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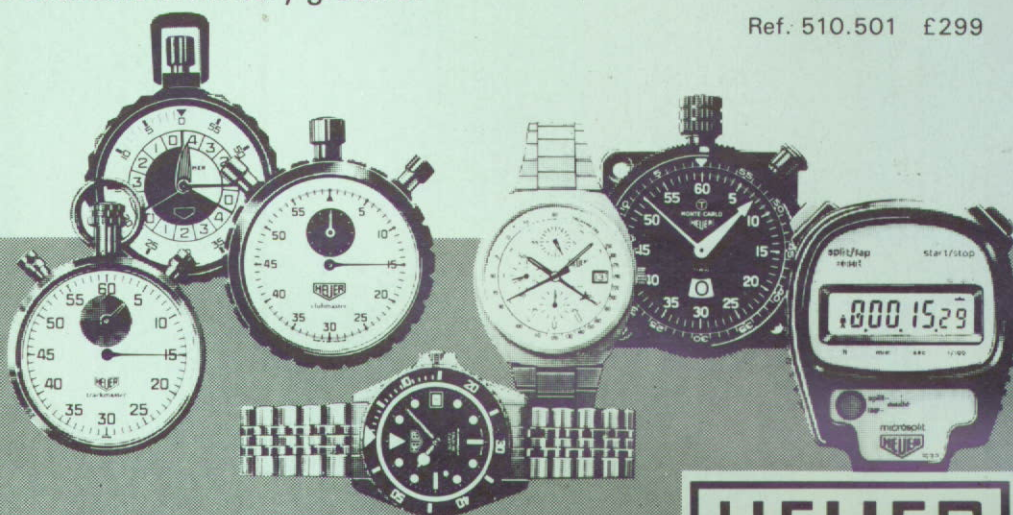
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CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 10 TA Topics
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Ex Ardent Ground
- 19 Green Howards in Canada
- 21 Kohima Day
- 22 All in the Family
- 23 How Observant Are You?
- 25 The Army's life blood
— PETROL
- 28 Profile: Arthur English
- 29 Humour
- 30 The Queen in BAOR
- 34 P Company Needs YOU!
- 37 NAM Collection
- 38 See The Army Diary
- 39 Competition
- 40 Mail Drop
- 48 Sport

FRONT COVER: Fire fighting first hand for petroleum operators at West Moors as they fight a realistic practice under the guidance of the Depot Fire Brigade. Special feature on the men who keep the Army on the move — page 25.

Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER: A composite picture of a dawn parachute drop. On the parachuting theme read the feature on P Company — page 34.

Picture: Paul Haley.

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The Queen in BAOR — p 30



Different men, same aim — p 14

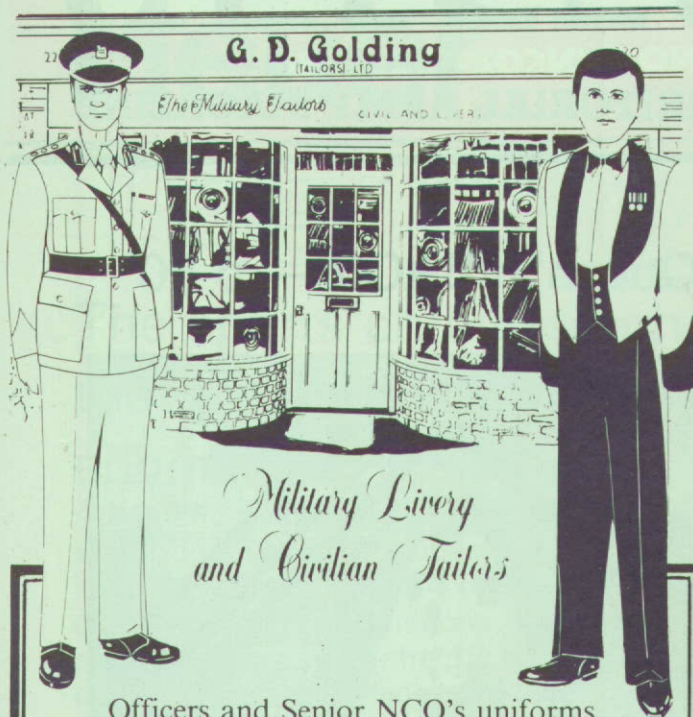


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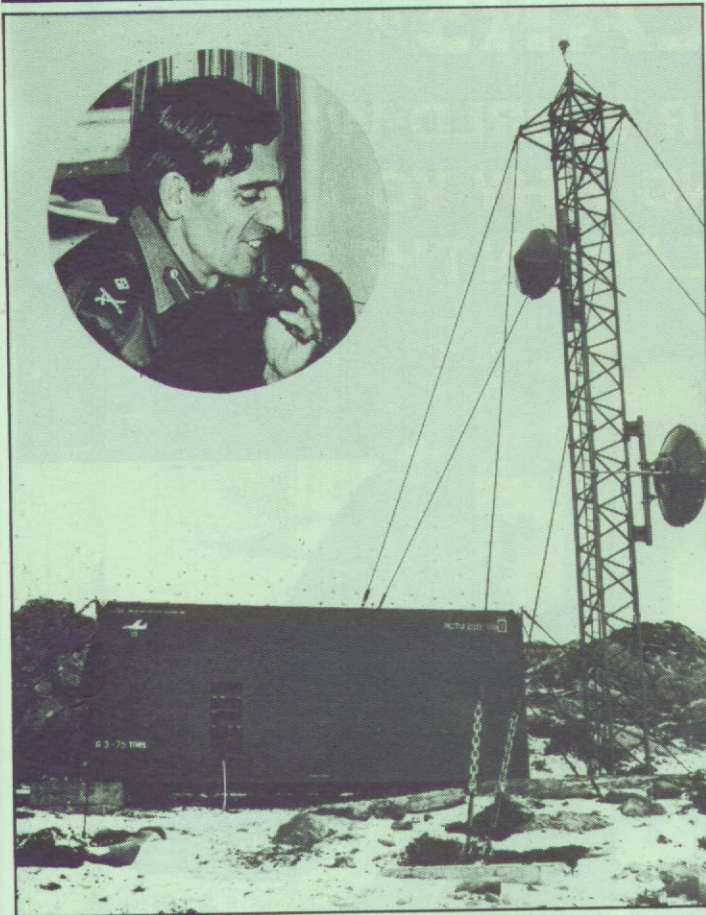
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FALKLANDS UNITS GET NEW TELEPHONE LINK



THE FIRST telephone call over a new unmanned radio relay system which will eventually link up units of the three Services throughout the Falkland Islands was made by Major General Keith Spacie, Military Commissioner and Commander British Forces (inset left).

The Falkland Islands Trunk Wideband Communication System — FITS for short — is being operated by men of 266 Signal Squadron (South Atlantic).

It will replace manned relay stations on bleak mountain tops where men of the Squadron have experienced temperatures of minus 17 degrees and wind gusts of 100 mph.

The system is designed for installation in 20 foot containers (pictured) with a second container to house twin generators where a mains supply is not available.

Computerisation will enable signallers to a "master control" to keep their finger on the pulse of each station in the system right down to the amount of fuel in the generator tanks.

The system is currently being deployed by a team under Warrant Officer Class 2 Ian Cowie, from Aberdeen, a member of the Royal

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, detached to the Falklands from the Projects Division of the School of Signals at Blandford, Dorset.

The isolated sites for the system were prepared over six months by men of the Osnabrück-based 73 Field Squadron Royal Engineers under command of Captain Phil Kershaw-Naylor.

Manpower increase

THE TOTAL strength of the Armed Forces at 31 March 1984 was 325,909, some 5,300 higher than a year ago.

This increase in overall strength largely reflects the increased recruiting of Servicemen necessary in 1983/84 to sustain long term strengths but also reflects the increased commitments of all three Services.

However, total male officer strengths fell by some 230.

Overall, as a result of these factors, the Army and Royal Air Force total numbers increased by nearly 2,500 and 3,300 respectively over the financial year, while the Royal Navy/Royal Marines numbers reduced by about 450.

Veterans see new painting

A WEEK before they were due to return to the Normandy battlefields where they both took part in the D-Day invasion 40 years ago, two Chelsea pensioners were guests at a royal occasion in London to see the invasion on canvas.

Former WO2s Walker Priestley (71) and "Fred" MacKenzie (62) were both in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the great invasion, Walker going ashore from a tank landing craft on Gold beach near Arromanches and his colleague parachuting with the 6th Airborne Division.

They were both invited to accompany General Sir Robert Ford, Governor of the Royal Chelsea Hospital, as guests of the Ministry of Defence during the D-Day anniversary celebrations, flying over for the day.

Before that, they walked just along the road to the National Army Museum to watch the unveiling by Princess Anne of a new painting of the D-Day landings by artist Terence Cuneo.

A limited number of prints of the painting, signed personally by the artist and by General Sir John Mogg, Army Benevolent Fund president who himself took part in the D-Day invasion, will be sold in aid the fund for £85 each, and others, unsigned, for £35.

D-DAY Thinking of those who didn't return

AFTER THE indelible events of D-Day it was no problem at all for 106 Normandy veterans from Grimsby and District to make their own personalised reveille on the second most important diary date since the war.

At 0615 hours they were there, smartly on parade in Cleethorpes with campaign medals glistening as they boarded to two coaches in Craithie Road, then the town's Market Place and next, 15 minutes later, the Brighowgate Bus Station.

Their initial target, as they sat chatting and swapping stories of the occurrences in the northern French province of four decades previous, was the 1500 hours sailing by ferry from Portsmouth to Le Havre and the onward journey by road to Caen.

One of their number was 59-year-old Leslie Ronson — "as in the lighter" — an airman in the RAF and a unit flying Rocket-Fired Typhoons and now a staunch member of the Normandy Veterans Association Grimsby and District No 1 (Founder Branch).

"I went back two years ago and my feelings were very sad. A lot of the papers have been calling it a 'celebration'. I don't think there is anything to celebrate. It is more of an anniversary. We all left too many friends buried there."

A ROYAL OCCASION



THE DUCHESS of Kent, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards paid a two day private visit to the Regiment at its base in Hobart Barracks, Detmold. She is pictured braving heavy rain with men of B Squadron.

On this, her third visit to the Regiment since she first took the honorary title in 1978, The Duchess was accompanied by General Sir Robert Ford, Colonel Commandant of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gilruth.

By going out of her way to say 'hello' to as many of her soldiers as possible Her Royal Highness's tight schedule had to be re-adjusted occasionally.

The Duchess presented two staff sergeants, two sergeants and a corporal with a Long Service and Good Conduct medals.

●THE QUEEN in Germany — see page 30.

BIGGEST EVER EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION

MICHAEL Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, will open the largest military equipment exhibition ever staged in Britain on 18 June.

The British Army Equipment Exhibition (BAEE 84), sponsored by the Ministry of Defence's Sales Organisation, will take place from 17-22 June

at Pegasus Village, adjacent to Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot.

It will enable British manufacturers to show defence equipment to potential customers.

The main exhibition tent will cover nearly 20,000 square metres and there will also be many outside exhibits too. It

will not be open to the public.

Although BAEE 84 will be based on an exhibition at Pegasus Village, Aldershot, there will also be a mobility and firepower demonstration at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, Dorset, and a construction equipment and marine craft demonstration at

Hawley Lake, Aldershot.

Over 200 firms will be participating.

During the week the British Army and British defence industries will mount displays and demonstrations showing the complete range of weapons, vehicles and equipment necessary to equip a modern army.

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT'S RAF HONOUR

AIR MARSHAL Sir Patrick Hine, Commander-in-Chief RAF Germany, honoured 21 Signal Regiment (Air Formation) when he granted the Regiment the privilege of displaying the RAF Germany Badge on the Regimental Flag and insignia.

At an anniversary parade held at their base at RAF Wildenrath, 21 Signal Regiment commemorated 25 years in their present title and 25 years under the operational Command of the Commander-in-Chief, RAF Germany.

The Regiment was re-named in 1959, when 83 Group was disbanded, and also Royal Air Force Germany came into being on 1 January 1959, having previously been titled Second Tactical Air Force.

Royal Signals have provided ground communications for the Air Force since the 1914-1918 War, when communications for the Royal Flying Corps overseas were provided by parent Army formations.

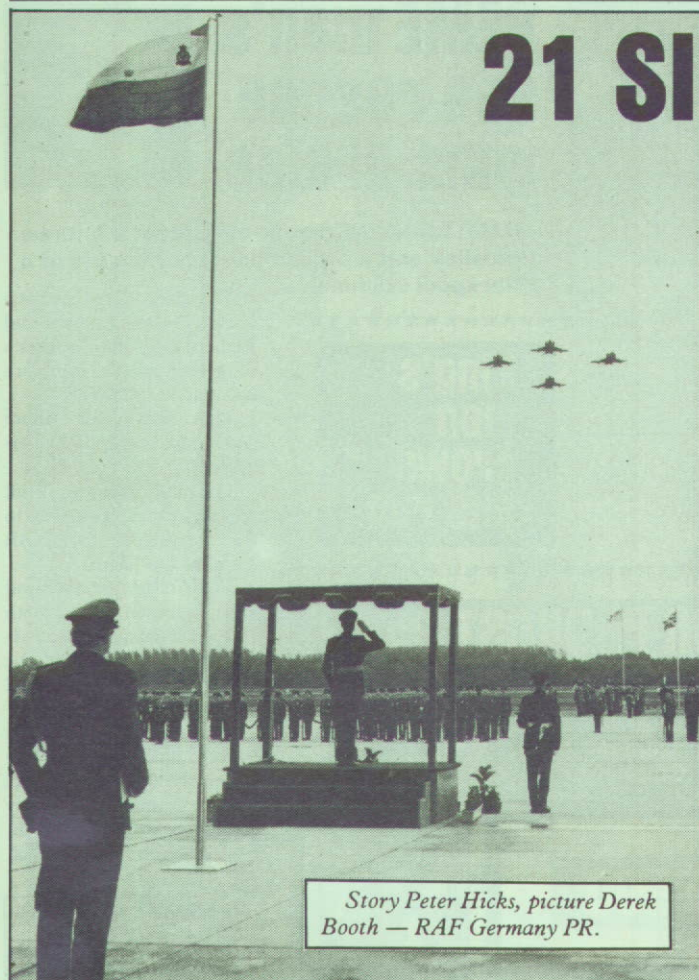
By the end of World War 2 there

were 18 British and seven Indian Air Formation Signal Regiments in support of the Royal Air Force world wide.

Today, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support), the direct successor of the Air Formation Signal Regiments, is the only Regiment still so employed.

The new Regimental Flag incorporates the Badge of RAF Germany in the top corner nearest to the flagpole.

At the end of the parade, after a march past of the 318 officers and men on parade, four Phantom aircraft of No 92 (East India) Squadron RAF flew past (see picture left) to signify the close working relationship between the khaki and the light blue in Germany.



Story Peter Hicks, picture Derek Booth — RAF Germany PR.

NEW TRAINING 'WING' FOR BAOR INFANTRY

A NEW INFANTRY training wing has opened in West Germany offering troops tomorrow's tactical expertise today.

British Army of the Rhine's mechanised infantry battalions awaiting delivery of the latest range of equipment and vehicles over the next few years can now call upon the specialist services of a new tactical training support unit specifically designed to prepare them to maximise the technological advantages embodied in these advanced weapons and equipment systems.

The Infantry Tactical Training Wing 1st British Corps, although in its infancy, already bears the hallmark of a top class support system.

Based at Sennelager Training Centre, it was officially established this year and formally declared operational by Lieutenant General

Sir Martin Farndale, Commander 1 (BR) Corps.

General Farndale told the ITTW team they have a most important role to play. "Your job is to ensure that one of the key fighting arms in the battle is kept up to scratch.

"And to do so I believe you have two layers of work to carry out to make sure battalions achieve this aim.

"The first layer of work is the individual task within the battalion, that is mastering their own infantry weapons and skills so as to make sure they are the world's best infantry.

"The second aspect is that they learn to work with other Arms absolutely naturally. That is vital."



General Farndale talks with tactics adviser Sergeant Alexander Bell, Black Watch.

Picture: Angus Beaton.



Daisy



Betty



Joan

FALKLANDS' GIFT FOR WAR WOUNDED

Three Falklands housewives have bought 777 specially-minted "liberation" Crowns for each of the British servicemen injured in the fighting there. Now the coins, in their presentation packs, will be flown to the UK for distribution by the MoD. Mrs Daisy McKay, Mrs Betty Ford and Mrs Joan Middleton ran dances, collections and raffles

to raise the £1,942 for the coins.

Said Mrs Ford: "We just wanted to do something after seeing a newspaper photograph of a soldier who had lost a leg in the fighting."

"We had generous donations from throughout the Islands and scores of gifts to raffle."



QUICK

Henry Cooper and comics Eddie Large and Frank Carson were among showbiz stars and personalities who visited Berlin to play golf, entertain and raise money.

All members of the Variety Club of Great Britain, they were there at the invitation of the Army Benevolent Fund.

SPOT

Last year their team carried a huge log in York's half marathon. This year the team from Depot, The King's Division, crowned that and took in tow a Wombat anti-tank gun. Sponsored in aid of the York Charities Association the team, led by Staff Sergeant Nick Challinor, handed to Mrs Eleanor Dove a hefty £350.

LEAVING TIME FOR PROVOST PAT

Army 'cop' Sergeant Pat O'Brien leaves the Service this summer after 22 years. His work as Provost Sergeant of the 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own

Regiment of Yorkshire, was marked with the presentation of the BEM by Major General H M Tillotson, Colonel of the Regiment.



QUICK

Latest "civvy" VIP to visit The Green Howards in BAOR is Mrs Irene Dyson, Mayoress of Bridlington. She met hometown lad Private Gary Pares.

SPOT

Top-shot title for RMP in police shoot-out

A TEAM of RMPs from 115 Provost Company based at Osnabrück, have come out top in an international shoot-out with military and civil police.

They beat sides from Denmark, Holland, France, the UK, Germany and the USA to take the title in a contest called *Ex Cop Shoot* which was held at Hohnhe ranges.

As well as an enjoyable contest, *Ex Cop Shoot* is designed as a meeting place for

policemen from different national backgrounds where ideas can be exchanged, friendships formed and general liaison improved, writes Lieutenant R. M. Moore RMP.

Captain Evans of 115 Provost was the individual champion with the falling plate contest going to the Mersey-side Police.

Prizes were presented by the Provost Marshal of BAOR Colonel P. J. Hauglin.

Cooks burn up 500 miles for £800



A push-start from Lieutenant Colonel Michael Dickinson, Commander No. 2 Catering Region, and Corporal Chris Foreman, set ACC chefs

Lance Corporals Andy Dyke and Geoff Edgar off on a 500-mile trip to raise £800 for the ACC Association. Andy and Geoff, attached to 15 Bn

RAOC, at Donnington, were part of a team of Corps riders who took part in the sponsored trip.

Picture: Shropshire Star.

Pintas with punch make Richard wary



PRIVATE Richard Thompson (left) is a bit wary of milk churns.

For as a member of a search team of the Staffordshire Regiment in

South Armagh, he found one packed with more than 50lb of home-made explosive buried beside a road.

Richard is continuing a strong family tradition in the regiment, his grandfather commanded the 6th North Staffords during World War 2.

And although he only joined the Staffords last July, he has already served in Germany and Northern Ireland and is looking forward to going to Germany again. He is hoping to follow his BAOR tour with a visit to America.

But life in the Army hasn't been all fun for Richard. While undergoing his training he broke his neck playing rugby!

As Richard says: "I think I'll stick to bombs, it's safer."

Snuggly Sefton borrows an ear!



TV presenter Kathy Tayler lends one of her "shell-likes" to Sefton, famed survivor of the Hyde Park terrorist bombing. They were seen snuggling at Knightsbridge Barracks prior to a trial run for the London Marathon by the Animal Health Trust team. Trust old Sefton to get a smasher like Kathy.

French Alps fall to gunners and cavalry!

When Major Philip Cotnam, E Battery Commander of the Hohne-based 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, decided to mount exercise *Haute Diamond* to conquer peaks in the French Alps, he found no shortage of volunteers willing to spend leave on the snowy slopes of Mont Blanc Massif, writes team member *Lieutenant Duncan Francis* of 45 Fd Regt RA.

With Captain Neil Polley, Corporals Andy Cooper and Steve Wheeler of the 14/20th King's Hussars and Lance Bombardier Richard Jones of B Battery

RHA, they set off on eight days of demanding skiing and rock climbing.

Despite being engulfed by an avalanche, suffering a "white-out" on a glacier and "tabbing" for six hours with 80lb of kit, the team returned to Hohne in fine form and well pleased.

Said Lance Bombardier Jones: "It was really tiring at times, but I'm a lot fitter now than I was at the start. I'd certainly do a trip like that again."

And for Richard there was the added privilege of telling the Queen all about the expedition when she visited Dortmund. (See page 30)

■ SEFTON AND TV GIRL KATHY TAYLER: back in view again.

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

QUICK

The badge on his staff car was presented to Major General J. H. Child Commander Communications BAOR, as a farewell gift.

SPOT

BIG SMILES FOR A BIG DAY

Sporting big smiles and Special Air Service badges on their jumpers, Sergeant Charles Stedman's three lads line up with their parents and General Sir Frank Kitson, Commander-in-Chief UK Land Forces.

The boys and their mother, Mrs Shirley Stedman, were at HQ UKLF to see their father of The Royal Green Jackets — and the House Sergeant at the C-in-C's residence — receive the British Empire Medal from Sir Frank.

The boys from the left are: Daren, 13, Gary, eight, and Mark, 14.



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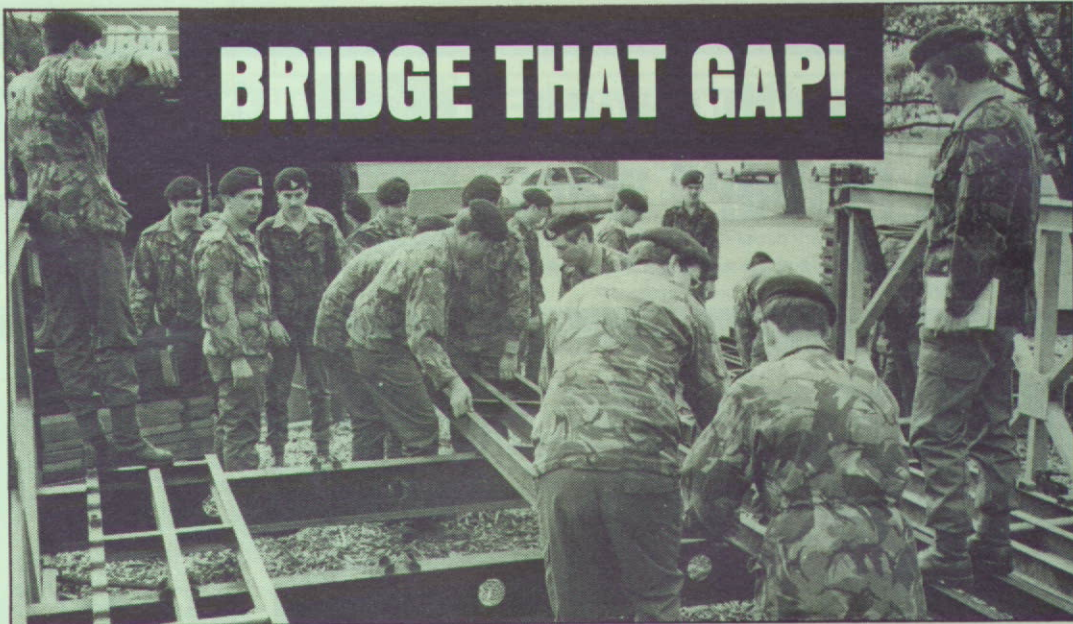
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BRIDGE THAT GAP!



Sappers aid Billy Graham's Crusade

WHEN 100 Field Squadron, the Newport-based squadron of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the senior regiment of the reserves, committed part of the squadron to constructing a car park at Pilning Rifle Range near Bristol on a Bank Holiday weekend they little realised that they would have another major task on their hands.

Magnificent Mercians

THE KING'S Own Royal Border Regiment Cup being shot for the first time by members of the TA was won by the 2nd Battalion The Mercian Volunteers, in the GPMG sustained fire segment known as Match 83.

Eleven teams were taking part and second place was taken by the 7th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. Third place went to the 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, both second and third achieving creditable scores.

SO VALUABLE

An added dimension to the competition though not detracting from the results, happened when, on at least a dozen occasions, team members — each team had eight men — had to deal with outbreaks of fires at their Salisbury Plain location.

Major Martin Amlot, the Match 83 Administrative Officer said: "This competition gave the TA a realistic chance to fire the GPMG and everyone involved was able to see afterwards how valuable and how much these competitions improve their skills."

The Cup and medals were presented by Major General David Miller, Colonel of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

The Army's 11 Engineer Group had been approached by the organisers of Billy Graham's Crusade, "Mission England" to organise a footbridge across a busy main road outside Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol.

Short of the necessary manpower they turned to the Territorial Army and the Commanding Officer of R Mon RE (M), Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Smales, indicated that 100 Fd Sqn, based in Malpas TA Centre, Newport, should tackle the job.

The bridge a slightly non-standard Bailey, was an ideal MACC task as the squadron has to be capable of building Bailey bridges for their war role.

The bridge parts were assembled in a car park close to the site, and at the same time towers were erected on either side of the road. Then, with the road closed to traffic, the structure was lifted into position on the towers.

The only problem came with the discovery that there was a mixture of two different marks of the same bridge, which necessitated the welding of one of the bearing rollers to the bridge frame and the top of the pier. This was sanctioned by Thomas Storey, the suppliers.

The squadron OC, Major Stuart Webster, had spent the previous week in Germany planning engineer training on Exercise Lionheart. An estimated 100,000 crossed the bridge over eight days.

Section Corporal Steve Hancock supervises the bridge span assembly.



TOPICS

Wessex aid Poppy fund

EIGHT members of C Company 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) raised more than £200 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by marching the 50 miles from Weymouth Royal British Legion Branch to the one at Blandford and back again.

All of them live in the Weymouth area, and were sponsored by many in Dorset.

Full kit was carried, and on average each had about 40lbs. to cart along. The weather conditions were appalling, with high winds, freezing temperatures, and snow.

Despite this, they managed to stick to their schedule, leaving Weymouth at 10am on the Saturday, arriving at Blandford at 6pm and setting out again at one o'clock in the morning.

All members eventually arrived back in Weymouth just inside the 11am Sunday time limit.

The general vote was that a "repeat performance" would be in order, with sun shining!

PTARMIGAN: TERRIERS HELPED

A DOZEN TA men from the Midlands and the North have just spent two months on Salisbury Plain doing important support duties during the final major user trials before the acceptance and final fielding to 1 (BR) Corps of Ptarmigan, the latest battlefield area communications system which is mounted on a four-tonne chassis vehicle.

The "Terriers" helped to drive



Major John Doody.

Land Rovers in the ferrying of important spares from Salisbury Plain to London, Donnington and Devon.

Major John Doody, Royal Signals, OC of 2 Squadron (Trials), at the School of Signals, Blandford, said: "The TA men have been working round the clock 24 hours a day in support of the 40 vehicles in the field for a two-month period. They have worked extremely hard alongside the Regulars and played a fairly important part during our trials."

He was speaking at New Zealand Camp Farm where there were five of the vehicles including a £1¼ million Switch Vehicle, which houses a network of switches rather like a main telephone exchange. A phone link to America is possible from a supporting Land Rover.

The site is shortly to be the venue for two VIP visits; one from



Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Les Wiggs

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Royal Signals and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, and Service chiefs when they will see Ptarmigan in action.

The picture shows, left to right, TA men, Lance Corporal Chambers, 34 Signal Regiment; Lance Bombardier D. Stallman, 103 AD Regiment, Manchester; L Cpl. V. Martin, and Kingsman M. Crooks, 5/8 Kings, Manchester; Corporal Lyons, 34 Signal Regiment; Lieutenant Moss, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, Wigan.

PERFECT shooting weather at the 'Bisley of the North' — Altcar Ranges, Merseyside over the weekend, and a record entry for recent years — with over 500 individual competitors made it a memorable weekend for regular and TA soldiers from Cumbria to Cheshire.

The GOC, Major General Philip Davies presented the Skill at Arms prizes — and among the competitors was Brigadier John Howarth and his team from HQ 42 Infantry Brigade from Chester who said: "Team selection from a staff of seven was not the easiest of problems".

Administration of the ranges was in the capable hands of Mr Frank Addy, Range Superintendent, and the Admin unit was 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V).

Honours were well spread amongst the Districts units, but in the overall championship, it was

the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry's Headquarters Company who emerged overall Regular winners, and for the TA, it was C Company, 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment who took the TA Championship to their home at Old Street, Ashton under Lyne.

There was a dramatic 'final eliminator' in the Regular Army individual rifle championship, with Sergeant Sean Davidson of ACIO Preston (1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment) tying with Private Adam Squire of HQ 2 LI, and only just winning the decider.

For the third (unofficial) championship — that of the TA's WRAC/QARANC prizes, hon-

ours were split between Headquarters Company, 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment who took the SLR Team, The SMG Team, The SLR Individual (Corporal Christine Crossley) and the Falling Plates, while HQ Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry from Chorley won the Team Pistol, The Individual SMG (Captain Sue Neale) and the Individual Pistol (Pte Joan Hutchinson).

PRINCIPAL RESULTS

SLR TEAM: Regular — HQ 2 LI, TA — C Coy, 4 QLR.

LMG/GPMG Pairs: Regular — HQ 2 LI, TA — C Coy 4 QLR.

SMG Team: Regular — HQ 2 LI, TA — B Coy, 4 KING'S OWN BORDER.

Pistol Team: Regular — HQ Coy 1

Royal Irish Rangers. TA-107 Field Squadron RE.

SLR Individual: Regular — Sgt Sean Davidson QLR, TA-Cpl Neil Dobson HQ 4 QLR.

Junior Officer: Regular — 2 Lt Chris Willington-Price (2 LI), TA — Lt Stephen Hickman (107 Fd Sqn RE).

Section Match: Regular — HQ 2 LI, TA — C Coy, 4 QLR.

Individual SMG: Regular — Cpl Richard Cotterill, 2 LI, TA — WO 2 Geoff Heap, B Coy 4 KING'S OWN BORDER.

Individual Pistol: Regular — Ranger John Kemp HQ 1 Royal Irish Rangers, TA — Sgt Harry Dobson D Coy 5/8th Kings.

Falling Plates: Regular — HQ 2 LI, TA — B Squadron, Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

Champion Sub Units: Regular — 1st HQ 2 LI, 2nd B I Royal Irish Rangers, TA — C 4 QLR, 2nd D Sqn DLOY.

NORTH WEST'S HOT SHOTS



Corporal Christine Crossley, receives her prize as women's SLR champion shot.



A new score board for the falling plates with WO 2 Michael Turnbull, and Cpl Stephen Bland.

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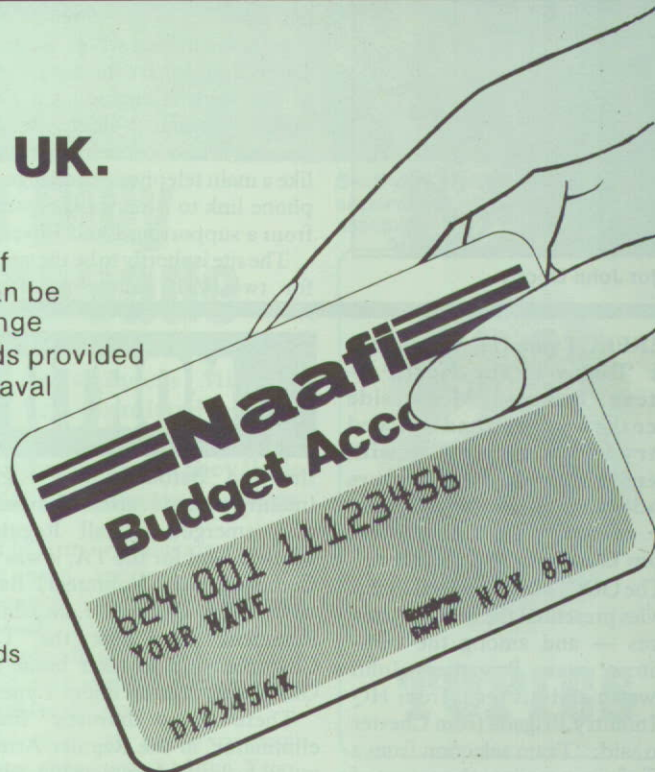
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D ID YOU know, British soldiers, that your mentality is a mixture of militarism, chauvinism and colonialism? **SOLDIER** has it on the authority of a gentleman named V Sedov that this is the case.

Writing on international affairs in the magazine *Soviet Military Review*, the said Sedov says that the aggressive course of the British ruling circles is accompanied by intensive brainwashing of armed forces personnel to create an atmosphere of war hysteria, and instilling anti-Communist and anti-Soviet ideas in the minds of officers and men.

Military propaganda is apparently sparing no effort to prove the existence of a Soviet threat, trying to convince the soldier that the USSR has reached, or has at least been seeking to reach military superiority over the West. Mixing falsehoods with the fact of the Soviet Union's possessing powerful armed forces, it sells the unbelievable idea that the USSR may at any moment use this war potential for its "expansionist ends" — Sedov's words, not **SOLDIER**'s.

There are quite a lot more words, too. The British propaganda, for instance, decrees as "Communist expansion" the "support which the Soviet Union and other socialist countries render to victims of direct imperialist aggression — in Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and elsewhere."

Combat drills for soldiers, to which ideological brainwashing apparently extends, alternate with political lessons conducted by specially trained officers. And even military chaplains are "very active in this respect".

There is "structured leisure time" and soldiers are treated to sophisticated propaganda concoctions in both military and civilian newspapers and magazines, books and films, radio and TV programmes... Hey, wait a moment. Military magazines? Perhaps **SOLDIER** should not go on to say that Sedov declared that continuous ideological pressure is turning a great part of British officers and men into human instruments who despise everything associated with socialism and progress and who uphold the course of the British conservative and NATO leadership.

Or that cultivation of traditions is actually just another vehicle for indoctrination. That British military traditions, existing in a variety of rituals, folklore, literature and arts, are permeated with chauvinism and nationalism, because they were born of the long history of predatory colonialist wars.

Otherwise Mr Sedov might accuse **SOLDIER** of spreading propaganda!

Or that the military leadership and propaganda media are trying to create an army of obedient sadists and murderers.

Otherwise Mr Sedov might accuse **SOLDIER** of spreading propaganda!

A JOINT air display by Army flyers and the Pace aerobatic team heralded the completion of the Museum of Army Flying and the part the two teams will play in the four-day international air show at the Army Air Corps' Hampshire headquarters next

SOLDIER to Soldier

The ancient
Skeeter in
air again ...



month.

Built on the Middle Wallop airfield, the museum's 16,000 square feet of display area should be full of exhibits by the time of the mid-summer display, telling the story of Army aviation from the Boer War to the Falklands. In addition to the display area, the new £600,000 hall provides a mezzanine floor with offices and a lecture theatre.

Among some of the more ancient aircraft showing their paces recently, were three from the Army Historic Aircraft Flight; an Auster Mk 9, a Sioux AH1 light observation helicopter and a Skeeter AOP Mk 12 helicopter.

The four-day show is in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, the Army Air Corps Fund — for the benefit of Corps soldiers and their families — and the Museum of Army Flying, and public days for the major air display will be over the weekend of 7-8 July.

The airfield will be open from 9am to 8pm with flying taking place

throughout the two days with formal air displays from 2pm till 5pm starting with a symbolic D-Day parachute drop followed by battle scenes involving paratroops, transport aircraft, helicopters, etc.

Admission on those days is £4; children £1. Car parking free.

TO THANK the German residents of Minden for their hospitality to the British Garrison, and as the Commander's biennial gift to the Stadt, a massed bands display comprising eight bands, two corps of drums and bugles, and 250 bandmen will be held at the Weser Stadium, Minden on Saturday 7 July 1984 at 8.30 pm, ending with a Grand Musical Finale of Handel's Firework Music to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Handel's birth.

Tickets at DM 5.00 for adults and DM 2.50 for children under 14 from PRI Offices, the Station Staff Office and at the Stadium box office on the night.

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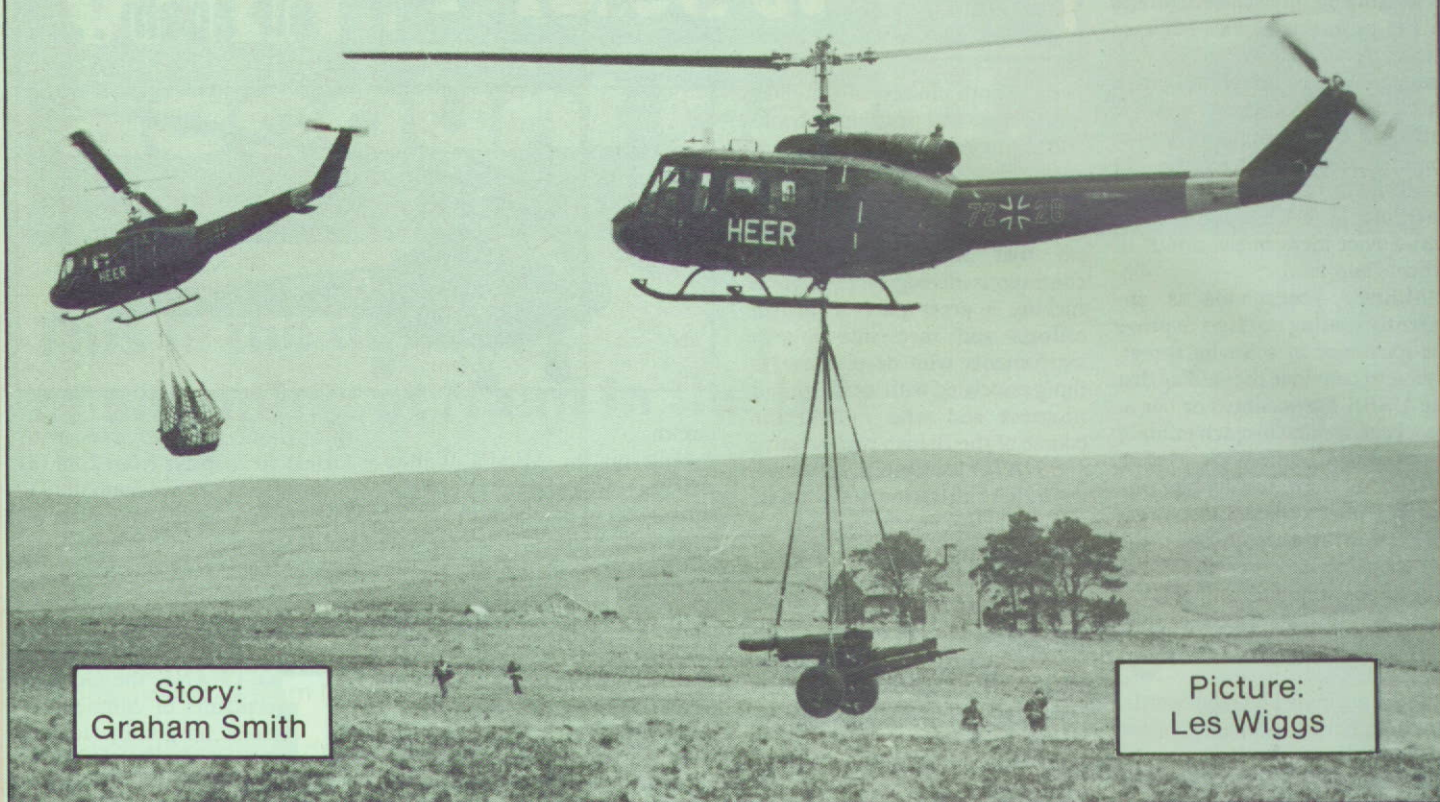
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EXERCISE ARDENT GROUND



Story:
Graham Smith

Picture:
Les Wiggs

MAJOR GENERAL Stewart G Christie, Canadian Commander of the 6,000-strong Allied Command Europe Mobile Force — AMF (L) — on a visit to this year's UK-hosted annual six-nation exercise, this one called Ardent Ground, likened his NATO post to that of "conducting a symphony".

And a symphony of battlefield sound there was, too, on the 100-square-mile, Otterburn Training Area as 1,500 men exchanged weaponry to pitch into an orchestrated live firing effort.

The crump of field howitzers and mortars added more input and pock marks into the moorland epidermis of an already well-inoculated impact area.

Elsewhere, there rose the ripple and attendant swoosh of small arms fire while, nearby and fleeting, was the energetic thopping of RAF Puma and German Army Huey UH-1D helicopter blades.

Last year it was Belgium's turn to field one of AMF (L)'s most important prestigious calendar exercises of Alliance "interoperability".

This year, it was Britain's for the guest Force which has a rapid reaction responsibility ranging from Canada in the west to West Germany and the UK in the north down to Italy, as officers and men from the UK, USA, Canada, Belgium, Italy and West Germany,

The symphony of battlefield sound

put into practise the perennial preaching of exchanges in the use of battlefield procedures and each other's weaponry.

Some 700 vehicles were also involved in transportation across the acres, once the scene of a midnight battle between the Scots and English in 1338 as, this time in peaceful, educational mode, artillery batteries from the six nations practised together in conjunction with mortar platoons.

Some 60 American paras had dropped in from C130 Hercules transport aircraft flown over the county of Hadrian's Wall and Roman legacy, from Vicenza, north east Italy. They landed just 300 yards from their welcoming hosts and training comrades-in-arms.

A similar number of Belgians also parachuted in from C130s. Other Belgians — 130 of them — arrived by ferry at Hull while 200 West German exercise players with their 70 vehicles disembarked at North Shields.

Military aircraft made two dozen flights into RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire, over a four-day period bringing in yet more men for Exercise Ardent Ground.

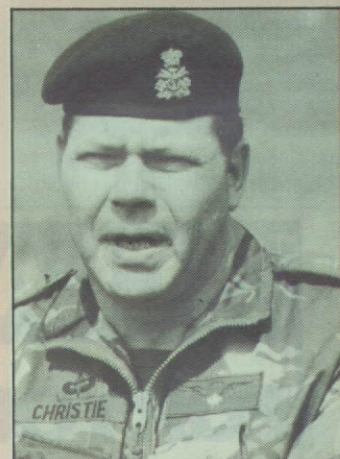
Other soldiers, notably 16 of them from 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, literally ran all the way from Bulford to Otterburn (see page 16).

During the exercise all of the gun batteries practised the skill of deploying their field guns by the dozen helicopters — four Pumas and the eight German Army Hueys — making up the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU). British, 1¼-ton light guns of 105mm calibre were underslung within a minute for their transit journeys between positions.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Forward, Commanding Officer of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, RA, based at Bulford and Force Artillery Commander, who would take an estimated 20 per cent of his Regiment as part of that Force said: "The helicopters are the life-blood in the roles of resupply, artillery redeployment, ammunition carrying and, very importantly, casualty evacuation.

"My aim is to hit hard and fast to disrupt the enemy. That is why we practise exercises like Ardent Ground in places like this, working together to get that response that I

Above: Two German Hueys from the Force Helicopter Unit clear away an underslung Italian Army 105mm Pack Howitzer and stores. Below: Major General Stewart G Christie, Commander AMF (L): "We can be deployed within hours, not days".



need. The men see each other doing other nations' drills and get a chance to work on their equipment."

To illustrate the point, field howitzers were involved in Direct Fire at hulks 700 metres away. Mortar lines went into "crash action". The Italians enthused over helicopter drills with the German Hueys as their 105mm Pack Howitzers were lifted into another position somewhere over the hillsides. Observation Posts were also busy.

Colonel Forward added: "One

With fire prevention in mind

of the criticisms you hear constantly against NATO is that of diversity of equipment. Here, we can get together and cross this barrier of different equipment, different languages. I have a common procedure and common means of communication to produce the fast responses needed.

"On exercises like Ardent Ground we get to know each other again. We are really testing ourselves to prove to Commander AMF (L) that we are fit to fight together, combined with the eagerness to learn from each other.

"I certainly believe by the end of this exercise I can happily, and convincingly, say we are ready for whatever contingency area to which we may be called upon to deploy."

Major General Christie told me: "We have often been erroneously



called a Fire Brigade. We are not. We are a fire prevention unit, one of the few conventional deterrent

Two RAF Pumas from 33 Squadron pick up their "fares" — an Italian Army pack howitzer crew. Left: A Canadian pack howitzer under its cam netting.

forces available to NATO.

"You get CND and others centring deterrence around nuclear weapons. But there are other deterrent forces and we are one of them. It's a very quick reaction force which shows that NATO has that other option and we can be in a deployment area in a matter of hours, not days, and that is practised at least twice a year with 6,000 men on the flanks of NATO.

"It's particularly important for us and the artillery and mortars here because it gives national contingents the chance to work together in integrating firing skills under live firing conditions. It's exercises like this that make us a viable and credible entity.

"We are very fortunate to be able to hold Ardent Ground at Otterburn where there are excellent facilities. We will benefit as a Force from this opportunity.

"You must remember many of

these lads will never get back to England except as tourists. This is also their chance to meet the British public and they are impressed.

"Every time we deploy, we are showing we can do it. Deterrence is not an organisation just in being, it is ready to do the job. It shows the other side, that NATO has the will and capability.

"If we go into an area and deterrence is effective, then the thing is defused. In strict management terms, you are looking very cost effective, very early on in the game."

The second Canadian to hold the post as COMAMF (L), Major General Christie, 47 and married with three daughters, said of his job: "It's like conducting a symphony with the infantry, armour and others having their own particular flavours and strengths. As their Commander, I have to play this."

Then, with a grin, he added: "Believe me, it's an interesting part and I think it's the best command in NATO, though General Rogers may disagree."



AMF — AN ESSENTIAL OPTION

AMF(L) was formed in 1960 as a small, mobile, multinational force — land and air — which can be sent to any threatened part of the Alliance's territory. It is not a reinforcement force.

Units taking part in Exercise Ardent Ground '84 were drawn from the Force Artillery HQ made up from 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, RA, from Bulford; the Belgian Para Commando Battery, from Brasschaat, near Antwerp, equipped with six 105mm M2

howitzers; "D" Battery, 2nd Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, from Petawawa, equipped with 105mm pack howitzers; 5th Battery of 545 Field Artillery Battalion, of the German Army based at Lahnstein, equipped with 105mm pack howitzers; German Mortar Platoon from the 1st Platoon for 260 Airborne Mortar Company, based at Saarlouis equipped with four 180mm Tampella mortars and five Panzerfaust anti-tank rocket launchers (light); the

Italian 40th Battery of the "Taurinense" Alpini Brigade based at Rivoli, near Turin, equipped with 105mm pack howitzers; Italian mortar platoon, part of the Susa Alpini Battalion with 120mm and 81mm mortars; 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Field Battery, RA, based at Bulford, equipped with 105mm light guns; UK Mortar Platoon from 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, equipped with 81mm mortars; D Battery, 4th Battalion, 325th Infantry (Air-

borne) Battalion Combat Team equipped with M.102 105mm howitzers.

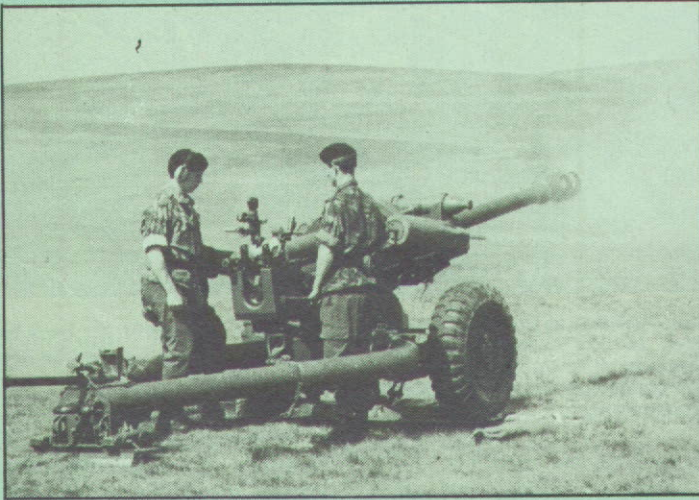
The Force Helicopter Unit (FHU); four RAF Pumas and eight German Army Huey 1Ds.

The Logistic Support Battalion made up of personnel from various British Army logistic units providing services.

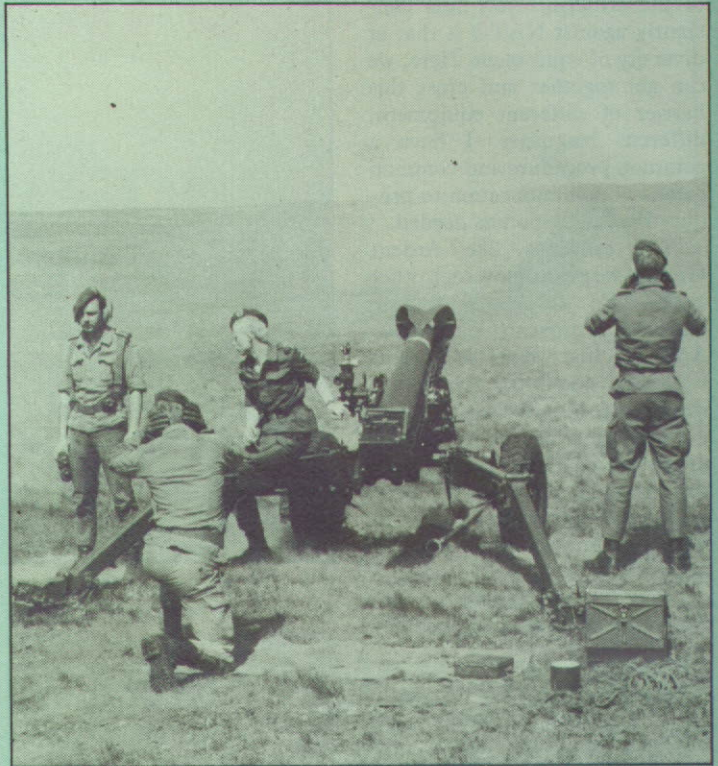
Major David Emmett, Royal Irish Rangers, the HQ AMF (L) Public Information Officer, said: "Our role is to demonstrate the solidarity and determination of NATO. We are, thus, one of the essential options available to NATO early in the process of crisis management."

AMF — THE GUN COLLECTION

HOWITZERS and mortars changed hands many times during the annual six-nation AMF (L) training exercise called **ARDENT GROUND** on the ranges of the desolate Otterburn Training Area. Four types of field howitzer, three kinds of mortars and a rocket-launcher system were brought into play at the big shoot-in over the heads of sheep, already oblivious to the comings and goings of two types of helicopter.



The British gunners fire the 105mm light gun.



The Germans fire their 105mm pack howitzers.



The Belgians fire their 105mm M2 pack howitzers.



The Canadians fire their 105mm pack howitzers.

Ardent Ground for ardent runners

CHARITY, they say, begins at home. In the case of 16 men from 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, it began at Bulford and ended ... 353 miles away in the heart of the desolate Otterburn Training Area!

The men were running in relays to Exercise Ardent Ground, to raise yet more money for the children's ward of the Odstock Hospital, Salisbury.

Organisers of the run, from which the ward is now £400 better off, was Battery Sergeant Major John Proctor, one of the runners, who said: "We operated in seven-mile stages as individuals and each

runner was spelled having done two to four stages to reach the complete 353 miles from Bulford."

In recent years the same gunner unit has raised money for a blood dialysis machine at Odstock Hospital, and with a new spina bifida wing for parents planned, they are hoping to help out there.

Three of the runners' children were born at the hospital and BSM Proctor's wife did her training there. His daughter was born there, too.

"Now, we just have to collect the sponsorship money," said the BSM. "I suppose we'll have to do a bit more running about for that!"



Photo: Public Information North East District

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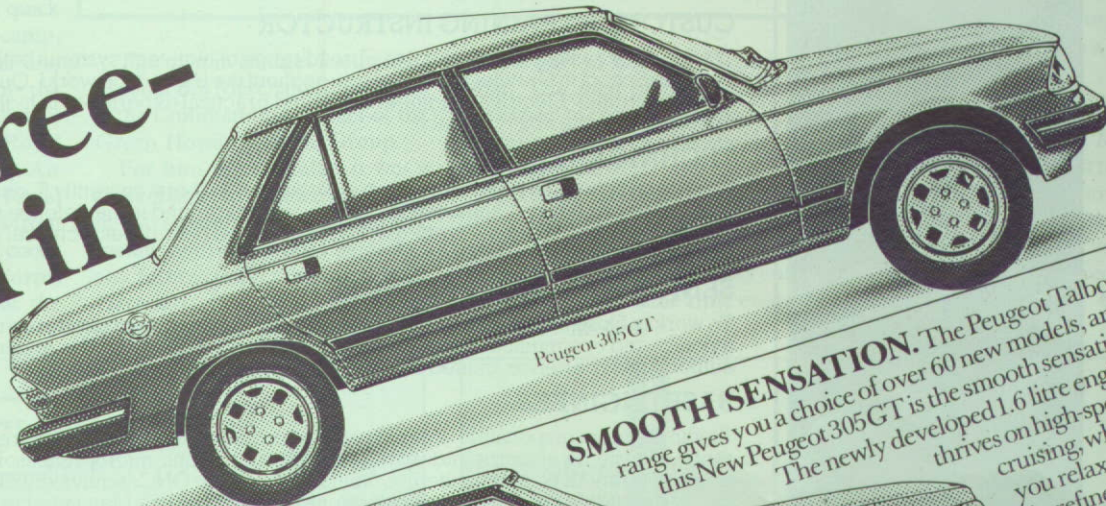
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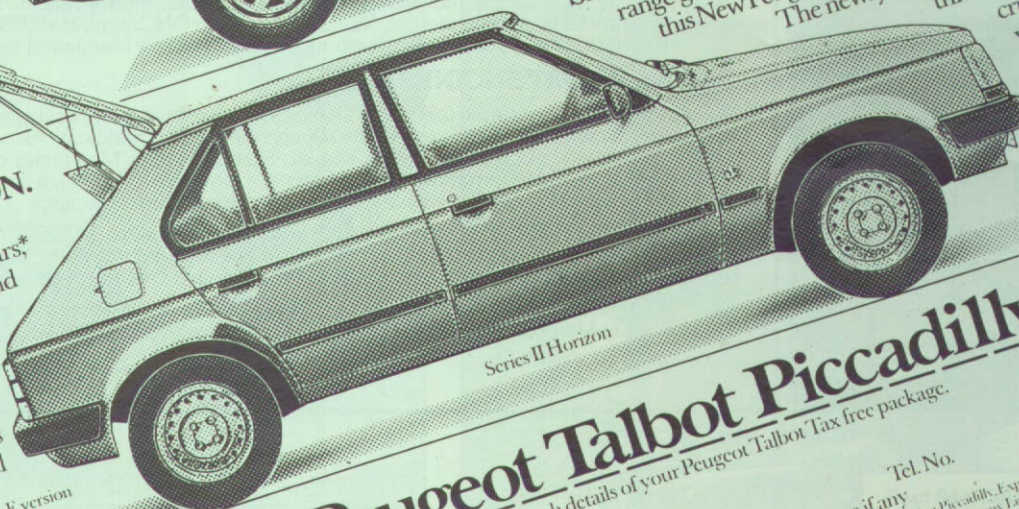
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To introduce customer personnel to a broad range of high-tech systems both at the MEL Training School in Crawley and on site throughout the UK and the world. Qualifications: HNC Electronic/Electrical Engineering, sound practical experience in high-tech industry or Forces plus the ability to teach.

TECHNICAL EDITOR

To edit the scheduled output of a team of Technical Authors: currently 5, due to double in size in the near future. Qualifications: technical background in the defence industry or Forces, evident flair for the written word (experience possibly as technical journalist), familiarity with MOD standards, age 30 +.

SENIOR TECHNICAL AUTHORS

To work in close liaison with our Engineers in producing all support literature for EW avionics and communications systems. Qualifications: background in electronics, technical authorship experience, gained either in the defence industry or Forces.

BASE ENGINEER

To join the team responsible at our West Sussex base for fault finding and repair of a broad range of systems; airborne radar, ground communications, microprocessor message processing and EW, among them. Qualifications: C&G/ONC/equivalent plus 3-4 years' highly practical experience in the electronics industry or as a Maintainer in the Forces.

FIELD SUPPORT ENGINEER

To join the team responsible for the installation, commissioning and acceptance trials of all systems at customer sites throughout the UK and the world. Qualifications: C&G/ONC/equivalent plus 4-5 years' similar/Base Engineer/Maintainer experience, gained in a high-tech environment or the Forces; a high level of initiative, and the ability to represent MEL at the more senior levels with confidence and diplomacy.

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The logo for MEL, consisting of the letters 'MEL' in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font. The letters are white and set against a dark, textured background that resembles a close-up of a surface or a stylized pattern.

WHEN YOU first see the rolling prairies of Alberta Province Canada, you realise what the song is all about. Barbra Streisand couldn't have put it better.

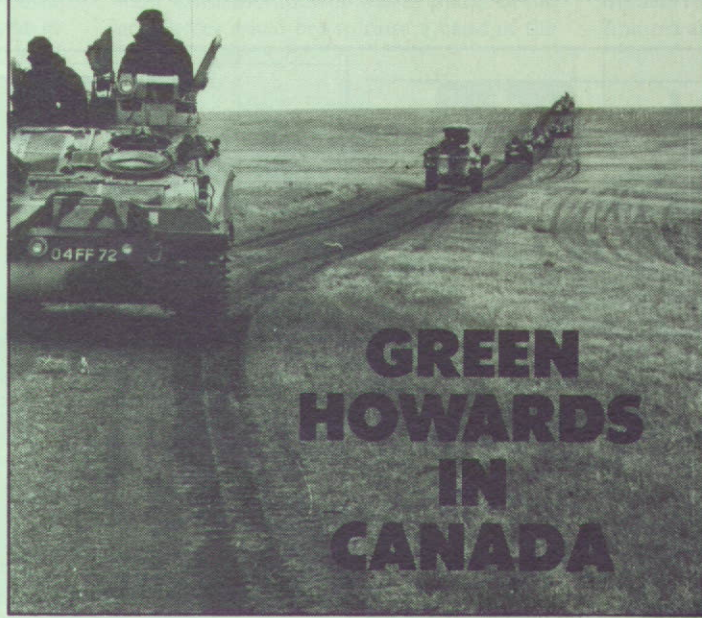
For the men of the Green Howards Battle Group on military manoeuvres in Canada the first sight of miles and miles of grassland was awe inspiring. "I've never seen anything like it, it's so flat and everything is so large it's just like Marlboro Country", said one of over 1,000 British soldiers on exercise at the Canadian Forces' Base at Suffield, Alberta.

They were taking part in a rugged and exciting three-week period of training, Exercise Medicine Man.

Captain Nick Green explained the need for the Green Howards to go all the way from Osnabrück to Canada to train. "The problem is size. In Germany, the training areas are too small to accommodate all the safety factors that go with the firing of live ammunition from the full range of the army's weapons. We need space, and that is what the Suffield training area, the size of Dorset, gives us."

The Green Howards were supported by soldiers drawn from different parts of the British Army of the Rhine, including next door neighbours in Osnabrück, The 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, who sent over soldiers from two of their tank squadrons to help out. A quick tour round the battlegroup camp, named Camp Crowfoot after one of the last great chiefs of the Blackfoot Indians, revealed a variety of cap badges, Royal Engineers, pilots of the Army Air Corps, drivers from the Royal Corps of Transport, gunners from the Royal Horse Artillery, cooks from the Army Catering Corps, and even a few members of the Royal Military Police.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE FOREVER



The man in charge: Lieutenant Colonel Bill Merchant Smith, who is the Commanding Officer of the Green Howards Battle Group.

For him in particular, it was a great chance to command his men in the sweeping and fast moving manoeuvres that would be part of any future conflict in North West Germany. "It is a very rare opportunity for all of us to be able

to take part in Exercise Medicine Man. The men of the regiment can expect to come to Canada twice in the five years we will be stationed in Osnabrück.

"All of us realise that this is the finest training that the British Army can provide. We were therefore determined to perfect our skills, and at the same time enjoy our work" he said.

Corporal Paul Cutler summed it all up. "You can train here with none of the restrictions we normally face in Germany. It's the nearest thing to a real war I've ever experienced. They fire everything from tanks and artillery, to machine guns and Milan anti-tank missiles."

Anyone who thinks he's exaggerating about it being the real thing ought to know that all the ammunition used is live — no blank rounds on this exercise.

The Green Howards were relatively lucky this year — it's only been minus five degrees at night, and they have only had one snow storm. In contrast the days have been blessed with lovely spring sunshine. "You get used to it, most of us sleep under the stars at night, or sitting up in the vehicle if the weather gets too bad. That's one of the first things I ever learnt, to sleep in any position anywhere, anytime. As any old soldier will tell you, it's a knack that once learnt is seldom forgotten" said 23-year-old Private Albert Bradshaw.

For Lance Corporal Dave Mason the exercise was an eye opener. Like all the soldiers, he has grown in confidence.

"With all the live ammo flying about, you learn to trust your mates. They know and you know, that all of us depend on each other for our own personal safety. All of us have learnt something new about ourselves. I know one thing, this exercise has made us into a damn good team," he said.

The last word must be left with the Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 Bob Martin. He said: "I've been in the Army now for a number of years, but this trip rates as one of the finest I've been on. The soldiers have worked hard and have been a credit to the regiment."

Story: Graeme Cooper
Pictures: Chris Kane



The assault, the moment of truth.



Capt Sam Loughlin — range effects gun.

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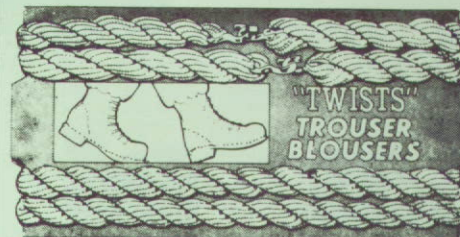
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2nd DIVISION'S KOHIMA DAY

FOR THE first time since the Second Infantry Division returned from Germany, the Headquarters celebrated Kohima Day with the people of York.

The part played by the Second Division at Kohima in India in 1944 is commemorated annually by the Divisional Headquarters and its Signal Regiment. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the battle and the serving members of the Division were joined by over 300 veterans of regiments which fought at the battle, their families and over 3,000 local people of York at an open day at Imphal Barracks.

The huge crowds enjoyed static displays of equipments by units of the Division. In the central arena they were entertained by displays including the White Helmets motorcycle team of the Royal Corps of Signals, a freefall parachute drop by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps team The Cannonballs and programmes by the Bands of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Corps of Signals.

Many old friends were reunited after 40 years and reminiscing ran late into the night.

Among those who visited the Division was In-Pensioner Sergeant Harry Hulme, aged 77. Sergeant Hulme was in 2 Divisional Headquarters Signals Regiment detached as Signals Section Commander of 16 Field Regiment. He met many old friends including his ex CO, RSM and Battery Commander.

A memorial service was held at York Minster. The address was given by the Reverend Claxton who had been the padre of the Dor-

setshire Regiment in 1944. After the service the veterans, accompanied by the massed bands of the Argylls and the King's Division, marched past the present Divisional Commander Major-General Peter Inge.

Amid the male heroes at the service of remembrance was a remarkable woman — Mrs Usula Betts, 76, from Ringwood, in the New Forest. An anthropologist, she was caught up in the Japanese invasion of Burma.

Sir William Slim who was in charge of the land forces asked her to raise a band of the

local headhunters — the Nagas — to harass the Japanese and act as guides and porters. During the battle she was operating in the Hills of Kohima and Imphal with 150 Naga tribesmen.

Early in 1944, the Japanese pushed across the Chindwin river towards Imphal and Kohima.

Second Division, training over 2,000 miles away in Western India, was rushed across India to relieve the small besieged garrison at Kohima and to block the Japanese.



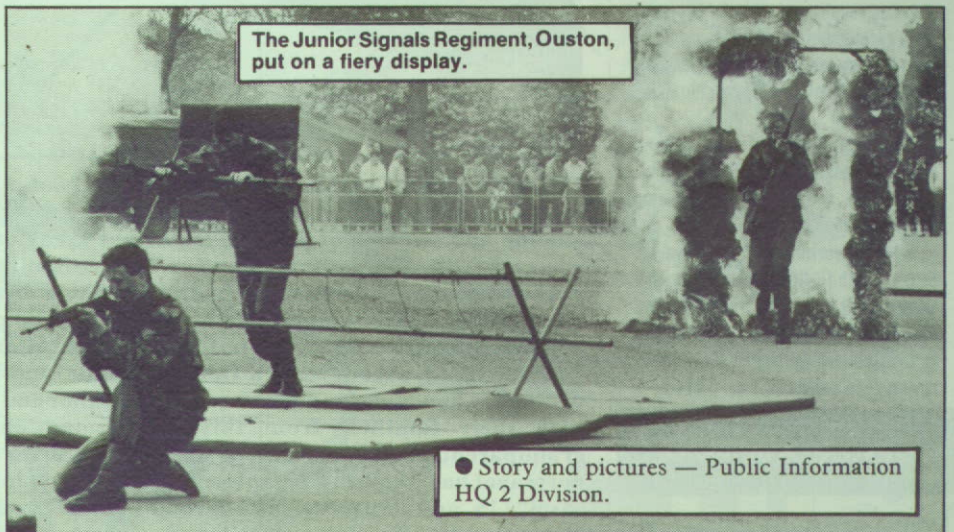
A member of the Cannonballs freefall team drops in on the open day.



Sergeant Harry Hulme, by the replica of the Kohima Memorial at Imphal Barracks, York.



Major General Peter Inge reviews the "Men of Kohima" outside the York Minster.



The Junior Signals Regiment, Ouston, put on a fiery display.

● Story and pictures — Public Information HQ 2 Division.

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NAAFI NAMES B-DAY!



IN A recent British Army Review, the former Adjutant General, General Sir George Cooper, mentioned (in reply to a previous letter) a number of issues.

One was the continuous attitude survey, which seeks the anonymous views of five hundred servicemen and women. It asks them to tick boxes concerning various aspects of their service careers 'which could be a source of irritation'.

The survey has been in operation since 1976 but does not include officers, nor specific questions for married personnel concerning 'irritations' which could affect them.

On reading the questions it would be marvellous if an extended survey, or a separate one, could be directed to the family aspect of accompanied service.

It would be nice to have a section dealing with quarters (furniture/furnishings), housing (council or private), wives' careers and employment, education, pay and allowances, medical provision and DHSS, Department of Employment and Department of Education & Science to the voluntary aspect of service life.

This type of survey would at least give policy makers the much needed information which they lack at present. It would also give an indicator on current changes and thinking before they became important issues and even allow for preventive action.

It is a fact that the wife does have considerable influence on whether her husband should, or should not, stay in, or whether unaccompanied tours will become the norm.

Traditionally accompanied service is expected — some posts specifically request a married couple. On the other hand bachelors are not denied these posts.

Only three questions out of 45 in the present Continuous Attitude Survey remotely touch on accompanied service and they require only a tick. The need for a partnership of views would be of great help especially after such decisions as scrapping of the House Purchase Scheme.

Service in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, and Boarding School Allowance would, among others, give some interesting replies.

With the current soldiers survey of 500 a month (6,000 a year, if they are all returned) it would be an invaluable indicator on current thinking, especially as the Soldiers Survey must be useful having been continued from 1976.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

AT THE 14th annual NAAFI General Institute Committee meeting the good news was announced that the long-awaited Budget Scheme will be launched in UK on 19 July.

Norman Furse, Naafi's finance director said: "Customers will be able to buy goods at today's prices, at a discount, and spread the payments."

The new scheme will enable budget account customers who must agree to pay a set sum (minimum of £5) each month into their account. They will then be allowed credit up to 24 times that sum if paying by direct bank debit, or 10 times if payments are to be made in cash.

This means that account holders will be able to charge household electrical and similar goods to the account. Naafi discount or dividend will be allowed against all the purchases at the point of sale, as happens in other UK shops.

A plastic identification card will be issued to the account holder, who may apply for a second card for his or her spouse, but all the

UK budget starts on 29 July

transactions will be charged to the principal cardholder's account.

Interest will be charged on any debit balance at 1.65% (monthly) — 21.6% APR and if you have a credit balance you will receive a monthly bonus of 0.7% (8.7% APR).

For more details do contact your local Naafi family or Service Shops.

During Naafi's AGM I raised a number of questions, and the Managing Director has now agreed that Naafi's publicity material could be sent to affiliate Federation of Army Wives Clubs UKLF in areas where there are no local Naafi establishments.

I also asked if Naafi would consider selling Christmas cards supplied either by individual charities or combined cards from which many charities benefited.

The Managing Director would investigate the selling of Service charity cards in Naafi shops.

NEED A HELPING HAND?



THOUSANDS of children from over 70 schools throughout North West Europe have been feverishly painting, drawing, glueing and sticking to produce a glorious array of colourful posters for SSAFA, the Service and ex-Service families' charity.

The judges were unanimous in naming Shyla Assanand, 13, (above) the overall winner, and awarding her the prestigious magenta and lilac rosette. Shyla, from Cheshire Middle School, RAF Bruggen, asked 'Need a Helping Hand?' and illustrated two caring hands gently around a soldier, a sailor and an airman with their families, from tiny babies and children, to grandparents. SSAFA does help all ages, and Shyla's beautiful portrayal has won her a complete oil painting set including an easel, £15, and of course she is proud and delighted that her poster will be printed by SSAFA and seen around the world.

I asked if Naafi could stem the apathy which I believe exists among its customers and which resulted in no Customer Relations Committee meetings being held at garrison level or Institute meetings at district level.

The Managing Director said that because of the importance attached to such meetings regional and district managers were charged with the task of liaising with units and districts to organise customer relations meetings, but the final responsibility naturally rested with the unit.

The Chairman asked what was the general feeling towards such meetings. Brigadier Brown (UKLF) replied that the subject had already been investigated in UKLF and a degree of apathy had been found on the part of some shop managers and their contribution to the meetings. He said the same feeling was reflected in the meetings of the AGIC where the same points tended to be repeated every year. While the customer tended to criticise if things were going wrong, and that tended to form the brunt of points raised, he hoped that the experienced Naafi managers would be prepared in future to contribute to a two way traffic of ideas and not merely leave it to the customers.

It is the Garrison or unit who must call the Customer Relations meeting, not the Naafi manager as is often thought.

Mrs Jenifer Swaby The Federation of Army Wives' Clubs Naafi representative attended as did nine other wives from the districts.

Only North East and London District did not have a wife attending.

So towards the end of this year make sure that you nominate a wife at your customer relations meetings for the 1985 meeting.

TIP

WITH regard to reciprocal medical treatment, there is good news regarding your E111 certificates.

MP Rhodes James asked Mr John Patten MP if the period for validity could be extended.

Yes, E111 will be valid for two years. So before you leave UK on posting to a country where E111 is accepted, ensure you have applied for one to cover you and your family. It's FREE.

Ask for SA30. DHSS leaflet available at DHSS offices and BFPOs.

COUNCIL HOUSING

The worry

ON THE right are a few disturbing extracts from recent letters.

I would guess that between 40%-50% of service families will be looking to council housing at the end of their service.

For some the added blow of the abandonment of the Assisted House Purchase Scheme means that saving for a house is even further out of reach (see Soldier 7 May 84).

The Right to Buy Scheme will, I believe, have drastic repercussions on the availability of local authority housing for service families.

To see just what impact the scheme is having I came up with some interesting facts on the in-roads the Right to Buy Scheme is having on local authority housing. **ENGLAND** — already 535,000 dwellings were sold by 1983, only 15,000 have newly been acquired and only 227,000 new dwellings built. Including other gains and losses this stock is estimated to have been reduced by 350,000 to 4.8 million by December 83.

During 1984/5 it is estimated that another 162,000 council dwellings will be assumed sold and the new town corporations estimated that 2,500 will be bought under the Right to Buy Scheme and, by Dec. last 28,000 houses and flats were sold by new towns. **Scotland** — during 84/85 an estimated 3,800 dwellings could be completed by public housing authorities and between 17,000 and 18,000 will be sold; however there were 14,000 applications for housing assistance.

We have now applied to four councils and with each one we do not have the necessary requirement, mainly because my husband does not have a job in the area. I am worried, what do you suggest.

I leave Germany in 2 months and have now been told that ??????? cannot house us. I put our name down four years ago. They have told us that we will be accommodated in homeless accommodation — bed and breakfast.

How can I get on a council list as I have not served in UK for 11 years, and we are due home in 18 months.

WALES — the picture is no better; in Cwmbran 1,694 sales were completed, and overall in Wales 31,203 house sales were sold under the scheme and a further 12,000 will be sold during 84/85. But it is expected that between 2,000-2,500 only will be built in 1984.

The outlook is bleak, and I cannot, in the immediate future, see a tremendous growth in Council house building.

The facts must now be faced — Council housing for service families will become increasingly more difficult, and chances of a council house will require more qualifications in many areas. To leave putting your name on a council list to the last few years of service will be too late.

ACCOMMODATION

HOW DOES the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) assess accommodation charges made?

They look at four specific areas: rent, rates, maintenance and furniture hire.

The rent is assessed from the rents which are charged for similar houses by local authorities in UK. Details of local authority rents in one year are not available until the following year. This means that the rent element of the married quarter charge in April 1984 will reflect civilian rents in April 1983. The AFPRB apply an abatement to the rental element to recognise that we do not have the long-term security of tenure enjoyed by the council tenant and this abatement was increased in 1983.

For single accommodation the charges have to be assessed differently as there is no civilian accommodation which is comparable to service single accommodation. So there is no direct means of arriving at a comparable charge. Accordingly, the rent element of the single charge is worked out as a proportion of the appropriate married quarter charge. To the rent element is added a small charge for fuel and light.

The rates element is derived from an analysis of rates for service married quarters throughout the country with an addition for the water rate.

The rent paid by local authority tenants include an element for maintenance. The AFPRB consider that, generally, the maintenance carried out by the PSA on our married quarters and barracks exceeds that which would normally be provided by local authorities;

for example, repairs to gas and electrical appliances. Accordingly, a small charge is imposed for this additional maintenance as part of the total married quarter charge. The furniture hire element is based upon the current new cost of furnishing married quarters but adjusted to take account of the fact that most of us do not live in quarters equipped with new furniture and soft furnishings. A reduction is also made to reflect our lack of choice. Furniture costs were recalculated in 1982 to take account of reduced scales so that, as a proportion of the total charge, furniture hire is 9% now compared to 13% two years ago.

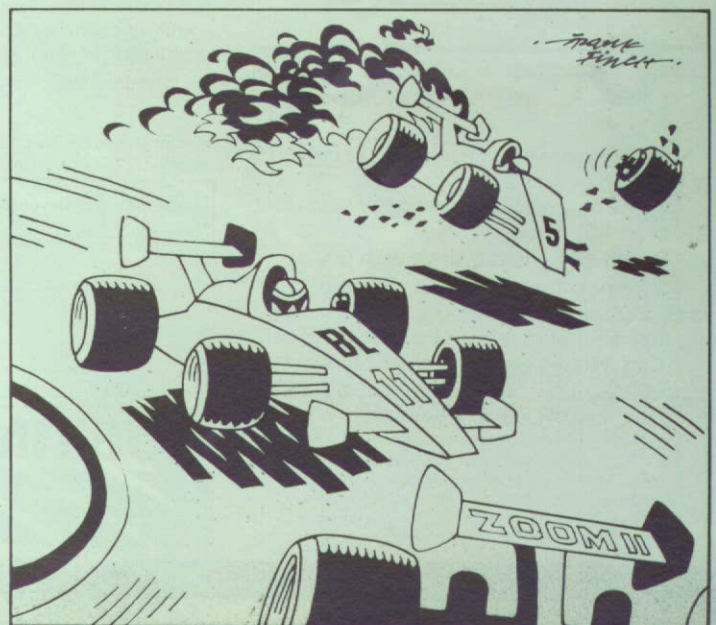
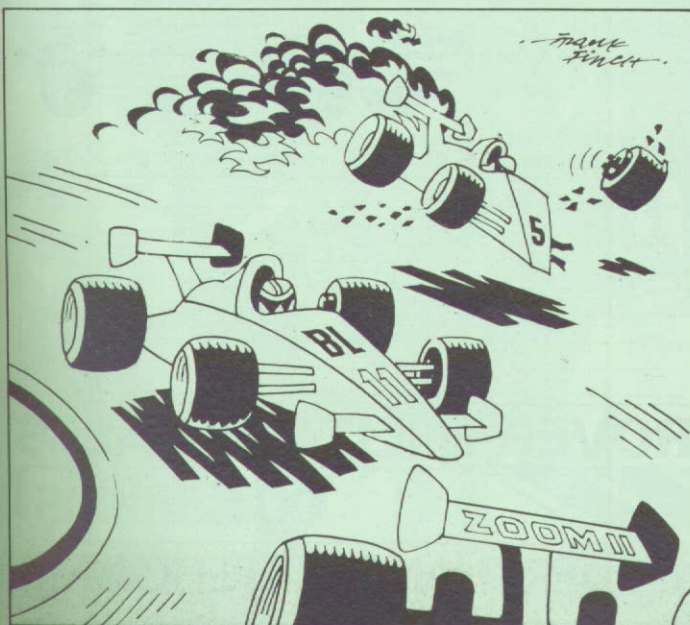
One other area which families feel that they are being charged unfairly is the standard of accommodation.

The MoD explains that in 1982 they asked the AFPRB to take into account the reduced level of maintenance being carried out by the PSA. The AFPRB recognised that much of our married and single accommodation was in very poor state and recommended that sub-standard charges be frozen that year.

Although these charges were increased in 1983 the relationship to standard charges established in 1982 was maintained. At the Review Body's suggestion the MoD plans to introduce a more flexible system for grading below-standard single and married accommodation, to cater for the very varied standards now existing. This system will provide four levels of charge.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.



GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION.

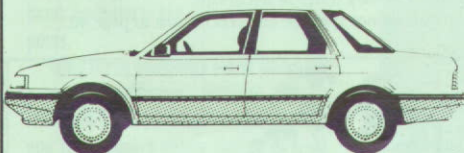


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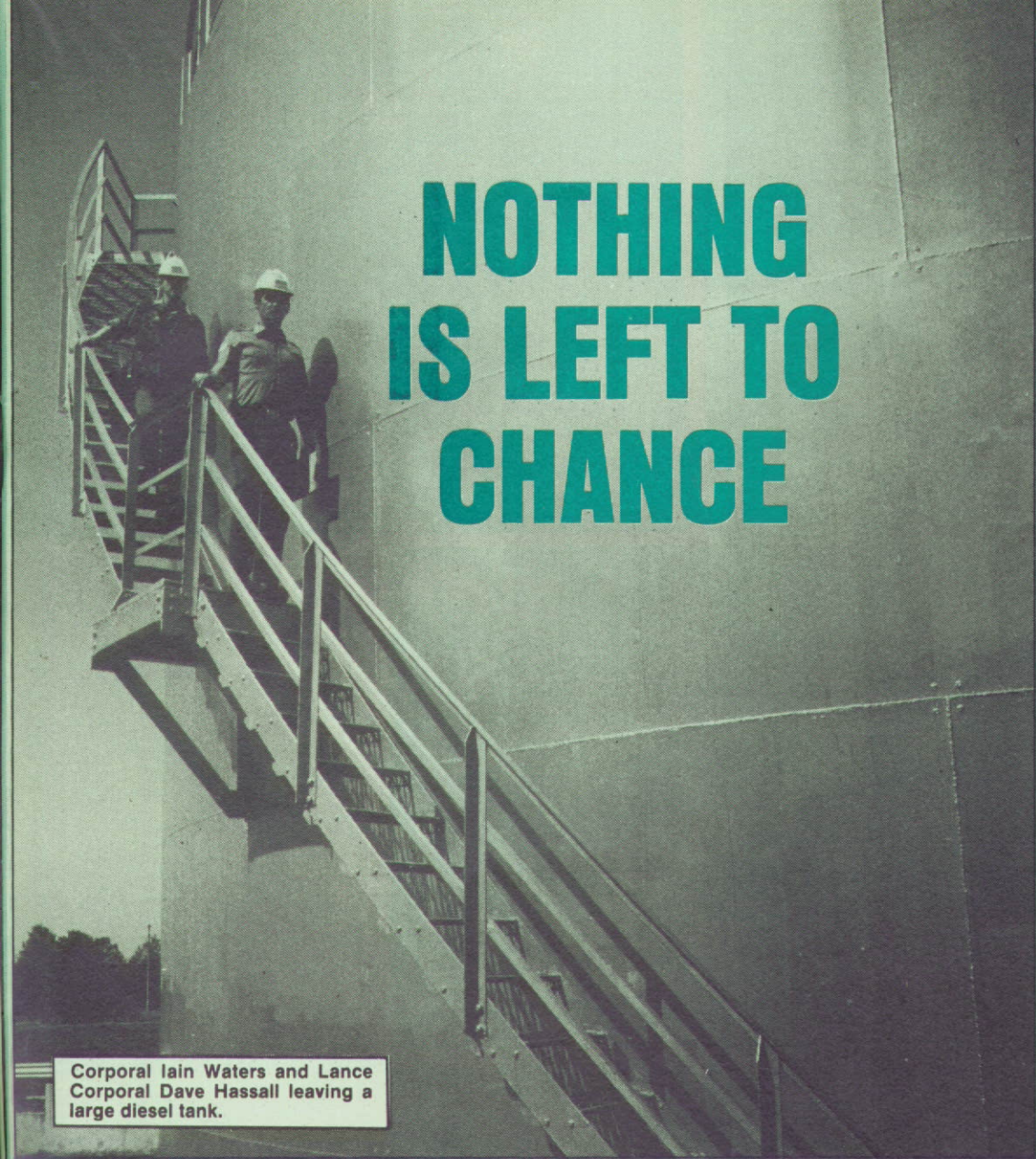
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NOTHING IS LEFT TO CHANCE

Corporal Iain Waters and Lance Corporal Dave Hassall leaving a large diesel tank.


It used to be said the Army marches on its stomach. Now it cannot move without petrol. Writer JOHN WALTON and photographer DOUG PRATT visited West Moors.

DOWN AT West Moors on the edge of the New Forest the Army trains its men in handling the product which has replaced oats and water as the most important commodity to keep an Army on the move — petrol.

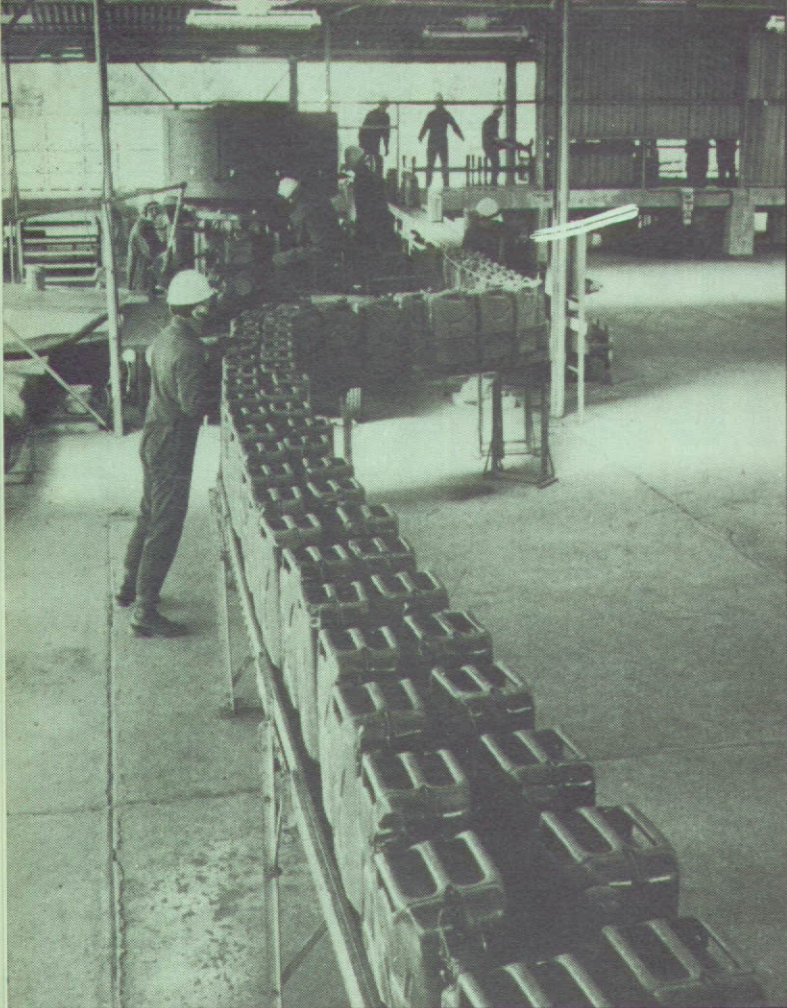
Ten years ago when SOLDIER last visited the Petroleum Centre the world was alive with the repercussions of the 1973 OPEC price 'hikes' and the realisation that the world's oil supplies were finite. Today much of that alarm has dissipated but the RAOC experts who work at West Moors know that in peace and war petrol supplies are going to be vital.

We all have an easy familiarity with petrol via the service stations. But Major Phil Taylorson, who commands the training side of the centre, declares: "We are all too complacent because we fill our own cars. I believe fuel is more

continued on page 26



Pumps at the ready... Major Phil Taylorson and Staff Sergeant Derek Candy with pupils.



Above: the "rotary cow" and such a lot of jerry cans!

Below: fire fighting drills — and a lot of foam.



dangerous than ammunition."

Certainly the restrictions around the depot leave nothing to chance. Every visitor who passes the depot gates has to hand over his matches or lighter and has his shoes inspected for forbidden steel tips.

The Army Fire Service at West Moors, 24 strong, regularly wins competitions for its efficiency. As well as keeping an eye out for the blaze which they hope will never happen they also set up spectacular petrol tanker blazes and train the petroleum operators in fighting them.

In the long hot summer of 1976 heath fires raged around West Moors and one actually pierced the perimeter. It was a touch and go situation but the major fire was averted and fire security was tightened afterwards with bulk storage tanks relocated and scrub within the depot removed. The stocks of jerrycans are on hand standing in the open air, surrounded by beach shingle and with each batch far enough away not to spread a fire to the next one.

The shingle also enables leaks to be spotted easily and apart from the occasional weeding session is relatively maintenance free.

Built just before World War 2 the West Moors depot was used by the Americans during the war. At war's end four British officers and 400 Italian prisoners-of-war turned it into a petroleum depot.

About 200 people work there — the majority civilian but including six officers and 100 soldiers from the RAOC and the RPC. It is a depot, a school and a laboratory.

The school has classrooms and inside the depot a training area in which they can try out what they have learned. Says Major Taylorson: "We are not trying to teach them academic or written things but a skill. We have to start in the classroom because they must understand the safety aspects."

The Falklands emergency caused a quick rethink. Inside the depot is a huge training installation built to simulate emergency fuel handling equipment. But in recent times it had been used less and less as the petroleum operators' role had changed.

Recalls Major Taylorson: "When the Falklands came we had to run some pretty fast courses because a generation had not trained on this system."

Because of the shortage of trained operators Territorials were recruited on one year engagements in Ascension and the Falklands. And the giant training installation is now in regular use again.

RAOC petroleum operators are all trained at West Moors and the aim is to take a soldier from scratch to corporal and B1 tradesman in less than five years. In fact West Moors is home to the Army's petroleum operators. Throughout

their careers they are likely to gravitate back on postings and courses and they often marry local girls.

Says Warrant Officer 2 Mick Smelt, the resources Warrant Officer: "It's a very close family and, corporal and below, there is nobody I have not taught. There are about 200 petroleum operators on the ground and there are very few I do not know. I have seen a difference since the unemployment situation changed — now there is no shortage of recruits and we are generally getting a slightly better lad."

The TA sends lots of men on courses at West Moors and SOLDIER found a group, which included six men from 73 Support Company RAOC from Romford, carrying out repair work on the training installation tankage and pipeline.

Said WO2 Smelt: "The early summer heat after the winter has made the pipeline try to expand. I rely on the courses to do the maintenance and this ties in with what they are learning."

Corporal Colin Kirk from Romford concurred: "We have learned a hell of a lot since we have been here. We have even done a few things not on the course like cutting and threading pipe and repairing a main pipeline. It's all extra knowledge."

There is also a ten month Petroleum Officers' course each year. Six strong it includes foreign and Commonwealth students and leads to membership of the Institute of Petroleum.

Other arms also benefit from courses at West Moors — including the Army Air Corps, who learn how to refuel helicopters and to teach others to do it correctly.

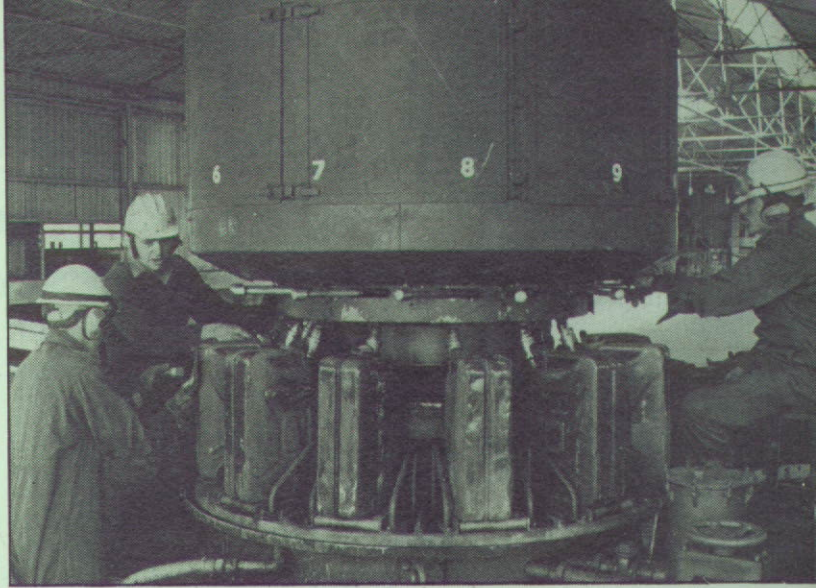
One task every officer has to do at least once is to operate the 'rotary cow' — the machine which fills the jerrycans. This enables them to appreciate the task of the Royal Pioneer men who have to fill 3500 jerrycans twice a week.

It's a tough and repetitive job and one which never seems to be superceded — ten years ago when SOLDIER last visited we were told that an alternative method was being sought — and the position is still the same today.

Said Private Martin Speeding: "The ones you are not filling you are getting them ready to fill. Still it's a good way of giving up smoking."

The smell of petrol hangs all around the rotary cow shed — and although the Pioneers take off their outer working clothes when they visit the cookhouse it still pervades. But it doesn't seem to spoil appetites.

Says Sergeant Ross Jarvis, who heads a team of six cooks: "You can always tell when they have had a fill on because of the fumes."



But they eat a lot more than the average soldier because of the way they work. They seem to be into anything foreign like chow mein and pizzas."

The centre carries out a lot of trials to do with petroleum — such things as boots, clothing and refuelling facilities on tankers. And advice from their Trials Warrant Officer (extension 229) is freely available to units.

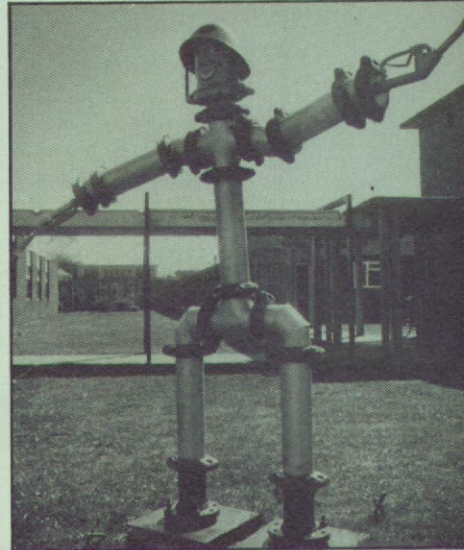
The laboratory has been completely civilianised since the end of National Service more than 20 years ago. It carries out quality surveillance of all petroleum products used by the Army (except in Germany) as well as some for the RAF.

For short, sharp engagements such as the Falklands the laboratory has developed a portable petroleum test kit which can be moved into a theatre and used to check not only fuel which arrives but any which may be captured from the enemy. The kits, which are produced at the centre, are now at the Mark 3 stage and two have been sold to the Australian Army.

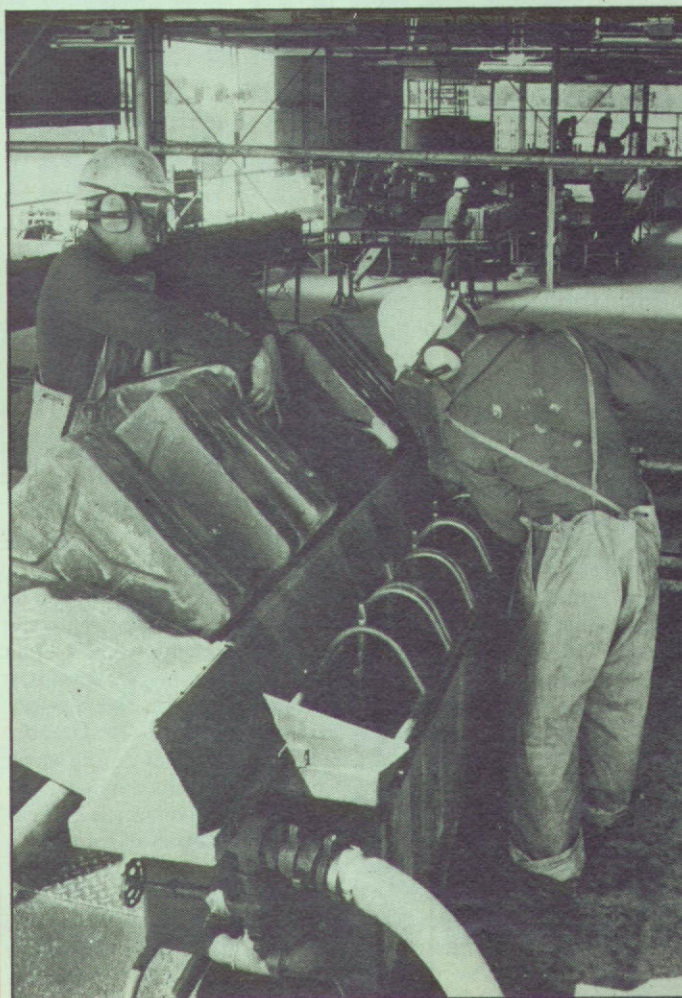
The depot, commanded by Major Mike Harris, issues fuel throughout the United Kingdom and sends packed oil and lubricants to the Army all over the globe.

The old railway line into West Moors closed a few years ago and the locomotive shed is now a squash court. Yet the main role of the Petroleum Centre continues except that in the words of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Marshall: "We are much bigger in every way."

Next time you fill your tank give some thought to the men who keep the Army on the move.

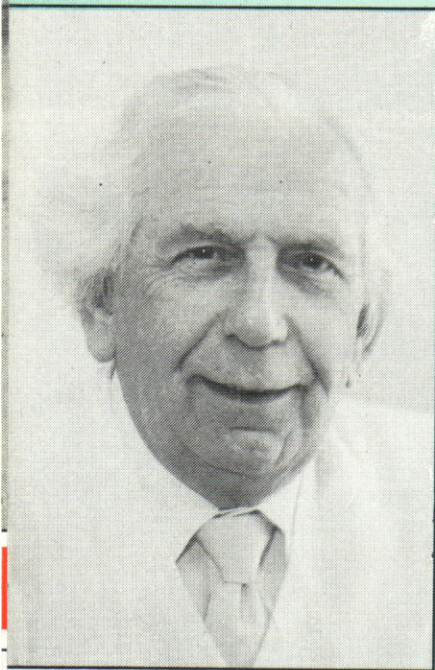


Wide ranging tasks... handling on line valve assemblies, filling jerry jans, crank case dilution test, tin man, cleaning cans, pipe line repairs.



HE ONCE spoke so fast during his patter of joke delivery on stage that it is said Parliamentary note-takers were quite unable to keep up with his staccato 400-words-a-minute of what he now recalls as "absolute rubbish, but it sounded funny."

Thirty-five years on, former wartime Private and later Sergeant and acting Sergeant-Major Arthur English who started his Army career with the Hampshire Regiment has slowed down his rate of chat by over a half nowadays. Yet he has lost none of the popularity



Arthur English — now.

of when he was the undisputed "Prince of the Wide Boys".

He of the snap-brimmed hat, outrageously upholstered shoulders, pencil-slim moustache, exaggerated sideboards and flamboyant kipper tie who entertained millions over the air waves during programmes like "Workers' Playtime" and "Variety Bandbox" and brought contemporary humour of the day among the footlights and bevy of beauties at London's famous Windmill Theatre.

A serious thespian when called upon to be so but primarily a funny man from his stock-in-trade apprenticeship as a nine-year-old boy at Aldershot concert parties, Arthur is busy rehearsing for another seven series of "Are You Being Served?" with his colleague John "I'm Free" Inman and the rest of the staff of Grace Brothers department store. In it, Arthur, 65, plays Mr Harman the sardonic maintenance man in the brown overall who sees life on the ladies and gents outfitting counters quite differently.

A one-time assistant in an Aldershot grocer's shop Arthur — despite his apparent Cockney origins on stage — comes from the garrison town area and, as former

Open the cage!

Comedian Arthur English recalls his war service

5502547 Private English, A, joined the Hampshire Regiment on the Isle of Wight on 16 November, 1939, to find himself just one week later — on stage during a concert party!

"I was the second lot of militia to join up. It was with the ITC, the Infantry Training Company," he said. "I wanted to join the Royal Air Force but was told it was going to be the Army and I was called up and went down to the Isle of Wight and Parkhurst Barracks."

And one of Britain's newest soldiers found himself on stage just a week later for that concert party. But this presented no difficulties for the 21-year-old who had been appearing in such events since the age of nine like the "Five O'Clock Follies", Mrs Daniels' Soldiers' Home and other Soldiers' establishments of the same ilk.

"I was giving monologues and comic acrobatics during which my partner threw me all over the stage," he recalls. "I had done a lot of shows already and one of my earliest was in a parish hall in October 1929. I became the resident comic and performed every other Wednesday in the

Interview:
Graham Smith
Modern picture:
Paul Haley

Parkhurst Barracks gym replacing a comedian who was absolutely filthy.

"A Major Tom Fawkes — now dead — President of the PRI, of the Hampshire Regiment said there was only going to be one resident comic. That was Arthur English and that was final."

But Arthur was, as he put, it "to blot his own copy-book."

At a subsequent show he remarked that the former PRI President had just married a 19-year-old ATS girl ... and he was "about 95." Major Fawkes, since posted, had made a quiet return to catch his act from the front row.

English told his khaki-clad audience; "It's rather like buying a book for somebody else to read...!"

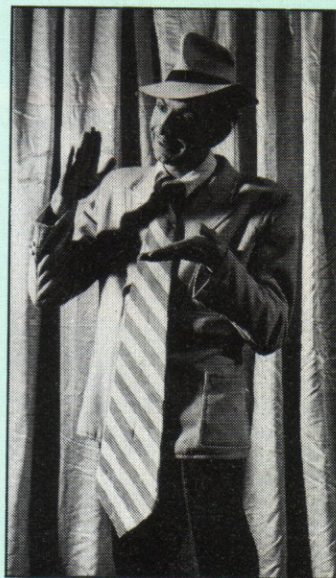
Private English was posted the next morning. Major Fawkes died earlier this year; his widow has emigrated to Australia.

The fortunes of the Aldershot recruit took him thereafter to other units and, at one stage, he was a gunnery instructor to would-be gunnery instructors at Lulworth Cove.

There, he taught them the intricacies of the six-pounder and the two-pounders on Churchill and Crusader tanks. He was also involved in the trials of the 75mm artillery anti-tank gun, an episode in which he says he singed his eyebrows the first time.

It was while he was at Lulworth on guard on Bindon Hill that English unwittingly witnessed the Normandy landing fleet preparations at four o'clock one morning.

"I looked across and Weymouth Bay was full of boats for the invasion. I thought we had been invaded and said to myself 'I'll be down that hill a bit sharpish in a minute'. But nothing was happening when day broke and an



Arthur English — with that tie!

hour later they were gone for the landings in France."

Arthur himself later served on the Continent leaving with the 2nd Armoured Reinforcement unit with whom he stayed until almost the end of the war. He also saw service with the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards in Germany during which time he did guard duty again — this time at the infamous Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near Hohn. "It was pretty, bloody horrible," he said.

As a member of Group 26, Arthur left the Army in 1946 as an acting sergeant-major and it was

then that he hit on the idea of his spiv image for the stage after a colleague, commenting on his sartorial turn-out, remarked: "You look a proper spiv!"

The one-time grocer's assistant asked: "What's a spiv, then?"

"They're the blokes who have been making all the money while you were in the Army, son", came the reply.

At the time Arthur was wearing a big, wide-shouldered white jacket which he had "nicked ... er, sorry, forgotten to return" at Bielefeld.

From that he invested in the snap-brim bowling hat, stuffed



Arthur English — soldier.

gloves up the sleeves of his jacket to broaden the shoulders, a black liner pencil sliver suggesting a moustache under his nose, extended sideboards and a black and white kipper tie with greyhounds on it. The "Prince of the Wide Boys" was ready to take the stage and later success.

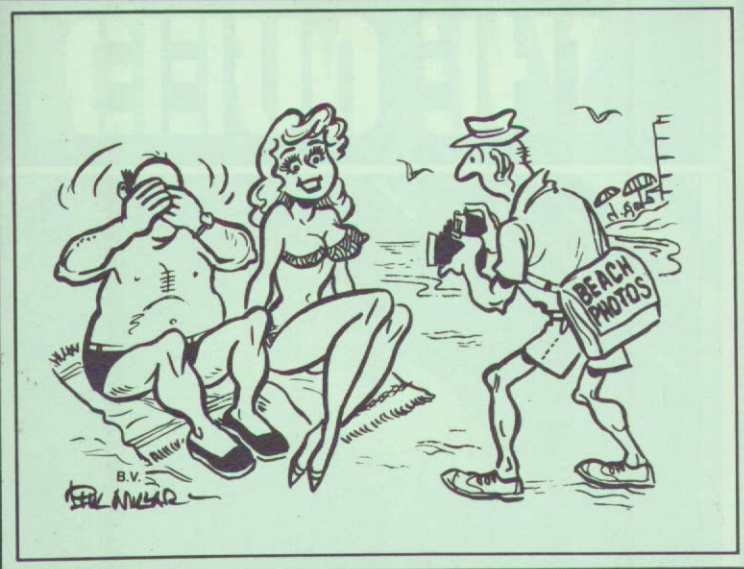
"Later kipper ties were made out of curtain material and there was I wearing these flash ties. Ties I said I would never wear because I was a sophisticated comic but I wore it to my audition at the Windmill on 16 March, 1949. I was a £6-a-week painter and decorator at the time and it was my first wife who suggested I go for the audition."

Now, acting Sergeant-Major English and the former spiv of stage spivs has toned down but has lost none of his dry humour as Mr Harman of Grace Brothers.

Of Captain Peacock, the stores supervisor he says: "He keeps telling us he was a Captain in the RASC and comes to work in their tie."

Alter ego Harman gives a loud sniff, and adds: "But I think he was a bloody corporal in the Pioneer Corps."

And, as the archetypal spiv Arthur of 35 years ago, might have said: "Mum, mum, they're laughing at me! Open the cage. Play the music!"

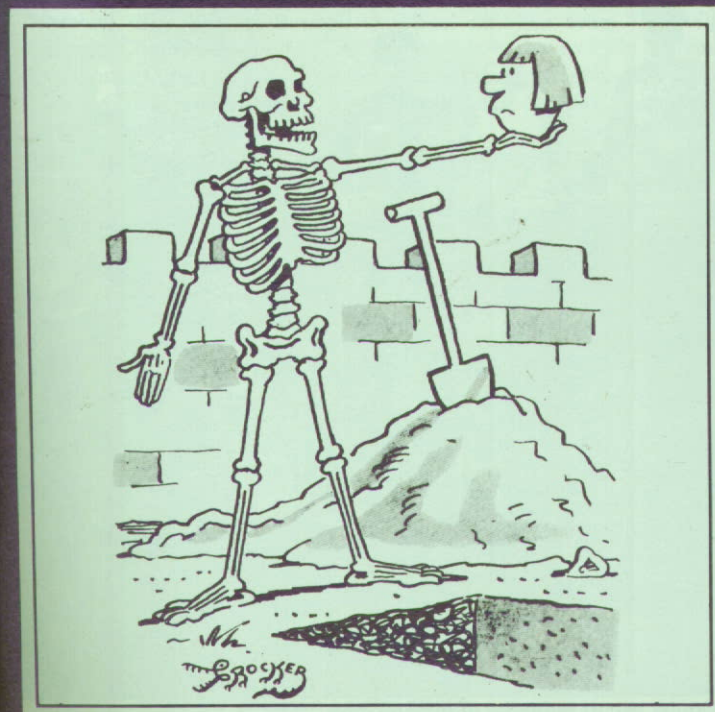
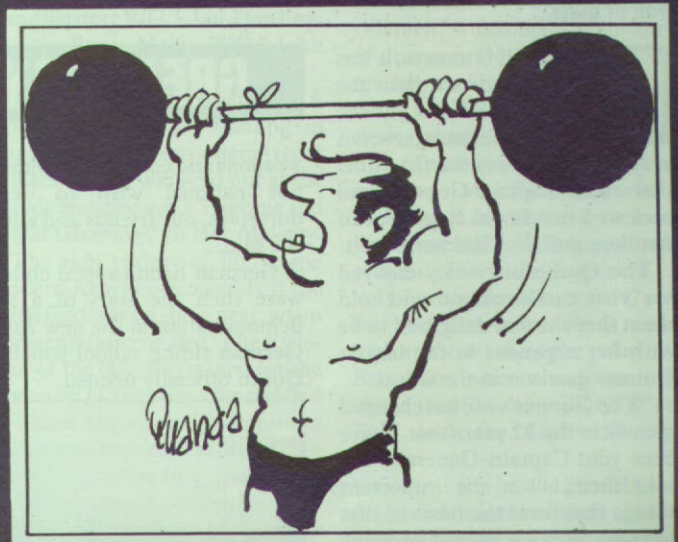


"C'mon, give me an 'out of the dole queue' smile."

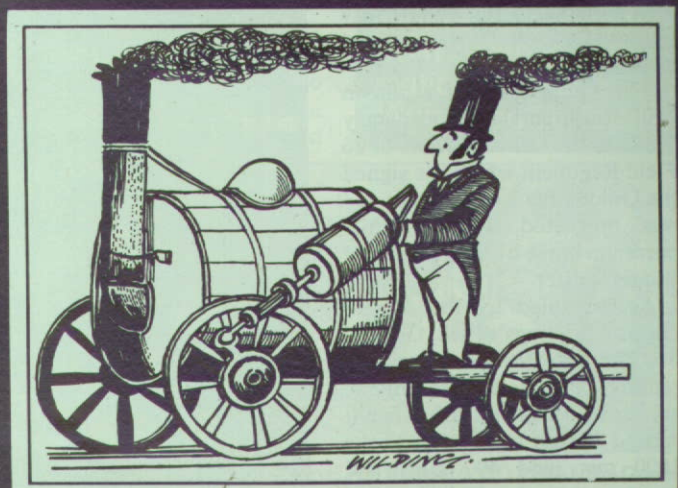


"Stop moaning — the rain's a damn sight warmer here than it is at home."

Humour



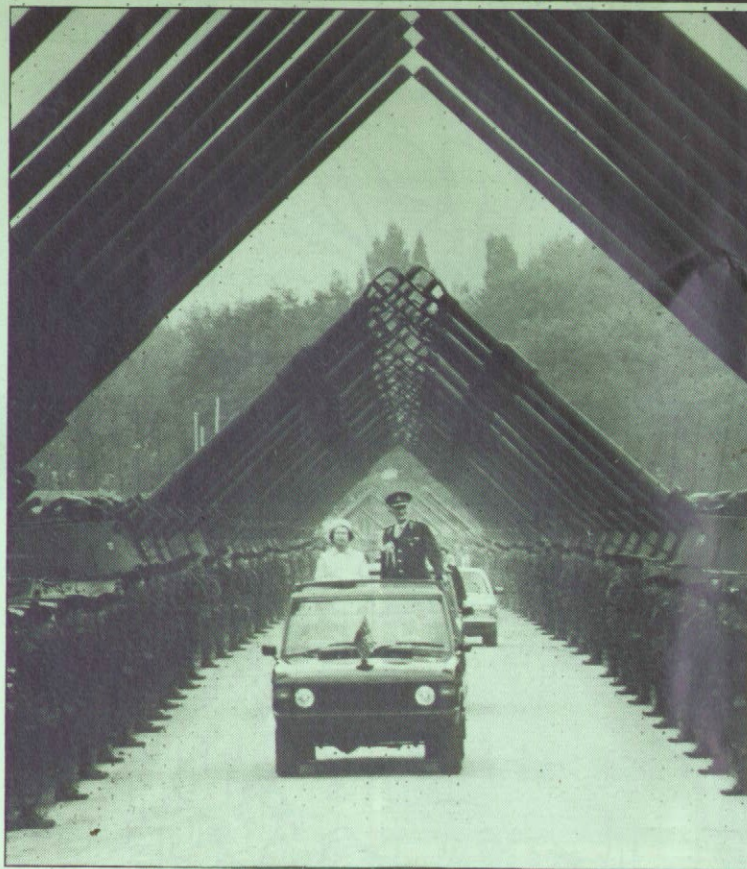
"Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him . . ."





THE QUEEN looking extremely happy to be with her Royal Regiment of Artillery in Dortmund — wearing not only a smile but a Gunners' brooch as well. Right: the drive through a magnificent arch of guns.

THE QUEEN IN GERMANY



Accompanied by Major Peter Browne (right), OC B Coy, 3 RGJ, The Queen inspects the Guard of Honour.



The Queen meets Lance Corporal Lawther and his team-mates, all of 2 RGJ, before they set off on a charity run to London.

FOR THE Gunners, it was more important than the Queen's Silver Jubilee parade at Sennelager seven years ago. This was the first time that their Captain-General had reviewed her Royal Regiment of Artillery and they did her proud.

The Queen obviously enjoyed her visit to Dortmund and told them that she was delighted to be with her regiment in the largest Gunner garrison in the world.

"The Gunner's life has changed greatly in the 32 years that I have been your Captain-General," she told them, "but the important things that form the basis of that life have been unchanged since the Regiment was founded."

Family life, she added, was a vital element in the morale of a fighting force, and it was thriving in BAOR.

The Queen arrived at Essen Mülheim airport and immediately drove to the Officers' Mess of 26 Field Regiment where she signed the Golden Book of the stadt and was presented with a white porcelain horse by the Dortmund Bürgermeister.

Accompanied by the Master Gunner St James's Park, General Sir Thomas Morony, she gave a rapidly promoted lance missile carrier the thrill of its life when it carried her on her review of the 1800 men and 400 guns and equipment on parade. "The men,

GREAT DAY FOR GUNNERS

weapons and equipment epitomise our national wish to defend ourselves, our friends and allies," she said.

German handicapped children were then the stars of a short demonstration in the new Anglo-German riding school which the Queen officially opened.

After lunch was the traditional walk-about after which she drove through an impressive avenue of 113 guns before being shown the range of equipment with which the modern gunner helps keep the peace in Europe.

Regimental activities were next on the list, ranging from sporting

to can-can dancers along with a kindergarten whose helpers would never have risked such dresses and hats near so much paint if it hadn't have been for the Queen.

But it was all worth it. The Queen was perfectly relaxed. Even the weather was kinder than had been feared and the brolly brigade, given warning orders for close support missions during the activities, did not need them during the garden party or band concert.



Modern form of transport — with a popular escort reminder of bygone days.

DESPITE an overcast sky and the threat of rain there was no doubting the warm welcome for the Queen when she visited The Royal Green Jackets at Celle in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief... her first visit to the Regiment since the 1st Battalion was based in Dover in 1975.

In a packed day of colourful activity the Queen watched various displays given by all four battalions, including a battlegroup demonstration staged by the 2nd Battalion, and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and met men of all ranks and their families.

At Celle airport to greet her were Mr D J Young, the newly arrived HM Consul in Hamburg; Field Marshall Sir Edwin Bramall, Colonel Commandant, the 3rd Battalion; General Sir Frank Kitson, Colonel Commandant, the 2nd Battalion; General Sir Roland

Tonic for Green Jackets

Guy, Colonel Commandant, the 1st Battalion; Lieutenant Colonel Mike Robertson, Chief of Staff, Light Division; and Oberstleutnant Gundelach, Commander Air Regiment 16 of the German Air Force.

After a visit to Celle Rathaus to sign the Golden Book, the Queen travelled to Scheuen training area, cheered en route by German sightseers, for a major battlegroup demonstration by 600 men from 2 RGJ and A Sqn Scots DG.

Lunch 'in the field' gave the Queen a chance to meet many of the soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, and their families who had travelled up from Minden.

At Trenchard Barracks, home of the 3rd Battalion, she arrived to the cheers of flag-waving Army school children from Grenville School, to be met by Field Marshal Bramall and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wallace, CO of the Battalion.



The Queen, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Miers, CO 4 (V) RGJ, visits the Battalion's static display.

Formed up on parade for Her Majesty's inspection was a ceremonial Guard of Honour found from B and R Companies, commanded by Major Peter Browne, OC B Coy, and the Band and Bugles under the direction of the Bandmaster, WO 1 Ian Harding, and the Bugle Major, WO 2 John Powell.

Absent from the parade was A Company, currently training in Canada but they sent a signal from Canada which was read out at the parade and conveyed 'Humble and Loyal Greetings' to Her Majesty.

The rich variety of life in the modern Army both on and off the battlefield was on show next, when a presentation entitled 'The Rifleman of the 80s' was staged for the Queen by I Company, commanded by Major Alan Carroll. Contrasting the versatility and skills of the modern rifleman with those of the 1800s the presentation ranged from a dramatic display of infantry mechanisation and fire power to more than a little humour as the Battalion's 'back room boys' paraded in a variety of uniforms.

In strict contrast to the four musket wielding riflemen who appeared in 19th century uniforms, modern soldiers and armoured

vehicles poured onto the square amidst swirling smoke and deafening explosions.

A surprise was in store, however, as the last Armoured Personnel Carrier came to a stop. Instead of riflemen, a colourful assortment of characters emerged and lined up before Her Majesty ranging from a cook to a carpenter to a clerk, complete with typewriter. Last to emerge, but definitely not least, was Mrs Atherton, wife of Rifleman Atherton, and their son Jamie, to emphasise the importance of family life in the Regiment.

Following the parade the Queen had the chance to take a closer look at the work of the other two Battalions when she toured the static displays of 1 RGJ, 4 (V) RGJ and the Light Division Depot.

At the 1 RGJ stand Her Majesty delighted onlookers when she had a go at aiming a Milan anti-tank weapon system.

Stories and pictures from Public Information 1st and 3rd Armoured Divisions.



Accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Jon Beddard, CO 2 RGJ, the Queen meets men of A Sqn, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

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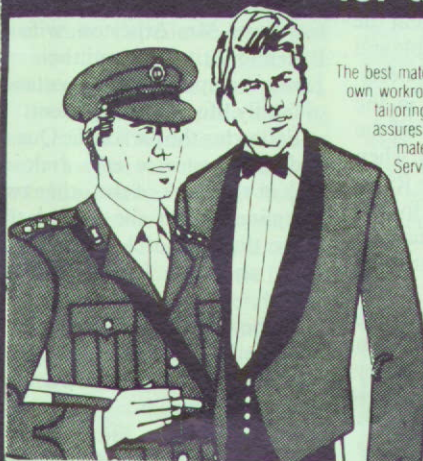
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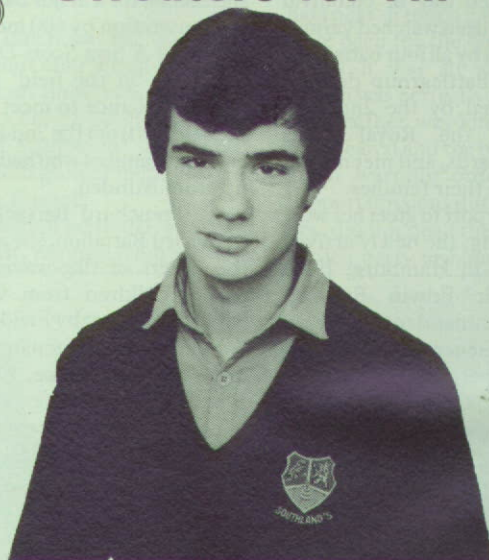
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Writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley have found that P Company business is booming again...

AND THERE'S ROOM FOR MORE!

KEEP 'EM COMING! That's the message, loud and clear, from Europe's most famous selectors of 'rookie' paras ... P Company at Aldershot, home of the Parachute Depot.

The challenge comes from a dedicated half-dozen experts who run the Company's three-week selection courses, men who have taken on a single-minded role in their training life; seeking out tough volunteers who want to have an airborne capability share in serving with the elitist and newly-conceived 5 Airborne Brigade.

Their main customer within that context is 7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, which has returned to the garrison town dubbed, "home of the British Army", for transition back to its erstwhile airborne role.

There has been no shortage of volunteers and this year alone, says P Company's OC, Major Tony Kennett, out of 140 authorised parachutists with 7 RHA, 72 "have had a go with P Company", with 33 of them passing on to training for their coveted wings at No 1 Parachute Training School (1 PTS) at RAF Brize Norton.

But even more volunteers are needed to fill the courses run at Aldershot.

Other "clients" likely to pass through the pre-airborne portals of the unit housed near the Depot's famous Dakota gate guardian are 9 Squadron, Royal Engineers and 5 Airborne Brigade HQ and Signals Squadron.

Infantry input will come, hopefully, in bountiful numbers of aspiring sky soldiers from within 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. And that's not all. The fly boys of 658 Squadron, Army Air Corps, based at Netheravon, could be possible candidates for the rigorous three-week course.

Add to this elements from 63

Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, men from both 16 and 23 Field Ambulance Squadrons, RAMC, others from 82 Ordnance Company, RAOC, REME and the Provost branch, then the potential for parachutists from within the out-of-area brigade looks good.

In fact, it is estimated by Major Kennett, that about half of the Brigade strength will be "authorised parachutists" at the end of recruitment.

He says: "P Company, though long established, really took off in November last year after the visit of Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine when he formally announced the formation in its new role of 5 Airborne Brigade which has an air-dropping and air-landing capability."

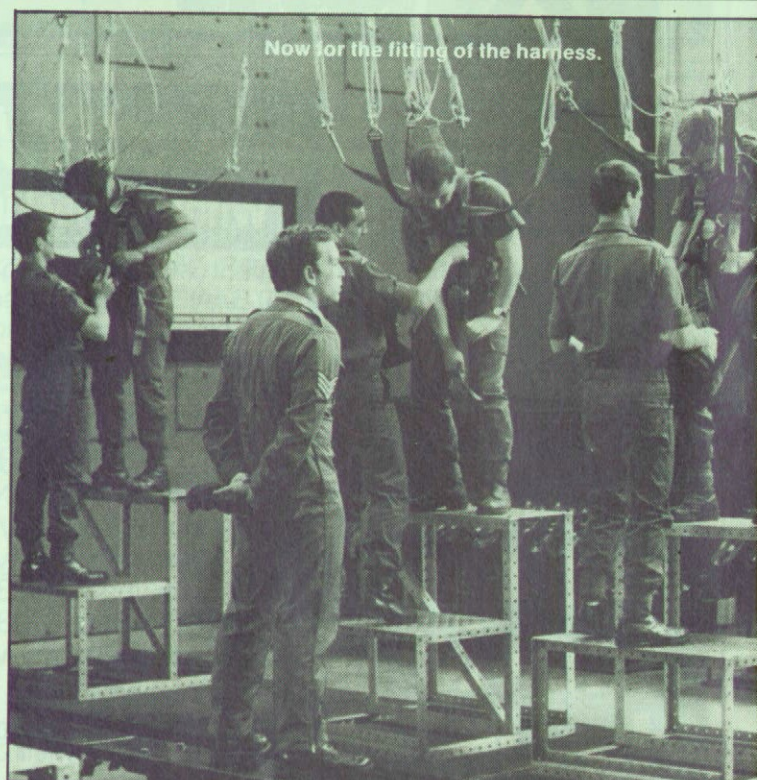
The courses for what are endearingly dubbed the "crap hats" are tough ... but still volunteers come and still, sadly for them, because of high standards, many fail.

The build-up training, for instance, involves a 10-mile-march in two hours totting 40 lb of kit, including rifle. There is also a 10-mile battle march to be completed in one-hour-45-minutes ... a log race ... a stretcher race ... the assault course ... and the transium to contend with.

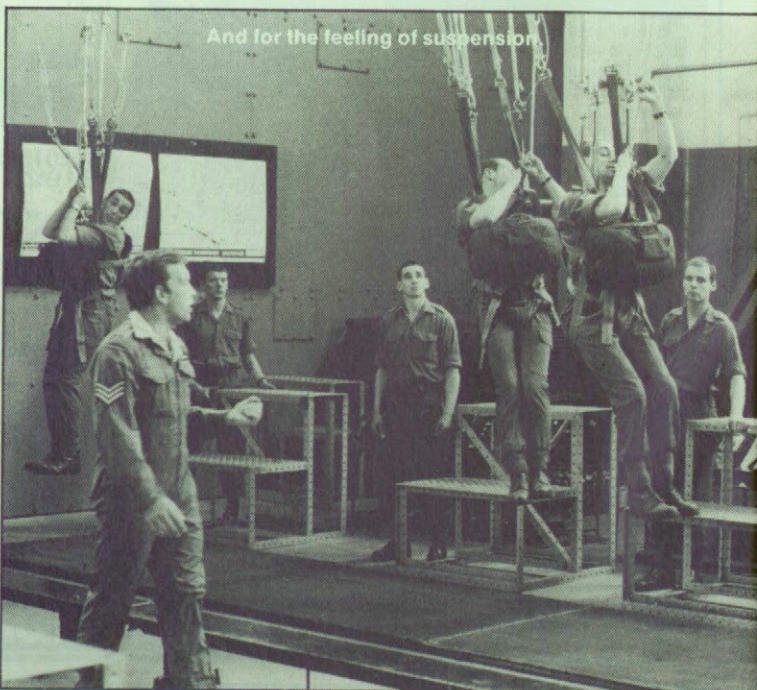
The transium is literally an airborne assault course where the feet never touch the ground, the obstacles being slung or built above the ground with trees flanking them and mud beneath them.

But it can be done. Major Kennett said: "The selection course is for trained soldiers and not for recruits. About a year ago we had a naval radio operator serving with 148 Commando FO Battery, RA, get through to win the best student award. He was, I suppose, in his early 20s.

"Most of our aspiring paras who want a role with 5 Airborne Brigade



Now for the fitting of the harness.



And for the feeling of suspension.

Students learn all about a reserve canopy.

are in their early 20s but we have had three majors through this year. They were in their 30s."

Backing him in his quest to turn out the right men with the right qualifications for the airborne role to drop in on jobs they would normally do with their feet well and truly on the ground otherwise, are five others; three from the PARAS, one from 7 RHA and one from 10 Field Workshops, REME.

And all are sticklers for rigidity of their charter. The aim is to test courage, military aptitude, fitness, endurance and determination under conditions of stress as a general assessment of ability to serve with the airborne forces.

Culmination of the P Company selection techniques is the South Downs March over 14½ miles to be done in 2½ hours to attain maximum points.

If they get through their three weeks of limb-stiffening and mind-disciplining activities at Aldershot then they head — with red beret — to Brize Norton in their bid to add "wings" to fit that unique beret.

Major Kennett was forthright about the failure rate that bedevils the courses.

"Why do so many fail? Injuries are the biggest cause of failure rather than the guys are not up to the mark. And the reason for the upsurge in those wanting to join us — and we have plenty of room — is that the Airborne Brigade concept caught the public imagination after the Falklands. And don't forget, up until March 1977 we used to have 16 Parachute Brigade which took in airborne forces from many regiments. Eventually, the number of authorised parachutists within the Brigade will be about half the formation's strength."

P Company's three-week courses are not new, though. They started in the mid-1970s. Other beneficiaries of the tutorials in

air-dropping techniques on offer by the Aldershot unit later this year are likely to be the armoured recce squadron to be formed from Royal Armoured Corps elements.

Major Kennett, officer commanding Pegasus Company since December last year — P Company is part of it, as well as the TA training team — is brim confident of the results being brought to fruition by what he terms his "rejuvenated" Company.

"All of our people coming here for selection are volunteers and that is important to stress," he says. "We always ask if anyone has been ordered to attend. We have never yet had an affirmative.

"We still want more volunteers. Here, we have a going concern which is crying out for suitable men able to serve with the airborne forces, an image which has really taken off. P Company can take upwards of 110 men per course and, at the moment, there is a shortfall but we are looking for the right kind of guy."

He then added a plea to all unit and sub-unit commanders: "Please publish the fact we are looking for volunteers so that people can come forward." Meanwhile for the squaddie with initiative who fancies a sky-high twist to his career then his term of reference is AGI, Volume Two, Chapter 48.

Above: learning parachute landing falls.

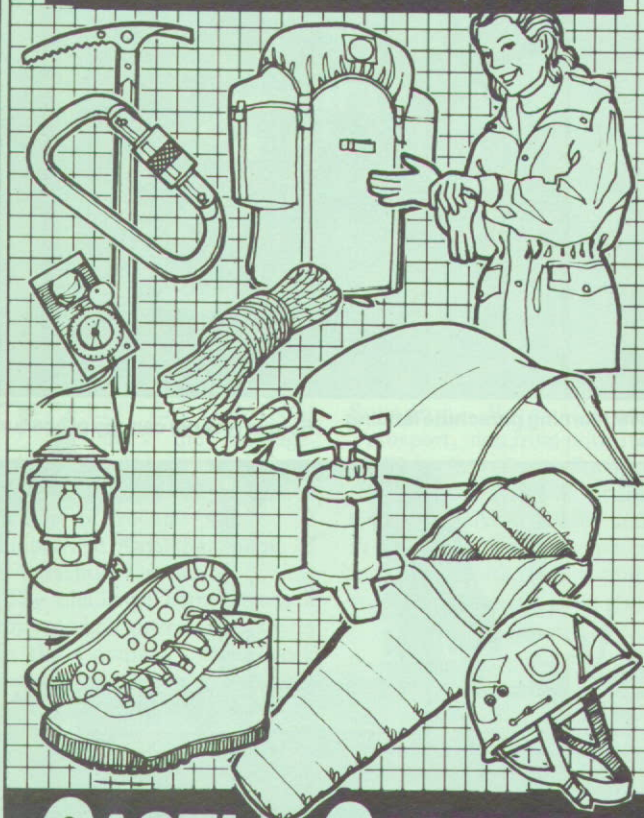
Below: reserve canopy procedure.



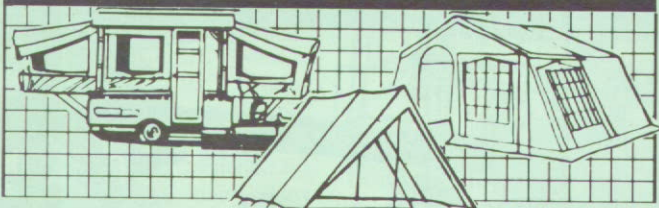
More guidance in the art of falling.



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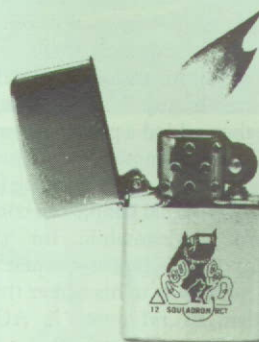
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THE UNIVERSAL CARRIER

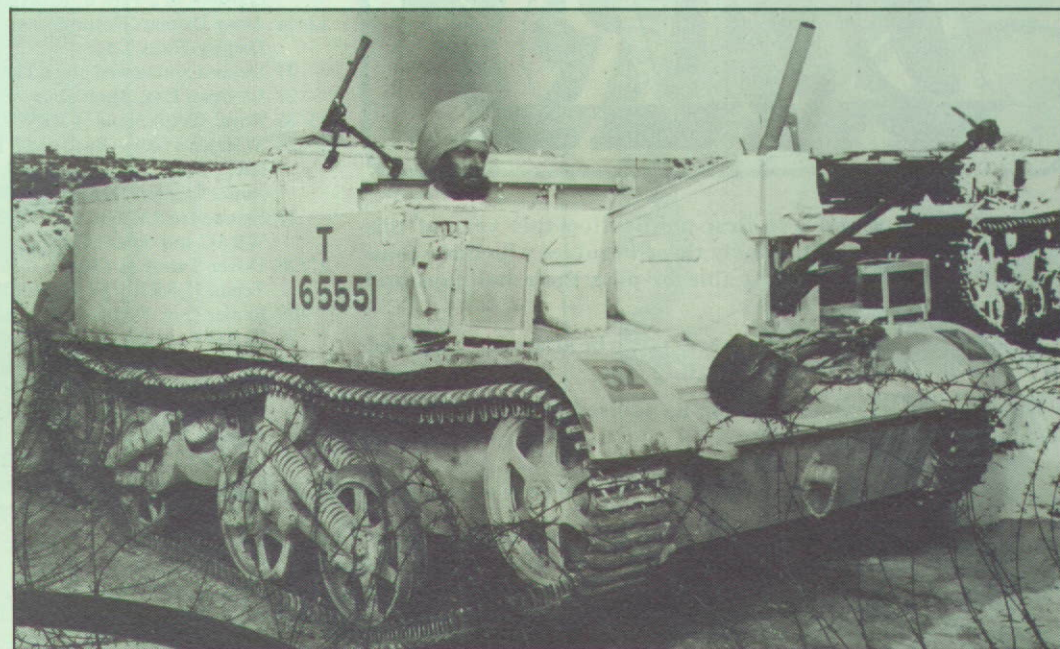
Derived from a long line of tracked vehicles originating in the 1920s, the Universal Carrier, as its name implies, superseded a number of other models such as the Bren and Scout Carriers in 1940.

Of simple design, the steel hull was box-shaped, with the driver and gunner in the front and the third crewman in the rear in one of the load-carrying compartments either side of the engine.

The carrier was cramped, uncomfortable and open to the elements as well as hostile fire. In summer, the engine heat was almost unbearable and the din made conversation almost impossible.

Nevertheless, it was a popular vehicle and was employed in a multitude of roles, transporting men, weapons, supplies, casualties and hauling anti-tank guns.

First used in the Western



Desert and thereafter in all the campaigns and theatres of World War 2, it was made in greater numbers than any other armoured vehicle. It was manufactured in Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

During the war most British infantry rode to battle by lorry since the Universal Carrier was only able to accommodate two or three extra men, but its design had a significant influence on the development of the APC that carries today's

infantryman into action.

Armed with a Boys .55in Anti-Tank Rifle, a 2in Mortar and a Bren Gun, the museum's Canadian-built Universal Carrier No 2 Mk II is shown in the insignia of the 4th Indian Division in North Africa.

Museum displays Fijian gifts

AT A stirring ceremony in Dortmund last autumn, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji, presented the British Army with gifts to commemorate the completion of 22 year engagements by Fijian soldiers.

A *tabua*, or sacred whale's

tooth, and a ceremonial *tanoa*, the wooden bowl used in the preparation of kava, the Fijian beverage made from pounded roots, are now on display in the National Army Museum's New Accessions case.

To present someone with a *tabua* is the greatest honour

Fiji can bestow. Until the arrival of the whalers over 150 years ago, highly polished pieces of bua wood were venerated objects used in some Fijian ceremonies, then similarly shaped teeth of the sperm whale provided an excellent substitute.

Tabua are polished by many years of handling and, latterly, treatment with coral sand, coconut oil and the leaves of the masi-ni-tabua tree, but the main criteria of value are size and weight. Any *tabua* over six inches and weighing 16 ounces is very highly regarded. Fiji's gift to the Army is seven and a half inches long and weighs 32 ounces.

Two hundred and twelve Fiji islanders served in the Artillery, Engineers, Signals, the RAC, the RASC, REME, RAOC and in the Infantry. Many reached warrant officer rank and their medals tally, extraordinary for such a small contingent, includes a George Medal, a Distinguished Conduct Medal, a Military Medal, MBEs and BEMs. At least one Fijian lost his life when serving with the SAS in the Middle East.

Notable sportsmen, the Fijians were prominent in Army boxing and athletics and even on the golf course, but their most formidable contribution was on the rugby pitch, where their fitness, skill and toughness became legendary.

The last Fijian has now left the Army.



Flashback to the farewell at Dortmund last Autumn, when the Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara presented the British Ambassador in Bonn, Sir Jock Taylor, with a ceremonial bowl.

See-the-Army DIARY

Readers will welcome the first publication this year of this popular feature — particularly those regulars who have complained they have not been able to plan their holidays and weekends properly!

Please remember though that events can be altered or cancelled so please check locally before setting out.

We also ask organisers to keep us advised of any changes in order that we can help readers.

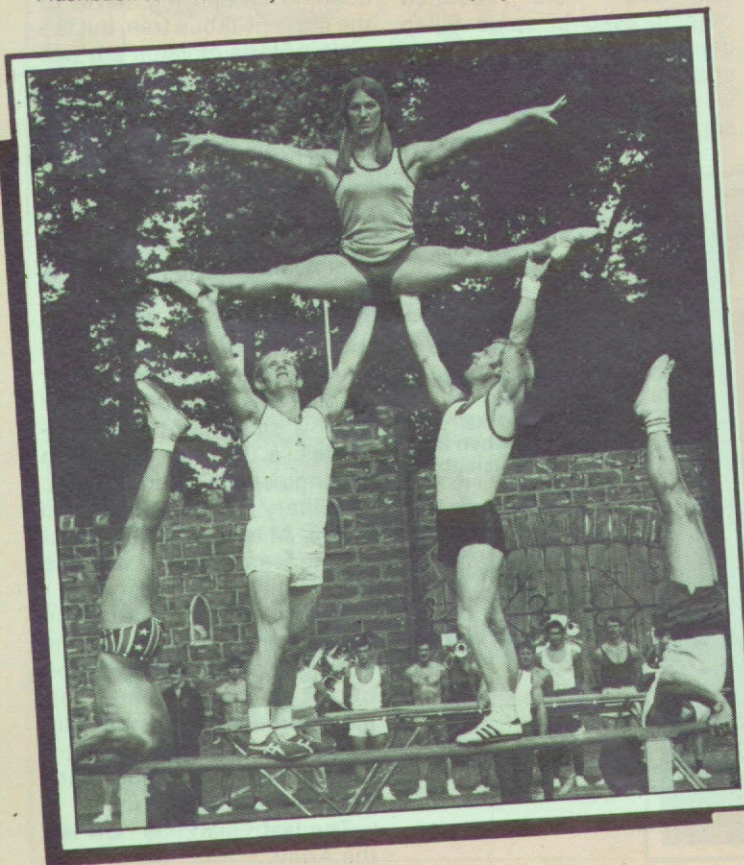
JUNE 1984

- 20 Aldershot Military Show (Musical Ride).
- 21/24 Aldershot Army Display (2 Para, King's Tp, RA MCD Team, Red Devils, Red Arrows, Battle of Britain Flight).
- 25 Massed Bands and Firework display, Rowntree Park, York (Bands: QOH, 2 RRF, KOSB, QLR, Yorkshire Volunteers, 5 R Irish (TA), Depot King's Div Junior) (OTC Leeds Gun Crew, 1 Platoon W Coy King's Div).
- 27/28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (SG Band, IG Band) (Junior Signal Regt Display)

JULY 1984

- 1 Royal Signals Reunion, Catterick (Royal Corps of Signals Pipe Band 32 Sig Reg (V)).
- 4 Army Exhibition for Schools Depot Queen's Div, Basingbourne (1 Royal Anglian Band and CD, 2 Royal Anglian Band and CD, Queen's Div Junior School of Music CHD) (Red Devils Junior Signal Regt Display RA Motorcycles) (4-7 July).
- 5/7 RGJ Week, Winchester (Lt Div Depot Band B, 1 RGJ Band B, 3 LI Band B) (Lt Div Depot Winchester).
- 7/8 International Air Show. Middle Wallop. (Para drop, battle scene, guns, tanks, and flying display).
- 10/11 RSA Massed Bands, Larkhill (Junior RA Band CD B).

Flashback to an earlier year — an APTC display and the famous White Helmets.



- 11 The Royal Tournament, Earls Courts (The Massed Bands of the Royal Marines, The Band of 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (Resident Band) (The RN Display Team, The RN Field Gun Competition, The King's Tp RHA, The White Helmets, The RAF Police Dogs) (to 28 July).
- 11/14 Artillery Day, Larkhill (RA Band).
- 11 Massed Bands, Larkhill (RA Woolwich B, RA Mounted B, JLRRR B, 1 Glosters B, 2 Para B, REME B).
- 12/14 Army Display, Nottingham (G G Band) (Red Caps, Red Devils Combat Display Notts TA).
- 27 Depot Crickhowell Open Day (1 RWF CD, 1 RRF CD) (RA Freefall).
- 21 LI Open Day, Shrewsbury (The Trail Blazers (N)).
- 23/26 Royal Welsh Show (1 RRF CD).
- 26/28 St Helen's Show (Band and P 1 R Irish, Band & CD 1 QLR, Band & CD 1 RRF, Band 1 RS, Band Irish Gds) (KDDT, Red Devils, RAMC DT, Junior Leaders, R Sigs, 2 RRF, 25 Eng Regt).
- 27 Farewell to RMABCRMA Sandhurst Beating Retreat (RMABC, RAOC, WRAC and other bands).
- 27/28 Dover Tattoo (1 DERR, 2 R Irish, HAC, 5 Queen's (V) (RAF MCD Team, JLRRE 1 TLB, Pathfinders, 17 Tra Regt RA).
- 28 Rapier Day, Kirton-in-Lindsey (RA Band).
- 28 12 AD Regt RA (Junior RA Gymnastic).
- 29 Bovington Open Day (RA M/C).
- 30 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (QDG Band, RA Band, R Signals Band, RHF Band, Albuhera Band, Queen's Regt & CD, RRF Band & CD, 2 R Anglian Band & CD, D & D Band & CD, 2 R Irish Band & CD, RWF Band & CD, 1 Staffords Band & CD, REME Band, WRAC Band) (Red Caps, Junior Leaders RA Gym Display, RAF Falcons, Royal Norwegian King's Guard, RAF Fly Past) (to 4 August).

AUGUST 1984

(See also Colchester 30 July).

- 3/5 Manchester Show (1 R Irish Band PD, 1 QLR) (Red Devils).
- 5 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Junior RA Band, CD, B) (Junior RA Gymnastic) (5 August-5 September).
- 10/11 Shrewsbury Flower Show. (CG, RCT, RAOC Bands) (Band Light Div School of Music, White Helmets m/c display team).
- 11/12 Newport Services Spectacular (QDG Band, 1 Staffords Band, R Mon RE(M) CD, 3 RRF (V) Band CD, 157 Regt RCT(V) CD) (RN, RM, RMP, RA MC Display).
- 17/18 Darlington Show (CMD, RCS 34 (N) Band) (RA Para, 34 (N) Sig Regt (V)).
- 26/27 Carlisle Service Tattoo (1 RS Band, 1 King's Own Border Band D, 1 R Irish Band RD, 2 LI Band B, RM Band FOSNI) (RN Display Team, Red Caps, 12 AD Regt RA, 4 King's Own Border (V), RAF Police Dogs Display, Red Devils, RA Para).
- 31 North Wales Tattoo (1 RWF CD, 1 D & D) (RA MC Display, LI PDT) (31 August-1 September).

NOVEMBER 1984

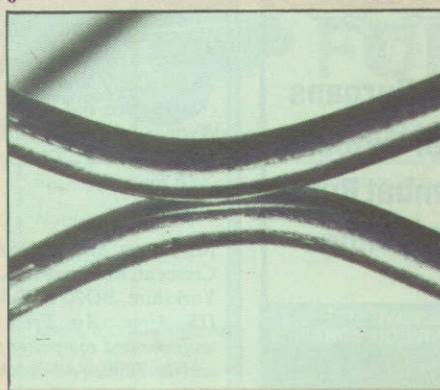
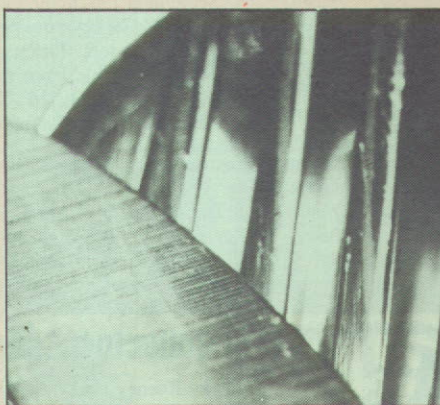
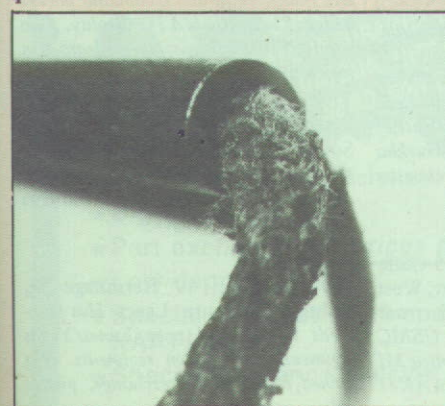
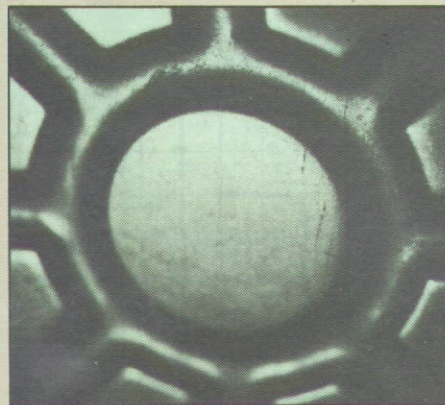
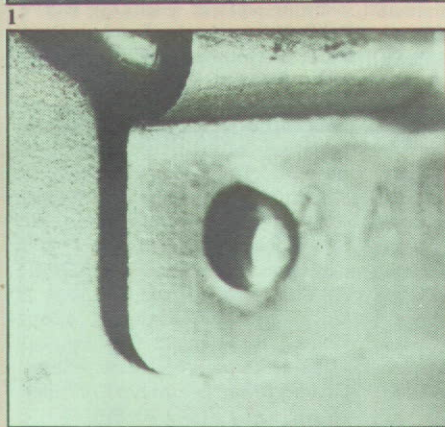
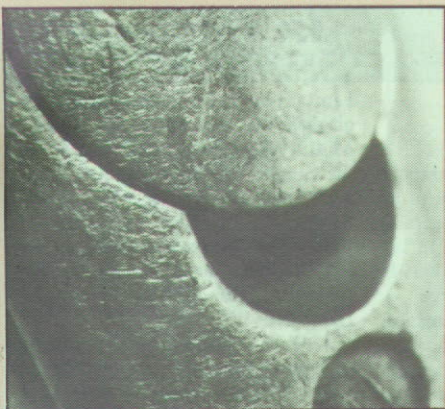
- 11 Remembrance Sunday.



Photo Picture Puzzle

SO YOU think you know your kit, do you? But can you recognise these unusual shots of everyday military equipment? You will have seen them all before, in recognisable form, but the angles from which our photographer has caught them may cause you to take a closer look at the items that feature so often in a soldier's life. Write what you think they are in number order, please.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 20 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 17 August and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 340' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 340' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

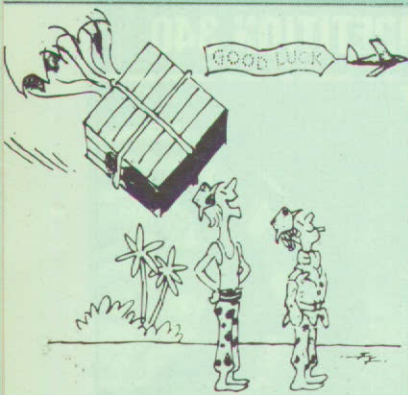


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MEDAL RIGHT

In response to an enquiry from Mr Patchcott (SOLDIER 2 May) concerning next of kin wearing their deceased relations medals, you quote Taprell Dorling's 'Ribbons and Medals' which states no authority exists.

In 1945 whilst serving at 16 Inf Trg Centre, Colchester I met a Corporal wearing the ribbon of his father's Victoria Cross on the right breast. It had been awarded posthumously and it was said this gave him the right to wear it. Whether or not this was correct, certainly no one was prepared to tell him to take it down. — Maj GMI Stroud (Ret'd), Little Pednor, 12 Glebe Rise, King's Sutton, Banbury, Oxon OX17 3PH.

GUNNEREERS?

I wonder if I am alone in regretting the growing style of military reporting in which British soldiers are referred to as 'Brits' and infantrymen are called 'infanteers'?

My dislike of the term *Brit* I confess is probably due to the number of times one sees it used in a pejorative manner, often as a graffito of the 'Brits out' variety. Perhaps I am over sensitive.

The title *infanteer* sets my teeth on edge and my dislike has a more logical footing. I have yet to find a dictionary that gives the singular of the collective noun *infantry* as anything other than *infantrymen*. It is an ancient and honourable term and I would have

MAIL DROP

thought that the customs and traditions of our splendid infantry regiments, with their wide range of titles such as Guardsman, Fusilier and Rifleman etc might provide even the most shell-shocked journalist with enough variety to enliven his copy and avoid repetition.

I was prompted to write by your article 'Trumpet Sounds a High Note' (SOLDIER 7 May) which was liberally sprinkled with the offending terms. I must add that I found the piece otherwise lively and informative, although I suspect that the American 'Bird Colonel' mentioned therein would sooner be equated to a Colonel than a Lieutenant Colonel.

Maybe in my sensitivity I am looking with trepidation to a journalistic future when I as an artilleryman, or gunner might be faced with the prospect of seeing myself referred to as a 'gunnerer'. Now that, sir, would be the outside edge of enough! — Capt R G McKenna RA, Royal Artillery Range Hebrides, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland PA88 5LN. We note your distaste, Capt McKenna with interest and respect. Also, a quick call to the US Embassy confirmed that a 'Bird Colonel' is equal to the rank of Colonel, the name coming from the fact that he wears the national emblem, a bald-headed eagle, as his badge of rank.

SEND UP

With reference to your piece 'This is your Life' (7 May), we in this station can only assume that it is a send-up. In particular the paragraph which states that in a BAOR hand out, Fred is said to be the longest serving soldier in the Army.

In this small HQ, three serving members have enlistment dates of 21 Feb 1945, 23 Oct 1946 and 1 Jan 1947 and are each serving on unbroken engagements.

Sorry Fred! — Major P C Holme, HQ Dusseldorf Station, BFPO 34.

LS AND GC?

The Long Service and Good Conduct medal remains highly prized and well earned but I feel that, instituted over a century ago, its title *Good Conduct* is now out of date. Surely all regular soldiers must have good conduct so, in keeping with modern times, should not the title of this coveted award be shortened to *Long Service* only?

There seems no valid reason to me

Can you help?

I have been asked by the Secretary of the REOCA to write the Roll of all who joined the Royal Engineers at Sandyford Drill Hall. 1914-1918 1st, 1/2, 2/2 etc Field Corps; 1918-1946 — 232 Field and Squadrons etc.

If anyone is able to furnish information, photographs, newspapers or magazine cuttings I would be most grateful. After copying all items would be returned. We are four generations of Sappers. — Jack Shevill, 61 Princes Road, Brunton Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 5AN.

why commissioned officers should not also be eligible for a Long Service medal. The Italian army awards all its ranks a fifteen-years service medal which is a silver cross with a green and white ribbon and is worn before campaign medals. Similarly, French Regular Forces are rewarded for long service with their Legion d'honneur which has various grades and was inspired in 1917 by British Empire orders. — Rimmer, 27 St George's, Chester CH1 3HG.

Reunions

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental regimental reunion. Saturday 16 June on Worcester Racecourse, starting at 2pm. The event is open to anyone who has served in The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, The Worcestershire Regiment or The Sherwood Foresters. Further details from Major J M Brazier (Retd), RHQ The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Norton Bks, Worcester, WR5 2PA.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) London Branch Regimental Reunion Dinner. 7 for 7:30 pm, 15 September 1984 at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Tickets and further details available from the Secretary: M Ryan MSM, 18 North Drive, AERE, Harwell, Oxon OX11 0PE.

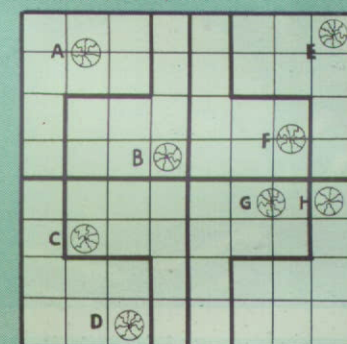
Competition

In Competition 337, 'Eight trees and a piece of land', our compiler divided the large field into eight smaller fields as shown in the diagram below. From

I am currently investigating the history of two VC winners of the Indian Mutiny. They were both members of the Second Battalion Military Train namely Privates Michael Murphy and Samuel Morley. During the pursuit of Koer Singhs Army from Azimghur the two soldiers saved the life of the Adjutant of the 3rd Sikh Cavalry, Lt Hamilton.

I would be most grateful if anyone with any information on either of the above soldiers would contact me at the following address: — Lt DW Reeve RCT, 90 Sqn, Junior Leaders Regt RCT, Azimghur Bks, Colerne, Wilts, SN14 8QY.

your entries we understood there to be other ways of subdivision but for the purposes of drawing the winners we stuck to our compiler's solution which we felt was the most logical. The lucky brother who drew the field with buried treasure was Thomas (Field A.) Prizewinners were: 1st Sgt H Gilchrist, ACIO Glasgow, Charlotte House, 78 Queen St, Glasgow. 2nd Mrs R L Simpson, 38 Trelawne Drive, Cranleigh, Surrey. 3rd Bdr C E Lilley, 16 AD Regt, BFPO 20. 4th WO1 S Buchan RAO, JSMQ Sales Office, HQ UKLF, Erskine Bks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts. 5th T M Weston, 3 RWF, Int Section, Glyndwr Rd, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.



How Observant Are You?

1 Shape of lowest flame behind Car 5; 2 Smoke of detached fragment above Car 5; 3 Road shadow below detached wheel; 4 Shape of white tail-fin of Car 11; 5 Helmet of driver of Car 11; 6 Fragments between Car 5 and its detached wheel; 7 Front end of Car 11; 8 Number of road lines left of leading car; 9 Length of middle road line on right; 10 Top bar of 'Z' in 'Zoom.'

Collectors' Corner

J Reeney, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG. Has the following books for sale: 'Winged Dagger' by Roy Farran, £5; 'The Honourable Artillery Company' by Major Gould Walker, printed in 1926 (requires new end cover), £14; 'East of Katmandu' by ED Smith (The Gurkha Rifles 1948-73), £6. Please enclose an SAE for reply.

Mr J Scott AAMV USAVC, 5 Cliffe Crescent, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 5LB. Wants to trade US Army, Air Force and USMC uniforms and equipment for replica MI carbine Tomson sub-machine gun AK47 and any other replica or will buy same.

SFC M H Johnson, 7th Military Police Coy, 7th Infantry Division (Light), Fort Ord, CA 93941, USA. Wants UK Air Forces (UK air) Command pocket badge to complete NATO display. Also wants Royal Marine colour sergeant arm insignia.

Peter Garraty, PO Box 67, Truro, South Australia 5356. Wishes to purchase Zambia Regiment cap badge. Also Queen's Surreys, Royal Fusiliers and Buffs collar badges.

Roy Robinson, 10 Hermitage St, Rishton, Blackburn, Lancs. Has post-cards WW1, will swap Lancs/Yorks regiments for London regiments. Has named RND set for exchange, photos only — not patriotic.



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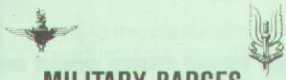
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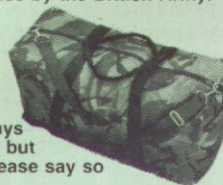


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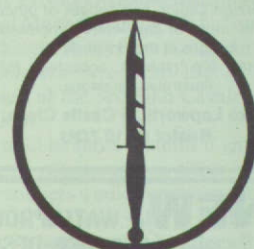


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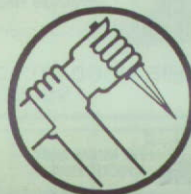
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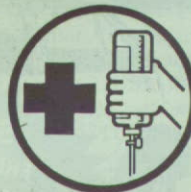
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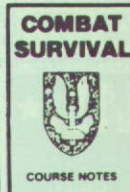
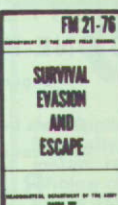
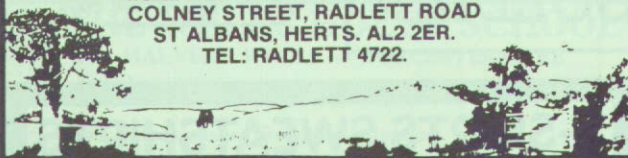
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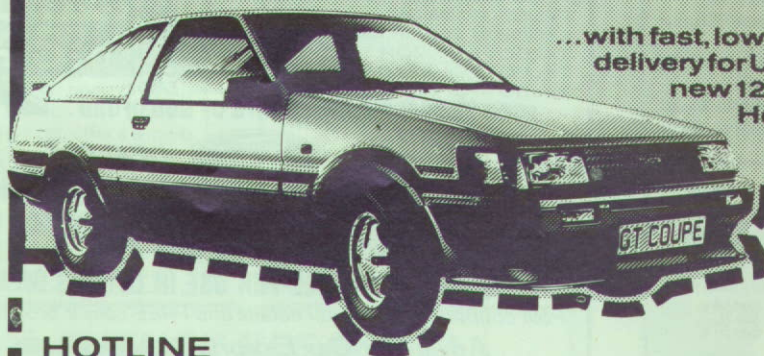


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The Bulletin will be distributed on 2 May 1984. Further information can be obtained from DCI Army J255/83. application forms will be available through your Unit Orderly Room.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 8 is 4 July 1984.

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FOUR YEAR TREADMILL

THE SUMMER had scarcely begun outside but the 12 young Servicemen reporting at the Army Personnel Research Establishment in Farnborough had winter on their minds. And not the coming winter but that of 1987-88 when they hope to represent Great Britain in the next winter Olympics.

After a 25 year gap cross-country skiing is back on the sports map with a vengeance and Servicemen comprise the entire British squad. Last winter the British team put in some creditable performances in the Winter Olympics at Sarajevo. Best was Lieutenant Mark Moore from 39 Heavy Regiment RA, who finished 50th out of 72 and has now begun training to do a lot better in Calgary in 1988.

Said Moore: "It was my first real crack at cross-country racing and I am hoping that by Calgary I will be able to get into the top 20. We are aiming to get in and beat people like those from the Alpine countries who have better training facilities than we have."

Mark learned to ski at the age of 11 but started cross-country racing four years ago. The difficulties he points out are immense: "Scandinavians do it as kids and it leaves it a bit late to learn at 17 or 18. We also have a lot less people to choose from — the Scandinavians have almost a whole nation."

Nevertheless team trainer, Battista Albin, a former Swiss international was pleased with the Sarajevo debut. Says Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Walker, Director of the British Nordic Ski Team: "Both the East German team and the Finnish team manager congratulated us on the performance of the British team."

The gruelling tests at the APRE were under the direction of Dr John Patton, an American Army physiologist on a 12 months exchange tour. The squad, comprising five of last winter's team and seven newcomers, were wired up to a machine and then ran on a treadmill to test their oxygen uptake and their heart, lungs and blood rate.

The idea was not just to test their physical fitness but their energy potential. Some might not have the capacity to improve and would therefore not be useful members of a squad beginning a four year training slog.

Cross-country skiers use both their arm and leg muscles so their results in this type of test tend to be better than the average athlete. Lieutenant Charles Haye, team manager, told me: "They can be considered among the fittest people in Britain."

They certainly needed to be fit to cope with the demands of the treadmill. After a six-minute warm-up followed by a rest they had three or four spells of three minutes with the gradient of the treadmill being steadily increased.

Sapper Michael Dixon from 35 Engineer Regiment, Hamelin, was not looking forward to it. He came 60th out of 89 starters in the Olympic 15 kms race and has only



Marine John Spotswood sweats it out on the treadmill while Dr John Patton measures his performance.

been skiing for three years. "But it was a thrill to see my great improvement over last season."

Another sapper bidding for a place in the team is Sapper Lloyd Gallantrey from 26 Engineer Regiment, who came fourth in last winter's Army championship 30 kilometres event.

At the end of the day there was good news for all 12. A one month lay-off had reduced fitness slightly but all of the newcomers recorded standards which will enable them to begin their summer training shortly.

Lieutenant Haye declared: "We believe we can still get them up to world class standard." And trainer Battista told SOLDIER: "They have good discipline and are physically and mentally strong. I think they have good potential."

He has designed a four year programme of training which would ideally involve them working for 11 months of every year. This may not be possible but nevertheless a hard road beckons for the six soldiers and six marines who stepped onto that treadmill at the APRE.

GOLF

AS WE WERE SAYING...

IN OUR report of the Army Golf Championship in the last issue, we incorrectly stated that Corporal Alistair Brownrigg beat Sergeant Ian Gray in the semi-final and similarly that Corporal Steve Mariner beat Corporal Doug Spiller.

The report should have read: Mariner beat Gray on the 18th hole and Brownrigg beat Spiller four and three.

We apologise for this error.

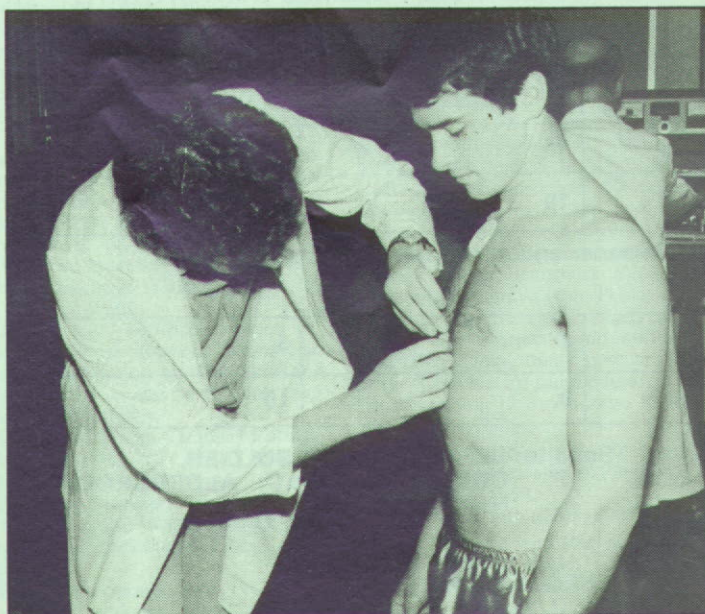
ARMY RUNNERS' NATIONAL SUCCESS

The British Army Orienteering Club scored a major success as runners-up in the recent British relays held in Wendover Woods. Over 65 teams including seven Service sides took part with BAOC taking 2nd, 18th and 26th place.

The 'A' team consisted of Gunner Mick Brett, Lieutenant John Dowty and international Captain Chris Hirst. First leg runner Brett put in such a fast time the organisers and second leg runner Dowty were caught unawares and vital seconds were lost in the handover box.

South Yorkshire Orienteers and Bristol Orienteering Club put in fast times to leave Hirst with some five minutes to catch up. But he gained steadily and with two controls to go the outcome was still not clear. The Yorkshiremen made it home only 50 seconds ahead.

BAOC continues to field strong teams in most regional and national events. Team Manager Warrant Officer 2 Dick Lucas is now looking forward to first place in the next major event in the calendar, the Harvester Trophy on 23 June at Mytchett Common. For details on this event or BAOC membership contact Captain Colin Matheson on Barton Stacey mil ext 211.



Sapper Michael Dixon is wired up before his turn.

THERE WAS no doubt about 1984 being a good year for Corporal David Garrod, REME, as he scythed through his opposition in this year's Army Fencing Championships, winning the Scots Cup and becoming Champion at Arms.

In the 1982 Foil Championship he was third; last year saw

GARROD'S GOAL

him as runner-up but this year he reached his goal of the number one slot beating Private Steve Davey, ACC, and Staff Sergeant Dennis Owen, RE, into second and third

places respectively.

But he didn't stop there. In the Sabre competition Garrod improved on his last year's third place, eschewing the runner-up position and went straight in as champion. Already Inter Services Champion at Arms, where does he go from here?

The standard of Epee this year was very high with the title going to Second Lieutenant Dominic Mohony. Second was last year's winner Corporal Tim Haddon, 13/18H, and third, Corporal Peter Hart REME who produced a good result for a young fencer.

Captain Sue Reid, QARANC at last ended Captain Eileen Clark's four year reign as Ladies Foil Champion when she won five hits to four. This close result had been forecast since both ladies had not lost a single fight before they met for the final. Third was Captain Jane Ripley, WRAC.

In the Junior Championships

TEAM RESULTS

Junior 6 man Inter Unit Team: JLR RE 'A' 1st, JLR RE 'B' 2nd, AAC Harrogate 'B' 3rd.

Three-man team: RMAS 1st, 50 Msl Regt RA 2nd, Life Guards 3rd.

Senior 6 man Inter Unit teams: SEE Arborfield 1st, Trg Bn & Depot REME 2nd, 25 Engr Regt 3rd.

SEE Arborfield will represent the Army at the Royal Tournament in the Inter Unit Team Championships, next month.

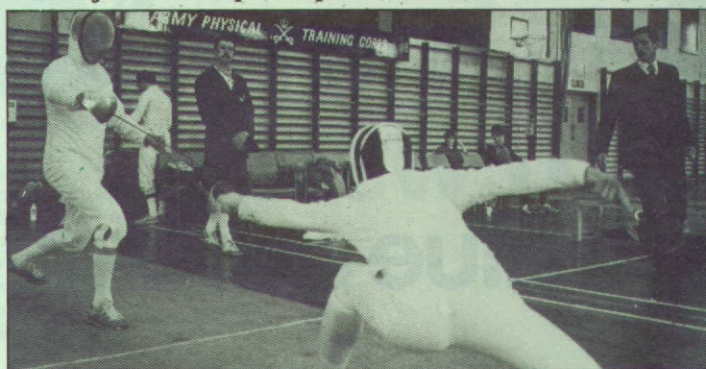
(under 20) the entries were up on previous years and it took the first two days of the Championships to complete. Winner of the Foil was Junior Sapper Andrew Witham, JLRRE, and in the Epee there was a four way barrage for first place but an eventual win for Sapper Harris, 25 Eng Regt, who is also this year's Junior Champion at Arms and winner of the Moore Trophy. Top slot in the Sabre competition went to Junior Sapper James Williams, JLRRE.

All the foregoing fencers have qualified to fence at the Royal Tournament in July.



Pictures: Doug Pratt

GARROD — 3, 2, 1 ... all smiles



Garrod — action against Sgt Kerson

Soccer shock is Botswana bonanza!

TWO GOALS in the last 12 minutes of an interesting game at Bordon gave the Botswana Defence Force the dream ending to their four match tour in the UK — a win over an Army XI, 3-1.

It atoned in part for a mauling they received, on the same ground, by a REME Corps side, just six days earlier, when they were massacred 9-2.

That they had benefited from a series of coaching sessions, by the Army Staff Coach QMSI Alf Coulton, was evident! They were well worth their win.

An interesting opening half entertained a small crowd and when the Army XI went ahead, in the 30th minute, those who had witnessed Botswana's earlier appearance at the Daly Ground might have been excused for anticipating a similar landslide.

Some good interchanges be-

tween Craftsman Neil McGregor and Lance Corporal Steve Butler ended with the former crossing the ball to Corporal Rudi Fleming. He controlled the ball on his chest before volleying into the roof of the net.

The visitors equalised just before the interval. What looked to be a

very mediocre centre was bravely won in the air and headed home under the noses of the Army central defenders.

The second half was different as the youthful and very fit touring side took the game to a lethargic and often indifferent home side and eventually produced two goals

of quality to underline their superiority on the day. A deft flick split a flat-footed Army defence and a pacy forward raced clear to slot it home.

As the Army struggled to recover, a break down the Botswana right saw the flank striker take the ball to the goal line.

He held up the cross before picking out an advancing teammate and delivering the perfect centre, for the simplest of chances.

It wasn't a full Army side but there was enough experience and talent in it to justify pre-match confidence for a good win. That they were well beaten reflects great credit on the visitors.

Results of the tour were:

London District XI 3, Botswana Defence Force 6; REME XI 9, Botswana DF 2; Wokingham Town XI 2, Botswana DF 4; Army XI 1, Botswana DF 3.



Botswana's 'keeper foils the Army. Picture: Paul Haley.

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