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**FRONT COVER:** Drum Major John Cook, a Falklands veteran, puts the finishing touches to the drums and Colours of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment for a service to commemorate the Battle of Mount Longdon. Full story starts on Page 23.

Picture: Mike Weston

**JUNE 25, 1990**

**VOL. 46/14**

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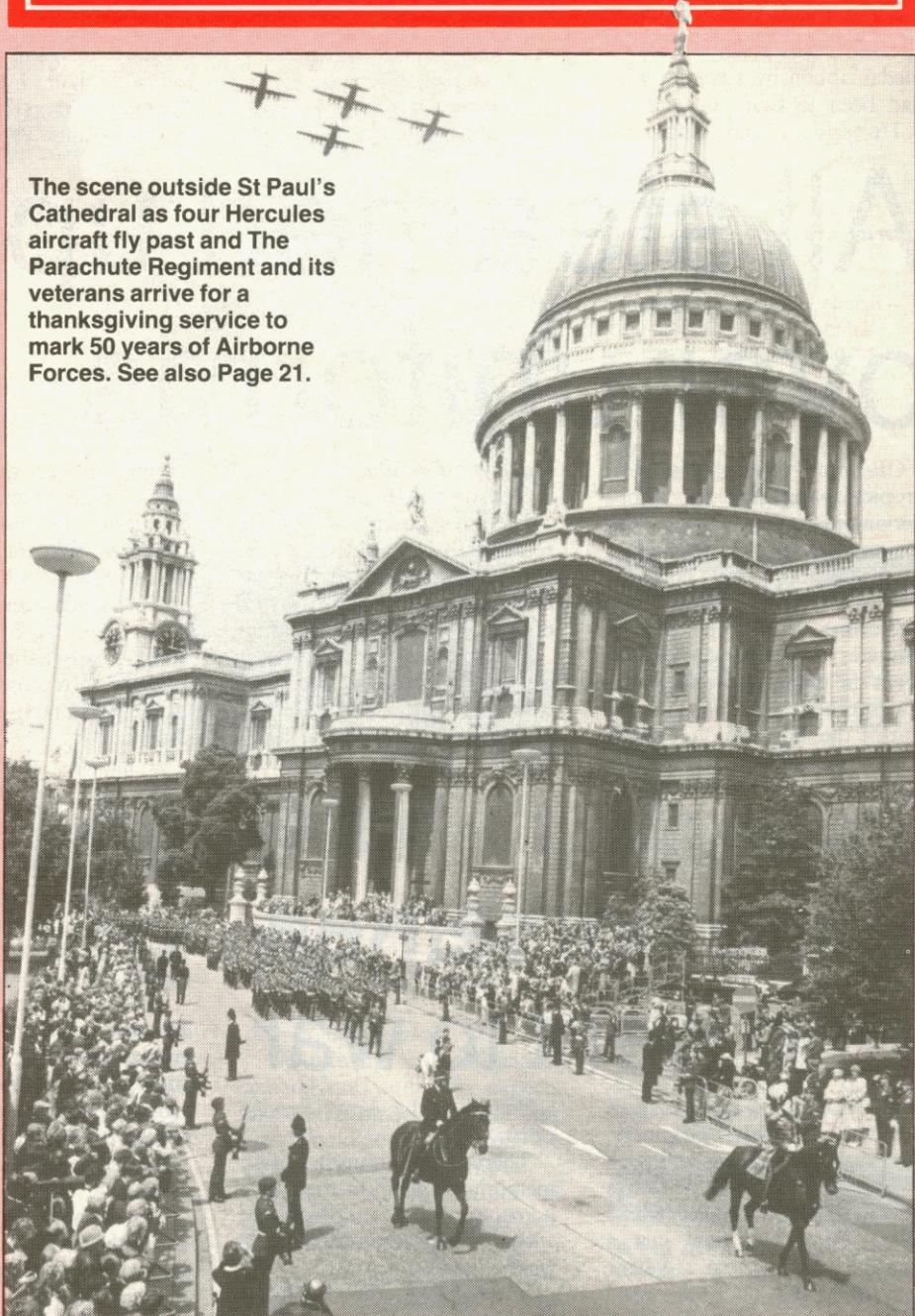
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# SOLDIER

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

The scene outside St Paul's Cathedral as four Hercules aircraft fly past and The Parachute Regiment and its veterans arrive for a thanksgiving service to mark 50 years of Airborne Forces. See also Page 21.



Picture: Mike Weston

## RAOC breaks world drive record

A WORLD record has been clinched for Britain by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' Transworld Venture.

A team of men and a team of women captured the record by going round the globe in 40 days. Driving in British Rover 827Si cars, and with the backing of British sponsors, they co-

vered 25,000 miles almost non-stop.

Tension mounted when the teams, racing back to knock 29 days of the existing record, were delayed by bad weather on their Channel crossing to Dover. But, helped by a police escort, they made the deadline on June 11.

# LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

## Cairo medal ribbon mystery

WHEN I was serving in the 1st Bn Royal Ulster Rifles and RSM of the 6th Airborne Division Training Centre at Petah Tiqva, Palestine, in 1945-46 I was given a piece of medal ribbon by a soldier who had been to Cairo on leave.

He said it was from the

newly-issued Allies' Victory Medal and he had bought a short length of the ribbon from a friendly Arab as a souvenir.

Needless to say such a medal was not issued and I am wondering whether any of your readers can tell me anything about the ribbon.

## All steamed up over uniforms

FOR some years the issue of tropical uniform to troops serving in the Far East has been a cause both for ribald comment and serious concern.

Troops on operations or exercising in damp tropical climates have long suffered from the unpleasant effects that the synthetic material and the cut of the cloth produce when the tropical combat dress becomes wet with rain or sweat.

After prolonged rubbing, unfortunate wearers are usually

reduced to walking with legs bowed or not at all.

In hot, humid climates the retention of moisture by the cloth has also added to heat exhaustion problems as the lack of evaporation reduces cooling.

On top of all this the material is readily combustible and combines with the skin of the unfortunate wearer in a thick, rancid and irremovable glue.

The defects of the uniform have long been recognised. The trial of a replacement cloth

taking place this year is welcome, and the early replacement of this inappropriately-designed uniform is hoped for as early as possible.

On parade things are little better. The No 6 Dress jacket and trousers issued for parade uniform to replace No 2 Dress in the warm months is a design disaster.

It has the appearance of a shapeless, ill-fitting set of pyjamas, is of a dismal, dim colouring and a nasty synthetic cloth which defies all attempts at pressing to make smart.

The low, open collar reveals much of the wearer's hairy chest.

The white cotton No 3 Dress has long ceased to be issued to troops except for bandsmen, pipers and drummers, but on parade provides a smart and comfortable form of dress which is eye-catching to the public.

The complaints of the Army about the defects of No 2 Dress have long been registered at home – it is time similar notice was taken of the shambles our parade dress in tropical climates has become. – Hot Under the Collar, Hong Kong (name and address supplied).

## Shire horsemen who went to war

I WONDER how many readers are aware of the old Waggoners' Reserves of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who played such a valuable part in the First World War. There are now just a handful of these gallant gentlemen left.

They were literally waggoners' men who worked the heavy Shire horses of the East Riding farms, particularly in the Wolds area of Driffield, Beverley and Sledmere. They were gathered together by Sir Mark Sykes into almost a private army.

Although given no weapons, they were taken to Army establishments for familiarisation with Army horses and draught equipment before going to France in uniform to assist in the massive task of transporting supplies to the front. I believe they were

affiliated to the Army Service Corps.

There is a most vivid memorial to them in their true home territory at Sledmere, which is still the seat of the Sykes family.

It would be a great pity if these men were forgotten by the nation and in particular by the Army. – T Wilson, 16 Northfield, Keyingham, Hull.

## Bailey bridge was premature

I KNOW the sappers always claim to be "first in" but surely the statement that in August 1943, 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron built the first Bailey bridge on mainland Europe (SOLDIER, June 11) is taking things a little too far.

The first troops of the Eighth

Army – 5th Div and 1st Canadian Div from XIII Corps – to land in Italy did not do so until September 3, 1943.

If 38 Fd Sqn did build a Bailey bridge at Bagnara in August 1943, those sappers were taking their tradition very seriously indeed.

## Whiffs of a Service lifetime

IN the run-up to 1992, an exhibition of synthetically-produced smells has been opened in Strasbourg typifying European nations – perfume for France, bacon for Denmark and new-mown grass for Great Britain.

Like many of my former Army comrades I still find some smells very evocative of wartime military service. Today, when I occasionally catch a brief whiff of an unusual scent, it immediately brings back vivid memories of past experiences – some cheerful, some nostalgic, some gruesome.

Some examples . . .

- The hot engine oil of a bren carrier
- Cigarette smoke at 3am in a barrack room
- A desert lily in the hot North African sun
- The inside of a tank after a crew had been in action for a week
- Thirty men being seasick in a LCI
- Hot donkey stew for dinner again in the desert
- Wet battledress drying in front of the fire
- Stewed tea in a bucket on the guardroom stove
- Camel dung burning in an Arab village
- Your wife's perfume on your first leave for three years
- A tin of pork and veg being heated under the bonnet of a 15cwt truck
- A mule breaking wind on an Italian mountainside

I am sure many of your readers have others which remind them of days and nights many years ago. – Peter Fowle, 103 Beaumaris Road, Hartley Vale, Plymouth.

What was the correct date? Presumably it was soon after the landings on September 3. Bagnara is in Calabria and troops of the Eighth Army would have arrived there not long after those first landings in mainland Italy. – Richard Doherty, Londonderry.



Picture: Terry Champion

## Uniform result

Uniformed readers achieved a hat trick in HOAY competition No 488, which was won by Sgt McCready, of Newcastle upon Tyne. He received a £50 cheque, while book prizes go to the two runners-up – Capt R M Jaggs-Fowler, of Beverley, E Yorks, and WO2 Eason, of Brighton.

## Fishy tale!

There was something a bit fishy about the Regular Recruits' Passing Out Parade 552 at the Women's Royal Army corps Centre, Guildford, when bemused families saw the Commandant, Col Nan Robertson, being presented by Sgt Kate McCann with a plastic bag containing two goldfish.

Their names – Wilfred II and Clementine II – give a clue to why they were there. Col Robertson had previously arranged for two other goldfish to be placed in the pond at the officers' mess, but they did not survive the transfer.

Col Robertson, who was the Inspecting officer for her final parade, retires in August after 34 years. And the fish . . . they were a complete surprise to her!

## Reunions

● **Bristol Club:** Serving and ex-Service personnel, Regular, Reserve, WRAC, National Service or HO and their families are invited to apply for associate membership of the Royal Naval Association Club, Sea Mills, Bristol. Club also available for reunions. Contact the Secretary, RNA Club, The Creeke, The Portway, Sea Mills, Bristol.

● **Argylls' Korean Anniversary:** To commemorate the 40th anniversary of their action in Korea, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will hold a reunion in Stirling between September 7 and 9. Further details from RHQ The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH (tel: 0786 75165).

## Searchline

● **Pte Arthur Wilkes:** Miss K L Moseley, 53 Broadhurst Green, Hednesford, Staffs WS12 4LA, seeks further information about the Army career of her great-grandfather, Pte Arthur Wilkes, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who was hospitalised in the 4th General Hospital with a gunshot wound to his arm on April 24, 1917.

● **Palestinian Jewish doctors of the RAMC 1917-1948:** Information sought for a history of the Medical Corps of the Israel Defence Forces and the earlier medical services set up to help Jewish defence organisations in Palestine during the British Mandate period, 1917-1948. Personal recollections welcomed by Dr Baruch Hurwitz, 4 Marcus Street, 92-233 Jerusalem, Israel.

## Daimler search goes on

HELP! As a confirmed military vehicle nut I am looking for an old Daimler armoured car to restore to its former glory.

I have already restored and am rallying, with help, a Daimler Scout Car circa 1943.

It has always been a dream of mine to restore and rally a Daimler armoured car – in fact

I have lost sleep since seeing the last Daimler in service in your February 5 article on the Armoured Vehicle Sub Depot, Luddershall.

So please help a poor ex-soldier out of his misery. I know a few were used as hard targets on ranges and some as gate guards and so on but I am sure that somewhere there is one awaiting my attention.

Limited funds are available to donate to Army charities in exchange. – Bill Stupple, ex-Queen's Own Buffs 2 Queens, Whispers, Church Lane, Ringwould, nr Deal, Kent CT14 8HR.

## The case for a Suez medal

proved fallacious.

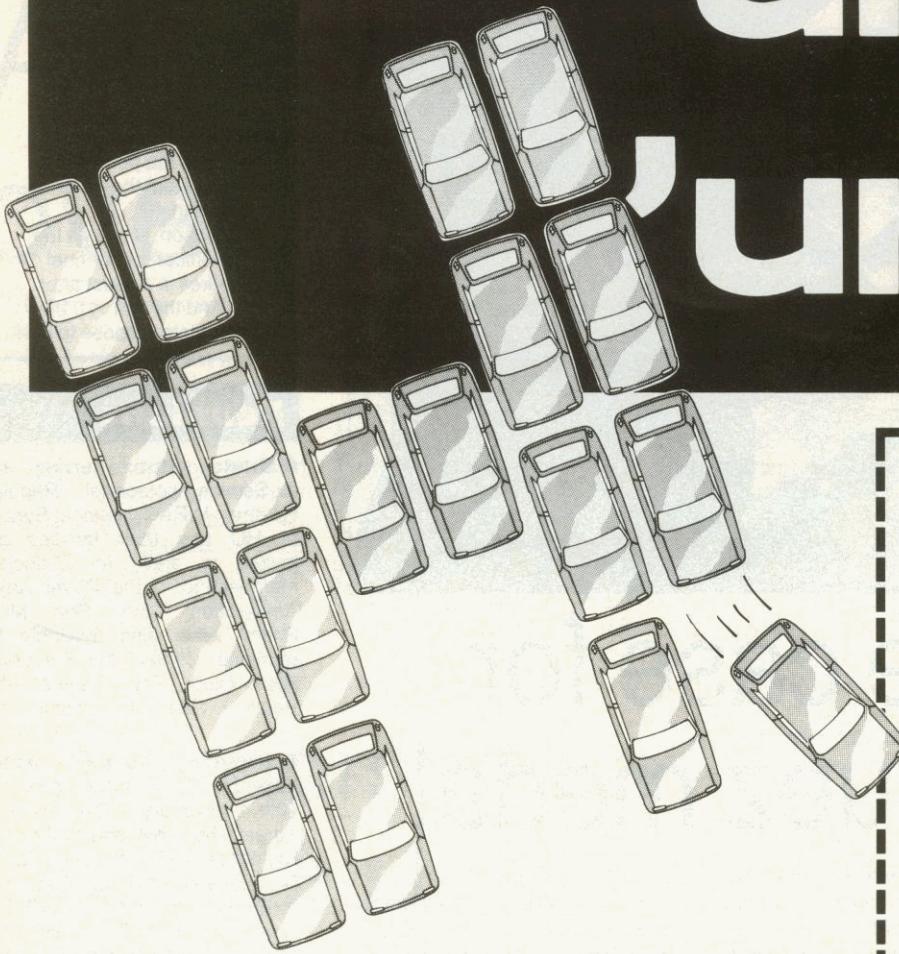
To sum up, our politicians, general staff and other experts may have made mistakes but that should not detract from the issue of a campaign medal.

One of the criteria for an award should be, "Did our soldiers perform their duties in life-threatening situations with courage and restraint?" The answer would surely be "Yes".

– C L Golder, ex-WO1 RCT, 69 Green Meadows, Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancs.

SADLY, many who served in the Suez Canal Zone have now passed on. Surely the Government has a moral obligation to put right this longstanding wrong by the belated issue of the Africa General Service Medal with Suez Canal Zone clasp so that those of us still left may have tangible proof of our service. – W R Roberts, 3 Elm Close, Plymouth.

# 'urry! 'urry! 'urry!



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# Soltau dust-up puts 1 RGJ in the mood

MEN of the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets battled against Soltau's dust and grime as they warmed up in an all-arms context as the battle group for Medicine Man 4 at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Canada, later in the year.

# Poll Tax settles old debt

DESPITE what they say, old men do remember. Mr Kingston Pennell, now 82, has never forgotten that the quick reaction of a young Gurkha soldier saved his life one night in 1943.

Mr Pennell was on the staff of the British Embassy and was Mr Churchill's personal escort when the prime minister visited Cairo.

He was late leaving the house where Churchill was staying. The password had been changed at midnight and when he failed to give the correct response one of a pair of Gurkha sentries fired at him.

"Fortunately the other sentry recognised me from my silhouette and knocked up the rifle – otherwise I wouldn't be here today."

Mr Pennell, who lives in the New Forest, made the journey to Crookham, near Aldershot, recently to show that the memory was green and made a present of £377 to pay the community charge of the youngest soldier in the 1st/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles.

## Welsh Gunners on move

The Welsh Gunners – 22 Air Defence Regiment – held a week-long preparation exercise in Germany before setting off on a six-month tour of duty in Cyprus.

## Truck contract

Delivery of the Army's new two-tonne truck – the RB44 Mk 2 4x4 – will start in December following the placing of a £20m contract by the Ministry of Defence.

The heavy utility vehicle (pictured) has been developed by Reynolds Boughton and

The battle group was made up of 1 RGJ, two platoons from 1 PWO (who also used the attachment as a recce for their move from Catterick to Osnabrück in August), two squadrons from 4 RTR, 21 RE, 4 Fd Regt RA, 1 AAC, 1 ADTR, 2 AFA and 12

Armed Wksps. The exercise was marginally disrupted by the restriction on the use of tracked vehicles over the weekends, so the rifle companies did FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) training while everyone else worked on their vehicles.



Mr Kingston Pennell, who gave the equivalent of a year's community tax payment for Rfn Tankar Prasad Rai, youngest soldier in his battalion, hands it over in a pewter tankard



will be assembled at Renault's Dunstable, Beds, plant. It has permanent four-wheel drive transmission, and can carry 15 fully equipped troops or a variety of loads.

# Soldiers clear Mosel storm damage

GUNNERS put in more than 600 man hours clearing fallen and damaged trees in German forests stricken by severe storms last winter. Men of 12 Air Defence Regiment RA first saw the extent of the devastation when reconnaissance parties visited the Mosel area before an exercise.

They moved into a former US Army barracks at the end of the exercise and, joined by soldiers of 10 Battery, 40 Field Regiment, got to work. The ground was later prepared for re-planting and the local authorities expressed their gratitude for the help given.

## LI makes a musical comeback

THE Light Infantry returned to Brancepeth Castle in County Durham with a bang for the first time since the Durham Light Infantry marched out more than 28 years ago.

Once the regimental headquarters and depot of the DLI, the castle was chosen for a celebration of the regiment within County Durham. The Salamanca Band from Winchester and the Burma Band (TA) from Chester le Street, with buglers from the 7th (Durham) Battalion and 8th (Yorkshire) Battalion, Sounded Retreat in front of an audience which included the GOC North East District, Maj Gen Michael Rose, and Maj Gen Tony Makepeace-Warne, Colonel The Light Infantry.

The Retreat was followed by a performance of the 1812 Overture during which field guns were fired by officer cadets from Northumbrian UOTCs.

# Financial Service to the Services

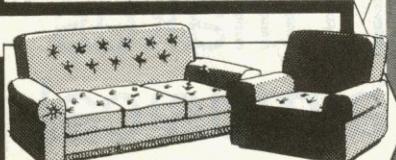


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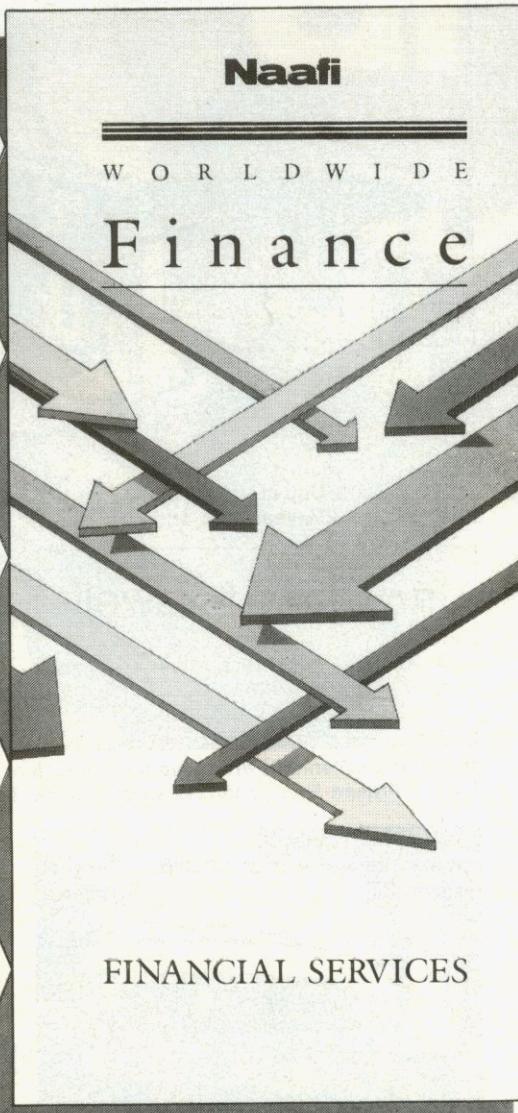
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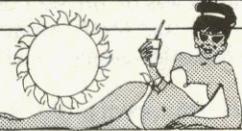


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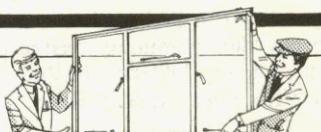
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# BATUS teams survive Arctic freeze trial

TWO teams of eight men from the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Canada, have completed successive survival exercises within the Arctic Circle.

The first, led by Lt James Giggins RAOC, drove Land Rovers 2,600 miles to their base at the town of Inuvik (3,000 inhabitants) about 250 miles within the

Circle. Camping out for five days and travelling by snow machine and pulling toboggans, they experienced variations in the weather – clear blue skies and only minus 15 degrees (C) one minute and down to minus 30 degrees the next with a 40mph wind and nil visibility.

Lt Giggins said: "Even in two sleeping

bags with a liner and musk ox fur mat it was still cold. If you took off your gloves for more than 30 seconds they would freeze."

The second team under Capt Henry Hirst RAOC flew to Inuvik but drove the vehicles back to Suffield after six days exploring lakes in the Mackenzie Delta with a guide from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

# Warpaint warriors fly home

SAPPERS from 65 Corps Support Squadron RE based at Hameln have completed a two-month deployment to BATUS in Canada to prepare the training areas for the 1990 Medicine Man exercises.

Reinforced with troops from 43 Plant Squadron and 30 Field Squadron, the Hameln unit constructed defensive positions, mock villages, navigational aids, bridges and shelters. Exercise Warpaint takes place every year, involving a BAOR sapper squadron in preparation work at Suffield. It was 65 Sqn's fifth Warpaint in ten years.

## Willich playmates

SAPPERS based at Willich, near Rheindahlen, revamped a children's play area in the centre of the town's park as a gesture of goodwill. Men of 40 Engineer Support Group, which was granted the Freedom of Willich in 1973, spent a day clearing and levelling the site.



Cpl Dave Costema, a trombonist in the 1 DERR band, drums the battalion to victory in the Expatriate Men's Cup at Hong Kong's Stanley dragon boat races. The battalion is leaving the Colony after a 2½-year tour and this was its third and final attempt to win the cup.

## Drumhead farewell

THE Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, stationed at Fallingbostel, held a Drumhead service to mark the regiment's return to Germany after two years in the United Kingdom.

TEAM championship in the Cyprus Skill at Arms Meeting was won by 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE. They also took the rifle match prize. Sixteen teams competed.

## Highlanders on top again

FOR the tenth year in succession marksmen of the 2nd Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers have become TA team champions at the Army in Scotland skill at arms meeting, staged this year at Barry Buddon Ranges. The 51 Highland team also won the rifle (Series B) championship and the SMG team prize.

## HONOURS LIST

FOUR major generals were appointed to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath as Companions in the Queen's Birthday Honours List published on June 16.

The full list of military recipients was:

### CB

Maj Gen P F Fagan, late RE; Maj Gen C N Last, late R Signals; Maj Gen J S Lee, late RAEC; Maj Gen E G Willmott, Colonel Commandant RE.

### CBE

Col M P K Beatty, Honorary Colonel 35 (South Midland) Sig Reg (V); Col G E Cauchi, late RAEC; Col C F Drewry, late WG; Brig M G Hunt-Davis, late 7 GR; Brig R J N Kelly, late RE/PCS; Brig J F Rickett, late WG; Col G H Silvey, late RAEC.

### OBE

Lt Col A H Clark, Para; Lt Col J P B Collins, RCT; Acting Lt Col K B Daynes, CCF TA; Lt Col C N G Delves, D and D; Lt Col M G Diss, Kings Own Border TA; Lt Col D R A Elliot, RA; Lt Col D G W Gardiner, R Signals; Lt Col R A F Garnett, RAOC; Lt Col M J Kinson, R Anglian; Lt Col C R L Lomer, Coldstream Gds; Lt Col B K Martin, Para; Lt Col I W B McRobbie, RCT TA; Lt Col P Smart, REME; Lt Col A P Walker, RE; Lt Col R Walton, RTR; Lt Col C R Watt, WG; Lt Col J R Westlake, Kings Own Border.

Maj P A Rull, Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers); WO2 Tang Pui-ching, Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

### MBE

Maj H S Armit, RAOC TA; Maj W A Bailey, RE; Maj R W Ball, RAOC; Maj D E Casey, RA; WO1 J T Clayton, REME; Maj P R Cobley, Para; WO1 S Dexter, R Anglian; WO2 R A Downie, R Signals; Maj J Le B Freeman, RA; Capt J R Freeman, HAC; WO2 D G Goude, R Anglian; Maj H M P Halcrow, R Anglian; Maj H R Haynes, WRAC; Maj G N Heal, RCT; Lt M Jones, Cheshire; WO2 D J Kells, RE; Maj R N Kendall, RTR; Maj S J Knapper, Staffords; Maj R Laverick, RCT TA; Maj J S Lloyd, Gren Gds; Capt J Logan, R Signals; Maj J R Manley, RE TA; WO1 J A Marks, Queens; Maj A G Marriott, RRF; Capt S G Marshall, R Signals.

WO2 D J C Mason, Int Corps; WO1 D A McCarthy, RRW TA; WO2 E W Morrissey, Staffords TA; Capt A Powell, R Anglian; Maj D W Reeve, WFR; Acting Maj W T W Reynolds, CCF; Maj P Robinson, DWR; Maj T G W Silverside, RWF; Maj C P C Sloan, Gordons; Maj C A Styles, R Anglian; Capt L Taylor, RMP; WO2 W P Thornton, LI TA; Maj I M Tomes, RRF; Maj B T Tyler, REME; Maj J R Wallace, RCT; Maj P A Wallace-Tarry, RE; Capt G McD Walsh, RA; Maj T M White, RAOC; WO2 J H Willock, R Signals; J G Wynne, 7 GR.

### Air Force Cross

WO1 N J Collins, AAC.

### Royal Red Cross

As Members – First Class: Col K M Challis, QARANC; Lt Col P Turk, QARANC TA.

As Associate – Second Class: Cpl W J Lashley, QARANC.

### BEM

SSgt P J Addison, R Signals; Sgt W Ashton, REME; Sgt R J Bartlett, 17/21 L; SSgt G D Beveridge, RAOC; SSgt T A Blaza, RMP; SSgt (now WO2) A H Bokenham, R Anglian; Sgt R Bonsall, RAOC; SSgt C Brace, RAOC TA; Sgt K Brown, RAOC TA; Cpl G Campbell, KOSB; SSgt A J Chapple, APTC; Sgt M R Cox, RAOC; SSgt V P Daly, Queens TA; Sgt C N Davies, REME TA; Sgt A R Derbyshire, QLR; Rfn Dhankumar Dewan, 10 GR.

SSgt P Docherty, 51 Highland TA; Sgt G Duffus ACC TA; SSgt D A Duffy, RAOC; SSgt G Easterbrook, Staffords TA; Sgt G C Elliston, R Signals; SSgt G J Geary, RE; Sgt L R D J Gee, ACC TA; Cpl S C Goodwin, RAOC/EF1 TA; SSgt I Gwynne, SG; Sgt D Harrison, RA; Sgt G A Haw, WRAC/Int Corps; SSgt R D Heaton, RE TA; Sgt Hemchandra Rai, 6 GR; SSgt J R Hemingway, RMP; SSgt J Hughes, WRAC; Sgt J F Jenkins, Para; Sgt P T Jones, RWF.

LCpl R A Jones, R Mon RE (M); SSgt T Jones, Cheshire TA; Sgt V M Joyce, REME TA; Sgt K Kay, RAOC TA; Sgt M Keech, R Signals; SSgt M L Kilby, AAC; Cpl D Laird, RE; SSgt A O Laing, RE; SSgt B Lambert, R Anglian; SSgt D S Lawrence, Int Corps; SSgt F Leck, LI TA; Cpl R B Low, R Signals; Sgt D J Mahood, WRAC; SSgt J D Martin, RHF; SSgt S P Milson, Gren Gds; SSgt M T Mooney, RWF.

SSgt S J Russell, Int Corps TA; SSgt I T Raynor, Para; SSgt P Rimell, RAOC; SSgt P R H Russell, REME; Sgt P A Sellers, Gren Gds; SSgt F Sharp, R Signals TA; SSgt P J Shelburn, RRW TA; SSgt G Singh, RAOC; SSgt I J Start, RAMC; Sgt Sudan Dewan, 2 GR; SSgt D H Taylor, RAOC; Sgt C P Treasure, Int Corps; Cpl M J Whelan, R Signals; SSgt M L R White, RAOC; SSgt R J Williams, RMP.

## Chips off the old block

Sixteen-year-old twins **Anthony** and **Michael Rigby** kept up the family tradition when they joined up at Wellington, Shropshire. Proud dad **John** served in the KSLI from 1953-56 and was there to witness the boys being attested by Maj **Roger Taylerson** LI.

John's older sons **Peter** and **Paul** are both in 2 LI.

Maj Taylerson was Peter's company commander at the Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury, and recruiter Sgt **Chris**



**JOINING PARTY:** From left are Sgt Harrison, Anthony, Mr John Rigby, Michael and Maj Taylerson

**Harrison**, also there to see the twins and 19 others sign on, was Peter's instructor. It is no

surprise that both Anthony and Michael have chosen to join the Light Infantry.



## ON YER BIKES, LADS!

Student officers at Ypres Company parade on the steps of Old College, RMA Sandhurst, with the Academy's new mountain bikes which will be used for expeditions. The bikes, presented to RMAS by Giant UK Ltd, have already been put to the test on a trip to the Spanish Pyrenees.

Brig **James Emson**, Assistant Commandant RMAS, is pictured in front with Mr **Tim Buxton** of Giant UK. Fifth from right is Capt **Mark Freeman**, RE, Platoon Commander of Ypres Coy. The students are 2nd Lts **Campbell, Clark, Clements, Davies, Eadie and Stitt**, and OCdts **Sumpter** and **Williams**.



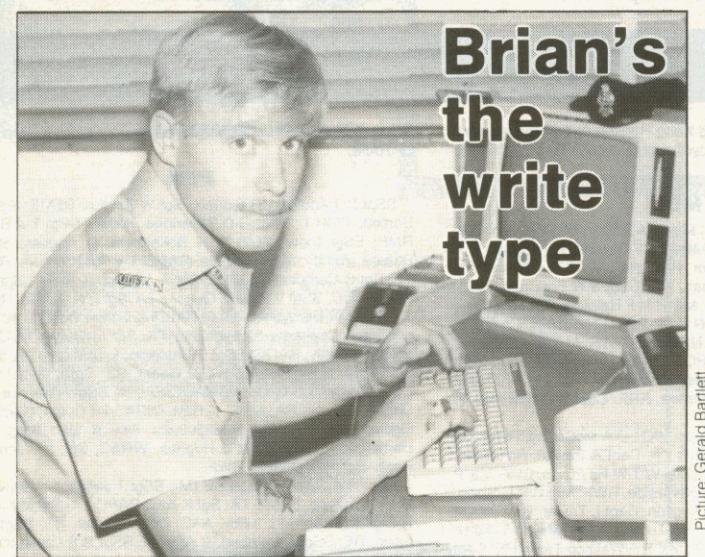
## Irish welcome

Cpl **Tony Murphy** of 1 R Irish shows 13-year-old **Joanne Cowe** the finer points of the SA 80 during a visit by members of the 45-strong Pontefract and Harewood Cadet Detachment, West Yorkshire, to BAOR. The girls, aged between 13 and 17, got first-hand experience of Army life during ten days in Germany as guests of 16th Signal Regiment based at Krefeld.



**FLIGHT PLAN:** Col Ross Mallock, Margaret Mulliner and CSgt Keith Horrell

## Riding high



When **Margaret Mulliner**, who works in the Careers Advisory Service in Oswestry, mentioned to recruiter CSgt **Keith Horrell** that she had always wanted to ride in a helicopter, she little thought that her dream was about to come true. Keith has had many recruits directed to him by Margaret, so he contacted the Army Air Corps Centre. When the Commandant, Col **Ross Mallock**, was on a training flight near Shrewsbury, he dropped in and carried Margaret off in his Gazelle.

Obviously a key man in A Company of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment serving in Cyprus is Pte **Brian Rudwick**. As the company clerk he has had to get to grips with computers. Before he joined the Queens three years ago he was a security officer in Brighton.



## PEOPLE



## CENTRE OF ATTRACTION

Bordon are instructor Sgt **John Parker**, Coldm Gds; and (back, from left), SSgt **Steve Clements**, 7 Sig Regt, Sgt **Burt Nyland**, 3 RRF, Cpl **Chinny Needham**, 3 RRF, and Rfn **Welly Weller**, 1 RGJ.

## Ron gets the bullet

A report by a Falkland Islander led to Capt **Ron Moody** RE, new officer commanding the Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit in Stanley, discovering a cache of several Argentine ammo cases containing thousands of .762 and 9mm rounds.

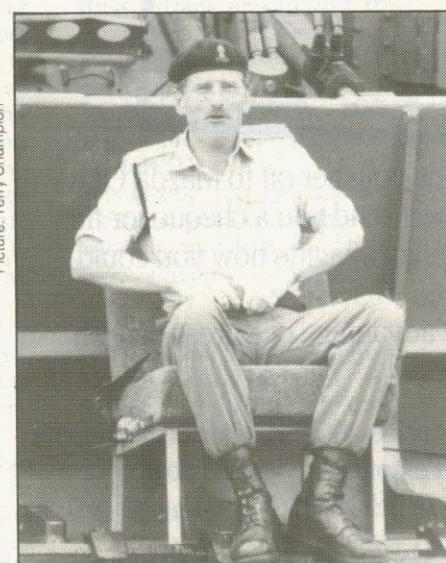
To date the JSEOD team has disposed of 2,600,000 rockets, missiles, bombs, shells, grenades and rounds of ammunition. There are reckoned to be 30,000 undetectable Argentine mines still scattered around the islands.



**ROUND AND ABOUT:** Capt Ron Moody

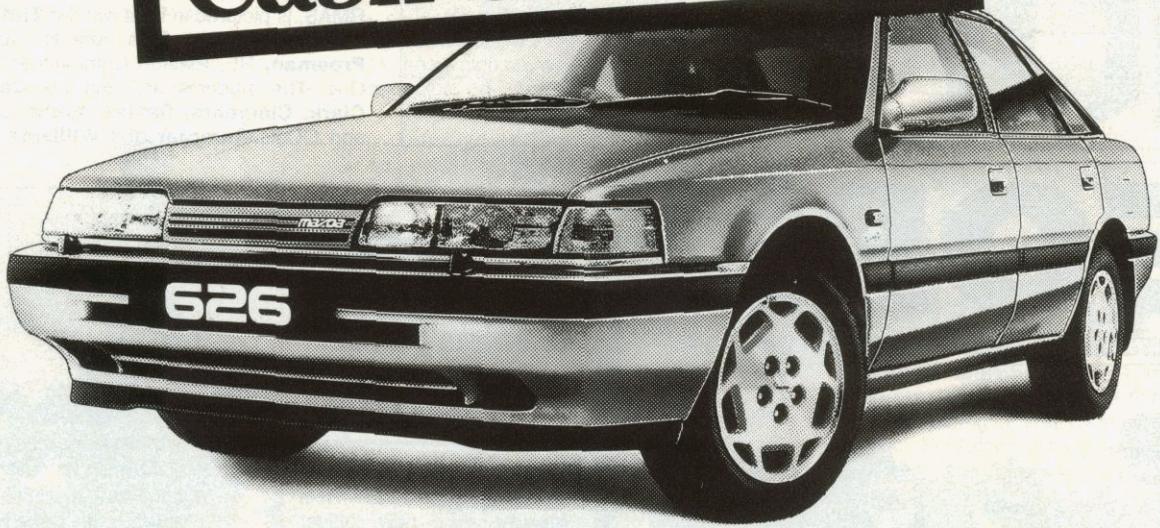
## Scoop news

Lt Col **James Anderson** RE was well and truly bulldozed out of his job. The commanding officer of 22 Engineer Regiment at Perham Down, Andover, Hants, he was "seen off" in the bucket of a combat engineering tractor when he left after 2½ years to work on the New Management Strategy in MoD. He has been succeeded by Lt Col **Andy Craig**, formerly an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley.



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# So that's how we started!

SOLDIER's popular occasional series looking back through its archives has produced its first historical gem.

A routine check of office files unearthed two of the original dummy issues of the magazine – referred to in our anniversary issue of March 19, 1990 – which were passed around the War Office before authority to publish was granted by Field Marshal Montgomery.

Original proposals described the magazine, intended as a weekly, as SOLDIER – *The Army Illustrated*.

Suggested feature articles in the dummy, dated May 8, 1942, included "Ordnance – what weapons are best", and notes on German field, infantry, assault, anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns.

A column entitled Science and the Soldier was to include items with a high "yawn" factor – Radiolocator news, for example, and a piece on shell velocities.

Another proposed regular column was "Soldier and Civilian", a weekly digest of fact, comment and criticism from the home front, with items on the Press, the Naafi and Parliament.

It may have taken three years to get off the ground but, 45 years on, SOLDIER still provides news, views and information for and about the British Army – a record of which it remains proud.

## BERF capsule

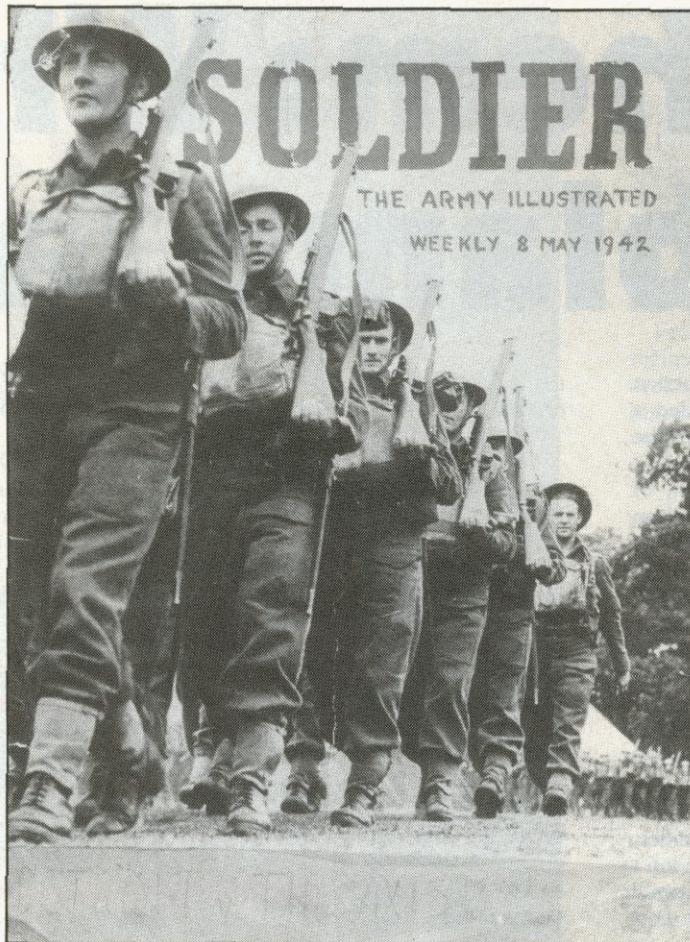
Lt Col Keith Johnson, new commanding officer of 43 District Workshop REME at Aldershot, was chosen to place a time capsule in a new £16.4m futuristic building that will streamline the Army's path into the next century.



Lt Col Johnson

Col Johnson was previously Project Liaison Officer for Project BERF – the Base

# SOLDIER to Soldier



Front cover of one of the original SOLDIER dummy issues

Equipment Repair Facility at Old Dalby, near Nottingham.

After years of working from converted Second World War buildings it was decided that REME should be housed in accommodation to match the technology of new air defence and surveillance weapons such as Starstreak which they would be repairing.

It was also an opportunity for REME to design a proper process system of repairs to replace those developed on an *ad hoc* basis in the past. This concept was that a whole weapons system could drive into a building, be broken down into repairable assemblies, and then go on to the various specialist facilities in the building for testing.

All the items would then be joined together for complete systems testing before return to the customer. Now the drawing board ideas are a reality.

Project BERF was Col Johnson's brainchild. The capsule contained, among other items, photographs and details of the 50 military and 600 civilian staff working at Old Dalby.

## Warminster on show



Rare opportunities to see a Russian tank and to visit the exclusive and much-acclaimed Small Arms Museum will be on offer to visitors to Warminster Garrison Open Day at the School of Infantry on July 21.

Non-stop arena events will include massed bands, free-fall parachuting, falconry and high-level abseiling as well as a display by the English Civil War Society.

The show, which takes place between 1pm and 6pm, will include a wealth of other attractions and exhibitions and will be rounded off with a Beating Retreat and hot-air balloon lift-off.

Details are available from the Secretary, Garrison 90, HQ School of Infantry (tel: Warminster 214000 ext 2470).

## Harding window

Fourteenth and latest in a series of stained-glass windows dedicated to the memory of field marshals has been unveiled in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst.

The new window, commemorating the late Field Marshal The Lord Harding of Petherton, was dedicated by the Chaplain General, the Rev Jim Harkness, at a special morning service on June 24.

The ceremony took place in the presence of the Field Marshal's family and friends, field marshals and distinguished soldiers who served with him, and representatives of the many societies with which he was associated.

Design of the window was the work of Mr Lawrence Lee, who was responsible for 13 other windows dedicated to field marshals.

## A family dinner . . .

Sitting down to dinner with the family is a regimental occasion for the Bromhams, who have their roots in the South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment of Foot).

The old 24th has now evolved into The Royal Regiment of Wales and when the officers of the regiment held their annual dinner in the Hythe Mess at Warminster, Capt Jennifer Bromham RAMC attended in her own right as medical officer of the 1st Battalion.

She was alongside her husband, Capt Alexander Bromham RRW, her grandfather, Lt Col David Rhys, who served with the Borderers, and her father-in-law, Lt Col David Bromham, who served with both the Borderers and the RRW.

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

**FIGHTER** and Hampshire farmer, Maj Gen John Dutton Frost is arguably the best-known survivor of Operation Market Garden – the ill-fated attempt to open up a corridor for

Montgomery's tanks to invade Germany and push into its industrial heart, the Ruhr. The operation's principal objective was the bridge over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem.

# Arnhem: Where the blame lay

GENERAL Frost's last wartime action was at Arnhem where he commanded a small force holding out on the edge of the bridge. The operation was surrounded by controversy and remains a subject of discussion today. **SOLDIER** asked him for his views on the action and why it went disastrously wrong.

*How did your force manage to hold out so long against forces of overwhelming superiority?*

"Well, I think we were quite good at killing the enemy, in their hundreds. After the war, the German divisional commander, Brig Gen Heinz Harmel told me he was held up and actually directed the fire of guns himself.

"Gen Dietrich, his Corps Commander, kept coming up and saying 'If you don't get rid of these people damned soon, you'll be for the high jump.' I don't know how we held out. We just did."

*This was not your first experience of being under fire. How do you cope with such a situation?*

"I think it's probably different each time. If you are feeling in good form that day, it's not so bad. It's a funny thing about life, you don't remember the unpleasant things, only the nice. Fortunately, the business of fear and terror comes and goes so quickly that you forget what it's like."

*Who was responsible for the failure? It is said that Gen Urquart was shabbily*

treated and wrongly blamed for the failure of Operation Market Garden.

"Yes, he was."

*What then, went wrong?*

"The Battle of Arnhem was lost at Nijmegen, for the bridge there was a key point – a huge great obstacle – and the fantastic thing was that there had been no plans made by Browning (Lt Gen Frederick Browning, Commander 1st British Airborne Corps) to take that bridge on the first day when it was there for the taking.

"As a result the whole of the American 82nd Division had to cross the river in boats, which was fantastically bad planning.

"All the way through, the planning was absolutely wrong, as were the American Air Command who refused to fly two sorties in one day. They easily could have done that.

"They could have taken off at dawn on the first morning, dropped the first load, and come back and then reloaded again so that we had the whole of our airborne force, British and American, down on the same day. This was the key."

*Can you explain how the faults arose in the planning stages?*



Medals of a fighting para. The group is headed by a DSO for Oudna with a second award bar for Arnhem, and a Military Cross for the Bruneval Raid

"We all blame it on the American commander who thought it was asking too much of his aircrews to do two hops in a day. When you think of what they did subsequently in the Berlin air lift . . .

"To say you can't fly from airfields in eastern England to drop in Holland and come back the same day and reload is absolute cock."

*Do you think the element of blame put on Montgomery over the years was fair?*

"Well, I think he was a bit off at the time, but I think one has to remember that everybody had begun to think the war was over, and was tending to take a slightly unrealistic view of the way things were going.

"They thought the Germans were absolutely beaten. Instead, the Germans had an extraordinary resilience and, given a moment or two, there they were back fighting again. I think this is what people hadn't taken into account."

*What was your opinion of the German fighting soldier?*

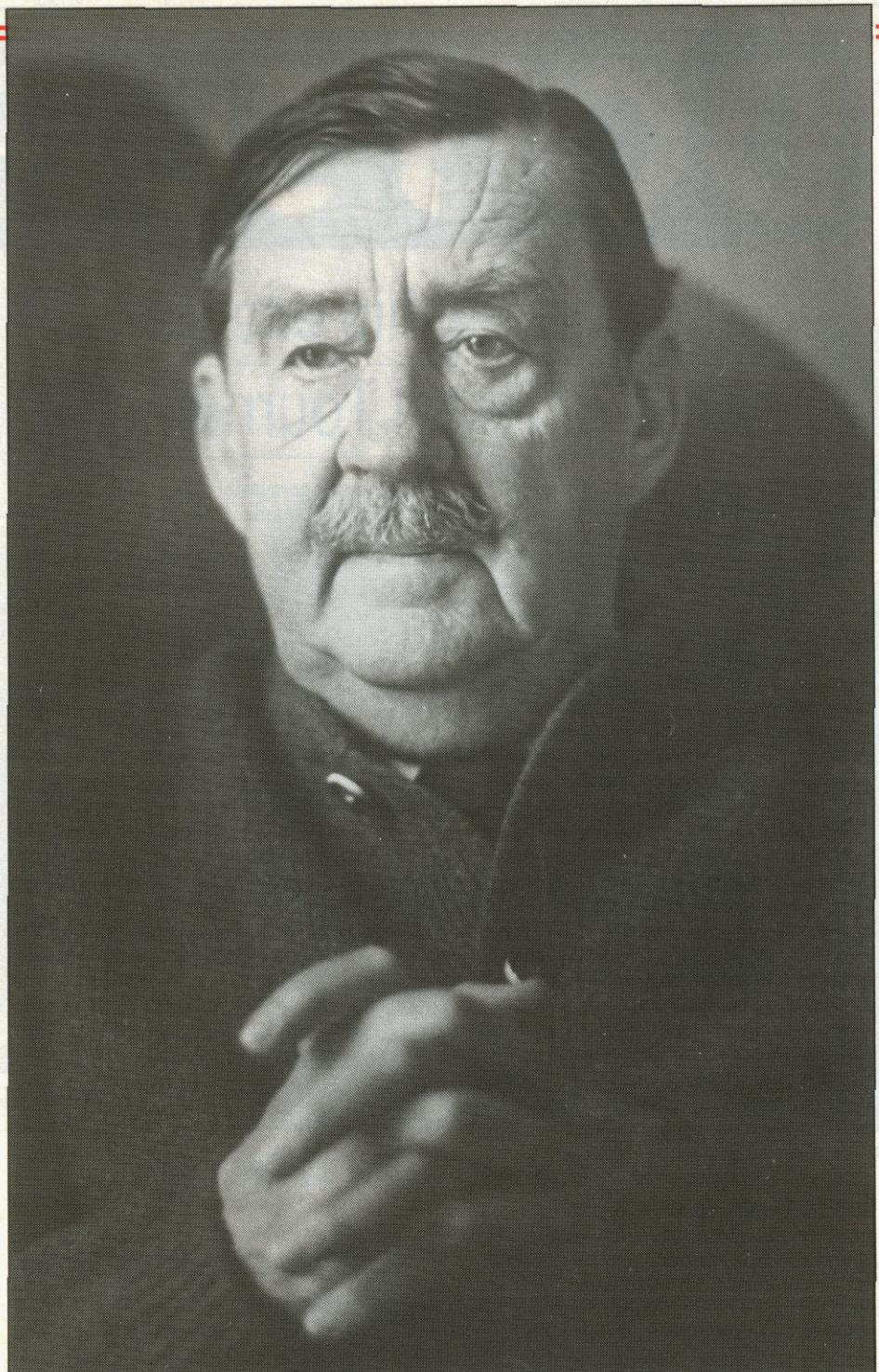
"I have always had tremendous respect for him. Funny enough, this (Arnhem) was the first time we had fought against the SS and I remember when we knew that we were going to be taken prisoner because we were wounded and couldn't move, I thought this was going to be most unpleasant.

"They could not have been more charming. Mind you, the war was nearly over. Still, they were very helpful getting us wounded out of this burning building otherwise we would have been burnt to death."

Frost was wounded and captured at Arnhem but freed before the end of the war when the prisoner-of-war camp he was held in was liberated by Patton's troops.

Gen Frost had entered the Army through the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1931 and was commissioned in 1932. Of his term mates, none were destined to become as well known in fighting circles as Frost, although their numbers included a future Governor of Jersey and a future rider of a Grand National winner.

He almost became a flier, having passed



Pictures: Mike Weston

Maj Gen John Frost

by Laurie Manton

**'The thing I remember most about Sandhurst was spending hours and hours on the drill square'**

into Cranwell at the same time he passed into Sandhurst, but his father, Brig Gen F D Frost, late Cheshire Regiment, took him to one side and said he was to enter Sandhurst, ending any thoughts he had of joining the Royal Air Force.

He remembers his time at Sandhurst as awful.

"Bloody awful! The aim was to turn you into a really smart soldier rather than an officer.

"Drill was the main thing in those days, probably still is. The thing I remember most about Sandhurst was spending hours and hours on the drill square."

Gen Frost was commissioned into the Cameronians, although not by his own choice. In those days fathers still had an enormous influence on the direction in which the sons' would proceed.

"At first, he wanted me to go into his regiment, but always had a great penchant for both Scottish and Rifle regiments. He believed the Cameronians offered both and said 'Right! You will go into that, my boy', and that was that."

Peacetime soldiering with the Cameronians at Bordon occupied the young officer's service until 1936, when the regiment was sent to Palestine while the

**On the SS at Arnhem:**  
**'They were very helpful getting us wounded out of this burning building . . .'**

Arab rebellion was at its height.

Frost still hankered after flying and applied for an attachment to the Royal Air Force, but a fall in a point-to-point race left him deaf in one ear so the RAF would not take him. However, he was offered a place in the Iraqi Levies which they ran and he jumped at the chance.

Frost returned from Iraq to rejoin his regiment when the Second World War broke out and was frustrated to find himself on beach defence. He promptly volunteered for the newly-formed Parachute Regiment.

"I'd returned from Iraq to fight with my regiment, and found myself stuck on the Suffolk coast with nothing happening, spending hours and hours putting up tubular scaffolding and barbed-wire defences. So, when the opportunity came to join the paras I thought I'd take it."

*How did Frost feel about his first drop?*

"It was from a balloon. One wasn't really looking forward to it very much. I was never very keen on the parachuting, but it always struck me as a marvellous way to get to the enemy without having to march for miles and miles."

Frost moved on to training jumps from converted Whitley bombers.

"It was an awful old thing that carried a maximum of ten people and it was very uncomfortable inside. You jumped out through a hole. Trouble was that if you jumped too far, you hit your nose on the far side of the opening, and if you didn't jump far enough, your parachute caught on the edge and tipped you on to your nose anyway."

He preferred jumping from a moving aircraft to leaping from a static balloon. "It was much more pleasant because when dropping from a balloon, there is a terrific sense of falling, whereas once you get out of an aircraft the airstream tugs your parachute away and you have very little sensation of falling."

After taking part in the paras' first successful parachute operation – the Bruneval Raid – only the second operation of its type, Frost fought through the Tunisian campaign.

Next came service in Sicily, where the paras were dropped at Primosole Bridge on July 13, 1943 not long after German paratroopers had landed on the same spot.

The action was almost an unmitigated disaster, for only 39 out of 126 Dakota aircraft carrying 1,900 paratroopers succeeded in dropping within a mile of the bridge. Nineteen aircraft returned to base with their frustrated human cargoes.

Many aircraft were shot down in error by the Allied naval force when the inexperienced pilots strayed off course and many paras perished when ordered to jump while their aircraft were still over the sea.

● Turn to next page



Gen Frost with his famous hunting horn. When radio batteries ran down on airborne operations he used it to communicate with his men

## The Arnhem story

From Page 15

The depleted force of 1 Airborne Brigade was fortunate to be relieved by troops of the 50th Division as it faced the prospect of being over-run by superior German forces.

"We were so badly dropped all over the place and, as well as being shot down by the Navy, we were nothing like the strength we should have been. The German paras were able to take full advantage."

After the war, Gen Frost held a number of appointments and commands before retiring from the British Army in 1967 and turning to farming. His last post was as Commander Malta Land Forces in the rank of major general. Now 77, he lives quietly in retirement at his Hampshire farmhouse.

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# DOUBLE-ACT

## Unique partnership ensures success of Royal Tournament

WRITERS tend to run out of superlatives when describing the Royal Tournament, especially famed for its spectacular backcloths and ambitious sets.

Its first aim is to promote the Armed Forces to the public. Now 320,000 see the show live, and it goes out on television to more than eight-and-a-half million people.

Second aim is to raise money for Service charities - around £100,000 a year, bringing the total to more than £2m since it was first staged in 1880. Proceeds of the yearly preview performance are also for charity.

Each time a different Service is highlighted. This year - the 100th (the missing ten were taken up by war years) - it is the turn of the Royal Navy, from July 11 to 28.

Behind the success of the spectacular - a must for generations of family audiences - is the expertise and foresight of two former Army officers, Maj Michael Parker, who has produced every show since 1974, and Col Iain Ferguson, director since 1981.

Their close working partnership, cemented by a delightful line in banter, can in part be explained by the considerable charm of both men. It is Michael who convinces doubters that his irrepressible ideas can be realised, while sponsors making cash pledges find Iain's

powers of persuasion irresistible, too.

Each tournament is planned well in advance and it is not unusual to see Michael sitting in on a meeting about a current show, busily sketching ideas for the next.

But his best ideas, which bring gasps of admiration from the first view of his hand-made models to their public debut as backcloth and set, surface when he is at his most relaxed . . . in his bath listening to *The Archers* on the radio.

"Fortunately, I don't have too much trouble finding ideas. The problem is finding one we can afford," he explained.

He has a £480,000 production budget, considered small compared with outside enterprises.

"It means that everything has to be done quite cleverly so that it looks a great deal better than it is."

Other major considerations are the availability of Service manpower and the short time they have to rehearse at Earls Court. He said that though most problems centred on his massive backcloths, he was undeterred.

Inevitably, there are mishaps. Like the time a 200ft "ship" crashed through the backcloth.

"Normally, we try to paper over the problems so nobody notices, but that time we could not carry on with the show.

"Fortunately, I was able to bring on the Royal Artillery motor cycle display team clowns while we put matters right."

On the other occasion a party of drummers became stuck on a lift 80ft above the arena. Their evacuation by rope distracted the audience from the next display.

But where there are doubts about the smooth-running of the programme, there is always something in reserve.

And, while it is Michael's innovative mind that is the backbone of the programme's originality, he is always ready to get down to the basics of using a hammer and nails.

# DOUBLE-ACT



Picture: Mike Perring

The success story of the Royal Tournament is due to the partnership of the producer, Maj Michael Parker (left), and director Col Iain Ferguson. The show they put on is "bigger and better" than any other

"We are on such a low budget, everybody has to be used to work."

It was while serving with The Queen's Own Hussars that he had his first taste of theatrical work running the Berlin Tattoo in 1965. Other shows followed, and now his services as a show director are sought worldwide.

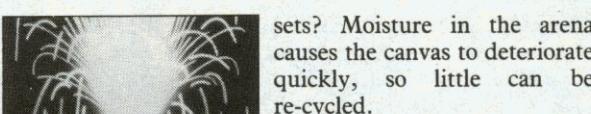
This year alone there is a packed diary of engagements ranging from the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebrations at Horse Guards to the opening of what is described as Europe's largest shopping centre at Thurrock.

"We're wrapping the building up as a great parcel and ripping it open with fireworks and lasers."

Meanwhile, ideas are percolating for next year's Royal Tournament, when it will be the Army's turn to be featured. Plans include a 40ft high bearskin.

"No one does a theatrical performance on this scale, which can involve a cast of 1,200. Everything we do has to be bigger and better than anyone else," said Michael.

What happens to used backcloths and



sets? Moisture in the arena causes the canvas to deteriorate quickly, so little can be re-cycled.

But, somewhere in a wood in Hampshire rests an 80ft purple and green dragon. In its tournament heyday it breathed flames and smoke, its wings flapped and tail moved, thanks to the seven men working it from the inside. Now it lies in wait for an idea.

Iain, who was in the Scots Guards for 30 years, says of Michael: "I don't know where he gets his ideas from, they are simply marvellous and people are astonished by them."

"It is a very happy partnership. I am very fortunate. I put a great confidence in what he does."

Financial constraint in the Armed Forces has brought severe cutbacks in manpower and facilities previously freely given to the Royal Tournament.

Iain explained: "We now pay for everything, so it makes it all the more vital to attract more people. The 1990 show is probably costing £120,000 more because of the civilians we have had to pay for work

normally done by the Services.

"Costs are building up in a terrifying way. Unless sponsorship does continue to be good, along with a good box office, we will undoubtedly find ourselves in trouble in three or four years."

"I have cautioned against this in every way I can. It would be terrible to increase the price of tickets above inflation, because we would lose our traditional audiences. Certainly, we would not want to reduce the quality of the show."

The Tournament enjoys royal patronage.

"If something went wrong I am quite sure the Queen would let us know. Equally, she is very complimentary when it goes well," said Iain.

He and his team are already hard at work planning the 1991 show. The programme includes the massed bands of all cavalry regiments, a re-enactment of the American Civil War, and an appearance of Hussars of the World from Hungary.

Iain promised: "It will be very colourful and traditional, and a worthy start to the next century - 100 not out!"

Words by Jennifer Griffiths

# We have lift-off!



LCpl Dave Goffin gets airborne. He set a new team record by leaping three cars and 15 motor bikes



Lindsey Champion with the SOLDIER draw prizes



Young Gary Burgess drops his entry into the SOLDIER draw 'postbox'

## Feast of fun

BAD Lippspringe was the venue for the 1990 Rhine Army Summer Show which attracted tens of thousands of Service personnel and their families to a three-day feast of fun and extravaganza, writes Laurie Manton.

The show's origins are equestrian and this theme was maintained by the inclusion of international show-jumping, polo, tent-pegging and pony club games.

One-and-a-half kilometres of trade stands provided something to interest everybody, but the largest single attraction was the main arena which hosted performances ranging from the Royal Signals White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team to a United States Army Drill Team from Berlin.

During the show, flying signaller LCpl Dave Goffin



Redcaps LCpl Debbie Johnston and SSgt Ken Malcom cope with the influx of 1,000 bicycles

leaped to a new White Helmets team record by jumping his motor cycle over three cars and 15 motor bikes.

With armed members of the Feldjäger (German Military Police) patrolling jointly with men and women of the Royal Military Police, increased security was much in evidence

throughout the showground.

RMP presence included a number of TA personnel from the UK. Members of Edinburgh-based 243 Pro Coy RMP (V), 254 (Northern Ireland), 253 (London) and 160 (Home Defence) Pro Coy RMP (V) from Chichester were employed on car parking security and

vehicle search duties.

Said SSgt Ken Malcolm of 234 Company: "We didn't expect to see so many people arrive on bicycles. At one stage more than a thousand bikes were lined up in a corner of the parking area."

A full post office counter service was provided by 1



Cpl Louise Thomas explains the danger of a car bomb to Mrs Valier Datoo and sons Simon and Alexander

Postal and Courier Regiment

Most sobering sight among the displays was the RMPs crime prevention stand containing a car which had had 1lb of explosive detonated underneath the driver's seat to simulate the effect of a car bomb.

Security here, too, was tight. "All mail posted at the show is passed through an X-ray machine," explained WO2

Barry Payne of 13 Squadron.

Crowds gathered around the mangled wreckage each time Redcaps demonstrated how to check a vehicle.

As SSgt Taff Severs and Jimmy Gibson took the spectators through the list of checks, Cpl Louise Thomas of

personal security and the need to check a vehicle before use.

Crowds gathered around the mangled wreckage each time Redcaps demonstrated how to check a vehicle.

As SSgt Taff Severs and Jimmy Gibson took the spectators through the list of checks, Cpl Louise Thomas of

Dave 'flies' to new jump record for White Helmets at the Rhine Army Show

111 Pro Coy RMP showed how easily a terrorist could place a bomb underneath a car.

Main arena party was provided by 39 Heavy Regiment RA and the show-jumping arena parties were formed by elements of The Life Guards, 16th/5th Queens Lancers and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

One of the most popular and colourful stands was SOLDIER's, where promotions staff Lindsey Champion and Dawn Homewood were kept busy as thousands of copies of our BAOR special issue were snapped up.

The stand also featured a daily free prize draw for kit worth £400 donated by Survival Aids, plus a commemorative plaque provided by Military Marketing International (see reader offer on Page 38).

Winners of the SOLDIER draw for prizes donated by Survival Aids: Day 1 (Bivi Bag) - Lt Hamilton Russell, 17/21; Day 2 (Cyclops Roc) - Sean Hunter, 4 ADTR RCT; Day 3 (DPM Ventile Smock) - R A Taylor, Sennelager.

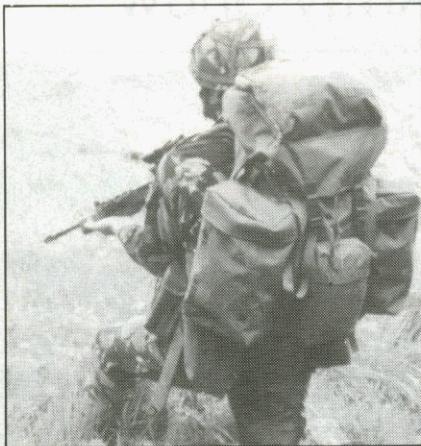
SOLDIER grand draw for plaque (donated by Military Marketing International) to commemorate 90th birthday of the Queen Mother - Mrs Skilern, 39 Hvy Regt RA.

SOLDIER subscriptions to Mrs Eisler, 3 Tk Tpr Sqn; Mr Jenner, 2 Armd Fd Amb; Mrs J Dawson, Harsewinkel; WO2 Smith, Soest; Mrs D Hobbs, 49 Fd Wksp and Tpr McCowan, 16/5L.

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- The two side pouches are attached to the main body by heavy duty zips, and can be used singly or zipped together to form a small day patrol pack equivalent. For this mode of use a separate lightweight adjustable yoke is provided.
- Life time guarantee Price £125.00 + £2.25 p&p

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Men of The Parachute Regiment march through the City of London

Picture: Terry Champion

# PARA CAPITAL



LONDON became a Para town on June 22 when more than 3,500 past and present members of the Airborne Forces marked their golden jubilee with a service in St Paul's Cathedral and a march past and parade through the City.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, joined in the thanksgiving service, which was followed by a flypast of Hercules aircraft.

Men of The Parachute Regiment marched with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying. They were joined by former Paras from all over the world.

The London parade was followed by two huge birthday parties – one behind tight security at a London barracks, the other hosted by the Lord Mayor at the Guildhall.

Two Falklands veterans, Sgt Bob Parry of 2 Para and Cpl Michael Bernstein of 5 Airborne Brigade Signal Squadron, and Cpl Mark Barron, 9 Parachute Squadron RE, met Prince Charles on the steps of St Paul's.

Airborne Forces veterans in the birthday parade



The Prince of Wales takes the salute

A galaxy of famous Airborne personalities gathered for the thanksgiving service and reception. Among them were Fd Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, Generals Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Sir John Hackett, Sir Nigel Poett, Sir Kenneth Darling, and Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Maj Gen John Frost, Brig James Hill, and Falklands war commanders Brig David Chaudler, Brig Hew Pike and Lt Col Chris Keeble.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the RAF Sir David Craig, and the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir John Chapple, were also present.

Transatlantic oarsman Chay Blyth, once of 3 Para, and TV celebrity Michael Aspel, formerly of 10 Para (V), also took part.



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# Battalion pays tribute to Falklands fallen

The Colours were draped over the piled drums, the Last Post was sounded and the congregation stood silent for two minutes . . . remembering.

They had gathered to commemorate the storming of Mount Longdon on June 12, 1982.

Twenty-two men of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment died on its craggy slopes and

more than 40 were wounded. So there was plenty to remember.

A sergeant read a personal account of the battle and you could have heard the proverbial pin drop in the garrison church of Palace Barracks, Belfast.

The eyes of some of the veterans present shone with an extra brightness.

After Reveille – played by a

member of the King's Regiment band which provided the music for the hymns – the Rev Gordon Watts, Senior Chaplain Northern Ireland, dedicated a memorial window to the men of 1 and 3 Para who have died on duty during residential tours at "Palace".

The 3rd Battalion has lost four men since it moved in at the end of 1988. Three were killed by a

terrorist bomb at Rathfriland, Co Down, the fourth by a hit-and-run driver.

In remembrance of these latest victims of violence trees have been planted in the grounds of the barracks.

Fresh flowers were placed at their foot that day.

There is nothing wrong in keeping the memory green.

## Longdon: A Para's story

PULL up a sandbag. This is going to be a war story with a difference. It was told in St George's Church, Palace Barracks, Belfast on the anniversary of the fight for Mount Longdon during the Falklands war.

Sgt Len Carver told it to a congregation composed mainly of men from B Coy the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the other companies being on duty elsewhere.

He delivered it in a plain soldierly manner which needs no embellishment. This is it.

• I was a lance-corporal in 5 Platoon B Company – a gun team commander. There was myself and two Toms.

Though the battle lasted ten hours, the preparations had gone on for weeks beforehand – the trip down, the landing, the tab across the Falklands before going in to tackle Mount Longdon.

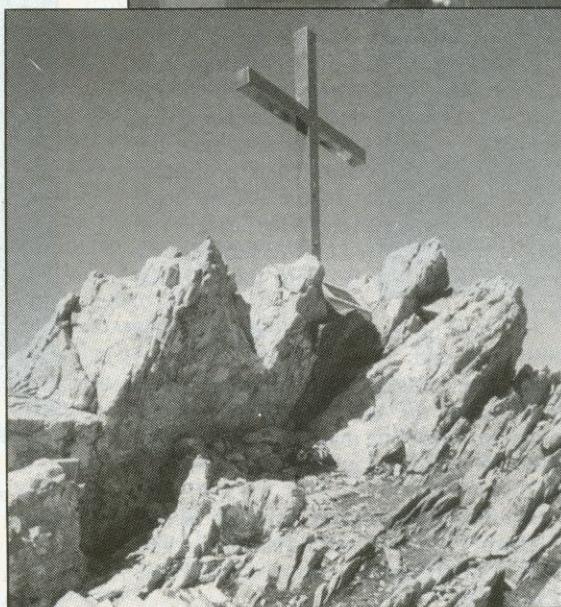
At our assembly point the main impression was of lots of ammunition. I couldn't believe it . . . it wasn't like an exercise where your platoon sergeant gives you five rounds and says make that last for the next couple of days – it was coming up by the stretcher-full. There was no way we could carry it all.

As we moved through the mortar lines behind B Company they were giving us their spare grenades . . . after a time we had to say no . . . we just couldn't carry any more.

We went through rehearsals for the attack which, as it happened, bore no resemblance to how it turned out in the



Sgt Len Carver tells his story. Inset left is the memorial cross now standing on the summit of Mount Longdon



Picture Paul Haley

end. We worked on the old system of the gun team giving covering fire to the rest of the section but when we eventually hit Longdon it was decided we couldn't do it because of the rocks . . . you were lucky if you could see the bloke next to you, let alone the rest of the section.

B Company was lucky to make it to the

start point because Support Company crept through us on the way to their area and part of 5 Platoon and 6 Platoon tagged on to them. It took half an hour of reorganisation to get them back again.

The OC asked permission to carry straight on. Instead of going the long way round we went the direct route to the start point . . . 4 Platoon on the left, 5 Platoon in the centre and 6 on the right in an extended line. It seemed just like the olden days waiting for the whistle to blow.

We lay down, and though it was freezing cold and clear night you didn't feel the cold because of anticipation of what was coming.

All the training he'd been through, at the Depot, in the battalion, was going to be put into practice . . . I thought this is going to be make or break for B Company.

We got the signal to stand up and advance and I was the link man for 6 Platoon. All of a sudden we heard an explosion. Cpl Brian Milne had stood on

● Turn to next page

# Longdon: A Para's story

● From Page 23

an anti-personnel mine. We all thought 'We're in the minefield . . . here we go'.

Because Brian stood on the mine 4 Platoon ran straight through the minefield without taking further casualties. One man was left to deal with Brian. We gained the rocks but got split up. My section commander ended up with 4 Platoon.

With my two lads I joined up with Cpl Eakin. We were just starting to get to the steep part and we looked up and saw what we thought was a radio antenna.

It turned out to be a barrel of the .5 pointing directly in the air. It was an Argentinian gun position which had been abandoned. However, we assaulted it and found a young Argentinian conscript at the bottom of the trench and two in a cave behind . . . a section command and his 2iC.

We left the prisoners to be collected by the section coming up behind and came over the top of Longdon and looked down.

The noise was tremendous . . . MG fire . . . 120 mortars going off somewhere . . . a .5 firing green tracer out to A Company stuck in the open . . . they'd been caught in the minefield again and gone firm.

We now had three platoons on one small ridge. Behind us 6 Platoon were getting into their enemy. They'd by-passed a couple of enemy positions and were taking fire from behind. They were actually having to fight on two fronts. Rounds were coming down from 6 Platoon into the middle of us . . . we were trying to control their fire and direct it away from us.

Went up over the top clearing several positions. There were a lot of unsung heroes that night, private soldiers who got in there and did the business.

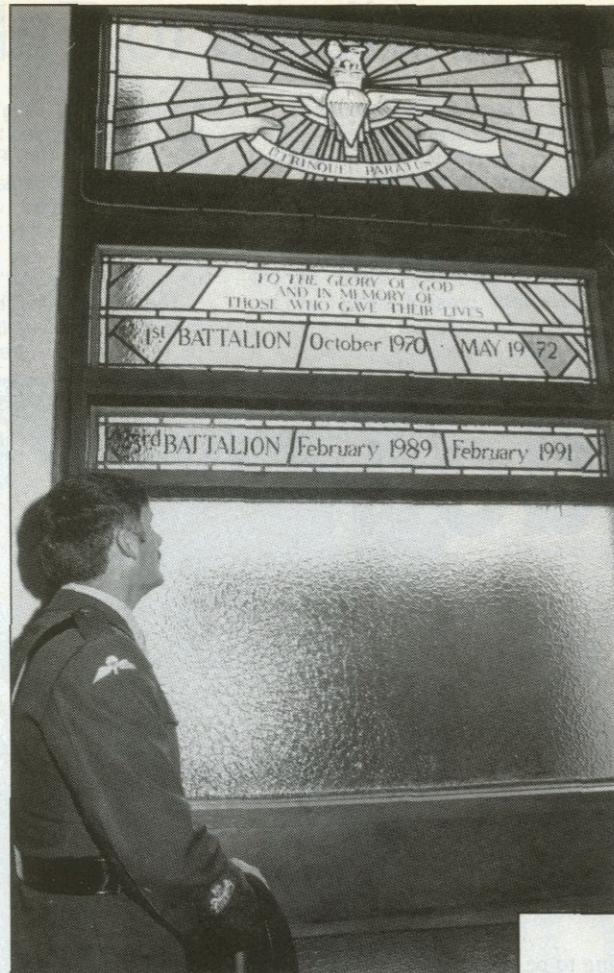
Suddenly we came under fire from another .5 and had to take cover. The three of us dived into what we thought was a trench. One of the lads, Ben Gough, dropped his glove and reached down to find it . . . so we found out exactly what it was . . . an Argentinian latrine.

We were stuck there for a couple of hours. There was no way we could move . . . we were under intense fire. It wasn't until Capt McCracken of the artillery boys had come up and called down covering fire, that we were able to run back. I saw Capt McCracken, with his bergen on, legging it and shouted 'Where are you going?'

He said 'That shell was close to us . . . 50 metres . . . there's another five in the air and I don't know where they're coming down.' So we ran with him and got into cover. The rounds landed on the position where we'd been stuck.

We went firm for a while. The CSM . . . CSM John Weeks, and the OC went round the lads . . . 'Come on boys . . . don't go to sleep . . . watch your arcs . . . let's get a brew on.' The sergeant-major was there all the time keeping the boys going.

We got several brews on. You can't



RSM Colin Smith inspects the memorial window before the service



Falklands veterans pictured at Palace Barracks, Belfast, after the service commemorating the battle of Mount Longdon



The medic who treated me was Cpl Chris Lovett, who was killed later on.

Listening to the lads afterwards I gathered that the worst part was afterwards when they went firm.

The position had been taken and they came under artillery fire . . . 105s and 115s down in Stanley.

In the whole battle we lost 22 killed and more than 40 wounded. It was classed as the bloodiest battle of the Falklands campaign. Perhaps it was. The thing was that man for man that night we were not found wanting.'

**Veterans in harmony:**  
Gus Platts (left), Secretary of Grimsby Parachute Regimental Association, fought in the Second World War, while Maj Laurie Ashbridge was 3 Para's RSM in the Falklands. Regimental associations subscribed to the memorial window dedicated in St George's Church, Palace Barracks, Belfast

## BIRTHDAY HE WON'T FORGET

CAPT Del Amos of 3 Para was serving with the 2nd Battalion in the Falklands.

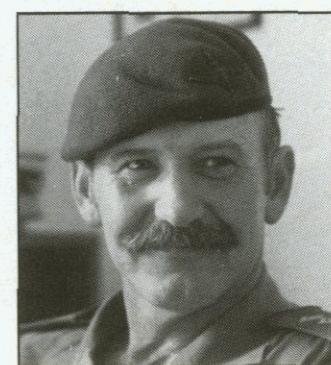
"I was a sort of rent-a-WO2 and after we took Wireless Ridge I was one of the last to come off the mountain. Everyone seemed to have found themselves a spot to kip down in Stanley but I spent the night in a pig sty - the pig was still around so the Argentinians can't have known it was there.

"The next day I got this message to report to an address in Stanley at 7 in the evening. There was a curfew - there were still Argentinians about - but I was told I had to get there all the same. I found the place and knocked on the door of a bomb-shattered house.

"It was opened by the senior NCO of the sniper section, Sgt Bonzo Head.

I followed him into the living room and discovered the table was set for dinner for about ten people, complete with candles.

"Only a day or two earlier they'd been in action on the mountain but someone had remembered it was my birthday.



Capt Amos

"We had soup and fresh bread rolls. They'd found some flour and baked them themselves.

"We had Argentine tinned beef and a bottle of wine - I suppose it was awful plonk really but it tasted like nectar.

"And we finished off with tinned pineapple chunks.

"In the middle of the meal, CSM Jed Petefield came round the table and gave me an envelope with a birthday card in it. They'd found one, rubbed out the original name and written in mine.

"I've still got it. You never forget things like that."

## Shells hid a deadly surprise

DRUM Major John Cook, a corporal detachment commander in the Machine Gun Platoon of 3 Para at the time, went exploring in Stanley soon after it fell.

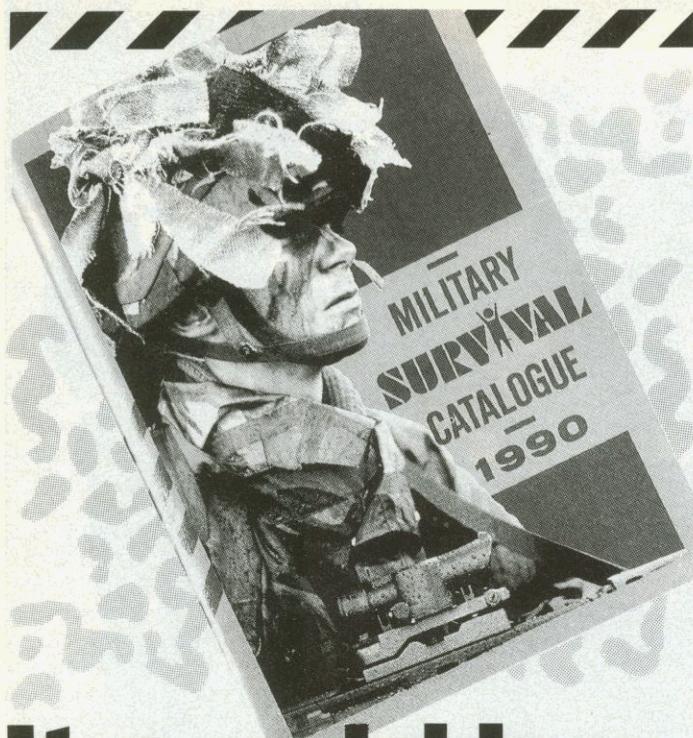
"We saw this brand new shed and decided to investigate. It was full of stores with a whole lot of shells stacked at one end and boxes of tools at the other . . . chisels and that sort of thing.

"It was an Argentinian pioneer dump so we helped ourselves to what we thought might come in useful.

"Some of the other lads saw the tools and wanted to know where we got them but we weren't saying. We told them we'd get some for them but when we went along the next day the place was cordoned off by the RMP.

"There was a booby trap - a big bomb - under the stacks of shells. The Argentinians must have thought we would go for the ammunition first . . . just as well we were interested in something more useful."

**NEXT ISSUE: Paras in Northern Ireland**



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The **Royal Hussars**, the UK's only operational armoured regiment, celebrates its 21st anniversary this year. The presentation of a new Guidon by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, was planned over a period of two years.

# Cavalry Spirit shines through

YOU can't sign for it, indent for it, fire it or feed it but it is an essential commodity held in the quartermaster's stores of every one of the old mounted regiments.

It is called The Cavalry Spirit and evidence of its potency has never been better displayed than in the preparations for the Guidon Weekend of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) at Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth.

When it was known that the regiment was keen to parade in Blues the formidable QM network excelled itself (No 1 Dress no longer being issued).

Light and heavy cavalry rallied to supply deficiencies in uniforms and swords (when were they last issued?) with the result that weeks before the parade was due to take place Lt Col Richard Morris knew that Blues it would be for everyone.

Clothing and equipment came from the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, neighbours of the Royal Hussars at Tidworth, from the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

And what about the buttons, did someone ask?

They were replaced, of course, but only for the parade. Afterwards it was a question of a lot of needlework.

"Everyone has been very generous," said Capt Mick Keats, Royal Hussars quartermaster.

But the generosity didn't



RQMS Eddie Halfman (left), LCpl Andrew Butler in the 1903 uniform made for the occasion, and Capt Mick Keats with the Guidon in front of the Centurion tank outside Bhurtpore Barracks

stop at uniforms. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, might be arriving by helicopter but a carriage would await her arrival – courtesy of the Royal Mews.

With it would go a mounted escort of an officer and six other ranks. Which raised another problem. Ceremonial dress for the riders (and markers) was needed.

Capt Keats: "The ceremonial uniforms we hold were designed in 1903 for light cavalrymen whose chest size averaged 36 inches and we don't have soldiers that size any more."

**Words:**  
**Bill Moore**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Weston**

A Londoner (like his RQMS WO2 Eddie Halfman), Capt Keats found a little firm "Up the Smoke" to make the jackets – saffron frogging for the Other Ranks, golden for the officer.

Then there was the question of the busbies. Another Londoner, Mr Peter Wiles, who has three sons serving in the 13/18 H, runs a business which solved that problem.

The Master Tailor of the Household Cavalry came up trumps with the breeches which were altered from some old items held in store. Another loan, this time of riding boots,

spurs and straps, and the net result was ten men in blue jackets, and crimson breeches with double saffron stripes.

(ORs in normal Blues wear the famous Cherrypickers trousers without the stripes, though stripes are worn by officers and senior NCOs.)

The uniforms were only part of the challenge. The successors to two of the country's most famous cavalry regiments also had to learn to ride . . . military style.

A squad was sent to the experts at Knightsbridge and eventually Maj Nick Grant Thorold and six ORs began

● Turn to Page 29

# Princess presented RH with first Guidon

THE Royal Hussars celebrate their 21st birthday on October 25 – Balaclava Day – this year.

The regiment was formed at Tidworth in 1969 by the amalgamation of the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own).

In presenting the new Guidon, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, has brought off what in a regiment with such a sporting tradition may be regarded as a classic double.

For it was at Tidworth, on the same Tattoo Ground, that she presented the first, all those

years ago. Princess Alice is now 89. Her husband, the Duke of Gloucester, joined the 10th Hussars in the early 1920s and served with them when they were, once again, at Tidworth. Both parent regiments had close associations with the Royal Family. The Prince Regent, later George IV, was Colonel of the 10th, and presented the regiment with an imposing centrepiece for a dinner table consisting of a candleholder mounted by a statuette of himself dressed in the robes of a Roman emperor.

Today the Royal Hussars

refer to it as "Nero".

The original nicknames of the 10th and 11th Hussars were respectively "Shiny Tenth" and "The Cherrypickers".

The latter got their name, according to tradition, after a battle in an orchard, but the crimson trousers come from the livery of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria.

The 11th escorted him from Dover to Canterbury before his wedding, and he was so impressed by their appearance that he requested they be called "Prince Albert's Own".

Apart from serving in the

Peninsular War and both being present at Waterloo, the two regiments saw fierce fighting in the same sector at the Second Battle of Ypres when the cavalry fought as infantry.

The 11th Hussars were the first of the cavalry regiments to be mechanised (with armoured cars) in 1928. The 10th retained horses until 1937 (they had spent many years in India).

In the Second World War the 11th gained an outstanding reputation in armoured cars in the desert campaigns and brought off a remarkable "treble" – claiming to be first

into Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli.

Hence the Jerboa or Desert Rat on one of the vintage armoured vehicles taking part in the Guidon parade.

The 10th fought in light tanks in France in 1940 and then in heavier metal, including Shermans, in North Africa and Italy.

The Royal Hussars have brought off another "first" recently. They were the first regiment to get the Challenger main battle tank (the 11th being the first to be equipped with Chieftain).



Above right – The drill has to be best. RSM Mike Barnard, 20 years with the regiment, confers with drill Sgt Kevin Humphrey, Coldm Gds, on the task

Left – LCpl Andrew Butler tries on a 1903 pattern tunic for size

Right – Cpl Barry Clifford extracts a sword from the stores. They are of the pattern issued at the beginning of the century and, according to legend, are not sharpened. Killing was done with the point...

## Why the Guidon is swallow-tailed

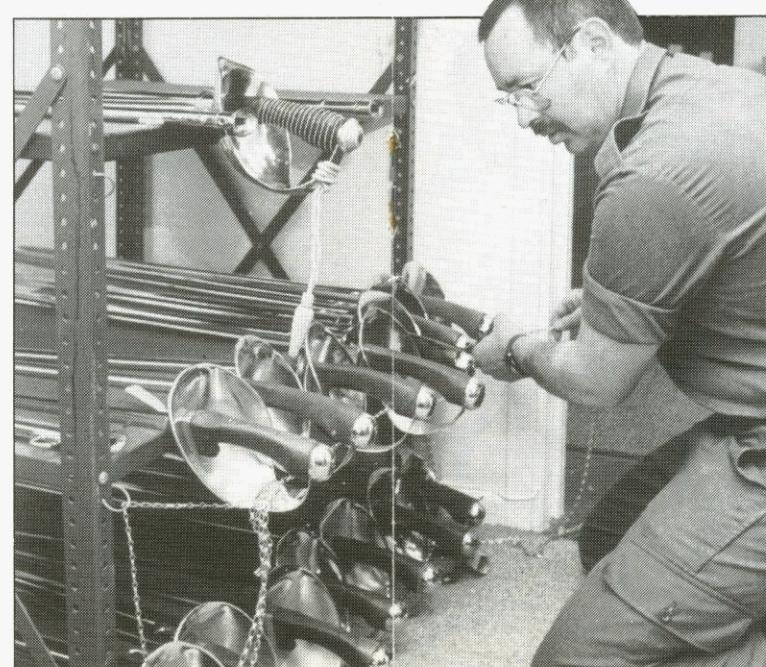
A SINGLE Guidon is carried today by light cavalry regiments (hussars and lancers).

A unit is entitled to be issued with a new one periodically.

The term is believed to derive from the French "guyd-homme" or "leader-man". According to one

leading authority it has always been swallow-tailed and is regarded as being junior to a standard.

T J Edwards in his *Standards, Guidons and Colours* says that in medieval times distinguished knights bore a square standard on the field



SSgt Michael Ward puts the finishing touch to a giant table centrepiece given to the 10th Hussars by the Prince Regent, later George IV, topped by a statuette of himself as a Roman emperor

### Grand note

The Royal Hussars officers' mess contains possibly the largest piece of regimental property to travel with a unit. It is a grand piano acquired from an enemy embassy during the campaign in North-West Europe.

## Cavalry Spirit shines through

### From Page 27

training on black chargers of the Household Cavalry Regiment.

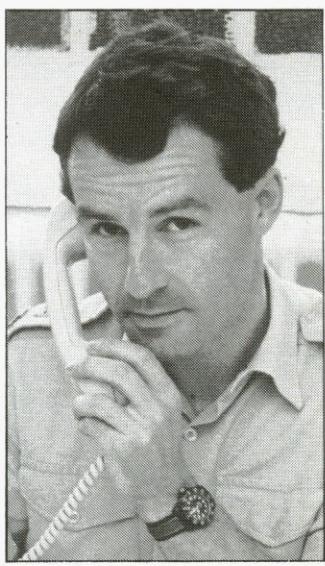
The horses were boxed down before the parade complete with an instructor to sharpen up the escort for the great day.

The Master Saddler, Household Cavalry, adapted a vintage 10th Hussar shell harness, breastplate and crupper for the commander of the escort, the men using standard saddles.

All parades that look good on the day are the product of toil, sweat and tears (frequently of frustration).

On the top shelf of the QM Stores at Bhurtpore Barracks is a faded old busby certainly worn by an 11th Hussar in the Crimea – and probably at the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Now if that could talk, young soldiers could find out what real bull was like in the days of Lord Cardigan.



Man at the heart of the Guidon office, Maj Nick Grant Thorold. His phone never stopped ringing



**Maj (QM) Peter Hutchinson pictured with the new regimental Colour**



**It will be all right on the day. Soldiers of 1 QLR get down to intensive drill in the run-up to the Queen's presentation of new Colours**

# DRILLED TO PERFECTION

**Words by  
Jennifer  
Griffiths  
Pictures by  
Terry  
Champion**

VISITORS to the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment may have wondered about their exceptionally studious Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Peter Noad, often seen at his desk with his head buried in a book.

A detective story he simply could not put down? A Rambo-style adventure he had to finish? The latest copy of **SOLDIER?**

It was none of these engaging his undivided attention. It was a military tome, *Ceremonial For The Army*, part of which he had to absorb in preparation for a royal visit and the presentation of new Colours on July 9.

Army ceremonials rank among the most popular forms of public entertainment, attracting millions of tourists and their much-needed revenue to Britain. Yet few can even guess at the hours of painstaking, behind-the-scenes practice required for drill perfection.

It can also come as a surprise to soldiers more used to an armoured or mechanised role when important events loom on their regimental calendar. Such was the position of 1 QLR posted to Weeton, near

present them with new Colours.

The build-up for the royal visit began two years ago when key personnel went on drill courses. There has been an intensive two-month run-up for the royal visit with early practices ensuring

there was the right blend of music and that it fitted in with commands and drill.

Visual impact was another consideration. Thousands of families are expected and it is important they should see as much as possible.

Individual companies then worked on their own drill, judged by representatives of The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and Dragoon Guards).

The winner, C Company was given the honour of trooping out the old Colours while the other companies provide the guard.

But it is the three weeks immediately before the big day that have been the busiest. A programme devised by the RSM has ensured that for 90 per cent of each day his soldiers were out on drill.

He said: "The Lancashire soldier is not an ideal person to

drill because we do not select our men for their height and bearing. He doesn't walk naturally with his shoulders back, so we have had a lot of work to do."

RSM Noad's highspot on the big day will be when he draws his sword.

"It is only during the Trooping of the Colours that an RSM is allowed to do this. The ceremony is a rare event – the

last Colours were presented 20 years ago. So it will be a memory I will always treasure."

RSM Noad was present at the last ceremony, as a private. "I never dreamed that not only would I organise the next ceremony, but I would also be presented to the Queen."

He joined the Army in 1966 as a junior leader.

"I was promoted fairly quickly, probably too quickly. Later, I was reduced in rank for being absent and had three or four years in the doldrums but on getting married made a fresh

start.  
"Being reduced in the ranks is not something I hide. It helps me understand the problems of young soldiers who go absent, so I have put this experience to good use."

WOT Peter Noad, the RSM, keeps an eye on the drill

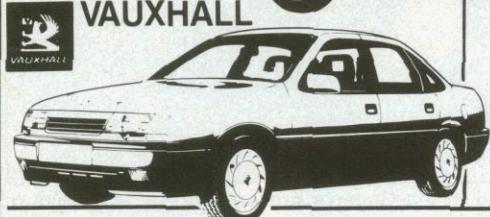
It can also come as a surprise to soldiers more used to an  
Blackpool, after six years BAOR.

armoured or mechanised role when important events loom on their regimental calendar. Such was the position of 1 QLR posted to Weeton, near

**NEXT ISSUE – More pictures and stories on the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment**

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S 9/07/90

# It's a long, long way for RRF bikers

NEARLY £4,000 is expected to be raised by a sponsored turn-the-clock-back bicycle ride made by men of the **6th Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** in aid of Telethon 90.

Ten riders dressed in authentic Second World War uniforms visited as many towns and villages in Northumberland as possible.

At each location they were met by the 6th's Band which struck up *Tipperary*.

The historical link was through HQ Company in Newcastle where the Northern Cyclists Battalion was formed in 1908.

Bicycles were not a great success in trench warfare and **SOLDIER** has it on good authority that many belonging to the Northumbrian Division were thrown in disgust into Dickebusch Lake near Ypres in 1915.

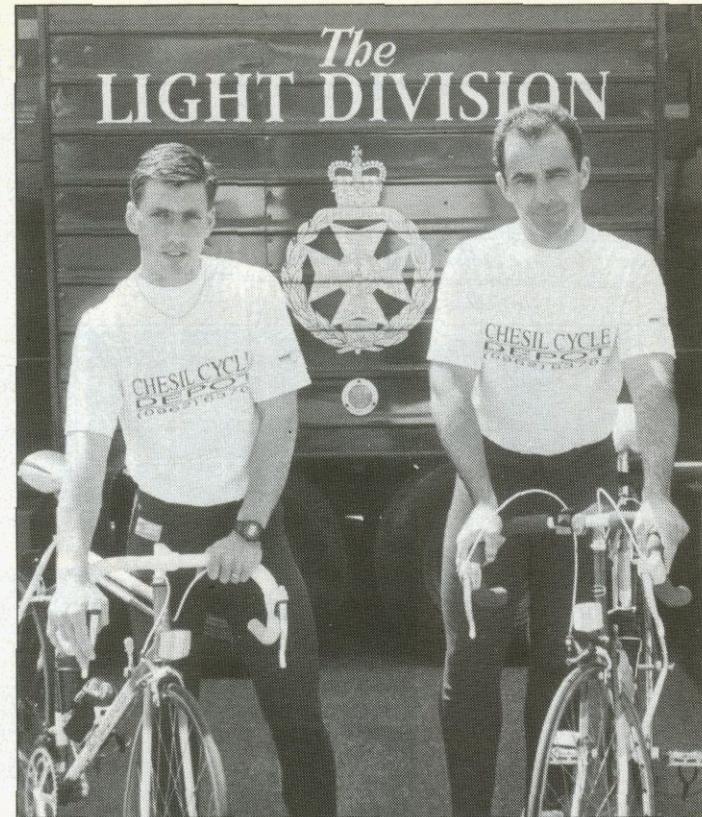
★ ★ ★  
Members of **Princess Marina College** gym staff and Mrs Rose Duncan, wife of Sgt Matt Duncan, ran a four-hour aerobic session in aid of the ITV Telethon and raised nearly £300.

★ ★ ★  
**Three Grenadier Guardsmen**, LSgt John Withey, LCpl David West and Gdsmn Jimmy Heer are planning to walk 500 miles in ten days to raise money for the Childline charity. Their marathon march will take them from Munster in West Germany to the Guards Depot at Pirbright, Surrey, where it is hoped that they will be met by television personality Esther Rantzen, a driving force behind Childline.

★ ★ ★  
Saddlesore but satisfied. That was Greenjacket Cpls Tony Brooks and Pete Bullard after they had cycled 276 miles from Winchester to Capel Curig in under 21 hours.

Both men are instructors at the **Light Division Depot** and their efforts raised £1,200 for ITV's Telethon appeal.

★ ★ ★  
Eight weary walkers completed the ambitious **RAOC Childtrek** from Antwerp to Berlin and expect to raise DM25,000 for a variety of children's charities. They took four weeks to do the 1,000km trek, covering the distance in three stages.



Cpls Tony Brooks (left) and Pete Bullard after their Telethon ride



RAOC Childtrekker WO1 (SSM) Dave Down is congratulated by Lt Col Richard Bird, commanding officer of Inventory Control Point RAOC at Viersen, as he and the rest of the team complete their marathon march. Behind Dave are (from left) SSgt John Gallacher, SSgt Barry Milburn, Sgt Max Smith, WO2 Jimmy Wilson and WO1 Martin Meighan

To simulate the Corridor, they also walked 200km around Berlin. Charities to benefit from the event include the Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society, the ACROSS Trust, Aktion Sorgenkind, and the children's wards of British military hospitals in Germany.

★ ★ ★  
Volunteer soldiers from D Sqn, **The Queen's Own Yeomanry** based at Cramlington, Northumberland have handed over a cheque for

£5,400 to a special care baby unit at Whitley Bay. They raised the money by cycling from Cramlington to Munster, West Germany to join up with the rest of their squadron for Exercise Grand Canyon.

★ ★ ★  
A cheque for £2,000 has been handed over by **118 Recovery Company REME** to Northampton Leisure Services to help local people take part in the Alternative Olympics in Strathclyde this month. The

TA soldiers raised the money during their annual "Join up for a day" event.

★ ★ ★  
Seventeen nations took part in this year's 32nd international military pilgrimage to Lourdes. Nearly 22,000 soldiers were involved, with the British contingent of 140 including personnel from all three Services. Soldiers from **4 Div Tpt Regt** and **2 Queens** marched 350km through the Pyrenees to take part.

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# Glosters take their place in history

THE generous response by hundreds of serving and former soldiers to a £500,000 appeal has ensured that a new military museum is a fitting tribute to the two regiments it represents, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

The Regiments of Gloucestershire Museum houses artefacts of The Gloucestershire Regiment - The Glorious Glosters - and The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, the county's volunteer cavalry regiment.

It is part of a £60m refurbishment that will rejuvenate the docklands of Gloucester, once a major port.

The museum was opened by the Duke of Gloucester on June 24. It will play a large part in marketing both regiments, whose histories are inextricably linked with the county from where they continue to recruit most of their soldiers.

It traces the military history and shows social conditions of the men and their families - 300 years of the Glosters and 200 for the RGH.

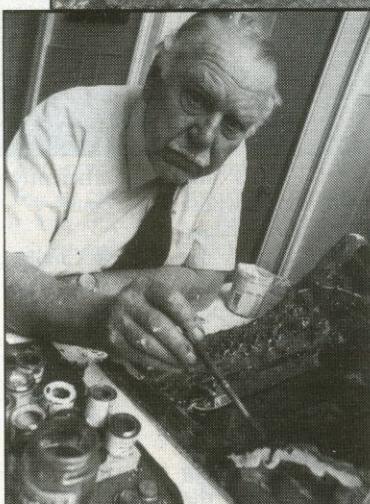
It is especially welcomed by both regiments because, despite a long-standing wish to share their treasures with the public, access has been limited in the past because of inadequate facilities.

The museum is in Gloucester's Old Custom House, previously the Glosters museum and regimental headquarters.

An ambitious re-vamping has turned the building back to front - an action familiar to The



Pictures Gloucestershire Echo



A labour of love for Col Allen Knight, a former Gloster, who is restoring a model display

Gloucestershire Regiment, which earned itself a second cap badge (at the rear of its headdress) for its rearguard action at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801.

When the appeal, which is still running, was launched more than £100,000 was quickly collected from former and serving soldiers from both regiments. That success

prompted a £73,000 donation from the dock redevelopers. The scheme also attracted local authority and English Tourist Board grants.

Fund raiser Peter Weston said: "Even people with no connection with either regiment have been generous. Maybe they feel they owe the Services something."

He added that there was a £25,000 shortfall.

The interior of the building has been re-built under the watchful eye of the National Army Museum. William Reid, its then director and now retired, joined the steering group as principal adviser. He said: "It is in Division One of military museums."

Inside, many battles, including Alexandria and Korea, are brought to life with the latest audio-visual techniques.

RHG artefacts range from part of a standard presented to the Gloucestershire Troop in 1795 to the reconstruction of the Crusader tank in the North African Desert, 1942.

The Glosters' wide range of exhibits include Colours carried at the Battle of Waterloo and the Battle of Alexandria.

Capt Guy Woodcock, Public Relations Officer, said the museum did not conform to most people's perception of a dusty military museum.

"It caters for all age groups with lots of 'hands on' exhibits. It is in every way an experience. You walk through the door into the history of two famous regiments, depicted virtually year by year."

The new museum has already been declared a hit by Gloucestershire tourism boss Colin Potts.

# Challenger 2 on course for MBT show-down

CHALLENGER 2 main battle tank and the latest light strike vehicle in service with the Special Air Service were two of the new arms products unveiled at the prestigious British Army Equipment Exhibition at Pegasus Village, Aldershot.

The aim of the biennial exhibition was to stimulate overseas interest in British-manufactured Army equipment and to provide an appropriate setting in which the UK defence industry could market its wares and services.

This year 200 exhibitors representing 360 firms displayed equipment ranging from buttons to battle tanks and thermal camouflage screens to sniper rifles in front of more than 25,000 visitors from 80 countries.

The exhibition site at Pegasus Village covered more than 8 acres, much of it tented, with the largest exhibitor having a stand covering nearly 1,000 square metres.

Large numbers of British Army personnel were involved in supporting the venture, escorting visitors and acting as translators.

In addition, there were three separate demonstration areas with supporting static displays which put equipment through its paces each day. An infantry and security demo took place at Stoneycastle ranges in Ash, and engineering and logistics were on show at Eelmore Plain.

A spectacular demonstration was put on at Long Valley, with a large variety of vehicles being choreographed into a stunning display of manoeuvrability and road handling on the sandy training area.

Besides the usual knife-edge and other vehicle obstacles, a concrete ramp was added over which some vehicles drove at speed. The Warrior infantry fighting vehicle "flew" for some 27ft before touching down on terra firma.

The task of driving these vehicles and keeping them in working order fell to a large contingent of Army personnel under charge of the main party provided by The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own).

Other regiments involved included the 13/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), 7th Parachute Regiment RHA, and the 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Busiest men were those of the Composite Fitter Section REME brought



Clockwise from top – One of eight prototype Challenger 2 tanks currently being trialled by the British Army

The nippy Saker light strike vehicle gets airborne

Towing the new heavy capacity trailer which can carry one Challenger or two Warrior power packs, a Warrior repair vehicle negotiates the knife-edge obstacle during the mobility display in Long Valley

A Westland Black Hawk helicopter flies in at speed to deliver a Supacat

efficiently secured in defence of one's own country."

● Challenger 2 put in its first public appearance at the British Army Equipment Exhibition – but only as part of a futuristic static display in the Vickers pavilion.

Designed to replace the British Army's ageing Chieftains, the Challenger 2 main battle tank incorporates a completely new turret and gun but retains much in common logistically with the in-service Challenger.

An advanced fire control computer and stabilised sights are integrated to allow fast, accurate engagement of targets in a single sequence.

Challenger 2 mounts the new high-pressure L30 gun and is protected by Chobham armour.

The Master General of the Ordnance, Gen Sir John Stibson, revealed that the name of the Chieftain successor would be announced in December.

"Challenger 2 is on course," he said, "and it has fulfilled successfully the first two of three major milestones in its development programme.

"There are four contenders still in the competition and we are on course to put the results of the development and our studies and investigations into it for late November or early December of this year, which is the programme that was envisaged two years ago."

Other contenders are the American M1A2 Abrams, an improved version of the West German Leopard 2, and the French Leclerc main battle tank.

● Four battalions of Warrior are now in service with the British Army and all six variants ordered by the Ministry of Defence from GKN Defence are being delivered.

These range from the basic Warrior Infantry combat vehicle to the complex artillery command variant. Latest in service is the new recovery vehicle destined for units of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

It has a 6.5 tonne crane and a twin capstan winch that is capable of a pull up to 38 tonnes, and should significantly enhance REME's battlefield repair and recovery capability.

Also on display at BAEE was the new high-mobility trailer. Towed by the Warrior repair vehicle, it has a 6.5 tonne capacity and can transport one Challenger or two Warrior power packs.

● Westland Helicopters received confirmation of the British Army's support for their Lynx helicopter, when the MoD ordered 24 of the latest generation variant – Mk9 Battlefield Lynx – to equip 24 Airmobile Brigade.

The role of the Mk9 Lynx will be to support the Brigade as a combat equipped troop helicopter, capable of operations in the forward battlefield area, and of being supported away from a main base.

Deliveries of the 16 new-build Lynx Mk9s will start in late 1990, and eight Mk7s will be modified to the Mk9 standard.

Troop trials are continuing with the company's EH101 helicopter. Recently, the Westland-based, full-scale EH101 tactical support helicopter mock-up was used to test the aircraft's rear ramp operations.

Exit times of less than one minute were

consistently achieved by 30 fully-equipped troops. Loading times for the 30 soldiers who were able to continue wearing full kit, including rucksacks and carrying personal weapons, were as low as two minutes.

The fire team scales of equipment also carried included Milan anti-tank posts and missiles, general purpose machine guns and 81mm mortars.

EH101 in its tactical troop lift role can carry 30 seated troops or 45 without seats.

● Royal Ordnance announced that the XL 30 CHARM gun and ammunition for Challenger 1 have successfully completed development and demonstrated that the required technical characteristics have been met. Pre-production deliveries are now being made and the final approval trials phase is underway.

In addition to a gun and ammunition for the in-service tank, enhanced performance ammunition is being developed for the CHARM gun in Challenger 2.

The gun's new split block breech design will avoid the dangers and difficulties of a charge coming into contact with hot stub cases being ejected from the gun.

The guns have chromed barrels, a modification which has a major effect on barrel life. Since circumferential wear is eliminated, the user will get the same muzzle velocity throughout the life of the barrel, which means no degradation in accuracy or penetration with barrel life.

● The Saker Light Strike Vehicle took off in a big way at BAEE. Each day of the show it got itself airborne from the top of the knife-edge obstacle during the daily demonstration of vehicle mobility.

With modern military vehicles becoming more and more specialised, there is a requirement for an agile, ultra light-weight fighting vehicle to complement and support existing armoured equipment.

To meet this need, Wessex Defence Limited developed the Saker LSV, an off-road vehicle with startling speed and stability performance over rough surfaces. The Saker also boasts a very light "footprint" and low thermal image.

Studies have shown mobility to be the single most important factor for survival on the battlefield. This led to mobility being looked at in two ways:

● The ability to move fast over considerable distances on roads, allowing the occupants to arrive fit to fight;

● Battlefield mobility – the ability to cross bad terrain with agility to reduce exposure time.

Saker has a range of 600 miles, a top speed of 85 mph, and is easy to transport by air. It is small and light enough to be carried by Chinook helicopters in groups of four, or by Black Hawk in underslung pairs.

A C130 Hercules can carry six Sakers with full equipment and manpower.

The vehicle takes its name from the legendary Second World War exploits of Col David Stirling in North Africa. His innovative tactics utilising light, heavily-armed vehicles for fast attack earned him the nickname "Hawk" or, in Arabic, "Saker".

# High cost of one lost day

## LETTER

# BSA and the budget

Dear Anne - Boarding School Allowance continues to be a subject of much debate as the gap between BSA and school fees has noticeably widened.

While the implications of this are clear to parents, it is important that those who fight our case are also aware of the adverse effects this has on the quality of life.

In writing, I seek no instant solution, nor even a reply, but hope that views from the "coal face" may be considered.

Shortly after the birth of my two children, in order to offset the cost of school fees, I took out a number of endowment policies maturing each year from ages eight to 18.

In planning this investment, my broker assumed I would receive BSA and that the proportional relationship between fees and BSA would remain constant.

My choice of school three years ago was based on what I could reasonably afford, given other financial commitments.

From January 1988 until January 1990 the basic fee per term (Kent College Junior School) has risen from £1,503 to £1,834, an increase of 22 per cent. I believe these to be fairly average fees.

In the same period my BSA has "marked time" at £1,255. In January 1988 BSA contributed 83 per cent of the fees, two years later it contributes 68 per cent. The reduction would be greater were I not on the "mark time" rate.

The situation is also exacerbated by the cost of extras. One cannot help but feel that there is a policy to reduce gradually the proportion of fees met by BSA to a point where

UK for the hearing, it does mean that there is someone who can put their case and answer questions.

Mrs E lost her appeal because she was unable to prove that she was available for work up to and on

the day of departure. While the tribunal accepted that her husband's posting was just cause for leaving her employment, they could not accept her submission that she had had to quit

work before the day of departure to Germany in order to clean her quarter and pack. It seems hard on Service wives - ineligibility for Unemployment Benefit could add up to a loss of about £1,500.

## Island holiday home is fit for heroes

FORMER Durham Light Infantry soldier Walter Reynolds and his wife Phyllis were the first to enjoy a break in the new Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops holiday complex at Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

In choosing my priorities I have had to sell my UK property (my first step on the housing ladder) as I cannot afford simultaneously to pay school fees, mortgage, rent for married quarter and meet household running costs.

Meantime, I get no return on my quartering charges! Financing an annual family holiday, military entertaining, recreational activities and the purchase of major household consumer goods are all adversely affected by a lack of cash.

Just for the record my salary is my only source of income.

No doubt I might be advised to find a cheaper school. However, this would do little to provide stable education, which is one of the reasons most of those in receipt of BSA chose that option in the first place.

Besides, the National curriculum and GCSE will, in later years, make it impractical to keep changing schools as fees significantly outstrip BSA.

Despite considerable financial prudence and careful planning, balancing the monthly budget is far from easy and while life may be fairly comfortable the quality is steadily being eroded. I find a number of my peers voicing similar concern and feel that little can be lost in drawing attention to an ever-increasing problem.

Mr Clive Cain is Director of Defence Works (Requirement Services), the

parents will pay the majority of the fees.

The end result is that, despite careful forward planning and choosing a school within my planned budget, I now find that my contribution towards school fees is a major financial burden.

Princess Margaret opened the development of apartments built specially for disabled ex-Servicemen and women and those who care for them.

Walter, just a week short of his 72nd birthday, said: "Being presented to Her Royal Highness was an unexpected surprise."

Wheelchair-bound Walter, who lost his second leg two years ago, has spent rather a lot of time "in and out" of hospital, so when the SSAFA representative in Swindon suggested an Isle of Wight convalescent holiday, he and Phyllis snapped up the chance.

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— Maj Iain Powice, 39 Hy Regt RA, BFPO 16.



Wheelchair-bound Walker Reynolds talks to Princess Margaret on the Isle of Wight



Home telephone: Camberley 29653

Anne

# Armstrong

## Warm welcome to BAOR's new Federation

MAKING its first appearance at the Rhine Army Show at Paderborn was the Federation of Army Wives BAOR which has made huge advances since it came into being barely ten months ago.

Already the organisation has appointed 23 out of a projected 32 FAW BAOR co-ordinators to represent the Federation in garrisons and stations all over Germany. The co-ordinators work as a link between local wives' clubs and FAW headquarters at Bielefeld.

Chairman since the inception has been Mrs Cherry Milne, who has been valiantly supported by secretary Sue Bonney. First president of FAW BAOR is Lady Kenny.

Creation of a FAW organisation in Germany will give wives posted there a united front from which to air their views, exchange ideas and comment on policy matters affecting Service families.



Cherry Milne

also represent a largely untapped source of professional skills and talents which can be utilised to the benefit of the military.

The BAOR Federation has already achieved results in two areas since its inaugural meeting. It has set up word-

processing courses and helped to solve the irritation some dependants felt at not being allowed to sign hire purchase agreements with SSV. They are now allowed up to DM 1,500 credit if they work at least 20 hours a week.

For details of FAW BAOR contact Cherry Milne or Sue Bonney at HQ 1 (BR) Corps, BFPO 39 (tel Bielefeld Military 2170 or 0521 2932170).

A suggestion by a Major B. to use the Worthy Down computer to identify possible Service claimants is not possible.

The MoD says: "Under our present arrangements unit pay staff are provided with full details of the rules and rates of Family Credit.

"They are instructed to advertise Family Credit and ensure every effort is made to recognise those soldiers in need and to assist them, where appropriate, in making claims."

"Since the soldiers' records are readily available at the unit, I believe you will agree that this is the most effective way of identifying and assisting those soldiers who might be eligible."

## No credit for 'outsiders'

TWO Service families recently submitted a claim for Family Credit. Both were refused as they were unable to comply with residence rules.

He was on an unaccompanied tour overseas even though his wife, who made the claim, was in married quarters in the United Kingdom.

The second application was made on the family's return to the UK from Germany, but was refused as the husband's previous work was outside the UK!

It appears that neither your nor your partner's earnings must be derived wholly from work outside the UK. These apparently new interpretations of residence, presence and employment will affect many Service applicants.

I wrote to the MoD and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, Gillian Shephard, to clarify the position as it appears that Servicemen and their families are considered as not ordinarily resident and that their work as Crown Servants is considered as remunerative work outside the United Kingdom.

Surely these discrepancies should have been noticed when the discussions on the new Family Credit were undertaken before legislation.

The take up of Family Credit is low according to DSS statistics, but with the increased threshold there may be Service families who are eligible but not

aware that they may be able to make a claim. Some Service families are in receipt of Family Credit.

An MoD spokesman told me: "We are looking at the situation. A Serviceman should not lose out on Family Credit, be he in the UK or overseas."

## Play safe with new organisation

ALDERSHOT Garrison's playgrounds have been visited by the head of the new organisation which will be responsible for making sure they are suitable and safe.

Until now the Property Services Agency (PSA) has been the final arbiter of plans, equipment and contractors, but with PSA's severance from MoD, it must now tender in com-

petition with others.

The safety and suitability of garrison play areas has long been one of my "hobby horses", so I was delighted by Mr Cain's interest in the issue.

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, at least

50,000 people need hospital treatment in Britain each year following of playground mishaps.

RosPA is now promoting its Play Wise Code to cut down injuries. Leaflets are being distributed through schools, chemists and local authorities.



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- ... Are over 22 years of age
- ... Require management prospects
- ... Command high financial reward
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Most of the photographs come from Regimental and private albums and have therefore never been published before. Historical notes have been added to explain the Regiment's background in India, Burma and Nepal, and to draw attention to the most notable episodes in its fighting story. These include the gruelling campaigns in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia in the First World War, Burma and Italy in the Second World War, the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s and the Borneo campaign in the 1960s.

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• To be published in July, 1990 •

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# Red Berets have their say



ONE of today's trends in military literature is towards more and more "oral history", in which the text largely comprises the memories of those who took part in the events that make up the subject of the book.

At first sight the technique would seem to ease the author's task but it is, in fact, extremely difficult to present a well-balanced and comprehensible sequence of events using eyewitness accounts, as any radio journalist will confirm.

For his book, *Men of the Red Beret*, Max Arthur has used more than 150 interviews with men who served or are serving with Airborne Forces, resulting in a clear history of British paratroops and air-transported soldiers since the formation of No 2 (Parachute) Commando which carried out its first jumps on July 13 1940.

He has drawn on the memories of survivors of Second World War operations; men whose names are part of Army legend, who flew to fight at Tragino, Bruneval, Normandy, Arnhem and the Rhine.

But history is brought up to date with accounts of action in the Falklands and of the troubles in Northern Ireland, and between these chronological extremes there is coverage of several "wars of peace" - Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus, Suez, Borneo and Aden.

There are also contributions from men of the Airlanding Brigades, the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, the Royal Air Force, women of the WAAF and the FANY, and of one Dutch civilian, Kate ter Horst, whose Arnhem home gave shelter to the wounded of the 1st Airborne Division.

There is a particularly bloody recollection of Arnhem told by Cpl Ray Sheriff of the 3rd Parachute Battalion, and an equally horrifying account of the wounds suffered by Derek

Glaister that have left him 80 per cent disabled since the Rhine crossing.

All is not grim. Maj Dick Hargreaves of the 4th Parachute Battalion, who dropped on August 15 1944 in the South of France, recalls: "Dan Calvert, who commanded A Company, was dropped 20 miles off target. He reckoned there was no way he was going to walk it, so he ended up getting a bus in!"

Forward in time, we are given a far from pleasant but graphic impression of Northern Ireland as seen by a sergeant of the 2nd Battalion: "All of Ireland is cold, tired, piss-wet through, and knackered; that is Ireland summed up."

Through the 50 years of the existence of British Airborne Forces there has undoubtedly evolved a unique pride in their role. In the words of Lt Col David Chaudler in his account of the capture of Port Stanley:

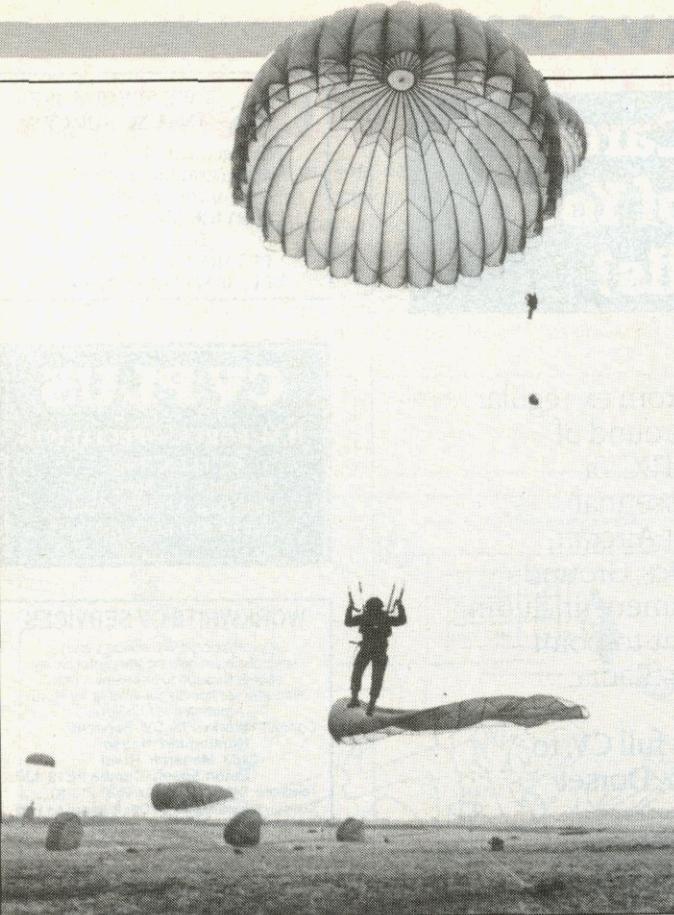
"As we walked down that road and the realisation began to dawn that it was all over, without orders, steel helmets came off and out of pockets came crumpled red berets as yet another generation came of age proud to wear the beret..."

BJ  
**Men of the Red Beret: Airborne Forces 1940-1990** by Max Arthur. Published by Hutchinson. Price (hardback) £16.95.

## In brief

**Recce Patrol** by John Nairn. Published in Australia, this novel, for the most part autobiographical, tells the story of a recce regiment during the Second World War. The author's obvious bitterness shows through. Price (paperback) £11 (including postage) from J Nairn, 107 Costack Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 3AX.

**One God, Too Many Devils** by Arthur Lane. The author, once a member of the Manchester Regiment, recounts his Service in Egypt and Palestine and his years



Paras land in force on Salisbury Plain

# Nation that lost its will to fight

THE course of events in 1940, according to the authors of a newly-published book, began when an audacious Royal Navy operation in Norwegian waters resulted in the rescue of British prisoners-of-war from the German merchant ship *Altmark*.

Were the German forces so much more powerful than those of the Allies? An answer to the last question is given in a chart of comparative numbers, dispelling a popularly-held myth. The truth is that the Germans outfoxed the Allies in Belgium.

If the Germans did not hold all the trump cards, why was there such an early fall of Britain's strongest ally?

"France had ended the First World War in a blaze of glory after a victorious offensive against Germany, but her losses were such that her leaders were determined they would never willingly go to war again."

Here is surely the key to what happened in 1940. France was not *willingly* at war. - BJ

**The Fall of France: Disaster in the West 1939-40** by George Forty and John Duncan. Published by Nutshell Publishing Company. Price (hardback) £18.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Special view of war paras made public

AFTER the Second World War the War Office decided the lessons derived from specialist studies should be recorded but because of their analytical and didactic content they should not be offered for sale to the general public at the time of their production.

*Airborne Forces*, by Lt Col Terence Otway, was one of these restricted publications issued in 1951 "to preserve the experience gained during the Second World War." Although Otway had access to official sources the views expressed in it are his and "do not necessarily reflect those of the Army Council."

This remarkable volume has now thankfully been made available to the general public by the wisdom of the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum in co-operation with Col Otway and the proceeds from the sales will jointly benefit the 1990 Airborne Forces Golden Jubilee Appeal and the Conservation Fund of the Imperial War Museum's library.

What a marvellous joint idea. Col Otway was well qualified to write this history, having commanded 9th Battalion The Parachute Regiment in Normandy and having previously served in North Africa as 2iC. He subsequently commanded a Chindit battalion in Burma and formed the 15th Parachute Battalion (2nd Indian Airborne Division).

Far from being didactic, this is a most readable and instructive history of the development of Airborne Forces in the British Army from June 22, 1940, when Winston Churchill directed the War Office "to investigate the possibility of forming a corps of at least 5,000 parachute troops", and their use until the end of the war.

It is packed with information, statistics, orders of battle, details of actions and every facet of the initial training of paratroopers and glider pilots as well as every operation from the Tragino Aqueduct in February 1941 to the Elephant Point

Operation, Rangoon, in May 1945.

His style is pithy: "Many new recruits to parachuting thought they were coming to an 'Eldorado' where discipline did not exist. The process of disillusionment took up much of a parachute commanding officer's time."

When Winston Churchill unveiled a combined memorial to the fallen of Airborne Forces, the Commandos and the Submarine Branch RN in Westminster Abbey on May 21, 1948 he concluded by saying:

"... We think of the Airborne Force and Special Air Service men who hurled themselves unflinchingly into the void - when we recall all this we may feel sure that nothing of which we have any knowledge or record has ever been done by mortal men which surpasses the splendour and daring of their feats of arms."

"Truly we may say of them, as of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, 'When shall their glory fade?'" - PSN

**The Second World War 1939-45 - Airborne Forces** by Lt Col T B H Otway DSO. Published by the Dept of Printed Books, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. Price £20 (plus £2 p & p).

## After the invasion!

HAD Hitler followed Kesselring's advice and invaded Britain immediately after Dunkirk, the scenario set out in *Invasion: The German Invasion of England, July 1940* might have been fact rather than well-researched fiction.

Maj Kenneth Macksey, who retired from the British Army in 1968 to become a military historian, based his story of what might have been on plans made at the crucial period.

*Invasion: The German Invasion of England, July 1940* by Kenneth Macksey. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £14.95.

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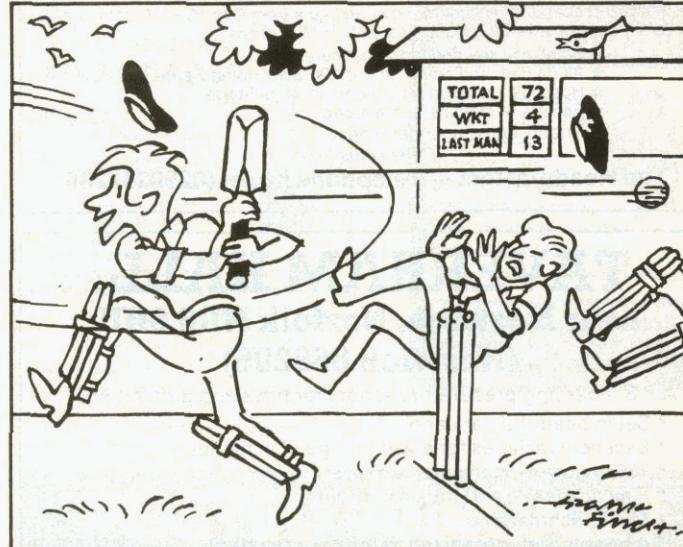
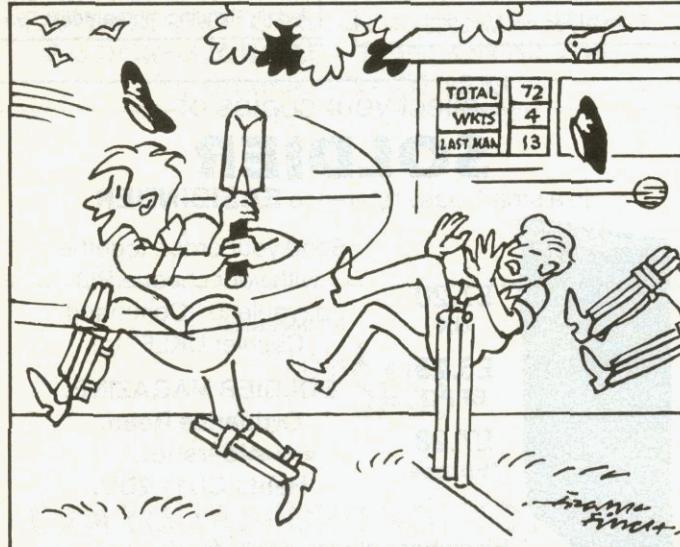
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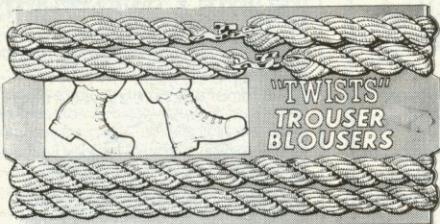
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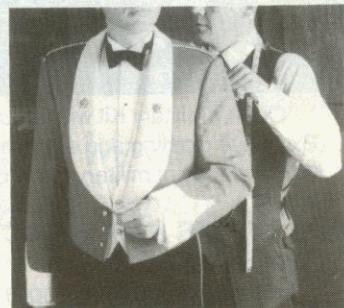
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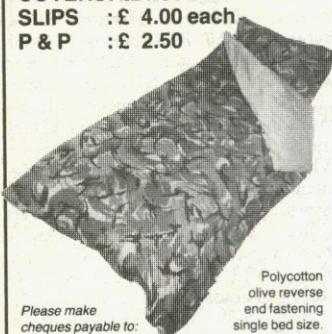
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# Seven is heaven for all-rounder Neil

SSGT Neil Killen won his seventh Army decathlon title at Aldershot, leading an impressive show of all-round strength by Wildenrath-based 21 Signal Regiment.

Killen, who holds the Army record of 7,011 points, scored 6,376 this time, winning with some ease from LCpl Trevor McSween (5,919) and LCpl

Vince Key (5,669). Both second and third placed men are also from 21 Sig Regt.

Killen was so far ahead going into the final event that he needed only to jog the 1,500m to take the title. Cpl Mark Tout (2 RTR) was prevented from defending his championship because of injury but was hoping to be fit for the

Inter-Services at Aldershot at the end of July.

Encouragingly, 16 athletes completed the decathlon.

Guest competitor Lt Bobbie Scott (Liverpool OTC) won the heptathlon with 3,536 points. Second overall and winner of the Army title was 2nd Lt Liz Bennett (22 Engr Regt) on 3,372, and third LCpl Tracey

Danks (WRAC Centre) on 3,035.

The mile trophy was lifted by Cpl Darryl Maynard (3 R Anglian) in a time of 4min 22.1sec, with Sgt Tom Pollard (21 Sig Regt) second and Sgt Peter Freeman (APTC) third.

SSgt Geoff Wade (APTC/38 Engr Regt) was too late to register for the classic mile but stayed on for the 10,000m the following day.

His wait was well worth it because he was out on his own, winning in a time of 31min 11.8sec. Sgt Dougie Collins (32:20.2) and Capt Peter Marsh (32:24.8), both of 9 Ordnance Battalion, were second and third.

# Swan song

## Kriss signs off with tenth title

COLD, blustery conditions ruled out record performances at the Army individual athletic championships at Aldershot, but the strength of BAOR-based units was very apparent.

A strong contingent from 21 Signal Regiment at Wildenrath caught the eye, and last year's unit champions, 50 Missile Regiment from Menden, are sure to defend their team title vigorously at Aldershot on July 20. The BAOR finals were taking place on June 23.

Great Britain duties took sprinters Cpl Lenny Paul (3 R Anglian) and Cpl Clarence Callender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) and 400m hurdler LCpl Colin Anderson (RPC) to Helsinki for the international match.

Anderson, who trains with WO2 Kriss Akabusi, was winning his first GB vest after appearing for England on several occasions.

For Akabusi, the Army championships were the end of an era. The brilliant APTC instructor, who won his tenth 400m title at Aldershot, is due to leave the Service in November to take up a place at a university in America.

During his time as a soldier Akabusi has graduated from international 400m medals to world class status over the hurdles version. In doing so he has won a sideboard-full of

Olympic, European and Commonwealth Games medals.

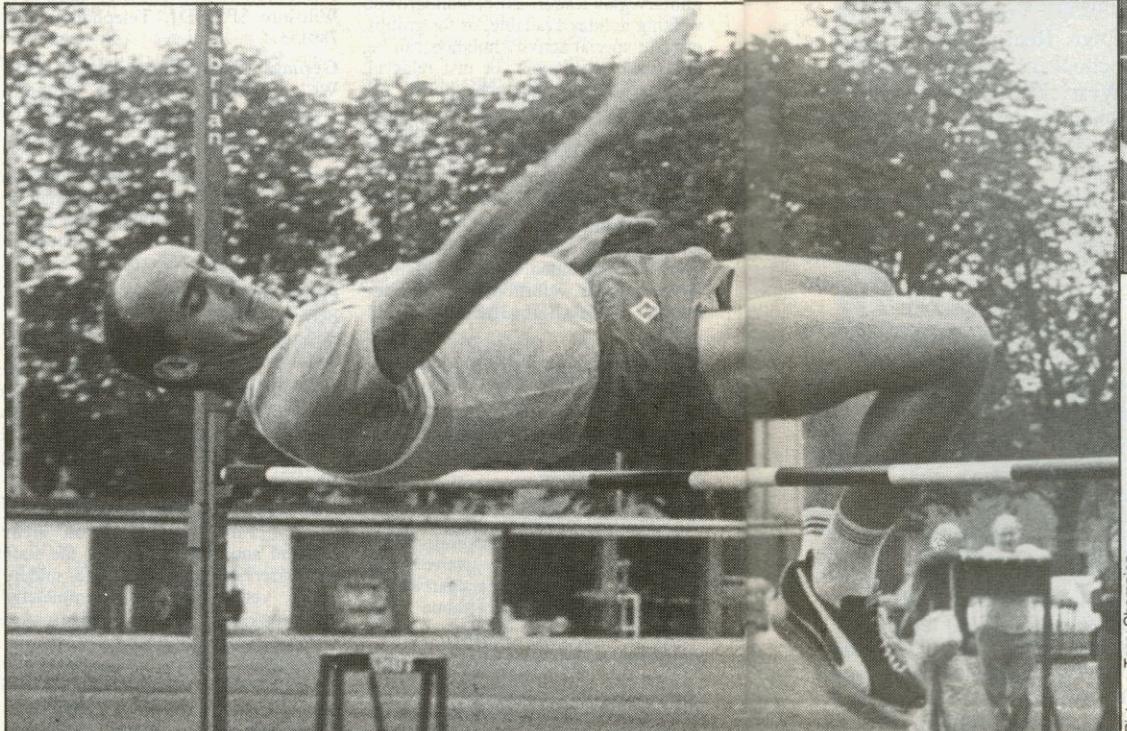
Cpl Vince Henry (21 Sig Regt) won the 100m, just edging out LCpl Jason Holliday (PCD RE). But Holliday got his revenge in the 200m, with Henry finishing second.

Middle distance runner Sgt Rod Finch (RAPC/1 Staffords) almost achieved the double, finishing second to Cpl Darryl Maynard (3 R Anglian) in the 800m before winning the 1,500m.

Newcomer LCpl Dave Neal (Cdo Ord Sqn) confirmed the promise he showed during the cross country season by strolling away with the 5,000m title, comfortably ahead of former winner SSgt Geoff Wade (APTC/38 Engr Regt). Sgt Mark Lassitter (11 PC Sqn) added another 3,000m steeple-chase title to his collection, Cpl Andy Douglas (12 RSME) showed fine promise in the 400m hurdles and SSgt Neil Killen (21 Sig Regt) won the 110m hurdles and the discus.

LCpl Trevor McSween, also of 21 Sig Regt, won both high and long jump competitions, finishing just ahead of LCpl Alvin Walker (1 Regt AAC) in the long jump. Walker took the triple jump title.

New find Sig John Powell (21 Sig Regt) won the javelin, while Gnr Mark Sterling and Gnr Paul McKay (both based in



Picture: Terry Champion

Menden with 50 Msle Regt RA) took the hammer and shot honours. The pole vault was won by Cpl Rob Lyons (Depot Kings Div).

Army Athletic Association chairman Brig Peter Woolley was delighted with the turnout in the junior competition and with the standard of performances.

"Unfortunately the senior men's entry was down on last year, a reflection of the high level of commitments," he said.

"The women's turnout was very low. Apparently the message about the competition isn't getting down to the girls. I hope next year the WRAC and PTIs will encourage more to attend."

## Osnabrück invitation

AN international field from Germany, Holland, Malta, France and the UK is expected at the 25 Engr Regt invitation judo competition being staged at Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück on September 7-9. It is open to all members of BFG and dependants.

Entries are by post only and forms can be obtained from Sgt Tom Meager on Osnabrück Military 7173 or LCpl John Bryan on 6269.



Above - Cpl Darryl Maynard wins the Army mile title ahead of Sgt Tom Pollard and Sgt Peter Freeman  
Left - Up and over, and on his way to the decathlon title is SSgt Neil Killen

## RH triumph

THE Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) from Tidworth beat Wolfenbuttel-based 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards 16-14 in the first RAC Cup rugby final at Pembroke RFC, South Wales.

## FLYING GUNNER

ARMY triathletes were second and fourth for the South in the British inter-regional triathlon championships in Otley.

Sgt Gary Smith from the successful 7 Para RHA team recorded an overall time of 2hr 17min 38sec for his second place, just over two minutes ahead of Capt Peter McManners (42 Svy Engr Gp), one of two sappers from the recently-formed RE triathlon squad.

The other, LCpl David Mutch, of 1/3 Trg Regt RE, finished the swim-cycle-run sequence in 2hr 25min 41sec. First individual home in the

The RMAS gym staff pipped 59 Indep Cdo Sqn for the team prize with 28 Amph third.

# Essex make life hard for the batsmen

THE Army were shot out for 63 in the first innings of their two-day match against Essex 2nd XI at Woolwich and, despite an improvement when they followed on, lost by ten wickets.

There was drama on the second day when Pte John Storey (1 Queens) collapsed after lunch and was taken unconscious to Brook Hospital.

He was later transferred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich where an initial diagnosis of viral meningitis was made. Happily, Storey made a rapid recovery and hopes to be back in action soon.

He was one of five Army batsmen who failed to score as they were bundled out for 63 in the 29th over when replying to Essex's 201 for six declared. Only Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) and Lt Keith Rumbelow (1 Queens) reached double figures.

Greatorex top scored with 36 when the Army followed on, and Maj Tim Lerwill (LI) with 26 and Storey (21) made a start before getting out. But an innings defeat looked a distinct possibility until tailender Capt Paul Presland (657 Sqn AAC) contributed a valuable 30.



Pte John Storey

Essex 2nd XI 201-6 dec (J Lewis 95; SSgt N Scott 2-71) and 43-0. Army 63 (C Miller 4-11, M Ilott 3-21) and 180 (Greatorex 36, Lerwill 26, Storey 21, Presland 30; Ilott 3-62, Miller 3-42). Essex 2nd XI won by 10 wickets.

Greatorex continued his good form with a half century for Combined Services in the drawn one-day match against Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI at picturesque Arundel.

The left-hander scored 54 as Services posted 207 for nine declared in 59 overs. The Duchess's XI replied with 153 for seven in 43 overs. Other Army players in the side were Capt Peter Germain (1 PWO), Rumbelow and Presland.

Combined Services 207-9 dec (Greatorex 54, Lt Richard Hollington RM 80 no; R Graham 4-50, J Barclay 3-69). Duchess of Norfolk's XI 153-7 (R Vyvyan 56, I Hodgson 61; Flt Lt A Spiller 3-3, Rumbelow 1-26, Presland 1-35). Match drawn.

There was another less than convincing batting display by the Army next day at Aldershot when nine of the team failed to reach double figures in replying to Middlesex 2nd XI's 55-over total of 248 for six.

With seven skittled out for 40 (and half those scored by Tim Lerwill), SSgt Nigel Scott (94 Sig Sqn) doubled the total with a defiant 41.

Middlesex 248-6 (M Keech 125, S Forey 49 no; Sgt I Collier 2-37, Fus J Jeremias 2-47). Army 88 (Lerwill 20, Scott 41). Middlesex 2nd XI won by 160 runs.

Capt Tom Thicknesse (1 RGJ) leads the Army Under 25 team taking part in the U-25 festival at Aldershot from July 6 to 8. That tournament is preceded by the Army's own U-25 cricket week, with games against Western Australia Public Schools, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire and the National Fire Service.

# Matelots edged out in pool

A WIN in the final freestyle relay ensured the Army of a narrow victory over the Royal Navy in the junior inter-Service swimming championships staged at JLR RAC Bovington.

The Army youngsters also dominated the water polo competition, beating the sailors

by 11 goals to one.

There were wins for Spr Hutton (36 Engr Regt) in the 400m freestyle, individual medley and 100m freestyle, with AT Woodman winning the 200m freestyle.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate were comfortable

winners of the Army junior inter-unit team swimming championships, finishing well ahead of nearest rivals JLR RE and JLR RA. The Harrogate juniors also won the water polo tournament, beating Princess Marina College 19-2 and the Light Division Depot 19-0.

# No contest!

## Vets see off youth challenge

THERE was no place for youth at the 1990 Army orienteering championship as WO1 Colin Dickson, Capt John Dowty, Capt Gabi Bushell WRAC and Lt Col Nick Fickling carried off the main prizes.

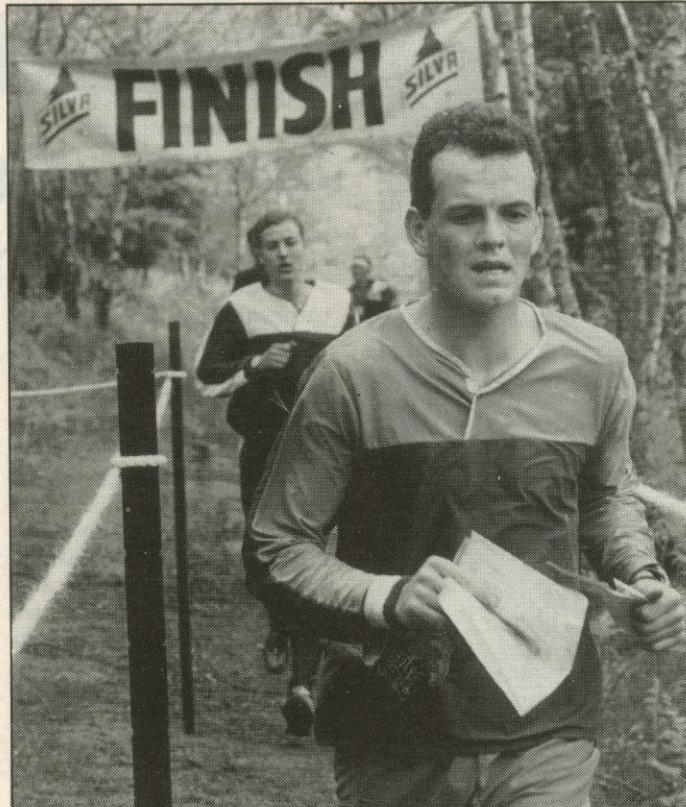
After two days of team competition the Army individual prize was always going to be contested by the fitter men, but this year the 11km run at Woolmer looked more open than ever with any one of half a dozen runners capable of winning.

For the first hour of finishers WO2 Mike Goode led with 75 mins – two minutes clear of Royal Marine Maj John Rye. Many other fancied contenders came in with times over 80 minutes and Goode looked safe until 1989 champion Maj Glen Grant ran 73:46 to take the lead.

Three runners then came in together and WO1 Colin Dickson punched the air ecstatically as he heard he had won his first Army title by just 21 seconds from Grant.

TA champion Capt John Dowty and BAOR champion Capt Charles Bromley-Gardiner ran 77 and 75 minutes to leave Grant and Goode to pick up second and third.

There was no such contest in the women's race as Capt Gabi Bushell added to her second place in the UKLF with an easy win from OCdt Fryer of Northumbrian UOTC, a novice, who has been the



Maj Roger Dickey RA (front) and Maj Alan Farrington RAPC finish in the Army orienteering championships

Picture: Mike Weston

brightest find for many years.

Two days of team competition combined with the UKLF and TA championships saw a runaway win for 42 Svy Engr Regt led by surprise ULKF winner Nick Fickling. 7 Para RHA captured the runners-up slot, but the other fancied gunner teams all produced bad runs.

The TA trophy went to the brightly clad A Company 6/7 Queens who were coached by WO2 Bob Webb, himself an Army orienteer and coach of long standing.

Despite the successes there are serious weaknesses in Army orienteering that were masked by the addition of TA runners,

There were few Army girls and although the juniors were again dominated by the REME from Arborfield few runners from previous years were in evidence. Most seriously, the men's result saw four runners over 35 in the first seven with no youngsters within 20 minutes of the winner.

### Territorial Army

UOTC woman – OCdt Fryer, Northumbrian UOTC; Woman individual – Capt Birtwistle, Kings Own Border; Women's team – 41 Sig Sqn (V); UOTC male – Capt Barker, London UOTC; TA male – Capt Dowty, 202 Fd Bty RA (V); Kings Own Border Cup to TA team winners – A Coy 6/7 Queens.

### UKLF

WOMEN, Over 35 – WO1 Sykes Comms & Sy Gp UK; UKLF champion – Capt Davidson, MoD; Women's unit champions – Benbecula WRAC.

# Swindells strikes for RGJ

### 2 RGJ 1, 1 SG 0

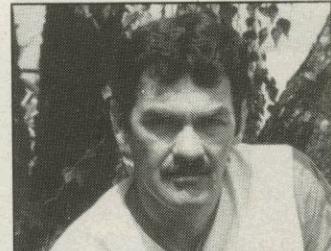
WINNERS of the Infantry Challenge Cup (Army) played at the Tidworth Oval were the Dover-based footballing 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, 1-0 victors over the 1st Battalion Scots Guards from BAOR.

The Green Jackets took control in midfield and scored the crucial goal in the 30th minute when Rfn Swindells made good use of a long pass by Rfn Mark Reed.

### 22 Engr Regt 6, School of Signals 5 (penalties)

WO1 Trev Ashman gave 22 Engr Regt victory over the School of Signals in the South West District Football Cup when he saved his final penalty in a shoot-out to settle the match.

After full and extra time the score was locked at 2-2, but goalie Ashman's fine save in the penalty decider ensured the sappers of a 6-5 win.



Capt Pete Adams (above) of 23 Engr Regt won the Over 40 category at the BAOR orienteering championships held at Istrup near Detmold. He is the current BAOR veteran cross country champion

**MEN, Over 17** – AT Smart, PMC Arborfield; Over 19 – AT Kelly-Smith, PMC Arborfield; Over 35 – Sgt Hawkins, PMC Arborfield; Over 40 – WO2 Stoddart, 7 RHA; Over 45 – Maj Parfitt, RSA; Over 50 – Brig Wood, MoD; UKLF champion – Lt Col Fickling, 42 Svy Engr Regt RE; Minor Units champions – RAPC Worthy Down; Major Units champions – 42 Svy Engr Regt RE.

### Army

**WOMEN, Over 35** – WO1 Rosewell, ASPT; Over 19 – Pte Higgins, 29 Coy WRAC; Army champion – Capt Bushell, R&LS WDIST; Women's team champions – 13 Sig Regt (BAOR).

**MEN**, Over 17 – AT Chapman, PMC Arborfield; Over 19 – Cfn Hall, 49 Fd Regt RA; Over 35 – CSgt Bonnet, 1 R Anglian; Over 40 – Capt Turner, HQ Colchester Gar; Over 45 – Lt Col Titterington, Sch of Sigs.

Over 50 – Maj Drummond, 50 Msle Regt RA; Army Champions – 1, WO1 Dickinson, Sch of Inf; 2, Maj Grant, HQ UKLF; 3, WO2 Goode, 94 Loc Regt RA; Minor Units champions – RAPC Worthy Down (UK); Major Units champions – 42 Svy Engr Regt RE (UK).



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# SOLDIER



A Challenger main battle tank leads a parade of armoured vehicles during the finale to the mobility demonstration at the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot. The demonstration was put on daily by men of C Squadron, The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and other attached units. See report in Pages 36-37.

Picture: Mike Perring