

 Inside:
GULF REPORT

SOLDIER

NOVEMBER 26 1990

40 PENCE



REFLECTIONS ON
THE NATIONAL
CROSS-COUNTRY
SKIING SEASON

— Sports pages

METROMORPHOSIS.



INTRODUCING THE NEW METRO.

A RANGE OF TWELVE CARS THAT BUILDS ON

ALL THE TRADITIONAL STRENGTHS OF ITS PREDE-

CESSOR, BUT ALSO INTRODUCES SOPHISTICATED

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FRONT COVER: Members of the British national cross-country ski team, all of them Servicemen, are reflected in the sunglasses of team psychologist Dr Sam Brooke during pre-season training on Dachstein Glacier at Ramsau in Austria. Full story in Page 50.

Picture: POA (Phot) Ric Burch

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

Bomb disposal hero awarded George Cross

WO1 (SSM) Barry Johnson of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps has been awarded the George Cross for defusing a series of mortar bombs left in a van near a hospital at Waterside, Londonderry.

The last bomb exploded as WO1 Johnson was dismantling it, causing serious injuries to his face and legs. He is now blind in one eye.

His George Cross, the highest award for gallantry off the battlefield, is the first for 11 years.

WO1 Johnson was in Northern Ireland on his second tour of duty and serving as a bomb disposal operator with 321 EOD Company RAOC when the call came on October 7, 1989. A vehicle containing an improvised IRA mortar device had been abandoned in the middle of a housing estate, close to a hospital.

He discovered that the mortar contained a live bomb in each of its six tubes and was intended for an attack on a Security Force base in the city.

Aware of the grave danger to civilians, and in particular to patients in the hospital, he decided against the use of remote control equipment to deal with the bombs. Although this would have been normal practice – and would have placed him at much less personal risk – WO1 Johnson decided there was too great a risk of launching one of the bombs during the remotely-controlled

render-safe procedure. He then set about removing the bombs from their tubes so that he could dismantle them by hand. WO1 Johnson was fully aware that he might be operating against a clock and that the mortar could include an anti-handling device.

With the help of an assistant, he moved the firing tubes from the back of the vehicle to the ground, then sent his colleague behind cover so that he could carry out the extremely hazardous disarming procedure alone.

WO1 Johnson managed to place the tubes in such a way that if they fired, or the bombs detonated, the hospital would not be endangered. In the dark, and in bitterly cold drizzle which made the handling of the heavy metal objects

more precarious, he removed the bombs, dismantling each in turn.

While he was working on the last one it blew up. Completely blinded by the high velocity fragments, thrown across the road by the force of the explosion and in great pain, he would not allow his evacuation until he had briefed his assistant on the precise details of the device so the operation could be safely completed by another EOD operator.

After months in hospital and many operations, Staff Sgt Maj Johnson (38) is now back on duty. He is married,

● **Turn to Page 11**



WO1 (SSM) Barry Johnson

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CHASSIS NO		
NUMBER OF OWNERS	ACTUAL MILEAGE	
IF UK ROAD TAX - EXPIRY DATE		
DATE FIRST UK REGISTERED		
IF PURCHASED OUTSIDE UK WHEN NEW - YEAR OF MANUFACTURE		
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OR IS UK CAR TAX AND VAT TO BE PAID?		
OR IS IT EXEMPT UK CAR TAX AND VAT?		

HAS CAR MOT CERTIFICATE? ☐ OR BFG CERTIFICATE? ☐
IF YES, GIVE EXPIRY DATE

SPECIFICATION

UK	<input type="checkbox"/>	EUROPEAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEFT HAND DRIVE <input type="checkbox"/>			
MANUAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	AUTOMATIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 GEARS	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 GEARS	<input type="checkbox"/>
SALOON	<input type="checkbox"/>	ESTATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 DOOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 DOOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEADLIGHTS - CONTINENTAL <input type="checkbox"/>			
RIGHT HAND DRIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>	AND/OR UK	<input type="checkbox"/>
OVERDRIVE	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 DOOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 GEARS	<input type="checkbox"/>	HATCHBACK	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 DOOR	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXTRAS FITTED

CONDITION OF CAR

(Please tick relevant column)

	Above Average for Age	Average for Age	Below Average for Age	Comment on condition of fault to help appraisal
ENGINE				
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BATTERY				
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SEATS				
BODY (Rust damage etc)				
CHASSIS				
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(Continued on separate sheet)

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VW	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vauxhall	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S/PX/2/48



Bandsmen from the 13/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) play cards while waiting for transport. Note the red cross armbands

Lyneham... 2,940 miles that way!

INTERNATIONAL airport lounges tend to develop atmospheres of their own and the passenger-holding area run by US and British personnel at one of the busiest air bases in Saudi Arabia is no exception.

A huge US Marine, with what must have been a stetson crammed over his eyes, lay patiently on a camp bed; one of our corporals passed the time with a yo-yo, and two weary civilian contractors were shivering.

The SOLDIER team, which had arrived on the same smooth RAF flight, were surprised at just how cool the desert air was at 5.30am.

Someone said the temperature had dropped markedly in the past few days.

A handful of people were waiting under the dune-

coloured camouflage net around the sandbagged tent which housed the command element of the US 4th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron.

A notice warned against unauthorised entry. If any busybody persisted it seems the "use of deadly force" could be used to remove him (or her).

The assembled company looked on with interest as a stray American soldier, clearly lost, declared he was looking for hot water and enter-

ed the forbidden tent. He emerged unharmed, much to everyone's surprise, and consulted a signpost.

Arrows pointed to "Baghdad 450 miles, Lyneham 2,940 and Spring Lake, North Carolina 7,000." The hot water hunter studied them and went off in the direction of one which pointed to "Mitchell's bunker 50 metres".

Two hours later the chill had gone from the air and a Galaxy of US Military Air Command thun-

dered in and gently nosed its way among the flocks of helicopters nestling around the airfield.

It was delivering four RAF helicopters and, as it turned out, some old acquaintances.

The bands of the 13th/18th Hussars, based at Tidworth, and the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, from Bulford, swarmed onto the tarmac.

They were clutching paper bags - marked *American Red Cross* - full of goodies.

"We got them when we stopped at Frankfurt on the way out," said a lad from Gillingham. He extracted a large tube of shaving cream and declared "that would cost you a bob or two back home".

A patient corporal from 50

● Turn to Page 7



Op Granby



Words by **Bill Moore** (left), pictures by **Terry Champion** with 7 Armd Bde in Saudi Arabia



Defence Secretary visits 7th Armoured

MR Tom King, Defence Secretary, met Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirate political leaders during a three-day visit to the Gulf.

An MoD spokesman said Mr King was "updating himself on the situation and re-enforcing contacts made on his visit at the end of August".

He also met British Military Force leaders and troops, and saw for himself how the 7th Armoured Brigade had settled into its role in the desert.

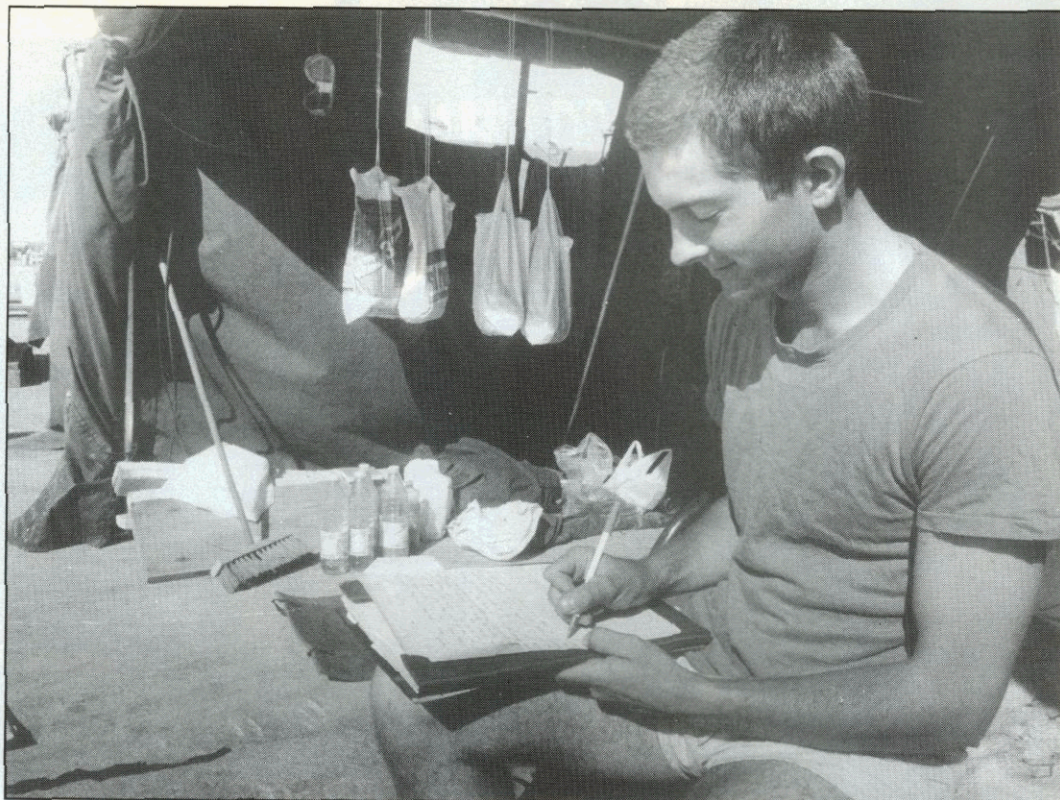
As SOLDIER went to press there was speculation that the British presence would be reinforced, but an MoD spokesman said: "There are no present plans to increase troop levels, but they are being kept under review."

Iraq war graves plan frustrated

THE Gulf crisis has multiplied problems faced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Iraq following the cessation of hostilities in its war against Iran, according to the Commission's annual report.

For years the Commission was frustrated in trying to maintain more than 20,000 war graves at 11 sites in Iraq, including Baghdad, Basra and Kut. Some were damaged during the Iran-Iraq war, while heavy concentrations of soluble salts present in the soil affected concrete foundations.

Staff had difficulty obtaining visas, so many of the graves became neglected. This year, the Iraqis allowed the Commission to establish in Baghdad a supervisor who was to implement a £500,000 renovation plan over five years to rehabilitate the cemeteries. The plan has now been frustrated by the current crisis. The supervisor was on holiday at the time of the invasion and the operation has been put on ice.



Lt Phil Stone of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron, part of 7 Tk Tpnr Regt RCT but attached to 10 Regt RCT, writes home

A man's best mate is his bluey

BLUEYS are strange little creatures. So flimsy, a puff of wind can carry them away, they are nevertheless "best mates" to the toughest soldiers.

They're almost weightless, yet can help a man get a load off his chest.

They cost nothing, but are among Tom's most precious possessions.

The Army took 250,000 copies of MoD Form 674 to the Gulf. Another 200,000 were sent from home. And still more . . . all available to the troops free.

Blueys – British Forces Mail Aerogrammes – are now being flown back to Britain by the RAF at the rate of 6,000 a day.

Old soldiers say they've never known the troops write so many letters.

So much for the bluey – but there is one item that beats even the friendly little aerogramme. The letter from home.

The Force Distribution Centre run by 1 Postal and Courier Regiment RE is receiving and distributing 100 bags of mail daily.

And all done in a laundry room.

The building, in an air-conditioned hutted camp once used by refugees, has proved to be ideal for the operation of the Posties, drawn from postal units all over BAOR.

The gleaming washing

machines are still functional – which is handy – and the place is the scene of bouts of calm and frantic activity depending on the arrival of flights bringing incoming mail and sacks arriving from units.

Detachments deliver to the forward units daily . . . including newspapers, of which the free allowance is one to ten soldiers.

But the Posties are also providing their normal services at counters in three locations.

Many of the troops had brought considerable sums with them. Finding there was little to spend the money on, they banked it in National Savings books.

"We took £13,000 in one week," said Maj Rod Small, the QC.

The system is constantly evolving. Major units send parties to collect mail and when SOLDIER called one morning three strapping representatives of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars were looking like Father Christmases.

Some units take away letters for sorting – a party from the Staffords was splitting-up letters into piles for companies on the spot.

What is not always appreciated about the Posties is their purely military task of delivering classified mail.

This has to be duly registered and made secure and goes up with the four-man forward PC detachments – each with Land Rover and trailers and two motor cycles.

In the case of hostilities these become the Rapid Response Courier Service – running a point-to-point system.

The dedication of the Gulf Posties was evident from the way in which they applied themselves to the basic job of sorting. There were pigeon holes for even the smallest independent units – and others for outgoing mail to all the main regions of Britain and BAOR. And the system, thanks to the RAF and Mill Hill, works.

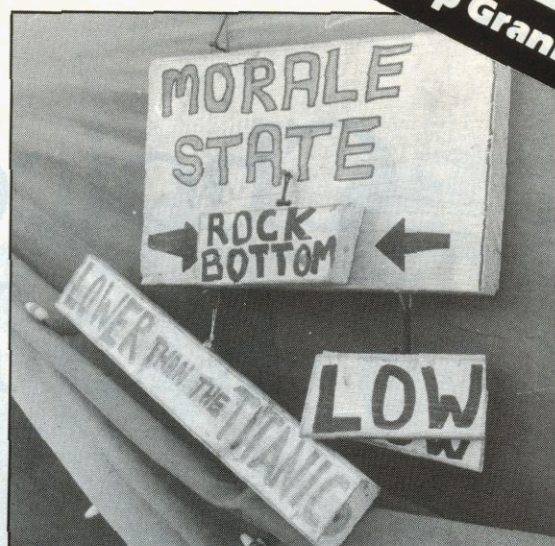
The SOLDIER team posted a parcel of film and copy from Tent City, Al Jubayl, on Saturday night and it reached Aldershot early on Tuesday.

A tiny handful of blueys do not reach their destinations, however, and SOLDIER reminds soldiers – don't forget to put the address on the front as well as your own on the back!!

**Sign on
for your
own home**

**KUWAIT
CITY**
300kms (AS THE SCUD FLIES)

4U2P 300km →



Street and tent names are quickly becoming established in Tent City as troops settle in and create their own homes from home. Here are a few examples of Al Jubayl artwork

Op Granby

Lyneham...that way

● From Page 5

Movement Control Squadron RCT broke the news that the bandmen's bergens and heavy luggage had by some mistake been loaded onto another plane (how do you mistake a Galaxy?) and would be with them later.

The musicians took the announcement with great humour and piled into a coach which could barely hold them and their webbing.

By this time everyone was grasping a 1½ litre bottle of "potable drinking water" which was refreshingly cold.

"We're going to be working behind the front line if it comes to it, decontaminating the wounded," it was revealed by someone who saw us glancing at the red cross armbands they all wore.

The journey to the reception and documentation centre (a fascinating place which will be the subject of a future article) took around an hour past convoys of vehicles mounting machine guns manned by alert troops. The men of 40 Field Regiment appeared unfamiliar in the new desert camouflage uniforms.

Someone produced a tape as the coach drove slowly past and the bandmen approached the end of their journey to the strains of Phil Collins singing

something which the older member of the team was assured was *Cat Harry Love*.

They were a cheerful lot and LCpl Ralph Wildes, a percussionist and 12 years in the D and D, said that as they were not armed to the teeth like other units in the brigade they had better be classed as "Desert Mice".

A born optimist, he said he had brought along his old drum in case he was required to play it in Baghdad some day.

The experience of four officers of the Royal Engineers serving in the Gulf is worth recording.

Entertained to lunch at the home of the local mayor with other Arab businessmen and public figures present, they squatted cross-legged for three hours on a rug and consumed a whole roast sheep served on a bed of rice complete with head (though minus eyes).

The meat was declared delicious, but the Britons had to do some quick thinking when they were first offered the sheep's brains and then the mayor cut off pieces of the tongue (pulled out by

'Phone boxes cause cash flow problem

A TINY Scots nurse newly-arrived in Saudi Arabia timidly asked over the counter if it would be possible to change a note for some 100 riyal pieces.

SSgt Mick Townsend, a

kindly soul if ever there was one, assured her it would be no trouble.

To one side he had lined-up dozens of paper-wrapped rolls of 25 coins each.

Public phone boxes are few and far between in Eastern Province and those on the palm-shaded roads of the base occupied by 24 Field Ambulance have never had it so good. Distance definitely does make the heart grow fonder, it seems.

"The girls make more calls than the men," said SSgt Townsend, and the little nurse blushed.

Field Cash Office (Gulf) actually exchanges the equivalent of £3,000 of notes a day for coins, most of them for phone calls to Britain and Germany.

A field cash office is a rare bird indeed, being established only when an independent field force is deployed.

In the Gulf it is run by three members of the Royal Army Pay Corps - Maj Peter Myatt,

Food for thought?

another Saudi guest) and offered them round.

According to Capt Mick Dent, of 45 Field Support Squadron, he and his companions (the OC, Maj Steve Hanley; QM, Capt John Parsons; and Capt Chris Goddard, Arabic speaking plant specialist) managed to avoid the sheep's brains and ate only two portions of the tongue.

And they did it so diplomatically that the lunch was pronounced a huge success.

● Turn to Page 9

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(subject to status).

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THE CARD OF THE MOMENT



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Soldiers in Tent City on parade for an early morning inspection

Cash flow

● From Page 7

OC, SSgt Townsend, and Sgt Kevin Kent.

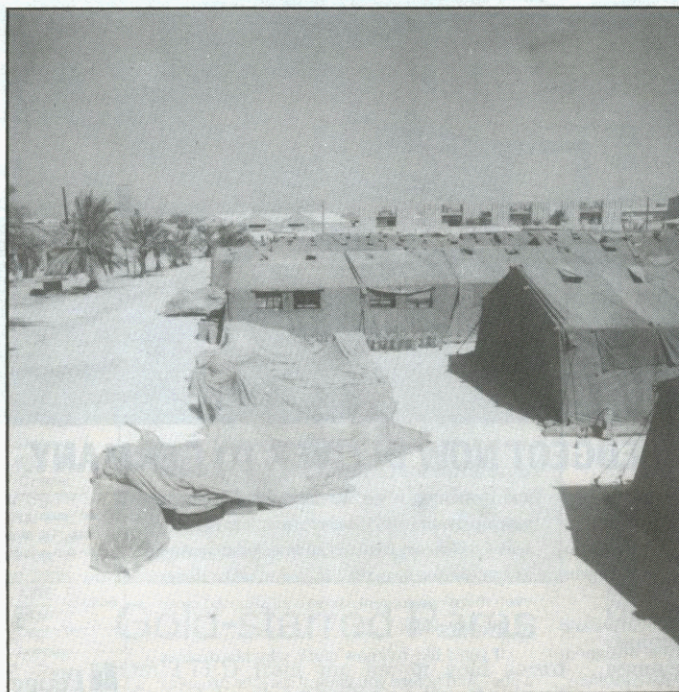
In the UK and BAOR finances are dealt with through imprest accounts and the big clearing banks. But the latter don't do much listening or caring in the desert.

In Saudi Arabia people like hard cash and so when Op Granby began Maj Roger Thompson, SO2 Finance, flew in with nearly a million dollars in notes in two suitcases.

Ready money is used to pay quite large sums to companies and contractors, such as refuse removers. The Field Cash Office also looks after the needs of the local resources section which makes local purchases.

"We're the bridge between the paymaster and the banking system," said Maj Wyatt. "We are similar to a clearing bank ourselves."

Two large steel boxes in his office were full to the brim with bundles of local currency. Big stuff. But as he spoke, soldiers



A corner of 22 Field Hospital, Muharraq, Bahrain. The unit moved from Aldershot to the Gulf in mid-September

seeking change for the phone continued to trickle in to SSgt Townsend.

In their anxiety to get the cash to phone home not all of

them remember to say please or thank you but all got the same treatment. As an exercise in good manners and good nature it was a pleasure to watch SSgt

Townsend in action.

"Don't leave it too late," he advised one customer. "The phones sometimes can't take any more after about 4pm."

It seems that the local phone authority empties the box only once a day, which previously was all that was necessary.

But with hundreds of lovelorn British youngsters in the area and calls taking 25 coins (£3.50) for about three minutes, things have changed.

Economise on parcels

RELATIVES and friends should NOT send parcels, including Christmas parcels, to soldiers in the Gulf at anything other than the economy rate. Maj Rod Small, OC Force Distribution Office, 1 Postal and Courier Regiment RE, says some small post offices in the UK have not heard of the arrangements for this and some wives and mothers have been asked to pay the full rate.

Last posting date for Christmas is December 10.



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RAOC hero's George Cross

● From Page 3

and he and his wife Maria have two children.

Born in London, he joined the Army Apprentices' College Chepstow as an apprentice ammunition technician in 1967 at the age of 15, and completed his first tour as an EOD operator in Belfast in 1978. His second tour began last year, and during his service in the Province he completed 25 disposal tasks, including the neutralisation of nine live improvised explosive devices.

The George Cross was last awarded, posthumously, to Capt Robert Nairac, Gren Gds, in 1979 following his abduction and murder two years earlier by terrorists in Northern Ireland.

WO1 Johnson's award is only the second George Cross made to RAOC bomb disposal experts in Northern Ireland. The first was to Lt Col George Styles in 1976. In all members of the corps have been awarded six George Crosses and 65 George Medals.

Eight other RAOC bomb disposal operators received awards in the latest list of awards for gallant and meritorious service in Northern Ireland. Maj Andrew Williams was awarded the MBE, and WO2 Paul Grimsley and SSgt John Franks the Queen's Gallantry Medal. Capt Andrew Stevens, WO1 Robert Blakely, WO2 Michael Newsome, Sgt Andrew Shearer and Cpl Warren Melia were Mentioned in Despatches.

Northern Ireland awards

CBE - Brig MJ Strudwick, late RS; Brig CGC Vyvyan, late RGJ.

OBE - Lt Col MGR Hodson, RCT; Lt Col AR Redwood-Davies, DWR; Lt Col JCB Sutherland, R Anglian; Rev K Vasey, RACD; Lt Col MD Webb, AAC.

MBE - Major RFC Andrew, KOSB; Maj ARK Bagnall, Gren Gds; Capt (Acting Maj) ED Brown, Glosters; Maj J Cooper, KOSB; Maj DG Hayes, 7 GR; Maj GH Honey, Glosters; Maj RJ Knight, Queens; Capt CGA McLeod, Queens; Maj TM McMullen, Int Corps; Maj IMG Strong, R Signals; Maj AP Williams, RAOC.

GEORGE CROSS - WO1 B Johnson, RAOC.

QGM - SSgt JH Franks, RAOC; WO2 JP Grimsley, RAOC; SSgt (now Acting WO2) J McC Mairs, Int Corps.

DCM - Cpl RB Duncan, KOSB; Cpl IB Harvey, KOSB.

BEM - Sgt AJ Arnold, REME; Sgt SA Bird QGM, Para; Cpl DM Braithwaite, Int Corps; SSgt I Drinkall, R Signals; Cpl JA Gedney, RCT; Sgt (now SSgt) M Jones, Int Corps; SSgt JA Lewthwaite, REME; Sgt RK Tait, Int Corps; Sgt (Acting SSgt) PM Talbot, Queens.

MID - Cpl CH Armstrong, RMP; Lt Col AW Barratt, Queens; Cpl D A Batten, R Anglian; WO2 NE Baugh, R Signals; WO1 RN Blakely, RAOC; WO2 J Cameron, RHF; Lt Col CGF Charter, Queens; Maj WJH Clark, RE; Maj CA Cocker, R Anglian; Sgt FP Collins, Glosters; Lt Col CI Darnell, MBE, KOSB; Maj RJJ Ellis, R Signals; Cpl RJ English, Para; Cpl DIS Garfield, RMP; LCpl NS Gould, RE; LCpl SC Hack, Glosters; Maj IRM Hall, R Anglian; Maj JD Handford, Para; WO2 SMC Hart, Int Corps; SSgt AW Hartland, BEM, Para; Lt Col PWL Hughes, MBE, R Hamps; Sgt PF Kilderry, RAVC; Capt TL Kingsberry, Glosters; Maj JP Lambie, Glosters; LCpl JK Lane, Queens; Capt JH Leithead, Int Corps; WO1 DE Long, ACC; Sgt W Loosley, Queens; Capt P Lynch, RMP; Lt Col RC Mantell, Green Howards; Sgt AR McEvoy, Glosters; Cpl WE Melia, RAOC; Cpl GS, Meyrick, RMP; Maj JD Monteith, BW; Cpl JE Murphy, Glosters; WO2 MC Newsome, RAOC; LCpl MJ Paterson, KOSB; Maj T Pemberton, RMP; Cpl G Pew, RE; Pte GR Pickering, Para; Maj DM Santa-Olalla MC, Green Howards; Sgt AJ Shearer, RAOC; Sgt (now SSgt) R Simpson, RMP; WO1 DP Smith, R Anglian; Sgt JM Steadman, Int Corps; Capt AD Stevens, RAOC; WO2 CSD Stevens, Glosters; Cpl PS Tansey, R Anglian; SSgt CJ Williams QGM, Int Corps; SSgt (now WO2) MM Williams AFM, AAC; SSgt ET Wilson, RGJ; Cpl (acting Sgt) GJ Wood, RMP; Cpl RC Wood, Para.

In addition the following awards were made to members of the Ulster Defence Regiment - MBE 3; BEM 2; MID 3.



WO1 Barry Johnson and his wife Maria celebrate the news of his award

Big dipper ready soon

DURING a visit to Hong Kong, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, the Adjutant General, was shown one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in the territory. The Castle Peak Range Road stretches five kilometres from Deep Bay to the outskirts of Tuen Mun across typically rugged Hong Kong terrain.

The road is so steep that civilian operators of ready mix concrete trucks preferred to transfer the concrete to Army dumper trucks rather than tackle the slope themselves.

The pilot track was cut by bulldozers of 70 Support Squadron a year ago.

When the Adjutant General arrived he watched men of 68 Gurkha Field Squadron laying concrete on the steep eastern slope which drops 300ft.

Gold-starred Paras

OMITTED from the list of gold award winners in the Cambrian Patrol report (SOLDIER October 29) was the Mortar Platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. It was one of three teams entered by 1 Para, with C Coy also receiving a gold and A coy a silver award.

Four of the Mortar Platoon team subsequently completed a drill and duties cadre and were promoted.

UDR granted Freedom No 9

LISBURN has conferred its Freedom on the Ulster Defence Regiment. In a ceremony in Thiepval Barracks on October 13, the mayor handed over a commemorative scroll to the Colonel Commandant, Lt Gen Sir David Young, who in turn presented the borough with a pipe banner embroidered with the regimental crest and borough coat of arms.

A guard of honour was provided by the 11th (Craigavon) Battalion which later marched through Lisburn with bayonets fixed. It is the ninth freedom granted to the UDR, which holds similar honours from the city of Belfast and boroughs of Antrim, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Coleraine, Craigavon, Newtownabbey and North Down.

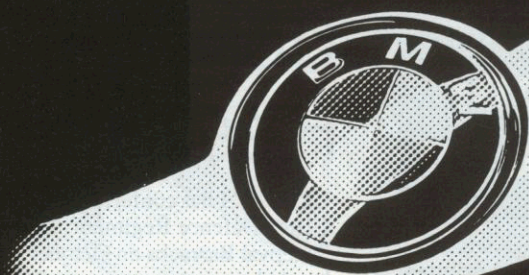
QLR Colours paraded

FOR the first time since 1970 the Colours of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, were on parade when the annual remembrance service was held at St Elphin's Church, Warrington. It is held to commemorate the dead of earlier Lancashire regiments who fell in action.

Floodlit Retreat at Herford

THE Burgermeister of Herford, Dr Gerd Klippstein, took the salute at a floodlit Retreat Ceremony performed by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals at Maresfield Barracks, Herford, which has been the home of 7 Signal Regiment for 38 years.

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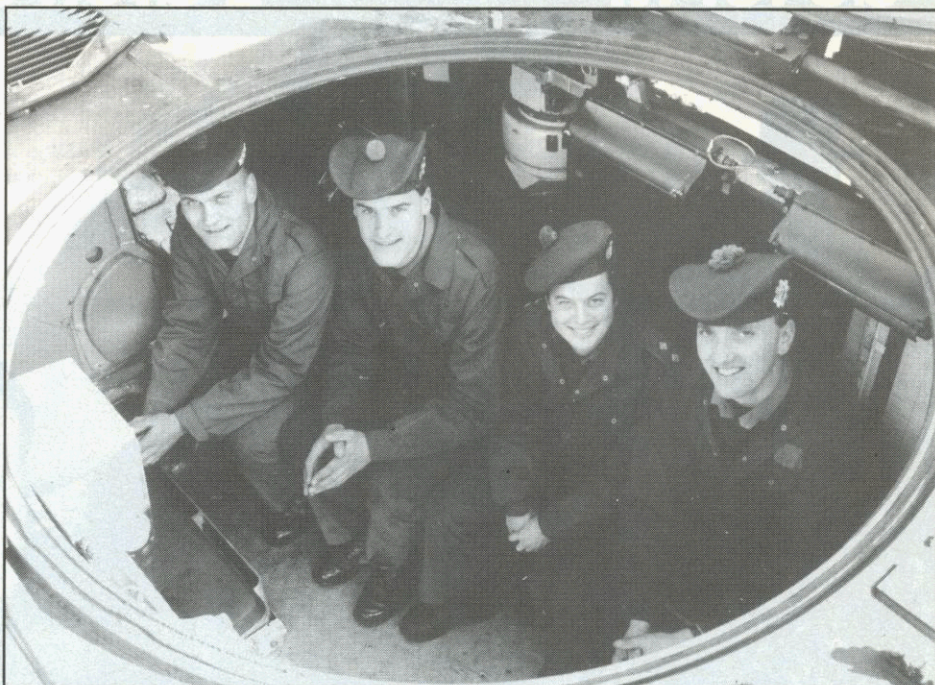
Airmobile brigade on major exercise

BRITAIN's unique airmobile force, 24 Airmobile Brigade, has been putting its battle skills to the test, shoulder to shoulder with pilots and infantry from three of its NATO allies, Germany, Holland and Belgium, during the brigade's major 1990 exercise.

About 800 personnel, with tanks, armoured personnel carriers (APCs), numerous other vehicles and 20 helicopters took part in the exercise, code-named Gryphon's Flight.

Members of 24 Airmobile Brigade, from Catterick, North Yorkshire, including the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, moved to Salisbury Plain and Otterburn Training Area to be joined by a German airmobile company from 27 Luftlande Brigade, their twin brigade from Lippstadt in Germany, and a Belgian platoon from the Belgian Parachute/Commando Regiment.

Dutch and Belgian army pilots joined members of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps, 24 Airmobile Brigade's integral helicopter regiment. Counter penetration and screen force actions were carried out by the Army Lynx helicopters and the RAF Puma and Chinook support helicopters.



Girl in the middle. From left are Pte Dirk Walpole, Pte Derek Cowan, Lt Wendy Smart and Pte David Eames

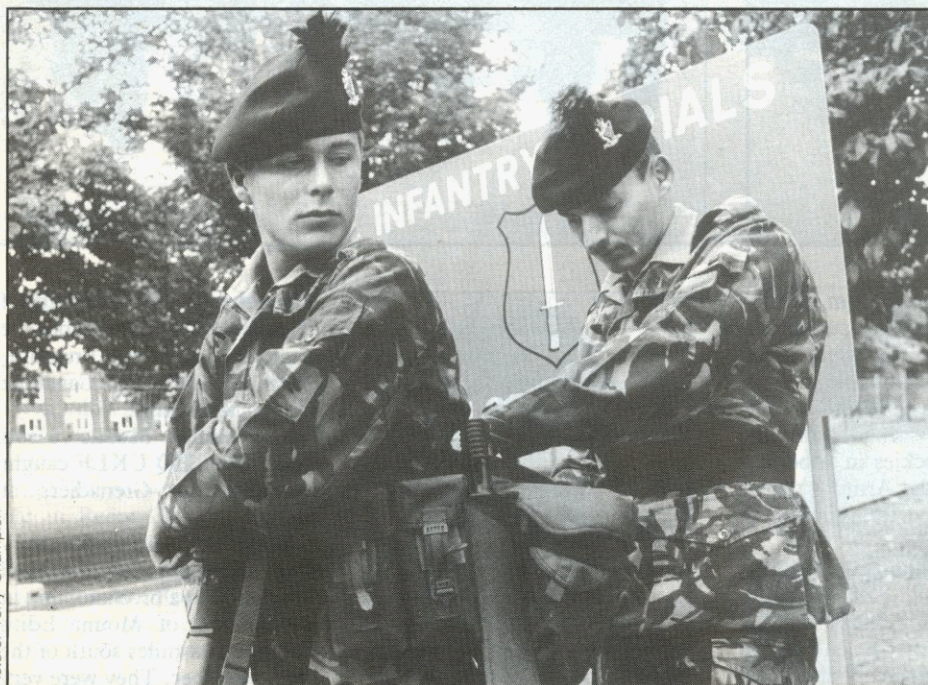
Wendy's fighting chance

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots has appointed the first female fighting company second-in-command in its 357-year history.

Stationed at Werl, Germany, with the British Army's senior infantry regiment, Lt Wendy Smart (25) now fills this demanding role with its Fire Support Company. Her primary task is to act as fleet manager in charge of over 40 armoured tracked vehicles which carry the battalion's anti-tank missiles and mortars.

The only girl on the fleet managers' intensive course at REME headquarters at

Bordon, Hants, she romped home top of her class of 12. Most of her classmates were senior non-commissioned officers with considerable experience of armoured vehicles.



Successful post development durability trials mean the new 90 Pattern Webbing (Infantry) is now on general issue. Biggest improvement on its predecessor, the 58 Pattern Webbing (Infantry), is the inclusion of a rucksack and material that does not retain water. It was trialled by the Personal Clothing and Equipment Section of the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, Warminster, assisted by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers. Pictured getting kitted out is Rgr Clive Hynes, helped by LCpl John F Kennedy.

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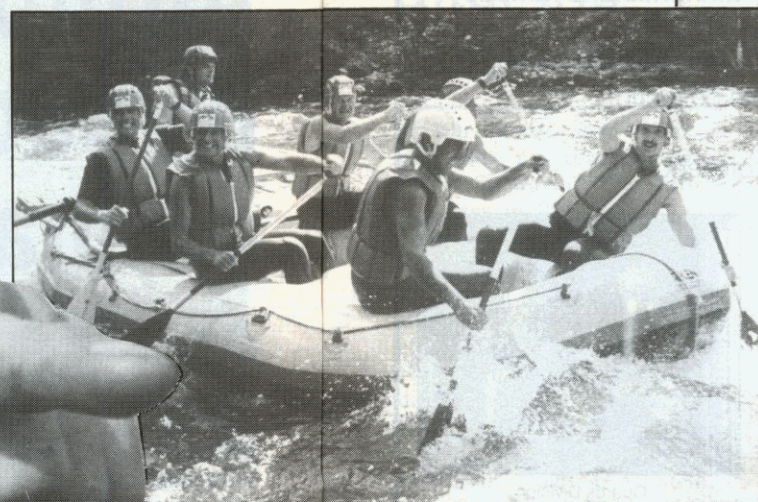
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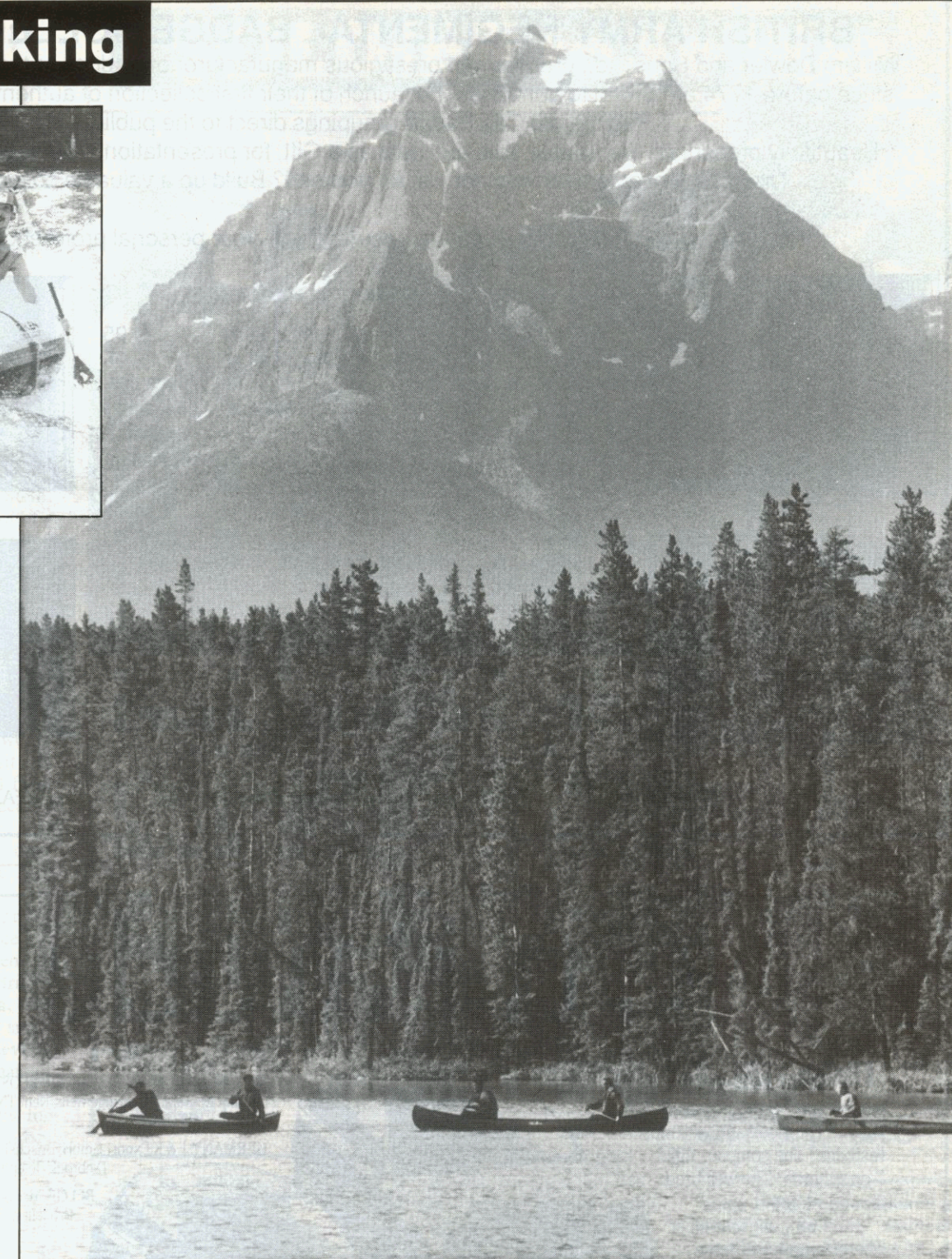
2 Gren Gds find Canada to their liking



Left - Sgt Mark Hill of No 2 Coy leads the way at Camp Wainwright
Below left - Gdsm Rik Craven, an RCT driver attached to 2 Gren Gds, jet skiing in Jasper National Park
Below - Inkerman Coy "pond jumps" during an exercise at Wainwright



Above - The unforgettable thrill of white water rafting for members of Support Coy enjoying the superb adventure training facilities in Jasper National Park
Right - Support Coy try the Hiawatha style of living on Leache Lake. Behind them is Mount Edith Cavell

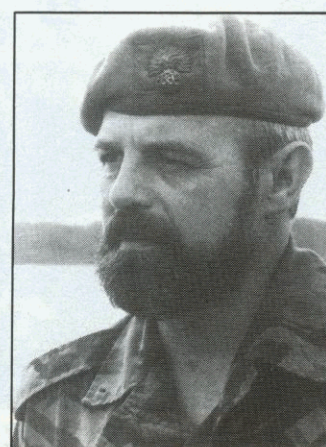


Guards at full stretch in open spaces of Alberta

GETTING away from London in the heat of the summer is often a high priority for most. But when it's possible to go to the "wide open spaces" and the spectacular scenery of the Canadian Rockies in Alberta - courtesy of the Army - that is surely an opportunity not to be missed.

And when the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards were able to leave behind the daily routine of mounting the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace to participate in Exercise Pond Jump West, any hesitation was out of the question.

During the five-week exercise the battalion was divided between Camp Wainwright, in eastern Alberta, for live firing and infantry training skills; and the unbeatable



CSM Philip Bridger

wright, in eastern Alberta, for live firing and infantry training skills; and the unbeatable

adventure training resources of Jasper National Park, on the western edge of the Province, and in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

The Army Mobile News Team from HQ UKLF caught up with the Grenadiers at Jasper.

There they discovered Support Company of the 2nd Grenadiers at a bivouac camp in the shadow of Mount Edith Cavell, a few miles south of the town of Jasper. They were very well supplied with all they could possibly need - including a fresh water lagoon which served as a very acceptable "cold plunge" in lieu of any showers.

From this base camp the lads were able to experience a different type of adventure sport on each day they were there. Most spectacular was the white water rafting. "It's unbelievably brilliant," said LCpl Wayne Scully, a 20-year-old in Recce Platoon.

An eight-hour journey east by road took the news team away from the Rockies into the wide open prairies of Central Alberta where forest-covered hills gave way to the vast flat acres of wheat country east of Edmonton. At Wainwright they met the main body of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Commanding officer Lt Col

Andrew Joscelyne was very positive about the benefits to be gained for his Grenadiers from such training opportunities in the acres of unspoiled woodland in Camp Wainwright's military training area.

"Although it looks very similar to our battle camp at Thetford in Norfolk, the chance to spread out and plan tactical training on virtually any scale is unique," he said.

"Add to that the tremendous opportunities for adventure training in Jasper, and a few days leave in Edmonton, which the boys very much enjoy, and we have a virtually unrepeatable package."

With the Grenadiers at



LSgt Christine Boggan

Wainwright was the Pioneer Sergeant, only bearded guardsman in the battalion. CSM

Philip Bridger, from Gillingham, Kent, leads the battalion on parade carrying a ceremonial silver axe and sporting a splendid full beard.

Pioneers traditionally had to clear undergrowth and trees to make a path for the regiment. They started so early in the morning they had no time to shave!

Also there was the only girl serving with the 2nd Battalion, LSgt Christine Boggan from Darlington, Co Durham, who works in the pay office.

**Words: Capt Chris Robinson
Pictures: Sgt Dave Miles**

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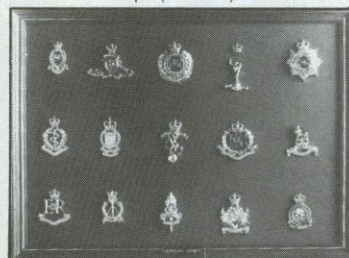
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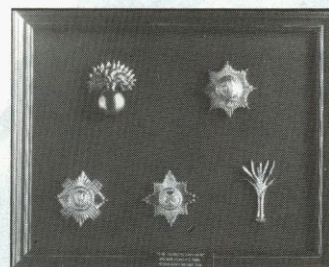
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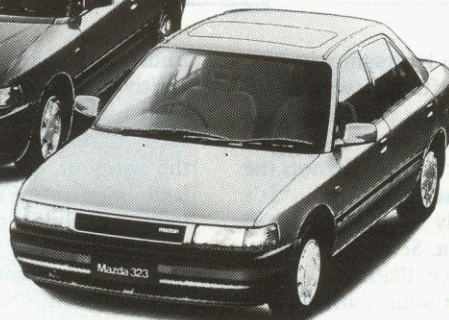
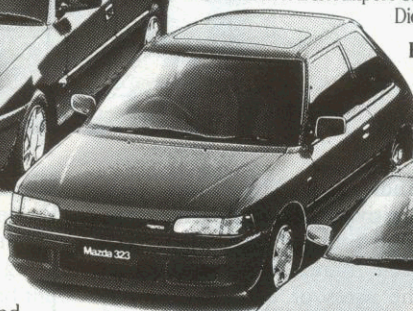
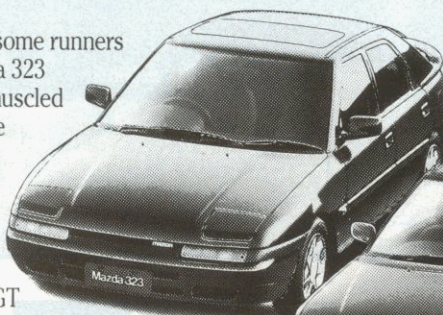
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Revelation after the revolution

A war medal story with a difference has reached **SOLDIER** by way of the British Embassy in Bucharest.

It starts in 1942 when Samuel Stein, a Romanian of German extraction, enlisted in The Buffs in Sarafand, Palestine, after fleeing Nazi persecution. He fought in Italy and on his discharge in 1946, returned to Romania.

In March this year, after the Romanian revolution, Mr Stein, now 77 and English Editor of a Jewish newspaper, presented himself at the British Embassy in Bucharest with a 1967 document backing his claim for three war service medals.

He explained that he had been deterred from applying for the medals earlier because of the probability that the Communist regime would confiscate them in transit. In 1952 he had been sacked from his job as a journalist because he had fought for an "imperialist" army – even though, as he said, he had fought against Fascism.

It was an extremely proud Mr Stein who was recently presented with his entitlement of medals by the British Ambassador to Romania, Mr Michael Atkinson, at a small ceremony attended by several senior officers of the Romanian Army.

And there was a bonus for the man who lost every member of his family during the Nazi occupation of Romania.

When, back in March, Lt Mike Brown, Int Corps, of the Defence Attaché's staff in Bucharest, contacted the Army Medals Office, they not only agreed that Mr Stein's unusual circumstances warranted a special issue of medals. They

SOLDIER to Soldier



Face the Press – desert style. While visiting units in Saudi Arabia, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British Forces Commander Middle East, is literally the focus of attention at a media conference.

They were intent on capturing his Special Air Service Regiment beret on film – but there was another sartorial point worthy of note. Gen de la Billière was wearing an unfamiliar stable belt in bands, from top to

bottom, of navy, scarlet and light blue.

While GOC South East District he wore green, being a light infantryman – he joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1951 and became Colonel Commandant of the Light Division in 1986.

The new belt would appear to reflect his new role at the head of a joint service force. Combat soldier par excellence, he is also a natural diplomat.

also revealed that, with the addition of the Defence Medal, Mr Stein was entitled to wear one more decoration than he had expected.

Past and present

Visits to military training establishments are top of the popularity ratings when it comes to outings organised by the Society of Friends of the National Army Museum.

The society, which reports a particularly busy 12 months, has an annual programme of

trips to English Civil War battlefields, regimental museums, country houses with military connections, and even cemeteries.

A newsletter has been launched to keep members in touch – one in ten live abroad – and the society's publication for eight to 12-year-olds, *The Drum*, goes from strength to strength.

Object of the organisation is to support the museum "by various means including the purchase of important relics . . . which might otherwise be lost to the nation." Last year the Friends paid £9,500 for the medals of Brian Faulkner, of The Parachute Regiment, including the DCM he won in the

Falklands in 1982.

Membership details are available from the Society's secretary at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.

Bargain on a plate

Since 1916, when it opened its doors to its first residents returned from the First World War, The Star and Garter Home on Richmond Hill, Surrey, has provided comfort and care for many thousands of disabled ex-Service men and women.

Now a fine bone china plate and engraved goblets have been commissioned to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

SOLDIER readers can take advantage of special prices for these souvenirs by turning to the next page.

The Star and Garter Hotel became a home for ex-Servicemen on the instructions of Queen Mary.

GULF FLOWER POWER

What was the eagle holding? That was the question some discerning people were asking after we published in our November 12 issue a picture of men of 39 Engineer Regiment with the unit's insignia (reproduced right) on the side of their vehicle.

The answer takes us back 700 years to the unspoiled Cambridgeshire countryside. When Waterbeach Abbey was

founded at that time, the annual rent demanded was a rose and a sprig of gillyflower.

The flowers appeared on the RAF Station Waterbeach badge when the base was built at the beginning of the Second World War. When the RAF Airfield Construction Branch was disbanded in 1966 the Royal Engineers, in the shape of 39 Regiment, took over the base – and the flowers.



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

They're in the Gulf

WHILE the 7th Armoured Brigade – the Desert Rats – who deployed from BAOR make up the bulk of the British Army presence in the Gulf, they are supported by soldiers from many other units, reflecting a wide range of cap badges.

The present commitment is about 8,000 troops, but units, regiments and corps on the Gulf roll of service are often represented by only a small detachment.

7 Armd Bde units include: 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys); The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars; 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery; 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment; and 1 Armoured Division Field Ambulance, RAMC.

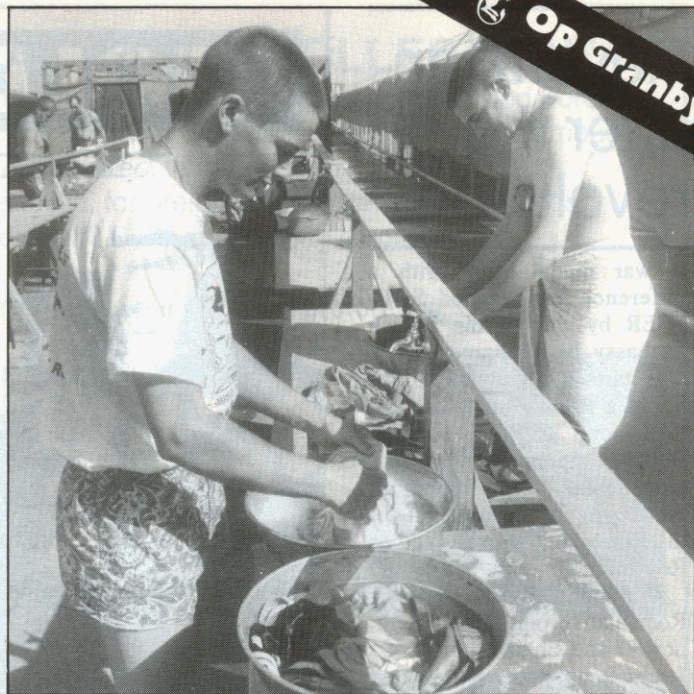
Units deployed in support of 7 Armd Bde include: 30 Signal Regiment; 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT; 10 Regiment RCT; 22 Field Hospital RAMC; and 33 Field Hospital RAMC.

Other units providing man-

power in the Gulf include:

The Life Guards; 1 Royal Horse Artillery; 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards; 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales); 14th/20th King's Hussars; 17th/21st Lancers; 2nd Royal Tank Regiment; 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyds Company) 26 Field Regiment RA; 21 Air Defence Battery (Gibraltar 1779-83) 47 Field Regiment RA; 25 Engineer Regiment RA; 39 Engineer Regiment RE; 53 Field Squadron; 20 Postal and Courier Detachment RE; 21 Signal Regiment (AS); 1 Grenadier Guards; Coldstream Guards; The Royal Anglian Regiment; The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; The Green Howards (Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment); The Royal Hampshire Regiment; The Royal Green Jackets; 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT; 50 Movement Control Squadron RCT; 59 Movement Control Squadron RCT; 16 Field Ambulance RAMC; and 11 Ordnance Company.

Also in support of Op Granby are members of the



Dhobi time in Tent City. Dvr Paul Arnold (nearest camera) and Dvr Sean Barrett get stuck into the laundry

Army Air Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Army Dental Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps; Women's Royal Army Corps; St John and Red Cross Service Hospitals Welfare Department; SSVc and RAOC-EFI (Naafi).

Bandsmen deployed as

medics are from The Light Infantry; The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; The Green Howards; The Parachute Regiment; The King's Own Royal Border Regiment; The Royal Hampshire Regiment; and the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.

Finally, recording events in the Gulf is a SOLDIER team.



ON 14th January 1916, The Royal Star & Garter Home opened its doors to the first resident disabled ex-servicemen. The Home is celebrating the 75th anniversary in 1991 and has commissioned a commemorative plate and a pair of goblets available at a special price to **SOLDIER** readers. The plate of fine bone china is £20.95 and features an illustration of the Home. The goblets are £18.95 the pair and have the anniversary crest engraved upon them.

Both make ideal gifts or personal souvenirs. To order these special items, simply fill in the coupon and return it with a cheque made out to the correct amount to:

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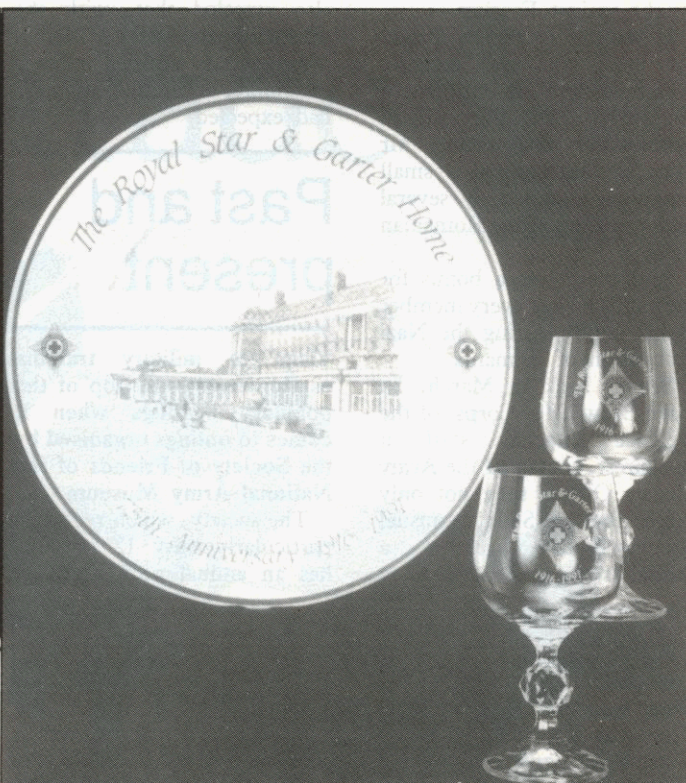
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READER OFFER



Five heroes back in Great Britain to see their brave deeds re-told in their regimental museum. They are (from left) Havildar Gaje Ghale (75), Agamsing Rai (72), Ganju Lama (76), Bhanbhagta Gurung (70), and Rambahadur Limbu (57), five of the seven living Gurkha holders of the Victoria Cross. Each plans to pass on his medals to his family. The other two are now too old to travel from Nepal

Picture: Mike Perring

Gurkha VCs face up to their past

FIVE of the seven surviving Gurkhas to hold the Victoria Cross visited their new regimental museum to see their heroic deeds recorded for posterity, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

The Gurkha Museum, now in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, brought them face to face with photographs of themselves going back nearly 50 years. Each took great delight in identifying himself.

For some it was their first visit to Britain since they received their awards. Four took part in the Burma campaign, and the fifth East Malaysia. The visit, arranged through the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, gave them the chance to recall past campaigns with members of their old regiments whom they had not met for decades.

Havildar Gaje Ghale, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (FF), won his medal as a platoon

sergeant. Despite wounds in the arm, chest and leg, he led his platoon into battle against the Japanese in Burma in 1943.

Rfn Agamsing Rai, also 5 RGR, ran through sustained gunfire to kill all four occupants of an enemy bunker in Burma in 1944. His battalion was a member of the British Army until January 1, 1948, when it became part of the Indian Army. Both men continued to serve in the Indian Army and received the

honorary rank of captain.

Rfn Ganju Lama, 7 GR, received his VC for knocking out two enemy tanks in Burma in 1944, ignoring his wrist, hand and leg wounds. He, too, continued to serve in the Indian Army after 1948 and gained the honorary rank of captain. He also received the Military Medal.

Rfn Bhanbhagta Gurung, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, was honoured after five times advancing alone under heavy fire to clear

Japanese foxholes in Burma in 1945. At the end of hostilities he retired to Nepal.

His three sons enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles. Two have completed their service and a third is serving in Brunei.

LCpl Rambahadur Limbu, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, braved continuous enemy gunfire to rescue wounded men in East Malaysia, in 1965, to gain his VC. He retired as a captain from the British Army in 1985 as the last serving Victoria Cross holder (see *SOLDIER*, October 15).

The five heroes were given a VIP tour of the museum followed by a traditional bhat lunch during which greetings were exchanged in Gurkhali.

Debbie Richards, museum assistant curator, said the trustees were "delighted and proud" the VC holders had visited.

The Gurkha story

THE Gurkha Museum at Winchester commemorates the services of the Nepalese soldiers to the British Army since 1915, illustrating the story with material from their homeland in the Himalayas. Displays also cover Gurkha service in the old Indian Army, which took them to battlefields across

the globe. They fought in their tens of thousands in both world wars, and every one was a volunteer.

Many of today's Gurkhas are following in the footsteps of their fathers and grandfathers.

The museum used to be located at Church Crookham.

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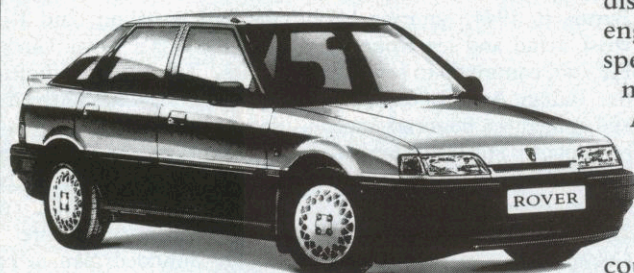
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SIMEX goes down well in Berlin

PERSONAL field craft and battle skills developed by leaps and bounds during Berlin's first major weapon effects simulation exercise, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

The SIMEX – enacted by more than 200 men of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry at the Ruhleben FIBUA training area – was mounted as a means of finding out how best to use weapon effects simulators in Berlin.

The Berlin Infantry Brigade study required 1 LI to propose a system for the use of such equipment in anticipation of a major new delivery of Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulators (SAWES) early next year.

The brigade currently holds 200 sets of SAWES and stocks will soon be doubled, enabling garrison trainers to conduct brigade level force-on-force exercises in which a battalion group engages an enemy company.

The 1 LI SIMEX was a battalion level exercise to validate the concept.

Having seen the American garrison using MILES, a similar system, in Berlin, exercise planner Maj Ben Barry – OC B Coy 1 LI – was well aware of the possibilities and potential.

Maj Barry told SOLDIER: "Force-on-force training with equipment such as SAWES can complement both field firing and blank-firing exercises by enabling soldiers to train in an environment similar to combat in which both sides are firing and manoeuvring against each other."

SAWES equipment comprises both a laser projector attached to individual weapons and laser detectors worn on a body harness and on helmets by exercise troops.

A high-pitched bleep is triggered by a laser strike on a detector which can then only be silenced when the soldier who has been "shot" lies on his back.

Exercise troops were drawn from A and B Companies, the former making up Blue force with attachments from the



Fighting at Ruhleben became particularly fraught for the infantrymen equipped with SAWES

SAWES POINT



A soldier, his helmet, battledress and weapon well studded with SAWES sensors, keeps a sharp look-out

battalion's mortar, machine-gun and assault pioneer elements, and the latter Orange with a specially strengthened 5 Platoon clad in distinctive black overalls.

Control arrangements and rules of play were kept simple to allow both sides the maximum freedom of action.

The exercise began with A Coy clearing Ruhleben Fighting City and going into defence. Over the next two days they were repeatedly attacked by Orange forces who were forced to use all their tactical skills, firepower and smoke to get into the blue positions.

A Coy were eventually withdrawn which coincided with a full scale Orange attack and a running battle developed. It was noticeable, said participants, that commanders often became casualties and young NCOs and soldiers had to take charge of the battle.

Many lessons were learnt. The exercise validated 1 LI's plans for force-on-force training and tested new ways of simulating mortar fire and rules for engineer play. The extensive simulation of casualties emphasised the role of first aid and casualty evacuation.

All ranks quickly learned the

benefits of simple, flexible plans enabling the exploitation of fleeting opportunities.

Despite a few reservations about how "soldier-proof" the kit actually was, Sgt Richard Jutson added: "The concept is brilliant because it enables the soldier to prove to himself whether he really has got what it takes to survive. It was as though the laser bullets were real."

No one wanted to be hit and field craft skills improved rapidly.

As Cpl Adrian Newell said: "The whole idea of being hit by small arms fire made people sharpen up – you could see the results. You knew when you were hit and there was no argument."

Cpl John McMinn said: "It was probably the most realistic exercise I have ever been on. On a normal exercise we would not take nearly as many casualties as we did in this one. SAWES showed us exactly what casualties we could expect."

"As the number of casualties got higher, then the chain of command got lower. It was very interesting."



Well done ski

"Paddystroika" they call it. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, got on well with four Soviet officers making a short-notice visit to the School of Infantry, Warminster, under the Stockholm Conference Agreement. So well that Col **Vladimir Semeonovich** presented Maj **Nigel Jones** with a medal for gallantry after finding him "killed in action" on the steps of a house in the village he was defending. A revived Maj Jones is seen right receiving the medal from Col Semeonovich.



Unusual exercise problem for SSgt **Lorraine Fry** (24), a nurse with Newcastle-based 201 General Hospital (V). She wears a 3ft pigtail and to meet regulations had tucked it out of harm's way during a gruelling military skills test on the Yorkshire Moors. She is seen above getting a helping hand from Sgt **Jennifer Cass** (24).

Ladies first

Looking forward to putting a spanner in the works are the first WRAC personnel to train as vehicle mechanics at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, Hants.

The school has scored another first. The brother of one of the girls was just finishing a similar course when this picture was taken.

Cfn **Mark Minton** looks on at the new students (on top of the vehicle) Pte **"Yorkie" Barlow** and Pte Debbie Kelly and (standing, left to right) Ptes **Michelle Minton**, **Tracie Moore** and **"Taff" Allen**.

PEOPLE



The Rev **Graham Roblin**, Deputy Chaplain General to the Forces and the Army's Senior Anglican Chaplain, is pictured above with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr **Robert Runcie**, after having had the title of archdeacon conferred on him. The title is traditionally given to the Army's Chaplain General, but as the present incumbent, the Rev **Jim Harkness**, is a member of the Church of Scotland so is not eligible.



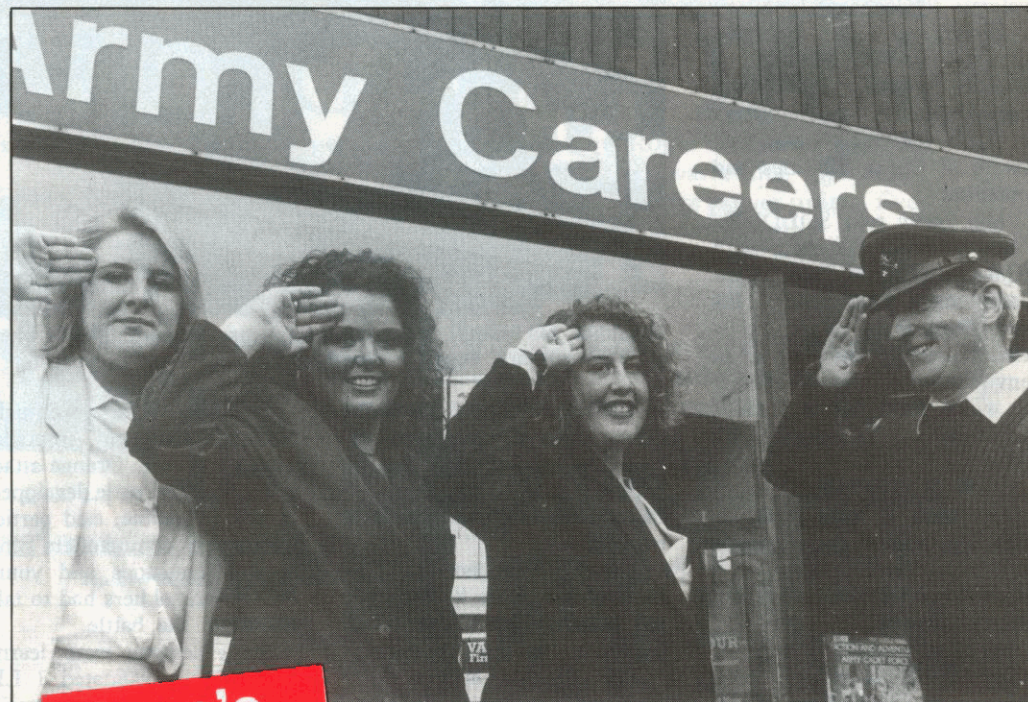
Relaxing in a fork lift truck recliner is Maj **David Folwell**, Quartermaster of 28 Amph Engr Regt at Hameln. He was driven out in style by colleagues to mark 38 years of service in the Royal Engineers. But he won't be going far - just to Hameln Garrison HQ as SO3 G4 Quartering.



Getting stuck into the spirit of the occasion at Princess Marina College, Arborfield are these children from Arborfield Junior School who helped the Commandant, Col **Phil Kay** (top left), and his four youngest apprentices at the REME college's annual Christmas pudding stir.



The skirl of bagpipes is a familiar sound around Warminster since the arrival of 1 R Irish at Battlesbury Barracks, which has taken over as the infantry demonstration battalion from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales at the Army School of Infantry. Ranger **Scouse Nevin** (above) is one of the pipes. Bandmaster **David Clarke** has composed a bugle fanfare, Warminster Town, and presented the framed music to the local council.



Three's company

Three bright sparks (or should they be sparkies?). Under a scheme which allows friends to enlist and train together (maximum number five) **Caroline Winters**, **Lisa Prior** and **Sarah Hudson** (pictured from left to right) have joined the WRAC to become signallers. They are pictured outside Crewe Army Careers office with Lt Col **Alan Duxbury**, senior careers officer in Cheshire.

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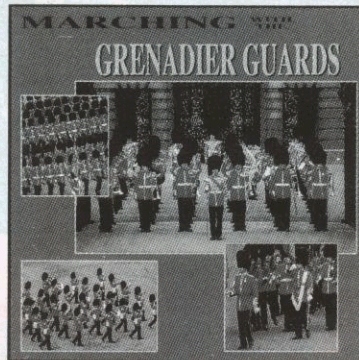


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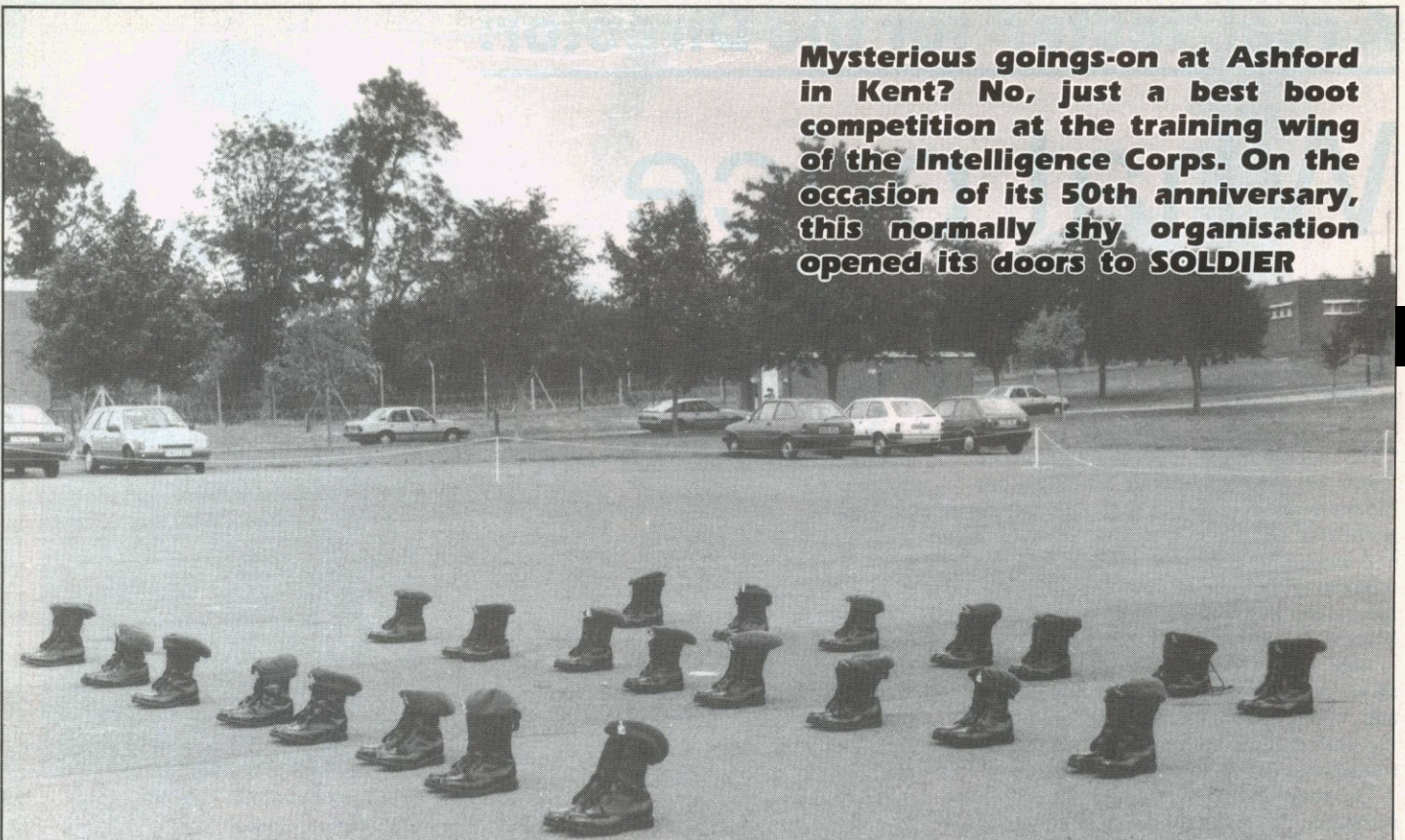
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Mysterious goings-on at Ashford in Kent? No, just a best boot competition at the training wing of the Intelligence Corps. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, this normally shy organisation opened its doors to SOLDIER



PSSST! GUESS WHO'S FIFTY



OUTWARD and visible signs that Templer Barracks, Ashford, is the home of the Intelligence Corps are singularly lacking.

The alert young sentries at the guardroom seemed unusually articulate but, badge and beret apart, they could have been representative of British troops anywhere.

The 1960s red-brick buildings were plainly functional.

Outside the gymnasium a squad of recruits in red T-shirts was responding energetically to a young woman instructor in a track suit who was advising them to "wake up".

Though the corps takes only bright young men and women, either by direct entry or transfer from other arms, it was

clear that shouting "One-two-three" as they drilled in unison did not come naturally to all of them.

But they were getting there. They usually do.

The PT squad would probably rather have been on the miniature range where WO2 Tony Cheese was supervising a squad of girls practising with 9mm pistols and the SA 80.

Their backgrounds were interesting.

Three had come straight from either college or the sixth form; one had been on the ground crew staff at Gatwick, one had served hamburgers in a fast-food emporium and another revealed her last job had been driving a large fruit and vegetable delivery lorry!

Having completed their

initial training at Guildford the girls were still wearing the dark green berets and lion badge of the WRAC.

They (and their male counterparts) qualify for the light green headwear of the Intelligence Corps after completing up to six months trade training.

The Headquarters Intelligence Corps Depot and Centre moved to its present location in Kent from Maresfield, Sussex, in 1966.

In the quarter of a century that has passed since then it has, in the words of the Commandant, Brig Tony Crawford, been "operational wherever the Army has been in action and in the forefront of every campaign".

This is underlined by the fact that since 1970 members of the corps have been

● Turn to next page

Words:

Bill Moore

Pictures: Mike

Weston/Int Corps

A real 'tester' for the Director:

What price Cameroon?

THE DIRECTOR of the Intelligence Corps has a computer on his desk, but otherwise his office is simply furnished, without a warlike picture in sight.

A large colour portrait of Prince Philip is interesting because it shows him in the light green beret of the corps of which he became Colonel-in-Chief in 1977.

Brig Tony Crawford, the present incumbent, served in the Royal Marines and was commissioned into The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment before transferring to the Intelligence Corps.

He knows Africa well, having been on secondment to the Nigerian Army and having served in the Congo.

During the World Cup he unexpectedly found himself required to pronounce on the prospects of the giant-killing team from Cameroon because he had also served there.

A cheerful, robust man, he is essentially an enthusiast who takes tremendous pride in the Intelligence Corps.

"It is operational wherever the Army is in action and in the forefront of every campaign," he said. "No commander feels comfortable unless he has his intelligence officer" – he stabbed a finger at a point on the floor beside him – "right there".

Brig Crawford says that the day when the British view of intelligence was concentrated on the gifted amateur had passed.

The permanent need for a corps devoted to the role was fully recognised.

"For much of the time an important part of our work is done alongside other services and organisations," he said and emphasised the excellent relations existing with the United States and Commonwealth countries.

He also acknowledged some of the problems which had to be faced.

"There is, in a way, too much information. One of our most challenging tasks at a time when there is no shortage of information supplied by a wide variety of technical devices is to extract the key elements from what is called 'The Noise'".

and present them to commanders in time to be used.

"Collating information and extracting the key facts is the real skill in intelligence work."

By comparison with earlier days the corps was now much more operationally minded – it had constantly been on operations – and was much better trained.

Its job was to provide intelligence and security for the Army and "in this unstable and uncertain world to reduce the uncertainty to the minimum".

No one SOLDIER met at Ashford was in any doubt about that!



Brig Tony Crawford, Director Intelligence Corps



An Int Corps soldier in the garb of a Soviet Spetsnaz soldier. The Ashford wardrobe contains a variety of uniforms



Girl recruits from the Women's Royal Army Corps in the frame. The window is a prop on the security course

Tribute begins at home

THE NAMING of the home of the Intelligence Corps after Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer during his lifetime was a richly-deserved compliment.

An infantryman (Royal Irish Fusiliers and Loyal North Lancashire Regiment), he was a major serving on the staff of Military Intelligence at the War Office in 1939.

The corps did not then exist, having been allowed to disintegrate after the First World War.

After reaching a peak strength of 3,000 in 1918 it was reduced to its commandant, one other officer and a field security policeman by 1929. When they left the Rhineland in 1929 the corps simply vanished.

With the world sinking into another crisis, with armies being raised and rearmed, plot following counter plot, it had to be revived. This was done

principally by the efforts of Templer. In the words of one authority:

"In a matter of months we had to try to remedy the effects of ten years' neglect, and find and train suitable people to meet the needs of both the Intelligence Staff and the Intelligence Corps."

Templer personally went through extensive lists of possible candidates, retired officers and linguists, and later interviewed the most promising.

In March 1938, 150 potential Intelligence Corps officers attended the first course – at the Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall.

By July plans for a Military Intelligence School were being implemented. When war broke out Templer went to France on the Staff of the Director of Military Intelligence.

There he paid particular attention to developing procedures to be followed by

British officers when taken prisoner – and initiated the measures for escape.

His department was also responsible for clandestine and deception activities – and hired French burglars to rob a German bank in Brussels where documents were believed to be kept.

On returning to Britain with the collapse in France, Templer was given the job of raising an infantry battalion and later promoted brigadier, but by then the future of the Intelligence Corps had been assured . . . 31 Field Security Section which had been deployed with the BEF provided a sound basis for expansion.

Official authority for the formation of the corps was given royal approval on July 15, 1940, promulgated in Army Order No 112 four days later.

The corps provided valuable services in all theatres and every campaign during the

● Turn to Page 29

WHO'S FIFTY

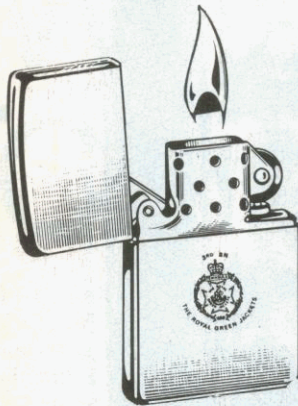
● From Page 25

awarded one George Medal, 21 Queen's Gallantry Medals and 90 Mentions in Dispatches.

The record is even more remarkable because in 1966 the government of the day was considering disbanding the corps unless it was able to prove its usefulness!

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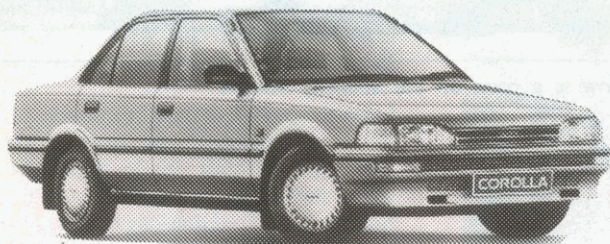
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war; apart from its operational, counter and technical intelligence tasks, it was concerned with air photographic interpretation, censorship and travel control.

It employed the humble and the rich and famous. Lord Rothschild, Malcolm Muggeridge, Hardy Amies and Teddy Tinling, the last two both fashion designers, joined it. (Post-war members have

included the novelist John Le Carré.)

Despite its obvious value in the turbulent post-war world, the need for a permanent corps was disputed after 1945 and only in 1950 was an establishment agreed. But although the two quartermasters and 270 other ranks were to be Regulars the 161 officers were to hold short-service commissions only.

Not until 1957 was a cadre of 100

Regular officers approved.

Despite the Cold War and the world-wide involvement of the Army there was another attempt to disband the corps in 1966.

The wisdom of thwarting this move has been underlined time and again as trouble developed in Ireland, conflicts in the Falklands and now crisis in the Middle East.

Keeping in the picture

ONE of the most important "trades" in the Int Corps is image analysis – previously air photographic interpretation. It is also one of the oldest.

The army took aerial photography seriously from the beginning of 1915 when Lt Col John Charteris, intelligence chief of the First Army in Flanders, thought "it would develop into something very important".

An aerial map of the front was produced in time for the battle of Neuve Chapelle (March 1915) when Capt Carrol Romer, a barrister with a temporary commission, had the "especial job" of studying photographs taken from rickety biplanes.

Fundamentally the job remains the same today though the means are much more sophisticated and images arrive via "drones", satellite and other airborne systems.

An analyst needs not only a sharp eye but a knowledge of binary coding, computer programmes, infra-red line scan and basic radar ... and the defensive measures used by other armies.

There are even "cameras" which can see "inside" buildings, revealing to the expert whether a structure conceals a vehicle or object.

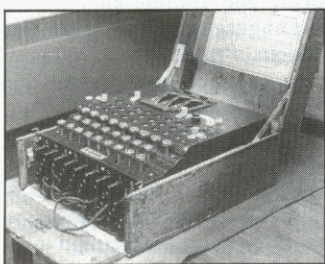
By contrast to the "High Tec" Int Corps analyst there is a more down-to-earth trade taught in a wing of the Defence Intelligence and Security School.

The corps acts as security consultant to the Army and its specialists advise on measures to be taken to protect information (classified documents), buildings and locations.

The positioning of remote control cameras, the installation of intruder detector



A squad marches past at Ashford having received the coveted lanyard at a passing-off parade. Note the cap badge on the far right; it belongs to a Royal Marine who transferred to the Int Corps



Prize exhibit in the Int Corps museum at Ashford – an Enigma cipher machine who enabled the Allies to crack some of the most secret Nazi codes during the Second World War

systems and the best use of manpower to guard bases is some of the advice given by NCOs who travel the world.

At Ashford a fascinating collection of sample perimeter fences enables students to see their strengths and weaknesses. Some are 12ft high.

In Britain, a group of warrant officers and staff sergeants working from United Kingdom Land Forces HQ is dedicated to the ultimate in this type of security, inspecting vital installations.

'Secret' life of a playwright and a brickie

THE FACT that they form a third of the Intelligence Corps testifies to the importance and quality of the 118 officers and 380 other ranks who form Intelligence and Security Group (Volunteers).

If they were mobilised tomorrow, faces that would vanish from their usual surroundings would include those of ...

... a top woman executive in one of Britain's biggest industrial concerns (she would put on a uniform bearing a captain's badges of rank);

... an antique dealer (a major);

... a university lecturer (sergeant major);

... a bricklayer (a corporal);

... the head of a bank computer division and a barrister (both lance-corporals).

There is a playwright, a wine merchant, a librarian, an editor, even a chiropractor (who better to make a chill run down the spine?) and many others.

They are drawn from all sections of society with one thing in common.

"They all have something to offer," said the spruce indi-

● Turn to next page

'Secret' lives

● From Page 29

vidual in civilian clothes in a room at the top of a TA centre in the heart of London.

The commanding officer of the group is a regular lieutenant colonel and proud of his appointment and his unit.

"We have a lot of very high quality people with good brains serving at all levels," he said, "many of them graduates."

"We don't recruit our officers off the street (though a few do transfer from other TA units) and just because you happen to be a QC, for example, doesn't automatically make you an officer."

"Everyone starts off as a recruit and does the same training, women included (we have about 90 of them). There are very few appointments within the group which can't be filled by women."

Newcomers are left in no doubt that they are required to be soldiers first, specialists second. So they need to be young, fit and active.

Square-bashing and weapons training and the basic infantry skills, including field exercises, form part of the six months training which will earn them the right to take their place in the passing-out parade with the Regulars at Ashford.

"The group's work doesn't relate in the least to anything that has appeared on TV or in films," said the CO.

"We are looking for people with enthusiasm and commitment to the TA and the demands it makes on their time."

"A lot of our work is hard



routine but essential to the security and intelligence field."

The Group was founded in 1967 when the reorganisation of the TA brought Intelligence Corps activities under one umbrella.

Its role is to provide intelligence and security specialists to support the Regular units of the corps in the UK and on the Continent.

Much recruiting is done by personal approach but individuals already in the TA are

sometimes pointed in the group's direction because they possess some particular talent.

The group operates on a company basis with outstations at Bristol, Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Language skills to meet the various "trade" requirements play an important part in the group's work.

One sergeant-major is a qualified interpreter in three languages and proficient in a number of others. Another is an interpreter in German . . . and Chinese!

Though men and women with a proven ability are preferred, individuals have been trained from scratch to interpreter level.

Once in, members of the group tend to stay with it. Though there is an upper age limit of 48, in special circumstances people have served until 65.

The group's Honorary Colonel, Maj (brevet lieutenant-colonel) Lawrence Gemson, a senior executive with the Prudential, has 36 years' service as a volunteer.

The group also has another City connection - it is affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers. Useful types to give hints on how to blend with the scenery no doubt!

5 Airborne up against it in Malaysia

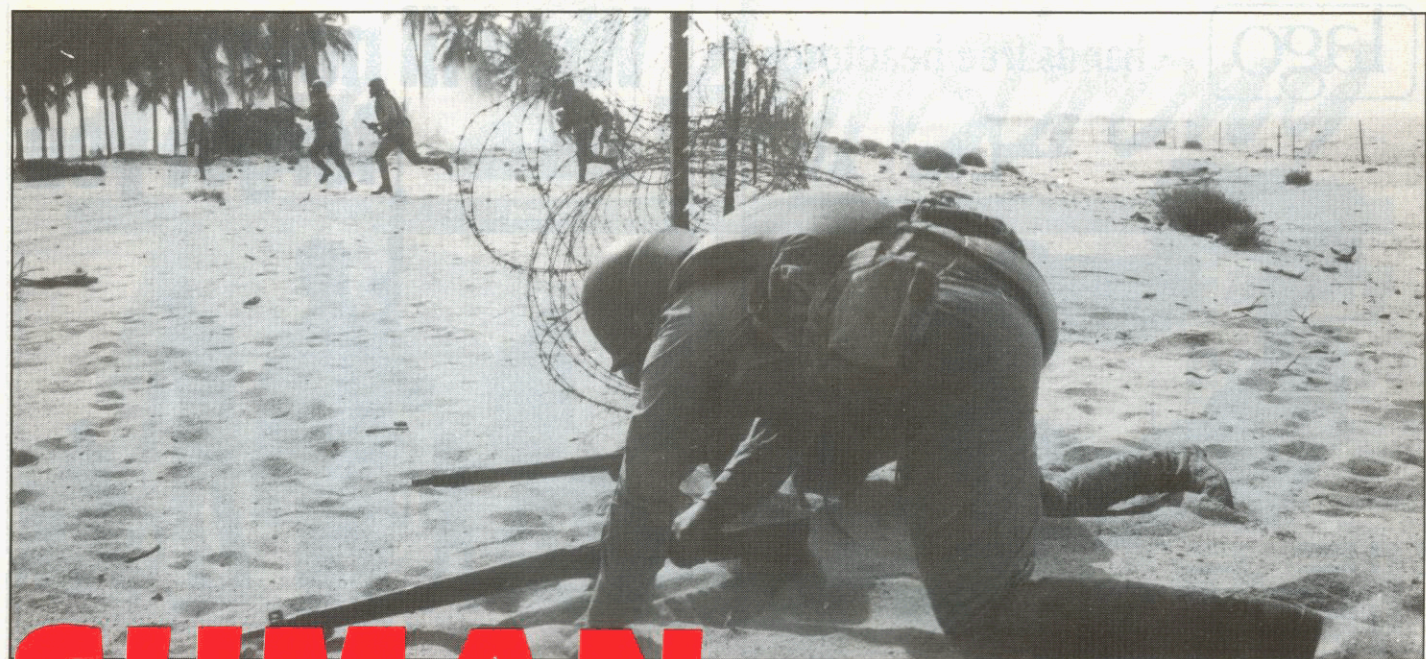
FOR THE second time in their history, the shores of Sabak Beach in Malaysia echoed to the sound of battle as the Japanese Army attacked British defences on its way south to Singapore.

Second time around, however, the only British soldiers present were elements of 5 Airborne Brigade armed with little more than sunglasses and cameras, and the attacking soldiers were from the Malaysian Army re-enacting the invasion for representatives of the Five-Power Defence Arrangement's command post exercise (CPX) Suman Warrior 1/90.

Now back home in Aldershot, the men of 5 Airborne can reflect on their three-week sortie to the gem of the East in this its year of discovery. Amid the activity involved in Op Granby there was much discussion over the question of inter-operability and this climate offered a fitting backdrop to the presentations and discussions between the member countries of Singapore, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

Held in Kota Bharu - to the north-east of the Malaysian peninsula and only 45 minutes from the delights of Thailand - Suman Warrior was hosted by the British in the self-styled Olympic Village atmosphere of Kem Desa Phalawan, kindly made available by the Malaysian Army for the duration of the exercise.

Following the opening cere-



The Japanese view of the attack on Sabak Beach, re-enacted for the benefit of Five-Power representatives

SUMAN WARRIORS

mony in the presence of GOC Hong Kong, Maj Gen Peter Duffell, the exercise began with presentations by the national contingents outlining the doctrines and tactical philosophies, with an understandable bent towards airborne operations.

It quickly became apparent that such operations in a multi-national context would require detailed planning and hinge upon the need for simple and succinct command and control at the lowest level.

Lessons learned at this phase of the exercise proved vital during the CPX period which was to follow.

Under the control of Lt Col Mike Raworth, RHA, the

commanding officer of 7 Para RHA - the Airborne Gunners - the exercise coordination went well with some sterling role-playing by many of the soldiers manning the radio nets.

The most encouraging observation was that all the national contingents were able to communicate and liaise and more importantly adapt to each other's strengths and weaknesses. Task force commander, Brig Nigel Richards, at one point had three simultaneous battalion-sized attacks being monitored. Although slightly unrealistic in terms of time scale it did make interesting viewing from immediately outside the ops room!

While the British summer underwent its final death throes, the troops in the depths of the Malaysian jungle not only had the worry of the ever-present threat from snakes and similar beasts, but also had to deal with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees. Nonetheless, as the Sultan of Kelantan and Armed Forces Minister Mr Archie Hamilton, just two of the many visitors to the exercise, can justify, these inconveniences failed to thwart the efforts and enthusiasm of those involved.

Indeed, after the long-awaited cry of "Endex" went over the net, a number of encouraging observations were highlighted for any future operational or exercise collaboration between the multi-national task force countries.

It was by no means all work, however. All the visiting Para-trained personnel were able to experience the unique delights of a ramp exit from the back of a Malaysian Air Force Caribou 1,500ft above the sporting DZ of Gong Kedak Airfield, 40 minutes drive from camp. A highly-competitive

sports tournament also served to transform the sports field in front of the garrison mosque into a scene more akin to that expected during an international at Twickenham.

Following the closing ceremony with music provided by the Falklands Band of The Parachute Regiment, who managed to make guest appearances all over Malaysia during the exercise period, the RAF commitments to Op Granby prevented an immediate recovery to Brize Norton.

Consequently - and much to the delight of the 200-strong British contingent provided by HQ 5 AB Bde; The Blues and Royals; 7 Para RHA; 1 Para; 5 AB Bde and HQ Sig Sqn; 5 AB Bde Log Bn; 658 Sqn AAC; and 23 PFA, four days R and R were spent visiting the delights on offer throughout the very beautiful and appealing countryside of Malaysia.

Exercise Suman Warrior was the largest exercise of its kind held in Malaysia for more than 20 years. It proved to be a resounding success despite a great deal of confusion in the later stages of its planning created by the uncertainty surrounding Op Granby. Without doubt the shape of the exercise was altered immensely at the outset of the Gulf crisis.

Nonetheless, in the words of Brig Richards: "Due to the efforts of all involved, the exercise not only proved the inter-operability of the FPDA but it also highlighted the bonds which exist between soldiers the world over."

by Lt Duncan Smith RHA



Pictured at the opening ceremony are (from left) Sgt Ian Fletcher, WO2 (RQMS) Bernie Watters, Sgt Mick Bradshaw, Sgt Keith Woodhead, WO2 (TSM) Terry Sullivan and Sgt Jim Harper



Combat intelligence in action. This painting depicts the incident on the Maas river in 1944 when Maj Thomas Galloway engaged a German patrol with his revolver when acting on information gleaned during the interrogation of a prisoner. He was awarded the Military Cross

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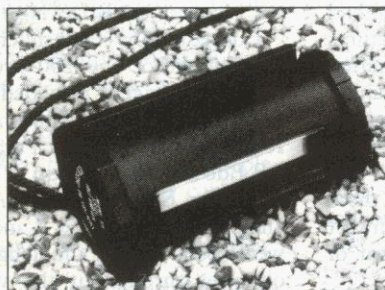


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Key moment for (from left) Spr Andrew Milligan, Mr Jo Cleaver of ASU, Lt Col John Cave and Cpl Dave Baker

Railcard savings continue

BRITISH Rail has agreed after another round of tough negotiations with the MoD to continue the Forces Railcard in its present format until October 31, 1991.

That means a 34 per cent discount on all fares apart from the saver and super-saver tickets, on which the discount will be 26 per cent.

One change will be that minimum fares for journeys before 0930 will be the same as the Young Person's Railcard; minimum single fare £4, return £8.

Restrictions on travel on Fridays from King's Cross have been eased so that tickets may now be bought between 1400 and 1900 (instead of 1550 and 1800).

New cards run from January 1.

School flights

AGREEMENT has been reached on schoolchildren's weekend flights, which will be available between the UK and BAOR for Christmas and New Year holidays.

Home, Sweet Home

Hermitage's new MQs are a delight

SOLDIERS and their families moving on to the £4m married quarter patch at Hermitage near Newbury

should be delighted with their new homes – the 71 houses recently completed there would not disgrace a

private housing estate boasting properties in the £100,000 bracket.

Cpl Dave Baker and Spr Andrew Milligan were the first to receive their keys to the new quarters, and for them there was double delight. Until now they have been commuting from their families at unmodernised Barton Stacey, a round trip of 50 miles a day.

Now they have just a short walk to work.

And their wives should be thrilled with their new homes, which feature fitted carpets throughout, big kitchens and bathrooms, plenty of storage space in wardrobes, and an attached shed for muddy bicycles. Half the quarters have garages.

Discounted housing

Chatham scheme talks to go on

I PUT a series of questions on the Joint Services Discounted Scheme to Chris Furlong at Defence Lands. Some of his answers were included in the last issue of SOLDIER. Here he deals with a housing association scheme.

Q. After nearly two years, what progress has been made on the pilot housing associations scheme at Chatham?

A. The original invitation to tender produced no acceptable proposal. The department is, however, determined to make the scheme work if possible and bilateral discussions are continuing with a housing association.

In addition, a further scheme is being pursued involving four blocks of flats in Tidworth.

Both schemes involve selling surplus MQs to housing associations at a discount of 30 per cent on a price produced by the district valuer, a totally independent expert, in return for nomination rights for Service personnel.

Family briefs

● The Army Benevolent Fund has a few vacancies for ex-Service personnel in its housing association self-contained flats. One partner must be over 60 and the monthly rental ranges from about £192 to £210. Contact Maj C A Moss, Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR for details.

● Service personnel who rent out their homes as private landlords will find useful information in the new Department of the Environment leaflet entitled *Now It's Worth Being a Landlord*. Copies are available free from the DOE, Room N11/11, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB (tel: 071-276 3521).

● A comprehensive and practical booklet on equipment and services for people with disabilities is available free from Health Publications Unit, No 2 Site, Heywood Street, Manchester Road, Heywood OL10 2PZ. It expands on the DSS booklets *Sick or Disabled* (DSS FB/6) and *Sick or Injured Through Service in the Armed Forces* (FB/16, April 1990).

● Invaluable for those serving overseas is the new Careers and Occupational Information Centre catalogue which includes a new section aimed at the 16 to 19 age group. More than 5,500 establishments use the catalogue and anyone involved in education and training will find it useful. Available from COIC, Room W1108, Moorfoal, Sheffield S1 4PQ.

RAF commemorative wood

IF anyone sent money in response to an advertisement placed in some Service journals by the Traditional British Broadleaf Heritage Ltd to support the creation of an RAF commemorative wood,

they should write to Richard J Smith, Chartered Accountant, Globe Buildings, North Street, Ashburton, Devon TO2 7QH to list themselves as creditors.

The company has gone into voluntary liquidation.

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*C. Beard is a member of The Western Front Association

Painful lessons from Vietnam's battles

IN HIS book *No Exit from Vietnam*, Sir Robert Thompson, who headed the British Advisory Mission to the republic from 1961-65, wrote in 1968 of the US involvement: "... there had been a complete lack of understanding of the nature of the war and what has been happening."

Having been twice to Vietnam during this period I can only agree and wonder whether the Americans had ever heard of Mao Tse-Tung's saying, "The strategy of guerrilla warfare is to pit one man against ten, but the tactics are to pit ten men against one."

It would have been far better, as Thompson put it, "if both the Army and paramilitary forces had been trained to operate as small units with the para-military operating within the populated area and the army in deep jungle operations."

Instead, they relied on over-use of fire power and air mobility, sometimes against thin air.

The consequences of this policy are admirably shown in *Vietnam - The Decisive Battles* by John Pimlott, deputy head of the War Studies Department at RMA Sandhurst. Cadets brought up on this kind of presentation of military history cannot go far wrong.

I am not sure the adjective "decisive" necessarily applies to all the 17 actions he describes, but the way he describes them is excellent. His text is pithy and full of accurate data, ably supported by superb illustrated diagrams and maps of the action which I much enjoyed, even though he lapses into Americanisms such as "slated", "mired" and "torching".

There are also many first-class photographs, profiles of

Master of Belhaven by Lt Col Ralph Hamilton. Extraordinarily detailed diary of the First World War, first published in 1924, now reprinted on demand in facsimile 72 years after the author's death in action. Published by Wharncliffe Publishing Ltd. Price £19.95.

Subject Bibliography of the First World War by A G S Enser. Update of the 1979 edition, covering books in English between 1914 and 1987. Published by Gower Publishing Company, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot. Price £45.

Armour 2000 by Ian V Hogg. An informed prediction of where technology will take artillery by the start of the 21st Century. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £14.95.

commanders and politicians and background data on drugs, "fraging" and other aspects of this war.

Sir Robert's criticism is fully justified by the account Pimlott gives of the Long Tan operation by The Royal Australian Regiment in 1966 and their overall operations in Phuoc Tuy province, including their SAS squadron, which accounted for 500 enemy killed in action while losing none of their own men to hostile fire - "an impressive record", as Pimlott succinctly puts it.

This was the first war to which the media was given unlimited access. The result was that it was brought vividly into the homes of the Americans, with a resulting loss of morale, which some US commanders argued cost them victory.

I like Thompson's description of the BBC commentator, generally selective in his comments, who when plunged into the Tet offensive in Hue found that all he could say into the microphone was: "My God. It's just like watching television."

I agree with Max Hasting's comment, however, in his foreword. "The North Vietnamese eventually prevailed because in a thousand battlefields they wore down and finally broke the will of the Americans and their South Vietnamese clients."

This account of 17 of the more important battles is thoroughly recommended. - PSN

Vietnam - The Decisive Battles by John Pimlott. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £25.

IN BRIEF

The Blitz: Westminster at War by William Sansom. Paperback reissue of the classic eyewitness account, with a new foreword by Stephen Spender. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £5.95.

The Battle of Hurtgen Forest by Charles Whiting. This paperback reprint recounts the battle of attrition fought over a 50-square mile area of dense forest on the Belgian-German border during the Second World War. Published by Mandarin. Price £4.99.

The Vanishing Cockney by Bill Springle. Collection of Cockney and Army reminiscences by this Chelsea Pensioner who served with the 17/21st Lancers as a cavalryman and later with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Available from Scrip-mate, 20 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AH. Price £4.95 inc. p&p.

The King's Men by Tom McCarthy. Personal account of author's service with Grenadier Guards in war and peace. Illuminating description of life in immediate post-war Germany and the Nuremberg trials. Published by Pluto Press. Price £6.95.

Britain Invaded by Adrian Gilbert. Documentary reconstruction of Hitler's plans for Britain after the invasion. History rewrit-

ten in a book of fascination. Published by Century. Price £14.99 Hardback.

Knives and Daggers by Zdenek Faktor. Textbook guide to identification and classification of knives and daggers, complete with construction, function and historical development. Published by Hamlyn. Price £7.99 Hardback.

A Tale of Two Captains by John Baynes and Hugh Maclean. A record of the service of the authors' fathers in the First World War in the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Published by the Pentland Press. Price £9.50 Hardback.

Four books from Osprey's Campaign series: **Tet Offensive 1968** - Turning Point in Vietnam by James R Arnold. Price £7.95;

Balacava 1854 - The Charge of the Light Brigade by John Sweetman. Price £7.95; **Arden-nes 1944** - Hitler's last gamble in the West by James R Arnold. Price £7.95; **France 1940** - Blitzkrieg in the West by Alan Shepperd. Osprey Elite series: **Vietnam Airborne** by Gordon Rottman. Price £6.50.

Diary of Anti-Aircraft Defence 1938-1944 by Lt Col B N Reckitt. Description of shelling and bombing of Great Britain, compiled from the author's notes. Published by Stockwell. Price £5.25.

The Making of a Para by Rory Bridson. Softback version of the well-illustrated 1989 volume. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Price £11.99.

SOLDIERS' SONGS

Worthy tribute to a lost art . . .

SINGING has always been a release from tension, boredom, loneliness, resentment of authority and absence of female company for the soldier.

The songs Roy Palmer has selected for *What a Lovely War!* clearly bear this out, with the majority representing the last subject: soldiers are no different from rugby players in singing bawdy songs.

The book, covering the period from the Boer War to the present day, contains the words of 137 British soldiers' songs and references to the titles of another 330 related ditties.

Having served 33 years in the Army and been a member of the last generation to go on route marches, it is amazing how few are recognisable. Clearly most of these were sung in barrack rooms, tents and canteens - and not on route marches!

Sadly, with the ending of the marches, the changes in living accommodation for single sol-

'I'm a signalman stationed in Matruh;
I've got a little dugout in the sand.
The flies gather round me as I settle down to rest,
In my flea-bound, bug-bound dugout in Matruh.
(Chorus)
The door is non-existent, the windows four by two,
The sandbags let the rain and blizzard through,
But I'm happy as the band in this land of shit and sand,
In my flea-bound, bug-bound dugout in Matruh.
The desert's littered over with bully and meat roll,
Jam and marmalade we never see.
I wish I had my sweetie to sit upon my knee,
I'd tell her all the troubles I've been through
In my etc.
So I'm saying goodbye to the desert,
Hang my beret on a nail behind the door.
Hand me down my civvy suit, sergeant-major,
'Cause the Western Desert ain't western any more.



TOPICAL AIR: Eighth Army song from the Western
Desert sung to the tune of "I'm an old cowhand"

diers, the reduction of overseas stations and the higher proportion of married soldiers, singing in the Army has greatly diminished; the Falklands produced no new songs.

Some 50 photographs greatly enhance this excellent book, which reflects social attitudes and behaviour during this century.

Roy Palmer is to be congratulated on this book but

I must correct one statement: *Sussex by the Sea* was the marching song of The Royal Sussex Regiment and never the Regimental March (*Roussillon*) but it was a close-run thing. That is another story. - PSN.

What a Lovely War! British Soldiers' Songs from the Boer War to the Present Day by Roy Palmer. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £16.99.

Reading between other people's lines!

In an era when library shelves seem to be submerged by the weight of literature about spies and intelligence-gathering it is a relief to come across a book which deals with basics.

Mercifully, Peter Gudgin steers clear of myth and drama in *Military Intelligence - The British Story*.

Instead, simply and factually, he traces the development of the military intelligence organisation from the South Africa War (when it was vindicated handsomely despite all attempts to denigrate it) to the present day.

The very nature of Intelligence work means the best stories are never told - just as the best agents are never caught and never publish memoirs.

This work, however, makes a good companion volume for anyone studying the subject - a ready reference helping to read between other people's lines. - WHPM.

Military Intelligence - The British Story, by Peter Gudgin. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £12.95.

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Medals worth more than money

FOR some time now we have read of bellyaches over receiving awards of medals for service in various parts of the world.

Many courageous acts and efforts go unrewarded, yet we know those medals awarded for devotion to duty and courage are well deserved and cherished and worn with pride.

Yet how many of those awards end up in shops or the

hands of dealers only a short time after being awarded?

I have seen many appear only months after issue. Alas, the latest to appear at auction is the newly-awarded CSM 1962 with Gulf Bar, awarded to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

How long before we get a flood from forces recently sent to the Gulf?

Sometimes, it seems, a little

money means more than pride of honour. A man's medal rated as rare for Iran-Iraq duty patrols 1986-88 will bring a high price, but I bet he received a pittance for it.

Let's leave our medal awards as they are – "well earned and deserved" and "worn with pride". – **David G Marriott (ex RASC, RMP, RAF, MN), Birkenhead, Wirral.**

Terriers in line

ON the subject of Terrier rifle battalions in the line, R Travers-Bogusz (October 1) knew of only two examples.

What about 7th Bn (Robin Hood Rifles), The Sherwood Foresters? This battalion's successor unit is D Company (Robin Hood Foresters), 3rd Bn, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

The Robin Hoods were "Greens" and all the other Green/Black accoutrements of a rifle regiment. Their most famous son was Capt Albert Ball, VC DSO MC. – **Brig Edward Wilkinson, Hon Colonel 3 WFR, Bakewell, Derbyshire.**

IN the 1930s the West Yorkshire Regiment included the 7th and 8th Battalions of the Leeds Rifles. The battalions became RA and RAC in the war. – **Lt Col A M Cooper, Farnham.**

THE King's (Liverpool) Regiment had two Rifle Battalions, not one – 5th and 6th.

In addition, the Regiment had an Irish Battalion (8th) and a Scottish Battalion (10th). The 7th and 9th Territorial Bns were "brass button" units. – **A J Moore, Liverpool**

MY researches have found two other examples of Terrier rifle battalions in the line – The Queen's Edinburgh Rifles (4th and 5th Battalions, The Royal Scots) and The Leeds Rifles (7th and 8th Battalions, The

Prince of Wales's Own).

On the other hand a "new army" rifle battalion found its way into a line regiment – The 16th (Service) Battalion (Chatsworth Rifles), The Sherwood Foresters.

Three special cases are worthy of note:

● The 4th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment were "The First Rifle Volunteers" as an unofficial title to mark the senior battalion of volunteer infantry formed as The Exeter and South Devon Rifle Corps in 1852. The TAVR successor to this unit – The 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment – received in 1972 the title "Rifle Volunteers".

● The 21st London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles) was affiliated in 1916 to The East Surrey Regiment.

● The 1st Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment became in 1929 the 1st (Rifle) Battalion of this regiment. – **Thierry Laroche, Neufchateau, Belgium.**

Tangier honour is oldest

I FEEL sure a number of regiments will be indignant at the claim in the 10 GR feature (SOLDIER, October 15) that the Battle Honour Amboor 1767 "is possibly the oldest currently worn by any unit in the British Army". Certainly not!

Indisputably the oldest is Tangier 1662-80, earned by the

The hackle difference

● LIKE your correspondent Mr E C Brown (October 1) I too was puzzled by the scarlet hackles in bonnets of Highland regiments other than The Black Watch, which had the distinction conferred on it alone in 1822. The anomaly stems from a custom taken up by some regimental bands to distinguish themselves from the rank and file.

The red over white hackle was popular in Highland bands during the Napoleonic Wars. This band custom of the Scottish regiments was adopted, in the 19th Century, by most regiments of dragoons and lancers. – **David Griffin (address supplied).**

● IT is quite common for the uniforms of bandsmen, drummers and such to differ from those of other soldiers.

Bandsmen of the Gordon Highlanders have worn red over white hackles in their feather bonnets for many years. – **Colin Dean, UK (Founder) Branch, International Military Music Society, Barking, Essex.**

Tangier Horse and Tangier Foot, later the Royal Dragoons and Queen's Regiment (2nd Foot). There is also Tangier 1680, granted to the Grenadiers, Coldstream and Royal Scots. Several other Battle Honours far antedate Amboor – notably Namur 1695. – **J M Brereton, Builth Wells, Powys.**

Reunions

● **Dover, Second World War:** White Cliffs veterans of all Forces who wish to attend the 1991 reunion are asked to write, with SAE, to Ken Flint, 77 Lydia Road, Walmer CT14 9JY.

● **Commando Gunners:** Reunion proposed for July 5-7, 1991 for all ranks past and present of 29 Cdo Regt RA, 95 Cdo FOU RA and 95 Cdo Regt RA. All ex-Commando Gunners invited to register by contacting WO2 Bruce Hatton, Commando Reunion, 29 Commando Regiment RA, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth PL1 2PD (tel: 0752 772312 ext 629).

● **South East Branch of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards Association** invites ex-"Skins" to membership and to the Christmas lunch at Croydon on Wednesday December 19. Annual meeting on Friday February 15, 1991. Details from John Salmon (Secretary), 6 Woodland Gardens, Selsdon, S Croydon, Surrey CR2 8PH (tel: 081-657 3052).

Searchline

● **MT Section RE 164 Rly Opr Coy 1939-45:** Frank Shepard, Jock Lythgoe, Tommy Alton, Frank Jennings, William Knutt, Sgt Shaw, Capt Riddle, Cpl Fermer or any other members please contact L R Swindale, 6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL.

● **Peace-keeping aircraft:** Author researching book on aircraft used in support of UN and other peace-keeping operations since 1948, including Cyprus, Lebanon, Namibia and Zimbabwe Ceasefire Monitoring Force, seeks information. Contact John Bradley, 2449 36th Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 2H1.

● **Medloc Military Trains:** Information sought by author researching book on the trains which brought home Service men and women from the Middle East and Mediterranean, starting from Toulon (1945), Milan and Villach in Austria. Contact Mr C J Elliott, Rum Bridge House, Stoke Road, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk C10 8HQ (tel: 0787 278534).

● **British Army badges and insignia:** Australian Vietnam veteran on total disablement pension seeks British cap and collar badges, winter and summer unit titles and any other insignia for display board to be donated to Department of Veterans Affairs Repatriation Hospital in Hobart. Contact Peter J Godley, 27 Brady Street, Midway Point, Tasmania 7171, Australia.

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photocopies cannot be accepted.

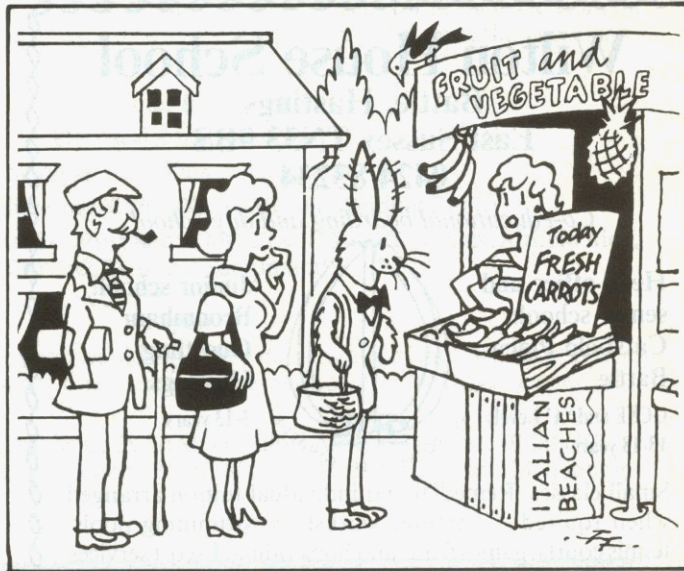
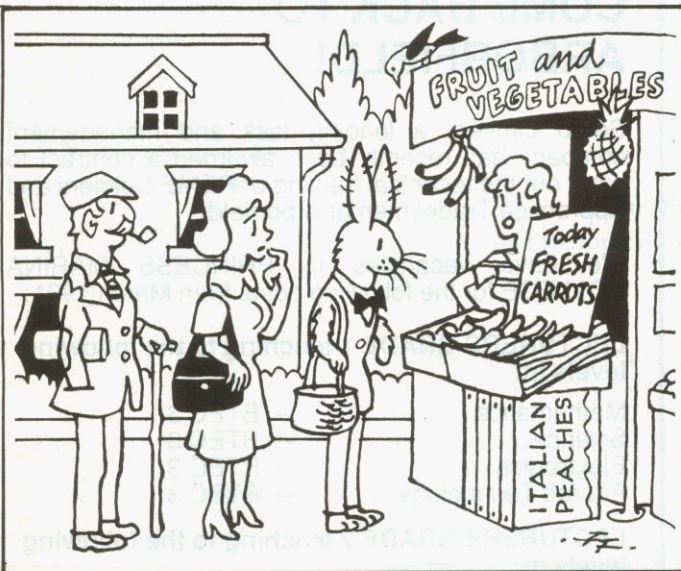
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the Jan 21 issue. (NB: Competition 500 results will be announced in the Jan 7 issue, not as previously stated).

Winner of a £50 cheque for HOAY competition No 498 is Mrs D M Wilcock, of Leeds. Book prizes go to runners-up Alasdair Alexander, BFPO 39, and Mrs J D Cox, of Petersfield, Hants.

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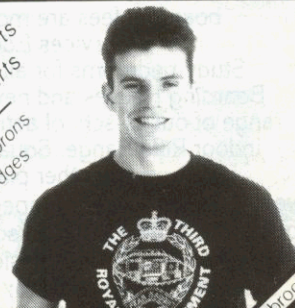
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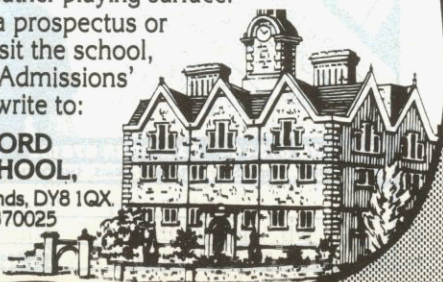
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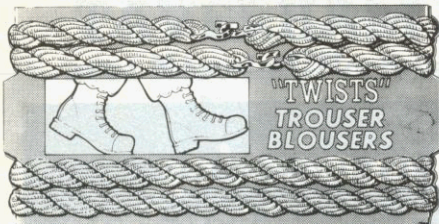
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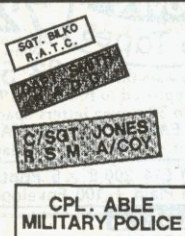
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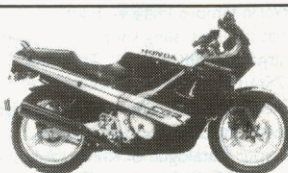
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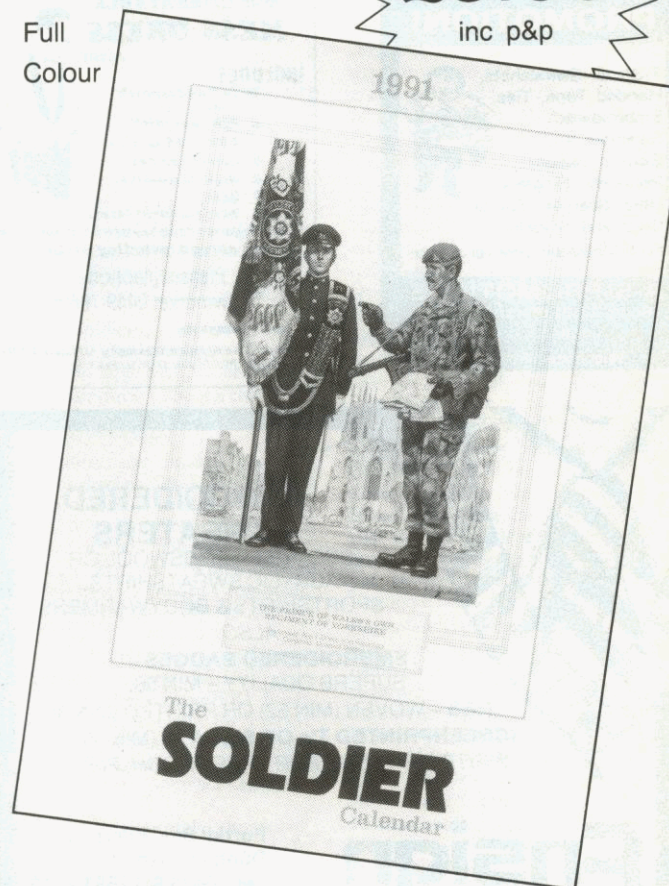
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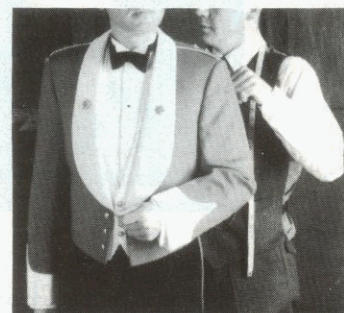
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SSgt Searle (Kent), weekend break for two at a Hilton Hotel (Hilton UK); H Everard (Norfolk), £500 cash (Nissan UK); I Lancelley (Kent), £20 voucher (Boots); Maj A R Tull (Kent), silk scarf (Liberty of London).

B Groves (Oxon), £10 wine token (Unwins Wines); Wilson (Surrey), power hammer drill (Black and Decker); Byard (Hants), Waterford Crystal decanter and six glasses (Esso); D A A Parsons (Surrey), weekend break for two at a Mount Charlotte Hotel (Mount Charlotte Investments).

P Kitchen (Essex), portable colour television (Bentalls of Kingston); Forster (Surrey), return Channel crossing for a car and four people (P & O); Mr Brice (Hants), golf trolley bag and umbrella (Intersport GB and Royal Bank of Scotland); M A Friend (Surrey), two return tickets to Paris (British Midland Airways).

P A Toon (Germany), £10 token (Victoria Wine); Atkins (Surrey), £25 cash (Moss Bros); Beattie (Hants), portable typewriter (Olivetti); Mrs Y Richardson (Surrey), £100 (Laura Ashley); V Carter (Kent), Praktika camera and accessories (Empire Stores); Pye (Surrey), pair of Tasco binoculars (Empire Stores).

J Foster (Hants), radio cassette recorder (Southern Electric); Pte Scott (Surrey), weekend break for two at a County Club hotel (Whitbread); F Chalmers (Surrey), bottle of sherry and bottle of fine wine (Royal Bank of Scotland). NS

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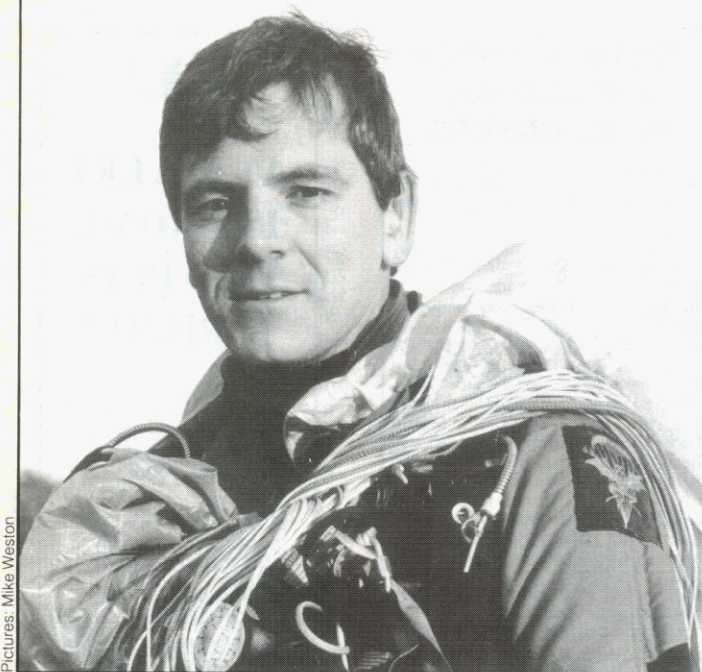
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Cpl Jonathan Dyer, policeman turned devil

From Redcap to Red Devil

PURSUING a hobby which took up all his free time and his spare cash – more than £6,000 – has paid dividends for a soldier who realised his ambition to become the first military policeman attached to the Red Devils, writes Jennifer Grif-fiths.

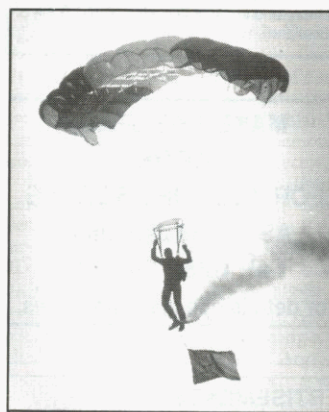
Cpl Jonathan Dyer, a former junior leader with The Parachute Regiment who left the Army for a spell as a civilian policeman, re-joined in 1982 as a member of the Royal Military Police.

He went on to earn his Parachute Wings, which entitles him to wear the maroon Airborne Forces' beret and followed up with a 3½-year tour with Parachute Provost RMP in Aldershot.

He then went on a BAOR tour during which he did a lot of parachuting in his spare time, each visit to his club involving a 280-mile trip.

Cpl Dyer said: "I had previously paid for myself to go to America and Spain to get in some practice and I carried on parachuting on every available day off. I also bought my own parachute system for £2,000 and I reckon I spent between £6,000 and £7,000."

He decided to approach the Red Devils and was immediately considered as he already had his wings.



Jonathan in action

"The next thing, to my utter surprise, and to everyone else's as they were giving me 100-to-1 odds against, I was accepted in January. The first day I turned up for work with the Red Devils I was told we were flying to Kenya the next day for three months of training. I packed my kit and had the most wonderful time.

"In the Red Devils you have more specialised training because you have to put on a good show for the public and be better than any other display team. There is no doubt about it, we are the best there is.

"The work is much harder than I anticipated. There are slack periods, but there are many other things to do, like kit maintenance. We also teach people to parachute."

Rodber warms up against Namibia

WITH the national rugby season now nearly a third of the way through, the Army scene at senior level is girding its loins for the start of its main thrust, beginning in the New Year, writes John Quin.

Most of the senior players are with league clubs and are having a busy time. With the Army Cup now in full swing in the UK, rugby life is full.

The main aim remains unchanged, of course; that is the retention of the Inter-Service championships.

Last year for the first time ever by a single Service, the Army won the rugby battle at all three levels – Colts (U19), U21 and at senior level at Twickenham.

One who will not be on the park is Army captain, Maj Brian McCall, who has hung up his boots from representative rugby. His team-mates who did the job so well last year are, by and large, all present and correct, and with players moving up from the U21 team, things look good for the Army coach and selectors.

Being Services champions meant that it was not surprising to find that the majority of the team representing the Combined Services against the touring Namibian national side at Portsmouth were from the Army.

Lt Simon Hopkin (Kings Own Border), Cpl Stephen Bartliff and Sgt Chalky Atkins (both R Sigs), plus Sgt Steve Commander (7 RHA) and 2nd Lt Brett Taylor (DWR), the half-backs, played behind a pack which included Scottish B cap Cpl George Graham (A and SH) and 2nd Lt Tim Rodber (Green Howards), who toured the Argentine with England earlier in the year and who had played for England B against the Namibians four days earlier at Leicester.

Rodber scored a try against them in both games.

Missing through an injured shoulder was SI Chris Spowart, the Moseley vice-captain, and



Cfn Craig Foster (REME) in the dark strip contests Essex possession at the Military Stadium, Aldershot

on the bench were Cpl Kenny Ferdinand (REME), Capt Richard Castleton (ACC) and Sgt Dave Cochlan (7 RHA).

The result, in case you missed it, was a last minute 16-13 win for the tourists.

The Colts and U21 sides, who play in their respective county championships, are already well into their season.

For those of you in the Aldershot area, the U21s start their county championship bid against Hampshire on November 25 (ko 1430), and against Sussex on December 9 (ko 1415), while on the same day at noon, the Colts take on Cheltenham.

The seniors have their traditional encounter with the Territorial Army on December 12 (ko 1900 at Aldershot).

After the New Year, preparations for the Inter-Services begin in earnest on January 16 against Hampshire at Aldershot (1430), with all eyes then turning to March 23 at Twickenham, when the Army take on the Royal Navy.

Gunners win last corps grass title

WINNERS of the Inter-Corps hockey tournament at Aldershot were the Royal Artillery, 2-1 victors over the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the final.

The hard-fought tournament was contested by ten teams and was the last to be staged on grass. Next year's competition will be held on the new

synthetic pitch next door to the Military Stadium.

In the semi-finals, the gunners narrowly beat RAPC 7-5 in a match decided on penalty strokes, while the RAOC beat APTC 3-1.

In the Plate final the Royal Engineers beat RAEC/RMP 5-1.

Archers in top flight

MAJ Chris Vitali and Capt Chris Robinson (UKLF P Info) did well in the "visitors" medal table at the Royal Navy outdoor archery championships at Plymouth. A number of young Army novices, including JSgt Ian Sutor and JPte Chris Butler from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RCT/RAOC at Colerne near Bath also did well.

Maj Vitali, of HQ DGOS at LE(A) Andover, is secretary of the Army Archery Association in the south, but overall secretary for those wishing to find out more about the sport is Maj Mike Fisher, Officers' Mess, Army Apprentices College Harrogate, Yorks HG3 25EB (tel: Harrogate. Mil 8330).

Glad to see the back of that week!

Army 0, Essex 3

FOLLOWING the 4-0 defeat last time they visited Aldershot, Essex were a little apprehensive for the latest fixture against the Army. They need not have worried, because the home side had an indifferent game and never looked like scoring after the county had taken the lead midway through the opening half, writes Pat Massey.

For the first 20 minutes the Army set the pace and were unlucky not to go ahead after SI Mickey Johnson (APTC) had had a shot blocked and Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) saw his follow-up shot charged down.

After Martin St Hillaire of Harlow Town put the visitors ahead, the Army struggled to get back into the game and were all too often caught in possession.

The closest they came to a reply was when LBdr Mark Mahoney (RHA) fired over after a good Army move down the left.

Two more Essex goals in the second half extracted full compensation for the drubbing they received on the previous visit to Aldershot.

AFA 3 Army 0

The Army rounded off a bad week by losing their second consecutive game by three goals to nil. Not content with missing a string of chances against the Amateur Football Alliance, the Army then contrived to make a gift of three second-half goals to the opposition.

Cpl Shaun Gilman and SI Steve Davis missed golden opportunities to put the Army ahead, and this inability to put away the chances cost them dear in the second half.

The opening AFA goal was right out of the pages of the *Beano*. Skipper Sgt Kevin Parkin (RCT) aimed a throw-in to goalkeeper LCpl Dave May (RCT), who unfortunately let it

slip through his hands. Poor marking contributed to the second, and two minutes from time LCpl Tony Wright (REME) and the luckless May got into a muddle and presented the Alliance with their third.

Army XI 3 Cambridge University 0

Two goals, early in the second half of a highly competitive fixture, put the skids under a Cambridge University side which had, up to then, more than held its own against an Army 2nd XI.

The visitors set the early pace and only poor finishing deprived them of the goal their creative mid-field play merited. Their set pieces sent jitters through the Army defence on several occasions. On the one occasion their finishing matched their approach work, the ball rapped an upright and bounced clear.

Seven minutes into the second half, a slick exchange of passes between Sgt Steve Davis (APTC), and LBdr Trevor Corrigan (RHA), ended with the latter steering the ball wide of the Cambridge goalkeeper and into the net.

Five minutes later, from a corner on the Army left, Davis, ducking under the ball to the near post, threw a confused Cambridge defence off balance and Corrigan headed home.

Set pieces, which earlier threatened to breach the Army defence, were now creating havoc for the visitors.

Yet another corner kick was only half cleared before Sgt Mickie Johnson (APTC), now back to his best after a year in the wilderness, headed goal-wards and Davis forced the Cambridge keeper to make a fine save.

Davis did make it 3-0 ten minutes before the end and the whistle sounded with the Army threatening a fourth in a packed Cambridge penalty area.



Picture: POA (Phot) Ric Burch

Members of the British cross-country ski team in training for the World Cup series and 1992 Winter Olympics. From left to right are Gnr John Greaves, LCpl Tim Bomberg, Mne Mark Croasdale, Mne Gary Gerrard, LCpl Dave Belam, Cpl Neil Danby, LBdr John Read, LCpl Mark Palmer and LCpl Ed Nicoll

Olympics in their sights

NINE Army skiers and three Royal Marines have been involved in training for the British national cross-country ski team, building up to the first World Cup 15km race at Ramsau in Austria on December 9.

Both British cross-country and biathlon (ski-shoot) ski teams are dominated by Servicemen, and the manager of the cross-country team is Capt Tony Abell (3 RGJ at ASPT).

His squad of super-fit athletes have been training all summer, concentrating on roller skiing, running and strength training in Scotland and Wales, and completed two summer camps on glacial snow in Austria and Norway. This month they begin three weeks of intensive training in Sweden before going on to Europe for the World Cup season.

Training is directed not just

In shape for World Cup

at the immediate winter season but at the 1992 Winter Olympics, for which the squad has to be reduced from its present number.

The skiers are supported by managers, coaches, physiotherapists and a team psychologist, and will be training and competing until the end of April in countries ranging from Scandinavia to central and eastern Europe.

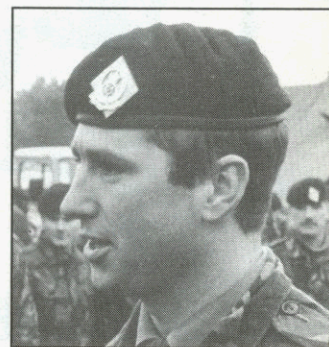
The selection process is a difficult one for manager Tony Abell and Swedish coach Christer Skog, who have to choose from a group which includes some of the best athletes in Britain.

For example, Mne Mark

Croasdale (45 Cdo RM) represents Britain at international fell running, while LCpl Ed Nicoll (35 Engr Regt) is one of the country's top mountain bike racers. Others are successful marathon runners and triathletes.

Support for the team comes from units in the form of time off to train and compete, financial support from merchant bankers Samuel Montagu and equipment from Ron Hill Sports and others.

Other members of the squad include Cpl Neil Danby (28 Amph Engr Regt), LCpl Tim Bomberg (35 Engr Regt), LCpl Mark Palmer (28 Amph Engr Regt), LCpl John King (1 ADTR), LCpl Dave Belam (3 RHA), LBdr John Read (50 Msl Regt RA), Mne Gary Gerrard (42 Cdo RM), Mne Dave Brown (45 Cdo RM), and Gnr John Greaves (50 Msl Regt RA).



Cpl Martin Metcalfe

QLR top shot calls it a day

CPL Martin Metcalfe bowed out from military competition shooting after he and the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment shooting team had completed another successful season.

Fourth at Bisley, Metcalfe was included in the British Army team at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association meeting in Kingston, Ontario and won both rifle and sub-machine gun matches against fields that included the Bisley winners of the past two years.

In the past three years the 1 QLR team has been first, second and fourth in the Regular Army competition at Bisley, and only once since 1975 has it been outside the Army's top 20 teams.

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A Soviet Spetsnaz soldier in the shrubbery at Ashford, Kent? No, just a soldier of the Intelligence Corps dressed up to look the part. The Ashford wardrobe contains a variety of uniforms. A feature on the Int Corps, celebrating its 50th anniversary, begins on Page 25.

Picture: Mike Weston