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FRONT COVER: After the All Arms Firepower Demonstration near Warminster on Salisbury Plain, LCpl Michael Crocker, 1 RRW, left his sniper's hide to pose for this picture. His gillie suit is a fine example of the sartorial inelegance necessary to conceal him from an enemy. See Pages 20-21.

Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Part of the large military audience that assembled at Battlesbury Bowl on Salisbury Plain for the All Arms Firepower Demonstration. More pictures on Pages 20-21. Inset right is a picture of an unusual piece of silver. It is a solid silver Korean porter presented to 1 Welch by the Royal Norfolk and Royal Leicestershire Regiments when they fought alongside each other in Korea. See Pages 14 and 15. Next issue – 15/19 H at Detmold, West Germany and stories about the Falkland Islands units.

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VOL. 45/4

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Plaque to those who returned

I was interested to read of the Imperial War Museum and Royal Commission on Historical Monuments' intention to compile an inventory of memorials to the dead of two World Wars and lesser campaigns.

They may in addition, wish to compile a further but much smaller inventory of the plaques and monuments such as the one in St Michael's Church, Colwinston, S. Glamorgan.

The plaque names and gives thanks for the safe return of all the men who left the village to serve in the Great War.

I am aware that this is not an achievement unique to Colwinston but is exceedingly rare. — Mrs E Richfield, 31 Coronation Street, Aberkenfig, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF32 9PS.

Impressed by men of Iron Hammer

Thank you for the good article on Exercise Iron Hammer 88 (SOLDIER, January 22) in your magazine which I have read for more than 25 years. Many thanks to all ranks and members of 3rd Armoured Div — they all gave their very best during the exercise, most of the time under very bad weather conditions.

It is really hard to do a

realistic exercise in a country where a lot of people do not believe that this is necessary. Glasnost and the so-called Green Power are very effective weapons and the defence of peace and freedom will be more and more a difficult task in the future.

Iron Hammer demonstrated to all visitors that 3rd Armoured Div is excellently

prepared to do their work.

It is very impressive to watch professional soldiers doing their job.

Warrior made its debut and worked together with Challenger. Luckily I was able to follow some outstanding tactical movements of both vehicles. — Michael Neumann, Andershäuserstr 7, 3352 Einbeck, West Germany.

Mackinnon Road in use

The Mackinnon Road depot (SOLDIER, January 23) did not fall into total disuse.

In the Fifties, during the Mau Mau Emergency, the guardroom, main offices and accommodation became a detention camp, and a small part of this is still in use now under the control of the Kenya Prisons Service. — Mrs L Wateridge, Princess Christian Homes, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2SJ.

SETTING...

In reply to Mr T M Brown of Nottingham (SOLDIER, January 23), the C T Smith in question has in no way been confused with the previous QRIH Regimental Bandmaster P B Smith.

The eminent Col Rodney Bashford, himself a previous Director of Music at Kneller Hall with revered knowledge of Army music, would have made any such connection (as would the present Bandmaster of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars)

had it been necessary.

The piece in question is published by Jensen Publications and distributed by R Smith and Co, who specialise in importing music from the States. I would suggest there may well be a composer called C T Smith on the other side of the Atlantic.

As Mr Brown rightly states, P B Smith is employed as a musician in Germany as the conductor of the Fire Brigade in Altenberken and teaching in schools around the Paderborn area. — WO1 D W Cresswell, Bandmaster, QRIH, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks.

THE RECORD...

I am sorry to say that I cannot claim to be the mysterious Mr Smith, composer of the *Galop Humoresque* reviewed by Rodney Bashford.

I say I am sorry because such a compliment, "he should certainly be more heard of if he can produce the goods like this", is rare, especially coming from the great "R B", and in my view better than a mention in the Honours List!

Perhaps before the plot

thickens any more we shall hear from the Bandmaster of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars, who in accordance with all good thrillers will assemble us in the drawing room and explain all.

In any case may I add my congratulations to "C T". Should the QRIH Bandmaster be so kind to send me a copy of the record I promise my cheque will be sent by return of post. — P B Smith, ex Bandmaster QRIH.

STRAIGHT

With reference to Rodney Bashford's query about C T Smith (SOLDIER, December 12) and T M Brown's letter on the same subject (SOLDIER, January 23), the composer of *Galop Humoresque* was in fact Claude T Smith (1932-1987).

He was a noted American composer, teacher and conductor. *Galop Humoresque* was written especially for wind band. — Philip R Mather, International Military Music Society, 10 Abingdon Close, Whitefield, Manchester.



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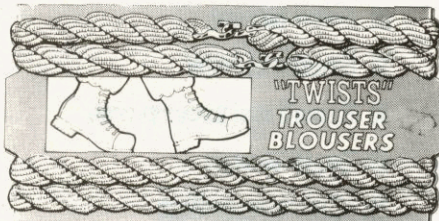
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Fourteen members of the Junior Infantry Battalion cross country team at Ouston near Newcastle on Tyne tried a novel form of training recently by spending a day with the Newcastle and District Beagles. After three hours chasing over the North-umbrian countryside they pronounced themselves happy but dog tired. They are pictured with huntsmen before the off

SOLDIER's £50 prize for HOAY competition No 454 is off to Wales.

The lucky winner is Ms C M Surtees, of Lon Heulog, Kinnel Bay, Clwyd.

Runners-up prizes of books go to Sgt M Gregson, RAMC (V), Whalley Range, Manchester, and Miss J J Smith, Broadlands Drive, Walderslade, near Chatham, Kent.

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Whitechapel bomb poses EOD challenge

33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) successfully defused a 1,000 kilogram Second World War bomb uncovered by a workman's digger in Whitechapel, East London.

About 3,000 Eastenders were evacuated and spent the night either in a local council hall or with relatives.

Police sealed off the area and all traffic

was diverted, causing rush hour jams.

The East London tube line beneath the area was closed in case vibrations caused an explosion.

The operation commander was Maj Nick Larkin and the Bomb Disposal Officer was WO2 (QMSI) Nigel Daley.

The Adjutant, Capt Nick Moody, said the

bomb was unusual not only because of its size, but because it was an armour-piercing weapon.

"It was challenging and interesting. One of the problems was that because it had such a high metal content there was a lot of difficulty drilling through to get the explosives out."

Rapid river tamed by BAOR team

CANOES have featured in two successful adventurous training expeditions mounted by units in BAOR.

One, led by Capt Jonny Beardsall, 14/20 H, paddled 80 miles in six days down the Sibun river which flows through Belize's tropical forests. It was the first descent of the river by canoe. The other from 46 (Talavera) Bty RA, led by Lt Murray Robertson and Sgt John Strachan, covered 328 nautical miles in 12 days from Plattsburgh, Upper New York State, to New York City via Lake Champlain and the Hudson River.

Capt Beardsall, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, reports: "River conditions varied constantly from flat, wide pools to narrow twisty races with rapids and overhanging branches. We were hitting rapids every 400 to 500 yards."

An underwater log nearly caused a disaster, knocking the lead canoe into a log jam where it was trapped underwater.

The expedition began in the jungle and ended when it met the sea and paddled to the southern foreshore of Belize City.

Talavera Battery's canoes negotiated waterways along which the Redcoats had moved in the War of Independence and prompted power boats to race ahead with the warning: "The British are coming!"

Their original destination was the Statue of Liberty but on the advice of the US Coastguard the gunners sensibly pulled up six miles short because of "bad weather, unfavourable tides and very heavy merchant traffic in Upper New York Bay".



Robert Colling and Steven Brannick drag canoes down a shallow rapid on the Sibun river, Belize, Central America. The soldiers, from the 14th/20th King's Hussars, were members of an expedition which completed the first descent of the river

Blue Ridge trek

TWO officers and 13 men of 1 Queens took to the woods in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

The adventurous training trip consisted of three weeks, mainly back packing, along the Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah Valley. But there was one critical soldier. "It wasn't a proper exercise," he said. "We didn't have to dig in once!"

Bomb death

A BOMB in a drainpipe on the wall of a public house in Falls Road, Belfast was responsible for the death of Pte Nicholas David Peacock, 20, of 2 R Anglian. Police said it was detonated by command wire.

Pte Peacock, who came from Grantham, Lincs, died of his wounds in hospital. He was a member of a foot patrol and had been in the Army for three years.

Another member of the patrol was slightly hurt.

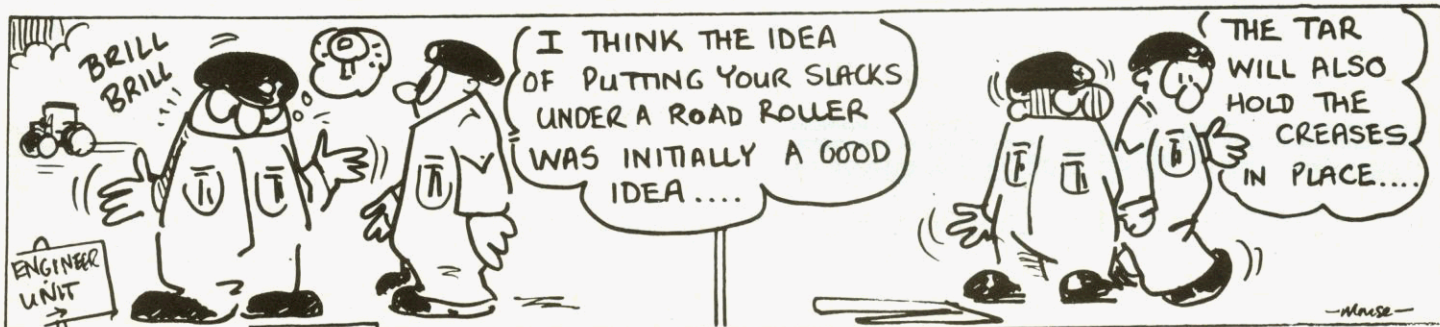
HSF fires Queen's salute to Queen

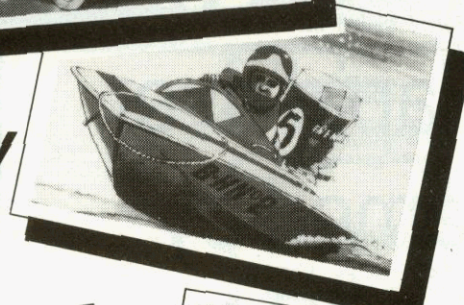
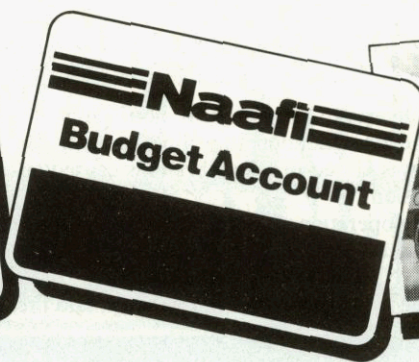
A TROOP drawn from the Home Service company of the Honourable Artillery Company was chosen to fire the 62-gun salute commemorating the Queen's Accession. Their ages ranged from early 30s to late 50s; their jobs from stockbrokers to bus

drivers, chartered accountants to street cleaners. The troop wore No 1 dress (which includes chain mail epaulettes) and later in the week joined the rest of the unit to take part in the Royal procession to the Guildhall.

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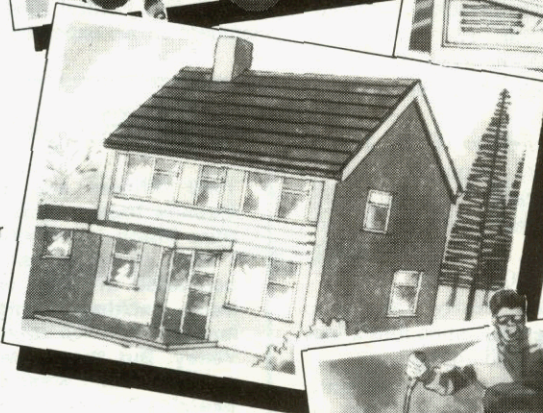
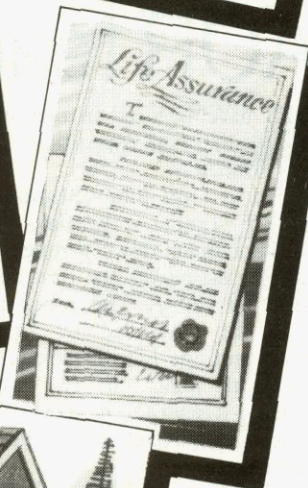
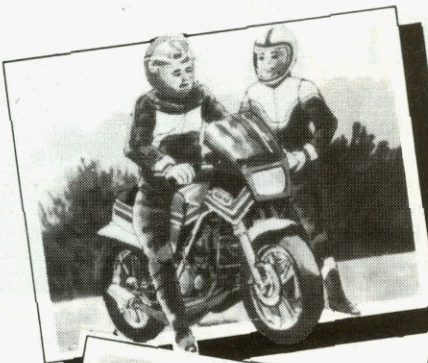
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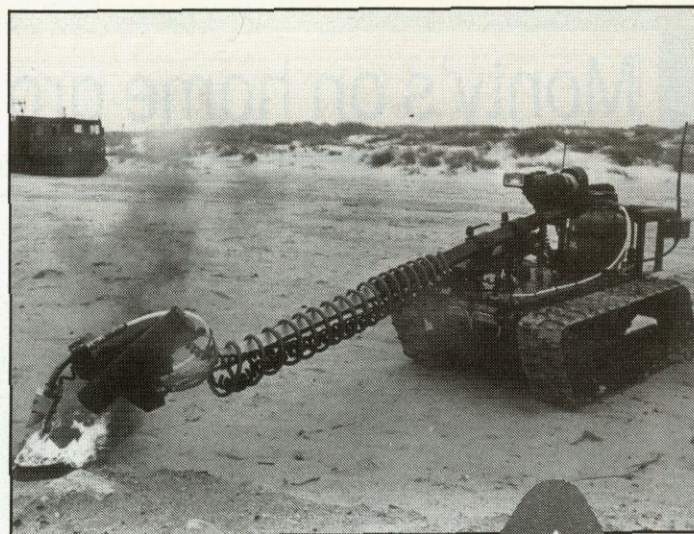
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Above – REDFIRE, the variant of
Wheelbarrow designed specially
to tackle the plastic mines
problem on the Falkland
Islands

Right – Improved fencing
and warning signs make
the islands safer

Pictures: Mike Perring



SLOW
MINEFIELD

Plastic menace that won't go away

MANY of the most beautiful
areas in the Falkland Islands
are out of bounds, and likely to
remain so for some consider-
able time, because of the mines
the Argentines left behind,
writes Jennifer Griffiths.

During 1982 they laid an
estimated 25,000 to 30,000, of
which about 3,000 have been
cleared.

Capt Simon Phillips, OC
Detachment 33 Engineer Reg-
iment EOD in Stanley said:
"We are dealing with anti-tank
and anti-personnel mines which
are mostly plastic.

"The problem we have is
that we can't detect plastic
mines. They have a very small
metal content, and even the
most sensitive of our metal
detectors won't pick them up."

Another problem is that tides
and shifting sands can reveal
new mines, and as quickly
cover them or wash them away.
Regular patrols and inspections
are made of the minefield areas
and improved fencing is
carefully maintained, along the
warning signs.

The designers of the Wheel-
barrow, used extensively in
Northern Ireland, have refined
it to create REDFIRE (Remote
Explosive Destroyer Falkland
Islands Royal Engineers), a
tracked remote control vehicle
featuring a gas flame that is
helping sappers to tackle the
plastic mines problem.

'Perhaps
the bravest
man
I ever
knew...'

and now,
he cannot
bear to
turn a
corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G't't'r'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern
Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental
breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in
the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run
our own Convalescent Homes and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves
in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others there is our
Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we
must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is
owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could – please give as much as you can".

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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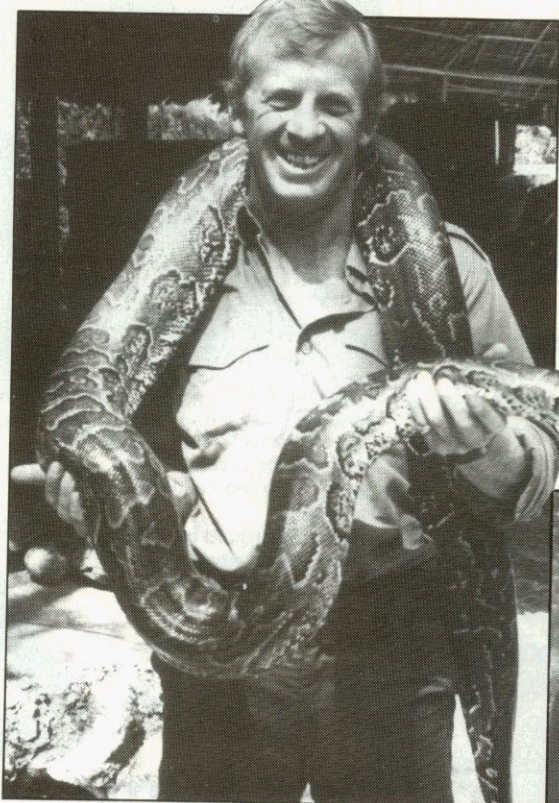
Monty's on home ground with Op Raleigh

Four years of Operation Raleigh, the series of expeditions for young people directed by Col John Blashford-Snell, are to be celebrated in the first week of April.

During the past six months two groups have been in Kenya for a mix of scientific, community and adventure projects. The latest party left the UK in early January under Lt Col **Mike Reynolds**.

Maj **Peter Barnes**, R Anglian, led an expedition to Tsavo National Park in Kenya.

Also on that trip was Spr **Rob Spruce** who had been seconded to Operation Raleigh as a member of the directing staff for the Kenya project.



TSAVO FRIENDS: Maj Peter Barnes with Monty, a 10ft python found near his base camp, and Spr Rob Spruce (left) and Col John Blashford-Snell with an elephant skull in Tsavo

NEW DPR(A) TEES OFF

The Army's new public relations chief is **Brig Christopher Wallace**, who has taken over as DPR(A) from Brig **Sam Cowan**.

Commissioned into the 2nd Green Jackets (King's Royal Rifle Corps) in 1962, he has for the past two years been Commander of the 7th Brigade, BAOR. Brig Wallace is a former Army

golf champion and turned out for the Army in the Inter-Services tournament every year from 1968 to 1982.

Brig Cowan is moving on to become Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in the rank of major general.



LEARNER: Janet Tuzzio joins 72 Ord Coy at Telford

FIRST LADY!

COD Donnington civil servant **Janet Tuzzio** is unique! She is the first woman recruit to join 72 Ord Coy (V) at its Telford, Shropshire headquarters. The unit now has 30 vacancies for WRAC TA personnel and has received a lot of local enquiries about the posts.

At the other end of the scale, the 40 years old unit has been celebrating the award of medals representing 237 years of service by 12 of its members to the TA and Regular Army.

SSgt **Peter Brown** received

the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Outstanding Service; SSgt **Ken Lomax** got the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and there were efficiency clasps for SSgt Brown and SSgt **Ken Lawrence** (30 years), WO2 **Tony Ray** and SSgt **Rod Watts** (24 years), WO2s **Colin Curtis** and **David Courtneil**, SSgt **Fred Simmons**, Sgt **Terry Davies** and LCpl **John Thomasson** (18 years); and efficiency medals for 12 years' service for Cpl **Gordon Pritchard** and LCpl **Gordon Lycett**.

Quarter of a century later...

A quarter of a century after 20 newly commissioned officers reported to Buller Barracks, Aldershot to begin a junior officers course in the Royal Army Service Corps, six are still serving in the Royal Corps of Transport and four of them gathered in Aldershot for a 25th anniversary photograph in the gardens of the rebuilt Headquarters mess of the RCT.

The four who made it to the reunion were Lt Cols **Martin Cubitt**, **Butch Barrett**, **Colin Constable** and **David Baker**.

Their original Class of '64 included Malaysians, a Nigerian and a Jordanian, and many went on to senior commands in the UK and abroad. One served with the SAS and another commanded the Mule Troop.



WE FOUR: Lt Cols Martin Cubitt, Butch Barrett, Colin Constable and David Baker at their reunion

PEOPLE

Birthday bonanza



Picture: Hampshire Chronicle

When South Down Children's Home at Old Alresford, Hants celebrated its 100th anniversary, SSgt **Eric Preston**, AAC, Master Chef at nearby RAPC Worthy Down made and decorated a huge cake to mark the occasion. It was donated by Brig **Paul Bray**, Station Commander of RAPC Worthy Down. SSgt Preston is pictured above cutting the cake with help from two of the children living in the home.



Picture: Peter Griffiths

MAYOR'S DELIGHT: From left are OC Julie Cooke, Mayor Mat Guymer, Pte Tina Dorning and Pte Vicki Lowe

Fresh troops for the troop...

Three new WRAC girls who have joined the Territorial Army's recently formed 413 Combat Artisan Troop RE were in the spotlight when the mayor and members of the business community visited them at their Stafford base.

The troop's inaugural day at Kitchener House, Stafford was combined with HQ 30 Engineer Brigade's employer liaison open day.

Officer Cadet **Julie Cooke** and Ptes **Tina Dorning** and **Vicki Lowe** were among the first to sign up with 413 Combat Artisan Troop, which has an establishment of 58. It will double the strength of the headquarters of Commander 30 Engr Bde, Brig **Garth Hewish**.

Vicki, a staff nurse at a local hospital, is due to marry the brigadier's driver, LCpl **Melvyn Bas**, in the summer.

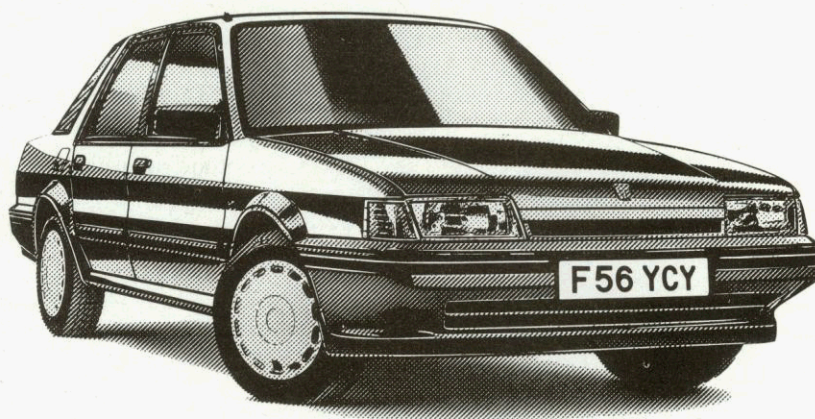
Picture: Mike Perring

Airborne commander

Aldershot Garrison's new commander is Brig **Nigel Richards**, who assumed command of 5 Airborne Brigade in January. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1965 and served with 7 RHA and 19 Fd Regt as a young officer.

Brig Richards subsequently commanded 7 RHA in Osnabruck, West Germany during a tour which saw the regiment return to an airborne role as part of 5th Airborne Brigade in Aldershot. He returned to the MoD in 1986 as Colonel Army Programme in the Directorate of Army Plans.

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What a lovely lot you are!

You really are the most generous bunch of people when it comes to raising money for good causes.

Did you know that the combined Army response to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Wishing Well Appeal amounted to an amazing £101,466?

Lord Prior, Chairman of the appeal, has announced that the GOSH target of £2.2m has now been reached and no new fund-raising initiatives would be started.

Of the Army total, £26,000 was contributed by the Federation of Army Wives. During the past year or so we have been totting up sums of money raised for all good causes by Service personnel.

Our list is by no means comprehensive, but it adds up to an incredible quarter of a million pounds.

Don't forget, if you want your charity event recorded in SOLDIER, send in the important details - how much you raised, for whom, and how you did it.

Lord Prior, meanwhile, has this message for anyone still collecting for Great Ormond Street: "We hope funds raised from planned events could be shared with those local hospitals or with another charity if that is the wish of the organisers."

SOLDIER to Soldier

Here's advance notice of a military spectacular which SSAFA hopes will swell the funds it needs for its vital work with the families of Service and ex Service men and women.

On the evenings of June 13, 14 and 15 the Royal Marines, Army and the Royal Air Force will Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London.

It is believed to be the first time the three Services have combined to Beat Retreat. More than 400 Servicemen will take part, including the King's Troop.

Taking part will be the Deal

Massed bands

and Northwood Bands of the Royal Marines; the guns of The King's Troop, the Royal Horse Horse Artillery; the Quebec Band of The Queen's Regiment; the Pipes and Drums of The King's Own Scottish Borderers; the Drums and Pipes of The Gordon Highlanders; the Band of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps; the Uxbridge and Cranwell Bands of the RAF and the Queen's Colour Squadron, RAF.

Hot shot saved the Rock

Amid the welter of historical facts produced since the reduction of the Gibraltar Garrison was announced no one seems to have recalled Lt Koehler's remarkable invention which played a vital part in saving the Rock for Britain.

The lieutenant devised a gun carriage which enabled the piece to be depressed so that shots could be fired down on to enemy floating batteries (rafts covered with wet cattle hides) and so set them alight with red hot shot. Another sizzling Gunner success!

That was in 1779 during the Great Siege when, until Lt K produced his masterpiece, cannon balls were virtually lobbed at the opposition.

A full size model of the Koehler Gun (a 24-pounder) stands outside the Woolwich Rotunda.

And here's another obscure fact - the badge "Gibraltar" was worn on the sleeve of the 73rd Hanoverian Fusiliers throughout the First World War to commemorate their part in defending the fortress.

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

One pace forward Pte J Launder, C Coy, 7/9 Royal Scots! Workmen at Stonehaven, Kincardineshire have discovered your Second World War .303 ammunition, boots, emergency rations, goggles and mittens beneath some old floorboards in a hotel.

Now a local newspaper,

Mystery Scot

The Leader, has begun a search for the former owner. To add to the mystery, the cache includes a ragged jersey with the letters "SSP" stitched on it. What could they stand for?

The 7/9th was a TA unit raised in Edinburgh.

Fifty years ago searchlight beams could be seen thrusting laser-like paths of light into the dark skies over the Medway as they worked with the ack-ack guns of Kent's front line defences against the threat of German bombers.

Searchlights have been busy again in the skies above Kent - in a more peaceful vein.

The Royal Engineers Mus-

Light fantastic

eum at Gillingham arranged a spectacular searchlight demonstration using equipment ranging from a pre-1939 90cm lamp mounted on its own generator lorry to the modern Army's latest equipment.

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SILVER ON PARADE

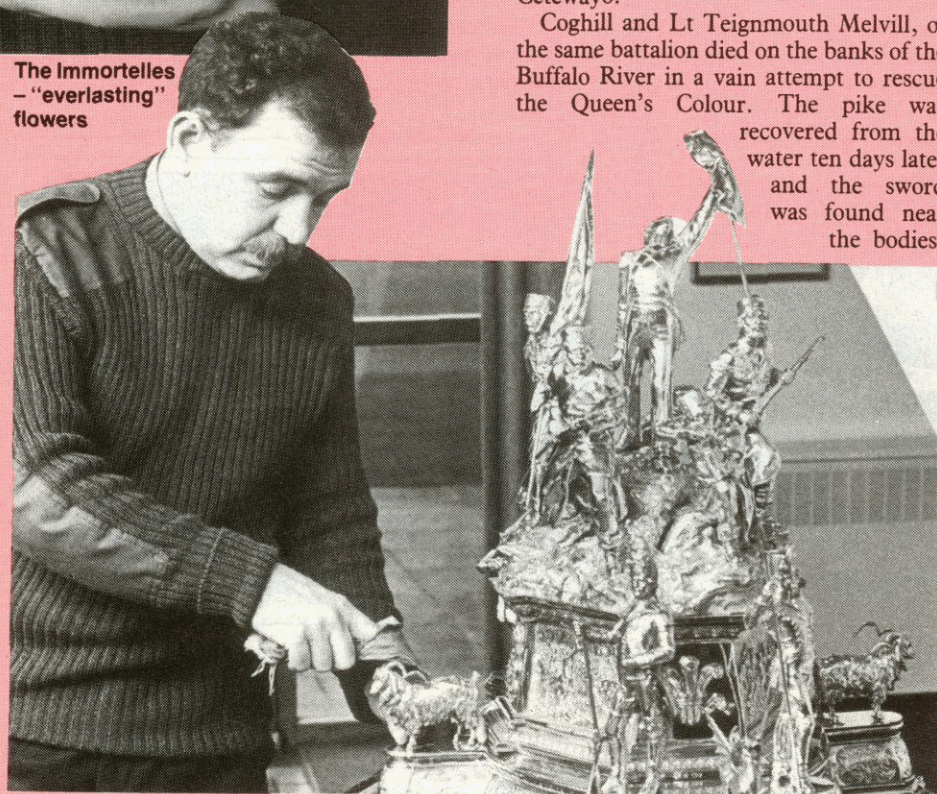
Words:
Bill Moore

Pictures:
Mike Weston

1 RRW salutes
VC's sword



The Immortelles
— "everlasting"
flowers



Top is the Wreath of Immortelles — After Rorke's Drift Queen Victoria directed that a silver wreath should always accompany the pike of the Queen's Colour of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 24th Foot. The original was damaged and the one shown is of modern origin.

Above: Pte Martin Hill, the battalion silver man, polishes the Inkerman centre piece.

STRANGE how amid a display of regimental silver worth about £1½m in crude melt-down terms it was a piece of cold steel that gripped the attention of the young soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

"This," said Capt Jeremy Pugh-Morgan as he drew it from a plain leather scabbard, "is Coghill's sword . . . the one he used at Isandhlwana."

The men of 8 Platoon looked with respect at the straight sharp blade which had been used in desperate earnest as Lt Nevill Josiah Aylmer Coghill, of the 1st Battalion, 24th Foot, fought for his life as the battalion died almost to a man fighting against the Zulu warriors of King Cetewayo.

Coghill and Lt Teignmouth Melvill, of the same battalion died on the banks of the Buffalo River in a vain attempt to rescue the Queen's Colour. The pike was recovered from the water ten days later and the sword was found near the bodies.



Blade of honour

Normally the sword hangs in the officers' mess of 1 RRW — an amalgamation of the South Wales Borderers (until 1881 the 24th Foot) and the Welch Regiment (41st and 69th Foot).

It is among the trophies, mainly silver, shown to the troops once a year on the anniversary of the battle (January 22, 1879) and its sequel, the successful defence of the little mission station at Rorke's Drift by men of the 2nd Battalion, 24th, and other troops the following day.

This year the custom was observed in the officers' mess at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, where 1 RRW is serving as the School of Infantry's Demonstration Battalion.

According to tradition only officers may draw Coghill's sword, but several soldiers were allowed to handle the well balanced blade.

Sharp eyes spotted a hint of a mark on it. Had it been broken in action? Alas, nothing so dramatic. It seems that an officer on attachment to 1 RRW while they were on a Northern Ireland tour accidentally snapped it when trying to demonstrate its flexibility! It was beautifully repaired, at his expense!

For their part in the epic defence of Rorke's Drift (subject of the film *Zulu*) seven men of the 24th Foot were awarded the VC in May 1879.

Of the bravery of Coghill and Melvill, whose bodies were found ringed by dead Zulus, there was no doubt, but at that time the VC was not awarded posthumously.

LCpl Richie Lawrence reads the inscription on the sword with which Lt Nevill Coghill fought to the death. The massive silver centre piece was made in 1889 to commemorate the bicentenary of the 24th Foot (by then the South Wales Borderers). Lt Jeremy Pugh-Morgan (right) explains the history of the exhibits

A campaign to obtain the highest gallantry award for them was pursued for many years but it was not until a number of posthumous awards were made in the Boer War (including one to the son of Fd Marshal Lord Roberts) that a precedent was set.

Even then King Edward VII felt that to make the award many years after an event might simply be opening the floodgates and an appeal by Sir John Coghill, the lieutenant's father, was regretfully turned down.

However, a letter from Lt Melvill's widow finally moved the king and on January 15, 1907 the *London Gazette* announced that he had approved "of the decoration of the VC being delivered to the relatives of six officers and men who fell in the performance of Acts of Valour, and with reference to whom it was notified in the *London Gazette* that they would have been recommended to Her late Majesty . . . had they survived."

According to one source, another obstacle had been the absence of any reliable witness to the deed until a Basuto tribesman who had been present visited Britain in 1901.

The drums of the 1 RRW are cased in silver said to have a replacement value of £90,000. They are believed to have been presented to the South Wales Borderers just after the First World War. Looking at them are (left to right)



Capt Alison Parsons WRAC, paymaster; 2nd Lt Antoinette Leask, WRAC, assistant adjutant, and Capt Kate Dolan, RAMC, medical officer. 1 RRW is believed to be the only regiment with three women officers

Inkerman piece rose from the ashes

IT IS a shame that slaughter and silver seem to go together. An obelisk — a scale model of one in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea surrounded by cannon — commemorates the bloody battle of Chillianwallah when the 24th Foot lost nearly 200 dead and 300 wounded storming a Sikh artillery position. The date: January 13, 1849.

Another dramatic piece shows the Colour Party of the 41st Foot (later the 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment) at Inkerman.

Simple but effective is a statuette of the Duke of Wellington which reminds soldiers that at Waterloo the 2nd/69th Foot (the 69th became the 2nd Welch) fought near the farm of Hougoumont from 11.30am to 7.30pm.

But there are human stories attached to the silver, too. The Inkerman centre piece was the result of an over-enthusiastic celebration of St David's Day in 1985 when the 41st's officers' mess in Pembroke Dock caught fire and some silver was melted or damaged.

The commanding officer told his hung-over officers the next day, in effect: Gentlemen, there is your silver! Do something about it. And the magnificent Inkerman piece was the result.

Another "heavy night" was responsible for the presence of a strangely irrelevant massive solid silver statuette of William Rufus being shot by an arrow in the New Forest.

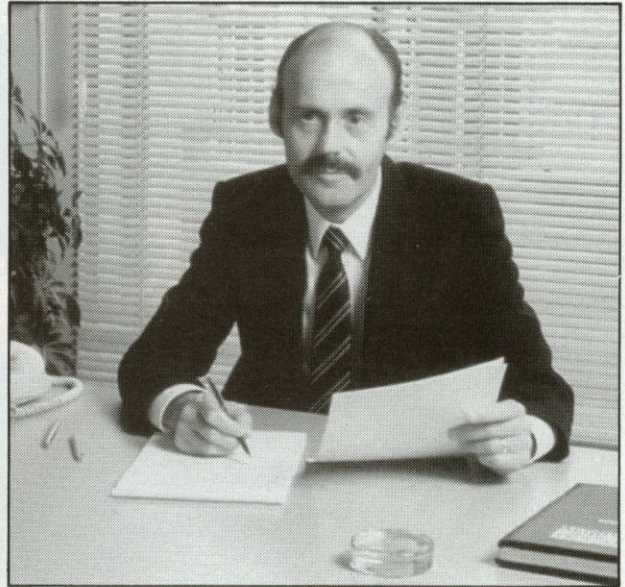
Made by the famous silversmith Garrard himself, it was submitted in a competition for a suitable trophy for The Oaks (run at the Epsom Derby meeting) — the connection being that the arrow is alleged to have glanced off an oak into the king's chest.

The piece did not win the competition and was sent to Sotheby's where two officers of the 2nd/24th celebrating their return from service in India somehow took a fancy to it. When they awoke the next morning they discovered they had bought it for a large sum.

Forming up before their CO they confessed they could not afford it and tendered their resignations. The CO, however, was not prepared to allow the regiment to lose face and all serving officers were required to contribute.

He would be pleased to know that today Sotheby's estimate the value of King William, his horse and the massive oak tree at around £90,000.

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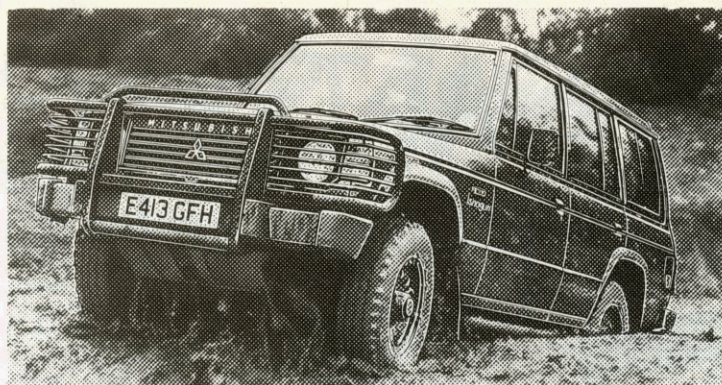
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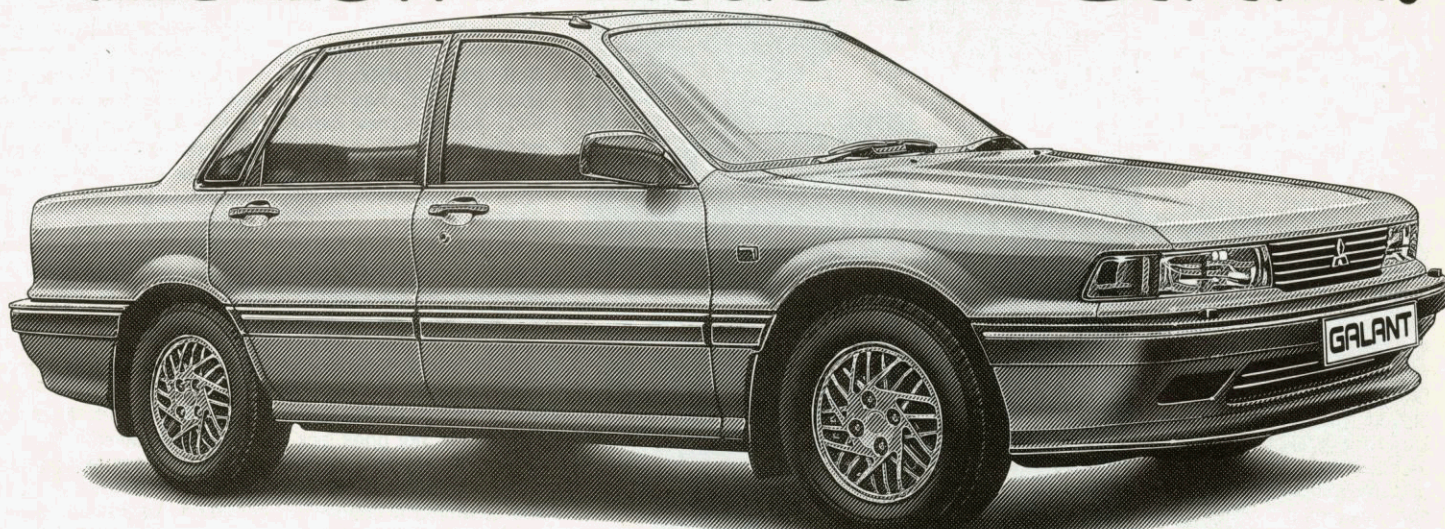
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Leading the way

Just for a change . . .

FOCUS ON THE GOOD NEWS

RECENTLY I wrote of a financial crisis facing FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Updating Skills) and said that unless there were replacements for the computers and a substantial input of cash, FOCUS would close.

This month I am delighted to report that FOCUS (a registered charity) will not bite the dust.

The good news was broken at the FOCUS Recruitment Fair held in Tidworth.

Mrs Jenny Jeapes, Chairman of the FOCUS Steering Committee, opened her house to 70 guests, including the Chairman of Salisbury District Council.

They included Councillor Tom Cowie, Lady Chapple, ex-President of FAW, and Pamela Ball from Northern Ireland FOCUS.

Speakers were Dr Caroline Jackson, the Euro MP in whose constituency FOCUS lies, and Brig Chris Lloyd, recently retired Director of CIS (A) Computer Command and Control of Communication Information Systems.

MODERN NEED

Lady Huxtable, President of FAW, opening the fair revealed that the Army's central non public fund had donated a substantial figure to keep FOCUS afloat until the mid 1990s.

More was to follow. During a visit to the Government Computer Exhibition FOCUS's computer manager, Penny Clayton, had mentioned to Prime Computers that FOCUS was in need of modern teaching equipment as FOCUS now needs to run courses up to RSA standard.

Prime Computers presented FOCUS with a multi-user Unex machine, software, 4 terminals and maintenance.

Dr Caroline Jackson said in her address that she was well aware of the special difficulties in keeping up with employment requirements not only of Service wives but of women



Heather Cassel (standing) and Sylvia Fletcher with the education data base

In funds, but...

returning to work.

Author of a book on "returners" Dr Jackson appreciated the lifestyle of a Service community.

Due to the falling birthrate the numbers of 16-25 year olds was dropping sharply and the opportunities offered by FOCUS were invaluable.

Dr Jackson added that the European Social Fund and grants were available to women.

(However, in 1986 an

application to extend FOCUS to British Forces Germany was not successful. A current FOCUS ES Fund application is now under consideration for 1989/90.)

"This new information technology training is going to be an extremely portable asset," said Dr Jackson, "and in the future quite a lot of work will be able to be done from home. I give this project my full support."

Brig Lloyd said he was delighted to speak on his first day of retirement from the Army. He was starting work with his new company three days later. During the previous three years he had been working on the long term strategy for the use of computers in the Army.

The Government's new financial management initiative would require a lot more computers and bookkeeping (bookkeeping is one of FOCUS's courses).

"This computer expansion is a major undertaking by the Army and if the wives could join in, it would be marvellous.

"For wives to have transferable skills can be of great help in this."

It was good to hear so much said in support, but though FOCUS has been made safe for a few more months no one can be complacent - there is still much to be done to ensure a sound future.

FOCUS has not only reached top status on the Manpower Services Register but six out of ten students have found employment.

Age is no barrier, nor does lack of educational

qualifications prevent a wife attending a course.

Jenny Jeapes related a series of student profiles varying from wives who felt inadequate, or under-trained, or just suffering from a housewife's syndrome and not confident to go out and find a job.

However, after a FOCUS course, students had found employment in Northern Ireland and recently one has joined ICL in Germany.

Men and school leavers



Dr Caroline Jackson

have attended courses.

FOCUS owes much to its administrative team of Jill Joske and Irene McCall while Penny Clayton, tutor manager and Gabrielle Tait, computer trainer, are experts at teaching high tech information.

At the FOCUS Recruitment Fair guests were able to see at first hand what is on offer to Service wives.

Derek Miles, ex RAMC, demonstrated his educational data base which enables anyone to select a school from a list of 2,000.

Requirements are fed into the computer which can take into account sport, religion, children with special needs, and the short and long term financial aspects involved.

The system is updated every six months.

Derek Miles has given this system to FOCUS.

Also on display was FRED, The Federation of Army Wives Register for Employment.

The data base is a computer programmed to list Forces family members seeking employment and it also lists current positions available in the Salisbury area.

FRED also has direct contact with some local employers. It is hoped that this system will eventually be available in all districts.

As for the future it is hoped to expand FOCUS to Northern Ireland. For further details, including crèche facilities, write to FOCUS, 8 Kandy Road, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9AA or telephone 0980 32800.

Penny Clayton, tutor manager, gives a demonstration to visitors including Coun Tom Cowie, Chairman of Salisbury District Council





WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

... now the old, old story ...

BAD DEAL FROM JOBS LAW

LEGISLATION currently before Parliament contains clauses which could well affect Service families and wives in particular. One will undoubtedly make it harder for wives to obtain unemployment benefit when moving overseas with their husbands.

Clause 7 of the Social Security Bill spells out what will be required of a wife if she wishes to claim.

Every applicant will have to prove that she has actively sought work.

In other words, she

should sign on at the local Job Centre, record every letter sent or received, list every advertisement answered, and obtain signatures whenever a personal contact is made.

And this applies right up to the last minute. Wives will have to prove they are available for work even on the day of their departure for wherever.

This makes it 99 per cent impossible (as Service wives cannot and do not choose their departure times) and 100 per cent

unfair. But that is not the only unfair deal wives get. Unemployment benefit is now to be assessed on **TWO** relevant tax years – the last two complete years before the benefit year in which a period of interruption of employment occurs.

In the section of the Department of Social Security leaflet (No N112) which deals with "Special Circumstances" there is no reference to Service dependants.

Share fishermen, seafarers, volunteer development

workers, seasonal workers, students and one parent families are mentioned, but of the Services there is not a word.

Wives and dependants of Servicemen are, it appears, unique.

They appear to be the only group in Europe required to pay National Insurance contributions without being guaranteed a return for their money.

Even migrant workers and refugees can claim benefits in Europe but there are no regulations

which allow British Service dependants to do the same.

A family moving within Europe can claim unemployment benefit neither from the UK nor the EEC country in which they are temporarily resident.

Will 1992 – when we are told all Europe will aim to abide by the same rule book – change all this?

It is significant that 5,000 unemployed dependants do not appear in any unemployment statistics.

Why not?

Is this the smallest Service school?

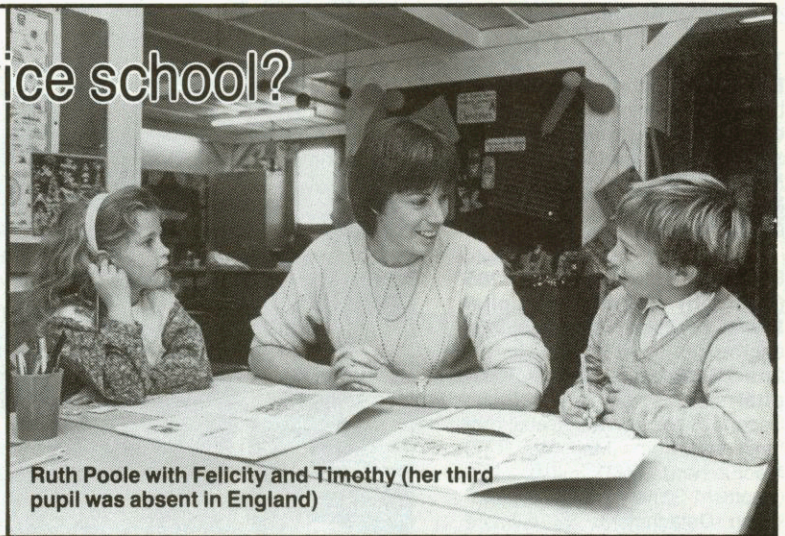
CAPT Ruth Poole, RAEC, wonders if her school is the smallest in the Services.

She is the total staff of Mount Pleasant Primary School in the Falkland Islands.

Her pupils are Claire Crwys Williams, daughter of Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys Williams, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, Felicity Brindle, 7, daughter of Gp Capt Geoff Brindle, Commander RAF Mount Pleasant, and Timothy Skipper, 9, son of Capt John Skipper. The officers' wives are accompanying them on the tour.

Capt Poole says: "I believe this is the smallest and most southerly school in the Services. Perhaps I am more of a governess than anything else."

When Capt Poole's successor, John Rivers arrives with his own children the school's population will double.



Ruth Poole with Felicity and Timothy (her third pupil was absent in England)

Don't wait – take credit where credit is due

Figure it out for yourself?

THE GOVERNMENT says there has been a low take-up of Family Credit and Housing Benefit and as both may be claimed by Service families in the UK and overseas let me repeat some facts.

HOUSING BENEFIT – All Service families come under an equivalent scheme run by the MoD. In line with Government policy it has been agreed that the assessment for benefit will be on net pay.

All applications should be made through your pay authority. You can certainly claim if you were eligible for

housing benefit before April 1, 1988.

Families on low income should seek advice from their unit pay office.

FAMILY CREDIT – The low take-up could well extend to Service families because the rates for Family Credit are higher than for Family Income Supplement (FIS).

Service families with

children and gross incomes between £7,000 and £8,000 should claim.

Each claim is for six months only, NOT one year as for FIS.

If you are stationed in the UK complete the DHSS leaflet; overseas families should obtain a form from their unit pay office.

If you are in receipt of UK Family Credit and are

posted overseas you will continue to receive it until 26 weeks have expired.

If overseas contact your pay office before you leave your overseas station to confirm method of payment. The new rates are more generous than the old. Some examples (weekly pay):

Family with three children (say) 3, 8 and 11.

Gross earnings £167; tax £22.06; NI contrib. £15.03; take-home pay £129.91; Family Credit 68p; Child Benefit £21.75; TOTAL NET INCOME: £152.34.

Family with children (say) 6 and 13.

Gross earnings £173; tax £23.56; NI contrib. £15.57; take-home pay £133.87; Family Credit 51p; Child Benefit £14.50; TOTAL NET INCOME: £148.88.

Family with child (say) 3.

Gross earnings £129; tax £12.56; NI contrib. £11.61; take-home pay £104.83; Family Credit 79p; Child Benefit £7.25; TOTAL NET INCOME: £112.87.

If your gross earnings are smaller than the examples given your Family Credit increases.

Reunions

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association London branch St David's Day dinner will be at the Victory Club, London on March 4. The St David's Day parade will be held on Horse Guards Parade at noon on March 5. Details from Mr E Popham (01-648 0216).

The annual reunion of **2nd RHA/2nd Field Regt RA OCA** will be at the RA Sgts' Mess, Woolwich on April 29. Details from the secretary, 24 Elmstead Rd, Colchester, Essex CO4 3AA. Tel 0206 68306 or 864333 in evenings.

A reunion for past and present members of **59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE** and **131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE** is being held at Chickerell Camp, Weymouth on May 12-13. Details from Capt A G Gilbert RE, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL.

The 1989 reunion of the **1151-1157 Wartime Boys Battery RA** will be held at the Jnr Ldrs Regt RA, Gamecock Barracks, nr Nuneaton, Warwickshire on March 31-April 2. Wives welcome and details from Tom Holden, 3 Kilburn Street, Water-sheddings, Oldham, Lancs OL1 4JF (tel: 061-633 8194).

The annual reunion of the **Pre-1939 Trumpeters RA** will be at the RA Mess, RSA Larkhill on July 28-29. It will be the 50th anniversary of the last Trumpeter RA to be appointed. Details from Maj J J Dobbs, 5 Glynswood, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1HU.

Edinburgh detachment of **205 (Scottish) General Hospital RAMC (V)** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the mobilisation of **2nd (Scottish) General Hospital** at the outbreak of the Second World War. Details of functions from Maj W R J MacEachen, RADC (V), 205 (Scottish) General Hospital, Edinburgh Detachment, 33 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh EH3 9NG.

Calling . . .

Any former comrades of **Sgt James (Jim) Moore**, Royal Tank Corps from 1936-45, who was in 2 Section 11th Light Tank Company during the Khaisora operation on NW Frontier of India 1936-7 and was captured while with 3rd RTR at Calais in 1940 and held in Stalag VIII B. Contact his son, Mr Geoff Moore, 113 Lothair Road, London N4 1ER.

Cpl John Childs (2367635) formerly of 16 Parachute Bde, HQ Coy LAD and REME in Aldershot 1960-61. Ray Adamyk (Chesterman), now of 18 Logan Street, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2N 2B5 is trying to contact you.



Above: The deadly effect of the Claymore mine. The object top left is the dummy's legs! Below: SNEB rockets leave a trail in the sky as an RAF Harrier jet pulls away from the attack



That's fire power!



Like a colander! After the demonstration is over, two members of the Infantry Demonstration Battalion, 1 RRW, take a closer look at the damage inflicted on an old Ferret scout car

Pictures: Mike Perring

Ear defenders are the order of the day . . .

SEVERAL times a year the Battlesbury Bowl area of Salisbury Plain echoes to the sound of gun, shell and mortar fire many times louder than is normal, writes Laurie Manton.

It happens when the School of Infantry holds one of its regular All Arms Firepower Demonstrations on the hard target gunnery range before an audience ranging from high ranking officers and VIPs to American airmen and Army Cadets.

Ear defenders are the order of the day for the 2,000 plus visitors who attend each impressive presentation demonstrating the awesome killing power of a wide selection of



Two FV 432 armoured personnel carriers, firing the GPMG, flank a Chieftain tank

20th century weaponry.

From the single sharp crack of the concealed sniper's rifle, to the crump of the exploding mortar shell and the raspberry-like roar of the United States Air Force A10 Thunderbolt aircraft firing their "tank-busting" seven-barelled 30mm

Avenger guns, it all combines to produce a breathless spectacle that leaves the senses reeling.

From the young Army cadet, the seemingly endless round of deafening detonations that pepper the performance (and targets!) it is a time of high

excitement, while for the slightly older Officer Cadet from Sandhurst it must be a sobering experience - one day he may well find himself at the receiving end of such a bombardment.

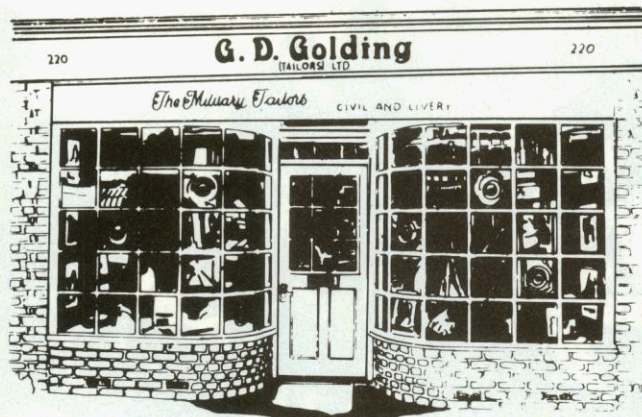
Whatever the spectators thought - that's firepower!



The wise Officer Cadet arms himself with binoculars to get a close view of the action

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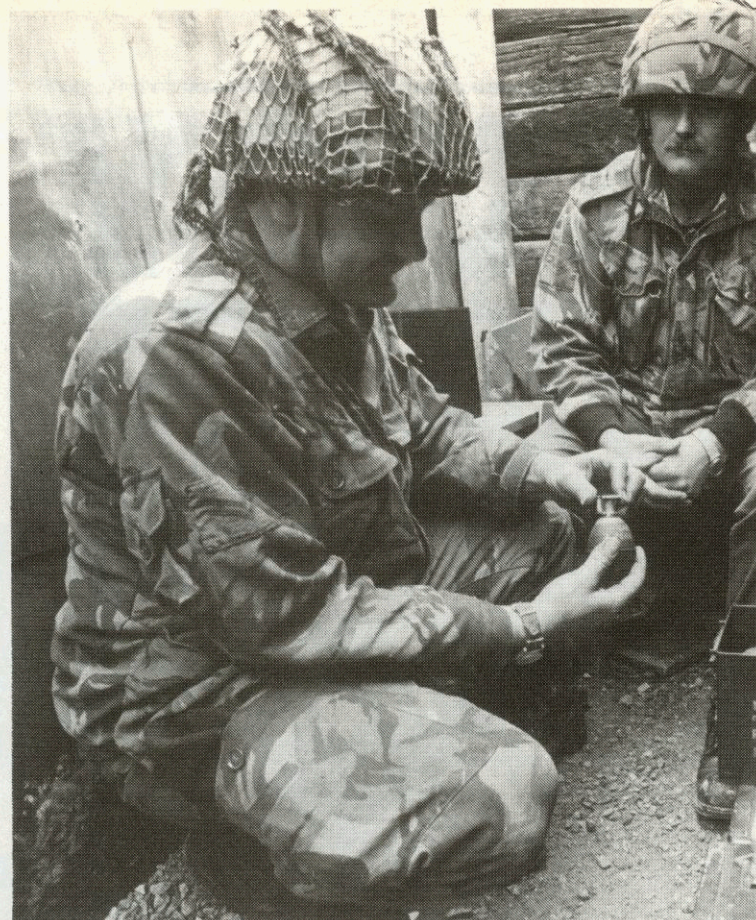
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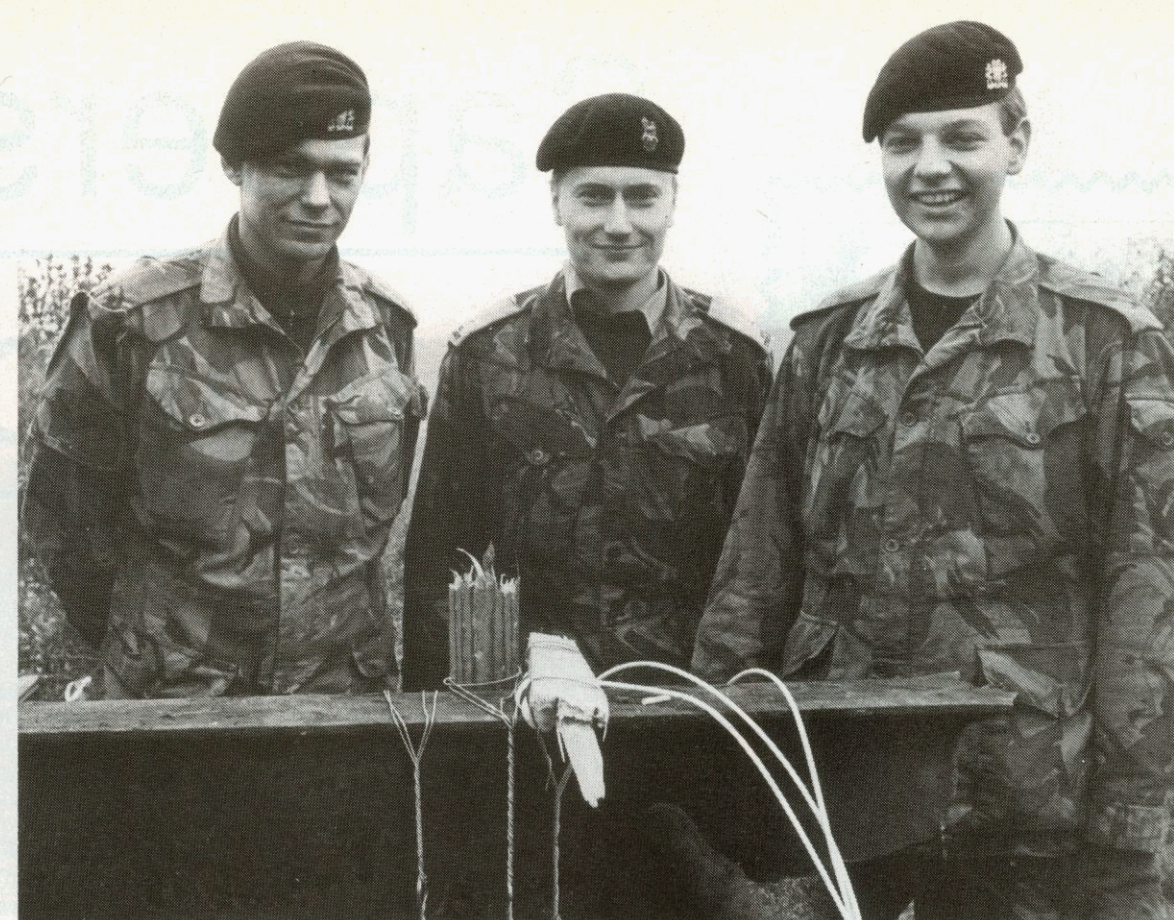


Above – QMSI Ken Mason RE (right) shows Tpr Darrell Fordyce how to set up a demolition charge

Below – The North Irish Horse have an innovative approach to camouflage, hence the tiger stripe markings on their Spartans



Nice and easy does it! Cpl Chris Eley gingerly fuses a grenade under the watchful eye of Sgt John Cooper, 1 RRF



Displaying their demolition handiwork are (left to right) Cpl Eddy Arnold, 2nd Lt Simon Brooks-Ward and Tpr Adrian Jenkins

RY camp goes with a bang!

Story by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Terry Champion



GRENADES, plastic explosives and officer cadets from Sandhurst were just some of the dangers faced by Support Troops of The Royal Yeomanry during their annual camp on Salisbury Plain.

A SOLDIER team arrived in time to see men from the widely spread armoured recce regiment busy with demolition training under the expert guidance of QMSI Ken Mason, RE, of 36 Engineer Regiment.

After a confidence-building demonstration of the noise and power of different explosive

charges being detonated, the Westminster Dragoons were given a chance to set cutting charges and blow up a track.

One of many viewing the operation with a certain amount of trepidation was Tpr Adrian Jenkins. In civilian life he is a biotechnologist involved in genetic fingerprinting and working with enzymes for washing powders.

Tpr Jenkins joined the Territorial Army because he was bored watching TV during his spare time.

"It's a nice way of letting my aggression out and doing something different at the weekends," he said.

As a Terrier he forms part of the crew of a Spartan APC. He acts as the doorman and is the first out of the back, giving covering fire to his mates as they disembark.

Cpl Eddy Arnold normally works as a shift supervisor in the computer section of a Swiss bank. His employers gave him time off to attend the two week camp.

A rather different attitude than that of some employers who frown on their workers



About to pull the pin is Tpr Stuart Pritchard

taking part in what they consider to be "warmongering" activities!

Grenade throwing is another activity that makes the knees knock and there was certainly a lot of adrenalin flowing when

SOLDIER visited the grenade range to watch nervous novices throwing their first grenades.

Fortunately the Terriers were in the capable hands of Sgts David Barnfield, 2 RGJ, and John Cooper, 1 RRF, who were detached from 6 Cadet Training Force, Woolwich to instruct the part timers.

During their fortnight's training, the men carried out a variety of tasks including firing cupola mounted GPMGs from their vehicles, taking part in a march and shoot competition, and forming an enemy force detailed to attack officer cadets from the RMA Sandhurst who were in the area.

They also had the chance to fire the SA80 rifle.

Ex Regular Capt Charles Bennie was responsible for co-ordinating all the training for the support troops from the five squadrons that make up the Royal Yeomanry.

The remainder of the regiment spent their camp firing the 30mm Rarden guns that their Fox light recce vehicles are armed with on the gunnery ranges at Lulworth in Dorset.

The Royal Yeomanry consists of five squadrons based over a wide geographic area. The squadrons, and their locations, are – A (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Sqn based at Swindon; B (Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry) Sqn, Nottingham; C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Sqn, Croydon; D (North Irish Horse) Sqn, Belfast; HQ (Westminster Dragoons) Sqn, London

Sappers come in from the cold

...into a nice, warm museum!

IT IS NOT TRUE that sappers are only happy in the rain and the cold, or when sunbaked and choked with dust. The men of No 2 Troop of 50 Field Squadron (Construction) Royal Engineers have proved that they can be quite at home in a greenhouse atmosphere.

The troop was called in to help in the Imperial War Museum's new gallery – which has a sort of Crystal Palace style roof.

Their task – to suspend vintage aircraft exhibits.

After an approach to 36 Engineer Regiment at Maidstone heads were put together.

Troop SSgt Bob Johnson, a Class 1 combat engineer, gave a favourable opinion.

"Part of the trade is using field machines, blocks and tackle and wire rope," he said, "so I couldn't see why we

couldn't do the job," he said.

It was only later that No 2 Troop (commanded by Lt Bob Phillips) realised the tricky nature of the problem.

"We had to be very careful how we handled The Doll," said Cpl Kitch Kitcher. "Her skin is so delicate we were afraid of crushing it."

The "Big Beautiful Doll" was a North American (name of the makers) Mustang, a Second World War type which brought a new element into the air war as it out-ranged the Spitfire and was able to escort bombers to Berlin and back.

A former Royal Canadian Air Force machine, it was flying until the middle of 1988 when it was retired and is still intact, engine and all.

"The Doll" is painted in the wartime colours of a plane flown by Col Landers, of 78 (US) Fighter Group based at Duxford. Even under plastic wraps she looked good, and when they took them off she looked even better. (See photograph on the back cover).

By contrast to "The Doll" the plane waiting alongside to reach for the sky looked very dowdy but had clearly been around. The patches on the ports of the eight guns made it quite plain that no one took liberties with a Mk 1 Spitfire. This one had been in the museum since 1946.

A museum expert said the most valuable machine on view was a German Focke Wulfe 190 – "absolutely unique".

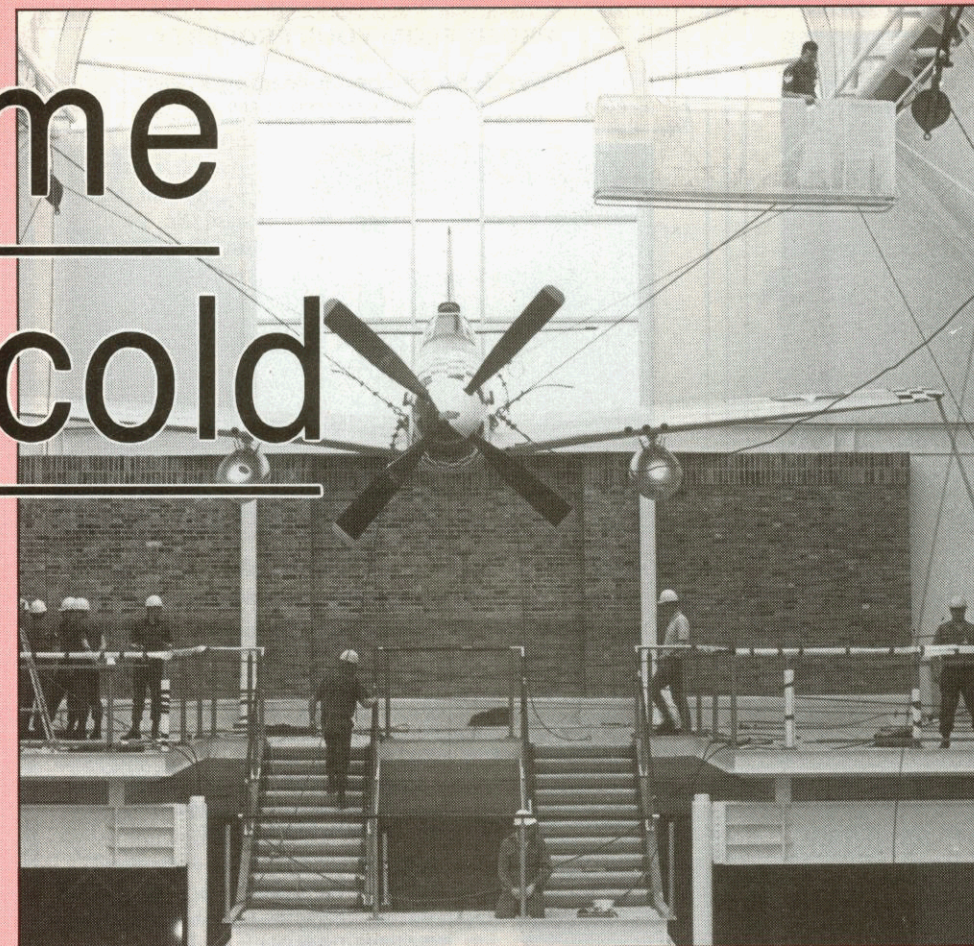
For Cpl Brian Critchlow, LCpl "John Boy" Walton, and Sappers Dek Hanlon, Grif Griffiths, Ellie Elvin, Ginger Mason, Steve Ashton, Nigel Border, Mark Pagel and the rest, it was a far cry from the troop's last



Just digging in the rain... sappers in a more familiar role. Men of 2 (Construction) Company of 12 (Nova Scotia) Fd Sqn RE shovel mud out of foundations at Cookstown SF base in Northern Ireland



Penny Ritchie-Calder, Exhibitions Officer of the IWM, discusses a problem with SSgt Bob Johnson. In the background is the draped figure of "Big Beautiful Doll"



Gently does it, the Doll's got a delicate behind...

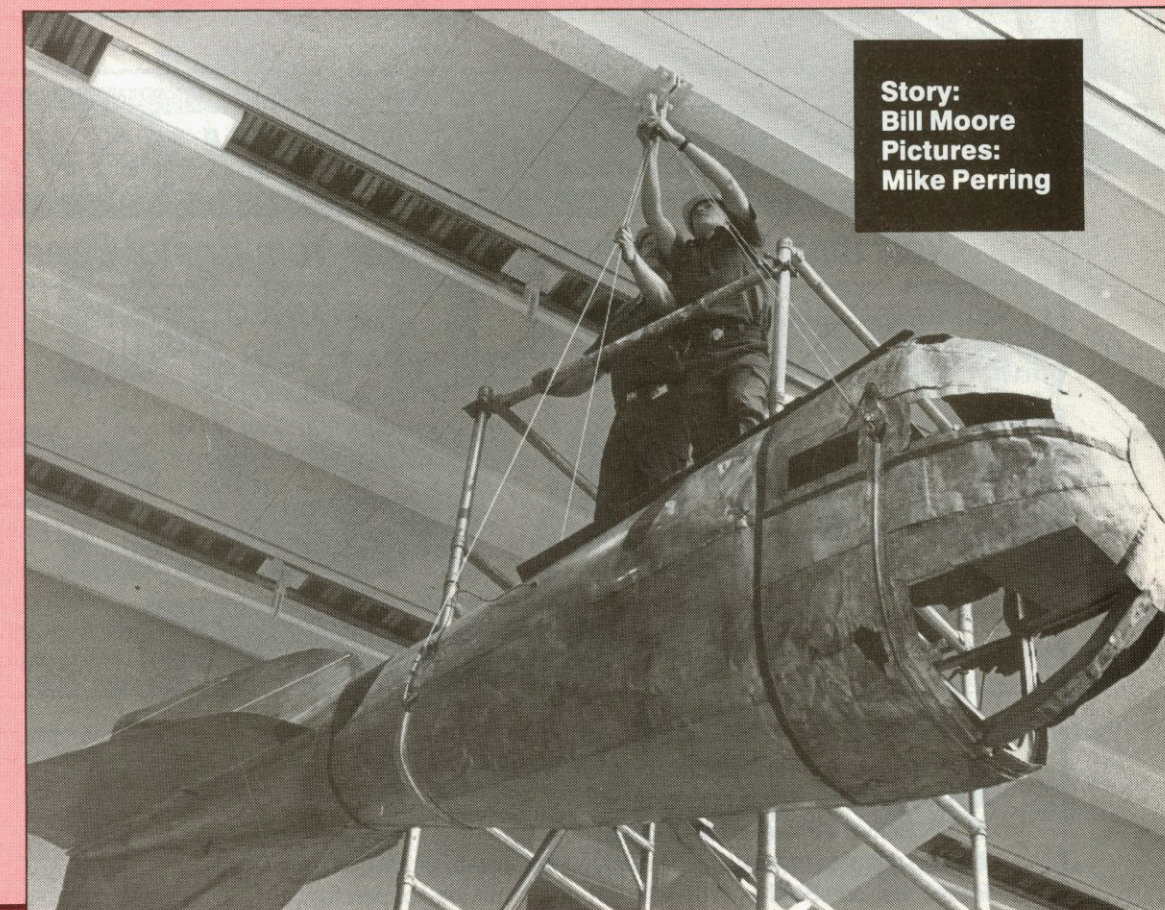
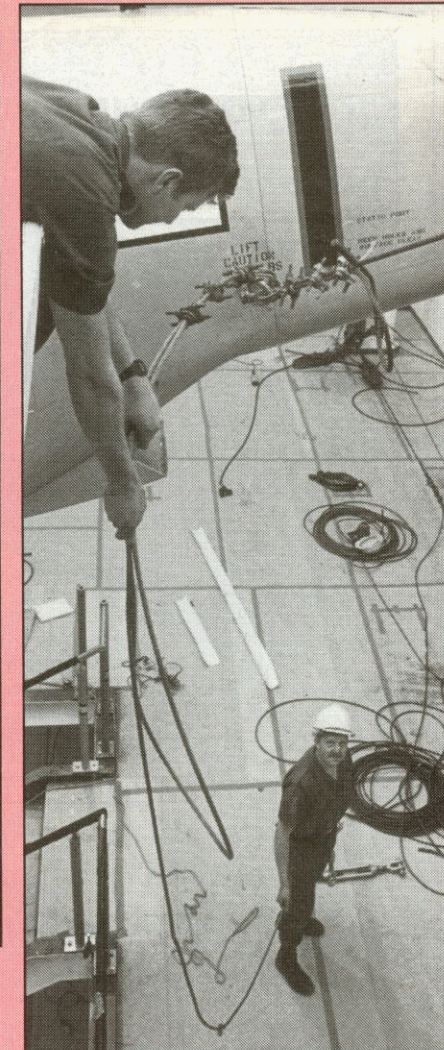
job – clearing up after an exercise in Germany.

Using steel wire and Tirfor jacks and working from a cradle they not only had to hoist the planes to roof height but juggle them into the position required by the museum authorities. They had about six goes before the tilt of the Doodlebug (V-1 flying bomb) satisfied all concerned.

"The Doll" caused problems as well. Her rear wasn't heavy enough, and it took a sack of lead shot placed by SSgt Johnson to get her into trim.

Sappers, it seems, can deal with the flightiest things... no wonder their regimental quick march is "Wings".

Above – Big Beautiful Doll in suspense. The bomb-like tanks under the wings were for extra fuel. The canopy is not yet complete. Right – Sappers at work suspending Big Beautiful Doll



Story:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Smoking room only?

Sappers secure the gondola of a German Zeppelin which was found in East Anglia during the First World War with hundreds of feet of cable attached to it. This was an observation cab lowered below the clouds so the airship itself remained unseen. The

occupant phoned his information to the commander. It was said to be a popular job because the cab was the only place where a man could smoke, the main fabric being filled with inflammable gas. This relic was probably jettisoned by a Zeppelin in trouble

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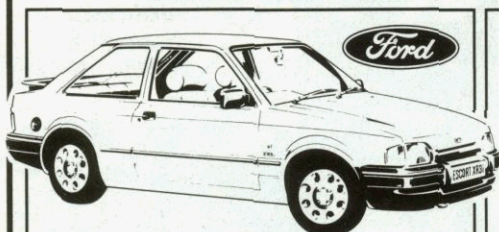
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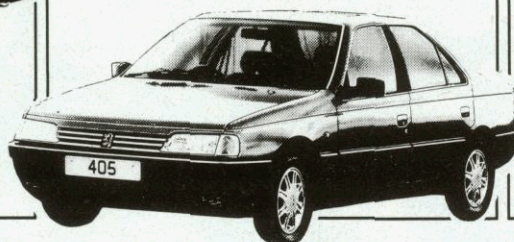


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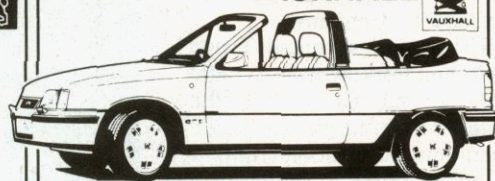
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EVERY roll of honour of soldiers killed in action makes harrowing reading, but the 4th (County Fermanagh) Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment roll is especially so.

The list of 24 names includes three brothers, all part time members of the same company murdered by the IRA.

LCpl Ronnie Graham (39), a grocer, was making deliveries on June 5, 1981 just outside Lisnaskea. He was killed by gunmen waiting in a customer's house.

Pte Cecil Graham (32) had been visiting his wife on November 9, 1981. She was convalescing at her father's home in Donagh after giving premature birth. As Pte Graham left the house he was gunned down.

A third brother, Jimmy, was a 40-year-old school bus driver. On February 1, 1985 he was waiting to collect children from a primary school in Derrylin when he was shot dead.

4 UDR's patch covers about three quarters of Fermanagh and in the past five years there have been 45 major incidents resulting in 29 deaths. This includes the 1987 Enniskillen Remembrance Day outrage in which 11 civilians were killed and 66 injured.

There were 13 major incidents last year, including the murder of two civilian contractors and a member of the battalion.

Fermanagh is the most westerly of the six counties and shares a 120 miles border with the Republic of Ireland. This plays a major role in how people live, and how soldiers and the IRA operate.

The battalion has one permanent cadre (full time) rifle company and one part time cadre comprising just over half its strength and making up four companies. The part timers hold down civilian jobs but give up free time at night and weekends to don combat uniforms.

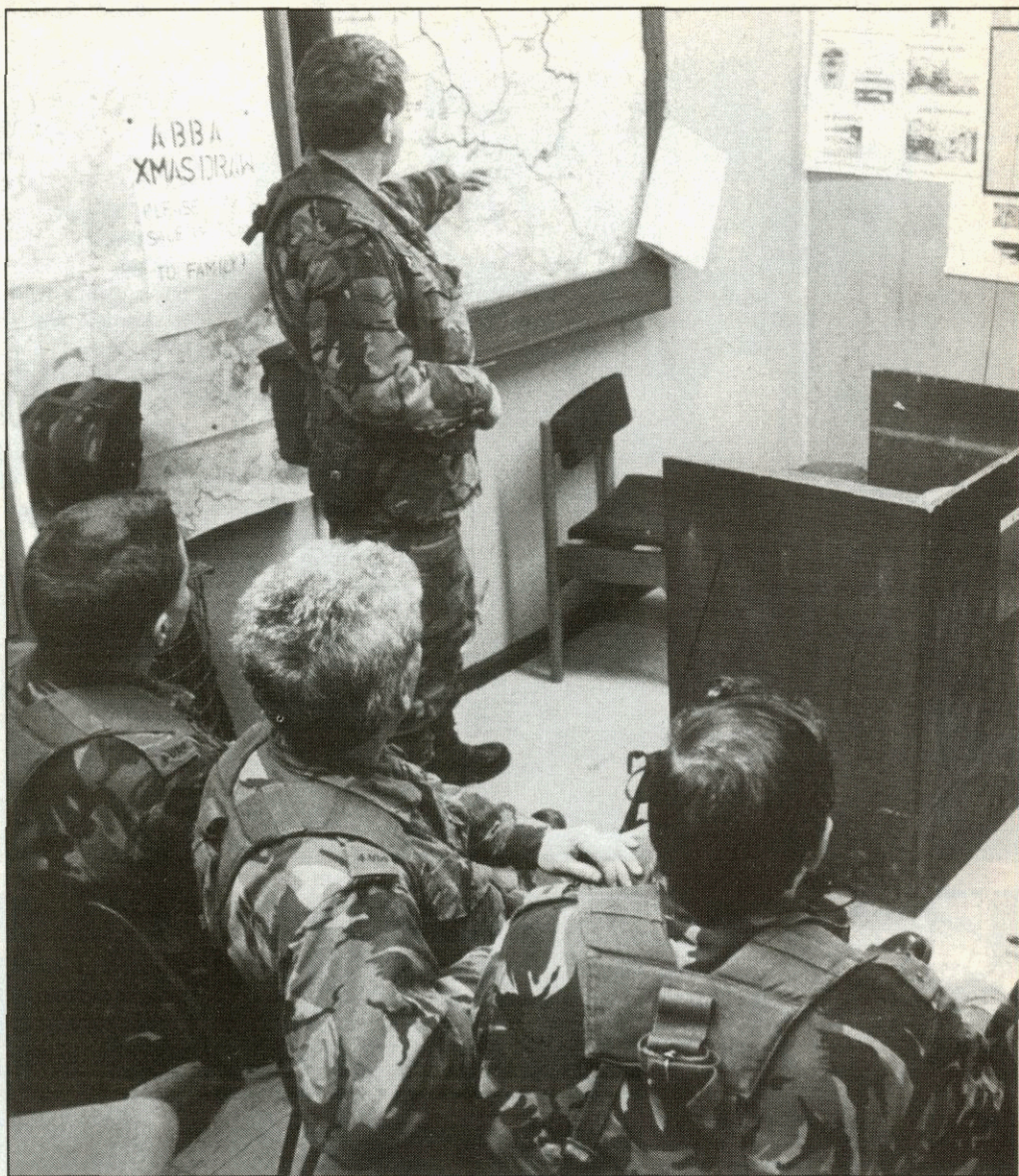
A UDR officer said that one of the biggest frustrations for both soldiers and locals was the ease with which terrorists seemed able to carry out hit and run tactics before escaping to safe havens.

"The terrorists include people who used to live on this side of the border and went on the run to the south. They have plenty of local knowledge and contacts for when they come back over, and include Maze Prison escapees and 'lifers' with nothing to lose."

They are backed by sympathisers living in Fermanagh who, while not prepared to pull a trigger, will help by collecting information or in other indirect ways.

Fermanagh is unusual because it is the Protestants who are in the minority. As a rule of thumb, the closer one gets to the border, the more Catholic the area becomes.

The officer warned: "You must never forget it is a border county and the threat is real, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, both on and off duty. UDR part timers are especially vulnerable as soft targets. None of us can be lulled into a false sense of



A briefing for a night patrol

BORDER BATTALION

Words by
Jennifer
Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Perring

security at any time.

"Once you become a member of the security services your life has to change."

UDR soldiers are always aware that their neighbours may be IRA sympathisers. The officer continued: "There are only a small number who want to set you up. The majority want to go about their ordinary lives. They say 'we only have one life and we want to enjoy it'."

The area's MPs have included hunger striker Bobby Sands and Owen Carron who is awaiting extradition from the south. The present member is Official Unionist

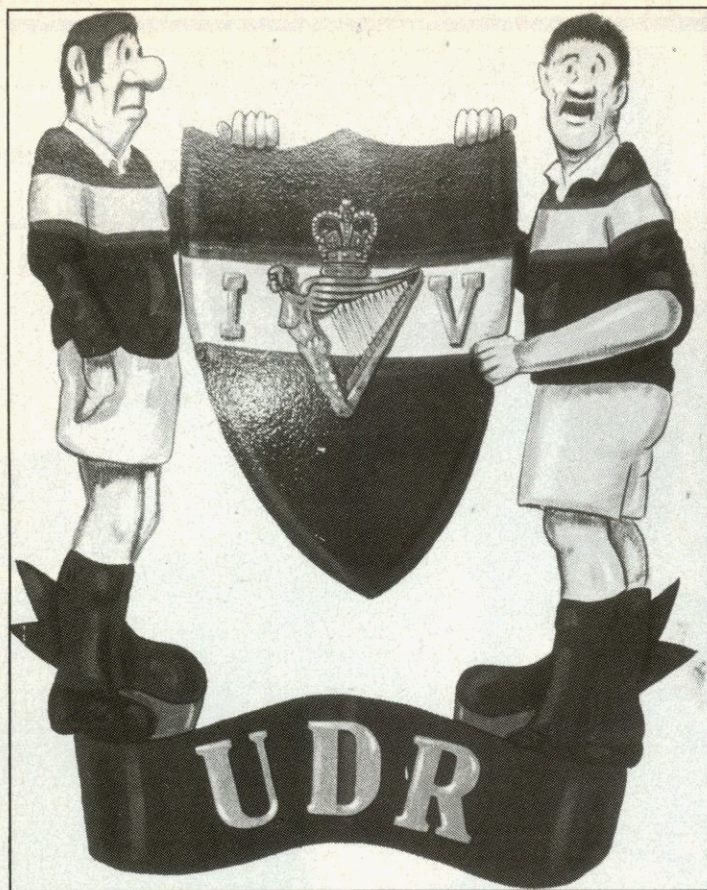
Ken Maginnis.

Reasons for joining the UDR – for other than its career prospects – are many and varied. But often there is a poignant story that prompts a man or woman to sign on the dotted line.

A 35-year-old sergeant had a relative who was shot dead in the early days of the UDR.

"That obviously influenced my decision to join up. I felt I could do something for the community."

Another part time sergeant, aged 41, who has been in the UDR for 17 years, said that when he joined up it was a quiet



4 UDR's tug o war team has won competition after competition. In their own club they are immortalised in paintings such as this

Battalion really pulls its weight on fields of sport!

LIFE for 4 UDR is not all work. The battalion is involved in activities such as tug of war, football, netball, adventurous training and canoeing in which individuals and teams can pit themselves against competition not only from within the regiment but the Regular Army as a whole.

Particular successes include the tug of war team who are current Service and Army champions and have been for several successive years. The Greenfinch shooting team won the regimental .22 trophy in 1988, and the football team claimed the Northern Ireland six-a-side competition.

Added to this are the canoeing success of LCpl April Rooney, who won a gold medal at the Army women's championships in Monmouth, and the battalion's involvement



Lt Col Peter Hughes

in Commander UDR's Break 88 programme which enabled many of the soldiers and Greenfinches to have a well deserved rest from operational duties and an opportunity to take part in adventurous training out of the province.

The battalion is affiliated to the Prince of Wales's Division and this connection has made possible a series of attachments for its soldiers to the 1st

Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, currently in Hong Kong.

Lt Col Peter Hughes, R Hamps, who assumed command of 4 UDR last March, said:

"I am proud and honoured to have been selected to command the 4th (Co Fermanagh) Battalion. I never cease to be amazed at the courage and determination of the men and women, who have lived and served in such trying circumstances for so many years. Their enthusiasm must surely be an inspiration to us all.

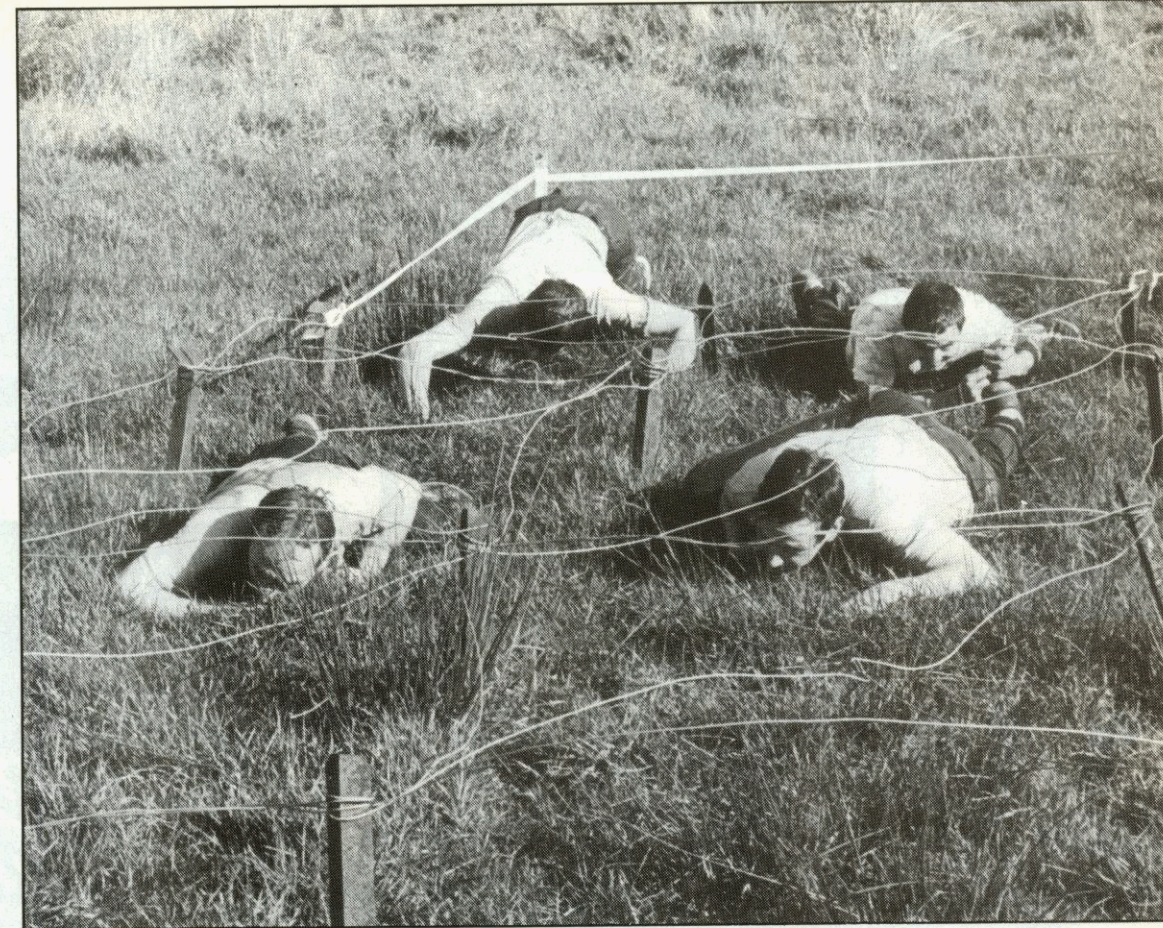
"The permanent cadre are highly professional soldiers and, in my opinion, are at least equal to the Regular soldiers. I admire the way the part timers maintain their civilian jobs going into work after sometimes being out on duty until the early hours.

"That takes a very special sort of commitment, as they also face additional pressures on their families."

He added that the Greenfinches also provided an invaluable service.

"I have learned a lot in my first six months about Ulster, its men and its women, and, for the first time in my life, I have a better understanding of the problems facing the province and in particular the county of Fermanagh," said Lt Col Hughes.

The battalion enters 1989 with a resolve and will to win the fight against terrorism, a resolve which has not been diminished in any way by the losses it has suffered since it was formed almost 19 years ago.



Recreational facilities are limited for 4 UDR based in the border areas, but waste land has been utilised as an exercise ground and here four soldiers get in some close contact with the grass



Patrolling 4 UDR soldiers inspect a derelict building



A vehicle comes in for some close canine scrutiny



A 4 UDR soldier and an RUC officer check a vehicle

'I can't explain what motivates me, it's just a job I want to do'

● From Page 29

area with a close-knit community.

"But over the years, the picture has changed dramatically. What really brought it home to me was when a close friend and colleague in the UDR was shot as he went about his civilian job.

"Nothing would frighten me into quitting, even though in my civilian life I have a job that makes me vulnerable. I enjoy my work. I get a lot of job satisfaction and there is tremendous variety. I can't explain what motivates me; it is just a job I want to do.

"The prospect of being shot is always uppermost in my mind, and of course I

have made provision for my family. I also enjoy the social side. If it was all gloom and doom, nobody would join."

A 54-year-old part time colour sergeant who has two relatives in the battalion has escaped injury in several incidents during his UDR career.

"I have been very lucky. I enjoy the work, I enjoy being with the lads, the camaraderie is good, and you get to meet a lot of people. I feel I am doing a good job for my country. My wife doesn't worry about me like she used to. She has learned to live with it."

One 32-year-old colour sergeant is a Yorkshireman who married a local girl

who was a Greenfinch. He had previously been a Regular soldier for three years. He said: "I prefer the UDR full time because you are not posted every two or three years and your family becomes more settled."

A 21-year-old private, who transferred from the Regular Army because he wanted a change from an armoured regiment to the infantry, said he was very pleased with the move. "It can be tough, but I knew that. Both my parents are full time UDR, and naturally, I have their full support."

A 36-year-old part time corporal enlisted because he thought the more people that joined the UDR the sooner the troubles would be over. "Sadly, that's not come

true, but I am ever optimistic!"

One 41-year-old part timer is particularly vulnerable because of his civilian commitments. "I am always armed and I often have an armed escort. It means permanent stress for myself and my family – but no way does that deter me.

"At the time of the Civil Rights marches I was just an ordinary man going about my day-to-day work in an area dominated by sympathisers with the terrorist movement.

"I felt as vulnerable as the men in uniform fighting terrorism. Along with a group of like minded people in that area I was moved to join the UDR. It is something I have never regretted."

Top dogs

4 UDR has a permanent cadre of three dog handlers who play a vital role in searches. An officer explained: "No search is undertaken without the dogs. Even though we have the most sophisticated equipment, we still need them, especially on route clearance.

"Dog handlers, because of their special knowledge, are in an almost unique position. A very junior rank can advise a senior field officer. The advice is welcome and acted on. The more experienced the company commander, the more he will listen to his handlers, based on the experience of how good they are."

Outrage on day of memories

THE FULL impact of the horror felt by 4 UDR about the Enniskillen outrage can be measured by the fact that practically every soldier knew, or was related to at least one of the 11 civilians who died or the 66 injured.

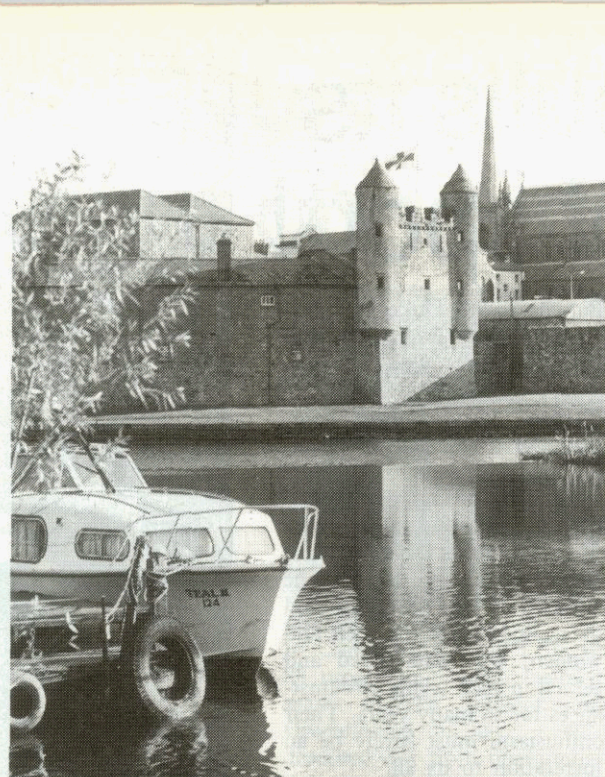
Just before the bomb went off on Remembrance Day, 1987 the battalion had started to assemble in a large car park 200 metres from the Enniskillen War Memorial. It had been invited by the local Royal British Legion to send a representative party to the ceremony.

The battalion was remembering not only the dead of two world wars, but its own loss, through terrorist action, of 19 serving and four retired soldiers.

It was 10.45 and the parade was just about to be handed over to the CO when there was a tremendous explosion. A part time captain takes up the story:

"Slates and rubble started to fall around us. I remember looking up and seeing a plume of rising smoke and dust above the houses. We broke ranks and ran to the scene. The first thing I saw was a body in the middle of the road. As I looked around, I could see other bodies in the

● Turn to next page



The three faces of the market town of Enniskillen.

A flashback (right) to the 1987 Remembrance Day outrage in which a bomb killed 11 civilians and injured 66, and where soldiers scrabbled with their bare hands to try to free them.

The second picture (above) shows the memorial today, with the remains of the building demolished by the bomb

(in the background, left) screened by a fence.

The third picture presents an apparent anomaly, a scene of peace and tranquillity in a border area, where terrorist activity is commonplace. Yet Fermanagh attracts tourists from all over Europe, and is building up its resulting service industry.

A 4 UDR officer explained: "Fermanagh is a beautiful county with some of the best fishing

and finest scenery in Europe. It is an artist's and photographer's dream. For most of the time people

are enjoying themselves. Ninety-five per cent of the population is not involved in the troubles."

'LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED'

● From Page 31

rubble, and people with horrific injuries.

"Everything was still and unreal, just like time had stopped. It was like looking through a mist. Then the screaming and shouting started, and it rallied me into action. As we scrabbled with our bare hands to try and free people, we realised the enormity of the disaster. The heartbreaking part was that you couldn't get to the people who were trapped.

"I then thought about my own wife and children, who were due to arrive at the ceremony at any time. Thankfully they had been delayed. I did what more I could at the scene.

"In that situation, because of our training, a certain amount of professionalism came out, and I certainly found myself detached from the incident, doing what I am trained for - we were going around

looking for suspects, secondary devices, a firing point, and visiting houses and talking to local people.

"I went on to the mortuary. I knew eight of the dead who were there. It was a dreadful scene. People were milling around trying to find their relatives. They didn't know where to look for them. They didn't know if they were still buried, were in the hospital, or in the mortuary."

He went on: "No sooner was the incident over than we were in to the security of the funerals. I think it was later on that the full horror came home to people. Two or three days, or a week later, people sat down and, in their own way, had a good cry and got it out of their system. At the time you become detached to a certain degree. You tend not to think about it and just get on with whatever you are paid for.

"I look back on it with total horror. I have seen death several times, but nothing will make me forget this. I will have to live with that memory for the rest of my life."

Worldwide publicity about the outrage tended to brush over its long term effects. A Greenfinch who was awarded the BEM for the part she played in recovering bodies said: "I am still on sleeping tablets, and I still have nightmares. I keep in touch with the bereaved families. People just can't appreciate the long term effects on them."

Earlier that year, 4 UDR had won the Northern Ireland first aid championships and the soldiers' knowledge came to the fore that day. After the last casualty had been removed the battalion redeployed on a massive foot, mobile and aerial patrolling operation, mounted under the RUC. Two weeks later they were back for the second RBL parade.

Girls in green take place with pride

GREENFINCHES, the women UDR soldiers, celebrated their 15th anniversary in 1988.

When they were formed, Greenfinches were employed on three main tasks – searching women, as radio and telephone operators, and in clerical and administrative duties. Since then their brief has extended, and they are now on mobile and foot patrols.

They are never armed, but this has not prevented four being killed by terrorists. Unlike the WRAC, they are fully integrated into their battalions.

A 47-year-old Greenfinch private believes the long-standing tradition of them being unarmed should continue.

Her husband and two sons are former soldiers of 4 UDR and her daughter still serves with the battalion.

"I love the job because you are meeting different people, and you can share a laugh with the boys."

A great step forward has been the recent introduction of a policy to train Greenfinch officers alongside their Regular colleagues at Sandhurst. One of the first to pass out was 2nd Lt Gale Cutler, now 4 UDR's assistant adjutant.

A 54-year-old sergeant is the longest continuous serving soldier, while her husband is a corporal and her son a private in 4 UDR. "I get my leg pulled at home because of my higher rank. Nevertheless, if they want to know anything about the UDR it's me they turn to."

"There is something very special about the job which is difficult to define."

Another sergeant joined because her husband was a soldier of 4 UDR. "I wanted to know what was happening and be part of it instead of sitting at home worrying. It is a great family battalion."



Pictures: Mike Perring

Maj Jim Ashworth, Senior Military Nursing Officer at the joint civilian-military King Edward Hospital, Stanley, with (from left back) Capt Diane Donegan, Capt Sandra Lloyd, Capt Bernadette Devine and Maj Bronwyn Dimond; front: Pte Allison Hill, Cpl Maggie Light and Cpl Diana Martin

CARRY ON

MATRON!

BRONWYN Dimond, who is general manager of Dartford and Gravesham Health Authority, has a high powered job handling an annual budget of around £20m, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

But being a major with QARANC(V) from 308 Evacuation Hospital gave her the chance of a lifetime, to work in the joint civilian-military King Edward Memorial Hospital at Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

She spent two weeks in Stanley so the theatre sister she temporarily replaced could go on leave.

"I would come back at the drop of a hat. I am very impressed at how welcoming everyone was and how they made a great effort to make you one of the team," she said of her duty.

Main role of the hospital is to serve the military population as a back up to facilities at Mount Pleasant Airport where most troops are based. Secondary role is to support the civilian population in the civilian hospital.

As Maj Jim Ashworth, Senior Military Nursing Officer, explained: "Basically, we make up what could be called a field surgical team and provide a surgical background to the islands. Without the military there would be no surgical background and people would have to be flown out for even quite minor surgery."

Foreign seaman, injured while fishing South Atlantic waters, are often among the



Pte Allison Hill tends to LCpl Jeff Winder who was admitted after high winds blew him against a crane and he broke his nose

civilian patients. There are very few military admissions, because Service personnel are medically fit before posting. When they are patients it is usually for sports and exercise injuries.

Maj Ashworth comes in for some ribbing from colleagues.

He explained: My position is senior military nursing officer. The problem is that when the hospital was designed they put 'Matron' on the office door.

"It's always tradition to call a senior nurse in a hospital 'Matron', so though I fight against it, everyone insists on calling me 'Matron'. I am the first male nursing officer to be appointed on the Falklands and the first to be appointed as a senior military nursing officer."

"I don't regard myself as 'Matron', even though I get called it all the time."

He said it had been a very interesting tour because the staff was constantly working with civilian colleagues, including a civilian matron.

"Our sphere of influence overlaps in a lot of ways, one being the internal workings of the hospital, so we are constantly in conference with each other. We work very well together."

Wendy FitzGerald, the civilian Chief Nursing Officer, said: "On the nursing side we are completely integrated, and everybody seems to work extremely well together. It is nice for us because every four months it brings in new nurses with new ideas, and keeps us up to date."

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BOOK REVIEWS

HAIG: A PROPER VICTORIAN

IT IS unfair to open a book with preconceived notions coloured by the knowledge that it is a biography of a British general by an author of another nationality who was born nearly 30 years after the death of his subject.

One can, on reflection, recognise the advantages of standing well back from the life, times and actions of such a controversial figure as the British Commander-in-Chief in the First World War.

In *Douglas Haig 1861-1928*, Gerard J De Groot has used his doctoral dissertation of Haig's early life as the basis for a biography that will undoubtedly become a standard work.

Haig has been seen as the

man who callously sent thousands to their deaths. On the other hand he was a heroic, noble and unselfish commander. The trouble is that writers may search for evidence that will prove their own views.

What De Groot has done is to examine and assess Haig "as a creature of his society"; his upbringing as a Victorian gentleman and his determination to reach the top once he had decided on an Army career.

He was a man of supreme self-confidence: "If I went into the Church I'd be a bishop," he once said. It was a quality that made him less than popular.

Haig's first experience of combat was with Kitchener in the Sudan, followed by what

he, at least, considered conspicuous service in the South African War from which he returned "confident that he was to play a major role in the Army's and the country's future."

It is, of course, the Western Front that takes up the lion's share of this book; an analysis of Haig's actions and personal communications coloured by his dislike and distrust of most of the politicians and military commanders of the time, particularly Fd Marshal Sir John French, whom Haig was to succeed.

Even De Groot, in this attempt at fairness and impartiality, has to give some ammunition to the anti-Haig



biographers of the future: "While Haig slept in a cosy bed in a quiet country chateau, and dined on the best food Rothschild could provide, his men lived in muddy, noisy trenches, sharing their bully beef and biscuits with big bloated rats..."

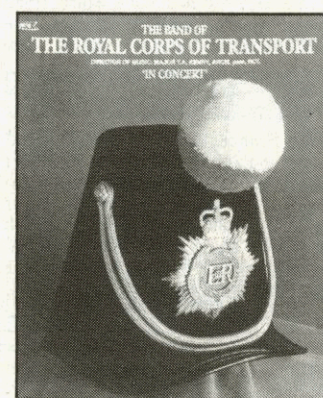
"Britain has not gone to war to destroy the Edwardian social system and the privileges it implied, but to defend it," he claimed.

This is not so much an indictment of the commander as of the times in which he lived. - BJ

Douglas Haig 1861-1928 by Gerard J De Groot. Published by Unwin Hyman. Price £20.

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He starts the programme with a typical *Marche Americaine* of his own based on a few well known tunes, and has no less than ten items in arrangements of his own.

They are Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*, the inspired choice of a *Romance* Mozart wrote at the age of eight, another in the rarely heard *Allegretto* movement from Arthur Sullivan's Irish Symphony, the famous duet from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, and a popular American march *Bombasto*.

Not arranged by him are a

Diving with a scuba soldier

NOT much more than ten years ago, Ned Middleton feared the unknown lurking under the surface of the sea.

"Even the slimy touch of some unseen weed could be very disconcerting, especially since I was not a strong swimmer," he recalls.

Since then, Ned has experienced a decade of excitement as a scuba diver, leading expeditions around the world, teaching more than 1,000 military and civilian divers, and in the mid-80s becoming chief diver of Operation Raleigh.

Now an Army captain and paymaster of 2nd Bn, The Parachute Regiment, Ned describes in *Ten Years Underwater* his experience of diving in places as far apart as Ulster and Italy, Gibraltar and Hong Kong, Fiji and the Caribbean.

His interest in the mysterious and beautiful underwater world continues. He has plans for a major expedition to Central America in 1990 accompanied by a national TV company - and for three more books!

Ten Years Underwater by Ned Middleton. Published by Immel Publishing. Price £14.95.

ITALY'S FINAL WAR CHAPTER

IT TAKES a long time for official war histories to be published. Rightly so, for it is on the facts and figures contained in these voluminous works that writers of campaign histories, not to mention biographers of commanders, base the detail for their books.

Data like this cannot be picked off trees. It is found through painstaking research in the official Allied and enemy archives.

All this takes a great deal of time - more than 44 years in the case of the third and final part of the last of six volumes covering the land, sea and air British operations in the Second World War campaigns under the series title *The Mediterranean and Middle East*.

Part I of Volume VI described the breaching of the Gustav and Hitler Lines in Italy, leading to the Allied occupation of Rome in June 1944. Part II was a coverage of the pursuit of Fd Marshal Kesselring's forces to the Gothic Line.

In Part III of Volume VI, Gen Sir William Jackson and Group Captain T P Gleave examine, through 492 pages, the last phases of the war in the

Mediterranean theatre.

Over the years there have been speculations about the value of the campaign in Italy and whether the Allied forces engaged would have been better employed in other theatres.

Two questions are raised in the epilogue of Part III: Did the campaign achieve the diversionary objectives called for by Allied leaders and were strategic opportunities missed by reductions in forces made to reinforce the primary Allied effort in North-West Europe?

The authors conclude: "... it is our view that the Italian Campaign did achieve the strategic objectives set for it by the Allies' political and military leaders as a great holding attack. Nor were any practical strategic opportunities lost by successive reductions in Mediterranean force levels."

This may disappoint readers hoping for more controversial opinions, but sensationalism is not what official war histories are about. - BJ

History of the Second World War: The Mediterranean and Middle East Volume VI Part III by Gen Sir William Jackson and Group Captain T P Gleave. Published by HMSO. Price £60.

Canadians paid high price for Antwerp

THERE can be no doubt the Canadian Army had a rough deal during the Second World War.

First there was the debacle of the Dieppe raid that brought mourning to many Canadian homes, then came the Normandy landings and after August 1944 whatever world awareness there was of the First Canadian Army's part of the campaign diminished.

Almost unnoticed and certainly under-recorded, the Canadians were given the left flank of the Allied thrust. Personality clashes and misunderstandings among commanders led to neglect on the part of Montgomery and denial of promised support from Eisenhower.

But the Canadians fought on in their vital role, paying dearly to clear the Channel coast of pockets of German resistance and opening Antwerp.

In *The Long Left Flank* Jeffery Williams, an officer on the staff of Gen Harry Crerar, Commander of the First Canadian Army, presents a comprehensive history of the campaign involving the First Canadian Army from the closing stages of the Battle for Normandy to the surrender of German troops in The Netherlands by Gen Joannes Blaskowitz to Gen Foulkes at Wageningen.

It was a hard campaign, the most arduous part being the clearing of the polder-land on the banks of the Scheldt and the capture of the Walcheran Islands, which was essential if Antwerp was to be the main Allied supply port.

"... and those who came back from the Causeway of death believe to this day that they were ordered across by the military heirs of Lords Lucan and Cardigan."

Jeffery Williams touches a bare nerve with a candour and fairness in a way that few authors have done. - BJ

The Long Left Flank: The Hard Fought Way to the Reich 1944-1945 by Jeffery Williams. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.



View of King Edward Point from the Shackleton Memorial. Shackleton House where the Cheshire detachment lives, is the two storey building in the centre

If the cap fits!



Mr Hans Larsen (right) and Mr Bob Headland of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, in front of the Grytviken church which Mr Larsen's grandfather built 75 years ago

MAJ Philip Jennings used to be simply OC Support Company, 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment. But now he is Resident Magistrate, Deputy Postmaster, Customs and Immigration Officer, and Queen's Harbour Master as well as being Officer Commanding British Troops South Georgia!

In the absence of anyone else to do the various jobs, the commander of the Army's most far flung garrison always has a string of civic functions to perform, writes **Robert Higson**.

It was in his capacity of magistrate that Maj Jennings took part in the unveiling ceremony for the bust of Capt Carl Anton Larsen, the founder of the Grytviken whaling station which lies just across King Edward Cove from the British headquarters.



The Resident Magistrate, Maj Philip Jennings, 1 Cheshire, after the unveiling of the bust of Capt Carl Larsen who built the Grytviken church 75 years ago

The bust was brought over from Norway by Mr Hans Larsen, grandson of the founder, and unveiled by him and Maj Jennings on the 75th anniversary of the consecration of the church Capt Larsen had built at Grytviken.

The church was prefabricated in Norway and shipped to South Georgia to be assembled on site. At its opening the Resident Magistrate, as chief representative of the Crown, was prominent among the assembled dignitaries.

Nowadays the church is the only building in the old whaling station to be resisting the ravages of time and climate, thanks to the attentions of Royal Engineers resident on the island.

Among many other duties,

Maj Jennings administers a church restoration fund which receives contributions from donations made by visitors who want a South Georgia stamp in their passports.

Poor weather brought a premature end to an expedition "in the footsteps of Shackleton", intended to retrace the explorer's journey from King Haakon Bay on the south coast to Stromness whaling station on the north, a journey which Shackleton made with two companions after an epic voyage from Whale Island on the Antarctic peninsula where the remainder of his 1912 expedition were stranded.

Six men from the Cheshires and a Royal Marines arctic expert were forced to turn back soon after the start.

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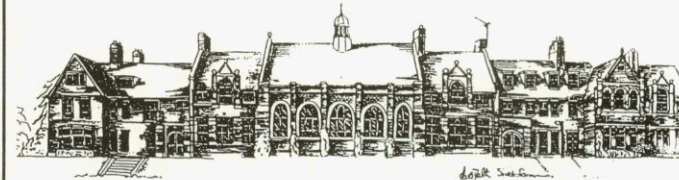
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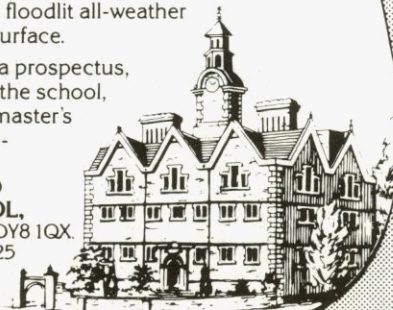
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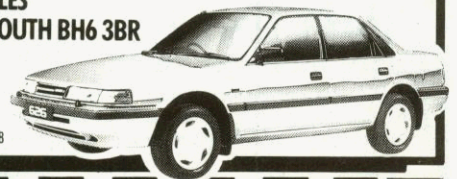
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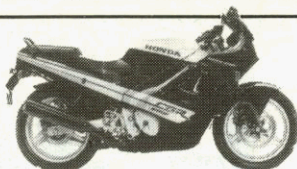
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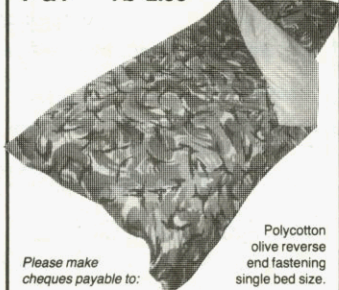
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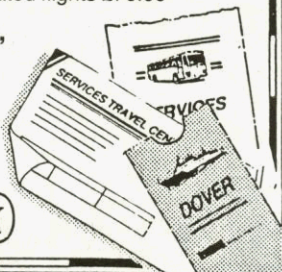
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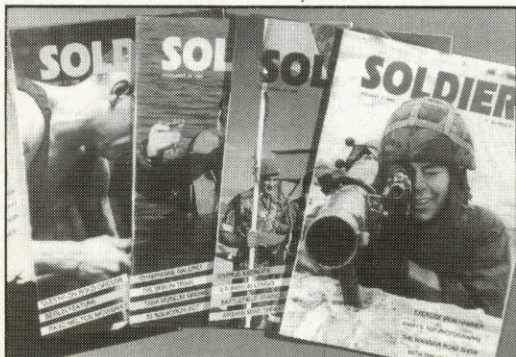
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Young lions shake Navy

LITTLE though they appreciated it, the Royal Navy's vociferous boxing faithful gathered in HMS Nelson, Portsmouth to view the demise of the old enemy witnessed the emergency of a remarkable young Army talent, writes John Elliott.

One of the Navy's safest "bankers" in their bid to end five years of Army domination of the team championships was 1988 ABA finalist Mne Rob Wileman. But 18-year-old Spr Lee Innes (22 Engr Regt),

in only his sixth senior contest, coped so well both with Wileman and the intense pressure of a packed and partisan naval arena, that he earned a stunning verdict over the bloodied and rueful marine.

Two second round punches summed up the quality of Innes's performance. As Wileman bored in yet again,

the Tidworth based youngster stopped him in his tracks with a lightning fast combination delivered with accuracy and exquisite timing.

When the equally impressive Pte John Culwick (23 Para Fd Amb) overcame Mne Billy Reid to make it 5-2 to the Army a famous upset was on the cards for coach WO2 Mick Gannon's young lions. But the Navy roared back with a vengeance in a thrilling finale.

Pte Jimmy Whitfield (1

Kings Own Border) could not cope with the awesome power of reigning ABA champion Mne Mark Edwards at middle-weight and was retired in the first round.

Light heavyweight LCpl Steve Burford (4 Armd Wksp) and heavyweight LCpl Dave Abbot (2 Gren Gds) came desperately close to earning that vital sixth win. Burford looked to have done enough to beat Mne Les Hudson but got the short end of a split points

decision, while Abbot turned the tables on big punching Mne Steve Fulthorpe and had him in full retreat at the final bell.

If Abbott had started his offensive earlier Fulthorpe would have had difficulty staying the distance. As it was the marine had done enough in the first two rounds to earn the judges' approval.

Sgt Keith Howlett (APTC, Light Div Depot), the other ABA champion to appear on an impressive bill, had an awful first round against awkward

southpaw AB Dale Randle, but pulled his boxing together and finished comfortably in command. That gave the Army a flying 3-0 start after Pte Joe Rajcoomar (1 D and D) and LCpl Neil McCullum (10 Reg RCT) had been awarded walkovers at the two lightest weights.

Typical of the commitment of this largely inexperienced Army squad was the performance of Gdsmn Jimmy Brennan (Irish Gds) at light welterweight. Although he was

beaten on points by the highly rated Mne Deam Hassan, he gave Hassan many more rough moments than the burly marine would have been anticipating. It all added up to an exceptional night of Inter-Service boxing.

All eyes now turn to RAF Halton where the Royal Air Force entertain the Navy.

In order to win the Inter-Services team trophy outright for the first time in six years the Navy will have to do better than the Army's 8-2 victory over the RAF.

Ski sappers out in front

SAPPERS from 35 Engr Regt proved their all round expertise in the Nordic events by winning the 10km, 10km relay and 7.5km biathlon relay at 4 Armd Div's annual ski competition, held at Galtür in the Austrian Tyrol.

They were given a good run for their money by 28 Amph Engr Regt who knocked them into third place in the 30km patrol race. Teams from UKLF did well, with 45 Cdo RM winning the patrol race by a four minute margin.

In the Alpine events there was no holding 35 Engr Regt. They won the team giant slalom, the team slalom and the team downhill with Lt Hugh Hutchison taking individual honours in the giant slalom and the slalom but being hotly pursued by Sgt Tony Mortimore also of 35 Engr Regt.

The 15/19 H team led by Capt Tom Riall held their own



Spr Mark Marsden, 35 Engr Regt, winner of the 10km

and ran a very close second to 35 Engr Regt in all the major events.

35 Engr Regt, 28 Amph Engr Regt, 2 Queens and 71 AC Wksp were selected to go forward to the Army Nordic meeting with teams and individuals from 35 Engr Regt, 15/19 H, 16/5 L and 5 Innis DG going to the Alpine meeting.

Duchess at Megeve

THE Duchess of York attended the Portakabin British Services International Alpine ski championships at Megeve, France as Royal Patron of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association.

Military teams from Australia, France, Italy, Spain, USA and West Germany took part in the championships which ended as SOLDIER was going to press.



Sgt Maggie Smith (No 7) lines up at the start of the Army women's cross country championship. She went on to record her eighth victory in the event. And WO2 Mal Edwards (right) leads LCpl Mark Vile during the men's race

MAL'S TROPHY

WO2 Mal Edwards, a regular member of the Army cross country team over the past decade, won his first Army individual title when he held off a spirited challenge by BAOR based LCpl Mark Vile at a well supported championship run over the Tweseldown race course near Aldershot.

Leader for much of the race was LCpl Adrian Hill of 1 PWO, but he was hauled back on the final lap of the 10km course by Welsh international track star Edwards (50 Msl Regt RA) and Vile (1 Armd Div HQ and Sigs). Edwards eventually won by an eight second margin.

Last year's champion, SSgt Geoff Wade, flew back for the race from Belize where he is serving with the Irish Guards. Lack of competition cost him a

realistic chance of defending his title, although his eighth place earned him a slot in the Army team to contest the Inter-Services at RAF Halton.

Verden based 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt successfully defended the major units team championship against old rivals 1 PWO from Catterick. Northern Ireland based 1 DWR were third.

FOD Dulmen won the minor units trophy from PCDRE Mill Hill and 5 Airborne Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

Winner of the women's race for the eighth time was Sgt Maggie Smith of RMA Sandhurst. Her teammate LCpl Sue Sharp was second, ensuring them of the team prize. Capt Chris Ronan (37 Sqn RCT) was third, and 10 Coy WRAC and WRAC Centre were second and

third in the team race.

The junior (under 20) race was won by Spr Goble (42 Survey Engr Regt), with LCpl Kilbey (9 Ord Bn) second and LCpl Oxley (1 DWR) third. Army Apprentices College Chepstow took the team honours.

JIB Shorncliffe beat off Jnr Para Coy in the youth (under 17½) race, which was won by JInf Thomas of Shorncliffe.

More than 600 athletes took part in near perfect conditions, a far cry from the torrential rain or near blizzards that have plagued these championships in recent years.

Prizes were presented by Mr Bob Ding of Army athletics sponsors Armed Forces Financial Advisory Service, and by AAA chairman Brig Peter Woolley.



Missed penalty costs champs a point

Wiltshire 1, Army 1

THE ARMY dropped their first point in defence of the South West Counties Trophy when they fought a well earned 1-1 draw against Wiltshire on a very heavy Chippenham Town ground, writes Pat Massey.

Had the Army converted a penalty kick, when they held a slender 1-0 first half lead, they would have been odds on favourite for a place in the final.

Both teams created a number of chances but defences held firm until just before the interval when the Army broke the deadlock. A move down the Army right looked to have broken down until SSI Joey Roach, APTC, forced the ball into the near goal area where Whittingham whipped a header past a startled defence.

The Army opened the second half on the attack and should have increased their lead when two minutes into the half the speedy Spencer was floored in the penalty area. Cpl Matt Carmichael, RA, hit the ball straight at the 'keeper and Russell, following up very quickly, was unable to squeeze the rebound home.

Wiltshire enjoyed the better of the mid-half exchanges without actually turning their territorial advantage into goals. Just when it looked as though the Army had weathered the storm, the home side equalised.

Army XI 1, London University 1

FOR their annual fixture with London University, the Army turned out a Reserve XI with only one of the senior squad in

the line-up. The result was a highly entertaining draw.

The opening half saw the Army set the pace and create a number of chances. One or two of them looked easier to score from than miss. One chance saw three Army players behind the visiting defence and with only the 'keeper to beat. The first shot at goal was charged down; the rebound was thumped on to the cross-bar when a tap in was probably enough.

The Army took the lead on the hour. A defence splitting saw Cpl Shaun Gilman, RAOC, race clear to shoot the ball wide of the goalkeeper and into the corner of the net.

Knockout performance

THERE was an emphatic win for 9 Para Sqn RE in the UKLF minor units novice Grade 3 team boxing championships at Invicta Park, Maidstone. They defeated 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE by seven bouts to nil, none of which went the distance.

The referee stopped three contests in the first round, three in the second and one in the third.

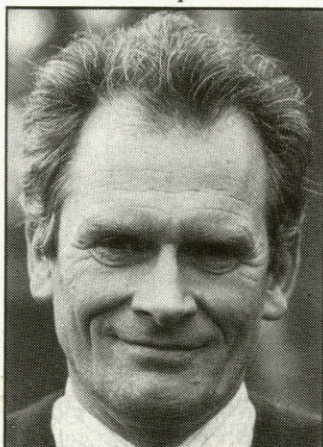
The final of the Army novice Grade 2 inter unit team championships will be between Berlin based 1 Kings and UKLF champions 1 PWO in Berlin on February 28. In the UKLF final 1 PWO beat 1 Queens by five bouts to four.

Skipper Frank at the helm

WITH a lifetime of sailing experience behind him, Lt Col Frank Esson, AAC, was a natural choice as a skipper for the Services yacht entered in the 1989/90 Whitbread Round the World Race.

Lt Col Esson now senior military adviser at RAE Farnborough, has many achievements in international offshore racing and non-competitive sailing to his name. He won the commemorative Fastnet Race in 1975 and has twice raced across the Atlantic, most recently in the Twostar event.

He has competed in the



Lt Col Frank Esson

two-handed Round Britain and Ireland Race twice, winning his class in a 41ft yacht on the last occasion.

Two other skippers have also been named for the Service entry. They are Lt Cdr Tony Hyams of the Royal Navy and Flt Lt John Best of the Royal Air Force.



Picture: Mike Perring

2nd Lt Gary Knight, the 1 DWR loose forward, sets up an attack as Sgt Mick Holford and Gnr John Denwood of 7 RHA close in during the UK final of the ARU Challenge Cup at Aldershot

PEERLESS DUKES

7 RHA 12, 1 DWR 16

WELL! Just as the secretary of the Army Rugby Union, Maj David Murray, had asked the referee if he wanted the floodlights on, the Dukes, in the last minute of extra time of the Army UK Rugby Cup final slinked in a right wing try which finally sank the holders, 7 RHA, writes **John Quin**.

This gave the joyous Dukes' supporters, not least of them ARU president Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, C-in-C UKLF, the result they had hardly thought possible. The general impartially wore his ARU tie, although I suspect there was a spare Dukes tie handy for the post

match celebrations!

Before handing over the cup, Gen Huxtable praised both teams for their commitment and skill, and for the spirit in which this final was played. Praise also for the referee, Cdr Thomas, Royal Navy, from the RN Referees' Society, and his two matelot touch judges who added considerably to the final.

A good crowd, divided in loyalties by the royal box, saw both teams make a hesitant start. These old rugby adversaries probed, hunted, teased and tested each other, trying to force a mistake and so create an opening.

The mistakes were self inflicted, however, with dropped passes and missed kicks at goal.

The airborne gunners with their experienced players and talented youngsters, strove hard, but something seemed to be missing. Was it perhaps that hardened campaigner SSgt Martyn Lewis was no longer controlling the back of the pack?

That is not to say the efforts

of Byford, Symes, Charlton and Coghlan were any less than excellent, as was the artistry of Commander who scored all the gunner points.

His tough kicking out of defence, often under extreme pressure, was magnificent.

For the Dukes, who played more as a team than their opponents, the blond Army flanker Knight was devastating and instrumental in knocking 7 RHA out of their stride.

Jones, the Dukes' centre, kept everyone on their toes with some unpredictable goal kicking, and he and Commander saw full time in with the scores level at nine points each.

After a dropped goal by Commander and another penalty by Jones, Wheatley got the cup winning try at the end of extra time.

The Dukes now meet 7 Signal Regiment, the BAOR champions, at Aldershot on Wednesday, April 5 (ko 1500).

The UK minor units final is between 24 Fd Sqn RE, the holders, and 33 Indep Fd Sqn from Antrim.



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Picture: Mike Perring

