

SOLDIER

JUNE 26 1989

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FRONT COVER: A memorable moment for three young Gurkhas as they touch the Union Flag in front of a portrait of the Queen at the end of the swearing-in ceremony during the final recruitment selection parade at Dharan cantonment in Nepal. The full story starts on Page 23.

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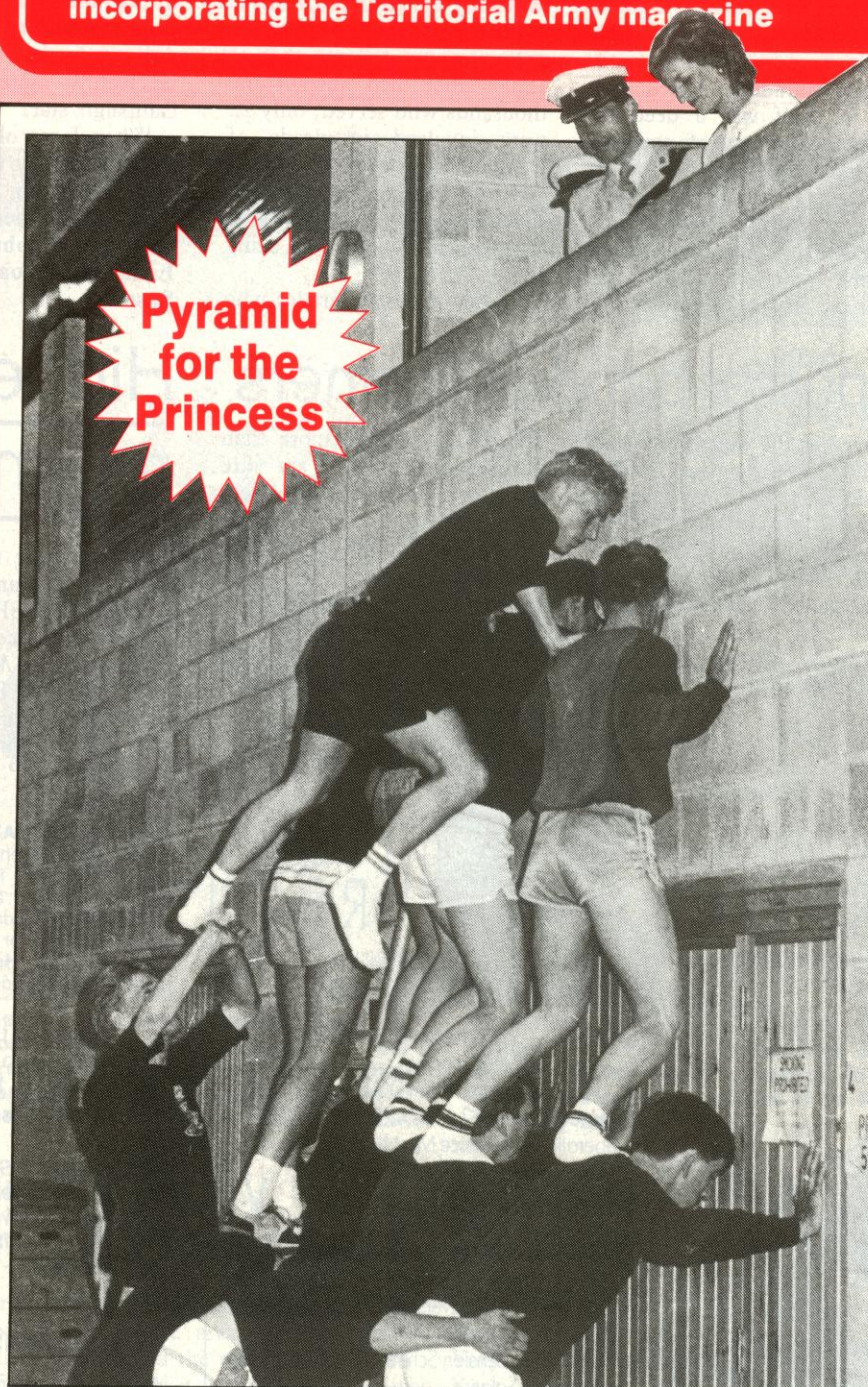
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



What's going on here? Why are soldiers of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars climbing over themselves to reach the Princess of Wales? The answer is revealed on Page 9.

NEXT ISSUE:

1 DERR have been in the front line of Hong Kong's massive Illegal Immigrant problem. They will be featured in words and pictures. From Berlin there will be the story of Ordnance Services and the biggest family shopping list, and how 1 LI kept in step during the Queen's Birthday Parade. Don't miss it.

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

They all deserved the VC

I think there is too much reverence put on the Victoria Cross.

Any combatant soldier knew that he was in the Line until severely wounded or killed, and that in itself was a deed of 'valour'. This act of courage was not a 'one off' incident like the one that earned a Victoria Cross (or for that matter any other bravery award).

Take the Guards, for instance, in the Great War.

They lost some 15,000 members yet out of that lot there were only something like 22 VC awards.

You cannot tell me that of 15,000 that died and of the thousands who served, only 22 were involved in deeds of 'valour'. Of course not!

To my mind every soldier who was on the field of battle deserved the VC for just being there.

I knew many comrades who

though wounded on a number of occasions remained in battle throughout the Italian campaign which dragged on day in, day out for a whole year, yet received no more than just the campaign star.

When I see old Guardsmen (or in fact any other fighting soldier) wearing just campaign stars I know there is a man of 'valour'. — **John Evans, 34 Emmanuel Road, Hastings, Sussex.**

Special band of gunners

I served in the Maritime Royal Artillery during the Second World War. We were founded by Sir Winston Churchill, and known as "Churchill's Sharpshooters". Lord Haw-Haw once called us "Churchill's Spies". We were gunners on merchant ships and had detachments in all theatres of war.

In 1988 I started a country-wide search for ex gunners of the MRA. Now a

year later we have more than 130 members, but I am sure there are a lot more out there who do not know that there is now a Maritime Royal Artillery Association.

We feel we are a special band of men, although we seem to get swallowed up by our "Big Brothers" of the Royal Artillery. — **C H Holder, Secretary, MRAA, 55 Wilmers Drive, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4JA.**

Hidden meaning

With reference to the request for the meaning of the abbreviation SSP, I have in my possession a copy of *Jane's Dictionary of Military Terms* compiled by Brig P H C Hayward which shows on Page 158 the following meaning of the letters SSP.

STRESSED PLATFORM: Stores, equipment and vehicles which are to be airdropped are fixed to a stressed platform. There are three types, **Stores (SSP)** for dropping light loads, **Medium (MSP)** for heavier equipment and vehicles, **Heavy (HSP)** for engineer plant and the like.

I hope that this explanation will be of use to your readers. — **H Parsons, 22 De Vere Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 4EA.**

● The letters SSP were found on an old shoulder badge, which suggests they were an abbreviation for a unit rather than a piece of equipment. — Editor

Reunions

● Former members of the **118th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery TA** were present at a dinner in the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the raising of the regiment. Maj S G Kent, president of the Old Comrades' Association, was in the chair.

● **Hong Kong, Singapore & Ceylon Associations (Royal Artillery)** reunion will take place on September 16, 1989 at Kings Arms, 222 Seaside, Eastbourne. Details from 835933 D A Knight, 23 Atlas Gardens, Charlton SE7 7TB (tel 01-858 3747).

Runcorn £50 win

A cheque for £50 is on its way to Mr B McKeever of Brookfield Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire, who was the winner of **SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 462**. Runners-up prizes of books go to Sgt M J Ganly, RAPC, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Hong Kong, and Mr G Bezant, Mortimer Way, North Baddesley, Southampton.

War of despair

My wife was fortunate to win one of the runner-up prizes in the HOAY competition. Her prize was a book called *Shrapnel in the Heart* by Laura Palmer, about letters and poems left by friends and relatives at the Vietnam memorial in Washington DC.

Both I and my wife were deeply moved by the feelings of love, disillusionment, despair and bitterness written in the poems and letters.

It is to the eternal shame of the USA how soldiers, sailors and airmen were treated by some of their fellow Americans. None of these young men and women — fallen and survivors — had any choice but to fight in this war. It was a tragic episode.

America now accepts the sacrifice made by its Armed Forces in the Vietnam war, albeit belatedly.

If I ever visit the USA I will go to the monument to pay my respects to fallen heroes. — **I Reid (ex Airborne) Carradale, Sillerhole Road, Leven, Fife KY8 5WB.**

Lost identity

With reference to your Newsline article in **SOLDIER** Magazine dated May 15, 1989 about the golden jubilee parade of REME Princess Marina College, Aborfield.

The young lad on the right of the picture with the SA 80 is RAMC cap-badged. It's sad to think that not only has the RAMC Apprentices' College been moved from its excellent location at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, but has lost its identity also. — **Capt P Whyte, RAMC, 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V), Block 5, Oliver Barracks, Dalkeith Road, Dundee DD4 7DL**

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4 Fd Regt celebrates with a bravery award

AN award for bravery was made to Gnr Nigel Musgrove when the 4th Field Regiment RA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the raising of the regiment with a birthday parade at its base in Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück, West Germany.

Gnr Musgrove (19) went to the rescue of

German workers during a fire at Clive School last August. He then helped to fight the fire which gutted the school buildings.

He received a GOC's Commendation at the parade from Maj Gen Tim Skinner, who commanded the 4th Regt from 1972 to 1975 and who took the salute.

Formed in the last days of May 1939 in Egypt, the 4th began life as a Royal Horse Artillery Regiment. It took part in the North African campaign, the invasion of France, Normandy Campaign and the Rhine crossing. In 1982 it provided gunner firepower during the Falklands war.

Grenades make it hot work

WORKMEN digging on a building site at Slough, Berks found the going hotter than they had bargained for when they uncovered a cache of self igniting phosphorous (SIP) grenades buried by the Home Guard at the end of the Second World War.

When the ground beneath their feet began belching smoke and flames a team of bomb disposal experts from Hounslow based 621 Company of 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD) RAOC were called in.

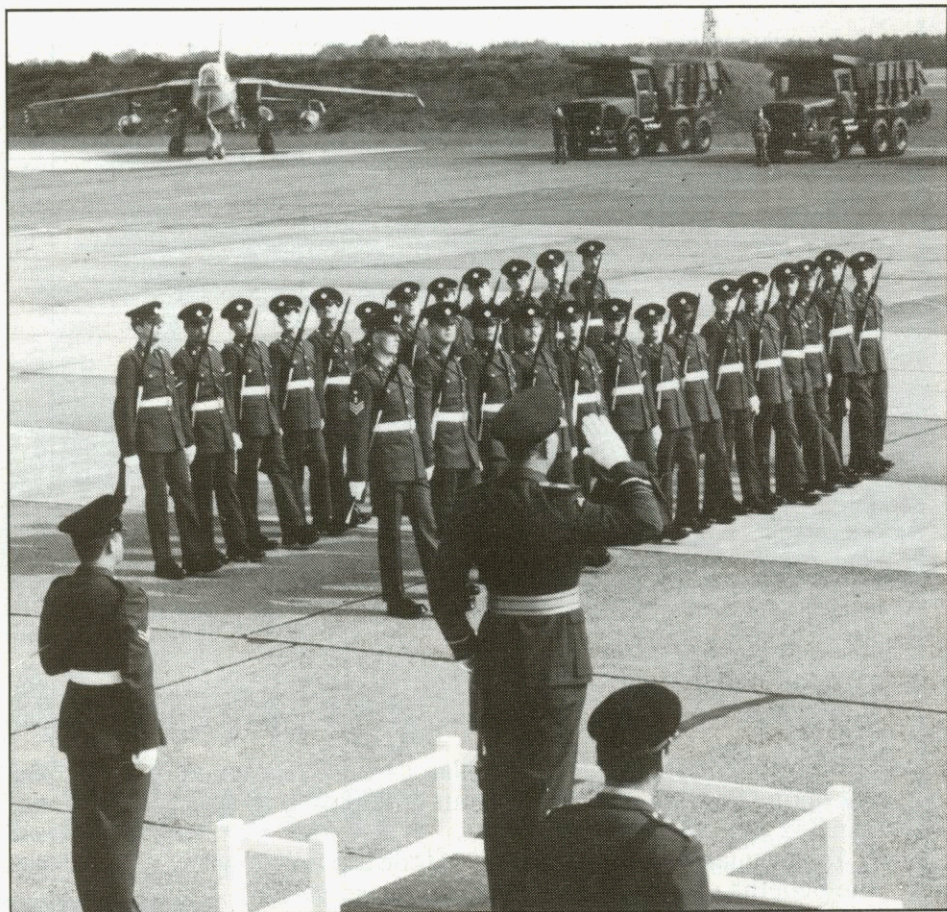
Maj Andy Wallace, the OC, was soon on the site with SSgt Seamus O'Brien and EOD assistant LCpl Ian Wilson. They established that the cause of the smoke was white phosphorous liquid released into the soil when the rough and ready glass bottle anti-tank grenades were crushed by pressure. When the contaminated soil was exposed to air the phosphorous ignited. After a thorough search for complete grenades by SSgt O'Brien a digger moved in to scoop up the smouldering earth and 50 tons of it were taken to a toxic waste disposal site.

In March, 200 SIP grenades were unearthed in Windsor Great Park and disposed of by 621 Coy. On that occasion the grenades were discovered in their original crates, with the half pint bottles still intact.

Sinai force welcomes CDS

BRITISH personnel serving with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai Desert rolled out the red carpet for two high powered visits on the same day. The 38-strong UK element played host to the Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig and Lady Craig, and the C-in-C UKLF, Gen Sir Charles Huxtable and Lady Huxtable.

Gen Huxtable spent two days with the MFO which was established seven years ago to monitor the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The British contingent provides a number of staff officers and the headquarters unit in the MFO's main base at a former Israeli air force station near El Arish.



Men of 52 Field Squadron (Construction) Royal Engineers parade at RAF Bruggen, West Germany to mark their deployment as a permanent element of the station's strength in peace and war.

Formerly a reinforcement unit for RAF Bruggen, 52 Fd Sqn is now the only airfield damage repair squadron to be based in theatre in support of an RAF Germany station.

Light Infantry granted Freedom

IN recognition of The Light Infantry's long association with the area, Wear District Council has granted the regiment Freedom of Entry. The district includes the county towns of Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle and Crook.

Officers and men of 3 LI and 7 (Durham) LI and the Salamanca and Burma Bands paraded under the command of Lt Col Ian Sawers in the Market Place at Bishop Auckland and then paraded through the town. Maj Gen David Pank, Colonel of the regiment, received an illuminated Freedom scroll on behalf of The Light Infantry.

1 PWO on target to retain NE crown

THE eight man shooting team from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire retained the North East District Skill at Arms trophy, beating

New Colours for Yorks Vols

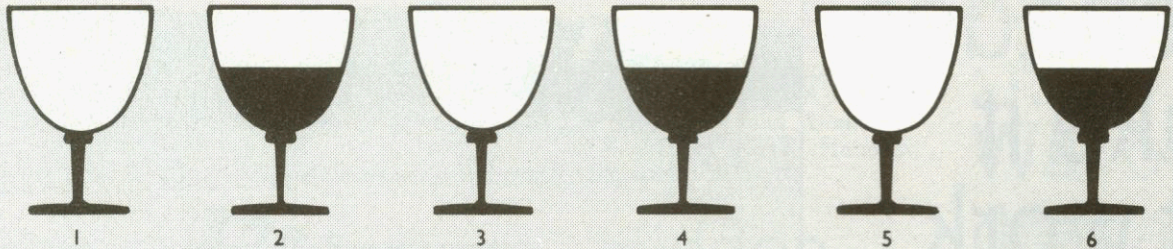
NEW Colours were presented to the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers (South Yorkshire) at Sheffield by the Duchess of Kent, Honorary Colonel of the regiment.

On parade were 200 officers and men of the Territorial Army battalion under the command of Lt Col Tim Isles. The Duchess of Kent later met soldiers and their families informally.

The 4th Battalion was formed in January last year and has a home defence role. Its headquarters and one company are based in Sheffield and there are companies at Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster.

90 Regular and TA teams in the process. Best individual shot was 1 PWO's Pte Andrew Lavelle (20) who took home nine trophies. Top TA team was 1 Yorks Vols.

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Crookham Court and Boarding School Allowance

SERVICE parents who applied to withdraw their children from Crookham Court School, Berkshire – subject of allegations concerning sexual abuse of pupils – have been allowed to do so at no financial penalty and with continued eligibility for Boarding School Allowance, according to an Army spokesman.

A statement issued by the Director General of Personal Services (Army) says the

impression given by the BBC TV *That's Life* programme that Boarding School Allowance regulations were being so rigidly enforced by the Ministry of Defence that there was a danger that for financial reasons parents would be forced to keep their children at Crookham Court was not supported by the facts.

"In the case of Mrs C, the case quoted on the programme, she had approached her

unit pay staff to inquire about the regulations regarding an unscheduled change of schools at short notice, without mentioning the full background to the case or the name of the school," says the statement.

She was told the regulations, but once the full circumstances were established she was allowed to remove her son from the school at no penalty.

Refugees stretch Hong Kong Garrison

AS Hong Kong watches events on mainland China, the British Garrison has been heavily involved in helping the colony's government cope with the Vietnamese refugee crisis which is threatening to overwhelm the territory's resources.

Since the screening policy for refugees was introduced on June 16 last year, 23,756 Vietnamese boat people have arrived in Hong Kong. There were 9,225 in May alone with more than 1,000 landing on just one day. The daily average is now 650.

British and Gurkha soldiers have been hard at work building temporary camps to house the influx. Fifty-five men of the Resident British Battalion, the 1st Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, were sent to Whitehead Detention Centre on the southern shores of Tolo Harbour to erect marquees, while 30 Queen's Gurkha Engineers built a 400 metre perimeter fence.

As the day progressed 90 soldiers from the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles were sent to Whitehead as reinforcements to help prepare for the imminent arrival of 400 more refugees. The camp will eventually hold 2,000.

Meanwhile another 25 men from 1 DERR were ferried by a landing craft of 415 Maritime Troop RCT to the remote and largely uninhabited Soko Islands on the south-west edge of Hong Kong's waters.

They erected ten ten-man tents and left 40 in reserve. The 12 Gurkha sappers who went with them installed portable tanks for the supply of fresh water.

Army landing craft, which are capable of carrying 20 tons of water, have now added water supply to the many other tasks which have fallen to them during the crisis. They have been used extensively for the transport of refugees (carrying over 14,000 in May alone) and for the re-supply of boat people housed in disused ferries moored off Stonecutters Island.



Alderney President Jon Kay-Mouat inspects soldiers of 30 Sig Regt during the Freedom ceremony

Alderney Freedom

ROYAL Connaught Square, Alderney was packed with islanders and tourists as Jon Kay-Mouat, President of the States of Alderney, honoured the men and women of the 30th Signal Regiment from Blandford, Dorset and the Royal Navy's patrol vessel HMS *Alderney* with the Freedom of the island.

The ceremony marked the climax to three days of celebrations during which the Royal Corps of Signals Band beat retreat and later played in St Anne's Church where for more than a century British Garrison soldiers paraded each Sunday.

Alderney adopted 30 Sig Regt in 1971 and each year the unit trains on the island.

The large contingent of 30 Sig Regt personnel at present serving in Namibia were not forgotten. Messages were sent to them conveying the greetings of the people of Alderney.

TA signallers stage big tattoo

IN THE biggest military display of its kind to be hosted by a Territorial Army unit in the Midlands, and probably in the United Kingdom, 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), commanded by Lt Col David Dobson hosted a large scale tattoo at Drayton Manor Park, near Tamworth.

The spectacular event attended by nearly 5,000 people, included an arena display by

Lemgo hosts

VISITORS to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers at Lemgo, West Germany have included the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces, Bishop Walmsley, and Mr Michael Neubert, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces.

After visiting Lemgo School and meeting his flock in the junior ranks' club, Bishop Walmsley was entertained in the Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess.

Mr Neubert visited the Rangers during their annual field firing at Sennelager. He was accompanied by Gen Sir Brian Kenny, Commander in Chief British Army of the Rhine, Brig Dick Mundell, Brigadier Infantry, and Brig Michael Walker, Commander 20 Armoured Brigade.

Friendly encounter

LATEST in a series of operational and social links between Munster based 5 Armd Fd Amb and the Bundeswehr 7 Sanitats Bn stationed at Hamm, was a cross country race hosted by the West German unit.

the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, the Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display Team, the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, the West Midland Police Pipes and Drums, and the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Gymnastic Display Team.

Static displays were put on by the regiment, by the Royal Signals, the Army Air Corps and the police.



Colonel in Chief inspects 15/19 H

Accompanied by Lt Col Tresham Gregg, Princess Margaret inspects men of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars at Detmold, West Germany. The princess was visiting 15/19 H in her capacity as Colonel in Chief of the regiment. She was escorted to the parade ground by three mounted escorts commanded by the adjutant, Capt Marcus Good, and inspected a guard of honour provided by C and D Squadrons under the command of Maj Simon Edwards. Also on parade was a 40 strong contingent of Regimental Association members



Above - The Princess of Wales pauses to speak to guard commander Maj Simon Ledger. Behind them are Lt Col Allan Mallinson, Maj Gen Stuart Watson and (background) Bandmaster WO1 Andrew Chatburn. Below - The Princess inspects a guard of honour formed by men of A Squadron



Above - The Queen Mother inspects a guard of honour formed by the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE from Old Park Barracks, Dover, accompanied by Brig Dick Webster, Commander Dover-Shorncliffe Garrison, the Captain of the Guard, Capt Andy Gladen, RE, and her equerry, Capt Giles Bassett, IG. Above right - NCOs from 12 regiments with which the Queen Mother is associated line the steps of Dover's Maison Dieu following a reception for the Cinque Ports Confederation

Welcome

MEN and women from the Armed Forces were involved in the ceremonies when the Queen Mother visited Dover to mark the tenth anniversary of her installation as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Engineers formed a guard of honour when the Lord Warden held a reception for the Cinque Ports Confederation at Dover's Maison Dieu, and NCOs representing 12 regiments with which the Queen Mother is associated lined the building's steps.

The Dover based Peninsula Band of The Royal Green Jackets provided music during the inspection.

Men of 100 Yeomanry Field Regiment RA (V) from London fired a salute as HMY *Britannia* arrived at Dover with the Queen Mother.



The Duke of Kent has the SA 80 explained to him by 2nd Lt Rupert Erskine-Crum during his visit to the Scots Guards at Hohne, West Germany, in his capacity as Colonel of the regiment



Below - Flowers for a princess, presented by LCpl Graham Hickson



LILYWHITE PRINCESS

THE Princess of Wales marked her recent appointment as Colonel in Chief of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) with a visit to the regiment at Assaye Barracks, Tidworth. She first visited the Lilywhites in July 1987 to present a new Guidon.

The Princess was met by the

Colonel of the regiment, Maj Gen Stuart Watson, the CO, Lt Col Allan Mallinson, and the adjutant, Capt Simon Levey. She inspected a guard of honour commanded by Maj Simon Ledger and formed by A Squadron, was given a glimpse into a day in the life of a 13/18 H soldier (starting with men being got out of bed!), visited

the tank park and saw soldiers under instruction.

Princess Diana presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to SSgt David Sherratt and Sgt Dickie Jaques.

A surprise awaited the Princess in the gymnasium when LCpl Graham Hickson scaled a human pyramid to present her with a bouquet.

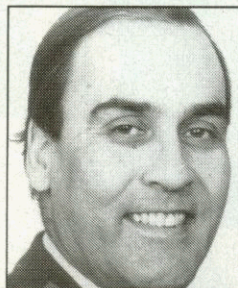
Woofer wonders

Officer Cadet **Albert Hsu** from Kidderminster holds up the impressive Pearshall Shield won by D Coy of the 4th Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment at Western District's Skill at Arms meeting. They also won three other trophies at the meeting.



New GOC

Maj Gen **Peter Bonnet** has taken over as GOC Western District on the retirement of Maj Gen Robert Ward. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1958, Maj Gen Bonnet's last appointment was Director Royal Artillery.



PEOPLE



Five star!

There was a nap hand of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals for Lt Gen Sir **Peter de la Billiere**, GOC South East District, to present when he visited the Joint Air Transport Establishment at Brize Norton near Oxford. Pictured with the GOC after receiving their medals are (from left), Cpl **Paul Ryan**, RCT; WO2 **Peter Graves**, REME; SSgt **Derek Pike**, RCT; Cpl **Robert Henderson**, Para; and Sgt **Martin Richardson**, Para.

Veteran John gets order of the boot

Maj **John Quin**, RE, runs on to a rugby field for his last competitive match after 36 years as a player. John (50), **SOLDIER's** rugby correspondent, was appearing in the RE (UK) Cup final for the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE against 1/3 Training Regiments, Minley.

The match was won by 1/3 who went on to defeat BAOR champions 35 Engr Regt in the Sapper Cup final.

John, who played for Bath, Combined Services, the Army and the Royal Engineers during his long career, was presented after the game with his boots - padlocked to a plinth! Now he will concentrate on promoting Army and Services rugby.



AILOR'S GIRL: Amanda with her father on the flight deck of HMS Ark Royal

That's my Dad!

Cpl **Amanda Gisby**, serving with the Royal Military Police at Fallingbommel, West Germany, took 30 Cubs and Scouts along to meet her dad when his ship docked at nearby Hamburg. Dad is HMS Ark Royal's Hangar Control Officer **Len Eaton**.

Amanda is married to Army chef **Dave Gisby** serving at Hohn. Her sister **Louise** was also in the Army until she married a Chichester, West Sussex based RMP, brother **Matthew**

is with the Grenadier Guards, and younger brother **Daniel** is about to join the RAF.

A real Service family!



Farewell to John

Retired after 47 years of service to the Crown is Mr **John Parsons**, one of the most colourful characters in Hameln, West Germany. John (pictured above) joined the RAOC in 1942, was involved in the D Day landings, and retired in 1967 as a staff sergeant.

He put down roots in Hameln where for the past 20 years has been the counter clerk in the Forces Post Office.



Robert flies off to test Milan men

No prizes for guessing where Sgt **Robert McDermott**, R Hamps, has just been! Currently based at the Army Careers Office in Portsmouth, he has just travelled back from Australia where he assessed anti-tank platoons taking part in a Milan concentration at Puckapunyal in Victoria (see **SOLDIER** June 12). Robert flew first to the Far East to link up with Hong Kong and Brunel based Milan teams before going on to Australia with them for the live firing.

FAMILY BAND: Pictured above in front of Alnwick Castle, Northumberland is WO2 **Gordon Collins** (centre) with his sons Bdsrn **David** (left) and Cpl **Stephen**. All three play in the Volunteer (Northumberland) Band, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, of which Gordon has been a member for 22 years.

Award for TA fusilier

A leading Birmingham industrialist has received the Territorial Decoration for his services to the Territorial Army.

Col **Patrick Robinson**, managing director of a company which manufactures wire, is responsible for overseeing TA infantry units in the West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Hereford and



TOP AWARD: Col Robinson receives the medal from the about to retire Maj Gen Robert Ward, GOC Western District

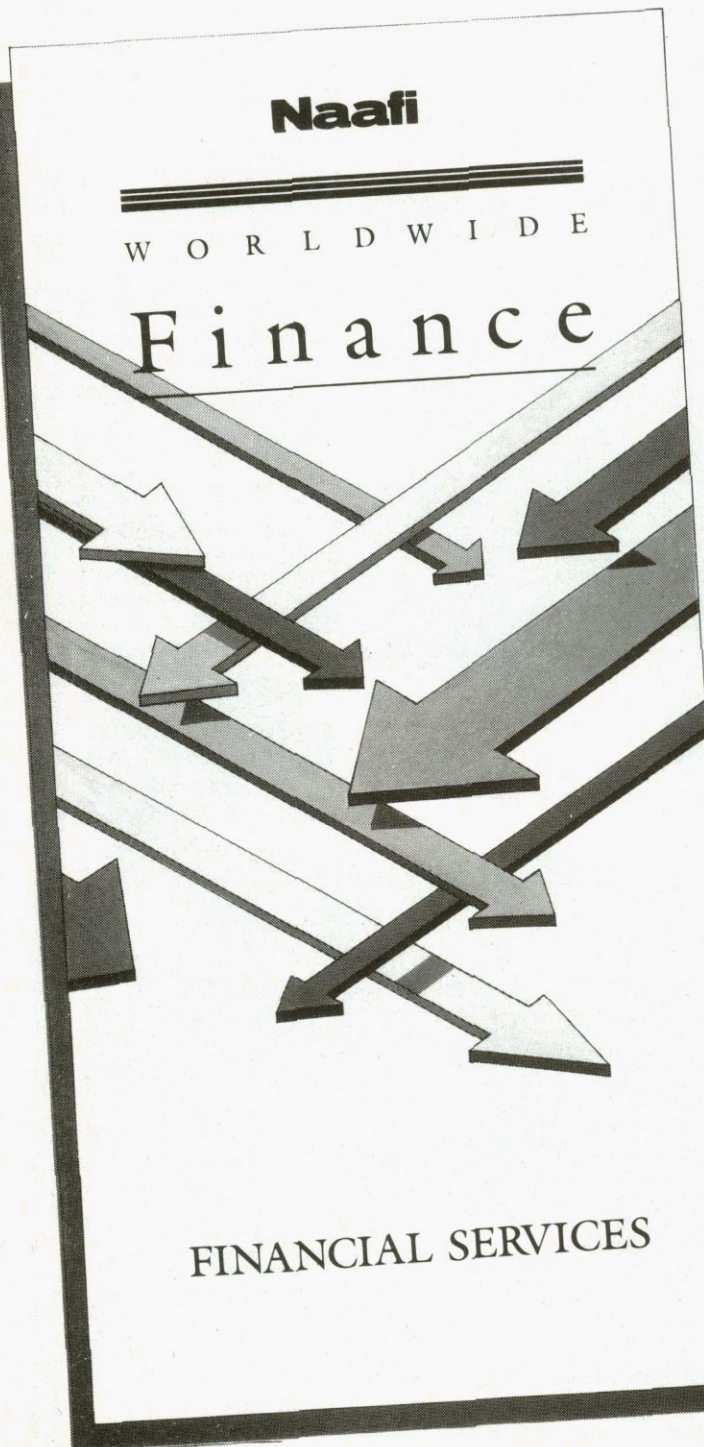
Worcester. He was commissioned into the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers as a Regular in 1960 and saw

action in Aden where he was mentioned in dispatches. Col Robinson left the Regulars in 1972, joined the TA three years

later and commanded the Birmingham based 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from 1981 to 1983.

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Instructor, by Royal Appointment

WRAC Cpl Sam Sampson found herself in charge of a royal pupil during a visit by the Duchess of York to 62 Transport and Movement Squadron RCT in Berlin.

As one of the unit's Driver Maintenance Instructors she briefed the Duchess on the art of coach driving.

After a short period of instruction, the Duchess pulled away smoothly in a 54 seater Army coach carrying an entourage of high-ranking dignitaries.

"Go round and collect money for the tickets," joked the Royal bus driver to her ladies-in-waiting. She negotiated a circuit round the barracks before drawing to a halt on the drill square in front of a mass of photographers.

"She did well and proved a very competent driver," said the OC, Maj Paul Cummings, RCT, who persuaded the Duchess to sign an FMT600 (driving permit) which now has pride of place in the squadron bar.

Family Vehicle

The "family" concept of the British Army, the backbone of its regimental structure, is being extended to its vehicles.

The MoD has challenged UK and overseas companies to identify design options for a Future Family of Light

SOLDIER to Soldier



Picture: Laurie Manton

Finger on the button ... Sam and the Duchess of York

Armoured Vehicles (FFLAV) for the Army.

Aim of the project is to consider the potential for in-service vehicles and new designs to meet a variety of operational roles over the period of 1995 to 2010.

The study, says a MoD release, will emphasise the need for commonality in design throughout the fleet, hence the "family concept".

Wanted for assault ...

Bury Fusilier Association is looking for teams of four to tackle the Krypton Factor assault course at Holcombe Brook near Bury, Lancs over the August Bank Holiday in aid of charities including the

Army Benevolent Fund.

The nine previous Krypton Challenges have raised more than £60,000 for Service charities. Details are available from Dennis Laverick on 061-829 1433.

Coldstream evangelist

Evangelist Billy Graham was an illustrious guest speaker at the weekly Wednesday morning service in the Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks, the London home of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

The early morning service is attended by members of the battalion in working dress, ranging from cooks in their

whites to soldiers in barrack dress and drill order.

Mr Graham, who later chatted to guardsmen, is in the United Kingdom to lead a Christian crusade.

Museum adds Crimean diary

The National Army Museum's remarkable collection of relics from the Crimean War has been supplemented by two important additions.

The acquisitions - Richard Caton Woodville's painting of the Charge of the Light Brigade at the moment the British horsemen arrived among the Russian guns, and the diary of Capt Lewis Edward Nolan, who carried the order for the charge and who was the first to be killed in it - are featured in a free display.

War disabled to exhibit

Handicrafts made by disabled war pensioners are to go on exhibition in the Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club, London on September 6/7.

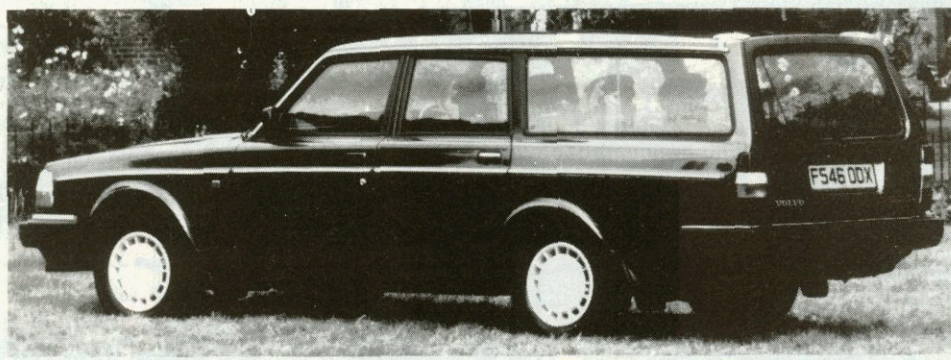
The organisers are hoping to demonstrate the high standard of craftsmanship achieved by severely disabled war pensioners. Some items will be on sale.

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

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BERLIN'S ROYAL SPECTACULAR



Stentorian word of command from a Black Watch officer

THERE was a mass outbreak of Fergie-mania when the Duchess of York took the salute at the Queen's Birthday Parade in Berlin in front of 10,000 spectators, writes Laurie Manton.

Held annually at the Maifeld, it was the first major military parade reviewed by the Duchess who passed her testing engagement with flying colours.

Second only in stature to the Trooping of The Colour in London, the ceremony in Berlin is thought by some who are familiar with both to be the more impressive – even in the absence of scarlet tunics and bearskins.

On arriving in the arena, escorted by four German mounted policemen, the Duchess took her place on the saluting dais in the shadow of the lofty Glockenturm (bell tower).

Taking part in the parade were the officers and men of the city's three resident battalions, The King's Regiment, The Light Infantry and The Black Watch, and their massed bands.

The outer limits of the Maifeld were bordered by an impressive line up of Chieftain

tanks of the 14/20th King's Hussars in their unique chequerboard urban warfare camouflage, and Fox armoured cars and armoured personnel carriers.

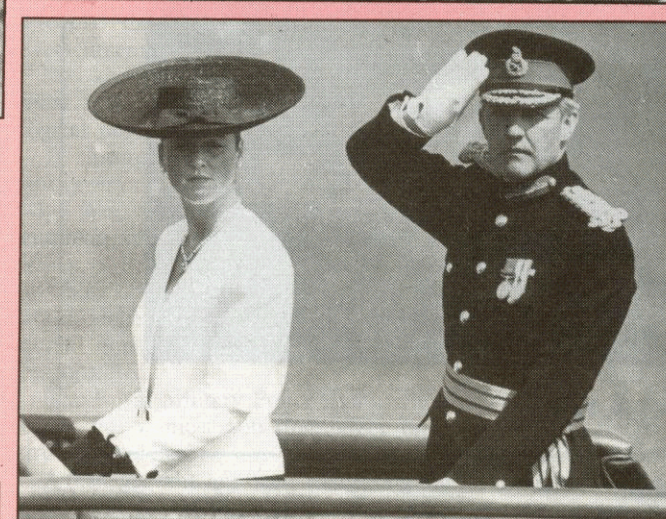
Such was the shine on the vehicles that even the rubber trackpads were polished to a sparkle!

Between infantry and armoured lay 48 gleaming open-topped Land Rovers carrying representatives of all the different support elements based in Berlin, their occupants sweltering in the sun.

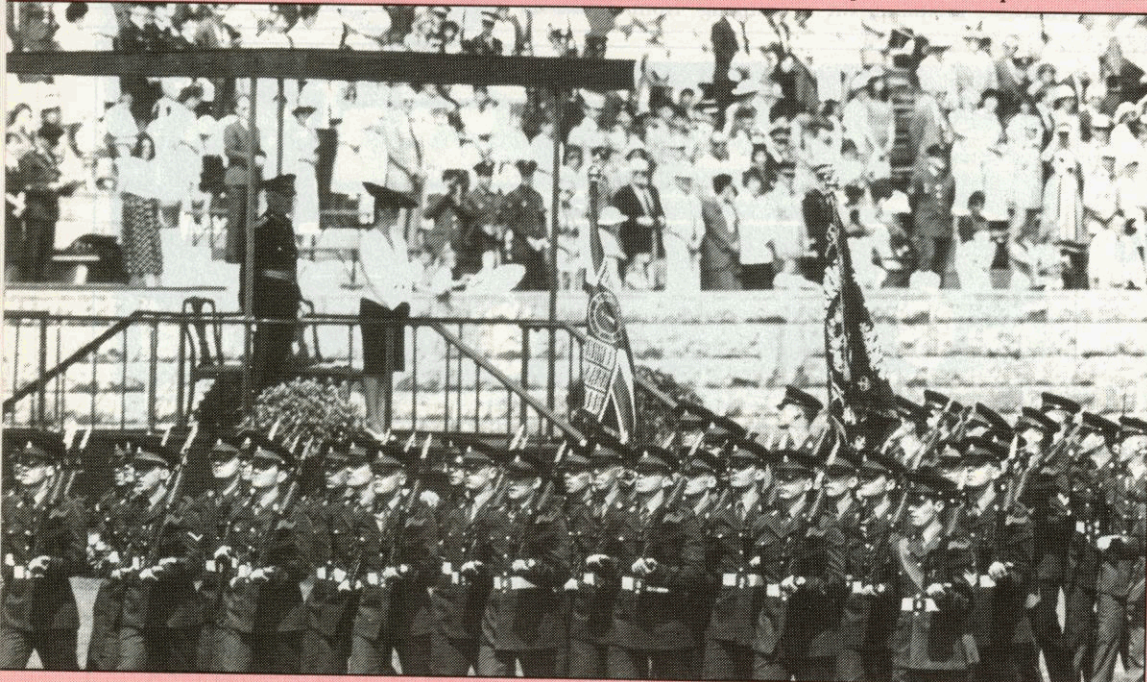
Following a march past of troops and the drive past of vehicles, the Chieftain tanks fired a 21 gun salute. Three *Feu-de-Joie* (Fire of Joy) – a staggered volley of rifle fire – rippled sharply across the arena bringing in reply a burst of applause from the massed spectators.

A pass by a Chipmunk aircraft and three helicopters trailing red and white smoke ended the display.

Sadly for Berliners, it was their last opportunity for the present to witness the swing of the kilt and hear the skirl of the bagpipe. The Jocks leave the city before the next Queen's Birthday Parade takes place.



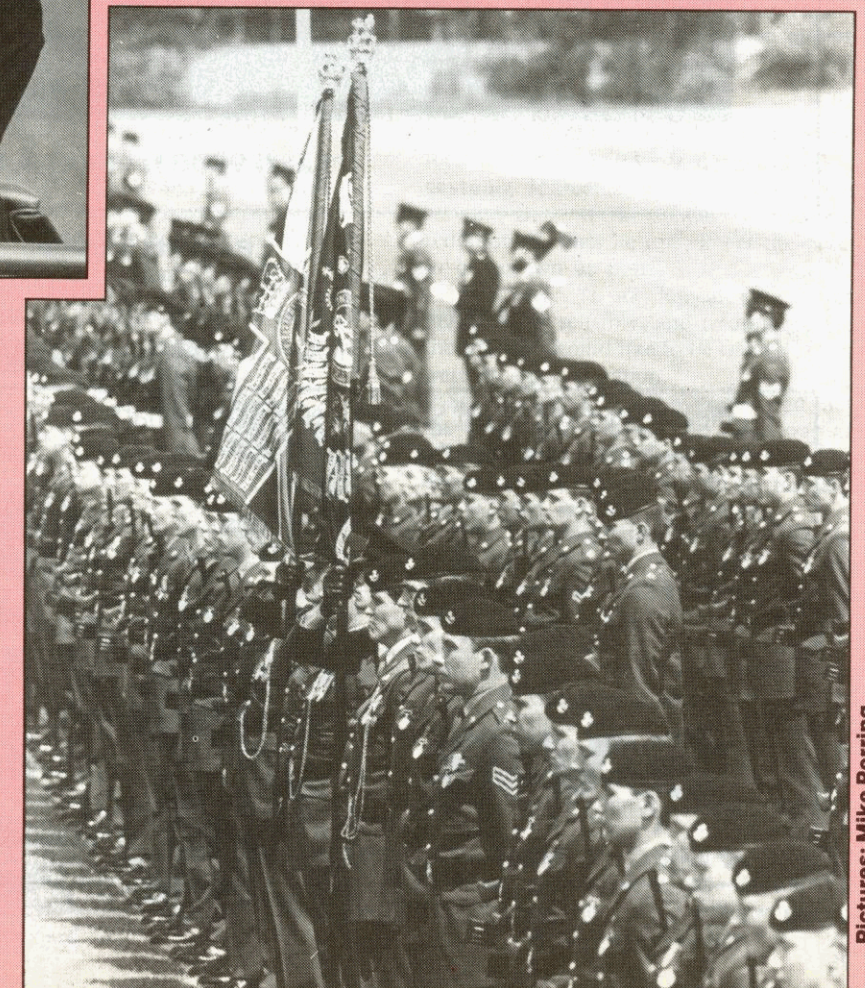
Above – A bristling forest of gun barrels as men of 1 LI take their turn to fire a *Feu-de-Joie* at the Queen's Birthday Parade. Below – 1 LI await inspection by the Duchess. Left – The Duchess of York and Maj Gen Robert Corbett drive past the review troops



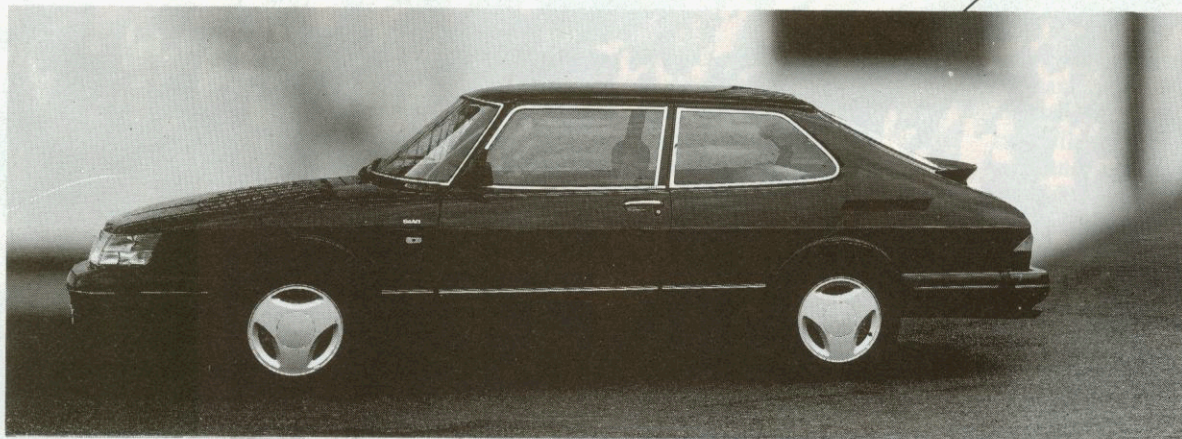
Soldiers of 1 Kings march past the saluting dais at the Maifeld



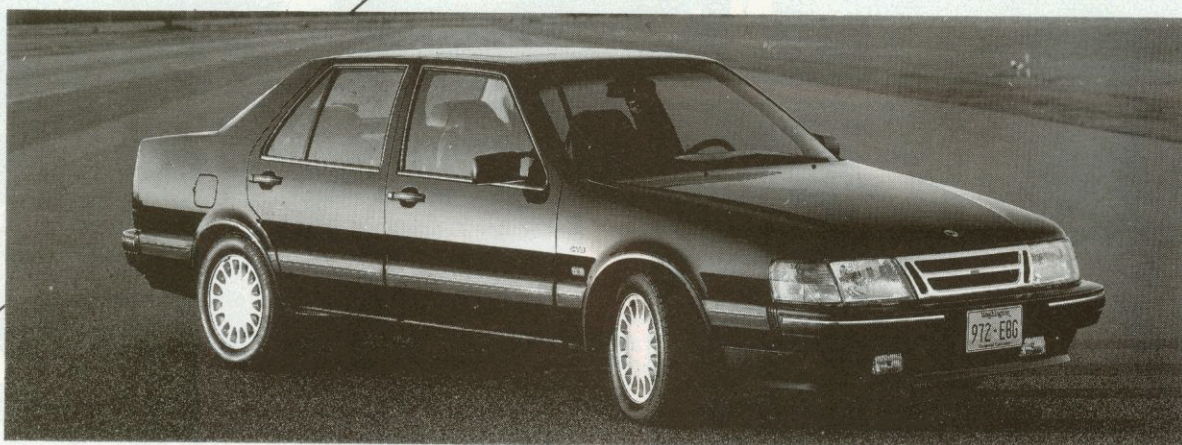
Vehicle commanders salute as Chieftain in MTBs fire a 21-gun salute. The back seat passengers are referred to as 'bookends'



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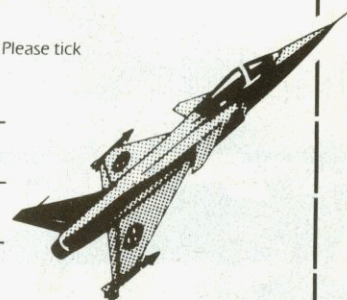
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Rheindahlen 'Bobbies' adopt a logical approach

A SENIOR military police officer's enlightened approach to minor drunkenness offences on his "patch" means he is better able to concentrate his manpower and resources on more serious and important aspects of the job.

Capt David Walke, commander of 101 Provost Company Joint Headquarters Detachment at Rheindahlen, BAOR, said:

"This approach is what I like to call logical policing."

It means that not every soldier

who has had one over the eight is automatically locked up in the guardroom. When it is obvious he has not done anything criminal, nor is likely to, and is not a danger to himself, he will be taken home and handed over to someone responsible.

The Royal Military Police find a wife's anger has a most sobering effect on a drunken soldier!

A teenager who has been celebrating too much will also be taken home, where Dad is likely to have a sobering effect on his offspring, especially after being woken up

**Words by
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Perring**



These officers can say "allo, allo, allo" in a variety of languages. From the left they are Sgt Stephen Hill, RMP; German civilian police officer Gerhard Ganser; Dutch military police conscript Arthur Anemaat; Dutch military police officer Wil Fransen,

and RAF Police Cpl Chris Speake, who between them illustrate the inter-nation rapport between the Services at Rheindahlen. Their unique RMP police station even has a traditional blue lamp at the entrance

in the early hours to find the son or daughter he believed was fast asleep in bed is in fact on the doorstep . . . drunk.

Capt Walke said: "I have permission to police the Rheindahlen Garrison in the way I see fit, taking into account the people we have here, the sensitivity of the area, and the security risk.

"It is not our policy, for instance, to lock up every drunk. It doesn't achieve anything. It creates more problems than it solves. But, if a soldier is beyond redemption, then he can expect the book to be thrown at him."

He added: "I see logical policing as doing things sensibly, and treating people the way you would like to be treated if you were in their situation."

Sgt Maj Roger Godwin emphasised that the RMP treat soldiers the same way as officers. "If we can stop our general and he doesn't mind, because we are his military police, then we can stop anyone.

"We make no difference between an officer and a soldier. Some soldiers think we pick on them, but we do not pick on people. If a person is not doing anything, we have no reason to stop and speak to him, other than for security reasons."

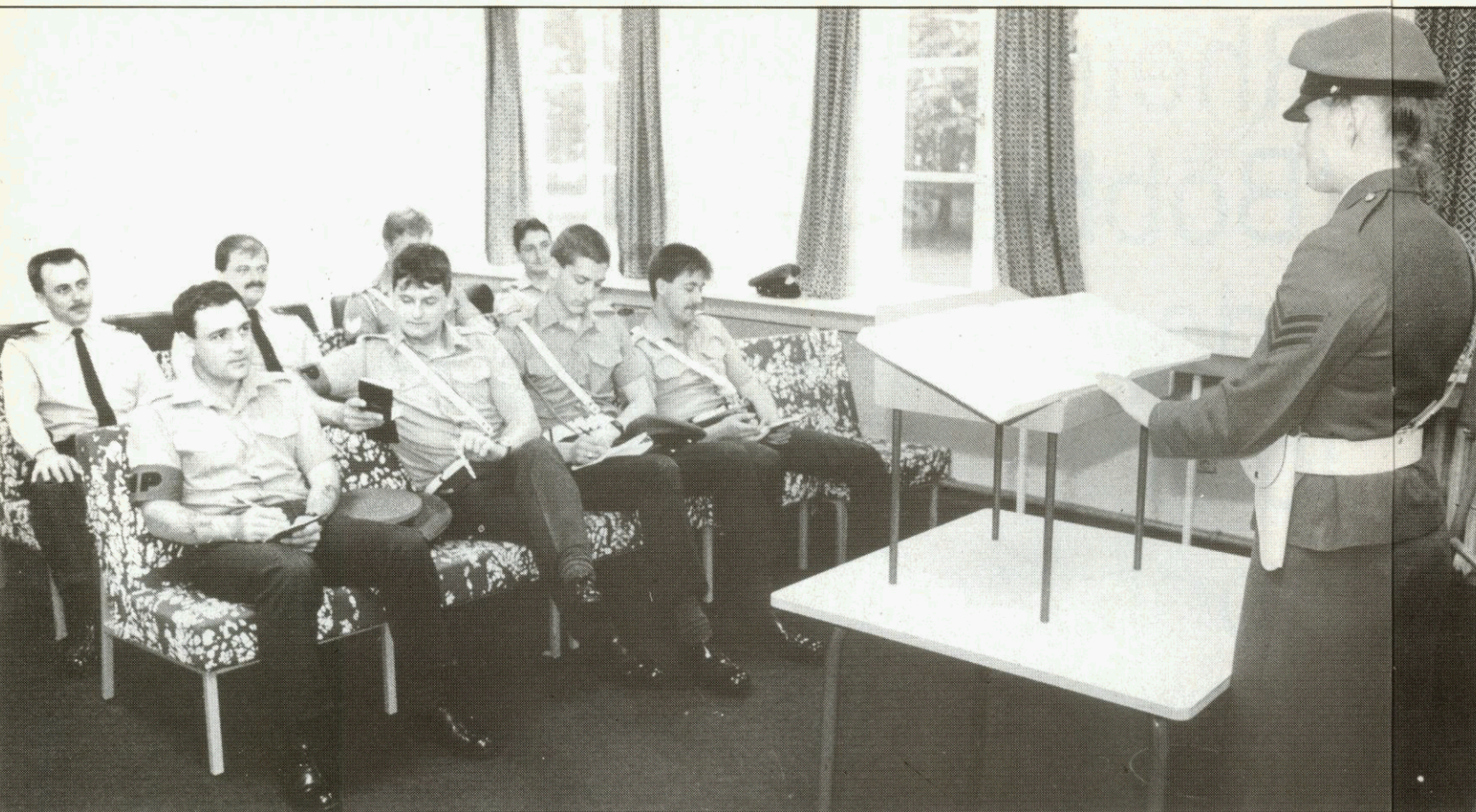
JHQ Rheindahlen is unique because it is the site of the RMP's only police station – elsewhere the Redcaps have duty rooms. It even has its own Dixon of Dock Green-style blue lamp hanging over the entrance.

It is a joint police station used also by German civilian police, the Royal Air Force Police and Dutch military police.

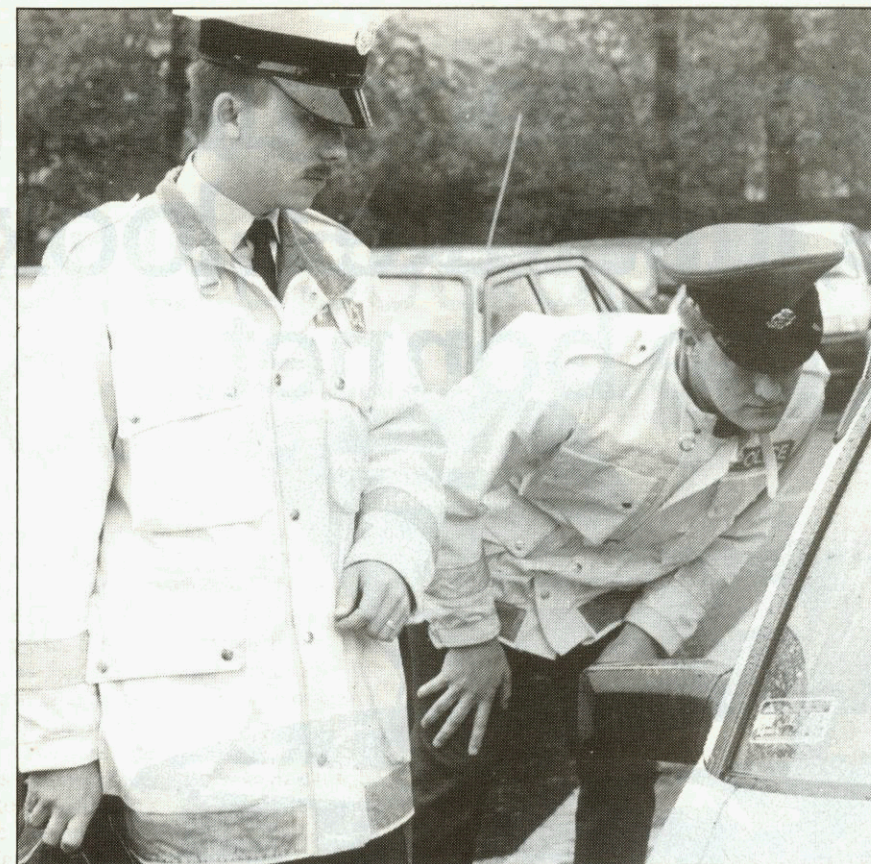
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Cpl Paul Gerrard, RMP, checks Mrs Barbara Frogitt's identity card



Before going off night duty Sgt Marjory Saunders briefs the incoming day shift on what has been happening on the patch



Cpl Steven Long (left) of the RAF Police and Cpl Bobby Reynolds, RMP, check out vehicles during a joint Rheindahlen patrol. The jackets, which are not on issue, are worn in heavy rain and were paid for by the lads themselves

Redcaps of 101 Pro Coy spread far and wide . . .

101 Provost Company is spread far and wide for as well as running the Royal Military Police's only police station – at JHQ Rheindahlen – it has three other locations.

Company headquarters is at Dusseldorf, where there is a small duty room. There is a small detachment at a large ordnance depot at Emblem, near Antwerp, and a further small detachment at Sonthofen.

This is 630 kilometres from headquarters and is the centre for the annual Exercise Snow Queen during which British soldiers learn to ski. In summer it is used for adventure training.

Generally, the Special Investigation Branch look after serious crime. Capt Mark Hardy, 2ic, explained: "In 101 Pro Coy we are the people on the ground 24 hours a day, every day. In any incident we are the first to be told. We would, in turn, inform all the relevant agencies, the SIB being one."

"If the crime is serious enough, the SIB would come along. We would handle it initially, and they would take over."

The RMP has Unit Investigation Elements (UIE), with which there is nothing quite comparable in civilian policing. 101 Pro Coy's UIE is based at Dusseldorf.

It deals with crime too serious for the RMP on the ground but not serious enough to be handled by the SIB. This can range from minor criminal damage to minor grievous bodily harm, burglaries, theft, and so on.

The UIE also deals with inquiries from other RMP units and other forces, both military and civilian.

Sgt Steve McManus, who runs the UIE, explained: "There is no equivalent department in the British civilian police. We are almost a small CID detachment in



Capt Mark Hardy

Rheindahlen patch covers huge area

● From Page 17

But the RMP, which does joint patrols with the RAF Police, is the senior force.

The joint use of the police station reflects the cosmopolitan nature of JHQ, which is not only headquarters of the British Army and the RAF in Germany, it is also the headquarters of the 2nd Tactical Air Force and the Northern Army Group which include Dutch, Belgian, American, British and German forces.

The RMP Rheindahlen detachment covers a huge area from their side of the River Rhine to the West German-Dutch border, dealing with crime prevention and investigations of minor crime.

They also have a woman officer who acts as a community policewoman, dealing with, among other things, schools' liaison, the danger of strangers and road safety.

Sgt Maj Godwin has a wealth of anecdotes and recalls an incident in which an RMP patrol heard a lot of shouting late at night from a swimming pool. They found a mixed party of youngsters bathing naked.

"The lads jumped out of the pool and legged it, taking their clothes, and the girls' clothes, with them. Discretion being the better part of valour, the patrol got two blankets to cover the girls' embarrassment, took them to the police station, and arranged for their parents to collect them," he said.

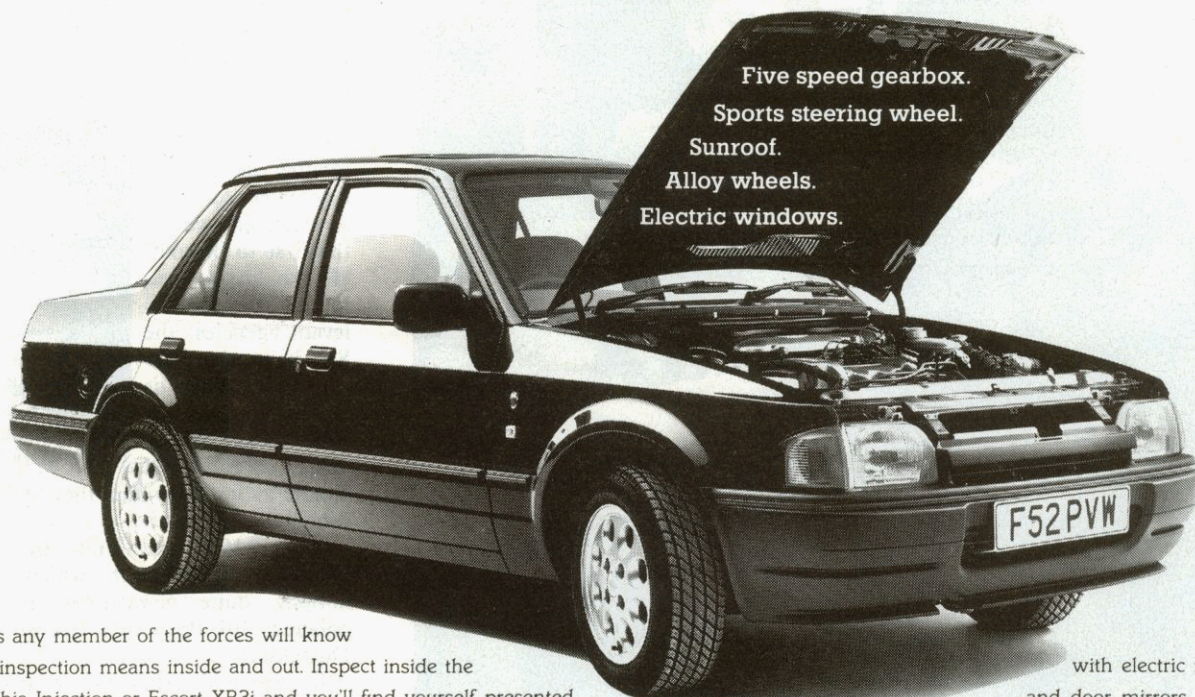
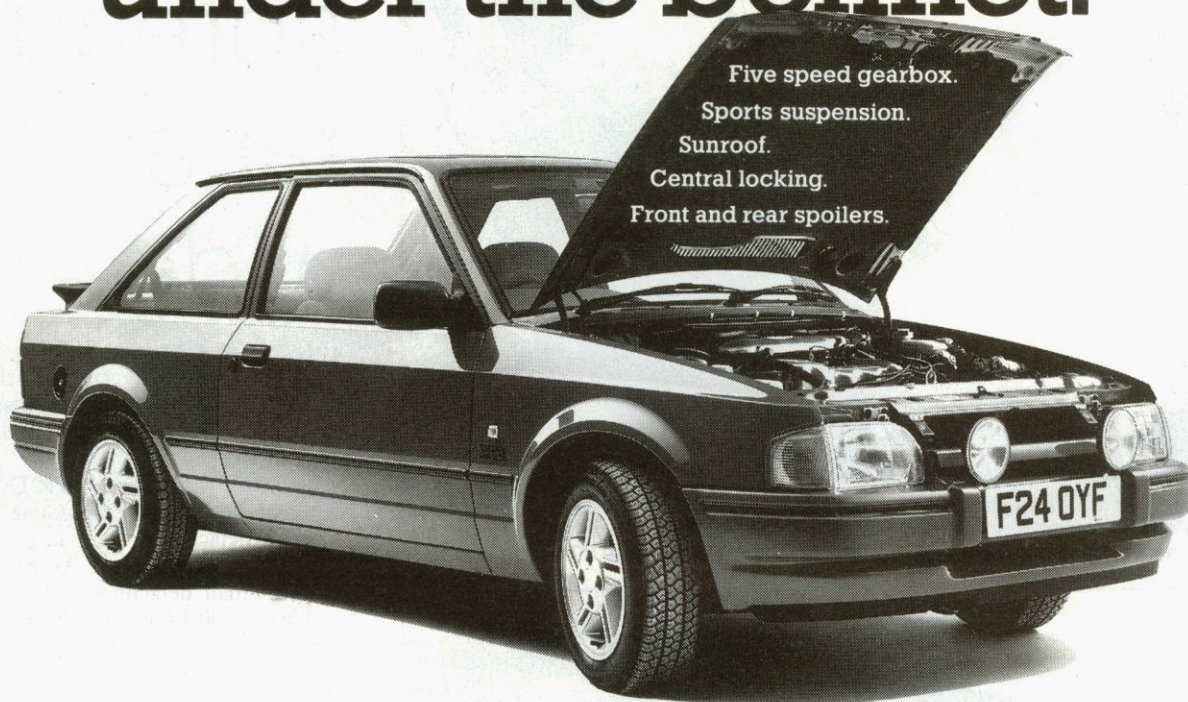


Members of the JHQ Detachment check the identity of a civilian motorist



Orderly Sergeant Cpl Adam Treverne and Desk NCO LCpl Andy Ewart deal with a duty room inquiry at Dusseldorf from Corporals' Mess barman Ian Watkins

To see how good they really are, just take a look under the bonnet.



As any member of the forces will know a close inspection means inside and out. Inspect inside the Orion Ghia Injection or Escort XR3i and you'll find yourself presented with their 1.6 fuel injected engines complemented by five-speed gearboxes.

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Tight squeeze for Dusseldorf 'Cellar rats'

● From Page 19

uniform – a halfway house between the Bobby on the ground and CID.”

The Dusseldorf Police Office is run by SSgt Ellie McWhinnie and all the paper work passes through her department. This includes speeding fines sent by the German civilian police with a photograph showing the driver, number plate, place, date, time and speed. The police office traces the owner and writes, asking for the fine to be paid into a bank, and the receipt to be produced.

SSgt John Walton and 2 Platoon are known as the “Cellar Rats” because that is where their offices are situated. He joked: “It is not part of the rank structure at this stage to have a window or a phone in the office! But accommodation is tight, and we moved down. It is a bit like a bunker, but it is convenient for stores, and offers privacy when soldiers need counselling.”

He said they worked long, unsocial hours, and a lot of their work was waiting for something to happen, and being able to react quickly when it did.

“It is my experience that if anybody has a problem, whatever that may be, at the end of the day they will telephone the military police.

“They know they will get someone on the end of the phone, which can be rare in



Lots of paperwork in the Dusseldorf Police office run by SSgt Ellie McWhinnie

some places, and they will get a sensible answer. It may be nothing to do with us. Often people are too idle to look in their telephone directories. They report lost budgies or hand in property that has not been lost, simply thrown away.

“We get calls from people who have broken down in their own cars. We are not the AA, but we will try and resolve their problems.

“If someone has got a problem and they don't know who to turn to, they will always turn to us. That's the way it should

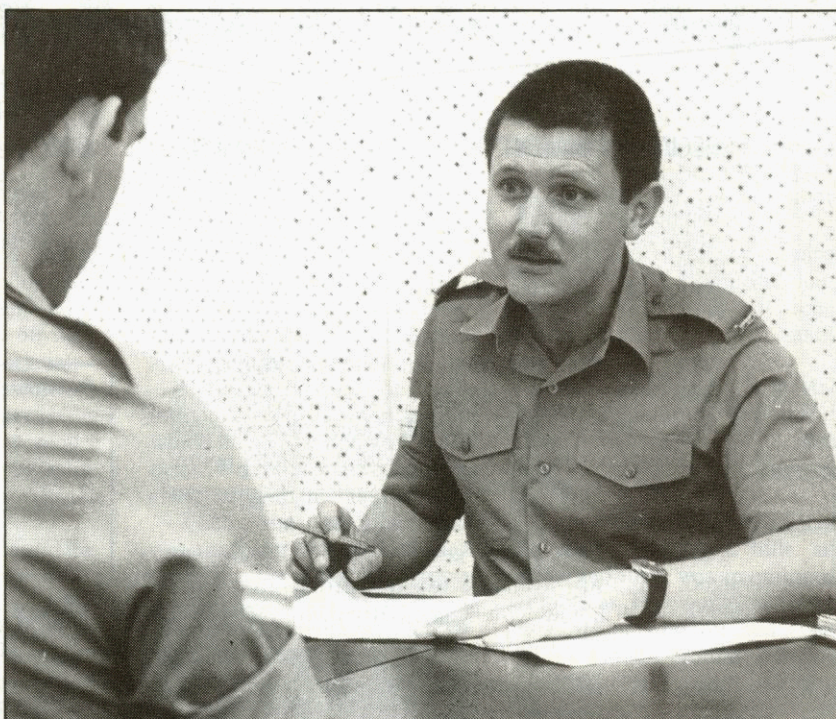
be and that's why we are here.

“We are very high profile and, if we go to a road accident for example, the reaction of the British community is ‘Ah, the RMP are here, they will solve our problems and look after us’, and we do. We offer a very good service.

“If we are called out, we will always attend. I don't think the average soldier knows how hard my lads work. Every NCO in this unit works a minimum of 60 hours a week as a start, which wouldn't be tolerated in many places.”



Ruth Lehmann has been interpreting for the RMP in BAOR since the end of the Second World War and her daughter Ziggy also does the same work



Sgt Steve McManus, who runs the Unit Investigation Element of 101 Provost Company interviews a soldier at Dusseldorf

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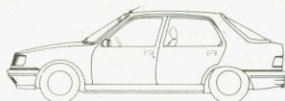


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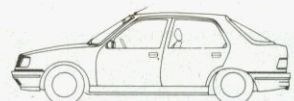
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The pick of the bunch – a third of these young Nepalese hill men will be chosen as the pick of the pick and become Gurkha soldiers

SUN SETS ON DHARAN

THE GODS who made merry with the final recruit selection parade held at Dharan cantonment kept their best joke until last.

The chosen had gone and the boys whose numbers had not come up were packing their belongings when a lively discussion broken out among the staff.

One hundred and twelve boys had been called out . . . only 111 could be accounted for.

It took a couple of minutes to locate No 96 and send him on his way, dazed but delighted.

The date was the 13th . . . unlucky for some but not for Mesbahadur Limbu who had made a little bit of regimental history.

"He'd won the pools and didn't know it," said Lt Col John Brewer, Chief of Staff at Dharan.

The selection of a Gurkha soldier is a fine process. When officers refer to their men as the pick of the bunch they mean it.

It begins in "the hills" – a belittling description for the highest mountains in the world.

For about three months of

the year, area recruiting officers, men like Lt Danbahadur Rai who spent 30 years in the 7th Gurkha Rifles, trek from village to village.

"I ask for 100 men here . . . 100 there; and they come."

A preliminary sort and a colour blindness test eliminates some. Of 500 men seen by Lt Danbahadur Rai only 50 were chosen as potential recruits.

In Nepal, where the worker's average income is about £112 a year, the prospect of a secure job for 15 years (the minimum period for a soldier to earn a pension) is irresistible.

When Lt Rai tells candidates

to report to Dharan on a given date he has no doubt they will turn up, though no money is handed over.

In the week before selection begins young men between 17 and 21 begin camping on the hills near the cantonment.

A few do not pass the first medical but the majority undergo two weeks of fitness and intelligence tests.

A file is opened on each individual and a number by which he will be known for the next 14 days is marked on his chest in gentian violet.

When the running and wrestling and the rudimentary

drill is over comes the Day of the Tree.

On a concrete seat encircling a broad leaved forest giant sits a group of about 20. A few yards away across the road is a lonely figure in a chair.

From time to time he is called forward and disappears out through a door in the long white building. Another takes his place.

The final interview with Maj Gopal Bahadur Gurung and Capt Mark Austin of the 10th Gurkha Rifles is a daunting affair.

Came the day. Lightning had lit the surrounding hills all night and there was an ominous rumble as 341 youngsters were lined up on the scorched grass of the parade ground. To one side lay their bags, already packed.

Bare chests were stuck out as

● Turn to next page

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Dharan, the last of the classic British military cantonments on the Indian sub-continent, is to be handed over to the Nepalese government at the end of the year. A SOLDIER team went there to witness the last Gurkha recruit selection parade. Words by **Bill Moore**, pictures by **Terry Champion**.

PARADE

● From Page 23

if in a last desperate effort to add to their score sheet.

At 10am Brig David Morgan, who is officially the Chief Recruiting Officer in Nepal, arrived on his bicycle and promptly led his staff straight to No 1.

Someone handed him a file which he studied and passed to a corporal. The document was the man on paper; the brigadier was seeing the real thing. The party passed down the line with Capt Austin's 6ft 5in frame towering over the Gurkhas.

A wind rose and the sky darkened. Lighting lit the parade ground.

"I have decided discretion is the better part of valour," said the brigadier (who had carried nothing more than a silver topped cane when he commanded the 1st/7th Gurkha Rifles in the Falklands campaign).

The parade moved smartly to the Dashera Hall where the Gurkhas celebrate their most important Hindu festival commemorating the victory of the fearsome goddess Durga over a demon with a buffalo head.

Above the spot where a beast is ritually decapitated with a giant kukri the temple flag fluttered wildly. Vultures and kites soared overhead on a ferocious wind.

Inside, the boys lined the walls which are open about ten feet from the ground. As the rain lashed down they moved, rain streaming down their shoulders, to the middle of the room. Once inspected by the brigadier they sprinted to the cover of the stage where the Dashera dancers perform. A Nepali TV crew filmed them.

At 11.10 the brigadier left with his staff. Having looked each man in the eye he did not automatically agree with every paper assessment, and in the next 50 minutes borderline cases were discussed. The rain eased.

The boys, who had put on their shirts, sat cross-legged in neat lines and waited.

When Maj Gopal, the Deputy Recruiting Officer in East Nepal, appeared they listened impassively as he gave them a pep talk: "You have all tried hard ... do not be discouraged if your number is not called ... you can try again next year."

Then he mounted the platform and, in front of a row of regimental flags, began to call out the numbers in order of merit in Gurkhali, sometimes



Brig David Morgan accompanied by Capt Mark Austin of 10 GR and Gurkha recruiters checks the papers of each individual

repeating them in English.

The first was No 339.

A tallish young man jumped to his feet, eyes shining, grabbed his belongings and ran to the door where he was told to pull up his shirt so his number could be checked.

The next man, No 17, did not need telling.

The boys sat as if in a trance as the major's voice went on.

BRIG David Morgan told SOLDIER:

"Dharan set at the foot of the Himalayas and some 30 miles from the Nepalese Indian border has been gathering Gurkha aspirants to the British Army for the past 29 years but there is more to it than that.

"Dharan cantonment has been accepted by the local Nepalis as an essential element of their life, a peaceful presence responsible not only for economic stability but also as a symbol

of generations of potential recruits. "As far as the British personnel are concerned one cannot be unmoved by the friendliness and sense of fun that exists here, despite the hard work that has to be done.

"The break will be difficult and even emotional but sentiment has never ruled decisions made by the Brigade of Gurkhas.

"Those who serve in Dharan now are not about to make an exception."

Once he called a number in error – the serial number from his sheet instead of the personal number.

A youngster started to his feet and looked dismayed when he was told to sit down.

A British nurse who was watched sighed with relief as his number came up later.

"It would have been so cruel," she said.

Once there was no response at all.

"Ek sau saintalis (147)," insisted Maj Gopal.

Boys craned their necks.

Suddenly one leaped to his feet, pulled up his shirt and stared down at his chest.

Yes, it was his.

The place rocked with laughter.

The end came suddenly. Maj Gopal closed his file and left the platform. The unsuccessful sat motionless for a moment. Some would return home; some seek work in India; some try to join the Indian Gurkha regiments.

A Gurkha officer began to marshal them to pay out money for their journeys.

Then the hunt started for No 96.

The rain was coming down harder than ever, strewing the paths of the cantonment with broken branches and crimson petals.

How Dharan coped with killer 'quake

THE ARMY is leaving Dharan. Next year when the great gul mohr tree glows crimson outside the British Gurkha officers' mess there will be no laughing QAs strolling past to the tennis courts; none hurrying to the hospital to answer an emergency call.

No longer will recruits gaze in wonder at immaculate creases in the shirt of the "Brigadier Sahib" as he pedals home on the steed he also uses for bicycle polo.

By January 1, 1990, the last classical military cantonment occupied by the British Army on the Indian sub-continent is due to be under new management.

The Government has decided that Dharan has served its purpose. It is to be axed as a recruiting centre for the Gurkha Brigade. Its job will be done by the much smaller base at Pokhara and at the transit camp at Kathmandu.

Though for a time some people, out of sentiment, might argue that it should remain, orders are orders and eventually it will become just another memory for old soldiers.

For some that memory will be the menacing rumble from the Himalayas that grew in violence just before five in the morning of Sunday August 21 last year.

Many were thrown out of bed by the

worst earthquake to hit Nepal for more than 50 years.

The cantonment, its bungalows built under Army supervision in 1960, suffered only minor damage.

In Dharan Bazaar, the bustling town a mile to the north, ramshackle mud and brick houses collapsed, burying scores of occupants.

It was not long before distressed, wailing Nepalese appeared carrying casualties up the short stretch of smooth tarmac leading to the North Gate guardroom.

In the following days soldiers and their families found themselves in situations they had never dreamed of when the Land Rover first took them from Biratnagar airport 30 kilometres up the dusty Jogbani-Dharan road.

Under the leadership of Lt Col Mike Kefford everyone did their bit.

Every wife in the camp worked in the British Military Hospital. Capt Denis Ballard, who normally handles the paperwork of the small RE detachment which employs local PSA workmen, set up the casualty evacuation centre.

Hard standing was improvised from plastic sheets covered with branches and hard core. As the casualty list grew the number of tents increased until there were seven in all.

SSgt Ralph Bint, 'Clerk of the Works Mechanical', and a motley crew of clerks and storemen spent days in the mountains tracing breaks in the five and a half mile long pipeline which is fed from a series of catchment areas in the hills.

He had no specialist equipment: "I just used my eyes and ears."

The cantonment's very existence depends on water. The hospital alone uses up to 3,500 gallons an hour. Demand increased dramatically as rescue workers arrived to swell the numbers.

The bushy moustache of sapper WO2 Ian Rigalski (a Scot of Polish descent) became a familiar sight in the ruins of Dharan where he directed the operation of the only JSB in the region.

About 40 houses were demolished for safety reasons.

When the flood of injured reached its height, diminutive Lt Jane Weir, WRAC, the cantonment adjutant, had the daunting task of operating the three tier system for dealing with them.

With only a year's experience of nursing to draw on (before she joined the Army),

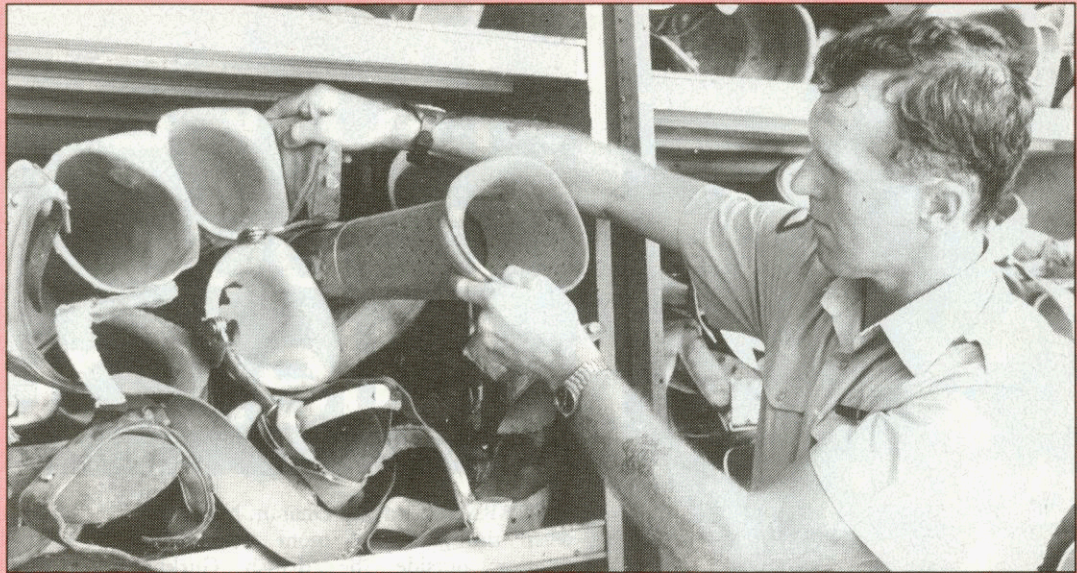


WO2 Paul Moore, RAOC, at the gates of his depot. He expects to be the last British soldier to leave Dharan after selling off surplus stocks

● Turn to next page



SSgt Tony Bosworth, RAMC
— ready for the snakes



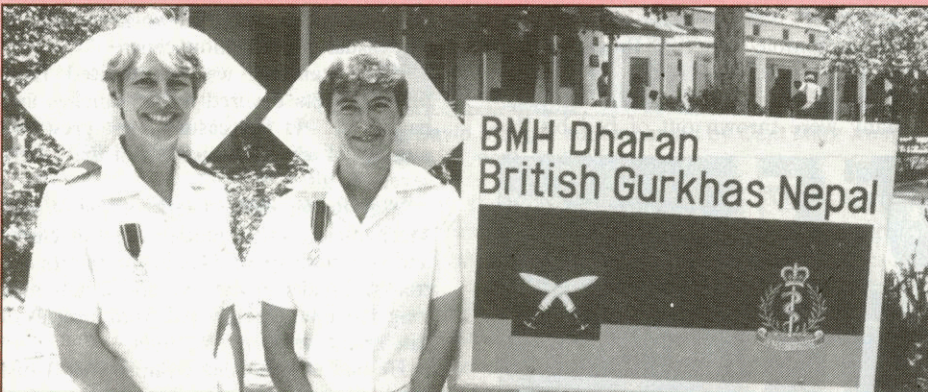
WO1 Ted Farrier, REME, checks donated stocks of false limbs which his staff cut down and fit to the smaller Nepalese. His work during the earthquake won him a Nepalese medal



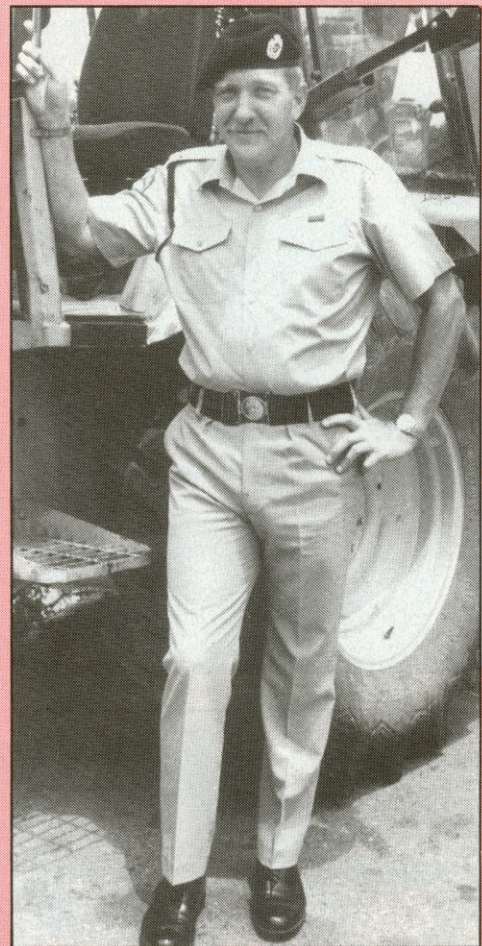
SSgt Ralph Bint — used eyes and ears to detect quake damage



Lt Col Allister Shepherd, SMO BMH, at work



Two QAs meet again after ten years (left) Maj Pat McKay, a visiting theatre instructor, with Maj Maggie MacDonald, BMH, Matron. They last served together in Hong Kong



WO2 Ian Rigalski, RE — JCB work after the 'quake earned him a Nepalese medal

Scarred walls recall horror of earthquake

● From Page 25

she had to seek out the hopeless cases from those that stood a chance of recovering.

In the hospital itself, three RAMC doctors — a surgeon, a physician and an anaesthetist, plus a Nepalese GP, worked ceaselessly. Matron Ann Grimwood and her successor, Matron Maggie MacDonald, and four QA captains got little sleep for a week.

The hospital grew and grew until in the end 60 extra European staff were employed.

It was seven or eight weeks before things

began to return to normal.

Today the only signs of the earthquake in the cantonment are the angular cement fillings in scores of walls.

There are other problems caused by the Indian-Nepalese trade dispute.

Two lorry loads of meat were detained on the border for nearly three weeks because the paperwork was "not right".

They were released when Brig David Morgan said he would order the meat to be unloaded and burned on the spot unless action was taken.

The paperwork was miraculously found

to be in order.

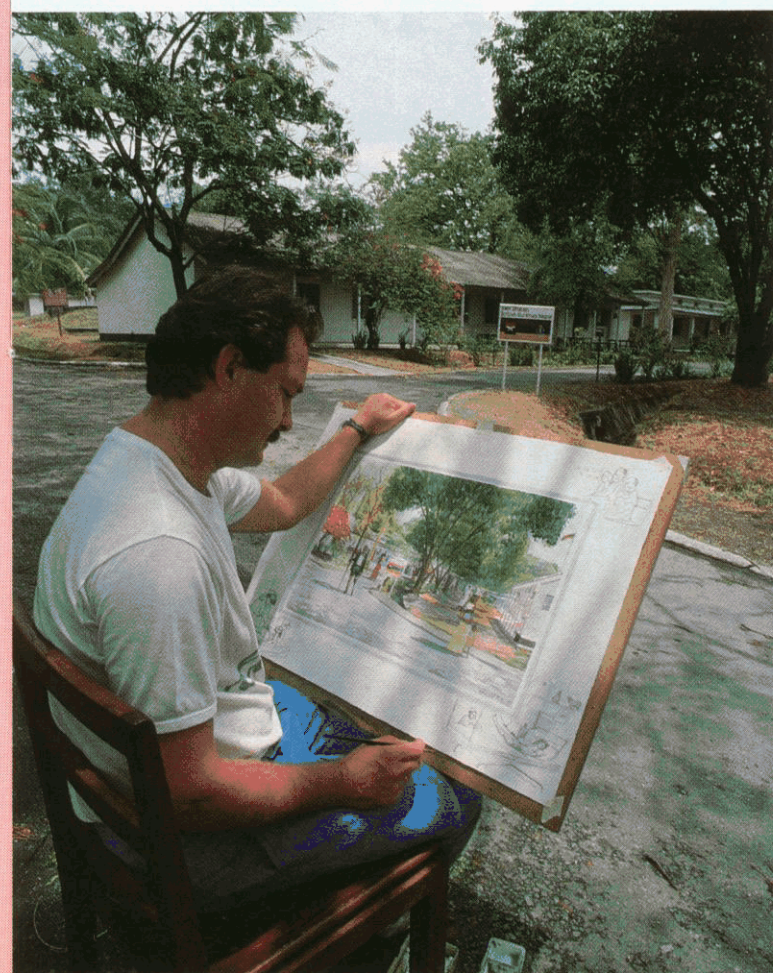
Maj Bob Price, RAOC, well-known in Army rallying circles, has travelled extensively to ensure the vital fuel supplies are maintained.

And Maj John Yearby, the sapper officer who directs the operations of the PSA, has still got the eternal problem of repairing the Joghani-Biratnagar road which suffers from erosion in the monsoon. The wet season is only weeks away.

When the Brits leave it will be along a road which is the best in the country.



Above – An old soldier day-dreams as he waits to collect his pension at the pay office. Below left – Artist Tony Cooke, from Fulham, captures the tranquillity of Dharan far from the hurly burly of Kathmandu (below right) where a religious procession is in progress. Tony was commissioned by the Brigade of Gurkhas to record the British cantonment at Dharan for posterity





Top left – Scrabble ball the day before the selection parade. Games are watched by the recruiting staff and enthusiasm and courage noted

Above – Lt Danbahadur Rai, who spent a lifetime of service with 7 GR. Each year he spends three months trekking through the hills to select young hopefuls like the men formed up behind him for the final selection parade

Left – One day after their selection the recruits are already beginning to shape up

Right – The scene they will always remember. Brig David Morgan stands behind the portrait of the Queen on the Union Flag on which recruits place their hands as they are sworn in

Far right – The agony of waiting. The boys around him have been called. For them the future is assured. For this lad... who knows?





Above – Capt Jennifer Gunning, QA, comforts two small patients in the military hospital at Dharan. Below – QA Cpts Jane Kitching, Jennifer Gunning and Vanessa Sanders and cantonment adjutant Capt Jane Weir, WRAC, pose for a picture with the swearing-in table after Dharan's last Gurkha selection parade. Right – SSgt Bob Leatherday, RAMC, in colourful "going away" outfit





Hon Capt Tiloksing Limbu checks in would-be patients at the Dharan cantonment gate

BMH care is just the ticket

A SMALL crowd of men and women, some carrying children, gathers every morning at the North Gate of Dharan cantonment. At about ten, whatever the weather, a man appears with a handful of tickets.

To some of the crowd it could well mean the difference between life and death.

For the tickets are their admission permit to BMH Dharan, probably the most respected hospital in Nepal.

Mr Udai Singh Subba usually has the unenviable task of deciding who most needs attention – and perhaps to ensure that one caste is not being unduly favoured. They notice things like that in Nepal.

Sometimes, if the crowd is small, all will be lucky. Sometimes there are more people than tickets and the unfortunate are told to return the next day.

Frequently children are brought in with horrific burns. The hill folk make their fires on the floor in the middle of their homes.

"If only they could be taught to build a hearth a lot of this could be avoided," said Mr Ranjit Singh Rai, a 63-year-old ex sergeant who served with the 2nd/6th Gurkha Rifles in Italy during the war and was wounded.

Ranjit, as he is known to everyone, has been with the hospital in various roles – nurse, nursing assistant . . . you name it.

Today he is the administrative officer and is rightly proud of the library of tropical medicine that has been built up.

"Best collection in Nepal . . ."

He spoke of rabies cases and of snakes.

"Most people suffer more from the shock than anything else when they are bitten," he said.

In the pharmacy (its floors permanently stained by gentian violet spilled in the earthquake), SSgt Tony Bosworth, RAMC, displayed his stock of serum.

"The season is about to start," he explained. "The snakes come out with the first rains. We get about 40 cases a year."

In the pathology lab Glaswegian SSgt Frank Brown held up a jar containing a tapeworm that must have been 18 feet long.

"One stomach can hold as many as 7,000 of them," he said.

Parasitic anaemia (tapeworms and their

like feed on their host's blood) is widespread in the hills.

"I've seen a man walk in here after four or five days trek through the hills and then discovered his blood count was only three grammes.

"He'd no right to be alive really, the normal count is 13 or 14 grammes."

Screening patients for parasitic problems is one of the hospital's major tasks. Some cases are infected with up to five different parasites.

Treatment lasts about eight days and the staff take a pride in their success.

The hospital has only 70 beds but its influence on the health of the community is out of all proportion to its size.

An average of 41,000 outpatients a year attend with 2,000 more in-patients.

There are three RAMC doctors, a Nepalese GP, a matron and four QA captains, plus locally employed nurses.

Around 2,000 operations a year are

● Turn to next page

Important legacy in field of tropical diseases

● From Page 31

performed and the midwifery section is constantly occupied.

The number of babies delivered last year was 424.

The local population are not the only ones who are going to miss the dedicated British staff. The RAMC will also lose out. Work done at the hospital has made an important contribution to knowledge of

tropical diseases — including the mosquito-borne Japanese encephalitis.

"The experience one gains here is invaluable," said Lt Col Allister Shepherd, the Senior Medical Officer.

"You come across cases you would never see in Britain . . . diseases at an advanced stage because people have ignored them or have to travel many days to reach here.

"You don't see many patients in Britain

who have been carried on a relative's back for five or six days, perhaps with a broken limb."

Though the Army is leaving Dharan there are hopes that the Overseas Development Agency will provide a similar number of doctors and nurses.

Whoever replaces the RAMC and QARANC staff will certainly have their work cut out living up to the standard which has been set.

New camp built to beat the 'quakes

THE rebuild of the British Gurkha Transit Camp in Kathmandu, vital to the Army's reorganisation in Nepal, is still on schedule despite the problems caused by the border dispute which the Nepali media openly refers to as a blockade.

Though hit by power cuts and the fuel shortage (along with the rest of the country), the red brick and tiled camp which blends neatly into its surrounds, is nearly complete, greatly due to the boundless enthusiasm of its OC, Lt Col John Child, GR, and the small team he heads.

The camp, once the site of a palace, is on the edge of the temple-dominated Patan quarter (once a self contained city) where the narrow streets full of craftsmen working in open shop fronts recall Shakespearean London — and its sanitation.

The camp is probably unique in British experience in having been specially designed to withstand earthquakes.

The work has been done by 120 locally employed civilians, plus local contractors, under the direction of Capt David Boyne RE and a Queen's Gurkha Engineers lieutenant.

With withdrawal from the British Gurkha base at Dharan, East Nepal, up to 12,000 soldiers and dependants will pass through the transit camp, flying via Kathmandu to or from Britain, Hong Kong or Borneo, on leave, duty, posting or for resettlement.

There they will be documented, accommodated for a night or two, and paid before dispersing to either their homes or for the next leg of the



CHEQUES don't count in the Himalayas. Maj Sammy Hamilton RAPC and his staff use bundles of notes like this to pay serving soldiers, dependants and pensioners in hard cash in Kathmandu

journey to their battalion.

The processing is done by a handful of British personnel supported by serving and retired Gurkha officers and soldiers.

One job calls for an expertise which is beyond the competence of British officers.

Hon Capt "PL" Thapa, an ex Gurkha commissioned officer of 6 GR, relies on the Mulki Ain, the "bible" of the Nepal legal system, to ascertain whether the girls brought in by young Gurkha soldiers really are their wives! On the odd occasion a Romeo has been

known to try to beat the system.

To see him studying his book, village marriage documents and at the same time questioning some pretty girl in a sari is an education.

Banks aren't keen to open branches in the Himalayas so Maj Sammy Hamilton, RAPC, the Scottish paymaster, a trekker and athlete of note, has to oversee his staff paying out hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash to serving soldiers and pensioners.

Bandits have been known to try to relieve a coach load of

Gurkhas of their hard earned pay en route.

A tree across the road, a couple of shotguns aimed at unarmed passengers and the situation can be nasty.

Maj Chris Chambers, RCT, the SO2 Mov and Sqn Ldr John Beaman, RAF, Gurkha Charter Control Officer, run a military travel agency which copes with problems which make the pedlars of bargain trips to the Costa Brava look like amateurs.

For climatic and other reasons plane timetables in Nepal are extremely flexible.

By the end of the year the tiny British contingent will have grown in Kathmandu. When SOLDIER called, SSgt Peter Hines, RE, was already there from Dharan to revise the postal system.

The arrival of Brig David Morgan and the staff of British Gurkhas Nepal towards the end of 1989 will swell this tough little British community umpteen thousand miles from home in the midst of a city where cows have the right of way over buses. But it will still be astonishingly small.

"Fortunately we have a close liaison with the Nepalese government," said Lt Col David Scotson, Defence Attaché at the British Embassy, who is himself a Gurkha officer.

"We work closely together on recruitment and welfare matters and in return we offer the Royal Nepalese Army valuable training facilities at the Junior Division of the Staff College, and on courses run by the Brigade of Gurkhas.

"The present Chief of Staff



One big happy family

CHILDREN have not been forgotten in the rebuild of the British Gurkha Transit Camp as the swing in the picture above shows

Left — Lt Col John Child (fourth from right centre row) with the permanent staff and the wives of Gurkha officers. The camp has a happy family atmosphere

Below — Hon Capt "PL" Thapa interviews a young Gurkha couple to ensure their marriage documents are in order. He relies on the Mulki Ain, the "bible" of the Nepalese legal system, to guide him through the regulations.

Young Gurkha romances have been known to try to beat the system



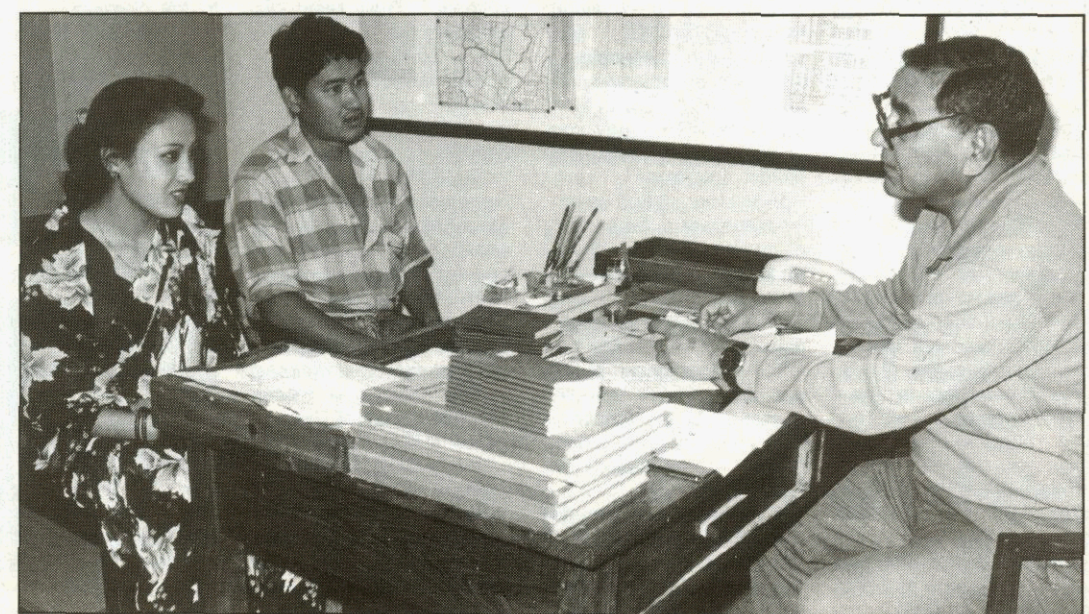
of the Nepalese Army is a Sandhurst graduate."

The close association of all Gurkhas with the British Army was very evident when a car drove into the Embassy gate with a little fair girl inside.

Annabel, Lt Col Scotson's eight-year-old daughter, was returning from school.

One of the ex Gurkha soldiers policing the gate, Durga Singh Gurung, who retired from the 2nd/6th about 20 years ago, saluted and smiled. Annabel smiled back and it was hard to tell whose smile was the biggest.

Both made it plain that whatever their cultural, climatic and life-style differences, Britons and Gurkhas feel at home together.



HOMES: FIELD MARSHAL FIRES SALVO IN HOUSE OF LORDS

THERE were some interesting answers from the Armed Forces Minister, Lord Trefgarne, when Fd Marshal Lord Bramall raised the question of housing for Servicemen during a debate in the House of Lords.

Lord Bramall asked if, in view of its current difficulty in retaining men in the Armed Forces, the Government intended to introduce a house purchase scheme.

Lord Trefgarne replied: "We have taken a number of measures to help them to combine home ownership with the special demands of Service life. We are examining a number of other ideas, including the possibility of setting up a scheme to help Servicemen save towards the purchase of a house."

Describing the Minister's reply as "being of some help on the peripheral areas of the problem", Lord Bramall went on to ask if Lord Trefgarne agreed housing problems continued to be one of the greatest incentives to leaving the Services early.

"Does the Minister not agree that at a time of acute manning difficulties what is really required is a much more comprehensive scheme which will allow the soldier to save for his retirement home in a tax

'Time for a comprehensive purchase scheme'



Lord Bramall

effective manner without being forced to buy a home prematurely and at a time when he is being encouraged to live in Government accommodation, often abroad?" asked Lord Bramall.

Lord Trefgarne replied that housing was not believed to be a key element in retention. While it was a factor it was

certainly not the only one.

"We recognise that there is scope for improvement in the arrangements presently in place and that is why we are considering what can be done," he said.

Lord Alport asked the Minister if he was aware that at Colchester some married quarters had been made available to civilian families under the auspices of the local authority.

"If there are surplus married quarters available," said Lord Alport, "could not those quarters be made available for sale to Servicemen at reduced prices to encourage them and to give them a chance to start on the home-owning ladder?"

Lord Trefgarne replied: "Surplus married quarters are always offered at a discount to the Armed Forces before they are

placed on the general market."

Anne Armstrong writes: It would appear however that there are circumstances (see SOLDIER June 12) such as the connection of utilities, which allow houses to be leased or sold to civilians without being offered under the Services' Discounted MQs scheme.

I have now been able to find the reason for what appeared to be another anomaly.

Reproduced below is a letter from a Serviceman:

Could you do me (and a few other soldiers in the Glasgow area) a big favour and find out why 12 surplus married quarters in Dorchester Avenue, Glasgow were offered direct to a property developer and not put on the market to Servicemen.

As soon as it was known these quarters were being made surplus I and a few others waited anxiously for them to appear in the Joint Services Discount Scheme bulletin.

This did not happen. Is this because they belong to the TA?

I have spoken with the responsible authorities and can confirm that though these quarters were occupied by Regular soldiers they did belong to the TA. A check on the deeds revealed this. They do not therefore come under the Joint Services Discount Scheme and the TA is in a position to dispose of them as it wishes.

However, I believe if any interested soldier writes to Lt Col A J Berry, 75 Berkley St, Glasgow G3 7EA his application will be considered.

THE BIG LET DOWN

THE idea of becoming an absentee landlord to solve a soldier's housing problem can backfire.

The new rules make letting more difficult in some cases.

Recently a soldier rang me from Germany saying that he was flying home to try to find a tenant, something his agent had failed to do after three months.

"I cannot afford the mortgage and the shortfall on the boarding school allowance," he told me.

After seven months his wife had not been offered a job. She could not live in the house because of the accompanied service rules.

"It's a tenant or sell," he said. "Now the market has fallen a sale may be impossible which means foreclosure and I'll have lost everything."

The sad thing is that the soldier is only one of many in a similar situation.

All a question of ROAPEG!

OUT of the rumblings of unfair treatment which followed last year's package of allowances was born the Review of Allowance Policy Evaluation Group.

Known by its splendid initials, ROAPEG was tasked with ascertaining the truth or otherwise of apparent widespread dissatisfaction, and the first phase of its work is now almost complete.

In February 3,500 questionnaires are to be sent to a random sample of all ranks and should now be returned.

A further 3,000 questionnaires are to be sent out in the second phase of the operation. These will be assessed by an independent consultant and a final report is expected in October.

If you receive a form, do make sure you answer all the questions and return it. You do not need to supply your name or rank but your

opinions will be valuable.

The Royal Air Force tackled their review rather differently. Instead of sending out questionnaires they dispatched a review team assisted by external consultants. The team is checking that Service personnel are being adequately reimbursed for costs incurred and that conditions are not being eroded overall.

The RAF is commissioning specific surveys of key groups and paying special attention to the over 45s and the 25 to 29 age group.

An interesting insight into how the RAF has coped with problems arising from the package of allowances is contained in a memo from their Director General Personal Services:

"I cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of ensuring that those involved in dealing with claims interpret the new regulations flexibly and sensibly to reflect the best

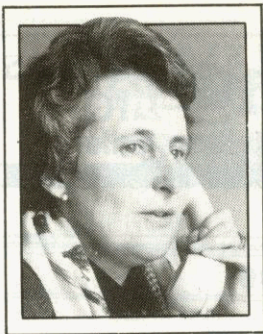
interests of individual personnel and their particular circumstances. Too many cases are being referred to my staff which should have been sorted out locally without the resultant delay to the claimant.

"Of those which did need action by my staff, you will be pleased to hear

that they have achieved a high degree of success in their negotiations with MoD financial staffs and the Treasury. This has not only resulted in the vast majority of marginal special cases being agreed, but has also allowed us to establish a significant body of precedents at an early stage."



Cycling for the Legion



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

Jobs: Vital case heard by judge

THE BATTLE to obtain justice for thousands of Service wives who feel they are entitled to unemployment benefit has reached a new stage.

Last month three test cases were heard before the Chief Social Security Commissioner, Judge Bromley, presiding over a tribunal comprising himself and two other commissioners.

It was the second part of a hearing which began in September last year when the tribunal sat for two days.

On that occasion it was adjourned and later, on the application of the Department of Social Security, more time was granted for them to prepare their case.

At the resumed hearing the case for the wives was once again put by Mr Martin Rodger, a barrister giving his services without charge as a member of the Free Representation Unit.

His legal interpretation of the European Directive — which has guidelines on all social security matters — gave the tribunal much food for thought.

The findings of the tribunal will be made known later.

IN MY VIEW this question should have been settled when it first emerged in 1977.

I raised it with the Ministry of Defence and the DHSS at that time.

The problem started when the choice of paying reduced National Insurance contributions was removed.

From that date all wives working full time had to pay Class I contributions.

Today thousands of wives have been refused unemployment benefit.

Approximately 5,000 wives are on the employment register in British Forces Germany.

If they were in the United Kingdom they could make a claim for unemployment

Findings awaited

benefit. In Germany only 1,000 of them have had claims upheld under EEC rules.

A further 1,900 were rejected and 2,100 were unable to claim for a variety of reasons.

I know what suffering is caused and how great the sense of injustice is because I have voluntarily represented wives for many years in cases referred to hearings in Guildford, Farnborough and Aldershot.

It was because of my personal experience of the diversity of rulings, some of which seemed contradictory, that I wrote to the Chief Commissioner, Judge Bromley.

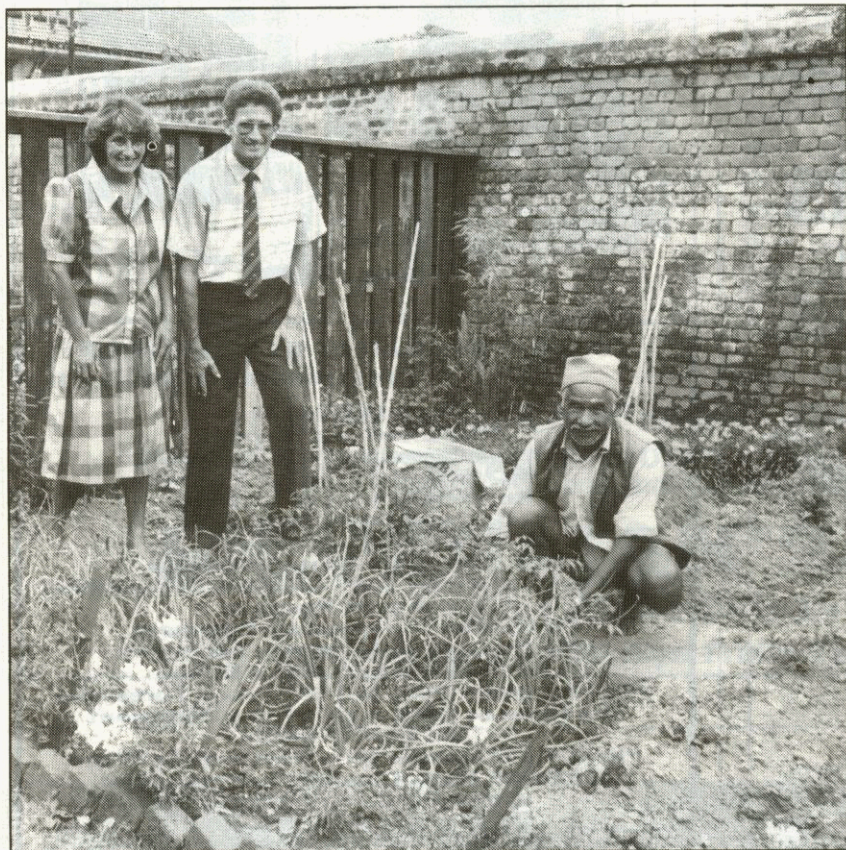
His findings are eagerly awaited.

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

Time for another reminder about the importance of filling in the F Med 264 accurately.

A potential problem arises when officers' wives take their medical records with them on posting without first obtaining the agreement of the NHSCR. If they are subsequently mislaid outside the system there is absolutely nothing the Central Register staff can do to find them.

In an emergency the NHSCR can process a F Med 264 within 24 hours. But in that case the form should be marked urgent and countersigned by a doctor.



LORNA Boyne has every right to be proud of her garden in her quarter in the British Gurkha Transit Camp, Kathmandu, where her husband David is RE supervising officer for the rebuild which is nearly complete.

The gardener (respectfully called Dai which means elder

LORNA KNOWS HER ONIONS

brother) said British seed she brought from Andover, Hants, would never grow.

The proof is in the picture. Lorna has splendid crops of onions, cabbages,

carrots and lettuce.

"All the veg are flourishing," she said.

Now Dai (real name Krishnan) is hoping to keep some of the seed for next year. "He has been completely converted," said Lorna pictured above with her husband and Dai tending the sturdy British onion patch.

Legion branches out

AMONG the resolutions raised by the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion at their recent annual general meeting at Bournemouth was one expressing concern at "the problems and hardships created for the families of those leaving the Forces owing to the lack of suitable accommodation..."

Not everyone is aware of the importance and size of the Women's Section which was represented by 747 delegates from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Completely autonomous,

it has a membership of 130,000 in 2,000 branches.

It is open to all serving and ex members of the women's Services and to most female relatives of soldiers and ex Service personnel down to their granddaughters.

Recently branches have been opened in Germany where they have been welcomed by Col Gail Kelly, Commander WRAC BAOR and Berlin.

In the Twenties the Women's Section helped thousands of women widowed in the First World War. Today it helps widows

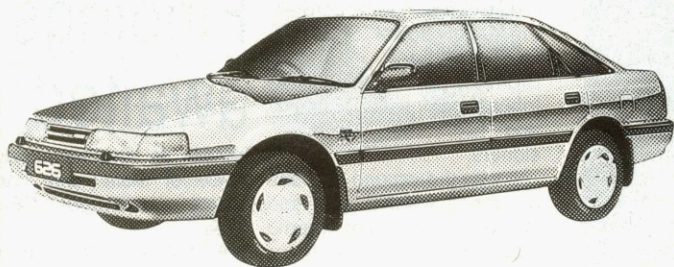
to visit graves of husbands.

The Women's Section aims to raise £1m a year through such events as The National Cuppa for Caring and Miles of Silver.

On a smaller scale two WRAC girls, WO1 Pat Rosewell and Sgt Lesley Henniker are planning to pedal a tandem from John o'Groats to Land's End as a sponsored effort.

Anyone interested in joining the Royal British Legion Women's Section should contact the National Secretary, Haig House, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

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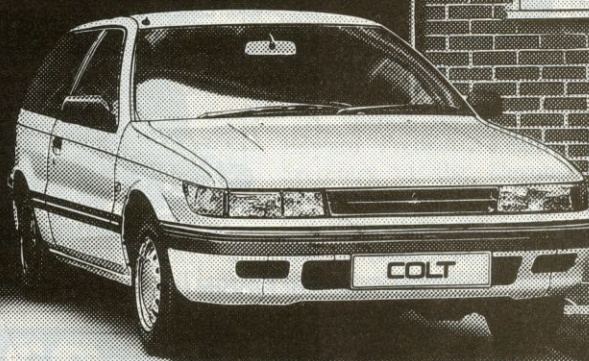
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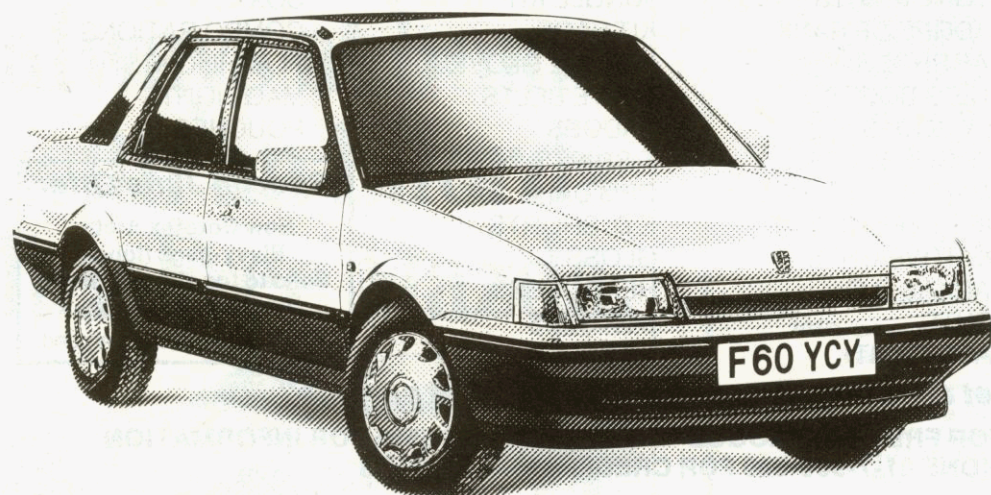
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S 26/06/89

RCT 'sleuth' solves a 19th century mystery...



Mess silver centrepiece depicting the African wars and paid for by Army Service Corps veterans

THOUGH he looks more like a bluff Watson than a wily Holmes, Lt Col Ian Bennett's painstaking detective work over 25 years has at last solved The Case of the Man Who Never Got the VC, writes Bill Moore.

The central figure is Cork-born Col Walter Alphonsus Dunne, one of the outstanding veterans of Victorian campaigns in Africa.

Dunne, an assistant commissary (transport and supply officer) was one of the defenders of Rorke's Drift (subject of the film *Zulu*).

He was largely responsible for the erection of the barricade of mealie bags around the little camp, supervising 300 natives who fled on the approach of 4,000 spear-carrying warriors.

Having used pistol and sword throughout the struggle he still had the energy to stand on a growing pile of bags to encourage the men of the 24th of Foot (2nd Warwickshire, later the South Wales Borderers) as they built a redoubt for a last stand.

Undoubtedly he drew a great deal of fire which would otherwise have done considerable damage... and still survived unscathed.

Lt John Chard, RE, commanding at the Drift, paid tribute to Dunne who, with another commissary officer, James Dalton, was belatedly

Case of the Rorke's Drift hero who didn't win VC

recommended for the award of the Victoria Cross. No one doubted his bravery but though Dalton joined the ten other recipients, Dunne did not.

Lt Col Bennett, who deals with officer recruiting at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, home of the Royal Corps of Transport, was born in Tanganyika, the son of an officer of the King's African Rifles, and has been interested for years in the apparent injustice.

He himself served in the infantry (West African troops) in the Far East during the war and later transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and RCT.

In a labour of love which involved world-wide corres-

pondence and visits to the Royal Archives at Windsor, Lt Col Bennett finally tracked down the answer to the mystery in a file relating to Dalton's VC.

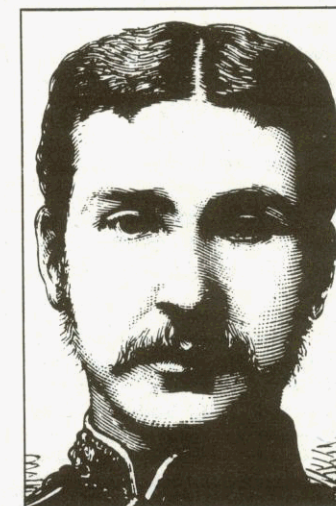
In it was a memo from Fd Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, who was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army for nearly 40 sterile years.

"We are giving the VC very freely I think," he wrote to the Military Secretary of the day, "but probably Mr Dalton has as good a claim as the others who have got the Cross for Rorke's Drift defence. I don't think there is a case for Mr Dunne."

Two years later Dunne did enough to win the VC again. He was once again besieged in a



Lt Col Ian Bennett with Dunne's sword used at Rorke's Drift



Col Walter Dunne

By more good detective work, Lt Col Bennett has traced what must have been a familiar sight to Commissary Dunne – the Union Flag flown over Potchefstroom.

When the original was lost another was made by artillerymen out of the coat linings of an RA officer and sergeant.

This flag, shown to Queen Victoria, was believed to have been lost when the RA Museum at Woolwich was moved during the Second World War.

A chance remark by Col Edward Tremlett, Regimental Secretary of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, put Lt Col Bennett on the trail again and he traced it to the RHQ of the Royal Highland Fusiliers (an amalgamation of the RSF and HLI) in Glasgow.

He also tracked down Dunne's medals through the old soldier's daughter who died a Mother Superior.

From the same source he learned Dunne's sword, worn at Rorke's Drift and Potchefstroom and on other South African battlefields, still existed – and was able to verify it as genuine by more detective work.

Both sword and bullet-torn Potchefstroom flag will be on display when Lt Col Bennett's book *Eyewitness in Zululand* is launched next month.

THE GREAT WAR

An Evocation in Music and Drama
GEMM CD 9355

THIS one is for senior citizens and others with nostalgia for things past. So many requests come in for the old songs, especially those of the First World War, and there are so few available, but I never thought I could be able to recommend such a record as this.

It is a compilation of all those old shellac 78s of childhood you loved so well – and probably lost awhile. All except four of the 24 items were actually recorded during the war, and none later than 1930.

That lovely tinny boxed-in sound of the old recordings almost makes you wish CDs had never been invented. The transference of these songs to CD, with all the latest techniques in removing blemishes and adding new accompaniments, would be pointless and ruinous.

Un-named wind bands, orchestras and pianists do the accompanying, but the singers are by no means anonymous. Unbelievably they include Edna Thornton, John McCormack, Gervase Elwes, Peter Dawson, Louise Kirkby-Lunn, Florrie Forde, Arthur Fields, Clara Butt in *Land of Hope and Glory*, and Enrico Caruso himself in two choruses of *Over There*, one in English and one in French.

Every famous artiste of the time was seemingly drawn to the recording studios in aid of *The Boys Over There*, and in addition to those already

Shellac sounds from the trenches

mentioned there are the Metropolitan Military Band, The Jolly Old Fellows, the Roosters Concert Party, and the Black Diamonds Band.

Most sad are the comedy sketches, reflecting the times even more vividly than the songs, with their very false soldiers' accents and barrack-room chat as imagined by civilians far from the trenches. And we hear from Sgt Dwyer VC on his experiences in France, ending in his touching attempt to render some soldiers' songs.

There is a genuine wartime recording of a British gas-shell bombardment and a representation of life in the trenches, but the atmosphere of that great war is recalled more intensely in the songs themselves, and the singers.

For me the winners are Herman Darewski's wistful love song of a soldier to his cigarette, *Smoke Clouds*, and the great Caruso bringing all his vast operatic skill and experience to the patriotically inane *Over There*. Ludicrous, but lovable.

● **A once-and-for-all buy!** I imagine, from Pavilion Records, Sparrow Green, Wadhurst, East Sussex – CD, cassette, or on two LPs.

WITH the possible exception of the two world wars, more books have been written about the Napoleonic Wars than any other. Authors still find the subject magnetic, hence *Swords Around A Throne*, the product of 30 years research by a retired American Army colonel.

In 770 pages, John R Eltring exhaustively surveys the ten years existence of the Grande Armée: its commanders, men and camp followers, strategy and tactics, weapons, uniforms and equipment, communications, intelligence gathering and use of contractors.

It was an army that stretched its lines of communications over vast areas and it is particularly interesting to read of the organisation of supply trains on long campaign marches.

Its father was Marshal Louis Berthier, who held the office of Minister of War until 1807 when he was replaced by Henri-Jacques-Guillaume Clarke.

Napoleon's other marshals included Jean-Baptiste Jules Bernadotte who enlisted at the age of 17.

Despite his nickname "Pretty Leg", he was promoted sergeant and progressed through the ranks. Because he was kind to captured Swedish officers, the Swedes offered him that country's throne as their ruler was prematurely senile. Such were the fortunes of war!

The book covers all components of the Armée, from the elite *cuirassiers*, one regiment of which had a singular

Ten long years of Boney's Armée

initiation for newly assigned officers.

"You were given three horses, three bottles of champagne, and three willing wenches – and three hours to kill the champagne, cover the girls, and ride a rough 20-mile course."

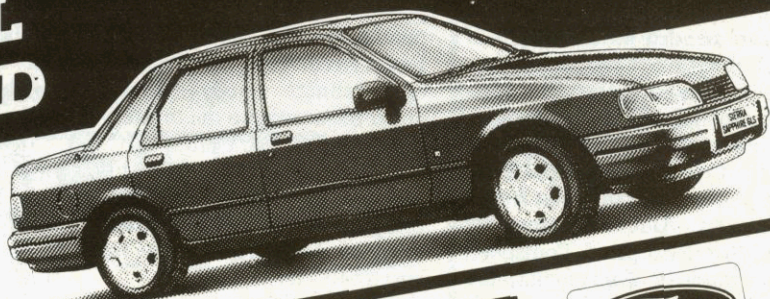
Much historical detail can be gleaned and not all concerning military affairs.

The French red, white and blue tricolour has its origin in the Royal household insignia of Charles V (1337-80), and the horsedealers' trick of transforming a "crossbred crowbar" into a spirited charger by slipping a small eel down its throat just before inspection by the cavalry buyer. Without the wealth of information about Napoleon's Armée the book would still be well worth reading for such gems. – BJ

Swords Around A Throne: Napoleon's Grande Armée by John R Eltring. Published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Price £25.

The Rise and Fall of an American Army by Shelby L Stanton. Battlefield history of the American ground forces in the Vietnam War. Published by Spa. Price £16.95.

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Private armies

SPECIAL forces, amphibious shock troops, paratroops, or any body of fighting men raised and trained to fight behind enemy lines always make a subject for compulsive reading.

The latest in a long line of books about special forces is Eric Morris's *Guerrillas in Uniform*, subtitled *Churchill's Private Armies in the Middle East and the War Against Japan 1940-45*.

It is a companion to an earlier work by the same author about special forces in the European theatre between 1939 and 1942. Why Winston Churchill's name should feature so strongly in the title of Mr Morris's book is

not easy to understand.

In every case it was individual soldiers like Dudley Clarke, David Stirling, Orde Wingate and Vladimir Peniakoff (known as Popski) who inspired or raised the special forces.

The Prime Minister mainly, but not always with enthusiasm, endorsed and approved the activity.

The book tackles the controversy still surrounding the private armies of the Middle East: the Commandos, the Long Range Desert Group, the SAS, Popski's Private Army (which began as the Libyan Arab Force), the Indian

Long Range Squadron, and the Special Identification Group whose members were of German origin.

There is also a description of the German equivalent to the LRDG, a short-lived force whose task it was to locate a non-existent Pan African trunk highway!

There is a good account of Operation Flipper, an ill conceived attempt to capture or to kill Rommel (the intention even now is by no means certain) at a villa at Beda Littoria. The operation, which also involved other targets, was unsuccessful.

On the jungle war against the Japanese the author is highly critical, arguing that Orde Wingate's Chindit expeditions in Burma were a waste of resources and largely a product of their leader's vanity.

Controversy is a keynote of this work. Ex Middle East commandos may find it strange to read: "The commando knife originated in the police museum in Cairo. It was used more frequently in brawls and bar-room battles in Cairo and Port Suez than against the enemy." — BJ

Guerrillas in Uniform: Churchill's Private Armies in the Middle East and the War Against Japan 1940-45 by Eric Morris. Published by Hutchinson. Price £16.95.

Picture story of the RTR

THERE have been many books on tanks and on the Royal Tank Regiment, so when asked to write a new history George Forty decided on a somewhat different approach which he calls "pictorial evocation" — bringing together as many authentic photographs as he could find, interspersing them with written first-hand accounts from those who actually took part in the actions and campaigns.

The author was fortunate in having free access to the library of the Tank Museum, Bovington, where he has been director

and curator since 1981.

The Royal Tank Regiment: A Pictorial History is the story of British Army tanks from Lancelot de Mole's design of 1912, summarily discounted by the War Office, to the Challenger of the Eighties. It is also the story of tankmen from the time when volunteers were attracted by the 'Join the Tank Corps and become a motor engineer' recruiting poster. — BJ

The Royal Tank Regiment: A Pictorial History by George Forty. Published by Spellmount Limited. Price £25.

In brief

The World of Conflict 1989, War Annual 3 by John Laffin. Follows the progress of 34 areas of interstate violence, counter-insurgency, guerilla warfare and terrorism. Published by Brassey's. Price £19.95.

Emergency Tour by Brig Peter Morton. The Northern Ireland 'troubles' in 1976 as experienced by the author, at that time CO of 3 Para in South Armagh. Published by William Kimber. Price £12.95.

The Other Side of Time by Brendan Phibbs. The war memoirs of the author who was a combat surgeon with the Twelfth Armoured Division of the Seventh US Army in Germany during the Second World War. Published by Robert Hale. Price £11.95.

Across the Reef by Victor J Croizat. The amphibious tracked vehicle at war as described by Marine Col Victor Croizat who led his battalion ashore at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and other Pacific landings. Published by Blandford. Price £14.95.

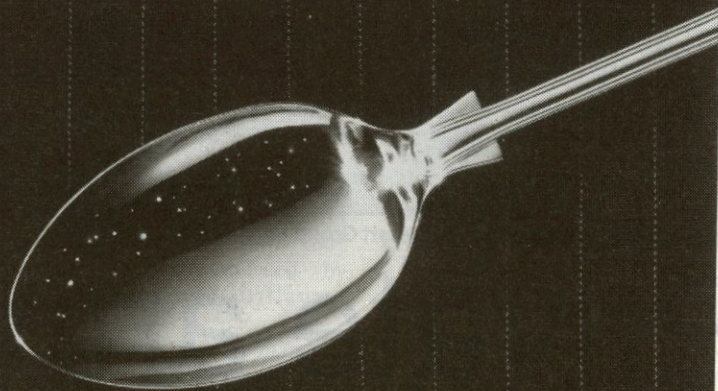
A Soldier's History. The story of The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), first published in 1972 and now brought up to date. Obtainable from Regimental HQ, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 518 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G2 3LW. Price £4.95 plus 40p postage UK and BFPO for soft cover, £7 plus postage hard cover.

Diary of Military Government in Germany 1945 by B N Reckitt. Eye-witness account of a country suffering from the devastation of a major war, written from the diary of Lt Col Basil N Reckitt, artillery officer in the Second World War. Published by Arthur H Stockwell. Price £5.50.

Gentleman Cadet to Headmaster by A E G Haig. The author describes his two careers, as a gunner officer before, during and after the Second World War and as joint headmaster of Summer Fields preparatory school, St Leonards. Published by Pentland Press. Price £10.

Historic Military Vehicles Directory by Bart Vanderveen. Nearly 1,400 vehicles from 23 countries illustrated and described, with technical data. Published by After the Battle. Price £19.95.

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power amps, up-link and line amps. For the transportable positions, an HGV III licence would be useful, as would a knowledge of outside broadcast and experience of working in a shift-based environment. Candidates with a proven background in managing small teams of technicians, and who have the personality to work with important clients on important projects, will be considered for the supervisory roles.

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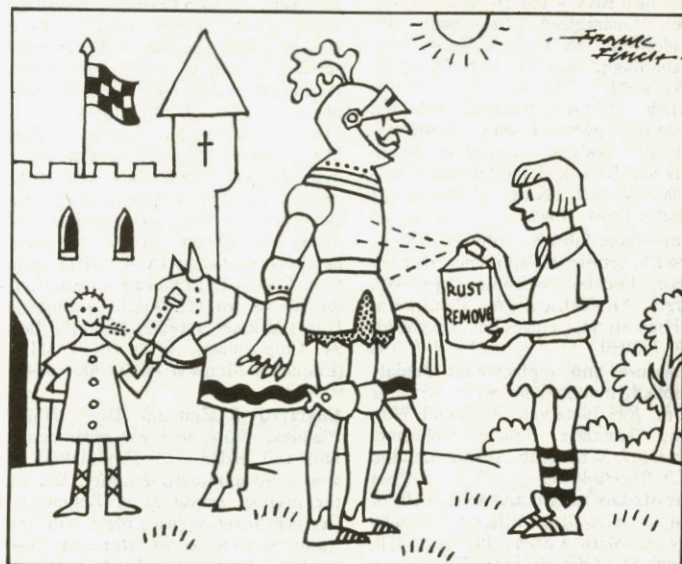
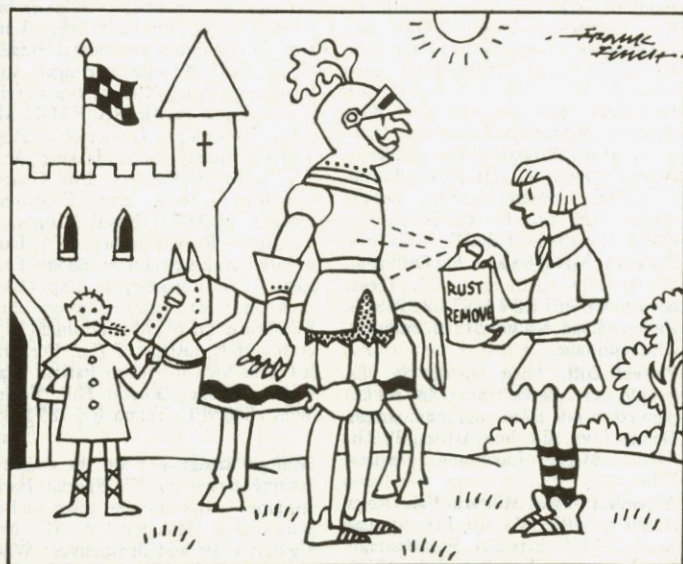
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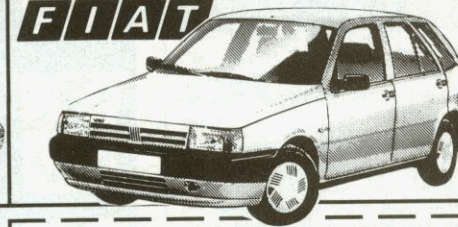
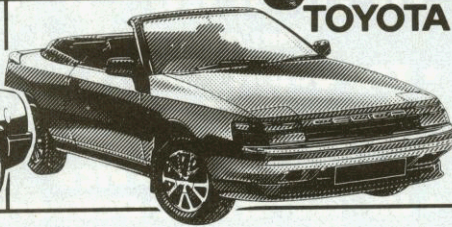
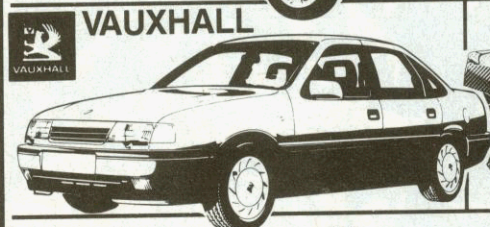
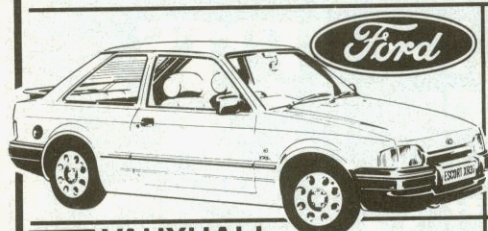
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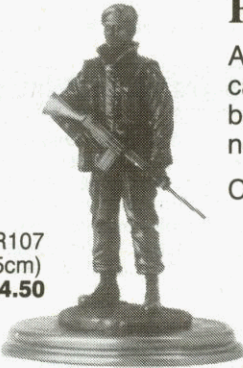
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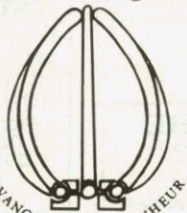
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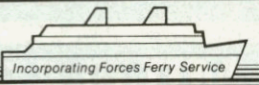
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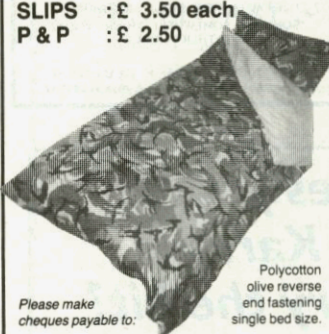


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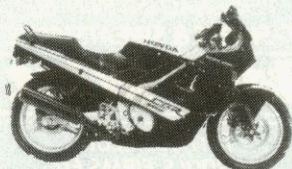
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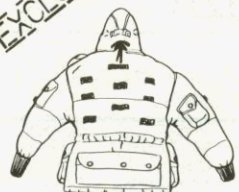
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A close run thing at Lord's

AN exciting two wicket defeat for the Army off the penultimate ball of their match against MCC Young Cricketers at Lord's Nursery contrasted starkly with a grey batting performance against Middlesex 2nd XI at Aldershot.

At Lord's, Army skipper Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, 1 Gren Gds, set the young professionals a stern target of 243, which they duly accomplished off the fourth ball of their 53rd and final over.

Earlier the Army had compiled their total in 65 overs with noteworthy contributions from Lt Jim Cotterill, 16 AD Regt RA (32), Cpl Graham Summersgill (41), and Capt Peter Germain (54).

It might have been a different story if the Army hadn't let eight catches, most of

them difficult, slip away. There was also a missed stumping.

**Army 243-9 dec.
MCC Young Cricketers 246-8**

The Middlesex game was a bit of a nightmare for the Army batsmen, who appear to have some difficulty in pacing themselves in a 55 over contest.

Gordon Lennox (29), Cotterill (23), Capt Julian Barrett (13) and Lt Keith Rumbelow (11) were the only ones to get into double figures, and their total of 139 all out in 42 overs was never likely to tax the Middlesex men.

They won by some distance, knocking off the runs in the 21st over for no wickets.

**Army 139 all out,
Middlesex 2nd XI 140-0**

Sussex's second team gave nothing away against the Army at Aldershot, batting for nearly 66

overs to compile 231 for seven declared. That left their hosts with only batting practice as a realistic option in the time remaining.

To their credit the Army batsmen had a go, eventually reaching 167 for six in 48 overs. Cotterill was again in the runs, making 56, while Barrett scored 35. In the Sussex innings Capt Paul Presland took 2-13 in nine overs and Rumbelow 3-43 in 12.

**Sussex 2nd XI 231-7 dec.
Army 167-67**

Under 25 XI 202 (Lt Jim Cotterill 75, Lt Chris Brawn 29; Pte David Thompson 5-91). President's XI 187 (Thompson 79; Capt Edward Gordon Lennox 32; Lt Charlie Redmayne 4-40, Pte Steve Cornhill 4-34). Under 25 XI won by 15 runs.

Under 25 XI 216-9 (55 overs) (Fus Jonathan Jeremias 81, Thompson 39, Redmayne 36). Southern Cricket League 220-7 (Cornhill 2-35, Lt Alastair Murdoch 2-35). SCL won by three wickets.



Maj Tim Lerwill on the attack against Middlesex. He was out for eight

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Big field for orienteering

NEARLY 400 competitors took part in the inter-unit and individual UKLF orienteering championships staged in conjunction with the South Wales Orienteering Club at Kings Wood near Monmouth.

Four courses of varied technical and physical difficulty were prepared with Capt John Dowty, 202 Bty RA (V), fastest on the most testing.

Cpl Jenkins, 135 Ind Topo RE (V), WO Condy, 7 RHA and QPTE Street, 217 Gen

Leading from the front . . .

ARMY honour was upheld nobly at the annual golf clash of the three Service Sport Boards at Tidworth when Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director ASCB, won the singles stableford competition. A trophy was provided by Famous Grouse.

Hosp (V) were fastest on the other courses.

The Princess Marina College at Arborfield reports an excellent season of orienteering, having achieved third place in the UKLF championships. In the British championships at RMA Sandhurst AT Neil Hall achieved a first place in the U-21 B Class.

Under lecturer Capt (Retd) Ken Williams, the Army team manager, the Princess Marina lads were third in the SE District championships, first in both the Army junior night and Army junior championships, and second in the REME event.

Their team of Sgt Roger Hawkins and ATs Craig Chapman, Colin Stewart, Neil Hall, Brian Drane, AT Sgt Stuart Blinco and AT LCpl Robert Cook have also taken part in competitions in Sweden as guests of Bohuskin Regiment (117).



Capt John Dowty, 202 the UKLF individual

Bty RA (V) wins the U21 category of orienteering championships

6 GR posting gives hope to the others

THERE was a familiar look about the final stages of the Army volleyball championships at ASPT Aldershot with last year's leading teams again very much in contention.

In the end the 1988 UKLF and Army champions, the 6th

Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, retained both titles, defeating the 9th/12th Royal Lancers in the UK final and then going on to beat BAOR champions 50 Missile Regiment RA in the Army final.

Both 9/12 L and 50 Msl Regt

had fallen to the Gurkhas at precisely the same stages of the competition in 1988. But there is bound to be a new name on the trophy next year, by which time 6 GR will be serving in Hong Kong.

In the plate competition the Gurkhas also took the honours, with 69 Gurkha Ind Fd Sqn RE defeating 8 Signal Regiment 3-0 in the decider.

The two days of competition produced some excellent volleyball, a fact which Army secretary Maj Mike Legrove, ACC (Aldershot Mil 3150) is hoping to capitalise on by encouraging more players into his National League squad. At the same time Sgt Bill Lomas (Warminster Mil 2305) is trying to build up sideline support by creating a pool of competent and qualified officials.

Airmen pull off Jubilee Cup triumph at last

RAF Wyton became the first Royal Air Force football team to win the Naafi Jubilee Cup for nine years when they defeated defending champions HMS Sultan in the final at Wyton. The Army champions, School of Signals Blandford, were beaten in earlier rounds by both RAF Wyton and Royal Navy champions HMS Sultan.

Blythe Cup

Winners of the RE Inter-Unit football championship and the Blythe Cup for the first time are BAOR based 35 Engineer Regiment who defeated UK finalists 42 Survey Engineer Group in the decider at the Garrison Ground, Chatham. Final score was 2-1 to 35 Engineer Regiment.

Rivals put to the sword

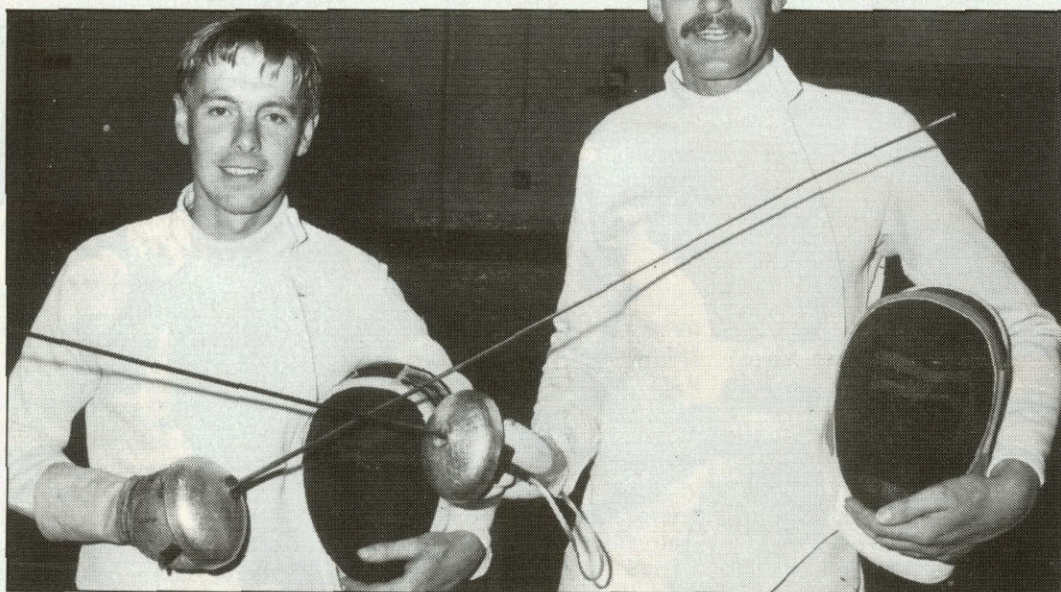
TWO years of Royal Air Force domination of Inter-Service fencing came to an abrupt end at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth when, for the first time in memory, the Army team won with all three weapons.

It was a tremendous performance by the Army, reflecting the quality of senior fencers active in the Service.

In the foil Maj Ian Campbell, Sgt Dave Garrod and Lt Tony Williams achieved 12 victories to the RAF's ten and the Royal Navy's five, in the epee Lt Col Lawrence Burr, Corporal of Horse Ian Margan and Cpl Peter Hart took 12 victories to the RAF's eight and the RN's seven, and in the sabre Lt Col Wilek Nowosielski-Slepown, Capt John Larkham and LCpl Willie Williams made it 12 to the Army against ten for the RAF and five for the Navy.

The Army women's team, represented by Cpts Kirsty Platts, Alison Hayle, Kate Pulverman and Kathy Pendleton, trailed in third place to the RAF and Navy.

Junior Leaders' Regiment



The Army's two Great Britain representatives, Cpl Peter Hart (left) and COH Iain Margan, at the Army fencing championships in Aldershot

Fencers achieve clean sweep at Inter-Services

RE from Dover once again dominated the U-20 competition at the Army championships staged in Aldershot, winning for the tenth consecutive year.

Osnabrück based Spr Michael Kelly, 25 Engr Regt, won the epee event while JSpr Darrell Cooper, JLRRE, took both foil and sabre classes in the U-20 event. Cooper also managed third in the epee to run out an easy winner in the Champion at Arms competition.

Numbers were down in the senior event but were compensated by the very highest quality in all three weapons.

Sgt Dave Garrod, REME, made a successful return after two years in the South Atlantic,

beating the up and coming LCpl Graham White, 12 RSME, in an exciting final.

Great Britain team colleagues Cpl Peter Hart and Corporal of Horse Iain Margan crossed epees in the final of that competition, with Hart retaining his title by a score of 10-6.

Capt John Larkham, APTC, one of the top Army fencers of the past, made a comeback in the sabre after eight years and in a heart-stopping final proved too experienced for the talented LCpl Willy Williams, 25 Engr Regt.

Larkham has been posted back to the ASPT at Aldershot.

Garrod and Williams were neck and neck for the Champion at Arms title, with the former winning the Scott

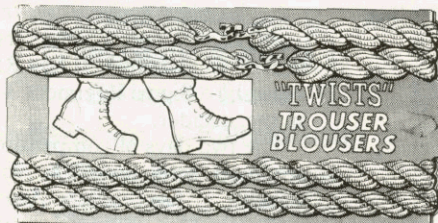
Cup by virtue of a weapon win in the foil.

The six man inter-unit team event was won by 25 Engr Regt and the three man team competition resulted in an exciting tie between 25 Engr Regt and SEE Arborfield with 12 RSME third.

To decide the winner of the Gelder Cup for three man teams, Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director of the Army Sport Control Board, drew for the deciding weapon. Foil came out of the hat and Cpl Peter Hart duly came up trumps for SEE Arborfield.

There was a larger than usual entry in the women's competition, thanks to the efforts of secretary Capt Kirsty Platts. She retained her championship title after a close struggle with Capt Alison Hayle.

Spr Roscoe Tanner of 25 Engr Regt was awarded the Walker Trophy for the most improved and promising Army fencer of 1989.



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WOMEN's basketball in the Army really took off during the 1988-89 season (the AWBA's second year as a representative sports body), culminating in the Army's convincing defeat of the WRAF for the second year.

The Army squad was presented with the Lightning Rosebowl, donated for Inter-Service competition by the RAFBA.

During the season the Army team won the Wessex League and did well in the Valentine Tournament.

Five women's teams entered

It's all go for women's basketball

the UKLF tournament alongside the men at Aldershot, 16 Bn RAOC taking the honours. They went on to defeat 13 Signal Regiment in BAOR.

Now the AWBA is hoping for greater involvement with the BAOR competitions and to organise a UKLF-BAOR round robin tournament.

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Picture: Mike Perring