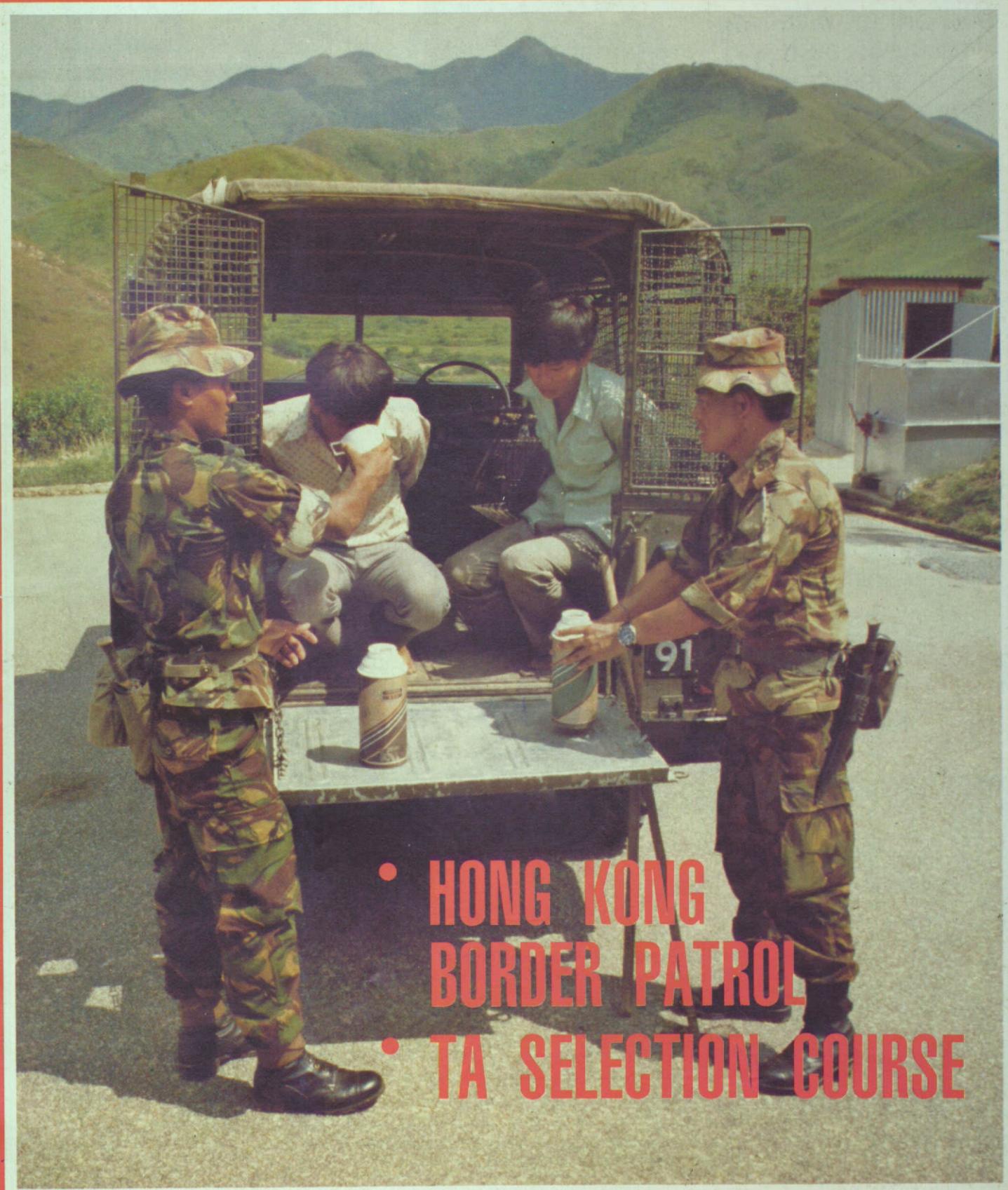


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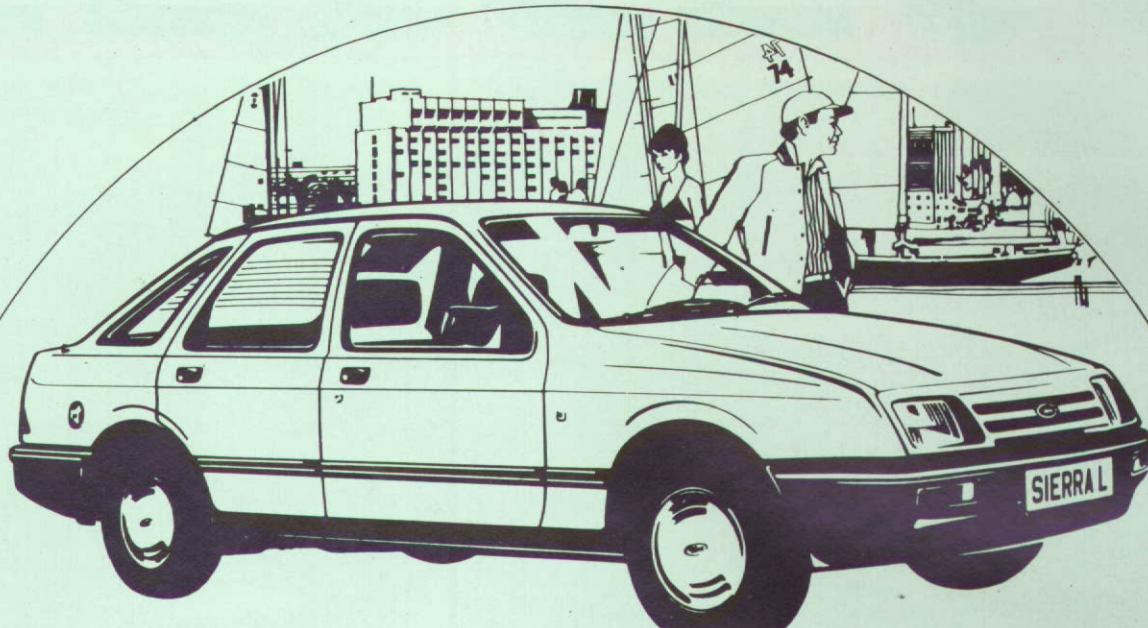
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FRONT COVER

Soldiers of 2nd Bn, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, offer a drink to two young Chinese caught trying to enter Hong Kong. A full story of the battalion on border patrol appears on pages 14-16.

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A new-look 4th Armoured Division prepares for the battle it hopes it will never have to fight — page 12

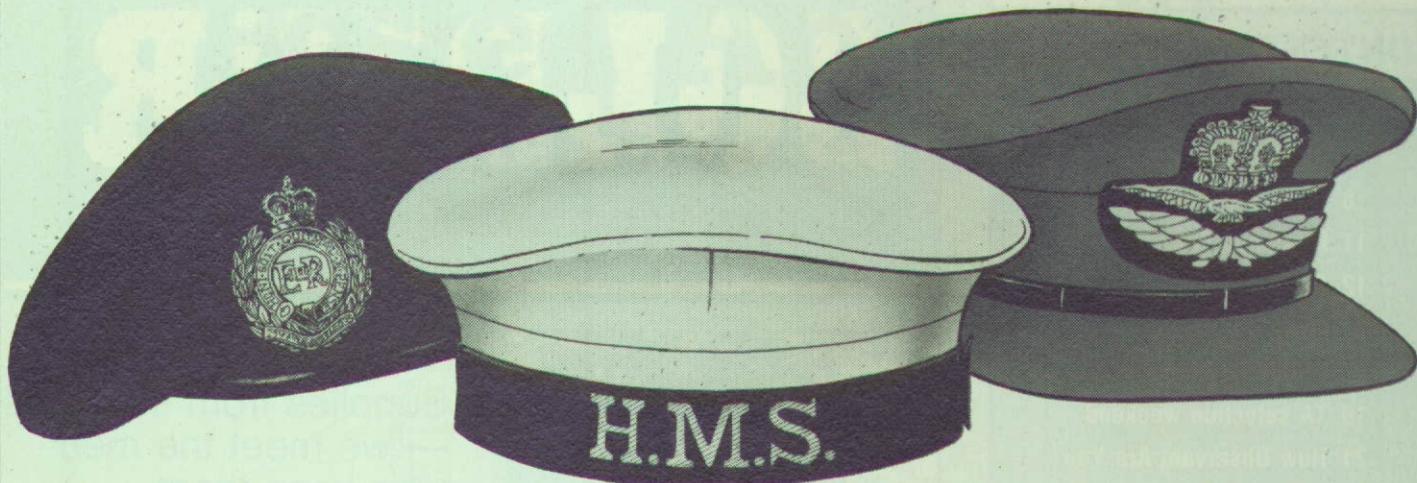
How a volunteer battalion in Wales could be re-shaping the future of TA recruitment — page 19 ▼

Supplies from the skies — we meet the men who keep them coming, in peace and in war — page 26 ▼



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SOLDIER to Soldier

IT WAS IRONIC that on a day when the Queen was presenting gallantry awards to our heroes of the Falklands, the United Nations assembly should be voting — by a considerable margin — for an Argentinian resolution urging a resumption of talks on the Islands' sovereignty. Even more ironic was that among the 90 nations supporting Argentina was our principal Nato ally — the USA.

Earlier in the debate the assembly had heard two Falkland islanders tell of the brutal and insensitive treatment meted out by their Argentinian captors during occupation — of civilians being tied up, beaten and even shot at. And as the diplomatic wheeling and dealing went on in New York, British soldiers 6500 miles away were carrying on with the grim task of clearing the mines sown recklessly and indiscriminately by the invaders — a task that will take years to complete.

Yet despite the fact that Argentina broke all the rules of international conduct in its unprovoked invasion of the Falklands — and flagrantly flouted a UN resolution ordering it to withdraw — its spurious claims to sovereignty have now been given a cloak of respectability that makes nonsense of all the bloodshed and bitterness that its actions have created.

Britain has rightly dismissed these latest UN shenanigans as 'hypocrisy' and a 'charade'. What makes us particularly sore though is that our friends across the water should be abetting an exercise in diplomatic double-talk that indirectly lends justification to an act of international terrorism.

At some future date it is likely that Britain and Argentina will sit down at the negotiating table again. But to do so now would be to insult the memory of those brave British men who died for the Falklands' freedom and to ignore the wishes of a proud island people whose lives have been so cruelly turned upside down.

BELFAST HERO IS 'MAN OF THE YEAR'

CORPORAL PHILIP HARTLEY of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, has been honoured as the Army's Man of the Year — one of 11 Men of the Year — at a special lunch given at the Savoy and attended by 500 of the nation's top businessmen.

Philip, 22, lost both legs when his Land Rover was ambushed in a rocket attack in West Belfast last year.

The luncheon — the 23rd to honour outstanding men — was given by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

There was also a special Falklands table at which sat eight men, two from the Army.

Philip, who had been described by General Sir Edwin Bramall, now Chief of the Defence Staff, as an "absolutely marvellous soldier", travelled specially from his West Yorkshire home where he is on sick leave.

He told SOLDIER: "It's a great privilege to be picked for it and, obviously, I feel very honoured."

Just hours before he arrived in London, the CO of his battalion, Lt-Col James Aldous — the unit is serving in Ulster — said: "The whole battalion is immensely proud of Cpl Hartley and inspired by his bravery. We wish him a very happy day and every success for the future. We shall



not be losing contact with him and are very much looking forward to seeing him again during our forthcoming tour in Berlin."

Philip, who had two artificial legs fitted, will eventually be leaving the Army and has already started an education course to fit him back into civilian life.

"Banking is something that appeals to me," said the young soldier who is married with two young children.

Cheap flight scheme

FROM 29 November it will again be possible to obtain 'indulgence' seats on MoD charter aircraft to North West Europe — a facility at present restricted to flights to and from Berlin.

But the revised scheme is for a trial 12-month period only and it will be reviewed against its effect on British airline and cross-Channel ferry services.

The change has come about as the result of an initiative of Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, and now it has been agreed by the Department of Trade who have to approve changes to the scheme.

The present charter service is operated by Britannia Airways, using mainly Boeing 737s with a seating capacity of 130 on nine scheduled return flights a week from Luton. There are two flights to Wildenrath, two to Dusseldorf, three to Gutersloh and two to Hannover.

But the Ministry of Defence has warned that every effort is made to use available seats for duty passengers and that the number and timing of flights is adjusted to take account of duty needs. Indulgence passengers face the risk of last minute cancellation if their seat is needed for a duty passenger.

Charges will be £13 single and applications for flights to Europe should be sent to the Services Booking Centre and for flights to UK to the Command Booking Centre, HQ RAF Germany.

Requests wanted

ARE YOU thinking of someone in the Falklands? Well, if you are, now's your chance to get in touch with them.

The Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station (FIBS) is appealing for requests. They have several request programmes and now they have added a Breakfast Show. Just write to 'Requests', FIBS, Port Stanley, BFPO 666.

Queen says 'H' not reckless



LIEUTENANT COLONEL 'H' Jones did not sacrifice his life recklessly, the Queen told his widow when she presented Mrs Sara Jones with her husband's posthumous Victoria Cross.

"VCs do not come very often and frequently they are awarded for actions carried out on the spur of the moment but nonetheless brave," said the Queen. "In the case of your husband, however, it was not like that. He obviously gave great thought to what he was going to do."

The VC was one of 22 Falklands awards presented by the Queen at the investiture at Buckingham Palace. Sergeant Ian McKay's widow, Marica, was due to receive his posthumous VC at a second investiture a few days later.

Left: Mrs Jones with the coveted medal after the ceremony. Right: Welsh Guardsman, Lance Corporal Dale Loveridge with his fiancée, Barbara Robson, and the Military Medal he won for his part in rescuing comrades from the blazing Sir Galahad.



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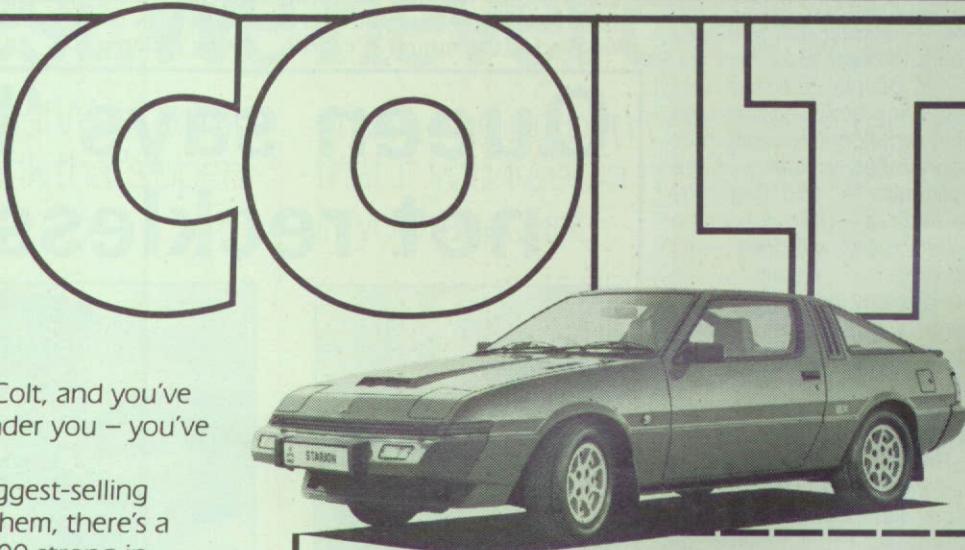
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TURBO TECHNOLOGY
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Boost for defence

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer's mini-budget included a £622 million boost for defence, raising the revised estimate for defence expenditure for 1983-4 to £15,900 million.

Part of the package is £200 million to cover part of the cost of the Falklands Campaign and replacement of lost Service assets.

But apart from the Falklands the measure represents a 3.3 per cent increase in real growth over 1982-3.

A further £424 million has been added against the best estimate of the cost of maintaining the South Atlantic garrison, although final force levels may yet have to be decided. Finally there is £42 million for the 1982 Armed Forces Pay Award.

But the Chancellor has also cut £44 million because previous estimates for the increased cost of MoD civilians were too high. The cut in National Insurance surcharge will save the Ministry £35 million but against that pension up-ratings have led to an increase of £11 million and other pay-related changes will cost another £4 million.

Altogether these adjustments have led to a £20 million net reduction of the original estimates, apart from the Chancellor's bonus.

New HQs for UK

TWO NEW Army Brigade headquarters are to be formed in the UK on 1 January. They are 42 Infantry Brigade HQ at Chester and 54 Infantry Brigade HQ at Grantham.

It is the second phase of a command structure revision designed to meet wartime needs and follows the first phase re-introduction of the Brigade level of command for United Kingdom Land Forces, in January this year, for UK-based units with a British Army of the Rhine reinforcement role.

The re-organisation's main purpose is to provide a more effective means of commanding the unbrigaded regular and TA units of North West and Eastern Districts in peacetime and of organising and supervising their training for war.

Both Brigades will be formed from existing Regular and Territorial Army units — 42's units from North West District and 54's from Eastern District.



A poignant moment during the ceremony at Blue Beach Military Cemetery in Port San Carlos when 14 men killed in the Falklands fighting were reburied with full military honours. They included Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones. Among the mourners were Colonel Jones' brother and Defence Secretary Mr John Nott.

£3.4M PAID BY ATLANTIC FUND

ALLEGATIONS that men injured in the Falklands were suffering hardship because the South Atlantic Fund was refusing to help them have been vigorously denied by the Ministry of Defence.

Fewer found jobs

FAILURE to prepare for civilian life can lead to long term unemployment for ex-Servicemen, the new president of the Regular Forces Employment Association has warned.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson issued his warning at the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Association. But ex-Servicemen and women were holding their own remarkably well in the labour market.

Although the number of ex-Regulars continuously unemployed for more than six months had risen, the proportion of them to all unemployed ex-Regulars was well below the equivalent national figure.

The numbers leaving the Services were down by some 21 per cent and of those who left 52 per cent registered with the Association, six per cent more than the previous year.

But there was a six per cent drop compared with the previous year in the number who were found jobs.

"All charities in any way connected with Servicemen — some 200 — and regimental charities have been asked to assist immediately in any case that comes to notice and then seek reimbursement from the South Atlantic Fund", said the Ministry's statement.

The Fund was bound by charity law, it continued, and £1.9 million had already been paid out to widows and dependants of those killed, to meet their immediate needs.

"A further £1.5 million has also been paid to the three principal Service charities so that they can have monies to enable them to react immediately to any case of suffering or need that comes to their notice, and to the Service Dependents' Fund to reimburse them for money they had paid out immediately to widows and dependants of members.

"Those injured in the conflict are all currently in the care of the respective Services", says the statement. "And, to date, no injured man has been discharged from the Services."

"Cases of dependants having immediate need have arisen and sums have been paid out to individuals."

"The trustees have also set in motion a scheme whereby the long-term needs of all those who have suffered either by bereavement or injury will be assessed so that further grants can be made."

Briefly

Mr William George Sheppard, one of the last survivors of the Boer War, has celebrated his 105th birthday at a council home in Devizes, Wilts.

★ ★ ★

A fire was started in the Army Careers Office in Swansea after someone poured an 'inflammable substance' through the letterbox. No one was injured.

★ ★ ★

A new film, "The Peace Game", setting out the pros and cons of the nuclear argument has just been launched. Made by the Central Office of Information, it runs for 24 minutes. It is available on 16 mm film or video cassette from the Central Film Library.

★ ★ ★

The Band, Pipes, Bugles and drums of 1 Bn Royal Irish Rangers represented Britain when Walt Disney's 800 million dollar "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow" was opened at Orlando, Florida.

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NEWS VIEW



► Sand Dune Safari

Eight disabled children have just had the experience of a lifetime and part of the cost was met by the efforts of A Coy 5th Battalion Light Infantry at Wakefield, Yorks. The children, five of them confined to wheelchairs, motored across Europe, then to Morocco and into the Sahara in three specially converted vehicles. The trip was the brainchild of survival expert Eddie McGee, right, and lovely actress Tricia Fuller was on hand to receive the TA lads' contribution from CO, Major Tim Crowther.

► High Test ▾

Colour Sergeant Ronnie Nevins and Corporal 'Zeke' Thackery of 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers put their NBC suits through what they feel is the ultimate test. Both jumped free-fall from 10,000 feet over Bad Lippspring wearing the full kit, complete with respirators.



► Cyprus Patrol ▾

A trip in a Ferret of B Squadron The Blues and Royals along the patrol track which runs between the cease-fire lines was just one of the highlights when Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) visited the United Nations Force in Cyprus. Here he is briefed by Major Tim Sullivan B Squadron's OC. Later he called on 1 Glosters.



► Best Foot Forward ▾

WRAC Private Kim Living showed the lads how to do it when members of 19 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signals Squadron set out to march from Colchester to the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London. Organised by Corporal Steven Allsopp, the marchers raised £1048 for a piece of special equipment. One benefactor even threw notes from his car window — and they turned out to be £50 notes.



► Pipe Dreams ▾

Memories of the days gone by as Chelsea Pensioners Sgt Fred Cook, left, and CSM Alan Aris puffed away in London after receiving a gift of tobacco from the Pipers' Council to mark the 364th anniversary of the execution of Sir Walter Raleigh, who introduced tobacco to England. Sgt Cook is loading up an 1850 European natural briar boot pipe with tobacco of similar colour and texture to that which Sir Walter would have used and CSM Aris has a German Kaiser Wilhelm II porcelain bowl pipe made in 1900.



► Veteran Tankie ▾

When 4 Royal Tank Regiment made a goodwill visit to an Edinburgh brewery a surprise visitor to the display was veteran tankie Hubert Don who drove one of the tanks into action at the battle of Cambrai in November 1917. That was the first big tank battle and Hubert was the sole survivor when his machine was blown up. But at 91 he was still active enough to clamber up onto a modern tank and to be shown how to drive it by Corporal Alan Watson.

► Make-up Artist ▾

Private Dave Revell of 19 Field Ambulance, RAMC, at Colchester is a make-up artist with a difference and his skills were much in demand when North West District ran its biggest ever TA General Hospitals exercise, involving both 207 and 208. Dave was the expert who made-up the realistic looking casualties before they were fed into the system. Here it was the turn of Private Allen Tennant.

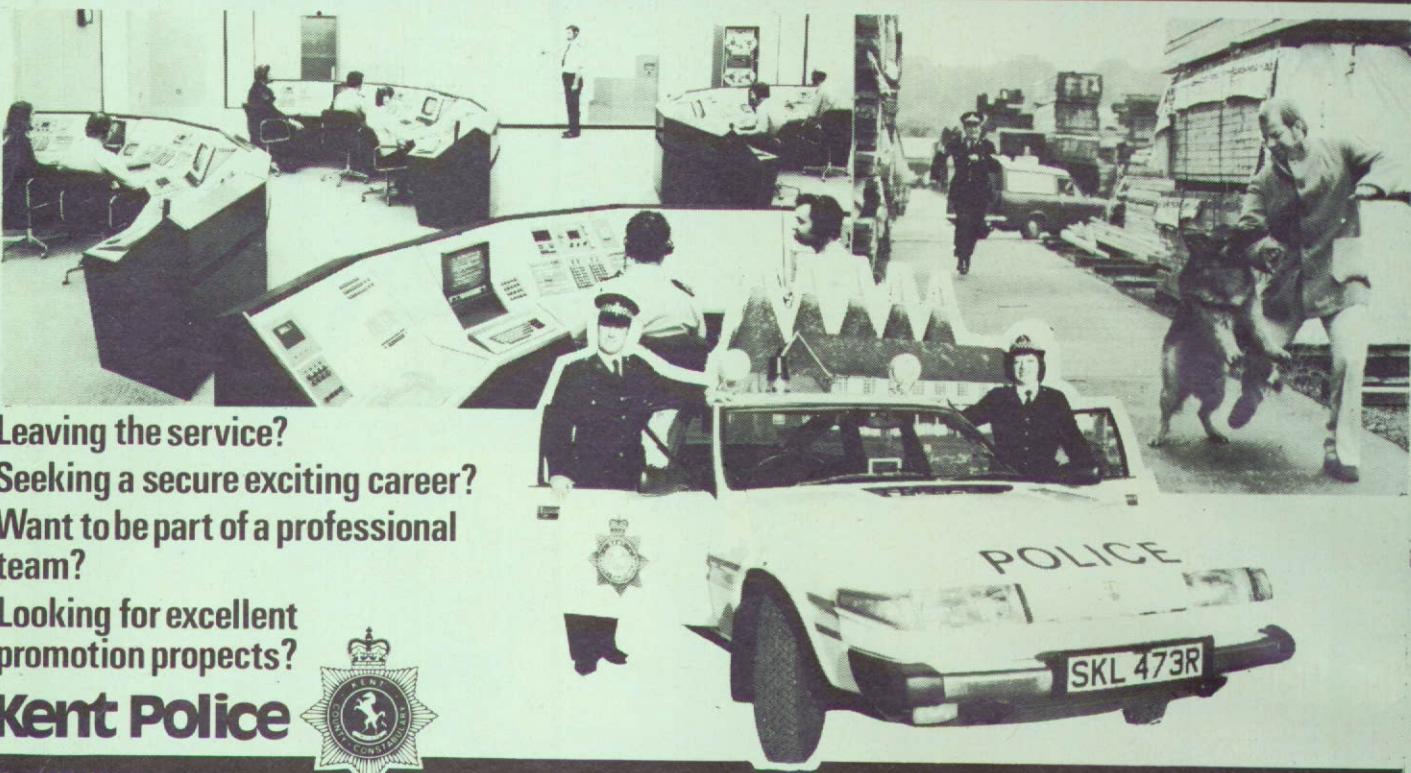


► It's a Stick-up ▾

It looks as if the number 13 is about to be unlucky for Major General Mike Tomlinson, the Director Royal Artillery, as he chats to Bombardier Steve Allen during a visit to 2 Field Regiment RA in Munster. But although Gunner Jack Horner, next in line, looks grim it turned out that his motive was innocent enough. It was just that he had served with the General before and was determined to get a word in.



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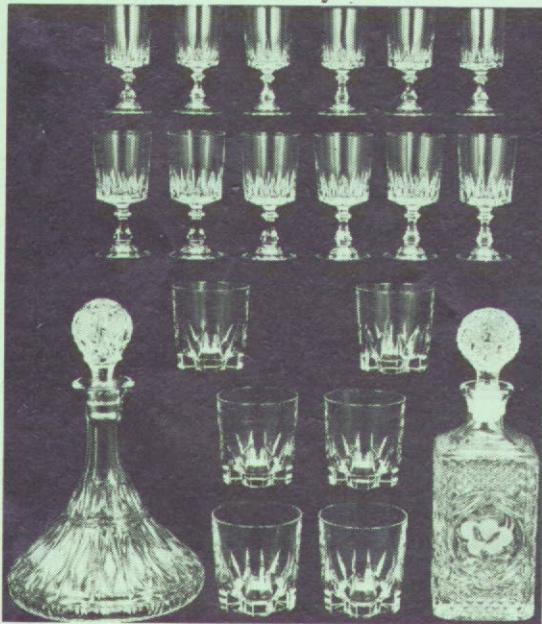


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SIX BUSY MONTHS FOR LOWLAND GUNNERS

THEY ONCE slept in barns, sheds and even in the rafters of the cookhouse. Next month, men from 137 (Java) Field Battery, 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery — The Lowland Gunners — return to the UK after six months service in the post-war Falklands.

Their initial task was to restore Fitzroy settlement to the state it was before the hostilities. Trenches were filled in, debris cleared up and a detachment sent to Bluff Cove to help tidy that community's streets.

Sergeant David Routledge, team leader of the Fitzroy project, said: "Our first accommodation was a classroom. It was chaotic at first with soldiers cleaning up and repairing property. Port Stanley and its immediate surrounds was like a scene from World War Two. Weapons, ammunition and the paraphernalia of war lay around. Rifles were stuck by their barrels in the ground."

Another party of gunners from the Battery — all Heavy Goods Drivers — were detached to the Royal Engineers extending the runway at Port Stanley airfield. Their task — driving the huge tipper trucks.

But training was not forgotten either.

They managed several live firing practices with the 105mm Light Gun and other training with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force comprising Gunner Observation Parties directing naval gunfire and aircraft ground attack missions.

And in their spare time the lads managed to play football, go fishing and put in some bird watching — of the ornithological kind.

Back at Colchester next month, 40 Field Regiment will still have a presence at Fitzroy for 129 (Dragon) Field Battery will be taking over from Java.



FALKLANDS FILE

L Bdr John Bonnar helps sort out ammunition stocks at Fitzroy.



PT CAN BE FUN! The children of Port Stanley certainly think so on five afternoons a week when two soldiers help out with their physical fitness programme at the Stanley Infant Junior School.

Lance Corporals Gary Deane and Robert Hughes, of the 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders, are the men putting the children through their energetic paces.

Gary said: "This is the first time I've had this chance and these are very lively kids. This is the first time, too, I've taken gymnastics."

CARING FOR CLAUDETTE

GUNNER TONY AMBROSE found himself with a job that he wouldn't even have dreamt of in a million years when he set off to the Falklands in July.

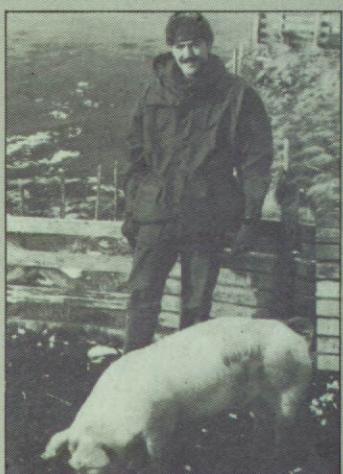
Tony has been looking after 'Claudette' 137 (Java) Field Battery's 'mobile dust-bin' pig. She eats all the left overs from the cook-house meals, which keeps the place nice and tidy.

The idea was that of the Bat-

tery Commander, Major John Tulloch, who collected 'Claudette' from Bluff Cove settlement. He went there by helicopter and came back by tractor pulling a sledge with Claudette and a sow, going to be mated with a Fitzroy boar, in tow.

"I fed them Army Compo biscuits on the way which helped to quieten them down. We drove through the areas where the Paras, Scots Guards, Welsh Guards and Gurkhas had dug-in during the war. I doubt if those lonely trenches had witnessed such a sight before," said Major Tulloch.

Claudette has become such a pet that now she even goes on walks with the Gunners. "I've become attached to Claudette. I only hope we don't turn her into



bacon before we leave — it's one meal I'll miss if the time comes", said Gunner Ambrose.

READY FOR SOME FEATS OF CLAY

A SPORTING shotgun, suitable either for game shooting or practise at clay, has been handed over to Major General David Thorne, Military Commander in the Falkland Islands, by Mr Cranley Onslow, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

The 'over and under' shotgun was presented to the armed forces serving in the Falklands, in answer to their appeal for sports equipment, on behalf of Gough Thomas, an authority on small arms and a respected author on the subject.

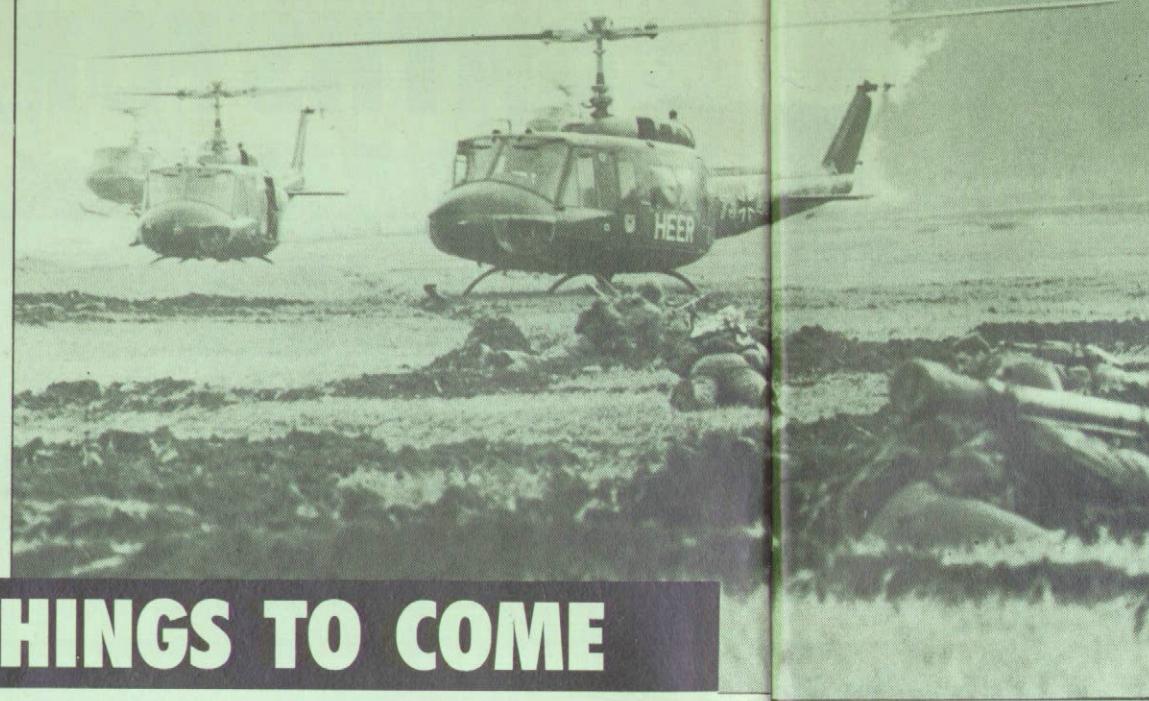
Mr Thomas, aged 83, explained his reasons for offering the use of the new, un-used shotgun.

"If I had been young enough I would love to have gone to the Falklands with the Task Force. I am a patriotic Englishman and the affair made my ancient heart swell with pride so that I wanted to register my feelings by some small act of thanks. The gun is meant for the recreation and relaxation of the officers and men as the opportunity arises."



The New Year re-structuring of our Armoured Divisions in Germany will lend new strength and flexibility to Nato's central defences. The massive Exercise Quarter Final — last of three major field exercises to be held in Germany this year — gave a chance to test . . .

Heli-blitz! German Hueys land a company in less than 60 seconds.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

THE ATTACK on the bridge, when it came, was sudden and spectacular. Six UH-1D helicopters of the Bundeswehr clattered in low and fast in the failing light of evening, hugging the treeline before stopping sharply to disgorge a company of troops. The bright cap bands of the sprinting infantry identified them immediately as men of the enemy Orange Forces.

The firefight that followed was short and sharp. The Orange troops had to seize the river crossing swiftly if they were to cut off a withdrawing column of Blue Force armour.

The Hueys were on the ground for less than a minute. Within ten, the bridge was in Orange hands. But, as the attackers mopped up the last opposition, four silhouettes appeared above the trees behind them. Like the US Cavalry coming over the hill, Blue Force armed helicopters had arrived on the scene . . .

More than twenty thousand men and seven thousand vehicles — including four hundred tanks — spent two weeks battling in the West German states of Lower Saxony and Northrhine-Westphalia during the most significant Rhine Army exercise for several years.

That exercise was Quarter Final 82 — during which the 4th Armoured Division and its Commander, Major General Jeremy Reilly, trialled the new three-brigade shape of armoured divisions in BAOR which takes effect next year.

The 1st British Corps will regroup from four to three armoured divisions in the New Year, when HQ 2 Armd Div returns to the UK in a new role. At the same time 2 Armd Div's units will be absorbed into the other BAOR divisions, increasing two of them into formations of three brigades each.

The demanding task facing 4 Armd Div on Quarter Final 82 was to test the practice beyond the theory of this regrouping of British land forces on Nato's Central Front. And the division emerged with flying colours from the experience.

"The exercise was highly successful. It exceeded our aims by a good margin," said General Reilly, who commanded the combined Blue Forces on the exercise.

"I was highly impressed by the cheerfulness, spirit and outstanding professionalism — which was commented on by CINCENT — of all the units and all the men who were under my command for the exercise. These qualities stood out clearly."

The exercise took place over a very large area of northern Germany, stretching from Osnabrück in the west to Braunschweig (Brunswick) in the east and south to beyond Hildesheim.

Watching the exercise — General von Senger und Etterlin, CINCENT.



Soldier and rocket launcher wait it out under cover.



QOH Chieftain passes taken-out Milan position during final push against the invaders.

The Blue Forces comprised the 11th and 20th Armoured Brigades of 4 Armd Div, joined by the 12th Armoured Brigade from Osnabrück. Enemy Orange Forces were made up by the 7th and 22nd Armoured Brigades of 1 Armd Div. The regular BAOR units were reinforced by more than 4000 men from the UK — most of them Territorial soldiers.

Other elements taking part included The Royal Danish Life Guards, helicopters of the West German Army and anti-tank A-10 aircraft of the US Air Force. Air power from five Nato nations was also committed to the exercise.

Quarter Final was divided into two phases. The formations taking part spent the first week in

preparatory training under the control of individual brigades, practising battle procedures as they moved gradually to the principal exercise area south and west of Hildesheim.

The main battle phase opened early on the Monday morning of the second week, when 'enemy' forces crossed the exercise Outer Orange Border to invade Blue territory.

Damage control was a crucial factor throughout the planning for and execution of the exercise. Control and repair of damage worked very well throughout the entire operation, thanks to such factors as quick response to incidents and restrictions on vehicle movements at weekends, and despite the threat posed by a

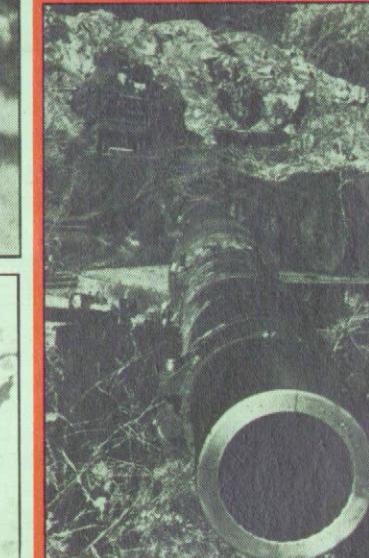
week of often-heavy rain in the first phase.

Is an exercise such as Quarter Final, with all its cost and complexity, really worthwhile? General Reilly is in no doubt.

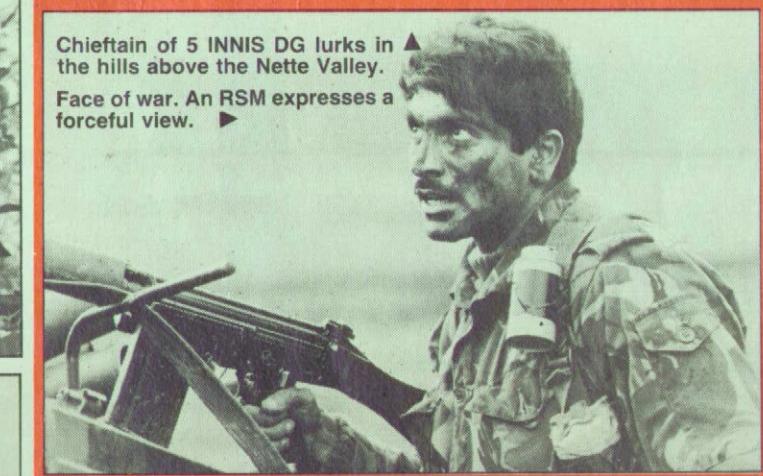
"The exercise was value for money not only for the British taxpayer but also for the whole of Nato. If we do not train for war we are not worth anything at all and we certainly wouldn't be of any deterrent value whatsoever."

And of the new three-brigade grouping for his and one other BAOR division: "This grouping provides greatly improved flexibility and allows greater freedom in designing tactics with the intention of defeating an aggressor army, rather than merely stopping it."

Life Guards Chieftain waits in a suburban street — a typical scene in the 'exercise season'.



Story: Steve Jones



Chieftain of 5 INNIS DG lurks in the hills above the Nette Valley.

Face of war. An RSM expresses a forceful view.



Mortar team from Royal Danish Life Guards.



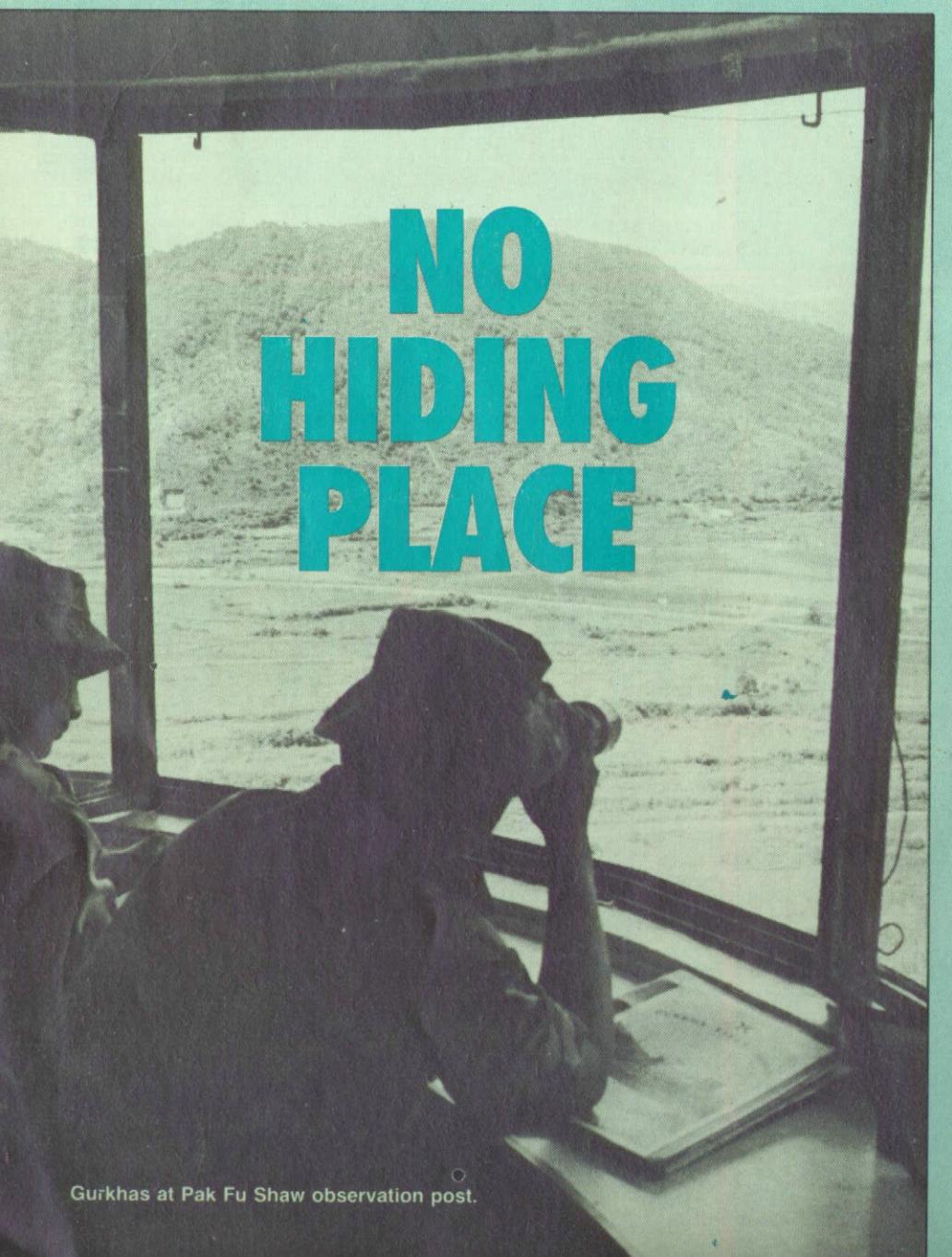
Rifleman John Lowery, 2 RGJ, takes time out for a cuppa while digging foxholes.

Heilborne soldier of 1 RHA awaits Blue counter-attack.

John Walton joins the Army's most recently re-formed infantry battalion on patrol along the Hong Kong border where illegal immigrants from China soon discover there is . . .



The divided village of Sha Tau Kok — the buildings in background are in Red China.



Gurkhas at Pak Fu Shaw observation post.

TWO YOUNG CHINESE, barefoot and wearing only shirt and trousers, blinked disconsolately at their captors. Their hands were tied behind their backs and their journey was at an end — 24 hours later they would be shipped back to the land which they had abandoned in search of the bright lights and a higher standard of living.

The captors of the two illegal immigrants into Hong Kong were men of the British Army's most recently re-formed infantry battalion, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. They were carrying out their second tour of the Chinese border since their formation last Spring.

In 1979 and 1980 the flood of illegal immigration by the Chinese reached crisis proportions. Many thousands, like these two boys gulping tea from a Gurkha's flask, came by land and by sea. Many were captured, some time and time again, but others got through to the teeming streets of Kowloon and Hong Kong and were allowed to register.

It is estimated that 460,000 illegal immigrants reached Hong Kong in the years 1975-1980 to join the crowded millions of people already in the territory.

In October 1980 this 'touch base' policy was abandoned. Identity cards and work registration were introduced in an attempt to stem the tide. Immigrants were returned even if they managed to reach the city and numbers dropped to a steady trickle. Today only about 30 Chinese a day make the bus journey back across Man Kam To bridge to Red China.

Each of the five Army battalions in Hong Kong takes it in turn to patrol the border in support of the Hong Kong police. Their job as they are strung out from Castle Peak in the west to Sai Kung in the east is to apprehend the illegal immigrants and hand them over to the police.

During their latest border tour the 2nd/7th had the assistance of Chinese soldiers, who acted as interpreters, as well as members of the Army Dog Unit, who are also

Two young Chinese intruders who never made it to the bright lights.



Pictures: Les Wiggs

Man Kam To bridge — China on far side. ▼



The wire and border patrol road. ▲

from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. Their haul averaged 17 a day.

"My theory is that if the weather is bad you get more," says the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Evan Powell-Jones.

The would-be immigrants have to run the gauntlet of their own border guards as well as up the three fences topped with barbed wire. The majority are caught at night and many of the others in the hours after dawn.

"They come well equipped with things like wirecutters, clothing to hang over the barbed wire and pieces of elastic with hooks to pull the barbed wire back," explains Colonel Powell-Jones.

There is no real contact with the Communist Chinese guards on the other side of the border. On rare occasions a border guard will spot immigrants on the other side of the border and will point them out, but waving and shouting greetings is discouraged.

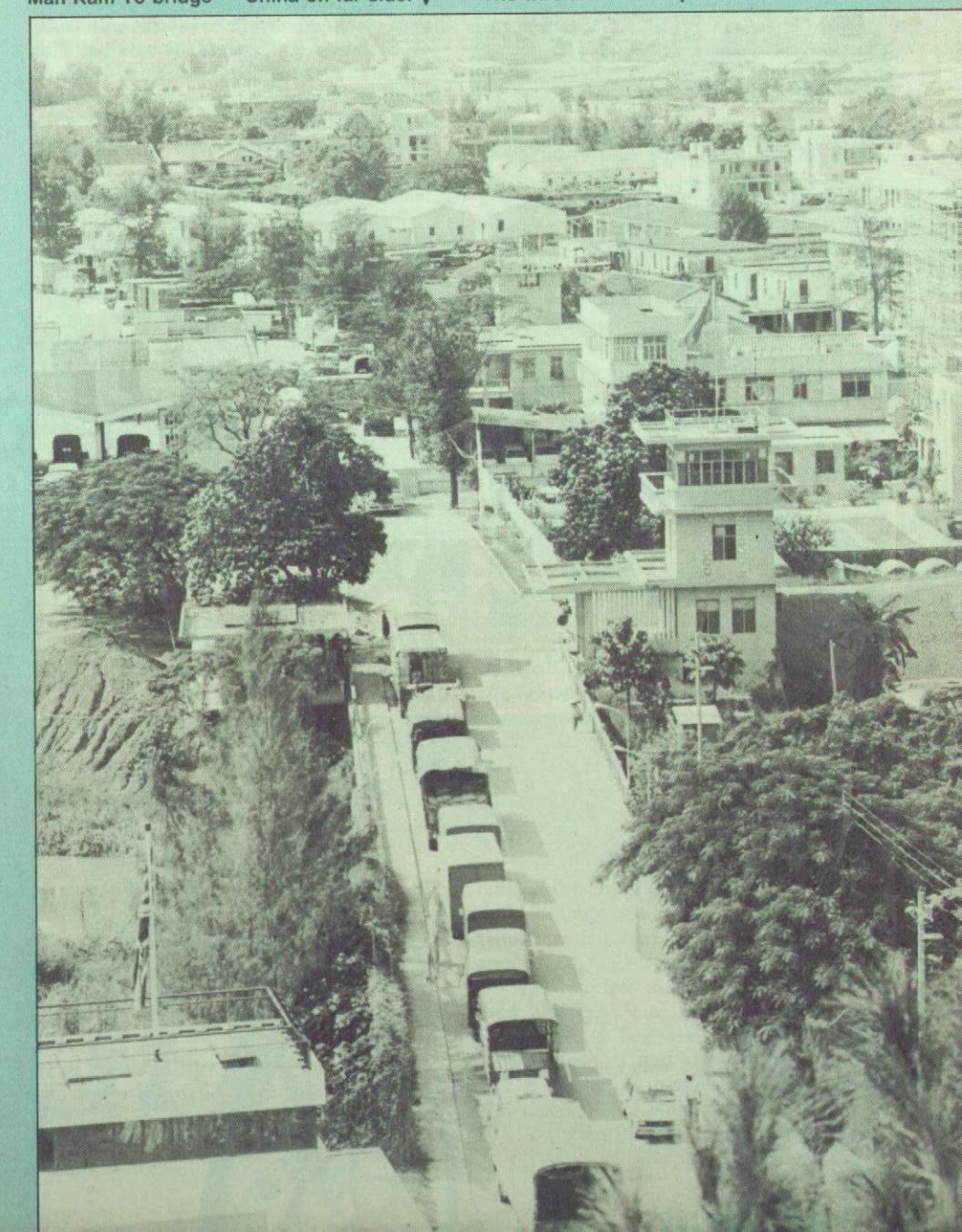
At Yeung Shue Au, a hamlet on the tip of a peninsula in the east, Captain (QGO) Ombahadur Ghale was stationed with a platoon, normally the battalion's pipes and drums. Their biggest haul had been on 17 September when an eagle patrol (helicopter) had seen two abandoned rubber dinghies.

The Gurkhas spread out in the thinly populated area and captured 14 of the 16 illegal immigrants who had landed in the boats. According to Colonel Powell-Jones, "most of them are easily recognisable."

"They are dirty and unkempt and the Chinese will recognise them easily because they are wide eyed and look apprehensive."

The captain shows us a football and two inflatable pillows used by immigrants to help them swim ashore. We then climb into seairiders, the fast rubber boats used by the Gurkhas, and speed to Sha Tau Kok.

Three of the battalion's company headquarters are sited in police stations and at Sha Tau Kok the fishing village is divided with Hong Kong on the left and China on the right as you go down the main street.



Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

Brightly coloured clothing and traditional hakka dress can be seen on the Communist side with not a red book or rumpled Mao suit in sight. But like villages everywhere the locals know just who lives on their side and who doesn't.

Driving along the border along narrow roads we see all types of vegetation. Thick foliage, suitable for hiding but hampering the immigrants' movements, gives way to open fields. We are driving on the left but a road 100 yards away has vehicles driving on the right — it is in China.

Over the last few years the area on the other side of the Man Kam To bridge has undergone a remarkable change as the Chinese have turned paddy fields into a development area. A large building labelled 'Duty Free Shop' has appeared right on the border and construction is going on all around.

Major Bob Couldrey, the company commander at Man Kam To, tells us that his men look on the border patrolling as part of their service in Hong Kong. "At times it can get quite monotonous but I reckon they cope with it quite well. If you are going out on duty you would rather something happened than spend night after night with nothing happening at all.

"The immigrants arrive very tired and there is an amount of shock for them in being picked up and captured for it is an end to their hopes. But it wouldn't be true at all to say that we gain an immense amount of

Capt Ombahadur Ghale with swimming aids used by illegal immigrants. ▼



A typical four-man 'brick' — two men on bikes, the others on foot. ▼



satisfaction from picking up these poor unfortunates."

The 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles has a history dating back to 1902 and the 1st and 2nd Battalions were amalgamated as recently as 1970. Last year a new organisation was formed to meet the need for four extra infantry companies for internal security purposes in Hong Kong.

Known at first as the Gurkha Reinforcement Battalion the new unit was posted to Lyemun Barracks on Hong Kong island. The battalion is much smaller than normal Gurkha battalions, which are almost 1000 strong — 2nd/7th has no heavy weapons, no mortar platoon, no anti-tank capability and no assault pioneers. It also has no increment to cover the one-sixth of its personnel likely to be on leave in Nepal at any one time.

Its strength therefore is only about two-thirds that of the other Gurkha battalions and there is something else unusual. It comprises men from both eastern and western Nepal. Mixed battalions were used during the Second World War but in more recent times the battalions have represented either eastern or western areas but never both.

Says the adjutant, Major David Hayes: "It is a mixed battalion of mixed tribes and it seems to work. It has been great fun moulding it together."

All new recruits will be easterners like the 1st Battalion and eventually the battalion will be all eastern. But the raising of a new battalion precluded this at first, as Major Hayes explains.

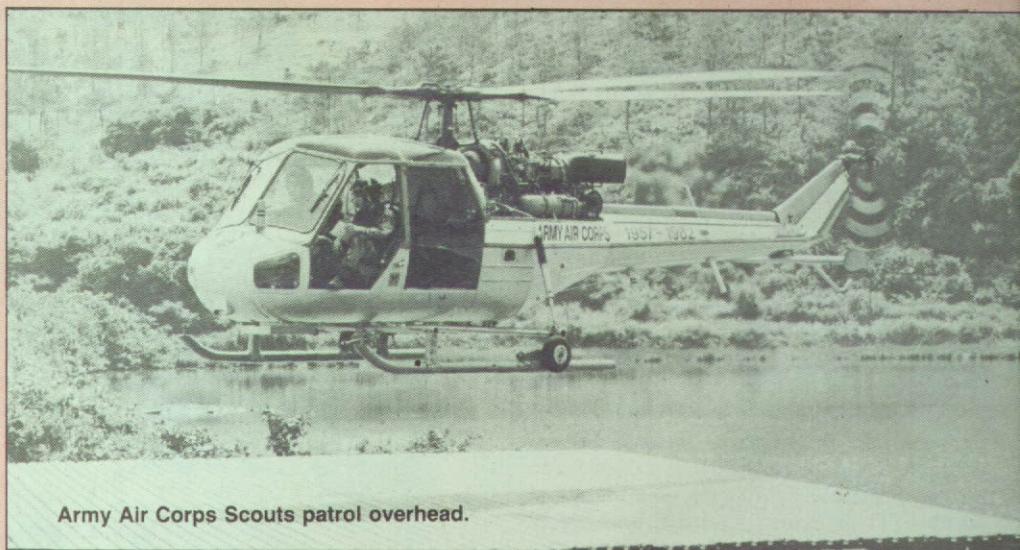
"We could not possibly take them all



Ringing the bell at Lyemun.

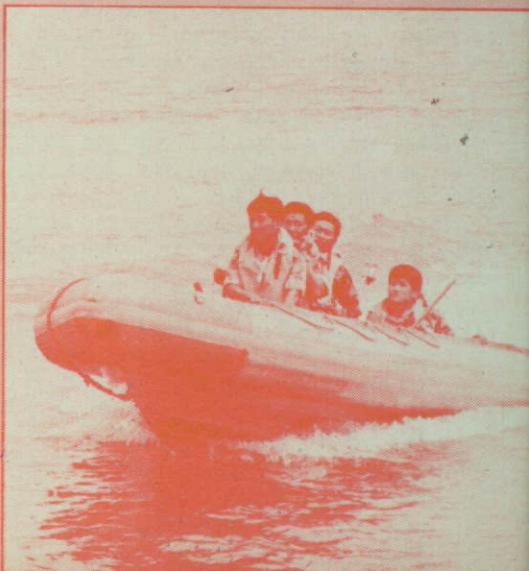
straight from the hills. We had to have an instant battalion so drew the men from all the Gurkha battalions at present in the Army. We had to strata the battalion and not only is the battalion mixed but so are the companies."

Future postings remain to be seen because without the usual battalion strength and tail it would be difficult to move it out of Hong Kong. But for now the ringing of the battalion's bell at Lyemun every half hour serves to symbolise that a unit with a proud history is back in being. ■



Army Air Corps Scouts patrol overhead.

Skimming the water in a searider. ▼



HOW MONTY'S DOUBLE DROPPED IN ON ARNHEM

ARNHEM AIRBORNE FORCES' veteran, Keith Banwell — "They've always called me Tex" — had to wait 38 years to get a medal for his wartime association with the Dutch underground resistance movement.

It was only two months ago that he, together with 25 others who had been involved with the 'Onderdijkers', was formally presented with a specially struck silver cross and ribbon by the Mayor of Arnhem.

But Tex's exploits in Holland were only one chapter in a remarkable adventure-strewn military career that saw him escape from enemy hands on five occasions and twice face a German firing squad.

Even today, at 64, he is still parachuting and has 990 jumps to his credit.

Among Tex's more unusual claims to military fame are the times he spent as a 'double' for Monty in the Middle East.

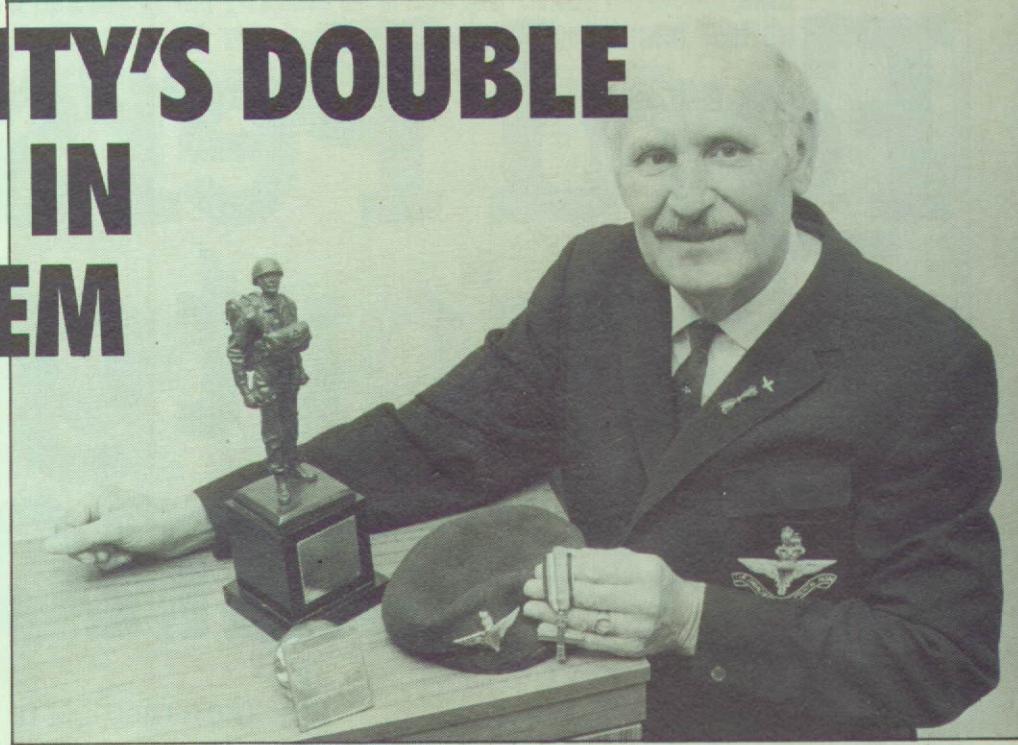
"I'd never seen the resemblance myself and could not understand why they had picked on me," he confesses. "I'm six feet tall. Monty was much shorter. But being with the LRDG (Long Range Desert Group) I was a bit pinched in the face at that time mainly because of the way we were living, off bully beef and food like that. I had to go to GHQ in Cairo for an interview, was told what was wanted and then sworn to secrecy.

"The playing of the part didn't particularly appeal to me but I thought it would be a bit more luxurious than riding round the desert in a jeep. I was told it was an order and duly outfitted with medals and beret with a couple of badges. We were sent off — me and the driver — to Jerusalem and told to wander around where we could be seen. Under no circumstances was I to get out of the car. I did this about four times over two years.

"The role didn't go to my head but had I been allowed to get out of the vehicle and allowed to meet people I may well have kidded myself into thinking I was Monty! There were four of us in Egypt impersonating Monty — I know that for certain."

Now a post office security worker living in North London, Tex joined the Coldstream Guards as a teenager before the war and later switched to the Hampshire Regiment where he fought against the Pathans and Kashmiris on India's North-West Frontier.

The outbreak of war found him in Palestine where he volunteered for the Long Range Desert Group, operating in full Arab dress. Then, after various adventures including his 'Monty' role, he joined the 10th Parachute Battalion with whom he fought in Tunisia, Taranto in southern Italy and,



later, Arnhem.

As a paratrooper he was to escape five times from enemy hands.

One such escape occurred in Crete and involved the famous German boxer Max Schmeling, then an enemy paratrooper, from whom Tex scrounged some food. It also utilised the services of a Cretan boatman, but not without the unwelcome attentions of some diving German Stukas.

Drifting in the middle of the Mediterranean Tex and his comrades saw themselves providing the enemy aircrews with some easy target practice. But suddenly an MTB approached and — to their immense relief — it turned out to be British.

'There were four of us in Egypt impersonating Monty — I know that for certain.'

"Had we drifted a couple more miles further along the coast we would surely have been captured by the Germans," Tex recalls.

It was Arnhem though, in the autumn of 1944, that was to give Tex some of his most hair-raising moments as a paratrooper.

He was a sergeant at that time and remembers exiting from a crippled Dakota at 500 feet with eight comrades. Six more lay dead in the aircraft which had an engine aflame from a direct hit. A Spandau machine gun opened up from a clump of pine trees and a burst of bullets almost ripped the fuselage of the stricken aircraft in two.

But events on the ground were to prove even more dramatic. Tex linked up with Dutch underground resistance fighters and found himself assisting in the ambush of a German officer.

Interview by Graham Smith

The objective was to stop the staff car in which the officer was carrying vital documents and a piece of metal for use in the V-weapons being built to rain devastation on Britain.

As it turned out, the documents told of where Hitler's private plane was kept in a hangar, his personal evacuation plans if things went wrong and the piece of metal was some sort of carburettor:

The ambush was laid. It was a black night. Tex was manning a Bren gun with the others dispositioned at strategic points. There were ten of them, dressed in boiler suits, clogs and peaked caps.

Tex takes up the story: "I was in a ditch behind a brick wall. The car duly came. I shot the driver, killed him, then killed the escort. The officer, inside, was shot in the leg. I had taken his knee cap off. The officer was groaning and I was about to shoot him there and then. I wanted to push the car off the road. I told my Dutch comrades I would have to shoot him. The Dutch pleaded for his life again."

They returned the wounded officer to the roadside and a German patrol later found him. But what he knew, and the Dutch had forgotten, was that nearby there was a woman who bred dachshunds, a couple of hundred of them. Somehow, the officer had noticed this and, after scouring their maps, the Germans were able to pin-point the village which had been the scene of the attack.

"Five hundred men were taken away, old men and boys and then indiscriminately shot," recalls Tex who was later to face a six-man firing squad himself — twice.

Tex was active in an escape route cell for Allied servicemen which involved hiding out in a brickworks and then taking a ferry.

continued on page 34

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FORD PERSONAL IMPORT EXPORT LTD., 

Fancy becoming a soldier in your spare time? You may be full of enthusiasm but how do you know you'll like life in the TA? And how can the TA tell if you'll shape up? The Royal Welch Fusiliers think they've found the answers. John Walton took a look at a scheme which could transform TA recruiting.



just a Taster

UP ON THE North Wales coast, in the hatted camp which used to house the old Junior Tradesman's Regiment, a weekend experiment takes place regularly which has become so successful that it looks like revolutionising Territorial Army recruiting.

The Recruit Selection Weekends operated by the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, have now been running for two-and-a-half years. In that time the battalion has seen its standards improve dramatically — with a much higher retention figure and better attendances at annual camp.

Other units have been encouraged to take up the scheme. About 25 have been along to Kinmel Park, Rhyl, to see the Welsh operation and most of those have now launched their own versions.

On a Friday evening as we waited for the 37 potential recruits to arrive, Captain Bill Whitehouse, former adjutant and now training officer for the battalion, told SOLDIER that the unit runs six courses a year with an average intake of 30. Of these about 70 per cent eventually pass.

The battalion is spread right across North Wales from its headquarters in Wrexham to Llandudno, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, Caernarvon, Bangor, Holyhead and Aberystwyth. Some are from Welsh speaking areas and care has to be taken that they understand the test paper which is in English.

There is a tremendous determination to be accepted. Said Captain Whitehouse: "Most of those who fail do so because they are overweight. We tell them to try again. We had one who started off at 16 stone and he came back for a third time, having dieted down to 11½ stone and eventually passed.

"I'm full of admiration for them because

Spurred on by instructor in three mile run. ▲ Getting box of bricks over scramble nets. ▼



continued on page 20



Their first introduction to the joys of the assault course.

continued from page 19

they get a fair bashing and they still bounce back. Recruit selection has really sorted out our problems of turnover and we are now selecting the material we particularly want."

The budding TA soldiers file into the room. There are 37 of them, some with beards which they will have to shave off if accepted and with a variety of hair lengths and styles. On average, about a quarter of them are likely to be unemployed.

Watching one of these weekends is a little like a rendition of the old 'Ten Green Bottles' song. One candidate does not even get

squadded — his medical documents have not arrived in time — so then there are 36.

Bill Whitehouse tells everyone that they are free to leave at any time during the weekend. "We only want people who want to be in the TA and to stay and serve with us. You have all volunteered — no-one has been shanghaied."

He refuses to give them details of the weekend programme — telling them only that they will be watched and that if some of them are not up to scratch, they are likely to be told on the Saturday.

The group depart for their bunks. They will be woken at 5.30 am for a run. On past occasions some of the would-be soldiers have been so shocked by this early reveille that they have refused to turn out of bed and have automatically lost their place.

The RSM, WO 1 Jim Gettins, says that any Regular soldier who pooh-poohs the TA has never worked with them. "You can't compare them with the Regulars because they aren't Regulars but when you consider they do this as a hobby the majority of them are good value for money."

"Any permanent staff instructor who



Now this bit should go in there!

comes here with the attitude that he is a kingpin or expert soon has to reverse his opinion both of the TA and his own worth to it."

Saturday begins with the run followed by cleaning rooms, breakfast, drill and PT. A film is followed by more drill. By this time one more candidate has already departed for home. The morning continues with lectures on the battalion's organisation and on the pay and conditions of TA service.

This is followed by an introduction to weapons and the assault course, a written observation test and, later in the afternoon, a three mile run which has to be completed in time to pass the basic fitness test.

It is at this point that seven more drop out. Three stop by the wayside without completing the run at all. Surprisingly, one of the men who fails is a former Regular, Tony Richards, who left the 1st Battalion RWF only three years ago.

He had already had doubts about his fitness. "I came out because I was not keen on Germany. Really I'm sorry I did which is why I want to join the TA because I miss the way of life. But I'm not fit as I used to be —

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Standing to attention in their numbered sweatshirts.

I've done nothing like this for three years."

Disaster also strikes 19-year-old Mark Dickens, from Llandudno, who has been fighting to get into the battalion for almost two years. He falls on the run and is whisked to hospital with a suspected broken ankle.

Luckily the ankle is only sprained and early the following morning Mark does the run again and passes. He hopes it will be third time lucky with the recruits' cadre. On two previous occasions he has failed this.

That night the survivors are allowed out. The instructors note that the squads, most of whom did not know each other before, tend to stick together as they leave the camp.

The following morning comes the final obstacle — a run round the woods in squads carrying a box loaded down with 60lbs of bricks and then the camp assault course.

Finally the 28 new recruits are attested. Captain Whitehouse warns them that what they have seen is just the tip of the iceberg and there is a lot more hard training to come.

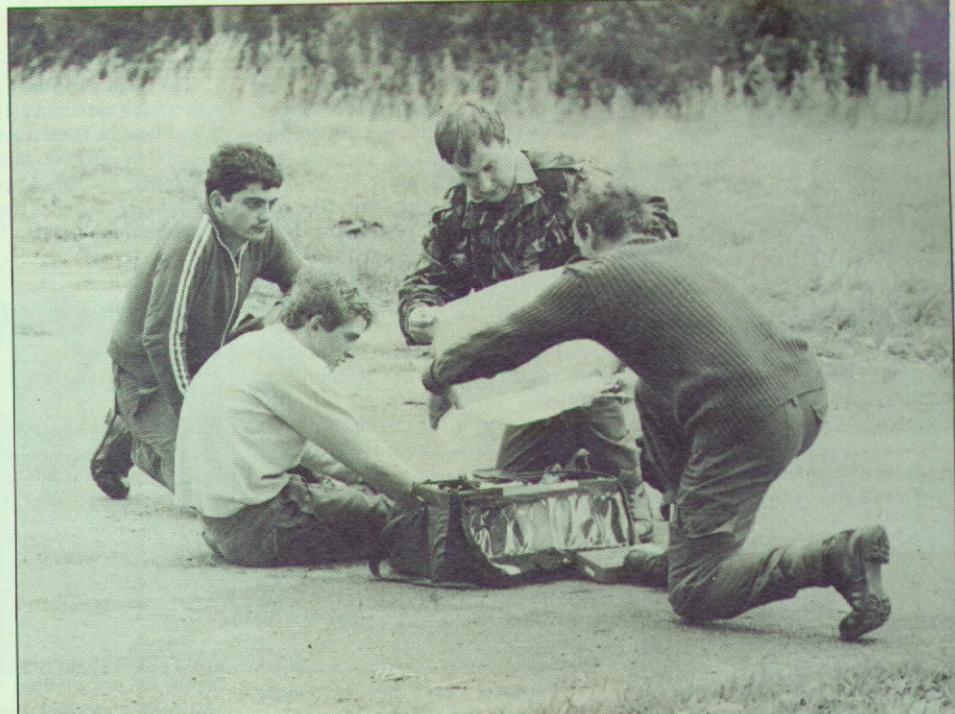
He also asks them to use their military clothing only for training and "not for going round like a yobbo. When I go down to Wrexham I see so many combat jackets I think that half the battalion is there."

The new TA soldiers were uniformly delighted. Kevin Parlour, only five foot one, told SOLDIER: "All my brothers have been in the Army and the TA and I thought it had something to offer. It's an achievement to get through and I feel proud. It just shows that small people can do this as well as tall ones."

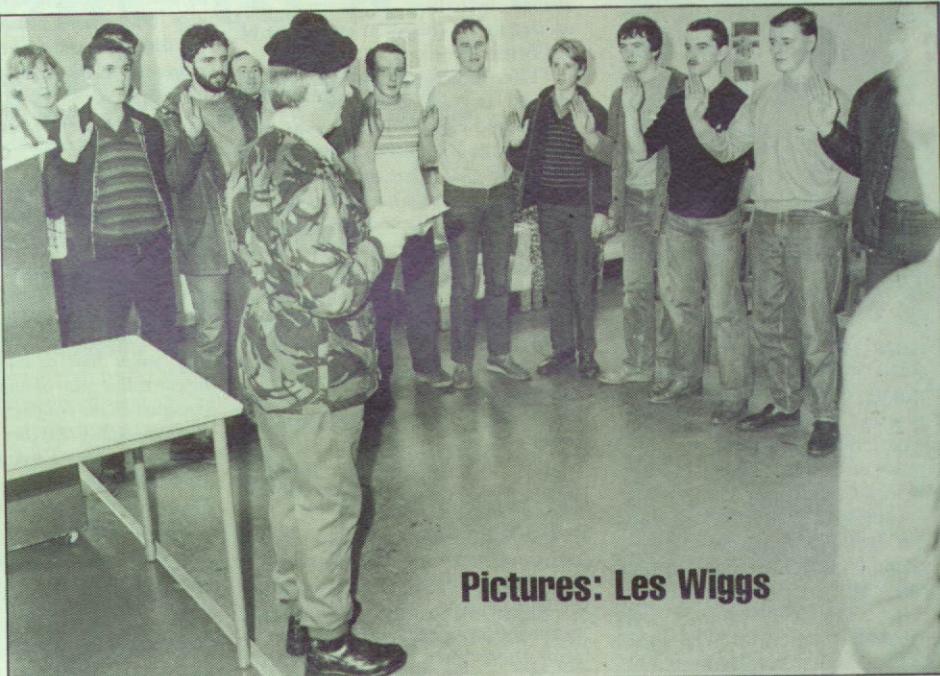
And David Blackwell, who is unemployed, said: "I need a bit of discipline and want to get myself into peak form. It was pretty tough for me because I smoke too much."

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Egan, admitted that there had been some opposition to the scheme in senior circles when it first started because the battalion was not up to strength. But now this had been achieved — and with the type of recruit the unit wanted.

"It's not a magic panacea to cure all ills but we are now starting to see the benefit within the battalion. We have a higher retention and a higher percentage turning up for weekend training."



Medical attention for Mark Dickens — but he recovered to pass muster.



Pictures: Les Wiggs

The moment that made it all worthwhile — Bill Whitehouse swears them in.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.
Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.





THE MEN FROM THE MINISTRY were in BFG last month but their busy schedule left time only for the most necessary cups of tea, those needed to keep them going from one meeting to the next.

Their visit was in response to my request for representatives from the DHSS to see for themselves the situation of families in BFG with regard to benefits. The head of the Overseas Branch, Arnold Deane, kindly allowed Messrs Hewlett and Nesbitt to take time out to visit Service families en route to an EEC meeting in Brussels.

Procedures for claiming DHSS benefits, from unemployment to child benefit, pose often insurmountable problems for families overseas and these pages have reflected many of the anomalies and confusions that surround attempts to claim. It was hardly surprising, therefore, that the two DHSS representatives left for Brussels with notebooks bulging with information, problems and comments produced by the large numbers of wives that they met as they spoke to wives' clubs, parents, and youth leaders during their two-and-a-half day visit.

They also found time to visit the Arbeitsamt in Moenchengladbach and see the German end of the unemployment chain for themselves. This meeting was extremely productive and a number of points of procedure were discussed which gave both parties food for thought and, hopefully, future action. They discussed the questions of status stamps, bilingual letters, E303s and E301s, and other matters that are all too familiar to those wives who have been trying, usually unsuccessfully, for unemployment benefit.

The important thing is that the previously 'faceless' ministry men actually made the effort to tackle our problems by talking to those of us who are caught up in the web of procedures. The answers will not, cannot, be immediate but the first step has been taken and it is encouraging that there is a genuine concern in the Overseas Branch to improve procedures and dispel the existing anomalies.

Anne Armstrong

The question of taxation for wives of Servicemen working in BFG is arguably the most misunderstood area of Income Tax rules and regulations.

It has thrown up related questions on rates of pay, particularly with regard to teachers in British Forces' schools, and has caused great confusion among Service families.

I asked the Principal Establishment Officer at the Civil Secretariat at JHQ to set out the MOD's position in the matter:

"Taking first the question of dependants' pay, the aim is to ensure that, as far as possible, they receive take-home pay equivalent to that of those employees living on the German economy, remembering that dependants do not pay local income or other taxes. It is also true that no UK income tax is deducted at source.

"However, each head of family has a legal obligation to declare all income he and his family has earned abroad including, of course, pay earned as a dependant employee of the British Forces.

"This latter requirement is explained in tax return forms and guides and also in the relevant sections of the BAOR Standing Orders and RAF (G) Civilian Administration Instructions which all potential dependant employees are asked to read. Indeed, each employee signs to say that, *inter alia*, they understand their conditions of employment. The requirement for all family income to be declared is, of course, that of the Inland Revenue and we have no say in the matter except to ensure that all employees know of the requirement. Any queries on UK income tax matters must therefore be directed to the UK tax authorities."

He added that he was of the opinion that only rarely would the declaration of a wife's income in BFG result in the payment of extra income tax by her husband and then only by a relatively small amount.

The important thing to remember is that all income should be declared so that the Inland Revenue can work out the tax liability on your income and assess your code accordingly.

I was publicly embarrassed recently in the Naafi at Soest by the manageress, writes another reader.

They had a canteen of cutlery for sale which matched a dinner service I had bought from them earlier this year. The display card offered an attractive instalment plan which I decided I would pay from my housekeeping money.

ASK ANNE

When I told the assistant this would be my method of payment she said I needed my husband's agreement and this was confirmed by the manageress in a public doorway. I felt like a criminal.

I did point out to her that I was a responsible adult and over 21 years of age!

I feel very angry and if the Naafi insist on this policy then surely they are obliged to display equally conspicuous notices stating that their instalment facilities are not available to female customers?

Mrs R, BFPO 107.

I spoke to Naafi headquarters on this problem and they explained that they hate the thought that even one Service wife might turn to another source of supply rather than obtain her husband's signature on the Naafi credit agreement. But they added that they have a special relationship with Servicemen and Servicewomen who are not only customers but also own the business.

The rank of a Serviceman or woman is an immediate indication of pay and a regular income and the Services provide Naafi with help in following up bad debts among uniformed customers. Establishing the creditworthiness of Service wives could be an embarrassment for both parties as well as adding to operating costs and the only recourse, in the event of bad debts, would be action in the courts.

Naafi would like, in principle, to extend credit terms to all spouses, but they have not been able to come up with a workable scheme. They pointed out however, that wives will be represented at the next General Institute Committee

meeting and said that they would be very happy to consider any practical proposals put forward in that forum.

A short time ago we moved into a quarter here in Germany. As far as I knew at the time of march-in the policy was to descale all MQs, but my neighbour who works for Naafi tells me that the policy is different for non-exchequer customers such as YMCA and SSVC.

It seems to me that there is an anomaly here: to tell us that the descaling was necessary and then to keep the complete system of exchanges and points for breakages going for those who are non-exchequer customers, seems ludicrous and unfair. I know they pay for their accommodation but so do the military occupants of quarters and I am particularly incensed because my neighbour says that he pays no UK income taxes while he is serving overseas with Naafi.

Could you confirm that there are now two scales of furnishings in MQs — and explain why?

'Curious', Germany.

The partial defurnishing scheme for non-military personnel in MQs will start in April 1983. A reply from Logistic Executive (Army) to my query on this subject was as follows:

"The partial defurnishing policy applies to personnel of sponsored organisations such as PSA, Naafi, CVWW/YWCA in the same way as for Service occupants. The scales of furnishings are, therefore, to be reduced for officials of these organisations occupying married quarters. HQ Naafi and PSA staffs have been notified by Ministry of Defence (Air) and Commands have arranged to notify occupants belonging to the other organisations."

And, last, a letter of determination and disillusionment from Mrs H in Germany who deserves top marks for perseverance in her quest for help and information: I gave my husband the titles and numbers of National Insurance leaflets that you have mentioned as being useful for Service families and available from our units.

My husband went round to the Pay Office, the Families' Office and the Education Centre to collect them but at each place was told that these (and others) were not available.

In my opinion, the lack of interest shown to wives and children of working age is just about nil on this camp so I should be grateful for an address to write to, so that I can obtain them for myself.

So far I have not had any luck with the UK Unemployment Office although I was employed full-time for the last five years and came to Germany with a bi-lingual letter. Nobody seems to know exactly what should be done to make a successful claim and I have gained nothing by paying a full stamp all these years.

As one can see, any information I can acquire may not do me any good but at least it may help my friends who are coming out later this year. It's a pity the Services don't do more to help.

Mrs H, BFPO 43.

DID YOU KNOW?

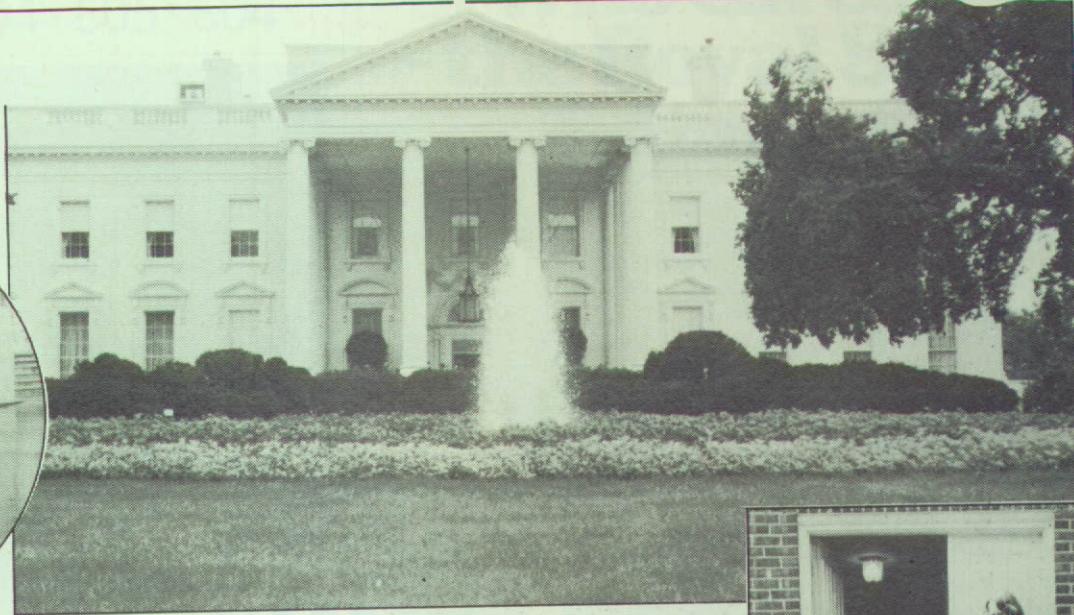
NEW REGULATIONS have been introduced for the import of animals and birds into UK.

You now need to make sure that your family pet does not come under the extended Endangered Species Import and Export Act 1976. If it does, you must obtain a licence from the Department of Environment, Room 223, Tolgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DT before you leave for UK. This licence will be necessary *in addition to* the normal import licence from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that is required for all pets.

The new regulation came into force last month so if you are due to move in the near future and wish to bring your animal or bird home with you, act now and contact the DOE as soon as possible.

Right: The White House, a memorable outing for the wives.

Inset (below): Some of the visitors wait to go in.



Welcome to a whole new world

A POSTING TO AMERICA is something different. There are relatively few opportunities for most of us to pack up the family and move to the States for two years. But for those who do cross the Atlantic there is a whole new world waiting.

You have to be a resilient and adaptable family, capable of settling down on an American base where you might be the only British military presence among as many as 55,000 Americans. Most families who take up these individual postings see very little of other British Servicemen during their tour of duty.

It is often a shock to newcomers who assume, because we share a common language — or almost — that it will be easy to adapt to the American way of life. Not so; everything is different and even shopping can be hard work before you settle down.

Pauline Gardiner has lived in

Rockville long enough to find her feet and she described her way of life. "We live in a rented house on a complex some 18 miles outside Washington. Quite a few of us live out here as we have to find our own accommodation, within our rent and furnishing allowance. We have to have two cars as you can find yourself very cut off if you don't drive out here.

"Everything is very different from Germany and UK. The houses are luxurious by British standards with deep freezers as everyone seems to do one big shop. A 'phone in the luxury fitted kitchen is standard and we have had to buy new electrical gadgets as the British ones are useless. Our complex has tennis courts and a swimming pool too, normal for most estates here but a luxury in UK."

There are other, unique, experiences which can make a USA posting memorable. Leave periods are a passport to trips to New York, Florida, Disneyworld, the Smokey Mountains and all the other wonderful places that the continent offers. There are opportunities for sailing, camping, touring and exploring that can leave you breathless and these diversions go a long way to making up for the lack of contact with relatives at home or other Service families for those who might miss the sound of another British accent.

This is remedied to an extent by the annual four-day conference held in Washington to which all the British Servicemen in USA are invited. Military matters are discussed, views aired

and exchanged and problems raised while those wives who can afford to make the trip with their menfolk, are treated to an extensive and varied programme of sightseeing, shopping and visits. Most try to raise the money for the often mammoth journey to Washington from their base so that they can get together, renew friendships and acquaintances and enjoy the social life the conference provides.

I joined a group of wives who had made the trip and were taken to the White House, where they were given a VIP guided tour, then on to the FBI building before being taken down the Potomac River to see Mount Vernon, George Washington's famous residence. The tour ended with visits to the Aerospace Museum, Capitol Hill and Arlington Cemetery together with all the other memorable and famous Washington sights.

The huge reductions in Local Overseas Allowance of some 40 per cent have seriously affected the budgets of the Service families in the consumer-orientated atmosphere of the States and had come as something of a shock to most of the wives I spoke to during my visit. They were having to adjust as best they could to this change in their circumstances but some did admit a degree of hardship for which they had not been prepared when they accepted the posting. It was small comfort to discover that most American Service families also find themselves out of pocket on an overseas posting.

If you can take the best aspects



Above: A group of wives in Rockville with their families.

of an American posting and ignore the drawbacks, you will find it a most rewarding experience. Take Marianne and Robin Eccles for example. They live in the wild west town of Tombstone ("The Town Too Tough to Die") and have become so integrated that Robin is President of the Parent Teacher Association and Marianne is the Secretary.

Even though hundreds of years have passed, it seems as though the New World is still the same big adventure that greeted our forbears when they first discovered it.



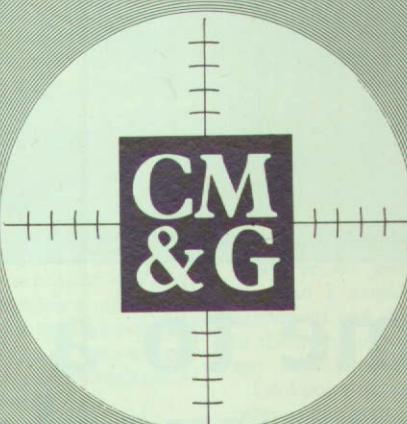
Pauline Gardiner.

YOUR BIG CHANCE

Here's YOUR chance to put pen to paper and win a cash prize!

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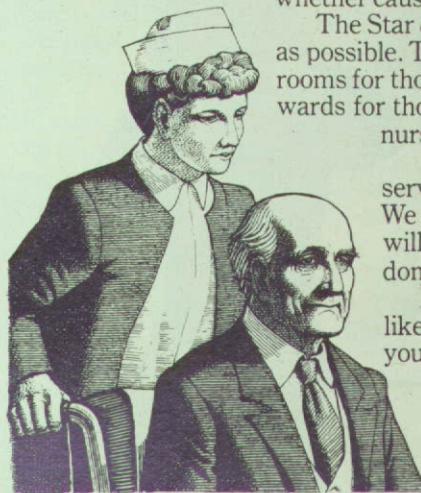
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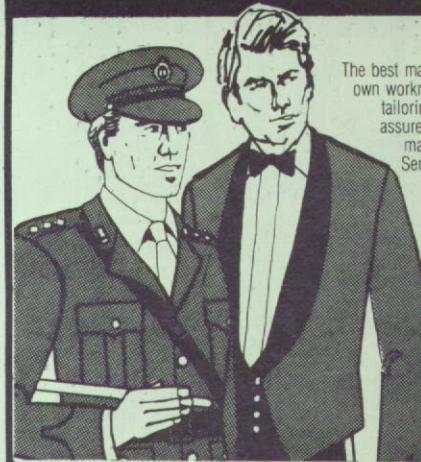


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UNIFORMAL



OUT OF THE BLUE

Whether aiding famine relief in Nepal or ferrying supplies to the front line in the Falklands, there's a lot more to air despatch than just tipping loads out of a 'plane as Graham Smith found out when he flew with some RCT experts.

THE RAF HERCULES finally found a hole in the cloud at 7000 feet somewhere over the desolate Brecon Beacons and hurtled downwards in what seemed seconds to resume its earlier flight path at 250 feet above fields and farms. Up front, in the captain's left-hand seat, was elite Special Forces pilot, Flight Lieutenant Colin Stagg; behind and below him, in the aircraft's roomy freight hold, four air despatchers led by 23-year-old Lance Corporal 'Taff' Barnett.

The ride had been 'bumpy'; the visibility poor; the $2\frac{1}{2}$ 'g' banking turns frequent; the concentration of the RAF four-man flight deck crew from 47 Squadron, total.

'Taff' Barnett, the DCC — Despatch Crew Commander — and his highly-skilled young team mates of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, were napping in the back of the transport aircraft as it sped at 220 knots over herds of cattle and isolated rainswept villages in the Welsh valleys during the two-and-a-half-hour contour-flying training sortie.

The despatchers led by Taff, — a veteran

► Delivering a load in the Rhodesian bush during Britain's presence as a Ceasefire Monitoring Force.

Lance Corporal 'Taff' Barnett cues Air Despatch Crew minutes before Salisbury Plain DZ. ▼

of 140 similar sorties during his five years with the squadron and experience in America, Nepal, Cyprus and, latterly, Ascension Island — were not yet needed. But they would soon be in action over a DZ (Drop Zone) on Salisbury Plain when they would physically shove five palletised loads of supplies over the rear ramp of the Hercules at heights ranging from 250 to 500 feet.

The bulky loads on two runners had taken six hours to assemble and emplane at RAF Lyneham — the base common to both the aircrew and the despatchers — and would take just seconds to career earthwards on parachutes at 30 feet-a-second.

Among the consignment was an ME — manually ejected — one-ton container (the Hercules can carry 16 of them); a cluster pack which can carry food, fuel, ammunition or water and disintegrates into four sections; a miscellaneous load; a 2500-lb harness pack (it could contain rice, grain or wheat) with 185 feet of trailing webbing cord; and a small pack for free-drop without 'chute at 50 feet.

Coming up within minutes was the DZ, pinpointed by the letter 'J' — it means 'stores' — and marker panels.

Then came the call they had been waiting for: "Action Stations!"

Fifteen seconds later, "Red on!" Ten seconds after that, "Green on!" The despatchers heaved the loads over the ramp with the confirmations: "Load moving . . . load gone!" The drop had been successful.

Taff, who took part in Khana Cascade Two in 1980 — the second British airborne famine-relief mission in eight years among the Nepalese foothills — told SOLDIER: "This job is really enjoyable and varied as a crew commander. In the normal RCT, I would probably be a section commander in Germany looking after vehicles and being told what to do by a staff sergeant. In this job as an air despatcher I can advise a mature Hercules captain or helicopter pilot on the handling of air-dropped loads or I could be in the middle of the Nevada desert where I've got to use my initiative and take full responsibility for the safety of my men."

He added: "Lance corporals and corpor-

als are very anxious to become crew commanders. Drivers are very anxious to become lance corporals. In fact, everyone is very much more motivated nowadays in our particular air despatch role."

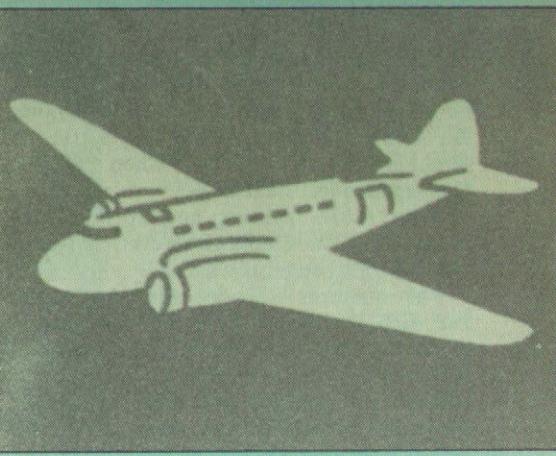
Yet despite the eagerness of those wishing to join the squadron, 50 per cent fail. Major Bob Gardner, its OC, puts this down to a number of reasons. Handicaps like very bad air sickness at low level; too much dehydration because of the Hercules' noisy strength-sapping ventilation system; physical discomfort caused by powerful vibrations on the brain waves pattern from the four turboprop engines, particularly near the flight deck bulkhead; lack of technical bias or brightness; and the demanding physical nature of the work involved.

He explained: "Though many aspiring soldiers would like to join us versed in military skills and as drivers, they may not be bright enough to understand the technical side of our life like restraining loads against upwards and sideways 'g' (gravity) forces, density calculations and so on. It's also extremely hard work and many are just not prepared to do it, especially in training, when they are not accustomed to getting up in the early hours and being chased by instructors." Those that are accepted by the 140-strong squadron however — it started life as a company in the RASC in 1944 after the Arnhem operation — are enrolled for one of two courses a year.

A dozen men take part in each two-and-a-half month course which involves air loading techniques, advanced helicopter handling, actual air despatching or 'supply by air' as it is defined, plus sea survival involving a dunking in the Channel. All basic, upgrading and continuation training is carried out by this close-knit squadron which, incidentally, has a 60-strong TA Troop at Swindon, part of 155 Regiment, RCT.

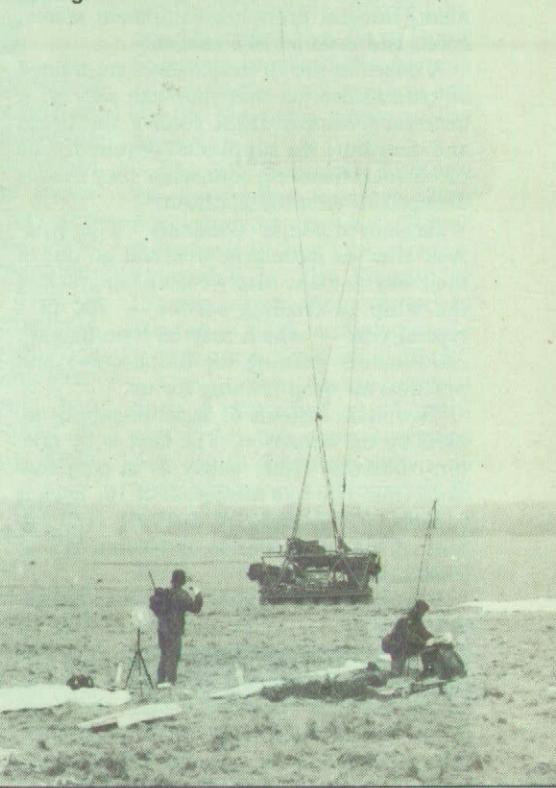
Once qualified the despatcher's prime task is to prepare and pack high priority stores, supplies and equipment for an air drop, load them into an aircraft or internally or externally on helicopters, fly the sortie and then, literally, despatch the items.

continued on page 28

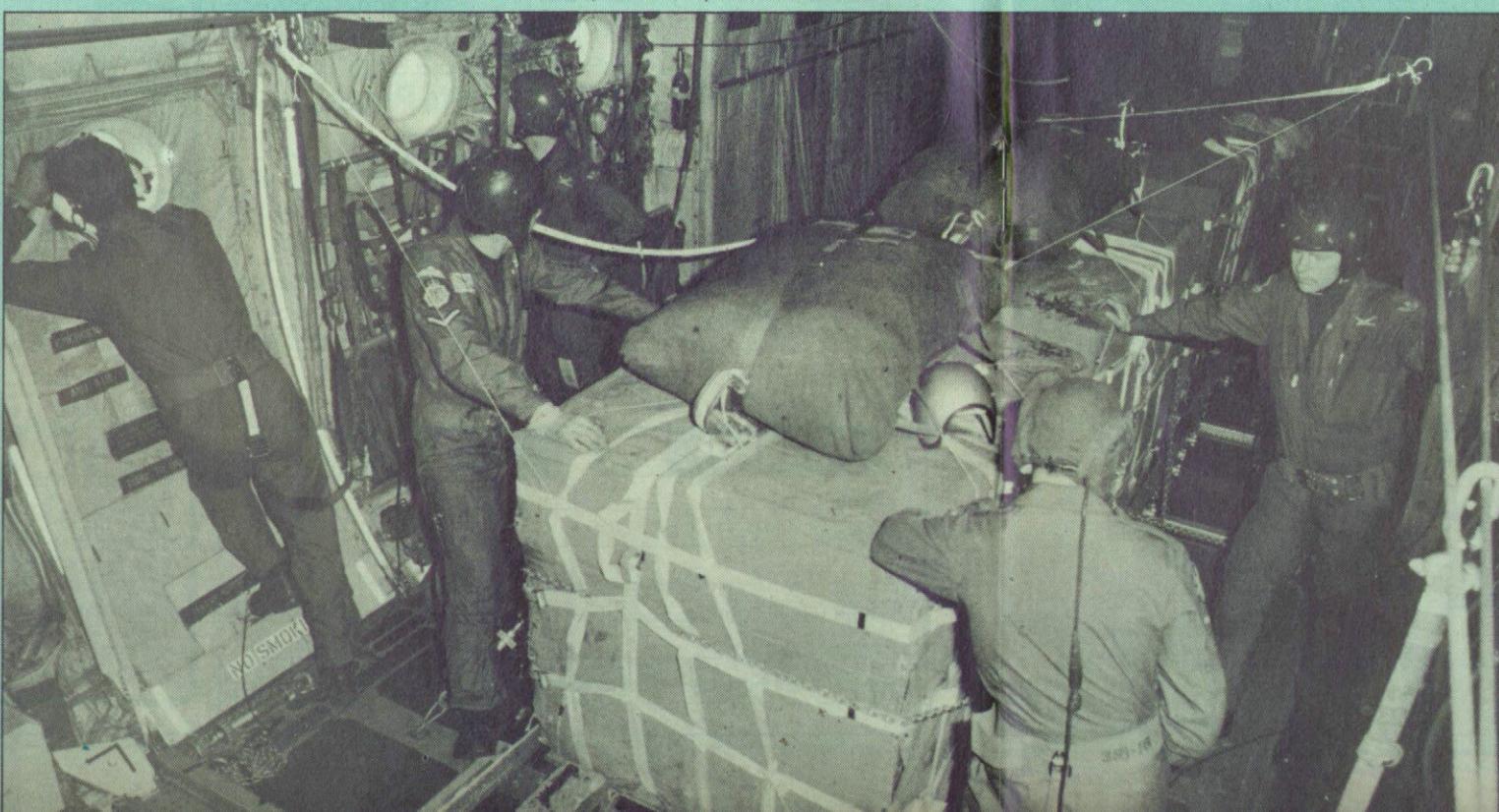


Golden Dakota Flash worn by all Air Despatchers. ▲

A typical Heavy Drop DZ receives a consignment from the air. ▼



Men from 47 AD Squadron loading one-ton containers on base boards in Nepal during Khana Cascade.



AIR DESPATCH or 're-supply by air' goes back to the siege of Kut-el-Amara in Turkey during the First World War when small bundles of food and ammunition were dropped to the defenders.

One of the pilots involved in the operation was the grandfather of one of today's 47 Air Despatch Squadron's Troop Commanders, Lieutenant Mark Lawson.



All ranks wear the golden Dakota flash — the Battle Honour of the Air Despatchers set on a blue sky — which was awarded to the Air Despatch Group after the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944 when 116 Air Despatchers lost their lives.

After more training and 20 air drop sorties, the Air Despatch brevet, 'AD', a skill-at-arms badge, is awarded.

The squadron is divided into two Troops and each Troop has seven 4-man despatch crews led by a corporal or lance corporal with three drivers to help him. Each crew commander reaches and maintains high technical standards and he is liable to periodic exams known as categorisation tests.

Both Troops support the RAF's 47 and 70 Squadrons in tactical support flying and, when overseas, carry full-scale field equipment, integral dropping equipment stores, cooks and even an MT section.

A dozen of the air despatchers are trained as parachutists so that they can set up, if necessary, supply DZs, receive the drops and distribute the supplies as required. The mechanical handling equipment they need is dropped to them by platform.

Explained Major Gardner: 'The RAF look after us extremely well and go out of their way to make sure we get a fair crack of the whip in training sorties — 700 in a typical year — which may be 'two-hatted'; continuation training for the aircrews and practical air drop training for us.'

Two main systems of aerial re-supply are used by the squadron. The first is by one-ton container, either singly or in combinations from two to a maximum of 16. Each is capable, for example, of carrying 3120 gallons of fuel, 576 rounds of 105mm HE or 7680 compo rations.

The second method is by Medium Stressed Platform or MSP which can carry an eight-ton load. The Hercules can carry one or two of these MSPs which take five hours to rig and just minutes to start their exit from the throttled back 130-knot aircraft. They head out on four 66-foot-diameter parachutes and each MSP is bolstered by an air bag which takes exactly seven seconds to inflate to act as a shock absorber on landing.

Yet another method, for 20-ton consignments of robust stores such as rice, tentage, clothing or defence stores, is to let them freefall from 50 feet without parachutes.

Another specialist support method is called 'tailgating' where rubber craft like Gemini or canoes are heaved over the ramp to be followed by troops using 22-foot steerable parachutes who then rendezvous with the seaborne craft.

47 AD Squadron also acts as a standard MT squadron and has been used for tasks like tanker driving, fire brigade, refuse truck and ambulance duties. It has even carried out public duties, too, at Buckingham Palace — but only once way back in February 1973!

The squadron started life in the early 40s as 749 Company, RASC (AD) and up until 1951 had seen service in Normandy, Arnhem, Palestine, the Berlin Airlift and Malaya. As 47 Company, RASC (AD) from 1951 to 1964 it was active in Suez, Cyprus, Kuwait, Brunei and Aden.

47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT, based at Lyneham since 1968 came into being just

three years earlier and over the years has operated in Borneo, Northern Ireland, Nepal, Niger, Zimbabwe and, of course, during the Falklands conflict.

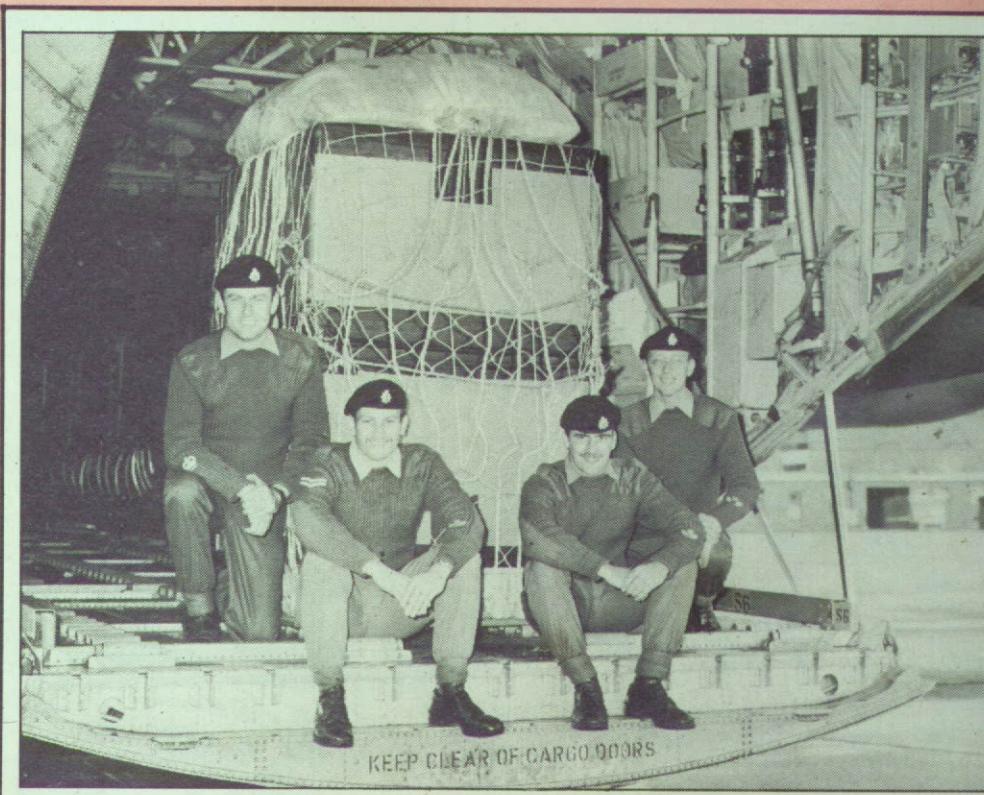
During Khana Cascade in the spring of 1973 when 2000 tons of grain and rice in 50,000 sacks were air-dropped or landed in Nepal to feed 250,000 starving inhabitants in the Himalayan foothills — the biggest British air relief operation since the Berlin Airlift — 47 miles of half-inch rope and 65 miles of nylon cord were used to secure the sacks which, if put on top of each other, would have towered some 4000 feet above the summit of the resident 29,000-foot Mount Everest!

47 AD Squadron also visits other places

Sacked grain being dropped over the Himalayan foothills in Khana Cascade. ▼

overseas, too, such as Nevada and the joint USAF/RAF annual flying skills contest, Red Flag, where the despatchers take on a 'fighter affiliation' role, acting as lookouts aboard flying Hercules for attacking aircraft. The squadron also operates in Arctic Norway and in the Canadian Pond Jump series of exercises.

Major Gardner, who has completed 100 sorties during his two years as OC, is very conscious of his squadron's global responsibilities. 'Air Despatch is a unique trade with small groups of soldiers working worldwide with other Services and with our Allies. They are, therefore, ambassadors for their Corps — the RCT — the Army and their country. It is essential that these men are tough, intelligent, benevolent and dedicated soldiers.'



One-ton containers hurtle earthwards at 30-feet-a-second from a Hercules.



WELL WORTH A MEDAL

MORE THAN 19,000 South Atlantic Medals and some 230 official honours have been bestowed on the liberators of the Falklands, among them, according to their OC, Major Bob Gardner, five of the "unsung heroes of logistic re-supply" from 47 Air Despatch Squadron.

During the Falklands conflict — Operation Corporate — the squadron air despatchers flew 56 sorties in Hercules transport aircraft dropping 1000 items of operational stores, 565 of them one-ton containers, to Task Force ships and ground forces on the islands.

Incredibly, only ten went astray including one 600-lb container of bright orange colour which became the plaything of an amorous whale! The Leviathan chased the container like a seal chases a ball but then switched its attentions to a Gemini laden with Marines sent to recover the floating crate of supplies. Did it want to mate with the rubber craft? They didn't wait to find out and the bobbing box was eventually recovered by helicopter — five hours later.

The squadron was awarded two MBEs — WO2s Phil Williams and Derek Moore, two Task Force Commander Commendations (Sergeant Tony Carter and Corporal Charlie Holdsworth) and an AOC 38 Group, RAF Strike Command Commendation for Driver Gavin Hunt.

Gavin, 22, was with a team on Ascension Island — there were eventually four crews there — where he loaded and flew on sorties aboard the Hercules bound for the Falklands some 3000 miles to the south.

"It was an extremely difficult life," he said. "Although we were sleeping five miles away from the incoming aircraft we slept on the airfield and seldom went back to our tents during seven-day weeks without a day off. We were managing to snatch about five hours sleep each night and the rest during the flights south."

WO2 Moore was the Air Despatch detachment commander on Ascension Island.

He recalled: "To begin with, loads were received and packed at RAF Lyneham or RAF Brize Norton and sent to a two-man air despatch team on Ascension. At this time the Task Force ships were within normal Hercules flying range from the Island but as the fleet sailed further south the need became apparent for long-range Hercules aircraft. Four internal tanks increased their flying range to 18 hours but lessened the room for freight to about one short ton or four small packs.

"The two-man crew had to be reinforced to two crews of four men when the rigging of the loads became their responsibility. When the in-flight refuelled Hercs came in, loads were increased to a dozen one-ton containers and our despatch team was increased to 16 men."

At the end of hostilities the despatchers were to fly aboard the longest-recorded Hercules round trip from Ascension without landing — a staggering 28 hours three minutes!

Some of the supplies dropped by the Hercules, including some Rapier spares, landed as intended near Sapper Hill but five metres from a minefield. These were gingerly recovered by helicopter.

Captain Richard Nicholson, the Squadron's Training Officer, told SOLDIER: "This was a very successful operation for air despatchers and showed once again the value of this unique, close-knit little unit. Our unofficial motto is *Primus inter Pares* — First Among Equals — and who will argue with that?"

Four of the favoured five:
WO2 Williams, Cpl Holdsworth, Driver Hunt, WO2 Moore.

the same as that adopted by the Fusilier Brigade, was that very English emblem of St George and the Dragon. This had been an ancient badge of the Regiment and borne on their Colours by Royal Warrant since 1751.

The 2nd Battalion, formerly the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers (6th Regt of Foot), having joined the Fusilier Brigade well after its foundation, make no contribution to the present design. Thus the splendid antelope, which attracted the attention of Second Lieutenant B L Montgomery so much that he decided to join the Regiment in 1908, can no longer be seen.

The 3rd Battalion, formerly the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment (the 7th or Royal Fusiliers) provided the general outline of the fired grenade and the St Edward's crown to the format.

The 4th Battalion, formerly the Lancashire Fusiliers (20th Foot) and the only non 'Royal' Regiment of the four, are responsible for the Wreath of Laurels which they earned at Minden in 1759, and also made their mark at Gallipoli in 1915.

The current badge, shown here, is described as "A grenade fired, the case ensigned with the St Edward's crown, all gold anodised and bearing St George and the Dragon within a wreath of laurel in silver anodised." The pattern was Sealed on 5th September 1958.

Hugh L. King

Next issue:
The King's Regiment



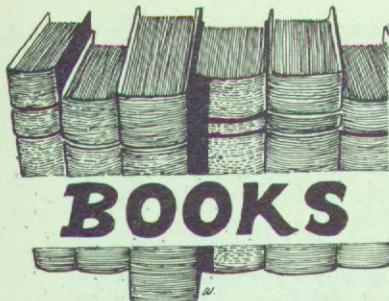
No 29

THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS

WHEN THE Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was finally formed on 23rd April 1968 it was the result of many changes in title and of amalgamation over the years. Immediately before, as the Fusilier Brigade, it had been comprised of four ancient and distinguished Regiments, three of them Fusiliers of long standing, and the fourth, the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, having been entitled as such for less than five years. Now arraigned as Battalions of this large Regiment they stand as:

The 1st Battalion, formerly the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (5th Regt of Foot) who were granted the prefix 'Royal' in honour of their gallant conduct during the Great War. Their contributions towards the present cap badge, which was





BOOKS

Marshal Ney — The Romance and the Real: Raymond Horricks

The subject of this remarkably well researched and written biography was undoubtedly a military commander of consequence, but a man around whom controversy has persisted because of his fluctuating allegiance.

Ney sabred his way to the front rank under Napoleon and made a substantial contribution to the victories of Ulm, Eylau, and Friedland. Between 1808 and 1811 in the Peninsular War, he proved himself to be the most capable of the officers opposing Wellington, although his insubordination under Messéna caused his eventual removal. In the Russian campaign he was created Baron of Moscow for his part in the battle of Borodino on 7 September 1812.

Ney continued to serve Napoleon during 1813 and 1814 but, on the abdication of the Emperor, joined the government of Louis XVIII. Upon Napoleon's return from exile, Ney was induced to return, with his troops, to the service of his old chief. But this was the start of a downward slide, defeat by the English and the Allies at Quatre Bras and at the final curtain fall of Waterloo.

After the flight of Napoleon he declared once more for the Bourbon monarchy but, with nineteen other generals, was sent for trial. On 7 December 1815 he was shot in Paris.

Raymond Horricks spent over five years researching this biography. The result is an analysis of Ney's character which draws heavily on contemporary records but sometimes, perhaps, on an uncanny intuition.

The reader is persuaded to feel that this is destined to become the standard work on Ney, to replace rather than complement Verronais's *Vie Militaire de Michel Ney* published in 1853.

Midas Books (UK), 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent — £12.50.

BJ

The 8.15 to war — The Memoirs of a Desert Rat: Peter Roach

This is an exceedingly articulate — in places bordering on the poetic — account of one man's war, from his service as an Able Seaman at the beginning of the conflict, his 'change of horses' to the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, the desert slog and grind from El Alamein to Tunis and thence via Salerno and Naples to Normandy and the Winter 1945 campaign on the Dutch-German border.

Peter Roach is a perceptive commentator on personal war: "... to the soldier lying with his shattered leg beside him it didn't matter that it was shot off in a minor action." In another chapter he touches on a second profound truth: something that most Servicemen have felt and noticed in others: "While they fought, struggled and died they had a dream of life as it should be and saw a side of the human soul which was finer than anything they had known. When they returned to a drab and spiritless Britain they didn't abandon themselves to disillusion but locked away their dream so that none should laugh it to scorn. Sometimes behind those eyes it comes to light."

But it would be a mistake to consider this as a mainly philosophical book. There is at least as much action as contemplation, lucidly told, sometimes gory but described without relish.

Unfortunately for both himself and the reader, Sergeant Roach's war ended with a wounding in January 1945 in the fighting for the salient up to the River Roer; he would have appreciated the exhilaration of the Rhine crossing and the pursuit across the Westphalian plain in that remarkable spring. To a man as sensitive to

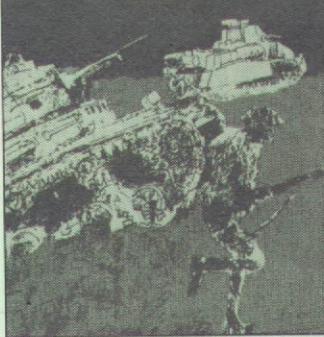
atmosphere as Roach this was indeed cruel justice after such long active service.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1 — £8.95. BJ

THE 8.15 TO WAR

The Memoirs of a Desert Rat

Peter Roach



BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Observer's World Atlas.

Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE — £1.95.

The Cadet Story 1860-1980 issued by The Army Cadet Force Association.

Available from *The Cadet Supply Dept, Millbank Bks, John Islip St, London SW1P 4RR — £1.70 plus 38p p&p.*

Jane's Pocket Book: Armies of the World by Colonel John Weeks.

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Jane's Publishing Co Ltd, 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU — £5.95.

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Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £3.50.

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The Polish Army 1939-45 by Steven J Zaloga.

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The first two books in a series depicting various aspects of the Luftwaffe between 1933 and 1945, with many photographs coming from private collections.

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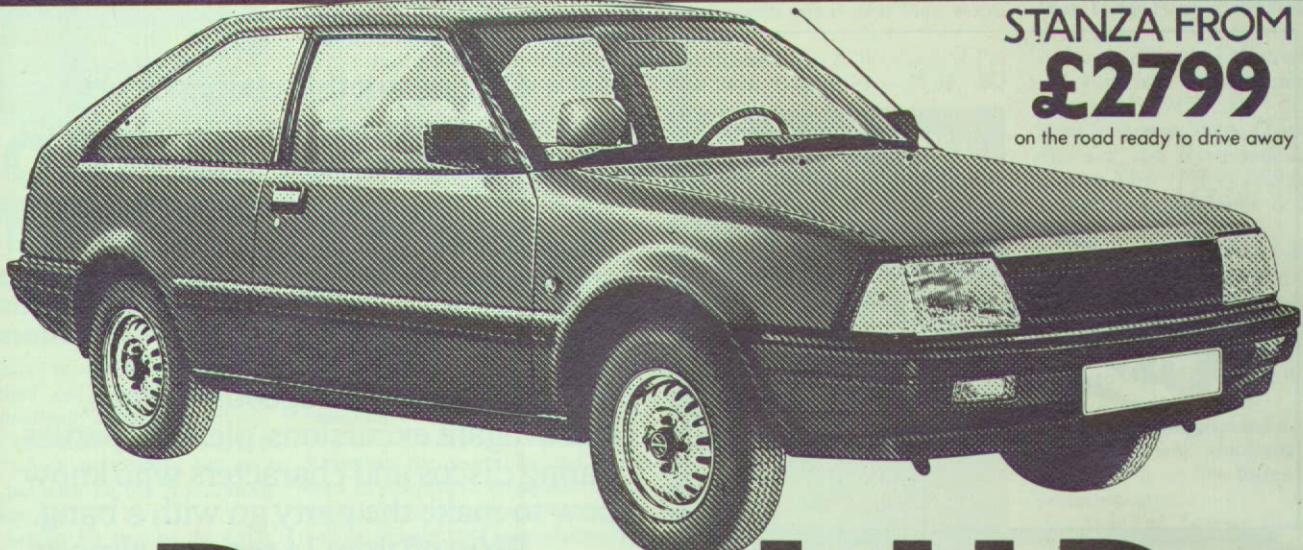
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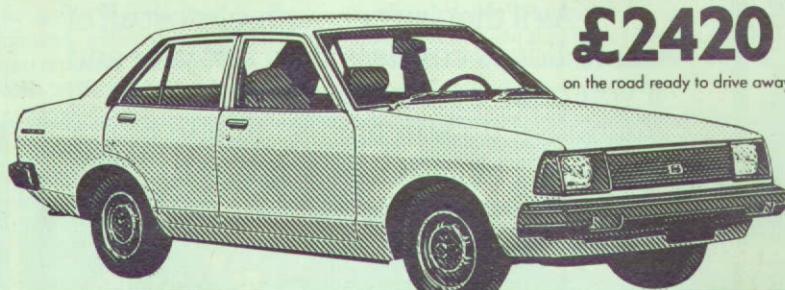
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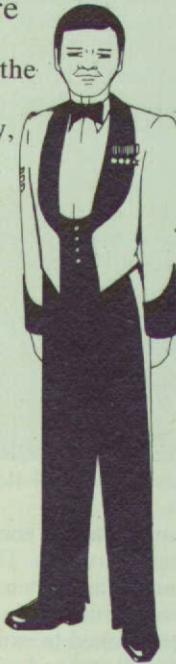
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Ditches were used to move the escapees — up to three at a time — wearing clogs and pushing bicycles.

The Germans discovered the route however and covered the snow-covered trenches with white sheets and blankets. Tex and one particular party were intercepted by a machine gun post. He was "put in the bag" again.

His paratrooper's uniform was revealed underneath his boiler suit and his inquisitors observed that there had been no paratroop landings since September. Tex was neatly turned out. Where was his razor, and soap? Who was washing his shirts?

He was sent to Berlin and further interrogated by the Gestapo. Then Tex was lashed to a pole, but not blindfolded, and put in front of a firing squad.

The squad went through all the preliminaries, right up to the point of firing. But at the crucial moment they returned their weapons to the 'port' position.

The next day Tex faced the firing party once more. Again he had a last second reprieve.

"I was told they had other ways of making me talk, literally," says Tex who was later to spend seven weeks in Auschwitz and see his weight decline from 14-stone-three to seven-stone-five.

"I never saw any of the gas chambers but I saw them afterwards. There had been this horrible smell in the air and I had a good idea it was burning flesh because a party of us had been asked to extricate bodies from tanks in Sidi Rezeg and take them for burial. From Auschwitz, I was sent to Stalag 11B at Fallingbostel."

Tex — "I used to break horses when I was young and my brothers and I were given the names of cowboys" — still remembers Arnhem as if it were yesterday. He goes there twice a year, via parachute, and has done so for the past 26 years — until this year, that is.

This time he was thwarted by fog but he is still determined to achieve his next great ambition — jumping at Arnhem on the 40th anniversary in two years' time.



"Hello! Do you remember booking my Mini outside the supermarket last Monday?"

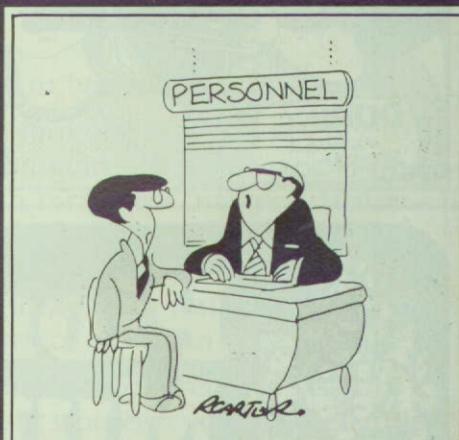


"Stop going on about the witch doctor, Frobisher!"

Humour



"I smell a rat. They've taken the wheels off my cart and put them back on the pram."



"Any qualifications — other than being brighter than you look?"

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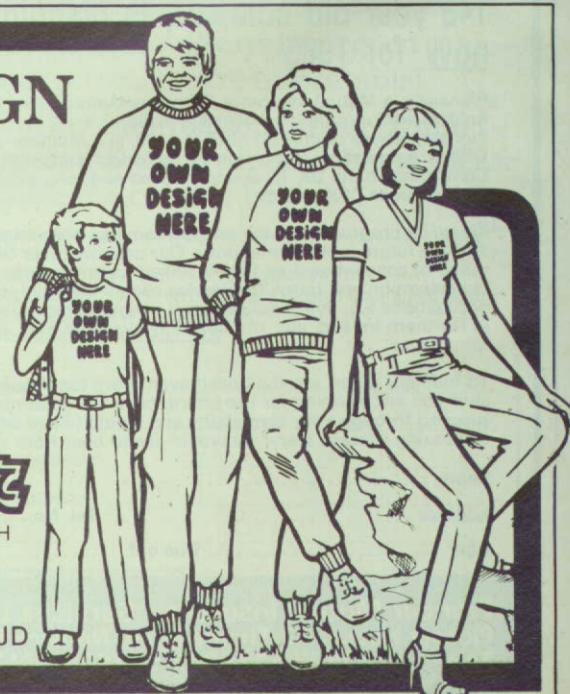
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Preparing defensive position
while wearing Medilog recorder.



**How much sleep
do soldiers really
need? A lot less
than they think
according to the
scientists . . .**

WAKEY, WAKEY, YOU'RE ON TRIAL!

IT sounds like bad news for those weekend barrack block sleepers who like to push up the Zs but good news for the soldier in a tactical situation. You can function efficiently on just four hours' sleep in a 24-hour period.

That is just one of the findings of Dr Diana Haslam who is in charge of the sleep deprivation trials at the Army's Personnel Research Establishment — APRE — at Farnborough.

Tests have been carried out to discover the effects on soldiers' performance of small amounts of sleep after no sleep at all. But strobe lights and pulsating noise patterns played no part in the assessments.

The evaluations described by Dr Haslam as "militarily realistic situations" called on soldiers to go for up to 90 hours without sleep.

A typical 24-hour test cycle involved ten soldiers — all from local units and with ages ranging from 21 to 26 — to be deployed to a nearby exercise area at midnight where they completed psychological assessments including 'cognitive tests' using pen and pencil in concert with their reasoning ability.

An hour or so later, the men dug themselves into defensive positions, and four hours after that, they took the same 15-minute written exams again — all quite satisfactorily.

At 0630 they carried out ablutions and had breakfast but were straight back to work again. Throughout the trials there were Medilog recorders strapped to the nape of the neck with four electrodes connected to the head for assessments of alertness.

The venue of the trial then moved to Ash Ranges and two hours of firing at three pop-up targets sited at 100 to 300 metres.

Further tests during the day included another cognitive appraisal, embracing attitude of mind, shooting on the moving target

ranges and more digging-in. 'Infrequent stimuli' were also introduced in the form of an intruder walking at irregular intervals across the range as a further test of the guinea pigs' reactions judged on this new variation.

Nearly 24 hours after the start of their tests the candidates had a close physical fitness check-up including blood pressure, electro-cardiography, pulmonary assessment, isometric muscle strength, estimated oxygen uptake and body temperature. This

**Pushing up the Zs —
but was the sleep really necessary?**



Story: Graham Smith



Now try it again . . .

rigorous examination was done every evening.

Dr Haslam said: "There was a marked improvement after just four hours' sleep in the cognitive and shooting tests. After three periods of four hours sleep — 12 in all — performance recovered well.

"A lot of soldiers did not know how well they could do without sleep. The Soviets, for example, have recommended that their men can do with just four hours' sleep. If we can inject enough interest into such experimental trials, the performance will be that much better."

And Dr Haslam had a final word, too, for the commanders. "They sometimes think they can do without sleep; they cannot," she said. "It's very important for them to get sleep because they are the ones who have to do the reasoning. Their decisions affect a lot of people."

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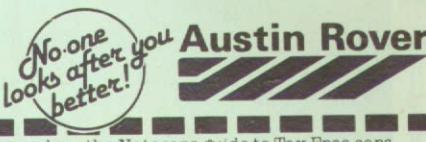
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TWO OF A KIND

COMPETITION 305

TWO MAMMALS

1. USSRROOPNMIEEED

TWO BIRDS

2. WUTTPNNLIIHHGCAA

TWO FISHES

3. YWTRNNLIIIHGGGA

TWO FLOWERS

4. UUTTSRROMLIGEEA

TWO TREES

5. YYSSRPONMHGECAA

TWO STARS

6. UUUUTSSRRRLGECA

TWO COUNTRIES

7. UTTSSRONLIDCAA

TWO RIVERS

8. UTSRPONMKHGESEA

TWO CURRENCIES

9. USSONLLIIHGEDCC

TWO SEAS

10. YWRONLLIEECBAA

TWO FRUITS

11. YRROONNMLGGEBA

TWO MOUNTAINS

12. YVUQNNLLIHGEEA

TWO LAKES

13. TTTROONIIICCAA

TWO MINERALS

14. ZUUTTRPNMLIIEAA

TWO CLASSICAL DEITIES (GREEK)

15. YUTSSSRONMIIEDA

EXAMPLE...

USSRROONLLIGECCA

TWO GAMES = CURLING LACROSSE

ON THE LEFT are fifteen lines of jumbled letters. Each line contains the names of two of the members of the group stated immediately above the line. Some of the names are long; some are not. Some of the names are applicable to the British Isles; some are not. It's all quite easy really but to help you we've given an example below the fifteen groups. As you will see, it hides the names of two games which, when the letters have been unscrambled, are CURLING and LACROSSE.

Now find the other thirty names and list them please in the order given.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 17 December. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 24 January 1983. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 305' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 305' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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before he gets struck off?"

MAIL DROP

LAST VC

In 'VCs for Falkland Heroes,' (SOLDIER 18 October) you state that the last award was to L/Cpl Rambahadur Limbu in 1966. According to the Illustrated Handbook of the VC-GC (Imperial War Museum), the last award was to WO2 Keith Payne Australian Army Training Team: He won the VC in Vietnam on 24 May 1969 for "outstanding courage in holding off North Vietnamese attacks under hazardous conditions". Later he went out alone to gather in scattered units.

There were four VCs awarded in that campaign from 1962: The total number of awards until 1970 being 1352. — Mr S G Matthews, 11 Sydenham Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8EJ.

We should have made it clear that L/Cpl Rambahadur Limbu's VC was the last to be awarded to a member of the British Army. As you say, Warrant Officer Payne was in the Australian Army. — Ed.

QUARRYMEN

We would like to make a slight amendment to your article in the issue of 4 Oct about quarrying on the Falkland Islands. You say the quarry is run by 60 Fd Support Sqn RE. We were a bunch of Irish and Argentines with their placards — you might be interested in the wording of one sign, a photo of which I took. It read: **Beware! In this ship are hiding 500 young Argentinian head (sic) decapitated by its fomer (sic) passengers the Gurkhas Mercenaries.**

Figure that one out! I'm aware of the Gurkhas' kukri prowess but hadn't heard any reports of the weapons' use in the battle. Maybe they were used but not publicised. The above sign, however, is ludicrous! — K Kelly, 3 Ardsley Terrace, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York.

FAKLANDS BADGE

I would like through your pages to inform readers that I have designed and produced a series of all-service badges commemorating the Falklands campaign.

There are three basic designs: one in brass on an oak backing which is for sale at £15 (£4 goes to the South Atlantic Fund); one is aluminium painted and sells for £12 (£3 goes to the Fund.) There is also a limited edition in bronze which is, in the first place, available to company commanders and also to the youngest company soldiers. These will be on sale to the general public only after first being offered to the above. These special limited edition badges must retail at £30 but I can offer discounts to regiments.

I am willing to deliver these badges anywhere within a reasonable distance from my home in Portsmouth, eg Aldershot, Poole and Blandford. Otherwise, if posted, there will not be such a retail mark up for the South Atlantic Fund. — G R Ward, 106, Mayles Road, Milton, Portsmouth PO4 8NS.

NEW BARRACKS

Although I can't offer a fascinating hobby, coupled with project liaison, as can Major Denis Williams (Profile, 4 October). I think the title of "the army's biggest new barrack project for many a year" might belong to my project.

Work started in February this year by moving a 550 foot hill eighty metres west. It continues this year and next in carving some 40 platforms out of a one-in-five hill, using most of the spoil to reclaim enough land from the South China Sea to hold two rugger pitches. At the end of next year, construction of about 50 buildings, ranging from nine-storey blocks of flats, each housing 26 families, to a tiny respirator chamber, will start.

In 1986, Kohima Barracks will be ready for a British infantry battalion

and its 406 families, with the usual supporting administrative, training and sporting facilities.

For those that know Hong Kong, the site is between Erskine Camp and Shaw's Film Studios. — Major L F Fitzpatrick-Robertson QLR, HQ British Forces, Hong Kong, BFPO 1.

FUSILIERS FIRST

I was a cadet in the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Cadet Force from 1939-42. We were very badly equipped — shabby old Service Dress and 1890 Lee-Metford rifles which were lent to the Home Guard in 1940 and had 75 per cent returned. In 1941 the Army organised a Cadet Camp at Mill Hill, Middlesex and the 2 Middlesex attended.

The best equipped cadet force at that camp undoubtedly was the Royal Fusiliers, City of London. They marched into the camp like Regulars. Each cadet had a full set of 1908 pattern web equipment, a SMLE rifle and for field exercises they wore KD. The sergeants wore blue patrols for Walking Out. The reason why they were so well equipped, we were told, was that someone on the Stock Exchange was looking after them. I don't know how true it was but it seems the 'machinery' was there for the Royal Fusiliers Cadet Force, but not for the others. The War Office advertises for Cadet Force officers and yet starves the Force of equipment. It does not make sense and it seems nothing has changed over the years. — Mr J Spary, 33 Florence Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 0PQ.

DRUM BEATING

Colonel Rodney Bashford begins his review (18 October) of 'With Fife & Drum' by the Honourable Artillery Company, with this erroneous statement, "It is fitting that the first disc of a British Army corps of drums should be by the oldest of them all", a reference to the HAC.

My own collection contains Fontana TL5421 'The Corps of Drums

The 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards' with the following programme: Side One — Moray Firth, San Lorenzo, Toledo, The Thunderer, MacGregor Frae Greenock and The Garb of Auld Gaul; Side Two — Haslemere, The Red Cloak, Washington Post, El Capitan, On the Square and Hielan' Ladie. This excellent LP was purchased by me in 1967. — C C Wicker, MBE, 10 Stuart Mill House, Killick Street, Islington, London N1 9BA.

WRONG TRACK

In your 18 October issue there is a photograph showing sappers operating Class 30 Trackway ('Bold Guard').

It seems clear to me that the caption is quite wrong. The picture does in fact show how the Class 30 is recovered, the most obvious point being the sapper brushing the trackway clean which is not necessary when laying. Not so obvious, are the two men in the middle who are haul-

ing on a ratchet to wind in the trackway, while the man on the left is controlling a hand brake to stop the drum of already recovered trackway from unwinding.

Normally the trackway is laid over the front of the vehicle by positioning the end under the front wheels, unrolling itself as the vehicle moves forward. (The trackway may also be reverse laid.) — L/Cpl K T Pritchard, 3 Troop 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 808.

OLD COMRADES

The Rothesay Reunion Committee, 1940/45 are organising a Grand Reunion from 25 April to 7 May 1983 for ex-Service personnel who served from, or were based on, the Island of Bute during the war years to 1945.

It is our hope this time to re-unite as many men and women who served their country during the Second World War and spent some part of that time in Rothesay.

Anyone interested please get in touch. — James McNamara, Rothesay Re-union, 30 Argyle Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland.

Can You Help?

I wonder if any of your readers has, or knows the whereabouts of, a Brodrick Cap in good condition which I might purchase.

This was a peak-less cap worn by many units of the British Army for a few years before the First World War. It was named after St John Brodrick, Secretary of State for War at the time of the Boer War.

My mother's family name is Brodrick and the former Secretary of State for War was her cousin. It is therefore a matter of sentimental interest for me to acquire one. Incidentally, the style of the cap was not very practical, nor was it popular, being regarded as too German in appearance. Only your oldest readers now would be able to recall one being worn. — J W Rae, 16a Campden Hill Court, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7HS.

The book entitled *The Argylls in Korea* by G I Malcolm of Poltalloch and published by Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd in 1952, is required for the archives of the Middlesex Regiment Museum. I am willing to purchase. Please reply to — Major (Retd) A E F Waldron MBE, Secretary Middlesex Regiment Museum Trust, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE.

Someone please help me! I have in my possession a book entitled *Crown and Company*, the records of the second battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers by Major A E Mainwaring.

Inside the jacket is written 'E R L Mansell 2nd Lieutenant September 1911'. Does anybody know the address of the late (do they still exist) Royal Dublin Fusiliers Regimental museum. Or perhaps E R L Mansell is still alive. If anyone has information as regards the said subjects could

Collectors' Corner

S/Sgt P H Starling, RAMC, HQ British Gurkhas Nepal, BFPO 4. Is able to obtain General and Campaign Service Medals to the The Brigade of Gurkhas. Prices slightly below UK. S.A.E. for details of clasps available and prices.

T/Sgt Jim Staples, Northside Trailer, CT 4-14, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310. Requires British Army badges and patches in exchange for American items.

Pen Pals

My name is Joy. I am a typist, 30 years old with dark hair and brown eyes. I'm slim built and 5ft tall. My interests are most sports and occasional dancing. — Joy Halstead, 209 Cunliffe Road, Marton, Blackpool.

My name is Amanda and I am 16½ years old with light brown hair and blue eyes. My interests include playing tennis, listening to Yazoo, Depeche Mode, Spandau and Duran Duran. I would like to write to soldiers either at home or abroad aged between 17 and 20. — Amanda Trim, 34 Sandringham Cresc, South Harrow, Middx., HA2 9BS.

Our names are Lucy and Janet and we would like to write to lads aged 16-18. Lucy is 15 years old, 5ft 4ins and has hazel/green eyes and brown hair. Interests are fashion trends of the past and music. Jan is 16 and likes music, competitive dancing and sport. — Lucy McAlister, 50 Hesketh Avenue, Rockferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 6RS. Janet Helliwell, 80 Derby Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, L42 7HD.

They please contact me. — L/Cpl P Foxton, Band D.W.R. Somme Bks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

This regiment was disbanded in 1922. — Ed.

As a student in my second year at Craigie College of Education, Ayr in Scotland, I have been asked to do a history research assignment substantially based on primary source material.

I am very interested in Cairnryan (near Stranraer, Wigtonshire) and decided to do the development of Cairnryan before the ages of 18 and 21. I go to discos and my main interest is new romantic music. I am 5ft 4ins and have brown hair and blue eyes. Please send a photo. — Michelle Miller, c/o Julie Ann Welsh, 13 Coomsie, Collingwood Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6HW.

Anyone interested in having a 5ft blonde haired and brown eyed penpal? My name is Susan and my hobbies are ice-skating and dancing. — Susan Foster, 5 Sowden Road,

country, any war, including Falklands also complete collections if any. Private collector.

— Howarth Road, Bradford 9, West Yorkshire.

Competition

In Competition 301 'Village Craftsman's' less skill was required than the ability to recognise the irrelevant information put in deliberately to confuse you; it really did not make a ha'porth of difference to the solution that Mr Mason's sister-in-law was perhaps the most beautiful woman in Leveson Green! Most of you saw the red herrings though, and once all the extraneous matter had been discarded it was easy for you to discover that Mr Mason was the slater, Mr Slater the smith, Mr Carpenter the mason, Mr Tiler the carpenter, Mr Painter the tiler and, therefore, that the painter was Mr Smith. Prizewinners were: 1st WO1 J F Davidson, 3/51 Highland, Forthside, Stirling. 2nd Mr P J Cadman, 1 Trenchard Close, Chippenham, Wilts. 3rd H Mansell, 59 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent. 4th L/Cpl Smith, 53 Ord Coy, 5 Ord Sqn, BFPO 16. 5th Barbara K Wells, 15 Edgehill Road, Leicester.

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This bulletin has been distributed to all units. For further information and applications forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

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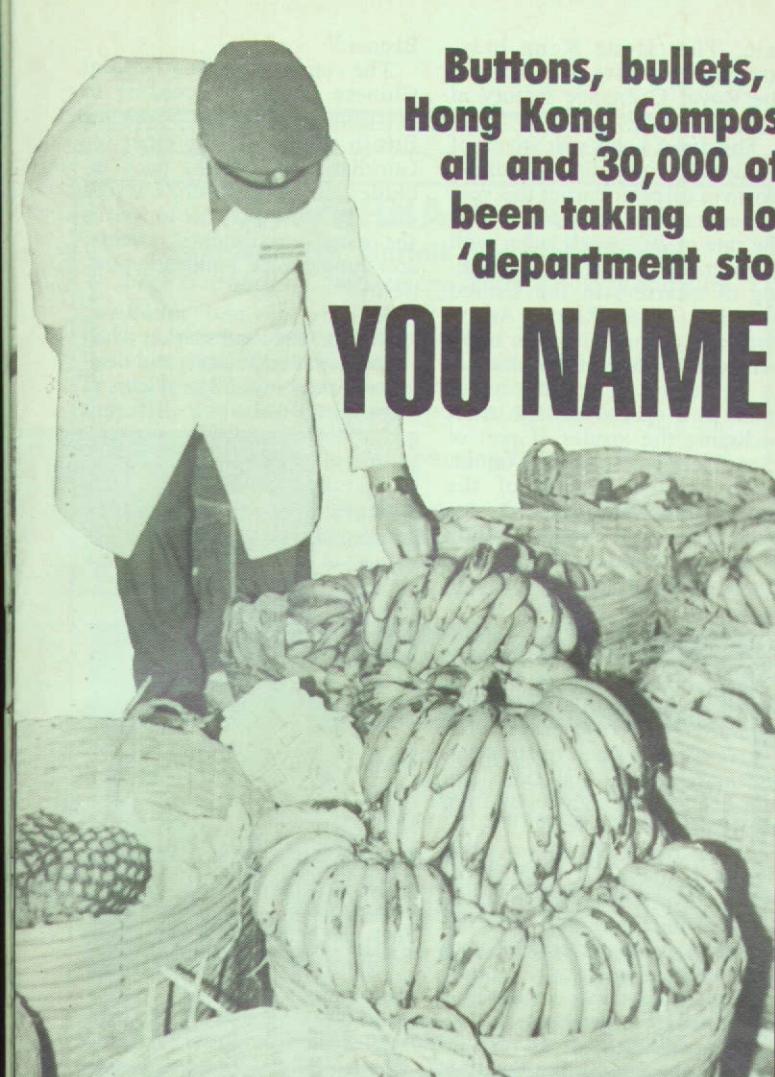
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Home address _____

Base address _____

Unit _____ Tel. day _____ Tel. evening _____

S8-82



Buttons, bullets, bananas — even bulldozers — the Hong Kong Composite Ordnance Depot can provide them all and 30,000 other items as well. John Walton has been taking a look round the Army's giant Far East 'department store' whose motto might well be . . .

YOU NAME IT - WE'VE GOT IT!

Making sure rations are fresh. ▲ Local purchase — a fuel pump. ▼

BRITAIN'S FAR EAST PRESENCE may have been scaled down a lot from the old colonial days but the Composite Ordnance Depot in Hong Kong still supplies about 100 units, mostly in Hong Kong but including military attachés at embassies throughout the Orient and the British supervisory team in Korea.

Running a stores depot so far away means a long line of communication and most of the supplies take seven weeks to come out by container ship. Urgent items can be air freighted though and in the busy markets of Hong Kong there is more scope for local purchase than in other remote postings.

The Composite Ordnance Depot, which has its headquarters at Blackdown Barracks in Kowloon, has an inventory of £80 million covering 30,000 items — including a lot of defence stores which would usually go through engineering stores.

Its British soldiers tend to be in managerial roles with far more senior than junior ranks and no private soldiers at all. There are also Chinese soldiers from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, many wearing RAOC cap badges, local civilians and 45 Sikh policemen who guard the ammunition sub depot across the water on Stonecutters Island.

Computers have come into their own with stores and supplies and the depot has its own machine installed in 1974. Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Keating, the Commanding Officer, told **SOLDIER**: "The programme for UK supplied items is done by computer using a complicated mathematical formula to determine the quantity and range of stores in Hong Kong."

But the computer does face problems when circumstances change rapidly such as happened during the illegal immigrant emergency of two or three years ago. Major Hugh Mundy, the installation keeper, says the depot's computer is "a big, slow

Pictures: Les Wiggs

bulky machine, very inefficient by today's standards but fine for what we want and with spare capacity."

The computer takes up a large room and is also used for British Forces statistics and records and for the pay of locally employed civilians. Gurkha pension details will be added next year.

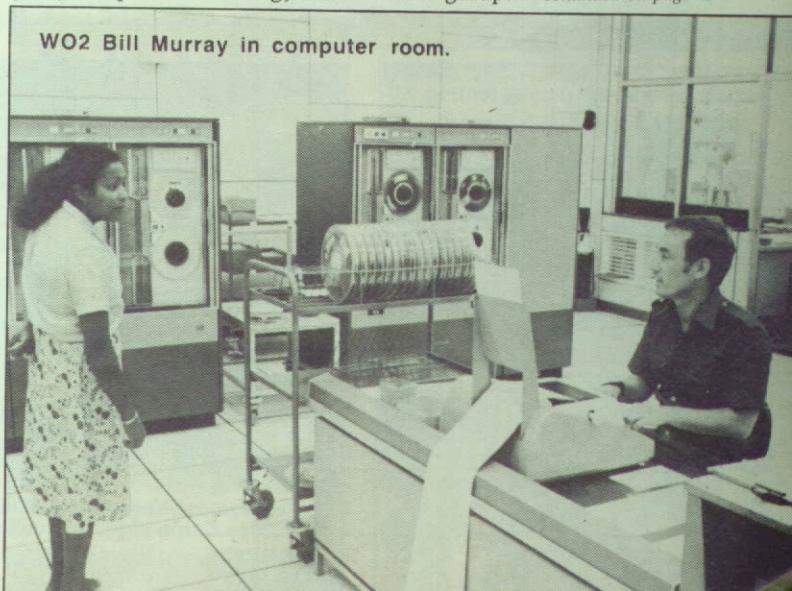
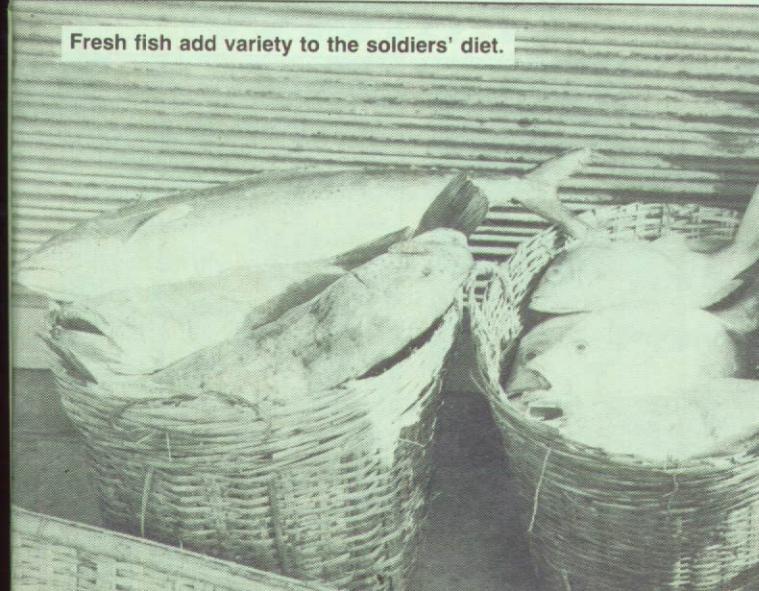
In 1984 the machine is scheduled to be replaced by a new model which will take up only one third the space yet will be far more powerful. The major problem with the eight-year-old installation is the fact that the air conditioning has to be so much more powerful to combat the heat and humidity outside.

Vehicles are also held by the depot — some 400 ranging from motorcycles through cars, Land-Rovers and lorries to bulldozers and graders. The depot includes a workshop where vehicles are repaired — nothing is written off until it is uneconomic.

"The biggest workload is keeping them rust free," says WO 1 Andrew McNaught. "If a vehicle becomes uneconomic to repair through either age or an accident it goes to the returned stores group." *continued on page 42*

Fresh fish add variety to the soldiers' diet.

WO2 Bill Murray in computer room.



continued from page 41

The returned stores group is a hive of industry. In the case of clothing every item has to be inspected, checked and repacked with preservatives every two years against five in the United Kingdom. Staff-Sergeant Stan Stanley explains: "If it is left in the stores it will just go off." Metals are degreased, run through hot water then preserved and repacked.

Meanwhile, in the workshops, local craftsmen and women take items and repair them back to standard. Chinese carpenters using their own tools repair damaged furniture and Staff-Sergeant Kenneth Ray's verdict is "the standard of work we get out of them is absolutely marvellous."

Tents, adventurous training kit and other items all get refurbished. And there is a row of seamstresses working non-stop producing curtains for all types of military accommodation.

Eventually there comes a point of no return with every item. Most are sold on the local market by auction.

Old curtains and mosquito nets, aluminium, vehicles — all sorts of unwanted goods are included in the auction sales, which are held every three or four months. According to Staff-Sergeant Thomas Tolley, in charge of disposals, the best prices are obtained for brass cartridge shells. Only licensed dealers can bid for them but the competition is fierce and the price is often above the going

Sgt Reg Dunlop, REME, mends a wheelchair for a local school for the disabled. ▼

rate. That Hong Kong brass souvenir may have once been in the Royal Ordnance factory at Radway Green!

The depot holds vast stocks of furnishings, including £8 million worth of carpets. Earlier this year the containers were arriving at the rate of 20 a week laden with furniture as a result of the descaling of quarters in the United Kingdom and Rhine Army. Everything from cutlery to beds, mattresses, chairs and tables had to be stored. They are bulky items and special storage sites, including the insides of part of the vehicle fleet, had to be found.

The traffic branch of the Stores Group makes regular runs each day to Kowloon, Hong Kong island and the New Territories. It also deals with traffic to and from Brunei as well as exporting certain items, mainly large assemblies, back to Britain.

Two miles away at Osborn Barracks is the supply sub-depot, which deals with provisions. Three times a week fresh vegetables are issued to all units and the depot carries groceries from many parts of the world.

As so many of the troops in Hong Kong are Gurkhas the stores have to carry large stocks of rice and ghee and that old Army standby, mutton. Up to 1000 sacks of rice are kept there at any one time in a room with a controlled temperature to prevent weevil infestation.

"We are responsible for feeding 5000 troops including RAF and Royal Navy personnel," says Staff-Sergeant Roy Lancaster. "This is the only place outside the UK where the Army packs rations and we also do it for

Brunei."

The compo is packed by local Chinese civilians according to two different formulas — one for British troops and the other for Gurkhas. The Gurkha pack includes curry powder, curried dhal and pork and ghee as well as the usual condiments, sweets, and 'jungle juice' lemonade powder.

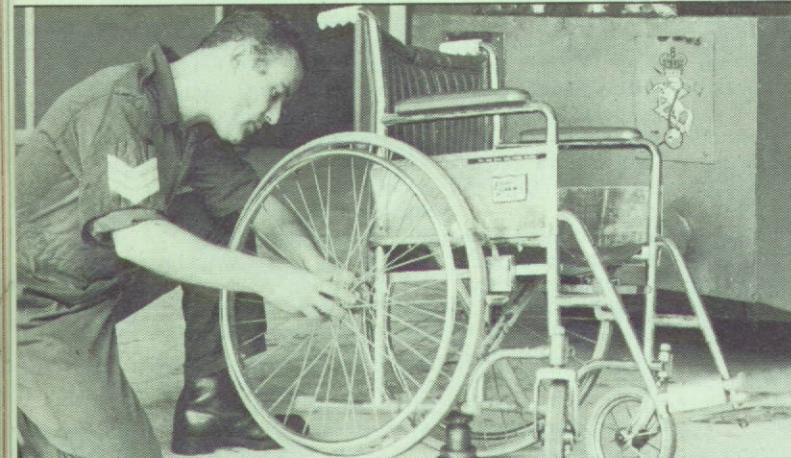
Making do and mending, buying on the local market when it is cheaper and easier, and dealing with the myriad problems of supplying units of different



Drawing ammunition from the depot on Stonecutters Island. ▲



Tomatoes? We've got plenty! ▲



Local seamstress repairs tenting.



Members of Hong Kong Military Service Corps sign for a vehicle.



Transferring ammo onto trailer. ▲



Sikh police guard S/Sgt Jamiat Singh, 27 years with the Army.

nationalities thousands of miles from the home base — that is the role of the Composite Ordnance Depot. Colonel Keating is proud of his staff — the British, the Chinese and of course those Sikh policemen who help the depot win the Hong Kong Services hockey championships each year! ■



Packing Gurkha rations.

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Fees for the Academic Year 1982/83 vary from £1,765-£2,220 per annum. Each of the schools has its own brochure. All enquiries should be addressed directly to the Head or Principal at the following addresses:

Mr. D. Herbert, The Grammar School, Leicester Road, Ashby de la Zouch LE6 5DA.

Miss J. V. Gregory, The Burleigh College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough LE11 0SQ.

Mr. I. G. McIntosh, Vale of Catmose College, Cold Overton Road, Oakham.

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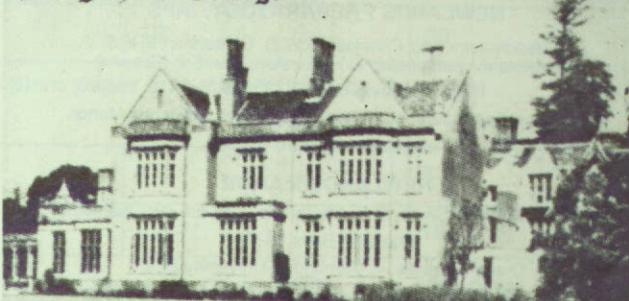
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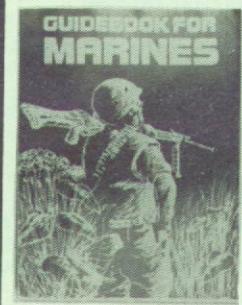
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BLACKPOOL'S POPULARITY

Blackpool, Europe's most popular resort (it had 10 million visitors in 1981) could be one of the boom towns of the 1980's. It will be a major centre for offshore gas exploration and already places like Blackpool, Morecambe and Fleetwood are receiving the economic spin-offs.

House prices are reasonable and the unemployment rate is below the national average. First time buyers can get into the market for around £10,000 for a 2 up and 2 down terrace. Semis start around £20,000, and modern estate dwellings can be found for £22,500 upwards. Detached houses range from £30,000 up to £100,000.

Blackpool is obviously a seasonal town, however it has a wide range of industries besides those associated with tourism and conferences. It has excellent shopping, first class communications and lower than average rates.

Tony Legge, Entwistle Green 0253 23511

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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S.Sgt B H Houlette, C.A.M. Wing, St. Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 1UZ. Tel Aldershot 314844. Working hours Aldershot Mil. 2648.

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RUGBY

Rounding up the Colts

THE ARMY Rugby Colts are riding the crest of a wave at the moment. Last season they emerged not only as Combined Services champions but with two of their players selected for the England under-18's.



So there was a lot of interest when the potentials for this year's squad gathered at Aldershot for a weekend of hard rugby — during which they would be assessed and this year's squad would start to take shape.

Quite a sizeable number of last year's squad are still available so the selectors were really looking for about ten newcomers to make their mark. Rugby officers from units up and down the land had been asked to send their best players — positions are not specified but with something like 60 turning up there is always a good mix for the trial games.

► Adjudged by Captain Gareth Davies to have been the outstanding find of the trials weekend was 17-year-old Apprentice Lance-Corporal Tyrone Matthews from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. Tyrone, a full back who has been playing rugby since he was 13, told SOLDIER: "It's been a great weekend but hard. I've spent about four hours playing rugby."

Major Toby Hirst, the Colts secretary, said that a squad of about 25 was needed to take the Colts through their busy season against the youth sides of some of the major names of English and Welsh Rugby — including Plymouth Albion, London Scottish, Harlequins, Blackheath, London Welsh and the Boys Clubs of Wales and culminating in the Inter-Service games at Aldershot in March.

"The aim of this weekend is to get the potential, marry it up with a first class coach in Gareth Davies and progress them into the Army side. It is at this age that they really do need the high quality coaching. We pick up the weaknesses they have from playing in regimental sides and as the season progresses Gareth knocks them into shape."

Captain Davies has noticed a steady improvement in the last four to five years. Last year, in addition to the two internationals, the squad boasted people who played in the Welsh trials and provided 18 players for the Combined Services' Colts.

After trials throughout Saturday a Colts side was selected which played against a club side



Captain Gareth Davies.

from Oxfordshire. After a shaky start the youngsters came through to win by 19 points to seven.

Captain Davies was well satisfied: "I am very encouraged, particularly when you consider the fact that the Welsh Guards (current Army champions) have no representatives here because of a tour."

The Colts begin their tours in the West Country this month. After Christmas they start in earnest on the build up to the Inter-Services matches.

PICTURES
PAUL HALEY



ment winners, the RAF, they put up a tremendous battle before conceding.

Both of the other Services play in the national league whereas the Army team only had a few days together before the tournament. But volleyball secretary, Major R J Stringer, said it was hoped eventually to enrol the Army in the league to give the side regular top competition.

"We are very much the babies of the game as far as the three Services are concerned but we are slowly getting it organised," he said. "We are always looking for new talent."

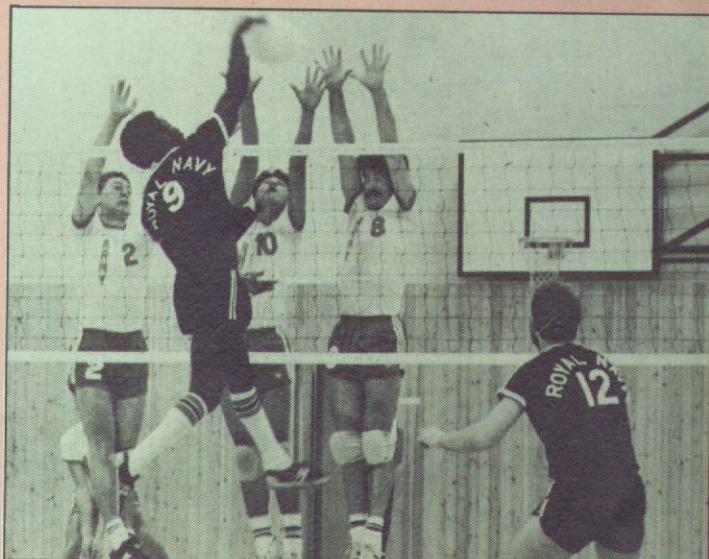
Anyone who considers they can offer that talent can contact Major Stringer at the ACC Army Apprentices College, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot (Tel: Aldershot military, extension 2336).

VOLLEYBALL

Navy and RAF class too much for Army

THE ARMY were beaten by both of the other Services in the Inter-Services volleyball championships at the new HMS Collingwood sports complex. In both cases the scores were 3-0 but there was a great contrast in the matches.

In their opening match against the Royal Navy the soldiers found it difficult to settle down and were completely outclassed. But against the eventual tourna-



Three Army men try to stave off Navy assault.

Indoor Hockey

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS retained their Inter-Corps Indoor Hockey title but only after their final match had gone to extra time. The extra time decision, which was against the tournament rules, was taken by assistant tournament referee, Major Arthur Pearson, after both team captains had asked him to avoid the penalty goal shoot-out.

Said Major Pearson: "Penalties would not have been the right thing for a final. It would not have been a team effort."

The Sappers had met the Infantry in the final after both teams had won their way through league competitions and a semi-final. The event in Maida Gym at Aldershot had shown fast and furious play throughout the day — more reminiscent of ice hock-

Skipper Heys receives the trophy.



Ian is Vegas bound



LANCE-CORPORAL Ian Dixon (20), recently became the German champion at Bicycle Motor Cross. In June at the European championships Ian, a REME technician serving with the Workshop of 22nd Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, Dortmund, finished ninth.

Ian is completely self-financed at the moment but hopes soon to be sponsored by CW Racing. He has just purchased a cycle from them in California at a cost of \$800 and next month will be travelling to Las Vegas to take part in the world championship.



The masked Sapper goalkeeper is stranded as Infantry score.

SAPPERS' EXTRA TIME DRAMA

ey than the outdoor game on grass.

The red shirted Engineers went into a two goal lead but the Infantry fought back and eventually the scores levelled at 3-3. At the interval it was four all and the second half followed a similar pattern with the Engineers taking the lead only for the Infantry to claw their way back into the game.

As the final whistle blew there was more drama. The Infantry had been awarded a penalty cor-

ner and were losing 8-7. Their forwards made no mistake and extra time was needed.

But in the extra ten minutes the Sappers finally sealed the match by adding four more goals to a lone reply by the Infantry. Afterwards the RE skipper, Sergeant Charles Heys, who also led last year's winning team, said: "The semi-final was hard but the final was the hardest of all. They could not have given us a more worthy game as a final."

Sergeant Heys said the indoor

game was rapidly growing in popularity but while its speed was similar to the tarmac game played in Germany it took a game or two to adapt after grass.

The Sappers, the Infantry and third placed REME will all take part in the Inter-Service tournament at RAF Newton on 14-16 December.

In the final of the Inter-Corps outdoor hockey tournament the following weekend the Royal Army Pay Corps beat the Infantry 3-1.

SOCCER ROUND-UP

Hopefuls fielded

**Cambridge Falcons 3
An Army XI 4**

THE ARMY XI which played the Cambridge Falcons was a collection of players, many wearing an Army shirt for the first time, who were anxious to impress and earn promotion to the senior squad. They put in plenty of effort but also made many mistakes.

Lance-corporal Pat Russell RA scored twice in the first half hour with the Falcons replying just before the interval. In the second half Lance-Corporal 'TP' Stead, Green Howards, was converted from central defender to central striker and obliged with two headed goals. This was just enough to keep them a goal ahead of the Falcons, who capitalised on the Army's sloppy defensive work.

Coppers not spared

Army 3 Metropolitan Police 1

TWO GOALS IN THE LAST TEN MINUTES, both scored by Lance-Corporal Steve Butler REME, extended the Army's winning run to six games. But not before they suffered a scare or two at the hands of a formidable Police side bent on improving a string of unsatisfactory results against the Army.

The Army had the edge in the opening half and Craftsman Neil McGregor was sent chasing clear by Butler only to shoot wide. Army keeper, Sapper Chris Marshall, frustrated the visitors when he went down at the feet of an onrushing

forward to smother the ball and prevent a certain score.

Just before the interval the policemen made an error in defence and the Army broke on the right for two unmarked forwards to race for the ball. Corporal Rudi Fleming REME won the race and scored.

After the interval the visitors made most of the running and they equalised on the hour. Now they were threatening to steal the game and Marshall was twice called upon to tidy up sloppy work in a tiring defence before Butler turned on his ten minutes of magic which finally swung the game.

First he waltzed his way through a packed defence and rounded the advancing keeper before tucking the ball into the net. Then, just a minute from time, he was tripped in the penalty area as he threatened a repeat performance. He took the penalty kick himself and crashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Special mention must be made of two experienced footballers who are now Army trainees — Neil McGregor and Craftsman Russell Oliver. They turned in fine and mobile performances despite having endured the rigours of a six mile run in full kit only that morning.

League debut

PTE PHIL STANT of 81 Ord Coy, RAOC based at Aldershot became the first soldier for several years to play in the Football League when he appeared for Third Division Reading and scored a goal in their 4-2 home win over Newport. Full story in next issue.

Larkhill hunters — record entry

A RECORD ENTRY of 276 horses took part in the Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials at Larkhill in good weather and in front of a large crowd.

The winner of the Poett Cup and first in the Novices' Services Section was Captain Shaw on the King's Troop horse 'Teesside.' Second was Corporal of Horse Holbrook of the Household Cavalry on 'Bellona' and third Captain Gorman (Household Cavalry) on 'Zouva.'

Services Intermediate winner was Lieutenant-Colonel Mews on 'Saucy Ice', second Captain Stevens on the Royal Marines' 'Rupert' and third Captain Carr-Ellison (Household Cavalry) on 'Envoy'. Captain Stevens also took the Mounted Infantry Cameronian Cup.

Sgt Woods of King's Troop won the King's Royal Irish Hussars Cup in the Open Section on 'Woodwind'. The Army Pairs Cup was taken by Captain White-Spunner and Lieutenant Bullard of the Household Cavalry Regiment with 'Equerry' and 'Dragoon.'



Taking a mudbath at Bulford —
competitors in the sidecar event
at the recent Army Motorcycling
Championships (see report in
last issue).

Picture by Paul Haley

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