

SOLDIER

23 FEBRUARY 1987

35 PENCE



INSIDE
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in leg and foot protection, when used in wet, boggy and snowy situations.

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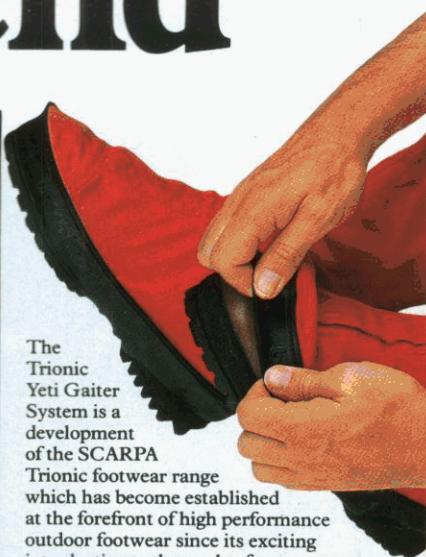
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Andy Lewis reading by torchlight.
Kulu, Himalaya.
Photo: A. Hinkes.



Glenn Tempest looking towards the Fainters and Mt. Bogong.
Bogong high plains.
Photo: Tempest/Keogh collection.

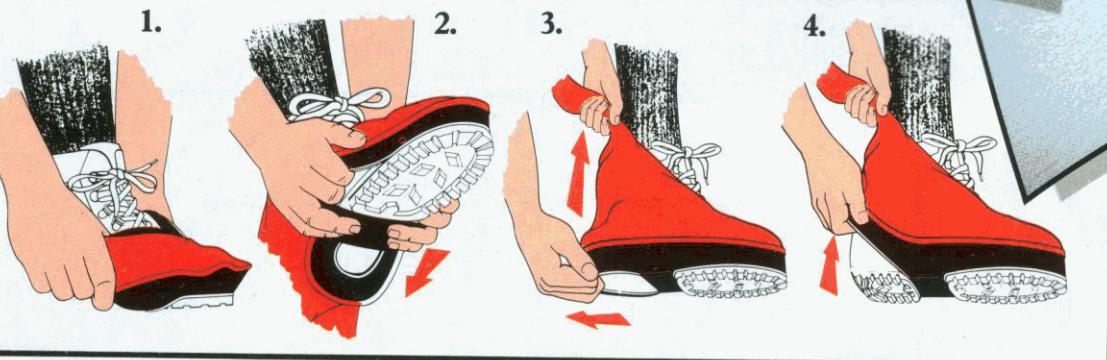


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FRONT COVER – Last of the dispatch riders? LCpl Jason Ballard outside Buckingham Palace. See story in Page 25.

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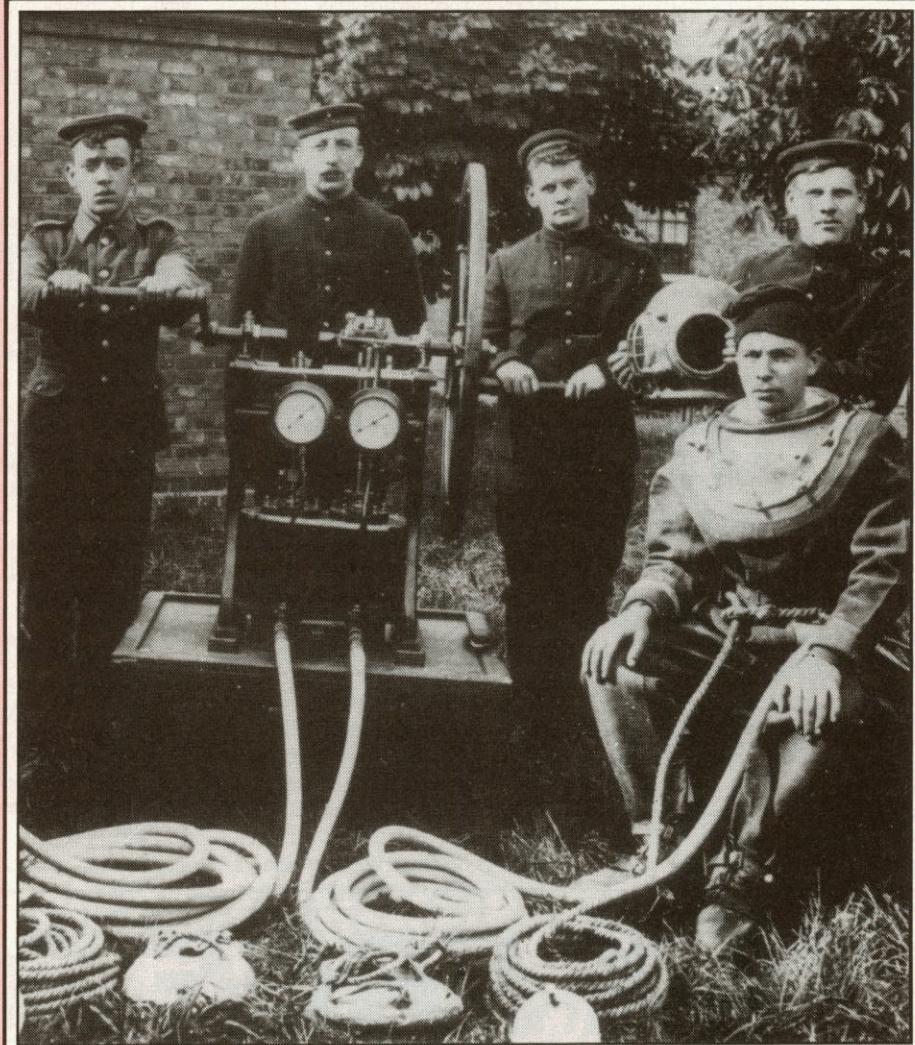
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

SAPPERS' STORY



RE 200 celebrates the 200th anniversary of the granting of the Royal warrant to the Army's military engineers. The next issue of SOLDIER takes a look at the fascinating history of the Corps of Royal Engineers. Those stern faced men pictured above are submarine miners of 1893, one of the many facets of the sappers' story.

ALSO in the next issue, SOLDIER reveals the highly specialised work of the Army's Artillery Meteorological System (AMETS), which aims to put the gunners on target – whatever the weather!

REUNIONS

● The 68th annual reunion dinner of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association will be held in the Strand Palace Hotel, London WC2 on May 2. Details from Maj J F Walls, Regimental Secretary, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP. Tel: 091-232 9855.

● Fiddlers' Club. The annual reunion of the pre-1939 Trumpeters, Royal Artillery will be held on July 31/August 1 in the RA Mess RSA, Larkhill. Details from Maj J J Dobbs, 5 Glynswood, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1HU.

● Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association (London Branch) St David's Day dinner will be held on February 28 at the Victory Club, London. Details from hon secretary Mr J M Smith (phone 01-249 2878). The St David's Day Parade will be held on March 1 at 1200 hours at Horse Guards Parade, marching to the Cenotaph and returning to Wellington Barracks for buffet lunch.

● The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) 58th annual reunion and dinner dance will be held at the Masonic Hall, Saul Street, Preston on June 6. Tickets from the secretary, The Loyal Regiment (NL) Association, Fulwood Barracks, Preston PR2 4AA, Lancashire (Tel 0772-716543 Ext 2362).

CALL SIGNS

● Ex-Sgt W Turley, 82 Howe Road, Norton-on-Derwent, Malton, North Yorks YO17 9BL, is anxious to hear from any former members of his old unit, 32nd Inf Bde (Guards) Workshop REME from the Second World War.

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Give the Terriers a break!

and it not always our fault when things go wrong.

The time we spend at our units is very valuable. Maj Gen Guthrie is right that our main responsibilities are with our families, especially those who are married, so our civilian jobs are vital. TA money does not go very far.

This might sound a bit mercenary but civilian life is like that. We do not have the guarantees Regulars have but we do our best under the circumstances, so come on let's work together.

Our defence relies on the strength of the people working together. – Pte S J Bennett, 24 Woodville Road, Ham, Nr Richmond, Surrey.

Civvy life can be pretty tough

REUNIONS

This must

Having avidly followed the correspondence in your letters' pages regarding the use of blank ammunition at executions by musketry, I feel prompted to explain to your readers the underlying reasons as to why the true answer has not yet been provided (and probably why the subject has been dropped from your mail pages).

Bearing in mind the hitherto unknown number of British soldiers (charged with desertion and cowardice) and enemy aliens (spies etc) who must have faced a firing squad in the 20th century – and the possible number of witnesses to such events who must still be living – it must surely strike SOLDIER readers as somewhat peculiar that no one has come forward to either confirm or deny the use of blank cartridges.

I totally agree with the comments made by Col Watson in his letter regarding safety with weapons (SOLDIER, January 26).

In the same magazine as his letter there is another photograph of a lady holding a Sub Machine Gun (SMG) where it appears that no consideration has been given to safety.

May I please point out the following:

● It appears from the photograph that her trigger finger is on the trigger, when, if

Latest of SOLDIER's HOAY winners is C Rouffinac of 19 Liverpool Road North, Burscough, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, who will receive a cheque for £50.

There's another competition on page 39 of this issue.



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NAME RANK

ADDRESS

Tick items of main interest: FIESTA ORION SIERRA
ESCAPE GRANADA CAPRI

S2

firing squad answer remain a blank . . .



It must be remembered that the use of blank ammunition is not determined at a personal whim of the officer in charge of arranging the execution. Strict and clear instructions are set down in Provost Manuals but, as these are of a "Restricted" classification, they are "Not To Be Communicated to the Press or Any Other Person Not Authorised to Receive it".

In America, where access to state papers is not only permitted but encouraged, they cancelled the "Restricted" designation for their *Procedure for Military Executions (War Department Pamphlet No. 27-4)* as early as November 5 1953. From the content of this manual we learn that the officer charged with the execution of the death penalty personally loads all rifles and that "Not more than four, not less than

one, will be loaded with blank ammunition".

The rifles are then placed in random order in a rifle rack for firers to select. A later amendment reduced the maximum number of blanks to three but this was due to the reduction of the standard strength of the firing party.

After firing in volley, the riflemen return their rifles to the rack in random order for the officer to unload. It appears from their pamphlet that firers

are deliberately kept in the dark about the blank-loaded weapons thereby adding further mystery to why a blank is used at all.

While fully endorsing the comment that the recoil from blank varies from that of live ammunition, the pre-1953 secrecy surrounding the Procedures would cause dissent within the ranks of the firing party. Assuming the riflemen did discuss their collective experience afterwards, any man claiming to have felt no recoil would have been shouted down by his other colleagues who had felt "a kick like a mule". They might well have finally agreed among themselves that a blank may have been used but could never be certain without confirmation from their officer who, being governed by the Official Secrets Act, considered

the men as "not authorised" to know.

The American decision to cancel the "Restricted" designation of their manual is to be applauded and, as a serious history student, I look forward to the day when our own government will see fit to abandon its present "Keep Our Secrets Secret" policy and lift some of the stringent control on classified material.

Until that great day, despite the differences in British execution procedures of which I am fairly familiar, I am forced to remain silent – in common with those many other readers who know the answer – purely because this information may not be communicated to the press. I can only offer a sincere apology for my leaving the answer a blank. – Name and Address Supplied.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

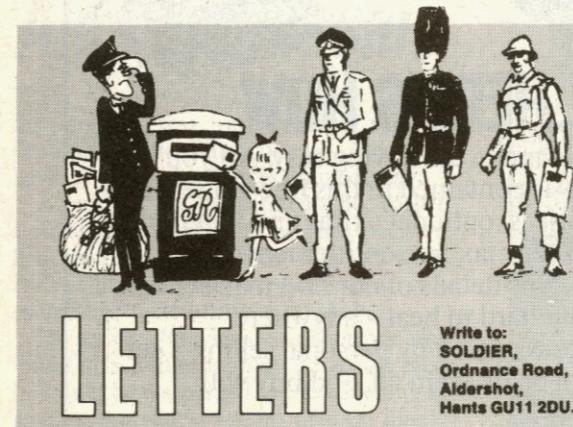
not firing the weapon the finger should run alongside the trigger guard.

● Also, the lady is holding

the magazine. This, I am sure, should only be done when carrying out loading and unloading procedures.

I strongly feel that if soldiers are going to have their photographs taken for eventual publication, especially in SOLDIER, then all safety aspects regarding weapons as taught and laid down in rules should be carried out.

Surely it is better to be safe than sorry. – F. T. Downie, Peperstraat 44, B2440 Geel, Antwerp, Belgium.



LICENSED TO TEACH!

I read with amusement and interest your article on 007 Bond (SOLDIER, January 12).

I don't share the name but I do the "last three" and I once worked for a Colonel Bond in MoD.

Although I'm not licensed to kill I am, as it were, licensed to teach. Some would say: "Is there a difference?" – Maj W Nicoll (477007), Royal Army Educational Corps, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8LG.

Graves of three executed National Servicemen were 'at an angle'

Letters (January 21) informs

that the campaign to get active service in the Suez Zone eligible for the award of the General Service Medal has been abandoned.

The fact that the medal was not made at the time evinced sheer appeasement.

During the time in question, Egyptian forces in that area received medals and decorations for anti-British service.

A grim instance of British appeasement to Egypt was highlighted in the case of three teenaged National Servicemen who ventured beyond the wire zone and were surrounded by a

hostile and angry crowd.

One of those gunners had a pistol and in self defence fired a single shot which killed an assailant before the arrival of Egyptian police who made them over to the British Garrison.

Tried by Field General Court Martial they were sentenced to death, there being no means of appeal.

The 42nd Coy Royal Engineers built a sound-proof gallows shed. One of them informed me that his comrades were well on with the job before realising what they were building. They were depressed.

Mothers of the condemned trio were flown by RAF to bid goodbye to their teenaged sons. Travelling in that same plane was the public executioner.

The condemned were hanged on the same rope at hourly intervals and buried in the large war cemetery near Genneffa which was then out of bounds to British troops.

To photograph the grave of a comrade I later visited that war cemetery and saw that the graves of those three executed teenagers were at an angle to all other graves there.

Nearby was the grave of an executed corporal condemned

for murder but his grave was not at an angle. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is not concerned with Service burials occurring after 1950. These graves "at an angle" were ordered the following year (1951).

A few hundred years ago felons were buried at an angle to others in graveyards.

Throughout the world are millions of allied and enemy graves in war cemeteries but none, excepting the three above named, are at an angle to others. – R. Rimmer, 27 St George's, Chester CH1 3HG.

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Argylls play host to 'shipwrecked' tourists

MORE than 300 elderly American cruise passengers on a visit to the Falkland Islands enjoyed an unexpected breakfast as guests of the 1st Bn, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Holland-America vessel, Rotterdam, arrived in Stanley carrying mostly elderly Americans. While nearly half of them were exploring the islands' capital, sudden high winds blew up and the vessel was forced to shift her anchors. The Royal Navy-controlled tug Irishman was called to help her move to the sheltered waters of Berkley Sound.

The stranded group - 323 strong - was immediately offered assistance by the

controller of the Falkland Islands Port and Storage System, Maj Dale Hemming-Taylor.

Assistant Chief of Staff responsible for logistics, Col Gordon MacDougall, then oversaw the considerable task of looking after the military's unexpected but nevertheless welcome guests.

Their home from home was Coastel 3 - the floating barge used to accommodate the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The battalion's commanding officer, Col Anthony Neilson, welcomed the Americans after they were piped aboard by a Scottish piper.

When Col Neilson spoke to his guests,

he was greeted with loud cheers and applause.

While most of the elderly tourists retired to bed, others made the most of the traditional Scottish hospitality on offer.

For many it was the experience of a lifetime, but one passenger was particularly grateful for the military's help. A 72-year-old woman was airlifted from the Rotterdam suffering from suspected appendicitis. The crew of the Sea King search and rescue helicopter from No 78 Sqn carried out the rescue in particularly hazardous circumstances and the patient was later said to be comfortable at the British Military Hospital in Stanley.

No decision on Aids dismissals

THE Ministry of Defence has firmly discounted Press reports that soldiers contracting the killer disease Aids will have to leave the Forces immediately.

A spokesman reaffirmed the earlier statement by MoD that no firm decision had been taken yet on its policy towards Aids and that the Services were still examining their attitudes to Aids.

He added: "Obviously, if someone was found to be suffering from the disease then he would be discharged in the same way as anyone else with a serious medical illness whether it is for cancer or a broken back.

"Any soldier found to be carrying the virus but who has not actually developed the disease would obviously be given medical care as necessary and each case would be treated on its merits. There is no final policy yet."

Sappers launch 200th anniversary

THE sappers will doubtless be showing off wherever they are this year in reasonable numbers, and with good cause. For this year marks the 200th anniversary of the granting of the title "Royal" to the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Demonstrations of their skills are planned as part of RE 200 celebrations. Displays of civil engineering, postal services, survey work, airfield damage repair (ADR), bomb disposal, mine clearance, watermanship and assault engineering are just a few of the talents associated with the 13,800-strong corps.



THEY'VE certainly got a tricky situation taped. Royal Engineer EOD specialists show off their detection techniques during a demonstration to launch RE 200, this year marking the bi-centenary of the incorporation of the title "Royal" into the Corps which can trace its roots to 1066 and Saxon England.

Gurkha sappers answer Cyclone Sally SOS

CAPTAIN Cook first discovered the Cook Islands in 1773. Cyclone Sally made her landfall on them just a few weeks ago.

As a result, seven members of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, including five

carpenters and an electrician, have just answered an SOS Save-our-Sheds.

They flew from Hong Kong to the Cook Islands via the requesting agency, New Zealand, for help in the rebuilding project,

the re-cladding of two cargo sheds at Avarua harbour on the southern island. A third emerged unscathed.

The Gurkha sappers were expected to spend three weeks making repairs.

No one to blame for Falklands Gazelle shooting

NO ONE was directly to blame for the shooting down of an Army Gazelle helicopter in the Falklands on June 6, 1982, when four occupants died, a Board of Inquiry has concluded.

Mr John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, said the incident had highlighted a "lack of experience in both Army and Navy staffs with each other's procedures and capabilities".

The Gazelle with its two crew and two passengers had been shot down by a Sea Dart missile fired from the Royal Navy destroyer, HMS Cardiff.

A CAPITAL CELEBRATION

SEVENTY-NINE years ago the 56 London Brigade was formed. Then it was known as the 1st (London) Division. Over the next 59 years it changed its name a number of times until disbandment in 1961.

Now, to mark its reformation, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir David Rowe-Ham has attended a reception at the City's Guildhall to mark the occasion.

With headquarters in Whitehall, the brigade comprises five public duty battalions, currently 2 Coldstream Guards, 1 and 2 Scots Guards, 1 Irish Guards, 1 Cheshires, 8 (V) Queen's Fusiliers (City of London), 10 Para (V), 4 RGJ (V), 151 (Greater London) Tpt Regt RCT (V), 217 General Hospital RAMC (V), 221 Fd Ambl RAMC (V) and 253 Pro Coy RMP (V).



Spr Hari Bahadur Thapa, LCpl Pasang Sherba and WOII Binod Lama start the repair job in Avarua harbour on the Cook Islands after Cyclone Sally

Brigadier back in charge

AFTER a gap of nearly 20 years the Territorial Army in Northern Ireland is to have a brigadier as its commander. Brig Clive Wilkinson, who was commissioned into the Royal Artillery, goes to the province from a staff post in Germany.

He will have his headquarters in Lisburn and will be responsible for the eight major and five minor units of the TA in Northern Ireland.

The appointment of a brigadier as the commander of the TA in Northern Ireland follows the pattern of similar appointments

in the UK. The position of TA colonel, which is held by the province's most senior TA officer, remains.

The TA in Northern Ireland had at one time two brigadiers, the commanders of 51 (Ulster) Anti-Aircraft Brigade (TA), 1947 to 1955, and the 107 (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade (TA), 1947 to 1967. The infantry brigade was disbanded following the far reaching reorganisation of the TA in 1967. Its last commander was the late Brig Tony Dyball, formerly of The Royal Ulster Rifles.

MOBB



by Mouse

Harrogate trio dash to rescue

PROMPT action by a trio of Army medics has earned a commendation from the casualty department of a hospital in Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Answering an SOS, LCpl John Williams RAMC, closely followed by two other members of the medical centre at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate – Practice Manager SSgt David Garbutt and TA Sgt Peter Tyers – was first on the scene of a nearby traffic accident.

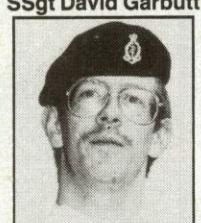
By the time a local ambulance had completed a three mile dash from the town, the college medics had provided emergency aid which may well be crucial to the recovery of casualty Miss Julie Anderson, 22, a Civil Servant.

The incident happened at the end of a fortnight's attachment to the college by Sgt Tyers. He was on familiar ground, however, as he first went to the college with intake 61B at the age of 15. After serving 22 years in the Royal Signals, leaving in the rank of sergeant, he was soon back in uniform to start a new Army career with 252 TA Highland Field Ambulance, Prince Charles Barracks, Aberdeen.

RAF works out with Minden units

UNITS of 11 Armoured Brigade, the Chinook helicopters of B Flight, 18 Squadron from Royal Air Force Gutersloh mastered the elements to successfully complete a BAOR brigade helicopter concentration.

The exercise, codenamed Hoary Bull, was the first concentration of its kind to involve the Royal Air Force helicopters, the Joint Helicopter Support Unit and Minden Garrison units. It was centred on the Minden North training area and was aimed at promoting a better understanding in a joint service environment.



Sgt Peter Tyers



Sean Rafferty of BBC TV Northern Ireland, accepts a cheque from members of 2 Sqn RCT at Moscow Camp, Belfast

Squashed and snookered!

MEMBERS of 2 Sqn RCT from Bunde, Germany, raised more than £1,000 for the BBC's Children in Need Appeal while serving on a four and a half month tour in Northern Ireland.

The money was raised through two separate projects masterminded by Cpl Chris Young REME and LCpl Cartlidge RCT. REME personnel of the Squadron

Workshop took part in a squash marathon with eight players battling through a total of 329 games, scoring 4,423 points in 36 hours, and eight intrepid snooker players played 71 frames, scoring 6,180 points.

The squadron returned to Bunde at the end of this month for a happy reunion with families and friends before plunging back into the BAOR lifestyle again.

Salute to the accession

THE 35th anniversary of accession to the throne by the Queen was marked by a 21 gun salute fired from Edinburgh Castle on February 6. Fired by 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment RA (V), the guns were manned by detachments from HQ (City of Edinburgh) Battery, 207 (City of Glasgow) Battery, 218 (Lothian) Battery and Edinburgh Heriot-Watt University OTC RA Troop.

Tattoo's £29,630 charity bonanza

LAST year's Berlin Tattoo raised a lot of money and part of the profits – DM80,000 or about £29,630 – has been presented to Berlin charities by Maj Gen Patrick Brooking, GOC Berlin Sector, who handed over the bumper cheque to Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the city's Governing Mayor. The cash will go to Aktion Junior Partners while other donations will also go to the Army and RAF Benevolent Funds.

Pipers from a resident battalion, 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers put on a piping welcome for the GOC when he handed over the cheque.

Gazelles replace Falkland Scouts

SCOUT helicopters are no longer flying in the Falklands. They had been a familiar sight around the islands since 1982 but have now been phased out, their pilots returning to the UK with them.

The Falkland Islands Squadron, Army Air Corps, draws its personnel from units in Germany and the UK and pilots had to be retrained in the use of the Scout before posting to the South Atlantic.

Now the squadron flies only Gazelles, tasked by Joint Services HQ in a variety of roles. Extreme wind turbulence and changeable weather test pilots to the full.

Home-bound tickets for base-proud winners

IT'S not known whether the soldiers at 3 Base Ammunition Depot at Bracht Germany are particularly godly, but they can certainly claim a high standard of cleanliness - the next best thing! And to prove it they can show three Townsend Thoresen ferry tickets for

winning the RCZ Environmental Conservation '86 competition. Get cracking with mop, brush and paint, they were told. And in no time at all the place was sparkling with gleam and shine. Lawns looked like those pictured on seed packets,

flowers bloomed and the whole place took on a glow. Whether whitewash was slapped on kerbs is not known. But it is known now that they were the winners of the clean base contest and the tickets for a free ride home went to Capt Nicholson, Cpl Bailey and SSgt Briggs.

Capt Nicholson, Cpl Bailey, SSgt Briggs: winners



NEWS

Mrs Peggy Nathan washed up in the ACC Training Centre, Aldershot for 33 years. Now retired, portress Peggy returned to the Training Centre with members of her family to receive the Imperial Service Medal.

SPOT



Left to right: John Falkiner of Military Car Sales, Frankfurt, who supplied the car, SSVC TV presenter Richard Barnes, Captain Archie Hartwell and Paddy with his wife Joan and daughter Pat.

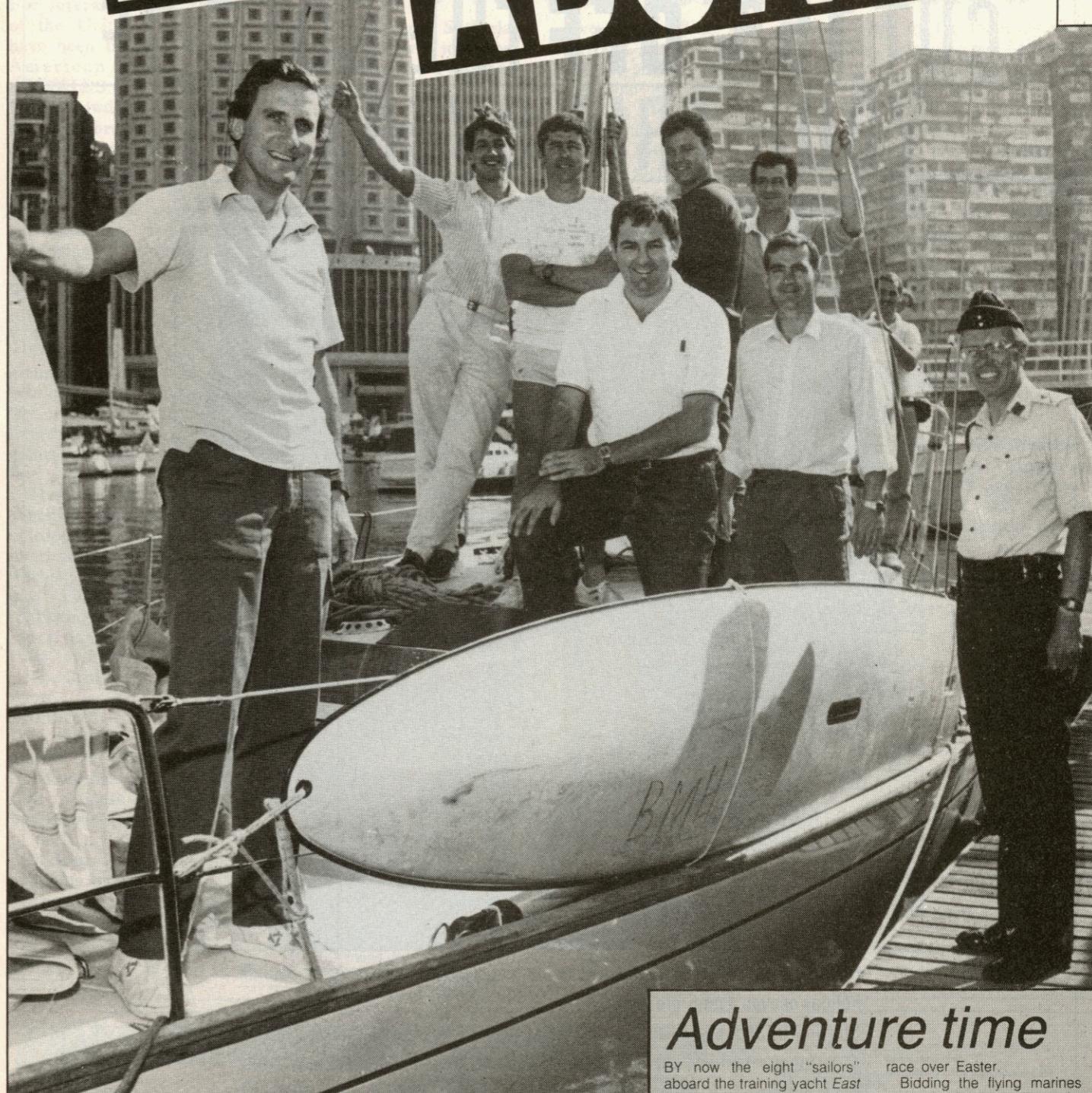
Brainy Int man pulls off million dollar scheme!

AN Intelligence Corps soldier lived up to the Corps image when he showed how to raise

millions of dollars for kidney patients. Get cracking on *Operation Ring Pull*, WO2 Martin

Burd, 39, told his committee in Hong Kong ... and under his guidance as chairman of the HK kidney

ALL ABOARD



PEOPLE

Adventure time

BY now the eight "sailors" aboard the training yacht *East Wind of the Orient* should be back at base flying the helicopters of 660 Sqn AAC. For they were the first to crew the boat on its annual round trip from Hong Kong to the Philippines. Seven other crews plan similar trips until halfway through March when EWOTO returns to Hong Kong to prepare for the San Fernando

race over Easter. Bidding the flying marines farewell is Brig John Edwards, chairman of the HK British Forces Sailing Association, and assuring him they'll look after the club's yacht are (l to r): Maj Mike Schofield, Capt Ross Walker, WO1 Tony Ward, SSgt David Osborne, Cpl Gary Hammond, Capt Rob Horder (skipper), Sgt David Bull and LCpl Robert McAleese.

patients trust fund, they did and collected 8.7million HK dollars (£750,000) for sick people.

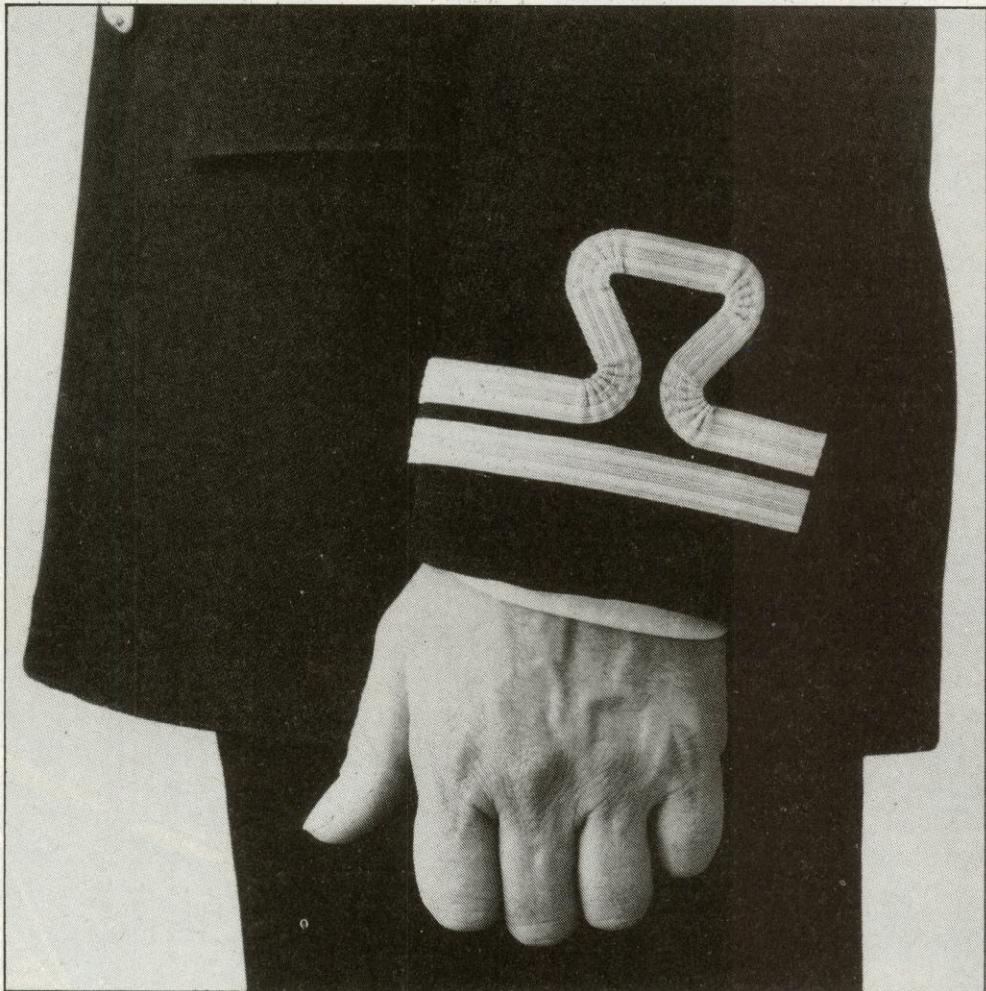
Back now in the UK, he took on the job as chairman two years ago and launched a scheme to collect

ring pulls from soft drinks and beer cans. He persuaded Hong Kong firms to sponsor

schools by paying cash into the fund on the amount collected and the salvage value of the metal rings

was added to the kitty, too. Now the fund has the money and Martin a commendation from acting

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PROBLEMS WITH WHITE POWDER

For several months, soldiers of the United States Army have been fighting what our American counterpart **SOLDIERS** has called The White Powder War, helping drug enforcement officers attack the cocaine menace in Bolivia.

Unfortunately, while the helicopter-borne troops have been raiding the cocaine processing laboratories in the country's swamp and jungle, the US Army's own drugs problem seems to be getting worse.

Whereas in 1980 some 2,270 grams of cocaine (about five pounds) was seized by Army law enforcement agencies, the figure had risen to 18,825 grams (more than 41 pounds) five years later.

That, despite the tough penalties for possession or use of cocaine - up to five years' imprisonment, dishonourable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances. For trafficking and dealing the prison term rises to possibly 15 years, or even more.

The British Army recognises there is no room for complacency.

In the past few years the number of British soldiers convicted has risen from 70 in 1981 to a peak of 149 in 1984, but last year looks like showing a fall in the number of convictions - down to 43 in the first nine months.

Hopefully most soldiers have learned to say "No".

*Views expressed in **SOLDIER** are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.*

SOLDIER to Soldier

Jocks outfox the foxes

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have just won a short war in the Falklands - against foxes.

Local farmer Tony Felton asked the Argylls for help because he had lost half his lambs this season, killed by a large and multiplying fox population.

Sgt Davey Henderson, a qualified sniper and sniper instructor, took a party of three soldiers to the Felton farm for

five days. With him were Privates Eamonn Kelly, Willy Carter, and Duncan Richardson who was straight out of training after being a deerstalker on the Scottish island of Jura in Civvy St.

After spending the first night trying to spot foxes, the kill tally was nil - unlike the red foxes found in Britain, the Patagonian fox does his hunting up until last light and then goes to ground.

But by the following evening, four foxes had been killed by the Jocks who were using two L42 sniper rifles, two SLRs with night scopes and two shotguns.

When they finished their foxhunting stint the Argylls had bagged 23 foxes, despite the animal's grey camouflage against the largely rocky terrain.

Which presumably shows you can't outfox the Jocks!

It's a great coat!

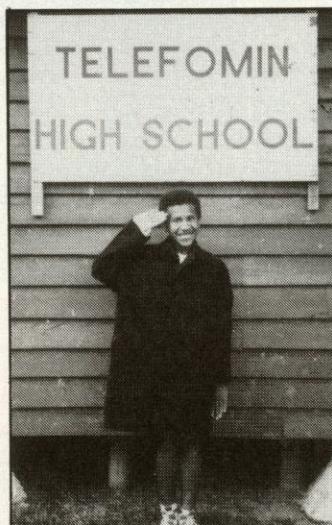
A salute to the British Army from Caspar Armin, top Grade 8 student and chief piggery boy at Telefomin High School in the mountainous West Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea.

Reason for the wide grin on his face is the rather oversize raincoat.

Caspar and his 300 fellow students at the school in one of the most remote areas of the country were desperately in need of protective rain wear so Irish headmaster Malcolm Byrne wrote a begging letter to the British High Commissioner in Port Moresby, the country's capital (see **SOLDIER**, May 5, 1986).

Word eventually reached the Ministry of Defence in London and with the assistance of the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force 300 surplus raincoats were dispatched the 10,000 miles to the school.

Writes Mr Byrne to Col C D M Ritchie, assistant director of



Military Assistance Overseas (A): "Thank you for a wonderful gesture. The staff, students and community at Telefomin will remember your kindness for many years to come."

IWM FACELIFT IS UNDER WAY

The Imperial War Museum's massive redevelopment scheme is well under way.

First phase will provide major new galleries, a new entrance hall, shop and cafeteria, and the Minister for the Arts has now given the go ahead for the second and third phases of the £16.7 million scheme.

All three phases should be completed by the end of next year, and by then the museum will have three times its current exhibition area.

An Army cadet was taken to hospital with eight bullets in him. But it is hoped that all eight have passed right through him without causing injury.

The cadet, from the West Midlands, swallowed the bullets for a dare!

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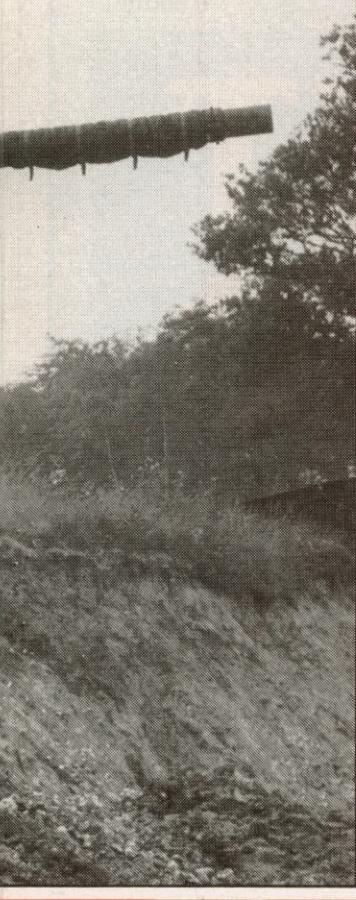
IT'S EASY TO DEAL WITH RANGERS, THE DEALER WHO CARES ABOUT SERVICE WITH QUALITY!

Twenty years on, Chieftain



Going through its paces in 1963, a Mk I version with an armoured box on the front to conceal the shape of the glacis plate from hostile observers

is still a potent weapon



One by one the Chieftains rolled up the ramp and into the vast well-deck of the tank landing craft where they were sheeted and battened down for the long journey ahead.

Thirty hours later, Marchwood military port near Southampton, Hants, far behind them, the tanks were disembarked at the Belgian port of Antwerp for onward delivery by road and rail to armoured units of the British Army on the Rhine.

They were the first batch of Chieftains to enter general service, 20 years ago this month, and were destined for the Hohne barracks of the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own).

Costing about £97,000 each, Mk II versions of the Chieftain were soon being shipped out to BAOR at the rate of ten a month to replace the venerable but still-mighty Centurion.

Two decades later the main battle tank heralded as the tank of the 1970s is

itself bowing out to the superior Challenger but can still hold its own against many of its peers and has proved formidable in the hands of the Iranians during the Gulf War.

Chieftain made its public debut at the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establish-

by Mervyn
Wynne Jones

ment, Chertsey, in late 1961 when it was the star turn at a demonstration of Army weapons and equipment.

Described as faster, more mobile, harder hitting, harder to hit and of a more revolutionary design than any other tank in the history of armoured warfare, Chieftain underwent an intense trials period during 1962 and early 1963.

Crews from the 1st and 5th Royal Tank Regiments were posted to the Equipment Trials Wing at Bovington (now called the Armoured Trials and Development Unit) to familiarise themselves with the new tank.

They returned to Germany to take delivery of a prototype model later that year for winter trials and an exhaustive series of tests designed to iron out pre-production wrinkles.

In May 1963 the Chieftain was accepted for service with the Army and production lines were established at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds, and at the Vickers plant, Elswick.

Mr Joseph Godber, the then War Minister, said:

"We have got a winner. It meets all the Nato requirements for tank warfare in the 1970s and there is not another tank about which that can be said. We have got something which I say is a world-beater. It is way ahead of its time."

Tipping the scales at about 54 tons, Chieftain nevertheless had a smaller silhouette and was faster than Centurion which was much the same weight.

Where the tank scored points over its opponents at the time was in its new high-velocity 120mm gun which fired both armour-piercing discarding sabot (APDS) and high-explosive squash head (HESH) rounds, a deadly cocktail.

In late January, early February 1967 the 11th Hussars, popularly known as the Cherry Pickers, took delivery of the first Chieftains to enter general service, followed by the 17th/21st Lancers that autumn.

Ironically the 11th Hussars returned to the UK just two years later to amalgamate with the 10th Hussars at Tidworth to become the Royal Hussars.

The Mk III version entered service in 1969

and in 1970 the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers snatched the prestigious Canadian Army Trophy after outgunning the German Leopard on the Hohne ranges.

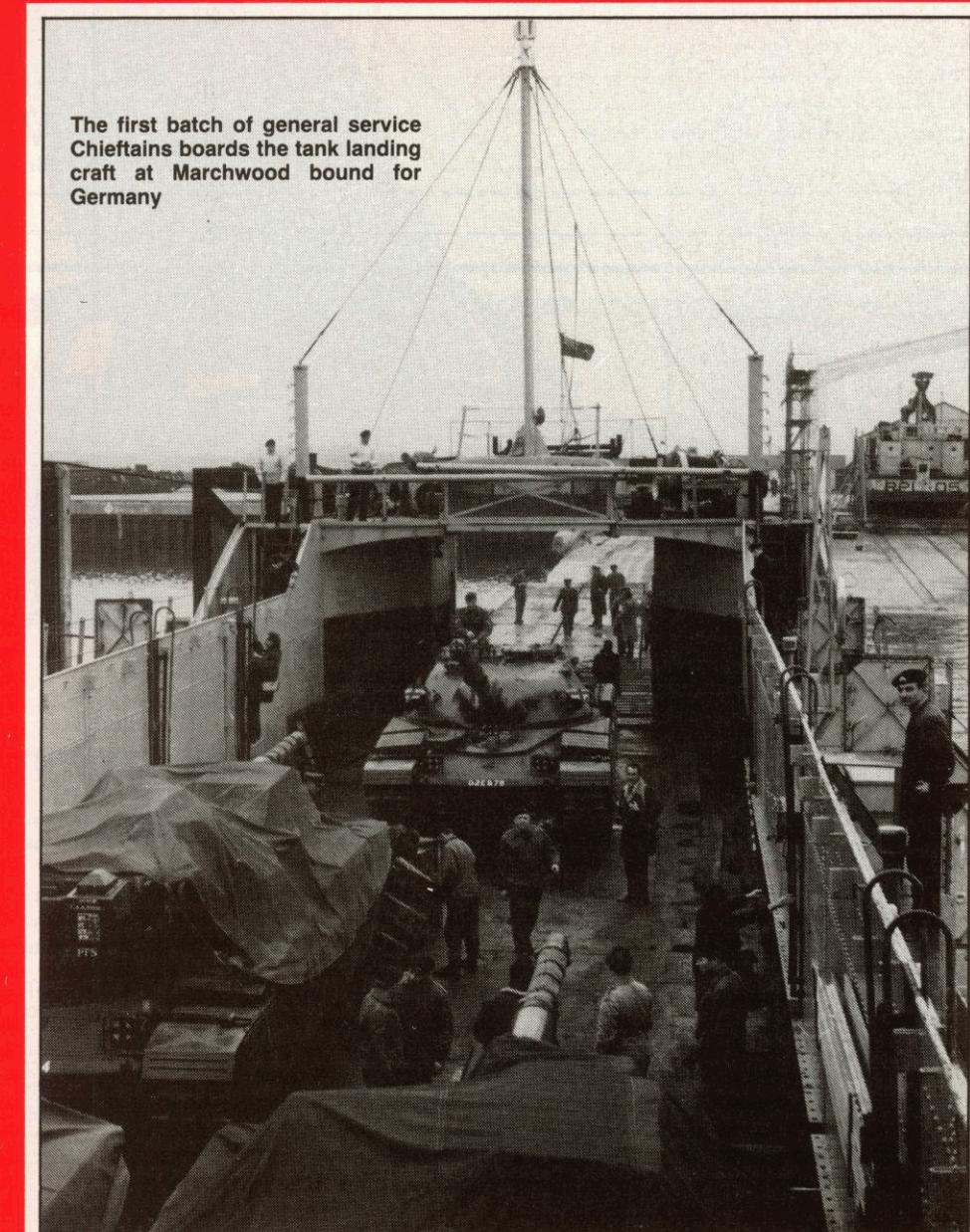
In 1971 an order for 700 Chieftain main battle tanks was placed by Iran, including ARV and bridge-laying variants, and all were delivered by 1978.

Requests from Libya and Israel to purchase Chieftain were turned down by the British Government but an order from Kuwait was accepted and 160 were delivered. It is also in service with the Omani army.

Chieftain has been upgraded and modified 12 times to meet order requirements and to keep abreast of technical developments in the fast moving field of main battle tanks.

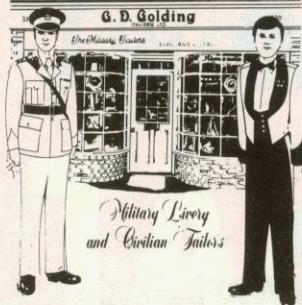
Now in its twilight years, Chieftain is being succeeded by Challenger which was first introduced to the Army in 1983.

TANK THAT LED THE REVOLUTION



The first batch of general service Chieftains boards the tank landing craft at Marchwood bound for Germany

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First awards of the Victoria Cross were announced in the London Gazette 130 years ago this month. Graham Smith looks at the year 1917 when 174 VCs were won on the Western Front and elsewhere

THE YEARS OF VALOUR

THIS month marks the 130th anniversary of the first awards of the Victoria Cross announced in the London Gazette of February 24, 1857. It was on June 26, 1857, in London's Hyde Park that Queen Victoria invested 62 out of 111 Crimean War recipients with Britain's highest military honour.

The last to be awarded, both posthumously, were to two members of The Parachute Regiment who died in the Falklands fighting nearly five years ago.

Seventy years ago, during 1917, and the penultimate year of the First World War, 144 VCs were awarded for action on the Western Front. Another 30 were awarded for bravery in other war theatres.

It was a year of desperate fighting which raged through Flanders when 56 Divisions from the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) battled for gains measured in yards.

All 174 recipients of the VC that year, 52 of them posthumously, were undoubtedly heroes. The medals were won not just in the mud of Flanders. Nine were won in the heat, sand and flies of Mesopotamia, eight in Palestine and one in East Africa.

Men from the UK, Australia (20), Canada (17), the Royal Navy and Naval Services (10), New Zealand (3), Indian Army (2), South Africa (1) and the Royal Flying Corps (4) wrote their names in history.

Seven VCs were won in a



Struck from the casable of a cannon captured at Sebastopol in the Crimea, the unique Victoria Cross remains the supreme military recognition of exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy. Their rarity makes them extremely valuable to collectors and the Royal Corps of Transport had to pay £62,000 at auction last year to secure the Dalton VC won at the battle of Rorke's Drift. The medal has never been won by a woman.

single day – April 9 – during the battle for Arras when the British First and Third Armies, including ANZAC and Canadian support, were involved among the seven corps and 14 divisions

mounting an attack along a 14-mile front backed by 2,817 artillery pieces, 48 tanks and 450 aircraft.

Pitted against them were a half dozen German divisions supported by more than

1,000 guns. April 9 in 1917 was Easter Monday, the day of Vimy Ridge.

The Third Army advanced from 2,000 to 6,000 yards and the seven VC winners comprised three Canadians, two Australians and two British.

On April 10, two more VCs were won. By May 20 of 1917 the battle of Arras had ended with a five-mile advance and 156,660 allied casualties (29,505 killed, 108,279 wounded and 20,876 missing). The Germans sustained 150,000 casualties and 20,000 of them were taken prisoner.

It is also interesting to note that 14 VCs were gained on the first day of the Ypres offensive of July 31, 1917. During the period along the Western Front from April 11 to May 22 no less than 22 VCs were won for superlative valour.

During this offensive casualties were said to be five times greater than in the whole of the Crimean campaign.

During the first battle for Passchendaele on October 12, another 11 VCs were won by the brave – nine of them Canadian – in an offensive which, from July 31 to November 10, claimed 244,897 casualties.

Six VCs were won during the first day of the Battle of Cambrai on November 20 when 19 British divisions with three tank brigades (324 tanks) went into action. Ten days later, seven more VCs were gained.

Be wise over voluntary work

If you are involved in unpaid voluntary work, paid voluntary work or any other sort of part-time job then DHSS leaflet FB26 is a must for you.

This 24-page leaflet is available free from local social security offices and lists how a part-time job, or even unpaid voluntary work, can affect the payment of DHSS benefits.

Since many Service wives are involved in part-time employment, this is a useful guide.

The leaflet gives guidance on voluntary work, paid voluntary work, earnings from part-time work and being available for work (which means being ready to take up paid employment).

This leaflet is clear and easy to understand. It also has a list of useful addresses to which problems can be directed for help.

Leaflet FB26 should be in all BFPOs. Any problems in getting it overseas, write to me.

More jobs for BAOR midwives

A request by SSAFA and HQ BAOR to employ Service dependents who are qualified midwives has been approved by the MoD.

Now wife or daughter living in Germany, or any about to go there, can apply for a job providing they hold the necessary qualifications.

Similarly any qualified midwife who needs only the five-year updating course can also apply. These revision courses start in Germany this year.

All applications to: Director Nursing Service, SSAFA HQ, 16-18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.

Don't be windy about beans!

Convenience food does not have to mean junk food says the Health Education Council's free booklet, *A Guide to Healthy Eating*, pointing out that frozen peas often contain more vitamins than fresh ones, that frozen fish is healthy and that tinned beans are good.

The HEC is encouraging the public to press for healthier food in schools, canteens and in National Health Service hospitals.

Single copies of the guide are available from P.O. Box 877, London SE99 6YE.

That special sort of help

Maybe you or someone you know has lost a baby or child. Sometimes it helps to talk to parents who have suffered a similar experience, even months or years later.

Those offering help are not professional people, but a group of parents who have lost babies or children and feel they can offer some support to other bereaved parents.

For help and information about the group contact Jackie Drake on 02151 757072.



HEATHER, DERRICK AND SAMANTHA: masses of power points and space

New

THE first family has moved into the Army's newest MQ estate at Aldershot and they are "over the moon" at the standard of accommodation.

"I can't believe it," said Mrs Heather Baker who with her husband Derrick and two-year-old daughter, have "marched into" the first of 276 brand-new houses built on the site of the old Aldershot military railway line.

And they didn't have to come far to make the move, switching from nearby Talavera Park,

designed in the 1960s and now fast becoming a pile of rubble.

The family's delight at their new home reflects the hope and combined work of the PSA, FHWS staff, MoD and above all the wives, who together have made these quarters in Heather's words: "A house you would want to buy yourself."

How true. At last the Army has moved with the times and provided a modern kitchen, masses of power points, space for a fridge, washing machine and tumble dryer or small deep freeze.

There are fittings for a child stair gate, there is a non-slip pad in the bath, window locks, and space for coats and a pram which indicates a good deal of thought has been put into the design.

The area, too, is attractively laid out and garages have not been forgotten - each comes complete with power point and light. Most houses have driveway parking space, too.

Said Heather: "I think we will see a difference in our heating bills, with £90 for gas and £50 electricity for the last

des res with all mod cons for £21 a week



The double glazing must make a difference.

With smiles all round the first occupants could not be more happy and satisfied. The rent for this Grade 1 B type is just £21.91 fully furnished, £10 less than that charged for a two-bed council house on Prospect estate in nearby Farnborough.

As Heather was unpacking, a new neighbour, Lorraine, arrived to move in. Her quarter will be unfurnished. "After eight years we have everything from beds to suites.

"We even have our own curtains and living room carpets."

But even though the quarters themselves are excellent, there are one or two moans and extra payouts are one of them.

The families will be able to claim disturbance allow-

ance, but it won't cover the cost of the move.

Said another new occupant: "It's £100 for the telephone to be connected. That's £180 in two years we have spent on phone connection charges."

Another minus point concerns the carpets which don't cover the whole of the floor as fitted carpets are not scaled for soldiers' quarters, and an area of bare floor is left which does not enhance the room one little bit.

And occupants should beware of hammering nails in walls as the wall cavity is lined with a "skin" which, if punctured, can lead to heat loss and increased bills.

Economy cuts could create work for wives

GERMAN newspaper reports have set alarm bells ringing among the 10,000 Germans working for the British. For the locally employed workers fear they might lose their jobs.

Speculation has risen because the British Government is looking at ways to cut the costs of Directly Employed Labour (DEL) who are mainly Germans.

One way the Government could do this would be to pass some of the jobs over to private contractors, many of whom use part-time staff. But another way would be to offer jobs to the dependants of Service personnel.

No decision has yet been reached, but if more jobs did become available to wives and dependent school leavers, then a big bone of contention would be eased.

The lack of employment opportunities creates much dissatisfaction among Service families, who have to rely on one wage. Recent figures show only 27 per cent of wives find a job while in BAOR.

But even if they do get jobs held by Germans it won't be all wine and roses for them, for they won't get the same benefits currently enjoyed by the locals.

They won't get the same wages for a start, neither will contracts of service nor redundancy schemes be as good.

OUTSIDE

This is because dependent Service wives fall outside both EEC and British Government legislation and are mostly classed as temporary workers employed in Germany for a definite period of time, or as replacement workers filling in for someone sick.

This type of temporary work which many Service wives sign on for has many loopholes enabling the Government to save not only on wages, but also in DHSS benefits.

Wages are well below the German rates for many of the jobs and holidays do not equate to the German entitlements.

The easy hire and fire policy which seems to use the Service wife as an expendable commodity compared with the contracts issued to German employees, must be changed.

Another area needing scrutiny is when posts are created - especially in the welfare sector. The criteria to get the post

Anne

HERE TO HELP



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FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS

a short-term renewable lease."

Fine for the council. Their housing list, which is 15,000 names long, is eased, albeit slightly.

But if there are no surplus quarters available for Service families in central London.

Then take the "fact" that 21 MQ flats have been leased to a London borough for renting to civilian occupants.

I read of this with

amazement in *Hansard*. It

was an answer by USofS

for the Armed Forces Mr

Roger Freeman, to a

housing question by

Woolwich MP Mr J C

Cartwright.

Said Mr Freeman: "The

Hon Gentleman will wish to

know that 21 flats were let

to the local council (Green-

wich, which is next door to

Woolwich) in June 1986 on

Using the flats like this

the Army, I have written to Mr Freeman asking for an explanation.

This leasing arrangement with a local authority raises a few interesting questions: what rights

does a local authority tenant living in a MoD house, have? What if the MoD suddenly required those flats, who evicts the occupants? How long is a "short-term" lease, six months, a year, three

years? How much has the council paid for the lease and how much rent are they charging for the houses?

And more to the point, are there any ex-soldiers on the Greenwich housing list, and are any of them renting these flats?

Personally I am appalled at this state of affairs where the first priority seems to be others rather than soldiers and their families. Another "fact" to note is the existence of 3,893 surplus married quarters.

With Army housing problems the way they are, why can't some of this stock be rented by outgoing soldiers before being offered to local authorities or developers?

These houses will be no worse than some of those offered to homeless ex-

and then accommodation will follow. But achieving either of these objects today is not easy.

But if they were allowed to rent, if only for a short time, a surplus MQ, it would go a long way towards solving an extremely difficult problem, especially for those who consider themselves the forgotten soldiers.

'An appalling state of affairs'

Servicemen by local councils. So why cannot some of these surplus MQs be put aside for renting by soldiers about to launch into civvy street?

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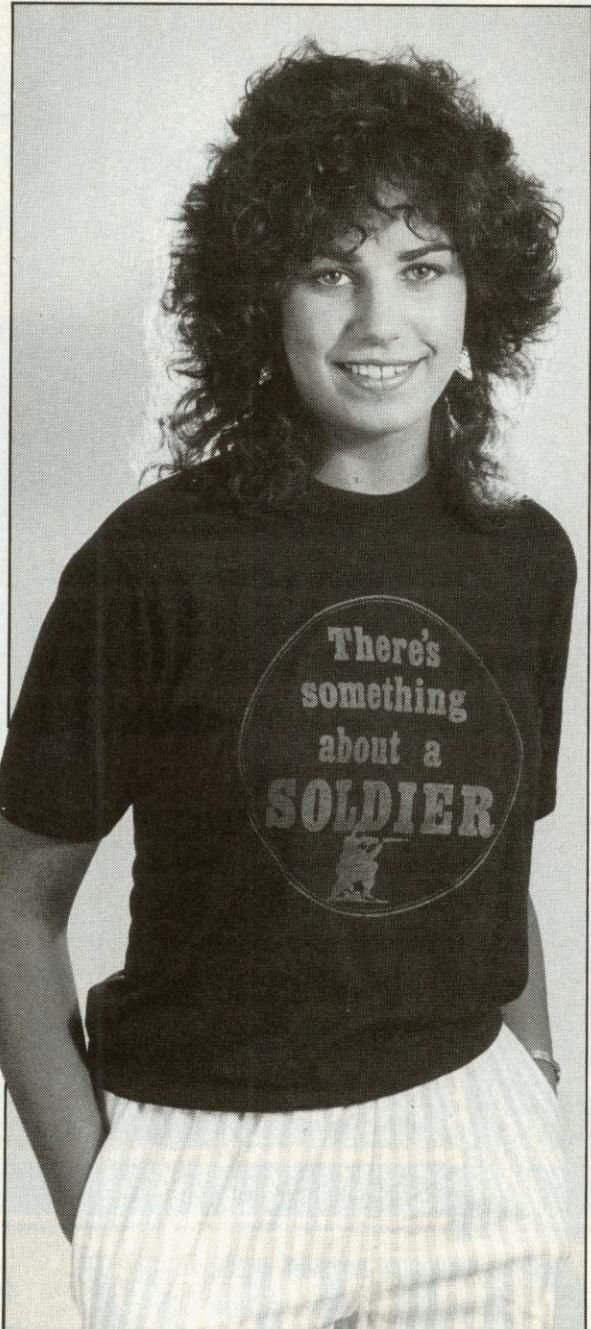
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Tee time for lovely Claire



Picture: Paul Haley

The latest lovely lady to pull on a SOLDIER T-shirt is Claire Robson of Farnborough, Hants. You could look as good by ordering one now!

SOLDIER sweatshirts and T-shirts are available in navy blue overprinted in red. T-shirts come in small, medium and large and cost £3.60 including postage, while sweatshirts are £6.50 for the children's sizes (24, 26, 28 and 30) and £7.50 for adults in small, medium and large. Send your cheque or postal order made payable to Command Cashier UKLF to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, stating size and quantity required.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Right back where they started!

BELIEVE it or not that fading photograph (inset) of 22 14-year-old lads is of the same people pictured above.

But there's a gap of 40 years between then and now. Then they were all young boys about to step out into an Army career, writes **John Margetts**.

Now, except for two, they're all out of the Army and well in step with "civvy" careers.

Last week, because time is marching on, they had a reunion at the ACC College, Aldershot, where in 1947 they all started as the first squad of ACC apprentices.

Two of them, Lt Col Peter Drewett and Lt Col Harry Clegg, are still there, finishing their service this year.

"It's a most significant anniversary for the Corps," said Lt Col Mike Dickinson, CO of the College.

"And the same goes for us," said former WO Len Caldwell, one of the 14 to attend the get-together, and who presented to Col Dickinson, on behalf of the "old boy" squad, a silver model of a field kitchen burner.

Just to show they could still march in step, they formed up

in much the same order as the picture taken in 1947, taking the order to "quick march" from college adjutant Capt Julian Cheeseright.

"It was unfortunate that all 24 couldn't make this meeting," said Len Caldwell, now a bank official, "but since it took 14 months to organise and find everybody it's turned out to be a great occasion. Bill Hargreaves, an ex-sergeant, even came all the way from Brisbane, Australia, where he is now a policeman."

To show them what life for the apprentices is like today,

Inset - The first squad of 14-year-old ACC apprentices steps out smartly in 1947. Above - Forty years later the same "lads" form up for a reunion photograph. Two are still serving in the Army

they had lunch with the lads and then took a field cooking test with a glimpse of their original test papers and marks found in the archives.

Said Len Caldwell: "Many of us had not met up for many years, but we all recognised each other immediately. It's been marvellous."

Those attending were: John Brumfitt, Dave Carless, Len Caldwell, Lt Col Harry Clegg, Lt Col Peter Drewett, Alec Finlay, Bill Hargreaves, Dave Lacey, Pete Law, Peter Parvin, Frank Pinkney, Leslie Ramscar, Dave Talbot, Alex Walker.

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'DISASTER' ALERT TESTS BELIZE FORCES

DURING a Defence Exercise at Airport Camp in Belize a full scale simulation of an aircraft crash was laid on for the benefit of the emergency services. The Prime Minister of Belize and the recently arrived Commander of British Forces, Brig N G R Hepworth, watched as civilian fire, police and ambulance services from the Belize International Airport combined their efforts with those of the British Forces to deal with the "disaster".

Scousers the rescue

Sgt Maj Marie Watkinson looks on as Mrs Denise Forshaw comforts five month old daughter Fallon after the Huyton gas explosion

DENSE fog proved a blessing in disguise for dozens of shocked and bewildered flat-dwellers living next door to the TA's Liverpool-based 33 Signal Regiment.

The fog was so thick that many members of the regiment remained overnight in the Alamein Barracks, Huyton, headquarters which meant they were ready for action when a massive gas explosion shook the next door tower block at two in the morning.

Acting entirely on their own initiative, the soldiers, led by WO2 John Morrison, the Headquarters Squadron Sergeant Major, were outside the badly-damaged block of flats within minutes and shepherding the residents, many of whom were elderly and in shock, towards the warmth and comfort of Alamein Barracks, less than 100 yards away.

Said an exhausted Sgt Maj Morrison the next day: "There was an almighty bang and the whole TA Centre shook. At first we thought it was an explosion in the building. Then we heard the sound of panic and dogs barking.

"We ran round to the flats and then found police all over the place, the fire brigade arriving and the people coming out of their homes. It was an instant decision between us and the police to open up the TA Centre and we soon had the people inside still in their night clothes."

The explosion, in an 8th floor flat, caused fatal burns to a man in his early 20s. He died later in hospital.

As police and emergency services began the lengthy process of identifying the cause of the explosion and checking the structure of the block, the Sergeants' Mess in Alamein Barracks took on the

appearance of a Second World War air raid shelter as 65 residents, including a mother and five month old baby, settled down for the remainder of the night, ministered to by a small but growing group of TA and attached Regular volunteers.

Some, including Regimental Quartermaster Maj Len Jefferey, who took charge of the operation, were summoned by telephone but many, as they woke to news of the emergency on radio and television, turned up unbidden to help.

One, 20-year-old Cfn Ian McClone of the regiment's REME LAD, had left only minutes before the blast to meet his taxi-driver father. Driving home again past the barracks they saw the situation and both turned in to help - a temporary

civilian driver with the unit from Monday to Friday, was busy ferrying the evacuees to temporary accommodation.

The Sergeants' Mess remained in use as an emergency rest centre throughout the day, as relatives and friends arrived to collect the displaced residents.

Office space was made available for Merseyside social and emergency services and charitable organisations who arranged accommodation for some residents. By late morning 33 Signals Regiment's restaurant service was in action again providing hot lunches not only for the remaining residents but also for itinerant police, firemen and social and council workers. By this time ACC Cooks Cpl Ronnie Arrowsmith and Pte Mark Cooper were on hand to provide a more professional service.

"The lads have been magnificent," said CO Lt Col Roger Willscher the following morning, standing in his then less than pristine headquarters. "I cannot speak too highly of the initiative they showed in the first few minutes and the efforts they have put in since."

Tributes to the regiment's efforts poured in after the incident. Standing in a littered Sergeants' Mess, among the debris of plastic cups and overflowing ashtrays, old soldier Charles Barton (60), ex-Border Regiment, said: "The TA has been marvellous. Without them we would have been lost."

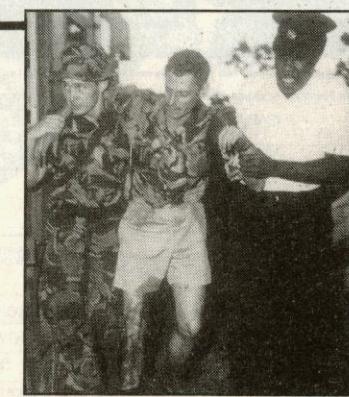
The Mayor of Knowsley, which includes Huyton, and the Department of Housing and Environmental Health have both expressed formal but heartfelt thanks and Brig Mike Marples, commanding 11 Signals Brigade to which the regiment belongs, has awarded it an



unofficial Egon Ronay award for fried breakfasts.

But the most treasured comment came in a card from an old age pensioner living in the tower block and who spent the

night in the barracks. A Second World War member of the Royal Corps of Signals, he revealed that he cried with pride at the efforts of today's volunteer signallers.



Following a notional Mayday call to the Air Traffic Control, the crash was brought forcibly to the attention of troops throughout Airport Camp Defence Zone by a series of large explosions on the south side of the airfield's main runway.

The crash's location was marked by an increasing pall of smoke rising from three major fuel fires among the wreckage. As RAF and civilian fire services' tenders fought the

blazes, soldiers from the QRF, provided by 1 Cheshire, and ambulance from the force hospital arrived and began to find the first of more than 30 simulated casualties strewn around the crash site.

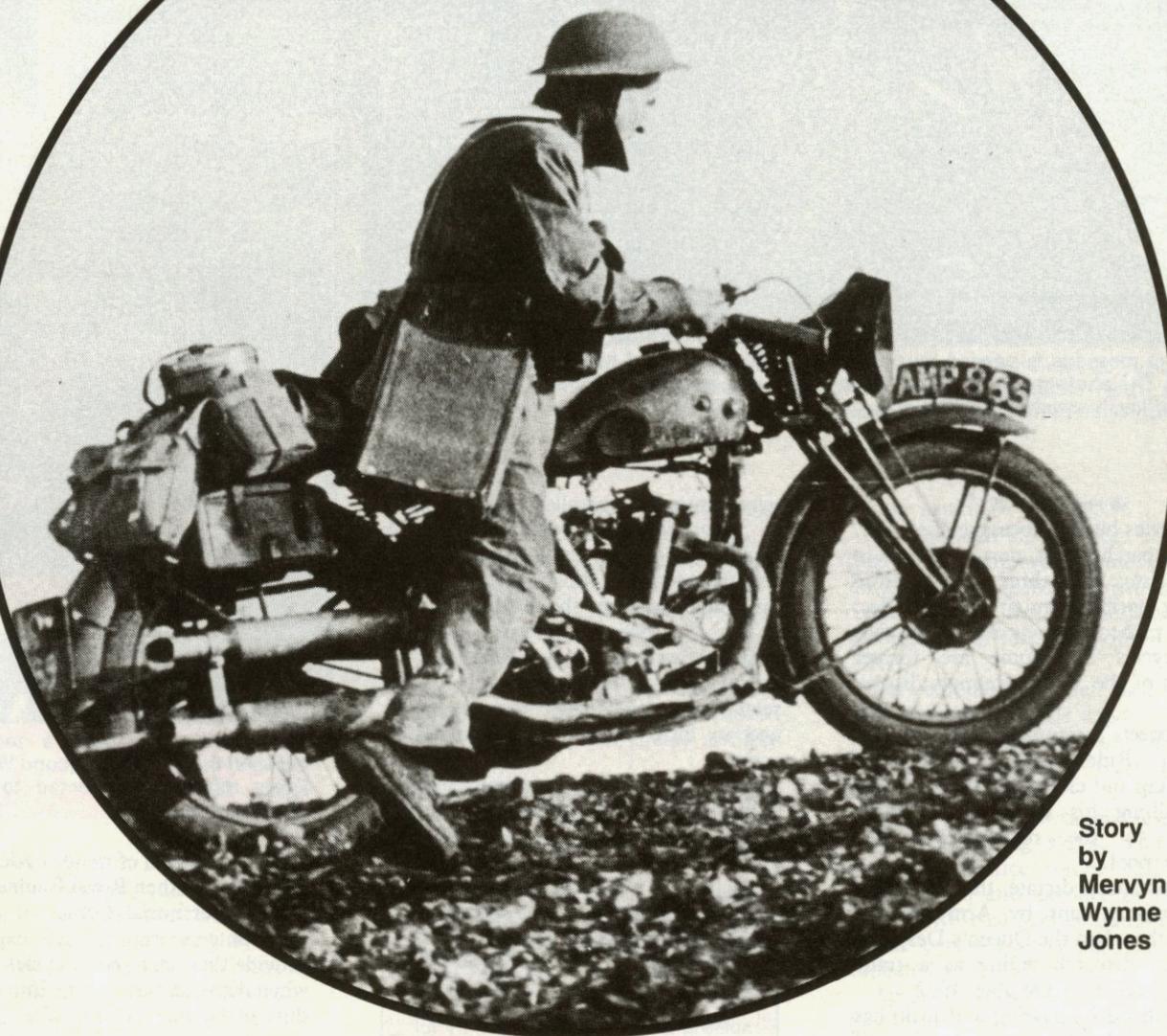
After a brief but fierce fight the fires were brought under control and the first casevac began by helicopter and ambulance to the hospital itself where medical teams were stood by to handle the large influx of casualties.

Major factors found to contribute to success or failure in handling such a disaster were speed of response and the ability of the various military and civilian services involved to work together.

DISPATCHED TO THE PAGES OF HISTORY?



Last of the line?
LCpl Jason Ballard,
the Queen's
Despatch Rider



Story
by
Mervyn
Wynne
Jones

THE Army dispatch rider is not dead! Although the trade was phased out more than 20 years ago, the breed – be-goggled, mud-splattered and heroic – lives on in the shape of LCpl Jason Ballard, the Queen's Despatch Rider.

Based at Chelsea Barracks with 2 Sqn 10 Signal Regiment, LCpl Ballard of the

Royal Corps of Signals is the only officially designated dispatch rider in the British Army. He is a veteran of many visits by foreign heads of state during the past two years, spending long and hectic days distributing letters, parcels and banquet invitations across the capital.

Two other riders are being trained by

the Royal Corps of Signals to help ease the workload of forthcoming visits and palace ceremonial occasions.

Triumph Tiger 750 bikes have to be gleaming and ready at a moment's notice for whatever duty the Master of the Household requires of the riders, not just

● Turn to next page



● From Page 25
An urgent message is passed by a DR to the pilot of a Scout helicopter for onward delivery. The photograph, taken in October 1966 suggests that although the trade no longer officially existed, the DR was still very active

for deliveries but as processional escorts.

The dispatch riders, normally three in number, stay for three years before resuming normal combat driver duties. Most are picked for their experience with motor cycles and some are former members of the White Helmets display team.

In between assignments the Queen's Despatch Rider spends his time maintaining and cleaning his motor bike and fulfilling his duties as a driver attached to the regiment's motor transport pool.

Circumstances dictate that messages are sometimes sent by Army motorcyclists other than the Queen's Despatch Rider but dispatch riding as a trade officially ceased in October 1962.

Few noticed its passing and little has been written about the trade despite half a century of service and a catalogue of heroic deeds in many theatres of war.

Good communications proved to be of ever more vital importance in campaigns of the 19th century but by the early 1900s both wireless and telegraph were still in their infancy.

Until the advent of radio and

telecommunications all messages had to be relayed on horseback and the forerunner of the dispatch rider (DR) was the mounted subaltern who served his commander on the field of battle.

Two or three subalterns, generally from the cavalry, accompanied the commander as he directed the battle, relaying messages to advance, open fire and so forth to the units engaged in action.

Messengers were always junior officers because most of the lower ranks at the

Purists will notice a conflict in the spelling of dispatch and despatch. The modern version is spelt with an "i", although we have stuck to the "e" where it is or was part of an official title. Our authority for the modern spelling is *The Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors* – Editor.

time were illiterate and considered incapable of conveying a message as it was originally drafted.

The pre-First World War years were a time of change for the British Army and among the developments, in 1912, was

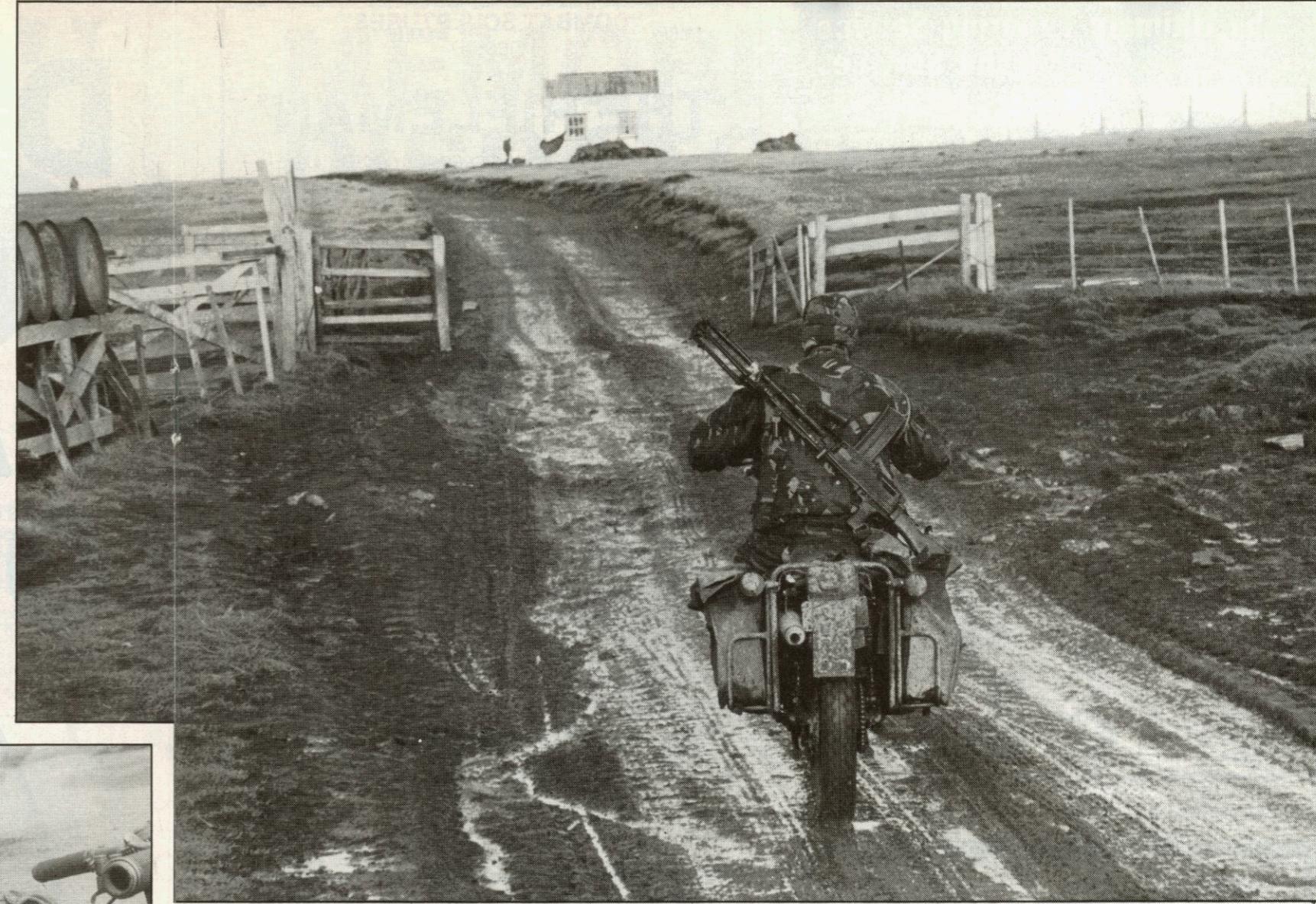


Getting to grips with a motor cycle between the First and Second World Wars. Every rider was expected to keep his machine roadworthy

the authorisation of motor cycle dispatch riders for the then Royal Engineer Signal Service Territorial Force.

Volunteers were at first expected to provide their own motor cycles but later, when dispatch riders came into their own during the First World War, the Army started buying commercial models and even those belonging to its own soldiers.

In 1914 motor-cycling was to some extent the pastime of the well-to-do and the position of dispatch rider attracted all sorts of people. The entire Cambridge University Signal Section volunteered as DRs when war broke out, and other DR recruits arrived by Rolls Royce.



Motor cycles are still used today to carry messages, despite the demise 25 years ago of the dispatch rider trade. Here a motor-cyclist with an LMG strapped to his back is pictured at Goose Green on the Falklands Islands shortly after its recapture from the Argentines in 1982

There's life in the DR yet!

The Army riders, or motor-cyclists as they were then termed, quickly earned a reputation for gallantry and tenacity and Lord French is quoted as saying after the Battle of Mons: "I am anxious to bring to notice the splendid work which has been done throughout the campaign by the motor-cyclists of the Signal Corps.

"Carrying messages at all hours of the day and night, in every kind of weather, and often traversing bad roads blocked with transport, they have been conspicuously successful in maintaining an extraordinary degree of efficiency in the service of communications.

"Many casualties have occurred in

their ranks but no amount of difficulty or danger has ever checked the energy or ardour which has distinguished their Corps throughout the operations."

Riders proved beyond doubt the value of their service during the war, running messages along routes targeted by the enemy to prevent troop movements. The sight of a lone DR must have proved irresistible for many an enemy artillery observer.

Signals motor-cyclists were also used as linemen and were found to take less time detecting and repairing damaged cable.

The Despatch Rider Letter Service was established in September 1914 and by 1918 all signal sections were getting DRs written into their establishment.

Shortly after the war motor cycles were adopted by another Corps, notably the Royal Military Police, and the 1920s and 30s saw a further establishment of the DR trade.

There were throwbacks from the horseriding days, such as the uniform of the DR which comprised boots and riding breeches, and the early morning maintenance parade whose roots were entrenched in the pre-mechanisation

stable parade.

By the end of the war the Signal Service had almost become a separate entity from its parent corps, the Royal Engineers, and in 1920 the Royal Corps of Signals was formed taking with it its DRs.

On completion of their basic military training at the Signals depot, Catterick, potential DRs moved to another part of the same camp for their specialist training.

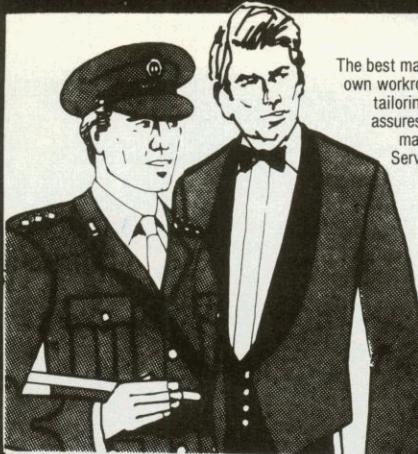
Here they were taught elementary mechanics, riding skills, map reading and signal office duties such as the classification and carriage of messages. An Army Signal Service training booklet of the period reveals the host of skills expected of a DR.

Apart from being able to keep his motor cycle serviceable and map read and use a compass, the DR had to be able to scout his way through hostile country and use his powers of observation to report on the condition of roads and rivers and the movements of troops and equipment.

The booklet cautioned: "If he arrives at his destination in a flurried

● Turn to Page 29

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THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

MEMORIES OF A DISPATCH RIDER

FORMER dispatch rider Capt Gordon Parke, Royal Signals retires this month after 36 years with the regiment. Here he recalls his days as a courier.

'After training I was posted to a DR troop and worked on a series of big exercises on Salisbury Plain.

In December 1951 I joined the Egypt Command Signal Regiment and ended up at El Ballah. We operated a special dispatch service round the garrison but had to stop using motor cycles when Arab terrorists began stringing neck-wires across roads with awful results.

We also used to do courier services up and down the Canal zone using specially converted vehicles.

Promoted to corporal in 1953, I was posted to the 11th Armoured Division Signal Regt at Herford, BAOR, in 1955. We used to come across a lot of DRs on the roads those days from other regiments and many a race would follow such chance meetings!

In March 1956 I left the Army but just four months later was called up as a reservist for the Suez affair. Reporting to Catterick to join



A long association with Army motor-cycling ends this month with the retirement of Capt Gordon Park, former dispatch rider

a unit called No 2 Press Communication Signal Squadron, we were issued with our vehicles, motor cycles and kit.

We then joined huge convoys to move south for embarkation and on the way down I decided to stop off at a transport cafe for a hot cup of tea and a bacon sandwich. Going behind the

cafe to hide my motor cycle I got the shock of my life to see about a dozen others there whose riders had had the same idea.

We sailed to Port Said in the August, finally arriving on November 6 after a lengthy stay in tented accommodation at Malta en route.

I left Egypt on the last day of the occupation and arrived

back at Catterick on New Year's Eve to be told that I would be demobbed the following day and that we were confined to camp.

I re-enlisted in the Army in 1958 as a B2 DR corporal and was posted to 16 Signal Regt at Krefeld. In 1960 I was posted as a sergeant to Hounslow where I ran the dispatch office.

The Royal Engineers ended up taking on all postal and courier services and in the early 1960s all DRs had to convert to drivers.

Dispatch riding was a smashing trade attracting a good bunch of lads and some very good riders. It is a time of my life that I look back on with affection and I believe I am one of the last DRs to finish serving.

I was sorry to see the trade done away with and a lot of people still think it should be reintroduced when periods of radio silence are in force.'

Capt Park went on to serve with the White Helmets Royal Signals display team and between 1979 and 1986 was Army Motor Cycling Association manager for the Army enduro and trials riding teams.

Independent and proud

From Page 27

and out-of-breath condition he should rest for a minute or two and collect himself so that he can deliver his message or make his report in a clear and concise manner.

He should not let himself be put off by incidents that may have happened to him or which he may have seen. If he allows himself to be upset by what is going on around him he will very possibly similarly affect those with whom he comes in contact."

D Troop was the name given to a DR section attached to a signal regiment serving an Army division. There was considerable prestige attached to the DR trade and it was very popular among recruits, enjoying as it did a degree of independence.

Training continued unabated between the wars, DRs flexing their skills on

exercises and postings abroad.

The DR uniform of the 1930s comprised riding breeches with tall boots or short boots with puttees, khaki tunic, blue and white armbands on both arms (other signallers only wore one), yellow gauntlets and cloth peaked cap.

During the First World War DRs wore standard issue combat helmets and it was not until the early 1940s that purpose-designed crash helmets were issued to motor-cyclists.

DRs again came to the fore during the Second World War, serving in all theatres with distinction. But the same period, suggests military historian Maj Alan Harfield, also sowed the seeds for the eventual phasing out of the DR.

Maj Harfield, deputy director of the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford, says that the shift from motor cycles to jeeps during the war was ample

illustration of the hazards DRs found themselves facing while alone on their motor bikes.

Nothing is more of a catalyst in the development of equipment and tactical thinking than war and though the DR was invaluable at such times as when refugees blocked every road there were many other times when it was simply too dangerous for him to travel alone.

Corps gradually changed from motor bikes to jeeps and Land-Rovers in the post war years, often employing boats and helicopters to get their message through.

The final knell of the dispatch rider rang with the development of smaller and ever more efficient radio sets and the trade finally, and gracefully, bowed out in October 1962. Its practitioners were allowed until April 1, 1963, to convert to the trade of driver.

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G*rr'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew. But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

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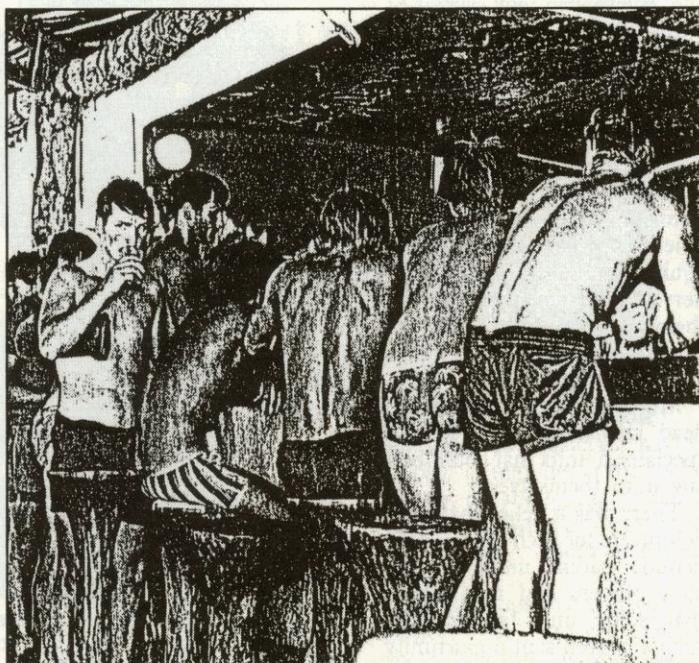
Brawl away – as long as you don't get caught!

IT'S a man's life in the Army – and the private's view of real men is that they drink, pursue women, and if need be fight. Not too far removed from the traditional stereotype of a "licentious soldiery" according to John Hockey who has written what is claimed to be the first ever sociological study of an operational Army unit. And also, it is claimed, not entirely a bad thing for the Army.

A former Regular soldier, Hockey spent time as part of his PhD thesis research with a group of raw recruits during their basic training, accompanied a battalion on exercise to Canada and also to Crossmaglen in south Armagh, Northern Ireland's terrorist troubled border area.

He found that privates see themselves as particularly masculine, in line with their roles as combat soldiers. To balance their hard and sometimes dangerous work they play hard, and that often involves the three Bs – birds, booze and brawling.

The official attitude to



Soldiers enjoying a quite drink... but what happens when the boozing turns to brawling?

privates' leisure activities are, says Hockey, ambivalent. While the excesses resulting from boozing are deprecated, the Army cannot go too far towards turning its private

soldiers into gentlemen.

If privates damage other people or property in a brawl, that's agin the law and bad for the Army's image. And if the private can't carry out his duty

as the result of a drinking spree, that also is against the rules.

But "rumbustiousness" can be regarded in another light. Brawling with civvies or other soldiers involves toughness, aggression and the use of violent skills, and sometimes solidarity in the face of the opposition.

Says Hockey: "There is little doubt in my mind... whatever the truth of the matter, that the officers in authority appreciated the fact that the style of the privates' off-duty activities had two sides to it."

The military authorities realise that privates will indulge in excesses, and on occasion subtly encourage them to do so.

One captain, talking about public brawling, apparently told the author: "We're in the violence business after all... In a way it's good training... It's a good thing as long as you don't get caught." – AT

● **Squaddies, Portrait of a Subculture**, by John Hockey, published by the University of Exeter. Price £7.95.

THE DEVIL'S OWN STORY

HE was the youngest lad in the battery. The year was 1916. The place: a tented camp outside Suez. Tall, red-headed Gunner Alan Coppock was not yet 19 but had already had one year and nine months' service overseas with the Burnley Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Now, with four mates, he had been granted a half-day pass into Suez and had to be back for guard mounting at seven. A three miles hot slog into Suez, then a cafe, meeting up with a cousin from the East Lancashire Regiment and a couple of beers. Wandering into the out-of-bounds native area, a chance encounter with some friendly tough Australians, a taste of the local aniseed drink "Zibib", innocuous at first but with an after kick "like a mule".

He was sleeping it off when

the Military Police picked him up. Obviously a nasty blot on the reputation of the battery, but the colonel dealt with the case quickly and gave Coppock the lightest sentence he could: One day's field punishment.

He was marched to the open square in the centre of the rows of tents where an 18-pounder gun had been set. There he was roped to the iron-tyred wheel, with arms at ten and two o'clock, a bucket of water under the gun and a sergeant and young officer detailed to visit him every half hour.

"Leave his shirt on," said the colonel, "wipe his face down every half hour and give him a sip. If he faints cut him down and bring him in."

Young Coppock did not faint. He stood in the hot glaring sun for seven hours and proved to his battery that he

could take his punishment like a man. He could barely stand when they cut him down at six o'clock and the sergeant supported him as he gave him a last drink laced with a generous tot of rum.

Alan Coppock straightened his legs and was helped away.

This was one of the least creditable incidents in the First World War history of the Burnley Battery, "The Devil's Own", but it is still remembered for this was a Territorial gunner unit with a great family spirit, all of whose officers and men came from the same small area.

Their "Long March" began on September 6, 1914 when they left wives and sweethearts behind to entrain for Southampton and sail for Egypt.

They trained and fought in Egypt and Gallipoli, then back

to Suez again and Sinai. In February 1917 they passed through Marseilles to take their places on the battlefields of France: Ypres, Nieuport, Bethune, the Somme, the Hindenburg Line, the Rivers Celle and the famous Sambre.

They lost many men but they kept that brotherly family spirit.

The writing of their story was almost as great a task as their "Long March". It was undertaken by the son of one of their drivers. He started with practically no records but painstakingly put together a fine story of which the descendants of the Burnley Battery are today very proud. – GRH

● **The Long March** by Jack Horsfall, published by Lancashire County Council. Price £9.95 + £1.90 postage.

A message to Adolf

BRITISH Commandos raided the Lofoten Islands in Northern Norway on March 3, 1941. They were practically unopposed.

Lieut Richard Willis, whose task was to capture the vitally important telephone exchange at Stamsund, felt time heavy on his hands so he sent a telegram to "A Hitler, Berlin" declaring: "You said in your last speech German troops would meet the British wherever they landed. We are here. Where are your troops?"

There is no record of Adolf's reaction.

A pity, for in this raid alone 18,000 tons of shipping were sunk, 200 German prisoners were taken, factories containing 800,000 tons of fish oil were destroyed, 60 Quislings were brought back for trial, and 300 Norwegians returned to Britain to swell King Haakon's liberation forces.

Not all such raids were so easily productive. The earlier "Independent Companies" had to fight some grim and losing battles in Norway. The actions at Bruneval - the Parachute Regiment's first Battle Honour - and at St Nazaire ("the

sauciest raid since Drake"), were epics of bravery, careful planning and excellent execution.

But, of the 611 commandos and sailors who took part at St Nazaire only 242 returned to England; 169 were killed and 200 taken prisoner. There were 83 awards for gallantry, including five Victoria Crosses.

Nevertheless, it took a long time for "Churchill's Private Armies" to attain such proficiency, to gain the necessary equipment and the three-Service backing that enabled them to make the kind of assaults and raids the officers and men were so keen to do.

Much of officialdom was dead against the whole idea of specialised units that could be a law unto themselves.

There was a belief that keen volunteers for such forces could denude parent units of first class officers and men. Also, that some units would take such a heaven sent opportunity to "unload" their worst characters.

This certainly happened and one early "ski battalion" found itself composed almost entirely of officers whose battalions



Prime Minister Winston Churchill with a Tommy Gun, a favourite weapon of his early Private Armies

could ill afford to lose them.

The antagonisms and the vicissitudes, the misfortunes and the reverses are stressed in this book, but in spite of all the

difficulties there was great, great bravery. - GRH

● **Churchill's Private Armies**, by Eric Morris, published by Hutchinson Ltd. Price £12.95.

IN BRIEF

Secret Warriors, by Charles Fraser-Smith with Kevin Logan. Paperback about some of the hidden wartime heroes of organisations such as MI6, SOE and SAS. Published by The Paternoster Press Ltd. Price £2.40.

Constraints on Strategy, The Economics of Western Security, by David B H Denoon. A study of the constraints on American defence strategies caused by economic conditions. Published by Pergamon-Brassey's. Price £18.

Napoleonic Military History, a bibliography edited by Donald D Horward. The estimated 220,000 volumes that have been written on the Little Corporal distilled into 689 pages by one of the foremost American specialists on the Napoleonic period. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £30.

ARMY TOWNS

BRITAIN's best known garrison towns have been with us since the arrival of the Romans and their efficient legions. Most of them anyway. Aldershot, Bovington and Rheindahlen come under the category of "new" in historical terms.

Now a book called *Garrison: Ten British Military Towns* has been published under the authorship of retired Brigadier Peter Dietz with an input from five fellow subscribers.

It is a comprehensive compendium of facts, aided by nearly 60 references to existing records, and complemented by 38 illustrations.

It tells of the growth and development of the military cantonment in relation to its civilian setting.

The book spans the ages from the Roman legionnaires in Colchester - a displeased emperor from that empire once visited the garrison complete



Brig Peter Dietz

with army and elephants on detachment from Gaul to chase up a certain amount of slackness - to the flying colours of today's Edinburgh Tattoo. From the "old soldier's story" of York to Woolwich with its famous arsenal. The reader is taken back in time to the

history-steeped sea power towns of Plymouth and Chatham.

The new military towns of Aldershot - once the setting for "sordid and rabelaisian night life" and a military organisation of "idleness 20,000 strong" - and Bovington are dealt with in interesting detail and anecdotal history. So, too, are the overseas garrisons of Rheindahlen and Gibraltar.

Brig Dietz, whose last military posting was in 1980 as commandant of the RAEC Training Centre, has categorised the ten towns into historical, port setting and training camp segments. The chapters on Rheindahlen and Gibraltar illustrate how the British Serviceman took his country overseas with him.

● **Garrison: Ten British Military Towns**, by Brig Peter Dietz, published by Brassey's Defence Publishers Ltd. Price £15.95.

TOO QUICK FOR COMFORT

ON THE MARCH (2nd Series) Vol. 1

Band of the Hampshire and Dorset Regiment (TA)
Conductor: Mr Norman Rogerson
Droit 81

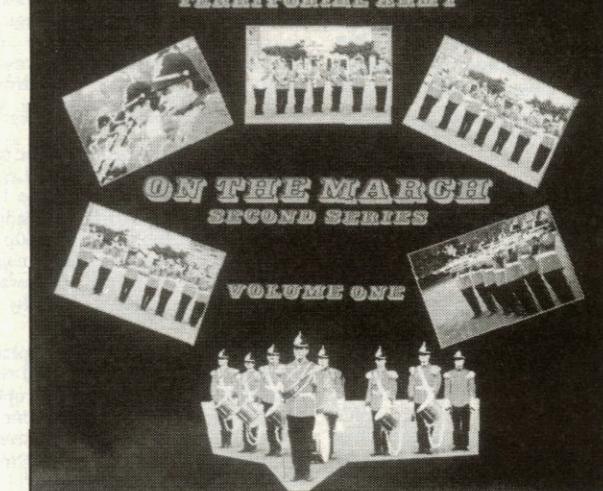
THE series title and the conductor's name will be familiar to readers of SOL-DIER. While bandmaster of The Black Watch Mr Rogerson made ten discs comprising about 160 famous and less well known marches under the generic title *On the March*.

Now retired from the Regular Army he sets out on another long haul, with another ten or so discs promised and presumably no repetition of material from the first series.

This is fine for collectors, buffs, addicts and all lovers of martial strains. In the very nature of things many rarities will turn up, for the march masterpieces and well worn war horses can be named on a few hands. Well, a centipede's feet anyway!

All sounds frenetic, characterless, monotonous, and ultimately boring. I feel mostly

THE HAMPSHIRE AND DORSET BAND TERRITORIAL ARMY



for the poor musicians having to play 18 marches at the hectic tempo of about 132 paces a minute, allowing of no expression, subtlety, colour or definition.

Let us hope that this worthy project will proceed taking these things into consideration. Tempos varied by even a hair's

breadth would help, but surely there are 2/4 marches, 2/2 marches, 6/8 marches, Sousa marches, French and German marches, poetic marches, Salvation Army marches? They are all on this record and receive the same off-hand treatment.

Please don't touch *The Vanished Army*, Mr Rogerson.

On this disc are: *The Thunderer*; *The Power* and *The Glory* (both Sousa); *The Vedette*; *Cavalry of the Clouds* (both Alford); *The Chieftain* (Jubb); *The Bullfighters* (Kottaun); *Under the Austrian Eagle* (Wagnes); *The RSM* (Howe); *Soldier's Life* (Huttenberger); *Unter den Linden* (Crosse); *On Parade* (Elms); *Slaidburn* (Rimmer); *Heroic Defence* (Howe); *Copenhagen* (Frederiksen); *Machine Gun Guards* (Marechal); *Slagelse Tappenstreg* (Makwarth); and *The Liberators* (Ancliffe).

● From Droit Music, PO Box 19, Blandford, Dorset price £5.60 inc.

Bandstand concoction with a dash of motor horn!

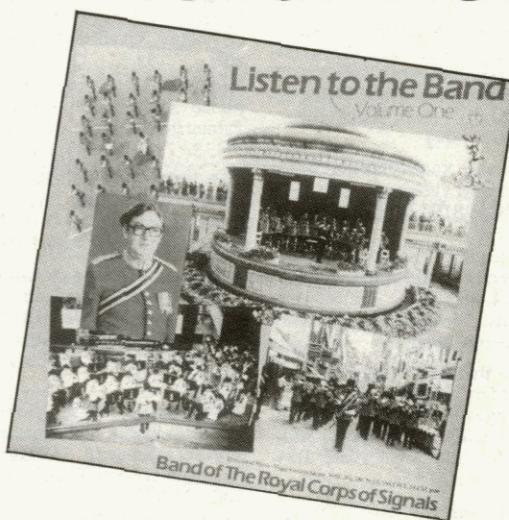
LISTEN TO THE BAND

Band of the Royal Corps of Signals
Conductor: Major G Turner
Droit Music DR 78

AS its title implies the programme is a typical bandstand concoction, lacking only a popular overture to conform to the ages-old formula to which holiday makers would lend an ear as they prom-prom-prommed along the front at Brighton.

In this case it's *Soldiers in the Park* perhaps, for that is the correct title of Lionel Monckton's famous tune *Oh, Listen to the Band* which naturally sets the programme moving nicely. Then get the cornet solo over and done with before the poor lad's lips grow tired; in this case we have Percy Code's classic *Zelda* played with great aplomb by LCpl Russell Duckworth.

In these hectic days for performers of all kinds, when the public expects non-stop entertainment, the bandmaster cannot sit staring at the audience for a few minutes between items as was the



case in my playing days; for wind bands this is particularly hard on the lips.

Thereafter the programme alternates solo pieces with popular light music for the band.

Blue Interlude features the saxophone with the band in jazzy mood, as does a selection of four of his most successful songs in *Sinatra in Concert*. The euphonium has the solo in Roy Newsome's arrangement of *The Moun-*

tains of Mourne, the flute in Drigo's *Serenade* from the ballet *Les Millions d'Arlequin*, the trombone section in *Bubble and Squeak*, and the cornets in Alf Young's trio *Three in a Mood*.

It might be said the *Jalopy* is also a solo item for it features a skilfully honked motor horn, and Rimsky-Korsakov's brilliant *Dance of the Tumblers* gives almost everyone the spotlight.

Major Turner's march *Ptarmigan* refers to a modern communications system of that name used by the Corps, and R W Tulip's *The Prince* was a great favourite before the war and is now surfacing again on record and on parade.

The band "signed in" with *Oh, Listen to the Band* and plays itself out with another famous tune of the 1930s - Henry Hall's *Here's to the Next Time*. Mr Hall, now in his 90th year, was of course leader of the BBC Dance Orchestra for many years.

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Islands mark sappers' link

BACK in 1841 Lieut Richard Moody of the Royal Engineers was sent by Her Majesty's Government along with a dozen military colleagues and their families - The Sappers and Miners - aboard the brigantine Hebe to ascertain if it would be prudent to colonise the Falklands. Their 8,000-mile journey ended the following year at Port Louis.

For his pains, Moody had been given the title of Lieutenant-Governor. He was only 29 and thus became the first Governor of the faraway Falkland Islands. One of his first problems was the choice of a suitable site for the principal port and capital.

Four were short-listed, among them the southern shore of Jackson's Harbour, now Stanley, a name synonymous with the Argentinian surrender to the British on June 14 nearly five years ago.

That early association with the Corps of Royal Engineers has not been forgotten in this, the 200th anniversary of the granting of the royal title to the Corps of Military Artificers and the Corps of Royal Engineers.

The Crown Agents Stamp Company Ltd has just issued four stamps to commemorate the bi-centenary; stamps with 10p, 24p, 29p and 58p values plus a first day cover.

The series depicts four activities undertaken by the sappers: military survey, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), field engineering and the Postal and Courier Services.

The Military Survey Service of the Royal Engineers first became involved with mapping in the Falklands in 1943 when the 14th Field Survey Company produced the first large scale mapping of the Stanley area.

The position they observed on Sapper Hill was the datum point used by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys for their 1:50,000 mapping of the Falkland Islands from 1958-61.

512 Specialist Team, RE, observed precise positions from navigation earth satellites and 19 Topographic Sqn are pictured on the 10p stamp observing angles at the Sapper Hill triangulation station last year.

Sapper Hill was, in fact, named in commemoration of the Royal Sappers and Miners stationed in the Falklands in the 1840s and today it has a memorial cairn to the Royal Engineers attached to the British Forces lost in the fighting of 1982 as they prised open the grip of the Argentinian invaders.

EOD is depicted on the 24p stamp with Redfire - Remote Explosive Disposal Falkland Islands Royal Engineers - the remote controlled miniature



tracked vehicle which became operational there in November 1985.

The vehicle is driven into a minefield, its direction aided by a close circuit TV camera. The boom can be articulated by remote control and extended to guide a propane torch at the head of the boom on to the mine itself. The mine invariably burns without exploding.

Field engineering and its aspects are shown on the 29p stamp. It includes the Boxer Bridge completed in September 1983 to reduce the haul distance from the stone quarry to the Canache development site. All the separate projects of the development needed stone for the access roads and bases before construction could be started.

The task to bridge the isthmus was presented to 1 Troop, 25 Field Squadron, RE, and work started in July 1983.

The Postal and Courier Services became involved with the Falkland Islands Post Office after liberation of the islands in 1982 when a British Forces Post Office (BFPO) was set up in Port Stanley. The scene on the 58p stamp is typical of an airmail delivery.

Released on February 9 the stamps can be obtained, in this country, from reputable stamp dealers.



ACC Chepstow lecturer John Mason and Tpr Tony Cox, Scots DG, on Lake Ontario

Ontario dash is a record

A 600 mile kayak voyage completed by soldiers from Colchester and Chepstow has been accepted by the Guinness Book of Records as a "first".

Seven men from the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Army Apprentices College Chepstow took 19 days to paddle from Niagara on Lake Ontario, round the Canadian section of the lake through the Thousand Islands region, and up the St Lawrence River to Brown's Basin, Quebec.

The expedition was thought up by Sgt Alex Graves MPSC and led on the water by SSgt Jim Waterhouse MPSC and Mr John Mason, a Burnham lecturer at AAC Chepstow. Also in the party were LCpl Vince Stuart and Tpr Tony Cox, Scots DG, and Chepstow apprentices Andy Branch and Pete Stroud.

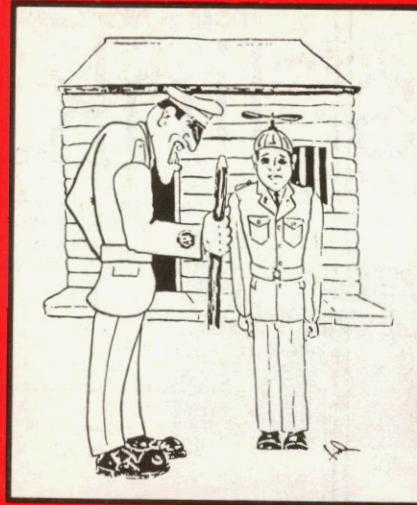
Maj David Wickens RAEC and Cpl Ken Lamb RAMC, both on the MCTC staff, provided the support.

Finance for the record attempt was provided by a Colchester sea foods firm, HQ Eastern District, the MPSC Association, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester, and the RAMC.

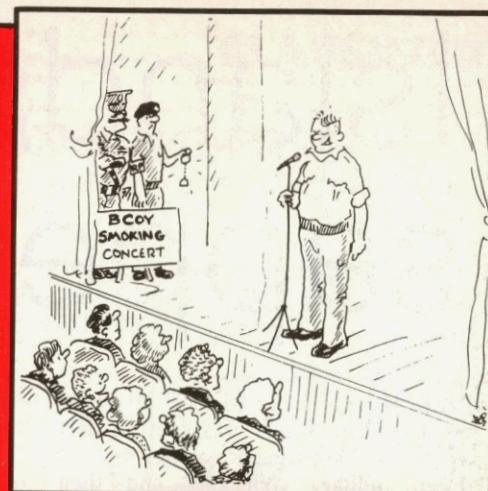
During a recce of the route, Sgt Graves noted the calmness of Lake Ontario, but the actual expedition encountered several days during which the water was so rough that it was impossible to take the kayaks out.



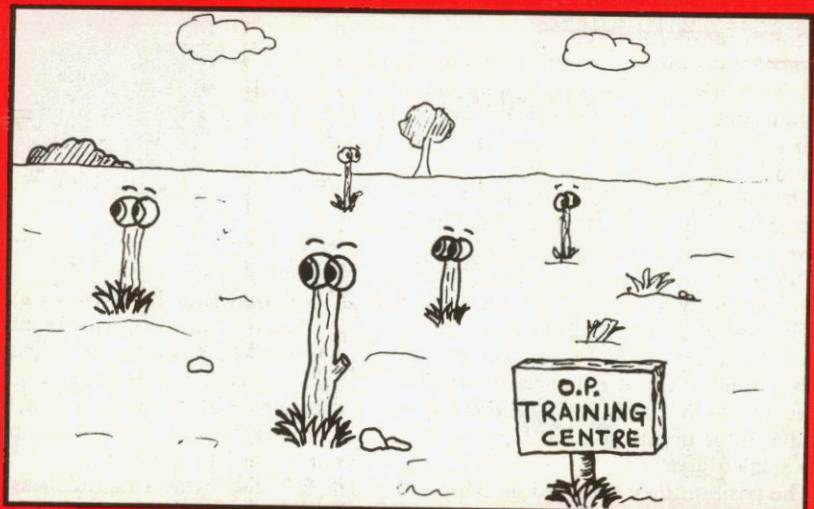
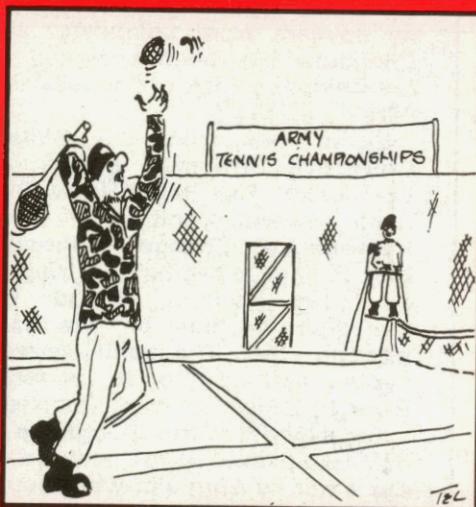
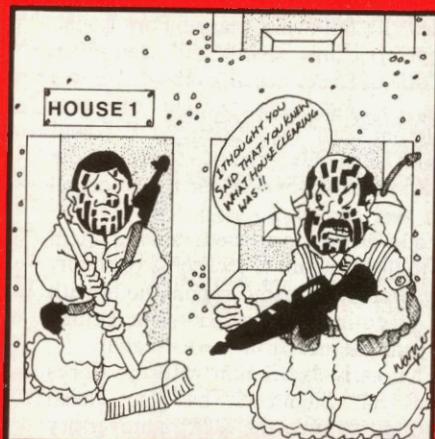
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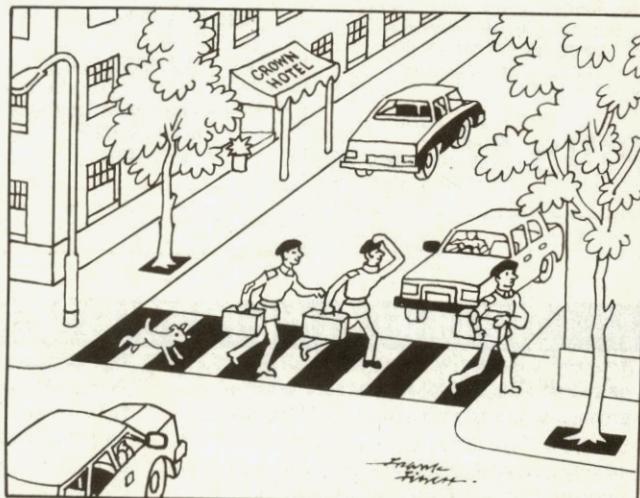
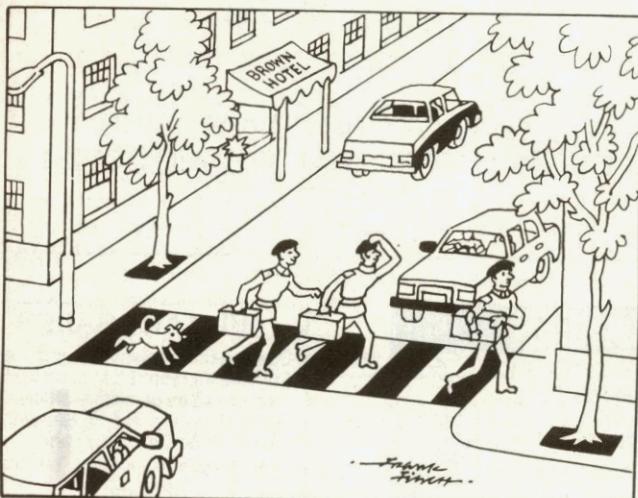
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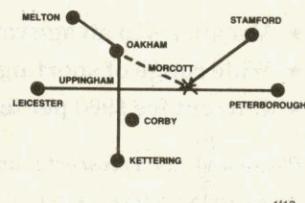
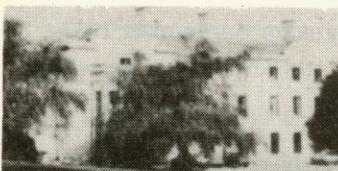
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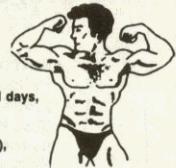
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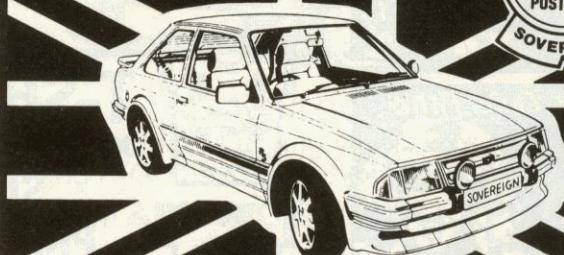
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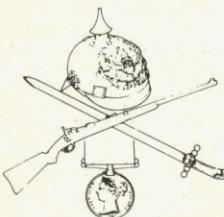
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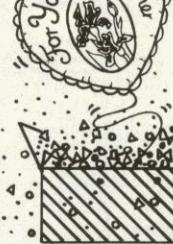
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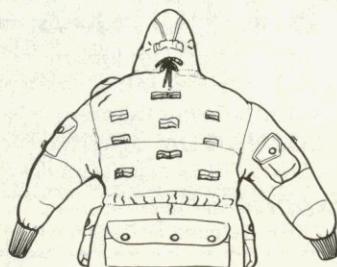
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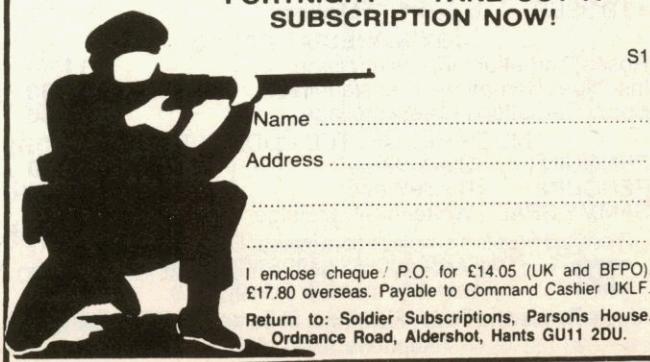
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Robbie wins open title for the eighth time

CAPT Robbie Robinson stamped his class all over the Army squash championships, beating Cpl Tom Pollard in straight sets in the final.

It was Robinson's eighth Army title.

Sponsored by ASI (UK) Ltd, the tournament went ahead at the Waverley Club, Farnham, despite appalling weather which made travel difficult. The finals were staged in the 200-seater championship court at Woking Leisure Centre.

Spr Nick Turton from 36 Engr Regt based at Maidstone retained the Under 25 title with some ease. He had no difficulty in disposing of Dvr Adrian Gray in the final.

One victim of the snow was SSgt Kathy Johnson, second seed in the women's championship. Her enforced absence enabled Capt Debbie Foggin to cruise to her second title with a 3-0 victory over Capt Julia Dixon.

Col Kit Faith returned after a

long absence to the veterans' competition and did well to give Lt Col John Woodliffe a real fright in the final. Faith took two games off the defending champion.

First upset of the championship was the shock 3-2 defeat of Maj Chris Wilson by veteran John Woodliffe in the Over-35 event, an event Wilson had won comfortably for the past two years. Second upset was when Wilson lost in a semi-final of the Open to Cpl

Tom Pollard, the No 3 seed.

This was Pollard's first win over the ex-Army champion and Scottish international. However, in the final Pollard was no match for Robbie Robinson from Bielefeld.

Results: Open – Capt R Robinson RAOC beat Cpl T Pollard R Sigs 3/0.

Women – Capt D Foggin WRAC beat Capt J Dixon WRAC 3/0.

Under 25 – Spr N Turton RE beat Dvr A Gray RCT 3/0.

Over 35 – Lt Col J Woodliffe RAOC beat Maj C Wilson RA 3/2.

Veterans – Lt Col J Woodliffe RAOC beat Col Kit Faith late RA 3/2.

Doubles – Capt Robinson and RSM Gray beat Cpl Pollard and WO2 Bright 3/0.

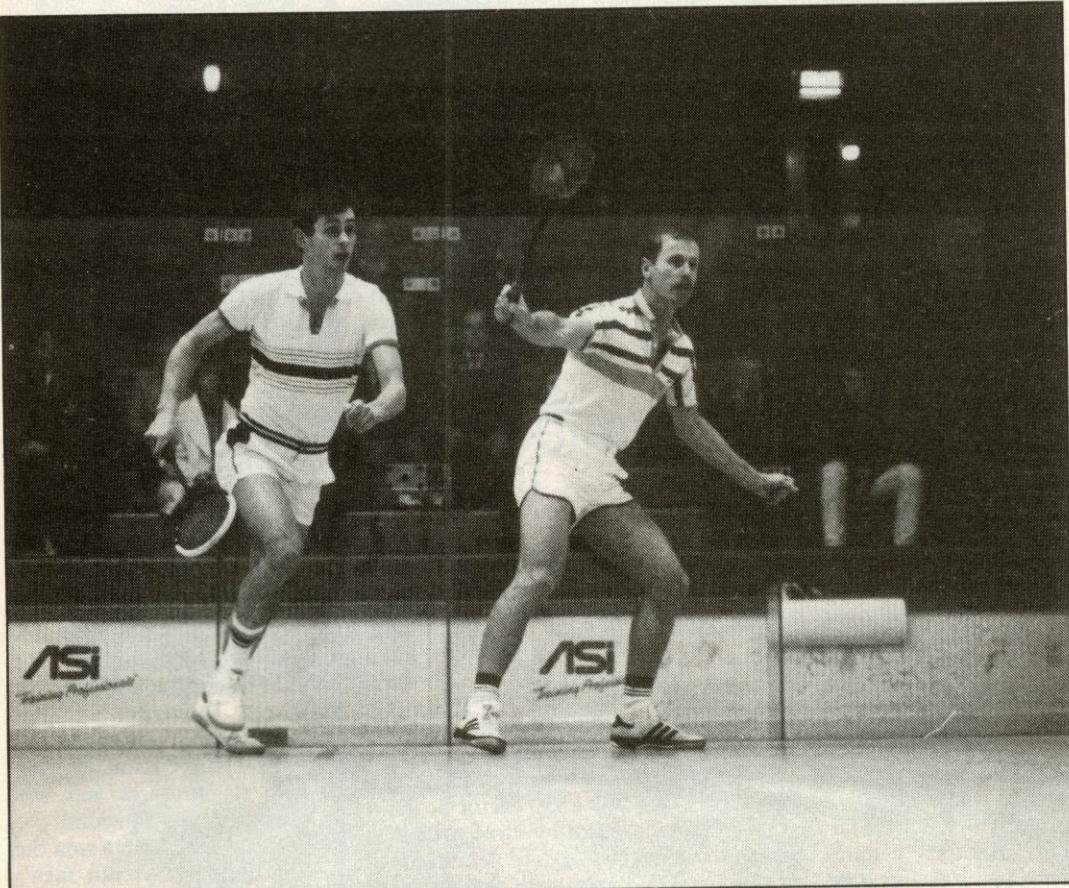
1 QLR are first on new BAOR trophy

WINNERS of the first BAOR infantry squash competition staged at Paderborn were the 1st Bn The Queen's Lancashire Regiment who fought off a stern challenge from 1 Glos.

Eight battalions entered teams, with 1 Glos. travelling all the way from Berlin and 1 RGJ fielding a side after just one week in theatre.

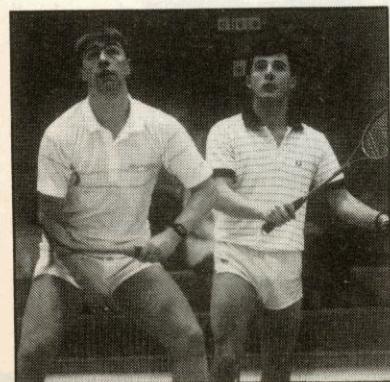
Capt John Rouke, R Anglian, OIC BAOR infantry squash, said he was disappointed with the standard of competition. Long term aim of the new competition is to improve standards.

He singled out only Cpl Keith Popham, 2 Queens, and Lt Richard Feltham, 1 Glos., as prospects for the future.



Capt Robbie Robinson (right) plays a backhand into the angle as he overwhelms Cpl Tom Pollard on the way to his eighth Army open squash championship

Left – Spr Nick Turton and Driver Adrian Gray contest the Under 25 final



Right – Capt Debbie Foggin (right) on her way to victory against Capt Julia Dixon in the women's final



DEVON HELD TO A DRAW

It's so tough in Barbados!

The Army's opening football match in this year's South West Counties championship was Devon's fourth and final game in Group A. They had already beaten Gloucester, Dorset and Sussex. A win over the Army would have been their passport to the final tie but they had to settle for a 2-2 draw, writes Pat Massey.

Devon scored in the opening four minutes when Bdr Clint Webb dallied in his clearance. Things looked black indeed when the county went two up in the 34th minute. Again the Army defence was at fault and Cpl Spider Lomas could do little to prevent a hard shot finding the corner of the net.

Cpl Sandy Brown, the Army skipper, brought some cheer when he fastened on to a through ball from Cpl Kevin Parkins just before the interval break and, with only the Devon goalkeeper to beat, made no mistake.

There were chances at both ends before the Army grabbed their equaliser 15 minutes from time.

A good move down the Army right was rounded off with a long cross which shifted the emphasis to the left flank. LCpl Smudger Smith played the ball into the penalty area. Just when it appeared that the home 'keeper would intercept the cross, Gnr Mark Carmichael pushed out a telescopic leg to prod the ball into the net.

The result means, however, that the Army have to win their remaining three matches in Group A, two of which are at home, to prevent Devon reaching the final.

THREE wins and seven defeats might appear to be a disappointing return for the Army cricket team from its 15-day tour of Barbados, but the standard of the top island sides was extremely high and some excellent cricket was played by the Army.

Chairman of Army Cricket Lt Col Peter Salisbury was particularly pleased by the progress made by some of the younger members of the tour party. LCpl Graham Summersgill (1 DWR), who was playing for the Army senior side for the first time at the age of 23, scored most runs and topped the batting averages by a wide margin. He also achieved the highest individual score of the tour with a magnificent 103 not out against Wanderers.

Leading bowler was LCpl Andy Taylor (17 Port Regt RCT). He took the most wickets and topped the bowling averages, again by a wide margin. Best individual bowling performance, four for 20 against Empire, was achieved by the youngest member of the party, 20-year-old LCpl Andy Ingham (Log Sp Bn AMF (L)).

Of the other batsmen, Lts Jonathan Willatt (45 Fd Regt RA) and Alistair Lamb (1 RWF) made several useful scores and LCpl David Gill (66 Sqn RCT) hit two magnificent fifties but was otherwise a little inconsistent.

Skipper Maj Barry Bennett (131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE) (50) and Willatt (44) put on 107 for the first wicket against Empire, the best opening stand of the tour. Another century partnership, 106 for the sixth wicket, was produced by Gill (73) and Summersgill (44) against Barbados Defence Force.

All the wickets encountered were superb and one of the best

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Rigby to lead Army challenge

CAPT Simon Rigby 15/19H leads the Army ski team at the Inter-Services championships at Courmeyeur in Italy.

Selected with him after the British Army championships at Fulpmes in Austria were Cpl Andrew Brown 22 Sig Regt, Lt Richard Burnet 35 Engr Regt, Gnr Grahame Chadwick 50 Msl Regt RA, LCpl Ian Dryden QOH, Capt Paul Ford 22 Sig Regt, Capt Jeremy Grotian IG, Dvr Richard Lock 1 ADTR and 2nd Lt William Taunton-Burnet Scots DG.

The championships at Fulpmes received high praise from British Ski Federation technical delegate Susie Berry and BSF chairman Tom Fitzpatrick.

The monopoly on team success by 22 Signal Regiment was barely shaken, while the absence of LCpl Scott Dobson - so dominant last year - was compensated by the arrival of 2nd Lt Willy Taunton-Burnet Scots DG, a 19-year-old at present at Exeter University who has ambitions of skiing on the World Cup circuit. He won two slalom races and was fourth in the downhill.

LCpl Ian Dryden won the downhill but overall men's champion was Cpl Andrew Brown who was placed second three times and third once.

This was the third consecutive year the organisers of the Schlick 2000 Ski Centre had hosted the competition which is sponsored by Most et Chandon and Clerical Medical Assurance.

In almost perfect conditions 100 competitors - about 60 per cent of them other ranks - and 23 teams took part.



Above - A high flyer competing in the downhill event at the British Army championships at Fulpmes in Austria

Below - A spot of aerobatics from Sgt Andrew Morewood of BMH Rinteln during the 4 Armd Div Alpine 15km langlauf race at Galtür, Austria



Picture: Sgt Steve Slater

3 RHA win at Galtür

WINNERS of the Alpine combination at 4th Armoured Division's ski championships at Galtür in Austria were 3 RHA.

They finished second in the team giant slalom, third in the slalom and won the downhill. 15/19 H easily won the giant slalom and were second in both slalom and downhill events.

Also in contention were 35 Engr Regt who won the slalom and, in the form of Cpl Tony Mortimer, also took the honours in the individual slalom.

Fastest downhiller was Capt Simpson of 3 RHA ahead of Mortimer and Capt Simon Rigby, 15/19 H. Lt Burnet, 35 Eng Regt, won the individual slalom.

35 Engr Regt were on course to win the Nordic competition, but injury to Lt Tony Frankland cost them dear and they had to settle for second behind 28 Amphib Engr Regt.

RCT in control

CHAMPION unit at the 1st Armoured Division ski meeting for the third consecutive year was 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT, who won 27 team and individual prizes including the Nordic 15km, the 4 x 7.5km biathlon relay and patrol races, and the Alpine downhill, team giant slalom and team slalom.

Individually they also did well at Axams in Austria, with Cpl MacIvor winning the 15km race and the individual Nordic combination, and Dvr Stuart the 10km novice race.

The Queen's Own Hussars were hot on their tails, finishing second in the 4 x 7.5km biathlon, the downhill and the giant slalom.

Berlin Armoured Squadron held on to the Alpine minor unit combination trophy with 12 Armd Wksps taking the Nordic honours.

Paras Ten

THE Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Running Club is hoping to attract 1,000 runners to compete in the Paras Ten cross-country, to be run at Browning Barracks, Aldershot on March 8.



Picture: Paul Haley

No way through. A 1 RRW attack is stopped in its tracks by 7 RHA, 16 points to six winners of the Army Major Units UK Cup at Aldershot Military Stadium

AFTER early fears of frost, Aldershot Military Stadium was in excellent condition for the Army UK rugby final between 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, writes John Quin.

The two teams were in danger of appearing before the Monopolies Commission, having met in an Army rugby final for the past three years.

The previous meetings had resulted in one win each, by, remarkably, the same score, seven pts to six, one in Aldershot and last year in BAOR.

This year, by a quirk of fate or by sleight of hand, the RRW

Commander takes charge

happened to be in Northern Ireland and by perfect timing, had come to the end of a four month tour on the day of the final.

It quickly became clear that, as expected, the battle was likely to be won or lost at half-back. As it turned out, LBdr Steve Commander and his partner of several seasons now, Gnr Andy Vicary, were the more effective pair. Both are talented athletes, not only at rugby and, between them, scored ten of the airborne

gunners' 14 points.

The Welshmen were impressive in bits and pieces but were not as cohesive a unit as the gunners, especially up front. However, the very fact that they reached the final at all, with all the commitments of an Ulster tour as well, must be remarkable in itself.

They had a blend of youth and experience and there is no doubt that they will be back. Perhaps, with Rorke's Drift in mind, what they may consider is a sapper to lead them, but somehow that idea may not be taken up!

The gunners produced the better pack on the day with the evergreen Sgt Martyn Lewis not only scoring his inevitable try but making two marks in as many minutes. To match the experience of Lewis, Reese and Coghlan, the gunners too had youth in the form of LCpl Lipton and Gnr Charlie Charlton, a converted prop, flashing about in the back row.

Scoring was even at half time with two penalties from Vicary to a penalty from LCpl Ponting and a neat drop goal from Welsh fly-half Cpl John Morgan 36. In the second half a

well worked move by the gunners' half backs allowed Commander to burst over, having received an inside pass from Vicary.

This followed Lewis's powerful drive to the line from a scrum.

The referee, Maj J McGroarty, deserved as much credit as the players for the excellent way he handled the cup final.

The gunners are now on their way to meet the Welsh Guards in the Challenge Cup Final. Well done RRW for getting there, producing a good game and being so magnanimous in defeat. For those in the UK, the final is at Aldershot Military Stadium on Thursday, March 12.

The Calcutta Cup match between England and Scotland is to now be played on April 4. This was the day of the Royal Navy v RAF game at Twickenham, so that has to be rescheduled.

24 Field Squadron RE retained the UK Minor Units' Cup, beating 9 Parachute Squadron RE by 11 pts to 10 after extra time. They now go on to defend their cup against 3 BAD in Germany.

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Line out action in the Army Major Units UK Cup Final at Aldershot Military Stadium. Winners were the 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (dark strip) who beat 1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales 14-6. See report on Page 50.

Picture: Paul Haley

SOLDIER



LCpl Hugh Grant lends a dash of colour—not to mention a musical note—to the Northumbrian backdrop of Otterburn Training Area. Hugh is a drummer-bugler with The Corps of Drums of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based in Newcastle upon Tyne.