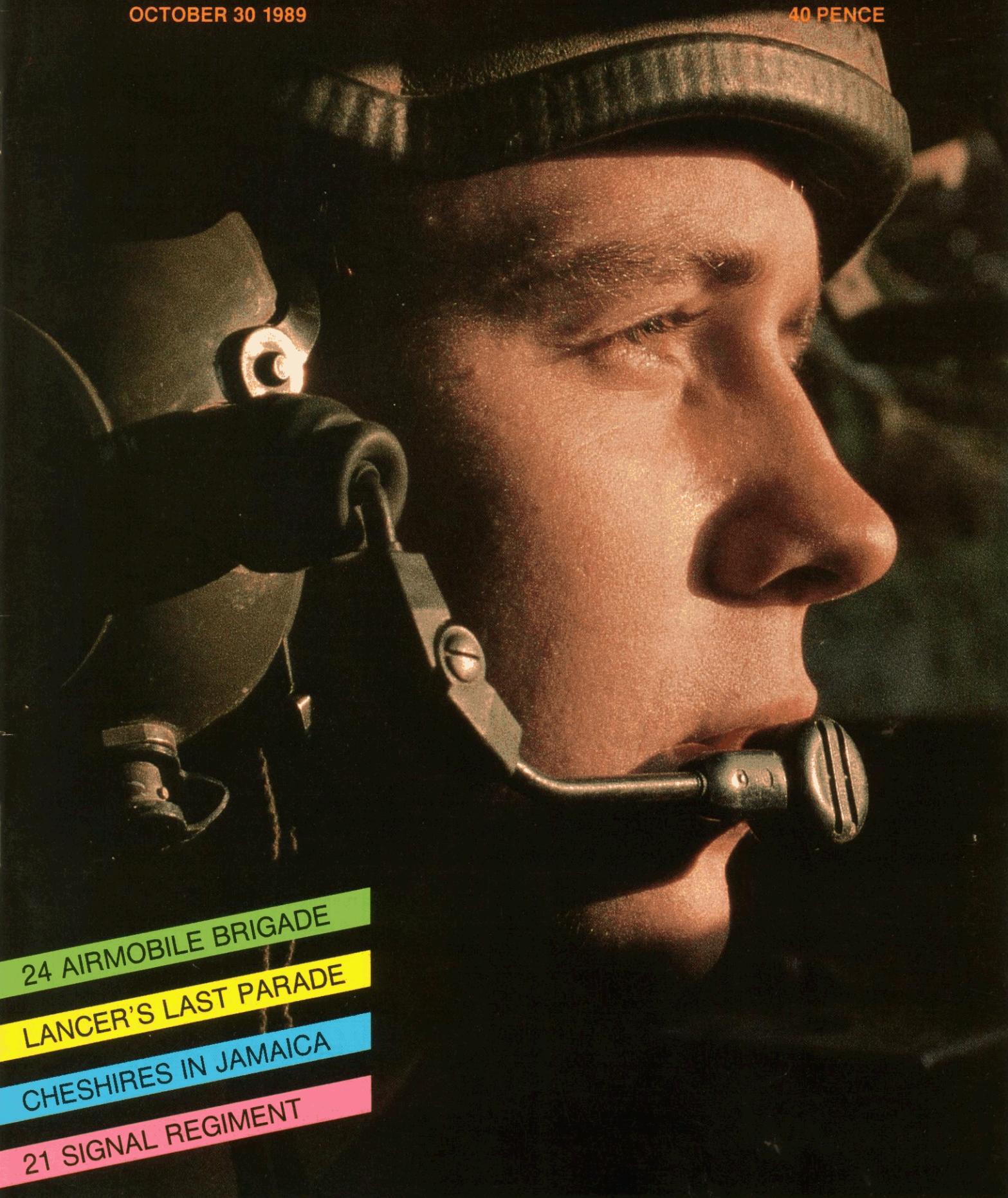


# SOLDIER

OCTOBER 30 1989

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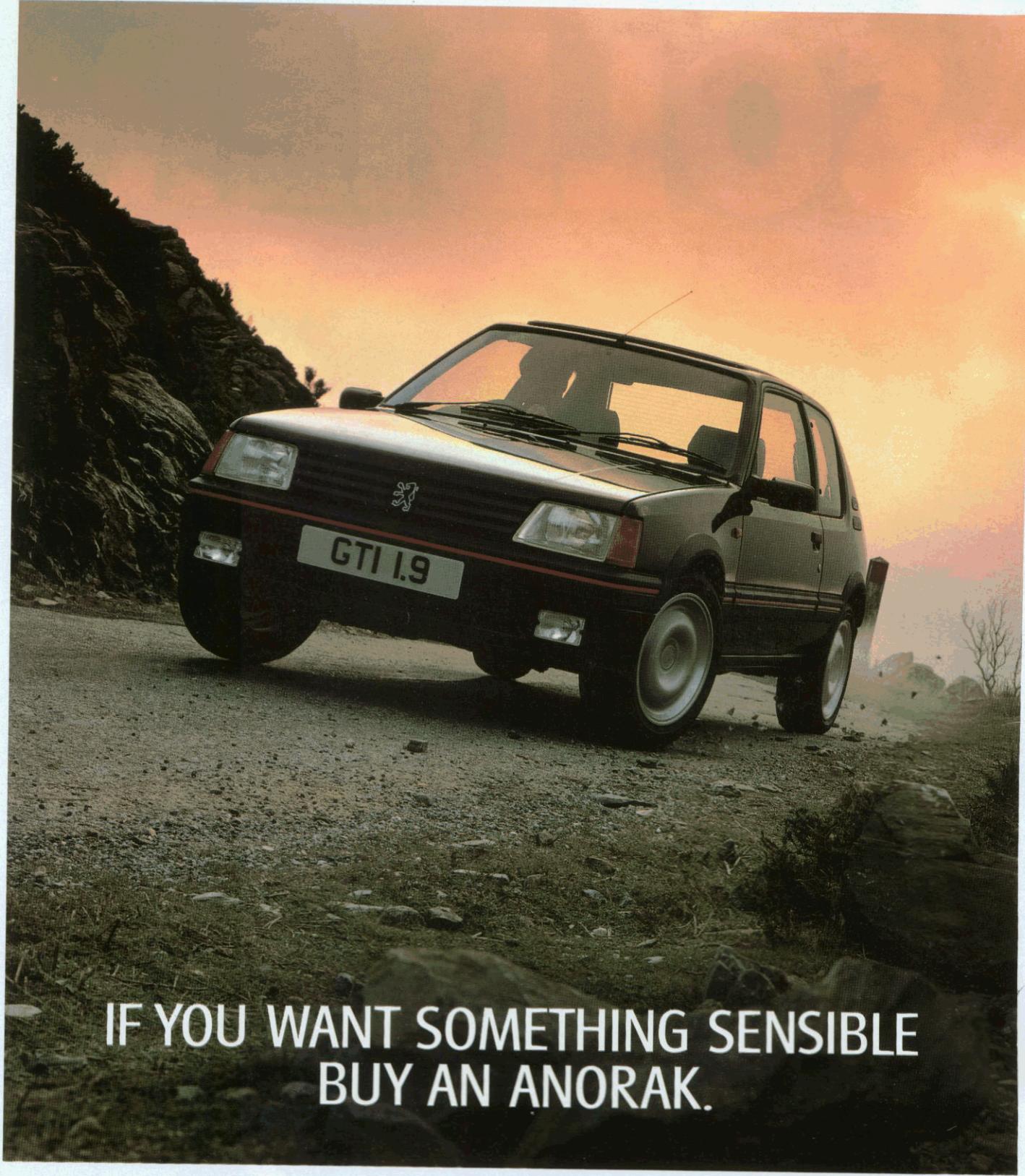


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FRONT COVER: Autumn sunshine casts a golden glow on the face of Tpr Mick Reemie, QOH, during Exercise White Rhino as he awaits the call forward in his Ferret scout car. More exercise reports and pictures inside.

Picture: Mike Perring

# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**NEXT  
ISSUE**



Ready for the off! Preparing for action on Exercise Plain Sailing are these vehicles of 161 Ambulance Regiment RCT (V) photographed at Grantham. There will be comprehensive coverage of this major exercise in the next issue. PLUS Exercise Polar Bear on Salisbury Plain AND 1 DWR in Canada. Don't miss it.

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**VOL. 45/22**

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## Emphasis is on combat clothing

Following a number of letters to **SOLDIER** on dress in the Army, and in particular the No 2 Dress uniform, readers may be interested in an official update from the Ministry of Defence.

The Army Dress Committee approved in July 1989 a redesigned No 2 Dress with many improved features such as belt hooks on side seams; press studs on breast pocket

flaps; and shoulder straps terminating under the collar.

It must be borne in mind that the emphasis on personal clothing in the Army is now, and must remain, on a man's combat clothing and equipment. Only 20 per cent of the total cost of a soldier's clothing and equipment goes to his No 2 Dress uniform.

The new version of the No 2 Dress should become available

in late 1990 as the old stocks become used up.

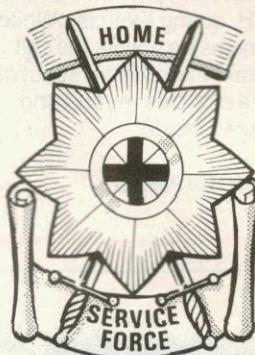
With regard to the question of a "standardised order of traditional ceremonial dress", it is the custom in the Army and has been for centuries for the design of ceremonial dress to be a matter for individual regiments and corps.

As such, dress is strongly influenced by long and valued traditions. It is believed that few would wish to weaken their regimental or corps identity by introducing a standard ceremonial dress.

Finally, readers should be aware that the staff of the Directorate of Clothing and Textiles, and the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment, Colchester, are constantly reviewing all orders of dress.

Their aim is to improve the design and quality of order and dress within the capability of manufacturers and the funds available. Readers may appreciate that they are demanding Service specifications which may inhibit some manufacturers used to working for the more lucrative fashion trade.

In fact, considerable improvements have been made in field clothing and equipment in recent years and more will be in service over the next three years. — **Lt Col (Retd) J C Jacob, Secretary, Army Dress Committee, CT2b Andover, Hants.**



## HSF badge

I read with interest the remarks by WO2 Randall of 5 HSF Coy 2/52 Lowland Vols (**SOLDIER**, Oct 2) concerning a cap badge for the Home Service Force, and I submit my drawing of a badge for consideration. It includes swords, a scroll and the star and garter.

At 67 I regret to say that I am too old for the HSF. What a pity! — **D G Batchelor (ex Sgt, 1 A and SH), 31B Warmdene Road, Patcham, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 8NL.**

## Service house body essential

I follow, with great interest, Anne Armstrong's battle, on behalf of Service and ex Service men and women, in relation to Family Quarters no longer required by the Services.

I took this matter up with Whitehall in a letter dated March 2, 1989 when I learnt that 18 such quarters were to be declared redundant and the occupants moved out in early April.

The houses were well built in brick, not 1960's concrete rubbish. At that time the quarters concerned were in good condition and, had action been taken quickly, would have made good homes for 18 families either serving or for those who had completed 22 years service and whose "gratuity" now buys little more than an allotment hut.

These houses have now been vandalised and are unfit to live in without vast sums of money being spent on repairs.

The serving officer, at whatever level, is not to blame for this shameful state of affairs. Whitehall is.

I have for a long time thought that the qualities required to make a Ministry bureaucrat are threefold — a lack of imagination, an incapacity for original thought and a brain with the incisive cutting edge of a "Euro" sausage.

The Services, now more than ever, need a housing association

run by, say, the National Housing and Town Planning Council in the first instance, and then by the Services themselves once the expertise had been gained. This before every redundant quarter is rendered uninhabitable and the pressures on the ever decreasing council housing stock add to the already enormous bed and breakfast costs of homelessness.

The price to the Treasury for a sensible redundant quarter policy in national terms would be infinitesimal and the benefit to the Service and ex Service men and women and to the nation invaluable. — **Brig (Retd) Bob Thorpe, St Aidans, Aldershot, Hants.**

## SAPPER RAIL

I had much pleasure in reading the article "Keeping BAOR on the Rails" (**SOLDIER**, Sept 4) and "Terriers Railway Role" in the following issue. Their predecessors were the Royal Engineers who had a railway training centre at Longmoor more than 55 years ago.

Their railway used to run from Bordon to Liss via Blackmoor and Longmoor itself. It was called The Woolmer Instructional Military Railway (WIMR). They had a spur that went up the Liphook

Road and one that ran to the top of Apple Pie Hill, and during the summer months it was one mass of tents while the Reserves were in training during the Second World War.

They extended the track from Bordon to Aldershot and joined the main London to Portsmouth track at Liss to get troops and equipment direct to South Coast ports during the push back into Europe. — **G Moar, 168 Nobleston Est, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire G83 9DF.**

## Reunions

● **The France and Germany Star Veterans Association** will be taking part in the Remembrance Day march in London on November 12. Founder branch is in Wigan but comrades from all over the country will be there.

● **C Sqn, The Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons** commemorated the 50th anniversary of their mobilisation with a dinner at Huddersfield.

● **Royal Signals Old Comrades** reunion will be held on November 10 from 7.30pm at 12 Grosvenor Hill, Wimbledon for those who served in units based at Fulham House. Enquiries to Maj J W Cocke (tel: 01-946 4618) or Rodney Perry (01-393 5977).

## Calling . . .

● **Ginger James** from Ashford, Kent. James (Mace) Ryan who served with you in the Buffs and with whom you were a PoW from 1940 onwards, is trying to make contact. Write to J Ryan, 111 Stewartby Way, Stewartby, Bedford.

● **Members of 127 (Dorset), E and M Coy, RE, Scarborough 1940; Tel el Kebir MEF, 56 CRE and DCRE.** Former WO2 Clerk of Works F A Chapman, 20 Blake Road, Abbey Grounds, Cirencester, Glos GL7 2EG is trying to contact old comrades.

# Weather puts paid to Tex's Arnhem drop

TORRENTIAL rain prevented Arnhem veteran Tex Banwell (71) from making his 1,030th parachute jump to mark the 45th anniversary of the wartime drop on the Dutch town.

Mr Banwell, a retired London postal

worker, was a sergeant in the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment at Arnhem in 1944 and has jumped on the anniversary every year since the war apart from two occasions when the weather intervened.

He was among many veterans who

returned to Arnhem for a memorial service which was attended by nearly 300 Territorial Army paratroopers from the 4th, 10th and 15th Battalions, The Parachute Regiment who were returning to the UK after taking part in exercises in Germany.

# Fuel fire hero is cited for bravery

A STAFF sergeant who climbed on to a blazing bulk fuel carrier with an armful of portable extinguishers and succeeded in putting out the fire before it could spread into a surrounding forest has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

SSgt Charles Paterson of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was on exercise with his battalion on the Soltau training area, West Germany when fire broke out in the unit bulk fuel carrier. It contained 3,400 litres of petrol at the time.

When only one of the vehicle's internal extinguishers was found to be working, SSgt Paterson set off in a Land Rover to collect more. When he returned with 12 portable extinguishers he found the fuel carrier burning fiercely, threatening to ignite the extensive forest around it.

With a total disregard for his own safety, SSgt Paterson ordered others present to a safe distance then climbed on to the blazing carrier with the portable extinguishers. One by one he emptied them, putting out the fire after ten minutes and preventing what the citation says might have developed into a catastrophic fire.

SSgt Paterson, who comes from Glasgow, is now an acting WO2.



No doubt about who is in charge here. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, emphasises a point after dropping in on Capt Mike Reilly (left), and LCpl Mark Bailey during Exercise Polar Bear on Salisbury Plain. Capt Reilly, a solicitor, and LCpl Bailey, a

plumber, are members of B Coy, 3 Staffs. Note Stafford Knot badge in the S of S's helmet. Polar Bear, held by the 49th Infantry Brigade, was the biggest Territorial Army exercise to be held in the UK this year. More pictures will appear in the next issue.

## Elba find

SOLDIERS from the 7th Armoured Workshop based at Fallingbostel, West Germany discovered a stone statue of a woman praying during one of 170 sub aqua dives off the island of Elba. Highlight of the exercise was a dive on to a ten-year-old wreck, the sinking of which is still surrounded by mystery.

## 3 Queens celebrate battle day

THE 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment celebrated the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Quebec with an open day for soldiers and families. The 35th Regiment of Foot fought with great distinction at the capture of Quebec in 1759, defeating the famous French regiment, the Royal Roussillon.

Authority was given for the 35th to wear the white plumes of the French regiment. The 35th also took the vanquished regiment's Colours which bore the French lilies of gold, earning for itself the nickname "The Orange Lilies".

The white Roussillon plume was subsequently incorporated in the cap badge of The Royal Sussex Regiment and now appears as part of the collar badge of The Queen's Regiment.

3 Queens is currently serving in Northern Ireland.

## UKMF medics in the field

ONE of the largest medical logistic exercises ever held in the United Kingdom, Exercise Mobile Medic, involved 700 men and women from all medical units of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) in handling 300 "casualties" in the north and west of England.

Medics from Bristol, Bulford, Tidworth, Ludgershall and many other parts of the UK enthusiastically practised casualty management, including evacuation and treatment.

Medical support to UKMF is based on a combined Regular and Territorial Army

organisation. Taking part were 16 Field Ambulance, RAMC from Bulford; 245 Ambulance Squadron, RCT (V) from Bristol and Reading; 84th Field Medical Equipment Depot from Ludgershall; 60th Field Psychiatric Team, and medical and logistic staff from Tidworth.

Maj Phil Baker, RAMC, who headed the planning and controlling staff, said: "It was an extremely successful exercise giving a good opportunity to all the UKMF medical units to undergo realistic collective training."

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# C-in-C BAOR visits Soviet Western Group of Forces

AN official visit to the Soviet Western Group of Forces was made by the Commanders-in-Chief, British Forces Germany. Gen Sir Brian Kenny and Air Marshal Sir Roger Palin travelled to

Wünsdorf at the invitation of the Soviet C-in-C, Gen B V Snetkov.

Relations between the Soviet Group and BFG were discussed and both sides expressed a desire for further visits between

C-in-Cs. Gen Kenny visited a motor rifle unit, laid wreaths in the Memorial Hall of the Museum of Combat Glory and with Air Marshal Palin attended a ceremonial dinner in their honour.

# Sappers fly to aid of hurricane hit island

SAPPERS from Tidworth based 22 Engineer Regiment serving on a five month tour of duty in Belize went to the aid of Monserrat after the tiny British dependency had been battered by Hurricane Hugo.

Nineteen soldiers from 8 Field Squadron were detached from Belize in response to a plea for help to re-establish essential services such as water, power and communications on the Caribbean Island.

Because so many vessels had foundered in the harbour large scale re-supply by sea was virtually impossible. Food and other essential commodities were taken in by air and distributed by road once the sappers had cleared hurricane debris.

Many badly damaged vehicles needed the expert attentions of the Royal Engineers to get them going again.

Maj Keith Montgomery, officer commanding the detachment, demolished a huge rock perched precariously over an island school.

For their first five days on Monserrat the sappers were able to use the facilities on board the Royal Navy frigate *HMS Alacrity*, but when she set sail they had to become self sufficient, despite a hiccup on the catering front.

When the detachment's ten-day ration packs were opened it was discovered they all contained the same thing - chicken and brown sauce.



German Cpl Philip Kaampel (left) from Dusseldorf and Bugler Andy Davis from Hereford share their food during the Anglo-German exercise Jaeger Blow at Sennybridge

## First steps up for the Yorks Vols

CLIMBERS from the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers scaled Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe, and its sister peak, Mont Blanc de Tacul, during a two week expedition in the French Alps. The project has been planned in three phases, with the team hoping to climb Mount Kenya in 1990 and a peak in the Himalayas in the final expedition.

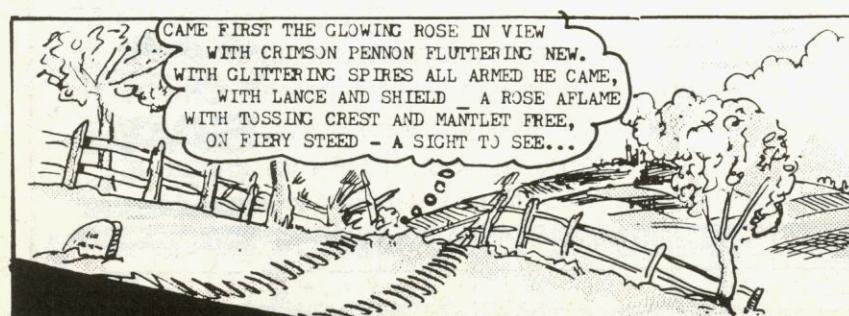
## Germans link up with 2 LI

A HUNDRED German Army paratroopers joined men of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry from Tidworth in a 14-day Anglo-German field exercise on Sennybridge training area, Wales. Exercise Jaeger Blow was the first of a planned increase in bi-lateral training and exchange postings between the armed forces of the two nations.

During Jaeger Blow the 2nd Company of 271 Fallschirmjaeger Battalion, from Iserlohn, was integrated into the British battalion, practising the full range of infantry tactical skills, including LAW firings and a battalion attack.

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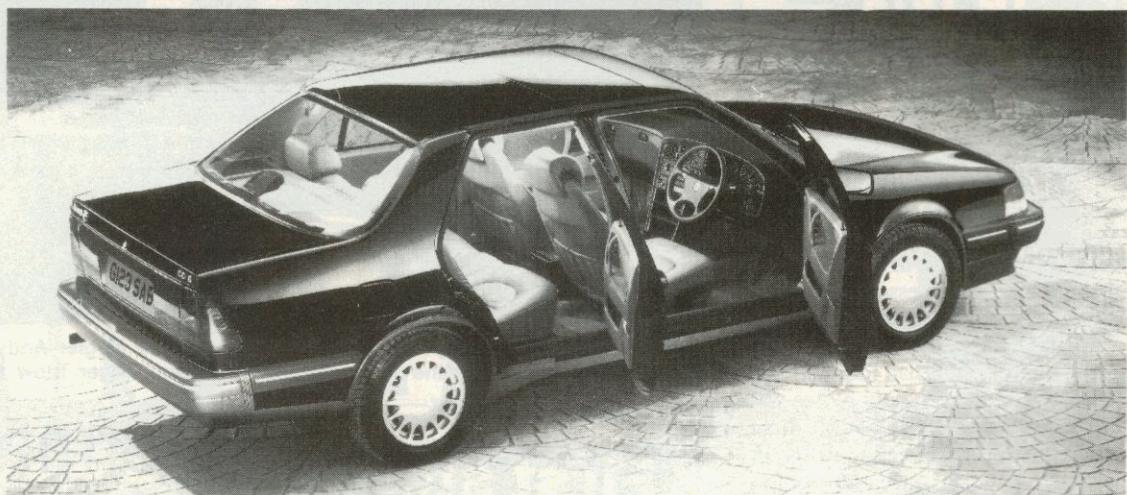


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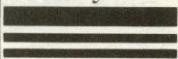
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# Canada's just fine for 2 LI

HAPPINESS for the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry was an exercise in Western Canada. Describing Exercise Pond Jump West 1, Commanding Officer Lt Vol Richard Cousens said: "It is the sort of experience that keeps a battalion bubbling for at least a couple of years."

"It provided all ranks with a memorable and unique experience from which a real military benefit was derived. It is the sort of activity for which most of us joined the Infantry. It was excellent for ensuring job satisfaction and must have a positive effect on retention."

Supporting 2 LI was 79 Commando Battery RA, a troop from 3 Field Squadron RE and elements of 656 Squadron AAC. Also involved in the exercise at Wainwright were Territorial Army soldiers from the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions LI.

Overall theme of the exercise was a "round robin" of dry and live individual, section, platoon and company training, culminating in a two day company live firing battle run.



GOC 3rd Armoured Division, Maj Gen Mike Wilkes presents the trophy to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment B team which was led by Cpl Eric Sykes

## Musical medics

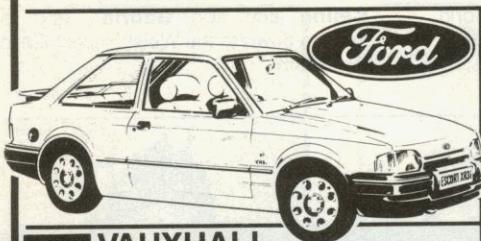
ELEVEN teams of six musicians each representing 14/20 H, 17/21 L, 3 RTR, 1 RS, 1 QLR and 1 QO Hldrs took part in the 3rd Armoured Division's annual competition designed to test the bandsmen in the operational role as medical orderlies. The exercise was held on Dorbaum Training Area, Munster and the winners were 1 QLR's B team, the defending champions. Runners up were 14/20 H's A team.

## Italian exchange

MEN of 35 Air Defence Battery, 22 Air Defence Regiment RA got to grips with the 40/70 Bofors gun during a two week trip to San Dona and Rimini, Italy to visit units of 5 and 121 Reggimento Artiglieria Missili Controgradi. The Italian artillermen will be visiting the Welsh Gunners in Dortmund, West Germany. The visit, dubbed Exercise Roman Javelin, including live firing with 40/70 Bofors and a range of other activities.

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## Big John

Our issue of October 2 carried a news story on the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to SSgt **John Mason** who disarmed a gunman while serving at Fallingbostel, West Germany with 7 Armoured Workshop, REME.

At the time we were unable to get a photograph of SSgt Mason, who is now based at the RAPC Centre, Worthy Down. But it is never too late to use a picture of a courageous soldier, so here it is...



WELCH WAY: Dan Menard with 3 RWF



## Museum piece

**Paul Tew** (left) of the National Army Museum and LCpl **Richard Rawcliffe** from HQ Engineer Resources at Long Marston take a break from

preparing the museum's latest special exhibition "Against All Odds" to get to grips with a Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun. The exhibition in Royal

Hospital Road, London marks the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War with a tribute to the British Army of 1939-40.

## Waterbeach farewell

60 Field Support Squadron RE has said farewell to Capt (Gurkha Commissioned Officer) **Milanchandra Gurung**, believed to be the first GCO ever to serve with a Royal Engineer unit.

After an exceptional career in the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Capt Gurung was posted to Waterbeach for a two year tour as the Squadron Quartermaster to gain experience of working with British troops. It was a two way process because the sappers of 60 Field Support Squadron learned at first hand of the legendary Gurkha qualities of enthusiasm and energy.

During his tour at Waterbeach, Capt Gurung deployed twice with the squadron to Belgium, as well as on the squadron adventure training camp at Tenby, and the skill at arms camp at Warcop, where he became famous for his version of potted sports log races. He is returning to Nepal with his family for long leave before taking up the post of Resources Troop Commander in Hong Kong with the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.



SWORD SALUTE: Capt Gurung receives a farewell gift from Maj Doug Lewis, OC 60 Fd Spt Sqn

## Now Dan's a Welch Canadian!

Canadian Army officer Capt **Dan Menard** is getting to grips with life as a member of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. His transatlantic posting came about as a result of the exchange scheme which operates between the RWF and Canada's Royal 22e Regiment.

Exchange officers usually serve with the Regular 1st Battalion which, following its stint in Northern Ireland, is now in Berlin where it is not possible to have an exchange officer.

Pictured on parade with the 3rd Bn during the Key Ceremony at Caernarvon Castle, Dan is now company commander of C Coy based at Queensferry. A French Canadian, he has been accompanied by his wife **Celine** and son **Gabriel**, and is settling down to the Welsh way of life in Wrexham.



WELCH WAY: Dan Menard with 3 RWF

## Poacher tips?

CSgt Alan Nichols of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment shows a group of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire ACF cadets the finer points of Warrior. The Poachers had just stepped off a ferry at Felixstowe and were soon on their way to tour towns including Oakham, Scunthorpe, Grantham and Market Rasen.



## PEOPLE

### Driver Les is the best

That means he gets to drive

all vehicles intended for the Royal Artillery. But for the next 12 months he will be driving to work in some comfort – his prize is 12 months' use of a £22,000 Ford Sierra Cosworth.

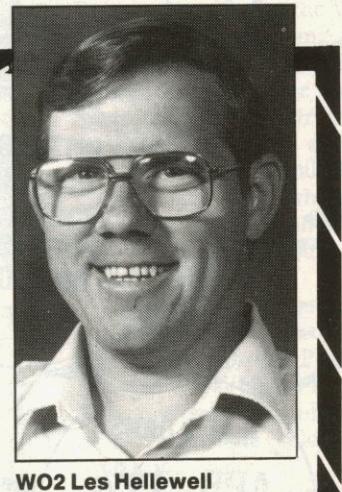
WO2 **Les Hellewell** is a trials officer at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, from where he

clocks up around 30,000 miles a year visiting factories for meetings and to test vehicles.

Boreham based Drive and Survive Team marked them on track driving and skid control.

"I was a little bit nervous for the first ten minutes of the road test, and the written paper was harder than I had expected, but it was all very well planned and I thoroughly enjoyed it," said a delighted WO2 Hellewell.

But not nearly as much as he is going to enjoy driving that Cosworth.



WO2 Les Hellewell

### New RRW Colonel

New Colonel of the Regiment of The Royal Regiment of Wales is Brig Kenneth Davey, who has succeeded Maj Gen Lennox Napier.

Brig **Davey**, now a retired officer working as Schools Liaison Officer on the recruiting staff at HQ Wales in Brecon, started his military career with the Welch Regiment in 1951 and saw active service with the battalion in Korea.



GRENADIER PARADE: Mr Hussey with (from left) Lt David Russell-Parsons, Gdsm Lee Henson and Gdsm Robert Bullock of the recce platoon

### 'Duke' calls on Grenadiers

"Duke" Hussey, who was called up in 1943 and commissioned into the Grenadier Guards, was posted missing in Italy a year later while serving with the 5th Battalion. Repatriated in 1945, he was compelled to relinquish his

commission in 1947 because of his wounds.

Accompanied by Corps Commander Lt Gen Sir **Peter Inge**, Mr Hussey was met at Oxford Barracks by the CO of 1 Gren Gds, Lt Col **Euan Houstoun**.

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# RFEA finds more jobs

Despite the fact that many of the 40 employment officers of the Regular Forces Employment Association work in areas with an unemployment rate of between 12 and 15 per cent, the association found more than 5,000 jobs for the 10,000 ex Regular Servicemen and women who registered with it in 1988.

Gen Sir Jack Harman, President of the RFEA, told delegates at the 104th annual meeting in London: "The placings to registrations ratio showed a three per cent increase and is now 52 per cent, almost ten per cent up on two years ago."

Gen Harman said the demographic trough during the Nineties would produce a shortage of labour and result in great opportunities for ex Regulars to fill the gaps. But he warned that industry and commerce would still search for the skilled man in preference to those who lacked qualifications.

General manager Maj Gen Derek Crabtree reported that security agencies attracted 16 per cent of all placings despite low pay and long hours. Most jobs were found in service industries.

The services of the RFEA, which has branches throughout the UK, are free to ex Regulars and employers.

## Pattern collection

The world famous Pattern Room collection of small arms, previously located at Enfield, has been moved to Royal Ordnance Nottingham.

Its new purpose built accommodation, constructed and paid for by RO, was opened by Maj Gen Edward Willmott, Director General of Weapons for the Army. Responsibility for the collection of 5,000 working weapons, many of them of great historical importance, remains with the MoD.

A collection of patterns (reference models) of small arms has been in existence since 1631. The Pattern Room was housed in the Tower of London until it moved to Enfield in 1841.

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier



Goat Major Norman Pritchard with 3 RWF's new Billy

## The big question is . . .

If you reckon you know everything there is to know about great wines, or Shakespeare, or jazz, or the Bible, Central Television wants to hear from you.

Producers of the company's new quiz programme *The 64 Thousand Dollar Question*, to be broadcast early next year, are anxious to hear from sergeants with a working knowledge of Italian opera, majors who know their monarchs or corporals who are hot on the classics.

Central are recording pilot programmes in November, so if you want to have a crack at the show send a stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible to Central Independent Television, 35-38 Portman Square, London W1A 2HZ.

There will be no general knowledge questions and the contestants do not compete against each other, say the producers.

## Budbrooke memorial

Two slabs of Oxford stone set in a brick surround have been unveiled in the Warwickshire village of Hampton Magna near Warwick. The memorial marks the site of Budbrooke Barracks, once a home of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Built in 1877, Budbrooke Barracks were torn down in the early Sixties to make way for the village of Hampton Magna.

Road names such as The Warwicks, Caen Close and Normandy Close recall its military past.

The local pub, the Montgomery of Alamein (known as the Monty) contains a fine collection of Royal Warwickshire Regiment photographs and memorabilia. The MoD still owns some houses in the area.

The unveiling was watched by members of the Royal Warwicks OCA and representatives of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, into which the old regiment was merged in 1963.

## Caernarvon celebration

Memories of Lloyd George speaking of the clouds of war gathering over Europe were invoked for older residents of Caernarvon when the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers paraded before the Earl of Snowdon in the castle to celebrate the regiment's 300th anniversary.

The last time the ceremony was performed was in 1939 (the RWF's 250th anniversary), and Lloyd George was then Constable of Caernarvon Castle.

The ceremony began with the adjutant, Capt Phillip Robson, knocking at the Water Gate and requesting the regiment's admittance from the present Constable, the Earl of Snowdon. After a Drumhead service the Fusiliers and 140 members of the Royal Welch Comrades, many of whom had fought in the Second World War, marched through the town.

On duty was the battalion's new goat, Billy, selected by Goat Major Norman Pritchard from the Royal Herd. The new Billy, just over a year old, takes over from the old Billy (traditional name of 3 RWF goats) who died after a long illness.

## Check, mate!

We've been castled in our attempt to trace the Army chess association. Can anyone help?

In the July 10 issue we reported the success of LCpl Stephen Hunter, who had just won the Army championship. That story prompted a reader to inquire about chess in the Army and if there was a Service club he could join.

Over to you.

## PC open day

November 25 is a date for all PC enthusiasts to "save". That's when the Services Personal Computer Association is holding its annual meeting and open day at RAF Uxbridge. Flt Lt Pete Burrows at RAF Cranwell (tel: 0400 61201 ext 6335) has all the details.

THE deployment of Army units in support of airmen has its origins in the First World War when the 1st Telegraph Company, RE, serving with the British Expeditionary Force, provided communications for the Royal Flying Corps.

During the D-Day landings air formation signal regiments were in the order of battle and nine regiments served in Europe. 10 Regiment was involved in the Berlin Airlift and later supported the 1956 Suez Landings.

Consolidation led to 21 Signal Regiment being formed in 1959 with its title changed from Air Formation to Air Support in 1971.

Regimental crest, which first appeared in Italy during the Second World War, is the Beaufighter.

Words: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Perring

# Why 21 Signals is a bit special

MEN of the 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) which provides tactical and fixed communications for RAF stations in West Germany have a task unique among Army signallers.

This widely spread regiment has troops serving with the four RAF stations at Wildenrath, Bruggen, Laarbruch and Gutersloh and also supports the RAF in the field.

Regimental headquarters and the bulk of the regiment are based at Wildenrath.

It has just celebrated 30 years continuous support to the Royal Air Force and is unique in that it is the Army's only Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Because of this 21 Sigs is allowed to fly the RAF crest on its regimental flag, an honour granted on its silver anniversary in 1984.

1 Squadron provides part of the Rear Combat Zone's communication network, while 2 Squadron provides field comms for the deployed RAF Harrier Force based at Gutersloh.

3 Squadron provides and maintains on-base ground communication systems at all four front line airfields as well as certain inter-base and inter-



Lt Col Phillip Whitemore with silver Beaufighter

theatre communications, and 4 Squadron provides field comms for the deployed RAF Support Helicopter Force.

G Troop of 3 Squadron is responsible for RAF Germany's Systems Control, STARRNET Control and monitoring SSVC television systems.

Bomb damage repair team at RAF Wildenrath. Centre front are Sig Karl Warburton and Cpl Jim Duncan; left are Sigs Kevin Ingle and Gary Mathieson; back is team commander Sgt Geoff Gardner; and right, LCpl Chris Fallon and Sig Mel Davies



## It has a unique role in support of RAF

the regiment's list of priorities and its members have clocked up an impressive list of sporting successes.

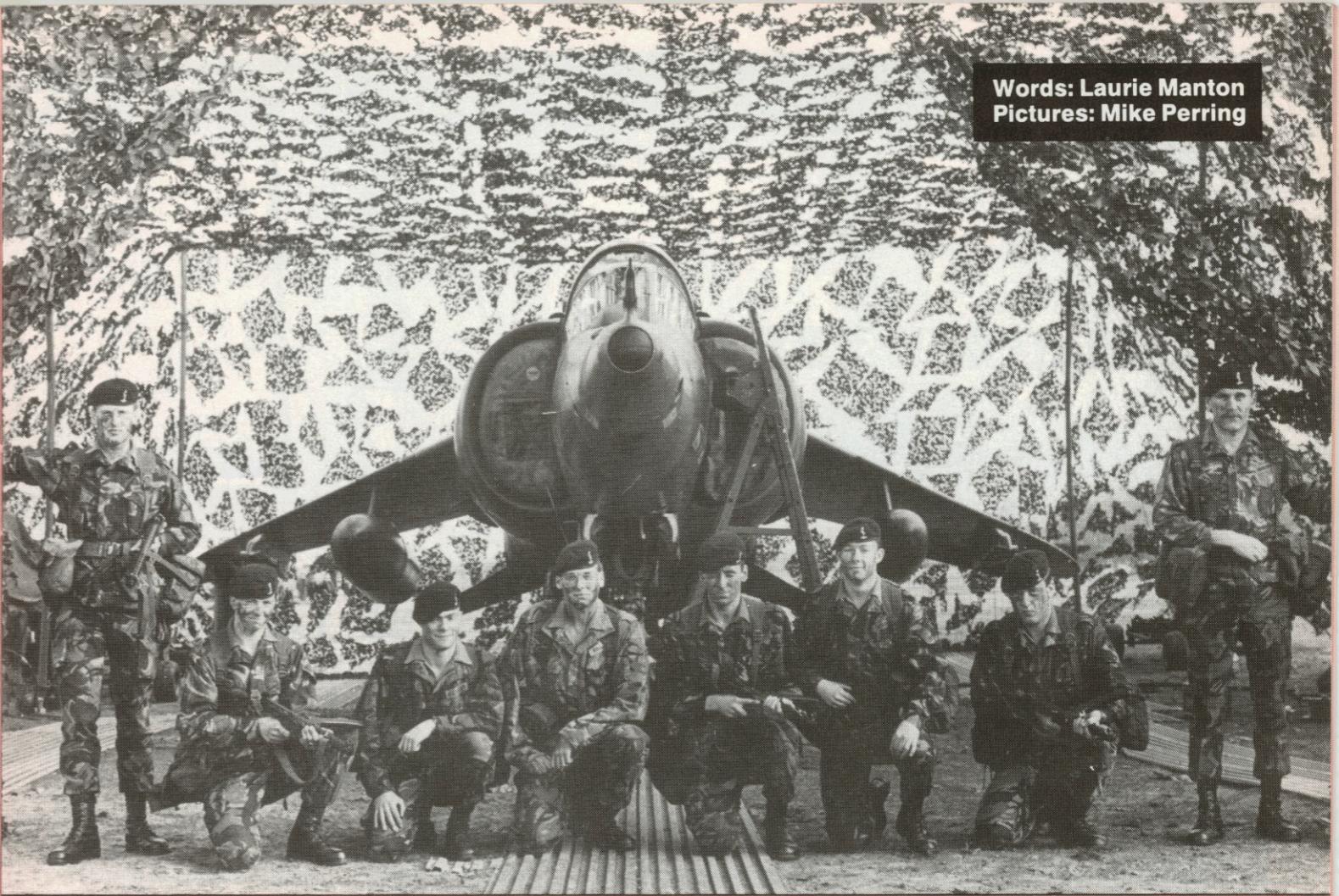
After winning several athletics competitions in BAOR during the past two years, the signallers were pipped at the post this summer in the Army major units final, being beaten into second place by just five points.

Other trophies held by the unit include karting, squash, hockey and boxing to name just a few. The regiment has two young Olympic hopefuls in its ranks.

Sigs Shaun Fardy and Craig Fleming have been picked for the Great Britain B team in the forthcoming world circuit luge competition, and stand every chance of being chosen to represent their country in the 1992 Winter Olympics. And that is after just two winters in the sport.

Sgt Phil Hill has won just about everything in the karting world during the past few years, including the BAOR joint Services championship for the past three years.

Life is not all play for the



A curtain raising pose by men of 21 Signal Regiment in front of an RAF Harrier jump jet at RAF Gutersloh



Maj Wally Lockwood makes friends with young Alex Rigby while mother Julie and Families' Officer Capt Barry Jackson look on

busy signallers. Imagine the mind-numbing task of Cpl Tony Sartorius and Sig Evo Evans who had to install a new main distribution frame for the RAF Gutersloh telephone network.

They had to make more than 40,000 cable connections during installation of a new system that replaced an outdated wartime version once used by Goering.

Serving on an RAF station means duties have to be shared, and when SOLDIER visited Wildenrath Sig Sean Archer

seemed pleased enough to be doing his spell on duty at the main gate with Cpl Claire Mullen, WRAF.

Elsewhere Capt Brian Bilsberry and WO2 Dave Stewart were taking the chance to dream up fresh methods of raising money for a German school for the handicapped.

A link was forged during a summer camp when men from 21 Signal Regiment found themselves sharing a campsite with the youngsters, and the resulting impromptu football match led to a lasting



Signallers remove old cable from a communications duct at RAF Bruggen. All part of their work in support of the Royal Air Force

friendship with the children.

Bravest man in the regiment must be OC 1 Squadron, Maj Dick Good, who was plucky enough to put on a padded suit and act as human bait for one of the RAF guard dogs.

Aim was to demonstrate to his men just what perils they might face during their escape and evasion exercise. Trouble was the dog appeared to have developed a taste for soldiers and refused to let go of the major's leg.

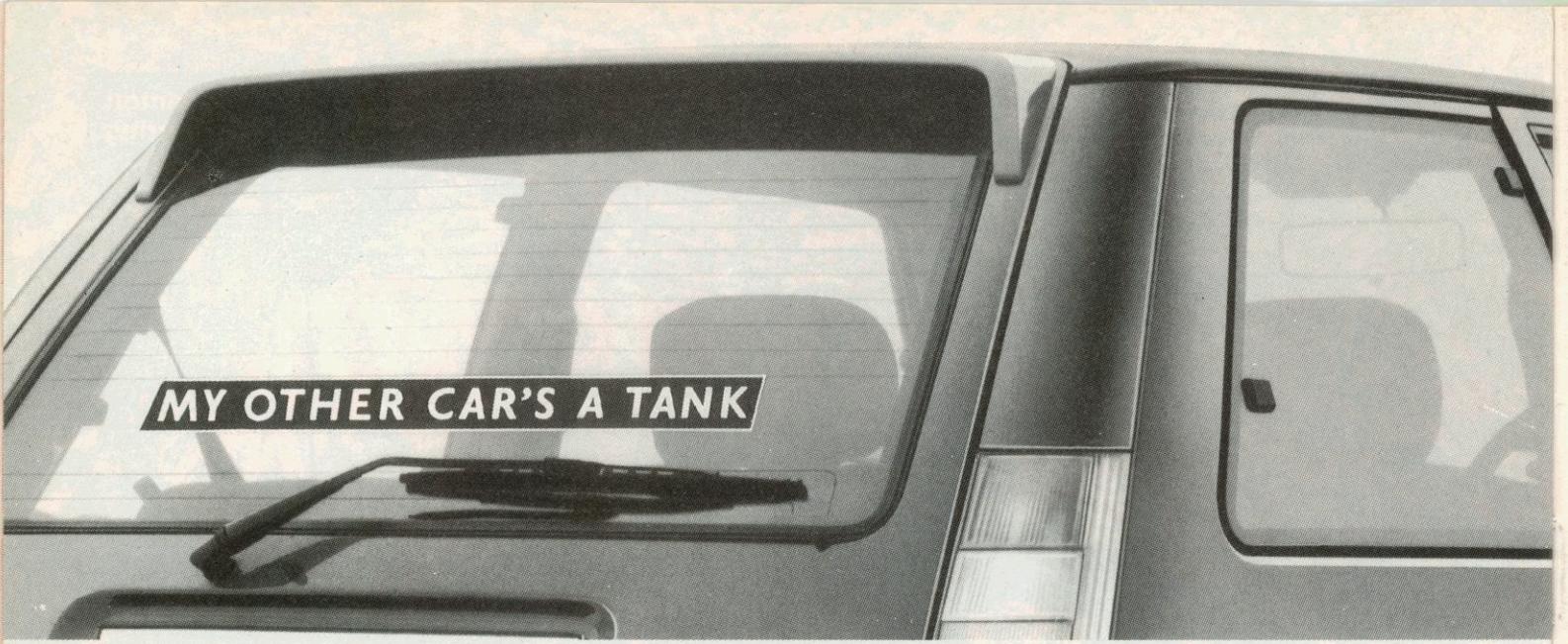
"Leave!" shouted the handler to no avail.

"Kill!" countermanded the squaddies, obviously relishing every moment of high drama.

Eventually the dog was persuaded to let go and order was restored.

Maj Good's comments went unrecorded!

Whatever role 21st Signal Regiment (AS) is asked to perform, its members have no hesitation in getting stuck in and carry out their duties with an enthusiastic professionalism that cannot fail to have been noticed by their Royal Air Force neighbours.



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# Age old military skill is still in demand

SNIPING, one of the oldest arts of the foot soldier, is back in fashion.

The first UKLF sniper concentration for some years has been held at Sennybridge, Wales, with the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, as sponsor unit assisted by the Small Arms School Corps.

Sniping, described in the dictionary as "firing shots from hiding, usually at long range, into the enemy's camp or at individuals" has claimed some notable victims over the centuries. Richard the Lionheart was picked off by a Bowman at the siege of Chalus and Nelson was shot on the deck of the *Victory* by a marksman on a French man o' war.

Afghan tribesmen and Boer farmers plagued British troops in the latter part of the 19th Century and sniping probably reached its widest application during the positional warfare of 1914-18.

Though practitioners did not achieve the same notoriety in the Second World War, both sides employed them extensively, notably at Stalingrad and in the Far East.

Tank commanders were prime targets. The County of London Yeomanry lost five, including its CO, in one day in Sicily.

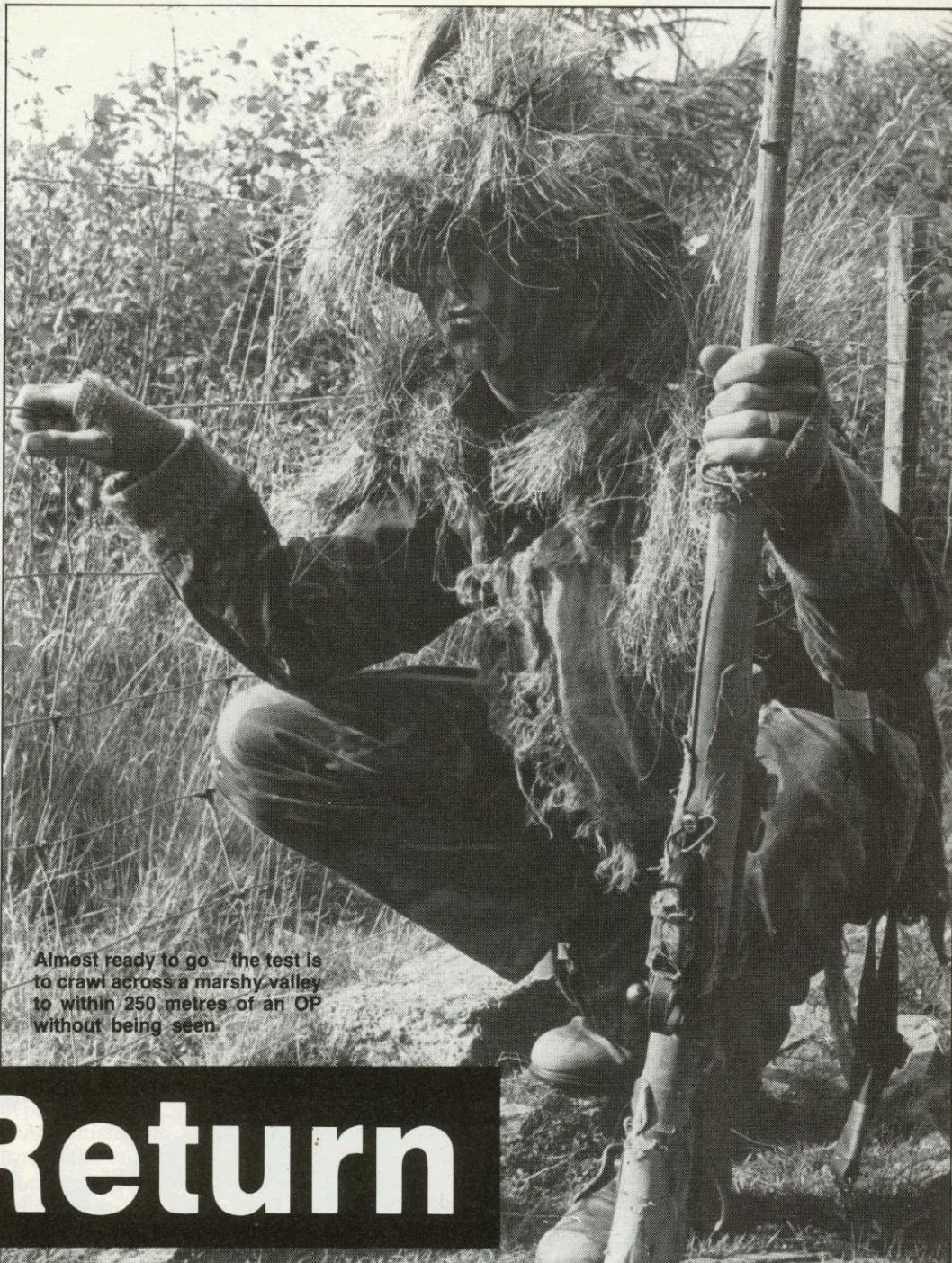
In Normandy, after three officers of the 4th Grenadier Guards were shot dead in the turrets of their Churchills, a determined effort was made to find an "antidote to the German sniper".

An armour plate ten inches high was welded on to the cupola, but as good tank commanders had to observe the countryside "head up", they were still vulnerable.

Though the Royal Marines have traditionally maintained their sniping skills (prompted by the shade of Lord Nelson?) the "trade" was in the doldrums in the Army in the 1970s.

Then came the Falklands and, at Mount Longden and Tumbledown, unpleasant reminders of the capability of hidden marksmen.

In recent years separate concentrations have been run by the SASC Training Advisory Groups North and South (at Warcop and on Dartmoor) but



Almost ready to go - the test is to crawl across a marshy valley to within 250 metres of an OP without being seen.

## Return of the sniper

it became clear that a lot more could be learned from a joint gathering.

At the moment the School of Infantry runs courses to bring soldiers up to the sniper badge standard and trains instructors - sniping being instructor intensive.

Each battalion should have its Master Sniper whose job is

to train men in the use of the eight 7.26 L-42 rifles issued to units - re-tubed descendants of the reliable Short Magazine .303 Lee-Enfield which has been around in one form or the other for nearly 90 years.

At Sennybridge the requirement was for all the participants to have completed a sniper course at unit level.

**Words: Bill Moore. Pictures: Mike Weston**

Operating in pairs according to current "fashion", they were examined in the seven skills essential to the sniper badge test - map reading, stalking, concealment, observation, judging distance, shooting and "sniper knowledge".

The programme ended with an overnight exercise in which sniper pairs equipped with SA 80s fitted with laser projectors

● Turn to next page



A typical sniper pair (from 2 RRF) with the tools of their trade and the contents of their bergens. Fus Jim Hubbard with the telescope he uses to spot for Cpl Peter Foort carrying the standard L-42A1 rifle. Both had just returned from an extended exercise



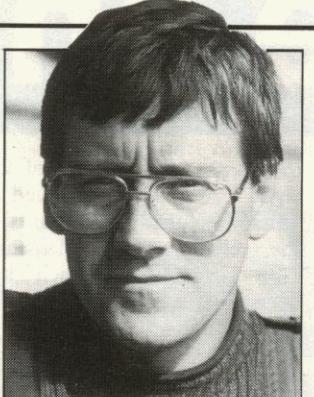
Expert spotters Cpl Ian Marlow, 3 R Anglian, and Cpl Baz Hunter, 1 Para, whose job was to detect snipers crawling across a marshy valley

From Page 17

and the responsive SAWES harness competed against each other (laser projectors with L-42 characteristics were not available).

The results are now being analysed and the lessons will be applied when the next concentration is held – probably at Stamford Training Area in the spring – when SOLDIER hopes to report further on the revival of the most demanding role required of an infantryman.

By then the long awaited new sniper rifle may be in use.



Capt Ken Blenkin SASC believes snipers should be non-smokers

## Profile of the

IN A recent exercise in which laser equipment was used along with the SAWES harness, a sniper of the Royal Green Jackets was credited with taking out the entire command element of an attacking battalion – making around 50 "kills".

What sort of a man is needed for such a role?

In the personal view of Capt

Ken Blenkin, SASC Training Group North, "a loner who, paradoxically, has to be able to work with another man." Also . . .

"He is rarely a smart parade ground soldier but he will be well balanced so he can sit in an OP for two or three days without having a row with his mucker."

"He needn't be a Bisley shot

## sniper

to the exclusion of all other skills but he does have to be absolutely fit.

"He's going to be out tabbing with his kit for long distances and separated from his parent unit for days on end," he said.

"Another important thing – he should be a non-smoker. Otherwise he'll cough when he wakes up."



WO1 Graham Evans of the SASC casts an expert eye over LCpl Lachlan Cameron of 3 RGJ

skills together continuously and being allocated to units where they could be most effective during operations.

Under the present system COs were likely to object to the reduction in manpower when sniper teams were taken from them.

With the present shortage of men, trained snipers tended to end up as conventional riflemen or, if they were NCOs, as section commanders, thereby wasting their skills.

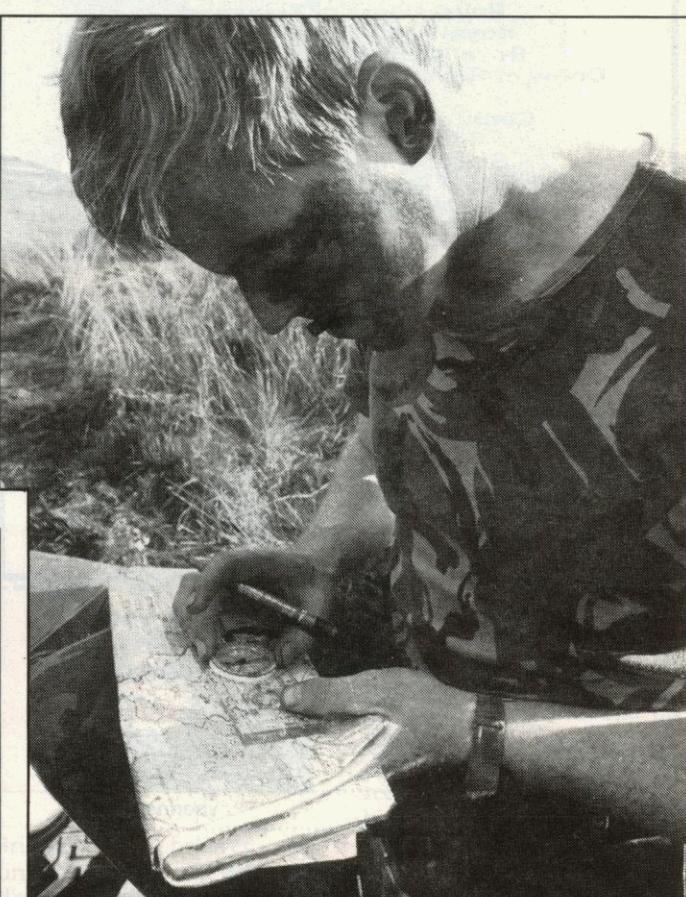
In the field the asset should be deployed in teams of four or even six. It was not just a

question of a pair going forward to a certain area to engage a target – eventually they had to come back.

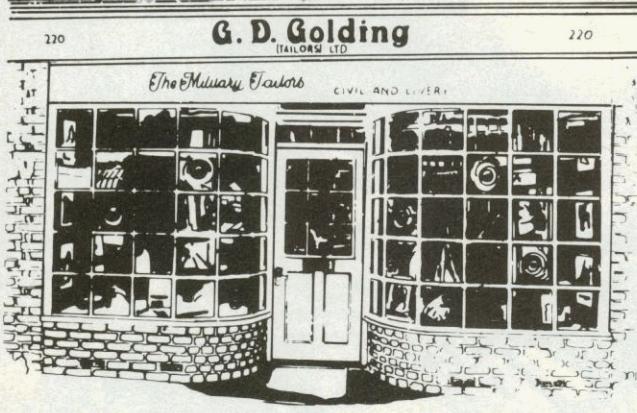
On a 24-hour mission they might even be projected further forward – yet still had to maintain contact with the unit deploying them.

Administration, satellite patrols and back up radios were all part of the equation and had to be allowed for in manning.

There was also a need to consider training NCOs and team leaders in overall battle procedures so that debriefs could be more productive.



Above – Map reading – one of the sniper's seven skills  
Left – The coveted sniper badge. Surely the skills required to win it warrant special pay?



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MAKING their mark in BAOR were the troops of 24th Airmobile Brigade who were deploying on German soil for the first time since taking on their airmobile role 18 months ago.

24 Brigade is employed as an air mobile anti-tank brigade equipped with a large number of ground based anti-tank weapons, as well

as a strong force of anti-tank helicopters.

Designed for use as a reserve formation to block and stop an enemy armoured penetration, it has a number of other roles.

It can operate anywhere in the Corps' rear area to counter a heliborne or airborne drop, and is capable of operating with

armour or working as a formation with armoured divisions.

Exercise Key Flight was designed as the validation exercise and its commander, Brig George Kennedy, and his troops were given a variety of missions to carry out with the purpose of testing the brigade's ability to meet its role. It passed with flying colours.

# Small is beautiful – and deadly

FINDING the headquarters complex of 24th Airmobile Brigade was not an easy task because the formation tends to travel light.

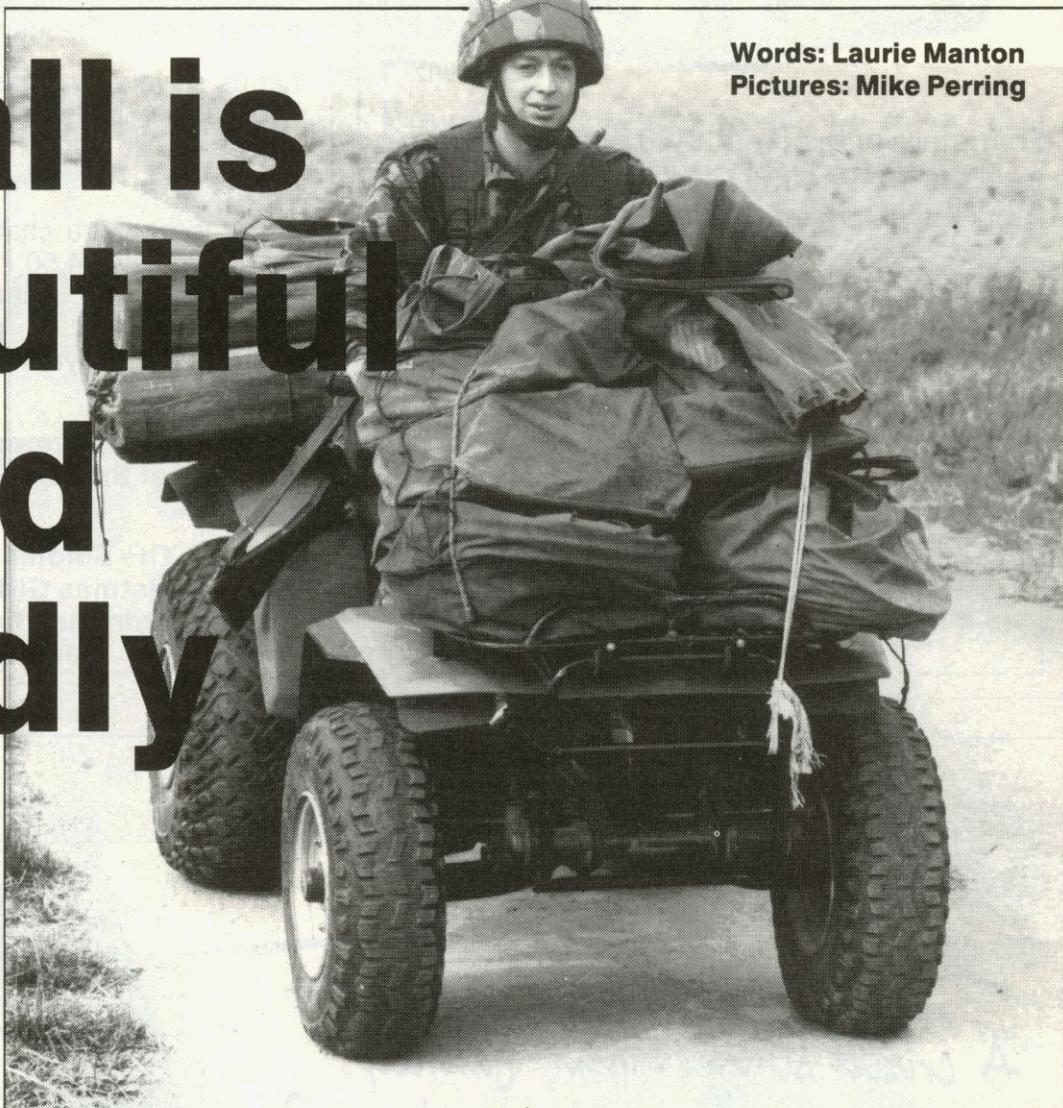
"Small is beautiful and . . . certainly safe," declared Brig George Kennedy, its commander. "We can tuck ourselves away with the complete range of communications and support facilities required to command a brigade in a very small space indeed."

Brig Kennedy was not exaggerating. Squeezed into the dark corner of a barn was a semi-circle of GS tables covered in files, remote radio handsets and maps.

At each was sat an officer or senior NCO beavering away in the light of a small lamp.

Breaking away from battle planning Brig Kennedy took time out to tell SOLDIER how the brigade was settling in to its airmobile role.

"During Key Flight, I am looking to test the procedures and tactical concepts we have developed over the last year, on a foundation that was built by the trials of 6 Brigade. We have taken things a stage further and are pushing the concept as far



No jokes about Postman Pat please! This four wheel "buggy" proved its worth during Key Flight by carrying a hefty load of equipment

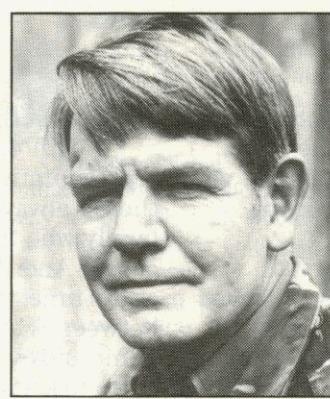
as our current resources will allow," he explained.

Brig Kennedy dispelled rumours of difficulties caused by not having his own lift capacity and having to use helicopters belonging to the Royal Air Force.

"The fact that the helicopters belong to the RAF does present us with some problems of co-ordination but they are not insurmountable," he said.

"The alternative, to group very capable support helicopters with the brigade, is a waste of an asset which has got far more flexibility. I don't think it is a sensible option."

Through working with the RAF over the years with 6 Brigade and now with 24



Brig Kennedy

Brigade, he believes his airmobile troops now have the closest possible ties and he is "entirely satisfied that the command and control arrangement for gathering and tasking

the helicopters quickly are as good as they possibly can be."

Was he happy with the dual role of the Lynx light battlefield attack helicopters under his command?

"Yes, but!" said Brig Kennedy. "Lynx is principally an anti-tank helicopter and that is what I value it for. They are my best means of manoeuvring fire power quickly around the battlefield."

"Their ability to deploy my recce groups early in the brigade's deployment is also priceless because I have them under my control and can move them immediately. But it has a quite clearly supportive role as a light battlefield helicopter."

● Turn to Page 24

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# Lethal harvest developed by new heli-brigade

TAKING over an airmobile role is not for the faint hearted. You don't just climb into a helicopter, fly around a bit, and get out at the other end.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have to be rewritten and old ideas of soldiering thrown out of the window.

In the case of 24th Airmobile Brigade, the troops and their commanders have spent the past 18 months training to adapt to their new role.

Formation of the quick reaction force was specifically designed to create a highly mobile unit able to slow the advance of enemy armour until conventional forces could be moved in to restore the front line.

Perhaps the most remarkable development is that devised by the men of 51 Field Squadron RE who have devoted their efforts to perfecting an aerial mine layer.

Using helicopters to sow mines is not a new idea but what makes the sappers' contribution unique is their ability to carry and lay the weapons in a fraction of the time taken by conventional methods.

They can dispense 24lb mines at speed from a low flying Chinook helicopter to slow the advance of massed enemy tanks. They are now able to lay a massive carpet of mines across a sizeable front in



Above - As the Chinook mine layer flies on, two sappers arm the lethal bar mines. The technique was developed by 51 Field Squadron RE

Left - Chinook mine layer in operation

less than half a day.

The engineers' mine-laying capability would provide a major obstacle to tank movement, channelling enemy armour into "killing grounds" where the brigade's main firepower, Milan, would be waiting.

Strength of the operation lies in its relative simplicity, although what is seen as one of its more interesting features is the marriage between the Army and the RAF during the development of the Standard Operating Procedure.

Chinooks loaded with the mines capable of knocking out any main battle tank would in war fly over crops to disgorge their deadly cargo.

Two six-inch plastic tubes protruding from the rear are used to dispatch the mines, which are then armed by combat engineers following on foot.

"Sowing mines from helicopters is not new but we are now doing it in a much more precise format. Our ability to pose such a major obstacle for armour enhances the brigade com-

mander's overall plan," said squadron commander Maj Bill Bailey who, with Lt Barry White, came up with the idea.

"It has been a process of development from its initial conception through design and trialling. The idea has been proved in the UK and we have now established we could lay a limitless carpet of anti-tank mines."

"The number would only be restricted by the availability of aircraft and supplies of mines," he said.

## Small and deadly

● From Page 21

Would a heavier-gunned helicopter be a better bet?

"We all have our aspirations. The Apache heavy attack helicopter is clearly one of mine and it is a more capable aircraft, and also more expensive," said Brig Kennedy, who added that Apache's capability might be more than he could fully utilise in the sort of brigade area he now has.

Was the airmobility role

working out satisfactorily?

"It would be a surprise to me if we had gone through an exercise of this size without finding that some part of the machinery was not working quite as well as it should be," he said.

"I am sure there will be recommendations we will make after the exercise, either for equipment enhancement or for changes to our internal procedures."



Exit stage right for the troops of 24 Brigade as they leave a Chinook on the landing zone. The brigade makes use of motor cycles in the field



A helicopter handler signals the launch of the airmobile exercise



Scrum down by infantry to stop Milan being blown away by the down draft from a Puma helicopter

## Two battalions to leave brigade

AS THE validation of 24th Airmobile Brigade was taking place it was revealed that two of its three infantry battalions are to leave to take up new roles elsewhere.

The 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry and 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire are to be replaced by the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment who will have to undergo a lengthy period of retraining to familiarise themselves with airmobile operations.

Were the moves so soon after validation a waste of training time?

"No," said its commander, Brig George Kennedy. "As a former airmobile battalion

commander, I don't believe that any time spent in this role is wasted.

"It demands very high standards of infantry skills, and very quick thinking and quick acting soldiers. I do not think that can be bad for any subsequent role whether it is as mechanised infantry or as an infantry battalion anywhere in the world," he said.

Units currently in 24 Brigade are: 27 Field Regiment RA, 38 Engineer Regiment RE, 210 Signal Squadron, 3 LI, 1 PWO, 1 Green Howards, 9 Regiment AAC, 2 Inf Division Transport Regiment RCT, 24 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance RAMC, 2 Ordnance Battalion RAOC, 15 Field Workshop REME and 24 Airmobile Brigade Provost Detachment RMP.



Life can be a bit of a struggle with a 90lb bergen to carry but Capt Sue Thorpe manages to keep a smile

## Men only? You've got to be joking

KEY FLIGHT was not an all male affair, for five women were deployed with the brigade, Capt Alison Biegel to exercise control, Capt Amanda Roberts watchkeeping at brigade headquarters, 2nd Lt Claire Prigge with 1 PWO and Capt Harriet Collins as 3 LI's regimental medical officer.

The fifth was Capt Sue Thorpe, a medical officer with 24 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance RAMC, who certainly had a weight on her mind – or shoulders.

The diminutive doctor (4ft 11 1/2in tall) ended up having to lug a 90lb bergen on and off helicopters!

Lt Lars Lucan is Clearing Troop commander with the flying medics, and his troop makes up 90 per cent of the strength of the advance dressing station.

It is the advanced dressing station that flies forward, in two Chinooks, to support the brigade during operations.

Each helicopter carries an underslung load of medical equipment weighing around 1,500kg. On board one Chinook is a communications vehicle while the other has a Supacat.

"Supacat is excellent," says Lt Lucan. "It saves our guys physical exertion. Casualties are brought back to us by 'chopper, and we can offload them on to



Supacat is just the ticket to get battlefield casualties to the dressing station swiftly

Supacat and get them back to the dressing station within minutes.

"Previously the men had to hump stretchers. Not only was that tiring but it tied up a lot of personnel," he said.

He and the Collecting Troop commander, 2nd Lt

Wayne Thomas, are not doctors. They work with the medical officers who run the dressing station, providing regimental expertise including comms and administration to ensure the doctors get to the right place with the right equipment at the right time.

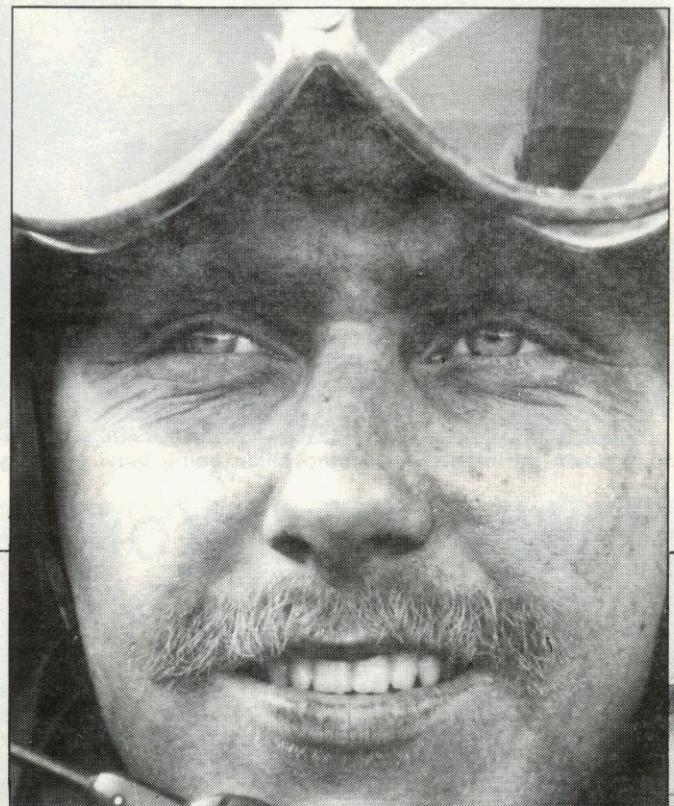
# EXERCISE ALBUM



Above - Stubble helmeted approach to camouflage by this soldier in his slit trench

Left - When life is cold and wet, a warming cup of tea does wonders for morale

Below - Study of a tank driver



ARMY Public Information photographers WO1 Jim Gallagher, SSgts Chris Young and Angus Beaton, Cpl Rick Kerbyson and LCpl Steve Ballie, together with darkroom technicians Chris Barr, Sue Howe and Gundula Wolters produced some fine pictorial images during Exercises White Rhino and Potent Gauntlet in BAOR. A sample are reproduced here.

**The heat of battle. This study of warfare captures the tension of the situation**



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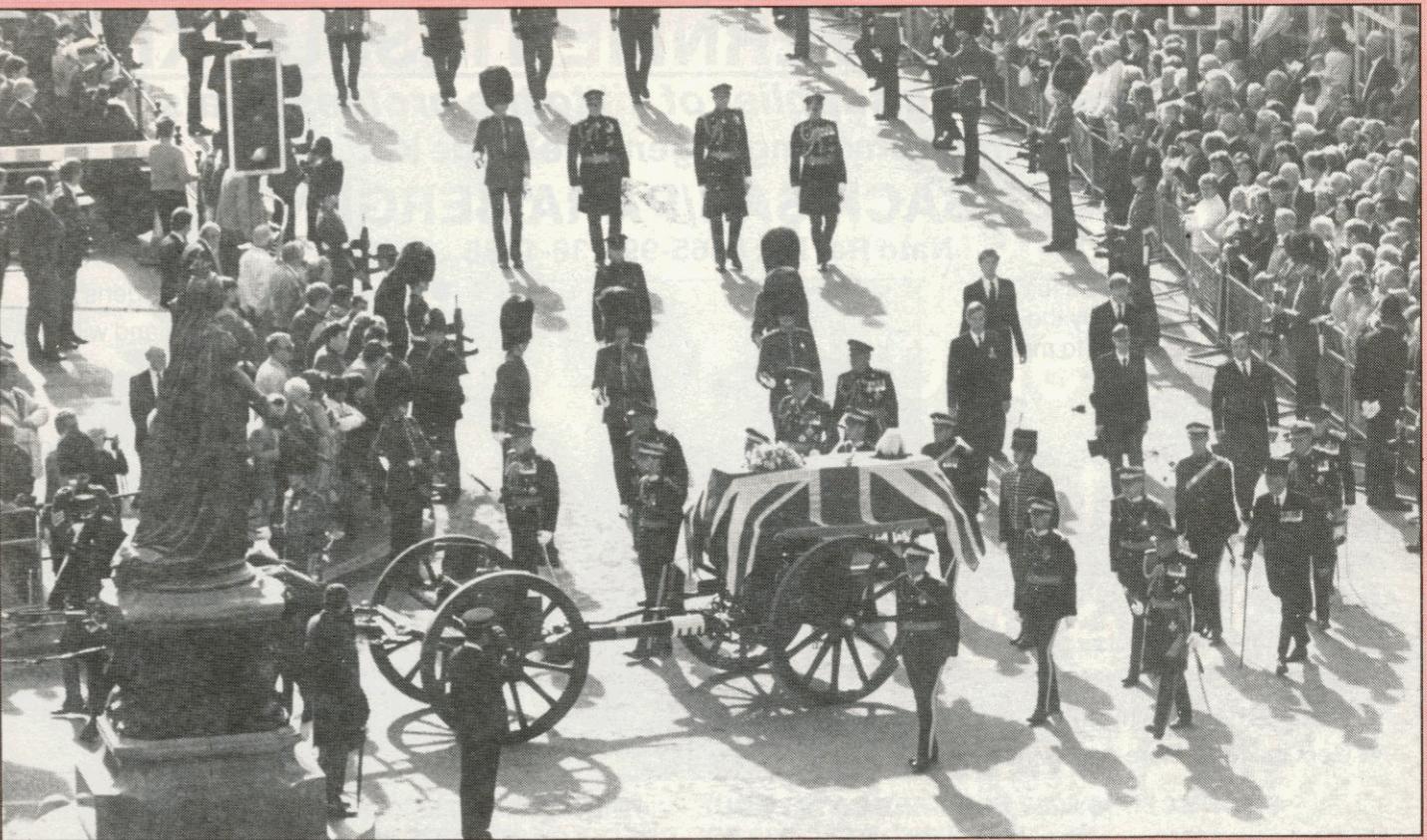
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Top left: When all the bridges in the area have been blown, commanders are relieved to find the sappers are on hand to ferry men and vehicles across to the far bank. Above: During Exercise Key Flight, a Milan post of Support Company 3 LI is manned by Pte Neil Codling (inside front) and Pte Gary Wilson. Far left: A welcome sight for any unit running short of fuel. A Stalwart fitted with UBRE (Unit Bulk Replenishment Equipment) waits in a field for the call forward to top up fuel tanks. Left: Pipe Major Tommy Jackson, 2 R Irish, provides some light entertainment for his comrades during a break between battles



Above: The Corps of Drums of the Irish Guards marches to St George's Chapel with drums draped in black as a mark of respect. Right: Guardsmen march out of Combermere Barracks to line the streets of Windsor. The street lining detachments were provided by the Coldstream Guards, Irish Guards and Grenadier Guards. Below: On the chapel steps lined by men of the 17th/21st Lancers with reversed lances, the coffin is saluted by, among others, Field Marshals, an Admiral of the Fleet and a Marshal of the Royal Air Force



Mounted on a gun carriage, the coffin of Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull is escorted past the statue of Queen Victoria on the approach to Castle Hill, Windsor

## Lancer's farewell

MILITARY pageantry on a scale rarely seen was on parade at Windsor to mark the funeral of Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull, writes Laurie Manton.

Yet the occasion was not a military funeral but that of a Knight of the Garter, for Field Marshal Hull was a member of The Most Noble Order of the Garter, the premier Order of Chivalry, comprising the Sovereign and 25 Knights Companions.

It is an honour bestowed as the personal gift of the Sovereign.

Last military Knight of the Garter to receive this service was Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer in 1979.

The streets of the funeral route cast a golden hue on the proceedings for they had been sprayed with sand to allow the horses a better grip during the upward march to Windsor Castle.

First sight of uniform for the crowds came with the departure of troops from the Coldstream, Irish and Grenadier Guards from Combermere Barracks to form street lining parties.

Observant uniform buffs might have noticed two unusual sights. The Band of the Grenadier Guards marched with its drums draped in black, and behind the whole marched a party of regimental medics carrying stretchers.

At Windsor Castle the murmur of spectators was muffled by the sound of marching troops and the strains of sombre music echoing up the street as the funeral procession approached.

Astride a charger, the Procession

Marshal, Col Sir Brian Barttelot, led the way to the castle approach, passing close to the impressive statue of Queen Victoria.

Behind him marched Blenheim and Waterloo Companies of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, followed by detachments from 1st Battalion Irish Guards, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and the 17th/21st Lancers, Field Marshal Hull's old regiment.

Following the Bands of the Scots and Irish Guards was GOC London District, Maj Gen Simon Cooper, and his staff who proceeded the insignia bearers.

Maj Gen Richard Swinburn, nephew and godson of the late field marshal, carried the Insignia of the Order of the Garter, while the Ensign of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard, Lt Col Robert Longsdon, carried the Insignia of the Order of Bath, and Lt Col Andrew Cumming, 17th/21st, the DSO and campaign medals.

They marched ahead of the gun carriage pulled by six chargers of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery that bore the coffin, draped by the Union Flag. On top rested the field marshal's plumed cap and baton.

A salute of 19 guns fired by the King's Troop began as the funeral procession stepped off and the last gun was fired as the gun carriage halted at the West Door of St George's Chapel.

Steps leading to the chapel were lined by men of the 17th/21st Lancers who had travelled from Germany to take part in the Lancer's Farewell. As the chain mail adorning their shoulders glistened in the sun, they reversed their lances as a mark of respect while the coffin passed by.

Below, a galaxy of top brass stood to salute the coffin. Their numbers included four field marshals, an admiral of the fleet and a marshal of the Royal Air Force.

After the service, in sharp contrast to the earlier military pomp, Field Marshal Hull's coffin was placed in a simple funeral hearse and driven out of the castle gate to begin its journey to the West Country where his remains will be laid to rest.

Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull was regarded as the father of the post-war Regular Army, for he headed the War Office Committee set up to recommend the future size and shape of the Army if conscription was to be abolished.

Commissioned into the 17th/21st Lancers in 1928, he came to notice when given command of Blade Force during the Second World War, for which he was awarded the DSO in 1943.

During his time as Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1961 to 1964 he successfully deterred an Iraq attack on Kuwait and dealt with the Indonesian confrontation with Malaysia, the crushing of the East African mutinies and rebellion in the Radfan.

In 1965 he became Chief of the Defence Staff in succession to Lord Mountbatten.

Pictures by Terry Champion

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# 'Since my responsibility is to deter war I'd like to see the level of confrontation lowered . . .'

**Supreme Allied Commander Europe  
Gen Galvin talks to Laurie Manton**

HIGHEST ranking visitor to Exercise White Rhino was the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Gen John R Galvin, who took time out to comment on the situation facing Nato armies in Europe in the light of arms reduction talks, overtures of peace and the gathering opposition to large scale manoeuvres by the Greens.

He considered limitations on environmental grounds "a welcome by-product if we are able to achieve it."

"Technological changes have taken place, and we have modernisation of equipment which means we may want to do some things differently from what we have done before.

"In addition, we have the arms control questions which are now going to limit manoeuvres. So if we are going to be limited, and we don't know what those limitations will finally be, we need to see how we can conduct good exercises under those circumstances. We have the growing industrialisation of the countryside which limits us and limits the reality of exercises, so what should we do there?

"Then we have the opportunity given us by the computers we now have. Maybe in some cases we can stay in our own garrisons and actually do some exercises there.

*Politically there had been a great deal of change in Hungary, Poland and the Baltic States. Did SACEUR think that made Europe more, or less, stable?*

"I think there is great instability as we look around at what is happening inside the Soviet Union and inside states associated with it. I don't know where that instability is going to lead.

"There is a kind of unpredictable environment we face here, and in view of that, I have said before that the Warsaw Pact was 'big but predictable'. Now it's simply big!"

*And the question of German reunification? What would be the impact on Nato?*

"Really that's a political question and I am just a humble infantryman. I don't know anything about those things."

*On the subject of humble infantrymen, the demographic trough meant there would be fewer of them in many countries. Did SACEUR see an increasing role for women in Nato forces?*

"I would hope that we can recognise that women can play a great role in the Services.

"There is no doubt we are in a world now which recognises the efficacy of utilisation of women to accomplish things which were not recognised some time ago.

"Of course all of us have recognised this much more than our predecessors because we are a lot brighter!"

*Could there ever be a female SACEUR?*

"Anything is possible."

*With a new administration in the United States, did Gen Galvin see any change in the American administration's view of the Forces and troop levels in Europe?*

"I see no change. I think that President Bush is absolutely committed to the forward deployment of American Forces. There is no doubt about that.

"I think that as we look at arms control there is a desire on the part of the United States and indeed on the part of all other nations to lower the level of confrontation. I think that is a very good idea.

"Since my responsibility is to deter war, I'd like to see the level of confrontation in Europe - that is the level of armaments between East and West - lowered."

*Even though the Soviet Union is now unpredictable?*

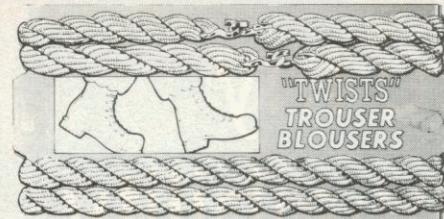
"It is unpredictable and that is why I would like to see it militarily smaller."

*Despite MILES and computer assisted exercises, how did SACEUR keep troops' personal fighting skills up to scratch in this more restricted environment?*

"There may be opportunities for us to use simulation to keep skills up to scratch but to what degree is very much a matter of question. This is why we need to experiment and see what we can do."

*Was there a chance of member nations' troops being rotated out of Europe to carry out training in their own countries and then returning to Germany?*

"That is not a point that has been raised by anybody. I think that there is a requirement to train within the environment in which we might fight, and think it important to keep up the training in the Federal Republic of Germany."



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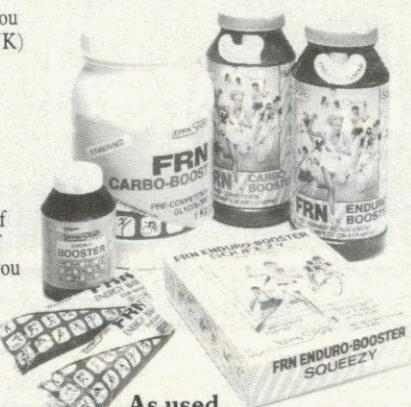
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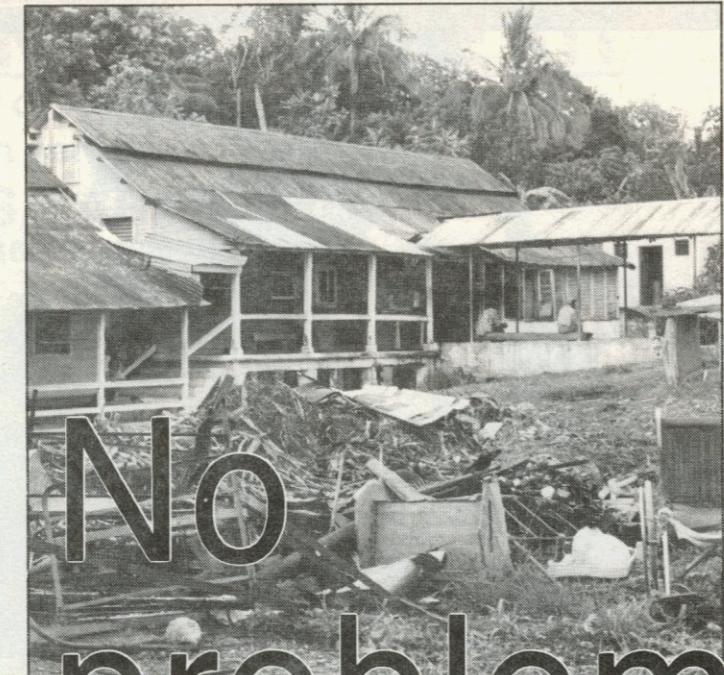
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# NO problem for Cheshires in Paradise

"PARADISE" is how film star and Caribbean resident Errol Flynn described Jamaica.

Swaying palms, white sandy beaches and sparkling azure seas were all there for the taking when 120 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment visited the island.

But no earthly paradise is ever quite as perfect as portrayed in the glossy holiday brochures. Poverty in Jamaica is extreme and the Cheshires did not fly more than 4,000 miles to get a sun tan.

They were taking part in a four week exchange visit with the Jamaican Defence Force. One hundred and sixteen Jamaicans spent September in the UK being hosted by the Cheshire Regiment on Exercise Calypso Hop while B Coy 1 Cheshire, plus a handful of individual attachments, spent a similar period in Jamaica on Exercise Red Stripe, a name inspired by the local brew.

B Coy's home for four weeks was a burnt out hotel on the beautiful northern coast at Port Antonio. Washing facilities were basic but the JDF had transformed this once elegant residence into a very acceptable camp with the addition of a corrugated iron roof, a few coats of paint and the ubiquitous television set.

As the only female in the party, the company kindly

booked me into a hotel on a nearby island.

"No problem, man" - the standard national response to almost every request - was the reply when I asked the boatman to pick me up at a particular time.

But Jamaican time-keeping is a fairly relaxed affair and after considerable foot tapping this reporter resorted to borrowing a canoe from the Cheshires and paddling back to the island each night. Forget your BMWs and your Rolls Royces, canoeing is really the only chic way to travel to work!

With high humidity and temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s, a nine day period of acclimatisation gave the soldiers a chance to get to grips with the heat before the intensive military jungle exercises began.

During that time they were kept very busy with visits to the Jungle Training School on the banks of the Rio Grande; snorkelling, diving and other water-based adventure training activities; and a community relations project at a local infirmary.

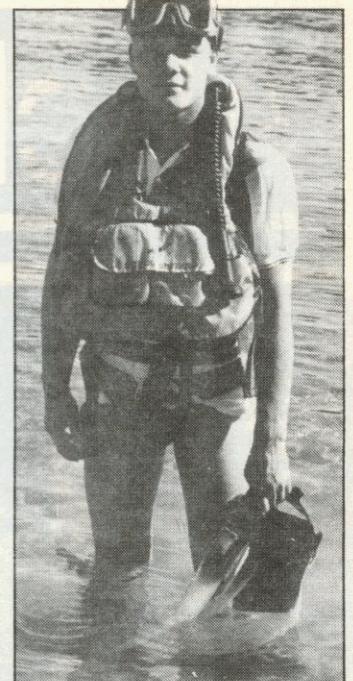
A year ago Hurricane Gilbert wreaked havoc on many of the ramshackle infirmary buildings and rubbish was still piled high under foundations, making a perfect breeding ground for rats.

The Cheshire soldiers de-

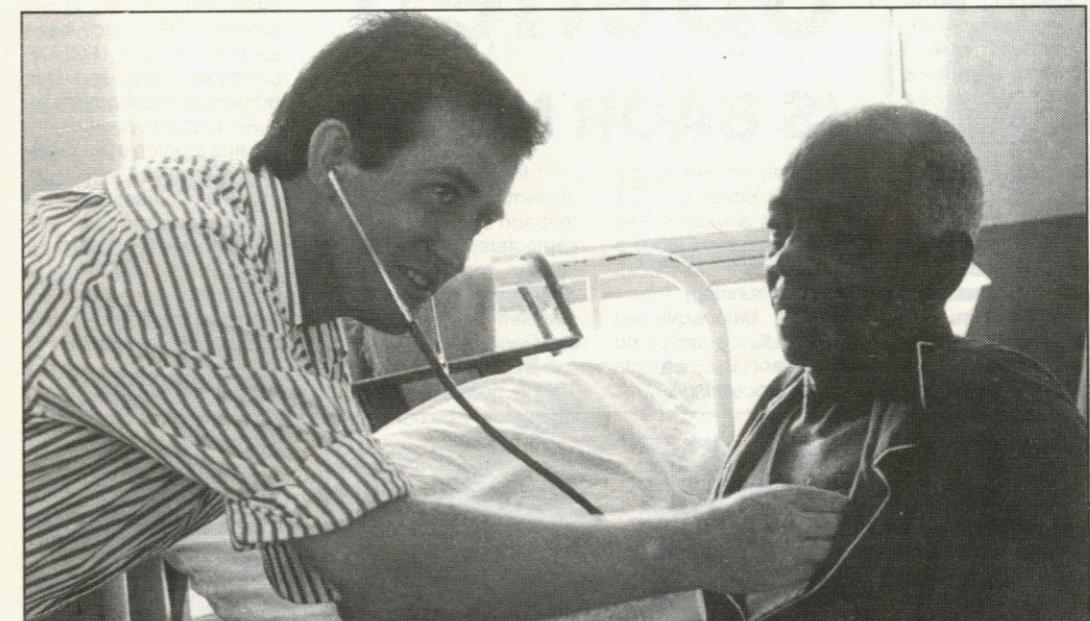


Above left - A major clear out at Port Antonio infirmary - a pile of rubbish moved by the Cheshire soldiers awaits collection

Above - Cheshire soldiers Ptes Scott Lomax (left) and John McManus give an overdue face-lift to one of the bedsteads at Port Antonio infirmary, with a little help from a young Jamaican friend



The man from Atlantis? No, it's Pte Darren Levy about to enjoy a spot of scuba diving in Jamaica's crystal clear waters



Capt Glenn Moffat, the doctor attached to 1 Cheshire for the Jamaican visit, spent much of his time helping at the Port Antonio hospital. He is pictured checking on a patient during daily ward rounds

voted a total of 270 man days working on the refurbishment of the hospice-style infirmary, which is home to about 70 elderly, mentally and physically handicapped Jamaicans.

The work was to say "thank you" to their Jamaican hosts and hopefully improve the lives of the infirmary residents, but company commander Maj Mark Rusby believes it also opened a few British eyes.

Like many, Pte John McManus thought he was going to a Caribbean idyll, but the harsh reality of poverty and deprivation served to temper the myth.

"It made some of the soldiers grow up and made them more aware of life outside our own little sphere. I think they have

generally got a degree of satisfaction out of helping people less fortunate than themselves, to the extent that some of the private soldiers were thinking of clubbing together to buy one of the people out there a new wheelchair," he said.

Working in tough conditions and high temperatures, they almost achieved the impossible. The transformation was amazing.

The people are friendly and the scenery is spectacular but I didn't think there would be anything like this," he said, indicating the neglected wards.

In only nine days the Cheshire soldiers managed to repaint, reroof and refurbish much of the infirmary, including the dining room which had been lying derelict since the devastation of Gilbert.

Working in tough conditions and high temperatures, they almost achieved the impossible. The transformation was amazing.

But jungle training was what they had spent weeks back in the UK preparing for, and Exercise Red Stripe was designed to give every soldier a good grounding in basic military skills in this type of testing environment.

About a third of the company had had previous experience of the jungle, gained from a tour of Belize in 1986, but it was back to the classroom for most.

Basics of jungle navigation, communication, ambush, search, hygiene and safety were all practised and then tested in platoon and company exercises.

Training was useful for both commanders and soldiers, explained Maj Rusby.

"It has been good for commanders at all levels because you are going into an unprepared, new, challenging environment. Commanders have had to do a lot of planning and thinking on their feet and leading through uncharted waters," he said.

"For the soldiers, the jungle environment is excellent for developing basic military skills which have an application in other theatres."

There were a few hiccups with delayed helicopters, a few aching shoulders and blistered feet, but - no problem, man - it was good fun!

by Lynn Pegler

# All change in NI - and for the better

I REALLY enjoy visiting Northern Ireland these days. Gone are the times when youth clubs were closing, wives' clubs running down and there was little support for initiatives where wives were concerned.

Over the past five years the whole atmosphere has changed.

The days when Big Brother ran the accounts of the pre-school playgroup have vanished.

Today Michaela Murray, a sergeant's wife recently arrived from Catterick, handles a budget of £150,000 for the Community Support Services, a new scheme launched by the Department of Economic Development.

She has 20 posts to oversee.

CSS is run by a management and steering committee with co-opted advisers including soldiers' wives and officers.

Michaela has to ensure the committee's policy is carried out and that project staff are correctly employed and trained.

Another CSS manager, Winnie Allison, has revamped the HIVEs of which there are now five in the Province.

I was amused to hear of a new venture called SNIFF - Services NI Flower Forum - which has planned a road show to tour the Province (under Al Barry).

Flower arranging classes are flourishing at the invaluable 32 Army Education Centre where Lt Col David Thackaberry and Maj Alan Keenan give tremendous support to the Federation of Army Wives.

Nicole John, a professional florist who has just arrived in the Province, instructs there.

One WRAC student is hoping to make up her own wedding bouquet at the end of the ten-week course.

There is plenty going on in Northern Ireland thanks to the dedication of wives who over the years have put so much effort into the families' side of things. Anyone in doubt only has to ring either the CSS on Lisburn Military 41802 or FOCUS (41818) for information.



Bargain hunters in Lisburn Thrift shop



Students start at new FOCUS

## Second FOCUS is opened IS BAOR NEXT?

IT WAS appropriate that Lady Waters, Northern Ireland President of the Federation of Army Wives, should press the key that launched FOCUS 2 which opened up possibilities for computer training to all dependants in the Province.

Lady Waters is the wife of the GOC (Lt-Gen Sir John Waters) and the project is the result of unique co-operation between HQ Northern Ireland, the Department of Economic Development, ICL (the computer experts), and the FAW.

Mr John White, an ex-gunner, handed over three ICL systems and explained that the company believed in equal opportunities.

The great advantage with the equipment is that it is the same as that to be found in formation HQs and offices. Wives could be working in HQ BAOR and RAFG where there are already 300 terminals.

Wives who take FOCUS courses will be in the forefront for jobs.

Though courses are being run at HQ Lisburn, accommodation is avail-

able mainly thanks to the help of 26 Squadron RCT (which has already raised £400 towards the £3,000 a year needed to keep FOCUS 2 running).

Pamela Ball explained that FOCUS 2's aim is "to train students in all aspects of word processing".

At the end of two weeks students should be competent and confident in using computers and the office "power package".

Col Mark Strudwick stressed the part played by the Department of Economic Development in setting up the new scheme.

Out of a number of posts established under the Community Support scheme, two had been allotted - the FOCUS computer tutor and the admin job skills organiser.

All planned courses for the first session are already fully subscribed with waiting lists. Courses are free.

I would like to think that we are now on stream for FOCUS 3 - in Germany.

Industry and local authorities use mobile trailers and converted buses to run IT courses. Why can't it happen in BAOR?



It works! Beams all round after Lady Waters, seated, pressed the key that sparks the new FOCUS scheme into life. The civilian in the foreground is John White of ICL. Pamela Ball, who set up the scheme, is on Mr White's left

It's all  
systems  
go at  
Lisburn



# Anne Armstrong

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Pictures by Stephen George



Serious moment at the playgroup



An expert teaches flower arranging at Lisburn AEC

## So this is IT – isn't IT?

### 50,000 jobs will need filling

ABOUT ten years ago I put forward a suggestion that a network of information technology skill centres should be established in the UK and BAOR to enable Service wives and other dependants to train and keep pace with modern office requirements.

It was not welcomed universally. One garrison commander, not unsympathetic in general, summed up the feeling of many when he wrote: "I feel that the scheme would perhaps train wives for jobs that do not exist. Even with the advent of PAMPAS (used in pay offices) there are still very few computers and word processors within the Garrison."

He suggested a wider look at training wives "to include more mundane skills and language skills".

That was in 1986 and now appears to have been a somewhat short-sighted view.

No one seems to have realised that wives don't live in garrisons for ever. They move to and from the UK and in some places such skills as IT are in growing demand.

In the case quoted above the result was that the possibility of obtaining cash from the EEC Social fund vanished.

An attempt to launch a scheme elsewhere in Germany failed because the package was overpriced and too ambitious.

showed that of 406 trainees on a variety of courses six out of ten had been placed in jobs with IT skills.

The MSC then withdrew financial support and the project looked like closing. Then someone at the MoD realised its potential. A further three-year backing from non-public funds was forthcoming.

About the same time I was offered sponsorship by International Computers (ICL) for a second FOCUS project and once more ran up against opposition.

However, Pamela Ball, one of the FOCUS pioneers, found an ally in Col Mark Strudwick at HQ Northern Ireland. FOCUS 2 is now in business at Lisburn.

### Vandals get into Chetwode

THE SAGA of Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot, continues. Vacated by the MoD in April, despite the shortage of married quarters in the area, 36 semi-detached and terrace houses have remained empty.

Now the "vandal proof" chipboard panels covering the windows and doors have been forced on some of them and hot water tanks, meters and cookers have begun to disappear.

### NEW MOVE ON STATUS STAMPS

THE PROBLEM over status stamps in the passports of Services wives may soon be resolved. It is now being staffed at MoD, I am reliably informed. This is not before time.

Status stamps identify the passport holder as being the spouse of a Serviceman, something that concerns wives who believe that they might become targets if their passports are stolen, or they are caught up in a hijacking.

Two years ago following a hijack, I raised doubts about status stamps.

I raised this problem again recently as a result of receiving letters from Service wives.

I was told that the problem lay with the RAF and to approach them.

This I did, only to be told the decision lay with the Army who were awaiting agreement from Germany before they acted.

Now it transpires that the RAF is ready to abandon status stamps while the Army is insisting on a separate paper bearing one.

Both suggestions sound like an improvement on the present situation and I hope to be able to report in the next issue – no decision has been taken at the time of going to press – the result of MoD's deliberations.

### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Students aged between 17-20 on September 1 1990 may now apply to enter the Open Competition for a Student Engineer Sponsorship to train in the Defence Engineering Service. The winner will be paid a salary during training and receive a supplementary award. For details contact the Student Engineer Office, Defence Engineering Service, Room 136, Pinegate East, Bath BA1 5AB.

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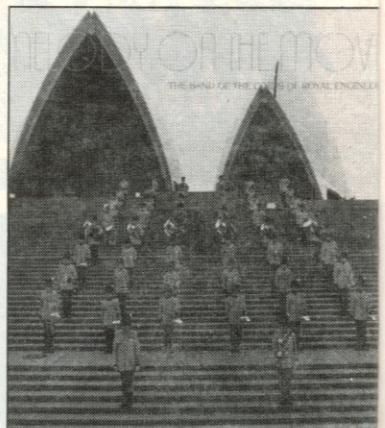
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## Sappers' music on the move

### MELODY ON THE MOVE

Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers  
Conductor: Maj P Evans

FORTUNATELY for the band, who have been to Cyprus, Hong Kong twice, Germany, France and Australia in the past 12 months, there was already a popular piece of music called *Melody on the Move*, once the signature tune of a BBC radio programme, so a ready title for their next disc was available.

The programme is of a lively nature and mostly on the jazzy side, starting with the Beatles medley which has become very popular with bands, and rightly so. John Higgins's arrangement captures the very spirit of what now seems light years away in *Echoes of an Era*, the 1960s in fact.

Lloyd Thomas's march *Scarlet and Gold*, a winner all the way, precedes Alfred Reed's catchy little overture *Viva Musica* which, for its simplicity and verve, may well become one. *Bubble and Squeak* is a clarinet feature by a member of the band, Richard Hubbert, which should also catch on, but *Jazz Waltz* by Peter Kneale, although pleasant enough, fails like all its fellows to solve a contradiction in terms.

Side two is more serious if only for the word opera appearing, but it's another recording of *Phantom of the Opera* I'm afraid, not a tune I can come to grips with.

The programme is well chosen and put together, barring that damned Phantom. **From Three Plus One Ltd, price £6.15 inclusive.**

## A stocking filler from the gunners

### A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Royal Artillery Orchestra  
Conductor: Maj C R C Garrity

A BIT early to think of another festive season perhaps, but already we are into only double-figure shopping days to Christmas. Maj Garrity has gathered together just about everything with a bearing on the subject.

This disc, plus last year's *Christmas With the Welsh Guards*, should serve very well to give you a pleasant background in the morning's prelude to later extravagances.

Leroy Anderson is to the fore with his obligatory *Christmas Festival* and *Sleigh Ride*, and there is a warm welcome to two extracts from Howard Blake's popular cantata *The Snowman*, *Dance of the Snowmen* and *Walking on Air*.

From the great composers we have Beethoven's *Shepherd's Hymn*, an extract from his *Pastoral Symphony*, and Prokofiev's *A Frosty Sleigh Ride*, or at least a tongue-in-cheek



version of the Troika from Lieutenant Kije by Cy Payne.

Other naturals are Pietro Yon's *Gesu Bambino* (The Baby Jesus), Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Pie Jesu* from his Requiem played as a very attractive violin and flute duet, and a medley just right for a sing-along, also by Cy Payne, *Have a Merry Christmas*.

It was recorded in 1988 but the music is timeless and will serve, like last year's decorations, for many a Christmas to come.

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## Earls Court sound was a logistic triumph

### THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT 1989

Massed Bands of the Royal Air Force  
Conductor: Wing Cdr H B Hingley  
Band of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps  
Conductor: Capt M J Henderson  
Bands of the Warsaw Military District  
Massed Bands of Nato



sheer numbers it is again a project for which all should be congratulated. The marvellous sound achieved under such hectic conditions is a great credit to producer Jed Kearse.

There is too much music to mention all of it but it is mostly unusual, effective, and much of it well arranged by Barry Hingley.

*The Birth of Flight* is represented by the impressive finale to Stravinsky's ballet *The Firebird*, then to *The Great War* with a medley of Songs of the Early Airmen, some of the tunes well known to all but with words only bored airmen waiting for the alarm could think up.

The King's Troop musical

drive is accompanied by the RAOC Band.

*The Big Band Era* features the RAF Squadronaires, Second World War favourites in the mood of Glenn Miller, and *Salute to Poland* has the Warsaw bands playing an attractive selection of Polish Army tunes, beginning with a famous bugle call recorded in St Mary's Church, Cracow.

It is a call dating from the 13th century and is played to this day without its ending; the original player was shot through the throat with an arrow before he could finish it. A nice story anyway.

*Forty Years On* has nothing to do with Harrow School but a Nato anniversary. In a selection of national tunes, preceded by the *Alla Marcia* from the Karelia Suite of Sibelius, bands from Canada, Holland, Germany, Portugal, Turkey, Spain and USA join forces with the RAF bands, leading to the finale *Air Power*, after which all could disperse to their various trains, planes, and boats knowing another job had been well done.

**From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR. CD £10.50, two cassettes £10 inclusive.**

## Grenadier brilliance!

### ON STAGE

Band of the Grenadier Guards  
Conductor: Maj S A Watts  
BND 63006  
BNA 5032



A FINE start to his stint with the Grenadiers from Maj Watts, who chooses a programme of music which either originated on stage or is likely to be heard from one. My old band of course, and how I would love to say it's not what it was in my day. Well it isn't; it's better, for reasons I hope don't reflect my shortcomings!

This is certainly one of the most attractive, well played and produced discs I have heard. The first item is a fanfare by the conductor called, appropriately enough, *Stage Presence*, and that is exactly what the band,

conductor and engineers have achieved. Presence above all, immediacy, balance, and an overall tonal brilliance I have not come across before.

Full Speed Ahead is the march from *The Caine Mutiny* by that master of film music Max Steiner, then to a master of the waltz in Waldteufel's *Grenadiers Waltz*.

**From Grenadier Guards Band, Wellington Bks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ. Price CD £10.99, two cassettes £10 inclusive.**

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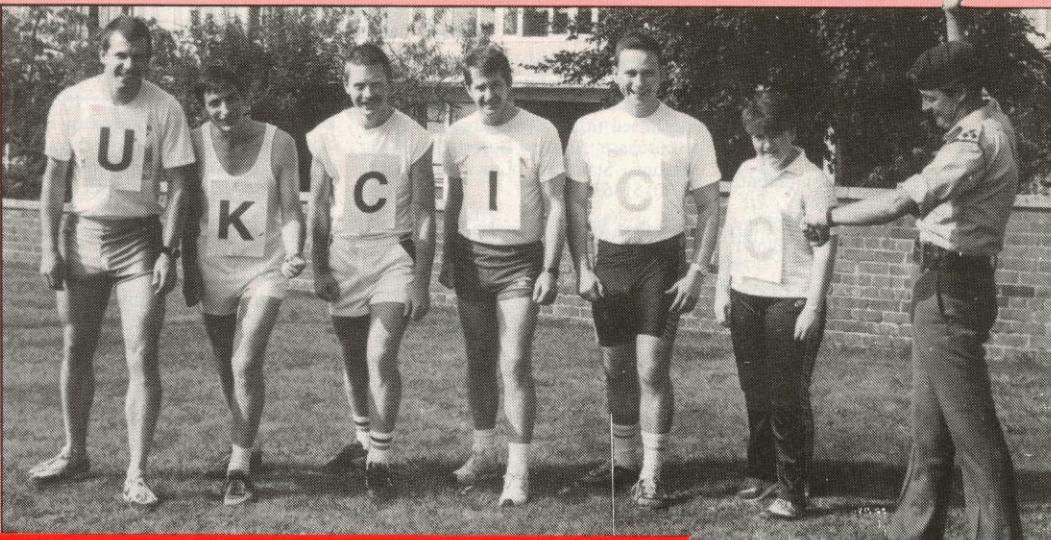
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This fine body of runners are all members of the UK Commanders in Chief Committees (UKCICC) based at HQ UKLF, Wilton. They took part in the *Sunday Times* Fun Run in Hyde Park, London, and are pictured coming under starters orders from Brig Tim Donkin, RM (right), Director of Plans UKCICC. From the left are Sgt Colin Gillingham, RM, Cdr David Childs, RN, Spr Carl Miller, RE, WO1 Robert Bonner, RCT, SAC Alan Foley, RAF and SAC Michelle Long, RAF. Their entry fees went towards research into heart disease



## Good Guy's!

### Cyprus force boosts appeal

THREE months of money raising activity by men and women serving with the United Nations in Cyprus have resulted in a cheque for £2,850 being presented to the Guy's Hospital £1,000,000 kidney unit appeal.

Events taken on by UNFICYP personnel included a two day march in the Troodos hills, 1,000 sit-ups, a parachute jump and a social evening.

The charity drive was inspired by WO1 (Cdr) Harry Porter and his wife Jane. Their 11-year-old daughter Kathryn suffers with kidney trouble and was on hand to present the bumper cheque to Lt Col John Smedley, CO UNFICYP Support Regiment, who received it on behalf of the Guy's appeal.

Belediesel. Lt Col Alex Birtwistle's immediate response to the project was to get a babysitter!

But all went well and the event raised more than £500 for the children's intensive care unit at Victoria Hospital, Blackpool.

Sixteen soldiers of the QLR

serving as instructors at the Depot of the King's Division at Strensall, York ran in relay from York to Preston, a distance of 87 miles, to mark the 300th anniversary of the regiment and to boost the funds of York District Hospital and the Paediatric Trust of the Royal Preston Hospital.

raise more than £15,000 for the Royal British Legion Women's Section which cares for the ex Service community and their dependants.

WO1 Pat Rosewell, a PT instructor, and Cpl Hilary Greig, a trombonist in the WRAC Staff Band, cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End.

A party of JNCOs from London based 253 Provost Company RMP (V) walked from Calais to the Somme and raised more than £1,000 for the World War Memorial Fund set up by Gp Capt Leonard Cheshire VC for disaster relief.

An ambitious tandem ride by two WRAC girls is expected to

Fifty Terriers from the Wigan squadron of The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry climbed 70 Lake District peaks in 48 hours. They had hoped to scale 100 Lakeland peaks, but still raised about £500 in sponsorship for a children's home and the Army Benevolent Fund.



Two intrepid wives from the Paderborn, West Germany based 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment took to the air in a microlight to help sick children in their "home" county.

Commanding Officer's wife Mrs Ann Birtwistle and Mrs Lorraine Ivison, wife of the URS SNCO, spent 20 minutes in the air above Paderborn and even took over the controls from German pilot Mr Wilfred



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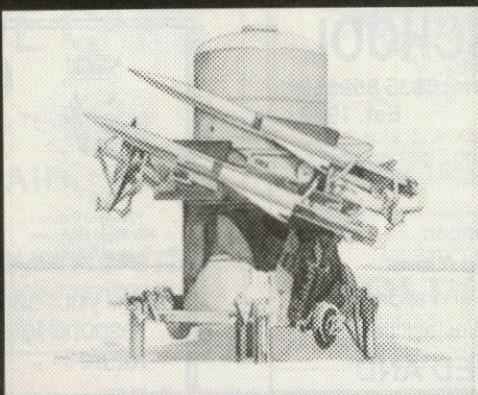
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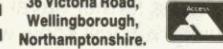
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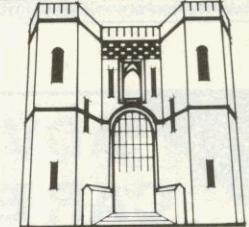
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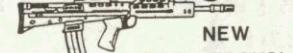
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## STOP SOLDIER STRAIN! NBC Kit Roll

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That's why I was glad to see the new NBC kit roll from SASS. It's made not from traditional cotton webbing but from textured nylon, the same material as the new nylon PLCE rucksacks and webbing. It doesn't soak up water like a sponge or shrink about an inch a month. It's actually very similar to a '58 poncho roll, but four inches longer, so should take care of your NBC suit, boots and all.

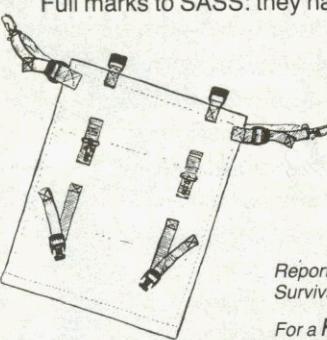
Perhaps the biggest single improvement is fast release black plastic buckles with the standard military nylon strap material. You can click these shut with the roll still partly open and then just pull the strap to tighten.

On the inside are two pieces of nylon, a bit like mini-bashas, which you close in the centre with tape and a fixlock. This completes the package, making a waterproof pouch, closed at both ends. To open, just press the quick release buckle catches and shake.

About the only negative point I can make is that there is no device for attaching a pickhead, as on the original '58 poncho roll. As the NBC kit roll is obviously designed to replace the poncho roll as an NBC kit carrier, this pouch would have been useful.

Full marks to SASS: they have designed a simple, effective solution to one of life's great frustrations. Available in DPM camo or olive drab at £19.95 plus £2.50 p&p from Special Air Sea Services, St George's Works, St George's Quay, Lancaster, Lancs LA1 5QJ.

**Oliver Sotherby**



Report reprinted from May 1989 "Combat and Survival" Magazine.

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# Cause for confidence

## It's time to seed the cup

WHEN Lt Col Graham Lilley, who took over recently as chairman of Army selectors from Lt Col Dougie Hathorn, looked at his inherited list of players of Army standard available for this season, he could have been forgiven for thinking he was in dreamland, writes John Quin.

International class players (albeit B or under 21s in some cases) are available at prop, lock, a complete back row and in the threes.

Can you contemplate an Army back row of 2nd Lts Rob Wainwright (Scotland and RAMC), Tim Rodber (England and Green Howards) and Cpl Dean Ryan (England and RE)? At the moment two of the three are sidelined through injury, although Dean Ryan could well get an England call to face the touring Fijians. He must be in contention for one of the back row slots and his move from Saracens to Wasps has definitely helped his game move upwards. The Army's resident internationals also include Cpl George Graham (Scotland and A and SH).

Most of the potential Army squad have taken the ARU's advice and established themselves in a league club 1st XV. For example, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment trio of 2nd Lts Adam Wheatley and Gary Knight and Combined Services stalwart Sgt Chris Spowart (APTC) have established their reputation with Mosley.

The potential is there and with skipper Maj Brian McCall (REME) leading from the front once more, there is an air of quiet confidence. Much will depend, as usual, on the injury list. Strength in depth is a good military term and it certainly should apply to the Army squad this season.

The Army Cup, sponsored by Schweppes (UK), is already under way and the draw, not for the first time, has one or two oddities about it. With 70 starters on the UK mainland, both sections offer the opportunity of the usual excitement in the final rounds being fought out in March and the UK/BAOR clash in April.

But, why oh why, even allowing for financial travel restraints in the form of zoning

that, by the time the Northern Ireland team joins in there is a fair chance that the best eight teams can battle their way to the final. To see teams from units with proven rugby quality in the preliminary rounds, must be wrong and no incentive to do well.

The AAC Centre, the 1988 finalists who lost 3-0 to 7 RHA, meet 1/3 Training Rgts RE, complete with Cpl Dean Ryan, also in the preliminary round!

Two units with a strong rugby history will go out in this year's major units preliminary round.

for early rounds, do we have a clash of four pedigree teams in, above all, the preliminary rounds?

To see SEME v 1 RRW is allowing a team of perhaps lesser talent to proceed, inevitably to get thumped later on. It surely is not impossible to seed the top say seven, so



## It's all go at Netheravon

MORE than 130 competitors took part in the Army parachute championships held at Netheravon, Wilts, home of the Joint Service Parachute Centre and the Army Parachute Association.

An ambitious and demanding schedule gave competitors the chance of four rounds of canopy contact, eight rounds of four-way sequential relative work (RW), eight rounds of accuracy and four of style. Two BN Islanders from the centre

and an Islander from JSPC Lippspringe were on hand to cope with the programme.

A total of 2,080 descents were made during the ten days of the championships, which were rounded off with a parachute display given in honour of Gen Sir Charles Huxtable and APA guests.

Overall Army champion was Bdr Les Carroll (RA), with Sgt Kiwi Sharp (Queens) winning the senior individual accuracy title and LCpl Caroline Apps

In the minor units competition 24 Fd Sqn RE will be keen to take the cup back from 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE, the current holders.

Nearly 25 per cent of the minor units entries are from sappers and among new units in the fray are Permanent Staff sides from Jun Ldrs Regt RE and the RAEC Centre Beaconsfield.

Who will be there at the finish in March? My tips for the final - Major units: 7 RHA v 1 DWR and the minor units Jnr Ldrs Regt RE v 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE. But I could be wrong!

**Dressed for the part . . .**

## Slalom success

**Lt Hugh Hutchison (left) of 35 Engineer Regiment in action during the Combined Services ski team tour of Australia. He and Sgt Tony Mortimore, also of 35 Engr Regt, competed against Australian Service teams at Thredbo and took part in the Australian Inter-Service championships. The UK men's and women's team both won, Hutchison taking first place in the slalom, Mortimore second in the giant slalom.**

(WRAC) taking the style championship.

The Red Devils won the senior four-way sequential relative work title with REME and the RAOC's Cannonballs second and third, while in the intermediate event RE (red) beat RE (green) into second place with 1 Para third.

The Scottish Division's Golden Lions won the canopy contact championship ahead of the Red Devils and the Queen's Regiment's Flying Dragons.



**Appropriately hatted (by The Joke Shop, Farnborough) for their forthcoming tour of Australia are Combined Services cricketers (from left) umpire/physio Lt Ray Holter (RN), Sgt Glyn Lumb (RAF), tour skipper Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (Gren Gds), Capt Julian Barrett (LI) and**

**PO Paul Barsby (RN). They gathered in Aldershot to receive financial and equipment sponsorship from Aldershot based company Air Log. The kit was in the form of Stuart Surridge bats which feature a revolutionary new handle developed by Air Log and Stuart Surridge for use**

**on Australia's hard wickets. Other Army representatives in the tour party, which leaves on November 2, are Capt Paul Presland (AAC), Capt Peter Germain (LI), Capt David Bolus (Para), Cpl Andy Taylor (RCT), 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex (RMAS), and manager Lt Col Keith Hitchcock.**

## Dinghy delight

### Army sailors retain Inter-Service crown

FOR the second successive year the Army A and B teams have won the Inter-Service dinghy team championships, hosted this year by the Army Sailing Association at Netley, Hants.

The result means that the Army remained unbeaten in Inter-Service team racing during 1989. The ASA has tremendous depth of talent in the UK, and much of the success at Netley could be attributed to the skill, strength and fitness of the crews.

Members of the A team were Lt Col Chris Haskell, the team captain and Cpl Matt Evans (both RE); Capt Steve Pyatt (RE) and WO1 Mick Haliburton (REME); and Capt Stuart Hudson (RAMC) and Cpl Phil Hawkins (RAOC). In the B team were Maj David Peerless (RAPC) and Lt Stuart Speer (RE); Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor (R Signals) and Pte Simon Cook (1 Green Howards); and Lt Mike Ridsill-Smith (RE) and Cpl Smith Richardson (R Signals).

Overall results gave the A team the Haylock Trophy by

two wins to the Royal Navy's one, with the RAF failing to score, while the B team took the Boxer Trophy by virtue of two wins to the Navy's one.

Having beaten the RAF in both legs of the opening match, the Army had to overcome the Navy to take the title. On paper the A teams appeared evenly matched, with Hudson (9th in Laser nationals) and Pyatt (2nd in Bosun nationals) up against Cockerill (European national champion and 470 Olympic aspirant) and Finn (Bosun national champion). Falat matched Haskell as very experienced ex university team racers.

After two laps Pyatt led from Haskell with Cockerill third and Hudson fourth. Despite Cockerill's efforts to take Pyatt back into the fleet, the Army won with Haskell first, Pyatt second and Hudson fourth.

In a bracing force five the Army B team showed exceptional speed in the showdown, with Lewis-Taylor first, Peerless second and Ridsill-Smith recovering to third after wiping out on the reach.

After Pyatt had hit a mark and interfered with Haskell in the A decider, the Navy looked to be strongly placed.

But Haskell powered through to the lead, Pyatt got second despite Falat's efforts to hold him back, and Hudson was fourth, giving the Army victory by 14½ points.

## Gurkhas take on Everest marathon

NINE soldiers from the Hong Kong based 2/2 KEO Gurkha Rifles have returned to Nepal, their homeland, to train for what must be the world's top foot race in terms of altitude, the Everest marathon on November 24, writes Robert Higson.

The event has only been held once before, in 1987, when a US based Scotsman, Stewart Dutfield, won in a time of 4 hours 53 minutes, just 30 seconds ahead of Rfn Phabendra Magar of 2/2 GR.

Even though Rfn Phabendra is unable to enter this time the 2/2 GR team is quietly confident. Its leader, Lt Alastair Kennedy (son of broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy) believes the Gurkhas are naturals for the event.

This year the team hopes to improve its chances by spending a month getting thoroughly acclimated and fit on a 400km trek round the Annapurna Mountain range in Nepal.

Although it is the full marathon of 26 miles and 385 yards, the event does have some interesting variations. The start is at Gorak Shep near the Everest Base Camp at a height of 16,500 feet where the temperature is likely to be around minus 15°C. The finish, at Namche Bazaar, is at 9,500 feet where it may be as much as 40 degrees warmer.

Competitors are obliged to carry survival clothing.

As they descend they will have to be prepared for other traffic, especially yak trains which are not used to sharing their traditional trade routes with marathon runners. Nepal will provide about a third of the entry and most of the rest will come from the UK, North America and Europe.

Apart from giving athletes a chance to run through spectacular mountain scenery, the event is being used to raise money for health, education and water supply in Nepal.

# Dashing

A musical farewell for HMSTY Dasher from the REME Band at Gosport as the sail training yacht prepared to leave for Exercise Caribbean Sea, the aim of which is to provide sail training for members of Belize Garrison and HMS Cornwall, which is to replace HMS Alacrity on station in the area. Dasher's course is set for the Canaries and Antigua, returning via the Bahamas, North America, Bermuda and the Azores.

The exercise is being promoted by the School of Electronic Engineering, REME, under the auspices of the REME Yacht Club, and will involve 200 Service personnel, many of whom have never sailed before.



## 38 Engr Regt beat SEME in final

Army six-a-side champions are 38 Engr Regt RE who beat SEME A in the final at Aldershot, writes Pat Massey.

Fifteen sides split into two pools battled their way through more than 50 matches to decide the four semi-finalists.

SEME A and 38 Engr Regt were always in the hunt in their group, but it wasn't until SEME walloped 6 UDR 5-0 in the final match that they emerged as group winners ahead of the sappers.

In the other pool, Princess Marina College raced clear despite losing to 7/10 UDR in their final match. The Ulstermen, in fact, needed to win to stay in the competition by qualifying in second place.

Scottish Division Depot rattled nine goals past the fancied 17 Trg Regt RA but could only finish third in the group, mainly due to drawing their opening four matches.

SEME A were too strong for 7/10 UDR in the semi-finals, beating them 4-2, while the PMC-38 Engr Regt tie had to be decided on penalties after

# SAPPER SIXES!

extra time had failed to separate the sides. The sappers scraped through with the last kick of the sudden death shoot out.

The final, fittingly, was the best match of the day. But SEME had no luck in front of goal and went down 5-2, a margin which flattered 38 Engr Regt. SEME did, however, win the Brigadier Bob Trophy for scoring the most goals in the group matches. Mr Robin Taverner of sponsors Phoenix Breweries, presented the trophies.

### Army 6, Federated Homes League 0

Two goals in the opening four minutes by Sgt Sandy

Brown (R Signals) put the Army on their way to a six goal thrashing of the Federated Homes League representative side.

Although the league side dominated the game at times they could not convert pressure into goals, in marked contrast to a bubbling Army team.

SI Mickey Spencer (APTC), LBdr Steve Bates (RHA) and SSI Joey Roach (APTC) put the Army further ahead in the second half before Brown completed his hat trick from the penalty spot after Spencer had been brought down.

### Army 1, Windsor and Eton FC 3

Sgt Paul Brown (R Signals) opened the scoring for the Army in the fourth minute against Windsor and Eton, but the play of the soldiers drifted into mediocrity and they were eventually well beaten by an enthusiastic club outfit.

## Golfers take charge

THE Army overcame strong Royal Navy and Royal Air Force opposition to win the Inter-Services golf championships at Fulford Golf Club, York.

The first match, between the Army and RAF, finished with the teams tied on six points each, but on the second day the Army were in magnificent form to hammer the Navy 9½-2½.

In a repeat of their 1988 triumph over the airmen, the Royal Navy won the final match by seven points to five, so granting an outright win to the Army.

In the Army team were Maj Willie Brewin, Maj Len Yates, WO2 Chris Carveth (all R Signals), WO2 Dave Cromie (UDR), SSgt Ian Gray (RAOC), Sgt Alistair Brownrigg (RE), Cpl Doug Spiller, Cpl Stuart Scott (both REME), LCpl Jim Taylor (14/20 H) and Gds Jason Ripley (Coldm Gds).

The result was a fitting climax to Lt Col John Hunt's tenure as Army captain. WO2 Carveth is to take over the captaincy next year for the second time.

## RAOC in national draw

THE Royal Army Ordnance Corps beat REME by four goals to two in the final of the Inter-Corps hockey tournament staged on synthetic pitches at

Bournemouth, and so qualify for the Hockey Association's Nationwide Anglia tournament. RAPC were third, R Signals fourth and RE fifth.

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# SOLDIER



Draped in the Union Flag surmounted by the Field Marshal's baton and cap, the coffin bearing the remains of Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull is borne up the steps of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle by men from his former regiment, the 17th/21st Lancers. Members of the regiment form the staircase lining party (top left and bottom right) with reversed lances. Report and more pictures on Pages 30 and 31.

Picture: Terry Champion.