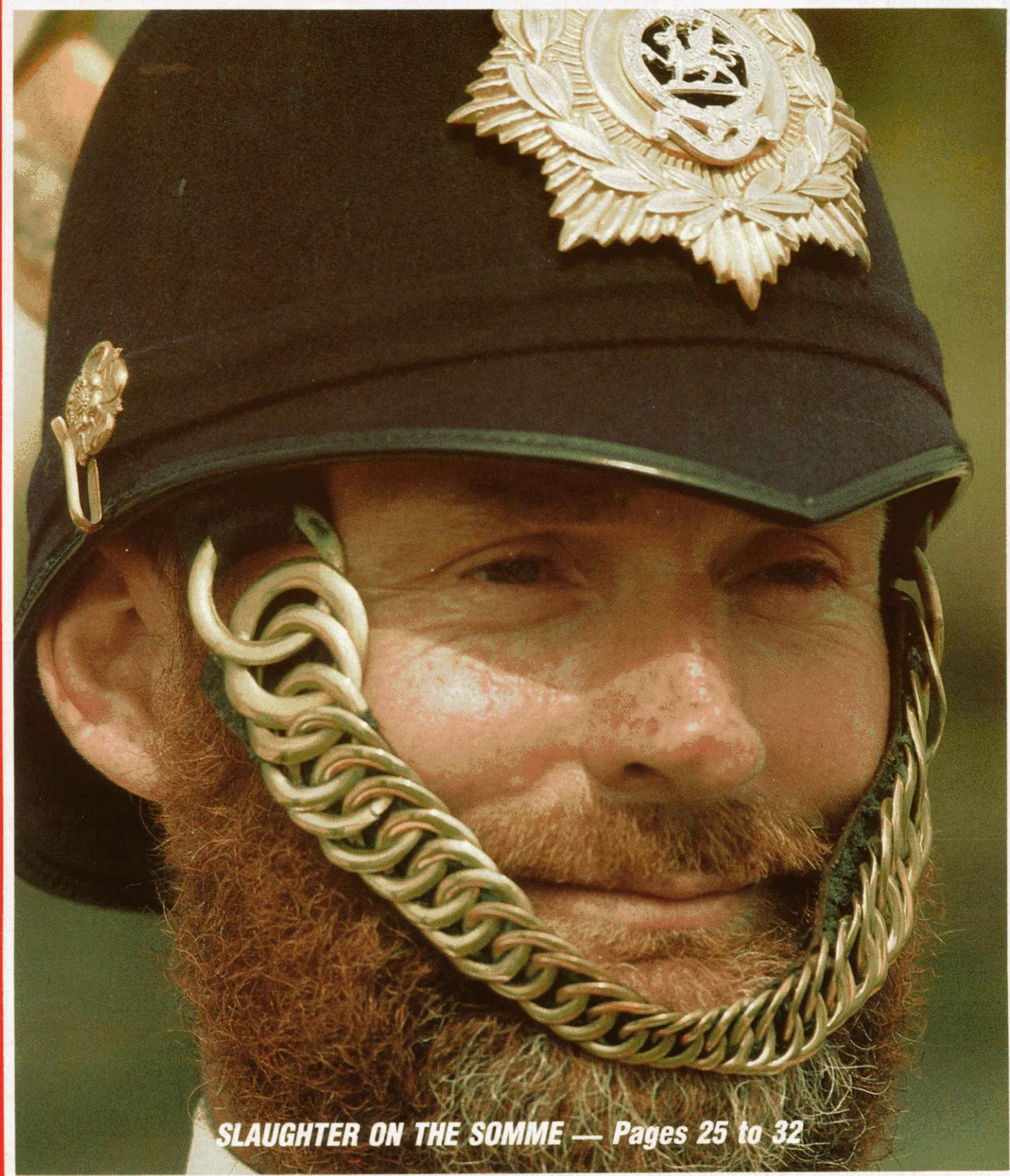


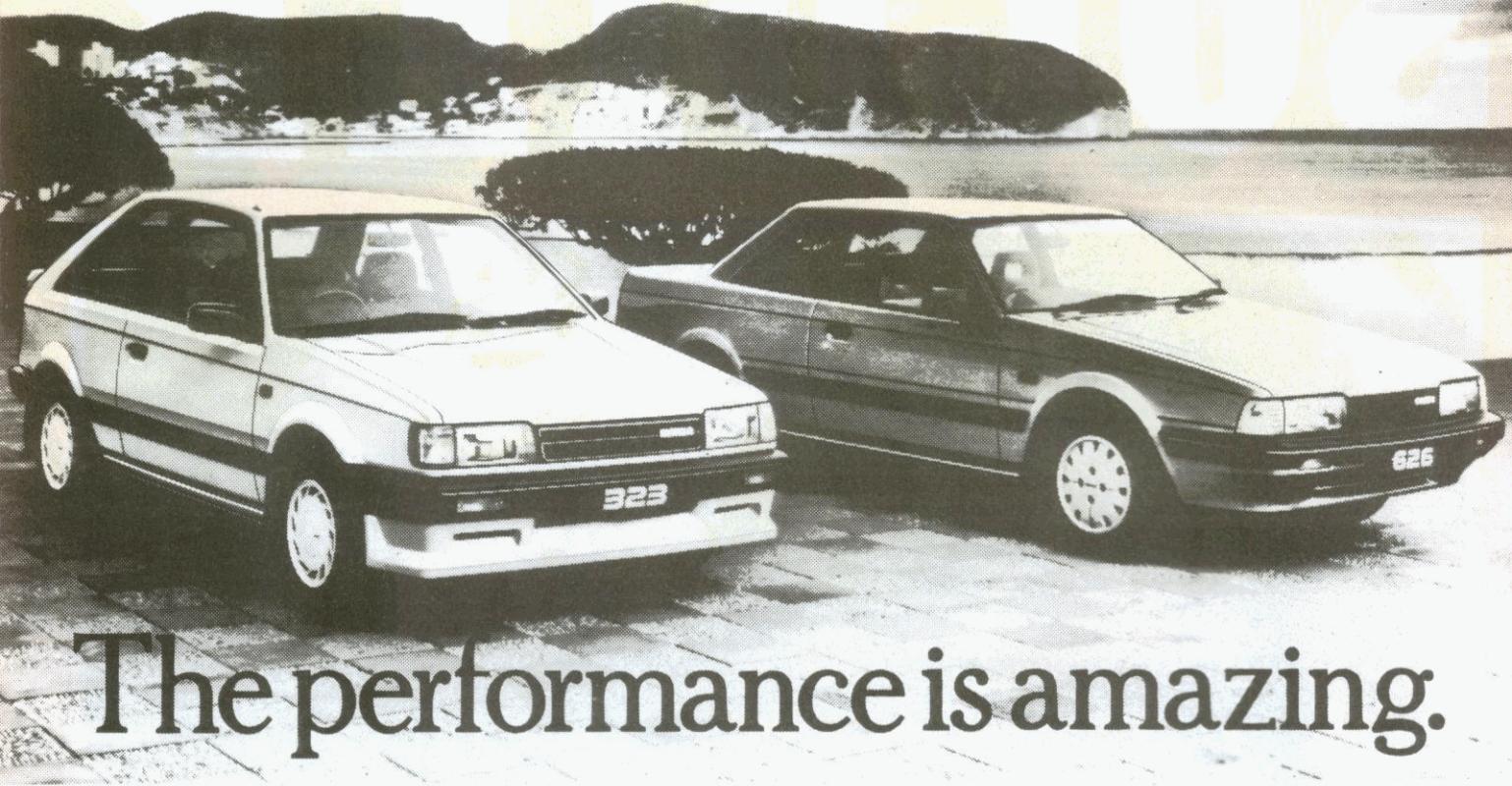
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SOLDIER



SLAUGHTER ON THE SOMME — Pages 25 to 32

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FRONT COVER: Sporting a magnificent 'full set' Assault Pioneer Sergeant 'Blue' Cooper of 3 Queen's based in Belize, smiles at the thought of heading a 21-strong team in November. "We're on our way back," he says. See People Page 8.

BACK COVER: Rigid raiders of 3 Troop 50 Fd Sqn Royal Engineers, clock up the knots on the Rio Grande near Punta Gorda, Belize. With a top speed of 32 knots fully loaded, the troopers were showing photographer Les Wiggs their paces prior to heading ten miles out to sea for a barbecue lunch on a coconut isle. See People Page 8.

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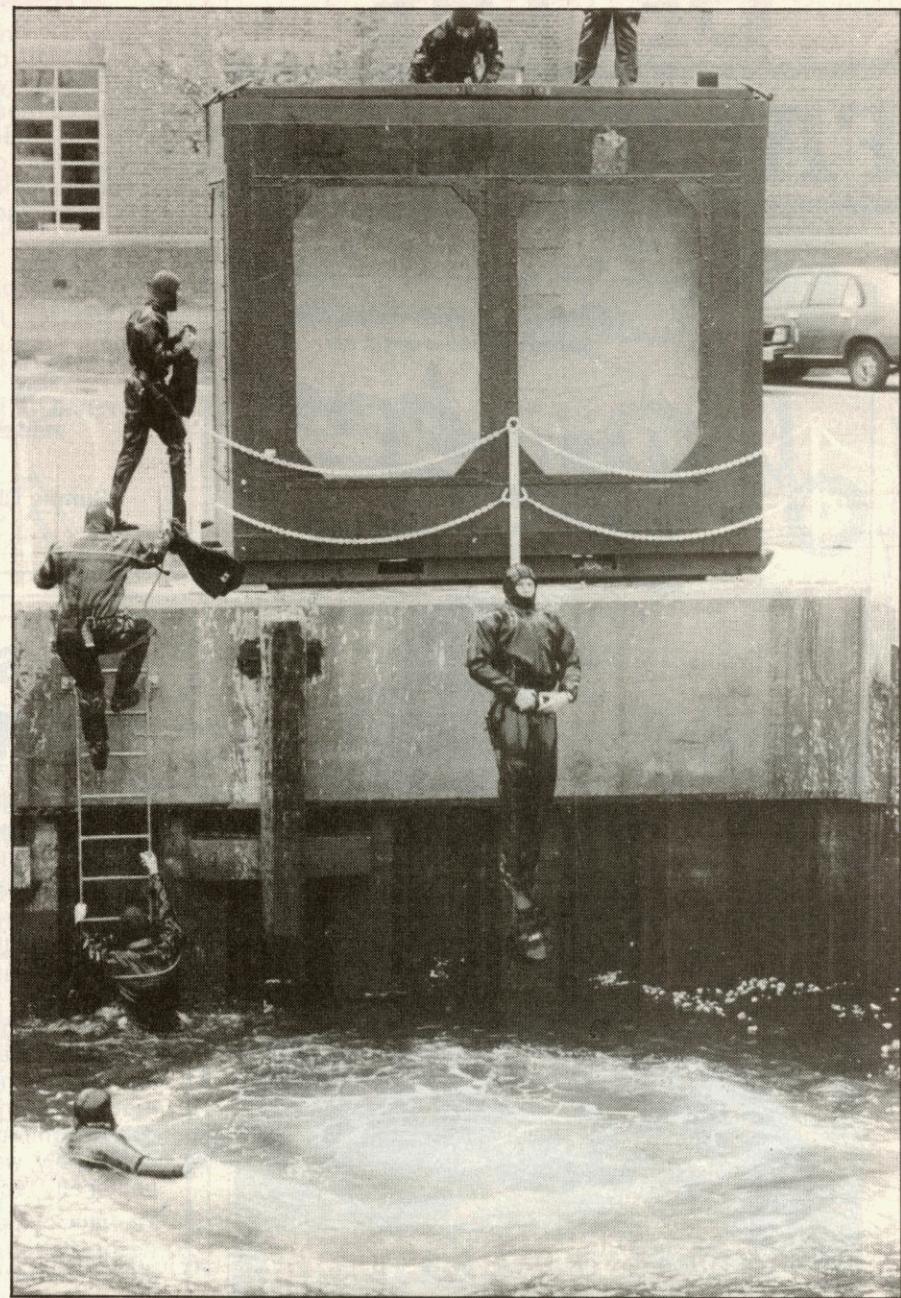
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SOLDIER

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IT'S TOUGH ON THE DIVERS!



Tough physical and psychological tests face would-be divers at the Royal Engineers Diving Establishment at Portsmouth. The CO of the school at HMS Nelson, Lt Col Roger Mundy, tells in our next issue just what makes a diver want to take the plunge. And Marchwood, that well-known military jump-off spot for soldiers and supplies, is also featured, with the story of its £20 million redevelopment scheme.

THE CLASSIC NOVEL OF THE FALKLANDS

Out of the pain and glory - a memorable and classic novel of men at war

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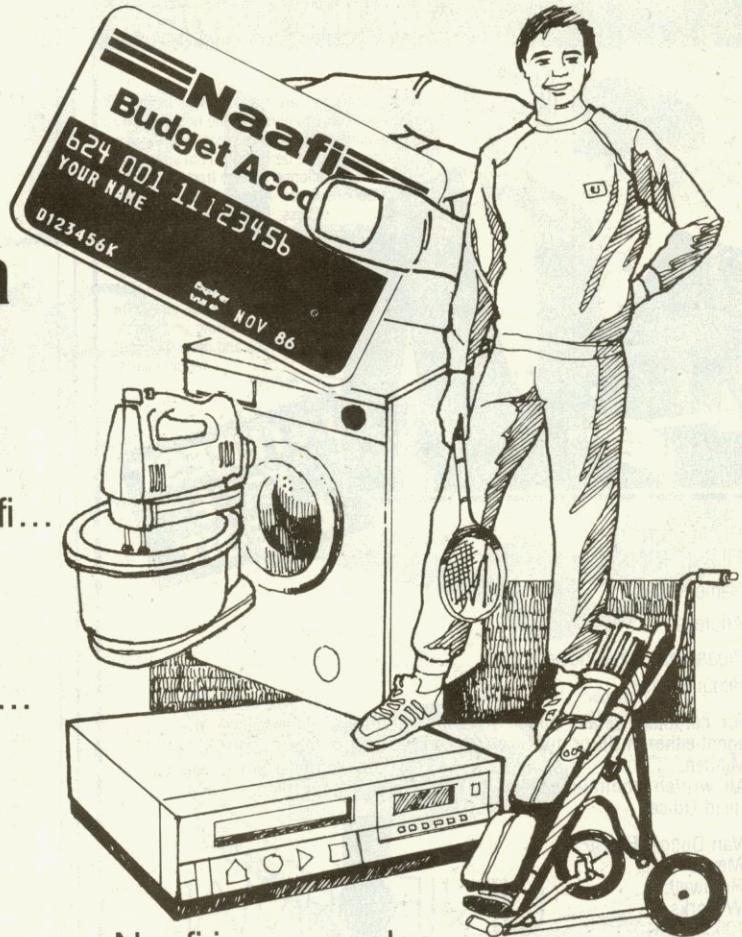


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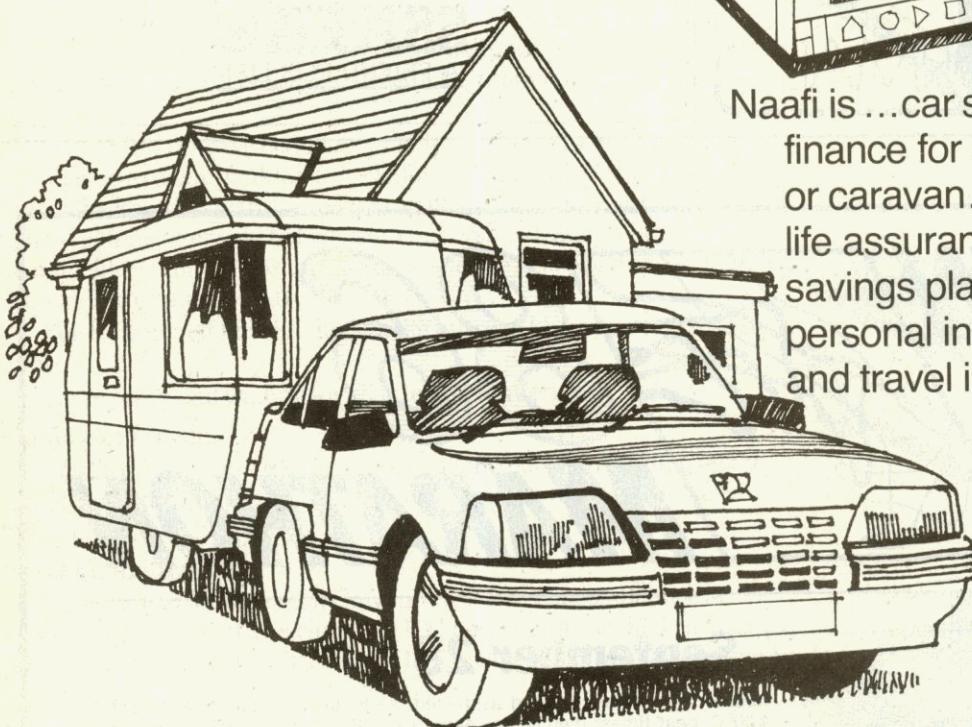
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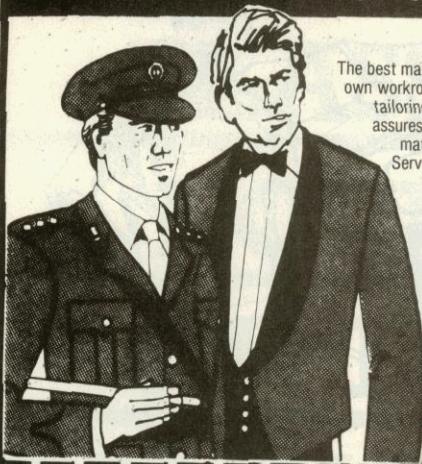
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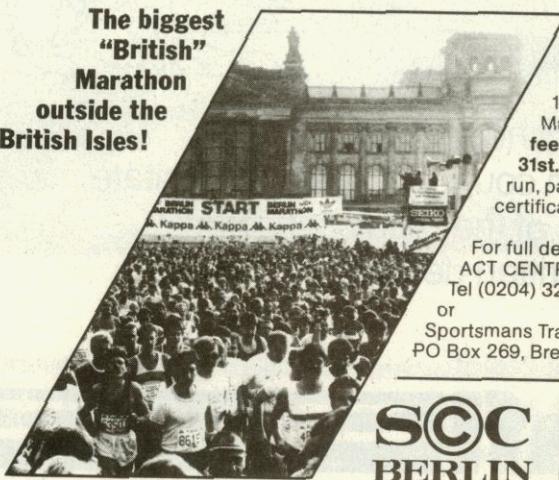
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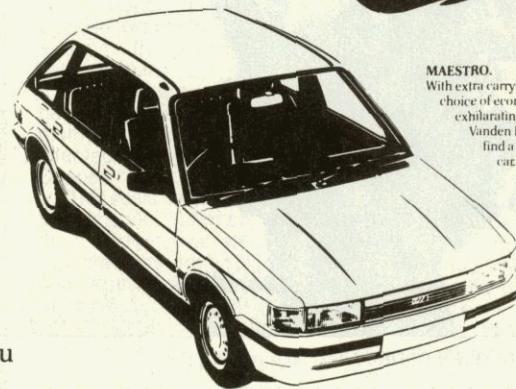
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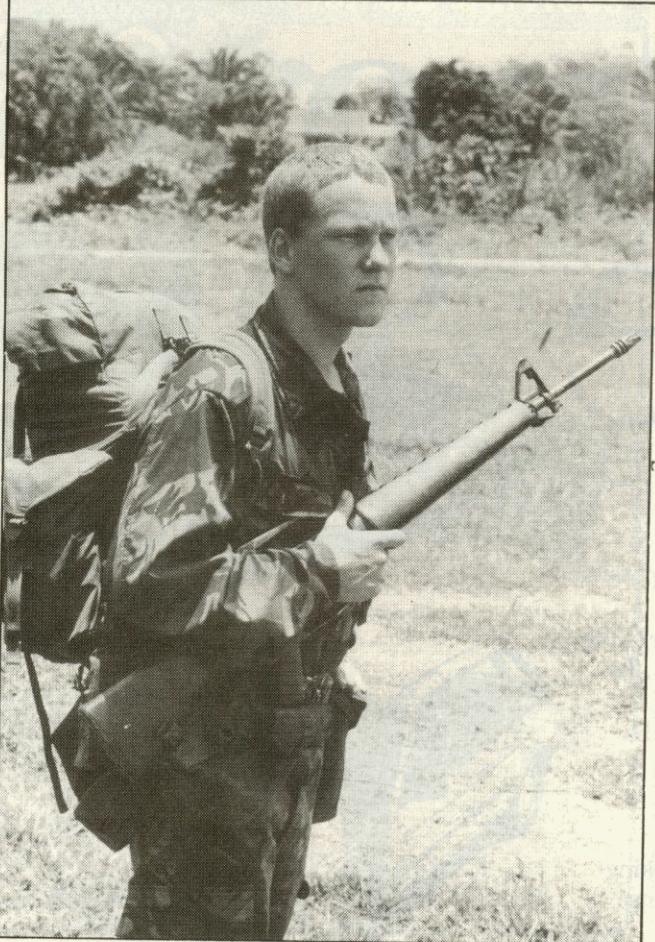
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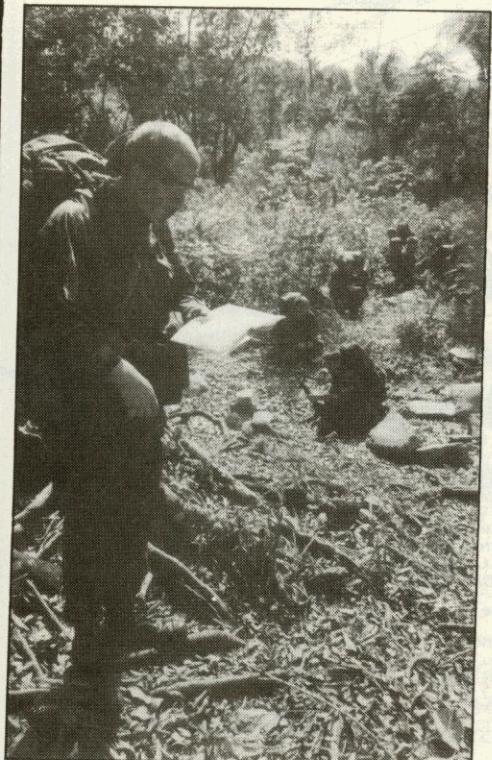
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PRIVATE GLEN OLDREY: text book medical skill

Keith signals a fly move!



JUNGLE PATROLLERS: care over invisible lines

Glen's jungle delivery

There's nothing like putting training into practice. Take 20-year-old Private Glen Oldrey of 4 Platoon B Company, based at Rideau.

For weeks young Glen had been training as a camp medic.

Swot up on how to deliver a baby, he was told. You never know what skills you might need in the jungle.

So just before leaving for a week at Cadenas, a hill-top observation post overlooking the Guatemalan border, he buried his nose in text books.

And very useful it was, too. For no sooner had he arrived when a call came for Glen's assistance.

"It came right out of the blue," said Glen, who has been married just a year. "I never dreamed this would happen and I'm very proud to have been able to help. It was a tremendous experience to deliver the 6½ lb baby boy."

Although a new experience for Glen, it was hardly that for the 38-year-old mother who, said Glen, had 12 other children.

Thirteen might be considered unlucky for some, but for Glen the safe delivery of her thirteenth baby will go down in his memory as his lucky day.

Queen's men to 'rediscover' an Inca king's fortress

IN 1915 explorers discovered the lost Inca citadel of Macchu Picchu in Peru.

Next month Captain Mike Hurman, with a seven-strong team of young soldiers from 3 Queen's, plans to trek across the Andes for three weeks to the

ancient mountain-top fortress on an adventure of rediscovery.

"It will be the first time any of us have been to South America," he said. "And we're not getting the trip for nothing," he quickly added.

"It will cost each of

Drafty time for jump-jet men!

Belize-based RAF men maintaining the Harrier jump jets used for border patrol sorties, also come under the command of Force Commander Brigadier David Webb-

Carter and while they enjoy the same advantages — and disadvantages — of soldiers based there, 80 per cent of them volunteer to serve in the Central American country.

Said the brigadier: "Unlike the Army who post units here, they have a voluntary system of service."

"But I think the latest LOA cut of 47 per cent due to start on July 1 could have an effect on numbers applying to come here."

He opined that a fall in volunteers could lead to the RAF posting people to the station — just like the Army!

A honeymoon in Miami is a dream for most brides. But Corporal Keith Merrie made it come true for Sharon when he flew her from Manchester to the US resort for their wedding. Then he topped that by installing her in a luxury hotel which threw in the

bridal suite at no extra charge. Keith, of 633 Signals Troop at Airport Camp, now awaits a posting to Catterick. Said Keith: "It'll be different to Miami, but you can't win 'em all."

Best man was Cpl David McGaughie.

'Lost world' of A Coy

Salamanca camp, home of A (Quebec) Company 3 Queen's until October, is ideal for those wanting to get away from it all.

Carved out of jungle, it's so remote it doesn't even have a phone.

"We have a radio for contacting Rideau or Force HQ," said OC Major Nigel Russell, "but it's just like a lost world up here."

But they do have brick-built huts and, among other things, scorpions, tarantulas, iguanas and birds — feathered, of course!

The officers inhabit a "colonial-style" mess called Treetops which is sited on a hill surrounded by foliage.

It's all very grand and in their off-duty moments they get out the shotgun and blaze away at clay pigeons.

Their area of responsibility is bounded by the Maya mountains and the Moho river while only 20 kilometres away is the Guatemalan border.

With no markers defining the border, patrols have to take care, but even so probably wan-

der across the invisible line quite often.

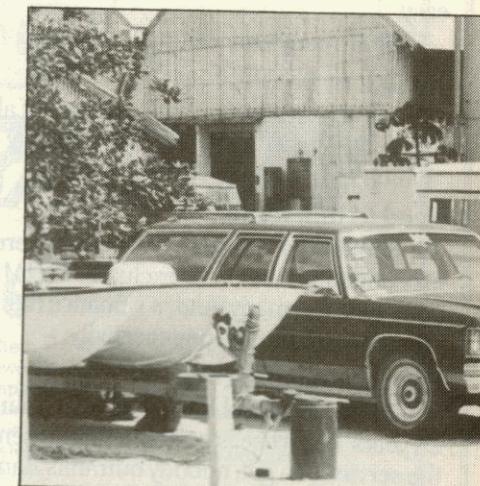
"It's easily done," said Major Russell. "But the beauty of this place is the self-reliance it generates among these young soldiers. With an average age of about 20, it's a tremendous experience for them."

Said Corporal Russell Giles: "It's so different to BAOR. We feel we're actually doing a job here."

"And we enjoy it, too as we are left alone as a company to get on with it. Being in Belize is what you expect — smack in the middle of the jungle. It's great."

Salamanca also has something else. They've got pigs. A legacy from the Royal Marines, previous occupants of the camp.

"We feed them on scraps and when they're fat enough we shall sell them to the locals with all profits swelling Company funds," said Major Russell. Seems like they have enterprise, too.



DON'T CALL ME

Red-bearded Sergeant 'Blue' Cooper didn't really explain why infantry Assault Pioneers are known as "peanuts". Simply that it was better than being called "chunkeys."

But he was em-

phatic that sergeants in the Pioneers are the only ones in the Army allowed to sport a "full set."

As the sole Assault Pioneer in 3 Queen's, he is, as a consequence, the only possessor of a magnificent set of

whiskers. And mighty proud of them he is, too.

"But there should be more of us by November," he said. "For by then we should be reformed within the regiment."

Resplendent in

his traditional uniform of full-length white leather apron, red sash, a helmet with a spike on top and a massive polished steel axe,

he recited the history of assault pioneers.

"Pioneers were

originally peasants who earned a pittance clearing roads in advance of armies.

"Although hard and often dangerous, their work has never been highly esteemed.

"Infantry compa-

nies were allocated pioneers and it was usual for them to march in front of the regiment when going into battle.

"They carried heavy axes and wore full beards. And that's why we're allowed to

wear beards in the Army today.

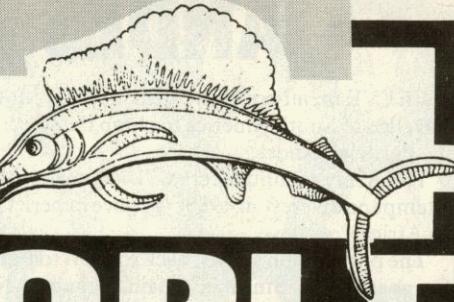
"Now, in the 3 Queen's, anyway, we're on our way back.

"November can't come quickly enough for me," said Blue, "it's time we returned."



SGT 'BLUE' COOPER

Why the doc bones up **PEOPLE** on bites



A BITE from a flying bug in Belize can leave victims with outsize problems — especially if the biter is a doctor fly or a bot fly. "Funnily named though they are, a nip from either can result in painful symptoms," said Captain Richard Cooper, the RAMC doctor at Rideau camp.

"The doctor fly's venom causes intense swelling round the infected area while the bot fly contentedly lays its eggs beneath the victim's skin."

But it all sounds worse than it really is since all the lads in 3 Queen's are aware that the first line of defence against flying bugs is self-medication.

"If they suspect a bot fly has been at them I advocate a smear of Vaseline on the infected part," said Captain Cooper.

"This seals the wound and the eggs die. But of course they need removal later."

"Scratches from plants and trees in the jungle also need careful treatment as if left they can develop into nasty skin sores."

All very fraught unless care is taken. It is for this reason that every patrol returning from the jungle is given head-to-toe checks by the doctor's staff.

And, of course, on top of all these hazards there is the old-fashioned mosquito

"It is because I have a special interest in tropical medicine that I want to learn something of his methods."

And when he's not boning up with the local snake man, checking soldiers and dispensing treatments, what does the good doctor do?

"Why," he said, "I don boots and spurs, get on my horse and do the rounds of near inaccessible jungle villages."

Talk costs cash

Love is ... a phone call to the UK from Belize at more than £2 a minute. But even so the lads queue up to book calls through 633 Signals Troop to murmur sweet nothings. But often they forget the time when nattering and face huge bills at the end of the month.



COLOUR-SERGEANT JOHN COSTAN AND PATIENT: medicare at Rideau for a scratch



Ron's road leads to adventure

HAVE cars, will travel...that's the message from Captain Ron Goodwin, Force PR chief, better known as 'Mr Fixit', to the lads of 3 Queen's. If you want to

see Central America do it in one of our cars, he says. For a small fee hirers can get to Mexico, the USA and all of Belize. "It's the chance of a lifetime," he says.

'CHUNKY' SAYS 'PEANUT' PIONEER

whiskers. And mighty proud of them he is, too.

"But there should be more of us by November," he said. "For by then we should be reformed within the regiment."

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"Now, in the 3 Queen's, anyway, we're on our way back.

"November can't come quickly enough for me," said Blue, "it's time we returned."

SGT 'BLUE' COOPER

ANDES ADVENTURE

TWELVE members of the British Army Mountaineering Association, led by Captain Tim Roberts, have travelled to South America to climb the south west face of Allpamayo (5,947 m) in the Santa Cruz region of the Peruvian Andes.

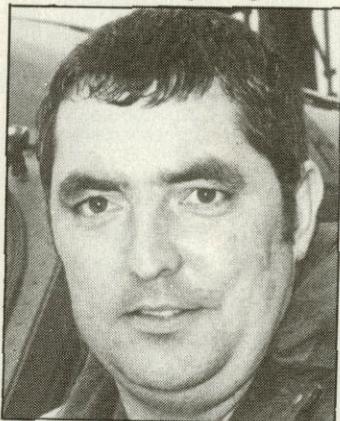
The Army mountaineers will acclimatize themselves to climbing at high altitudes in preparation for an attempt on Everest in 1988. All have experience of climbing in the Alps, Norway, the Canadian Rockies or in Africa.

The photograph shows: back row left to right, Lieutenant Duncan Gray, Trooper Bryan Stadden, Lance Corporal Mike Smith, Captain Jonathan North, the expedition doctor, Lance Corporal Pete Syme, Corporal Roy Fonseta; second row left to right Sergeant Williams, Lieutenant Duncan Strutt; front row left to right, Driver Andy Forte, Lieutenant Jonathan Garrett, Captain Tim Roberts, expedition leader, Sergeant Middleton.



Paul hears a problem

SERGEANT Paul Clayton's good sense of hearing may have prevented an accident to a Scout helicopter in Hong Kong.



Sergeant Paul Clayton

Paul, an aircraft technician in REME with 660 Squadron Army Air Corps noticed an unusual noise coming from the helicopter when the engine was being run up at Sek Kong airfield.

He immediately alerted the pilot who shut down the motor, and it was later found that there was a fault on one of the rotor blades.

For his alertness, Paul was presented with a Commendation by Brigadier Kit Jebens, Commander Army Air Corps UKLF.

At RAF Lyneham, Lance Corporal Peter Elliott has been presented with a flight safety Green Endorsement for preventing an emergency while he was being categorised on a Hercules load dropping flight.

Almost a century

EFFICIENCY Medals (Territorial) and Clasps have been presented by the Colonel RAOC TA, Colonel D S Hall TD, to WO2 Bill Fletcher, WO2 (CSM) Larry Williamson, WO2 Neil Fernie and Sgt Tony McGuire of 94 (Scottish) Ordnance Company (V) who between them have accrued more than 97 years' service in the TA.

NEW TA HOME IN WALES

WREXHAM's historic links with the Royal Welch Fusiliers have been strengthened with the laying of the foundation stone for a new £1½m TA Centre, which is being built at Hightown Barracks.

General Sir Hugh Stockwell, the most senior officer in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and an ex-Colonel of the Regiment, performed the stone-laying ceremony before more than 150 members of the regiment, representatives of the Cadet Forces, civic dignitaries, relatives and friends.

Cadets from all three Services lined the route to the marquee-covered site, which will accommodate the battalion headquarters, plus 'A' and 'HQ' Companies of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, along with the Home Service Force HQ, and HQ Clwyd Army Cadet Force.

MUSIC FROM AFAR

RECRUITS passing out after a nine-week course at the Depot and Training Regiment RCT at Aldershot marched to the music of bandsmen from far off Gibraltar.

The 22-strong Gibraltar Regiment Corps of Drums were in UK on their fortnight-long annual training camp when the recruits passed out en route to driver training at Leconfield.

So the Gibraltarians combined with the RCT's own Corps of Drums for the parade.

Picture shows Drum Major Bill Prendergast RCT inspecting the Gibraltar drums.



AID FOR FIRST AIDERS

The Army is to issue an Aid to Fight scheme, designed by the RAMC, to thousands of regimental first aiders.

It comes in the wake of Fit to Fight and Survive to Fight as part of the Director of Army Training's latest campaign.

They say the buddy-buddy system is the surest way of getting immediate first aid to the frontline soldier and the Army's training in medical skills has proved itself over the years.

Captain Mike Sharp explained: "In the Falklands, and in numerous peacetime situations both military and civilian, soldiers have used this knowledge to save lives. Now, the training is to be improved."

Aid to Save packages will be distributed to all units. They include video films, posters, training notes, vu-foils, tape-slide packages and easy revision cards.

A new First Aid pamphlet will be widely distributed and casualty play will be written into more exercises coupled with more realism.

Next year will see the introduction of the regimental first aider who will be trained and equipped to an even higher standard to carry out advanced treatment and resuscitation.

Captain Sharp added: "These RFAs will be selected soldiers who show particular ability and will be deployed down to platoon and section level."

SCOUT'S HONOUR



Captain Bob Thorpe (left), Sergeant Al Buckley — and trophy

An Army helicopter crew flew to victory in the 1986 Hong Kong Helicopter Championship at Sek Kong.

Twelve two-man crews from four Service and civilian organisations took part in the event.

Representing the Royal Air Force were three crews of 28 (Army Co-operation) Squadron flying a Wessex helicopter. The Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force entered three crews who flew the Dauphin. The three Army crews of 660 Squadron Army Air Corps competed in the Scout, and the Hughes 500 aircraft was flown by three civilian crews.

The competition consisted of two sections, navigation and a timed flight over a pre-selected 35-minute course, and a precision flying exercise which involved manoeuvring a weighted object suspended below the helicopter through a slalom course.

The championship was won by pilot Captain Bob Thorpe with crewman Sergeant Al Buckley of 660 Squadron AAC. Each received a tankard besides being presented with the Flying Officer Hunter-Dennison Memorial Trophy.

A TREE FOR WEARY OFFICERS

The tree which was ceremonially planted in the walled garden at Buller Barracks Officers' Mess at Aldershot will need to grow for a long time before it can be used as a shelter.

Only a foot or so in height, the tree is a gift of the Gurkha Transport Regiment in Hong Kong to Depot RCT in Aldershot.

In Nepal, the Gurkhas' homeland, the peepul tree as it is known, is planted on either side of the main route at the traditional resting places leading into a village. The tree grows huge and stone seats are built in the shade of its spreading foliage to provide a resting place for weary travellers.

The need of shelter from the sun in Aldershot may not be so great, but it could always be used in time to come as an umbrella if not a sunshade.



A toast to Tina from thirsty runners

PEAK RUNNERS HELP TODDLER TINA

Well-wishers turned out in their thousands to spur on an Army charity-raising team, running from a peak in Powys to the summit of Snowdon and back — with cash donations and rousing cheers all along the way.

The eight runners and their 12 back-up members from NCO Tactical Wing Headquarters, Brecon, raised more than £2,100 for toddler Tina Parry, aged five, who is cruelly disabled by an unknown metabolic disease.

Tina and her parents were

waiting with the Mayor and Mayoress of Brecon on the steps of the Guildhall when the runners made their triumphant dash down Brecon's High Street.

Team leader Major Nick Gaskell said he was overwhelmed at the generosity shown by people during the 150-mile run, which took 20 hours running non-stop from Brecon to the peak of Snowdon and back, and then to the summit of Pen-Y-Fan and into Brecon town centre again.

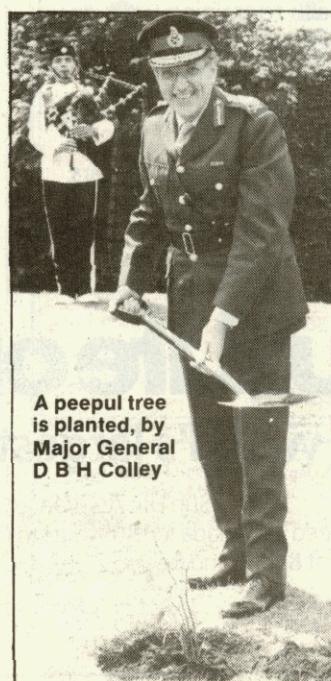
Their collection has been further boosted by £500 in anonymous cheques from four different businessmen, one of whom also bought a concertina for Tina, who needs sound-reproducing aids that will stimulate her hearing, her only functional sense.

DUKE RE-OPENS DUKES' MUSEUM

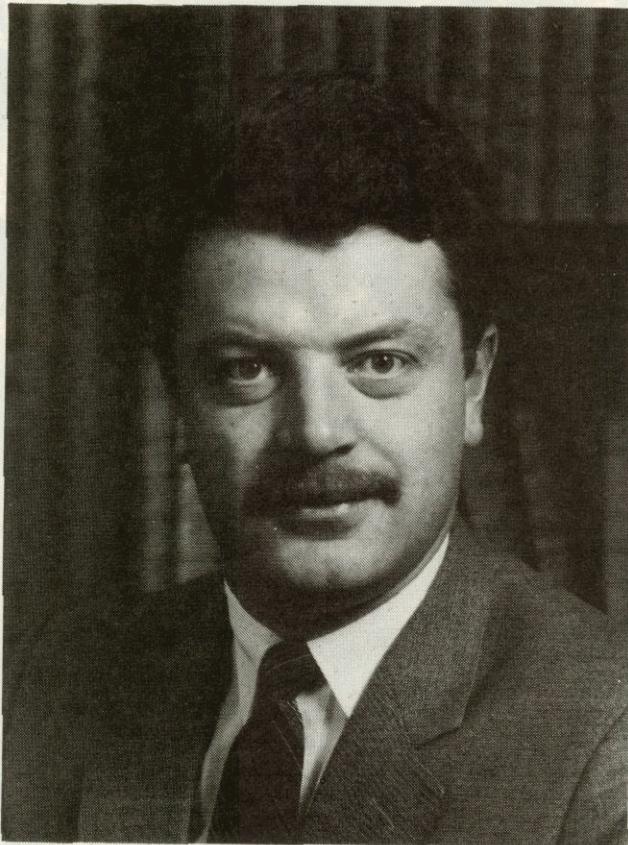
The four Colours of 'The Dukes' — a unique distinction of the regiment — were on parade when the Duke of Wellington's Regiment exercised their Freedom rights at Halifax and celebrated the re-opening of the regimental museum at Bankfield.

Lt General Sir Charles Huxtable, Colonel of the Regiment, and the Mayor of Calderdale took the salute in the town centre.

They were joined by the Duke of Wellington, when he inspected the guard, spoke with members of the battalion and declared the museum open.



A peepul tree is planted by Major General D B H Colley



Graeme R. Kalbraier Branch Manager Colchester Central

In 1972 Graeme joined the Royal Artillery as a University Cadet, serving in both heavy air defence and a field regiment, interspersed with duties in Northern Ireland.

Graeme's final tour before leaving the services in 1981 was an eighteen month spell in Canada, after which he joined Sun Life of Canada in the United Kingdom as a field Representative.

Graeme, whose hobbies include rugby, canoeing and golf, says:

"The measure of my success was, I believe, the leadership qualities instilled in me by the Army at both Officer and NCO level which are a very good background for the Life Assurance industry. Sun Life of Canada's professional approach to training was very much in line with the self discipline taught me by the Army. I firmly believe this to be one of the most important characteristics required of those entering the Life Assurance profession."

In 1984, after three very successful selling years, Graeme was appointed Branch Manager of our Colchester Central Branch.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Two former colleagues at the Royal Military Police Training Centre at Chichester have found themselves working together again, this time 8,000 miles away in the South Atlantic where one of them is now Chief Police Officer of the Falkland Islands and the other is Provost Marshal to the Forces based there.

Former Major now Superintendent Ken Greenland controls the division force of two sergeants, eight regular constables and five reservists. His job when he first arrived in the islands in 1986 was to run the Falkland Islands Garrison Police Unit, a job currently filled by Major Garry Evanson, who is on a four month unaccompanied tour.

The pair had previously been together at Chichester when Major Greenland was OC the Close Protection Wing and Major Evanson the Centre's adjutant.

With 4,700 square miles of territory to cover Ken's deployment has to be carefully considered, using his eight constables to best advantage. In addition to normal policing, he also acts as prosecutor,

and has responsibility for immigration.

Although there are differences, the basic police work of the Army and the Falklands police is the same, and the RMP courses and procedures during his ten years in the Corps all provided a relevant background for civil police work, says Ken.

Future plans for the force include an expansion of the number of police reservists and the possible introduction of a police patrol boat of a design that is in use with the Icelandic Lifeboat Authority.

★ ★ ★

The surprise discovery of a soldier's faded name on a centuries old headstone half hidden in a disused graveyard in West Germany has led to The Royal Green Jackets paying their first tribute to one of their forgotten pioneering founders.

The regiment added an important historical footnote to their annals when homage was paid to German-born Major Johan Friedrich Christoph Spiessmacher on the 200th anniversary of his death.

He died in Hamelin aged 69 after serving for 26 years in the Royal

American Regiment on the North American continent and the Caribbean, the unit which was to become The King's Royal Rifle Corps, now The Royal Green Jackets.

At the simple remembrance ceremony at Major Spiessmacher's burial place in the Old Garrison Cemetery in Hamelin not far from his birthplace in Bodenwerder on the river Weser, the Commanding Officer of The Royal Green Jackets' Minden-based 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Vere Hayes laid a solitary wreath in honour of an intrepid Old Comrade who, it is said, helped found the RGJ's distinguished reputation "by his long service in war and peace in the Americas, in the face of resolute enemy, hard climate and terrible disease."

The hunt to discover his links with the RGJ was launched after an officer from a neighbouring Royal Engineers unit in Hamelin spotted the weather-worn gravestone by accident.

★ ★ ★

Clan Leslie, the oldest gun tank in the world, has moved to its final resting place in the new Evolution Hall of the Tank

Museum at Bovington.

Clan Leslie is a 1916 Heavy Mark I (Male) tank built by William Foster and Co Ltd of Lincoln, one of the type that fought in the first ever tank battle at Flers on the Somme in 1916. Only 150 tanks of this type were constructed before they were replaced in 1917 by more improved designs. There were two types: Male and Female. The Male was armed with two ex-naval 6pdr guns, mounted in side sponsons, while the Female had only Vickers machine guns.

Clan Leslie, the only surviving Mk I in the world, was donated to the Tank Museum by the Marquess of Salisbury in 1969, after standing in the grounds of Hatfield House for many years. Its condition deteriorated and unfortunately the tracks are now seized and the hull is very flimsy.

The moving of Clan Leslie presented a major problem to the Museum staff because of its fragile state. The tank had to be hydraulically jacked up onto specially designed roller mounted "skates", which were placed under the seized tracks.

It was lifted onto a transporter which after moving it to the new hall, lifted it back onto the skates.

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

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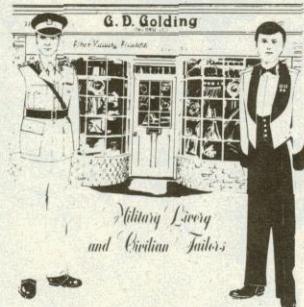
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War

— without people!



THE HUMAN element could soon be taken out of boring, repetitive perimeter wire sentry foot patrol duties if the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) has its innovative and inventive way. And possibly "within a few years," writes **Graham Smith**.

Add to this the roles of recce in potentially dangerous front-line areas, mine clearance, logistic supply of stores and ammunition and standard surveillance. All are tasks that could be undertaken eventually by seeing, hearing and even smelling robots. Unmanned robot vehicles.

Such are the possibilities that future battles could partially be fought by the computer-aided driver sitting in safety miles from the battlefield itself.

The shape of things to come?

Left: Major Barry Watts, Royal Engineers, "sees" his route forward through head-coupled helmet vision, a TV camera link direct to the remote-controlled vehicle. A turn of the head and the camera sees what he sees. **Right:** Chris Hinchley (left) and Peter Gibson, RARDE project officers, with "doggie lead" cable, the umbilical cord link to a prototype unmanned vehicle capable of breaching a breeze-block wall.

Backing up such facilities in the arena of combat would be a soldier operating from a vehicle equipped with a TV camera capable of seeing obstacles in the path of an unmanned vehicle some distance away. The robot vehicle would simply be guided round them.

RARDE have even developed a laser range-finder capable of making 3,000 measurements in one second to build up a picture.

Besides undertaking sentry patrols, such unmanned vehicles could be used for providing decoys, simulating tanks and so and so on. The possibilities are many.

Unmanned autonomous vehicles — as RARDE calls them — can operate freely in the uniform environments of air and water but do have problems in

the cluttered surroundings associated with land operations.

Mr Alan Barradale, the Applications and Analysis Engineer of the Intelligence Systems Division, explained: "RARDE has been involved in the development of remote controlled vehicles for some years. Most have been recently related to mine clearance, such as the Redfire vehicle in use in the Falklands and Wheelbarrow in Northern Ireland.

"Five years ago a research programme called Mobile Autonomous Intelligent Device (MAID) was started to assess the viability of unmanned land vehicles for the Army.

"This is a fundamental research programme aimed at identifying the key areas leading to full autonomy, with effort

concentrated upon the critical technologies in key areas such as remote control, supervisory control and fully autonomous."

Remote control, he said, was the category where a man-in-the-loop made all the decisions at all times. Supervisory control involved only limited instructions such as giving a heading and speed to the vehicle which itself had sufficient intelligence for detailed control and corrective adjustments. Rather like an aircraft auto-pilot.

Fully autonomous vehicles were given instruction at the start of their task and could then use their intelligence to plan, navigate and monitor their progress in achieving a given goal. Only minimal communication was needed between operator and vehicle.

Mr Barradale added: "Autonomous vehicles go out on roads, tracks and across country with no man-in-the-loop. They can find grid references on their own. It is this research thrust we are currently working on here within the division at Chertsey. Our remotely controlled autonomous vehicles engaged on sentry duty, for instance, never go to sleep. They don't have to be woken at midnight. They work to maximum efficiency, continuously."

The developments in mind and firmly on drawing board are exciting. They include unmanned vehicles with on-board sensors so highly refined that they can detect movements in bushes, recognise an object from its heat emission or simply "listen" to what it is doing.

It is a growth industry on which the Americans are spending millions of dollars on development. Other NATO countries are also working on the tactical applications of unmanned vehicles. The Russians, too.

RARDE boffins were particularly interested in one such remotely-controlled vehicle seen prowling round the contaminated Chernobyl installation.

Another application, he said, of the sentry-type duty that an autonomous vehicle could achieve would be to allow tank crews to sleep in woods while moving up into position. Instead of sentries being posted, the unmanned vehicles could be put out on patrol at strategic points and round the perimeters of those woods.

Dangerous forward areas could be explored by the recce robots. They would be useful in town areas and will doubtless figure in FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Areas) training scenarios in the future.

Stores and ammunition delivery, too, was very labour intensive with its involvement of men and MT. Robot vehicles would cut that down considerably.

"All of these projects will probably take up to ten years to achieve true autonomy and applications of that would follow," said Mr Barradale. "It is then up to the Army to decide on how they want to use the systems and how keen they are to have them. I suspect they will not want to reduce the number of men they have but to do more tasks with these machines. More jobs than they are doing now."

Turning to decoys, Mr Barradale added: "Autonomous vehicles go out on roads, tracks and across country with no man-in-the-loop. They can find grid references on their own. It is this research thrust we are currently working on here within the division at Chertsey. Our remotely controlled autonomous vehicles engaged on sentry duty, for instance, never go to sleep. They don't have to be woken at midnight. They work to maximum efficiency, continuously."



END OF TRACK FOR THE TANK?

THE TANK has had its day, claims Frank Barnaby, nuclear physicist and scientific writer. And so has the human being on the battlefield.

Technology for automated warfare is increasing now to such an extent that there will be not need for humans on the battlefield.

Despite the old adage that "the best anti-tank weapon is another tank", it is virtually impossible to hide some 60 tons of hot metal on the modern battlefield from the sensors of intelligent missiles, he declares.

And with the increasing lethality and destructiveness of warfare, the battlefield is becoming such an unacceptably dangerous place that human beings will be too

fragile to take part directly in the battle.

Technology for automated warfare is increasing now to such an extent that there will be not need for humans on the battlefield.

Frank Barnaby is the author of a book, *The Automated Battlefield*, which looks at the different types of automated weaponry and other military equipment, and considers the militarisation of space and the spread of nuclear weapons, weaponry as it affects the Third World, the consequences of automated warfare, and NATO's defence policies.

In support of his declaration that the tank is obsolete, he describes a hypothetical battlefield scene in no-man's land between two warring industrialised countries.

Invasive tanks approach the border. A swarm of pilotless aircraft not much bigger than toyshop radio-controlled models zig-zag overhead at low altitude, seemingly impervious to the tanks' machine guns, and fire anti-tank warheads resembling five-inch diameter chunks of molten metal. The warheads think for themselves, selecting the most vulnerable parts of the tanks



— the turrets and engine covers.

The remaining tanks regroup and advance again. Without warning they begin to burst into flames, destroyed by the weapons of small, speedy, robot-driven enemy vehicles.

Under cover of night-time

the tanks advance once more — but darkness is no protector. Small missiles fired by rocket launchers from 30-40 kilometres away, and guided by sensors which can seek out and identify tanks in an area of 500 square metres, hover over the tanks, each selecting a different one and firing into its relatively lightly armoured turret.

This horrific battlefield in which technology triumphs over human beings could be fought in less than a decade's time, in the author's example. And the fully automated battlefield could be with us by the year 2010.

The Automated Battlefield, by Frank Barnaby. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Price £12.95.

War — without people

From Page 15

dale said the Russians "put a lot of effort" into this aspect of battlefield tactics. He added: "We tend to think of it as a bit unsporting but if we used them I think it would cause quite a lot of alarm and despondency and autonomous moving decoys would be very beneficial. It is something we don't do, but could do."

RARDE, he said, had already developed a wide-tracked vehicle with very low ground pressure that was virtually immune to grounding on the belly-plate. It could climb as high as a 56-tonne main battle tank such as Chieftain.

In the surveillance mode, the vehicles could go into dangerous areas and literally "look round corners", giving commanders enhanced battlefield capability.

Some of the advantages of unmanned vehicles, he said, were manpower savings and the ability to operate in hazardous environments. They were also smaller than manned vehicles, less expensive and less vulnerable.

Mr Barradale went on: "There are still many fundamental problems requiring further research, particularly on aspects of interpretation of sensor data and development of techniques for intelligent decision making.

"Anticipated progress on these problems has enabled us to propose a programme resulting in the autonomous demonstrator vehicle which offers a new dimension in operational capability and an opportunity to carry out tasks which may well be considered beyond the limits of manned vehicles.

"We are also very dependent on progress in electronics continuing at its present rate."



Massed Bands' blast of music!

CANNON and musket fire punctuate the 1812 Overture during rehearsals for the performance of the Royal Artillery Massed Bands on Horse Guards Parade.

Taking part in the concerts, in aid of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund and other Service charities, were the Staff Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps; The Honourable Artillery Com-

pany Band; the Band of 307 (South Nottinghamshire Hussars RHA) Observation Post Battery RA (V) the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band; and the Pipes and Drums of 101 (Northumbrian Fd Regt RA (V); 102 (Ulster) Air Defence Regt RA (V); 103 (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Air Defence Regt RA (V); and 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regt RA (V).

Gunners in Caine film

TWENTY Colchester gunners have just become film stars in their own right, starring as extras in the Michael Caine film 'The Fourth Protocol.'

Drawn from 45 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Kirree Barracks, Colchester, the score of screen volunteers were asked to jump from a helicopter and run towards camera during one sequence which was filmed in the Ipswich area.

The Gunners, whose part resulted from a chance meeting, will probably be seen on film later this year.

LARKHILL BARRAGE

THINGS ARE really going to go with a big bang during this year's Artillery Day held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on Saturday, July 5.

Not an event for those of a nervous disposition. For the highlight of this year's offering by the gunners' "at home" display will be an hour-long live firing demonstration with some 50 guns firing more than 20 tons of ammunition at designated targets!

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Left — Cpl Grey of the Glosters on guard at the main gate of Spandau, waiting for the French to take over

Right — The new French guard marches to its posts inside Spandau



INSIDE SPANDAU



Above — Old and new guards during the change-over ceremony. Men of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment on the left prepare to hand over to French forces

Below — The French march in through the main gate of Spandau
Below right — Sgt Garry Forder, the Guard Sergeant, holds the key to the side gate



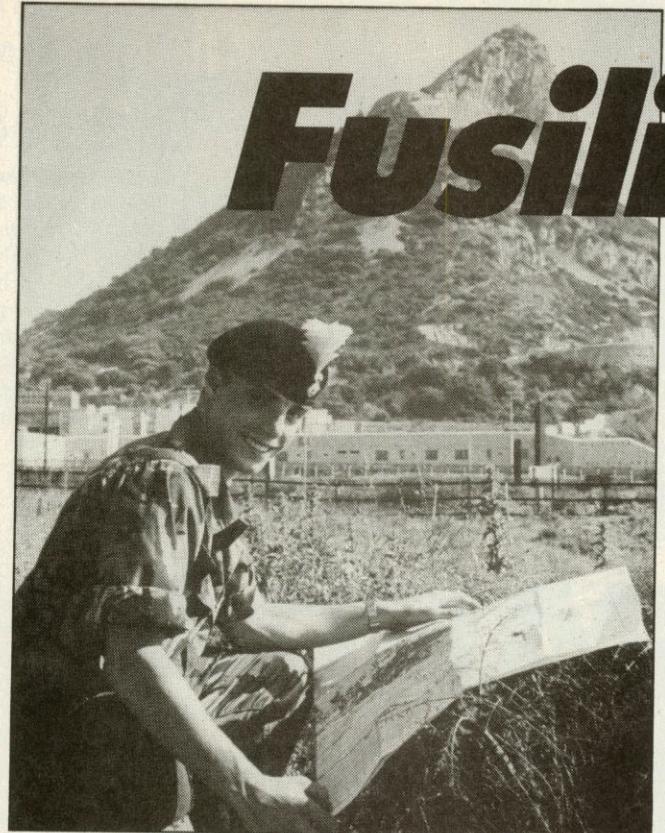
Glosters hand over

RARE PICTURES: Men of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment based in West Berlin hand over their rotational guard duty — with the three other Allied Forces — to the French forces at Spandau where Rudolph Hess, 92, is living out his days.

The parade is a formal ceremony in itself and an interesting combination of differing national foot drills. Glosters' subaltern commanding the guard on this occasion was Second Lieutenant Richard Felton and the Guard Sergeant was Sergeant Garry Forder.

The pictures are unusual in that photographs are not normally permitted inside the prison gates.





Fusiliers on the Rock

MORE THAN 100 Territorial soldiers from North Wales swopped wind and rain for brilliant sunshine on their annual fortnight's camp — on the Rock of Gibraltar.

A company from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers flew to Gibraltar by Hercules transport aircraft and immediately took up their duties as part of the garrison of the Rock.

The Fusiliers were one of a steady stream of volunteer units on Exercise Marble Tor, allowing the regular battalion stationed on the Rock to release men for training elsewhere. When the Fusiliers arrived they took over from a company on exercise in Portugal.

Drawn from Aberystwyth right across the North Wales coast to Liverpool, the company took all their kit and weapons with them so that they could immediately slot into their garrison duties. Apart from their military training — made more strenuous by heat and soaring heights — the company also helped to mount guard on the border with Spain.

Last time the Royal Welch were on Exercise Marble Tor, the border was closed, but this time, as they looked out from the guard-room they could watch a steady stream of tourists and locals passing backwards and forwards.

And they were not slow to seize this new opportunity. Every

member of the company was allowed some time off, and wherever possible a caravanette was hired and groups would drive into Spain.

"It was great," said Cpl Joyce Roberts of Pen Y Maes Gardens, Holywell, one of five Women's Royal Army Corps girls with the company.

The girls, under the command of Lieutenant Angela Carroll of Wood Street, Port Sunlight Village, Wirral, had their own responsibilities within the company — two were medics, one a signaller and one a pay clerk.

The fortnight's tour was split between intensive military activities and adventurous training. The company made full use of the regular battalion's facilities and picked up a lot of expertise in night patrolling, fighting in built up areas, patrol hides, and the use of night surveillance equipment.

There was also an escape and evasion exercise and shooting on the ranges.

Apart from the rock climbing and abseiling, most of the adventure training was water-based. Everyone had the opportunity to try windsurfing, snorkelling, canoeing or dinghy sailing.

The Royal Welch is one of the older regiments in the British Army to remain unscarred by successive amalgamations and has a past

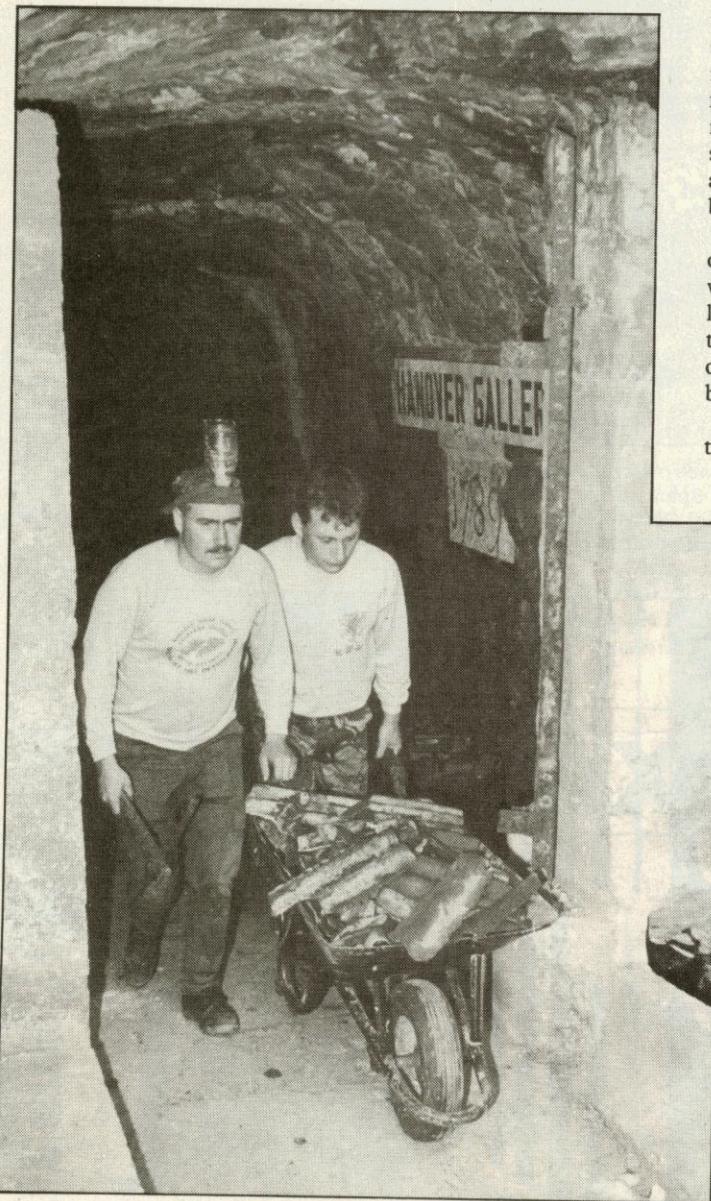
which is woven inextricably into the military history of Gibraltar.

A mosaic in the main piazza, made up of badges of infantry regiments which have served on the Rock, has the Royal Welch in pride of place. And among the many badges on display only the Royal Welch have never suffered an amalgamation.

Links between Gibraltar and North Wales are also strong. Colour Sergeant Norman Mornington-West from Bethesda spent some of his time off researching a quarry battalion of Royal Engineers which was raised in North Wales and which spent all its service helping to build the labyrinth of tunnels within the Rock.

Carrying on the mining connection, the company gave up a lot of time to clear the Star Chamber, part of the Rock's tunnel complex. The Chamber is a series of tunnels overlooking the old town about a third of the way up the Rock and about a mile in length.

During the Second World War the complex was home for two battalions of machine gunners but has now fallen into disrepair and has been used as a dumping ground. The North Wales Volunteers spent several days in the dark blackness of the tunnels so that when cleaned out they can be turned into a tourist attraction.



Above left — Fus Hefyn Hughes map reading beneath the Rock

Left — Hi ho, hi ho, and off to work go LCpl David McDevitt with his own splendid miner's lamp, and Fus Aaron Bentham on the wheelbarrow. They helped to clean out the Star Chamber

Above right — The attractive element of Exercise Marble Tor. Left to right are Cpl Joyce Roberts, Lieut Angela Carroll, Cpl Ruth Thomas, Pte Pam Cromey and LCpl Jackie Spencer

Right — Life on the ocean wave for members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers during their fortnight's camp on the Rock





The Leconfield — one of Europe's biggest driving schools

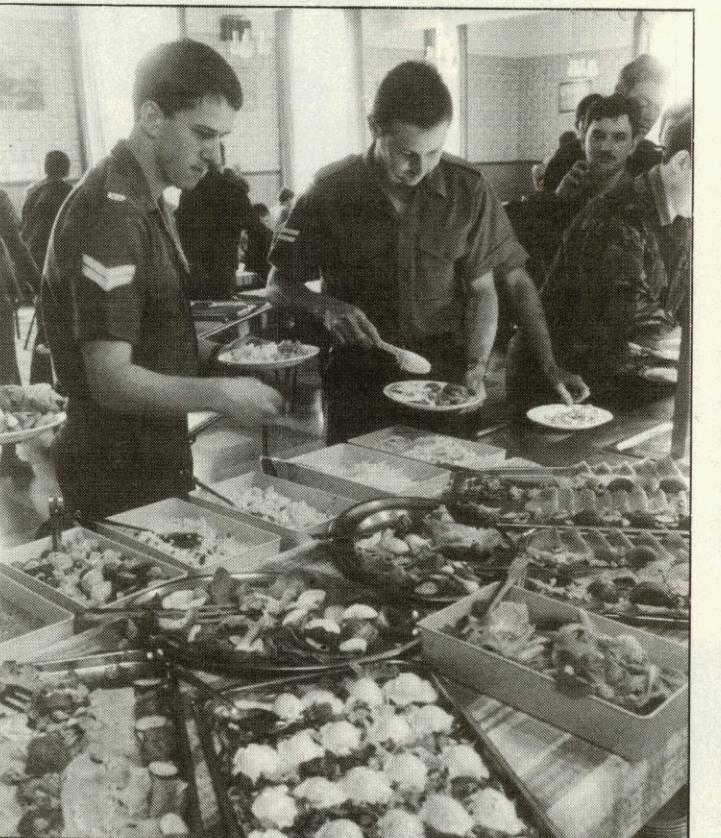
Humberside is so right

HUMBERSIDE was chosen for the Army School of Mechanical Transport because Leconfield was being given up by the Royal Air Force and its runways were ideal for conversion into a driving circuit which would allow learners to master basic control techniques before venturing on to public roads.

Driffield, on the other hand, had more accommodation — and a disused airfield system which was converted by the Royal Engineers into a cross-country driving circuit, a vital facility for the various aspects of advanced driver training. Both locations are used at weekends by the Combined Cadet Force, the Army Cadet Force, the Home Service Force and the Territorial Army.

Environmental aspects of the school are ideal and Humberside has a road system which is much less congested than many parts of the country.

Hull is not too far away from Leconfield and its high traffic density provides the right conditions for urban driving experience, with the whole area giving the right mix for all training purposes.



The Army drives on its stomach! Egon Ronay rated Leconfield as having "remarkably consistent standards of culinary excellence". About 8,000 students enjoy the food each year

ONE THIRD of the total number of licences issued by the Department of Transport each year originate from military testing officers, all of whom have passed through the portals of the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield, near Hull.

Vital statistics of the school are impressive — its fleet of 700 vehicles consumes $1\frac{1}{2}$ m litres of fuel and covers 6 m miles each year. It all adds up to the biggest driving school in Europe.

The Army School of Mechanical Transport (ASMT) was formed on April 1 1977 and became operational three months later, taking on 'B' vehicle and wheeled 'A' vehicle training.

Formation of the school at Normandy Barracks, Leconfield, and its satellite station Alamein Barracks at Driffield ten miles away, was the result of an Army Board decision to rationalise driver training in the Army to meet the requirements of defence cuts in the 1970s.

The school has a throughput of more than 8,000 students each year at both initial and advanced levels and normally at any one time there are between 600 and 700 students in the system.

by Mouse

MOBB



The vehicle park at Leconfield usually has as many as 700 vehicles of different shapes and sizes drawn up on it overnight. Appropriately for a former air station, there is also a helicopter parked among its four (and more) wheeled contemporaries

To cope with this number the school has a permanent staff of 718, of which 177 are uniformed and the rest civilian.

The military staff at the moment can boast of having more than 30 different cap badges between them.

To carry out its training tasks the school is equipped with a fleet of 700 vehicles. These are the responsibility of the Vehicle Squadron which maintains, tasks, and administers them and is also responsible for the REME workshops that repair them.

The fleet comprises 30 different types of vehicle which can, on occasions, present some availability problems.

As the vehicles are used daily by students, the squadron considers it is important to keep them on the road so that each pupil can keep the vehicle to which he has become accustomed. To this end, minor repairs are carried out by a "kwik-fit" unit, and vehicles arriving at their hanger are normally off the road for less than two hours.

The vehicle fleet covers more than 6 m miles every year, using well over $1\frac{1}{2}$ m litres of fuel in the process with an average 140 vehicles being serviced in the workshops every week.

Instruction is aimed at producing soldiers who understand how to get the best use out of their vehicles, with great emphasis on the care of equipment and high road safety standards which go a long way to reducing costs in the running of vehicles throughout the Army.



Lieutenant Glynnis Ireland WRAC uncouples her trailer. She went to the school from Sandhurst, leaving after only three weeks with a HGV 1 licence. Glynnis is due to take up a post as Troop Commander with 62 Transport and Movements Squadron in Berlin later in the year

Apart from normal driving instruction to Heavy Goods and specialist vehicle standard, 2,500 students pass through the school each year to attend management and instructor courses or signals training.

On April 1 this year it became official Army policy for Group 'A' driving instruction to be carried out by civilian driving schools under contract controlled at each of the UK District Headquarters by the Commander Transport and Movements. The pupils may be from any arm or Service, with the exception of recruits to the Royal Corps of Signals and others whose basic trade is driving and requires an HGV licence.

The Army carries out its own

licence testing. Whereas a civilian is tested by Department of Transport examiners, the Army has a system using, in the main, military Qualified Testing Officers (QTOs) who carry out the tests as a secondary responsibility to their main military tasks.

All QTOs are trained at Leconfield, whether they are military or civilian, and are controlled by Army licensing authorities who also are based on District Headquarters under the senior RCT officer.

There are 27 licensing authorities in the Army worldwide, employing over 730 QTOs, and the school issues about 300 QTO certificates annually. The total number of driving licences issued

by QTOs amounts to one third of the total number of licences issued by the Department of Transport each year.

ASMT is commanded by Brigadier Peter Marzetti, who apart from heading the largest driving school in Europe is also Brigadier Humberside.

The brigadier, aware that driver training is highly manpower intensive, would like to see the introduction of heavy goods vehicles — which would allow an instructor plus three students in the cab instead of the present one pupil one instructor.

Story: Pete Brown
Pictures: Terry Champion

When a Rose by any other name would be wrong!

IT WOULD take more than a *Sherlock Holmes* to deduce where some medical documents should be directed.

For a recent sample batch of 72 Service school health records received by Smedley Hydro — headquarters of the National Health Central Register — not one had a National Health number.

But even so they managed to find homes for 36 of the forms. The remainder they were unable to trace and are holding in their files.

One of the current causes of this stockpiling of records is that Service children born overseas — and there are

4,000 a year — are not automatically issued with a National Health number, and unless they are registered with a doctor on return to the UK, will stay without a number unlike children born in the UK. It's time this difference was rectified.

And when they leave school and their documents are sent to Smedley Hydro without an NHS number, problems are exacerbated to say the least.

What can be done to help? Answer: for starters wives should register with a new doctor in the UK or overseas immediately on arrival.

Project 305, which revealed the turbulence suffered by Service families when moving on posting, indicated

low registration figures within the first three months of a move — with some never registering with a GP.

To give a further indication of Smedley's problems tri-Service units in 1985 alone sent in the medical documents of 50,000 dependants and requested 70,000 while doctors around the country sent in 39,000 and asked for 53,000.

But while Smedley meet most requests they're stumped with a large number because the form FMED 246 is often submitted without names; wrong Christian names, nicknames instead.

For a start the space for unit stamps is too small and information is seldom checked by units before being sent

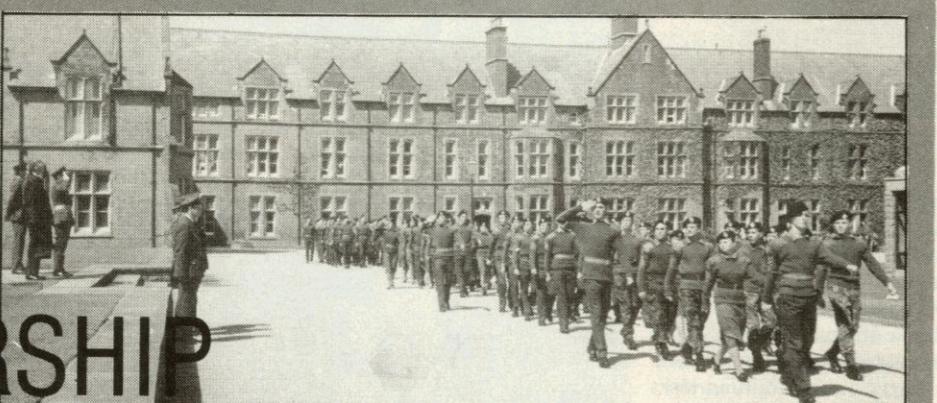
to Smedley. In addition units are guilty of inserting "gone overseas" instead of a proper address — most unhelpful.

Post codes, too, should be used to speed the system and a unit stamp on the envelope would help even more.

Most unhelpful when it comes to trying to trace someone. But of course nothing's perfect in this world and form FMED 246 is a good example of imperfection.

Another 14 years must not pass and another 100,000 documents must not be unclaimed; we must get the system right.

HOW TO MARCH INTO A SCHOLARSHIP



YOUNG MARCHERS OF ROSSALL: applications for places invited

TWO school scholarships are on offer for a pair of youngsters providing they can meet entry demands.

Rossall School, Fleetwood, which claims the oldest registered Combined Cadet Force — invites applications for the Jackson and Trapnell scholarships.

The Jackson, based on character, personality and range of interests, as much as academic ability, is open to candidates under

12 (11-plus entry) or under 14 (13-plus entry) on September 1.

This award offers the cost of boarding education plus allowances for extras.

The Trapnell scholarship is open to a youngster from a State or independent school who shows outstanding promise in mathematics or science.

The award covers the full basic fee for boarders. Parents interested should write for details to: The Headmaster, Rossall School, Fleetwood, FY7 8JW.

It follows that, since the school has such a long history of running a Combined Cadet Force — they claim theirs has existed longer than any other, with Eton and Felstead following sometime in 1860 — the successful duo would be

expected to sign on and prepare for the school's 127th annual inspection next year.

Recently they held their 126th with Air Vice-Marshal A Beil taking the salute from 212 cadets.

These young boarders, sons and daughters of parents who, in many cases have no connection with the Forces, demonstrated drill, skill at arms, map and compass field-craft, first-aid, social

services, and sailing.

Now, with the annual inspection behind them, the Army cadets are looking forward to summer camp in Germany, while the Navy section prepares for sea including voyages in submarines and exercises with the Royal Marines.

Said Contingent Commander Major Stuart Felton: "We feel the Corps is keeping well in touch with life today."

YOU WRITE... Look up the law if you're disturbed

TWO correspondents with but a single thought ... Because of the modernisation and major works service being carried out in our quarters, writes Major R of London District and Mrs S of South West District, we have been told we cannot claim disturbance allowance because we will be out of our quarters for less than six months. This disqualifies us for any compensation. Is this correct?

In this case a Lower Rate Supplement might be applicable. This is paid to those who qualify for payment of the basic rate and whose family are required for

Service reasons to make an additional move into/out of quarters at the same duty station, or re-occupy their own house, provided the move attracts payment of the

basic rate and providing the conditions detailed in regulations are satisfied.

Submit a claim listing expenses such as re-direction of mail, telephone

Cover up if you're going on holiday!

Letters on holiday insurance are pouring in. Should we or shouldn't we take out some cover? Most don't.

Matchless problem

But there is always the chance of cancellation. You could also lose your baggage, have an accident or become ill.

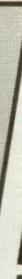
Have you completed DHSS form for the cover available free under the EEC reciprocal agreement? The two DHSS leaflets are *Medical costs abroad* and *Protect your Health*.

ningdale Road, Leicester LEC 1UR, 0533 871 355 might help, or try *Clare's Shoes*, Street, Somerset.

My 12-year-old daughter has odd-size feet. Is there any firm who can help? Buying two to get one is expensive.

■ AFAB Sheet No. 12/1 March 1986 explains the different types of disturbance allowance.

Anne
HERE TO HELP



Armstrong
WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Home tel:
Camberley
29653

Follow form and put the record straight

Don't give health the brush-off



SORTING TIME AT SMEDLEY: stockpiling incomplete forms

MORE than 100,000 medical records of tri-Service families are lying useless in official filing cabinets. They are there because people have been giving the brush-off to officialdom even though it's for the benefit of their health.

The daunting task of trying to trace the 100,000-plus names has been with the National Health Central Register at Smedley Hydro, Lancs, and SSAFA for years. And the problem does not reduce.

The Register has 80,000 dependants' documents and SSAFA 20,000 from the UK and overseas.

SSAFA's mini-mountain belongs to dependants who have left school overseas and boarding school in the UK, and those who have not troubled to register with a doctor.

The remainder of their heap of forms

contain insufficient information for them to act upon. So they languish there.

The same problem faces the Smedley Hydro team headed by Mr Malcolm Pennington.

Health is no respecter of age or situation. Fit today, sick tomorrow.

Then urgent requests to Smedley Hydro come pouring in... and while they do their best, they can do little without basic information.

The fact is the blame for the stockpiles of documents does not lie with Smedley Hydro or SSAFA, but is down to parents, dependants and units who don't bother to answer a few simple questions like a Christian name, or fill in a National Insurance instead of a National Health number.

Then the wailing starts... My health records have not arrived. They're lost, missing, gone astray...

I first raised this problem in 1972 and visited Smedley Hydro in 1980 and 1982, and again last month to

see if the position had changed.

The Services' section at Smedley Hydro is not manned, as some people may think, by one man and his dog. It is a streamlined, conscientious and caring department with 38 staff.

Vera Maiden will do everything possible to get health records to where they belong. Mr Pennington told me of urgent documents needed in Hong Kong last month.

More than a miracle was performed on the slimmest of information to trace the missing documents, but how much quicker it would have been if the information had been there already.

It is disheartening for the staff at Smedley for they know that families need these records, especially if they contain important medical information.

Fourteen years have passed since I spotlighted this problem — a problem that should never have arisen in the first place.

Perhaps 1986, albeit a bit late, could be *Help Smedley Hydro Year*.



VERA MAIDEN, JUDY KEEN, SHERLA PHILOGENE: Combined search by Smedley Hydro and SSAFA

Country care code

Preparations for caravan holidays at home and abroad are well under way, yet each year we read, hear of or even see caravan fires.

Injuries and death often result, so what can be done to prevent such tragedies? A useful single sheet called *Countryside Fire*

Safety covers caravans and how to be prepared.

Bottled gas, portable equipment, ventilation, electrical equipment, open fires, all are covered in this information leaflet available from the Fire Protection Association, 140 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4HX.

Worcester College for the Blind is to amalgamate with its sister school in Chorleywood, Herts.

The first girls, aged 11 upwards, will arrive in September. By September next year the combined numbers will be 125 pupils.

Administered by the Royal

National Institute for the Blind it will offer boys and girls education up to 'O' and 'A' Level standards.

Pupils will also be able to enjoy a variety of sports.

Further information from the Reverend Bob Manthorpe 0905 354627.

Blind schools link



FOUR PINTS OF THE BEST!

FOUR Coldstream Guardsmen swapped pints of beer in return for the blood they gave to ex-Guardsman PC George Hammond after he was stabbed in the stomach during a Dulwich sweet-shop raid last year. They were all guests at the first anniversary celebrations of Bloodline, a campaign to attract donors launched by BBC Radio London and the National Blood Transfusion Service. Pictured with PC Hammond, who has now returned to work, are Guardsmen Jez Cauldwell and Steve Walker, Colour Sgt John Bassett and Cpl Dave Matthews.

Paras to the rescue . . .

BRITISH TROOPS have been involved in dramatic rescues continents apart—in the one-time pirate stronghold of Jamaica of Spanish Main fame and in the far-flung Solomon Islands. Two areas devastated respectively by torrential rains and typhoon.

In the West Indies, 110 men from 'A' Company, 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, normally based at Aldershot, were nearing the end of a five-week exercise.

AND THE SIGNALS!

Trim Craft, when they went into action, writes Graham Smith.

They were called in to rescue 50 women and children stranded on the corrugated iron roofs of their homes in the Pedro district of the Jamaican Central Highlands.

The Paras were helping the local

Jamaica Defence Force and, in the end, were involved in the rescue of about 150 locals in the catastrophe resulting from a river bursting its banks and the worst torrential downpours the rain-forested island has experienced for 40 years.

Some 33 people died and helicopters — one a Puma from Belize — and boats were used. At one stage an RAF Hercules from Belize was also sent in with stores and supplies.

Offshore, the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Ariadne was involved in the relief operations after 23 inches of rain had fallen in just 24 hours.

Meanwhile, in the typhoon-stricken Solomon Islands, six signallers — led by Captain Donald MacCauley and WO2 (Yeoman of Signals) Percy Beynon — have been helping and advising on communications during the aftermath of that island group's natural disaster.

The six, all from 30 Signal Regiment, based at Blandford, Dorset, have been out on jungle and seaborne patrol with the Solomon Islands police force. With them, they took out a score of

Trainer to aid brigades

BRIGADE staffs in BAOR will be able to undergo realistic training without leaving camp — thanks to a new computerised indoor battle trainer.

The Brigade and Battle Group Trainer has been unveiled at Sennelager in West Germany. Previously, the Sennelager trainer could only handle battle groups.

Lieutenant General Sir Brian Kenny, Commander 1 (British) Corps, who performed the opening ceremony, said the next stage would be the development of similar trainers for division and, ultimately, corps staffs.

YTS slots for BAOR

THE MINISTRY of Defence has set a target of 1,100 places this year for school leavers of 16 and 17 to train under its YTS. Of this total, 550 places have been set aside for dependants of those serving in BAOR.

It is also intended to expand the scheme to Hong Kong, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

Clansman PRC 320 radios and ancillary charging kit.

They have been training and supporting the police during the period since the typhoon hurled itself on the area. Tasks have involved assessing damage and survey work and, currently comprise systematic patrols.

The British High Commission is reported to be "highly delighted" with the work and expertise put in by the signallers, who had been given just 24 hours to fly out to the islands.

Ironically, signallers from 633 Signal Troop in Belize had been involved in providing the vital comms links to Jamaica.

Men of 30 Signal Regiment, Royal Signals, are no strangers in providing the manpower expertise and equipment in times of emergency. They were involved in last autumn's Mexican and Colombian earthquake disasters.

Major Jack Amberton, 30 Signal Regiment's Operations Officer, said of the Solomons effort: "They ring us up daily. Morale is high and they feel they are doing a very worthwhile job. They are prepared to stay there as long as they have something to contribute."

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SEVENTY YEARS ago, on July 1, 1916, 20,000 British soldiers died on the first day of one of the bloodiest and most catastrophic episodes in the history of warfare. On this and the next seven pages Graham Smith sets the scene for the 70th anniversary pilgrimage to the battlefields of...

THE SOMME



OLD SOLDIERS never die, they simply fade away, goes the old barrack room song. Sadly, they've been doing that for the past 70 years since that supreme and unparalleled national sacrifice on the Somme from July 1 to November 13, 1916, when the flower of British manhood, all volunteers, went over the top.

A ferocious and, some historians say, futile conflict that eventually claimed 1,265,000 casualties on both sides. On that first glorious summer's day British losses amounted to a staggering 20,000 dead, 37,450 injured.

A beautiful but, in the event, dreadful dawning for July 1, 1916. At 0730 hours, two minutes after 17 detonated mines threw mud skywards under the German lines, 60,000 British troops surged from their trenches, forming up in 14-mile-long lines from Serre in the north to Maricourt in the south. The day would not only be hot. It would be horrendous.

Their long moments of waiting had finally come to an end. It was "The Big Push". The Germans later dubbed the outcome "The Bloodbath". It turned out to be the most horrific casualty tally for one day's combat in the annals of British military history.

Side-by-side the British advanced, confident that days of artillery barrage had not only "softened up" the Germans but had pulverised them. It was a sad miscalculation by the leadership. They were not. The Germans had found sanctuary in their dugouts.

July 1 had arrived and the barrage had stopped. The Germans emerged into daylight and set up their machine

Turn to next page

Left: The Sword of Sacrifice stands sentinel at the head of a cemetery somewhere on the Somme

HOW THEY MADE THE CEMETERIES



Rough graves marked in the morass of the Somme before re-burial by the Imperial War Graves Commission

AS THOUSANDS of visitors make pilgrimage visits to the Somme battlefields this week and during the month of July they will marvel at the immaculately tended cemeteries with their manicured green swards flanking the headstones, shady trees and the bobbing, colourful floribunda.

Naturally, gardening methods used in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries across northern France and Flanders have improved immeasurably.

Earliest gardeners were taken from all walks of life and had to rough it in the days soon after the First World War. They commuted between embryo cemeteries in what were known as "travelling circuses". All of them were ex-Servicemen and, until about 20 years ago, all of the Commission's men employed in horticulture had to be ex-Service.

Trees and shrubs began to

appear in the Commission's cemeteries on the Somme in about 1917 and by the autumn of that year, four nurseries had been established. There was a horticultural staff of two sergeants, 20 corporal gardeners (mostly recommended by Kew), a number of men unfit for active service and about 30 Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps women.

By May 1920 more than 400 gardeners had been taken on in France and Belgium and others started to trickle out across the Channel at the rate of about 20 a week in the struggle to service and maintain 750 cemeteries. One man would, perhaps, be responsible for eight cemeteries.

By March 1921, a total of 1,362 gardeners had been recruited, of whom 876 worked on the former Western Front and all of whom had fought along it.

It was a spartan life for those pioneers laying the floral, hedge and lawn foundations for today's

horticultural hyperboles in presentation.

They lived in barracks, Webley huts or in the wards of abandoned Army hospitals. Later, they started to move out from these surrounds to take up lodgings with local families. They married locally.

And over the years family connections have been strong among the Commission's gardeners — many of them handing down jobs from father to suitably trained son and even grandson.

Mobile gardening parties, the "travelling circuses", would venture out to isolated cemeteries at the sites of devastation caused by the fighting. A group of men comprising a cook, driver, six gardeners... and a dog.

On their lorries were heaped tents, bedding, cooking equipment plus plants and implements.

Life was tough for them but they achieved their task as subsequent years have shown. As many as 1,375 cemeteries were tidied in one year.

Construction of the cemeteries may have been the responsibility of the contractors but it was the gardeners who had not only to prepare the ground, but fence it off, make the plots and rows and paint the signs.

During all of this new corpses were being brought in. At a pace.

By 1927 more than 500 cemeteries had been completed on the Western Front with more than 40,000 headstones in place, 63 miles of hedges and 500 acres of sown grass.

For some time now the Commission has arranged its own training schemes for its gardening staff in France and Belgium at two training centres, at Arras and Ieper.

In the UK aspiring gardeners attend local authority courses. Certain staff also make training visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley, the Merrist Wood Agricultural College and the Somerset College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Two large central nurseries in France and Belgium propagate shrubs, conifers and roses.

One thing is for sure. The dedicated Commission gardeners are still doing a good job. A very good job.

'A four-month merciless massacre by both sides...'

From Page 25

gun posts. They were ready for the unsuspecting Tommies advancing across No Man's Land...

The terrifying events that followed went into history. Some 40,000 more British troops were sent forward in the determined bid to break through.

It was an overture of macabre proportions. A four-month merciless massacre by both contending sides. At the end of it in November there were 420,000 British and Commonwealth, 195,000 French and 650,000 German casualties.

Seventy years on, roses are still blooming in Picardy. Once the granary of the Roman Empire, the ravaged province would see yet another battle of the Somme just 18 months later.

A profusion of roses fitting, perhaps, for every single casualty. Colour-

fully punctuating an arena which surely resembled 20th century man's perception of a nightmare, almost surrealistic, moonscape dominated by mud.

One where raking

machine gun fire from the German positions had churned French bucolic

charm into a morass of

mud-encased carnage on

an unimaginable scale.

Mutilated and hideous

gargoyle-like lifeless

forms strewn carelessly

about where they had

fallen or slithered like so

many discarded toy

soldiers.

Kitchener needed them. They had all responded. To a man. To a boy.

Keen. Patriotic. Undeniably brave. Civilian-soldiers in the recruiting crush just 18 months before to join Kitchener's Army, the New Army. Adventurous volunteers all. Supplementing with a united will the small, highly-trained

and dying — isolated beyond human help where they had fallen or crawled in No Man's Land. A raucous, terrifying hell where no quarter was given. None expected.

The tragic harvest savagely reaped by an abundance of unrelenting ordnance pumped out by Spandau machine guns as they brutally snuffed out the life and shattered the limbs or minds of many a grieving mother's son who had so eagerly stepped forward to serve his country when the call came.

Kitchener needed them. They had all responded. To a man. To a boy.

Keen. Patriotic. Undeniably brave. Civilian-soldiers in the recruiting crush just 18 months before to join Kitchener's Army, the New Army. Adventurous volunteers all. Supplementing with a united will the small, highly-trained

Regular Army. The country would never repay the debt owed to them and their families.

Useful and talented lives in the main. Callously and abruptly ended before they had really started.

Whatever the merits or mistakes of the battlefield strategy that ended for them on the accursed Somme, those comrades-in-arms who died amid the mud and barbed wire

would doubtless have

laughed off any such

suggestion of a debt in

characteristic fashion of

the era. They had died for

a principle and with

honour. The debt would

never be called in.

Many of those whose tortured lungs breathed their last during the Somme offensive have neatly-tended Commonwealth War Graves Commission plots to mark their cherished place in history. Pals together in death as

they were in trench life on the battlefield.

Many others, alas, have no such markers. But ALL are remembered. At Thiepval. Some 72,000 names of Britain's finest are recorded on the 141-foot-high symbolic monolithic commemorative masonry there.

Every military and civilian conflict that featured a call to arms during the past seven decades has its survivors somewhere. The Somme still has its valorous and venerated share. Heroes then. Heroes now.

Stoic old men in their late 80s, their early 90s. Frail. Faltering in step.

But full of fear from faint memories, many private and painful. All of them with recollections of pride. Ever old soldiers at heart. And deservedly so.

Like all others who care, they remember the Somme and its unbridled

slaughter.

Yet, the sands of time are rapidly running out for these indomitable Old Comrades. Homage had to be paid. Where it happened.

Accompanied by appointed "minders" through regimental associations, those still robust enough have crossed the Channel again this week to re-visit the sites of unforgettable exploits.

These are the lucky ones who got up and walked away from it all.

Some are visiting for the very first time. All, surely, for the last time.

In 1916 they needed their adolescent strength to clamber from their trenches weighed down by rifles, bayonets, ammunition, two gas masks, empty sand bags and entrenching tools.

Here they were. Back again. Answering the call. Not their country's this

time. Their own. Their personal act of remembrance and respect.

A last pilgrimage in their fast ebbing twilight years to see the scenes — now skilfully sanitised and serene — where trench warfare had so cruelly deprived them of their boyhood pals. Their work mates. And all in scant seconds.

A grim toll of battlefield terror that took sets of brothers. Fathers and sons. Married men never to see or hold their unborn children.

It's a time now for final release. Of appropriately welling tears in elderly eyes. Tears of private sadness, gratitude, rage, frustration. Envy, too, perhaps for chums once so close. A mate once so near and yet so far.

But those legendary roses of Picardy immortalised in the song and the neat, serried ranks of headstones in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's battlefield cemeteries will always remind: "Their Name Liveth for Evermore."

Mr Ware's Empire of the Silent Dead

Major General Sir Fabian Ware, founder of the Imperial War Graves Commission



MASSIVE LOSSES, hasty and haphazard burials, mostly at night and under shellfire, linked with the sheer impossibility of recovering the corpses, accounted for the high proportion of missing graves in the First World War.

Added to these impediments were scribbled notes, faded pencil markings on improvised crosses, confused identification in harrowing circumstances and inaccurate logging of grave locations as men died and were buried in their thousands.

French ploughs were, in 1934, turning up as many as 1,000 cadavers from the conflict two decades before.

Today, since its inception by Royal charter on May 21, 1917 as the Imperial War Graves Commission, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (since 1960) has been carrying on a considerably eased task of regularising records on buried and commemorated individuals, known and unknown, as far as can be ascertained.

Gratitude for this effort dates back to September 19, 1914, when a former editor of The Morning Post was told he was too old to fight. Mr Fabian Ware, 45, would not be denied. He arrived in France to take command of a motley fleet of

private cars making up a British Red Cross "flying unit" which provided a Samaritan service to the dead and dying in the rear areas of the Western Front.

Ware and his eager helpers became greatly interested and, later, engrossed in recording personal details of the British dead and in marking their graves.

Soldiers were being buried, yet no-one was recording the position of their last resting places with any great accuracy. Fabian Ware embarked on his personal crusade which would result in his founding of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Too old to fight he might be,

but too old to care? Never.

A huge task of gruesome detective work began on the mud-churned battlefields. Graves were opened, their top-soil gingerly turned back. Clues were desperately sought for a man's last identity on earth. Metal tags ... a spoon with initials crudely scratched on it ...

Anything that would rescue him from eternal anonymity. For thousands it was just not possible. Then or later.

Rough, wooden crosses fashioned from shattered soap boxes were replaced by durable tarred ones for the duration of the war.

It was these unidentifiable graves that spurred Kipling to compose a simple, single-line epitaph: "A soldier of the Great War. Known unto God."

In May 1917, King George V established the Imperial War Graves Commission to care for the graves of all British Empire soldiers killed on active service. Furthermore, the cost was to be shared proportionately by partner governments in relation to the numbers of dead.

This still applies. The UK pays 77.81 per cent; Canada, 9.88 per cent; Australia, 5.91 per cent; New Zealand, 2.10 per cent; South Africa, 2.07 per cent; India, 2.23 per cent.

Duties of the Commission are also the same; horticultural and structural maintenance, the upkeep of the graves of the Commonwealth dead of both world wars, the building of memorials to those who have no known graves and the keeping of records. The latter including, after the Second World War, lists of civilian dead.

Officially, that is the Commission's remit. But in practice they also undertake a lot of care and maintenance of an agency basis, looking after memorials for regimental associations, the Government and other organisations. This includes one for Waterloo and several for the Crimea.



View from the Albert-Pozières road near Orvillers, September 1916. This white chalk trench could be followed for miles. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers died in thrust and counter-thrust over positions like this all over the Somme



Above — Men of the 13th Royal Fusiliers resting after an attack on La Boisselle on July 7, 1916 — the seventh day of the battle — near Albert on the Albert-Bapaume road



Right — Blighty Valley Cemetery, Authville Wood, Aveluy, France. So great was the slaughter on the Somme that the dead were buried in thousands, making identification and registration extremely difficult. Former newspaper editor Fabian Ware, told he was too old for active service, dedicated himself to this work

The Commission also tends graves for the German War Graves Commission on a payment basis. Relations between the various War Graves organisations are very good.

And so it was in 1917 that all ranks from private to general, irrespective of race, colour or creed were to receive equal recognition.

A standard headstone was created. Private memorials were not allowed.

Production of a half million headstones started after the war. The insignificant shipments of 1920 had burgeoned to 4,000 a week just three years later.

Masonry firms had now discovered semi-mechanical means of

cutting the regimental crests. The masons, mostly ex-Service, became proficient in their art.

Fabian Ware, meanwhile, continued to recruit the best of gardeners, craftsmen, administrative staff, clerks, writers and architects.

It was architect Reginald Blomfield who created the cross of sacrifice. His contemporary Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, later designed the huge Thiepval Monument to the Missing on the Somme.

It was Kipling again, saddened by the loss of his own son, who came up with apt headstone quotation. "Their Name Liveth

for Evermore" taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

Towards the end of the "war to end all wars" the battlefield death rate was quickening alarmingly.

Peace came in November 1918. Northern France and Belgium were arenas of horrific perspective; where 20th century gladiators with the latest in weaponry had wreaked vengeance as they annihilated one another.

Yet a pattern of graves was implemented across France and Flanders. Single graves. Close-packed acres in terms of thousands. (Passchendaele reburials, for instance, numbered 130,000).

Each battlefield was searched at least half a dozen times. Some surveyed a score of times.

By May 1919 there were six

Turn to Page 30



Marian Cole, Imperial War Museum exhibitions assistant, puts together the start of a Somme display of relics and memorabilia

Letter from the Front

LONDON'S Imperial War Museum is holding a Somme Exhibition from July 1 to August 25 featuring relics and memorabilia from the Western Front offensive.

Among them is a poignant letter from Captain Wilfred Nevill of the 8th East Surrey Regiment to his wife, then living at 15 Montpelier Road, Twickenham.

In the letter dated June 26, 1916, he penned:

"Shells are fairly hairing over. One gets sort of bemused after a few million. It will be a great experience and something to tell the children about. So long, Old Thing, for now. Don't worry if you don't hear for a bit."

Tragically, Captain Nevill was one of the 20,000 British dead on the first day of the offensive which claimed some 57,000 British and Commonwealth casualties.

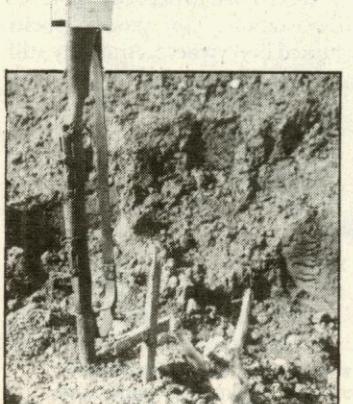
from Page 29

gardeners on the Commission's staff in France. Expenditure that year: just £7,500.

A crash programme in the following year saw an avalanche increase to £250,000. By spring of 1921, nearly 1,000 cemeteries had been planted out with 15 miles of hedges, 75 miles of flower borders and 200 acres of lawn.

A register was placed in each cemetery, giving a description of events in the locality and a careful guide for visitors seeking individual graves.

Published in one thousand parts, this register reached a sale of a quarter of a million.



Last resting place

Veterans return to the Somme

BRITISH and French veterans of the Battle of the Somme will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the offensive at a special service to be held at the Thiepval Memorial — it has 73,074 names on it — on July 1.

Attending the ceremony will be the Duke of Kent, who has been president of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission since 1970, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, and the ambassadors to France of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

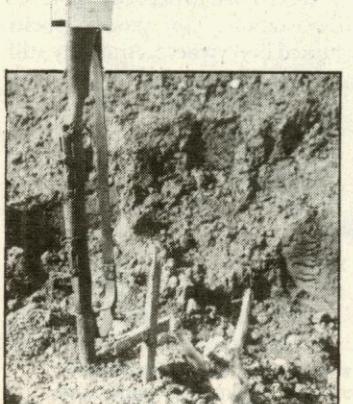
Many regimental groups will be making their own visits to the battlefields — SOLDIER hopes to meet some of them — conducting their own acts of remembrance at cemeteries throughout the area.

The Duke of Kent will attend one at Mametz, eight miles from Thiepval, where he will unveil a memorial to The Devonshire Regiment. He is their colonel-in-chief.

Bands of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, The Green Howards, as well as the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Irish Rangers — all units based in BAOR — will be taking part.



Gardening staff at Lapugnoy, France; forerunners of today's Commission horticultural staff



Last resting place

Old cemeteries overseas were re-opened to admit a second generation of the valiant who had laid down their lives for king and country.

As Winston Churchill said of the Commission's work: "The cemeteries will be entirely different from the ordinary cemeteries which mark the resting place of those who pass out in the common flow of human fate from year to year.

"They will be supported and sustained by the wealth of this great nation and Empire as long as we remain a great nation and Empire and there is no reason at all why in periods as remote from ourselves

as we are from the Tudors the graveyards of France and the Great War shall not remain an abiding and supreme memorial to the efforts and glory of the British Army and the sacrifices made in the great cause."

And what of the visionary who was judged to be too old to fight 74 long years ago? Mr Fabian Ware, once said to have created another empire, an "empire of the Silent Dead", died in 1949 as Major General Sir Fabian Ware.

See also *The Unending Vigil* book review on Page 36.

AND STILL THE BODIES ARE FOUND

EVERY YEAR 20 to 30 bodies are "exhumed" in northern France and Flanders in the course of motorway construction or the processes of arable farming. Channel Tunnel excavations are expected to bring more to light.

The Tunnel project is just one development watched daily by the Commission's head office staff in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The war between Iran and Iraq (58,440 Commonwealth war dead buried or commemorated there), earthquakes in Turkey (36,612), fighting in Lebanon (1,705), unrest in Libya (7,000) all have a bearing on the safety of cemeteries monitored by the Commission.

Often, the Commission's war graves in more far-flung places are cared for and maintained on a reciprocal basis. Sometimes, they are not. Nuns, for instance, in deepest Africa check on plots as a labour of love. British Embassies and



A body is found and a map marked in the early days of grave registration

High Commissions keep an eye on others.

Areas like Murmansk and Archangel in northern Russia. Off the beaten tourist track and in sensitive military areas.

Photographs and written reports are the only guidelines there.

The Commission, powerless to supervise cemetery main-

tenance itself as it would wish, has to rely on a simple philosophy; some care of the cemeteries is better than no care.

Vandalism is another blight. There have been aerosol can daubings in the UK, particularly, and in Holland, Germany and Italy. Not only have headstones been desecrated by spray cans

but actually smashed in half. Visitors' books have been ridiculed by childish and cretinous comment.

Even the massive Menin Gate, at Ypres, in Belgium with its 54,896 names — the scene of a nightly sounding of the Last Post — has on occasion fallen victim to the senseless aerosol-can chroniclers.



King George V at Tyne Cot, Belgium, in 1922

Chipping away at old errors

SERENITY in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery is not always accompanied by trilling larks in warbling hover high above.

From time to time, a stone mason's chisel can be heard chipping away at any of the two-foot-eight-inch-high standard headstones.

For, 70 years after the first Battle of the Somme, corrections may still come in. Dedications may be added

from a third generation of descendant relatives.

Corrections such as Christian names, initials, ages, surname spellings, dates of death and so on.

Originally, such detail was supplied by the War Office — for both wars — but an eagle-eyed relative, friend or researcher on a battlefield pilgrimage may have spotted a factual discrepancy.

The Commission acts on such certified, corrected in-

Dedications are limited to four lines.

Commonwealth dead at rest in 139 countries

THERE ARE 1,694,850 Commonwealth war dead commemorated in 23,198 burial grounds — 7,180 of them with dead from both wars — in 139 countries worldwide.

Of this number, 1,271,839 came from the UK and its former Colonies; nearly 110,000 from Canada; some 102,000 from Australia; over 30,000 from New Zealand; more than 21,000 from South Africa; nearly 160,000 from undivided India and 38,166 were from other nationalities.

From the total 932,115 were identified, 204,388 were unknown.

It is estimated that, marching four abreast, the UK contingents would stretch from London's Cenotaph the 405 miles to Edinburgh; the Canadians from Calgary to Regina; the Australians from Sydney to Melbourne; the South Africans from Bloemfontein to Pretoria; the Indians from Bombay to Hyderabad and the New Zealanders, the full length of North Island.

The largest number of Commonwealth war graves from both world wars is in France, with nearly 356,000 identified and 110,000 unknown interments in nearly 3,000 burial places.

War memorials commemorate nearly 200,000 with a total remembrance figure for all of nearly 575,000 plus another 14,600 other nationalities. And more bodies are still being found.

From the First World War there were more than 475,000 identified burials and cremations from the UK and her former colonies, with another 413,000 commemorated on memorials to the missing.

From the Second World War there were nearly 245,000 identified burials and cremations and another 139,000 listed on memorials to the missing, making a total of some 1,271,000 dead commemorated from the UK and her former colonies.

War graves in the UK number 169,513 known and 1,357 unknown. There are also 10,758 other nationalities buried here. They are interred in 12,244 burial grounds. War memorials remember 133,538 and there is some form or other of permanent Commission remembrance for 303,051 war dead.

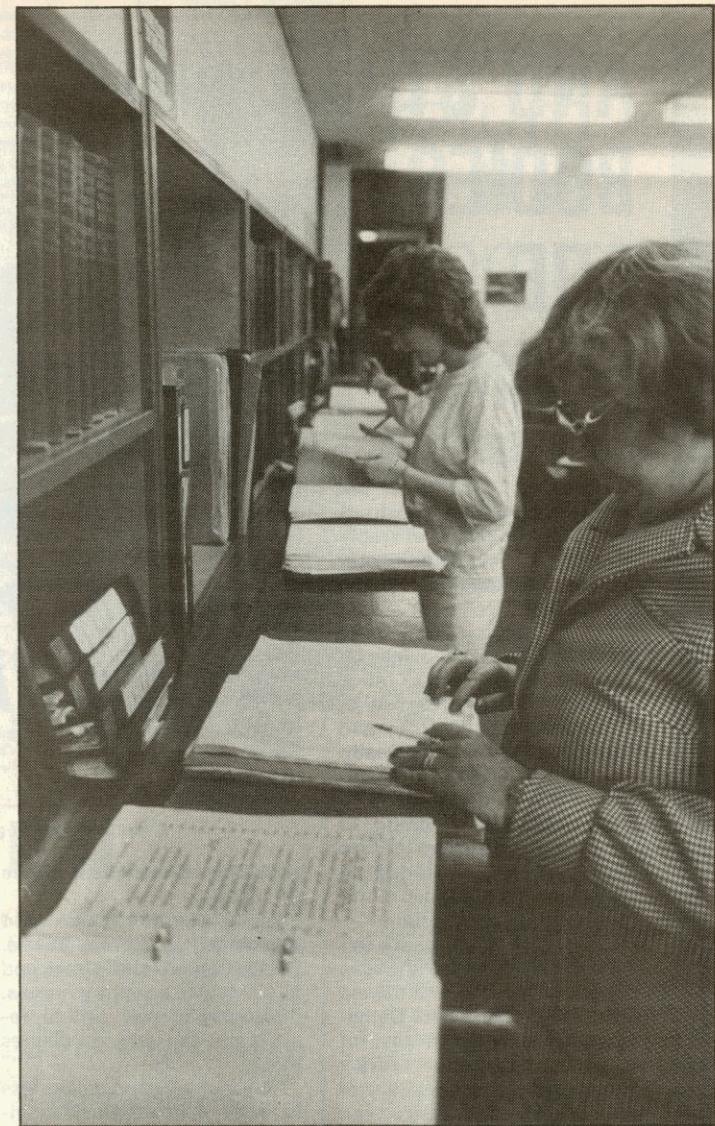
Belgium is the next highest in

number of Commonwealth war dead with 102,381 identified and 47,559 unknown spread in 622 burial places. War memorials record 102,425 names and total commemoration is 204,806.

In France 20 memorials bear more than 200,000 names — two fifths of the total casualties — while the seven First World War memorials in Belgium carry more than 100,000 names — half the total of the Commonwealth forces that fought and died in that country.

Solitary Commonwealth War Graves Commission plots are found in the Canary Islands, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Martinique, Nepal, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Togo and Venezuela.

In the seven Iron Curtain countries of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and the Soviet Union there are 3,651 Commonwealth graves (3,533 of them identified) in 29 burial grounds with 3,842 commemorated on memorials.



Mrs Hazel Kissoon, Assistant Records Officer at the Commission's Maidenhead HQ, checks through a record index book

PUTTING A TRACE ON THE PAST . . .

AS TIME distances today's youth from the horrors of the Somme and its first-hand accounts diminish with the passing of its participants, interest in the First World War is soaring, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Inquiries from the public — or "traces" as the Commission's Records Department at the Maidenhead head office calls them — have risen from just 3,244 in 1973 to 20,477 in 1985. This year, that total is expected to nudge the 25,000 mark.

In April, for instance, traces were up 300 on the same month of last year.

Mrs Hazel Kissoon, assistant records officer, said: "Our work has tripled in the past few years with two tracers out of a staff of five working full-time on this aspect alone.

"Interest has risen in the First World War, particularly among the young whose school project may be that period. It makes the battlefield tour that much more interesting for them. Youngsters, too, who suddenly find they had lost a relative of three generations ago, coming up for four generations.

"We cannot help with the circumstances of a soldier's death and the historical facts are usually given in the registers housed in our worldwide cemeteries.

"Most people seeking information on relatives lost in both world wars write in. We try to discourage phone callers. In addition to schools, we have inquiries from historians, researchers, authors and various Ministry of Defence departments.

"This interest in battlefields seems to have increased because more people are travelling than ever overseas.

Added to this, said Mrs Kissoon, every year brings its crop of campaign anniversaries and these, in turn, prompt a deluge of requests for information.

Yet she and her staff do not have recourse to computers. They prefer to work from venerated, alphabetical indices registers and other printed books.

With a smile, she added: "Going back all through the information we hold here and putting it all into a computer would take two staff about ten years to collate."



Above — Weeton Barracks near Blackpool. Comfort in the Lancashire sunshine. Right — Lord Trefgarne stirs the baked beans at Weeton, flanked by Pte Chef Ian Pullam and Cpl Brian Donaldson of the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry.

Weeton aims for comfort...

THE DAYS when the British soldier could be expected to live in leaky old huts were gone, said Lord Trefgarne, then Minister of State for Defence Support, when he opened the Army's newest barracks at Weeton, near Blackpool, last month.

"We are living in the 20th Century and soldiers must be properly provided for or they will vote with their feet and leave," he told reporters who had asked whether the "luxurious" conditions in the new barracks — the first to be built in Britain for a single modern infantry battalion — would lead to "soft" soldiers.

"Whether soldiers are hard or

not depends on their training and not on their accommodation," he added.

Lord Trefgarne flew from London to open the barracks by unveiling a plaque which itself shortly afterwards became unique — days later Lord Trefgarne was made Minister of State for Defence Procurement in the Government re-shuffle. The Weeton plaque is the only one to record his previous appointment.

The £18,000,000 barracks, which took four years to construct, is designed to provide living, working and training accommodation for a complete infantry battalion of the regular Army. It

replaces one of the last wartime huttet camps still in use by the British Armed Forces.

One of the primary design priorities in the planning of the new barracks, which is currently occupied by 1st Battalion The Light Infantry, was the provision of comfortable, modern accommodation for living-in soldiers.

All unmarried private soldiers are accommodated in single or four-man rooms and have access to "quiet rooms" and fully-fitted utility rooms.

Married soldiers living off-camp have been provided with special rooms for changing uniform and kit during the day, and there are

special facilities to allow soldiers to change out of muddy kit and boots.

The barracks has been planned to occupy as compact an area as possible, reducing to a minimum the distances between the various buildings.

The huttet camp which the new camp replaces is remembered by tens of thousands of Royal Air Force wartime personnel and National Servicemen who received their basic trade training there.

Army occupation began in 1965 when 1st Battalion The Lancashire Fusiliers returned to their home county from British Guiana.

Weeton Camp — now renamed Weeton Barracks — has served since 1965 as a barracks for an infantry battalion of the regular Army.



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RANGERS
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During the past decade the Spearhead Battalion has several times been called to trouble spots in different parts of the world. Writers Gerry Nicholas and photographer Terry Champion look at what that entails.

Tigers poised to pounce

DUBBED 'The Tigers' by George IV — in recognition of 21 years' active service in India — the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment never have a more fitting name-tag than when they are in the highly mobile role as the UK's Spearhead Battalion, a duty which rotates around a number of battalions.

At that time, The Tigers are on permanent stand-by, ready to spring with speed within 24 hours to any of the world's hot-spots, not only as trouble-shooters, but as Samaritans if need be, helping in anything from searching for survivors in the rubble of an earthquake, to keeping victims from starving in a famine-stricken continent.



Mobility is the key to their maximum effectiveness, and in order to perfect a high degree of it, constant practise for turnout is the answer, enabling them to deliver the goods, or pounce with dexterity.

The Tigers were just completing a Spearhead stint when SOLDIER visited their base during a simulated air movement.

At one second there was just another bland parade square flanked by Victorian buildings and the day-to-day monotony of the military routine; next it was a

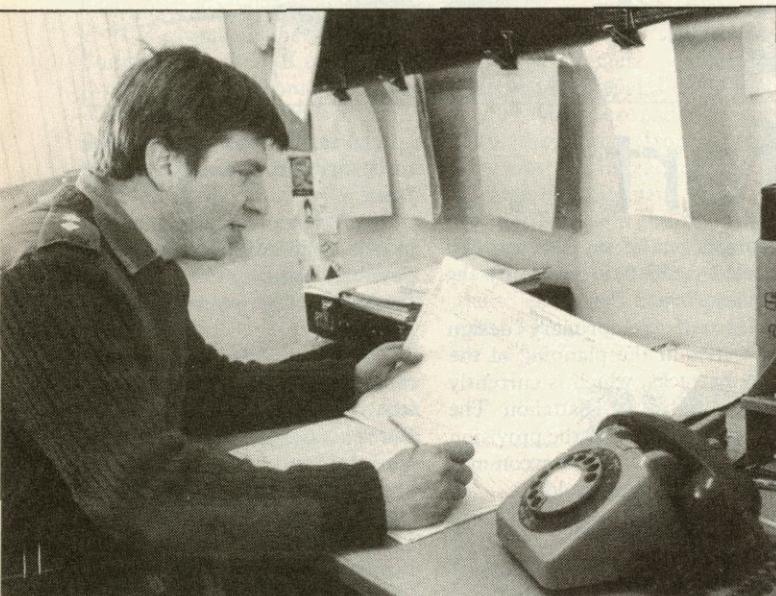
Unit emplanement officer Captain Jim Laybourne checks the flight manifest

Corporal Ian Hayes goes through the air-worthiness checks on a convoy vehicle in simulation of the RAF pre-flight inspection procedure

hubbub of activity, the parade square alive with the clamour of men and machines.

Sense of purpose dominates the whole scenario. Camouflaged bodies pour out of surrounding buildings going about their business like well-oiled automatons. Acrid diesel pollutes the cold morning air as the leading vehicles stir their engines.

The dress rehearsal, merely the Hampshire's own self-imposed test, besides others that are sprung



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Band Sergeant Major Steve Jones (extreme right), assistant unit emplancement officer, briefs chalk commanders before departure

upon them by higher formations to instil in them a constant state of readiness, is taken as nothing less than the real thing by all involved from the commanding officer down.

Code-named Exercise Rapid Action, it focusses attention on three main categories: personnel, vehicles, and documentation.

"In order to go anywhere in the world in the shortest possible time a certain amount of preparation has to be done," said a unit spokesman. "We don't just get up and fly — there's a hell of a lot of staff work to be done in the background before our wheels leave the tarmac."

First they have to ensure that personnel are properly equipped and clothed — particularly in relation to climatic conditions prevailing at their destination — and of course everyone has to be checked to make sure they are not carrying 'dangerous cargo', such as cooking fuel blocks, aerosol containers and lighter fuel containers, otherwise they would not be allowed to get on the aircraft.

The same vigilance applies to all the battalion's vehicles, making sure they are properly equipped for the job, and that everything is lashed down and secure, to ensure a hazard-free flight.

Lastly come the documentation checks, where such items as passports and inoculation certificates — normally retained centrally — are re-issued to each individual soldier for presentation on their arrival at the Air Mounting Centre. From there — when they are involved in the real thing — they would move on to an RAF base for final checks before boarding Hercules transports or VC 10s to the operational destination.

For the purpose of this practise the activities of the main body were restricted to the perimeters of their barracks, but personnel in the leading element — an advance party that goes out with the CO within 24 hours of the balloon going

"So we have the two strands really," said The Tigers' spokesman: "The command side, which is getting itself set up for when we hit the ground, and the movements side — this end — which is concerned with getting itself on the ball to get us there. This latter duty is stage managed by the battalion's 'Second Eleven' of the SNCOs and NCOs."

"By this time the CO is heading off with the leading element, a small support staff composed of his battalion headquarters and others and joined by one of our rifle companies, who will assess the situation, and decide what action is necessary. About two days later, the main body under the command of the battalion second-in-command heads out."

It amounts to moving about 650 men, with if necessary their weapons and back-up vehicles in the shortest possible time. When they get to where they're going, they will not be alone: they will be supported at the location by a number of group elements, of which they will form the nucleus.

Signals, Engineers and Ordnance units will very likely be in evidence. There will also probably be a public information attachment from The Tigers' own district in attendance, along with Air Transport Liaison representatives.

"Collectively we would be referred to as a 'Contingency Force,'" said the unit spokesman. "The last time one was used was when they sent the Royal Engineers out to Mexico, after the earthquake there, to re-build the post office. At the same time some Royal Signals personnel were also 'warned off' to set up an interim communications link."

"The dimensions of the task vary on what crops up. It doesn't follow that if we are warned off as a battalion that we will all be required



Bags packed, a chalk in the leading element boards transport for the Air Mounting Centre

to go. If, for instance, all that's needed is for our Signals team to give assistance in restoring a communications link somewhere, then they would be the only people who would be required to go."

The Spearhead duty fell to the Hampshires, as one of the battalions within 1 Brigade, and it came close on the heels of their move after a tour of more than two years in Berlin.

"The fact that we are non-mechanised infantry makes us well-suited to our mobile role," said the unit spokesman, "because having no tanks or APCs we don't present a big problem when it comes to air transportation."

And their commanding officer, Lt Col Andrew Freemantle, has reduced the cost of transportation even further — by helping the men of his unit shed a total of three tons of surplus fat from their own bodies by instituting fortnightly runs, wearing full kit, since he took over as CO just 18 months ago!



Last-minute checks before a chalk heads off to the Air Mounting Centre

BOOK

REVIEWS

A MINE OF INFORMATION

Sapping and mining have been part of Army tactics since gunpowder was invented and became a means to breach fortress walls and raise sieges, but the relatively small portable mine of today was introduced by the Germans in the First World War to counteract the new and fearsome tank. It has, therefore, been considered chiefly as a defensive weapon.

However, there is no reason why it should not be used offensively in normal warfare by scattering from planes and helicopters and even against helicopters.

Attacking helicopters fly in very low and their probable routes can be foreseen by alert commanders. An anti-helicopter mine could be developed to react to low flying craft and thereby cover the infiltration routes.

The known presence of mines immediately slows an advance. The scattering of mines among advancing troops and in and around headquarters and logistic areas could make life for every soldier all that more hazardous and morale destroying.

It is estimated that mines caused 20 per cent of the losses in the Second World War and 70 per cent of the United States' armour casualties in Vietnam.

A greater awareness in peacetime of

the possibilities of mine warfare could make their use even more effective.

I do not remember any volume that has concentrated solely on land mines and mine warfare. *Mine Warfare on Land*, therefore, can be of considerable interest to, and well worth the study of officers, senior NCOs and specialist soldiers of all arms.

It is well researched, fully up-to-date — including details of the Falklands War — and shows the forward thinking and development that is going on today to provide both the defensive deterrent of the mine and the offensive ability to nullify or overcome it.

In this respect a photograph of an 'infantryman of the future' is most revealing. His equipment is, of course, even now on trial and undergoing development. It includes an enormous helmet encasing the whole head, body armour and mine resistant boots.

This book not only covers the history of the use of mines and their development, but also the tactical use of what is a highly efficient and effective but really inexpensive weapon. — GRH.

Mine Warfare on Land by Lt Col C E E Sloan RE. Published by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £15.

SANCTUARIES OF TRANQUILLITY

After the battle of Waterloo in 1815 those soldiers who died were "shovelled into a hole ... and so forgotten," said Thackeray. Communications were slow in the 19th century. Men who enlisted left their homes for a new life and were not heard of for years. Some never again. Relatives of the rough soldiery, except those as camp followers, had no means of knowing their progress. If they died abroad, so be it. Their kin may not know for years — if ever.

In the First World War the British Expeditionary Force was a professional army, but soon Kitchener's men were coming from every kind of background.

They died in their thousands — more than 70,000 on the Somme alone — and a great many of their relatives wanted sons and fathers brought home to be buried in their own churchyards. Some began searching the battlefields

of Europe for their graves, which were often in groups in fields or in solitary locations by farmhouses where they fell.

In 1914, Fabian Ware, a man of great insight, not a soldier but leading a civilian Red Cross unit in France, made it his business to record all the known war graves in his area. That was the beginning of what is today the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which has erected outstanding memorials in many lands and gathered together the fallen of two world wars for permanent care in quiet cemeteries in 140 countries.

More than 1,100,000 men of the British Empire forces were killed in the First World War and some 600,000 from all parts of the Commonwealth in the Second World War.

The great work began by Fabian Ware became a vast enterprise but he saw it through with the greatest tenacity, striving all the time to create in each cemetery a restful atmosphere of peace and beauty where all were equal.

Great thought was given to the headstones, for they were to satisfy all religions — Hindus, Muslims, Chinese as well as Christians. Peaceful simplicity and equality were guiding principles. There was relief with regimental badges and short inscriptions supplied by the next of kin.

The well tended cemeteries are sanctuaries of tranquility, memorials of a caring Commonwealth. They could last for a thousand years, still provoking inspirational thought of the brave sacrifice of youth in the early years of the 20th century. — GRH.

The Unending Vigil by Philip Longworth. Published by Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg. Price £16.

GLOSTERS NOSTALGIA

When he reached the Glosers in Burma in 1942 Peter Collister was one of a draft of 13 young officers. Within three days two were killed and two wounded in action. Two more died and two more were injured before the end of the month, such was the ferocity of the fighting in which the Glosers were involved with the Japanese.

But this is only part of the story which goes on through to 1945 with battles and action from Rangoon to Mandalay, Kohima and Imphal.

The title of *Then a Soldier*, is taken, not for the first time, from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. The biographical details follow the author from "first the infant" — born in India of one of His Majesty's judges based at Jhansi — and then through the vicissitudes of "the whining schoolboy" moving between schools and college in England, far from family and the nurturing of devoted Indian bearers.

The new young private soldier found life among a very different class of Briton "full of strange oaths" but he surmounted all obstacles and gained a commission.

He tells in great detail a story that is not only an accurate record of the times but a nostalgic memory for those who lived those days, and a mirror of what many soldiers of today know of the postwar Army.

Following Shakespeare to the last chapter he records his life since the war as "modern instances" and therein solves one problem. How could he

remember so much detail of 40-odd years ago? In fact, he admits that he wrote the first chapters while events were still fairly fresh in his mind — in the 1960s. — GRH.

Then a Soldier by Peter Collister. Published by Churchman Publishing Ltd. Price £6.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Fall of Saigon, by David Butler, the drama of South Vietnam's last days recalled by a reporter who was there, and seen through the eyes of more than 30 people on all sides of the conflict. Published by Sphere Books Ltd in paperback. Price £3.95.

The Crucible of War Trilogy, by Barrie Pitt's account of the three-year long North African desert war, published for the first time in three volumes — Wavell's Command, Auchinleck's Command, and Montgomery and Alamein. First published in hardback in 1980. Re-issued by Papermac. Price £6.95 (Auchinleck's Command £7.95).

Wilfred Owen, Selected Letters, edited by John Bell. Re-publication in paperback of a selection of the letters of poet Wilfred Owen, former lay assistant to the vicar of a country parish, awarded the MC for gallantry in the First World War, and later killed in action. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £6.95.

In the Cannon's Mouth, by P J Campbell. Re-publication in paperback of the experience of the author on the Western Front during the First World War, including the third battle of Ypres. Published by Hamish Hamilton. Price £6.95.

The Gun Digest Book of Assault Weapons, edited by Jack Lewis. A detailed analysis of assault type weapons. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £10.95.

Rainbow Soldiers by Walter Winward. Re-publication in paperback of the adventures of a fictitious battalion. Published by Sphere Books. Price £3.50.

Sword of Bone by Anthony Rhodes. Re-issue in paperback of the memoirs of a young British officer in France from the early days of the 'phoney war' through to Dunkirk. Published by Buchan and Enright in the Echoes of War series. Price £5.95.

Private Angelo by Eric Linklater. Re-issue in paperback of a well known humorous story about Private Angelo which was made into a film in 1949. Published by Buchan and Enright in the Echoes of War series. Price £5.95.

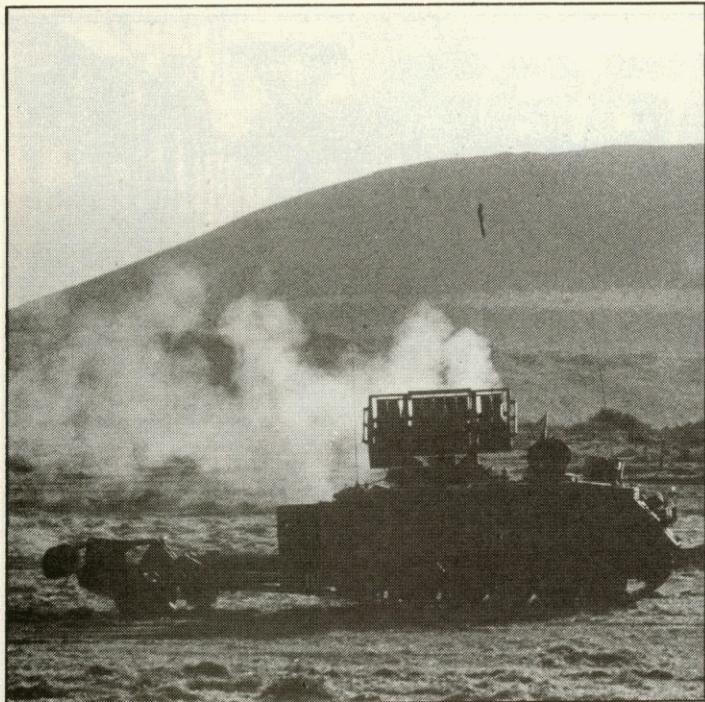
The Sands of Valour, by Geoffrey Wagner, novel about the fortunes of an armoured regiment during the 1940-42 North African campaign, first published in 1967, re-issued by Buchan and Enright in the Echoes of War series. Price £6.95.

To Win a War by John Terraine. Re-issue in paperback of a reassessment of the last year of the First World War. Published by Papermac. Price £5.95.

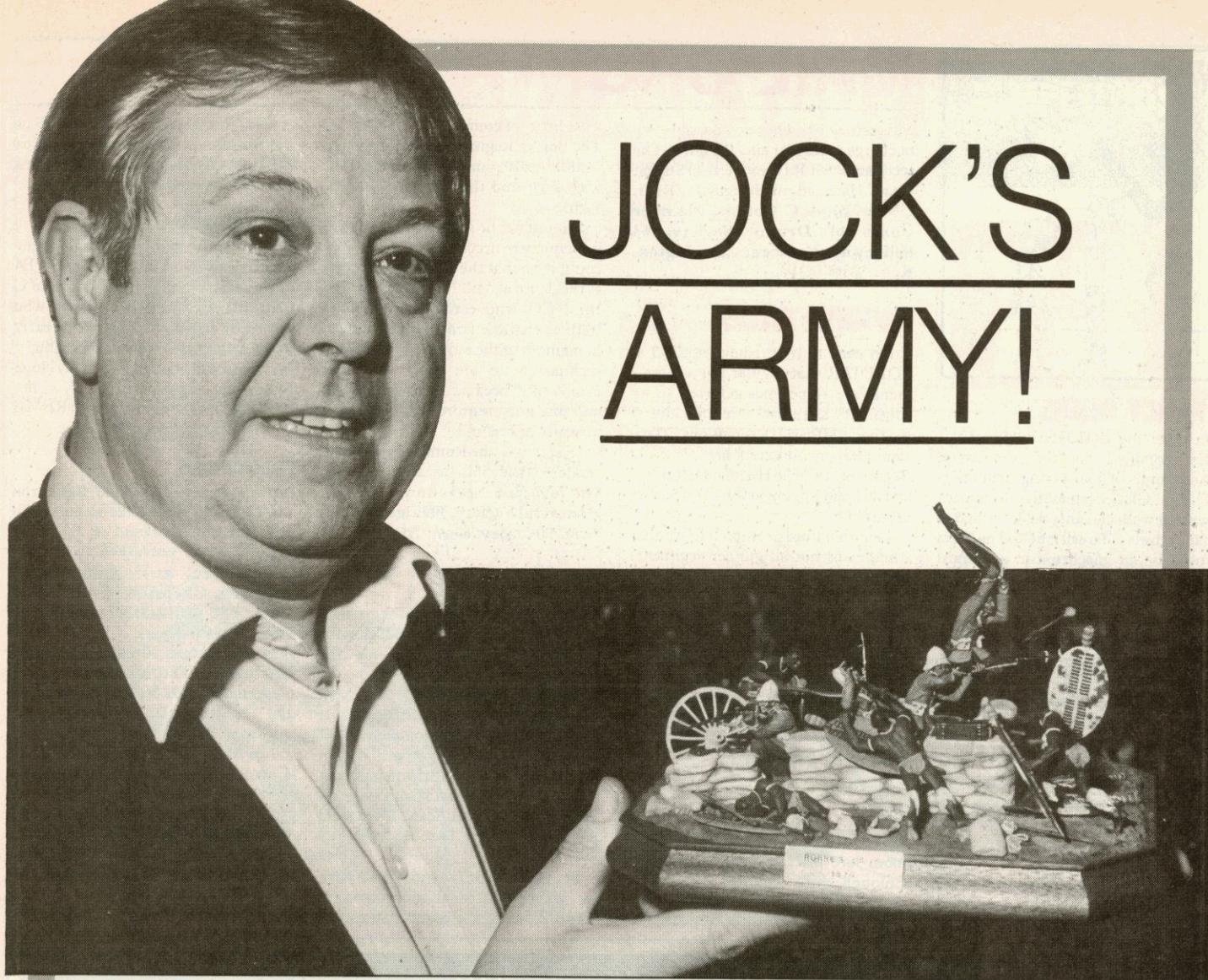
Her Privates We by Frederick Manning. First published as *The Middle Parts of Fortune*. Re-issued in paperback. Novel about soldiers of the First World War. Published by Hogarth Press. Price £3.95.

The Colonel's Daughter by Richard Aldington. Re-issue in paperback of a novel which the author describes as "the tragedy of the war generation girl". Published by Hogarth Press. Price £4.50.

Bar mine layer towed by AFV 432



JOCK'S ARMY!



Jock Coutts with his Rorke's Drift group. It took him three months to make

JUST OFF London's bustling Oxford Street, former Royal Scots Fusiliers corporal and subsequent textile merchant Jock Coutts has a private "army" of 20,000 men always in the public eye and just begging for public ownership, **writes Graham Smith.**

Some of his table-top warriors have found their way to the Falklands; others to Argentina.

For Jock — he was in the Army from 1946 to 1949 — runs an establishment called Under Two Flags which specialises in toy and model soldiers. A commodity of great purchasing appeal by aficionados aged from

eight to 85.

A keen modeller himself, Mr Coutts modestly takes some of the credit for "playing a good part" in the recent renaissance of interest in British Army toy and model soldiers. A "neglected" interest, as he calls it.

By contrast, Mr Coutts claims the French Army is well-documented. Of prime interest to the one-time drill sergeant and weapons training instructor is the period from 1880 until the end of the First World War.

Among his soldiers, but not destined for cash exchange over the counter, is a dozen-strong German-made Heyde Band

which syncopates in Teutonic precision to martial music generated from a music box under the gesturing bandmaster.

The Coutts Collection, international in its minutely-scaled uniformed offerings, is one of two such commercial enterprises in metropolitan London. On average, figures sell from about £4 to £8.

Nearly every regiment in the British Army answers the "roll call" in his stockroom. Many overseas visitors drop in while "up West" to muse in specific interest at this model soldiers' mecca. Yet, strangely, few show great interest in the uniformed

heritage of their own countries, says Jock.

"They are keen on the classical period of our Army from the 1880s, as I am," he said.

And his history has its pride of place amid the paints, prints, cards and Napoleonic gun crew kits. There was still a great interest in models of the Duke of Wellington, the victor of Waterloo.

Many of the showroom soldiers on parade for the approval of potential buyers go on exhibition. Some of them in stately homes.

But it is not just small boys and ardent adult male collectors who make the pilgrimage to St Christopher's Place. More than 100 ladies push open the Coutts' small neat door each year to buy models of their choice.

Particularly proud of a miniature group of the defence of Rorke's Drift (it took him three months) Jock summed up the appeal of model soldier-making thus: "It takes modellers outside of themselves. It brings out the boy in them again. It has that dream-like quality; a reminder of the military adventures through the ages.

"It's one of the finest therapies a man — or a woman — can have because it's not a solitary hobby like stamp or coin collecting."



Jock's toy army, all in a row...

MAIL DROP

and gives advice whenever possible free of charge to regular and TA units. The secretary is Mr R Davenport, 50 Station Road, Halstead, nr Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7PJ — C Collins, Member Corps of Drums Society, 63 Ridgeway Crescent, Orpington, Kent, BR6 9QW.

GUNNER TITLES

From time to time I have noticed in SOLDIER that regular gunner regiments are sometimes referred to by subsidiary territorial titles in addition to their official designations. Two examples encountered are 19 Field Regiment RA (The Highland Gunners) and 26 Field Regiment RA (The Sussex Gunners).

I am therefore prompted to wonder whether or not all gunner regiments possess similar titles.

I would be grateful if any reader can provide me with details of any other titles which may be currently in use within the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

I presume that their use is to encourage local esprit-de-corps and recruitment. — R A Hamilton, Flat 4, Faulkner Gardens, Ainsdale, Southport PR8 3DF.

PUTTEE Vs

Thud — and so another bit of barrack-room lore bites the duts! I refer to Colonel ET Taylor's letter in SOLDIER (June 2) concerning the two Vs in the wearing of puttees. The

55th Foot, of course, were the 2nd Bn The Border Regiment. The 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment was the pre-1881 57th Foot and their 2nd Bn was the 77th.

Stretching the imagination a little as is frequently necessary in such cases, could it be that the CMA's instructor at the depot at Mill Hill was an ex-2nd Bn NCO who convinced the boy-soldiers that the two Vs were, in fact, in memory of the old 77th? The 77th's nickname, we are told, was 'The Pothooks' because of their number and that must require an even greater measure of credulity.

In any case, the Romans would have rendered the 55th as LV. — John Gaynor, Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2UA.

HSF MARCHERS

I noted with great interest the article in SOLDIER (May 19) ref 5 Coy HSF 10 Para entering a team for the Nijmegen march in July.

My own HSF Coy (5 Coy 2/52 Lowland Vol) based in Edinburgh is entering a team for the Commonwealth Games Peoples Marathon held here in Edinburgh on June 1, the team being Sgt Taff Randall, Cpl John Cunningham, Cpl John McLean, Pte David McLean, and Pte Jack Hepburn (all over 40).

Perhaps between us and 10 Para HSF we can once and for all show the tag of 'Dads Army' really doesn't apply.

Very best of luck to 10 Para HSF on the March. — Taff Randall, 5 Coy HSF, 2/52 Lowland Volunteers, East Claremont St, Edinburgh.

Call Signs

Driver 'Taffy' Williams of 23 Portley Road, Dawley, Telford, Salop TF4 3JW, is anxious to trace members of C Platoon, 8th Company RASC who served in Japan late 1945 until early 1948, mainly in Tokyo and Ebishu. Mr 'Eggy' Egerton, 21 Thackeray close, Hillingdon, Middx, UB8 3DW, wishes to contact 799 Sgt Sunderland, REME Ex DGS LAD 1960-63.

Reunions

Ex-members of 42 Field Squadron 1962-65 who would like to attend an RE veterans' weekend at Chatham August 29-31 are asked to contact Bill Moore, at 7 Tylers Way, Sedbury, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7AB. Tel: 02912-71781 (home) or 0222-20251 (office).

The 40th annual all ranks reunion of the 4th Bn The Northamptonshire Regiment (1939/46) will take place at the TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton, on October 10. Details from Major D P Scopes, Rector Cottage, Barnwell, Peterborough PE8 5PG (phone: 0832/72814).

Competition Result

SOLDIER's £50 prize for HOAY competition No 387 goes to Mr A F Morgan of 41 Spring Lane, Olney, Bucks.



FANCY DRESS

On receiving SOLDIER (June 2) I was horrified to see the cover photograph of two young drummers of the Gloucestershire Regiment wearing what can only be described as "fancy dress". To call it period uniform would be an anachronism as almost everything about the "uniforms" is either wrong or does not relate to the period.

While one can understand the regrettable necessity of using a modern rod tension drum and a flute as opposed to a fife, for the uniform to be so inaccurate is not acceptable. If the reason is expense then — don't do it!

The Corps of Drums Society exists to inform on dress and equipment for 'drums' both ancient and modern. I would urge regiments to avail themselves of this service should the occasion arise.

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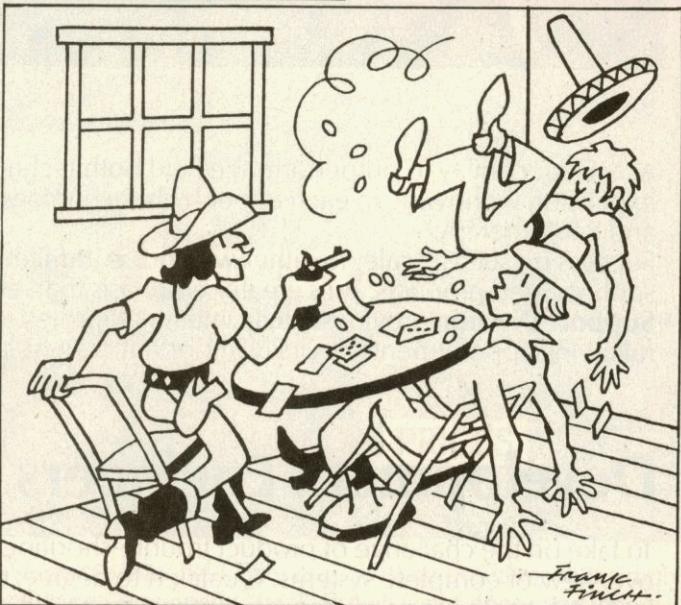
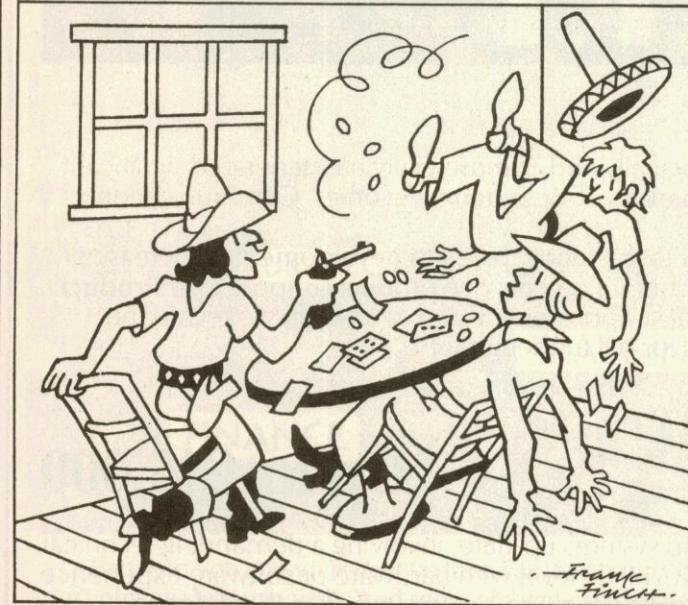
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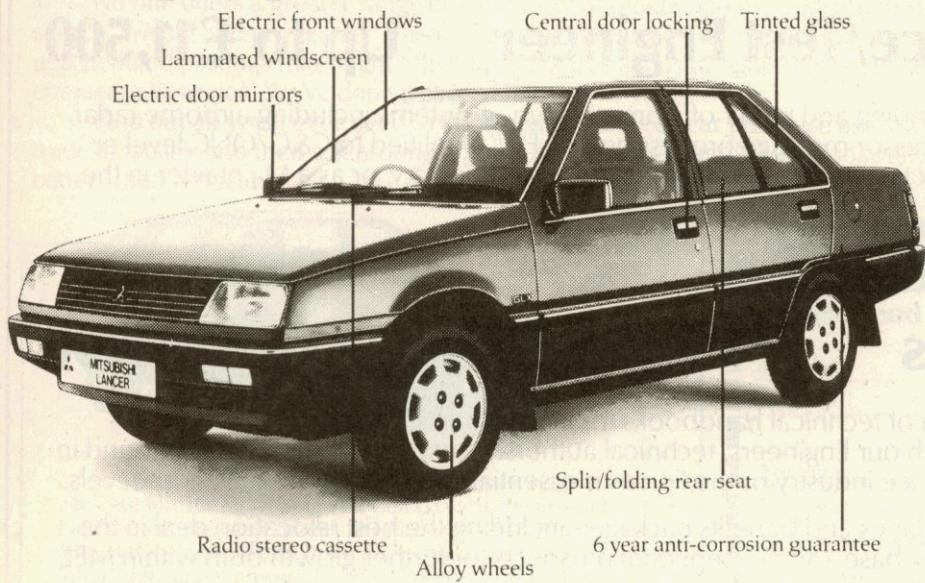
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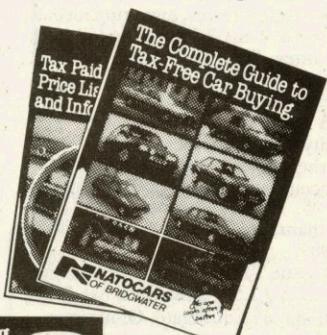
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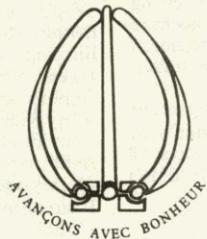
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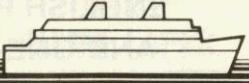
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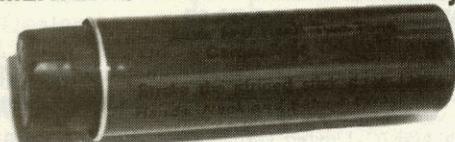
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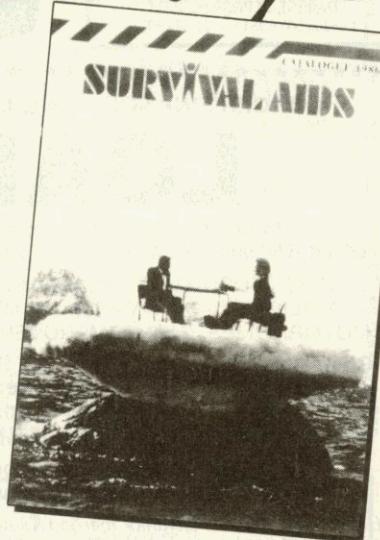
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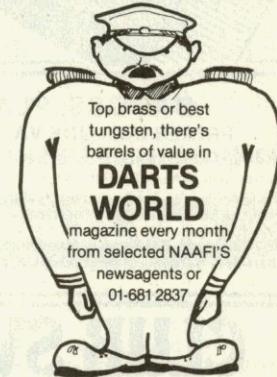
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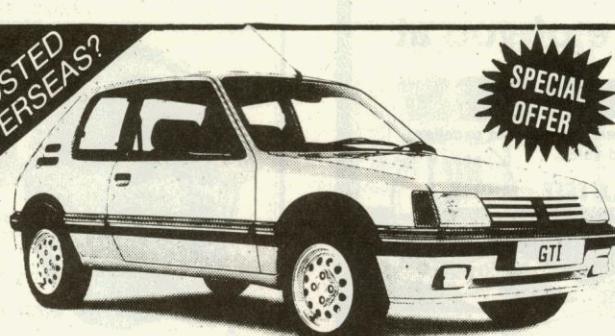
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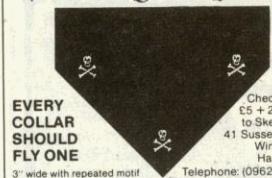
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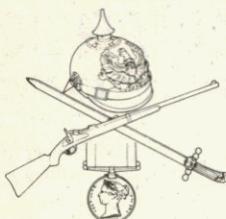
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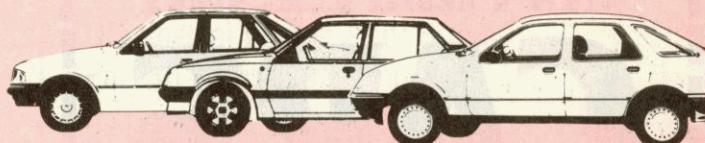
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CHESHIRE CUP WIN FOR THE ANGLIANS

WINNING SCORES in this year's Match 83 — the GPMG in Sustained Fire (SF) — contest involving Regular and TA units were double those of last year.

Army crack shots from all over the UK and BAOR had converged on to Salisbury Plain to take part in the five-day competition, the finalists having won their way through qualifying rounds.

Six UK Army teams were among those taking part in the shoot-out for the Machine Gun Cup, also firing off against two BAOR squads for the Cheshire Cup in the Combined Command final, open to UK and BAOR units.

CHESHIRE CUP

Winners of the coveted Cheshire Cup were 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment with 1,440 points, with 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment as runners-up with 1,255 points.

Joining 1 WFR in the final were The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

BAOR was represented by teams from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets and the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

Defending their title in the TA event were men of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment who, this year, took only third place. Winners were 7 Light Infantry from Durham with 695 points with 5 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from Coventry as runners-up with 690 points providing one of the closest fought TA finals on record. Ten other TA teams were involved in the competition.

In brief

A Royal Engineers team won the open coxed fours, the open coxed fours, the senior coxed fours and the open coxed pairs at the Joint Services Regatta at Peterborough. They were second in four other events.

A BAOR representative squash team led by Army number one Capt. Robbie Robinson earned three victories and a draw in their five-match tour of Hong Kong.

CFN Neil McInnes won the 1986 Army chess championships at QEMH Woolwich to keep REME at the top of the tree. Pte Paul Martin and Pte Steve Hunter (both RAMC) were second and third. All three are in their first year of service.



Sig Clarence Callender (3) holds off SSI Kris Akabusi (19) to win the Army 200m in a record 21.3 sec. Trailing them are LCpl Paul (18) and Sig Henry (6)

Picture: Paul Haley

Callender sprints in

SIG Clarence Callender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) broke the Army 200m record and notched up a win over international athlete SSI Kris Akabusi at the Army athletic championships at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on June 11.

Callender, whose time of 21.3 sec has still to be ratified, shaved .1 off the record on the way to his first ever Army 200m title, an event in which he had knocked on the door many times.

He also won the 100m in a time of 10.7 sec. Fellow Commonwealth Games prospect Akabusi (APTC) stormed home in the 400m.

Sgt Mark Vile (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) showed his promise in his first year as a senior by winning the 1,500m in 3min 48.6sec, while Sgt Neil Killen (7 Sig Rgt) achieved a double in the hurdles and SPR Mark Sterling (65 Corps Support Sqn) won his fifth consecutive Army hammer title with a throw of 58.48m.

Killen took the 100m hurdles in 15.2 sec and the 400m hurdles in 56.3sec, although LCpl Anderson (8 Regt RCT) seemed to have the longer race sewn up until he hit the third barrier from home.

Athletics

Capt Glen Grant (RA) took his fifth 800m title in 1:53.4, although his ten-year-old Army record of 1:48.0 was bettered by SSI Malcolm Edwards at Cwmbran the previous week. Edwards opted out of the 800m to save his legs for the Welsh championships three days later, where he was putting in his bid for Commonwealth Games selection.

Cpl Mark Lasseter (PCDRE) won the 3,000m steeplechase in 9:15.8; Army record-holder LBdr S Brownrigg (7 RHA) the high jump with 1.97m; LCpl Pinnock (1 Staffords) the long jump with 6.74m; and Gnr White (1 RHA) the triple jump with 13.32m.

Bdr Tegid Griffiths (50 Missile Regt RA) cleared 4.10m in the pole vault, Gdsmn Phillip Mackay (1 Irish Guards) won his first shot putt title with a heave of 13.69, WO1 Michael Johnson (SEE Arborfield) claimed the discus competition with a throw of 42.30m, and SS Martin Annis (APCT) showed good form in winning the javelin (61.16m).

Capt Dave Fitch (ACC) and Lt Dave

Moffatt (1PWO) won the veterans' 100m and 5,000m events.

Entries in the men's competition were very good, but many of the top women athletes were unavailable.

Winners in the women's competition were:

100m — LCpl Walker, 2.6 secs; **200m** — LCpl Walker, 26.1; **400m** — Lt Dunn, 60.6 sec; **800m** — Capt Rose, 2:22.2; **1,500m** — Pte Duffield, 5:14.5; **3,000m** — Pte Crowley, 11:35.8; **100m hurdles** — LCpl Castle, 15.2.

High jump — Pte Gilchrist, 1.65m; **long jump** — Pte Gilchrist, 5.43m; **shot** — LCpl Leonard, 11.37m; **discus** — Capt Forsythe, 30.94m; **javelin** — LCpl Jenkins, 38.30.

PARAS FIRST

TRUE GRIT helped eight — out of 43 — Army teams, to defy the elements and emerge triumphant in the gruelling Welsh 1,000 in Snowdonia.

More than 260 civilians and 240 Service personnel defied blizzards, and nil visibility, to take part, traversing nine peaks, over 1,000 metres, and covering 31km of the most rugged and inhospitable terrain in the Principality.

First home were a four-man team from 5 Airborne, Parachute Logistic Battalion, based at Aldershot, in which the fastest runner was Driver Simon Hughes (4hr 48min 56 sec). WOII Dennis Tones, of the same unit, was runner up.

Fastest Reserve Forces team award was clinched by The Royal Regiment of Wales, and the fastest Reserve Forces individual runner crown was snatched by Fus Edward Hughes, of 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. His time was five hours, 31 seconds.

Tidworth marathon

MORE than 3,000 soldiers and their families took part in the annual Tidworth Garrison marathon and fun run on June 5, raising more than £3,500 for charity in the process.

Winner of the marathon, which attracted 63 runners, was LCpl Colin Davis (3 Fd Sqn RE). Second was 2nd Lt Simon Jones (1st Bn R Hamps).

Sgt Douggie Collins (RAOC) won the half marathon in a record 1hr 14min 9sec, while 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment took first and second places in the fiercely competitive 5 x 5-mile relay contested by 21 teams from 1st Infantry Brigade units. The minor units' prize went to 1 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (215).

SOLDIER

