

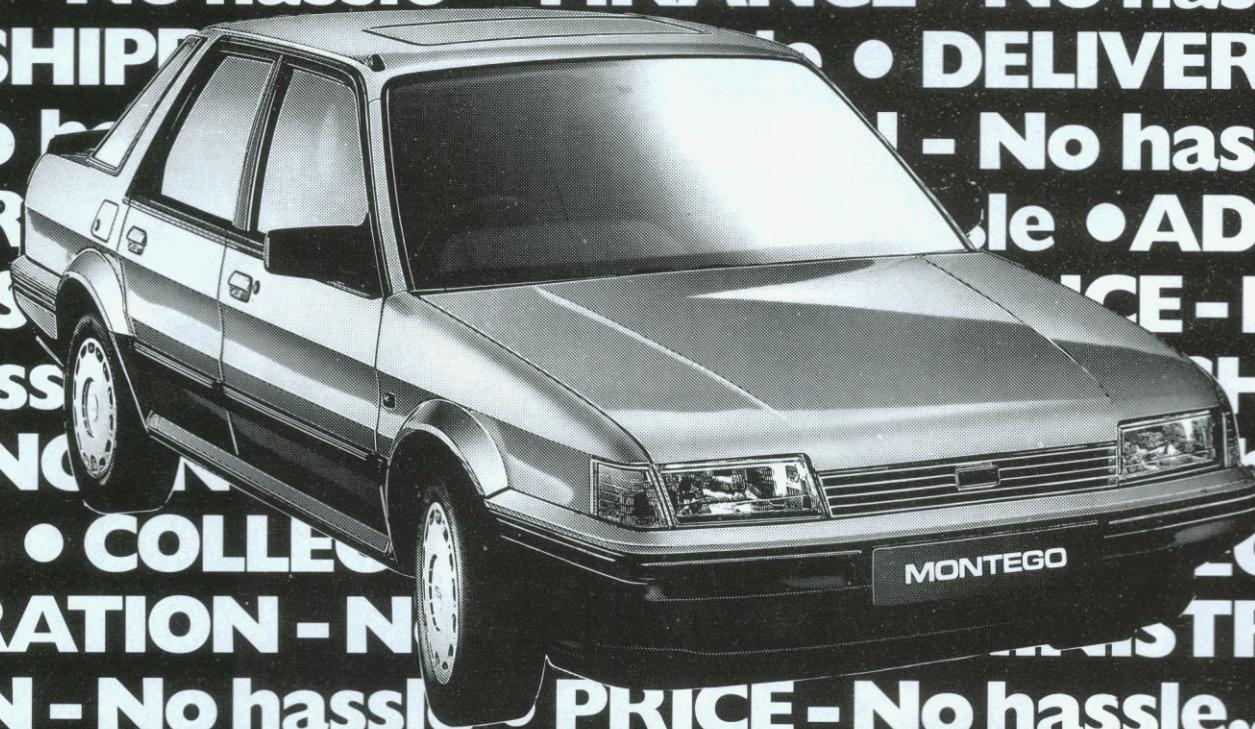
SOLDIER

5 OCTOBER 1987

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FRONT COVER: The bite is worse than the bark! Handler Cpl Stuart Gill, 1 Q O HLDRS of the Belize Force Dog Unit based at Airport Camp, on patrol with his dog. Intruders have steered clear of the camp since the patrols were introduced two years ago. See Page 27.

Picture: Terry Champion

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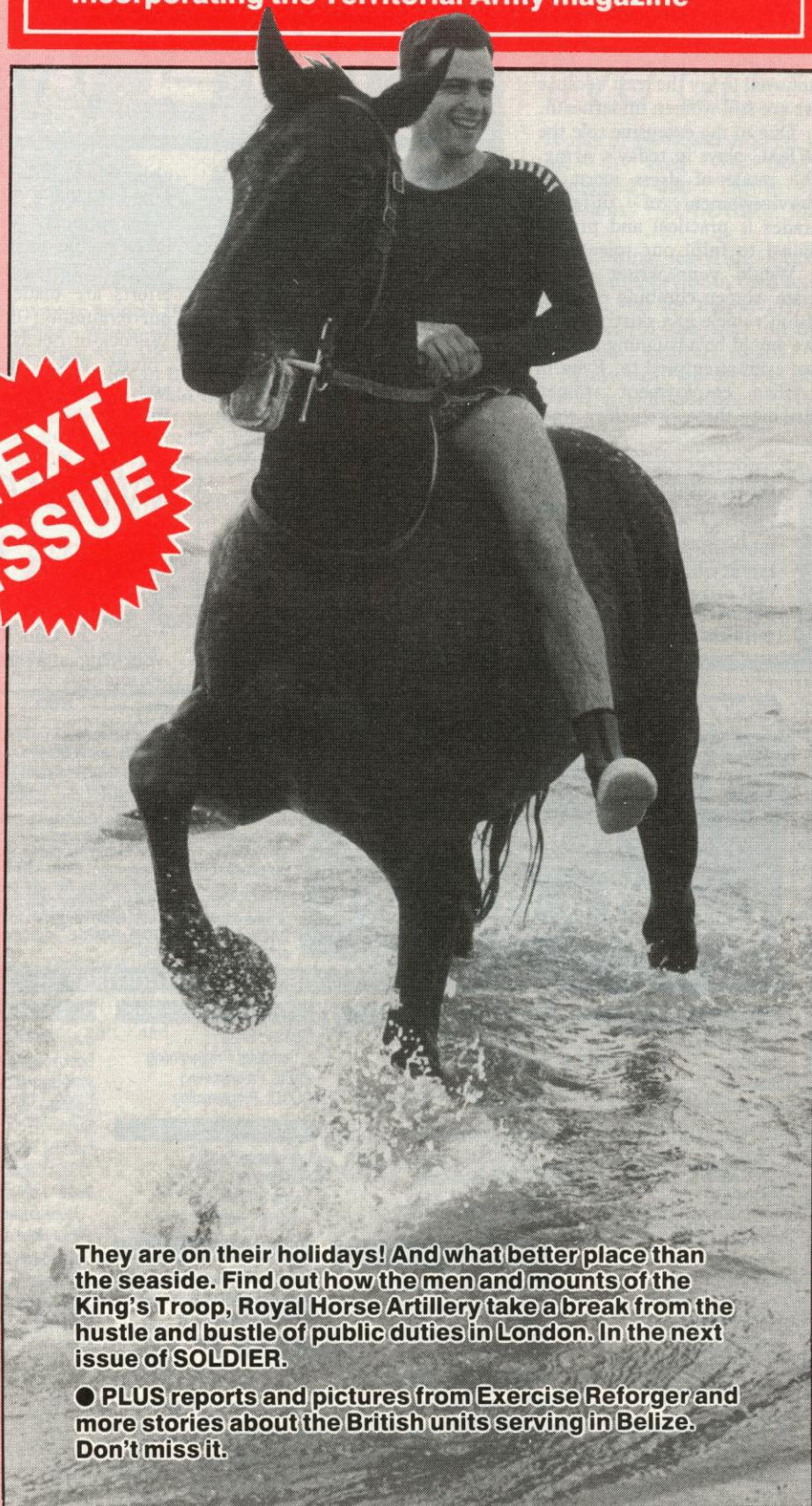
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SOLDIER

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incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

NEXT
ISSUE



They are on their holidays! And what better place than the seaside. Find out how the men and mounts of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery take a break from the hustle and bustle of public duties in London. In the next issue of SOLDIER.

● PLUS reports and pictures from Exercise Reforger and more stories about the British units serving in Belize. Don't miss it.

All of the WRAC of 10 Company, Duchess of Kent Barracks in Aldershot were rather taken aback by the letter of Veronica M Wilcock (SOLDIER August 24).

Some of the girls who apparently wear the so called "dreadful uniform" were annoyed to say the least because we are still women underneath.

Due to the extensive role the WRAC plays in today's Army, the mode of dress worn by Servicewomen of different trades is practical and professional to fulfil our role.

Would your writer appreciate women climbing out of a 4-ton vehicle in a skirt? I think we would be a laughing stock if we even attempted to. Even in civilian employment women driving these vehicles wear

Wrath of the WRAC

PRIZE LETTER

trousers for practical and safety purposes.

10 Company WRAC within the barrack complex has its own resident beautician, a hairdressing salon, and sunbed facilities which can and are used all the time.

With reference to short hair, surely your writer has seen the modern styles worn by civilian

girls. Should the WRAC not follow fashion?

Exceptional offence was taken at the accusation of the WRAC "apeing men". Great efforts are made to maintain our femininity. If Veronica M Wilcock of Leeds wishes to see "pretty WRAC girls at work and play in uniform", she is welcome to visit 10 Company

WRAC, Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot. — Cpl M J Graham, resident beautician, 10 Coy WRAC, Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot.

● Just to prove that we are in the neutral corner, the SOLDIER letter prize of a book is going to Cpl Graham. And if you turn to Page 17 you can read more about her role as a beautician. — Editor

Hello Halifax! And in particular Mrs Pat Tomlinson of Whitehill Drive, Illingworth. You are the latest winner of SOLDIER's £50 prize, for spotting the differences in HOAY competition No 420, Mrs

Halifax's £50 winner

Tomlinson. There's another £50 to be won in this issue.

Where did 29ers' Alma come from?

It was good to have news of "29" — 29 Cdo Regt RA — in your August 24 issue as I was a

member of the regiment in less strenuous days.

We were stationed in the late 1940s in the old Luftwaffe barracks at Kiel-Holtenau before being moved back in 1950 to the UK.

The three batteries in those days were 8, 79 and 145, the last two being Kirkee and Maiwand, respectively, but I'm pretty sure that 8 was then Asten Battery. Where did Alma come from?

Whichever it was, Freddie Edmeades trained and looked after us well and one troop was commanded by a young subaltern who later went on to higher, if not necessarily better, things — Ted Burgess, now Lt Gen Sir Edward Burgess.

Usual invitation to other old 29ers to contact me at any time. — Michael G T Butterworth, 66 Farnley Crescent, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3YS.

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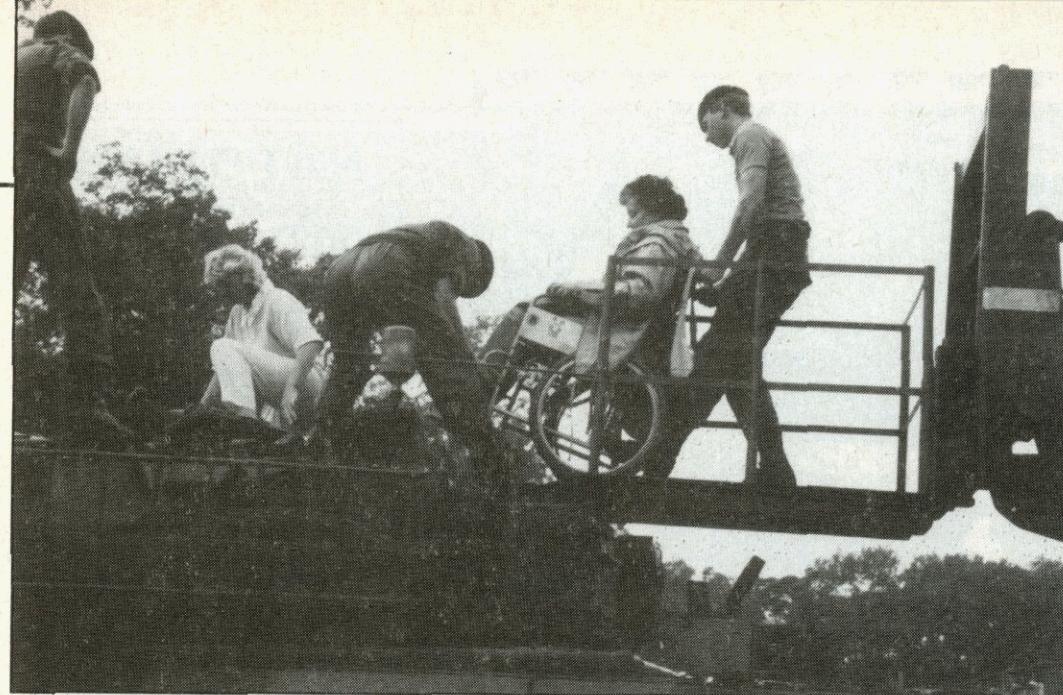
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● Mrs C D Savva-Duroe, 4 Clarendon Road, Fulwood Park, Sheffield S10 3TR is trying to trace anyone who served with 1226 Company Artisan Works RE in Ismailia and Italy between December 1943 and May 1944. Her late husband, now recognised as one of the foremost artists of Cyprus, served with the unit.



Hussars bridge the gap

HERE'S one way to bridge the gap between the handicapped and able bodied. When wheelchair-bound members of the Across Trust from the UK visited The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars at Loddonheide in BAOR they asked to be shown the inside of the Challenger main battle tank and Scorpion light armoured recce vehicle.

Undaunted, the Hussars built a special ramp and, with the help of a forklift truck, lifted their visitors high above the ground for a downwards view of the turret. With their wheelchairs handbraked, they were even given a ride on a tank.

Better late . . .

Circumstances regarding late or delayed receipt of awards or medals can be interesting. My unexpected Africa General Service medal (Kenya clasp) was received in September 1977, more than a quarter of a century after qualification for it.

Reasons for the delay were that when the announcement of the medal award was made I was attached to the machine gun company of the Aden Protectorate Levies, serving on the Yemen Border from where I was casevac to the Queen

The sappers are gunning for us!

BY NOW I expect you to have been bombarded by correspondence from every sapper in the corps pointing out the gravest printing error ever to have seen the light of day!

We may have to share the same motto (*Everywhere for the sappers, All Over the Bloomin' Shop* for the other lot!) but never in a million years should the term GUNNERS (*Soldier*, September 21) be hung around the necks of the finest corps in the British Army!

Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, for an operation on leg injuries.

After that I served in the UK as I was near to completion of pensionable service. Afterwards I applied for the Kenya award only to learn that the African unit to which I had been attached had long since been disbanded.

In 1977 I was a guest at a function in London where those invited were received by the Duke of Edinburgh whose ADC was then Major Orr, with whom I had served in the Eritrean campaign and had

later met in Kenya during service against Mau Mau rebels.

He enquired why the Africa GSM was not among my "row" and advised me to send the relevant documents to the Army Medal Office from where I eventually received my Africa GSM. — R Rimmer GC, 27 St George's, Chester CH1 3HG.

O Force ties live on

It was of particular interest to me to read "A Royal Command" and "The British Bedouins" (*SOLDIER*, July 13).

Following leave in Jordan during my service in the Canal Zone, I was for a short period seconded to the staff of the Garrison Engineer, Aqaba.

While with CE Branch and based at Gordon Lines, CRE, North in the Zone, we welcomed a contingent of senior NCOs from the Arab Legion who were on an educational visit prior to promotion and, as it turned out, service in the new Jordan Arab Army.

My brief secondment entitled me to wear the O Force tie. If there was sufficient interest there would be no problem in ordering a quantity of this tie, so may I appeal to all former members of O Force who would be interested in one, or perhaps more, ties to contact me. — W Gordon Newall, ex-SSgt RE, 9 Moreton Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7DN.

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● Do they have sappers in the Navy? We couldn't live without you. — Editor



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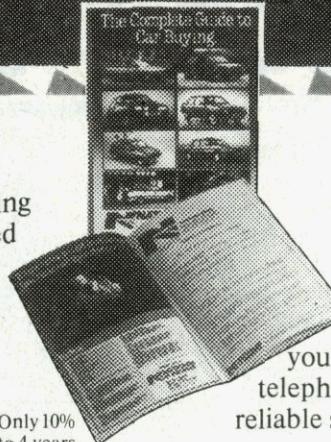
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Mercian titles turn to the past



We'll drink to that!

Cpl John Bailey toasts with 16-year-old Linda Wilkinson the news that he is to receive the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct following a terrorist attack on the Land Rover in which they were travelling in Cyprus in April. Both escaped with minor injuries. Cpl Bailey is the stables manager of the garrison club. On the day of the ambush he and Linda, daughter of a Cyprus based warrant officer, were towing a horsebox on the main Nicosia to Limassol road when the gunmen opened fire.

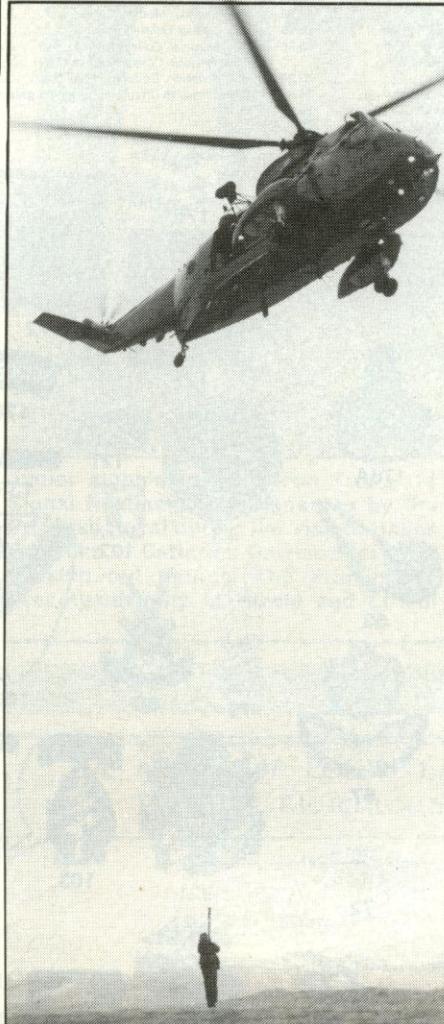
Swinging end to an era

AN ERA came to an end in swinging style at British Forces Falkland Islands when Brig Graham Coxon took his leave as the last Chief of Staff under current plans for the South Atlantic Garrison.

What he expected to be a straight forward last helicopter ride courtesy of 78 Squadron turned out to be rather more exhilarating. Instead of a simple landing and short walk from the Sea King to the air terminal, the brigadier - late Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment - found himself dangling from the end of the strop and being flown the last few yards with his feet dangling just off the ground!

Brig Coxon was able to look back on a year of great change for the soldiers, sailors and airmen on the Falklands. He master-minded the move from Stanley to the multi-million pound complex at Mount Pleasant.

Maj Gen Neil Carlier, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, said: "The contribution he made to the efficiency and welfare of Servicemen and women in the Falklands was immense."



DANGLING: Brig Graham Coxon

THE Mercian Volunteers, who provide two TA infantry battalions, are to be given more traditional titles next spring, 21 years after their formation.

- The 1st will become the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).
- The 2nd is to be the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th Foot).
- The Mercian Volunteers Band will become the Volunteer Band of the Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).

The main advantage of the change will be to tie battalions more closely to old county recruiting areas. A new battalion forming in the North West will become 3 Cheshire instead of 3 Mercian.

Inevitably the changes, approved by the Army Board, will raise the question of retaining other titles introduced since the war.

Although recruitment levels have continued to show a steady improvement over the past five years, the TA is currently short on establishment of 1,000 officers and 5,000 other ranks.

Figures for last May show 78,625 total strength of the TA, compared with 72,062 in May 1982.

Blandford forum

MORE than 100 academics from 60 universities and colleges attended an Army Engineering Symposium at the School of Signals, Blandford Forum.

The symposium is held every other year with the aim of explaining the recruitment, initial training and employment of graduate engineers in the Army, and is sponsored by the Director of Army Recruiting and hosted by the engineering corps of the Army - the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Dragon attack

MEN of The Royal Regiment of Wales based at Lemgo, West Germany warmed up for a training stint in Canada with two weeks of field firing culminating in Exercise Dragon's Fire.

Four Harriers from No 3(F) Squadron took part in the final part of the exercise on Sennelager Plain. Chieftain tanks, mortars and anti-tank weapons were also involved.



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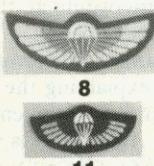
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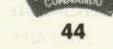
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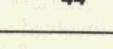
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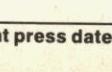
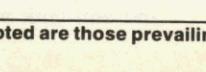
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Campaign ends penniless pay day

A FIVE year campaign to change an Army practice by which, in a soldier's terms, a man could find himself "skint" on pay day, has been successful.

It began in 1983 when SOLDIER families

page writer Anne Armstrong saw a pay slip which showed the figure £0.00 in the usual cash panel.

Automatic deductions levied on leaving a married quarter had left a family penniless.

Anne Armstrong took on the issue and other examples came to light.

Under a new system it will be possible for men to pay debts by instalments. Full details on page 18.

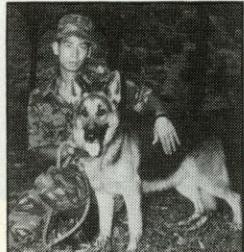
Border patrol rescue

DOG handler LCpl Kwong Kang-sing has for the second time saved the life of an illegal immigrant attempting to get to Hong Kong from China.

While on early morning patrol with C Coy, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles he spotted four people hiding near the Sham Chun River. They jumped into the fast flowing waters and attempted to swim back to the Chinese bank.

One of them, a 19-year-old girl, got into difficulties and was in danger of drowning when LCpl Kwong swam out to rescue her.

A few years ago he saved the life of an illegal immigrant who had been bitten by a poisonous snake at the border.



LCpl Kwong and dog Timber

Cyprus break

521 Company's exercise in Cyprus has given the unit's personnel an enjoyable opportunity of going overseas. Their normal role is confined to the UK where they are based at St David's Barracks, Bicester.

Their job is to provide pioneer support to the Ordnance Depot at Bicester and to the petroleum centre at West Moors, in Hampshire.

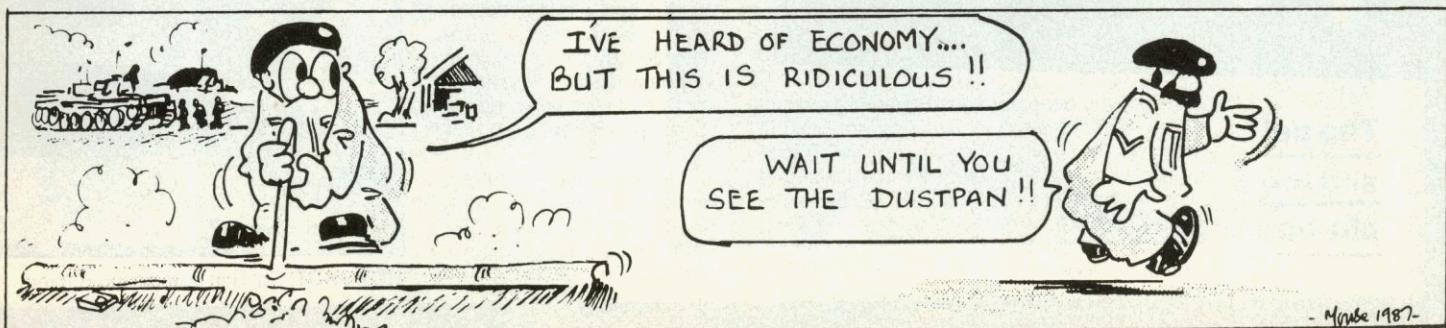
MOBB

by Mouse

Junior signalmen from Iron Troop, 11 Signal Regiment, are inspected by the Princess Royal during her visit to Helles Barracks in Catterick Garrison for their passing out parade. The Princess is accompanied by Lt Howie and Lt Col

David Collyer, CO of 11 Sig Regt.

The Princess Royal later opened the new £30m Ptarmigan Training Wing at Catterick. It houses one of the most advanced communications training centres in the UK.



Picture: Graham Crossland

Riddle of the trews has the Swiss puzzled



CONFUSING: Nichola (left) and Liz (right) in trews. The kilted drum major is Dave Scott

Broadsword brothers

BROTHERS who are seeing more of each other than they expected when they joined the Services are LCpl Pat Godson of 23 Postal and Courier Squadron RE based at Dhekelia, Cyprus, and Able Seaman "Camel" Godson, of the frigate HMS Broadsword. They met when the warship sailed into Akrotiri, Cyprus, en route for the Gulf and again when she called in on her way home.



WELL MET: Pat (left) and "Camel"

RON'S RIGHT ON TARGET!

CHRIS Bonass, British Aerospace senior photographer, could hardly believe his eyes.

He has seen a lot of men firing on the RA range in the Outer Hebrides but Sgt Ron Eames of T Battery, 12 Air Defence Regiment, was something special.

With his very first Rapier missile he knocked the target out of the sky, severing the towing cable just in front of its nose.

Later the same day Ron fired a second missile – and sent another target plunging into the sea with a direct hit. Both successes were recorded by Chris on video and he was so impressed he sent us photos taken by his stills photographer, Rob Keens.

"I reckon it helped that Sgt Eames is an ex-Swingfire man," he said. "All Sgt Eames said was 'It's not too bad, is it?'"



HOT SHOT: Sgt Ron Eames and Rapier

NO wonder the burghers of Bex, a little Swiss town near Geneva, were bemused. The men of the Scottish pipe band wore the kilt while two women members wore trousers.

Explanation: Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities OTC dress by long tradition as a Highland regiment. But they needed two drummers to make up their number when they flew to Bex to take part in the town's international air show and so borrowed them from Edinburgh and Heriot Watt UOTC.

Two girl drummers, Liz Lyon and Nichola Taylor, reported for duty wearing the trews of their own unit which follows the style of a Lowland regiment.

So now we know who wears the trousers north of the border!

The Bex air show, partly organised by the RAF Association, raised considerable funds for charity.

About £40,000 will go towards homes for ex-Servicemen on the Scottish border.



PROUD MOMENT: WO Tim Warren receives his BEM from the Duke of York

Double delight

A ROYAL gesture added to the occasion when WO Tim Warren of the Intelligence Corps received his British Empire Medal. Though it is rare for the BEM to be presented at a royal occasion, Prince Andrew agreed to perform the ceremony at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, when he and the Duchess of York arrived for the city's Searchlight Tattoo. It made the day doubly memorable for Tim's wife Jane and their children Nicholas (9), Matthew (7) and Katy (2) who were all present.

CASHING IN

JUST eight years after starting their sponsored runs over the famous television assault course, the Bury Fusiliers Krypton Committee has smashed the £100,000 barrier. Main benefactors are the Army Benevolent Fund and the Fusilier Aid Society.

After you, my dear . . .

A HUSBAND and wife were part of the REME freefall parachute team which jumped at the international air show at Bex, Switzerland. They were WO2 Brian Dyas, currently serving with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards at Tidworth, Hants, and his wife Joyce, a volunteer lieutenant with the QARANC (304 General Hospital V). Joyce is due to represent Britain at the world parachute championships in Brazil.

PEOPLE



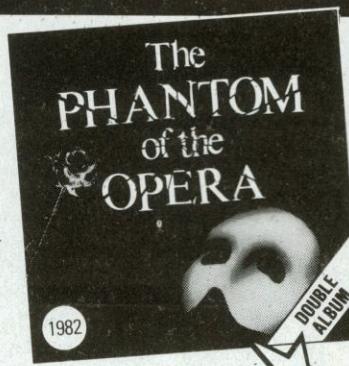
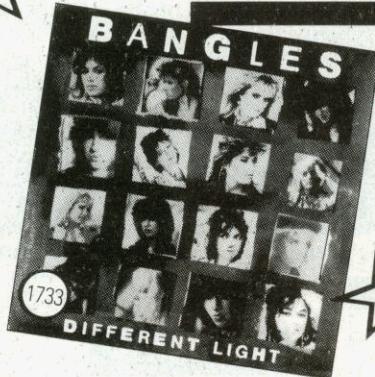
JUMPING TOGETHER: Brian and Joyce Dyas

The pet and the pin-up

ANY girl who becomes Miss Royal Regiment of Wales must expect her duties to include meeting the boys. And as far as Tracey Donoghue (19) is concerned that included Dewi, regimental pet of the 3rd (TA) Battalion. Tracey, who has relatives in the regiment, expects to visit the 1st Battalion in Lemgo, Germany, soon.



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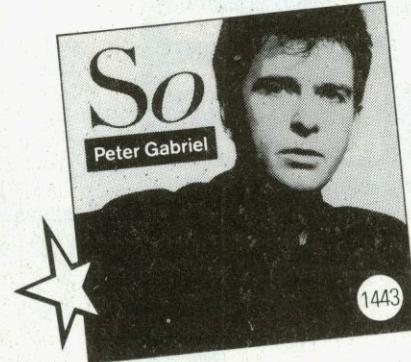
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Private Life - Love Is The Drug - Slave To The Rhythm.
3062 LEVEL 42 World Machine
Something About You - Leaving Me Now - Physical Presence.
1454 HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS Fore!
The Power Of Love - Stuck With You - Hip To Be Square - Naturally.
3974 MADONNA True Blue
Papa Don't Preach - Live To Tell - True Blue - La Isla Bonita.
1275 BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS Legend
No Woman No Cry - Shot The Sheriff - Jamming - One Love.
5721 ALISON MOYET All
Love Resurrection - All Cried Out - Invisible - and 6 more.
1877 ROBERT PALMER Riptide
Addicted To Love - Discipline Of Love - I Didn't Mean To Turn You On.
3758 PET SHOP BOYS Please
West End Girls - Love Comes Quickly - Opportunities - Suburbia.
3794 QUEEN Greatest Hits
Bohemian Rhapsody - Killer Queen - Somebody To Love.
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Caroline - Down, Down - Rockin' All Over The World - and more.
5652 TINA TURNER Private Dancer
Let's Stay Together - What's Love Got To Do With It - Help.
1819 U2 The Unforgettable Fire
Pride (In The Name Of Love) - A Sort Of Homecoming - 4th Of July.
3037 STEVE WINWOOD Back In The Highlife
Higher Love - Back In The Highlife - Freedom Ovverspill

All the sound and fury of battle

Computer experts at Hatfield Polytechnic have created a sound system to simulate battlefield conditions, complete with the appropriate noises, inside a "microdome", where soldiers can practise targeting Rapier ground-to-air missiles on attacking aircraft.

Ian Kennon, one of the Hatfield team working on the contract said: "The microdome offers the best alternative to real aircraft. Inside the five metre radius dome is a full Rapier tracking system identical to the real thing.

"Lasers are used to draw images of aircraft on to the walls of the dome. Projected on the walls are real scenes produced from photographs so that trainees can practise tracking aircraft in different locations, for example in the mountains of Switzerland or at Port Stanley airport.

"If the aircraft flies behind an obstacle, a control tower or mountain, it will disappear."

Specialists from the polytechnic's School of Information Sciences are working on a contract with British Aerospace who have constructed the "microdome" at nearby Letchworth.

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Rock sappers celebrated by new issue

The long association of the Royal Engineers with Gibraltar has been marked in the corps' bicentenary year with the issue of three postage stamps.

Much of the credit for saving the rock for Britain must go to the Company of Military Artificers who were later absorbed into the corps.

In 1782 a team of them (under a sergeant-major inspired by a cash prize) tunneled a gallery into solid stone to enable six 24-pounder cannon to be mounted at a height of 600 feet.

Others worked with the

gunners to build kilns which could supply sizzling cannon balls at the rate of 100 an hour.

When the combined Franco-Spanish fleet attacked Gibraltar nine out of ten floating batteries (hulks reinforced with timber and covered with soaked cow hides) were set on fire by the British "red hot potatoes". They blew up and a boarding party sank the tenth.

The stamps are of a more peaceful nature - they show the stadium of the Victoria Sports Complex which was built by the RE, the casket and Freedom scroll granted to the corps in 1971 and the corps monogram.

Pocket poem!

It is surprising what old soldiers find in their garden sheds!

Former 6th Airborne Division signaller Gordon Cockram of Christchurch, Dorset came across his old Dennison smock and found in one of the pockets his face veil and an age-stained poem which he thinks was written to celebrate the work of the paras after they were sent out from the UK following the American reverses in the Ardennes offensive.

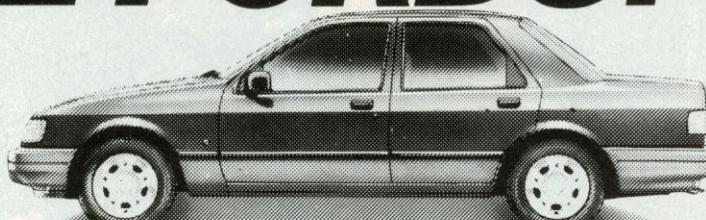
Here's a sample verse:
And glory how they showed
their heart,
These sky men of all levels,
How truly did they earn their
name,
These glorious Red Devils.

Services art show

Are you there Cpl Constable and Pte Picasso? Here's a reminder that the 56th annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society will be staged in the National Army Museum from November 19 to 29.

Ex-Servicemen and women are eligible too, there is a £150 price for the best entry, and applications for entry forms should be directed to Capt W Blake, Assistant Secretary, AFAS, D Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea SW3 4SE.

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GRANADA

S 19



Royal Anglians get their first taste of the American M16 Automatic rifle

HOT STUFF!

MEN of C Company, 6 (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, won't forget their summer camp in a hurry.

Under the command of Maj Bob West, the Ipswich unit, with platoons from Lowestoft, Cambridge, Wisbech and Bedford, travelled to America to take part in an exchange programme with

company C 2nd Battalion, 293rd Infantry, of the Indiana National Guard.

While 150 Americans trained in the inclement weather of Otterburn, Northumberland the 150 East Anglians experienced the dry, dusty heat of Camp Atterbury, 40 miles south of Indianapolis.

Exercise Volunteer Warrior



Left - a long way from their native East Anglia, men of C Company on patrol under the scorching Indiana sun

was based on a theme of integration between the TA and National Guard.

Maj West and 2IC Capt Tony McArdle worked to create a mutually beneficial training programme for the two units by swapping platoons between the companies.

Before the transfers could take place, there was a three day familiarisation programme

me as the National Guard provided C Company with much of the kit required for the field exercise.

Weapons familiarisation played a major part in the training. The M16 was issued to each man, and two range days organised to familiarise the men with a rifle considerably lighter than the SLR and with much less recoil. Sections were issued with the M60 machine gun, and there was an opportunity to use Multiple Integrated Laser equipment.

To complete the transformation from British soldier to National Guard look alike the crowning glory came with the provision of American steel helmets and US green cam sticks.

But no soldier could leave the cantonment area of Camp Atterbury without being aware of the perils to come. The 33,000 acres of dense

woodland and scrub, the National Guard explained, were full of bugs, ticks, snakes, poison ivy, and innumerable other dangers. The most feared of all was the chigger - a tiny tick with an unpleasant habit of crawling up trouser legs or sleeves to find a warm area in which to burrow under the skin.

Field activities included night patrolling and offensive and defensive tactics. Digging in to the solid, dry ground proved exhausting, as once

Field activities included night patrolling and offensive and defensive tactics. Digging in to the solid, dry ground proved exhausting, as once



Pte Andy Nicholls tries a US Army jeep for size under the guidance of Sgt 1st Class Don Lambert, Indiana National Guard



Phoning home - Col Sgt Gary Long (left) and Cpl Brian Welton from Ipswich establish a radio link from Camp Atterbury, Indiana to Otterburn training area, Northumberland

R Anglian TA unit teams up with the Indiana National Guard

the sun came up in Indiana, temperatures quickly soared. Before undertaking the second major phase of field training, the weekend was left free for sightseeing, and in many cases visiting the homes of new National Guard friends.

"The Americans were incredibly generous with their hospitality," said Sgt John Negus of the recce platoon.

"I had invitations for a pool party in Columbus, to go home to the country with one of the guys, and a weekend party."

LCpl Chris Butterworth from Ipswich found the sheer size of the area amazing, and voiced an opinion of Atterbury commented on by many of the British soldiers: "It was marvellous, but I kept expecting to see Sgt Bilko appear round the next corner!"

"The exchange was an unqualified success" said Maj West.

qualifications level we have gained from the camp. It would take a year to get to this standard on combat engineering alone."

During the second week of camp, visitors provided a diversion from the classroom. First there was the Duke of Gloucester, the regiment's Honorary Colonel, and later Gen Sir Hugh Beach, Chief Royal Engineer, make a flying visit from London. A special



It's a small world! Sgt Jacqui Morris, an MT examiner with 410 Troop RCT, tests Spr Andrew Smallwell of 225 Fd Sqn and discovers that Andrew's barracks are only a few miles from her home in Birmingham

parade was held to mark the retirement as Joint Honorary Colonel of Colonel Ted Smeeden, a former CO. Col Smeeden handed over to Brig John Hooper.

The Royal Monmouthshire, Royal Engineers (Militia) is the senior regiment of the Territorial Army. It is the sole survivor of the militia regiments which traced their origins to the trained bands and general levies of medieval and Tudor times.

You're never too old to go back to school

WHEN it comes to building bridges, the Royal Monmouthshire, Royal Engineers (Militia) is up there with the best of them. But what happens when you are short of HGV drivers to get you there, plant operators to smooth your path or even qualified combat engineers to blow a way through?

That was the quandary facing Lt Col John Robertson, CO of R MON RE, the senior regiment of the Territorial Army, when planning the annual summer camp from their historic castle barracks in Monmouth, Gwent.

"Over the years we have concentrated on sapper training," said Lt Col Robertson, "and found that as a result we became short of key trades, such as plant operators, drivers, dispatch riders, even individual training as combat engineers.

"Even our NCOs and young officers had necessarily to neglect their individual skills in the face of the need for squadron training.

"So this year I decided that we would go back to the classroom and give everyone an opportunity to get some qualifications under their belts."

For this reason, the Raj-like Redford Barracks with its modern classrooms, and nearby ranges was chosen as the best possible venue - despite the long haul from South Wales and Birmingham.

"It was really the barracks environment that we were looking for," said Col Robertson. "At Redford we can take on 28 courses, everything that we need to keep the regiment going. I don't think that we could get this kind of combination anywhere else, so it was well worth the slog up from the south."

"It would take months and months of weekend training to achieve the



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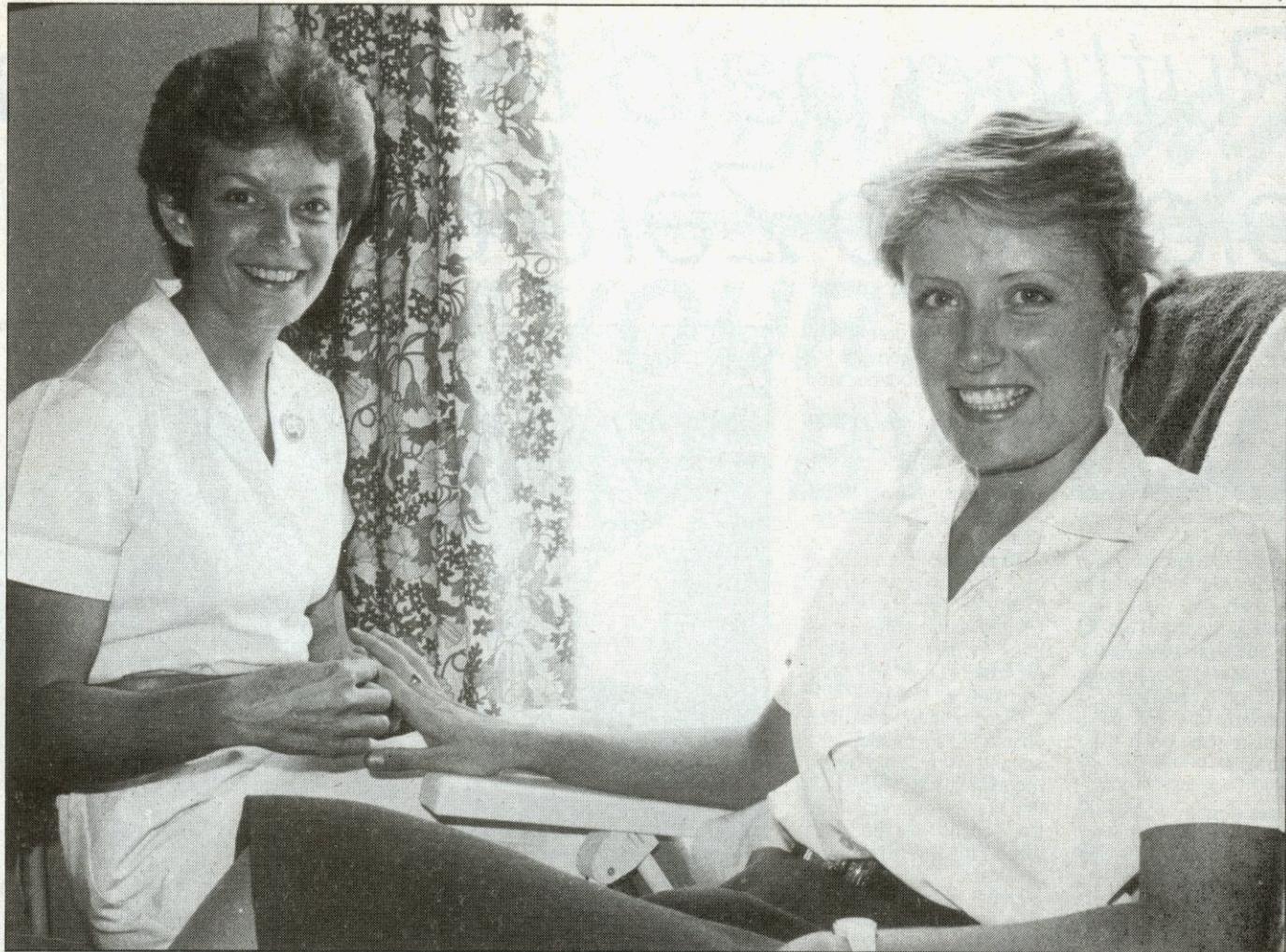
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Cpl Hilary Parsons (right) undergoes a manicure at the hands of Cpl Margaret Graham in Maggie's Beauty Shop

THE 96 WRAC girls who make up 10 Company based at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot have issued an open invitation to SOLDIER letter writer Veronica M Wilcock of Cookridge, Leeds. And they have promised her the full four star treatment from their resident beautician - absolutely free of charge, writes Graham Smith.

Veronica wrote to SOLDIER (August 24) to ask where all the pretty WRAC girls had gone. She put forward the view that equality was to blame, as were those "dreadful combat suits with pulled down berets and not a hair in sight."

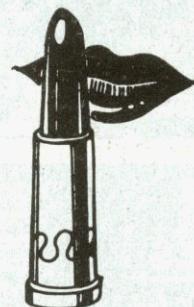
But 10 Coy's resident beautician, Cpl Margaret Graham, disagrees strongly.

Margaret, who runs Maggie's Beauty Shop for two hours every Tuesday night in the Duchess of Kent Barracks, offering panaceas to pulchritude and free advice, says: "WRAC girls of today work in far different environments to the days when she was in the WRAC."

"A girl cannot take blusher, toners and other beauty aids on exercise when - like the men - she often has to wash in a bucket."

"I wrote to SOLDIER (see Margaret's letter on Page 4) because I am a driver by trade, up to HGV expertise, and I resent her implication that all WRAC drivers are not very feminine."

A slender 7½ stone career girl, Cpl Graham had the full support of her 3 Para husband, Geordie Graham, as she put her eye liner pencil down and picked up a pen



to compose her reply. "He was quite hurt by the implication," she says.

Cpl Graham, seven years in the Army, has invested two years in the craft of being a beautician which she describes as a hobby while she awaits formal recognition. Her course has been paid for by the Army.

Company commander Maj Jacquie

Lindsay has also taken up the cudgels on behalf of her girls by extending an invitation to former Cpl Wilcock.

She wrote: "I was saddened to see that

PRETTY ANGRY!



Cpl Graham with WO2 Margaret Smith of the Welfare Office

you feel that members of the corps have lost their femininity. I should also add that the Servicewomen in my company were mortified to read your comments. I would like to invite you to visit 10 Company to see some very feminine Servicewomen who are maintaining the best traditions of our corps."

So, Veronica M Wilcock of Leeds, it is time to check those stocking seams, wield the lipstick and blusher, and get on down to Aldershot from where the ladies of 10 Company have gently flung down the gauntlet.

There, in your own words, you may see "our pretty WRAC girls at work and play in uniform and out of it looking like women".

Beautician Margaret Graham will also be on hand to help out with some reclining sun-lounger facial massage, eyelash tint, manicure and pedicure. Normal charge for the services is £7 the lot - for you it's free!

Putting paid to the bad old Zero Zero option

THE NEW Instalment Rate of Recovery scheme (IRR) was due to start on October 1.

Under the old system when a soldier left a quarter he was presented with a P1956 by the Accommodation Service Unit.

He signed the form and whatever the sum came to (for damages etc) was deducted from his pay at the end of the month regardless of the amount.

Under the new system a maximum rate for initial deduction has been fixed as follows –

Ptes	£80
LCpl and Cpl's	100
Sgt's and SSGts	£130
WOs	£150

The outstanding amounts over and above these figures may be paid by instalment.

Thus, when P1956s are presented soldiers will also be offered an IRR application form.

System that left families penniless

I AM pleased to report the fading of a nightmare. This month should see the end of cases in which soldiers have received "Nil" pay slips on being posted.

When they were first drawn to my attention in 1983 I found it hard to believe that such a thing could happen.

Then I was sent a number of statements showing that recipients had been subjected to so many reductions in their pay that in the panel on the slip marked Pay Account Balance or Bank Payment appeared the shattering figure: £0.00.

Some were making regular payments to building societies towards buying a house, an exercise in creating confidence ... until shattered!

Everyone expects some



PAULA AND PALS RAISE A SMILE

HOW many people does it take to carry the cheque book? That's the obvious question! Answer: anyone with a big heart. And Paula Brearey (third from left,

standing) has certainly got that. A member of Catterick Garrison Youth Club, she received this outsize cheque for £500 to help provide furnishings and

equipment for a local day centre for old folk. Help the Aged encourages projects between young and old, and this will help the OAPs of Hipswell village.

In my view ...

Automatic deductions were made without warning by regimental pay offices – without regard to the fact that a soldier might have standing orders to meet, school fees, car repayments, insurance ... or a family to feed!

Paying for damages is one thing if you've got the



Payslip proof from a July 1983 statement

charges to be made when a family moves out of a quarter, but these can be considerable. A stained mattress – and even the best children can have accidents – or a burn on a carpet or a drink spilled at a party can cost one dear. It is not a question of neglect. It's simply life today.

The facility to pay over a period for excess baggage was introduced, but nothing was done about the handover vouchers.

I first raised the question with the Ministry of Defence some years ago when it became clear that the addition of an excess baggage charge to handover costs was making life very hard for some individuals.

"Nil" pay slips ought to be a thing of the past and should never have been allowed in the first place.

Soldiers are entitled to a minimum rate of pay. It says so in the regulations ... it's there in black and white in the Manual of Pay Duties.

Three categories are

entitled to 75 per cent of "relevant emoluments" and two to 50 per cent.

Despite the rules "Nil" pay slips were issued, and not surprisingly some families got into debt.

The new Instalment Rate of Recovery (details in these columns) should help solve the problem – though it does not apply to officers.

I wonder why it took so long for an organ of government which prides itself on its efficiency to make a simple change in policy and procedure which would have prevented many families from suffering financial distress.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

FAVOURITISM DENIED BY PLSU

MANY wives have asked how to apply for jobs with British concerns in West Germany and Berlin. An officer at the Pioneer Labour Support Unit (PLSU) directorate at HQ BAOR has sent the following replies to questions.

Q Who advertises jobs?

A The PLSU should be seen as the personnel office of a firm – the Army.

A personnel office decides when it wishes to advertise and so do the PLSUs.

When there are sufficient suitable potential applicants who have already been pre-interviewed there is no need to advertise and indeed it is counterproductive to do so because that would increase the number of disappointed dependants as well as being a major waste of expensive time.

Q Who decides who goes for interviews, the PLSU or the employer?

A In some cases the PLSU is also the employer.

In general the PLSU determines the short list from those qualified to enable the employer to interview the best candidates.

Of course, that procedure can give rise to accusations of favouritism but that is not the case.

The new Instalment Rate of Recovery (details in these columns) should help solve the problem – though it does not apply to officers.

I wonder why it took so long for an organ of government which prides itself on its efficiency to make a simple change in policy and procedure which would have prevented many families from suffering financial distress.

Q Who can go on courses in North West Europe and the UK?

A The responsibility for proposing course attendance for dependants lies

with the OC of the unit and will be related exclusively to the need to improve skills for a present or pre-planned employment.

Q What are the different grades for clerical, catering, teaching?

A As laid down in the Collection Tariff Agreement, they are: Clerical – C grades; Catering – H grades; Teaching – LET scales as laid down by Civil Secretariat.

Q What are the differences in the status of civilians?

A Briefly the categories you mention are:

(i) **UK based civilians** are personnel recruited in the UK, such as teachers and members of the civil service.

(ii) **Directly employed labour** are individuals living on the German

economy and paying normal German taxes and social contributions. In the main they are German nationals employed by us.

(iii)

Locally engaged teachers are suitably qualified dependants employed as teachers in our schools.

(iv)

Temporary work can vary but on the whole means employment for a definitive period of time or as a replacement for a sick employee.

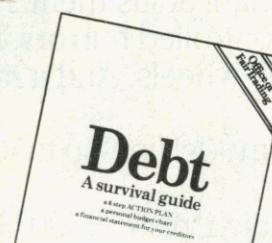
Q Are all the forms and the procedures universal?

A Basically the forms are the same throughout BAOR although local variations do occur. When the ADP system is in operation the recruiting forms will be universal.

Q Where are the jobs listed in any one area?

A As a result of the unemployment situation there are very few vacancies for any length of time, except where special skills and qualifications are required. The PLSU will know where such vacancies exist.

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LEADING THE WAY IN CAR TECHNOLOGY.

Some 200 years ago sappers in this type of uniform set up measuring instruments on the roof of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. WO Simon Mears (with sash), Spr Bob Spruce (with antenna) and LCpl Alex Skeil (by chimney) did the same with the latest equipment used by 19 Topo Squadron

Army's first map maker was right . . .

IT COULD have been quite embarrassing for the general, in a manner of speaking. He just might have made a bloomer, writes **Bill Moore**.

Who? General William Roy, of course.

General Roy may be regarded as the father of army map making and indeed of the Ordnance Survey.

After the failure of Bonnie Prince

Charlie's '45 rebellion he spent nine years on a military survey of the Highlands – fulfilling the quaint British custom of always preparing for the war that has just been fought.

Later, with difficulty, he persuaded the authorities to carry out a national survey.

While he was a member of the Army Board on fortification the Director of the Paris Observatory suggested there was a difference in calculations produced in France and at Greenwich because the exact position of the two observatories had not been correctly calculated.

Gen Roy set to work to fix, in conjunction with the French, the relative positions of the two establishments.

Paris IS still where he said it was!

Starting with a base line – a chain on Hounslow Heath – he commenced his measurements with a series of triangulations, a mathematical method for calculating distances.

In order to see this through he decided to re-design and replace all existing instruments and had a special theodolite built.

Today's version of the device is a one-man load. Gen Roy's kit weighed 200lbs.

Nevertheless, it was used on a scaffold erected on the roof of the Old Royal Observatory and it was there that one of the latest pieces of equipment used by 42



LCpl Alex Skeil, in 18th century uniform, uses a 20th century geodimeter to measure distances. The old uniforms (blue coat, white pants and waistcoats) were said to be historically accurate except for the facings which were red and should have been orange



Survey Engineer Group was set up as part of the bi-centenary celebrations of the Royal Engineers.

No bit of chain and signal fires on distant hills for the men of 19 Topo Squadron. They bounced impulses off low-orbit space satellites. Capt Barry Jones, Cpl Jesse Grassom and LCpl Mick Openshaw carried out observations in Paris at the same time.

In 1789 Roy's figures didn't quite agree with those of the French and a further measurement was carried out more than 20 years later which gave a fractionally more accurate figure.

The calculations made by 19 Squadron (still to be analysed and confirmed) would appear to show the old soldier was, in relative terms, very close to the mark. It was a brilliant achievement in anyone's book.

Sappers, of course, are likely to tell you that's the sort of chaps they are.

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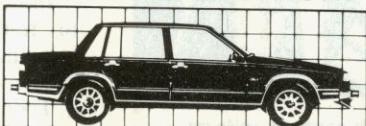
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Writer **Mervyn Wynne Jones** and photographer **Terry Champion** have been visiting the . . .

JUNGLE JOCKS

WHILE patrolling the border to the south of the country, Sgt Charlie Duncan and members of A Company, 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders, suddenly found themselves with an emergency on their hands.

Seriously ill and bleeding heavily after the birth of her daughter, an Indian woman lay barely conscious in the filth and deprivation typical of many Belizean homes.

They gave her a drip and, having established a radio link between themselves and the battalion doctor at Rideau Camp, were soon ministering further life-saving first aid.

A Land Rover was sent to fetch the woman but was stopped in its tracks by a fallen tree. There was nothing else for it. The patrol put together a makeshift stretcher and carried her the five miles out of the jungle.

This is just one of the unusual and occasionally bizarre incidents encountered by the Jocks on patrol in Belize and another dimension to their "hearts and minds" role in reassuring and helping remote and often primitive border communities.

Last in Belize in 1976-77 - a tour marred by the deaths of several men in a Puma helicopter crash - the 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders started their current tour in April.

Headquarters and Alpha companies have been based at Airport Camp, home to the majority of British Forces Belize, while the other companies have been at Holdfast, Rideau and Salamanca camps.

● Turn to next page



A patrol from Holdfast Camp making headway through the jungle. They are carrying M16 Armalites ideal for jungle warfare because they are lighter, shorter nosed and have an automatic capability. From the front they are Pte Greg MacLennan, LCpl Les Gray, Pte David Mackay and, almost hidden by the foliage, Pte Mark Burgess

Sgt Charlie Duncan of the Queen's Own Highlanders with the Indian woman and baby whose lives his patrol saved when complications arose during the birth. The patrol treated her by following advice given over their radio, and then carried her out of the jungle on a makeshift stretcher

Shortage of water – or too much – can be a problem for Jocks

HACKING through thick jungle is tiring and time consuming but above all it is hot work. A man will, on average, consume between 12 and 20 pints of water each day while on patrol.

Before setting out he must learn how to cope with the vagaries and hazards of the jungle and the sheer headache of navigating through mile after mile of dense undergrowth.

Every infantryman arriving in Belize is given two weeks' training by colleagues flown out in advance for specialist training.

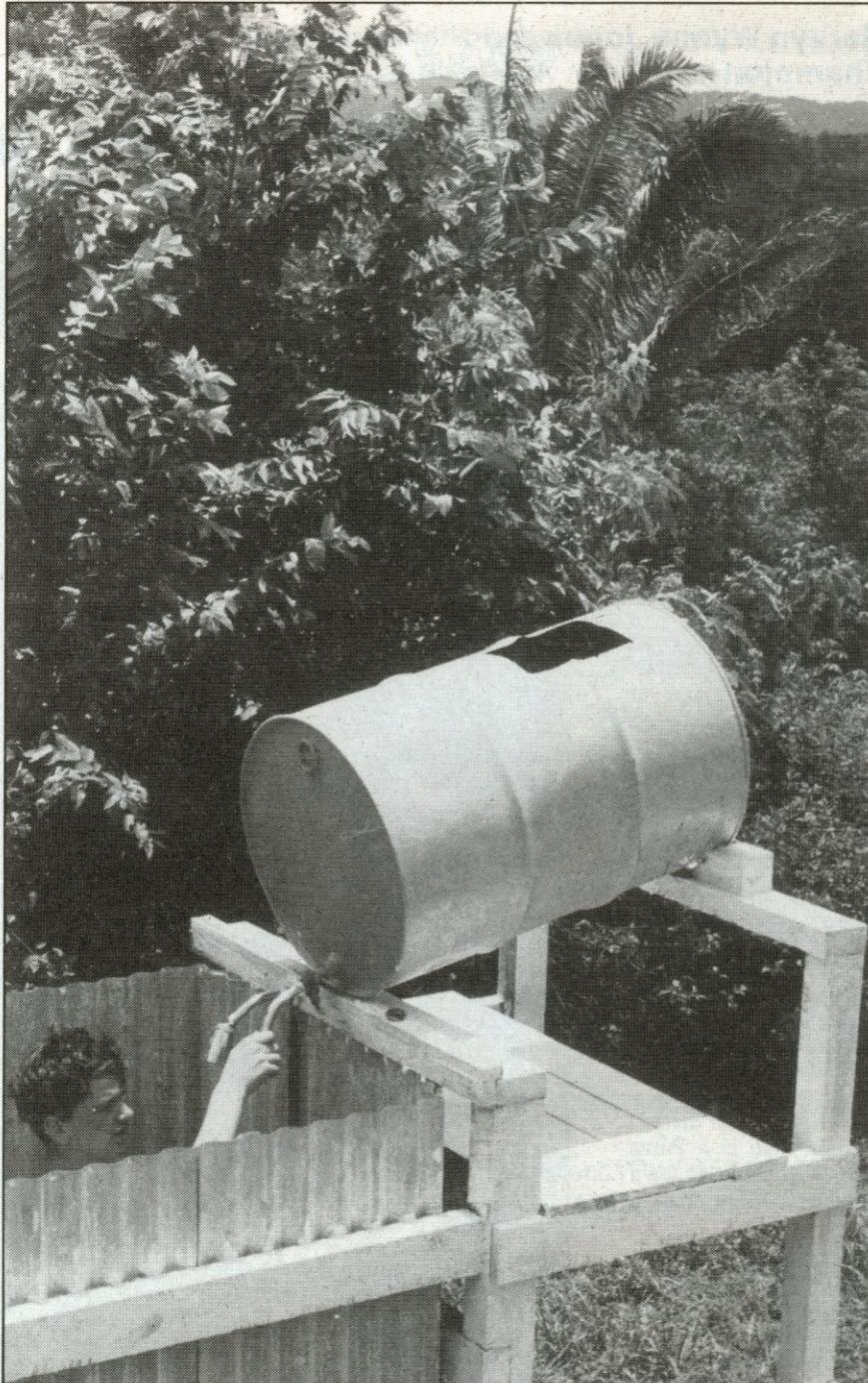
"The aim of the training," said Lt Giles Neville, D Coy 1 Q O HLDRS, "is to learn to live, fight and survive in the jungle.

"Survival is not a real problem because we take rations with us, but in the dry season the lack of water can be tricky. A lot of time is spent on map reading because you can often only see a few feet ahead and you have got to rely on compasses."

"We also do a lot of tactical work such as how to react in the event of a contact or what to do if one stumbled on an enemy encampment," said Lt Neville.

Patrols are frequently inserted by boat and by Puma helicopter and serve one main purpose: deterrence.

Like the four main observation posts at Cayo, Jalacte, Cadenas



Above – All mod cons, even at a hilltop border observation post! An improvised open-air shower at Cayo OP which overlooks the Guatemalan border two kilometres away

Right – Horses are occasionally hired when rainfall makes jungle tracks impassable to vehicles. Cpl Jim Elliot of Support Company, 1 Q O HLDRS, hired one from local Indians while on patrol near Jalacte OP

and Hunting Caye, all patrols are completely overt and are tailored to let the Guatemalan armed forces know that they are around.

Patrols go out for up to seven days, passing through isolated communities and offering medical assistance where needed, keeping an eye open for illegal immigrants and drugs crops, and

updating maps and gathering intelligence.

The lack of water may be a problem during the dry season but quite the reverse is true during the other half of the year. More than 170 inches of rainwater fall on some of the wetter regions annually and when it rains everything stops – tracks are

turned into quagmires and flash floods sweep away bridges.

Cpl John Sheridan, S Coy, told SOLDIER: "It's like being under a cloak; it's hot, steamy and sweaty and sometimes you are lucky if you make three kilometres during a day."

LCpl Les Gray, B Coy, added: "It is hard work, there is no doubt



about it, and every step you take you get tangled up in some undergrowth. If you go in there and fight the jungle you will lose so you must always follow the flow of the vegetation."

"The heat and terrain can get on people's nerves and it can be claustrophobic, especially when it is absolutely still in there."

Somewhat your senses become far more acute and your sense of smell becomes sharper."

Different from the typical BAOR patrol which is essentially defensive, a jungle patrol with its counter-insurgency, anti-guerrilla type role is a popular component of the operational regime of Belize.

spend the entire six months tour in one place. Arguments continue as to the relative merits and disadvantages of this scheme and there is lively discussion as to which is the better posting.

Airport Camp is a sprawling and characterless complex but has distinct advantages in being just a boat trip away from the barrier reef and a short distance from Mexico where many spend weekends and leave.

Holdfast, its sister camp in Battle Group North, is beyond Belmopan – the country's new capital – and enjoys a greater atmosphere of intimacy because of its smaller size. Access to the same facilities as Airport Camp is relatively easy.

Headquarters of Battle Group South is at Rideau Camp, not unlike Holdfast, and has the benefit of being near Punta Gorda and the sea. As at Holdfast, elements of the Royal Engineers and Royal

Artillery units are based there with the infantry company.

Perhaps the most popular, and certainly the most inaccessible, camp is that at Salamanca. Surrounded by towering walls of jungle, the camp houses just one infantry company and enjoys good relations with the local populace.

A lot of this is as a direct result of the

● From Page 23

The country is split tactically into Battle Groups North and South which are divided geographically by the range of Maya Mountains. These mountains are frequently used for training and, as one officer put it, Mountain Pine Ridge looks "homesickly like Scotland."

However, any delusions to that effect are soon dispelled when you take to the air and see the vast tracts of dense, often

It's not a bit like Scotland!

unexplored, jungle which covers the whole country.

The troops are there to deter the Guatemalans from stepping across the border and to support and help train the locally recruited Belize Defence Force, a

unit of roughly battalion strength with British Loan Service personnel attached.

Deterrence – at its most potent in the shape of four RAF Harriers based at Belize International Airport – can be a hot and sticky business for soldiers on foot patrol in the jungle or manning one of the border observation posts.

Each company has its own specific area of responsibility. They used to move from camp to camp to ring the changes but now

Guatemala dispute dates from last century

COLUMBUS may well have discovered the coast of Belize in 1502 while on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies.

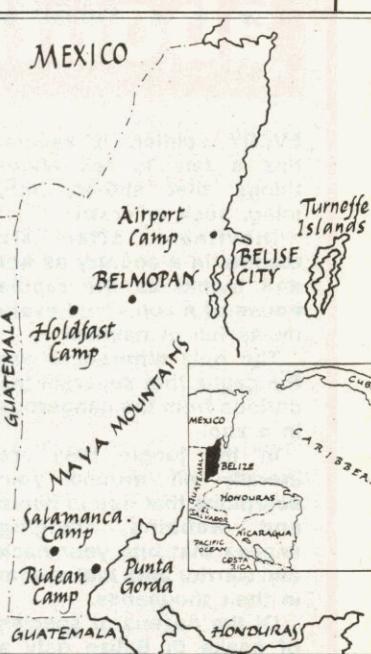
British settlements were first established in 1638 and were subjected to repeated attacks by the Spanish who claimed sovereignty over the area.

These attacks continued until 1789 when a Spanish naval force was convincingly beaten in St George's Bay – not far from today's Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre at St George's Caye.

In 1862 the area was recognised by Britain as a colony and called British Honduras even as negotiations over border demarcation continued with neighbouring Guatemala who disputed Britain's ownership.

Guatemala maintained her bid for an outlet to the sea and in 1948 – encouraged by Argentine claims to the Falkland Islands – prepared a coup against British Honduras. Two Royal Navy cruisers were sent to Belize and the crisis was averted.

The territorial dispute continued and in the early 1970s – when the threat of



invasion loomed again – British troops were sent in to ward off aggression.

Their numbers have since been reduced but a combined force of Army and RAF personnel remains at key locations across the country.

Officially renamed Belize in 1973, the country – no bigger than Wales and boasting a population of just 150,000 – was granted its independence in September 1981.

BELIZE

Watch out, the nasties are about!

EVERY soldier, it seems, has a tale to tell about things that slither, bite, sting, suck or crawl.

Inevitable after six months in a country as hot and humid as the reptile house of a zoo – and every bit as full of nasties!

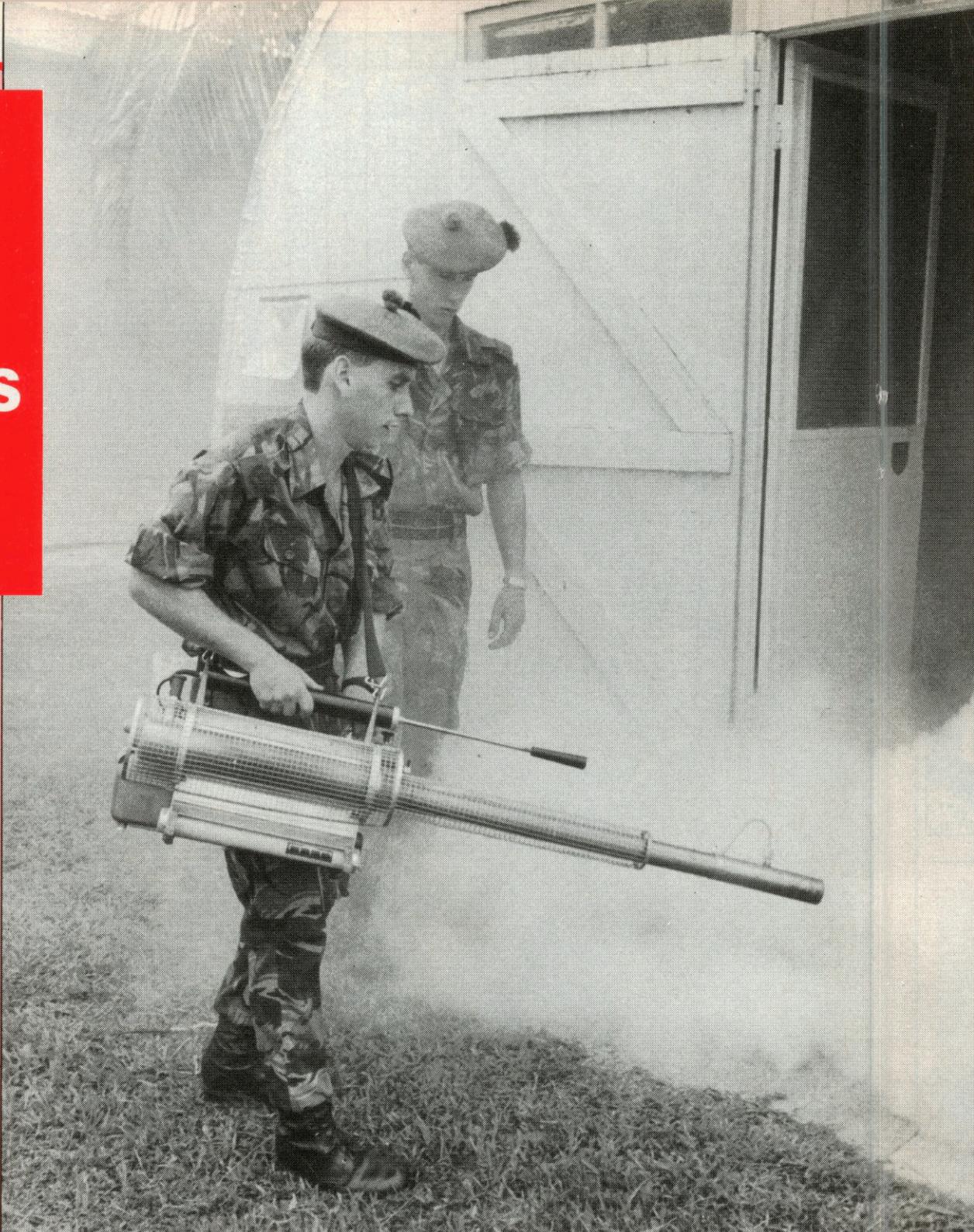
The only differences are the cages that separate the curious from the dangerous in a zoo.

In the jungle they are literally all around you: scorpions that lurk in boots and webbing, hanging snakes that bite your neck and warrior ants that swarm in their thousands.

Of the dozens of species of snake in Belize only a handful are venomous. However, they are among the most deadly in the world and include mambas, coral snakes and the dreaded fer-de-lance which is so aggressively protective of its territory that it has been seen to attack tyres and tracks on passing vehicles.

Tarantula spiders abound, particularly in the camps to the south and west, and many are kept as pets and trophies and fed with the tiny chit-chat lizards that teem in Belize.

The wise jungle patrolman shakes out his boots before putting them on in



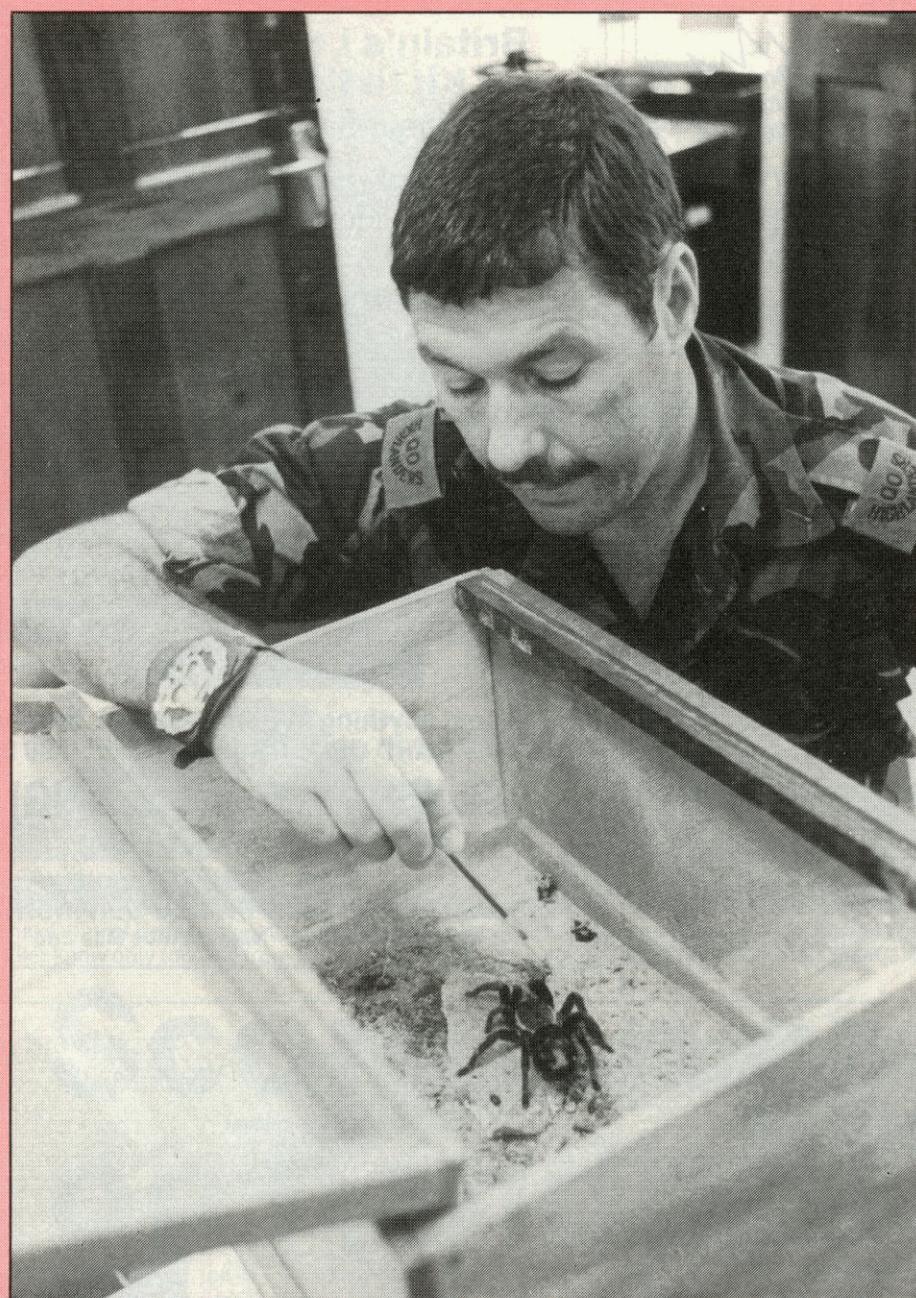
the morning. Nor should he relax too much at camp. Many a night foray to attend to the call of nature is punctuated by a shout of alarm as black blobs on furry legs are spotted in corridors and latrines.

The perils of living in an equatorial climate are not always so obvious and among the most troublesome of the jungle fauna are the mosquitoes and sand flies whose bite is merciless and quite out of proportion

to their size. Perhaps the most ghoulish of these airborne nasties is the fly that lays its eggs under your skin and whose larva – known by all as the beef worm – continues to grow inside to

a size of an inch or more until the tell-tale swelling persuades the victim to seek treatment. However the abundant wildlife is a source of delight and fascination for many members of the

garrison in Belize. Monkeys have been known to throw fruit and branches at jungle patrols, and crocodiles are frequently spotted along the lattice-work of waterways. Unruffled at finding a python in his sangar at Cayo OP west of Holdfast Camp, one Jock told SOLDIER: "It's great here. You can lie in bed at night and listen to the bull frogs, cicadas, toucans and night owls. It's certainly an experience."



Above – "I've always had a fascination for spiders!" – WO2 John Bailey ORQMS with Boris, one of his pet tarantulas

Left – It is a matter of some debate as to which is regarded with more dread, the portable and extremely noisy device that belches out vast quantities of foul smelling insecticide or the mosquitoes it is designed to beat into submission! Pte Paul Moody (left) and Pte Graham Mackay do their nightly round at Holdfast Camp

From Page 25

company medics who are joined by the regimental doctor for weekly surgeries in the neighbouring Indian communities. Common complaints include skin diseases, abscesses and wounds inflicted in accidents with machetes.

Salamanca was also the scene of one of the happiest moments of the tour when Cpl William Mackintosh, Support Company, was married to Carole, an

Salamanca wedding

Inverness nurse, who flew out for a "dream" wedding.

The entire company turned out to watch the ceremony held outside the officers'

mess beneath a palm leaf shelter. The couple were married by battalion padre the Rev Ian Warwick and later tucked into a tiered cake baked by Sgt Alec Thompson ACC.

Each platoon, at each company location, takes it in turn to spend a week either patrolling, training or mounting guard.

Boredom, as always, is the greatest enemy and each platoon commander has to come up with a platoon project.

These usually take the form of adventurous training or community aid schemes.

Each soldier spends a week on St George's Caye, an island nine miles east of Belize City. The Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre is based there and the men can try a number of water sports including surf boarding and sub-aqua diving.

All are encouraged to make the most of

their proximity to Caribbean, American and Mexican resorts by spending their two weeks of R and R at one of these places.

Lt Col Peter Grant-Peterkin, CO 1 QO HLDRS, said: "Belize offers an insight into a completely new world and a different way of life.

"I believe the posting offers unrivalled training opportunities and poses challenges to platoon and patrol commanders that are simply not possible in the United

Dog patrol nips theft in the bud . . .

FORTY-TWO teeth exerting 100lbs pressure per square inch during a 35mph impact will tear the flesh from a man's arm and render it useless for the rest of his life.

Imparted with some reverence by dog handler Cpl Stuart Gill, 1 QO HLDRS, this cheery titbit no doubt explains the dramatic decrease in thefts of military property at Airport Camp since the formation of a dog unit there.

Pilfering by intruders prompted the purchase two years ago of several Alsatian dogs which were allowed to roam compounds around the camp.

Their success in deterring would-be thieves led to the formation this year of a Force Dog Unit whose handlers are drawn from the resident infantry battalion.

The handlers – all volunteers – are trained at the RAVC centre in Melton Mowbray and are on call all day, every day, to react to incidents. Two dogs patrol the perimeter of the camp each night.

Dogs have their own individual temperaments which must be matched to those of their handlers. The volunteers from the QO HLDRS will stay in Belize an extra two or three weeks to ensure a smooth changeover of dogs to handlers when those of the next battalion, 2 Para, arrive.

Kingdom and in BAOR.

"The climate is frankly inhospitable so people must be fit.

"There are marvellous opportunities for adventurous training and the importance of two weeks' rest and recreation cannot be underestimated.

"There are disadvantages of course, not least the separation which can put a great strain on families," said Col Grant-Peterkin.

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Crewmen have almost been yanked from their seats by hanging creepers as (from left) Tpr Steven Wallis, LCpl Martin Rooney and Cpl Rab Miller know only too well from painful experience of jungle patrols in their Scorpion. Inset - A Mayan temple.

Scorpion crews on bandit alert

AN ancient city deep in the Belizean jungle became the focus of an armoured patrol when gun-toting grave robbers threatened the lives of archaeologists working there.

Scorpions of the British Forces' recce troop - currently Imphal Troop, The Royal Scots

Dragoon Guards - spent several days in the jungle surrounding the 14th century ruins.

They were there to deter the get-rich-quick gangs who hoped to cash in on the ornaments of gold, greenstone, jade and copper found buried on similar sites of historic interest.

The site is one of several in Belize built on by the Mayan Indians who, like the Aztecs, worshipped a variety of gods and often practised animal and human sacrifice.

The recce troop, like the infantry and other units watching the border with Guatemala, frequently mount "hearts and minds" patrols to reassure the local community of their presence.

Imphal Troop - the rest of whose regiment are at Tidworth in Hampshire - are based at Holdfast Camp but maintain a two vehicle recce station at Rideau Camp in support of Battle Group South.

Brave Andrew

Spr Andrew Quinn, Royal Engineers, has been commended by Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, C in C UKLF, for his prompt and brave action when attempting to save the life of a sapper who had been electrocuted on the top of a metal clad wall in Belize.



A makeshift signpost reminds the men of Imphal Troop, Scots D G, just how far they are from home



It's all go for Gurkha sappers

WITH little opportunity to flex their underwater combat engineering and construction skills in Belize, the divers of 69

Gurkha Independent Field Squadron have instead been making the most of the superb waters offshore to practise their

sub-aqua techniques.

Just a few kilometres out to sea along the length of Belize is the world's second longest barrier reef whose crystal waters teem with fish and coral of every colour and description.

From Chatham where they are part of 2 Infantry Brigade, the squadron is tackling a wide variety of jobs the length and breadth of the country.

There to provide combat engineering support to the British Forces, their peacetime role – on completion of the mandatory jungle training – is mainly one of construction work.

Projects have included rebuilding blast shelters protecting the four RAF Harriers based in Belize, building new accommodation for soldiers at Holdfast Camp and refurbishing the Ladyville ammunition compound outside Airport Camp.

A host of smaller tasks have included rebuilding an orphanage in Belize, smartening up the jungle air strip buildings outside Punta Gorda and building Land Rover bridges on the Cockscomb nature reserve, internationally famous for its jaguar population.

Twenty-six soldiers of the Royal Pioneer Corps are accompanying the squadron and – among other duties – have been building defensive sangars outside Airport Camp. Bad road conditions make

navigation across country easier by air and water and the Rigid Raiders and Geminis held and maintained by the sappers are used by the infantry – with a Royal Engineer at the helm – for patrolling the jungle waterways.

Squadron OC Maj John Durance explained: "Jungle training and working with other arms has been very interesting but above all it is a useful posting for gaining experience in all manner of trade and construction work."

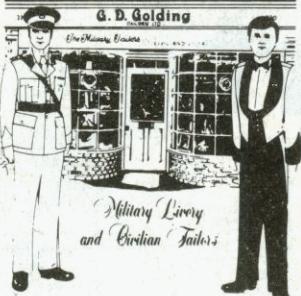
The arrival of the Gurkhas came as a happy surprise to a Nepalese doctor working in the Belize City hospital. He has since been a regular guest of the squadron and joined them at the end of September in their celebrations of Dashera, the Hindu equivalent of Christmas.

The Gurkha sappers have a truly exotic engineering assignment to complete before their return in January.

They have been tasked with the rebuilding of the observation post on Hunting Caye at the extreme southern edge of the barrier reef, a small, sandy island sprinkled with palm trees and permanently manned to monitor passing shipping and deny the Guatemalans an offshore toehold.

As one sapper put it, rarely can there have been a better place to spend a few weeks working than on your very own desert island!

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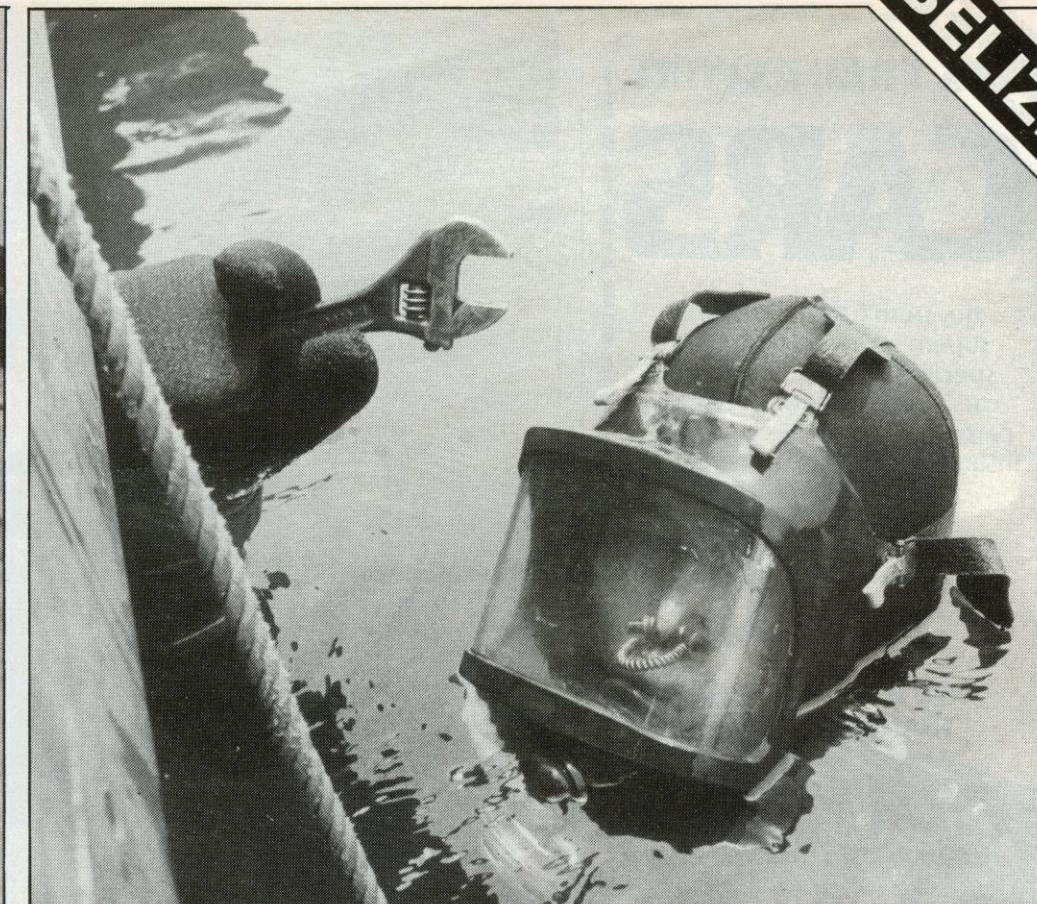
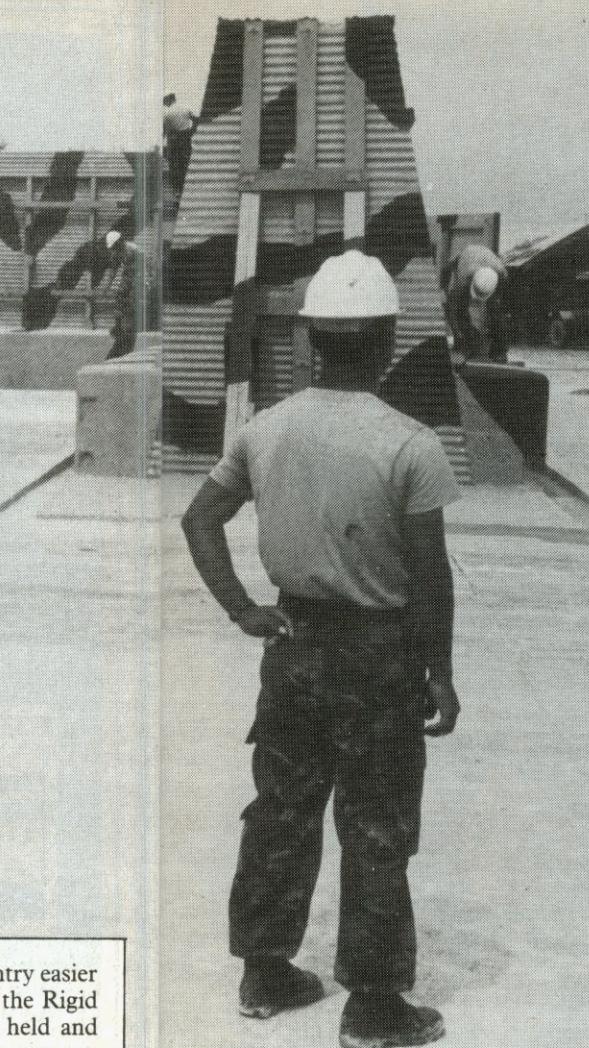
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Above – A Gurkha diver takes to the fetid, disease ridden waters of the Belize River during a practice dive. Dry suits ensure that there is no seepage and every precaution is taken to avoid the risk of contamination

Left – Gurkha sappers add the finishing touches to a blast wall they have rebuilt in one of the Harrier hides



A Rigid Raider is lowered on to the Belize River by men of 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron. The craft are used for patrols

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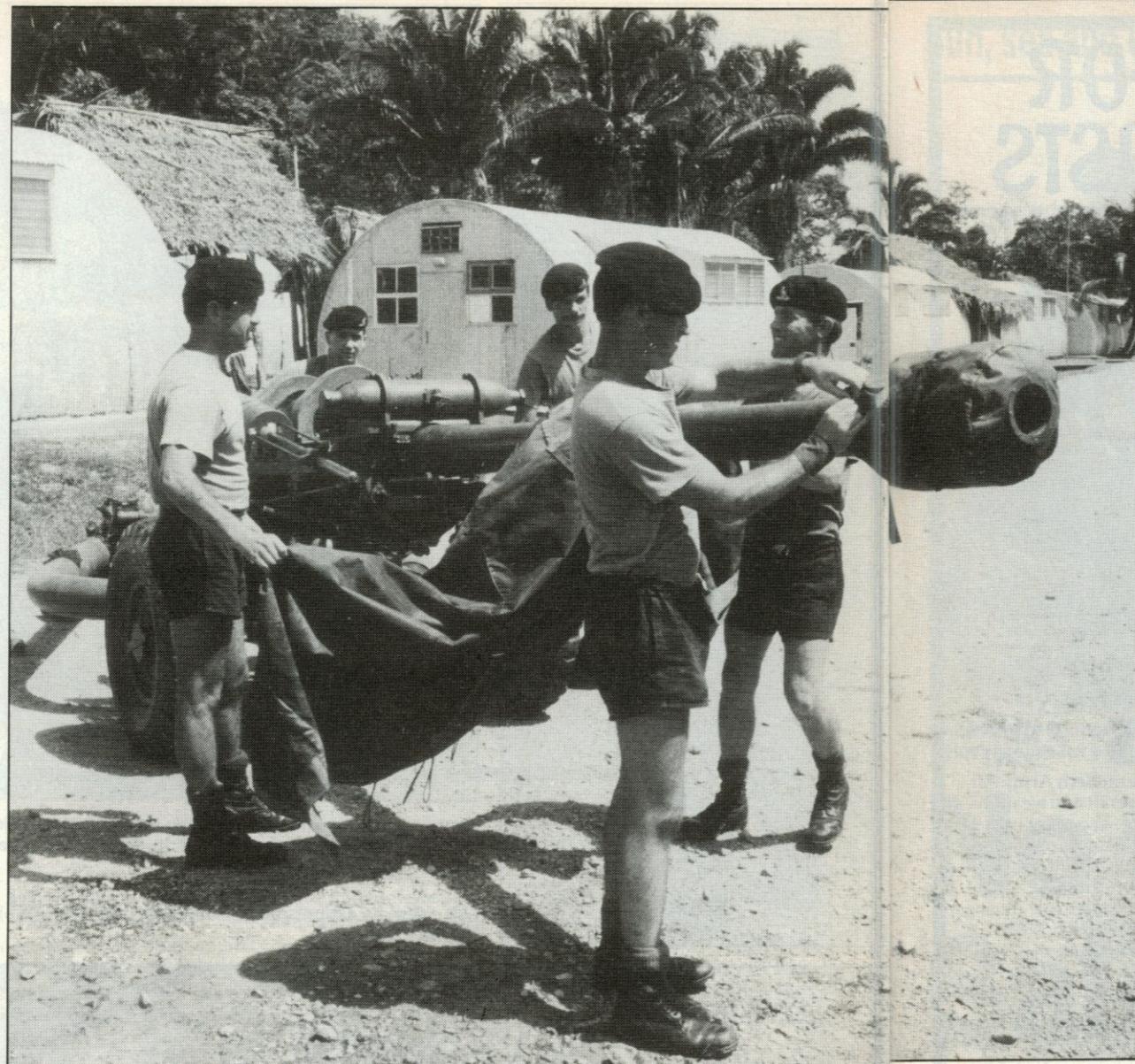
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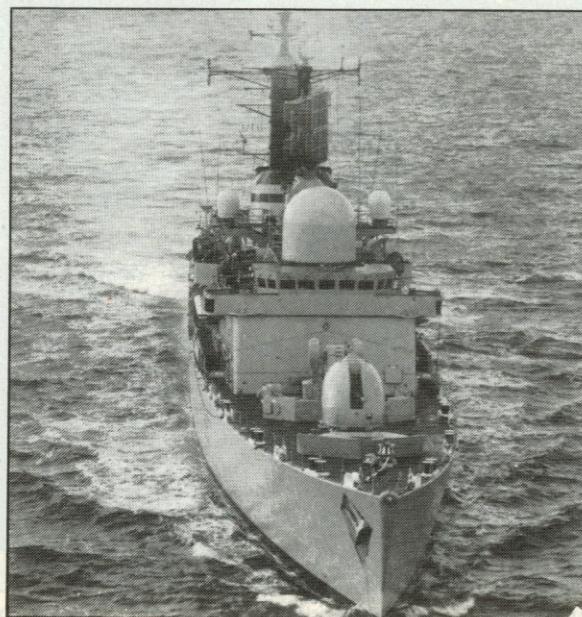
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Above - Palm trees ring Rideau Camp, home of E Troop 159 (Colenso) Battery who deploy in support of Battle Group South

Right - 105mm light guns of 159 Battery are deployed for an exercise on Mountain Pine Ridge among the central range of Mayan Mountains

HMS Glasgow joins the gunners' party



A SHIP to shore bombardment and a Harrier airstrike provided a dramatic backdrop to an all-arms live firing exercise mounted by the gunners of 159 (Colenso) Battery under the searing Caribbean sunshine.

Directed by the battery's fire observers, HMS Glasgow - a Type 42 destroyer on duty in the region as West Indies guardship - shelled the Seven Hills gunnery range while the Harriers unleashed their payload on to the targets below.

The battery - more used to handling the FH70 at their West Sussex base on Thorney Island, home of 26 Field Regiment RA - brought their newly acquired 105mm light guns into action during the exercise, which was, said OC

Maj Chad Fowler, an example of the close co-operation between the component parts of British Forces Belize.

"Belize has offered us the chance to do all sorts of exercises," said Maj Fowler, "and our secondary role as infantry means that we have also been out on jungle patrols and manning the border observation posts."

The battery is split into two

troops located at Holdfast Camp and Rideau Camp in support, respectively, of Battle Groups North and South. The small HQ element is based at Airport Camp.

Maj Fowler told SOLDIER: "We have, in effect, had to form two small batteries and both troop commanders and troop sergeants have taken on more responsibility. This has

filtered through all the ranks and has been beneficial to the unit as a whole, I'm sure."

Sgt Andrew Cooper of E Troop at Rideau said: "We are quite independent here and left to it a bit more. A posting like this certainly speeds up the learning process for the new lads and I feel we have achieved a better unit identity during our spell here."

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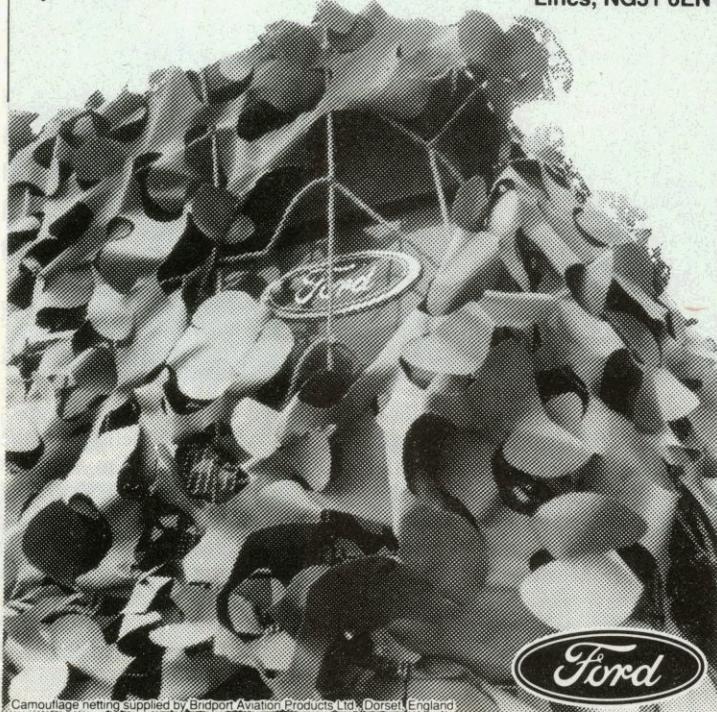
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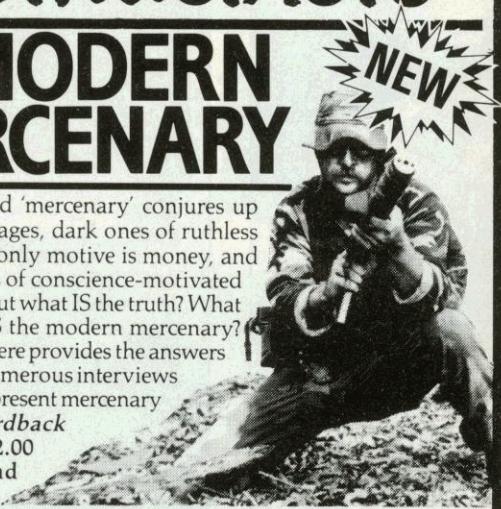
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Sun, sea and soldiering for London OTC



University of London OTC members take a break from building a children's rustic fort outside Ayios Nicolias for 9 Signal Regiment

No tears for Salisbury Plain

CLUB 18-30 may not have been the tour company but sun, sea and sand was what was expected by the officer cadets of the University of London Officers Training Corps when their annual camp was announced by CO Lt Col John Bennett RE.

After three years on Salisbury Plain, the guaranteed sun of Cyprus was on offer, a far more attractive proposition.

There was naturally no shortage of volunteers from the undergraduate members of the OTC to fly to the Mediterranean. In all, more than 250 attended for varying periods as their exams finished.

From Larnaka International Airport the officer cadets were bussed across the island to their temporary home in Bloodhound Camp near Episkopi.

It lived up to its somewhat ominous name – although not a lot of blood was spilled, sweat poured in profusion in the unaccustomed high temperatures.

A comprehensive programme of adventure training was

put into effect, including diving, various other water sports, riding, gliding and climbing. But the sting was the inclusion of military training in this circuit of activities.

Uniforms had to be worn on occasions and even guards mounted. Club 18-30 was never like this!

The infantry spent two productive phases under the professional guidance of 1RRF doing basic section battle drills and then more advanced training, culminating in an exercise across the rugged and demanding Cypriot terrain.

With no guns of their own to play with the artillery sub-unit had the benefit of 1RRF's expertise when the Mortar Platoon taught them on the 81mm mortar and supervised live firing, the cadets providing both the crews and mortar fire control teams.

Members of the signals and REME sub units also disappeared, later reporting productive visits to their Regular counterparts.

While their colleagues left only a temporary mark on the



island, the sappers decided to leave something more permanent.

In Happy Valley in the Western Sovereign Base Area extensive work was done for the saddle club and a children's adventure playground was built outside Ayios Nicolias for 9 Signal Regiment. 62 Support Squadron RE supplied stores and equipment.

There were numerous visits and attachments to the resident units on the island – from 3RTR to the garrison vet, from the RCLs of the RT to the RAF's Wessex's of 84 Squadron and the Alouettes of 16 Flight AAC, from the RMP to 34 Squadron, RAF Regiment.

As many of the officer cadets will pursue a career in the Services it gave valuable insights into the units' roles and working methods as well as being most enjoyable. Trips to Nicosia allowed the British contingent to the United Nations to demonstrate their valuable peace-keeping role in this still divided island.

Story: Capt Teddy Nevill

QLR's new museum opens in Preston

LATEST stage in turning the old Lancashire mill town of Preston into an unlikely Northern mecca for military historians was completed when The Queen's Lancashire Regiment opened its new museum in a bright new town centre museum complex.

When complete the complex will contain three separate regimental museums and the county's folk museum, all housed in an historic Sessions House which is itself a listed building.

Being developed by Lancashire County Council with the co-operation of the Ministry of Defence, the complex houses the museums of The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry and now the QLR. They will be joined next year by the regimental museum of the county's Regular Army cavalry regiment, the 14th/20th King's Hussars, in the final stage of the project.

The new two-level gallery tells the story of the QLR and its predecessors from the raising of Castleton's Regiment in 1689 at Lincoln to the 1st Battalion's recent roulement tour in West Belfast. Already proving to be the most popular exhibit – in a county with good reason to remember the horror of trench warfare – is a "walk through" reproduction of a First World War trench complete with sound and light effects.

The medal balcony portrays the courage of Lancashire's men in battle and displays one of the regiment's 17 Victoria Crosses.

DERR Colours to be laid up

THE old Colours of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) are to be laid up in St Michael's Chapel, Salisbury Cathedral.

The Colours, replaced every 25 years, were with the battalion from its formation in June 1959 until the presentation of new ones on June 8 1984.

ARTILLERY - FROM A to Z

Londons' tale almost wiped out in battle

IT was in 1859 that Thomas Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, raised a Volunteer Corps, drawing recruits from the staff and students of the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street, London. From that time there have been numerous changes of title for the unit.

Originally known as the 19th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, its lineage can be traced to the present 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers, an association that began in 1881 when, as the 10th Middlesex Rifle Corps, they became the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

With the formation of the Territorial Force, The First Londons, although strictly speaking no longer Royal Fusiliers, were affiliated to the Royal Fusiliers and continued to wear fusilier uniform, changing buttons, badges and so on from silver to gold. They distinguished themselves from the Regulars by their shoulder titles.

It is the history of this interesting corps that is the subject of Ronald E Handley's *The First Londons* in which he simplifies what is, to many otherwise learned military historians, a complex maze.

It must have been a difficult task for during almost 130 years this Volunteer Battalion has

been awarded 32 Battle Honours, from South Africa 1900-1902 to the Rimini Line in the Second World War.

They sustained more casualties than any other fusilier battalion in the First World War and, after receiving more than 3,000 reinforcements in Italy during the Second World War, were reduced to cadre strength to run a court martial holding centre, prisoner of war camp and even a ski resort.

The author's problems in researching this work were heightened through a genuine dearth of information, particularly from the First World War period when "the casualty list probably accounts for the lack of historians in the battalion."

The book comprises over 250 pages divided into five chapters, each concerned with a period in the battalion's history. The text is supported by many illustrations, more than 60 of which are hitherto unpublished.

A history such as *The First Londons* really does need an index which, for some reason, has not been provided. This criticism aside, the book is an excellent addition to the available literature on 19th century Volunteers and Territorials. - BJ

The First Londons by R E Handley, published by Littledown. Price £9.95.

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Illustrations from *Echo of the Guns*. A staff car crosses a bridge over the river Olave on

the Italian Front. It was here that the equine members of the author's battery met their

worst disaster of the war. The author's trench coat (right) lasted him until 1959

Letters from the Front

THEY went to war as enthusiastic, fun loving young men. Those who survived returned disenchanted and aged far beyond their years by horrors that no human should have to look upon or live through.

The hundreds of memoirs and diaries that have been published over the past 70 years bear witness to the survivors' need to record their terrible experiences of the First World War.

The latest of these, published posthumously, is that of Capt Harry Siepmann, a Royal Field Artillery officer whose letters, diaries, and unpublished articles written in the 1930s have

been moulded by his son, also Harry, into a vivid portrayal of day-to-day life in the war.

In *Echo of the Guns*, Hal Siepmann tells first of the early years of hostilities when, as a civilian, he and his family, like others with German names, were subjected to abuses and attacks. "There was even some unknown patriot who went around the streets seeking out dachshunds and German shepherd dogs so that he could pour petrol over them and set them alight. Such incidents led to the name German shepherd being changed to Alsatian in Britain," says the author.

After joining the Royal Field Artillery, Siepmann's battery

was sent to Egypt in error and then to France.

Towards the end of 1917, Siepmann's battery was in Italy on the River Piave where the equine members of the battery met their worst disaster of the war.

There was a return to France where the author was gassed and then, after the armistice, service with the occupation force in Germany. At the Peace Conference of 1919 Harry Siepmann was assistant to John Maynard Keynes and, on release from the Army became an international financier and banker; perhaps a better "homecoming for a hero" than most ex-Servicemen enjoyed

but, nevertheless, other personal problems had to be faced and overcome.

The book is an object lesson in editing material from various sources into an integrated whole while at the same time maintaining the identity of the sources. It was a task made easier for the editor through the ability of his father to record events faithfully and with clarity, ignoring the stresses of the war going on around him. - BJ

Echo of the Guns: Recollections of an Artillery Officer 1914-1918 by Harry Siepmann, published by Robert Hale Limited. Price £10.95.

Ian Hogg knows a thing or two about guns. A Royal Artilleryman with European and Far Eastern service in the Second World War, followed by a spell in the Korean war, he then spent 20 years as an instructor on ordnance and ammunition at the Royal School of Artillery and the Royal Military College of Science – before becoming a writer.

His latest book, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Artillery*, is claimed to be the first ever general encyclopedia of artillery technology, and it is certainly crammed with information and illustrations about guns through the ages.

The ages stretch back in the historical section to 1326, and a cannon fired by gunpowder and loaded with an arrow bound with leather to fit the bore of the gun. And across the years to the wire guided missiles of today.

Not that the author thinks that guided missiles will replace his beloved guns. "... artillery will continue to

serve for another few centuries as well as it has for the past six and a half," he affirms.

The bulk of the book is given to an A to Z guide to artillery techniques and equipment throughout the world.

The encyclopedia comes hot on the heels of another Ian Hogg offering, *Great Land Battles*. No two battles are alike, even if fought on the same ground, Hogg avers. And he describes ten battles from the Second World War to show the variety of problems, solutions, and lessons to be learned. From the Dieppe raid to Corregidor, from the German landings in Crete to D-Day in Normandy.

His book is dramatically illustrated with paintings by Terence (find the mouse) Cuneo and other artists. - AT

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Artillery by Ian Hogg, published by Stanley Paul. Price £16.95.

Great Land Battles of World War II by Ian Hogg, published by Blandford Press. Price £14.95.

IN BRIEF

For Valour A South African Victoria Cross by P E Bradley. The story of how Driver (later Major) Frank George Bradley was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery under fire during the Boer War in 1901. Published by and obtainable from the author, P E Bradley, 7 Southern Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, Sussex BN22 9LT. Price £2.50.

Modern Fighting Vehicles, general editor Bob Lewis. Pocket size guide to more than 100 tanks, reconnaissance vehicles and armoured personnel carriers. Published by Collins. Price £2.50.

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The AK47 Story by Edward Clinton Ezell. The evolution of Kalashnikov weapons. Published by Robert Hale Ltd. Price £16.95.

Artist turns clock back to Crater

TWENTY Years After was the title of the sequel to Alexander Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, and it might have been a fitting description of the atmosphere at a ceremony at Roman Barracks, Colchester, writes Bill Moore.

An oil painting was unveiled showing the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders moving in to reoccupy Crater, the old Arab city at the foot of Aden's mountains.

In the summer of 1967, with the British preparing to pull out, the region was beset by political agitation and faction fighting. Mutiny threatened the South Arabian Army and on June 20 two serious incidents occurred.

Jittery Arab police shot up a British lorry returning from the ranges, killing eight and wounding eight men.

Later two Land Rovers of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers were riddled as they passed the police barracks. There were no survivors. The dead were an

officer and five men of the Fusiliers plus a company commander and two Jocks of the 1st Argylls who were about to take over the sector. Three more Fusiliers were killed later in the day trying to recce the scene.

British troops withdrew from Crater and reinforcements were flown in from the UK.

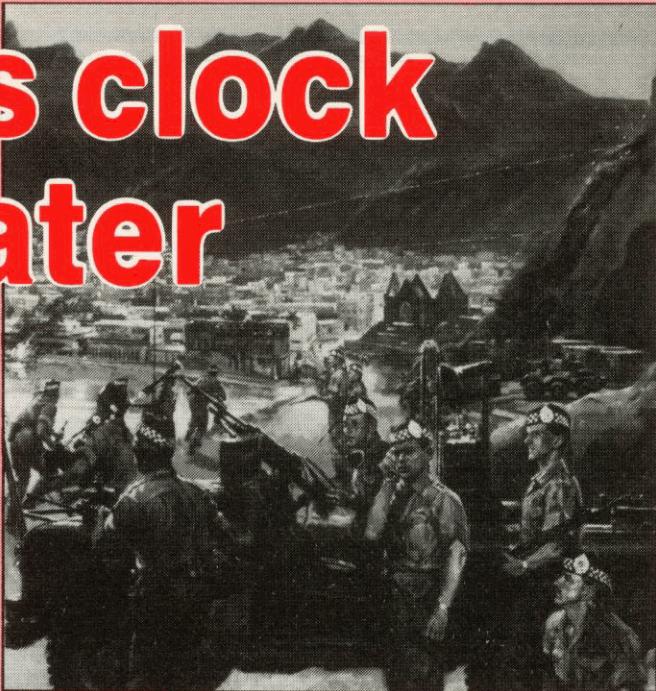
On the evening of July 3, with other troops holding the heights, the Argylls moved into Crater to the sound of the pipes. They were supported by QDG.

There was only scattered opposition and the next day Crater was again under British control.

The professionalism of the Jocks and supporting troops impressed the watching media. Twenty years ago it was international news.

Three characters depicted in the painting were at the unveiling ceremony.

The CO, Lt Col Colin Mitchell (seen using a handset), a



Mitchell, Thomson, Palmer and Jocks at Crater

veteran of the Italian and Korean campaigns, quit the Army a year later.

He became a Member of Parliament for a time but is best known to the public as Mad Mitch who ran the successful Save the Argylls campaign. Today he is a security specialist. Lt Col Mitchell did the unveiling.

Next to him in the picture, SLR in hand, is the adjutant, Capt David Thomson, who now

commands the 1st Infantry Brigade at Tidworth, Hants.

In the middle distance, also armed with a rifle, is a tall company commander.

Twenty years later he is Lt Gen Sir Patrick Palmer, Military Secretary in Whitehall.

The picture was commissioned by the regiment from Peter Archer and will eventually hang in the regiment's HQ at Stirling Castle.



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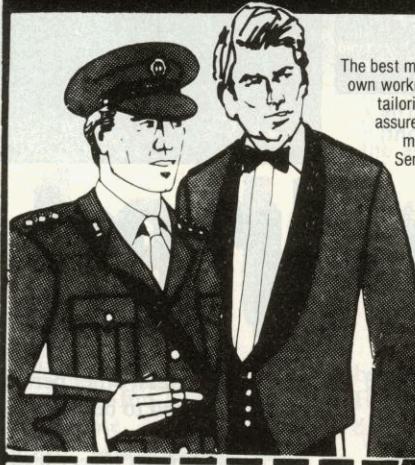
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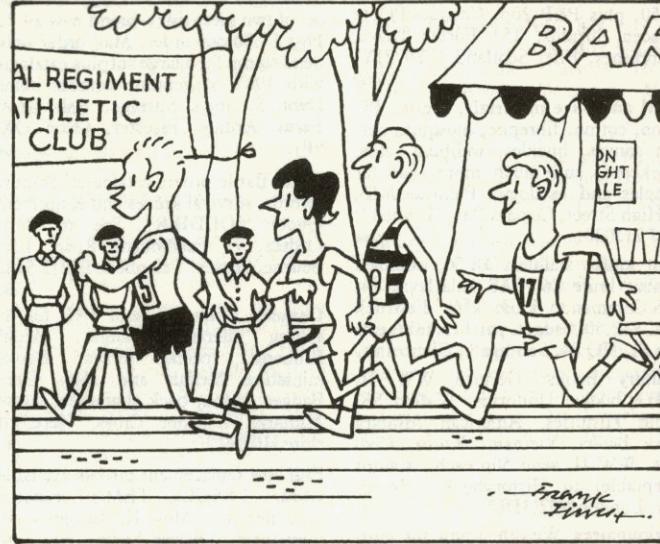
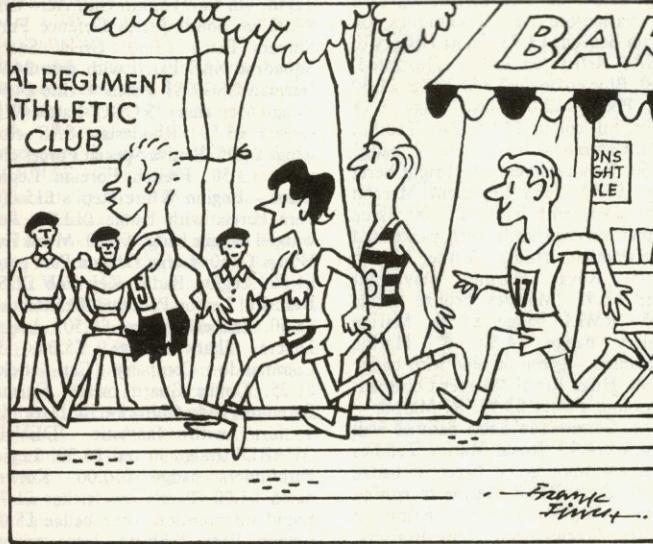
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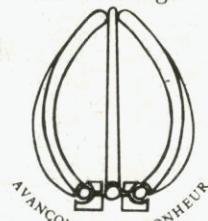
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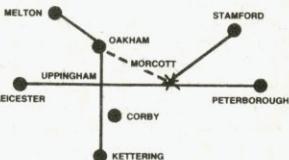
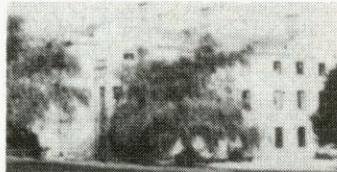
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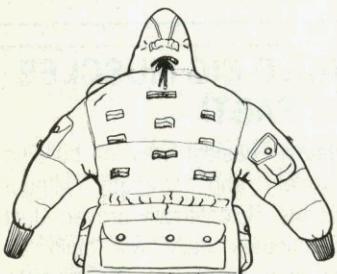
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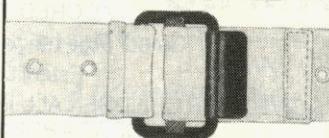
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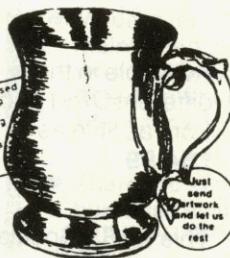
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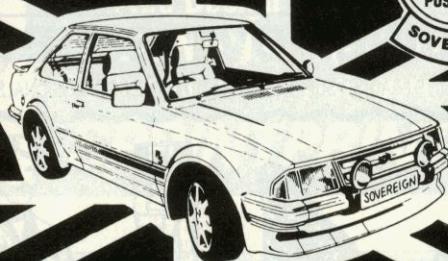
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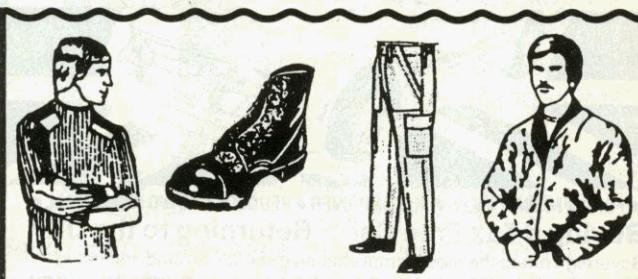
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Cup contest kicks off

SEME Bordon, beaten finalists in last season's Army Challenge Cup football final, begin the campaign to win back the trophy they last lifted in 1986 by taking on Marchwood Military Port, Southampton in the first round of the Wilsons Hogg Robinson sponsored competition.

Holders of the trophy are 28 Sig Regt from BAOR.

Sabre sailors

ENJOYING their break in sunny Cyprus are the crew members of Sabre, one of the two Joint Services sail training yachts now making their way Down Under for the Australian Adventure 88 project. Sabre is sailing in company with Whitbread Round the World Race veteran HMSTY Adventure.

The crews who sailed to Cyprus joined the yachts at Gibraltar. Included in Sabre's complement were Maj W Jewell RCT, Maj F Crabbe HQ AFCENT, Cpl J Cheeseman WRAC, Cpl S Hughes 9 Sig Regt and LCpl T Stretton PWO.



THE Army bobsleigh team is in training for the 1988 Winter Olympics to be held at Calgary, Canada in February. And to make sure their challenge is a really hot one, they have been given a complete set of all-in-one suits by a leading outdoor clothing manufacturer. Receiving their kit from Mr Tony Sharp of Berghaus Ltd are Army bobsledders Mark Tout, Dave Armstrong, Lenny Paul and Audley Richards.

ARCTIC BOUND

CREWS from 1 RHA, 26 Engr Regt, 43 Plant Sqn, plus others made up from individuals from dozens of other units, sailed in the five biggest yachts based at the Kiel Training Centre as far north as they could go in the Baltic.

And just to ensure that they



Pentathlon rivals to meet in Prague

ARMY athletes will be among the competitors taking part in the Czechoslovak Modern Pentathlon Championships at Prague.

They include Cpl Peter Hart, 27, REME, who will renew a longstanding rivalry with the Czech Milan Cadlec, winner of the individual silver medal in the recent world championships at Moulins, France.

"They must be the two fastest runners on the pentathlon scene today," says Maj Terry Bunyard REME, who, with Maj Tony Durie 16/5 L, manages the team which trains regularly at the Centre of Excellence, Arborfield.

Only 23, Lt Mahoney looks like fulfilling the promise he showed when he took sixth place in the junior world championships.

He is considered to be a

medal prospect for the Olympics to be held at Seoul next year.

Other competitors in Prague are Cpl Steve Dadson REME who competed in the Italian championships in Rome earlier this year and Gunner Kim Lee, 19, 26 Field Regt RA, who recently won the prestigious National Pony Club Tetrathlon.

The pentathlon is probably the most difficult event in international athletics, demanding excellence at pistol shooting, riding, fencing, swimming and cross-country running.

The Army's most celebrated competitor was Capt Jim Fox REME who won the gold medal in the 1976 Olympics.



In action at Braemar are The Life Guards from Windsor

Royals see 40 Fd Regt triumph

A MEMORABLE day for Service tug of war unfolded in the presence of the Queen and many other members of the Royal Family at the Braemar Games in the setting of the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park.

Ten teams took part in the Braemar Royal Highland Society Inter-Service tug of war championships, with Army entries from BAOR and the UK, joined by teams from the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the US Navy.

After a league competition in the morning, RAF Swanton Morley took on 14 Fd Regt RA while 19 Fd Regt RA pulled against 40 Fd Regt RA in the semi-finals. And in an exciting final contested in front of the Queen, 40 Fd Regt defeated 14 Fd Regt by two straight pulls.

And to cap a terrific competition, the Queen presented the Challenge Shield to Sgt A Clark of 40 Fd Regt.

Parachute date

DUE to exercise commitments the dates of the Cyprus Combined Services parachute championships at Kingsfield, Dhekelia have been brought forward a week. They will now take place from October 30 to November 7.

Sappers put the rest to sword!

SAPPER swordsmen from 25 Engineer Regiment based in Osnabruck, West Germany have excelled themselves by winning the triple crown in Service fencing. Hard work and dedication paid off handsomely as the engineers won the BAOR, Army and Inter-Services six man team championships.

Led by Army fencer Maj Neil Sutherland, 25 Engr Regt bulldozed their way through all three championships and recorded some resounding victories.

At the Inter-Service fencing championships the Under-20 events were dominated by 25 Engr Regt, and the team took all but one of the first four places in each weapon.

Most successful individual was Spr Tony Tanner, who became the Under-20 Champion-at-Arms. A series of keenly contested fights and a display of lightning attacks from Spr Tanner assured him victory in both the foil and sabre competitions and second place in the epee.

A signed certificate from Prince Charles marked his achievement.

Other successes in 25 Regt have been Spr Jonathon Sayers who became the Army Under-20 champion and LCpl Graham White who was awarded his Army colours for fencing.



**Isle of
Wight,
here I
come!**

COLD work if you can get it! Cpl Arnie Palmer RMP pauses for a breather during his 3½ mile swim from Southsea Castle to Nettlestone Point on the Isle of Wight. He completed the swim in 2hr 35min as part of a triathlon which involved Cpl Steve Hodson running 18 miles from the RMP Training Centre at Chichester, West Sussex, to Southsea, in 2hr 10min, and ended with WO2 Steve Browne cycling around the Isle of Wight in 3hr 45min. In the process they raised money for the Army and RMP Benevolent Funds.

Kiwi crunch

THE 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment rugby team has just completed a five match tour of Britain during which they took on three Army teams and two civilian clubs.

Rated the best rugby unit in New Zealand, the Kiwis won all their games comfortably, although 7 RHA, the current British Army champions gave them a hard game at Aldershot.

The Kiwis demolished The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment 54-3 in the first match of their tour at Tidworth, then moved on to Wales to beat Cardiff Eastern District 15-7 and Mountain Ash 28-6.

They then resumed an old friendship with The Royal

Highland Fusiliers in Edinburgh, although not letting friendship stand in the way of a 73-0 thrashing of the Scottish regiment.

In 1973 both 1 Bn and the RHF served together in the ANZUK Brigade in Singapore.

Final match of the tour was probably the toughest for the Kiwis. They beat 7 RHA 17-3 at Aldershot, which reflected an excellent performance by the local side whose season has barely started.

COLTS ON TRIAL

ARMY Colts rugby trials are to be held at Aldershot on October 17. This is a particularly important season as the Army are entering the Colts County Championships for the first time.

A good turnout is expected

and units with promising players who will be under 19 years of age on January 1, 1988 should inform Army Colts secretary Maj N P Cooke at the Army Apprentices College, ACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot (tel ext 3157).

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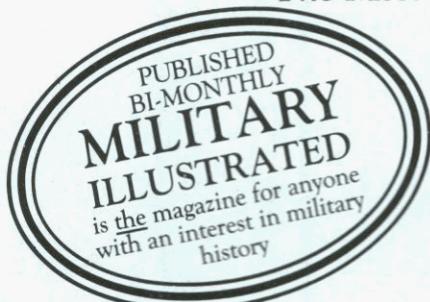
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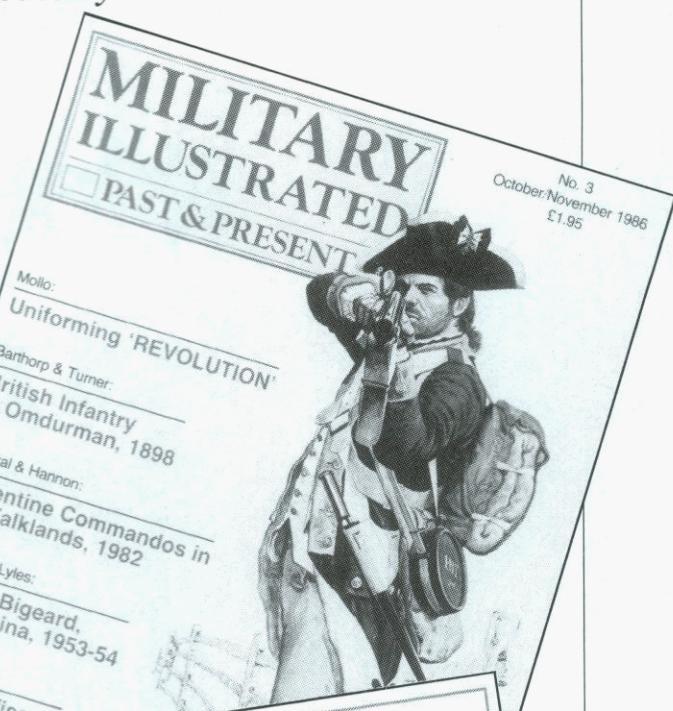
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Picture: Terry Champion.