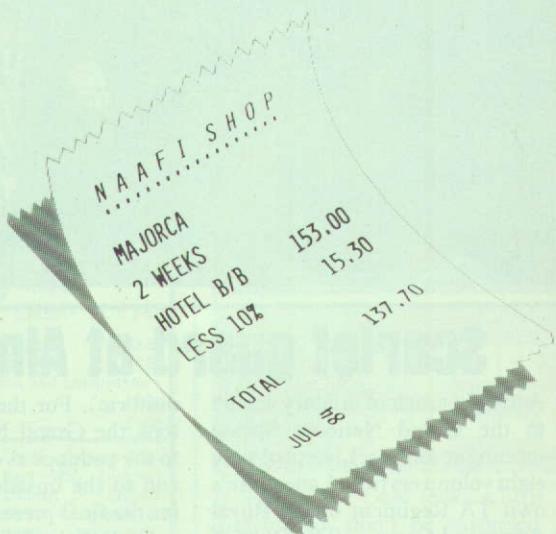
Throughout her visit she was escorted by Sir William Downward, the Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester, and Col

Donald Gibbs, Chief Executive of Broughton House and Honorary Colonel of 156 (Merseyside and Greater Manchester) Transport Regiment RCT(V). Princess Alice is Colonel in Chief of the RCT.

The Princess had been met on arrival by the GOC, Major General Philip Davies, and was escorted throughout by permanent staff from the North West's TA Regiments.

Photograph shows Princess Alice with Col Gibbs and the matron, Miss J. Hockton.

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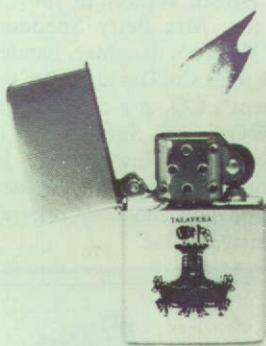


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SOLDIER to Soldier

OME military bands are in the process of becoming part of history — but other music stands are beckoning, so to speak. Oldham Branch of The Royal British Legion has recently formed a military band and is on the lookout for ex-Service bandsmen for both brass and woodwind sections.

The branch already has a core of first class musicians with military background and they are already helping the Branch in its work of helping needy ex-Service people and their dependants.

"However, we do need more" says Branch secretary Edward Cooke — who also doubles as Band Chairman.

"There may be bandsmen from around the Greater Manchester area who are leaving the forces but would like to continue playing. If

so, I would be delighted to hear from them".

If you fit the bill, write to Mr E Cooke, 41 Rountree House, Werneth, Oldham OL8 6HE.

THE historical former Royal Ordnance Depot at Weedon near Northampton is being sold by the Ministry of Defence. The depot, which closed with a poignant ceremony in 1965, has since been used as a Government store.

The 32-acre complex with 216,000 square feet of buildings is being offered for sale by tender with a closing date of 23 May. Most of its buildings are listed as are the walls and bastions to both enclosures and the canal basin walls. Daventry District Council, the local Planning Authority, is in favour of it becoming a heritage



Reflections of Weedon . . .

use until its closure in 1965 when its duties passed to Donnington.

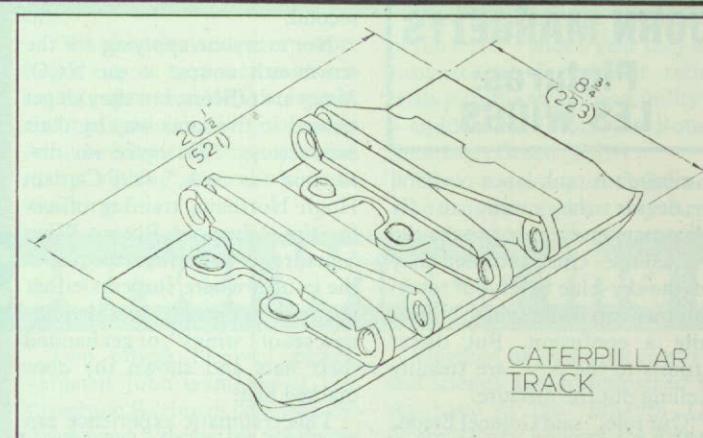
SUNDAY 20 May will see the fourth running of the Larkhill Horse Show. The major show jumping competition will be the Marconi Wiltshire Area International Trial, and should attract many of the country's leading horses and riders as it is a qualifier for the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Cups at the Royal International Horse Show.

The show has four rings which will cope with 23 classes in addition to the dressage competitions.

Classes start at 8.45 in the morning and continue until 5.00 p.m. The Hunt Supporters tent and bar will be open all day.

For the Army to gain maximum benefit your support as a spectator or rider will be warmly welcomed. For competition schedules contact: Mrs Jean Tooood, Redhorn Court, Urchport, Devizes, Wilts.

Other queries: Captain C L Moore Woolwich Ext: 515 or Lt Col J C Avery Larkhill Ext: 5276 or 0980-620346.

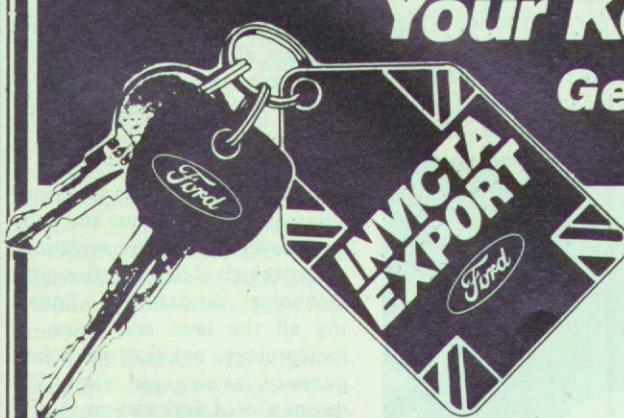


OUR story (see page 22) on the renovation of World War I tank Flirt might help a fascinating search by Ruston Gas Turbines who are hoping to trace 66 pieces of caterpillar track, with the track links attached, (drawing right) which should be with Flirt.

The track was mislaid between Cambrai and Bovington sometime between 1917 and 1938! Any information please to Mr J J Borradaile, Training Centre, Ruston Gas Turbines Ltd., PO Box 1, Lincoln LN2 5DJ.

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S8/84

THE WILL AND THE PRIDE



IT COSTS at least £100,000 to train an Army helicopter pilot, so they, the selectors and the powers-that-be, are looking for the right sort of guys on which to spend that sort of money.

As yet girls are not getting a look-in, and it would take more than the latest visual aid on the Army's newest helicopter to indicate anything hopeful along those lines.

In the meantime the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop turn out 80 fully-trained helicopter pilots a year, plus 200 on conversion and missile courses.

"But we're still short of experienced pilots," said Lieutenant Colonel Frank Esson, chief flying instructor (CFI) at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop, Hants. "We still need more. We are not looking for people with a string of 'A' levels or degrees. What we are looking for are switched-on people who have a 'feel' for flying.

"Just because we don't demand high academic qualifications, doesn't mean our guys are of a lesser quality. What it does mean is that we are giving people who have the ability to be first-class pilots the chance to fly."

But despite the Colonel's assurance that you don't have to be an academic or an "egg-head" to become an Army pilot, a fairly high level of mental agility is required if any would-be flyer is to absorb the skills and lessons of the 10-month course and then pass the exams.

It all starts when serving soldiers

**Story:
JOHN MARGETTS**
**Pictures:
LES WIGGS**

— minimum rank lance corporal — decide they want to fly helicopters and apply to take the AAC course. Once accepted they don the sky-blue beret, but retain their own cap badge which creates quite a confusion. But direct entrants to the AAC are steadily levelling out the mixture.

"Our role," said Colonel Esson, "is support for the ground-based Army. To do this we require men who can not only fly helicopters to extremely fine limits, but understand what the men on the ground need from us in the air."

Like most, if not all the corps and regiments making up the

Army, the need is to be a trained soldier first and a tradesman second.

Not everyone applying for the ten-month course is an NCO. Many are officers, but they all get treated in the same way by their instructors. "We make no distinction for rank," said Captain Hugh Northam, training officer for the Advanced Rotary Wing Squadron — the final section of the course where students either get a pat on the head and a brand-new set of "wings", or get handed their hats and shown the door marked exit.

This traumatic experience can happen at any time on the three-part course. And it does. Although the final pass rate expectancy is around 70 per cent, which is high by any standard.

To indicate that rank carries no weight in the classroom, Captain Northam said: "Just because

somebody holds a commission doesn't mean an automatic pass. We gave three officers the 'chop' yesterday." All three, it turned out, were within a month or so of collecting their "wings" when the axe came down.

"We have no problems with the rank structure," said Hugh Northam. "Everyone is a student and goes through all three sections of the course, always assuming they pass each part. If they don't pass, they're out!"

Selection for the course starts at RAF Biggin Hill in Kent. From there the would-be pilot graduates for tests and interviews at Middle Wallop where he will — all being well — stay for the next ten months.

Once past the initial test and talk-ins, all those below the rank of sergeant become acting triple-stripers with the privileges and pay that rank enjoys.

Then comes the work. "And it is hard work," said Colonel Esson. "Exams are continuous and subjects covered include navigation, the principals of flight, engines and technology, airmanship — knowing all the laws and rules — meteorology, aviation medicine, gunnery, tactics and roles. "It means a lot of work and much of it must be done in their own time.

"The pressure is on all the time. It's a never-ending process," he said. But despite the study workload, life at Middle Wallop is not all graft for students. The actual flying is still an eyes-down, look-in and learn situation, but affords a good deal of enjoyment for them,



Sergeant David Braine, left, plots a course with his instructor Sergeant Martin Weston.

if not their instructors.

Flying for students starts with a 60-hour course on two-seater Chipmunks.

"It's a cheap way of assessing attitudes and performances on an easy-to-fly aircraft," said Colonel Esson. "Learning to fly a fixed-wing aircraft such as the Chipmunk gives a good grounding before switching to helicopters which have a much higher workload."

Some students have had the good fortune to take private flying lessons, but most have only holiday or "experience" flights chalked up and know little or nothing about flying. They know what everybody knows — aircraft fly and that's about all. Yet after 12 weeks on the Chipmunk the majority pass the solo flying checks without trouble.

"When all is said and done,



Lieutenant Colonel Frank Esson — the best sort of flying.



Chocks away for Chipmunk flight.

flying as an Army pilot is really quite glamorous," said Colonel Esson. "It provides the best sort of flying a helicopter pilot will ever have. And the most enjoyable. It can't be bettered anywhere. It's exciting and skilful and nothing elsewhere can compare with it."

He proved the point by flying his Gazelle helicopter into a "test" area where the rotor tips were within three feet of the trees. "Student pilots on final tests could well be shown an area such as this as part of a pass-out test," he said settling the machine on a slope which had the whirling blades swaying the tree branches either side.

"Whether the student attempts to get into an area such as this is entirely up to him. He's the captain and the decision is his. That's what Army helicopter flying is all about really. Making a decision and not dithering."

Some of those hoping to make a decision and an impression good enough to earn them their "wings" were Lieutenant Kevin Kerrigan, 26, of 39 Engineer Regiment, who finishes his course in June and ex-sapper Sergeant Steve Ford, 28, now in the AAC with three-and-a-half years experience as an air-gunner and observer behind him.

Said Steve: "My time as a gunner and observer have stood me in good stead. And there's no doubt that wearing pilot's wings does enhance status. It's been a good course and I've enjoyed it all. There's just this last bit to complete now."

Even passing out is not the end of the tests. Twice a year they are subjected to instrument rating trials plus the strong possibility of a sudden visit from the Rotary Standards Board (RSB).

This is a group of flying aces who can descend on any Army

helicopter unit at any time handing out instant checks. And the consequences of failing to reach RSB standards by a pilot can be fraught. Their power includes ordering extra training — among other things — if they consider a pilot below form.

So what goes towards making a good Army helicopter pilot? If the present crop of students at Middle Wallop are anything to go by — and there are 80 flying pupils at present — you need to be a trained soldier, at least a lance corporal with aspirations to be a sergeant and a hard-working, switched-on character with a fine 'feel' for flying. In addition, according to AAC direct entrant Sergeant Geoff Kitchen, "you must have the will and the pride to get up there and earn those 'wings'".

Tough Course: Wings the reward

TEN MONTHS ago 22 young men clocked on for training on No. 284 Army Pilot Course.

A couple of weeks ago, at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop, exactly half of them received their "wings" at their passing-out parade.

Those who failed to make the final parade to receive that sought after badge had returned to their units kicking themselves in annoyance and frustration at failing the ten-month, three-stage flying course. "A 50 per cent failure is extremely high," said Lieutenant Colonel Frank Esson. "It gives some indication just how tough this course is."

Two officers and nine sergeants made up the parade to receive their "wings" from Oberst (Colonel) Gunter Hannstein, Commandant of the German Army Aviation School, and the first foreign officer to be the inspecting officer at an AAC pass-out parade.

And it was a proud moment for Corporal of Horse Keith Bryan of the Blues and Royals to receive from the Colonel the trophy for the best student pilot on the course.

Two others received prizes; Sergeant John Gammon of The Parachute Regiment collected the Blackwood Trophy for achieving the best examination results, and Sergeant Graham Walker, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, the Westland Trophy for outstanding progress throughout the course.

Watched by admiring relatives and friends and accompanied by the band of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, the Army's eleven newest pilots marched off to a celebratory lunch and postings to their AAC units.

The eleven were: Lieutenants N. St. J. Hopkins (RE) and N. J.

I. Watts (AAC); Sergeants John Gammon (Parachute Regt.), David Braine (RE), Graham Walker (QDG), John Thornton (AAC), Ken Fuller (AAC), Philip Moran (AAC), Kevin Gleeson (Royal Marines), Billy Tait (RE) and top student Corporal of Horse Keith Bryan (Blues and Royals).



Proud moment for Corporal of Horse Keith Bryan as he receives his wings from Oberst Gunter Hannstein.



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REMEMBER ALAMO

Everyone has heard of it, but did you know 29 Britons were involved?

JIM BOWIE and Davy Crockett were among the famous names who passed into legend at the Battle of The Alamo when Santa Anna's Mexican Army won a victory — but eventually lost a state.

Most Brits have heard of The Alamo, but precious few realise that among those whose fought so valiantly to give Texas independence were 29 Britons.

Well, after 148 years the fact should become better known, thanks to a little ceremony which took place in London's Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly when two junior Texans, Will Smith and Andy Eckert presented "The Alamo Dispatch" to Lieutenant Colonel Edward Champion, of Headquarters London District.

Again, not many people realise that the Alamo could be said to be the place where Britons and Americans fought for the first time as allies.

The dispatch commemorates the courage of the men from the "homeland" who perished with their American pals. None were professional soldiers, but all carried military rank — and all volunteered knowing the only way out would be in a coffin.

Embellished with the flags of the United

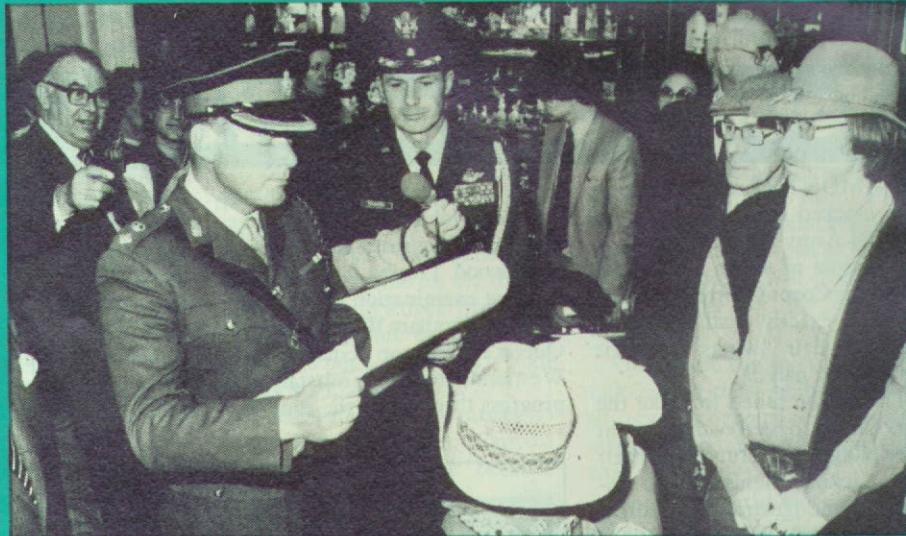
States, Texas and Britain, "The Alamo Dispatch" is a roll of honour of the British dead. Names were researched by the Institute of Texan Cultures and Daughters of the Texas Republic, San Antonio, Texas.

The Burlington Arcade is an ancient monument protected by The Queen. Built in 1819 by Lord George Cavendish of the 10th Hussars it was 17 years old during the siege of the Alamo.

The ceremony attracted a big audience of Americans, including a contingent of pupils from The American Community School, Hillingdon, Middlesex. All wore western clothes. They were accompanied by their headmaster, Mr James Page.

Also on parade were The Thamesmead Raiders, a wild west fan club of Londoners, led by Mr Ian Green of the Metropolitan Police, who stage Saturday shows for children in a London Park, blazing blanks from toy revolvers at a stage-prop bank. A British quartet sang "The Alamo", "Yellow Rose of Texas" and ended with "Land of Hope and Glory."

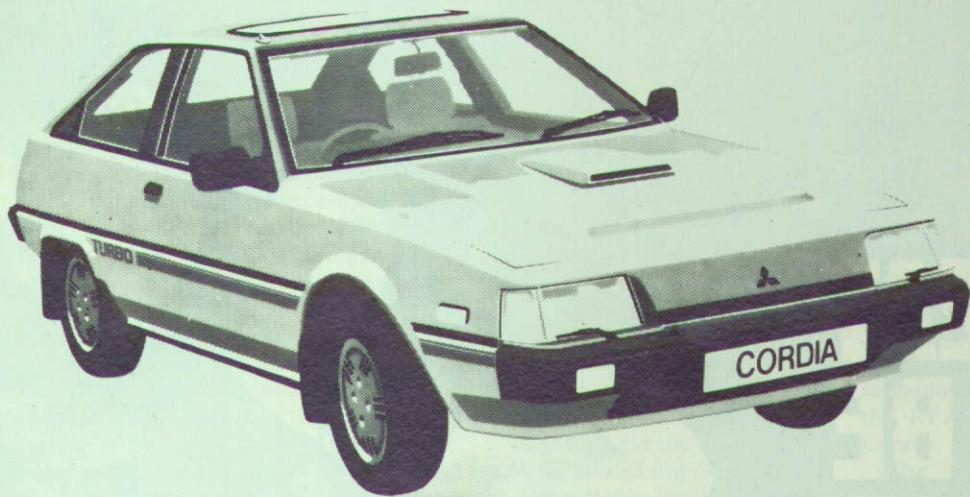
Governor Mark White of Texas sent a telegram of tribute to The Alamo's British dead.



Lieutenant Colonel Edward Champion accepts "The Alamo Dispatch" from junior Texans Will Smith and Andy Eckert. Beside him stands Colonel Alan Renshaw (USAF) Defence Attaché at the US Embassy.

The Britons who died, and are commemorated in the dispatch:

Captain	William Blazey	Private	Isaac Robinson
Private	Daniel Bourne	"	David L. Wilson
"	Stephen Dennison	"	Samuel Burns
"	James R. Dimpkins	"	Andrew Duvalt
"	James C. Gwynne	"	Robert Evans
Sergeant	William D. Hersee	Master of Ordnance	Joseph M. Hawkins
Private	Marcus Sewell	Private	Wilfred Daniel Jackson
"	Richard Starr	"	Thomas Jackson
"	James F. Stewart	"	James McGee
"	Thomas A. Waters	"	Robert McKinney
"	Anthony Wolfe	"	James Nolan
"	Robert W. Ballantine	"	John Jackson Rusk
Sergeant	John McGregor	Sergeant	Burke Trammel
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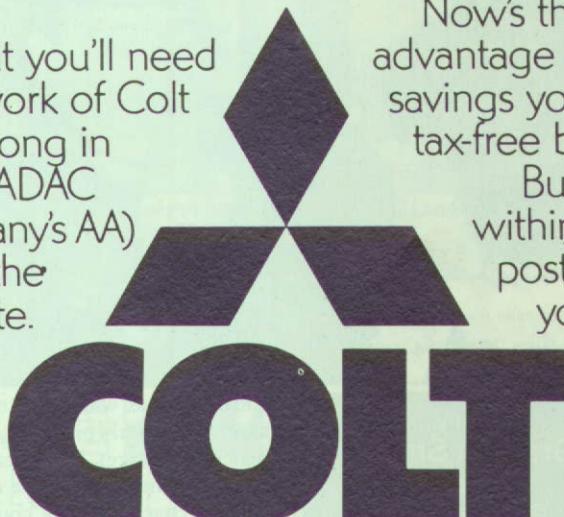
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GREAT TO BE HOME!



Above: Magical moment for Trooper Tony Aiuto as he is re-united with his wife Michele and five-week old daughter Gemma Louise. Below: Trooper Jonathan Hale shows his wife Christine where a piece of shrapnel clipped him . . . but the moustache appeared to escape damage!

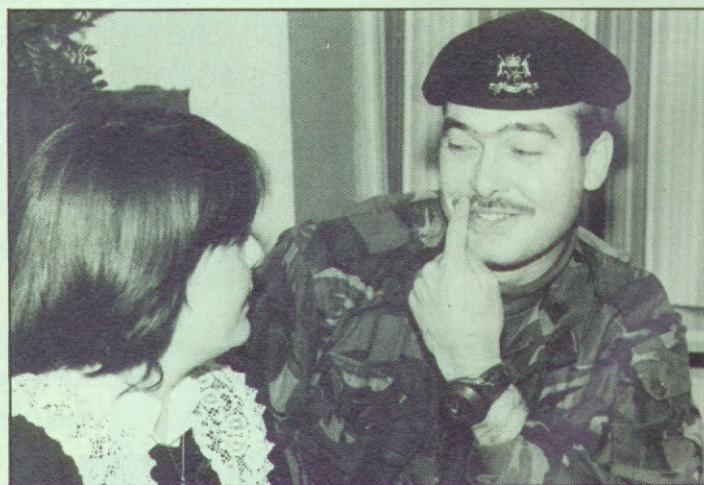
THE BRITISH peace-keepers of Beirut — 76 officers and men from 'A' Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers — are back at Tidworth after two months' service in the war-torn capital of the Lebanon.

And their happy homecoming firstly at RAF Brize Norton from Cyprus and then, 50 miles away at their home base, brought with it a tale of right royal regimental history . . . news of two commendations for heroism . . . and a host of anecdotes and memories for family consumption as their loved ones patiently awaited their men-folk in two coaches on the barrack square. There, too, to give them a rousing welcome were 14 members from the regimental band.

Before that joyful reunion the Lancers and their supporting Army units that had made up BRITFORLEB had been looked over just hours before 2400 miles away in Cyprus by no less than their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty the Queen who was en-route for her visit to Jordan.

She had, said Lieutenant Colonel Peter Woolley, 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and commanding officer of the 100 or so strong British contingent, asked to see "her Lancers". Her Majesty duly made a 15-minute inspection of BRITFORLEB on Sovereign Base Area soil as they formed up in two ranks in front of her TriStar.

A more formal message from



Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Paul Haley

Her Majesty, however, awaited the returning heroes in the regimental cookhouse through Colonel Henry Brooke, Colonel of the Regiment, who said the Queen had asked him to say: "As Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, I am delighted to welcome them home. Your report of their conduct during their arduous tour of duty gives me much pleasure and is what I would expect from members of my regiment."

The long-awaited welcome at

Tidworth was warm and orderly as, at 19.50 hours precisely, a flag-bedecked Ferret Scout car was followed onto the parade square by two coaches and a couple of four-tonne lorries (the latter, a baggage party).

First man to alight from one of the coaches was Captain Julian Snell, who planted a kiss on wife Sally and one on his baby son, Benjamin.

Also there awaiting her husband was Michele Aiuto whose husband, Trooper Tony Aiuto — the Squadron Commander's driver — was about to see his five-week old daughter, Gemma Louise for the second time. Tony, 21, had flown over to the UK two days after her birth in Dorchester Hospital, the

only baby to be born to any of the 38 wives during their husband's Levantine detachment.

Husbands and wives, soldiers and their sweethearts gathered in the cookhouse to get to know each other again on a face-to-face basis over cans of lager, soft drinks and other light refreshments.

Some families had already indulged on RAF flights to Cyprus during the previous weeks to see their heads of families.

The stories of the two commendations from the Commander British Forces Cyprus — Major-General Sir Desmond Langley — came out at RAF Brize Norton.

One went to Trooper Tony Hawkins — his father, Keith was a former 16th/5th Lancer — who was involved in two incidents in Beirut. The other commendation was awarded to Corporal Stephen Trower who, while in command of a Ferret Scout car, was caught in the blast of a remotely detonated bomb in the port area of Beirut two days after Christmas Day.

The vehicle was the last of three in a convoy and the bomb exploded only feet from the vehicle spraying it with shrapnel and almost overturning it. Cpl Trower was hit by pieces of shrapnel, one of which embedded itself in his forehead causing severe bleeding and impairing his sight. His driver received several superficial cuts on the head and was dazed by the blast.

In spite of his injury, Cpl Trower reassured his driver and ordered

him to drive out of the immediate area. Rejoining the patrol Cpl Trower insisted on continuing to command the vehicle which he did. He received first aid at the British Embassy and then insisted on driving a further three miles to the United States Marine Corps medical post where he received a further seven stitches in one wound.

Trooper Hawkins commendation involved another vehicle — a Land-Rover — commanded by an officer which was waved down by AMAL militiamen. He was ordered to drive slowly and carefully. The militiamen, meanwhile, opened fire above his head with automatic weapons but Tpr Hawkins continued to drive on — calmly.

He was then ordered to halt and the vehicle was surrounded by shouting militiamen who fired more shots close to the occupants' heads. After some time the officer calmed the situation and the vehicle was released. Throughout Tpr Hawkins remained calm and poised, reassuring a third member of the Ferret and all the while,

with humour, helping the officer to change a threatening situation into an amicable one.

Trooper Hawkins was also involved in the December 27 incident along with Cpl Trower. It was noted that he "acted with remarkable presence of mind and calmness when helping the casualties and in the follow-up action."

During the preparatory training and for the remainder of his time in Beirut "his determination and coolness in adversity had been exceptional."

Earlier, at RAF Brize Norton where the Lancers had disengaged from a VC-10 Lt-Col Woolley, commenting on the Royal inspection of BRITFORLEB, told me: "The Queen had said 'I would like to see my Lancers'. It was a super opportunity for her to see them personally."

On the re-deployment from Beirut aboard the RFA Reliant, he said: "From 8 February for about a week we had the whole force aboard her. A few days later

it was agreed that about half would remain on board with the vehicles and equipment and the others would go on to Cyprus, all on a rotational basis. They would do operational training aboard Reliant while awaiting any re-deployment orders. Physical fitness was not neglected, running around the 'Burma Road', a long corridor in the ship. We also fired our weapons from the ship including the Ferrets' Browning machine guns. We allowed the Navy to fire our weapons, too.

"As an infantryman, I thought their performance in Beirut was tremendous. I felt extremely safe with them around."

And how did the Lancers take to a life aboard ship?

Major Robin Faulkner, the 'A' Squadron Leader, said, with a smile: "We do have a regimental yacht and we are then, I suppose, something of a maritime regiment. I am quite a sailor myself and the men found their sea legs fairly quickly."

"But even aboard ship we still had a job to do and we trained, firing our weapons to see that they were still working properly. I think the military have gained a terrific amount from the Beirut experience. Luckily, we managed to bring back every person we took out there and I am sure our presence helped the reconciliation process for our Government to talk with some authority to the Lebanese Government."

BRITFORLEB originally deployed to Beirut on 7 and 8 February of last year and it was exactly one year later that the force re-deployed from that city on to the RFA Reliant and then to Cyprus.

The operation, which was mounted and supported throughout from British Forces Cyprus earned the tribute of Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall who said: "It has been in every respect a first class performance and one of which the British Armed Forces can be justly proud. Everyone played their part to the full. Please pass my warmest congratulations to all concerned."

COMMENDATIONS . . .

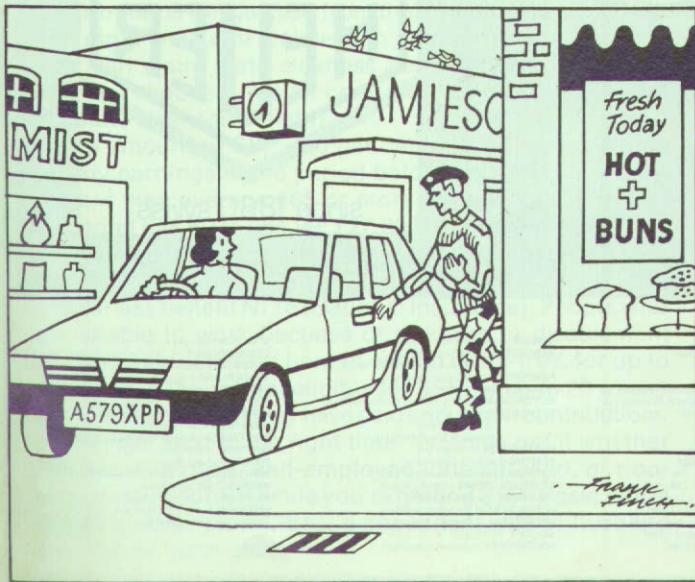


Prior to the journey home Corporal Stephen Trower received his commendation from Commander British Forces Cyprus, Major General Sir Desmond Langley.



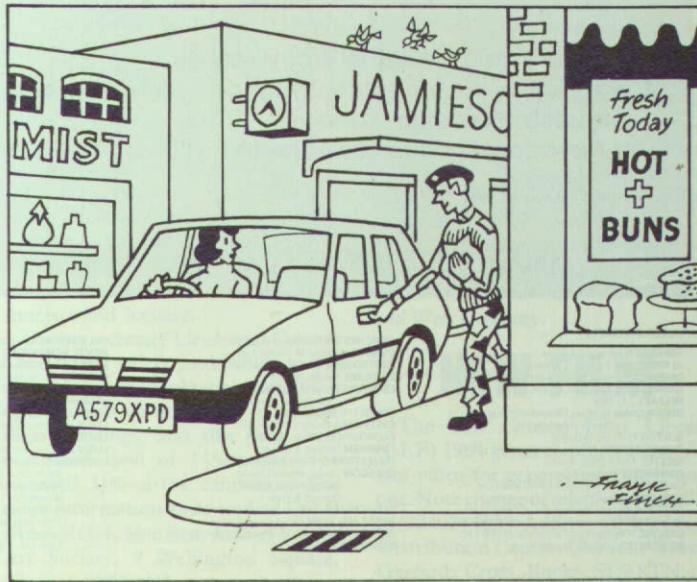
General Langley repeating the commendation ceremony for another recipient — Trooper Tony Hawkins. Both these photographs provided by Public Relations, British Forces Cyprus.

How observant are you?



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

Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.



Heuer

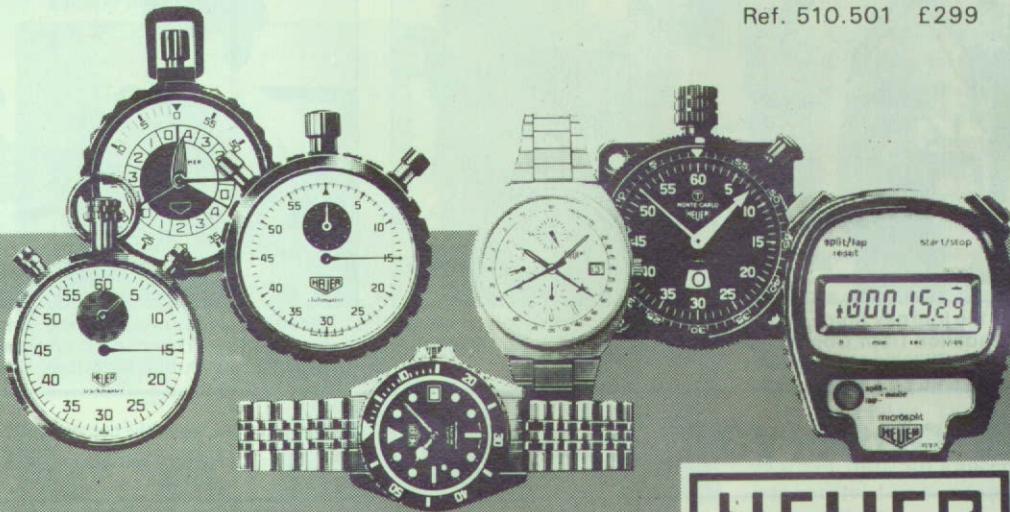
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THE EUROPEAN Parliament is concerned about the effects of the recession on the Community's 100 million women.

Service wives are part of this number yet they have to face more difficulties than migrant workers, refugees, and immigrants, when it comes to receiving benefits in the form of unemployment benefit, redundancy pay and maternity pay not to mention that the process of finding employment and obtaining benefits is hampered, and when employment, if found, has a proper contract and that in cases where overpayment has happened, the correct procedures are followed.

Because they are dependants seeking employment, European Resolution and Directives should apply. In 1977 I raised the problems over the DHSS benefit and have continually sought to put these and other anomalies right, but with little support.

In 1982 when the New Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) came in I raised the need to have the rules and forms (NI 244 and NI 16) apply overseas, ie Germany. Three years later action is only just being taken to really publicise this, yet as a result I was able to claim back for one family £400. Why? Because the forms were not available at that time.

The need for information is chronic, hence I raised the need for a DHSS publication for Service families. Not possible, I was told. However, a forward-looking, then Under-Secretary of State, Lynda Chalker enabled FB5 to be born.

Last year I sought clarification

on a number of issues, from wives employed as bus escorts, to the huge grey areas concerning the employment of Service wives. I'm still waiting.

I am told that the Status of Forces Agreement, the Anglo-German Convention and other treaties all have led us to be in this situation in 1984. Yet the whole social structure surrounding women's employment has changed since the 1959 SFA and 1960, when the Anglo-German conventions were signed.

We are now in the EEC, we are entitled to the same treatment, but if we are different because of a separate agreement which singled us out as a special group, for example like refugees, immigrants, prisoners, homeless persons and the like then we must receive the appropriate compensation with special rules, drawn up to cover our particular situation.

Currently this is not the case. We are thrown in the air, and "bully" if we fall on the right side to pay tax and Class I contributions. Bad luck if we fall on the other side and are denied equal treatment over DHSS and other benefits compared with other EEC women. We must try to put this anomaly right.

That's why I went to Europe with the 300 Group to investigate further the plight of this group, and I raised these issues in Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Brussels and at the European Commission where I received excellent help. I now know how to ask a question in the European



Parliament, formulate a petition, lobby MEPs and generally learn how the European Parliament and Commission works.

To sum up. Could we be given chapter and verse, the pros and cons of how we get into the EEC, how and why these restrictions

are imposed on us? Why we have no rights? Then many of the letters and cases I take up would not occur, wives would not lose £1,000 or not have equal rights with their EEC counterparts.

If the European Parliament and Commission is the only place where we can find these answers then to them we must go to seek help and clarification from our elected Parliament. It's there to be used and I will be further researching this side.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

Wives display artistic flair

TWENTY-SEVEN Service wives had their paintings hung at the 53 Armed Forces Art Society held at the National Army Museum. This was an excellent showing of the talents of wives in spite of their not having studio facilities to hand.

Although they weren't among the prizewinners the range of subject was extremely varied ranging from portraits by Lady Kitson to a still life by Anne Doyle, and two of a series of flowers of the month, January and March by Margaret Mathews.

Hanging close together another talented group of artists, with Jane Corsells portrait of Sara Powys-Maurice and Berwick-on-Tweed, alongside Davina Gibbs' two pictures of the Findhorn.

With Susan Crawford's The King's Troop Horse Artillery at Earls Court, Wendy Baugh's Ochre abstract gave us an additional taste of the talent among Service wives.

Painting seriously in the Services has its moments. Jane Corsells, whose love of painting was inherited from her artist mother, did six years at art school and paints many subjects, using both oil and water colours.

She has painted wherever her travels have taken her: Hong Kong, Canada, Germany and UK. Her book published 18 months ago, 'Painting Figures in Light' is another field of her talents.

Susan Crawford has been a professional artist for 15 years, with many exhibitions and has painted members of the Royal Family. This is the first time she has exhibited in the Armed Forces Art Society Exhibition.

Susan's speciality is horses. For this picture she spent time with the King's Troop RHA and at the Royal Tournament. Susan's pictures are hanging as far away as South Africa, America and Iceland.

Society secretary Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Miers paid tribute to the wives, as this was only the second time that wives have been able to submit their paintings, and this year their combined total of 145 works represented 31% of the exhibition. For more information write to: Lt Col C Miers RGH, Hon Sec, Armed Forces Art Society, 6 Wellington Square, Chelsea, SW3 4UJ.

ASK ANNE

I am resident in Germany and have been taxed on my Annual Reporting Grant. Surely this is not correct? — EX-SERVICE, GERMANY.

Generally, income arising in the UK is liable to tax regardless of an individual's residential status. It is this ruling which permits the Army Computer centre to deduct tax from all Annual Reporting Grants irrespective of whether they are paid in the UK or BOAR.

It is then up to the individual, if a non taxpayer, to reclaim from his tax office.

You should be aware that there is a reciprocal tax agreement between the UK and West Germany, you should not therefore receive the full £30 to be refunded.

The Army is not party to individual tax positions and therefore attempts to distance itself from personal tax queries.

This is because we do not know: a) Individual's status ie resident or not resident, ordinarily resident or not ordinarily resident; b) Individual's liability to recovery of outstanding tax; c) Liability to tax on other UK earnings etc.

I am afraid that if this does not answer your query you will have to take the matter up with your tax offices in Cardiff and West Germany.

NEW FILM

The new Central Film Library (CLF) 1984 general information film and video for general interest is now out. Note change of telephone number to (02407) 4433. Address CFL Vision, Distribution Centre, Chalfont Grove, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, SL9 8TN.

SICK PAY: DON'T LOSE OUT



STATUTORY Sick Pay (SSP) and Sickness Benefit can be claimed when overseas, so check to make sure you are not losing out.

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) NI 244 (National Insurance): Most people who work for an employer and pay Class 1 NI contributions will get SSP from their employers during the first eight weeks of sickness in any tax year. After that, they can claim state sickness benefit instead. (Women who pay reduced-rate NI contributions can get SSP but not state sickness benefit).

The amount of SSP you get depends on your average weekly earnings in the period before you fell ill: £40.25 a week if they average £65 or more a week; £33.75 if they averaged £48.50 to £64.99; £27.20 if they averaged £32.50 to £48.49; nothing if they averaged less than £32.50 a week.

Sickness benefit NI 16 (National Insurance): People who are unable to work because of sickness or disablement can get state sickness benefit, which is tax-free, for up to 28 weeks (if they're not eligible for SSP, or up to 20 weeks after SSP runs out) if they have paid enough NI contributions of the right kind at the right time. You may get it whether you are employed, self-employed, unemployed, or non-employed — but not while you're getting SSP. Basic rate is £25.95 a week; plus £16 for a dependent wife or husband and 15p for each child.

Up and down the country young engineering apprentices and Youth Training Scheme people are working on projects for the Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum. SOLDIER visits two of the major projects in which the skilled men and women of the future look back and learn from the past . . .

Lincoln

LIN THE White Hart hotel in Lincoln a small plaque records that it was in one of the hotel rooms that the tank was first conceived. After that meeting between Mr William A Tritton and Lieutenant W G Wilson the first 200 tanks were designed and built in the cathedral city in time to be in action by 1916.

Yet that plaque apart there is nothing in Lincoln to show this historic connection. Soon all that will be remedied — for a 1917 British Mark IV 'Flirt' tank which had been standing outside the Tank Museum at Bovington for decades is currently being renovated for display at a still to be selected site in the city centre.

The Flirt had suffered the ravages of time and the elements as well as the attentions of numerous children when it arrived at Ruston Gas Turbines in Lincoln — only 200 yards from where it was designed and 400 yards from where it was made.

Recalled training instructor, Paul Rawlins: "Our first job was to clean all the muck out. There was lots of dirt and things like lollipop sticks and chocolate wrappers in every crevice where the children could poke something down."

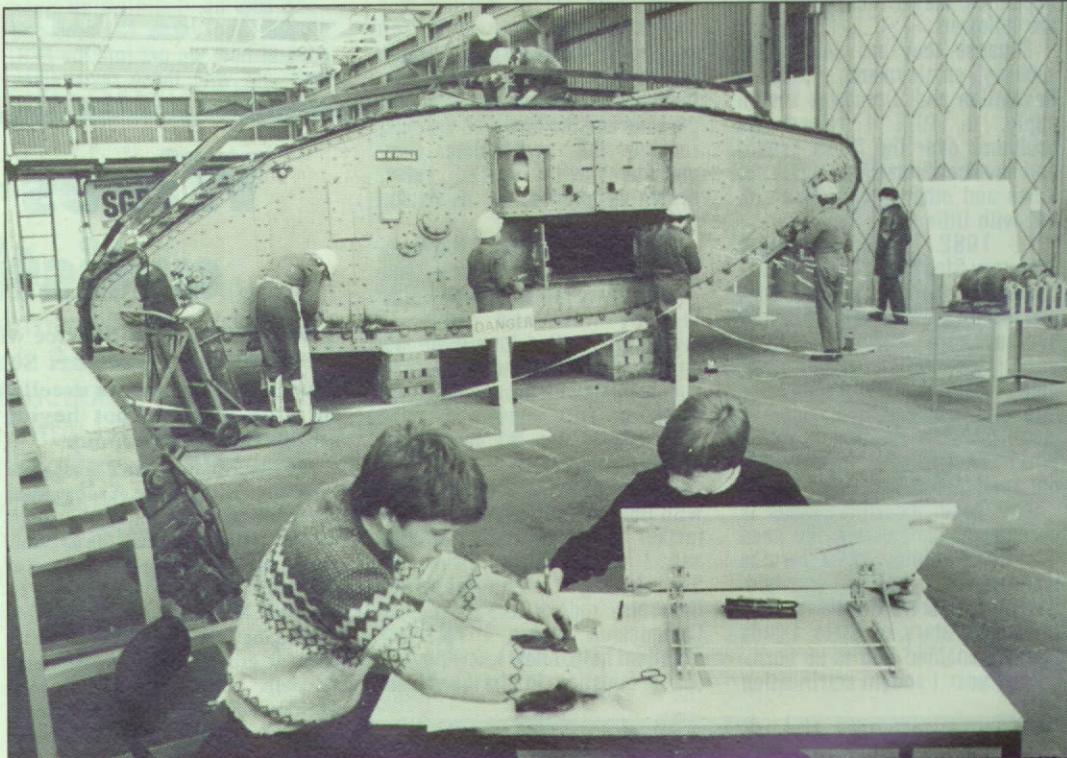
Jackie Harris, a 16-year-old Youth Training Scheme member, who has worked on the project for two spells, told SOLDIER: "When we first came down last autumn it was a nightmare. We got out two dustbin bags full of rust."

YTs have joined apprentices on the work at Ruston and Jackie and her friend, Sharon Whitelaw who are both training to be secretaries have found the manual work of cleaning, painting and grinding has given them an extra interest.



The sparks fly . . .

FLIRT HOME TO A HEROINE'S WELCOME



Tackling a Flirt!

"It gives us a chance to show the men what we can do," says Sharon. "When we see it on display we will be able to say we helped with it."

Aim of the work for both the YTs and the apprentices is to develop skills of manual dexterity, knowledge and application. Training superintendent, Mr John Borradale, stressed that while Ruston

is helping the Lincoln Tank Project Group by renovating Flirt it does at the same time provide a valuable training aid.

A recent visitor to the Ruston factory was a 92-year-old Army veteran who actually commanded the Mark IV at Cambrai, the great tank battle of 1917.

Jack Moss from Nottingham found that the version at Lincoln

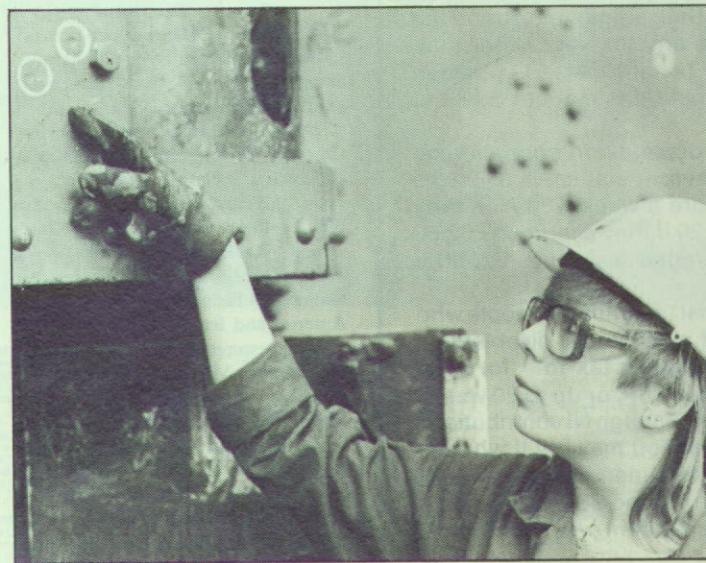
was 'female' as opposed to his tanks which were fitted with six pounders. The 'female' was mounted with machine guns for 'spitting fire.'

For the former Royal Tank Corps lieutenant the world of 1917 came flooding back as he stepped inside Flirt: "It all came back to me straight away. I knew all the workings of the tank as I had spent so many hours in them. I was able to give them information about the interior of the tank and how it was driven."

Later knighted, Tritton is commemorated in Tritton Road in Lincoln where the tanks were first tested on local fields. Colonel George Forty of the RAC Tank Museum confessed that he had been amazed to learn that Lincoln, where the tank was invented, did not have a single example.

"If there is any town in England where there should be a tank it is Lincoln. I was very anxious to repair the link with Lincoln — we are two ends of the tank trail. Not only has it gone back to its roots but it is going to be properly presented."

"We hope it will cement a tremendous bond between Lincoln and the Tank Museum."



Jackie Harris (YTS) shows where bullets struck.

AT THE Royal Ordnance Factory in Leeds they are just about to hand back to the Bovington Tank Museum a Centurion tank which has been cut in half to create a walk through exhibit which will be one of the highlights of the museum display.

The tank, built in 1947-48 in Leeds left Army service at Ludgershall 20 years later and in the words of shop manager, Mr John Dolan: "When it arrived here it was a rusting hulk and a lot of it was missing."

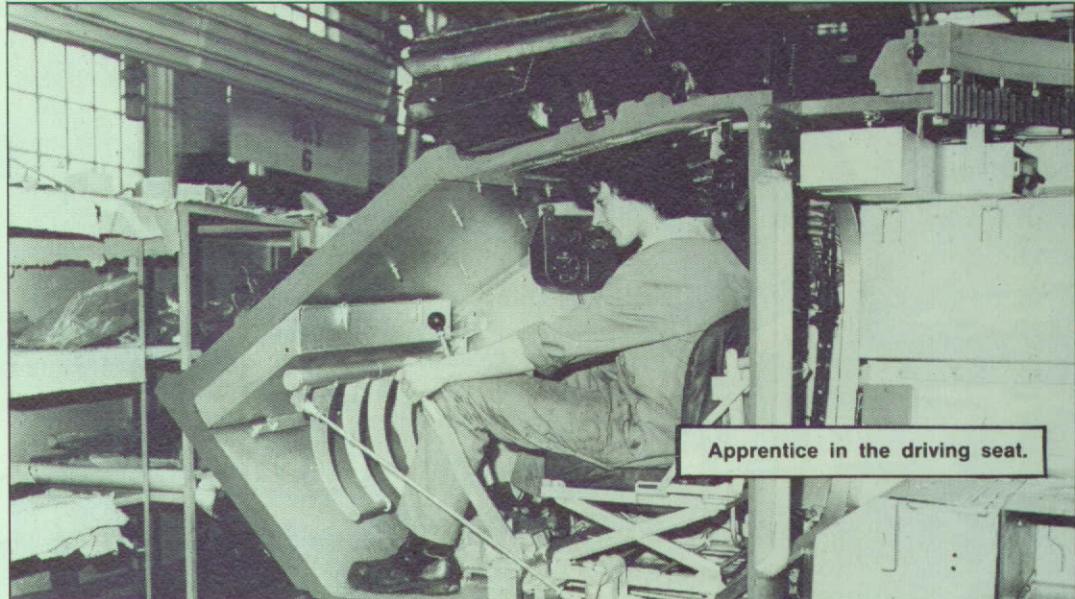
The first task was to see just what the tank would look like when it was cut in half. For this they got a commercial scale model and halved that — the detail is so accurate that the group working on the project were able to see exactly what the cutting would achieve.

The model itself achieved some fame — visiting 'brass' from the Danish Army saw it and expressed interest so the ROF presented a similar cut through model to them. The Danes also bought a number of Centurions during their heyday.

About 20 apprentices worked on the tank at different times during its transformation. They stripped it down, cleaned and painted it and searched for the missing parts.

Said Frank O'Brien, chief training instructor: "We had to search all over for the scrap bits. It wasn't easy to get spares but we scrounged in a typical Army way — we sent lads all over the country and we have got everything now."

The major cutting with a plasma



Apprentice in the driving seat.

Stories: JOHN WALTON

Pictures: LES WIGGS

arc flamecutter took only two days and was carried out by skilled operators. The apprentices did all the work that was within the capabilities of themselves and the machinery available. Larger and more complex work had to be done by machinists.

Other projects currently being carried out by apprentices for the RAC Tank Museum include the making of a gunnery simulator (ROF Nottingham), restoration of a wartime Challenger turret (MVEE Chobham) and two observation platforms for museum visitors (AAC Chepstow).

The tank is only one of the projects which the ROF has carried out in recent years which are part of the apprentice training programme yet help others.

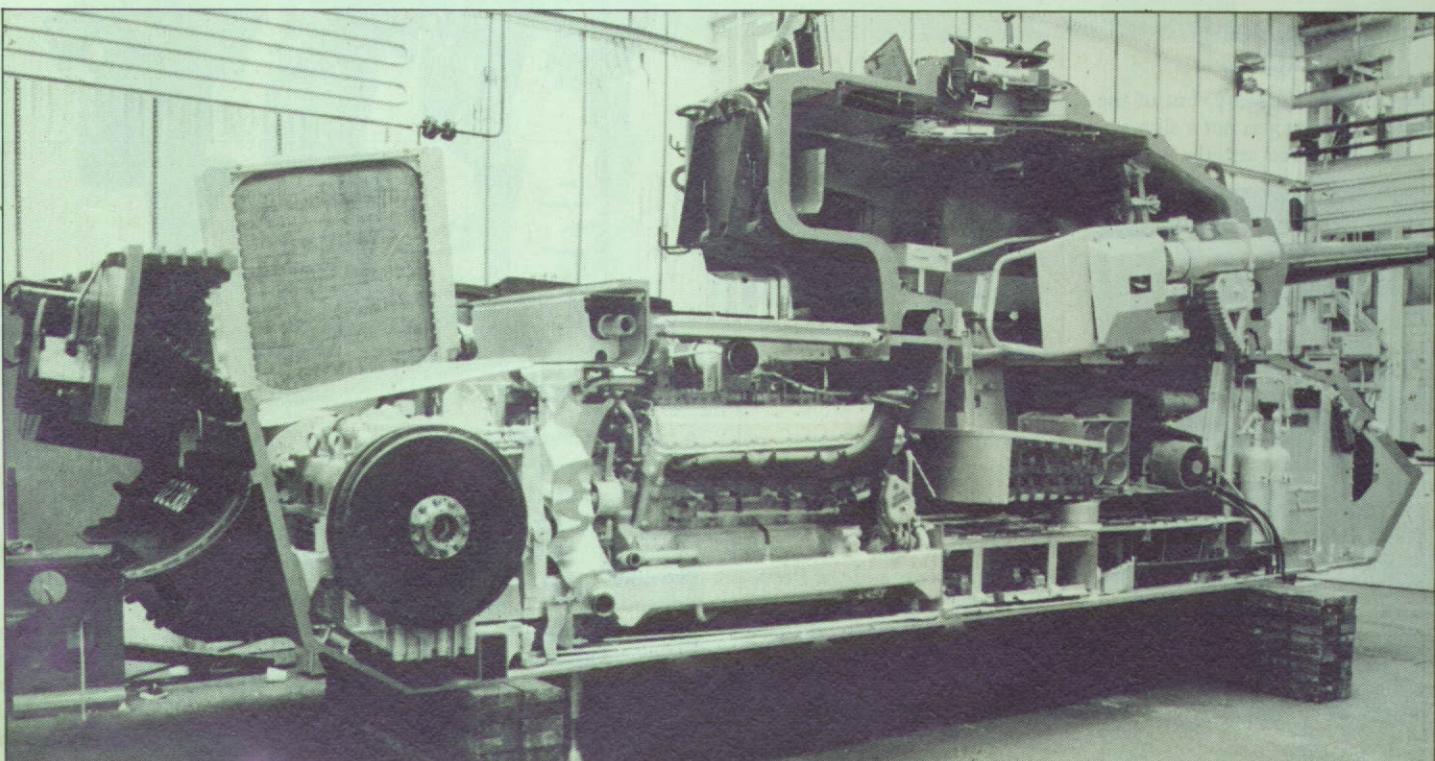
Mr Geoff Taylor, Personnel Training Officer, told SOLDIER: "For quite a period of time there was an ingredient missing from the projects for training apprentices. We were training them in craft skills and methods of manufacture and sending them for academic courses but we were not getting them to test themselves to see if they could marry academic information with the skills in which we had trained them.

"We started off with the

manufacture of a four man bobsleigh for the 1980 Olympics and we found that the motivation of those teams involved was superb.

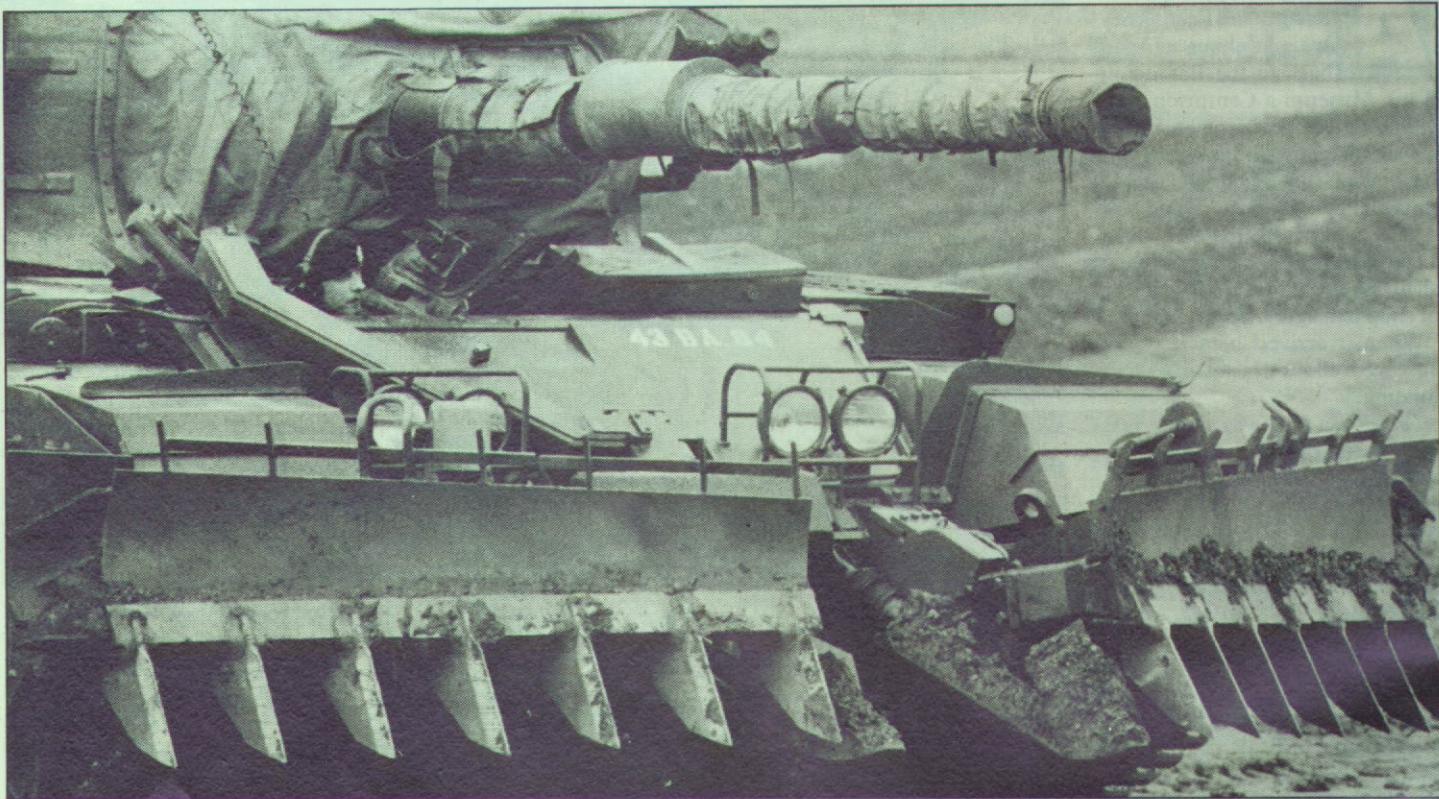
"It was clear to see that we wanted real life projects as opposed to contrived ones. They have enjoyed this project and it has been extremely useful, bringing together their schooling and their practical abilities."

Colonel Forty was also delighted. He declared: "It is smashing. The project has been of advantage to both of us because it is good for them not only to practise as apprentices but also to learn about the history of Armoured Fighting Vehicles, which is part of our national heritage as we invented the tank. I hope to invite the apprentices down so that they can see their exhibit."



So this is what half a Centurion looks like ...

SAPPERS SHOW COMBAT TEETH



HOW TO build or blow up a bridge, prepare or demolish an airstrip and clear or sow a minefield were just a few of the jobs demonstrated by the Royal Engineers at their three-day show-off of front-line punch and capability.

Watching them on day two of their annual event at Camberley, were military and defence attaches from more than 30 countries — including a Mr Feng Zhenyao of

Story: John Margetts

Pictures: Doug Pratt

the Chinese Embassy, but of the Russians there was not a sign.

Day one was strictly a dress



No bombs — but a lovely bone!

... AND THEIR FLIPPERS!



A farewell salute from the divers.

rehearsal for the following two days, when the foreign "brass" and Staff College representatives attended, and provided all-action entertainment for 500 school children, parents and the Press.

By far the most popular moment came when Engineer-in-Chief Major General Mike Matthews said a few words of thanks to the sappers who had laid on the four-hour show and invited the watching youngsters to take a ride on the air portable bridge raft.

They surged forward as one ... but with the joy for the kids came the sad news that the Aldershot RE Band were making their last appearance. As of now, said General Matthews, they would be merged with the band at Chatham in a money-saving move.

Resplendent in their colourful uniforms they played proudly and with style in what was their last "demo" before moving to Kent.

But although the band's merger was somewhat sad, the show, which is now something of a hardy annual having been held for some years, went on as usual earning the applause, cheers and admiration of the watching hundreds.

It is the Sappers' once-a-year chance to show off their skill and versatility and, with the weather cold but kind, they took full advantage of the situation to earn a full quota of congratulations from all three audiences.



... but this seems scrap ↵

Royal
Engineers
demo
scrapbook



All the fun of the Royal Engineers demonstration. Top: Landing from Mark V assault boats. Above: "Hey! That's my car... or it was..." Below left: Bridge-layer at work. Below right: Combat Support Boat showing its paces.



*Writer Graham Smith and photographer
Doug Pratt continue their African journey*

Loan Service: ZIMBABWE

Sense of achievement reminders of Surrey!



THE WIFE of a British Loan Service officer who is in Zimbabwe for two years on a tour with BMATT (British Military and Advisory Team) smiled from behind her long, cool drink and described perhaps southern Africa's most breathtaking country as being "rather like Surrey with lots of sunshine — the nice parts of Surrey, that is."

That epithet did not seem to apply somehow 6,000 feet up amid the granite outcrops and lush bush veldt country surrounding a spartan Army camp nearly 300 kilometres and over two hours drive away.

Two magnificent cloud formations squared up to each other grumbling loudly in disagreement as a squad of recruits in combat kit, some of them wearing bush hats, drilled to barked commands and brought another dimension of Surrey — Pirbright Guards Depot!

This was Camp Number 1, home of the 30-strong BMATT team at Nyanga with responsibility

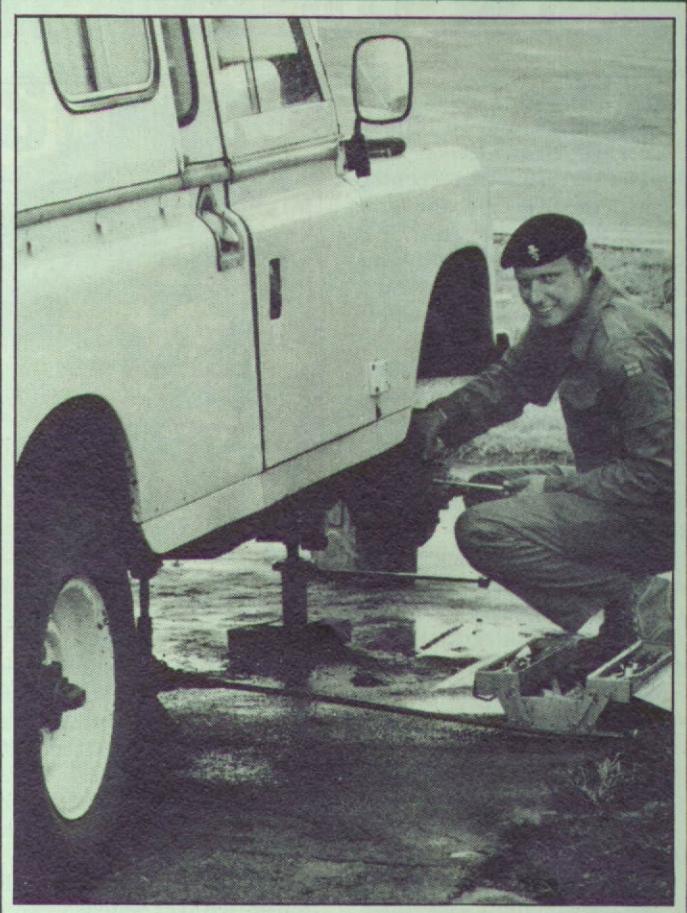
for running the Battalion Battle School (BBS) and the Battalion Group Commanders Courses (BGCC) for the fledgling, four-year-old Zimbabwe Army (ZNA), a remote training centre in the Eastern Highlands. It was the rainy season.

Major Albert Victor Smith, the BBS Quartermaster and Coldstream Guards, happened to be passing and quietly remarked: "You get a sense of achievement being out here on Loan Service and to see these lads doing slow time marching, and their drill brings back happy memories of my times at Pirbright."

The £168-a-month ZNA soldiers looked happy enough, too, in the lee of a giant, scrub-covered "kopje", backdrop for an impending downpour. They were men from 42 Infantry Battalion.

Some 1,200 of their Comrades, again under arms, had already passed through the 14-week course of basic infantry skills such as weapon handling, fieldcraft, map reading, ambush drills and day and

(continued on page 28)



"Mounted" mortar drills with Warrant Officer 2 Dave Reah. ▼

Staff Sergeant Colin Inman hard at work. ▲



ZNA SOLDIERS – ‘Thirsty for knowledge’

(from page 27)

night patrols.

Their tutors are 30 British officers and senior NCOs — 25 of them with the BBS, the remaining five with the BGCC — who form part of the 60 strong BMATT contribution to Zimbabwe and the tutorials of its emerging Army.

Until the middle of last year there were double that number and BMATT had started out life as a cadre of a couple of dozen drawn from the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force after the granting of independence in April 1980 and a change of name from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe.

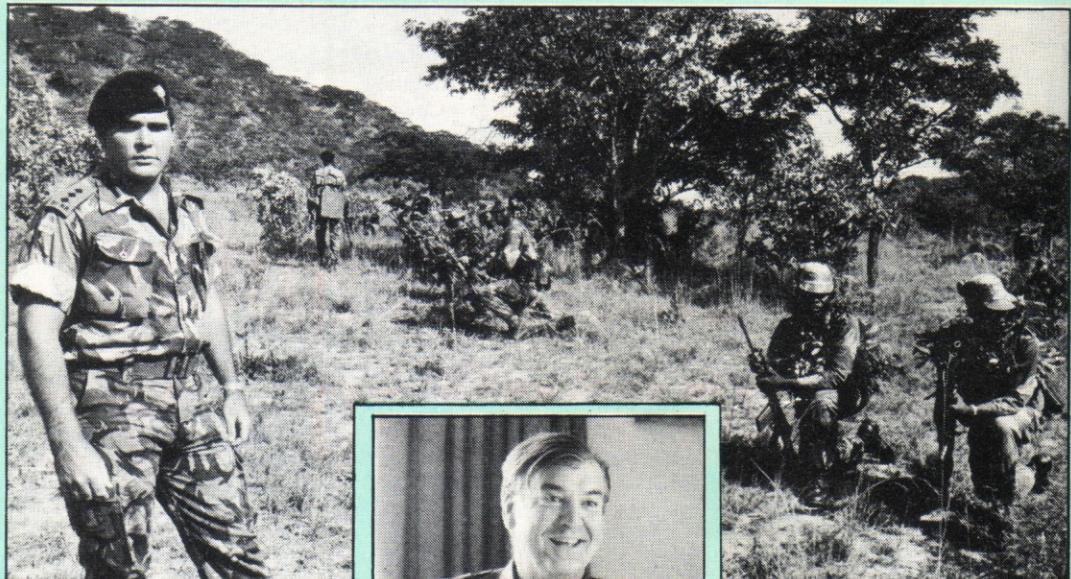
The Battalion Group Commanders courses — each with 16 students and ten weeks in duration — are designed for existing commanding officers and potential COs. The charter for the infantry battalions calls for them to be “able to undertake a wide variety of operations in conjunction with all arms.”

The first six weeks are taken up with individual and section training with the next four weeks devoted to platoon training, then three weeks of training at company level and culminating with a battalion FTX in the 300-square-kilometre training area.

It is planned to extend the scheme to two battalions at a time mounted from the ten-year-old, 296-resident Nyanga camp which was first set up as a Rhodesian National Service training establishment.

Ironically, it is estimated that up to two-thirds of the ZNA men under training are perhaps former freedom fighters.

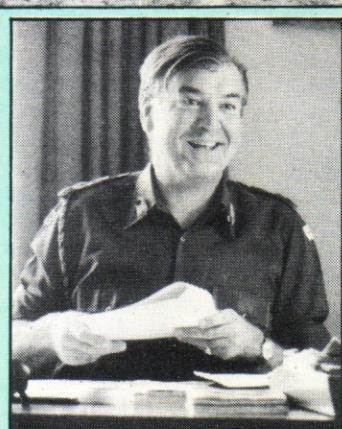
Lt-Col Nick Adams, The Royal Green Jackets, of the BBS said: “You get the same range of abilities



here as you do anywhere else but not the same range of expertise. You can't expect it at battalion level after just four years as you can after 20 years. There is no short cut to providing expertise.”

A third of the way through their course, Staff Sergeant Colin Inman, REME, watched two of his students tinkering about on a Land Rover and said: “They are still in the learning curve. It's still a bit technical for them and the driver side of training is a bit slow. It's all down to basic inexperience but they do want to learn.”

Major Albert Smith, the QM and Coldstream Guards, who had been watching the earlier drill and was now trying to “acquire” 200 metres of rail track on which to mount moving targets for gunnery practice for the ZNA's Chinese derivative of the Soviet B.10 anti-tank gun, said: “I enjoy it out here. It's rewarding. You do get that great sense of achievement.”



Brigadier Edward Jones.

Out on the small arms range, WO 2 (QMSI) Willie Hornal, of The Small Arms School Corps, scratched his recently crewcut head and said of his students: “I feel perhaps the training is a bit too quick for them — 14 weeks to assimilate the FN, the American G-3 and the Soviet AK-47 assault rifles plus the Uzi and MAG sub-machine guns.”

Another British Loan Service instructor was WO 2 Dave Reah, The Light Infantry, who was tutoring in the use of the long-barrelled 81mm mortar mounted on the back of a truck.

“I'm teaching them efficient mortar standards and they seem to have some aptitude for it,” he adjudicated. “Loan Service is valuable. I applied for Swaziland, originally.”

Sitting under the shade of a tree near the small arms ranges with his clutch of students, 22-year-service man, WO 2 Keith Kent, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, was putting them through a map reading test. He also teaches them infantry tactics such as weapon handling, anti-ambush drills, fieldcraft and patrolling.

“The ZNA soldier is thirsty for knowledge and what he lacks in experience he makes up for in willingness,” said Keith, a veteran of Loan Service engagements in the Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

“In Loan Service,” he said, “you have to be 100 per cent committed. Sergeant Major Keith Kent — subject: map reading.”



Captain Chris Higgs teaching section attacks.

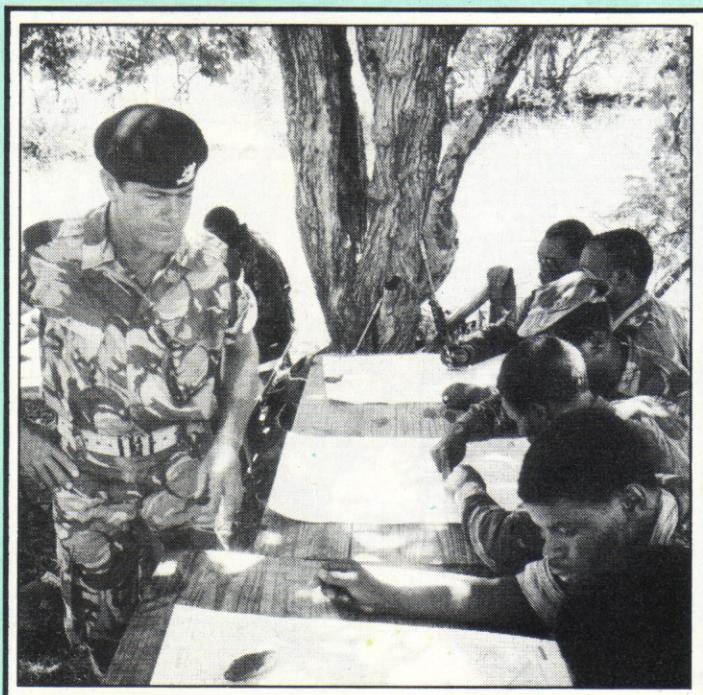
And while I think the money would certainly be an attractive side of LS it should not be the sole reason for volunteering. You have to be prepared to be flexible. You've just got to be able to accept and adapt to changing situations.”

And that is what WO 2 Tony Jones, The Royal Welch Fusiliers did. He is an instructor on the Chinese-built derivative of the Soviet B.10 anti-tank gun.

Lt-Col Alan Thompson, Nyanga Camp's Deputy Commandant, Chief Instructor and former CO of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, said: “There is tremendous enthusiasm both by the BMATT members and the students and, of course, there is still a lot for them to learn with us. We have a tremendous representation of British infantry here to help achieve that.”

Lt-Col Colin Moyo, the ZNA Commandant of the camp, told me: “There has been some tremendous improvement in the training, especially experience for 32 Infantry Battalion when they came here. Their shooting was not very good but after six weeks of Phase One training — they do three phases — it improved. Another weakness had been that the section commanders had no previous training. This was also improved. They needed to build confidence along with experience. They were given a five-week course.”

“As far as I am concerned and from what I have seen, I feel that the service provided by the British Loan Service team should be continued. What they have done is to standardise the different former styles of our training from various parts of the world. Your instructors are fair and firm and they try, by all means, to impart all the knowledge they have and they work very hard doing it.”



IN HARARE, it has been estimated that perhaps up to two-thirds of those under training by the British are former freedom fighters and one of the spartan training camps at Nyanga, 267 kilometres and over two hours drive from Harare is just a few miles from where Zanla forces and the Rhodesian Army were in conflict during the 13-year civil war.

Loan Service personnel representing 30 cap badges, plus one WRAC personal assistant to the BMATT commander and five Royal Marines have the responsibility for training assistance to the new Army in basic infantry skills and the setting up of a Staff College. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by the country's Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe, who is also the Defence Minister.

He is on record as saying: "What is obvious to me is that the teachings of the British Military Advisory and Training Team, assisted by our own ZNA selected instructors, have been put over in a most competent manner. There is, I am sure, a rapport between them and you and this has contributed greatly to the excellent results and augurs well for the future for those many thousands who will follow you."

Mr Mugabe who was addressing men of 32 Infantry Battalion at the Battalion Battle School, went on: "With the creation of this Battle School and the subsequent training, our British friends have, once again, amply demonstrated their depth of understanding of the problems we face, and the sheer professionalism in transferring their technical skills is highly commendable. We, of course, have seen it before and can only congratulate them on their dedicated consistency whenever we seek their guidance and assistance.

"They have a complete grasp of all the multiplicity of complicated procedures of modern warfare, organisation and administration and are past masters in the various skills required of individual officers

Sergeant Major Tony Jones: anti-tank skills.

The British instructors 'Past masters in various skills'

and soldiers.

"What is highly important is that they are up-to-date in all aspects, which means our troops will benefit enormously from their tuition in the martial arts."

The British HQ element of eleven Loan Service personnel is located in the King George VI Barracks in Harare and is headed by Brigadier Edward Jones, Commander BMATT. In all, there are 60 Loan Service personnel serving in Zimbabwe.

He told me: "A nucleus of about two dozen people stayed behind from the Commonwealth Monitoring Force to set up BMATT which celebrates its fourth birthday this month. It now has a strength of 60 but was 120 in mid-1983.

"Historically, the development of the ZNA has been divided into three phases. The first involved the integration of the Army into one after the liberation struggle.

"The strength of the Army was once 60,000; now it is estimated to number about 41,500. The second phase involved the setting up of a central training school through which 1,200 officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs have passed, returning to their units and passing on their acquired expertise. Under Phase Three we are now training complete units at the Nyanga Battle School."

At Nyanga, in the Eastern Highlands, a complete battalion, 32 Infantry Battalion, had passed through and by the time SOLDIER went to press, a second, 42 Infantry Battalion, would have passed through, too.

On Loan Service, the Commander said: "I believe Loan Service provides individuals with

opportunities to do things they will never get to do in any other routine postings of military life. In the old days, one joined the Army to see the world and that world has become a much smaller place so far as the British Army is concerned.

"Zimbabwe, for instance, has unrivalled opportunities and there is scope to pursue any interest you may have and I'm not just talking about travelling and the touristic scene. It has a most beautiful climate in a magnificent country with an extremely friendly and hospitable people.

"From the work point of view, it presents challenges and situations the individual would never expect to come up against in the run of normal military life. They get responsibility earlier than they would expect in the mainstream of Army life. Younger men are put into jobs that will stretch them, giving them that greater responsibility.

"I think there has been a consistency about the service we have provided in the training field and the integrity of the advice that has been offered by BMATT to the Zimbabwe government and to the ZNA at all levels which has strengthened the credibility of BMATT in this country.

"I think they also trust us and accept what we have to say. They may not have always put into practice what we have had to say for, in certain cases, it may not apply or there may have been factors of which we are not aware.

"I think we are fortunate to occupy such a position out here and it is something we value."

Chief Clerk, WO 2 Jimmy

Christie, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders said of Loan Service: "It's fantastic really. I'm very happy doing it. The money is exceptional. I reckon I would lose one third net on my earnings if I was living back in the UK. My only complaint is that it's very hard to get good books out here but the Forces Post Office helps a lot."

Major John Keep, Royal Anglian, DAA and QMG, at HQ BMATT, said of Loan Service: "It certainly gives an experience you never get shuffling between Northern Ireland and BAOR. There is still a feeling that Loan Service is slightly disreputable. The information is not always passed on to soldiers by their COs or by a lack of communication.

"I think the important thing is not to send out mediocre people to Loan Service because there is too much at stake. I think there has been a reluctance on the part of some COs to let their better officers and senior NCOs go because they have to plug a gap.

"My own feeling is that you have to look at it in the long term. While it may be inconvenient for a CO to lose a young captain to Loan Service he will certainly come back to his unit a better captain."

"On Loan Service terms I think you are much more stimulated by the country and its culture. For the younger persons they may well be operating a rank above their substantive grades. One of the disadvantages is going back to the UK or wherever and a mundane job when they suddenly become disenchanted with their lot. They feel it is too strong a contrast returning to their unit.

"On the other hand, there are those who have led a close, monastic military life and suddenly the lid of Loan Service is opened to them to reveal a Pandora's Box of new experience. The military challenge is there and that broader experience improves the man, not just the soldier, in outlook and interests."

Another strong supporter of the Loan Service scheme is HQ BMATT's Lt-Col Alan Hooper, Royal Marines and the all-Brit unit's Chief of Staff who said: "Mine is a fantastic job because I am very much co-ordinating BMATT policy and our rapport with the Zimbabwe National Army is a particularly good one and I find that one is able to get to the heart of the problem really quickly."

Colonel Hooper's remit is not just for the ten-strong HQ staff but for ten more at the emerging Staff College in Harare, four personnel at the Gweru ZNA, a handful of support staff elsewhere and 30 Loan Service personnel forming the Battalion Battle School (BBS) and Battalion Group Commanders (BGC) Courses.



21 TITLES TO HIS NAME — AND MORE TO COME!

John Walton talks to Edgar O'Ballance

WHILE HE was serving as an Army officer Edgar O'Ballance noticed that while he found it easy to write reports his fellow officers seemed to have trouble. "My colleagues seemed to be biting their pens and I could almost hear the grunts of pain" recalls the former major.

It was this realisation that led to a career in writing with the publication of 21 books and a worldwide reputation as an authority on the wars of the past 30 years.

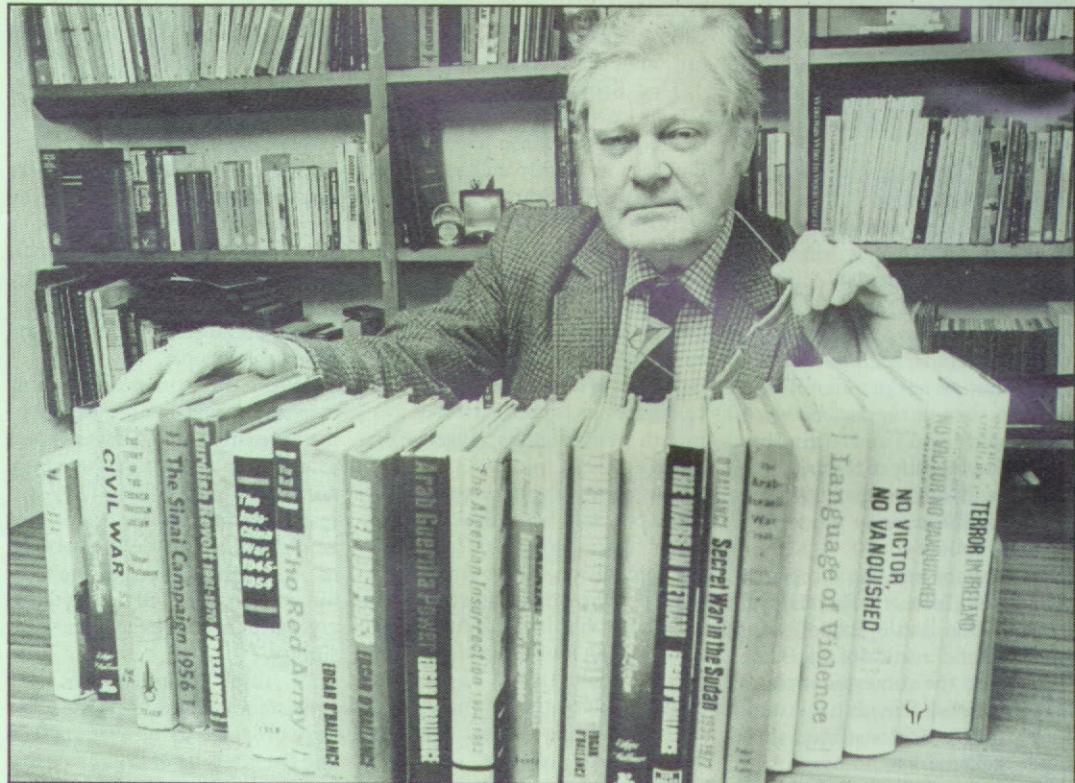
Major O'Ballance now lives in retirement in a particularly nice section of D H Lawrence country near Matlock. In his restored stone built cottage he continues to hammer out articles on defence subjects for publications in many parts of the world.

It's all a far cry from a half century ago when the young Edgar continued a family tradition by entering the Army. During the war he served in France, Africa and the Middle East then went to India, where he was to remain until independence in 1947.

After the war he was seconded to the Indian Army and spent two years in a logistics job as a colonel, but when independence arrived he found himself posted to Palestine with the Lincolnshire Regiment and an uncertain future.

"There were 35 Lieutenant-Colonels in my regiment and I was only 26. So on age I would only be a captain. We all expected the temporary ranks to go and any moment I would be back to captain — having already been a colonel and a major.

"We had to go out on parade one day and I thought 'this is where I came in'. I thought there was 20 years ahead as captain of the week



pedalling around Aldershot.”

Offered a job by an American news agency he was soon in the thick of the Greek Civil War. Later he reported on an insurrection in the Philippines and was one of the first journalists ashore in the Korean War.

In China he covered the last days of Chiang Kai-Shek as the Communists steadily took control of the country from the Kuomintang. In fact it was the Communists who unwittingly rescued him from bandits.

Travelling in a vehicle with other pressmen he was captured by the group, who shot their driver and held the journalists hostage. "We woke up one morning and they had gone. We did not know then that the Communists were just over the hill. We siphoned some juice out of some trucks the bandits had left behind and went back the way we had come."

In 1954 his first book appeared — on the Arab/Israeli war of 1948 and as luck would have it he was in Israel both during the 1956 war and the Six Day War (the latter while on holiday!).

"As a journalist I used to produce 2000 words on anything."

Edgar O'Ballance behind his books — with more in mind.

Photo: courtesy Derbyshire Times

It wasn't just wars — I had my share of boredom. It just happened that there were a lot of wars to cover — especially in the Middle East."

In 1962 he joined Army Public Relations and claims to have written the first manual of public relations. "You will meet a lot of people who will tell you that but I wrote the first draft."

He spent 16 years with the Ministry, during which time he produced several more books. Then he discovered his retirement home — a tumbledown cottage which had at one time been a public house for leadminers.

Carefully modernised the cottage is the ideal retreat for the creative writer and he plans to convert the adjoining former stables into a study.

One always imagines that a specialist writer like Major O'Balance must have a vast library of cuttings — but he gives personal contacts higher priority.

"One meets kindred spirits and

accumulates acquaintanceships although I do keep some press cuttings. The other stuff is my interpretation of the facts. I never read a leader in a newspaper because I don't want anybody else's opinion. All I want are the facts and then I make my own deductions.

"I don't know how I do it. How do you become a First Division footballer or an artist? It's seeing the scenario and assuming how things will go. It's like playing a game of chess. I often get a view which is contrary to the popular one."

Today he still writes a lot and he also gives lectures and takes part in seminars — not only in this country but in the United States and the Middle East. Books he finds are not as profitable as they once were: "In the early days it sent my two boys to school but now you could not live on it even by producing one book a year."

Despite the lesser financial incentive Edgar O'Ballance intends to return to the book field — courtesy of the Ayatollah and the Druze among others. "I want to write books about the Lebanon and the Gulf War but I have to wait for them to finish."

AT 97 years of age, General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall is almost certainly Britain's oldest surviving General. His remarkably varied career since being commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1907 has given him a wealth of experiences.

It provides a unique background for an autobiography that will be appreciated by anyone interested in military history and 'those for whom history turns into experience at the time the Second World war starts', as the jacket blurb puts it.

Through his long and remarkable career the author has met most of the famous and powerful people of the 20th century (Hitler being a notable exception).

For instance, he relates how Arthur James Balfour, at the time Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, explained to him the Theory of Relativity, '... in such clear and lucid terms that I felt I had grasped it perfectly. On the following day, however, I was disappointed to find that, on attempting to explain the theory to someone else, the crystal-clear vision which I had gained had already faded from my unscientific mind. It was most humiliating'.

The General is a natural linguist; time and again through the book we learn of his prowess which gained him awards of language qualifications and grants from the Army: French, German, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Turkish, and others.

This remarkable facility led to many intelligence and semi-diplomatic appointments, including that of Military Attaché in Berlin between 1928 and 1932.

We are treated to a number of intriguing glimpses of how the 'other half' lived; for instance, 'I

97-YEARS-OLD ... AND WRITING FIT!



Meeting on London — though they may have faced each other on the Western Front over 70 years ago! General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall, left, with fellow-author and World War I German gunner Herbert Sulzbach. The General is 97, his old rival a mere 90!

Picture: Janice Evans

thought it probable that my next job would be in India, ... so I decided to take my wife out on a private visit, to see the sub-continent and learn how to handle native servants'.

Recollections of the First World War, during which the author served in several intelligence capacities, are particularly interesting. We read of the truth behind the *Kadaver-Verwertungs-Anstalt* (Carcass Processing Depots) rumours that gave rise to some distasteful propaganda.

These came about because of misunderstandings of the German language by an over-zealous Chief Intelligence Staff Officer, Brigadier

General John Charteris.

The author does not hesitate to wield a critical pen. The somewhat dubious facets of Winston Churchill come in for particular attention.

As First Lord of the Admiralty, Churchill was visiting 3rd Division's command post at Scherpenberg in October 1914, his car being met at the bottom of the hill by the author; '... he asked me the name of my Divisional Commander. When I told him it was General Aylmer Haldane, he stopped abruptly and returned to his car, saying that his time was too short to visit our headquarters. Churchill had been a fellow

prisoner of war in the Boer prison camp at Pretoria in November-December 1899, with Haldane, Le Mesurier and Brockie, when all four of them escaped, but Churchill got away a month before the others in circumstances not entirely creditable to the future Prime Minister'.

Montgomery's abilities as a commander are given summary assessment, which will appall some readers but will be applauded by others: 'His tactless behaviour hardly improved relations with our American allies. In my opinion his performances in North Africa and North-West Europe fell short of military genius'.

This is a highly readable book, apart perhaps from the final chapter which gives the impression of having been put together directly from several unedited and rather disconnected after dinner tape recordings. It has humour; for instance, in the author's early career years *King's Regulations for the Dress of the Army* stipulated that 'hair on the upper lip will not be shaved'. He tells of one subaltern in his Field Artillery Brigade whose moustache would only grow in patches, and who had to seek the Colonel's permission to shave completely 'owing to deformity'. — BJ

Wars and Rumours of Wars: A Memoir by James Marshall-Cornwall, Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, £12.95.

Memories of Australian specialists

WORLD WAR 2

D. C. HORTON's "Ring of Fire" tells for the first time, of clandestine operations launched from Australia on the Japanese islands to the north during World War Two.

As a member of the Special Forces with which this book is concerned Dick Horton writes from first hand of the magnificent but unsung actions in which some 700 men of the 2/2nd and 2/4th Australian Independent Companies held down over 30,000 soldiers of the 48th and 5th Japanese divisions on Timor for vital months during which the fortunes of the Allies were at their lowest ebb.

The inside story of the planning and preparations leading up to a raid on Singapore harbour by a mere handful of men who fixed limpet mines to blow up Jap shipping makes riveting reading. A special tribute is paid to the work in this undertaking of HMAS Krait, named after a deadly Indian snake. She was a humble maid-of-all-work

craft only 70 feet long with a speed of 6½ knots but she played a vital part in the Singapore raid, and now after thousands of miles of war-time duty at sea she is still afloat — in Sydney harbour where she is used as a sea rescue training ship.

The revolt in Borneo contrived by another small group of specialists, mostly Australians, which resulted in a country-wide uprising to coincide with the Allied invasion and many other stories of guerilla operations behind the Japanese lines from the Philippines to Sumatra all contribute to making this an exciting and enjoyable book written in an essentially personal style.

JFP

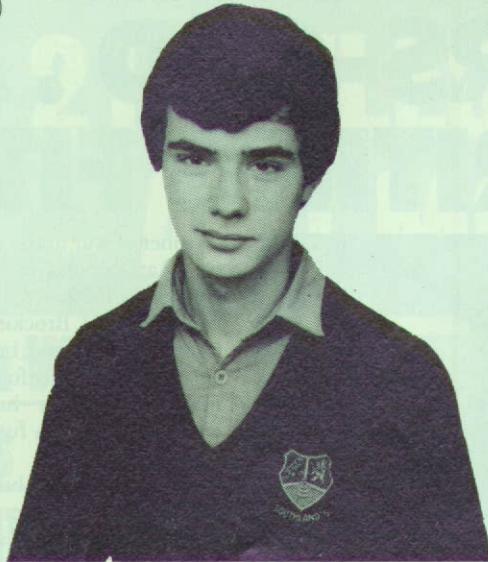
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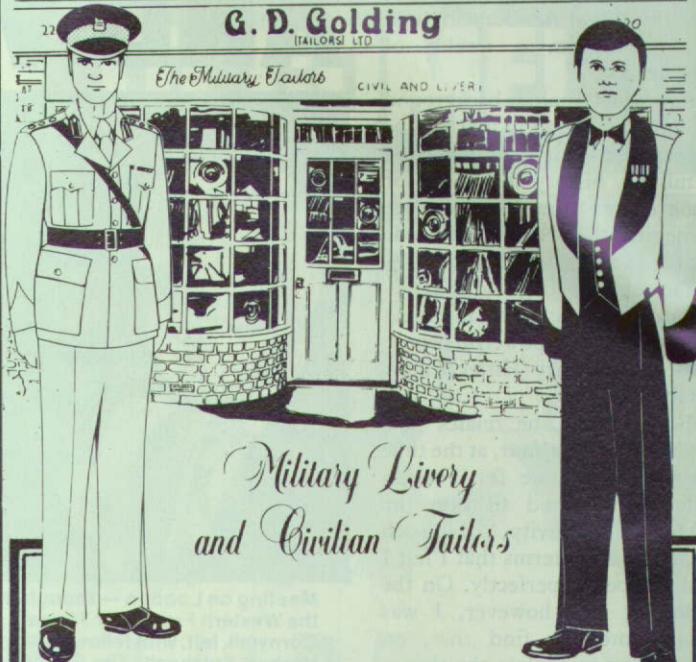
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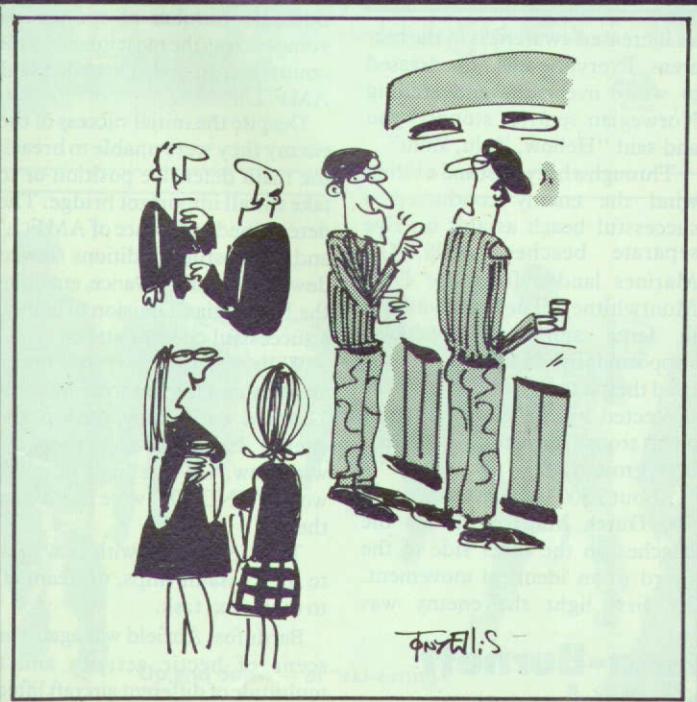
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“... and we'd just got to the point where the priest said 'Do you, Algernon Reginald Carbey, take this woman ...?'”



“What's more interesting? My news or something written by strangers?”



“Forget it! They're single. OK? But they're drinking doubles”.



“Let's eat, Sylvia. I'm going to just have an omelette. What are you going to just have?”

Humour



“You certainly have a way with words, Mr Hepworth.”



AVALANCHE EXPRESS



DOES the thought of living in a tent, in the snowy wastes, 400 miles inside the Arctic Circle fill you with horror? Well, 1500 British troops have been doing it for close on three weeks during Exercise Avalanche Express manœuvres conducted in Northern Norway, exercising NATO's Northern options, and using the Allied Mobile Force Land.

The Force, supplied by eight nations, totals 5000 troops.

During eight weeks of build-up training in Voss in Southern Norway, the British contingent learnt one most important lesson: that it is essential to keep dry, or if you do get wet, then to change into dry clothes immediately.

With temperatures below zero and often as low as -15° at night, wet clothing is a quick and sure way to catch exposure and die.

The contingent moved north by air and sea with 50 Movement Control Squadron RCT, responsible for the movement control. They looked after some 270 flights over a six day period, dealing with a flight every 15 minutes.

The majority of the Force flew into the barren, icy, and windswept airfield at Bardufoss, before collecting their vehicles which had arrived by sea, courtesy of Danish Seaways. The Force then deployed to unit base areas where they carried

Stay dry or DIE!

out familiarisation training and deterrent patrolling.

Canadian gunners fired British light guns and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers fired Norwegian AG3 Assault Rifles.

The Deterrent operations Phase involved high profile patrolling. The white and green scimitars of 'C' Squadron The 16th/5th Lancers with their little Union flags and Regimental pennants fluttering from their antennae patrolled snow covered roads and hills.

A Company of paratroopers from the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment patrolled the timber built villages and towns, attracting the usual collection of children on their way to school.

Deterrent operations ended with the move to battle positions, and

an increased awareness in the rear areas. Everyone was now dressed in white over-suits and smiling Norwegian sentries stopped you and said "Hellow, Zulu, Zulu".

Through a hazy mist and a biting wind the enemy conducted a successful beach assault on five separate beaches. 4500 US Marines landed from the USS Montwhitney. They came ashore in large amphibious vehicles supported by M60 tanks. They used their latest CH 53 helicopters protected by the new Cobras to airlift troops forward to secure the high ground.

About 2500 Royal Marines and 900 Dutch Marines hit the the beaches on the other side of the fjord in an identical movement. By first light the enemy was

Ski patrol of 1st Bn The Parachute Regiment.

established and ready to advance.

The Combat phase had started. AMF(L) was now incorporated into the Norwegian 6 Division.

The Division was largely comprised of reservists who had been mobilised and moved North. The "enemy" pushed on relentlessly, down the narrow snow covered roads. The Royal Marines conducted a number of spectacular yomps across the most inhospitable country in an attempt to outflank AMF(L).

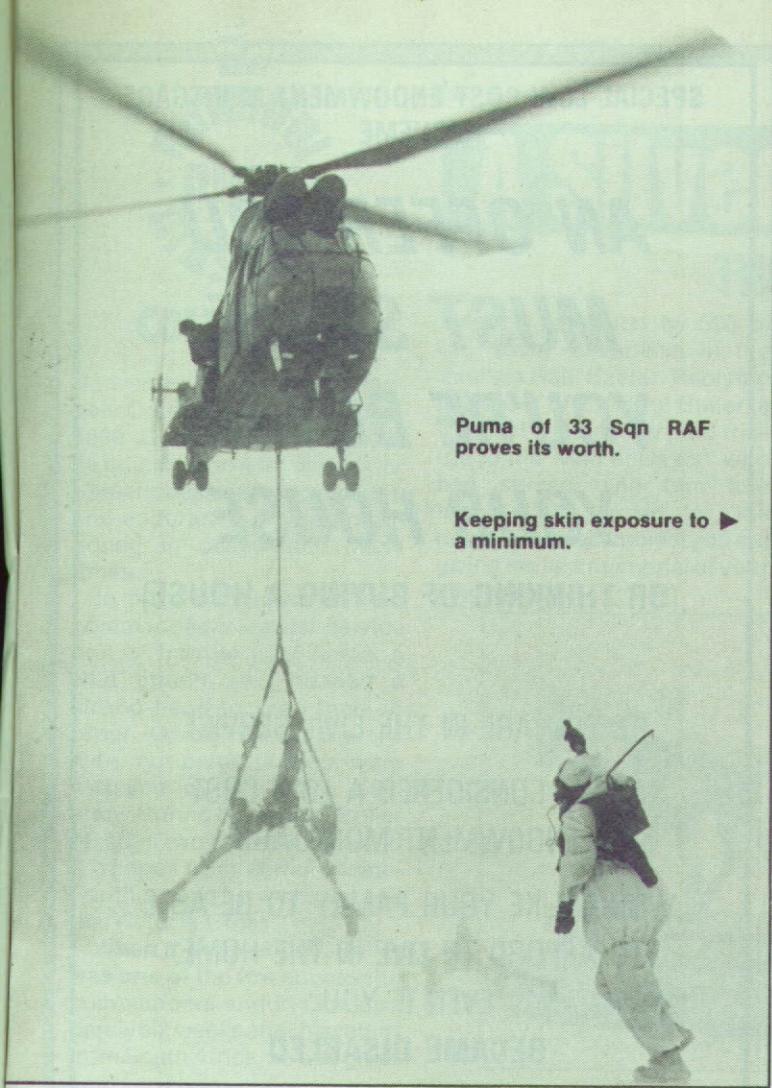
Despite the initial success of the enemy they were unable to breach the main defensive position or to take the all important bridge. The determined resistance of AMF(L) and the hostile conditions slowed down the enemy advance, enabling the Norwegian Division to launch a successful counter attack.

With the support of heavy artillery and the firepower of their Leopard tanks they pushed the enemy back, forcing them to withdraw. On this high note the words "END EX" were heard over the air.

The US Marines withdrew back to their assault ships, to steam off to their next task.

Bardufoss Airfield was again the scene of hectic activity and a multitude of different aircraft lifted troops out.

**Story: Carl Larsen-Burnett
Pictures: Phil Cadman**



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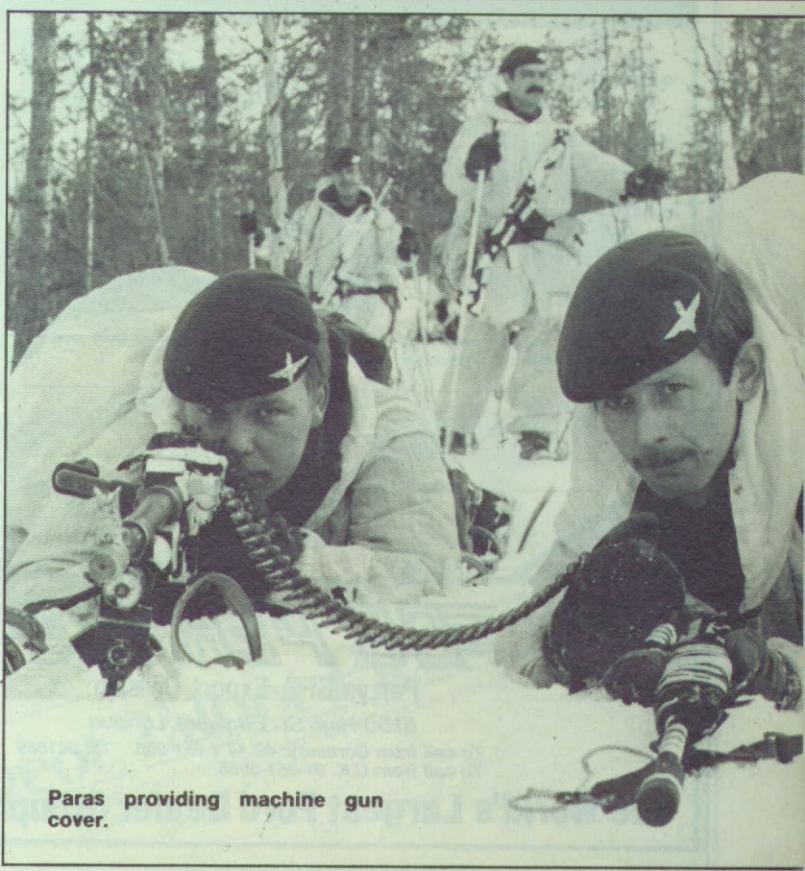
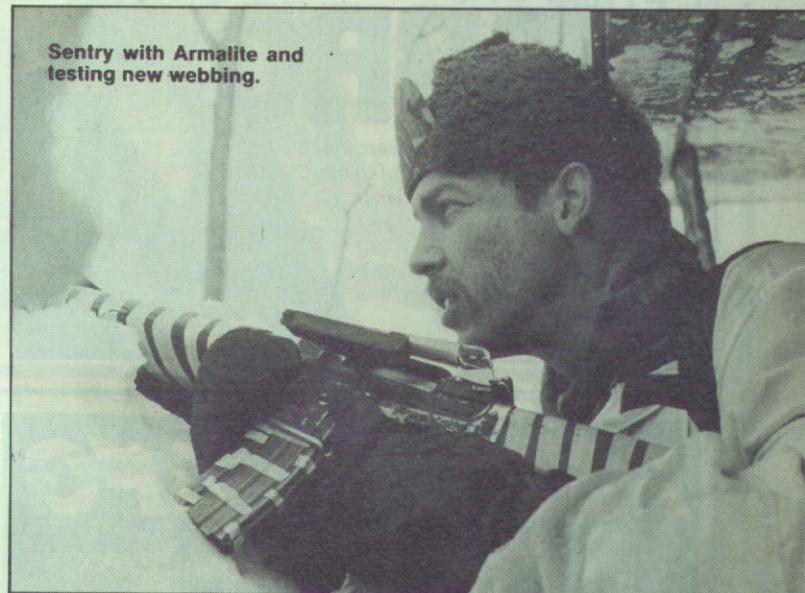
Norwegian patrol pass 16th/5th Lancers recce.



Up and down — or "ski-orring".



Sentry with Armalite and testing new webbing.



Paras providing machine gun cover.

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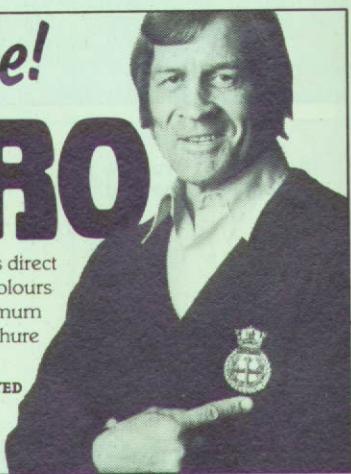
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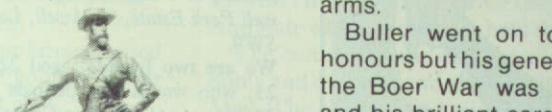
A Silver 'Son of Devon'— THE BULLER CENTREPIECE

Redvers Henry Buller was born near Crediton, Devon on 7 Dec 1839. Commissioned in 1858, he quickly won a reputation for tremendous courage, strength and endurance. He was mentioned in despatches many times.

In the Zulu war of 1879 he commanded a special-service unit of frontier light horse, a wild bunch who needed a strong hand to keep them in order. On 28 March, Buller's men, out cattle-raiding, were attacked by an entire Zulu army. During the retreat, Buller rescued two of his officers and a trooper from certain death. For this deed he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

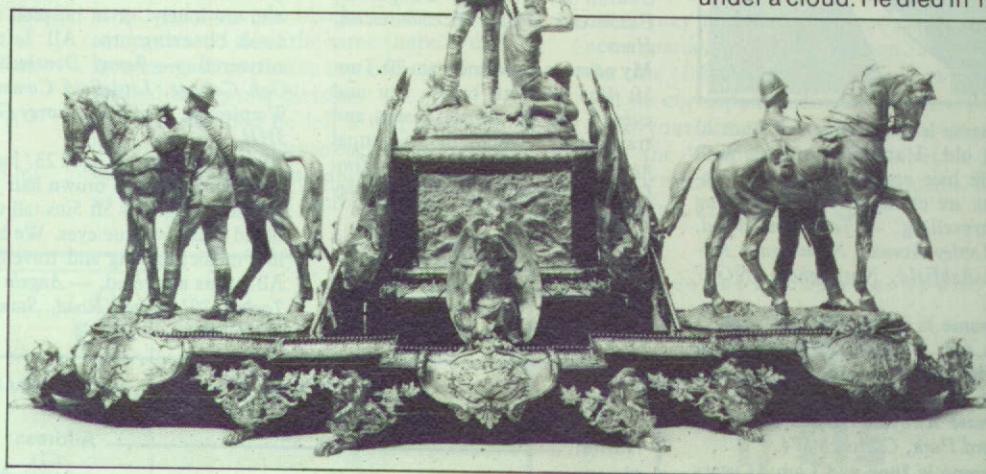
When the war ended, Buller was one of the few successful commanders and in October, barely six weeks after his return from South Africa, he was given

This was a massive silver centrepiece, (then unfinished), by Smith of Covent Garden. Nearly four foot long and two foot high, it features Buller in



campaign dress with an African attendant at his feet, flanked by two of his frontiersmen, plus horses, and decorated with battle trophies and the Buller arms.

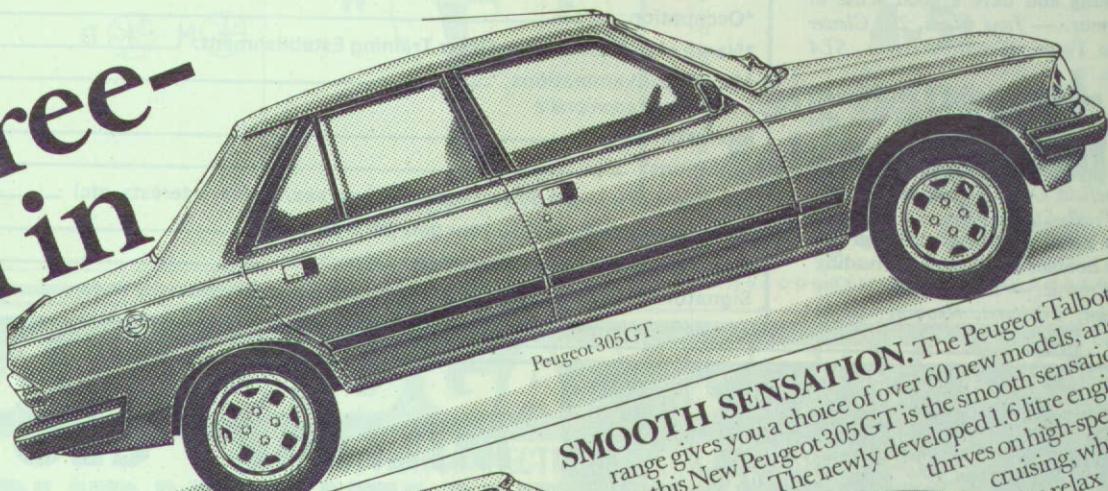
Buller went on to greater honours but his generalship in the Boer War was criticised and his brilliant career ended under a cloud. He died in 1908.



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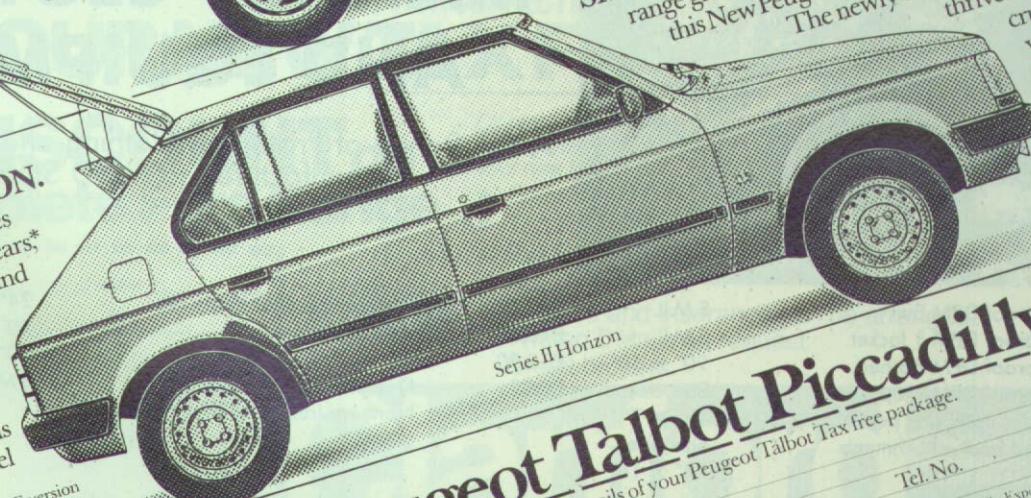
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PEN PALS WANTED



My name is Jacqueline and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My interests are children, sports, cooking and travelling. — Jacqueline Wood, 10 Mattley Avenue, Nuncargate, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, NG17 9EJ.

My name is Margaret and I am 32 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blonde hair. I enjoy most sports, travel, driving and being active. — Margaret Kirby, 76 Whellock Road, Bedford Park, Chiswick W4.

My name is June and I am 33 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. I like reading, writing, cooking and have a good sense of humour. — June Clark, 28a Clewer New Town, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3Qe.

My name is Eve and I am 34 years old. I have brown hair and eyes and my interests are reading, swimming and horse-riding. — Eve Ford, 9/9B Masefield Cres, Horningslow, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

My name is Vivien and I am 21. My hobbies are swimming, reading and music. — Vivien Dyke, 74 City Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 5SB.

My name is Zoe and I am 23. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies include socialising, reading and going to the cinema, and I used to be in the WRAC. — Zoe Dean, 15 Stratford Close, Toothill, Swindon, Wilts.

My name is Wendy and I am 28. I enjoy reading, writing, music, cooking and drawing. — Wendy Downes, Flat 1, 7 Lodge Croft, Northfield, Birmingham B31 1JH.

My name is Michelle and I would like to write to anyone abroad. I enjoy writing, music, dancing and making new friends. — Michelle Brown, 81 Fitzgerald House, Stockwell Park Estate, Stockwell, London SW9.

We are two friends, aged 22 and 23, who would like penpals aged 22-29 years old. — Lin Croxon and Sharon Brown, The Bungalow, Batchworth Heath, Rickmansworth, Herts.

My name is Gina and I am 20. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. I like 60s music, discos and travelling. I would like a penpal aged 20-25 years old. — Gina Gibbs, 16 Morris Crescent, Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 3ED.

My name is Cheryl and I am 26. I would like penpals aged 26-30 years old. All letters answered. Photo is possible. — Cheryl Farrar, 7 High St, Upton, Gainsborough, Lincs.

Again we ask readers seeking pen pals to note that in future their requests will only be accepted if they have completed the printed form below.

It is necessary to introduce this new system to help our staff cope with increasing numbers of requests. Those already in stock will be published but anyone writing in from now on will be asked to resubmit details on this form. Only completed forms from the magazine will be accepted (no photocopies please). The form will be published frequently and as regularly as space will allow.

There is still a backlog of letters which will steadily reduce over the coming months. So, if your letter has not yet appeared, take heart... it will eventually!

My name is Christine and I am 38. I am 4ft 10ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are reading, going to the theatre and music.

— Christine Reeves, 7 Lappath House, 1 Della Drive, Bartley Green, Birmingham 2.

My name is Jenny and I would like to write to soldiers in the Falklands who are lonely, or in hospital and need cheering up. All letters answered. — Jenny Donthwaite, Oak Cottage, Littlefield Common, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HH.

We are two friends aged 23. Jackie is 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and eyes and Angela is 5ft 5ins tall with blond hair and blue eyes. We both like music, driving and travelling. All letters answered. — Angela and Jackie, 201 Wigan Road, Standish WN6 0AE.

My name is Sarah and I am 19. I am 5ft 8ins tall with amber hair and blue eyes and I am an art student. — Sarah, Room 105, Thanet Hall, Kent Halls of Residence, 13 Wanstead Road, Bromley, Kent.

My name is Louise and I am 17. I love swimming, hockey and reading. — Louise Farmer, 134 Dunchurch Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 6DR.

My name is Sally and I am 22. I am a hairdresser and like ice-skating and animals. — Sally Piper, 6 Hall Road, East Ham, London E6 2NQ.

My name is Denise and I am 28. I am 5ft 1ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are horse-riding, swimming and walking. I would like a penpal aged 28-35. Photo if possible. — Denise Carter, 32 George St., Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2EG.

REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN-PALS

Name: _____	Address: _____
Status: _____	Telephone number: _____
Age: _____	(not for publication)
*Occupation: _____	
*Name of School/College/Other Training Establishment: _____	
*Subjects/Examinations: _____ complete as appropriate	
Interests/Hobbies: _____	
Aimensions: _____	
What sort of pen-pal do you seek? (ie, age, sex, status, interests, etc) _____	
Any preference for where your pen-pal is serving? _____	
Photo required/not required delete as appropriate _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____



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EIGHT TREES AND A PIECE OF LAND

FARMER Oatsheaf had a square piece of land measuring exactly 400 metres by 400 metres. On this square piece of land he planted eight young sycamores (as shown in the scale diagram below).

The distances of the saplings from the external boundaries are:

From WEST boundary: A = 75 m; B = 175 m; C = 75 m; D = 125 m.

From SOUTH boundary: A = 350 m; B = 225 m; C = 125 m; D = 25 m.

From EAST boundary: E = 25 m; F = 75 m; G = 100 m; H = 25 m.

From NORTH boundary: E = 25 m; F = 150 m; G = 225 m; H = 225 m.

Under one of the saplings the farmer buried a very substantial treasure of gold and silver coins; also a pair of rare gold cups.

On a plan the farmer made he separated the large field into eight smaller fields — all of the same size and all of the same shape. Further, he arranged his plan so that only one tree was located in any one division.

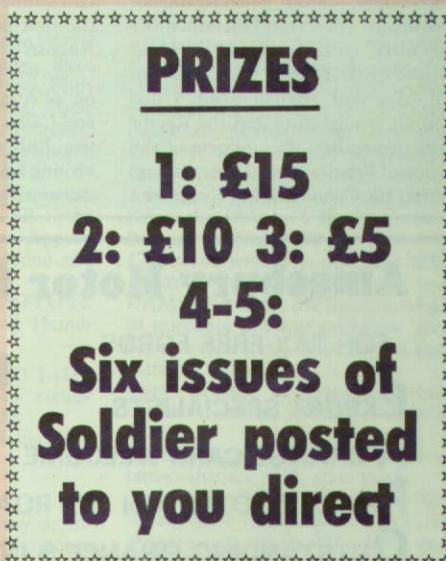
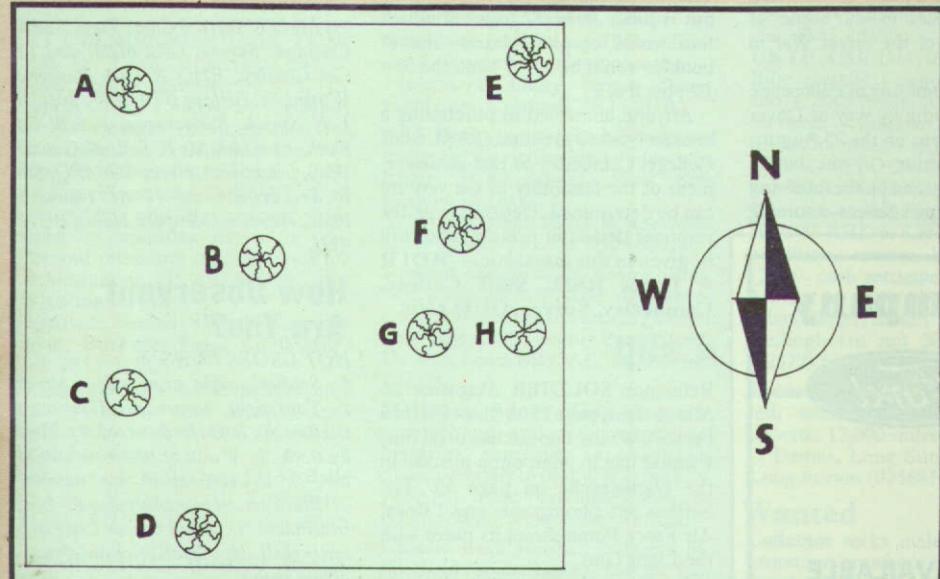
When he died he left a will bequeathing one of the eight pieces to each of his eight sons who were to divide the land according to plan so that each piece of land contained one tree

only. One of these trees was further from any boundary — external or internal — than any of the others. This tree guarded the treasure.

Lots were drawn in turn as shown: WILLIAM — tree C; ARTHUR — tree F; GEORGE — tree H; THOMAS — tree A; PETER — tree B; JOHN — tree G; HENRY — tree E; CHARLES — tree D.

All you have to do is give the name of the son who won the treasure and draw a sketch map showing how the land was divided into eight pieces all of the same size and shape and all with one tree and one tree only. Oh, yes! And state which of the trees held the treasure.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 25 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 4 June. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 337' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence can be entered into. Send your answers in by letter or postcard with the 'Competition 337' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.



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Pleasure

It gave me very great pleasure to read in SOLDIER that Canon W Lummis, MC, a wonderful gentleman, is still alive and apparently very active and well at the good old age of 97.

When he was the Rector of Kesgrave I lived in the adjoining parish of Martlesham, Suffolk. Then we did not have much contact but I do remember one early morning in 1940 being stopped by the LDV at the junction of Bell Lane and Foxhall Road. I had been on special duty and the Rector (then) recognised the uniform of the Legion of Frontiersmen I was wearing. After the Canon had left Kesgrave I

transferred to the Kesgrave branch of the Royal British Legion and I was for many years the Secretary of the Service Committee. This is where I found the very high regard, esteem and affection that was held for him especially among ex-Servicemen.

One other connection you mention: his award of the MC during the fighting at Courcelles le Canpte on 21 August 1918.

On this very day and place an uncle of mine was killed — Private Charles Ives, Royal Fusiliers. Shortly after the Armistice I was able to visit his grave and took a small splinter of wood from the wooden cross.

This I still have but was able to show it to his mother and father (my grandparents) and to my father (his brother) before they passed on.

I have not got the Canon's address so perhaps you will be good enough to pass on my very great respects and wishes to a very wonderful gentleman.

— L J Ives, Farm View, St Mary's Road, Aingers Green, Gt Bentley, Colchester, Essex, CO7 8NL.

Last time . . .

I shall be taking a party of surviving Old Contemptibles' to tour scenes of the first battles of the Great War in August.

We will be assembling in Folkestone on 22 August going by way of Dover and Calais to Mons on the 23 August, the 70th anniversary of the battle, visiting Le Cateau and on the following day touring the Ypres Salient, returning

to England on the afternoon of the 25th.

The cost of this including all meals, transport, insurance, will be £115 per person.

I would be most grateful for donations towards the raising of sufficient money to be able to subsidise those Chums or widows who would like to go but do not have sufficient funds.

Any cheques or Postal Orders should be made out to 'Folkstone Old Contemptibles' Flanders Fund' and sent to me at the above address, all will be acknowledged.

I would be most grateful if anyone who reads this and who knows of an Old Contemptible or if not a member of the Old Contemptibles' a holder of the Mons Star and Clasp, would inform me of their names and addresses so that I can write to them direct. — G M S Sprake, Patron and Acting Secretary, 42 Wear Bay Crescent, Folkestone, Kent.

Booklet

It is proposed producing a booklet about the Staff College, Camberley. The final design has yet to be finalised but is likely to be 12 pages of which four would be photographs. Size of booklet would be 9" x 7" and the cost £2 plus P & P.

Anyone interested in purchasing a booklet is asked to contact RSM, Staff College, Camberley so that an assessment of the feasibility of the venture can be determined. Depending on the response details of printing date will be given in this magazine. — WO1 R A James RSM, Staff College, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NP.

A slip

Reference SOLDIER Magazine 26 March issue, page 35 'A Show Fit for a Prince'. Whilst I do not like to do this, I would like to point out a mistake in the photographs on page 35. The bottom left photograph says "Royal Air Force Puma shows its paces with the Light Gun."

I rather suspect that upon closer examination of the shape of the helicopter you could undoubtedly be unable to miss the unmistakeable 'boat shape' hull that the Sea King has. — Roy Burley, 51 Necropolis Road, Bradford, W Yorks.

Apologies, it was a Sea King. — Ed.

Reunions

Hong Kong, Singapore Assoc (RA), Ceylon Artillery Assoc, Pack Artillery Assoc, and REME/AER OCA Combined reunion 14 September 1984, King's Arms, 222 Seaside, Eastbourne. Details from: D A Knight (Hon Sec), 7 Jutland House, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ. (01-854 7376).

Royal Berkshire Regiment, Home Guard Battalions, 1940-46, 1952-55. Would any ex-members of the above please contact me in view of a possible reunion in either Windsor or Reading. — Harry L S Plunkett, 93 Springbank, Lakenham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2LH.

Eighth Army Veterans Association are organising an eight-day visit to Egypt, leaving London 7 September 1984 and returning to London 14 September 1984. Full details from

General Secretary A Lewis, 7 Whinfell Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.

Royal Pioneer Corps annual Old Comrades reunion 14 July 1984. Details from General Secretary, R.P.C. Association, 51 St George's Drive, Westminster, London, SW1V 4DE.

Competition

Our Competition 336 (27 February) didn't attract many entries. Was this because the Photo Picture Puzzle was too easy? Or too difficult?

The answers:

Picture No 1. (Viscount Wolseley). 1

— He did serve in the Indian Mutiny. 2 — Gilbert used him as "prototype" for his Modern Major General in Pirates of Penzance. 3 — He didn't serve in World War I. He died in 1913.

Picture No 2. (Marshal Trenchard).

1 — He was made a Viscount. 2 — He established Hendon Police College and was Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. 3 — His statue does not stand in Parliament Square, London but is on the Embankment.

Picture No 3. 1 — The memorial commemorates the Royal Regiment of Artillery. 2 — The inscription reads "Here was a royal FELLOWSHIP of death". 3 — The Memorial stands on Constitution Hill.

Prizewinners:

1st Mr H K Juffs, 8 Copse View, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8HH. 2nd Lt Col Charley, RHQ R Irish Rangers, Waring St, Belfast, BT1 2EW. 3rd Col L N Smyth, Kilbrone, Schull, Co Cork, Eire. 4th Mr K Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 4PQ. 5th R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

How Observant Are You?

HOT CROSS BUNS

1. Soldier's right arm and/or hand.
2. Top right corner of Jamieson's window.
3. Right bird on roof.
4. Time by clock.
5. Width of passenger seat of car.
6. V-shape above car number.
7. Black dots on rear wheel disc.
8. Loaf in window.
9. Small box on Chemist's lower shelf.
10. Small brick on left edge of bun shop.

Can You Help?

In 1934 I joined the RA Boys Depot, Borgard Section. Then as a trumpeter, was posted to the 28th Field Regiment in India. This year I intend to spend a holiday in England, and would like to contact any of our ex-trumpeters who are still around. For example: Hindle, Sankey, Laverty, Rudman, Bastable, or any of the 3/57 Battery. I shall be grateful for any information passed on by readers. — Mr J Stewart (840401), 549 Meadow Wood Road, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5J 2S4.

I am trying to contact other ranks who served in the campaign against the Italians in East Africa in 1940-41. The objective is to collect information about this campaign by putting personal reminiscences on tape. If any readers are interested in the possibility of being interviewed, they should contact me at the following address. — Dr C Wood, Department of Sound Records, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.

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Mr M Dendy GFF, 34 Compton Road, Brighton, Sussex. Tel: Brighton 565634.

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Derek Rooney (6/4), 30 Petershill Court, Glasgow G21 4QD.

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Type 4	1 in Rainham, Kent £20,300
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Type C	1 in Gloucester £13,300
Type C	1 in Rainham, Kent £15,750
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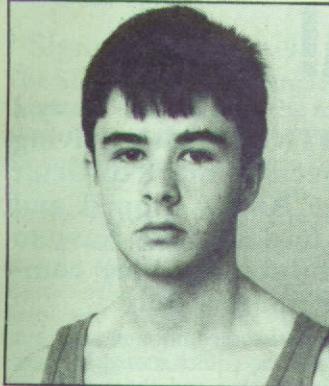
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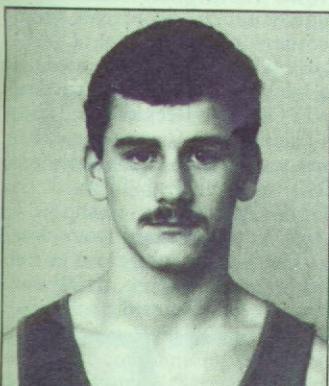
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WINS FOR ARMY TRIO



A/T John McLean — confounded the pundits.



Private Carl Crook — a classy display.

McLean's Ring Of Confidence

Ringside Report: John Walton

THE ARMY's boxing find of the season, 17-year-old Apprentice Tradesman John McLean from Chepstow caused the biggest upset of the night in the Combined Services v Western Counties match — when with matador like skill he coped with the bull-like rushes of England international John Knight and eventually won on a disqualification.

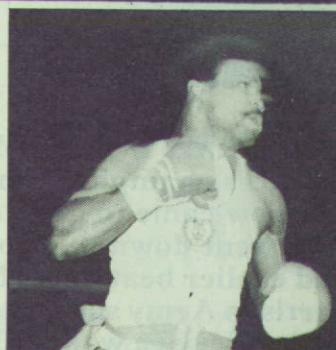
McLean in his first year of Army boxing now finds himself in the semi-finals of the English ABA competition. Knight, a strong competitor, had charged into action right from the opening bell against the waif-like apprentice.

But McLean, who has a classical upright stance, calmly withstood the onslaught, picked his man off and eventually dumped him on the canvas to a storm of applause. In the second round Knight persistently offended by leading with his head and towards the end of the round he was

disqualified.

Private Carl Crook of 1 Para was the second Army winner. He started slowly against an opponent with a longer reach and an awkward style but gradually got on top to take a majority points decision.

Big Horace Miles, the Army heavyweight king, looked sharper than ever in rapidly disposing of Steve Farley from Coombe Martin. Farley looked every bit a country cousin as Miles picked his punches carefully to knock him down three times before the referee stopped the unequal contest at the



Corporal Horace Miles — sharper than ever.

end of the first round.

Guardsman Dean Hunt (1 Welsh Guards) did not contest his welterweight bout. He has returned to his unit in Germany rather than remain with the boxing team. Said Army trainer, Staff-Sergeant Mick Cannon: "He decided that after three months away he should put his Army career first."

The fifth Army ABA quarter-finalist, Guardsman Denis Bailey (1 Irish Guards), lost out in a crude mauling match. Caught flatfooted by an opponent with a springy style Bailey underwent two counts and the majority decision went against him.

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After four years as Inter-Service champions the Army footballers slumped to defeat against both their rivals to get this year's wooden spoon ...

PRANGED!

RAF 2

THE ARMY'S ATTEMPTS to win the Inter-Services championship for a record fifth time in a row came to grief at RAF Uxbridge when they went down to a competent RAF side who had earlier beaten the Navy 3-0. Even the most partisan Army supporter had to admit that the Junior Service won well.

The Army opened in top gear and created three scoring chances in the first ten minutes but hurried finishing meant that they failed to achieve the vital early break and the home side soon settled down.

The RAF almost scored in the 10th minute when only incredible luck kept them out. The ball bounced off the cross-bar, there was a fingertip save by Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas and then the ball was headed over the bar. But it was only a short respite — four minutes later Corporal Geoff Hancocks struck a long pass out of defence which caught the Army defenders square and Corporal John Bartley scored.

The remainder of the half was a ding-dong affair producing fine football with crisply tackling defences holding the upper hand.

Army 0

Almost with the last kick of the half a rare error in the RAF defence allowed Lance-Corporal George Torrance to charge down a clearance and slip the ball to Lance-Corporal Steve Butler. He held off a defender and slid the ball under the body of the advancing goalkeeper only to see it roll inches wide of the upright.

The second RAF goal came when Corporal Rob Priddy broke down the left flank. His first centre was charged down but he picked up the ball on the rebound, curled a longish ball across the Army goalface — and to everyone's surprise it went in.

The Army threw everything into attack but the RAF gave little away and when Sergeant Mark Bowen did break through the RAF keeper produced the save of the match.

ALL AT SEA!

Army 0

IN MISERABLE CONDITIONS with driving rain and on a pitch that became more difficult as the game went on the Army slipped and slithered to defeat at the hands of the Navy to complete the unhappiest Inter-Service competition they have had for many a year.

On a pitch which reduced football to a lottery both sides battled manfully to provide an entertaining game. But once again the Army seemed to lack total commitment and were never able to get control of the midfield.

Veteran Navy keeper, CPOPT Mick Patterson was rarely troubled. On the one occasion he was beaten the referee, after awarding a goal, reversed his decision on a signal from his linesman and the Army revival was stopped in its tracks.

Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas at the other end was clearly not at his best in the mud. In the first half

Royal Navy 2

he mishandled once or twice but was always quick enough to cover his mistakes and there were no goals before the turn-round.

The Navy went ahead four minutes into the second half. From a corner kick on their right Lance-Corporal Dickie Briggs headed the ball across the face of his own goal and POPT Ian Rees knocked it in.

Their second goal came ten minutes from the end when a free kick was knocked forward by POPT Tommy Johnson and LPT Leigh Tongue scored from close in. The Army went close at the end when a flowing move saw Torrance sidefooting the ball wide.



Lance-Corporal Sandy Brown (dark shirt), the Army Footballer of the Year, in action against the Navy.

SNOW LION - BIG ENTRY



One of the largest fields ever, some 320 skiers, took part in Exercise Snow Lion 84, the annual UKLF ski meeting in the Cairngorms. The event was blessed with snow and, apart from one day, excellent weather and there was some spectacular skiing of a remarkably high standard.

The UKLF Regular Army Inter-Unit Team competition was won by 2nd Battalion The Grenadier Guards after a close fight with the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment. The TA Inter-Unit title went to the Honourable Artillery Company A team with 4 RGJ a close second. 1/51 Highland Volunteers won the TA in Scotland prize with 252 (Highland) Field ambulance runners-up.

Some particularly good skiing was seen among the juniors and novices. The Junior Inter-Unit championship was won by AAC Chepstow while the RAPC apprentices from Worthy Down took the minor units prize.

A/T Darren Schmidt dominated the junior scene despite more than his fair share of bad luck while At Fraser Petrie took the Clerical and Medical cup for the Regular Army Junior Novice Champion.

Captain Peter Koch de Gooreynd, Grenadier Guards, captain of the Army Alpine team emerged as Open Individual champion while Lance-Corporal Ian Dryden (pictured above) of the RAC Training Regiment ran him a close second and took the Open Special Slalom prize.

Volleyball Grows

One of the British Army's fastest growing sports is volleyball — a game which is ideally suited to Army postings where space for exercise is restricted. A record 41 teams entered this year's Rhine Army championship confirming the upsurge. Winners were the 9th/12th Lancers followed by 21 Signal Regiment and 7 Signal Regiment.

In the UKLF finals held at the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College, Aldershot, eight teams battled it out. Eventual winners were 8 Signal Regiment who beat the Royal Army Pay Corps, Worthy Down, in the final

The Army Inter-Unit finals, the following day matched the leading three UK based teams with the top three from Rhine Army. The final was between the two champions and the 9th/12th Lancers defeated 8 Signal Regiment by three sets to one.

Major Ian Pearce, the secretary of the Army Volleyball Association told **SOLDIER**: "The standard this year was the best ever — coaching courses are beginning to have an effect."

Anyone interested in the sport should write to: C/Sgt Gordon Neale, 4(V) RGJ, The Cedars, Portway, London E15.

GEORDIE'S BIG SEND OFF

7 Signal Regiment 9

The Signals team, unfancied at the start by anyone except themselves, humbled the mighty Welsh Guards, who had already won the Army title 15 times. It was a cup upset in the best tradition before a sizeable crowd at the Sennelager stadium — but at the same time an undistinguished game with comparatively little running.

That in a nutshell is the story of how 7 Signals won the Army major units cup for the first time and became the first Signals side to take the trophy since the 1950's.

It was a triumphant send off for the Rugby officer for the Herford based regiment, Captain Geordie Gainford. He is off to the Falklands shortly after four years building the side into a force to be reckoned with.

"I'm very excited — it was a tremendous performance by the boys," he said after the match. "It's been four years of hard work and build up and this is the culmination of all our efforts. I shall be able to sleep at night now!"

The young Welsh Guards side missed the commanding presence of their skipper, Sergeant John Davies — sidelined with a knee injury. Unhappy with their play he declared: "They are only youngsters and we will bounce back."

Both sides were well represented in the crowd because the Welshmen, although representing the UK, have recently moved to Hohne. Having defeated last year's Army champions, 21 Engineer Regiment on their way to the BAOR title, 7 Signals Regiment were not overawed by their opponent's reputation and within two minutes had taken the lead with a penalty kick from Signalman Andy Fife.

The Welshmen hit back and penned the Signals into their own half until the 12th minute when a long penalty kick from Lance-Corporal Darrell Jones sailed over the bar to equalise.

The game came to life ten minutes later when Showell made a great run through the Welsh

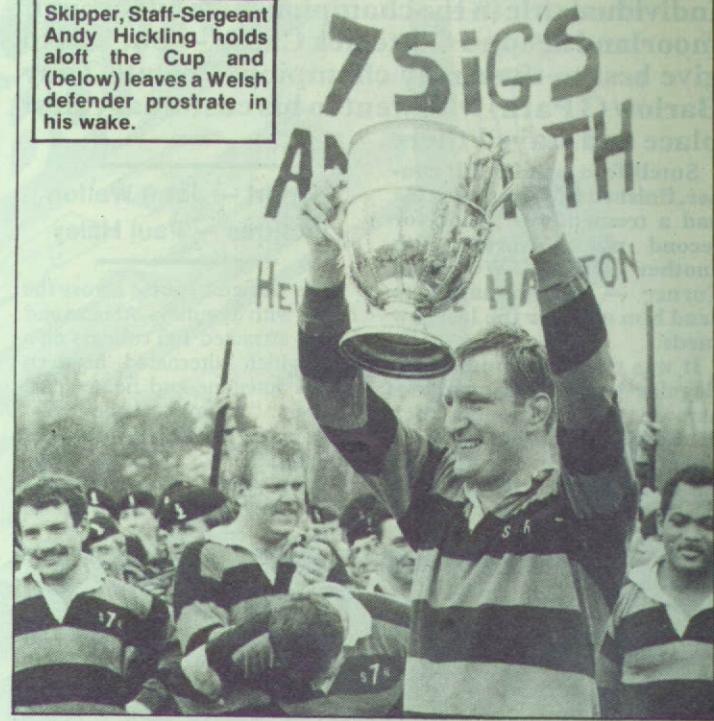
1 Welsh Guards 3

defence, who just managed to regroup in time. Seconds later Lance-Corporal David Wood sent over a perfect drop kick to restore the Signals lead.

The Guards fought hard to get back on terms and after missing one penalty attempt they were desperately unlucky when a second rebounded off the upright. For the rest of the first half 7 Signals lived dangerously but there was no further score before the turnaround.

In the second half 7 Signals grew in confidence and repelled a series of Welsh attacks before breaking through themselves when Sergeant David Showell sent a drop kick skywards. The crowd were unsure until the flag went up and the Signals supporters threw their berets in the air.

Skipper, Staff-Sergeant Andy Hickling holds aloft the Cup and (below) leaves a Welsh defender prostrate in his wake.



The Welsh fought desperately hard throughout the rest of the game and tempers began to get frayed as the Signals held on tenaciously to their lead. But by the final whistle it was the Guards who were again defending.

SOCCER

Under 17 Final

Junior Leaders RA	0
1 Junior Leaders Bn	6

Although the gunners were thoroughly beaten they never stopped running or dropped their heads in a match played in ideal conditions. The game was rather spoilt by constant stoppages for offside infringements. The JLB made more use of their chances whereas the Gunners failed to finish their few opportunities. Junior Leader Kent scored five of his side's six goals.

Schoolboy talent

C S Youth XI	0
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English Schools	1
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Relegated from an unfit stadium to Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, this game lost much of its attraction on the less even surface. Yet it was an interesting tie which went to the visitors by a seventh minute goal.

The Services always looked the less fluent side and struggled throughout. The opposition were quick of thought and movement and to keep the score down to a single goal was a good result against some of the most talented schoolboys in the country.

TRACK CLOSURE HITS ATHLETICS

Army athletics will be hit this summer by the closure of the track at Aldershot Military Stadium — already the Army Individual Championships in June will probably be diverted to the Navy's ground at Portsmouth.

Army athletics secretary, Major Tony Preece, told SOLDIER that the tartan track, in use for ten years, badly needed resurfacing. In places the polyurethane surface had come away from the asphalt base — "this could cause an athlete to have a nasty fall and the PSA has decided that it is dangerous."

The run up for the high jump and for the high hurdles has also become smooth and as no money was immediately available the track was closed. It is estimated that it will cost £80,000 to resurface it.

Other events already moved are the South East District championships to Pirbright and the Junior Inter-Unit and Individual championships to Bramcote. Major Preece said the work would not be completed until half the summer season's events had been held.

TA CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING WILD!

STEVE SUTCLIFFE, a 24-year-old pipefitter and part-time paratrooper from Stockton-on-Tees, easily won the TA Cross-Country Individual title in the championships over rough moorland around Catterick Camp — but had to give best to the Army champion, Private Tony Barlow (3 Para) who went to his customary first place and stayed there.

Sutcliffe, a regular fell runner, finished fifth last year. He had a tremendous tussle for second place overall with another Regular, WO2 Ted Turner — and managed to head him off over the last few yards.

It was the first time that a Regular Army team had taken part in the event and they dominated it throughout with eight runners in the first 12 home — thus easily winning the match against the TA.

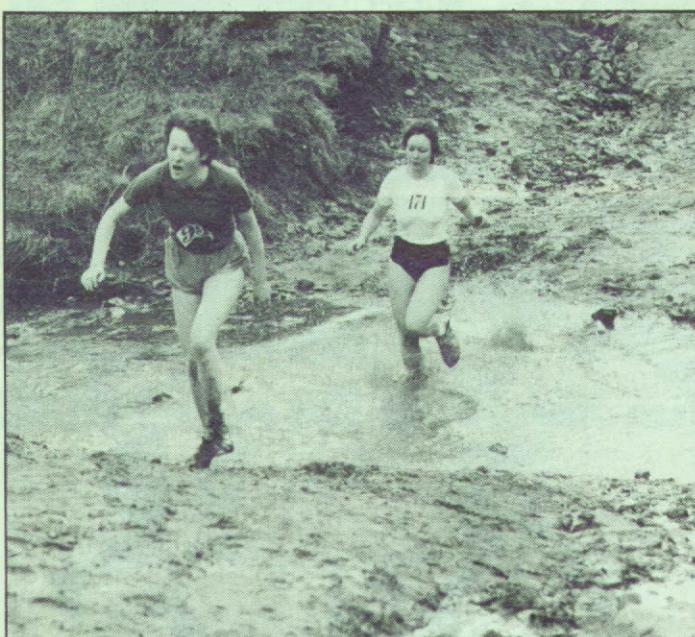
Report — John Walton
Pictures — Paul Haley

The difficult course across the moors with its gulleys, streams and fences attracted 105 runners on a day which alternated between bright sunshine and fierce snow showers. "I think it made it that much more interesting" declared Sutcliffe.

The women's race was won at a canter for the second year in



Sutcliffe (left) and Turne in a strenuous battle for second place.



Over the moors and splashing through streams the runners found it a testing course.

BIELEFELD GIVE INTER-UNIT FINAL RIVALS A SHOCK

The Bielefeld Garrison team from Germany were surprise winners of the Army Inter-Unit Netball championship. The favourites, York, were forced to make late changes after an injury to one of their star players and their match with Bielefeld turned out to be the decider — the German based side running out winners 14-7.

York eventually finished third behind D Company 16 Battalion RAOC, representing South East District (West). Seven teams took part in the finals and the standard was reported to be high.

The following week the Army hosted the Inter-Services championships at Beaconsfield. A report will appear next issue.

succession by Officer Cadet Karen Chambers from 285 Movement Control Squadron RCT. Karen, a technician at Loughborough University, finished three minutes ahead of her nearest rival and was so full of running that she ran back round part of the course.

"I always have a little warm down and I thought I would encourage the girls who had given me a lift up," she explained.

The attractive blonde athlete pounds out 50 miles every week and threw out a challenge for next year. "I just wish that more units would put people in and give me more competition" she said.

The men's team competition was won by HQ Company 3 RRW (A) followed by A Squadron 21 SAS and Sutcliffe's team D Company 4 Para. Winning women's team was 1 Squadron 39 Signal Regiment and runner-up 49 Signal Squadron.

NETBALL

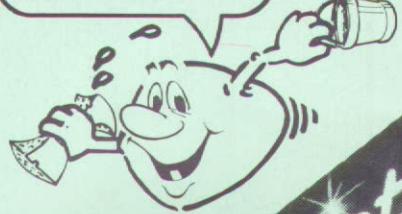


Karen Chambers — full of running.



Action from the match between the WRAC Centre and 12 Company WRAC, Mill Hill — neither of whom ended up in contention for the title.

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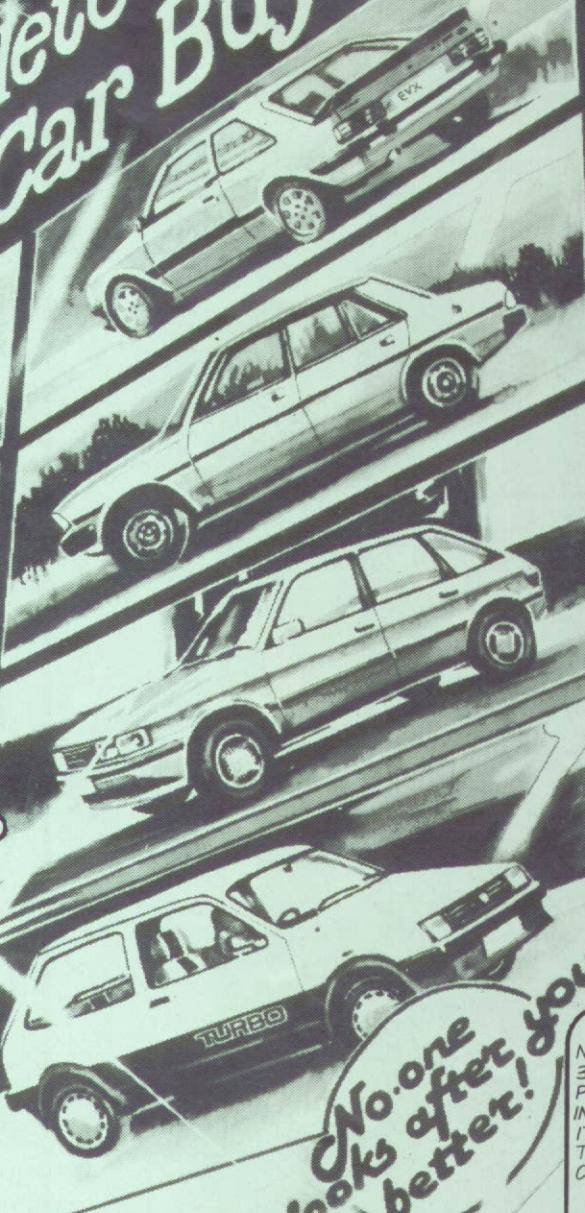
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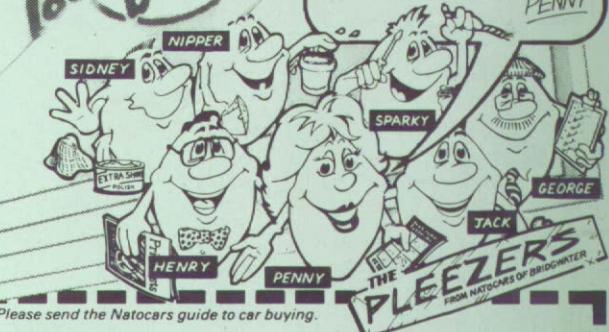
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