

SOLDIER

19 OCTOBER 1987

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**HORSES'
HOLIDAY**

— Page 14

**CERTAIN
STRIKE!**

— Page 22

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VOL. 43/21

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FRONT COVER: Gnr Ian Stephenson and his sea horse take to the surf during a fortnight's holiday for the mounts of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

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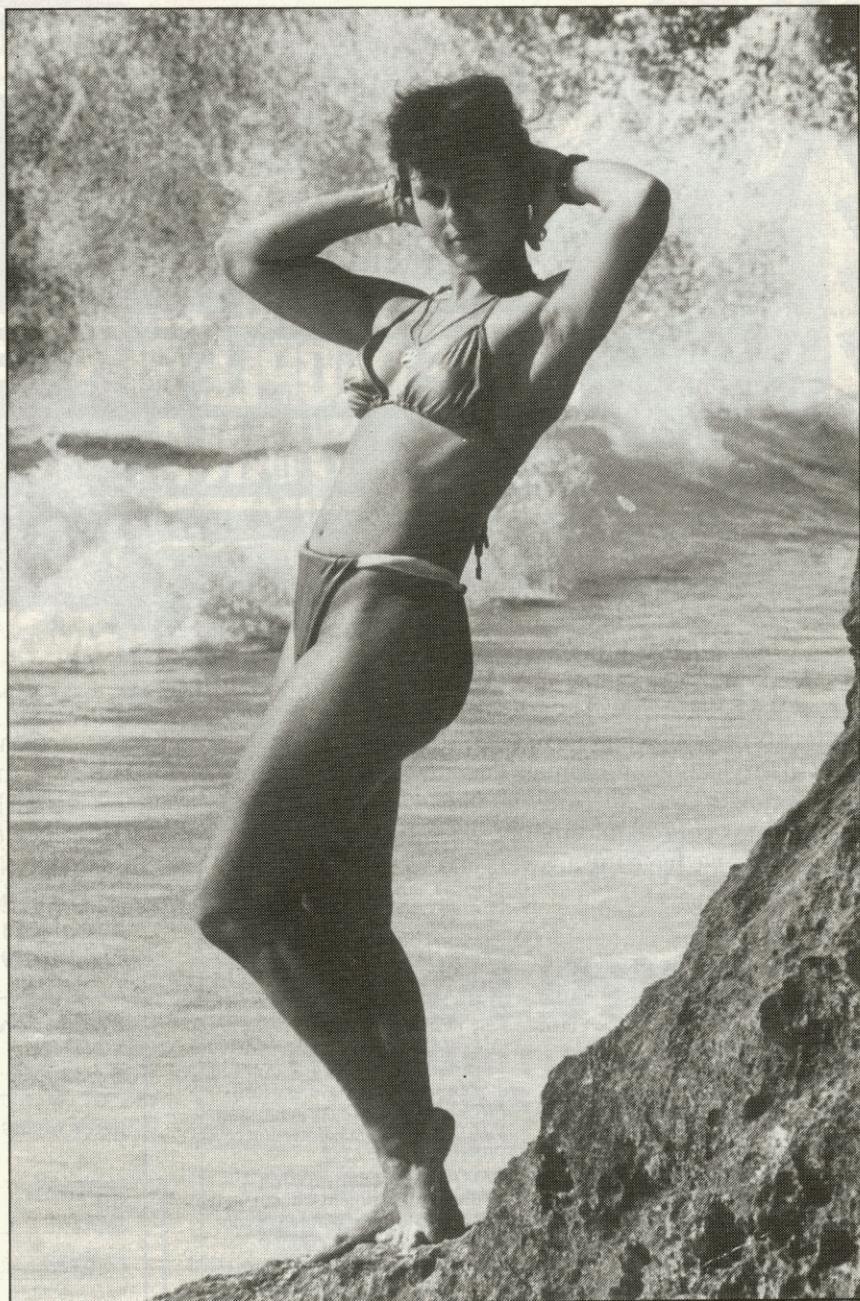
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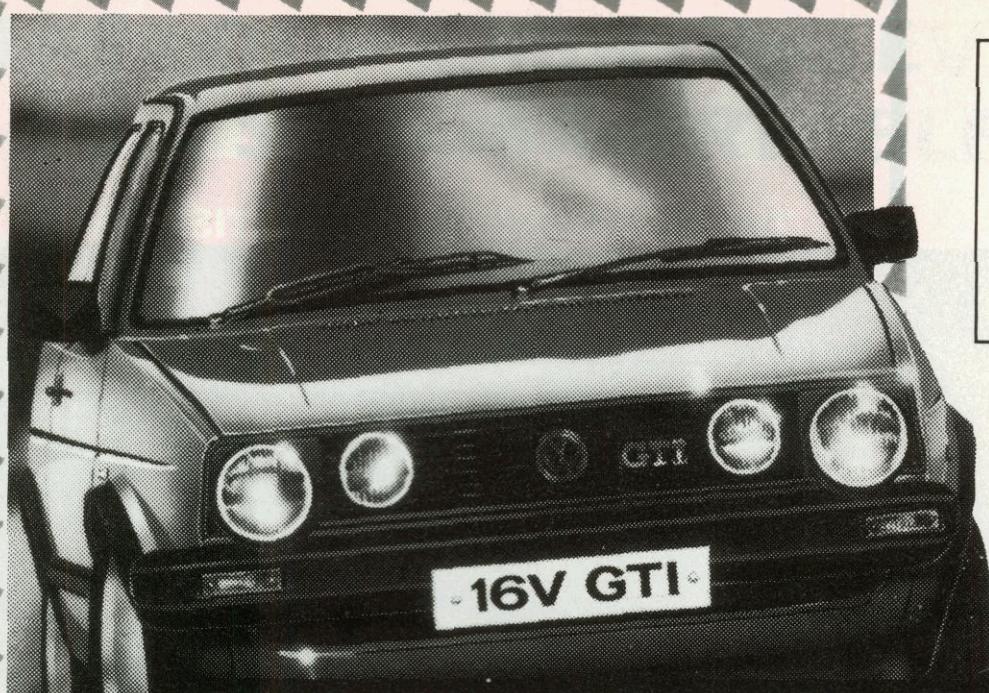
SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



NEXT ISSUE

A SOLDIER team has been looking at the attractions of conscription into the Bermuda Regiment. Pte Suzanne Rebello qualifies on all counts! You can read more about her and her colleagues in the next issue of SOLDIER.



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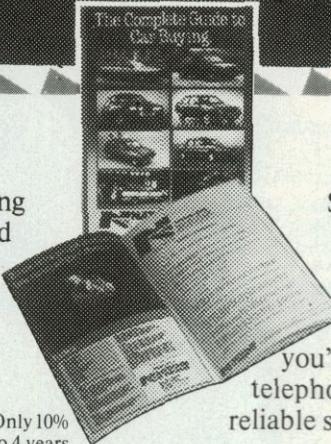
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LETTERS

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This is stretching manpower too far!

Everywhere today one reads articles in military publications which express concern about the problem of "overstretch" in the infantry arm.

The British Army struggles to cope with increasingly complex training programmes for new tactics and weaponry, while scraping the bottom of the barrel for personnel to meet commitments in Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

I was therefore appalled to read in **SOLDIER** (September 21) that men of 1 RHF stationed at Balmoral are being utilised to ride and look after the Royal ponies used for recreation and carrying deer after a hunt, and counted 15 men in the picture.

Surely the archaic practice of using military personnel as servants died out with the advent of the modern army?

UNFAIR TO COLLECTORS

I wish to comment on the article entitled Badge Bonanza (**SOLDIER**, Sept 7).

As an amateur collector, your article left me feeling like Tantalus in the Greek legend – all those goodies on offer and so very out of reach! The only people who will benefit from this so called bonanza are the dealers, who will no doubt offer the badges to us collectors at inflated prices.

I would guess that I am not alone in my frustration and that all of us collectors in the Services would be prepared to buy just one of the 10lb bags for a fair price.

Why doesn't **SOLDIER**

make an offer to MoD PE, buy up the whole lot and then offer them for sale at a reasonable price and a limit of say two bags per collector to discourage the Trade. Surely **SOLDIER**'s income from advertising – which presumably funds the £50 HOAY competitions – could support the initial expenditure. – **C J M Hughes, Sgt, British Embassy Warsaw, c/o FCO, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2HA.**

● A tempting thought, Sgt Hughes. But unfortunately **SOLDIER** is not able to use its advertising income for that purpose. – Ed.

Reunions

● Royal Signals Old Comrades reunion will be held on November 6 from 7.30pm at 12 Grosvenor Hill, Wimbledon for those who served in units based at Fulham House, being London Corps Signals by whatever name. Enquiries to Maj J W Cocke (tel: 01-946 4618) or Rodney Perry (01-393 5977).

● The Queen's Own Hussars Midland Reunion Dinner, will be held on November 7 at The Albany Hotel, Birmingham at 7pm. The Queen's Own Hussars "Get Together" will be at

West Midlands Police Club, Tally Ho, Birmingham, on November 8 at 12 noon. Tickets obtainable from Home Headquarters, the Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW.

● Exeter Branch of The Royal Regiment of Artillery Association is holding its annual dinner, dance and social evening at St Lukes College on November 21 at 8pm. Details from Don Goodheart, chairman, 20A Burnthouse Lane, Exeter (tel 0392 73862).

TA bounty?

The TA take the money in the latest of **SOLDIER**'s HOAY competitions (No 421). Winner of the £50 cheque is WO1 Hankins, of 222 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) at the TA Centre, Brentwood Road, Leicester. Well done, warrant officer! Try it again TA. This issue's competition is on page 43.

Oh, corps

I read with interest your article on Colonels and Colonels Commandant (**SOLDIER**, Sept 7) but was horrified to see that you have the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps inaccurately represented as a "Service". – **P M Watson, Major QARANC, British Military Hospital, Munster, BFPO 17.**

Too early to be the 59th Battery

In your story "We're with the Woolwich", (**SOLDIER**, August 24) you state the 17th Training Regt Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich was based in Oswestry from 1939 until June 1968. What puzzles me is the 59th Battery; I served in this battery as a trumpeter.

Then war broke out and we went to France as part of 2nd Division X-Keys 59/93 Bty, 18th Field Regt RA.

After Dunkirk the regiment

reformed at Hereford. I volunteered for a special artillery regiment being formed and left the 59th.

After the 18th Field Regt was reformed it was sent to Burma as an SP unit and 59th Bty went with them, so it would appear that the earliest this battery could have become part of the 17th Field would be after the war ended. – **D Deacon, ex-WO2, 19 Redhall Place, Edinburgh, Scotland E14 2DC.**

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"Customers will be able to buy something for, say £100, and opt to repay the lot in one payment or make monthly payments until the account is cleared," said Mike Mossman, Naafi's financial services manager.

Interest will be charged (currently 1.65 per cent per month) on the outstanding

balance of customers' bills, and payments made by direct debit, by cheque to Naafi's accounting services in Nottingham, or by cash at Naafi shops and clubs.

The scheme will be introduced to other overseas areas and to RN ships as soon as practicable.

Any gifts, durables, household and electrical goods, clothing, sports wear and equipment, costing at least £5 may be charged to an account, and the usual Naafi discount or dividend will be given on all purchases.

Wives will be allowed to have cards too, and it will no longer be necessary for Army corporals and below to obtain their

commanding officers' approval to open accounts.

The possibility of such a scheme was mentioned by Mr James Rucker, Naafi's new managing director, when he told wives and Army representatives from UK and BAOR in April: "While we are aware of Service concern about offering unbridled credit to young Servicemen, we believe some realism ought to be applied to this policy."

Mr Mossman commented: "The launch of the chargecard marks a major expansion of Naafi financial services. We hope that eventually around 120,000 customers will have budget or chargecards, or both."

Princess call on Woofers

PRINCESS Anne, the Princess Royal, trod the "Green Line" dividing Greek and Turkish forces during a three day trip to Cyprus.

While visiting the 1st Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and members of the Royal Corps of Signals in her capacity as Colonel in Chief of both, the Princess Royal took the opportunity of touring the United Nations buffer zone.

A morning was spent with 9 Signals Regiment at Ayios Nicolaos before moving to Happy Valley near Episkopi where she met members and helpers of the Cyprus Riding for Disabled Association.

Duchess at Catterick

THE Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the RAEC visited Catterick Garrison for the first time to see for herself the Army's educators at work. The Duchess met officers and men and later spent 90 minutes at 1 Resettlement Centre for Servicemen and women.

Botswana joins the Loan club

BOTSWANA's request for British Army expertise in the form of six Loan Service personnel brings to 26 the number of countries being assisted in this way.

Currently about 360 Army Loan Service personnel are on attachments from Africa to Bermuda, from Saudi Arabia to Hong Kong. When Botswana joins the list in July it will be the ninth African nation to benefit from the scheme.

The British Army presence in foreign countries ranges from one (a lone brigadier in Bangladesh) to 80 in Oman. In some countries, including Belize, Brunei and



The Princess Royal gets a briefing on the "Green Line" from Lt Stephen Williams, 1 WFR, in the livery of a member of the UN peacekeeping force

AUTOMATIC MINE FIRED

TEST firings have taken place at Warminster of a British Aerospace off-route mine designed to destroy tanks and AFVs. The mine can remain dormant for up to 60 days, becoming activated when it senses the presence of armour.

Fully automatic, the system is designed to destroy armoured vehicles moving past it at ranges from three to 200 metres, coupled with the ability to choose the target to be attacked.



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Reserves out in force on Keystone



An air trooper of 2 Flight AAC provides close protection for Gazelle helicopters at a forward airfield

Fusiliers in a hurry to Denmark

BULFORD based 2nd Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have just taken part in Exercise Accord Express in Zealand, Denmark, their first exercise of a four year cycle of rapid deployments as the UK infantry element of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force.

Bars go up in floating barracks

PORHOLES that once overlooked the entrance to Stanley harbour in the Falkland Islands have now been replaced with bullet proof glass windows covered by steel bars. Home to countless British troops after the 1982 conflict, the former Bibby Venture coastel has now been converted into a floating prison with cells for 396 detainees.

The Bibby Venture has been chartered to the New York City Department of Correction in a deal worth £12 million and will be moored in the city's harbour on arrival later this month.

Warders will be able to watch prisoners through observation panels and new features include holding pens and electronically operated doors leading into the main prison section.

During the next four years the battalion can expect to be called on for a wide variety of exercise option areas along the Nato flanks from Norway to the Turco-Russian border.

Britain supplies logistic, armoured, recce, combat, support, artillery and infantry units to the multi-national deterrent force which has its permanent HQ at Heidelberg in Germany.

British AMF (L) units have taken part in four major exercises this year in four different countries.

A TOTAL of 18,000 troops are expected to be flown or shipped from the UK to Germany for Exercise Keystone 87 this month.

They will go to their Nato battle stations in a test of the 2nd Infantry Division's role of rapidly reinforcing the Northern Army Group in time of war.

The division, which has its headquarters at York, is composed of units based throughout Britain, one third of them Regular the others Territorial Army.

Many of the Geordie and Yorkshire Territorials were due to be airlifted from Newcastle by VC-10 and Hercules. One TA unit (103 Air Defence Regiment from Liverpool) will be equipped with the new Javelin shoulder mounted anti-aircraft missile. The SA 80, the Army's latest rifle, will be used by 3 LI.

It is expected that 2 Div will have to fight off parachute and heliborne assaults as well as massed tank attacks.

The exercise will also give the troops the opportunity for rapid deployment using the Saxon wheeled APC and RAF support helicopters.

They will have to contend with enemy special forces groups which will be operating throughout the area.

A German TA brigade and Dutch anti-aircraft batteries will be working alongside the British.



FALKLAND DAYS: British troops set out for a run from Bibby Venture. Now the coastel is a floating prison

Lone rower Tom back at 3 Para

LONE Atlantic rower, single-handed sailor and former member of 3 Para, Tom McClean has just revisited his old Aldershot based unit for the first time in 21 years.

His sea legs now firmly attuned to the land, the 44-year-old former member of the battalion's anti-tank platoon was touring Army units to promote the Ardingly Adventure Centre which he runs in Scotland.

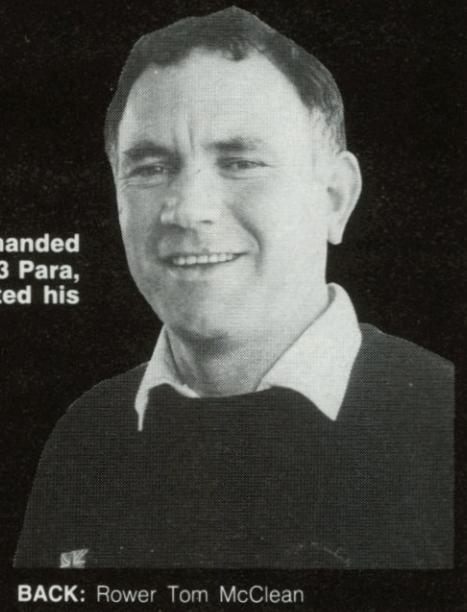
The centre is open to all units up to platoon level and can accommodate about 30 men at a time on the shore of Loch Nevis in the West Highlands.

In 1969 he was the first lone rower of the Atlantic, a feat he accomplished in 70 days. In 1982 he sailed the smallest boat - just 9ft 9in long - across in 52 days. A year later, he recaptured the record in a smaller boat. In 1985 he lived on Rockall for 40 days and nights and this year again rowed the Atlantic in 54 days and 18 hours.

Golden Gunners

THE 15-year-old brother-in-law of a serving cavalry regiment corporal was a keen Arsenal fan. Tragically, Paul O'Gorman died from leukaemia. His brother-in-law, LCpl Hammy Mileham, serving with the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers at Hereford, and Paul's elder sister, Sandra, organised a marathon snooker match as a fund raising effort in Paul's name.

The original target was DM6,000. Their wildest hopes were surpassed when DM24,000 were raised and the cheque was presented to Arsenal Football Club's first team on behalf of the appeal.

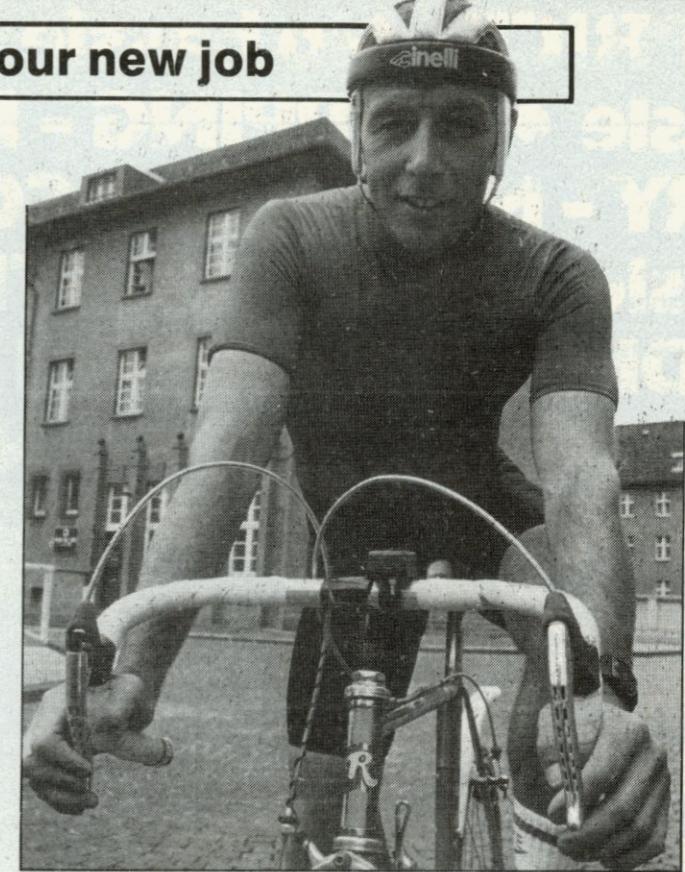


BACK: Rower Tom McClean

Here's one way of arriving fit and ready to start your new job



LONG VOYAGE: Michael Murphy VC and crew



LONG RIDE: Phil sets out from Herford to Aldershot

Michael Murphy VC sails in

SEVEN members of 20 Maritime Regiment, RCT, have just made a duty trip with a nautical difference - repatriating a 24-metre range safety craft back to Portsmouth, Hants, after five years' service in Cyprus.

On route the vessel called at Iraklion, Catania, Cagliari, Palma, Malaga, Lisbon, La Corunna and Brest. Journey's end showed the vessel had steamed 3,335 miles.

The vessel, the Michael Murphy VC, is

now to be deployed as a range safety craft with 18 Maritime Sqn, RCT, on the South Wales Coast. Its Cyprus posting has been taken over by the 15-metre range safety craft, Sir William Roe.

The crew of RCTV Michael Murphy VC on its long journey back were (left to right) Capt I M Hurley, SSgt S J Mawer, SSgt D K Sherburn, Dvr S M Shaw, Dvr G McCullagh, LCpl M C Halstead, WO2 D S Boulby, LCpl D A Gawler and Sgt C M Wilcox.



BIG HEARTED: LCpl Hammy Mileham with the Gunners and his big cheque

PEOPLE

Tidworth keeps it in family

STAGE trouper Mr Kenneth Pickernell, who has just retired as general manager of the Tidworth Garrison Theatre, wasn't born in a trunk. He was born in a nearby Candahar Barracks married quarter in 1922.

General manager of the theatre since 1949, Mr Pickernell succeeded his father in 1949 after war service in the Royal Air Force and spells in Drury Lane and as stage manager at Tidworth.

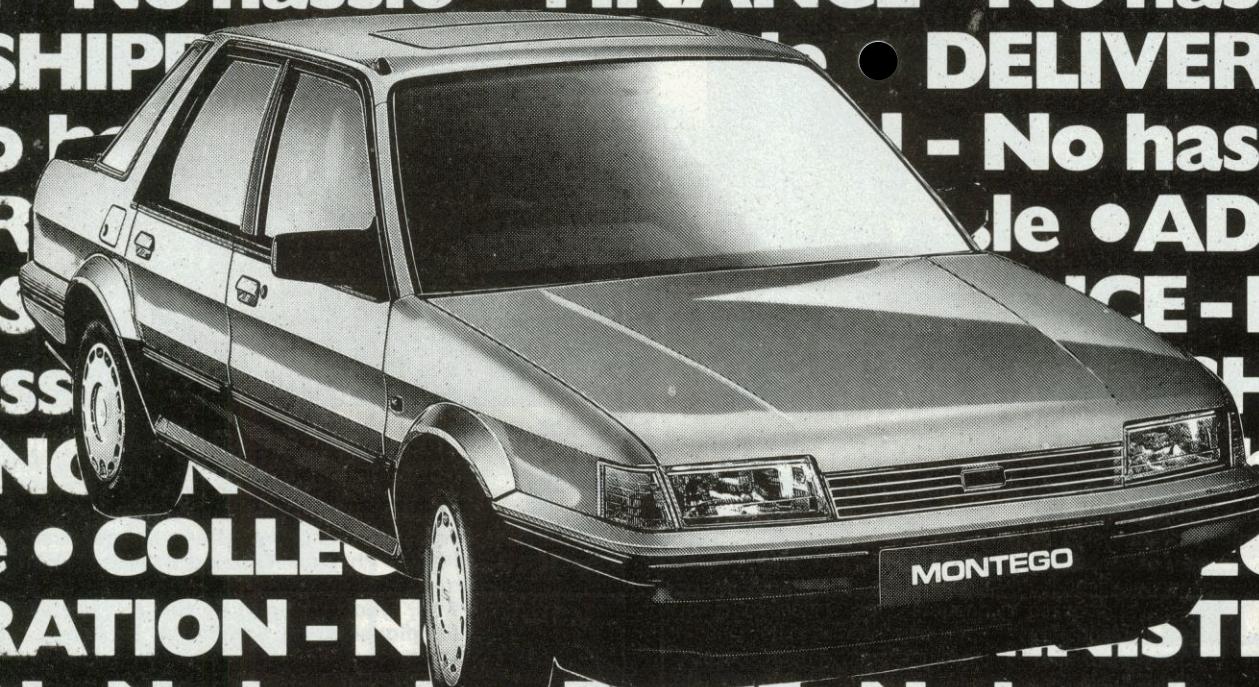
The latest incumbent of the appointment is yet another Pickernell, son Tony, notching up the family hat trick.

The theatre has seen some historic moments. In 1956 it was used extensively for briefings on the Suez Crisis, and the following year provided a staging post for refugees from the Hungarian uprisings.



Well done, Denis

WO2 Denis Dundas from The 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Alnwick, Northumberland, received the British Empire Medal from the Duke of Northumberland at a ceremony in Alnwick Castle. Denis is a member of the battalion's non-Regular permanent staff having previously been the unit's master chef. He has 33 years' TA service.



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TA in hit Vietnam war film

THREE dozen TA men drawn from the London area are featured in the box office smash *Full Metal Jacket*. And their participation has had a beneficial spin off for the Queen's Division at Bassingbourn - an assault course.

Stanley Kubrick's film traces the fortunes of a bunch of recruits from training on Pariss Island, South Carolina to their involvement in the Tet offensive, Vietnam. And it was made entirely in Britain.

The help of the TA started with two advertisements in **SOLDIER** which attracted a wide response from within the London area.

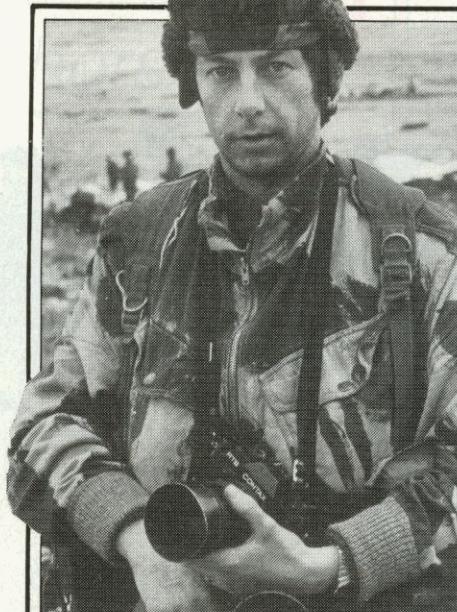
A vast factory in Enfield was used for the interior shots and the exteriors were filmed at Bassingbourn which now has a terrific assault course as a result. It was built and left there by the film company.

TALES OF CONFUSION

Spreading coal dust on the Coventry canal sounds a bit like the leg pull of the apprentice being sent to buy a pound of elbow grease.

But it allegedly happened during the Second World War,

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



WAR TIME: Paul in the Falklands

with the intention of preventing the shimmering line of the canal pointing directly at the centre of the city during the Germans' night-time raids.

Many were the schemes thought up during wartime to deceive the enemy, many of which remain untold.

Now, a major television documentary is planned by United Television Artists about the men and women who helped to confuse and confound the enemy without firing a shot in anger.

Were you a deceiver? Let **SOLDIER** know and we will pass your story on to the documentary planners.

Paul to develop business interest

Paul Haley, whose photographs have enriched **SOLDIER**'s pages for the past 13 years, has left the magazine to start his own photographic business in Ossett in his native West Yorkshire.

Paul and his cameras visited more than 30 countries to record the British and other armies at work and play. He was the only official photographer to sail on QE II with 5 Infantry Brigade as the South Atlantic crisis deepened in 1982, and he later saw the war at first hand, coming under Argentine shell fire near Mount Tumbledown and witnessing the destruction of the *Sir Galahad* at Bluff Cove.

Other "hot spots" captured by Paul on film included the Lebanon and Northern Ireland.

His last assignment for **SOLDIER** was to a "hot spot" of a different nature - Bermuda. His pictures from that trip will be appearing in a forthcoming issue.

Not least of his many memorable photographs were the series of **SOLDIERBIRD** glamour shots he produced in full colour. The magazine's darkroom walls will long remain a testimony to his outstanding creativity.

WIDOWS' PLOT

War widows planting their poppies in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster this year will have a special plot reserved for them.

The widows will visit their special plot at noon on November 5, two days before a procession of more than 500 of them attend a service of remembrance at the Cenotaph.

Led by a band of Scottish pipers, war widows from all parts of the British Isles will move in procession from King Charles St to the Cenotaph.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When it comes to food you can have trouble pleasing any of the people any of the time, it appears.

German women who tried rations given to soldiers during the Nato exercise Certain Strike didn't like the British oatmeal blocks, thought the American chocolate and chewing gum was ouch, drew the line at Dutch soldiers being given cigarettes with their rations, and even complained about the state of the liver sausage given to German troops.

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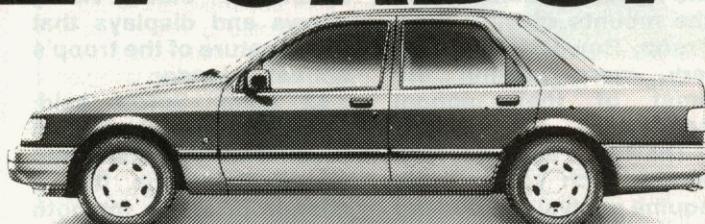
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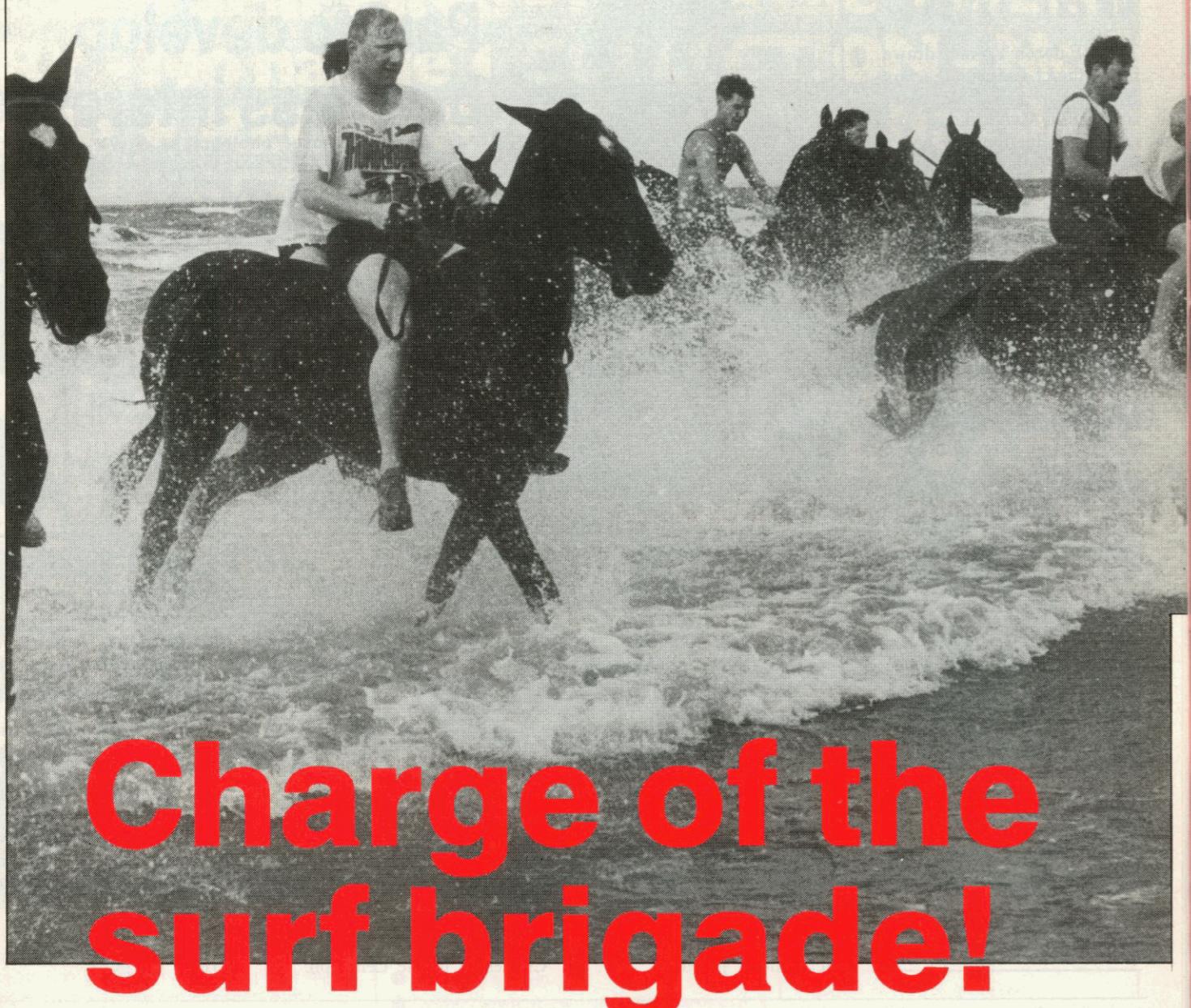
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Difficult to tell who enjoyed it the most – the men or the horses



Charge of the surf brigade!

SEA HORSES have been spotted among the south coast breakers. Taking a well-earned break from the rigours of London life, the mounts of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, were making the most of their annual holiday.

The troop allocates two weeks each year to this equine equivalent of R and R which helps keep their steeds at a peak of galloping fitness.

SOLDIER caught up with the troop's Centre section south of Chichester at a Selsey farm whose owners had been only too happy to stable the horses in a barn and let the men pitch their tents nearby.

Both men and horses were evidently enjoying the break from the round of salutes, parades, inspections, state visits, shows and displays that are a feature of the troop's annual calendar.

Lt Miles Sprott said: "They need a mental break from the hustle and bustle of London. It is a change of scene for both men and horses."

The daily routine at the farm was relaxed and always began with a dip in the sea. Some horses were true swimmers and all benefited from the therapeutic effect of the salt water.

Dozens of local people gathered on the shore

each morning to watch the horses gambolling in the sea.

Mrs Pat Lucas, on holiday from Tunbridge Wells, said: "We have been coming down each morning, we would not miss it. It was a lovely surprise to find them here and they are such a wonderful sight – a credit to the Army."

Watching the horses canter through the surf, SSgt David Yiend, Master Saddler, said: "They love it, they deserve it and they have worked hard for it."

But the holiday was over all too soon and the troopers are currently spending three weeks on sentry duty at Horseguards Parade, Whitehall, where they are relieving the Lifeguards and Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry.

needed a break.

"They come under strain just like us and by the end of the three weeks at the Royal Tournament you could tell they were on the end of their chinstraps."

"They love it here because it is pure fun. They can enjoy the grass, the sea and the fresh air and it is a break in routine."

After three hours 20 minutes, covering about 50 miles, the Nulli Secundus put down at Crystal Palace. A special medallion was later struck to commemorate the flight.

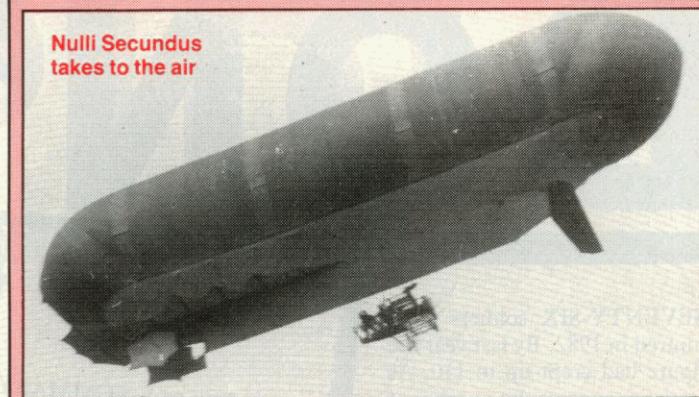
Even horses need a summer holiday at the seaside

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Terry Champion



A well deserved drink after their early morning exertions

Nulli Secundus takes to the air



Flight of history

EIGHTY YEARS ago at Farnborough an entry was proudly listed in aviation records when a massive dirigible lifted into the Hampshire skies to become the first British airship to make its maiden flight, writes Graham Smith.

It was the 122-ft, Nulli Secundus ("Second to None"). Aboard her were Lt Col John Capper RE Superintendent of the Farnborough Balloon Factory and "Colonel" Samuel F Cody, one-time Klondyke gold prospector, cowboy, touring Wild West showman and the Army's top kiteing instructor.

Cody – a civilian – was often mistaken for Col W F "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

An exhibition largely devoted to "Col" Cody is on show at Middle Wallop's Museum of Army Flying, near Andover.

On that October morning of 1907 as the giant airship loomed overhead at 750 feet following the route of today's A30, a ground party led by Lt C M Waterlow followed its sedate progress in Cody's car.

At one point the airship climbed to 1,300 feet. Average speed to London was 24 mph.

On arrival over Hyde Park the airship made a patriotic circuit over Buckingham Palace for the benefit of the King and the Queen.

At the War Office in Whitehall members of the Army Council craned their necks skywards to see not only history being made but possible military applications being trialled for them on their own doorstep.

Vast crowds watched the airship as she traversed Trafalgar Square and the Strand, floated on to St Paul's and then turned southwards towards Clapham Common.

After three hours 20 minutes, covering about 50 miles, the Nulli Secundus put down at Crystal Palace. A special medallion was later struck to commemorate the flight.



Samuel Cody and Col John Capper RE

kite designs that he made a Calais to Dover Channel crossing of 13 hours in a collapsible boat towed by a 15-foot kite called Old Faithful.

The boat, named Leila after his wife, is a star attraction in the Museum of Army Flying's exhibition.

But Texas-born showman Cody was to die where he was happiest – in the air.

At the age of 52, Cody was killed when a seaplane in which he was a passenger fragmented in mid-air over Farnborough Common on August 7, 1913.

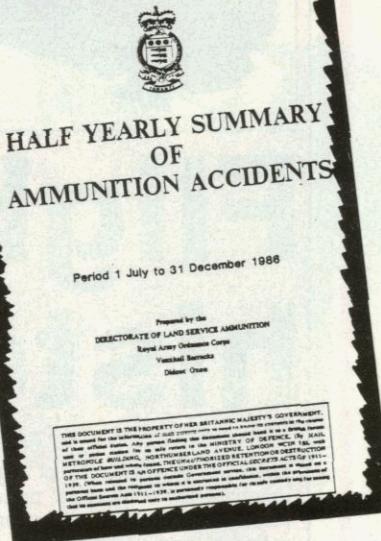
DON'T BE STUPID!

SEVENTY-SIX soldiers were injured in 1982. By last year the figure had crept up to 110. As statistics suggest the number of casualties caused by the mishandling of bombs, rounds, guns and explosives may increase, the Director of Land Service Ammunition has given his full backing to the production of a tough, explicit video film, writes **Bill Moore**.

It shows soldiers exactly what happens if they do not treat explosives, whether in shells or magazines, flares or fuses, with the respect they demand.

Brig Mike Owen, DLSA, suggested the title *The Stupidity Factor*.

"It is essential for soldiers to realise the need to stick to the drills laid down," he said at his headquarters at Didcot, Oxon. "Even our own ammunition technicians can make mistakes if they do not continually think



BOOK OF WOE: Many of the accidents catalogued are the result of stupidity

through their actions.

"If the troops can be shown the appalling results of a moment's thoughtlessness it might drive the lesson home and avoid some of the tragedies.

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G**r'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew. But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Homes and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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"None of the incidents we show in the film can be put down to faulty munitions or weapons... just stupidity."

The video shows four episodes - recreations of four recent events. It is presented by Shaw Taylor, the TV personality, with four actors in the roles of the principal culprits. The rest of the "cast" is made up of real soldiers, many of them apprentices from Arborfield.

The film's director went to great lengths to fulfil the requirement for reality. One sequence shows a casualty with blood pumping in spurts from the stump of his leg. Horrific but soldiers cannot afford to be squeamish.

SCENE ONE. A soldier comes in from patrol on a torrential night in Northern Ireland, fiddles around with the action of his SA 80 in a room full of men and pulls the trigger. One "up the spout" goes through his best friend. The wounded man didn't die but he was not much use as a soldier for some time.

The official term for such an accident is *Error of Drill (Negligent Discharge)*. The Army has always applied strict rules to ensure weapons safety and every soldier returning to a location with live ammunition must clear his weapon at an unloading bay (a specially designed sand trap).

As the knife becomes blunter the work gets harder. The NCO takes himself off "for ten minutes" and the squad decides that, as the three foot lengths burn nicely, they will simply feed the end of the reel into the fire. Flames shoot up the cord.

The sergeant comes running back at the sound of the explosion and finds four maimed and burned soldiers in smouldering combat kit.

They will carry the scars for the rest of their lives. The incident is on record as being due to *Lack of supervision*. The stupidity factor is the real reason.

Will Brig Owen's shock treatment work? The simulated wounds should certainly make soldiers sit up and think.

This is not a video nasty to be laughed off in an armchair in front of the box. The characters portrayed, both the quick and the dead, could be any soldier.

(dangerous enough) inside. He doesn't know about the explosive.

The culprit gasps "I'll get help" after the bang that leaves his friend moaning and bleeding. But it cannot save the victim's mangled hand.

Officially the term is *Tampering*.

SCENE THREE. A junior officer is determined to show an audience that thunderbolts are dangerous.

He throws one safely then puts another under a tin box to show its potency. He succeeds. A fragment of metal severs a young man's ear.

Rightly the technical term is *Misuse of ammunition*.

SCENE FOUR. A squad of soldiers is detailed to dispose of a large reel of cordtex (which looks like white plastic clothes line but contains a powerful explosive).

According to the book it should be placed on a specified spot (on the ranges, say) and blown up with a charge.

But German civilians have complained about the noise from exercises.

A staff sergeant decides to get rid of his problem silently. He instructs the squad to cut three-foot lengths off the roll of cordtex and to burn them individually.

As the knife becomes blunter the work gets harder. The NCO takes himself off "for ten minutes" and the squad decides that, as the three foot lengths burn nicely, they will simply feed the end of the reel into the fire. Flames shoot up the cord.

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Army's new video 'nasty' shows just how damaging that brief, careless moment can be . . .



THE RIGHT DRILL: But if you get it wrong you and your mates could be killed or maimed

TWO LETTERS TO TOUCH THE HEART

TWO inspiring letters landed on my desk the other day. They came from families who might have every reason to be bitter but who, despite their own experience of adversity, want to help others.

The letters speak for themselves. One comes from Sgt Chris Hughes whose first child looked to be perfectly formed in every way but... was minus her left hand. The arm ended cleanly just below the elbow. He writes:

"The trauma we experienced as new parents was eased somewhat as we knew a local family whose adult daughter has the same deficiency as Sara. Her parents were a tower of strength in the early days."

We were also fortunate that Sara was born in my home town, Wrexham, North Wales, close to the orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen, Oswestry.

Within hours of her birth she was examined and we were on their books."

Liverpool Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (ALAC) prepared a plastic forearm for Sara.

It is so realistic that some of my colleagues had to do double takes when they saw her.

Sara has taken to the arm very well and is able to put it on and take it off herself - at 11 months!"

Sara can expect to have an "operating" hand which will enable her to pick up objects when she is about 18 months old and between 3½ and four she will be assessed for an electronic arm. No surgery will be involved.

Furthermore the NHS pays for all limbs and repair work - a great benefit as new limbs will be required every few months as the child grows.

"We were also informed there should be no need for Sara to attend a special school. It has become obvious over the years that

children like Sara seem to try harder at most things in order to prove that they are as good as anyone else..."

Statistics show that about 100 children like Sara are born in the UK every year.

What Sgt Hughes wants to do is to make sure that their parents know of a charitable organisation to which he and his wife feel they owe a great debt.

It is called "Reach" and is the Association for Children with Artificial Arms.

Madeleine's knowledge of German, which most Hungarians can speak, helped her understand the treatment and she was able to continue with the therapy when she came home. Though Esther missed working with other children she made good progress.

There have been set backs. Esther suffered a severe epileptic fit. But she is once again showing improvement. Her mother remains indomitable:

"We continue to work with the hope that one day she may be able to walk with sticks or completely independently. However,

Budapest, the Hungarian capital.

In the past 12 months

Madeleine has managed to take Esther, now four, on three brief visits to the institute and she thinks others should know of it.

"From being a thin

pathetic child who had difficulty holding up her head she can now sit up and stand for a few seconds with her hands resting on a table in front of her.

Fortunately the Hungarians saw how intellectually bright she was."

Anyone who wishes to contact it should write to the general secretary, John Bruce, at 13 Park Terrace, Crimchard, Chard, Somerset TA20 1LA.

The second letter comes from a Service wife who is battling with an even harder problem - her daughter was born with cerebral palsy and is an epileptic.

All things are relative and Mrs Madeleine Hamill thought she was lucky when she saw a TV programme last year about the Peto Institute for children with cerebral palsy - even though it is in

that wonderful day is years of hard work away and needs many more visits to Hungary."

Mrs Hamill wonders why the country should have spent thousands of pounds (through the DHSS) to save Esther when she was born three months prematurely but seems unable to provide for the after care and

education of children suffering from multiple handicaps.

She points out that she and her daughter get more physiotherapy in a fortnight in Hungary than they do in a year in this country. There is, alas, no easy

answer to Mrs Hamill's question. Would that there was. Everyone will admire her courage; how many can offer practical help?

If anyone would like to

get in touch with her, however, I will pass the letters on.

mandatory.

According to Lt Col T H

English, car insurance was

covered among factors taken into consideration.

The assessment was based on a corporal (aged 25-29, married with one child) who owned a four-year-old Ford Escort and had a two-year no claims bonus.

However, I still want to know why public liability and certain private personal insurance were not included on the team's list, which I gather is unchanged from that published in SOLDIER two years ago.

Both are normally obligatory overseas and more expensive than in the UK where they are not

to maintain her entitlement to unemployment benefit.

To keep her right to statutory maternity benefit and sick pay, a wife who goes to, say, Germany for a long tour must pay £200 a year or, over 11 years, a total of £2,400 in Class II contributions.

At the moment it looks as though more and more wives will lose their entitlement to some DHSS benefits if they accompany their husbands overseas.

To keep her right to a state pension of her own which she can draw at 60 she must pay a total of £2,340 at 1987 rates in Class III contributions over 11 years unless she is covered by the home responsibility scheme.

Where is that sort of money to come from?

Of course, while the wife is employed her contribution is automatically deducted but she must resume voluntary contributions if she falls out of work.

The availability of unemployment benefit, maternity pay, sick pay and disablement allowances may affect the cost of living for everyone at some time.

In unemployment benefit alone a wife can lose up to a year's entitlement of £1,633.32p if her husband is posted abroad and she has to give up her job.

Surely this and similar factors must be taken into account when the differences between the cost of living in BAOR and the UK are balanced.

So please may the question of DHSS benefits and public and private insurance be considered in the deliberations of the MoD LOA team and the Armed Forces Pay Review Body?

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

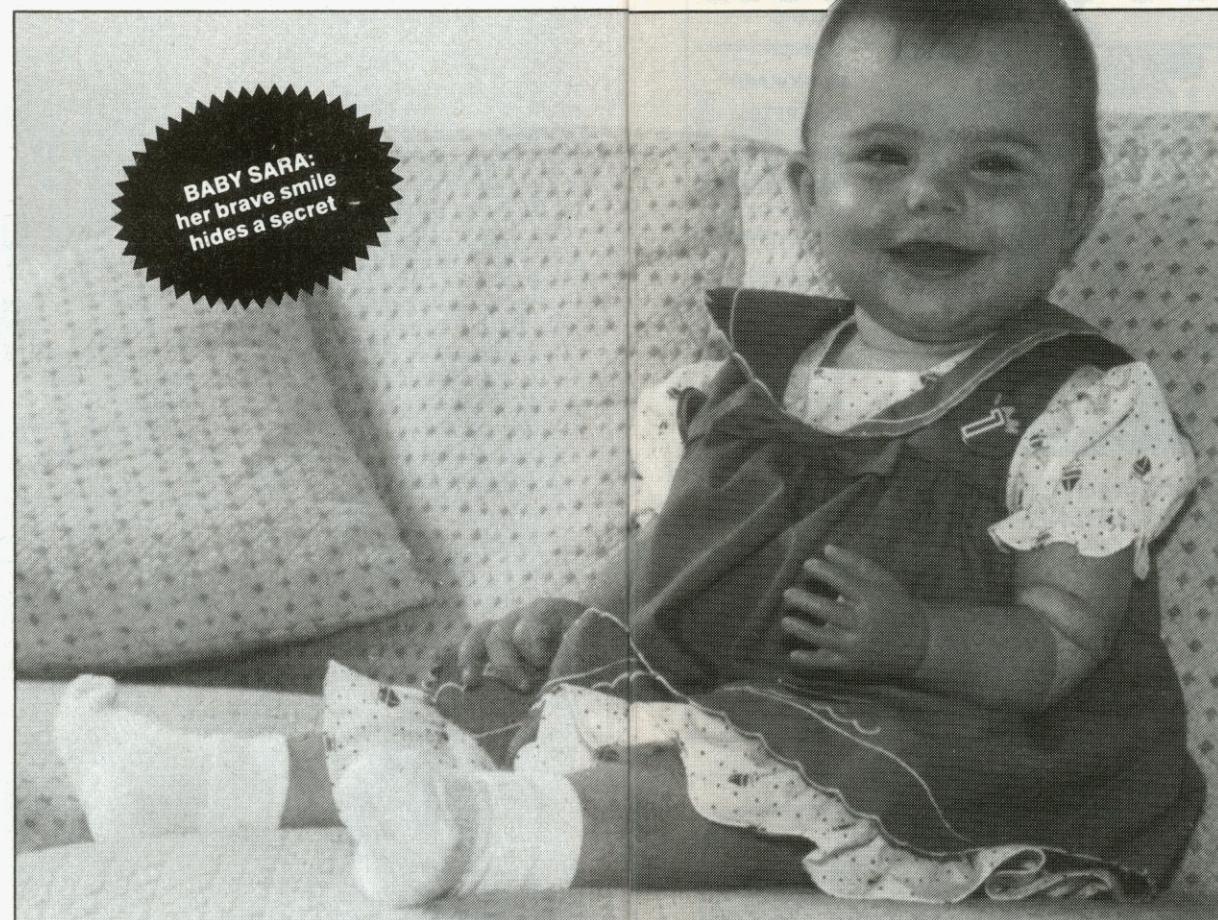
Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



That figures!

So why isn't insurance included?



education of children suffering from multiple handicaps. She points out that she and her daughter get more physiotherapy in a fortnight in Hungary than they do in a year in this country. There is, alas, no easy

operations in March this year and records for the first six months show total attendances of 10,500, with voluntary adult youth leaders contributing 4,700 hours of assistance.

NIFYS received greetings from Youth Service colleagues in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Hong Kong.

Walter Rader, Youth Service officer said at the launching party that a group from Northern Ireland had already taken part in a youth venture in Norway and 160 had enjoyed camps nearer home.

NIFYS can be contacted via the Education Branch, HQ Northern Ireland.

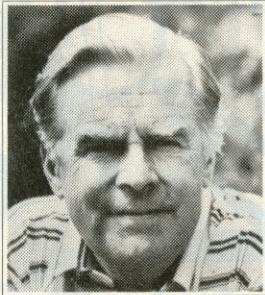


Blue Peter girl meets the NIFYS

CARON KEATING presenter of the BBC TV Blue Peter programme joins with young fans (left) in the celebrations to launch the Northern Ireland Forces Youth Service (NIFYS), newest member of the World Wide Forces Youth Service family. Caron is no stranger to Northern Ireland - her mother Gloria Hunniford is one of the province's celebrities.

The task of establishing the NIFYS in Northern Ireland was begun by the Royal Army Educational Corps. More than 30 youth clubs and other organisations cater for the leisure needs of young people.

NIFYS commenced fully established



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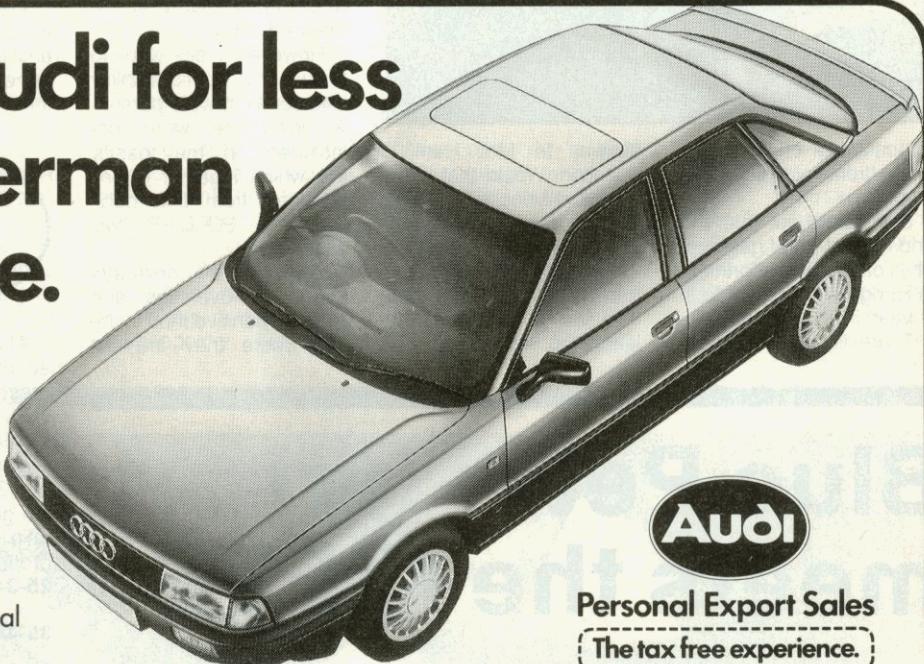
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Staffords on the spot in laser war

IT CAME as a great shock, perhaps the biggest of the exercise. Commanders at all levels were suddenly faced with the unpleasant fact that they might not last very long on a battlefield.

It happened when 1 Staffords battle group used a brand new form of laser weapon simulation during SIMEX 87 in Canada.

Disgruntled infantrymen found in some cases that they had been wiped out before they even left their vehicles.

In warm-up training a fierce laser engagement reduced the Staffords to the point where the CO, Lt Col Nigel Brown led a platoon attack supported by two company commanders and a section NCO.

The Staffords tested the laser equipment to see how it might best be used in training. It has already been highly successful when used by the US Army.

There are two basic types.

- SAWES - small arms weapons effects simulators fitted to men and weapons.
- SIMFICS - simulated improved fire control system for vehicles and their armament.

For the foot soldier the SLR topslide is fitted with a device, rather like a bulky SUIT sight which, when fired, projects a beam towards the target.

If it scores a hit on sensors on an opponent's webbing it sets off an alarm in a box on the soldier's back which stops only when the man lies on his back.

There is a similar system on vehicles and when a tank is hit an orange light flashes and a discharger streams smoke.

As it would clearly be unacceptable for a rifleman to knock out a Challenger by sending an SLR laser shot into the tank's response equipment, the SAWES and SIMFICS kit is incompatible.



Capt Paul Mellingani, 2ic of C Coy, keeps his helmet, complete with SAWES sensors, firmly on his head

In SIMEX 87, 1 Staffords were joined on the prairie by Huntsman and Ajax Squadrons, 2 RTR, their neighbours at Fallingbostel, Germany. Subalterns from both units formed part of the company sized opposition.

The new lasers - part of a family which comes under the term *direct fire weapon effect simulators* or DFWES proved the most realistic representation of war that many of the participants had encountered.

Capt Will Stamper of 1 Staffords reports:

"For the CO planning becomes a nightmare. Very

rarely did any plan survive intact beyond the initial phase as Orange moves and counter moves often negated subsequent phases . . .

"On several occasions section commanders found themselves commanding their platoons."

As for the kit being trialled, he adds:

"On the ground it brought a few headaches. For the soldiers one of the major nuisances was the helmet which is attached by a cable to the body harness on the soldier's back."

"At the end of a phase or an attack the soldiers would cast off their helmets with sighs of relief only to reel backwards as the short cable came to an end."

One assessment rated the exercise as exciting and exhilarating for the command element but frustrating at times for the troops, especially if they were eliminated at an early stage.

A tankman from Huntsman Squadron 2 RTR commented that the use of SIMFICS had shown them how vulnerable the tank was on the battlefield. Lessons learned had included the importance of using the ground correctly, getting into sensible fire positions, and the need for a good recce screen. The experience and initiative of commanders had been vital during the exercise.



A Scimitar from the recce platoon of 1 Staffords deploys in BATUS. A rear light flashes orange to indicate the vehicle has been hit while a red light mounted on the main armament indicates when the Scimitar is firing

US cavalry rides to the rescue

Medics look to reality

COMBAT wounds suffered by Israelis during the 1973 Yom Kippur War were restaged during a realistic casualty treatment exercise.

Analysis of the war gave designers of the exercise scope to flex the skills of their medics with the full range of wounds they might be expected to cope with during a war in Europe.

Several units taking part in Certain Strike provided "casualties" and more than 250 poured through 5 Field Ambulance.

Lt Jim Doran RAMC, commanding the Munster based unit, said: "It was as realistic as we could make it and I am sure it gave a lot of soldiers a pretty reassuring look at our facilities.

"We operate a resuscitation facility and our job is to keep them alive to enable them to be evacuated to a surgical complex or field hospital."

2nd Lt Louise Holden, studying medicine at Leeds University with Army sponsorship, found the exercise an ideal taste of what she can expect on graduating as a doctor.

EUROPE witnessed during Exercise Reforger '87 the largest influx of US troops to the continent since D-Day.

Designed to practise the US capability to transport combat forces by a combination of sealift and airlift for the rapid reinforcement of Europe, the exercise saw the arrival of 35,000 soldiers and 5,000 vehicles from America.

The majority belonged to III (US) Corps from Fort Hood in Texas and were deployed through air and sea ports in the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany and Luxembourg.

On arrival they drew much of their equipment from material permanently stockpiled in Europe and ready for use.

They then moved on to Lower Saxony in West Germany where they were joined

by 45,000 troops of other Nato land forces for a corps level field training exercise dubbed Certain Strike.

Three years in the planning, Exercise Certain Strike was directed by General Sir Martin Farndale, Commander Northern Army Group, who had the task of flexing the combined resources of Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German and US land and air forces.

A vast amount of equipment was deployed during the exercise including 20,000 wheeled vehicles, 2,200 tracked vehicles, 670 main battle tanks, 230 guns, 25 rocket launchers and 380 helicopters.

The British 4th Armoured Brigade, under Brig Walter Courage, played the part of the enemy orange force alongside Dutch and Belgian brigades.



An M1 Abrams heads an American armoured column waiting to move forward

Challenger gets nod of approval

FULL marks for Challenger according to the Death or Glory Boys of the Munster based 17th/21st Lancers who were putting the main battle tank through its paces for the first time on a field training exercise.

"Ask any of my soldiers which tank they would rather go to war in and they will tell you Challenger," said Maj Nick Obolensky, A Squadron. "It has performed extremely well during this exercise."

Discarding their old bone

domes, the regiment were also trying out the new Crewguard helmet which is currently being phased into the Royal Armoured Corps.

Like the new infantry helmet it is made of kevlar and was voted another success by the lancers.

Maj Obolensky said: "It is more comfortable and you can actually hear what is going on which is a great improvement because this is a noisy tank."

A note of caution was sounded by his driver who found himself banging his head on the turret because the new helmet is higher.

Referring to their role in the exercise, Maj Obolensky added: "We have been spending lots of time hiding and then moving extremely fast to deliver ordnance. It has been very useful and has certainly taught us how to wait which is the most difficult part. We are completely reactive."

Left - Maj Nick Obolensky sporting the latest in tank headwear, the new Crewguard helmet

A bluey tone of orange

AS THE Stars and Stripes - the American forces' daily paper - put it, the orange force had every right to feel blue.

Playing enemy is not much fun when you know that everything is geared up for the "good" side and that you are going to lose in the end.

"It is all a question of striking a balance so that we get something out of it while giving the Americans what they need," said Capt Robert Hutton, recce troop, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

"Because the brigade are in reserve we are not actually getting out as much as we would like to but we have done some forward patrols, nipping in among them and then escaping back to our lines. "The sheer scale of the exercise and the amount of equipment brought over has impressed us all," added Capt Hutton.



Left - It's a question of knowing what's what! Cpl Brian McGuire in the cockpit of a Gazelle helicopter

And here come the Indians!

CERTAIN STRIKE

PROFESSIONAL pride was somewhat dented when 663 Squadron, Army Air Corps, were 'bounced' by a flight of the latest US Apache battlefield attack helicopters.

But the fliers of Soest based 663 Squadron took it in good humour and were full of praise for their American adversary which was making its first appearance on a Nato field training exercise in Europe.

Armed with rockets, laser guided Hellfire missiles and a chin mounted 30mm chain gun, the McDonnell Douglas AH-64 Apache has sound, heat and electronics suppression devices to avoid detection by the enemy.

"It more or less demonstrates the state of the art in helicopter technology today," said Maj Chris Wilton, OC 663 Sqn, "and we would like to get our hands on it as soon as possible."

"It has an air-to-air and anti-armour capability as well as an electronic warfare and survival package. This is the way we are going and it is one of the options for our attack helicopter of the 1990s," added Maj Wilton.

Wounded pride apart, the exercise was going well and after two weeks hard flying all 12 helicopters were still airborne - the ground crew technicians had every reason to feel pleased with themselves!

The squadron's eight Lynx and four Gazelle helicopters were used in both an anti-tank and forward fire observation role and were also called in to control RAF ground attack Harriers in a close air support capacity.

(The AH-64 Apache will be featured in a forthcoming issue of SOLDIER.)

Stories:
Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures:
Terry Champion

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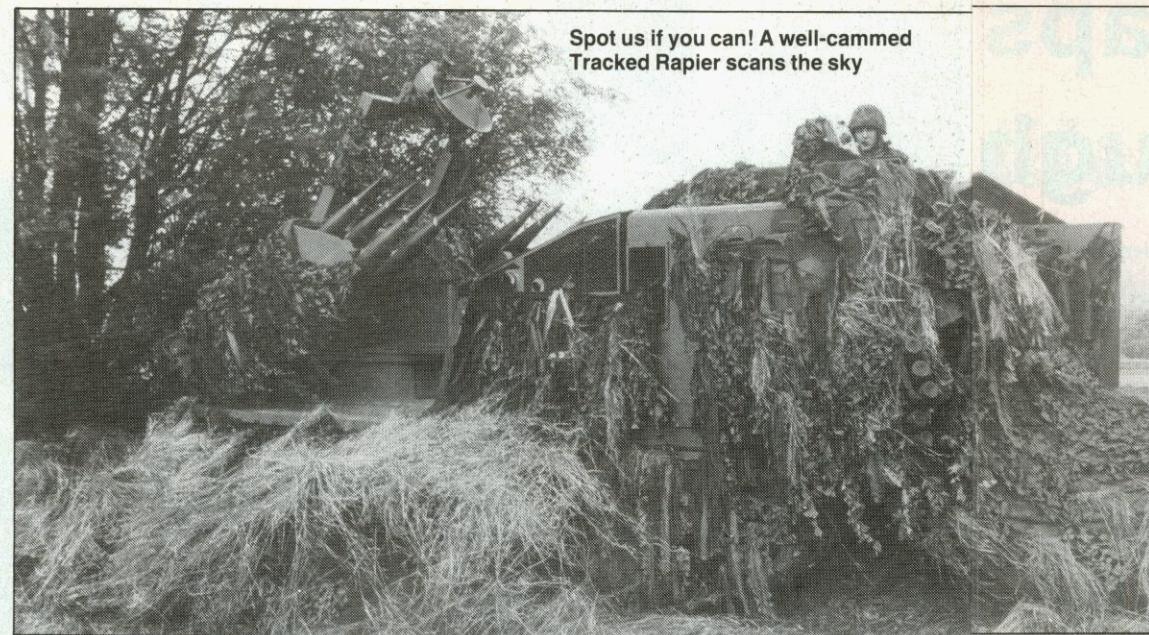
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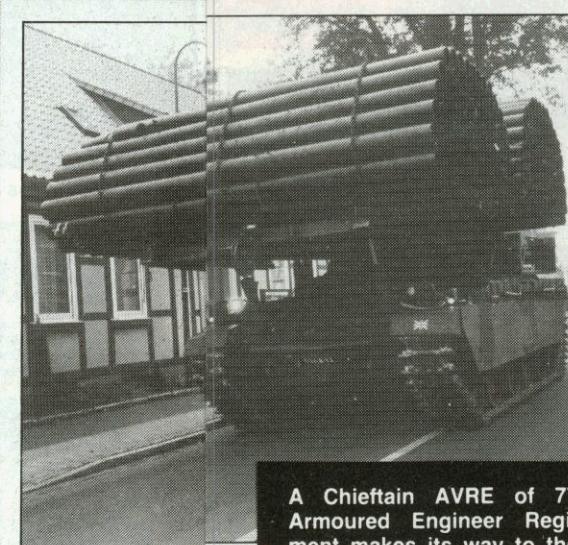
NINETY-FIVE pounds dead weight of metal travelling at Mach 2 will punch a hole in a high performance aircraft with sufficient destructive energy to force it to tear itself apart.

Such is the potency of Tracked Rapier which within 30 seconds of stopping and putting on the handbrake can be scanning the skies and engaging targets.

Dubbed "crash action", this capability to be swiftly reactive as well as highly mobile makes it a formidable air defence weapon.

"It is much faster into and out of action," said Maj Paddy Clarke RA, OC of Dortmund-based 9 Battery, 12 Air Defence Regiment. "Towed Rapier could take anything up to 40 minutes to deploy but with this weapon we can engage a target on the spur of the moment.

"With ever better mechanisation and with Challenger and Warrior spearheading the way forward, Tracked Rapier is the only way we can give our armour any decent air cover."



A Chieftain AVRE of 77 Armoured Engineer Regiment makes its way to the frontline loaded with fascines for crossing anti-tank obstacles



Nimble footwork was required when linking these sections of bridge - the units getting the act together were the American 54th and 902nd Engineers



Javelin alert

FIXED wing aircraft were flying up to 500 sorties each day during Exercise Certain Strike so the men of 46 Air Defence Battery, 2 Field Regiment RA, had plenty of opportunities to practise their combat techniques.

Being a brigade asset, the Munster based Javelin battery personnel found themselves tasked with a wide variety of units including the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards during their bridge assault and with both Belgian and British armour.

"One minute we are in APCs and the next we are in helicopters," said Bdr Bill Hinchcliffe, "so it is certainly pretty varied. It is also interesting working with other arms and seeing how they operate."

Right - Taking a bead on a passing aircraft - Javelin team Gnr Tony Curtis (right) and Gnr Keith Smith



CERTAIN STRIKE

Sovereign's bodyguard swaps palace polish for rough life



Lt Col Evelyn Webb-Carter

MUD-SPATTERED and covered in cam cream, the Sovereign's personal bodyguard could not have looked less like well bulled, well creased guardsmen if they had tried.

"Some people think we're paid to guard the palace," said Guardsman Martin Barr, "but this is what it's all about."

Martin is a member of The Queen's Company, 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, whose company commander - in name if not in practise - is none other than the Queen herself.

In her absence the commander is Maj Gerald Lesinski who is known as The Captain. His second-in-command, to further confuse the issue, is not currently a captain but a lieutenant and is referred to as Second Captain.

He is Lt Gordon Hogarth who explained that his company - all of whom must be more than 6ft tall (average height is 6ft 2 3/4in) - were setting up a series of counter penetration positions to block the American thrust.

The battalion had earlier mounted a successful heliborne

assault on an American-held bridge.

"Great fun!" said Lt Col Evelyn Webb-Carter, CO. "Hanging about can be dull and because we are a mechanised battalion we are often trundling around in the back of APCs."

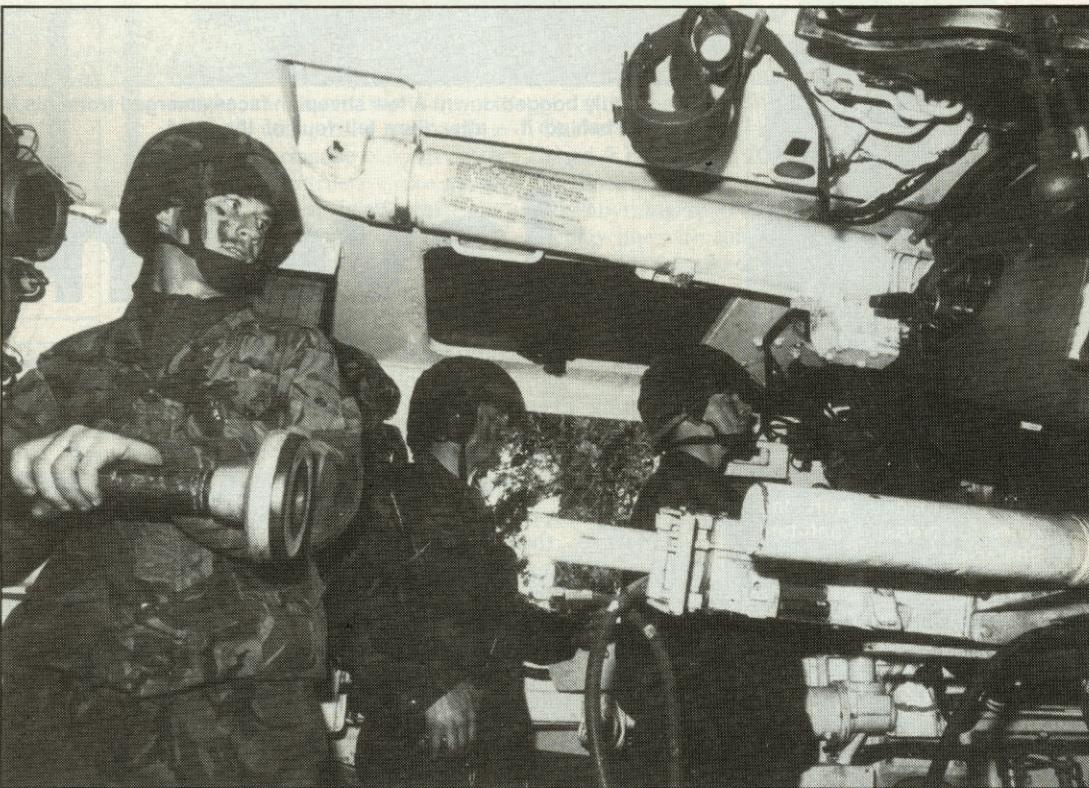
The Munster based battalion will soon be the first in the Army to receive Warrior. First deliveries are expected in November. Members of the battalion are attending conversion courses and the whole unit will be equipped by March next year.

No stop for men of 7 FRG

KEEPING the show on the road were members of 7 Forward Recovery Group REME whose primary role during Certain Strike was to ensure the umpires remained mobile.

Based at Fallingbostel under the wing of 7 Armoured Workshop, they were tasked specifically for the exercise by 7 Armoured Brigade.

Joined by colleagues of the American 123rd Support Battalion from Nurnberg, 7 FRG dealt with dozens of vehicles ranging from APCs to Land Rovers.



Room to move around - crewing an M109 are (from left) Gnr Bernie Thorp, Mac McCarthy and Brads Bradwell

ALL FIRED UP

PACKING a hefty punch in support of the orange forces were O Battery, 2 Field Regiment RA, with their M109 self-propelled guns.

"It is a good gun, the crews like it and, unlike the Abbott, there is plenty of space to move around," said Lt Graham Ambrose, gun position officer.

Like any exercise the battery were experiencing lulls and highs but they had

been attacked twice by the time SOLDIER caught up with them and the adrenalin was still pumping.

By Sgt Maj Neil Evans said: "It does the lads good to bring the guns out into the field and throw them round a bit."

"It helps sharpen them up which is just what we need with a live firing exercise coming up in a couple of weeks time."



Atlantic link up - engineers PFC James Beckworth (left) and Cfn Gavin Findley

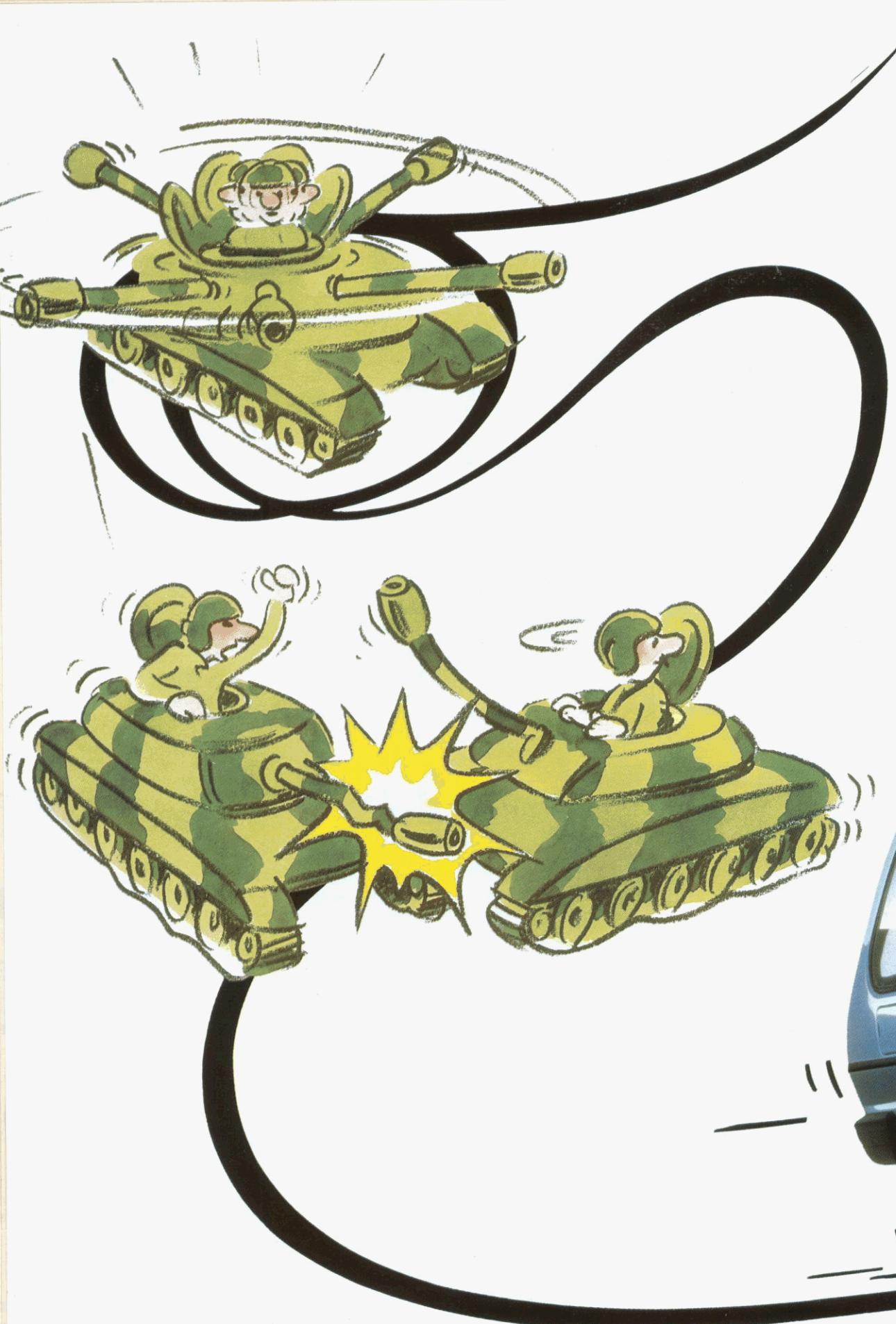


Above—Members of the assault pioneer platoon, Support Company, 1st Bn Grenadier Guards keep a watchful eye out for enemy forces during Exercise Certain Strike

Below—Manned by O Battery, 2 Field Regiment RA, an M109 self-propelled gun pokes its 155mm barrel from a farmyard hide during Exercise Certain Strike in Lower Saxony, West Germany

Pictures: Terry Champion





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MILITARY SALES

Mine host is Forces' favourite

Jim Burks, known as "JB" to countless Army personnel, is still the Force's favourite along the Western Highway to Guatemala. He is pictured holding court behind his bar.

His roadside cafe is pitched half-way along the 50 mile route between Belize City and

Keeping the larder stocked

RUNNING what amounts to a mini ordnance depot spawns its own brand of challenges, especially with the Atlantic Ocean between you and further supplies.

Nevertheless, Maj Tim Murray, OC 78 Ordnance Company based at Airport Camp, regards his posting as one of the choice commands in his corps.

"We are really a small ordnance depot and perform on a smaller scale all the functions of a much larger set-up.

"We are a long way from the UK and have a three months lead time for resupply though we can get hold of stuff more quickly if it is urgently needed," said Maj Murray.

The stores platoon is responsible for the supply of technical, transport and general stores and provides furniture and fittings for barrack blocks and messes. It also maintains a small vehicle park.

The combat supplies platoon handles all stores of petrol, ammunition and rations, the latter creating logistic headaches as contracts are let out for meat and vegetables to suppliers in Belize, Mexico and

Holdfast Camp and the 60-year-old American has lost count of the thousands of cold drinks he has served to men in green vehicles.

He arrived 11 years ago and has extended a welcome to every British unit since. They in turn have been painting messages and mottos on wood and hardboard and nailing the results of their handiwork to his cafe walls.

"I've made a lot of friends since opening up here," said JB, "and the lads keep sending me postcards from all over the world. It's marvellous!"

JB holds court at his roadside cafe. His guests include writer Mervyn Wynne Jones (second from left)



Enough to drive a postie nuts ...

PAINTED coconuts are proving popular in Belize where they are bought by soldiers and sent home instead of postcards and greetings cards. Local craftsmen, charging little more than £1.50 for their handiwork, paint messages and addresses to order.

"We get some really funny ones coming through here," said WO2 Alex Carson RE



Another "bumpy" letter for Cpl Watson (left) and Cpl Ormiston

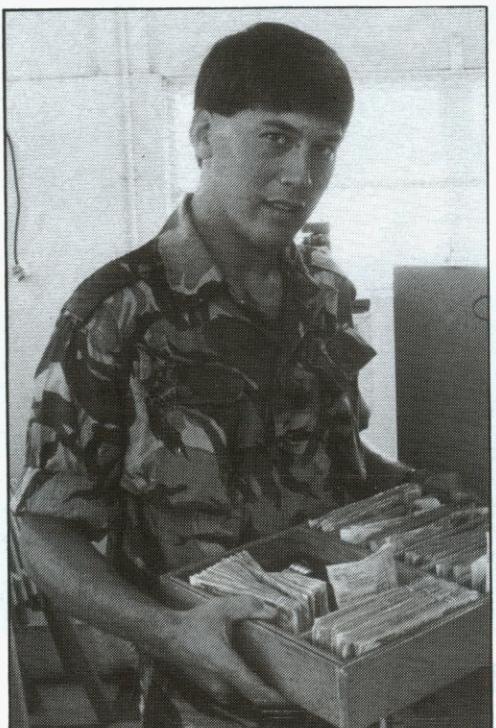
(Postal and Courier Service) whose staff handles about 40 a week and thousands of letters. Pictured with letters and coconuts are Cpl Roger Watson (left) and Cpl Eric Ormiston.

In our last issue we reported on Belize's resident infantry battalion. In these pages writer Mervyn Wynne Jones and photographer Terry Champion visit some of the smaller units serving in Belize

BELIZE ROUND-UP



Sgt Steve Moorhouse, master butcher



WO2 Fred Toland, 3 Para, the Force QM



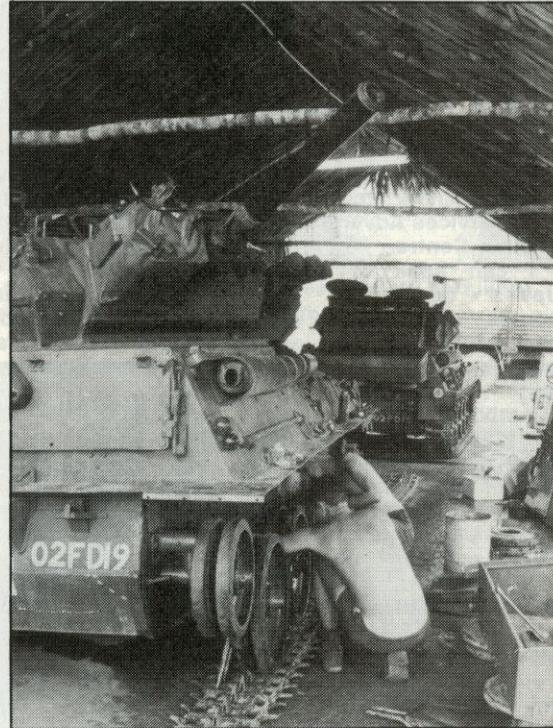
Keeping the books - SSgt Terry Anderson RAPC

HANDLING a £10 million budget is, literally, all in a day's work for Maj Rick North RAPC and his staff at the Unit Administrative Office in Airport Camp.

Maintaining the service records of every soldier not serving with the roulement sapper, gunner and infantry units, they are also responsible for the payment of all electricity, utilities, rations, petrol, wages and PSA bills. Bookkeeper SSgt Terry Anderson RAPC pitches in to ensure there are a minimum of financial headaches.

Why Dave is all fired up ...

FORCE fire advisor Dave Fitzmorris (right), an Army Fire Service Officer grade 2, shows two Airport Camp based RMPs how to tackle a car blaze. FSO2 Fitzmorris is responsible for the fire prevention inspection of all military property in Belize and undertakes military fire investigations as well as attending both military and civilian incidents.



REME mechanics attached to the Scots DG strip a Scorpion under cover

MINOR miracles are performed each day by the REME tradesmen of 16 Belize Field Workshop as they counter the havoc wrought among military vehicles by the weather and the roads.

Rutted and pitted, many roads are little more than dirt tracks that revert to mud at the drop of a hat. A vehicle's lifespan is slashed by a third compared with UK and BAOR.

Tough tour for the Redcaps

MUGGINGS – frequently violent – are an ever present threat to the unwary or plain stupid who wander into Belize City alone at night. Severe wounds inflicted by gunshot and machete have resulted from attacks whose perpetrators melt away in the maze of stinking, rat infested alleys.

Soldiers are constantly warned of the hazards by the garrison's RMP detachment who know the dangers only too well.

The Redcaps are recognised and respected by the often hostile Afro-Carib population but WO2 Bob Scott RMP, in plain clothes during the course of an SIB

enquiry, found himself at the wrong end of a shotgun barrel one night.

He managed to extricate himself intact but will not now go into certain areas while on patrol unless he is in uniform. There is always the risk that plain clothes operators will be confused with employees of American drugs control agencies, two of whom have been murdered in Belize City.

WO2 Scott, "the problem among Servicemen is minimal. In fact the crime rate is probably lower here because we are always on at them about personal security when they are out of camp and the security of their belongings left inside camp."

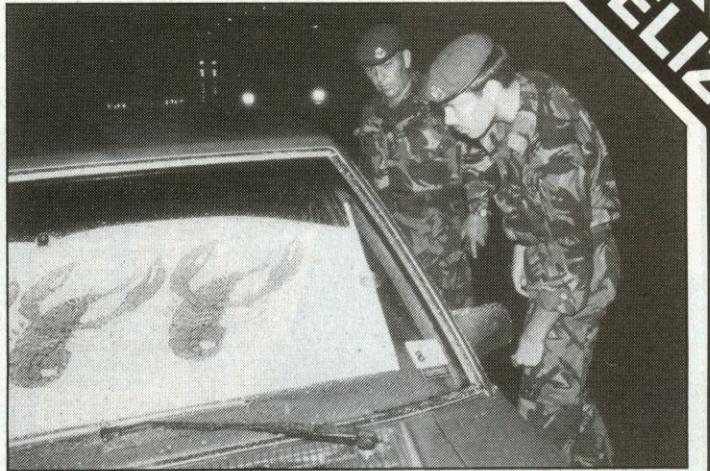
The two man SIB teams go out three or four times a week but the uniformed RMPs patrol the city every night, sometimes twice a night.

The RMPs are drawn from Colchester based 156 Provost Company and London District Provost Company and the posting is a popular one for its variety.

"Despite the availability of drugs," said



Cpl Mark Browning (centre) helps with an enquiry at the station reception desk ...



... and joins WO2 Dave Jones (background) in checking a car while on night patrol in Belize City

St George's is capital place for adventure

NINE sun-kissed miles and a handful of mangrove islets east of Belize City is one of the few offshore islands still permanently inhabited.

It is St George's Caye, a former capital of the colony and now home to a half-dozen or more families and the military staff of the Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre.

"I can think of worse places to spend six months," chuckled WO2 Jim Fyfe APTC, "but we are pretty busy here, I can tell you!"

Established in the early 1970s, the Force Adventurous Training Centre was self-financing and run on a shoestring until earlier this year when it was officially recognised as a Joint Services centre.

Now the centre can look forward to a £90,000 cash injection for a much needed rebuild of facilities which will include proper toilets and showers.

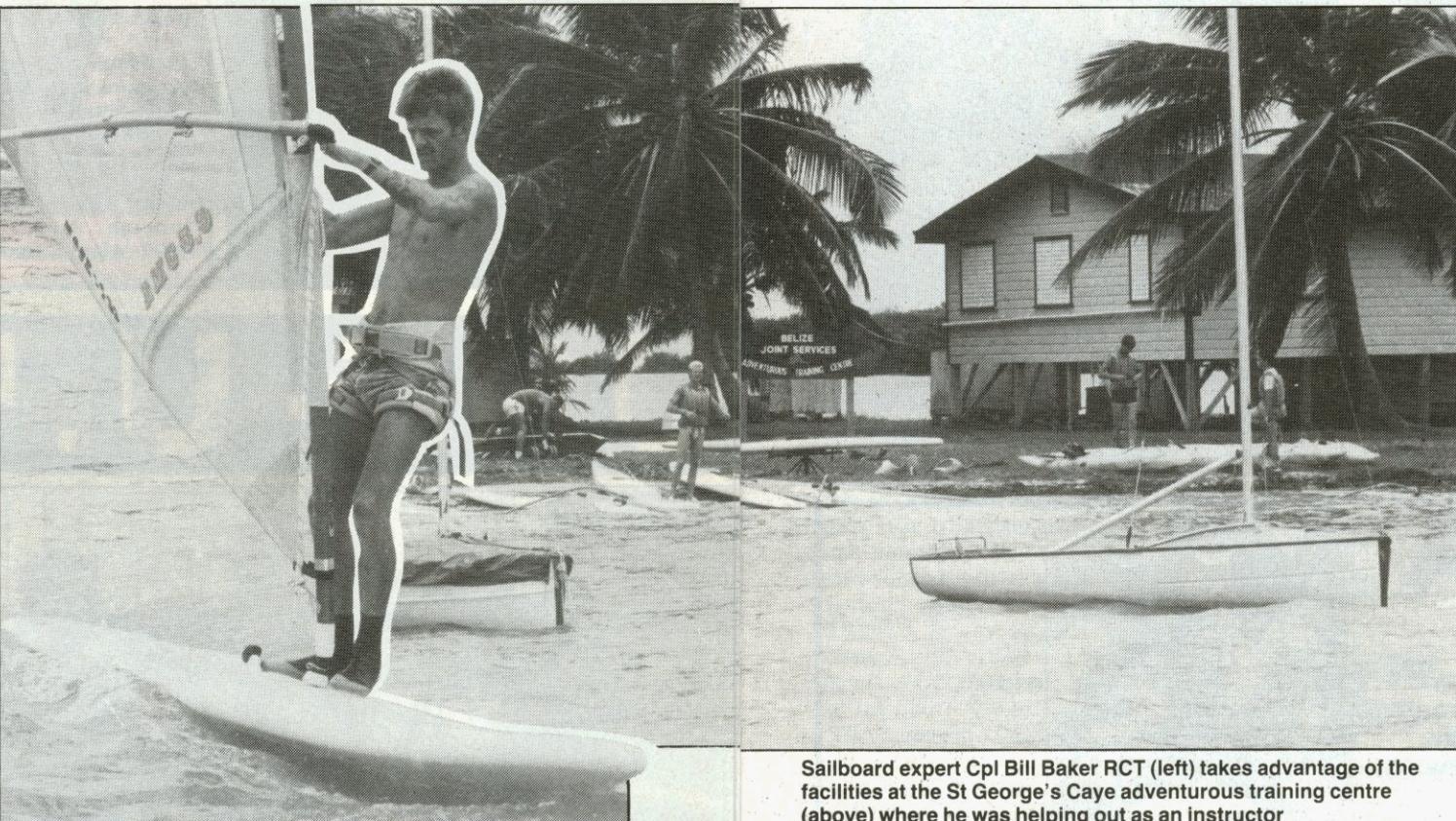
Up to 34 students spend a week at a time learning diving, sailing, sea canoeing or sailboarding. Background activities include water skiing, deep sea fishing and parascending.

The four permanent staff, who are supported by personnel drawn from roulement units, also run

weekend courses.

During the past six months the staff have been spending their spare time – and ploughing a lot of the centre's bar profits into – tidying up and re-fencing the island's graveyard.

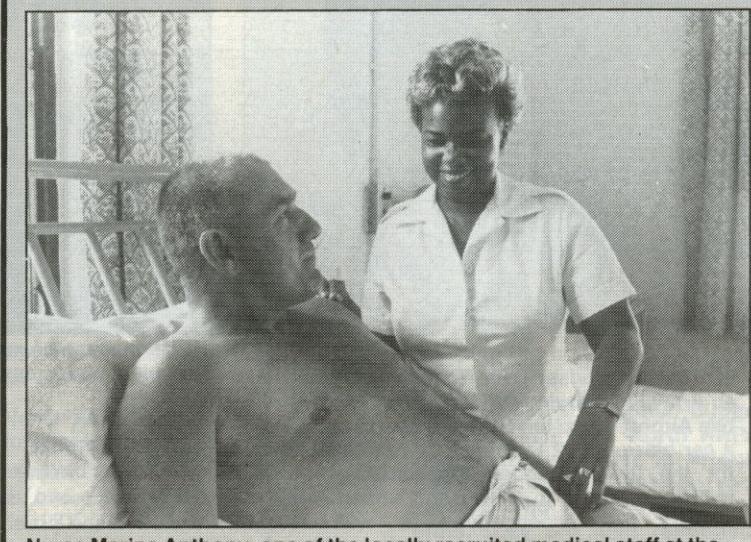
Brainchild of the centre's admin chief, Sgt Taff Aviet, 2 RRF, the project when complete will have included the erection of a display case containing buckshot, cannon balls and coins of a by-gone military era.



Sailboard expert Cpl Bill Baker RCT (left) takes advantage of the facilities at the St George's Caye adventurous training centre (above) where he was helping out as an instructor



Restoring the cemetery to its former appearance will be quite a job. Sgt Taff Aviet surveys the task ahead



Nurse Marina Anthony, one of the locally recruited medical staff at the British Military Hospital, keeps an eye on SSgt Mike Mullen



Maj Ian Crate (left) and his operating theatre. They



surgical team load up their field visit other towns on a regular basis

A hospital on the highway

BAD driving and poor road conditions take a heavy toll of Belizean motorists, and the civilian case list handled by the British Military Hospital at Airport Camp frequently includes the victims of traffic accidents.

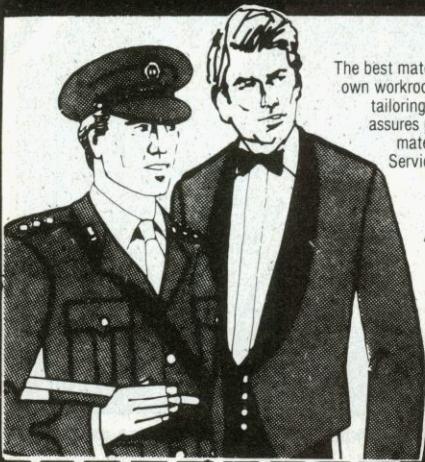
A field operating theatre is sent out weekly to Belmopan, the capital of Belize, and Orange Walk, to perform a wide variety of surgery.

Maj Ian Crate RAMC, on three months detachment from the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, said: "It is a very useful

posting for hands-on experience. These weekly surgeries are very popular with the locals for whom medical care is meagre."

Maj Malcolm Jowitt, anaesthetist, agreed that the posting was ideal for training and experience but as a "gas man" he was never entirely happy because of the minimal back-up during field surgery.

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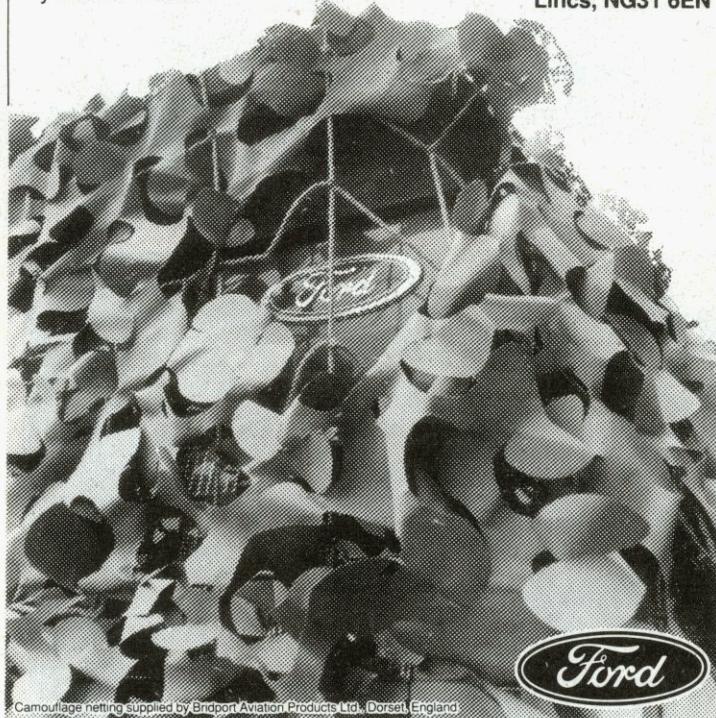
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CARING FOR SERVICE AND EX-SERVICE MEN, WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES



Bill Moore visits the Physiological Measurement Department at Woolwich, one of the RAMC's smallest and most valuable assets

THE OLD soldier on the examination couch watched rather nervously as a strip of paper bearing a thin dark line of peaks and troughs rolled out of a machine to which he was attached.

"Is it all right?" he couldn't help asking.

The young soldier in the white coat nodded cheerfully and said that at first glance he couldn't see anything to worry about.

Joe Shields, who left the Army 12 months ago after 28 years (including service in The Parachute Regiment and The Royal Irish Rangers) looked relieved.

"You never know," he said.

Joe was being put through the "pre-op" drill which all over-40s undergo before surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

The check is one of many carried out by one of the RAMC's smallest but most valuable assets - the Physiological Measurement Department.

Under Capt Steve Spencer, a commissioned technician, a WO, a staff sergeant, five other NCOs and a QARANC receptionist, provide a service which does a job probably equal to the work of four or five departments in a civilian hospital.

They occupy rooms off an L-shaped corridor and handle tens of thousands of pounds worth of modern electronic equipment which can test hearts, brains, ears and lungs. It also has its own photographic facility.

To use a medical term, all the work is non-invasive, which means that it is painless and done through the use of electrodes and pads attached to a person's body.

Demand for its services is growing. In 1979, 6,000 patients were examined. Last year the figure rose to 11,800.

The L-shaped corridor is a place for real inside stories. While SOLDIER was there a member of the staff was earnestly studying a monitor showing the internal workings of the heart of an NCO from 45 Field Regiment.

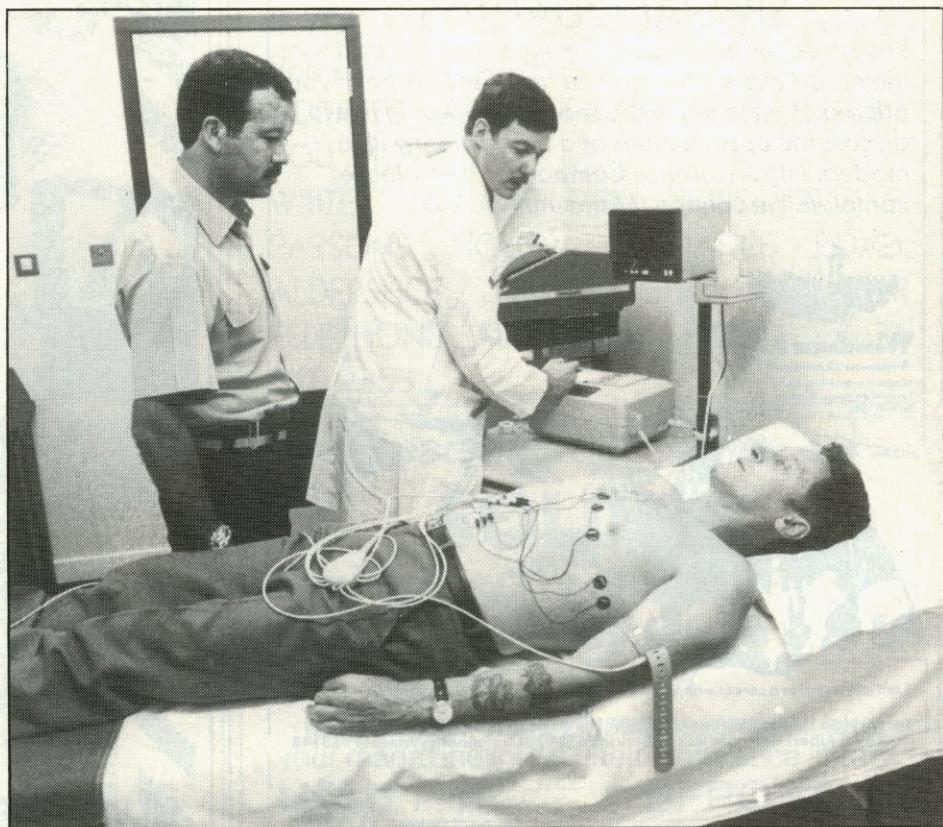
He had some problem with his eyes but all his organs were being checked out.

"See the valve working," said Cpl Andrew Harris, pointing to a grey shadow flickering back and forth on the video screen of the £65,000 machine. "We can supply the doctors with a print if they need one."

Cpl Harris has been working in the department for more than two years.

When he has finished his training he will be posted, probably to BAOR, as a Physiological Measuring Technician (Class II), and continue to work for upgrading.

It is not always realised that Woolwich is a training hospital



Cpl Ian Brockett, in white coat, puts a patient through a "pre-op" test. WO Steve Holmes, 13 years in the RAMC, chats to old soldier Joe Shields, who retired a year ago as a long service man

Picture: Terry Champion

HEALTHY MEASURES



Capt Steve Spencer

and in the case of the 'PM Techs' they spend some time at London establishments including Charing Cross Hospital, Guy's and Great Ormond Street - the Queen Elizabeth has a children's ward.

They also attend Paddington Technical College on day

release which is where WO Steve Holmes, 13 years in the RAMC and concerned with the day-to-day running of the department, took his higher national certificate.

He indicated a number of remarkable computer-style machines including one which records electrical impulses from the brain and can help to detect deafness in children too young to be checked out in conventional ways, epilepsy, and the first signs of multiple sclerosis.

"What it can't do is read a soldier's thoughts," said WO Holmes, "though a lot of them are suspicious when the electrodes are attached to their heads."

It may be just as well.

Direct military application of this impressive collection of scientific instruments includes testing every air crew member

of the Army Air Corps and screening new recruits in all arms for potential health problems before they are accepted.

Smokers and fatties already in the Army are also examined.

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It's all part of the service . . . one of the many available at the Queen Elizabeth which was ten years old this year.

As the number of patients rose to 50,000 last year, it can be taken that these years have been well spent.

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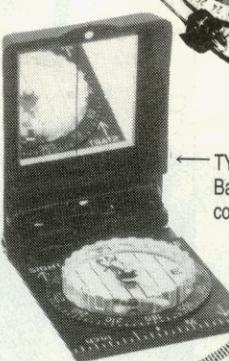
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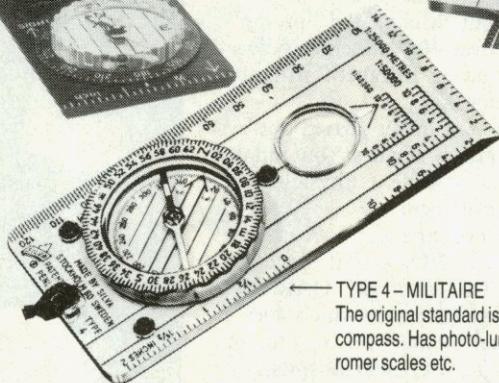
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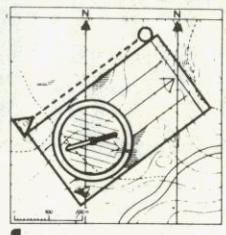
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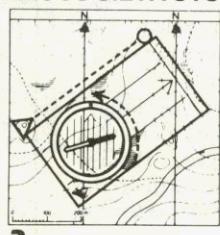
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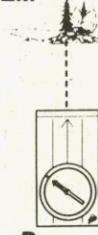
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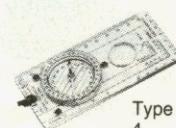
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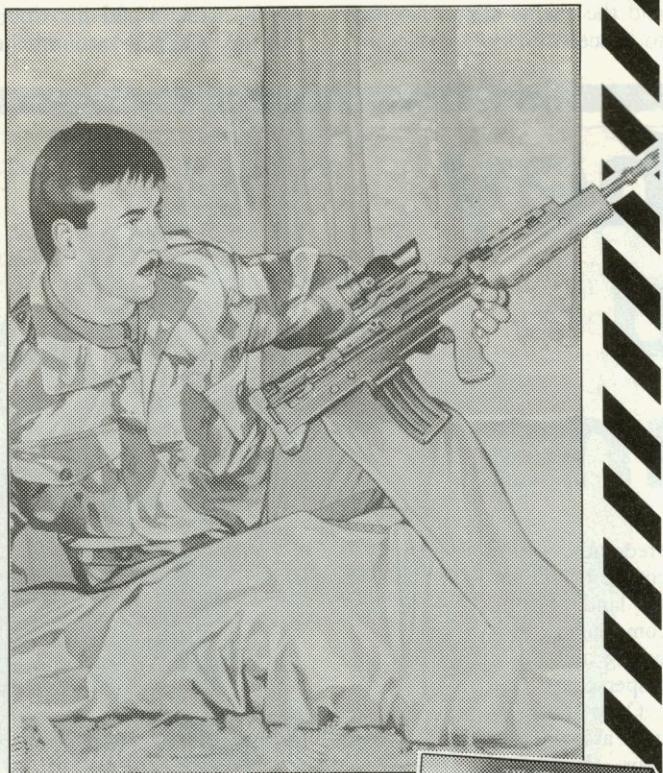


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THE BLUNDER FACTOR

Grounds for Fascism

THE Freikorps that actively operated in Germany between 1918 and 1923 formed the fertile ground on which Fascism was to flourish and it is surprising that so little has been published on these paramilitary groups. In *Hitler's Heralds*, Nigel H Jones has gone a long way to filling this gap.

The author traces the origins of the Freikorps to General Erich von Ludendorff's Stormtroopers, formed in desperation in the closing stages of the First World War.

Historically, they had more than a passing resemblance to the marauding bands that roamed England after the Hundred Years War and provided much of the manpower for the early battles of the Wars of the Roses.

Both were mainly composed of veteran soldiers, feeling let down in a peace which made professional killing redundant.

- BJ

Hitler's Heralds: The Story of the Freikorps 1918-1923 by Nigel H Jones, published by John Murray. Price £12.95.

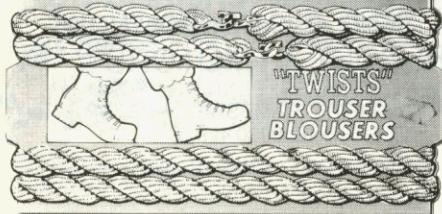
How they spiked the guns

THEY practised, time after weary time, week after week. They did not know the objective but they understood the task: to break in to a highly defended battery of four guns in concrete and steel casemates and destroy them.

They were bound to secrecy and fully trusted to go on leave with their knowledge.

This was 9 Bn The Parachute Regiment and, after repetitive practice on a full scale model on Salisbury Plain, they were confident of carrying out their task immediately before the Normandy landings. They flew off just before midnight on D-Day to drop a mile or so from the Merville Battery that could enfilade Sword Beach where the British were to land and the Mulberry harbour was to be set up.

Everything had been consid-



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ered and catered for, even for a couple of gliders with material to land within the battery compound. But things went wrong and the drop was very dispersed.

Only about a quarter of the men assembled at the rendezvous, barely 150 to do a battalion's job of getting through a cattle fence, a minefield, an anti-tank ditch, a forest of thickly woven barbed wire and then into the casemates, sealed and firing.

Most of the necessary assault material was missing, the Royal Engineers with the explosives and expertise never arrived, while the paras had little knowledge of howitzers.

But the attack went in. A seemingly impossible task against a strongly defended position, with machine gunners firing from slits in concrete and a command periscope observing the paras' every movement. They got to the guns, did their best to spike them, suffered heavy casualties and went on to their rallying point and the next objective.

This handful of men – they then mustered about 80 – and their fallen comrades, had in that desperate hour or so before the D-Day beach assault began, gained for the recently formed Parachute Regiment a well deserved battle honour. To be remembered for all time as "Merville Battery". - GRH

Assault on the Guns of Merville by Alan Jefferson, published by John Murray. Price £12.95.

He also needs an element of luck.

When the battle is won the tenacity and courage of the troops are praised. When the battle is lost the general is blamed.

So many parts of the jigsaw have to fit neatly into place, but there are three main divisions: (i) the general and his troops; (ii) the planners around him

and in increasingly higher headquarters; and (iii) the politicians controlling grand strategy and the purse strings.

Any weaknesses in any link, any incompetence along the chain, can contribute to, even ensure, the loss of a battle, the failure of a campaign.

There have been many blunders in history from which generals have suffered. It was

probably a corporal signaller who failed to pass a message ordering the reinforcement of 56 French gunners in Fort Douaumont at Verdun in 1916. Tired General Chretien assured his relief that it had been done.

It had not and German Pioneer Sgt Kunze was able to take "the strongest fort in the world" alone after climbing through a gun embrasure from

a human pyramid made by his ten-strong section. A remarkable exploit from an avoidable blunder.

General O'Connor, carrying out Wavell's instructions in 1940, routed the Italian Desert Army at Sidi Barrani, chased the remnants out of Egypt and across Cyrenaica and finally defeated them at Bedi Fomm. He wanted to go on to Tripoli

where (we now know) he might have prevented or harassed Rommel's landing and curtailed the long drawn out desert war.

But Churchill called a halt and ordered the withdrawal of troops to form a new front in Greece. A German offensive destroyed the British force in Greece and Crete. Was this one of the blunders of the war?

In the Falklands in 1982, an unnecessary diversion was made on the tiring march to Port Stanley when orders from Whitehall demanded the elimination of the Argentine garrison at Goose Green. Brig Julian Thompson, who had intended to mop up the area later, was not told that the post had been strengthened with men and machine guns. The Parachute battalion suffered badly.

Many lost battles have been attributed to the incompetence of commanders, but there is a much wider responsibility which includes lesser commanders, planners and politicians. Some outstanding examples and a fine assessment are given in Geoffrey Regan's book. A catalogue of blunders but who can blame the commanders? - GRH

Someone Had Blundered by Geoffrey Regan, published by Batsford. Price £14.95.



Green Jackets at Bayir. From left to right are Rfn Mark West, Capt Charles Blackmore, Capt James Bowden and Bdsrn Christopher Selley

IN PURSUIT OF A LEGEND

IN February 1985, a half century after a certain Aircraftman T E Shaw was killed in a motor cycle accident, four members of The Royal Green Jackets – Capt Charles Blackmore, Capt James Bowden, Bdsrn Christopher Selley and Rfn Mark West – set out to retrace the steps of Lawrence of Arabia (the true identity of Shaw) and his Arab raiding party during the First World War.

Charles Blackmore – now a major serving with 6 GR – has published an account of the expedition, a venture that involved four weeks of extreme climatic conditions endured with meagre supplies, camel riding and walking many of the routes followed by Lawrence in his exploits of 1917.

Basically, the book is the

leader's day-by-day diary of the expedition which had for its inspiration and guide Lawrence's classic *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

The four Englishmen dressed and lived, as Lawrence did, in the fashion of the Bedouin, three of whom they initially employed as camel handlers. This number was reduced to two when a less than popular Bedouin returned home.

Much of the story centres on the chief handler, Mohammed Musa, of whom Blackmore writes: "... aristocratic, uncouth, beautiful, ugly, generous, selfish ... and it was this extraordinary man who really taught me so much of desert life."

Blackmore genuinely wanted to learn and the consistent message that emerges through-



Expedition leader and author
Capt Charles Blackmore

out the book is: "I am trying to find something in this desert, only I am not sure what it is."

Like Lawrence before them, the members of this com-

memorative expedition found the means of self-discovery. Extremes of climate with virtually no food and little water, and difficult communications with the Arabs, conditioned a realisation of individual capabilities.

Objective of the expedition was to visit many places recorded in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, including the remains of the old Hajaz railway that was such an important feature in the Arab Revolt and Lawrence's part in it.

"I stand holding the rein of Hashum (one of the camels) and take in the scene. A bright red and yellow juggernaut passes over a fly-over above the railway half a mile away that I had not seen."

What causes repeated shocks for the reader is the contrast of

the expedition's lifestyle and mode of transport, as old as time, and the reminders of the modern world.

When miserably shivering, footsore and with no water "suddenly, out of nowhere a huge dark yellow earth mover roars past, the driver dry and warm in his cab."

To write about profound discoveries involving one's own character is in itself a considerable challenge which Charles Blackmore faced with commendable sincerity, to make this book a memorable experience for readers who may indeed learn something about themselves through its pages. - BJ

In the Footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia by Charles Blackmore, published by Harrup. Price £9.95.

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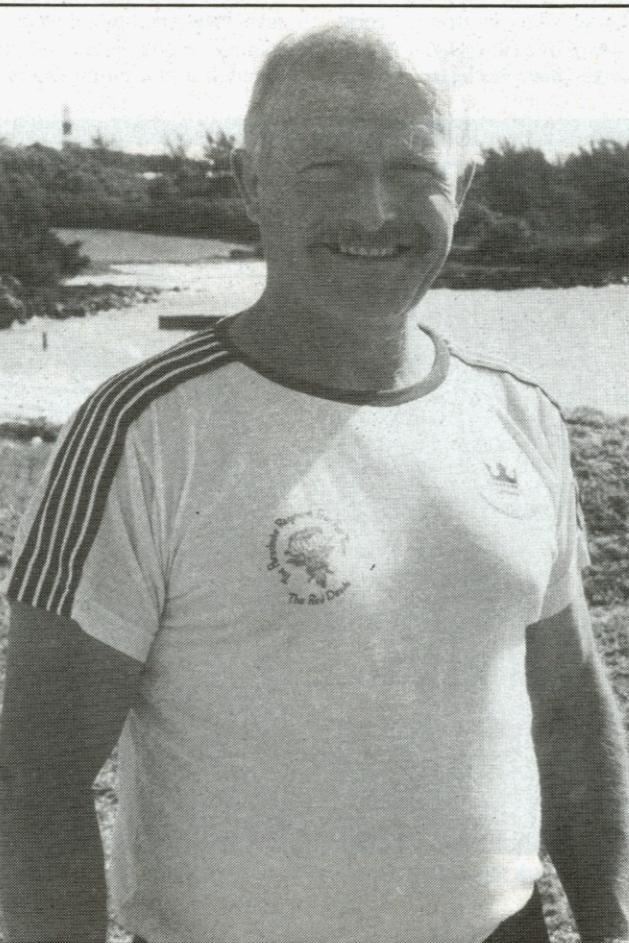
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Ground formation

When photographer Paul Haley discovered the famous Red Devils biking it round Burmuda he persuaded them to close ranks for a formation shot with a difference. They reckon they bear more than a passing resemblance to the White Helmets, the famous motor cycle display team of the Royal Signals!



Red Devils team leader Capt Mickey Munn

RED DEVILS team leader Capt Mickey Munn, who this month celebrates ten years in charge of the world famous free-fall parachute display team, has good reason to remember the sun-drenched holiday isle of Bermuda. He broke his left leg there during the first show jump with the team in 1985 - his one and only accident.

Mickey (52) and ten of his 27-strong team have just spent three weeks giving shows on the island and putting in some squad training during the third visit of the Red Devils to Britain's oldest remaining self-governing colony.

This time there were no mishaps during any of the leader's five descents.

During his ten years of leading the team Mickey has achieved 1,850 free-fall descents.

"My ambition is to log 2,000 jumps and 2,000 hours of

flying," says Mickey.

In Bermuda the team delighted thousands of tourists who craned necks and faces skywards to scan the cloudless skies for the familiar red, white and blue, 220 square-foot Ram-Air canopies.

Highlight of the free-fall demonstration was a ten-man canopy relative work stack. They thrilled the spectators with free-fall expertise from 12,000 feet, hurtling earthwards at 120 mph before opening their 'chutes at 2,000 feet.

For the first time since the team was formed on January 1, 1964, the Red Devils completed a series of night jumps. And they did them from a star-clustered sky above their host base of the US Navy air station which operates Orion P3 sub-hunters.

Mickey plans to lead the airborne team for as long as he is able.

"I'm not going to retire.



Portrait of a proud devil!

They'll have to order me out at gunpoint," joked the former APTC member. "I understand the Army is going to allow specialists to extend their service. I hope I am one of them."

His biggest personal achievement, he says, was the seven-year struggle he had to acquire the team's £680,000 turbine powered Islander (G-RED) which costs about £180 an hour to fly and £27,000 a year to insure.

As he spoke, ten other members of his team were putting on shows in Kenya at the invitation of President Moi.

"The big thing in the parachuting world today is canopy relative work or CRW. I personally think it's a waste of money to go multi-stacking. We took on our red, white and blue colours exactly ten years ago as a mark of respect for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Previously, our chutes were all red."

"It was my proudest moment when the team parachuted into

Kensington Palace to launch the appeal. Prince Charles is our patron and C-in-C of The Parachute Regiment and he was there. So was Lord Maxwell, one of our major supporters, and several MPs. I had the pleasure of taking them round and introducing them to the boys."

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members of his team were putting on shows in Kenya at the invitation of President Moi.

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canopy relative work or CRW.

I personally think it's a waste of money to go multi-stacking. We took on our red, white and blue colours exactly ten years ago as a mark of respect for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Previously, our chutes were all red."

"I would also love to take the team to Australia and New Zealand - there are still strong links between them and the British."

But, in the immediate future, Capt Munn is busy organising a Red Devils' reunion of 136 former jumpers next month.

"Those who can no longer free-fall can jump static line or even in tandem with one of the current team members," he said.

With one exception all team members since 1964 are known to be alive. One is in South Africa, two in the Middle East, one in Australia and another in Florida.

What's left for the mobile Capt Munn and his consuming interest in the team's welfare?

"I would like to write a book on the history of the team," he says.

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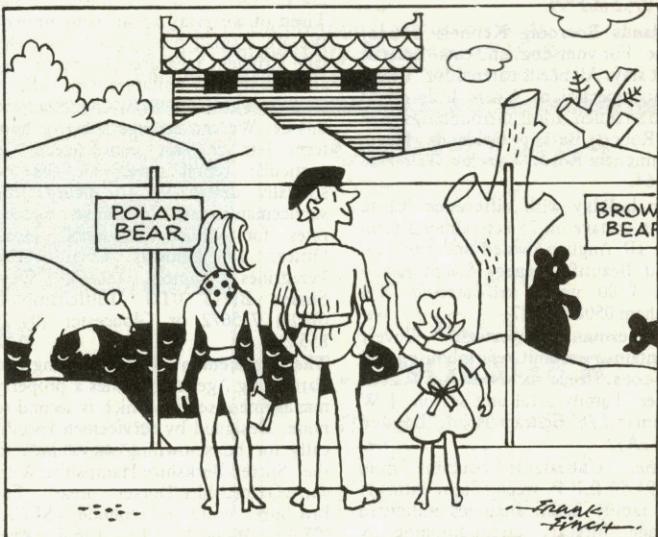
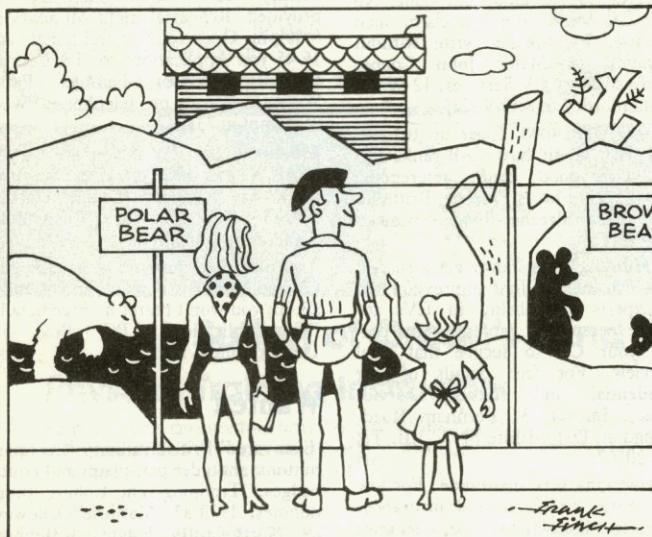
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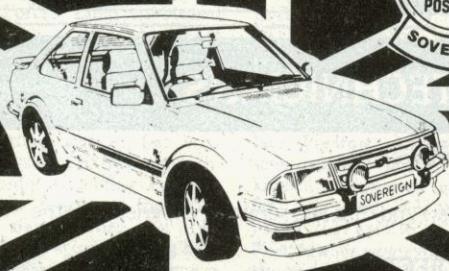
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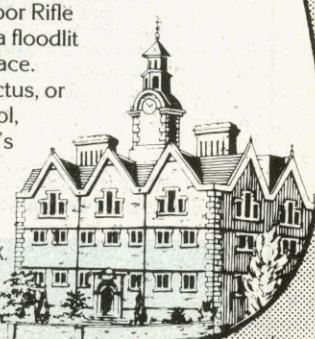
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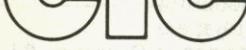
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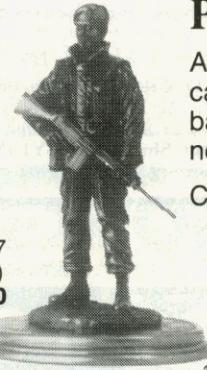
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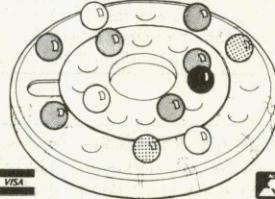
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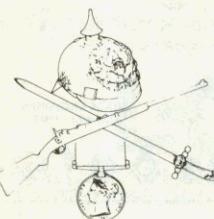
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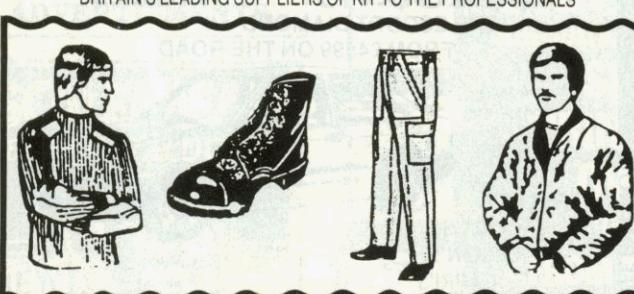
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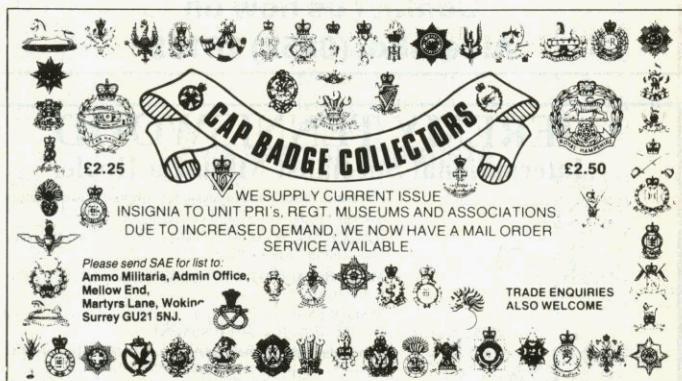
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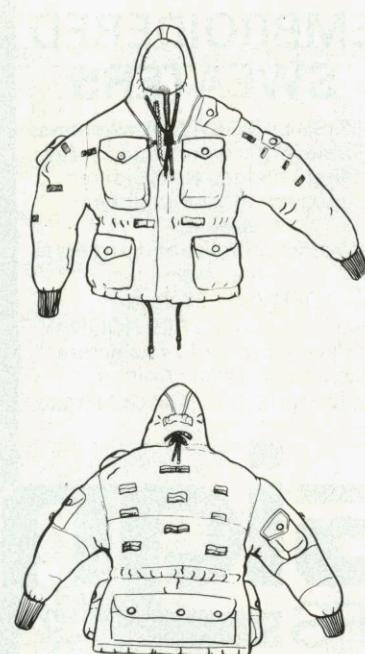
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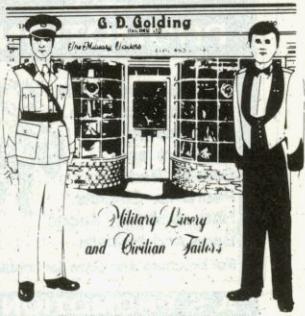
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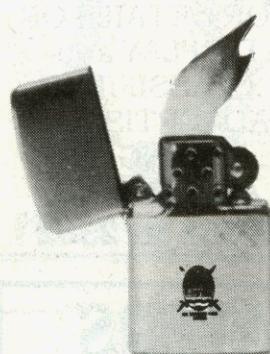
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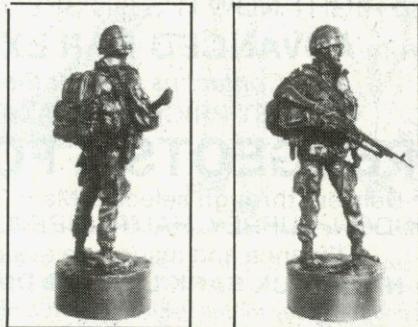
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CALAIS BOUND

LCpl Stephen Clownes R Sigs saves his ferry fare during a tri-marathon completed by 16 soldiers of 1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales between Cardiff and Lemgo, their base in West Germany.

Taking part on a relay basis, the 16 ran 246 miles from Cardiff to Dover, then swam the Channel to Calais and finished off with a 391 mile bicycle ride to Lemgo. As a spin off, the men of 1 RRW collected more than DM 10,000 for German and Welsh charities.

Mud adds gruel to triathlon

REPAIRS to a sluice gate in the lake opposite Old College, Sandhurst, led to a drop in the water level of 18 inches and a very muddy exit for the 260 competitors taking part in the second annual Army Triathlon Association meeting.

Held at the Royal Military Academy, the triathlon drew twice as many competitors as last year and is well on course to becoming a major calendar event.

Sponsored by Allied Breweries and Inter, the meeting drew 30 individual competitors and representatives from 32 major units, 17 minor units and seven women's Services units.

Overall winner was Capt Rob Herring 11 EOD RAOC in a time of 2 hours 11 minutes and 41 seconds. Runner up was Dvr Phil Kibble 47 Air Dispatch Sqn RCT, and third was SSgt Chips Rafferty APTC of 1 Armd Div Tnsport RCT.

The triathlon consisted of a gruelling half mile swim followed by a 30 mile bicycle race and an eight mile cross-country run over the Barossa training area at RMA.

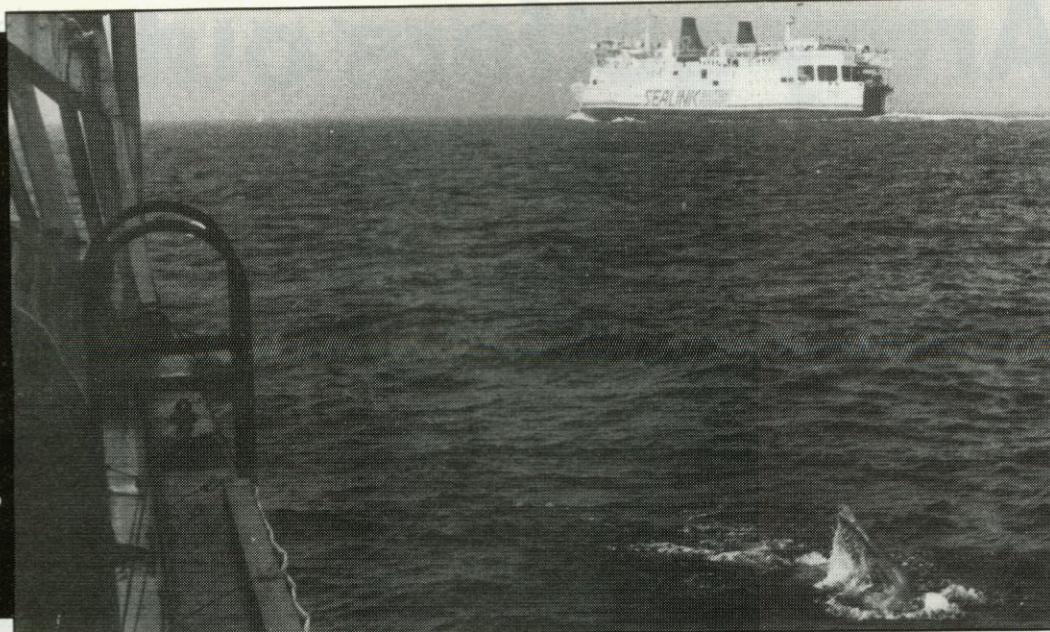
Women's trophy – 1 SSgt Higgs, Bulford and Tidworth Garrison (2.39.47); 2, Cpl Craig 8 Sig Regt; 3, Pte Doolan JHQ Rheindahlen.

Women's team prize – 1, Bulford and Tidworth Garrison.

Veterans – 1, Maj Tony Flood APTC, HQ 4 Armd Div (2.26.55).

Minor units – 1, 47 Air Dispatch RCT.

Major units – 1, 7 RHA.



Young hopefuls out to impress

NEARLY 50 players were given an opportunity to impress the selectors when the Army's centenary year kicked off with four matches nominated for trials, writes Pat Massey.

Deprived of the services of 11 players who were in the Combined Services touring party to Berlin, it really was a searching examination for the young hopefuls. All in all, they acquitted themselves well.

The opening match was a visit to the Vauxhall Opel League side Uxbridge, which ended in a goalless draw.

The home tie against the Amateur Football Alliance was a keenly contested affair which the visitors won by the odd goal

in three. They took the lead in the opening half and when, three minutes from time, Spr Dave McAdams, RE, rose to head home a corner kick, another draw looked certain. But a quick break ended with three Army players and a lone attacker in a heap in the home penalty area. Referee Pillett pointed to the spot and the AFA grabbed the vital winner.

A very inexperienced Army side played like a bunch of rank novices at Wallingford where opponents HM Prison Services won by four goals to three. Following a shaky start, a defensive error by the home side led to a well taken goal by LCpl Rob O'Donnell, Argyll

and Sutherland Highlanders.

Poor defensive work led to an equaliser, but the Army went ahead when a defensive muddle let in LCpl Kenny Steele, RE. A minute later the home side were level again.

Steele netted his second, but the jubilation was short lived when the Prison Services again tied things up. With time running out, the Army 'keeper failed to hold a fierce shot and, with no defenders in sight the home forwards queued up to pop the loose ball home for the winner.

Some experienced players were brought into the side for the visit of Carshalton Athletic to Aldershot. LCpl Colin McDonald, RAOC, certainly gave the back four a more solid look and Cfn Stewart Greenwood, REME, inspired those around him in midfield.

The result was a very competitive goalless draw, although chances were created and missed at both ends.

Undoubtedly the star of a gritty Army side was young goalkeeper Dvr Mark Reeves, RCT, who played a blinder. He made a string of fine saves, and one or two which bordered on the incredible. The longer the game went on, the more unbeatable he looked.

Before the season he was probably fourth or fifth choice as Army custodian.

Combined Services dominate in Berlin

ELEVEN Army players were included in the Combined Services football team for a pre-season tour to Berlin. The Black Watch were beaten 4-0, Berlin club Blau Weiss were hammered 5-1, and Berlin Combined Services defeated 6-2.

The inaugural match between the Army and Jersey at St Helier for the Typhoon Tea Cup ended 2-2 with honours very much even. Cpl Sandy

Brown scored from the penalty spot and Sgt Mickey Spencer added a second.

BAOR FA sources, meanwhile, have confirmed that no charges were brought against Army personnel following crowd trouble at the international football match between West Germany and England at Dusseldorf last month. It had been reported that about 30 Servicemen were detained after the match.

Army golfers outgunned at Aldershot by airmen

THE Inter-Services golf championship was held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot for the first time, a fact which did not help the Army because after defeating the Royal Navy by a slender margin of 7-5, the RAF beat the Army by 8½-3½, having been held 6-6 by the Navy. The trophy was delivered in fine style by the Red Devils freefall parachute team, writes **Mike Everton**.

First off was the match between the Navy and Army. After the morning foursomes, the Army went in to lunch 3-1 in the lead thanks to some fine golf from the Army players. The best play came from Lt Col Ian Pearce and SSgt Ian Gray. In the afternoon, however, the Navy came out with guns blazing to make it 4-4 in the singles – a wonderful performance.

They have found a splendid player in Srgn Lt Philip Guest who leads from the front. He beat Ian Gray by three and two.

Next match was the Navy against the

RAF and again the morning foursomes were the downfall of the seamen, who lost 3-1. But the afternoon turned out to be a very worrying time for the RAF captain. Flt Lt Paul Taylor, because the RAF went down 5-3 in the singles, with the overall score being 6-6, another marvellous effort by the Navy.

The Army only had to tie with the RAF and the Inter-Services title was theirs. The foursomes were keenly fought.

Pearce and Gray at the front eventually went down three and two having found the RAF pair in fine form. SSgt Steve Mariner and Cpl Doug Spiller were two up at one time only to lose by a single hole.

The third match was one of the best seen in Service golf for many years. Cpl Bruce Manners and Cfn Stewart Scott were four down with six to play but fired in three birdies in the last five holes, narrowly missing a putt to make it four birdies out of five.

A great game which ended all square. In the last match the all gunner pairing of Lt Col Nick Fleming and Sgt John Chilvers was well in command at one stage but they lost by two and one after being four up. The Army went to lunch 3½-½ down.

The airmen also won the singles 5-3 and the match by 8½ to 3½ to take the championship.

Mention should be made of Cfn Stewart Scott who is the best prospect in Army golf since SSgt Ian Gray arrived on the scene.

Next year the championship is hosted by the Royal Navy and will be played in Scotland.

The Army team was Lt Col I Pearce ACC, Lt Col N Fleming RA, SSgt S Mariner REME, SSgt I Gray RAOC, SSgt D Cromie UDR, Sgt J Chilvers RA, Cpl D Spiller REME, Cpl B Manners 1 Queens and Cfn S Scott REME.

Devonport hockey plea

ARMY personnel based in the Devon area are being encouraged to support the new United Services Hockey Club which is set to play its first season on grass at Mount Wise, Plymouth. It also has the use of all weather pitches at Brickfields.

The club has been formed to improve Services hockey in the area and will be competing in the Sun Life League Division 2 West.

Contacts are POPTI Ward on Plymouth 557165 or Sub-Lt Porter on Plymouth 777456 (evenings).

Sapper to manage New Zealand tour party



U21s, Colts in new challenge

both to be played between the Royal Navy and RAF games, writes **John Quin**.

For the senior players the main attraction will be the expanded Combined Services fixture list this season which culminates in a trip to New Zealand in May in a Combined Services/British Police tour.

Col Mike Stancombe RE is to be tour manager.

As a build up, Combined Services will be playing Cornwall on October 28 at Penzance, South Korea on December 9 at Aldershot, the French Armed Forces in France in the New Year and British Police in London.

The U21 and Colts Army teams have their own excitement this season. Both are now

involved in the national divisional championships at their different levels. It is good to see those successful sides competing at the highest level.

To do this the U21 season has had to be brought forward and, as well as playing against old friends, the divisional opponents will add bite to the season. Fixtures against Essex, Hertfordshire and Middlesex will be spiced with valuable points for the championship.

Towards the end of the season the U21 players will be aiming for places in the Combined Services U21 team to meet Scotland and Wales.

The Colts face Kent, Herts and Eastern Counties, with a London Divisional play off on November 22.

To add to this there is the small matter of the Army Cup, at both major and minor level. Can 7 RHA and 24 Fd Sqn RE hang on to their trophies?

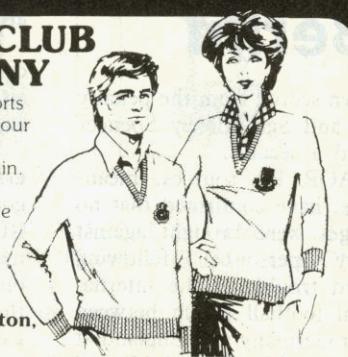
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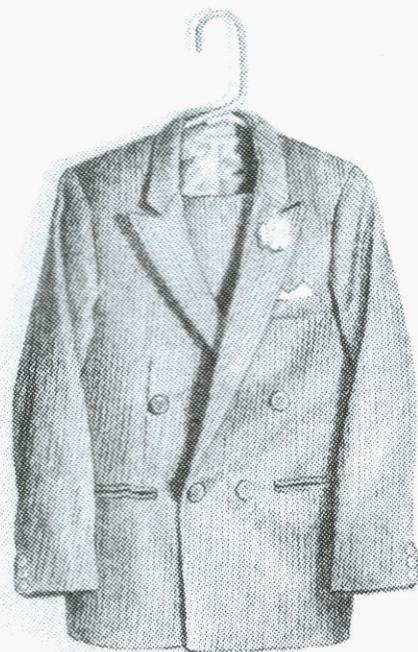
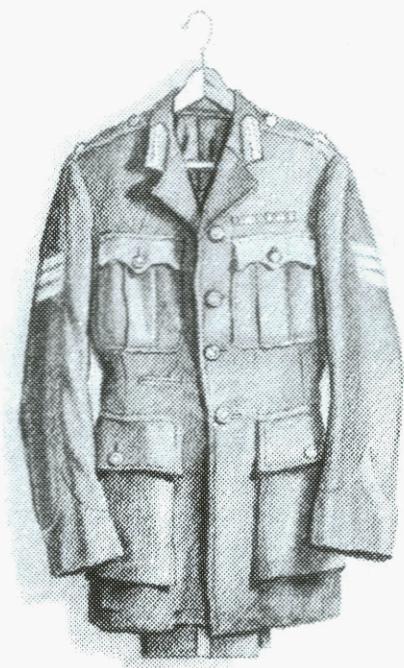
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SOLDIER



An RAF Puma helicopter takes off from Salamanca Camp, Belize, after picking up a patrol for insertion into the jungle

Picture: Terry Champion