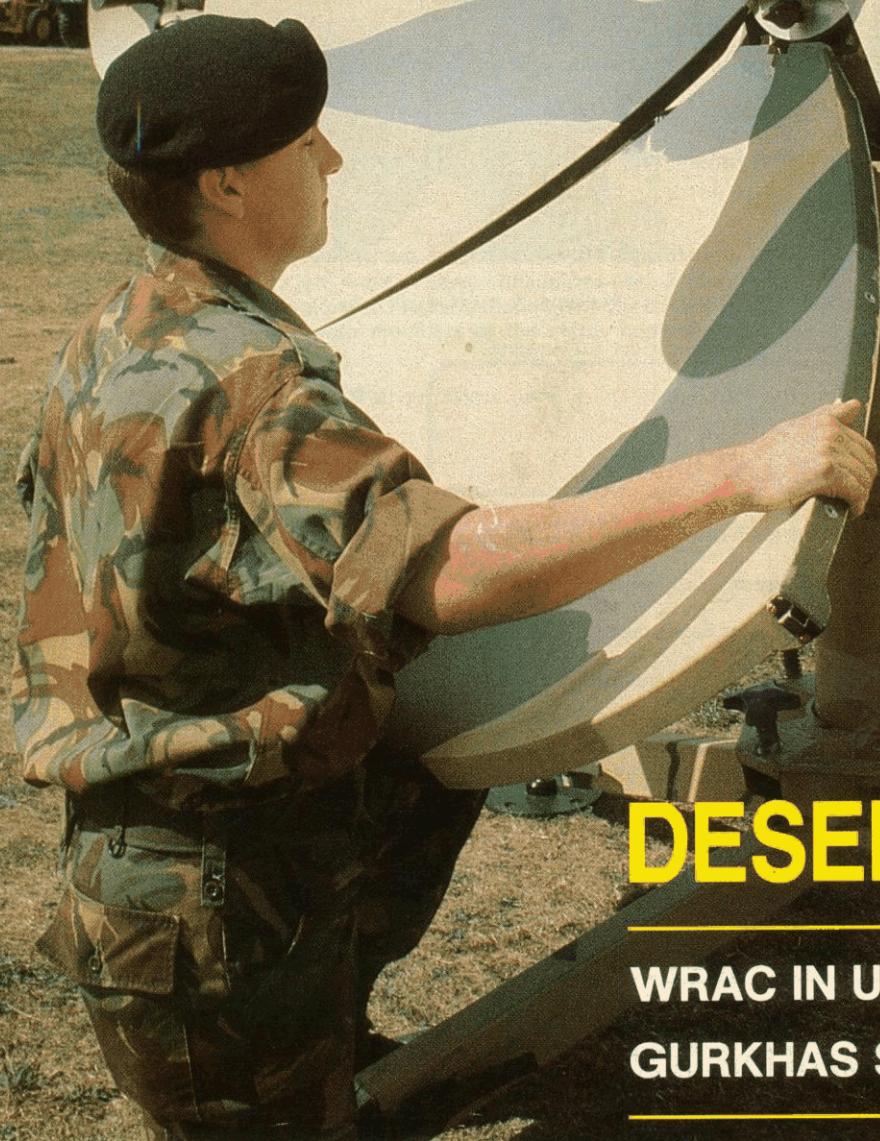


SOLDIER

SEPTEMBER 17 1990

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FRONT COVER: Sig Ian Atkin of 30 Signal Regiment puts the finishing touches of sand and slate grey camouflage paint to a satellite dish which is being used by the regiment's personnel in the Gulf area to provide communications for Royal Air Force squadrons.

Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



PicturePO (Phot): Stuart Antibus

When Pte Adrian Jackson (left) and Cpl Barry Little joined HMS Jupiter in April they didn't expect to find themselves in the front line of the Gulf crisis. Both men belong to the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, which is affiliated to the Leander-class frigate. Soldiers from the battalion swap places with members of the ship's company regularly.

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RSM's
bonus

Congratulations to WO1 (RSM) B Cornes RCT, of Moscow Camp, BFPO 806, who wins a £50 cheque for HOAY competition No 493. Runners-up are Mr Tony Tracey, of Aldershot, and Mr R W Owens, of Holywell, Clwyd, who receive book prizes. Turn to Page 43 for a new competition.

Readers' silver service sought

MY family has recently inherited several pieces of silver which were originally presented to a distant relative about whom we have very little knowledge.

One piece is inscribed "Presented to RSM J Berridge

by the Officers and members of G Troop, PAOLYC on the occasion of his wedding, January 1, 1891".

Another reads "Presented to TS Major J Berridge by F Troop, 7th Dragoon Guards". Can any **SOLDIER** reader

give further information about the units concerned or advise on the whereabouts of published works? Our family would be exceedingly grateful.

— **Ronald Eyley, Park View, Wye Bank, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE4 1BH.**

Suez medal 'not rejected'

Asylum used by Army

THANK you for your publicity about my "Nightingale and Netley" exhibition which raised £151 for Army and nursing charities.

I am continuing my research into Netley Hospital and am interested in information on the Military Asylum (D Block), used by the Army from 1870 to 1978.

If any readers have documents concerning the asylum, or served there, I would like to hear from them.

I am also preparing a Netley cassette which will have about 12 tracks including the voice of Florence Nightingale and Victorian military music. The cost will be about £3 and part of the profits will be donated to Army and nursing charities. It should be available in about three months.

To enable me to gauge demand, would interested readers please write to me. — **P Kirkby, 7 Sutton Gardens, St Peter Street, Winchester SO23 8HP.**

MOBB



Link with Lancers

I WAS amazed to learn (**SOLDIER**, August 6) that Cox's and King's bank had business links with the military going back more than 200 years, starting in 1758 when Richard Cox was appointed agent for The First Regiment of Foot Guards.

I have only recently discovered that my ancestor Edward Manners (1745-1811) joined the regiment as a lieutenant from the 21st Lancers in 1763 and served for seven years.

I have some facts about him but it seems that the bank's records may now reveal more illuminating information that will add colour to his family and personality. — **Leon Taylor, Hampton, Middx.**

Reunions

● **4th Bn, Devonshire Regiment (1st Rifle Vols):** OCA Reunion October 6, 7pm. Details from Mr Stan Handford, 14 Thornbury Avenue, Exeter (tel: 0392 66816).

● **RAVC Association** annual reunion, September 29. Details from Regimental Secretary RAVC, RAVC Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0SL (tel: 0644-63281 ext 45).

Searchline

● **A G Foot:** Heirs of A G Foot, who was awarded a pair of Artillery field glasses as a prize in December 1860, sought by Mrs G W Hill, 6 Agnes Street, Barrie, Ontario, Canada L4M 2S2, who wishes to pass them on.

● **Mr Charles Whitcombe:** born Seaham Harbour August 18, 1920: Information sought by Mr Douglas Whitcombe (tel: 081-948 8022), whose father, Mr Charles Henry Whitcombe, was ex-Royal Scots Fusiliers.

by *Mouse*

Experts on NBC back in demand

THE FACT that everyone now accepts Iraqi forces used gas in the eight-year-long Gulf War has led to a marked increase of interest in chemical warfare in Britain and an upsurge of inquiries from officers and men keen to make sure they are up to date, writes **Bill Moore**.

Suddenly the NBC trainers who have worked doggedly over the years to convince an increasingly sceptical audience of their importance find themselves flavour of the month.

Many of them are now 'available for consultation' 24 hours a day, including weekends.

SOLDIER went to Travers Barracks, Aldershot, to join the queue, so to speak, at the door of Sgt Jeff Porter, Chief Instructor NBC, first aid, health and hygiene, with 65 Training Squadron, The Depot and Training Regiment RCT.

Britain, having given up its chemical warfare capability 27 years ago, has concentrated on defence, protection and detection. The result of this work was visible in one of Sgt Porter's classrooms.

A series of masks traced their development from 1939, when a First World War box-style respirator was still in use, to the latest S 10, complete with canister.

The fit of the facepiece of the S 10 is all important. It comes in four sizes and is adjusted under the supervision of an instructor.

The latest hooded zip-on suit, lined with impregnated charcoal which absorbs chemicals, carries patches of one-colour detector paper which turn blue on contact with a chemical.

Three-colour paper turns yellow for non-persistent nerve agent, red for blister agent and green for persistent nerve agents in liquid form only.

Boots and gloves complete the suit, in which a soldier carries his personal decontamination kit for use after a chemical attack... (DKP 1 contains packets of fuller's earth marked "Blot-bang-rub" and DPK 2 a plastic puffer bottle of the same fine powder).

Fuller's earth is a type of clay which can absorb up to ten times its weight in liquid.

Troops are trained in the buddy-buddy system to help one another complete the decontamination process - which sometimes resembles powdering a baby's bottom.

They carry NAPs - nerve agent pre-treatment sets - which are taken when the NBC alert reaches a certain stage and which act as a prophylactic rather like



Men of 27 Regiment RCT gather before going through the CS chamber at Travers Barracks, Aldershot



Sgt Arthur Davenport decontaminates himself



Chemical recce section commander in action

For detection, units rely mainly on a 19lb box called NAIAD - Nerve Agent Immobilised Enzyme Alarm and Detector - which a trained operator can set up in eight seconds to don their proper masks when a warning is received.

This mini-chemical lab samples the air around it and sounds an alarm on recognising a nerve agent (it detects any known sort) and warns against hydrogen



The facelet. Each soldier gets three

cyanide (contained in, among other things, cigarette smoke).

It is so sensitive that even floor polish containing certain ingredients has been known to set NAIAD off.

NAIAD may be dug in (as long as it can take in and expel the air samples) up to 800 yards from a unit location but is likely to be

● Turn to Page 23

NEWSLINE

It's no sweat for Gulf signallers

MEN from 30 Signal Regiment based at Blandford Camp, Dorset now serving in the Gulf are acclimatising well in temperatures which have exceeded 56 degrees C.

In all, 185 soldiers of the Royal Corps of Signals have been deployed to the Gulf area and detachments are now based at all Royal Air Force locations.

Capt Ted Flint, OC 640 Signal Troop, who has been co-opted into the operations room at Blandford, told SOLDIER that signallers' morale in the Gulf was high.

"They have been busy with NBC drills, physical training and zeroing their weapons. They have even been playing football against the RAF, although I cannot reveal the score," he said.

One hiccup that was hastily rectified was the signallers' footwear. They left Blandford in black combat boots which gave the wearers severe problems in the extreme temperatures of their new environment. Desert boots were flown out and feet are reported to be much happier.

Families writing to the Gulf are being advised that only next of kin may use "Blueies" (Forces' aerogrammes), which do not require a stamp. The words "HM Forces Gulf" should be endorsed in the space where a stamp would go.

Letters should be addressed to the individual, stating number, rank and name, 30 Signal Regiment, Operation Granby, followed by the relevant BFPO number which can be obtained from unit families' officers.

Airmail letters and parcels will be charged at the normal rates.

Eleven sappers from the Royal Engineers' Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill, London, have established five tri-Service post offices at Dhahran, Thumrayt, Seeb, Riyad and Bahrain.

Said Maj Graham Meecher: "Arrangements for a surface mail service have been made and will be available shortly".

As SOLDIER was going to press, 1,000 kg of mail had been dispatched to the Gulf.



The Army was there to bid bon voyage to the Gulf-bound RFA *Diligence* when it sailed from the Falkland Islands. A Corps of Drums of Zulu Coy, 1 RRF, the resident infantry company in the Falklands, played nautical tunes as the 11,000 tonne forward repair ship sailed away to give support to

the Armilla Patrol. As the ship left Mare Harbour, the Royal Air Force saluted with fly pasts by Phantom fighters and Chinook and Sea King helicopters from RAF Mount Pleasant. Pictured with the Fusiliers musicians are Zulu Coy's 2iC, Capt Peter Gorton (left), and Lt Cdr Owen Garratt, RN.

PAX cover assured

SERVICEMEN and women who signed up with PAX - the personal accident insurance scheme for the Army and Royal Navy - before August 12 will be covered if they are sent to the Gulf. Those who sign up after that date will not.

A spokesman for the PAX underwriters said that anyone who took out cover after August 12 would find that their policy had an exclusion relating to the Gulf area. They

would be covered for all other parts of the world. Premiums have remained unchanged and include cover for dependants.

PAX was launched last year with the approval of the Ministry of Defence to cover death and injury for Army and Royal Navy personnel on and off duty. Individual cover starts at £1.50 a unit a month or £2.84 to include dependants. Up to 15 units, a total of £150,000 cover can be bought.

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Welsh return to the Orient

A FLAG bearing the emblem of a Welsh dragon flies above Stanley Fort on Hong Kong island, symbolising the fact that the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, is now the resident British infantry battalion in the British Army's last remaining oriental outpost.

An advance party, which included the goat mascot Taffy III, arrived several weeks ago. But it was not until the week the main body arrived with commanding officer Lt Col Peter Kerruish that the Welsh insignia went on show.

Including families, about 1,400 people were involved in the move from Warminster on Salisbury Plain, where 1 RRW was demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry.

It will take some weeks for the new battalion to settle into its new home and it is not due to do its first six-week stint of guarding the border with China until October.

Since The Royal Regiment of Wales came into being in 1969, with the amalgamation of the South Wales Borderers and the Welch Regiment, the 1st Battalion has been in Hong Kong only once before. That was in 1980 for a six-month emergency tour on the border when the Hong Kong Government tightened its policy on immigration.

However, in the 1960s, just before the amalgamation, the 1st Battalions of both the South Wales Borderers and the Welch Regiment did successive tours based at Stanley Fort as resident units.

Germans on the Plain

GERMAN soldiers took part in a British Army exercise involving more than 6,000 troops on Salisbury Plain.

The 72-strong unit from the 3rd Company, Panzer Grenadier Battalion 202 based at Hemer joined the British 19th Infantry Brigade in a fast-moving mobile exercise spread over two weeks.

The Germans were taking part in an "exchange visit". A British contingent is scheduled to take part in an exercise in Germany later this year.



Taffy III and Goatmaster LCpl David Joseph fall in with Lt Col Peter Kerruish, commanding officer of 1 RRW, at Stanley Fort. On the left is Capt Ken Draycott, who served at Stanley Fort with the South Wales Borderers in the 1960s, and on the extreme right is LCpl Philip Powell, who served there with the Welch Regiment

Best of enemies

TWO Territorial Army battalions of The Royal Green Jackets found themselves in heated opposition on Salisbury Plain culminating in a full scale battle on Sidbury Hill.

It was very much a family "quarrel" with London's 4 RGJ up against 5 RGJ, which was formed from the 4th Battalion's Oxford and Aylesbury companies three years ago.

The battalions spent a weekend, with temperatures soaring into the 90s, patrolling against each other across the eastern half of the Plain.

M3 impresses

A TRIALS team from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment at Hameln, West Germany is reported to be impressed with the new M3 amphibious bridging equipment which is due to replace the M2 amphibian in the mid-1990s. The new M3 rig, which has not yet been accepted into service, has proved easy to drive and manoeuvre on land and water.

Safety signals

WINNERS of a military road safety competition staged by the 1st Armoured Division were Celle-based 14 Signal Regiment. More than 800 soldiers and their families stationed in north-west Germany took part. Runners-up were the 1 Armd Div Transport Regiment from Bunde.



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Hero David commended

Barrow Army Cadet instructor SSI **David Jones**, who saved an 87-year-old disabled neighbour when fire broke out in his block of flats, has been awarded the rare honour of a commendation from GOC North West District, Maj Gen **Tony Crowfoot**.

The citation, presented to David by Gen Crowfoot at the Cumbria ACF annual camp in Ripon, praises his bravery during the fire last December. David then commander of the Ulverston detachment, was woken by his smoke alarm when fire broke out in an unoccupied flat. After calling the emergency services he evacuated two elderly neighbours before re-entering the smoke filled building to break into the flat of a partially blind and deaf neighbour to rescue her.



Picture David Harrison, RAF Cranwell

PEOPLE



Gdsmn **Paul McIlvogue**, Lt Col **Sean Gavin**, Sgt **David Williams** and Capt **Stuart Mayor**.

● See also Page 37

Changing Colours

Carrying the Colour of the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, is Flying Officer **Sean Irwin** who, until he graduated as an officer in the RAF on August 2, was a WO1 in the REME.

Sean, who served with the Army Air Corps until his transfer, is the first ex-soldier to carry the Colour on parade at the graduation ceremony. Watching proudly were wife **Wendy** and father **Raymond**, who held a commission in the 5 Innis DG.

Sean is to become an instructor in the Education Branch at RAF Newton.

Camp break

Liverpool University officer cadets, who took a break from training at summer camp at Sennybridge are (from the left): front, Woman Officer Cadets **Deborah Smith**, **Christina Tosi**, **Pamela Lee** and **Joanne Welson**; back, Officer Cadets **Paul White**, **Skippy Carroll**, **Peter Clarke** and **Ian Woolley**.



King of Spain at Academy

King **Carlos** of Spain meets newly-commissioned members of the Women's Royal Army Corps as he reviews the 103rd Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The Queen's Medal was awarded to 2nd Lt **Andrew Fyfe**, the Sword of Honour to Senior Under Officer **Simon Gilderson**, the Graduate Sword of Honour to 2nd Lt (Senior Under Officer) **James Telfer**, the Sash of Honour to 2nd Lt (Senior Under Officer) **Rachel Cane** and the Overseas Award to Cadet Sergeant **Bhojraj** from Mauritius. On the left is Academy Sergeant Major WO1 **Mike Nesbitt**.



Kitchen couple

Royal Corps of Transport, and Lorna is the only woman to have served with them. The master chef is easy to remember, too – he is Staff Sergeant Cook!

Framed!

before going on to attend the re-dedication of the North Transept of York Minster.

It depicts the arrival of the Queen at York Station. She was met by a Guard of Honour furnished by the battalion,

WO1 (RSM) **Brian Atkinson** said they were delighted with the addition to the Mess. The artist is **Barry Agar**.

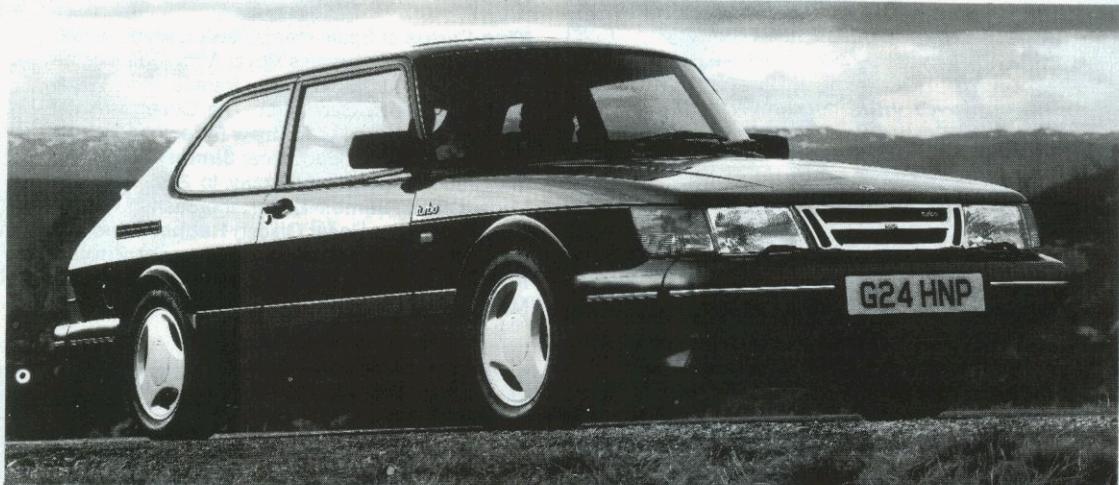


Well connected

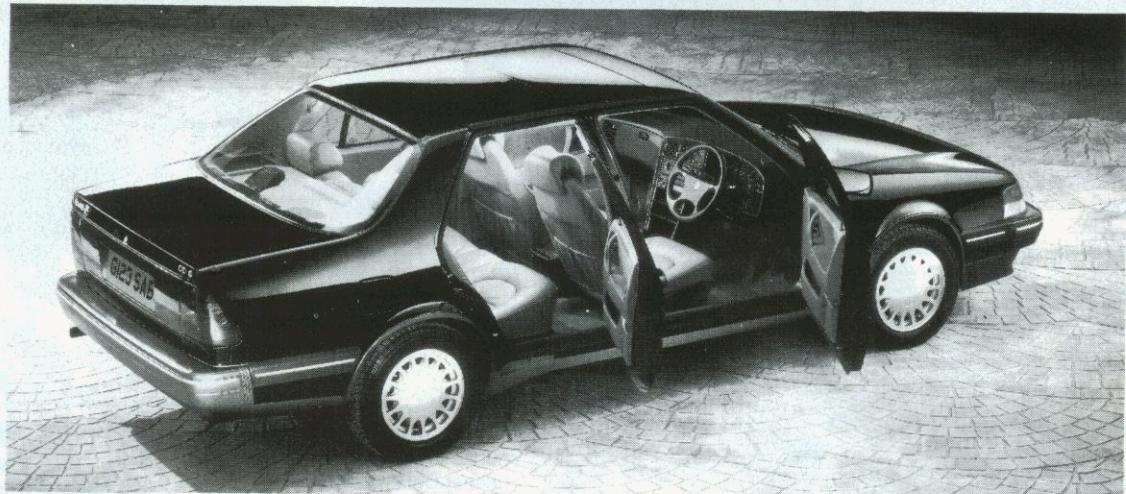
The surname might give a clue to the famous family connections of the newly-commissioned Women's Royal Army Corps officer on the left. She is 22-year-old **Natasha Collins**, half-sister of film star **Joan** and author **Jackie**. Neither were able to attend her passing out at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Natasha, who graduated from Birmingham University in economic history and politics, is to be posted as an assistant adjutant with an armoured engineer regiment in BAOR.

Picture: Mike Perring

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Prisoner priests return

A guitar made from surplus POW bedframes was one of several unusual items presented to staff at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester by some rather special former German prisoners-of-war held in Camp 186 during the last years of the Second World War.

After the Germans had been repatriated, Camp 186 at Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester, became known to generations of British Service men under sentence. Two years ago the modern MCTC was rebuilt on the site of the old hutt accommodation, and the camp also houses the regimental headquarters of the Military Provost Staff Corps.

The party of ex-POWs who have just made a pilgrimage to Colchester were some of the 120 who began training for the Roman Catholic priesthood while in captivity. Sixty completed the training before returning to Germany.

The visitors were led by Bishop Bernhard Schilling, former Bishop of Goroka, Papua New Guinea. He was one of three Colchestrians (as they were known) to become bishops.

For most of the group of 30, 16 of whom were priests, it was their first return visit to the camp.

Camp 186's Roman Catholic seminary was established in 1944 with War Office approval and the help of the church authorities. The trainee priests shared the same conditions as other POWs, and when the camp consisted solely of tents they wrote on paper salvaged from cement bags emptied as work parties built the hutt accommodation which stood until 1988.

The German visitors were welcomed by Maj Bill Humphries MPSC, who was swamped with memorabilia by the ex-POWs which they wanted to present to the MCTC/MPSC.

Only one Nissen hut remains of the old camp, which consisted of several compounds for different categories of prisoner, including war criminals awaiting trial at Nuremberg.

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Mr John Keane, who is to follow British forces to the Gulf as the country's official war artist. He has been given a £10,000 commission by the Imperial War Museum to produce paintings to add to its collection.

London option

Servicemen and their families looking for a warm and relatively inexpensive welcome away from home this Christmas will find that the Union Jack Club in London offers an appealing option.

The Forces' "hotel" near Waterloo Station is once more providing a special Christmas package at reduced rates, with en-suite bedrooms a new feature this year.

The club, which is also introducing bargain winter weekend packages between December 1 and February 28, is in Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. Winter package bookings should be made on 071-928 4814.

Job course in jeopardy

A successful small business course run by a London polytechnic for Service men and women about to return to civvy street is in danger of closing due to lack of sponsorship.

The course, originally sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission, first ran into trouble in March this year when the Training Agency's budget was reduced.

In stepped the Royal British Legion, which felt the course

was so valuable that it put up the £45,000 needed to keep it going until March 1991. But because of other heavy demands on its benevolent funds it cannot offer support beyond that.

With the expected increase in numbers returning to civilian life, particularly from the Army, the Legion is already planning how it will help to meet the upsurge in demand for resettlement training and counselling and is anxious that the course should continue.

It already helps ex-Service men and women in many ways – from finding them jobs to providing vocational training at its own centre at Ellesmere Port.

It also offers an advisory service for those aiming to set up in business and even operates a loan scheme to help them.

Any potential sponsor of the small business course, or indeed anyone who wants to enrol as a student, should contact Ken Pugh at the Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NL.

Earls Court windfall

Service charities are likely to enjoy a bumper windfall from this year's 100th Royal Tournament, thanks to a record attendance of 320,496.

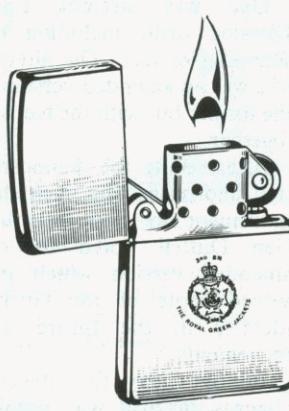
"It has been quite an extraordinary year," commented Tournament Director, Col Iain Ferguson.

"Not only were 13 out of the 29 performances 100 per cent sell-outs, including the unreserved seats, which can only be purchased on the day, but several hundred disappointed people have to be turned away on the final night.

"Ticket touts were also in evidence at Earls Court Tube Station, a new situation."

It all augurs well for next year's Army-led show, which will focus on the Cavalry and the American Civil War and run from July 10 to 17. Booking opens in January.

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Gurkhas adopt new drill at the double

FALLING into step in a big way are the Brigade of Gurkhas who have undergone a radical change of pace, writes Laurie Manton.

Reason for the adoption of new drill movements, based loosely on Light Division drill, throughout the Gurkhas is to prepare the Brigade for the period after 1997, when the majority of its soldiers will be stationed in the UK and inevitably be serving alongside troops of the Light Division.

The decision to change followed a meeting of the Council of Colonels of Gurkha units, after which the Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, Maj Gen Peter Duffell, directed that all Gurkha units will convert to the new drill by the end of the year.

The order follows the introduction of SA 80 and provides the opportunity to introduce a degree of uniformity in drill movements across all Gurkha units.

Currently only the 2nd Goorkhas actually carry out a

form of Light Division drill. The 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles and Corps units do not.

Changing the drill traditions of a lifetime meant the Gurkhas had to seek advice – and it came from the Light Division Depot at Flowerdown, near Winchester in the form of two experienced drill instructors – Sgts David Curry, RGJ and Christopher Ireland, LI.

Two squads were rehearsed by the SNCOS to demonstrate two types of drill under the watchful eyes of the MGBG and the Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, Brig Miles Hunt Davis.

One was straight Light Division drill, including the stamping of feet. The alternative was an amended version of the former but with the feet slid together.

After seeing the demonstration and subjecting each drill movement to close scrutiny, Gen Duffell opted for the amended version which preserved some of the Gurkha identity in the future drill movements.

For Sgt Curry, the subject of changes in drill was nothing new. As a Green Jacket, his drill differed to the Light Infantry who stamped feet and lifted the foot six inches before driving it in.

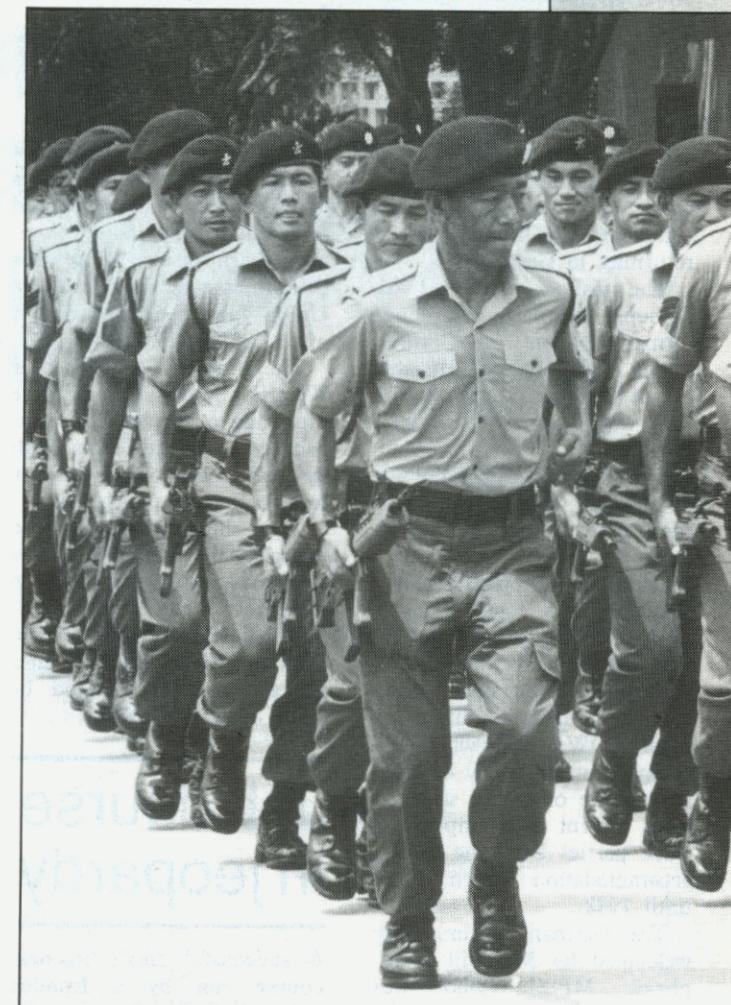
The whole of the Light Division got together and agreed to adopt one common drill throughout.

"All the quirks have gone and Green Jackets can now parade with the Light Infantry," said Sgt Curry.

The decision to adopt Light

Thanks to the Light Division

To thank the Light Division for its assistance during the change in Gurkha drill, the Commandant of the Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas, Lt Col Tim O'Donnell, presented a ceremonial Kothimora Kukri on behalf of Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, Brig Miles Hunt-Davis, to the Light Division.



Division drill is particularly welcome in the Brigade of Gurkhas as it brings with it a general economy and practicality, orders issued on the bugle and drums and multiple movements on single words of command. All Gurkha battalions are rifle regiments with long-standing traditions and affiliations with many of the regiments in the Light Division.

By the end of this year the new drill will be standard throughout and it is already winning praise with the Commandant of the Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas who believes it is the economy of movement and orders that appeal to most people.

Above – Doubling across the square during the Gurkha drill conversion course was this squad of drill instructors who will now teach their own units the new drill movements

Right – Representatives of seven Gurkha units took part. They were (left to right) Queen's Gurkha Signals, 10 GR, Gurkha Transport Regiment, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, 2nd Goorkhas, 6 and 7 GR

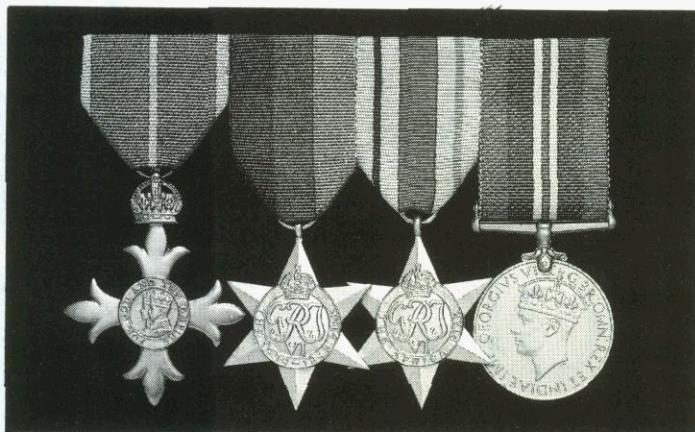
Sgt David Curry laid down a beat for converts to the new drill



A generous gesture from Sgt David Curry (right), one of two drill instructors from the Light Division Depot sent to Hong Kong to oversee the change in Gurkha drill. To mark the occasion, he presented a 100-year-old drill cane, belonging to his family, to the Chief Instructor of Drill at the Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas, Lt (QGO) Manbahadur Gurung, 6 GR



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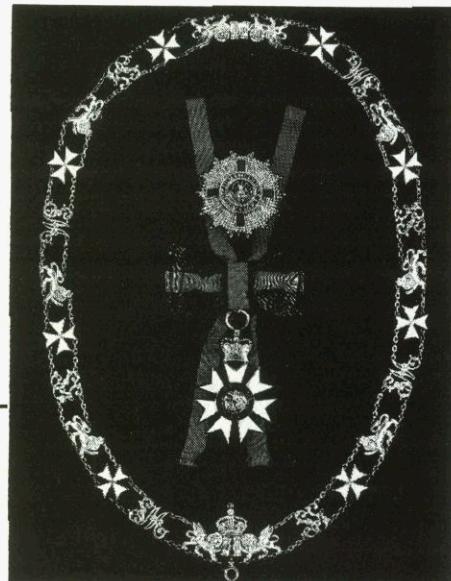
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The team left to right are CSgt Colin Robertson, with handheld vapour sampler; LCpl Colin Miller, with machine which detects metal and explosive within vehicles with double skins; Pioneer LSgt Derek Reynolds, whose computerised organic tracer "cooks" air samples; LSgt Nick England, with the Propane kit and Pipe Sgt Mackinnon – the man who makes the notes

Secrets of the Search Cell

Words:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Mike Perring



A MAN has to be ready to turn his hand to anything when an infantry battalion does an unaccompanied tour in Northern Ireland.

Hence the variety of skills to be found in the Intermediate Search Cell run by F Company, 2nd Scots Guards, in Fort George, Londonderry.

At its head was the CQMS – CSgt Colin Robertson. He was backed up by the Pioneer Sergeant, LSgt Derek Reynolds, the Pipe Sergeant, Sgt Albi Mackinnon, all of the Scots Guards, plus LSgt Nick England and LCpl Carl Miller of REME.

The team is on call 24 hours a day and operates in a building which is a cross between a warehouse, a garage workshop and a doctor's waiting room.

It is to Fort George that the police send – for a preliminary check-up – any vehicle which raises suspicions at the permanent vehicle checkpoints on the border.

Any vehicle means any vehicle.

When a lorry loaded with

scrap metal was sent in the team had to unload it (a fork-lift truck is always on hand).

Inspection over, the scrap had to be re-loaded.

A mysterious margarine tin in a "black taxi" was dealt with very gingerly . . . and found to be full of money.

"Tips . . . I'd forgotten about them," said the driver.

"We're always finding coins down the side of seats," said LCpl Miller.

The cash is returned to drivers, who can use the waiting room if they wish.

It was there that a young couple sat holding hands and mystified why their car was receiving such attention.

What they didn't know was that the smell of marzipan – a give-away in the case of some explosives – had been detected.

They should have said they

were just married and the car had been used to take the wedding cake to the reception.

Then there was the day a huge refrigerated lorry arrived and the meat had to be shifted to another! A very moving story . . .

The aim of the team is to prepare a preliminary report on vehicles to pass to the police so they can decide what, if any, action to take.

The paper work is copious, for the readings of a range of instruments have to be recorded.

There is the COT (computerised organic tracer) which bakes samples of air in three little ovens and indicates the presence of benzine or nitro-glycerine; the EVD is the explosive vapour detector, the HED, the high explosive detector, and the Propane kit checks fertiliser for its nitrogen



Pipe Sgt Mackinnon with another air sampler

content – and it all has to be written down by Pipe Sgt Mackinnon.

Lovers of the pibroch will be pleased to learn that he is keeping in his hand by practising on the banks of the Foyle each evening.

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Cpl Joanne Elliott and Strom who team up to guard married quarters at Clooney Base, Londonderry

Gentle touch at the sharp end

MEMBERS of the Women's Royal Army Corps are hailing as a success the chance to work with the Royal Military Police in Northern Ireland.

Though the posts are for eight months only, there is no shortage of volunteers from women soldiers keen to take up the challenge of working at the sharp end.

The WRAC personnel are employed as searchers attached to 175 and 176 Provost Companies, RMP. Their job is to search civilian women and children and help with house searches.

They can also work at vehicle checkpoints.

Another opening for women soldiers to work in Northern Ireland is in an armoury where they are responsible for

the issue and handing back of weapons and ammunition.

Maj Willie Woods, OC 176 Pro Coy, praised them for being "neat and methodical accountants".

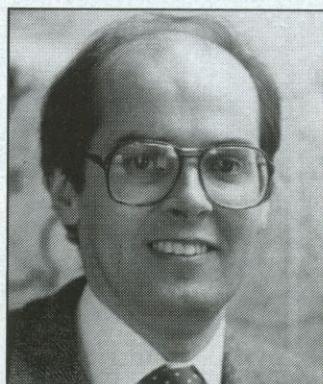
WRAC Provost NCOs go on patrol with their male RMP colleagues wearing combats and helmets. They can also work as dog handlers in the province.

Maj Woods said that the female contribution was outstanding.

"The gentle touch is paying dividends. It softens the Army's profile and they are well accepted."

LCpl Debra Reynolds, who usually works as a supply specialist at COD Donnington, has enjoyed every moment of her job as a searcher.

Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Perring



Maj Willie Woods, OC 176 Pro Coy

She said: "I've never regretted applying for the job after reading about it in Orders."

"I realised beforehand it could be difficult when you first arrive, but it was the new challenge and the chance of doing something completely different that appealed."

"I have made a lot of new friends and the girls I work with are good fun. I believe local people are more tolerant of women soldiers and I have come across no real hassle."

Some searchers are based at Aldergrove, where the feminine touch is very much in evidence. There can't be many Army offices featuring pink walls, rose-patterned frieze, mint green ceiling and a piece of married quarter carpeting! A rose garden has also been created.

That's all down to the influence of WRAC Provost Sgt Maj Sue Russell, platoon commander of about 20 women searchers. She has noticed many of them undergoing a rapid metamorphosis during their eight-month stint.

She explained: "Sometimes

● Turn to next page

Gentle touch in Ulster

• From Page 19

younger girls may feel under-confident when they first arrive. Here, we introduce them to a wider range of activities and Army experiences. This dramatically speeds up their maturing process."

Women soldiers also feel less vulnerable when they go out on the streets, thanks to LCpl Sharon Dring, a judo blue belt who instructs them on arrest and restraint techniques.

Sgt Maj Russell: "The girls very much enjoy the work and have a better rapport with civilian women. There aren't many jobs where you get to fly from duty to duty by helicopter. Many go on to ask for a transfer to a unit in Northern Ireland."

LCpl Angela Rider was posted into the province straight from training at Guildford.

She said: "Within six months of joining up I found myself on the streets of Northern Ireland and I love it."

Maj Ian Stenning, OC 175 Pro Coy, said: "RMP are well-received in the province and a pretty face is always welcome. They are invaluable."

Petite Cpl Joanne Elliott, 5ft 5in and weighing 8½ stone, provides a stark contrast to Strom, her six-stone Rottweiler guard dog.

As a team they patrol married quarters at Clooney Base, Londonderry. Joanne is only the second female dog handler to work in Northern Ireland, a job she fancied because of her love of animals.

She said it took up to five months to establish a bond between handler and dog.

Of Strom she said: "It's fair to say we are impressed with each other."

Meanwhile, back at that pink and mint green office at Aldergrove . . . Sgt Maj Russell explained its transformation. "It was previously used by The Queen's Regiment and was a yukky yellow colour. I couldn't work with that – the previous occupant wouldn't recognise it now."



Above – Sgt Maj Sue Russell. See also back cover

Left: Off-duty searchers at Aldergrove relax with a game of Monopoly

Right: Going to work in a helicopter are LCpl Julie Rosenwold (left), LCpl Jackie Brown (middle), LCpl Taff Harris (top) and LCpl Sue McLachlan. WRAC personnel fly by Lynx to various locations



Above – Street graffiti provides the backdrop as a WRAC member joins a patrol in Londonderry

Right: – LCpl Kay Clough carries out a neat and methodical accounting task in the armoury

Below: – Cpl Sharon Dring demonstrates arrest and restraint techniques to LCpl Mel Miles. LCpl Claire Newton is the unfortunate "victim"



Above – Searchers LCpl Angie Rider (left) and LCpl Taff Evans prepare for a street patrol

Left: A woman soldier makes notes at a vehicle check point

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S46A

S46A	Hard gold plated with embossed RA Badge.	18.00 17.00
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S64	RA - Regimental Zig Zag - 3" blade	5.05 4.68
S64A	RA - Regimental Zig Zag	

First chemical attack was made in Flanders' fields

MODERN gas warfare is 75 years old. It began in Flanders in 1915 when the Germans opened cylinders containing chlorine under pressure, forming choking clouds which drifted over Allied trenches.

Other chemicals were used later to form more toxic clouds, and in 1917 mustard

liquid, a corrosive agent giving off a vapour which sometimes remained dangerous for days, was fired in shells.

Agents which attack the nervous system – Soman and Sarin – were found in Nazi shell dumps in 1945 but there is no record of them having been used by the Germans.

Agents are categorised as persistent (such as mustard and other "blister" types) or non-persistent (which disperse either immediately or comparatively quickly).

● The word "agent" has replaced "gas" because they are disseminated in various forms – liquid, aerosol and vapour.



Above – Setting up NAIAD – the procedure is always according to the written instructions.
Left – A soldier using CAM while on recce.
Right – A nerve agent casualty gives himself an immediate self-aid injection in the thigh with a Combo pen.

NBC expertise in demand

● From Page 7

placed much nearer and is always observed by a "chemical sentry".

In certain situations, a section of three soldiers will carry out a chemical reconnaissance – two men moving parallel about 15-20 metres apart carrying what looks like a car vacuum cleaner – a Chemical Agent Monitor (CAM) – to sniff the ground in front of them. CAMs can be set to detect either nerve or blister agents and normally each one of a pair is set in the alternative mode.

The section leader walks to the rear of his men marking danger areas with prepared signs he carries and noting their position with map co-ordinates.

"It takes about half an hour to check out an area the size of a football pitch," said Sgt Porter.

Should a soldier become a chemical

casualty he can give himself immediate treatment by jabbing himself in the fleshy part of the thigh with a Combo pen which injects atropine (an antidote derived from Deadly Nightshade). He then takes, or is given, a calming Valium pill contained in the shaft of the pen.

After decontamination, casualties are evacuated in what is virtually a protective envelope with a window in it.

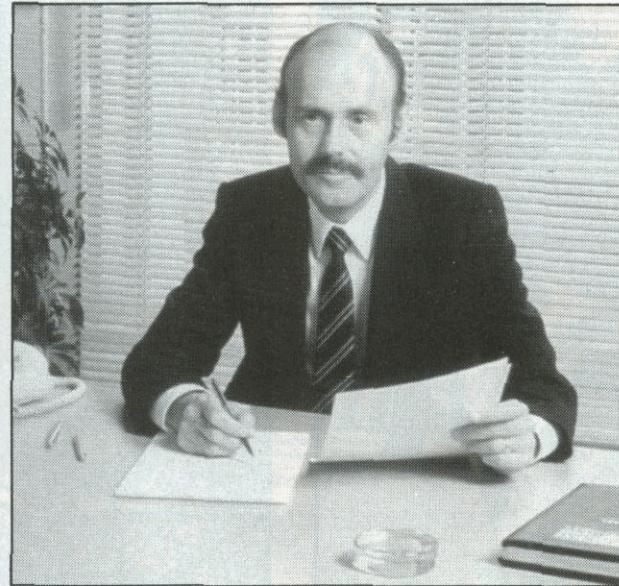
Walking wounded wear a jacket-length cowl – also with a window.

In the Gulf War the Iraqis used blister gas defensively against Iranian mass attacks. It can, however, be used offensively as in 1918 when the Germans saturated and isolated areas on the wings of assault areas.

The sound training of British troops and the high quality of their protection towards the end of the First World War greatly reduced the value of gas as a weapon.



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Bowled over by Hohne's Hellcats

BELFAST's Royal Victoria Hospital has been bowled over by a donation of DM3,300 (about £1,090) from the Hohne Hellcats.

That's the colourful name of the **40th Field Regiment RA** ten-pin bowling team. Team members staged a 24-hour bowling session in the new Roberts Centre in Hohne Garrison to raise the money by sponsorship.

The Lowland Gunners did well in the 1 Armd Div championships, finishing second to 1 ADSR, and have been training hard for the BAOR finals in November.

In the Hellcats are SSgts Paul Milner and Roy Varley (who replaced SSgt Mark Alston on posting), Sgt Alan Burgess and Bdr Bish Bishop.

★ ★ ★

A generous lot are the TA personnel of **265 Signal Squadron** based at Bexleyheath. They raised £500 for the Mayor of Bexley's charity appeal, £500 for Service charities, and have now started another £1,000 fund-raising campaign.

Sgt Peter Morgan filled sandbags to make £125 and Maj Charlie Homewood ran the Swanley half marathon for £200.

★ ★ ★

Fourteen Parachute Regiment veterans of the Battle of Arnhem, all aged over 70, parachuted into Studland Bay, Poole, Dorset, to raise £50,000 for the Airborne Forces Appeal. Oldest of the veterans, who were picked up in the sea by Royal Marines, was 81-year-old Lt Col Pat Glover from Muncaster, York.

★ ★ ★

The men with the golden gun boosted Gloucester's contribution to **Telethon 90** by the grand total of £1,650. The locally-based **1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment** dusted down an old 120mm combat



Standing proudly on top of Mont Blanc is Spr Andrew Wood, a Territorial Army soldier serving with 591 EOD Squadron RE based at Chatham. Andrew, a member of the Survival Club which arranges unusual adventures for its members, raised several hundred pounds for Soldier in Need by climbing the famous mountain in the French Alps.

anti-tank gun and hauled it more than ten miles from Cheltenham to Gloucester Docks, encouraging people on



Anne's full house

Capt Anne Nicholson plays a winning hand for charity after proceeds of the York Garrison open day at Imphal Barracks had been gathered in. Capt Nicholson, adjutant of York Garrison, is pictured with the first batch of cheques going out to a variety of local and national charities. In all, the open day raised more than £5,000.

the roadside to throw their money down the barrel.

The "stand-and-deliver" tactics of the Anti-Tank Platoon paid off and a cheque for £1,650 was subsequently presented to Central TV by CSgt Bob Kuczaj and Sgt Jim Beeley.

★ ★ ★

Twelve men from **250 (Hull) Field Ambulance RAMC (V)**, led by staff instructor SSgt John Howitt, hope to hand over more than £3,000 to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association after walking the Offas Dyke path from Chepstow to Prestatyn.

The team covered 177 miles in eight days, averaging nearly 22 miles a day. SSgt Howitt, a Regular in the RAMC, took part in last year's wheelchair push from John O'Groats to Land's End which raised more than £10,000 for BLESMA.

★ ★ ★

A sponsored 24-hour roller-skate marathon around the grounds of RMA Sandhurst by Pte Stemp of **44 Squadron RCT** earned the super sum of £881 for the ITV Telethon appeal.

Hot foot from Bicester

Eleven members of **A Company, 16 Battalion RAOC** from Bicester set a hot pace when they climbed the three highest peaks in the United Kingdom to raise money for the British Institute for Brain Injured Children.

Led by CSM John Dickie, they galloped up Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis in just 26 hours, easily beating the 54 hours they achieved last year.

And they did it on the day Britain recorded its highest ever temperature.

"Scafell was particularly hard work in the heat," said CSM Dickie, "and it was midnight by the time we got to the top of Ben Nevis, so we couldn't see a thing!"

Nevertheless, they raised about £2,000 for the Somerset-based charity.

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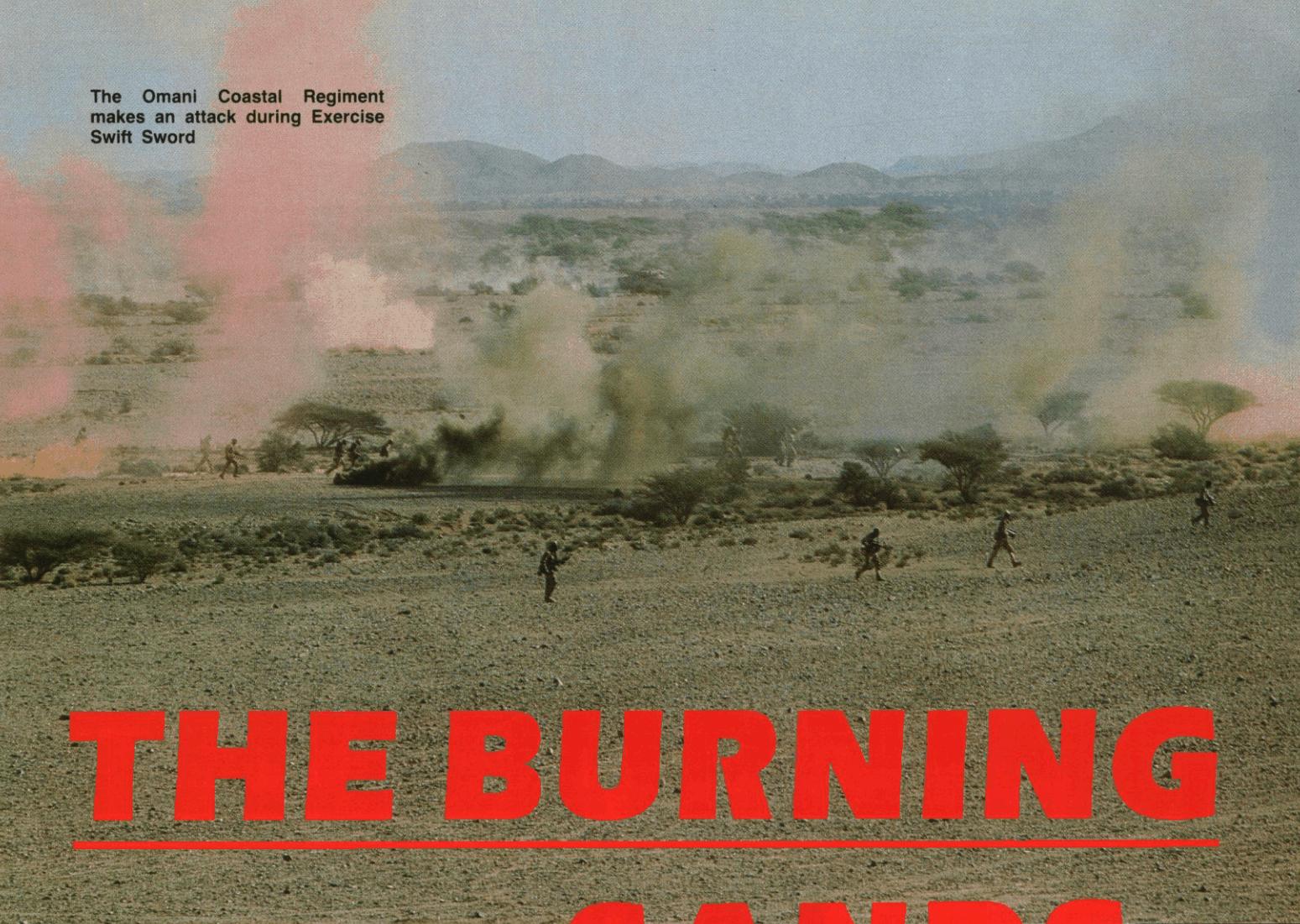
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The Omani Coastal Regiment makes an attack during Exercise Swift Sword



THE BURNING SANDS



A Jordanian fighter pilot waits patiently in his cockpit for the order to take off during an exercise in the desert

THE THEATRE of operations recently re-discovered by the world's media has been familiar to the British Army for much of the century, writes **Bill Moore**.

As recently as the winter of 1986 5,000 members of all three Services took part in a three-week exercise in Oman.

Called Saif Sareea (Swift Sword) it saw elements of 5 Airborne Brigade (based at Aldershot with an out-of-Nato-area role) deploy alongside the Sultan of Oman's Forces.

The troops were given four days to acclimatise at the former RAF staging post on Masirah Island, which was used as the forward mounting base.

The RAF involvement included the use of Tornadoes, Hercules, Tri-Stars and VC 10s. They flew alongside Omani Jaguars and Hunter strike aircraft.

The Hercules dropped 400 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who sheltered in the aircraft for two hours before jumping.

The vagaries of Gulf weather were emphasised by cloudbursts which turned part of the desert into a quagmire and affected operations from the airfields.

RAF Jaguars are once again operating from airfields in Oman alongside the Sultan's air force.

Tornadoes are based at Dhahran, on the Saudi Arabian Gulf coastline.

Military aircraft first appeared in the Gulf when Col T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) was stirring up the revolt of the Bedouin tribes against the Turkish Empire, during the First World War.

His raids against the lines of communication earned him the Turkish title of "destroyer of steam engines".

Operating at first from Yenbo – then a tiny fishing and trading port, now a massive industrial complex – Lawrence entered Akaba, the Jordanian port which is currently of critical importance, in July 1917.

In December that year General Sir Edmund Allenby made certain of a field marshal's baton by capturing Jerusalem. Ten months later he entered Damascus, now the capital of Syria, in triumph.

Iraq became the first of the former Turkish provinces to become a sovereign state and signed a treaty of alliance with Britain in 1930. Ground forces were stationed there until 1937 but the RAF kept bases, by agreement, at Shaibah, near Basrah, and Habbaniyah, on the Euphrates, 50 miles from Baghdad.

Habbaniyah became the focal point of a

Britain has long links with armies of the desert

● Turn to next page



A Jordanian sergeant mans a .50 Browning in the turret of an APC. The Jordanians have a mix of equipment

● From Page 27

celebrated siege in the spring of 1941 after a pro-Axis faction toppled the ruling monarchy.

A resolute defence in which obsolescent aircraft were equipped with makeshift bomb racks and manned by instructors and pupils from a flying school enabled the base to hold out until companies of the 1st King's Own Royal Regiment (now absorbed into the 1st King's Own Border Regiment) were flown in to reinforce loyal Iraqi and Assyrian levies.

The 2nd/7th and 2nd/8th Gurkhas successfully defended Shaiba.

Men of Jordan's Arab Legion joined a relief column which marched to the relief of Habbaniyah and included the Household Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Essex.

Afterwards the column moved on Baghdad where an armistice was signed at the end of May.

Iraq became an operational base for the campaign against the Vichy French in Syria and transport operations in Iran.

Brigadier Bill Slim (quickly promoted major general and later conqueror of Burma) played a prominent part in the Vichy fighting.

Australian and Indian troops as well as British served in this huge theatre which was controlled under the title Paiforce (Persian and Iraq Force).

It was by an overland route from the Gulf that vital supplies were sent through Iran to the aid of the Russians during some of the most critical days of the war.

The area has lost none of its importance.

THOUGH its population totals only three million, Jordan has a powerful army and is estimated to spend 12 per cent of its gross



Omani troops on parade with their guns

domestic product on defence.

It has boundaries with Israel (which occupies the disputed West Bank of the river), Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia and just touches on Lebanon.

Sheik Abdullah, the Sherif of Mecca, great grandfather of King Hussein, Jordan's current ruler, raised an Army against the Turks in the First World War. T E Lawrence was a close associate and adviser.

The Emirate of Transjordan was formed in 1921, Britain recognising its independence in 1923.

In the early years of the state many

British officers served in the Jordanian forces and the first commandant of the Arab Legion, formed in 1920, was a captain in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Frederick Peake.

Then, the Legion consisted of 75 cavalrymen and 25 machine-gunners with five officers.

By 1939 it had grown considerably and guided British columns during operations in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon during the Second World War.

By 1946, when Transjordan became an independent monarchy under King Abdullah, the Legion was 8,000 strong,



The Khalid, a derivative of the Chieftain. Jordan is said to have 250 of them

having at its head a former Royal Engineers major, John Bagot Glubb. "Glubb Pasha" had succeeded "Peake Pasha" in 1939.

Glubb, son of a general, had retired from the British Army in the 1920s to work in the Middle East.

Under a friendship treaty, part of the Legion served in Palestine until the British withdrew in 1948.

In March 1956, King Hussein, who had succeeded to the throne following the assassination of his grandfather, decided to "Arabise" the Jordanian forces and replaced Glubb Pasha and other Britons in

his service. However, the influence of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on the Jordanian royal family is strong.

The Emir Talal is said to have been the first Middle Eastern graduate from the RMA (in 1927); King Hussein graduated in 1952, Prince Abdullah (1982), Prince Talal (1983) and Princess Aisha (1987).

A recent strength assessment of the Jordanian Army included 250 British-made Khalid main battle tanks – derivatives of Chieftain adapted for desert warfare – the last of which was delivered seven years ago. There are also a number of updated Centurions.

Ground forces include two armoured and two mechanised divisions embracing seven artillery and five air defence brigades.

Weapons have come from a number of sources.

Much of the air defence capability is Soviet – the SA-8 "Gecko" and SA-13 "Gopher", to give them their Nato designations, and ZSU 23/4s.

But there are also a number of older items of US equipment, notably twin-Vulcans mounted on the M113 chassis and a 40mm gun on an M48 chassis.

The 20mm Vulcan is capable of 3,000 rounds per minute up to 2,000 metres; the 40mm can fire 140rpm up to 2,400 metres.

Though regarded in some quarters as obsolescent, such weapons can provide a dense screen of shells against aircraft committed to low-level attacks against tanks.

Jordan has its equivalents to Warminster and Larkhill. Its School of Infantry is located 15 miles north-east of Amman in 70,000 square metres of pre-desert.

The Artillery School, established in 1952, has gunnery and air defence wings and recently was using three basic US equipments, the M105, the M109 (155mm) and the M110 (8in) howitzer.

Tank crews train on simulators and study tactical lessons learned from the Six Day War with Israel in 1967 and the Yom Kippur conflict in 1973.

● The pictures on these pages were taken by SOLDIER picture editor Terry Champion on assignments in the Gulf during recent years

**GO
FOR
IT!**



Above - A member of B Squadron Scots DG does some essential maintenance to his tank

Left - A friendly gopher (real name Richardson's ground squirrel) adopts the badge of The Staffordshire Regiment

Below - Maj Jim Tanner, OC B Coy, surveys the situation as the artillery withdraws



A Chieftain tank of B Sqn Scots DG moves up to a position of fire support

BATTLE READY

FOR almost six months the various BAOR-based units had been working together and individually towards a common goal - getting the Battle Group ready for the extensive Medicine Man package in Canada.

The 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) began training at the beginning of January with a rather chilly deployment to Sennelager Ranges for the start of annual field firing.

Even at this early stage the All Arms concept was not neglected as two Challenger troops from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and two officers from 40 Field Regiment RA joined the training.

The command structure of the Battle Group first came together at the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer in February, and stayed together throughout the spring command post exercise season.

When the Battle Group first assembled all its men and machines on Soltau area in May it was already well integrated and at a high standard of training.

More than 1,000 men from 15 different cap badges formed the 1 Staffords Battle Group for exercise Medicine Man 2/90 at BATUS in Canada.

The Med Man package is

really a series of live firing exercises for two mechanised companies, two armoured squadrons, an engineer field troop, an artillery battery and all their supporting elements. The vast prairie at the Suffield base is ideal for practising armoured tactics and is probably the only place in Nato where such large-scale exercises can be held.

All who have been to BATUS probably remember the little "gophers" with great affection. The friendly, inquisitive rodents are often adopted as pets and seem to thrive happily on a diet of compo. This time round they didn't seem to want the Staffords to leave.

Training was successful and the Battle Group finished on a high note - provided by Adjutant's Bugler Cpl Kevin Timmins blowing the charge for the final attack.



Guns of 129 (Dragon) Battery, 40 Field Regiment RA demonstrate the weight of "direct support" fire

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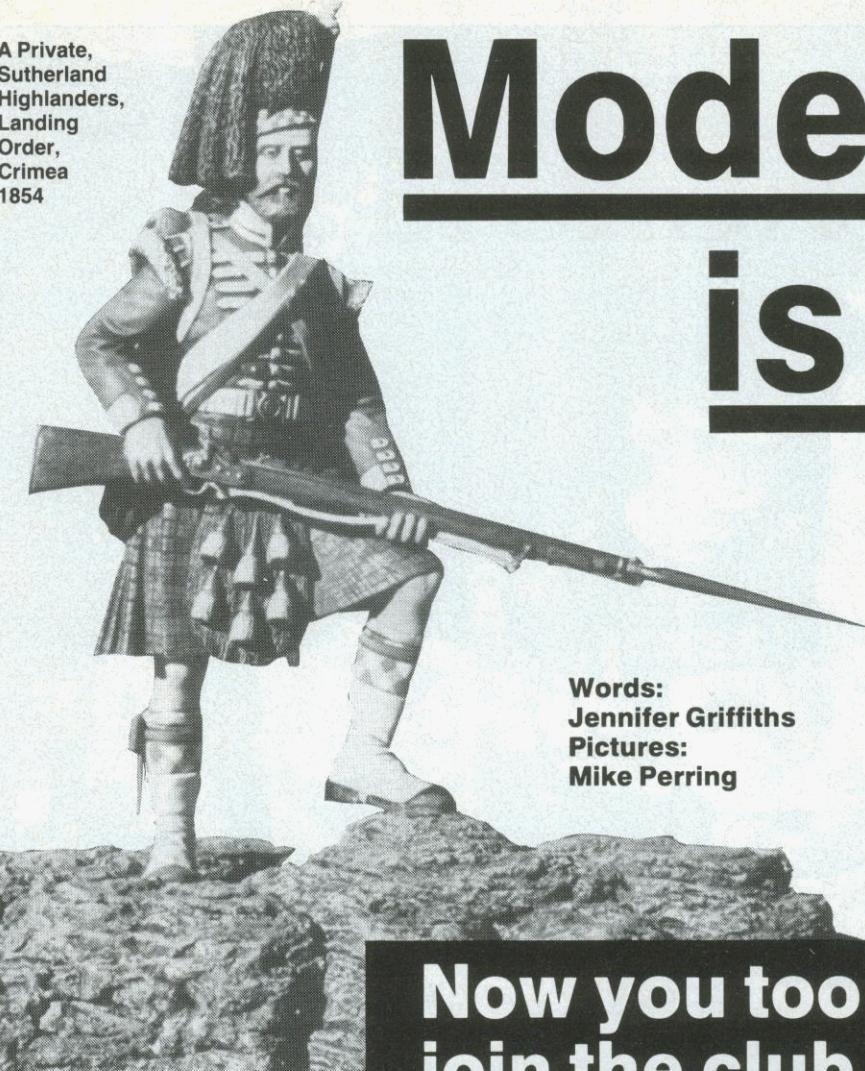
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HALIFAX



Model Army is on the march

Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Now you too can join the club

A BELIEF that men are little boys at heart is underwritten by a thriving club whose enthusiasts cover a wide range of occupations and who are prepared to share trade secrets among themselves for the greater glory of their hobby.

The British Model Soldier Society (BMSS), the largest and senior club of its type, was formed in 1935 and has nearly 1,000 members.

It has a network of local area representatives all over Britain and a branch for the Armed Forces.

Among its ranks are many gifted designers, sculptors and artists. But BMSS takes account of all aspects of the hobby, encompassing standards of skill from novice to accomplished master.

Paul Vickers, editor of the BMSS journal, explained: "All categories of enthusiasts find congenial, like-minded colleagues with us. We provide a focal point for enthusiasts helping to develop skill, technique and individual style.

"Collectors of toy soldiers, converters, painters and scratch builders, and those interested in the models of guns, vehicles and other military equipment, all contribute and benefit from our activities.

"The over-riding objectives

IT WAS decided to form a British Model Soldier Society branch specifically to look after the interests of the Services, because of the problems frequent postings brought.

Maj Charles Gray, who got it started in 1988, has a lifelong interest in the hobby. He had been introduced to model soldiers by his father, the late Col Clifford Gray, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

"As a young subaltern, I was too busy to keep it up, but when I had a long spell in hospital, a friend brought me a model of a Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps' sister."

It was particularly appropriate as Charles's

wife, former Capt Katie Lawson, was in the Corps.

After his discharge Charles was able to continue the hobby while encased in a body plaster cast for many months.

"I started to appreciate the difficulties of following it if you were in the Services, and so the branch was formed."

The branch has 74 members ranging from an air trooper to a major general. It is linked by correspondence and a twice-yearly newsletter. Anyone interested in joining the Armed Forces branch should write to Maj Gray, Somme Coy, 1 King's Own Border Regt, Meane Bks, Colchester, Essex.

are to take part and enjoy whatever aspects of the hobby are found to be most appealing.

"One of the great things is that everyone is very free with information and there is no such thing as a trade secret. If, for instance, you ask a member how he achieves a particular finish, he is very pleased to explain in great detail."

Branch meetings are held

regularly and an annual competition in London reflects the talents of the whole society. There is also an annual inter-branch competition in the Midlands.

BMSS provides instructors for the National Army Museum summer school and builds and restores dioramas for military museums.

Aldershot branch chairman



An example of a commercial figure. This Cavalier Officer of Foot, unpainted and cast in white metal, cost £14.95. The figures are 90mm high

Harry Strongman (67) was at his busiest at the branch annual show held at Fleet when branches throughout the South East were represented.

It need not be an expensive hobby. "You can buy a box of 20 plastic figures to paint for £2 to £3, and there is a lot of swapping between members," said Mr Strongman.

"But rare examples by firms such as Britains and Mignot change hands for thousands of pounds at auction, and there is a thriving export market.

"The beauty of this hobby is that you can do it in your own front room or kitchen. You can put 1,000 soldiers on display in a cabinet on a wall."

He knows one enthusiast who has 7,000 figures laid out with forts in his garden. At the

● Turn to next page



Steve Parker, of City and East London branch, gives a demonstration of painting techniques, watched by his 11-year-old son, Philip

● From Page 33

bottom of the garden is a railway line, and train drivers regularly slow down to admire the display. The same owner has another 7,000 model soldiers in his garage.

Mr Strongman's love of military figures started as a child when he used to watch soldiers in bearskins and red tunics guard the Bank of England.

He said: "I suppose there is a lot of the little boy still in us. Quite a few members are young, but they would not have had the delight I had as a kid when, on a Christmas morning, I would open a beautiful red Britains box and there would be all the glossy soldiers lined up for me. Maybe I am trying to recapture that."

His one regret is that none of his early soldiers survived adulthood.

"My brother and I had a fort and we used to line up all the figures. We had miniature cannons and used to fire them, knocking off the models' heads. Because they were hollow cast, we could fix them by sticking them on a matchstick."

"I suspect a lot of youngsters

were doing the same. There must be quite a few people weeping in their beer nowadays when they think of what they had and what they would be worth now."

Members keep up to date with uniform styles by checking with military specialists, libraries and museums. Some have an encyclopaedic knowledge.

"At the moment the British Army uniform has probably more variety in terms of detail than at any time. The splendour of the different coloured uniforms has gone, but the variety of detail continues," said Mr Strongman.

A spin-off of BMSS is the British Flat Figure Society, which covers social as well as military history. It is actually an international organisation of 250 members, its success astonishing and delighting founders Graham Dixey, Jacques Vullings and Jim Woodley.

The figures were first manufactured in Germany in the 18th century as toys, but became more refined and historically accurate, and col-

lectors became interested. The society has forged links with European manufacturers, publishes catalogues on their behalf, and has a bulk order scheme.

BMSS also has its own free information service, made up of a panel of experts, such as John Cox, a former soldier and now a British Gas administrator. They are inundated with a wide variety of queries, and only one has foisted them so far.

It was sent by a man from New Zealand asking for information about the Irish "gendarmes". Extensive inquiries have failed to turn up any information.

The question of when a "toy" becomes a "model" sometimes arouses passionate discussions among members of the British Model Soldier Society.

Journal editor Paul Vickers believes there is no hard-and-fast rule.

"Some would argue that it is in the painting, but is this not a matter of personal choice? Some like bright colours and glossy paint, others muted matt colours."

"I am not certain where one

finishes and the other begins. I welcome and appreciate the diversity of BMSS membership – that is our real strength. So is there a difference? Don't know, but does it matter?"

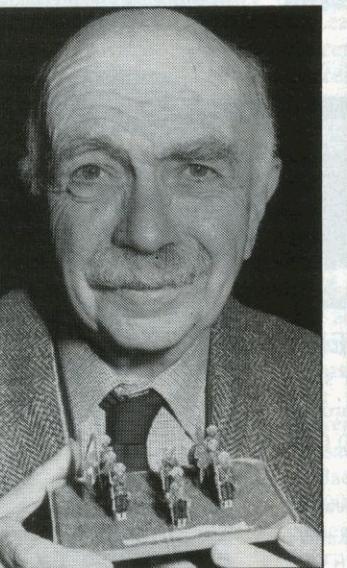


This diorama, "First Blood Zulu Dawn", is by Barry Bowen of Gravesend, one of the leading experts specialising in outdoor scenes, mainly 19th century

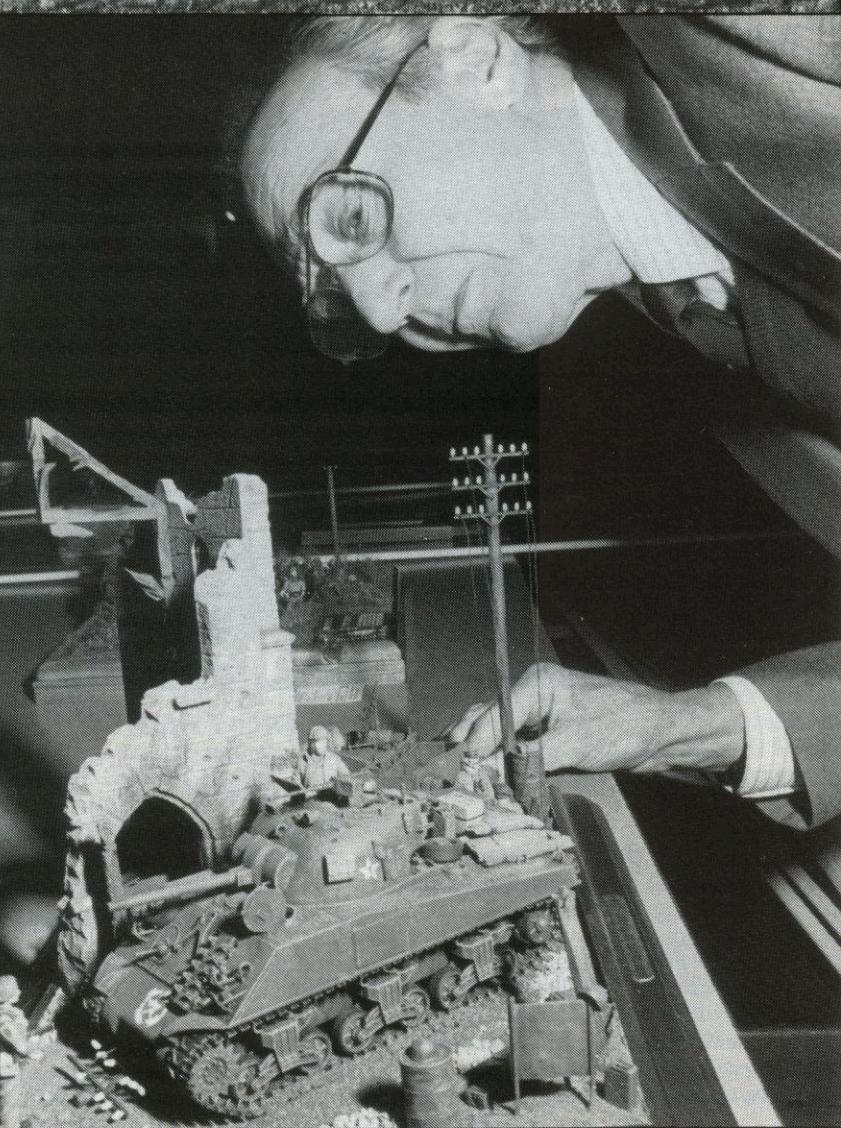
Right – One of the judges, David Pearce, examines a diorama, "somewhere in France in 1944" at the annual show



Gill Watkin-John, Wales Branch, one of the few women members



Hugh Taylor (70) is one of the elder statesmen of BMSS, and a familiar figure at many shows. He is pictured with some of his flat figures depicting a colour party of the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs



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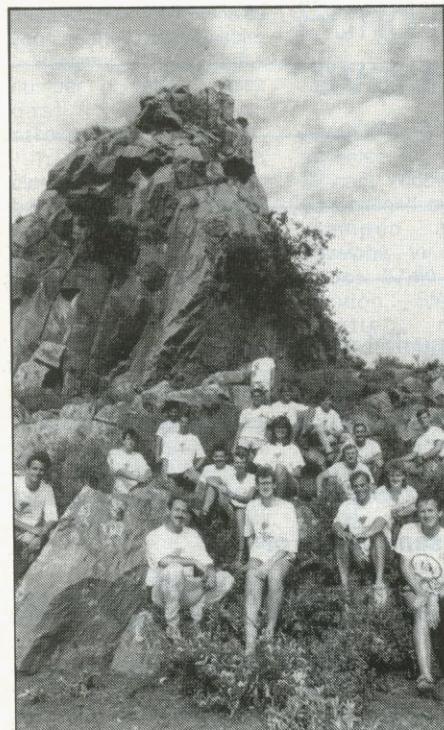
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A pause for Roof of Africa expedition members in Kenya. Top are Gdsm Andrew Simmons and LCpl Michael Williams; middle, LCpl Kevin Keepin and Sgt Taff Jennings; bottom, Gdsm Chris Davies, Cpl Flapper Farmer and Cpl John Violet

High endeavour

THE ambitious Roof of Africa expedition, the largest mounted by the British Army for many years, has achieved one of its major objectives - to scale the seven



The complete phase two party with expedition leader Capt John Warburton-Lee pictured front centre

highest mountains in the continent.

The expedition, which began in Morocco in mid-January, has crossed much of north and central Africa and is now well into the fourth phase which involves a canoe passage of the Zambezi river.

Leader of the project is Welsh Guards officer Capt John Warburton-Lee, who conceived the idea while recovering in hospital from a broken back.

First obstacle for the expedition's climbers was Jebel Toubkal in Morocco, at 13,670ft the highest mountain in North Africa. From the top the soldiers were able to look south across the vast expanse of the Sahara desert.

Next stop was Dakar in Senegal to link the administration team which had been trying to get the expedition vehicles released from customs. It was discovered that thieves had broken into the Land Rovers between England and Dakar and ransacked food, equipment and clothing.

Back on the road, the expedition drove 3,500 miles through the Sahel across Senegal, Mali and Niger. Much of the journey across this sub-Saharan scrubland was achieved at very low speeds on poor dirt tracks obscured by choking clouds of red dust.

From Agadez in Niger the party was guided across the Sahara by a Touareg called Hamma. Unforgettable was the Tenere, 350 kilometres of emptiness so

harsh as to be impassable by camel.

The ground was so flat and featureless that drivers quickly became disorientated, unable to tell whether the horizon was 50 or 500 metres away. With drivers frequently swerving to avoid imagined walls of sand, their guide navigated solely by the sun and wine patterns in the sand.

During 16 days in the Tenere the expedition covered 1,500 miles, passing into Nigeria where the British Military Advisory Training Team and British Consulate played major parts in negotiating the return of passports and freight.

Phase two of the expedition began in Kano and soon afterwards Mount Cameroon (13,350ft) was climbed. Now the terrain was the jungle of the Central African Republic, followed by an ascent of the Mountains of the Moon, with Mount Stanley providing a severe test in the form of altitude sickness for some of the climbers.

Karisimbi (14,780ft) in Rwanda was the next challenge, with the walk to the mountain providing expedition members an opportunity to pass through Karisole and see the mountain gorillas that inspired the film *Gorillas in the Mist*.

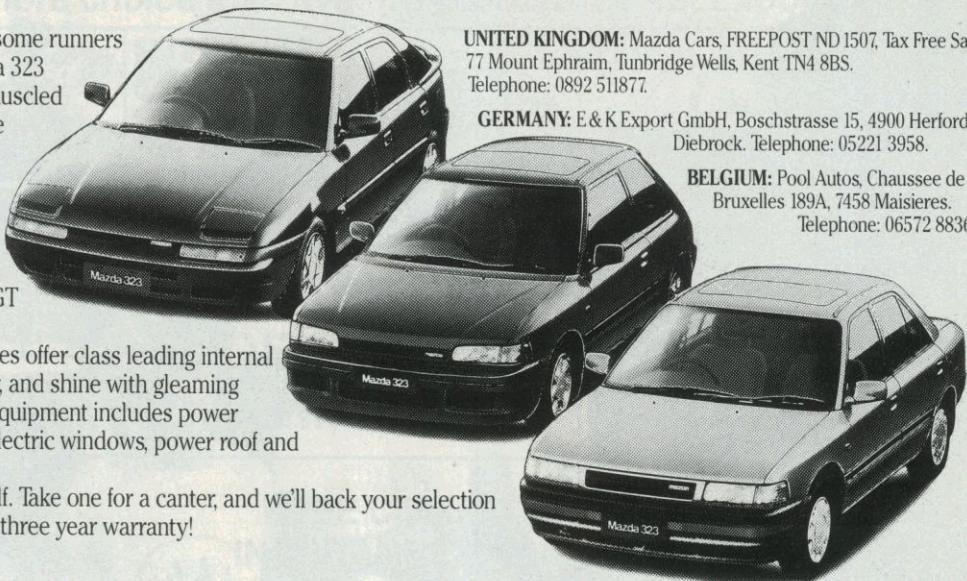
Phase three of the expedition included ascents of Mounts Kenya, Kilimanjaro and Mulanje as the party made its way south to Zimbabwe via Kenya, Malawi and Zambia.

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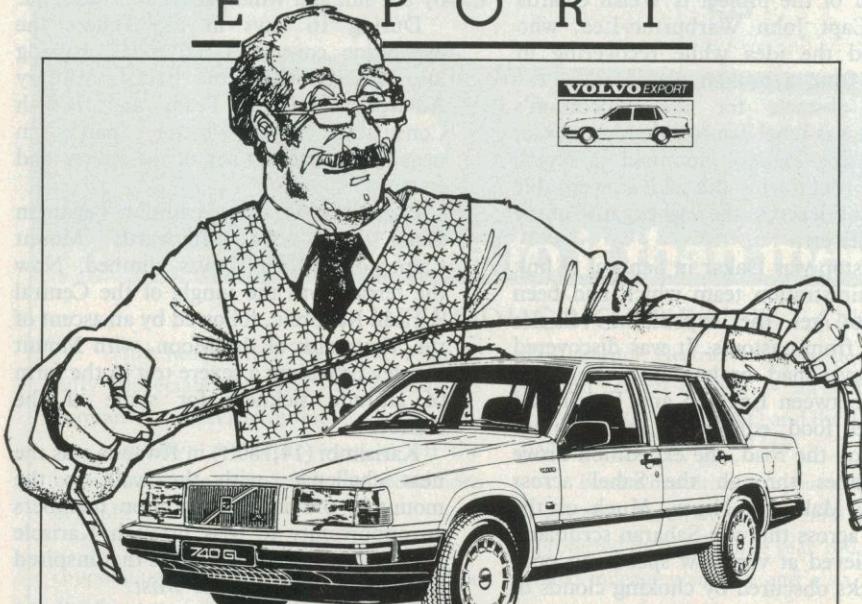
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What every MQ should have

SMOKE ALARMS ISSUED

AN ARMY family escaped unhurt when their quarter was gutted by fire in the early hours of the morning recently, drawing attention again to the importance of smoke detectors.

Authority was given on October 25 last year for the issue of one smoke detector to all Army MQs.

The detectors were purchased through

quartering funds, but were distributed through the Accommodation Services Organisation.

With the exception of a few cases where occupants could not be

contacted, detectors have now been handed over to all married quarters, I have been told.

The detectors provided are of a type which can be linked to others should occupants wish to provide increased protection at their own expense. Naafi has made additional detectors available in their shops at a keen price.

Cooker charge review

COOKER charges are a long-standing story on these pages — the complaint being the apparent discrepancies in replacement charges.

I have asked Brig John Hathaway, Director of Army Quartering, what arrangements will be in operation when the PSA's Schedule of Charges for losses and damages comes to an end on April 1 next year.

I hope a fairer system will come into operation then and I will pass on details as soon as they are available.

However, I have had a number of letters which cast doubt on assessments.

To give personnel a clearer understanding on how charges are made, the Logistic Executive sent me some guidelines in areas where there appears to be most disagreement on charges.

It is important to know the date on which carpets and cookers were installed in quarters. Sole criterion governing the replacement of carpets is that they must be worn beyond repair.

Minimum life expectancy of a MQ carpet is 12 years.

SMOKE ALARMS ISSUED

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contacted, detectors have now been handed over to all married quarters, I have been told.

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A surprised Brig Mark Strudwick, Commander 3 Infantry Brigade, receives a new HIVE welcome booklet from "bee" volunteers Wendy Clarke and Sue Harris (centre). The booklet, for Portadown, Armagh and Tandragee in Northern Ireland, was written and compiled by HIVE co-ordinator Jane Simkins

Fund draft available

A COPY of the draft scheme for the Army Officers' Widows Fund can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting reference DJP-236739-AI-SC.

A copy of the draft scheme can be seen at the fund's office in Room 7196, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, and comments or representations may be made within the next month.

THAT'S HANDY

FINISHING touches are being put to an official new Service personal medical record document which should be of enormous help to all our families.

Prepared by the Medical Directorate, the record will be distributed to all Service personnel, dependants and families over the next year,

MoD rejects PVC mattress cot death link

A RECENT article in a national newspaper linking cot deaths with foam cot mattresses and their PVC coverings has provoked a rapid response from the Service medical authorities.

Advice from all agencies is that there is no cause for concern.

The Crown suppliers were asked to investigate the newspaper allegations and to advise the Ministry of Defence accordingly. They consulted the British Plastics Federation, the Foundation for Study of Infants' Deaths, the Government Chemists and the manufacturing industry.

The MoD also consulted the Department of the Assistant Surgeon General (Environmental Medicine and Research), which was conducting its own research into the matter.

The Government Chemists, who are undertaking research on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry Consumer Safety Unit, are still investigating. But their results so far, and the conclusion of the other agencies consulted, indicate no evidence to connect Sudden Infant Death Syndrome with PVC-covered cot mattresses.

Parents are advised to wipe PVC cot mattresses once a week with a fresh diluted solution of disinfectant such as Dettol or Savlon.

Food for thought?

I RECOMMEND a new government booklet "Eight Guidelines for a Healthy Diet" (obtainable from Food Sense, London SE9 7TT). Heart attacks are still prominent among causes of death in the Forces.

New guide to renovation grants

THOSE of you thinking about renovating a property in the United Kingdom should get hold of a copy of *House Renovation Grants*, a new booklet issued by the Department of the

Environment and available from your local council.

Grants cover a multitude of situations and can be for up to 100 per cent of the cost.

Home Improvements

from the Office of Fair Trading is another very useful booklet. It includes a checklist of golden rules and is available from local councils and the Office of Fair Trading.

I am delighted to see the record, which will be kept in a long-lasting folder useful for other medical documents, includes a reference to cervical screening, helpful advice on vaccinations and a section to record the development of very young children.

Sounds of pageantry

Music from the 100th Royal Tournament

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Conductor: Capt Ena Forster, WRAC
Spanish Marine Corps Band
US 2nd Marine Division Band

MAJ Michael Parker's motto is Bigger and Better – if the anniversary Royal Tournament 1990 was anything to go by – and so of course is the problem of recording such massive projects.

For this one, Bandleader Records found venues at Wembley, Guildford, and Buckingham Palace – all in time to have the discs on sale for the event.

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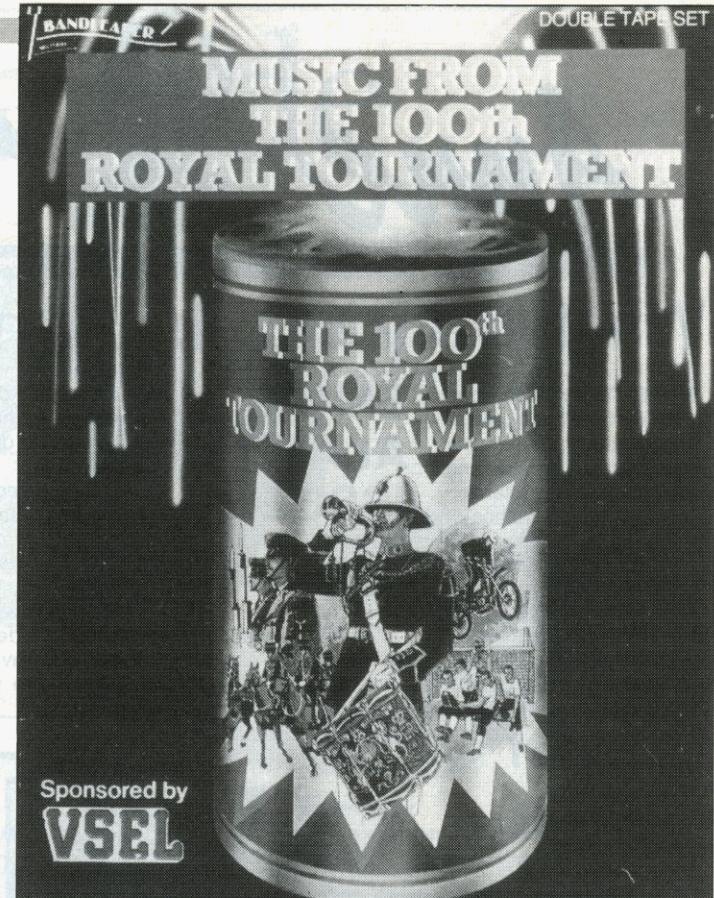
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Marines from 1664 to the Falklands Campaign, and if that isn't bigger and better I don't know what is.

An extended fanfare for band and trumpets by Col Ware, *The Sea Soldier*, is an impressive announcement for *The Beginning 1664, The Birth of the Royal Marines*, with The British Grenadiers on 17th century band and Belle Isle on 19th century band, all very genuine sounding.

World War II has Vivian Dunn's march from the film Cockleshell Heroes, and the trekking song *Sarie Marais* for the Falklands. And in between all this the massed bands play *Early One Morning*, a bugle march *Soldier and Sailor Too*, two of John Williams's film marches, a drum beating, and the *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*.

The Royal Signals Cycle Display Team have their march

Begone Dull Care, the Royal Navy field gun teams battle it out to *Heart of Oak, HMS Pinafore* and *All the Nice Girls Love a Sailor*, and the King's Squad RM do a display to *Caernarvon Castle*.

A charming sound is made by the Spanish Marine Corps of four fifes, four Basque bagpipes, and five drummers, and so they should since the producer had expected, and prepared for, a full military band of about 50!

Interval music is supplied by the RM pop group, in good heart and voice. The grand finale is a *Salute to the Sea Soldier* in which the US Marine Corps is featured in typical American style with music and commentary suitable to the occasion.

The set piece by the massed bands to mark the solemnities to come in *Finlandia* (at a very solemn tempo), the *Evening Hymn* over which the Duke of Edinburgh reads the Royal Marines Prayer, and most affectingly read too. *Sunset, Britannia Salute*, the *National Anthem*, and *A Life on the Ocean Wave* bring to a close what I am told was a wonderful show.

Here of course you have only that which was possible on disc, but remember the man who said he enjoyed radio better than television – the pictures were better.

From Bandleader or dealers, price £10.50 for CD or double cassettes.

IN his introductory note to *SOE: The Special Operations Executive 1940-46* the author, M R D Foot, gives readers the option of skipping ahead to page 246 where an actual narrative begins, or starting at the beginning to find out what the SOE was, who ran it, who worked in it and how they worked.

I strongly recommend the latter course.

Michael Foot, who was not in the SOE but operated in France with the SAS, wrote the official history of SOE and in consequence had access to those facts officially released, or allowed to slip into the Public Records Office by a "weeder's" error, as well as verbal and written evidence of survivors. Much information is still classified and may never be released.

Even so, this makes a gripping story of great heroism, human weakness, unbelievable ineptitude, political intrigue and dedicated patriotism. But as Edith Cavell remarked shortly before being executed for espionage in 1915, "Patriotism is not enough."

What, therefore, motivated men and women to enter and re-enter enemy-occupied countries, train groups prepared to harass enemy forces, pass vital information and help escaping Servicemen to return home?

Gallipoli: An Anzac tragedy

OVER the past few years many freshly discovered letters and diaries connected with the Australian and New Zealand forces in the First World War have been acquired for the archives of military collections such as the Australian War Memorial and the Imperial War Museum.

The late Professor John Robertson selected a remarkably wide range of such material for *Anzac and Empire: The Tragedy and Glory of Gallipoli*, originally published in Australia as an "in depth" study of the campaign – the more remarkable in that it has been published so long after the event – from the conception of

One photograph shows a

Gripping tale of the SOE

Austria, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania, Malaya and China.

The extent to which SOE operators were able to encourage partisans and Maquis to take positive action was very much conditioned by the latter's political ambitions of assuming power after the war or because of enemy reprisals against innocent civilians. In the Kalavryta area of Greece, for example, the Germans burned 24 villages, destroyed three monasteries and executed 696 Greeks in retaliation for partisan actions.

I will not spoil the anticipation of readers by recounting details of their actions, successful and unsuccessful, or what happened to them, but names such as Jean Moulin, Violette Szabo, Noor Inayat Khan and Andre Jarrot will already be known for their heroism and if not, then they soon will be now that Mandarin have made this updated 1984 publication more available.

"We saw a simple duty to stand up against what was plainly bad and followed where that duty called us." – PSN

SOE: The Special Operations Executive 1940-46 by M R D Foot. Published in paperback by Mandarin. Price £4.99.

Empire 'lost' at Amritsar

HISTORIANS looking back at the 20th Century will identify 1989 as the year when the Russian Empire began to fall apart.

The decline of the Empire founded by Great Britain 200 years earlier can, according to Roger Perkins, be traced to a more precise date and location: April 13, 1919 – India.

For generations, the British had laboured long and hard to bring peace and stability to the Indian sub-continent. Then, in the space of ten violent minutes, an obscure British officer destroyed the moral basis on which Britain had governed India and a hundred other places around the globe.

His actions that day, in a hot and dusty Punjab city, accelerated the emergence of nationalism in India and indirectly ensured the eventual demise of the Empire.

Brig Gen Reginald Dyer personally led a small force designed to break up an illegal gathering of several thousand Indians inside the Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar.

Blocking the main exit of the high-walled enclosure, he ordered his men to open fire on the crowd. Other exits became blocked as people fled in panic.

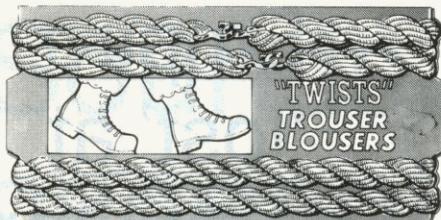
Shooting ceased only when the 50 riflemen had exhausted their supplies of ammunition. More than 1,600 rounds were fired with many finding more than one target. It was reported that 1,000 were shot dead and another 2,000 wounded.

Dyer became the darling of the British public for putting down a rebellion, but when the facts emerged he was recalled in disgrace.

The author describes the revenge murder, in 1940, of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, a former governor of the Punjab.

O'Dwyer, whose policies were the catalyst for the massacre, was shot in the Caxton Hall, London. His assassin, Udam Singh, later hanged in Pentonville Prison, is today revered in the Punjab as a martyr. – LM

The Amritsar Legacy by Roger Perkins. Published by Picton Publishing. Price £16.95.



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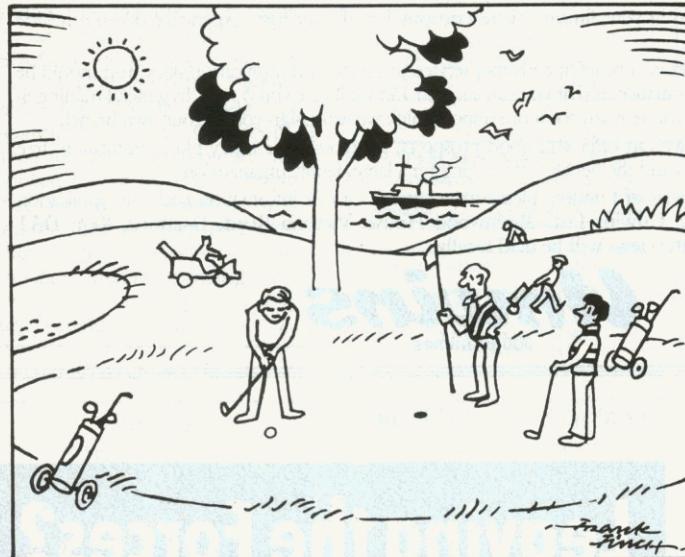
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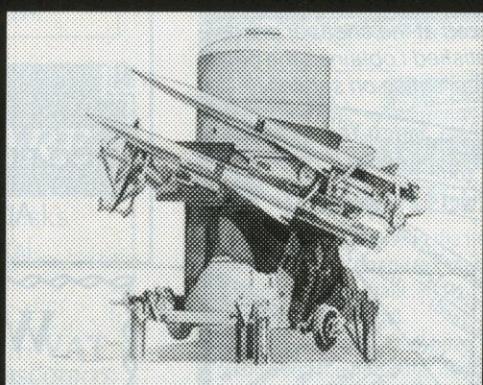
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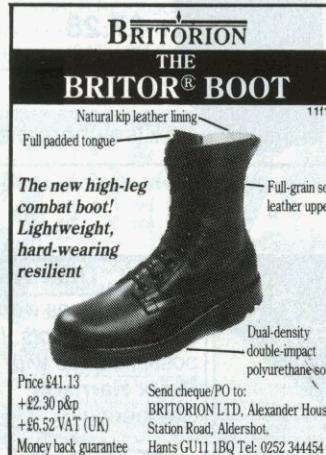
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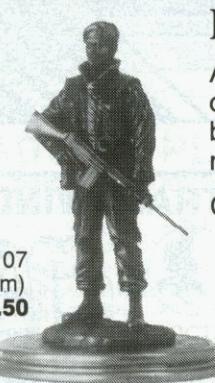
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Announcements

Births, Deaths and Marriages. The announcement classification is for the announcement of Births, Deaths and Marriages only. If you wish to make an announcement under this heading please send your wording, together with your payment (10p per word plus VAT) to Soldier Magazine, Classified Advertisements, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Telephone 0252 347352 or Aldershot Military 2352.

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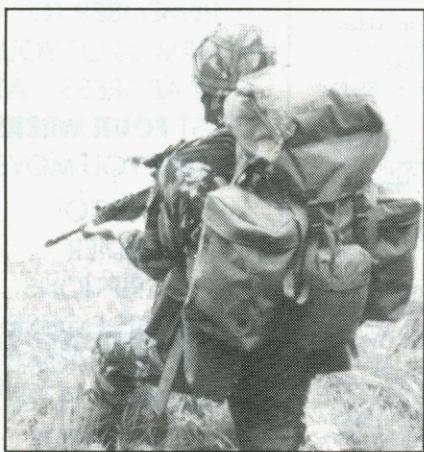
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- 3 A sleeping bag cover or bivvy bag made from Goretex fabric. non zip £49.99
Arctic with zip £89.99
- 4 As above but in nylon. £19.99
- 5 A sleeping mat. £7.50
- 6 The set is designed to replace existing sleeping bags which incorporate natural down and feather fillings, and will be used in temperate and arctic conditions. Not all items are essential to the set, and each can be purchased separately. £P&P per order £2.25

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LCpl Sharon Millen leaves the water at Bala Lake

Paul delays Lord's youngsters

A DEFIANT innings of 88 by Capt Paul Presland (657 Sqn AAC) batting at number nine rallied the Combined Services against the NCA Young Cricketers at Lord's but could not prevent the apprentice professionals from notching up an impressive victory.

When Presland went to the wicket Services were in complete disarray at 85 for seven, with 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) the only batsman in the top order to score runs.

Greatorex, who has been impressively consistent opening for the Army, scored 31 while wickets were crashing at the other end. Capt Peter Germain (1 PWO) contributed 12 in the middle order and SSgt Nigel Scott (94 Sig Sqn) added a valuable 18 down the order.

Bowled out for 231 in their

61st over, the Servicemen were then put to the sword, with the Young Cricketers winning by eight wickets in the 41st over.

Combined Services 231 (Greatorex 31, Presland 88). **NCA Young Cricketers** 233-2 (Wasim Khan 80, Williams 75, Walton 67 no). NCA Young Cricketers won by 8 wickets.

Combined Services fell 68 runs short of the Club Cricket Conference's 203 all out at Aldershot, succumbing for 135 in 37 overs.

Club Cricket Conference 203 (Moulding 53, Simmons 52; Presland 2-38). **Combined Services** 135 (Germain 22). CCC won by 68 runs.

Pte John Storey (1 Queens) fell two runs short of a richly deserved century when the Army beat Sussex 2nd XI by

Sharon sets her sights on France

LCpl Sharon Millen from 10 Company WRAC was hoping to become the first women soldier to swim the English Channel.

Based at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot, Sharon (22) was booked to begin her attempt at 3.30am on September 12 from Shakespeare Bay, Dover.

Her destination was Cap Griz Nez on the French coast, just 21 miles away as the crow flies but nearer 40 miles for the swimmer contending with tidal movements.

Sharon won the Inter-Service long distance swimming championship at Bala Lake, Wales recently, and has been in serious training for the Channel attempt since last September.

She is coached by Capt Ted Martin and in the past few weeks has completed two ten-hour swims, one in a pool, the other in Dover harbour.

To acclimatise herself to the cold she will have to endure during the 12 hour crossing, Sharon has been swimming in

cold waters and sleeping with her windows wide open and covered only by a sheet.

An injury to her ankle thwarted sport-loving Sharon's ambition to become a PT instructor in the Army. She turned to swimming as a form of physiotherapy and exercise.

She is taking on the attempt as a personal challenge and to raise money for charity. The Army Benevolent Fund and the NSPCC are set to benefit.

Home rule

LOCAL knowledge and a familiarity with the finer points of river sailing helped the British Weser Yacht Club to wrest the inter-club sailing regatta trophy from Dummersee Yacht Club for only the second time in the history of the competition.

Berlin, Mohnesee and Roermond clubs were unable to field teams and the home team beat the defending champions by three races to nil.

Enduro champs

HOT on the heels of their success in an enduro event at Munsterlager, SSgt Bill Buckley and his crack motor-cycle team from 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt at Bunde have won another enduro event at Achmer training area. They made a clean sweep of trophies, winning 18 prizes.

Road test

A SERIES of off-road tests for four-wheel vehicles on military lands in the Longmoor area of Hampshire is being planned for January 5-6 by the British Army Motoring Association. Regulations are available from Capt BR Stevens RAOC (V), 93 Ordnance Company RAOC (V), TA Centre, Peronne Close, Hilsea, Portsmouth PO3 5LG. Applications should include an A5 sae.

Hohne boys take on the might of Celtic

THE sons of British Servicemen stationed in West Germany have had the rare opportunity to pit their wits and football skills against

mighty Celtic. The Glasgow team visited Verden, home of the 1st Armoured Division, during a pre-season tour.

Before competing against

local German side TSV Verden, the Celtic players took on a team made up of the sons of British Servicemen.

All were pupils of Gloucester

School in Hohne, near Hanover.

When Celtic took to the pitch for the game against TSV Verden the result was 3-1 to the Scottish side.

WORLD CLASS

Kriss smashes Britain's oldest track record

KRIS AKABUSI, the Aldershot-based APTC warrant officer, confirmed his world class status as a 400 metre hurdler when he broke the oldest British track record to win the European Championships gold medal at Split, Yugoslavia.

WO2 (QMSI) Akabusi blazed round the Gradski Stadium in a time of 47.92sec, eclipsing the previous British best of 48.12sec set 22 years ago by David Hemery when he won the Olympic title in Mexico.

Akabusi's brilliant run was the second fastest 400m hurdles time of 1990 and pushes him among the ten fastest athletes of all time.

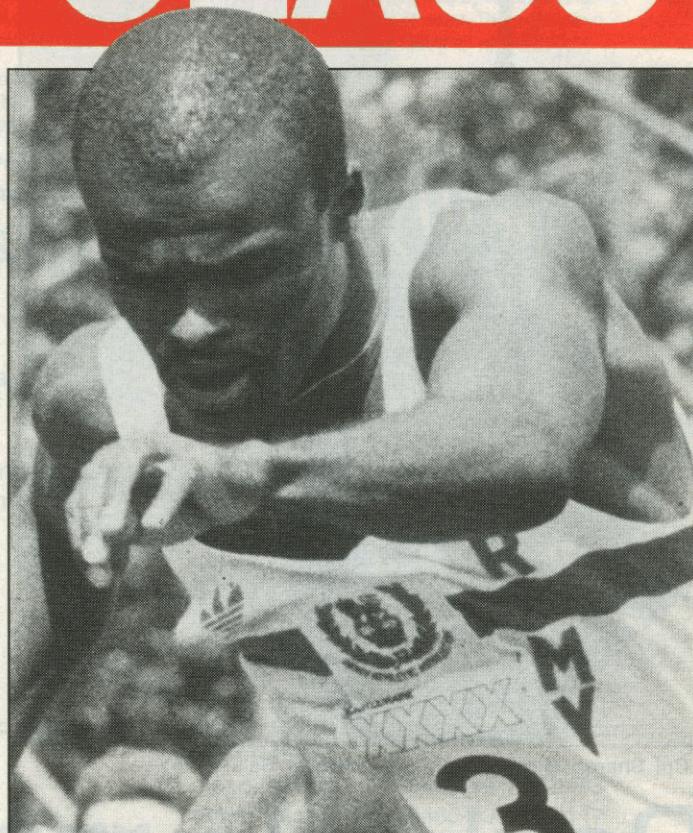
His joy when he realised, belatedly, that he had gone below the 48sec watershed transformed his winning post celebration into a one-man carnival to the delight of

millions of television viewers.

Akabusi's year began with a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games in Auckland when he recorded a time of 48.89sec in the final. In his preparations for the European Championships he recorded a personal best of 48.34sec when matched against the top American one-lap hurdlers at Munich.

But his Split triumph was all the more remarkable in that he had to set his own pace, finishing several metres ahead of the next runner.

Akabusi, who also won a gold medal with the British 4x400m relay team, switched to hurdling from the 400m flat only three years ago, and has now won medals at all the major championships - English, Commonwealth, European, World and Olympic. This summer he returned to



Kriss Akabusi on his way to another Army title at the Military Stadium, Aldershot

Aldershot to collect his tenth Army title at 400m.

Army athletes used to exerting themselves for rather longer than 48 seconds at a time are preparing for the Swindon marathon on October 12. The Army and Inter-Service marathons are run concurrently, and the soldiers will be out

to defend a championship they have dominated in recent years.

With the inter-unit title also at stake, more than 100 Army runners are likely to start the race. Last year's winners were 9 Ordnance Battalion, but a very good Parachute Regiment squad looks likely to put them under pressure.

Coaches at work

ARMY Football Association regional coach SSgt Micky Tarmy APTC put a squad of budding football coaches through their paces on the first such course to be held in North East District.

Scorching weather ensured that it was hot work for the candidates, mostly from units based in the North East, who were working towards their FA Preliminary Coaching Badge. A

national award, it is known as the half badge.

SSgt Tarmy is attached to the Green Howards at Catterick, where the course was held.

He was assisted by Cpl Jimmy Ellis from 38 Engr Regt at Ripon and Maj Bill Tweddle, the Army team manager.

WO2 Tom Armstrong APTC, the Army Director of Coaching, also visited the course and took some sessions.



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SOLDIER

WRAC Provost Sgt Maj Sue Russell, platoon commander of about 20 women searchers, in the rose garden at Aldergrove where the feminine touch is much in evidence. See full story beginning on Page 19.

