

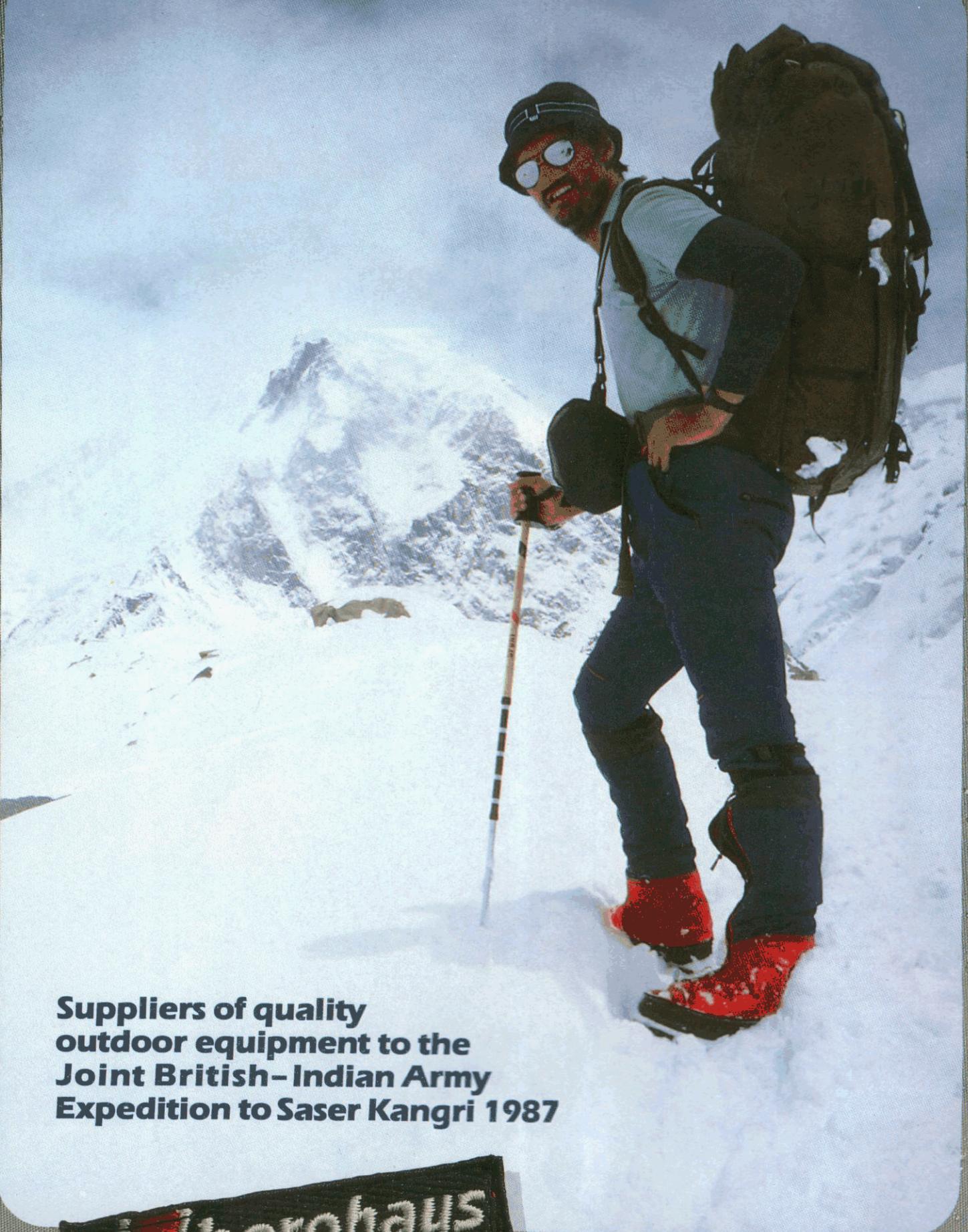
SOLDIER

FEBRUARY 22 1988

35 PENCE



CRACK AND THUMP TOWN — Page 14 **NEW WEBBING ON TEST** — Page 20 **FALKLANDS FORCE** — Page 25



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VOL. 44/4

FEBRUARY 22 1988

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FRONT COVER: Men of the 3rd Bn The Royal Green Jackets patrol the Falklands coastline on board a combat support boat crewed by sappers of the Falkland Islands Field Squadron. See Falkland's feature starting on Page 25.

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



**NEXT
ISSUE**

Above – The sappers' latest recruit! Anneka Rice spent a day with 3 Training Regt RE. More pictures and a report in the next issue.

Right – You can put all sorts of names to the qualities exhibited by Steve Sahli . . . courage, determination, dedication. Most soldiers will recognise sheer guts. Three years ago Steve was paralysed from the waist downwards in a motor cycle accident. Today, after being equipped with and trained to use a new type of body brace, he can walk again. SOLDIER has been to see this inspiring young man at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich. His story will be told in the next issue.



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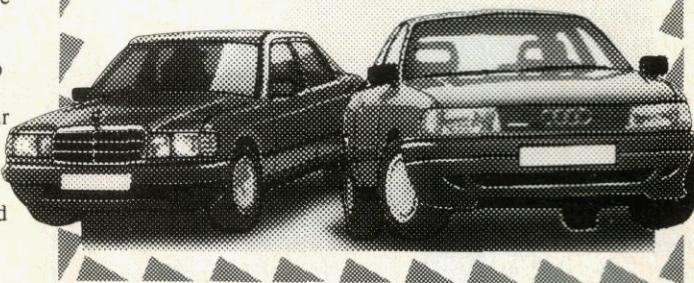
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LETTERS

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Army wives should not need jobs . . .

I agree with every word written by ex WO1 A Worley (SOLDIER Jan 25).

As an ex RSM and pre-war Regular, like Mr Worley, having served from 1935 to 1970 in infantry and airborne regiments, I have been amazed in recent years at letters sent to SOLDIER from Army wives rushing around looking for jobs and complaining loudly about unemployment, pay and sickness benefits etc.

I am fully aware of the high cost of everything today, and the inflation which no country today seems to have the ability to stop. Surely soldiers today, with the very high wages they draw, should be able to supplement their wives, without them running around looking for jobs.

During my long Army career, I had never known Army wives to go out working. If you had asked them why

didn't they look for a job, they would have thought you were crazy and would have told you they had no time for such nonsense, as they were far too busy running a home and bringing up a family.

I married my wife in Malta in 1940 and together we went through the terrible bombing of the great siege. In post war years my wife was exposed to deadly danger and hardships when she was with me in the campaigns in Israel, Malta, Cyprus, Kenya and recently in the war in Aden. I am afraid she, like all the wives of a few years ago, had no time to work.

Therefore, as most Army wives today have a fairly easy life, why can't they try to live on their pay and allowances, as our gallant wives did a generation ago? — Ex RSM John Kelly, 204 Foundling Court, Marchmont St, London WC1.

... Oh yes they do!

Referring to Mr A Worley's letter surely the gentleman must realise that Anne Armstrong doesn't put pen to paper without doing her homework, research, and interviewing.

It is one thing to read and study the revised rates of pay, and think that the Army is well paid; but another when it comes to making ends meet; especially for the married soldier with a family to keep.

Let me itemise just a few of the things which a married soldier has to pay out: food, heating, lighting, clothes, shoes, possible school uniforms, school dinners, insurance, bus fares, savings, quartering charges, tax, national insurance contributions, to name but just a few; there are many more.

Start adding up these items. I

shouldn't think that there's much change left out of a soldier's pay, if any. Anne Armstrong is correct when she says that some wives need to work to help and support financially; it's a fact of living in modern times.

The single soldier obviously doesn't have to pay out as much as the married man, but he still has to pay for food, accommodation, and all the other oddments which appear on his pay slip.

Please, Mr Worley we are living in 1988, not in the 1930s, and my comments are based on a soldier's pay, not a full general's. A soldier's pay published on paper is not what he receives in pocket. — F D Downie, Pepezstraat 44, B2440 Geel, Antwerpen, Belgium.

First time lucky

Lucky winner of £50 in SOLDIER'S first HOAY competition of 1988 is Mrs J Hutton, of High Street, Ilfracombe, Devon. Will you be the second winner? Try your powers of observation on Page 43 of this issue.



'Ello, 'ello, 'ello, here's an arresting sight. But Special Policewoman Caroline Wheeler looks happy to accept the explanation of English Civil War Society member Michael Woods that he belongs to Sir William Pennyman's regiment at the society's King's Army parade in London, commemorating the execution of Charles I in 1649. All right sir, off you go!

Belsen arrests

On leaving the Army in 1950, I joined the Oxfordshire Constabulary and had the pleasure of serving with PC24, George Robinson, who during the Second World War had served with the CMP.

It was therefore with interest that I read in SOLDIER (November 30) the article "Where No Birds Fly" in respect of the relief of Belsen.

By coincidence, our local paper, the *Banbury Guardian* published on November 26 an article recalling the retirement 30 years ago of PC Robinson, who was one of the first soldiers to enter Belsen and personally arrested Joseph Kramer and Irma Grese.

After retiring from the constabulary, Robbie worked for the local ambulance service but unfortunately passed away some five years ago. Another

old soldier who played his part in history. — N F Dellar, ex 2nd Para Batt, 108 Woodfield, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7PX.

Reunions

● The Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Association buffet supper will be on May 7, at Armoury House, City Road, London EC1. Tickets from Major (Rtd) J S Knight, Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.

● A 'Red Hand Gang' reunion 244 Signal Sgn (Air Support) will take place during the weekend May 27-29 at RAF Brize Norton. Details from WO2 (SSM) Smiley, RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire OX8 3LX.

● The seventh annual Old Comrades Reunion (all ranks) of 2nd RHA and 2nd Field Regt RA OCA will take place at the Sergeants' Mess, Kirkee Barracks, Colchester, Essex on April 30. Details from the Secretary, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 3AA (tel 0206 68306 or 864333).

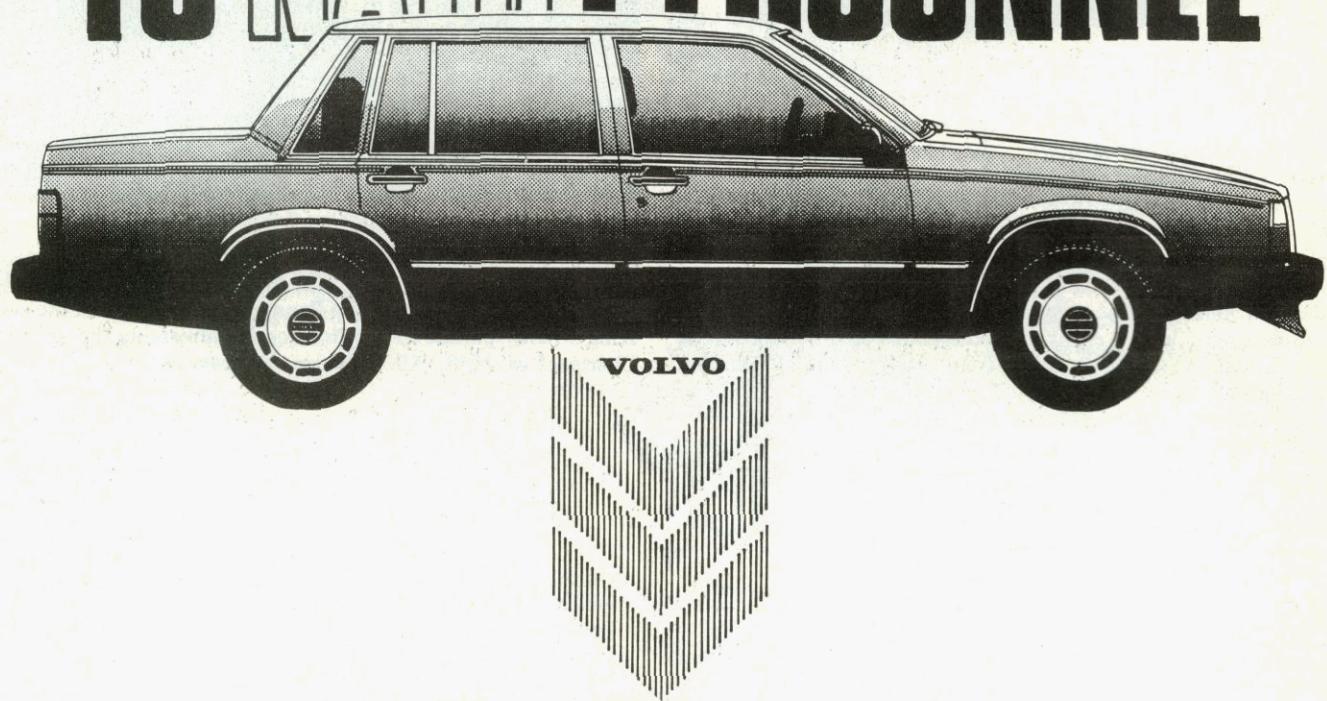
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Six of best to beat bullies

INITIATION ceremonies in the Army are OUT, except those deemed to be harmless.

The ban on initiation ceremonies is part of a six-point plan announced in the House of Commons by Mr Roger Freeman, USoS for the Armed Forces, to safeguard against bullying.

And he told the Commons: "Bullying is a serious offence . . . It forms no part of proper Service life and we are clear that it cannot be tolerated."

While media publicity during recent months has given the Army some of the worst punishment for years, MoD has been examining and analysing the response from commanding officers throughout the Army who were asked last July by the Adjutant General to investigate bullying and intimidation in their units.

The general consensus, Mr Freeman reported to MPs, was that bullying and other unacceptable forms of behaviour are not prevalent.

"Recent cases, and the media coverage devoted to them, have suggested that the problem of bullying and ill-treatment is widespread," he said.

He revealed figures showing that in the past two years, only some 100 cases of alleged bullying, intimidation or ill-treatment had come to light - some of them relating to incidents which happened earlier - among the 160,000 Regular soldiers, including some 20,000 under training. In 19 of these cases, investigations were still continuing.

The charges in 35 cases had been substantiated, and either had resulted in or will result in disciplinary action. In the re-



An eye for the IIs

maining 48 cases that had been investigated, the Army's inquiries had not substantiated the initial charges or allegations.

Mr Freeman declared: "I do not believe that these overall figures reflect an endemic problem. Nor do I agree that these cases are only the tip of the iceberg."

Commenting that the Army was not, and could not be complacent, Mr Freeman said the cases of bullying which had occurred arose partly because the Army reflects changing standards in the society from which it recruits. The young soldier might be less tough physically than his forebears and yet more inured to the concept of violence, assault and alcohol abuse.

The Army needed to re-emphasise its responsibilities for man management, and to foster in officers and NCOs a greater awareness of their supervisory duties, perhaps particularly in off-duty hours. Changed patterns of barracks accommodation, the increasing trend of married officers and NCOs to live out, and soldiers'

ON A Far Eastern tour of British units Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr Ian Stewart visited soldiers of the Hong Kong Garrison. On duty at the Hong Kong-Chinese border, soldiers of A Company 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles demonstrated the sophisticated electronic equipment they employ to capture illegal immigrants attempting to enter Hong Kong

wish for privacy off-duty had to some extent led to some falling off in the level of supervision.

Because of pressures at some levels in staffing, the Army needed to look at the possibility of junior and middle-level commanders being given more time to concentrate on their task of leadership.

In addition to the ban on initiation ceremonies, Mr Freeman's list of subjects for consideration included:

- Looking at the scope for extending the medical examination process at the recruiting and entry stage to ensure a more thorough screening of young men who may not be robust enough to cope with the toughness of military training.

- Re-examining selection and induction training of NCO instructors to see if improvements can be made.

- Reorganising administrative commitments in training units to allow officers and NCOs to devote more time to their supervisory responsibilities. It might, Mr Freeman pointed out, result in more junior officers and NCOs in training depots.

- Considering more effective deployment of volunteers, such as members of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, who work with soldiers in Army units, with the aim of extending to the single soldier improvements which had taken place in relation to Army families.

- Reviewing the content and degree of man management training on officer and NCO courses.

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CAT tank competition inadequate for training

THE Army has withdrawn its entry from the 1989 Canadian Army Trophy – the biennial marksmanship competition for Nato's tank crews, in which Challenger's performance was disappointing. The official MoD explanation says that because peacetime restrictions limit the CAT

competition to tank gunnery firing practices on purpose built Nato ranges, important battle winning tank crew skills, such as command and control, tactics and the handling of armour are not assessed.

It was felt that because the full range of battle skills required of tank crews was not

being tested, the competition did not make the best use of training resources, as the squadron chosen to compete had to be diverted from more comprehensive training.

The withdrawal from competition is not permanent, the Army intends to re-enter CAT at some future date.

Catterick brigade to become airmobile

BAOR armoured reserves are to be strengthened by the conversion of Soest based 6 Airmobile Brigade from an air portable to an armoured formation.

The conversion will begin in April this year and will coincide with the conversion of Catterick based 24 Infantry Brigade into an airmobile brigade.

The announcement in the House of Commons by Mr Tim Sainsbury, junior defence procurement minister, came close on the heels of a statement by the Northern Ireland Office that a new brigade is to be based at Armagh.

Trials by 6 Bde over the past four years have shown that an airmobile formation strong in infantry anti-armour weapons can be moved by support helicopters at short notice to respond to enemy penetration.

This role is being transferred to 24 Bde which in its new organisation will incorporate a new Army Air Corps regiment equipped with Lynx helicopters armed with TOW missiles. Until the inauguration of a new AAC regiment, the AAC helicopter support will be provided by 657 Squadron based at Oakington in Cambridgeshire.

Support helicopter lift will be provided by the RAF using Chinook and Puma until the late 1990s when EH101 enters service and becomes the brigade's prime mover.

Border security in Northern Ireland is being enhanced with the formation of a new brigade, 3 Infantry Brigade, based at Armagh. Force levels will not change in the province and the new formation will draw troops from existing units.

Accident toll

1987 was a bad year for accidents involving explosives during Army training and exercises.

Mr Roger Freeman, USoS for the Armed Forces, told a questioner in the Commons that six Servicemen were killed – the highest number for at least 12 years – and 97 people injured during the year, in 155 accidents.



What a whopper! Naafi's managing director Brig James Rucker (left) hands a mega cheque for more than £800,000 to Maj Gen JDG Pank, Director General Personal Services (Army) outside Naafi's London headquarters. The sum is the Army's share of the annual rebate given back to HM Forces for the benefit of Service personnel and their families. The Army Central Fund supports Service sport, welfare and charities

Gren Gds take on Warrior

THE first Warriors have arrived at the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, based in Munster, and the battalion is well into the conversion package.

Not only has the battalion received new vehicles but they have also three extra officers and nine extra sergeants, who make up the gunnery element of the Armoured Infantry Manning Increment (AIMI). The AIMI makes up the shortfall between a

mechanised battalion and an armoured infantry battalion.

The gunnery element of 1 Gren Gds AIMI have all recently completed a gunnery instructors' course at Lulworth Cove and form the core of the Gunnery Training Team converting the battalion.

The battalion, the first to convert, is under close scrutiny, and the success or otherwise of the AIMI is a critical factor.



Here's how Col John Bird, Regimental Secretary of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment at Fulwood Barracks, Preston saw "Comic Relief Day" in aid of Africa's famine victims. Many Army units were involved in red nosed activities on the day

QGMs for gas works bomb trio

THREE sappers are to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for their courageous efforts in defusing a Second World War bomb discovered in an East London gas works.

Capt (acting Major) Robert Hall RE and a team of bomb disposal divers from 33 EOD Sqn, 33 Eng Regt RE were sent to Beckton Gas Works where a civilian diver had discovered a bomb under 40 feet of water inside a large gasometer.

Entering through an airlock, the team of Maj Hall (31), SSgt Nigel Daly (34) and LCpl John Wright (23) – now with 39 Fd Sqn, 23 Eng Regt in Osnabrück – were winched 100 feet to the polluted water surface where, in darkness, they worked in an atmosphere heavy with gas and fumes.

The water could not be pumped out because of the pollution risk.

In an extremely hazardous six day operation in November 1986 the team brought the unexploded German 500kg bomb, which was in a volatile condition, to the surface and hauled it aboard their rubber dinghy before defusing it...

Finally, they had to winch the bomb to the top of the gasometer and lower it down the outside where others were waiting to steam out the explosive.

Jobs body warning

UNSKILLED jobs in Civvy Street which pay low starting wages don't appeal to some soldiers leaving the Army – but they could be doing themselves a disservice by refusing them, says the annual report of the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

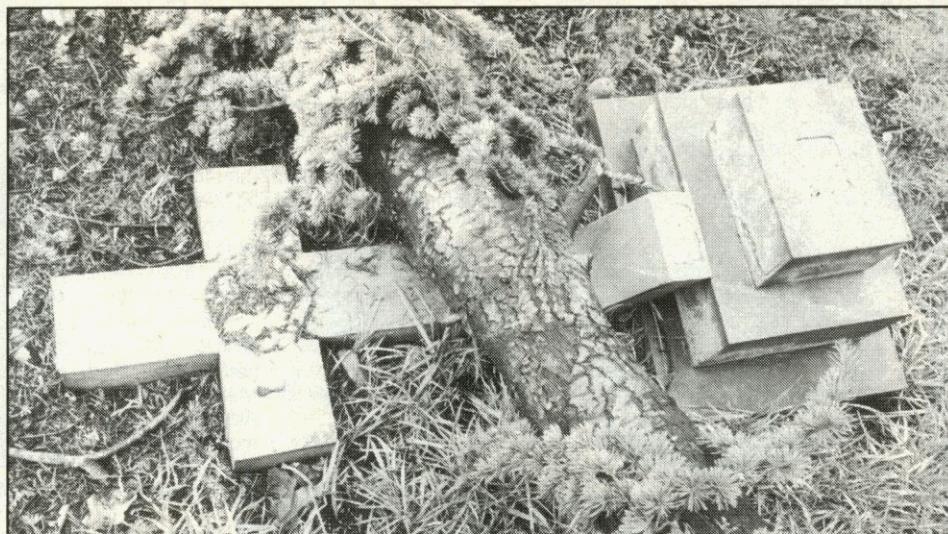
It was not uncommon, it says, for some ex-Regulars to refuse interviews for unskilled occupations where starting wages remained low.

"This is regrettable, for they so deny themselves not only the opportunity to gain immediate work experience, and possible advancement either in that occupation or

Junior School of Music expansion complete

THE new Duke of Cambridge Block at the Army Junior School of Music, Bovington Camp, Dorset, is being officially opened by Maj Gen J D G Pank, the Director General of Personal Services.

Completion of the new wing marks the final stage of the expansion of the Army



Just one of a number of early headstones that suffered damage in Aldershot's military cemetery. It will be repaired by the PSA in a work programme now under way

WAR GRAVES BADLY HIT BY HURRICANE

CEMETERIES containing Britain's war dead – in Britain and France – were badly hit by the hurricane which raged across the area.

Mr Bernard McGee, Information Officer at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's headquarters, told SOL-DIER that although many damage reports have still to be submitted, there was significant damage to three crosses of sacrifice – at Newmarket, Orpington and in London – and almost 100 Service headstones broken or knocked down, in civilian cemeteries.

The commission uses trees for landscaping and screening at many of its larger

cemeteries. At the Runnymede Memorial and Brookwood Cemetery, 40 trees were lost and major clearing up operations were carried out before they could be re-opened to the public.

In France, the situation is far more serious. In Normandy and all along the French coastline, the loss of 240 trees has badly affected the landscaping and screening of the war cemeteries.

The additional 100 headstones for replacement will not significantly affect the headstone replacement programme – some 2,000 stones are routinely replaced, for one reason or another, on an annual basis.

Tamworth TA centre praised

CAEN HOUSE, a £797,000 prototype TA centre at Tamworth, Staffs was opened by Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, less than 43 weeks after the first brick was laid.

Gen Ramsbotham, UK Field Army Commander and Inspector General of the Territorial Army, stressed the importance of TA centres which would attract and hold new recruits. "I have not seen a better TA centre than this," he commented.

The new centre, headquarters of T Company, 1 Mercian (V), is already being extended to accommodate a recce platoon.

Malta veterans return

NEARLY 300 veterans of the siege of Malta during the Second World War have been back to the George Cross island.

During a ten-day visit, former members of all three Services and the Merchant Navy re-made old friendships, visited parts of the island they had known when Malta was under siege, looked over the air strips they built, and looked for – but failed to find – the slit trenches they once knew.

Model manoeuvre

IT doesn't look as bidding in model form! Aldershot training areas B4, B5 and B6 have been reproduced in miniature by TA potential officers from

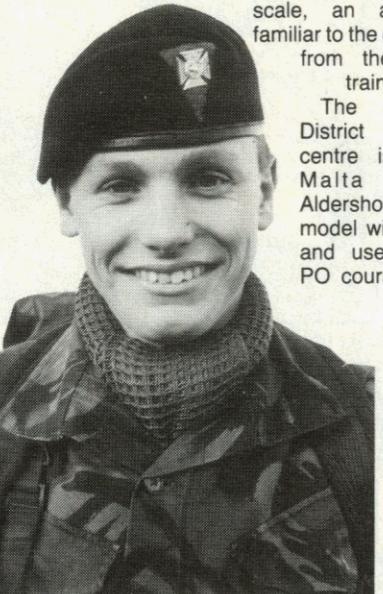
South East District.

On hearing that some of the cadets were interested in model making, Sgt Maj David Bowen of the district's PO training team

suggested they build a scale model for training purposes.

The model represents a 2km square of Aldershot training area in one 800th scale, an area largely familiar to the officer cadets from their weekend training courses.

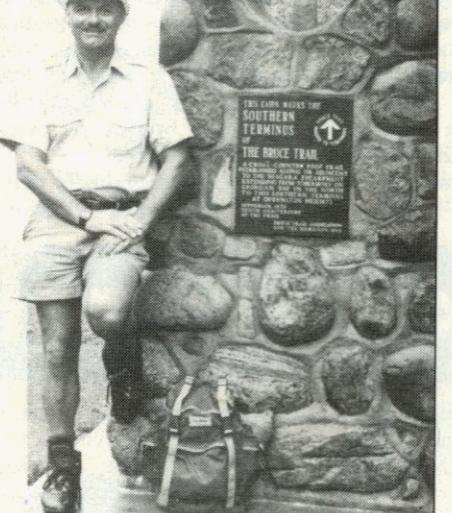
The South East District TA training centre is based at Malta Barracks, Aldershot, where the model will be housed and used by future PO courses.



PRIVATE Marc Drummond (18) – pictured above – who is serving with 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, took the greatest pleasure in receiving his Northern Ireland General Service Medal. Not only has he joined the ranks of those privileged to wear it but by coincidence he shares the same birthday as the medal itself.

The campaign medal was originally struck on 18 August 1969 and awarded to troops for service in the province.

"It means so much to me but it's sad that the



TRAILBLAZER: Lt Col Christopher Newbould

Colonel treads lonesome trail

Ontario's Niagara Escarpment was finally completed by Headquarters Wales's new Chief of Staff before he left Canada.

Lt Col Christopher Newbould's last posting was an exchange at the Command and Staff College, Toronto. A keen walker, he completed the epic journey through some of the most spectacular scenery in Canada on the Bruce Trail over a period of two years.

"Less than 400 people have completed the trail from end to end, and I don't believe anyone from the British Army has done it before. I would go out a couple of weekends a month, and my wife would drop me off exactly where I had stopped the previous time, and would arrange to pick me up further along," he said.

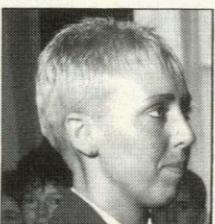
The trail was opened in 1967 and winds its way from Queenston, near Niagara Falls to Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

Along the way is the Queenston Heights battlefield of 1812.



Bob Bustard

Zeebrugge drivers commended



Kate Doolan



Neil Lurcock



Sharon Golder

THE efforts of drivers and management of 68 Sqn RCT, based at Rheindahlen, following the Zeebrugge ferry disaster have been marked by the award of Commander Rhine Troops commendations to five members of the squadron.

All volunteered to provide transport for survivors, their families and the bereaved. Using a small fleet of minibuses and staff cars, the drivers took on the daunting task of trying to reunite families and carrying relatives to mortuaries to identify the dead.

Although untrained and unprepared, the five – WO1 Bob Bustard, WSSgt Jane Wylie, WLCpl Sharon Golder, WPTe Kate Doolan and LCpl Kev Machin – took on the responsibility of front line welfare workers and were quickly accepted by the relief

agencies as a source of support. Another member of the unit, LCpl 'Scouse' Pemberton, was awarded a BEM in the New Year's Honours while WO2 Neil Lurcock RMP, temporarily attached to the unit, also received the CRT commendation.

Marc's as old as his medal



MODEL CADETS: Officer Cadets Stephen Adams, Ray Edwards, Beverley Sunderland, Jeremy Hine, Sgt Maj David Bowen, Katherine Downes, Aldo Lilley and Giles Morgan

Well spoken!

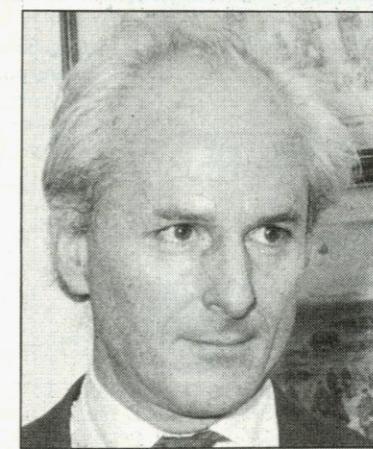
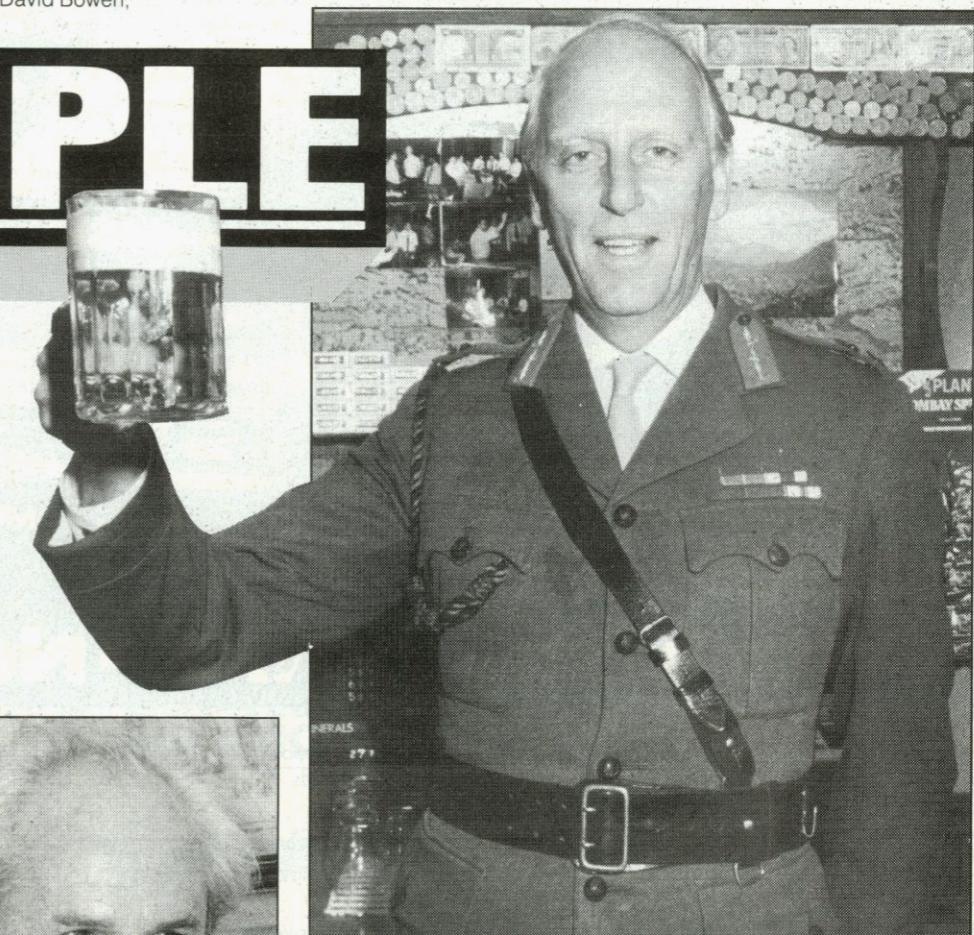
LCpl Chris Hix, Int Corps, had an international opportunity to use his excellent German by "selling" Nato at Dusseldorf Boat Show. Cpl Hix was one of the staff manning Nato's stand at the boat show where the language spoken by everyone was German, not normally an official Nato language.



SPEAK UP: LCpl Chris Hix

PEOPLE

OPENING PINT:
Maj Gen Gary Johnson in the new Gurkha club



THE RAOC Museum at Deepcut, Surrey is to launch an appeal for £11,000 to repay benefactor Mr Martin Williams following the successful purchase at auction of the Victoria Cross won by Lt William Raynor during the Indian Mutiny.

The museum is preparing to display two of the three VCs won in the action. The third is in the National Army Museum.

VC appeal launched

Mr William Raynor (left), great grandson of Lt Raynor, and Major of the Brigade of Gurkhas, raises a glass of lager to the new Junior Ranks Club which he had just declared open at Crookham Barracks.

The club used to be a "large wooden barn-like building" and has been renovated at a cost of £13,000, partly paid by Naafi.

Crookham is currently home to 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.



Hogging the limelight . . .

MEET the Long Valley Ground Hogs. Few people know the RARDE ground and its idiosyncrasies better than the three test drivers who put the BV206 (see Pages 34-35) through its paces.

They have to drive anything that turns up there – from a Challenger or a new APC.

"The secret is having a feel for the terrain," was how one of them put it. "We never look at the ground directly in front of the vehicle but at a spot well ahead."

Left to right are Garry Knapp (15 years experience), ex-Grenadier John Taylor (13), and Dave Best (20).

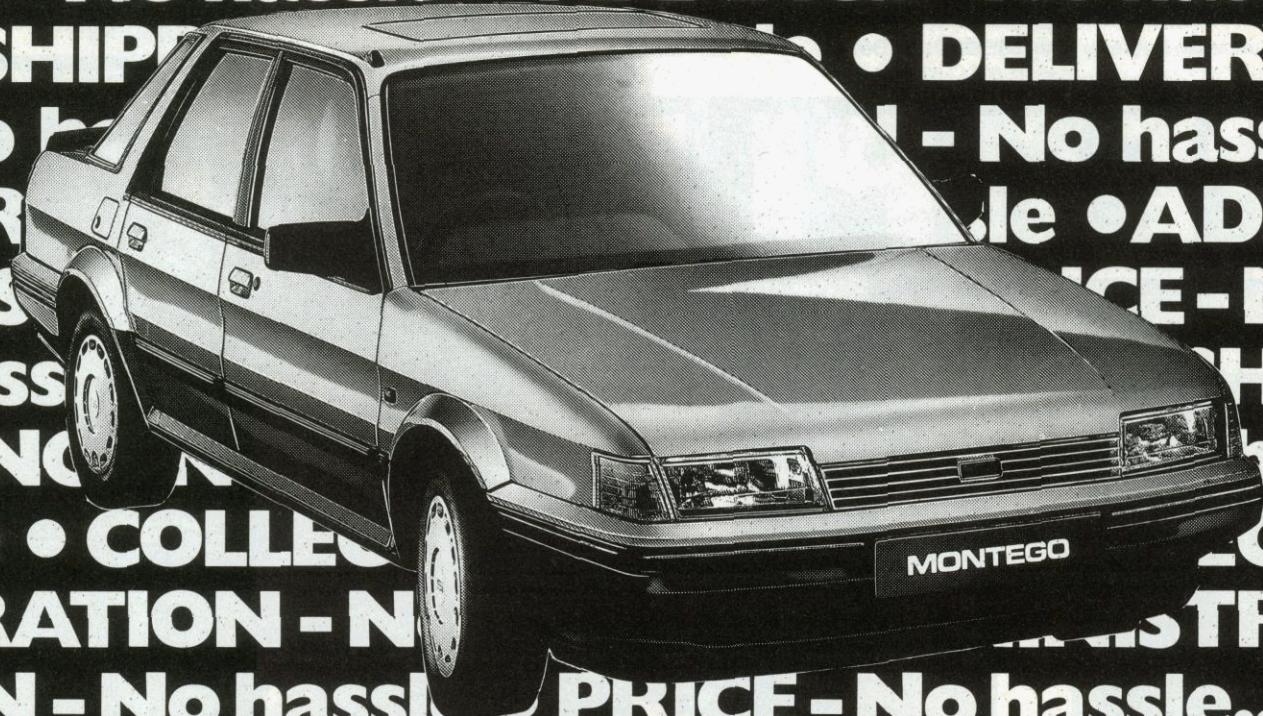
CHEERS!

Maj Gen Gary Johnson, Commander British Forces Hong Kong and Major General of the Brigade of Gurkhas, raises a glass of lager to the new Junior Ranks Club which he had just declared open at Crookham Barracks.

The club used to be a "large wooden barn-like building" and has been renovated at a cost of £13,000, partly paid by Naafi.

Crookham is currently home to 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

'Argies' go home early

A SOLDIER team visiting the Falkland Islands soon found themselves adapting to the garrison's use of *FIspeak* – a language peculiar to South Atlantic Servicemen.

Most Army personnel spend a four month tour in the Falklands and are only too aware of their status as either an FNG (Falklands New Guy) or an FOG (yes, you've guessed – Falklands Old Guy).

Ask anyone how much longer he has to go and he may answer "21 days and a greasy", which roughly translated means "21 days and one last breakfast".

Anyone on temporary attachment or serving less than a full tour acknowledges that he is lucky enough to be serving an "argie".

FOGs on the last leg of their South Atlantic tour start keeping their eyes open for "gozomes" – going home gifts for family and friends.

A MINJO (Man in Need of a Jolly Outing) ought not, when he does manage to escape the corridors of MPA (Mount Pleasant Airport), forget his "bimble box" (packed meal) and a "slab" (case) or two of "reds" (cans of Tartan beer), "greens" (lager) or "blues" (Wadsworth 6X beer).

Liquid refreshment can still be enjoyed, of course, in camp while listening to the dulcet tones of FIBS – the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service!

Berlin's veterans rewarded

No fewer than 16 locally employed civilians have just completed 40 years of service to the Berlin Garrison – which must suggest that either the British military establishment in the divided city is jolly good to work for, or that the long servers are more patient than most people!

Their dedicated loyalty was marked at a ceremony during which the British Commandant, Maj Gen Patrick Brookings, presented 40 year certificates to the 16 Germans.

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

No one needs reminding that the Falklands are far from home. The arrival of each "Timmy" (TriStar) and "Fat Albert" (Hercules) with its precious cargo of "blueys" (Forces aerogrammes) is eagerly awaited.

PRINCELY UNIFORM

A Scots Guards uniform fit for a prince. It was made for Prince Arthur of Connaught in the last century to follow a family tradition.

Capt David Horne, Curator of the new Guards museum, is not tweaking the Royal ear but only adjusting the chinstrap.

New look for the Old and Bold – See Page 42.



COME WITH SOLDIER ON A BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF THE NORMANDY BEACHES 6-9 AUGUST 1988



OUTLINE ITINERARY £180 (single supplement £35)

DAY 1 Depart London 10.00 for 15.00 Portsmouth-Cherbourg ferry, Overnight Caen.

DAY 2 Breakfast. Pegasus Bridge, Museum and Monsieur and Madame Gondree's Cafe. Merville Battery. Ranville CWGC cemetery. Ouistreham, SWORD, JUNO, and GOLD beaches. Arromanches and the Mulberry Harbour, Monty's HQ and the injured Eros. Dinner.

SOLDIER MAGAZINE, together with MAJOR AND MRS HOLT'S BATTLEFIELD TOURS are pleased to be able to offer readers the opportunity to travel on a specially organised tour of the Normandy Beaches, leaving London on August 6, and arriving back on the evening of August 9. They will be accompanied by a trained courier from Major & Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours, and in addition to expert commentaries, there will be the opportunity to hear the songs and music of the Second World War, read contemporary newspapers and magazines, and hear the voices of politicians, commanders, and veterans of the D Day invasion.

DAY 3 Breakfast. Bayeux CWGC cemetery and memorial. Battle of Normandy Museum. Early lunch. UTAH beach and museum, Rangers' Memorial, Pointe du Hoc US National Cemetery St. Laurent, OMAHA beach, Dinner. Video film.

DAY 4 Breakfast. Ste. Mere Eglise Airborne Museum and C47. Kilometer Zero. Supermarket shopping and lunch in Cherbourg. 14.45 Cherbourg-Portsmouth ferry. Arrive London approx. 21.30 hours.

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* Normal tour price £198 per person.



CRACKANDTHUMP TOWN!

*It's eerie
and it's
lifelike
— even the
dummies
talk back*



MAIN STREET: Where live bullets don't ricochet



ACTION MEN: New Zealand troops come under fire

IN SOME ways it resembles the old Windmill Theatre. The stage sets are magnificent, the acts change all the time, there are lots of girls and after it opened in November 1986 it looked as though it would never close.

The place: the Close Quarter Battle Range (Urban), at Castle Peak, in the centre of the complex of firing ranges in the New Territories north west of Hong Kong.

Built in the form of a town centre, it is used to train troops for internal security operations.

Incorporating all the lessons learned and the gadgets developed on other CQBR such as Sennelager and Hythe, it is one of the most sophisticated systems in the world.

The emphasis is on realism. Crackandthump Town is a lozenge shaped collection of 40 housing and shopping units built of a material which absorbs or stuns live .22 rounds fired by the troops from adapted SLRs.

There is no danger of a ricochet.

The town has two permanent garrisons. One consists of 200 tailor's dummies. The other is the staff of 16.

A small British team under the command of Capt Gordon Muir, Small Arms School Corps, with WO2 Norman Winkworth, RGJ, as the range safety supervisor for the whole area, works with 11 Chinese civilians trained to operate eight TV cameras and the electronic equipment.

Television monitors enable the staff to keep everyone in sight all the time.

When SOLDIER visited the range it was being used by teams from a platoon of the 2nd/1st Royal New Zealand Infantry under Lt Alistair Plimmer from Christchurch. They have been swapped for a company of the Coldstream Guards at Stabey Fort.

Every company of the Coldstream Guards has been through the CQBR(U) and the Kiwis were simply following suit.



SPEAK UP: Models seated at a pavement cafe

Crackandthump Town has an eerie, almost menacing atmosphere.

You could be walking into a quiet suburb on a sunny Sunday morning. There is a neat square with shrubs, the cafes and phone boxes are occupied. There is even a massage parlour.

Enter one of the houses and you will find it furnished — real baths, dummies in beds, "people" watching television.

Knock on a door and you'll be told to "Come in".

Every move is monitored by the controllers who speak through the squawk boxes.

Ask the owner of the cafe if he has seen any trouble makers and he will tell you.

Tell the driver of a parked car that he has been there a long time and you might get a rude answer.

Speak to the call girl in the telephone booth and it's "Hello Johnny!"

The further you walk into the town the more menacing it becomes. The buildings are three storeys high but they seem to grow bigger.

The dummies . . . are they beginning to move?

The traffic lights change, a patrol crosses the road and suddenly . . . BANG, THUMP.

A figure races across a

balcony and opens fire. A litter bin rings with the sound of a round striking it — a simulated effect.

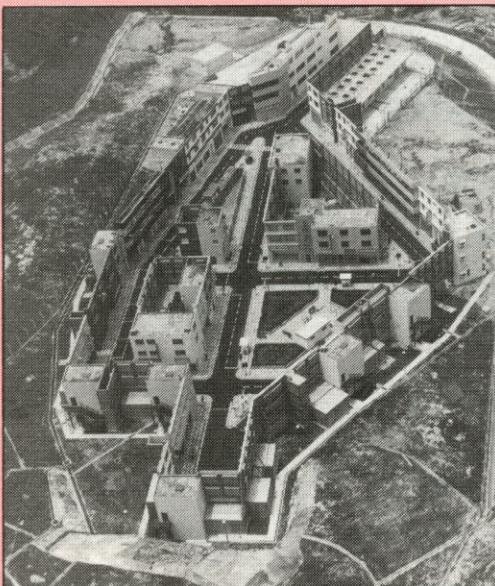
Something explodes and smoke drifts across the street.

A particularly evil looking gunman whose firm pistol wrist

**Story: Bill Moore
Pictures:
PO (Phot) Williams**

grip is clearly the product of a terrorist high school appears at a window, shoots and is shot at.

He is quick, but experienced



AERIAL VIEW: Just like a stage set

soldiers are often quicker.

After an incident which lasted 15 minutes the sweating New Zealanders, a team of four, go for a debriefing and see their actions played back on a video, all mistakes being pointed out.

"We train the trainers," said Capt Muir. "We show them what this place is capable of and they write their own scripts."

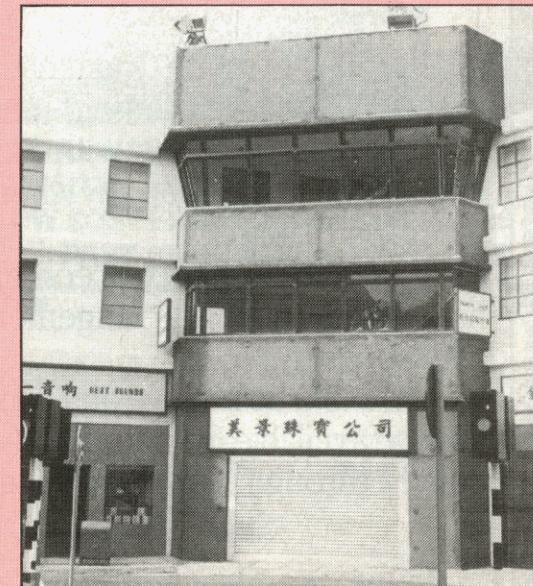
CSM Terry Foley of the Coldstream advises students on IS tactics.

The scenarios which can be created are many and varied.

At the flick of a switch a crowd can be heard drawing near — or withdrawing. A range of cassettes gives tremendous flexibility. Bombs, shots . . . incidents can be simulated at will.

There is a subtle philosophy behind the training. It is not a case of street fighting à la Stalingrad with a town in ruins and the civilian population evacuated.

The troops are learning to operate in an undamaged environment, chatting up the locals to pick up what intelligence they can; everything being reported back on their Storno radios. They are out to create confidence — should they run or will that create a panic? They have to



CONTROL TOWER: Cameras see all

think fast.

That mother pushing a pram has to be considered, that old man. Minds and hearts have to be won and there is a technique to be learned.

British battalions seem to get into the spirit of the place easily. Even though a surprising number may not have had personal experience they know the value of the training.

For the Gurkhas who form the bulk of the Hong Kong garrison it is a different matter. They are used to operating in the jungle and in the hills. And they are not noted for their conversational powers.

They just won't talk to the dummies.

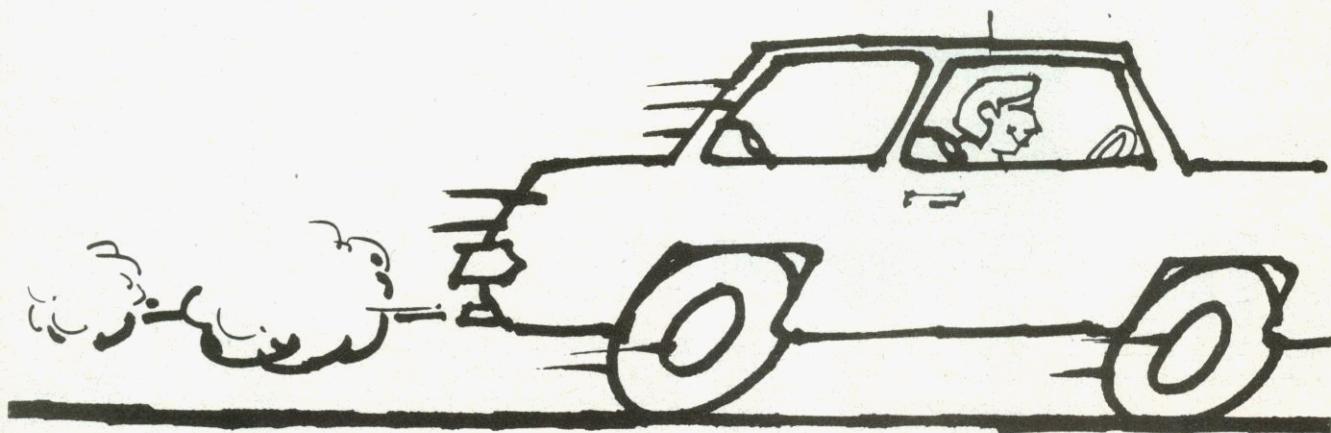
It was the same with the New Zealanders. Clearly they felt self-conscious. After all who wants to chat up a really dumb blonde.

The value of the training is, however, widely recognised and 4,000 men passed through the range between November 1986 and last October when it closed for a maintenance period.

It has been used day and night, with troops on the neon lit street until 2 am sometimes.

Built by the Hong Kong government for more than £4 million, it is being constantly adapted and improved.

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Pictures: Mike Weston

ONE FOR THE ALBUM: The Army Everest team members (left to right) Cpl Luke Hughes TA, Lt John Vlasto R Signals, Gnr Dave Torrington 289 Cdo Bty RA (V), SSgt Dave Orange APTC, Capt Duncan Strutt

Queens, Lt Col Henry Day RE, Capt Roger Antolik R Anglian, Lt Simon Gray DERR, Capt Martin Bazire RAOC, Capt Simon Lowe R Signals, Capt Jonny Garratt Grenadier Gds, Col Dick Hardie RAMC,

Capt Giles Gittings Coldstream Gds and Capt Andy Edington RE. Absent are Maj Kit Spencer Gurkha Rifles, Capt Nigel Williams R Hamps, SSgt Merv Middleton RMP and Sgt Max Maxwell 7RHA

Moving mountains

... to the mountain!

THE 36 man team making up the British Services Everest Expedition 1988 are currently trekking towards their base camp at the foot of the world's highest mountain. Eighteen members of the team have been drawn from the ranks of the Army, including the expedition's deputy leader Lt Col Henry Day, RE, writes Laurie Manton.

Behind every major expedition is a mountain of logistical support stores, and this British venture is no exception. Team members are taking with them over 32,000lbs of equipment that will be needed to sustain 50 men at Base Camp and on Everest itself.

To move these stores was a major operation in itself. After transportation by truck as far as the border at Friendship Bridge, Sherpa porters and yaks were employed to carry the equipment on to base camp.

For the 2½ months that the expedition is expected to last, the scale of the ration issue is staggering. Some 2,500 high altitude ration packs, together with 1,600 standard composition packs will be used by the team.

Because of the demanding environmental conditions, the team will also draw extra

rations to increase their daily intake of food to 5,000K cal – a necessary procedure because a smaller food intake would lead to weight loss among the climbers.

Each member of the team has been issued with special double high-altitude boots; two layers of thermal underwear; a fibre pile suit, waterproof smock and trousers and a wind suit. In

addition, there will be available an ultra warm down suit which when worn gives the climber the appearance of a Michelin Man!

The party will be accommodated in tents and portable lightweight huts. Above the 20,000ft level, where the advance base camp will be set up, the climbers will have the use of a specially developed tent known as a Giant Quaser, which underwent tests in the wind tunnel at Farnborough.



BOXED IN: Lt John Vlasto keeps a tally as Capt Martin Bazire checks the contents of a ration box

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Hot news from the Sudan – it's quicker by camel than phone!

I JUST couldn't pass up the opportunity to spend a fortnight in the Sudan when my husband went to visit Help the Aged projects there.

I had been in Khartoum as a toddler when my father's regiment, the East Surreys, helped to make the Alexander Korda version of the Four Feathers. The return flight cost me £632 but it was worth it.

From SOLDIER's point of view I was able to visit the men of the British Army Training Team and their wives.

BATT is at Omdurman, where Kitchener fought his famous battle, just across a bridge not far from the meeting place of the White and Blue Niles which really are white and blue as a local pointed out.

According to a comprehensive travel guide to the country:

"The Sudan is only for the hardiest and most adventurous of travellers.

"There is war in the south, famine in the west, and refugees east, west and south.

"The economy is collapsing.

"Most of the country is as hot as hell from March to September and the rainy season turns the roads and tracks where they exist into thick streams of mud..."

So what is it really like for the military families who spend two years there?

In fact most of them find the country fascinating, full of history, mystery and challenge, its people delightful.

One of the biggest problems facing families is communications. Mail is erratic and phones are non-starters. Families rely on walkie talkies to keep in



Left to right: Melanie McCarthy, Roz Veitch, Del Hughes, Nicki Watson, Christine Durrant, Jan Carson with Kate, 5.

touch in Khartoum.

Medical treatment is years behind the UK standards. Doctors are excellent but hospital equipment is obsolete.

Diesel fuel is scarce and power cuts and water shortages make life even more trying.

As for household items, a wife who goes out with a list of a dozen items is thrilled if she returns home with half of them.

Despite everything there is no doubt that the British team and their wives see themselves as ambassadors, corny though it may sound.

Having got over the culture shock they accept the challenge.

I do think however that this admirable attitude of "getting on with it" prevents some disadvantages being remedied.

The baggage allowance should be made available six months not two months in advance of posting as a great many special items have to be bought.

In the 1930s, so my mother tells me, there was no problem with the mail. Today things are different.

Delays to letters for schools, banks, etc, have

caused great inconvenience.

It is sometimes agony for parents waiting to know if their children have arrived safely back at boarding school in the UK.

To my mind this alone merits the installation of a telex for the use of the BATT team.

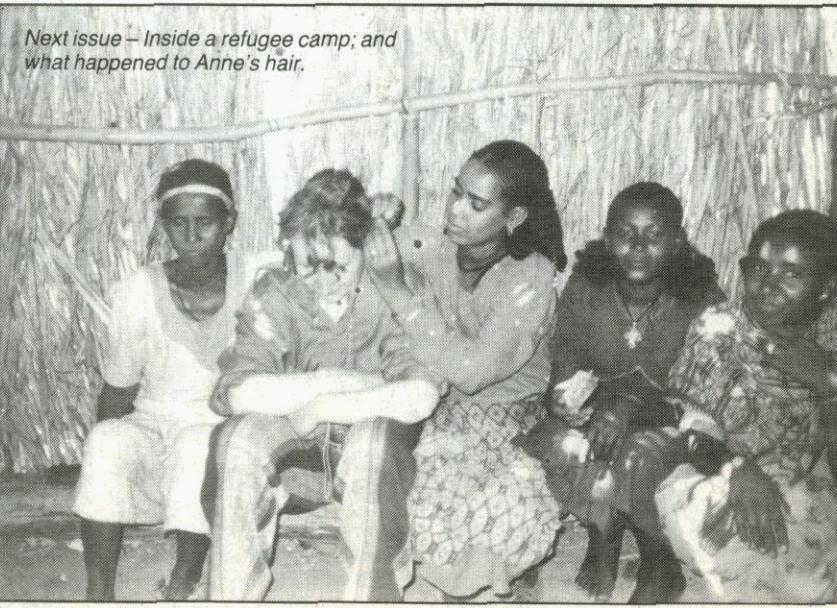
As for household items, phone calls are £12 for three minutes and frequently suffer breaks in the line. Telex messages are

cheaper and can be sent 24 hours a day.

John was able to use a telex there, however, and his office passed the message on.

The British Embassy in Khartoum has a telex and if the children of their staff fly home the school can send messages through the duty officer at the Foreign Office. The Embassy uses the walkie talkie system to inform parents of the safe arrival.

Next issue – Inside a refugee camp; and what happened to Anne's hair.



In my view ...



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

WHY KEEP THEM WAITING . . .

for money
they need
in advance



WO2 Bob Hughes, Del and Chris

The leave problem

THE two-month inter-tour leave period for personnel serving in the Sudan poses a problem.

I suggest that on posting families be given a list of nominated surplus quarters equipped for any one of the 600 Service families who fill these jobs overseas so they can book in advance – paying rent, and hire of TV, sheets etc, while the quarter

over pack and contents are inadequate.

I suggest that on posting families be given a list of nominated surplus quarters equipped for any one of the 600 Service families who fill these jobs overseas so they can book in advance – paying rent, and hire of TV, sheets etc, while the quarter

over pack and contents are inadequate.

Furniture, fittings and kitchen cupboards, etc, were all sent out from the UK.

The interior needs repairing but the landlord finds it difficult to fulfil his obligations (not unlike the

THE BATT TEAM receive allowances to compensate for the extra expenses such as help in the house, a gardener and a night watchman (essential).

It is possible to educate a child up to the age of 11 but boarding school is advised.

Cheryl McCarthy has a nanny to help with her young family for there are no modern gadgets and you could find yourself washing all day, every day.

Household goods and certain UK branch names can be bought from the Embassy shop or ordered through an agent, who air-freights the order from UK.

How Del beat the bag snatcher

maintenance problems faced in some parts of the UK.

Del and Bob are a mine of information – where to get camping gas or barbecue stores; which shops and souks to go to; what to do if the water and electricity are cut off; the best place to find spare parts.

A call over the radio to Del and Bob and they are almost certain to have the answer.

It's not all been easy for Del. She got a black eye when someone attempted to snatch her bag.

Thinking quickly Del threw her bag over the house wall and the raider ran off empty-handed. Despite her experience Del says violence in the Sudan is far less than in the UK.

"This is the safest place I have been in," she told me. "I let my Christopher out here whereas in the UK I wouldn't."

"Numerous journeys have to be made to find the goods on your list", said Sara Coate. "If you manage half you have had a good shop." Bob Hughes recalled the mad dash to buy stocks when a rumour went round that there was to be a shortage of toilet rolls. It proved to be a false alarm!

The more adventurous wives shop in the souk or market – every town and village has its souk.

Sara showed me the delights of Khartoum's souk.

The vegetable, fruit, spices and meat traders sat in the cool of the stone built market; others with pots, pans and straw ware were outside in the heat of the sun.

Baskets, bicycles, and even mattresses, jewellery, gold, silver and fish can all be found if you look for them, catching a whiff of incense as you test your bargaining skills.

For those who want to buy local craft work, Sudaniya, a non-profit-making shop, offers good value with selected products made by needy people.

Families are still advised to bring as much as possible with them even down to books and stationery.

KINDNESS CLUB

Important social rendezvous in Khartoum is the Sudan Club to which the BATT team and the Embassy staff belong.

It has a squash court, library, restaurant, cinema and lays on "cultural" evenings.

We saw a young mother with three children made very welcome when she arrived looking a little lost.



A mystery solved. Simple souls arriving at APRE may wonder about the significance of the badge it has adopted. Official explanation: The crest symbolises the intimate relationship of physiology \oplus and psychology \ominus at the establishment.

How APRE beat 'pouch bounce' in infantry's new harness

THE ARMY has always recognised the need to reduce the weight carried by the foot soldier but has rarely been able to do much about it.

This has not been for want of trying. Armour was phased out in the 17th Century but helmets were back by the end of 1915; flak jackets are in current use.

By 1900 the "light" infantry developed by Sir John Moore as élite troops were indistinguishable, drill apart, from other line battalions.

The desire to ease the load on the fighting man's back has never ceased and became a matter of urgency after the experiences of the Falklands campaign led to increasing criticism of the 1958 pattern webbing.

It was considered to be limited in versatility and, ironically, its load carrying capacity.

THE MASSIVE hot and cold chambers and the metabolic testing equipment might be beyond Julius Caesar but there is no doubt that the old warrior would quickly appreciate the work being done today on the edge of Farnborough airfield.

The Romans were among the first professional armies to realise that soldiers do their job better when they are comfortable.

Which is why they added heels to shoes so the legions could march more easily and arrive at the forward edge of the battle area fresh and fit to fight.

The equipment tested at Army

Personnel Research Establishment today is, generally speaking, more sophisticated than in 55 BC (though body armour is regularly on trial) but basic attitudes and problems remain.

It is held as self-evident at APRE that "Men don't win battles, machines don't win battles – battles are won by men using machines."

In the words of Dr Martin Allnutt, Director of APRE: "What counts is the successful combination of the two, which means the right soldier using the right kit designed from its inception to complement his skills."

Such a happy state of affairs does not

come about by accident. At APRE a staff of scientists and doctors start by studying soldiers under a variety of conditions. Get that wrong and the chances of arriving at a sound combination of man and equipment is almost zero.

Dr Allnutt explained: "No matter how ingenious a piece of kit, if it functions well only when manned by individuals with abnormally long arms, fabulous

memories and degrees in electronics, the only result will be a disastrous machine, some very angry soldiers, and probably some redundant scientists.

"Kit that has been designed around the soldier should work well, eliminate mistakes and, above all, 'feel right'."

To get that "right" feeling men and material can be tested in temperatures ranging from the sub-zero to the Saharan without ever leaving the Hampshire countryside.

The location of such a capability in one spot was one of the big gains when the Human Factors Division of the Army Operational Research Establishment

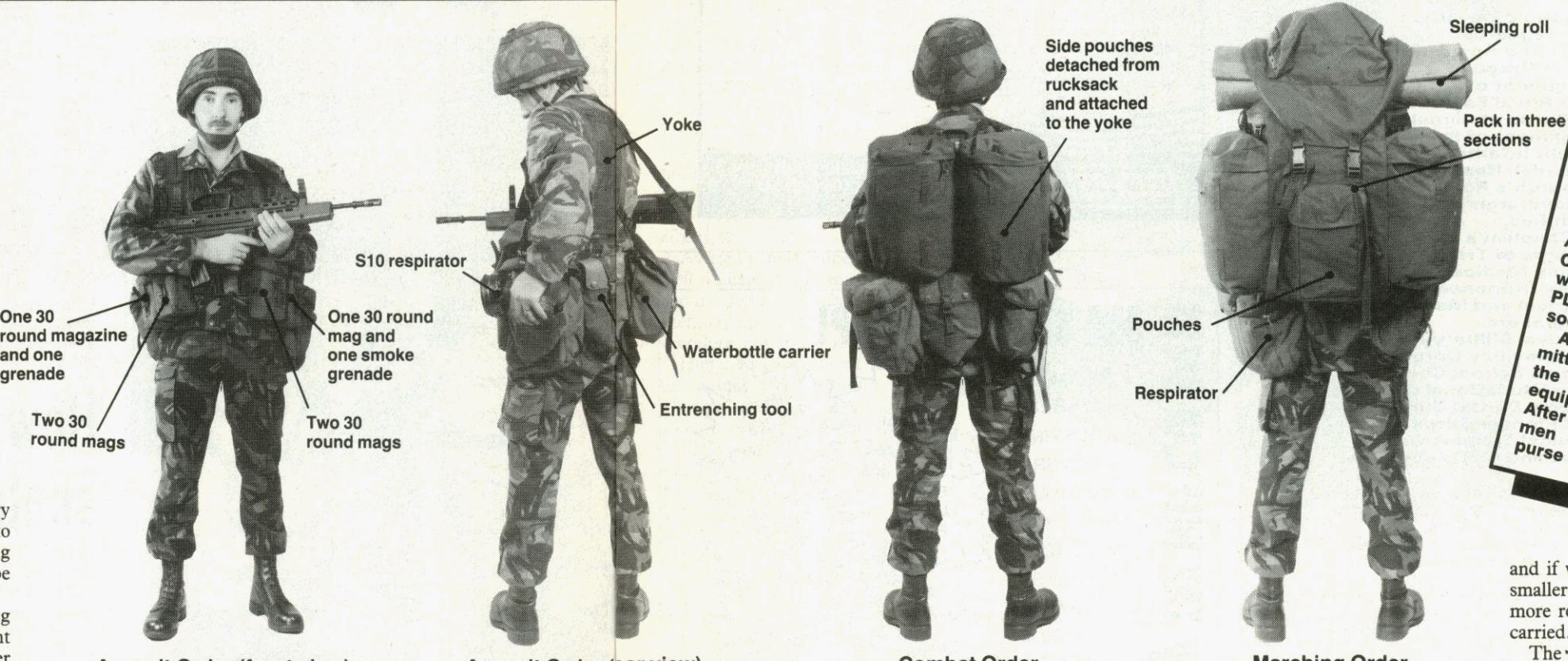
combined with the Clothing and Equipment Physiological Research Establishment.

Ponderous phrases like "Human Factors" and "Physiological Research" belie the men and women behind them. People in white coats do sit staring at dials and twiddling knobs in laboratories but if you are looking for Mad Scientists APRE is not the place.

The men who form the scientific and support staff look refreshingly normal.

The spectrum is broad and to give some idea of its extent SOLDIER takes a look inside APRE at two projects, one of which is as old as military history itself.

ZIP GOES THE WEBBING



Assault Order (front view)

Assault Order (ear view)

Combat Order

Marching Order

THE Personal Load Carriage Equipment is at the moment on trial with the Royal Marines in Norway. It will be given extensive trials in BAOR this summer. All recommendations for change go from APRE to the Director of Clothing and Textiles who is keen to see the PLCE in service as soon as possible. A development committee will decide on the final form the equipment will take. After that it is up to the men who hold the purse strings.

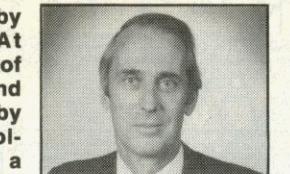
and if weapons fire faster with smaller cartridges they use more rounds which have to be carried.

The chemical warfare threat requires the lugging of NBC suits, gas masks; communications improve and more men have to carry radios.

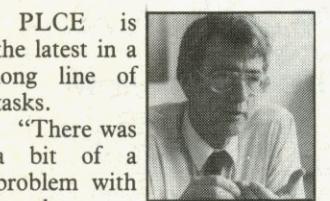
Yet the humble spade and inevitable bayonet must also be hung on the soldier.

Though Pte Atkins 1988 is unlikely to face the long march to the battlefield required of the Tommy of 1918, the weight on his back is still around 70lbs.

What the scientists have done is make sure that – in more rustic terms – the harness is the least of the pack horse's worries. For which APRE deserves the PBI's thanks.



Dr Martin Allnutt, Director APRE



Doug Ramsay, team leader

PLCE is the latest in a long line of tasks.

"There was a bit of a problem with pouch

bounce," he team leader

explained in his cheerful Glaswegian tones. "And the fastenings gave us some trouble."

In other words, when full of ammunition they thumped heavily on the side of a running man and magazines were likely to fall out.

With experience a soldier can use the numerous zip fasteners to become a quick change artist

That is only one of the problems which have been overcome.

The waist belt has also been cured of its habit of parting from the main yoke or collapsing completely.

The rucksack shoulder straps have also come in for attention and improvement.

There were many other alterations to catches and clips.

The result is one of the most adaptable sets of equipment ever produced.

All progress carries penalties

tests it was decided not to return the prototype for alteration but send samples to 27 units world-wide.

APRE produced the directives and questionnaires, collated the subsequent reports and analysed the results.

The next stage was to test the equipment on the squad of experienced infantrymen permanently attached to APRE.

For two years what is referred to as PLCE (Inf) – Personal Load Carriage Equipment (Infantry) has been worn under field conditions, men crawling over gravel beds,

squeezing through pipes, plunging through undergrowth, lying in mud.

A medical check has been made on energy expended while wearing it.

Alterations have been made "on the trot" so to speak.

Recording the effect of the elements on the equipment and the equipment on the man are a team of experts led by Senior Scientific Officer Doug Ramsay, a specialist in the study of foul and cold weather clothing.

A chemist by profession, Doug is one of the originals who set up APRE.

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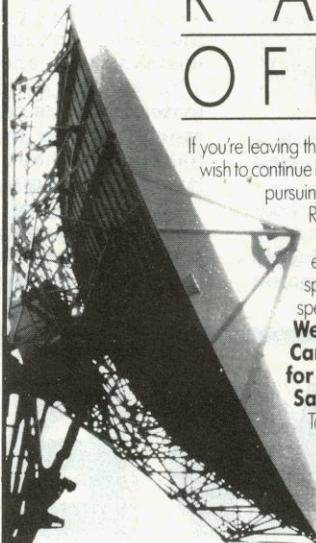
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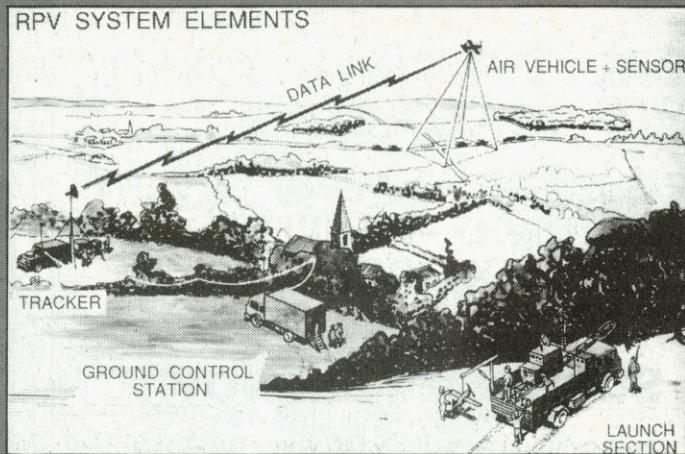
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APRE puts Phoenix to the test . . .

SKY EYE



An artist's impression of the Phoenix system in operation. A troop is expected to consist of three vehicles

IT's the first salvo that does the damage. Catch the enemy in the open, in a road convoy, or laying a bridge and a hefty artillery "stink" or "conc" will wreak havoc, writes **Bill Moore**.

Catch him with a surprise burst from the Multiple Launch Rocket System which can deliver 7,000 explosive units in less than a minute at a range of up to 30 kilometres and you could ruin his afternoon.

Aware of their vulnerability, well-trained troops don't hang about. Opportunities to hit them are apt to be fleeting and therefore not to be missed.

Hence the pains being taken to ensure the viability of Phoenix, a target acquisition and surveillance system currently undergoing a thorough examination and assessment at the Army Personnel Research Establishment at Farnborough.

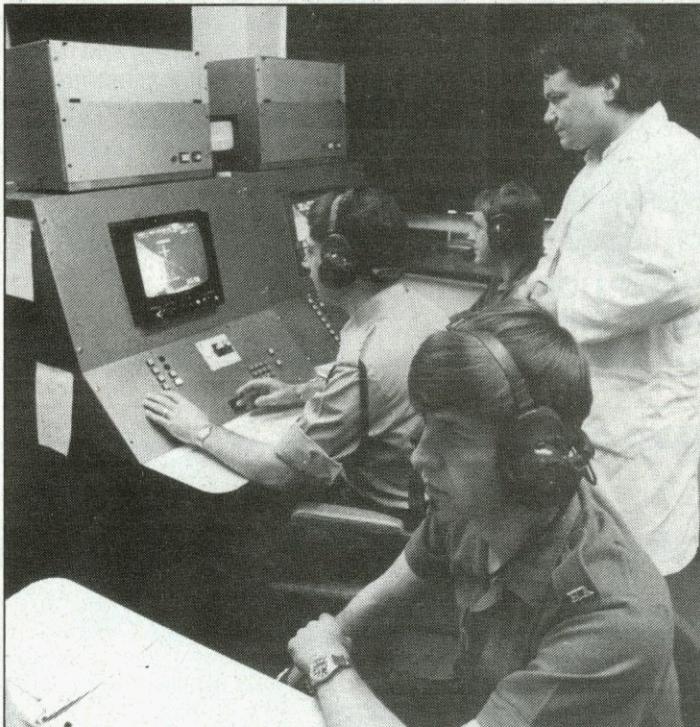
Phoenix is intended to provide "instant Int" for use with the MLRS which has been ordered in quantity for the Royal Artillery.

Its secret is that it deals in "real time" and uses a two-way data link to send back information to a ground control unit.

Unlike the in-service Midge drone it is not a passive system, a simple flying camera which has to be recovered (found!) so the film can be removed and processed.

Phoenix is actually flown remotely by a bombardier wielding a miniature control column at a workstation console in the back of a custom built lorry.

Its electronic eye transmits directly back to an Intelligence Corps NCO trained to interpret the information immediately and pass it back to the



Men at work. Scientist Steve Green looks over the shoulder of a soldier operator at the controls of the Phoenix screen

divisional artillery controller.

Once fed into BATES, the target engagement system, the decision can be made and BANG!

The problem facing APRE when it was asked to run its space-age slide rule over Phoenix was that no one had previously experimented with a "real time" system and no data was available.

The establishment promptly applied the magic formula . . . DIY.

It set up its own system from scratch using it as a test bed if you like – a research tool for the project.

As a divisional Phoenix troop is likely to consist of three ground control stations plus a troop HQ and sub elements, a complex simulator was set up

within APRE.

In rooms draped with cables and crammed with video screens, a command post and a ground control system was built to resemble the box-body vehicle which will probably do the actual job.

Gunners from Larkhill flick switches, press buttons and adjust the "pilot's" control column. Watching the viewing screen from behind the controller one gets an uncanny feeling of flying over the countryside.

In another room a gantry-mounted camera photographs a large moving air recce photo-

graph of the "battle" area.

Men and women in white coats make notes. Meanwhile a computer logs each key stroke made by the crew for later analysis and an overhead camera records every movement.

That is how all wars should be fought – in safety from warm rooms with a touch on the tabulator. Then everyone would want to be a soldier!

APRE's job – one of many – is to probe the Phoenix work loads which would arise in the uncertain, noisy, too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry, chaos of the battlefield.

Suggestions must be made as to the sharing of tasks of the ground control team of a mission planner, an Int Corps photographic interpreter, flight controller and signaller.

"We also need to know how long they can continue at their posts," said Dr Mike Rejman, the pleasant Icelandic/Polish/Scot heading the APRE team working on the project.

"We are out to identify the mistakes the crew make and to use this information to design a better system."

One surprising fact to emerge from the tests – a number of operators "got lost" while flying the air vehicle.

Having identified the problem APRE were able to devise simple computer assistance and graphic aids to overcome it.

Phoenix is a requirement specified by the relevant Ordnance branch of MoD and put out to tender.

The contract was won by a major British electronics firm which is to supply the finished article at a fixed price.

APRE's contribution is to identify problems before production starts; in a way a form of scientific underwriting.



Dr Mike Rejman, project leader

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Words: Mervyn
Wynne Jones

Pictures:
Mike Weston

Sappers of 8 Field
Squadron's airfield
damage repair troops
with the tools of their
trade

How a sapper solved a Falklands water shortage

DIVINE RIGHT!

WHAT do you do when a wind-powered water pump grinds to a halt in the middle of a minefield? Simple, you find another source of water and build a new pump.

How do you find the water? No problem! You call in Capt Larry Inge of 8 Field Squadron RE, a registered water dowser

with more than 20 years' experience to his credit.

Confounding the sceptics, Capt Inge and his copper welding rods soon located an artesian source outside Fox Bay West, a remote community occupied by Argentine soldiers in 1982.

His sapper colleagues were

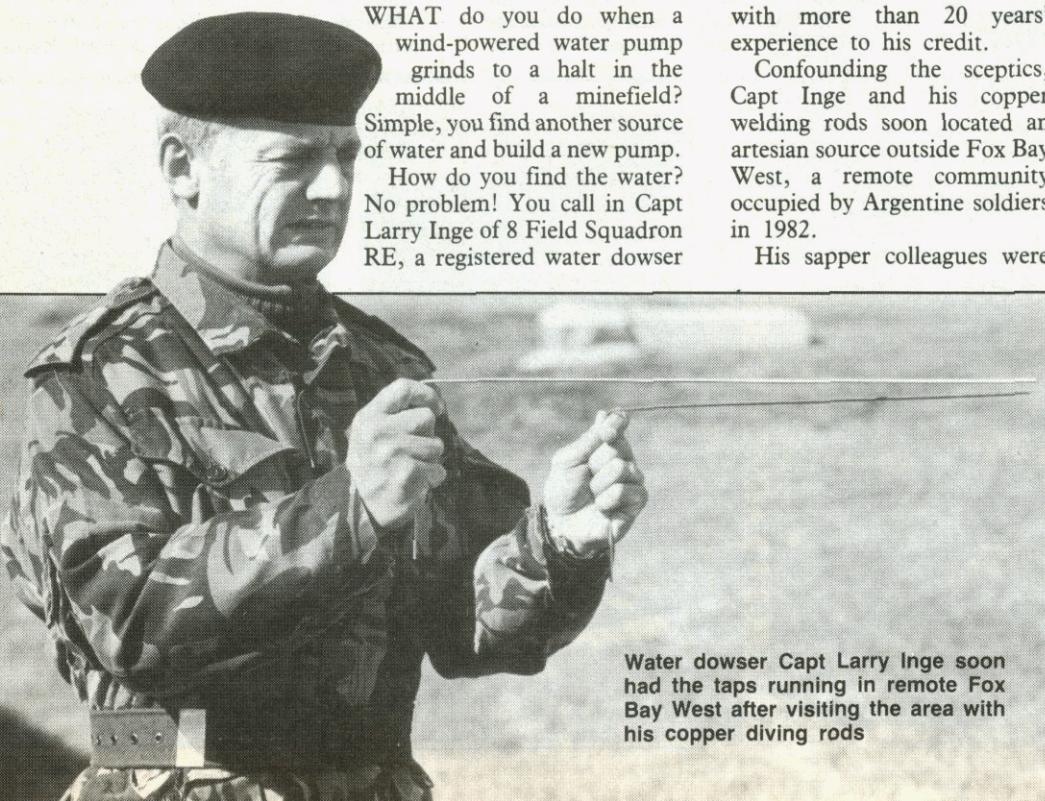
called in to bore a well and the islanders again had water on tap – well away from the hidden hazards of the minefield.

"It just goes to show," said squadron OC Maj Bryan Cooke, "what a talented bunch we are!"

Capt Inge added: "Water dowsing is an acknowledged skill in the Royal Engineers and this seemed like the ideal time to put it to the test."

8 Field Squadron – part of Tidworth based 22 Engineer Regiment – were just about to leave at the time of SOL-DIER's visit to the Falklands and their diverse and specialised role has been taken over by Maidstone based 50 Field Squadron (Construction).

The Falkland Islands Field Squadron turns round – in common with most other garrison personnel – every four months and units are generally



Water dowser Capt Larry Inge soon had the taps running in remote Fox Bay West after visiting the area with his copper diving rods

● Turn to next page

Falklands work-out for sapper tradesmen

● From Page 25

a formed field squadron from the UK with additional specially posted sapper elements and trickle posted personnel such as REME tradesmen.

Their military role is to provide an airfield damage repair capability to the South Atlantic force, to maintain and, if necessary, operate the fuel installations and to provide all the normal combat engineering back-up. In peacetime they are kept busy with repair, maintenance and construction tasks across the islands.

Among 8 Field Squadron's more unusual assignments was the recovery of a BV206 whose driver had taken it swimming without putting the plug in. Not surprisingly it had sunk.

Capt Chris Tetley, 2IC, said: "The good thing about this place is the great variety of tasks we can tackle and see through to the end."

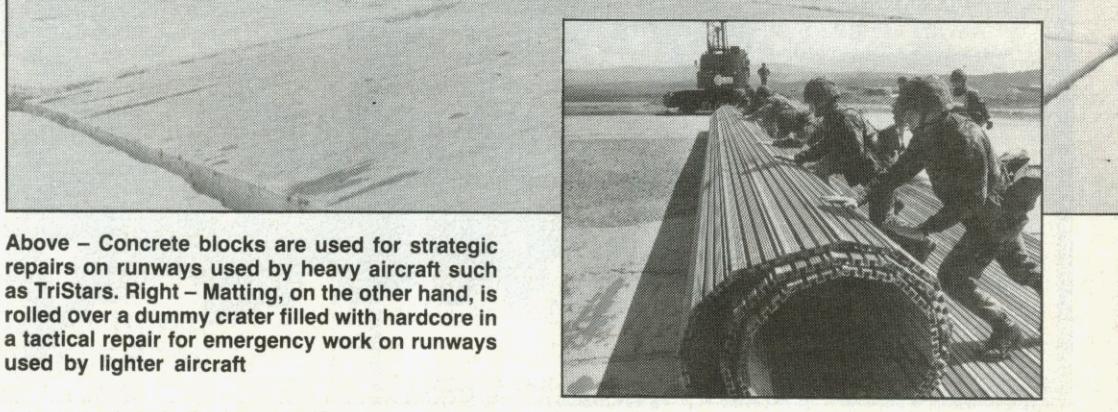
The squadron also has a support troop with plant and transport sections, an engineer workshop, a combat support boat section and a fitter section. There is also a large REME workshop.

SSgt Stephen Major, military plant foreman, said: "The lads have learnt a lot here that they would not have done elsewhere. Tradesmen have had an intensive four months putting into practise what they have been taught."

Sgt Shaughan Walrond, MT section, added: "Drivers have to keep a keen eye on any potential mechanical faults because road conditions are so bad that vehicles do tend to take a hammering."

Tradesmen such as welders, blacksmiths, sheet metal workers, painters and carpenters are found in the engineer workshops where signwriter Spr Mark "Blast" Furniss explained: "The work is interesting and the good thing about this posting is all the wildlife to be seen."

Sharing the skies with some



Above - Concrete blocks are used for strategic repairs on runways used by heavy aircraft such as TriStars. Right - Matting, on the other hand, is rolled over a dummy crater filled with hardcore in a tactical repair for emergency work on runways used by lighter aircraft

Shifting mines pose an explosive problem

MINES have a nasty habit of moving from place to place. Inland they can be washed out by rainfall and river and on the shoreline they are moved by tide and storm.

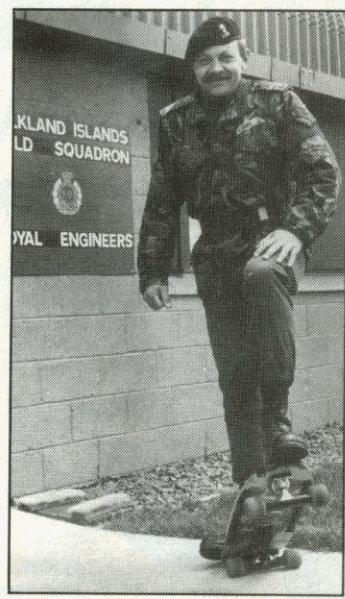
Charged with keeping an eagle eye on all such hazards are Capt George Coutts (RE) and his Stanley based Explosives Ordnance Disposal team who are among the few remaining troops at the islands' capital after last year's move to RAF Mount Pleasant.

"Mines are moved round by the elements," said Capt Coutts, "and after a big storm in particular we find them

strewn along the beaches. We have to keep tabs on them week by week."

There are still 157 minefields on the islands, 115 in the Stanley area alone. Those in the Stanley area are checked on a weekly basis and the rest at intervals of between a fortnight and two months.

Air and ground delivered ordnance from the 1982 conflict is still found everywhere and the sapper EOD team - together with their RAOC and RAF colleagues in Mount Pleasant - responded to hundreds of calls last year involving upwards of 30,000 items



Maj Bryan Cooke, the squadron OC, a skateboard enthusiast



Racing through the surf, a Green Jackets patrol makes a dramatic exit from a combat support boat as it reaches shore on an island near Mare Harbour



Right - Spr Chris Wood changes a tyre on a "bog frog", a specially converted Land Rover ideal for cross country work in the Falkland Islands

Thousands are of the virtually undetectable plastic variety which have already maimed a number of EOD personnel since the conflict.

Until a safe method is devised for detecting and destroying them, these mines will remain hidden. While the boffins experiment, the EOD men ensure that this most deadly legacy of war claims no more victims.



Below - Men of 8 Field Squadron lay on a welcome for the advance party of 50 Field Squadron, their successors, when they arrive at Mount Pleasant. The sapper dressed as an Easter bunny reminds them that they have a full tour ahead of them!



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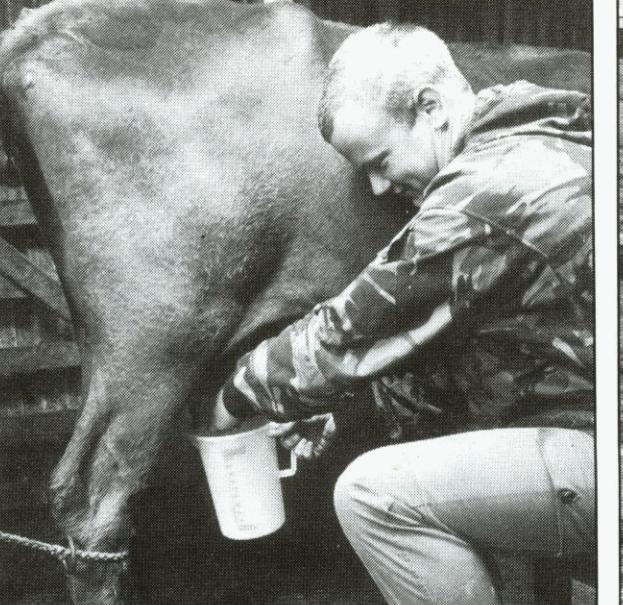
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CAMP OF ADVENTURE

An island patrol is full of country surprises

FALKLAND Islands infantry-men can look forward to a warm welcome at most of the communities they pass through on patrol.

Frequently remote and often sparsely populated, these settlements rarely see other visitors.

Some homesteads shun contact with the outside world but others regard the soldiers as a vital link with the Falklands community at large.

Patrols often deliver mail and provisions and help out with odd jobs around the farm when passing through. Many individuals return to the settlements to help islanders round up and mark their flocks of sheep.

All of which came as something of a revelation to the men of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets who, by and large, are drawn from cities such as London, Liverpool, Newcastle and Birmingham.



"There's more to this than meets the eye!" LCpl Robert Balkin tries his hand at shearing at Dunnose Head. Advising him is Mr Clive Wilkinson

Settling into the routine of patrolling, training and guard duties, the riflemen of 3RGJ soon found themselves looking forward to their stints out in the "camp" - that area roughly half the size of Wales beyond the environs of Stanley.

LCpl Robert Balkin said: "Most of us are city lads so it's good to be out in the country.

We enjoy being out on patrol because it is just you and your section and it gives us a chance to meet the locals who are really hospitable."

Some islanders open their doors and let Servicemen use their farms as R and R centres. One such couple are Clive and Rosemary Wilkinson who have seen more than 700 soldiers,

sailors and airmen pass through their house at Dunnose Head, West Falkland, in the past four years.

"We enjoy the quiet life but it is good to see the lads too. It gives them a chance to get away from Mount Pleasant and it also gives us a social life as well," said Rosemary who, with husband Clive, used to live on



Training goes on - even in the Falklands. Men of 3 RGJ put a brave face on it during a Combat Fitness Test on the tarred road between RAF Mount Pleasant and Mare Harbour

Dartmoor before settling in the Falklands in 1979.

Cpl Nigel Griffiths said: "The blokes love going on patrol. More often than not they are glad to see us and we are always glad to see them."

Settlement patrols give the infantry a chance to enjoy the wildlife and get the mandatory "one for the album" penguin

shot, but first and foremost they serve a military purpose.

Not only do they provide an island-wide presence and an intelligence gathering medium but they also give participants a chance to brush up on their field craft and recce skills.

Day to day life depends very much on the platoon commander whose job it is to inject

interest and variety into the rota of patrol and guard duties.

Not only do they provide an island-wide presence and an intelligence gathering medium but they also give participants a chance to brush up on their field craft and recce skills.

Water sports are available, weather permitting, on Gull



Sgt Bill Mycock, 3 RGJ feeds Bounce the lamb under the watchful eye of Dorothy Wilkinson

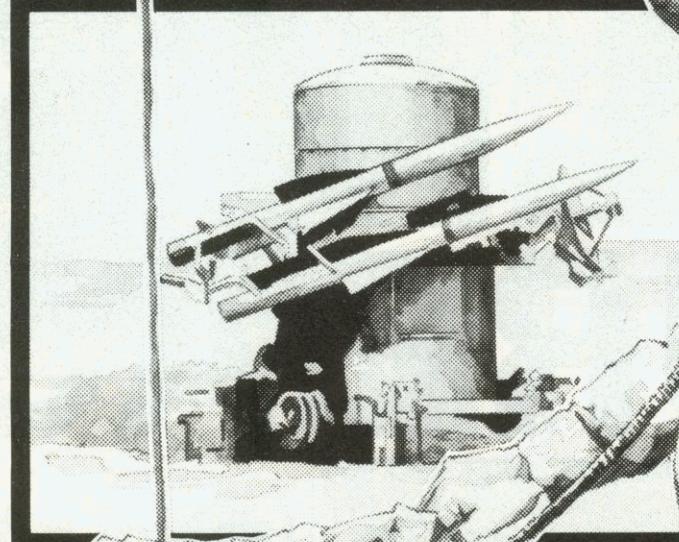
Island Pond between Mount Pleasant and Mare Harbour, and most Servicemen get the chance to try their hand at canoeing, orienteering and hill walking at Shag Cove adventurous training centre.

Battlefield tours are also popular, serving to illustrate the task facing the liberators during the 1982 war and the skills they found necessary to achieve their objectives.

Sgt Maj Sean McEvoy explained: "Walking the battlefields gives the lads something to think about. A tour in the Falklands is not always popular but people sometimes forget that a lot of men lost their lives here in 1982. We must never forget what happened then and the debt we owe those who were killed during the conflict."

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IT PAYS TO GO NOWHERE IN A HURRY

SGT Bob Young pedalled his way into the record books without moving an inch. And he raised at least £1,000 while he was going nowhere!

Bob, an instructor at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, established a new 12 hour roller cycle world record by completing 312.751 miles in the assigned time at an average 26mph.

The Mayor of Harrogate's charity fund was one of three charities to benefit. Next on Bob's busy agenda was his wedding to fiancée Melissa Harrison followed by a posting to Cyprus.

* * *
The Royal Scots and the Canongate Kirk, their regimental kirk, have handed over £1,000 to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh to buy nebulisers for children.

The 1 Bn of The Royal Scots in Werl, West Germany, raised more than £750 of the money.

* * *
Meanwhile, in Cyprus LCpl Ken Allison of 16 Flt AAC completed the equivalent of 4½ marathons between Polis and Dhekelia and, with the help of Carlsberg, raised £1,100 for the Muscular Dystrophy Research Trust of Cyprus and a holiday charity for children.



About to join the long distance charity champions is CQMS Dave Barratt of the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards. He plans to cycle from their Oxford Barracks base in Munster, West Germany to Manchester to raise money for multiple sclerosis research. Last year he raised £1,000 for MS.

* * *
WO1 Chris Sockett, Area Catering Warrant Officer at HQ Wales completed a marathon across Anglesey to raise the £202 for a humidifier which will help asthmatic children in the Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

* * *
A figurine has been presented to the 1st Bn The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) in appreciation of the regiment's work for the Devizes and Pewsey Club for the physically handicapped and able bodied. Last year the HQ company raised £115 for PHAB.



CQMS Dave Barratt (right) prepares for a Grenadier Guards departure from Munster to Manchester

Cheques totalling £3,000 have been presented by the Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division, Lichfield, Staffordshire to local charities. Lt Col John Webster handed over £2,000 to St Giles' Hospice, Whittington Village, and £1,000 to SSAFA. The money was raised at an open day.

* * *
When motor cycle dispatch rider Spr Douglas Hogg was killed in an accident during Exercise Certain Strike last autumn his colleagues in 13 Postal and Courier Squadron RE decided to set up a memorial fund in his name.

The detachment at Iserlohn where he worked - SSgt Alan

Behenna, Cpl Andy Martin-dale, Jim Welfare and LCpl Kevin Mayers and Ian Roberts attempted to lift the 64 tons of a fully equipped Challenger. Eventually they lifted weights totalling more than 81 tons in 2½ hours and raised DM3,000.

Let us know how much you raise for charity. We'll acknowledge your efforts in our regular Good Causes column and keep a running tally of just how much money the Army raises to help others in need. So far this year the total is:

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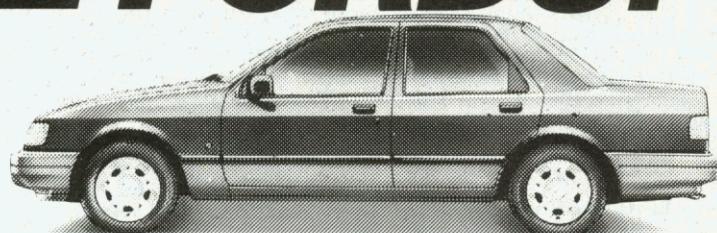
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A BV206 in winter coat leads two recovery type variants unhesitatingly into the mire of the testing ground

A beast for all seasons

IT WAS like a scene from *The Day of the Dinosaurs*. There was SOLDIER's picture editor Terry Champion stranded on an island in a sea of mud with only an Army-issue Nikon FE to defend himself against three bellowing monsters splashing through the swamp as he pooped off at them, writes Bill Moore.

Still, you see all sorts of strange sights when they are putting vehicles through their paces in Long Valley, Aldershot. On this occasion there was even a Black Watch major in a kilt and wellies!

David Shepherd O.B.E. Limited Edition Wildlife and Military Prints for sale and wanted. W. E. Johnson, 52 Town Road, Abergale, Clwyd LL22 7RA. 0745 825307. 21/88

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service. It was ordered off the shelf during the Falklands campaign (from AB Hagglund and Soner), a Swedish firm) as a general service go-anywhere machine.

The basic model is an articulated vehicle with two fibre-glass box bodies mounted on tracks and linked through an ingenious hydraulic transmission system which compensates for the different angles and attitudes of the two cabs passing over rough ground.

Broadly speaking it is a four-wheel drive with sets of tracks substituted for wheels.

It was, however, a special event. The Hagglunds BV206 was being demonstrated to show its fitness as a radio platform and the infinite variety of Clansman installations it can hold.

The BV206 is one of the most interesting vehicles coming into

Probably its greatest virtue lies in its flexibility. Before being issued the standard model is equipped with a 90 amp generator in place of the usual 45 amp model.

It is also given certain essentials such as suppressors to cut down interference (eg from the motor of the windscreens wipers). Power and signals cables are installed between the cabs.

Vital to the well-being of the British soldier is a "boiling vessel facility" - a long name for a kettle.

There is also a "morph" - a short name for the "multi operational role project Hagglunds" light metal frame built into the interior of the fibre glass shell.

It is on the "morph" that the equipment for variants is fitted. Up to 28 configurations of radio have been worked out by

Dytecna of Malvern, Worcs.

In some of them Clansman is hung from the frame in the front cab. Larger sets are fixed to a fitted table in the rear cab.

The beauty of having Clansman roof high is that there is plenty of room left for the troops who have to travel inside the compartment.

Soldiers can simply clip their radios to the frame and remove them just as easily for use outside.

Ground-planes (copper mesh) built into the roofs of the cabs ensure the efficiency of the antennae.

Communication while the BV206s are on the move is reported as highly satisfactory.

Already 200 basic vehicles have been supplied to the British Ace Mobile Force (Land) contingent, tasked to operate on Nato's flanks. Of these 36 FFR (fitted for radio)

types are being tested on Exercise Hard Fall.

But the others, thanks to the "morph" frame can be quickly adapted to serve as ambulances, REME recovery wagons, or troop carriers with six in the front cab and 11 in the rear.

The beauty of having Clansman roof high is that there is plenty of room left for the troops who have to travel inside the compartment.

Stowage systems allow the BV206 to transport Javelin (and missiles), mortars and Milan and it can tow the Light Gun or its limber.

Fifty unmodified BV206s are in use in the Falklands at the moment moving men and stores to places inaccessible to Land Rovers.

In the primeval marsh of the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment's Long Valley testing ground three BV206s, one equipped with radios, the others modified as recovery vehicles, put up a spectacular demonstration (automotive performance was

the posh phrase in use).

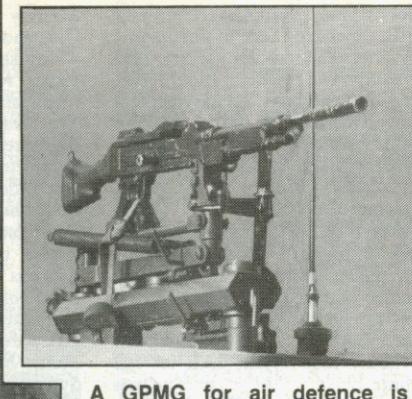
They raised bow waves of mud in churned-up ground, splashed across lakes, roared up steep gullies with frightening ease, and simply shot through a copse of solid ground.

This was perhaps to be expected at the hands of the regular test drivers but it was noticeable that visitors who tried their hands at the wheel (under supervision) also put up a creditable performance.

With its multi-role a better name for the BV206 might be Chameleon. The initials themselves actually stand for Band Vagn, though its official description is "Carrier full tracked articulated LHD all-terrain vehicle".

After seeing it wallowing around Long Valley, however, it could be that Mud Lark would be more appropriate.

Pictures by Terry Champion



A GPMG for air defence is carried on the front cab and manned by a soldier standing in a hatch. The mounting is of Danish design, similar to a flexible parallelogram, to give it a comprehensive field of fire. A limited depression enables it to engage ground targets



Above

Right

A sight to warm the heart of every soldier: the "boiling vessel facility". Ptes Linda Halliday and Sharon Poppitt are getting to grips with the kettle!

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BOOK REVIEWS



The Black Watch with a box designed by artist Fred Whisstock, whose illustrated labels were an important part of the packaging of Britain's toy soldiers

Playthings not to be toyed with

THE Coldstream Guards started a lifetime hobby for Harry I Kurtz.

More than 30 years ago, resplendent in their bearskins and bright scarlet tunics, they helped to make a little boy's birthday a day to remember.

By his early teens, the English-made Guardsmen had been joined by more and more soldiers, assembling an army of a thousand toy warriors who could be manoeuvred across the carpet by the young Kurtz.

Burtt R Ehrlich was also building his collection of those little metal men who so captivated generations of youngsters. In ten years he collected more than 15,000 figures, amassing one of the finest collections in existence.

As the decades have passed, the collections of Kurtz and Ehrlich – and those of many other people – have taken on a new importance. Old toys have appreciated in value by as much as 100 per cent or more a year to become new collectors' items. Some have commanded astronomical sums; at a New York auction a single rare set of a Boer War period British Army supply column fetched \$11,000.

Today the metal toy soldier has become a plaything of the past, say Kurtz and Ehrlich – defeated by safety laws, routed by cheaper plastic figures. They are made today not to be children's playthings but pri-

marily for adult pleasure – for the child that lurks within us all!

The two collectors have written a 328-page survey of two centuries of metal soldiers, beautifully illustrated in colour, a book which at £29.95 is probably beyond the pocket of real youngsters but would be prized by older youngsters.

The authors even deal with suggestions that toy soldiers instill military thoughts into young minds – by quoting the views of H G Wells that far from being an encouragement to jingoism, playing at toy soldiers could be cathartic, releasing hostile aggression that might otherwise be directed at fellow beings. – AT.

The Art of the Toy Soldier by Henry I Kurtz and Burtt R Ehrlich, published by New Cavendish Books. Price £29.95.

In brief

War in Space by Christopher Lee. The author describes in simple terms the extent of military involvement in space, explores how so-far secret systems work and explores the frightening consequences of using space as a cosmic battleground. Reissued by Sphere Books in paperback. Price £3.99.

Laughter in Khaki by Dorothy Mackay. Life in the FANYs during the Second World War. Published by The Pentland Press. Price £10.

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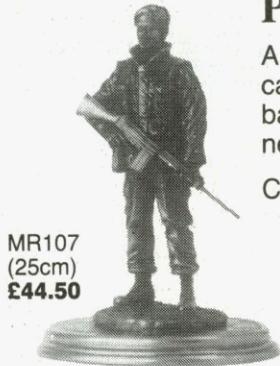


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WHAT IS bound to be one of London's major tourist attractions is to be opened soon by the Queen who has a deep personal interest in the contents.

For the first time the capital will have a museum dedicated to all five regiments of Her Majesty's Foot Guards.

In the past there has been only a small collection of memorabilia in Wellington Barracks.

The museum's director is Col. Paul Adair, Coldstream Guards.

Stocking the showcases has been the task of Capt. David Horn, who retired recently

after 27 years in the Grenadiers.

His problem has been sorting through scores of boxes unearthed from stores, some of which had not been opened for a century or more.

It took him a year to go through the boxes of his own regiment alone.

From one of them, in a ready-to-wear condition, came the magnificent bearskin cap and uniform of the Grand Old Duke of York (George III's second son) who was Colonel of the Grenadiers until his death in 1827, having previously been Colonel of the Coldstream.

"His sword needed a little polish but it was as good as new," said Capt. Horn.

By contrast there is the undeniably shabby flying jacket worn during the Second World War by arguably the most famous Irish Guardsman, Field Marshal Alexander.

The most unexpected exhibit is probably the head of Jacob the Goose who gave the alarm when a sentry was attacked outside a guardroom in Canada

thus saving his life.

Jacob became a Coldstream pensioner until killed by a tradesman's van in London in the 1840s.

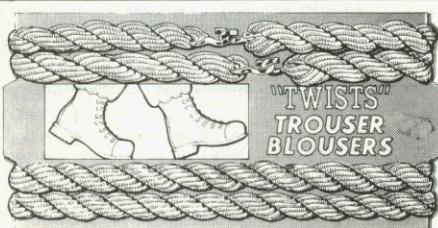
A statue of the Manneken Pis dressed in the uniform of the Welsh Guards and recalling their entry into Brussels in 1944 as part of the Guards Armoured Division is also to be on show.

Unforgettable for visitors to the museum will be the dramatic tableau which greets them - Colour bearers of the Scots Fusilier Guards on the heights of the Alma in the Crimean War.

The idea of bringing to life a celebrated picture by the Victorian artist Lady Butler was the idea of Barry Mazur, one of Britain's foremost museum designers working with Anne Plowden and Peter Smith, the fine art restorers.

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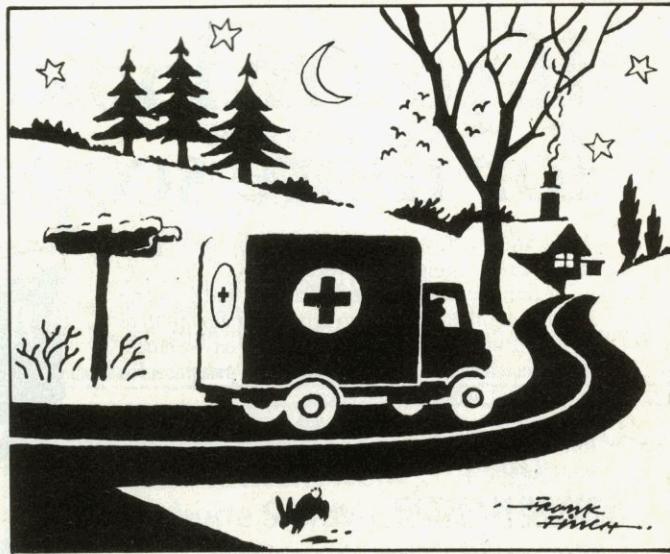
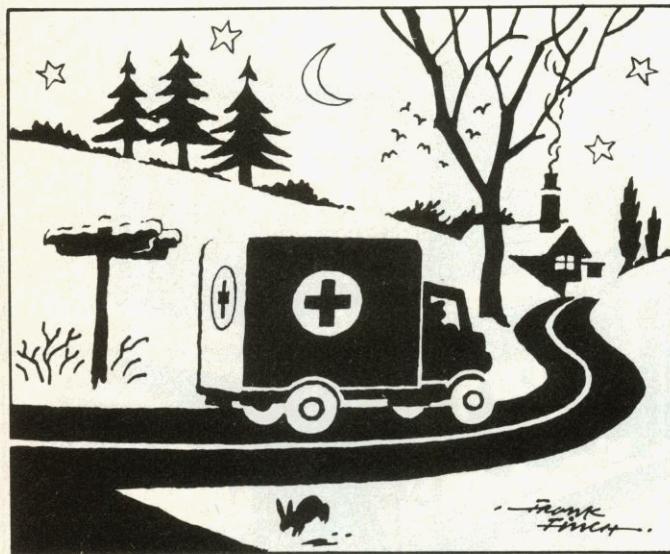
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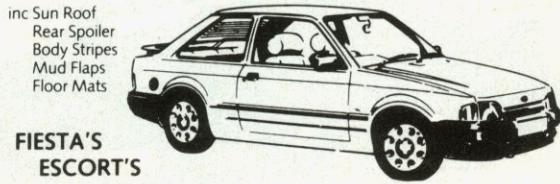
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Telephone: Ringwood 2856/3197.

319

DALLAM SCHOOL CUMBRIA

Voluntary Aided Day and Boarding School. Co-educational with 570 pupils, including 90 in the Sixth Form.

Dallam is a Comprehensive School in South Lakeland. Boarding Houses are situated at the Sixth Form Centre at Heversham, with extensive facilities, including sports hall and swimming pool.

Prospectus from the Headmaster,
**J. D. Barker, Heversham, Milnthorpe,
Cumbria LA7 7EH**
Telephone: (0482) 3377

513

TAVERHAM HALL

near Norwich, Norfolk NR8 6HU

(Norwich 868206)

I.A.P.S. boarding preparatory school for boys and girls 7-13.

- Set in beautiful parkland
- Excellent facilities for a wide range of activities
- 110 children in nine small classes
- Fine academic and musical tradition
- * Music Scholarship
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Contact the Headmaster, R. S. G. Barton, M.A., for prospectus or visit.

513

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Telephone Sandwich (0304) 613286

Founded 1563

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11-18 (600 PUPILS)

102 Girl and Boy Boarders and 500 Day Pupils. Majority of Boarding pupils from Service families. Boarding Fees currently £2,827 per annum, within the Service Grant. High Academic standards. Team Games, Instrumental Music Tuition, Art, Design & Technology, Computing offered along with traditional subjects. Flourishing Clubs and Societies. Own Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Excellent Games facilities. Outdoor swimming pool. Shooting Range. New artificial all-weather surface for tennis, hockey and netball. Pleasant school grounds.

Close to Sandwich. Station for trains to London and Dover for Cross-Channel Ferry Services.

Full details and a prospectus may be obtained by writing or telephoning the Headmaster.

513

HARDYE'S SCHOOL DORCHESTER, DORSET

**Voluntary Aided
Day and Boarding Upper School for Boys**

- ★ Hardye's has a long record of academic excellence, offering a wide range of G.C.S.E. and A-level courses, and a curriculum which includes computer studies, modern science facilities, technical and vocational training, art, music and drama.
- ★ Dorchester is in the heart of the Dorset countryside, with easy access to the sea.
- Boarding for 36 boys aged 11-18 in a spacious and comfortable house near the School yet central to the town, where the accent is on a caring and family atmosphere, with staff who have a long experience in meeting the needs of service families.
- ★ The Boarding fee is currently £950 per term.
- A lively 6th Form of around 130, providing an average of 35 entrants annually to degree courses.
- ★ At Hardye's there is a wide range of sport utilising thirteen acres of playing fields, swimming pool, all-weather hockey pitch, six hard tennis courts and a large sports hall. Outdoor pursuits including sailing and windsurfing. The School is proud of its sporting achievements.
- All three services are represented in a large and old-established Combined Cadet Force.

*Enquiries to the:— Head Master, P. A. Close, M.A.
Telephone: (0305) 67841*

513

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE IPSWICH, SUFFOLK 0473 690281

- ★ Boys boarding and day school, 11-18.
- ★ 700 pupils: 230 boarders.
- ★ Catholic; others accepted.
- ★ High academic, sporting and personal standards.
- ★ 60 acres in Ipswich.
- ★ Admission at 11, 13, 14, 16.
- ★ Bursaries available.
- ★ Close to main line BR station, M25, A12, A45, A140, Felixstowe, Harwich, Stansted.
- ★ Fees: Boarding £1,270 per term.

Prospectus from the Admissions Registrar.

4115

West Sussex County Council STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This rural, co-educational comprehensive school (11-18) with **over 300 in the Sixth Form** has a **BOARDING HOUSE** for 90 boys

Steyning is a small Sussex market town with easy access to London, South Coast rail links and Airports (Gatwick 40 minutes)

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There are no tuition fees.

For further details and Prospectus apply to
The Headmaster, P. H. Bolton, MA, (Ref. TS),
Steyning Grammar School, Church Street,
Steyning, West Sussex BN4 3LB.
Telephone: 0903 814555

519

BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL BURY'S COURT, LEIGH, REIGATE, SURREY

- ★ Boarding for 6½-13½ year old boys
- Small classes ● Individual help
- ★ Fees not more than Service boarding school allowance
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- Computers and videos
- ★ Preparation for Gordon Boys, Duke of Yorks and Common Entrance examination
- ★ Good sports amenities, including judo and swimming
- Help with travel arrangements

For prospectus write or telephone:
The Headmaster, Dawes Green (030 678) 372.

2111

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(Girls 4-17; boarding from 7)



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- ★ A busy, challenging, friendly environment with lots to do after school and at weekends?

The Senior School has a tradition of caring; of gaining good examination results from a fairly wide ability range. Special features are our Drama Workshops and GVC Air Cadets who participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Travel arrangements made if parents are overseas.

For prospectus telephone: 0454 772156

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Prospectus from

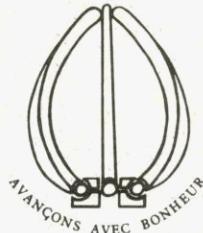
The Headmasters — Telephone Kinlet (029924) 230

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13-18 years



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5-13 years

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Apply: The Principal at head office

WELLINGTON SCHOOL, AYR (Founded 1849)

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Comfortable boarding accommodation with many extra-curricular activities. Strong Music and Sport. Full careers programme, linked with industry and commerce and responsive to rapidly changing requirements, geared to encourage and guide girls towards rewarding careers in the 1990s. Government Assisted Places; Boarding Bursaries.

For prospectus, please telephone or write to:
The Headmaster, Wellington School
Carleton Turrets, AYR KA7 2XH
Tel: (0292) 269321 (24 hrs.)



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READING SCHOOL

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Prospectus and further information from the Head Master. 5112



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250 pupils, 8-18

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Further details and prospectus from J. High, M.A. (Oxon), Headmaster. Tel: Isle of Wight (0983) 872101.

416 (991)

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Full particulars from The Principals, J. Harrison B.Sc. and J. Harrison B.A., Moorland School, Ribblesdale Avenue, Clitheroe. Tel. Clitheroe (0200) 23833.

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Further details can be obtained from:—

**Captain Headmaster,
Indefatigable School,
Plas Llanfair, Llanfairpwll,
Gwynedd, LL61 6NT.
Telephone: 0248 714338**

Founded in 1864 Patron H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. In receipt of a grant from the Welsh Office.

MORCOTT HALL SCHOOL

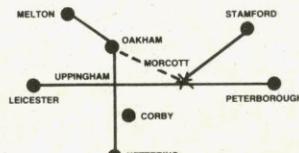
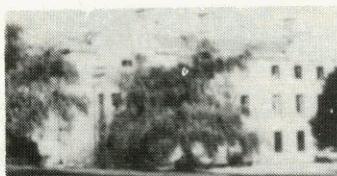
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For a prospectus containing full details please contact the School Secretary, Morcott Hall School, Morcott, Nr Oakham, Rutland, Leics LE15 9DN
Telephone: 057287/228



1113

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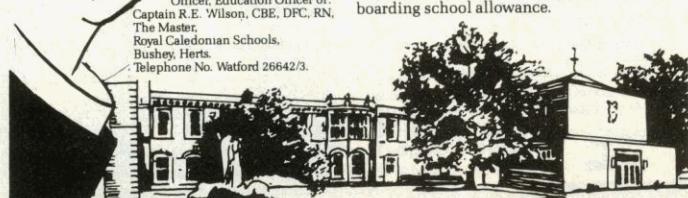
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For further information contact your Commanding Officer, Education Officer or: Captain R.E. Wilson, CBE, DFC, RN, The Master, Royal Caledonian Schools, Bushey, Herts. Telephone No. Watford 26642/3.



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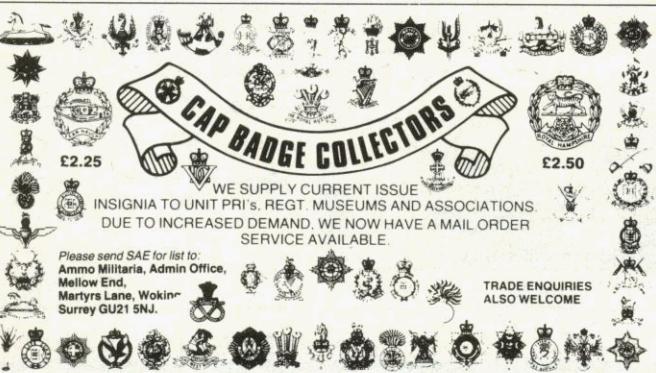
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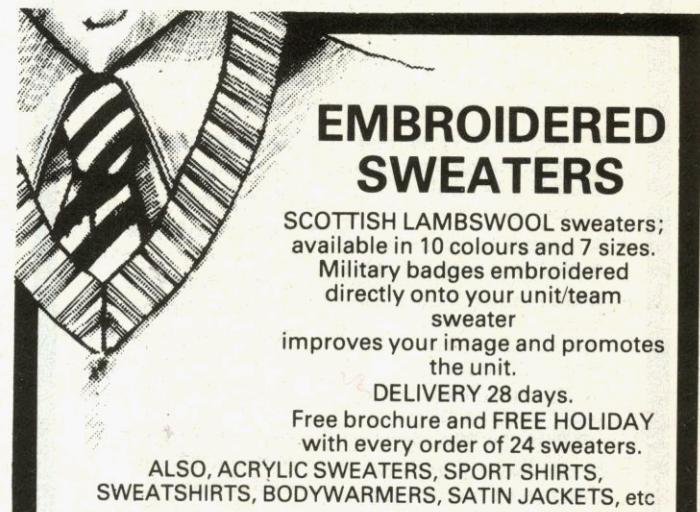
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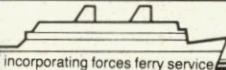
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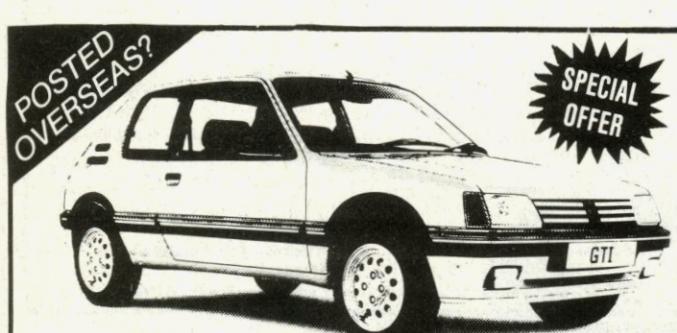
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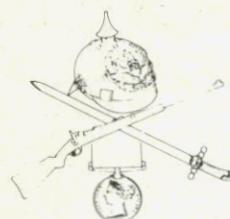


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Nearly flaked out

– but the big ski meeting went ahead

THE SKIERS of 4th Armoured Division went to Galtur deep in the Austrian Tyrol and found snow; the skiers from 1 Div went for the 15th year running to Axams – and for the first time ever found it snowless.

But both divisions were able, with a little repositioning, to hold their championships.

Brig Ian Townsend, chairman of the 1 Div meeting, even won a bottle of brandy from Burgermeister Herr Apperl in a longstanding bet that there would be less than a metre of snow in Axams!

The 21 units taking part in 1 Div's Nordic championships competed at Kuhtai, at 2,000 metres high.

Champion unit for the fourth year running was 1 Div Transport Regiment RCT who won a total of 20 team and individual prizes, only just pipping The Queen's Own Hussars to the winning post.

On the alpine slopes of Axamer Lizum their individual stars fought a tit for tat battle throughout the week.

On the Nordic tracks it was a different story, with 1 Bn The



Sgt Mortimore of 35 Engr Regt – pictured taking a gate in the giant slalom – on his way to the title of best all rounder at the 4 Div skiing championships

King's Own Scottish Borderers giving 1 ADTR a good ski for their money. The Berlin based unit won every team event except the patrol race, which went to The Queen's Own Hussars.

Among the minor units, 12 Armoured Workshops came out top.

UKLF units and the Royal Marines again joined 4 Div's championships with the TA being represented by The Honourable Artillery Company and the Royal Wessex Yeomanry.

The Royal Marines again did well in the Nordic events with 42 Cdo pipping 35 Engr Regt to the finish in both the 15 km and the patrol race, but only by three seconds in both races.

In the Alpine events 35 Engr Regt showed their overall superiority by taking the team giant slalom, the team slalom and the team downhill, with Lt Burnet winning the individual slalom, and Sgt Mortimore

taking both the individual giant slalom, the individual downhill and taking the title of 'Best all rounder'.

15/19 H led by Capt Riall did well to become runners-up in all the major alpine team events. 35 Engr Regt are divisional major unit champions for 1988 and 211 Sig Sqn minor units champions. Teams and individuals from 4/7 DG, 15/19 H, 16/5 L, 3 RHA and 35 Engr Regt qualified for the Army Alpine meeting.

4th Division Results
Giant slalom (team) 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 15/19 H. Slalom (team) 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 15/19 H. Downhill (team) 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 15/19 H. 4 x 10km relay 1, 35 Engr Regt (A); 2, 3 RHA. Biathlon relay 7.5km 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 28 Amph Eng Regt. 15km (team) 1, 35 Engr Regt (A); 2, 3 RHA. Patrol race 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, 2 Queens. Alpine combination (team), 35 Engr Regt; Minor unit alpine combination, 4 Ord Bn; Military combination, 35 Engr Regt; RAC and Inf military combination, 2 Queens; Minor unit military combination, 65 Corps Sp Sqn RE; RAC and Inf alpine, 15/19 H; Champion minor unit, 211 Sig Sqn; Champion unit, 35 Engr Regt.

Gurkhas shine in Hong Kong marathon

ALMOST 1,000 runners competed in the British Forces Hong Kong marathon, run concurrently with the Hong Kong international marathon for the first time on the island's eastern corridor.

Competing with internationally recognised runners, 85 Service and Service sponsored athletes entered the race.

China's Cai Shang-yang, having overtaken New Zealander Kevin Ryan (leader for most of the race) sprinted over the final stages to reach the tape in 2 hrs 23 mins 7 sec.

Not far behind, the British Forces Hong Kong trio acquitted themselves excellently, taking 10th, 11th and 17th positions. This result translated into BFHK Individual Championships made Rfn Chhongba Sherpa 10 GR, 1st; LCpl Majordhan Rai 10 GR, 2nd; Sgt Berny Woodward RAF 3rd.

Also competing in the event were four soldiers from BAOR representing the British Army – WO1 Peter Marsh RAOC from the Forward Ordnance Depot at Dulmen, and Sgt David Carr, Cpl Taff Roberts and Cpl Taff James all serving with 7th Signal Regiment in Herford. While not eligible to enter the BFHK Championships in the individual placings, between them they accounted for positions 12, 13, 15 and 20...



Action in the major units rugby final at Aldershot between 7 RHA (black strip) and the AAC Centre (hoops). The gunners won 3-0

BETTER START FOR COLTS

AFTER a disappointing end to 1987, Army Colts' fortunes on the rugby field have taken a turn for the better in the New Year including a biggest ever victory against county opposition, writes Peter Salisbury.

For the first fixture of 1988 the opposition was London Welsh Colts at Aldershot. With a proper back row including AT Chris Rushworth (PMC Arborfield) at No 8, who was returning after injury, the Army gave a much better account of themselves.

After an exciting first half London Welsh led by a goal and a penalty to a goal. Cfn Nick Gould (39 Engr Regt), who improves with every game at centre, scored the Army's try

and only narrowly failed to score on another occasion. AT Martin Davies (AAC Chepstow) converted.

The second half produced no further score so London Welsh were victors by the narrowest of margins.

The Army travelled to AAC Harrogate to take on Durham County. This was by far and away the Army's best performance of the season. Playing excellent rugby in difficult wet conditions they ran in nine tries, five of which were converted and their 46-3 victory was the highest ever achieved against a county side.

Two tries each were scored by Rushworth, Julian Davies and winger AT Neil Willcoxson (PMC Arborfield) while Gould, pack leader Cfn Paul Jinks (SEME Bordon) and centre A/Sgt Paul Browning (AAC Harrogate) got one each.

The captain, Spr David Robinson (24 Fd Sqn RE), made three conversions and Martin Davies two.

Army Colts had two more fixtures, against Boys Clubs of Wales at Aldershot and against London Irish at Sunbury before their first Inter-Service game against the Royal Navy at Aldershot on March 5.

Worrying for the top dogs

IT WAS a case of "As you were" in the UK rugby minor and major unit finals at Aldershot. But the path to final glory was not an easy one for either of the champion teams, writes John Quin.

The minor units final was an all sapper affair between the holders, 24 Field Squadron, and the permanent staff side from the Army Apprentices College at Chepstow.

OC 24 Fd Sqn, coming to the end of his tour with the squadron, was looking slightly apprehensive at the start of the game, no doubt wanting to see his time out with the trophy still in the cupboard! He was not disappointed, his team winning 14-0.

The major units final was a memorable affair. Played in

atrocious weather before a large partisan crowd.

Conditions ruled out any chance of a fast open game, with handling very difficult.

7 RHA, the holders, dug deep into their arsenal of moves, to find some way through the Army Air Corps defence, but it held firm throughout.

The airborne gunners came back time and time again with the ubiquitous Sgt Lewis, the loquacious Sgt Symes and the exuberant WO2 Farley, prominent in the hard working Gunner pack.

At half back young LBdr Denwood worked well with Bdr Commander arguably the best fly-half in Army rugby. It was his drop goal after nine minutes which kept the UK trophy in 7 RHA's hands.

For the Army Air Corps Centre, largely REME cap badged, the day was one of heroics by the entire team. They fought 7 RHA in every phase of the game, tackled like demons and still had enough in them to launch counter attacks whenever they could get hold of the ball, led by the gregarious WO2 Williams. Undoubtedly they were sad at the missed kickable penalty ten minutes from time, but that's rugby.

The final hurdle in the Minor Units is 24 Fd Sqn RE (UK) v 6 Ord Bn (BAOR) in the UK and 21 Engineer Regiment (BAOR) v 7 RHA (UK) in Germany.

NUMBER NINE FOR THE CHAMP

Robinson also took the Over-35 trophy in his first year in this event.

The Under-25 event produced a new champion.

Recently enlisted Pte Andrew Keen RPC, Bicester, easily reached the final to meet Spr Nick Turton RE, Maidstone, the reigning champion for the last two years.

Keen punished Turton's mistakes, pounced on any loose balls and emerged a worthy champion with a decisive 3-0 win. LCpl Day won the Plate. The veteran event attracted only eight players.

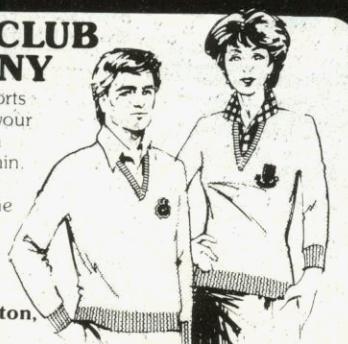
In an entertaining final Maj Robinson and Cpl Richards beat Spr Turton and Bdr Richards 3-0.

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THE ARMY squash championships started with two shock upsets when QMSI Ray Surgeon fell to LBdr Paul Weymont and Spr Nick Turton lost to LCpl Dave Gallagher. Both Surgeon and Turton are Army team players. Otherwise the seedings in the Open ran true to form, writes Lance Brett.

In the quarter finals Maj Robbie Robinson RAOC, Hong Kong, beat Maj Ian Mosedale RCT, Bielefeld, 3-0, WO2 Bob Perkins REME, Lippstadt, only just beat Capt Dave Bradley RAOC, Viersen, 3-2, WO1 Peter Ratcliffe beat LBdr Paul Weymont RA,

Woolwich and Cpl Tom Pollard, R Signals, beat WO2 Trevor Henry RAMC, Woolwich.

In the semi-finals Robinson duly beat Perkins 3-0 and Pollard had to play hard to put out Ratcliffe 3-0.

In an entertaining but short final Robinson started slowly and was well behind in the first game, but he seemed to change up a gear and easily beat Pollard 3-0 for the second year running. He also achieved a championship record of winning the title for the ninth time.

Throughout the championship he didn't lose a single game and he is set to be Army champion for many years to come.

Woodliffe had to work hard but experience told and he won 3-1 and so gained his seventh title.

The Plate was won by Maj Gen Peter Beale.

The doubles competition is a fun event. Partners are blind drawn with known doubles players. Many players have never played the doubles game before.

In an entertaining final Maj Robinson and Cpl Richards beat Spr Turton and Bdr Richards 3-0.

Hart helps Olympic selection chances

TWO of Britain's soldier athletes made a significant contribution to the bicentenary pentathlon in Canberra, Australia.

Cpl Peter Hart, 27, REME, came third in the individual scores with 5,450 pts and Lt Dominic Mahoney Life Guards was seventh with 5,158.

An Australian with the unlikely name of Dan Esposito was first with 5,616 with a British international Richard Phelps, who trains with the Army at Arborfield from time to time, second (5,522).

Cpl Hart did his chances for Olympic selection no harm by coming first in the 4,000 metres (12.51 secs) and in the fencing. He also gained maximum points in the riding.

His omission from the Great Britain A team was something of a mystery but it still went on to win the team event.

Royal approval for new tug of war event

A NEW open Service tug of war competition to be named after the Princess Royal is to be held for the first time on May 29 at the Windsor three day equestrian event.

The Princess Royal's Service tug of war competition is open to club teams in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force and is expected to attract at least 30 entries to each



SI Geoff Wade (323) strides out on his way to victory, overtaking Musn Mark Lassetter (336) who came third and Maj Glen Grant RA (301)

Winner Wade

THE Army cross country championships held at Tweseldown near Aldershot saw SI Geoff Wade (APTC att 1 IG) regain his title when he triumphed over last year's champion, Cpl Mark Lassetter

(P and C Depot RE) in the senior event.

Musn John Wright (Gren Gds) confirmed his promise by improving one place to third in this year's race.

Winners for the past four years, 1 PWO, had to settle for second place behind new champions, 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt in the senior team event while FOD Dulmen won the minor units trophy.

The muddy conditions endured by the runners had no effect on Sgt Maggie Smith (RMAS Permanent Staff) who again retained the women's title beating Lt Mandy Tindall, (4 Armd Div Sig Regt). RMAS PS

took the unit trophy.

The junior championship was won by new recruit Pte Lee Dunn (Depot Para) and the junior team prize went to Army Apprentices College Chepstow for the seventh successive year.

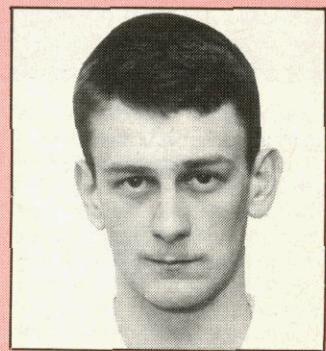
TA Cup draw

THE preliminary round of the TA Cup football competition was matching South West District against South East, with the winners drawn against Wales/Western in the first round. Other first round matches were Northern Ireland against London, Scotland against North West and Eastern against the North East.

John's world ranked

GUNNER John Pugh of 34 (Seringapatam) Bty, 14 Fd Regt has been earning international honours in karate.

His interest in the Wado-Kai style of karate began in 1973 and he is now a 2nd Dan. He came fifth in the European Wado-Kai open championship (75kg class) in Berlin last August and has just returned from the fifth World Wado-Kai Karate Association meeting held in Japan where, as a member of the British team, he gained 12th place in the individual Kara competition and helped the British team to second place overall.



His brother-in-law Bdr Tony Davies (12 AD Regt) runs the BAOR Wado-Kai Karate Club and his nephew is the under 16 BAOR champion.



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SOLDIER



A cordon of brawn as the blue hooped forwards of 24 Field Squadron RE from Chatham protect line out possession against fellow sappers from the Army Apprentices College Chepstow in the Army (UK) Cup final for the Minor Units Trophy at Aldershot. Now 24 Fd Sqn, who won the title for the fourth consecutive year, meet 6 Ord Bn, the BAOR champions, in the Army Cup final at Aldershot.

Picture: Terry Champion