

# SOLDIER

MARCH 6 1989

40 PENCE

ROYAL MARINES  
40 COMMANDO  
42 COMMANDO  
45 COMMANDO  
COMMANDO LOGISTIC REGIMENT  
3 COMMANDO BRIGADE  
3 COMMANDO BRIGADE AIR COM  
AIR DEFENCE TROOP  
16 RAIDING SQUADRON  
SPECIAL BOAT SQUADRON  
DAND OF HMFRM CDO FORCES  
Y TROOP  
HQ COMMANDO FORCES  
MOUNTAIN & ARCTIC WARFARE CADRE

ARMY  
THE BRIGADE AND ROYALS  
47th FIELD REGIMENT RA  
12th AIR DEFENCE REGIMENT  
29th COMMANDO REGIMENT RA  
43 AIR DEFENCE BATTERY RA  
145 COMMANDO TFL BATTERY RA  
11 FIELD SQN 38 ENGR REGT  
36 ENGINEER REGIMENT  
59 IND COMMANDO  
5th INF BDE HQ  
30th SIGNAL BDE  
2nd BN SCOTS  
1st BN WELSH  
1st BN 7 DEC  
2nd BN THE P  
3rd BN THE P

24 SAS REGIMENT  
655 SAS

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THOSE WHO  
LIBERATED US

ROBIN FLIES TO FALKLANDS

15/19 H TOGETHER AGAIN

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**FRONT COVER:** Visiting the memorial in Stanley to British units which took part in the 1982 Falklands war had a special poignancy for Maj Tony Douglas (left). He was 2ic of 11 Field Squadron during the war and returned as commander of the same squadron which makes up most of the Falkland Islands Field Squadron. He is pictured with Sgt Maj Peter Shields. Falklands stories – see Pages 25-27.

Picture: Mike Perring



# SOLDIER

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



**What have these two characters got in common? Both are aspiring members of the world famous Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle display team. To join this elite unit, you have to suffer the bomb hole swimming pool and learn to ride backwards. It's tough, but only the best will do. Read all about the selection course in the next issue. Also your new pay rates, AMF(L) in Norway and more from the Falklands.**

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## VOL. 45/5

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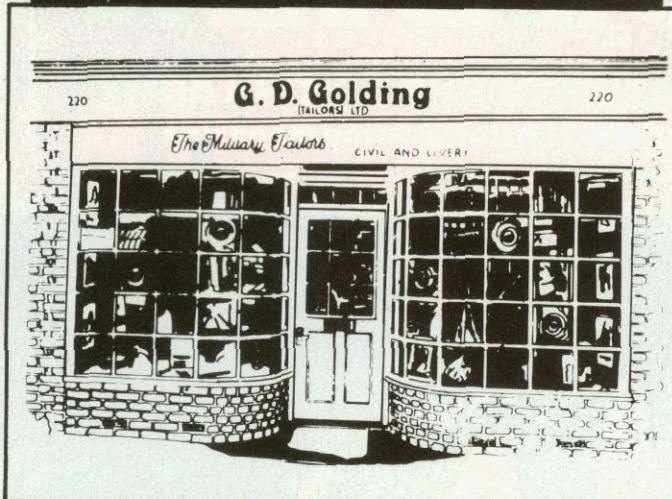
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# LETTERS

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## More kit that's 'not good enough'

The title of Gunner McCreedy's letter (SOLDIER, February 6) "Some kit not good enough" should, in my opinion, be changed to "Is any kit good enough?" I'd make that list very short!

I would include Challenger, SA 80 and cooking outfits No 4 and No 5 in the very long list of equipment deserving criticism.

Warrior came on the drawing board around 1971. I remember its trials at ITDU in 1982. Problems still haven't been

sorted as defects mount up. At least the ASM lets me use my own metric socket set to carry out my job on Warrior. The expense is obviously too great for the Army to provide its tradesmen with all the tools required for the job.

On a final note, if the equipment we have is the best we can afford then it is about time someone gave us value for money. - Cpl J Milejski 981, 1 The Royal Scots, LAD REME, BFPO 103.

## Kohima nightmare

I could not believe my eyes when I saw a picture in SOLDIER (February 6). A woman in the midst of the Kohima Regimental Band of The Queens, TA! How ridiculous. It just does not look right.

The tradition of the British

Army cannot allow this to happen. Can you imagine a band of The Queens TA marching down the street with a woman? It is a nightmare!

The only thing left to say is "knickers". - D J Macleod, 16 Beachcroft Place, Lancing, Sussex.

## FLAG OUTRAGE

Results of the 13th annual Army Photographic Competition appear in SOLDIER (January 2). I would like to know if Cpl Scott's Regimental Sergeant Major approves of the winning photograph entitled

"Parade Gloss".

How does he feel about the placing of a pair of boots on the Union Flag? This is no way to treat the national flag. - John Tiley, PO Box 1022, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, USA.

## Medal came later

Your article on Mackinnon Road (January 23) reminded me of how I got my Africa General Service Medal with Kenya clasp - 17 years after I qualified for it.

I was introduced at a reception of the VC/GC Association to the Duke of Edinburgh who was interested to learn that his then ADC, Col Orr, and I had served together in Kenya during the Mau Mau

troubles there.

When it was noticed that my medals did not include the Africa medal I explained that I had received no reply to my application for it.

Prince Philip advised me to re-apply, and the result was that I got the medal!

My service in East Africa was with the East African Pioneer Corps. - R Rimmer, GC, 27 S George's, Chester CH1 3HG.

## A very fine march

May I be permitted to add to T M Brown's letter in SOLDIER (January 23). While P B Smith was Bandmaster to the QRIH he wrote the very fine march *Brigade Star* which, for the benefit of military band buffs, has been recorded by the Band

of The Royal Corps of Transport.

Many thanks to Rodney Bashford for his eagerly awaited record reviews. Could this not be a fortnightly feature? - H Woods, 5 Beckdale, Uttoxeter, Staffs.

## Even the animals had snow shoes...

The letter "Mountain memories" in SOLDIER (February 6) brought back many memories. I was with the pack transport in the 52(L) Mountain Division and well remember the many hundreds of mules, horses and ponies employed by the mountain artillery and RASC as well as a Norwegian pack unit.

Long and arduous exercises were carried out in the Highlands during the winter. Even the animals were issued with snow shoes and I recall a demonstration of the building of snow stables by a Norwegian liaison officer who handed out diagrams which I still possess.

I also have a copy of the *Evening News* of May 12, 1945 with the headline "Norway Invasion Halted at Last Minute" and stating that although the division had been absorbed into the 21st Army Group in Holland, it was earmarked with others to be withdrawn for the invasion of Norway should this be necessary. The projected operation was known by the code name "Apostle".

The pack animals remained "standing to" in Scotland until the end of the war in Europe and were then mostly sold at horse sales throughout the country. - R A Hill, Maj Ret'd, 8 Melbourne Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0JA.

## Calling...

Mr A J Turrell, 10 Downsmeade, 30 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN21 1JS, is trying to contact old friends from 660 AOP Sqn RAF or RA (1942-5).

National Servicemen who served in the regimental police section, **Royal Army Pay Corps Training Centre**, Waller Barracks, Devizes from March 57-December 58. Ex Cpl Derek Pilkington, 38 Wolseley

## Reunions

The AGM and reunion of **Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry Association** will be held at the TA Centre, Marsh Rd, Leagrave, Luton, on March 18 at 7.30pm. Details from secretary Mr Ron Currell (tel 0733 61099).

Reunion for former and serving members of **B Company (Hampshire) of 1st and 2nd Bns The Wessex Regiment** will be at Newburgh House, Winchester, on April 22 at 7.45pm. Details from Mr Ian Taylor (tel 0703 694771).

**138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association** annual reunion will be at the Victory Services Club, London, on April 24. Details from Mr Frank H Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Heston, Hounslow, Middx TW5 0PW.

Golden anniversary reunion for those who enlisted as aircrew in the **Empire (British Commonwealth) Air Forces** between April 29, 1940 and September 3, 1945 will be held in Perth, Western Australia, between April 21-30, 1990. Details from the Agent General for Western Australia, Western Australia House, 115 Strand, London WC2R 0AJ.

The 37th annual meeting and luncheon of the **3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club** will be at the Victory Services Club, London on March 18. Details from Maj K N Smartt, Imber, Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU.

The reunion of ex members of **150th Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars) RHA Old Comrades' Association** will be at the Strathdon Hotel, Nottingham, on April 8 at 7pm. Details from Cyril Leivers, 33 Chetwin Rd, Bilborough, Nottingham NG8 4HJ (tel 0602 284107).

**201 RCZ Wksp REME(V)** 18th mess reunion will be at the Post House Hotel, Allesley, Coventry, on May 6. Details from Maj Ron Smith, 6 St Johns Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NF.

Rd, Rush Green, Romford RM7 0BS, hopes to organise a reunion.

Men who fought with the **2nd Bn The Royal Sussex** in the First World War. Mr B Cane, 6 Ramstone Close, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6QY, whose father won the MM in the assault on the blockhouse on the Sambre-Oise canal in November 1918, would like to hear from survivors of the campaign.



Off to China to do some caving are Simon Yat Wa Chan and SSgt Dave Jenkins

## Army cavers to blaze a China trail

THE VIRTUES of pot noodles will be introduced to China during the British Army's caving expedition behind the Bamboo Curtain, writes Doug McArthur.

And on hand to do the explaining will be Simon Yat Wa Chan, a student at Swansea University, whose home is in Hong Kong.

Simon has never been caving before, and confesses that he doesn't much like pot noodles either, but the coincidence of his studying at Swansea and being fluent in Mandarin Chinese was too good to miss. Simon, a civil servant at home in Hong Kong, was a member of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, and when he moved to Swansea he joined the university's Officer Training Corps.

Oldest man on the trip, 56-year-old SSgt Dave Jenkins from Cwmbarla, Swansea, another caving novice, is going along as cook. Dave, a TA soldier who works for the Ford Motor Company in Swansea, has been given special time off for the trip.

The expedition in July and August this year will take a team of Army cavers under the

Bamboo Curtain to one of the world's most remote areas.

Mounted from South Wales, the expedition will involve personnel from all three Services, stationed both in Britain and Germany. Most of the training for the two month expedition to the Heavenly Mountains of North West China is being carried out in the cave systems of South Wales.

"We don't know what we will find because the area is so remote, and information is difficult to obtain," said team leader WO2 Ian James, Permanent Staff Instructor with 223 Squadron (V) of the Royal Corps of Transport based at the TA Centre, The Grange, Swansea.

"This will be the first scientific expedition ever mounted by westerners into the area, although travellers have reported large cave entrances in the area."

Royal Geographical Society approval has been granted to the expedition, the largest ever mounted by the Army Caving Association.

The team of 16 will travel to Hong Kong and then on to Beijing in July, then into the hinterland by train and bus.

**FERRY WELL DONE!**

It's Ship Ahoy for three SOLDIER readers who entered the HOAY competition in which P and O European Ferries offered free Channel crossings. Winner of the competition is SSgt Drage, of Parklands, Rochford, Essex, who receives a free Channel crossing for a car and four people, and runners-up are Cpl Howard, Det 11 PC Sqn RE, BFPO 46, and ex SSgt Mr W Wood, West St, Banwell, Avon, who each receive a free Channel crossing for a car and two people.



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## Bashful Paul commended

SIGMN Paul Meredith (left) saved a man lying unconscious after a road accident in Harrogate, Yorks but modestly made light of the incident when he returned to his unit.

But the driver made a good recovery and so grateful was his father, a retired Army officer, that he wrote to Paul's commanding officer asking that he receive some form of official recognition.

Now serving with the Joint Service Signals Unit at RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands, Paul has received a GOC's Commendation from Air Vice-Marshal David Crwys-Williams, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands.

Paul applied first aid to the injured driver while directing passers-by to flag down traffic and call for help.

## Pay rises average 6.8%

### MoD pledge on NI allowances

THE Government has accepted the 1989 report of the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay. Increases in basic pay range from five to eight per cent and average 6.8 per cent.

The monthly take home pay of a single Class IV private goes up from £259.47 to £272.03.

A major's take-home pay goes up (on appointment) from £990.61 to £1,056.16.

Major generals now have an annual salary of £43,100.

The X factor which "compensates Service personnel for the overall balance of advantages and disadvantages of military as compared with civilian life" remains unchanged.

Northern Ireland, Falkland Islands and South Georgia pay is increased from £2.75 to £2.95 a day from April 1.

The report states: "Personnel serving in Northern Ireland are required to work exceptionally long hours, and in particular do substantially more work during unsocial hours than the generality of Service personnel."

It adds: "MoD has informed us that in the coming year it is to review various other allowances and conditions of service applicable to Northern Ireland. We shall look with interest at

MoD's findings, as we are conscious that personnel are concerned with their total remuneration."

The reports says that "we wish in particular to receive evidence about the remuneration of the UDR, including allowances and other benefits."

On housing, the report says that the "serious maintenance problems which have been allowed to accumulate over many years cannot all be resolved immediately" but expresses the view that the introduction of local responsibility budgets should give local commanders greater freedom to establish priorities.

"We see it as short sighted to expect Servicemen and women to accept poor accommodation, and believe that, at the least, priority should be given to clearing the backlog of remedial work."

Referring to a recent report of the Public Accounts Committee, the AFPRB supports the conclusion that more should be done to provide opportunities for employing dependants in Germany and elsewhere.

"We believe this may be a major factor in determining the Services' ability to retain their experienced officers and NCOs."

	Current	New
Field Marshal .....	85,250	89,500
General .....	68,500	72,000
Lt General .....	48,000	50,400
Major General .....	39,000	43,100
Brigadier .....	36,555	38,748
Colonel .....	30,514	32,346
After 2 years .....	31,317	33,197
4 years .....	32,120	34,047
6 years .....	32,923	34,898
8 years .....	33,726	35,748
Lieut Col .....	26,459	28,050
After 2 years .....	27,156	28,788
4 years .....	27,853	29,525
6 years .....	28,550	30,262
8 years .....	29,247	30,999
Major .....	19,053	20,404
After 1 year .....	19,528	20,907
2 years .....	20,002	21,411
3 years .....	20,476	21,915
4 years .....	20,951	22,418
5 years .....	21,426	22,922
6 years .....	21,900	23,426
7 years .....	22,375	23,929
8 years .....	22,849	24,433
Captain .....	14,987	16,184
After 1 year .....	15,392	16,622
2 years .....	15,797	17,060
3 years .....	16,202	17,498
4 years .....	16,608	17,936
5 years .....	17,013	18,374
6 years .....	17,418	18,812
Lieutenant .....	11,881	12,713
After 1 year .....	12,195	13,049
2 years .....	12,509	13,385
3 years .....	12,822	13,720
4 years .....	13,136	14,056
Second Lieutenant .....	9,030	9,662
Officer Cadet .....	6,336	6,782

#### Other ranks

Scale B (men committed to 6 years' or more but less than 9 years' service)

	Band 4		Band 5		Band 6		Band 7	
	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
WO 1	13,512	14,337	14,615	15,512	15,823	16,801	17,126	18,192
WO 2	12,640	13,450	13,742	14,626	14,950	15,914	16,253	17,305
SSgt	11,830	12,585	12,932	13,760	14,140	15,049	15,443	16,440
Sgt	11,125	11,906	12,228	13,082	13,436	14,370	—	—

	Band 1		Band 2		Band 3	
	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cpl I .....	10,180	10,903	11,195	11,990	12,297	13,169
Cpl II .....	9,846	10,162	10,501	11,249	11,603	12,428
LCpl I .....	8,818	9,446	9,833	10,534	10,935	11,713
LCpl II .....	8,198	8,778	9,213	9,866	10,315	11,045
LCpl III .....	7,160	8,136	8,625	9,224	9,727	10,402
Pte I .....	7,610	8,136	8,625	9,224	9,727	10,402
Pte II .....	7,019	7,504	8,034	8,592	9,136	9,771
Pte III .....	6,282	6,716	7,296	7,804	8,399	8,983
Pte IV .....	5,705	6,063	—	—	—	—

Scale A (men committed to less than 6 years' service) — deduct £109.50 a year from the above rates.

Scale C (men committed to, or who have completed, more than 9 years' service) — add £164.25 a year to the above rates.

• A supplement on the new pay figures will appear in the next issue.

### Airmobile brigades linked

MEMBERS of 27 Luftlande Brigade have been visiting Catterick to establish the "Patenschaft" (bond of friendship) with 24 Airmobile Brigade.

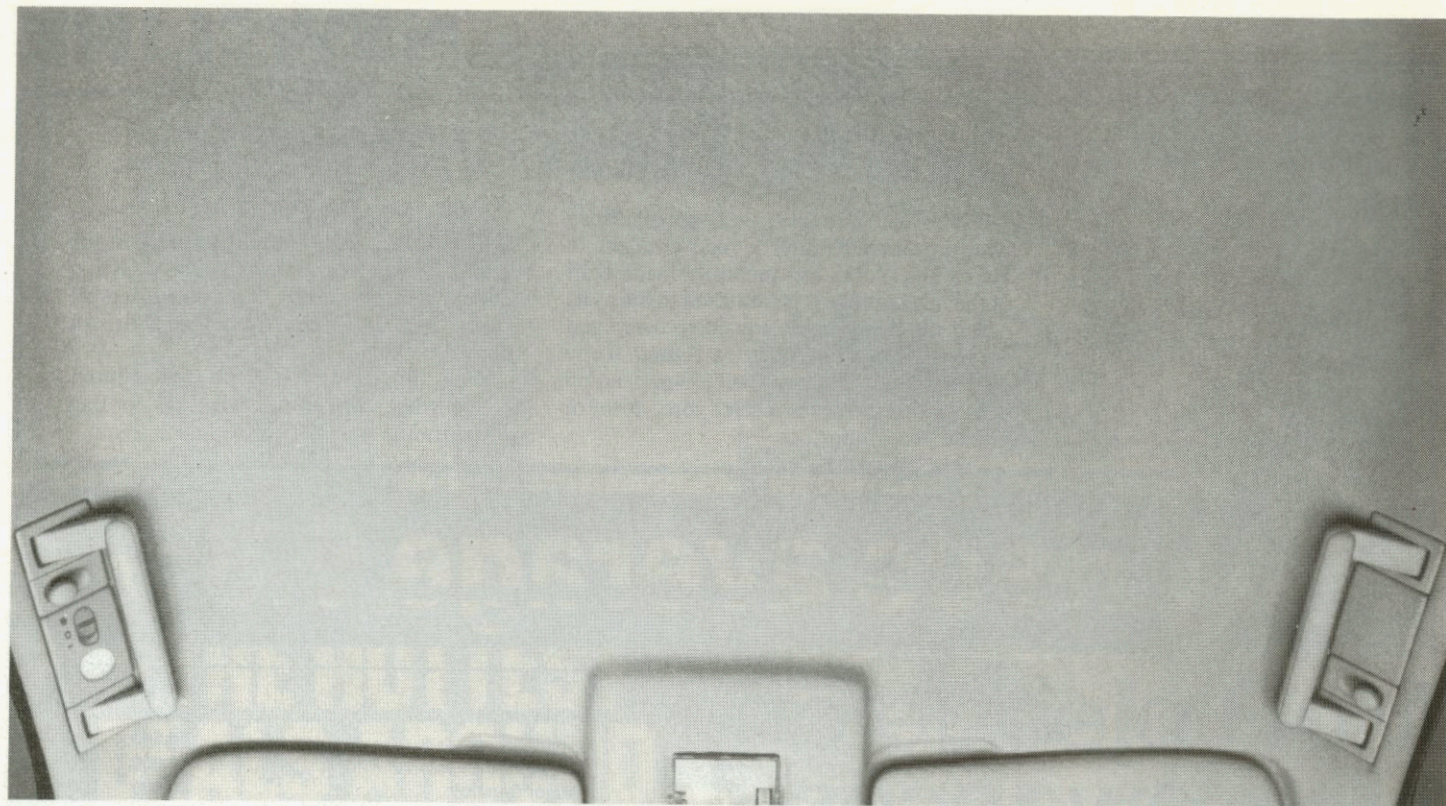
The formal affiliation between the two brigades was set up just under a year ago when 24 converted to the airmobile role.

The "Patenschaft" ceremony was taking place at Cambrai Barracks with

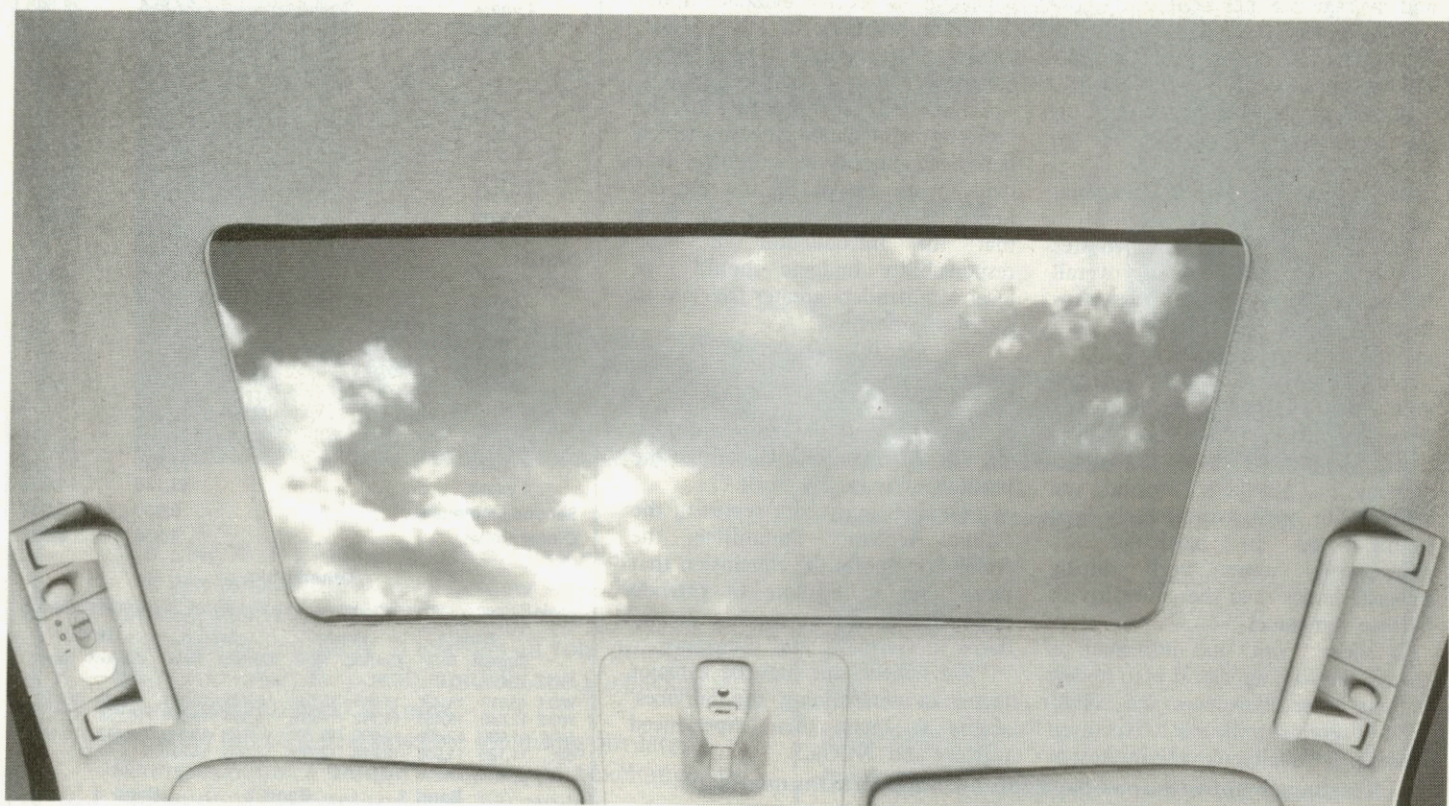
the Band of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Bugles of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, in attendance.

27 Luftlande Brigade is based at Lippstadt, West Germany. Twenty five members of the brigade under Oberst Dietrich Kams were hosted by Brig George Kennedy, Commander 24 Airmobile Brigade and a similar group from his brigade.





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## **HAC honour guard**

The Queen reviews a guard of honour provided by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Guildhall, when she attended a luncheon to mark the 800th anniversary of the mayoralty of the City of London. She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh

# Paras to drop in on California

BRITISH, American, Canadian and Australian ground, airborne and amphibious troops will be taking part in a joint exercise in California, the first of its kind for many years. It will involve 1st Bn, The Parachute Regiment, the 2nd Bn, 21st Infantry (USA), the 3rd Bn, Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry and the 6th Bn, Royal Australian Regiment.

The exercise, codenamed Caltrop Force, is at brigade level, and is designed to develop and test tactics and areas of inter-operability. It will be directed from Fort Hunter-Liggett, in California, and the units will be operating against an imaginary foe under the control of a US brigade headquarters at Fort Ord, also in California.

More than 5,000 soldiers will be taking part. On March 17 1 Para will make an assault parachute drop from C141 aircraft at last light. Between March 19-28 the joint forces will take part in ground battles with helicopter and aircraft support.

The origins of the exercise are to be found in the close co-operation between the Allies during the Second World War. After the war Gen Eisenhower and Fd Marshal Montgomery decided that much could be achieved by developing joint procedures and standardisation among allied armies.

The grouping of the four nations taking part in Caltrop Force, while operating outside Nato, share much common ground with it.



The history of O Battery (The Rocket Troop), 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery has been brought up to date by German military historian Herr Peter Arndt. He is pictured presenting a copy of his book about the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 to the Battery Commander, Maj Andrew Gillespie

## Sapper climbers first to peak

TWELVE members of 25 Engineer Regiment in Osnabruck, West Germany who set out to become the first Britons to climb the second tallest peak in Malaysia, not only managed it much faster than expected but filled in their spare time by attempting the highest peak as well.

Their original target at Sabah, the most northerly state on the island of Borneo, was

Mt Grand Trus Madi (8,830ft). After conquering that they turned their attention to Mt Kinabalu. But once they had reached their final rest stop before the peak at 11,000ft, bad weather forced them to abandon the attempt.

The volunteers from 16 Field Squadron were led by Lt John Glover and SSgt Pete Chatfield.

## Tern Hill blast

AN accommodation block at Tern Hill Camp, near Shrewsbury, the home of 2 Para, has been razed to the ground in a series of early morning explosions, believed to have been caused by bombs.

Most of the soldiers were on weekend leave. One person was slightly injured by flying glass. Sentries fired at two figures seen running away, but no one was hit.



## We've heard that voice before



The voice of Sgt **Dave Murray** (above), is far more familiar to Falkland Islanders than his face – thanks to the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC). While serving in Belize, he did a stint with BFBS and was delighted to go back on the airwaves at Mount Pleasant airport with a weekly late night show.

Meanwhile SSVC also provides a spare time interest for Falklands based Sgt **Tim Comyns** (inset left) who regularly monitors output for the corporation.



## LSGC puts Philip in an exclusive club

Capt **Philip Whittaker**, RE, joined a fairly exclusive club when he received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Gen Sir **John Akehurst**, DSACEUR. He became one of only five serving officers who have attended the Royal Military



Academy, Sandhurst to have subsequently received the LSGC medal.

Philip, who was accompanied by his wife **Carole** when he was presented with the medal, is serving with 4 Postal and Courier Regiment, RE, at SHAPE in Belgium.

## Lowland Vols on the ball

Three members of the 1st Bn Lowland Volunteers based in Glasgow earned a few Brownie points for British military expertise during a two week training attachment with the German unit Verteidigungskreiscommando 321 (VKK 321).

2nd Lt **Steven Bollen** of E (HLI Coy) and Sgt **Nick McEvoy** of HQ (Glasgow Highlanders) Coy, both from Maryhill, Glasgow, and WO2 **Frank Austin** of F (HSF) Coy, from Ayr, trained

with the German reservists before joining them on exercise. The Scots came up trumps by finding dummy charges which had never been discovered on previous exercises.



New Commander of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) is Brig **Jack Deverell** (above), a former commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry.

Before taking up his new post as commander of UKMF, the 1st Infantry Brigade and Tidworth Garrison, Brig Deverell was on the Directing Staff at RMCS Shrivenham.

A keen sportsman, Brig Deverell played rugby for Bath, Dorset and Wiltshire and has represented the Army and Combined Services at cricket. He plays golf and rackets and rides.



The passing out parade at Depot and Training Regiment, RCT in Buller Barracks, Aldershot was particularly special for New Zealand twins **Mathew** (left) and **Simon Mortilboy**. The 24-year-old brothers, who came specially to the UK to join the British Army because they believe it is the best in the world, received the Grant Memorial Trophy, awarded for special

achievement. It was donated by the father of Dvr Lee Grant, who tragically died from natural causes during basic training last year.

Mathew, who is in A Troop, and Simon, in B Troop, are awaiting HGV driver training before posting.

They have a brother in the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport, and their father is a brigadier in the New Zealand Territorial Army.



**BABY SAPPERS:** Cpl Pettit and Sam; Lt Welsh and Alannah; Cpl Carr and Louise

## They're starting young in Alamein Troop!

Junior Leaders Regiment RE at Old Park Barracks, Dover has a responsibility to train youngsters, but you can't get much younger than this trio being held by their proud dads. Soon after Lt **John Welsh** became Commander Alamein Troop he discovered that **Denise** and **Alyson**, the wives of his two permanent staff corporals, Cpl **Dickie Carr** and Cpl **Nick Pettit**, were expecting their first babies – as was his own wife, **Lorraine**.

The babies arrived within four weeks of each other.

Cpl Carr is about to leave the Army but his replacement, Sgt **Brian Currie**, is obviously the right man for the job. He and his wife **Anne** have a six month old baby. Alamein Troop trains Junior Leaders – and provides the local creche!

## PEOPLE

### A girl in a thousand!

Vivacious Capt **Julia Palmer**, who is based at Mount Pleasant airport in the Falkland Islands is one of only two WRAC officers among 2,000 male colleagues from the three Services. She was previously a personnel selection officer at Guildford and returns to the UK as training co-ordinator at the RMP Training Centre at Chichester, West Sussex.

She admits: "I am being spoiled rotten. There are only five women tri-Service officers here altogether and we get invited to every party and every dinner."

Capt Palmer has a busy six day working week. Her duties are wide ranging and include welfare, discipline and VIP and CSE visits.



**ISLAND ROLE:** Capt Julia Palmer, WRAC, is pictured beside an Argentine Pucarra aircraft in a hangar at Mount Pleasant airport



Here's a sight to strike fear into the heart of the bravest young soldier! Twenty three regimental sergeant majors from 4 Armd Div

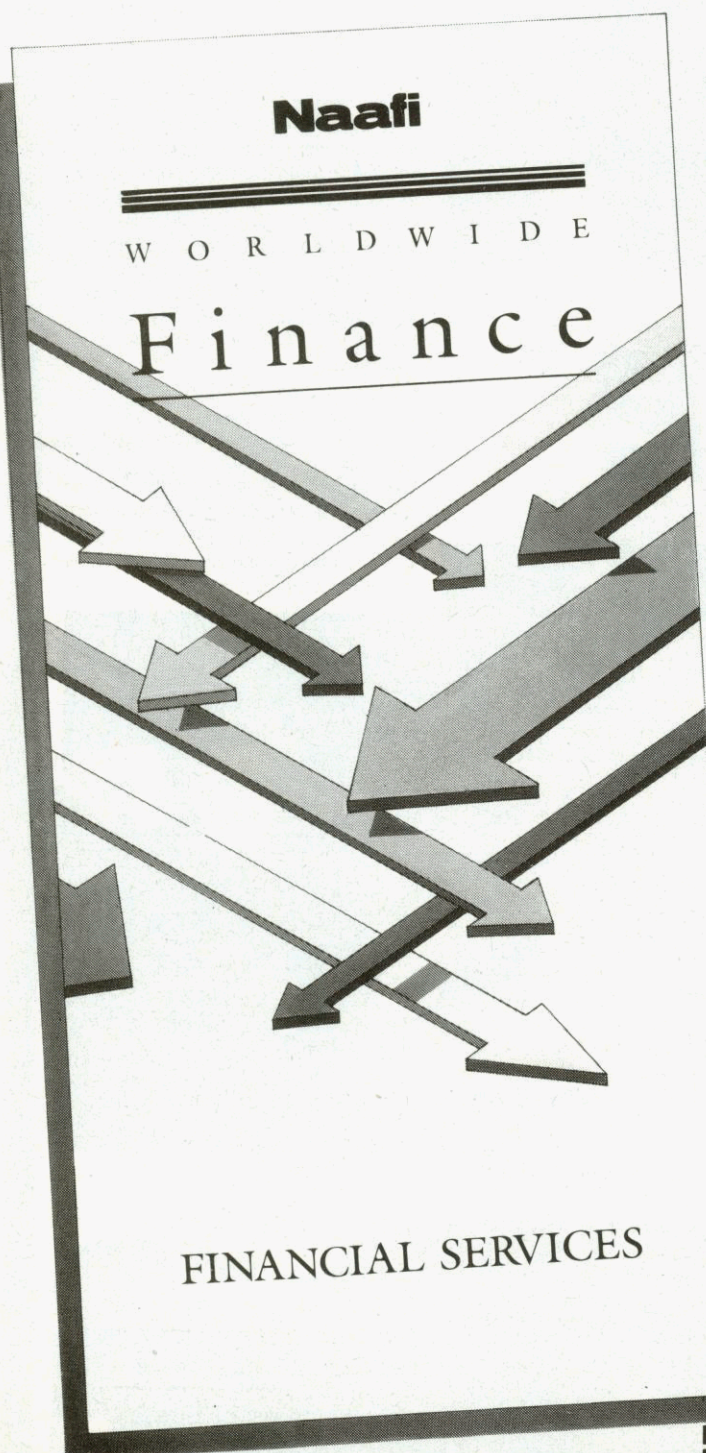
got together in Herford, West Germany for an RSMs' convention hosted by Commander 4 Armd Div, Maj Gen **Willie Rous** (centre).

Discussions at the convention included the increasing problem of retaining trained soldiers in the Army.



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# Bury museum gets third Victoria Cross

Although the Lancashire Fusiliers won more Victoria Crosses than any other regiment during the First World War, only two were in its regimental museum – now it has a third.

The newly acquired VC was awarded to 2nd Lt John Schofield, the young son of a Blackburn fish merchant, who led nine men in a counter-attack against more than a hundred Germans, and captured 123 of them before being killed by a burst of machine gun fire minutes later.

The medal has been presented to the museum – at Wellington Barracks, Bury – by Mrs Janet Pratt, Schofield's niece and at 86 the last surviving member of his family to have known him.

One VC was sold recently for £104,000. Commented Maj John Hallam, regimental secretary and museum curator: "A museum such as ours cannot hope to raise such prices. That is why Mrs Pratt's gift is so incredibly generous."

## SOLDIER to Soldier

### CHEERS!

The Marquess of Granby – described by Dickens in *The Pickwick Papers* as "the gentleman with the apoplectic countenance" – deserves having his name and countenance outside countless public houses.

When the marquess won the Battle of Warburg in 1760 he generously ordered 300,000 pints of porter to be drunk by the men of his regiment!

Pensioners from Chelsea Hospital raised a toast to him when Sir Joshua Reynolds's painting of the marquess was put on display at the National Army Museum next door.

The painting, showing the marquess in the uniform of a colonel of the Horse Guards, was bought by the museum for £175,000.

### Dated tank

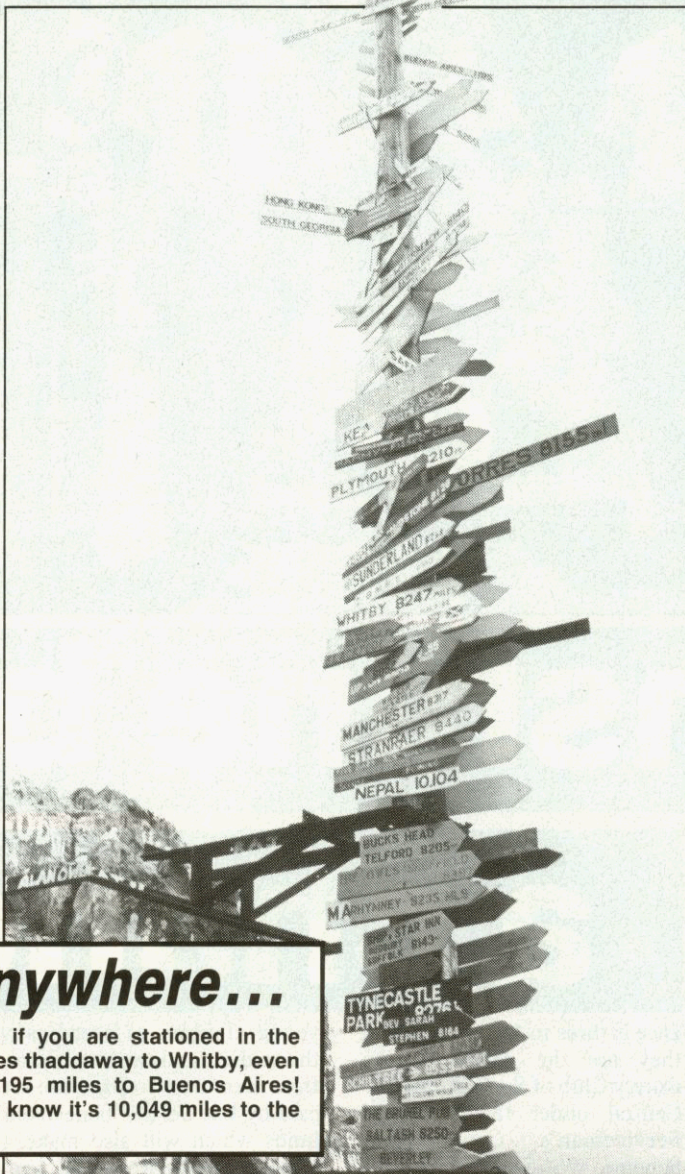
Although the Chieftain tank will remain in Army service into the late 1990s, two are already on display in British museums.

One of them has just been added to the collection of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambs, best known for its aircraft.

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

## Miles from anywhere...

It must be comforting to know, if you are stationed in the Falklands, that it's only 8,247 miles thaddaway to Whitby, even less to Telford, and a mere 1,195 miles to Buenos Aires! Although why you would want to know it's 10,049 miles to the North Pole is anyone's guess



Picture: Mike Perring

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Pictured (from left to right) at the Land Warfare Centre (formerly the Jungle Training Centre) at Canungra, Australia for the dedication of a memorial to Australian soldiers are Gdsmn Ossie Osborn, SG, LCpl Nobby Clarke, 3 Para, LCpl Martin Sankey, 9 Para Sqn, RE, and Fus Pat Provis, RWF.

Fus Provis lost an arm in a mortar attack in Northern Ireland in November 1987, LCpl Sankey was hit by mortar fire during the Falklands War and had 15 operations, including the amputation of his lower left leg, and LCpl Clarke was wounded during the battle for Mount Longdon in the Falklands and subsequently had his lower left leg amputated.

He and Martin Sankey are awaiting medical discharges. Both were accompanied in Australia by their wives.

## Aussies extend Vietnam scheme to include British wounded

# Sunshine break gives a chance to heal

THERE is praise from all quarters for a little known scheme under which British Servicemen, wounded in operations, can take a sunshine break on the Gold Coast of Queensland, Australia.

Exercise Good Samaritan, as it is known, is available to Northern Ireland and Falklands veterans, and about 20 have travelled Down Under on the scheme since 1983.

Their period of convalescence is three to four weeks, and they are the guests of the Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Central under the Wounded Serviceman's Convalescent Scheme (WSCS). In some cases provision is made for wives and

young children to accompany the soldier, and return air fares from Heathrow to Brisbane are paid by UK Service benevolent funds which will also make a donation to the Rotarians, and, if needed, provide pocket

money for the soldier. WSCS was originally started by the late Mr Ken Bromley, primarily for Australian casualties in Vietnam. In 1980 he offered to extend it to British casualties from Northern Ire-

land. Later Falklands casualties were also accepted.

UK Servicemen stayed as Mr Bromley's guests in his bungalow on the Gold Coast until he died in 1982. Although the scheme was temporarily halted by his death, it was revived by the Rotary Club.

The bungalow was sold and the whole of Mr Bromley's estate was devoted to a fund which pays for the soldier's bed, breakfast, evening meal and minor incidental expenses at the Islander Quality Inn during their stay.

The Gold Coast is Australia's premier holiday resort with fine sandy beaches and every social amenity.

Although the soldiers are on duty throughout their stay, attached to the British Defence Liaison Staff in Canberra, informality is the key note and they don't take their uniforms with them.

They are advised to take their driving licences, as it is possible for a car to be provided for them.

Soldiers wishing to be considered for the scheme can be nominated by their regiment, and applications are considered by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, and the Defence Services Rehabilitation Centre at RAF Headley Court in Epsom.



Gdsmn Ossie Osborn is the match of many an able bodied athlete. His medals were won at a variety of sports, including road racing, swimming, field athletics and power lifting

Picture: Mike Perring

and the opportunities endless." Ossie lost a leg at Mt Tumbledown and is still serving in the Army. He is attached to the Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks, where he is a swimming instructor awaiting the return of the battalion from Belize.

A wheelchair athlete, he has more than 605 medals to his credit with some won competing against the able bodied. While in Australia he did some flying, passed his speedboat driving licence and also got in some Chinese dragonboat racing!

He now has a private pilot's licence and has passed a number of O and A levels since

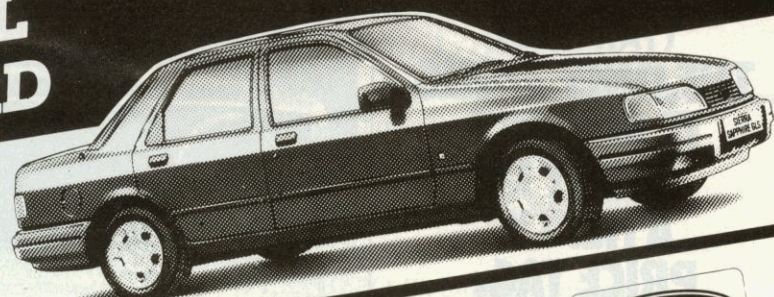
being wounded.

He was in Australia at the same time as Fus Pat Provis (21) of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who lost an arm and had the other badly mutilated by a mortar attack in Northern Ireland in November 1987. He hopes to return to his battalion to join the Intelligence Section and plans to marry soon. His best man? Ossie!

Maj Mervyn Colenso-Jones, the MoD officer who co-ordinates the scheme, said: "The Australians are to be praised for their great kindness and generosity. The scheme is very much appreciated and is of immense benefit."

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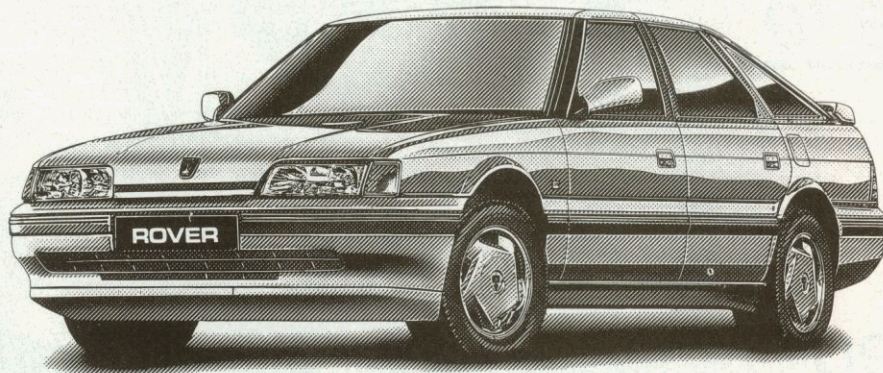
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# New Devil in charge

CAPT Mike Muir has just taken over one of the Army's most prestigious and high profile jobs – he is the new OC of the Red Devils freefall parachute team, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

He moves from 2ic of the Junior NCOs' Division (Aldershot) Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry.

He sees his new job as challenging and demanding, especially as he is not a free fall parachutist like the pool of 26 soldiers (including one woman) he has to choose from to put on the team's internationally acclaimed display.

He said: "It is not a drawback because my job is managerial and commanding but I will be learning to free fall in the next few months."

Mike, who is 39, joined up in 1968 and most of his career



Picture: Mike Weston

Capt Micky Munn (right) with Capt Mike Muir, new OC of the Red Devils

has been with 1 Para. He has served as an instructor at Depot Para and at RMA Sandhurst and also spent six months in Zimbabwe with the British Military Advisory Training Team. He was commissioned in 1987.

This year the Red Devils display team has 200 engagements at 150 venues.

They are largely self-

financed by appearance fees and sponsorship.

A competition team will shortly visit California, hosted by the Royal Air Force, for training for the Army and national free fall championships, and the whole team is to train in southern Spain, both sorties essential because of the poor UK climate.

The unit is working on

something spectacular – as yet still under wraps – as part of the 50th anniversary of the Airborne Forces in 1990.

Mike succeeds Capt Micky Munn, who was OC for 12 years and is leaving the Army later this year. Until then Capt Munn will be based at Netheravon, Wilts where he will continue as a pilot for the Red Devils.

## Press-ing engagement

IT'S not every soldier or young officer who gets the opportunity of giving a brigadier a hard time but that is what the orders were!

Brig Nigel Richards had to break off in mid exercise to meet the media just "flown out" to his headquarters to explain what 5 Airborne Brigade was doing.

The assembled reporters and interviewers, only a few of whom are seen here, were provided by local military talent. The lady with the mike is an officer in the WRAC and the sinister looking gent with the beard (South East SPI0 Tony Worner) is from MoD. The Scottish officer (Maj Nick Sutton, Gordons) is the brigadier's PR officer.

Afterwards Brig Richards said: "It was my first taste of

holding a Press conference in the middle of a battle. I found it a slightly alarming but very valuable experience."



Picture: Mike Weston





# WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

## Anne Armstrong

Home Telephone  
Camberley 29653

## STRONG VIEWS ON CREDIT CARDS

## TIME FOR NEW FACES?

I WAS interested in the attendance at the – wait for it – 19th All Ranks Army General Institute Committee Annual Meeting held at the Naafi's London HQ with Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Director General of Personal Services in the chair.

A good number of wives were present, signifying the more modern outlook which applies, but there seemed to me to be a shortage of other ranks.

BAOR seemed to strike a nice balance and included a bandsman and a lance corporal in their party.

Northern Ireland sent an officer, an NCO, a wife and (nice touch) a civilian. Scotland, South East and South West each filled the three places allotted with an officer, wife and NCO.

HQ UKLF fielded a corporal's wife (representing the Federation of Army Wives), a brigadier and a retired lieutenant colonel presumably because it is mainly staffed by officers.

From North East came two officers, one of them with his wife as a rep. Western put up a male officer, a WRAC major and a senior rank's wife, and Eastern District was represented by a colonel, a retired lieutenant colonel and the wife of a brigadier.

Wales (though only one place was initially allotted) and North West both sent an officer and an officer's wife.

London, with two places, was represented by a serving lieutenant colonel and an RO (retired major).

Excluding HQ UKLF with

its preponderance of officers, it seemed to me that it was unsatisfactory for six Districts to have no ranks' representative.

I can think of no better people to discuss Junior Rank Club matters than the junior ranks themselves.

It may be argued that representation must be limited because of the cost involved or the number of troops in each District.

I accept that producing a junior rank means finding one who has attended at least one of the consultative meetings which is a prerequisite which should apply to everyone attending. But if some districts can do it why not others.

The consultative meetings are not the responsibility of the Naafi but of the military authorities – so the

Naafi cannot be blamed.

As for London District which has a large number of families in its area I am sure that with all the wisdom available to it somehow it will manage to find a wife competent to attend the Naafi's big meeting.

Naafi Managing Director James Rucker spelled out the importance of the event when he quoted Sir Charles Hardie:

"Naafi has no Stock Exchange quotation to gauge its ups and downs and has to rely on its consumers, the attitude of its shoppers and those who patronise the clubs and it is an important way of providing Naafi with a two-way indicator of the consumers' feelings and needs."

THE FACT that 8,000 cheques were bounced in the Naafi last year led to a lively debate on the pros and cons of extending the institute's own charge card and Access and Visa to cover drink and consumer goods.

Neither wives nor military representatives could agree on whether or not this would lead to more debts.

Naafi management and the MoD are to look further into the extension possibility.

Though discussion ranged over such things as the price of beer in the clubs in Northern Ireland, security and Naafi carrier bags, undoubtedly the best aired topics were the use of consumer credit cards and loan facilities.

### Growth area

More and more customers were reported to be applying to take advantage of the Naafi charge card scheme (an alternative to the budget account scheme).

The financial services' department was reported to be the organisation's biggest growth area.

One point raised which caused interest – the requirement of soldiers and their wives being asked to sign their names on the back of cheques when officers were not. The Naafi is to look into this situation.

### A head start

The meeting was told that the new warehouse at Kempen, Germany, the largest operation of its kind undertaken for many years, covers distribution and transport and has a computer-based floor management system, and is confidently expected to make Naafi's operations in BAOR more profitable and efficient.

Managing director James Rucker said the Naafi had a head start in meeting the single European Market challenge.

If Britain joined the European monetary system "such a move would have a stabilising effect on exchange rate movements".

## SERPS – decision time!

MANY dependants were caught out when the Government introduced new Pension Rights for women in 1977. The information never reached those overseas.

If you are a dependant, or Servicewoman on a short service engagement, then you still have until April 5, 1989 to look at the Government's scheme which enables individuals to opt out of the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (SERPS) and take up their own pension plan.

If you have been, or will be, paying the higher rate of National Insurance contributions it is worth looking at this scheme.

It is complicated so needs careful working out. For example:

If you are in UK employment you pay a National Insurance contribution deducted from your pay.

Unless you are a member of a company pension scheme the contribution will be at the higher rate.

If this is the case you will be able to contract out and put it into a personal pension plan, for which you will have to go to the

commercial market.

This may be done using a protected rights only plan which needs NO additional payment beyond the NIC already deducted.

This is important since normal pension contributions can be made only when income is subject to UK income tax.

When wives are moving to and from the UK there will be times when income is NOT taxable although NIC is paid, as in BFG.

Contracting out can therefore begin or continue in BFG, using protected rights only version of a

personal pension plan.

You may add additional personal contributions when you are in taxable employment, normally in the UK. This will increase the benefits available.

Beware if you are offered a pension plan and the insurance agent says he requires another sum of money, perhaps £20-£30 a month. If that is the case you are NOT taking out a Protected Rights Pension Plan.

Points to note:

1. You may ONLY make a contribution into a UK Personal Pension Plan

from taxable earned income, referred to as Net Relevant Earnings (NRE).

2. BFG wives income is not normally taxable therefore they can only consider a Protected Rights Only version of the UK Plan.

3. Contracting out of SERPS has nothing to do with opting out of an occupational pension scheme, Army or otherwise.

4. In the first instance, you should contact a financial adviser to determine your situation and obtain your Protected Rights Only Plan to meet the deadline.

## ENTER PAT OF THE PPA

**A SERVICES Liaison Officer has been appointed at the London HQ of the Pre-School Playgroup Association thanks to a grant by the MoD.**

**Her remit is to be a direct link with Service playgroups world wide, to provide consistent training for play leaders and a regular flow of information, and support including visits to overseas stations.**

**Mrs Pat Dench (right), who takes the post, has held many PPA appointments and has experience of moving around Germany.**

**It seems to have been a long hard road since Pauline McMullen, Jean Rix and Jenny Lawson started the first PPA branch in BFG in the early 80s.**





# The MoD returns to the charge

**I HAVE had a brief outline from the MoD concerning the proposed community charge.**

**I am told: "We are very conscious that the legislation will not fit easily with the mobile existence of members of the Armed Forces and, for this reason, we have been in close consultation with the other Government departments involved."**

**(These are the Department of the Environment and the Scottish Office.)**

In general it seems that there will be no special arrangements for the Services and personnel will be required to register and pay the charge like everyone else.

The MoD is, however, paying particular attention to those posted to or living in barracks or married quarters in specially high charge areas.

All accommodation charges contain an element in respect of rates. From spring 1989 this element will be shown separately on pay statements.

In order that individuals do not find themselves paying twice, i.e. rates element to the MoD and the community charge to the local authority, the intention is that the rates element will be discontinued as the community charge is introduced, i.e. from April 1, 1989 in Scotland and from April 1, 1990 in England and Wales.

In Northern Ireland and overseas an element in respect of those services and facilities which are normally funded through rates is expected to remain.

However, this is still under discussion.

The key issue of where an individual must register and pay depends on his or her 'sole or main residence'.

This will be established by Local Community Charge Registration Officers (CCRO).

If there is doubt over a person's sole or main residence it is likely that more than one local authority may be involved and questions of detail will have to be addressed to those CCROs with an interest.

However, although all Scottish local authorities have an appointed CCRO in post, this may not yet be

true of all in England and Wales.

Headquarters Scotland informs me that until each individual has received the Community Charge Registration Number they will not be able to apply for the DSS Poll Tax rebate.

A third guidance letter is due out shortly to follow two which have been widely circulated.

A free booklet 'You and the Community Charge - Your step by step guide' is available from Public Inquiry Unit Room P1/003, Dept of Environment CCA, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

This booklet will be backed up by fuller information.

Queries should be referred to unit pay offices.

## GIRLS TO HAVE THEIR FLING

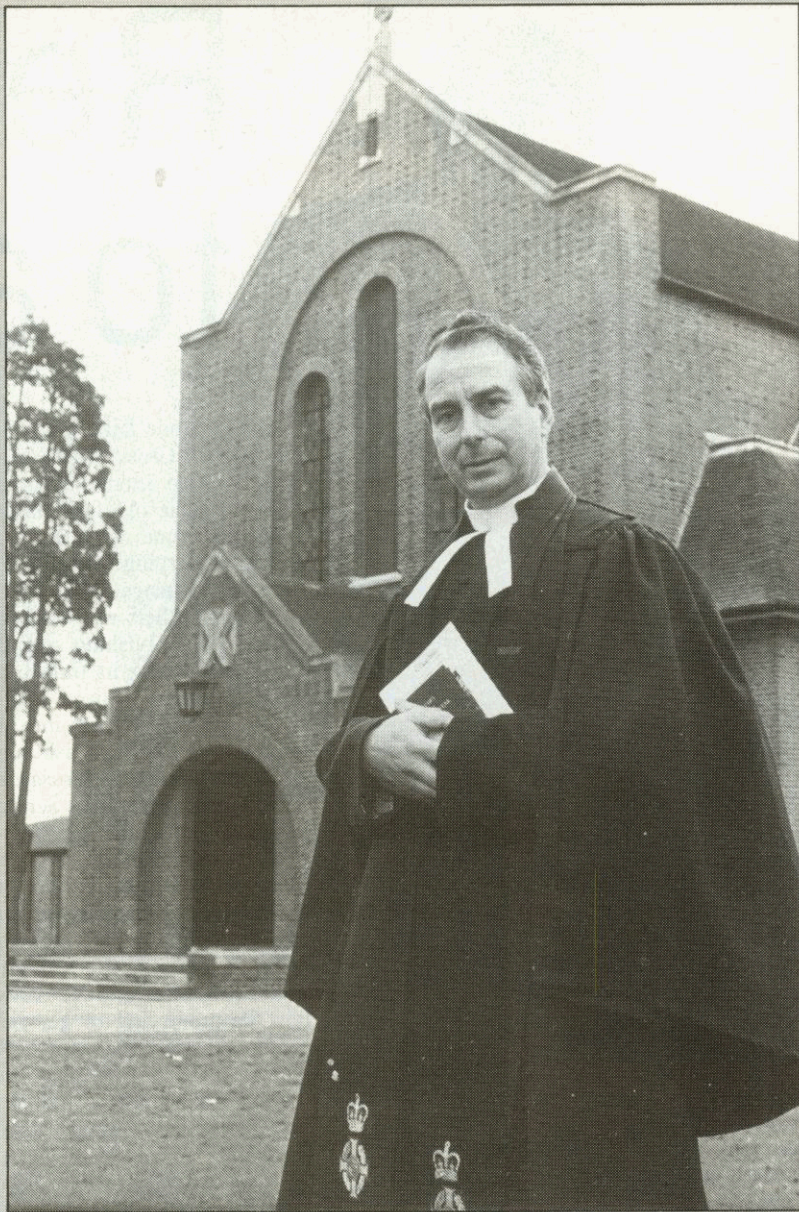
WIVES are to be allowed to enter the Naafi National Team Darts Championships open to all clubs and messes.

They can either enter a team or become a unit's team member.

Perhaps a wives' team or a team with a lady member might end up at the RAF Club in Wittering on finals day, even walk off with the thousands of pounds' worth of prizes.

## GUILD PLACES FOR HOLIDAYS

The Guild of St Helena's holidays for children with special needs will be run at Shorncliffe in June this year. There are places for about 20 children aged 7-13 years and registered with SCEA. Anyone interested should contact: Major P. Lewis SCEA 1b, MoD, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR. Tel: 01-854 2242 (Woolwich Garrison) Ext 4285/4282/4263.



The Rev Matthew Robertson outside St Andrew's in Queen's Avenue, Aldershot

# Church marks golden jubilee

SIX former chaplains were among the congregation which gathered in Queen's Avenue, Aldershot to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reopening of St Andrew's Garrison Church of Scotland.

Built in 1927, the church quickly became too small to serve the four Scottish battalions then serving in Aldershot. It was extended and reopened on February 5, 1939 in the presence of King George VI and the present Queen Mother.

The golden jubilee service was conducted by the present chaplain, the Rev Matthew Robertson. The Chaplain General, the Rev James Harkness, himself a minister of the Kirk, preached and lessons were read by GOC South East District, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere and

the Senior Chaplain Scotland, the Rev Angus Smith.

The former chaplains of St Andrew's who attended were the Revs Bill Burns, James Morrison, David Henderson, David McKean and John Stuart. All are retired except Mr Stuart who has a parish outside Elgin.

To mark the church's link with nearby Buller Barracks, Brig Wardle Barker, Commander of the Royal Corps of Transport, presented a new leather bound pulpit bible to St Andrew's.

During the Second World War and National Service the Church of Scotland ran what was affectionately known as a "Jocks' canteen" in Buller Barracks, then home of the Royal Army Service Corps.



# Red Cross looks to a new image

THERE is one failsafe way of prompting British Red Cross Society welfare officers into a sharp intake of breath. Remind them of their old fashioned image!

In the same way that the Women's Institute is trying to shrug off its jam and Jerusalem image, welfare officers are determined their new look will NOT be one of trolley pushing and library books, or merely filling in time between school and marriage.

The Gaffney Report into Army welfare services resulted in a cash injection for the Order of St John of Jerusalem and British Red Cross Society's Service Hospitals Welfare Department.

Barbara Taylor, the department's director responsible for the welfare service in all tri-Service military hospitals, said the new funding was most welcome. "We will now be looking for a slightly different calibre of recruit," she said.

"We are trying to get rid of this old fashioned image that a lot of people have of us - ladies pushing around a trolley because they really haven't anything better to do between school and getting a husband."

Ideal candidates will be aged between 25 and 40, with a proven academic record, with experience of professional counselling and involvement in voluntary organisations.

"In the last year, we have had to revamp and look at ourselves very carefully. We are now at the point where we can hold our

heads up high and say to the medical services 'we are ready and raring to go. It is up to you now to use our service to the best advantage.'

"But what is more important is that we spread our message to the patients so that they are aware of the services we offer."

Over the years many thousands of patients in military hospitals and their relatives have had good reason to recall with gratitude the help they have been given.

It was during the early stages of the Second World War that it became obvious to the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St John that material aid to Service hospitals needed to be backed up by a personal service.

From 1943, St John's supplied resident female welfare officers wherever British Forces were serving. When the war finished, Service departments requested that welfare officers should continue to form an integral part of the medical services.

The Welfare Officer Service has a peacetime strength of about 40, whose tasks are many and varied and compare generally with those that used to be done by hospital almoners.

A typical quarterly report on the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot outlines the whole gamut of their work.

**Words by  
Jennifer  
Griffiths  
Pictures by  
Mike Perring**

For instance, they helped with arrangements for visitors to five very seriously ill and six seriously ill patients by accommodating them in the nearby Nieve Lodge. Twenty-eight patients died, and it is here the welfare officers provide a vital service. They help prepare relatives for the inevitable by talking to them, and are on hand to comfort relatives of a patient declared dead. Sometimes a doctor will ask them to accompany him to discuss with relatives the possibility of organ donation.

And welfare officers are a reassuring figure for anyone who is a casevac case, though a sense of humour is necessary when she's called out in the middle of the night to meet a flight only to find it has been delayed.

Many of their cases are complicated, such as the one in which an unmarried mother's baby died in hospital. The grandparents refused to become involved unless the child was christened, but christenings may only be performed for live babies.

The problem was solved when a Methodist padre agreed to conduct a service of blessing.

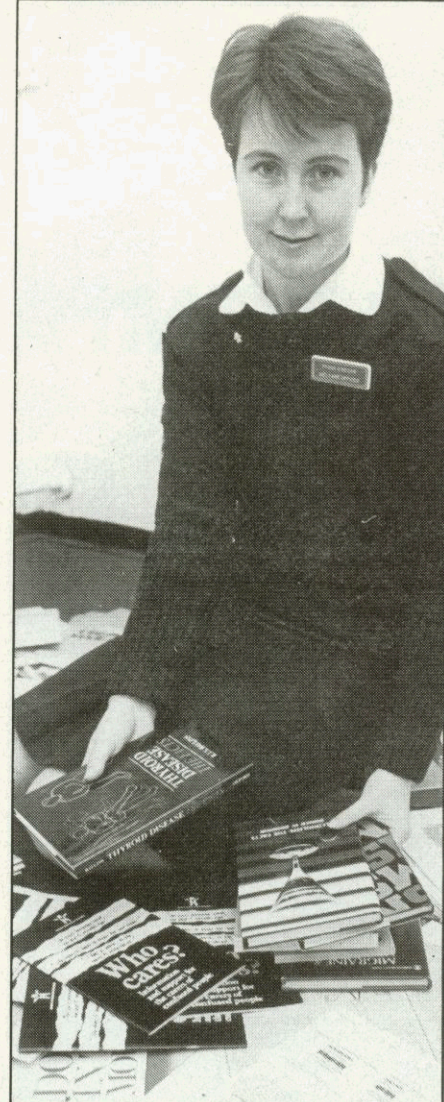
In another tragic case, the child of a couple who were divorcing but still living in the same house was dying. The husband refused to buy the child shoes because he said the boy would not be needing them for long.

Often it is simply a sympathetic ear that is needed.



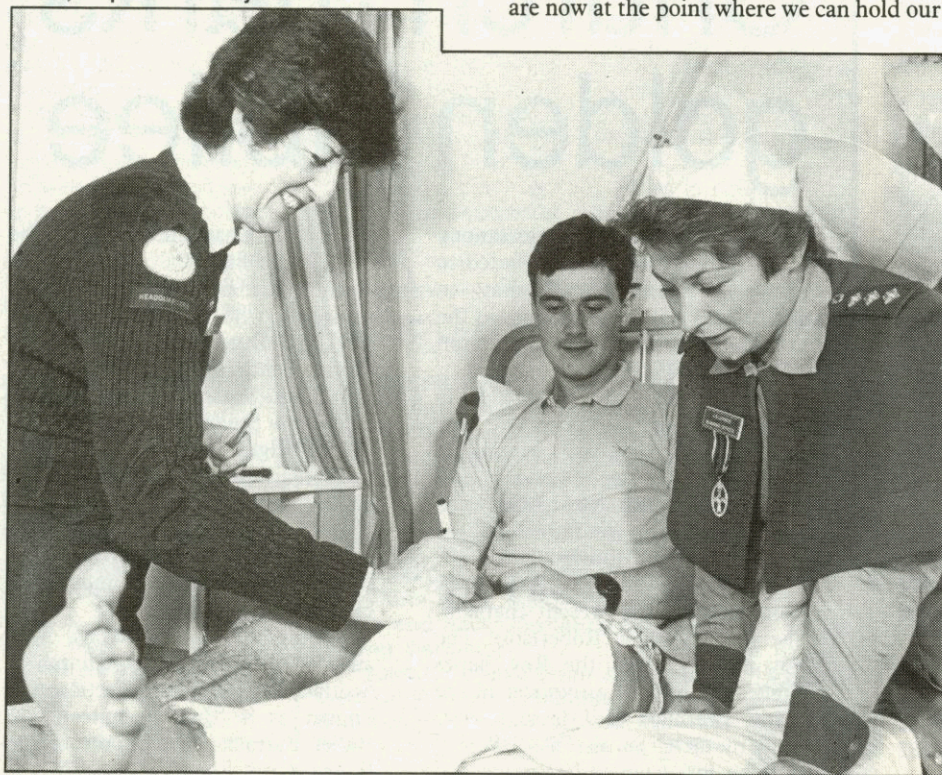
Above - The library offers a retreat from the clinical ward atmosphere and Dvr Alistair Steel, RCT, is helped to complete a jigsaw by Welfare Officer Ros Kenrick

Below - Hospital Planning Officer Lt Col Ross Forsyth discusses developments at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot with Barbara Taylor, Director of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and British Red Cross Society's Service Hospitals Welfare Department



Above - Welfare Officer Fiona O'Regan has set up an information library for patients and their relatives to read up on illnesses, described in layman's terms

Below - Dvr Darren Brierley, a patient at the Cambridge Military Hospital, has another signature autographed on his plaster cast, that of Red Cross Welfare Officer Beryl Hope. Looking on is ward sister, Capt Jackie Loynds



## A part of the military family

THE BOND between the Red Cross and the Army will never be broken - that's the belief of Barbara Taylor, Director of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and British Red Cross Society's Service Hospitals Welfare Department.

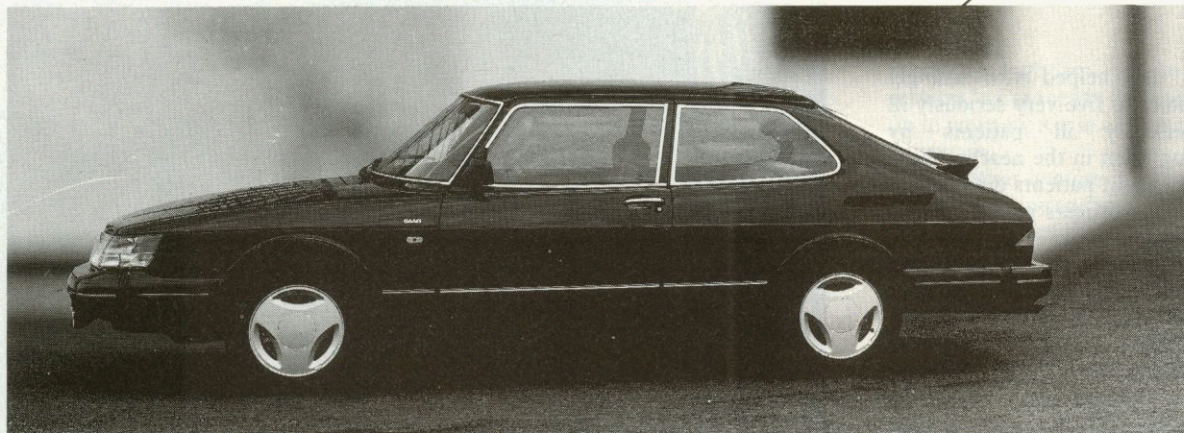
"We can never pull away from the fact that we represent the symbol of neutrality and under the terms of the Geneva Convention in time of war our first loyalty is to the sick and wounded of the Crown. We consider ourselves part of the military family, along with the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps," she explained.

Barbara Taylor was awarded the MBE for her work with the Army liaison team at the Zeebrugge disaster, and was one of the first women civilians to set foot on the Falkland Islands after the conflict in 1982.

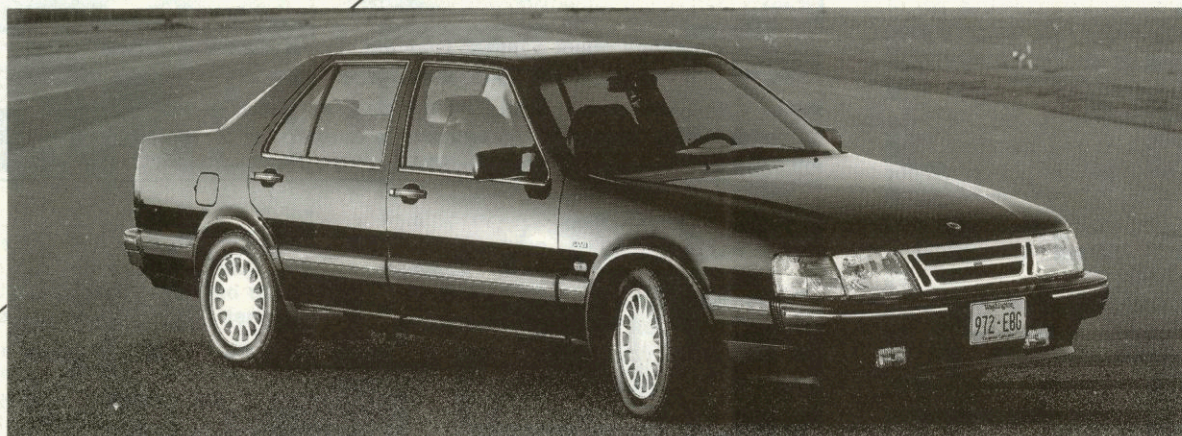




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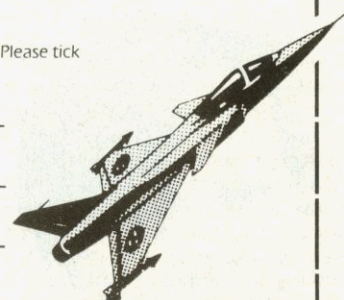
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## The good ship *Sapper*



Picture: Mike Perring



Picture: Roger Keen

LADY gunners were again to the fore when the first Royal salute of the year was fired at York as the Royal Artillery Troop of Leeds University OTC continued its tradition of using women officer cadets on the 25 pounder guns. Pictured (from left to right) are Rebecca Tingay from

Scarborough, Diane Aldritt from Wolverhampton and Caroline Hull from Reigate in Surrey. The 21 gun salute marked the 37th anniversary of the accession of the Queen.

Brig Tony Wells, Deputy Commander North East District, was the inspecting officer.

THE OLD phrase "Join the Royal Engineers and clean the world" took on a new angle when sappers moved a seven ton tug from a lake at Sevenoaks, Kent to the Basingstoke Canal in Hampshire for the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society.

Men of 18 Royal School of Military Engineering Support Squadron from Chattenden, Kent manoeuvred a Bantam 44 vessel from the lake on to a low loader.

At Fleet, troops from 56 (MT) Training Squadron at Church Crookham, then used a Crane Field Medium 315, which can lift up to 15 tons, to lift the tug from the low loader to the water.

The tug is to be used to pull to a dumping ground barges filled with mud from the canal bottom.

Dredging has been going on for 14 years and the operations are now nearing the Fox and Hounds pub in Fleet! The dredger should reach Reading Road Bridge, Fleet by the end of the year. The tug is to be re-named *Sapper*.



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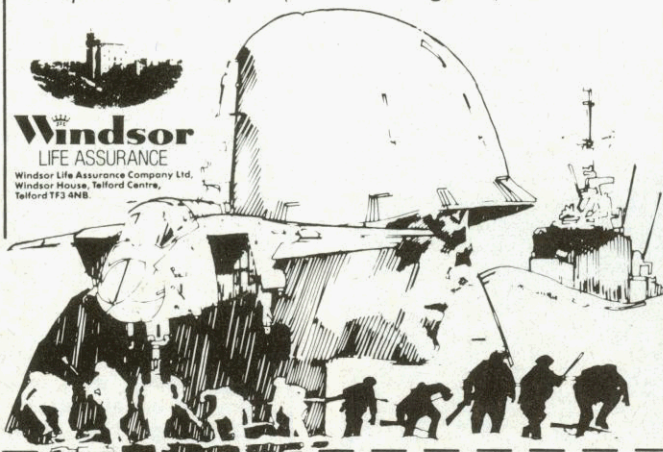
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Stories by  
Jennifer Griffiths  
Pictures by  
Mike Perring



Pictured with their Falklands Reliant are (from left) Lt Alan Sides, Lt Louis Tuson and Lt John Armstrong

# Robin ousts penguin on pin-up parade

A £50 INVESTMENT by five subalterns nearly succeeded in toppling the Falklands Islands penguins from their high perch in the tourism attraction stakes.

The five Royal Engineer lieutenants – Alan Sides, James Kemp, John Armstrong, Louis Tuson and Mark Hurlston – clubbed together to buy a black P registration Robin Reliant in Ripon, Yorkshire.

They spirited it to the South Atlantic, where transport (almost always by Land Rover) is at a premium and where the

poshest vehicle on the roads is Commander British Forces Falkland Islands' Range Rover with its distinctive aerial.

Not to be outdone, a quick, covert conversion job was completed on the three-wheeler before launching it on an astonished public, complete with camouflage livery, a local

number plate, pink furry dice . . . and an aerial just like the Commander's!

Capt Colin Boag, 2ic Falklands Islands Field Squadron, said: "The OC, myself and the sergeant major knew nothing about it until it drove past. It is the one time I would have liked to have had a camera to capture

the look on their faces.

"It used to be the thing that when people were leaving to go home they would have their photograph taken next to a Tristar, a Phantom or a penguin. Now we have loads of 'phone calls from people asking if they can be photographed next to the Robin Reliant!"



Cpl Bud McGrane

FALKLANDS veteran Cpl Bud McGrane, RCT, on his third tour of the South Atlantic, is to revisit for the first time Fitzroy, the scene of the heaviest casualties of the Falklands campaign and where he helped save many lives.

During the war he was a member of the RFA *Sir Tristram* crew, making sure her cargo did not shift at sea. The weather on June 8, 1982 unexpectedly cleared and while the *Sir Tristram* and the *Sir Galahad* were unloading they were attacked by Argentinian aircraft.

## Life raft rescuer returns to Fitzroy

Forty two Welsh Guardsmen, three members of 16 Field Ambulance, RAMC and five Royal Fleet Auxiliary crewmen were killed. In a further raid, a landing craft was bombed and sank in Choiseul Sound. Six Royal Marines and one naval rating died.

Bud recalled: "When the

'abandon ship' call was given, I got into a life raft with Alf Galbraith, who is now a staff sergeant, and Cpl Mark Carter. As we looked back we could see the *Sir Galahad* on fire with people trapped on the deck and no way of getting off.

"We sailed back alongside.

● Turn to next page



# Model method hits the target

HOOKERS Point Range on East Falkland provided a picture postcard backcloth for the Services to train together during an all arms, air defence shoot using model airplanes.

It was run by the Rapier Squadron of the RAF Regiment, and taking part were the Falkland Islands Defence Force and the resident infantry company, the 1st Bn, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment.

Models were flown 500 to 600 metres out to sea then directed towards the firing point.

Before going to the range firers are trained in the theory of low level air defence, to recognise an aircraft, which direction it is going to travel, its speed, and how to aim off.

Ft Lt Ian Lees, 63 Sqn RAF Regiment, on roulement in the Falklands with the resident recce squadron, explained: "We have been instructing the Cheshires in low level air defence and aircraft recognition."

"The model represents a target flying at between 400 and 500 knots at various distances and heights, providing very realistic training."

## RETURN

● From Page 25

There were scramble nets down the side with people clinging to them. We climbed up the net to help about 12 soldiers into our raft.

"There were explosions all around. We sailed around the area to help people in inflatable boats who were being blown around by the rescue helicopters, and towed them behind us."

"I don't know how many people we saved. You don't have time to think of the danger."

The full horror of the incident was captured on film and shown worldwide. A picture of Bud standing in the front of a full life raft is one of the most memorable images of the campaign.

"My mother saw me on television and that is how she knew I had survived," he said.



**They're model workers!**

These three former soldiers have a job that is the envy of many Servicemen as well as civilians. Nick Burnett, Paul Jones and Bob McAlister travel worldwide to provide the British Army with model airplanes used in

air defence practice. Bob said: "Most men are little boys at heart and enjoy shooting at the models. Friends tell me they would love my job, which they say is like something straight out of *Boys Own*"



Capt Robin Bell, permanent staff officer to the Falkland Islands Defence Force (right), watches the action at Hookers Point Range

# TA TRANSPORTERS ARE 'BREATH OF FRESH AIR'



The TA lads described as "a breath of fresh air" are (from the left): Dvr Chris Jammeh, Dvr David Newton, Sgt Richard Salmon, Dvr David Springer and Dvr Robert Lamb

REGULAR soldiers are full of praise for the expertise and commitment shown by the RCT TA contingent at Mount Pleasant - such as 25-year-old Robert Lamb, who in civvy street is a welder from Altrincham.

"I've been married just a year, and at first my wife wasn't too keen on my coming here. But I managed to talk her around, and the mother-in-law," he said.

Sgt Richard Salmon, 35, was an RCT Regular for 15 years and was also an Army dog handler, leaving Service life in 1984. He said: "I had a year out of the Army, but I missed the comradeship, and that's why I joined the TA."

Dvr Chris Jammeh, 32, who works for Manchester City Council, saw the tour as a chance of a lifetime, though wife Karen, wasn't too keen. "But she has written saying she is pleased I took it."

"It is certainly making a better soldier out of me. I regret I was never a Regular."

I'm too old to enlist, but what I am doing now is catching up on my youth a bit."

Dvr David Newton, 31, had left his job as a fork lift driver to look for work down south when the TA posting came up. He said: "The variety is good. Where else can you fly in a helicopter as routine?"

David Springer, 24, a master baker, is enjoying his TA driving job because he gets behind the wheel of a variety of vehicles. And 24-year-old Tom Snaith, a biscuit packer, is also finding life completely different. He said: "As a single man, it was an opportunity to travel I couldn't refuse, and I am really enjoying the change."

Capt Colin Boad, 2ic Falkland Islands Field Squadron, said: "The RCT TA are a breath of fresh air. They have become very well integrated, going out all over the islands doing some very tough jobs, often in adverse conditions. They come in for a lot of ribbing, but they give as good as they get."



# Boating sappers reckon their job is a bit special

CPL Stuart Wilding and LCpl Ian Lyons, who with Spr Rob Baddely and Spr Billy Burns man the combat support boats at Mare Harbour, personify the message Army recruiting campaigns try to get across.

Their enthusiasm for their job is infectious. "We guard the job jealously because everyone wants to do it," said Cpl Wilding.

That job includes helping visiting ships and tankers to anchor before they offload, a safety role in case of fuel spillage, and helping transport infantry patrols.

Their craft weighs a mere four tons. "You feel a bit like

a thimble bobbing about in rough seas at the side of a 3,000 ton ship."

Back at Ripon, Yorkshire they help to build hides and launch areas for Harriers, and they went on a special six weeks course before their posting to the South Atlantic.

Cpl Wilding said: "The job is completely different. We are our own bosses. In what other jobs will you have porpoises and dolphins following you so closely you can pat them, or see seals and penguins regularly?"

"We reckon we have got the best job in the Royal Engineers. Certainly, they all tell us that."

# East Cove is home from home for port troop . . .

MOST of the soldiers serving with 460 Port Troop, RCT, based at East Cove in the Falklands come from 17 Port Regiment, RCT, based at Marchwood, near Southampton, and many are on their fourth or fifth tour of the South Atlantic.

The OC, Capt Joe Murray, said: "I don't know of anyone who comes here more repeatedly."

They handle an extensive variety of materials, but 50 per cent is rations, providing a vital line in the food supplies.

Until about 18 months ago there was a squadron commitment, but this has been slimmed down to troop strength. Capt Murray said: "About 50 men were trimmed off and the present figure seems to be just about right for what we do."

Their first task to provide a turnaround service for UK



WO2 Mike Light

shipping and to re-supply the coastal area and South Georgia. They are responsible for the movement of freight between East Cove and Mount Pleasant Airport and support to all port users.

WO2 Mike Light is on his fourth tour of the Falklands and says it has simply become part of the job. "There are only 28 of us here and we have all known each other for many years. We are a close knit family and morale is high."





The bigger the wheel, the bigger the wheel spanner!

## A band of brothers?

RECRUITMENT is not a problem for 15/19 H for they have very strong family ties with the north east and are a particularly close regiment.

Lt Col Tresham Gregg, the CO, said they had recently got together all related members of the regiment for a photo session.

"In the event, it turned out that 140 of them are related to each other in one way or another!"

C Squadron has a particularly confusing time for it has all five Thompson brothers serving on its strength.

Two were away when the SOLDIER team visited, but the other three more than made up for their absence by managing to appear wherever the team went. It seemed there was no escape. It was a case of "Thompsons here and Thompsons there, there's ruddy Thompsons everywhere!"



In the Int Cell three of the five Thompson brothers (left to right) Tpr Jeff Thompson, LCpl Les Thompson and Cpl Paul Thompson, receive a briefing on Soviet uniforms from WO2 (SSM) Richard Lee



A line of Chieftain tanks await maintenance in the REME workshop

# Together again

Words by  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures by  
Terry Champion

THE NEW Year heralded the start of an era of togetherness for the 15th/19th Royal Hussars based at Detmold, West Germany for the Tabs had not served together as a regiment since their arrival at Lothian Barracks two years ago.

In their first year, half the regiment was detached to BATUS in Canada, and following their return last year the other half went to Cyprus!

Perhaps it was just as well for during

their period of half-strength operations the camp resembled a hideous building site, being subject to major refurbishment.

There was an air of organised chaos and resignation throughout the barracks complex as buildings were emptied and equipment moved to let the contractors in.

Pity the poor squaddies during work on their cookhouse. They had to eat their meals in a large draughty tent erected beside the drill square.

That is virtually all in the past now as relieved commanding officer Lt Col Tresham Gregg told SOLDIER: "Everyone will be in the right place, where they ought to be, in super new or refurbished accommodation by April."

15/19 H seem set for a long stay at Detmold, for their length of tour is planned to be around ten to 12 years. Long term service in one location is not a new experience, for when the regiment last served in BAOR it was stationed at Paderborn for eight years.

It could be said that the regiment is run by the "Geordie Mafia" as, with the exception of a handful of Scots and Cockneys, its members are drawn from its primary recruiting areas of Newcastle, Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Durham.

The Tabs are equipped with the ageing Chieftain main battle tank which, as the years roll by, inevitably becomes less reliable.

15/19 H say the lumbering giant performs more than adequately in the role for which it is intended but, comments Col Gregg: "It would be nice to have a new tank!"

"Currently we have Chieftain for the foreseeable future. It has been uprated and has built up a reputation as a jolly good tank, but we will be that much happier when we get the new one, whatever colour, shape or size it is."

## TAILOR MADE INTELLIGENCE!

THE Tabs are a very switched on lot, and nowhere more so than in the Int Cell run by WO2 (SSM) Richard Lee.

It keeps the tank crews up to date on vehicle recognition as well as recent developments in security matters.

Very keen to keep up to date on Nato and its opposition, Sgt Maj Lee has devised a number of what he quaintly terms 'idiot's guides' to the uniform styles of different nations.

"It's unbelievably easy. For example, I can teach people the

German badges of rank in just five minutes!" he said.

The guides have proved of great benefit, not only to the recce troop which is the eyes and ears of the regiment, but also to the tank crews who had been losing out.

He has also persuaded the tailoress (much to her dismay) to make up some Soviet uniforms with home-made badges of rank.

The result is that 15/19 H has one of the best regimentally run intelligence cells.



If your regiment is thinking of installing a sauna in the barracks, take a leaf out of the Tabs book. Not only did they raise the DM13,000 cost of the sauna themselves through a variety of fund raising events within the regiment, but

they had the good sense to invite an attractive beauty queen to the opening! Stunning Sharon Smith, the current Miss BAOR, performed the official opening and then raised the temperature by joining the lads inside!



A little fine adjustment for a D Squadron Chieftain by (left to right) Sgt Keith Milburn and LCpls Kenny Johns and Les Stoker



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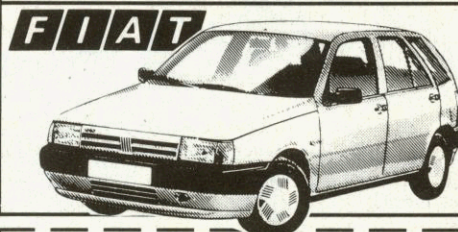
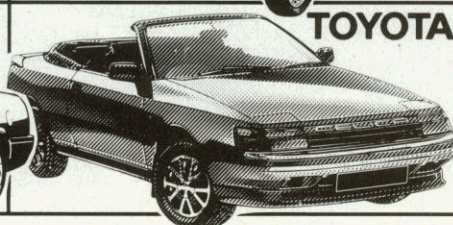
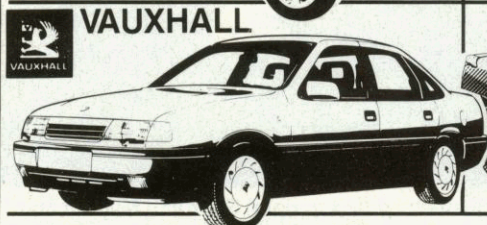
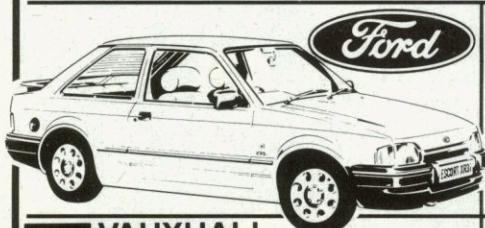


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# Dog section will snap up intruders!

THE 15/19 H has a noisy dog section whose role is to ensure the security of the camp perimeter and the tank park 24 hours a day – and woe betide the intruder who gets caught by the snapping teeth of the snarling war dogs!

The section was inherited from the former inhabitants of the barracks, The Blues and Royals, and is run by Cpl Leslie Ramsey who told SOLDIER that dog handlers spent up to 18 months attached to the section.

“It gives you a break from the tank park and the chance to do something different,” he said.

The dogs and their handlers take part in the annual canine biathlon at Sennelager, where Service animals from France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, as well as Cyprus and Hong Kong, compete.

The section is at a great disadvantage because its dogs are not really trained for that sort of competition, but the lads set to and train the animals themselves.

Explained Cpl Ramsey: “There is no shortage of volunteers when we bait the dogs. Anyone who fancies being the bait has a go, including the handlers.



LCpls Graham Howarth and Graeme Goldsmith with Rolly

“You only get dragged around the ground a bit – you can’t really feel the teeth, only the pressure!” he said.

So if you are thinking of sneaking in the back way, over the wall at Lothian Barracks, DON’T, unless of course you don’t mind having an arm torn off – or worse!



# What’s in a name?

SEVERAL cavalry regiments name their fighting vehicles – and 15/19 H are no exception.

Names for their Chieftain tanks were chosen by their crews under the general ruling that they should start with the appropriate squadron letter, and that nothing obscene or questionable be selected.

After the commanding officer had vetted and approved the names, they were stencilled on the front of the massive main battle tanks.

The crews of A Squadron ride to war with names such as *Ayotollah*, *Avenger* and *Armageddon* emblazoned on their tanks.

B, C and D Squadrons’ titles include *Bellicose* and *Bogeyman*, *Calamity* and *Chaos*, and *Daisy* and *Desecrator*.

The unflappable REME fitters attached to C Sqn aptly named their trio of vehicles *Cool*, *Calm* and *Collector*!

# Steadfast by nature

TODAY’S 15th/19th The King’s Royal Hussars was formed in 1922 by an amalgamation of the 15th The King’s Hussars and The 19th Hussars when the Army’s strength was run down in the years following the First World War.

Both regiments enjoy distinguished histories. The 15th Hussars were raised by Maj Gen George Augustus Elliott in 1759 and were known as Elliott’s Light Dragoons, while the 19th Hussars were formed as the 19th Light Dragoons in 1781 when the directors of the Honourable East India Company applied to the Crown for the loan of a cavalry regiment.

The nickname of the 15/19 H – The Tabs – dates back to Elliott’s Light Dragoons, made up largely of tailors who enlisted after a major strike in their own trade. During the First World War the two regiments worked closely together and gained a reputation for gallantry and steadfastness.

The regiment is no stranger to Germany and is unique in being the holder of the very first battle honour ever granted to a regiment of the British Army.

At the Battle of Emsdorff in 1760 the 15th Hussars, fighting as an ally of Frederick the Great of Prussia, delivered several brilliant and successful charges.

# Wing keeps Tabs up to scratch



SSgt Fred Coxford (left) makes a point during a first aid lesson in the Training Wing to Tprs Gary Young and Malcolm Gardner

THE regiment’s busy training wing runs internal courses such as gunnery, driving and maintenance, and HGV III, as well as the continuation training so vital to keep the skills of tank crewmen up to scratch.

Great store is set in the Gunnery Training System (GTS) which is in continual use throughout the year. It means turret crews can keep in the swing of things between their annual live-firing visit to Hohne ranges.

Explained SSgt Fred Coxford: “It is

good training for the crews as GTS simulates every aspect of gunnery, apart from the actual flash, bang and smoke of the gun. Men can be put through engagement sequences, engaging static and moving targets using various types of ammunition.”

He has no qualms about a long term tour at Detmold.

“It is a long time to be in one place in Germany, but if you get to know the area, you get to know the people,” he said.





Gurkha and heliograph which flashed morse in the sunlight

## Afghanistan's bitter passes have seen it all before

FOR nearly 100 years British and Indian regiments operated in and on the borders of Afghanistan.

They formed long dun coloured columns which, to the grunting of camels and the trumpeting of the elephants carrying mountain guns and equipment, entered the sometimes scorching, sometimes freezing passes and valleys.

Punitive expeditions they were called. Britain did not want to annex Afghanistan but was determined to maintain an interest which safeguarded the Indian Empire.

The photographs on this page come from the private album of Maj Eric Manton, father of SOLDIER writer Laurie Manton. Maj Manton rose through the ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals and

spent much of his career in India.

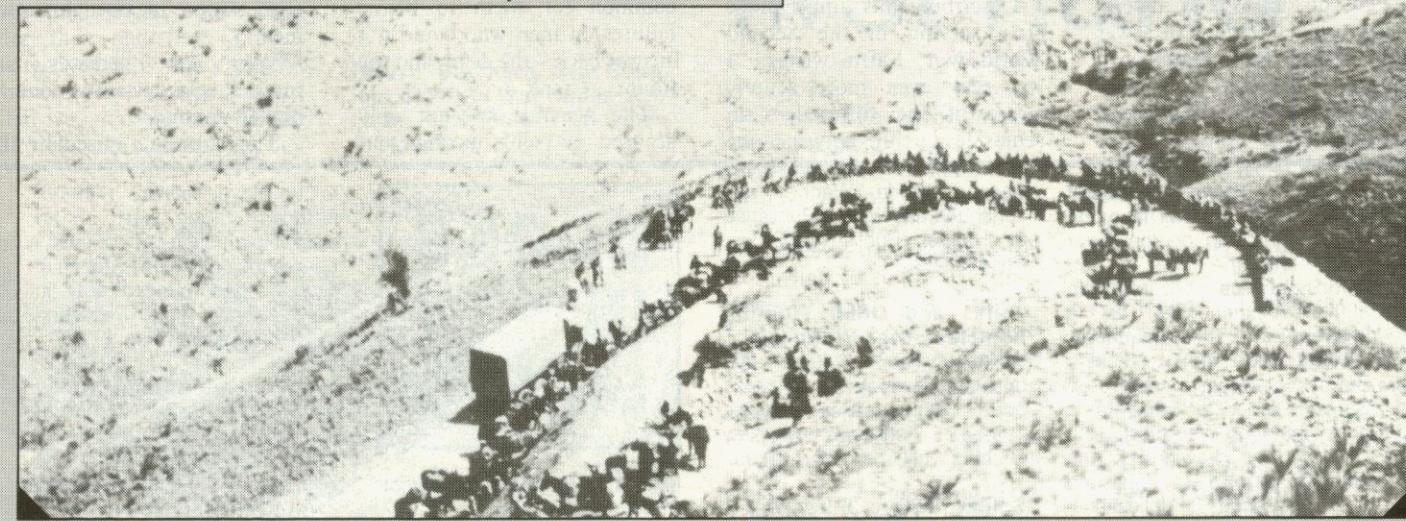
They give a rare glimpse into a past era.

Today the regiments which served on the North West Frontier are commemorated by badges in stone or concrete on the hillsides.

Some of them no longer exist but the memories linger, and despite Kipling's verse not all of them are bad.



Maj Eric Manton



Above – The column . . . tiny figures of men, animals and a lorry in one of the numerous Frontier passes

Above centre – The road stretches ever onward. A lorry grinds up a mountainside road. Close examination by magnifying glass produced only what seemed to be the word "Transport" on the radiator

# Another age, another army

When you're wounded an' left on Afghanistan's plains,  
An' the women come out to cut up what remains,  
Jest roll to your rifle an' blow out your brains,  
An' go to your Gawd like a soldier . . .

— Kipling

IF GHOSTS do have feelings the shades of British soldiers looking down on the passes at the Soviet columns withdrawing from Kabul may have permitted themselves some grins smiles, writes Bill Moore.

They may even have exchanged glances, not without sympathy, that said: "We could have told you so."

Queen Victoria's soldiers – British and Indian – occupied Kabul three times. In January 1842 what had been an army of occupation was overwhelmed as it withdrew.

The 44th Foot (later the 1st Essex Regiment and now embodied in the Royal Anglians), and a troop of the Bengal Horse Artillery, spearheaded a desperate attempt to break through the hills culminating in a sacrificial last stand near Gandamak in

the Jagdallack Pass.

Most of the 4,500 fugitives were slaughtered or captured and a solitary officer, Surgeon Bryden, took the news to the British garrison at Jellalabad.

The disaster has been a favourite subject of artists and authors; what is often forgotten is the sequel in which forces under Gen George Pollock and Brig William Nott forced the passes and reoccupied Kabul temporarily and blew up the Bala Hissar, its main fortress.

Their expedition resulted in the return of British hostages and the North West Frontier reverted to normal tribal warfare in which the Indian Army became a major player.

As in the earlier affair, political meddling in 1878 led to the murder of British diplomats in Kabul and the Second Afghan War in which

columns under Gen (later Fd Marshal) Frederick Roberts fought several engagements in the hills, occupied Kabul (up went the Bala Hissar again) and marched 313 miles in 22 days to relieve Kandahar.

Sensibly the British elected not to remain on this occasion and peace having been made, normal relations – raids, murders, kidnappings and ambushes – were resumed.

Not for nothing were such distinguished units as the 1st Durham Light Infantry and 1st Green Howards kept in India during the First World War.

The Third Afghan War in 1919 began with Afghan regular troops involved in cross-border incursions and ended after an expedition moved through the Khyber and Kabul was bombed.

In historical terms it was notable for the disbandment of the celebrated Khyber Rifles whose loyalty was called into doubt by the declaration of a holy war. The regiment was

revived in 1945.

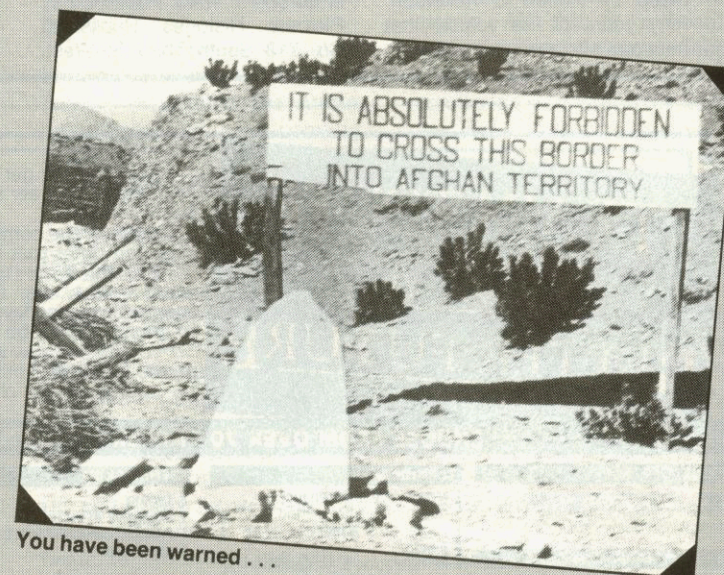
Various religious leaders, notably the Fakir of Ipi, made the North West Frontier "interesting" for imperial troops until partition in 1947.

One aspect of the fighting was the grisly fate that awaited wounded who fell into the hands of tribesmen who had never heard of the Geneva Convention.

Aircrew operating over the frontier were issued with letters promising a large cash reward for their safe return in the event of being brought down – and the bribe seemed to work. The battalions of Tommies, Ghurkas, Sikhs, Pathans and the rest had to take their chances.

It was a matter of honour for units to recover casualties – including the dead who might be mutilated.

Primary weapon of both sides was the rifle. A stolen .303 Lee Enfield was a sign of a warrior's manhood. Today it is more likely to be an AK 47 – or a missile launcher!



You have been warned . . .



Indian troops with belt fed, water-cooled Vickers medium machine-gun covering "Afghanistan's plains"



Tank Corps on the Frontier. In the turret a Vickers machine gun . . .



Signaller at work. The topee could fit over headphones



# BOOK REVIEWS

## A CONDEMNATION OF

THERE has been a mass of literature condemning the leadership in the First World War, which is understandable in view of the horrendous number of casualties suffered in Flanders, Gallipoli and Mesopotamia.

Few historians can take a purely academic view of a war that wasted the cream of a nation's manhood.

The latest in this long line of indictments is John Laffin's

*British Butchers and Bunglers of World War One*, an angry book by an author who has closely studied this conflict and whose passionate opinions have not mellowed since he began to compare British generalship in two world wars.

Describing his impressions after serving in the Second World War, Laffin writes: "I was now even more acutely aware of the differences in senior leadership between one

way and the other . . .

"Most senior generals of World War I were limited in their professionalism, in that they gave orders but when things went wrong they did not accept responsibility.

"Throughout the war it was common for them to blame failures on men who could not answer back – the dead, and the junior in rank . . ."

The generals are not only accused of being incompetent

and callous, the author charges most with dishonest cover-ups.

Damning indictment indeed, but mild in comparison with the case made against Sir Douglas Haig who is treated as nothing short of a war criminal – with the difference that his crimes were against his own men.

Very few generals are praised, and certainly none in higher command.

The questions raised by the

in the Royal Artillery 1746-65, including taking part in an amphibious raid on Brittany, operations against the French in Brabant and garrison duty in Scotland and India. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £17.50.

**The War the Infantry Knew** by Capt J C Dunn. Reissue of the chronicle of service in France and Belgium during the First World War with 2nd Bn, 23rd Foot, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, founded on personal records, recollections and reflections, and edited by the battalion's medical officer. Published by Cardinal. Price £6.99.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

Missoula, Montana 59801. Price \$7.95.

**Gunner At Large** edited by Rex Whitworth. The diary of Mattross (later Brevet Major) James Wood recording his days

Second World War – and continued afterwards. Published by Haynes Publishing Group. Price £24.95.

**Tanks and Other Fighting Vehicles of the World** by B T White. Colour pictures and detailed descriptions of tanks and military tracked vehicles 1942-45. Published by New Orchard Editions. Price £9.95.

**Soldat** (Volume 2) by Cyrus A Lee. The uniforms and equipment of the German foot soldier in Europe in 1943. Published by Pictorial Histories Publishing Co, 713 South Third St West,

**Jamaica 241** by Ernest Warwick. The title was the name of a PoW camp on the River Kwai, and the book is an autobiographical account of the author's experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese, working on the infamous Siam to Burma railway during the Second World War, written as a novel featuring the British 18th Division and drawing on the author's secret diary. Published by Paul Leagas Publications. Price £9.95.

**Jeep** by Robert C Ackerson. Fifty years of the vehicle that became so famous during the

## War poet from the shires

FREDERICK William Harvey was one of that small band of 'war poets' for whom the First World War changed everything.

Born in a Gloucestershire village and a solicitor by profession, he joined the 5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment when war was declared, was among the first volunteers to land in France, and after surviving the carnage of the Somme, was captured by the Germans in 1916.

It was both in the trenches and in captivity that he set down in verse his longing for his Gloucestershire homeland, his outrage at the waste of war, his joy in comradeship, his humour and his unflinching faith.

When the war ended, he returned to his professional life, but continued to write poetry.

**F W Harvey, Soldier, Poet** by Anthony Boden. Published by Alan Sutton. Price £5.95.

# Generals Falklands factor at first hand

book include: How could the Allies lose so many men over such a long period without any significant gain in ground? Why did not the general public, the press and pulpit, complain about the massive casualties?

Why did the generals persist with methods of attack long after they had been proved ineffective? Why was a general who was the architect of an offensive which caused the loss of 20,000 men on the first day

permitted to remain in command of his battered army? The author poses the questions concisely but the reader has to glean the answers, or rather the author's opinion of what the answers should be, by careful and analytical reading. – BJ

**British Butchers and Bunglers of World War One** by John Laffin. Published by Alan Sutton. Price £12.95.



Argentine soldiers surrender their weapons at the end of the Falklands war. The picture was taken by SOLDIER's Paul Haley

IT IS rare to come across a book written about the immediate consequences of a war – always a highly complex time for civilian inhabitants, both emotionally and physically, as they strive to restore their social fabric and attempt to resume their disturbed lives.

Such a book is *Falklands Aftermath* by Maj Gen Edward Fursdon who, as defence and military correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph*, had the opportunity of observing over a period of six weeks how the Falklands picked up the threads after the Argentine occupation and subsequent battles.

It is not only an account of life on the islands in July and August 1982, when the author was there, but an ongoing account of activities, especially those of the military, up to late 1986.

It is obvious that the author resents being unable to be present during the actual conflict but, as he writes: "Whereas there is no way of bridging the threshold that for ever divides those who participated in the campaign and those who did not, nevertheless, within that limitation, by the end of my six weeks in the South Atlantic I felt I had begun to understand just a little of that Falklands factor which had for so long troubled and eluded me."

It seems from this work that he understood it very well.

It is by no means only the civilians who face the challenge of rehabilitation. Servicemen too have little chance to rest on their laurels. The Falklands campaign resulted in its own particular problems: mine-injured animals had to be shot; unexploded and lethal war debris had to be cleared; supplies had to be brought to a port with no facilities; an existing airfield had to be enlarged and resurfaced.

At the same time, the islands had to be protected against possible renewed Argentine attack. All this in a hostile environment of snow, high winds and booby traps – conditions resembling the Somme more than the popularly held concept of the South Atlantic.

The British Servicemen cheerfully worked incredibly long and hard hours to rehabilitate the Falklands.

In an epilogue, Gen Fursdon highlights the key events in the South Atlantic up to 1986 and ends with a listing of all the units and ships of the three Services and Merchant Navy who worked 'down south' in the aftermath of the war. – BJ

**Falklands Aftermath: Picking up the Pieces** by Maj Gen Edward Fursdon. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £12.95.

## The sergeant and the eagle

THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) is Scotland's only Regular cavalry regiment. In more than 300 years of existence it has accumulated 90 battle honours and a priceless collection of treasures.

One of the best known of the regiment's possessions is the eagle that once adorned the standard of the French 45th Regiment. It was taken at Waterloo by Sgt Ewart after he

had cut down three of the enemy.

The eagle is represented on the headdress badge of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Stephen Wood's book, *In the Finest Tradition*, tells of Sgt Ewart's achievement in a history profusely illustrated by photographs of the treasures of the components of the regiment in its present form: 3rd and 6th Dragoon Guards and The Royal Scots Greys.

To tackle a regimental history through its treasures is unusual – in fact it is claimed to be the first book of its kind. It is a story rich in fable and fact, with numerous anecdotes and little-told slants of historical detail. For instance, how many readers would know that the docking of horses' tails in the 3rd Dragoon Guards ceased in 1764?

The one criticism that can be made of this book is that some

of the black and white pictures of the objects are small and somewhat indistinct. However, the 14 colour plates are well printed, contributing to a most attractive and interesting book. – BJ

**In the Finest Tradition: The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys): Its History and Treasures** by Stephen Wood. Published by Mainstream. Price £12.95.

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# THANKS! RGJ put Helen on the move

TWO Army charities joined forces to help five-year-old Helen Smith, daughter of Royal Green Jacket WO David Smith, widen her horizons.

Helen suffers from spina bifida and hydrocephalus and until now has had to be carried everywhere, drastically limiting her movements and the movements of her family.

But the **Rifleman's Aid Society** and **THANKS** (To Help All Needy Kids Swiftly), which are both funded by The Royal Green Jackets and contributed to by soldiers of all ranks, stepped in with donations of £1,500 so that Helen could have a special electric tricycle.

Now she can move independently and the trike can be transported by car, so enabling the family to get about more.

THANKS is the brainschild of Capt Jim Condon who started it two years ago following a discussion with soldiers who felt the normal avenues for help were sometimes bogged down by bureaucracy.

★ ★ ★

A cheque for the princely sum of £16,773 has been handed over to the Cancer Research Campaign by Cpl John Gore of the London based **144 Field Ambulance**.

Terrier John walked from Land's End to John O'Groats via Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis, covering 1,100 miles in 36 days, to raise the money in memory of his daughter Denise Anne, who died from cancer on the eve of her 16th birthday.

The walk, during which John was accompanied by two former soldiers, was the main event of a number of charity efforts, including sponsored swims and raffles.



★ ★ ★

Members of the Nato Women's Club at the Allied Forces Northern Europe Headquarters in Oslo have presented a cheque for £7,000 to the Norwegian Association for the Blind. The money is to be used to train a guide dog named Nato!

★ ★ ★

Distance was no object for the Rev **Michael Ryall**, senior chaplain at Bulford Garrison, when he decided to raise money for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research.



He got himself sponsored to complete a marathon – in New York! He has now handed over the magnificent sum of £2,000 to Col (Retd) John Grogan of ARC.

It was Michael's tenth



Cpl John Gore (left) with his giant cheque for Cancer Research



Picture: Mike Perring

Maj Keith Abnett, RAEC, (right) hands over a mammoth cheque for £10,587 to Great Ormond Street Hospital Wishing Well Appeal officer Capt (Retd) Paddy Vincent, RN. The money was a joint Service effort by the UK community in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), the Nato headquarters in Belgium. Representing the Royal Air Force at the presentation ceremony in London was Air Commodore T G R Osborn, UK National Military Representative at SHAPE

marathon. He completed it in four hours 15 minutes, and is now in training for the London Marathon.

★ ★ ★

A marathon was also the means by which Berlin based Sgt Eddy Hardaker, RAPC, currently attached to **C Squadron, 14th/20th King's Hussars**, raised at least £1,359 for the British Heart Foundation.

Sponsored by colleagues in 14/20 H and friends in his home town of Oldham, Eddy ran in the Berlin Marathon, completing the course in four hours 28 minutes. He had hoped to raise £1,000, but is already well past that mark and still counting!

★ ★ ★

Cpl Bob Robinson, LCpl Frankie Atkinson and Spr Rob Stephens of **Resources Troop**,

**44 Field Support Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment** drilled and sawed their way through a pile of timber to create a brand new staff room for the Hameln Garrison Youth Club, West Germany.

★ ★ ★

Regular and TA soldiers were among 144 runners who took part in the Triers half marathon at Donnington to raise money for charities. The event is an annual one, and the organisations benefiting this year were Shropshire Health Authority and Shrewsbury area of the British Red Cross Society who each received £300, presented by Maj Gen Robert Ward, GOC Western District.

★ ★ ★

Members of **158 Provost Company RMP** at Bulford have raised £400 for the Salisbury branch of Children in Need, partly from collection boxes in the unit but also as proceeds from a draw in the company's Corporals' Mess. The cheque was handed over by Cpl Roy Rowlands to Mrs Pamela Edwards, chairman of the branch.

★ ★ ★

Our running total of Good Causes money raised by units and individuals now stands at

**£363,218**



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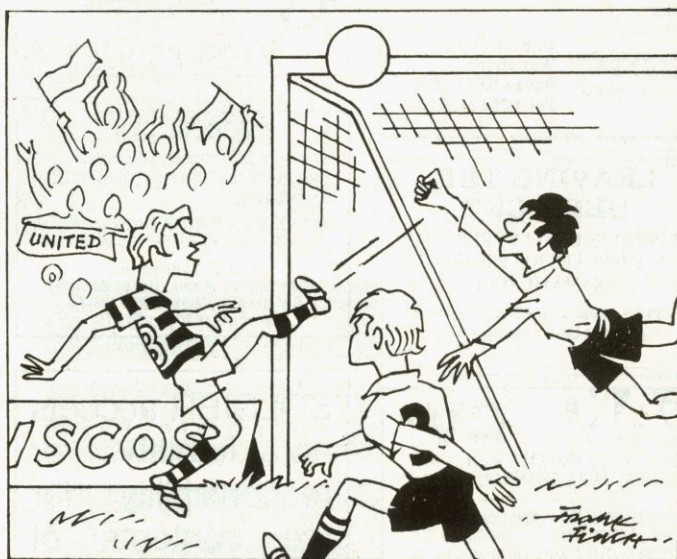
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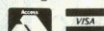
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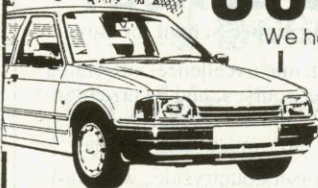


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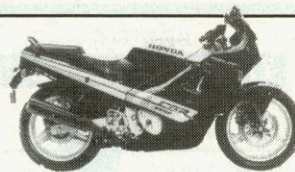
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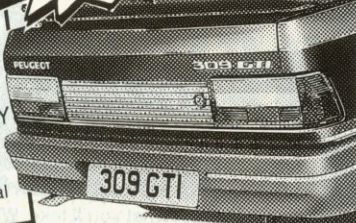
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# Dream pitch moves closer to reality

A MAJOR revision of Army hockey fixtures is on the cards as the prospect of a synthetic pitch next to the Military Stadium in Queen's Avenue, Aldershot moves closer to reality.

Poundstretcher National League fixtures, now played on both days of the weekend, have cost the Army dear in cancelled matches this season. So far six games have been called off by clubs involved in league action.

Now, with the synthetic pitch so vital to Army hockey development a real possibility for next season, AHA secretary Capt Alan Healey is looking to rearrange traditional Sunday fixtures to take place on Tuesday evenings in Aldershot.

The Army squad, so strong last season, has been decimated in the current campaign and has struggled at representative level.

Capt Peter Boxell, RAEC, has generated a good spirit in his new look team, and with four build-up games to go will be hopeful of defending the Inter-Service crown at St Ives, Cambs on March 15-17. The Under-21 side will also be defending the Inter-Service championship having recently held the full Territorial Army senior side to a 1-1 draw.

Of last year's star-studded team, Capt Nick Gordon, SSgt Mike Downey and Spr Mark Hunnisett have left the Service, Capt Alan Mears is in Zimbabwe, Cpl Geoff Day is in the South Atlantic, and 2nd Lt Simon Hazlitt and Sgt Ian Jennings have been ruled out by work, league or international commitments.

Virtually all first class hockey in the UK is now played on synthetic pitches as the top clubs follow the lead of the brilliantly successful Great Britain team.

At present the Army travels as such unimilitary centres as Bisham Abbey, Wokingham and Southampton to play "home" games.

The proposed £250,000 pitch

would be close enough to the Military Stadium to allow the use of the stadium's facilities.

In the Army Cup (UK), three gunner regiments are contesting the semi-finals of the Major Units competition, the final of which is due to be played on grass in Aldershot on March 29.

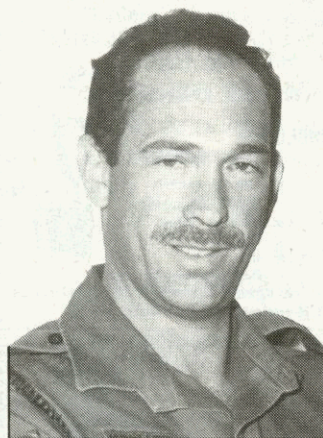
AAC Centre is the odd team out in a last four including 7 RHA, 16 AD Regt RA and 17 Tg Regt RA.

## Six of the best

**THE ARMY boxing team has won the Inter-Service title for the sixth consecutive year - thanks to the Royal Air Force!**

Having beaten the RAF 8-2 and drawn with the Royal Navy 5-5, the Army's could only sit back and wait for the destination of the 1989 team championship to be decided between the airmen and the sailors at RAF Halton.

The result was a 7-3 win to the Navy, one less than they needed to claim a share of the title.



Sgt Andrew Howarth (above) of the Joint Service Signals Unit, Falkland Islands won the Military Challenge Cup in Port Stanley's annual summer horse races. Nearly 100 horses were entered for the races, a traditional meeting which dates back well over a century



LCpl Colin Green (above) of the RAOC Stores Platoon who won the annual 5 Armd Wksps REME cross country race at Niederbergheim, near the Möhne Dam, West Germany. He received the Cfn Gerard Bowdler Trophy in memory of the young soldier who died in a road accident near Soest last year

## Robbie takes title No 10

MAJ Robbie Robinson again dominated the Army squash championships, having flown in from Hong Kong to defend his title for the ninth time, writes Lance Brett.

He beat Sgt Tom Pollard 3-1 in convincing fashion in the finals staged at Woking, Surrey.

Robinson also won the Over 35 event, beating the dogged WO1 Derek Collins 3-0 in the final.

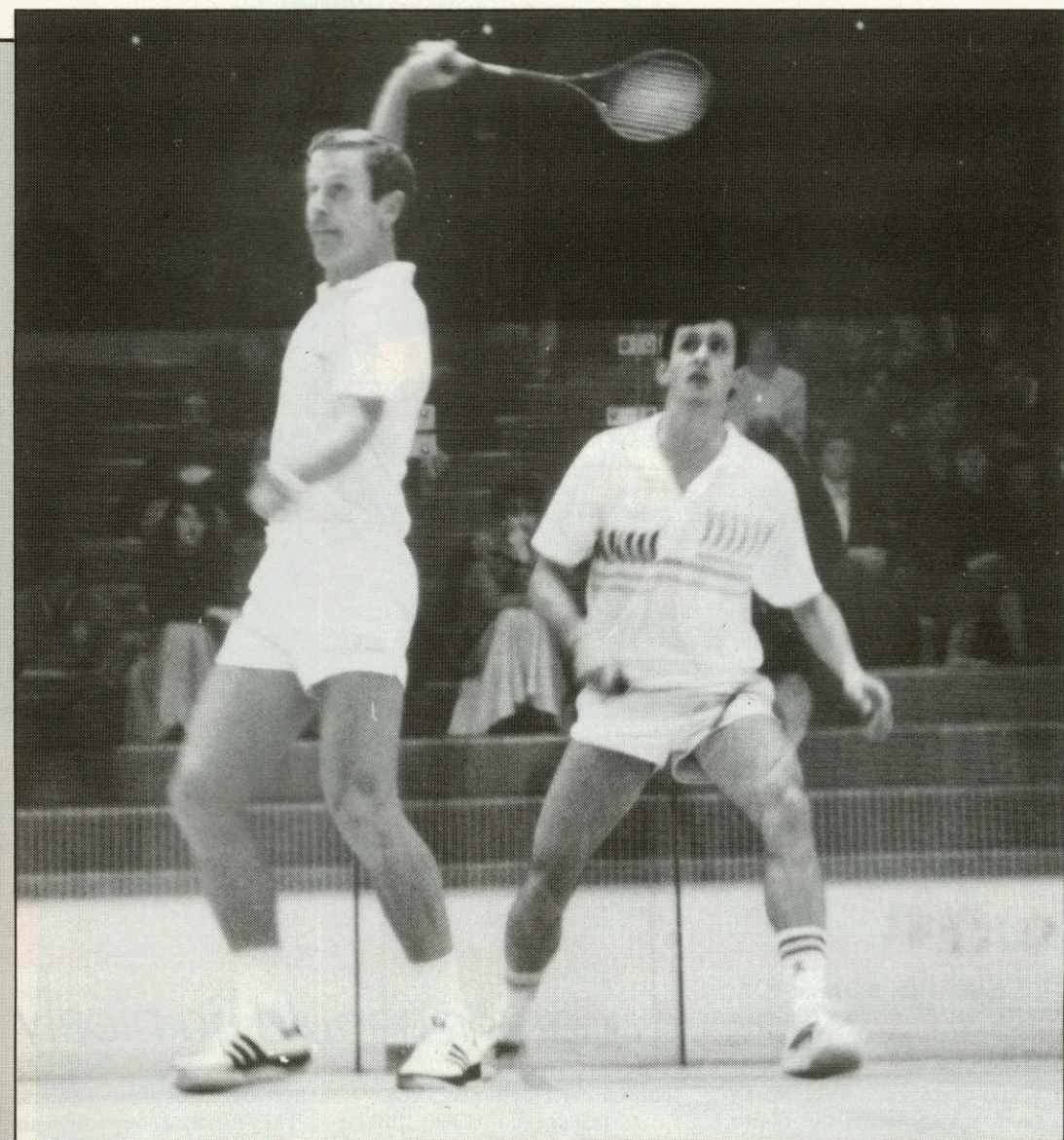
The Under 25 event was won for the second year by Pte Andrew Keen, while in the veterans' competition Lt Col John Woodliffe had to give up his five year tenure of the title to ex SSgt (SSI) Mike Varney after a long 3-2 battle.

The doubles competition was won by Collins and Capt Richard Openshaw.

The Army and the Royal Air Force met on the final day of the Inter-Service championships after both had beaten the Royal Navy with some ease.

Having broken the Army's 14 year domination last season with a decisive 5-0 win, the RAF only just managed to scrape home 3-2.

Maj Robinson and Sgt Pollard put the Army ahead by



Maj Robbie Robinson (left) poised for the kill against Sgt Tom Pollard and on his way to a record tenth Army title

winning their matches at No 1 and No 2 seeds. The RAF won easily at No 3, but Flt Lt Rob Last was in deep trouble when trailing Pte Keen 3-6 in the fifth. But Keen went to pieces and Last took the game 9-6.

WO1 Derek Collins had two match points against former RAF champion Sgt Lew

Arthur before going down 10-8 in the fifth. It could not have been closer.

The RAF Under 25 team recovered the trophy which they lost to the Army last year with 4-1 victories over both the other Services, while the Army veterans played themselves to a standstill in defence of their

title. They started badly, losing 2-3 to the Royal Navy, who were in turn beaten by the RAF. But wins for Capt Robin Broad, WO2 Bill McQuilkin, Lt Col John Woodliffe and Capt Mick Mooney ensured them victory over the airmen by the margin necessary to retain the trophy.

## And so on to Twickers

THE Army rugby team continued their run up to the Willis Faber Trophy game against the Royal Navy at Twickenham on March 11 with a visit to Grange Road, Cambridge, writes John Quin.

In an entertaining game, Army hopes were first raised then lowered and finally raised again. They started well enough to open the score with a fine try by Lt Lee Drakeley.

Cambridge threw the ball about with Welsh international Mike Hall increasingly dominant until he met up with one of Sgt Chalky Atkin's bone rattling tackles.

If the Army felt the injury to Hall was going to disrupt the students, they could not have been more wrong.

From taking the lead, the Army found themselves 24-4 down. When it looked like they were going to get badly mauled, the red shirts suddenly took the game by the scruff of the neck and ran in a goal and a try.

Final score was 24-14, and they might have won if they hadn't lost their way in midstream.

The Army then travelled to Oxford where they beat a strong university side by 24 points to four.

### DISCIPLINE

The Army Rugby Union has cancelled this year's Minor Units (UK) final as a result of disciplinary measures imposed on the teams in the semi-finals of the South East District Cup.

24 Fd Sqn RE, holders for four years, have been banned for a month, and their captain, who was sent off, banned until January 1990 for indiscipline against Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe. The game was abandoned.

An ARU disciplinary committee under Col Andrew Hoon sat four days after the game. In imposing such severe penalties and in dealing with the matter so promptly, the ARU has shown that this sort of incident will not be tolerated.

JIB Shorncliffe were also censured.

As a result UK winners are 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE from Northern Ireland.

## BELEAGUERED COLTS WIN AT LAST RRW celebrate

THE ARMY Colts rugby team beat Bedfordshire 11-6 at Luton to register their first win of the season, writes Peter Salisbury.

Earlier they seemed to have carried the misfortunes of the old year into the new one. Their first game of 1989 should have been against London Welsh but the exiles cried off the night before.

To make matters worse Spr Tim Green (PCD Mill Hill), who made such a promising

debut before Christmas, badly broke his collar bone in training and is unlikely to play again this season.

The Army then played Durham County at Darlington and lost 12-6. On paper this was a good result as Durham were runners up in the Northern Division of the Colts County Championship. However, it was a game the Army should have won.

They missed three kickable penalties and kicked away far

too much good possession.

ACpl Richard Thomas (AAC Chepstow) scored from a short penalty move and Gdsmn Jason Smith (1 WG) converted.

Smith was making his debut having recovered from a broken arm sustained back in October. He had an excellent game.

Against Bedfordshire the Army made some changes to try to improve their back play. Spr Darren John (33 Sqn RE) was an improvement at outside half and scored the second of

the Army's two tries. The first was scored by lock AT Roy Hayes (AAC Harrogate) after good work by flanker Cfn Jason Morris (SEE Arborfield) who had an excellent game.

The Army's other points came from a penalty by centre AT Sgt Tim Williams (AAC Harrogate) who had made his debut against Durham.

Another player to catch the eye against Bedfordshire was Air Tpr Sam Deignan who tackled splendidly at full back.

AS PART of the tercentenary year of The Royal Regiment of Wales a rugby team representing the regiment will play Crawshays at Glamorgan Wanderers' ground on March 29. This is to mark not only the importance rugby plays in the life of the regiment but also the regiment's contribution to rugby in Wales.

Twenty internationals have played for the regiment while many other players have gone on to senior clubs.

Both the founder and the first secretary of the Army Rugby Union came from the regiment and more recently W H Clements was secretary of the Welsh Union for many years. The newly appointed secretary of the IRB, Keith Rowlands, served with the Welch Regiment.

In a promising first venture, 3 WFR gave a spirited performance in going down 14-6 to 3 RRW in difficult conditions at Pontypool.



# Alpine honours go to 35 Engr Regt

THE BEST skiers in the British Army got together at Les Menuires in the French Alps for a hard fought Army Alpine ski championship.

The resort, part of the highly acclaimed Trois Valley development, suffered in common with the whole of the Alps from a lack of snow, but the 200 snow guns of the resort set matters almost to right. It was, regrettably, necessary to abandon the downhill event but the introduction of a men's super giant slalom in its place ensured that the overall testing quality of the championships did not suffer.

The championships attracted 115 competitors in 22 teams, including a strong WRAC team of 15 girls. Skiing standards were notably high, on what despite the difficulties with snow was probably the toughest course Army Alpine racers have had to face.

As expected, British International Lt Hugh Hutchison of 35 Engr Regt produced speed and consistency to win each of the men's events, while the 35 Eng Regt team took first place in all three team events to retain the Alpine Ski team title (and with it the Irish Guards Cup) for a second consecutive year.

17th/21st Lancers were again the runners-up and LCpl Karen Greer of 10 Coy, WRAC, won the Ladies Combination and the Robertson Cup for the best newcomer.

The Army skiers were honoured with the presence for the final two days of the competition of the Duke of Kent, Patron of the Army Winter Sports Association.

**Men's giant slalom** - 1 - Lt H Hutchison, 35 Eng Regt; 2 - Lt A Paine, QRIH; 3 - Sgt A Mortimore, 35 Eng Regt.

**Men's team giant slalom** - 1 - 35 Eng Regt; 2 - 17/21 L; 3 - QRIH.

**Men's slalom** - 1 - Lt H Hutchison, 35 Eng Regt; 2 - Cpl G Barker, 17/21 L; 3 - Sgt A Mortimore, 35 Eng Regt.

**Mens team slalom** - 1 - 35 Eng Regt; 2 - QOH; 3 - 17/21 L.

**Mens super giant slalom** (replacing the downhill event) - 1 - Lt A Hutchison, 35 Eng Regt; 2 - Lt A Paine, QRIH; 3 - Sgt A Mortimore, 35 Eng Regt.

**Mens team super giant slalom** - 1 - 35 Eng Regt; 2 - 17/21 L; 3 - 22 Sig Regt.



The Duke of Kent chats to Lt Hugh Hutchison (centre), who dominated the individual honours at the Army Alpine ski championships, and other competitors

## Point taken!

### Cornwall 2, The Army 2

THE ARMY made a 600 mile round trip to Cornwall in search of the points which would have been decisive in their bid to retain the South West Counties Championship writes Pat Massey.

They had to settle for a 2-2 draw, which should still make them odds on to win Group A and earn a place in the final.

Play was skilful and competitive in blustery conditions, and Cpl Guy Whittingham, REME, made amends for an earlier miss when he opened the scoring on the half hour. Sgt Mickey Spencer, APTC found him with a deft header and he battled past three defenders before shooting under the advancing county 'keeper.

A mistake by Sgt Mick

*... and it should do nicely*

Johnson, APTC allowed former Army player and recent full time professional George Torrance (Brentford and Maidstone), now playing on his home ground of Falmouth Town, to equalise.

Three minutes later and the Army were ahead again through Whittingham after another deadly strike involving Spencer.

Poor defence allowed Cornwall in for a second half equaliser.

### Army XI 0, Middlesex 2

Army Challenge Cup commitments meant the Army were forced to entertain the talented Middlesex County XI without

half a dozen of their regulars.

They lost by a couple of goals but earned the admiration of both sets of supporters for a spirited performance during which they enjoyed the lion's share of the play without being able to score.

LCpl Dave MacAuley, RE, and Cpl Matt Carmichael, RA, both had chances which went begging and 'keeper Gdsman George Shankland, SG, took responsibility for the second Middlesex goal when he missed a corner kick and allowed Regan of Hounslow Town a free goal-line header.

Bde Clint Webbe, RA, had a goal disallowed in the second half and Carmichael went desperately close.

Head groundsman Robin Ellis (right) has just completed 21 years at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. Robin, who is responsible for the immaculate playing surface, has been on the ground staff since he left school. He has been head groundsman for the past 18 years.



## Cup challenge hots up

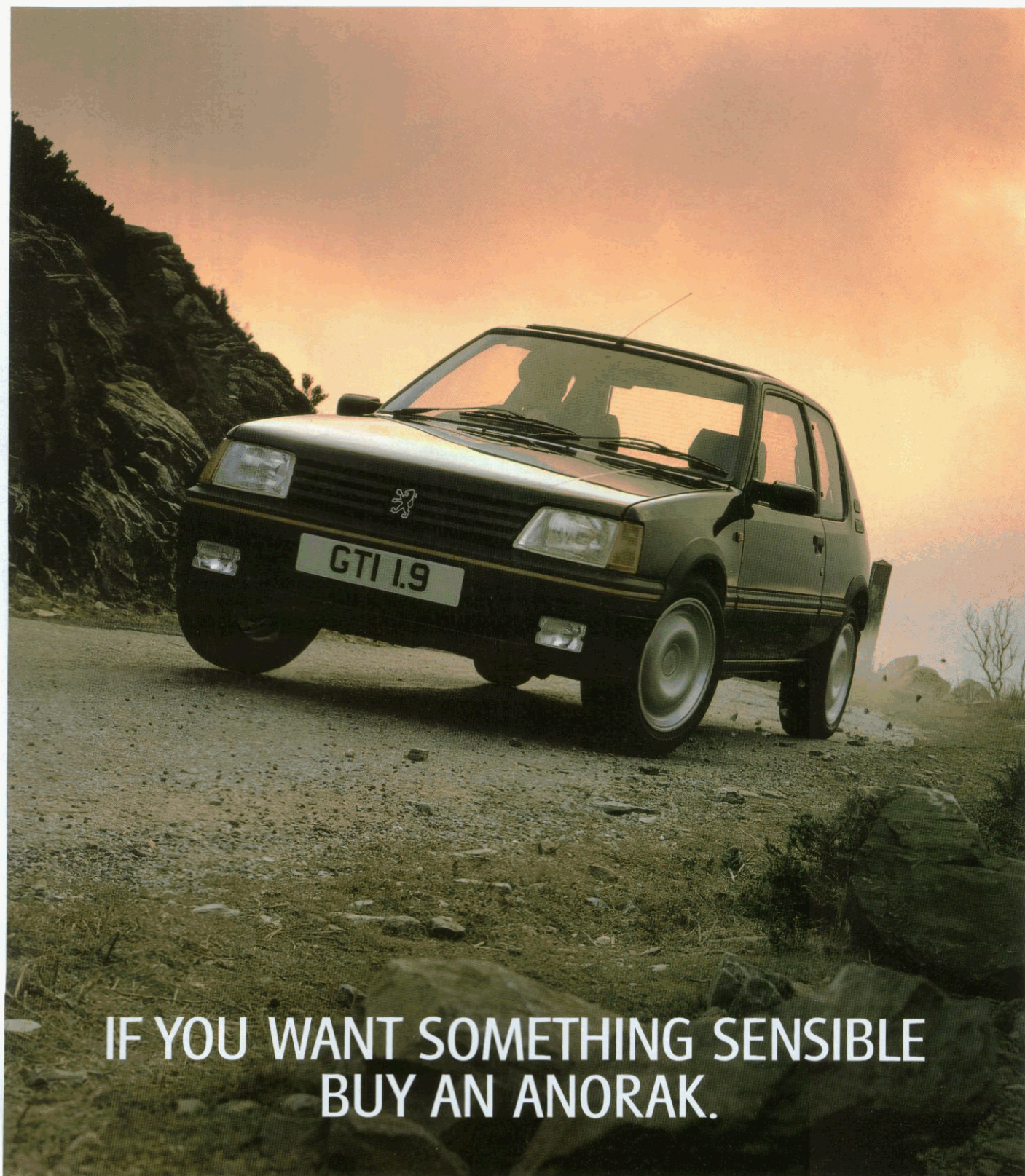
ARMY Challenge Cup action is hotting up, with the BAOR finalists already known and the UK section final a replay of last year.

IN BAOR, 1 Kings play 10 Regt RCT for a place in the Challenge Cup final, while in the UK, champions School of Signals were held to a 2-2 draw after extra time by 1 RHF. In

the replay at Oakington the Blandford based signallers ran out winners by four goals to nil.

3 Queens beat 3 LI by a goal to nil in their quarter final and were then beaten 6-0 by School of Signals in their semi final. SEME Bordon are already through to the UK final by beating 1/3 Trg Regt RE 4-2 after extra time.





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# SOLDIER

A welcome break from camp routine for three soldiers serving in the Falkland Islands. From left, Cfn Philip Carter, Cpl Paul Thorney and Pte Rob Murtagh man a .50 Browning as they get a chance to shoot down model aircraft during a low level, all arms air defence training session at Hookers Point Range, East Falkland. Full story in Pages 25 to 27.

Picture: Mike Perring

