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SOLDIER





CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 10 TA Topics
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Busy Maritime Men
- 16 Have Junks, Will Travel
- 17 The Most Demanding Flying
- 20 Competition
- 22 All In The Family
- 23 How Observant Are You?
- 25 Spotlight on 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles
- 30 Search for potential REME officers
- 34 Army Photographic Competition
- 36 Honour for another photographer
- 38 Sport
- 40 Guide to Museums
- 41 Your Cap Badge
- 42 Cartoonist thinks again!
- 44 Mail Drop
- 53 Keeping YOU dry

FRONT COVER: RCT RPL O4 ploughs her way across Hong Kong harbour. See page 14.

FACING PAGE: Aerial task over Hong Kong — see special feature page 17.

BACK COVER: New-look China, from the New Territories border. Those who haven't seen this scene for some years will be amazed.

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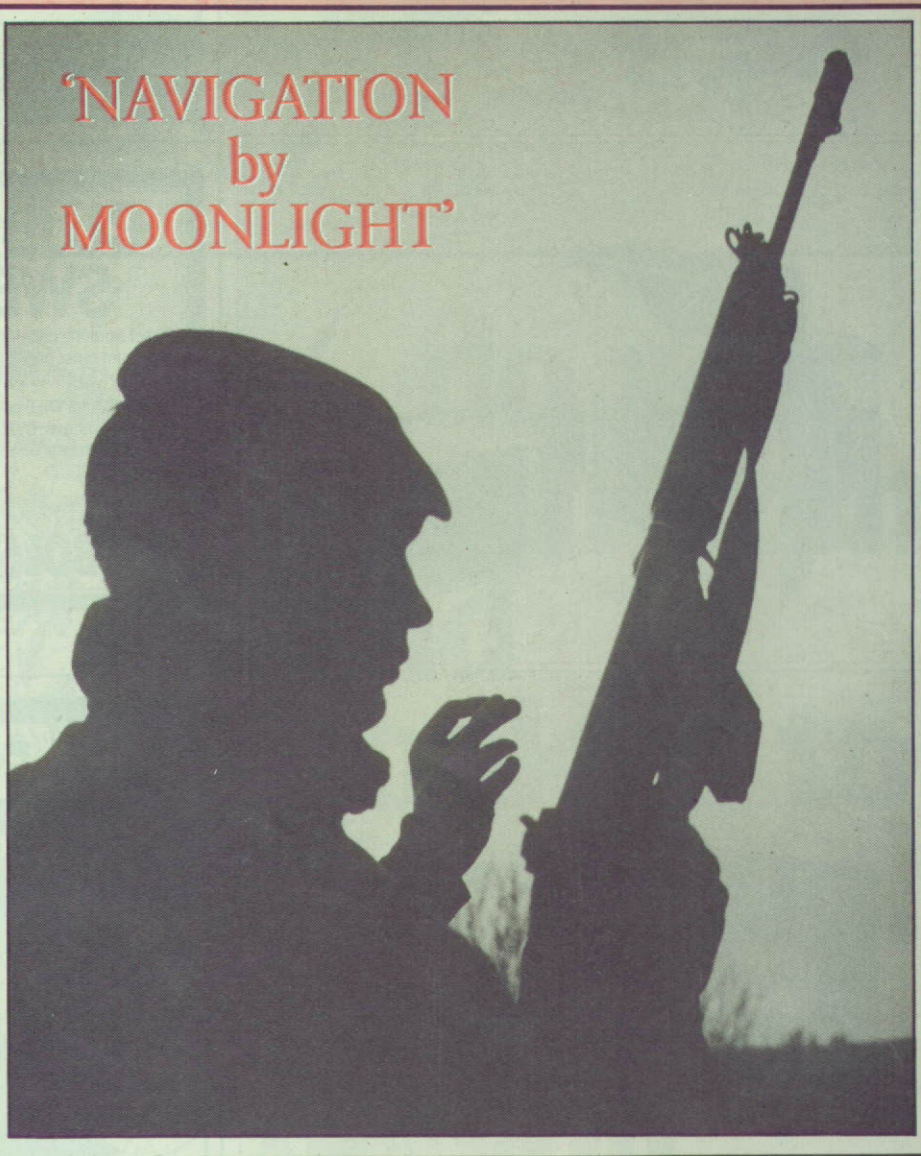
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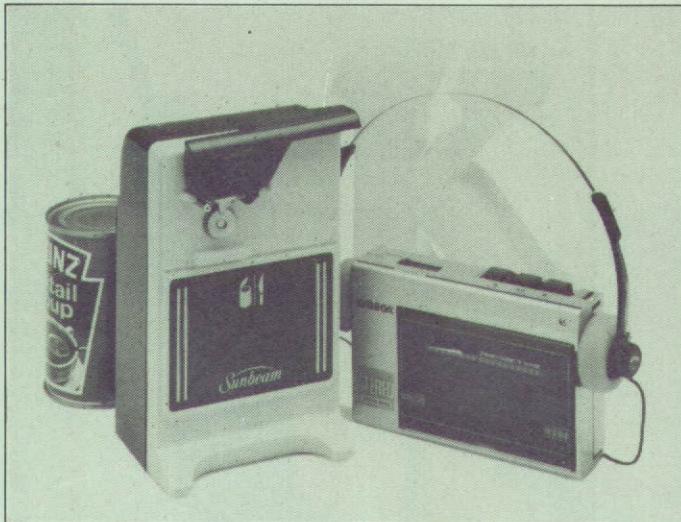


This excellent photograph is from the portfolio of Sergeant Stuart Andrew, RAOC, recently named 'Army Photographer of the Year'. Details and more pictures from the Army Photographic Competition 1984 ...

(see pages 34 & 35)

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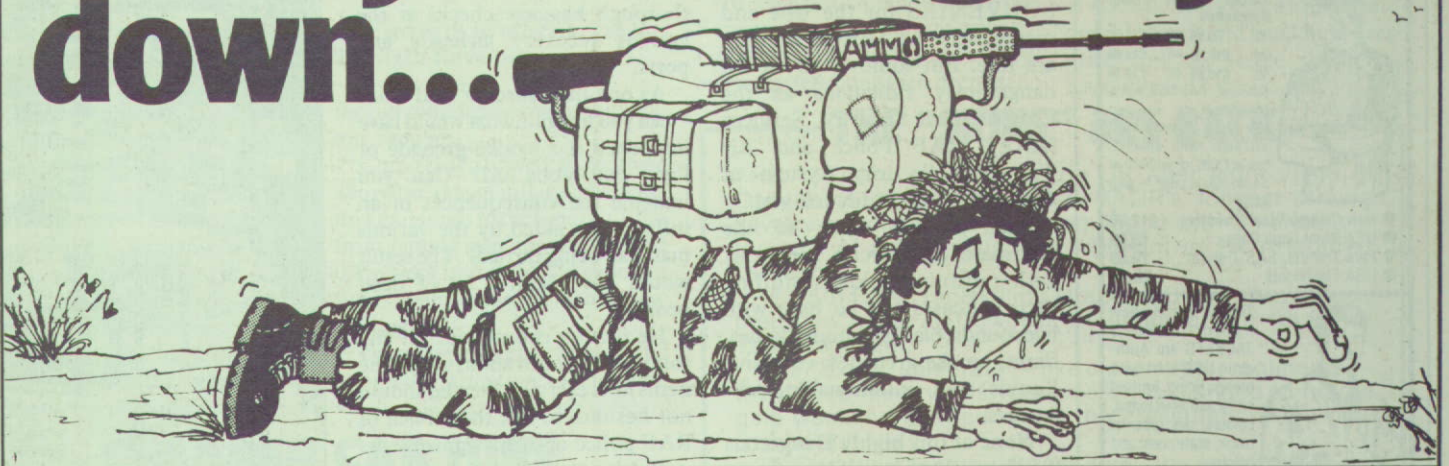
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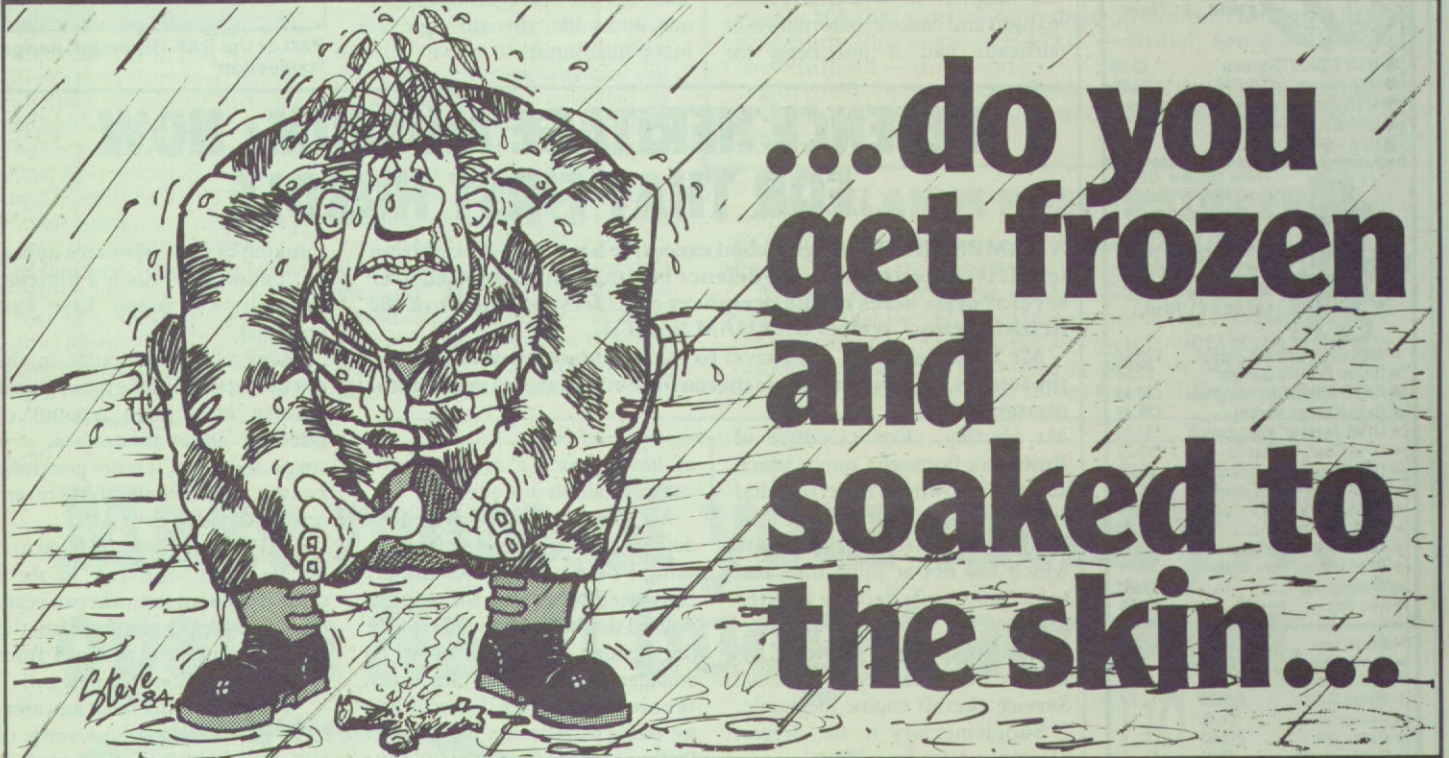
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Now here is one good resolution...

DON'T BE STUPID!

SOUVENIRS for the wife and mantelpiece AFTER an exercise are fine. But some verge on the dangerously ridiculous as the Provost and Security Services (RAF), RAF Police and Air Transport Security System at Gütersloh will readily tell you.

And it's all down to the aftermath of Exercise Lionheart with returning soldiers stuffing their suitcases and kit bags with live rounds, blanks, thunderflashes, flares, smoke grenades, corrosive liquids and inflammable substances.

None of this highly Dangerous Air Cargo (DAC) would have come to light and cause consternation at airheads had it not been for

thorough baggage checks at the various recovery airheads and ports.

As one bag searcher said later: "Can you imagine what would have happened if a smoke grenade or flare had gone off? Can you imagine the consequences of an inflight fire aided by the various materials being carried? The result would have been a lot of dead people!"

He further counselled: "If any soldier is in doubt about any of the items he is carrying then he should not hesitate to ask the advice of RAF police or Army movements staff. It's not smart getting dangerous items like this through, it's just plain stupid!"



Part of the RAF Gütersloh danger "collection"

DEFENCE HERITAGE MUSEUM: NOW FOR THAT FIRST HURDLE

A HAMPSHIRE Borough's chief executive has one life's ambition left. It is to see a centralised defence heritage museum sited over several prize acres on the periphery of Aldershot, "home of the British Army," writes GRAHAM SMITH.

Mr Don Hartley's objective: to mark Aldershot indelibly on the tourist map as a veritable mecca for enthusiasts of regimental memorabilia.

Mr Hartley, chief executive of Rushmoor Borough Council which serves the towns of Aldershot and Farnborough, said: "There can hardly be a district in Hampshire which has not at some time had some links with defence and the military."

And so speaks a former RAF man... SAC Hartley, a National Service aircraft engine mechanic.

Supplementary to his dream, plans are already a-boot... er... afoot to rebuild part of Aldershot Military Town, including some married quarters, in a khaki-orientated commune which is the landmark guardian to no less than nine military museums.

Recently, Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and the English Tourist Board have clubbed together to fund a £9,500 study by an independent firm to examine the possibilities

of having such a museum — a complex all on one site.

Mr Hartley said: "This idea of a defence heritage museum is something I have become increasingly convinced about over the past few years. I don't take the whole credit for the idea, though. It's been an amalgam of various peoples' ideas. We are all very keen. I don't think we could look to the Ministry of Defence for the money to fund the scheme but would hope they could find some premises, particularly, the Union Building which has already been mooted by the South-East District GOC, Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Howlett.

"It is the right sort of building into which to put all the museums. Other suggested sites have included Malta Barracks and the Prince Consort site. I am not just

thinking of Aldershot area appeal but nationwide. Such a museum concentration would have vast potential."

Many of the museums in the town, scattered as they are, do not indulge in a great amount of publicity about themselves, it is suggested. Also, it is not generally known where some of them are actually sited.

Mr Hartley, 52, admits that one hurdle in his objective to see a central major museum in two years would be the persuading of all the relevant museums to move from their present sites to a new one.

"I think we, Aldershot and area, have got a tremendous story to tell. It could all be presented in one building and form a major attraction, particularly with its regimental and permanent links associated with the town," he said. "It must be done very professionally. Everything, of course, depends on other factors of rebuilding parts of the garrison town but it would certainly be a dream-come-true if we could see a central museum forming such a major attraction like this in Aldershot."

SOLDIERS AND COOKS

NOT A ladle in sight! But they are both cooks. Soldiers by training. Two of them are pictured here in BAOR making final checks of their 'Noddy' suits at Detmold during the annual Military Skills competition sponsored by the Army Catering Services, Southern Division.

The anonymous two were among the 14 four-man teams battling it out for the top spot, an event finally won by the 3rd

Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery who pipped 4th Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment into second place. Last year's winners, Central Catering, took third slot.

The teams had to carry out eight demanding assignments — including the NBC sequence — comprising a BFT, First Aid, weapon training and field kitchen work.

● A famous cartoonist has been revising his view of Army cooks — see pages 42.



NAAFI: Turnover is down but good news, too!

FOR the first time in 25 years, Naafi's turnover at £322.9m has showed a decline, shareholders were told at the Annual General Meeting (see pages 28 & 29). This is largely due to the fact that Naafi no longer provides a service to the Malaysian Armed Forces.

But the news is not all bad because growth in other areas has meant the loss is not as much as it might have been.

Naafi EFI (Expeditionary Force Institutes) teams have celebrated the anniversary with their busiest peacetime year in a quarter of a century, serving troops in Norway and Denmark as well as on Exercise Lionheart in Germany — their biggest single commitment.

In addition EFI continues to operate the Naafi service in the Falklands where turnover rose sharply early in the year largely because prices now have to reflect

the full commercial cost of shipping out supplies.

Club trade showed an increase above the rate of inflation benefiting unit funds to the tune of £3.6m from gaming machine revenue and 0.8m went into club improvement funds from amusement machine earnings.

Other areas of growth included after-sales attention to hi-fi and video equipment, package holidays

offered in UK at 10 per cent discount insurance, building society facilities and the new budget account scheme.

In contrast, shop trade with Service families particularly in Germany, has not shown any buoyancy reflecting their decreased

spending power.

Nevertheless, Naafi are doing all they can to improve this service by stepping up their programme of special offers on gift items and durable goods and launching deep price cuts on staple shopping-basket lines.

THE "SKINS" ARE BACK

THE "SKINS" are back in the UK after eight years in Osnabrück where they were BAOR's longest-serving cavalry regiment. They were equipped with Chieftains in the role of a four-squadron regiment in 1st Armoured Division.

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards have made their new home at Tidworth, exchanging with 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

The "Skins" celebrate — like eleven other regiments — their tercentenary this year when it is planned to hold a gala weekend centred round the presentation of a new Standard in July.

During their lengthy BAOR tour, the regiment spent nearly 105,000 man training days on Soltau Training Area and made four visits to BATUS — British Army Training Unit Suffield — in Canada.

But their absence from Germany will not be a long one. The "Skins" return to BAOR and Paderborn in two years' time.

CHEAPER CAR HIRE

NAAFI has signed a deal, with international car rental experts Godfrey Davis Europcar, to give its customers substantial discounts on car and van hire.

The cost of one day's hire of a 1.6 Ford Sierra to Naafi customers in the UK will be just £20 with unlimited mileage (excluding VAT and accident damage waiver).

The standard charge is normally £19 rental plus 20p per mile, so the cost of a one-day hire for a 200-mile journey would normally be £59, representing a saving of £39 to a Naafi customer.

Overseas the discounts will normally be up to 15 per cent. In many countries, one-way hire will be available. A car collected in Germany, for example, could be dropped off in Holland, Belgium, Sweden, and Luxembourg.

Customers wishing to take advantage of the cheap rates (which vary from country to country) should see their Naafi shop or club manager who will provide an introduction to their Godfrey Davis Europcar showroom, which will ensure they receive the appropriate discounts.

FALKLANDS POST IS STILL FREE

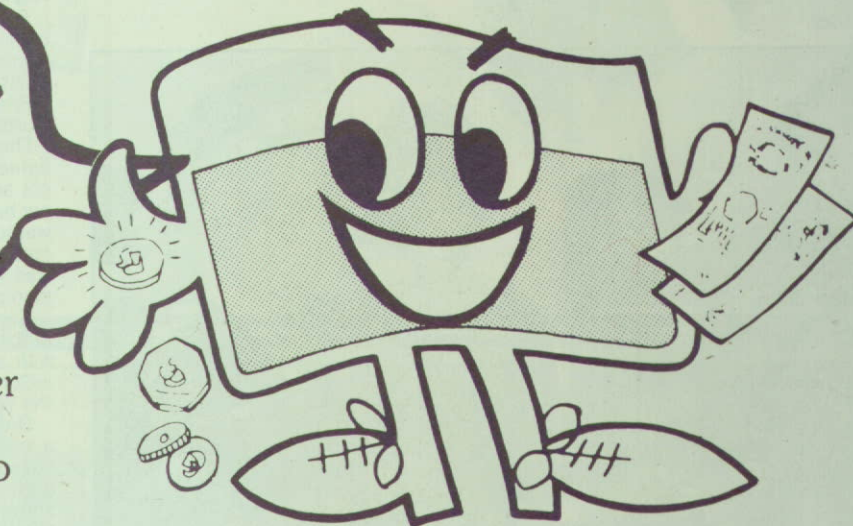
GOOD news for soldiers in the Falklands is that — contrary to Press reports — their free letters home to the UK are not to end.

Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley told the House of Commons that the value and importance of free airmail facilities for servicemen in the Falklands and their families in the UK was fully appreciated and they would continue for the time being. So would free 'familygrams' for those serving in South Georgia.

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CAINE LENDS A HAND

Film star Michael Caine formerly National Serviceman Fusilier Mickelwhite of 1951 — seems to have matters well in hand.

It's his latest film *Water* and flanking him and his assault rifle is American actress Valerie Perrin.

Caine had, up until this macho scene, been playing the laid-back, pot-smoking Governor of a notional Caribbean island called Cascara all set for dumping by the Government at Westminster.

Then found the island to be a source of unlimited, effervescent

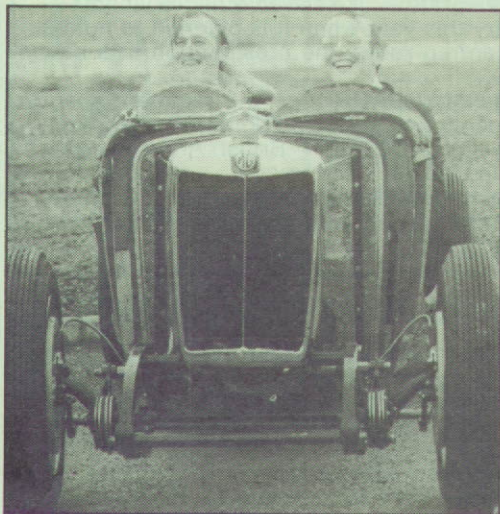
mineral water supplies, a fount which attracts big business, Foreign Office intervention and even a couple of imported Cuban revolutionaries, their fervour fuelled by the island-based mercenary, Billy Connolly.

Caine says of his role as the governor of a run-down island: "If the British Empire hadn't virtually already disappeared, this character would certainly have finished it off for good."

In the event, Miss Perrin turns out to be one of his fringe benefits. *Water* goes on general release this month.



MICHAEL CAINE, VALERIE PERRIN: fighting for freedom



HAMISH McNINCH, FRED MEEK: endless hours.

New life for old timer

An historic 50-year-old car rebuilt from rusting remnants will next year be entered by an Army team in Italy's celebration of the famous Mille Miglia race.

The rare MG PA, vintage 1935, is well on its way to complete restoration by vintage car enthusiasts Captains Hamish McNinch and Fred Meek serving at Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Only about 800 PA models were built by MG and it is estimated barely 50 remain roadworthy. The vehicle, in the hands of Captains McNinch and Meek, was the last example to be produced.

Day the Duchess faced a mucky make-up problem



Make believe for Her Highness

The Duchess of Kent has been trying out a new style make-up guaranteed to turn her fair complexion the colour of dirty mud. But the revolutionary rouge is hardly likely to become the rage among the royals.

For it was all part of the camouflage being used by women Territorial Army recruits when she visited the WRAC Training Centre at Guildford, Surrey.

The daring Duchess agreed to try it out, but only got as far as rubbing it on her hands — when she was warned by the girls that the cream made by Max Factor was far harder to remove than put on.

Even then she had a problem trying to rub it off with a cloth. The Duchess is Controller Commandant of the WRAC.

Dressed immaculately in a bottle green ceremonial uniform with gold braiding and a waist sash, and showing no signs of her recent illness, the radiant Duchess enthusiastically watched the girls doing training exercises and visited the museum on the site during the visit.

She met the Director, Brigadier Helen Meechie, and was accompanied on the tour by Lady-in-Waiting Mrs Fiona Henderson.

Mini win for H. Kong 'civvy'

Civil servant car rally nut Keith Norris who is based in Hong Kong has just added another success to his list of high-horsepowered entries — the 31st Macau Rally, just 40 miles from the Colony due for handing back to the Chinese in 1997.

Said Keith who had entered the rally in his 1,000 cc Mini: "I was delighted to take fifth place overall and first slot in my class. It is a tough course and I shall be back next year, hoping to do even better!"

QUICK

Gremlins! We referred in our last issue (17 December) to 2nd King's Scottish Light Infantry. For "Scottish" read "Shropshire"....

SPOT

Gunners show heart with £30,000 cheque

Officers and men of 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery based in BAOR have handed over £30,000 to the British Heart Foundation.

The unit organised a charity appeal to raise the money to buy an ultrasound scanner for the BHF pre-natal research group at Guy's Hospital, London.

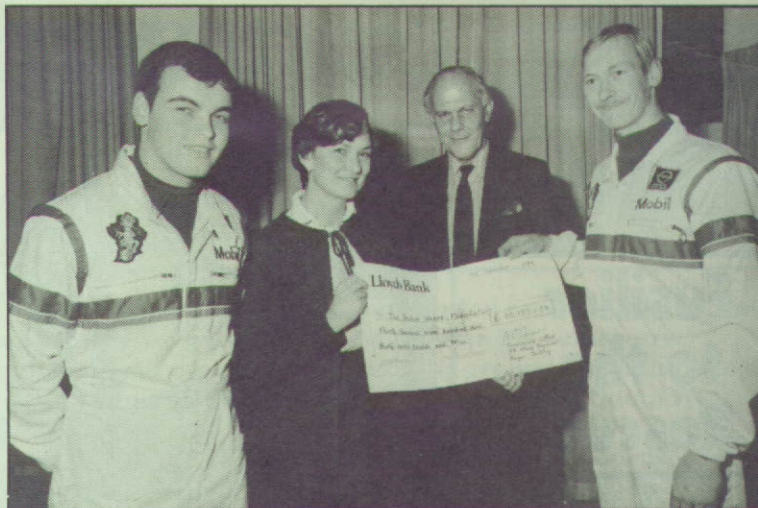
At the handover of the outsize cheque the regiment was represented by CO Lieutenant Colonel NPS O'Connor and Captain Chris Hol-

land — the driving force behind this magnificent effort — and Sergeant Alan Flavell and Corporal David Evans.

One of their cash-raising wheezes was a race from Germany to the White House in Washington, USA.

The rules of the race stated that five different types of transport had to be used.

Picture shows David Evans (left) and Alan Flavell handing the cheque to officials at Guy's.



GUNNERS GO FOR THE HEART WITH £30,000 — DAVID EVANS AND ALAN FLAVELL HAND IT OVER.

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

QUICK

Temporary repairs to the Stanley to Airfield road in the Falkland Islands are now being carried out by 15 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers.

SPOT

When two becomes three it's a bit of a shock

THREE'S a crowd for Cpl Anthony Perryman and his wife Dorothy — but they're not complaining after suddenly finding that they're the parents of triplets, writes *Anton Hanney*.

"It's fantastic," said Dorothy as she held her new babies at Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn, Northern Ireland where Anthony has served for just over a year with 26 Squadron RCT.

"I was told after 26 weeks of my pregnancy that I was going to have twins, then 24 hours before the birth they said it would be triplets.

"I just laughed. I thought the doctor was joking."

Baby Anthony Jnr was first into the world, weighing in at 4lb 12oz.

He was followed by his brother Christopher — at 5lb the bruiser of the trio — and finally by little Aimee, tipping the scales at a ladylike 4lb 2oz.

"I like the prospect now I've got over the shock," said Cpl Perryman. "But having triplets does raise a lot of problems."

PROSPECT

We couldn't think of an extra name just like that. And then there's the baby-buggy problem as they just don't make buggies for three."

He and Dorothy have been married for two years. It was Dorothy's first pregnancy. "And I think it's going to be the last," she added.



THE PERRYMAN'S AND THEIR NEW FAMILY: Mum cuddles the boys and Dad the girl.



SOLDIER girls leg it for cash!

Mala, Mary and Val... three girls from the staff of this magazine ran with 2,000 other runners to raise £15,000 for the Farnham Hospice. That works out at £7 plus for each jogger if they are to hit their target. It goes without saying that this intrepid trio collected well over that amount from their colleagues here. If the other 1,997 do as well, then the appeal should be reached with ease. Support for the run came from the Military Works Force, RE, at Barton Stacey.



OLD BANNER, NEW HOME

Fusilier to the Rescue

THE prompt action of a volunteer Fusilier in coming to the aid of a service station attendant has won the grateful thanks of the station's owner and praise from local police.

Fusilier Thomas Thompson, a 22-year-old member of the MT Platoon, 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was on his way to a drill night when he called in at the service station in Forest Hill, Newcastle upon Tyne, for cigarettes.

He saw the attendant on the floor being attacked by an apparently armed assailant. The weapon later proved to be a replica but Fusilier Thompson had no way of knowing that when he rushed forward.

When the attacker attempted to escape after being dragged from his victim, Fusilier Thompson gave chase, brought the man back again and restrained him until the police arrived.

His battalion says he almost certainly saved the attendant from serious injury and adds: "His disregard for his own safety and his determination to render positive assistance is worthy of the highest praise."

And in a letter to 6 RRF, Superintendent R. P. Bensley of the Northumbria Police endorses this view: "His actions displayed initiative and courage far beyond that which one could normally have expected from a member of the public."

Fusilier Thompson is married and lives in Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he works as a fitter.



Lieutenant Colonel Chris Day, commanding officer, alongside the battalion's new acquisition. Mrs Doris Grant holds the banner and some of the unit's girl soldiers stand in the background.

A RARE WRAC Association banner has been handed into the safe keeping of the 4th Battalion the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment (V).

The handmade banner belonged to the Lonsdale Branch of the WRAC Association which was inaugurated in October 1954 but disbanded due to declining numbers in January 1973. Only six

similar banners are known to be in existence.

Former branch secretary Mrs Doris Grant kept the banner in her attic until she handed it to Lieutenant Colonel Chris Day, Commanding Officer.

Those who watched the hand-over in Lancaster included former branch members, Colonel Shirley Nield, Commander WRAC,

UKLF, who was visiting the North West at the time, and Lieutenant Colonel Gael Ramsey, Commander WRAC North East and North West Districts.

The banner will take pride of place in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. Mrs Grant, said "I am very pleased that the banner has come to a place where it will be well looked after."



Fusilier Thomas Thompson... "worthy of the highest praise..."

202 GENERAL TOPS MIDLAND MENU



The prize-winning cooks of 202 serve up their champion meal. Left to right: Corporal Peter Wareham, Sergeant Terry Doyle and Sergeant Colin Meredith.

THE best TA cooks in the Midlands are to be found within the ranks of 202 General Hospital, RAMC (V), based at Kings Heath, Birmingham. That, at any rate, is the claim that 202 can make with some justification after they carried off the Challenge Trophy in the face of opposition from TA units all over the Region.

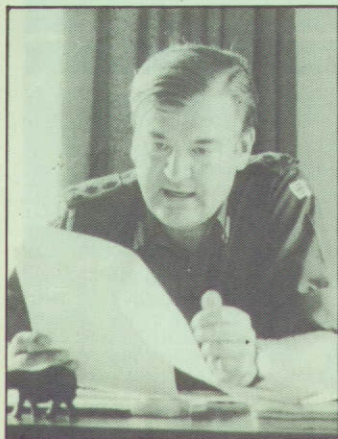
The aim of the competition, Whittington, Lichfield, was to provide a meal for 20 men from basic Army Compo rations with extras up to the

value of £5. The teams also had to fire their rifles, complete the assault course, do a little night navigation and set up their own field kitchens.

Incidentally the prizewinning menu was as follows: chicken vegetable soup, steak and kidney suet crust pudding, glazed carrots, buttered fresh Savoy cabbage, croquette potatoes, rich fruit pudding with white sauce, fresh tea.

The verdict, from a patrol of 20 men who had been out in the field for two nights and a day — fabulous.

IMPORTANT NEW TA POST



Brigadier Edward Jones

THE Ministry of Defence has announced the appointment of Brigadier Edward Jones as Director General Territorial Army and Organisation. At present the Commander of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) in Zimbabwe, Brigadier Jones will take up his new job in February with the rank of Major General. He was commissioned in 1956 into what was then the 1st Battalion, the Green Jackets. Twenty years later he was Commanding Officer of what had become the 1st Royal Green Jackets. Before going to Zimbabwe, Brigadier Jones was Deputy Commander 3 Armoured Division and Commander of the Soest Garrison.

One eager volunteer discovers there is....

More to 'Int' than he thought!

Like many other TA units the Intelligence and Security Group (Volunteers) is looking for recruits. The recently announced enhancements gave them a new sixth company with an overall increase of some 150 volunteers.

In order to try to fill the new quota the Group is having to look beyond its usual hunting ground. In addition to the present training centres in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Belfast, it is branching out into the South West and North East with new, temporary, detachments in Bristol and Newcastle.

For anyone who might be tempted to try his or her luck as a part time member of the Intelligence Corps, Richard Bacon has written of his own experience as a raw recruit. Richard, a 21 year old student at the London School of Economics, joined the Group just over six months ago:

IT was a Japanese tourist in a famous Knightsbridge department store who finally prompted me to join the TA. On a particularly beautiful Saturday afternoon last Spring, I stood under hot display lights in the store's china department, trying to sell fine porcelain, about which I knew nothing, to a Japanese who could speak no English.

I suddenly realised there had to be a better way of spending my weekends. What I didn't realise was quite what I was letting myself in for.

My interest in the TA, sparked partly by friends who were already members, coincided with a recruitment drive. I responded to a newspaper advertisement and was soon attending a presentation evening at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London.

One of my main reasons for wanting to join was to get fit. It wasn't until the presentation evening that I discovered there was such a thing as the Intelligence Corps, or that there was the possibility of learning Russian, something I had wanted to do for a long time.

Not being from a military background it was with some apprehension I introduced myself to Lieutenant Colonel M T J Bourne, the Commanding Officer of Intelligence & Security Group (V). He explained the Group's role as supplying trained personnel to support BAOR regulars in time of crisis.

I learnt that the Group was divided into companies which undertook specialised training. Intelligence companies studied the interpretation of aerial photographs, combat intelligence (which could involve learning a language), and the business of training recruits to evaluate facts about an enemy. Security companies trained in the protection of installations, information and personnel.

It all sounded very intriguing so I presented myself a Group HQ the following morning and was interviewed by the Administrative Staff Officer.

Three weeks later, together with about 20 other foolhardy souls, I was on an assessment weekend at St Martin's Plain training camp

— being shouted at, dragging logs over assault courses, writing exams, and running *everywhere*.

On the Sunday evening we sat in a coach taking us back to London, exhausted yet elated. We were a mixed crew, including an international merchant banker, a student union sabbatical officer, a private secretary, an arms dealer, a politics student (myself), a computer student, a teacher of modern languages, and a production manager for a large microfiche company.

We had met only 36 hours before but we already shared an extraordinary sense of camaraderie. Together we became Squad 21, and our training began in earnest.

Anyone who harboured the notion that the Intelligence Corps had anything to do with James Bond would have been rapidly disabused by the mountain of textbooks we were issued on the first training evening.

There were weighty tomes to read including books on British Army organisation, map marking, recognition guides, basic battle skills — the list seemed endless.

Over the following months we were introduced to the joys of service writing, card index files, signal message writing, document receipt and registry and classification definitions. These are hardly the stuff of spy novels but they are the fundamental tools of our trade.

The essence of our training is to bring us to a basic level of knowledge in military skills, and in intelligence and security matters so that we have sufficient grounding to go to a specialised company.

The motto of the Intelligence Corps is "Manui Dat Cognitio Vires" (Knowledge Gives Strength to the Arm). We need to know all we can about an enemy and we

need to relay our information quickly and accurately to people who may well be very senior officers. Public speaking is therefore part of our training.

Owing to the fact that we are usually deployed in small specialist teams, or even as individuals, we are awarded our first stripe as soon as we pass out — a fact which causes a degree of trepidation as well as pride.

Clearly, in order to gain responsibility so quickly, our education must involve a good grounding in military training. We have trained with the 9mm sub-machine gun, the unit's personal issue weapon, and with the SLR.

We have acquired a range of basic infantry skills, from basher-building and cooking, to camouflage and trench digging. We have negotiated countless assault courses, which, one soon realises, are themselves an exercise in team effort.

Drill, which is rather good fun when we get it together has provided moments of unforgettable hilarity. One of our squad, with an excellent degree from Oxford, was once forced to admit publicly to being a "physical dwarf" and a "mental cul-de-sac," while I was informed, on one occasion, that I was to drill what Rudolf Nureyev was to road-sweeping!

We differ from most units in that, for our operational role, women are equally capable of performing the job as men. Accordingly, about half our squad is female. This not only makes for far livelier social events, but has also brought a new dimension to definitions of gentlemanly conduct, especially on the more difficult parts of an assault course.

Training is certainly hard work. On a typical weekend we will rise by 5.30 am and be out running by six. There will be a full day's programme, with only a brief pause to eat, and when we have to sit written exams or map marking tests often we are very tired.

The day usually finishes with a night exercise to practise the skills



we have learnt in the afternoon. By the time we are back from the exercise, with kit cleaned for the morning, it could be 2 or 3 am. By six we are out running again.

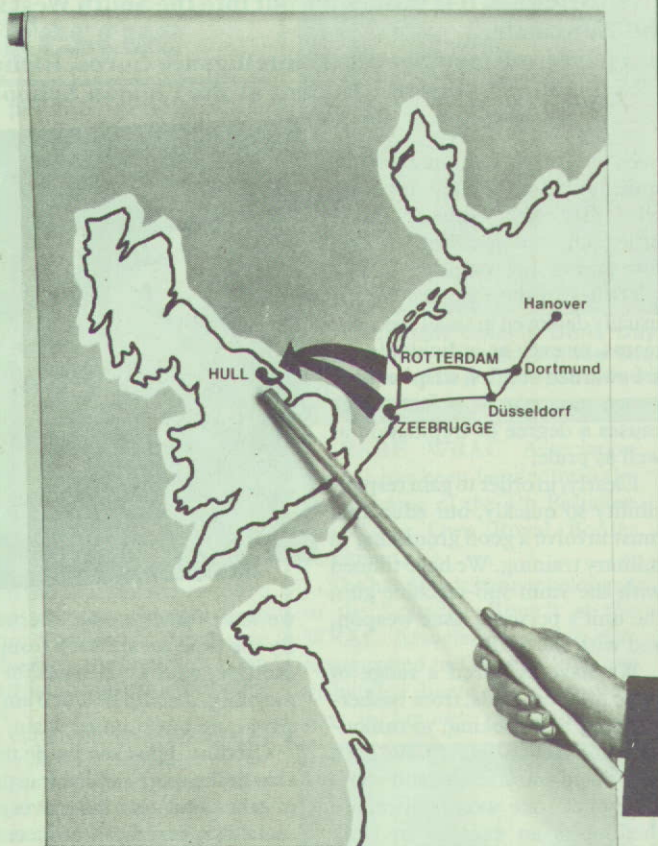
Off duty, however, we do relax. One of the more agreeable aspects of the unit is that everyone socialises together, officers included. When a mere private has 15 'O' Levels, five 'A' Levels and three degrees (as one of our number has) it is not surprising that relations between officers and other ranks are quite relaxed, albeit respectful.

Joining the TA has certainly made a considerable difference to my life. Because of the time involved — one evening a week, two weekends a month and a two week camp — one has to be very well organised which is, in itself, a good reason for taking part. I now enjoy running, which previously I did not. And I have met a whole new set of people who have learnt to rely on one other.

During the summer five of us went to Intelligence Corps HQ to help out on Corps Day. As we watched Squad 19, our immediate predecessors pass out with the Regulars looking just as immaculate and professional, I began to realise the enormity of the challenge before us.

But whenever I have doubts I remember the little Japanese tourist in the Knightsbridge store, and I am very grateful for what he made me do. ☺

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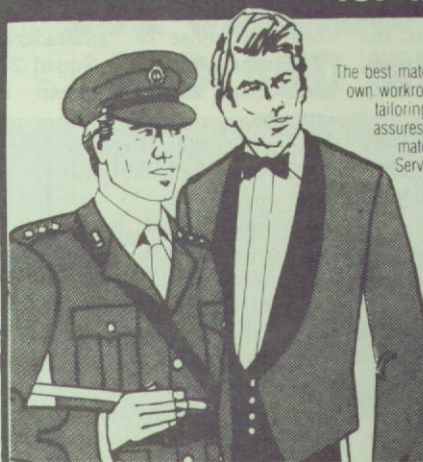
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SOLDIER to Soldier

SOLDIER is nearly 40 years old! It was in March 1945 that the magazine was first published. Just like today, it was called SOLDIER, it was fortnightly, and it was "the British Army magazine"

But unlike today's SOLDIER, which is based in Aldershot and sold worldwide to soldiers and civilians alike, the original magazine was printed in Brussels and was on sale only to members of the British and Allied Armed Forces. It cost two Belgian francs, 2 fr 50 in France, or 13 cents in Holland.

Only nine months later its editor-in-chief was telling its staff: "It was fully intended that SOLDIER should remain as the permanent magazine for the British Army; but this has been found impossible."

Fortunately, he turned out to be wrong. In fact when, after a period as a monthly publication, SOLDIER again reverted to fortnightly in 1981, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was able to write that SOLDIER had gained a most enviable reputation over its 36 years of life and she looked forward to seeing it enhance its reputation, showing why our soldiers are what they are — true professionals in an Army admired throughout the world.

SOLDIER today still performs that essential role. And in three months time it will be forty years old.

To help it celebrate this significant anniversary, the magazine is looking for people who were associated with its early days, the editorial team members who produced the first issues, the circulation and accounts staff, the drivers and packers, and even the cook (yes, SOLDIER actually had its own cook), the soldier who anonymously featured on the front page of the first issue.

And Cherry Richards, then a 20-year-old lass from Doncaster who during 1945 became SOLDIER's first British pin-up.

If you were involved with SOLDIER in that first year of publication, please write and tell today's readers all about it.

★ ★ ★

WHILE on the subject of 40th anniversaries, it will soon be 40 years ago that the war in Europe ended, and old soldiers might be wondering if after that extensive and emotive — and certainly well warranted — marking of the D-Day landings anniversary, there will be any official celebration in the UK of the cessation of hostilities.

Apparently not. At least, nothing has so far been planned. The subject arose in the House of Commons recently when the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, was asked what steps he was taking to ensure that the Soviet Union was represented at any celebrations.

He replied that as there were no present plans for official British celebrations the question of Soviet representation did not arise.

★ ★ ★

FEELING broke after Christmas? Then you'll be interested in how to obtain a book worth £11.95p FREE.

SOLDIER is offering you a copy of 'British and American Tanks of World War II' by Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis, the complete illustrated history of British, American and Commonwealth tanks, gun motor carriages and special purpose vehicles from 1939-45.

It is a comprehensive reference book devoted to the history and development of the tanks used by the Allied nations, with the exception of Russia, giving a detailed history of each type and full pictorial coverage of the many variants. More than 2,000 vehicles are included, virtually every tank type produced in Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the text and photographs which describe each vehicle, concise specifications are given.

The book, published by Arms and Armour Press, is offered FREE by SOLDIER (except for the cost of postage and packing) when you take out an annual subscription to the magazine. You pay £13.55p for the magazine including

MRS Christine Withey, who handled SOLDIER'S advertising affairs for more than six years has left the Civil Service to pursue another career — in a similar line of business.

Our advertising contacts will join us in wishing Christine every success.

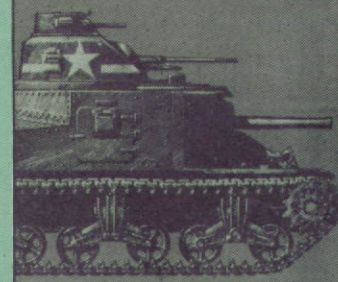
postage (which in itself means you get two issues FREE during the year), plus £2 to cover the cost of postage and packing of your book. So for a total of £15.55p you will receive 25 issues of SOLDIER Magazine and your free copy of 'British and American Tanks of World War II'. The total package would normally cost you £27.50p.

The offer is open only to new subscribers to the magazine and only to those resident in the UK.

A special subscription form can be found on page 41 of SOLDIER. Photo copies of the form are acceptable from those who do not wish to cut their copy of the magazine. Please allow 21 days for delivery.

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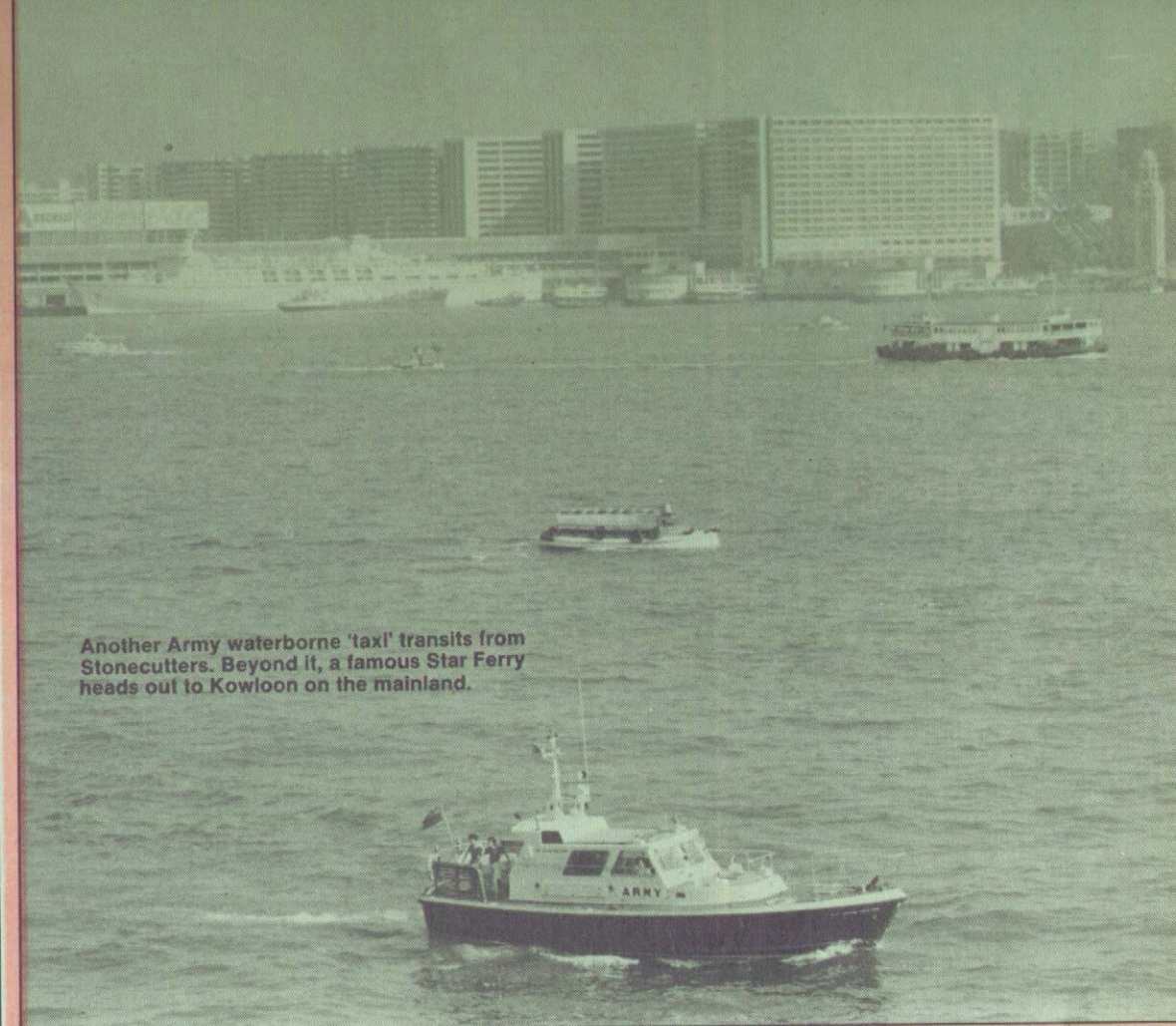
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S1/85

Writer **GRAHAM SMITH** and photographer **PAUL HALEY**
continue their look at Army life in Hong Kong

415 TROOP - THE BUSIEST IN THE WORLD?



Another Army waterborne 'taxi' transits from Stonecutters. Beyond it, a famous Star Ferry heads out to Kowloon on the mainland.



One of the Troop's three RPLs moored on Stonecutters' Island, home of the Army's 'sailors' unit.

AS ROYAL Corps of Transport Troops sail, then 415 based on Stonecutters' Island in Hong Kong is probably the busiest of any such detachments dotted round the world on Army service.

On average, their three ramp powered lighters (RPLs) for instance, have been logging up 300 crew hours monthly, shifting 400 tons of cargo while covering 600 miles over the same period. Meanwhile, their two 11-metre harbour launches have been carrying 2,000 passengers a month.

Headed by RCT Captain Bruce Wilkie, the Troop is manned by seven senior NCOs from the Army and 57 men from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC). A civilian clerk and labourer make

up the number.

The Troop is part of HQ Squadron Gurkha Transport Regiment and its CO is also commanding officer of that regiment.

In addition to the three RPLs — three new, larger ones are planned to replace a couple of them — the troop has a General Service Launch for VIP duties, two 15-metre Range Safety Craft (used for command and control tasks and surveillance) and three welfare junks recently taken over from the Army Support Element of HQ British Forces Hong Kong. These are used for fare-paying family trips offshore (see page 16).

Trades within the Troop include navigators, seamen, marine engineers and drivers. The Troop also carries out its own trade training

and testing.

415 Troop is also an authorised service testing authority for the Hong Kong Marine Department Local Master and Local Engineer (in board) examinations.

Captain Wilkie, a qualified ocean watchkeeper, explained: "We are here in support of the Gurkha Field Force and Support Troops and for formation unit exercises in Hong Kong waters."

"We also give support to the Joint Services Movement Centre for the transport of stores and equipment to and from shipping in the harbour."

"In addition to this we also support the Queen's Gurkha Engineers for the movement of plant and equipment to islands and sites which are inaccessible by road.

This also includes the new training camp on Lantau Island."

The men of his Troop also ferry ammunition and other hazardous cargo.

But not all the tasks have an Army bias. Some are done for the Joint Military/Police Operations Centre and others are of help to the Royal Navy on exercises and re-provisioning duties.

Based on Stonecutters' Island — a granite and tree-covered outcrop about the size of Gibraltar — in the middle of the harbour between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon peninsula, the Troop also replenishes its own base and the needs of three military unit 'neighbours' sharing the water-locked land mass.

Captain Wilkie said: "To sup-

Contrasts. Ancient and comparatively modern. An Army RPL passes a traditional Chinese-type junk in Hong Kong's busy harbour; 1,200 vessels a month enter and leave it.

port the vessels we have the Troop HQ which includes control room and staff, stores and training staff.

"Also based with us here is the Maritime Repair Section of the Gurkha Transport Regiment workshops which although a different part of the regiment, works closely with the Troop."

"Although the Troop has a very specialised role all Troop personnel are still members of the Gurkha Transport Regiment. As such we still have to do all of the normal military training including BFTs, ranges, NBC and other essential syllabuses."

HAVE JUNKS, WILL TRAVEL!

The South China Sea has always been a mysterious area to excite the imagination of novelists and, in recent years, the public.

The Army in Hong Kong is doing everything to perpetuate its allure by hiring out three motorised junks to families and other groups of high seas-loving landlubbers 17 at a time, at very reasonable prices.

The distinctively-shaped craft have recently been handed over to the soldier 'sailors' of 415 Maritime Troop, Royal Corps of Transport, who are based on Stonecutters' Island in the middle of Hong Kong harbour.

From there they run the trio of modernised junks, the 'Soldier Sailor,' 'Tinker, Tailor,' and 'Anthoula' bought four years ago, since when they have carried an staggering total of 75,000 passengers!

Each junk making 17 knots on route to an offshore island — Hong Kong has 235 of them — is fully equipped in case of emergency with radios, flares and life jackets.

Crewed each time by two men

from the Maritime Troop the junks do, however, tend to deteriorate in the mercurial climes common to Hong Kong ('fragrant harbour') and each year three weeks are set aside for repairs and servicing.

The modernised Chinese water transport of some 2,000 years ago take 17 passengers who can hire

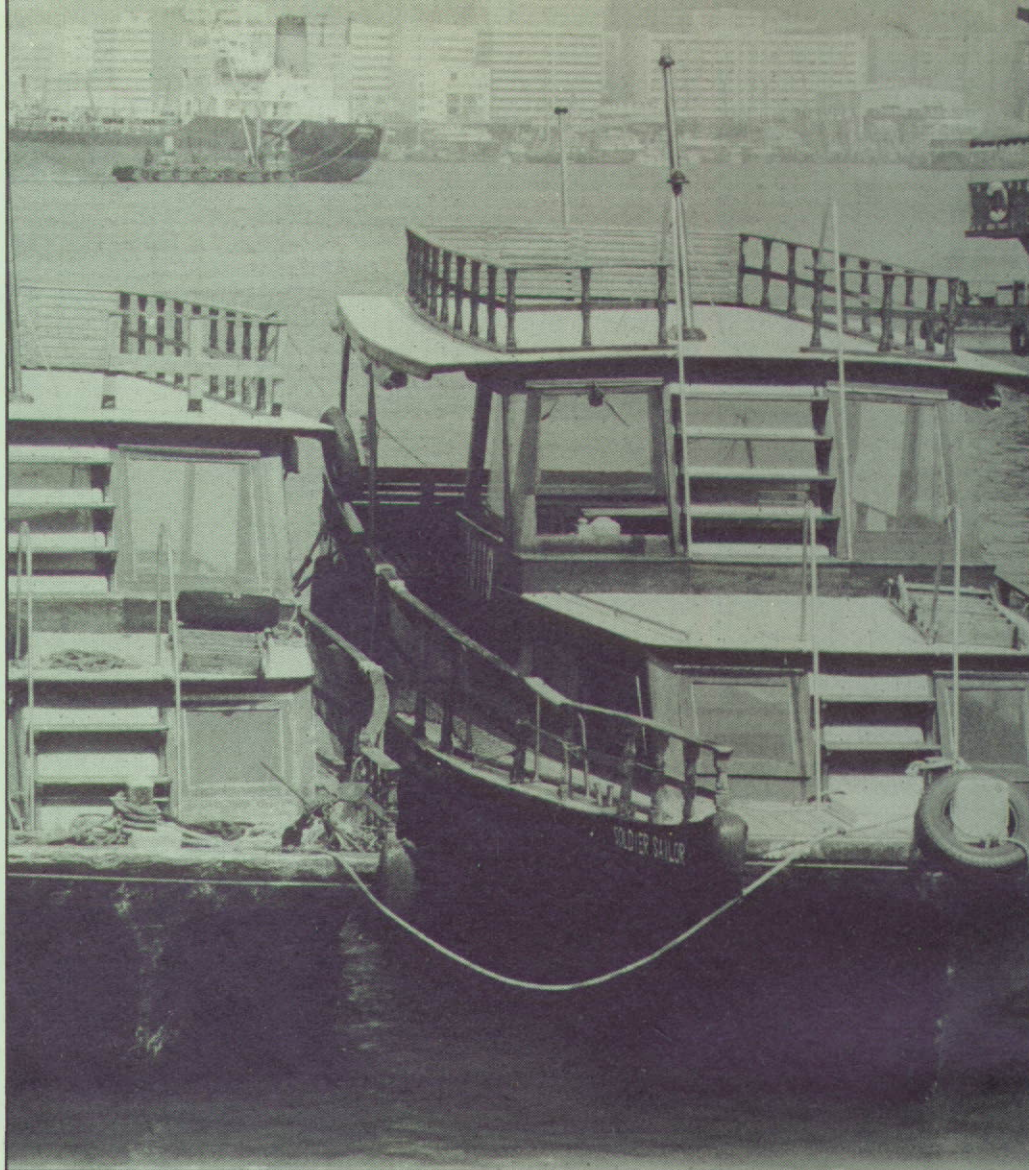
them for six hours daily for just £34, or £37 at weekends.

A four-and-a-half-hour evening cruise past the blazing neon lights of 'skyscraper city' costs just £29 among the passengers.

Warrant Officer 1 Pat Roberts, Irish Guards, the Hong Kong Garrison Sergeant Major quipped:

Inactive now but they have carried 75,000 passengers in four years. The berth is on Stonecutters' Island in Hong Kong Harbour.

"We decided to hand over the junks to the RCT Maritime boys because as sailors, they know all the sea-going phrases like 'yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum'!"



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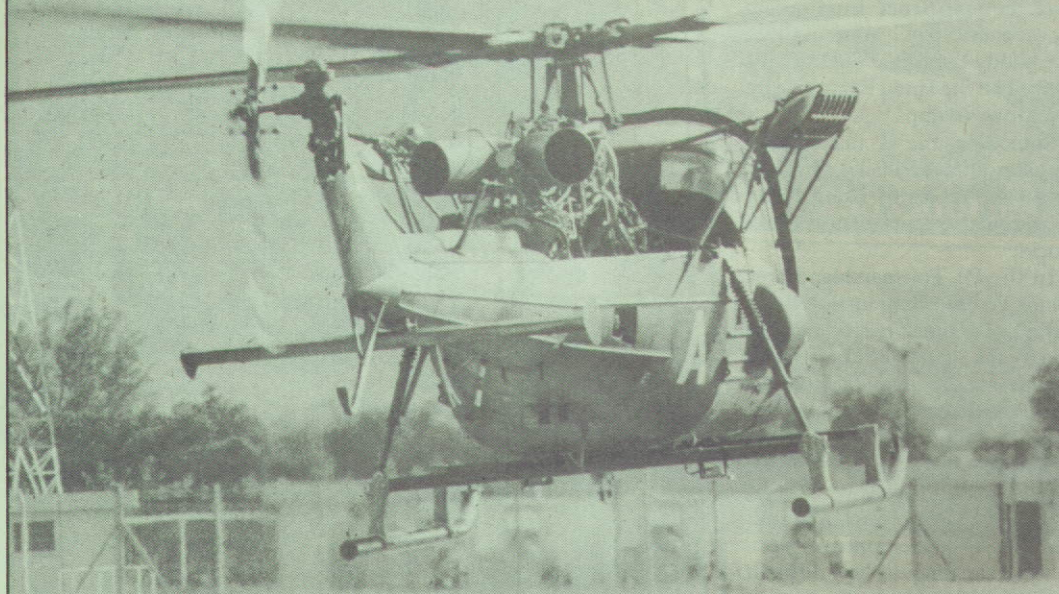
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NO PLACE FOR BEGINNERS!

SEK KONG in Hong Kong's New Territories, just five miles from the 26-mile long meandering Anglo/Sino land border, has always had Army aviation connections since the end of World War 2.

Said nowadays to be probably the world's busiest helipad, the Army is still there, sharing the site with the RAF in the valued presence of 660 Squadron, Army Air Corps (there since 1978) with its ten venerable Scout AH Mk 1 helicopters with another flight of three Scouts serving 1,000 miles due south in Brunei.

And it is living up to its motto of 'Et Coelis Auxilium' ('Help from the Air') in terrain offering the most skilfully demanding and exciting flying to AAC pilots and crewmen anywhere.

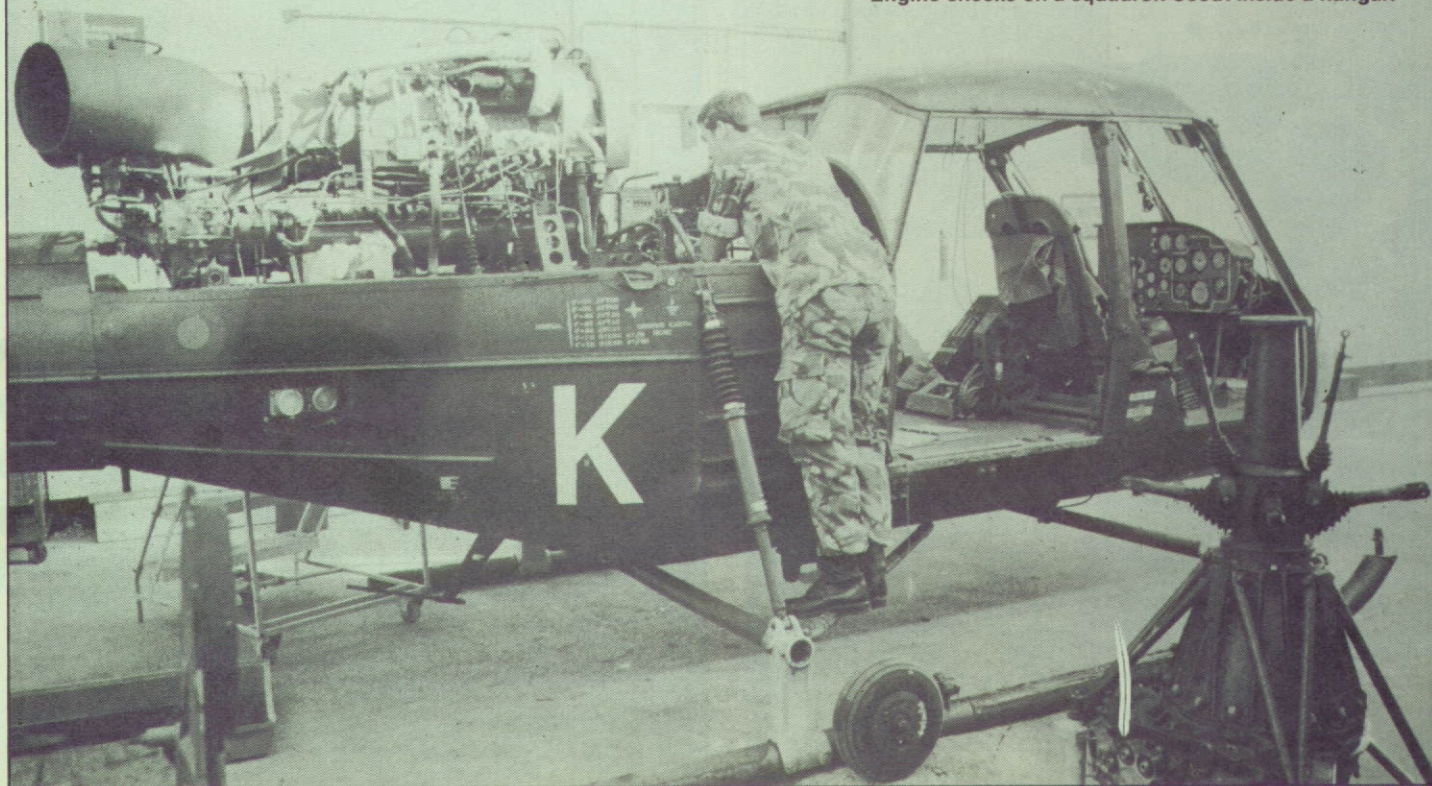
Its 'boss', Officer Commanding Major Bill Burdett, one-time private soldier and ex-para who has logged 1,400 hours on three types of Army helicopters said: "Flying out here is more hazardous than in Central Europe where you have, in emergency, agricultural areas in which to put down."

"Five months of the year there is low cloud, fog or drizzle and flying around the New Territories in this kind of weather, and at night, is difficult. It takes a great deal of local knowledge and skill.

"That's why I insist on second or even third tour pilots being sent out here. Each of the 13 pilots has flown an average of 900 hours and Hong Kong is the only place where it is mandatory to have a crewman

Lift off during a flight test by Scout "Alpha" at Sek Kong.

Engine checks on a squadron Scout inside a hangar.



Hong Kong flying *continued*

flying as well in case of emergency."

Most of the squadron's work is tasked in maintaining the integrity of the nearby border which is demarcated by a 12-foot-high, electronically-sensored wire fence; an area once the scene of frenzied nightly incursions by literally hundreds of illegal Chinese immigrants seeking personal fortunes and freedom in Hong Kong just five years ago. It still goes on.

The veteran 27-year-old Scouts (they would cost £500,000 to replace at today's prices) carry out this role in support of the resident border battalion; on this occasion, the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment.

During any given day the rotary wing aircraft of 660 Squadron are on a 15-minute standby; at night it is 60 minutes during their lunar month or 28-day schedules.

In short, they fly every day of the year and are virtually on standby every minute which, according to Major Burdett, must make his squadron the third busiest AAC squadron anywhere and himself 'boss' of the biggest fleet of aircraft in the Far East.

The flying tasks are varied. Over the sea, the veritable flanks pertaining to the border's integrity in the New Territories, and over tiny hill top observation posts perched like pimples overlooking the snaking border.

The 660 Squadron aircraft have the 'facilities' of about 100 landing sites (LS) often just two sheets of medium stressed platform (MSP) marked by an up-turned bucket marked with reflective strips. No easy task at night often in adverse weather conditions.

But still the illegal immigrants (IIs) try for a burst of freedom over the wire fence from across the aquatic patchwork quilt of rice paddy fields and duck farms, flanked on the Hong Kong side by mangrove swamps.

Sometimes the IIs make it; the ducks are always unlucky, finishing up on the tables of Hong Kong restaurants as succulent Peking Duck!

In the Po Toi marshland area Major Burdett demonstrated the difficulty of quick reaction detection by taking Scout 'Echo' down to almost zero feet not far from the fence with its sporadic single-man sentry towers.

The downwash of the hovering Scout's blades parted the toughened trees as a hair drier separates the follicles of the human scalp.

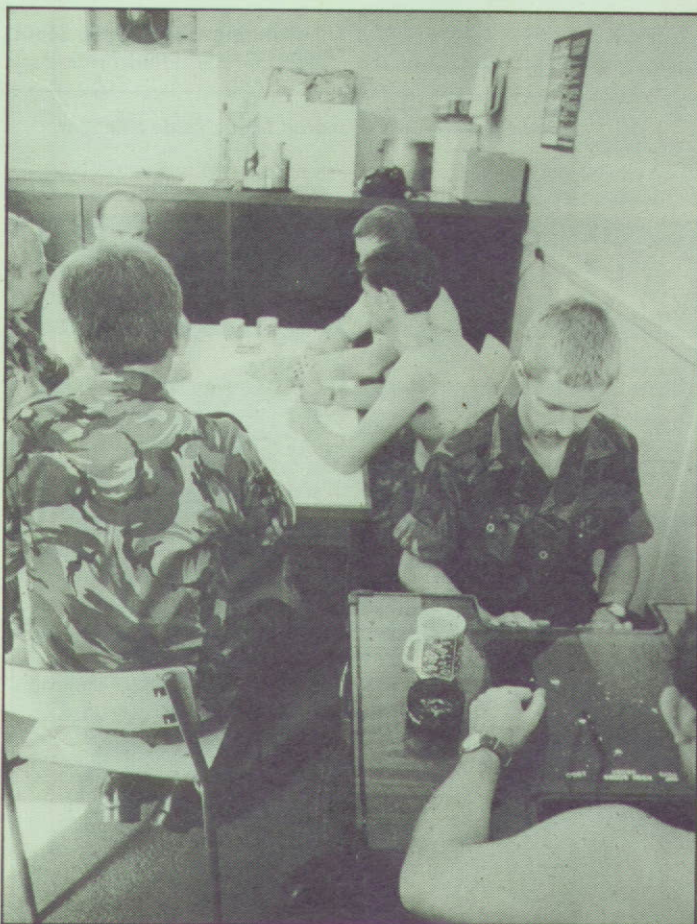
"You can imagine how difficult this is in the dark even using our 3.3 million candlepower Nitesun searchlight," he said.

"They hide in the marshes in groups, confident that they are well hidden. We come along and blow the trees apart to try and find them in there."

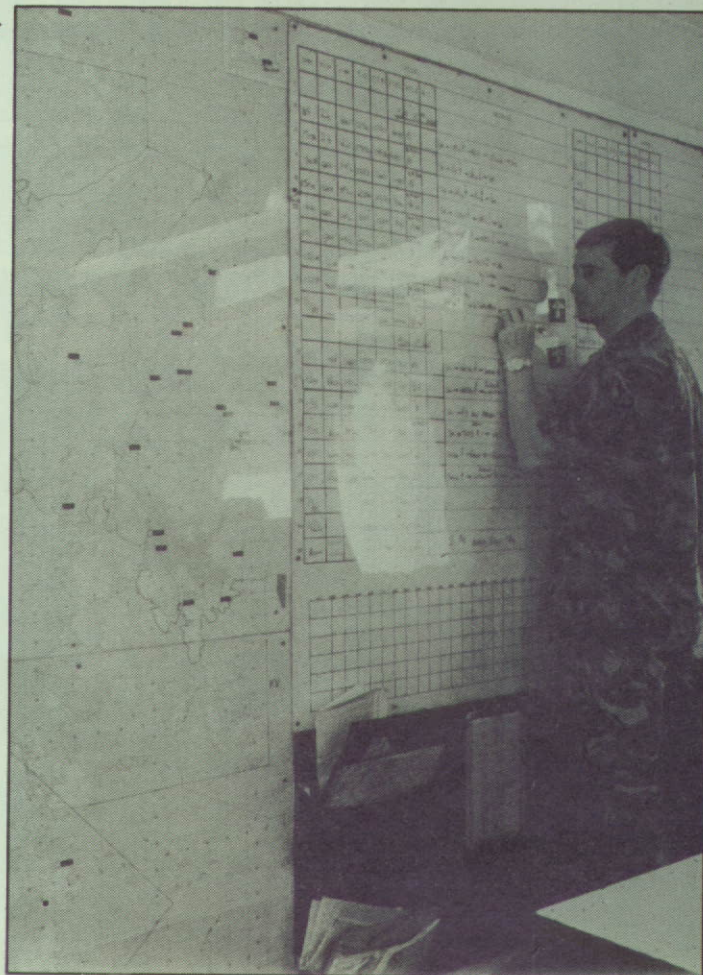


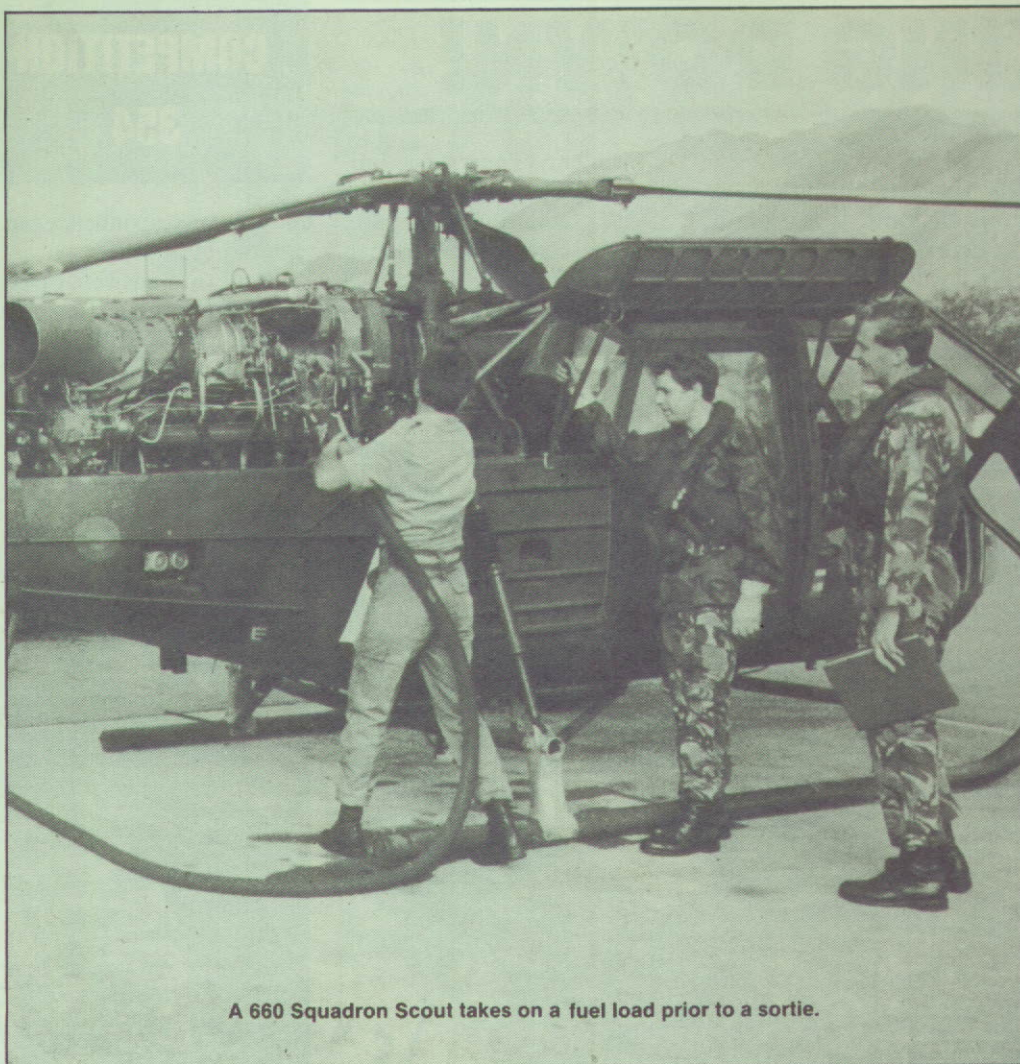
Major Bill Burdett, Squadron "boss": "Flying out here is hazardous".

The crew room. Improvised now but due for a facelift soon. ▼



A busy scene. Daily sorties are marked up on the board. ▶





A 660 Squadron Scout takes on a fuel load prior to a sortie.

Initially, he said, he and his crewman would have followed tell-tale tracks in the mud from the shallow waters of the paddy fields which IIs may have crossed in small craft dubbed 'mud skippers'.

SOLDIER's flight was near the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) an area where, five years ago, there were just a few buildings, paddy fields and the ubiquitous duck farms.

Now it is a large town, notably Shenzhen, a community with apparently no traffic lights and hundreds of lorries either entering or leaving via the border with Hong Kong.

The week before, the helicopters of 660 Squadron had been involved in the apprehension of eight IIs.

If caught, the IIs are handed over to the Cantonese-speaking Royal Hong Kong Police who, in turn, repatriate them to the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP).

"Finding these isolated hill top OPs quickly at night, say in the case of a casevac, presents a difficulty," said Major Burdett. There are no beacons or landing lights in these mountains, just the up-turned bucket devices.

The 115-knot single-engined Scout breasted a tree-clustered ridge on route to another OP, a

part of Hong Kong that no panoramic scene-seeking tourist ever sees.

"If the engine goes wrong now, we're dead and that is that!" he said with sanguine aviator's philosophy.

"The thing about Hong Kong that is not generally appreciated is that it is virtually all mountains and that is where we operate the single-engined Scout. If the blades stop going round what are you going to do? The Scout glides like a brick.

"Trying to find IIs and searching areas through broken mountains is hazardous flying when weather conditions are at their worst. A lot of Hong Kong is also built-up and for the same reason it is very hazardous flying single-engined helicopters in there."

Yet accidents among the flying fraternity of 660 Squadron have been few. They have had their share of commendations including those from the Director Army Air Corps and even an Air Force Cross for skilful flying and quick thinking in potentially dangerous situations involving mechanical faults both in the mountains of Hong Kong or the jungles of Brunei.

Leaving little to chance the squadron regularly practises engine-off landings and finds the veteran Scout to be 'extremely reliable and

robust' as each goes about its daily 40-minute average sorties at the rate of three a day.

"I've no doubt the Scout is the best machine we have for this job and it will go on until the 1990s and probably will still be here in 1997 when the Colony is handed over to the Chinese", said the OC.

All the major servicing on Scout, including the trio on detachment in Brunei, is done by a local contractor at Hong Kong's Kai Tak international airport. Corrosion is the main problem and the firm treats the bare metal. "It's a problem of which we are aware, particularly on the Brunei helicopters whose site is just 50 metres from the sea," said Major Burdett who holds a university degree in engineering.

His Sek Kong stores hold 600 items, logged in three fat, black ledgers (compared with 2,500 items held by their RAF neighbours flying Wessex helicopters).

660 Squadron holds items as large as the half-ton 685 shaft horsepower engines (they cost £128,000 each and overhauls cost £16,000 apiece) to the smallest of components.

The Scout, backbone of the Army Air Corps for more than a quarter century, can be airborne in as few as three to four minutes during the day and in just 20

minutes by night.

The squadron's secondary role is that of casualty evacuation and search-and-rescue sorties. On that particular day a soldier had fallen on a training range and suffered concussion. It was 660 Sqn who were called in to rescue him.

The squadron's third role is in support of the British Army's five infantry battalions stationed in the Colony.

They also provide a 'taxi' service to and from HMS Tamar, HQ British Forces on Hong Kong Island for Commander British Forces, military 'top brass' on liaison duties and Members of Parliament out from the UK on sponsored visits. Normally such trips to the northern parts of the New Territories, and the border in particular, would involve a five-hour return trip by road. By Scout, it's 12 minutes each way.

Flying helicopters since mid-1975, Major Burdett and his rotary wing aviators also take part in several local Gurkha Field Force exercises.

Their workload in this area of operations involves six battalion exercises. The squadron also does a fortnight-long infantry battle camp and a two-week adventurous training camp among others.

The squadron also does a lot of community relations work raising money for charity as well as practical help such as flying sick children to hospital.

Though the pie-in-the-sky wish is for a twin-engined helicopter to replace the Scout, if only on safety grounds, like the Dauphine, MB 105 or Bell 212 and 214, all 26 pilots and aircrew and 43 REME technicians who make up the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) are faithful to the Scout.

See full colour picture
— page 2

With a turn-round time of five to six minutes they all recall with pride the story emerging from the Falklands of one Scout which reportedly has its rotor blades turning for 14 hours... non stop!

Certainly the helicopter blades of 660 Squadron's ten workhorse Scouts will be turning in the skies over high-rise Hong Kong Island and the majestic mountains of its New Territories for some time to come.

More on the
Hong Kong
scene —

turn to page 25

TRACKING DOWN!

HERE'S your chance, armour experts. Can you tell a Chieftain from a Centurion? Or one type of APC from another?

To make this issue's competition a little more difficult, we are showing you only parts of a tank or an APC. But if you track down the correct answers

they could win you £50.

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas with a closing date of Friday 1 March. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 25 March.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 354' label at the top of this page. For two entries send two labels (not photo copies), three entries three labels, and so on.

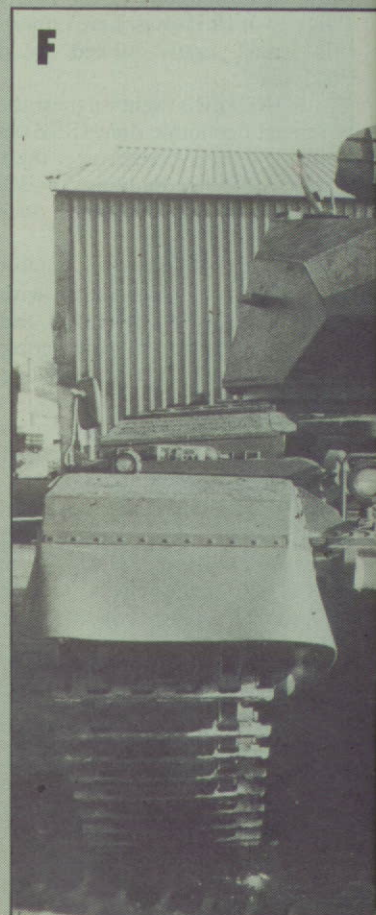
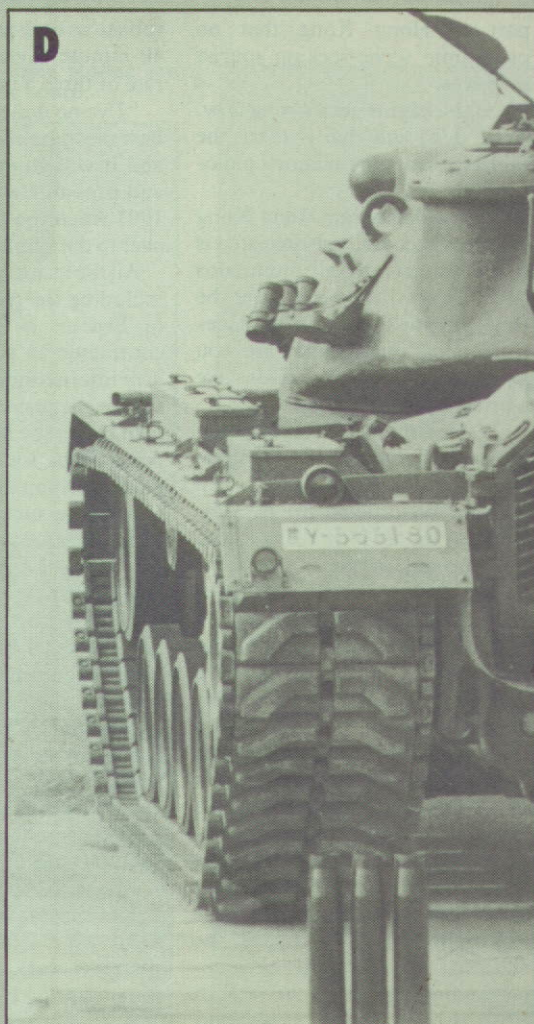
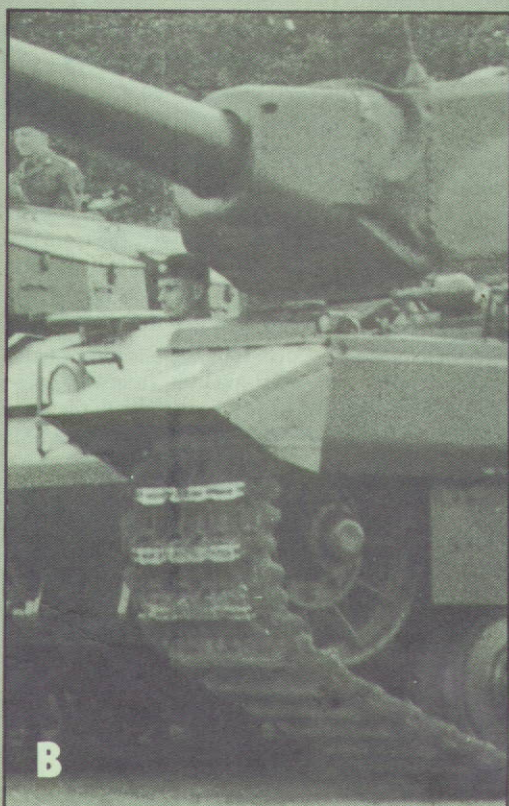
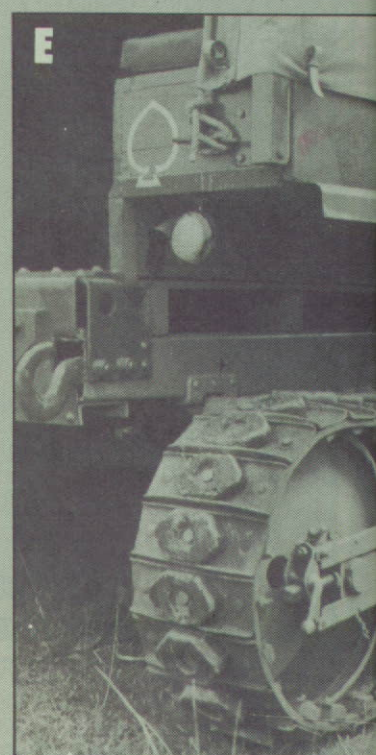
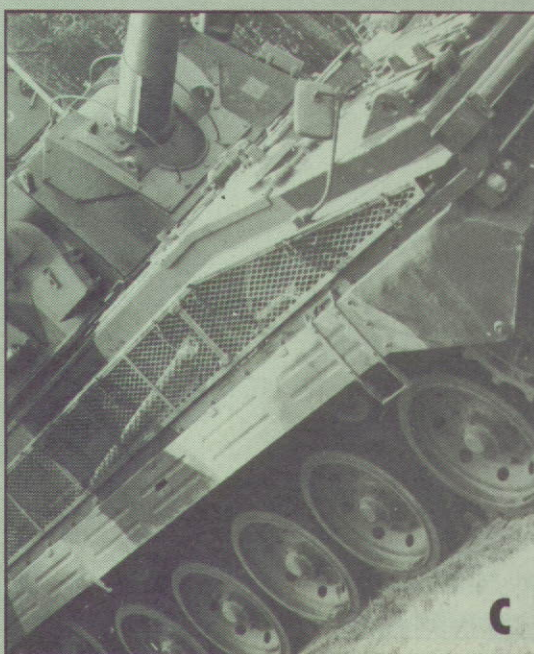
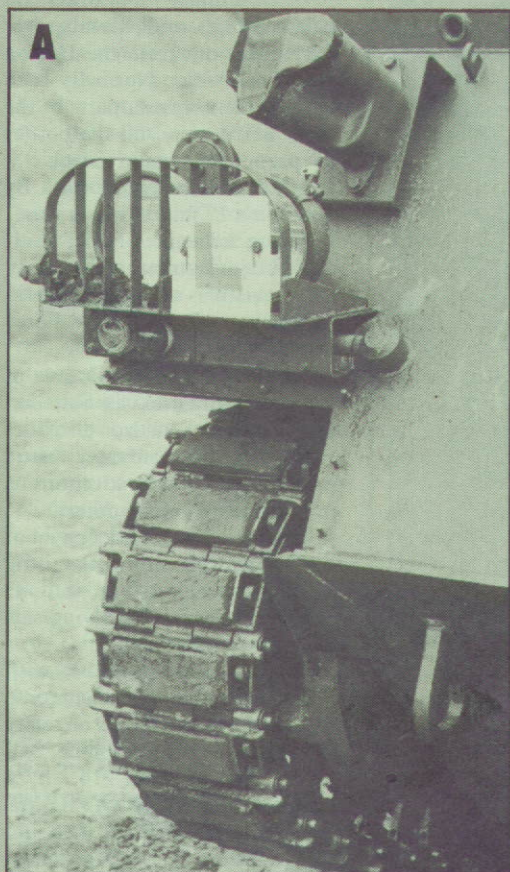
In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by

COMPETITION

354

lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

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

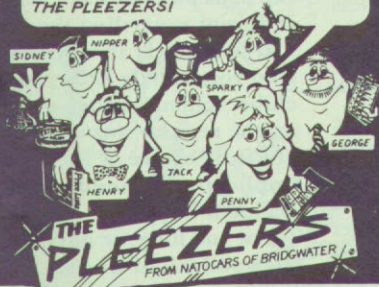


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ANNE



ARMSTRONG

TO START 1985 we have some good news. First, the MOD has come up with funding for the post of a part-time Pre-School Playgroup Co-ordinator for Germany.

Secondly, there is a better deal for parents putting their children into boarding school for the first time.

Mrs Sheila Davies has at last won her fight for HNCIP, and more and more wives are appealing to the tribunals to look at judgements made

against them.

A two year battle to get bus escorts recognised will, I hope, be won in 1985, and the new Social Security agreement between UK and USA may well benefit our families in America.

The Federation of Army Wives Clubs has many projects on the go.

The International Youth Year theme of 1985 will, I hope, enable more service youths worldwide to benefit from this exciting challenge.

However, 1985 is obviously going to be a tough year financially.

Problems concerning the denial of certain DHSS benefits to service families must be resolved especially when pay and LOA, give NO Leeway to cover the huge losses of over £1,000 in some cases.

I can assure you all I will continue to struggle to help to put all these anomalies right.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to you all!

Happy start for play groups

PRE-SCHOOL play groups in Germany start 1985 in the knowledge that at least a PPA Co-ordinator is going to be appointed early in the year.

For the last five years PPA grew and grew, branches were formed, conferences and training held, thanks to the foresight of Jean Rix and Pauline McMullen, who pioneered the PPA movement in BFG. Then Jenny Lawson held the post for two years but on an extremely tentative funding with virtually no resources.

PPA's annual 1984 conference had to be cancelled and much of the good work begun ceased through lack of finance.

Application to the voluntary consortium failed because we were

outside UK.

I am looking at this aspect of government funding which denies us government grants for many volunteer efforts.

With Overseas Development, Home Office, DHSS and DES grants given to UK and overseas projects, it seems strange that service personnel and their families fall outside government aid.

The PPA Co-ordinator will be required to work part time during term time. Post and telephone expenses will be paid, plus secretarial help.

Due to the enormous distances it will be an advantage if the

applicant is in Rhine area, working to HQ BAOR.

Among the areas which the PPA Co-ordinator will cover are help, advice with training courses and conferences, help in establishing new playgroups and mother and toddler clubs, attending committee meetings in BAOR and be available to help and advise anyone working with the under fives in BFG, liaison with PPA HQ London.

Full details and application form from: Helen Caldwell, Field Services, Lower Lutterburn, Carnel Fell.

Closing date is 31 January.

Now for problem of bus escorts

IN JANUARY 1983 a wife asked me for advice concerning insurance claims for injury loss of wages, and loss of sickness benefit because as the bus escorts' position was vague she was getting nowhere with submitting a claim.

So I wrote in February 1983 to the MOD asking if the bus escort position could be clarified so that wives who ride in military buses on a variety of duties, paid or unpaid, are quite clear where they stand in case of an accident.

This could be caused by a military driver, a civilian or a German national.

For two years I have been striving to get clarification.

So often we are lulled into a false sense of security until something happens.

If it is up to the bus escort to have adequate private insurance, then this must be stated in the contract.

Unlike the UK, in Germany the pros and cons are very different regarding the law.

It is unlikely that wives who voluntarily help youth clubs, school outings or are on the regular bus escort run are fully aware of the implications should an accident happen.

For too long we have used the goodwill of wives.

To save further worry I beg the MOD in 1985 to draw up guidelines so that all bus escorts know fully the implications, and can if necessary take adequate steps to cover themselves.

WORTH THE WAIT!

IN 1979 Housewife's Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension was denied service wives on their return from overseas. They had to wait 196 days before submitting a claim for HNCIP.

Mrs Sheila Davies submitted a claim and was turned down. The case went to tribunal and Sheila lost.

Attending the tribunal with Sheila it was obvious that other service wives would also be similarly affected, despite the fact SSAFA has won two cases at tribunal hearings.

After much correspondence with the DHSS and a meeting in early 1983 the Under Secretary of State for Social Services and Minister for the Disabled wrote to me advising of the change.

So where was Mrs Sheila Davies in 1983? It took me three weeks to trace her as she had left Farnham when her husband left the Army.

Having found her in Bolton, Lancs, Sheila resubmitted her case in early 1984. In November last she received a cheque for £280. "Marvellous — a wonderful Christmas present for Tony and



Mrs Sheila Davies

the girls."

Sheila explained that Tony was on a grant and nearing the end of his teacher training course.

"I can't work due to rheumatoid arthritis." For other disabled wives: keep trying if your claims are turned down, for one never knows when your case may be resolved.

The following leaflets can help and are available at overseas BFPOs: DHSS Leaflet NI 252/Sep 84 Severe Disablement Allowance, NI 212 Invalid Care Allowance, NI 16A/July 84 Invalidity Benefit.

AND WORTH READING...

THE NEW DHSS Severe Disablement Allowance NI 252 came into effect on 29 November 1984 for all those of working age who haven't been able to work for at least 28 weeks, but can't get sickness or invalidity benefit as they have not paid enough NI contributions.

So people who first become incapable of work after their 20th birthday can only get it if they are at least 80% disabled.

You get £21.50 a week (but less if you get some other benefits) plus £12.85 for a dependent wife or husband and £7.65 for each child.

Severe disablement allowance replaces non-contributory invalidity pension from 29 November 1984. People who were getting that benefit will now automatically get severe disablement allowance instead.

For overseas cases I am awaiting clarification from the DHSS as to whether this new SDA can be claimed by Service spouses and dependents who are stationed with their husbands overseas.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: MASSIVE TASK

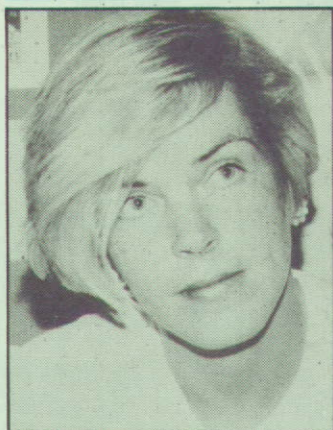
1985 HERALDS United Nations International Youth Year in which the UN hopes people between 15-25 will take part in three themes of the year: Participation, Development and Peace.

Two hundred beacons were lit at midnight on New Year's Eve to start IYY.

With the Duke of Westminster as Patron, Paul Weller and Judy Walters as joint Presidents, Mike Cowcher, the organising secretary, has much experience behind him for the massive task ahead.

Formerly UN Association Youth Co-ordinator he hopes that, "as many youths as possible will be able to take part in the wide range of activities, and opportunities, to celebrate the achievements of youth, and to focus on the position of young people in order to bring about lasting improvements in the position of young people."

Twenty-four-year-old Janice



EVELYN GILLIAN...
IYY HQ staff

Smith is Chairperson for England.

Although most activities will be locally based there will be a number of national events following a service in Coventry Cathedral, with

Prince Charles taking part, to a national IYY poster competition.

July sees the Girl Guides' 75th birthday and National Youth Summer Focus Month, and in late November there will be a Youth Parliament.

Hopefully service youths will be taking part, and if you are, do let me know.

Starter and information packs, leaflets, posters are available from **ENGLISH COMMITTEE**, 57 Charlton St, London, NW1 1HU. 01 387 4777.

WALES: Jean Reader, IYY Wales, 27 Church Road, Whitchurch Cardiff, Wales CF4 6DX.

SCOTLAND: Clare Harkin, IYY Scotland, Atholl House, 2 Canning Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 8EG.

N. IRELAND: Howard Crowe, IYY N. Ireland, 86 Lisburn Road, Belfast, N. Ireland, BT9 6AF.



MIKE COWCHER...
Organising secretary

Local IYY committees and contact addresses are available from IYY offices.

OVERSEAS: write for local contacts, to International Youth Year Secretariat, Vienna International Centre, Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.

FAMILIES posted to the USA after 1 January 85, may well benefit from the new agreement on social security, aimed at preventing dual liability for social security contributions.

It also contains provisions for social security benefits which will take effect from 1988, ie to enable people who have paid into both UK and USA to aggregate their insurance for the purpose of qualifying for a retirement pension, but will also in certain circumstances assist people from the UK to qualify for invalidity benefit while in USA.

This last is an interesting point. Read DHSS Leaflet SA38 August 1984.

Around the world

FOR SERVICE families it is important that their children's medical documents reach their new posting as quickly as possible.

This could be vital, but delays are occurring because mothers are not informing their local health visitors of their move abroad.

Mums! DO tell not only your families doctor but your local health visitor to ensure that your children's medical documents can be forwarded with the minimum of delay.

★ ★ ★

WELCOME news for parents

overseas who are putting children into boarding school for the first time...the rule has now been changed to allow one parent to accompany a child to school on initial entry, provided it is not within the last three months of the posting. Previously it had been six months.

★ ★ ★

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin Armstrong who has secured a place on the Panama Stage of Operation Rayleigh 3 April-26 June. Martin will be in and around Caledonia Bay.

Time is short, for Martin has to

raise £1,140 by 4 February. If you have any ideas for sponsorship do contact him.

Write to Martin Armstrong, c/o WO2 Armstrong, 9 Signals Regt, BFPO 58 or Captain Moody RAOC, Operation Raleigh, East Detachment, ASU Viersen, Düsseldorf, BFPO 34.

★ ★ ★

1985 is to be a trial year for the extension of the GFA unaccompanied baggage removals service to Gibraltar.

The service will be restricted to 'marrieds' moving from BFG to Gibraltar (or vice versa), and transit time will be approximately four weeks. For precise details consult your unit.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 44.



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA LINK GIVES GURKHAS 'EDGE'

Within sight of the Anglo-Sino border: Papua New Guinea soldiers in action on a mini training area. ▲ In keeping with the regimental image at Cassino Lines, New Territories ▼



IN 1979 they were the first infantry battalion to 'bear the brunt' of the first mass incursions of illegal Chinese immigrants (IIs) across the 26-mile-long border into Hong Kong's New Territories, some 250 of them a night per company area over a two-month period.

Since then, the men of the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles have served in the Falklands and, for the past 20 months, have been back in Hong Kong's New Territories just two miles from what is euphemistically termed the Anglo-Sino 'land frontier', in a spacious camp near the Mai Po marsh area.

The 'beat' for the 710-strong battalion which has 14 British officers and 29 Queen's Gurkha Engineers among its number is a large industrial and populous area north-west of the Kowloon Peninsula, with further responsibility in the Castle Peak area and a local island.

Internal Security (IS) is still part of the role and the battalion fields men for two tours — one of six weeks, the other of five — at the land frontier where they are tasked with the 'maintenance of the integrity' of the border.

Their job: to conduct anti-illegal immigrant operations. On one tour of six weeks they handed over some 600 such intruders to the Royal Hong Kong Police who, in turn, arranged their repatriation.

In addition to the prescribed

area of operations the battalion also has the responsibility for the eastern and western coastline boundaries of the New Territories.

As Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Warren, the Battalion Commandant, in post since May, explained: "Our training programme can be broken down into two main parts. From April to September we are involved in IS duties, non-stop.

"We liaise with the Royal Hong Kong Police on methods of operating. We conduct training in available high-rise blocks within the New Territories with the co-operation of local housing authorities who make them available to us. They are usually those blocks still under construction.

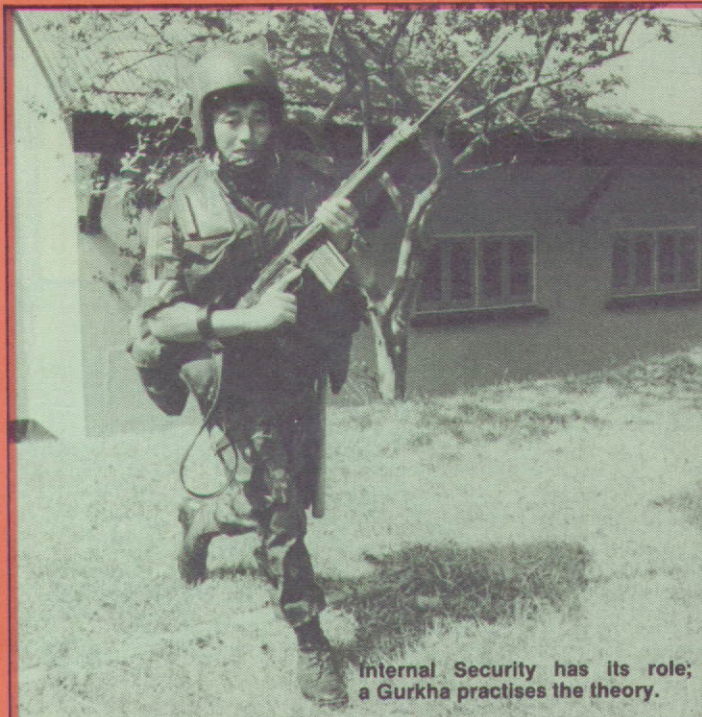
"This enables us to get our low level platoon drills right, through to a company level exercises. We have an annual battalion exercise which is followed by an HQ Gurkha Field Force exercise called 'Concrete Crisis'."

Each of the five resident infantry battalions serving in Hong Kong takes it in turn to carry out this five-day exercise, he said.

Colonel Warren added: "We also have to maintain our individual skills and limited war abilities. We do this through the months of October to March.

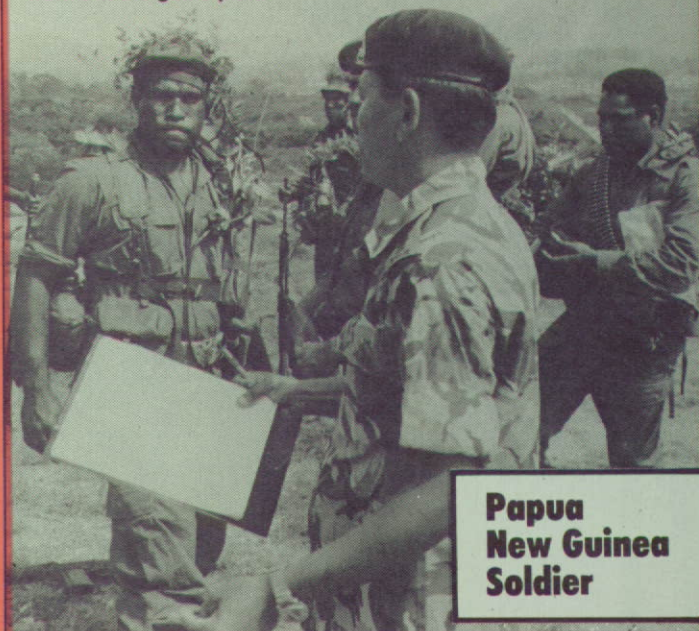
"This involves the normal limited war techniques and we also have to run our reinforcement cadres for specialist platoons like mortar, anti-tank and recce.

"We also run our own up-



Internal Security has its role; a Gurkha practises the theory.

This is how we are going to play it. Gurkhas and their guest warriors work out the game plan.



Papua New Guinea Soldier

grading cadres and NCOs cadres within the battalion and prepare ourselves for a support weapons concentration with mortars, anti-tank and recce applications."

But not all the training is done in Hong Kong as the battalion sends rifle companies overseas for more intensive and varied practice.

In January of last year, A Company, including Gurkha Engineers, deployed for two months to Malaysia. Recently, more than 130 men from C Company have been training in Papua New

Guinea while men of B Company have been on South Island, New Zealand.

"The aim of such exercises is to train our soldiers in conditions difficult to find in the confines of heavily-populated Hong Kong," said Colonel Warren.

"It will give the exercise commander the opportunity to train his company in all aspects of basic infantry skills including live firing.

"The Gurkha soldier is renowned for his skill as a jungle fighter

but due to their recent postings 1st/7th have been unable to keep up with this aspect of their training.

"A large percentage of the younger men have never trained in jungle warfare. The trip to Papua New Guinea was an ideal opportunity to bring their jungle tactics up to date.

"Military duties in Hong Kong can be hard and time-consuming and the Gurkhas were looking forward to their stay in Papua New Guinea for the chance to train and take part in adventurous training

schemes while out there which include a rafting expedition to the Kemp Welch River."

Meanwhile, the 1st/7th TAC HQ element and company lower controllers, about 55 officers and men, have just returned from a two-and-a-half-week command post exercise (CPX) in New Zealand, a Five-Power Defence Agreement Exercise representing the UK (the others were Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore).

Visiting the 1st/7th camp at Cassino Lines just two kilometres from the Anglo-Sino land frontier were 55 men from the Royal Pacific Island Regiment based in Papua New Guinea, who are affiliated to the battalion.

They were given intensive training by their hosts incorporating limited war training and live small-arms firing, familiarisation of ramp-powered lighters (RPLs) with 29 Squadron, RCT, and helicopter experience with 28 Squadron, RAF and 660 Squadron, Army Air Corps.

Colonel Warren summed up his battalion's role: "This is not a paradise in Hong Kong as many would think. It's an extremely busy theatre where the various training demands of the battalion are fairly high.

"We not only have to maintain our internal security standards at a very high pitch but also be prepared to be called out at any time, in the unlikely event, to give support to the Hong Kong authorities. We have to ensure our normal military skills are also maintained at a high standard."

● This year 1/7 GR head out on exercise from their Hong Kong base for Australia, Fiji and Brunei where they are due to move in November 1986. The battalion will also provide two United Nations Honour Guards in Korea.

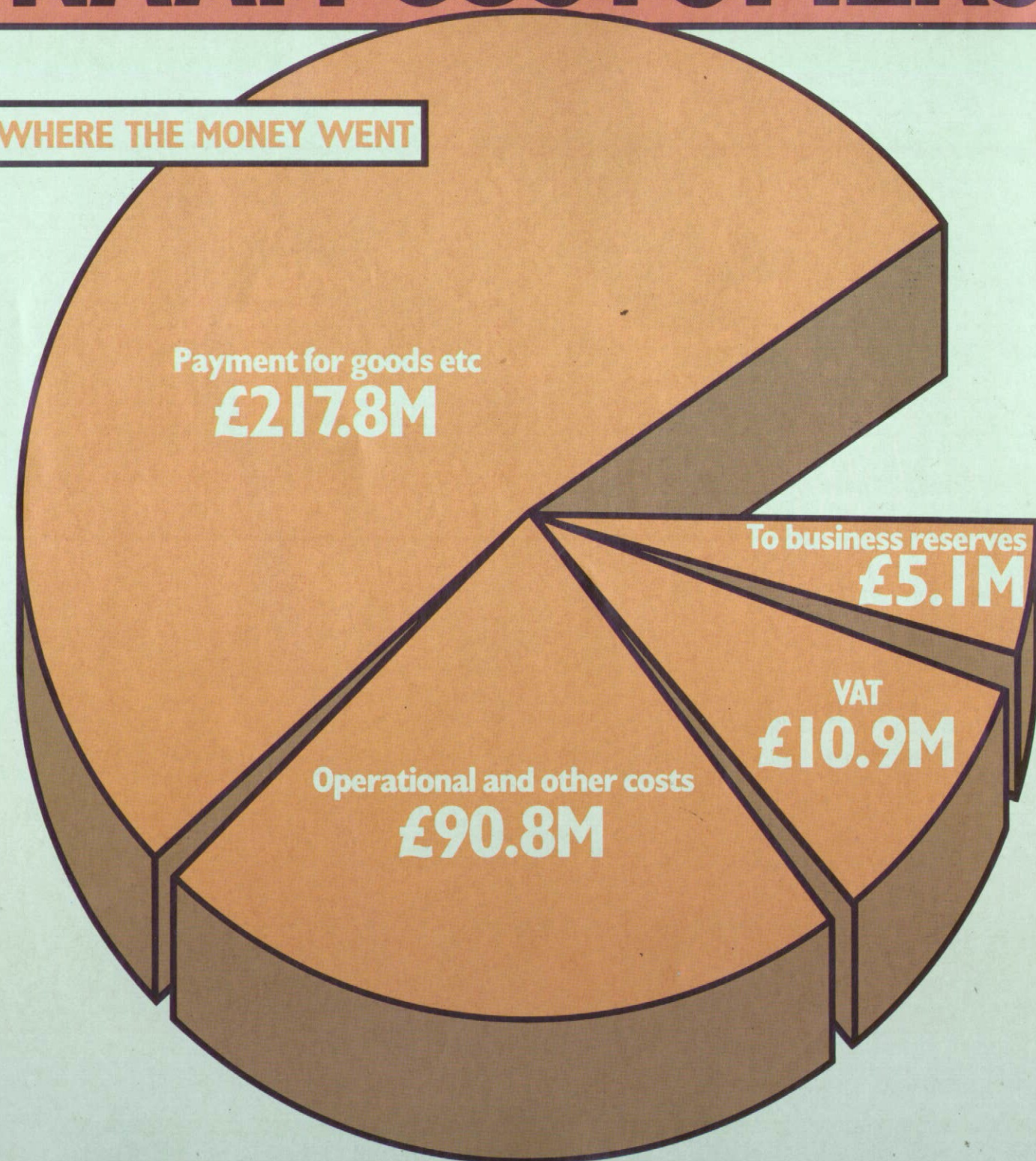


A Vehicle Check Point is set up at the double during IS training.

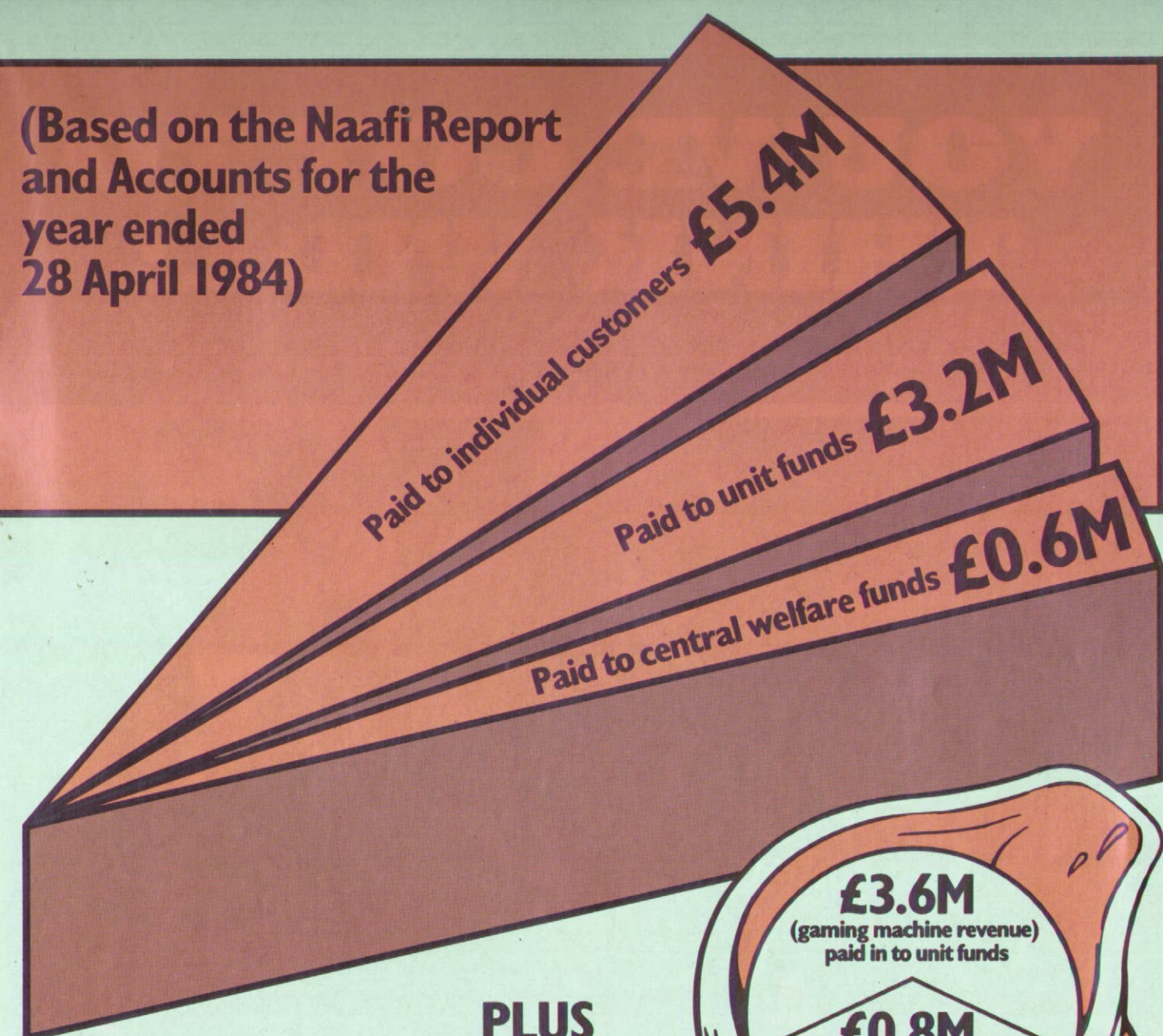


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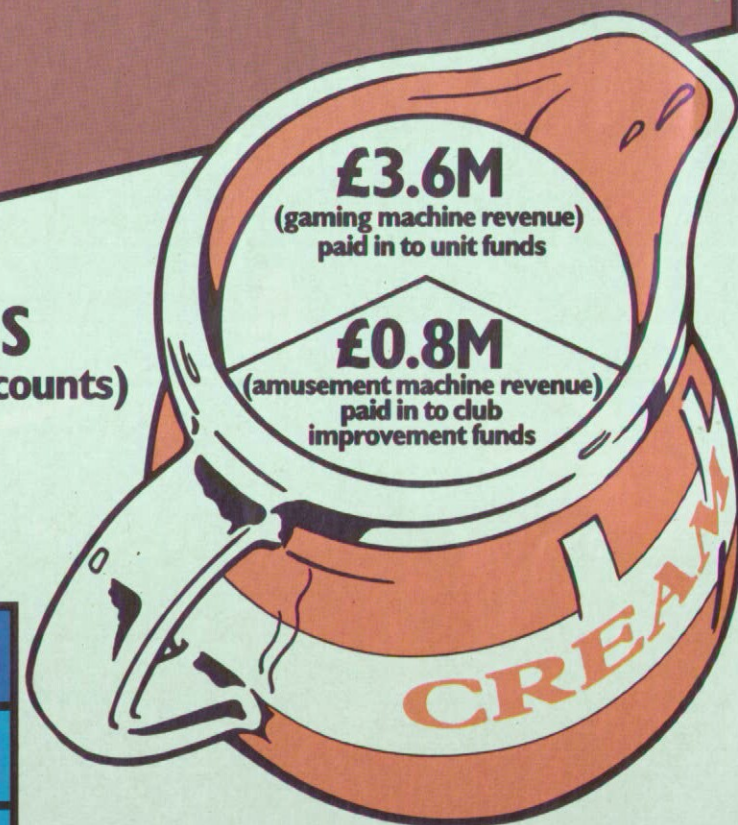
WHERE THE MONEY WENT



(Based on the Naafi Report and Accounts for the year ended 28 April 1984)



PLUS
(benefits not shown in the accounts)

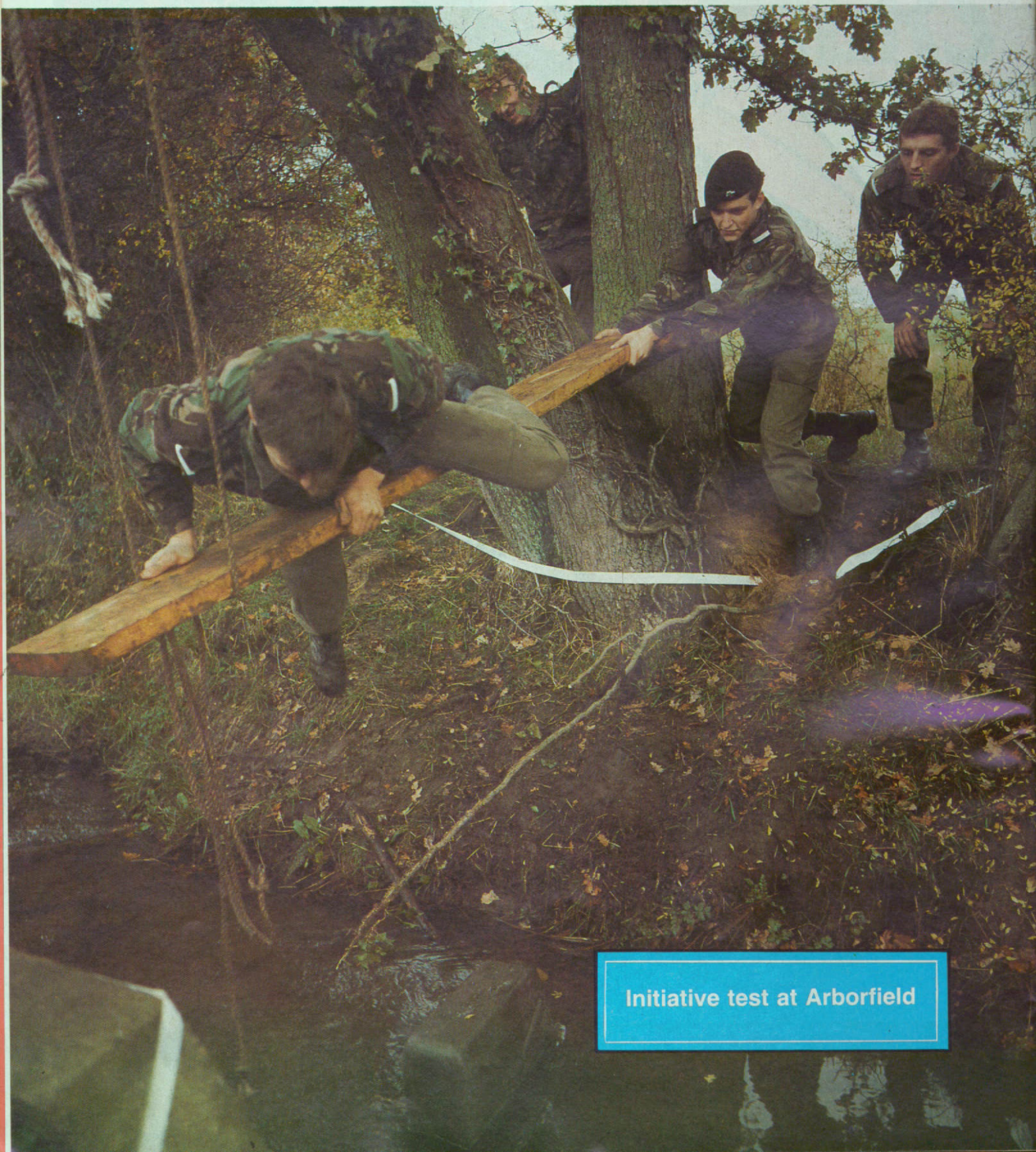


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Germany	£142.0M
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HM Ships	£10.9M
TOTAL TURNOVER	£333.8M

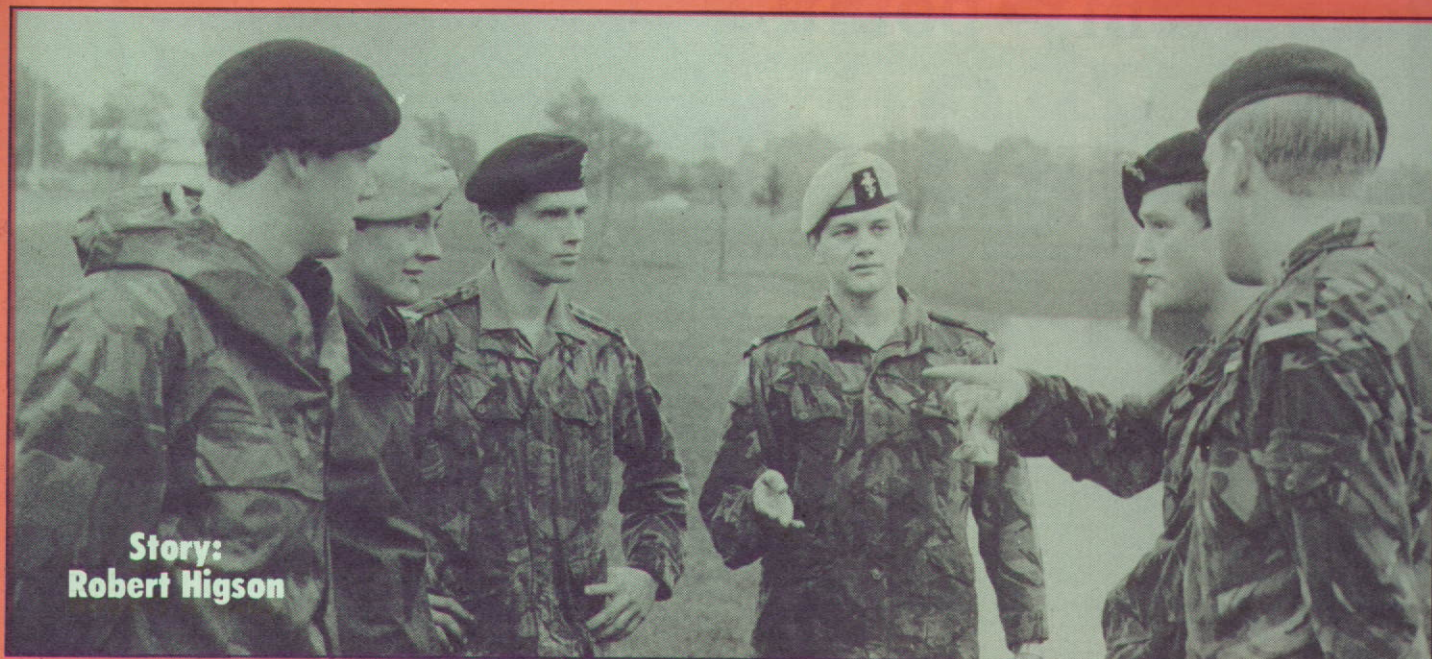
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to**
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YOU'VE GOT TO THINK WIDE!



Initiative test at Arborfield

REME search for potential officers



Story:
Robert Higson

PICTURES: DOUG PRATT

NO, IT is not a crammer for the Regular Commissions Board," said Lieutenant Colonel Graham Jones with emphasis. "It is a means of enhancing the qualities of selected soldiers."

Colonel Jones, the Corps Recruiting Officer of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was talking about REME's new, and still experimental, effort to find potential officers from its own backyard.

The Corps is by no means alone in its anxiety to find suitable young men to enter its ranks as commissioned officers. With responsibilities to look after some of the Army's more sophisticated technology, from helicopter engines to control systems for missiles, it has very special requirements.

Regular REME officers are graduates and anyone being considered for entry as an officer must be qualified to read for some form of engineering degree. This means that the Corps is recruiting in direct competition with some of the most powerful industrial firms in the land.

Historically, officer recruitment targets have been hard to achieve. However, quite recently, the point was made that, by the very nature of its work, REME has within the ranks many soldiers with the necessary qualifications to be accepted for a degree course.

Many of them are former apprentices from REME's own school, the Princess Marina College at Arborfield, near Reading. But few, if any, come from the sort of background which would encourage them to consider an Army career as a regular officer.

IN THEIR OWN BACK YARD...

So in 1983 the Corps undertook a pilot scheme. A small group of suitable soldiers was detached from individual units for an intensive 12 week course of lectures and exercises. Some months later the whole project received its crowning success when Second Lieutenant Richard Mitchell, an avionics technician and former apprentice, received the Sword of Honour as the best cadet on Standard Military Course Number 33 at Sandhurst.

Major Andrew Burch, in between a staff job with 3 Armoured Division and entry to the Camberley Staff College, has been running the first of what could become a regular series of courses for potential officers.

Like Colonel Jones he was anxious to dismiss any notion that the course is simply a means of rehearsing for the Regular Commissions Board. The really important thing was to get the young soldiers away from their old associations and into an environment where they could learn to think differently.

"The qualities required to be displayed by an NCO and an officer are entirely different," he explained. "and some of those on this course are finding it easier to change than others."

"As an officer you've got to think

wide and really that is what is not required of a junior NCO. Also tied in with that is a need for greater initiative, and perhaps this is one of the problems that all the students have.

"The very fact they have been in the Army for up to seven years, including their junior service, has suppressed their originality and

Debrief for Corporal John Power (centre) and team mates.

individuality because it has not been required of them. And perhaps one of the main benefits of this course is that they have the opportunity to start producing original ideas again rather than toting the party line, as it were."

The course started off with 14 soldiers, all in their early 20s who had applied through their unit commanders to join. Two-thirds of the way through the 10 weeks, three had dropped out at their own request. They had discovered, said Major Burch, what being an officer entailed and had decided that it was not for them.

The course started off by mixing academic work, to improve oral and written communications, with

Apprehension from Corporal Guy Pomroy. Balancing act to recover supplies.



We help stretch the Army points

by Diane Chanteau

MEMO: To whom it may concern among the Army's top brass.

FROM: The Standard (a newspaper) — 18p for the purchase of. The following is a guide to collecting points in the potential officer training course.

Corporals Dave Burgess and Grant Mussel and eight other WCOs on the lowest Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' potential officer course at Arborfield Barracks, Reading thought it was going to be another tedious morning's battle PT on Friday.

But their staff officer looked even nastier than normal.

All was revealed when he burst in at each of them with a list of points to be collected.



ON COURSE: Corporals Dave Burgess (left) and Grant Mussel with model Julie Evans.

searched and relieved of any extra money about their persons — except for Cpl Burgess who had an extra £20 slashed away.

One of the tasks was: "Get a photograph taken with a professional model—other than a friend or relative. Well, they hadn't met Julie Evans before except on a Page Three back in the barracks."

points) an aerial photo of the Houses of Parliament from the picture library (four points) and the signature of an Olympic medalist—Dale Thompson on a poster from a story earlier in the (eight points).

The corporals had also asked Paul Raymond for a sign, centred. He kindly complied — and for good measure also signed a picture of himself (seven points).

From our newsroom they talked to a lighthouse keeper — other than a friend or relative — (five points). After clearance from Trinity House, Mr Frank Cresser, assistant keeper of Longships lighthouse off Land's End, wished them both "good luck" in their travels which took them to a gas rig off Morecambe Bay, thence to Kewick to buy Kendal Mint Cake and on to Inverness.

In a mere eight hours since their set of points, they had collected 38 points.

warning, one weekend," said Major Burch. "We sent them out with £20 and a very limited amount of kit to complete as many as possible of a list of 38 tasks."

One group got as far as Dubai. Corporal Grant Mussel said they just approached an airline and hitched a lift. The Dubai authorities obligingly deported them back to the UK.

The same group managed a two-thirds of a page spread in the 'Evening Standard' to complete the task that required them to get their names in at least one newspaper.

"One of the tasks was to go to 30 feet below water for at least a minute," Major Burch added. "The obvious way, perhaps, is to go scuba diving. The way we

Balancing act to recover supplies.

expected them to do it was to go down a footbridge or tunnel under the Thames, something like that.

"In fact one group brought me back a picture of 15 ducks on a pool and explained that they were 30 feet under water!"

The course also included some current affairs — discussion and analysis of newspaper reporting and visits to the Labour Party and Amnesty International. And the students went to see plays and listen to concerts.

"Officers ought to have a reasonably broad knowledge of life as a whole," said Major Burch. "So we are trying to make them aware of all that goes on around them. Even if they don't like the opera, they can at least appreciate what it is and perhaps understand why some people might enjoy it."

Their programme included the Royal Shakespeare Company production of 'Henry VIII,' which evidently did little to encourage a love of the theatre among the young soldiers.

"Heavy to say the least," was Craftsman Martin Howard's comment.

"It's not just my scene and a lot of the guys found it quite boring," said Corporal John Power, a helicopter technician attached to the Army Air Corps. "But it's good to be able to say that I've been to a play like that. Now I can say I have been, and I didn't like it!"

Corporal Power and his colleagues also agreed on another aspect of the course — it was really tough, both physically and mentally. Sometimes it was a question of enjoying it in retrospect — like the aftermath of the three day exercise on the Brecon Beacons when there was a chance to look back and say: well, that was quite good fun.

"Amnesty International was very good," Corporal Power added. "Although in the afternoon we went to the Labour Party and the first half was very boring. We had this young girl trying to indoctrinate us basically."

"But in the second half we had a guy on their defence staff and he gave us a good lecture on nuclear disarmament. He came up with some really good arguments which we were questioning him about. That was very interesting."

The students were at Arborfield, undertaking some command tasks on a very soggy assault course, the day we paid them a visit. As Major Burch explained the tasks had been designed by each group of students which had to brief, observe, assess and debrief the others.

He added: "I think that with the training we have given them on this course, all of them are well capable of assessing their own abilities. And I don't think that any of them should be surprised by the RCB results."

Cutting from *The Standard* 5 November 1984

the theory and practice of leadership training. One week was devoted to adventure training in Wales — with white water canoeing, rock climbing and hiking around the Snowdon Horseshoe.

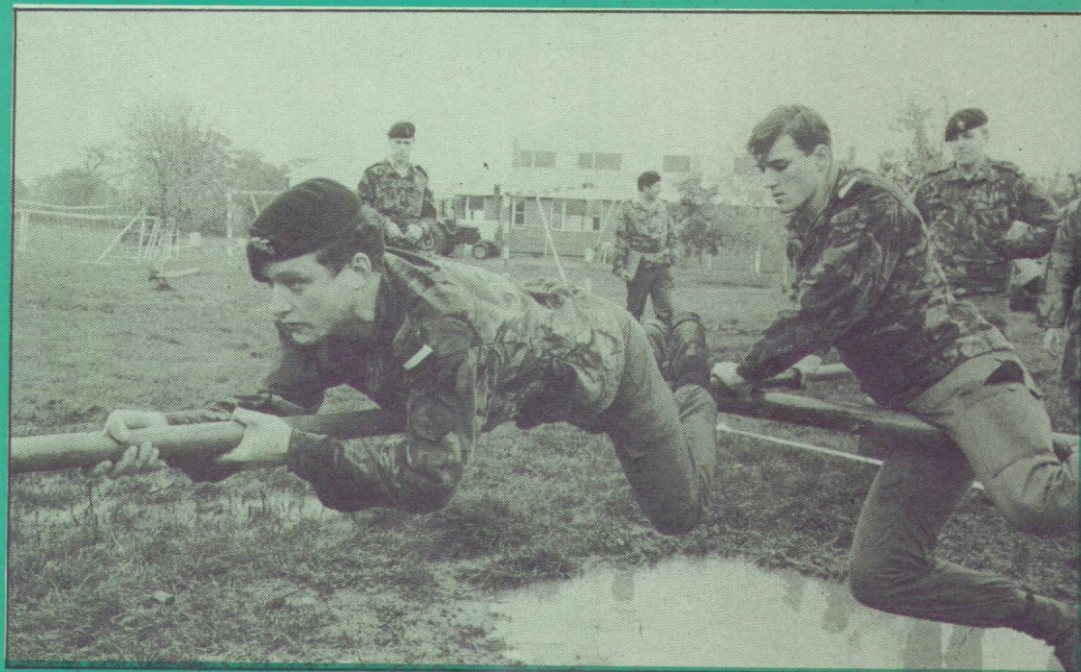


Corporal Adrian Pollock ponders the problem.

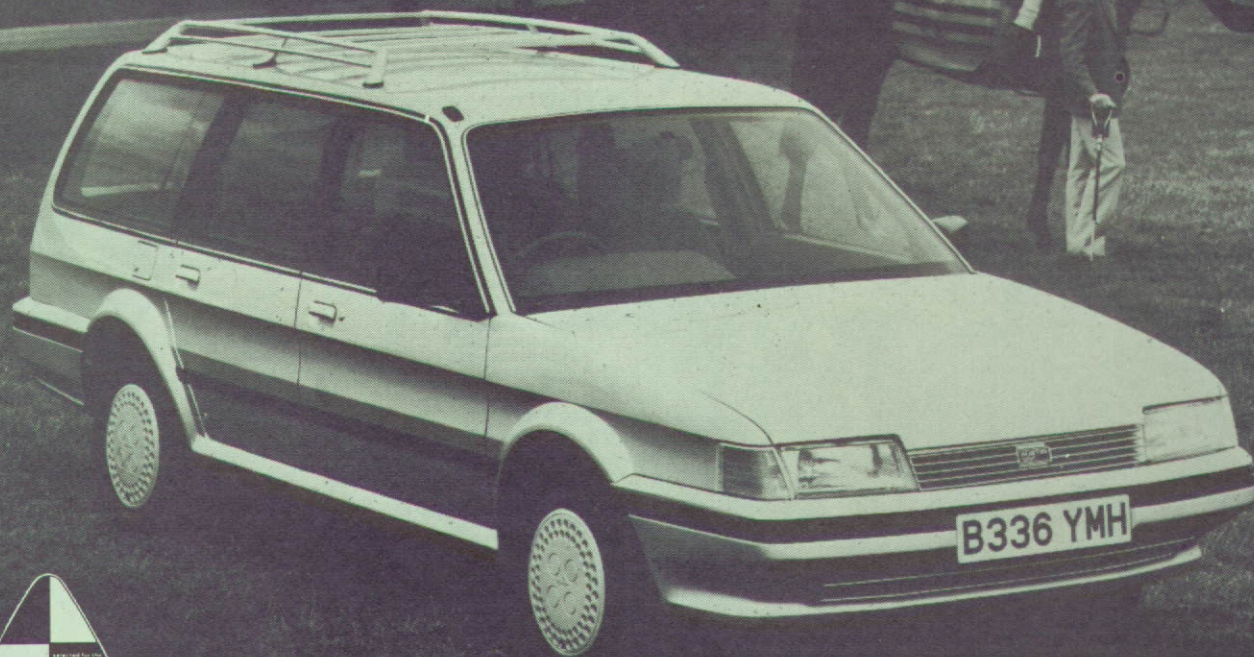
There was also a three day leadership exercise on the Brecon Beacons which gave every student Bridging the water.

a chance to lead a group over a series of command tasks.

"Probably the highlight for many of them was the initiative test which was started, without



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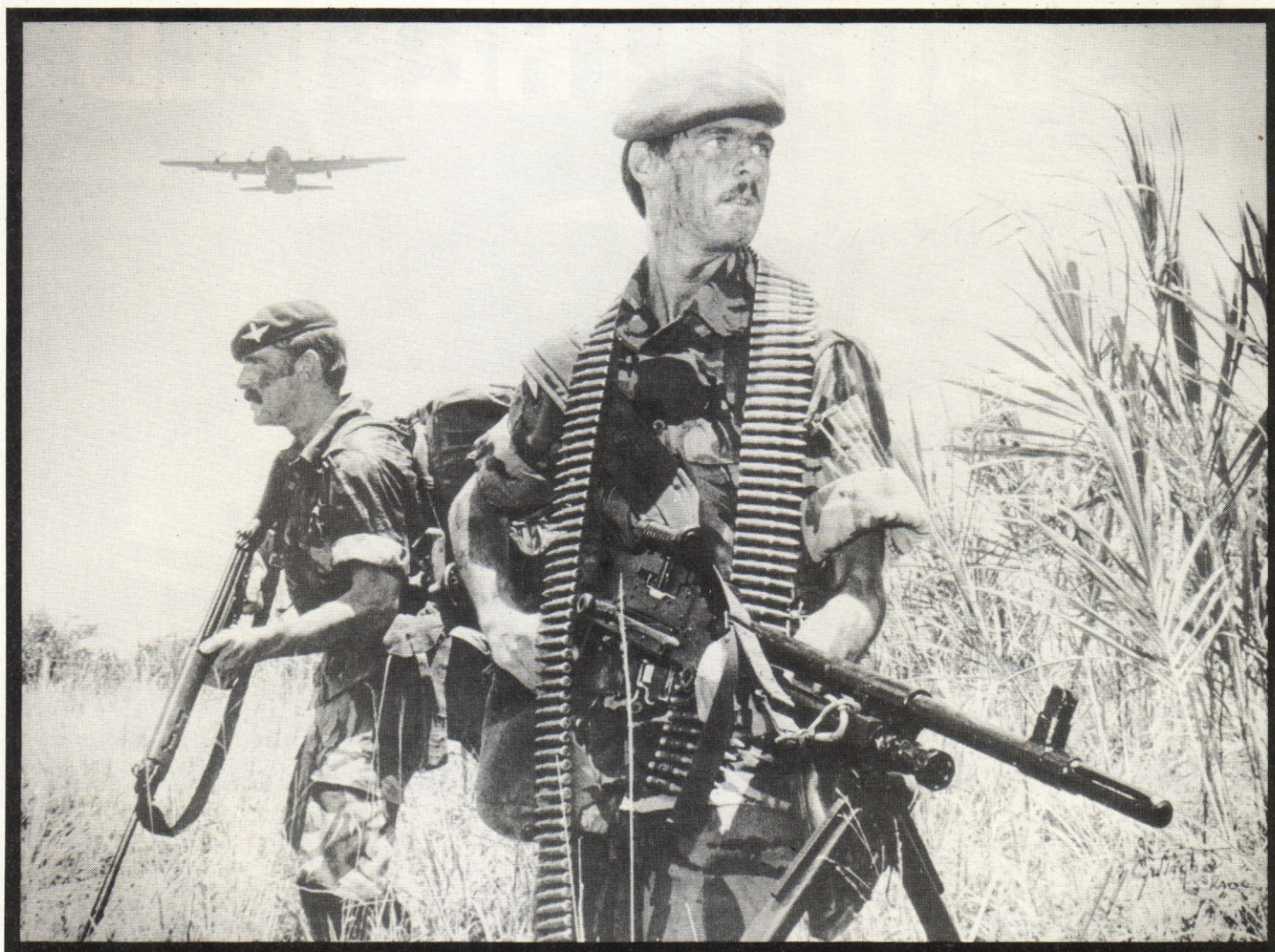
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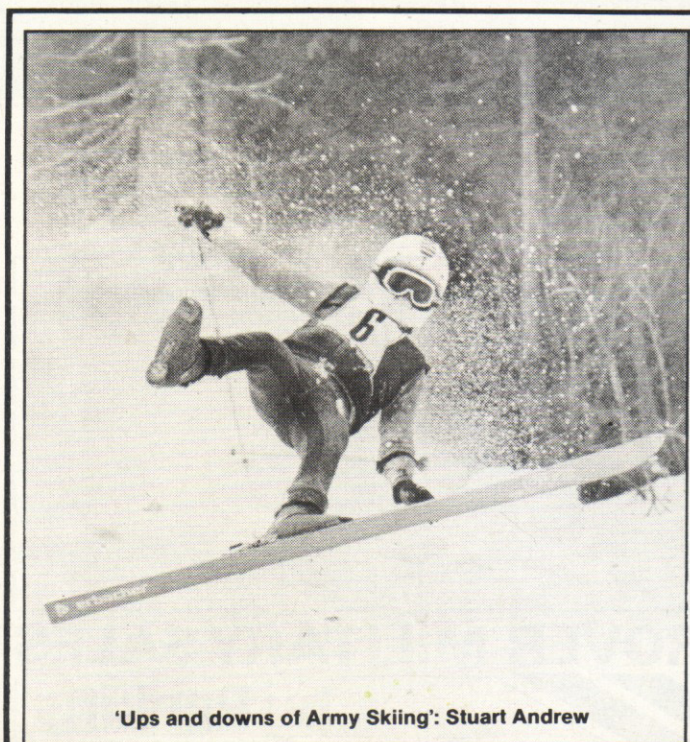
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ARMY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR



End of a long, anxious wait...



'Ups and downs of Army Skiing': Stuart Andrew

FOR THEM, the entrants, it was the finale to anxious waiting on the most prestigious date in their celluloid world's annual calendar: the awards of the winners and the runners-up in the seven-category Army Photographic Competition 1984 which have just been announced. Sadly, the ladies failed to get in focus.

Army Photographer of the Year is that of Paras on Patrol (above) in Belize taken by Sgt James Gallagher, of the Supply Systems Branch, at HQ BAOR, Rheindahlen. He also won three more categories. Category Two for the best colour photograph or transparency with 'Boy Soldier and Beefeater'; Category Four showing either 'Tradition in the British Army' or sport and adventure training; and Category Seven for the best unit photographer.

Army Photographer of the Year, however, is Sgt Stuart Andrew, RAOC, who is serving in the Falklands and his entries in

Army Photographic Competition '84

Category One, the best portfolio of ten black and white or colour photographs or transparencies showing 'overall experience and versatility'.

SOLDIER also features among this year's crop of top cameramen with our own Doug Pratt winning Category Three — the best black and white shot, open to all Regular, TA and civilians employed on Army PR duties — with his 'Behind the Lines', an American Army FIBUA defenders exercise sequence at Fort Lewis, Washington State. He was also adjudged to be runner-up for Army Photographer of the Year.

Runner-up for Army Photographer of the Year is Sgt Steve Slater of HQ UKLF. Sgt Andrew was highly commended.

Runners-up in Category Two and Three respectively were Mr

'Behind the lines': Doug Pratt



'Paras': Patrick Gallagher



M Emerson, SCRDE, MoD and Sgt Callow, 2 R IRISH who was also runner up in Category Four.

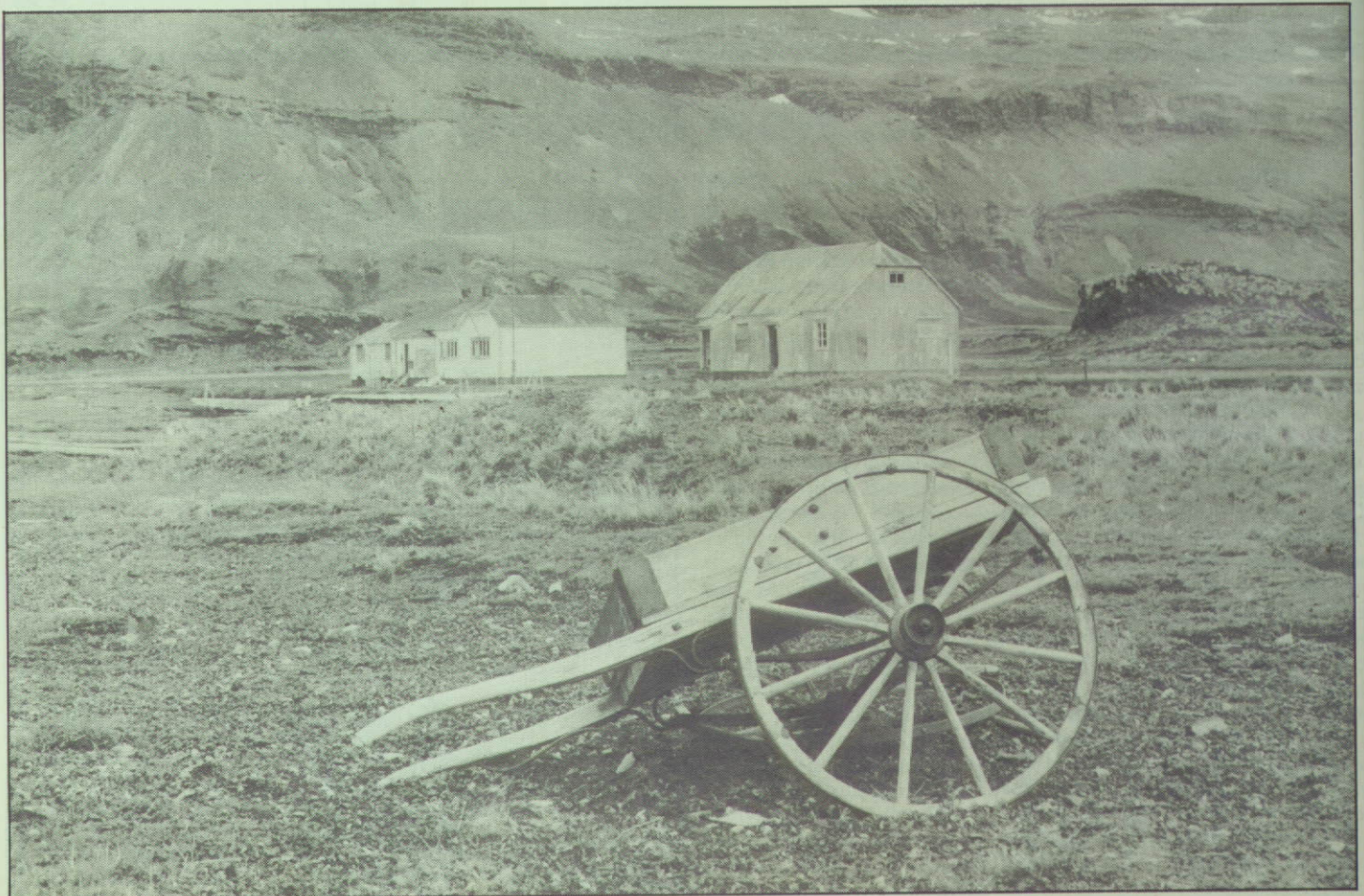
Highly commended in Category Four was Vivienne Hazeldene of HQ 4 Armoured Brigade, BAOR.

No awards were made in Category Five, the best submissions of all photographic types members of the WRAC, QARANC or UDR 'Greenfinches'.

Corporal Tillyard of 7 R Anglian, based at Leicester won Category Six for the best entry by a TA photographer.

It was the ninth Army Photographic Competition and the three judges were Mr Rodney Hicks, Picture Editor of the Press Association; Mr Terry Fincher, of Photographers International and Mr Brian Harris, photographer of The Times.

And in another competition . . .



... a prestigious portfolio by Denis

CAUGHT the other side of the camera lens for a change is Staff Sergeant Denis Hayward RAOC, whose portfolio came in the top ten of this year's Ilford photographic awards.

The annual competition attracts about 6,000 entries and is recognised as the country's leading black and white photographic competition. This was the first time the work of any Government Service photographer has been nominated in the highly competitive General Folio category.

Denis, has been an Army photographer for 15 years and has served with many units all over the world including South Georgia in the South Atlantic, where these pictures were taken.

Although proud of his work Denis modestly admits his subject was a gift handed to him on a plate:

"It was all perfect: everything was already there. The clear air, the scenery, the birds and animals. All I had to do was point the camera and the rest was easy. It's a fantastic island!"



SPORT

THE Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch, has evidently got a great deal of pull these days in terms of Army indoor tug-of-war.

CVD (right) made a clean sweep of the UKLF Championships and, a few weeks later, took two of the three titles at the Army Senior Indoor Championships at Aldershot, and came second in the third.

The Senior saw the introduction of a super heavyweight (680 kilogram) class which will feature in all Army competition on a trial basis for the next two years.

CVD out-pulled 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Colchester, in the final to become the first winners of this class. The Depot

also emerged victorious in the lightweight division (560 kilo), with the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, second.

Only the triumph of 3 Royal Horse Artillery, Paderborn, in the 640 kilo class prevented the clean sweep. In this instance CVD had to settle for second best.

CVD owe much of their present success to the forceful leadership of Major Bob Reid who is both coach and competitor. But no doubt victory was made easier by the fact that 26 Field Regiment, RA, last year's winners, were in no position to compete, having just moved to a new home at Thorney Island.



SQUASH



The triumphant APTC team. From left, back: WO2 P M D Hunt, secretary, WO2 R Sharkey, Lt Col A J Payne, RA, Chairman, WO2 W McQuilkin, S Sgt R Bardwell, assistant secretary. Front: S Sgt T Prentice, S Sgt C Evans, Sgt B Hawksford, WO2 R Surgeon.

Division 3: 1 RAEC 28 (promoted); 2 Light Div 26; 3

Queens Div 24; 4 AAC 13; 5 RAPC 11; 6 Prince of Wales Div 3.

BASKETBALL

FOR the fourth year running the Army Inter Corps Basketball Championship has again been clinched by the Army Physical Training Corps.

However, it took a remarkable comeback against Army Catering Corps to secure the crown, for the ACC led 29-18 at half-time, when a strong team talk by coach Captain Terry Goulding worked magic!

A good jump shot from Olympic athlete Kris Akabusi with just seconds left did the trick and APTC were relieved to win 55-53.

On the way APTC beat Royal Engineers 97-64, Royal Armoured Corps 78-36, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 67-59, Royal Artillery 63-62, Royal Signals 75-67 and Royal Army Medical Corps 92-54.

APTC players: WO2 Dave Warburton, WO2 Mick Jones, SSI Rick Garioch, SSI Dave McCracken, SSI Martin Shaw, SSI Chris Andrews, SI Wally Wallen, SI Ken Smith, SI Kris Akabusi, SI Ceth Francis, SI Frank Pascoe, SI Ian Dean.

SERVICES RECOVER TO WIN

COMBINED services soccer team hit back well from being two down in 20 minutes to beat a Middlesbrough XI 3-2 at Catterick.

This dramatic victory — the second in successive seasons over old pals — will put the servicemen in good heart for their forthcoming defence of the Kentish Cup.

After Boro goals from Sugrue (18) and Currie (20) the Services rallied, began to enjoy a greater share of the play, and the whole outlook changed.

Cpl Tiv Lowe, RM, floated a cross from the right, the ball was headed on by L/Cpl Steve Butler, REME, and Sgt Mark Bowen, RAPC, helped it into the corner of the net.

The Services set about the second half with much more confidence. The equalising goal came in the 66th minute when Sgt Dave Wood, RAF, burst out of mid-field and fired a hard low shot at goal.

Goalkeeper Peter Guthrie could only beat the ball down and Cpl

George Torrance, RE, nipped in to shoot home.

With just five minutes left, the Services skipper Cpl Sandy Brown, R Signals, floated a truly magnificent cross over a somewhat square Boro defence. Cfn Neil McGregor, REME, a late second half substitute, raced in from the right and shot the ball home off an upright and the young professionals were beaten.

Combined Services: Sig L A Netherton, R Signals; Sgt S Blackmore, RAF; Cpl T Lowe, RM; Cpl G Hancocks, RAF; POPT I Rees, RN; Sgt M Edwards, RAF; Sgt M Bowen, RAPC; Cpl A Brown, R Signals (Capt); LPT L Tongue, RN; L/Cpl S Butler, REME; Cpl G Torrance, RE; Substitutes: Cfn N McGregor, REME; Cpl R Taylor, RAF; Sgt D Wood, RAF; Cpl W E Freear, R Signals and L/Cpl C Lomas, RE.

SOCCER

ARMY COLTS HIGHLIGHT

Army Colts finished the first part of their season on a high note with a resounding 22-6 win against the previously unbeaten Kent Schools at Woolwich.

The score was 6-6 at half time but in the second half the Army's domination grew and they scored tries through AT Andy Thorburn (Princess Marina College), Pte Tony Dyer (Depot Prince of Wales Division Crickhowell) and AT Tim Pickersgill (AAC Harrogate). Gnr Mike Stewart (49 Field Regiment) converted two of them and also kicked two first half penalties.

After a somewhat disappointing start to the season Army Colts have been gradually improving. They had a comfortable win in their first match 30-0 against Winchester but then came up against an extremely powerful side in Northampton. They hung on pluckily until half time but were swamped in the second half, losing in the end 33-6.

After a disappointing perfor-

RUGBY

mance against Cheltenham who beat them 18-0, they showed improved form against Bristol going down only 9-6.

The Army has been well represented in the Combined Services Colts side which played two matches in Wales. Although beaten 17-10 by Cardiff and District Youth and 16-3 by Bridgend and District Youth they gave a good account of themselves.

Army Colts look forward to nine more fixtures before the Inter Service Colts Championship in March when they will be defending their title.

There are a few weaknesses in the side and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Salisbury, chairman, would be pleased to hear of any players thought worthy. Tel: Porton CDE Extension 300. Players must be under 19 on 1 January 1985.

ARM Rugby Union loses one of its most valuable officials at the end of this month with the retirement of secretary Pat Dawson.

Yet Lieutenant Colonel Pat Dawson (Retired) won't be ending his long association with his favourite sport when he clears his desk and hands over to Major Hugh Greatwood.

It just means that come the big Royal Navy-Army match at Twickenham, he will be among the picnic baskets in the car park, chatting with pals... and not having to worry about seating arrangements, the Press, VIPs and the 1,001 other tasks that have marked his 13 years in office.

"I shall miss my daily contact with fellow administrators in the sport, service and civilian, and I shall miss the regular contact with the players. They keep you young, you know," says the dapper man who has seen tremendous changes in his 13 years as secretary.

"It has been a labour of love — and good fun. I don't think the standard of the Army game is perhaps as high as it was when I took over in July 1971 — we don't seem to have as many players involved with first class clubs as used to be the case.

"Mind you, the Army isn't as big as it was and I have no fears for the future. The Army's Under-19 and Under-21 sides have been doing well and the future looks good. The percentage of soldiers playing has been constant and may be increasing.

"I think I'm right in saying 60 per cent of the current Army XV came through the junior teams. We have the benefit of a tremendous tradition and if we look after our juniors then this will continue."

'That's the end of your rugby playing days...'

A born optimist, Pat needed this sterling quality early in his Army career when, as a subaltern with the 2nd Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers he was wounded as a bullet ploughed through his left leg just above the knee. This was on the way to Dunkirk and a doctor told the young scrum half: "That's the end of your rugby playing days".

"Two months later I was playing again", recalled the man who joined the King's African Rifles, serving in the Madagascar and Abyssinian campaigns and in Burma. He later transferred to The Parachute Regiment and served in Palestine and Cyprus.

Among his many later appointments, he commanded the 5th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers (TA) and the PT School, Aldershot. His last post before retiring to his present task was as SO1 PT in HQ BAOR.

He chuckles as he recalls his first two years as secretary.

Peter Howard helps retiring Army Rugby Union secretary Pat Dawson reflect on a fascinating era...

LABOUR OF LOVE — AND GREAT FUN!



"I followed Lieutenant Colonel Jack Dalrymple — who had been a captain instructor at Sandhurst when I was a cadet. He taught me such a lot and I shall ever be grateful to him.

"However, for the first two years I didn't have a name of my own. I was just known as 'Jack's successor'!"

(Jack, by the way, is still going strong, living in Blackheath, an Honorary Vice-President of the Army Union and frequent attendee at matches).

It didn't take long for Pat Dawson to stamp his own personality, however difficult it may have been to follow Dalrymple.

Take sponsorship, for a start. "There was a lot of sucking of thumbs, a lot of people who thought the Army should not get involved in that sort of thing. Yet we took to it like a duck to water and it has been good for the Army and the game as a whole.

"Through sponsorship we can turn out looking smart, we have funds to tour abroad, units can apply for grants and the money goes down to help the game at grass roots. It isn't all beer, baccy and booze, believe me".

With his work for the Army and Combined Services, he has helped to keep alive the fixture with visiting touring sides, the all-

conquering Australians being the most recent example — preceded by two parties of their fellow Wallabies, the All Blacks (twice), Japanese, Canadians and a Zimbabwe team.

"There are some who feel the tourists should not face Combined Services," said Pat, who nods in agreement when you suggest the 44-9 beating of the Servicemen by the Australians might support this view.

"Until you study the results of the Australians against the four Home Countries. Then our result didn't look too bad!

"This apart, the last people who would want the fixture scrapped would be the tourists. The latest Australians were most impressed with the facilities, the hospitality and, above all, they welcome the match.

"We have had many letters praising our efforts and I don't think we are short of support. The tourists are under no pressure when they visit us and they enjoy themselves."

Enjoyment

We all like to win but above all rugby should be about enjoyment as well — and the Army's retiring secretary has had plenty of both. He played a lot of unit and

command rugby and represented the British Army in Palestine.

While in office as secretary, he picks as highlight the Army's 22-19 win over Llanelli on the Welsh club's ground in 1976.

"That was tremendous, a real tonic", he remembers. "Afterwards a home official came along and said we hadn't really beaten their first team, it was more a sort of A XV. I told him we didn't field our first team either!"

Then there was the Centenary match against the Royal Navy at Twickenham, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. "The Navy won that 17-16 — but what a match..."

He also likes thinking back to March 1975, when the Army beat the Royal Air Force 41-13, the highest ever score in an Inter-Services fixture.

"Matches against the Navy always have a wonderful atmosphere. Still, it is one of the oldest fixtures in the rugby calendar."

Now a lot of hectic activity — in which Pat Dawson readily acknowledges the help of Mrs Diana Morgan (12 years invaluable work for Army Rugby Union herself) — comes to an end in a few days.

'I shall catch up on some gardening'

Yet you never lose rugby friends, and the retiring secretary will keep in touch. "I shall catch up on some gardening and work unpaid, part-time, for the Ogilby Trust which, in itself, will help me keep in touch with my many friends," says the man who is married, with two daughters (one of whom, Anne, is a familiar face to TV viewers in the south) and a son.

There is only one regret at the end of a long spell of hard work... no Army player has managed an international cap in his time as secretary.

Captain I G S Smith, RADC and Scotland, was the last in 1969. Captain Brian McCall of REME came close recently when he was named in the Irish replacements for the match against the Aussies.

"I leave in the hope the next international cap will come in Hugh Greatwood's time! Hugh is an ideal man for the job; a former Army captain with a great rugby pedigree".

Pat Dawson once rang a commanding officer to seek the release of a sergeant for an Army match — only to be told the man could not be released because of rehearsal for a church parade. "I just happened to say I didn't think the General would appreciate this. Within half an hour the 'phone rang and I was told the player was released!"

Army Rugby Union officials and players will miss Pat Dawson's services, but seeing him around is by no means at an end. Somehow, it is difficult to picture him gardening!



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DURHAM. Durham Light Infantry Museum and Arts Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TU. Telephone Durham 42214. Hours: Tues to Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5. Closed Bank Hols.

EASTBOURNE. Sussex Combined Services Museum (including The Royal Sussex Regiment Museum), Redoubt Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex BN22 7AQ. Telephone Eastbourne 33952. Hours: Easter to Nov 10-5.

EXETER. The Devonshire Regiment Museum, Wyvern Barracks, Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 6AE. Telephone Exeter 76581 (or Exeter mil.) ext 268. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.30.

GLOUCESTER. Regimental Museum of The Gloucestershire Regiment, 31 Commercial Road, Gloucester GL1 2HE. Telephone Gloucester 22682. Hours: 10-5, weekends by appointment only.

GRANTHAM. 17th/21st Lancers Regimental Museum, Belvoir Castle, near Grantham, Lincs NG33 7TJ. Telephone Grantham 67413 (or Grantham mil) ext 252. Hours: 12-6 April to Sept, Tues, Wed, Thur and Good Friday. Bank Hols 11-7, Sun 2-7. Closed Oct to Mar except Sun in Oct 2-6.

GUILDFORD. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Clandon Park, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RQ. Telephone Guildford 223419. Hours: 2-6 except Mon and Fri while Clandon Park is open to Public (normally April to Oct.).

Women's Royal Army Corps Museum, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey. Telephone Guildford 71201 (or Guildford mil) ext 265. Hours: weekdays 9-4.

HEREFORD Hereford Regiment and Hereford Light Infantry Museum, TA Centre, Harold Street,

YOUR GUIDE TO ARMY MUSEUMS — 3

Hereford. Telephone Hereford 272914. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.30.

LANCASTER. Lancaster Museum (King's Own Royal Regiment [Lancaster], 4th Foot, Royal Lancashire Militia), Market Square, Lancaster, Lancs LA1 1HT. Telephone Lancaster 64637. Hours: 10-5, Sat 10-3, closed Sun.

LEICESTER. Royal Leicestershire Regimental Museum, The Magazine, The Newarke, Oxford Street, Leicester. Telephone Leicester 554100. Hours: Mon to Thurs, Sat 10-5.30 Sun 2-5.30.

LEWES. Military Heritage Museum, Regency House, 1 Albion Street, Lewes, Sussex. Telephone Lewes 3139. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-5.

LICHFIELD. Museum of the Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's), Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY. Telephone Lichfield 433333 (or Lichfield mil) ext 240/229. Hours: Mon to Fri 9.30-4.30.

LIVERPOOL. Museum of the King's Regiment (Liverpool), County Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. Telephone 051-207-0001. Hours: 10-5, Sun 2-5. Closed Good Friday and 25 Dec.

LONDON. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HZ. Telephone 01-735-8922. Hours: weekdays 10-5.50, Sun 2-5.50. Closed 24-26 Dec, 1 Jan, Good Friday and May Day.

Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Museum, 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn WC2A 3TG. Telephone 01-405-8112. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-4, by

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Middlesex Regimental Museum, Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham Lane N17 8NU. Telephone 01-808-8772. Hours: 10-12.30 and 2-5. Closed Mon.

Museum of Artillery, the Rotunda, Woolwich, SE18 4JJ. Telephone 01-856-5533 (or Woolwich Arsenal mil) ext 385. Hours: April to Sept 12-5, Sat and Sun 1-5. Oct to Mar the same but closes at 4.

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, SW3 4HT. Telephone 01-730-0717. Hours: 10-5.30, Sun 2-5.30. Closed 1 Jan and Good Friday, May Day plus 3-4 days over Christmas.

Royal Artillery Regimental Museum, Academy Building, Academy Road, Woolwich SE18 4JJ. Telephone 01-856-5533. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12.30 and 2-4.

The Royal Fusiliers Museum, HM Tower of London EC3 4AB. Telephone 01-709-0765 (or Tower of London mil) ext 267. Hours: Mon to Sat 10-5 (4.15 Nov to Feb), Sun 2-5 (summer only).

Royal Hospital Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea SW3 4SL. Telephone 01-730-0161. Hours: Mon to Sat 10-12 and 2-4, Sun 2-4 April to Sept only.

LUTON. Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Museum, Luton Museum, Wardown Park, Luton, Beds LU2 7HA. Telephone Luton 36941. Hours: April to Sept 10-6 Sun 2-6, closed Tues. Oct to Mr 10-5, Sun 2-5 closed Tues. Closed Sun Dec and July, 25 and 26 Dec, 1 Jan.

MAIDSTONE. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum, Maidstone Museums and Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH. Telephone Maidstone 54497. Hours: April to Sept 10-6, Oct to March 10-5. Closed Sun and Bank Hols.

MIDDLE WALLOP. Museum of Army Flying, Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, Hants SO20 8DY. Telephone Andover 62121 (or Middle Wallop mil) ext 421. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-4, weekends and Public Holidays April to Sept only.

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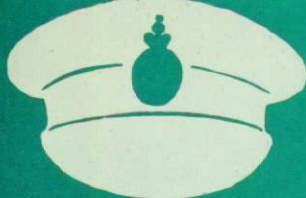
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In the following centuries military policemen continued to serve but were not recognised as such as they appeared on the medal rolls and in the Army List under the headings of their original regiments.

It was not until 1 August 1877 that the Mounted Military Police became established as a distinct Corps for service at home and abroad.

Their first active service was in the Egyptian campaign of 1882 and caused the formation of the Military Foot Police on 1 August 1882.

The first decorations awarded resulted from service in the South African War of 1899-1902, forerunners of many such awards during the World Wars and campaigns.

The badges worn by members of the Corps have reflected their allegiance to the Crown. The helmet plates, of similar pattern to the Regular Infantry, had the cypher of Queen Victoria in the centre surrounded by the Garter until 1902. These changed with each Sovereign until the Great War abolished the blue cloth helmet for general wear.

The smaller cap badge made its appearance in the reign of Edward VII and was of the design depicted here but the small differences of crown, cypher and title necessitated over the years are worthy of note.

The Imperial crown served during the reigns of King Edward VII, George V and George VI but was replaced by the St Edwards crown upon the accession of our Queen.

The title, originally 'Military Police', was altered when, as the result of their splendid

service the prefix 'Royal' was awarded to the Corps in 1946.

There are a very small number of genuine specimens of a badge consisting of the Royal Crest, a lion surmounting the Imperial crown, resting on a scroll inscribed 'Military Foot Police' but as they are so rare it casts doubt on their adoption for any appreciable period, if at all.

The badges are currently worn in gold anodised material, having been gilding metal previously, for wear by the soldiers.

Since 1949 officers had the individual option of wearing RMP badges and uniform but when in 1954 the first officers, other than Quartermasters, were commissioned directly into the Corps they proudly wore the badges in silver plate.

Finally it must not be forgotten that the main duties of the RMP continue to be the maintenance of discipline, traffic control in the field and the prevention, detection and investigation of serious crime.

HUGH L. KING



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*See page 13.

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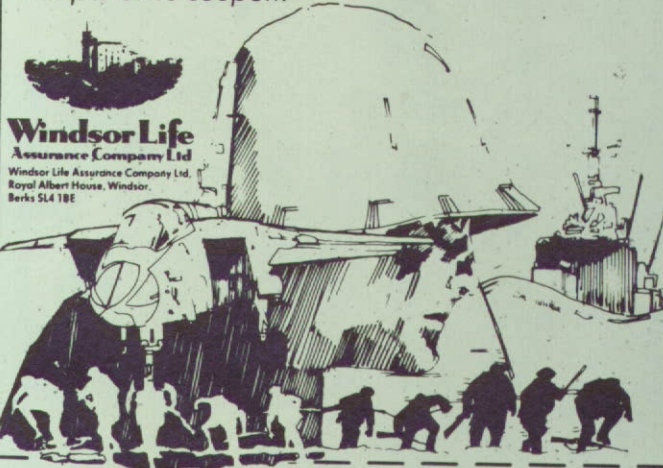
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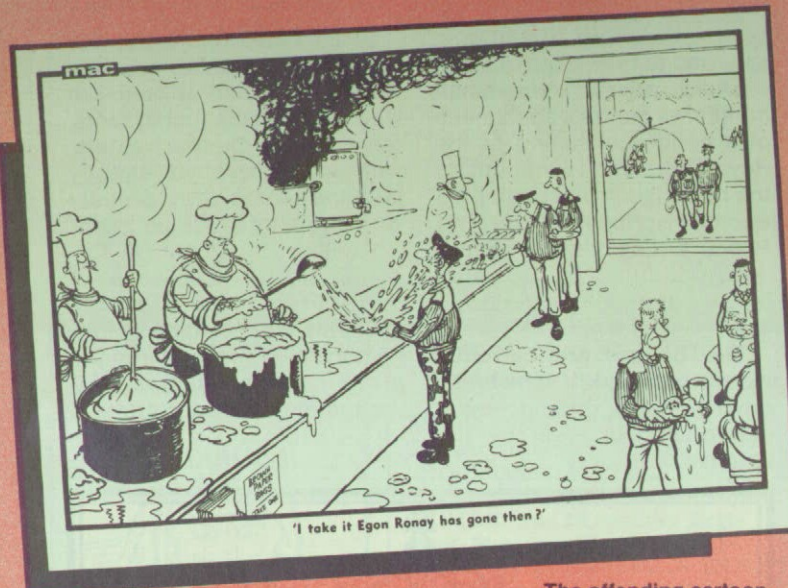
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S1/85





The offending cartoon.

Pictures: Doug Pratt

Drawing from personal experience Cartoonist MAC looks again at Army Cooks and comes up with the...

AGONY AND THE ECSTASY!

FOOD expert Egon Ronay heaped praise on Army chefs and the cooking. But within days of his glittering report, Daily Mail cartoonist Mac heaped scorn on the ACC-trained cooks depicting them as fag-ash fatties slopping food everywhere except on soldiers' plates.

But since Mac accepted an invite from the ACC Apprentices College at Aldershot, he knows now that the code of the cooks is fitness and not fatness.

"From now on," said Mac, "any Army cooks I draw will be shown as lean and muscular."

For Mac tried his hand and his lungs at the assault course declaring at the end of his session that he drew the cooks in his cartoon from memory of his Army days. "They all seemed like that in those days," he said. But that was more than 30 years ago when Mac was a clerk in the RAOC.

For millions of Mail readers the cartoon was just another brilliant offering from Mac.

But for Mrs Pat Titmarch it was the last straw. She wrote to the Mail forcefully pointing out that her husband, WO2 Allan Titmarch, was the bees knees at keeping fit, and not only that was the cat's whiskers and the eel's eyebrows as well.

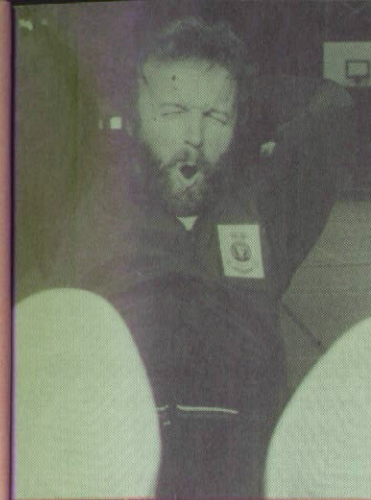
"My husband can run a mile in

the time Mac takes to boil an egg," she said when she heard that Mac was attempting the assault course at the College's Aldershot base.

And in her letter to the paper she said she reckoned her husband was both slimmer and fitter than the cartoonist. Mrs T of Leconfield is probably right on both counts and at 35 her ACC chef husband is 13 years younger.

But Mac got full praise from College CO Lieutenant Colonel Barrie Atkinson for taking a look at the training offered to Army apprentices, and even more praise for his courage in tackling some of the assault course.

Said QMSI Arthur Harvey, an Army squash and water polo player



Sit ups prove a strain.

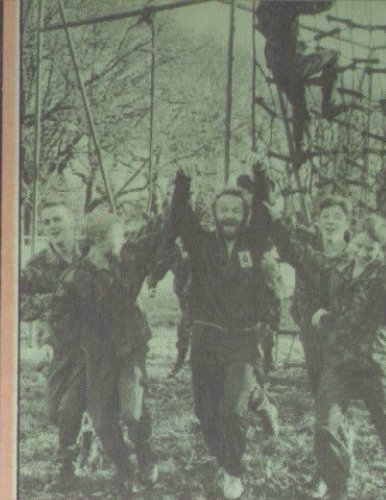
who kept an eye on Mac throughout the exercise: "For a 48-year-old man who does little sport or exercise he's pretty fit."

"It takes some doing to manage ten dips, three eyes to the beam, sit-ups on a sloping bench and score eight on the vertical jumping test and then follow it all up with five minutes on the step-up step-down test and 100-yards on the assault course. He did extremely well."

But there was more to come for Mac of the Mail. For after the training came the grub. And what grub. "We had nothing like this in my day," he said. Before him was a menu of goulashes of plaice and steak bearnaise and all prepared and cooked by a team of young lads from College, on a field kitchen.

Served by the lads in a tent, a contrite Mac thanked his hosts for the fitness course and then toasted and thanked the CO, the team of Apprentices and the whole of the Corps for a lesson well learned.

But the last word came from Mrs Titmarch: "I was fed up with the ACC being portrayed as fat and slovenly. It's time people knew that the Army Catering Corps does not march on its stomach."



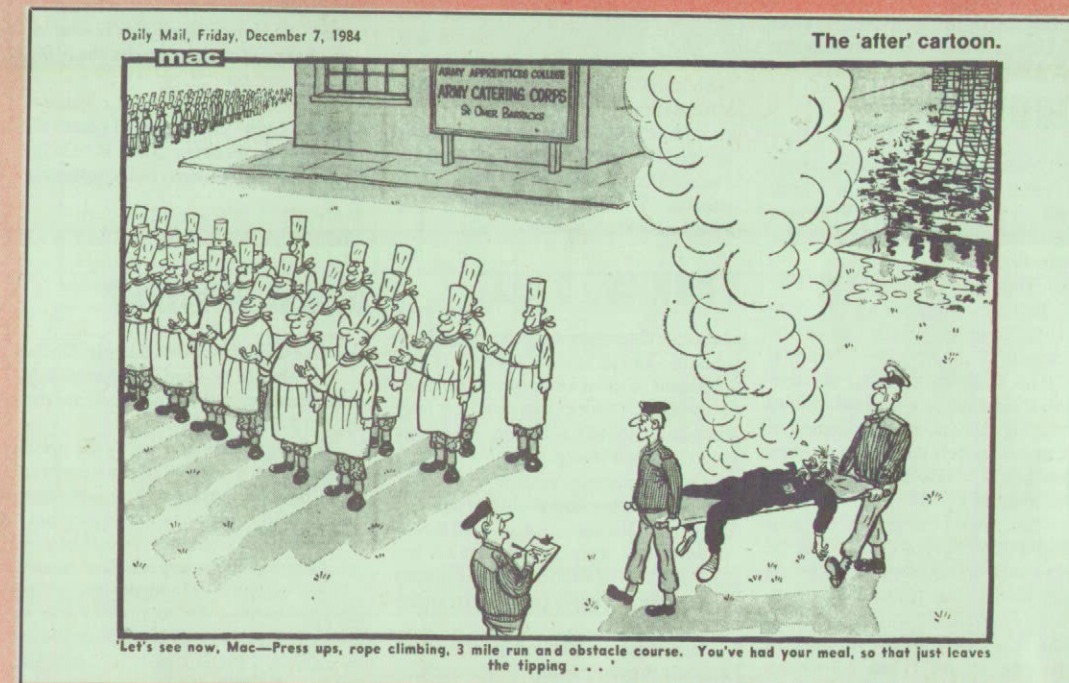
Victorious Mac with the lads after completing the course.



Watched by the RSM, Mac struggles with the beam pull-ups.



The expression says it all!



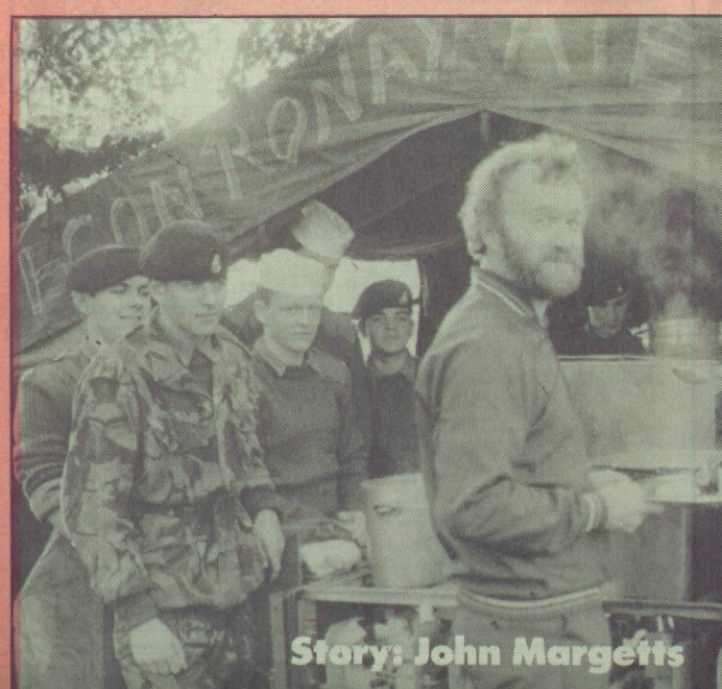
Field Kitchen service for Mac after his exercises.

Food for thought. ▼

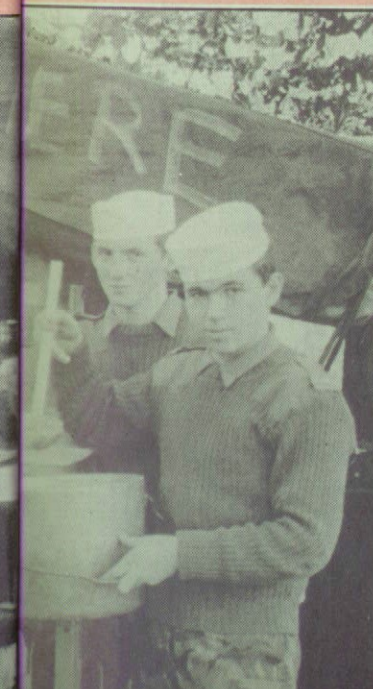
Apprentice chefs get their own back on Mac.

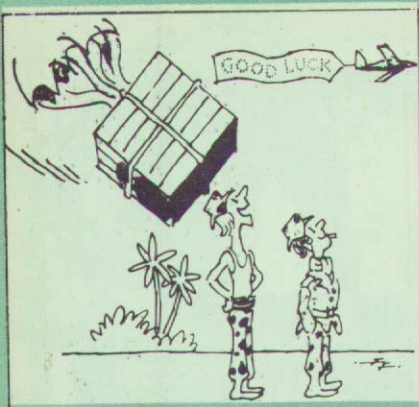


★ A note of encouragement for would-be cartoonists ... when Mac was in the RAOC he regularly submitted cartoons to Soldier. "But I never got one accepted," he said. His advice: "If at first ... That's it, just keep on trying."



Story: John Margetts





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

LEAGUE APPEAL

May I please draw the attention of your readers to The Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, a once-off campaign due to be launched in early 1985?

The Appeal is being sponsored by The British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, which, since its foundation in 1921 by Field Marshal The Earl Haig with nine member organisations, has maintained its aim of ensuring that 'no ex-serviceman of the Crown, ex-servicewoman, widow or dependant would ever be without help if in need'.

The League's membership has now increased to 53, spread throughout the countries of the Commonwealth and old Empire. It has given aid both to ex-service organisations and to individuals in need from the millions of servicemen from Commonwealth countries who joined with Great Britain and fought beside her in Europe, Africa and the Middle and Far East.

Whilst the League still has many veterans from the First World War in its care, the number of Commonwealth ex-servicemen from the Second World War, widows and dependants now

reaching their sixties, seventies and eighties and no longer able to fend for themselves, is increasing dramatically. Many countries of the Commonwealth today have insufficient resources to provide for the needs of these Veterans and must rely exclusively on the support stemming from the League's Headquarters.

The League is no longer able to meet this support from within its own resources which have provided the money for both administration and benevolence. For the first time in its history, the League is compelled to seek outside financial support in order to honour its commitments.

At this stage, only assistance in gaining publicity for the Appeal and offers of personal help are sought and would be greatly appreciated but if individuals or units seek any further information about the Appeal, they should not hesitate to contact me. — **Brigadier R C Middleton, The Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.**

THANKS TO ALL

I receive the magazine *Sapper* regularly and of course it's all about my old regiment. Until reading your magazine, I thought *Sapper* mag was the only magazine to tell all about what my regiment was doing.

Over the years I have listened to BBC/ITV coverage of different wars, Northern Ireland etc and read newspapers, but have found that all are only interested in the 'elite' regiments that make the news and not the many support units.

In my day we all needed each other, and it's the same today. I take nothing away from 'the elite', but I wish the media would remember all the rest.

I notice your magazine is interested in every regiment, and I compliment you all. I really enjoy it. Anyone who praises 'the lads' gets my thanks. — **Arthur Merchant, Slade Green, Erith, Kent.**

GUARD PRIDE

Your story 'They're Changing the Guard' (19 Nov issue) brought back happy memories for me.

In August 1929 I was serving with the Sherwood Foresters when we had the honour (along with the Lincolnshire Regt) of doing Public Duties at Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, Central London Recruiting Depot (Whitehall), the Magazine Guard in Hyde Park and the Bank of England Guard (right turns only).

We were stationed in Chelsea Bks along with the Scots Guards. The Lincolnshire Regiment was stationed in Wellington Bks, Birdcage Walk.

I still remember (after all these years) the pride we felt when we did our first guard.

The late King George V was the ruling monarch at the time but we did not have the pleasure of seeing him or any of the Royal Family, as they were away at Balmoral.

It was a wonderful experience and I still look back with pride. — **Mr L Pottinger, Co Antrim, N Ireland.**

HERCULEAN

If I was asked, who are the hardest workers in the world, I would suggest our Royal Engineers.

Quite frankly, as an ex-soldier, now an OAP over 70, when I read the accounts in this magazine of the many herculean tasks they perform it leaves me feeling somewhat fatigued! The long hours they slog would not be undertaken by trade unionists without large amounts of overtime pay: added is the extreme climates in which they operate, scorching hot in some venues, freezing cold in others.

Their motto seems to be 'No matter how gruelling the work it must be completed.' Which, indeed, every one is with, I should venture to declare, 100 per cent success.

So, here's hats off to our gallant sappers, I am sure we are all proud of you. — **A Worley (ex RAOC), Yatesbury Crescent, Nottingham.**

OLD WARRIORS?

I do not think it fair that the title 'Dad's Army' should be used in a derogatory manner especially in the article on the HSF (3 December).

Although perhaps used by the press in general in a semi affectionate way it does have undertones of an amateur bunch of ill equipped ancient warriors.

I joined 'D' Company, 86th (County of Lancaster) Liverpool Bn Home Guard in April 1941 at the age of 16 and 10 months. The Company had 4 platoons and, in general, was organised as follows: 1 Platoon were ex-1914/18 soldiers, 2 & 3 Platoons were of military age but in reserved occupations and 4 Platoon were young men awaiting call up. Most officers and senior NCOs were of the 1914/18 war era which, in 1941 put them in the 40-50 age bracket — the same as members of the HSF reported in your article.

Admittedly, the 1940 LDV were ill armed and equipped, but nevertheless were prepared to fight if the invasion had occurred, but by 1941 battledress was in general issue and personal arms were the Canadian Ross .303, later changed to the .300 P.17. SMCs were the Thomson and later Stens with the Browning Automatic Rifle as the LMG — all very similar to the arms carried by the Army of the day.

By the time I joined the Army in 1942, in common with most of my fellow members, I had fired my course with rifle, SMC and LMG, thrown various patterns of live grenades, did three weeks attachment to a Regimental Depot, fired those fearsome weapons the Northover Projector and Blaker Bombard, carried out numerous exercises and 12 hour guards and duties in aid of the Civil Power during the May blitz. Can the HSF say as much?

If I may add I went on to serve 11 years in the Army, 15 in the TA and 10 years with the ACF which gives me, I think, the experience to write about the standards of different categories of the service. — **A J Moore TD, 38 Heathfield Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 6RF.**

Can You Help?

We have been contacted by a lady who is trying to find out something about her father-in-law. She would like to contact any of his comrades who knew him during the war. His name was George Albert Attridge and he was a member of the South Staffordshire Regiment, 13th Parachute Brigade. He was killed and is buried at Caen in Normandy. — **Mr P Foulger, V/Chairman, Royal British Legion, 63 Bramshaw Rise, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 5JT.**

Can anyone inform me of the present whereabouts of former Sergeant John Hanna and Drummer Joseph Glover, who both served with me in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Palestine and Malta from 1938 to 1943? I would love to hear from them again. — **Ex-RSM John Kelly MBE DCM BA, 204 Foundling Court, Brunswick Centre, London WC1.**

Collectors' Corner

P Banyard, 120 The Landway, Beasted, Kent. *Wants any bound copies of the War Illustrated book WW1 and WW2, also Irish Guards, Lance-Sgts No 1 Cap. Best prices paid and all letters answered.* Alan Rusk, 1104 N Jacob, Visalia, CA 93291. USA. *Wants back numbers of SOLDIER 1950 thru 1963 in very good condition. Will pay fair prices and postage.*

Sid Rosen, 5 Leila Ln, #309, Toronto, Canada, M6A 2M7. *Is a military march collector and would like to exchange tapes with anyone who has recordings (marches only). Among those for exchange are Canadian, English, French and German bands, but mostly American. Such names as Sousa Band, Goldman Band, Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, US Army, Navy and Marine bands etc. Also many 78s by bands that no longer exist. All letters answered.*

Reunions

36 Hy AD Regt (disbanded 1978) Soccer team is planning to have a reunion weekend in the summer of 1985 at Norwich University. All ex-players and families who were either stationed at Shoeburyness or Dortmund with the regiment are most welcome. Enquiries and contact address as follows: Mr Brian Greenland (Retired Warrant Officer), 5 Kennett Close, Norwich, Norfolk. Tel: Norwich 52976.

Competition

The answers to our Competition 350, 'Here and There' were 1 *Gwalior 2 Jhansi 3 Taj Mahal 4 Delhi 5 All three recipients of the Victoria Cross were elected by the regiment to receive the award.* The winner of our £50 prize was Lt Col J Marsey (Retd), IMRO(S), Higher Bks, Exeter.

How Observant Are You?

1 Left mountain slope; 2 Back of left skier's neck; 3 Left hand of skier second from left; 4 Hat of skier second from right; 5 Hair of leading skier; 6 Top of tree second from right; 7 Design of flag; 8 Top of tree next to fox; 9 Fox's right ear; 10 Right imprint of bird's foot.

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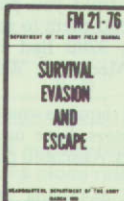
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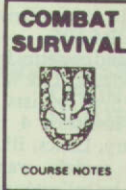
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Sgt Instructor T Baines, 5 Meadow Way, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. 0525 381365.

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Sgt W D Drennan, 1st Cdt Bn Queens Regt, Swiss Cottage, Caterham School, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6YA. 0883 40450.

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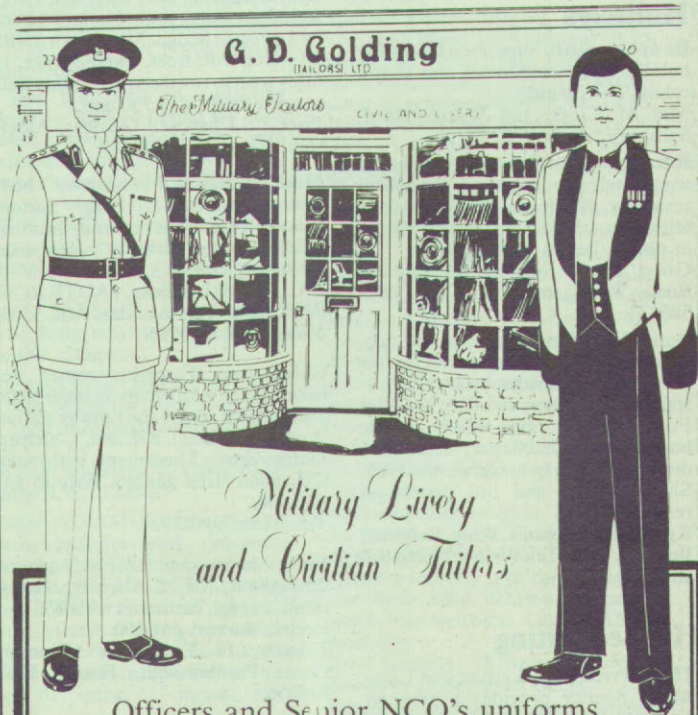
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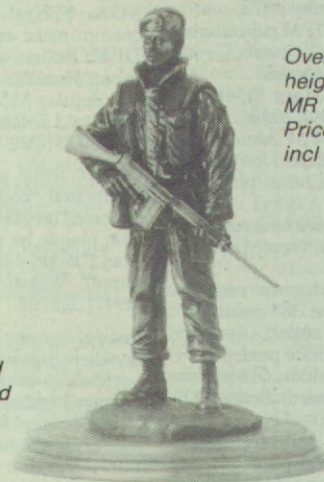
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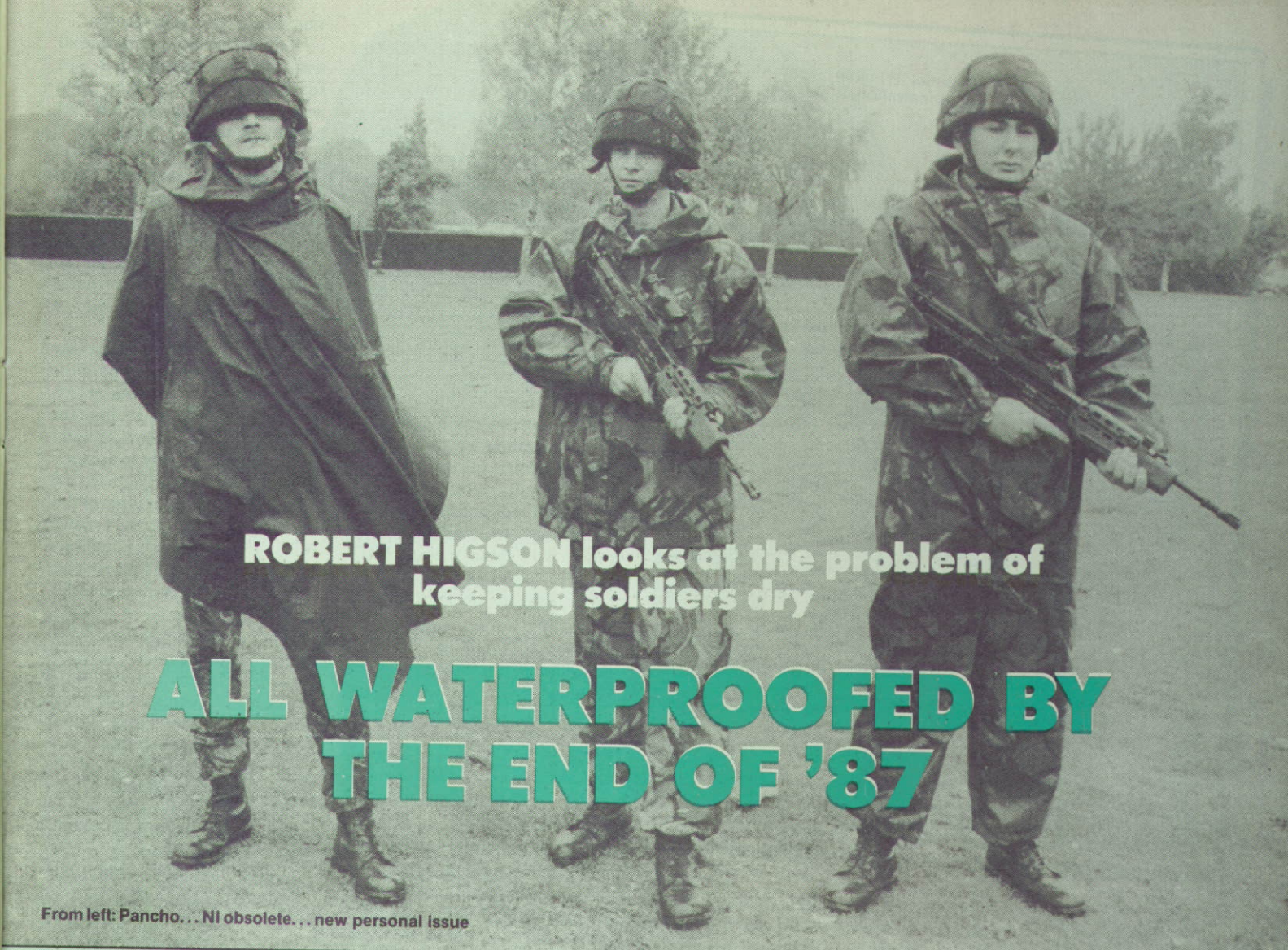
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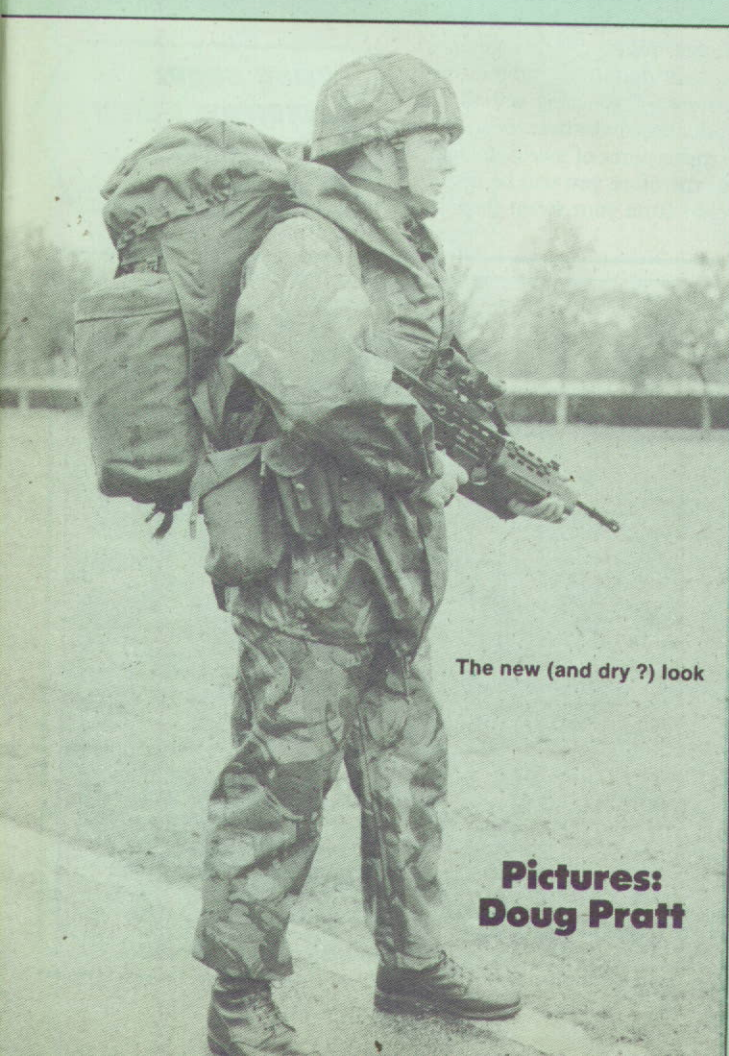
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ROBERT HIGSON looks at the problem of keeping soldiers dry

ALL WATERPROOFED BY THE END OF '87

From left: Pancho... NI obsolete... new personal issue



BY the end of 1987 — 'at the very latest' — the last Territorial soldier in Britain should be able to keep out of the rain inside his own personal issue waterproof oversuit.

So says Lieutenant Colonel Neil Winship, of the Royal Tank Regiment, from his office in the Directorate of Clothing and Textiles at Andover.

Any earlier completion of the programme to waterproof some 350,000 members of the Regular and Territorial armies, the Royal Marines and the RAF Regiment, would depend on the availability of funds and the ability of manufacturers to meet the demand.

As he spoke to SOLDIER Colonel Winship demonstrated the features of the overalls which are now being issued to various elements of the Regular Army.

In design they differ little from the waterproof jacket and trousers which have been given since the mid-1970s to troops serving in Northern Ireland.

But they are a lot tougher. The Northern Ireland suits, though light and easy to pack, had the disadvantage of being insufficiently robust. The waterproof polyurethane lining would start peeling off as the suit got older, and the material itself was easily torn in

normal patrol duties like climbing through a hedge.

The new suits have a PVC lining bonded to a nylon fabric which is much heavier — weighing 6.7 ozs a square yard compared with the 2.7 ozs for the earlier version.

"Therefore this is a more robust garment and in consequence should remain waterproof for that much longer," Colonel Winship said.

The suits are also infra-red reflectant and should be that much more difficult to spot through an infra-red viewer. But like the old Northern Ireland pattern they only have two pockets in the jacket and none in the trousers.

The problem, the Colonel explained, was first of all cost — the two jacket pockets accounted for 15 per cent of the total price — and the waterproofing. Stitching had to be kept to an absolute minimum. There were no epaulettes, and consequently no stitching of any kind on the shoulders. With the pressure of pack and webbing straps this is a particularly vulnerable area for the sort of leaks that stitch holes can produce.

Northern Ireland (where it is said to rain on average for 10 per cent of the year, as opposed to

The new (and dry ?) look

**Pictures:
Doug Pratt**

Colonel Winship — appropriate demonstration in the rain!



seven per cent for Southern England) seems to have been the occasion, if not the entire cause, of the end of the poncho, the mainstay of British soldiers' waterproof rainwear for many years.

"In Northern Ireland they have more rain to put up with and, of course, they also need to be out on the streets whether it was raining or not," Colonel Winship said.

"So we developed a waterproof

oversuit to be put on over the top of your combat jacket when it was raining. Many soldiers going through Northern Ireland, doing their tour of duty and then going back to their posts in Germany, the UK or elsewhere, said, naturally — why haven't we got a waterproof oversuit, just like this. And, of course, we are very aware that many of them consequently bought their own from civilian

suppliers.

"First of all we issued the jacket to the field force combat elements of BAOR and UKLF. Then in the early '80s as a result of studies that were later endorsed by the Falkland Islands experience, it was decided to extend the issue of waterproof suits to all soldiers."

"The Falklands War" said Brigadier Lloyd Body, the Director of Clothing and Textiles, "was a graphic illustration of the importance of clothing as a factor in winning battles."

In the days when armies campaigned in the summer and retired to winter quarters for the worst weather, the quality of a soldier's clothing had little bearing on the result of the conflict.

But nowadays when the timing of a battle was at the mercy of a whole mass of political factors, rather than the climate, soldiers had to be equipped to be operational in the most adverse conditions.

However there was still the question of quality versus cost. Lieutenant Colonel Winship said the new issue waterproofs provided effective protection at a reasonable price (about £20 a suit), with one serious disadvantage — it was possible to get wetter with the suit on than with it off.

"It's an impermeable material, that is it does not breathe," said Colonel Winship. "It prevents the transmission of water and water vapour both inwards and outwards.

"Now if you are in a particularly busy sort of job — let us say a Sapper building a bridge, or a Gunner humping ammunition perhaps — you may actually be producing somewhere around five or more pints of sweat an hour, and therefore you will be getting wetter from your sweat than you

would be from a rain shower.

"I think I would emphasize that with these impermeables the soldier should only wear them when it is raining and not just because he thinks it might rain."

In mild conditions, Colonel Winship added, condensed sweat might make you little more than uncomfortable. But in the Arctic the same problem could degrade the thermal insulation of all clothing to such an extent that it would be possible to die of hypothermia.

Of course everyone had an easy answer to this problem: one of the new microporous materials which have been developed to shut the rain drops out while allowing water vapour from the body to escape.

There were already about 700 garments with various types of this material now on trial, Colonel Winship said, and Brigadier Body added that there were plans to try it out on tents and perhaps in socks.

But there were, as always, problems. The material itself had to be bonded to an inner and outer cover and there seemed some difficulty producing a sufficiently tough mixture for soldierly duties.

Then there was the cost. Goretex, the best known of the microporous brand names, was roughly five times more expensive than the new issue waterproof suit.

"It is a question of what you can afford," said Colonel Winship. "I would love to have a satin or silk dressing gown, but I can't afford it. I must make do with towelling."

**Facing page:
Tomorrow's man
... raindrops
as well!**



Today...

Tomorrow...



