

# SOLDIER

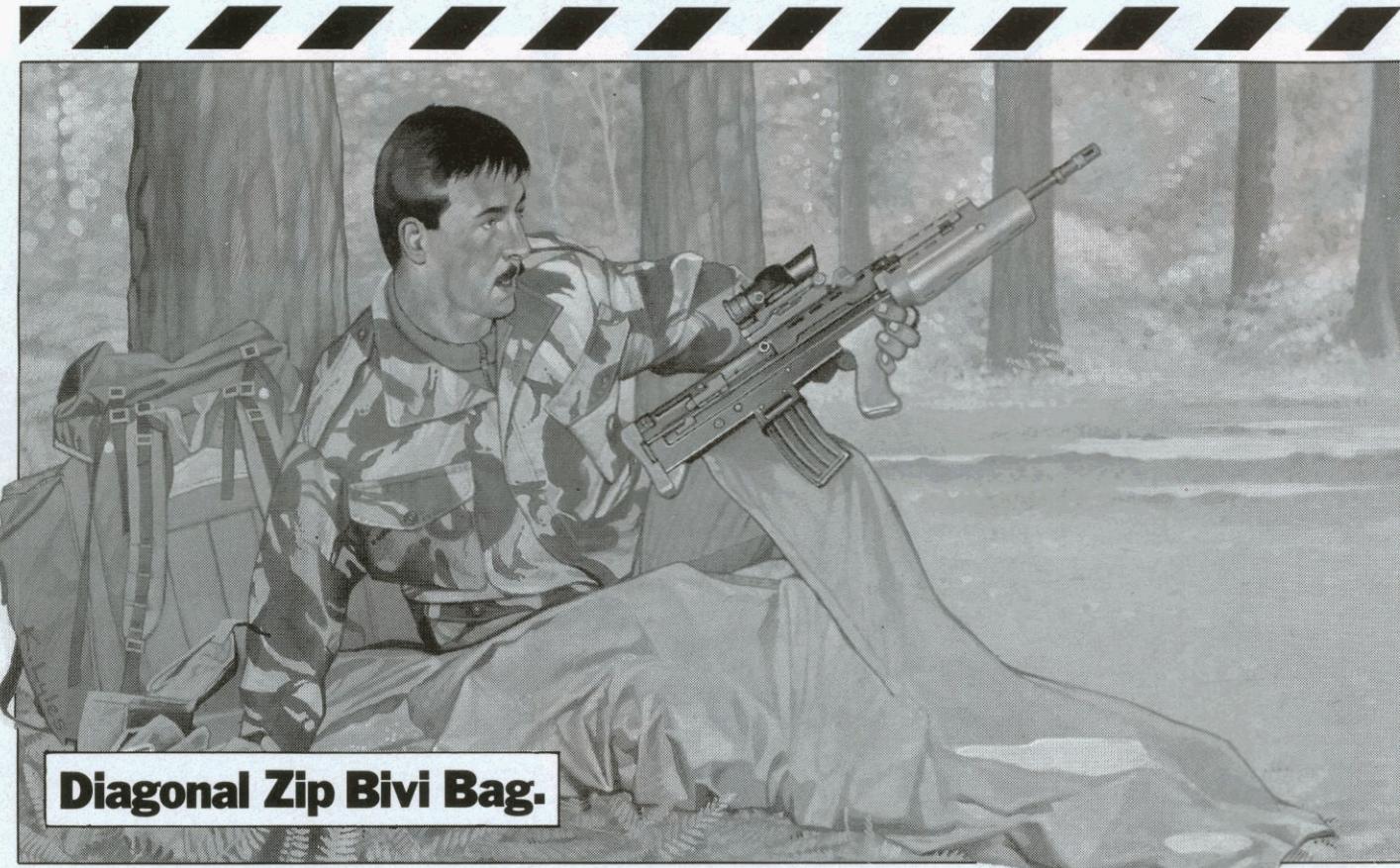
3 NOVEMBER 1986

35 PENCE



INSIDE

THE ARMY'S  
MEN OF FIRE



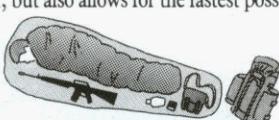
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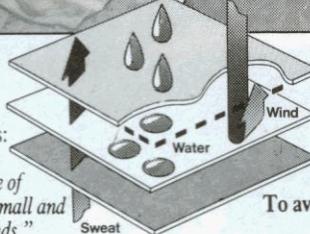
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**FRONT COVER** – A pall of black smoke hides the seat of the fire as Army Fire Service personnel tackle a contaminated fuel blaze at West Moors, near Bournemouth. See pages 19 to 21.

Picture by Paul Haley

The Aldershot Military telephone network's new automatic exchange is now in operation. SOLDIER's new extensions are shown in brackets.

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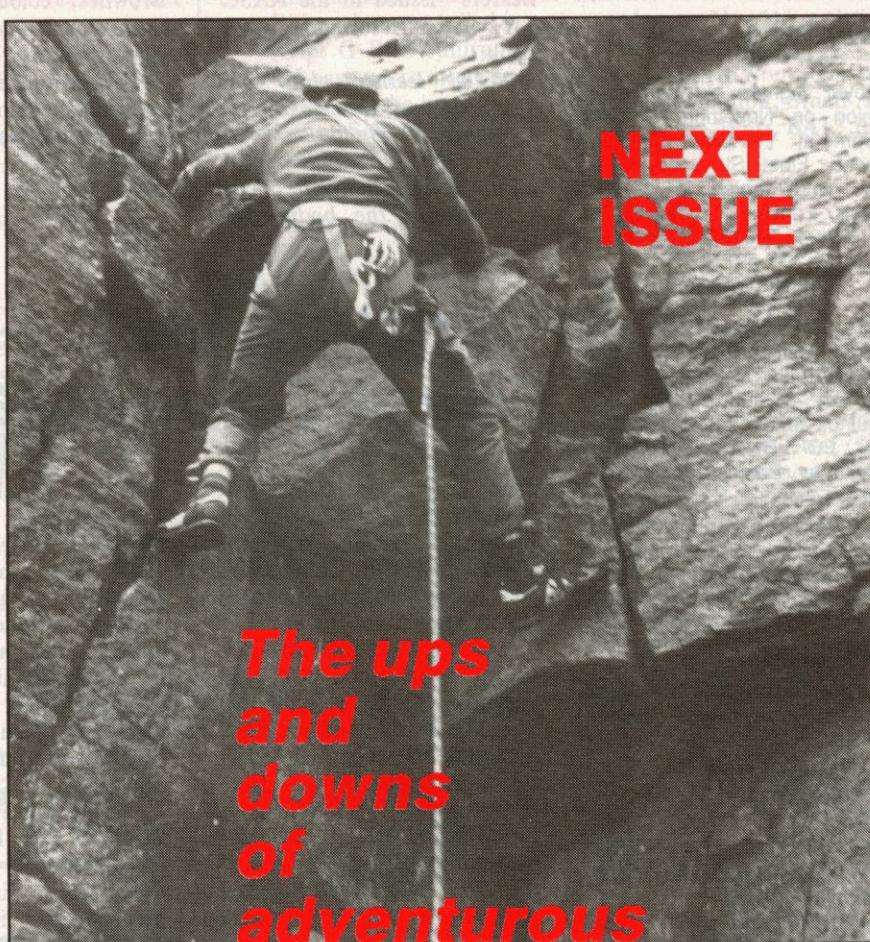
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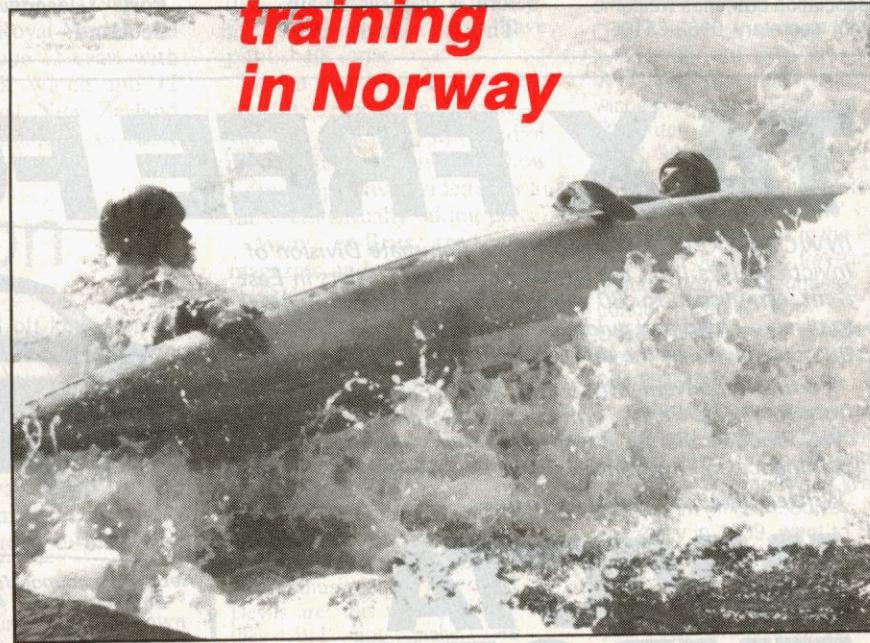
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# SOLDIER

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



*The ups  
and  
downs  
of  
adventurous  
training  
in Norway*



# BAOR HOAY!

Guten morgen BAOR. This is a call for WO2 A Hollis, of G4 Division, HQ Northag, BFPO 40, who has won the £50 prize for SOLDIER's HOAY competition. The cash is on its way to you Mr Hollis.

## Reunions

□ Royal Signals old comrades reunion on November 7 from 7.30pm at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, Fleet St, London, for those who served in 47 GL Signals. Enquiries to Maj Cocke (tel: 01-946 4618) or Rodney Perry (01-393 5977)

□ The Amphibious Observers reunion will be held at Royal Marines Poole over the weekend July 31 - August 2, 1987. Enquiries to C R S Booth, 148 Cdo FO Bty, RM Poole, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4NQ.

□ The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment are holding their annual reunion at the Union Jack Club on November 7. All former members of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment welcome. Tickets and details from Secretary, RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JU (tel 0227-457411 ext 253).

□ The Kings Royal Rifle Corps Association (Hampshire branch) annual reunion dinner in Winchester on November 8. Members of all association branches welcome. Contact secretary 0962-65105.

In reply to "correct procedure standard bearers" (SOLDIER, October 20), the following note is taken from "Instructions, Ceremonial Drill For Standard Bearers" issued in the RASC/RCT Regt Association handbook:

*"The leather strap and socket used for carrying the standard should be worn over the right shoulder, with the socket in front of the centre of the body, thus*

*preventing the tearing of ribbons or damaging of medals."*

It is also normal - with the odd exception - for Sam Brownes, colour sashes and drum slings to be worn over the right shoulder.

The Army sling for parading regimental colours is not a 1½in leather sling but a much broader type over which decorations can be worn.

I think all regimental

associations should issue instructions to their standard bearers on correct procedures, and select standard bearers for their smartness and correct dress and drill knowledge to give some uniformity on parade. - J. Bettison, RASC/RCT Association, Leeds Branch.

## Slings made for right shoulder

Official Royal British Legion instructions to standard bearers say the leather strap should be worn over the right shoulder with the socket in front of the centre of the body.

In fact, standard slings made at the Royal British Legion factory are made to be worn on the right shoulder.

Hope this clears up the query. - W. J. Ash, secretary and standard bearer Patcham RBL, standard bearer Southern Branch 8th Army Veterans.

● A letter has also been received on this subject from Capt Henry W Corke, Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent, who also quotes the relevant passage from the British Legion booklet entitled "Ceremonies and Duties".

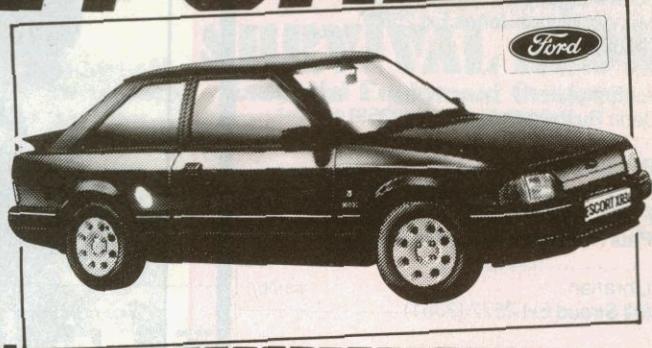
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S20

## Who was MacAtheray?

I am trying to find out who or what was "MacAtheray" - or "MacAfferay". He was supposed to be the hero of a song about a soldier executed for shooting his officer.

Can anybody recall the words of the song? Is there any record that "MacAtheray" really existed? If so, I should like to hear about it. In barrack rooms in the 1940s the legend said that you could be put on a charge for singing this song! - Tom Wilson (SSgt RAMC 1940-46), 162 Canterbury Road, Kengington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9QD.

## Fire away!

As an ex-Regular soldier I was always led to believe that if a firing squad was ever used, only one member of the squad had the live round and the remainder were blanks. Can you please confirm that is so? - W. J. Loome, 63 Woodlands Drive, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8DE.

# Concorde jump was some story!

For the honour of the British Army and in particular the Para Red Devils, would you please settle an argument that has been going on for some time as to the Red Devils making a jump from a Concorde. An

article on this appeared in SOLDIER (April 8, 1985).

I, as an ex-Royal Marine and also having done 12 years with The 1st Black Watch and 12 with the Royal New Zealand Infantry, maintain to all these

beer stained, off-key, upright piano to keep his fingers in trim with impromptu concerts - Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin.

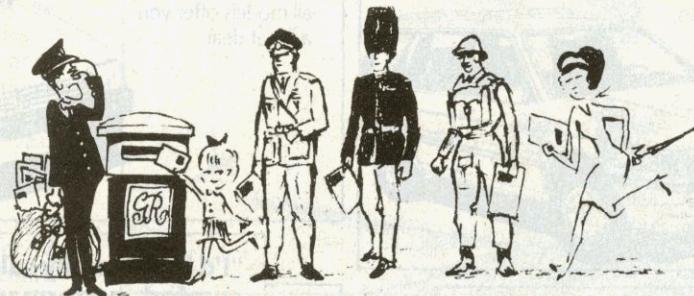
At some point in his recital he would always come back to Gershwin. This, I believe, may give me a clue as to his future destiny.

Did he go on to fame as a concert pianist with his own television series? Was I in at the start of the career of Clive Lythgoe? - David Woodgate, 4 Chestnut Drive, Broadstairs, Kent KT10 2LN.

## Bobby was in RAOC

I write with reference to your excellent article in SOLDIER, September 22 - 'National Service Years' and would draw to your attention the fact that Bobby Charlton did not enlist into the RASC.

He enlisted into the RAOC and joined 3 Trg Bn, Hilsea, Portsmouth. He was in Squad 9, 3PL 'A' Coy. I know - I was his squad NCO! - Maj R. W. Sider, Army Careers Information Office, 62 Claremont Road, Surbiton, Surrey.



## LETTERS

PRIZE LETTER

## Tune lingers on

My own memories of National Service days, with 2 Training Battalion RAOC at Aldershot, include that of a young private always seen dashing around with a handful of papers.

No chance of him being posted when he could be proving a useful member of the battalion 'rugger' side. Peter 'Jacko' Jackson went on to gain many caps for England.

What became of the young student from the Royal College of Music? After closing time in the NAAFI, this young man would take advantage of the

## Skins' brothers died together at Gallipoli

I read with interest the letter in SOLDIER (September 22) concerning the two privates Cumberland listed on the Thiepval Memorial.

I cannot say categorically that they were brothers, but as both came from Kilmacart, Co Tyrone, and both enlisted at Dungannon and had consecutive numbers, I feel it is highly likely that they were.

I can, however, quote an example of two brothers serving with the 1st Inniskillings who died together. They were Arthur and Edmund Tarbet, both 2nd Lts in the Ceylon Planters Rifles who were killed in action on August 21, 1915 at Gallipoli (Capt G R O'Sullivan VC died that day, too).

I have yet to discover why these young men from so far away were with the battalion. - Maj J. P. B. Condon, Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts BA12 0DJ.

## INDIA MEDAL

Having served in India before and during the eventful period of 1946-7, I fully support Malcolm Martin's letter (SOLDIER, October 6) asking for the award of a general service medal for all British troops who served in India's trouble spots.

I definitely support his suggestion that a commemorative medal be awarded.

If the governments of India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Uganda and Sierra Leone can issue independence medals surely our British Government could issue a commemorative medal. - J. Mounter, 52 Castle Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6RE.

## Call signs

□ Mr A Johnson, ex-RAF and now living at 50 Tudor Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 3LF, wishes to trace Staff Sgt Tom O'Riordan, believed to be in the RMP, and Mrs Sybil O'Riordan.

□ The Monte Casino Veterans' Association will visit the battlefields and war graves in the Rimini area next June/July, travelling by coach from Manchester and London. Details from Mr John Clarke, Secretary, 41 Aldermanry Road, Manchester M21 2QW (tel: 061-881-4594).

□ The daughter of Robert Joseph Hoddinott, R Signals, wishes to contact men who served with him during the Second World War. He came from Morden, Surrey, joined the Army in 1939, went to Burma and returned to UK to Thirsk in 1944 and then to London before demob in 1945. He died about ten years ago. Please contact Mr B J Harris, Secretary of the Regimental Association. The Staffordshire Regiment, 1 St Ann's Court, Eastbourne Road, Pevensey Bay, East Sussex BN24 6HN.

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AYC/S 3.11.86

# RFEA job hunters place more ex-Regulars

MORE ex-Servicemen and women than ever were found jobs last year by the Regular Forces Employment Association despite continuing discrimination by an increasing number of local authorities.

Gen Sir Jack Harman, new president of the RFEA, reported to the association's 101st annual meeting in London that more than 4,600 jobs had been found last year for ex-Regulars, the third year running that placings had increased.

The number of approaches for help rose by nearly 1,000 to 11,370, the most for 12 years. And, he said, RFEA officers could expect requests for assistance to increase.

Gen Harman congratulated the Services on paying more attention to resettlement and said: "We encourage them still further so that those arriving at our branches who are apparently totally unprepared become fewer and fewer each year."

The meeting was told that discrimination by local authorities against those receiving public service pensions had not improved, despite approaches by the RFEA to 15 such authorities.

The association was campaigning that ex-Regulars should not be included in the public service pensions group, where pensions were designed to mature at the end of a working life. Service pensions



Capt Mick Longstaff (centre) helps prison catering staff to load the midday meal

were smaller and the recipients were considerably younger.

Security work accounted for more than a quarter of the 3,638 jobs found in industry and commerce. Local authorities had taken on 200.

The RFEA provides a free service to both ex-Regulars and employers and is supported by public funds and Service charities. It had improved productivity during the year by reducing the expenditure involved in each placing.

The association has a staff of 54, including 40 employment offices based all over the country.

## Porridge time for Peterhead Highlanders

WHEN fire destroyed the cookhouse at the top security prison in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, the local Territorial Army unit was asked to help.

Now all meals for the 200 prisoners are being prepared by prison catering staff at the TA centre in Catto Drive, Peterhead, and transported three miles to the prison.

Prison staff have been given full use of the TA centre cookhouse, dining room and washing areas on weekdays.

When members of B (Gordon Highlander) Company 2/51 Highlander Volunteers appear for training at the weekends, Army Catering Corps staff work alongside the prison caterers to prepare meals for both the TA and the Peterhead prisoners.

Capt Mick Longstaff, administration officer of B Coy, says the system is working well – apart from the fact that the TA permanent staff feel hungry all day because of the appetising smells drifting around the centre.

It is expected that the cookhouse in the prison will take several weeks to rebuild. In the meantime, TA cooks in Catto Drive are hoping that their weekend duties are the closest they will get to doing porridge!



If you go down in the woods today... An NBC casualty team goes about its business during 7 Signal Regiment's battle skills competition for the Iron Arrow Trophy on BOAR's Soltau training area. The regiment is based in Herford, West Germany. 6 Sqn retained the trophy

# Blues and Royals say farewell to Detmold

AFTER almost 17 years, The Blues and Royals are leaving Detmold and a farewell parade at Lothian Barracks was a fitting testimonial to the strong links which the regiment has forged with the North Rhine Westphalian town, writes **Pete Brown**.

The regiment has served in many countries from Arctic Norway to the sunnier climes of Greece and Cyprus and its many battle honours include the Falklands.

Autumn mists and rain did nothing to detract from the ceremony as a mounted detachment from the Household Cavalry Regiment from London led the parade, held appropriately on the same square where the Royal Horse Guards and The Royal Dragoons were amalgamated to form The Blues and Royals in 1969.

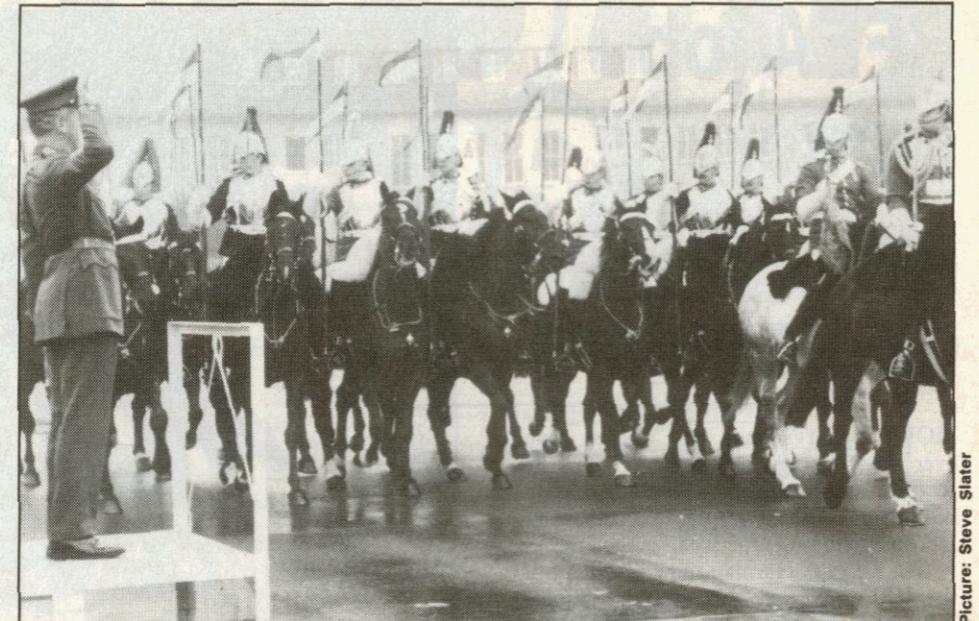
As the Commander 4th Armoured Division, Maj Gen M F Hobbs took the salute, the sound of the regiment's tracked vehicles intermingled with that of the horses, giving spectators a potted history of the regiment past and present in sound.

The Blues and Royals now move to Sennelager, where as a unit of the 3rd Armoured Division they will be equipped, with the Challenger main battle tank.

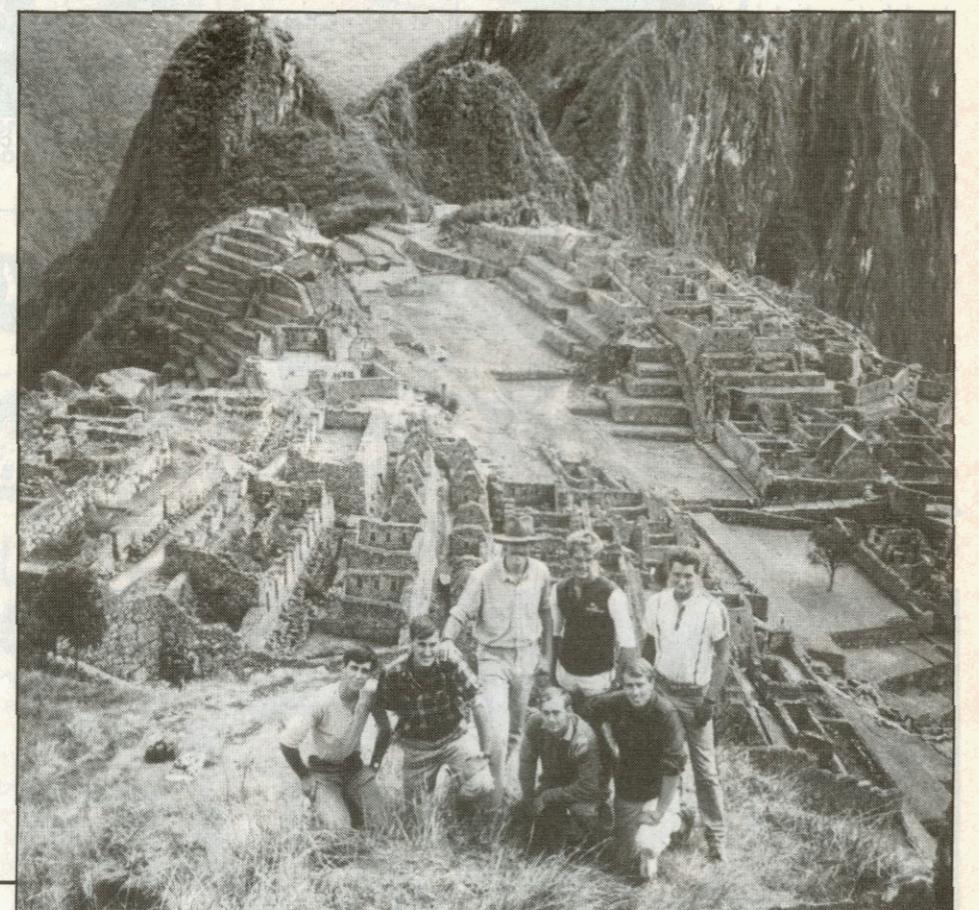
## Belize team aids 'quake victims

BRITISH soldiers joined the international relief operation mounted in El Salvador after the earthquake disaster.

An RAF Puma from Belize flew to the disaster area with two Army medics, two signallers, three sappers and an interpreter, and a civilian flight followed with medical orderlies and supplies.



A mounted troop from the Household Cavalry on parade as The Blues and Royals take their leave of Detmold



## High life for 3 QUEENS team

No, it's not Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark but men of the 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment in the dramatic setting of Macchu Picchu, the ancient Inca city high in the Peruvian Andes.

It was during a tour in Belize that the eight man team, led by Capt Mike Hurman, travelled to Peru where they spent more than a week trekking 62 kilometres through the Cordillera Blanca before flying further south and

climbing to the ancient city.

Reaching heights of 15,500 feet, the men had hoped to see the rare and majestic Andean Condor and during their trek had to endure scorching temperatures during the day and snow at night.

Standing (left to right) are Pte Nick Bryan, Pte Mark West and Pte R. Fahy, and (kneeling left to right) Pte Baz Baeza, Cpl Nick West, Pte Simon Penny and Capt Mike Hurman.

## Birthday music for RCT's 21st

THE Royal Corps of Transport's coming of age was celebrated in music at the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen, West Germany during a special birthday performance put on by the Band and Corps of Drums of the RCT.

Pipes and drums of 153 (Highland) Artillery Support Regiment RCT (V) and the pipes and drums of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport lent their support. In all about 100 musicians took part.

# Wanted: Crews for a Down Under sailing adventure

A MAJOR Joint Services sail training expedition to Australia to mark the 200th anniversary of European settlement has been given official blessing.

A least 200 men and women from all three Services will be involved in the project. It is planned to sail two Nicholson 55 sail training craft to Australia, departing from the United Kingdom in June.

Once there, the yachts will take part in Australia's 1988 bicentennial celebrations, joining the Tall Ships in Fremantle in November for passage to Sydney.

The voyages to Australia and back again have been split into 14 provisional

legs, varying in length from two to six weeks. Applications are now being sought from Service personnel who would like to be considered for a berth on a leg.

The Nicholsons are scheduled to leave their base at Gosport, near Portsmouth, Hants, in June, arriving in Sydney in December via Gibraltar, Cyprus, the Maldives, Singapore, Dampier (Australia), Fremantle, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Return journey is planned for February 1988, via Auckland (New Zealand) Cape Horn, the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and Gibraltar.

Crew members will be expected to contribute between £150 and £300 for their berths depending on the length of the legs.

Deadline for applications is February 28, but earlier bids will have priority of choice. Crew selection will take place in the spring and summer at the Joint Service Sailing Centre at Gosport.

If you want to be involved as an individual, corps or regiment write or telephone for an application form to Project Co-ordinator (Australian Adventure 1988), JSSC Hornet, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AQ (tel 0705 822351 ext 41924).

## Gurkha sappers given Freedom of Rochester

ROCHESTER bestowed its Freedom on The Queen's Gurkha Engineers during a ceremony in Rochester Castle Gardens in which the regiment was represented by 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron from Kitchener Barracks, Chatham.

69 Sqn is the third field squadron of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and has been based at Chatham since its reformation in 1981. Its modern role is that of a UK engineer squadron and it supports 2 Infantry Brigade based at Shorncliffe.

The squadron's 217 officers and men are trickle posted from the regiment in Hong Kong for two year tours in the UK. Their courtesy, discipline and involvement in local projects and charities led to unanimous approval by Rochester City Council for the regiment to be granted the Freedom of the city.

## Gazelle crash investigation

AN investigation is being held into the death of Army Air Corps pilot Sgt Clive O'Hare who died last month when his Gazelle helicopter crashed during a routine night flight near Hildesheim in Germany.

Both Sgt O'Hare, 28 and married, and his crewman - who was only slightly injured - were members of 661 Sqn, 1 Regt AAC, based at Hildesheim.

## Western Express

EXERCISE Western Express provided the first major test for the Home Service Force in the Midlands. The exercise was planned and run by 143 Infantry Brigade and based on Swynnerton Camp near Stone, Staffs.



Easy does it! 2nd Lt Andy Northover (centre) and his 3 RWF patrol keep dry on the Cambrian Patrol

## Cambrian Patrol hots up

AN RAF team from Hullavington in Wiltshire won the first stage of the 1986 Cambrian Patrol competition in the Elan Valley, Mid-Wales with 2 Bn The Royal Green Jackets in second place and 5th Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion in third.

Second phase of the competition, acknowledged as one of the toughest tests for infantry soldiers in the world, was taking place as SOLDIER went to press.

The Cambrian Patrol is a unique test of military skills and stamina, split into a four day test for the Regulars and a two day test for the Terriers.

In fact home ground seemed to be an advantage in the Territorial Army competition, with the only two Welsh

teams competing quickly leaving the rest of the field behind.

Early leaders were the 3rd Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers from North Wales, followed by the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers and the Royal Marines Reservists from Poole, Dorset.

Regulars face a four day march covering 90km over some of the most rugged terrain in Wales. But the event is more than just a long march. Nine man teams must carry packs and weapons and are subjected to every aspect of their craft as they cover the ground.

They take part in night navigation and shooting tests, military signalling and helicopter drills, and watermanship and survival cooking.

# Top cop Vida's a crime beater

IT'S not what you say, but the way you say it... top RMP cop WO1 Vida Gough knows this well for her job is to tell about crime prevention. And that takes a certain style.

Vida, 32, and married to a copper who pounds the beat, heads a 40-strong team of Army crime prevention officers based around the world.

Their role is to advise Service

families on how to beat the criminal and, as everybody knows, there are a lot of them about these days. And that's where Vida - who has her HQ at Old Sarum - and her colleagues come in.

"We advise on house and personal security, neighbourhood watches, show videos to schoolchildren warning them of the dangers they face and many other facets of

crime." In short, Vida and her team are a crime-watch bureau for the Army.

"I don't actually go round 'feeling collars' and 'slapping 'cuffs' on people, not these days, anyway," said Vida, who has been in the Army 14 years as a policewoman for the whole of that time. "But I've done my share in the past."



WO1 VIDA GOUGH: out to beat the criminal

## Charlie beats a killer disease to help others

**CHEERFUL** Charlie Brown beat the killer cancer two years ago and is now turning his energies to running a new community centre and raising money for charity.

Cpl Brown of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards based at Detmold, West Germany, was the inspiration behind the Rose Bowl Club, a facility with a membership of 340 couples from Detmold Garrison's Hakedahl married quarters estate, where Charlie lives with wife Susan and sons Paul (14) and Nigel (13).

Brave Charlie fought back after he was struck down by cancer in 1978. But with the help of military hospital staff in Hanover and London he defeated the disease after a



LCPL CHARLIE BROWN  
Spare-time fund raising

courageous six-year battle.

Now 35-year-old Charlie, a transport details clerk,

devotes his spare time to running the Rose Bowl Club and raising money for good causes.

Says Charlie, who has served 16 years: "Many people fear they are going to die when they get cancer, but just remember that today there's much more chance of a cure.

"I was lucky and my experience may help someone else if they read this."

Well done, Charlie, you're a hero...

### Computer pool

Computer buffs, particularly the owners of an estimated 10,000-plus Amstrads in the three Services, can now pool their talents at the newly-formed Services Amstrad Society based at the Leros TA Centre in Canterbury.

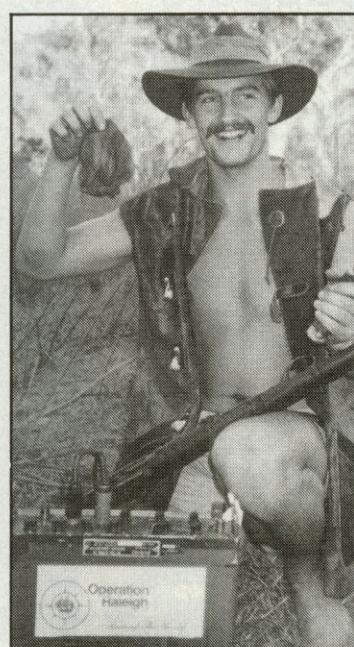
## Jail escape jape to boost spastics' fund

A jailbreak from Lincoln Prison is being planned for November 23 and the two would-be absconders want everybody to know of it before it happened.

Of course it's a sponsored escape jape in aid of the Spastics Society and

Bdrs Caffrey and Williams of HQ Battery 16 Air Defence Regt, based at Gainsborough, Lincs., plan to make good the escape on the bikes reaching Royal Artillery depot at Woolwich - 180 miles away - in 12 hours.

Anyone who feels like giving a boost to their freedom bid should send a cheque to: Spastics Society c/o Mrs Mary Watt, Appeals Officer, Spastics Society, City House, 9 The Avenue, Lincoln, Lincs. LN1 1PA.



TPR STEFAN KOBEWA: pork and art

FAR from making a pig's ear of things, Tpr Stefan Kobewka of the 14th/20th King's Hussars seems to have taken to life in the Australian outback with gusto as he holds aloft a feral pig's ear. Tpr Kobewka, 22, is on an Operation Raleigh scheme in Northern Queensland and apart from potting the occasional porker is also hunting for aboriginal rock art. Photo: Col J. N. Blashford-Snell.

## Stefan goes pig potting Down Under

## The day the general poured port for the steward

IT'S not often a general pours a port for a steward. But it happened when TA Sgt Stanley Groom retired after eight years as officers' mess steward at the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry at Telford.

Then Maj Gen Robert Ward acted Stan's old role and poured him a generous measure from an

### New top man

The 600-strong RAEC has a new Col Commandant. Major Gen Anthony Tryhall, who succeeds Maj Gen Lloyd Howell, will be responsible for Corps tradition, interests and morale.

engraved decanter presented to the mess by Stan.

It was his way of thanking the mess for his enjoyable times there.

In return the general presented him with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate in recognition of his work with the TA and the Army Cadet Force.



MAJ GEN ROBERT WARD, SGT STANLEY GROOM: port from his own decanter

## REME recalled by 'old boys'

A big reunion at SEME Bordon marked the 50th anniversary of formal technical apprenticeship training at Bramley and Hulsea in Hampshire.

Former apprentice Eddy Walters started the ball rolling earlier this year and 96 turned up for the reunion.

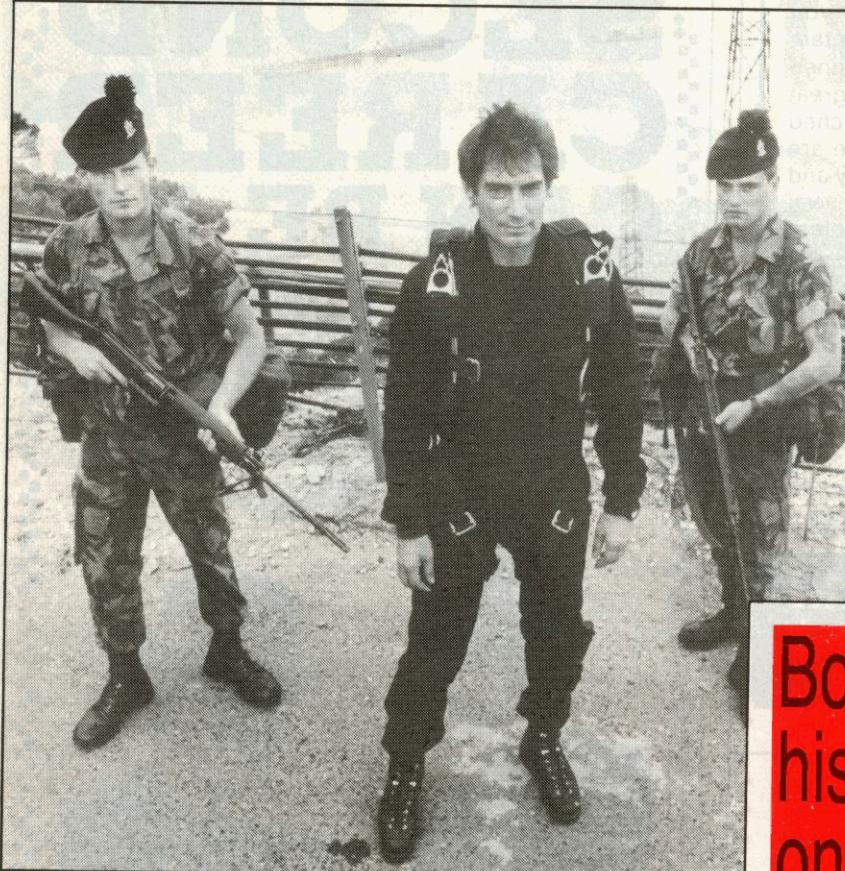
To mark the occasion Eddy presented a silver rose bowl from the veterans to guest of honour Maj Gen John Boyne, Director General of the REME.

## ★ Carry on, Corporal



★ Don't tell Cpl Willy Jenkins (right) that 52 is too old for soldiering. For he has just completed his 19th Cambrian Patrol competition. A British Telecom engineer, his TA role is that of a cook with 104 Air Defence Regt at Newport. "I wouldn't miss this for anything," said Willy as he helped carry a "casualty" three miles over the Welsh mountains.

# PEOPLE



**TIMOTHY DALTON 007:** Rangers with cocked rifles and feathers (Photo: CSgt Leo Callow)

THE name's Bond, James Bond. There I am on the Rock of Gibraltar innocently shooting people when up come these guys with feathers in their bonnets and their rifles cocked. I guess the game is up!

Timothy Dalton, the new 007, got

more than he bargained for when Rangers Fulter Myles and Alan McClanahan of the 2nd Bn The Royal Irish Rangers appeared on the scene.

As members of an alert section at constant readiness to deploy any-

## Sappers ready for old wall call

**SAPPERS** in Cyprus are helping to rescue part of an ancient wall to help the island's Museum of Antiquities at Paphos.

Enormous blocks of sandstone which were once part of the old city wall destroyed 700 years BC, have to be lifted into their original positions, and

that's where the men of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron based in Dhekelia will soon be called in to help.

As a start Col Ted Rose from the Royal Engineers Specialist Pool in the UK, a renowned geologist who lectures at the University of London, was brought in as an adviser.

Now Maj Simon Douglas, OC RE Squadron, is waiting for a call to the project and said: "We have never done anything like this before and we look forward to working in close co-operation with the Paphos Museum of Antiquities."

## Bond meets his match on the Rock

where on Gibraltar, they were investigating a report that shooting had been heard.

Timothy and crew were on the Rock to film opening sequences for the new James Bond spectacular *The Living Daylights*.

## BAOR beat for 'village bobby' Bill

THE duties of a village bobby are many as RMP Sgt Bill Daniels has been finding out at Lippstadt, Germany, where he has just started a two-year tour as community policeman.

It is the first time that Lippstadt has had its own local bobby and Sgt Daniels, whose post comes under the command of 110 Provost Company RMP in Sennelager, is responsible not only for general police duties and crime and theft in the community, but also for teaching children about the dangers of traffic and strangers. (See Top-cop story, Page 10).



**MAJ KEN HATHAWAY**  
Final calculations

## Paymaster Ken cashes up

A 42-year Army career ended last month when Maj Ken Hathaway of the Royal Army Pay Corps made his final Army pay calculations and retired.

Maj Hathaway left his home in a Welsh mining village in December 1944 for basic training with National Service Group No. 64 at Shorncliffe returning to Wales for infantry training at Brecon.

In 1946 he was transferred to the RAPC and since then has served throughout the UK, Italy, in Africa

with the Royal West African Frontier Force, in the Canal Zone and in Germany.

He eventually joined the Junior Regiment Royal Signals with whom he was paymaster when he retired last month.

## New role for Sir Edwin

A new role for former Chief of the Defence Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall ... he is now the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London which includes 32 boroughs.

A keen go-karter and grass track racer in his younger days, Maj Hathaway ran karting sessions twice weekly for the junior soldiers and junior leaders of the Scottish and King's Divisions.

When he visited Barnet he made sure he inspected the three TA units there - B Company 6/7th Queens; 3 Company 10 Para and his hosts for the occasion, 240 Sqn RCT.

## Roll out the barrel

Past and present soldiers of The Staffordshire Regiment were offered free beer at the King's Head, Lichfield, when the pub reopened after extensive renovation.

Reason for the celebration, say Marston's the brewers, was because it was where the regiment was formed by Col Luke Lillingston in 1705.

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Once again we are able to offer SOLDIER readers the opportunity to "wear your badge with pride" on a series of pullovers being sold to you at a special "pre-increase" price, which will not be repeated.

The offer comes from Symbol Sweaters, regular SOLDIER advertisers, who have produced sweaters in lambswool or acrylic in many different sizes and colours, embroidered with the Army badge (see illustration).

Pullovers are available to individual customers at a price which would normally only be available for bulk orders. Lambswool pullovers, for example, cost only £15.93 including VAT (plus £1 for postage and packing).

Super acrylic pullovers will cost £9.95 including VAT. These prices are normally available only if 100 or more garments are ordered at the same time.

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IF YOU want to get fit do something for charity! Latest money gathering operations mounted by units and individuals have included sponsored walks, cycle rides, abseils and even a bit of car care.

Skilled personnel of **23 Engr Regt Workshops** at Osnabruck, West Germany, could hardly bear to look at another chamois leather after the success of their car care day in Quebec Barracks. So great was the response that they raised more than £2,000 for the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath.

★ ★ ★

The peace and quiet of Hamelin, West Germany, were shattered by the clatter of ten iron beds being pushed through the ancient streets by teams from 35 Engr Regt and 28 Amph Engr Regt, who raced from the 35's Gordon Barracks to the 28's Bindon Barracks. But their efforts were all in the cause of charity!

★ ★ ★

Meanwhile four members of the permanent staff of **RMA Sandhurst** are going out of their way, literally, to raise funds for the purchase of an electric wheelchair for a multiple sclerosis sufferer. Colour Sergeants David Barret, GREN GDS, Terry Eccles, PWO, Pat Lavery and Brendon McCann, both IG, were marching from London to Camberley via Dover, a detour of 200 miles!

★ ★ ★

Sgt Maj Barney Barnish of the **19th Fd Regt RA** based at Dortmund, West Germany, has received a cheque for £5,000 from Allied Lyons for smashing the Land's End to John O'Groats walking record. The money will swell the regiment's charity kitty for Age Concern.

★ ★ ★

**D Coy 7 (Volunteer) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment** carried out their own Exercise Brave Descender to make more than £600 for the Northampton Hospital premature baby unit. Fifteen members of the unit completed a 450ft abseil from Northampton's famous "lighthouse".

★ ★ ★

**Catterick-based** soldiers pushed disabled people in wheelchairs over the full marathon distance to help raise £10,000 for the British Sports Association for the Disabled. HQ Catterick Garrison helped organise the event which involved nearly 100 wheelchairs.

★ ★ ★

Twenty-six wives of the **2nd Bn The Light Infantry** stationed near Iserlohn, West Germany, stuck it out on Exercise Stick It Out III! They survived a night exercise, assault course and square bashing and raised DM 4,700 for local handicapped children.

A US Marine fires from the hip at a group of Scots Guards storming a nearby building



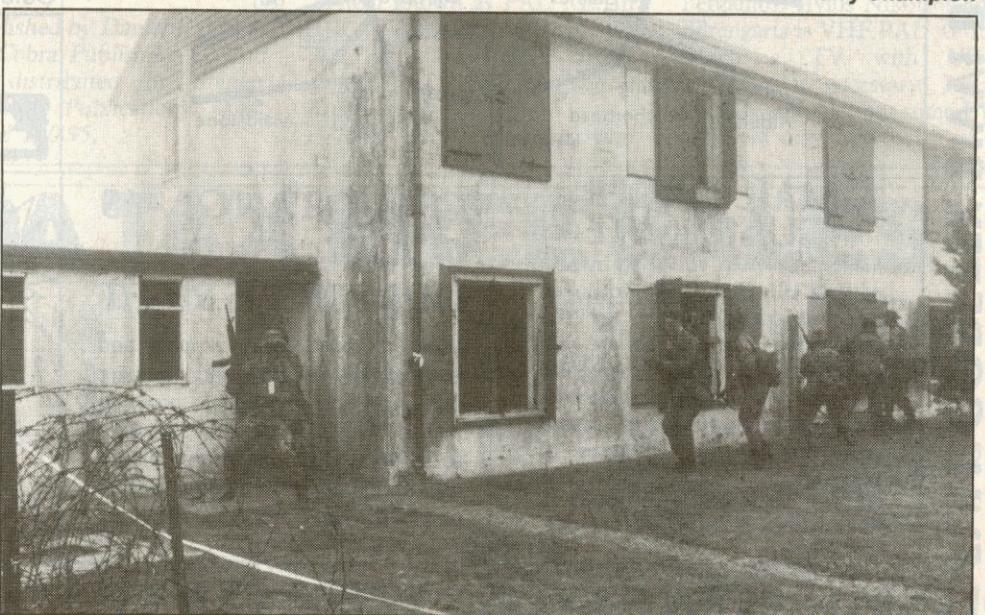
Pictures: Terry Champion

## Scots Guards get 'street wise' with US Marines

MEN OF the Scots Guards found themselves pitting their wits against specialist units of the US Marines in a street fighting exercise in Hampshire.

Fresh back from a two year tour in Cyprus, the men of the 'Left Flank' company, 2nd Bn Scots Guards, were brushing up on their FIBUA - fighting in built up areas - skills at the specially converted Longmoor training area.

Both units took it in turns to attack and defend in the early morning mist and Maj Julian Crowe, 2SG, told SOLDIER: "It was very useful and we learned a lot. Both sides would have taken heavy casualties had it been for real, but then street fighting is always dicey."



US Marines prepare to move to their next objective

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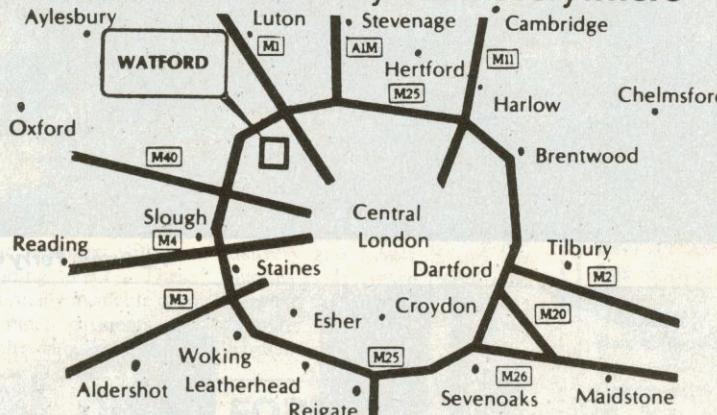
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# A Very Costly medal

When a Victoria Cross comes under the hammer at one of London's big auction houses, the VC could also stand for "Very Costly". Quite rightly so.

The Royal Corps of Transport had more than £80,000 in their pocket at Spinks recently ready to buy the Dalton's VC won at the battle of Rorke's Drift. Although they eventually needed only £62,000, it was fairly obvious from looking at prices that VCs have fetched in the past that the medal would prove expensive.

Sotheby's, who have been selling medals since Waterloo, have auctioned more than 50 in the past 20 years. And the prices have been going up and up.

Back in 1965, for instance, a VC won by a Rifle Brigade sergeant in the Indian Mutiny, was knocked down for only £580 - still a lot of money at that time. Soon afterwards prices were pushing much higher. And in 1970 a VC awarded to Sepoy (later Capt) Ishar Singh in Waziristan reached a record £2,000.

In one year, the record price jumped from £2,300 to £6,000 for the medal awarded to a Canadian captain in the First World War, and then to £27,000 by 1980 for the VC, DCM and MM awarded to Pte H Tandey of the West Riding Regiment.

The D-Day VC of CSM M Hollis sent the record price soaring to £32,000 only four years ago.

Obviously some VCs are worth more than others, but

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier

## Return of the Hope banner...

A bit of detective work by former 2ic Maj John Innes has resulted in a scoop for 154 (Lowland) Transport Regiment RCT (V).

While researching the history of the regiment he found

## Sospan's last parade



It has been a tragic time for military goats in Wales. Only a few days after the death of Dewi the Third, the mascot of the 3rd (V) Bn of the Royal Regiment of Wales, at the quite respectable goat age of 10, Sospan the Second, mascot of the 4th (V) Bn also went off to that Great Goat Field in the sky.

Sospan, who like Dewi was arthritic, had been on parade a week earlier, but suffered a severe stroke and had to be put down at the grand old age of 14. He was buried at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

there was a comparison in 1983 with that Indian Mutiny VC price of £580 nearly 20 years earlier when another one was sold for £4,000.

Main reason for the leap in medal prices generally has been media publicity, says Michael Naxton of Sotheby's, writing in the seventh edition of The Medals Yearbook\*. Front page newspaper reports and even TV coverage have stirred the public's imagination.

\*Published by Daniel F Collins and Cobra Publishing Co Ltd and distributed by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, priced £10.95.

Posted to Cyprus? Thinking of taking the television with you. The advice of SSVC is don't unless you know that it will work there.

SSVC have transmitters in Episkopi, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, and they operate within the UHF band on a system known as PAL 'G'. In UK, TV transmissions are also on UHF but use PAL 'I' format which has a different sound frequency.

Most Service families who

## Keeping Cyprus in focus on the box

are posted to Cyprus apparently hire local TVs which are of dual standard.

Just to complicate matters further, cable TV which is being installed by SSVC in Pergamos, Ayios Nikolaos and Berengaria is VHF PAL 'G' for which a TV with VHF capability is necessary. Local TVs are suitable, but some UK receivers may not be.

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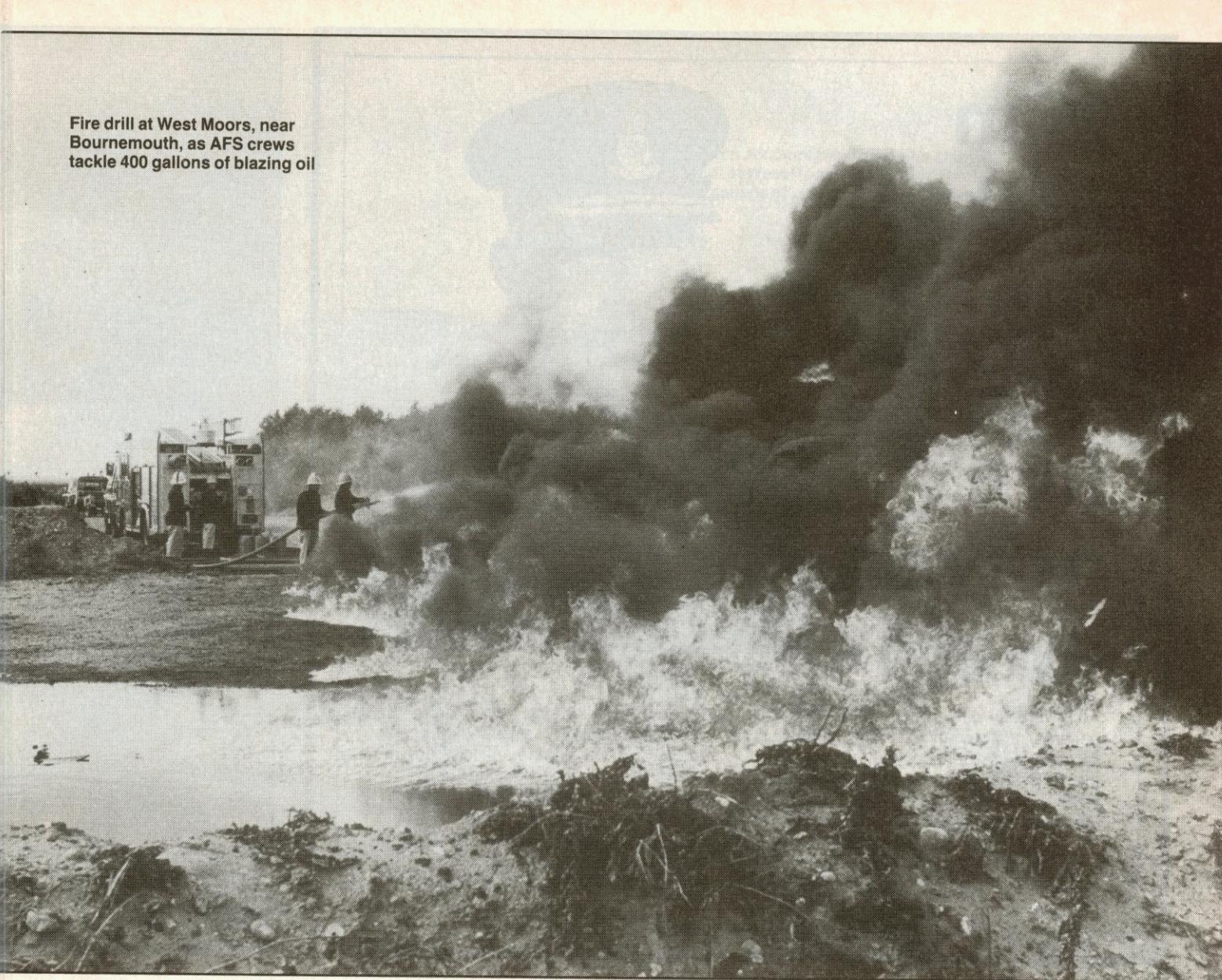
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Fire drill at West Moors, near Bournemouth, as AFS crews tackle 400 gallons of blazing oil



IF there's one blot on the escutcheon of the Army Fire Service (AFS) it's the disastrous fire at the RAOC depot at Donnington in 1983.

Then stores and equipment went up in smoke and flames and the local AFS squad, although making gallant attempts to beat the blaze, lost to an inferno that raged for hours.

While the cause of the fire has never been established, the effective cost of that military bonfire is well known and put in the region of £160 million.

"A very expensive business," said Bill Harold, deputy head of the AFS.

"The Donnington disaster is the worst in the history of the AFS and, while we don't know how it started, I'm sure it could have been avoided since most fires begin with carelessness."

But whatever the cause the fire put the AFS firmly in the public spotlight as the men who fight the Army's fires. Until then, although an Army fire brigade has been around since 1864, few had heard of it.

"Last year we attended 350 fires on military bases. That's about one a month for each of our 31 fire stations located around the world," said Bill Harold.

"Only one man died - a soldier in a married quarter. None of our 700-strong force was hurt. A good record."

# BRIGADE OF FIRE

**Story by John Margetts  
Pictures by Paul Haley**

Bill Harold, like his boss Gordon Mitchell, has been a fireman all his working life.

Both joined the Auxiliary Fire Service in the early war years - Gordon in 1940 and Bill in 1943 - and both served in the RASC Fire Service.

Now they run the AFS with 13 stations in the UK and the same number in BAOR, three in Cyprus and two in Hong Kong.

Bill told of his service and the dangers facing firemen while watching a blaze control demonstration at an Army petrol depot near Ringwood, Hants.

As station officer Derek Freeman, a

former Royal Navy marine engineer, flicked a lighted match to set ablaze 400 gallons of contaminated fuel, Bill Harold told of the hazards of fire-fighting today compared with 40 years ago.

"Then it was possible to fight fires without too much technology, breathe a certain amount of smoke and survive without too much trouble."

"Today, with the abundance of synthetic materials and plastics, fire-fighting has become a far more hazardous business."

"Equipment, training and standards are much higher now. They have to be for firemen to cope."

● Turn to next page

# Man at the top has five bravery awards



Chief Officer Gordon Mitchell

AFS chief officer Gordon Mitchell became a fireman in 1940 with the Auxiliary Fire Service. He stayed with the AFS until National Service with the RASC Fire Service in 1946 serving in Gibraltar and BAOR.

It was while in Gibraltar he was awarded the first of five bravery awards: for rescuing two boys from a cave; the

rescue of a sailor stranded on the Rock face; rescuing a man stranded in a cable car, saving yet another sailor from the face of the Rock and saving three men who had fallen into the fuel tank of a super tanker.

Like his deputy, Bill Harold, Mr Mitchell has served in several bases around the world including Northern Ireland.



## New fleet will cost £3m

From Page 19

While Bill, Gordon Mitchell and Derek Freeman are all ex-Service – and so are many more of the AFS – fewer ex-Servicemen are joining.

Instead increasing numbers of civilians are applying to become Army firemen even though the age limit is 30 for them and 35 for ex-Servicemen.

“But we prefer former soldiers as trainees because they are disciplined and know how the Army works,” said Bill Harold. They are in the main, a good deal fitter, too.

“And it’s more than useful to know something of military life since we are a military fire service.”

But disciplined ex-Servicemen or not, the AFS in common with all official uniformed organisations, is a trained and skilled force subject – in their case – to Civil Service rules.

They can, if they step out of line too far, find themselves with their cards in their hands heading for the Job Centre, just like anyone else in these days of job shortages.

As with fire brigades the world over most of their time is spent on stand-by, training and fire patrols with a commitment to help out local brigades should the need arise.

And they’re no slouches when it comes to arriving at a fire with gleaming red fire appliances – engines to the uninitiated – as they are in the process of replacing their entire fleet world wide at a cost of £3 million.

Add this total to the approximate annual cost of £13 million for running the AFS and the Army gets excellent insurance. Almost cheap when compared with the cost of the Donnington disaster.

So what sort of men are required; how is selection for the AFS decided?

“Although we are getting fewer soldiers

applying these days, we prefer them because they are usually young, fit and disciplined,” said Bill.

And since we are negotiating with the union to step up the fitness level to somewhere between the BFT and CFT, they make ideal candidates.”

There are also written tests and interviews. Then follows training with the Surrey Fire Brigade, and specialised aircraft fire-fighting drill at the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose.

And it’s not just wielding a hosepipe at which they become adept. A good knowledge of the whole subject is a must if they are to be successful at the job.

“There’s no guesswork in this job,” said West Moors station officer Derek Freeman. “We know precisely how long a known amount of fuel will burn.”

Indicating a burnt-out petrol vehicle soaked in 400 gallons of unusable fuel oil, he said it would burn for 3½ minutes at

600 Centigrade. “No problems,” he said.

In the event the fire-fighters doused the flames in 2½ minutes. Nobody got near enough to test the temperature. Suffice to say it was mighty hot.

As with the Services there is a strong camaraderie in the AFS. Team work is the name of the game.

There is little or no room for the individual doing his own thing. Togetherness when fire-fighting is a must if they are to win.

This was never more apparent than in Cyprus during the terrorist days of EOKA.

“Then we had – and still have – Greeks and Turks on the same fire crews,” said Bill Harold.

“We never had the slightest trouble. There was no question of separating them. They didn’t want to split anyway.”

“Fighting fires was their job, not each other. And that’s our role in the AFS today.”



Deputy Chief Bill Harold

## Bill's been fighting fires for 43 years

Bill Harold, deputy chief of the AFS, retires next year after 43 years as a fireman. He joined the Auxiliary Fire Service in 1943 switching to the RASC Fire Service in 1946 when called up for National Service.

He served in the Far East, Kenya, Cyprus and BAOR before the RASC FS was “civilianised” in 1961.

Since then he has spent time at all of these locations in various senior appointments.

Now he works from AFS HQ at Tidworth and leaves next April. He plans to spend his retirement on the Isle of Wight and become an umpire with a local cricket team.

# BERLIN SPECIAL

## Dial Summit for the top shows

WEST BERLIN is awash with entertainment from opera to pop, from English theatre productions to top sporting events and exhibitions.

East Berlin, too, offers a fair sprinkling of events, but the most recent big attraction for Service families and countless Berliners was the Berlin Tattoo at the Deutschnahalle.

Tickets for all shows are available at the Military Welfare Service run by Valerie Crooks and this one attracted hordes of people.

Valerie has been selling tickets and organising

## Zippy radio revels

LAST year BFBS Berlin raised more than DM12,000 with the Christmas Wireless for the Blind Appeal. This year? "We'll have to wait and see," said controller John Bennett, station controller.

Arguably a listener response like that indicates enormous popularity and it was easy to hear why.

Right from the start at 6am, when the station goes "live" with the Breakfast Show, it was all revels and go.

Hosted by Jeff Roberts, it's a zippy quiz game called *Behind the Door* which had listeners ringing in with questions and answers.

Obviously one of their success secrets is listener participation.

ing tours for the past nine years and has seen a tremendous upsurge in the number of Service families taking advantage of Berlin's entertainment world.

"Tours of East Berlin are now up to three a week and, like the West Berlin tours, are proving extremely popular.

"If you're in Berlin and need tickets for anything, call us on 309 4526 (Summit House)," says Valerie. "We're open during normal office hours including Saturdays. We also have an answering service for messages." So give Val a call and take advantage of entertainment Berlin style. It's great!



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# BEAUTIFUL BERLIN

## IN MY VIEW

### (But it's not all roses)

A FLEETING visit to the Forces in Berlin followed my five days at this year's International Keystone Youth Conference in the walled city.

Serviceman's daughter Angela Burry, who has attended a course in German at Tübingen College, acted as the interpreter for the German delegates.

This was the second time Angela had taken on the job. The first time was

two years ago when she was so good at it she was offered a two-week course at Tübingen.

Now she is fluent in the language and is currently attending a university to further her education in German.

I was fortunate the conference coincided with the Berlin Tattoo. What a spectacular occasion blending colour, lighting, costumes and a storyline of Victorian England.

Berlin must be one of the

few postings left which captures the old thrill of service overseas with the pluses far outweighing the minuses.

In my short stay, the Wall, that horrendous prevention of freedom surrounding West Berlin, was the cause of two failed escapes – two more bids by desperate people to leave the East – against one successful leap to freedom.

Craftsmen have been drafted in to make good 40 years of neglect.

We must never forget what the Wall symbolises.

intend travelling. At least 30 per cent, it seems, make their own way by car.

The forms the team sends out are clear, concise and include relevant and helpful advice. For example: all quarters are Grade 1, pets are allowed, and there is space to order your get-you-in-packet.

The Berlin information guide is also sent, but above all the wife is kept in the picture and up to date on progress.

And for those travelling by car there is a tactful reminder: "If you wish to send your unaccompanied baggage through the official channels and you are not in possession of

documents enabling you to dispatch it, your husband's attention should be drawn to this fact. It probably means he has not applied for this service and he should do so without delay."

But mostly families appreciate the immediate acknowledgement of their AFA 10s. It alleviates stress to know exactly where they stand in the housing stakes, especially when the type and grade is included with the address.

One complimentary comment came from a wife: "It's the first time in years I have had such prompt and excellent service."

A FEW weeks before the West Berlin Tattoo, a huge publicity campaign was mounted to attract Berliners to see this spectacular show based on Victorian London.

Many of those taking part, I suspect, were having quite a time as they performed tasks far removed from soldiering.

For the 1 Devon and Dorsets it meant practising musket drill, forming battle squares and preparing muzzle loading cannons for action, with some girded in loin cloths as Sepoy soldiers and the Glosters sporting huge Victorian moustaches.

As Union Jack painted buses whizzed about the city, a London Transport double-decker bus was operated near the famous blue church to attract shoppers to the souvenir stand manned by WO1 Tom Dobbing and SSgt Keith Marshall from Ordnance Services RAOC, who with the help of a pearly king

## A GREAT SHOW FROM THE UK

and queen were doing a flourishing trade.

SSgt Martin Elmer of 62 Tpt & Mov Sqn Regt was assigned to guide the double decker around the city.

"It's much larger than the Berlin buses," he said. "When you have guests aboard such as the GOC you can not let the LT driver get stuck under a bridge or get lost."

With more than 4,000



performers it was often the size of the costumes which dictated the actor for the part, but everyone was excellent performing like seasoned players.

A magnificent and spectacular show.

Pictured: Tpr Loftus as Prince Albert, Mary Murby as Queen Victoria and Gary Coleman as the Prince of Wales.

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# Anne

HERE TO HELP



# Armstrong

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND



TATTOO TIME: The Household Cavalry against a backdrop of Tower Bridge, St Paul's, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey

British working wives paying DM150 a month in NI contributions and tax, can lose a sum approaching £900 because their contributions and taxes cannot be recovered or transferred to the UK.

Multiply this £900 by the number of working wives

who will lose out on this arrangement, and a significant sum is being handed to the German economy by British wives.

Another point worth noting for those moving to Berlin is that single beds in soldiers' MQs are 3ft wide and not 2ft 6in as elsewhere. This can mean

extra expense for bigger sheets.

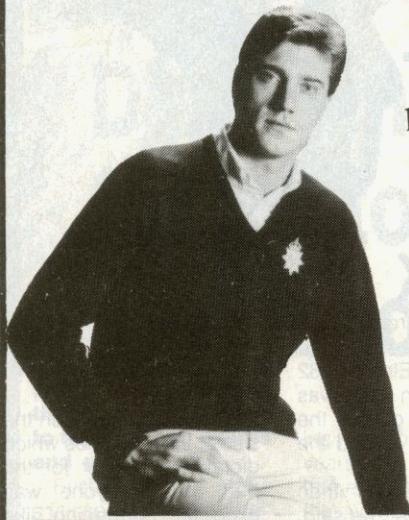
A posting there can also mean more expense if children are at school in the UK. So although it's a great place to be, it's not roses all the way by any means.

To ease all these problems it is vital to have

as much information as possible. The Berlin Bulletin information supplement can supply most of the answers. It is an excellent publication even telling how to claim unemployment benefit when returning to the UK. Full details can be found in the August edition of the supplement.



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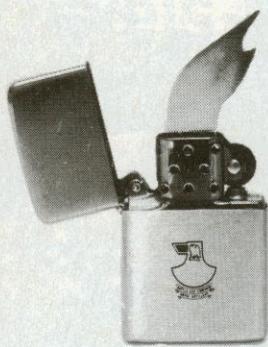
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## Light Division Depot quits Shrewsbury



Last one out locks the gate: Lt Col John Marsham (right) hands over the main gate keys to Lt Col Richard Vellacott, 5LI



Last two men to be discharged from The Light Division Depot at Shrewsbury are wheeled out by the CO, Lt Col John Marsham (right), WO1 Tom Fairclough, the RSM, and gardener Alan Wiggington. Sgt Maj Skippy Morrish (front) and Sgt Bill Robinson first entered the gates 22 years ago. Both intend to settle in the Shrewsbury area

# LAST OUT!

FLAGS of the Light Division Depot were lowered for the last time at Sir John Moore Barracks, Shrewsbury, as the depot moved to Winchester after an association of nearly 100 years with the Shropshire town.

The CO, Lt Col John Marsham, and the last remaining permanent staff saluted, a bugler from the Light Division Bugle Platoon sounded the Last Post, and the flags on the keep and the main square were lowered, watched by 16 civilian staff, officers of the Light Division, friends, and ex-soldiers.

The barracks were built in

1879 as the Depot for the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and named Copthorne Barracks. During the First World War, 40,000 men were trained there for the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions of the KSLI.

In 1963 the barracks became the depot for the newly formed Light Infantry Brigade and the name was changed to Sir John Moore Barracks. In 1983 it became the Light Division Depot, training men for both The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets.

All training for junior and adult entry into the Light Division will now be done at

the newly built depot, called Sir John Moore Barracks, at Winchester. The barracks at Shrewsbury reverts to its old name of Copthorne Barracks. But Copthorne Barracks will not be empty, nor will The Light Infantry leave Shrewsbury. X Company of the 5th Battalion The Light Infantry is now forming at the barracks and Headquarters, 143 Infantry Brigade is moving in. Even bugle calls may be heard occasionally as 5 LI is hoping to start a band.

**Story: Peter Hicks**  
**Pictures: Peter Griffiths**



LCpl David Griffiths lowers the flag of the Light Division Depot for the last time at Shrewsbury as Sgt Derek Coley sounds the Last Post

# SEME's car of the future

CARS of the future were in the minds of young competitors who took part in the finals of the popular BP Buildacar competition, held once again at the school of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon, Hants.



SHAP, the winning car from Huddersfield

Winner was the SHAP - Shelley High Advanced Pickup - built by pupils from Shelley High School, Huddersfield.

It boasted an aluminium body on a welded steel space frame chassis incorporating mini subframe front and rear. Power source was a 998 Cooper engine and gear box.

As in past competitions, artificer students of REME were attached to each school for the final weekend to assist the pupils in their last minute preparations.

The Buildacar challenge is now in its 14th year.

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MARIE STOPES



Drum Major Machaners inspects the corps during rehearsals for the Richmond Castle display

A DRUMMER'S life is not all parade ground and ceremonial as the Corps of Drums of the London-based Honourable Artillery Company discovered during their fortnight's camp.

Dispersed among the unit's Sabre squadrons on their arrival at Sennybridge training area, Brecon, the drummers soon found that bearskins could turn to raw skins as they dug in at the start of a five day field exercise.

The HAC is a Territorial Army unit

with a BAOR role and operates under the administrative umbrella of HQ London District.

The two-week camp was designed to test the Terriers in all aspects of their operational role. At the end of the first week the battalion split and while the bulk of the unit continued their training at Otterburn, Northumberland, the Corps of Drums travelled to Wathgill camp in Yorkshire.

After a day's R & R the corps formed up under their new Drum



Laden down with bergens, men of the Corps of Drums on exercise in the Brecon hills

## Drummers rough it in the Brecons

Major, Shaun Mackaness, who took over the reins from former Drum Major, now WO2, Greg Tunisi who has been promoted to drill sergeant.

Training began with a drill parade which dispelled the last traces of mud and cam cream and continued with a rigorous programme of square-bashing in preparation for the highlight of the week, Beating Retreat in the grounds of Richmond Castle.

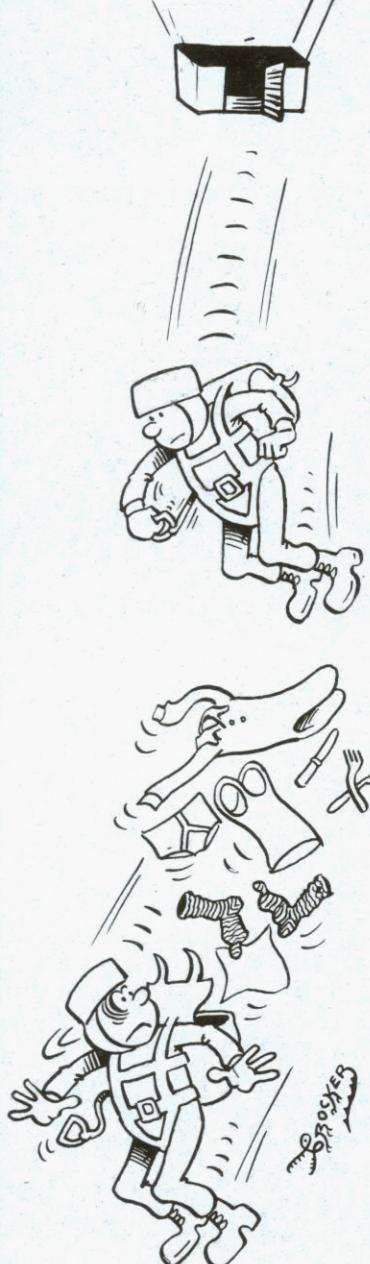
Hundreds of onlookers watched

the ceremony and the salute was taken by the Mayor of Richmond who later entertained the corps at the town hall where plaques were exchanged.

Drum Major Mackaness is hoping to attract competent drummers, especially ex-Regulars, to the corps and is looking forward to adding more engagements and displays to the unit's diary.

Anyone interested should contact him at the HAC offices in Armoury House, City Road, London.

## LAUGH LINE



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Apart from the subtle two-tone colour scheme and its discreet red waistline, the only outward signs that it can accelerate to 60 mph in under 10 seconds and top 115 mph\* are its wide wheels and special

tyres – low profile, of course. The rear suspension is a little tauter than average, too.

And the model featured here also has the new mechanical anti-lock brakes. Specially developed for front wheel drive cars, they're another example of Ford's leadership.

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\*Ford computed figs.



## 2 Para introduce French soldiers to delights of the balloon



Capt Michel Rouquette: "We've had a marvellous time!"



A Frenchman gets a helping hand from LCpl Warren Kerr of 23 Para Field Ambulance



A new experience – French paras wait for their first balloon jump

## BORDEAUX EXCHANGE

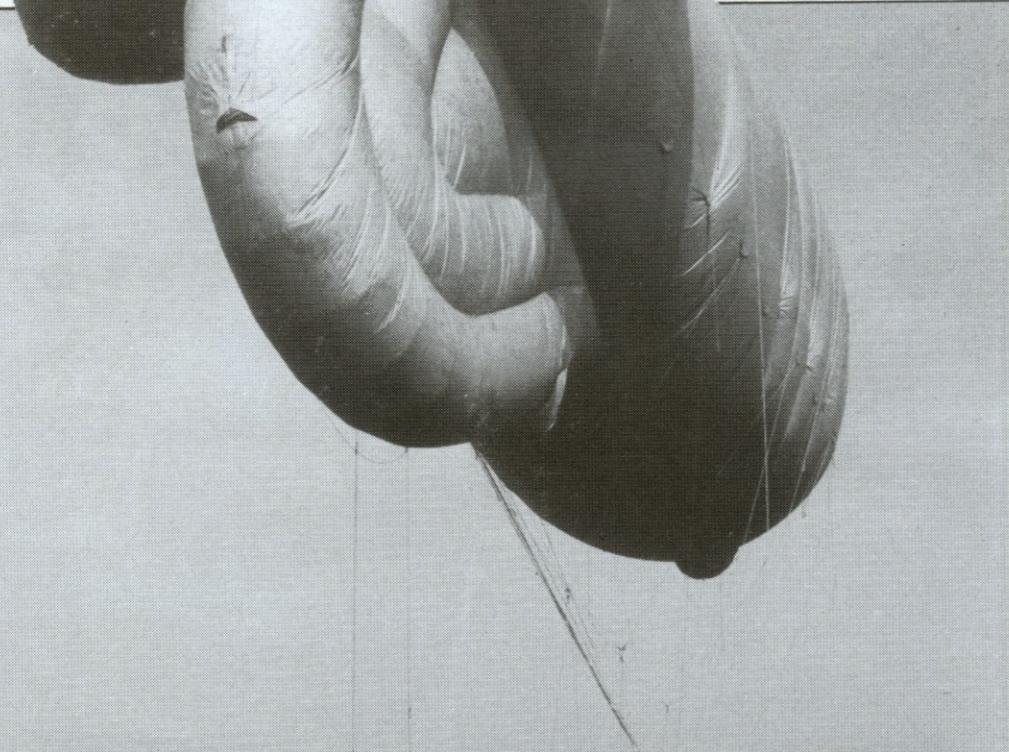
HOSTING an exchange visit to Britain by French army parachutists, A Coy 2 Para decided to lay on a special treat for their guests – an 800ft descent from a balloon.

2 Para wheeled out the notoriously nerve-jarring balloon to the delight and consternation of their guests at the end of a hectic week of parachute drops and equipment familiarisation.

French paras do not train from a balloon and most of the 18 to 20-year-old conscripts

of the Premier Regiment de Chasseur Parachutiste were fresh out of basic training, so it was with some trepidation that several entered the basket. Earlier in the day all had jumped with men of 2 Para from a Hercules.

By the end of the week the Frenchmen had earned their coveted British para wings which were given out on the drop zone at Hankley Common by Maj Barney Rolfe-Smith, OC A Coy.



## MERCI ME!



It's a long way down! French and British paras in the balloon basket

## BORDEAUX EXCHANGE

A delighted Capt Michel Rouquette, the French OC, announced: "We have had a marvellous week – it is always interesting to meet other paratroopers."

While he was speaking, B Coy 2 Para under Maj Tim Burls were enjoying similar pursuits at the French para barracks in Bordeaux.

The exchange was intended to last a fortnight but was curtailed because the French had to return to be on stand-by for

forest fire-fighting duties. Later in the year they are to be posted to the Indian Ocean island of Reunion for a four month tour.

As conscripts they are obliged to serve for a year, but most, said Capt Rouquette, take advantage of a service extension which allows them to complete an extra 12 months.

**Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**



Visitors from Bordeaux look on as another stick lands at Hankley Common

*Vicars give 1 Para as good as they get...*

# CASSOCKS TO COMBATS

FACES daubed with cam cream broke into grins of expectation as 20 of Britain's most adventurous clergy tumbled out of four-tonners to tackle the assault course.

The clergy – mostly in their thirties – were in rare good humour after a cold night under bashas during which all had taken a turn on stag.

Their hosts, 1 Para, were giving them the works and they were enjoying every minute of their week away from the pulpit on Exercise Vicar Elastic.

The cassocks-to-combats concept was devised by the Army Chaplains' Department to give civilian clergy a chance to sample Army life and learn about the pastoral duties of Army chaplains.

"What a bunch, they're really good news," said a delighted Rev Carson Nicholson, regimental chaplain, who with 1 Para ops officer Capt Edwin Starkey was running the week-long course at Bulford camp, Wiltshire.

After two nights out in the field the men of 1 Para had struck up a good

rapport with their guests.

All were looking forward to the assault course and during the warm-up the crisp early morning air rang with shouts of encouragement.

"Kick him in the b...s, ugly," shouted one red beret, to which the swift reply was: "Don't know what you're laughing at, we'll be burying you one day!"

Looking on, the men of patrols platoon support company, told SOLDIER: "They are all incredibly keen though getting them up in the morning was a bit of a problem at first. We expected a bunch of wimps but they have been great fun – we're very impressed."

Capt Starkey said: "When we were writing the programme we really did not know how hard to pitch it so it has come as a pleasant surprise to find them as keen and eager as they are."

The command tasks were tackled with considerable enthusiasm before the assault course. "Can we use our common sense and walk round it?" said one vicar

who was sizing up an obstacle. "I hope his sermons aren't as boring," added another.

The repartee continued throughout the week and all declared themselves thoroughly satisfied. The Rev Bill Hopley, 36-year-old industrial chaplain from Worcester, said: "I leapt at the opportunity when I heard about it. We have spent the last two nights under bashas and I don't think we've been molly-coddled."

The Rev Tim Marshall of St Simon's, Shepherd Bush, said: "Christ's influence is relevant in all walks of life and I wanted to see what a soldier's lot was all about. I have been most impressed by the professionalism of 1 Para."

The week may yet result in the recruitment of a new Army padre. The Rev Kevin McGarahan, 35, of St Mary's, Rochdale, said he had enjoyed the week so much that he would seriously be thinking about a move.

**Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones**  
**Pictures: Terry Champion**

# COMBATS



Getting to grips with Army life – two clergymen wrestle with gusto

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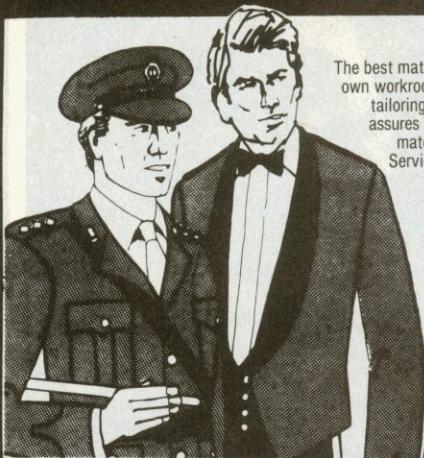


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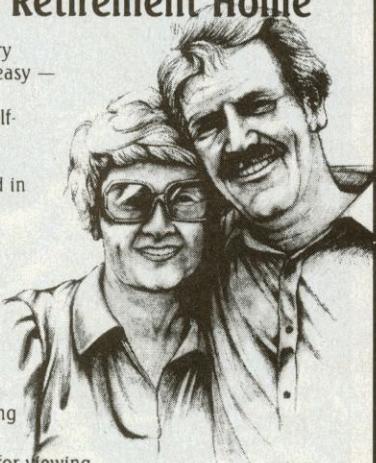
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# WORLD OF THE WARS – PART 3

War is always with us, it seems – somewhere in the world. It has been since the dawn of history, when primitive societies learned the use of metals for weapons at the same time that they developed a system of writing.

Some 5,000-plus years later the chronicler who wishes to keep abreast of the world's conflicts must republish frequently.

Authors of the first edition of

the *Encyclopaedia of Military History* found that within six years of its publication the war in Vietnam had ended, there had been a short but important war in the Middle East, and a series of brief revolutions, coups d'état, and politico-military developments.

Hence a revised edition was published.

Nine years further on, the world seems no less in conflict,

and the second revised edition has replaced the outdated earlier revision.

War in the Lebanon, continuing war (sic) in Northern Ireland, the Falklands conflict, the Gulf war, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, revolutions, coups d'état . . .

This massive work (1,524 pages) is a comprehensive survey of the history of war and of military affairs throughout the

world from 3,500 BC until the present. Everything you want to know about who fought who, when, where and why.

The equivalent encyclopaedia of peace could probably be written on the back of a postage stamp! – AT

**The Encyclopaedia of Military History** by R Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N Dupuy, published by Jane's. Price £32.50.

# Brabant adventure

The aim of Commander Chris Furse, leader of the fifth Joint Services expedition to Antarctica, was to spend a complete year on inhospitable Brabant Island, where there had been only three recorded landings since its discovery in 1898, in order to explore the island with more than 60 scientific projects.

This involved the climbing of all the peaks on Brabant, the circumnavigation of the island in kayaks and the living in tents and snowholes throughout the year of severe climatic conditions.

Budget for the expedition was £100,000, two-thirds from fund raising activities and the rest from its 35 members, all but three of whom were Servicemen chosen from about 200 volunteers.

Chris Furse gives a 'brief pen-sketch' of each of the team members in his month-to-month account of the expedition entitled *Antarctic Year: Brabant Island Expedition*.

To gain a complete summer on Brabant, the expedition needed a full year on the island, and this without a base hut!

HMS *Endurance*, the Royal

Navy's ice patrol ship, was listed for disposal when the project was planned so the intention was to make it a very light mobile expedition. There were, in fact, two small sheds, which were used for meeting places, laboratories and casualty refuges, not for living accommodation. It turned out to be the first Antarctic expedition to overwinter in tents and snowholes.

In the best tradition of brave men, hardships are made light of in the text – "at Pinnacles Spur Johnny lost his sleeping bag, so slept cold for three weeks."

This is the kind of thing an Antarctic adventurer has to take in his stride!

The expedition was fortunate in that all its members survived the perils. That is not to say it escaped drama, such as the time when the party leader of the second summer expedition broke his leg in falling down a crevasse.

Chris Furse describes, with considerable humour, the problems of living in these hard conditions. It becomes something of a survival handbook through the descriptions of diet and how each team member

coped physically and psychologically.

Appendices include contributed articles by expedition members on the specialist work each of them carried out.

One interesting appendix is concerned with equipment, which stemmed from Service and commercial sources. The author has listed the major items on the stores list and has added

comments on their serviceability.

Prince Charles, the expedition's patron, wrote the foreword to this remarkably enthralling book which is profusely illustrated with both colour and black and white photographs taken by the team members. – BJ

**Antarctic Year: Brabant Island Expedition** by Chris Furse, published by Croom Helm Publishers Ltd. Price £14.95.

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## In brief

**The World War II Fact Book** by Christie Campbell. Facts and figures, background and battles, organisations and aircraft, weapons and personalities, technological achievement and trivia of the Hitler war. Re-issued in paperback by Futura Publications. Price £3.50.

**United States Airborne Forces 1940-86** by Leroy Thompson. Photo-book telling the story of US airborne forces including

glider and helicopter borne as well as paratroops. Published by Blandford Press. Price £5.95 paperback or £10.95 in hardback.

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Left - Fertiliser rings are put round young saplings by senior head gardener Mr Richard Dickens (right) and French colleague M. Christian Lardier at a cemetery near Beaurains

Below - A gardener and his Gaulois. Moving sequence at the Thiepval memorial cemetery. See also back cover

# MAKING GARDENS OF PEACE FIT FOR HEROES



AS THOUGHTS turn nationwide to the Armistice commemorations this month, and in particular, the Somme conflict which ended in November 1916, all of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's cemeteries in France and Flanders will be in especially pristine condition.

Throughout the year the cemeteries, though places of sad beauty, never fail to delight the thousands who meander respectfully among the headstones. Plots of remembrance

are enhanced by vibrant floribunda and shrubs.

Maintenance is done with continual tender care by the Commission's gardeners.

Chemical spraying with Simazine in March has taken a lot out of the back-bending chore of hoeing along herbaceous borders in the relentless battle against weeds in the Somme area, for instance, tended by 330 gardeners.

Of this staff, 80 are UK-based and some highly qualified in academic horti-

cultural attainment. About 30 of them are senior gardeners, another 20 are head gardeners.

Based with the French area headquarters at Beaurains, near Arras, on a purpose-built site, this green fingered "army" works with 1,200 motor mowers, 45 hedge trimmers, 117 edge trimmers and some 2,000 hand tools. Every cemetery sward is cut weekly during the vigorous grass growing season.

Improvements in working conditions are gradually taking

place for the gardening workforce, including plans for separating the hazards of "Simazine from sandwiches" in the form of better facilities with wash-rooms, toilets, changing rooms, lockers and mess rooms which replace the hitherto all-purpose tool sheds.

Locally recruited French gardeners are brought in and trained to the Commission's exacting standards. The position of head gardener can be reached in ten years.

A typical mobile group -

there are 34 such groups on the Somme split into dozen-strong teams - travel around the year round so, too, are the stonemasons who have the remit of maintaining legible headstones. And not just for the Somme.

The gardeners are experts on 30 differing varieties of roses, more than a score of conifers and more than 60 types of tree. Earlier this year they started a pilot scheme of mulching discs - fertiliser-based "collars" which are put round the slender trunks of saplings to increase

and encourage their growth.

But if the gardeners are busy

men, 28 of them stonemasons and six capable of hand engraving on any of seven limestones, five types of sandstone, four granites and one kind of slate.

Portland Stone, says the Commission, is in short supply.

The masons work on a score of differing styles of headstone, including marble sent from Botticino and Nebrasina, near Brescia, northern Italy.

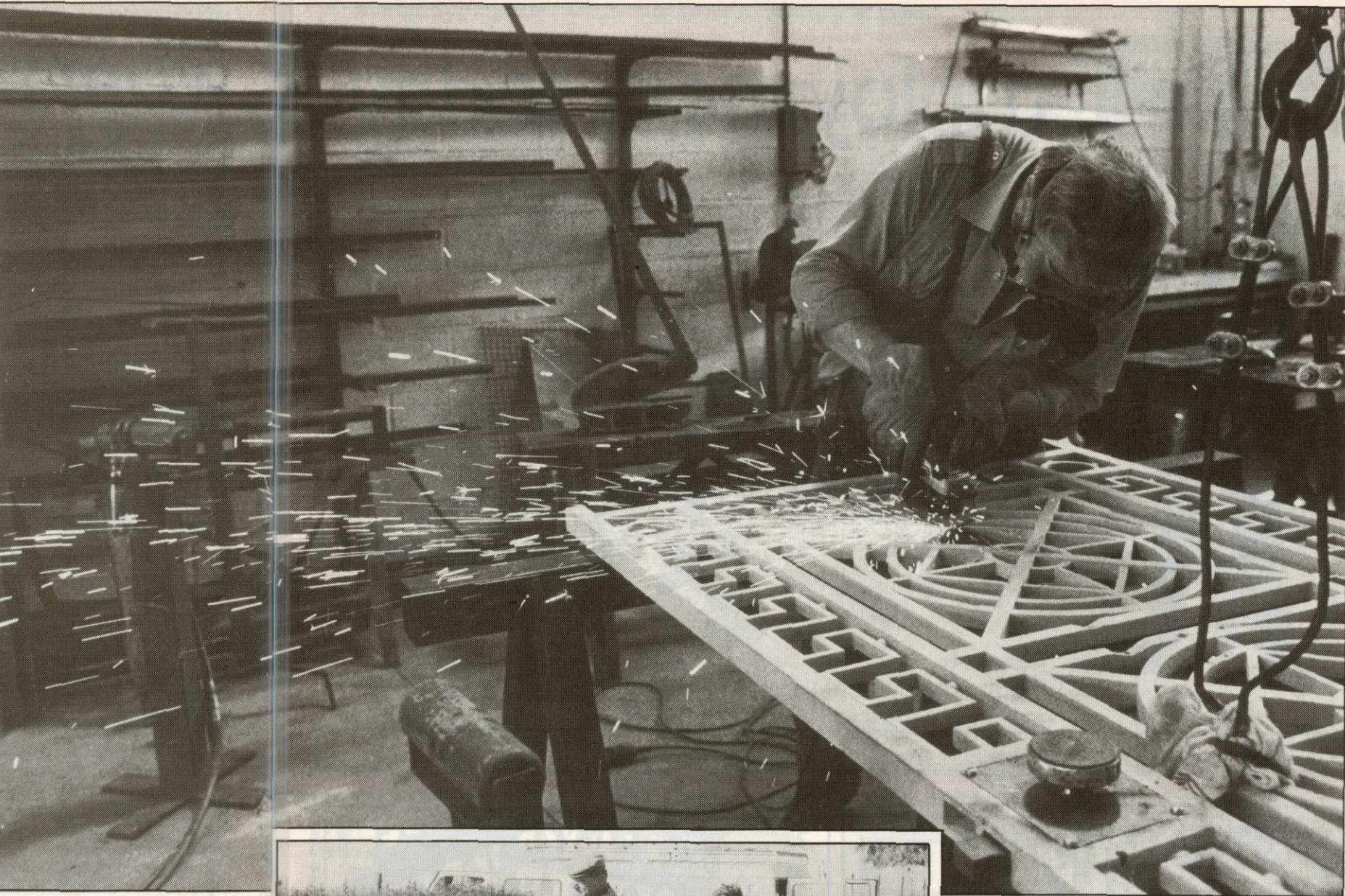
A consignment of 200 "face-lifted" headstones has recently been destined for the

cemetery at Etaples.

The Arras-based stonemasons also deepen fading inscriptions on the 2ft 8in high headstones using a type of dentist's drill compressor.

Gardening and stonemason teamwork pays tribute to the thousands of UK and Commonwealth soldiers who never came home. They lie for posterity in lush corners of those legendary foreign fields.

**Story by Graham Smith  
Pictures by Paul Haley**



Above - The sparks fly as a Commonwealth War Graves Commission workman repairs a wrought iron gate fronting at a cemetery on the Somme

Left - Hedge trimming in progress by gardening staff based at the Commission's French headquarters at Beaurains near Arras. Attention to detail keeps the cemetery gardens in pristine condition



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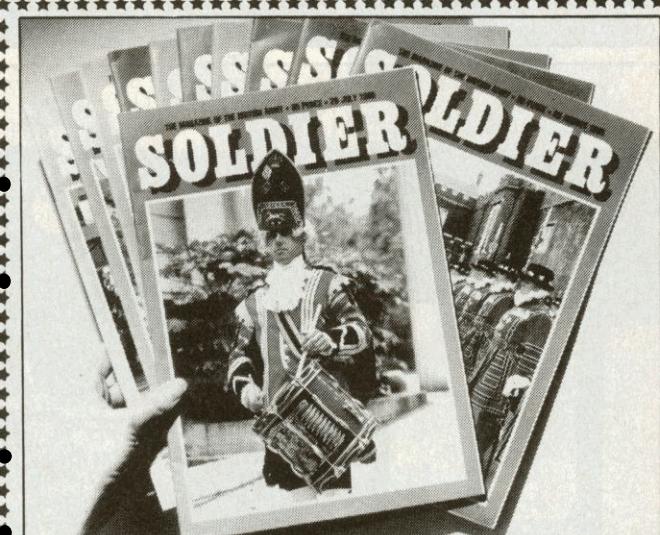
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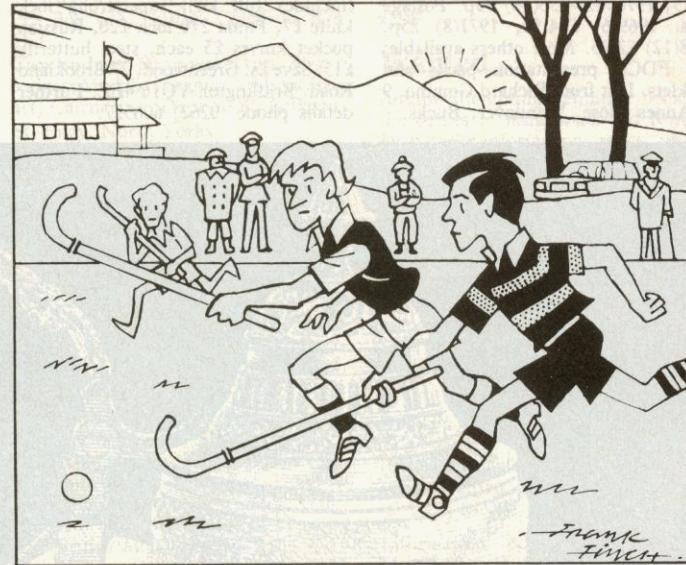
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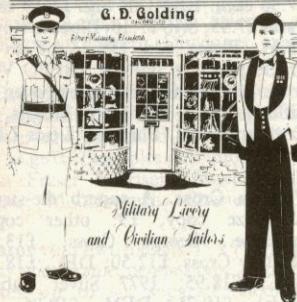
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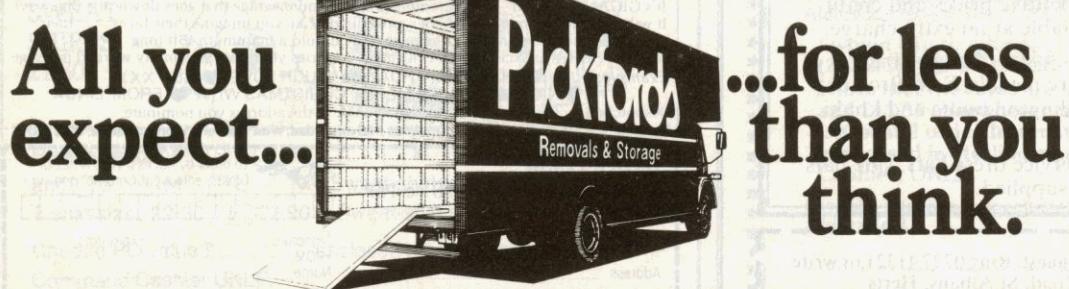
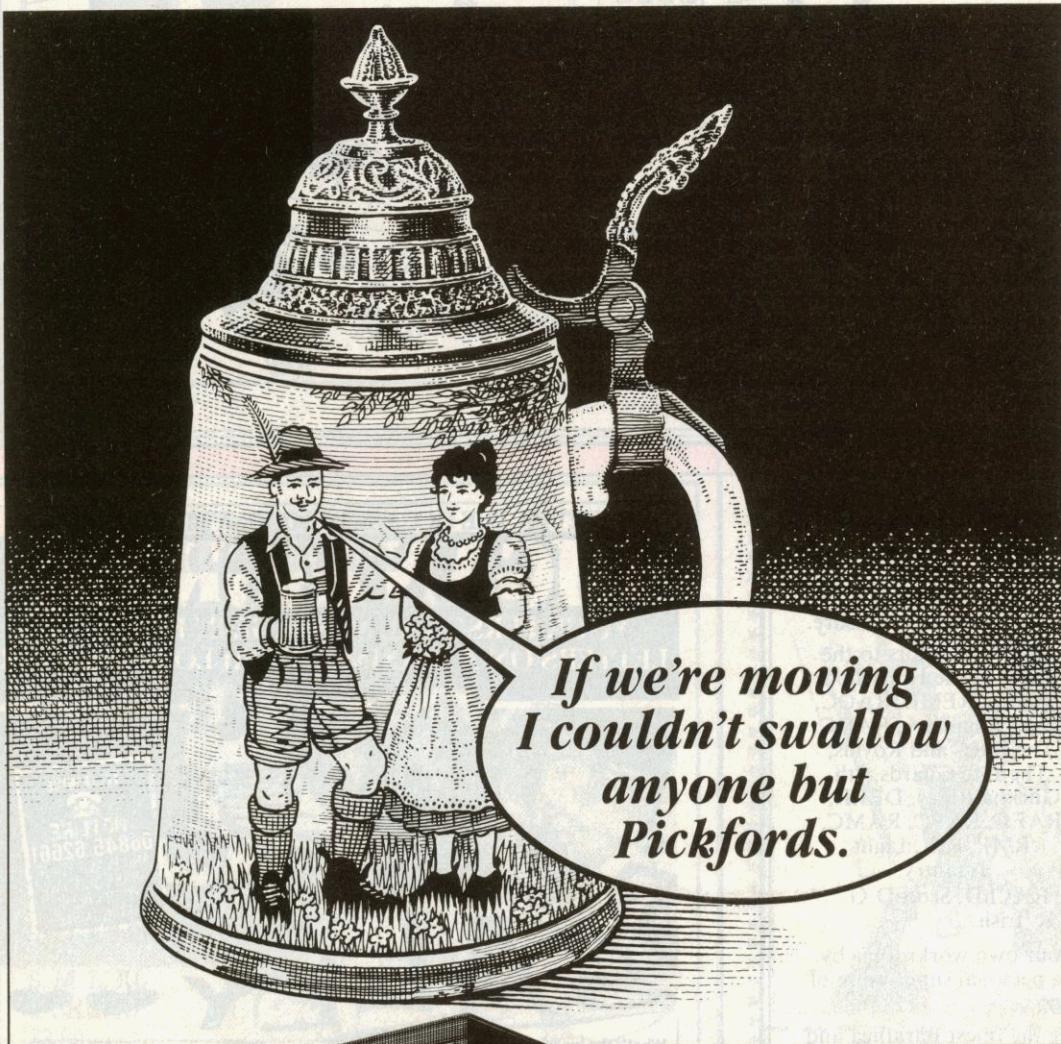
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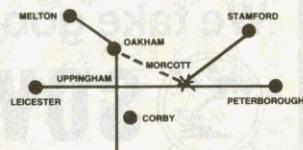
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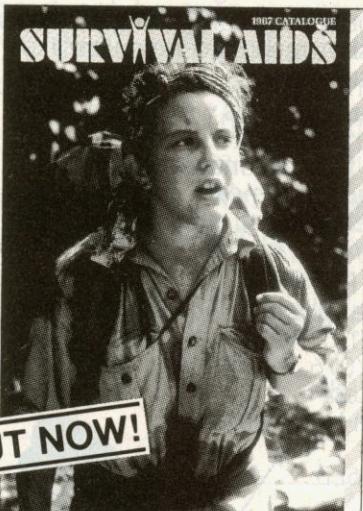
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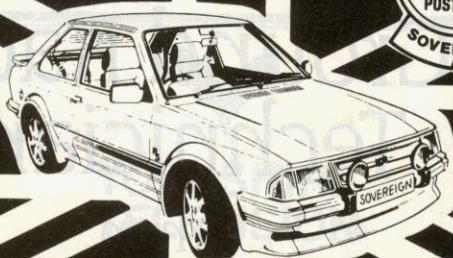
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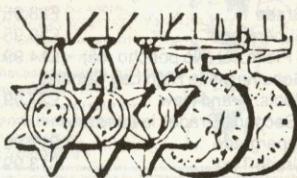
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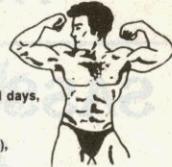
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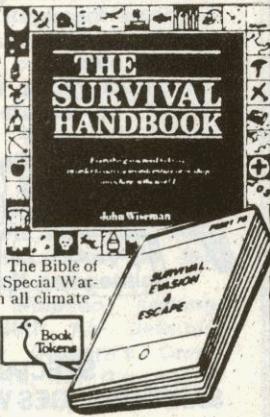
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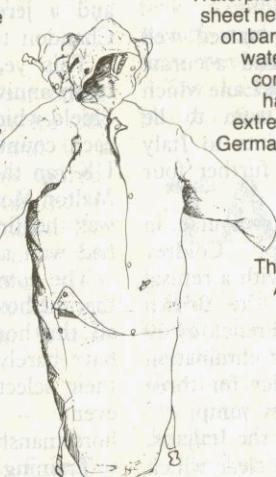
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The successful British Inter-Service team. From left to right are Cpl of Horse Christopher Haywood, Capt Charles Coldrey, Capt Dougie McGregor (trainer), Wg Cdr Anthony Kent (chef d'équipe), Capt Mark Milligan and Capt Charlie Lane

## British riders snatch coveted Melton Shield

FOR THE second year running, the British Inter-Service military equestrian team has won the coveted Melton Shield in a tightly fought contest between United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Italy at Fontainbleau, France.

Capt Charlie Lane, RHA, ended the day as the individual winner, ten points ahead of Sous Lt Campello of Italy, while Capt Mark Milligan, RHA (6th), Capt Charles Coldrey, 6 Innis DG (9), and Cpl of Horse Christopher Haywood helped to give the UK the slender lead of seven points over the French.

The competition started well with a very tidy and accurate dressage test by Capt Lane which enabled the UK team to lie second by four points to Italy with the French a further four points behind.

This year, in fact, was the tenth anniversary of the Melton Shield which has been hosted by each country in turn since the UK ran the first competition at Melton Mowbray in 1976, but this was the first time that the UK had won abroad.

The competition is unique in that the host nation has to supply all the horses and competitors have barely any hours riding on their selected horse before the event - a true test of horsemanship.

Training given to the team at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, paid handsome dividends this year. All that remains now is for the team to complete the hat trick when they go to Italy next year.

Both Coldrey and Lane had clear rounds but Haywood stopped at the third fence and

knocked the fourth down which, with the one knockdown by Milligan, put the French firmly back in the running.

Their two leading riders collected a few time penalties but the outcome depended entirely on the last competitor, who tipped the top bar of the final double to give victory to the British team.

So it was that they, with their chef d'équipe, Wing Commander Anthony Kent and team trainer, Capt Dougie McGregor, collected both the Melton Shield and a jereboam of Moet and Chandon to celebrate in style.

AN ALTA team of four raised £1,600 in sponsorship for the Save the Children Fund in a national 32-team tennis tournament at the Mark Cox Indoor Tennis Club at Wimbledon. The Army were represented by Col Barry Reeves and Maj Tony Hilton (both RAEC), WO2 Steve James and CSgt Paul Weaver (Welsh Guards).

THE Territorial Army won the Gilbert Trophy for the fourth successive year at the Inter-Services long range small bore championships held at Ash Ranges, Hampshire.

Training given to the team at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, paid handsome dividends this year. All that remains now is for the team to complete the hat trick when they go to Italy next year.

## 7 Sigs Grim Reapers surf in

THREE weeks of hard training under Sgt Jim Wilson paid off for 7 Signal Regiment's Grim Reaper Canoe Club in the Army surf championships at Saunton Sands, North Devon.

Despite a hectic exercise programme and the fact that they were 300 miles from the nearest surf the 7 Sigs canoeists retained both the open and novice team prizes they won in 1985. In the shape of Cpl Hall they also won the Vardey Bowl for the best open individual, while Sig Irving carried off the individual novice trophy.

Individual winner in the open slalom was CSgt Copperthwaite (PWO), Sgt Sutherland (SEE) took the open ski title, and Lt Jackson (R Signals) claimed the novice ski trophy.



## Baltic charter

A DOZEN members of 23 Engr Regt enjoyed an eventful fortnight's sailing charter in the Baltic on board the REYC yacht Avalanche. Other sapper crews on the REYC yachts Rana R and Rathmus also made the trip.

The engineer flotilla sailed extensively in and around the Danish islands in the Baltic, starting and finishing at Kiel and including a visit to Copenhagen.

ARMY PISTOL marksmen snatched the Inter-Services trophies at Bisley with a display of shooting which also almost took Combined Services to victory over Great Britain the same weekend.

The Lashmer Whistler Trophy for the best Inter-Services

team in the standard pistol section was presented to the Army by Group Captain Dennis King, secretary of the National Small Bore Rifle Association.

Out of a possible score of 3,600, the six man Army team notched up 3,290, the RAF 3,215 and the Royal Navy 3,075.

The Army also won the Inter-Services centre fire championship and were presented with the Evan Price Trophy by Brig Peter Prescott, secretary of the National Rifle Association.

The winning four man team scored an impressive 2,311 out of a possible 2,400, with the RAF (2,267) taking second place and the Royal Navy (2,221) third.

Shooting in the same disciplines the following day against the GB national teams, Combined Services were beaten into a creditable second place.

In the standard pistol section Great Britain scored 3,318 out of 3,600 and Services lagged just 18 points behind with 3,300, and in the centre fire section Great Britain took first place with 3,460 to the Combined Services' 3,428.

Both Services team fielded six competitors of which five were Army in the first category and four Army in the second.

## Derek leads signallers to dinghy victory

WO1 (Yeoman of Signals) Derek McClelland (pictured in action) of 2 Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment emerged as individual winner from a keenly contested NE/NW District dinghy sailing regatta staged on Thruscross Reservoir near Harrogate.

SSgt Essam from the same unit was runner up. The two men led their team to victory in the inter-unit competition.

Bdr Simpson, serving with 30th Air Defence Battery (Rogers's Company) RA, won the novice section competition.

## TA WINS AGAIN

THE Territorial Army won the Gilbert Trophy for the fourth successive year at the Inter-Services long range small bore championships held at Ash Ranges, Hampshire.

The Terriers also won the 50m match setting a new TA record by scoring 4,686 out of a possible 4,800.

Long range and PSK matches were won by the Regular Army and the Services individual

championship was claimed by Capt P Martin, who won the Wilkinson Sword for the fifth time in eight years.

Second place went to Maj A Glasby, and third to 2nd Lt E Cowell, the first woman to reach the top three.

Concurrent team matches ended in victories for the ESSU over Combined Services, and for the Regular Army over the Police Athletic Association.



Picture: Terry Champion

## Goalies galore unearthed during coaching course

NATIONAL goalkeeping coach Mike Kelly travelled from the Centre of Excellence at Lilleshall to assist Army coaches Derek Old, Bobby Duncan, Dave Collett and Bruce Menzies at a very successful two day course at Aldershot for Army goalkeepers, writes Pat Massey.

A wealth of hidden talent was unearthed among the 24 student goalies who were put through a rigorous programme, and the Army appears to be well covered in this vital area.

Deprived of Combined Services players on duty in Nottingham, an Army XI containing the youngsters who had done well to beat Carshalton again rose to the occasion against Windsor and Eton at Stag Meadow. The Army beat the Vauxhall Opel League side by two goals to one.

LCpl Phil Stant (RAOC) might have scored in the opening minutes but made amends midway into the first half following good work by LCpl Trevor Keen and Cpl Neil Rothery.

Windsor and Eton equalised before the interval but Stant netted the winner in the 75th minute.

Combined Services were beaten 1-3 by a young Notts County side when they travelled to Nottingham to take part in the opening ceremonies for a new all-weather sporting complex in the city.

A FIRST minute penalty by skipper Bdr Steve Burnett and two goals by Sgt Ray Norton earned 45 Fd Regt RA a 3-2 victory over 8 Signal Regt in the final of the Army's UK six-a-side soccer competition at Aldershot.

The Colchester based gunners had several great chances to buy 8 Sig Regt from Catterick, only to be surprised by an equaliser from Sig Martin Taylor and a delicate long range chip from former Army Youth player Sig Steve Welsh that tied it up at 2-2.

Norton's second goal, howev-

er, earned his side the Army Championship Cup and the Aston Martin Lagonda Trophy, presented by the sponsors of the tournament.

SEME Bordon, favourites for the title, had to be content with the Brig Bob Thorpe Cup for scoring the most goals in the group matches. SEME lost 1-2 to 8 Sig Regt in one semi-final while 45 Fd Regt smashed seven past 16 Air Defence Regt RA in the other.

Although 8 Sig Regt were first to secure a semi-final spot in Group A, 45 Fd Regt had to gain

at least one point from their last game against 22 Engr Regt RE to ensure themselves of a place in the last four.

Over in Group B, the 1985 winners, SEME Bordon, battled it out with 16 AD Regt RA and 1 R Anglian for the other two semi-final places, the result going to the final game.

Last year 45 Fd Regt reached the semi-finals.

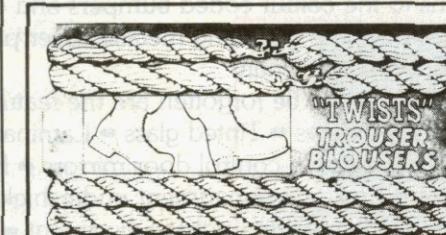
Aston Martin Lagonda director Mr Michael Bowler travelled from the Motor Show in Birmingham specially to present the trophies.

the Army ahead in the seventh minute, and young LCpl Trevor Keen was just wide with a second chance soon afterwards.

Army goalkeeper LCpl Spider Lomas made a full length save to deny the policemen an equaliser before Stant stamped his class on the match. He came close to scoring on three occasions before smashing in an unstoppable shot for his second goal.

### Half marathon

THE ARMY inter unit team and individual half marathon is to be run in conjunction with the Fleet (Hampshire) half marathon on Sunday, March 29.



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## Why Army hockey is banking on success

ARMY hockey begins the new season with the mantle of reigning Inter-Service champions and with the considerable boost of sponsorship by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

That deal will give the sport £2,000 a year for the next three years.

A weak representative side went down 1-3 to Berkshire at Aldershot in the opening game of the season, a result that was followed by a much stronger Army team hammering Dorset 8-3 at Canford School.

Much in evidence against Dorset were England internationals Capt Nick Gordon (7RHA) and LCpl Ian Jennings (Depot Para), both of whom have been in the England reckoning for the past 18 months and were desperately unlucky not to make the final World Cup squad.

Further international strength is given to the Army by 2nd Lt Simon Hazlitt (Nottingham University) of the Light Infantry, a member of the England junior squad.

Victory in the Inter-Services tournament gives the Army an entrée into the county championships, the preliminary round of which will match them against a Midlands side on November 23.

Before that two domestic issues were being settled at Aldershot, with the Inter-Corps outdoor tournament taking place from October 25 to 27, and the indoor championships the following day in Maida Barracks gymnasium.

Lack of an artificial "home" pitch means that many of the Army's representative games will be played at Bisham Abbey.

## HAVE WHEELS WILL TRAVEL



THE ARMY bobsleigh squad is well and truly on the move, thanks to a new 16 ton vehicle which will provide sleeping accommodation, workshops, kitchens and space for four bobsleighs. The £32,000 Leyland truck was handed over to the team at the national bobsleigh centre by Save and Prosper and the Wincanton Group.

Now the bobsledders are in training for the British championships at Igles in Austria and later at Konigsee where the British team will be selected.

The Army squad is hoping to have at least one four-man bob in the British

team for the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary in Canada.

Pictures shows (standing) Maj Mike Pugh 2 RTR (team captain), Mr David Yeomans (marketing manager Wincanton Group), Maj Duncan Jones R Sigs, Maj Tony Wallington 2 RTR (secretary ABA), Maj Gen A K F Walker (chairman ABA), Mr Cholmeley Messer (chairman Save and Prosper Group), Tom McNab (team coach), Gnr Roberts 4 Fd Regt RA. Front row - Cpl Lenny Paul 3 R Anglian, Gdsm Dave "Bulldog" Armstrong, 2 Gren Gds, LCpl Stan Tout 2 RTR, Bdr Sammy James 50 MSL Regt RA.

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Photography at Wingfield Castle, Suffolk, England

# SOLDIER



A French gardener and his Gaulois keep the Thiepval memorial cemetery on the Somme in immaculate condition for Remembrance Day visitors. See pages 36 and 37.