

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 7th MAY 1984

SOLDIER

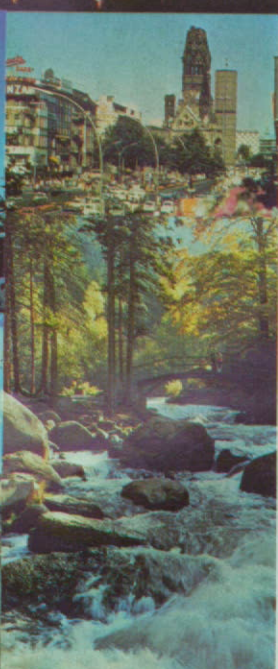




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FRONT COVER

The determined face of Cpl Paul Brown, 3 LI out on exercise in Washington State. See page 26. Picture — Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

The Duchess of Kent inspects the first WRAC contingent to pass out from a Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst. See page 18. Picture — Paul Haley.

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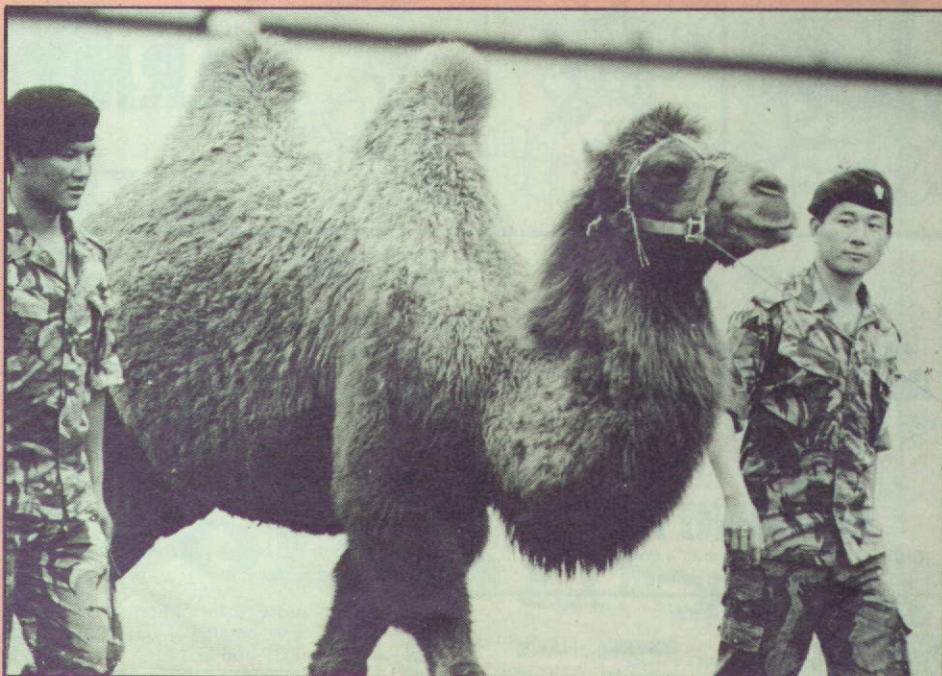


**Male bastion breached by
WRAC — page 18. ▲**

**Rugby season reaches
climax — pages 49-50. ▼**



**Goodbye cruel world —
I'm off to join the Gurkhas
— page 21. ▼**



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A black and white illustration of two men. The man on the left is wearing a military uniform, including a peaked cap with a crest, a high-collared jacket with epaulettes, and a tie. He is holding a rolled-up document or baton. The man on the right is wearing a formal tuxedo with a bow tie. Both men have a serious expression. The background is plain.

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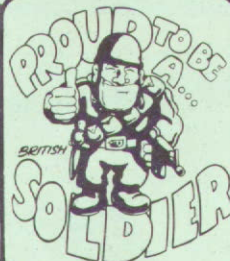
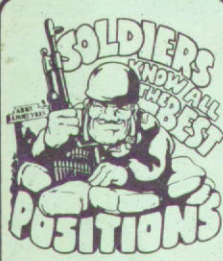


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CHARGE HERO'S GRAVE SAVED



NEW MILAN TRAINER



FERRANTI Computer Systems has developed a Milan missile trainer which uses computer-generated graphics for target and background which does away with the need for target vehicles and outside ranges.

Unlike other Milan trainers, where the trainer is attached to a real firing post, this trainer uses a replica Milan launcher which frees launchers for normal deployment and avoids the risk of damage during assembly or dismantling.

The electronic imagery is fed to the launcher eyepiece via a high resolution television monitor and optical system with lateral and vertical movement of the sight generating a corresponding movement of the composite target, background and missile image.

Each Milan trainer is linked to an instructor's console, comprising keypad and a high resolution display showing the scene as viewed by the trainee, overlaid with a list of exercise parameters.

Charge of the Light Brigade hero, Sergeant-Major Robert Johnston, is attracting almost as much attention in the Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate in 1984 as he did a century earlier when he was buried there.

For the old soldier's grave had been almost forgotten until SOLDIER (March 12) spotlighted the efforts of ex-3 RTR trooper, Mr Peter Burrell and some friends to get the headstone cleaned up.

Since then Mr Burrell has been overwhelmed with letters and donations from SOLDIER readers. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Association sent £100 and the group of old soldiers have also been collecting around Harrogate. Now the Johnston Memorial Fund stands at well over £200.

Says Mr Burrell: "There has been tremendous local interest. People are almost queuing up to see the grave. Harrogate people did not know we had it."

The Mayor and council chairman of Harrogate have also been in touch and council officials have

examined the grave. Said Mr Burrell: "The whole council seemed to have seen the SOLDIER magazine and they have decided to take an interest. They have found that the statue is leaning and needs moving and the base rebuilding."

"We thought this would cost even more money (the original estimate was (£1000)), but the council said they would do that. They have told us that whatever money we raise the council will finish the project off."

Now the group hopes that the Johnston grave will be completely refurbished this summer in time for a big unveiling in September. "We are really pleased — without SOLDIER we would not have got anywhere. The whole thing has really snowballed" said Mr Burrell, who lives at 45 King Edward's Drive, Harrogate.

TANK GOES HOME AFTER 40 YEARS

A famous World War Two tank has returned home to the Newcastle factory where it was made. The Valentine, a heavy infantry tank, is back with Vickers Defence Systems after more than 40 years.

Vickers spotted the tank at a military base in Northern Ireland, bought it and arranged for Pickfords Business and Industrial to deliver it to Tyneside. The Pickfords team collected the tank and at the same time delivered an old Saladin from Hampshire to Lisanelly Barracks in County Omagh.

The tank gets its name from St Valentine's Day because designs were first submitted to the War Office on 14 February 1938. Around 8500 Valentines were made and they quickly got a reputation for mechanical reliability.

It first saw service in the Western Desert in 1941 and was used in Europe, including Russia and Italy, and against the Japanese in the Pacific. It was replaced as a gun tank in 1944 but the hull and chassis were then used for things like flamethrowers and for mine-field clearing.

Vickers are now trying to track down the history of their tank from the chassis number. Said company spokesman, Mr Peter McKenzie: "It has not been used for some time and it needs cleaning and refurbishing. The Vickers Valentine was one of the most successful tanks of the Second World War."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

THE DUKE of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum which has been completely refurbished during the past year in greatly extended accommodation at The Keep, Victoria Barracks, Bodmin, Cornwall, has re-opened. It is the home of the depot of the old regiment.

MEN FROM 2 PARA who captured Goose Green in the Falklands will take part in a para drop over Normandy on June 5 at the town of Ranville — the regiment has a memorial there — to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

LT-COL Edward Gardener — he founded the Red Devils free-fall parachute display team 20 years ago — is to become the Regimental Colonel of The Parachute Regiment in November. He succeeds Colonel Graham Farrell.

THE MUSEUM of Army Transport has been officially opened at Flemingate, Beverley, North Humberside, by Sir Patrick Wall, MP for Beverley. In it is the collection of the RCT's road, rail, sea and air transportation. Since its unofficial opening last June, the Museum has received 45,000 visitors.

TROOPS FIGHT STANLEY BLAZE

In the biggest emergency operation in the Falkland Islands since the invasion, more than 200 men and women of the three Services assisted the local authorities when fire raged through the town's King Edward Memorial Hospital taking the lives of seven civilian patients and a nurse.

A further eight civilian patients and 14 military patients were evacuated from the inferno unhurt but some suffering from shock and smoke inhalation.

The Services had been alerted within only minutes of the fire

starting around 5am but the wind fanned up a fierce blaze which soon spread from the timber civilian wing to the military wing.

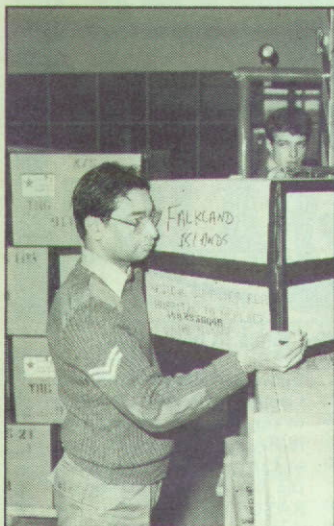
Tongues of orange flame piercing out of huge clouds of grey smoke in the pre-dawn darkness could be seen for miles around.

Bewildered patients, some able to walk themselves others being guided by Servicemen and military nurses, emerged from the clouds of smoke to be taken to nearby houses.

Fire fighting crews from the RAF, Army and Navy — some with experience of dealing with blazes in Britain during industrial action by firemen — were rushed in from up to three miles away to assist local firemen.

Servicemen wearing breathing apparatus searched the burning hospital as more than ten hoses, drawing water through pumps from the sea 200 yards away, spurted thousands of gallons onto the blaze.

Helicopters and small boats brought helpers and medical supplies from ships in the harbour.



Medical supplies on their way from Ludgershall.



Troops help locals to battle the flames. Picture — Sgt Steve Slater.

Within two hours the blaze, which at one time threatened nearby houses, had been brought under control. But the two wings of the hospital had been gutted. Only a brick section remained standing although badly damaged by smoke and water.

Within an hour of the fire starting military medical staff from the hospital were making plans to set up a temporary "hospital" on the first floor of the Town Hall about 300 yards away.

Beds, blankets, sheets and

hospital equipment were brought in from reserve stocks and evacuated patients transferred there.

Most of the military patients were later taken back to beds at their own units.

Help from Britain was soon on the way comprising three tons of medical equipment which included a mobile X-ray unit, items for a pathological laboratory and blood collecting and storage elements which had been sent out by the Defence Medical Equipment Depot at Ludgershall.

D-DAY APPROACHES

More details have now emerged about the involvement of British forces in the celebrations in Normandy on 6 June to mark the 40th anniversary of D-Day.

Thousands of British, American, French, Canadian and veterans from other nations will visit Normandy again.

The Ministry of Defence is providing representative detachments and bands and is also helping financially a party of 370 ex-servicemen selected by the Royal British Legion.

Details known so far — and SOLDIER hopes to carry more in the next edition — are:

5 June. 6 Airborne Division ceremony at Ranville. Drop by 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment (2-4pm). March through Caen. Service at Abbaye aux Hommes (2-5.30pm).

6 June Programme attended by HM The Queen am.

Service, wreath-laying Bayeux Cemetery. The Queen and President Mitterand present

(3.40-4pm).

Service, wreath laying Colleville US Cemetery. Presidents Reagan and Mitterand present (4.15pm).

Main Allied Ceremony Utah Beach. All Heads of State present (4.50-5.30pm). Also involved — Company of The Light Infantry, HMS Fife, free-fall drop by the Red Devils. Detachments of Durham Light Infantry and King's Shropshire Light Infantry D-Day veterans. French ceremony at Ouistrehan (6.15pm).

3 Division ceremonies Hermanville (7.45pm).

6 Airborne Division ceremonies Merville (8pm).

GI'S AID WIDOW

A SUM of about 300 dollars (£210) was raised in a whip-round by US Army men of the Combat Support Company (SCS), 3/47 Infantry, at Fort Lewis in Washington State for

the widow and two children of a 22-year-old Hartlepool soldier, Private Desmond Hollick, from the recce platoon of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, who was knocked down and fatally injured by a hit-and-run driver near the base. A fellow soldier was seriously injured.

3 LI, have just returned from Washington State.

DEATHS DOWN

ARMY deaths, for whatever reason, are the lowest for the past four years, it is revealed in a report by the Directorate of Personnel Services (Army).

Fatalities from traffic accidents (54) and suicides (14) are also down on previous totals. Deaths on operations totalled 27, training deaths 13, accidental deaths 12, drowning one, murder one and other causes two.

The largest single cause of death, says the report, was from natural causes which with 78 deaths formed 38.6 per cent of the total of 202.

Gallantry awards

The following gallantry awards for service in Northern Ireland between 1 May and 30 September last year have been announced.

CBE (Military Division): Col I R Cartwright, Staff, late RRF.

OBE (Military Division): Lt Col J M Jago, RA; Lt Col A de C L Leask, Scots Guards, attached 8 UDR; Lt Col J P J O'Donovan, RAMC; Lt Col T C K Ridley, RAOC; Lt Col C B K Smeeton, Green Howards, UDR.

MBE (Military Division): Maj A Briggs, UDR; Maj P D Browne, Royal Green Jackets; Lt M J Donovan, Royal Marines; Maj C J Duxbury, RCT; Capt D L Haydock, Intelligence Corps; WO 1 D G Little, Royal Green Jackets; Maj H E Monteith, UDR; Maj A W Thornburn, Devonshire &

Dorset Regt; Maj J P Weller, Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regt.

BEM (Military Division): S/Sgt B Cathrine, Intelligence Corps; WO 2 B E Darvill, Royal Green Jackets; Pte J A Graham, UDR; Sgt S J Hunt, REME; S/Sgt D W Pittaway, RAOC; Sgt S P Simoni, RE; Sgt E H Tomiczek, RE; C/Sgt K J Wallwork, Cheshire Regt.

The Queen's Gallantry Medal: Cpl B J Gregory, Parachute Regt; Maj R P Jennings, RAOC; Cpl J Kelly, UDR; Sgt W Miller, R Signals; Lt G A O'Sullivan, RAOC; Cpl E Pemberton, Duke of Wellington's Regt; Pte J P Richards, Devonshire & Dorset Regt; S/Sgt B J Swift, Parachute Regt; Maj A J Taylor, RAOC.

'This is Your Life' send-off for Fred

IT was a grin-and-bear-it send-off for Staff Sergeant Fred Boon when he left the Army after 36 years' service. For his mess pals gave him a *This is Your Life* type send-off.

Said in a BAOR hand-out to be the "longest-serving soldier" in the Army — he joined at 17½ and left at 54 — the "info" sheet didn't say

whether Fred and his wife, Vera, actually enjoyed the exposition on his life in the Army.

But, like all those snared by the TV series, Fred and Vera bore up under the relentless revelations and received in return for their public roasting two RASC flags which Fred had the honour of lowering for the last time in Cyprus and Libya.

They were also handed the TIYL book from which presenter WO1 Paul Roberts of 23 Regiment RCT at Monchengladbach, read the facts of Fred's Army career.

Mad on joining up, Fred tried the Marines, the RAF and the Army. All said he was too young. But immediately he was 17½ he joined the Army and found himself with

the Warwickshire Regiment for infantry training. This was in 1947.

Within a month he was posted to the RASC at Yeovil. From there postings followed to Berlin, Egypt and Cyprus, where he was promoted to

corporal, and was the last RASC man to leave Fama-gusta in 1960 with the honour of lowering the RASC flag following the terrorist campaign.

A year later saw him completing an action-packed,

five-month trip in the South Cameroons before returning to the UK and another tour in BAOR, followed by a trip to Libya where he again had the honour of lowering the RASC flag for the last time.

■ WO1 PAUL ROBERTS, FRED AND VERA (inset) BOON: times to remember.



Hot-spot trip for birdmen

Heading for the hot-spots of Brunei in search of feathered friends are 14 members of the RAF Ornithological Society and one soldier — Major David Counsell RA.

They left last week to survey the bird life of the jungles on the north coast of Borneo which should keep them busy till the end of June.

In steaming heat they will weigh, measure and examine as many birds as possible for parasites and disease. They'll also be busy tape recording wild life sounds as they are working closely with the Brunei Museum to retain local colour.

The team doesn't expect to cover all 2222 square miles of this tiny country, but they're going to have a good try.

Nice move by Cyprus horsemen

A nice gesture by the Joint Services Saddle Club at Episkopi, Cyprus... they have started a Riding for Disabled Children scheme. Urged by Lady Langley, wife of Major General Sir Desmond Langley, administrator of the Sovereign Bases, local handicapped children are being taught to ride which provides both therapy and fun.

Last salute for General

General Sir John Stanier has taken the salute of his regiment for the last time as Colonel of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. He has held the title for the past five years. His successor will be Major General Norman Arthur, Director of Personnel Services (Army). The Regiment's motto is 'Second to None'. The General told the Regiment: "Honour your task..."

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES



■ STAFF SERGEANT UTLEY.

Home post for Yvonne after Africa

Staff Sergeant Yvonne Utley, WRAC, is personal assistant to the Commander BMATT (British Army and Advisory Training Team) in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Yvonne was working at HQ South-West District, Bulford, when a phone call came through to her boss asking if she was interested in a two-year Loan Service tour in one of Africa's most beautiful countries.

"I didn't want to come here at first, but thought about it overnight and decided to accept," said Yvonne. "I've enjoyed it and made a lot of friends since. I've been to

Kariba and travel around at weekends.

"I think this job will help in my career, especially being a P.A. I start work at 7.30am and finish at 5.30pm.

"It was difficult to get used to when I first started. It's been one of the best postings I've ever had."

Her next posting? A Doncaster girl, Yvonne is lined up for a job in York.

TV egg scramble whips up a mystery!

BBC TV's *The Great Egg Race* team has visited the Mönchengladbach area to record two programmes in a new series of nine to be screened this month.

Three teams from 431 Maintenance Unit RAF Brüggen, 25 Engineer Regiment and HQ REME 4 Armoured Division were asked to make an amphibious bicycle.

As the teams worked, cameras recorded their efforts and team members interviewed. Finally, the finished items were put to the test. In front of a good crowd, the teams raced against each other to complete a length of a local pool.

Who won the two races? You'll have to tune into BFBS TV to find out...

TOUGH AND READY FOR ACTION

They look what they are . . . tough and ready for action. They are men of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles on their annual training deployment in New Zealand. Throughout March and early April they were the "enemy" in the New Zealand Army's exercise Northern Safari. Now the 145 men of A Company have returned to their Hong Kong base, ready for their next exercise call.

'SKINS' PAY HOMAGE TO POLAR HERO

EVERY year the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards pay tribute to the memory of a brave man and an English gentleman.

On St Patrick's Day 1912, his birthday, Captain Lawrence Edward Grace Oates, walked to his death in a blizzard, in an attempt to save the lives of the remaining members of Scott's polar expedition, by sacrificing his own life.

Since then each year "Oates's Sunday" has been observed, first

in the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons and later in the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in proud memory of a gallant officer.

Lawrence Oates joined the regiment in 1901 while it was operating in the Boer War and distinguished himself almost immediately.

A patrol he was leading was ambushed by a large force of Boers and to enable his wounded and dismounted men to withdraw, Oates together with three others opened fire and held off the enemy.

Twice he was invited to surrender. Twice he replied that he was there "to fight, not to surrender". For this action Oates was mentioned in dispatches.

He was seconded from the Regiment in 1910 to accompany Scott's expedition to the South Pole. The party who made the final approach to the Pole, were bitterly disappointed to find the Norwegian flag, left by Amundsen, there before them.

On the return march in terrible weather, Oates developed frost bite and gangrene in both legs.

Almost completely crippled he struggled on, his one thought not to hold back his fellows. As soon as he saw that he was hindering the march, he asked the others to leave him where he was, in his sleeping bag.

They refused, and that night Oates left the tent and walked to his death, saying: "I am just going outside and I may be some time."

This year the 'Skins' were visited in Osnabruck by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Allan Findlay for the Oates Parade and memorial service.

He spoke to nearly every soldier in the Regiment on a tour of the barracks and in the evening was entertained by a Regimental revue.

The morning of "Oates's Sunday" was unusually fine and sunny and the entire Regiment on parade was a spectacular sight.



■ THE GURKHAS: back in Hong Kong after New Zealand.

Transport men in Nato link-up

THE special relationship formed over the past decade between 8 Regiment RCT and the Nachschubbataillon Sw 120, the special weapons transport battalion of 1 (German) Corps, has been formally cemented.

In a parade at Werlte, which included detachments from the British, German, American, Belgium and Dutch armies, certificates and presentations were exchanged to mark this special affiliation.

The Germans received from 8 Regiment a silver scorpion — the regimental motif, 8 Regiment transports nuclear weapons — while Nachschubbataillon Sw 120 presented a local stone engraved with the respective unit badges.

The senior inspecting officer was Brigadier General Kunze, Commander 1 (German) Corps Artillery Division and a veteran of Stalingrad, who paid tribute to the special relationship that has developed between the two transport units.



TOPICS

MERITED



Warrant Officer 2 John Williamson of 'A' Company, 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry with his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit. The certificate was presented to him by the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Sir William Bulmer, for his dedication and professionalism since he became a volunteer in 1971.

4 PARA DROP INTO GERMANY

The famed 'Red Devils' of the Territorial Army's 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, recently dropped into West Germany to take part in a gruelling two-day exercise code-named 'Casino Royale'.

After flying over in RAF Hercules transport aircraft, 120 of the tough part-time airborne soldiers parachuted from 800 feet onto the German army training area at Hemmelburg, about 60 miles from Frankfurt.

Although there was some early morning mist over the dropping zone there was little wind and all the men landed safely. Once on the ground they re-grouped and headed on foot across the German countryside to the deserted village

of Bonnland where they practised the skills of fighting in a built-up area.

This included an obstacle course where the men had to climb through barn windows, walk across high and narrow beams, slide down ropes and crawl through dark and muddy tunnels.

Grappling hooks were used to gain entry to first floor windows and, less conventionally, the Paras were taught how to use a long wooden pole to lift a man up to a



high window.

After a spell of street fighting which went on long into the night the soldiers bunked down in the empty village houses for a few hours of well earned sleep.

Tired and weary after two activity-filled days of training, they flew back home to swap their weapons and famous red berets for the more conventional dress and tools they use in their civilian jobs.



Ropes and grappling hooks were used to climb into windows.

THREE NEW TA CENTRES OPEN

Two new Territorial Army Centres have been opened — one at Bangor, County Down, and the other at Dawley Bank, each costing £1½ million.

The new centre at Bangor was opened appropriately on St Patrick's Day by the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Mr James Prior, (see picture) and is the new training centre for SHQ and two troops of 112 (Antrim Fortress) Field Squadron RE(V) together with Bangor detachment of the ACF.

On parade were 100 of the squadron's sappers, the cadet detachment, the Royal Engineers' Band and the Pipes and Drums of 74 Engineer Regt (V).

Mr Prior spoke of the importance of the TA, who would in war provide 30 per cent of the UK's mobilised Army, and said he was pleased that Northern Ireland was playing its full part in providing the necessary forces.

The Dawley Bank Centre at Bridgeman House was formally opened by Major General Richard Jerram, Director Royal Armoured Corps, for use of the Queen's Own



Mercian Yeomanry.

The QOMY is the only TA cavalry regiment in the Midlands and is a successor through amalgamation to a number of proud former regiments from the West Midlands. For the past 12 years the Regiment has had its Headquarters at Donnington.

★ ★ ★

The second new centre for the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to

open in the space of two months has been launched at a ceremony performed by Major-General DM Woodford, Colonel of the Regiment and Commandant of the Joint Service Defence College.

"The Fusilier Armoury" at Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne is on the North Tyne Industrial Estate and is the second factory conversion carried out by the North of England TAVR Association. The process is being watched

GREEN JACKETS' TASTY TRIUMPH

Winners of London District Field Cookery Competition at Aldershot were the Cooks 'A' team of the 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. The team was led by Corporal Dave Turner ACC from Peckham, who is a Metropolitan Police chef. He was assisted by Private Alan Hatch, of Battersea, who is a directors' chef and Lance-Corporal Coombes, a London Transport driver.

The 20 teams taking part had to prepare fresh rations for 30 people with a menu consisting of green pea soup, beef olive with Lyonnaise potatoes and glazed carrots followed by Devonshire Roll. Now the 4 RGJ team aim to win the UK finals later this year.

with interest by other associations as former factory buildings can lend themselves to conversion at a considerable saving compared to purpose built centres. The new centre is home for 'Y' company and the MT platoon.

LANCASTRIANS ON THE ROCK

In the third 'Marble Tor' exercise of this year 4th Battalion, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, took a full strength composite company from their recruiting areas of Preston, Blackpool, Burnley, Haslingden and Ashton-under-Lyne.

Major Bill Holland, who commanded the men on the Rock, told SOLDIER: "We felt we had a right to take so many because we do come from Gibraltar Barracks in Burnley — a link to the Battle Honour 'Gibraltar 1704-5', the oldest borne by the regiment."

As well as assuming the duties of the resident battalion's duty company the

Lancastrians had the chance to indulge in adventure training including windsurfing, sailing and fishing.

They also carried out specialist infantry range training under Warrant Officer 2 Bill Johnson from Blackburn. And a special treat was assault boat training in the harbour with impressive 45 knot performances being achieved.

Battalion CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Brooks, who flew out to visit them in the second week, told SOLDIER: "It's been good value. We made it very clear that this was an extra — not a substitute for camp — so we'll be strong on 'Lionheart' later in the year."

Cpl Steve Murphey and Pte Alan Ashton make friends with a new recruit to the Rock's ape colony.



FALKLANDS MEMENTO

The gun which sank the Argentine blockade runner *Estella De Los Estrados* in Falkland Sound in May 1982 during the Falklands conflict has been presented to 'B' Company 4th Volunteer Battalion The Royal Green Jackets.

The ship was carrying 40,000 litres of aviation fuel when caught by HMS Alacrity's 4.5 inch gun, which was handed over by Commander Christopher Craig (left) to Major David Travers, OC 'B' Coy.

The Company raised £800 for HMS Alacrity's crew during the conflict.



THE TA SOCCER CUP has gone to Northern Ireland for only the third time in more than 60 years. In the final at Edinburgh 'C' Company, 4 Royal Irish beat Scottish champions, HQ 15 (S) Para Battalion (V) 6-2.

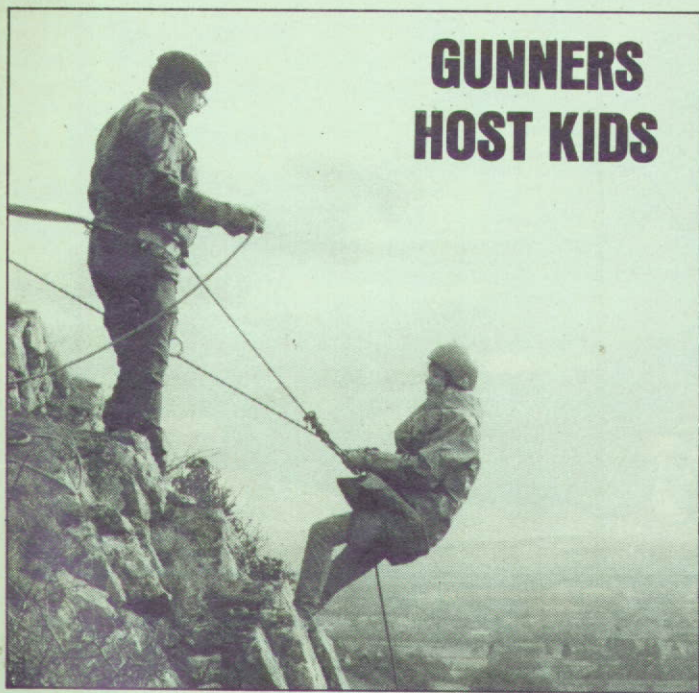
The match was not as one

sided as it sounds. The Irishmen led 3-2 until 20 minutes from the end when the tiring Scots found themselves on the end of a hat-trick from Ranger 'Straw' Robinson. Other scorers: Kitson, McAleese, Cummings for the Irish McDowell, Del Ewing for the Scots.



Staff-Sergeant James Brennan directs the aiming practice of two of his pupils.

GUNNERS HOST KIDS



The North West's own Gunner Regiment — 213 Air Defence Battery Royal Artillery — part of 103 AD Regt RA(V) — put down their Blowpipe missiles to be hosts to 52 children from St Helens and Newton le Willows who were considered by St Helen's Social Services Department to deserve a "weekend in the country". The children were taken to Kinnel Park Training Camp, just outside Rhyl, by 42 members of the Battery, supported by instructors from Merseyside Air Training Corps with canoes and inflatable boats, and Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force.

Chief organiser Lt Brian Gibson

explained "The programme included canoeing (we got the Marine Lake at Rhyl specially filled months early for this), abseiling, a treasure hunt, a country walk (led by Captain Jim Houldsworth who walked the course three times in one day), a military display with the Blowpipe simulator more popular than Space Invaders that we also brought with us, PT (led by WO2 Ray Stones), swimming, a visit to North Wales Police HQ and a trip to the North Wales Military Museum. There was also potted sports, target rifle shooting on the miniature range, and a disco."

What the papers say . . .

Winners of this year's North West unit press cuttings contest are 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. They ran close with 207 General Hospital from Manchester but one feature swung it — Ashton-under-Lyne pressman Keith Kendrick joined the battalion for a weekend at Warcop — and passed the selection course! Both units received bound scrapbooks and certificates of merit.

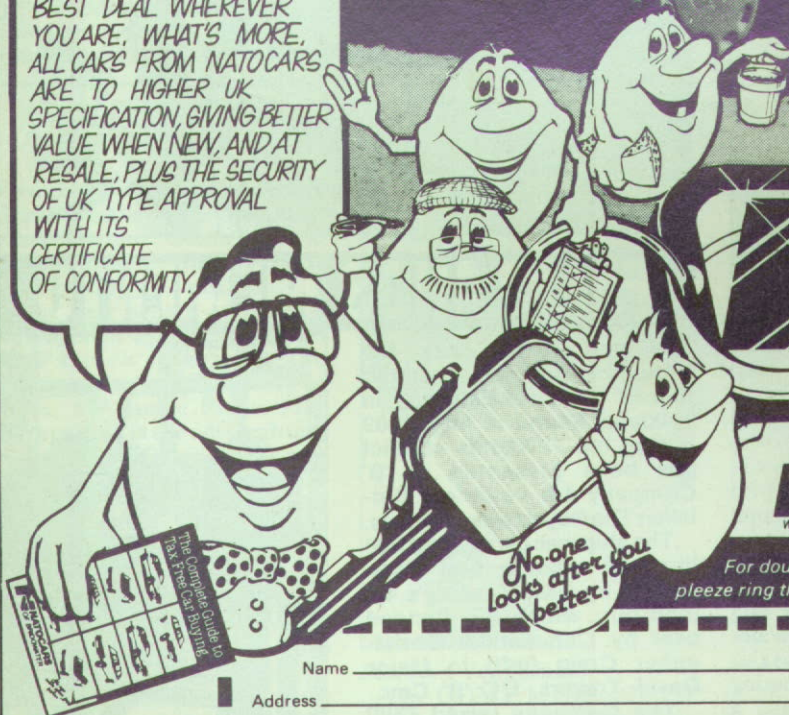
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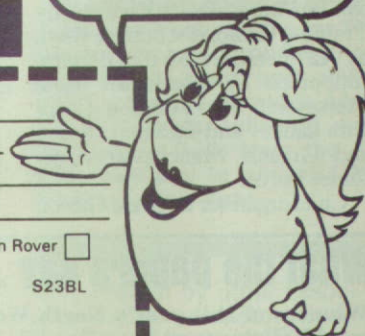
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TO MARK the 40th anniversary of D-Day, the issue of **SOLDIER** dated 4 June will include a special supplement, containing descriptive and many photographs of the landings, maps showing locations of the beaches, facts and figures, and personal accounts from some of the soldiers who were involved in the history-making days.

Price of the magazine will remain the same — 25p — and a big demand is expected so readers are advised to order their copies in advance. Military units wishing to order extra copies of the issue should contact the Distribution Manager at **SOLDIER**, either by post, signal or on Aldershot Military Extension 2583 by 14 May.

DID you know that 99 per cent of all married soldiers are members of the Soldiers' Widows Fund and that 94 per cent of single soldiers belong to the Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund?

The purpose of these Funds is to make rapid payment of grants to widows and dependants at the time when help is needed most — to meet the immediate need caused by a soldier's death and in 1983 alone the SWF paid out £116,700 in grants and SSDF a total of £89,050.

The aim is always to try to ensure that the basic grant is sufficient for its purpose and, with effect from 1 April 1984, the amounts have again been increased — SWF to £2000 and SSDF to £1500.

These increases have been possible mainly because of the tremendously successful start to the scheme for covenanting the £1.80 annual

SOLDIER to Soldier

subscription and sincere thanks are due to the 60 per cent of the membership who have already covenanted.

If you haven't already covenanted ask your unit pay office for advice — to covenant costs you nothing extra!

★ ★ ★

CALLING all Army photographers. With less than three months to go to the closing date for this year's Army Photographic Competition it has attracted a disappointing number of entries.

With a superb array of prizes waiting for the winning cameramen the competition would seem to be wide open. Prizes include Nikon SLR/camera/photographic equipment and cash prizes from Kokak, Ilford, Paterson Ltd. Woman's Own, Naafi and **SOLDIER**.

Those wishing to enter should contact their unit press officer or local public information staff for fuller details.

★ ★ ★

THOSE D-Day celebrations will not of course be confined to the other side of the Channel. In particular the invasion ports from which the invasion armada set sail will be making sure they are not forgotten.

Portsmouth, that grand old Navy city, will be pulling out all the historical stops

at the same time as it opens a new museum in Southsea to commemorate the 40th anniversary.

Pride of place in the museum will go to the Overlord Embroidery, which you will remember travelled like the Flying Dutchman on both sides of the Atlantic before it finally found a home.

In their Operation Reunion the city fathers are planning a series of events right through to 24 days after the D-Day anniversary. There's Britten's 'War Requiem', a World War Two dance, Anne Shelton in concert with the Syd Lawrence orchestra and six film festival days — showing much footage not previously made public.

There will be a march past featuring three British military bands and an American marching band and this will be followed by a flypast of wartime aircraft.

During the first week in June a flotilla of warships will leave Portsmouth each morning to view the beaches — returning the same day. On June 4 World War Two vehicles will embark for Normandy to take part in the French celebrations.

Already great interest has been shown by American tour operators and a record influx of visitors is expected to what was an Army town for centuries in addition to its more famous naval connections.

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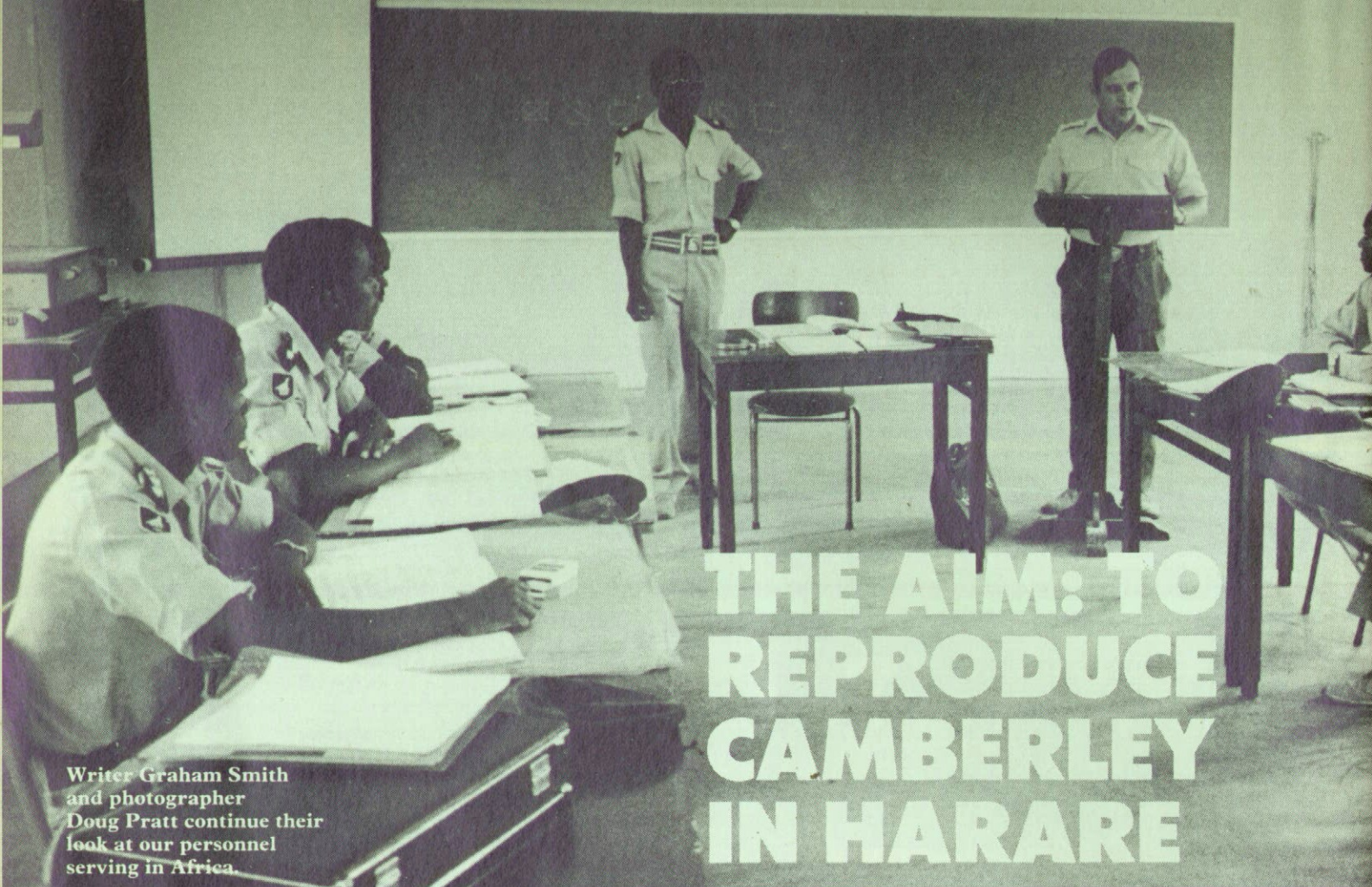
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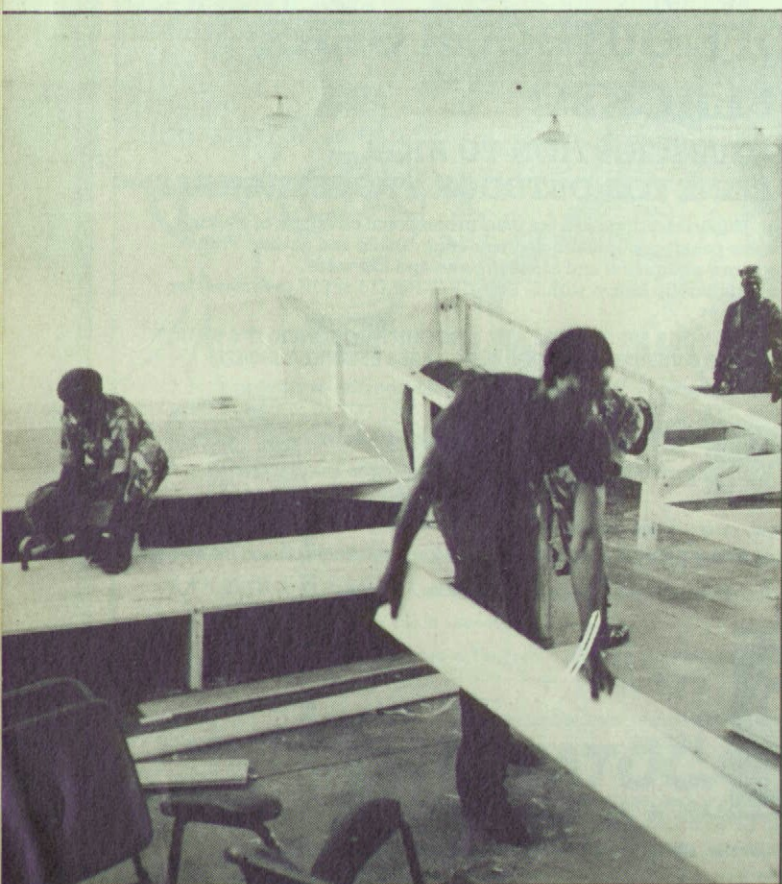


Writer Graham Smith and photographer Doug Pratt continue their look at our personnel serving in Africa.

THE AIM: TO REPRODUCE CAMBERLEY IN HARARE

Below: fitting out a new classroom in the Harare college.

Above: Lieutenant Colonel Kieran O'Kelly supervising syndicate study.



THE AIM: to produce, as near as possible to Camberley lines, a Staff College in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia. The team: eight officers and two senior NCOs who have been tasked with its continuing progress, all of them British Army Loan Service Officers comprising one faction of the 60-strong BMATT (British Military and Advisory Training Team).

Buildings are being re-vamped at the KG6 or King George VI Barracks, just outside Harare and two of the current masterminds behind the on-going project which has already been operating since November 1980 are Lieutenant-Colonels Ian Ker, Black Watch, and Kieran O'Kelly, RAOC.

Both officers are overseeing the initial fruits of a staff college complex which was set up in April 1980, on the granting of Zimbabwe's independence, as the successor to the Army Directorate of Military Studies.

The college officially opened its doors to its students six months later when the first of six junior staff courses began, each of six weeks, over which time 148 officers attended.

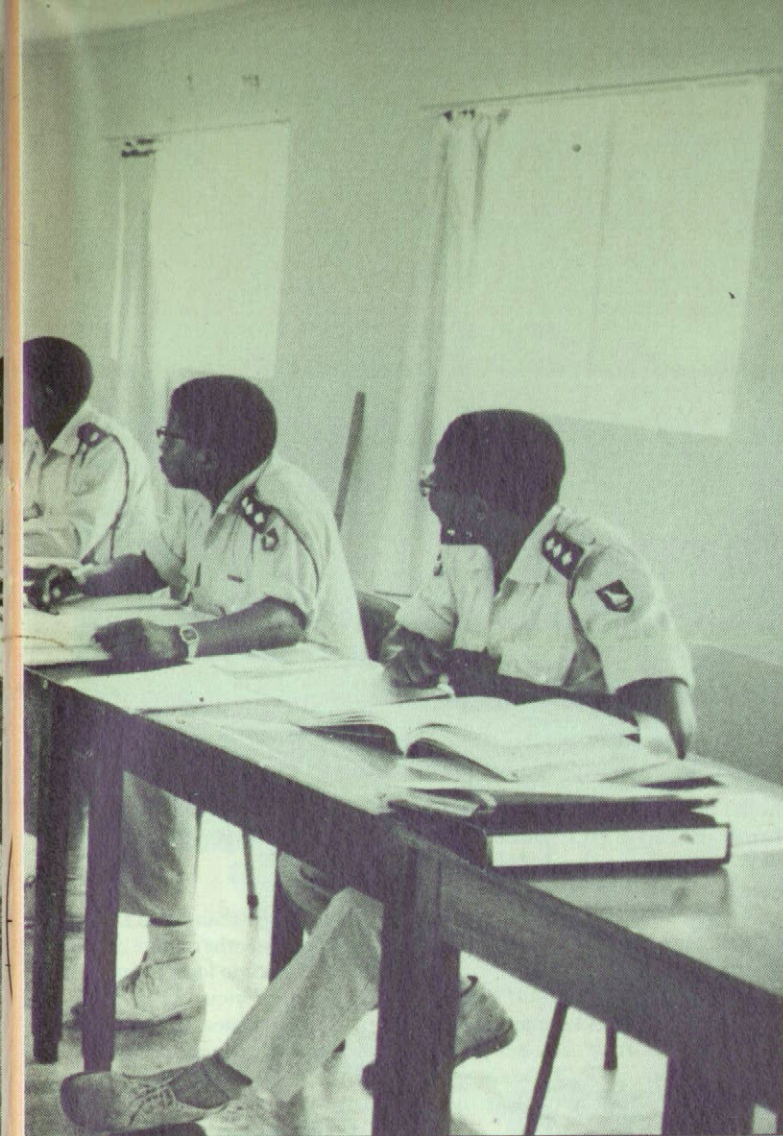
Col Ker explained: "By late 1981, the need for more advanced

staff training was recognised and the Junior Course gave way to the first Intermediate Staff Course, a title which reflected the fact that the training was at a higher level but not yet at the level which would be required in the long term. This course, as now presented, has remained substantially the same although there has naturally been a process of continual improvement in both the content and presentation of the course. In the future, this course will give way to a Command and Staff Course.

"This month, the Staff College was expanded to a 'two-tier' system in which a re-designed Junior Staff Course was introduced to run in parallel with the Intermediate Staff Course.

"The introduction of the 'two-tier' system was accompanied by a reorganisation of the College into two instructional divisions, one teaching each course. In addition to these two divisions and the HQ and admin elements, the Staff College also has a Research Wing which carries out investigations into a variety of subjects as directed by Army HQ and the Commandant."

Four years ago, he said, the Zimbabwe Staff College was largely staffed by members of the BMATT set-up but the inter-



vening period had seen the introduction of a number of ZNA — Zimbabwe National Army — staff.

Lt-Col O'Kelly explaining the present and future trends, said: "The Intermediate Staff Course consists of 18 weeks' instruction with the aim of preparing selected officers to undertake staff appointments throughout the Army, and 167 officers had attended the half-dozen courses up until the end of January.

"The course covers all aspects of operational and routine staff work, logistics and the all-arms battle in a wide variety of warfare. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of sound decision-making and communications skills.

"The course not only deals with military affairs but also encourages the students to consider the place of the Army in the nation, the structure of the nation and regional and global affairs.

"These studies are greatly enhanced by a series of lectures by distinguished speakers and by visits to, for example, the House of Assembly and important industrial concerns in the country.

"For the future it is planned to introduce a completely re-designed Junior Staff Course of eight weeks.

This will concentrate on military subjects to prepare selected officers for Grade 3 Staff appointments. It is subsequently intended to expand the existing Intermediate Staff Course to 23 weeks which will permit a greater depth of study into the military and, particularly, the wider issues considered on the present course. It will also allow students to study the important subjects of leadership and command, for which there is, at present, inadequate time."

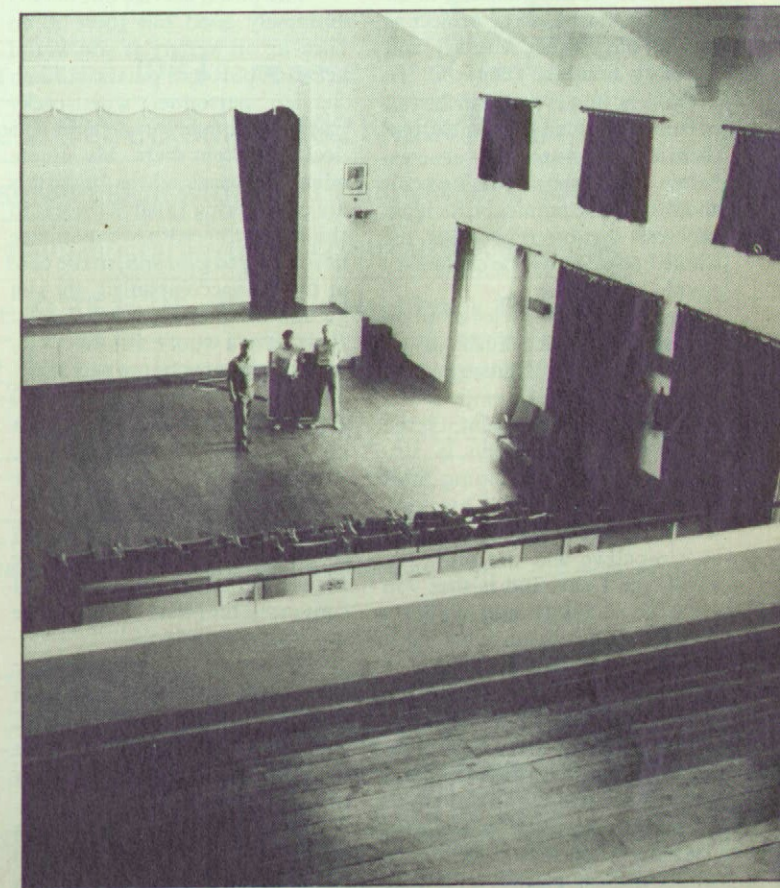
Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe who also doubles up as Zimbabwe's Defence Minister said at a Staff College prize-giving early this year: "The Staff College is the authoritative repository of military expertise and the intellectual guide for the Army. You, who have been subject to its teachings and standards of efficiency, can only benefit from having been there.

"I should like to record my special thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of the training programme, especially the efforts of BMATT, and I congratulate the Directing Staff and the students officers for having reached another landmark in the short but eventful history of our Zimbabwe National Army."



Above: A beautiful building — the officers' mess.

Below: the Beit Lecture Hall, built in 1942.



No point sitting at home twiddling thumbs!

SITTING in the spacious, well-decorated lounge of the three-bedroomed, two-bathroomed house set in two-and-a-half acres of ground and boasting two servants — a house-girl and a gardener — was like sharing the dream of a sudden football pools winner.

Except that WO 2 (SQMS) Ray Gash and his wife, Val, had not come up on the pools. They had taken just one chance and it has paid off handsomely; a two-year overseas posting on Loan Service. Neither is regretting their stay at Harare, in Zimbabwe, where Ray is involved in the planning of an emerging Staff College project as part of the British Military and Advisory Training Team.

Officers' homes for Loan Service personnel in Harare — and 16 of them are accompanied — are even better. Most have swimming pools and some have tennis courts set in generous shrub-strewn acres, the whole bolstered by the customary couple of servants.

Such is the happy lot of wives accompanying their husbands on two-year tours in Zimbabwe.

Mrs Jane O'Kelly, wife of Lt-Col Kieran O'Kelly, RAOC, the GSO 1 (Co-Ord) who is also involved in the developing Staff College project, said: "This is my second Loan Service stay out here in Zimbabwe and the only disadvantage I can find is that you leave your family and children behind — but then, they have three trips out each year."

The O'Kelly's have two daughters, Emma, 16 and Harriet, 14.

Mrs O'Kelly went on: "My attitude is that we are being paid to see the world with the help of Loan Service pay and Local Overseas Allowance. I married a soldier and my place is with him.

"I cannot see any point just sitting at home twiddling my thumbs while I can be having a super new experience and totally different lifestyle out here. Where in the UK could you have a house or quarter with a swimming pool and, in our case, a tennis court and a couple of servants — a housegirl and a gardener — who we pay about £40 a month, each.

"In an ordinary military community, like BAOR, you are stuck with military people. Here, you can get out among the locals. I would reckon that half of our dinner guests and the like are locals.

"The postal service out here is extremely good but there is no back-up on welfare as you would get in BAOR and potential Loan Service personnel with rocky marriages should stay at home and deal with them there. My simple advice to wives whose husbands are considering Loan Service is to think of the breadth of experience he is going to gain and, in the case of those unaccompanied, she can go out and join him on holidays. Kids have a wonderful time, too, when they come out to see dad."

Val Gash, whose husband WO 2 (SQMS) Ray Gash, RAOC, is on the ten-man team building up the Harare Staff College for the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) said: "I actively encouraged Ray to go into Loan Service and he wishes he had done it earlier. I convinced him that Loan Service was a good thing.

"We are out here on a two-year tour and we have just extended on for six months. Our two children, Dawn, 14 and Shawn, 13, who are both at boarding schools come out to see us. They have a super time.

"Being out here is totally different to anywhere else. I'm loving every minute of it. I was a

bit lonely at first with the children being at school back in the UK and I would not like Ray to do another six months' unaccompanied again. He was with the Multi-National and Observers Force in the Sinai before.

"I did find it difficult to adapt to having servants in the house — all day — but they each get paid for a 54-hour week. There is no way we could hope to manage the garden ourselves.

"Last year, Ray and I took 14 BMATT children and two parents canoeing down the Zambesi.

"We are happy in our situation and our only whinge perhaps, is that we would like a pool as the officers do. A couple out here just has to socialise because you are widely separated from the other families. There is no way this is like the BAOR 'married patch' syndrome. You've got to mix."

There were, said Mrs Gash, various perks on offer to Loan Service personnel such as two free flights to Victoria Falls and Kariba and, after a six-month stint, a flight back to the UK.

She added: "Most of us out here buy our clothes from mail order catalogues because the prices of clothes are expensive. A hair cut and blow dry costs about £12, a soft perm about £25, a cotton dress can be bought for about £30 plus 23 per cent VAT but dining out is reasonable, most places supplying 'doggie bags' because they give you too much. Petrol, however, costs £3 a gallon."

One of the wives out from the UK on a long visit to her husband up-country at Nyanga camp, was Mrs Margaret Featherstone — mum to two girls, Angela, 13 and Tanya 11 — and wife of Major Martin Featherstone, The Queen's Regiment, who said: "I think the

Mrs Margaret Featherstone ... British Sunday papers only three days late.

fact that husbands can go on Loan Service for six months is quite good because it is not too long from the wives' point of view. It gives a husband the chance to see the world and that's why he probably joined the Army in the first place — to travel.

"Careful consideration, though, should be given to those families with children at a crucial stage in their education from the ages of ten to 16. It would not be fair.

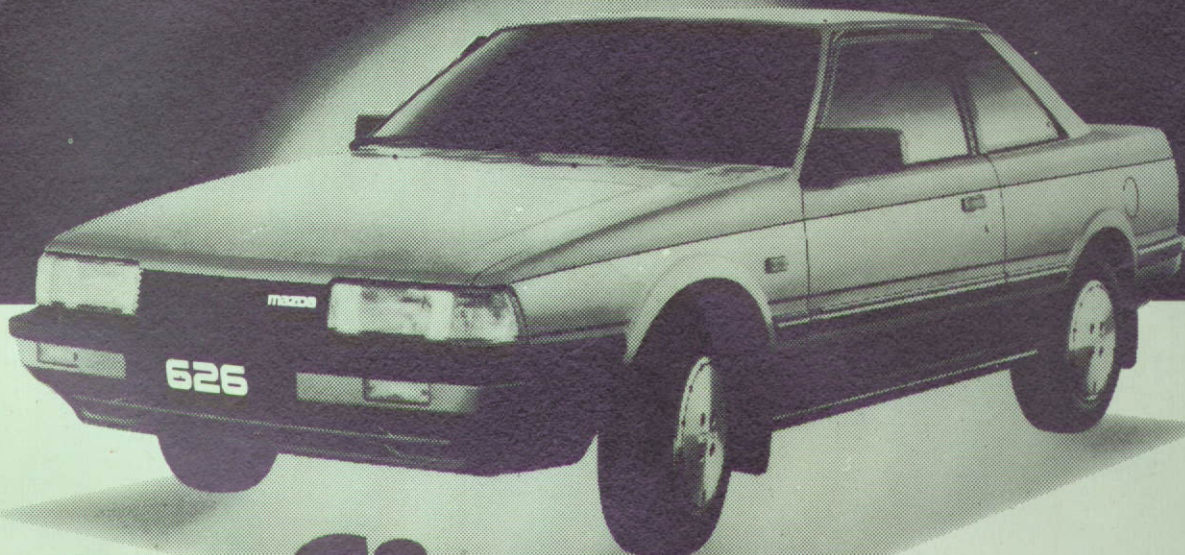
"Our children are in boarding schools and it seems quite distant for Martin if anything goes wrong but, on the plus side, we can always come out on holiday to see their dad."

She added: "Army wives are used to moving around and would expect to be told of available facilities in a Loan Service country of interest to their husbands, if accompanied. Such things as the availability of doctors, dentists, hairdressing and shopping facilities. I think facts like these should be given. The Army sent me a fact sheet giving me information on what to expect and it helped me to make up my mind.

"As for the unaccompanied wives, there is always Mum back at home. This is my chance to see Africa and it has whetted my appetite for further Loan Service commitment."

A final word of warning came from hubby, Major Featherstone who counselled: "Wives who are scared of insects and who are afraid of staying at home on the odd night alone should not consider coming out to places like this on Loan Service. They cannot expect to be pampered."

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THANK HEAVEN!

Pictures: Paul Haley

Top: The WRAC contingent marches proudly on.

Left: The Duchess presents the sash for the best female cadet.

THE ROYAL Military Academy Band Sandhurst was, sadly, making its last appearance on the world-famous Sovereign's Parade. The ladies, by contrast — all 30 of them — were making their debut at the Passing Out parade marching in a new chapter in the Academy's 171-year history.

In all, 29 cadets from the Womens' Royal Army Corps and one from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps were pacing out their 30-inch strides en route to the awarding of their commissions by the Duchess of Kent.

The Duchess, Controller-Commandant of the WRAC, told the thrilled 30 alongside their 488 male colleagues: "You are following in the footsteps of great men."

Those great men had included Churchill, Earl Haig and Montgomery. Today's leading military onlookers for the parade with the feminine overtones included General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff and General Sir Frank Kitson, C-in-C, UKLF.

Sandhurst's latest 'boarders' heard the RMA band aptly play 'Thank Heaven for Little Girls' as they, the fourth women's course but the first to pass out on parade, put their best feet forward.

Up until this latest milestone in military annals, the women had done their training at their own Camberley training centre.

A WRAC spokeswoman said: "They are integrating very well. Women are not going to be combative but there are a lot of logistical tasks they are now performing alongside men and this helps each side to understand each other."

'WOMEN IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GREAT MEN'

Top right: Getting ready for the big day.

Right: Among the audience — Queen Noor of Jordan.



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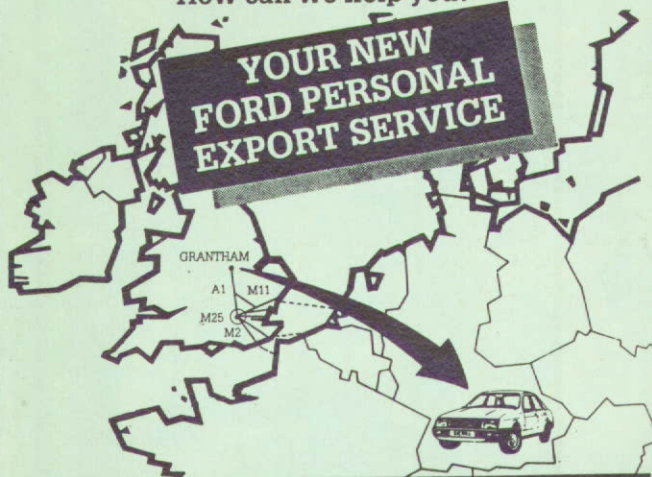


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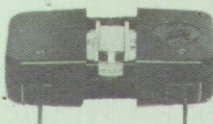
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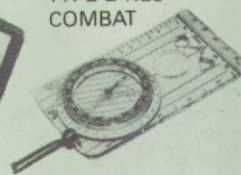


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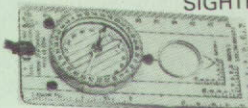
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GURKHAS WITH THE HUMP

Story: Judith Stares
Pictures: Brian Donnan

MEN OF the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles have got the hump — in fact, more precisely, two humps.

These Falkland veterans, now back home in Cassino Lines, Hong Kong, have adopted an orphaned Bactrian camel, which was abandoned by a bankrupt travelling circus. Officiating Commandant, Major Pat Davis, has a thick file on this newly acquired recruit, who is blossoming under the Battalion's tender loving care.

"The camel came to us because the son of our Commanding Officer, Colonel David Morgan, is at prep school in England with the son of the RSPCA officer in Hong Kong. These two ten-year-

olds heard about the plight of the camel and more or less arranged her adoption by us between them."

Colonel Morgan has recently been visiting Nepal, and will no doubt see a big improvement in 'Kumli's' condition — the name means 'Humpy' in Gurkhali.

She has a personal detail appointed to look after her, and her daily routine includes equine shampoos and a visit to the Quartermaster's Stores for a ration of cauliflowers and cabbage.

"The rest of the time she forages around the camp keeping the grass down and eating anything else she can get hold of — including the flowers in the Officers' Mess," said Major Davis. "Fortunately, there are a few vets around who take care of the Army dogs, and they

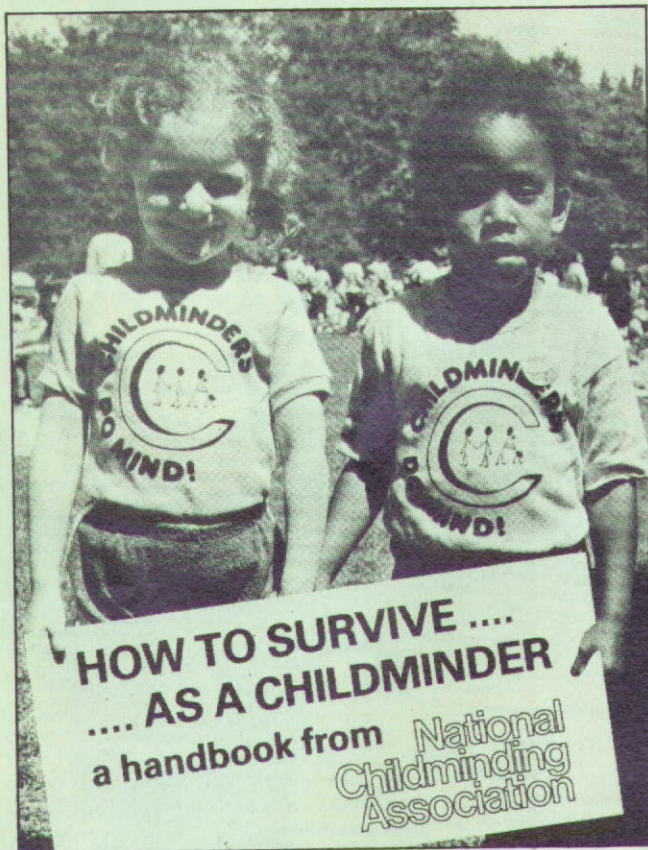
have been able to give us advice.

"She was in a pretty sorry state when she arrived. She even moulted at the wrong time of year, so was completely bald all during the winter weather."

As Kumli was brought up to give rides to children she is extremely tame, and the Battalion have been able to use her as a P.R. asset by taking her along to local fetes. "About the only thing she hasn't got is an Army number!" claimed Major Davis.

Now aged four, Kumli can be expected to live at least another 20 years. The battalion is due to be posted to Brunei in two years' time and hope that their successors will be able to continue their good work and allow her to remain in Cassino Lines.

CHILD MINDERS WHO BREAK THE LAW



■ Childminding . . . one of the world's top jobs.

HOW to Survive as a Childminder — an apt title for the first publication on this important subject.

Childminding plays an important part in the Service family's life. An estimated 47,000 childminders are registered with their local authorities and, sadly, as many more are not registered. Many of these unregistered minders are Service wives who could find themselves outside the law.

One of the great advantages of registering is that you have the support of the local authority and if you are also a member of the Child Minding Association (CMA) the added help, information and advice, for example, this excellent book which has been made possible with the help of grants from the Gulbenkian Foundation and the DHSS.

Childminding is one of the world's most important jobs, looking after other people's children. It is only right these caring

by

ANNE ARMSTRONG

people should have access to good information and advice. They get it in "How to Survive . . ."

The questions that often arise are registration, play, diet health and safety, relationship with parents, money and business and organisation and support.

It's a must, a guide to have to hand for all those who care for children. Free to all CMA members, otherwise £1.25 incl postage and packing, or £1 each plus £2 per 10 P & P for bulk orders.

A plastic cover for an extra 25p — what an excellent idea!

Mums learn how to share their cares

COLONEL John Holmes-Smith, command consultant paediatrician at BMH Rinteln addressed 1,600 delegates of the Pre-school Playgroups Association at their annual conference at Exeter University.

The conference attracted delegates from all over Great Britain, Belgium and the British Forces in Germany.

Colonel Holmes-Smith spoke on the theme of the conference, "Sharing the Caring", stressing the essential role of motherhood.

He pointed out how rough "Service Life" is on young

mothers, moving from the known and their extended family to the unknown and no extended family during an overseas posting.

The Pre-school Playgroup Association helps families and encourages parents to take responsibility for their children's play by becoming involved in the activities of these groups. The PPA emphasises that childcare is "fun" as well as a respon-

by

JENNY LAWSON

sibility.

He went on to say that the PPA is an association that campaigns "for" a better provision and understanding for pre-school children and their families, not an association that campaigns "against".

PPA in Germany: "The

great strides and the essential role that PPA has made in Germany" was mentioned. There are now five branches of the PPA and many areas arranging courses for mothers and playgroup staff, encouraging a mother to develop her skills.

Facts and Figures: there are approximately 50,000 children with the British Forces Germany — nearly as many children as there are soldiers.

20,000 of these are pre-school children.

DHSS grants: there was warm praise of the work of playgroups from Health and Social Security Minister Mr. Tony Newton. He said that as a mark of his department's regard for the groups the largest regular grant it awarded was to the Pre-school Playgroup Association: £383,000 in the current year. He could not yet give an exact figure for next year, but it would be a substantial one.

1984 PPA Conference BFG: arrangements have begun for the fourth annual conference in Germany.

DO YOU KNOW?

NSPCC celebrates its 100 years of work for needy children in Britain. Approximately each year 50,000 children are helped by the marvellous work of the society.

To commemorate their centenary year a £1 centenary cover has been produced by the Postal Depot at Mill Hill.

Help the NSPCC by buying a cover for your collection. Remittance with orders to: Philatelic Officer, PCDRE Inglis Bks, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1PX, cheque payable 'PCD No. 9

Account'; or NSPCC Philatelic Officer, 47 The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DQ, cheque payable to 'NSPCC'.

DID you know that members of the Armed Forces, on production of their identity card — MOD Form 90 — and regardless of rank, will be given a discount bonus of £500 off the price of a new Wimpey home, under their 1984 "Wimpey's Warm Welcome Plan".

If you want to know more you

should write to details to: Wimpey Homes Holdings Limited, Hamersmith Grove, London W6 7EN.

SSAFA is calling for more volunteers from both serving and ex-servicemen and women.

The myth that you have to be a senior officer's wife to volunteer is not true, so wives, if you feel you would like to find out more about being a SSAFA volunteer at home or overseas, write to: SSAFA Head Office, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ. (Tel 01-222 9221).

SSAFA is a friend to many thousands of Service and ex-Service families who seek help every year. Living in cities, towns and villages throughout the UK, voluntary SSAFA representatives are always ready to offer re-assurance, share worries and give immediate practical help and advice when needed.

Unemployment, bereavement, illness, old age, loneliness, insecurity — SSAFA volunteers encounter all these problems and more. They are often a vital link between a Serviceman overseas and his family at home.

Cash crisis hits at cheap home loans plan for servicemen

A SCHEME to help servicemen and women buy their own homes has been scrapped. Outgoing Adjutant General Sir George Cooper says that, because the £250 million needed to cover the cost of the interest-free loan plan could not be found the idea has collapsed.

His advice is that servicemen and women planning to buy their own homes would be "ill-advised to delay purchase in the hope that financial assistance, beyond that currently provided by the Services, will not be forthcoming."

In a letter to commands he says: "It has long been the Services' wish to improve upon the current limited provision for assistance with house purchase by introducing a scheme which would give a substantial interest free loan to Servicemen, repayable over some 10 to 12 years."

"You will know that ministers and the principal personnel officers have been keeping the scheme under continuous review. I have been intimating for some time that the likelihood of an early introduction of an AHP scheme was becoming more remote."

"However, I can now confirm that it has not been found possible to make the necessary financial provision (some £250m over the long-term costing period) to cover the cost."

"The firm indications now are that there will be no scope for accommodating the high initial/short-term cost of such a scheme in the foreseeable future, and that servicemen intending to buy their own homes would be ill-advised to delay purchase in the hope that financial assistance beyond that currently provided by the Services will be forthcoming."

"Other housing schemes including the discounted sale of MQs and other Government schemes not specifically related to Servicemen are outlined in a new Housing Guide for Servicemen due from the printers in the near future."

To help those considering buying a house, a list of publications, video and cassette aids available, is listed at the end of this article.

To add to the gloom the chances of Service families getting a council house on leaving the Service seems to be dwindling fast, for the number of council houses built each year lags behind those needing housing.

This, coupled with the increased selling of council houses, will make it more difficult for servicemen to become council tenants.

And it doesn't get any easier when sitting council tenants are offered between 33 and 50 per cent off the selling price set by the district valuer.

Setting a fast pace in the council house selling stakes is a firm of Surrey house agents who aim to sell at least half of Surrey Heath's dwellings to tenants.

With 100 per cent mortgages available — the average is around £20,000 — the deal is quite attractive

as the agents are paid by the local authority to administer the scheme at no cost to the tenant.

Since March, agents Carson and Company tell me they have been receiving at least one application a day from potential council house buyers.

Perhaps the MoD might look at their idea for our Discounted House Purchase Scheme as Carsons tell me they have had inquiries from soldiers on buying MoD married quarters.

Compared with our discounted scheme in which personnel must have reached the minimum age of 30, a serviceman could have been in a quarter since 18, more than 10 years before he is eligible to buy, and with limited houses available he does not stand much chance compared to a council tenant who only has to occupy a house for three years in order to buy.

For some houses, in the more attractive areas, even 30 years' service and more than 20 years in quarters is

not the first time Service personnel on discharge have become homeless people, often after many years service.

Do take steps and advice NOW to think about where and what type of roof you would like over your head in the future, or you could be living in a bed and breakfast as a homeless person.

The point of this article is to show that unless you start thinking about a roof over your head at the end of your service, be it 12 years or 22 years, you could find that unless you start thinking now, it could be too late to either save for a house or get your name accepted on a council house list.

To help those considering housing in the civilian field, there are a number of useful booklets cassettes and leaflets available in Army Education Offices:

1. Service Resettlement Bulletin 1/80 held by RAEC officers.
2. The Manual of Army Education Part 8, held in unit orderly rooms.
3. AFAB information sheet,

THUMBS DOWN FOR HOUSE BUYERS

not sufficient to buy the house you want.

Those houses in the more isolated areas have the disadvantage of job prospects and not being easy to let.

So, is your name on a council house list? If not, don't delay. It will take you some time to get on a list and if you don't know the local council housing rules, then ask to see the Army Education's Public Sector Housing Guide.

If you have not had a renewal slip, or had any contact within the last six months to a year, write and ask the council to make sure that your name is on the list.

Often councils don't send out reminders. Have you notified them of a change of address? If not, then your name could well be taken off the list and in one sweep of the pen, many years waiting could be lost.

It is not a foregone conclusion that you will get a council house, and it is

Serial No 11/7 held in your local FHWS or estate warden's office.

4. Public Sector Housing Guide to Current Policy of Local Authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Do ask to see this information.

If you have a house and wish to let it, then read "Letting your Home or Retirement Home 5," No. 5 a guide for home owners and Servicemen who want to let their homes temporarily. The guide is available from D of E local offices or Army Education Offices.

Ask Anne correction

A paragraph in the issue of February 27 should have read: There is NO independent group who can assess this loss; the LoA teams nor the AFPRB, are allowed to consider this aspect when assessing the pros and cons.

ASK ANNE

60 WAYS TO GET HELP

MORE than half of those entitled to claim Family Income Supplement (FIS) do not, and I have learned that a percentage of that number may be Service families.

I am told that in the UK families feel that, if they are on FIS, it might be detrimental to their husband's Service careers, as FIS is looked on as a stigma especially in some regiments.

Ladies, I can assure you it is not, if you don't claim it's your loss. You will lose what is justly yours by Government legislation.

FIS lasts for 52 weeks, regardless of your husband receiving a pay rise.

So ladies, pick up the phone and ask the operator for FREEPHONE for DHSS queries.

No name or address is required, for this month DHSS has introduced their new Freephone network, except in London where it will be introduced in the spring of 1985.

You can ask any question which is troubling you, such as: "Can I claim benefit? Is my handicapped child eligible for a benefit? How do I claim for supplementary benefit? It could be to do with sickness benefit or maternity allowance, for there are some 60 ways of claiming benefits."

The staff manning the 'phone will have an in-depth knowledge of each DHSS benefit. This will surely be a far more efficient system of making DHSS information, advice and help available to the general public. The great asset of this service is that it is anonymous, saves a journey to the DHSS and is quick.

This type of service is just what is needed in some overseas commands, not only to cover DHSS matters, but consumer advice, legal and general information.

This sort of help line is readily available in the UK from Citizens Advice Bureaux and Armed Forces Advice Bureaux and the many national charities which offer such services.

The tremendous advantage is the anonymity which is available over the 'phone, and in our fairly-closed communities this is a great help.

Many callers do not require in-depth advice or help, but just confirmation on the action they have taken.

From the calls I receive I am sure such a service would be a great help to Service families overseas.

Such a help line could be manned by dependants. It would not be undermining the chain or command or taking over from the existing agencies but would be seen as an aid to the community as a whole for everyone.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

★★

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The Golf is one of the most successful cars of all time. Where the Golf leaves off, the new Golf begins. It's roomier inside – it has better legroom, headroom and elbow room as well as 30% more luggage space. Aerodynamically, it's the most efficient car in its class. That means better economy and performance – and a larger, 12 gallon fuel tank means fewer stops at the garage. Increased travel on the front and rear suspension produces an even smoother ride and a completely new heating and ventilation system makes this Golf a superbly comfortable car to drive whether you're out on the motorway or nipping around town.

If you're a member of the British Forces with an overseas posting, or a NATO serviceman, you can buy a new Golf tax free which will save you hundreds of pounds.

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MICKS THROUGH THE MILL



The Irish Guards battle their way through to their objective.

Evacuating a casualty while under heavy fire can be a tricky business.

The potential junior commanders were having to learn some hard lessons at Vogelsang Training Camp near the German-Belgian border — and they were having to learn them quickly.

They were being pushed from pill box to post exercise administration so fast that they scarcely had time to absorb what was being flung at them.

The 31 young soldiers were at the start of the tactics phase of a course to prepare them for promotion to Lance-Corporal. Immaculate drill, always near to the heart of the Guards Division, had formed the first part of the course with the Irish Guardsmen having a chance to show their panache in front of the Queen Mother.

Later there was weapon handling with the guardsmen honing their own skills to a keener edge while learning the tricks of the instructors' trade so that they could teach and exercise the men they might soon command.

Fifteen hours a day is normal but it can

be up to 20 hours with practical work in the field interspersed with classroom lectures. Personal skills such as battlecraft and night navigation were revised and followed by section and platoon drills.

Patrolling was another important theme with a three-day exercise combining all the skills they had learned. "The Falklands showed how important a military skill the art of patrolling is. It is such a basic skill, but if you are in a patrol and can't get it right you are worse than useless" the students were told.

Chief Instructor, Colour Sergeant Larry Windle, says that confidence is the most important attribute the young soldiers will learn: "The hardest thing is to get them out there being confident. They can get the experience and the knowledge from the book later."

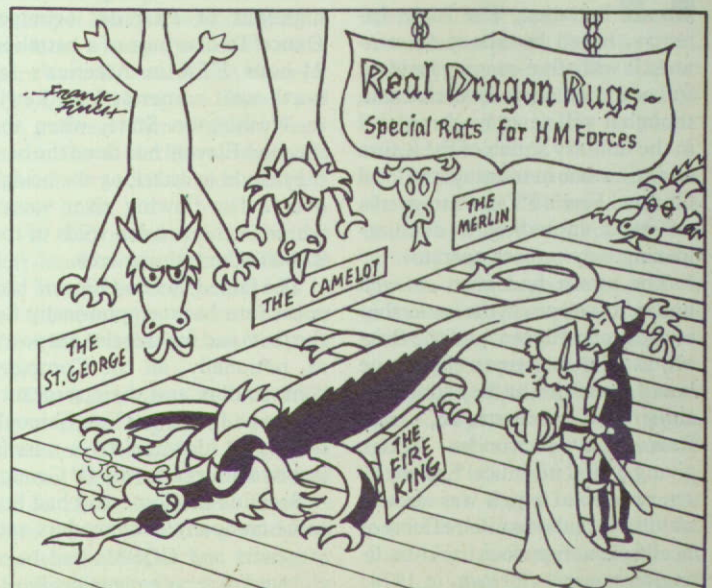
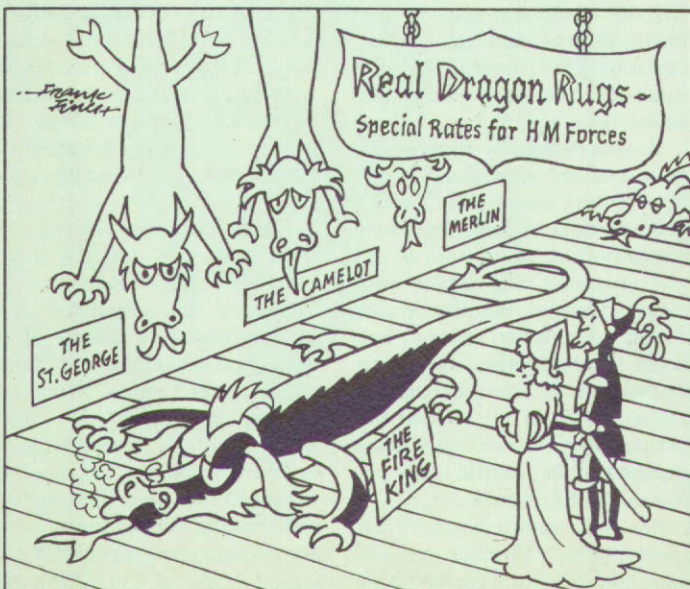
From a report by Gordon Skilling. Pictures by Sgt Stuart Andrew.



At the end of a surprise forced march.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.



*Graham Smith and Doug Pratt
joined 3 LI in
the wide open spaces of
Washington State, USA . . .*

TRUMPET SOUNDS HIGH NOTE



THE BATTLE for Nisqually Bridge by officers and men of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, lasted for about 40 minutes. It was a free-ranging incident full of impetus and invective and, though it will never be chronicled in the military annals of the future as a milestone in training, the local Channel Five's TV news team was on hand including a demure-looking lady camera operator.

The attack had been delayed under, it transpired, the leadership of a 'Second Eleven' and the Brits acquitted themselves well, despite heavy casualties, as they advanced along the shell-strewn, mini Remagen-type wooden bridge giving a vital umbilical link to the artery beyond which was already stained with the familiar effects of facelift, a notice board told us in ungrammatical German, in 1978.

expiring, all-pervading signatures of green smoke grenades.

Such was the penultimate highlight of Exercise Trumpet Dance Two as part of a battalion 24-hour FTX in America's far north-west corner at Fort Lewis in Washington State, when the 'Second Eleven' had done the best they could in attacking the bridge over a fast-flowing river somewhere in the wooden wilds of the 87,000-acre training area.

The famed 'Second Eleven' had come into bat metaphorically for the Brits and for exercise purposes as, notionally, all the Company commanders and their sergeant-majors had been 'lost' in a Chinook helicopter 'downed' by a missile just two hours after an 'O' Group.

Seconds-in-Command had become company commanders and sergeants and CQSMs had been elevated to sergeant-majors bark-

ing out orders to their young warriors amid the fog of war created with belching smoke which hid the advancing machine gun chatter and cammed-up, stooping, running and shouting British infanters as they went into enthusiastic action.

As one Nisqually Bridge 'veteran' confided to me later: "I don't know what Channel Five News is going to make of their film. Every ten seconds or so, in front of this girl operating her camera with sound facilities, familiar Anglo-Saxon four-letter nouns and seven-letter adjectives were being rasped out. It was a bit embarrassing even for me to hear but perhaps they inserted some more explosions to muffle the ex- But more of that later . . .

For in the month they have just spent training 6000 miles, an ocean and a continent away, in the glacial

pletives."

At the other end of the tree-flanked road, an elderly, silver-haired man — he said he had been a GI at Remagen 39 years ago — watched the battle from a camper with his son and grandchildren during an afternoon outing. He called out to a young infanterer who rushed past him: "God bless you, son!"

But that was the easy part. At 0505 the next day the whole battalion would take on the 'dissident' well-armed defenders of Regensburg, a clutch of 51 buildings simulating a town 'somewhere on the Central 'Front' but looking remarkably like a little Bavaria with its Fachwerkhäuser or timbered houses. The mock-up town had first been built in 1942 as a training aid and then given a and volcanically-conceived Washington State, the 650 officers and

Left: Chinook helicopters land and deploy men.

Right: American 'guerrillas' defend hilltop.

Below right: 3 LI move into the attack.

Bottom: The bridge falls and the Brits clatter across.

men of 3 LI have, it was claimed locally with typical American hyperbole, almost created as much interest, militarily-speaking at Fort Lewis as, geographically speaking, the petulant 9671-foot high, smouldering Mount Helens did four years ago.

Then, the volatile volcano — it is just a two-and-a-half hour drive away — put on an 11-hour display venting its feelings equivalent to the force of 750 atomic bombs of the size dropped on Hiroshima.

The infants' four-week presence at Fort Lewis — the second British unit to visit there this year — certainly impressed the resident Yanks and, in particular, 3/47 Infantry, 3 Brigade part of the 9th Infantry Division dubbed the 'high test-bed division'. The Americans were unstinting in their praise for the 140 paces-a-minute men of 3 LI who are recruited from five British counties.

"I think they were probably the best guys you have sent over here yet," said one 'bird' colonel (or lieutenant-colonel as we would say).

The Brits' stay at Fort Lewis was marred by the tragic death of



a 22-year-old recce platoon private, the victim of a hit-and-run driver who was later arrested. The dead soldier from Hartlepool leaves a widow and two small children and a 20-minute memorial service was held for him — conducted by Captain Derek Palmer, the Battalion padre, in one of the base's ten churches. In addition, men from the host American unit raised just over £200 in a whip-round among themselves.

Yet the dogged resolve of 3 LI's battalion group involvement in Trumpet Dance Two soon became obvious; among the British numbers were 16 cavalymen from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and ten gunners from 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, who were loaned out to differing on-post US Army units.

All had jetted out to the top left-hand corner of the USA — to the Evergreen State — by VC 10 or the new super-trooper TriStar from RAF Brize Norton (see page 30).

The battalion's 24-hour FTX involved helicopter mobile operations experience for 3 LI as, 30 at a time, they were airlifted aboard three tandem-rotored Chinooks into positions which would lead up to the Battle for Nisqually Bridge and the first light attempt

the next day at the heavily-defended Regenburt with its excellent FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Areas) facility.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Regan, Commanding Officer of 3 LI, going on promotion this month to the Ministry of Defence's Military Secretariat Branch, his face daubed by cam cream which still failed to disguise his enthusiasm for the present task, told me: "Trumpet Dance Two has been fantastic training value and the minute you are away from barracks and you can have a concentrated period like this of four weeks you can probably achieve more in that period than you would in six months back in those barracks."

"There has been a tremendous change in our training standards and I was more than happy before arriving here with what I term the low level training standards such as fitness and shooting as individual skills. This package has also given a good opportunity for the companies within the battalion to get such a good shake-out in much more advanced battlefield training."

Colonel Regan said he was particularly impressed with the Field Firing Range facilities. At

continued on page 28



Above left: Fierce action in the village. Above: ski-ing on Crystal Mountain.



continued from page 27

one location, the 150-mile distant Yakima Fire Centre, such firing could be done through almost 360 degrees. These facilities are very realistic for exercise purposes and were giving his men the best possible 'Battlefield inoculation' available.

Not were all the companies training in rotation in the wooded areas of Fort Lewis itself and the Yakima Centre with its terrain similar to that of the Middle East but they were also involved in winter survival training at a place quaintly called Huckleberry Creek in the 5600-Cascade Mountain range.

The pioneering spirit of new training surrounds for the Brits was as commendable as the men after whom Fort Lewis was named in 1805. for it was then that Meriwether Lewis, with William Clark, had been commissioned by Thomas Jefferson to cross to the Pacific via the water system of the Missouri and Colombia to open up a way for the American fur trade.

During their training at Fort Lewis the infantrymen used all their own equipment including Land-Rovers and four-tonne lorries which had been brought there by

rail flatbed from the Suffield Training area across the border in Canada.

But Regenburb was the main event as far as the lads of the Light Infantry were concerned. The enemy in civvies who still shaped up as dastardly dissidents with their M.16 rifles and M.60 machine guns were supplied by men of 2/60 Assault Gun Regiment.

The fleeting moments after daybreak would reveal all in the apparently still slumbering community, a cantonment surrounded by trees and bisected by a railway line complete with two carriages. Flares arced through the chill air bursting seconds later with all the brilliant candlepower they could muster.

At 0515 the first shots rang out from the sanctuary of the sombre tree-line. The battle had started. But the defenders in the houses were ready. The banter had stopped. Spurts of flame sprouted from carbines in the upper windows. Shouts now disturbed the earlier serenity of this picture-postcard village.

Like shooting stars, red thunder-flashes were lobbed into the deserted streets and back-yards to detonate just scant moments later. An M.60 added its familiar pattern of conversation to the proceedings somewhere to the left, probably on top of a small hummock.

Left: Learning about baseball at Fort Lewis.

But the Brits were, indeed, coming. They were getting nearer. Smoke grenades were hurled. Tinkling, discarded shell cases added another dimension as men strove to gain supremacy from house to house.

Even so, the American defenders found time to joke among themselves and those Brits unlucky enough to be cut down by a heavy calibre shell — they were told so by the umpires — dutifully lay in the place where they had fallen for up to two hours.

"Oh no, not me, sir", said one young Geordie. "I'm one of the good guys!"

As a hurried postscript after the two battles — the bridge and the village — Major Robin Garrett, the Battalion second-in-command told me: "I think the men put absolutely everything they had into it. They had bags of go in attacking what was undoubtedly a very difficult position."

He added: "It's a very good thing to practise something like this. We don't do it very often. The lesson that comes out shows one difficulty in not bunching up when you are approaching a bridge which is higher than the surrounding ground on a causeway like this at Nisqually. It really all comes down to grabbing the opportunity as it arises and not stopping. In one or two cases they held back a bit. The awarding of casualties is something worth noting, I think, because it gives that much more realism."

Not that Trumpet Dance Two was an exercise of all work and no play. The lads had a chance to exploit five well-earned days of Rest and Relaxation. Some opted for the nearness of the Seattle and Tacoma areas; others for the delights of Vancouver in British Columbia or even San Francisco.

Colonel Regan had strong thoughts on this aspect of a soldier's training. He said: "Bringing a soldier 6000 miles from home should encompass local leave which not only improves his knowledge of the country, but getting to know, in this case, the American people."

What, in his opinion, did the Americans think of 3 LI and their performance at Fort Lewis?

"We have tried hard to mesh in with the Americans as much as we can thereby learning an enormous lot from one another. They are one of our major NATO Allies and I think it's extremely important that we have a perspective of how our Allies do things."

The next overseas venture for the Tidworth-based battalion is their first resident tour of Northern Ireland early next year. They have already done seven emergency tours.

DEREK THE CLERIC

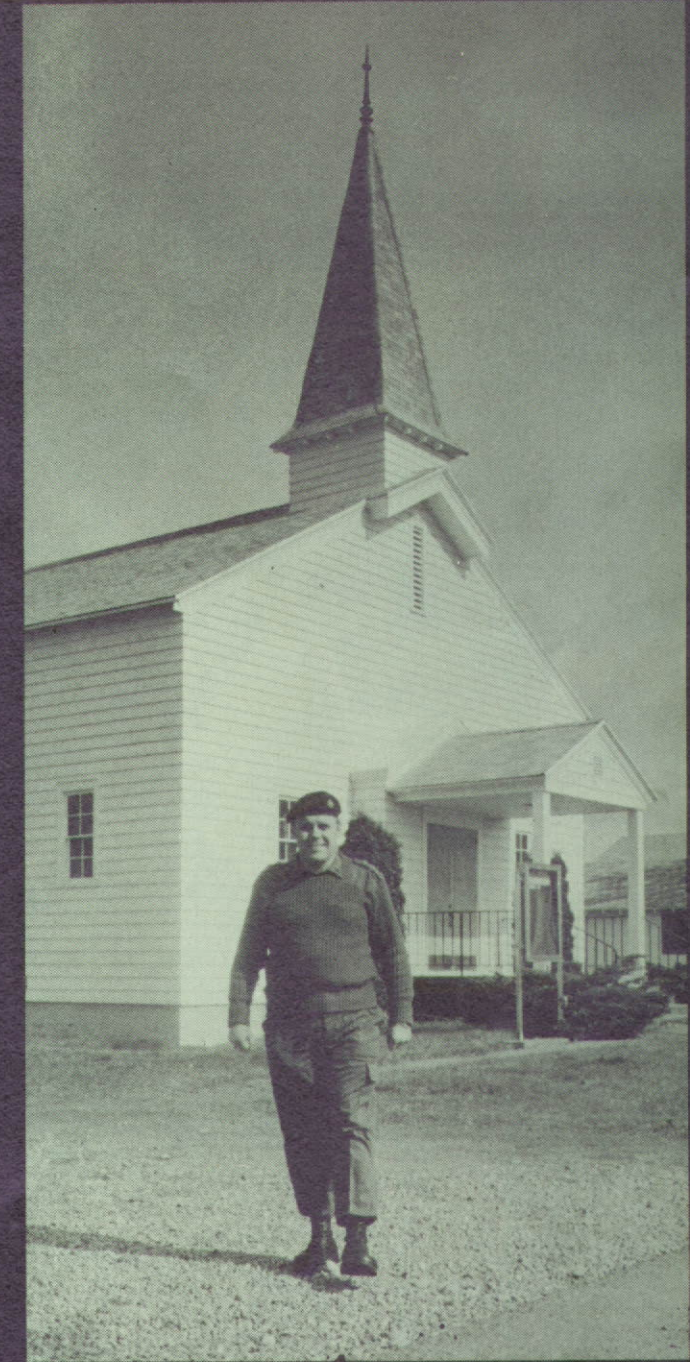
THE SOLDIERS and even some of his fellow officers call him Derek, the Cleric. But the padre of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry and a half-dozen other Tidworth-based units takes it as a compliment.

For Captain Palmer, 30, formerly a parish church curate in the market town of Leek, Staffordshire, looks upon his role as an Army chaplain with disarming candour.

Just back from a month-long exercise detachment in the far north-west of the United States at Fort Lewis in Washington State with 3 LI which recruits from five English counties, Captain Palmer is full of praise for the modern British squaddie.

So much so, that in addition to his normal duties associated with the cloth — one of them sadly, a 20-minute memorial service for a young soldier killed by a hit-and-run driver — he took on two extra roles, those of a one-man travel agency and car hire procurer for his 'flock' of 650 soldiers who had earned five days of rest and recreation after their intensive training during Exercise Trumpet Dance Two.

"Soldiers and chaplains are changing but are still well aware of the job we are here to



do. Chaplains like me are soldiers, too, but not one more than the other. We understand soldiers are human beings and we are not out to impose our morality upon them.

"I spend a lot of my time drifting between the companies chatting to the soldiers as I have no specific role in terms of their training. They are always pleased to see the padre. It means, out in the field, they stop working for five minutes."

He added: "They sometimes chat about going out the night before, getting drunk or 'pulling a bird'. They chat to me like they do to their mates. Sometimes, I don't know if they are trying to shock me or if it is because they are not quite sure if what they are doing and thinking is the right thing. It's as if they are sub-consciously telling me that because their mates think they are doing the wrong things they

need some sort of confirmation or otherwise from me. They talk freely and in very graphic language. Soldiers' language is colourful, always was and always will be. Chaplains have to live with it. It's not much use getting bitter about it.

"I'm not here to impose any morality on them. If they ask me what I think, then I tell them but I would not impose any lifestyle on them."

And by canvassed reputation, SOLDIER found that Derek, the Cleric, goes down very well with the lads.

One of them told me: "He really is a nice bloke, good kit, like. You can talk to him without being embarrassed. He's like one of the lads, I suppose."

"You wouldn't think he's a padre. He's got that common touch which all the lads like with no airs and blinking graces. He's a canny bloke all right."

Army delighted with TriStar service

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Doug Pratt



ARMY PERSONNEL seem to be well pleased with the RAF's latest additions to its jet-setting transport fleet in service with, as yet, that Services' smallest operation squadron — a pair of wide-bodied, 300-seater TriStars which first took to the military airways in July of last year.

Sergeant Alan Marks, RCT, the ATLO (Air Transport Liaison Officer) at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire — the other ATLO there is WO2 John Parsons also of the RCT — estimates that some 20,000 soldiers and their dependants have already flown in the three-engined TriStar.

The seven-mile-high trips have been during a mixture of exercises mounted from BAOR to the distant Canadian prairie land training areas near Suffield; unit deployments to Washington State on the west coast of America; ten-and-a-half-

hour flights across the inhospitable breakers of the Atlantic to Ascension Island. And, most recently, a massive battalion change-over in Hong Kong involving nearly 1000 passengers for the Brize Norton-based TriStars.

Passengers, as both ATLOs testified, are pleased with TriStar — fin numbers ZD 948 and ZD 952 — except for one thing, however. The lack of in-flight entertainment such as films and the headphones tuned into an arm-rest console giving access to different moods of music.

The military miss these features enjoyed by long-haul passengers during their last commercial flying hours under the full banner of British Airways.

"It would have been a boon to have some sort of entertainment like films especially for the fidgety kids and their long-suffering mums," grumbled one senior

Royal Irish Ranger returning on the eight-hour, 4637-mile flight from Nairobi and an exercise some 150 miles to the north of the Kenyan capital's famed safari lands.

"But," he added, a smile returning to his Irish eyes, "otherwise it's a marvellous aircraft. Room to stretch out. Room to walk about. You can't do that too well on a VC-10, you know."

The RAF bought six of the former British Airways TriStar L.1011-500 series and while two are now flying with 216 Squadron in a passenger fit, four are destined to become "filling stations" as air-to-air refuelling tankers. A decision on the passenger-carrying variety's retention and, it is rumoured, an option on five more of the airframes, is awaited.

TriStar in its trooping role literally took off in July of last year with an airborne odyssey of 3695

Royal Irish Rangers boarding a TriStar at Nairobi.

miles for 270 men of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, based at Tidworth but bound for Edmonton, Canada during Exercise Pond Jump West.

The eight-hour-ten-minute flight took the West Country-recruited regiment across Scotland to the south of Iceland, over Greenland, Baffin Island, Hudson Bay, all the while passing over a panorama of glaciers, ice fields and icebergs.

TriStar taskings are currently averaging 200 hours monthly and there are already four qualified flight deck RAF crews. During its first week of operations and the exodus to the Wild West, the two TriStars made three flights to Calgary with their soldier passengers.

All three dozen of the BA cabin staff who still cater for the needs of the RAF-flown aircraft until the end of the year are flattering in their praise for the British soldier under their charges.

Cabin Service Officer, Mike Duke, seven years on TriStars told me: "Soldiers are a super crowd and they like the type of service we offer. They don't want the 'Sir' or 'Madam' touch. They are very good to look after and they compare very favourably with many civilian passengers I have dealt with."

"The food they get is good, too. It is virtually the same as those on the Heathrow short-haul services, such as to Paris. They wolf the lot and come back for seconds. They also like information about TriStar — its routes, its height and its flight time to a destination."

Information that the 700,000 aluminium-rivet TriStar has a fuel capacity of 23,000 gallons or

enough fuel to send a family car 375,000 miles or 15 times round the world! The aircraft's radar system can spot thunderstorms or severe weather within 300 miles of the intended route.

With a maximum take-off weight of 235 tonnes, the TriStar has 100 miles of electrical wiring generating enough power to serve the needs of 170 single family homes.

One of the biggest TriStar airlifts of its young RAF history was during a six-day battalion change-over in Hong Kong in February when both made two trips each to the Far East to swap soldiers and their dependants of The Cheshire Regiment and the Scots Guards. It was an operation which involved 980 personnel and the aircraft staging through Muscat in the Oman and Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Flight Lieutenant Tony Davenport, the Deputy Senior Air

Movements Officer at Brize Norton said of TriStar and its "walking freight" — the Army passengers: "It's a lot more comfortable than the VC-10. The three cinema screens have been removed. This facility was, regrettably, withdrawn and it certainly would help to have them on long runs to alleviate boredom."

"On TriStar we are trying to segregate the smokers from the non-smoker as on commercial airlines. Our smokers are invited to occupy the rear ten rows. It's interesting to note that the Army seems to have a higher percentage of smokers than anyone else."

In "interim" livery of a blue belly and white top, the TriStar has a flight deck crew of three and a cabin staff of six serving the needs of the passengers who sit ten abreast in a three-four-three configuration.

During the early part of the

contract and RAF conversion training to TriStar — 4½ months including ground school, simulator and route flying — the aircraft have all been flown by BA personnel with RAF crewmen sitting in. RAF conversion training started in August of last year and, in February, an "all-blue" crew took one of the aircraft the 2200 miles to Akrotiri in Cyprus.

All six TriStars — they cost £25 million each — will have been converted to full military use by the autumn of 1986, according to the plan. It is said that one TriStar will be able to do the work of three VC-10s.

Record time for troop disembarkation, according to cabin steward Mike Duke, must go the 17th/21st Lancers bound for Edmonton from BAOR on exercise. They were all off on to Canadian soil — in just nine minutes!

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FAMOUS FOR TRAINING

FROM TIME to time, the Salisbury Plain Training Area has played a big but busy part in several multi-million-pound epics on celluloid both for the big cinema screen and for the television networks, the latter by way of documentaries or even commercials.

One such film is the current £14 million Walt Disney subsidiary company — Oz Productions — making of 'The Return to Oz', a sequel to the Judy Garland interpretation of 44 years ago.

This one involved 120 technicians in ten days' solid filming after six weeks of preparation and all because certain areas of Britain's most famous military training area look like . . . Kansas!

The set of heroine Dorothy's bedroom interior was re-created inside the former cinema — now used for command post exercises — on Westdown Camp; the homestead, barn and windmill were located near Chitterne while the community of "Franklin, population 17" was brought to life

near 'H' Tank Crossing not far from Tilshead.

Coincidental look-alike, complete with appealing pigtails for the late Miss Garland in the latest rendition, is nine-year-old Canadian starlet-in-embryo from Vancouver, Fairuza Balk, the youngest of 900 applicants for the role.

The military project officer providing the vital liaison between the movie makers and the acres of rented real estate amid Wessex heritage has been Major Victor Seely, The Royal Hussars, of HQ South-West District's Directorate of Army Quartering branch which has responsibility for about 9000 quarters, six major garrisons and 2000 acres of barracks.

This latest bid to film on Salisbury Plain was, like all other applications, made to the Ministry of Defence's Public Assistance office in the first instance, passed on to the DAQ and HQ South-West District involving close working with the management element of the Salisbury Plain Training Area and the Defence

Lands Agent's office. All efforts culminate in the issuing of a relevant licence before clapper boards snap shut and cameras whirl to the shout of "Action!".

Three 35-foot long lorries each totting 15 tons brought Dorothy's timber homestead from the studios in Borehamwood in Hertfordshire where it had been assembled — and then dismantled — to Middle Barn, Chitterne or, rather, 'Kansas', where the beginning and end of the film would be shot.

Another film made recently on the Plain was the screenplay of Somerset Maugham's 'The Razor's Edge' set in World War One and employing the services of some 80 off-duty soldiers from The School of Infantry at Warminster. The latter-day lads of the battlefield had to sit in dank woodland copses, pock-mocked by pools of brackish rainwater, and surrounded by field ambulances of the era.

The plot centred on American aid to the British Expeditionary Force in France before the official involvement of the Americans.

Columbia Pictures plumped for Strip Wood as the area they envisaged for northern France and a field hospital was set up nearby. The shooting was held at a time when there was no live firing, only 'dry training', and 50 film personnel descended on the site manoeuvring old vehicles and even horses up the arterial tracks of clogging mud.

Also engaged as actors for the day were men of 'A' Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment from Tidworth and men of The Royal Welch Fusiliers who came back from leave for the filming schedule. A battlefield scene was re-created at Fox Covert and the road to Imber also played its silent part for posterity.

Liaison officer for the film from HQ South-West District was Major Mike Gudgin, 4 RTR, of the Public Information staff who said: "They set up a central tented camp and the whole thing went

Keeping in touch. Major Victor Seely and Sergeant Maggie Hothersall.



— AND FOR FILMING!

like a military operation. They even posted guards to maintain their own security of access during the filming and I was surprised to see how much just like a military operation the whole thing was. The film crew was most impressed with the flexibility of the soldiers taking part, adapting to the rigours of soldiers of the Great War."

He added: "I think the visiting film crews also went away with a different impression of the military than the one they had arrived with!"

Other films made on the Plain have included the re-enactment of part of the raid on Bruneval using men from the descendant 'C' Company of 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, some of whom were dressed in German Wehrmacht uniforms defending the sought-after radar installation near the French littoral.

Part of BBC TV's splendid nature series 'Planet Earth' featuring the globe-trotting David Attenborough has also used the Plain as a setting for some detail of

minutiae.

The list is long. Commercials, too, have been made on the Plain. Like the one for the Halifax Building Society proclaimed by them to be "the world's Number One Building Society".

That 30-second commercial used the services of 300 off-duty soldiers, wives, kids and civilian staff one Saturday for five hours of filming, the 'cast' drawn from Tidworth, Bulford and Larkhill. The project had taken a week to set up.

The assembled crowd had to form up into the shape of the 'X' in Halifax, the outline of a house, move into a percentage sign and then re-form into a £ sign. And it was all done by knitting wool guidelines!

The two crowd-control stalwarts were WO1 David Gardiner, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and WO2 Brian Wright, of The Royal Corps of Transport. Overhead, a camera panned their double-company strength of extras from a lofty cherry-picker.

Liaison officer for that venture, again, was Major Seely who sent the commercial's publicists a four-page memo entitled: 'Operation Halifax'.

Mr Alec Fowler, a director of Brunings, the publicists, told me: "It was a good idea by our creative department to hit on the idea of the Army. We could not have done it without them and their discipline. They just took over for us and made it all possible."

"Our clients, the Halifax, were delirious about the outcome. The two Army Warrant Officers were perfect for the job. Once we knew the Army was going to be involved we knew we were going to be safe. It was a good move to go to the Army."

Future possibilities include a sequel to the highly-successful BBC TV drama series 'Tenko' using some huts at the Prince Maurice Barracks, Devizes. Another, is a TV game called 'Driving Force' involving showbiz person-

alities and famous rally drivers including a sequence on a 56-tonne Chieftain tank belonging to 4 RTR.

Major Seely, in the "film business for about ten months" told me: "It's all really taken off this year because of the military organisation which we can use to help film companies achieve their aims. None of this filming activity interferes with the military training requirements on the Plain and all military resources used by the film-makers are paid for and those officers and soldiers who co-operate in the films take leave to do so."

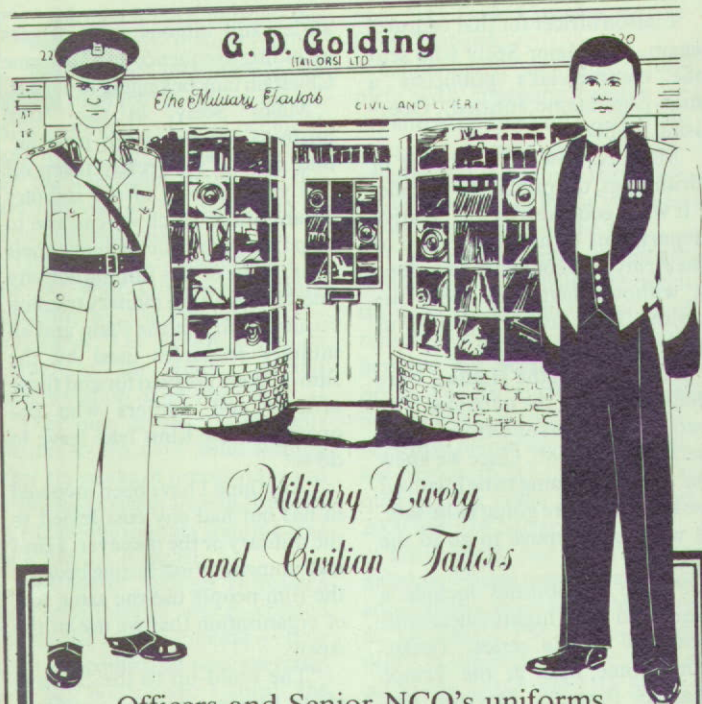
"Anything I have been involved in has not had any cost levied to the military or the taxpayer. I find it all immensely interesting because the film people use the same sort of organisation that we use in the Army."

"The build-up to the 'Return of Oz' film was just like a military operation. They produced movement orders, they carried out recces and the whole exercise ran on time."

Below left — shades of World War One and, right, World War Two.



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No. 61

THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS

Study carefully the design of the current head-dress badge of this Regiment and you will see that it is adorned with the evidence of over two hundred years hard soldiering during which time many memorable Battle Honours have been awarded.

In the centre, in pride of place, is the stringed bugle horn, a distinguishing badge common to the 43rd Light Infantry and the 52nd Light Infantry who combined in 1881 to become the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and later the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and of the



King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade.

These three regiments came together to form The Green Jackets Brigade in 1958. At that time they were designated as three Battalions The Green Jackets thus: 1st Bn G J (43rd and 52nd); 2nd Bn G J (King's Royal Rifle Corps) and 3rd Bn G J (The Rifle Brigade).

On 1 January 1966 they

became one large Regiment, The Royal Green Jackets and on 1 July 1968 the sub-titles were omitted.

The format of the badge is strongly reminiscent of the former badges of both the KRRC and the RB displaying 15 Battle Honours on the arms of the Maltese Cross and two most notable honours elsewhere.

On the tablet under the St. Edward's crown "Peninsula" (which is common to all four originals who saw service in Spain) and at the base of the cross appears the Naval crown and the honour "Copenhagen 2nd April 1801", which commemorates the service of The Rifle Corps, as the Rifle Brigade was then known, acting as marines upon the express wish of Lord Nelson.

On the arms of the cross the Honours will be found to be shared, some by all original regiments, others such as Salamanca and Ladysmith by two of the components and yet others, like Inkerman and Nonne Bosschen, by one.

Finally there are three on the lowest arm, very much in living memory, of the 1939-45 War — Calais, El Alamein and the last once again leaping into the limelight forty years on, "Pegasus Bridge".

For those interested in this regiment's badges, or indeed anyone even mildly interested in military history, no better suggestion can be made than for a visit to be paid to their superb Museum at the Regimental Headquarters on the hill at Winchester in Hampshire.

HUGH L. KING.

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and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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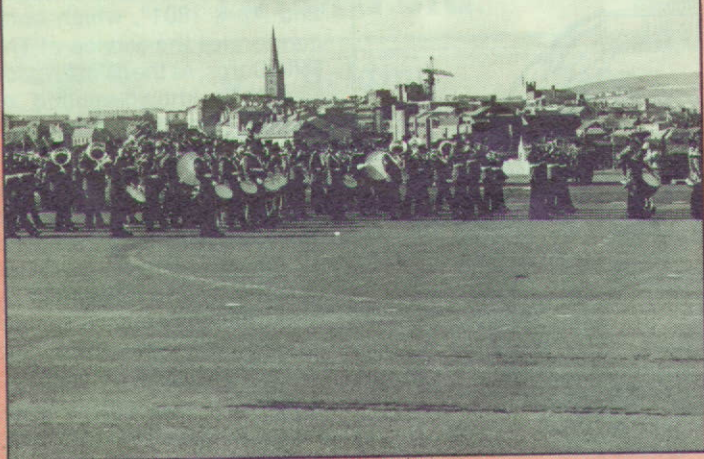
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QUEEN'S STEP OUT



The band of 2 Queens parades for the last time at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry.

Northern Ireland's two main cities were treated to a splash of ceremonial by the Queen's Regiment — of which all three regular Battalions are currently serving in the province writes *Jim Allaway*.

First it was Belfast's turn as the regiment exercised its privileges as holders of the Freedom of the City by marching from the Royal Belfast Academical Institution to City Hall, where 12 men from each battalion were greeted by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Alfie Ferguson.

Then, at Londonderry there was a parade at Ebrington Barracks to mark the disbandment of the Band of the 2nd Battalion and the formation of two new bands, to be known as the Albuhera and Quebec Bands, The Queen's Regiment.

A band has traditionally accompanied its battalion to each new posting and now the Albuhera and Quebec Bands — named for two of the Regiment's greatest

battle honours — will go with two of the three Regular battalions.

The Third Battalion now in Belfast on a roulement tour — the 1st is at Omagh and the 2nd at Londonderry — traces its own individual history back to the 35th Regiment of Foot, which was actually raised in Belfast by the Earl of Donegall in 1701. This Regiment adopted Sussex as its home county in 1804 and became The Royal Sussex Regiment in 1832 — but the Belfast connection was remembered when it received the Freedom of the City in 1961.

In 1966 the county regiments of Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Middlesex merged to form The Queen's Regiment, which has its home at Canterbury. The 3rd Battalion will return there in 1986 from Fallingb., where it is normally stationed as part of BAOR's 7th Armoured Brigade, assigned to the defence of NATO and the North German Plain. Its roulement tour in Northern Ireland ends in June.



Drum Major of 1 Queens, Nigel de Warrenne-Waller, putting his best foot forward.

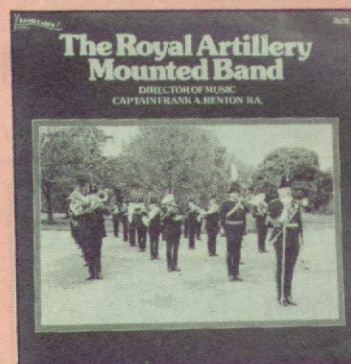
ON THE RECORD with Rodney Bashford



Royal Artillery Mounted Band Conductor: Captain F. A. Renton. Bandleader BND 1013

Formerly an Aldershot based band who 'did the chores' for the Mons Officer Cadet School, the dismounted band now takes its turn with the others on overseas duties. Here they give a programme half devoted to marches and half to good quality light music, a pattern best suited to military bands.

It is some years since a Gunner band played all the regimental music on disc so the programme includes a new version, combining *The British Grenadiers* and *Alford's Voice of the Guns*, which was adopted as an official march in 1983. The fine slow march *Duchess of Kent* of course, and all the *Trots* and *Canterers* in current use preceded by the appropriate trumpet calls, but no *Screw Guns* unfortunately. There is, however, a march *Battle*



Axe Company by Robert Quinn and another by Donald Thorne called simply *The Gunners*. Two French marches, *Lorraine* and *La Reve Passe*, and a great British march *The Triumph of Right* fill the rest of side one.

In extreme contrast on side two we have William Byrd's *Earle of Oxford's Marche* in the ancient style, and Artie Shaw's *Swing Concerto for Clarinet*, the latter very professionally played by Sgt Paul Murrell. An off-beat *Serenade* by Derek Bourgeois is an attractive hybrid of Ronnie Binge's 'Elizabethan Serenade' and Dave Brubeck's 'Take Five' while Robert Washburn's *Burlesque* is a witty recycling of other people's weaker moments. A classic Russian favourite is the *Sailor's Dance* from Gliere's ballet *The Red Poppy*, followed again by contrast in Jerry Herman's *Mack and Mabel*, a medley which served as curtain-raiser for the musical known as *Mame*. A sign of the times, perhaps, is that the band sounded more at home with the modern stuff than the marches, but all in all a mercifully unhackneyed programme.

Bandstand

Band of the Royal Corps of Transport. Conductor: Major T. A. Kenny. Bandleader BND 1011.

Major Kenny's programme too is of new music or rarely heard oldies, a concert likely to be heard on any bandstand in any park or pierhead on a sunny afternoon. It needs to be sunny, for there's nothing more pathetic (as we know so well) than a band doing its light-hearted, even humorous, best on a cheerless day in a dog-infested park.

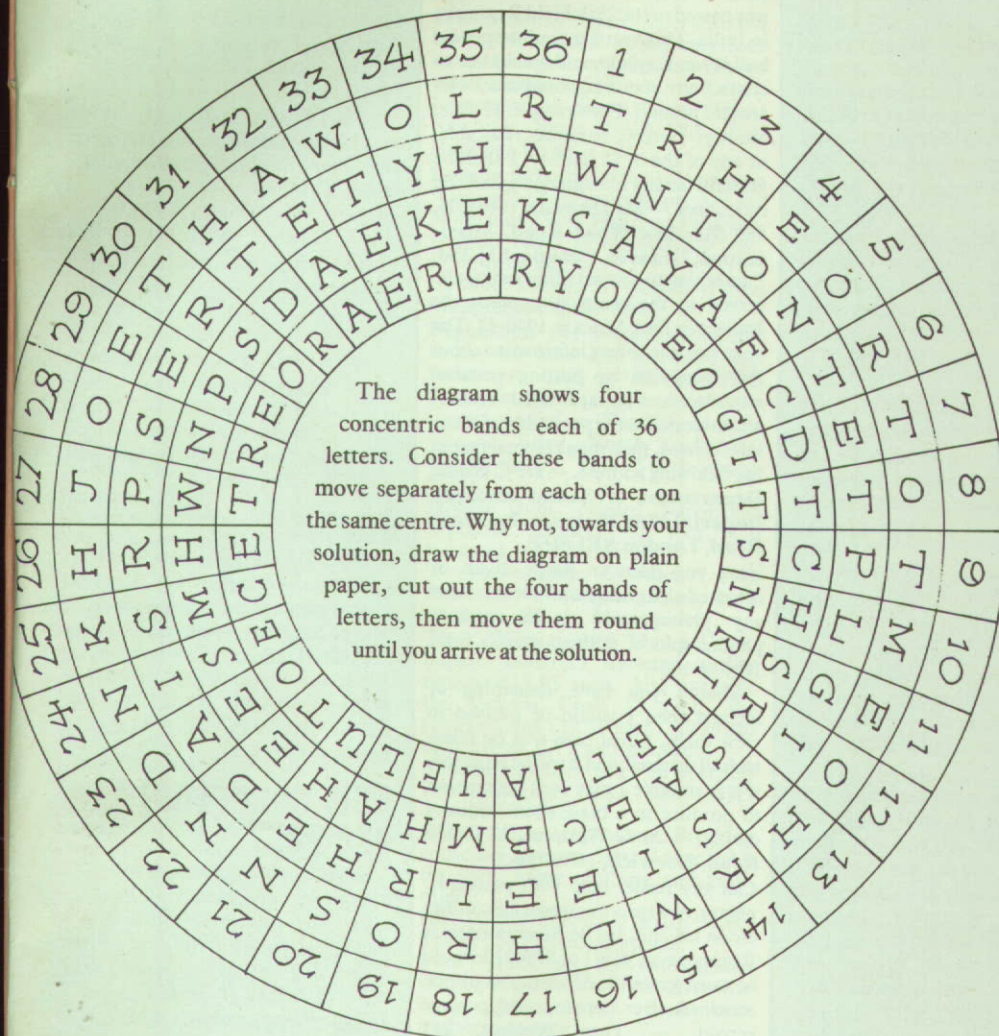
This particular concert might even defeat a stormy day in southcliff-on-Mud. One of the most rousing of regimental marches *Wait for the Wagon* sets the scene for a string of solo items featuring the horn in *Carillon* by Herbie Flowers, the trombones in Jerry McColl's *Free and Easy*, the xylophone for Alf Young's duet *Glad Chatter*, trumpet in Terry Kenny's own *Trumpet By Candlelight*, and the drum section in Sidney Torch's *Drumsticks for Two*. All good stuff and nicely played.

Like all good band programmes it contains a few marches and an overture, these being a *Spanish March* by Josef Matys, *Ship to Shore* dedicated to the Maritime Division of the Corps, and *88th Regiment*, a Czech march by Jan Kalensky. A composer usually represented on record by his great marches is Julius Fucik, whose overture *Marinerella* is an old favourite with bands. A medley



Trumpton and Friends featuring the local fire brigade, Mr Benn, and Postman Pat defeats me completely, but doubtless the children in the audience will know all about it. A *Mountain Patrol* based on the tune *Lord of the Dance*, *Music Box Dancer* used, I am assured, as the signature tune for *Around With Alliss*, Harry Mortimer's *Napoleon Galop*, and a *Bourée* from Terpsichore make up a programme designed to blow away those boarding-house blues, and succeeds effortlessly.

LITERARY CIRCLES



The diagram shows four concentric bands each of 36 letters. Consider these bands to move separately from each other on the same centre. Why not, towards your solution, draw the diagram on plain paper, cut out the four bands of letters, then move them round until you arrive at the solution.

COMPETITION 338

All you have to do is to rotate the circular bands clockwise or anti-clockwise until, by reading from the outer band to the inner band thirty-six times (that is, in the manner (1) TWSY; (2) RNAO; (3) HIYO, etc. — not necessarily in strict numerical order) you will, if you read correctly, find the titles of seven famous novels followed in each case by the name of the author.

Your reading starts at No. 1. You may go to any number next (that is, for example only — 1, 24, 5, 33, etc.).

The solution may be approached by using four horizontal strips of letters instead of drawing the concentric circles.

What are the seven novels? Name the authors!

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 8 June. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 2 July. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 338' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence can be entered into. Send your answers in by letter or postcard with the 'Competition 338' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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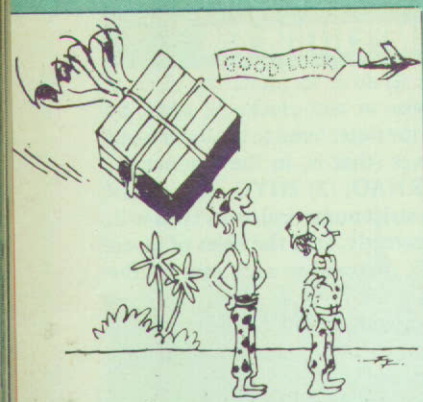
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Help Cadets

As an ex-Army cadet 1943-49 followed by national service and TA, I find it hard to criticise an officer, but refer to the letter from Capt C A W Ratcliffe insinuating that your readers in general are sick of cadets appealing for equipment not supplied by the Government.

I for one feel that all the money wasted trying to correct young criminals, when it's too late, could be used for better facilities for the Services cadets.

We look to the officer class to press the case for its Service units, but as always it will be left to the present and ex-NCOs and men to really run the Services and for the officers to adorn.

As cadets of 'H' Coy, 1st London Queen's, we started a boxing team with a set of old thrown away gloves with horse hair hanging out of them and a kit bag filled with sand. Then my brother acquired or purloined a punch ball and gloves from the German Army.

Whilst the Territorial Army sports equipment was locked away and to my knowledge never ever used, to get the feel of boxing rings we would go to civilian clubs.

It is true to say that our A and B Coys at Southwark were well equipped because they were adopted by Haileybury College, Hertford, but things never, ever filtered through to H Coy.

We still managed to produce champions and professional boxers with sparse equipment and much enthusiasm. One, Ernie Fossey is still training champions today, including Joe Bugner.

The average civilian thinks that cadets only have to ask and the Government will provide but an officer should know better. There are not better citizens than a Service cadet whose motto should be: Impecunious but Triumphant. — **Mr RD Billows**, 35 Penrhyn Crescent, Walthamstow, London, E17 5BH.

No, Captain R.

I feel I must reply to the letter in SOLDIER (9 April) from Capt Ratcliffe, 5/8 Vol Bn, The King's Regt, obviously one of the more obscure TA units, and comment on his remarks regarding "impecunious cadets".

As an adult instructor in the Army Cadet Force I am in a position to give Capt Ratcliffe some facts of which he must not be aware.

Before a cadet is issued with any kit he must provide his own boots (£12 to £25). He is then issued with a beret with the badge of the TA unit to which he is affiliated, 2 KF shirts, a 'woolly pulley', combat trousers and work belt, puttees and an anorak. Some units are lucky enough to be issued with combat jackets in lieu of anoraks — my unit is one of them.

The stores hold a small number of sets of 37 pattern battle order webbing. We use Lee Enfield No 4 Rifles — still the finest individual weapon ever issued to the British Army and the faithful Bren Gun.

Everything else which a cadet wishes to have such as 58 pattern webbing (£75 new), combat jackets (£30-£35), sleeping bag (£10-£100) etc must be purchased by himself or his parents, unlike the TA where everything is provided.

When a cadet goes to camp or any other training away from his base drill hall he pays for the privilege. We as a unit run our own bus which we pay for ourselves, otherwise private hire buses must be used — more expense for the lads.

Fortunately a lot of TA units are a bit more understanding than Capt Ratcliffe appears to be. 7th Light Infantry to which we are affiliated are extremely helpful, including senior cadets in a number of their activities and are more than prepared to lend us equipment not on issue to cadets such as 58 webbing etc.

The only things not in short supply in a cadet unit are enthusiasm and dedication. They are plentiful. I am sure any cadet unit in Capt Ratcliffe's area would be more than pleased to show him how the unit functions on a very tight budget and perhaps the next time he collects his pay, bonuses and allowances he might remember that cadets give time and energy free and are a good recruiting ground providing trained and disciplined young men for both the TA and Regular Army — **Sgt Ins B S Fawcett**, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham.

Band Fight

D J Macleod of Lancing, Sussex, invites readers to support him in his crusade to get the politicians to keep their hands off our Army bands. I think I ought to be able to do just that having spent 42 years in uniform as a musician etc.

Had the late Hector Atkins still been around he would have fought and fought again for the Army bands. There is even talk of the possibility of closing Kneller Hall, which has had such a magnificent record over the past 127 years.

During my long period of service during which time I served in every rank from Band Boy to Bandmaster and finally as a Director of Music in a former Colony, I served in 13 countries and learned the value of Army bands.

More tense situations have been solved by Service musicians and their Bands than by the efforts of statesmen, politicians, diplomats and others. To 'cut back' on Bands and their permitted

establishments is just one more piece of our national heritage chipped away. Even the Soviet bloc nations can afford good Service Bands. So can we! — **B G Wootton LRAM ARCM**, 5 Dagmar St, Worthing, BN11 1LA.

Can you help?

In 1934 I joined the RA Boys Depot, Borgard Section. Then as a trumpeter, was posted to the 28th Field Regiment in India. This year I intend to spend a holiday in England, and would like to contact any of our ex-trumpeters who are still around. For example: Hindle, Sankey, Lavery, Rudman, Bastable, or any of the 3/57 Battery. I shall be grateful for any information passed on by readers. — **Mr J Stewart (840401)**, 549 Meadow Wood Road, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5J 2S4. I am trying to contact other ranks who served in the campaign against the Italians in East Africa in 1940-41. The objective is to collect information about this campaign by putting personal reminiscences on tape. If any readers are interested in the possibility of being interviewed, they should contact me at the following address. — **Dr C Wood**, Department of Sound Records, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ.

Have you been an Army diver, or operated alongside them? Do you have any photographs? I am seeking photographs of military drivers from 1837 to 1884.

Should you have something of interest then I would be pleased to view them, Great care will be taken with all material, and it will be returned. If it is suitable I may seek permission to produce in a book about military diving. — **M G Welham**, 17 Corie Road, Norwich, NR4 7JB.

Can any reader help with postcards, photos, newspaper or magazine cuttings etc on 1st, 2nd, 3rd Bn Monmouthshire Regiments in WW1 or WW2? I would be most grateful. All items would be returned after copying and postage repaid. — **Tom Weston**, 211 Churchill Ave, Chatham, Kent, ME5 0DQ.

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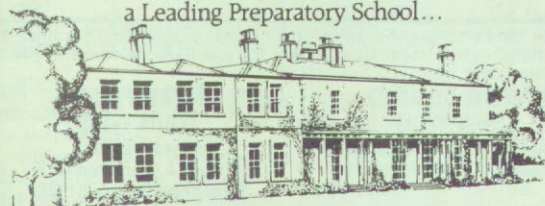
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PADDY BREAKS THE DEADLOCK

SEME 1 45 Field Regt RA 0

SEME retained the Army Cup at Aldershot in beating the Rhine Army cup winners by the only goal of the match to add to their incredible record of seven appearances in the last 11 finals. While the game never rose to any great footballing heights it was entertaining, well constructed and interest was maintained until the final whistle.

SEME opened strongly and the first real chance fell to Craftsman Gary Whittingham — who headed over the bar from close in. At the other end Sergeant Steve Rose was called upon to clear his line with keeper, Warrant Officer 2 Mike Gibson stranded. Both sides had a number of chances early on but as defences warmed to their tasks it became obvious where the two sides had their strengths.

Both had great records on the way to the final. SEME had notched 38 goals with only two against and 45 Field Regiment 25 and only three against.

Chances thus became few and far between. SEME almost grabbed a goal just before the interval when a loose ball suddenly appeared at Whittingham's feet. But Lance-Bombardier Paul Harman, the gunner keeper, charged down his shot on the goal line.

The second continued to follow a similar pattern with the ball swinging from end to end and both custodians making fine saves. Gibson went full length to palm a shot by Lance-Corporal Jimmy Gardner past his right hand post.

Not to be outdone Harman made two incredible saves within the space of a minute. He managed to

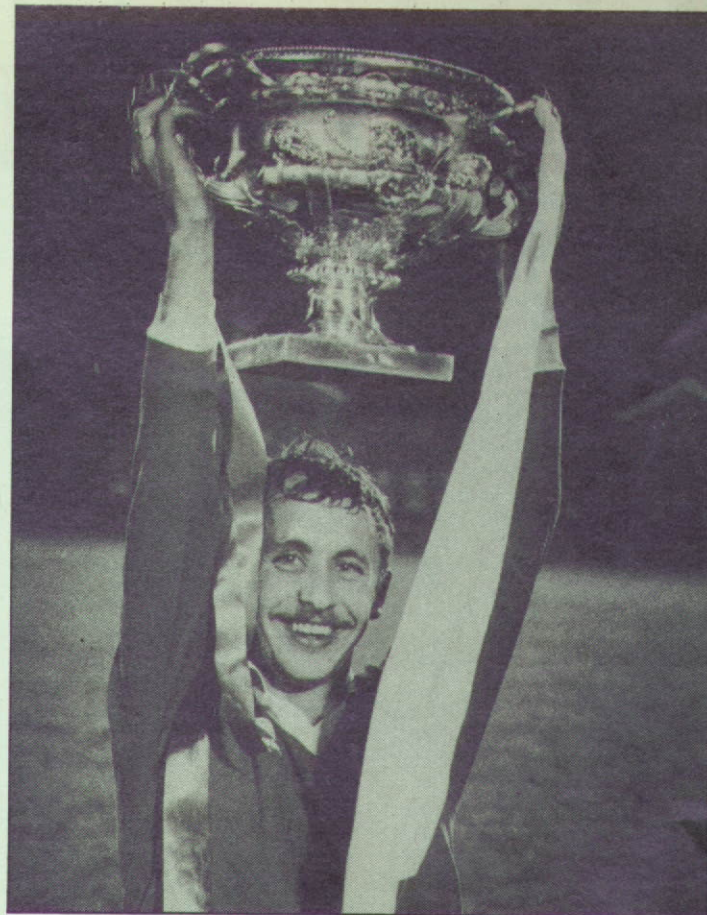
push over the bar a perfect header from SEME skipper, Lance-Corporal Dickie Briggs then a header from Craftsman Paddy Smyth looked an odds on goal until Harman diverted it.

As both teams tired errors became more numerous and excitement mounted. SEME played their trump card when they introduced Craftsman 'Buck' Buckley as substitute. He made a tremendous impact on the right flank getting the tiring 45 defence into all sorts of trouble. He floated one cross which Whittingham handed on to an unmarked Briggs who tried to control the ball and shot wide from six yards.

The goal came five minutes from time. Buckley decoyed the gunner defence out and whipped across a ball which Briggs headed onto former Irish schoolboy international, Smyth, who headed the ball across the goal into the corner of the net.

The gunners made desperate efforts to retrieve the situation and Sergeant Danny McQuade went close — but SEME triumphed once again.

The jubilation on the face of matchwinner, Craftsman Paddy Smyth is captured (above right).



Wembley Beckons

By John Elliott

Corporal Horace Miles (1 RGJ) and Private Carl Crook (1 Para) are just one bout away from an appearance at Wembley. Both won their All England semi-finals at Gloucester on April 4, without doubt the most testing round of the George Wimpey ABA national boxing championships.

Now they go on to the GB semi-finals at Manchester, at which point the champions of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland come into the competition.

Miles scored a sensational win over London heavyweight Robert Albon at Gloucester, twice bowling him over in the opening round with vicious combinations of hooks and uppercuts, and knocking him out with a wicked right hook 50 seconds into round two.

On this form Miles must be a favourite for the title and well in contention for the Los Angeles Olympic squad.

Crook had a much tougher assignment in the lightweight division where he drew North Western golden boy Brian Roche, a hot tip for the title. Roche, who had beaten ABA champion Kenny Willis in an earlier round, kept Crook under tremendous pressure with a non-stop barrage of hooks to head and body.

But the Army champion moved

beautifully, rarely missed a chance to punish Roche with stinging counter-punches, and did extremely well to win on a split decision one of the most fiercely contested bouts on the marathon 24-match bill.

Young John McLean's outstanding ABA run came to an end against England international flyweight John McBride of the Repton club. The 17-year-old Apprentice Tradesman from Chepstow stuck bravely to his guns and, bloodied but unbowed, had the satisfaction of taking McBride the full distance.

Joining Miles and Crook at Manchester will be two other Combined Services representatives, AB Brian Schumacher and Marine Keith Ferdinand of the Royal Navy.

MINOR UNITS RUGBY

TOPOGRAPHICAL TRIUMPH



IT WAS THIRD TIME LUCKY for 14 Topographical Squadron, Royal Engineers in the Army Rugby Minor Units Cup Final at Aldershot. For the past two years the Ratingen, Germany, based team had been on the losing end in the final but this year they triumphed 7-6 over 3 Field Workshops REME.

In a good, fast, open match the REME side went ahead by two penalty goals. But in the second half the sappers staged a strong revival and went on to take the trophy with the aid of a try and a penalty goal. Pictured above a scene from the game with the sappers in possession.

IN BRIEF

1 Kings, winners of the Army Open Championship the last time it was contested, took the Army Novices Grade 3/2 team title when they beat 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment by

six bouts to three at Osnabrück.

★ ★ ★

The Army regained the Inter-Services Women's Netball Championship which they lost to the WRAF last year. After thrashing the Navy 60-19 they won a cliffhanger with the WRAF by 44 goals to 34.

Meet Gordon Neale, the Army's

'MR VOLLEYBALL'

VOLLEYBALL is one of the fastest growing sports in the British Army. One man can claim much of the credit for its conversion from a game played by soldiers to get exercise and relieve boredom in far flung posts to one in which the Army now competes on a national level.

He is Colour Sergeant Gordon Neale, a Royal Green Jacket instructor with the TA, who gathered together the first ever Army team back in 1975 and led the successful fight for recognition as an Army sport.

Like most soldiers Gordon had played volleyball at stations in many parts of the world from Northern Ireland to the jungles of Borneo. "For years and years it has been played by just putting a net up and throwing a ball around but when I joined a civilian club I found a completely different game."

Soon his other sports, water polo and basketball, began to take a back seat as he set about to organise the game in the Army. An appeal through SOLDIER in 1975 for players to contact him with a view to forming an Army team led to an entry in a tournament open to all the Services as well as such bodies as the police, the fire service and the prison service.

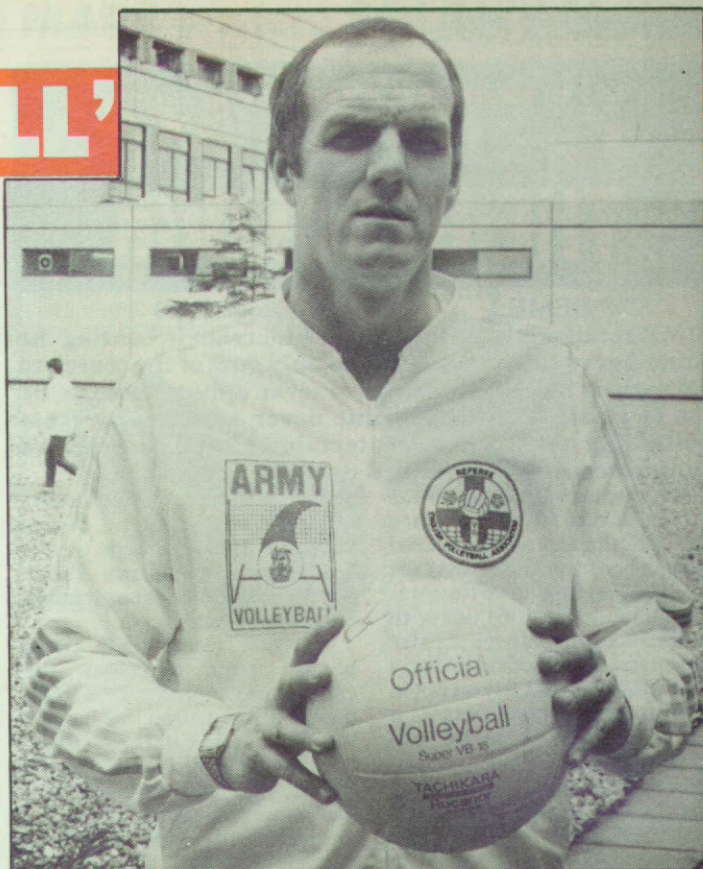
"People had written to me but I had never seen them. I got them together the night before the tournament and I almost cried," recalled Gordon. "The people I got were like I had been not long before — they had never played to a decent standard. We were annihilated — but it was a start."

More people were attracted through SOLDIER's columns and in 1977 the sport was officially

recognised and put under the wing of Army basketball. Today Neale has a squad of 40 players and last season they entered the National League for the first time.

That first season was not very successful because the Army is widely spread and players are often abroad or unavailable. Yet Neale is optimistic: "Volleyball is still not recognised by many units but we are slowly getting there and we are now starting to get good players joining the Army — including three schoolboy internationals."

Gordon Neale referees National League games and still plays in the Army team. He runs courses for officials and players within the Army and is always on the look out for new material. And he dismisses as a fallacy that you have to be tall to play well — although he is 6ft 2ins himself. "One of the best players in the Army team at the moment is only 5ft 6ins. What you do need is to be agile — the ball is hit at up to 80 miles an hour and is still picked up before it hits the floor. It is a team game full of comradeship and of course there is no direct confrontation between the teams so there are no fouls to



cause discontent on the actual court."

He predicts that next season will be a better one for the Army: "A lot of interest has been stimulated in the sport. More and more units are playing at a decent standard and it's going to take off."

Anyone interested in taking up the sport should contact Colour Sergeant Neale at 4(V) RGJ, The Cedars, Portway, London E15 (Tel: 01-472 0140).

Paul Haley's full colour shot opposite shows runners on the TA annual cross-country competition at Catterick. The rugged course and the rapidly changing weather — from snow to sunshine — provided a gruelling test for the TA and for Regular Army runners taking part in the event for the first time.

RUGBY

THREE WAY SPLIT

ARMY

AFTER LOOKING like potential Inter-Service champions throughout the first half of their clash with the RAF at Twickenham the Army faded away after the interval in the face of a quick witted and incisive performance from the airmen.

So the title is shared three ways for the first time for six years. But the sprinkling of spectators who turned up at Rugby's giant showcase were rewarded with a match which never got bogged down with petty infringements or grinding wars of attrition. The number of points scored reflects this — it was the highest in an Inter-Service game since 1976.

The Army were off like greyhounds out of their traps. In 89 seconds they had a 3-0 lead through a penalty by kick specialist, Lieutenant Geoff Nield — and a third of that time was taken up by Nield preparing for his kick.

Displaying a flair which never deserted them throughout the game the RAF nearly broke back when Bate latched onto a high punt and almost burst through the ranks. But Nield had two more penalty attempts and with the second, after

15

ten minutes, he extended the Army lead to six points.

Determined not to let the Army out of sight the RAF pressed hard and eventually their pressure was rewarded with a beautiful try. The ball emerged from the scrum on the left hand side of the pitch and passed swiftly hand to hand until it reached an unchallenged Allison who touched down in the other corner. Evans calmly converted and the scores were level again.

The handful of RAF supporters in the stand broke into 'The Dambusters March' but three minutes later their own dam burst when Nield burst through the defence and passed to Corporal Peter Lockitt, who shot round to plant the ball behind the post. Nield had no trouble with the conversion.

Both sides showed a commitment to flowing Rugby for the rest of the half without further addition to the scoreline. Best chance went to Corporal Kevin Bassom for the Army who raced down the field but was stopped five yards short of the line.

Immediately after the restart the RAF went onto the offensive and

RAF

after four minutes Evans reduced the deficit with a penalty goal and shortly afterwards the RAF took the lead for the first time in the match.

International, Pilot Officer Rory Underwood made a superb run along the edge of the field, brushed off the attentions of two Army defenders and touched down by the flagpost. Faced with a difficult conversion Evans was unlucky to strike the upright.

Shortly afterwards Nield left the field injured and the Army defence was starting to look fragile. Evans added a beautiful drop goal and despite Army attempts at running the light blues looked ever threatening. A further drop goal from Evans completed the RAF scoring with 11 minutes left for play.

The Army tried desperately hard to get back into business and Lockitt crossed the line only for the try to be disallowed by the referee. Substitute Sergeant Mickey Blomquist did manage to cut the lead to four points with a well judged penalty goal but the result was a fair reflection of the two sides on the day.

19

COLTS TRIUMPH

At Aldershot the same day the Army became Inter-Services Colts champions by beating the RAF 18-10 in an exciting and entertaining match. This despite being short of a few key players, including Private George Graham (Argylls) who was playing for Scotland Under-18 against West Germany.

The RAF forwards put a lot of pressure on the Army and produced plenty of good ball for their backs who always looked dangerous. But the Army won because they showed more resourcefulness and made more of fewer opportunities.

Gunner Mike Stewart (49 Field Regt RA) ran in two excellent first half tries, both of which were converted by skipper, Craftsman Ian Flowers (Arborfield) to give the Army a 12-0 halftime lead.

The RAF came back in the second half but a fine try from Private Lindsey James (RMP Training Centre, Chichester), again converted by Flowers, sealed the match. Nine of this year's capped players are young enough for Colts football next season.





SOLDIER