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FRONT COVER: Every which way . . . but still in step. Men of The Black Watch manoeuvre smartly on the Maifeld in Berlin during the annual Queen's Birthday Parade. Learn how the quick marching 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry kept in step with the parade and their own traditions. See Pages 20-21.

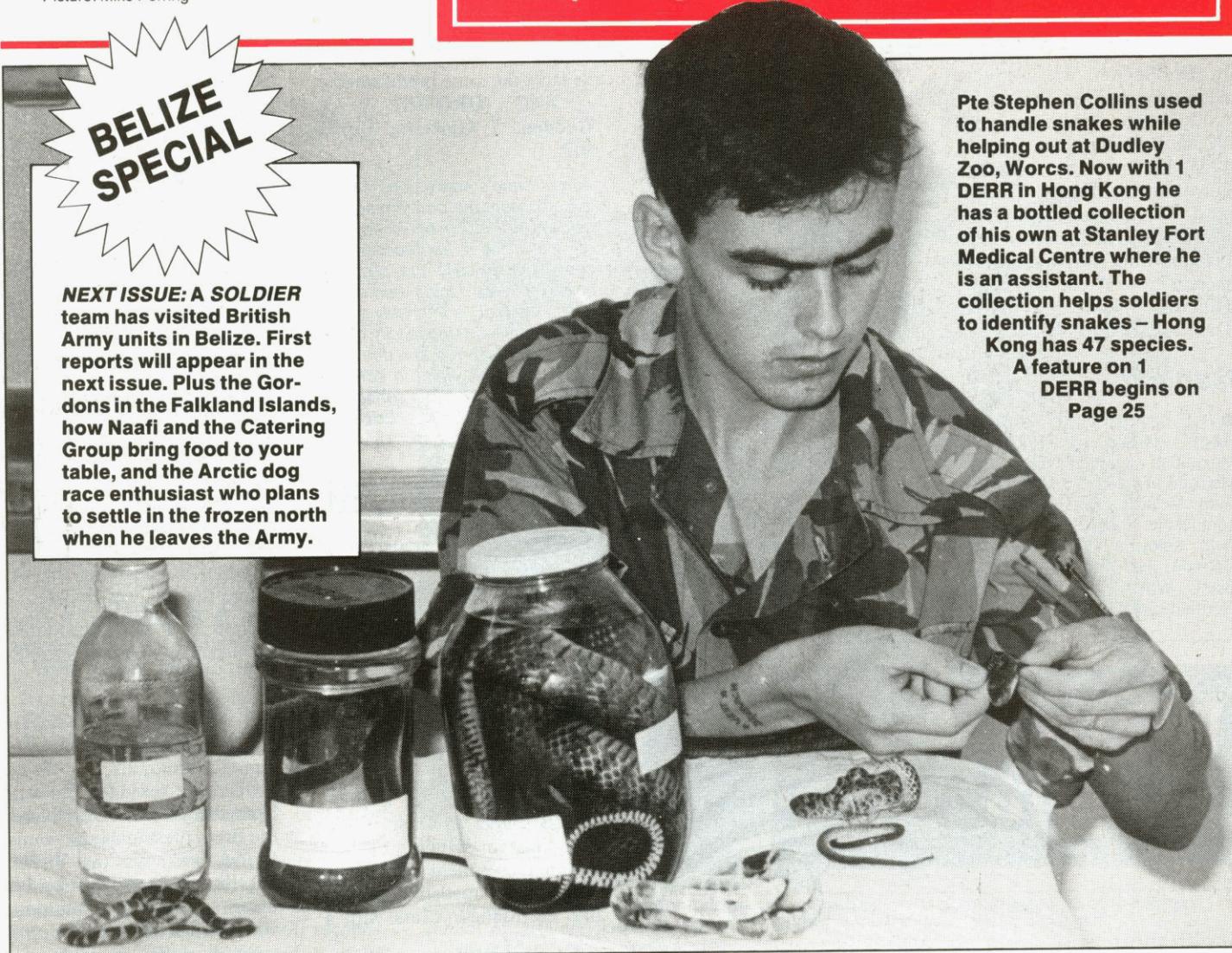
Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

BELIZE SPECIAL

NEXT ISSUE: A SOLDIER team has visited British Army units in Belize. First reports will appear in the next issue. Plus the Gordons in the Falkland Islands, how Naafi and the Catering Group bring food to your table, and the Arctic dog race enthusiast who plans to settle in the frozen north when he leaves the Army.

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LETTERS

VC grave to be honoured

I refer to the article headed Gunners Mark Grave of Boer War VC (SOLDIER May 15). In Bridlington, we also are taking steps to do the same.

Lt George Symons won his VC at Sebastopol on June 6, 1855. He lies in an unmarked grave in the Priory Churchyard. We cannot identify the place, but shall dedicate a large plaque within the church in his memory. — A Bland BEM, Hillcroft, Wold Newton, Nr Driffield YO25 0YQ.

Calling

● Old comrades in **7 Sigs Regt**, Herford, of Roderick MacIntosh, particularly Hugh McCabe, Paddy Barnshaw or Andy McCulloch, are asked to contact him at 403 543 Rowcliffe Ave, Kelowna BC, V1Y 5Y8 Canada. He served with the Black Watch of Canada in Germany in the early 1960s.

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

CLOSE THING

Two soldiers — SSgt Morse of 415 Maritime Troop RCT in Hong Kong, and Cpl Eagle, ASD Northern Ireland — narrowly missed the £50 prize in SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 463. They receive runners-up prizes of books, but the cheque for £50 goes to Mrs I Edge, of Payne Close, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset.

Do stories on housing help?

I found your magazine dated May 29 thoroughly readable but was concerned about the article on house purchase in Anne Armstrong's pages.

It is well presented but at the end of the day will it serve any purpose? Who, apart from soldiers, will read it? The Armed Forces Minister?

There are in my opinion two ways of retaining soldiers. FIRSTLY pay the younger ones (private/lance corporal) more money and SECONDLY ensure married men (and indeed single men) are properly housed at the end of their service.

How do you suppose the article concerning Sgt Whalley is going to help motivate another married SNCO with say 18 years of service?

Is he going to give of his best

for another four years knowing he faces the same predicament?

— **WO2 (ORQMS) V T Godden, 1 Glosters, BFPO 802.**

Aim of Anne's articles on housing is to highlight the problem so that soldiers will much earlier in their service tackle it, and secondly to convey graphically the plight of some soldiers facing homelessness. The MoD is intensely aware of the situation but publicity of the heartbreak involved at a domestic level must be helpful in concentrating the minds of all concerned on finding solutions. — **Editor**

ARA medal

Could any of your readers help me trace the owner of a shooting medal which my brother found while working in the church grounds, Ballykelly, Northern Ireland?

The inscription on the back of it is 'No 545280 Tpr Adams VIIth Hussars Cavalry Depot 1926'. On the front of the medal is inscribed "The Army Rifle Association" in a circle with a soldier in First World War uniform standing at ease with a Lee Enfield rifle in the centre. The medal is shaped like the Maltese Cross with a lion on top.

I would like to return the medal to Tpr Adams or his family. — **Cpl R W Guthrie, HQ Company, 5th Bn Ulster Defence Regiment, BFPO 802.**

Reunions

● **Canadian Women's Army Corps** veterans 31st annual reunion is to be held the last weekend in September in Toronto. Details from the reunion chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara St, Toronto, Canada M5V 1C9 (tel: 781-2872 or 781-3821).

● **The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's)** annual reunion dinner will take place on Saturday September 2 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY. Tickets from Regimental Headquarters, The Staffordshire Regiment, address as above.

Hotchkiss...

In the article on the Support Weapons Wing, at Netheravon, (SOLDIER, April 3) the Commandant stated his father learned the secret of the 2pdr anti-tank gun with the 2nd Dorsets in 1938.

I was with the 1st Camerons brigaded with the 2nd Dorsets in 5 Bde, 2 Division and it was not until mobilisation in 1939 that the infantry were issued with an anti-tank gun — a 25mm Hotchkiss firing a 1pdr solid shot.

I was the Camerons' anti-tank platoon commander and was told there was a shortage of 2pdrs for the RA so we had bought the Hotchkiss from the French.

It was a good gun with a lower silhouette than the 2pdr and we used it to effect on the retreat to Dunkirk.

I was actually on a YOs' course at Netheravon in 1939 and was recalled to my battalion in Aldershot the day before the war was declared. — **Maj D F Callander, Letham Farmhouse, By Haddington, East Lothian EH41 4NW.**

... and Bren

So L Hale (ex 11th Hussars) liked the Vickers but deplored the Bren, presumably, it seems, for AA work. Was that Vickers not the Vickers K, very fast firing with the ammunition spring-fed from a fixed drum?

Surely not the belt fed Vickers said to have been "as slow as a fat policeman"?

A weakness in the Bren, revealed in the desert, was the too long ejection opening. The 'empties', hitting the sand, threw up sand dust, making under the intense heat a cement with the graphite grease. The gun jammed.

The German Spandau had a mere slot covered by a small spring-operated lid. Any dust rising — with its firing rate there was plenty — was carried away from the opening by the cartridge cases rattling down; a sensible design!

What about an article on the Vickers Berthier (similar to the Bren) of 1930s Indian Army adoption? — **R J C Holmes, Flat 19, Haldane Court, Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AG.**

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SM29

Artillery to get new gun

THE FIRST round to whistle down the ranges at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill this year came from a massive self-propelled howitzer with "AS90" stencilled on the turret.

Now Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, has announced a £300 million order for 179 of the same species.

The order was placed after a two-year assessment study of the AS90, developed as a private venture by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd, and the M109 HIP (Howitzer Improvement Programme), the United States's solution to updating its own close support artillery.

The 155mm AS90 was adjudged the clear winner because of its "stretch potential" a longer barrel could be fitted without major alterations.

The equipment (barrel, turret and chassis) contains 90 per cent British components and was designed after the collapse of the tri-national development of the SP70 in 1986.

Its arrival is timely because of the urgent need to replace the Abbot 105mm SP gun.

The AS90's rates of fire (three rounds in ten seconds, six rounds per minute for three minutes) enable a regiment (24 guns) to crash three tons of high explosive on a target in ten seconds.

With its automatic gun-laying system coupled with electrically driven elevation and traverse, the gun can come into action, fire three rounds, and be away in 90 seconds.

Ex gunners will be interested to know there is no dial sight.

So far more than 1,800 rounds have been fired by the AS90 (a third at top charge) and 7,500 road and cross-country kilometres covered. Delivery is due to begin in the 1990s.

AS90 FACTS: Weight - 42 tons. Engine - 660 hp eight cylinder diesel. Suspension - Challenger hydro gas. Barrel - 39 calibre length. Range - 24km with unassisted projectile (30 if 52 calibre length barrel is fitted). Ammunition - 155mm of all description; capable of firing nuclear shells. Secondary armament - 1 x .50 mg.



Above - Some of the men behind the gun - Sgt Graeme Gove and gunners at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Below - Artillery System 90 - 179 on order

Picture: WO2 Arthur Thomson

INSIDE OPINIONS

- "Very adaptable and easy for the detachment numbers to learn their jobs" - WO2 (SMIG) Bob Jefford, RSA.
- "A great improvement on the Abbot" - Gnr Andy Brummitt (47 Fd), layer.
- "Three round in 8.41 seconds must be a record" - Gnr Mac McGowen, loader.
- "She's a powerful beast" - Gnr Steve Porter (14 Fd), loader.
- "Comfortable - even at 69 ks an hour" - LBdrs Jacko Jackson (14 Fd) and Dolly Lakin (47 Fd), both drivers.
- "Good and fast" - Gnr Kristin Taylor (47 Fd), layer.
- "From a No 1's point of view it is easy to control the men inside - much better than the 109" - Sgt Graeme Gove (14 Fd).

Royal salute

A 21 gun salute was fired in Manor Park, Aldershot to mark the Queen's official birthday. It was the first time that Aldershot Garrison, a designated saluting station, had been able to fire a salute in the town itself instead of in the military areas.

The salute was fired by F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery Royal Horse Artillery.

The birthday was marked in Scotland by a 21 gun salute fired by 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment RA (V) following a tri-Service parade at Edinburgh Castle.

Bomb attack

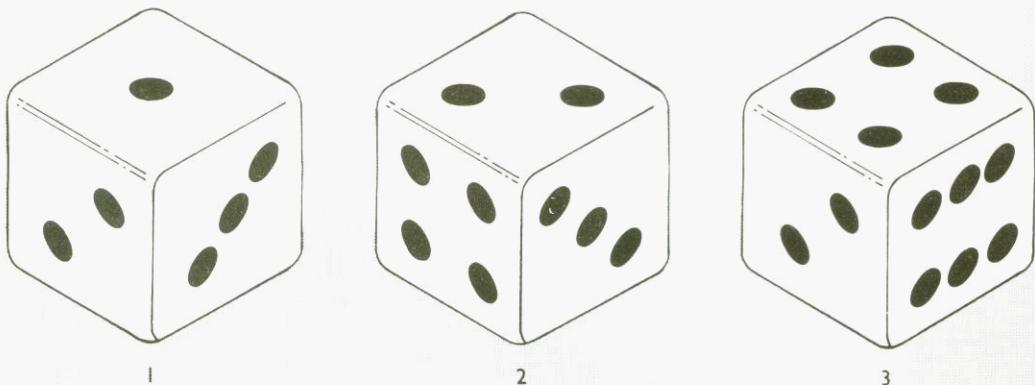
A TERRORIST attack on Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück, misfired after intruders were disturbed by a civilian boilerman in the early morning. A number of men fled after firing a shot. They left 170lbs of Semtex plastic explosives behind and a number of cans of petrol.

Only one of five bombs exploded (near the sergeants' mess), the others not having been primed. The base houses HQ 12 Armoured Brigade and 23 Engineer Regiment RE.

Band aid

BANDSMEN from all over BAOR swapped musical instruments for bandages when Hanover military hospital tested its role as a field hospital. Exercise Maxi Mash in the Hameln area involved personnel from the hospital and members of 1st Armoured Field Ambulance stationed at Hohne and 2nd Armoured Field Ambulance from Osnabrück. Seven units provided 300 simulated casualties for the three day exercise, during which the Hanover medics moved into their war role as 32 Field Hospital.

The illustration shows three views of an unusual dice. How many spots are there on the face directly opposite the six in the third view?*



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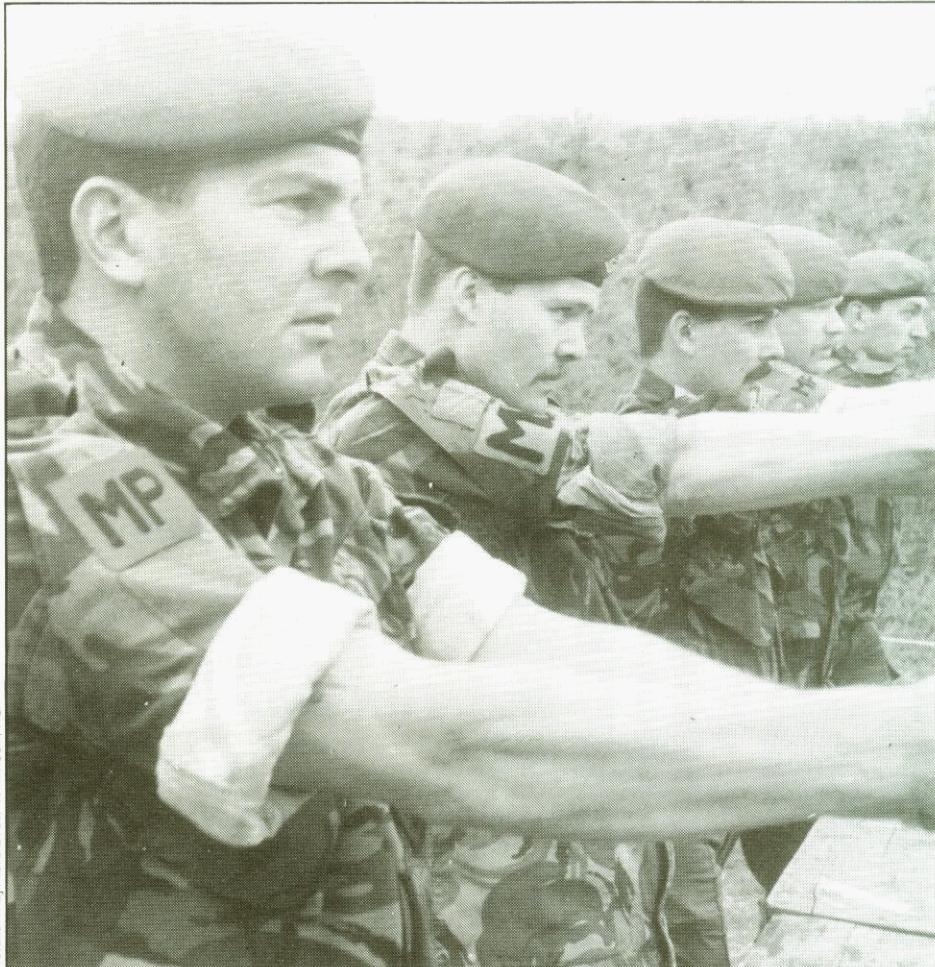
SPZ/28

King of Norway presents new Colours to Green Howards

KING OLAV of Norway, Colonel in Chief of The Green Howards, presented new Colours to the 1st Battalion at their tercentenary parade at Alma Barracks, Catterick, North Yorkshire.

Raised in 1688 for service under William III, The Green Howards are the oldest unamalgamated English regiment of the line. On parade at Catterick were 354 Green Howards and later 400 old comrades

marched past King Olav. Next day the King attended a drum head service at Richmond Castle accompanied by 1,500 Green Howards and their families, and presented 50 year badges to 93 old comrades.



Picture: Maj Piers Drew-Wilkinson, RS

Marksmen from 114 Provost Company RMP based at Detmold, West Germany on the pistol range at Scheuen, near Celle, for the 14th international "Cop Shoot" organised by 111 Provost Company, RMP.

Nearly 40 police teams took part, including three from British and 16 from German civilian forces, three from the Bundeswehr, 11 from the RMP plus American, Dutch, Danish and SHAPE military police

Bangkok paddle

SEVEN soldiers stationed with 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron at Soltau, near Hamburg in West Germany are attempting to canoe down the Maenamwah River from Chiang Mai to Bangkok. The 450 mile marathon is expected to take about four weeks. Leader of the adventure training exercise is Capt Dave Hudson.

MGRA at 4 Fd Regt

DURING his visit to the 4th Field Regiment at Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück, West Germany the Major General Royal Artillery, Maj Gen David Quayle watched men of 88 (Arracan) Fd Bty doing observation post training on a simulator and saw a command post exercise run by men of Headquarter Battery.

MOBB



by Mouse

- Mouse 1989 -

Runway city to shelter boat people

BRITISH Army personnel based in Hong Kong are involved in the construction of an emergency tented city for up to 7,000 Vietnamese boat people. The camp is being built with materials supplied by the Hong Kong Government on part of the runway at RAF Sek Kong.

Fixed wing flying by the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force and civilian clubs is being suspended, but helicopter operations will not be interrupted.

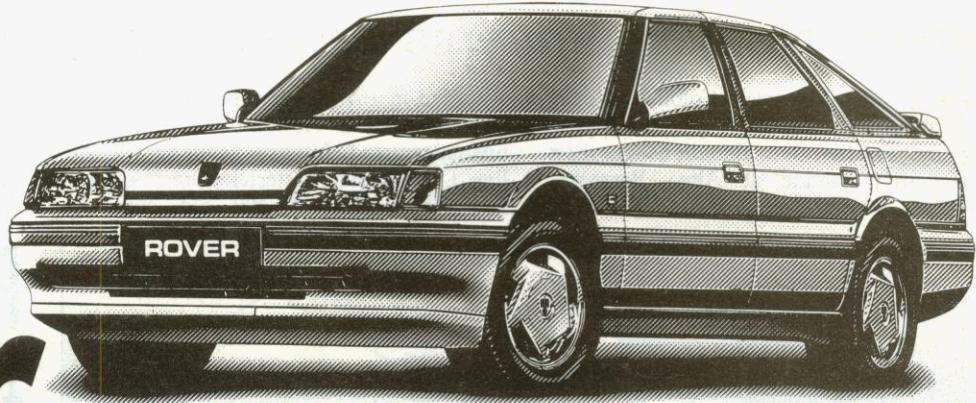
Men drawn from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment are involved in the building of the temporary camp.

Co-ordinated by 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, the operation was in response to a request by the government which faces a crisis as refugees threaten to overwhelm the territory's resources.

Soldiers from 1 DERR, the resident battalion, have been erecting marquees on the Soko islands to provide temporary shelter while Army landing craft from Stonewallers based 415 Maritime Troop RCT have been ferrying boat people between the islands.

Range road opened

A ROAD into previously inaccessible parts of Castle Peak Ranges, Hong Kong has been constructed by 70 Support Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers. At times the sapper bulldozer drivers worked up one in four gradients with deep drops on either side to complete the work at the request of the School of Small Arms.



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Catterick FIBUA 'office block' opens for business

A FOUR storey block of "flats and offices" has been opened at Catterick Garrison for the training of troops in the techniques of fighting in built up areas. It is the Army's

first such custom built facility in the United Kingdom.

Named the Leversuch Tower after WO1 Tom Leversuch, RE, who designed it, the

block is the latest addition to a complex of disused Army houses at Catterick used by 34,000 troops in the past four years for training in urban operations.

RAOC store destroyed in blaze

A FIRE at RAOC Stores Depot, Morten on Lugg near Hereford destroyed three of the ten bays of a large warehouse, but prompt action by the civilian fire brigade contained the blaze and some stores are expected to be salvaged.

Environmental health teams from HQ Western District worked with local health authorities to monitor more than 200 samples of air and surface smears in an area seven miles down wind of the depot.

Yorks yeomen on the trot

NEARLY 1,000 Territorial Army soldiers took part in an armoured reconnaissance exercise in the Vale of York, North Yorkshire. Exercise Fox Trot was designed to practise elements of The Queen's Yeomanry for their medium recce role as part of the Second Infantry Division and for their annual two week deployment to BAOR.

The regiment is equipped with Fox, Scorpion, Spartan, Sultan and Samaritan armoured vehicles.



Picture: Capt Leo Callow, 1 R Irish

Oh what a lovely pair! Rgrs David Mertagh and Michael Smith passed a very thorough inspection of their boots during the annual drill competition held by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers at Osnabrück, West Germany. 2nd Lt Graham Bennett led 1 Platoon to victory in the competition



Lt Gethin Jones, RWF, leads the Permanent Staff and Juniors of 13 Platoon, Burma Company past the inspecting dais as the Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe exercises its right to march through the town of

Folkestone. Four training companies and the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment paraded through the streets, led by the Commanding Officer of JIB Shorncliffe, Lt Col Tim Merritt, RRF

Beat Retreat boosts SSAFA

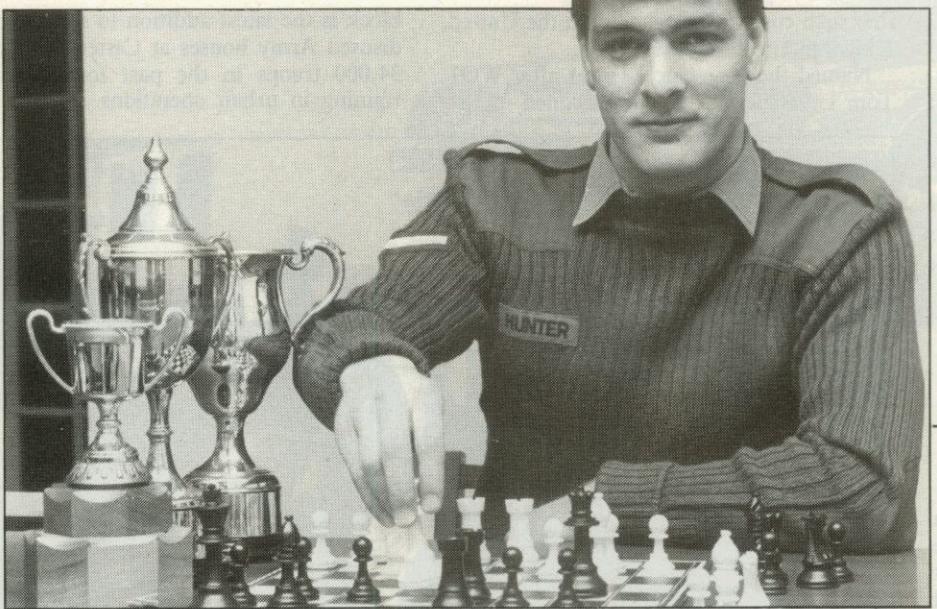
FOUR hundred bandmen took part in a unique tri-Service Beat Retreat ceremony on Horse Guards Parade, London which raised more than £60,000 for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA).

Guns of The King's Troop joined in the spectacular finale of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

Good turn sappers

SAPPERS from 24 Squadron RE based at Chatham, Kent have built a wooden bridge across a gorge and over the river Neath at Pontneddfechan in mid Glamorgan. The project was part of Exercise Dipper, under which soldiers training in Wales allocate part of their time to assisting the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Why Stephen is



looking out for a check mate

LCpl Stephen Hunter of 4 Armd Fd Ambulance based at Minden, West Germany is looking for someone to play with – at chess that is! He has just won the Army chess championship at Folkestone and needs to keep sharp for when he represents the United Kingdom in the Nato competition in Germany later this year. Stephen has been playing since he was eight years old and devotes a lot of his spare time to reading about the game and practising.

Brave Ray carried on soldiering . . .

A former 4th Royal Tank Regiment tank commander who bravely carved out a new Army career when he was stricken with multiple sclerosis has received the British Empire Medal.

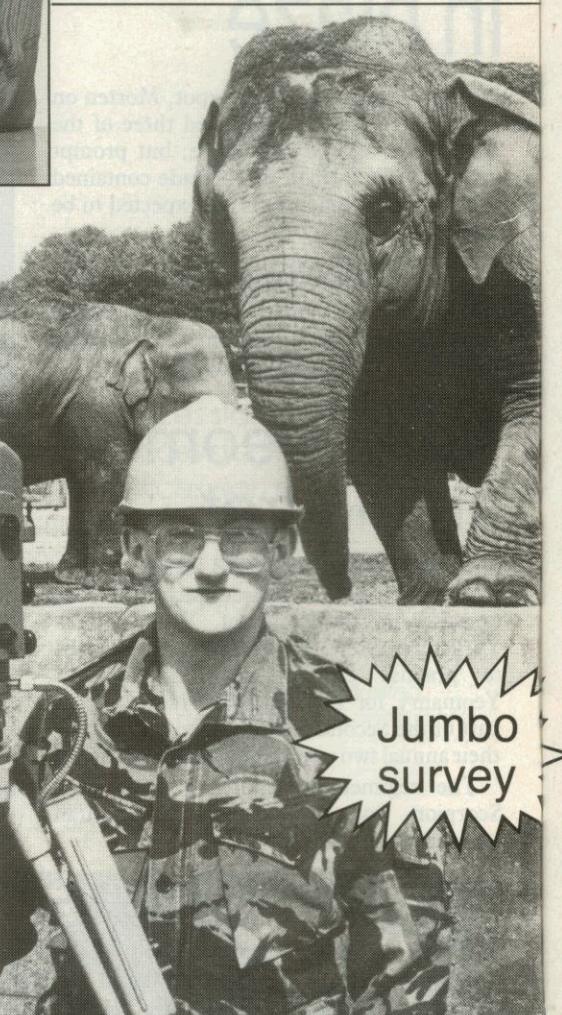
Cpl Ray Walker had just been recommended for promotion in 1979 when he was diagnosed as having MS. That put paid to his future as a tank crewman,

but undeterred he moved to the QM's department and became 4 RTR's clothing storeman at their Osnabrück base in West Germany.

Ray earned special praise for his work with young soldiers new to the regiment and over the years he has raised thousands of pounds for the Princess Louise Hospital in Scotland.



MEDAL MAN: Cpl Ray Walker in the 4 RTR clothing store



Sheba the elephant takes an interest in the hard hat worn by **William McGill**, one of seven Army apprentices carrying out a survey of Chester Zoo.

The seven are doing a

Tickled pink! That was Lt Col **Andrew Barratt**, CO of 2 Queens, after his battalion had received the 1988/89 Northern Ireland Tickle Fitness Competition Cup. Based at Alder-

two year surveyor engineering course at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow and were making a scale plan of the zoo under the direction of tutor Sgt **Mark Green**.

grove, from where they have been operating along the border in Counties Tyrone and Armagh since January 1988, the Queensmen beat five other infantry battalions to win the trophy.

Squaddies for a day impress at Buller

Lorraine Pentecost dashes off a salute that obviously pleases SSgt Jim Donovan, RCT. Lorraine and Lisa Braund (whose salute is just as smart!) were put through their paces on the parade ground at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, home of the Depot and Training Regiment RCT, as their reward (!) for winning a competition organised by Sealink. Lorraine and Lisa were given a ride in a helicopter and spent the day finding out about Army training – at first hand.



Picture: Mike Perrin

PEOPLE

Finger print-out tests Geoff

When every payment has to be made in cash it is vital that the right person gets what he is entitled to. To help matters at the pay office at British Gurkhas Nepal in Dharan Cantonment, fingerprints are used in some cases as the payee's receipt, and the man who has to make it all add up is WO1 **Geoff Harrington** of the Royal Army Pay Corps.

Pensioners sometimes trek for days through the hills to collect what is due to them. Just before the great Dashera Hindu festival as much as £400,000 may be paid out (some pensioners collect only once or twice a year).

Pension day is a chance for old soldiers to swap yarns and meet old friends.

Not so welcome outside the gates are the moneylenders collecting their interest, while further into the Himalayas bandits may be waiting.

WO1 Harrington finds the job fascinating – the more so because he can indulge his hobby. Since posting to Dharan he has become something of an expert on the local kites, hawks and other birds.



FORM GUIDE: WO1 Geoff Harrington with a sheet used for paying out pensions and allowances

Modest heroes save the day



LCpl Ullah



Pte Gaskin

Two modest heroes from the Regimental Information Team of The Queen's Regiment saved the day when thieves scarpered with the day's takings from the Epsom and Ewell Fun Day.

LCpl **Matt Ullah** and Pte **Tony Gaskin** were packing up at the end of the event when they heard someone shouting "Stop them!" and saw two men being pursued by an elderly gentleman.

Although some distance away and weighted down by combat gear and boots, the Queensmen gave chase and the thieves dropped a cash box and disappeared into an adjoining housing estate.

LCpl Ullah and Pte Gaskin recovered the box (which contained £2,000) and returned it to the grateful fun day organisers. But they did not mention the incident to anyone and it was only when the regiment received a letter of thanks for the actions of the anonymous heroes that the full story emerged.

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Legionnaires sit out the quickstep

When it comes to sharing the same parade ground, the Bands of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the French Foreign Legion have a bit of a problem.

The Gurkhas scuttle around at a Light Infantry step of 140 paces to the minute, while the Legion does a sort of stately amble at a rate of 88.

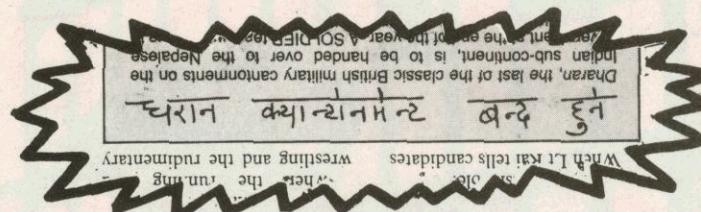
So when the two met at Gallipoli Lines, Hong Kong for a day of multi-cultural music making there could be no question of playing on the march. Instead they each did their own thing separately and then stood side by side to play a few pieces under the batons of Lt Col Alain Coudié, the Legion's Chef du Musique, and Capt Frank Slack, Director of Music for the Gurkhas.

Finally Gurkha and Legion musicians joined forces for an impromptu concert. Considering that the music was being played without any rehearsal whatsoever, the choice of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* as the grand finale was courageous.

It was a near run thing, but they kept going without a break, illustrating Dr Johnson's observation that "the marvel is not that it is done badly, but that it is done at all."

The Band of the French Foreign Legion was spending three weeks in Hong Kong. Its 57 members included 19 different nationalities.

SOLDIER to Soldier



Nepalling mistake

Despite every effort to get it right, our Gurkha line announcing the closure of

Dhara cantonment (SOLDIER, June 26) was printed upside down. For the benefit of our Gurkha readers this is how it should have read!



Picture: Sgt John Harding, London District

A new royal saluting dais built out of a fallen oak from Windsor Great Park made its debut at the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards. The dais was constructed by craftsmen from 321 Engineer Park RE to a design inspired by the Duke of Wellington's oval desk still used in the same office by the Major General Commanding the Household Division.

Commissioned by Headquarters Household Division, the dais was designed by student architects from

New dais for the Queen

the Property Services Agency and handed over to Maj Gen Christopher Airy by the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief, Brig Mike Stephens. Pictured with Maj Gen Airy (left) are Mr Clive Trigg of the PSA and WO1 (GSM) Perry Mason, Coldrm Gds.

Champion of the retired retirees

Many ordinary soldiers, sailors and airmen have cause to be grateful to Air Commodore Chris Plummer, founder of the Forces Retirement Association.

He perceived that while the interests of retired officers were attended by a number of organisations, non-commissioned men and women of all three Services were not always so well looked after.

In 1983 Air Cdr Plummer, a retired pilot, started the FRA to provide a comprehensive advice service on pensions and other state benefits. It was soon granted official recognition by the Ministry of Defence and gained membership of the Council of British Service and Ex Service Organisations.

Now the founder himself is taking a well deserved retirement, handing over the job of general secretary to Lt Cdr Roger Arnold-Shrubb, recently retired himself from the Royal Navy. He can be contacted at 4 Warwick Road, Swindon, Wilts SN1 3EP (tel: 0793 542490).

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

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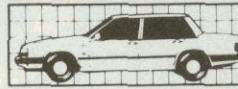
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They're too busy to see the show

MILLIONS of television viewers and thousands of spectators were able to enjoy the glittering spectacle that is the Queen's Birthday Parade held at Horse Guards in London, but if one group was guaranteed to miss the show it was the men and women of London District Provost Company.

For them the big day started in the early hours with a variety of tasks to perform to ensure the security of the event. A team from SOLDIER was given a unique opportunity to join them behind the scenes in company with their OC, Maj Nick Barnard.

First on the agenda was an

early morning back-bending tour of the maze of tunnels and cellars below Horse Guards.

Arms and explosives search dog Terry, a keen-nosed golden labrador, was busy sniffing for explosives under the guidance of his handler Cpl Max Homer. Once the all clear had been given by the company's search teams, the tunnel entrances were locked and secured and the dog teams withdrew to a basement in Horse Guards where they remained on call.

At Wellington Barracks, where coaches full of scarlet-coated Guardsmen in gleaming boots were being disembarked, Cpls Susan Proffitt

and Gordon Turner were standing by.

By now roads around Whitehall had been sealed off and it seemed eerie without the snarl of traffic.

The pavements were a different matter. They were packed with a mass of queuing spectators waiting for access through the various entrances to Horse Guards. It proved a busy time for the Redcaps.

High fashion was much in evidence, especially at Horse Guards and the Downing Street entry points where Cpls Graham Potham and Kev Grimes were checking tickets.

At Green Park, where The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery were due to fire a 41 gun salute at 11am, a number of NCOs were keeping the crowd behind barriers well clear of the firing point.

"Stand there, Madam, and you'll get run down when the troop arrives," said a patient RMP sergeant to a jostling member of the crowd.

Close by, two members of RMP UKLF Mounted Troop from Aldershot were on attached duty for the day.

Cpls Alison Dyer on Cairo and Tim Gale on Glamis Castle became the subject of much scrutiny by foreign tourists who quickly backed off when one mount got skittish as the sharp crack of gunfire began.

Further down the park and in sight of Buckingham Palace, Cpl Karen Arnold stood by with tracker dog Trojan.

Two men with the best view of the proceedings were Sgt Chris Toft and Cpl Phil Armstrong who manned the Army liaison desk at New Scotland Yard. From their position in the massive Central Control Centre, they could see banks of monitors receiving pictures of the whole area.

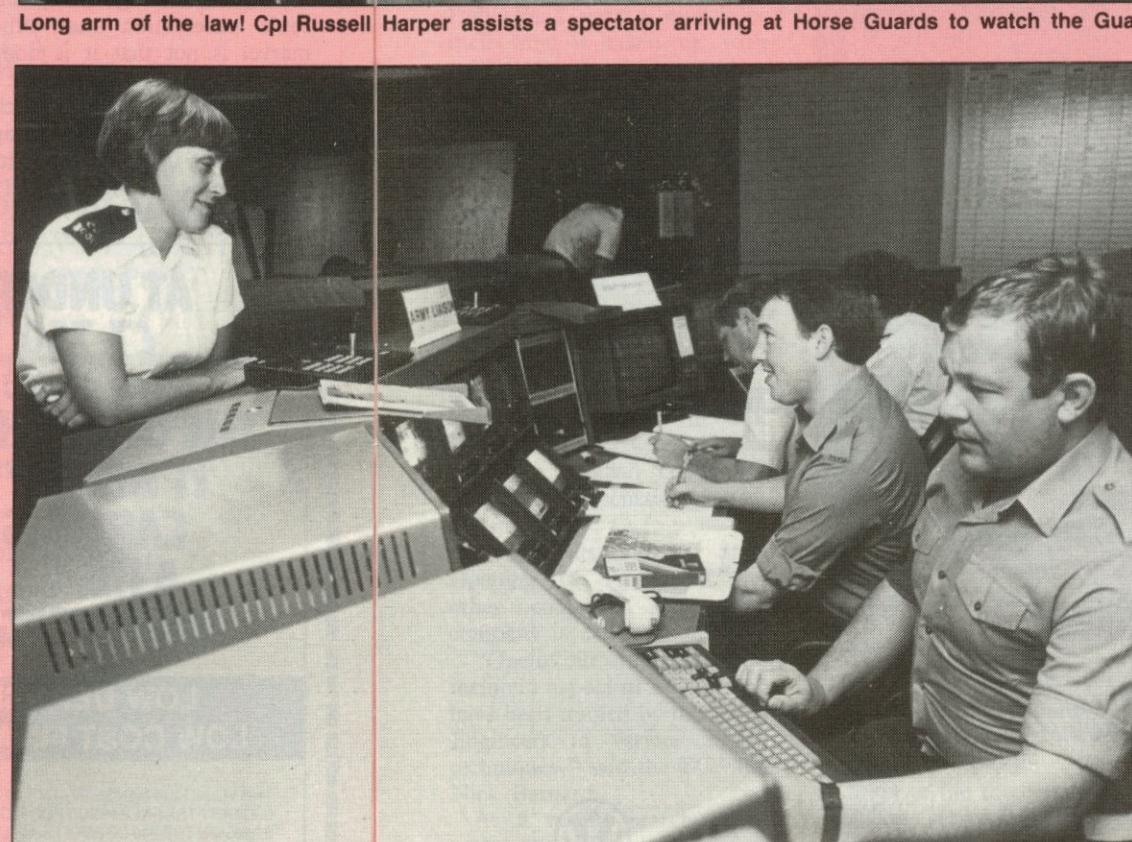
Their colleagues on the ground during the most spectacular event of the London year saw next to nothing of the parade.



Checking tickets at the Citadel are Cpl Andrew Preston and LCpl Lorraine Phillips



Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Perring



Manning the Army liaison desk in New Scotland Yard are Sgt Chris Toft (nearest camera) and Cpl Maggie Keene

Capital place for ceremony

MANY and varied are the tasks performed by troops during the annual Queen's Birthday Parade in London, but perhaps none are more vital than those performed by the Royal Military Police.

Security is always a headache during an event the scale of the Queen's Birthday Parade, but the men and women of London District Provost Company RMP always respond admirably to the situation.

Since 1971 their headquarters has been based at Rochester Row in premises said once to have been used as a VD hospital for troops returning from the Crimea.

The company is responsible for policing the whole of London and has detachments at

Mill Hill, Woolwich, Putney and Pirbright. It also maintains six Junior NCOs on six-month tours in Belize.

Approximately half the company's work involves routine provost duties. Ceremonial duty makes up the rest.

Duties range in scale from an event that requires a single sniffer dog to check the area plus two NCOs to control access, to grand occasions such as the Trooping the Colour and the annual Founders Day service at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The London based Redcaps are also involved with security at the Cenotaph Parade and the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert

● Turn to Page 17



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Cpl Tim Gale on Glamis Castle and Cpl Alison Dyer on Cairo stand guard at Green Park where The King's Troop fire a 41 gun salute. They were on detached duty from Aldershot's RMP UKLF Mounted Troop

CEREMONY

● From Page 15

Hall. Each year a month of their time is taken up with policing the Royal Tournament and its 2,000 participants at Earls Court.

For the Royal Tournament the Redcaps receive some support from the Royal Navy and carry out regular foot patrols of the area supported by the Metropolitan Police.

London District Provost Company is occasionally tasked to provide men for high profile ceremonial duty at Lancaster House. NCOs from the unit were on duty when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had trade discussions there recently.

State Visits and the State Opening of Parliament are other occasions when the company is called upon.

"One of our other tasks is to maintain a pool of NCOs who have been trained by the Royal Engineers in various search techniques," said the OC, Maj Nick Barnard.

As a result, search teams under the charge of a senior NCO can check for explosives if required to do so. This is in



Carrying a torch in a tunnel under Horse Guards is search dog Terry followed by handler Cpl Max Homer

addition to the three arms and explosives search dogs used by the company.

The unit has a good working relationship with the Metropo-



On motor cycle escort was Cpl Susan Proffitt, the only WRAC Provost member carrying out this role

litan Police and during a military event such as the Queen's Birthday Parade it mans an Army liaison desk at New Scotland Yard.

The size of the task was daunting but for the smart and able men and women of London District Provost Company it was just another day!

They've even got something in reserve for the horses

LIVING in an oasis of democracy surrounded by Communist country, the Army in West Berlin's British Sector has to be prepared for any eventuality.

Accordingly, the Ordnance Services' Supply Depot in the city is required to maintain a 90 day reserve of rations to feed troops and families should the sector find its road and rail resupply links cut off, as they were 40 years ago.

The Blockade Reserve is held at the depot in an enormous warehouse complex that also houses a butcher's, a bakery and a number of chillers to hold dairy products and frozen meats.

Unique to Berlin is the Families Ration Issue Section (FRIS) which lands the RAOC supply specialists with responsibility for sorting out what is probably the world's largest family shopping list.

FRIS is designed to ensure reserve rations are regularly turned over to prevent deterioration and to recoup as much as possible of the cost of purchase.

Shelf-life of foodstuffs is carefully monitored to prevent waste, and to save it from being dumped. Service families are able to purchase much of the stock at a reasonable price.

Of around 1,000 families in Berlin, about 800 make use of FRIS. Each household is issued with large metal shopping boxes and pads of Form PS700 - Families Shopping List - which are submitted to the depot for processing.

Twenty-four men are employed full time on FRIS, with 20 women working part time on issue days to pack boxes of

shopping which are checked three times before dispatch.

Thrice weekly orders are delivered to the door of each family residence by 62 Transport and Movement Sqn RCT who have 27 different delivery rounds to make - no mean task when some of the families live in high rise flats.

FRIS Supervisor is Mr Alan Seaward (ex DERR and Glosters, he served for six years with each) who has responsibility of some 300 different items including a number not normally held by the RAOC.

They include straw for the horses - Berlin Garrison has two service chargers on its inventory - and food for patrol dogs working in the city.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers will arrive in Berlin next year with their regimental mascot - a goat - which will have to be fed, albeit at the RWF's expense. The goat is said to have a most unhealthy appetite for eating cigarettes but the thorny question of ration entitlement has yet to be settled!

Majority of the food is bought locally in Berlin, but for the depot to provide the sort of service families expect some items have to be imported from the United Kingdom.

That includes baked beans (23,000 tins a year) for only British made beans have the required taste. Strangely in a country known as the "land of the wurst", there is nothing comparable to the good old English banger so sausages have also to be imported.

Trends in healthy eating have changed the list of available items, with sales of poultry rising at the expense of



Above - Assistant FRIS supervisor Lorenzo Scardino (centre) checks another shopping list. Below - More than 10,000 lbs of straw is required to provide for two horses for 90 days. LCpl Nick Millar sorts it out



Wartime nasties keep EOD section in work

LIFE for the men serving with Ordnance Services Berlin is not all storekeeping. They are also tasked to provide EOD cover for the British Sector and elsewhere if required.

A city that was as heavily bombed as Berlin during the Second World War, and which saw tremendously heavy street fighting is bound to have more than its share of unexploded ordnance.

One fence post hole being dug at RAF Gatow led to 174 30mm rounds being uncovered. Construction workers are forever finding shells, bombs and bullets and having to call in an EOD team to deal with them. The team's rogues' gallery includes a massive naval shell thought to have been dropped from an aircraft!

The RAOC experts have even been asked to help defuse weaponry in East Berlin but had to decline when told at the border crossing they could not take in their own explosive demolition charges.

Just how lethal the situation in Berlin is can be gauged by what happened at the city's zoo. At the end of the war the huge flak tower that stood within its grounds was demolished. Nearby a gigantic pit was dug by Soviet troops and bulldozers pushed into it many German tanks still bombed up for action and containing the remains of crewmen, creating a giant underground and potentially lethal tomb.

British EOD teams, aware of the dangers of deteriorating ammunition, approached the Senat with an offer to excavate and make safe all the unexploded ordnance.

Their offer was declined by the Senat who acknowledged the danger but did not want old memories dug up.



Yo ho ho and a! Sgt Charlie Fraser shoulders a jar of 21 year old service rum

Vintage drop of the hard stuff

DURING the First World War, alcohol was issued to troops in the trenches to bolster their fighting spirit before they were ordered over the top, so SOLDIER writer Laurie Manton thought it a bit of a rum do when he discovered a compound full of the heady nectar during a visit to the Berlin Supply Depot.

The grog has been there since the mid 1960s and is thought to be packing an almighty punch by now. The crates it arrived in are stenciled with the initials of the Royal Army Service Corps.

In the Fifties, the rum could only be issued on the orders of a divisional commander when a medical officer considered it necessary to safeguard health; for

instance, after strenuous exercise in cold or wet when men could rest immediately afterwards.

Rum is rarely issued these days for Army medical experts believe that it is inadvisable to use alcohol to ward off the cold. However, the tradition still exists that on Christmas Day rum is served in tea or coffee by officers to single soldiers remaining in barracks.

Does Berlin hold the oldest stocks of any Ordnance Depot?

On an historical note, rum not only fortified the living, but also preserved the dead. The bodies of admirals who died at sea used to be shipped home in casks of rum! Recycling of waste wasn't in fashion then - or was it ...

Fetching tale of good dog Villa

SCRAPPED equipment nearing the end of its useful life is brought to the Returned Stores Sub Depot (RSSD) at Alexander Barracks where a decision is made as to whether the item should be repaired or scrapped.

Items written off - be it car, spanner or tape recorder - are returned to the Senat which authorises regular auction sales to dispose of equipment and recoup some of the money spent on the massive Berlin Budget.

Man in charge of RSSD is WO2 (SQMS) Les Liversey who had a royal encounter with the Duchess of York during her visit to Ordnance Services in Berlin.

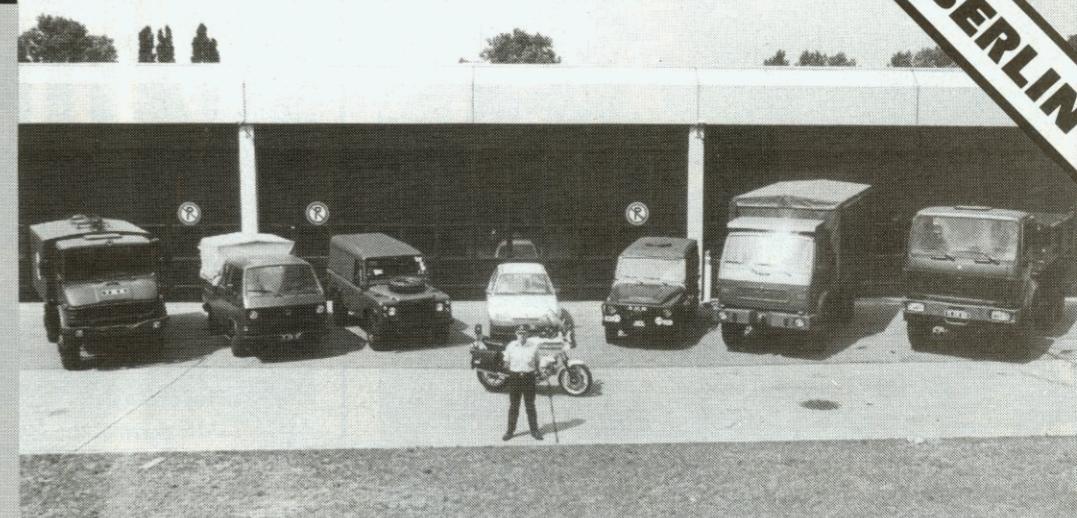
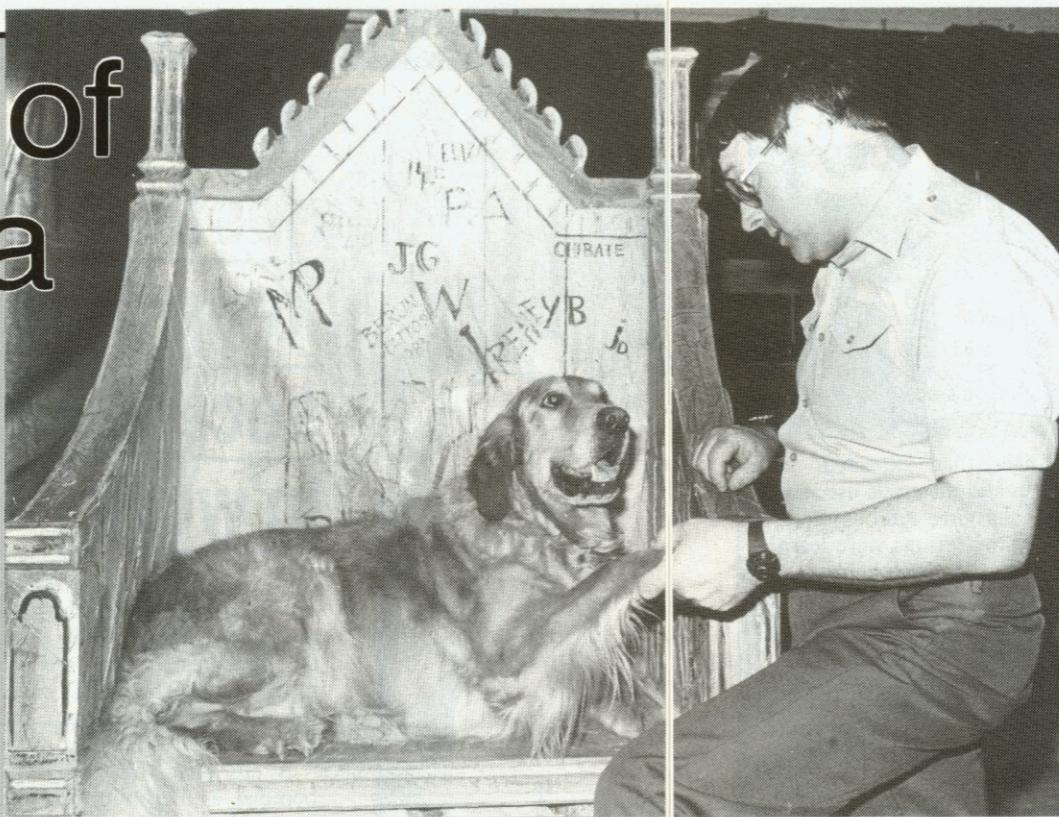
She expressed an interest in his dog, Villa, a former guide dog.

"Does he fetch?" asked the Duchess who removed her glove and threw it for Villa to retrieve.

Past training paid off as Villa bounded off to pick up the royal garment and return it - earning a regal pat on the head for his trouble.

Les doesn't believe it has gone to the dog's head, but when SOLDIER called at RSSD, Villa was reclining on a replica royal throne in the Berlin Tattoo scenery store, where he graciously granted SOLDIER's photographer a brief audience!

This dog obviously has style.



CITY TRANSPORT

unusually bought direct from makers), Opel Kadett, Mercedes 280 GE, MAN 4 ton Double Cab, Land Rover 110 GS Cargo (not unique but

cycle used for police escort is a BMW 850. All the vehicles are owned by the Senat which provides them for British Army use.



Slow down! You must be joking, said 1 LI

DRILLING with SA 80 and taking part in the Queen's Birthday Parade were just two of the tasks confronting 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry when they arrived in West Berlin earlier this year.

Before 1 LI were posted there were some worried faces among organisers of the British Army's second largest parade, for it was feared the fast and furious pace of the Light Infantry would leave other troops standing if the LI led, or run them down if they followed!

The regulation pace of the heavy infantry is normally either 112 or 120 paces to the minute but for 1 LI it is 140. To make matters worse, in reality they march at 156 which they find a more natural pace. That is still only halfway

between a trot and the double as the fleet-footed battalion moves at a strength sapping 180 paces per minute.

Met with the suggestion that they might consider slowing down to heavy infantry pace, the battalion that thrives on tradition gave a short answer: "No way!"

"After all," they pointed out, "one wouldn't ask the Jocks to replace their kilts with trousers, would one?"

In the event 1 LI gave way a little but *without* compromising their traditions. Their words of command had to be separated as the heavy infantry came to the "present" from "attention", to which they have first to be called.

It got very complicated but, all 1 LIs movements are made from the position of "at ease"



Masters of the ceremony and second to none. 1 LI on parade during the Queen's Birthday Parade on the Maifeld in Berlin

and resulted in them doing five movements to the other battalions' three.

In all honesty, admitted 1 LI, being stationed in Omagh, Northern Ireland meant the battalion had not done a full-blown parade for almost three years. During the past two years, the battalion had not had a single drill parade.

Going to Berlin meant the men had to go from a standing start on all their drills, including changing rifle drill from SLR to SA 80.

Early morning drill parades

for officers to relearn sword drills was a wise decision, for in its early stages young officers were said to be drawing their swords from their scabbards and nearly cutting their own throats.

Drilling the Light Infantry way with SA 80 proved difficult. Problems were overcome but the manual for LI rifle drill will have to be rewritten.

"It is a lot more difficult to stand to attention because you have to hold it up by the butt," explained the RSM, WO1

George Bryant. "Because the rifle is so short it is very hard to judge whether it is parallel to the ground as you march."

"Because it is rather fat and stubby it tends to look quite cumbersome. We had to adapt,

as we do things differently in the Light Infantry, not fixing bayonets and marching at the trail rather than the shoulder. To march at the trail we had to beg and borrow iron sights from the other units so we could keep hold of it," he said.

Every member of the battalion was put into the right

Hitting the high notes are Buglers Lee Jenkins and Mark Brown



The Duchess of Kent presents new Colours to the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers (South Yorkshire) at Sheffield after they had been consecrated by the Rev Tom Robinson, Deputy Chaplain General to the Forces.

Two hundred men under Commanding Officer Lt Col Tim Isles paraded at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield during the ceremony which ended with three rousing cheers



Colours for Yorks Vols

(see picture below) for the Duchess, who is Honorary Colonel of The Yorkshire Volunteers.

When the formalities had been completed the Duchess met members of the battalion and their families and talked to many of them.

Village at war!

PART TIME paras of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment went to war in buses when restrictions on low level flying upset their plans to drop in on Bonnland, the "fighting" village near Hammelberg in West Germany.

Instead, their six RAF Hercules landed in Frankfurt and the battalion was bussed in to the drop zone.

From there the anticipated fast assault on the historic village, specially adapted as a FIBUA (fighting in built up area) facility, was modified to a more deliberate attack with all five companies and supporting weapons taking part.

Once the village had been secured the tactical phase of 4 Para's annual Exercise Casino Royale was temporarily shelved to allow companies to rehearse their FIBUA technique, rotating through a series of stands.

Casino Royale is the battalion's annual opportunity to exercise for its role in BAOR, involving officers and men from its headquarters and five companies at Liverpool, Pudsey, Stockton, Oldham, Gateshead and Lincoln.

More than 370 men of 4 Para took part, supported by four Abrams tanks of the American 2nd 64 Armour and opposed by B Company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

During the second phase companies practised moving from house to house across roofs, via windows and by rope, assaulting houses by sections, fighting through a blazing building with flame filled passages and rooms, and learning how to fortify and defend buildings.

Roles were reversed for the third phase, with 4 Para on the receiving end as the battalion prepared to defend Bonnland. Preparations took

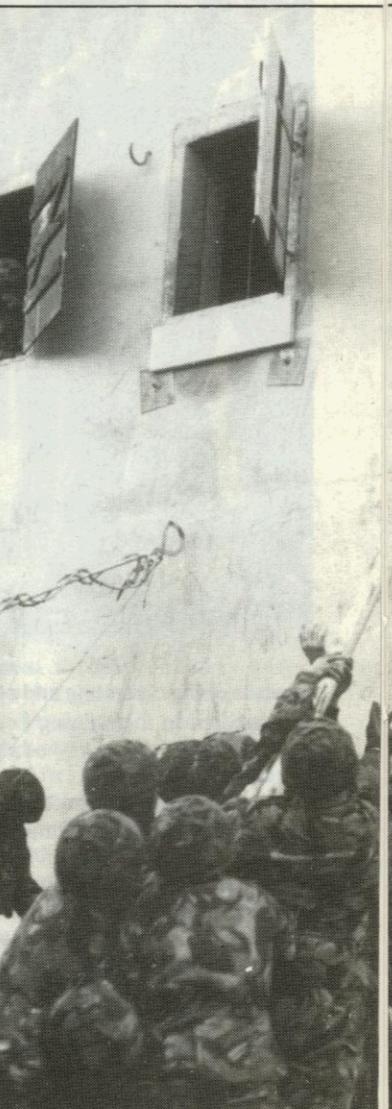
longer than expected, with men and materials used up at an alarming rate.

Many lessons were learned during the early hours of the following morning as the Terriers came under heavy attack. But when the dust of battle had settled everyone turned out to restore the village to normality and prepare for the return flight to Manchester.



One of four Abrams tanks of the US Army's 2nd 64 Armour enters the village in support of 4 Para

4 Para at full stretch on FIBUA exercise at Bonnland



Breaking and entering techniques drove this para up the pole



Discussing the plan of battle before attacking Bonnland are Maj Norman Hodges and men of his Liverpool based A Company



A soldier of 4 Para hot foots it out of the "fire house" in Bonnland

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Leading the way

Nabbed!

ANOTHER CAPTURE FOR 1 DERR

TWO minutes after a team from SOLDIER arrived at A Company's steamy HQ location there was a bustle on the verandah and two bewildered illegal immigrants were brought in. It was midday.

When one was led round a corner (simply to ensure he did not communicate with his pal during interrogation) fear came into their eyes and heaven knows what they thought was going to happen.

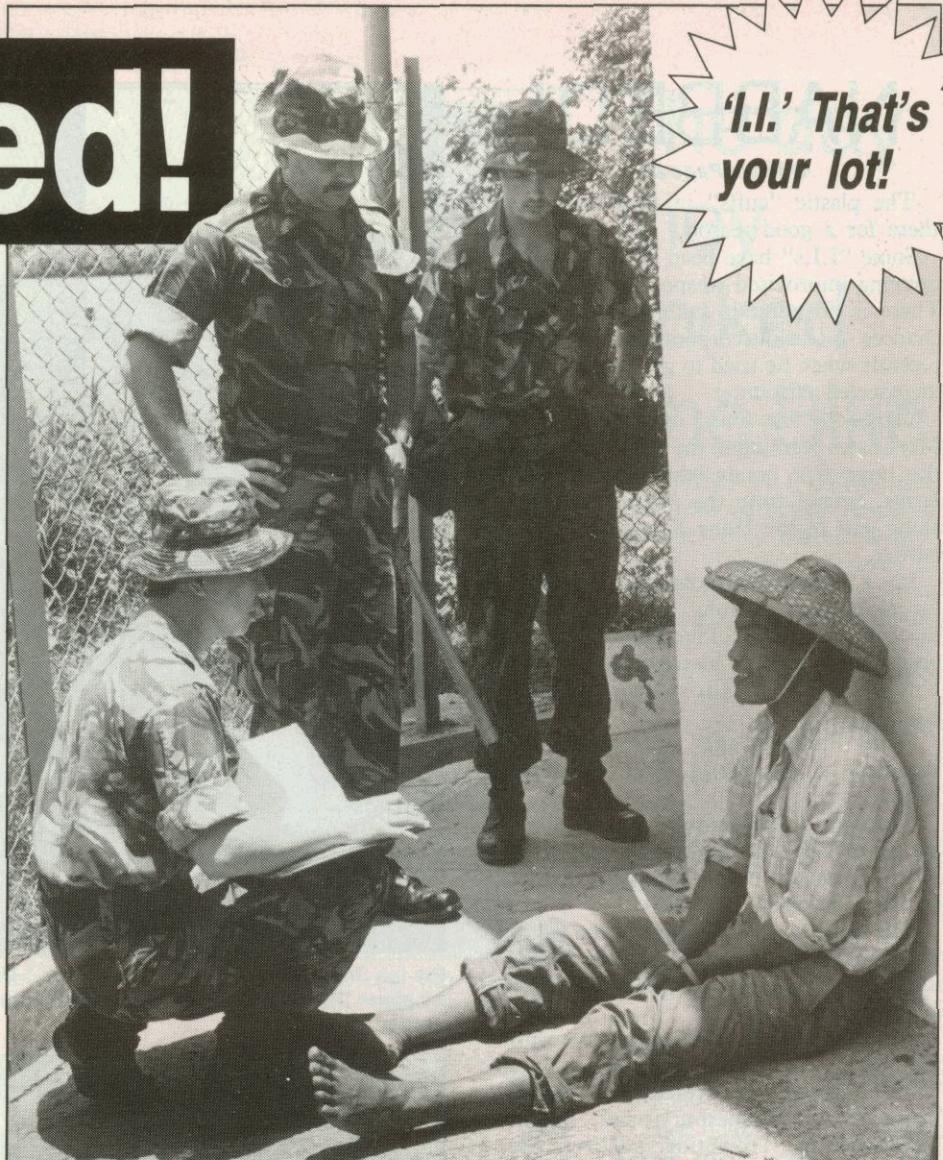
In fact, someone with a reassuring Wessex burr said: "Have a fag, Johnny."

The plastic "cuffs" were slipped off and as the fugitives puffed timidly at their cigarettes an interpreter got to work.

The couple were the 84th and 85th "I.I.s" picked up by the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) during a recent tour of the border between Hong Kong's New Territories and Communist China.

At the end of it they were into treble figures.

Illegal immigrants are handed over to the police, jailed if they are discovered to be persistent offenders, and probably sent back from whence they have come if they



An illegal immigrant is questioned by an interpreter. Looking on are Drum Major Phil Harrill and LCpl Andy Chadwick

are first-timers like the two Chinese picked up by A Company.

With boatloads of Vietnamese arriving in Hong Kong one may question the importance of the capture of a handful of illegal immigrants from mainland China.

The answer is contained in the latest Hong Kong Information Service review. Last year 18,385 boat people arrived; the number of "I.I.s" arrested daily was 57 – more than 20,000 in annual terms.

With the recent turmoil which spread from Peking to the provinces

who knows what the future may bring.

Not that the men of 1 DERR (at present back at Stanley Fort, their base on Hong Kong Island) are showing more than an intelligent professional interest in the situation.

Words by
Bill Moore
Pictures by
Terry Champion

They are a commonsense lot, the lads from Wiltshire and Berkshire who still make up the bulk of the battalion (along with a few from a bit of Oxfordshire which used to be Berks and some "furriners" cross posted from the Prince of Wales's Division depot).

The battalion was on its third border tour when SOLDIER called.

Companies spend six weeks manning tower observation posts and hilltop positions along the winding mesh fence topped with coils of barbed wire. At night they lie up in ambush positions.

Sometimes they patrol their patch by bicycle.

In 16 years in the Army it was the first time that Maj Alan Coates, OC A Company, could remember deploying men without their rifles, but the troops seemed content to rely on the batons they carry – many of them are hefty countrymen.

'I.I.' That's your lot!



Lt Col Stephen Saunders, CO 1 DERR, outside his headquarters. Predecessors of the regiment fought in the Opium Wars and at Peking in the last century

● Turn to next page

NABBED!

From Page 25

The plastic "cuffs" in their belts are there for a good reason.

Some "I.I.s" have been reported to be carrying improvised weapons and knives. There is no point in taking unnecessary chances. A Gurkha corporal was murdered recently when he tried to go it alone in an unexpected encounter.

"His body was found over there," said Maj Coates pointing to the corner of one of the huge fish ponds which, with duck farms, extend from the Mai Po marshes along part of the Hong Kong side of the border.

It is a region rich in wild life and famous for its egrets and herons. Not surprisingly the Colonel-in-Chief of the DERR took the opportunity to visit his regiment on the border during an official visit to Hong Kong.

Prince Philip is, after all, International President of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

One rare bird he missed was Rodney, the pet mynah of LCpl Dave Zimmer from Reading, bought in the Wan Chai district of Hong Kong.

"He must be the only bird in the world who can speak mandarin and then breaks into English with a Berkshire accent," said LCpl Zimmer.

Nor did the Duke come eye to eye with the birds which regularly attack the "chuck wagon" in which Ptes Bowie Bowman of Malmesbury and Shawn Burbridge of Trowbridge deliver the rations three times a day.

"They play chicken with the Rover," one of them said, "diving at us and swerving at the last minute."

Perhaps the smell of the food drifting from the "hot locks" – ingenious charcoal heated boxes – attracts them.

As good soldiers never leave their posts, the occupants of the OPs hoist up the food on makeshift lifts of rope and milk crates.

In general the DERR simply feel sorry for the "I.I.s". Some of them come over with a few pathetic possessions in a plastic bag hoping to find work and good wages.

But a few are smugglers and others plain gangsters intent on raiding the opulent suburbs of Hong Kong.

There is no set pattern for their arrival.

Cpl Andy Panting's brick was top scorer during SOLDIER's visit with 20 captures.

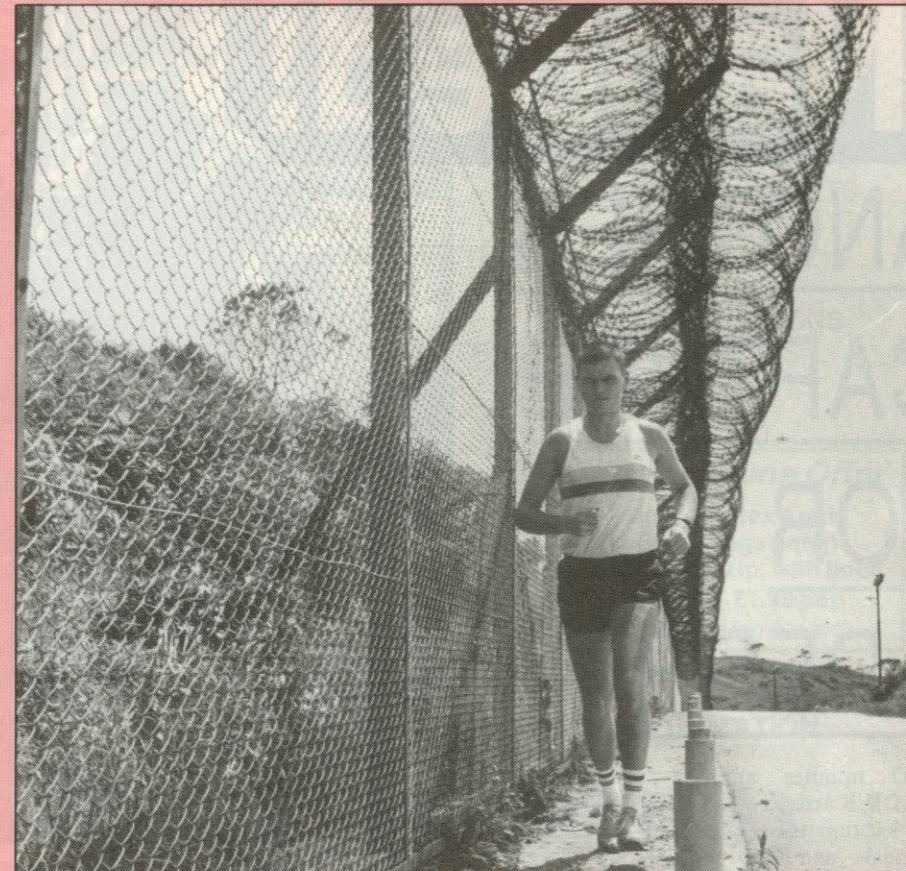
The brick next to him had yet to score, though a rugger tackle by Pte Marcus Brodie had just failed to bring down a fugitive "in his shuddies and bare feet".

He pointed out the muddy footprints on the road.

There is nothing glamorous about the border task.

Sweltering nights lying out, rest perhaps in a cramped cabin where the relief of the air conditioning is a mixed blessing as many blame it for the colds they catch when they return to the heat of the day.

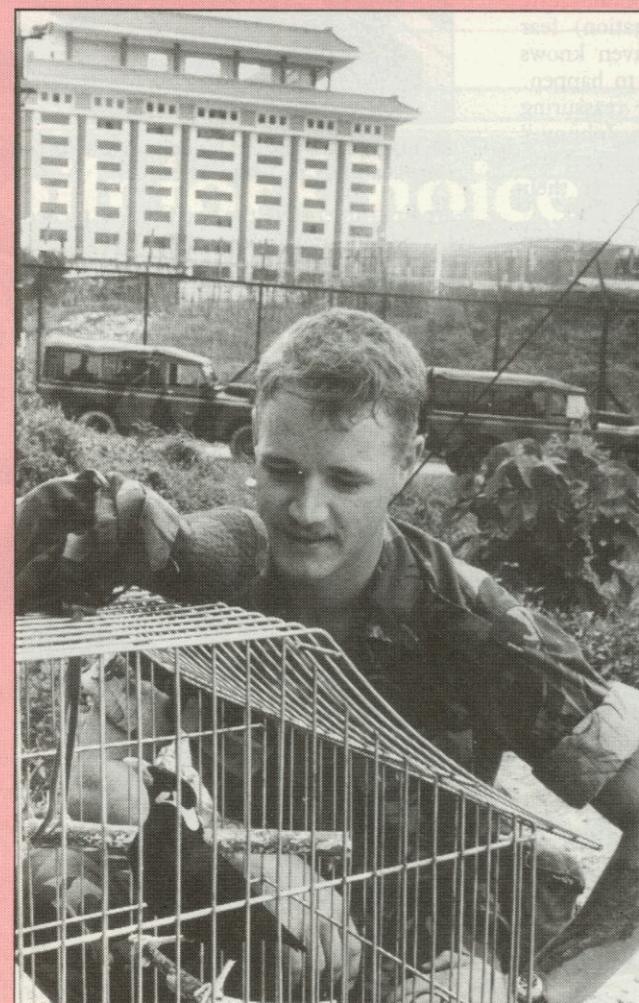
But the DERR, whose last tour was in Northern Ireland, get on with the job as they did in Ulster, making the best of it.



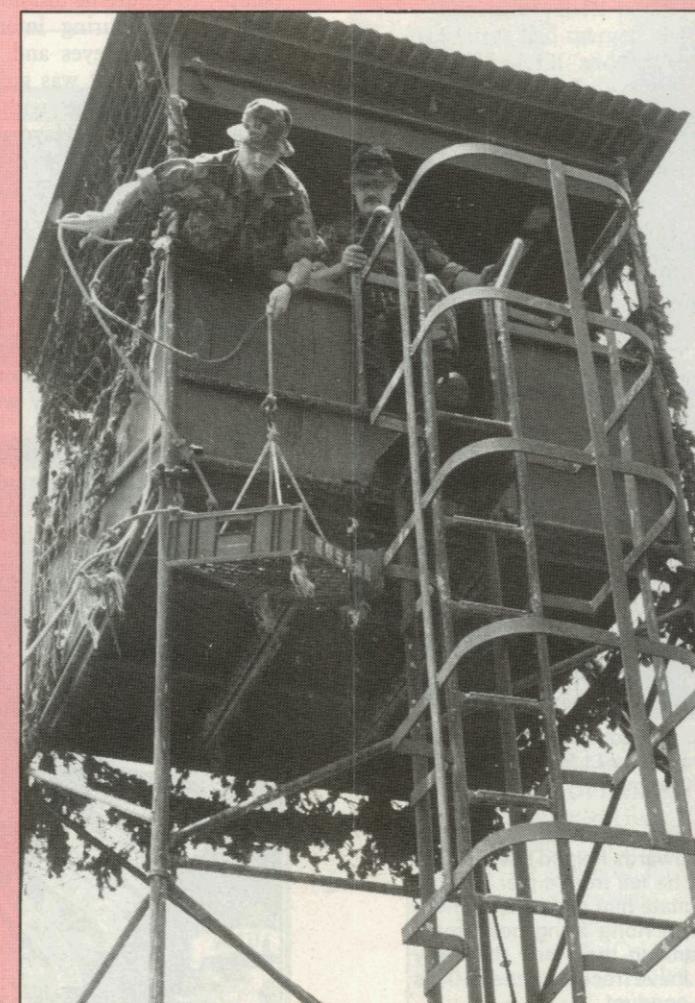
Pte Ian Smith weighed 12½ stone when 1 DERR left Northern Ireland. Today he is 11 stone. His secret – he runs nine miles a day along the mesh and barbed wire border fence



The new bridge that links Shenzhen, the mushrooming Chinese industrial city, with the New Territories. Many illegal immigrants try to cross near here. On watch are Cpl 'Bear' Bowler (with binoculars) and Pte Shayne O'Brien



Meet Rodney (the mynah bird which speaks Mandarin and English) with master LCpl Dave Zimmer



Grub's up! Pte Kevin Hinchcliffe hauls up lunch watched by Drummer Billy Pugh



A sensor was activated as SOLDIER arrived in this ops room. Pte Stuart Keep reported it and two "I.I.s" were spotted by Pte Trace Treacy

The day they spiked The Bike

SOLDIERS of 1 DERR have their own particular brand of humour. Maj Farren Drury, whose C/Support Company (a mix of C and SP Coy) were manning a long stretch of the border, found a twisted mass of handlebars, spokes and chain outside his HQ one day.

On it was the little metal tag which said "OC".

Clearly someone had "borrowed" his precious machine and had had an accident.

The OC let out a roar of anguish.

"Whodunnit?"

"Looks like one of those juggernauts," said a bystander.

The roar became even louder until a close inspection revealed . . . it wasn't his bike after all. Just an old wreck someone had rigged up.

Then there was the occasion when the men of the magnificent Crest Hill OP were happy to remain as spectators when two groups of illegal immigrants mistook each other for an Army patrol and spent five hours rooted to the spot watching each other before slipping back the way they had come.

Crest Hill overlooks what is known as "the departure lounge", an area where groups of immigrants are known to congregate before trying their luck on the border.

When SOLDIER visited Crest Hill it seemed to be dominated by the Smith family . . . Sgt Dave Smith, was the platoon sergeant on the line, then there was Cpl Smudge Smith from Marlborough, and Pte Steve Smith from Middlesbrough.

The view was magnificent.

"The mortars look after that section," said Maj Drury, "the anti tanks are over there and the rest of the company cover the line over to Pak Hok Chan in the distance."

Through telescopes and binoculars it was possible to study the activity in a burgeoning mass of skyscrapers

● Turn to next page

and factories.

"What we are looking at is the city of Shenzhen, one of the four special economic zones set up after the death of Mao Tse Tung. A few years ago it was simply paddy fields."

Shenzhen is meant to provide a buffer zone between Hong Kong and China proper.

One of its purposes was to give the impression, not only to Hong Kong but to Macao and Taiwan, that the "one country/two systems" concept could work. Events of the past few weeks give this "concept" a hollow ring.

"Welcome to LMC bridge," said Cpl "Bear" Bowler (1 DERR have the knack of making visitors welcome).

Then from the brand new concrete structure which is nearly complete he pointed out the evidence of a minor tragedy.

The body of a girl lay in the water lapping the far side of the river which marks the border.

The river itself is officially Hong Kong property. The far bank . . .?

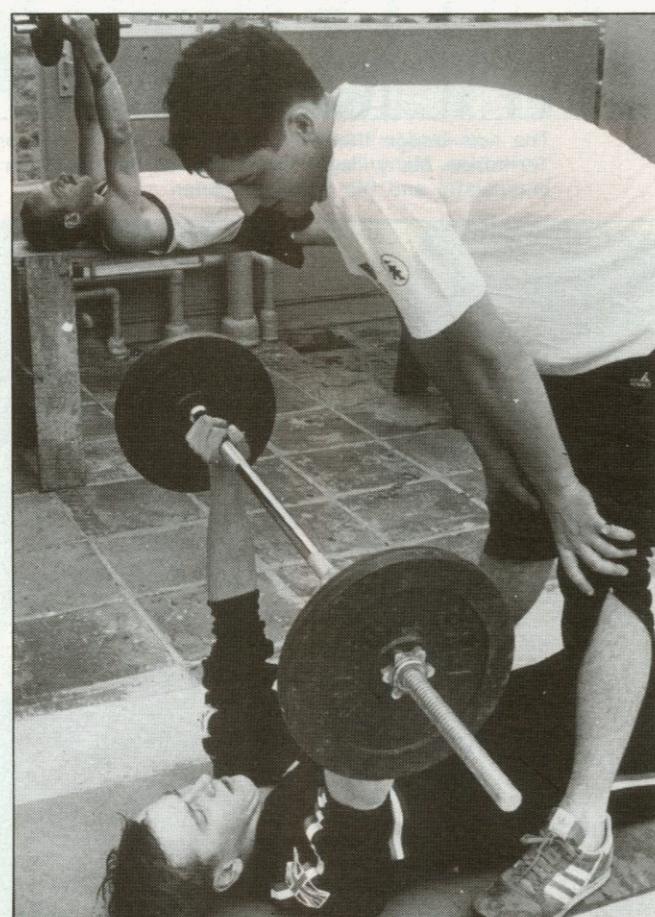
The girl and her husband or boyfriend had been trying to cross the river the previous night and had panicked when spotted and attempted to swim back. The effort was too much and they drowned.

The man was found on the Hong Kong side and recovered immediately. The girl's body was left in the water for another three days — perhaps in the hope it would drift across — before it was removed by the Chinese.

The term "different culture" takes on a new meaning on the border.



"If you want to get ahead get a hat." In 1 DERR it is also a question of getting one which will pass the critical inspection of RSM Mike Godwin. Somehow one feels that Pte Vince Colyer is going to have to change his "floppy" . . . and Pte Simon Smith (centre) his brimless wonder. Will Pte Brian Starkings get away with the chic look?



Above — Keeping fit on top of a border OP is Pte Mark Newport, with bar, encouraged by Lt Steve Clements. In background Pte Ken Knapman

Above left — Modest rescuers — Pte Andrew Harrison and his tall pal Pte Julian Edwards helped save the life of a five-year-old boy after he fell from a pier into the sea. They helped to resuscitate him and said no more about it. The boy's father, a Hong Kong policeman, wrote to the battalion thanking them and the story came out. Both soldiers have received the GOC's commendation for brave conduct

Left — Lunch is served. Pte Bowie Bowman (left) and Pte Shaun Burbridge with the charcoal heated hot box



Typhoon Brenda made a real mess of things

EVEN though Hong Kong escaped the full force of Typhoon Brenda (who changed direction as she roared over the South China Sea) the landscape on the New Territories altered considerably overnight.

When the shrieking through the barbed wire died down and the OPs ceased their violent swaying, men of 1 DERR looked out over a watery maze.

The great duck ponds and fish farms had merged and the contents — fin and feather — were scattered far and wide.

The battalion's last days on the border left them wondering just how the Chinese could tell whose fish were whose.

Meanwhile back at Stanley Fort . . .

Brenda caught the peninsula a nasty clout; worse than Victoria and the central business section of Hong Kong Island.

As the scale of warnings rose to eight, Lt David Frederick, RSM until February and now

ONE of the finest achievements of 1 DERR in Hong Kong has been establishing firm links with the local community. These can be measured in both smiles and hard cash.

Some of the warmest signs of gratitude come from disabled people who attend a scheme to teach them to ride.

The celebrated Hong Kong Jockey Club provides the horses — a group of 1 DERR wives acts as escorts.

"It is a highly successful venture," said Lt Col Stephen Saunders, CO, 1 DERR.

Outstanding, however, is the only word to describe the accomplishments of the batta-



Sweeping up after Typhoon Brenda had called at Stanley Fort, Hong Kong

Families Officer, went into operation.

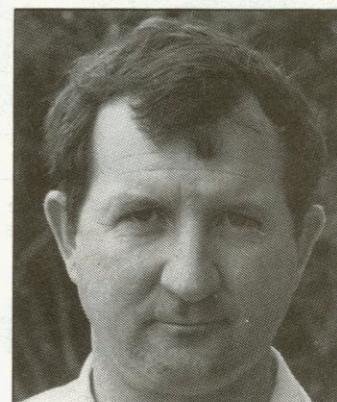
Four expectant mums within a fortnight of delivery were evacuated to the British Military Hospital. Typhoons can prevent all road movement for a fortnight.

Storm wardens warned the residents of each block of flats to clear balconies of all movable objects.

Standing regulations require wives to carry stocks of food for four or five days when the weather deteriorates seriously and there was a run on the Naafi.

Some wives, like Lyn Quashie, wife of a corporal, filled the bath with water in case supplies were cut.

Windows were taped (as against bombs in wartime Britain) and the community



Lt David Frederick, the families officer, whose staff were on call 24 hours a day while Brenda threatened

duties in Singapore and other parts.

Adventurous training has taken men to Sabah, Thailand and Nepal.

"Trekking in Nepal has had a tremendous broadening effect on some of our young soldiers," said the CO. "They couldn't believe they were living under 16th century conditions. Such trips make them become self-reliant."

The battalion has also made its sporting mark — two officers and two other ranks were in the Hong Kong national side which came third overall in the highly rated Ocean Rugby Tournament.

Thanks a million to 1 DERR

lion in their efforts to raise funds for charity.

So far they have amassed a total of one million Hong Kong dollars — well over £80,000!

A single old-fashioned boxing "smoker" at the Hong Kong Hilton, black tie dinner and cigars reminiscent of the old Victoria Sporting Club off the Strand — raised 150,000

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Parents go to bottom of form

PAY Office assessment of some parents who fill in Forms AF 09468 for boarding school allowances is "Could do better".

More and more families are submitting incorrectly completed forms.

One of the common errors is that more than one of the three options of payment is selected.

If payment by remittance is requested and the payment is to one school only, the amount to be remitted must be entered in the Soldiers Remittance Only Box in Part 2. But if more than one school has to be paid, Form AF 01727A must be completed for each additional school and has to be attached to another Form AT 09468.

Any clearer?

BSA re-sit grant poser

WITH summer exams about to begin, a word of advice for parents of student children who have to re-sit exams in the winter terms - the grant of boarding school allowance for re-sitting the exams is not automatic.

Claims have to be submitted to PS10 (A) in MoD before payment can be authorised.

SCEA team in Germany

THE SCEA UK Boarding Schools Advisory Team is to visit Germany this month for a series of evening presentations and morning counselling sessions.

The team will be at RAF Guttersloh on July 15, 46 AEC Berlin July 17-18, 45 AEC Bielefeld July 19-20 and 36 AEC Detmold July 20-21.

Six month rule is a problem

THE slump in the housing market is causing financial difficulties for Servicemen trying to sell their homes to move to a new duty area.

One major has been trying for six months to sell his house in Bournemouth, and soldiers posted to

IN MY VIEW

Aldershot have told me they have had to sell their houses at a loss because



Sgt James Guthrie, RA, from the Army Careers Office in Chelmsford, talks to Interested youngsters at the Olympia careers fair

Competition hots up

WHAT can be done to attract the dwindling number of College and University students to join the Services to counter the problems caused by the demographic trough?

At the Careers and Higher Education Fair at Olympia, sponsored by the *Times* and *Sunday Times*, more than 300 exhibitors were out in force to attract the passing thousands of students, parents and other interested parties.

Col Mike Fleetwood, Army Schools Liaison Officer on the Army stand, said there had been "tremendous interest shown by the girls who are interested in all aspects of Army life." Many were, he said, considering a technical career and so were examining the opportunities available in the Army.

I asked two girls who were waiting to step on to the stand what made them think of the Army?

"The Army, well it's a career with a difference," said Mary Robertson who is going to Durham University in October. "I want some variety and the WRAC looks as if no two days are the same. There seems to be more variety, and I am not very good at looking after myself so living in a mess appeals to me!"

Her friend Vivian Butcher has three 'A' Level B passes and was also interested. "I want to do something different in my gap year and the SSLC might just be that. Even better I could get an Awards place, so I am here to find out about it all."

Said Col Fleetwood: "We have been very busy, not only with students but with the interest from parents, mostly mothers,

often on their own, attempting to find careers which might attract their offspring. Mothers invariably do most of the talking!"

Lt Wendy Bayliss from Nottingham, a WRAC officer who has already tucked a few interesting sporting achievements under her belt, was an ideal person to attract the female sex into the forces, and was on hand to advise Mary and Vivian.

Had it been worth while? "A very worthwhile event; over the three days we have had a constant stream of boys and girls and at one stage the queues formed," said Col Fleetwood. "The enquiries were mostly for officers' posts, but there was a tremendous interest in the TA, and QA training was also very popular."

the potential purchasers know of the 'six month rule', and wait for the asking price to drop. When one soldier did sell, he found no MQ was available and his wife was forced to live with relatives.

The rigid six months rule seems to me to be totally unrealistic. Surely if a soldier can prove that he is genuinely trying to sell his house, he should not be penalised.

I hope the review of the allowance package will take this problem into consideration.

Guide to beating the drink

ARMY doctors are to receive a copy of a new booklet about drinking problems which, it is hoped, will encourage all doctors to give increasing medical attention to the problem of alcohol misuse.

The Army already officially recognises the problem, and treatment is available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich. But one aspect of it highlighted by the booklet has not been fully addressed by the Army - the involvement of the family in treatment.

The booklet, which gives helpful guidance to all GPs, says that the chance of success is greatly increased if family members can be involved. "Family members may be required to help in their own right even where the problem drinker is not currently prepared to change his drinking habits."

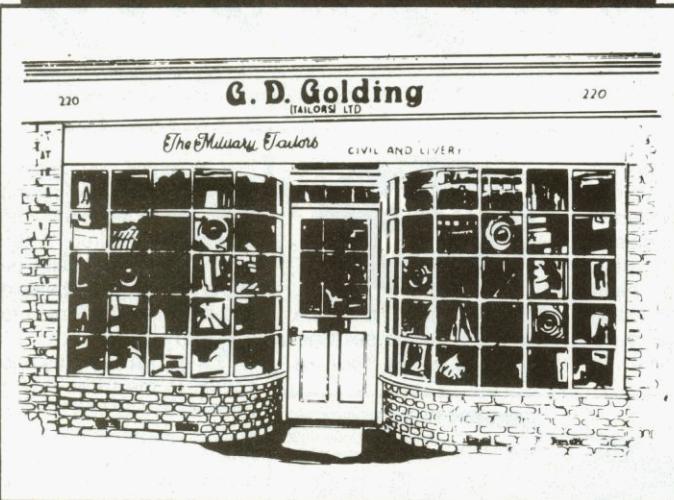
The treatment centre at Woolwich is, unfortunately, a long way from the families, and counselling and help for families is not a full part of the patient's treatment there.

I am assured that this aspect will now be looked into.

Copies of *Drinking Problems* are available from the Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA1 2AY, price £1.

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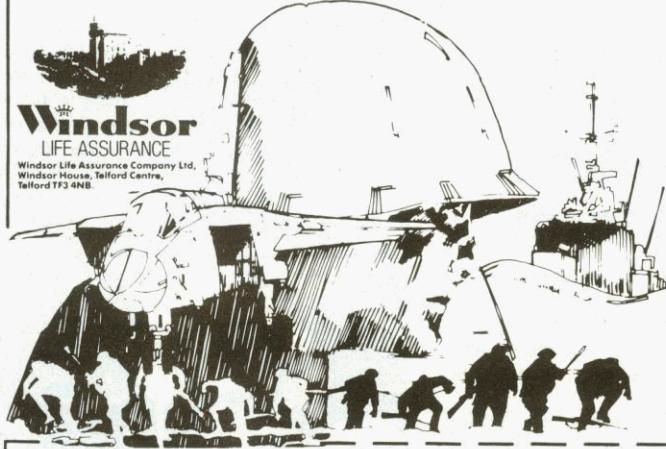
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Not just making up the numbers

IN TODAY's Army the phrase most likely to strike fear into the heart of a unit commander is "the demographic trough", writes **Andrew Martlew**.

Despite this, the 8th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) based at Wakefield, has recruited 20 officers and 302 soldiers in its first two years of existence - a success rate that the CO, Lt Col Chris Deedes, puts down to the Light Infantry tradition in South and West Yorkshire, and the enthusiasm of members of the battalion.

More than half those recruited since 8 LI was formed on January 1, 1987 under the Phase 2 enhancement of the Territorial Army have been drawn in by friends or relatives (compared to 14 per cent who have responded to newspaper advertisements).

But the Yorkshire Light Infantry tradition is also important to the battalion. Lt Col Deedes's father and grandfather commanded and were Colonels of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; the Quartermaster, Maj David Hardy, follows in the footsteps of his father who was QM of 1 KOYLI; and the adjutant, Capt Chris Topham, boasts a former commanding officer of 4 KOYLI in his family tree.

But perhaps the proudest family connection is that of LCpl Jason Yarrow.

His grandfather, Sgt John William Ormsby, took command of Dewsbury Company of 2 KOYLI at Favet in France in 1917 when their only surviving officer was wounded, led the company forward under heavy fire to a new position, and was awarded the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during an operation which



Lt Col Chris Deedes

culminated in the capture of an important position."

Today, the former companies of 4 KOYLI at Batley and 5 KOYLI at Pontefract have brought their own traditions into the Light Infantry's reformed Yorkshire battalion - although no one serving with the unit today admits to remembering the original laying of the foundation stone of the Wakefield TAC.

Even the 2 ic, Maj Tim

8 LI is going from strength to strength

Crowther, was not around when the 5th West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps began life in 1859!

Maj Crowther was there, though, when 4 KOYLI received its Colours in 1962, and he was on parade again on July 15, 1988 when 8 LI received its first Colours from the Queen Mother. In 1927, as Duchess of York, Her Majesty had been appointed as Colonel-in-Chief of her first regiment, the KOYLI, whose Colonel was Gen Sir Charles Deedes.

Miraculously, a mere nine months after its formation the new battalion was in West Germany for Exercise Keystone with 8 LI playing its part

Milan men on watch

The Milan Platoon of 8 LI stays alert during an exercise

How to survive a TA weekend

EXERCISE Executive Stretch, administered by the London based 4th (V) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, gave young city leaders the chance to take a break from their desks and put themselves to a real test - surviving a Territorial Army weekend!

It began for 79 men and 16 women at 4 RGJ's Mayfair Headquarters. The area of

town may have been familiar to the young executives, but the experiences of sleeping on a drill hall floor and being rudely awakened for a run at 5am was a departure from the familiar.

Divided into nine teams the employees, from 25 of Britain's leading companies, were taken to the Guards Depot at Pirbright where a series of tasks run by London District TA

units left them filthy, sweating and extremely tired, but perhaps better prepared for the night phase.

On the Sunday morning, deprived of sleep and somehow less than city slick, the young executives were introduced to the delights of the Pirbright assault course, the SA 80, and the challenge of more command tasks.

BOOKS

ONE MAN'S TANK WAR

"THE crossing of the Rhine in 1945 must have looked very different to the High Command with their preoccupation with logistics, to the paratroops dropping out of the sky onto strange land, to engineers worried about getting their bridges across, and to tankies wondering if they could punch that hole in the enemy's defences on the other side and break out again."

That astute observation is to be found in *Tank Soldier* by Norman Smith, an autobiographical account of a tankman's experiences from the time he volunteered at the age of 18 until and beyond VE Day.

It is claimed to be the only published account of fighting in tanks from D Day to the end of the war in Germany by a crewman who survived the war.

The author's Cromwell "drowned" under him while landing on Gold Beach on June 6, 1944, but he was soon in

battle, action that was to continue almost without respite for nearly a year. The story of Norman Smith's war makes compelling reading but his criticisms and conclusions are of even greater interest.

British tanks, particularly the design and armour of the Cromwell, are not highly rated.

"If Whitehall had pulled one experienced tank man back from the desert and put him in a design team it was inconceivable that such bad designing could have reached the men who had to fight in them," he writes.

Battle at the sharp end, seen from a Cromwell's turret, is well described, but the liberal sprinkling of accounts of sexual encounters is rather monotonous. — BJ

Tank Soldier: The Fight to Liberate Europe 1944 by Norman Smith. Published by The Book Guild. Price £12.95.

Storm from the Sea by Peter Young. Reissue of the story of Brig Peter Young, DSO, MC and two Bars, and the raids on enemy territory in which he was involved with 3 Commando which he eventually commanded. Published by Greenhill. Price £13.95.

Arthur by Nigel Dunne. The story of Gnr Arthur King, first with the City of London Yeomanry and later the 84th Light Anti-aircraft Battery RA, serving in Algiers and Tunisia, being a prisoner in Italy but escaping and returning to England. Published by Craigmore. Price £7.75 (hardback) and £4.95 (paperback).

Modern Combat Uniforms by Mark Lloyd. An appraisal of 100 of today's leading military uniforms from the world's military forces, supported by colour illustrations. Published by Brian Trodd. Price £14.95.

Thank You Padre edited by Joan Clifford. Padres from the Second World War recall their experiences. Published by Fount Paperbacks. Price £2.50.

Storm from the Sea by Peter Young. Brig Young describes his experiences as a Commando officer during the Second World War, including the raids

Books in brief

on Lofoten, Vaagso and Dieppe. Published by Greenhill. Price £13.95.

The Empire at War by John Bowie. Picture book of Britain's military campaigns from 1848 to 1908 — the Boer Wars, siege of Cawnpore, the Dervishes, Zulus, Indian mutineers and Chinese Boxers ... Published by Batsford. Price £12.95.

A Guide to the Battlefields of Europe edited by David Chandler. Descriptions of the action and details of the battlefields in 245 major conflicts in Europe. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £16.95.

Encyclopaedia of the German Army in the 20th Century by Bruce Quarrie. The development of German militarism from the Austro-Prussian war to the rebuilding of the army after the Second World War, with comprehensive information on the most important weapons and vehicles involved. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £25.

The Rock by John Masters. Novel which includes the battles, the sieges and the people of Gibraltar. Published by Sphere in paperback. Price £3.99.

Avenge the Belgrano by Bob Langley. An adventure thriller built around the nuclear submarine Conqueror which sank the Belgrano in the Falklands conflict. Reissued in paperback by Sphere. Price £3.99.

Special Deception by Alexander Fullerton. Thriller based in the Middle East with an ex SAS man stepping into a political minefield. Reissued in paperback by Sphere. Price £3.50.

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Forty years of Royal Signals

AS A corps the Royal Signals is comparatively young. Before 1920 military communications were the responsibility of the Royal Engineers.

The first 25 years of the new corps was covered in a book by Maj Gen R F H Nalder, and now an appropriate sequel by Philip Warner presents an in-depth examination of developments in techniques, technology and signals tactics used by or imposed on Royal Signals since the end of the Second World War.

Although *The Vital Link* is basically concerned with military communications since "the establishment of peace, or a near approximation to it", Philip Warner lays the foundation for the main theme of his narrative in a brief outline of signalling from ancient times.

In 1945 the corps faced problems of a type not previously encountered.

"Six years earlier it had been required to expand from a small peacetime establishment to a force capable of discharging commitments on a global scale. Now it was necessary for it to contract to a size approximate to a normal peacetime establishment, but at the same time to undertake new and unfamiliar tasks."

These were tasks that were to take units and detachments of the corps worldwide, responding to problems with more



Radio operators in a young Corps of Royal Signals receive instruction in Morse code

flexibility than at any previous time: Palestine and Egypt, the Berlin Air Lift, Malaya, Rhodesia, Korea, Cyprus, Borneo and Indonesia, Suez, Aden and the Gulf States, Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

Each campaign or location is prefaced by a description of the events that led to a British Army presence.

Anecdotes inevitably feature in a book that concerns a corps comprised of members with strong individualistic personalities. Such a story is that of a de Lesseps bust which, after the Suez campaign, was created as a souvenir by the Chief Engineer.

This apparently brighter prospect is not entirely reflected in the book.

The mood of the yearbook is summed up in David Bolton's somewhat cautious introductory words: "In looking forward to 1989 it may be said that little has changed fundamentally but, at least, the prospects are better." — BJ

Royal United Services Institute and Brassey's Defence Yearbook 1989. Published by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £35.

Chinese view of Korea

THE story of China's part in the war is told in *Enter the Dragon: China at War in Korea*, in which Russell Spurr reconstructs the Chinese side of the first East-West conflict from a military as well as a political and historical point of view.

Russell Spurr has covered Korea for the *Daily Express*.

He has carefully researched the Chinese viewpoint even down to a school principal in Andong, Manchuria, who scared the children with tales of the foreign devils who had China as their real target.

At first the book seems to be aimed at the United States market with some not entirely consistent American spelling and expressions, but in parts of the narrative Spurr is highly critical, even damning, accusing the American troops of brutality and acting like arrogant slobbs.

How were the British thought of by the US troops. According to this account: "The British came out of the struggle looking like snivelling appeasers, as far as right-wing America was concerned, blamed for luring the US into a botched up peace."

However, the real message to come from this book is more optimistic. In the author's words: "Given a modicum of understanding and communication, yesterday's enemies can yet become tomorrow's allies." — BJ

Enter the Dragon: China at War in Korea by Russell Spurr. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Price £15.

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THE 1989 edition of *RUSI/Brassey's Defence Yearbook* marks the 99th year of publication. Over almost a century it has established a reputation as an important and authoritative reference in the spectrum of defence.

Books spanning such a wide area, in this case with about 360 pages and 25 articles by international specialist contributors, are something of a reviewer's nightmare; it would indeed be unfair to select just some contributions from so

many of similar high standard.

As Gp Capt David Bolton, Director of the Royal United Services Institute, writes in his introduction: "Peace is breaking out almost everywhere! There is a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq conflict with an end to the war in prospect; the Soviets are withdrawing from Afghanistan; South African forces have pulled back from Angola, and Cuban troops there could return home; even the Vietnamese are leaving Kampuchea . . ."

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Royal United Services Institute and Brassey's Defence Yearbook 1989. Published by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £35.

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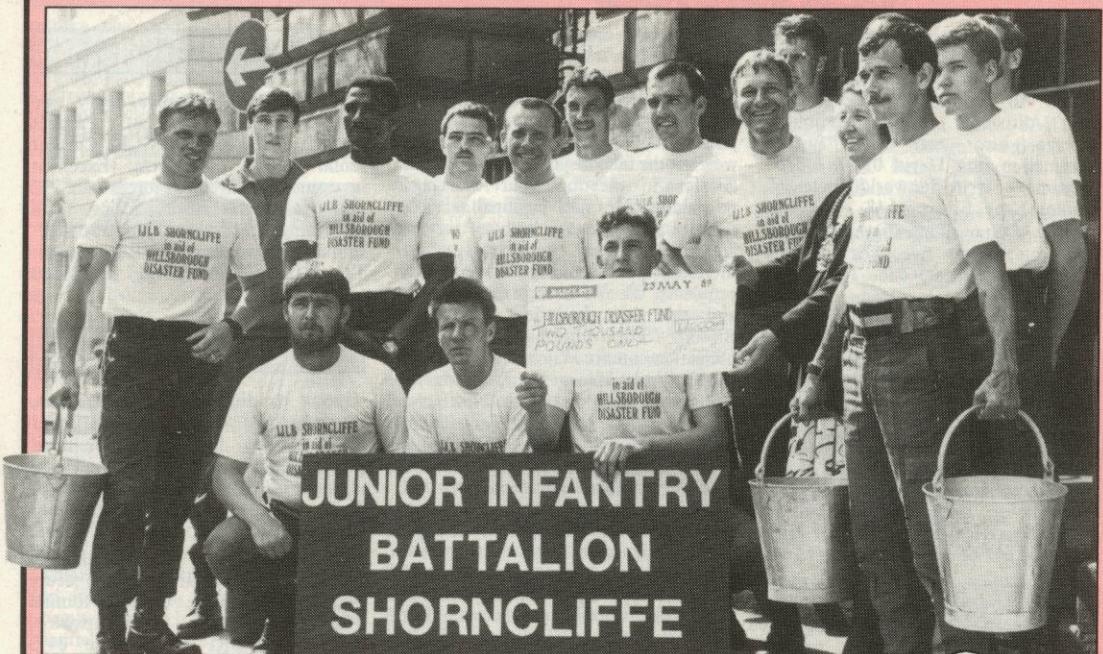
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Running for Liverpool

Permanent staff members and two juniors from JB Shorncliffe present a cheque for £2,000 to the Chairman of Liverpool City Council, Cllr Dorothy Gavin, for the Hillsborough Disaster Fund. They raised the money (which now looks like topping £3,000) on a 320 mile non-stop relay run from Shorncliffe to Liverpool.

The runners were Capts Hod Birkby and David George (both Cheshire), WO2s Tom Forrester, Steve Huyton (both Staffords) and Trevor Brathwaite (APTC), Sgts Sule Alhaji (APTC) and Garry Forder (Glosters), Cplis Mark Harry (RWF) and Dennis Kennedy (RRF), and JLdr Orinn Checkley (Queens) and Steven Thomas (R Anglian). Event organiser Lt Matthew Warden had to pull out because of a rugby injury.

Triple up!

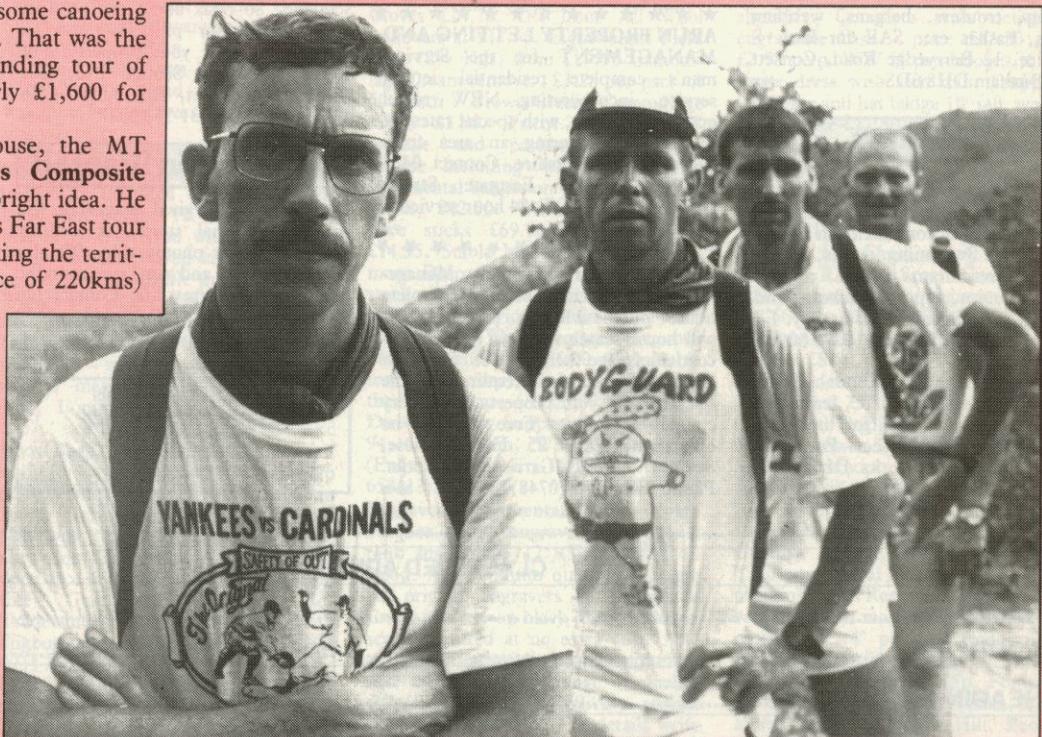


Lack of sleep, a lot of walking, some canoeing and quite a bit of dinghy sailing. That was the formula for an unusually demanding tour of Hong Kong which raised nearly £1,600 for charity.

It was SSgt Martyn Moorhouse, the MT senior NCO at Hong Kong's Composite Ordnance Depot, who had the bright idea. He wanted to celebrate the end of his Far East tour by establishing a record for walking the territory's three main trails (a distance of 220kms) and sailing or canoeing a further 110kms of sea between them.

It took SSgt Moorhouse and three RAOC companions from the same unit just six minutes under four days. During this time they managed just five hours of sleep, negotiated mountain trails in total darkness, and contended with near disaster when one of their dinghies lost a rudder in the middle of Hong Kong harbour.

Footsore and weary on their return, they had the satisfaction of knowing that the Army Benevolent Fund, research into cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, and a local charity would benefit from their efforts.



SSgt Martyn Moorhouse at the head of the team as it prepared to tackle the 70km Lantau Island trail. Behind him are travelling companions Sgt Steve Roberts, Cpl Mike Gibson and Sgt Brad Percival

ONE of the world's largest storehouses, covering eight and a half acres, has been formally opened by Under Secretary of State (Armed Forces) Michael Neubert.

The £31m building – similar in area to Wembley Stadium – is the giant among the storehouses on the 300-acre site of the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington, Shropshire.

The building, known as B55, comprises ten warehouse spurs, five each side of a central 650ft

SUPER STORE OPENS

long spine.

Each spur has eight bays of racking in 17 layers, served by two cranes operating in the four aisles between the bays. The spurs are kept at a constant cool

temperature and in darkness as the whole process is automated.

Each of the spurs has its own local computer control system, conveyors, shuttlecars and automated cranes. Stores are collected from the spurs and taken to the central spine. Full pallet loads are automatically transferred to Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs).

The vehicles carry the loads along the spine to the functional area which houses

the loading and unloading bays, maintenance area and offices, including the computer control equipment for the whole complex.

B55 has a very high degree of fire protection, including 87 miles of sprinkler pipework, 43,000 automatic sprinkler heads and 42 sprinkler zones. Construction began in July 1985.

At the moment 40 civilians and 20 military staff are employed in B55.

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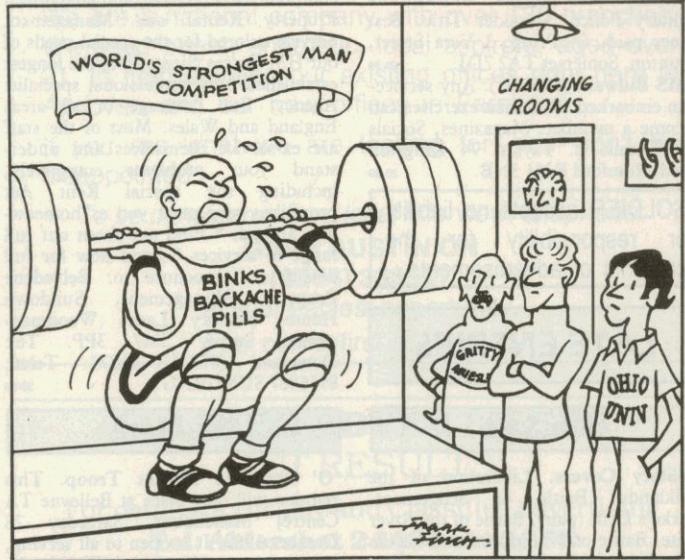
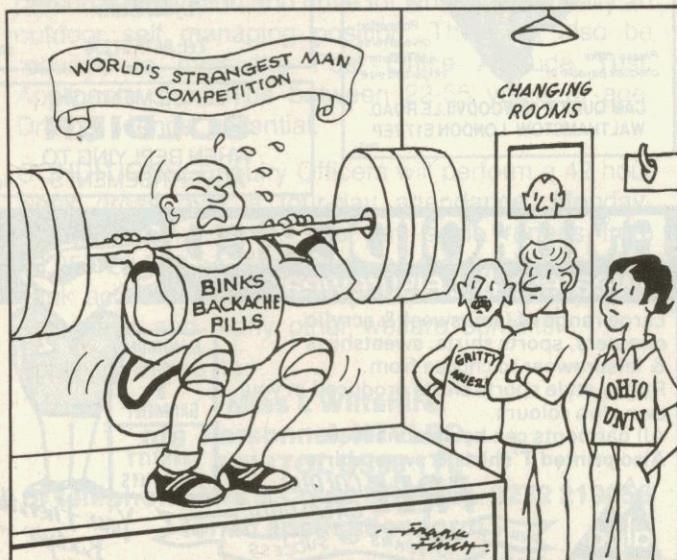
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the August 21 issue.

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Welsh on hot streak win Pegasus Trophy

THE Pegasus Trophy is one of the toughest competitions for members of the British Army's Medical Services. This year it was held in Wales - and it was a local team which took first place honours.

The competition was based at Capel Curig in Snowdonia and was held during one of the hottest weekends for many years, a fact which accounted for a number of teams not staying the course.

Organisers of the competition were 144 Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) who ensured a gruelling course which included a timed march covering 28 miles, tests of medical skills, a night driving and navigation test and a final speed march over a distance of eight miles.



203 (W) General Hospital (V) female team pushing hard into a checkpoint at the end of the day's march. They are (from left) QCapt Kim Bailey, QsGt Alison Ham, QLCpl Donna Caroll, QLCpl Andrea Marfell and QPte Angela Hyde. Also in the team was QPte Jane Evans. Team driver was Kath Tudor

Teams from all over the United Kingdom took part in the competition. Although 33 started, the weather and fatigue brought on by the heat caused six to drop out before the finish.

Overall winners were the 203 (Welsh) General Hospital A team from Cardiff with Birmingham's 202 General Hospital A team coming second. 202 also took the first

prize in the female competition.

There was a nail-biting finish to the competition with only the odd points separating first and second places until the final moments of the competition.

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Reunions

'O' Bty The Rocket Troop. This reunion will take place at Bellevue TA Centre, Manchester, Saturday 28 October 1989. It is open to all serving, Ex Members, Wives and Girlfriends. Contact: WO2 (SMIG) Tony Palys, Sgts Mess, Horseshoe Barracks, Shoeburyness, Southend, Essex SS3 9SX.

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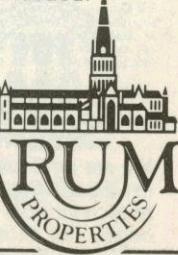
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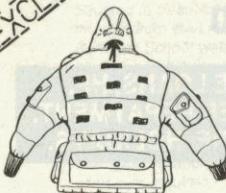
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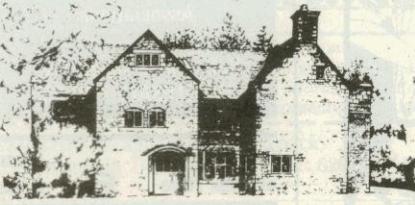
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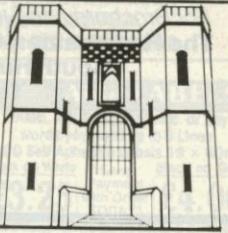
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Kris turns sprinter to nudge record

BRITISH 400m hurdler WO2 (QMSI) Kris Akabusi surprised everyone at the Army individual athletic championships at Aldershot by entering the 110m hurdles, and winning it in an excellent time.

It was only the second competitive race he had run over the distance, but his time of 14.6sec was only a blink outside an Army record that has stood for six years.

Akabusi, who was using the sprint to hone his hurdles technique, also won the 400m over the flat, chalking up his eighth consecutive victory (and ninth in all) in this event.

International teammate Cpl Clarence Callender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) was resting a hamstring injury, which let in Sgt Lenny Paul (3 R Anglian) to take both 100m and 200m titles. He was chased hard by Gdsmn Dave Armstrong (Gren Gds).

Paul and Armstrong are both members of Britain's top bobsleigh team.

WO1 Mick Johnson (REME) won his tenth successive discus title, although not without some discomfort. He dislocated a finger with his first throw of 41.33m, which fortunately was good enough to see off the opposition.

Although Johnson threw on, he could not improve on his

3 RRW keep Welsh 1,000

DESPITE a record entry of more than 200 military athletes, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (Volunteers) retained the team trophy at the annual Welsh 1,000 run over 25 miles from Aber on the coast to the top of Mount Snowdon.

First to the top was Pte Keith Webb of 3 RRW, followed by Rfn Yugraj from the NCOs' Tactical Training Wing of the School of Infantry, and Pte Steve Rees of 4 RRW.

opener and promptly took himself off to hospital to have the offending finger repaired.

There was a disappointing junior entry, somewhat compensated for by the quality of competition. One young prospect to make his mark was App Tdsmn Paul Wildridge from Princess Marina College Arborfield. He cleared 1.85m in the high jump and looked capable of much better.

Not all went according to plan in the junior 1,500m. Spr Robert Tanner from the Postal and Courier Depot RE at Mill Hill was leading into the final bend when a field official stepped backwards on to the track. Both went crashing down and Tanner was immediately overtaken by the chasers.

He appealed and it was decided to re-run the race at the end of the programme. Justice was seen to be done when Tanner won at the second time of asking.

Army individual champions, 1989.

Senior

100m - Sgt Paul (3 R Anglian), 10.7sec;

200m - Sgt Paul, 21.8sec; 400m - QMSI

Akabusi (ASPT), 47.1sec; 800m - Ssgt

Poulson (21 Sig Regt), 1min 53.8sec;

1,500m - Cpl Finch (17 Port Mart Wksp),

3min 55.2sec; 5,000m - LCpl Vile (1 ADSR),

14min 47.7sec.

3,000m steeplechase - Ssgt Dupree

(1 PWO), 9min 8.6secs. 110m hurdles -

QMSI, Akabusi, 14.6sec; 400m hurdles -

LCpl Anderson (522 Coy RPC/ASPT), 52sec.

High jump - Capt Coker (5 Regt RA), 2m;

long jump - Pte Fogg (1 PWO), 6.95m;

triple jump - LCpl Bulmer (1 PWO),

13.91m; pole vault - LCpl Lyons (1 PWO),

4.30m.

Shot - Gnr MacKay (50 Msl Regt),

14.96m; discus - WO1 Johnson (PMC),

41.33m; javelin - Cpl Stewart (QO HLDRS),

58.76m; hammer - Gnr Sterling (50 Msl

Regt), 55.42m.

Junior

100m - App Bates (Chepstow), 12.1sec;

200m - AT Jones (Harrogate), 23.9sec;

400m - AT Jones, 51.8sec; 800m - Pte Kilby

(9 Ord Bn), 1min 58.2sec; 1,500m - Spr

Tanner (PCD RE), 4min 27.1sec; 5,000m -

Sgt Sloan (Harrogate), 16min 29.1sec.

110m hurdles - Sig Smith (8 Sig Regt),

16.9sec; 400m hurdles - Dvr Marsden (27

Regt RCT), 58sec; 2,000m steeplechase -

Sgt Tanner, 6min 24.7sec.

High jump - AT Wildridge (PMC), 1.85m;

long jump - Dvr Marsden, 6.39m; triple

jump - Dvr Marsden, 12.95m; pole vault -

AT Ingle (PMC), 3.20m.

Shot - Gdsmn Forrest (2 Gren Gds),

12.66m; discus - JSSM Roberts (JLR RAC),

34.74m; javelin - Sig Smith (8 Sig Regt),

47.26m; hammer - App O'Connor

(Chepstow), 47.68m.



Sgt Trevor McSween (8 Sig Regt) goes clear in the high jump during the Army decathlon championships. He finished third overall in the competition

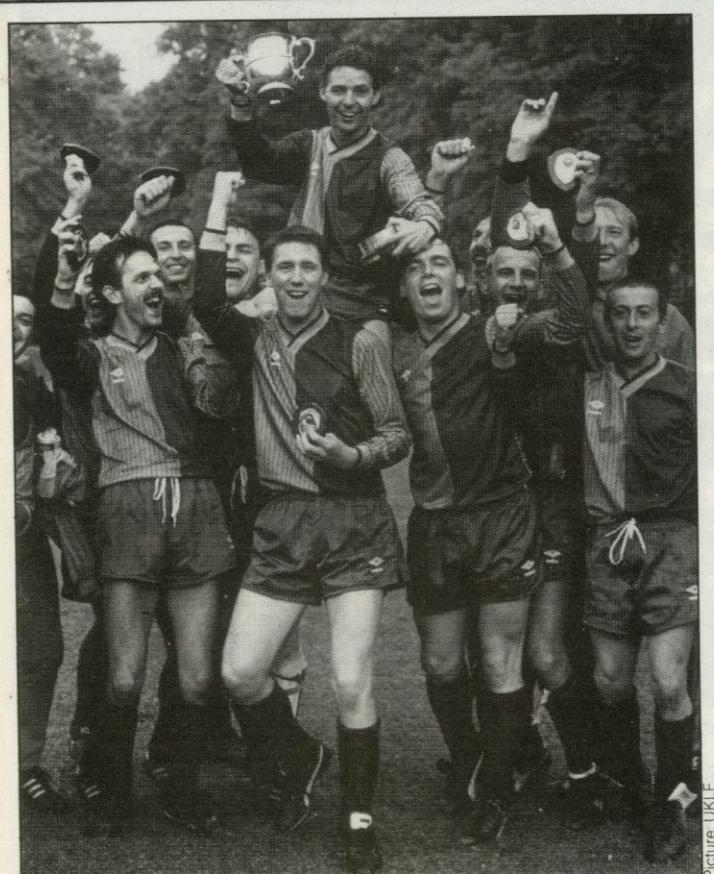
Triathlete Steve leads the field

Terry's big catch does the trick

SEA angler Cpl Terry Wyeth from Princess Marina College, Arborfield just missed hooking his way into the national record books during the Army boat sea angling championships off Gosport, Hants.

Terry caught a 9lb 4oz John Dory on a mackerel strip.

Although his big fish just failed to beat the Great Britain record it did contribute to the PMC Arborfield team winning the Army championships.



Top tankies 1 RTR from Hildesheim, West Germany celebrate their 1-0 victory in the inaugural Vickers Cup match against 13/18 Hussars at Tidworth. The new competition is between the winners of the RTR Colonel Commandant's Cup and the winners of the Cavalry Cup. LCpl Fred Crouch scored the only goal of the match



Close order in the Army mile championship. Cpl Steve Overton leads from Sig Mark Lassiter (210), Sgt Dougie Collins and Cpl Steve Greenhalgh

Paras fifth in Biel race

TWO corporals from the Depot, The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot finished fifth overall in the annual international Biel 100km race in Switzerland.

Cpls Steve Greenhalgh and Roy Wright completed the mountainous road and cross country course in 9 hours 34 minutes and were the best placed British competitors.

Teams from Spain and Switzerland filled the first four places.

Irish triumph

THE Territorial Army's top minor sporting unit is the Ballymena Company of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers. It is the first time since 1981 that the Queen's Challenge Cup, covering a wide range of sports has been won by a Northern Ireland unit.

TOUT MAKES HIS MARK

FIFTEEN athletes fought out a competitive Army decathlon championships at Aldershot before Great Britain bobsleigh ace Cpl Mark Tout (2 RTR/ASPT) pulled out all the stops on the final day.

Tout recorded personal bests in the javelin (52.81m) and pole vault (3.80m) to dethrone SSgt Neil Killen (21 Sig Regt), champion for the past three years and winner of the decathlon title five times in the nine years the competition has been staged.

Killen had an awful first day as all the athletes suffered in strength sapping heat, but improved from seventh to second on the second day and might have edged past Tout if he had been at his best in the pole vault.

Killen, the current Inter-Services champion, will be looking for revenge when that competition takes place at RAF Cosford on July 27-28.

Tout, who won the Army title in 1983 and has finished as runner up on four occasions, totalled 6,448 points to Killen's 6,246. Sig Trevor McSween (8 Sig Regt) was third with 6,149.

Cpl Jackie Gilchrist (RMP Tg Centre) had a gentle workout in the heptathlon. She retained her Army title but had only guest competitor Lt Roberta Scott (Liverpool UOTC) to keep her company.

Another group of athletes to suffer in the intense heat were the 10,000m men. They were led home by Sgt Ray Keeney (15 Bn RAOC) in a time of 31min 46.1sec. Cpl Steve Greenhalgh (Depot Para) was second in 32min 40.7sec, with Capt Peter Marsh (9 Ord Bn) third in 33min 18.6sec.

The Army mile championship was won by Cpl Steve Overton (7 Regt AAC) in a time of 4min 22.8sec. Sgt Mark Lassiter (11 PC Sqn RE) was second, Cpl Greenhalgh third and Sgt Dougie Collins (9 Ord Bn) fourth. Although ten runners entered for the race only four turned up on the day.

Sapper Willie's the star of the show

LCPL James "Willie" Williams of 25 Engineer Regiment was the star of the Wilkinson Sword Inter-Service individual fencing championships staged at RAF West Drayton.

He performed brilliantly to win the senior sabre title, then went one better in beating international class opposition to claim the prestigious Wilkinson Sword Master Swordsman Trophy.

Osnabrück based Williams's victory in the sabre was an unexpected bonus because he had to beat in the final the Royal Air Force's very experienced Sqn Ldr Ron Simpson, four times winner of the event.

The Champion at Arms Challenge Shield is decided on the results of the first eight in each weapon, and LCpl Williams went home with the massive trophy when he finished on 15 points to 14 by Flt Lt Alan Fowler of the RAF and Scottish international epeeist Flt Lt George Liston (13).

Fowler won the foil, meeting in the final another 25 Engr Regt Williams, this time Lt Tony Williams. In the epee, a traditional Army stronghold,



Lt Dominic Mahony, Life Guards, (No 36) on the attack in the foil competition against Sub Lt Alan Richter of the Royal Navy

international modern pentathlete Cpl Peter Hart (SEE Arborfield) lost a close encounter with old adversary George Liston.

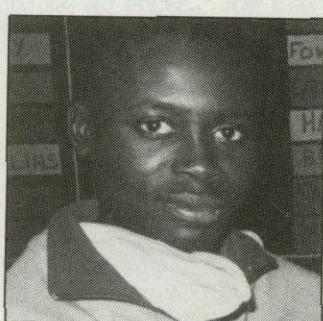
Each Service puts up its three-weapon champion to contest the Master Swordsman

competition, and in the absence of Army Champion at Arms Sgt Dave Garrod (REME) that meant LCpl Williams taking on defending champion Liston of the RAF and the Royal Navy's Lt Alan Large.

Williams trailed Liston by a point going into the final weapon, the epee, and appeared to have little chance of upsetting the in-form international.

Undaunted, the talented young sapper fenced with nerve and flair to beat both Liston and Large and so take the title.

The Under 20 championships were totally dominated by the RAF's SAC Adam Harris who won all three weapons, a unique achievement at this level. JSpr Darrell Cooper (JLRRE) was second in the foil and sabre, and Spr Michael Kelly (25 Engr Regt) was second in the epee and third in the foil.



Champion at Arms LCpl James Williams

None of the Army women reached the final pool of six.

But Williams's success capped two of the best weeks Army fencing has enjoyed for many a year, with the soldiers confirmed as Inter-Service team champions in the tournament at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth, and 25 Engr Regt winning the Services' unit team event from RAF Lossiemouth and RNEC Manadon, the naval engineering college.



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