

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 20 MAY 1985

SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER:
Omani soldiers of the Royal Guard on
desert patrol. See centre and following
pages.

Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER:
Captain Philip Dymoke, Welsh Guards,
Adjutant of Victory College, Sandhurst and
second-in-command of Sovereign's Parade
mounted on Mystrol.

Picture: Paul Haley

Managing Editor
Roland Thick (Ext 2585)

Editor
Peter Howard (Ext 2593)

Assistant Editors
Graham Smith (Ext 2590)
John Margetts (Ext 2588)
Robert Higson (Ext 2591)

Art Editor
John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor
Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)
Photographers (Ext 2584)
Doug Pratt
Paul R G Haley

Photo Library (Ext 2577)
Bill Stroud

Advertising/Circulation/Distribution
Mrs Seela McIntosh (Ext 2583)

SOLDIER

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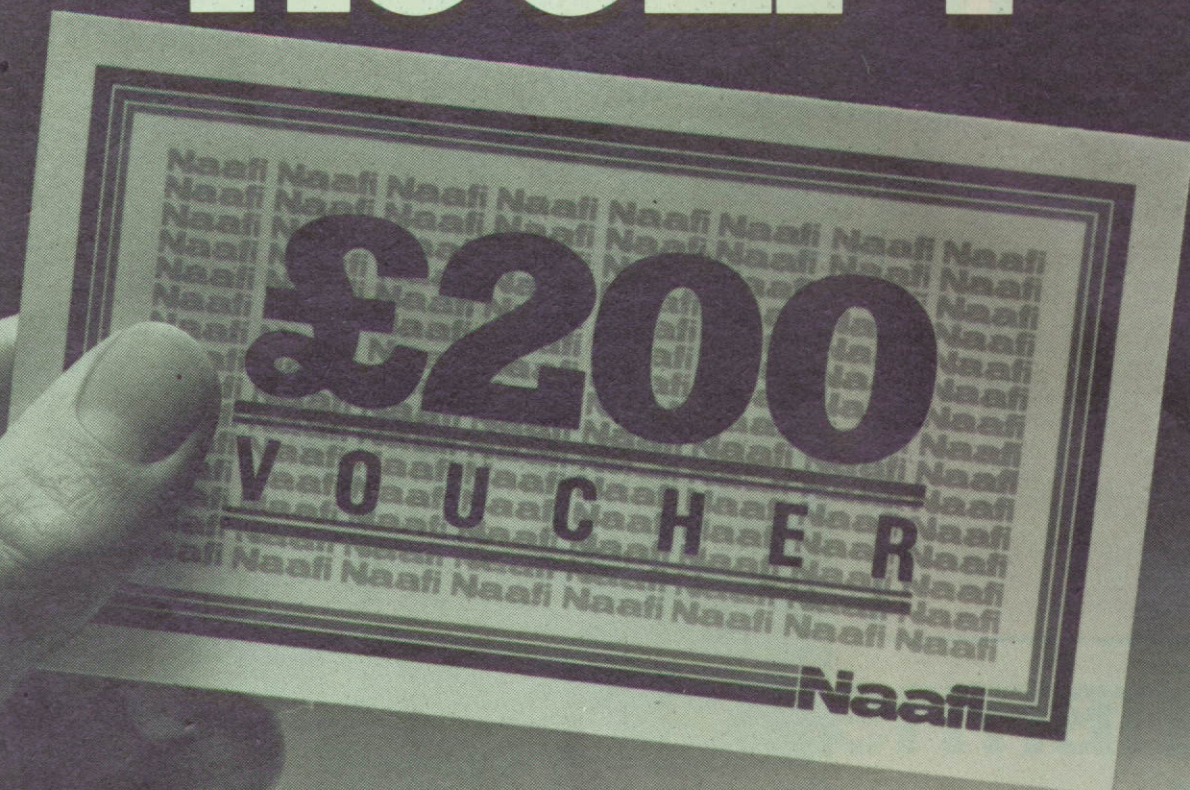
**What is
interesting the
Quartermaster
General? — p 20**

**What fascinates
these Spanish
army officers?
— p 14**

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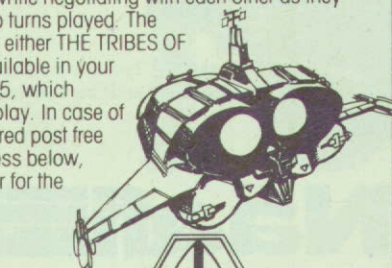


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CO-OPERATION: THE THEME FOR WAR

IN A White Paper* the Government seems to be placing the emphasis on co-operation between the Ministry of Defence and the media in the reporting of any future conflict.

The paper sets out the Government's response to the report of the Study Group on Censorship which was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence in December 1983 — and expresses its gratitude to General Sir Hugh Beach and members of the Study Group for their 'thorough and lucid examination of this complex, indeed emotive, subject'.

The Paper says the Government accepts that few (if indeed any) journalists 'would willingly publish information which would place lives and the interests of their country at stake in a time of crisis. Plainly, however, journalists cannot always identify precisely the information which could be of use to an enemy.

'The Government therefore has a duty to provide authoritative advice in the expectation that most

journalists would welcome it.

'There is a difficult balance to be struck between Government's ultimate right and responsibility to act in the interests of national security and the desirability of maintaining the best possible flow of accurate information to the public.

'The Government agrees that compulsion of the media would be neither practicable nor desirable

and that voluntary co-operation should be the guiding principle.'

The Government accepts a recommendation that a system of intensive (and where necessary confidential) briefings of both editors and correspondents will help to build a relationship of trust and encourage journalists to protect militarily damaging information — and such briefings will form part of contingency plans.

The Study Group recommended training a nucleus of 30 censors for future contingencies but the Government, accepting that submission to censorship should be voluntary, does not

believe an effective dormant censorship organisation is a practical proposition. Instead it proposes to rely on an advisory service to journalists for limited conflicts and an embryo organisation is to be set up to make plans and identify suitable staff.

Many mutual problems for both the Government and the media in the event of a major conventional war are, of course, a matter for NATO.

***The Protection of Military Information (HMSO, Cmnd 9499. £1.85).**

NEW RAIL CARD RATES

The new British Rail fares tariff means new Rail Card discounts for Servicemen and their families.

12 May saw British Rail introduce a discount of a third on standard single and return fares for travelling Servicemen, instead of the previous 50 per cent.

So Servicemen and their families will have to pay more for rail travel. But with the bad news comes good news that discounts on BR Saver fares are improved.

12 May was the cut-off date for the old Rail Cards and they became invalid after that date — so don't try to use them.

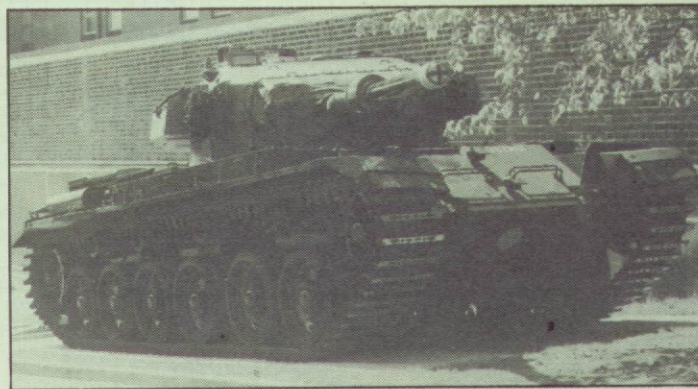
Leaflets and full details of the new rates are available at BR stations. For those serving overseas leaflets and Rail Cards can be obtained from COD Donnington.

Colonel is space 'back-up'

Britain's first man in space — destined to lift off in June next year in an American space shuttle — has been named as Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, RAF.

His back-up will be Lieutenant Colonel Richard Farri-mond, Royal Signals.

Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Hesel-tine said the final choice had been a most difficult decision — "all were quite outstanding candidates."



Latest addition to the National Army Museum's collection is a Centurion tank. It was delivered from the Ordnance Vehicle Depot, Ludgershall, arriving late at night because of police restrictions.

While traffic was unimpeded by the delivery of the 50-ton Mark 6 monster, the atmosphere was shaken and locals probably stirred to ask: 'What's that?' when the 12 cylinder 650 hp Meteor engine was started to manoeuvre the 35-year-old tank into place outside the museum. With a Saladin armoured car and two 5.5 in guns already in position, the 'Cent' will form an eye-catching display and, hopefully, entice more visitors to the NAM's Chelsea home.





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Lady Kitson leads art for the Army drive

You never know what you can do till you try ... This simple truism is the message behind Lady Kitson's drive to revitalise an interest in art among soldiers and their families. As chairman of the Army Arts and Crafts Society, she says that because soldiers and families get posted every couple of years, they have little

chance to get involved in art groups. "Our aim is to encourage in Servicemen and their families an interest in the arts and to give them an opportunity to show just what they can do," she said. Lady Kitson, wife of General Sir Frank Kitson, C-in-C UKLF, was speaking at the Wilton arts and crafts exhibition at HQ UKLF. Sir Frank did the

honours in opening the show. An artist herself, Lady Kitson generated an interest in all things artistic at the Army Staff College when Sir Frank was serving there in 1978. Now she is out to boost people's interest on a much wider scale and has arranged a display of Army artists' work during the Royal Tournament in July.



SIR FRANK AND LADY KITSON: art revival

Oman museum man at NAM!

Getting to know the business of running a military museum, Colonel Rashid Bin Masoud Bin Rashid al Zaidi, director of the Armed Forces Museum in Oman, has started a two-month course at the National Army Museum.

Guided by Dr Alan Guy, a research scientist at the NAM, the Colonel says

his new command "will be very popular and attract a lot of visitors, because there has never been anything like this in Oman before."

Now in the final stages of completion, the museum will cover the military history of Oman from AD 200 to today's acquisition of Jaguars.

Trevor steps out in father's footsteps



TREVOR JOHNSON, STEVE JOHNSON, MAJ GEN CALLAN: launched

As his father, Sergeant Steve Johnson, prepares to leave the Army after 36 years, young Trevor Johnson makes ready to follow in his steps.

To help him on his way, Major General Callan, Representative Colonel Commandant RAOC, offers Trevor his congratulations after the passing-out parade at the RAOC Apprentice College, Deepcut.

Thirty-six years ago Steve Johnson

(centre), passed-out from the Army Apprentice School, Arborfield, and went on to serve in Tripoli, Libya, Japan, Egypt, Christmas Island — where he witnessed three H-bomb and two atom bomb tests — Aden and BAOR.

He also had the good fortune to spend time in *HMS Eagle* visiting Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and South Africa.

Now after 36 years of seeing the world Steve is about to leave and young Trevor is ready to launch himself into his Army career.

Museum buttonholes RCT loco badge

Latest acquisition by the Museum of Army Transport is the name plate of the BR loco 'Royal Corps of Transport', even though the engine is still in service on East Midland tracks. Presumably the loco is running around nameless.

But that doesn't bother the North Humberside museum, for they have the plate, complete with full-coloured badge, firmly fixed to the wall of their new bar lending the place an air of added authenticity.

Young winners gallop off!



Two young lads who know where they're going are Geoffrey Chesterton (left) and Malcolm Martin. When between them they won the Junior Army orienteering championship they were both in the Junior Leaders' Regiment at

Bovington. Malcolm was a sergeant and the winner of the title, covering the 6.2 kilometre course in 43 minutes, while Geoffrey was a sergeant major and the runner-up. To add just that little extra satisfaction to their individual successes,

their regimental team came first of the 12 teams competing. Now the lads have left the Junior Leaders joining the Army — Geoffrey galloping off to the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars and Malcolm to The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Why marchers plan to go by air!

Turn in a good performance at Nato Joint HQ in Monchengladbach and you might be selected to take part in a 1,000 kilometre march. But competition to get into the multinational marching team, whose aim is to cover the gruelling course by July, is tough. All volunteers, their latest three-day, 90-kilometre effort, took them from Calw to Freudenstadt. The next stage will

cover a series of marches in Luxembourg, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK. But it's not only marching that interests them. They're taking parachute training as well so they can reach future march start points by aircraft and 'chute. Said team leader Major Friedrich Jeshonnek: "That will be a bonus and make the programme more interesting."

Joy for Julie as she gets promoted

Good news for the men of 4RGJ is that pin-up girl Julie Dawn has been 'promoted'.

Till last week she was B Company's favourite girl, based at Fulham, now Julie of Page 3 fame, will spread herself around the whole of 4RGJ, said Major David Travers, second in command of the TA unit at the regiment's Mayfair HQ.

Not that there is a lot of shapely Julie to spread around, but what there is — 34-22-36 plus long blonde hair, blue-grey eyes and pearly teeth — is sheer delight.

"Julie has been a tremendous help to the unit," said Major Travers, a former regular officer and now a lawyer.

"She has been with us for about four years and we've achieved some excellent publicity with her help. Now she's officially Miss 4RGJ we're looking for more."

Said Julie, a professional model: "It's really great fun. I thoroughly enjoy the role of the regimental pin-up. They are a tremendous bunch and extremely nice. I'm jumping for joy at this promotion."

Looking on while Julie posed with the TA lads was boyfriend Tony Cleare. "We're getting engaged next month, but I'm quite happy that Julie should do her thing. No problems."

Flaming hot!

The Army firemen at Hildesheim were hot off the mark as they raced to extinguish a blaze on 1 Regiment Army Air Corps helicopter pad. But there was no danger. The fire had been started for them to show their skills to Brigadier Mike Wilkes, Commander 22 Armoured Brigade, when he formally opened the brand-new fire station. This is the first new Army fire station to be opened in 15 years. Headed by Station Officer Richard Banks, the eight locally recruited firemen were trained at the Army fire service training centre, at Rheindahlen.

Uganda calls it a day

The good ship *SS Uganda* has left the Falklands for the last time carrying troops to Ascension Island. Badly in need of a coat of paint, she's now back

with her owners, the P&O line. In her two years ferrying troops between the South Atlantic and Ascension, she has carried more than 15,000 men.

Top ACC chefs batter rivals in gold rush

Stuffed venison with port wine, pork cutlets cooked in cheese, cider and cream were just two of the mouth-watering dishes prepared and cooked by ACC instructors competing in the Torquay International Gastronomic Festival.

Their first attempt in the competition, which attracts a world-wide entry, six of them, led by chief instructor Kevin Byrne, entered ten classes and cake-walked away with five gold

medals, one silver and three bronze.

And all the dishes had to be ready within an hour, ready for top experts to examine and taste.

"Who are these people?" wailed less successful contestants in the South West Gas sponsored festival, as the ACC men battered rivals in their quest for gold.

But it is by entering such events — and winning — and earning professional salutes from people like Egon Ronay, who rates the ACC among the best, that the Corps' expertise is fast becoming internationally recognised and envied.

The winners were: cider class, Mr Jeffrey Purves (gold), Sgt Graham Prickett (bronze); shellfish, Mr Kevin Viner (gold), Sgt Gerald Young (bronze); chicken, Mr. Kevin Viner (gold), Sgt John Knight (silver); meat, Mr Martyn Flowers (gold), Sgt Graham Prickett (bronze); fish, Mr Jeffrey Purves (gold), Sgt Gerald Young (bronze).



JULIE DAWN AND 4RGJ ADMIRERS: promotion for a blue-eyed blonde with pearly teeth

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

New man to steer the UJ to success

Looking forward to steering the Union Jack Club into an era of increased popularity and prosperity is newly-appointed secretary Lieutenant Colonel Tom Forrest.

He took over the appointment from ex-Grenadier Lewis Moulton, who retired last month after 17 years.

Now Tom, 6 ft 4 in and an ex-Coldstreamer, is confident the future beams bright for the Services' club opposite London's Waterloo station.

Like Lewis Moulton, Colonel Forrest believes the

future success of the club lies in attracting ex-Service-men and women to use the place as an hotel — which is what it really is.

It has hundreds of rooms at comparatively low rates and Colonel Forrest is certain that the vast army of former Service men and women would welcome the chance, when visiting London, to stay in the centre of town at

favourable prices.

With 38 years' of Army service behind him, and a mass of experience in organising large numbers of people and equipment — he retired from the Coldstream Guards as a quartermaster, his promotion to lieutenant colonel being only the third of its kind in the regiment in 40 years — Colonel Forrest is convinced that the old UJ

will soon flourish and once again become a familiar name and landmark to millions.



LT COL TOM FORREST

Brighton's bomb disposal men win new trophy



There were no glamorous headlines about Herman the German bomb disposal — just mud, wind, and rain sleeting in off the Channel as the sometimes forgotten Territorial Squadrons of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) got stuck into their annual competition at Lodge Hill training area.

But while the four squadrons of Volunteers battled for the latest Sapper regimental trophy presented by the City Livery Company of Curriers they were being tested by their Regular counterparts who neutralised a World War 2 1,000 lb bomb in Sheffield.

Brighton's 583 (EOD) Squadron were the winners amassing 997 points out of a possible 1,100 as civil engineer Lieutenant Peter Nell solved the major problem of the week-end. Faced by a 1,000 lb bomb at the bottom of a steep embankment he arranged the construction of shear legs, ropes and pulleys to hoist the stubborn

concrete filled object to a safe place and dismantle the field machine within the three hour limit.

The Brighton Sappers were the only team to complete the task successfully although the two Dartford based 579 and 591 squadrons worked hard and were only separated in second and third place by two points.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Bates, the Commanding Officer expressed himself most satisfied with the hard work and determination of the Territorial squadrons of his regiment — "it's been hard work," he said.

As well as manhandling the big bomb the competitors built a medium girder bridge, dug deep holes with light excavators and carried out demolitions among the eight task competition circuit.

Pictured are Sapper Peter Power (left) and Lance Corporal David Williams of the Dartford squadron, with their 'bomb surprise'.

RON CALLS IT A DAY

After 48 years in uniform, Maj Ron Page MBE has retired from the Army on completion of a nine-year tour with 67 (The Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V), as PSAO. He was formally dined out at the Drill Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Ron, now 62, enlisted as a Boy Trumpeter in the Royal Artillery in 1937 and saw active service in the Battle of Britain, North African, Italian and Greek campaigns. After the war he served with an East African unit in Kenya and the Suez Canal Zone and as RSM of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Commissioned in 1963 his final Regular posting was from 1973 as UFO, 29 Commando Regt RA.

SOLIHULL FREEDOM

The freedom of the Metropolitan borough of Solihull was presented to the 2nd Battalion The Mercian Volunteers by the Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Gibbons and accepted by their commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel H G Willmore on their behalf, to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the formation of the battalion.

The presentation was made in Mell Square, Solihull in front of some 50 VIPs, families, friends

and many spectators. After the presentation the battalion exercised its right to march through the town with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating led by the Mercian Volunteers Band.

At the Civic Centre after the parade a reception was given to those on parade and their families where the presentation of the casket holding the scroll was presented to the Commanding Officer by the Mayor.



The GOC Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson made a rare public appearance when he represented The Queen at Stormont.

The occasion was the firing of a 21 gun salute in honour of Her Majesty's birthday.

Afterwards the GOC was entertained to lunch by the Speaker of the Assembly for Northern Ireland.

The salute was fired by the Saluting Troop, 102nd (Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers) based in Newtownards and Coleraine. The Troop was commanded by Lieutenant John Campbell.

General Richardson does not often get the opportunity to wear his dress uniform in public.

TWO FOR RETIREMENT

It was the final parade for both Colonel P D Williams and Drum Major Gwyn Smitham when 157 (Wales and Midlands)

Transport Regiment, RCT(V) were on parade at Maindy Barracks.

Col Williams was retiring as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, and Drum Major Smitham was leaving to concentrate on his fitted kitchens manufacturing business.

COMBAT CATERING CROWN FOR KING'S

First aid drill — with 'casualties' provided by Aldershot ACF



Corporal Janet Wilson (31 Signal Regiment) — only girl in competition



THE 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion The King's Regiment have brought honour to themselves and the North West by winning the revamped Territorial Army field cookery competition.

It is now known as Exercise Combat Caterer — the new title for an event last held seven years ago, since when the emphasis has

been on proving that military chefs must be good soldiers as well as first class cooks.

The 10 teams, all having won their district competitions, had to move on site near Aldershot, and set up camouflaged field kitchens... and all their kit, routines and layouts were subject to checking and marking.

So they were under pressure

before they started preparing meals — and this was the main task, serving an imaginative meal for 20 men using compo ration packs, details of which were not known until arrival on site.

Then the teams were taken away from their kitchens at various times for range practice, simulated first aid and other tests to show their physical fitness, map reading,

vehicle maintenance and highway code.

The Kingsmen took the crown (The United Kingdom Land Forces Cookery Competition Shield), second were Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) and third 219 (Wessex) General Hospital RAMC(V).

Corporal James Maley (154 Transport Regiment) and his field kitchen



Pictures:
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MAZDA EXPORT
DRIVE A
BETTER BARGAIN

CONTRASTING headwear at Horse Guards Parade as two members of the Burma Star Association prepared for their Remembrance parade. Left is former Leading Aircraftman Ron Manners, 62 with former Private David Russoff now living in Israel. Ex-RAMC and 19th Indian Division he wears his own medals — and those of his father.

★ ★ ★

HOW often has one heard the comment that the brave new world for which so many thousands of Servicemen fought — and died — in two world wars has not materialised?

For those who fall upon hard times in this country help is usually available through the Royal British Legion and other ex-Service organisations. The same applies to Australia, Canada, New Zealand...

But in many other countries throughout the world there are still survivors of World War 1, and vast numbers who fought with Britain in 1939-45, whose resistance to illness is low, who live lives of poverty, and who are vulnerable to the worst that life has to offer.

A Guyanese merchant seaman who survived the sinking of his ship in the Atlantic, sold newspapers earning three pounds a week in Georgetown, became ill from his wounds as he grew older so that his wife, with whom he shared a bare shack, supported him by begging...

In India a woman of over 100, once a nursing sister in World War 1, whose life deteriorated with age and the changes in India, was found living below even the local subsistence level...

A former NCO with a Caribbean Regiment, now very old, was found living penniless with his blind wife in a dilapidated hut devoid of furniture.

There are many more cases like those, who have been discovered — and helped — by the British Commonwealth Ex-Service League, an organisation virtually unknown in the UK because its work is directed overseas towards helping ex-Service veterans.

For the first time in its 64 years of existence, the league has appealed for outside help, and Prince Philip, its patron, has launched an appeal for £5 million. "There are hundreds of thousands of men and women from every part of the Commonwealth who came to our aid in campaigns far from the main European theatre of war, and we cannot allow ourselves to forget their unselfish courage and self-sacrifice", he said.

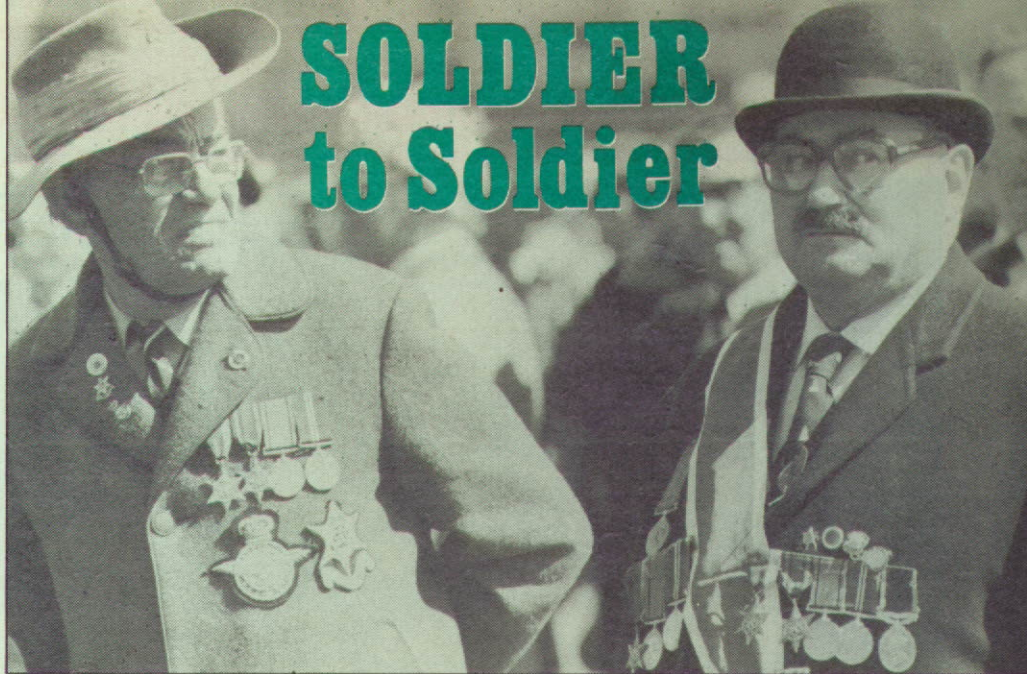
There are some six million ex-servicemen

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SOLDIER to Soldier

in the world and eight million dependents. Demands on the league's fund are increasing each year, reported Major General Lord Fitzalan Howard, chairman of the campaign council. "People are getting older and many of the countries they come from are getting poorer. The number of individual cases calling for aid direct from the headquarters in Pall Mall rose from 300 in 1980 to 1,100 in 1974."

★ ★ ★

THE Band of the Irish Guards is top of the pops. That is if the measure of popularity is the number of fee paying engagements each of the 69 Army bands had in 1983-84.

The Irish Guards band had 77 such engagements, followed by the Welsh Guards with 65, and the Coldstream and Scots Guards bands with 50 each.

These figures were handed out by Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, in response to questions from Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, who wanted to know in the House of Commons such details as which engagements were essential for reasons of State, which were reasonably necessary for strictly military duties, and which for public or private entertainment.

Mr Lee could not break the figures down; neither could he provide the number of individuals employed in provisioning, transporting, housing and paying band personnel because they could not be separately identified from those engaged on similar tasks for the benefit of Servicemen as a whole in their units.

The Great Grimsby MP also asked whether the Secretary of State for Defence would consider contracting out part of the Services' musical requirements "to colliery and other bands of high standing". Mr Lee's answer: "No".

★ ★ ★

WE omitted to include in our recent series on Military Museums Museums the Worcestershire Yeomanry Museum, situated in the Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery, Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT (telephone 0905 25371).

It is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (0930-1800) and Saturday (until 1300)

and closed Thursday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

★ ★ ★

WE erred (SOLDIER 22 April) in a feature on Belsen when we said, in good faith, that Sergeant Monty Berman, a photographer, is the man heading the famous theatrical costumiers Berman and Nathans in London. The sergeant concerned was not him, but Monty Berman who later became famous as a film and TV producer (with such famous series as The Saint, Gideon's Way, and others to his credit).

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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SPANISH DELIGHT

Flanked by Guardsmen Greg Hobbins, left, and Simon Setchell are twins Privates Jose and Manuel Rico of the Spanish Army



SPANISH and British soldiers haven't seen a great deal of each other since the time of the Peninsula War when they combined to evict the armies of Napoleon from Spain. The Spanish Civil War — the great political cause of the 1930s — hardly counts as Britons took part as private citizens and not as members of HM Forces.

But now Spain is poised to join the EEC and NATO after years of isolation in most military and economic matters from the rest of Europe. And obviously the time is ripe for better acquaintance.

The first exchange of soldiers between the two countries took 50 members of 4 Company, the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, to Almeria in Southern Spain where they spend several weeks as guests of 23rd Motorised Infantry Brigade.

In the meantime 50 Spanish soldiers from Almeria came north to spend the same period at Wellington Barracks in the heart of London being looked after by the 2nd Battalion's 3 Company.

On the day we caught up with them the Spaniards were lined up in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace watching their hosts dismount the Guard.

The previous day they had been

taking part in a battalion athletics meeting, and before they had been shooting on the Purfleet ranges and exercising on Salisbury Plain.

Major Ian McNeil, 3 Company's OC, devised a programme to give the visitors "a really good look around our training system."

"It's a chance for them to see our weapons, our helicopter drills and, probably more importantly, how we as professional infantrymen act in the field," he said.

That was an important point

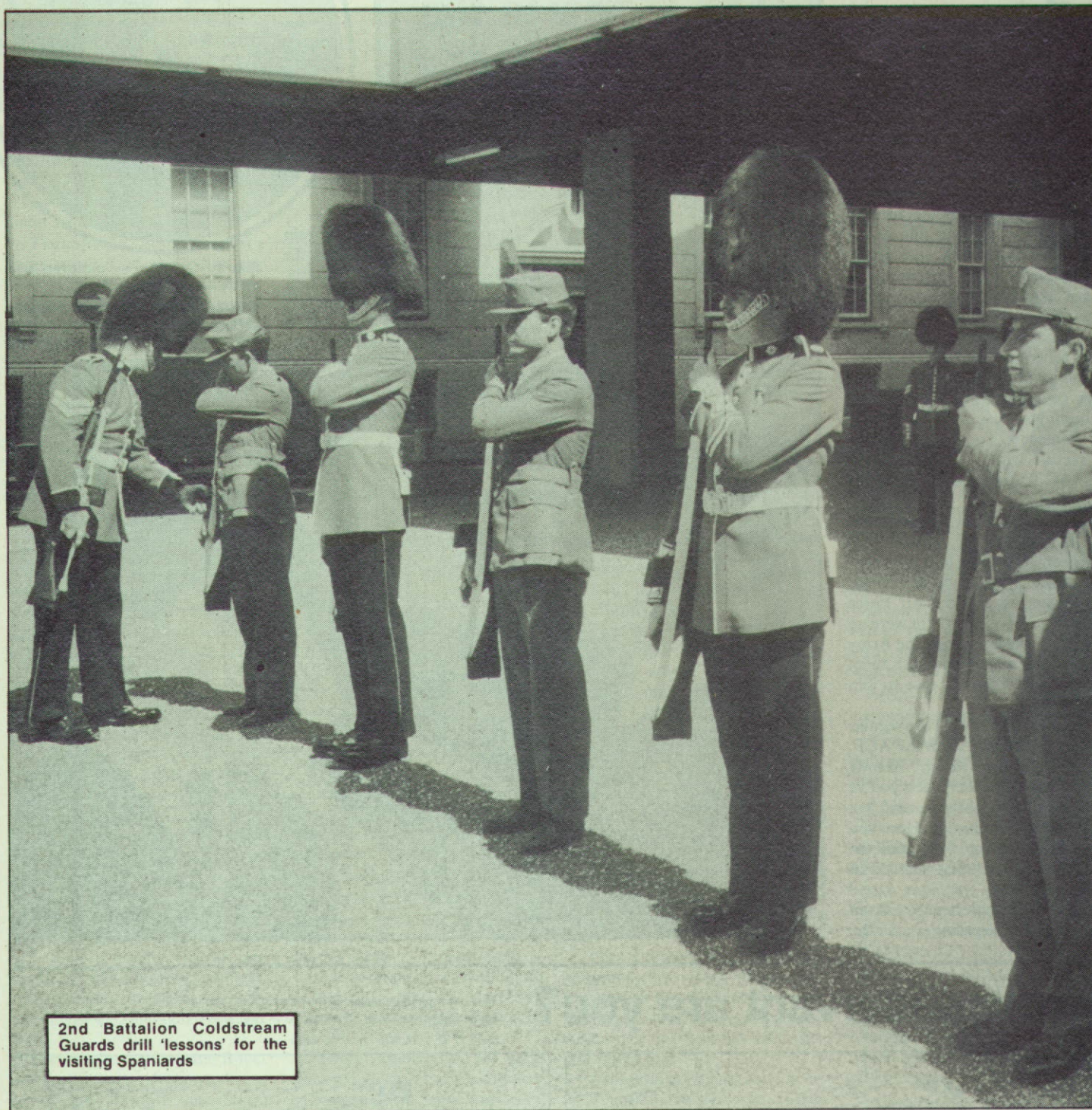
because the visitors, with the exception of an officer and four senior NCOs, were all conscripts doing their compulsory 12 months service.

It seems that in the Spanish Army all junior ranks are conscripts. If you want to become a regular, you go to a military college for three years and graduate as a sergeant.

"Obviously the level of sophistication is less than ours and the level of equipment, perforce, is not

**Story: Robert Higson
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

COLDSTREAM STYLE



2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards drill 'lessons' for the visiting Spaniards

quite as extensive," said Major McNeil.

"But they are extremely physically fit. They are very, very well disciplined and they are highly motivated. I've got nothing but admiration for a system that can produce such good soldiers."

Both Major McNeil and Major Edward Crofton, the battalion second in command expressed great satisfaction at the success of the visit.

Having to do everything by translations was a bit of a problem but they had been lucky enough to get the services of Warrant Officer 1 Tony Canessa, Royal Engineers, for the duration. WO Canessa

comes originally from Gibraltar and speaks fluent Spanish.

"They've enjoyed it tremendously," he said. "They've been looked after very well and they've been learning all the time."

One of the first things that had really impressed the visitors was the accommodation and catering at Wellington Barracks.

"It's like a hotel here compared to what they have," WO Canessa said. "Conditions are much tougher for them at home because they are all conscripts and they only get an average of £3.25 a month."

Ceremonials and Royal Guard duties were also another world for

men from a unit based on the Andalucian coast miles from the national capital. Drill was only a minor item on their training programme.

"They do a lot of forced marching," WO Canessa said. "Quite often they do 25 kilometres in the morning just to warm up."

As guests of the Coldstreams the Spanish troops had their first experience of heliborne operations and of handling such unfamiliar weapons as the SLR and the GPMG.

With the help of WO Canessa, the Spanish commander, Lieutenant Eugenio Bayo, spoke of the things which had impressed him

during the visit — the barracks and the thermal imaging night sights which he had been able to use for the first time on exercises in Salisbury Plain.

But most of all, Lieutenant Bayo said, he had been impressed by the attitude of the British soldiers who had gone out of their way to make the visitors comfortable.

● As members of the Division Gusman El Bueno No 2, Lieutenant Bayo's men wore the divisional badge on their upper arm with the motto *Sed Fuertes en la Guerra* ("Be Strong in War") and the motif of a sword — the symbol of El Bueno a Spanish general in the Moorish wars.

REMEMBER MANDY?

FIVE years ago **SOLDIER** reported on a pilot cadet scheme to encourage girls to join the Army Cadet Force in South West England.

One of the detachments mentioned in that report was from Torrington Comprehensive School in Devon which had recruited 12 girls into the ranks of its ACF.

The scheme was obviously a success. Not only are girls now an accepted part of the cadet force in the South West, but one of the original intake was sufficiently impressed by the experience to have taken on a career as a regular member of the WRAC.

Mandy Cannon was a 13-year-old schoolgirl when **SOLDIER** photographer Doug Pratt caught her covered with cam cream at Fremington camp on the North Devon coast. Today she is 18 and a recruit with 1 Platoon at the WRAC Training Centre in Guildford.

Mandy spent five years with the ACF, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Speaking now as a regular Army private she explained: "I wanted to join the Air Force actually, but seeing there were no air force cadets I joined the Army cadets and after being with them for so long it made sense to join the Army."

Not surprisingly life as a regular is rather different from the ACF. "It's a full time thing," Mandy said. "In the cadets when you've finished your night's training you can go home and relax. Here you know you've got to be alert all the time and you're being watched all the time."

But ACF experience was an advantage in preparing you for the

She is now in the ranks of WRAC

By Robert Higson

Army, in practice it gave you some valuable practice with firearms.

As a cadet Mandy fired SLR, SMG, GPMG, 9mm pistol and .22 and .303. She was good enough to shoot for her detachment and company in the inter-service competition against Air Force and

Navy cadets.

At the moment Mandy will train as an admin assistant when she finishes basic training. But she would like, if at all possible, to do something in the weapons line, perhaps as an instructor.



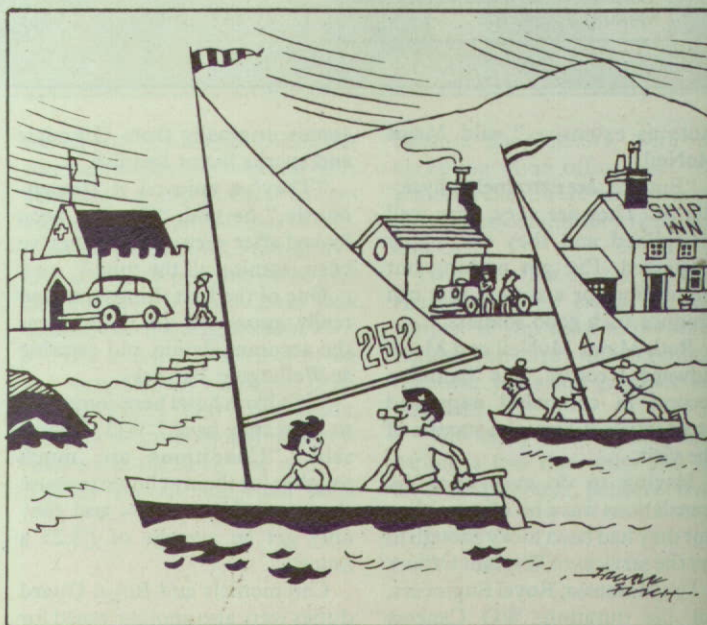
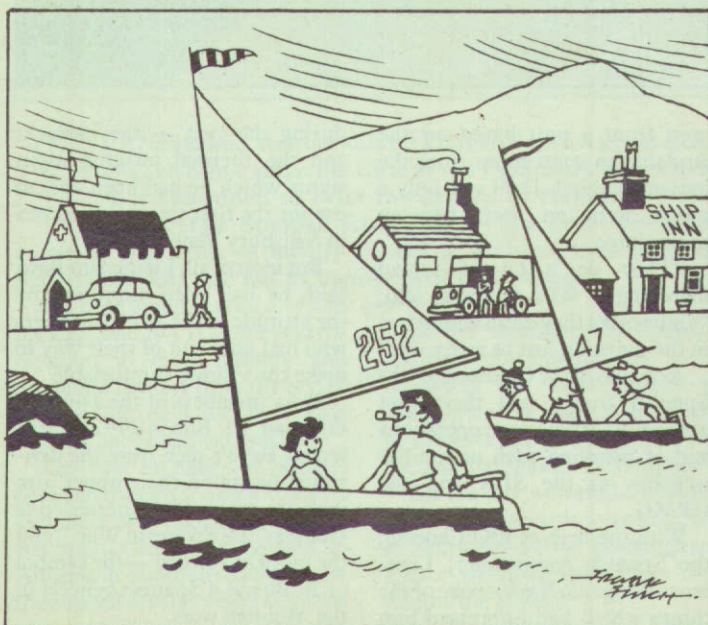
Mandy Cannon — pictured five years ago by Doug Pratt

Sergeant Anna Millward, platoon sergeant, helps Mandy to get used to her new beret. Picture: Les Wiggs



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 43.



• More fillings for 'teeth'

• More contracts for support

AT LEAST 800 jobs currently carried out by soldiers are to be put out to contract by civilian firms and 4,000 men switched from support to front-line roles, said Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine introducing both the Government's White Paper on Defence and the document Exercise Lean Look.

Transport: "At the moment a large number of soldiers in the Royal Corps of Transport, and also civilian staff, manage, drive and maintain vehicles... we intend to let a number of contracts in this area," he says in Lean Look, a document outlining the future shape of the Army.

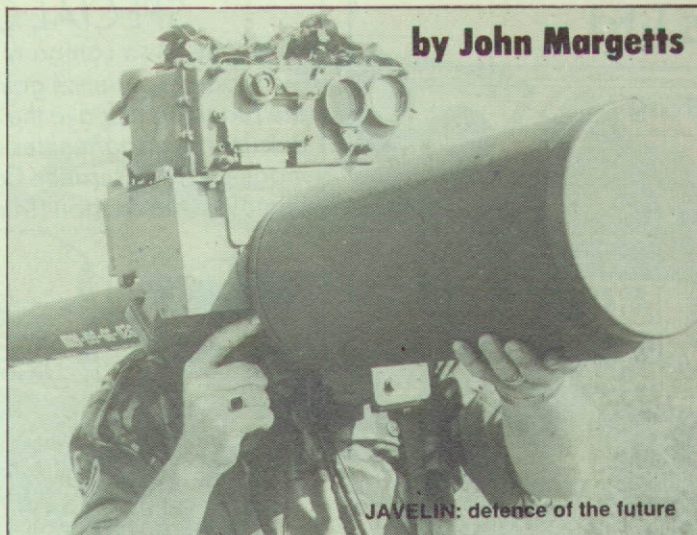
Catering: "We plan to extend catering contracts to a further 29 Army establishments in the UK." Currently there are four run by contractors.

Depots: "The RAOC central depots are the Army's warehouses, storing and supplying the Army's needs. We hope to introduce civilian contractors into the administration of those depots, to provide clerical support and printing facilities and to perform some of the tasks undertaken by Army quartermasters."

Even dental care has come under the microscope of Mr Heseltine's Exercise Lean Look in his bid to give the Army more 'front-line teeth'.

He says: "The dental health of the Army and its dependants is the responsibility of the Royal Army Dental Corps. We believe there is a continuing need for a corps of uniformed dentists, but following a year's trial we are confident that it will be possible to transfer dental prosthetic services to contractors, saving technicians posts."

Like the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the Army plans to bring in civilians to staff some static



by John Margetts

JAVELIN: defence of the future

4,000 more men for the front line

communication centres handling routine signals.

The maintenance of special instruments at the Royal Artillery range in the Outer Hebrides is also likely to be put out to contract, as is the security, catering and mess facilities at South Cerney, where units concentrate before moving by air to an exercise or operation.

WRAC: Referring to the 'wider employment to Servicewomen' Mr Heseltine said Lean Look identified jobs where women could replace men.

This will release men from the 'tail' to the 'teeth' by putting women in such jobs as clerical, communications and movement control duties in support areas.

"The overall effect is likely to be that 200 to 500 posts currently filled by men will in future be established for the WRAC.

"Every opportunity has been taken to reduce military manpower by reorganisation or rationalisation.

Savings were generally on a small scale but the overall result has been significant."

Examples include a reduction in the number of posts providing specialist advice in small arms training; physical training instructors in static units and the number of officers receiving staff training at the higher levels...

"We propose to abolish the trade of remedial gymnast; in future this task will be undertaken by PTIs and Physiotherapists and some 25 posts will be eliminated by merging the Regimental HQ of the Royal Pioneer Training Centre with HQ 23 Group RPC in Northampton."

The 'Posties', too, are to be slimmed down with the recommendation that the Army's parcel sorting office at Mill Hill, London, should be mechanised and save still more jobs.

The spotlight is also playing on the 'antiquated jerrycan filling

machine' at West Moors. The plan is to replace this with a 'less manpower intensive system' at some future date.

And at least 1,000 jobs will also be saved when 20 per cent is cut from the 'Supernumerary Allowance'.

This a body of soldiers used to keep units up to strength while others are away on sick leave, training, embarkation or terminal leave.

This means that, at times, units will be undermanned. But, says Lean Look, "we consider the allowance could be reduced by 20 per cent without jeopardising operational capabilities."

But while listing 'savings' Lean Look also outlines a catalogue of 'enhancements' for the Army.

Says Mr Heseltine: "The re-deployment of 4,000 men to new posts allows a number of important additions to our front-line capability..." Areas of improvement included armoured warfare, close combat, fire support, air defence, command and control, aviation as well as the provision of Regular Army support for Phase 2 of the expansion of the TA.

Areas listed for a boost in manpower and equipment include:

Armoured warfare: "An additional armoured regiment, the twelfth, will be formed in BAOR."

Close combat: "Manpower will be made available for the new mechanised combat vehicle — MCV 80 — which gives infantry better mobility, protection and firepower, and with which all 13 infantry battalions in BAOR will be equipped."

Fire support: Additional manpower will be necessary for the introduction into service of the Multiple Launch Rocket system which initially will replace M407 self-propelled guns."

Air defence: "A new Close Air Defence Regiment, to be equipped with a high velocity missile, will be formed within 1st (British) Corps, complementing BAOR defences provided by Rapier and Blowpipe — to be replaced by Javelin — and the Nato air forces."

Aviation: "A number of additional posts will improve aircrew to aircraft ratios and speed up the re-arming and re-fueling of anti-tank helicopters."

Summing up the plans put forward in Lean Look Mr Heseltine says: "Taken together, these enhancements allow us to reshape the Field Army to meet the increasingly sophisticated threat from the Warsaw Pact ground and air forces."

PEACE:

a privilege we take for granted at our peril...

IN INTRODUCING the Statement of the Defence Estimates 1985 Mr Heseltine said there are two fundamental concerns to which he must address himself — to establish the appropriate policies in the interests of this country; and to ensure that those resources with which he is entrusted are used to maximum effect.

He said: "Last year I concentrated on the drive to maximise the value for money we obtain from defence expenditure and to improve the management of defence."

"This year, we have also sought to look in depth at the Govern-

ment's defence policy.

The overriding purpose of that policy is to maintain the peace that this country and Europe have enjoyed for forty years. We have achieved that and there is no reason to question its continuance."

He concluded: "The resources which the Government has and intends to make available will sustain each of our main defence roles; the task we face is the crucial and demanding one of ensuring that these resources are used efficiently and effectively."

"Peace is a privilege that we take for granted at our peril. It is won

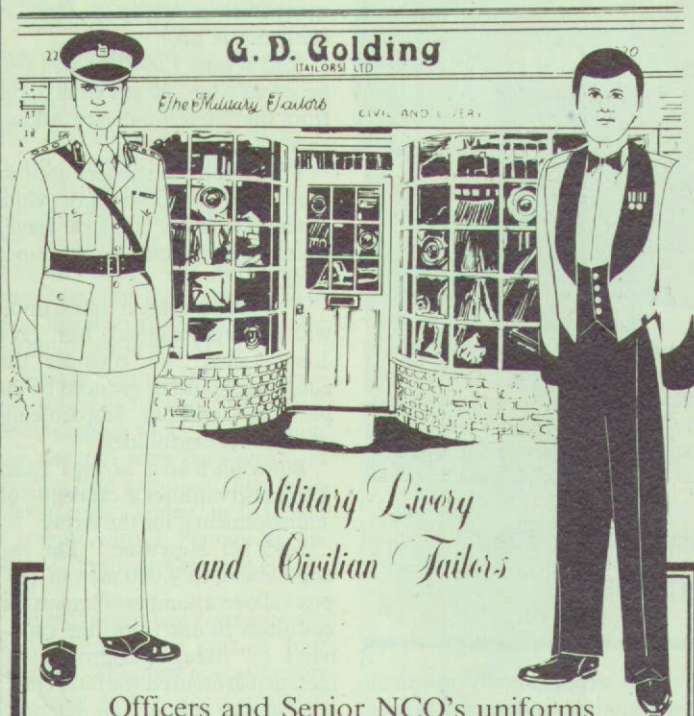
by the immense dedication of our Armed Forces, through the cohesion of the North Atlantic Alliance and at a considerable cost.

"It would be of the utmost folly to abandon the policies that have so significantly singled us out from earlier generations of European peoples who suffered so much from the wars that have characterised European history."

Statement of the Defence Estimates 1985 — 1 — (Cmnd. 9430-I HMSO £4.50);

Statement of the Defence Estimates 1985 — 2 — (Cmnd. 9430-II HMSO £5).

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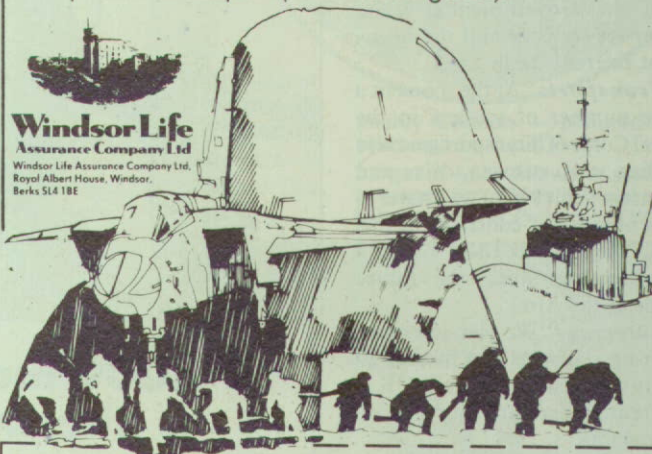
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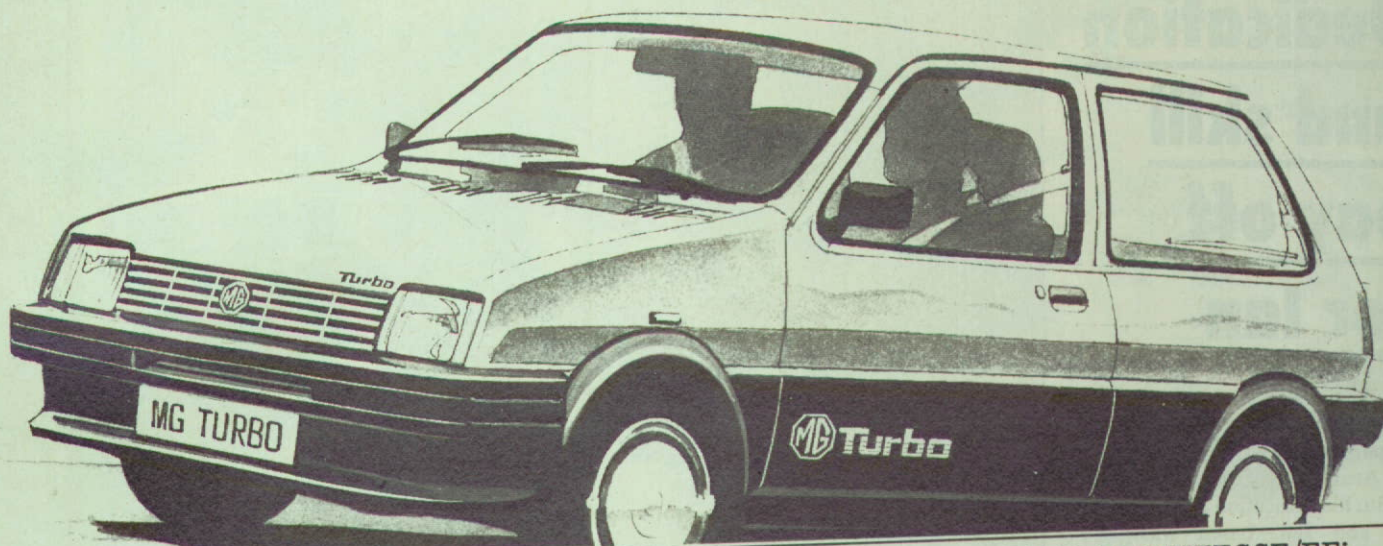
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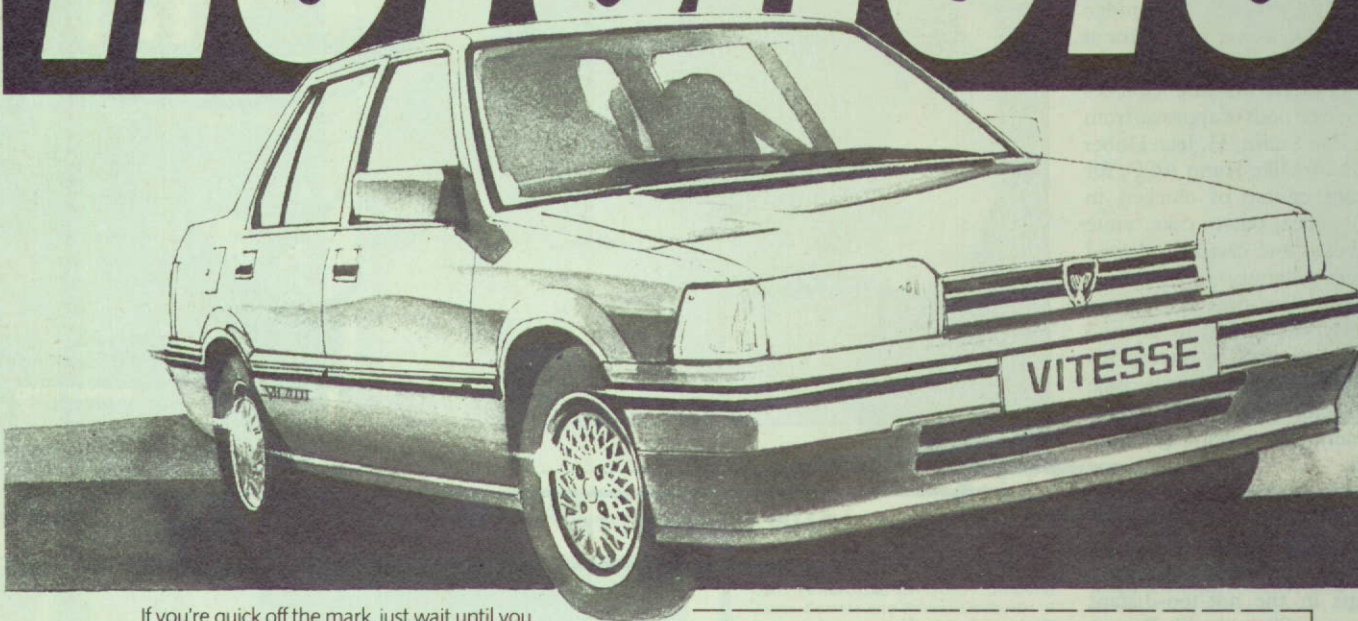
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GOLD FINGERS!

Dedication and skill pay off for Ian

IT TOOK ACC cook Corporal Ian Williamson 15 practice runs to perfect his winning menu for the Army Chef of the Year contest.

But his dedication and skill paid off and Ian, based with 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment at Aldershot, beat nine rivals for the title, trophy, gold medal and Caithness glass goblet — yet to be presented — at his first attempt.

His menu, restricted to a total of £12 for four people, had the judges, at the ACC Training Centre, Aldershot, smacking their lips in admiration and awarding 27-year-old Ian a hatful of points.

First they tasted his asparagus filled pastries with chervil butter sauce: "Really superb," said judge Kevin Byrne, a chief instructor at the ACC Centre.

Ian boosted his title chances when he won nods of approval from judges Bob Smith, M. Jean Huber and Major Mike Hann ACC, for his main course of chicken in almond sauce, potato cake, saute green beans and carrots followed by ginger syllabub.

Like most first-time title winners he hardly knew what to say and contented himself by saying his immediate ambition was to become an instructor at the ACC College. "I'm really keen on working there," he said.

Hot on Ian's heels in second place came Corporal Roy Paterson with Sergeant Ian Nichols, third.

Hoping to follow in Ian's footsteps in the not-too-distant future was 20-year-old Private David Knight, who collected the under-21s title of Young Cook of the Year.

David is based with 94 Locating Regiment RA Larkhill, but it was a close thing for him as Private Sue Higgins, WRAC, a cook at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, was a near second. Third in this section was Lance Corporal Rollins from IADSR in BAOR.

But while excitement for the individual titles ran high, it was the Cook and Serve contest that provided the spectacle and the food



Cpl Ian Williamson: moment of triumph. Photo John Green, Rep S

Story: JOHN MARGETTS

Pictures: LES WIGGS

for sit-down diners.

With 10 teams competing for the honour of being selected the Army's super cook and server, it was a race against time to prepare, cook and serve a three course meal for two including wine and coffee.

This had to be completed and eaten in 60 minutes. For the diners it was comparable to eating in a giant goldfish bowl since scores of spectators from the culinary world watched every move from behind the roped-off table area, and hawk-eye judges stalked the tables with pencils and clip boards at the ready.

Asked by PR organiser Major Gordon Walker ACC to sit in as a diner, I was accompanied by Mrs Carol Gatehouse, a clerical officer at ACC HQ.

Our cook and serve team: Lance Corporal Anthony 'Spike' Pike and Private Tracy Byrne WRAC, both from the officers' mess at the RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth.

In the event Spike and Tracy came second and were really "surprised and chuffed."

Said Spike: "My oven went out twice so it was a bit touch and go." He need not have worried for his offering of chicken, potatoes,

french beans and tomatoes, followed by jam omelettes was great.

Now Spike has returned to Lulworth to continue cooking, while Tracy, 22, and an Army representative cross-country runner, prepares to switch from waiting at mess tables to training to become a PTI.

Winners of the Cook and Serve were Corporal Graham Page and Corporal Chris Melia, both of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, based in Northern Ireland. Third — Lance Corporal Ron Cox and Mrs Helene Barber, Depot RCT TA, Aldershot.



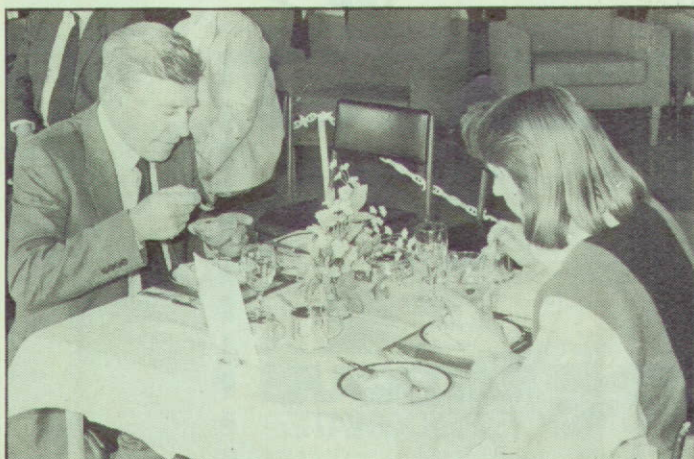
SUCH TASTY WORK!

TOP: Judges testing the Army Apprentices' College Chepstow, plum duff

RIGHT: General Sir Richard Trant tries the soup prepared in a field kitchen by Corporal Harry Lomas



And service for some . . .



SOLDIER writer John Margetts and Mrs Carol Gatehouse enjoy an unexpected meal

RESULTS

UNIT TEAM COMPETITION: 1, Corporal Julian Somers and Private Docherty 16 Bn RAOC; 2, Corporal Bob Sinclair and Private Arthur Thompson 1A and SH; 3, Corporal John Simpson and Corporal Stuart Clarke 3 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt RCT.

HOSPITAL TEAM: 1, Corporal Steven Sankey and Private Catherine Richardson WRAC of CMH Aldershot; 2, Lance Corporal John Grover and Private Kevin Warren BMH Munster.

ARMY CHEF OF THE YEAR: 1, Corporal Ian Williamson 3 Para; 2, Corporal Roy Paterson 1A and SH; 3, Sergeant Ian Nichols BHM Berlin.

ARMY YOUNG CHEF OF THE YEAR: 1, Private David Knight 94 Loc Regt RA Larkhill; 2, Private Sue Higgins QEMH Woolwich; 3, Lance Corporal Rollins 1ADSR, BAOR.

COOK AND SERVE: 1, Corporal Graham Page and Corporal Chris Melia 1 Kings Own Royal Border Regiment; 2, Lance

Corporal Anthony Pike and Private Tracy Byrne RAC Gunnery School Lulworth; 3, Lance Corporal Ron Cox and Mrs Helene Barber Depot RCT TA Aldershot.

POTATO COMPETITION: 1, Corporal Stephen Linch 38 Engr Regt Ripon; 2, Lance Corporal Bill Lang 17 Trg Regt and Depot RA Woolwich; 3, Corporal B Spaul Depot Para Aldershot.

JUDGES were: Major J Wallace ACC, Major D S Robertson ACC, Lieutenant Commander M J Bamborough, RN, Mr R W Perrett, Mr B Taylor, Captain MH Morin ACC, Mr R Smith, M. Jean Huber, Major M Hann ACC, Mr K Byrne, Mr HBS Gunn, Major CH Noons ACC, Captain I W Elrick ACC, Wing Commander R C C Parkinson RAF, Mr F Jones, Major RW Walker ACC, Mr J Ginders, Mr J Retallick, Captain D Wood ACC, Mr K Salisbury, Miss S Howe. The prizes were presented by General Sir Richard Trant, Quartermaster General.

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RAOC: SUPPLIERS WHO ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED!

EVEN AS soldiers work indoors or train outdoors on the ranges with assorted weaponry, 'scoff' — and plenty of it — is never far from their minds. Their next personal objective to be taken any day is their next meal. Napoleon just understated the case.

They prefer vehicle horsepower to boot-clad footpower day or night to get them round quickly during 'business hours' in a combat-inspired environment. Their weapons always need ammunition.

For the accompanied officers and soldiers, their wives and families back in married quarters, like their UK-based civilian counterparts, they enjoy all the creature comforts of furnished married quarters. They want to be safe in the knowledge there is a fire service nearer than they think if the chip pan should ever go up.

Cyprus, is no exception. The sea-locked land mass of citrus groves where 4,000 British Servicemen, their 3,900 dependants, 1,160 UK-based civilians and their families and the 760 British soldiers among the eight-nation, 2,300-strong United Nations Force in Cyprus all have one thing in common.

They just cannot exist professionally or personally without the unstinting services of the Army's Suppliers... the 72 military men of the island-based Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Another 36 RAOC men serve with UNFICYP and, that aside, the Episkopi headquartered organisation in the Western Sovereign Base Area is backed up by a vital 300 locally engaged civilians plus UK-based civilians; the Command Fire Adviser, three Army Fire Service officers and the Armed Services Food Chemist. Within the various headquarters, RAOC even supplies the staff clerks.

Lieutenant Colonel Graham



SSM Tony Stead —
with the Canadians' fancy

**GRAHAM SMITH and
picture editor
LES WIGGS continue
their Cyprus report**

But who could do better?

Gerdes, RAOC, is Commander Supply Cyprus, heading an organisation serving not only British Forces on the island, UNFICYP and UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) but an administration with five main functions.

Those of the Stores and Vehicle Depot plus an Ammunition Depot housed at nearby RAF Akrotiri; a huge Supply Depot at Dhekelia, some 60 miles to the east along the coast in the Eastern Sovereign Base

Area (ESBA); an Accommodation Services Unit (furnishings for MQs etc), and last, but never least, the mainly Cypriot-staffed Army Fire Service (AFS) headed by UKBC Army Fire Service officers.

Such is the breadth of role in supply and ordnance support to Army and RAF units, the latter needing certain commodities including 'common nature ammunition' for the RAF Regiment's weaponry.

Several million pounds are spent annually in support of British and United Nations Forces, money of benefit to the Cyprus economy.

"People will carry on eating. People will carry on driving. People will require heating", says Colonel Gerdes. "Perhaps we, the RAOC, are taken for granted because when things are going well people don't always notice, but when they occasionally go wrong, they most certainly do.

"A modern Army and its dependants require a very wide range of ordnance support — food, fuel, rations, vehicles, ammunition, equipment, spare parts, accommodation services and a wide variety of contractual service.

"Out here one learns a lot about national foibles, particularly national diets. I'm confident we, the British Army, have the right sort of expertise to do this work.

In fact, nobody could do it better, in my opinion."

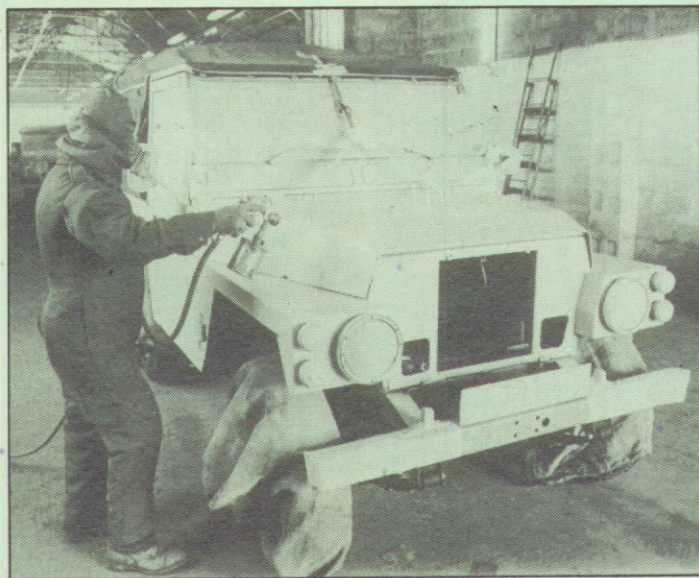
Every week huge containers are filled with supplies and sent by ship from Limassol harbour to Haifa, Israel, and then by road northwards to the ten-nation, 5,600 strong UNIFIL — there are no British there — when the French battalion, handling the logistics takes charge of the consignments after their Levantine coastal landings.

Campbell's soups for the insistent Canadians within UNFICYP... rice for the Nepalese serving with UNIFIL... wine (Chateau-neuf du Limassol, they joke)... piquant cheeses... are just some of the dieting tastes that have to be looked into and understood by the RAOC's provisioners.

The RAOC Bakery on the island caters for the British Servicemen's families as well as for the men themselves as Cyprus does not grow very much wheat. The flour is imported from the UK and handled by the Royal Corps of Transport's Joint Service Port Unit in Limassol Harbour. Beef and lamb are imported from New Zealand and Australia while other meats are bought locally.

Soldiers would not be doing their soldiering, without access to ammunition.

(Turn to page 24)



Spraying a Land Rover in United Nations white

EOD or ammo ... all part of the task

(from page 23)

An RAOC responsibility. Major John Taylor is the triple-hatted OC of the Ammunition Depot at RAF Akrotiri; a man who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal (QGM). He is not only the unit Officer Commanding but the SATO (Senior Ammunition Technical Officer) Land Forces (Cyprus) and Force Ammunition Adviser to UNFICYP, the latter headquartered in Nicosia.

He and nine others — half the number with Ulster or Falklands experience — man the Depot which holds nearly 200 different 'natures of ammunition' ranging from .22 to 7.62 mm and the latest 5.56 mm to fit the Army's latest rifle, the SA 80 IW (Individual Weapon).

"We manage all ammunition aspects you would expect to find in an inspectorate," said the officer serving in the most decorated Corps of the Army for acts of gallantry, and perhaps, in all three Services, since the end of the last war. "Our role also includes jobs, if necessary, of EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and IED (Improvised Explosive Device) clearance. Last year we had to answer eight calls to suspect objects — one of them a hoax. We also investigate any accidents involving ammunition," he added.

His advice is multifarious. The UNFICYP 340-strong Danish contingent, for example, was counselled by Major Taylor during a liaison visit on the construction of a new ammunition store there.

UNFICYP uses 50 different types of small arms ammunition.

The Ammunition Depot at Akrotiri also supplies shotgun ammunition for island vermin control and .310 ammunition for veterinary duties.

Another vital RAOC role aimed at giving wheeled mobility without tears stems from its RAF Akrotiri-based Stores and Vehicle Depot, headed by its OC, Major Richard Jarman. The unit moved there from Dhekelia in 1976.

Staffed by 35 military and 150-plus local civilians — some of the longer-serving so keen they set off from their Nicosia homes at 0300 hours each day to catch buses — the Store holds some 25,000 items worth an estimated £15 million. Anything from nuts and bolts to the largest of vehicles.

About 15 per cent of its stores are issued to the United Nations. Others go to Army and RAF units. Vehicles such as Ferret 11 scout cars are sprayed white there before



Running out a Wheelbarrow for continuation EOD training, above and below, Major John Taylor adjusts to UN role

UNFICYP use.

Some 200 vehicles of some 40 types or marks are stored near the airfield and a converted protective hangar. At least 100 vehicles annually are issued to the UN.

Tentage repair is another industry, an intensive one. A veteran of needle, thread and sewing machine there and probably recognised by thousands of Servicemen to pass through the island is Mrs Loukia Charalambous, 58, who started 42 years ago as a trainee.

Initially, all of the vehicles are shipped out to Limassol Harbour in Cyprus for the use of the Army or the RAF. They are then serviced, modified, painted or simply stored until further use. This has been found to be more economical.

Food, plenty of it, is as an essential fuel to the human body as petrol is to vehicles and the main source of issue on the island is the RAOC Supply Depot at Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area.

Headed by its OC, Major Bryon Harness, the depot is staffed by 10 military and 42 LECs, a unit serving not only the twin SBAs but also UNFICYP and UNIFIL to the tune of a few million pounds annually in rations, the majority of the latter from local contractors. Quality control of all foodstuffs is covered by Mr Krish Lalla, the Armed Services Food Chemist who analyses food and beverage samples taken at contractors

premises and in the Depot.

Six of the seven contingents within UNFICYP are mainly catered for by the men of the Dhekelia Depot, the Canadians being more specific with a requirement for Campbell's soups, baby clams in water and relish which must have the printed word 'English' strongly associated with it.

The UNIFIL needs specify mango chutney for the Nigerians among the 10 nations serving there and the French really love their Cyprus-sent wine at just seven cents a litre — their daily allowance.

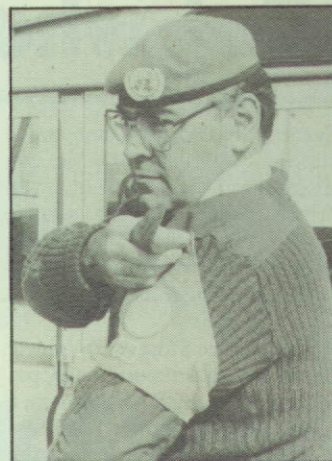
Warrant Officer 1 Peter Stead, the Depot's Supplies Officer, said "We are in the process of trying to get Gurkha 24-hour ration packs for the Nepalese Army Contingent via Hong Kong."

Master Butcher Warrant Officer 2 James Sharrock, recently returned from the Falklands, visits the local contractors supplying up to 50 pigs a week and supervises the slaughtering. He also oversees the purchasing of poultry.

Astonishingly, no less than 3,000 lbs of bread of 22 differing varieties are sent out each day from the depot's bakery staffed by two Army personnel and 13 LECs, who are literally making plenty of dough in eight-hour shifts.

The bread comprises four different recipes. British bread, Canadian bread (that with added sugar and milk powder), rye bread and wheatmeal. This staff of life is issued six days a week.

As Lieutenant Colonel Gerdes, summed up: "We take a professional pride in trying to give all of our customers, be they UN, Army or RAF, a first class service."



A Canadian collects fresh rations for his colleagues

The reason why the 'Scarlet Lancers' leave the . . .

BOTTLE OF SCOTCH UNTOUCHED!

A QUARTER-filled, 26-ounce whisky bottle of good repute, its contents shrouded in dust, stands on the landing of the door belonging to Flat 2, Number 22, Sokagi Street, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

It was bottled by William Lawson of Coatbridge, been there for nearly 11 years, and possibly booby-trapped!

Fact? Mischievous fiction handed down by more than 1,000 British soldiers? Who really knows? Nobody is eager to budge by the slightest centimetre the fine distillation of suspicious Scotch.

Doubtless, William Lawson's best blended amber offering will continue to stand unmoved on the first floor landing over Mr D. Kazakis' long-derelict shop. A defunct business somewhat insignificantly sited somewhere within the 418-year-old Venetian-built walls of the Cypriot capital's Old City.

Nobody, not even Cyprus old hands like A Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers — 'The Scarlet Lancers' — dare touch it as they mount twice-daily patrols in their familiar white four and a half-ton Ferret scout cars flying the world-famous blue ensign of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Sokagi Street is the narrowest, at just ten metres, of the 135-mile buffer zone separating Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots which meanders lazily through the Mediterranean's third largest island from its start point of Kokkina in the west to Varosha, in the east, finishing about one and a half miles from Famagusta.

Uniquely to the 'Scarlet Lancers' falls the responsibility of being the only UNFICYP contingent member unit among the Force's seven contributing nations — Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Finland, Ireland and, of course, the UK — which is allowed to patrol the complete length of the buffer zone from one end to the other, five miles in width at its deepest.

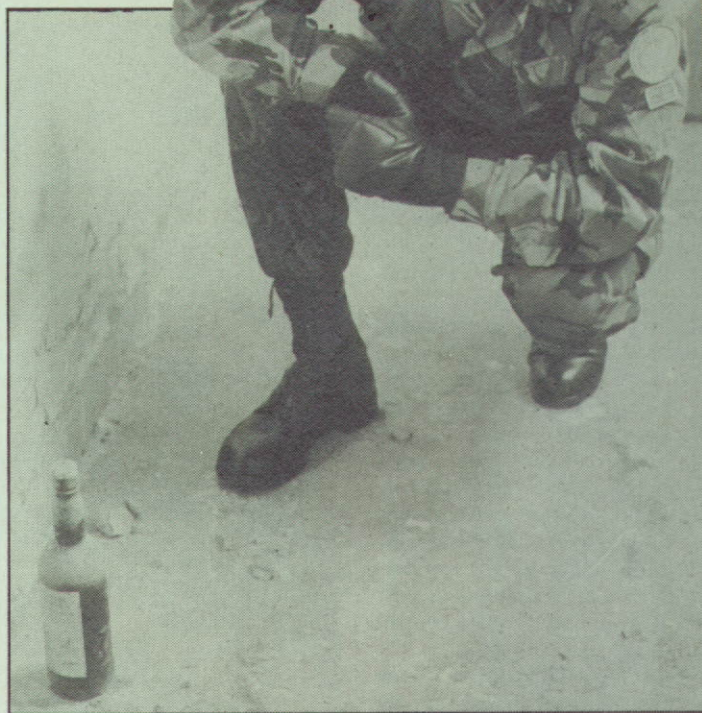
The nine narrow-gauge miles twist a maze of alleys in the divided city of Nicosia falls within the Canadian contingent's

'parish' or Sector Four. A mixture of in-city metalled road and plain dirt track wending its prescribed way in and out from new to Old City.

Each day a pair of pristine painted white Ferrets go out on the prow or patrol, mounting their 0.30 Browning machine guns. Their headlights full on with vehicle commanders in contact ceaselessly, headphones clamped over their distinctive blue berets, the head-borne hallmark of impartiality.

They thread a cautious way through uncannily eerie labyrinths of narrow streets dappled by fickle sunlight and shadow.

Theirs is the acknowledged and negotiated UN Patrol Track, put



Lieutenant John Holman studies THE bottle . . .

there 22 years ago on a map by a British general, the 'Green Line', snaking through the city as he applied its course with a green chinagraph pencil.

Canyons of delapidated and dismal-fronted buildings punctuated periodically by Greek-charactered shop signs. Of historic

incidental history now such personalised advertising and proof of tenure means nothing any more.

For the route is a public no-go area. Only the UN and, in particular, the 'Scarlet Lancers' are allowed regular, unfettered access.

Rubble and debris from the fighting of 1974 clutters doorways and gutters where it settled for good. Pock-marked buildings, disfigured for ever by shell and small arms fire stand in scarred dismay, their centuries-old traditional beige-coloured facades cared for now only by sun, wind and rain.

Once prestigious railings, long heavily rusted, stand shabbily in front of villas, themselves hapless hulks, ready for immediate vacant possession. Yet nobody knows for sure if their surrounding flowerless and overgrown gardens are land-mined.

The Lancers' daily commuting route of observation as peacekeepers twists and turns round many a right-angled corner in the Old City.

Now and again they come across the sporadic Observation Posts, manned by the UN's Canadian contingent whose young soldiers within that Sector Four will professionally rattle off a two-minute who's-where briefing to any visitors well off the tourist track. Slick butt salutes are the prelude to the disposition of OPs.

Along this time warp track of desolation the Cypriot National Guard have their OPs, too, blue and white national flags fluttering defiantly just above roof-top level

(Turn to page 26)



A pause outside the British Embassy in Nicosia

THE FERRET: suited for peace-keeping

(from page 25)

in a divided community.

A chicane-like metropolitan piste marked by alternate skyline pennants traces the path of the track ... UN flags, Cypriot National Guard and, of course, the Turkish Army.

Never far away from the Cypriot OPs are the subtly-sited but less robust Turkish OPs. Theirs take on the appearance of hurriedly built wooden chicken coops, draughty but functional and bolstered beneath and alongside by the standard rusting oil drums and sand bag emplacements.

Shattered panes of glass staring out of corrugated iron slatted walls betray other OPs.

Dark-eyed conscripts in their distinctive helmets dutifully note the passing Lancers' patrol as they go through. Tanned hands instinctively reach for the top left-hand tunic pocket to note details, ready for phoning in to a control centre.

Like the UN and the Greek Cypriot National Guard they fly their flags of identity, too. Their statement of presence.

A mini-Berlin. But without the garish lifestyle on the scale associated with that city, walled and divided nearly 24 years ago.

History is not a feature of the patrol track. Just lightly-armed soldiers, field telephones, high powered binos, sangars and the mandatory log sheets as everyone openly — and expectedly — watches everyone else. Waiting for any infringement. Par for the course.

The Cypriots watching the Turks. The Turks looking at the Cypriots. The UN's Canadian and British representatives quietly assessing both of them.

The name of this sinister street game with strictly set rules is ... the Status Quo.

That's how it is. A melancholy atmosphere along some of the Mediterranean's quietest and once vibrantly commercial streets. These, in the venerable Old City of Nicosia now taking on the aura of an abandoned film set scenario of architectural decay where once plants graced the carved balconies and timeless finesse was conveyed by Roman bowered inner courtyards and bold Byzantine arches.

It's a sort of latter-day Pompeii now but without the ashes and lava. Without people.

Serving in Cyprus at the time of the 1974 invasion when he led a convoy of evacuation vehicles from Famagusta to Nicosia, Lieutenant John Holman, who describes himself as a "Cyprophiliac" said: "I was in Pergamos in the ESBA area



On patrol in the old walled city of Nicosia

Parliamentary praise indeed ...

at the time of the Turkish landings. I was with B Squadron of the 16th/5th which was the first UN squadron reinforcement into Nicosia airport. We held it for three or four days."

In fact, during that emergency of eleven years ago the work of the 'Scarlet Lancers' was praised in Parliament — twice. Believed to be the first time for any regiment since the end of the World War 2.

Lieutenant Holman added: "We, the 16th/5th, as the Chief of Staff's Reserve (Brigadier Robin Duchesne), are the only contingent to be seen along the whole five-sector, 135-mile buffer zone created in 1974, with our five Sabre Troops of four Ferret Twos, one being based in each of the Sectors.

"Every three weeks they rotate so that during a six-month tour here one of our Sabre Troops will do two three-week periods in all five Sectors."

He estimated that half of the Squadron had served in Beirut with the British contingent as part of the MNF (Multi-National Force), being there from December 1983 to March 1984.

As the pair of Ferret scout cars plied their daily patrol through Nicosia Old City, Lieutenant Holman said: "The Ferret is ideal in this climate and terrain. It doesn't have an offensive capability and it is well suited for peacekeeping duties."

Two more of his armoured cars, in tandem, would re-trace the route later that night.

But back to Number 22 Sokagi Street. If Flat Two has a mystery so, too, has Flat Three beneath it. The whole location forms, in fact, Canadian OP Charlie Four-Three.

Visible through a flung-back kitchen window are a dozen or so baked rolls, looking now like theatrical props. Left there hurriedly by their intended savourers.

Some 9mm ammunition of indeterminate type, they say, lies beyond in another room. But on the kitchen table ... another bottle. Bacardi perhaps. Free for the casual taking again. But is it booby trapped?

Quaint, sad relics of a war. Museum pieces standing within yards of a Greek OP.

For six years the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers were stationed at Wolfenbüttel in BAOR not far from another symbol of demarcation between communities ... the Inner German Border.

Similarities with the Nicosia beat his men now follow daily

seem coincidental to Lieutenant Holman as he threw a glance at the oil drum barriers abruptly clotting an Old City's once busy street.

He said: "In BAOR near the IGB you get a sense of the other side being closed in with its mine-fields, dogs and armed guards watching your every move. The main difference here is that you are watched by two sets of armed guards while you patrol in the middle."

Next stopping point for the men of Three Troop was for a chat with the Canadian OP, Charlie Four-Five which suddenly loomed up right behind the Turkish ceasefire line at Omorphita, not far from where their countrymen had parachuted in eleven years ago.

On the flat-roofed house, serving as a UN OP, some luckless previous owner unknown to them, a three-inch-wide white line demarcates the difference in diplomatic viewpoint between the UN and Turkish vantage points. Both are sited within shouting distance of one another.

A face peered intently from the shack serving as an OP diagonally away from the UN position. He would be reporting in.

Ironically, the 'Scarlet Lancers' have deployed from time to time to Turkey for a month at a time as part of an AMF (L) exercise.

A fresh-faced Trooper, eyes creased against the sun, remarked: "We could be exercising with these same guys of our same age. Maybe that one over their. Exercising in Turkey in a friendly situation only to find they are the same blokes out here in Cyprus who view us in a different light."

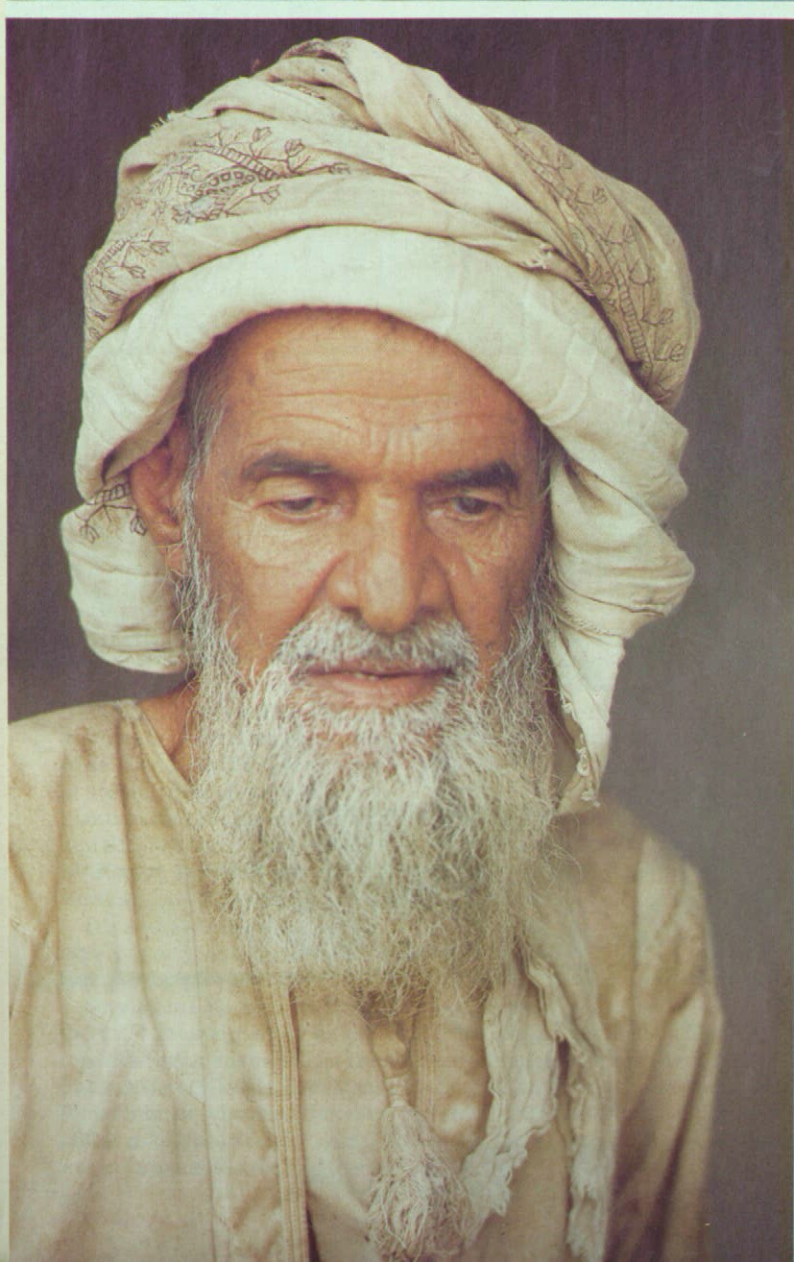
It is estimated there are some 7,000 Turkish Army troops stationed to the north of the buffer zone and perhaps some 3,000 Cypriot National Guard positioned to the south of it.

Sergeant Jim Hardy, a vehicle commander normally associated with Scimitars and Scorpions, a veteran of the 1974 events on the island and a Beirut British contingent member said: "You go past these OPs every day knowing that nothing is going to happen but, you are aware also that something could happen."

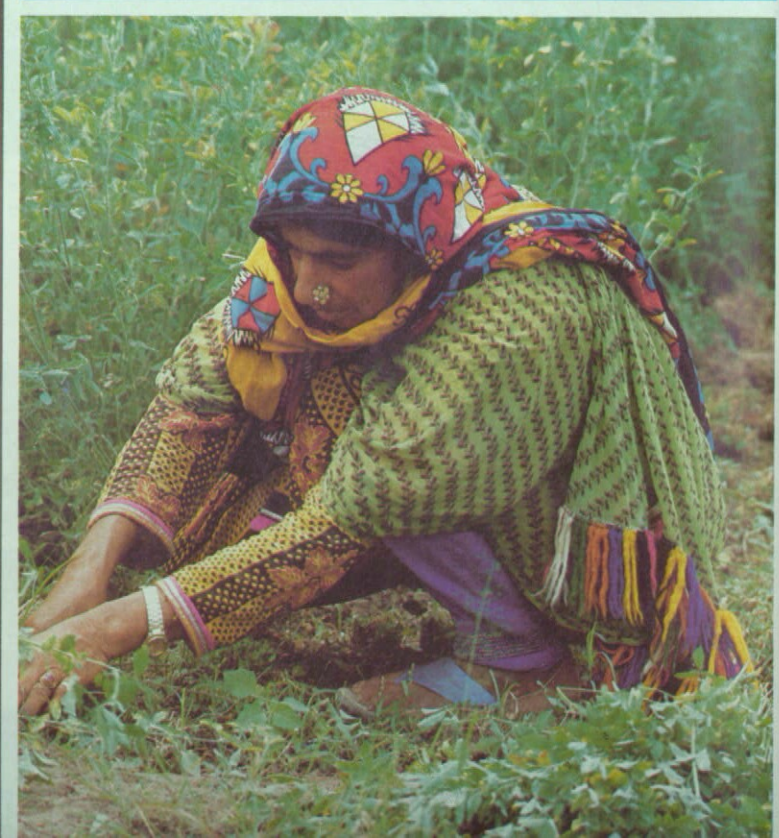
Rounding a notoriously tight left-hand bend in the Old City, he added: "You have always got to be on the look out. Beirut was different. They were out deliberately to kill each other there. You can never be too complacent in this game."

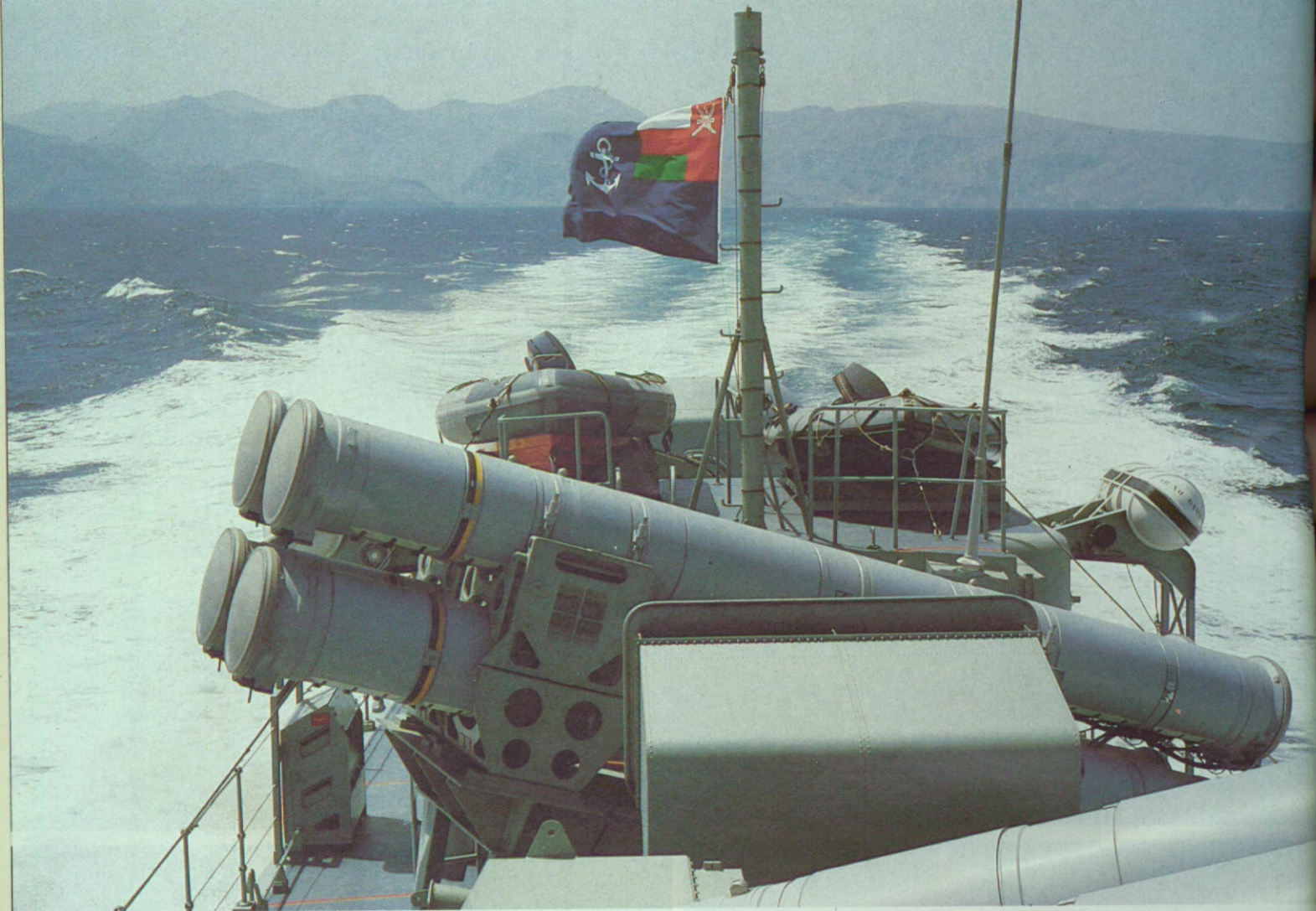
Trooper Gavyn Lissemore at the wheel of a Ferret





DOUG PRATT'S camera took in some colourful sights in the Sultanate of Oman. Clockwise from top: combined action — a naval bombardment is a prelude to an amphibious landing by the Royal Guard raiding party; a vital irrigation system called Falaj; 17-year-old recruit of an artillery regiment; colourful costume for a woman cutting cattle fodder; a face full of character — a blind man whose son now tends the goats.





TOP: SNV Al Sharqiyah, equipped with Exocet MM40, in the Strait of Hormuz. Left: Modern Omani policeman taking part in demonstration at the Police Training College at Nizwa.



OMANISATION: DRIVE BY A PROUD PEOPLE TOWARDS MODERNISATION

Writer **ROBERT HIGSON** and
photographer **DOUG PRATT** continue
their study of the new Sultanate of
Oman (See **SOLDIER** 6 May)

THE word 'Omanisation' isn't found in many dictionaries or in many places outside the Sultanate of Oman. But its significance in that country cannot be overrated.

The great modernisation drive which has been going on since 1970 must bring with it the development of home grown management skills and technical expertise or it will have failed in its purpose. The Omanis, with the proud claim of never having been the colonial subjects of anyone else, are determined not to lose authority in their own country by default.

Of course it isn't possible to become an effective modern nation after long years of stagnation without a lot of help, and the Sultanate is no exception.

Teachers from Egypt and the Middle East, doctors from the Indian sub continent, engineers and technicians from across Europe and North America, and Servicemen from Britain have all been helping to lay the foundations of modern Oman.

There are several hundred British loan service and contract officers and NCOs in the Sultan's forces. They enjoy good rates of pay, generous leave with the bonus of free airline tickets, a generally sunny climate and, in many cases, the professional satisfaction of participating in far reaching decisions about equipment and organisation.

It helps if you don't mind a largely bachelor existence — only officers above the rank of lieutenant colonel have the privilege of being accompanied by their wives. The rest have to be content with visits of up to three months a year.

And you need to be fairly self sufficient, as social outlets, particularly in some of the remoter stations, tend to be limited. Recourse to the bottle is not recommended for although the Omanis have a more tolerant attitude to alcohol than many Islamic nations, drink-related offences are a good way of getting an early flight back home.

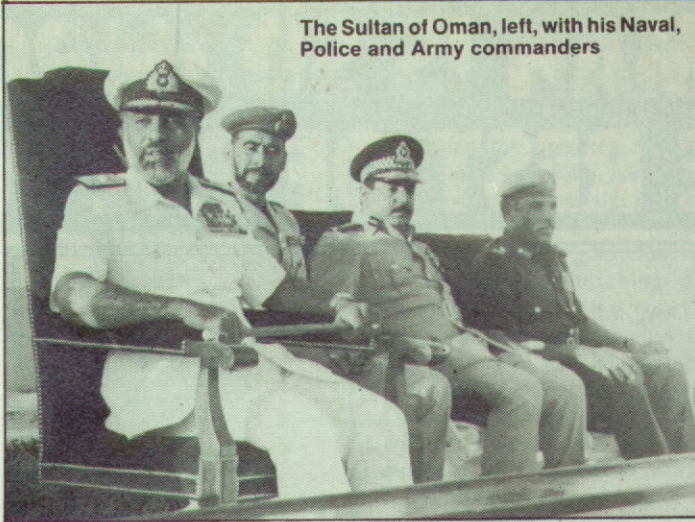
The other thing to avoid is too much complacency about the continuation of employment.

As one ex-British Army regular remarked: "If they can find an Omani who can do the job as well as you they will thank you very kindly at the end of your two year contract and that will be that."

On the other hand the Omanis have no post-colonial hang ups to worry them. In their long history they've had more experience of being imperial masters than subjects.

There is no undue haste to replace the foreigners. The Omani ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, is a

The Sultan of Oman, left, with his Naval, Police and Army commanders



'There is no undue haste to replace foreigners'

graduate of Sandhurst who spent six months doing regimental duties with the 1st Battalion, The Cameronians (The Scottish Rifles) in West Germany in 1962. He obviously approves of the way the British manage military matters and he has stated that there will be no lowering of standards just to get Omanis into top jobs.

But the process of Omanisation continues apace. In the Land Forces practically all the command positions are now held by Omani officers. Only last December Major General John Watts, on loan service from Britain, handed over command of the Sultan's army to Major General Nasib bin Hamad bin Salim al Ruwahi.

Some units, particularly the

Medical Corps, do rely on a wide range of non-British expatriates, mostly from the Indian sub-continent and Sri Lanka. And a good proportion of the army still comes from the old Baluchistani provinces of Pakistan across the Gulf of Oman — a traditional recruiting ground of long standing.

But the Land Forces remain the most Omanised of the Services. The Sultan's Air Force and Navy continue to have many command posts in expatriate hands due largely to the range of sophisticated modern equipment they have at their disposal.

Exocet and Rapier missile systems, Jaguars, Hercules transports and Bell helicopters all require a great deal of expertise in

management, maintenance and operation and in this area the process of Omanisation is necessarily slower.

The front line Jaguar squadron based on what used to be the RAF station on the island of Masirah has an expatriate commander, with an Omani deputy, and six pilots divided equally between the two. At the southern air base of Thumrait the air defence Rapier squadron is commanded by an Omani.

The idea in all services is to have a uniformed command structure into which qualified Omanis can be slotted at any level to replace expatriates. The difficulty is getting sufficient qualified men in a country where education was all but unknown until 15 years ago.

In 1970, when Sultan Qaboos took over from his father, there were less than a thousand primary school pupils in a country with an estimated population of over a million. The years since have concentrated, as much as anything, on building up the network of primary and then secondary education.

Next year the educational cycle will be completed when Qaboos University opens its doors for the first time to instruct students in agriculture, education, engineering, medicine and science.

In the meantime the period of Oman's transformation from stagnant backwater to modern state continues to be a time of unprecedented opportunity for talented Omanis. It is the sort of atmosphere in which a lowly clerk in a provincial governor's office can become a minister of state within a matter of a few years.

Lieutenant Commander Abdul Aziz, a 29-year-old graduate of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, is a good example.

His father, Mahmood bin Sumar, is a naval lieutenant who will shortly hand over his command of one of the Sultan's landing craft and retire from the service.

Before 1970 Lieutenant Mahmood commanded one of the two warships of the old Omani Navy — a wooden dhow which carried a couple of machine guns as its main armament. (When they tried a larger gun they had to embed it in sandbags to take the recoil).

Soon his son will leave his job as Staff Officer Gunnery and Missiles and take over command of one of the Sultan's Province Class fast patrol boats — a craft of 300 tonnes displacement with a comfortable cruising speed in excess of 30 knots.

It is armed with Exocet missiles, 76 mm and 40 mm cannon and a host of sophisticated electronic gadgetry. And it is as far removed from Mahmood's dhow as is modern Oman from the country of the Sultan's father.



Exercising the Hercules — equipment which needs a great deal of expertise

WHY OMAN IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD

THE Musandam Peninsula — the northernmost part of the Sultanate of Oman, is separated from the rest of the country by a stretch of the United Arab Emirates. It is a very good reason why the security and stability of the Sultanate are of prime importance to the rest of the world.

Musandam reaches north towards Iran and in doing so creates the Strait of Hormuz — the entrance to the Persian Gulf and the water-way through which passes 40 per cent of the oil needed by non-communist countries.

From its Ras Musandam Naval Base on the barren, rocky island of Jazirat al Ghanam (Goat Island) the Sultan's Navy polices the Strait's vital traffic separation scheme.

It is exclusively an Omani job because the two mile wide outward southern lane, and three mile buffer zone, and the two mile inward northern lane are all but a fraction inside the territorial waters of the Sultanate.

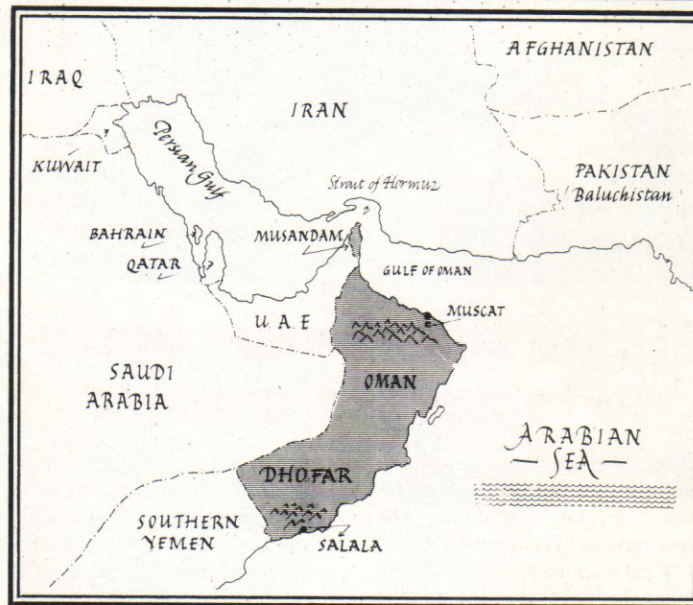
The Sultan's fast patrol boats and helicopters take the names and ports of registration of tankers infringing the traffic rules and usually the Omani Foreign Ministry hears from the more responsible governments of penalties inflicted upon erring captains.

A more serious threat to free navigation comes from military action, in particular from any overspill of the seemingly interminable Gulf War between Iraq and Iran.

However the Omanis are more than anxious to play down any threat from Iran, either to the Strait or to themselves. There's little doubt that relations are less easy now than before the Iranian revolution when the Shah sent troops to help the Sultan fight insurrection in the south.

In keeping with the Omani policy of defending national integrity at all costs while actively seeking cordial relations with all nations, officers at the Ras Musandam Naval Base make a point of emphasising peaceful co-existence in the Strait.

"Since 1979 when this base was established," said one of them, "the Iranians have behaved perfectly normally. They patrol their side of the water as they are quite entitled to. An Iranian ship has come into our water on the odd occasion but without a doubt it has been a navigational error and when they've been requested to leave



they've done so politely without any argument."

Quite apart from keeping an eye on the 50 or so tankers which daily pass through the Strait, the Sultan's Armed Forces have another important role in the Musandam Peninsula which illustrates the twin thrust of Omani defence policy.

At Ras Musandam and at the port of Al Khasat further south can be seen naval landing craft whose primary task is ferrying supplies to the Peninsula's scattered communities — the sea being the only means of access in this land without proper roads.

Aid to civilians, whether carrying building materials to remote villages or evacuating people needing medical treatment from inaccessible regions, is a continuation of the policy which reaped dividends in the savage Dhofar war of the early 1970s.

Then the rebels in the southern province were successfully encouraged to switch their allegiance, not by threats of punishment but by the building of wells, schools and clinics. A couple of squadrons of Royal Engineers played a not

Artwork — John Rushworth

insignificant role in this respect.

By using oil revenue for peaceful persuasion as well as for the purchase of modern arms, the Sultan was able to get many former rebels to enter his service. Indeed one is now a senior minister of state.

The continuation of this hearts and minds aspect of defence is one reason why the Omani defence budget occupies a hefty 40 per cent of government spending. Another reason is the inclusion of the Royal Omani Police, with responsibility for immigration, customs and excise, prisons and fire service as well as the normal range of police duties.

But defence expenditure still remains quite massive for a country whose population, in the absence of any formal census, is estimated at no more than 1.5 million.

The level of defence spending (in 1983 it was in the order of 1.75 thousand million US dollars) indicates the Sultan's determination not to return to the time when outside assistance was essential for survival.

Twice since World War 2 foreign

soldiers have fought and died in Oman to save it from insurrection. In the 1950s, in a campaign which included the storming of the supposedly impregnable mountain stronghold of the Jebel Akhdar, and again in the Dhofar War of the 1970s, British troops were among those who helped secure the Sultanate.

Now the Sultan has under his command some 25,000 well-trained and well-equipped servicemen with the additional support of about 3,500 members of the Firquat tribal militia.

Their deployment conforms to the basic demographic and geographic pattern of the country which has major centres of population in the north and south separated by 700 kilometres of desert inhabited by little more than nomads and oil wells.

Defence policy emphasises friendly relations abroad. Even with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the supporter of the rebels in the Dhofar War, efforts are being made to resolve border difficulties in an atmosphere of neighbourly reconciliation.

For collective security Oman looks to the Gulf Co-operation Council, the comparatively recent association of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. But there is no intention at this stage of forming the sort of military pact which would station foreign troops on Omani soil.

The Sultanate wants to take what it considers best from the modern world while saving itself from damaging influences. This means keeping out such bodies as tourists and troops on R&R. There will be no repeat in Oman of what happened to Saigon and Bangkok — not if the Sultan can help it.

US military aid has provided lengthened runways, hardened shelters and fuel storage for Oman's principal air bases, but these facilities are firmly in Omani control and not available to the Americans except for occasional re-supply flights.

The business of achieving stability in what can be a very unstable region of the world requires skill and a little cunning. While remaining on good terms with the west for a whole host of very good economic reasons, Oman has still to reassure its Arab neighbours that its commitment to Islamic brotherhood remains unimpaired.



Fast gun boats of the Sultan's Navy

THE business of handling firearms is hardly new to a country where, well within living memory, tribal territory was fiercely defended against outsiders, and where, even today, many a respectable citizen doesn't feel properly dressed without his rifle.

But competitive target shooting is something quite different and it is one of the new skills, among so many, that the Sultanate of Oman is hoping to acquire in its present transformation from stagnation to modernisation.

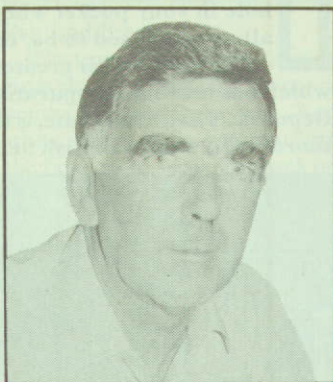
The Omanis have opted for the American idea of forming a special unit of expert marksmen to act as a shop window for the Armed Forces and the country in general.

Ironically it was an idea that nearly caught on in the British Army in the days when the rifle took over from the musket.

"That is what the Small Arms School Corps was formed to be — the expert shooters who passed on their knowledge," said Lieutenant Colonel Don Gillam, himself chief instructor of the SASC until he retired from the Army in 1983.

"But as time went on and the skills of the infantrymen became wider the job of the SASC became more, instructor of infantry skills rather than instructor of shooting

AIMING TO PUT OMANIS ON A DIFFERENT MAP



Don Gillam — his marksmen have an 'excellent temperament'

"We tried to get back to marksmanship in principle over the last 15 years. Lieutenant Colonel Larry Orpen Smellie, who was captain of Army shooting for many years, tried very hard to get permission to form a small band of really good shooters in all the disciplines.

"He was one of the major advocates of reforming what had been the old School of Musketry system of having half a dozen people who were experts, getting them together, running courses,

gathering the brightest to form teams and, hopefully, get British Army shooters into the national team.

"I think we got close to succeeding but the thing that always frustrated us was cost."

Now Colonel Gillam has the opportunity to put that idea into practice. As one of the Sultan of Oman's contract soldiers he is commanding officer of the Armed Forces' International Marksmanship Unit and manager of the national shooting team. At the moment Oman has no civilian shooting clubs which means that the national team is limited to selection from the services.

It was only in 1979, when an Omani team was sent to Bisley for the first time, that the idea of involvement in competitive shooting began to gain momentum.

The marksmanship unit was formed in 1982 and when Colonel Gillam took over in January last year the main item on the agenda was an Olympic debut at Los Angeles with a style of shooting unknown to Omanis.

In that Olympic year Colonel

Gillam took the team to competitions in Britain, Zurich, Munich, Mexico and the United States, where apart from the Olympics, they had the experience of training with the US marksman-ship team.

This year the team has another busy international schedule which ends with the international military competition in Venezuela.

"The Asian Games in 1986 are the next major target," Colonel Gillam said. "I believe on known form the Omani team could come out as top Arab nation in that event.

"My other target, as a result of good shooting last year — given me by the Commander of the Army and the Oman shooting association — is to aim at getting an Olympic medal for Oman in 1988."

The unit on which these hopes for the future are based ranges from a major, who is a battle scarred veteran of the Dhofar War and a former member of the Sultan's bodyguard, to a 19-year-old Air Force recruit, with signallers, drivers, and a member of the Royal Guard in between.

"At their present stage of development they are fantastically good," Colonel Gillam said with pride. "One of the great things going for them is their seemingly excellent temperament.

Golf can be found anywhere!

PLANT a group of British expatriates anywhere in the world and the chances are that they will sprout a club house and a golf course.

This is as true of the Sultanate of Oman as it is anywhere. The landscape of this arid country may be as far removed from the rolling green swards of St Andrews as it is possible to imagine but enthusiasts are undeterred.

There are already two full 18-hole courses in the Capital Area which these days stretches like a

vast construction site along the coast from Muscat to the International Airport at Seeb.

A third, rather more modest affair, can be found in the foothills of the mountain chain which reaches the sea at Muscat. This is the Hidden Valley Golf Club where those lucky enough to be able to join (membership is limited to 50) can get to grips with golf, Omani style, in relative privacy.

The club was founded by six expatriates who developed the nine hole course on decidedly unprom-

ising terrain. Part of it is wadi — bone dry water courses which can occasionally become engulfed in raging flood — and part is sand dune.

You go round clutching a small square of astra turf on which you are allowed to place your ball for fairway shots. And, in the complete absence of anything resembling grass, you putt, not on greens, but on browns — rolled areas of sand mixed with oil.

Local hazards include the goats. There are said to be around 11½ million of them in Oman, 10 for each member of the human population, and their capacity to eat almost anything is one good reason why very little seems to grow in this part of the world.

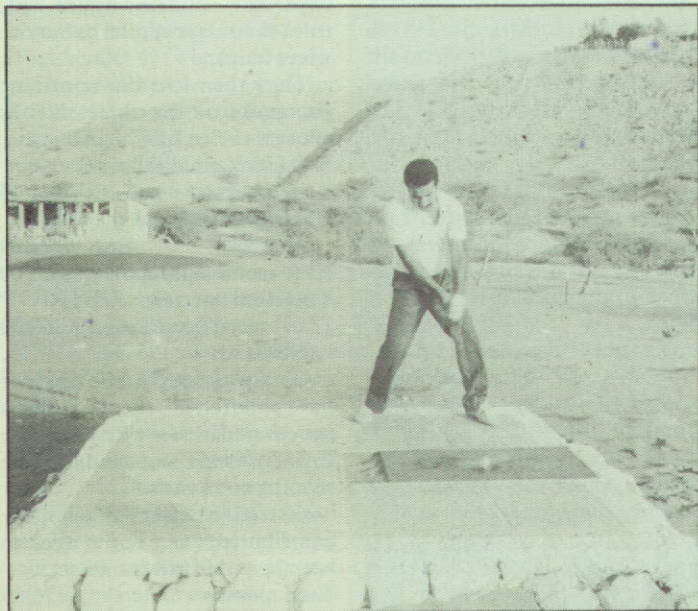
Goats aren't known to include golf balls in their diet, but it is not their habit to completely reject anything which comes their way. Consequently golf balls are sometimes taken up and nibbled thoughtfully for a while before being discarded, usually at some distance from the original lay and invariably in the opposite direction from the intended hole.

Stones are another hazard. It is possible, with an unlucky deflection, to drive off towards the first hole and end up behind the tee.

Relations with the locals are generally cordial, though occasionally requests have to be made for

people not to ride motor cycles on the browns. There's not much they can do about the goats who wander freely at will so the removal of hoof tracks in the sand is one of the inevitable chores of a round of golf.

As with all sports introduced to the Sultanate the encouragement of local people to participate is an important factor. Hidden Valley now has several Omani members who, if they take up golf seriously, will at least have plenty of good bunker practice behind them even if they are less experienced on the greens.



Abdullah Mohamed Wali, an Omani member of HV Golf Club



SOLDIER'S Doug Pratt in front of a camera for a change — trying an astra turf tee

LOA

Robert Higson looks at the issues

IF YOU are serving with BAOR and may soon feel a large hole in your pocket where a lump of LOA (local overseas allowance) used to be, then blame the West Germans.

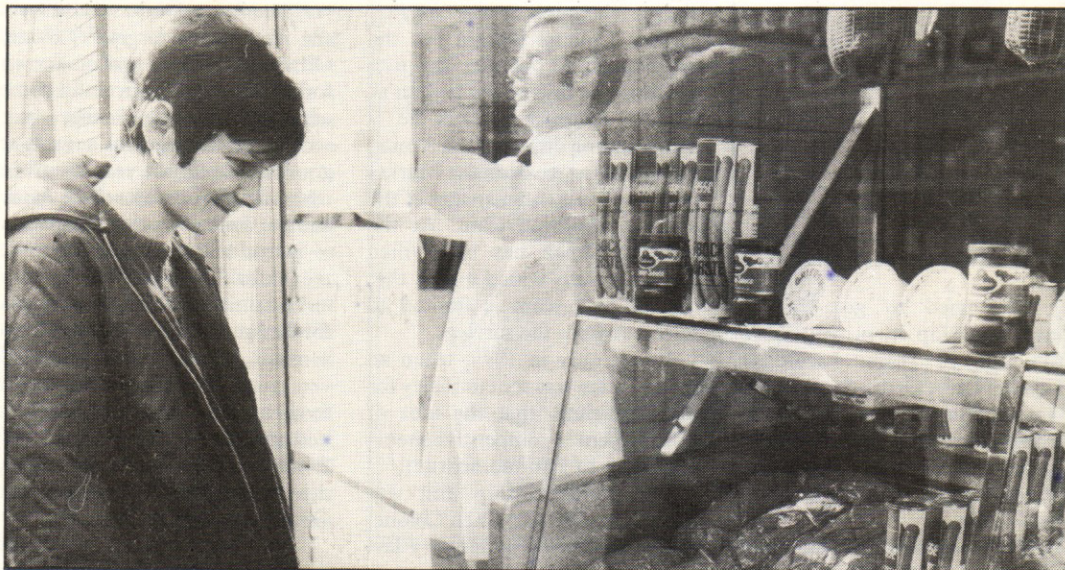
It has been their greater success in holding down inflation which has made it comparatively cheaper to live in the Federal Republic. That, at any rate, is the theory behind the recent reduction of LOA paid to British Servicemen and women in Germany.

A spokesman for PS 10 b (Army) made the point that LOA had been introduced to Germany in the 1960s when a surge of rising prices had for once made it cheaper to live in Britain.

For some time after the war the German cost of living was very much lower, but as the economy picked up from the devastation of the war, prices rose and LOA was deemed necessary to supplement the Serviceman's customary standard of living.

The same principle still applies. Ideally there should be no financial penalty for serving abroad. But in order for LOA to be calculated, reasonable standards have to be

The German shops are enticing — but the purse is a problem



A plea from Anne Armstrong...

LET'S REVIEW THE SHOPPING LIST

ON HEARING of the cuts in LOA I am obliged to plead the case for those serving in BAOR, and this in the month when the Armed Forces Pay Review Body is due to present its findings.

The £17,000,000 savings in LOA cuts for 65,000 troops in Germany may bring applause in some quarters because the LOA shopping list is becoming level with the cost of living in UK for both single and married personnel.

Does this mean that perhaps one should review the shopping list? Should not insurance, housing, feeding/clothing school leavers, education commitments and DHSS benefits be considered?

Certainly, holidays, leisure activities, cigarettes and drink may be important, but are they as important as the others I have mentioned? These items do not affect everyone but could be considered more important, especially when the current policy is to advise that drink and cigarettes are not good for your health.

I don't believe the LOA shopping list is fully comprehensive. Yet where is the money to be found to enable Servicemen and women, mar-

ried or single, to fulfil their financial commitments, which have changed since the LOA list was drawn up so that it does not take account of the 1985 Serviceman's commitments?

Neither the LOA team nor the AFPRB is able to consider ALL these points because it is not in their terms of reference. In particular DHSS benefits cannot be considered on the LOA or AFPRB shopping list. However, the financial loss of entitlement of DHSS benefits is in my view horrific.

The first LOA list was put together in the late 1960s and has now grown to 33 items, the latest addition being bank charges.

Looking at the list I fail to understand why insurance, school leavers remaining at home, education commitments, civilian housing and DHSS benefits cannot be added. Are they not as important as laundry, toys, stationery?

I would hazard a guess that these items play a considerable part in a married man's budget. So why are they not on the list? How can an overall picture of a married man's budget be assessed without them?

MoD reviews and those with the Department of Health and



Social Security are continually undertaken. But as yet we do not know why these items are not allowed to be added if LOA is in the true sense to be the difference in expense when living overseas. We still await the government's DHSS reviews; the findings may well affect Service families overseas.

To dismiss a 16+ year old as non-existent is unbelievable. I can understand 18+ but where in UK is a 16+ not dependent on family? If not, the State provides, yet this sort of consideration is not taken into account.

Just a brief mention on where the married man stands when he is detached to serve his country in the Falklands. A married corporal loses £1.48 a day.

Do his financial commitments on TV, video, running costs on a car, stationery, postage, telephone charges, mess subs, bank charges etc cease when he leaves the matrimonial home in Germany?

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

I CAN give you examples applicable to a number of DHSS benefits, the main one being the *unemployment benefit* (UB) for wives paying Class I contributions in UK and Germany.

The present position is that eligible wives lose UB for nine months. Total loss £1,026.

If the adjudicating officers dismiss claims by soldiers' wives on the grounds that they left their job voluntarily and without just cause, a further six weeks is denied. Total loss £171.

This disallowance then means that because the six weeks finish after the wives departures to Germany, they must sign on between four weeks and four days before leaving. A UB claim must be established in UK prior to departure, as stated under EEC rules (four days applies to Service wives only).

They then lose the remaining six weeks of the three months allowed under EEC regulations.

UK UB claim disallowed
six weeks Loss £171.00
EEC claim disallowed
six weeks Loss £171.00
Nine months plus Loss £1,026.00
Therefore one year's UB
Total Loss £1,368.00

Is this just?

On top of this if a wife does not have children of school age she is not covered by *Home Responsibility Credits* for the outstanding nine months or 12 months.

Instead she must pay voluntary contributions at £3.50 a week to keep her state pension intact.

Nine months £126.00
or
Twelve months £182.00

German success hits Rhine Army

set for what constitutes customary expectations.

The LOA committee does this by conducting extensive surveys of what it calls its marker ranks — single and married captains and corporals. In the UK and in all theatres of operation abroad they are questioned about a whole range of personal and domestic expenditure.

From these answers they work out the standards for commissioned and non-commissioned ranks, married and unmarried men.

In addition each part of the world in which more than 20 British Servicemen are stationed gets a visit from a review team every three years.

This consists of representatives of the Services who have people in the Command, men from the Treasury, representatives from the Service finance branches, and a team chairman from Personnel & Logistics (Service Personnel and

Pay) and Pensions.

The team always gets a briefing from the Command itself when it arrives in a particular area. And when it eventually goes out into the field, so to speak, to check on prices and meet Servicemen in the marker ranks, it is accompanied by Command representatives.

"The items in the budget are looked at basically from where the Serviceman purchases — the NAAFI and local shops," the spokesman for PS 10b explained. "And we try as far as possible to find an item which can be compared directly with that which can be purchased in the UK. For confectionery, obviously, we would look at the same brand names. But specialised items like snow boots, that sort of thing, are priced on a local basis.

"Before we go out the Command is well aware that the review is going to take place. They are advised to produce an accurate

answer to the survey, which generally they do."

For the purposes of establishing the spending habits of British Servicemen the surveys and the price reviews are concentrated in 33 budget items: 1 Food at home (a whole range of groceries from liver to lettuce, from sausages to soya beans). 2 Food in the mess. 3 Clothing. 4 Cigarettes. 5 Confectionery. 6 Household and cleaning materials. 7 Toiletries. 8 Laundry. 9 Dry cleaning. 10 Hairdressing. 11 Car, purchase, hire and running costs. 12 Public transport. 13 & 14 Stationery and postage. 15 Telephone. 16 Toys. 17 Newspapers magazines and books. 18 TV/video. 19 Records and tapes. 20 Entertaining at home. 21 Cost of eating out. 22 Cost of going dancing. 23 Drinks at home — alcoholic and mineral. 24 Drinking out. 25 Drinks in mess. 26 Cinema and spectator sports. 27 Rates for baby sitters. 28 Sports equipment and

clothing. 29 Holidays. 30 Mess subscriptions. 31 Mess functions. 32 Living out supplement (for extra charges like having to hire guards as is the case in some Middle East countries). 33 Bank charges.

The budget gets down to some pretty fine detail — based on averages of surveys from the marker ranks.

For example, single soldiers have 18 haircuts a year — the married man only 12, but his wife has her hair shampooed and set four times, and washed, cut and blow dried four times, and each child has his/her hair cut six times.

The officer's average car is a four years old Ford Cortina 1600. The corporal has the same but his is two years older.

And so it goes on. It may not completely mollify those who are at present suffering LOA withdrawal symptoms, but it presents a fascinating statistical picture of the Army.

Total loss UB and vol cont
for nine months £1,152.00
Total loss UB and vol cont
for 12 months £1,550.00
Is this just?

If a dependent wife, having been employed by the British in Germany, loses her job for some reason, she is not even eligible to claim Unemployment Benefit though she has paid Class I contributions for the requisite period, and there is no reciprocal agreement for such cases.

Therefore there is an immediate total loss of one or more weeks at £28.50 a week.

Maternity Pay is not paid even if the same employee pays maternity pay in UK.

Redundancy Pay. DHSS leaflet NI 23 Dec 84 states "You may be able to get redundancy payment from your employer if you are over 18 and under 65 (women 60 years) and have worked for an employer for at least two years continuously since 18. These rules do not apparently apply in Germany even though the same employer pays redundancy to his employees in UK.

Another family benefit not paid by DHSS to Service families is Family Income Supplement (FIS). FIS is paid out of the Defence budget for the 52 weeks a family is eligible.

However, the anomaly is that these families automatically lose about £144 on the exchange value of the weekly milk tokens. Naafi has offered to issue the milk and collect the tokens but at present there is no system to enable Naafi to be reimbursed. Where is the justice in this?

The OTHER problems for the married men

Severe Disablement Allowance. No claim can be made by a Serviceman's wife from Germany (or anywhere overseas). I still await the Minister's reply about this anomaly.

Loss £21.50 a week.

Total loss £1,118.00 a year.

We now turn to the school leavers of Servicemen stationed in Germany. As far as LOA and DHSS are concerned children DO NOT EXIST once they have left school.

DHSS claims for *Supplementary Benefit* cannot be made in Germany as *Supplementary Benefit* is not an exportable benefit.

These school leavers are not even automatically granted a National Insurance number. They have no vote at 18 years; they are disenfranchised.

Supplementary Benefit entitlement for one 16-year-old in 12 months £899.60.

Total loss £899.60

one 18+ Total loss £1,167.40

It may be that *Supplementary Benefit* will be changed as a result of the DHSS reviews. If this is so, then I sincerely hope that consideration will be given to this group who are living with their parents in Germany. YTS places are

available in Germany but are limited in scope compared with UK. Apprentice places are non-existent; all these add to the financial burden of keeping a 16-year-old school leaver at home, a normal and accepted thing in UK. Stretching LOA to cover school leavers living at home is a financial worry for any parent.

Accommodation: from 29 April another cut could have drastic repercussions on a Serviceman's dependant of 16+ looking for work in UK. The right to claim boarding and lodging allowance for more than two to eight weeks after the maximum eight will cease. The 16+ will only receive supplementary benefit.

So for such dependants the only alternative is to live on £17.50 or £22.45, or find the money to return home to Germany and have nothing ... only to find the money to travel again to UK to look for work.

Which means two weeks to find a job at a seaside town, four weeks in most other places, eight weeks in big cities. Doubly hard when you may not have recently lived in UK.

So from 29 April these new rules will apply to the Departments of

Employment Travel to Work Areas. The minimum allowance will be £45.00 a week, the maximum £70.000 a week plus a personal expenses allowance.

Further Education after A-levels, be it at a college or university, also calls for an extra commitment in comparison with UK parents.

Problems arise in requests for grants, travel, and accommodation. Grant applications run into trouble when parents and children have not been resident in the UK within the last three years, and is even more difficult when you have been away for more than seven years.

This mainly applies to discretionary grants where help with travel to and from UK is a major financial burden, especially when taking interviews in UK.

Can you appeal against the judgments to the DHSS and DES if you do not agree with the findings from Germany?

Take the DHSS appeal procedure. Such helpful DHSS leaflets as *How To Appeal* do not apply in Germany. There is recompense for loss of wages or travel to UK, so taking a case to tribunal as a Service dependant means an immediate disadvantage.

And just to round off the financial drain, *letting your house* under case 20 still leads to finding considerable finance to cover expenses such as hotel accommodation, quarter charges, removal expenses, solicitors, court case fees, when the tenant will not move out immediately on the day you require your home.

All this may have no bearing on LOA, but it certainly does on a married man's pocket.

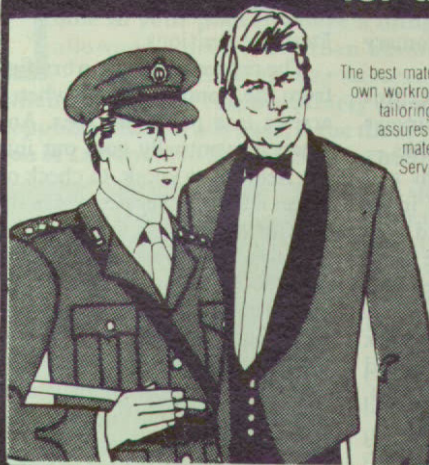
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10th Gurkha Rifles — volleyball champions

10 Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles became the UK volleyball champions in a thrilling final with 8 Signal Regiment.

On the previous day eight teams from all over the UK had taken part in a fiercely contested tournament, and by the start of day two, The Queen's Own Hussars, 17 Training Regiment and Depot RA, 8 Signal Regiment and 10 Gurkha Rifles had emerged as the semi-finalists.

The third place play-off went to 17 Training Regiment in an exciting match, but if that was exciting, words are insufficient to describe the final between 10 Gurkha Rifles and 8 Signal Regiment.

It was nip and tuck all the way with first one team then the other gaining the advantage.

Finally, in the fifth and final set, 10 Gurkha Rifles edged ahead to become worthy winners.

In the picture (right) Sharon Limbu (Capt 10 Gurkha Regiment) looks on anxiously as a Gurkha attack is successfully blocked by 8 Signal Regiment defence, under the ever watchful eye of the first official C/Sgt Gordon Neale RGJ the Army volleyball association coach and captain.

STOP PRESS: 10 Gurkha Rifles continued their winning streak during a successful tour of BAOR. By beating 9th/12th Royal Lancers they added the title of Army volleyball champions.



Belgians cause fencing upset

AT BAOR'S International Invitation Epee Tournament the battling Belgians caused a champion upset when they toppled the favourites — the exceptionally experienced German pentathlon team — beating them into a surprising second place in a tournament packed with dashing action and some remarkably subtle play.

It was a knife-edge contest which had its close parallel in the ding-dong battle for third with the British Army squad just pipping Royal Air Force Germany by the slimmest of margins. Finishing fourth overall was a highly creditable performance for the young enthusiastic RAF team.

Hot favourites, West Germany's crack pentathlon squad, desperately tried to dominate both team and individual events but the battling Belgians were in no mind to ease their passage to the top.

And while the Britons didn't expect to call the tune in face of such stiff opposition they doggedly strove with some ace moves and fearless challenges to clinch a worthwhile performance with impressive help from a couple of their youngest duellists.

They were Sapper Nigel Harris and Lance Corporal Chris Lloyd,

two young blades from 25 Engineer Regiment at Osnabrück carving quite a reputation with their swordsmanship. Finishing in 13th overall position, mid-point on the match players table, Harris will be well worth a second look in future bouts. Despite shaky spells against fierce opponents L/Cpl Lloyd did well to finish 21st overall.

But the top BAOR fencer who put sparkle in his own side and gave his opponents a taste of his first rate finishing skill was former British national player Major Laurence Burr RAOC, from 6 Ordnance Battalion, Gütersloh.

Although the pace of play throughout was performed at a blistering rate it was the unshakeable mental tension that proved most tiring of all as Major Burr explained: "Fencing is a sport that not just heavily taxes the brain. It's more, it's like playing high-speed chess with a competitor who threatens to keep you out of the match. It's tough but exhilarating."

His leadership gave added confidence to all his team-mates including Lance Corporal of Horse Steve Bryson, Blues and Royals, and Staff Sergeant Andy Fox, 27 Field Regiment RA, another BAOR pair who put on a particularly stylish show.

Brecon men show marathon pride

Getting accepted for the London Marathon, one of the most prestigious events on the international marathon calendar, is quite a feat in itself and to finish the course is an even greater achievement.

Four soldiers from the NCO's Tactical Wing, Dering Lines, Brecon, managed to do both.

The first over the finishing line was Colour Sergeant Mac French of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment whose time was 2 hours 18 minutes giving him 35th position. He was followed by Staff Sergeant Ray Butters of the Army Physical Training Corps — 2 hours 23 minutes finishing in 100th place. Both Colour Sergeant French and Staff Butters ran for the Army team in the London Marathon. Third home from Dering Lines was Captain Steve Crowsley of 1/7 Gurkhas finishing in 2 hours 31

minutes, 315 position. Following was Corporal Gobind-Rai of 10 Gurkha Rifles. He actually is the Gurkha champion in this event and is a very popular figure at Dering Lines. He took 2 hours 32 minutes, finishing around about 400th place. Obviously with 16,000 plus entered in the Marathon, Dering Lines. He took 2 hours 32 of these four athletes.

"Dering Lines has always had a strong nucleus of athletes" says Staff Butters, the physical training instructor at Dering Lines. But you have to admire these men, who have had to carry on with their normal soldiering duties and fit their marathon training in where and when time allowed, but obviously Lieutenant Colonel Smythe, the Commanding Officer of Dering Lines has been marvellous in supporting us in every way possible".



The Marathon men from left: Staff Sergeant Ray Butters, Colour Sergeant Mac French, Captain Steve Crowsley, Corporal Gobind-Rai



Skills on show at Sennelager

ARMY WOMEN WIN AT LAST!

HOCKEY

End of 30-year 'famine'

AFTER 30 years it took a talented but little known side with a lot of very new players to win the inter services women's hockey title for the Army.

In 1973 the Army shared the championship with the Navy, but since then it has not been considered a serious threat by the other two Services.

For this year's competition a lot of attention went into trawling the WRAC for new talent. And instead of being formed just a few weeks before the championship, the inter service squad has been playing together since last October.

New faces appearing this time included Private Phyl Mattinson, who represented England under 21, Private Roly Lincoln, who has played for East Anglian County and Lieutenant Lucy Forsyth, an Ireland junior and Northumberland County representative.

The serious approach to preparation for the championship games involved watching videos



A near miss for the Navy: Private Phyl Mattinson flicks the ball past the post while Army players Sergeant Delyth Gough (left) and WO1 Sue Taylor look on

of relevant matches prepared by the team coach WO2 Paddy Kelly, of 7 RHA. These included the Navy's 2-1 victory over the RAF and then the Air Force's 1-0 defeat of the Army (a dubiously awarded penalty corner in the final moments settled the issue on that occasion).

But when the Army took on last year's winners the Navy, a penalty

awarded after 10 minutes and neatly flicked into the goal by Lieutenant Forsyth, and a shot firmly driven into the back of the Navy net by Private Walton from a goal mouth melee, ensured victory, 2-0.

The Navy fought back with great determination but the Army team captained brilliantly by Lieutenant

Forsyth from the centre-half position, held on to win not only the match but also the championship on goal difference.

One spectator who observed the result with some emotion was Major Myrtle MacLaggan who scored the winning goal the last time the Army became inter service hockey champions in 1955.

BUT SOCCER MEN GET WOODEN SPOON

In the Inter Service football championship, the Army finished wooden spoonists for the second year in succession.

Their miserable run was continued when they were beaten, at Aldershot, the Royal Air Force scoring the only goal of the match.

With a little luck, the result might easily have been very different although, to be fair, the RAF were the better side.

Army threatened quickly and Bob Sharpe almost scored in the classical off-side trap.

Only some sharp defending by John Toogood, in the RAF goal, foiled him.

The RAF enjoyed the better of the early exchanges and resolute defending kept the Army's line intact. Yet, it was the Army who almost went ahead.

A clash of heads between Kevin Parkins and Sammy Leonce resulted in the coloured RAF striker Leonce being side-lined for the last 10 minutes of the opening half. Edwards went close for the Army

when he carved out a chance for himself but shot just over.

The first real scoring chance of the second half fell to the Army, when Gary Gay cleverly slipped his marking defender and shot on the turn. Only a brilliant one-handed save deprived him of what would have been a remarkable goal.

Ten minutes later, the RAF got that vital goal. From a corner kick on the right, Graeme Hurn drove the ball high and deep and Dave McDermott powered the ball home with his head — it was the perfect strike.

Try as they did, the Army never recovered from this blow.

McGregor tested Toogood with a fine overhead shot that appeared to be dipping under the crossbar, and, just before the end, Skipper Sandy Brown, foraging on the Army left, gave Brian Williams a ball in the open. Williams let fly and Toogood was only able to tip the ball on to the cross-bar. The ball rebounded and McGregor, in full flight, headed over the bar from close in.

Green returns to coach again

Warrant Officer 1 (SMI) Eddie Green, who was Army soccer coach in the late 1970s is to take up the post again in June. Green, who is currently stationed in Germany at Sennelager, succeeds QMSI Alfie Coulton, who has now left the Army after landing a plum post as an FA regional coaching director.

Although the Combined Services will play their Kentish Cup matches against the Belgians and the French at Aldershot the running of the squad will pass out of Army hands for the first time ever next season.

Succeeding Coulton will be Lieutenant-Commander Chris Brady, Royal Navy, who is currently based at Greenwich. It is not known where Kentish Cup training will take place next season.

★ ★ ★

Having lost both matches in the Inter Services competition, and surrendered the Kentish Cup to the French following two gallant single goal defeat, the Army looked to the South West Counties Championships as one area where tangible success could be achieved for the current season.

A victory against Hampshire (then the current Group A leaders) promised well. In very taxing conditions (it was pouring with rain throughout) both sides played an entertaining game which saw the Army emerge victorious 2-1 with goals from Lance Corporal Brian Williams, RCT, and Lance Corporal Billy Freear, Royal Signals.

But a later defeat 2-1 by Sussex put all hopes of qualifying for the South West championship finals on the match at Tiverton against Devon. Here all was even until the closing minutes when the home side scored the deciding goal off a penalty awarded against Corporal Kevin Parkins and the Army's hopes were dashed 2-1.

★ ★ ★

Army champions 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, had a real battle on their hands when they opened their Jubilee Cup programme against Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines, at Lympstone. With at least six Combined Services or Royal Navy players, CTCRM won the match 3-1, but never broke the spirit of the Kingsmen.

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different sizes and colours, embroidered with the Army badge (see illustration).

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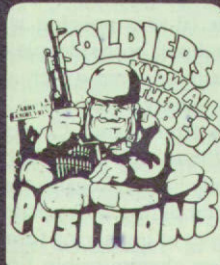


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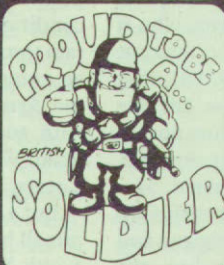
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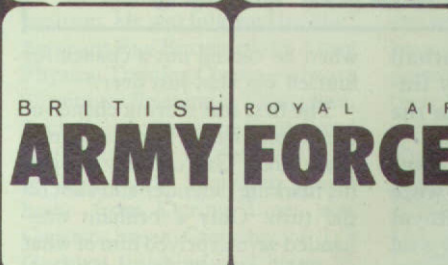
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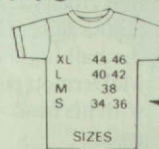
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Your Cap Badge

No. 79

ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS

IN 1860 Major F Hammersley, together with 12 specially selected NCOs drawn from various units, went to Oxford University to spend six months on a course at the gymnastic school presided over by Mr McLaren.

In that gymnasium, much patronised by the Oxford University Rifle Volunteers and other undergraduates, the Army Gymnastic Staff was founded.

On completion of the course in April 1861 Major Hammersley was offered and accepted the post of Super-

intendent.

It is notable that Major Hammersley was responsible for the corps motto 'Mens Sana in Corpore Sano' (a fit mind in a fit body) and that he became the first Chairman of the Amateur Athletic Board.

The initial school was set up in Aldershot, still the headquarters of this specialist corps, being quickly followed by others at various military centres throughout the UK.

Ideas regarding the value of pure gymnastics underwent modifications for in 1890 boxing and fencing became popular, instructors were trained in the use of the sabre and during World War 1 bayonet fighting was introduced until October 1918.

The title of the corps underwent a number of changes reflecting its role but settled down to be the Army Physical Training Staff until 16 September 1940 when the present title was adopted and the corps greatly expanded, in response to the increased demands.

Their first Colonel Commandant, a great advocate of physical fitness, was Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

The current head-dress badge shown here is described

as two crossed swords, hilts downwards, in silver plate, surmounted by the St Edward's crown in gilt.

This pattern is worn by officers, the soldiers wear the badge in anodised silver material.

The crossed swords have been the badge since the 1860s but the exact date of adoption quoting the relevant document, cannot be traced.

The device formed the centre of the shako plate and later continued as the centre part of the helmet plate adopted in 1878.

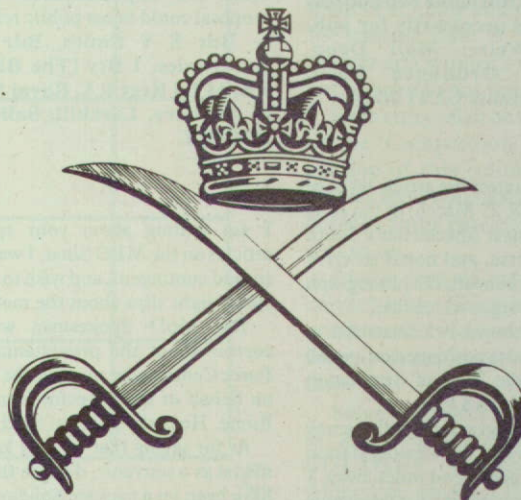
An embroidered badge worn

on the peaked cap by officers and senior NCOs deviated from the design in that the hilts of the swords were cruciform rather than the knuckle-bow hilt that had featured in the earlier patterns and which continued to be evident in the patterns that have been worn since the beginning of the reign of Edward VII.

Until 1940 the cap badge for the soldier had been in gilding metal but has now changed to white metal.

On 26 October 1954 the current pattern bearing the St Edwards crown was Sealed.

HUGH L KING



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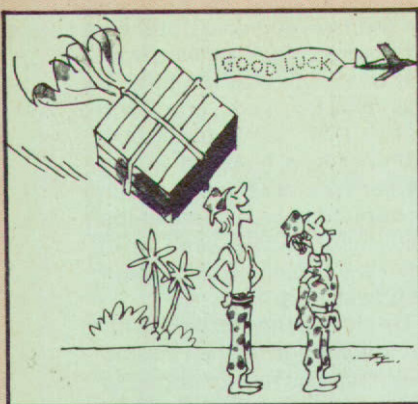
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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is *your* page to exchange *your* news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address although not necessarily for publication. Write: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

SHACKLETON

I read with interest the article on page 42 (SOLDIER 25 March) of the RGJ retracting Ernest Shackleton's South Georgia traverse, and noted an error in the caption beneath the photograph of Captain Morgan-Grenville.

The cross shown is a memorial to Shackleton and is positioned on a small headland to the West of Shackleton House, the old BAS base.

Shackleton's grave is in the small graveyard beyond the whaling station at Grytviken about two miles away. I well remember cleaning the headstone and grave area after retracing his land route in 1964. — Major (ret'd) T J Lynch, 12 Glen Iris Avenue, Canterbury.

SHIRTS, COMBAT

With the passing of winter and the arrival of warmer weather, the unsuspecting 'squaddie' is about to have thrust upon him (yet again) the ordeal of having to appear normal to an equally unsuspecting civil population.

As regards this situation, we are prepared to enter into debate, via your columns, upon the following:

We propose that an initial issue be made to all ranks below WO2 of a handbell, this is to be used in conjunction with shirts combat.

We would point out that this device would serve as a warning to the civil population that they are about to en-

counter a sweating, irritated and totally frustrated bearer of the Queen's Shilling (5p)!

This summer, no longer would people be taken by surprise. They would recognise at a distance the wretched creature who clothing regulations dictate, must be clad in shirts combat.

This creates such a purgatory for the wearer that it reduces efficiency, morale and comfort to the point where the actual (rather the required) work output is minimal.

We conclude that this unnecessary suffering of the spirit, and its inherent reduction of efficiency within the Army, should be rectified post haste. Meanwhile the implementation of our proposal could boost public relations. — Bdr S V Smith, Bdr R W Humphries, 1 Bty (The Blazers) RA, 14 Fd Regt RA, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Salisbury, SP4 8QT.

SINAI MEDAL

I am writing about your splendid articles on the MFO Sinai. I was in the second contingent, and wish to correct some slight slips about the medal.

The MoD Spokesman was not correct about the presentation. The Force Commander presents the medals on behalf of the Director General in Rome. He is the political head.

As for saying that we may keep the medal as a souvenir, does he think we have been on a package holiday? Your articles disprove that.

Unlike the UN the MFO is not recognised as a State, yet it is being as a result of three Heads of State, namely those of USA, Israel and Egypt.

It is ironic that the lads in UNFICYP get a medal because it is the UN, and for doing exactly the same type of job that we are doing in the Sinai. — Major P W King, R Anglian, GLO, IX Sqn, RAF Honington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 1EE.

SO HAPPY

I was happy to see in SOLDIER 25 February an item about 8th Infantry Brigade Signals, happier still to know they are around and not put down along with the 'Ironsides'.

I should have known they would be picked for a role in Northern Ireland; they had a few sticky ones in their past.

After Dunkirk where 7 Brigade was lost, the personnel left in 'J' Section Royal Signals 8 Brigade, numbered less than two dozen. A few of the NCO operators had served since World War 1, and one orderly had fought in the Spanish Civil War.

Up to 1943 they were stationed at 'Hell Fire Corner' where 8 Brigade was the senior military presence for the Dover area. The Signal Section and Signal Office were located at Shorncliffe Barracks which was subjected to almost daily attention by the Luftwaffe and the cross channel artillery from Cap Gris Nez.

The threat of German invasion having receded, the Brigade itself was sent to Inverary and the Moray Firth for invasion training, and on 6 June 1944 two three-man detachments of 'J' Section landed with the assault infantry on Sword Beach.

From there the section provided the communications for the Brigade across Europe to Bremen losing more than half the 64-strong section in the 11 month campaign.

Christmas 1945 saw the section perched on the summit of Mount Carmel in Palestine where all their bivouacs blew away in a storm that did considerable damage to equipment.

The Brigade was controlling the numbers of immigrants arriving in Palestine and the Signal Section had 36 outstations working back to its GCV wireless HQ, ships of the Royal Navy operating in the Med and RAF stations as spotters along the coast.

The section, enjoying a sun drenched furlough in Sinai and along the Suez, cheered to the echo the aircraft carrier HMS Theseus as she brought through the Suez Canal in 1946 thousands of Far Eastern POWs bound for Blighty.

I think she was the largest ship ever to pass thro' the canal. Her draught alone took all the water, and left none behind her for a 100 yards or more.

Moascar Garrison, Qassasin, Tahag, and Tel el Kebir gave the Section its chance to get its knees brown while keeping the peace in the Middle East.

There my small resume of history of a section of Royal Signals which I once knew as 'home' and which has grown in stature as I grow older, must end. Thank God for the British Army and 8th Infantry Brigade Signals. — Ralph Howell, 87 Wesley Avenue, Westfield, Radstock, Bath.

FORGOTTEN?

Another British Army magazine which now may be forgotten by many was AIM, the Army Illustrated Magazine, which was first printed in July 1943, a couple of years before SOLDIER appeared.

This product of GHQ Cairo was edited by Captain Alan Jenkins and printed by the Printing and Stationery Services, MEF.

It was to bring the latest information to the soldier and used in the Middle East Training Establishments. As much of the information was restricted, this two-colour magazine was 'not to be taken into the field'.

It continued in production after the Armistice but when the conflict left the Middle East, the editorial staff were encouraged to think that they would

move to Europe to produce a new publication, but obviously the staff 'on the ground' did that so AIM faded — W Y Carman FSA FR Hist S, 94 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey (once Assistant Editor AIM).

MEMORIAL?

During a Remembrance Day Service held in Down Ampney church a year last November, Colonel 'Dickie' Lonsdale and his wife were guests of the Air Despatch Regiment.

When Col Lonsdale and his wife saw our Airborne and RAF Transport Command Memorial window they expressed the thought that it would be most appropriate to install a similar type of window in Oosterbeek church where Lonsdale Force fought a very courageous holding battle, the success of which against overwhelming odds, enabled the remaining Airborne from Operation Market Garden to evacuate over the Rhine.

Having successfully completed the window at Down Ampney, Col Lonsdale and his wife asked me if I would investigate the possibility of installing a window in Oosterbeek and I agreed.

I approached the authorities of Oosterbeek Church and they enthusiastically agreed. The company who designed and installed our window, Goddard and Gibbs, agreed to make the window and asked for a proposed design.

I drew up a sketch which depicted Col Lonsdale addressing the troops from the pulpit of the battered church and below the cap badges of the Lonsdale Force, comprising the 1, 3, 10, 11 Para, South Staffs, Freddie Gough's Reconnaissance Group, the Glider Pilot Regt, the Royal Artillery and the 21st Indep Coy.

We hope to have the window made and installed for dedication next September and we hope to raise the cost of the window (est £3,500) as soon as possible, and to this end we would be most grateful if your readers would like to assist.

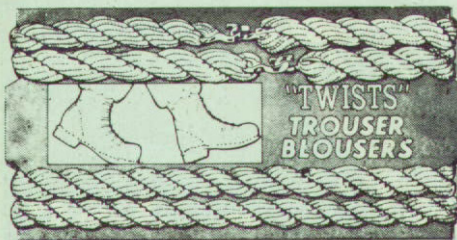
Being familiar with the strong sense of fraternity which exists with the Airborne Forces, questions may be asked about my involvement and I'm afraid my participation in the operations was only slight, as an LAC mechanic on 271 Squadron Dakotas of Transport Command.

Our squadron dropped the Canadian Paratroops at Normandy; among our pilots at Arnhem were Flight Lt David Lord who won the Victoria Cross posthumously on a resupply mission, and 'Professor' Jimmy Edwards, also shot down on a resupply mission.

Finally we participated in the Crossing of the Rhine operation. Between all of these Airborne operations we brought back over 50,000 casualties with our casualty air evacuation flights.

Because of this fringe involvement, I therefore feel very privileged to be able to assist in marking for posterity the courage of the Lonsdale Force and hope that you can give us your support.

A bank account has been opened at Barclays, Fletchamstead Highway, Coventry, account no. 21295004, with Colonel Lonsdale and myself as



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trustees. — **Alan Hartley**, 19 Staver-ton Close, Mount Nod, Coventry, CV5 7LF.

PROJECT

Having just taken up the post of 325 Engineer Park (Northern Ireland) Warrant Officer, I find that one of my many responsibilities is that of unit historical officer.

This is a fairly new concept within the Park and consequently there are numerous gaps to be filled.

Could any ex-members of 325 Engineer Park, or as it was 90 Engineer Park and 90 Command Engineer Stores Depot, send me any useful 'Snippets' of history, especially dates of name changing and names and dates of past officers commanding and park warrant officers. — **WO1 R S Mullins RE**, Park Warrant Officer, 325 Engineer Park, BFPO 808.

DON'T FORGET

I have noticed several articles of late regarding the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

In **SOLDIER**, Mail Drop (11 March) you mention only two regiments (Greys & Carabiniers) forming the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

I would like to bring to your attention and that of any old comrades of the 25th Dragoons, that we also are entitled to attend the Scots Dragoons' Guards reunions (ex-member 25th Dragoons myself).

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards is an amalgamation of three regiments — Royal Scots Greys, 3rd Carabiniers and 25th Dragoons.

I served in the 12th Royal Lancers, 17/21 Lancers and the 25th Dragoons.

The 25th were formed in India during World War 2 from officers and men of the 3rd Carabiniers.

We saw war service in Burma against the Japanese, did an excellent job under difficult conditions, I served with the reserve squadron in the Arakan (see the book 'Tank Tracks to Burma').

The regiment was disbanded again at the end of the war in the Far East and most of the men who stayed in the Service returned to the 3rd Carabiniers. Just to put the history right! — **Chevalier Ronald Wilkes KtT PCM**, Catforth, Preston, Lancs, PR4 0HH.

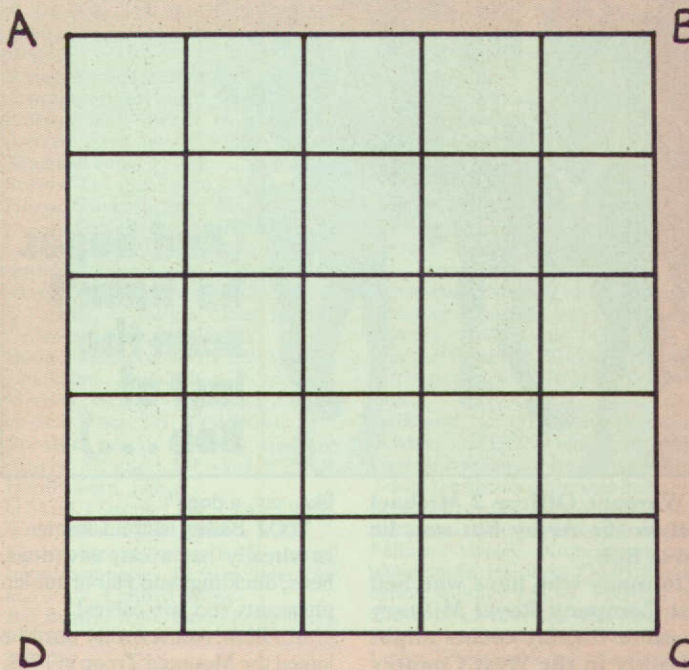
NUMBER NOTE

You published information on The Worcestershire Regimental Museum in 'Your Guide to Army Museums — 7'. Although the details of location and opening hours are correct, the telephone number is not the one to use for enquiries connected with the archives.

I mention this because The Worcestershire Regiment Museum, like many others is now located within the City Museum, but the Regimental Archives are kept elsewhere.

In our case at RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester, where the Curator works. The telephone number is Worcester 354359. — **Lt Col K G Allen (Retd)**, RHQ The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regt, Norton Bks, Worcester, WR5 2PA.

rectangles



WIN £50 COMPETITION 363

Here is the easiest of them all! A square is a type of rectangle but a rectangle need not necessarily be a square: and an oblong — while a rectangle — is not a square.

An oblong (all interior angles are right angles) can be many times longer than it is broad but the breadth of a square is the same as its length.

Here is a square made up of 25 small squares. So — here we go!

1) How many perfect squares are to be found in the square ABCD?

2) How many oblongs are to be found in the same figure?

That's all! We said it was too easy but — well, just this once.

□ □ □

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 5 July. The answer and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 29 July.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 363' label at the top of this column. For two entries send two labels (not photo copies), three entries three labels, and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

ERROR

Reference **SOLDIER** (25 March, page 15) in the sketch plan of the Rhine Crossings in the article by Brian Jewell there is an error in the captioning.

The arrows labelled 'A' and 'B' depict the crossing sites of the left and right assaulting battalions of 227 Brigade of 15 (Scottish) Division, and the left and right assaulting battalions of 44 Brigade of 15 (Scottish) Division, respectively, who all had an H-hour of 0200 hrs 24 March 1945.

51 (Highland) Division crossed further downstream in the area of Rees at 2100 hrs on 23 March 1945. — **Brigadier R J Lewendon (Retd)**, Royal Artillery Institution, Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London, SE18 4JJ.

RELIEVED

I read your article on AMF(L) and am very relieved to learn that men are being so well trained and kitted out.

A far cry from NWEF 1940. Arctic kit was a leather jerkin and your ammo boots (I did hear of some units who had three kit bags of winter gear) but not my unit.

No artillery, no transport, 'sunk on the way over', 40 loose rounds, no clips, and of course no air-cover in other words a fiasco.

Good luck to our present forces and I sincerely hope their expertise will never be needed. — **Ex-Signalman D McHugh** (148 Brigade NWEF), Cross Gates, Leeds.

Reunions

RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club annual dinner and reunion is to be held on Saturday 11 May 85 at the RAMC Training Group. Further details are available from: RSM, RAMC Training Group, Keogh Bks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 5RQ.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades Association annual reunion, presentation of new branch Standards and dinner in the Guildhall, Winchester, will take place on Saturday 15 June 85. Tickets and programme details from branch secretaries or the Secretary, Serle's House, Winchester, SO23 9EG.

Old Victorians' Association, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Grand Day Parade will be held at the school on 27 June and all former pupils are invited to attend.

Call-signs

I would like to try to contact anyone who sailed with my brother Gunner John Webb of the 69 Battery, 21 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the Royal Artillery, aboard the Empress of Britain, Christmas 1942.

My brother unfortunately died as a POW in Japan the following year, but I have in my possession a photograph of the Troops Christmas Menu, duly signed by many of the soldiers who were on board with him — **Mr G W Webb**, 79 Chestnut Drive, Sale, Cheshire, M33 4HN.

Competition

THE truly international readership of **SOLDIER** is reflected in the winner of Competition 358 (11 March) — he lives in Paris.

Winner of the £50 prize is M Alberton Carbone, of Rue Nationale in the French capital.

You will recall we set 10 posers concerning flags of nations.

The answers: 1 There are eight stars on the flag of Alaska, 2 The Cayman Islands flag sports the wording 'He Hath Founded It Upon The Seas', 3 The Faroe Islands adopted its own flag in 1948, 4 Colours on the Indonesian flag are red and white, 5 The colour green distinguishes the Libyan national flag from those of most other countries, 6 Rwanda has a large R on a yellow background, 7 Green was added to the flag of Madagascar in 1958, 8 Iran has the largest flag in the world, 9 The arms of England were adopted in the reign of Richard I, 10 1790 appears on the United States Coast Guard flag.

Unfortunately we omitted 'States' from the last question — but this was quickly spotted by nearly every competition entrant!

How Observant Are You?

1 Offside headlamp of left car, 2 Number of quayside steps, 3 Window of middle house, 4 Right edge of chimney-stack of middle house, 5 Steering wheel of van, 6 Plant outside Ship Inn, 7 '4' of boat 47, 8 Left arm of girl in boat 252, 9 Black wave below stern of boat 252, 10 'N' in 'Finch'.

A VETERAN RIDES OUT



(And hopes he hasn't seen the last of Bob...)

AFTER 25 years service, Warrant Officer 2 Michael Blakey is saying farewell to the Army but not, he hopes, to his favourite horse Bob.

This pairing, familiar to many who have watched the Mounted Troop of 160 Provost Company Royal Military Police in action on either ceremonial or display events might team up again in the future — possibly in the West Country where Mr Blakey hopes to start a small holding.

RMP colleagues surprised Warrant Officer Michael — and Bob — by 'riding him out' at a parade attended not only by Military Police pals, but by mounted members of Staffordshire and Lancashire constabularies with whom the RMP veteran has enjoyed both business and pleasure, especially in competitive events.

"It was a total surprise to me — and a very nice one," said the man who had a fortnight with REME in National Service days before

moving over to the provost side of life.

"I have ridden Bob for about eight years — and I have asked if consideration could be given to me taking him on when he finishes his own Service life, which could be in four or five years time," said Michael.

"I have developed an affection for him — even if the same could not be said in reverse, for I don't think a horse shows his affection

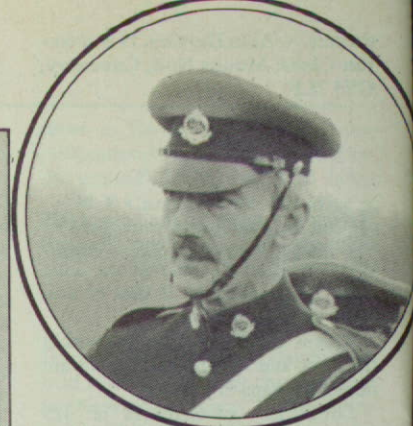
like, say, a dog."

WO2 Blakey should know ... he already has a cat, two dogs, hens, ducklings and pair of golden pheasants and two calves!

Mr Blakey never rode until he joined the Mounted Troop in 1968, after normal provost duties in Hong Kong, Berlin and Detmold. He had to learn from scratch, and has ridden a number of horses since, but Bob is the favourite.

"He is a good horse. If any horse does whatever you ask of him, that is all you can ask," says the man who has won a number of trophies in skill-at-arms events with tent-pegging, sword, lance and so on.

He regrets, as do so many, the end of the RMP mounted display team, which gave so much pleasure to so many until becoming victim



Warrant Officer 2 Michael Blakey — the end of an era

Mr Blakey rides out on Bob (extreme right). Alongside, Major A F Pangborn, OC 160 Provost Company RMP riding Sherrie

of 'cuts' at the end of last year.

"But I cannot see the end of using horses, so useful in patrolling the garrison and training areas. They will still have a role to play and, in fact, more and more civilian police forces are realising the value of the horse.

"As long as petrol costs exceed those of feeding horses, the horse must be favourite.

Married, with two sons Brian, 14 and Richard 12, Mr Blakey has done his last duty but technically is still with the Army until 27 June, when he will leave with a lot of happy memories. And a few sore and sad ones ...

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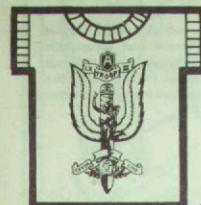
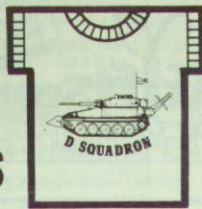
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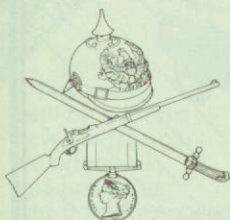
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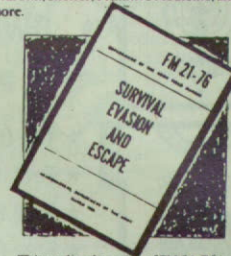
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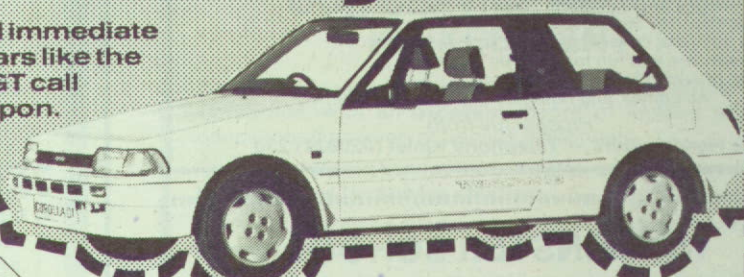
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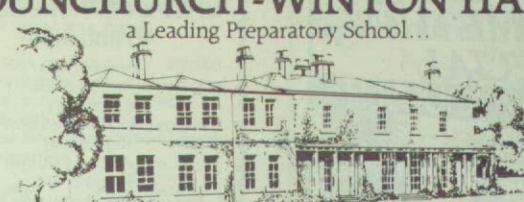
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For a printed or video* prospectus of the School, please fill in the coupon below and send it to The Joint Headmasters, Dunchurch-Winton Hall, Southam Road, Dunchurch, Nr. Rugby CV22 6NG.

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Further particulars are available from the Headmaster

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Further details can be obtained from:

Captain Headmaster,
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Plas Llanfair, Llanfairpwll,
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Tel: (0323) 892334

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NEWLANDS PREPARATORY SCHOOL was opened in 1814 and, since its foundation, the Headmasters have all been members of one family. There are 220 boarders and day children aged 7-13½. The boarders sleep in the main building and are supervised by the Headmaster, his wife, and four matrons, one of whom is a trained nurse. The School is surrounded by 15 acres of land, of which 12 acres is set aside as playing fields. The grounds include an all-weather football pitch incorporating 3 hard tennis courts, netball and basketball courts. There is a large indoor heated swimming pool providing swimming throughout the year, an indoor rifle shooting range, carpentry workshop, Home Economics rooms, and the Music Centre covers the tuition of a wide range of instruments. Association football, rugby, hockey, cricket, athletics, netball, tennis and rounders are the principal organised sports. Boys and girls are prepared for the Common Entrance and Scholarship Examinations to all Public Schools, and to NEWLANDS MANOR, our own Senior School, which accommodates boys and girls 13+ to 18. A full range of subjects is offered to 'O' and 'A' level.

The Schools escort children to and from Gatwick, Heathrow and Victoria Coach Station, London, and can also arrange for families known to us to welcome children for half terms in cases where relatives or guardians are not available.

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OUR SERVICE RECORD IS EXCELLENT

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If you would like to learn more about **Oakley Hall**, our academic successes, sporting facilities and achievements, please fill in the coupon below and return it to:

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ARMY PILOTS CONQUER PYRENEES

THE best way of mountain-eering must be in a helicopter. No large packs to carry, no flogging up steep slopes, no blisters or aching legs the next morning.

You get to the top in a fraction of the time it takes less fortunate mortals, and once you've landed on the peak to admire the view, off you go to another.

If you are a passenger, as I was, and the air is still, as it was most of the time, then you could take hours of this.

It gets a bit more ropey when the wind starts to pick up. In fact, it gets decidedly hairy.

Mountain flying in a helicopter is a particularly challenging and dangerous form of the art of flying, and it is really only introduced for Army pilots during the initial flying training carried out at the home of Army Aviation in Middle Wallop, Hampshire.

Other than some work in Snowdonia, there is not much opportunity to practice the skills required for such flying. So the 3rd Regiment of the Army Air Corps near Soest in West Germany run refresher courses at the French Mountain Flying School near Sallagouse in the eastern Pyrenees



A Lynx heads for the mountains

**Story: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Roger Lortie**

to cram in some intensive work.

It is very demanding, and the aircrew return every bit as shattered as the earthbound mountaineers, but mentally drained to boot.

At altitudes of up to 10,000 feet, the air is a lot less dense, so there is less for the rotors to work with.

The engine has to work an awful

lot harder and the pilot has to do much more juggling of his hands and feet at the controls just to keep the show off the road, as it were, and in the air.

Then if you are contentedly polling along to a ridge you can get caught in massive updraughts — not so bad — or massive

downdraughts. Which could really spoil the morning's excursion.

Wind turbulence, whether on ridges, roaring up valleys or swirling round bowls makes such flying twice as tiring as normal flying duties with the Rhine Army, and the pilot cannot afford to switch off to admire the stupendous views.

Trying to keep a small, light, single-engined helicopter like a reconnaissance Gazelle stable is very, very hard work, and not much easier for the Lynx tank killers.

The Army does not have the same search and rescue commitment as its sister Services, nor is such flying what they would necessarily expect on the vast north German plain they may have to defend some day.

But there is a tremendous benefit in awareness of the aircraft and its limitations.

The airman who has flown in the Pyrenees has stretched his capabilities and is the better for the experience, but don't ask him just after it if you want him to agree.

A Lynx leading two Gazelles over the Pyrenees

Chinooks ferry the tank busters

AS five Chinooks of 18 Squadron RAF Germany settled on the grass in quick succession the troops of 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, emerged from a nearby wood and hastened to the loading ramps.

There was no time to waste for this was an exercise to see how quickly a battalion of 6 Air Mobile Brigade could be moved to bring their tank-busting Milans into action at a new location.

So each Chinook lifted off immediately it was ready, the torque meter going round the clock as the rotors struggled against the weight of more than 50 men, their backpacks, shovels, mortars, machine guns and missiles.

That in fact was an overload — an authorised overload — rendered necessary by the urgency of the situation, and the press of men and baggage made the inside of the fuselage look like rush hour in the Tube. The effect on the controls led one pilot, Flight Lieutenant Andy Pulford, 27, to comment: "It feels like a totally different aeroplane."

Next came the tactical transit over the rolling wooded countryside of the Sauerland, co-pilot Flight Lieutenant Bob Girling, 25,

keeping the map on his knee to check navigation and lend another pair of eyes to look out for hazards which, at low level, include buzzards, light aircraft, other helicopters, fast jets and — that most persistent and insidious danger of all — wires.

Some power cables and tele-

**Story:
John Dalling
Picture:
Barry Ellson**

phone lines are printed on the map. Others have been drawn in by the crew.

All are difficult to see and cross the line of flight at every angle, the bigger ones borne on 300-foot pylons.

At 120 knots, wires crop up every minute requiring relentless attention from the crew.

At the drop point the ramp is lowered and the troops exit in 61 seconds, freeing the aircraft to return for another load.

With a more normal number of passengers power is available to lift vehicles and trailers as under-

slung loads and the whole operation saw the battalion, some 300 men, their equipment and vehicles, moved with a dispatch which only the helicopter can bring to the battlefield.

The exercise, for which No 18 Squadron, commanded by Wing Commander David Niven was recently deployed to barracks at Hemer near Dortmund, illustrates an important aspect of their training which went on continuously as they approached their 70th anniversary.

They were formed at Northolt in 1915 and went to France later that year flying the Vickers Fighter, DH2 and Bristol Scout on fighter reconnaissance and army co-operation duties.

In 1917 their role was switched to bombing with the FE2b and DH4 aircraft and at the end of the war they disbanded.

Reformed at Upper Heyford in 1931 they flew Hawker Hart and Hind until receiving the Blenheim Mk I in 1938. On the outbreak of another war they went to France before returning to England in 1940 to operate from East Anglia.

In 1942 the squadron moved to North Africa where the Victoria Cross was awarded to the Commanding Officer, Wing Com-

mander H E Malcolm, whose name is commemorated through the Malcolm Clubs, founded wherever the RAF went. No 18 completed the war with the Douglas Boston serving in Sicily, Italy and Greece.

Reformed in 1947 and re-equipped with the Dakota the squadron took part in the British Airlift from Gutersloh and Wunsdorf before being disbanded in 1950. Their last fixed-wing duty was as part of the Valiant bomber force from 1958 to 1963.

Disbanded in 1980 they were re-activated the next year at Odiham with the Chinook and returned to Gutersloh on 3 May 1983.

During the Falklands conflict the squadron was committed to the Task Force and operated the one and only Chinook to survive the attack on the Atlantic Conveyor — it happened to be on air test at the time — and flew a staggering 130 hours in two and a half weeks with minimal servicing support and on one memorable occasion took off with 80 men crammed into its hold.

Lots of activity as men of The Light Infantry and 18 Squadron RAF combine their skills



