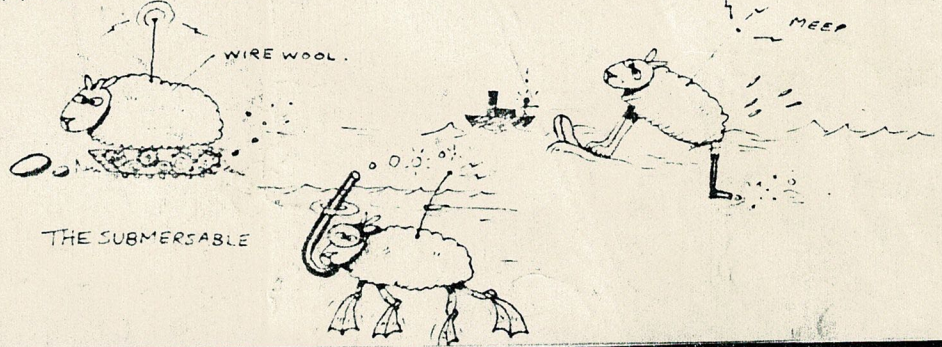
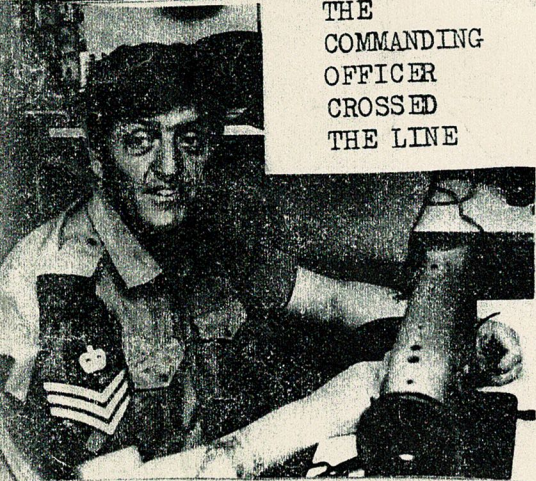


MR 2 FOR ROUGH TERRAIN.

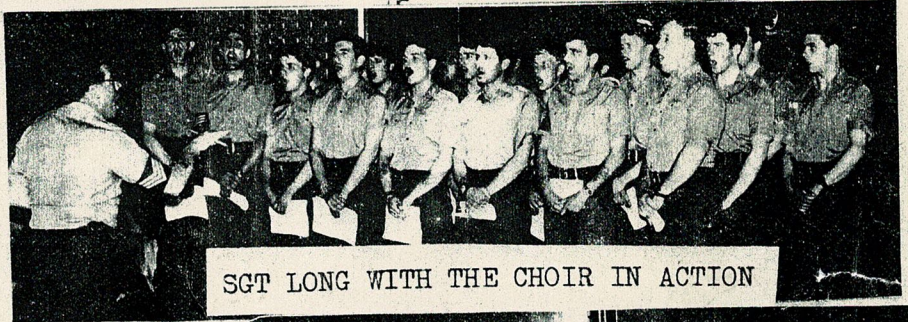
MR 3 AMPHIBIOUS.



THE SUBMERSABLE



THE COMMANDING OFFICER CROSSED THE LINE



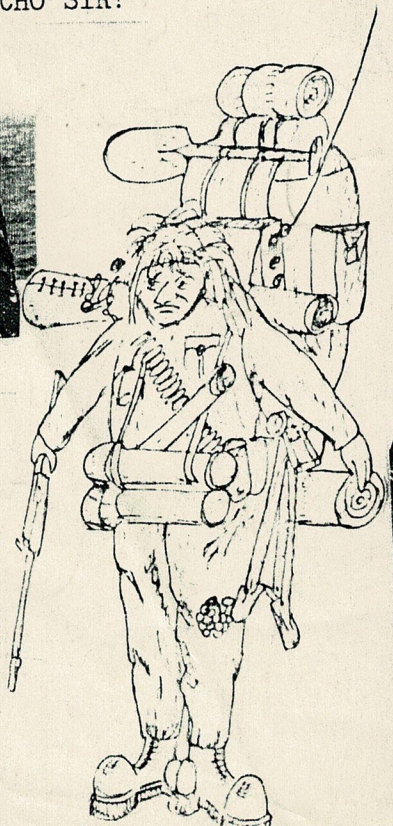
SGT LONG WITH THE CHOIR IN ACTION

PIN STRIPED PONCHO SIR?

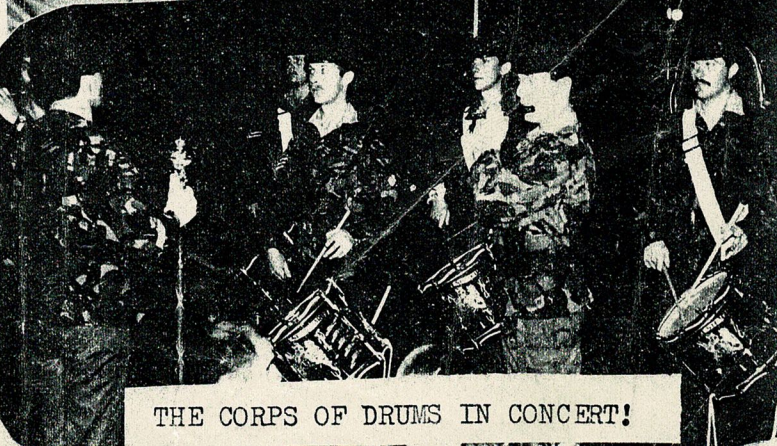


JACK

ORCS



CAPT MINOPRIO CSgt MORGAN 40
CSgt THORNE CSM COTTERRALL



THE CORPS OF DRUMS IN CONCERT!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

By the time we reach our RV on the 27th we shall have been on board the QE2 for 15 days. It really seems ages since we waved goodbye at Southampton.

We will take 36-48 hours to tranship all our equipment to RN shipping and a further two days before we arrive at the Falklands. On present plans we should be there on 30th/31st May.

As I told you all yesterday we do not know yet what our exact task will be. This will obviously depend on the progress of 3 Commando Brigade and how long the Argentines hold out before surrendering. All will become clearer at the time of our trans-shipment.

I know that whatever we are required to do, we will all carry it out to the very best of our ability in the finest tradition of our regiment. We are trained and prepared both physically and mentally; our morale is sky high and we are thoroughly confident. I wish you all the very best of luck; do your duty. May God bless us all.

To our families and friends I say simply, please do not worry; have faith in us. We will take the greatest care.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

During the past two weeks the Prince of Wales's Company has continued to use the QE2 facilities to the best advantage in operation for our coming tasks. Maj SAYLE having introduced Spanish lessons into the training programme is constantly being held to ransom by members of the Company....Maros Ariba! - Hands Up!

In One Platoon 39 Davies is being taught how to manoeuvre his lips around Spanish phrases and Gdsm Browne has learnt how to surrender in Spanish (now that's positive thinking!). Grimshaw, Angus, 31 Jones and Teague take it in turns to go to the loo with what they term as "Spanish Tammy". Blythin became a lot older last week with his birthday rather than a clip round the ear from Sgt Jennings who is still desperately waiting for his snorkel to come through. LCpl Cordy and LCpl Brinkworth are both very happy now that they have found suitable accommodation in the Dog's Kennel beneath the Ship's funnel! LSgt "Bookworm" Carlisle is busy with his E.P.C. and it is rumoured that Gdsm Marks and James are helping him with his homework. The Platoon would like to welcome Gdsm Mulcock (Battalion Cross Country Champion) who it is hoped, will be very useful in carrying our ammunition cigarettes and Bierton's Radio Batteries.

Number Two Platoon have also settled down well to oceanic life with Sgt "Sprint up those stairs" Morris keeping a firm grip on Gdsm Hayes and Bently who seem to be consistently arguing. Gdsm 97 Edwards has now learnt to talk slowly on the radio so that now even Gurkhas can understand him. Gdsm Collins and 57 Davies have been arguing about whether the L.M.G. or G.P.M.G is the most effective weapon; Gdsm Baker ensured them that it was the "head butt" which he demonstrated to them by butting the ship.....he received five stitches for his efforts! Mathews continues to alarm the ships crew by giving impressions of Argentinian Submarines. Bewsher and Hermanis have teamed up as a G.P.M.G pair with Bewsher trying to convince Hermanis that he is really his "Weapon bearer". Gdsm Rawlins has slightly alarmed the Platoon with some gory details of field surgery whilst 84 Lewis has been giving descriptive details of how he will "sort out" any Argentinian prisoners. LSgt Williams thanks his section for their birthday request but fiercely denies that he is 30 years old.

Number Three Platoon have devoted considerable energy into throwing their Platoon Commander 2Lt Black into the swimming pool, with Gdsm Hunter giggling in the background dreaming of the damage he might do to an Argentine Brigade with a digging tool. LCpl Morris and his section have also been busy learning Spanish which has helped to improve communications between LCpl Waite (an Englishman from Banbury) and Gough, 639 "Eagle" Jones and "Lotty" Lawrie who all hail from Wales.

LSgt "Spider" Hartnell's section have been plotting the downfall of General Galteri from the blacked out cabins. They believe that uncut toenails fired in volleys at an "Argie" Company caught in the open could be devastating. To this end 71 "Call me David Bailey" Morgan, Derrick, Milton and LCpl Vaughan-Jones paint their toe-nails nightly! Gdsm Fyfield will be taking a silver tray into the field for stiff gin and tonics to Platoon Headquarters during a lull in the battle. LSgt "Barn" Knight's section would like to wish 63 Williams' brother on HMS Glamorgan with the task force the best of luck.

Finally the Company would like to wish Mrs Wright, Mrs Whitehouse and Mrs Davies 86 well with their forthcoming births. Their husbands are well and are looking forward to their return.

NUMBER TWO COMPANY

Number Two Company, they are here,
The Argies are filled with fear.
They sent for us to do our bit,
So we've been training, to show we're fit.

There's the men of Four,
Packed ready for War.
The man in charge is known as Wedge,
To kill an Argie is his pledge.

Next in line is Number Five,
They can't wait till we arrive.
Their leader's known as Sgt B,
He'd rather be on land than sea.

The last platoon is good old Six,
They are all in a fix,
Chief 95's the man who's boss,
He'll be there without a loss.

Then finally there's Coy HQ,
It's made up of just a few.
The Company Sarge is leading the way,
As we go on to Port Stanley Bay.

The only thing that's left to say,
Before we go, a hunting, prey.
We never fear for dear old Blightie,
Cause we're the men of the Island of the Mighty.

Company HQ is full of men, who always know where, and when. The Coy Commander has his say, and his order we obey. Capt Lewis is the 2i/c, and poor old Young makes his tea. Company Sergeant Major does his bit keeping the morale with his wit. Then the CQMS is close at hand, he'll be there when we hit the sand. Howie's here writing his notes, 'Don't cry Ma' is all he quotes. "H" is there and doesn't care, cause he's allowed to grow his hair. Martin Nolan's left his keys, as we all go across the seas. 23 is falling apart, he hasn't heard from his love heart. Cpl Jones is the radio op, as we go over the top. '28', he's made a mint, he's our man in charge of Int. There's 14 who's getting old, and worrying as his hair go's bald. Sgt Macey is our PTI, do as he says or he'll make you fly. And for our Aussie, who's not with us, we'll see him soon, there's no fuss.

As we have moved into our second week on board ship, the centre of attention is the helicopter deck where the mail arrives. Everyone appears to have done fairly well, but Gdsm Jones 49 has done the best. Gdsm Kevans proved one of the more knowledgeable in 4 Platoon, which came out in yesterday's quiz, and LSgt Hughes got very frustrated at never being given the chance to answer the questions. Gdsn Cox is doing his bit as PTI to keep 4 Platoon fit under the watchful eye of LSgt Willoughby. Gdsm Radford has got rid of his heavy weapon, so can now move when he has all his equipment on. Dmrs Evans 80, Cummings and George have put

their instruments to good use in various messes or should one say Wardrooms on board ship? They have destroyed rumours that they only brought instruments so that they can play them going up the beaches. Gdsm Greathead had the opportunity to visit the engine room, which he found very interesting. Gdsm Evans 58 has taken a fair collection of photographs which, if they come out will be of great interest for the Company book. Gdsm Clements has joined 4 Platoon from the Prince of Wales's Company. As an ex-member of the shooting team he will be no doubt be competing with Gdsm Careless for the pleasure of carrying the sniper's rifle.

For 5 Platoon as well, mail seems to be the most important subject at the moment. LCpl Horwood is leading the way with 15 letters, close behind is Davis 33 with a series of birthday cards. All the mail made up for the disappointment of not going ashore at the Ascension Island. We made up for not live firing on shore by firing off the bow of the ship. Gdsm 25 Smith claiming a hit on some flying fish. Newspaper cuttings adorn cabin walls. Two Coy with its fair share of mentions. Two major successes so far have been achieved in the swimming pool. Evans 09 has improved beyond all recognition, but still has problems when we put a radio on his back. LCpl Clarke has mastered the art of floating, but can't actually move anywhere. Gdsm Weeks made a mistake by challenging 2Lt A Morgan his Pl Comd to a race. Another event was the inter-platoon quiz. LCpl Jenkins providing all the senseless general knowledge questions for 5 Platoon. LSgt Miller, that Pillar of Society, provided all the questions on regimental intelligence.

When people mention 25th May they immediately think of the Argie aircraft carrier, but not so for LSgt Bartlett, as this was the day he was married on! Our best wishes go to his wife. Dmr Woods has been trying hard to teach Gdsm Smith 32 how to play the drums without much success, probably because they don't have a drum! Gdsm 68 Jones when asked by his Pl Comd to produce something for the Leek, produced three short notes concerning himself on someone else's feet and called it "Graffeti!!"

6 Platoon enjoyed the inter Platoon Quiz which was held in the Ship's Theatre. All the platoons were separated but this did not prevent a certain amount of cheating going on. LCpl Morris got a lot of difficult questions to his embarrassment, but Gdsm Smith 61 proved to be more knowledgeable than anyone expected. Gdsm Nash turned his eyes to Heaven whenever a question was asked of him. LCpl Scourfield was accused many times by CSM Everett of whispering the answers and also giving the wrong ones. Gdsm Evans 12 looked particularly smug when he managed to get his first question right, as did LSgt Jones 26 who's first right answer was about his last question.

It is a much browner Company that heads South now, but alas we don't think it will last where we are going. Anyway the Company is in good heart and look forward to whatever lies ahead.

--O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O--

NODDY ROBERTS

Noddy Roberts he fell asleep,
The secret he just couldn't keep.
In came Charlie,
Who threw a barny.

So out came Nod
Who started to bob
Where to go
He did not know.

Noddy began to pray to God,
Charlie replied "You silly slob!"
Noddy not knowing what to say
Was told by Charlie "Go out to play!"
So off went Nod all a flush
He started to cry and then to blush
Returning to his men of Nine
Noddy's eyes opened and all was fine.

Anon.

"BASE RATS OF THREE"

Here's to the Rats of Three, .
Our magnificent seven.
Who always have a cup of tea,
And lead a life of Heaven.

We'll start with Major Bremner,
The leader of the flock.
Who's just as much at home in drill,
As in a combat smock.

The next one, Captain Ballard,
The Company 2 i/c,
Never seems exhausted,
Doing Company PT.

Company Sergeant Major Neck is next,
He suits the Company fine,
Stopping drama merchants,
from stepping out of line.

17, Molar Morgan,
Our favourite Colour Bloke,
Is always taking Company subs,
And leaving Guardsmen broke.

This leaves us with the Guardsmen,
First 93 "The toad",
Who feels **that** washing Sunrays socks,
Is quite a heavy load.

Then Brennan, burdened Radio Op,
The super Clerk of Three,
Who does more bloody purging,
Than the whole Company.

This leaves us Williams 83,
Who never seems to be broke,
Although he spends a fortune,
On drinking cans of coke.

More Z's than Rip-Van-Winkle,
More brews than Polly's Perks
We know they can perform their tasks
And not leave us in the lurch.

Gdsm Herbert - Number Three Company

--o-o-o-o-o--

"9 PLATOON" - BY GDSM HERBERT AND PHILLIPS 32

Here's to those who make up nine,
The likes of we'll never see again,
Those like Sgt Roberts,
Who's known as "Uncle Ken".
Lance Sergeants three of this platoon,
Let's list them one by one,
And start with Lance-sarnt Bevan,
Who's come from Number One.
Now we come to 70,
Who's fine to a degree,
But the only thing he really loves,
Is his shiny black Capri.
Lance-sarnt 15 Evans next,
Moving up in his career,
At last he's in the Sergeants Mess,
Now a man to fear.

Now we come to Corporals,
The one's we love to hate,
Campbell, Kirby, Shanks and Plant,
Who ensure we're never late.
The old one's in our great platoon,
Dad and 81,
Might be getting on in years,
But still enjoy the fun.
We would also list the Guardsmen
But we haven't got the time,
To list the individuals,
Anyway it wouldn't rhyme.
Mr Roberts last but not least,
The leader of the pack,
We all know where to find him,
He's gonking in his sack.
Now I must come to an end,
And finish off my list,
And go and join the men of 9,
Who wish they could get pissed.

"THANKYOU"

We'd like to thank the people
That we have left behind
For making our life easier
And much less of a bind
We have given loads of paper backs
Puzzles, films and games
Which makes a change from doing
runs,
And learning foreign names.
When you came down to South-
ampton,
And saw us sail that day
The love we felt for all of you
Will never fade away.
When we read the daily papers
And listen to the news
We feel an ever growing pride
To hear you air your views.
When we go to first aid lectures
Or clean our weapon parts
You're never very far away
From ever loving hearts.
We're proud to have you with us
However far we come
We know that with you backing
us,
We'll never be alone.

GDSM HERBERT - 3 Joy

To all the men of 3 Company
This poem was written by Gdsm Gee
To Guardsman , Corporals and above
To all the folks we know and love.

We wait in vain until we find out
What the Falklands is all about
Will the Welsh and Argies clash
Or are we here to pick up the brass.

We'll land in choppers on the ground
Take up defence all around
We carry rounds smoke and shell
The Iron Men will give them Hell.

Through all the rain and howling snow
The Iron Men will proudly go
Up the hills and through the swim
The Iron Men are sure to win.

We'll sleep by day
And fight by night
To show the Argies
What's wrong from right.

And when the Argies are in retreat
The Iron Men's work is complete
We will travel back to tell our tales
To all our loved ones home in Wales.

--O-O-O-O-O-O-O--

NUMBER THREE COMPANY

Since our last feature in "The Lesk" the little Iron Men have continued to practice those few outstanding skills that needed it. However more time has been given over to recreation. There have been many outlets for our numerous talents. CQMS Morgan 17 has been graciously guesting on "Falkland Island Discs", our nightly radio programme, as Mrs Thatcher, whilst Sgt Downes has also taken up his guitar (thereby saving 7 Platoon from Corporal Loveridge 07) and has given us a song or two. Amongst the requests has been one from the Company to have the Company Commander, Major Bremner, the Company 2i/c Capt Ballard, plus CSM Neck sing "The Good, the bad and the Ugly", as yet the ugly won't play!

The other great excitements since we last wrote has been the arrival of mail. To a man the Company has been smothered with letters, it is marvellous. So to those of you at home "Thank you", and keep it coming please.

As for the platoons - well to start at the top, 7 continues to lead the way. Lt Owen-Edmunds has managed to convince everyone that he has nothing to do with the famous DJ Noel and has therefore has not been put on the radio. However as we have mentioned Sgt Downes has made sure that the platoon has been represented there. Also there have been many requests for Ebony and Ivory (Gdsm Brown and Tutt) but they have limited their performances to the GPMG SF. Platoon HQ have welcomed into their ranks Cpl Plewa and Gdsm Howarth and Edwards 62 who have arrived to give it more punch. In the sections LSgt Oultram continues to build up his reputation as the bad news man. This may have something to do with our early morning bouts of PT that have us all sweating heavily (except that is for Gdsm Bailey who spends most PT sessions being given piggy backs by the Commanding Officer!) Gdsm Burrows and 40 Rees are managing to shed pounds, but Gdsm Evans 13 still has no such ambitions and still acts as a human hoover in the Colombia Restaurant. A pleasure denied Cpl Roper because he has ulcers on his tongue. In 2 Sect Gdsm Dobbin is still searching for the perfect bluff, but LSgt Miles claims to have the most beady eyes in the business trained on him to stop him! Gdsm Broad has been heard muttering darkly that he is about ready for another Queen 's Guard, although we are trying to convince him that Guard at Port Stanley will be just as glamorous! Our final word goes out to LSgt Astley who has been transferred to us on his promotion. Already he has settled in and got moving on 3 section.

In 8 Platoon Sgt Hinder, after having a brief battle with his digestive system is back in fine "SAS" form. The same can be said for 2Lt Richardson only when he has his sea sick pills within arms reach, any further and he has to go for the strategic lie down. This is a privelage denied Dmr Horton because his bed has collapsed! LSgt George is rapidly gaining a reputation as a magician amongst the platoon because he is continuously seen with a cigarette and yet he never buys a packet. Meanwhile Gdsm Williams 20 is going to apply to emigrate to International waters because they are so cheap out here. Gdsm Downton is set on making medical history by proving that athlete's foot actually appears on ones back, his only problem at the moment is that the Company Commander continues to look at his feet during the inspections for this ailment. Talking of skins brings us to LSgt Gwilym and his crew from the Drums. As usual they bring harmony to the platoon

although Dmr Stanton still thinks the Bongo has more to do with the Medical Corps than music. As for Dar Pinn he claims to be homesick after receiving 17 letters and not writing one! Finally we turn to Gdsm Gee, who under the supervision of Cpl "Lips" Loveridge, is still working on a different net and is seen busily cleaning BFA barrels!

Number 9 Platoon, still the "Best" platoon, was flattered to be pictured on the second page of the Daily Telegraph on the day we left from Southampton. Cpls Plant, Shankland and Kirby and Gdsm Smith 63 and Kemp all featured in the first papers to reach us from Ascension. The letters from our loved ones poured in, the few who missed out in the first post were kept amused by our resident poet Gdsm Herbert's efforts. In the platoon Headquarters, Gdsm Badham, was called to appear King Neptune. He was unceremoniously dunked as a land lubber at sea on the Equator, however he was in good company as the Commanding Officer was called to account in the same way. 9 Platoon has 2 new Lance Sergeants, we welcome LSgt Bevan from The Prince of Wales's Company, via the Machine Gun Platoon, and we congratulate LSgt Evans 15 on his timely promotion. We have now discovered how Sgt Roberts 32 always wins at PT; he doesn't cheat in the exercises, he simply has fewer people in his team. However the Platoon Commander is watching him closely.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-

SUPPORT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

This ever adaptable band of men led by CQMS Roberts 92 have been working and training to a rare pitch. Cpl Hibberd has turned himself into a useful athlete, while Ink Pot Wilkinson has forsaken his typewriter for a Mortar tube. Bates remains talented at Egyptian PT but has become hooked on poker dice. The Bn's only Non Commissioned Padre, Vicar Sgt Liversage has tended to the needs of his flock, from weapon training to first aid. Cpl Hughes 15 has mastered Spanish well but would like to see a Welsh Spanish phrase sheet! Gdsm Steel has been looking has been looking after Maj Bonas, including administering the vile tasting Paludrine to his unwilling master. We all send our best wishes to CSM Carron and hope the Company Office is being swabbed to standard!

THE MORTAR PLATOON

Since leaving Freetown we have continued on our journey South going in little circles around the Ascension Islands! The platoon is now well shaken out, and it will not be long before we say goodbye to the MFCs as they disappear to their respective Rifle Companies. In preparation for this we have continued bounding around the deck and at last LSgt "Big John" Hooper is convinced he is losing weight when he managed to hide himself behind 6 MFO boxes in 5 Hold yesterday. Well done LSgt Hooper and keep up the PT. As the platoon packs their kit there are constant questions, led by LSgts Keoghane as to how this kit will be carried, the Platoon Commander, also a little slim tries to convince them it is also easy! Gdsm Grace is still convinced that "Diddly Dee" is the Falkland Islands National Anthem, with LCpl Sweet thinking this will help him at Bisley and if we get on with what is ahead he will make it back for Bisley this year and uphold the Commanding Officer's desire to win the competition.

A note must be mentioned of "Elley's Heroes". Gdsm 'Cloud 9' Parsons almost woke up yesterday as he slipped up on the stairs, Sgt Elley was heard to say "It is the fastest that he has moved since he embarked".

Gdsm Scales continues his collection of ladies underwear and this is on display and considered by his section as important as the pictures of AFV. The Platoon Commander is looking into the question of how the underwear is increased daily for those interested an answer will be out soon.

CSgt Scott's Radio programme has made a great hit with all the Ship and we all hope that all LCpl Cooper's problems have been answered because he will have a lot more given to him soon by the CSgt himself. I have been assured that these problems have been solved by the fact that Turtle has at last wound his neck in.

The whole platoon send their regards to LSgt Fisher and his section who have been attached to the Scots Guards. It has been rumoured that LSgt Fisher has at last changed his name to MacFisher with his small 'clan' following suit soon.

ANTI TANK PLATOON

With Sierra Leone a distant memory and the subtle delights of Ascension Islands never encountered the Anti Tank Platoon nevertheless continued to be in excellent heart. Many thanks must be extended to all wives, relations and friends who flooded the platoon with letters, postcards and parcels of varying description and size. The incoming mail was much appreciated by us all. It is indeed fortunate that Gdsm Davies 96 brought an extra suitcase with him. Keep writing Mrs Davies there's still plenty of room. To Gdsm Hicks' horror we continue to sample the daily delightful torture of Sgt Peacock's PT sessions and every other conceivable specialist training continues to occupy our time. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Gdsm Townley, who left us at Ascension Islands. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. He will be sorely missed.

Since the last issue of The Leek CSgt McCoy has had a few days in the Ship's Hospital suffering from a complaint which modesty forbids me to mention. He is now happily recovered but has to contend with a deluge of poetic, but unfortunately unprintable Get Well Cards. Gdsm Sincock, Phillips, Ratsep and John are advised to stick to soldiering.

A disturbing rumour has reached my ears. There seems to be an undergarments fetishist lurking somewhere in Support Company lines. Gdsm Evans 24 is most concerned at the loss of no less than 5 pairs of underpants and Gdsm Roberts 14 cannot comprehend why anyone would want to wear 2 pairs of his socks. You will all be pleased to hear that LCpl Hopkins has at last found his sea legs. This momentous event has meant that he no longer careers along the corridors like a runaway bus and that he has ceased the annoying habit of throwing his food over innocent incumbents of tables in the dining room.

Other news of interest has been the sight of Gdsm Eric 'Hope I don't have to walk far' Goff laden down with full equipment and Milan Firing Post. It is also necessary to dwell for a moment on the plight of Gdsm Webb and Gdsm Plummer. These 2 Gdsm have severe withdrawal symptoms because the alcoholic diet of 2 cans of beer is far below the normal and indeed desirable daily intake. I nearly forgot to congratulate Gdsm 'Ciw' Parry who celebrated his 20th birthday on 22nd May.

The swimming pool has provided a form of physical training, recreation and amusement. LSgt Bennett, LCpl Lina and LCpl Price have invented a new form of water Polo where just about anything goes. As a result the Platoon Commander was savaged by someone with extremely long nails and then practically drowned when about 8 bodies descended upon him. Dip and Dap, the twins or LSgt Roberts 69 and LSgt Davies Manuel 39 have christened Sgt Roberts 15, the swimming pool attendant. Sgt Roberts is considering this as a form of employment once he has completed his 22 years.

One cannot close without mention of Sgt Roberts' thoughts on Admiral Woodward's deployment of the Invasion Force. After a lengthy discourse on strategic major and minor tactics he was heard to remark "Woodwards got his act together and his bits and pieces sorted out.....he's obviously done the Pl Sgts Course at some stage of his career".

To conclude I can confirm that all the platoon are fit and well and although the sun is no longer bright and the ship is beginning to role a little more, LSgt McGuinness has at last had a shower. Wonders will never cease!

USEFUL SPANISH

-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Tottenham didn't need Ardiles anyway - Tottenham no neseditaba Ardiles!

Is that your own head or are you breaking it in for a friend - Es esa tu cabeza ges de tu amigo?

Take me to your Rugby Officer - Jevame dutu official de rugby.

Have you got a brother living in Cardiff? - Tienes hermanos que vive in Cardiff?

Have you met our Master Cook yet? - Le presentaron el Muestro hefe cosinero?

Do you want to buy a white flag? - Si no tienes una? Quiere ceompraruna bandera blanea?

Is Minoprio a Spanish name? - Minoprio es un nombre Espanol?

HQ COMPANY, COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

HQ Company continues to work hard behind the scenes as it usually does to provide the Rifle Companies with a service. All departments have been active and continue to train and retrain on those skills which may have become rusty. The cooks, REME personnel and Pay Staff are all proficient at weapon training, signals and first aid.

CSM Carty has been much in demand for his photographic skills and is often to be seen taking shots of various groups. The idea of before and after photographs does not seem to have caught on! CQMS Hughes has been closely involved in issuing yet more Arctic Clothing. LCpl Browne has been charting his way through endless Nominal Rolls and list of ZAP numbers while Morris 30 seems to have a paint store in his cabin for painting the signs on kitbags. Maj Peel Yates has been puzzling over where he should pack his green wellington boots while Capt Sayers is finding it difficult to come to terms with being a "Base Rat" at last.

The Company has shaken down and will fulfill its mission to its best ability.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

THE RECCE PLATOON

The RECCE continues life in its usual good spirits. The morning stillness is somewhat ruined by our Pokey Drill Instructor Sgt Adolf Brown. His main aim in life seems to be to point out the physical shortcomings of the Platoon Commander and Sgt Ranson. The only man totally unaffected by the whole performance is Cpl Parker who seems to do his own Egyptian version of all the ghastly exercises the remainder of us are doing. Sgt Cox, however, has been heavily bitten by the fitness bug, just as we think we have finished we're despatched around the deck for a few more laps for luck!

As yet nobody has taken up the offer of Skiing lessons from Cpl Price. This is a serious offer as he has one of the best slopes available. No ski lift has yet been built but LSgt Baynham (Billy the Belly) and Rosie Davies 76 are so keen to lose weight that they will transport bodies by firemans lift.

All those not mentioned are in very good heart. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Owens (61,99) will be relieved to hear that their husbands have now found their sea legs. So much so that they've had to be forcibly stopped from amputating their left legs, buying a parrot, and calling everybody "Jim Lad".

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

SIGNAL PLATOON

The Signal Platoon continued to check radios, charge batteries, and sing in the Choir. Gdsm Griffiths 52 complains constantly about the lack of kit that the RSO is carrying. Generally though, we look like Christmas Trees when fully loaded. The PR Machine has continued to churn and soon the faces of Gdsm Rowberry, Gelly and Roberts 35 will be gracing some South Wales paper. At the same time LSgt Dummett and LCpl Hearn starred in the TV programme "The Queen Goes to War". Our Rear Link Detachment continue to bemuse us with their odd habits. We can never work out why Sig Davey is always looking for masts to climb. Gdsm Bowden is warming up the typewriter for our attack on the signals instruction with LSgt Kojak and LCpl Manning of the Orderly Room ably assisting him. See you in Port Stanley.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

PAY OFFICE

The Pay Office welcomes the arrival of Major O'Donnell from the depths of Warwickshire. But the operation has whittled out Sgt Ridgard, who has gone to play Space Invaders, in between processing your pay statements; and LSgt "Grappler" Gregory who has gone to Taunton for a "General Doss".

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to welcome Pte Butt and Sgt Askam, and subsequently people who have been enquiring about pay matters have been told to Askhim (Askam).

Since we have boarded the QE2, the Pay Office was set up in a small alcove on Deck 2 Stairway A. Many people have encountered difficulties in locating our set-up and consequently the Pay Staff have been inundated with queries, during their recreational period (s).

MT PLATOON/REME

Greetings once again from the MT Platoon and its associated members. Since we last spoke to you at home, several events have taken place aboard ship, mostly amusing ones.

On the live firing scene the boys proved they had not lost their touch, experts LSgt Chin Stannard and LCpl Phil Howarth scored several bulls (shooting a neat hole through their SMG dust covers). Sgt Mal Wigley has given the Ships Radio Officer notice of termination of employment because he only played one request from BFBS for 1 WG before switching off. Sgt (Griff) Griffiths 38 (have boots will travel) is so determined to take his spare boots wherever he goes, he is looking for the Master Stitch to extend his largepack. A new meaning has been given to the phrase "Up with the lark" SSgt Dave Balchin, LSgt Gerry Brown and Cfn Andy Owen 30 tried it and were late for breakfast. Cfn Mark Rollins woke the other morning quoting Shakespeare Scouse, Scouse where for art thou, he cried I think someone's leading him astray. To minimise space taken LSgt Shady Lane has discovered that 200 cigarettes fit neatly into an IPK case (mind you less 1 IPK). Sgt Dave (Bleep) Ryall is busy looking for a battery charger, rumour has it that he is thinking of approaching the Sergeant Major. Chief rumour squasher Sgt Jolly Jim Thompson swears he's just trying to get round him.

On the PT front LCpl Tony Streatfield and Socks Morgan 88 have been fashioning shorts DPM for the troops on board. Gdsm Dai Bale was noticed advancing to the shower with magnifying glass and tweezers, asked where he was going he replied "To wash my hair". Gdsm Sid Vicious Jenkins has at last shown his expertise when using MAPCO and tells everyone so, mind you he hasn't been seen since the last lesson. O1 LCpl Lewis showed his mastery of Swahili when we were in Freetown, he could be heard shouting Jambo at the locals but fell short when trying to translate swapsies. LCpl Price 14 swears O1 is cracking him up. Sgt Billy, the Bergen master Bellis is trying hard to find a bergen large enough to take the MV Baltic so he can carry all his kit with him.

Birthday greetings to LCpls Andy Mortimore and Price 14 and a happy anniversary to Sgt Mal Wigley and Mrs Cath Wigley. Congrats Cath!

Finally a word from the boss Capt Glyn, Aye Aye no problems White. Keep your chins up at home, our thoughts are always with you and to the boys of the MT and TQM don't forget your weapons and keep ducking. Also best wishes on the expected birth of first child to LCpl and Mrs Price 14.

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QUARTERMASTERS PLATOON (B ECHELON)

Yes folks! we are on the ship, and OSM Wilson would like everyone to know that.

A. He has been on the ship since the Sunday before we sailed.

B. He might get off the ship on reaching our destination provided that he can have full use of 1 x Sea King Helicopter to transport supplies of Cunard Toilet Paper etc.

We sadly announce that the RQMS is see sick (it is spelt right as every time he goes up on deck he sees sick).

The QM (Gods own) is at the time of writing trying to figure out how to transport his cabin onto the Falklands. Sgt Fennell "Hagar" and his crew of LCpl 33 "Bad Finger" Bennett, LCpl "J P" Binnall (LCpl Roberts 80 is on temp det to the Bn Machine Gun Platoon ensuring that the Arctic Clothing is not abused) are busy stripping down the said cabin. LCpl 'Omar' Roberts 84 and LSgt "No hands" Roberts 73 have both retired into the life of 1st Class passengers of the QE2. LCpl "What's kit" Duggan is busy showing Gdsm Rowlands 65 the tricks of the "Rag Trade". Whilst on the subject CSgt Stitch Smith and Sgt "Buttons" Parry are well and truly pedalling like mad transferring miles and miles of cotton onto ripped items of kit. There is no truth in the rumour that they are writing a book titled "1001 uses of an IPK".

Sgt Long is now selling tickets to the Victory Concert in Buenos Airies. Gdsm Henty is employed as butcher on board, he doesn't mind but he hates chasing the chickens about on 7 Deck.

Whilst on board we have been trying (emphatically) to put together our full compliment of kit much to the displeasure of the respective CQMSs.

The latest news is that Maj O'Donnell is transferring to the Royal Army Chaplains Department to play the piano at Church Services.

We were glad to see that most of the team were made famous on the television on the day of embarkation. Furthermore we would like to extend our congratulations to Cpl Ackerman on recent marriage to Janice whose feelings about him have already made clear to you all, in the form of a radio request.

LCpl Russell can't seem to understand why all his girlfriends haven't written to him and we consider that it has got something to do with the fact that he hasn't got any (girlfriends that is).

We have decided that SQMS White has the wrong name. As the ship pitches and rolls his colour changes from a light shade of grey to a vivid green.

Pte Butt was heard to say he would like to love to get his hands on the stewardess but we don't think he knows what for, but there's a first time for everything.

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ORDERLY ROOM

With the QE2 pitching more than before the art of typing and filing which even now continues, is becoming something of a specialist skill which LSgt Bennett 21 Kojak and LCpl Manning are mastering with apparent ease. Alas there does not appear to be a Spec Qual in UDM for it, Kojak though insists there is and continues to look.

LSgt Larman has rejoined us from the Machine Gun Platoon leaving LCpl Stacey and Gdsm Silva to gain fame or infamy on this front. LCpl Stacey we understand is to have a screen test for the BBC once we finish this business due to his uncanny knack of finding himself in front of the cameras.

33 Sgt Williams and ORCS are still convinced that they are missing 2 boxes and they are still on board and that someone somewhere knows their whereabouts and is waiting for the reward to be increased. The reward still stands for information leading to their recovery. We would put the specimen charge in here for the perpetrator of this dastardly deed but unfortunately 33's Manual of Military Law is inside one of the missing boxes!

Thinking ahead and having consulted the QE2 Catalogue for 1982 LSgts Bennett and Larman have been trying to convince the Purser's Office that Rail and Short Sea Ferry Warrants can be exchanged for World Cruises and certain week long trips to Norway. We understand that The Prince of Wales's Company are interested in the latter but insist they take their bergens, tin pots and GPMCs with them.

RSM Davies is now the undisputed champion of arms and ammunition on board. Although the movement of the Battalion's arsenal is causing him to have second thoughts. The 12th edition of what to take and what not to take has been produced by the Second in Command and coupled with the 5th edition of a kit packing list produced so far giving everyone a chance to develop their own packing ideas all be it not those shown by DSgt Evans 33. We are assured that there is a further amendment on its way! DSgt Cox meanwhile is storing bread rolls and scones with such fervour that we wonder just what exactly he's heard that we haven't.

Our leader the Adjutant is much pleased with life having several letters in the mail (although the one on Queen's Guard Mounting wasn't what he exactly wanted). We congratulate him on signing everyone's Part 2/3 Orders giving the Battalion various allowances and especially in signing the Officers Part 2 Orders granting a new allowance not previously claimed by himself i.e. Separation (now that his status has changed).

LCpl Manning and Kojak are also vying in the letter stakes. The present score is 12-11 (this after only 2 deliveries). Henry, 007 having recently dropped a line to the Commanding Officer continues to badger the RE Mail Section into taking our mail and examining the possibility that our next delivery be made by submarine, Nimrod or penguin. Mail as ever is very important especially during this period. The Battalion is most lucky that we have the best man on board for the job. We would ask families and friends when writing to clearly print their envelopes and in particular include the Company if known.

We take this opportunity to say hello to all members of the departments who are serving elsewhere in the Battalion.

As you may know there is a prize for the best notes in this edition and CSgt "PRI" Hogarth would like you all to know its not a Welsh Guards Pint Mug..... (its a stable belt).

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INTELLIGENCE SECTION

The Battalion Intelligence Section, back to full strength since South Armagh is now firmly installed in the Ship's Synagogue on 3 Deck at the blunt end, despite howls of protest from the Pay Corps that due to their £15 pay limit they should have had first refusal on our office!

Under the stalwart eyes of Capt Minoprio the section has unpacked, briefed at some stage all of the Battalion, and repacked. We have also in the photographic department managed to produce a large quantity of local Boy Stories, for the Wives' Club, photographs for the Leek and even fitted in work for the Royal Engineers at some stage. Actually soon we are hoping to get the complete section in the same room at roughly the same time so that we can have a briefing.

Perhaps our most mammoth task to date was the transportation of 33,000 maps from the hold on Deck 7 to 81 Int Section on Deck 1, followed by the extraction and transportation of the Battalion's 6,000 plus from Deck 1 to the Synagogue, where at the moment of writing they rest under the benches until the day we can rid ourselves of them for ever!

It was proven at Brecon that the section can operate in the field without the previously essential office, typewriter, tables, chairs etc. However, LSgt Williams 97 still insists that he looks cumbersome with a 6ft table on his largepack, but Gdsm Rees 60 does successfully carry his SLRs (in both contexts), together with 4 chairs and typewriter. Capt Froggatt, our extra from the AEC manages to call in occasionally, although most of his time has been taken up educating people. One would have thought he had enough problems educating his own department.

CSgt Morgan 40 is still managing to get more kit into his bergen, and it is rumoured that it is going ashore underslung on a Chinook, while Gdsm Douglass and Gdsm Criddle are now fully qualified slide "put inners".

We are still awaiting the arrival of Sgt Williams 33, who we are assured will make a valiant attempt to organise our administration to a method that outsiders can understand. LSgt Jephcott fresh from the Guardroom makes up the section and from his coffee consumption it is almost a pity that we are not invading Brazil instead of reclaiming the Falklands.

Finally, in closing we would like to thank all those briefed for not laughing when slides appear reversed, upside down, or completely fail to appear.

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SERGEANTS MESS

We don't have our own mess as such, we share a Brigade mess, not ideal we thought at first, but we have had many pleasant hours there so far, thanks to our PEC CSM Jim Everett, Sgt Tony Downes, and CSgt Andy Peck of the Int Corps. It was an excellent night the night we entertained the Ship's Captain and the Royal Navy Captain. You've all had repeat performances from the Choir, our own Corps of Drums and the Scots Guards Pipes and Drums, also our own LSgt Knocker Knowles. Knocker gave everyone a taste of what was in store for them on the first night. it went down very well. We have Bingo most evenings and thanks to Jim Everett there is more entertainment on the way. A lot of us have bumped into old friends from the Jocks, it is a great pleasure to see them again. I am sure many of us have made new friends from other units. It has all helped the time go by and it is hard to believe that when this goes to print we will have been at sea for 2 weeks.

CSgt Bob Scott and CQMS Morgan 17 have frequently run their own spot on the Ship's Radio, well done Both, you did a great job. Finally we'd like to congratulate LSgts Astley, 15 Evans, Parsons, Williams 99, Marlow and also CSgt Hopkins, and CSgt Thorne 65 (ORCS) on their promotions. It goes without saying, to you all at home we may be at sea but our hearts are with you.

