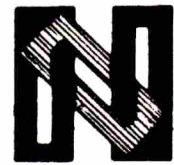


KEEPING DATA PREP IN STEP IN THE **NAAFI**



ACCORDING to Dennis King, manager, computer services in Nottingham, "Naafi, as the official trading organisation for H.M. Forces, is a self-financing cooperative, trading exclusively in barracks, camps and on board ships. It is a complex multimillion pound business that returns its profits to its customers central welfare and benevolent funds and service charities".

"Naafi has moved with the times."

Naafi has moved with the times, keen to make progress wherever possible – changing system design and/or equipment, as and when necessary. Manual bookkeeping systems were updated by the introduction of punch cards and machine tabulators to speed up and improve all aspects of the corporation's business. Computers gradually replaced the tabulators. Punch cards lasted longer, but eventually, for greater efficiency, ROCC data entry computers were installed. Naafi has remained with this company upgrading parts or all of the kit as necessary.

The latest upgrade is the installation of two ROCC 2820 multiuser computer systems, with 28 workstations. All programs on the system were designed and written by in-house staff, who are especially proud of the arithmetical accuracy of the routines they developed for the automatic balancing of establishment cash returns. These routines save a considerable amount of time previously spent on key verification of value fields. The ROCC system feeds a Honeywell DPS/8 mainframe computer. Harnessed together, this equipment ensures that daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual schedules are achieved.

Naafi's motto "Servitor Servientium", is all about service. Its amenities are very much an integral part of everyday Service life.

In terms of Naafi's charter, "The basic obligation is to provide a service wherever required, ashore and afloat, whether or not the operation will be profitable. Naafi is now trading in over 900 Service clubs, canteens, shops, grocery and messing stores all over the UK, Germany and in several other overseas countries where there is a Forces presence," said Dennis King.

Work on the ROCC systems

is organised in such a way as to maximise efficiency, with the emphasis on speed and accuracy. With a complement of 28 girls working 'flexitime' in Naafi's Nottingham-based offices, the ROCC computers are used from 08.00 hours to 18.00 hours, five days a week.

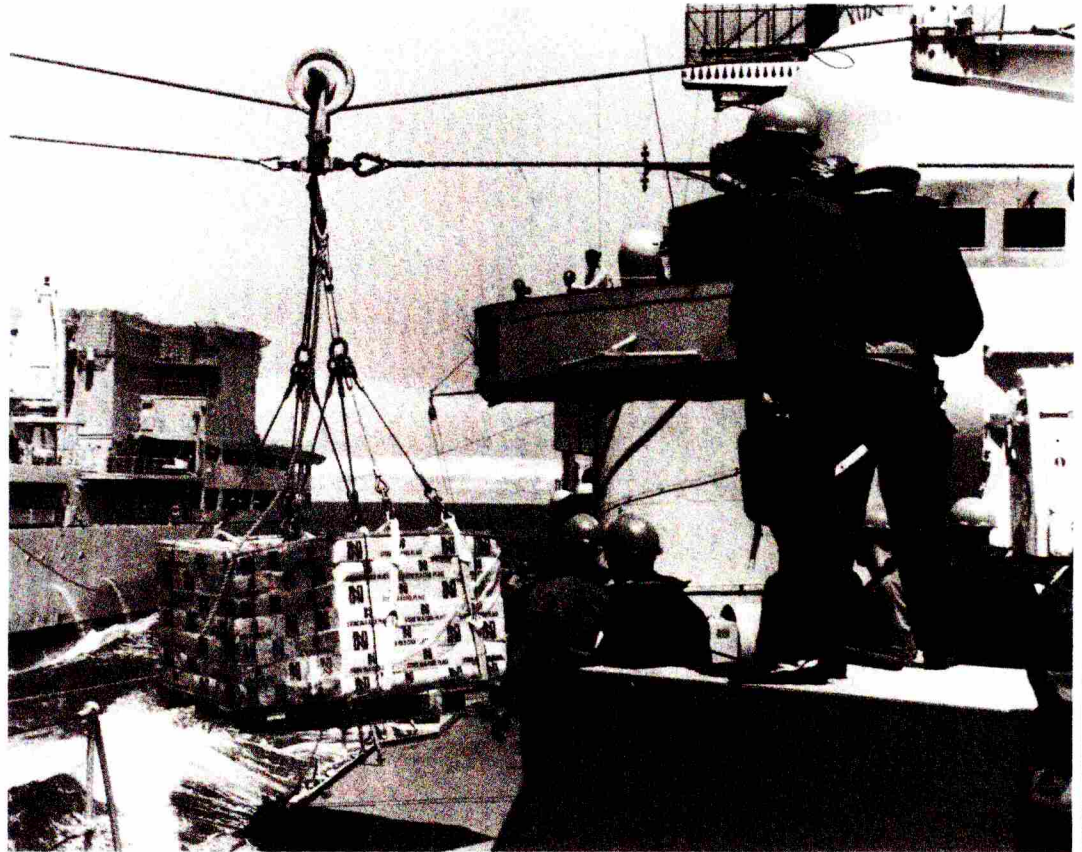
"... in war as well as in peace ..."

It should not be forgotten that Naafi serves the Services in war as well as in peace and that this too provides an essential motive for its



"The data preparation operation needs to be carefully controlled so that we can provide an efficient service to all customers regardless of location," says Dennis King – manager, computer services pictured outside Naafi's Nottingham offices.

Stores aboard!
A replenishment at sea operation is captured on camera as HMS Manchester takes on stores, including Naafi own-label drinks, from The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Port Grange during the exercise Global 86.



existence. The recent Falklands emergency saw Naafi in action again, providing food and drink, for messing and shipboard canteens. Naafi staff were quick to volunteer for service with the fleet and some took active part in the battles that followed. Naafi lost goods and equipment worth more

than £120,000 on the ships lost during the emergency.

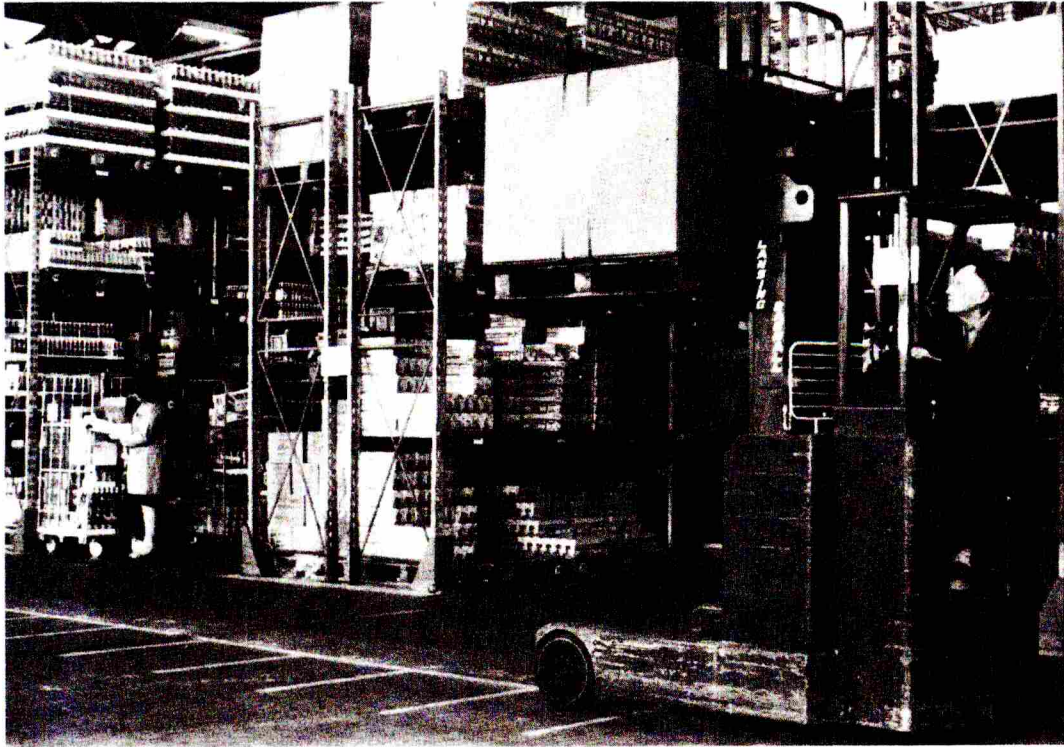
Sixty-six years ago, Naafi began to run catering and recreational establishments, for the three Services and to offer for sale, goods other than those provided by the catering departments of these Services. It soon became known

affectionately as the 'char and wad organisation', a description that remains in the memory of many ex-Servicemen.

Since then, Naafi have increased their range of activities and types of business. Always working to provide the best possible

Shop, aboard HMS Ark Royal.





Naafi warehouse, Amesbury.

service for the Servicemen and his family, while keeping administrative costs as low as possible.

The type of service provided includes budget account facilities, purchase of cars, caravans and boats, insurance (all types), contract catering, Interflora, vending machines, gaming machines, traditional grocery sales, durable goods and canteen facilities of all kinds. In support of these activities, Naafi maintains offices, warehouses, cold stores, bonded stores, bakeries and transport depots, with a fleet of 1200 vehicles.

"Naafi have increased their range of activities and types of business."

Input data is required for several payroll systems, paying all Naafi staff and casual labour, in Europe and the UK, weekly or monthly as applicable. Input is keyed for customers' credit accounts, processed and then loaded onto a Database System for the production of statements and on-line enquiries.

To feed the main accounting system, weekly returns from establishments are processed and together with data interfaced from other systems, used to produce weekly

profitability statements, with cumulative year-to-date totals, for each establishment. District, region and department statements are also produced for management information. Quarterly operating statements provide details of sales, expenses and revenue for current quarter, year-to-date, comparative figures for the equivalent periods last year

and performance increase or decrease.

"From a management point of view" says King, "the data preparation operation needs to be carefully controlled so we can avoid peaks and troughs and provide as efficient service as possible to all customers regardless of location."

... Well they say an army marches on its stomach.

Work on the two ROCC 2820 systems installed at the Naafi's Nottingham-based offices is organised in such a way as to maximise efficiency with the emphasis on speed and accuracy. Pictured are Harold Beare - operations manager and Carole Horrocks, the dp supervisor.

