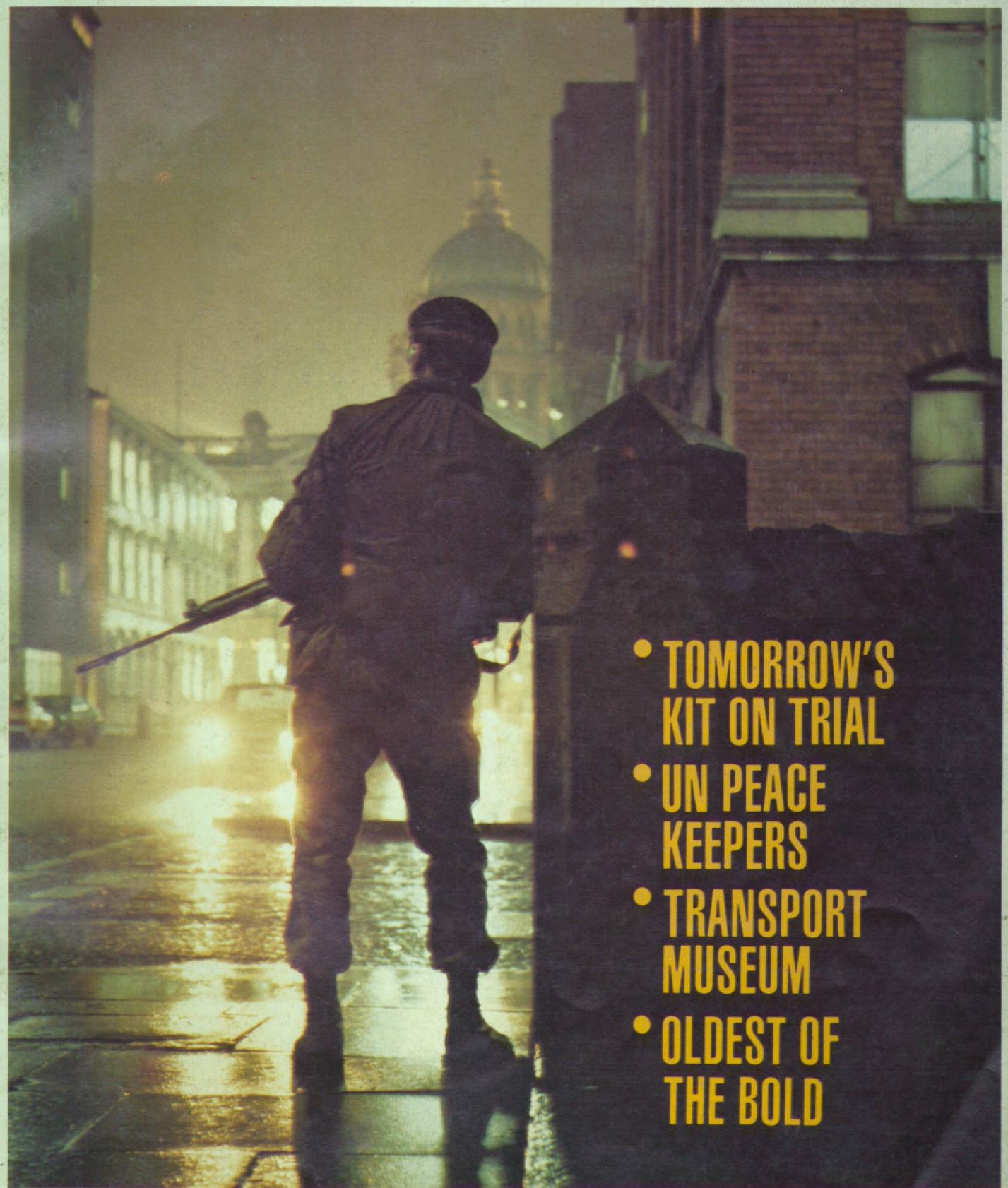


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 14 DEC 1981-10 JAN 1982

SOLDIER



- TOMORROW'S KIT ON TRIAL
- UN PEACE KEEPERS
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FRONT COVER

A dramatic study of a foot patrol near Belfast's city centre — a timely reminder of the thousands of British soldiers, in Northern Ireland and elsewhere, for whom Christmas will be just another day spent working to keep the peace.

Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

A sunnier view of a soldier's lot — Sgt James Jackson, 1st Bn The Green Howards, chats to a Greek Cypriot farmer on the Cyprus 'Peace Line'. The Howards have just returned to Yorkshire after six months on United Nations duty. Story — page 14.

Picture: Sgt Arthur Thomson

Editor:

Bob Hooper (Ext 2585)

News Editor

Gordon Williams (Ext 2593)

Assistant Editors

John Walton (Ext 2591)

Graham Smith (Ext 2591)

Ann Beecham (Ext 2588)

Art Editor

John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor

Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)

Photographers

(Ext 2584)

Doug Pratt

Paul Haley

Andy Burridge

Advertising/Circulation

Mrs C Wilkinson (Ext 2592/2587)

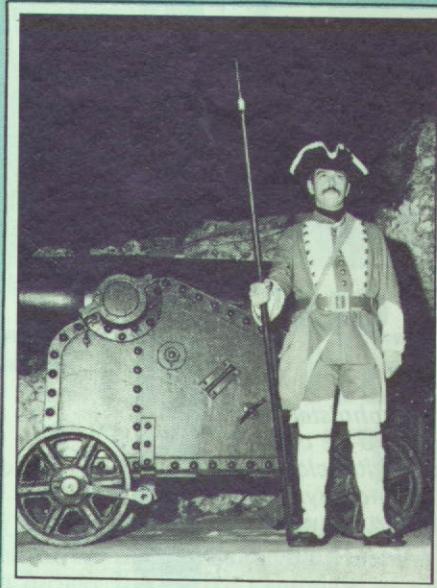
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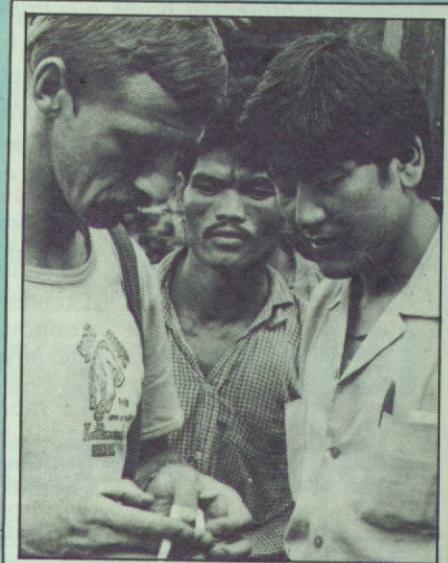
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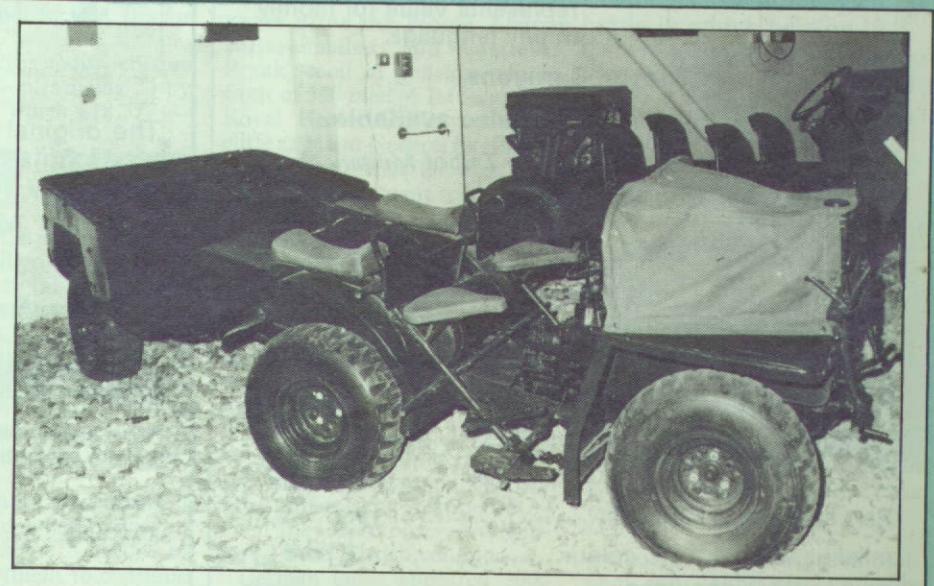


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Travellers' tales from the Himalayas — two Army expeditions break new ground —
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A unique display of Army transport could soon be a major tourist attraction —
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SOLDIER to Soldier

THIS IS OUR last issue of 1981. It marks the end of another eventful year for the Army and a particularly challenging one for all of us at SOLDIER.

Once again it has been a year when economic news has blanketed the headlines. Cuts. Lay-offs. Redundancies. Rising costs. Falling aspirations.

The Army too has had to tighten its belt but it has done well in its fight for its share of the national spending cake. News of an average 10.3 per cent pay rise was quickly followed by the publication of a Defence Review that promised a slimmer, trimmer Army but one with greatly enhanced hitting power. And to offset the proposed reduction of regular forces by 7000 came the good news that TA strength is to be beefed up by more than twice that figure.

Lighting up the year, of course, was the Royal Wedding — a truly majestic occasion in which soldiers from many units played a brilliantly colourful part.

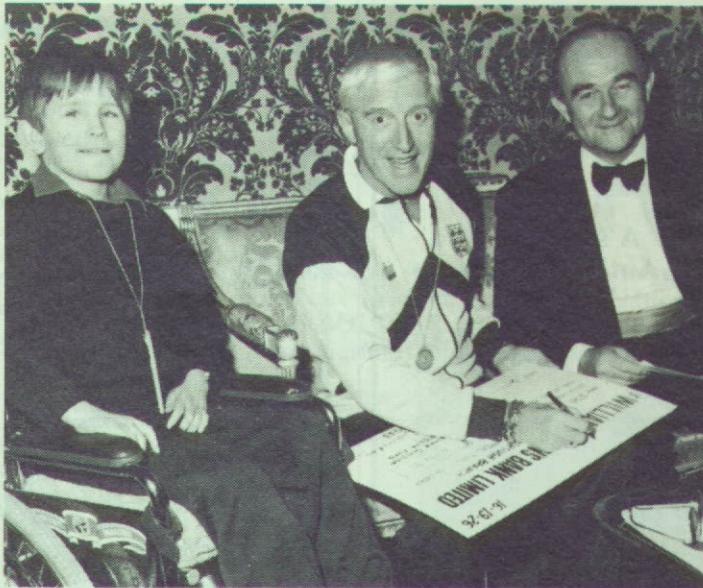
Conversely, like a cloud that never lifted, there were the continuing 'troubles' in Northern Ireland. The rising tension of the hunger strikes sent the Spearhead Battalion speeding to Ulster in May. And six months later the Spearhead was being sent for again as terrorist bombs and bullets wreaked yet more havoc in the battered and bewildered province.

SOLDIER, as always, has sought to bring you these important stories — and many more besides. But for us, the major landmark of 1981 was the merger of our newspaper and magazine into a single fortnightly publication.

Reaction so far to the merger has been encouraging. And we have been delighted to receive so many letters and comments praising the new look. But you can rest assured that in 1982 we shall be striving to make SOLDIER still more topical, informative and entertaining; in short, to reflect the high professional standards of the men and women it serves.

To all of our readers — particularly all those of you who will be on duty this Christmas, cut off from families and friends — we send our warmest seasonal greetings.

See you all again next year.



Tipster William with Jimmy Savile and Maj Gen Farndale.

'TIPSTER' HELPS TO FIX IT

TWO BIG CHEQUES have been presented in London to Jimmy Savile for his Stoke Mandeville Hospital Fund, one of them by a former Jim'll Fixit candidate — nine-year-old William Cowan — who was at the ceremony in a wheelchair.

William, the son of Lt-Col Sam Cowan, CO of the 2nd Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, Germany, handed over their cheque for £2700 to a beaming Jimmy. He broke his neck in a car crash and had met Jimmy before when the hospital charity worker fixed it for him to go horse racing at Epsom with a prime position in the commentator's box and a £25 stake to invest in the runners.

William picked three out of four winners recouping on his investment to the tune of £150. Asked at the time what he was going to buy himself with his winnings, William indignantly replied: "It's not for me. It's for Jimmy's fund."

At the same ceremony, cheque number two — measuring 24 by 14 inches and worth £18,777 —

More cash

THE DEFENCE BUDGET is to get a £319 million boost for the current financial year and another £479 million for 1982-3.

This year's increase would have been more but £64 million was lopped off to pay for last year's overspend. Some £82 million of the balance will go to meet the extra cost of this year's pay award.

The addition for next year will take the total defence budget to £14,103 million and is needed to help the department to continue to meet the pay bill, general rising costs and to assist the Royal Ordnance Factories.

Customs nobble haggis

ST ANDREW'S DAY for Scotsmen among the British Forces in Belize had to be postponed by 24 hours because the two giant haggis intended for the feast had twice been deported from the United States as undesirable aliens.

Force Catering Officer, Captain Nick Cook, had asked Major John Smith, Deputy Assistant Director of the Army Catering Corps in Scotland, for the two puddings. And Major Smith arranged for the RAF to fly them out to Belize.

Unfortunately, the American authorities do not allow the importation of foodstuffs and as soon as the 'Great Chieftains of the Pudding Race' were spotted in their ice box they were impounded. They remained at Dulles Airport, Washington, until the RAF VC10 returned from Belize and were then handed over for return to the UK.

The haggis made another similar journey with the same results. Eventually the much travelled pudding had to be sent by another route — arriving a day late for St Andrew's Day.

Frank's medal 39 years late

A 73-YEAR-OLD RETIRED Harrogate postman, ex-Sergeant Frank Adamson, has finally received his Croix de Guerre, which he did not even know had been awarded, 39 years after the North African battle in which he won it.

Bareheaded and coatless, Frank stood in pouring rain in front of 300 men of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery at Topcliffe as Major General Ian Baker, GOC North East District, pinned on the reluctant medal.

He is the last known survivor of 12 soldiers in the 1942 desert action who also have the medal, some of them posthumously.

Although the award was approved a year after the action it was not until last year that the French Government formally certified the awards.

It was in March 1942 that Frank was in the Western Desert with E Battery Honourable Artillery Company (1st Regiment RA) when they were ordered to support a Free French column.

German tanks appeared 3000 yards away heading for the French. Frank's troop engaged the 12 panzers with their 25-



Frank proudly displays his medal.

pounders from an exposed position and, although inevitably overrun, inflicted casualties and delay on the Afrika Corps armour.

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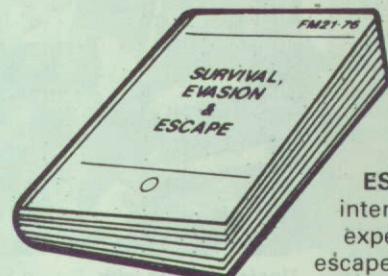
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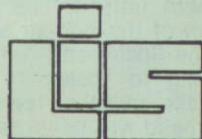
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Errors in CND leaflet

Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, has sent a list of errors in a current CND pamphlet to Lord Jenkins of Putney, former chairman of the CND. Mr Blaker told Lord Jenkins he hoped CND would think the inaccuracies serious enough to withdraw the pamphlet called *Nuclear War and You*.

Mr Blaker said: "I am all for a debate on defence and the preservation of peace, but a debate on fact not fiction. It is important therefore that the Government corrects errors of fact and important that such organisations as CND recognise and acknowledge their errors. I believe that those who organise and run CND will be responsible in this respect."

Mr Blaker's letter to Lord Jenkins said CND were in error on five counts when they said that

- In January 1980 the British Government decided to abandon a policy of nuclear deterrence and

- changed to plans which include a possible surprise nuclear attack on the Soviet Union.

- Cruise missiles in the UK will be entirely under US control.

- Western military planners are confident that the nuclear war following a cruise attack will be only a theatre nuclear war.

- The people of Holland and Belgium have refused to have cruise missiles on their soil.

Mr Blaker provided detailed corrections of the five points which he hoped Lord Jenkins would take up within CND. Lord Jenkins asked for information on the errors during a debate in Bristol attended by Mr Blaker earlier this month.

ARMY DOES IT BETTER

Thoroughness in selection and training are the biggest lessons which the Army has to offer industry, a National Coal Board manager told **SOLDIER** after spending nearly six months studying Army methods and techniques under an exchange programme.

Electronics graduate Mr Andy Gillings, 33, is a control and communications engineer normally working on the proposed North East Leicestershire coal-field development. He held the honorary rank of major during his time with the Army which was spent partly in general studies and partly in a two-and-a-half month stint with 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

"The Army spends a great deal of time on selection and it pays dividends," he said. "Of course, the Army is training all the time for a job which they hope they will not have to do whereas in industry we are training for a job which is going on all the time.

"That difference is bound to affect the sort of people you select but we can certainly learn from the Army. In the selection of NCOs for instance, the Army is looking for instructor qualities — can he pass his knowledge on? But in the selection of chargehands and foremen in industry instructional ability is not usually a requirement. Perhaps it should be.

"Like so many people," Mr Gillings continued, "I had previously made the mistake of thinking that the Army was too rigid. Now I know that 'well ordered' is a better way of expressing it.

"What people outside the Army do not always realise is that with the constant movement, the organisation has to be such that an individual can slot easily into his new role.

"I became very much aware of the 24 hour commitment. It is not only a working life commitment because social life also



Mr Andy Gillings

revolves around the Army.

"But I was surprised at the extent to which the Army takes a real interest in the person, welfare generally and things like home problems.

"One particular incident which impressed me was when a soldier had been injured in a demolition accident on the Otterburn Training Area. It was very quickly arranged for his mother and other relatives to come from London to visit him in hospital in Newcastle. And he had a constant stream of Army visitors as well.

"But the Army is very thorough in everything it does. Even a cocktail party is well organised, although the guests are not aware of it. They just think it was a good show."

MORE STAY

Total Armed Forces strength at the end of September was the highest since November 1976. At 335,174 men and women strength was 2700 more than at the same time last year.

The Ministry of Defence says the continuing increase is mainly due to the reduction in the numbers leaving the Services.

Army recruitment was 48 per cent lower in the first six months of the financial year compared with the same period in 1980. The number entering officer training was down by 16 per cent.

Total Army strength stood at 168,503.

Briefly

Granada Television is searching for competitors for the next series of its tough quiz, *The Krypton Factor*. Members of the Forces serving overseas are eligible and applications should be sent to *The Krypton Factor*, Granada TV, Manchester M60 9EA.

Eight members of the Catterick Garrison Wives' Club who have passed their Swimming Teachers' Association tests for the 1500 metres and three kilometre distances turned their exams to good effect by arranging sponsorship for swims. They raised more than £300 for a local school for handicapped children.

Members of the Northern branch of the Catering Teachers' Association visited the Army Catering Corps at Catterick to study the Army's catering methods.

A young paratrooper had an unlucky break after his parachute caught in a tree at Aldershot. As the fire brigade arrived to rescue him a branch of the tree gave way and the soldier plunged to the ground, breaking his leg.

Colonel David Stirling, founder of the SAS has been left £100 in the will of Major Edward Peter Godfrey Miller Munday, MC, "in the hope that he will use it to buy cigars."

The Provost Marshal, Brig Jack Thomas, who was the first CO of 1 RMP when it was formed in Ulster in 1971, paid a return visit to help celebrate the 10th anniversary.

Sgt Lawrence Peacock, RE, who is in charge of the British Forces Post Office at HQ COMIBER-LANT in Portugal presented a set of Christmas first day covers to Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, Director of the WRNS, when she visited the NATO headquarters.

Mr Sean Lalor, Head Ranger of the Dartmoor National Park, has presented a plaque to the RCT potential officer candidate troop at Renny Lentney Camp, Devon, in recognition of the work done by the unit in helping to improve the park.

A farewell firing by the last Saladin armoured car in service in UK was cancelled after a final inspection by REME experts. They found that it was unfit to fire. Men and women from Northumbrian Universities OTC had planned to mark the Saladin's retirement with a ceremonial salute.





• Tasty Dish •

Miss Royal Tank Regiment, dishy Beverley Pilkington, was taken for a bit of a ride when she visited Germany to help the Regiment celebrate Cambrai Day. Later she helped to dish out some other tasty morsels, as demanded by tradition.

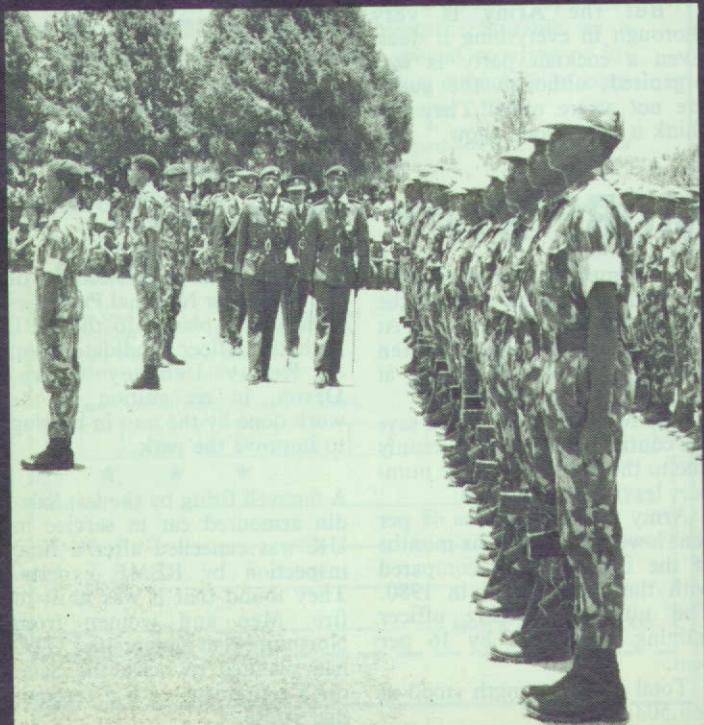


• Metro Prize •

Driving his wife off in their brand new Metro is Cpl Peter Chapman REME, who won the car in a raffle organised by the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Milestone

Army Commander Lt Gen Rex Nhongo inspecting men of the newly formed 404 Bn Zimbabwe National Army at their passing out parade. It was a significant occasion for both the new Army and the British Military Advisory and Training Team, for it was 41st, and last, of the newly integrated battalions to complete basic training.



Courage •

The courage of WO1 Terry Byrne, RCT, Master Driver at HQ Land Forces, Cyprus, was recognised when the Commander British Forces, Air Vice Marshal R L Davis, presented his commendation. Although an accident was inevitable when a young driver 'froze' at the wheel, WO1 Byrne's bravery and quick thinking avoided a head-on collision with an articulated truck.



Good News •

There was good news for three Army families when the BBC's Richard Baker donned his Royal Naval Reserve uniform to pick the lucky winners in SSAFA's "3-Car Draw". Among the Service helpers was RMP Cpl Frances Yarnell.



Last March ▲

Soldiers of the RAOC marching past the Lord Mayor of Nottingham on the last Freedom parade before the closure of COD Chilwell next March.

Break

That well known early morning chatter and TV star Terry Wogan took a break to chat to Forces Help Society workers on the 'Tots and Teens' stall at the annual Park Lane Fayre.



Cheese ▲

English Cheese maiden Heather McCombe dispensing cheese to Chelsea Pensioner John Allan, MM, who will be 94 next month. The tradition goes back to 1691.

Good Boy

Off to Crufts is Shane seen here with proud owner Cpl Ian Wilkins of 2 Bn the Royal Anglian Regiment. On his road to the greatest dog show in the world Shane has collected no less than 50 first prizes, 80 seconds and 100 thirds.



Long Walk ▲

There is a long walk ahead as members of 'C' Coy of the Cheshire Regiment set off to cover the 219 miles from their base at Tidworth to Chester. They hoped to raise £1000 towards the cost of a guide dog for the blind as well as helping other charities.

Briefing

Patrol commanders are briefed for a night fighting patrol during Western District's 'Exercise Monkey Puzzle' the annual TA patrol competition.

Home Wanted ▶

Meet Snoopy, one of several cats and dogs being cared for by the latest animal welfare society — WAIFS. Standing for Welfare for Animals in the Forces Society, WAIFS has been started by Capt Mandy Stevens, WRAC, and Mrs Lesley Irving-James. They aim to look after and find homes for strays and unwanted animals found in the Colchester Garrison area.



Napoleon is supposed to have claimed that "an army marches on its stomach" and good grub is certainly just as important to the modern soldier's health and morale. The British Army is proud of the quality and variety of its catering. But what do the consumers think? Some Gordon Highlanders gave us their own, very personal, observations ...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Private Tom Gibson. Aged 21.

"I don't really see why people who don't like Army food should still have to pay for it. I would rather just buy my own — things like pies in the Naafi. If you had the money you pay for food you could easily manage on that in the Naafi."

"There's nothing really wrong with the food but it's mostly all the same and I don't like the lumpy tatties."

Private Robert George.
Aged 20 and an ex-junior soldier.

"The food is nae bad. I like my scrambled eggs and pizzas but not curries, which give me hiccups. Sometimes the custard does not have enough sugar. But you could not go into a coffee bar and buy the food for what we pay for it."

"You have no option but to drink tea — I would prefer coffee. And we used to have a milk machine but now you only get milk to put on your cornflakes. You are not allowed to drink it by the cupful."



Private David Grant. Aged 18.

"The food you get here is no awful great. The beef is half cooked with the blood still running out and I would like it well done. You know what you are going to have every day — I am going to have egg and chips because it is there."

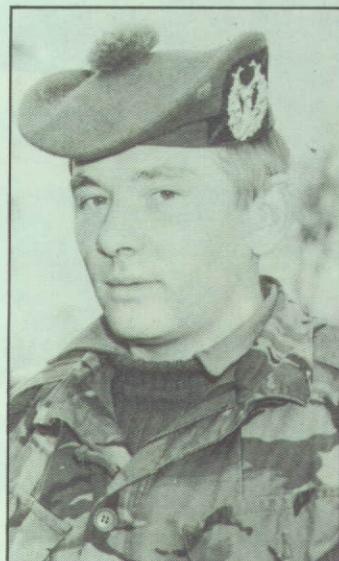
"It's edible but it's something I wouldn't feed to my worst enemy and you have to eat it. They try to make soup and there is no taste to it — it's like tomato coloured water. And they couldn't make puddings if they tried."



Corporal Ralph Bruce.
12 years in the Army.

"It has changed a lot since I joined up — it's not so good! I've noticed nowadays that the cooks don't seem to pay so much attention to things like laying out the food. The hot plates always used to be laid out well — now they are just flung there."

"I've no real complaints about the grub except for some of the breakfasts. For example, sausages are usually burned on one side and raw in the middle. The food has definitely gone downwards in quality if not in quantity."



Lance-Corporal Norman Rough. Regimental policeman.
Aged 25.

"At times it can be horrible but recently it's been quite reasonable. I'm not too partial to their steak and kidney puddings. But you do have a choice and I usually settle for steaks or chicken legs."

"The steaks, with mushrooms and creamed potatoes, are excellent — I have them nearly every day. But the tea is horrible — you put a wee drop of milk in and it tastes like dishwater. I'm sure they forget to put the tea in — or only use one teabag!"

Corporal Hugh Bradley.
22 years in the Army.

"The food has changed drastically for the better since I joined up. Then you only got an egg once a week for breakfast. It was all bubble and squeak, compo and things like tinned kippers in tomato sauce as well as hard tack biscuits in lieu of bread."

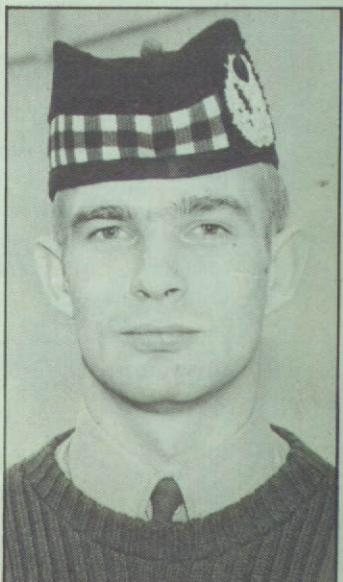
"Nowadays the menu is first class for the young Jock. I only wish I could eat as well as that as a married man. And the cooking has improved over the years. In those days you had to eat it or starve — you didn't have enough money to go to the Naafi for food."



Lance-Corporal Norman Rough. Regimental policeman.

"About 80 per cent of the meals are very good. The guys complain about the cooks but they have got to remember that they are cooking for 300 guys. That's a lot of work for a cook and they do their best."

"I think there could be a better selection for breakfast. A lot of guys would like to see porridge for breakfast. Of course the meals were rotten in Belize — but you have to expect that in field conditions."



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BIG GUNS



THE first unit in Rhine Army to become fully equipped with the American made M109 A2 self-propelled howitzer has just taken delivery. The 'Sussex Gunners' — 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, based in Dortmund, will have 51 of the new guns.

Almost as the M109's came in at the front gate the regiment's previous guns, the 105 mm Abbots departed. The new guns, at some 25 tons laden weight, hurl shells weighing just under 100 lb for about 11 miles.

They have a turbo charged diesel engine and can travel in excess of 30 mph. Said Captain Peter Angus: "It is faster, bigger and throws a larger shell further."

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Gay, told SOLDIER: "It is something that happens once in a lifetime when a regiment receives a complete brand new set of guns with a complete change of equipment overnight."

Cadre crews had already been trained in the M109 and the next few months will see an intensive period of training for the regiment. Already REME technicians have inspected the new guns and Clansman communications systems have been fitted.

This is being followed by two weeks dry training and live firing early in the New Year. And some personnel are going to Suffield in the Spring to try out the M109 on the vast prairie range there.

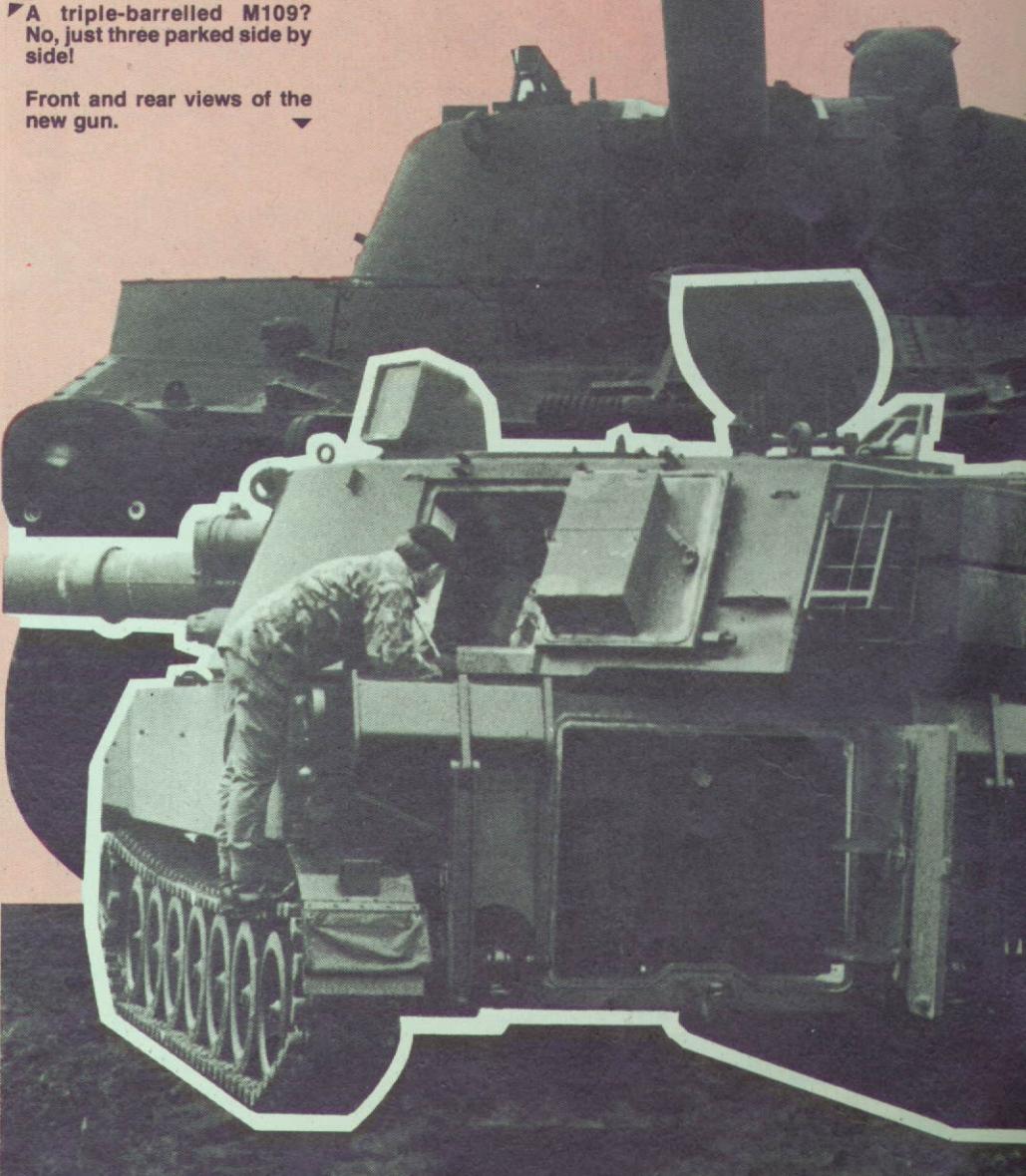
The gunners are wildly enthusiastic about their new guns. Said Bombardier Neil Wilson: "It's a good bit of kit. It is much better than the Abbot — there is room to move round whereas in an Abbot you were always banging your head. It has a bit of a heater in the back and is warm. And it has better

sights and a pull elevation which saves struggling by hand."

Another put it this way: "If the Yanks can do all right with it we shall be... brilliant!"

► A triple-barrelled M109? No, just three parked side by side!

Front and rear views of the new gun.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Pictures: Arthur Thomson

RETURNING TO A Catterick winter after life among the orange groves and sun-kissed beaches of Cyprus must have come as a chilly shock to the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, who have just got back to their native Yorkshire from a spell on United Nations peace keeping duty. But they found a warm welcome from friends and families who they rejoined just in time for Christmas.

The battalion went to Cyprus in May on a six-month unaccompanied tour, swapping their dark blue berets for the light blue ones of the United Nations peace keeping force.

The Turkish invasion in 1974 divided the island in two and closed off the northern part to Greek Cypriots and British troops stationed in the south.

The 'Peace Line' which divides Greek from Turk stretches from Famagusta on the east coast, through Nicosia in the central plain to Takkino on the west coast. A stretch of 'No man's land', varying in width from ten yards to five miles, it remains an effective buffer zone between the two Cypriot communities.

As the British Contingent in the multi-national peace keeping force, the Green Howards were responsible for controlling and maintaining a peaceful status quo in Sector 2, a fifteen-mile stretch of dry open countryside which is considered to be a potential trouble spot.

The battalion had two companies heavily committed to observing the peace line from 'goon tower' type observation posts. And the Yorkshire men in Land Rovers and helicopters were kept busy reconnoitring a patrol track that winds its way along the buffer zone between Turkish and Greek frontline trenches and minefields.

Denmark, Sweden, Austria and Canada provide the other United Nations' forces for the remaining sectors. Each has a similar task to that performed by the Howards.

When Cyprus became independent in 1960, Britain retained two Sovereign Base areas, one in the West and one in the East, some seventy miles apart. Together they

◀ "Fancy bumping into you here!" Two Green Howard patrols meet on the buffer zone.

Water sports were a popular relaxation. ▼



650 Green Howards have just returned from a tour of Cyprus on United Nations duty. Graeme Cooper reports on...

THE PEACE PATROL

Keeping watch from a 'goon tower'. ▲ cover almost one hundred square miles and might be described as two 'Little Englands'. It was in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area that the remaining two companies of Yorkshiresmen were stationed as the 'Dhekelia Detachment'.

The Detachment was responsible for the secondary role of the battalion which was to guard and protect lives, property and military installations within the base. This involved providing an effective frontier service of patrols and observation posts to ensure no infringement of British sovereignty of the territory.

Off-duty, opportunities for sport were plentiful. Cyprus has a climate which permits outdoor activities all the year round and a variety of sports grounds, athletics stadia and swimming pools.

It is not unusual to see a soccer match



taking place adjacent to a cricket match with the temperature in the eighties and nineties.

Cyprus also offers a unique opportunity for the more exotic sports such as skiing, sailing, water-skiing, sub aqua, free-fall parachuting, parascending, canoeing, gliding and riding.

But for all its leisure facilities the island is no holiday posting. The Howards had many tasks to carry out and worked and trained hard. Each company spent three months on UN duty and three in the Sovereign Base Area. And security duties and military training were carried out in rotation which made for a busy and varied life.

After years of operating in a different environment some of the mortar men and anti-tank gunners had become more at home with a rifle, so great stress was laid on training and full use made of the island's excellent training areas.

But even a sun-soaked Mediterranean island can have its drawbacks. Some young soldiers, away from home for the first time, missed their Yorkshire pubs and friends while the bachelors in their ranks found a distinct shortage of female company.

Others found transport a problem. On an island where there is so much to see — the vineyards, the orange and lemon groves, the banana plantations, the breath-taking scenery of pinewoods in the high mountain passes, the sun drenched beaches, the fascinating antiquities — having one's own transport makes a big difference.

The aims set for the battalion's tour by its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Byrne, were to maintain a high standard of soldiering, to show a firm but fair attitude to sensitive issues concerning Greek and Turk, to stay fit and well trained and to enjoy as much of Cyprus as possible. And at the end of their six months, the Green Howards could consider those objectives amply fulfilled.

Overall it was a unique experience and an especially valuable one for the younger soldiers. And although the sun is no longer on their bones they have plenty of sunny Mediterranean memories to warm them in the winter months ahead. ■

◀ Anti-tank gun training on Pyla Ranges.

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 39.



Graham Smith meets tomorrow's Army tailors

A CUT ABOVE



Len Penrose sews a button on to a Scots Guards dress uniform.

ARMY TAILORS are hoping to go metric next year. Then, expanses of sometimes embarrassing inches for the more mature build will be transmuted to less familiar centimetres.

Meanwhile, the bespoke band of sartorially-slanted gentlemen at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' Employment Training Centre at Blackdown, near Aldershot, are already sizing up the new Number Two Dress uniform with its changed style of pockets.

About 40 trainees a year pass through Blackdown which tutors tailors for virtually every regiment in the British Army.

Currently, there are about 90 tailors operating their scissored skills round the world with the British Army, including 35 Master Tailors — and all will have passed through the training sessions in Surrey.

Bespoke tailoring calls for painstaking hand sewing and a lot of aspirants do not have the aptitude for it.

Out of every course of ten pupils eager to 'take to the cloth', four or five will find they are 'just not suited'.

Graduates of the trimmer, button hole scissor and bodkin have to know all the intricate ins and outs of the trade. They must learn not only how to carry out minor

and major alterations but how to handle the precision work of mounting medals, medal ribbons and alignments of badges of rank. And on top of this they must put in several weeks' work on the art of making jackets and trousers.

All these aspects are dealt with on courses lasting up to three months. The trainees even have to draft up their own versions of the Number Two Dress uniform for accurate reproduction.

Mr 'Joe' Wade, a former Warrant Officer 2 Master Tailor with the RAOC until 1978 when he became a civilian instructional officer at Blackdown, said: "We are getting a better type of lad wanting to be a tailor nowadays and we have got more time to concentrate on tailoring. It is possible to become a Master Tailor within about four years of completing training."

Was there the remotest chance, then, of Army bespoke tailoring disappearing in favour of high-speed machine automation?

"Not as long as we have ceremonial dress with its scarlet tunics," he said, with a confident smile. "But we do make factory visits where jobs are done in seconds by machine so that the lads can see the other side of the fence. We think the new Number Two Dress is far smarter than its predecessor and the fit is better with a greater range of styles. The material is more durable

although there will still be some shine on the barrack room dress."

The new Number Two Dress uniform, incidentally, has its buttons in line at the top and the breast pockets have no pleat. The bottom jacket pockets have been lowered with pointed flaps.

Apparently, the hardest parts for the trainee tailor to get to grips with are the pockets and button holes.

Lance Corporal Danny Murphy, 29, of The Gordon Highlanders, said: "The job requires a lot of patience and a very good eye."

In the Army for seven years, Danny was formerly a sales rep with a stationery firm and he will eventually be re-united with his regiment as one of a team of four in the tailor's shop.

"I was formerly an infantry soldier, had an accident in Northern Ireland, remustered to a tailor's trade and have no regrets at all about the change," he said. "And I think it will broaden my outlook. Spats and kilts are the most difficult items for me to manage."

Blackdown supplies tailors for the four Highland regiments although not the three Lowland formations. And the idiosyncrasies of Scottish dress provide plenty of variety for the men who have to work on it.

It takes 50 yards of hand-sewn kilt silk, for instance, to complete the pleated garment which weighs in at four-and-a-half pounds. A kilt can be 'knocked up' in three to four days by a skilled tailor.

The Army's men-of-the-tape hope to go metric next year and are currently waiting for the Defence Standards. Meanwhile, the students at Blackdown literally press on with their inventory of 11 tools including



Joe Wade cuts out a jacket pattern.

graduated squares, bench shears, assorted scissors and frenetic lock-stitch machines.

But though they are tailors they are, first and foremost, soldiers — as Joe Wade was at pains to point out.

"They will take to the streets of Ulster just like any other soldier. They are soldiers by profession and tailors by trade."

Did they make their own civvy suits?

"No, we just don't have the time," said Joe. "Nine times out of ten we buy our suits off the peg at one of the multiple tailors."

His comment was endorsed by colleague Len Penrose, another former Master Tailor, who ruefully admitted: "I've been teaching these lads to make trousers for years but whenever I've tried to make a pair for myself something always goes wrong!"

Pictures: Paul Haley

AS THE HEADQUARTERS of 1 (British) Corps, Bielefeld Garrison is very much at the 'sharp end' of Rhine Army activities. But there is nothing uncomfortable about its location and soldiers and their wives are pleased to be posted there. They are happy in their married quarters and enjoy the enhanced quality of life in the clean city some 90 miles north-east of Dusseldorf — and they are quick to tell you so.

Within the confines of this important junction town incorporating a university, a publishing centre and diverse industry, staff at Corps HQ commute daily to a seven-barrack complex from 1132 married quarters spread across 14 estates.

Bielefeld was heavily bombed in 1941 and 1945 but made a sturdy, well-groomed recovery during the erstwhile German *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle).

Today, the spacious, handsome town centre with its airy pedestrian precincts is well-stocked with quality shops selling anything from food to high fashion. And there



Bielefeld's Alter Markt dates back to 1593

are plenty of good, inexpensive restaurants to make dining out a pleasure.

Driver Allan Whittington of 14 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, married with three children, offers a typically enthusiastic view of the town.

"It's pretty nice here. I've been in BAOR for five years during which time I've had four married quarters — two houses and two flats. Bielefeld really appeals to me. I've furnished my quarter completely out of my own money because it's a lot easier out here to get loans from the banks without loads of red tape. Now I've got a hi-fi, video recorder, washing machine and a three-piece suite.

"The married quarters are clean, well-designed and, if anything goes wrong, maintenance repairs are done very quickly, within a day or two."

Driver Whittington said he had picked up enough German "to get by" and advised newcomers to make the effort to learn the language.

Television entertainment, courtesy of the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), was excellent with shows such as *Coronation Street*, *Dallas*, documentaries, *Play School* for the children, *Grandstand*, *Match of the Day*, *Top of the Pops*, *Soap* and even *Emmerdale Farm*.

"BFBS is a bloody good system and I get really annoyed with people who knock it,"

A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

said Driver Whittington.

Amenities for the families are plentiful and include five play groups, three community centres — one recently raised £800 in five months for the St Dunstan's School for the Blind, near Brighton — a couple of Naafi centres, Thrift Shops, and sundry other clubs for the use of the Bielefeld denizens.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Marriner, the Station Staff Officer, now retired but formerly with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Tank Regiment, during the war, said: "Geographically we are ideally sited. We are not in the Ruhr and we have fine autobahn and rail links with the rest of Germany. Soldiers are happy in quarters here and, of course, we are in delightful surrounds."

Belgium and Holland are just two hours away by car, the Channel ports, five. And southern Europe with countries like Swit-

erland and Italy can be reached inside a day.

Colonel Marriner, a former logistical executive to the Imperial Ground Forces in Tehran until the collapse of the regime in 1978 added: "A young soldier posted in to Bielefeld will be in a quarter pretty quickly. I have transit accommodation facilities — three-bedroomed flats available — which re-unites him with his family until more permanent housing can be found for him.

"On the other hand, it could take five months to find accommodation for a major and three months for a captain. Colonels and lieutenant-colonels, of course, usually take over quarters from their predecessors."

Soldiers are quartered in two- and three-bedroomed houses in Bielefeld which would, in the UK, cost anything from £22,000 to £27,000 on the open market. The type of four-bedroomed house available to officers in Bielefeld would be worth over £40,000.

Landlords in Bielefeld, under private non-military arrangements could expect 1200 Marks (£300) a month in rent for a house with 120 square-metres, a captain's entitlement.

Sue Gregory, 22, a clerk-typist, whose husband is Lance-Corporal Philip Gregory of 10 Corps Transport Regiment, RCT, also likes the town and what it has on offer to service families.

Formerly in the Army herself, Sue said: "Bielefeld has a very good shopping centre and its location makes it easy to get to other parts of Germany. I've learned the basics of the German language and it's very useful. Wives should not be frightened to learn German. It's a nice language.

"The married quarters are a lot bigger and better than those in the UK, too. It's very easy to buy second-hand furniture out here like nearly brand-new three-piece suites which you can get for about £100. A new one would cost three times as much."

Sue admitted that life for her and her husband was so pleasant that they would both find it hard to re-adjust back in Britain. But she did concede that she thought German drivers were "dangerous" and pedestrians would "hustle you in crowds and blame you for it".

On a fashion note, she concluded: "The quality is a lot better in skirts here and the dresses are already lined. A good skirt costs about £30."

Eighteen-year-old Lisa Baylay, another clerk-typist, and the daughter of Warrant Officer 1 David Baylay of the Army Air Corps, is a member of the Bielefeld Garrison Youth Club.

"I think it's the best one in BAOR," she enthused. "There are always lots of things to do like swimming, ice-skating, discos, canoeing and weekend trips to the Harz Mountains. I don't go down to the town much but I do spend a good deal of my money on clothes. I'm told there are three good discos in the Gesellschaft House in Bielefeld."

"I'm taking a typing course at the moment but plan to take German at evening classes because I think with everyday life it helps you in the shops."

Warrant Officer 1 Ian Pickworth, REME, one of four estate wardens who recently took part in the mass Bielefeld charity marathon, said: "I feel the people I look after are very happy, particularly if they get a house. Six weeks after they arrive they can get accommodation and a soldier can either collect his family on the trooping flights from Luton to Gütersloh or drive them back by car."

"A lot of people like to live privately alongside the Germans on the estates because they are away from the Army. Our people, I feel, get a good deal. They can, in their leisure moments, go gliding, canoeing and even shooting with the Germans. There is a marvellous integration between us and the Germans here in Bielefeld."

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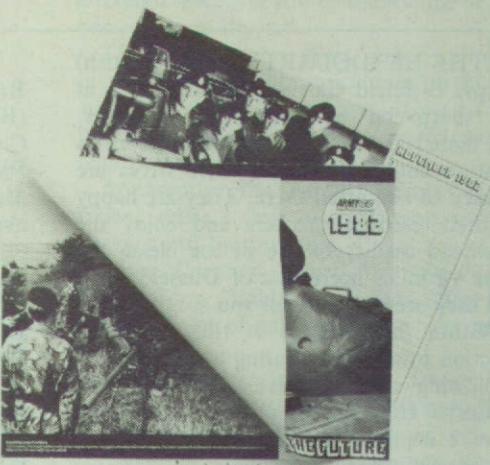
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'SHEP' SOLDIERS ON

◀ 'Shep' at this year's Boer War reunion.

affair, that was," he recalls.

Like all his fellow combatants the 21-year-old soldier from the heart of Wiltshire was told to watch his tongue. There were spies about. So he was naturally suspicious when a stranger dressed in khaki jacket, fisherman's hat and showing no badges of rank told him to move some horses from a grazing area near a dried-up river bed because they would surely contract colic.

"I asked him what he knew about horses and then asked him his name. He said he was General Churnford. I said I was Lord Roberts!" Shep still remembers with glee.

Far more un-nerving than his encounter with the general was Shep's brush with the enemy as he grabbed 'forty winks' in an over-turned ox-cart which had been part of a British convoy.

Shep explained: "I had climbed into the back of this cart and went to sleep. They would send back for the cart later. I hadn't been there many minutes when I heard some chatter. I looked out. They were blinking Boers, three or four of them. Over six feet, they were. I couldn't think where I was for the moment. They were making some coffee. They had sent away to get some horses to take the wagon away.

"I didn't know how I was going to get out

Shep subsequently fell ill in South Africa, fainting while lining up with a dozen others to see the doctor. He had enteric fever and recuperated in a bell tent where he slept in a bed for the first time in two years.

"The sheets were nice and clean. It was lovely," he said.

Shep left South Africa aboard a sailing-cum-hospital ship in 1902 but twelve years later — on 4 August, 1914, five days after the outbreak of the Great War — Shep was taken out of the Reserves and "fitted up" ready for sailing to France.

He survived the horrors of the Somme in World War One although his brother was killed at Fricourt.

"I rode three miles on horseback to try and trace him but only saw hundreds of bodies turning black in trenches not yet filled in," he recalls. "I could not get near because of the stench. The day before the



Private Sheppard on Boer War duty.



Corporal Sheppard — a WW1 picture.

of this one. On the tailboard of these wagons was a piece of steel. I slipped down to get away but my buckles rattled on the metal. They heard it and jumped up. I had already taken off my boots and bandolier and put my rifle down beside me. I should have picked them up but I never thought of that. I ran for my life."

The Boers opened fire but Shep dodged and weaved his way to safety — but only to face the prospect of a court-martial!

"Luckily for me, and I don't know what happened, the General was called away to Krugertown and the court-martial fell through. It was all about the rifle and the ammunition. They were never worried about me. I was told I was a lucky young man. A subaltern said I would have got my head blown off."

BRITAIN'S OLDEST surviving soldier, a veteran of two major wars who tried, unsuccessfully, to enlist for a third is still going strong — at 104!

William George Sheppard — known simply as 'Shep' — is one of 14 known survivors of the Boer War. Today he lives in an old people's home at Devizes in his native Wiltshire but he still retains crystal-clear memories of an action-packed Army career spanning South Africa and the Somme.

A farmer's son from Trowbridge who became a tailor in civilian life, he holds medals bearing the heads of four monarchs as testimony to his military exploits.

Born on 27 October, 1877, Shep joined the 2nd Battalion, The Wiltshire Volunteers, in 1895 as 14082 Private Sheppard, W G. But he kept his enlistment secret from his father and 'bribed' his local landlord to do likewise with the gift of a rifle shooting medal.

The story goes that his father did find out and was simply furious — because the landlord refused to part with the trophy!

Over the next 24 years Shep was to fight off enteric fever, suspect a prominent general of being a spy and be caught napping, literally, by four burly Boers who shot at him as he fled in stocking feet from an upturned ox-wagon.

Shep served with the Army Service Corps during the Boer War.

His appetite for Regular Army life had been whetted when he went to Aldershot and "got mixed up with the 3rd Hussar chaps". He went to Berwick to join up but was told he was not tall enough.

"I went for a horse regiment. I didn't want to carry a pack. I was offered the Army Service Corps and I said that would do. It was the horses I was very fond of. I didn't know they would be pairs of horses. I thought I would do three years and put up with it."

He arrived in South Africa in 1898, six months before the start of the Boer War, and remembers: "They were buying hundreds of horses from all over the world. From Hungary, the Argentine. A lot of them had never been ridden or ever had a driver. There were Boers on Durban railway station carrying rifles and everything. They must have known something was coming off."

Shep eventually "got mixed up" with the cavalry. He was back among horses, beloved from his boyhood days.

"I didn't mind the Boer War at all. Nothing like the 1914-18 war. A horrible

Somme battle when we were moving up we passed General Haig sitting by the roadside at a small table eating bread and cheese washed down by a bottle of beer and attended by two orderlies."

But his experiences in both wars did not deter the bright-eyed veteran. He tried to enlist for World War Two — at the age of 61!

Instead, he had to settle for a job as a special constable and police tailor at the Devizes HQ. He was a 'special' until 1946.

Shep finally retired in 1959 aged 81 and then only because of his wife's ill health.

This year he attended the final official Boer War Veterans' Reunion in London. He was the oldest at 103. The youngest was 98.

Now dim of eye but active in mind and body. Shep still takes daily exercise at the home for the elderly in Devizes where he has lived for the past eight years. He can proudly claim to be the finest living example of the staying power of the British soldier and the lady in charge of his home says: "He is a never-failing source of merriment and good cheer to us all."

ANNE ARMSTRONG



1981 HAS BEEN an exciting and challenging year — a year which saw the Royal Wedding and the launch of our new SOLDIER.

For me it will be a year to look back on and remember talking to HRH Prince Charles in February for BFBS about his involvement with youth, my visit to the European Parliament to attend the first-ever debate on Women's Rights when I was privileged to hear the late President Sadat address the Parliament and meeting Lord Snowdon to discuss his hopes for International Year of Disabled People.

There was tremendous involvement from parents and children in the Services at home and abroad in IYDP.

I am compiling a list of all the events and money raising activities organised by the Services and UK based civilians during IYDP and would welcome details of your contributions to make the record complete. Please send me the name of the organisation or individual who organised the event, the name of the charity to whom the proceeds went, the type of event, and, if you wish, the amount raised. If you have any photos, these too will be welcomed, although I regret they cannot be returned.

It has been a year of 'firsts' too — the UKLF Wives' Seminar in Bagshot and the Pre-School Playgroup Forum in Germany, both exciting and significant steps forward.

I have had my usual hectic round of visits to units and individuals in UK and abroad, of which perhaps the most exciting was my meeting in November with Mr Geoffrey Holland, the Director of the Manpower Services Commission, when he put the final seal on the project to extend the Youth Opportunities Programme to BFG. All being well, it should spread further, to other areas and overseas stations.

The New Year of 1982 holds a lot of promise and I hope it will be as rewarding as 1981 has been. Best wishes and a Happy New Year to you all.

Anne Armstrong

Why are only Servicemen and women allowed to be married in a garrison church by a Service padre? Many sons and daughters out here in Germany marry other UK based civilians and would like a church wedding as performed in UK.

Sgt L, BFPO 48

I asked PS4 at Lansdowne House for an answer to this question:

"The answer really lies in the law and not the church. A Serviceman and a Servicewoman may be legally married under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief by a padre in a military church in Germany. Nobody else has a claim to be married under the Commander-in-Chief's authority.

"In accordance with the law, anybody else (this would include the sons and daughters of Servicemen and Servicemen marrying a civilian) can only be married under German law or in the United Kingdom.

"Having said that, a padre would always lay on a proper marriage service in a military church but it would have no legal standing. The padre would have to be satisfied that a legally binding ceremony had taken place."

Our child is lucky enough to be at a Special Unit class attached to a primary school here in Germany. If parents are posted, can their children have the same teaching if they move to another BFES school or to a local authority?

Mrs H, Germany

I received a reply on this subject from the Education Directorate, HQ BAOR:

"It is not easy to generalise about educational provision particularly that relating to children with special educational needs.

"A child may have been placed in a Special Unit for a variety of reasons. There may be physical, intellectual, social or emotional problems involved. The Ministry of Defence does not provide special schools overseas and where a special need has been identified prior to posting, the Service Children's Education Authority would strongly advise against the child being brought to Germany.

"If however a child who is already in Germany is identified as having special educational needs, we do try where possible to arrange attendance on a temporary basis at one of the special unit classes attached to our primary schools at Wickrath, Hemer, Bielefeld, Fal-

lingbostel, Osnabrück and Berlin. Each of these units caters for up to eight children.

"However, I must emphasise that these classes provide only short-term provision and if there is a continuing need this should be met by placement in a special school in the United Kingdom. We would, therefore, not normally envisage transfer of a child between Special Units in Germany. If a posting within Germany could not be avoided and if there was a continuing need for special provision, we would counsel parents to consider placement at a suitable UK school.

"If the family were posted to UK, the Local Education Authority concerned would have a statutory duty to provide suitable education. It is, however, advisable that as soon as they are notified of a posting, the parents should inform the Headteacher. The Head-

ASK ANNE

teacher will then, through the BFES Child Guidance Service, notify the Special Education Section at Eltham who can advise on the facilities available in the proposed area of posting."

Could you give me any advice on children's escorts?

We are going to Germany and our daughter will just be starting at boarding school for the first time. She will be only nine years old.

Mrs F, BFPO 34

It is the parents' responsibility to arrange escorts for their children unless they are travelling to Germany under the MOD schoolchildren's visits via St Pancras station and Luton airport. In this case, your child will be looked after from the moment he/she is handed over to the Joint Services Airtrooping Centre at the station or airport.

Otherwise, there are four contact addresses which should be of help:
Country Cousins Courier Service, 6 Springfield Road, Horsham, W Sussex RH12 2PF. Tel: Horsham 61960

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION service loses contact with thousands of donors each year as people move house and forget to notify their local Blood Transfusion Centre of their change of address.

Remember to tell your Centre your old and new address and the date on which you plan to move so that they can keep their records up to date and not lose touch with you — and your blood.

If you are not a blood donor, but are between 18 and 65, in good health and would like to give blood, the Blood Transfusion Service would welcome your support. It only takes half an hour once or twice a year and your body soon makes up the blood you have given.

Contact the Blood Transfusion Service (the number is in your phone book) or phone 01-200 0200.

Overseas Personnel Services, Ravensworth House, Paices Hill, Aldermaston, Reading RG7 4PG. Tel: Woolhampton 2649
Universal Aunts Ltd., 36 Walpole Street, London SW3. Tel: 01-730 9834
Welmet, 84 Richmond Road, London SW20 0PD. Tel: 01-947 8702

Special arrangements can be made for handicapped children through MOD by contacting the Service Children's Education Authority (Special Education), Eltham Palace Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR.

We are returning to UK in early December prior to going to Hong Kong in March.

As 'visitors' to Britain for such a short time, do we need to buy a TV licence?

Mrs H, BFPO 24

The short answer I'm afraid is "yes". If you own a television set, you must have a licence and, unless the licence is no longer needed within 28 days, no refund is available (see SOLDIER 19 Oct — 1 Nov).

The Services Kinema Corporation, however, can help to keep down the costs of short-term television viewing. They are aware that sudden postings take place and can offer short-term television hire with only one month's initial payment. Their service in Germany and UK is tailored to meet the needs of the Serviceman and his family and, having once rented a set from SKC, the client has only to produce his original contract or a copy of it to qualify for reduced rental terms on subsequent hire.

I have received a letter from the daughter of a Serviceman who has just returned to BFG with her son to live with her parents.

Her child benefit payments ceased after six months and left her and her son dependent on her parents. In cases such as this the benefit can be paid to another person, other than the mother, who is responsible for the child within the DHSS requirements set out in leaflet CH 1/NOV 80 Child Benefit. Overseas, application should be made to the paymaster by the Serviceman if he wishes to claim UK Child Benefit on behalf of his grandson.

Cut-price school fees

The Independent Schools Information Service, ISIS, has issued Supplement No 1 to JSP 342, which has been prepared in conjunction with The Service Children's Education Authority.

The Supplement lists the National ISIS schools which offer financial concessions or bursaries to children of Service parents should they wish to send their children to boarding school.

The schools are listed by county and type and the Supplement should be a great help to parents.

Can dreams come true?

FOR THE RHEINDAHLEN
Youth Centre, 1981 was a lucky year. They were awarded a generous £1,500 grant from the King George's Jubilee Trust towards the cost of converting rooms into a craft centre for members and for the young unemployed in Rheindahlen.

The Soest Youth Club was lucky too. A cheque for £1,000 from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust was a welcome addition to the club's funds which are used by the club members "to help themselves to help others" — the criteria for the Queen's Trust.

How many other youth groups in Service communities at home and overseas could have been lucky? How many even knew that the Trust awards grants for projects?

As long ago as 1975 I was convinced that there was a need for a Services' Youth Association. I submitted a report to General Sir Alan Taylor, entitled 'Choice not chance' which was followed by another in 1978, 'Can a dream come true before 1980?'. We are now approaching 1982 and it is becoming increasingly evident that our children and teenagers need some kind of association that will provide a framework for the youth clubs and centres that are struggling to provide a service and focus for them.

I have been told that, since we have managed without such an association to date, there is no need for one now. I believe, however, that as more emphasis is placed on youth today, so the need has increased.

Without a framework of some kind, all the hard work and superb effort from our young-

sters, the volunteers, the fund-raisers and the back-up which the Services already give is being sold short. The Youth Service in British Forces Germany is doing some excellent work, but we need to go further. As a recognised Services Youth Association, many more doors would be open to us to make even more of the efforts already being made on behalf of the youngsters.

We are not affiliated to any national organisation for youth, nor do we feature on any mailing lists and thus many opportunities and schemes which would be of enormous benefit pass us by. Seminars, training weekends, sports and cultural exchange schemes come and go without Service children having a chance to be included. Some time ago there was a huge youth gathering called Charter 2000 which cost nothing to attend but of which Service youngsters were unaware. The Youth Parliament in London was another major event and it was almost by accident that three Service representatives were invited to attend — at the last minute.

Mr Mark Carlisle, when he was Minister for Education, is reported (*Education, July 1980 p 59*) as saying that although per capita expenditure figures should be viewed with some



Leonard Dickson, the Assistant Director of the Royal Jubilee Trusts, with some of the youngsters at the Rheindahlen Youth Centre when he visited Germany to present cheques from the Trust.

caution, they remain the best single indicator of levels of provision. The Local Authority Expenditure and Youth Service report for 1979/80 — 80/81 compiled by the research officer of the National Youth Bureau finds that the average per capita expenditure on young people between 14 and 20 in 70 Local Authorities in England was £10.44 per annum, with the lowest amount being £2.56.

Those figures make the Youth Service a genuine 'Cinderella Service' and I believe that the expenditure by the Armed Service overseas is

below that average figure. Youth always suffers in times of financial restraints and cutbacks. The lack of finance available from Service sources makes it even more imperative to give our youngsters and their youth clubs the chance to put their case for grants, awards and assistance from outside.

As a recognised Youth Association, children from Service families would have more opportunity to make the most of their efforts and endeavours. We pride ourselves on being a family, so let's give our children the best chance we can.

BFBS CHRISTMAS TWEET



BFBS-UK were flying high at their Christmas Party this year as handicapped children from the London area and from Service families in Devizes were entertained by some feathered friends and some who fly without feathers.

The Tweets pop group and the Red Devils parachute display team were among the guests at the party organised by Contact A Family for International Year of Disabled People.



Julie Chave with the £1,500 cheque.

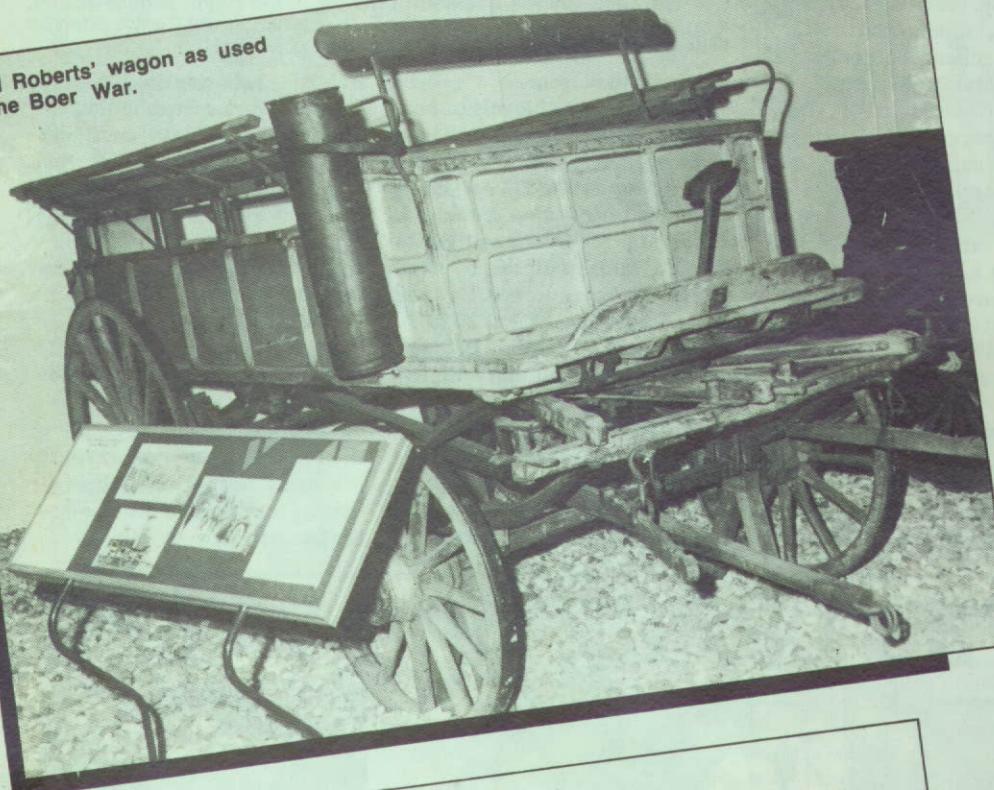




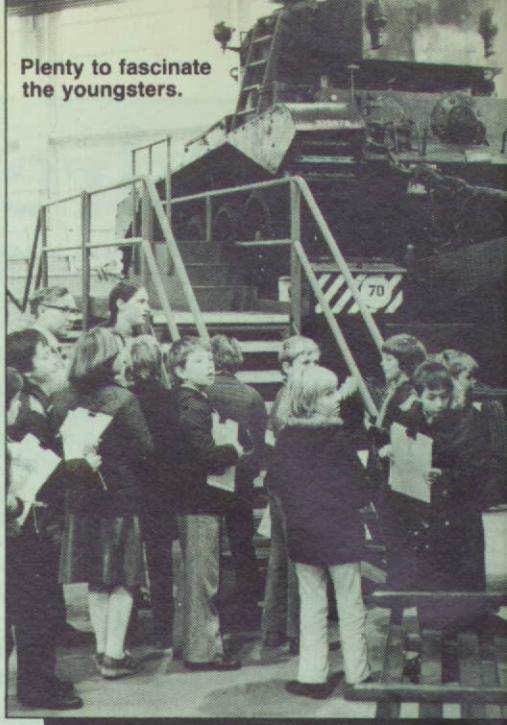
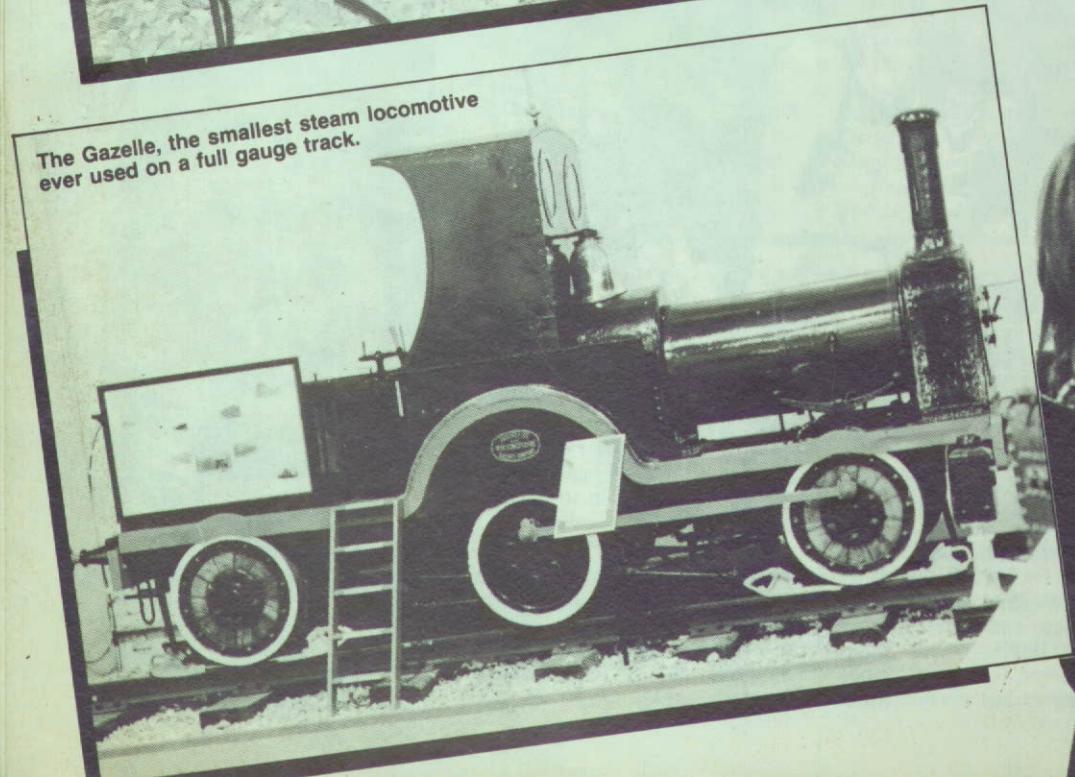
Plenty to fascinate the youngsters.

Ann Beecham visits Yorkshire's new tourist attraction

Lord Roberts' wagon as used in the Boer War.



The Gazelle, the smallest steam locomotive ever used on a full gauge track.



Transports of Delight

ANYONE COULD BE FORGIVEN for wondering what the small, windswept, North Yorkshire village of Leconfield could possibly have to offer the thousands of visitors who poured into the area during the summer months.

The answer lies buried in the heart of the Army School of Mechanical Transport, where a corner of a converted hangar houses the Army Transport Museum. More accurately known as the Royal Corps of Transport Collection of Army Road, Rail, Sea and Air Transport, the museum has just finished a short but successful summer season debut. Attracted by the irresistible lure of trains, boats and pictures of 'planes as well as a unique collection of military vehicles, the public has given the museum its enthusiastic support.

Lieutenant Colonel Teddy Penn is the Secretary of the museum, a task that, he



says, was thrust upon him but one which he enjoys nevertheless. When the collections of Royal Armoured Service Corps, later the Royal Corps of Transport, vehicles and those of the Royal Engineers' transport section were amalgamated and moved to Leconfield in 1977, after the closure of the Longmoor railway, Colonel Penn and Sergeant Albert Gregory were given the job of sorting things out.

"The entire collections were dumped in a hangar at ASMT and Penn and Albert Gregory were invited to do something about it," he recalls with a wry smile.

Mr Gregory, who retired from the Army in 1978, adds his recollections of the start of the present museum. "All the vehicles outside were deteriorating and I was then loaned to the Advanced Driver Training Wing, tasked to bring them under cover and sort out the vehicles into eras: pre-World War One, World War One and then World War Two.

"We then borrowed people from anywhere we could get them from and got them cleaning, painting and making it all respectable for people to look at."

The hangar itself needed extensive smartening up before it was habitable and an army of volunteers gave a hand in their spare time before turning their attention to the vehicles themselves.

Albert's interest stemmed from his days with 12 Regiment RCT in Aldershot where Staff Sergeants Bob Perry and Dave Pedder were rebuilding an old Morris 8cwt van of 1938/9 that was presented to the RCT as a complete wreck. They were having problems with the engine when Albert offered to lend a hand.

"It was one of the first vehicles I drove as an apprentice back in 1950 and it fascinated me, the engine and all that, so I helped because after they had restored it, they couldn't get it running," explained Mr Gregory.

He also has a great love of military heritage. "I am a great believer in preserving old vehicles and our heritage for future generations. I like to see them as they would have been in MOD use."



Daimler formerly used by our present Queen.

The museum is completely self-supporting. Apart from the committee, there are 12 people employed under the Manpower Services Commission scheme and two disabled employees who keep the museum and exhibits clean and shining. The premises also boast a shop and information office.

It took five months to set up the museum for its opening after it was given the go-ahead. There has been a great deal of help from other museums, particularly with advice and old photographs from the Imperial War Museum.

"It's a catch-as-catch-can business," said Colonel Penn. "The museum has been planned in stages. We have set up the interim display with the best vehicles to test public reaction and keep up our own interest but it's not easy to run a museum in the middle of a camp. There is the question of security and visitors need to check in and out."

Apart from the security aspect, there are many reasons why the museum would be better housed elsewhere. There are a number of vehicles in various stages of restoration spread over some three or four locations.

"We have started to negotiate with the Local Authority, Beverley Borough Council of East Yorkshire, to set up an RCT/Local Authority museum. There is a suitable location in Beverley, although it might be a co-location of museums. A feasibility study is underway and it should be a goldmine as this area is ripe for the development of tourism," explained Colonel Penn.

Meanwhile space is a continual headache for the museum committee. They have already found it necessary to overflow into another building behind the hangar to display the railway collection. Major Tubby Robins describes himself as the "railway member" of the committee. He is one of the last serving qualified signal fitters in the

continued on page 24

Pictures: Les Wiggs



6-wheel Morris Commercial 30cwt truck.



Leyland fire engine of 1920s vintage.

Army and has devoted weeks of leave to setting up a fascinating display of railway software and relics.

There are tickets, timetables, photographs, working models, uniforms, station signs, train nameplates and other souvenirs of the age of the train, all beautifully displayed to hold the smallest child spellbound and with full technical details to delight the knowledgeable devotee.

Of necessity, most of the trains that belong to the museum are on show elsewhere. Three Army trains are still working on lines at Shoeburyness, Long Marsden and in the Severn Valley and others are housed at the Railway Museum at York.

There was room at Leconfield, however, for the smallest steam locomotive ever made for a full gauge track, the Gazelle, and a Mars boiler dating from the 1880s that was known to have been involved in building the Chatham Forts in its heyday. It has since done duty on the Longmoor railway, as an officers' mess hot water boiler and, lastly, as a cut-away training aid showing how steam engines worked.

The museum provides a comprehensive education programme as well as for visits by the general public. The children prepare for

their visit before they arrive and have worksheets and projects to complete afterwards. All the material and guidance is provided by two education staff at the museum.

A particularly attractive feature of the museum is its informality. The children are encouraged to explore and climb into some of the exhibits, such as the Royal Daimler, the Comet tank and the Dukw. Other vehicles are displayed in their natural habitat — jeeps in desert camouflage axle-deep in sand and brilliantly-lit with spotlights come alive. Well, almost . . . "We haven't quite got the lighting right," admitted Colonel Penn, "but we're working on it."

The rather watery desert sun certainly didn't impress eight-year-old John Brewiss from Boynton Primary School near Bridlington. "It wasn't hot enough," he declared. "I liked the tank best. It was great. I was like the driver."

Opinion was divided among the little girls. Young Karen Gibson had stars in her eyes as she described what it was like to sit inside the Queen's car while Emily Horsfield preferred the blood and bandages of the field ambulance tableau.

Most of the exhibits are pre-1935 wheeled transport, so beautifully restored that many

are in perfect running order.

There have been some amazing finds over the years. Three World War One six-ton armoured Simplex locomotives were discovered in the front garden of a semi in Wales — they were too big to go in the bedroom — a Royal Army Veterinary Corps horse ambulance was rotting in a corner of a Hampshire field until it was rescued and restored using the only known photograph from the Imperial War Museum, and a 1944 Comet tank was found on Salisbury Plain, being used for target practice.

Add to these 'finds', the 1939 Rolls Royce Wraith which was Monty's staff car during World War Two and a collection of prototype military vehicles which never went into full production, and you have a unique collection of historic vehicles.

Colonel Penn and his staff have difficulty in confining their collecting to manageable proportions. "People are throwing things away and forgetting them faster than we can find and record them," he admitted.

He summed up the appeal of the museum in a good-natured observation. "There are three kinds of idiot: the vehicle idiot, the railway idiot and the Army idiot — and we cater for all three here!"

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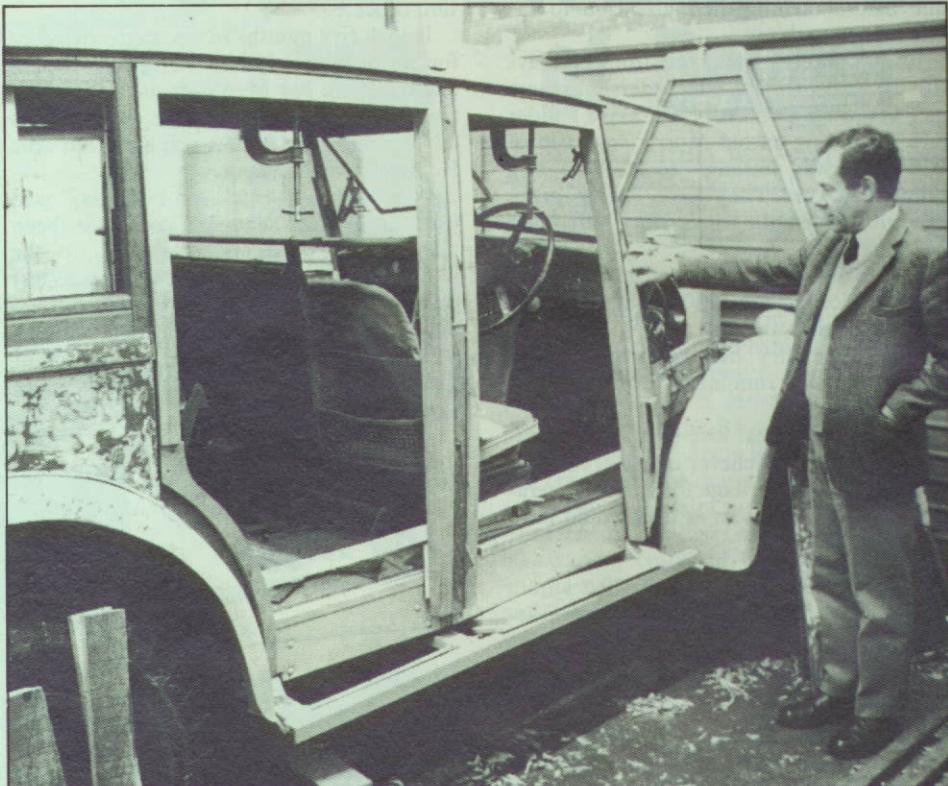
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Lt Col Penn examines work in progress on a 1940s Humber Heavy Utility found in Cyprus.

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The museum is open to the public during the summer months at weekends only between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Adults — 50p. Children and OAPs — 25p.

Groups wishing to visit the museum may do so throughout the year by prior arrangement between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. School parties are admitted free.

Further enquiries to: Transport Museum, Army School of Mechanical Transport, Normandy Barracks, Leconfield, North Yorkshire. Tel: Leconfield (0401) 51198.

Two separate Army expeditions visited Nepal earlier this year.

EVERYONE KNOWS NEPAL as the land of the Himalayas, Buddhist monasteries and, of course, the home of the Gurkha. But not so commonly understood are the details of how the various Nepalese hill tribes live and work.

Displays of Nepalese artefacts have been featured in French and Swiss museums for some years, but no major British collection had ever been undertaken for a British museum until the 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery from Osnabruck joined forces with the Horniman Institute.

Now, as a result of a tough seven week expedition, the country's first collection will soon be seen in London, Liverpool and Ipswich.

It was a trip in which the party faced temperatures up to 110 degs F, monsoon conditions which turned rocky tracks into icy cataracts and the worst storm the mountain kingdom had known since 1974.

The monsoon had already wrecked bridges, caused landslides and turned rivers into torrents when the party set out from Pokhara, Nepal's second city. It took 11 days for them to reach their base camp area in the Dhorpatan Valley.

It was there that scientist Mr Ken Teague, Sergeant 'Jack' Tarr and Lance Bombardier 'Ginger' Makin gathered the bulk of the exhibits to be brought back as well as making a survey of two major Tibetan temples.

Meanwhile Captain Andy Bruce, RHA, Captain Clive Herdman, RAMC and Lance Bombardier Paul Claxton crossed the 15,500 ft Phagune Dhuri to reach two remote villages with a lifestyle totally different from the rest of the region. They found American Indian-style pueblo villages clinging precariously to the valley sides — houses in which one person's porch was his lower neighbour's roof — subsistence agriculture and little contact even between villages. In one they were the first Europeans the villagers had seen.

But it was on the return trip to Kathmandu that they were caught in the freak storm. Six inches of rain fell in 10 hours and roads, bridges and villages were washed away with the loss of hundreds of lives.

As a result the anticipated 14 hour journey from Tensing to Kathmandu took five days and the party became one of the first to reach the capital from the stricken area.

FOR THE 23-STRONG Infantry Junior Leaders team from Shorncliffe, Exercise Annapurna Minor was a trip of contrasts and disappointment; from high temperatures, humidity and lush valleys to mist enshrouded mountain slopes, snow and ice.

Over the first days of the 300 mile trek they climbed to a height of 5000 feet. Two days later they were at 10,000 and huge white peaks loomed over them.

The 11,000 ft high Pisang village, only about 10 miles from the Tibetan border, was base for the planned assault on Pisang Peak, towering above at some 20,000 ft.

Base camps were established at 14,000 and 16,000 ft but finally acclimatisation and weather combined to foil the attempt. The party had no more than fleeting glimpses of the white snow dome through scudding, damp mist.

On the morning of the final assault it was cold and bleak, after overnight snow and thunder, and it was an unpleasant slog through snow and slag for the climbing party. Then the snow gave way to ice and the ground became increasingly dangerous, so much so that after three hours the attempt was abandoned. Finally an avalanche crashed out of the mist.

There was little consolation for the team when they heard that an experienced German party also failed to conquer Pisang three days later.

Crossing the 18,000 ft Thorung La pass on the return trip, they found themselves accompanied by a herd of goats and Tibetan travellers on horseback. Then it was down through the Kali Gandaki, the deepest gorge in the world. Low cloud even denied them anything but a sighting of the mighty Dhaulagiri and Annapurna I.

"They experienced a form of life none of them dreamed of when they signed on," said expedition leader Lieutenant Colonel John Fleming. "But what was so fascinating for me was that I could see them changing, maturing all through the trek. I was not aware of a single fractious moment, everyone completed the course and there were no injuries."

"What is even better is that we were all still talking to each other at the end. That is the hallmark of a successful expedition." ■

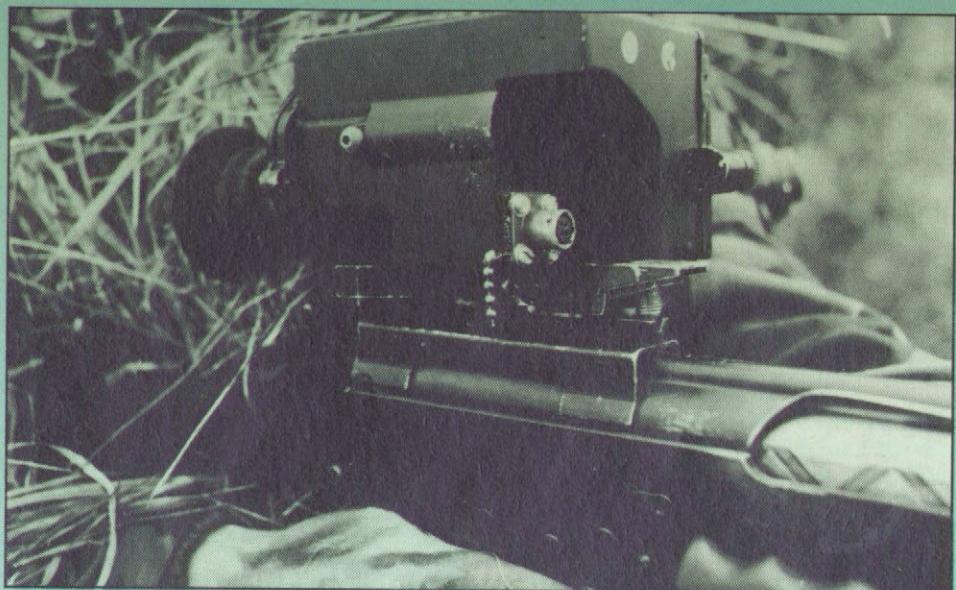


Pte Humphries (PARA) crossing bridge at Birethanti on Junior Leaders trek.

HIMALAYAN ADVENTURERS

L/Bdr 'Ginger' Makin and Capt Andy Bruce fording river at Buatsi on 7RHA trip.





A laser device that injects vital realism into field training is just one of many new pieces of 'kit' being looked at by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit.

'LIE DOWN - YOU'RE DEAD!'



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Doug Pratt

WHAT SMALL BOY could possibly resist such a Christmas present — a true-to-life Army game incorporating rifle, blanks, battery-powered, simulator-aided laser sights and plenty of noise?

Imagine playing stealthy, patrolling soldiers outdoors and being shot and 'killed' or 'wounded' by a laser pulse from a device topping a high-powered rifle. There's no chance of cheating. When you are 'dead' you have to lie flat on your back — and stay there! If you don't, a continuous high-pitched alarm is emitted from the sensor-packed harness on your body — definitely a dead give-away!

But before mum and dad rush out eagerly to make little Johnny's Christmas dreams come true, it ought to be pointed out that this exciting gadgetry is not to be found on any toyshop shelf. It's been designed for real soldiers and they've been trying it out over recent months during platoon and section attacks training under the sponsorship of the 30-strong military and civilian Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) at Warminster.

Known simply as SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulator), the sonorous system takes all dispute out of the adjudication of field training exercises which hitherto have relied on the visual assessments of umpires to decide the outcome. 'Battles' are still fought with set allocations of blank ammunition but combatants are no longer, as Warrant Officer 1 (Technical Sergeant Major) Tony Harverson terms it, "running around pulling triggers willy-nilly and proving nothing."

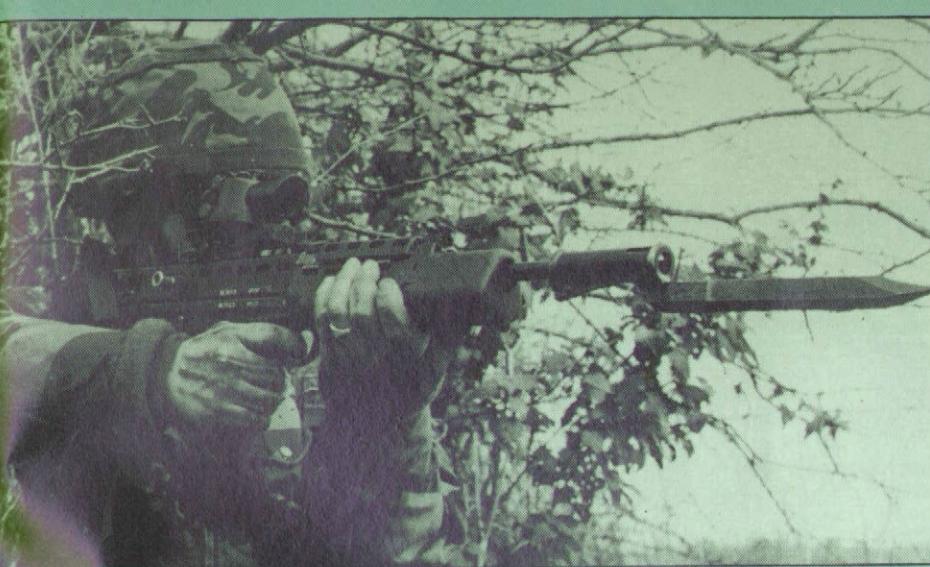
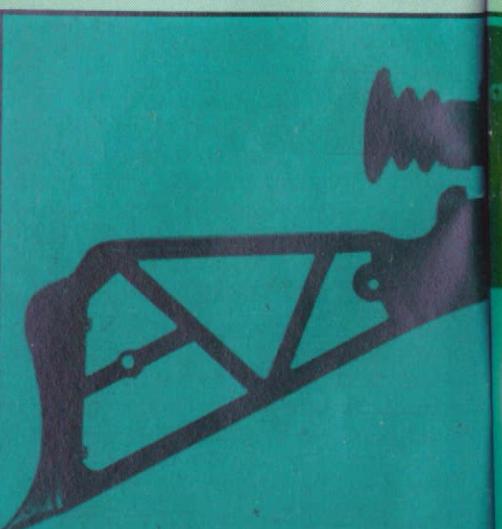
"At the end of an exercise you normally wander up to the umpire, supervisor or instructor who pontificates on what he thought the results were. There is nothing tangible at the end of the day", he explained. "SAWES has been designed to add to dry tactical training where blank ammo has to be used. It makes the soldiers vulnerable yet potentially effective as far as marksmanship is concerned."

The laser pulses are fired in conjunction with the rifle blanks at any one of a dozen sensors strapped to a harness and on the headgear of an 'enemy' exercise player.

A direct hit or 'kill' triggers off the signal which can only be silenced by the recipient

▲ Triple angle view of the sensor-packed harness and headgear.

The umpire's decider — the 'God box'. ▼



▲ Pte Steve Kingsby and new Individual Weapon (IW).

◀ Close-up view of SAWES and laser device.

lying on his back. If he moves into any other position the shriek starts again.

Only an umpire with another special device can bring a 'dead' victim back into exercise play by cancelling out the signature. And if a player strays out of permitted boundaries, the same piece of equipment can wipe him out by firing at one of his sensors.

Because of its instant powers of death or resurrection, this omnipotent instrument is sardonically labelled the 'God Box'.

Once a player runs out of his allocated ammo he cannot cheat and 'take out' more of the opposition.

He automatically becomes ineffective.

Even near misses are accounted for, with a different tone being emitted from the harness. This at least gives the player a chance to make for cover even though his position is compromised.

It takes only five minutes to put on and adjust the harness harbouring the battery-powered sensors.

Trialling the system has proved extremely popular with those field testing it — all men from the resident Infantry Demonstration Battalion. And it wins high praise from WO1 Harverson who is a Queen's Medallist at Bisley and, like his IDTU colleagues, an expert in his particular field.

He told SOLDIER: "I had half-a-dozen of these lads on a minor tactical training exercise and the first two weeks were routine

and boring because we were just evaluating the system and seeing how effective the laser pulse was. But when we got to the last week and were out on ambush, recce and fighting patrols, the mood was different. At the end of the day they were begging for more. There was no lack of enthusiasm on their part. They took a lot of pride in avoiding being hit.

"The Americans have a similar system called MILES but ours is said to be a far superior one — and it's British. SAWES records tangible, clear and unambiguous results."

It is hoped to introduce SAWES in the spring of next year and the School of Infantry is likely to be its first user.

As Lieutenant-Colonel Mick Toomey, Royal Irish Rangers and Commandant of the Unit, endorsed: "SAWES is the greatest advance in tactical fieldcraft training since the blank was invented and that is the feeling of the soldiers. They are really starting to enjoy field training, seeing how effective they are using the system instead of watching some umpire strutting around."

But SAWES is only one of several current trial schemes being undertaken by the IDTU.

Others include Small Arms (SA 80) — the replacement for the SLR (Self Loading Rifle) and SMG (Sub-Machine Gun); work on the Milan anti-tank weapon night sight; LAW 80 — to replace the 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank gun and 66mm light anti-armour weapon; and PJRAD (Projector Area Defence) to name but a few.

Small Arms 80 involves the IW (Individual Weapon) and LSW (Light Support Weapon) systems or, technically, "configurations" with an estimated "80 per cent commonality of parts", according to Major Bob Milton, The Parachute Regiment, who is working on the project.

The weapon — due to enter service in the mid-80s — has single and automatic fire capabilities.

The LSW will probably replace the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) in the light role. It has two sighting systems, an optical sight similar to the SUIT (Sight Unit Infantry Trilux) and an iron sight at the back similar to that of the M.16 Armalite.

The SA 80 weapons system will have a 30-round magazine and ranges are "expected to be from 300 and above to 600 metres". The IW will have a bayonet fixture for close quarter battle use.

Major Milton said: "The system is ergonomically well-designed and smaller and lighter than the SLR with a high hit rate. The soldiers really love it, having trialled it for two months in sunshine, rain and windy conditions. There is no comparison with the SMG — it's just not in the same ball park. And it's more consistent than the SLR."

Senior Aircraftman Tony Wildgoose of the RAF Regiment, echoed the enthusiasm for the new weapon, which will fire 5.56mm ammunition, when he said: "It's a lot easier to clean than the SLR. It has been fired, dunked in mud, dipped in a stream, its barrel pulled through and then fired immediately. It's also compact and more manageable on boats and in aircraft."

The LAW 80 system is due to replace the Carl Gustav and 66mm weapons in 1984 and trials start in the middle of next year.

Major Chris Barton, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, with the Support Weapons and Mobility Section, said: "This is a very promising piece of equipment in terms of penetration with the capability of defeating any known enemy armour. The performance of the Carl Gustav is being overtaken by the improvements in armour of enemy battle tanks."

"LAW 80 will come with an outdoor simulator using a special screen and projector. The system will also incorporate a moving target area. There will also be an adjacent spotting rifle with five rounds to help firers judge the speed a tank is moving and its range."

Weighing about eight kilos, LAW 80 will fire a projectile of "about 100mm calibre up to about 300 metres".

A number of small trials have already taken place with the carriage of the system.

Major Barton assessed LAW 80: "The whole equipment in almost every area is right on the edge of technology and is one of the most effective anti-tank weapons in production."

But the production of any system, the men of IDTU readily admit, can take a very long time — often as long as ten years.

The IDTU — divided into an HQ and four trials sections — is currently responsible for Small Arms, Support Weapons, Surveillance and Guided Weapons respectively, conducting trials which fall broadly into eight categories.

Urgent operational trials are carried out according to the availability of personnel able to give the quickest response.

The staff of the unit plan and carry out trials and have a call on men from the Infantry Demonstration Battalion who man the equipment.

Colonel Toomey pointed out: "We are thus able to assess the probable performance of fully-engineered prototypes when in the hands of true representatives of the user before acceptance into service. We are also able to recommend essential modifications to the Director of Infantry before an item enters the production phase and is subjected to Troop Trials by Field Force units."

The various stages of procedure start with the idea — the General Staff Target; then, the feasibility study; the General Staff Requirement — how many, how much and to whom; prototypes and their trials; and, finally, troop trials followed by tender and production contracts. The eighth classifica-

Continued on page 28

tion is that of urgent operational requirements linked with priority trials.

The unit carries out about 50 trials annually embracing such apparently modest projects as modifying a pair of wire cutters, deciding how best to attach a 'bivvy' to the side of an armoured personnel carrier and determining how to carry a wounded man with the "minimum amount of extraneous items".

Last year, for instance, trials were carried out on Milan's carriage in the AFV 432 Armoured Personnel Carrier, the one-tonne lorry and in Land Rovers. Tests were also done on the Milan Compact Turret (MCT) with the twin-mounted unit which drops straight into the back of a Spartan Command Post vehicle.

Operators are now being trained to use the Milan Infra Red Adaptor (MIRA) imaging night-sight made by a German firm.

The Projector Area Defence (PJRAD) trials are designed to replace the Claymore mine which spews out ball-bearings at waist height. Also under scrutiny are a number of expensive navigation systems which, says the Commandant, are "working out quite well".

The ITDU is also engaged in the MCV 80 project — an armoured personnel carrier replacement — which will have user trials in



1983 before entering service in 1988.

But one of the trickiest problems teasing the infantry equipment triallists at Warminster is that of re-charging batteries — quickly. So far the answer has eluded them but they are doggedly working on it, fervently hoping that it will not take the full run of ten years to find the solution.

As Lieutenant-Colonel Toomey stressed to SOLDIER: "It does not follow that

QMSI Brian Chantry with LAW 80.

everything we test here will necessarily see light of day with the British Army. It may never be brought into service because we cannot afford it or people don't see any good reason for it. I hope that SAWES is not going to fall into that category and tumble by the wayside. If the equipment does not go into service it will be due to economic restraint and not to a systems failure."

No 6 4th/7th ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS

IN 1685 THE EARL OF ARRAN raised the 6th Horse becoming its first Colonel. Renumbered the 5th Horse five years later they subsequently became known as the 1st Irish Horse. After more than a century of upholding the authority of the Crown in Ireland they were granted the distinctive title of 'Royal Irish' in 1788 and their title, which remained unchanged for 132 years, became 'The 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards'.

Two exciting years in the Peninsular from 1811 saw them return to the thankless task of preserving law and order in their home country, but this was followed by the opportunity of warlike activity in the Crimea. Forming part of the Heavy Brigade under Sir James Scarlett they helped inflict a true defeat on the Russian cavalry — a victory of greater significance than the much publicised Light Brigade affair.

During the Egyptian campaign of 1882 they teamed up with the 7th Dragoon Guards to take Cairo. The badge that adorned their caps was the Star of the Order of St Patrick in white metal above a gilding metal scroll inscribed '4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards'. The Roman numerals borne on the Star gave the date of the founding of the order.

Three years later than the formation of the 6th Horse, the Earl of Devonshire raised the 10th Horse, renumbered five years afterwards as the 8th. In 1749 it became the 4th Horse, its Troops being converted to Dragoon Guards in 1788. From 1720 until 1749 they had been known by their Colonels name 'Ligoniers Horse' but finally came to rest as '7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards'.

They saw early service under Marlborough, followed this with the onerous task of aiding the civil power both in Ireland and in England, campaigned in South Africa in 1846, and then joined forces with the 4th DG in Egypt. They returned to South Africa for the Boer war and later took part in the terrible world-wide conflagrations of 1914 and 1939. The crest of Earl Ligonier, a demi lion issuant from a coronet below a scroll inscribed '7th Dragoon Guards' in white metal, was worn from 1898 until 1906. The metal was then changed to gilding metal and the scroll amended to be the Earl's motto *Quo fata vocant* (Wherever fate calls).

When in 1922 the amalgamation of the two Regiments took place to form the single Regiment of 4/7th Dragoon Guards, a change in design was required. The eight pointed star was altered to show the St George's Cross and the Roman date amended to that of the date of the amalgamation. It is described as "An eight pointed star thereon a circlet inscribed *Quis Separabit MCMXXII*. Within the circlet St George's Cross with the coronet of the Princess Royal superimposed thereon. In white metal." The badge was Sealed on 30 January 1930 when the prefix 'Royal' was granted to the Regiment. An anodised version was adopted on 24 February 1964. Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

Your Cap Badge



Next issue: 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards

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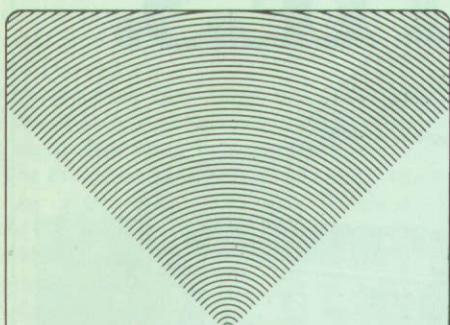
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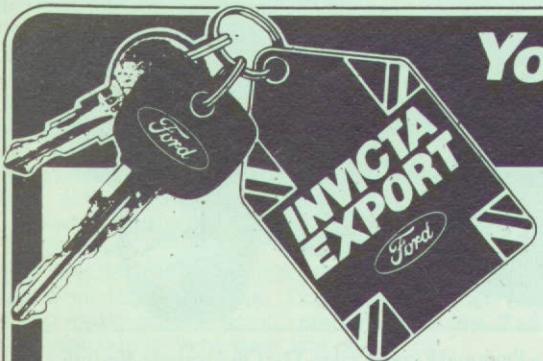
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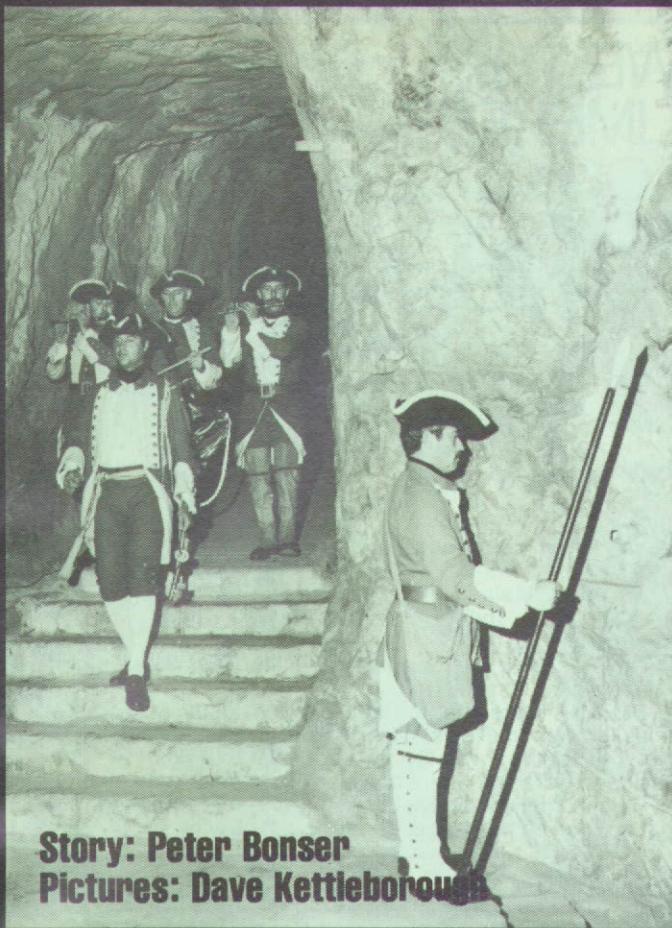
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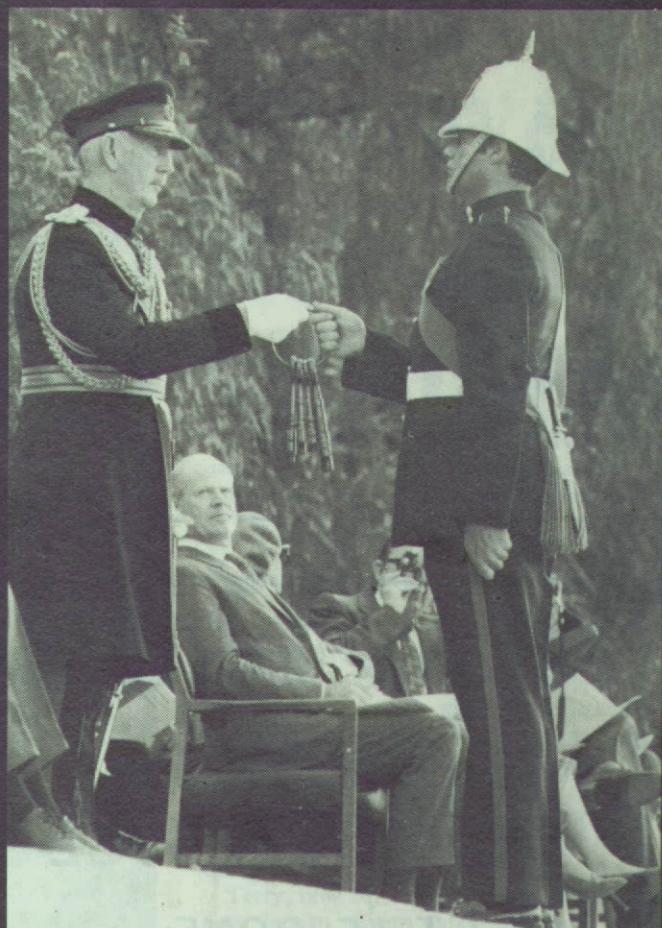
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Story: Peter Bonser
Pictures: Dave Kettleborough



ROCK PUTS BACK THE CLOCK

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Gibraltar was under siege. It had suffered almost two years of bombardment, discomfort and near starvation as British troops on the garrison watched the Spanish push their fortifications daily nearer to the forward defences of the Rock.

To combat this growing menace, the Governor, General Sir George Eliott, conceived the plan for his famous Sortie. In the dark early hours of 27 November 1781 some 2000 men led by Brigadier General Ross stole silently out of the beleaguered garrison and stormed the Spanish lines 1000 metres to the north. The surprise was total. The enemy's guns were spiked and its formidable defences destroyed with the loss of just four lives.

This year of course marked the bicentenary of Sortie Day, and the successors to some of the famous regiments that took part in that heroic action gathered on the Rock for a special parade with Colour Parties travelling from the UK and Germany.

As well as the Rock's resident battalion — currently the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment — and The Gibraltar Regiment, there were representatives from the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers, The Royal Anglians, The Devonshire and Dorsets, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. The Royal Navy also took part.

Theme of the parade was a 'Ceremony of

the Keys', re-enacting the traditional evening 'locking up' of the Garrison by the Port Sergeant and the handing over of the keys to the Governor for safe keeping until the morning. These keys are now considered the 'Colours' of the Garrison and still remain in the Governor's custody.

The Keys ceremony had also been re-enacted — in 18th century costume — the previous evening in St George's Hall, a man-made gallery in the so-called 'notch' perched high on the northern face of the Rock. This seven gun chamber, tunneled

out by the forerunners of the Royal Engineers shortly after the Great Siege of 1779, was the scene of a traditional dinner given for local dignitaries by the Deputy Fortress Commander, Brigadier Duckworth. The menu was based on the sort of simple fare that may have been served on such an occasion during the siege period. ■

Top left: Keys party in 18th century dress; **Top right:** Port Sergeant Joe Sanders, Gibraltar Regt, hands over keys to Governor General. Below: March past of the colours along Grand Alameda Parade.





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Terry above with the 3RGJ band and below (centre) in his pop star days.



When Our Kid joined up...

'NO-ONE SAW HIM CRY'

AN APPEARANCE on *Top of the Pops*, a nationwide tour with all the usual razmataz and screaming girls. This was the life for Terry McCreigh just five short years ago. Today Terry is still making music but he is no longer in the spotlight. He is just one of the musicians playing the cornet in the band of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Terry, now 20, was born into a showbusiness family. Even today his aunt is a member of the all-girl group, The Vernons, and his cousin, Frankie Jones, has a recording contract.

From the age of eight Terry was in a road show which included various members of his family. By the time he was ten he was compering the show, cracking jokes and playing the ukulele as the show wound its way round north country working mens' clubs.

Eventually four youngsters got together to form the group 'Our Kid' with Terry as lead vocalist. And in 1976 the schoolboys appeared on the ITV show *New Faces* and won it with the song *You Just Might See Me Cry*. The record soared into the Top Ten but two years later the group split up.

Says Terry: "Our recording contract came to an end but we did have other offers. But some of us wanted to go one way and some another so instead of staying together we split up."

Not long afterwards the erstwhile pop star began a new life — as a rifleman in the Royal Green Jackets. An unusual decision in the circumstances but Terry had his reasons: "I wanted to be close to my brother, who was in the battalion and who I had not seen much of. I didn't find things difficult and I came through training well."

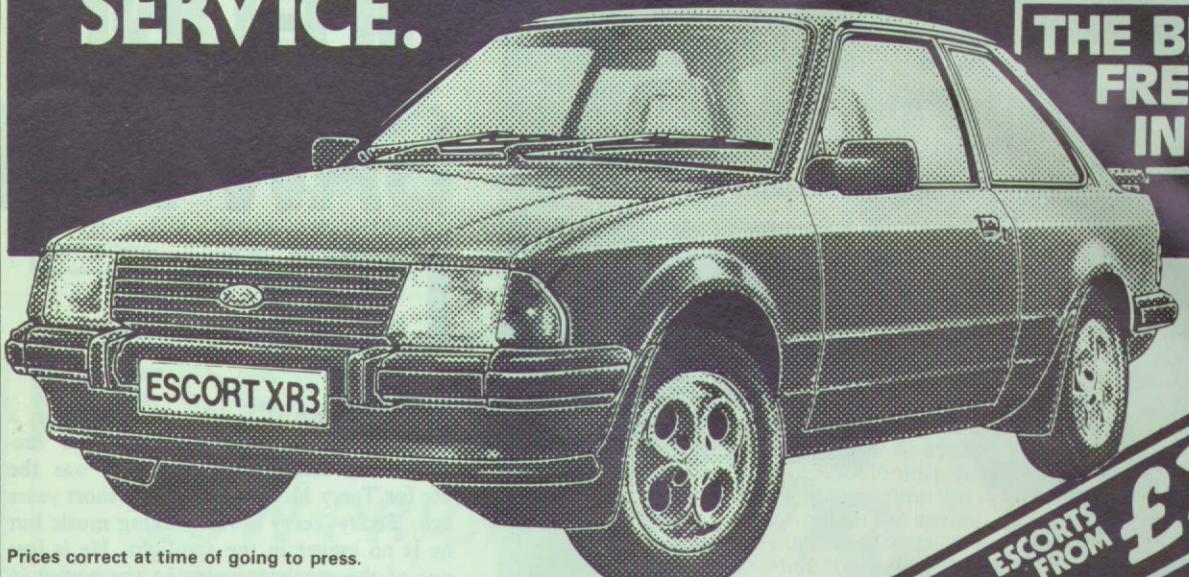
Inevitably word of his singing got around and he was asked to join the band and become the vocalist for the battalion's group 'Black Mafia' (now known as 'NBC').

The group plays in messes and Army clubs but also does some civilian gigs. And Terry is still writing a lot of his own material. While he was in Cyprus he was able to record some of it courtesy of the British Forces Broadcasting Service.

Does he miss the glamour of showbiz? "Not really. Now I am playing with the band we are still entertaining. And when we go out with the group it is just like the same thing on a smaller scale."

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New Triumph as popular as Metro say Natocars

The new Triumph Acclaim which went on sale just a few weeks ago looks set to become as big a seller as the fabulous Mini Metro.

General Manager of Natocars of Bridgwater, Mike Perrin, said last week, "Interest in the new Triumph has been outstanding, with requests for information and prices in every post, and I think BL are on to another winner". And of course with the present changes in the DM/£ exchange rates, cars bought from the UK are now terrific value.

Economical, sporting and totally-equipped. That's BL's description of the new Triumph Acclaim.

The first high production car to be built in Britain by a British company in collaboration with a major foreign concern - the Honda Motor Company - the Acclaim comes to the market bang on schedule.

It is being built at the company's Cowley plant, and is the first of several BL vehicles which will benefit from the substantial £70m factory modernisation programme carried out there.

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

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Undoubtedly, this Cavalier is one of the most significant new models to appear on the European market. It employs advanced technology not for its own sake but to create a car that, in all-round performance, is hard to beat.



The Bantams: Sidney Allinson

They were called 'Piccaninny-Soldats' by the French when they landed at Le Havre in World War One. They were also known as the 'Devil Dwarfs', the 'Gamecocks' and the 'Fighting Cocks'. They were the men around five feet tall who enlisted in the Bantam Battalions when Kitchener so badly needed men. Their lack of height did not prevent them bearing hearts courageous. They were tough and they were cheery, having survived through their early years many taunts about their smallness. They were miners and dockers, farm workers and factory lads. They trained with enthusiasm, quickly mastered 'square bashing' and assault drills, were tireless on route marches and gained reputations for brawling and all kinds of mischief.

They also fought like tigers and gained innumerable awards for gallantry. Like all British battalions in that war they suffered heavy casualties. Unfortunately the high tough standard of the first enlistments could not be maintained in sufficient numbers to continue as battalions and divisions, so later enlistments took their places in normal units and the Bantams gradually faded away. Perhaps that is why they have hardly been mentioned in histories of World War One. Until now.

Howard Baker Press Ltd., 27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 - £8.95

GRH

The Age of Chivalry — Part 2: Liliane and Fred Funcken

Part of Ward Lock's *Arms and Uniforms* series this is the second of three volumes on the Age of Chivalry. The authors have concentrated on castles, forts, artillery and armour to the end of the 15th century, infantry and cavalry of the Renaissance and the Slavs and Orientals (Russians, Tartars, Mongols, Turks, Chinese and Japanese) in the same period. Half the pages are illustrated in fine detailed colour.

The development of infantry is outlined from its birth, and there is much intriguing detail showing the construction of forts and the varieties of personal armour. The pictorial sequences show much better than any text could the techniques of sapping and mining.

An unexpected link with today is the fact that there was even an army frogman around in 1203. An expert swimmer named Galbert towed a string of earthenware vessels, tarred and filled with burning embers, to set fire to the gatehouse guarding the Chateau-Gaillard in the Andelys and thus effect entry.

Ward Lock Ltd., 47 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 6AX - £7.95

An Illustrated Guide to Pistols and Revolvers: Major Frederick Myatt MC

Major Myatt is no stranger to the world of small arms; not only is he Curator of the Weapons Museum at the School of Infantry in Warminster, he has also written several previous books on the subject.

Here he turns his attention to pistols and revolvers. In a brief introduction, he describes the history of the hand-gun from its beginnings in the 1830s, through the innovative improvements of Colt and Adams and up to the present day. In the illustrated section, 74 revolvers and 54 self-loading pistols from all over the world are considered in roughly chronological order, each one described and its specifications listed. There are superb colour illustrations of each weapon, frequently with its ammunition type, and copious black-and-white pictures of the guns 'in action'.

The pocket-sized format makes this an excellent introductory guide to the general student of military or munitions history, while experienced collectors will find it handy for reference. Excellent value.

Salamander Books Ltd., 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AF - £3.95

IJK

Rats: The Story of a Dog Soldier: Max Halstock

This is the story of the British Army's most famous dog soldier of recent years, a part-Corgi, part-Jack Russell, part mystery, who attached himself to the base at Crossmaglen, in Northern Ireland's 'bandit country' sometime in 1978. Despite his mongrel manners, Rats soon became adopted by the soldiers stationed at the base, endearing himself to all with his lively manner, intelligence, and the way in which he used to be sick in the Officers' Mess!

Throughout his period of service,



Rats shared the hardships and dangers of his human companions, on more than one occasion seeing off larger dogs let loose with the object of harrying Army patrols, and displaying a great love of helicopter travel. Rats survived a bomb explosion early in his career, and went on to receive a grim catalogue of battle-scars; a shot-gun pellet in his chest, a singed tail from a firebomb explosion, a stab-wound in the stomach and the results of two unequal fights with motor vehicles!

Rats achieved a certain amount of national fame when he appeared on BBC TV's *Nationwide* at Christmas two years ago, and following a lot of exposure in the press which had the effect of making him a potential target in Crossmaglen, the little dog went into honorary retirement in early 1980.

Rats is the affectionate record of service of one of the Army's great characters.

Victor Gollanz Ltd., 14 Henrietta Street, London WC2 — £4.95 IJK

Patton's Gap: Richard Rohmer

A cryptic headline on the jacket reading "Patton vs Monty vs Bradley and Eisenhower" is an indication of one of the main themes of this book: that at times it would appear that the Allied generals were not always fighting on the same side!

Richard Rohmer, who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War Two, describes his experiences as a reconnaissance pilot over the battlefields of Normandy with candour and humour — but this is by the way. The main story he has to tell as a commander and analyst looking back on the events of 1944 concerns the controversial episode 37 years ago when the German Seventh Army and the remnants of the Fifth Panzer Army were almost encircled by the Allies. The key word is 'almost', for hundreds of thousands of German troops, vehicles and tanks were in an enormous pocket from which there was only one way of escape — through the Falaise Gap.

For nearly a week until 20 August the Gap remained open and by the time the decision was finally taken to close it between 200,000 and 250,000 German soldiers and their equipment had eluded capture. There is no question in Rohmer's mind that this was a military blunder which not only prolonged the war but was



something which could and should have been prevented.

So who was ultimately responsible for the decision that kept the Gap open? Which of the leading generals — Patton, Montgomery, Bradley or Eisenhower — gave the order? For Rohmer the answer is clear enough and he gives it straight from the shoulder in unequivocal terms.

In this succinct account of the Battle of Normandy the story of the Falaise Gap is dramatically highlighted to make both instructive and compulsive reading.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £8.95

JFP

MORE BOOKS

Amritsar: Alfred Draper

There were riots, murder and arson and British women were attacked in Amritsar in the Punjab in 1919 when the Sikhs' holy city was overflowing with pilgrims. The civil authorities could not cope and handed over to the military. Brigadier General Dyer, called in from Jullundur, was given written authority: "All gatherings will be fired on!" He had but 474 British and 710 Indian troops — some taken off a train that had halted on its way to Peshawar. With 400 men Dyer marched through the city in heat "like a furnace" and issued warning proclamations at 19 separate points. It took them two hours. The crowds were dense — up to 20,000 in places — openly hostile, insolent, banging tins and shouting: "The British Raj is at an end."

Later that day Dyer was told that a crowd of between 15,000 and 50,000 had assembled to listen to speeches in the wall-enclosed Jallianwala Bagh. He marched there with 50 riflemen, half Indian, half Gurkhas, plus 40 Gurkhas armed only with kukris. He closed the exit and fired. Time and again. The soldiers calmly obeyed and fired 1650 rounds of .303 ammunition. Hundreds died. The official first report said 200; the Indians later claimed it was 500, even 1000.

Dyer and most British people in India believed he had that day prevented widespread rebellion, as there was unrest far beyond Amritsar. The Indians, massed behind Mahatma Gandhi, used it to further their aims for self rule.

Right or wrong? Dyer was supported and given command of what turned out to be a brilliant expedition in Afghanistan, but the politicians called for blood and he was sent home in disgrace a broken and very ill man. The controversy raged for years but when he died in 1927 he had been vindicated. Fighting for Dyer's honour throughout was the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, whom, the Indians believed, bore a greater responsibility for the action. He died from an assassin's bullet in 1940. The killer: Udham Singh, who was a teenaged water boy that day in 1919 in the Jallianwala Bagh. A gripping tale. Still greatly controversial.

Cassell Ltd., 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG — £8.95 GRH

The Chief: Ronald Lewin

Here was a general, in all that the word can imply, a leader of men, a winner of battles, a strategist, a tactician, a controller of vast armies widely dispersed in three continents, and yet an enigma to his contemporaries and one who never, except momentarily, gained the confidence of his Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

In 1940 he had less than 90,000 troops in the whole Middle Eastern theatre. In East Africa the Italians, under the Duke of Aosta, had 300,000. Marshal Graziani had another 250,000 in North Africa. Then there were Greece, Crete, Palestine, Syria, Malta, Iraq all within his vast area. In four years he

directed 14 campaigns in the Western Desert, British Somaliland, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, Abyssinia, Greece, Crete, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, Burma, the Arakan. He presented Churchill with Britain's first major success when he drove the Italians from Egypt in 1940, capturing 38,000 prisoners in the first three days. He was eventually appointed Viceroy of India when, as the vastly experienced military man on the spot, he expected to be offered the overall Allied command in South East Asia. Mountbatten — more extrovert and with Churchill's full confidence — got that job.

This review of Wavell as one of the 'unknown' soldiers shows him as a dogged, taciturn individual, often spiritually apart from his fellow men, who pursued his life's work with determination, calmly, unflustered and unawed by those in authority over him, however mighty. Had he been less cautious in his contacts — verbal and written — with Churchill, he might have enjoyed the Prime Minister's full confidence and earlier, greater honours. Yet had he done so he might well have been a lesser man.

Hutchinson Publishing Group Ltd., 3 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6JD — £7.95. GRH

They Mean What They Say: Ian Greig

Not for 30 years has so much concern been shown in the West over the massive accumulation of military power by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact Allies. Soviet defence expenditure is now 40 per cent higher than that of the United States and, at current rates of increase, it has been estimated that by the end of the 1980s Russia could be spending as much as 25 per cent of its Gross National Product on armaments. With the recent invasion of Afghanistan, and the continuing crisis over Poland, there is understandable concern that Russian policy is shifting towards a more aggressive approach in international politics.

In the light of this, author Ian Greig believes that it is now more than ever crucial that the West understands Soviet military policy. He does not believe that the pronouncements of the Communist leaders are mere rhetoric; he believes they are bald statements of practical doctrine. In short, he believes 'They Mean What They Say'.

His book is a "compilation of Soviet statements on ideology, foreign policy and the use of military force".

The selected use of quotations to prove a particular point is always a risky business, especially when they are taken out of their original context. Nevertheless, Mr Greig's selections show a remarkable and chilling consistency, indicating a deep-rooted Russian commitment to the destruction of Capitalism, Imperialism and the spread of world revolution.

If he is right, if the quotations he has chosen do not merely indicate a general 'toeing of the party line', and if they do 'mean what they say', then the West has cause for concern.

Foreign Affairs Research Institute, Arrow House, 27-31 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2BX — £5.00 IJK

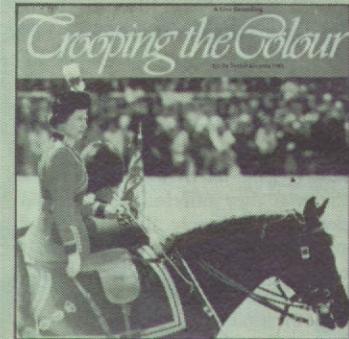
On the Record



with Rodney Bashford

Trooping the Colour 1981

This year's Queen's Birthday Parade saw the trooping of the Regimental Colour of the 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards so naturally Welsh music is used wherever possible. This includes waltz tunes for the first part of the inspection — *The Dove*, *The Ashgrove* and *Jenny Jones* — and marching tunes for the second part — *We'll Keep a Welcome*, *Sospan Fach* and *Ap Shenkin*. Neutral marches for the march past are *A Trumpet Tune* (Stanley), *Golden Spurs* (Rhodes), *Bavarda* (Starke) and *Machine Gun Guards* (Marachiel).



The remaining music is of course traditional, immutable in this ancient and unchanging ceremony, and includes all the regimental music of the Household Division. Some of the marches have been shortened to avoid the unavoidable — the repetition induced by the number of troops and distances involved — much to the benefit of the listener.

A must for all fireside (Welsh) fusiliers and all old soldiers who want to re-live dread days under drill sergeants long ago. From Treasurer, Household Division Funds, Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1. Price £5 plus p&p.

Famous Marches & Film Themes
Band of The Royal Air Force, Germany. Conductor: Flight Lieutenant A R Mossford. DR 33

With no help from the sleeve notes (which seem to give away the disposition of our RAF bases and defence strategy to all and sundry) I'm not sure I can distinguish between the marches and the film themes. Not being a silver screen addict I have to assume that Henry Fillmore's rubishy *Rolling Thunder* is a famous march and *The Shadow of your Smile* is from an old black and white B film.

All nicely played and recorded though and, I think, the first disc from this band. Themes from *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Big Country*, *Exodus*, *Star Wars*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *A Place in the Sun*, *Shaft*, and *Superman* are interspersed with *Colonel Bogey* (River Kwai presumably), *Pathfinders March*, *Marche des Para-*

chutistes Belge

, and Karl King's *The Trombone King*.

The programme leads me to think the RAF should invest in copies of *SOLDIER*, and take particular note of over-exposed film themes mentioned in these columns.

From Band RAF Germany, Rheindahlen, BFPO 40, £4.60 inclusive.

The Royal Fireworks Music; The Royal Wedding

Bands of the Household Division. Director of Music: Lt Col R A Ridings.

If you feel guilty at having subscribed nothing to The Year of the Disabled you can do yourself and them a belated service by buying this fine souvenir, profits from which will go to that charity.

Side one allows you to hear a studio performance of the music played at that unbelievably Royal and tumultuous jamboree in Hyde Park when a few damp squibs and unforeseen pre-ignitions failed to ruin a fireworks display of some magnitude. You probably didn't notice that massed Guards bands were playing *Vivat Regina* by Laurie Johnson, Handel's *Royal Fireworks* of course, *Poll's Dance*, *Champagne Galop*, all of which can be heard to better effect here, plus Roger Swift's



Royal Celebration, *Serenade for a Princess* by Cyril Watters, *Wedding Bells* by Cy Payne, and *God Bless the Prince of Wales* aided by the Canoldir Male Voice Choir.

The excerpts from the Royal Wedding Service are those which lend themselves to performance by band and male voice choir. Music for the various processions, if again you were looking and not listening, comprised Purcell's *Rondo from Abdelazar* and *Trumpet Tune*, Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*, Jackson's *Fanfare Royale* and Richards's *Fanfare Rejoicing*, and the two obligatory marches on these occasions — *Pomp and Circumstance No 4* and *Crown Imperial*. *I Vow to Thee My Country and Christ is made the Sure Foundation* are two of the hymns chosen by the Royal couple.

Also from Household Division. Price £4.50 inc. p&p.

COMPETITION 282

CHRISTMAS DINNER in the Cutdash household is always a festive occasion with an international flavour. It brings together not only the Cutdash family — Mr and Mrs Cutdash, their daughter Kathleen and their married son John with his wife Lorna — but also five old friends from overseas. These friends come from places as far apart as the Argentine, the Bahamas, France, Denmark and Egypt.

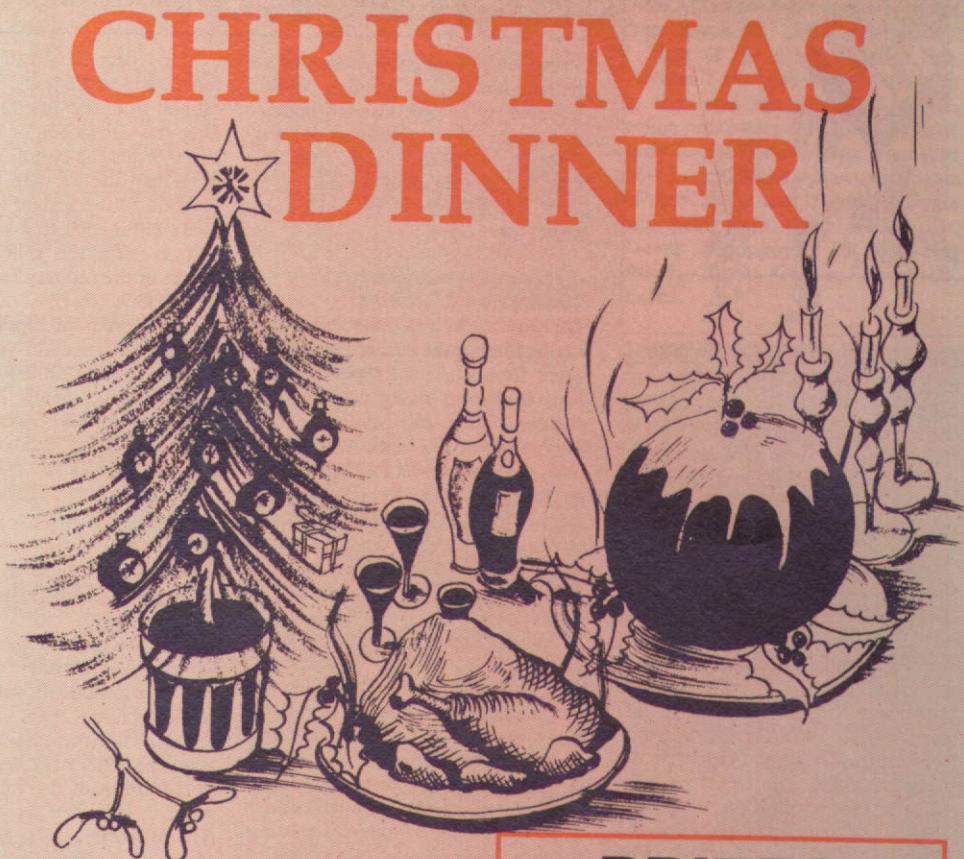
Tradition decrees that the guests sit down to dinner in the same places each year. Thus the friend from the Argentine sits next to Mr Cutdash on his right and on the right of the hostess and next to her is the friend from the Bahamas.

Lorna is nearer the host than she is to her mother-in-law while John sits next to the friend from Denmark. Kathleen is placed on the left of the French visitor and she is nearer to Mrs Cutdash than she is to Lorna. The friend from Egypt is nearer to Kathleen than he is to Lorna.

None of the guests from overseas sit next to each other nor, for that matter, do any of these guests sit opposite each other. John does not face his wife nor does he face his sister. John's sister does not face his wife nor does she sit next to her. Neither sits next to John.

How are they all seated at dinner — and who faces John?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 29 January 1982. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 22 February 1982. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by



=PRIZES=

1: £25

2: £10 3: £5

4-5: Six free issues
of **SOLDIER** posted
to you direct

a 'Competition 282' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 282' label from this page and your name and address to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

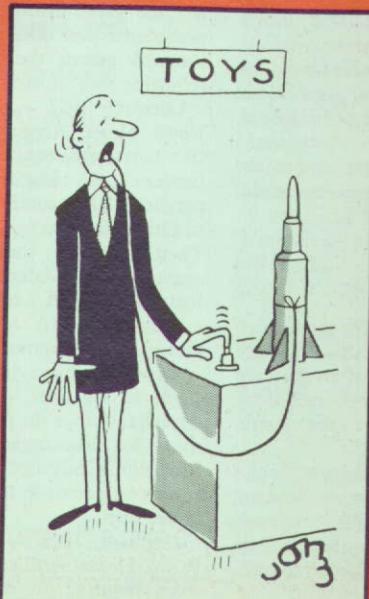
Festive Fun



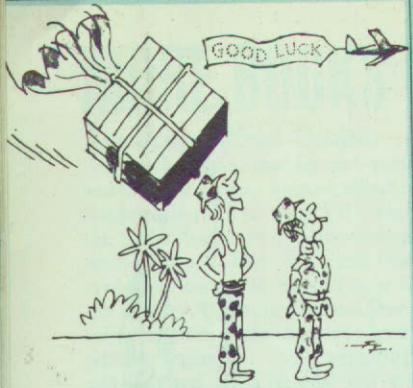
"Confidentially, beautiful — my wife doesn't understand me."



"And this year, no plastic junk. I want real missiles!"



"Well, well! 'Merry Christmas to the sexiest waitress in the Officers Mess' "



MAIL DROP

Anyhow, I thought you might like the solution to the Canadian puzzle, provided by an old postcard bought in Canada by a Canadian serving officer! — Captain Ian McCulloch, The Royal Canadian Regiment, 1 RRF, Elizabeth Bks, Minden, BFPO 29.

WIVES' FORCE

The Forces Wives Association are having to raise the cost of their newsletter from 50p to £1 per annum. This is due to rising printing and postage costs. All wives and ex-Service wives are considered members, those who wish for the newsletter pay the sub. With the ever-increasing load of Welfare cases, especially to do with 'deserted wives' and 'housing' on leaving the Service, more active workers would also be welcome.

The executive committee work long and hard at their own expense, they meet with MOD, MPs, peers and in fact anyone who can help. They work closely with SSAFA and members do the SSAFA welfare course. Their main work now is in helping and advising the wives who contact the Association, and putting them in touch quickly and efficiently with the appropriate people to help them. Subs and any further enquiries to:— Secretary, FWA, 51 Ebrington, Nr Campden, Glos.

SNOOKERED

I wish to commend you for such a fine, professional SOLDIER Magazine, which I have enjoyed in the past.

Your photographers do an excellent job and they are to be commended, but I would like to mention one thing for your consideration. I don't believe the back cover colour photograph showing the champion snooker player deserved such extensive coverage. Surely your excellent photographers have much more interesting photographs of British Army uniformed personnel and ceremonies that would be more interesting to your military readers than a photo of a snooker player. — Edwin A Thompson, AM Happach 57, 8708 Gerbrunn, West Germany.

Choosing our cover pictures is always difficult but we aim to cover as wide a range of subjects as possible during the year. We chose the shot of Steve Davis because it made an excellent picture and because it featured a current world sporting champion playing against the Army — in itself a newsworthy event. — Ed.

HONEST

I write regarding the 'On the record' review in the first of your fortnightly SOLDIER magazines where Rodney Bashford dealt with our record of regimental marches of the Home Counties.

Please accept our sincere thanks for a very honest review and Rodney Bashford certainly did his homework for we do in fact get in about one or two hours practise only each week. Please pass our thanks to him.

Many first class staff bands issue faultless recordings and our record is offered from the 'grass roots' and we have the satisfaction of knowing that many of the top bands include members that started with us and then went on to the regular army. Therefore I felt it right to make the record and so offer the collector another aspect of the military band world.

We have received a number of orders (with some repeat orders) for friends, as a result of your review to help association funds. — H E Russell (Bnd Sgt Maj), Band of the Surrey Yeomanry Association, 21 Cranfield Road East, Carshalton, Surrey, SMS 4LR.

NOT ELITE

I have to take you to task over a comment made in 'Your Cap Badge' (2 November).

The first sentence refers to the Royal Horse Artillery as a 'Corps d'Elite' within the Royal Regiment of Artillery. May I point out that this is certainly not the case. For too long now, the RHA have been publicised as the cream of the Royal Artillery, when in fact they are just the same type of soldier, doing the same type of job and generally operating the same type of equipment as their counterparts in an ordinary Gunner regiment. There is absolutely no reason, in today's modern army, why the RHA should be seen to be an elite group within a group.

If, however, you are looking for an example of a group worthy of the word 'elite', then may I suggest that you look no further than the members of the Gunnery Staff, who with their excellent training and technical expertise, help to maintain the high standards required by all members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. — WO2 P D Bennett, Royal Artillery Gunnery Training Establishment, BFPO 30.

RHA NO 1

"Royal Horse Artillery the Corps d'Elite of the Royal Regiment of Artillery" so says your cap badge article (2 Nov). Corps d'Elite it may be though many would argue against. The Royal Horse Artillery has the great distinction of taking precedence over other regiments and jealously guards the honour as the following may illustrate:

Germany 1952 — 2nd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Hildesheim Germany were required to appear at General Eisenhower's farewell parade. 2 RHA contingent rehearsed to a high standard to be told 'it's off'. Then it was on, then off, then on again and only later was it known that Colonel Jeff Linton then commanding 2 RHA was ordered — perhaps by American commanders — to position his regiment other than 'right of the line'. After a lengthy signals exchange the penultimate destined for Buckingham Palace the final signal indicated 2 RHA would appear on parade in their place 'right of the line'.

Germany 1973 — 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Detmold were required to march past the

SHAPE Commander as he took a farewell salute. Many regiments were required to appear including the Life Guards. The Life Guards Colonel insisted it was his right to lead the parade. Colonel Mike Perkins who commanded 1 RHA thought otherwise and in a lighthearted exchange the Life Guards Colonel said "it is my right or I will eat my hat". An exchange of signals resulted in the Ministry of Defence indicating 1 RHA lead the parade by right. The Life Guards Colonel graciously ate a sugared hat.

To the uninitiated customs and traditions may be regarded as meaningless or scoffed at as being useless anachronisms, but to those who understand their origin they are the foundation of that potent driving force that will always ensure individuals serving with the Royal Horse Artillery maintain high standards and remain the Corps d'Elite. — Major J E Williams, Rosebank, Berry Lane, Wootton, Northants.

MUSEUMS

Congratulations on the new look SOLDIER. But herewith one complaint. What has happened to the series 'Military Museums'? I travel around the island quite a lot and have been in the habit of taking the relevant cuttings to whichever area I was visiting, finding them useful for finding the museums and viewing the contents. I note you have started a new series, badges, very interesting, but why start a fresh series when one is left incomplete? — W B Taylor, 5A Peasholm Drive, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

As John Jesse was unable to continue as museums correspondent after contributing more than a hundred articles, we felt the new magazine would be a good time to make a change. Sorry that we couldn't feature every museum but we shall continue to visit individual museums from time to time as on pp22-24 of this issue. — Ed.

FORGOTTEN?

I have recently attended the El Alamein Memorial Service at Enham-Alamein in Hampshire, also the Alamein Reunion at Blackpool. My grouse is that these important occasions were not even mentioned once in the media — or even on TV. Two or three weeks before these events, I wrote to the BBC asking if they were covering them. Their press and publicity officer assured me that their camera and reporter teams would be there to record the events. What happened? Nothing. My comrades and self were very disappointed. I am not speaking just for us Desert Rats — but on behalf of all associations like ours who parade every year to pay homage to our fallen comrades and to meet old friends. Surely it is not too much to ask, for the media and TV to publicise our doings once a year, and so show the public that we still meet, and that we do not forget. — Dennis S House, Secretary, Eighth Army Veterans' Association, Birmingham Branch.

Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is *your* page to exchange *your* news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

LOUTISH

Your 19 Oct issue carried an article on 'Short back and sides' in which a number of those interviewed referred to 'squaddies' and elsewhere in the paper was another reference to this term.

Please print in large type that the slang word for 'soldier' is 'swaddy' — you can confirm in most dictionaries which include slang — I believe it is of Indian origin. The mistake is understandable — people tend to think it is derived from 'squad'. SOLDIER is not the only offender, it is used frequently on radio, TV and magazines and newspapers. — Lt Col A F Austen (Retd), 1 Benham Road, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants.

According to the Dictionary of Forces Slang the term 'squaddy' is 'correct' and is derived from two other terms: 'swaddy' a nineteenth century word meaning 'country lout' (first used by sailors), and 'squadit' which means to be put into a squad on first joining the Army. — Ed.

PUZZLE SOLVED

I bought your 2 Nov issue and reading the 'Rock Puzzle' letter from Canada, instantly recognised it! It was sheer coincidence actually, as I am a Canadian exchange officer serving with 1 RRF in BAOR and my recognition was based on an old postcard I bought in Toronto, Canada.

Where is it? It's the cliff-face of Charat (Cherat) Hill in Murree, an old British hill station in the Punjab of British India, which is present-day Pakistan. I bought the postcard because I dabble in genealogy and in the course of research discovered that my great-great-grandfather built a retirement home in Murree and raised a family there. I have an old album of Murree photographs but had never seen the cliff-face in my collection.

My postcard shows only 9 badges so it must have been reproduced from an earlier photograph than that in the Canadian Forces' possession (circa 1900 I think). I also think it's a coincidence that two of the twelve badges in the photo are of Regiments that now comprise my affiliated regiment, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (The Northumberland Fusiliers and The Royal Warwickshire Regiment).

CAN YOU HELP?

In April 1980, Phillimore of Chichester published my book *Bloody Provost*, which is the story of the Office of Provost Marshal from Saxon times until the end of the Boer War. It was a previously unresearched subject and included the raising of the Military Police in 1877.

Currently I am researching for a sequel, *Bloodied Provost*, which will tell the story of the Military Police from 1903 until their recent employment in Frankland Prison. The text will be a montage of personal accounts from former members of MFP, MMP, CMP, FSP, CMP (I) and RMP. I would welcome letters from any former members of these Corps with a story to tell, and, for

that matter, any ex Serviceman who saw the Corps in action, for wherever our soldiers fought, the Corps was there.

Each chapter will include the names of contributors, and will be submitted to contributors for approval before publication. — Major R A J Tyler MBE (Retd), Commandant, Families Housing & Welfare Service, Inglis Bks, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1PX.

I have now retired, but hope to be able to carry on running the Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Associations for another 10 years. But to do this, I want a lot more new members. So I would like to hear from those 'Gunners' who served with me in 4/10/34 Squad, 1st

Light Bde, 12 Hvy Bty, 15 Hvy (Coast) Bty, 552 Coast Regt, 67 Med Regt (plus REME/AER). And of course, any other Gunners who served in the Far East Stations between 1919 and 1957, would be welcome. — D A 'Knocker' Knight ERD, Hon Secretary, Ceylon Artillery Association, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ.

As an ex Army National Serviceman, I wonder if through this column I might be able to trace some of the colleagues with whom I served my two years Service.

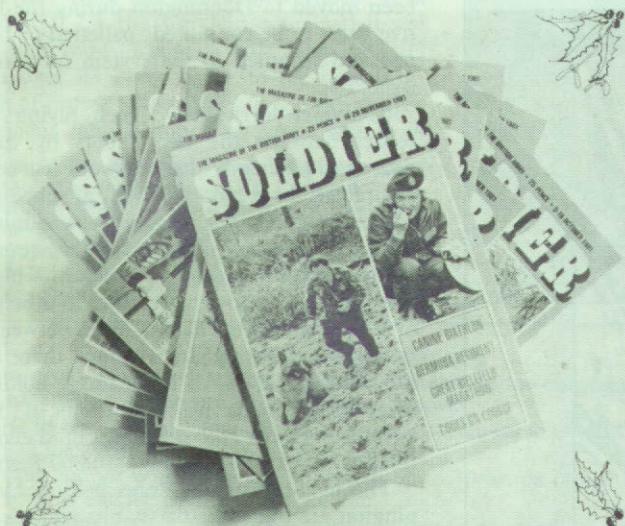
I was attached to the Regimental Police unit, of the HQ Company, Royal Army Pay Corps, Waller Barracks, Devizes, Wiltshire. At that

time it was the Training Centre for the RAPC and I was stationed there from March 1957 to December 1958.

Most of the other National Servicemen I was with at that time were in the same age group as myself, which now means they are all in their early forties. I have often wondered how I could make contact with some of them again, and I would welcome any help from other readers. — Derek Pilkington, 38 Wolseley Road, Rush Green, Romford, Essex.

I would like to contact John Simons of the RAPC. We served together in the Rhodesia Light Infantry and Selous Scouts in Southern Rhodesia in the early 1960s. — Mike Large, Box 5751, Boise, Idaho, 83705, USA.

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

Items for this column will continue to be accepted free of charge but must, in future, be accompanied by a Collectors' Corner heading from this page. Entries should be as brief as possible — maximum 40 words.

Peter Rickerby, 150 Greenway Terrace, Forest Hills, New York 11375, USA. Requires regimental medals. State condition and price. Will answer all replies.

S Johnson, 6 Whitby Drive, Grimsby, Lincs, DN32 9SS. Seeks a white Kepi of the French Foreign Legion or any legion insignia, and also cap badges (staybright type) of the MPSC and GSC letter only.

Peter R Moore, 63 The Crescent, Midland 6056, W Australia. Seeks to purchase two Foot Guards stable-belts for sons who are all admirers of the Guards.

A W Green, 26 Glebelands, Filton, Bristol, BS12 7AE. Seeks regimental histories 1939-45 of 42 RTR, Wilts, Staffs, Fife & Forfar Yeo, 4th, 7th, 11th, 15/19th, 23rd Hussars, 9th, 12th, 16/5th Lancers, 3rd Carabiniers, KDG. Will pay postage, state price required.

James Walsh, 190 McKee Ave, Firglas, Dublin 11, Eire. Seeks rank markings of CQMS of the five Foot Guard regiments, also guards RSM rank markings. Advice on where to obtain welcome.

BATTLE AXE DAY

74 Anti Tank Battery (The Battle Axe Company) Royal Artillery will be parading the Battle Axe on 24 February 1982 at Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire. Those wishing to attend please write for further details to the Battery Captain, 74 Anti Tank Battery RA, 32 Guided Weapons Regiment RA, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 9LS.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 15)

1 Bottom left leaf on left plant; 2 Contents of shopping bag; 3 Child's left foot; 4 Stem of plant behind soldier; 5 Top of Christmas tree; 6 Base of tree tub; 7 Tail of toy horse; 8 Rear offside wheel of toy horse; 9 Height of right plant pot; 10 Soldier's left elbow patch.

COMPETITION

Our 'Spot the Capital' competition (19 October) showed that some people's knowledge of European geography is not all it should be! In spite of the number of entries we had, only a disappointing few were correct. But at least that meant the judges' task of deciding the winners was not too difficult. The first prize of a P&O Ferrytours channel crossing and one night's accommodation in either Paris, Brussels or Amsterdam goes to S/Sgt Reed of 22 Strathmore Rd, Carr Hill, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. S/Sgt Reed says for the last 28 years his holidays have been spent at Otterburn on TA camps, so this free trip will make an exciting change! Second prize of a return channel crossing on the Dover-Boulogne route goes to Major and Mrs M E Bradley, c/o 4th Armoured Division, BFPO 15.

The answers to the competition were: Belgrade — Flag R; Berne — Flag F; Brussels — Flag C; Copenhagen — Flag V; Madrid — Flag T; Paris — Flag B; Prague — Flag S; Vienna — Flag Q; Warsaw — Flag O.

In your next issue of **SOLDIER**...

- The Army's newest unit
- War trials remembered
- Tomorrow's entertainers take a bow

PLUS all your latest news, sport and family pages

RAOC SUPERSTORE

COD Donnington is now one of Europe's most advanced storage complexes



THE LITTLE TRAIN bustles through the vast warehouse with bells ringing, lights flashing and the occasional self-important hoot as it stops automatically at a work station to be loaded or unloaded before it is sent on its way.

The driverless Guidomatic train, and there are five of them, is almost a symbol of the new-look stores complex at Central Ordnance Depot Donnington. The official opening of the latest Donnington warehouse, B1, marked the end of the Fair Value scheme started in 1975 to transfer stores from COD Chilwell to Donnington. The last major piece of the Army's ordnance jigsaw has been fitted into place and three quarters of the RAOC supply to the Army will go through the super new Donnington complex.

The computerised storage and handling system installed at Donnington is one of the most advanced and efficient of its kind and the envy of many civilian firms.

The process of stores centralisation has involved transferring hundreds of thousands of different items from COD Chilwell. Some 73,000 tons of stores, large and small, have been moved to Donnington during the last five years to be computed, palletised or binned and recorded in the system for future issue.

Container lorries have been plying the routes between the two depots by daily dozens so efficiently that the work has been completed three months ahead of schedule.

Donnington's sheer size is overwhelming. Its vast warehouses could swallow several football pitches without trace and its high-rise pallet racks tower overhead to a height of 30 feet, giving the narrow aisles between a striking perspective. In B1 alone there are five and a half miles of racking, holding some 48,000 items in 304 locations. B2 has 12 miles of bins and 100 miles of shelving filled with a mind-boggling 450,000 items.

The majority of the stores held at Donnington are the spare parts, bits and pieces and nuts and bolts that keep the Army on the move. The depot can supply everything for transport sections from engines to sparking plugs, the item in most demand. Mr John Chapman, a Stores Officer in B5, told SOLDIER "When the computer came on again after three weeks in transit, there were 1500 issue vouchers for sparking plugs alone."

But there are special stores too. B6 houses a small fortune in bales of cloth — scarlet for the Chelsea pensioners and guardsmen, tartans and ceremonial silks and velvets. Ten million pounds worth of finery, together with bulletproof and NBC material, waits ready to be cut to order by hand in the warehouse for clothing the Services.

Efficient holding and retrieval systems are the key to such an ambitious storage concept. At the nerve centre of the complex in B5, the computer processes each receipt, order and issue that passes through Donnington, and stores are moved on conveyors or on the driverless trains, palletised or binned with Clico narrow aisle stackers in the designated warehouse.

Orders are selected at the higher levels of racking by special Crown order pickers and at lower levels by hand, and then packed and despatched worldwide by the road transport that serves the depot.

◀ Picking stores from high level bins.

Most routine orders take around nine days to process and despatch, but there is a priority system which allows double-red-star rated requests to be despatched in a matter of hours, by helicopter if necessary. A priority freight service run by the RCT covers the whole country and arrives daily at Donnington.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Major had two years experience working in a depot in the United States. He has, he hopes, brought the efficiency of the American systems to Donnington without making the ultimate American sacrifice to automation.

Colonel Major explained that it is from B5 that the smaller, fast moving items are despatched. The top 20,000 of these items are kept in bins and a system of simple packing lines speeds to the container lorries parked in the loading bays.

Eighty-five per cent of Donnington's output leaves from B5. "We are the spider at the centre of the web," said Colonel Major, "this is the central processing area where we have centralised the manpower and intensive functions".

Away from the central powerhouse it is the staff on the warehouse floor that are all-important. Major Frank Ham is OIC Building B1. "We dance to the tune from B5, of course", he said, "but it is the human element that is important. Any system is

To mark the final hand-over Brig Gerry Beragan, Commandant COD Chilwell, presented a memento made from a Chieftain gear box to Donnington's Commandant, Brig Brian Barratt (right). Looking on is Maj Gen James Brown, Director General of Ordnance Services.

only as good as the people behind it." With mile upon mile of racking, finding a misplaced item can be like looking for a needle in a haystack, so it is up to the staff to make sure the system works.

Civilian staff work alongside Army personnel in the warehouses. Donnington took over 80 Chilwellians who wanted to transfer and then advertised for another 350 or so employees. In an area with 20 per cent unemployment, the advertisement caused a deluge of applications at all three Jobcentres

in Telford. By mid-morning they had three thousand to process and had to close for the rest of the day. COD Donnington is now the largest employer in the area.

The modernisation at Donnington is expected to pay for itself in two-and-a-half years and although the depot has yet to face the stringent test of extreme and prolonged demand, it looks set fair to meet the never-ending needs of today's and tomorrow's Army.

Driverless trains on the right lines.



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Robert Crittenden & Partners, Margate 0843-21404.
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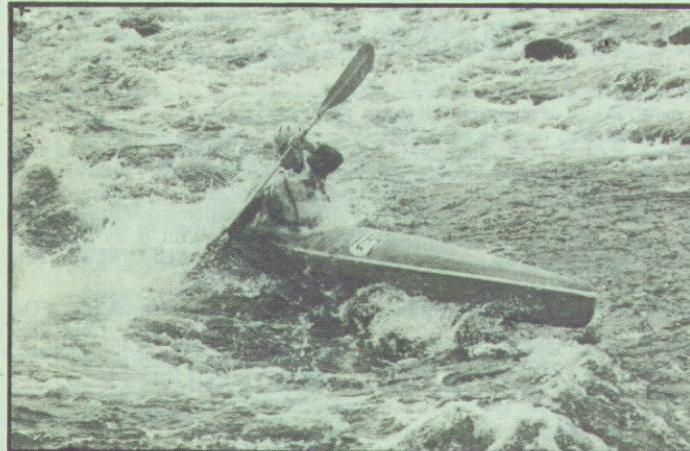
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Taking a ride on the wild side



▲ Lance Corporal Speck negotiates the rapids en route.

DOZENS OF Certificates of Insanity were awarded to competitors in the Army Canoe Union Wild Water Championships held on the River Swale at Richmond. The certificates were presented for successfully shooting the Richmond Falls, a drop of some 14 feet, and made it clear that anyone holding the certificate should under no circumstances be considered a sane or sensible canoeist.

Shooting the Falls was an optional extra for those of the 320 paddlers competing in the

Championships, otherwise known as the Swale Race, who wanted even more excitement than they had encountered on the four-and-a-half mile course from Marske Bridge to Richmond.

Apart from the usual hazards of rocks and rapids that wild water canoeists expect, there was one added problem a mile or so from the start — an overhanging tree combined with some tricky rapids and a cross current to spell disaster for paddlers who could not pull out of the flow quickly enough. Three canoes were

wrecked during practice runs before the Championships even started.

The Swale is among the most unpredictable rivers for wild water canoeing because of the rapid rise and fall in water level. This fluctuation is reflected in the finishing times for the race over the last five years. There has been a difference of three minutes in the overall time taken by the winners of the K1 class over the same course.

This year the water level was comparatively low although for the individuals on the second day it had risen slightly.

Wild water canoeing is one of the four disciplines of the sport. The paddlers entered for different classes: Army Mens K1, Army Mens Slalom, with similar events for Juniors and Ladies, Army C1 and C2 and Army Veterans. There were also civilian events for those eligible to enter. The team events included Army Unit teams, Army Juniors, WRAC, Div C teams and the Veterans. All the classes were raced over the same course and timed. Teams left at two minute intervals and individuals were started with a brief pause of 30 seconds between them.

The Unit team event was won by 16 Signal Regiment from BAOR. Corporal Bob Story, Lance Corporal Kenny Primrose and Signaller Kev Potter completed the course in 41:33, almost three minutes ahead of their nearest rivals, School of Electronic Engineering A team. 8 Signal Regiment No 1 team were in third place.

Corporal Story was pleased with his team's success because they have had little experience of this sort of water. He personally

HALL OF FAME



SERGEANT KEITH HALL beat the British 125cc Champion, Neil Buttery, when he won the British National 125cc class in the last round of the British Enduro, hosted by the Army at Bordon.

Sergeant Hall, who is at Leconfield, usually rides 250cc machines and was delighted with

his success. "I'd never got on the bike before and just had an especially good ride," he said.

His triumph rounds off a particularly successful year on two wheels. He won a bronze medal in Elba, a bronze at the ISCA Championships, a silver in the six-day event in Scotland and a gold at the two-day International in Wales.



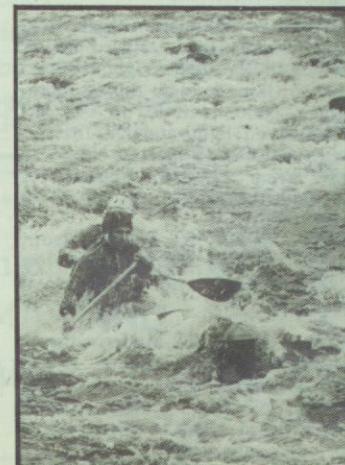
Divers of 8 Signal Regiment from Catterick Garrison Sub Aqua Club provided the essential safety back-up at the rapids and at the Falls.

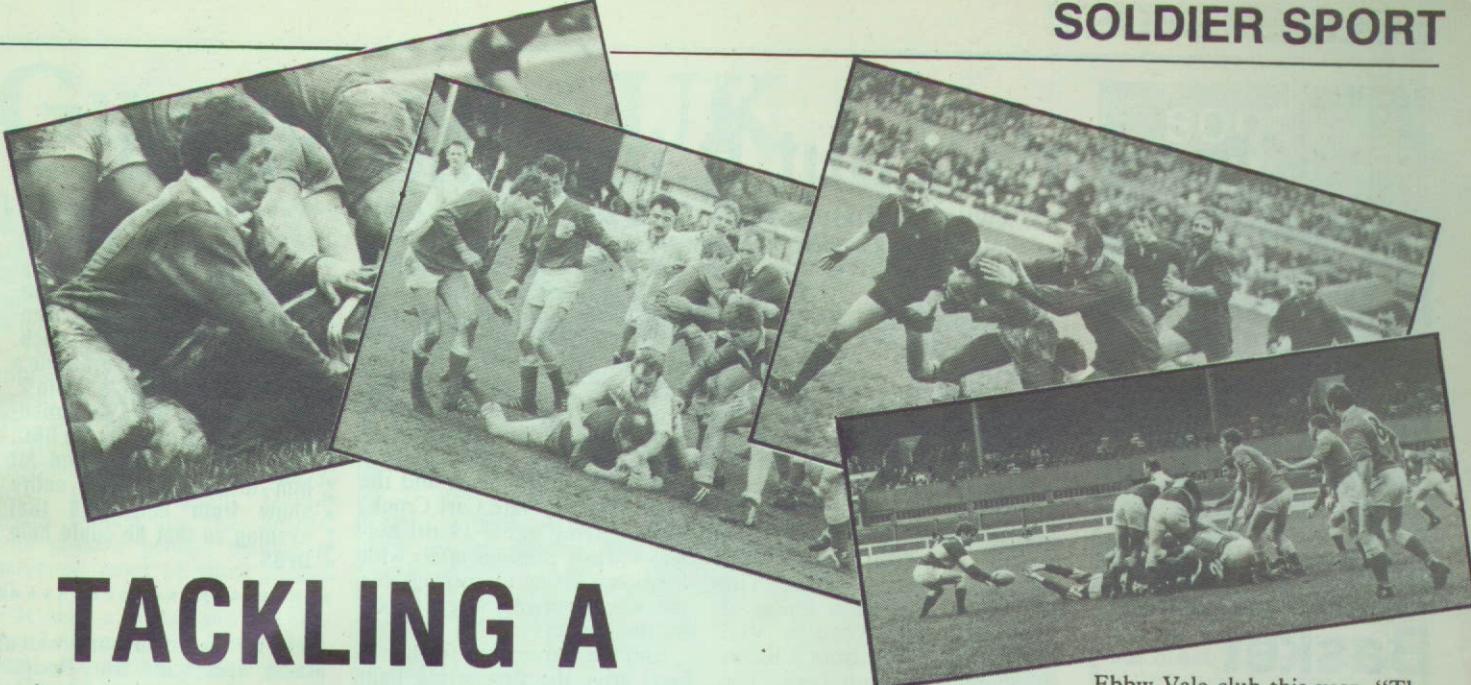
was one of the front runners for the Mens Individual K1 event but was just beaten into second place by Lance Corporal John Speck SEE, who finished the course in 35:25, 1:13 ahead.

Mens Slalom honours went to Sergeant Jones and Corporal Bray from the Prince of Wales' Depot, Crickhowell. WOII Stan Richmond won the Mens C1 and, teamed with Corporal Geoff Page, also won the C2, ahead of Sergeant Arthur Haskey and SSI Chris Christopher.

There was little doubt who were the champions in the Army Junior Units events, both team and individual. Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow swept the board by taking first, third and sixth places in the team competition as they repeated their win of two years ago, knocking 1:48 off their previous time of 47:48. Apprentice Tradesman Lee Tanner won the Junior K1 class in 41:10 and Apprentice Lance Corporal Collier, also from Chepstow, won the Junior Slalom event.

WOII Richmond and Corporal Page — a winning team.





TACKLING A NEW SEASON

Army rugby is building up for another full season in 1981/82 and **SOLDIER** spoke to team coach Derek Price and Army players Sergeant Dave Goddard RRW and Sergeant Instructor Gareth Davies APTC about their sport and the prospects for this coming year.

OF THE 21 GAMES that the Army rugby side played last year they lost 12, won eight and drew one — not bad, considering the problems they encounter in get-

ting together, training and achieving a team spirit strong enough to compete with the organised clubs they meet on the field.

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Tickets will be available at the ground on the day.

"We were very much a representative side," said Derek Price and added that although the moratorium had inevitably created problems, these had not been too severe for a major Army sport. They have the big advantage of enthusiastic sponsorship.

This year the fixture list is not as hard as last season, although this does not mean a succession of easy games. "I shall be disappointed if we don't win as many as we lose. There's no reason why not and we just didn't do ourselves justice last year," explained Derek.

Much of the burden of a good performance by the Army side rests, of course, with the individual players as Derek is well aware. "They have to maintain a functional fitness for themselves and it is up to the dedication of each player involved to go out in the dark if necessary and do roadwork. Many players lack the hardness which they need before they come to Army matches."

Dave Goddard's training programme takes in all aspects of the skills he will need on the field. "I do a lot of roadwork, running as much as possible as well as short bursts of 25 metre sprints — they sharpen you up," he said.

For Gareth Davies, though, the problem is not one of training as much as getting stale: "It's my job of course so it's a bit different. Sometimes I overtrain and when I can't sleep I know that I've overdone it."

Both players agreed that a major problem for Army rugby players is the late start to the season. It is invariably November or December before the sport really gets into its stride whereas most civilian clubs have been playing regularly since September.

Dave was invited to join the

Ebbw Vale club this year. "The first game for Ebbw Vale was in September and, although we had a bad start to the season, it's picking up now," he said. The Army encourages its players to don civilian jerseys as it gives them chances for on-field training with good teams. There are around eight members of the Army squad who play regularly with first class clubs.

Another big problem they face as a team is the lack of opportunity to train together. Said Gareth: "When we are playing we have to be thinking about the field. It takes time and then you've lost the advantage." Dave agreed and added, unable to resist a Royal Regiment of Wales dig at English rugby: "There are different styles of rugby — even from this side of The Bridge to the other!"

Derek is impressed by the loyalty of his players and their response to the commitment demanded from them once the Army season has kicked off.

"Even those who are not playing turn up at games. It's a two-way loyalty as well." Certainly the squad get all the help and encouragement possible to allow them to give of their best.

The structure of rugby within the Army is interesting. "There are no more than four teams who could expect to win the Army Cup," said Derek, "Four giants and a lot of minnows." Nevertheless, it is a popular sport at all levels and he is optimistic about the future.

"The economic climate now is bringing a lot of good players into the Army. There is a lot of talent about that needs to be sorted out. We have to go out and find it in the market place."

"The under-19s Colts is a success story and the junior soldiers' units have a superb fixture list," he added, looking forward to an exciting season.

BOXING

Kingsmen put it together again



Basket for Basket

THE ARMY'S BEST basketball players gathered at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, for the third annual Inter-Corps championship. There were five teams in the two day competition but the main competitors were the Army Physical Training Corps, winners of the H Samuel Trophy in 1979, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who won last year.

At the end of the first day only two teams were unbeaten — inevitably APTC and REME. So their meeting on Saturday morning was in effect the final.

It turned out to be a first class game with a high standard of basketball and both sides showing respect for each other. In the first ten minutes REME dominated with their superior height advantage and at half time they led by 47 points to 38.

But APTC pulled back straight after the restart and the rest of the game continued basket for basket. With only six seconds to go QMSI Chris Bennett scored from two free shots to put APTC in front for the first time, 72-71 — and this was the final score.



S/Sgt Eric Ricketts scores for REME.

AN AWESOME DISPLAY of punching power by the only three coloured boxers on their team saw the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, retain the Army Inter-Unit boxing championships in Edinburgh.

Their opponents, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment — were leading by four bouts to three when the first of the trio, Army middleweight champion, Kingsman 'Harry' Harrison stepped through the ropes. A quarter of an hour later three Red Beret contenders had been speedily dispatched and 1 Para were left to contemplate the shattered wreckage of their championship hopes.

The finals were held at Kirknewton camp, currently home of the Gordons. The Paras had virtually forfeited their home advantage by their 'Spearhead' call-up to Northern Ireland. The audience contained a group of Para supporters and a well orchestrated block from 1 Kings in about equal numbers. The Gordons, who made up the rest of the crowd, maintained a studied neutrality throughout.

Lance-Corporal Tommy O'Conner, who was an Army champion as far back as 1972, found himself hard pressed in the opening bantamweight bout by 19-year-old Para Private Joe 'Scouse' Bailey. O'Conner

Army titles to his name and the Young Para Private Carl Crook, current Army under-19 titleholder — was a cautious affair with occasional spells of mixing. No one was surprised when Crook got the verdict.

And the Paras went further in front after the first string light welterweight contest between Private Al Swires for 1 Para and Private Brian Snagg. Snagg looked workmanlike enough but had difficulty in coping with left crosses from the crophead southpaw.

Corporal Lee Gorman, a para who had not boxed for three years after a car accident, showed

BFBS broadcast the boxing live to its listeners in Germany. Commentating was Don Durbridge with inter-round summaries by Desmond Leach. Don Durbridge, who presents a nightly show on BBC's Radio 2, was only able to do the broadcast after a gesture by the BBC. The Corporation arranged for him to broadcast his entire show from Edinburgh that evening so that he could help BFBS.

night the two men put on an all action spectacle. But Rodgers shaved the decision and Kings were poised for their rip-roaring comeback.

Harry Harrison, of the spring heels and Ali shuffle, went straight after his opponent and scored the first real knockdown of the night. The referee stopped the contest after only two minutes.

Lance-Corporal Paul 'Blackie' Dixon said before the night that he was going to get revenge for some meals his opponent, Jamaican born Kingsman, Kenny Spence, had cooked while a member of the Parachute Regiment, but the boot was on the other foot!

Swinging wildly Dixon walked straight into an upper cut which left him sprawling on the canvas. The blow surprised everyone in the hall — most of whom did not even see it land. And no-one was more surprised than Kenny Spence, who said later: "I just looked down and there he was on the floor".

The heavyweight contest lasted for less than a minute. The giant 'Big Fran' — Lance Corporal Keith Francis, the reigning Army under-19 champion — waded straight into his opponent, Lance-Corporal Danny McKeown of the Paras. After about 10 seconds McKeown was taking a standing count, immediately afterwards he was down, and the referee soon stopped the one-sided contest.

So the Rhine Army champions had once again taken the Army title. But for 1 Para there was some consolation and a finally impressive scoreline of six bouts to five when Private Pete Crook, the brother of Carl, took the final bout of the evening on points.

His opponent, Corporal Derek 'Spiderman' Edmonds, found his crouching style had little effect on the more orthodox Crook, who picked him off with ease. At the end of the contest Edmond's face was the colour of his scarlet singlet and the only surprise was that Crook only got a majority decision.



needed to use all his ringcraft against the aggression from an opponent who had only been boxing for four months. Experience triumphed in the end though and 1 Kings went into an early lead.

But a shock result in the second bout temporarily silenced the visiting fans. Kingsman David Weaver, the reigning Army featherweight champion, began the contest by constantly chasing his young opponent, Private Iain Birnie, who dodged, ducked and backpedalled until midway through the second round. Then Weaver ran straight into a left and fell to his knees. Another quick knock down and a standing count on the ropes ended a miserable round for the champion. In the third round Weaver attacked strongly but often was made to look clumsy by Birnie's skilful evasion. And Birnie got the unanimous decision.

The lightweight battle between two champions — Lance-Corporal Mal Kirk, with three

non-stop aggression throughout his light-welter contest with Kingsman Steven Mooney. But Mooney was content to retreat from the relentless pressure and pick his man off with a peppering of shots to the face and got the majority verdict in this boxer versus scrapper duel.

Redheaded George 'Tiger' Shaw has lost two teeth this year and "likes scrapping". And a scrap was just what he got when he met Kingsman Ken 'John the Pug' Hilton. Punch matched punch as the two fighters crudely waded into each other — but the toe to toe display brought the crowd to its feet with Shaw getting the majority decision.

So at the interval 1 Para were comfortably in the lead by four bouts to two and needed only two out of the five fights in the second half to clinch the title. In the first fight after the break, at light middleweight, Lance-Corporal John Rodgers met Private Alastair 'Jock' Gourlay for 1 Para. In what was probably the most evenly matched contest of the

Guards win UK Cup

Welsh Guards 9 : RRW 3

THE 1ST BATTALION, Welsh Guards defeated 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales by three penalty goals to one in an all-Welsh Army UK Rugby Cup Final at Aldershot.

The RRW squad were handicapped by injuries that had meant recalling older players into the team but they opened the scoring as Lieutenant Shon Hughes kicked an early penalty goal. Lance-Sergeant David Evans replied for the Guards with another penalty making a half-time score of three points all.

It was a fierce and evenly-matched game with both teams putting up a solid, body-stopping defence that smothered most of the breakthrough attempts.

The second half saw an increase in the pace of the match as the Welsh Guards began to put on the pressure and emerge as the stronger side. Another penalty from Evans put them ahead and a third towards the end of the match put their victory beyond question.

Youth triumphs

TWELVE BOUTS, not all skilful but with lots of guts and determination, were served up to a thin Aldershot crowd at the Army Open and Under-19 individual championships.

Two of the best fights involved brothers, Ptes Carl and Pete Crook of 1 Para, under-19 champions last year. Carl dethroned three times open lightweight champion, L/Cpl Mal Kirk (1 Kings) and Pete was narrowly beaten by reigning welter king, L/Cpl Dean Hurd (1 Royal Anglian).

Last year's novice featherweight winner, Pte Adrian Sampoh (1 Queens) became full champion with a 47 seconds demolition of Gnr Keith Pinwell (12 AD Regt RA). At light-welter L/Cpl Peter Kearney was stopped by the fierce Ranger



1 RRW clear the ball from their line.

Top Army athletes

SERGEANT STEVE HALL of 16 Signal Regiment has won the Harrington Cup for outstanding service to Army Athletics.

The award for the senior track events went to Captain Grant, RA and for the senior field events to Sergeant K Bodger, 1 R ANGLIAN. Junior track events award was won by Sapper W Hinds, 26 Engineer Regiment and Sapper M Sterling of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron Royal Engineers took the junior field events award.

The women's track and field events award went to Private M Hendrickson WRAC.



Harry Harrison does it again.

'Peppy' Muir, 2 Royal Irish.

Kingsman Harry Harrison retained his light middle title after a tough battle with Coldstream Guardsman Tony Mazzaros. And middleweight L/Cpl Nigel Shingles's clubbing punches proved too much for

Pte Norman Phillips.

Ex-Commonwealth Games boxer, SSI, John McGonigle, like Joe Frazier making a comeback at 37, found the youth and strength of Kingsman Dave Weaver too much at bantam. Reigning heavyweight king, Cpl Paul Davis (2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt) stopped L/Cpl Glen Drennan (Life Guards).

In the under-19 bouts reigning feather champion, Pte Tony Sheehan (521 Coy RPC) disposed of APP/L/Cpl Bruce Grant of Chepstow. At lightweight Pte Gregory Monkman (PWO) was too strong for Pte Iain Birnie (1 Para). Cfn Kevin Frost (SEME) narrowly beat Pte Mark Patrick (1 Queens) at light-welter. And Pte Al Swires (1 Para) outboxed Kingsman 'John The Pug' Hilton.

SOCER ROUND-UP

Crashing defeat

Army 5: Oxford University 0

The Army rocked an Oxford University side that looked the more threatening of the two with two goals in 30 seconds midway through the second half.

It was a blow from which they never recovered as the Army went on to score three further goals in the last ten minutes of a highly entertaining game.

Much of the credit must go to Corporal Gary Brooksby who was tireless in his confrontation with the Oxford defenders. He was directly involved with four of the goals and scored the fifth himself.

Rip-snorting

JLR RE 5: Guards Depot A 5

It needed a dramatic penalty shoot-out to give the Royal Engineers victory in the Junior Leaders Cup Final after a tremendous struggle had seen ten goals shared at the end of extra time.

Goals came thick and fast as the Sappers' first goal from Lance Corporal Wylie was equalised by the Guards team captain Junior Lance Corporal Copeland. The second half brought a hat-trick from Junior Sapper Poole and more goals from the Guards as the tie went into extra time.

The Sappers raced into a two goal lead with goals by Poole and Junior Sapper Head, but Sunderland gave the Guardsmen new life when he scored in a goalmouth scramble. Two minutes from the end of extra time, the Depot were awarded a penalty kick which Copeland crashed home to equalise but the Engineers won the penalty shoot-out 4-1.

Goals Galore

A Coy Princess Marina, Arborfield 8: C Coy Chepstow 3

Arborfield had a flying start to the Army Apprentices Cup Final and were two goals ahead before Chepstow had even started to warm up. They pushed through a hesitant Chepstow defence to crowd the goalmouth and push in goals from top scorers. Apprentice Lance Corporal Brian Reid, Apprentice Sergeant Clinton Martel and Apprentice Sparky Cassells.

But a goal from Apprentice Ian Craig sparked a spirited Chepstow fight back, with a penalty making the half-time score 4-2.

A second half goal from Apprentice Blondie White as Chepstow put on the pressure narrowed the gap still further but they could not score the elusive equaliser. Arborfield's superior stamina began to tell and a spate of well-placed goals saw them run out comfortable winners.

'Boro still unbeaten

Combined Services 1 : Middlesbrough 3

THREE GOALS in seven minutes midway through the second half, sent a spirited Services side tumbling to defeat just when the crowd was wondering whether the 'Boro would be beaten for the first time in seven visits to Catterick.

Billy Ashcroft, substituted on the hour for Billy Woof, finished off two spectacular

moves with clinical efficiency and David Hodgson wrapped it up with a third goal.

But against an almost full strength 'Boro side the Servicemen never had enough in hand to play 'safety first' and once 'Boro got into top gear the issue was never in doubt. With Northern Ireland international Terry Cochrane orchestrating from mid-field, it was one-way traffic for the latter end of the game.

A second goal would have set the First Division side a harder task in the second half. But the Servicemen never had enough in hand to play 'safety first' and once 'Boro got into top gear the issue was never in doubt. With Northern Ireland international Terry Cochrane orchestrating from mid-field, it was one-way traffic for the latter end of the game.

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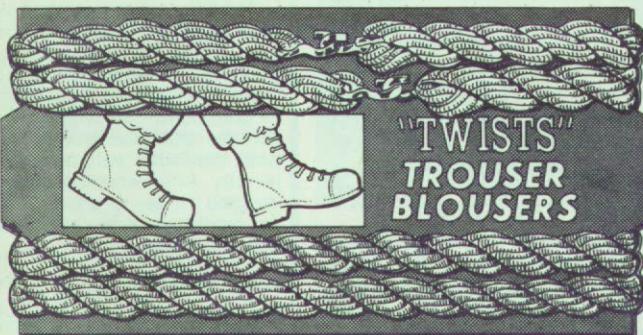
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**and now,
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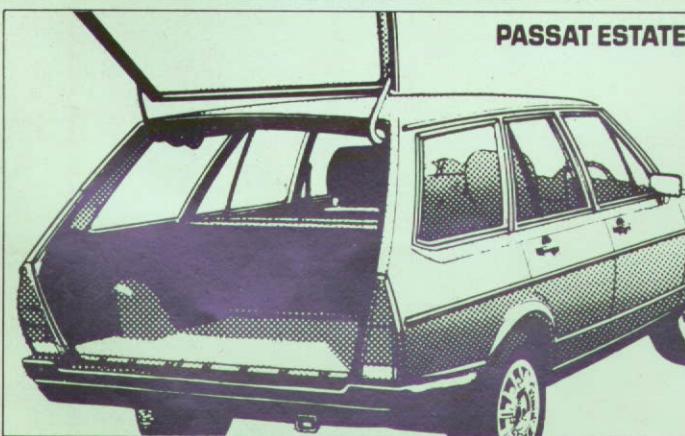
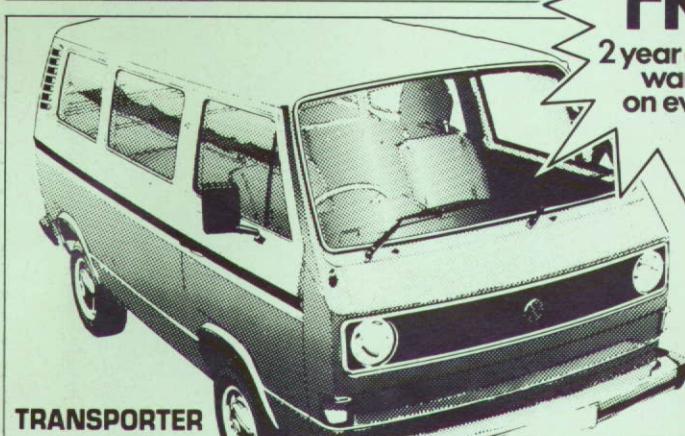
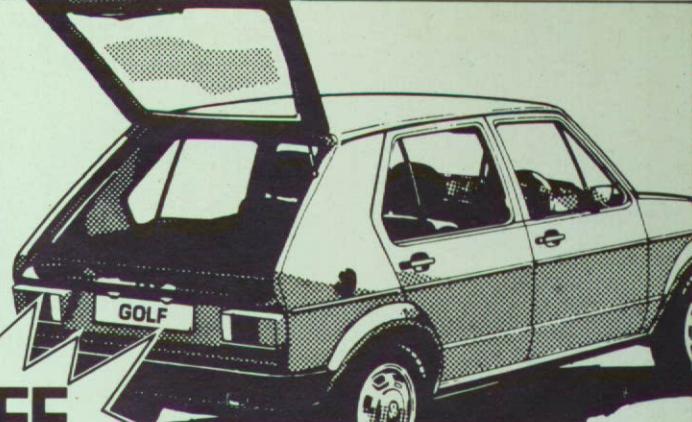
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