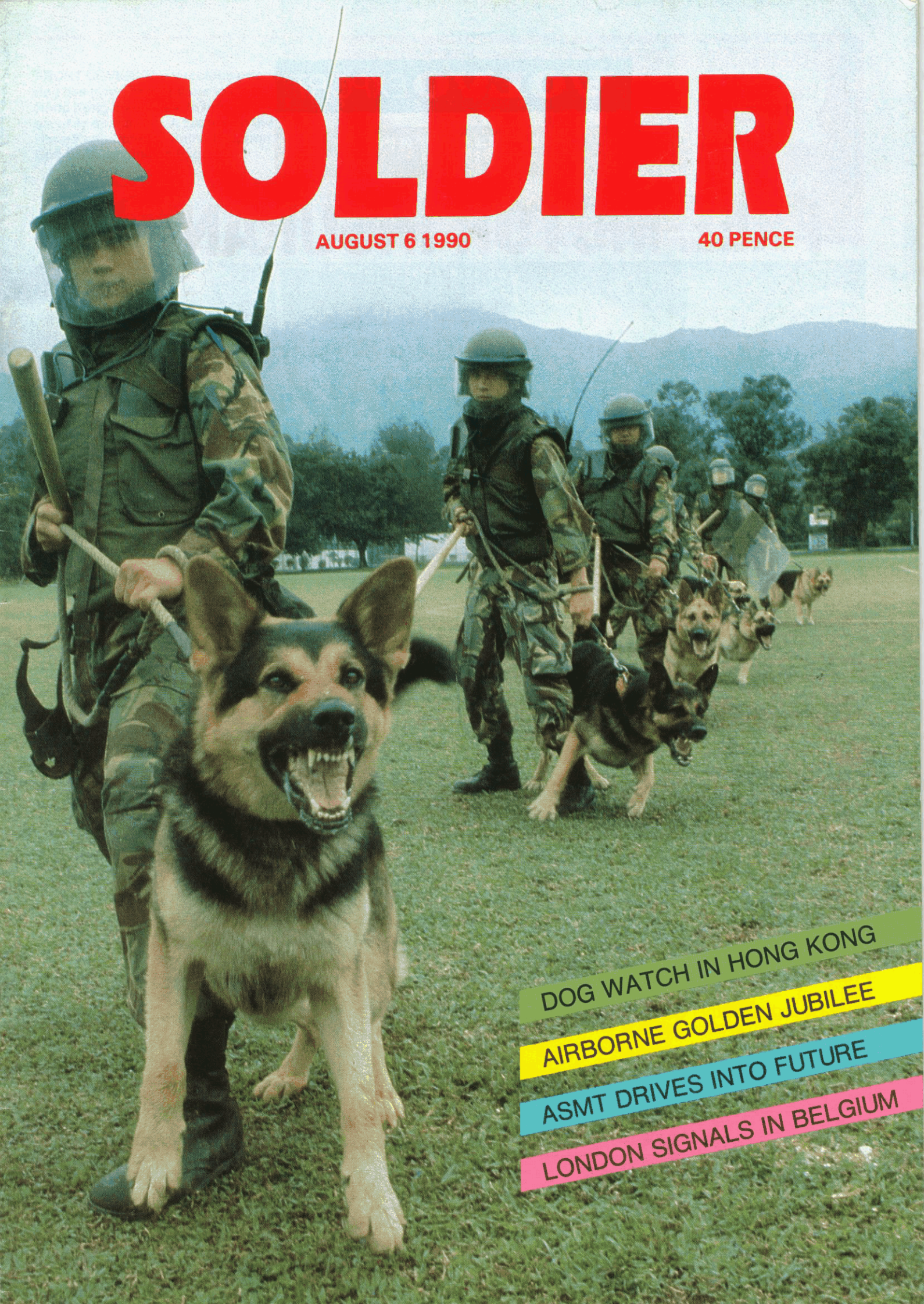


SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: The ferocious gripper dog has given new options to units in Hong Kong involved with internal security operations. A feature on the Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit RAVC begins on Page 22.

Picture:
Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Pictures: Terry Champion

Wheelchair-bound veterans of the Dunkirk evacuation are pushed past the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. Thousands of 1940 veterans joined the parade and were later inspected by the Queen inside the stadium. The occasion was a highlight in a series of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the famous evacuation of British soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk. Story in Page 7.

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Lost officer 'shot by Italian patrol'

I DID not get any replies from the UK to my request (November 27 issue) for information concerning the death of the Australian officer Capt Arnold Wienholt in Abyssinia in 1940.

The most likely solution, for the benefit of your historians, is that published in the centenary history of, and accepted by, the Fassifern

District, which Capt Wienholt represented in the Queensland State Parliament, Australia.

"Around July 1940 Arnold Wienholt went into an area east of Gallabat (an Italian fort close to the Sudan boundary). He was accompanied by a small number of Gumz tribesmen.

"On September 10, 1940, their camp near Mutabia village was attacked by an Italian

patrol and Wienholt was shot. He was last seen making for the surrounding jungle.

"About 300 yards from where he was shot, a pile of bones was later found in a low, boggy hollow. The remains of a boot found at the camp site was identified as his." - Lt Col A E Cocksedge, 17 Mardale Street, The Grange, Queensland, Australia 4051.

Medal pleas show scope of activity

Active times in Suez

I NOTE with interest letters enquiring about a Suez medal. Having served on the Canal for three years (1952-1955), living in old decaying tents, and liable at any time to be fired on or decapitated by piano wires across the roads when riding one's platoon commander's motor cycle, things were fairly unpleasant at times.

We were officially on active service (all disciplinary charges were prefaced with "Whilst on Active Service" which presumably meant we were there for business reasons, not just to play polo or other peaceful pursuits.

On the two occasions I have written to the War Office MoD in the past 30 years asking whether a Suez medal had been issued, the response was a short negative reply.

Perhaps all ex-Suez troops should apply the blow-torch where it will be felt most. - Maj (Retd) J Jeans (formerly 4 Coy RASC Gebel Maryam); 52 Martin Place, Surrey, Australia, NSW 2000.

WHILE not wanting to become involved in the argument as to which areas of operation deserved recognition through the award of medals, I would like to express the view of one who served in Berlin not long before the erection of the Wall.

I can safely say the majority who served in the Berlin Garrison at the time had no thoughts of any sort of medal, although the tension was almost tangible and Berlin was a vast armed camp, isolated from the West.

Although cut off in a hostile environment, we were classed

as having a home posting! What hope is there today of a government even more remote from the pressures of Cold War confrontation doing anything to recognise the services of so many over such a long period?

By all means publish the letters putting the case for recognition of service in various parts of the world. At least they show the scope of operations performed by members of the British Armed Forces - but forget about the possibility of medals. - William Blacklaw, School House, Banchory-Devenick, Aberdeen.

Cortege drill was taught

THE letter from Miss Alderton (June 11) brought back some memories for me.

As a schoolboy, nearly 80 years ago, I was taught that if a funeral cortege was encountered in the street the peak of one's cap should be touched or the hat raised.

As a young soldier, nearly 70 years ago, I was instructed to pay tribute to the dead by saluting the passing coffin. If, however, the funeral procession was of a Service nature, recognised by the coffin being borne on a gun carriage and covered with the Union Jack, then one halted, turned facing the cortege and, standing to attention, saluted the passing cortege.

It is nice to note that some aspects of ceremonial drill are still being practised when the sight of troops appearing in uniform outside barrack areas is very rare indeed through the scare of IRA activities.

Presumably the two soldiers

Football VC not unique

YOUR April 16 issue carried a story about Lt Donald Simpson Bell in which it was stated he was the only professional footballer to be awarded the Victoria Cross in the First World War.

With due respect I would like to point out that another professional footballer - albeit from rugby league football - was awarded the VC.

In May 1917 Lt Jack Harrison, a professional with Hull RLFC and a member of their 1914 Challenge Cup Final side, was killed in action and awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously. He had also won the Military Cross.

Jack Harrison's record of 52 tries in a season has only recently been broken, by current Great Britain star Martin Offiah of Widnes. - B A Tomlinson, ex Gren Gds, 7 Avondale, Anlaby Park Road South, Hull.

Historical note: 2nd Lt John "Jack" Harrison was killed at Oppy, France while trying to knock an enemy machine gun out of action. He was a schoolmaster before joining the 11th Battalion, The East Yorkshire Regiment, and had scored the winning try in the 1914 cup final at Wakefield.

on horseback were members of the Royal Military Police (Mounted Section) carrying out routine patrol duties through the streets of Aldershot. - Capt Henry W Corke, 249 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent.

Cap peak slashing ridiculed

THE Guards are well-known for being a law unto themselves in certain matters, especially of dress.

Unfortunately some other members of the Army do tend to copy the Guards' irregular modes of dress. The slashing of cap peaks has now reached quite silly and ridiculous proportions.

I suggest Guards officers

cease turning a blind eye to the way Guardsmen mutilate their cap peaks.

By far smarter than any



A topical view as seen by Col John Bird, regimental secretary of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment

Assault sappers

I WAS interested to read Mr F McLellan's letter (June 11) concerning the formation of the engineer assault brigade in Italy towards the end of the Second World War. 1st Field Squadron was one of the squadrons which were re-roled as part of this brigade.

According to my squadron history, it was not an exclusively engineer brigade but included 51 RTR along with a large number of Royal Armoured Corps reinforcements employed as tank

drivers, gunners and fitters. The brigade was raised and trained in Italy during the period December 44 to March 45 to support the 8th Army and became operational in April 45.

The brigade, along with its constituent regiments and squadrons, appears to have gone through a number of nomenclature changes in its short life, moving from numbers to letters and then back again!

In late March 45 the brigade consisted of the following units:

HQ 25 Asslt Bde; 51 RTR (HQ, A, B and C Sqn); 1 Armcd Regt RE (141, 638 and 622 Armcd Sqn RE); 2 Armcd Regt RE (1 (formerly 1 Fd Sqn), 627 and 637 Armcd Sqn RE); 25 Asslt Bde Sig Sqn; 631 Armcd Pk Sqn; 27 Coy RASC (Asslt Bde); 5 Lt Fd Amb; 25 Asslt Bde Ord Fd Pk; 25 Asslt Bde Wksp Coy REME; 253 Fwd Del Sqn.

25 Asslt Bde and 2 Armcd Regt RE were disbanded in July 45 after they had seen service in Italy and Austria. 1 Armcd Regt RE was subsequently disbanded in Italy in October 45 and 1 Armcd Sqn RE reverted to its normal role as 1 Fd Sqn. - Maj J M Heron, OC 1st Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 48.

How Sgt Len played his part

THE report on the fighting for Mount Longdon by Sgt Len Carver of 3 Para (July 9 issue) was a classic account of the British soldier in battle. There is, however, a footnote.

In 1988 the world's Press, represented by a 12-strong media group including myself, covered Exercise Fire Focus, the reinforcement of the

islands' garrison. We were introduced to the then Cpl Carver more or less by accident during a delay in one of the set-piece incidents.

He was an instant "hit" with the media, and not just because of his thoughtful reflections on what the Falklands campaign had meant to him.

Equally intriguing was his

Reunions

● **El Alamein Reunion** of Eighth Army Veterans Association Sussex Branch will be held at Hove Town Hall on Saturday October 20. Guest of honour, Earl Kitchener of Khartoum. Details from Ken Buckle (tel: 0273 608637) or Bill Ash (tel: 0273 506405).

● **Apprentice Surveyors RA** trained at the JLRRRA from 1959-69. Those interested in July 1991 reunion please contact Capt (TIG) L A Webb RA, HQRSA, Larkhill, Wilts.

Searchline

● **Regional Depot RAOC** Thatcham wishes to get in touch with any descendants of Lt Col Vernon Watkins Urquhart MC who was killed by enemy aircraft at the Depot on Aug 16, 1940. Please contact Maj K Mullins on 0635 62741 Ext 8292.

● **212 (Highland) Air Defence Battery Royal Artillery (Volunteers)** is preparing a history from its beginnings in Arbroath in 1778. Potential contributors who served with the Arbroath Battery from 1914 onwards, or who have information pre-dating that, are asked to contact the Battery Commander, TA Centre, Montrose Road, Arbroath, Angus DD11 5JS.

● **Surviving members of 11 Bn Manchester Regiment and 9 Bn The Lancashire Fusiliers** who took part in the capture of Mouquet Farm ("Mucky Farm") on September 26, 1916 are being sought by B J Baker, 16 Bastion Road, Prestatyn, Clwyd LL19 7NB. His grandfather was badly wounded in action and died later as a consequence.

● **Mr Bent Ritz, Hvødemarken 14, II M, 6400 Sønderborg, Denmark**, is trying to obtain a Jewish chaplain's badge with Queen Elizabeth II crown.

role during Fire Focus. Having last been in the Falklands as a casualty on Mount Longdon, his first job after being declared fit for duty was to play the part of a casualty on Mount Longdon.

Funny sense of humour, the Paras! - Peter Rhodes, Chief Feature Writer, Express and Star, Wolverhampton.

"Everything went like clockwork"

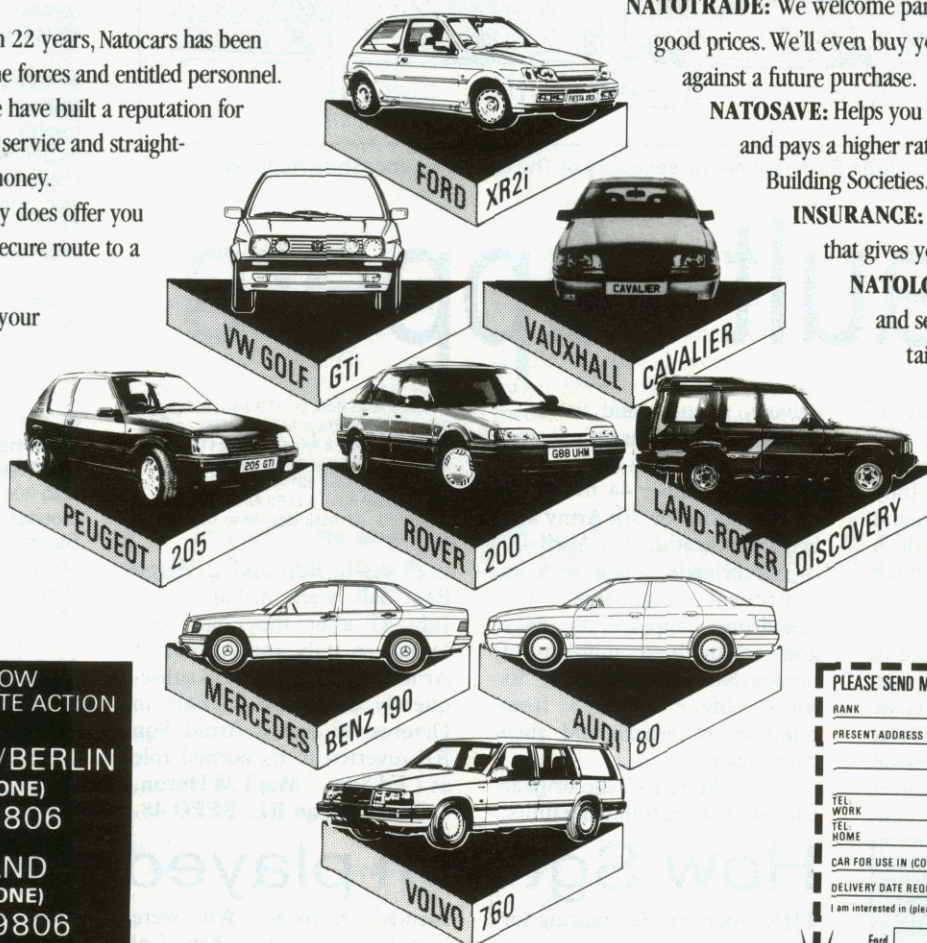
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Dunkirk veterans on parade

VETERANS of the Dunkirk evacuation paraded past the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in Queen's Avenue, Aldershot to mark the 50th anniversary of their remarkable escape across the English Channel. The ceremony was the highlight of a series of events to celebrate the evacuation in 1940 of 338,682 British and Allied soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk.

More than 2,000 veterans took part in the parade and thousands more were seated in the stands at the Military Stadium. Most of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association's 118 branches were represented at the ceremony, during which the old comrades were inspected by the Queen.

Branch standards were paraded in the stadium and were lowered during an emotional rendering of the Last Post.

The parade took place on one of the hottest days of the summer and nearly 30 veterans suffered from heat exhaustion.



Men of the Army Air Corps parade in their distinctive light blue berets. Brig Edward Tate, Commander Aviation UKLF (left) is the inspecting officer as 657 Squadron AAC holds a farewell parade to mark its departure from Oakington Barracks in Cambridgeshire. The squadron is now in temporary accommodation in Ripon before occupying a new airfield at Dishforth, Yorkshire as part of 9 Regiment AAC, itself an element of 24 Airmobile Brigade

Border duties to end

THE DAYS of British and Gurkha troops carrying out border duties on the Sino-Hong Kong border are numbered with the announcement that the Royal Hong Kong Police are to create a Field Patrol Detachment (FPD) that will assume total responsibility for policing the area by 1993.

The first nine kilometre sector of border, about a third of the total, will be handed over to a company of the FPD in December.

In September 1991 and April 1992 further handovers of the other sectors of the border will be made, and by early 1993 the entire border will be manned by the Royal Hong Kong Police.

The Army has patrolled the border since 1979 when it was called in to deal with a flood of illegal immigrants.



Members of Manchester-based 75 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) RE relay 400 yards of the Purbeck Line track into Corfe Castle station, Dorset. The 24-hour operation by the TA sappers was part of their two week camp and gave them a unique opportunity to build from scratch a railway line which will be put to regular use

Italian link for Munster's medics

MUNSTER-based medics from 5 Armoured Field Ambulance are looking forward to an autumn exercise in Milan after hosting the Italian Reparto Sanita "Goito" Brigade.

The Italians took part in Folding Bed, a major field training exercise involving 3 and 5 Armd Fd Amb, 211 Fd Hosp from Plymouth, 208 Gen Hosp from Liverpool, two ambulance trains and 600 soldiers from BAOR to act as casualties.

Minister visits new BMATT

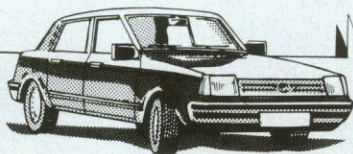
BRITISH Army Military Advisory and Training Teams in Zimbabwe and Namibia were visited by Secretary of State for Defence Tom King during a four-day visit to Southern Africa.

In Zimbabwe he inspected training facilities at Harare where the BMATT, currently under the command of Brig Tim

Toyne Sewell, has been operating since 1980, and at Nyanga for training elements of the Mozambique forces.

Later Mr King flew to Windhoek to visit BMATT Namibia, the newest of the training teams, set up in March under the command of Brig Tony Ling to establish an army for the newly independent nation.

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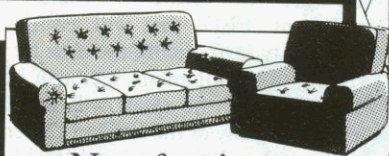


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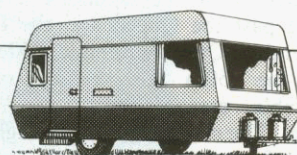


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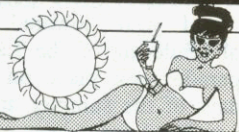
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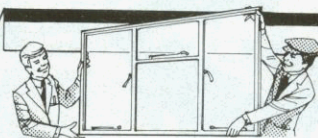
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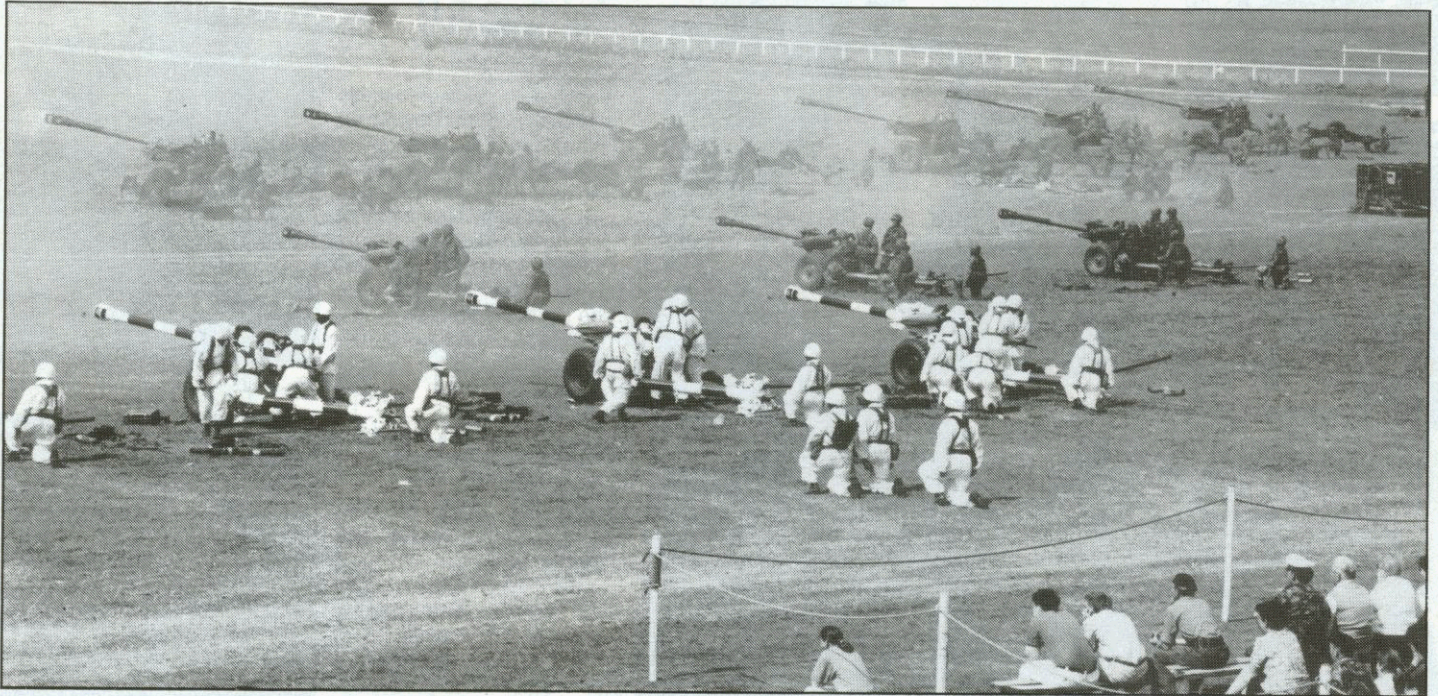
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Not a flake of snow in sight as Arctic-clad gunners join in the thunderous finale to the Royal Artillery open day at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wilts. More than 30,000 spectators enjoyed the event, which was staged for the first time in four years. Arena displays ranged from the famous musical drive of The King's Troop RHA to the firepower demonstrations involving more than 50 weapons. Spectators in the grandstand area were entertained by more than 30 fast-moving artillery displays on the ground and in the air, with guns firing singly or in batteries. About 1,000 soldiers took part in the open day.

UKMF out in force

TROOPS from the United Kingdom Mobile Force carried out field training on Salisbury Plain during Exercise Druids Drake. Regular and Territorial Army soldiers were involved in the exercise.

Units taking part included The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry from Tidworth; 14 Field Regiment RA and 94 Locating Regiment RA from Larkhill; 22 Engineer Regiment from Perham Down; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and 16 Field Ambulance from Bulford; the 1st Battalion, Wessex Regiment from Devizes; 7 Regiment Army Air Corps from Netheravon; 21 Postal and Courier Squadron from South Cerney, and many other signals, transport, ordnance, medical, RMP and REME units.

Headquarters of UKMF is at Tidworth.

Troop Freedom

H TROOP of 13 Signal Regiment (Radio) exercised their Freedom of Dannenberg by marching through the town with bayonets fixed. The troop has been stationed in the area since 1974 and was granted the honour in 1984, a year after winning the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for the measure of its integration with the German community.

Music was provided by the Band of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.



LCpl Craig Fairbrother of the 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers demonstrates the general purpose machine gun to brothers David, John and Paul Bolton during the 15 Infantry Brigade open day at South Shields

Waterloo memorial unveiled

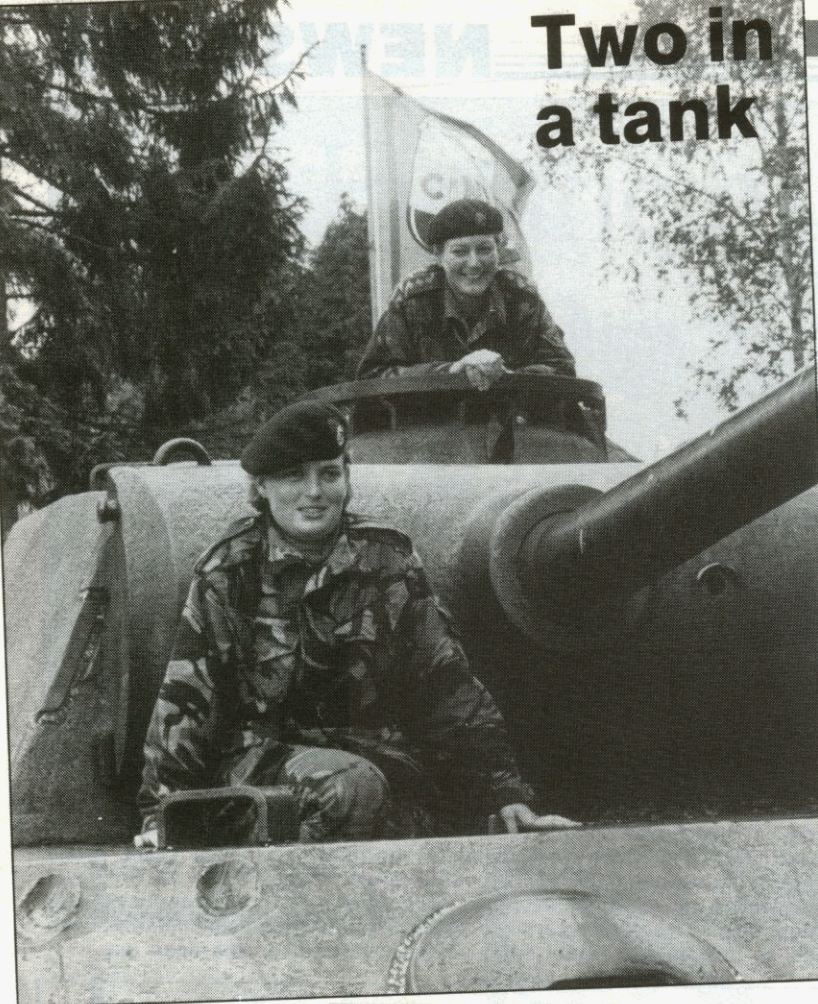
A MEMORIAL stone has been unveiled in a field of corn at Waterloo in Belgium by the Archbishop of Armagh. It commemorates the part played by the 27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot at Waterloo in June 1815, when the Inniskillings suffered terrible losses.

They were the only Irish infantry regiment to fight at Waterloo and their memory was honoured at the unveiling by

soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers who were joined on the old battlefield by 40 old comrades from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Association.

At other ceremonies 1 R Irish were joined by the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards for a service at Hougoumont Farm where there is a Guards memorial to the light companies of the 1st Foot Guards (now Gren Gds), Coldstream Guards and Scots Guards.

Two in a tank



This German Panther tank was knocked out by a mine near the Belgian village of Celles on Christmas Eve 1944. Almost 46 years later, 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held its annual training camp in the area. See feature starting on Page 17.

While Pte **Denise Trop** (front) tries out the driver's seat, Capt **Sarah Shepherd** made herself at home in the commander's hatch. Sarah was taking a break from her normal job as a civilian press officer on the Army desk at the Defence Press Office in Whitehall where she deals with media enquiries.

Raised spirits!



Left - A wag would say these puppets on a string look remarkably lifelike! They are the Assault Pioneer Platoon and soldiers from the Home Service Force Company of the 7th (Durham) Battalion, The Light Infantry enjoying a celebratory tippie to mark the opening of the Clervaux suspension bridge they erected. It's on an estate in County Durham owned by Mr **Bill Chaytor** (second from right) who paid for it. On the extreme right is Lt Col **Ian Sawers**, CO, and third from right, Lt **Bob Coulthard**, who master-minded the operation



CARING: Col Mike Dowell (left) with Mr Tudor Edwards

Picture: Bangor Chronicle

All part of the service

★ Caring Army Careers Office staff at Bangor, North Wales, have been able to make up in part for the clutch of medals lost by war veteran Mr **Tudor Edwards**. Mr Edwards, who is 69, and lives near the office, often popped in for a chat and had explained how upset he was when they went missing after his family home split up while he was on service. At a

surprise ceremony, Army Careers Officer Col **Mike Dowell** presented him with a beret and cap badge of his old regiment, the now-defunct South Wales Borderers.

Meanwhile, there are hopes that the Army will be able to turn up replacements for his Italian and North African Stars, War Defence and 1945 medals.

On call

Familiarising himself with his new patch is the Rev **Chris Tomlinson**, senior chaplain 1 (BR) Corps, based at Bielefeld, who has been visiting the headquarters of the 1st Armoured Division at Verden, near Bremen.

His parish stretches from the south of Germany all the way up to the Danish border in the north.



Last post

Forty-two years of continuous service by Maj **Bill Baillie** have at last been broken - by his retirement. His career started as a National Serviceman from which he went on to serve with The Black Watch, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. He was appointed Army Careers Officer in Surbiton before taking up a similar post in London, his last.



PEOPLE

Picture: Mike Weston



Big Laurie passes out

You saw it first in SOLDIER! An article in our April 2 issue on the Army Personnel Selection Centre featured **Lawrence Grech**, one of the last (and at 6ft 5in one of the tallest) candidates to pass through its portals. Cfn Grech - as he is now - has just passed his Phase One recruit training. He enlisted

as a potential recovery mechanic and is to move to SEME Bordon for Phase Two trade training. Cfn Grech, of Burma Platoon Training Battalion and Depot REME, is pictured being inspected by the Reviewing Officer, Lt Col **Cliff Paskell**, CO Bristol UOTC.

FAMILY DOUBLE

When WO2 **Keith** and Sgt **Rowena Sumner** were courting they were disciplined for holding hands in uniform, but this early misdemeanour was forgotten when they received their Long Service and Good Conduct medals from Brig **Christopher**

Hammerbeck, Commander 4 Armoured Brigade and Munster Garrison. They met while training at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, and now work together at the British Military Hospital in Munster, Keith as chief clerk and Rowena as a nurse.



Vatican ambassador

Youngsters from Army families in Aldershot meet Archbishop **Luigi Barbarito**, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Great Britain. He was the principal celebrant at the annual Mass of the United Services Catholic Association at Aldershot Garrison Church of St Michael and St George. He was assisted by the Roman Catholic Bishop to the Forces, Bishop **Francis Walsley**.

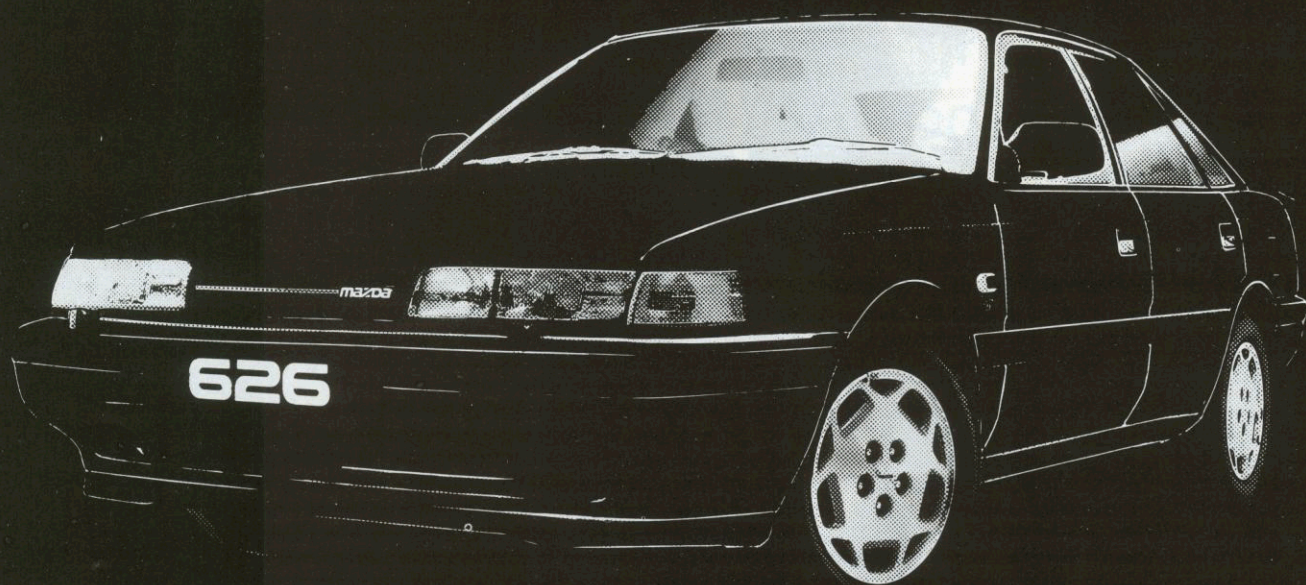
Right man for the job



Maj **Mike D'Apice** of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, graduated from Aberystwyth University with a botany degree and now puts it to good use as conservation officer at Weeton Barracks, near Blackpool, where one of his duties is to log flora and fauna.

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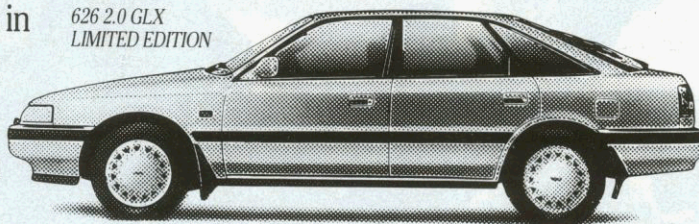
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This is war, to a degree

Barriers between East and West may be coming down and peace may be breaking out, but the words "Ain't Gonna Study War No More" are not likely to be sung too loudly around the hallowed halls of King's College, London.

From October 1991 the College's Department of War Studies will offer a BA – the only course of its kind available in Britain. Other universities offer courses which cover current strategic issues, but none claims to offer the same blend of historical and contemporary analysis of armed conflict.

The BA, consisting of four courses a year over three years, has a strong historical content and covers the development of warfare since ancient times, though the main focus is on the 19th and 20th centuries.

"Despite the 'outbreak of peace' and the welcome rapprochement now developing between East and West, armed conflict remains all too prevalent," says the College. "Recent events in Europe have if anything made the debate more important, by calling for new thinking and a re-evaluation of security strictures of the past 40 years."

Footballing teacher, by profession

Lt Donald Simpson Bell VC was a professional footballer. He was also "by profession" a schoolmaster.

Our story (April 16) on the Green Howard who became the only professional footballer to win the Victoria Cross has led to a polite exchange of letters on the precise nature of Lt Bell's employment.

Lt Col Neil McIntosh, Regimental Secretary of The Green Howards, wrote to **SOLDIER** (May 28) to point out that Bell "was not a professional footballer. He was

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Pte Richard Bishop of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) was one of the coffin bearers when the remains of a US Serviceman, who died in North Korea as a prisoner from the 1950-53 Korean War, was handed over at Panmunjom. Richard, pictured above

And still they return

between an American soldier (left) and a South Korean soldier (right), went to Korea as a member of the British contingent of the United Nations Honour Guard Company.

Hong Kong-based battalions regularly supply detachments for the Honour Guard. It is a commitment that gave Richard, and 33 other members of his battalion, a unique opportunity to serve in Korea.

a schoolmaster and an outstanding athlete.

"In order to supplement his meagre salary he played six or seven games at full-back for Bradford in the 1913-14 season . . ."

The response to that was a letter from Bell's nephew, also Donald S Bell, of Harrogate, insisting his late uncle was a professional.

Pointing out that in 1914 the distinction between professional and amateur footballers was extremely rigid, Mr Bell wrote:

"A player could only receive payment if he became a registered professional, and by doing so he could no longer play with amateur teams or competitions.

"My father, who also played at Bradford, disapproved of his younger brother's decision to sign professional forms and retained his own amateur status throughout his playing career.

"My late uncle was by profession a schoolmaster, but as a footballer he was a professional by the rules of his time, and does have the unique distinction to be the only one to be honoured with the supreme award for valour."

He and his cousins regarded it as a great honour to the family.

Donald Simpson Bell won his VC with the 9th Green Howards for attacking a

machine gun position on the Somme on July 5, 1916. Five days later he was killed by a shell splinter.

As a footnote to the story, we publish a letter in this issue stating a second footballer won the VC during the First World War. He was 2nd Lt John "Jack" Harrison and he was also a schoolmaster.

He was a rugby league footballer.

Write types?

Army recruiters have won an award in a national competition to find the best literature to attract graduates.

A brochure produced by the Directorate of Army Recruiting took first place in a category for employers recruiting more than 301 graduates in 1989-90.

The competition – the 1990 Association of Graduate Recruiters Literature Awards – was judged by the Student Industrial Society, the student arm of the national training and development body, the Industrial Society.

The judges described the brochure as "well written" and "giving a good picture of Army life."

Poppy art in fashion

Christmas could bring a toy bonanza for budding young artists in Service schools – and the New Year a lasting recognition of their talents.

Teachers in the Armed Forces are being asked to help the Royal British Legion promote an art competition aimed at increasing British school children's understanding of the Poppy Appeal.

Through the Service Children's Education Authority, under-16s are being invited to paint a picture on the theme of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, caring and freedom.

Entries prepared between now and the closing date, October 8, will be judged regionally – including an Armed Forces Overseas Category – and exhibited in regional centres before the national final at Hamleys Toy Store in London on November 1.

Toy vouchers of £100, £50 and £25 will go to the first, second and third nationally and winning paintings will be used to illustrate the Royal British Legion's 1991 calendar.



Above – The Parachute Regiment's Pegasus and Falklands Bands are led by regimental mascot Pegasus, with Cpl David Soane in attendance. Their performance was enjoyed by a crowd of more than 20,000



Right – The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, his broken arm in a sling, meets Airborne Forces veterans in the arena at Rushmoor. It was Prince Charles's first public appearance since his polo accident



Right – Veterans of The Parachute Regimental Association parade their standards in Rushmoor Arena to mark the 50th anniversary of Airborne Forces. More than 5,000 old comrades took part in the parade

Pictures:
Mike
Weston

Mr Cribbins joins Paras in airborne celebration

ACTOR Bernard Cribbins renewed his acquaintance with SOLDIER when he joined more than 20,000 past and present members of the Airborne Forces and their families for a Golden Jubilee celebration in Aldershot.

Calling in at the SOLDIER tent as he toured Rushmoor Arena during the Airborne Forces Day celebrations, Bernard – who served in airborne battalions in Palestine and Germany between 1947 and 1949 – snapped up a copy of the magazine offered by staff member Dawn Homewood.

Earlier, all eyes had been on the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, who was taking part in his first official engagement since breaking his right arm.

With his arm in plaster and a sling he arrived by helicopter in the arena to take a parade and drumhead service.

The parade included 5,000 old comrades of The Parachute Regimental Association with their branch standards. A flypast of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft included another revered veteran – a Dakota.



Dawn Homewood makes sure Bernard Cribbins gets his copy



Above – Men of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery of 7 Para RHA prepare to fire their 105mm light guns in a salute to the Prince of Wales



Left – A guard of honour mounted by the Junior Parachute Company is led by (front, from left) Capt Mike Baker, CSM Steven Gerrard, Maj Barry Andrews and Lt Chris Clegg

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Leonidas, here we come!

It's in Belgium, in
case you didn't know

WHEN a hurricane struck the distant island of Leonidas, its inhabitants approached the British Government for help, which is why the men and women serving with the London-based 31 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) found themselves deployed on the island.

Mystified? Well, yes, so was the SOLDIER team which travelled along a very circuitous route to report the drama and found themselves dropped off in the middle of a forest somewhere in deepest Belgium.

All became clear when the regiment's dashing unit press officer, Capt Sarah Shepherd, explained the disaster was purely a paper exercise, part of the scenario for the regiment's annual camp which every other year is held in North-West Europe.

"Initially our task is to provide communications at certain key installations," she said, "and then to assist with the control of refugees who are expected to stream towards the capital."

"As it seems likely that the refugees will become less friendly, we have now deployed to a wood where we have cammed-up and hidden ourselves away."

With two sister regiments, 31 Sig Regt forms 11 Signal Brigade whose wartime role would be to provide the reserve communications for SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander in Europe).

On Exercise Calm Fence, 31 Sigs provided a link into SHAPE using satellite communications as well as the standard brigade comms sys-

tems. Being a Nato exercise, the signallers worked to signals units from other countries.

The regiment was formed in 1967 as the 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment, location

was dropped from the title three years ago.

The history of its constituent squadrons dates back to Napoleonic times. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, a

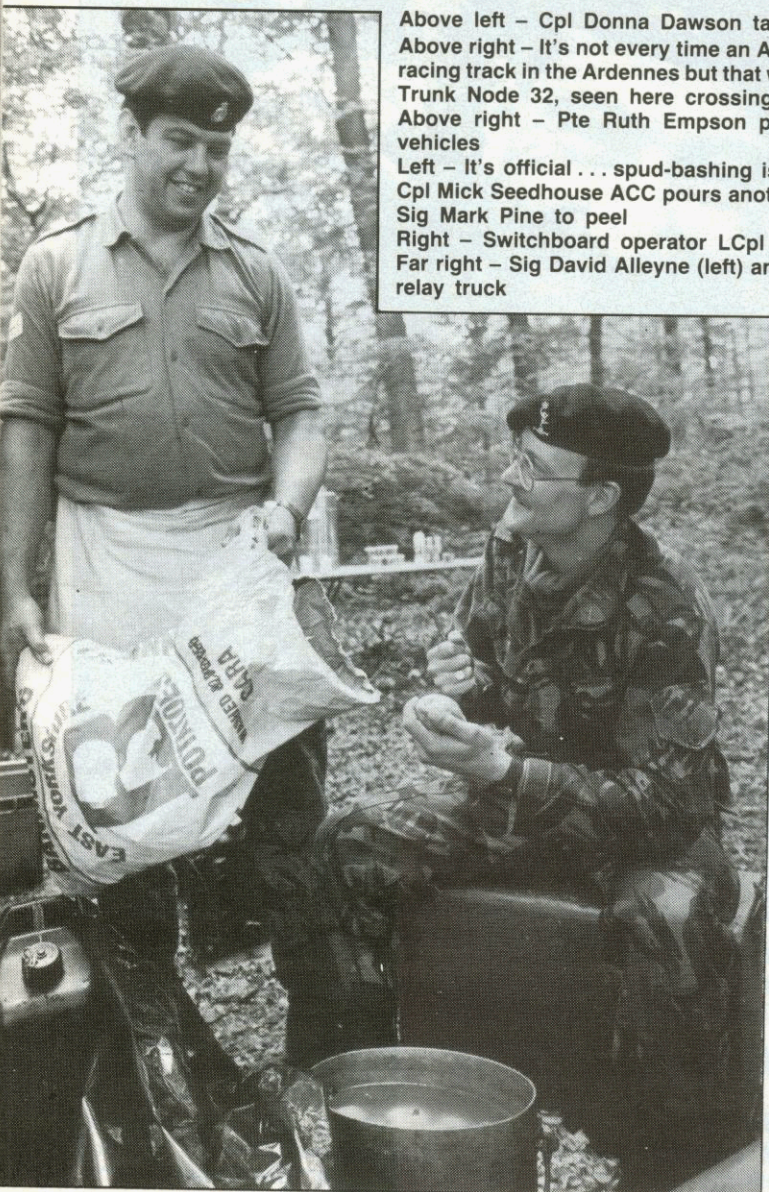
distinguished rifle and later machinegun regiment, lives on in the form of 41 Squadron, 47 Squadron carries on the name of one of the premier volunteer cavalry units, the Middlesex Yeomanry, while 83 Squadron,

● **Turn to next page**

Are we downhearted? No! Cpl Ian Mackay, LCpls Andy Hutchins and Mick Sinclair and Sig Steve Wilkins demonstrate morale was high in 31 Signal Regiment (V) during Exercise Calm Fence



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring



Above left - Cpl Donna Dawson takes a turn on guard post duty
Above right - It's not every time an Army unit pulls into the pits of a motor racing track in the Ardennes but that was the location given to the troops of Trunk Node 32, seen here crossing the finishing line
Above right - Pte Ruth Empson proves a dab hand at camouflaging vehicles
Left - It's official... spud-bashing is alive and well in the British Army. Cpl Mick Seedhouse ACC pours another sack of potatoes for the luckless Sig Mark Pine to peel
Right - Switchboard operator LCpl Mick Sinclair takes another call
Far right - Sig David Alleyne (left) and Sig Martin Ham in the Triffid radio relay truck

London signals do their thing in Leonidas

● From Page 17

following its historical links with the 47th (London) Division, has the right to wear a unique badge in the form of a Dutch tile.

Home of 41 (Princess Louise of Kensington) Sqn is Coulsdon, with 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn stationed at Harrow and 83 Squadron personnel based at Southfields and Cobham.

Headquarters Squadron is located in Hammersmith.

The wearer of a distinctive camouflage uniform on Calm Fence turned out to be reservist Lt Hayley Hummerston of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

A member of the Sydney-based 8 Signal Regiment, she and her husband, also a reservist, had volunteered to attend the exercise as part of their European holiday!

Unlike officers in the British Army who wear embroidered badges in their berets, Hayley

boasted a metal one. She explained that since the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) was disbanded some years ago, equality reigned to the extent that in the Australian Signals there were no women private soldiers.

They were all ranked as signallers but their service numbers were prefixed with an F (for female) so that separate accommodation could be sorted out. "Officers and other ranks wear metal badges, but on

ceremonial occasions our officers' uniforms carry more embellishments," she said.

It was noticeable that the unit was well stocked with WRAC personnel, an observation confirmed by Capt Shepherd.

"The reason is girls can do the same jobs in the signals as men. Instead of being a clerk, or in an administrative post, they can come out with us - operating radios, working as technicians repairing the kit, acting as watchkeepers, and

being employed as data telegraphists and drivers."

Her explanation was confirmed by Pte Ruth Empson, whose normal employment is as a research student working in a physiology lab investigating epilepsy as she studies for a PhD.

She is a driver in HQ Squadron's MT Troop and joined to get a bit of experience, leadership training... and have some fun.

"It helps to come out with the regiment and forget all

about my work at weekends. I get back to work on Monday mornings absolutely knackered, but it's great fun," she said.

In alternate years, the regiment holds its annual camp in the UK, where the emphasis is on the trade training so vital to maintaining operating skills. Under the command of Lt Col Lionel French, 31 Signal Regiment (V) maintains a vitality that sets a fine example to all members of the Territorial Army.





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Above – Men of 1 QLR proudly display their new Colours before the Queen at Weeton Barracks, Preston. Right – The Queen smiles as old comrades are presented to her after the tercentenary parade

QLR beats the gales

GALE-force winds had everyone holding on to their hats when the Queen visited Weeton Barracks near Blackpool to present the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment with new Colours.

But months of hard preparation paid off and the ceremony went off to perfection. Long hours on the parade ground were rewarded when the Monarch commented on the high standard of drill.

The Queen was met by the Colonel of the regiment, Maj Gen David Houston, and the commanding officer, Lt Col Alex Birtwistle.

She presented two colours, the Sovereign's Colour and the Regimental Colour, after inspecting the battalion. The Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. Regimental associations were represented by several hundred veterans, and

20 old comrades were presented to the Queen.

The 1st Battalion was serving in Paderborn, West Germany when the regiment's 300th anniversary fell last year. Since it was due to move to Lancashire earlier this year, many tercentenary celebrations were delayed so the battalion could conduct them in its home county.

Family tradition is strong in the regiment, and the fathers of two young officers chosen as ensigns to the new Colours both took part in the formation parade of the QLR at Dover 20 years ago.

Ensign to the Sovereign's Colour was Lt Tim Green, who commands the Milan platoon, while B Coy commander Lt David Smith was ensign to the Regimental Colour. His father, Maj Garry Smith, retired recently.



Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson

Dogs sweep into action to stem the tide of 'illegals'

THE Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit RAVC has existed under a variety of titles since shortly after the Second World War.

At first controlled by the Royal Military Police, it reverted to Royal Army Veterinary Corps control in 1976. By

1980 the illegal immigrant (II) situation had reached enormous proportions and the unit was greatly expanded to help stem the flow.

Because of this, a new classification of Army dog came into existence. It was the 'sweep dog', whose role involved

patrolling the Sino-Hong Kong border to search for and capture illegal immigrants.

The unit's current title was adopted on January 1, 1987 to reflect its role encompassing tri-Service animal-related support to Hong Kong.

JAWS!

Support unit is largest in the RAVC



WHAT has 42 teeth, a bite that exerts a pressure of 1,800lb per square inch, weighs between 70 and 120lb and travels at more than 30 miles an hour when in full attack?

Answer: German Shepherds employed as guard dogs at the Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit (DASU) RAVC based in Borneo Lines at Sek Kong in the New Territories.

The dogs are used only where there is a secure perimeter fence and authorised access. They patrol specifically out of working hours when no person is allowed within the area. Anyone then in the area is classified as an intruder.

The provision of guard dogs and their handlers is not the only responsibility of the busy

staff of the largest RAVC cap-badged unit in the British Army, with more than 250 personnel and 138 Army dogs.

It also provides arms explosive search dog teams, crowd control gripper teams in internal security situations and sweep and tracker dogs for the detection, pursuit and detention of illegal immigrants to Hong Kong.

DASU has a number of secondary tasks, including dispensing advice to units slaughtering live animals, and supervision of all aspects of meat hygiene. It operates a pet animal advisory service by means of radio broadcasts and Service publications to relay important information on animal diseases to Service families.

The unit administers seven soldier grooms employed at the Hong Kong Services Saddle Club.

Regular advisory visits are made to Nepal and include advising the Royal Nepal Police on their police dog and police horse units.

DASU staff also provide eight resettlement training courses in guard dog handling each year and, on occasion, train other dog-using agencies such as the Prison Service, Royal Nepal Army and the Papua New Guinea Police.

Grooming is part of everyday life for this dog in the Defence Animal Support Unit's kennel complex



Not a happy chappy! This well protected baiter felt the dog bite his upper arm instead of the padded lower arm



Our snapper risked life and limb to capture the ferocity of this gripper dog – an added punch for security forces and Internal Security operations

And the gripper adds bite . . .

A SNARLING new deterrent has been added to the options available to units involved with internal security operations in Hong Kong.

Known as the gripper dog team, it provides the incident commander with an aggressive intervention force that falls somewhere between the rubber bullet and live ammunition.

The eight-man team – commander, 2iC and six handlers with dogs – is intended as a quick reaction



Name your dog "SOLDIER" and you're almost guaranteed to get your photo published. Here Cpl Chan Kwok Keung (front) and LCpl Yu Sai Yin with sweep dog Soldier wait in long grass for the call forward. The buildings behind are in mainland China

force. In a riot situation the dogs would be deployed behind an infantry section which would fire baton rounds before parting to let the gripper team advance against the hostile crowd.

"It is not designed for gladiatorial combat, just to create a shock-wave. It goes forward, does the job

of disrupting and disorganising the crowd and withdraws back behind the troops," said SSgt Bob Norval.

"Part of the team's success lies in the character of the dogs and the method of their selection. Whereas guard dogs are trained to attack and hold, the gripper dog is a multi-biter rather

than an individual biter.

"The gripper is a dog that will face up to a hundred people and want to bite every one of them," he said.

To find out if a dog has the right qualities, the trainer must discover how enthusiastic the animal is about attacking.

Army dogs are made to carry out muzzle attacks to find out if

● Turn to next page

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Eastern heat is problem for dogs

THE KENNELS of the Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit provide facilities for more than 80 dogs, the majority of which are guard dogs mustered into three platoons to provide round-the-clock availability.

A number of arms explosive search dogs are also available.

Located with the kennels is the unit's own veterinary hospital.

Each dog has two handlers, with the back-up handler responsible for looking after the dog while the main handler is off duty, on course or on leave.

"We use two main breeds," said SSgt Bob Norval, the NCO in charge of kennels and training.

"The German Shepherd fills the protection (guard dog) role which is the bread-and-butter part of our job.

"Labradors are used as the unit's mobile noses, being classified as arms explosive search dogs," explained SSgt Norval, who was in the process of handing over to SSgt Paul Colman.

The big problem faced by the DASU are the high temperatures and humidity found in Hong Kong. A dog's skin is not porous so the animal lowers its temperature through its mouth. Because of the rapid effects of heat and humidity on guard dogs, they are mostly worked during the cooler out-of-hours period.

The arms explosive search dogs are shorter-coated and lighter-haired which enables them to cope better.

All the unit's dogs are obtained through the purchasing commission of the Army Dog Training School at Melton Mowbray and are posted to Hong Kong after basic training. Once a dog has been accepted into the Army, he is tattooed in the left ear and becomes a "soldier".

Dogs, of course, can be "discharged" if they don't match up to requirements, the classification of which include: "failure to maintain standard", "prematurely old and worn-out", and "old and worn-out".



Tracker dog Waldo leads handler Cpl Lau Wai Ching to an illegal immigrant's hiding place

Arms explosive search dogs can be applied for by a previous handler or owner if the Army finds the future home suitable, but regrettably, guard dogs which have been trained to attack intruders cannot be given to civilians.

"All their Army lives they have been taught to be aggressive, so they are humanely destroyed with an overdose of anaesthetic," said SSgt Norval.

"What the Army does is to promise to keep a dog fit and healthy, provide veterinary treatment, a well-balanced diet and daily grooming, together with more than sufficient exercise and, above all, an aim in life," he said.

GRIPPING ROLE

● From Page 23

they are a credible deterrent. That's when the man acting as baiter (intruder) wears no padding and the only thing between dog and human is a leather muzzle.

The test is designed to ensure the dog is actually attacking the man rather than a padded suit.

Initially, the trainer tries to find out if an individual dog wearing a muzzle would be intimidated when, under control of a handler, it was confronted by ten belligerent "rioters" who stop short of actual contact with the dog.

If the dog tries to advance it is marked down for gripper training. If it backs off it is rejected.

"It is then a matter of bringing on the dog's aggression so that, when we release the muzzled animal, it would make an effort to take out as many rioters as possible during basic training," said SSgt Norval.

Once a dog is found to have this character, it starts training as a gripper dog. From that moment it is never worked loose — only on a lead — for obvious reasons.



"Good boy, Soldier!" A celebratory bark from the sweep

dog as another II is led away

In the front line

HONG KONG's border dog detachment is in the front line of the Colony's unceasing battle to secure its border against illegal immigrants from China.

Formed in 1979 to support border battalions, the detachment works two types of dog, sweep and tracker.

As the name suggests, the former are used to "sweep" an area. They became necessary because illegals who had breached the border fence would lay up overnight and make their move at dawn.

The dogs, which are unique to the Hong Kong theatre, are taken into the area to search for IIs.

The sweep dog can also be used in a static position, sitting out with its two handlers and a small infantry brick as back-up. At night, the dog acts as the eyes and ears of the position to give warning of the approach of illegals.

Tracker dogs are usually kept in company locations or platoon bases on the border area from where they can respond to breaches.

This can be where the fence has been cut or where a bicycle patrol has seen suspicious



"Seek on!" Cpl Li about to send arms explosive search dog Ulrio on another mission

shreds of clothing on the wire, or in the coastal areas where boat landings might take place and footprints on the beach or cast-off clothing indicates the presence of IIs.

The tracker dog is then called in to follow the scent.

The detachment also makes regular visits to one of the border crossing points where more than 11,000 vehicles pass

each day. Customs officials believe the presence of the dogs deters would-be illegal immigrants from hiding aboard lorries.

There has been recent concern that IIs have become more aggressive, and that some may be armed. Earlier this year an II was caught carrying bomb-making equipment across the border.

There is also concern about the increase in crimes committed by illegal immigrants who cross into Hong Kong to carry out robberies before disappearing back across the border into China.

"There is a problem," said Maj Marsh Revell, who commands the detachment. "There have been more hand guns coming into Hong Kong generally, but we haven't been troubled by this.

"As yet, none of our team has been confronted by an II carrying a gun or armed with a knife, but it's something one must always be aware of."

Illegal immigrants are better prepared than before, with those caught found to be equipped with maps and well briefed.

"They have got more sophisticated and have developed their own sort of field craft skills to try and evade us," said Maj Revell.

With some years to go before the Colony is handed over to the Chinese, it seems the border dog detachment is set to add substantially to its tally of helping capture more than 14,000 IIs since 1979.



LBdr Tony Gilardi exchanges the time of day with a member of the local community

Assignment South Armagh



AFTER an eight-year tour in BAOR, the gunners of 4 (Sphinx) Field Battery RA reckoned they were due for a change of scenery. And they got it – all the way to South Armagh, the heart of republican terrorism in Northern Ireland.

Any doubts in the mind of the Infantry as to the ability of a gun battery to cope in its new role were rapidly dispelled. At the end of the gunners' Northern Ireland training package they were told by instructors: "You are as good as the best rifle company."

The advance party was welcomed with open arms at Bessbrook Mill, home of the Armagh roulement battalion (ARB), by the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, which was coming to the end of its long tour.

Having said goodbye to the Skins, the men of 4 (Sphinx) Fd Bty turned their attention to the people of Bessbrook and the 2nd Battalion, The Light

Left – LBdr Sandy Saunderson on patrol.



Maj James Marment, battery commander

Infantry, the ARB host battalion.

A magnificent silver bugle was presented by 2 LI to the gunners to mark their Northern Ireland tour and the close links between the battalion and their direct support battery (4 Bty supports 2 LI in the United Kingdom Mobile Force).

Lt Col Richard Cousens, commanding officer of 2 LI, soon made it clear that the gunners would be deployed with the same confidence as any of his rifle companies anywhere from Crossmaglen to Newry.

Endless guard duties, torturous patrols and eternal manning of vehicle check points were rewarded by the 2 LI ARB group capturing more terrorist equipment and weapons than any previous battalion – and 4 Bty could claim to a share in the successes.

Most notable incident was the capture of armed terrorists in the Silverbridge area.

Helicopter pilots spotted suspects and chased a vehicle carrying a number of armed and masked men.

Part of the immediate back-up came from 4 Bty. Sgt Mick Wojnicz and his team, returning to Bessbrook after another task, were lifted by helicopter in pursuit of two other vehicles believed to be transporting armed terrorists.

The chase led to Silverbridge where Sgt Wojnicz and his four men were confronted by a hostile crowd of nearly 40 Republican sympathisers.

But they made an arrest and seized two assault rifles and ammunition.

A significant milestone in the tour was the departure of the Light Infantry in May.

The men of 4 Bty are due to return to the south of England. It will seem a long, long way from South Armagh.



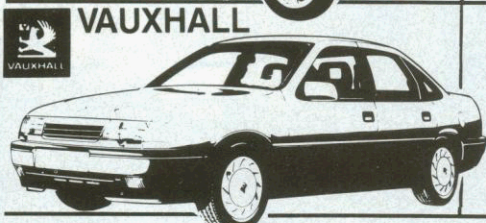
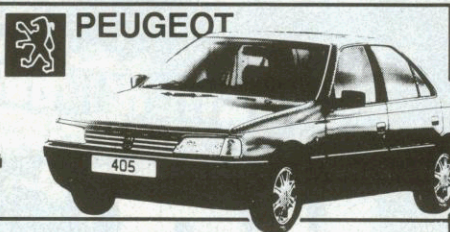
LBdr Chris Eyre on patrol. Behind him is Carrick Vista estate, Camlough



Gnr John Mason on patrol in the countryside

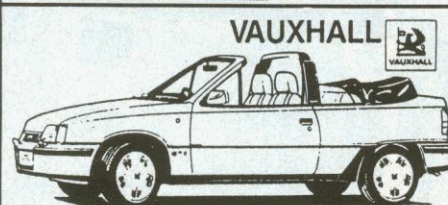
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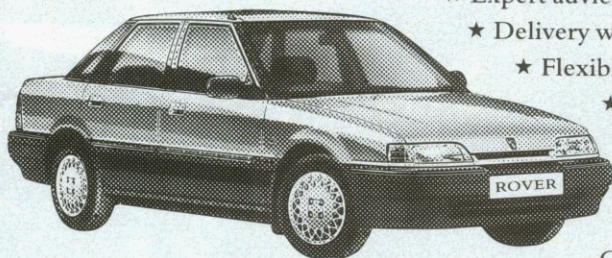
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S 6/08/90



Students at the ASMT take time off from training to illustrate the wide range of cap badges to be seen at any time of the year

All geared up and ready to go

PLANS in the pipeline to take the Army School of Mechanical Transport (ASMT) into the 21st Century mean major changes at the establishment which opened in 1977.

The most immediate impact will be a Ministry of Defence decision on the ASMT's bid to retain its in-house system of teaching soldiers to drive.

The competition was won after the introduction of wide-ranging efficiency measures and the use of a contract hire fleet of 75 vehicles.

It followed the Ministry's look at three options to see if there was a more economic system of licence-acquisition training.

First option was to provide a new driving fleet by short-term hire. The second was by direct purchase. The third was to contract out completely.

The MoD decided the most cost-effective solution would be found by a full tendering exercise, and this prompted the ASMT bid. The contracting-out option has since been discounted.

The contract hire option has been selected, but will be subject to periodic review.

There will also be far-reaching changes resulting from the phasing-in of extensive new regulations to meet EC standards. These are still under discussion,

with the British Government seeking some exemptions for the Services. The likelihood is that the new regulations will involve a great deal more training and testing of licences.

Introduction of the 14-tonne vehicle and the new battlefield truck, Demountable Rack Offloading Pick-up System (DROPS), means more training work for the school.

When ASMT started last year to use a HGV 2 training fleet on a short-term, lease hire contract

including maintenance, training time was significantly reduced, there was increased productivity, and student confidence in training improved.

Because of the success of the HGV 2 venture, it was included in the ASMT tender.

Several important factors brought about the choice of Leconfield and Driffield, two former Royal Air Force bases, as the site for the biggest driving school in Europe.

They did not need a lot of money spent on them, and they already had accommodation.

● Turn to next page

**Words by
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Weston**

Geared up

● from Page 29

Although ten miles apart, they could provide manoeuvring areas and a nursery driving circuit, including roundabouts and traffic lights at Leconfield, and a cross-country facility at Driffield.

Local roads were not crowded so could absorb training vehicles without causing problems for other road users. Nearby Hull offered the right conditions for urban driving.

ASMT was formed by an amalgamation of the MT Wing of the Army School of Transport at Bordon, 12 Driver Training Regiment RCT at Aldershot, and a small driver training troop, 401 Tp RCT from South Cerney.

It opened in 1977, creating 800 jobs and contributing £13m a year to the local economy. Nearly 10,000 students, including 350 officers, pass through its gates each year to take advantage of more than 50 courses on offer.

The school has 600-plus vehicles in use every day, covering five million miles a year. They run on a million litres of diesel and 300,000 litres of petrol a year.

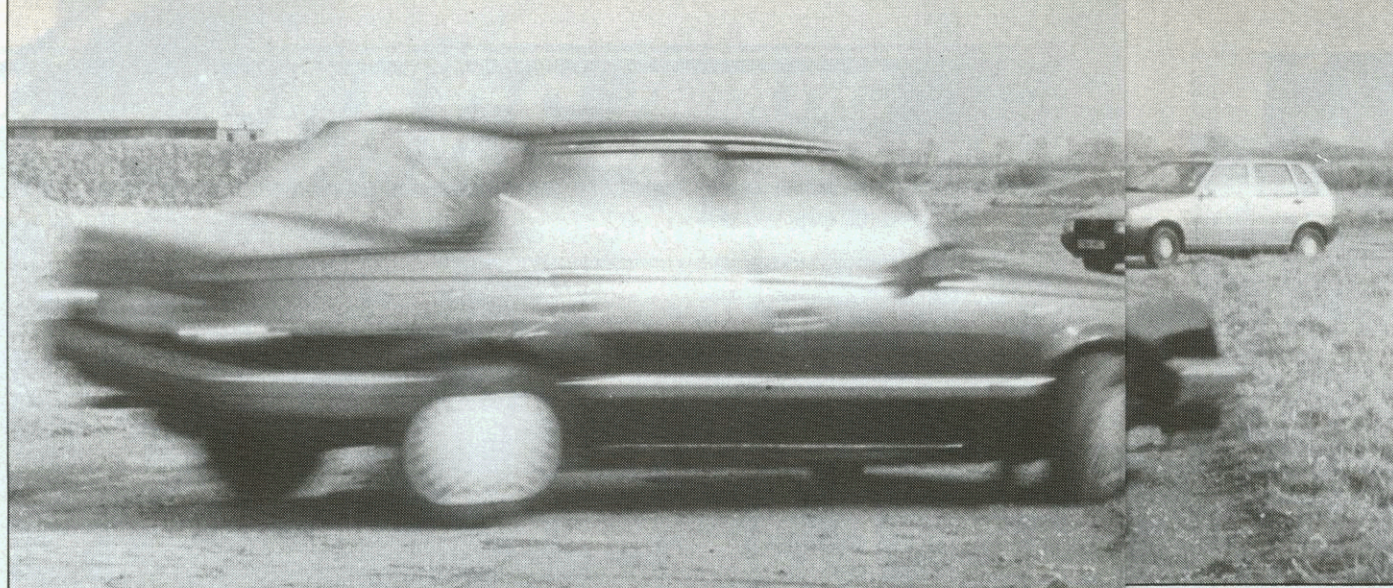
There is a permanent military staff of 160, representing 16 different cap badges, and 500 civilians. Back-up service is provided by the Vehicle Squadron which maintains, tasks and administers them, and is responsible for the REME Workshop that repairs them. About 140 vehicles are serviced each week.

ASMT has a wide range of responsibilities, ranging from initial driving skills to senior MT managers. Civilian schools under contract provide the driving instruction.

The 31 different types of vehicles used in training are confined to wheeled armoured vehicles and "soft" non-armoured vehicles. Instruction is pitched at producing soldiers who understand not only how to get the best use out of their vehicles, but to care for the equipment and promote high road safety standards.

ASMT was originally established to provide driving skills for the whole of the Army, and with the exception of a few cap badges, does so.

Each year 6,000 go to the driver training wing for skill courses and employment upgrading. They are mainly young recruits who learn to drive a HGV 3 or HGV 2 and



Alamein Barracks at Driffield has a cross-country driver training circuit featuring more than 50 different hazards, including hills, knife-edges, dips and bumps. There are specialised hazards in the centre of the former airfield, including water obstacles, deep pits, areas for recovery and a simulated forest for motorcyclists. Here Air Tpr Darren Wright is just at the brow of one of the hills

get a licence. This is followed by one week's familiarisation training on military vehicles, and one week's combat training.

Other students go in as trained drivers on staff car management and upgrading courses. They do signals training and specialised vehicle instructor training, such as motor-cycle, Stalwart, fork-lift or rough terrain instructor.

The Army does its own licence testing. It uses military and civilian Qualified Testing Officers (QTOs), who are trained at Leconfield. There are more than 800 worldwide, with 300 more qualifying each year.

They are controlled by the Army's 27 worldwide licensing authorities and conduct 40,000 HGV and ordinary tests as well as 2,500 motor-cycle tests every year.

HGV tests total more than 16,000 each year, the equivalent of one quarter of the number issued annually by the Department of Transport.

In civilian life, drivers are not considered mature enough to be in charge of a heavy goods vehicle until they are 21. But at ASMT they are trained from 17, usually from scratch, with a 95 per cent success rate.

ASMT is also responsible for giving technical advice on driver training contracts, of which there are 13 in use in 18 different locations. It is planned to do the same for the Territorial Army, currently operating 75 contracts in more than 500 locations.

And the future? ASMT could expand, according to Col Julian Sellars, Training Colonel.

"At present certain Arms and Corps maintain their own

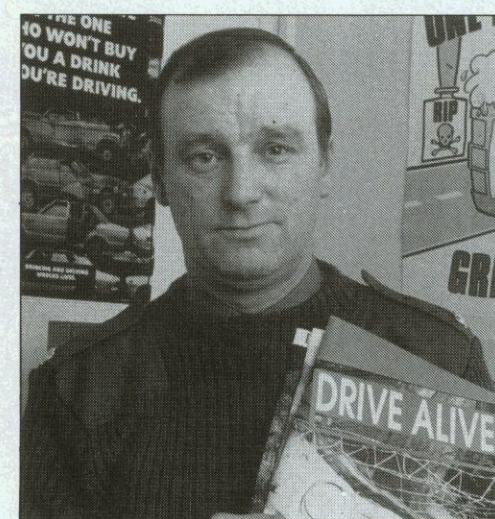
driver training set-up," he said.

"It is our proposal and intention – and in many cases backed up by an Independent Training Organisation study – that we should acquire these smaller training set-ups, concentrating them all here.

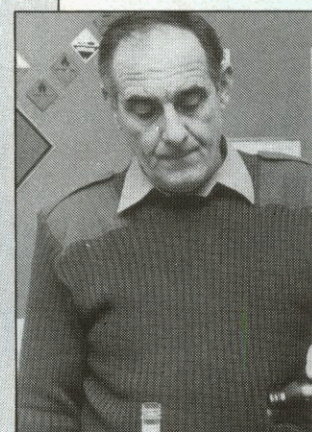
"We have the potential to do that. We would see our future developing to become the centre of excellence for driver training, rather than the major centre of excellence."

Capt Roy McMoride, 2IC V Sqn, fronts the range of vehicles in use at the Army School of Mechanical Transport with (from the left): Cpl Ron Lewis, Sgt John Lloyd, Cpl Roy Furness, LCpl Jim Kennedy, LCpl Mark Partridge, Cpl William Jones, Cpl Nick Bealey, Sgt Zen Main, LCpl Rick Teeluck and Cpl Baz Stockton

Above – Soldiers on staff car training learn how to give VIPs and senior officers a smooth ride. They are also taught escape and evasion skills. Right – Up, and over for another trainee driver at Driffield



The Mechanical Transport Control Division at ASMT is responsible for a variety of courses, including road safety and the qualification of the Army's Unit Road Safety Officers. They have a major task as deaths and injuries from road accidents increase – last year 90 soldiers died on the roads. Maj Clive Candlin (above), Division 2IC, is editor of the Services' road safety magazine, *Drive Alive*, which is distributed worldwide to make soldiers more safety conscious



Three courses are run on the movement of hazardous and dangerous materials by road. The training done by the ASMT's Mechanical Transport Control Division is for operators, supervisors and instructors. WO2 Paul Ainscombe (above) mixes hazardous materials to illustrate the dangers.





Motor cycle instructor, Sgt Kris Ryan, is caught in a spectacular move as he practises for the Yorkshire Enduro Competition







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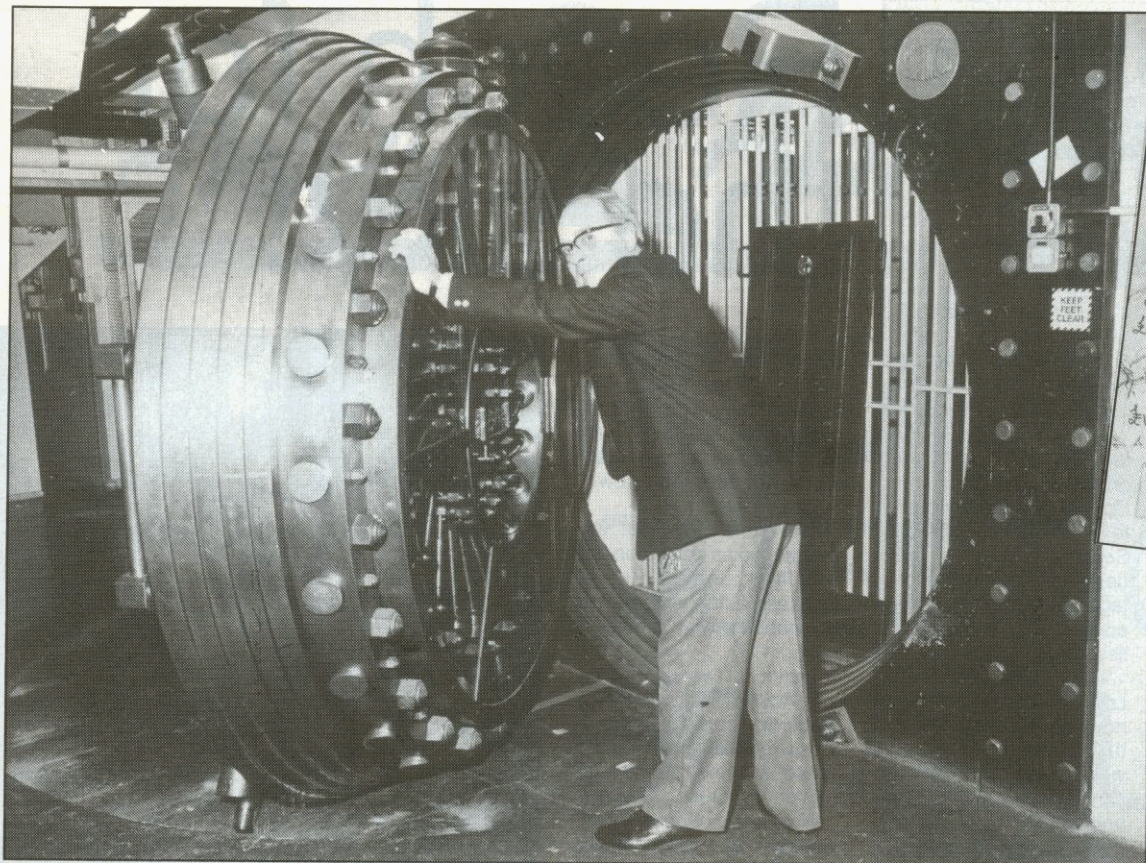


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Above – A sketch from the archives encapsulates the long link between Army and Cox's

Left – Now that is what you would call a safe door! Securing the valuables at Cox's and King's is Jeff Flaxton, assistant manager administration

Banking on an old military connection

OFFICERS in today's British Army are familiar with the name Cox's and King's, but the bank's business links with the military go back more than 200 years, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

It all started in 1758 when Richard Cox was appointed Agent (a sort of business manager) for the First Regiment of Foot Guards (later called the Grenadier Guards).

Generations later the name is still around as Cox's and King's of Pall Mall, London, and it still retains the appointment.

Richard Cox's brief extended beyond the payment of officers and men to the provision of clothing and marketing of commissions. When, in 1759, Lord Ligonier, Master General of the Ordnance, appointed him paymaster to the Royal Regiment of Artillery, his agency boomed.

Cox died in 1803. His son had joined the firm, but it was Charles Greenwood, a shrewd and industrious banker, who became controlling partner. By 1815 the firm had become Agents to the entire Household



The bank ledgers give a fascinating insight into Army life. Archivist Dr John Booker, pictured with Sally Ambett, a manager's assistant, inspects the regimental account of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards (Blues), 1819-20

Brigade, most of the cavalry and infantry regiments, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Wagon Train (later to become the Royal Army Service Corps).

Expansion was rapid when the British Army became established in India, and Cox and Co – as it was by then – set up five branches in the sub-continent between 1905 and 1911, primarily to serve the

garrisons. Branches followed in Alexandria and Rangoon.

During the First World War "Uncle Cox" – to use the affectionate name of the men in the trenches – never closed down. When war broke out there were 180 staff, but one third joined up so the firm resorted to the then revolutionary solution of recruiting women to fill vacancies.

It is believed there were more officers on Cox's books at that time than the full strength of all ranks of Wellington's army in the Napoleonic Wars – about a quarter of a million men. About 50,000 cheques a day were cleared at the height of the conflict.

In 1922 Cox's absorbed Henry S King & Co, a small bank with Indian interests, and a year later became part of Lloyds Bank which recently reaffirmed its close relationship with the Army.

Peter Dacombe, senior manager at Lloyds, said: "Recognising the Army's special needs, we have decided to reintroduce Cox's and King's as a distinctive and specialised branch dedicated to serving officers in all the Armed Forces.

"Through 230 years of military banking at official and personal level, we have an in-depth knowledge of officers' allowances, pay, gratuities, terminal grants, and so on."

A free and impartial advisory service on cash matters is available to officers.

DISABLED: ANOTHER VICTORY

A long-running battle by the daughter of Service parents to receive Severe Disablement Allowance looks likely to end in victory.

The daughter fell foul of the eligibility rules because she had been living with her parents in West Germany. To qualify, applicants should have been resident in the United Kingdom for ten out of the previous 20 years, or, when the applicant is not yet 20, for ten years since birth.

Because of her father's postings to Europe, the daughter had actually lived in Britain for not quite seven years, so her request for SDA was turned down.

In January her appeal was upheld, with the Social Security tribunal decreeing that UK residence could be proved because the daughter's parents owned a house in the UK, paid UK taxes and National Insurance contributions, received Child Benefit, maintained their voting rights and paid rates.

Unfortunately, the decision does not offer comfort to Service claimants without a house or flat in the UK.

It was hoped the ten-year rule would be dropped in March, but an Opposition amendment to the 1988 Social Security Bill was not debated because of shortage of time and the anomaly for Service families remains.

I took the matter to Lord Swinfen, a campaigner for the disabled, who tabled a question asking what plans were in the pipeline to rectify the anomaly.

In his written answer, Lord Henley said: "We are currently reviewing the residence and presence conditions for Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance in preparation for the introduction of the new Disability Allowance. At the same time, we shall consider whether the conditions for Severe Disablement Allowance also need to be changed."

Schools hot-line

A UNIQUE hot-line for parents looking for last-minute school and college vacancies will operate from August 13.

ISIS International, the official consultancy of the national headquarters of the Independent Schools Information Service, is combining with the Conference of Independent Further Education (CIFE) to provide a joint hot-line for parents seeking places for September in schools or colleges.

From August 13 until September 9, including Saturday mornings, applicants can ring either ISIS International or CIFE on 071-630 8790/3/4 and be directed to appropriate schools or colleges for resits or new courses.

ISIS International and CIFE staff will be working together to offer the widest and most appropriate choice of last-minute vacancies.

Personal callers at ISIS International's offices at 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1, can also talk with ISIS or CIFE staff about their needs.

John Towey, ex-RAEC and now senior consultant of ISIS International, said: "August is always a busy time for us. The growth of our clearing house scheme has made it worthwhile for us to operate a hot-line for last-minute vacancies this year."

CIFE secretary Col John Parkes commented: "We have operated a successful last-minute placement service in London over the past three years. Co-operation with ISIS International will make the difficult task of identifying suitable schools or colleges much easier."

"ISIS's expertise will help our staff who will also be able to give unrivalled advice to all considering a further education college."

Reach for the sky!

A corporal approaching the end of his engagement has written to me asking for help to find a plot of land somewhere in the Tyne and Wear region as he has plans to build his own house.

The scheme is not as far-fetched as some people may think. In fact I have just seen a fine example of a young airman's enterprise.

During a two-year posting Roy..... and his wife Deborah spent 25 hours a week refurbishing a dilapidated married quarter at Lynton on Ouse.

Now that he has been posted it is on the market for £55,950.

"We bought it for £38,000 as part of a self-build scheme," said Roy. "It was a challenge but we had no option if we wanted to get our feet on the housing ladder."

The couple were lucky to be chosen from among 200 applicants to join Oakhill Self Build group. Look at the pictures of the house before they started on it - for example, the holes in the ceiling.

Neither Roy nor Deborah had any previous building experience but they turned their hands to a variety of tasks.

The semi has a completely refitted luxury kitchen and bathroom, has been re-wired, double-glazed, insulated and has a double car space and garden.

It was one of 24 bought by the group which paid £100,000 more than the under-bidder - yet still found the properties viable.

Self Build is not new to the Services. After the war ex-Servicemen built houses on land provided by Brighton Council and because of the success other councils followed their example.

The Housing Corporation provided the finance; the National Building Agency helped with advice and management.

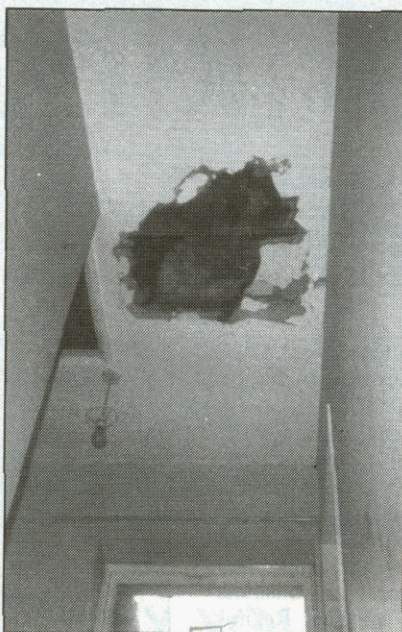
Today there is the Self Build Community Agency.

Today councils and the Ministry of Defence and other government agencies are unwilling to sell land at below the market value.

I would like to see them



Roy and Deborah's house at Lynton on Ouse - before and after they refurbished it



Anne



Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley 29653

IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF VALUES

A DISCUSSION with a member of the Directorate of Personnel, the desk officer for the scheme, has confirmed my diagnosis of some of the problems arising in the Joint Services Discounted Scheme.

It does not appear to be as attractive as it was.

Under the scheme surplus married quarters are valued at the market price by the Defence Land Agent then offered for sale at a discount of 30 per cent - with the proviso that they are not sold for five years.

Homes not sold to Service buyers are returned to the Defence Land Agent for sale on the open market and are re-valued at this stage.

The officer explained that there were two pressures on the Ministry of Defence - on the one hand to get the best

possible return from selling surplus land and quarters; on the other to meet the requirements of the discounted scheme.

Surplus houses (not flats) had to be available for immediate occupation without having to be disconnected from MoD facilities (electricity, drainage etc).

There are about 2,000 houses a year which are surplus to MoD requirements and of those something like 900 went into the discounted scheme last year.

Not all of the houses suitable for disposal on the discounted scheme were included because some were worth more sold en bloc to local authorities, housing associations or private developers.

There were others which were not appropriate to the scheme, such as blocks of

flats. So the discounted scheme does not get all the houses up for disposal.

It could in normal times sell as many houses as it is given - but the housing market has been falling and we are coming up against difficulties not seen before.

People are far more critical of the value of discounted quarters on offer, he said.

The spokesman referred to the differences sometimes seen between the value quoted in the bulletin distributed to potential Service buyers and the valuation placed on the property by a building society or a surveyor.

The fall in the value of, say, a house which had been empty for a year meant that the 30 per cent discount had been eroded.

The result is that some people are concluding that the deal for the Serviceman is not so good as they thought and the houses are going back to be sold on the open market.

"I am afraid that the discounted MQ is not always such good value as it was when houses were going up in price," said the officer.

He had asked the relevant department to ensure the valuation is done as close as possible to the advertisement relating to the house in the bulletin, and look at other ways of overcoming difficulties in valuation.

He hopes that there will be some developments to report soon.

Widows' Fund change

THE Charity Commissioners have agreed to allow the trust deeds of the Army Officers' Widows' Fund to be amended to allow the husbands of female officers to benefit.

With more married female personnel serving, the need for a change in the rules was requested.

The Charity Commission has called for comments or representations on the proposals. If all goes well the change will be made and widows will be included in the benefits available.

It costs nothing to bid

THE Discounted Sales Scheme began in December 1983 and its aim is to give Service personnel who are not home owners an opportunity to buy a reasonably priced house, either for immediate occupation or for eventual resettlement into civilian life.

The scheme can do no more than provide an opportunity, since there are not sufficient married quarters available to satisfy demand.

Last year 70,000 bids

were received for the 900 houses which were offered for sale. Some form of selection is therefore necessary; the system employed is to offer houses to the longest-serving bidders.

The popularity of the scheme has steadily increased over the years, and bids for houses have increased tenfold.

Despite the strong competition for the best houses in popular areas, there are still houses in the more remote parts of the country

which do not attract much interest and these are often sold to successful bidders in the early part of their Service careers.

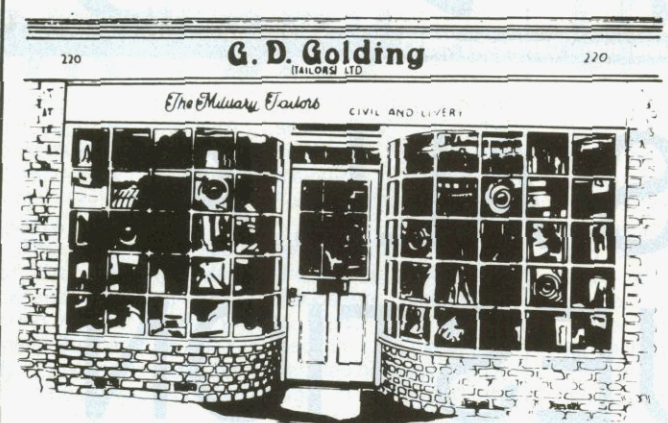
So far, 3,489 surplus married quarters have been offered for sale through the scheme.

The scheme can only satisfy a small proportion of the Service population who aspire to home ownership, but there is always a chance of success.

Details are given in Joint Service DCIs. Remember, it costs nothing to bid.

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WARRIORS BETRAYED BY PEACE

"THE winning of a battle is an occasion of celebration; the winning of a war is a time for introspection. It produces a curious melancholy that in some people never quite goes away... To be sure there was dancing in many streets but by no means all streets... there were those... too tired, or else too confused, to indulge in rowdy festivities," writes Richard Garrett in *The Final Betrayal: The Armistice 1918... and Afterwards*.

It was to be the war to end war, and yet the peace that was celebrated on November 11, 1918 was to be no more than a 20-year respite.

The spark of German militarism was not extinguished by the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles; it smouldered until fanned into flame by Hitler.

Armistice brought rejoicing, but Richard Garrett expresses an opinion that would probably have got him lynched in the between-wars period by those who had little idea of what war meant. He paints a picture of

front-line troops too exhausted to celebrate the end of the fighting, and of the wild, "disgraceful" scenes at home, away from the devastation.

Nature provided an ironic comment in the form of Spanish 'flu that took more lives than the war itself.

The book is a chronicle of shameful wranglings as the Allies divided the spoils of war, and what can now be seen as the humbug of glorifying the dead while neglecting the survivors - humbug that could be seen at the time although there were few who dared speak of it.

It is a tragic history of men who mistakenly believed that their work had been completed.

This long book is always interesting, largely because of the author's eloquent style and ability to relate anecdotes like a collector displaying his treasures, such as Churchill's offer to give sanctuary to the Kaiser after the Nazis occupied Holland where the ex-German monarch was exiled.

Wilhelm declined the offer



In the trenches. But there was nothing glorious about the treatment of the survivors, says the author of a new book

and died in Holland on June 4, 1941, aged 82.

But the over-riding message is of despairing sadness born out of war, ably summed-up by Garrett in a single paragraph.

"The dead (or at least those who had died in battle) were continuously being described as 'glorious'. But the dead do not

have to eat. They do not have to face rejection by hard-faced little men who have never been anywhere near battlefields. They do not knowingly have to condemn their families to life in squalid conditions for want of money. On such points, the

dead have to be envied. The dead were honoured; the survivors, by and large, were not..."

When war was resumed in 1939, many of the younger men who had risked their lives 20 years earlier were asked to risk them again.

"To their eternal credit, most of them accepted the proposition. The job, after all, had not been completed." - BJ

The Final Betrayal: The Armistice 1918... and Afterwards by Richard Garrett. Published by Buchan & Enright. Price (hardback) £14.95.

The Savage Frontier by D S Richards. A history of the Anglo-Afghan Wars - the British Indian Army's long struggle against a fierce opponent and a pitiless terrain. With an update on more recent events in Afghanistan. Published by Macmillan. Price £14.95.

Shaka Zulu - The Rise of the Zulu Empire by E A Ritter. Reprint of the 1955 biographical classic. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

Brave Men's Blood by Ian Knight. Described as the most comprehensive history of the Anglo-Zulu War yet published, this admirable result of years of worldwide research includes more than 260 contemporary illustrations, most previously unpublished, and brings the great battles vividly to life. Thoroughly recommended for the general reader and specialist student alike. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.95.

Richard Meinertzhagen - Soldier, Scientist and Spy by Mark Cocker. Biography of an "eccentric British anti-hero". Published in paperback by Mandarin. Price £5.99.

The Battlefields of Gallipoli Then and Now by Nigel Steel. Detailed guide book with old and new photographs. A must for the battlefield historian now the Turkish Government has lifted its ban on tourism on the peninsula. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.

Armour 2000 by Peter Gudgin. Surveys the history of vehicles in use in the world today and makes informed assumptions about their adaptation for future use. One of a

Struggle for Survival by R A C Parker. Paperback version of a condensed history of the Second World War described by Field Marshal Lord Carver as "The most balanced view of the causes and courses" of the conflict. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £5.95.

With Kitchener to Khartoum by G W Steevens. Reprint of the text and some maps of the original 1898 account of the British campaign to return and bury Gordon. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

The D-Day Landings by Philip Warner. First published in 1980, now re-issued in paperback - a collection of letters and accounts from all ranks and regiments. Published by Mandarin. Price £5.99.

The New Germany at the Crossroads by David Marsh. The author's 1989 assessment of the Germans has been enlarged

THAT time-honoured cliché, "helping police with their inquiries", took a new twist when beat bobby Jonathan Nicholls arrested an old boy wearing a tam-o'-shanter for causing a disturbance in a London suburb one afternoon.

In Hampstead Police Station the interview between policemen and prisoner turned to the First World War and 85-year-old veteran Sgt Bill Hay regaled the officer with vividly-recalled battle experiences.

The old Bill had indeed found a captive audience in the Old Bill - and PC Nicholls recorded the whole conversation on tapes which are now lodged with the Imperial War Museum.

Time and again Bill Hay had spoken of the Battle of Arras, but nowhere could Nicholls find a detailed record of the spring offensive of April-May 1917, which had lasted a full 39 days.

So he took matters into his own hands and advertised in 250 newspapers for eye-witness accounts by old soldiers of this most lethal and costly of all the British offensive battles of the First World War.

The response was overwhelming. Of the 500 people who replied, 300 were the veteran soldiers sought by Nicholls.

The career policeman, born three years after the Second World War ended but with a lifelong interest in the First, set to work to gather the remainder of the material for his first book.

to include recent upheavals. Published in paperback by Century. Price £9.99

Ready for Anything: The Parachute Regiment at War by Maj Gen Julian Thompson. Rather than attempt a complete history, the man who commanded 3 Cdo Bde in the Falklands has aimed to capture the spirit of the Paras since 1940. His lively narrative is spiced with plenty of human and humorous glimpses of the personalities involved. Published in paperback by Fontana. Price £4.99.

Down to Earth by Arthur Kellas. Another timely publication for the Airborne Forces Jubilee, this diary-based autobiography includes a highly personalised view of parachute regiment training in the early days. Published by The Pentland Press Ltd. Price £10.

SEALs by T L Bosiljevack. Inside story of the US Sea, Air, Land Teams in Vietnam - the

BOOK REVIEWS

Captive account of a savage battle

He took to the road for two years, travelling far and wide to garner precious first-hand accounts before time ran out.

Many of the men who talked will never see their memories in print but the publication of *Cheerful Sacrifice* ensures that the Battle of Arras has been given a special place in the annals of military history.

The story of "the most savage infantry battle of the war" as one survivor describes it is a highly-accomplished and readable documentary and leaves the reader hoping that the author's first attempt at writing military history will not be his last.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Nicholls continues his career with the Metropolitan Police... at Hampstead Police Station.

Cheerful Sacrifice: The Battle of Arras 1917 by Jonathan Nicholls. Published by Leo Cooper. Price (hardback) £17.95.

equivalent of our SBS. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £17.95.

On Parade by Leonard Sanitt. Second World War memoirs of one of the few Jewish soldiers to reach the rank of WO1 in the British Army. Published by Spa Books Ltd & The Strong Oak Press. Price £12.95.

Papa Goes to War by Charles Whiting. Searching examination of American writer Ernest Hemingway's trail through Europe as a war correspondent in 1944-45, which seeks to separate fact from fiction and myth from reality. Published by The Crowood Press. Price £14.95.

The Art of War in the Western World by Archer Jones. Scholarly, 2,500-year history of tactics, logistics, strategy and weaponry and their effect on major battles down the ages. Good value for the serious student, with 740 paperback pages. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £9.95.

Yorkies make it snappy!

MORE than 500 soldiers, apprentices and officer cadets spent a very long day buzzing around large chunks of Yorkshire to raise £2,000 for the charity Snappy (Special Needs and Play Provisions York).

Arranged and run by 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, Race the Sun 90 involved an early start for individual and team entries tasked to complete a series of disciplines including canoeing on the Ouse, road and mountain cycling on the North York moors, a swim across a Great Lake at Castle Howard, a bergen march at Sutton Bank and a half marathon at Helmesley.

Competitors had to be up with the sun at 4.45am and finish before darkness fell.

Four teams were provided by 2 Div Sig Regt and their were guest entries from 1 PWO, 8 and 11 Sig Regts, 3 Wing RAF Regt, King's Division Depot, Army Apprentices' College Harrogate, HQ 2nd Inf Div and Liverpool University OTC.

Rowntrees Mackintosh of York provided a race vest and chocolate bar for each runner, and a splendid trophy for winners, 8th Signal Regiment. Second overall and winners of the cup for the best 2 Div Sig Regt was 1 Squadron.

★ ★ ★

Colchester-based 1 Squadron RCT has been involved in a number of fund-raising projects for charity. At their annual car valet day squadron personnel were aiming to raise more than £1,500 for Windsor Special School, Clacton. Last year they raised money for a computer for the school, and this year hope to finance a minibus.

So popular was the project that vehicles had to be booked



Emma Richards, one of the children who will benefit from Race the Sun 90, with Cpl Tony Rutter, Cpl Neil Stewart and Cpl Gary Avery of 2 Inf Div Sig Regt



Cpl Chink Sloan and Cpl Bes Beswick on the Race the Sun 5km section from Castle Howard (background) to their canoes on the River Derwent

in a week in advance.

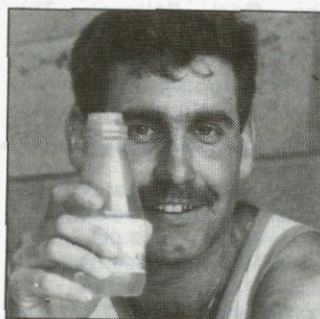
Clerks from the squadron took part in the Fen Fun Run from Fulbourn Hospital near Cambridge and raised £243 for the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society. They completed a total of 250 miles on bikes loaned by Colchester Cycles.

★ ★ ★

A new charitable trust has been founded in the Falkland Islands to help veterans of the 1982 conflict suffering from physical and mental disorders.

The '82 Trust will aim to offer financial and moral support to families who care for the veterans and who might wish to accompany them on therapeutic visits to the Falklands.

The charity is the brainchild of ex-Royal Marine and Falkland veteran Norman Clark, local representative of the Falklands Families Association and donations can be made to '82 Trust, Standard Chartered Bank, Stanley, Falkland Islands.



Bdr Mel Bates celebrates the end of his stint for the Woolwich Garrison team in the MaST relay marathon in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital cancer fund. The team, made up of runners from the 17th Training Regiment RA and Depot, the RA Band, and HQ Director RA, raised hundreds of pounds – and achieved tenth place in the final ratings

★ ★ ★

Following a six-week tour of Canada, the Band of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards has presented a cheque for £1,009 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The money was

raised by the band and their local branch of the Round Table in Wolfenbuttel, West Germany.

The dog that will be trained as a result of their efforts will be going to the South Wales area, part of the regiment's recruiting area.

★ ★ ★

Men of Telford-based 72 Ordnance Company (Volunteers) have handed over a cheque for £1,153 to the MacMillan Trust for cancer relief. The unit has now raised a total of £1,816 for the charity and is hoping to top the £2,000 mark in the next month or so.

★ ★ ★

Since we reported (July 9 issue) that Arborfield Garrison wives had collected £300 for Telethon 90 by completing a sponsored aerobic session, they have doubled their money. At the last count nearly £600 had been raised for the appeal.

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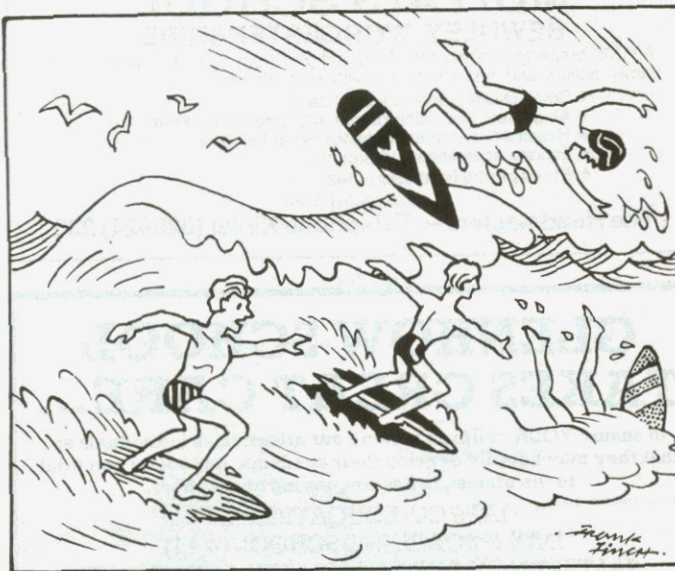
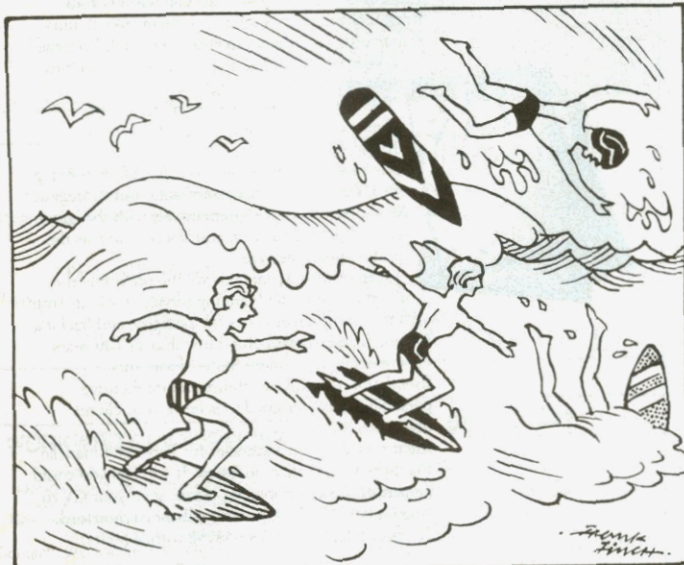
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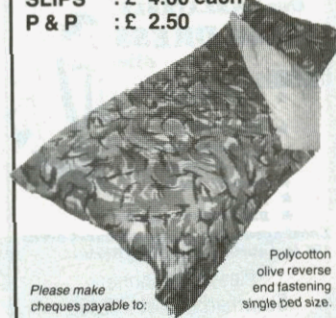
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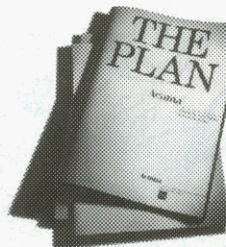
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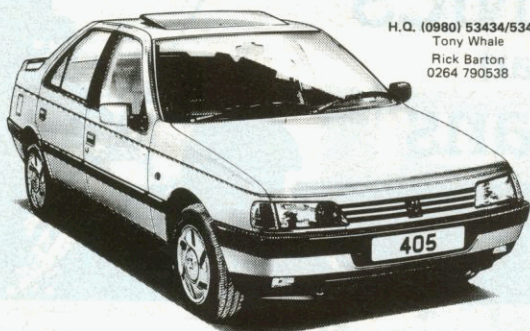
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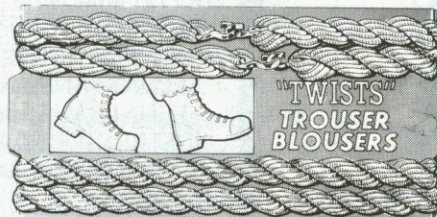
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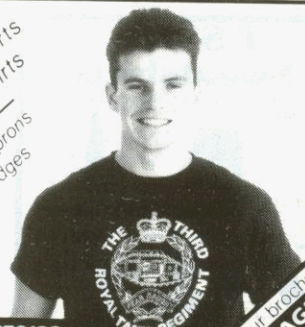
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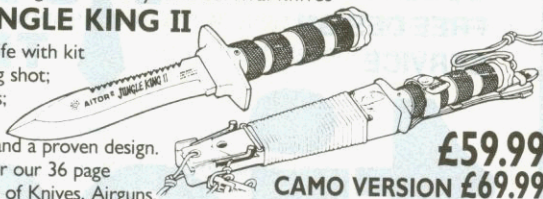
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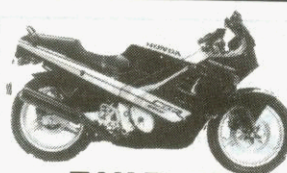
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BAOR units snap up tug titles

FOR the first time in several years the tug of war power-houses of 4 UDR will not be representing the Army at the Inter-Services championships.

The men from Ulster have dominated the Army's domestic scene since 1985, but this year at Arborfield they failed even to reach the final of the 640 kilo competition and had to be content with third place.

New champions at the weight are 26 Field Regiment RA, last year's runners-up. In second place, and confirming the overall performance of BAOR teams, were newcomers 22 Signal Regiment, who finished level on points with 4 UDR but beat them by two straight pulls in the decider.

But there was consolation for 4 UDR in the 600kg competition. As it was the first time the weight has been contested in the Army championships, 4 UDR were also creating an entry in the record books. 26 Fd Regt RA were second.

The success of the 600kg class is to be debated later in

the year because there is an opinion in the sport that the current 560kg division is too light.

BAOR teams led the way in the 560kg competition, with 49 Fd Regt RA from Lippstadt retaining the title ahead of Gutersloh neighbours 26 Fd Regt RA.

The Gurkhas from 1/2 GR, who had surprised everyone at the UKLF championships, found the going harder at Army level, finishing sixth at 680kg and third in the 600kg after a very hard match against 4 UDR. The Gurkhas were also third in the 560kg event.

The 680kg competition produced more smiles for 26 Fd Regt, who improved on last year's runners-up spot to finish clear of 22 Sig Regt. Last year's champions, 40 Fd Regt RA, were prevented by a unit move from taking part.

Germany-based teams are unlikely to have it all their own way next year, by which time 19 Fd Regt RA will have returned to the UK from Dortmund.

Winners of the plate competitions for teams which did not qualify for the finals were FOD Dulmen (560kg), 49 Fd Regt RA (600kg), 49 Fd Regt RA (640kg) and AA Coll ACC (680kg).

Dragons' gold

THE Queen's Regiment sky-diving team, the Flying Dragons, represented the British Army against other Service and civilian teams at the national parachuting championships at Langar and had spectacular success in winning one gold and two bronze medals.

The Flying Dragons became British national champions for canopy relative work in the eight-way speed event and were third in both the four-way



Pictures: Mike Perring

Gale-force performers

A HOWLING gale at the Brickfields stadium in Plymouth could not prevent a jubilant Army men's athletics team from winning the Inter-Service crown for the fourth successive year.

But illness and injury took the sting out of the Army women's team and they were unable to clinch the win that would have given the Army a

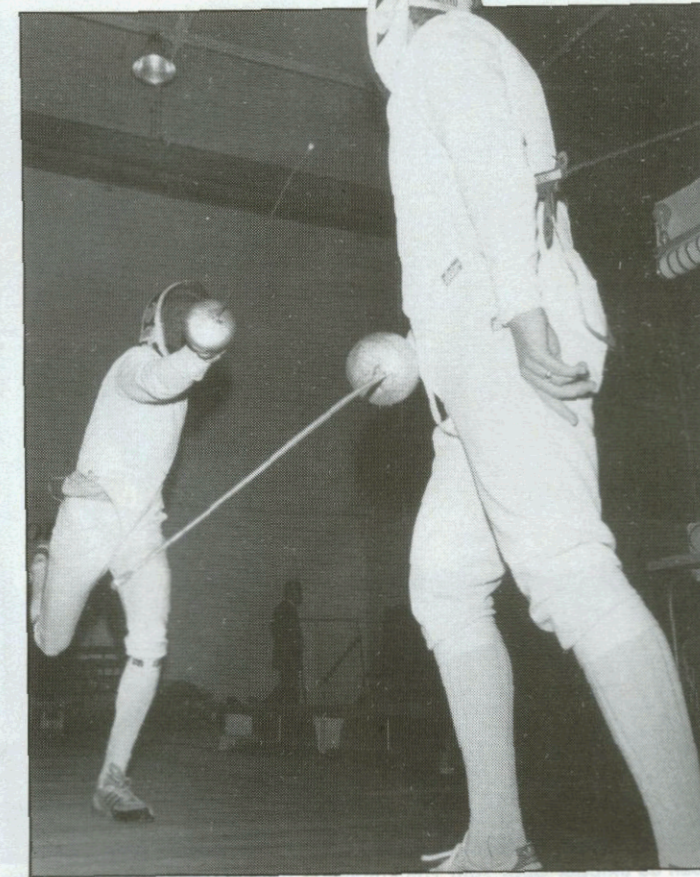
hat trick of doubles over the other Services.

The men's match was won by 167 points to the RAF's 138 and the Royal Navy's 87, while the women totalled 110, trailing 17 behind the RAF. The RN women finished on 48 points.

Winners for the Army men's team were Cpl Clarence Callender in the 100m and 200m, WO2 Kriss Akabusi in the 400m and 400m hurdles, Cpl Darryl Maynard in the 800m, Capt Glen Grant in the 1,500m, Gnr Mark Sterling in the hammer, LCpl John Wild in the javelin, and both 100m and 400m relay squads.

The women's team lost a number of athletes to a virus in the week before the competition, and were further weakened when Cpl Jackie Gilchrist, one of the stars of the squad, sustained a hamstring injury and had to withdraw.

Winners were Pte Homes (400m), Sgt Browse (800m), Cpl Randall (1,500m), LCpl Sharp (3,000m) and Lt Osterburg (shot and discus).



Above left - Our photographer gets the point as the Army women's fencing team lines up. From left to right are Capt Cathie Pendleton, Cpl Sally Bowman, Sgt Steph Edwards and Capt Jane Dawson. Above right - LCpl Tony Davies on his way to winning the intermediate epee competition, matched here against Sgt Mal Collins of the RAF

Fencers celebrate a centenary

FENCERS from all three Services gathered at RAF West Drayton for the final event of the forces' season, the Inter-Service championships which are part of the annual Royal Tournament and with it celebrate a hundred years of existence.

England manager Philip Bruce, who presented the prizes at the Wilkinson Sword-sponsored event, said the entries confirmed the growth of fencing in the Army.

Although the Royal Engineers provide the majority of fencers at both junior and senior levels, 3 BAD RAOC supplies half the women's team, while Capt Cathie Pendleton encourages many to take up fencing at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

Spr Darrell Cooper proved himself a worthy Master-at-Arms in the junior competition, winning every weapon event.

Defeat for the soldiers in the tri-Service competition was avenged by 25 Engr Regt who clinched the six-man team

trophy for the Army for a fourth successive year. In the three-man event, RMA Shrivernham beat 12 RSME to take the honours.

The sabre event was dominated by the Royal Air Force, although the sapper combination of LCpl James Williams, LCpl Roscoe Tanner and Capt Tony Williams was well placed. At intermediate level, Capt James Stratton, RMA, beat stiff competition to win.

Army foil results were again bolstered by sappers, with Spr Phil Whittlestone of 25 Engr Regt taking a close second to the RAF in the intermediates.

In the women's foil, Pte Greaken of 62 Sqn RCT came third, an outstanding achievement for a relative newcomer.

Convincing victories were secured by the Army at all levels in the epee events, LCpl Tony Davies, 25 Engr Regt,

winning the intermediate and international modern pentathlete Capt Dominic Mahony, Life Guards, capturing a narrow win over Flt Lt George Liston, RAF, in the senior event.

Both were members of the Commonwealth Games squad.

LCpl James Williams, 25 Engr Regt, won both the Wilkinson Master Swordsman and Champion-at-Arms trophies, and was due to receive them both in the arena at the Royal Tournament.

Semi-successful

A TEAM from Bournon Barracks, Catterick Garrison reached the semi-finals of the Naafi national team darts championships staged at RAF Finningley before losing to Portland Fleet Club, the eventual champions.

Gunners excel in Three Peaks

A TEAM from 94 Locating Regiment RA finished fourth overall in the annual Barmouth to Fort William Three Peaks race, one of the toughest events on the British sporting calendar.

The race includes 380 sea miles of sailing and rowing plus 70 miles of fell running over Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis, the highest mountains in Wales, England and Scotland.

In the past three years the Wiltshire-based gunners have finished fourth, second and tenth, a remarkably consistent achievement. This year they were the leading Service and police team and the third multihull overall.

AFFAS III Securon, the gunner catamaran, was frustrated by calms and long periods of light winds, which put a premium on rowing for the 35 teams which took part.

Sailors in the gunner boat were Lt Col Peter Newell, WO2 Tony Bennett and skipper Maj Ben Archer. They spend months training with the two runners, Sgt Mark Gamble, Lt Col Peter Newell, WO2 Tony Bennett and skipper Maj Ben Archer. They spend months training with the two runners, Sgt Mark Gamble, Lt Col Peter Newell, WO2 Tony Bennett and skipper Maj Ben Archer.

Grenadiers reach final

MÜNSTER-based 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards were going to be the odd men out at the Army water polo finals due to take place at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley on July 25. The other three teams left in the competition were all from sapper outfits.

Winners of the BAOR competition were 21 Engr Regt and 1 Gren Gds, while the UKLF event produced a clear winner in 36 Engr Regt.

Also through to the Army finals were 38 Engr Regt, who were placed second on goal difference in the UK after finishing on the same number of points as 2 Coldm Gds and School of Signals.

1 ADSR on the road

THE Ostkilver Ten, the BAOR ten-mile road race championship, was won by Sgt Bailey of 1 Armd Div Signal Regiment who also led his team to the major units' prize ahead of 21 Sig Regt. FOD Dulmen won the minor units' honours.

Sgt Martin (21 Sig Regt) was second individual home, followed by FOD Dulmen's Cpl Boswell. Cpl Bradley (BMH Hanover) won the women's race, although team honours went to 29 Coy WRAC. First veteran was Capt Fox (4 Fd Regt RA).

The race, organised by 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT, attracted more than 1,320 runners.



Lt Rob Thomson (1 RGJ) gathers the ball as skipper Capt Tom Thicknesse (1 RGJ, centre) and LCpl Andy Boxall (1 IG) look on during the Army Under-25 cricket week fixture against British Fire Services. The firemen won by one wicket

Picture: Mike Weston

Kent on the hop

THERE was an extraordinary turn-about in fortunes when the Army took on Kent 2nd XI in two 55-over matches at Chatham.

The first match ended with a crushing defeat for the Servicemen, who were put to flight by a massive 219 runs. But the next day Kent shuffled their batting order and paid the price, losing by 44 runs.

All the Army bowlers suffered as Kent amassed 279 for seven in the first game. SSgt Nigel Scott (94 Sig Sqn) bore the brunt of the work, conceding 81 runs from 14 overs but had the satisfaction of picking up four wickets. Capt Paul Presland (657 Sqn AAC) took two for 50 in a dozen overs.

In reply, the Army's innings

lasted not quite 23 overs and realised a disappointing 60 with only two batsmen reaching double figures.

Next day Army skipper Capt Peter Germain (1 PWO) won the toss and batted. Sgt Paul Gardiner (Comms and Sy Gp) led the way with 37, and with 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) scoring 33 and Pte John Storey (1 Queens)

restored to health and contributing 24, the Army totalled 163 in 51 overs.

Kent were then bowled out for 119 in the 41st over, leaving the Army unlikely victors by 44 runs. There were three wickets apiece for Lt Keith Rumbelow (1 Queens), Scott and Capt Jimmy Cotterill (16 AD Regt RA).

Two days later the Army entertained British Police at Aldershot and lost heavily in a 55-over match.

The strong police side scored 271 for eight (Rumbelow 4-59), then bowled their hosts out for 197 with a couple of overs to spare. Greatorex, who has shown constant form, scored 55, and his opening stand of 59 with Cotterill suggested a closer contest.

Cpl Andy Boxall (1 IG) made 19, Storey 11, Cpl Nick Palmer (655 Sqn AAC) 18, skipper Germain, 20 Rumbelow 11 and Scott 18 not out, with no one able to go on to a substantial innings.

EVERYONE'S A WINNER

HONOURS were shared at the end of the Inter-Service Under-25 cricket tournament at Aldershot, with each side recording a win and so claiming a stake in the trophy.

The Army lost to the Royal Air Force by 18 runs in their opening match but defeated the Royal Navy with the help of a Cpl Andy Boxall (1 IG) century the next day.

Set a target of 215 by the

airmen, the Army were bowled out for 197 in reply. Fus Jerry Jeremias (2 RRF) took six RAF wickets in 9.2 overs after they had threatened a huge score.

Boxall's undefeated hundred was the highlight of the Army's 51-run win over the Navy, and there was good support from Pte John Storey (1 Queens). Boxall completed a good day's work by taking three wickets.

In their build-up to the

Inter-Services, the Under-25s lost to Western Australia Public Schools by 36 runs, British Fire Service by one wicket and Buckinghamshire by eight wickets, and beat Wiltshire by three runs.

RAF 215 (Riddell 41, Blackburn 44; Jeremias 6-32, Thomas 2-37). **Army** 197 (Pickers 52, Hazlitt 42, Thicknesse 38; Elks 3-23, Beeston 3-33). **RAF** won by 18 runs. **Army** 252-7 (Boxall 100 no, Storey 43, Thicknesse 36). **Royal Navy** 201 (Falconer 60; Boxall 3-33, Jeremias 3-45). **Army** won by 51 runs.

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Tree trunks, railway sleepers and rocks galore provide a rough terrain for Sgt Digger Houldey, an instructor at the Army School of Mechanical Transport, as he trains for the Yorkshire Enduro competition. A feature on the ASMT starts on Page 29.