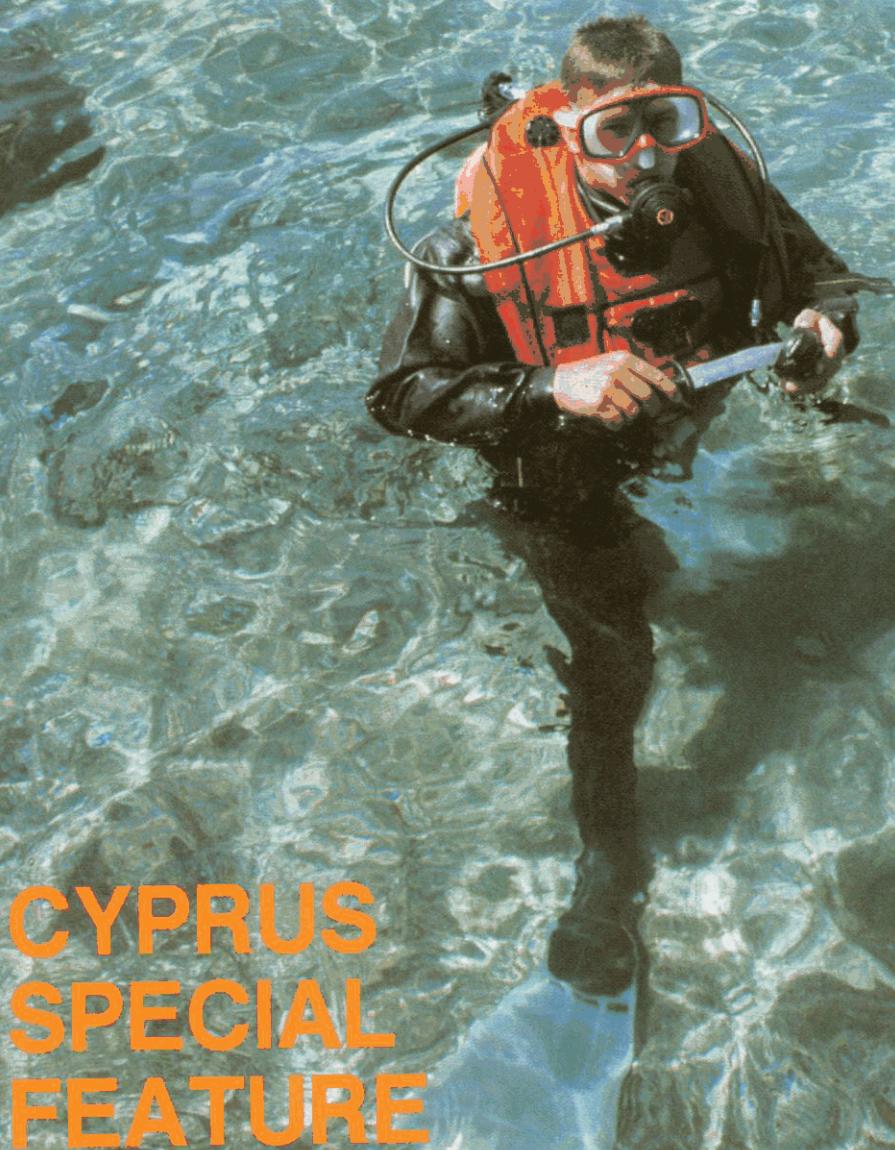


# SOLDIER

18 MAY 1987

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—see Page 14

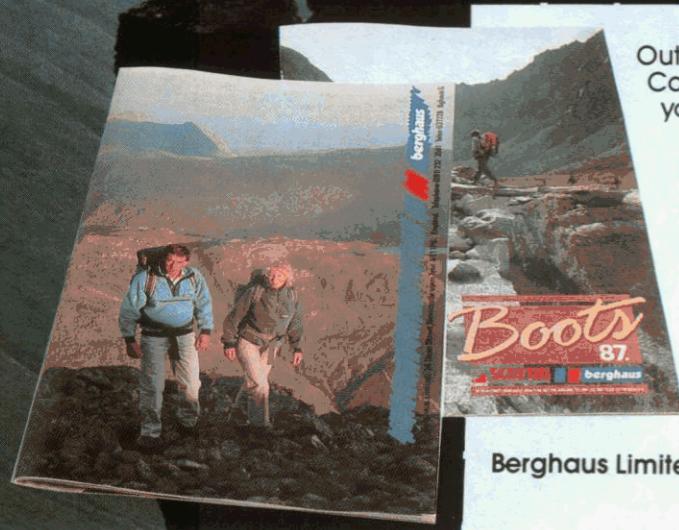
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**FRONT COVER: LCpl Stuart Weaver enjoys the inviting waters of the Mediterranean. Special feature on Cyprus starts on Page 21.**

Picture by Paul Haley

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# SOLDIER

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

## NEXT ISSUE



## TOP GUNS

**Every year 14 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, fires enough rounds to fight a limited war. It is also involved in trials on the new Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) which the Army is buying in a deal worth more than £600 million. SOLDIER has been visiting the Army's "top guns" at their home at Larkhill, Wilts. Report and pictures in the next issue.**

## Grimy memory of Belgrave Square

Strolling around London's fashionable Belgrave Square recently, I paused as I approached one particular house. Nostalgic memories came flooding back as I gazed up at the attractive building.

No, I was not recalling my part in the elegant balls once held there, nor yet my presence

at those extravagant, carefree high society parties given in days gone by.

Sadly, my particular memory was of a very different kind.

It was of dark, cold wartime nights as I struggled valiantly, with limited materials and even less expertise, to coax the ancient boiler in the dim, grim

basement to light!

Just one of those dreary, less glamorous duties I, as orderly corporal, had to perform in the house which at that time was base camp to a number of the then ATS. — **Miss Valerie H M Beck (ex ATS), 18 Shaftesbury Avenue, Barnet, Herts EN5 5JA.**

## Reunions

● The third reunion of 25 Regiment Royal Artillery 1947-1948 is to take place on July 5 at 1200 hrs at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Details from Len Haddow, 11 Chapel Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3TD (tel: 0634 388156).

● Annual reunion of the East Surrey Regiment (all ranks, all battalions) will take place in the Grand Hall, Battersea Town Hall, Lavender Hill, Battersea, October 30. Apply to S J Jupe, 68c Havelock Road, Wimbledon SW19 8HD (phone 01-543 1747).

● The 21st annual reunion of 14/28th Field Regiment (OCA) will be in the School of Artillery Sergeants' Mess on November 14. Details from Captain L Smith RA, 5 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Field Battery RA, 94th Locating Regiment Royal Artillery, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 8QU.

## Author's screw gun unknown to Kipling

The review of Mr Goldstein's book, *Farewell Screw Gun*, (SOLDIER April 20) brings to mind Rudyard Kipling's poem *The Screw Gun*. However, I doubt if he would have recognised the Howitzer 75mm Pack M1 illustrated as his inspiration.

The original screw gun was used in the Afghanistan Expedition in 1879 and known as the RML 2.5 Jointed Gun; subsequent design development resulted in the 3.7 mountain howitzer.

This was the solution to the need for a powerful gun which could be pack transported by mule load — by making it in sections which could be readily assembled.

The notable feature is the

barrel which is in two portions and these were joined together by a junction nut — or screwed together. Hence the name.

The 75mm pack howitzer is American equipment and was adopted in British service in 1944 and used by airborne forces — glider borne at Arnhem and later dropped by parachute in the later 1940s.

Your illustration is relevant though anticipatory, because 85 Field Regiment was reformed post war as 285 Light Regiment RA in the parachute role, using this gun.

Amalgamations subsequently resulted in 285 Parachute Field Regiment forming part of 289 Commando Battery. — **C Hampson, 25 Hillside Walk, Brentwood, Essex.**

**BEST JUMP SCHOOL IN THE WORLD**

Jump to it! (SOLDIER, March 9) certainly brought back memories of 30 odd years ago, when I was privileged to complete successfully a parachute course at No 1 PTS at Abingdon. As it rightly states, confidence is the keyword, and this was quickly instilled by the RAF staff of PJIs, surely the world's best.

In our first week, after learning the basics, we did two balloon jumps inside an hour, the second week, six aircraft exits, including "sticks" graduating from six to twelve men, and kitbag jumps. Of the six aircraft jumps, four were from the marvellous old workhorse the Dakota, and two from a USAF C-119. Quite an experience this, sticks jumping simultaneous from angled exit doors at the rear of the aircraft, dispatched by a US Army jumpmaster smoking a massive cigar! — **Owen A O'Neill, 110 Lingfoot Crescent, Sheffield, Yorks S8 8DB.**

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# INVICTA EXPORT



## HOAY prize

Congratulations to Mr J E Baker of The Croftlands, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, on winning £50 in SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 409. Every reader of SOLDIER has a chance to win £50 just by being observant. Try your luck on page 43 of this issue.

## Royal Sussex last to leave Korea

Reference your article on Korea (SOLDIER, March 6), my curiosity was aroused that although mention was made of The Royal Sussex Regiment disembarking, no further information on them was given.

The battalion was in the Commonwealth Division, also attached to the American 24th TARO Division, in 1956. The regiment had the distinction of wearing two divisional flashes at the same time, Commonwealth on the left and TARO on the right arm. The Royal Sussex Regiment finally left Korea in 1957, being the last full British battalion to do so.

It is with regret that we lost our identity but we wish The Queen's Regiment well, and hope that the spirit that we had with The Royal Sussex Regiment is kept alive. — M Gadd (late WO2, The Royal Sussex Regiment), 18 Charles Road West, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex.

## Here's a way to keep York and Lancasters

How sad it was to read in SOLDIER about the final demise of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Am I the only person in this country, apart from those who had the honour to serve in this faithful old regiment, that is upset about this happening? In fact I feel so bad about it that I should like to offer the following options, in my order of preference, to enable the regiment to remain in the Army List.

1 – Disband the Parachute Regt and let the rifle regts – Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), KRRC and Rifle Brigade – take over the role. Then reorganise the Light Division into five one-battalion regts (O and BLI, SCLI, KOYLI, KSLI, and DLI). This leaves one battalion

over which should include the re-raised York and Lancaster Regt. This option I like because it has the added bonus of re-raising several other old regiments.

2 – The regiments of the Kings Division to take turns in running the depot at Strensall. This would allow another battalion to be formed which could be the York and Lancasters. The RAC already use this principle by basing one of their regiments at Catterick; the practice also applied in the infantry in the late 1940s under the group system.

3 – The Green Howards and Duke of Wellington's Regiment to offer the York and Lancasters a company within their Regular battalions. After all, if it had not been for the Y

and L sacrifice in 1968 one of these regiments would have lost their separate identity through amalgamation. They therefore owe the Y and L one.

4 – Now that there is to be a further battalion of Yorkshire Volunteers why cannot one be allocated to each of the three existing Regular regiments with the fourth becoming a TA battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment?

It will be noted from the above that I would not increase the size of the Army by one man; yet could reform many regiments. I am just a soldier who loves the Army and its old country regiments and who does not want to see them disappear. — Mr M Williams, Albuhera, Egley Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 0AY.

## How did fusiliers wear their hackles in 1919?

May I tap the vast pool of military knowledge possessed by SOLDIER readers by asking if anyone can please supply at least some of the answers to the following queries. They deal mainly with dress after the 1914-1918 war when, because full dress was not universally restored to the Army, SD uniform had to fill the gap.

- Did fusilier regiments wear their various coloured hackles with the SD cap between 1919 and the introduction of battledress in a similar manner to that presently adopted with the beret?
- At some time in the late 1930s long puttees were dispensed with for ceremonial. Thereafter the SD trousers were allowed to hang straight to

the boot. Can anyone please confirm this and give the date of the change?

- When did swagger-can (or whips) cease to be carried?
- I possess a (I think) gunner's walking-out whip, one silver ferrule of which bears the inscription: G & J Zair 1915 plus a broadarrow. I tend to think this was the name of a contractor and not the manu-

facturer. Can anyone therefore shed more light on it? I suspect it traded in the Middle East (perhaps Egypt) rather than India or elsewhere.

- In the more recent past, when was the officers' brown ankle boot (not the field boot) phased out? — R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.

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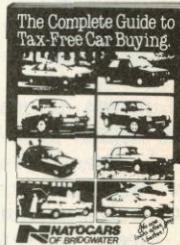
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# MICS consigns pilots' paperwork to the bin

THREE HUNDRED pocket-sized computers which will virtually eliminate paperwork and the jotting down of calculations by chinagraph pencil on flying overall leg pads are being issued to Army Air Corps helicopter crews, writes **Graham Smith**.

The sums-within-seconds facility is called MICS - Mission Information Computer System. It comprises a ground station element and a hand-held computer about the size of an office desk top calculator.

This airborne boon has many functions among which will be the storing of comms information, navigation plots, target areas,

frequencies, call signs and BATCOs - Battle Group Codes.

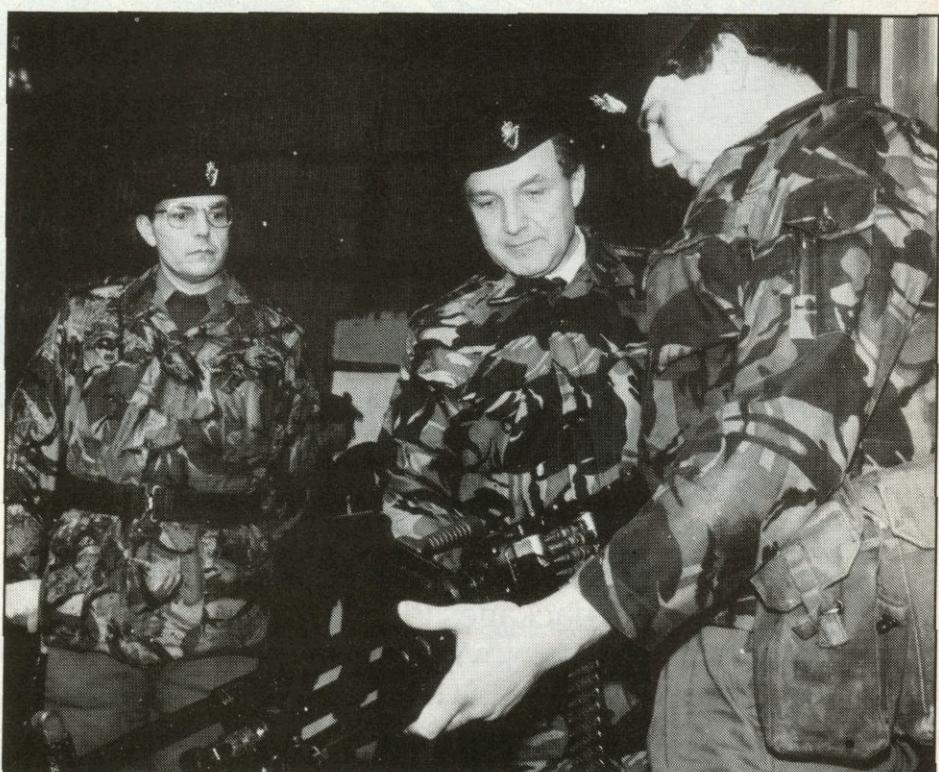
The system has been on trial for two years with BAOR's 1 Regiment, AAC. It was soon found to reduce crew workloads, particularly at night.

It also takes the strain out of map reading. All aircrew need do, basically, is punch in a given grid reference and the response tells the pilot the survey map sheet on which the location can be found.

The software and operational data is held on plug-in memory modules, into which programmes and data are loaded from the ground station at the combat unit's HQ before each mission.



MICS on trial. The pilot's computer is on the right, the ground station element on the left



Wearing an Ulster Defence Regiment beret, Defence Minister Mr George Younger meets a soldier of 4 UDR in Enniskillen. It was the Minister's second visit to the Army in Northern Ireland since taking office. On the left is 4 Bn CO Lt Col Jeremy Broad.

A few days earlier a part time member of the unit, Cpl James Oldman, had died in a terrorist attack. He was the third soldier to die in the

province this year, and since then another UDR soldier, Pte William Graham, has been shot dead, bringing the total to 549, of whom 162 were UDR soldiers.

Mr Younger was met by the General Officer Commanding, Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, toured HQ at Lisburn and visited the 1st Bn The Green Howards, the resident Londonderry battalion.

## Tank mover makes last lift

BAOR's champion weightlifter of more than a quarter of a century has made its last lift. The Antar Mk 3 tank transporter, a 321 bhp powerhouse, first started moving tanks for the Rhine Army nearly 40 years ago.

Now the Antar is being withdrawn from service and at Paderborn, 15 of them from

617 Tank Transporter Sqn, Hamm, lifted 14 Chieftains and one ARV of D Sqn, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards for the last time, delivering them from Barker Barracks, to Reinsehlen, near Soltau, 230 kms away.

The 16-gear Antars are being replaced by the new Commander tank transporter.

## Gurkha change

AFTER a two year tour of duty in the United Kingdom the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (the Sirmoor Rifles) (2/2 GR) has returned to Hong Kong. Almost 130 soldiers of 2/2 GR arrived back in Hong Kong and after a speedy refuel the RAF aircraft embarked a similar number of soldiers of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles to take them to their new camp at Church Crookham, near Aldershot.

## Mercian triumph

The 2nd Battalion Mercian Volunteers has won the Western District annual GPMG SF competition for the fourth year running. The event was held under atrocious weather conditions at Sennybridge. Despite the elements 2 Mercian SF team won by a convincing margin.

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# Paras' charity tab claimed as a record

EIGHT paratroopers, six of them Falklands veterans, marched into their regimental depot at Browning Barracks in Aldershot after completing a marathon 1,200 mile march from Inverness 27 hours ahead of schedule. They are claiming a record of eight days, 15 hours, 15 minutes and 30 seconds for the gruelling "tab" which took them down the eastern side of

Scotland and England, along the south coast and back to Aldershot.

The NSPCC and the British Heart Foundation will benefit by thousands of pounds.

The marchers carried the standard 35lbs packs used by the paras. They took it in turns to march for two hours at a time. All set a scorching pace and one marcher,

LCpl Jim Laker, averaged the equivalent of a half marathon during his two-hour stints. In the team were Sgt Martin Margerison and the man who saved his life at Goose Green in the Falklands, Cpl Baz Bardsley. When Martin was shot in the mouth and shoulder Cpl Bardsley ran back under fire and carried him to safety. He won the Military Medal.

# They want moor fine weather!

FOUR HUNDRED teams of six walkers were preparing for a tough weekend on the wilds of Dartmoor in the 28th annual Ten Tors expedition as **SOLDIER** went to press.

Last year the weather was appalling and 2,400 contestants were hoping for finer fare. Only a quarter of the entries finished the course a year ago.

Ten Tors is organised by the Army's SW District HQ, Bulford, with HQ 43 Inf Bde, Exeter and support from TA units and RN, RM and RAF detachments.

# Badge facelift

THE Devon Regiment badge cut into the hillside at Fovant (Wilts) just off the busy A30 has just had a facelift.

Soldiers from the Bulford-based 1st Bn, The Devonshire and Dorset Regt, have spent a week cleaning up the badge etched into the chalk.

# Cyprus ambush

BRITISH Servicemen in Cyprus were put on full alert after a Land-Rover was hit by automatic fire on the coast road near Limassol. Both driver and passenger survived the attack which was mounted during the same week that Defence Secretary Mr George Younger made a visit to the island. More details on Page 26.



Home Secretary Douglas Hurd tries his hand on the Milan simulator after instruction from Cpl Mike Lewis at 5 RGJ's new headquarters at Oxford

# Home Secretary in a mess with 5RGJ!

THE Home Secretary signed for a mess tin when he opened Slade Park Barracks at Oxford. But it wasn't an ordinary mess tin. It was engraved with a suitable message, embossed with the Green Jacket and RAMC cap badges - and contained an appetizing beef stroganoff.

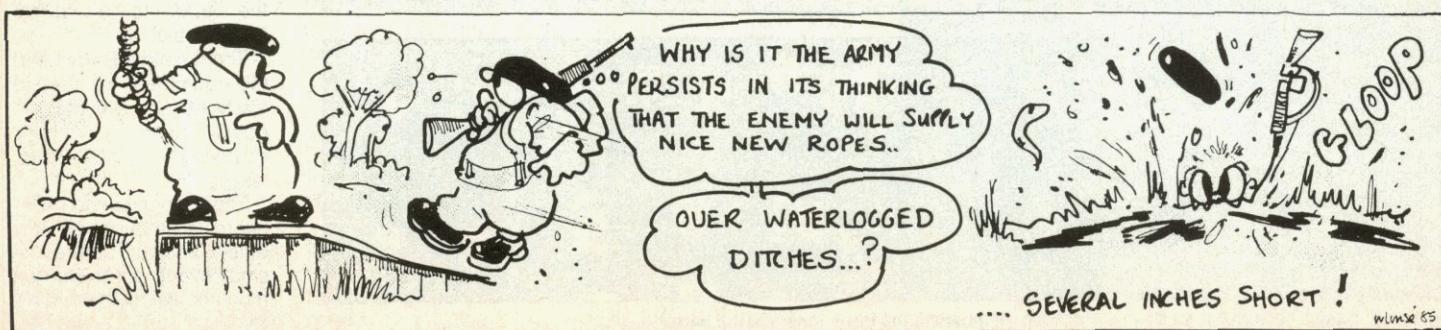
The refurbished Slade Park TA centre at Oxford dates back to the 1950s when it was built to house HQ 129 Infantry Brigade. It has been the home of A Coy, 4th Bn The Royal Green Jackets, a

detachment of 219 General Hospital, headquarters of the Oxfordshire battalion of the ACF, and a small TAVRA staff.

Now C Coy has been absorbed into HQ Coy of the 5th Bn The Royal Green Jackets (but will reappear as part of the new battalion in High Wycombe at the end of this year). To accommodate the larger company and the battalion HQ, the barracks was refurbished and a new block constructed for the TAVRA and 219 General Hospital.

MOBB

by Mouse



## Pictured history

THE Shropshire Yeomanry was raised in 1795 and until its disbandment in 1969 had 56 commanding officers.

Today the name and history of the regiment is carried on by C (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron, The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.

To cement the links between The Shropshire Yeomanry and its name county, the squadron has presented a copy of the regiment's history and a painting depicting its various roles to Telford Corporation Environmental History Centre.

The gifts were received by Mrs Elizabeth Holt whose husband Mr Vesey Holt (left centre), is the great-great-great grandson of Lt Col William Cludde who raised the regiment in 1795 and was its first CO. Also present was Lt Col C A Eade (second right) who was the last CO of the regiment disbanded in 1969, Capt E Castle (PSAO) and Lt M R Betts (centre).

The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry is made up of four famous county regiments, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Staffordshire.



Photo by courtesy of the Shropshire Star

## Handy Andy gets a leg up!

Handy Andy Watson found himself with an unusual job when the King's Division Recruiting Team (KDRT) needed a new wall for its mobile assault course.

Based at Preston, Lancs, the team turned to GEC Reinforced Plastics Ltd to build them a wall that could withstand the pounding of thousands of feet during their tour of shows this summer.

Faced with such an unusual challenge the company waived the £500 price tag



## Losers' trophy changes hands

A 20-mile challenge race between officers and sergeants first run in India in 1906 has been re-staged for the first time since, but this time on Salisbury Plain.

That first race, in full marching kit weighing 50lb, was won by officers of the 2nd Bn 60th Rifles, KRRC – now part of the RGJ – and they presented the losers with a trophy that has resided in their mess for the past 80 years.

But new mess president WO Eddie Byrne decided the sergeants had held the "pot" long enough and challenged the officers of 2RGJ to the 50lb-a-man, 20-mile slog across the Plain.

The sergeants built up a points lead which gave RSM Don Duncan the opportunity gleefully to hand back the losers' trophy.



Winners in the front, losers at the back

### Plastic wall will beat feet

## Happiness is the noise of a mouse

FOR the first time in his young life Barry Reynolds can hear the sounds people with normal hearing take for granted.

The 14-year-old son of Cpl Reynolds based at 3 BAD, Bracht, BAOR, Barry has had a hearing disability since birth.

To help him the sergeants' mess at his father's base donated more than DM1,000 which was matched by the fund-raising efforts of SSgt John McRobie of the REME, the LSL estate warden of 3 Royal Anglian Regt, Minden.

John is the founder of the Hearing Aid Appeal in BAOR and, with the help of Sqn Ldr Scase and his wife of RAF Laarbruch, has raised more than DM55,000 to help deaf people.

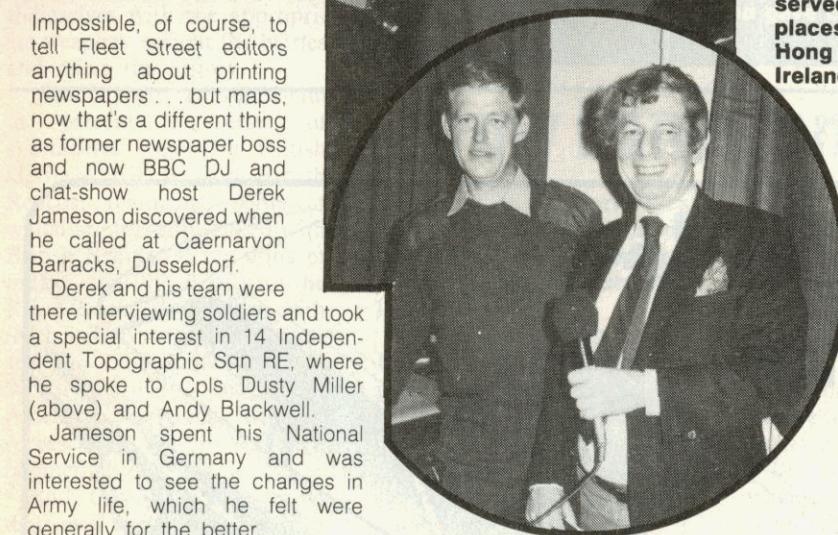
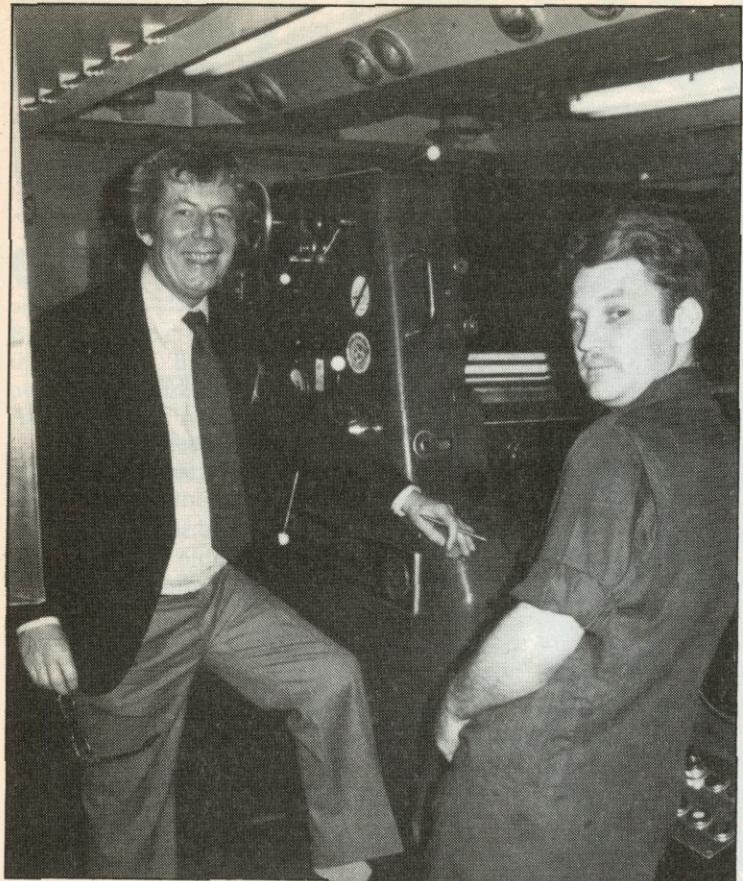
#### FOUNDER

To buy the correct equipment for Barry, Sqn Ldr Scase, accompanied by his wife, went to the UK for suitable equipment – where they purchased a phonic ear.

This comprises a battery powered audio receiver which is worn on the waist belt and vastly increases the input to a normal hearing aid.

The first time Barry used the equipment he startled everyone by saying he could hear a mouse scurrying in the fallen leaves.

The youngster had never heard a mouse or any other animal before. A small event, but to Barry a monumental moment in his life.



# PEOPLE

## Noteworthy family band together!

ALMOST as soon as his sons could recognise a crotchet on a musical score WO2 Gordon Collins (left centre) signed them on for the Volunteer (Northumbria) Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Gordon himself has been with the band since 1953 when it was known as the 43rd RTR Band.

It has gone through a

few name changes since those days, but now seems set with its current title.

In the meantime Gordon,

now band sergeant major, got his boys involved and had two of them practising with the band from the age of 13.

Ian enlisted as a junior bandsman in 1978 and now plays trombone, piano, organ and bass guitar.

Together they make a fine sound and sight.

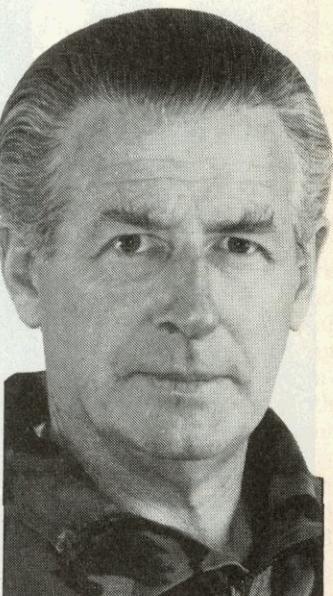
## Furthest posting claim by para ace Phil

GLOBE-trotting para Maj Philip Butterworth lays claim to the furthest posting in the British Army after being sent, in 1983, from Seoul in South Korea to Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

It was certainly the longest posting in a varied and well-travelled 37-year career for Maj Butterworth who last month retired as garrison adjutant at Dhekelia, Cyprus.

Commissioned into The Border Regiment in 1953, he was later seconded to the Parachute Regiment and took part in the airborne assault on Port Said in November 1956 where he was mentioned in dispatches.

Maj Butterworth has since served in, among other places, Ghana, Singapore, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland. Rather than flying



MAJ PHIL BUTTERWORTH: retiring home, he is taking a leisurely drive back through Europe to the UK from Cyprus.

## Gurkha editor calls on us

Newspaper editor Maj (QCO) Dipakbahadur Gurung, GTR (right), was keen to see how SOLDIER operated when he visited the UK.

He's usually based in Hong Kong where he produces the 16-page fortnightly *Parbate* (which means Hill Man), a tabloid publication that circulates to all five continents.

Packed with news of Gurkha units and news items from Nepal, it is well read by families and ex-Servicemen within the mountain kingdom and Gurkhas worldwide serving with the Army.



From left to right: Steven, Gordon, Ian and David

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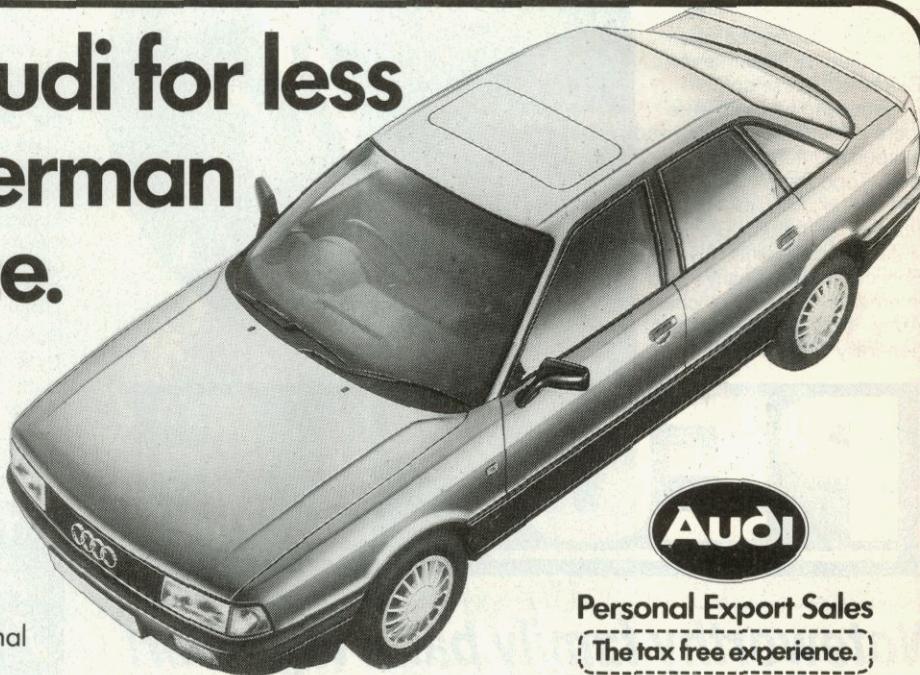
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Car of interest \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Delivery Date \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require finance?

Yes  No

S/18.5.87

\*Prices correct at time of going to Press.

# American invaders will fight each other

Britain will be invaded over the August bank holiday period by hundreds of British, American and French soldiers – all of them from America. They are coming here to fight – each other!

They fought each other before – or rather their forebears did – not in Britain, but in America.

It may sound confusing, but these are 700 soldiers who in ordinary life have a variety of jobs – some are soldiers! – but are bound together by a passionate interest in the period of the American War of Independence. And they dress themselves in authentic military costumes of the day, arm themselves with the appropriate weapons, refight the battles and relive the history.

Most of them visiting Britain to present a series of spectacular events for British Heritage, will be from British Redcoat regiments, some of which are formally linked with British Regular Army units of today – the 10th Foot with the Royal Anglians, the 64th with the Staffordshire Regiment, and the 23rd with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. But three American battalions will be represented, and two French regiments.

And they will even bring their own camp followers with them!

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier



**CAESAR**, a two-year-old Alsatian dog, and two handlers were responsible for the Hong Kong based Army Dog Unit's capture of its 10,000th illegal immigrant since 1979.

Caesar, who arrived in the Colony from England six months ago, was on night patrol with handlers Cpl Ho Siu Por (right) and LCpl Lau So Yuen in the area of Mai Po marshes when he scented and gave chase to the illegal immigrant.

## Army bands on the air

The Army in the North West has combined with BBC Radio Lancashire to produce a unique series featuring six local Army bands.

A two-man team from the Blackburn-based radio station – producer Simon Johnson and engineer Peter Weedon – travelled half way round England and visited Germany to make the series titled On Parade.

The bands all have Lancashire connections and each will show off its skills during its own hour-long programme which will also include a brief

history of its regiment.

The series proved that Radio Lancashire is nothing if not adaptable. While recording in Germany – where the station linked-up with BFBS – Weedon was stumped to find a way to produce an echo for the fanfare trumpets of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

But inspiration came to him when he visited the "smallest room" in Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn – it was an excellent echo chamber! Microphones were quickly moved in and the results will soon be available for all to hear.

## Mr President, I believe . . .

No fewer than four presidents of the Scottish Rugby Union in the past 25 years have served in The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

To commemorate this the four have presented an inscribed Scottish Rugby Union plaque to the regiment.

The former Borderers are Maj Andrew Stewart who served in the 4th Battalion and was president of the SRU in 1962-63, Mr Charlie Drummond who served in the 6th Battalion and was president 1974-75, Brig Frank Coutts who served in the 4th Battalion and was president 1977-78, and Mr "Dad" Burrell who served in the 6th Battalion and was president 1985-86.

## Freephone spy call

The American army has turned its soldiers into spy catchers, according to a report in the Los Angeles Daily News.

The army has set up a scheme with a free telephone service with the aim of helping to catch spies, discover possible security risks and train soldiers to identify both.

Counter-intelligence officers answer the number (1-800-CALL-SPY), and in a test period of less than a month received more than 2,000 calls.

The event being held at Larkhill on July 4 is not Artillery Day, as stated in SOLDIER's Diary Dates, but the garrison fete.

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Soldier Pursuits will span the next five issues of SOLDIER Magazine. The first five questions appear below. A total of twenty five questions will be published, the final Competition Issue being July 13, which will also include a tie-breaker.

Each entry must be accompanied by five Tokens, one to be taken from each competition issue (photo-copies are not acceptable). All entries must be submitted on plain paper, and the tie-breaker must be completed.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday 5th August.

Competition entries should be sent to SOLDIER PURSUITS COMPETITION, Soldier Magazine, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## THE FIRST FIVE QUESTIONS ARE:-

1. The 'Tiny Tots' is a nickname for which Regiment?
2. The King's Royal Rifle Corps was amalgamated into which modern Regiment?
3. The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria in which year - 1847, 1856 or 1859?
4. On the ribbon of a South Atlantic Medal 1982, which silver emblem might be seen - A Rosette, A Penguin or Crossed Oak leaves?
5. What flower is associated with the Battle of Minden?

REMEMBER - all twenty five questions must be answered, and the tie-breaker completed - so don't submit your entry until all five competition issues have been published.

## RULES

Entries must be submitted on plain paper, and all twenty five questions must be answered, and the tie-breaker completed. Each entry must be accompanied by five tokens, to be collected from each competition issue. The prizes are as advertised, and there are no cash alternatives. Employees of SOLDIER Magazine and their families are not eligible for entry. Closing date for entries is Wednesday 5th August. Winners will be notified by post, and published in the first available issue of SOLDIER. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.



## RANGE OF INCREASES IN MILITARY SALARY - TSRB

Rank	July 86 (£)	Apr 87 (£)	Oct 87 (£)	Percent increase Apr 87	Oct 87 (1)
Fd Marshal	77,400	80,690	81,000	4.25	4.45
Gen	62,100	64,739	65,000	4.25	4.46
Lt Gen	43,500	45,349	45,500	4.25	4.42
Maj Gen	35,350	36,852	37,000	4.25	4.46

### (1) Full year costs

## RANGE OF INCREASES IN MILITARY SALARY - APPRB

Officers = 6.0 - 7.0 per cent  
OR = 4.5 (recruits) - 6.8 per cent  
UCEs = 4.0 per cent

Sample annual rates (inclusive of X-Factor)

Rank	Salary Jul 86 (£)	Salary Apr 87 (£)	Percentage increase
Brig	32,160	34,089	6.0
Col	29,532	31,450	6.5
Lt Col	25,488	27,271	7.0
Maj	20,049	21,352	6.5
Capt	15,279	16,272	6.5
Lt	11,523	12,276	6.5
2nd Lt	8,037	8,520	6.0
University Cadet Entrants (3rd year)	6,658	6,925	4.0
Officer Cadet	5,643	5,980	6.0
WO Class 1 Band 5	12,877	13,710	6.5
WO Class 2 Band 5	12,100	12,891	6.5
SSgt Band 5	11,381	12,129	6.6
Sgt Band 5	10,757	11,470	6.6
Cpl Band 2	9,829	10,493	6.8
LCpl Band 2	8,691	9,238	6.3
Pte I Band 2	7,687	8,136	5.8
Pte IV Band 2	5,274	5,512	4.5

THERE was no "wait for it" disappointment in this year's pay rise for the Forces (except for the generals), a practice the Armed Forces Pay Review Body warned had "detrimental effect".

The Review Body's recommendations of average increases of 5.96 per cent and a range of increases from four to seven per cent costing a total of £200 million, were accepted in full by the government - to be paid from April 1.

"We have reason to know

... that the delay in implementing our recommendations last year was the direct cause of concern in the Armed Forces", said the Review Body's report. "We believe that the detrimental effect of the decision within the Armed Forces was out of proportion to the money saved.

"We have said in previous reports that the salary levels we recommend are intended to provide a fair income for Servicemen and Service women in the 12 months from April 1.

## RANGE OF INCREASES IN CHARGES

### Accommodation (Annual £)

	Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3			Grade 4		
	86	87	increase	86	87	increase	86	87	increase	86	87	increase
Married												
Officers Type I	2712	2983	9	2456	2701	11	1938	2064	13	1358	1362	4
Type V	1639	1782	9	1486	1614	13	1172	1230	5	821	824	3
OR Type C	1142	1255	11	1033	1135	10	818	875	6	573	575	2
Type A	683	750	11	617	677	6	489	520	3	343	344	1
Single												
Major and above	1080	1186	10	978	1072	9	770	820	5	540	542	2
WO/SNCO	642	703	10	580	637	57	456	487	3	321	322	1
Cpl and below	347	377	10	314	340	26	248	260	12	172	172	-
Pte IV (trainee)	259	282	11	234	251	17	186	194	8	131	132	1
Food (Weekly £)												
	July 86	April 87	increase									
Single	15.68	16.45	0.77									
MUA	7.98	8.40	0.42									

ARMY FORM 0950 (LDP)	STATEMENT OF SALARY AND DEDUCTIONS	31 MAR 87	14
UNIT CODE	PAYMASTER	REGT/ CORPS	
PAYMASTER	PAYMASTER	RECKONING	
A4235A A0080A TAUNTON 902 21646642 SSGT OH ROUND	SUB RANK	SERVICE DATE	REG BIPS FUND AREA TYPE
	PAY STATUS	MONTH DATE	REG BIPS FUND AREA TYPE
		110358 100392 YES SHFC	
		AMOUNT ON WHICH TAX ASSESSED (d/h/m)	TAX PAYMENT DATE PAYE Code Number NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER
		£11839437 N/A £11839437 £2322.20 365H 27572398N	
		NET ACCOUNT NUMBER	SAVING ACCOUNT NUMBER

The effect of delaying increases in the military salary is to reduce the disposable income of Service personnel over that period.

"Servicemen and Service women are bound by ties of discipline and loyalty to the Crown. They have no trades unions or staff organisations to represent them and are not free to state their case publicly."

The Review Body says: "We continue to place importance on the principle, which we believe is understood and

supported by Servicemen and Service women, of maintaining military salaries at levels broadly comparable with those enjoyed by people outside the Services doing jobs of similar size or weight.

"Another consideration, indeed it is an over-riding concern, is to ensure that the salaries we recommend should be sufficient to recruit and retain adequate numbers of the right people to do the jobs the Services need to undertake.

"We keep a constant eye on

the manning picture. If we were not to do so, and if retention in particular were affected, we would run the risk that the Services', and therefore the taxpayers' very considerable investment in training men and women, would be wasted. Sudden outflows of skilled people could affect certain defence capabilities and might take some years to remedy. There would also be an increase in training and support costs."

The AFPRB has spoken to Service personnel at work and at home about pay and conditions. The general impression gained was that Service people were "broadly

on appointment

### Corporal Class I Scale C Band 3 (Single)

	1986/87 £	1987/88 £
PAY		
Gross Pay	10,739.74	11,660.76
ERNIC	682.24	738.40
Income Tax	2,437.37	2,493.66
Net pay	7,620.13	8,428.70
Accommodation and food		
Grade 1	336.74	376.98
Take home pay	7,283.39	8,051.72
Food charges	815.78	860.10
Take home pay	6,467.61	7,191.62

Notes: For 1987/88, the take home pay of personnel not "contracted out" of the ERNIC scheme will be reduced by a further £286.00. The above calculations take into account the deferment of the 1986 pay award to July 1, 1986.

### Private Class IV Scale A (Single)

	1986/87 £	1987/88 £
PAY		
Gross Pay	5,096.50	5,402.16
ERNIC	346.32	364.00
Income Tax	800.84	803.83
Net pay	3,949.35	4,234.33
Accommodation and food		
Grade 1	336.74	376.98
Take home pay	3,612.61	3,857.35
Food charges	815.78	860.10
Take home pay	2,796.83	2,997.25

Notes: For 1987/88, the take home pay of personnel not "contracted out"

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S/18/5/87



## YOUR NEW PAY RATES

### • From Page 15

satisfied" with their pay.

But there was some dissatisfaction in some areas, particularly about reimbursement allowances.

The report goes on: "In recent years, we have detected the emergence of a number of particular themes. People serving or liable to serve outside Great Britain, those serving at sea, and those serving in certain types of front-line units have all, to a greater or lesser degree, laid stress on the increasing

turbulence of their lives and the arduous nature of their work.

"In our view, there has been a divergence in recent years between what Service personnel expect in these areas and their experience.

"We believe that there may now be a need to re-examine the extent to which the overall remuneration package — basic pay, additional pay, waivers of charges and reimbursement allowances — properly meets the needs of all Servicemen and Servicewomen."

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Burnawn Factory,  
Galston, Ayrshire, KA4 8HF.  
Tel 0563 820213**

Please mention **Soldier** when replying.



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with those  
difficult forms?



## ARE VOLUNTEERS READY TO ENLIST?

With demand for help increasing by over 20% last year, the FORCES HELP SOCIETY and the SOLDIERS' SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION have combined to support Service and ex-Service men, women and their families.

Now, we need more volunteers. Unemployment, bereavement, illness, old age, loneliness, insecurity...if you have

the patience, compassion and maturity to help solve the wide range of personal problems that can beset others, write to:  
**John Gibson, SSAFA/FHS Room 101,  
16-18 Old Queen St, London SW1H 9HP.**

Training is given and working expenses are met. Come and join us in showing that we know how to look after our own: the Forces Care.



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



# Sapper celebration!

TEAMS of sappers from the UK and BAOR flocked to the Royal School of Mechanical Engineering at Chatham where a games weekend was held as part of the RE 200 celebrations.

Events included orienteering, canoeing, squash, smallbore shooting, football, rugby, hockey and badminton and keeping a close eye on the results was Maj Gen C J Rougier, Engineer-in-Chief (Army).

Some of the sports such as orienteering and rugby sevens were decided over the weekend but other events such as the UK v BAOR finals pitted winning teams from previous games together.



Enthusiastic support from fans at the soccer events



Hockey action in the UK v BAOR finals between 42 Survey Engineer Regiment (pale strip) and 35 Engineer Regiment



Determination written on the faces of competitors in the cross country race

## RMSE marks RE 200 with festival of sport



Gurkha pipers entertain the Royal Engineers at their Chatham games weekend

# Don't be baffled by the rules

**EXPORTS from the UK make money and benefit the country. Many of the items sold abroad are high tech and baffle the uninformed, just like the odd-sounding, but far from technical, "exportable Unemployment Benefit".**

**This is a scheme which costs money, as it allows people on the dole in the UK to continue drawing benefit when posted abroad.**

**But of course it's far more complicated than that and to help wives on the dole and who are about to be posted with their husbands, the following question and answer list may be of help.**

**Q** Do I have to be receiving UB before I go to another EEC state or to a country with a reciprocal agreement with UK?

**■ Yes. A person going to another EEC state and wishing to claim exportable UB has to establish title to unemployment benefit in this country before leaving.**

**Q** What happens if I leave the UK on a Sunday?

**● If the day of departure is a Sunday, entitlement has to be established the day before.**

**Q** When must I sign on in the EEC country?

**■ A person is accepted as available for employment on the day of departure if she registers as a person seeking work with the employment services of the member state to which she goes within seven days. The seven days start from the day of signing off in the UK, not from the day of arrival in the next country.**

**Q** What does "Voluntarily leaving her job without just cause" mean?

**■ A wife who gives up her employment in order to accompany her husband abroad on an overseas posting is regarded as having just cause for leaving her employment.**

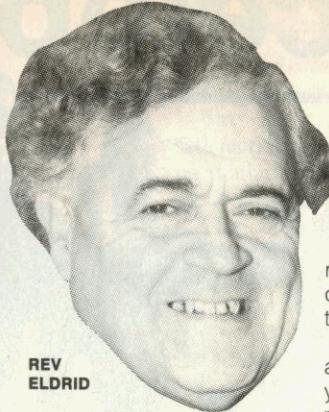
and is not subject to disqualification for leaving voluntarily. But if she gives up her employment earlier than is strictly necessary, e.g. for personal or other reasons, she may be subject to disqualification for leaving voluntarily, and if the day of departure falls within the disqualification period, there will be no entitlement to "exportable UB".

**Q** What must wives accompanying husbands on postings overseas do to prove their "exportable UB" claim is genuine?

**■ A claimant going to another EEC member state must seek employment there as 'exportable UB' is not payable to someone going on holiday to visit a relative or simply to accompany a spouse. But a claimant who accompanies her husband and who immediately looks for a job, is accepted as genuine.**

**Q** For how long is "exportable UB" paid?

**■ If the above conditions are satisfied 'exportable UB' may be paid under EEC rules for up to three months. There is no provision for payment beyond that period.**



REV  
ELDRID

A NEW direct line link to the Samaritans is now available for Servicemen and their families living abroad.

A 24-hour service, the Rev John Eldrid, Director of the organisation said: "We are delighted to

respond to SSAFA's request to extend our service to you (the Army).

"It is totally confidential and there may be those of you living abroad who might wish to use it.

"We are impressed that the Service commands acknowledge their own excellent support services are not always geared to give the type of help we offer. We do not seek, on our own, to deal with those special difficulties which

can only be handled by the Services, or support agencies working with them.

"What the Samaritans offer are skilled and experienced volunteers who are also available to lend a listening ear in complete confidence.

"Anyone wishing to take advantage of our service should telephone the Central London branch on 01 283 3400 or write to me at The Samaritans, 3 Horton Place, London W8 4LZ."

## DJ Tommy spins into a new groove

IN MY VIEW

**TEN years ago I was invited to join a new two-hour daily radio show hosted by DJ Tommy Vance. It was called BFBS-UK and I had a weekly spot in the programme.**

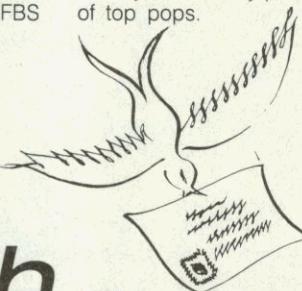
Now, after a decade of cheery chat and disc spinning, Tommy Vance of the deep, gravelly voice, has hung up his head set and mike and filed away his scripts to concentrate on business outside of BFBS broadcasting.

But even though he has departed the daily BFBS



TOMMY VANCE: moving

airwaves, he plans to continue disturbing the ether by presenting *Top Twenty*, the weekly parade of top pops.



While you are there get a specimen copy of their letting conditions. You could save yourself a lot of trouble in the future.

### Make a note

Make a note of this number - 0800 666 555. It's the new hot-line number of the free general advice and information telephone service on social security benefits.

UK users will no longer have to ask the operator to connect them to the DHSS service, from now on the new number provides a direct freephone link.

So he won't be completely out of earshot, but still doing the odd spot of "needle time" for BFBS.

A quiet, unassuming man, Tommy Vance has over the last ten years provided a Monday-to-Friday home link for thousands of Service families.

He has put mums and dads in touch with sons and daughters and his show built up a faithful following among soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families plus millions of foreign civilian listeners who tune into BFBS around the globe.

Government ministers, royalty, pop stars, authors and unknowns all came the same to Vance who treated each of them with cordiality and courtesy.

It was this attractive mix which gave him an enviable microphone style and enabled him to weave his radio technique for more than ten years.

In that time he interviewed thousands of people making even the dullest and most mike-frightened visitor welcome.

Occasionally he left the London studios to visit Servicemen and their families around the world to record and broadcast, but he never sought self-publicity.

Now Tommy has left for new fields of endeavour and on behalf of his vast army of listeners I wish him the very best of good fortune.

## YOU WRITE... Check to save cash

**A staff sergeant from Hampshire writes:**

ONE of the problems facing Servicemen and women abroad is the purchase of a house in the UK. Once bought, the property must either be left empty or lived in, and as many Servicemen have found, letting can be the most cost effective way of reducing the monthly payments on interest.

If you are shopping around for a mortgage, and are still subject to the normal postings we all get, ask the society or bank you are dealing with whether they would give "consent to let" should the need arise, and at what cost.

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653



## Good news for UK home-movers

# SCRAPPED! ★ Limits

**SERVICE families about to move home within the UK can now take just about everything with them except their greenhouses, garden chairs and tables and portable roofed swimming pools!**

Anything else, and that includes collapsible swimming pools and wheelbarrows, can now be moved to a new posting at public expense.

And there are the added bonuses of a no limit cubic capacity – in other words, movers can take as much furniture as they like, and neither do they have to pay the removal contractor and then claim the money

## Lend an ear and a hand

AN organisation which helps many Service families who have children with special needs is in need of help itself.

Contact A Family, whose motto is "A problem shared is a problem halved," needs volunteers to man their new telephone Contact Line which starts this month.

They seek people who can offer a regular commitment of one day a week; are good listeners and communicators; have a warm and friendly telephone manner; can absorb and impart information easily and enjoy working in a team.

Anyone interested in helping handicapped children in this way should write to Contact A Family, 4th Floor, 16 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP or phone 01-222 2695 or 01-222 3969 giving their name, address and telephone number.

back; nor do they have to submit three tenders of estimated costs.

It's all change for UK home-movers with the introduction of the new Service Contract System (SCS), which the Army has started ahead of the Navy and the RAF.

While the new scheme is as welcome as the flowers in May, it is not mandatory and a Serviceman can, if he wishes, move his furniture under the old

three-tender scheme or by self-drive hire van.

But those opting out of the new SCS scheme should be aware that reimbursement will be limited to the charges that would have occurred under SCS, or the actual costs incurred, whichever are cheaper.

Insurance cover is the responsibility of owners, so look closely at the small print in the contract. Accidents do happen,

## ★ Pay-outs ★ Tenders

even though the removal firm may be covered. Don't leave anything to chance.

Moving possessions

from home to storage will continue as before. Three tenders will still be required, but trials are underway to see if SCS can be extended to include this.

## Holidays for kids

EACH year the Guild of St Helena sponsors a holiday for up to 20 children who have special educational needs. The holiday, which is organised by the Service Children's Educational Authority (SCEA) and at no cost to parents, takes place this year from June 19-26 and will be located at St Martin's Plain Camp, near Folkestone in Kent.

Children who attend are drawn from all three Services and should be aged between 7-13 (inclusive) at the time of the holiday; should not require specialist medical attention on a daily basis which cannot be administered by the normal nursing service provided; and should be registered with SCEA as having special educational needs.

If you have a child with special educational needs and would like more details or want to apply, contact Major G Bradbury RAEC on Eltham Mil 263, 282 or 285 or write to him at MoD SCEA, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR.

## LEARNING HOW TO WORK



JOB TRAINING IN A MILITARY ENVIRONMENT: Germany, Hong Kong and now Cyprus

## Cyprus gets go-ahead with YTS

A YOUTH Training Scheme for the teenage children of Service families has started in Cyprus following the success of similar schemes in Germany and Hong Kong.

Lorna Cooper, Michelle Fletcher, Stuart Armstrong, Jason Crook, Tracey Gillinder, Louise Gibson, David Richardson and Martine

Hepburn (above), are among youngsters on the scheme at HQ British Forces, Cyprus.

Run by the Manpower Services Commission, the scheme offers 52 civilian places for trainees in engineering, vehicle repair, catering, business studies and clerical work – all based at Army and RAF

premises on the island.

The Cyprus scheme, which involves military establishments at Episkopi, Akrotiri, Dhekelia and Ayios Nikolaos, is similar to a YTS scheme which has been operating in BAOR for some time and a smaller scheme which has been operating in Hong Kong for several months.

## Naafi needs rules change

If Naafi shops could open their doors to ex-Servicemen and women as customers they would. But they are bound by rules restricting them to trading with

"members of the Forces, dependants and civilian staff."

Said managing director James Rucker: "We would welcome the chance to take ex-Service cus-

tomers. The more the merrier!

"It would increase our sales, but there are serious legal consequences to changing the rules."

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# CYPRUS IN FOCUS

TURKISH script carved boldly on a distant mountainside shimmers through the haze, dominating a plain where battle raged one hot summer's day in 1974.

The tired cough of a tractor breaks the silence hanging heat-heavy across the fields where paratroopers landed that day to mount an attack on Nicosia airport.

Ghost-like and empty the airport now stands idle, its lounges littered with faded brochures and its runway sun-baked and cracked.

Smudges of colour along mile after mile of hilltops and escarpments highlight the positions of the opposing sides, flags fluttering in defiant proclamation of ownership.

This is the buffer zone, a ribbon of land just a street's width in places along which members of the United Nations force keep the peace between Greeks and Turks.

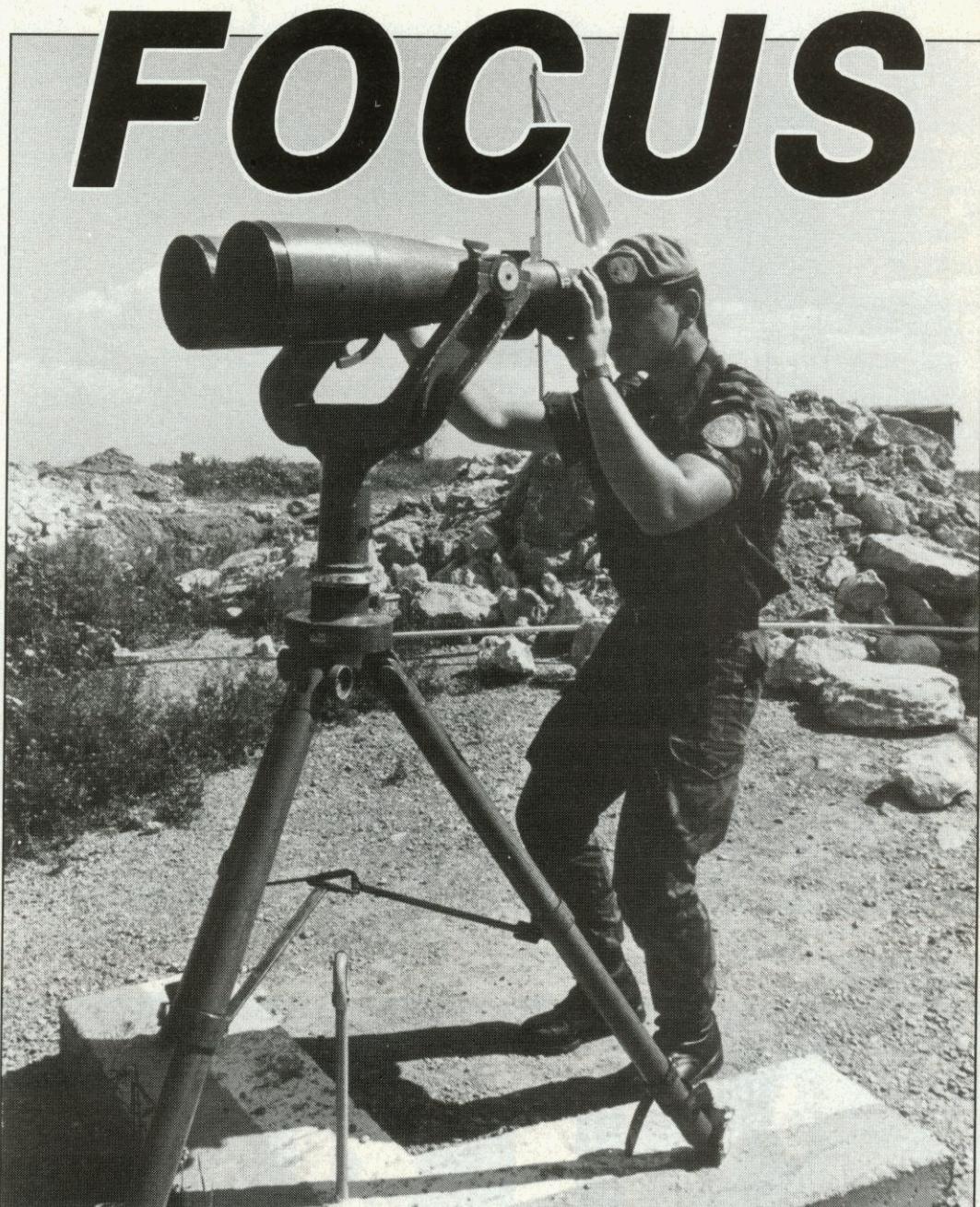
Tasked with maintaining a well-defined status quo, the multi-national UN force ensures that neither side encroaches beyond the ceasefire line and that no improvements are made to their defensive positions.

The ceasefire line zig-zags round houses, sheds and cemeteries and the UN force must know every twist and turn and every peculiarity of the semi-official terms of the status quo.

A Greek Cypriot carpentry shop next to one of the company headquarters in the British controlled sector is allowed to continue operating only if all doors and windows facing the Turkish line are kept open so that the Turks can see what is going on inside.

It is a situation often fraught with tension and the aim of the British contingent, currently the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, is to maintain as obvious and tactful a presence as possible while keeping the tinderbox dry.

"We try to keep everything as low key as we can," said A



Scanning the buffer zone for unusual activity – Fus Mark Stewart, 3RRF, at a UN observation post near Nicosia airport

Coy OC Maj Nick Beswick, "and we always deal with incidents by starting off at a low level of command."

If a patrol from either side strays into the buffer zone, it is up to the NCO at the scene to ask them to return to their patch so that there is no escalation of embarrassment or loss of face.

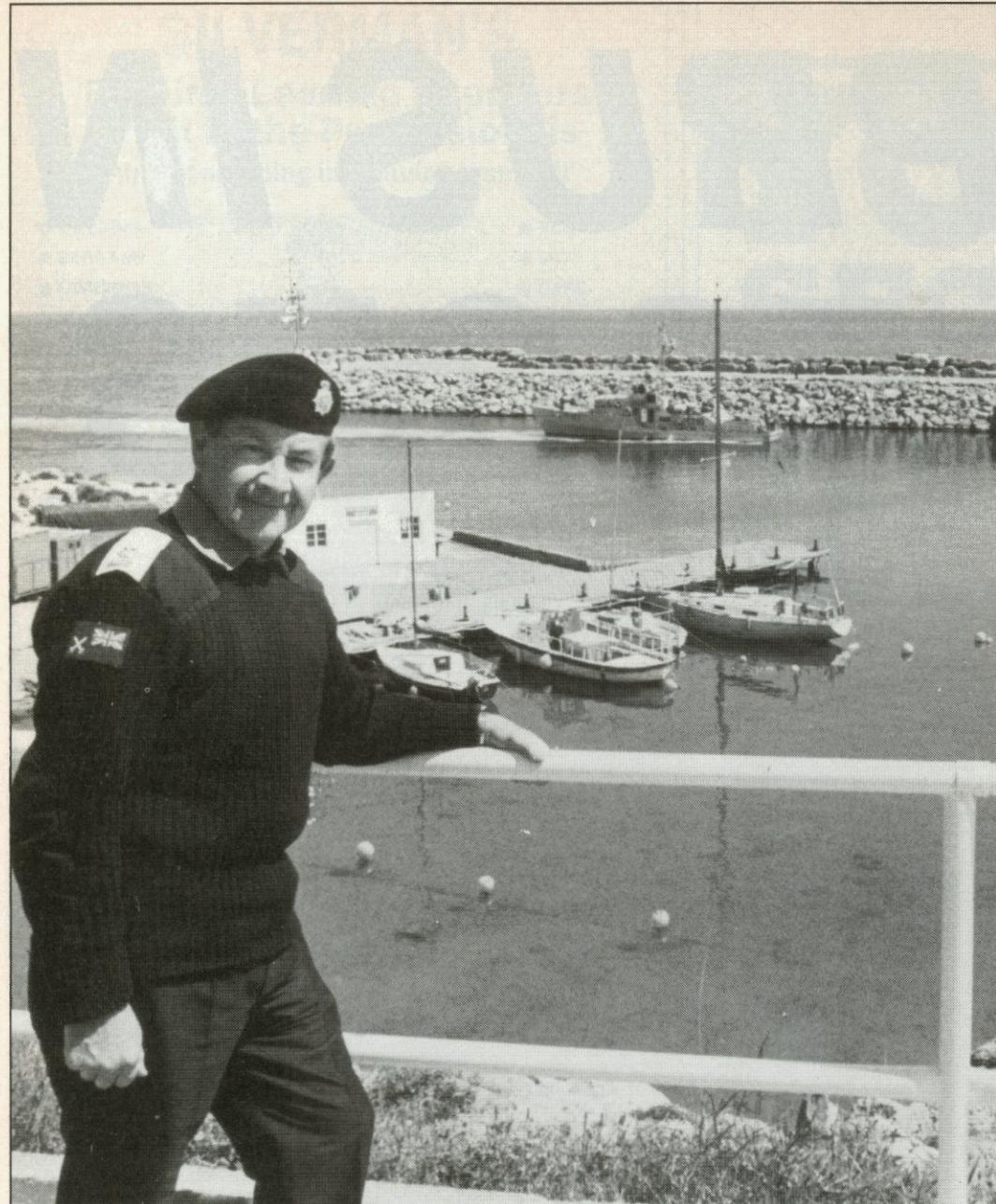
It is a "corporal's war" and

for the greater part relations with both parties are amicable. Lt Tom King told SOLDIER: "Our job is to stop them blowing something petty out of all proportion."

Members of the battalion are designated to the UNFICYP humanitarian and economic staff who are striving to return displaced farmers to their lands. They also visit the enclaves of

Greek and Turkish Cypriots who chose to stay put after the invasion.

The British contingent, and the UN force as a whole, is backed up by the UN Support Regiments who though multi-national are mainly British and include signals and transport squadrons, a helicopter flight, and ordnance squadron and a REME workshop.



Port Commandant and OC 10 Port Squadron RCT Maj Tony Todd looks out over his domain at The Mole near Akrotiri



The new and the old, container and pack transport belonging to 58 Sqn RCT - Dvr Raymond Arnott leads the way

# RCT on the hoof

HORSE power still packs a punch when it comes to lugging loads along the dusty tracks and winding valleys of the Cypriot highlands.

Saddle club steeds are earmarked for pack-horse duties and a "detachment" of two or three frequently deploy in the field with units visiting the island on exercise.

Carrying anything from rations and water to tentage and fuel, the horses are looked after by handlers from 58 Squadron

RCT based at Akrotiri.

It's all a far cry from the huge articulated Leyland transports with which the squadron is also equipped and a valuable insight for visiting units into alternative means of replenishment and supply, said OC Maj David Carter.

The reinstatement of a pack-horse detachment means that 58 Squadron has come full circle 86 years after being raised in Aldershot as 58 Horse Transport Company, Army

Service Corps. The squadron is part of 30 Regiment RCT based at Episkopi and, with its sister squadron 10 Port Squadron based at a harbour outside Akrotiri known as The Mole, is involved in moving almost anything and everyone around Cyprus.

Among their taskings is the hire and inspection of 70 local buses which bring civilian employees - both Greek and Turkish Cypriots - into the two British Sovereign Base Areas

centred on Episkopi and Dhekelia.

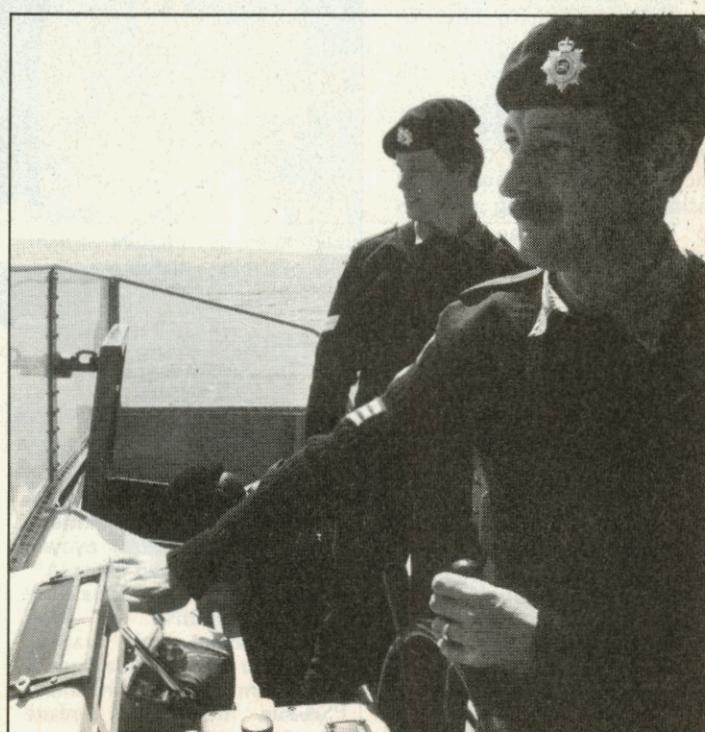
The regiment provides first and second line transport, including hire vehicles, and also provides servicing and repair facilities. Advice is given to visiting units and UK UNFICYP (United Nations Forces in Cyprus) units on all movement matters.

All sea movements including in-theatre distribution of freight and the handling of British forces cargo through

Limassol are controlled and co-ordinated by the regiment, as are Army unit air movements through RAF Akrotiri and Kingsfield airfield.

Overseeing maritime operations from his harbour-side perch - "not a bad place for an office really!" - 10 Port Squadron OC Maj Tony Todd controls several vessels including two Ramped Craft Logistic, two Mexeflotes, a Work Boat and a Range Safety Craft.

The maritime approaches to



Patrolling the Cypriot coastline aboard their Range Safety Craft - the soldier sailors of 10 Port Squadron RCT

# Hot and cold sappers on tap

NO strangers to the extremes of the island's climate, 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE spend three months each year in the snows of the 6,000 foot Troodos mountains before returning to the searing heat of their coastal base at Dhekelia.

The sappers do a lot of work for the United Nations force, particularly in the Danish stretch of the buffer zone where they help build and maintain tracks through the inhospitable terrain of the mountainous west.

Donning winter woolies and a great deal else, they brave temperatures of minus 30 degrees to keep roads open to the RAF radar sites in the much higher Troodos range.

Back in shirt sleeves a few weeks later they can find themselves on any number of tasks from culverting a stream to building a school soccer pitch.

The squadron was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace in 1981 for a variety of civil projects on the island.

Squadron OC Maj Paul Wallace-Tarry regards community aid as beneficial to both parties. Constructing a soccer pitch is little different from making a temporary airstrip and building a new Scout and Guides hut for the islanders flexes the skills of a number of his tradesmen.

Units on exercise can call on the squadron for engineer assistance, and the squadron is always on hand to help out resident formations.

Several sappers man the



Make sure the handbrake is on first! — LCpl Garry Coleman servicing a road roller at the sapper depot in Dhekelia



PSA-run desalination plant near Dhekelia and the squadron possesses five Rigid Raider craft to facilitate a variety of

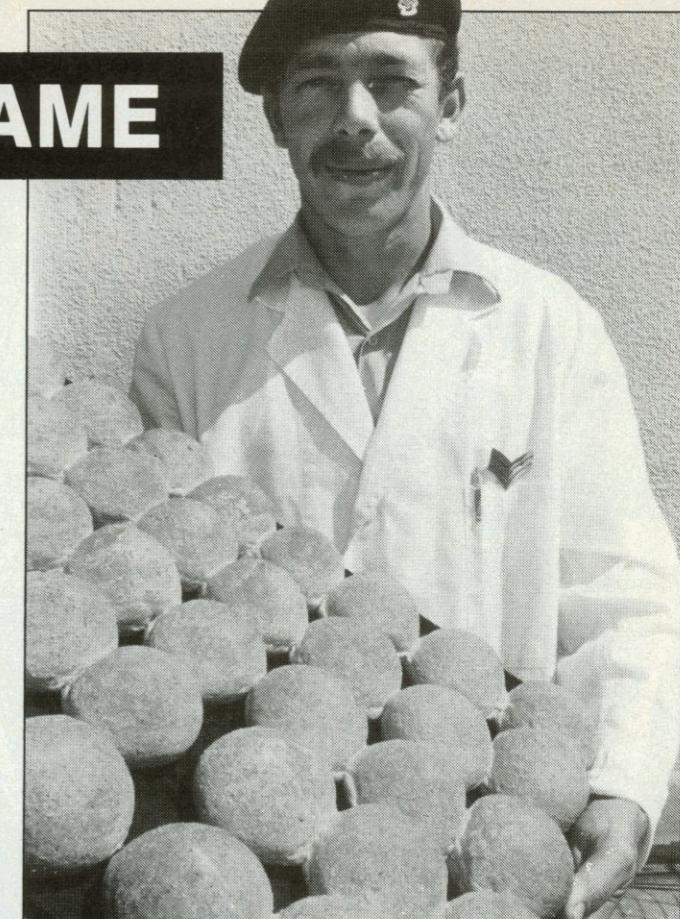
waterborne operations.

Among the many combat engineers and technicians on the squadron strength are a

number of divers who assist in underwater surveys and the building of coastal constructions such as jetties.



Not Norway but Cyprus — men of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron spend each winter in the Troodos mountains keeping roads open for military vehicles and islanders alike



Baker's dozen — Sgt Tony Baker, RAOC, based at Dhekelia



Inch by inch the replica of the ancient Greek ship is hauled out of its workshop under the watchful eye of men of 48 Cyprus Workshop REME

## REME digs history!

Archaeological digs are not the kind of place one would normally find a REME crane and crew but in Cyprus, it seems, the unexpected is always to be expected.

Akrotiri-based 48 Cyprus Workshop offers REME support to British Forces across the island but, among some rather unusual tasks, has hauled massive stones from the newly excavated ruins of a centuries-old Roman temple. The

unit's latest off-beat assignment was easing the 15 ton replica of an ancient Greek merchant ship out of a workshop near Limassol.

Built by the Hellenic Institute for the Preservation of Nautical Tradition, the Kyrenia II mirrors in every detail a ship that once plied the Mediterranean Sea with cargoes of wine and olive oil. Her wreck was discovered offshore at Kyrenia.

## BAKER'S THE NAME Heat's on for Tony

A HOT day in Cyprus could play havoc with breadmaking in the RAOC bakery at Dhekelia if a careful watch was not kept on the thermometer.

The warmer it is outside the warmer it is inside and flour and water temperatures have to be spot-on if the dough is to rise successfully.

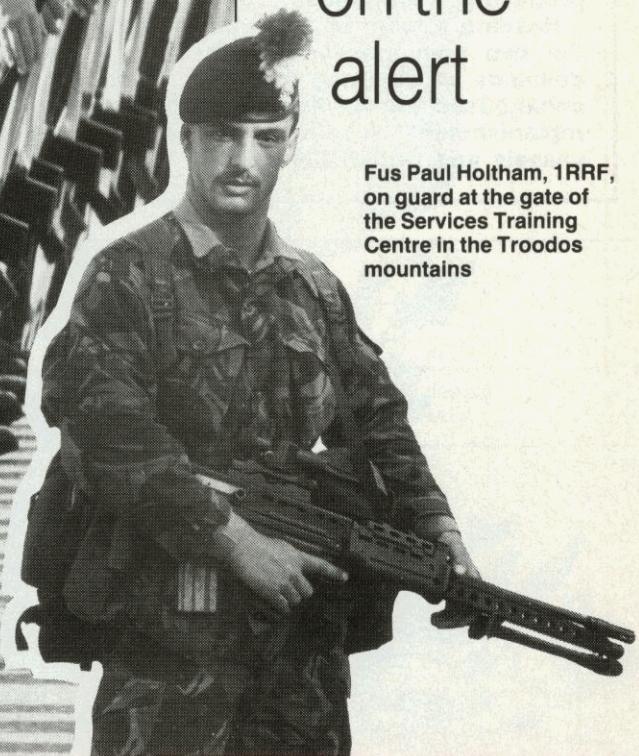
"There is more to this than meets the eye," chuckled SSgt Dave Inskip who with aptly-named colleague Sgt Tony Baker is responsible for producing 1,500 loaves a day.

Heading a team of 13 locally-employed Cypriots, the two men supply enough bread to meet the demands of all Army and RAF personnel and all cookhouses and Naafis on the island as well as the replenishment requirements of passing naval vessels and British UN units.



Concentration as men of 1RRF practise their drill before St George's Day, the day in 1968 when the regiment was formed from the four old fusilier regiments of England

Security needs keep men of 1 RRF on the alert



Fus Paul Holtham, 1RRF, on guard at the gate of the Services Training Centre in the Troodos mountains

## Back on patrol!

QUICK thinking Cpl John Bailey used the horsebox he was towing to soak up the hail of bullets fired at his Land-Rover by Arab gunmen in last month's ambush in Cyprus.

Weaving it from side to side, Cpl Bailey, 9 Signals Regiment, blocked the road with the horsebox and prevented the gunmen from overtaking.

Nevertheless, he and his passenger — Serviceman's daughter Linda Wilkinson — were both struck by bullets though neither was seriously injured. Thirty-five-year-old

## Horsebox hero foils gunmen

Cpl Bailey was released from hospital within days.

They were on their way from Ayios Nikolaos to pick up a horse from Episkopi saddle club when the attackers struck. Two men in their early 20s have since been detained by police.

The threat of terrorism had been uppermost in people's minds since last year's mortar attack on RAF Akrotiri.

Internal security precautions were stepped up then and the

infantry battalions currently in the hot seat are both, coincidentally, from the same regiment.

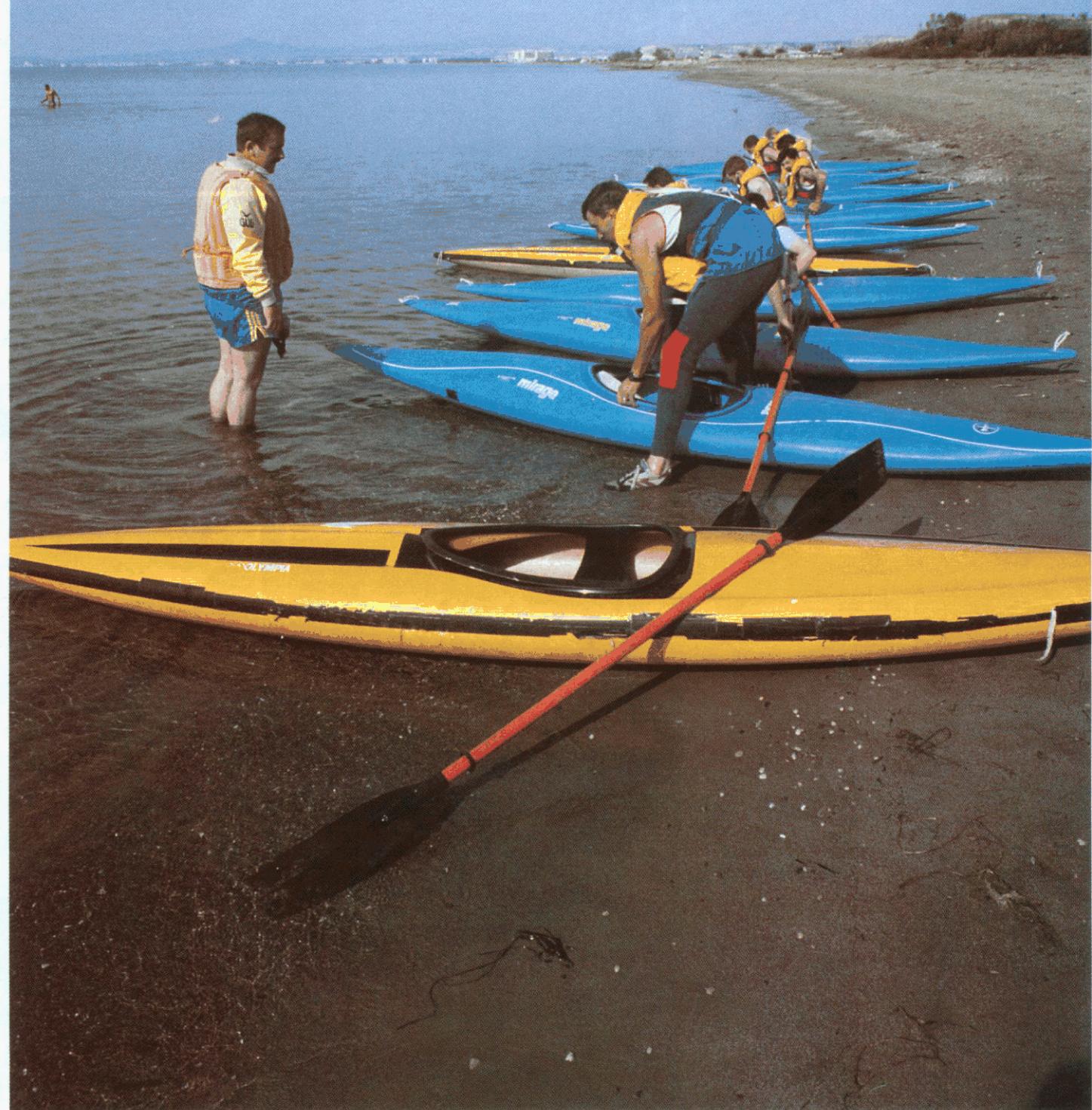
The 1st Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, arrived from a tour in Northern Ireland last year well versed in the routine of patrols, vehicle check points and stag duties.

They are on a two year accompanied tour and based at Episkopi garrison in the western Sovereign Base Area.

Detachments are sent to other British military installations and men of 1RRF patrol RAF radar sites in the Troodos mountains and occasionally mount guard at RAF Akrotiri.

The 3rd Bn are serving a six months tour on the island and while two companies are based at Dhekelia garrison protecting the eastern Sovereign Base Area the other two are at Nicosia where they form part of the UN peacekeeping force.

# TIME FOR A QUICK PADDLE

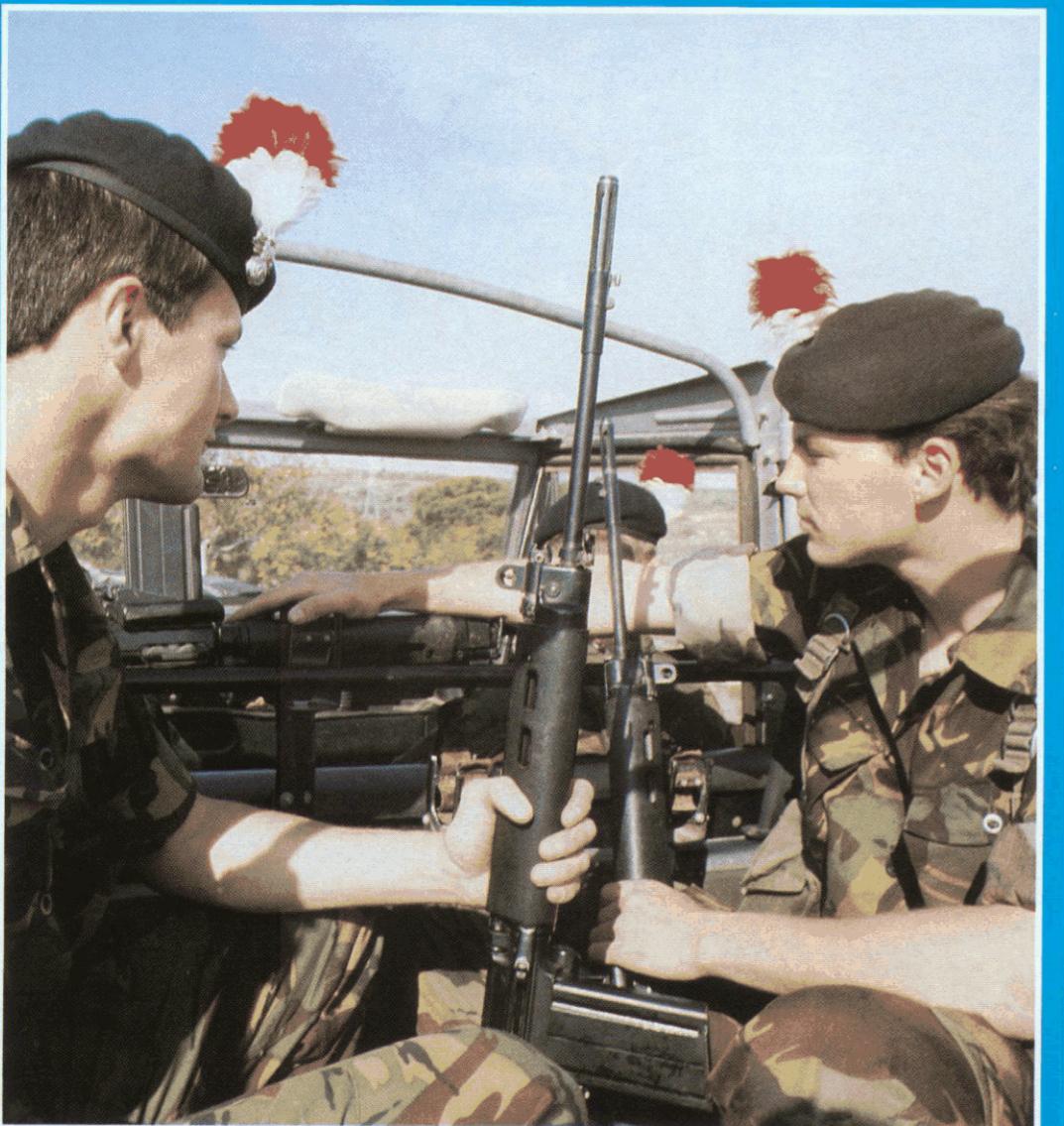


A spot of light relief from internal security duties—men of 3RRF take to the water near Dhekelia

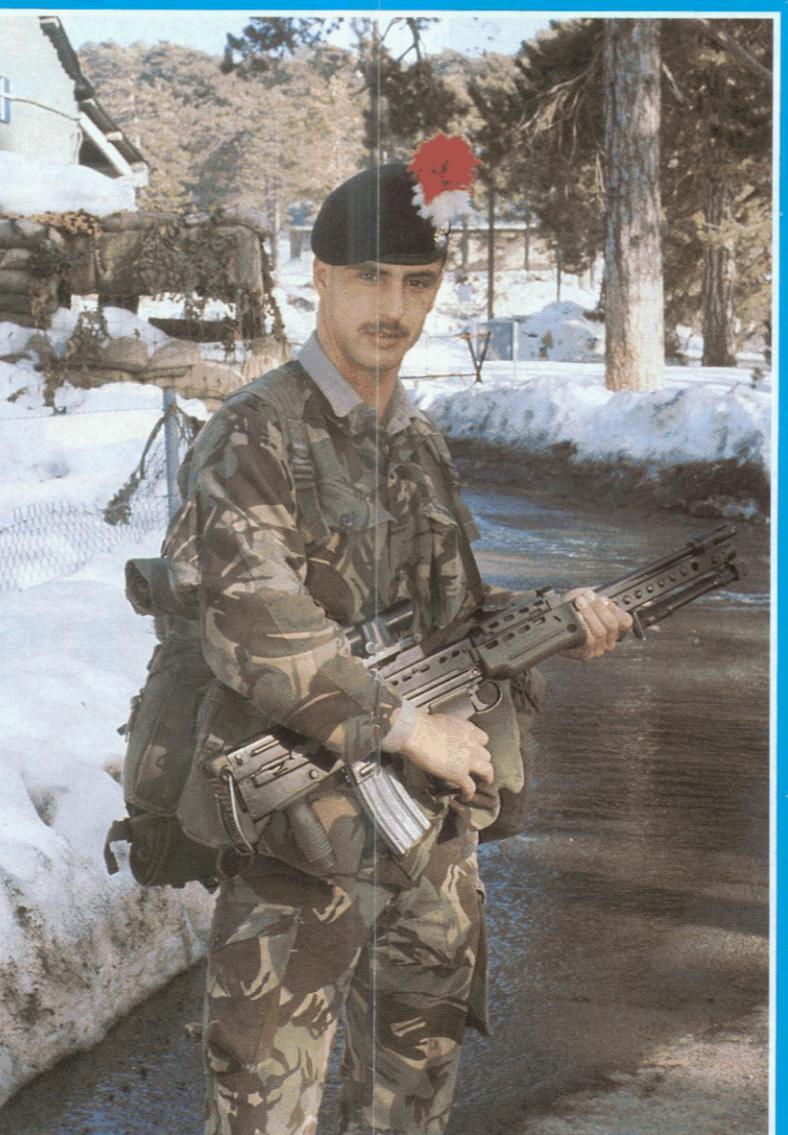
# NEED FOR VIGILANCE ON ISLAND OF SUNSHINE



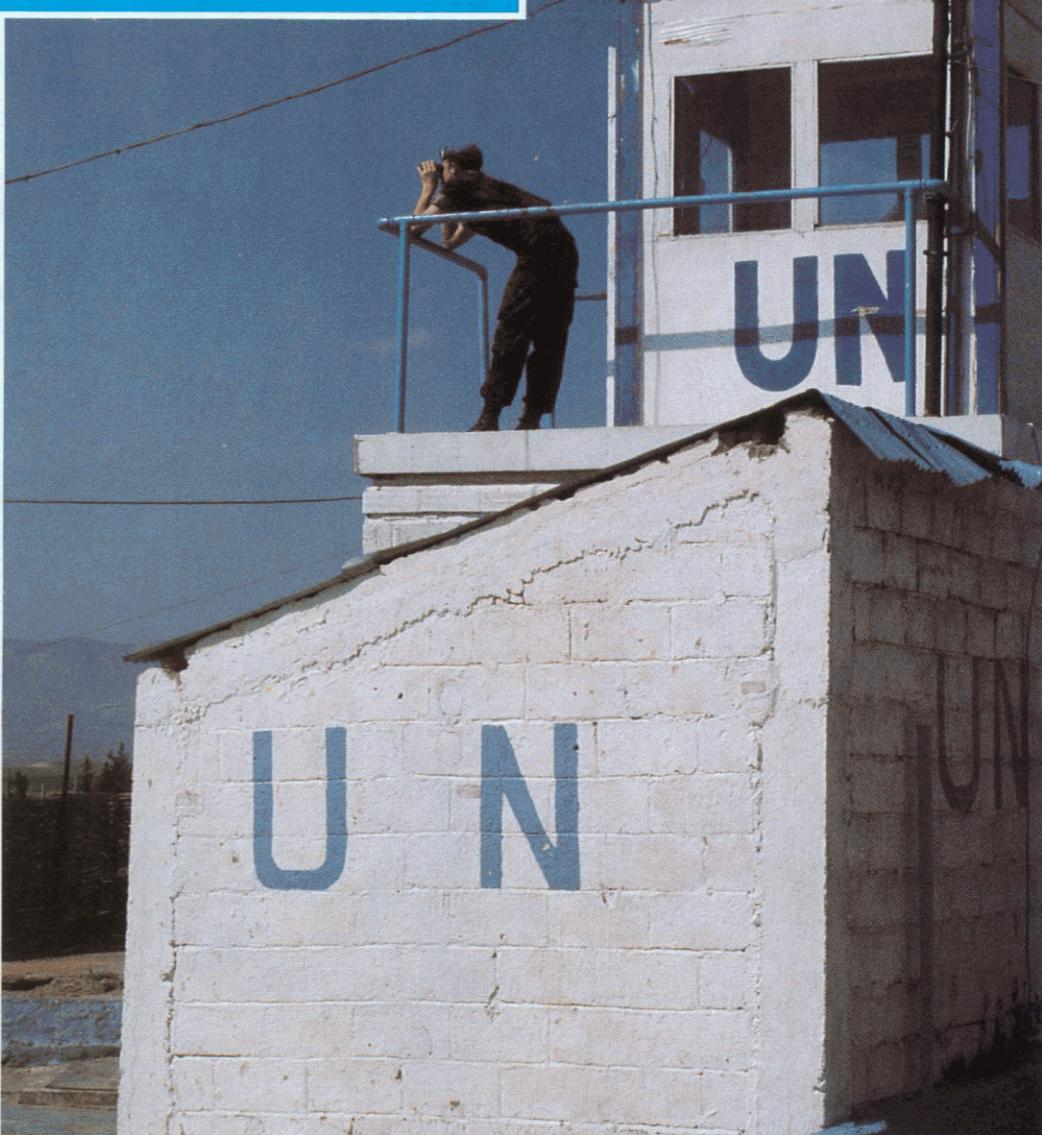
Vessels belonging to 10 Port Squadron RCT berthed at The Mole outside Akrotiri. The combination of sea, sun and scenery make Cyprus a popular posting



Fusiliers of 3RRF make their way to a snap vehicle checkpoint on the main road outside Dhekelia garrison



The last snows of winter cling to the Troodos Mountains where Fusilier Paul Holtham, 1RRF, stands guard outside the Joint Services leave and training centre



Sunshine vigil along the buffer zone near Nicosia—an OP manned by a fusilier of 3RRF



Men of the United Nations REME detachment prepare for an orienteering exercise on the Akamas Peninsula

# Lucky Stuart enjoys a life of seabed adventure

A CHANCE encounter with Lady Luck ensured that LCpl Stuart Weaver would enjoy the posting of a lifetime.

On loan from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for the duration of their two year tour on the island, LCpl Weaver is a diving instructor at the Pergamos Joint Services Adventure Training Centre.

Yet until his arrival last year 22-year-old LCpl Weaver had never dived into anything deeper than his local swimming pool and had certainly not the faintest idea that he would soon be swimming down to wrecks on the bed of the Mediterranean.

Joining a sub-aqua course during an early spell of adventure training, Stuart



Great way to get a sun tan - members of 9 Signals Regiment during their marathon trek

took to the sport like a fish to water and was invited to attend advanced classes and become an instructor at the Pergamos centre.

"I could not believe my luck," he said, "it really was a chance in a million. It is like another world down there and diving on some of these wrecks is the most incredible experience."

Wrecks spanning many centuries litter the coastline. They include ancient Greek and Roman merchant vessels, a First World War British gunboat and, incidentally, a roll-on roll-off car ferry which sank just six years ago outside Larnaca.

Sub-aqua training, under the direction of WO2 Chris Hilder APTC, is just one of several adventure sports taught at the Pergamos centre, whose commandant is Capt Kelvin Pickering APTC.

The other pursuits, whose chief instructors are SSgt Martin Garrett APTC and Sgt Gary Douglas 2RGJ, are canoeing, skiing, parachuting and gliding. About 700 students attend the centre each year.

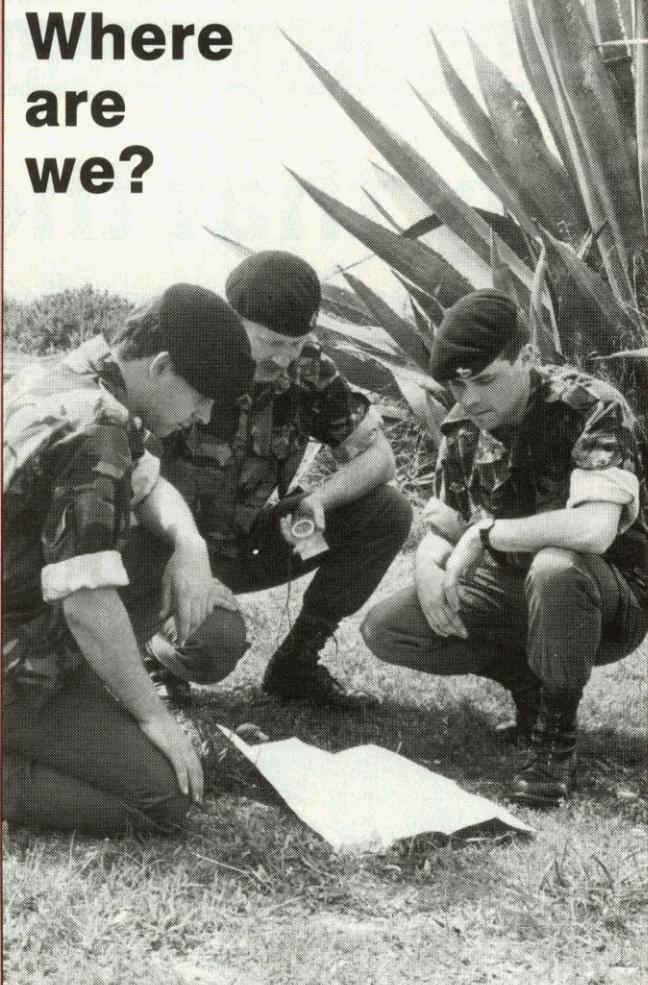
There are other smaller, self-financing clubs on the island catering for all manner of pastimes from water sports to hang gliding.

SOLDIER caught up with members of Ayios Nikolaos based 9 Signals Regiment during the early stages of a 285 mile trek across Cyprus from Cape Greco in the east to Cape Arnaouti in the west.

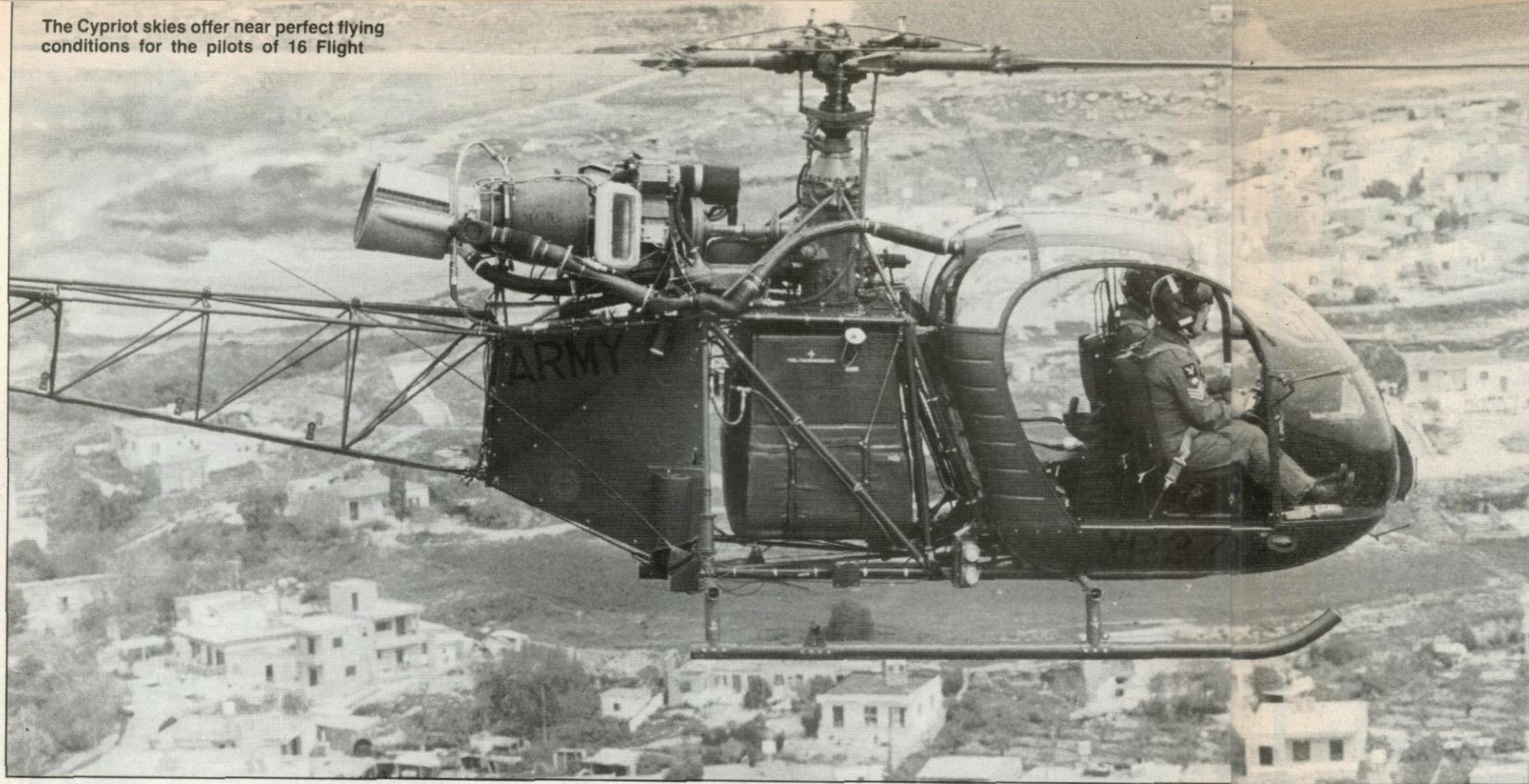


LCpl Stuart Weaver

## Where are we?



Where next? Men of The Life Guards ponder the way forward during an orienteering exercise outside Bloodhound Camp near Episkopi. Visiting Cyprus for several weeks of military and adventurous training, A Squadron found their stay an ideal opportunity to learn something of the island to which they will be posted in January next year as part of the UN peacekeeping force



# They get their spares from museum model

OLDER by several years than the men who crew them, the Saladins of the island's armoured reconnaissance squadron soldier on despite an increasing shortage of spare parts.

The shortage of one part was so acute that a mayday call was flashed to the Royal Armoured Corps museum at Bovington where the appropriate item was cannibalised from a display.

Only 12 Saladins remain operational with the British Army and all are on Cyprus, the only sunshine posting left for regiments of the RAC and one currently filled by men of F Squadron 3RTR.

Split into six sabre (recce) troops and an SHQ and admin troop, the squadron - based at

Episkopi - is tasked with a variety of internal security duties and is responsible for the protection of both Sovereign Base Areas.

Lt Simon Allen told SOLDIER: "The men are thoroughly enjoying themselves. Operating Saladins is so completely different from Chieftains, and it is the only break they have outside Germany."

Squadron OC Maj Peter Gilchrist added: "I think the Saladin is a brilliant vehicle for this type of countryside and I know the lads hold it in very great affection."

Now replaced by the FV101 Scorpion in the reconnaissance regiments of the cavalry, the Saladin first went into produc-

tion in late 1958 and many of those still in use with the squadron date from that time.

Attached to the squadron on trickle posting is a 16-strong REME detachment, 15 LAD, whose WO2 Graham Luckham said: "Maintaining them gets more difficult as the years go by and obtaining spare parts is a big problem."

The men of 3RTR return to Germany in March 1988 and will be succeeded by a squadron of the 17th/21st Lancers. Between now and then most will return to the UK for conversion training to Challenger.

In the meantime they are making the most of the blue skies of Cyprus and the novelty of wheels instead of tracks.

## SUNSHINE ISLAND IS LAST REFUGE FOR ARMY'S AGEING ALOUETTES AND SALADINS

### Day that the Russians landed

A BIZARRE case of mistaken identity once led to the arrival of a Russian airliner at the Army Air Corps base outside Dhekelia.

Thinking it had reached Larnaca international airport some miles away, the Antonov An-24 touched down at the base to the amazement of all present.

A barbed wire fence at the end of the short 380 metre strip had to be removed and the airliner made as light as possible before it was able to take off again.

Dhekelia airfield is home to 16 Flight AAC who are still flying the venerable Alouette II more than 25 years after it was brought into service as a stop-gap between the Skeeter and the Scout.

Of the nine Alouettes still on Army strength, eight are based in Cyprus - four with 16 Flight and four with the United Nations (UNFICYP) support flight. The ninth is at

Boscombe Down where it is used for trials work.

Under the command of Maj Leslie Bond RA, 16 Flight undertakes a variety of duties in support of units at both Sovereign Base Areas.

One aircraft is always at an hour's readiness. Medevac, VIP and border patrol flights are a regular feature of the daily log.

Flying space outside the SBAs is restricted to well defined corridors except over exercise areas, and 16 Flight is only permitted to fly as far as the border between the Greek and Turkish zones of administration.

Slower, less sophisticated and each with its own individual traits, the Alouette II is held in much affection by both air and ground maintenance crew as illustrated by the following excerpts from a pilot's light-hearted flight test.

"After-flight servicing consists of generous greasing and

oiling of all moving parts so that vast quantities of lubricant are thrown all over the airframe during the next flight. This is an essential part of the aircraft anti-corrosion programme.

"The intercom system is very efficient and supplies constant background engine noise and gearbox whine to assure all on board that everything is running as it should be. All radio faults can be quickly rectified by unplugging the headset lead, licking it vigorously and replacing it, preferably in another socket."

Each aircraft receives first-line maintenance at Dhekelia

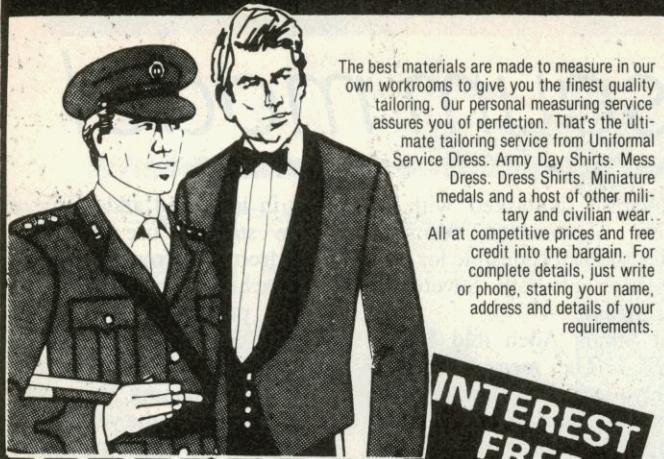
but heavy duty servicing is carried out by 48 Cyprus Workshop REME at Akrotiri where they are stripped down completely, treated for corrosion and rebuilt before being returned as good as new.

However, their days are numbered and there are plans to replace the veteran Alouette IIs with Gazelles during 1988.



A rare sight in the Army today - nine of the last 12 operational Saladins line up for SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley

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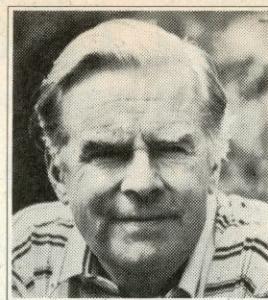
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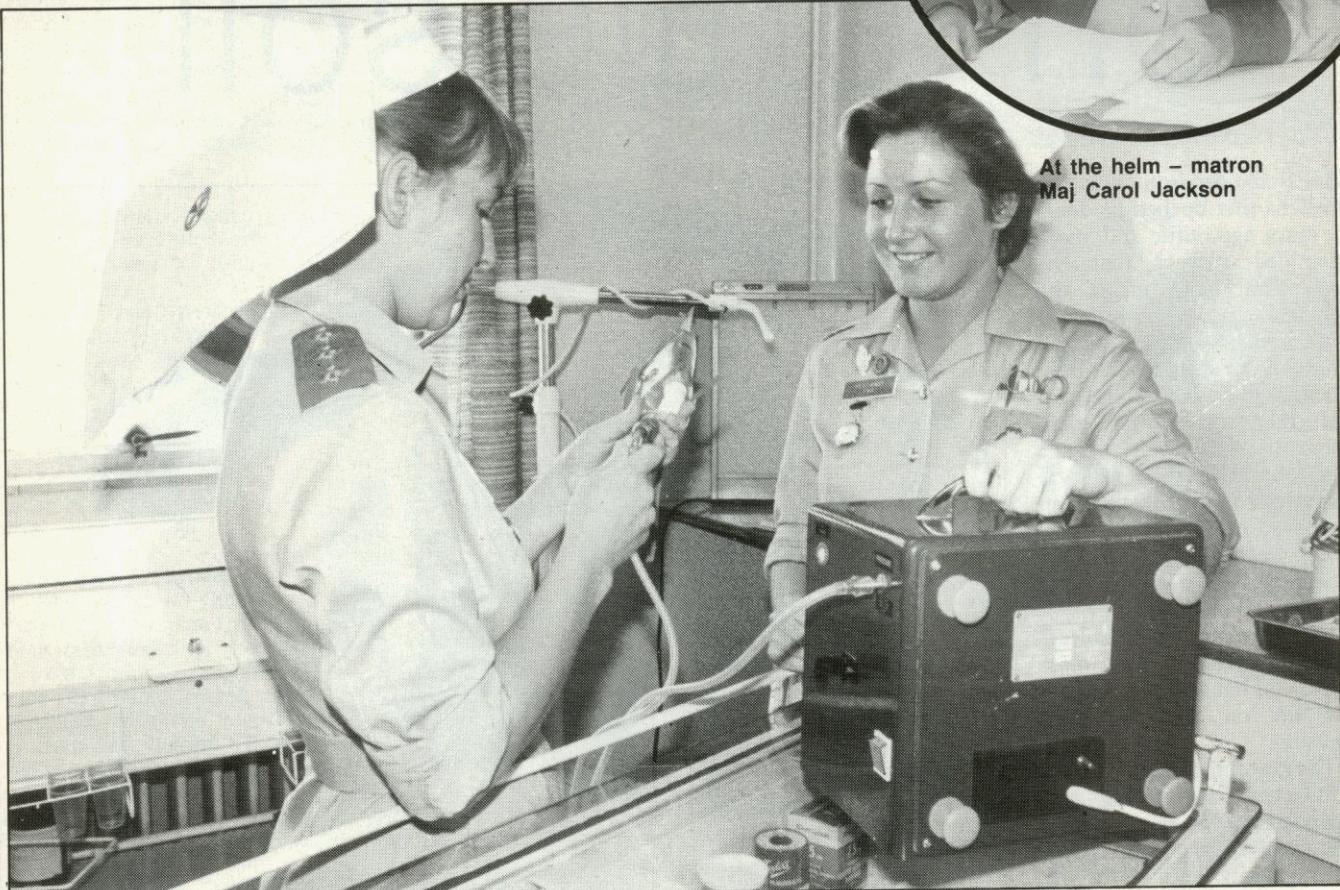
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 **BARCLAYS**

# 'Cottage' hospital serves Dhekelia



At the helm - matron  
Maj Carol Jackson



Ready for all eventualities - checking equipment to assist in the relief of asthma are (left) Capt Julie Strickland and Pte Sandra Healey



Medal winner SSgt Maralyn Newton at Dhekelia MRS medical reception station

## Oh baby!

BABY care is high on the list of priorities at Dhekelia's medical reception station where the nurses run the only community midwifery service in the British Army.

Of the ten nursing members of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps based at Dhekelia MRS, four are qualified midwives.

They look after all military personnel and their families in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area including 9 Signals Regiment at Ayios Nikolaos and those at the adventure training centre in Pergamos. They also provide medical care for some civilian personnel and for sovereign base police and their families.

Ante and post natal care feature prominently in the day to day running of the MRS - described by matron Maj Carol Jackson as "more like a cottage

hospital" - and each of the midwives take it in turns to maintain a community service.

Going on visits and running clinics at the MRS gives the midwives both job satisfaction and stimulation, said Maj Jackson, whose staff also includes six Enrolled Nurses (General), a non-nursing QARANC clerk, a dental nurse and a number of RAMC medics.

There are only 12 beds at the medical station and all major cases are referred to the Princess Marina Hospital at Akrotiri in the Western Sovereign Base Area.

QARANCS on a posting to Dhekelia MRS generally stay for 18 months to two years and among them is SSgt Maralyn Newton, a midwife, who has just been awarded a coveted Association of the Royal Red Cross Medal by the Queen for her services to Army nursing.

# Seed that fell on fertile soil

WHEN the garrison church of Dhekelia first opened its doors 25 years ago, little did those assembled suspect that the large plant pot outside the chaplain's house opposite had until weeks earlier graced the interior of a Famagusta brothel.

Snatched by RMPs during a raid on one of the more colourful of the island's establishments, the pot was presented to the chaplain when he moved into his new home.

To the delight of all concerned the plant thrived for many years in the shadows of its new, more humble surroundings and this most unusual of house-warming gifts still sits on the chaplaincy doorstep.

The graceful garrison church of St George was not without its teething troubles 25 years ago. Celebrants fainted with alarming regularity because of the lack of ventilation and the roof was far from watertight.

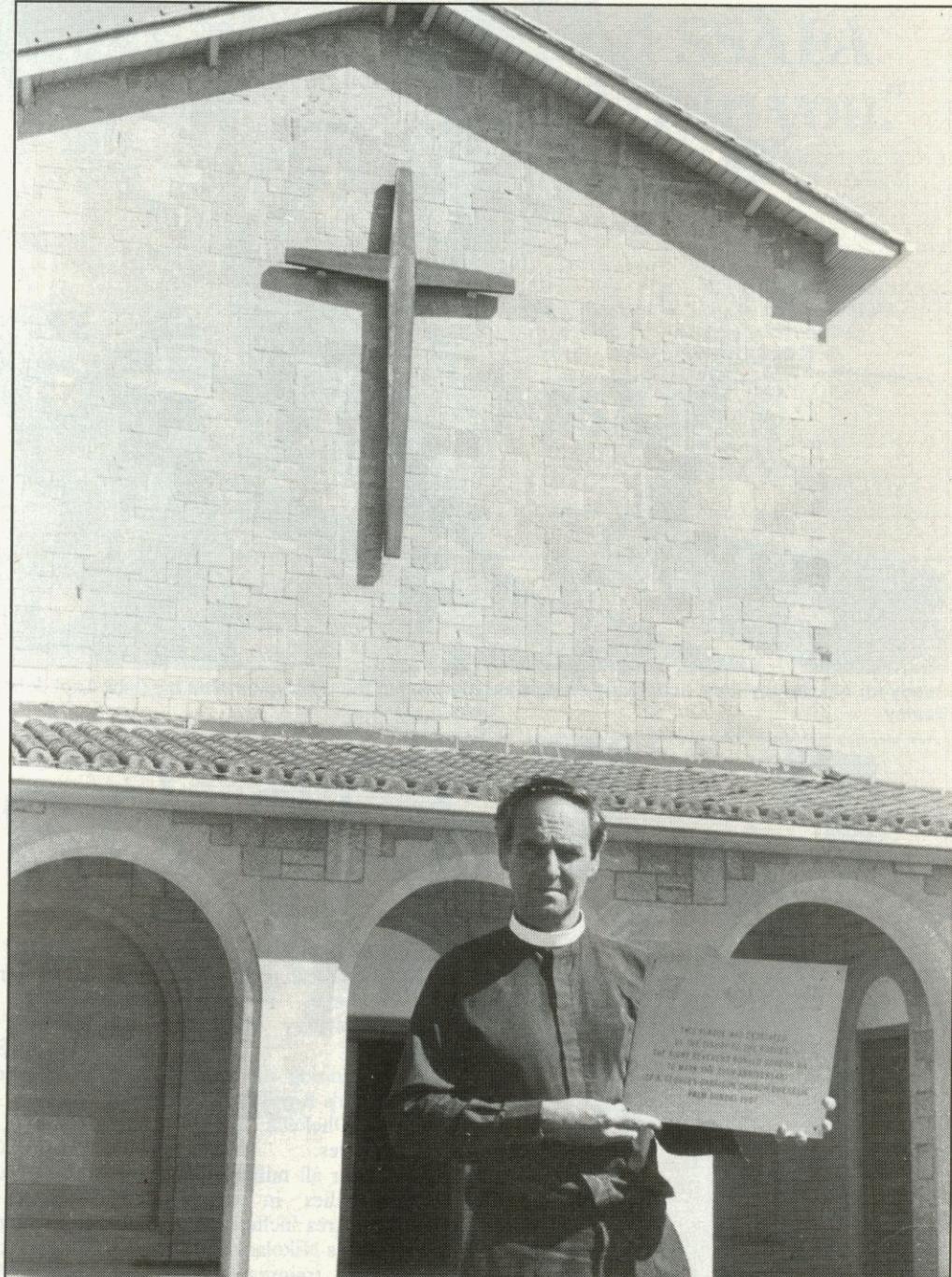
Several features inside the church, including six stained glass lunette windows, were brought from St George's Church at Moascar in Egypt during the evacuation of the Canal Zone.

Visitors during its early days included Archbishop Makarios, the Cypriots' first president after independence in 1960 and leader of the Greek Cypriots until his death in 1977.

St George's, Dhekelia, celebrated its 25th anniversary at Easter with a special service of rededication at which the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, Bishop to the Forces, unveiled a plaque recording the occasion.

At the Western Sovereign Base Area, the Rev Tom Hiney MC - senior chaplain to British Forces on Cyprus - has launched a series of instructional courses designed to give both soldiers and airmen a new Christian perspective on their day to day life and work.

"We are trying to shed a new



Padre Colin Wilson, the present incumbent at St George's Church, holding the plaque that was unveiled on Palm Sunday commemorating its 25th anniversary

light on a whole range of issues," said the Rev Hiney, "including integrity, obedience, morality, relationships

with other people and such things as skiving from your responsibilities while at work."

The courses are held at the

Services Training Centre in the Troodos mountains, where the spectacular surroundings lend themselves to such debate.

# BIRTH OF AN AIR FORCE

by  
Graham  
Smith

THE Royal Flying Corps was formed 75 years ago on May 13, 1912 just a month after the granting of a Royal Warrant to the corps on April 13.

Its "birth" followed approval by the Imperial Defence Committee of a scheme prepared by Brig David Henderson, Capt Frederick Sykes, 15th Hussars—who were to become luminaries of the RFC—and Maj D S MacInnes.

A flying badge was designed and the motto *Per Ardua ad Astra* was approved by King George V.

The Central Flying School at Upavon, ten miles from Devizes, held its first course on August 17. It was maintained jointly by the War Office and the Admiralty but administered by the former.

For years no overall authority existed and there were constant differences of opinion between the War Office and the Admiralty.

During August 1912 military aircraft trials started on Salisbury Plain to determine the type of aircraft best suited for the needs of the Army. The choice fell on the BE 2 tractor aircraft.

Pilot training, meanwhile, was gaining pace at Upavon. It lasted 25 hours and the final test involved a 30-mile cross-country leg reaching 3,000 feet. From that height the student had to accomplish a spiral landing with engine off!

In 1912 the corps had just 17 aircraft but by the beginning of 1913 this had swelled to 101. Things were moving fast.

An experimental branch of the military wing was formed to deal with ballooning, kiting, wireless telegraphy, photography, meteorology, bomb dropping, musketry, gunnery and artillery co-operation.

Army estimates for the fateful year of 1914 earmarked £1 million for the RFC. By mid-year, a special camp was set up at Netheravon, Wilts, where RFC squadrons were assembled for trials, experiments, lectures and exercises and to promote inter-Service co-operation.

On July 1, the naval wing of the RFC was reformed as the Royal Naval Air Service. Sadly, four days later the first fatal RFC crash, near Stonehenge, killed a captain and a staff sergeant.

## First drop kept town alive

IT was in Mesopotamia—Iraq—in 1916 that the RFC pioneered the air-dropping of supplies. Beneficiaries were 14,000 British troops of the besieged garrison surrounded by the Turks.

The beleaguered town was 290 miles up the Tigris from Basra and a fortnight-long airlift was managed. Four BE 2Cs, a Voisin, a Henri Farman and four Naval Service



Above—Pilots and ground crew of 85 Squadron in front of their SE5A aircraft

Right—A Bristol Scout D flies over a military unit under canvas in the Middle East



Four days later the RFC suffered its first war casualty.

The action moved to England where the first bomb was dropped on Christmas Eve 1914 by a German marauder. By the beginning of 1915 plans were laid for the defence of Britain against German airship attack. Small numbers of RFC aircraft were kept in readiness at airfields round London.

Things were going well across the Channel. On February 5, the

first German aircraft was shot down by the RFC.

Thanks to maps prepared solely from photo-recce missions, an assault was made on March 10 on Neuve Chapelle, eight miles south-west of Armentières.

On April 1, 1915, No 9 Sqn, later the RFC School of Wireless, was formed at Brooklands near Weybridge, Surrey.

**Heroism flew boldly into the perspective of aerial war with the award of the first VC—posthumously—to 2nd Lt William Rhodes Moorhouse of 2 Sqn flying a BE 2 against Courtrai station at low level on April 26.**

On October 4, Fd Marshal Sir John French, the C-in-C, issued a special order of the day to all ranks of the RFC, through the

● Turn to Page 42

aircraft had to fly 23 miles to Kut from their airfield.

In all, 19,000lbs of food were dropped. Pin-point precision was not possible because Turkish gunfire kept the airlifts at between 5,000 and 7,000 feet.

The garrison actually received 16,800lbs of this aerial manna. But it was not enough and eventually the 10,000 combat troops surrendered.

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# A bit of studio magic

### FARE THEE WELL INNISKILLING

Band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards

Conductor: Bandmaster P F Cooper  
BND 1029

ANOTHER cavalry band with a fine tradition of music making shows what can be achieved with depleted numbers. In a recording studio wonders can obviously be worked with only 22 players, though on a draughty barrack square, with two men sick, one on compassionate leave, one at Kneller Hall, and the remainder with frozen fingers it can be a different matter. Numbers are everything to a working band.

Here though, Mr Cooper and his stalwart few do achieve wonders, cutting their cloth according to their fabric, and no one can ask more.

A very effective fanfare *Inniskilling Dragoon* cleverly draws together the musical elements of the original two regiments, the 5th and 6th, followed by *Der Sonder Marsch* dedicated to Pat Reid and his fellow PoWs in Colditz.

Soloists featured are the cornets in *I Know Him So Well*, the piccolo in the *Bourrée* from *Terpsichore*, trombone in the Abba song *I Wonder*, and the clarinets

in the *Clarinet Polka*. Two items on side one celebrate the Irish connection with a little medley *Gaelic Hotpot* and the Celtic tune *When You and I Were Young Maggie*, while the old cavalry element is captured in the German *Kurfursten Reitermarsch* and the *Regimental Slow and Quick Marches*.

As is usual the band goes fairly pop on side two, which is just one of the consequences of restricted numbers, although I don't suppose the troops mind; the classics are more or less out.

A medley from the *Rocky* films, another of *Barry Manilow's* hits, and yet another from outer space epics in *Where No Man Has Gone Before* may not attract older band buffs but they are played with some degree of restraint compared with the pop world's versions.

In fact the only little cavil I would have about the programme as a whole is that it is perhaps a bit too laid back.

All Skins should have a copy of this disc, of course, and all comers will find it a good one for the record rack.

● From **Bandleader**, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, price £5.60 inclusive.



### THE ROAD TO THE ISLES

Band of the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Conductor: Bandmaster K G Lamb  
BND 1034

KENNETH Alford's old band (he was bandmaster of the Argylls as F J Ricketts before transferring to the Royal Marines) makes a welcome appearance in the recording studio, and I find most of my remarks about the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards apply here. The Argylls make a silk purse out of a sow's ear and nonsense of my remark that the classics are more or less out!

Not only do they give a skilled performance of the whole of Gustav Holst's *Moorside Suite* arranged from the brass band score by Mr Lamb but the Pantomime movement from James Curnow's *Partita* and a saucy version of Bach's *Toccata in D Minor*, the one featured in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*.

All played with verve and a fine sparkle not always encountered from some "better" (bigger, anyway) bands.

The "Scottishry" is not overdone, there being an opening march by Jimmy Howe based on *Road To The Isles*, an

American's *Impressions of a Scottish Air* (Annie Lawrie), *Tartan Tuba* by Duncan Beat, and the *Regimental Slow and Quick Marches*, the latter being Alford's *The Thin Red Line*, and commemorating the part played by some regiment or other in a battle somewhere.

Urbach's great march *Thro' Bolts and Bars* for the Military Provost Staff Corps, a rare soprano saxophone solo in the TV theme *Mistral's Daughter*, a trombone solo *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, the Russian folksong *Kalinka*, and two of Ted Huggins's popular pieces make up the programme.

Ray Woodfield's arrangement of *Kalinka* is almost as exciting as my version of it as a xylophone duet, while Ted Huggins (real name Henk van Lyndschutten or something similar) can always be relied upon for quality light music; his pieces are *Pavane in Blue* and a lively *Fascinating Drums* featuring even more than the kitchen sink.

Ten out of ten for all 24 of you.

● From **Bandleader**, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, price £5.60 inclusive.

# In defence of Orde Wingate, target for historians

THE most controversial Allied commander of the Second World War, Major-General Orde Wingate, whose career culminated with the Chindit expeditions into Burma in 1943 and 1944, has attracted, as the author of *Orde Wingate and the Historians* declares, "extremes of admiration and dislike."

Wingate was killed in an air crash on March 24, 1944 and in the absence of any self-defence, Brig Peter Mead's latest book is an objective appraisal of Wingate's Chindit campaign, correcting historians who have "more frequently slandered than praised."

In a foreword, Wing Commander Sir Robert Thompson, who took part in Wingate's Burma campaigns, writes: "What would the effect have been if two days after the D Day landings in Normandy in 1944 two German airborne divisions had landed in central southern England and blocked several of the main roads to the south coast ports?

"No analogy is exact but that is roughly what Wingate did in North Burma."

It is for this unorthodox military adventure that Wingate is remembered, but there were other campaigns in which he was the leading light: the organisation and leadership of the Anglo-Jewish Special Night Squads in Palestine between 1936 and 1939, and the command of Gideon Force in the 1941 invasion of Ethiopia. Peter Mead gives accounts of these campaigns which undoubtedly did much to mould Wingate's attitudes and personality.

What are the accusations made by historians against Wingate which have prompted the compilation of this defence? To quote the author: "By 1961, it is interesting to note, the précis issued to Staff College students had become distinctly anti-Wingate and contained



ORDE WINGATE: extremes of admiration and dislike

some unfounded, but now familiar, charges:

- The idea of strongholds took such a firm hold on Wingate that he more or less abandoned the principle of co-operating with main forces;
- Lightly armed long range penetration columns were in consequence called on to do things for which they were not intended;
- Wingate became obsessed with the capture of Indaw;
- Wingate abandoned his own precepts, not attacking prepared positions and not establishing strongholds in accessible places.

Three appendices are in the form of appreciations by such eminent men as Wavell, Slim and Mountbatten, while the

final appendix is the author's suggestion for a statement from the Government correcting *The History of the Second World War - The War Against Japan - Volume III* in regard to the

"treatment of the personal and military reputation of Major-General O C Wingate DSO.

Peter Mead makes a strong case for the vindication of Wingate and if the book does not achieve its objectives of having the official history amended, the accusations and prejudices have at least been countered in a scholarly fashion. - BJ

**Orde Wingate and the Historians** by Peter Mead, published by Merlin Books Limited. Price £6.95 paperback, £9.95 case-bound.

## How air support was won

BETWEEN the two World Wars the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force planned separately to be ready to defend the nation.

The Army knew that HM warships and transports would be available, as always before, to convey their formations across the seas, to protect them en route and to back up their landings.

They expected that the RAF would support them as necessary on land, as their fledgling Royal Flying Corps had done in a minor way in the First World War. It did not work out like that.

The newly matured RAF had expanded dramatically since its formation in 1918 and considered that it had a primary role of its own.

When war came in 1939 the Chief of the Imperial General Staff failed in all his endeavours to acquire full air support and the Army had to make do with insufficient aircraft, mostly obsolescent.

Lack of adequate air support brought reversals and defeats.

By the end of 1942 a new conception, a tactical air force, had been invented, formed, equipped and trained. From that date the Army seldom lost a battle and never a campaign.

These things came about only through close liaison between the Army and the RAF. Individual Army officers worked alongside and shared the secrets of air staff in operations rooms and made their presence a necessity.

One such was Charles Carrington, who advanced his age to fight in 1918 and found himself over age for an active unit in 1939. He was posted to Bomber Command where he had a desk alone, a wall map, a car and contact with all Army formations.

His experiences and the inner workings of this immense RAF organisation make good reading and provide an insight into a function that has been little recorded. - GRH

**Soldier at Bomber Command** by Charles Carrington, published by Leo Cooper. Price £16.



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### From Page 37

now Brig Gen Trenchard, thanking them for their work in battle.

It went on: "Throughout these operations the RFC have gallantly maintained the splendid record they have achieved since the commencement of the campaign."

At that time there were just a dozen RFC squadrons on active service in France.

In February 1916, DH 2 pusher Scouts of 24 Sqn arrived in St Omer primarily to fight the "Fokker menace" which had emerged the previous summer. They were supplemented by FE 2Bs and French built Nieuports.

Air superiority was regained by May that year. But how it would change!

A decision was made to transfer, by August, fighter aircraft from corps squadrons and to concentrate them under Army wings, thereby causing a distinction between strategic offensive fighting and other RFC tasks.

As the fighting raged on the Somme that July - there were now 27 RFC squadrons in France - a Middle East brigade was formed in Egypt under Brig Gen William Salmon, concentrating units in Macedonia, Mesopotamia, Palestine and East Africa under one command.

During September the first German airship - the Schutte-Lanz 11 - was shot down at Cuffley, near Potters Bar, Herts, by Lt William Leefe-Robinson of No 39 (Home Defence) Sqn. He was awarded a VC.

In February 1917 a depot squadron was established at Rochford, Essex, for the training of night pilots and, subsequently, the first RFC night-bombing squadron, No 100, equipped with FE 2Bs went to France.

It was a bad month for the RFC. 120 aircraft were shot down.

By April, because of the attrition on the Western Front, pilots were being sent to the war zone with just 17½ hours' flying instruction.

A London air defence area under Maj Gen Ashmore was formed with a trio of squadrons comprising Camels and Pups specifically for operation against Gotha daylight raids, but differences in policy still existed.

Prime Minister Lloyd George appointed a special committee to examine the whole position. On the committee was South African statesman, Gen Jan Smuts.

Its recommendation was for the establishment of an Air Ministry which would "control and administer all matters in connection with air warfare of every kind and work out arrangements for the amalgamation of the two air services."

A far-sighted report on

# Birth of an air force

organisation said: "The day may not be far off when aerial operations with their devastation of enemy lands and destruction of industrial and populous centres on a vast scale may become the principal operations of war, to which the older forms of military and naval operations may become secondary and subordinate."

A school of aerial fighting was formed and a "balloon apron" installed round London. Separate zones were allocated for anti-aircraft guns and aircraft operations.

Enemy raids on England were beginning to interrupt munitions production and the 41st Wing, equipped with FE 2Bs, DH 4s and Handley-Page 0/400s under the command of Lt Col C Newall, was formed at Bainville-sur-Madon to bomb industrial targets in Germany.

During October 1917 squadrons were sent to the Italian Front to reinforce Italian forces. It was there that Lt Alan Jerrard, of 66 Sqn, won a VC.

The following month, the Air Force (Constitution) Bill 1917 was put to Parliament and on November 29, King George V gave his assent to the Air Force Bill.

Three days after the start of the Battle of Cambrai RFC aircraft dropped bombs on to anti-tank guns and strongpoints to make way for the advancing British tanks.

The final months of the RFC were drawing to a close.

On January 2, 1918, the Air Ministry was formed. Viscount Rothermere became the first Secretary of State for the Air Force.

In Salonika, the RFC flying SE 5As, Bristol Monoplanes and Camels was beginning to win superiority of the air on that distant front.

On January 28, two 44 Sqn Camels shot down a Gotha in flames. It is regarded as the first unqualified victory at night in combat between aircraft.

King George approved Viscount Rothermere's new designation and on April 1, 1918, the Royal Air Force was formed with the amalgamation of the RFC and the RNAS. On the same day the Women's Royal Air Force was also established.

Thus was formed the third fighting force of the UK.

In six hectic years aircraft numbers had leapt from 150 machines to 22,647.

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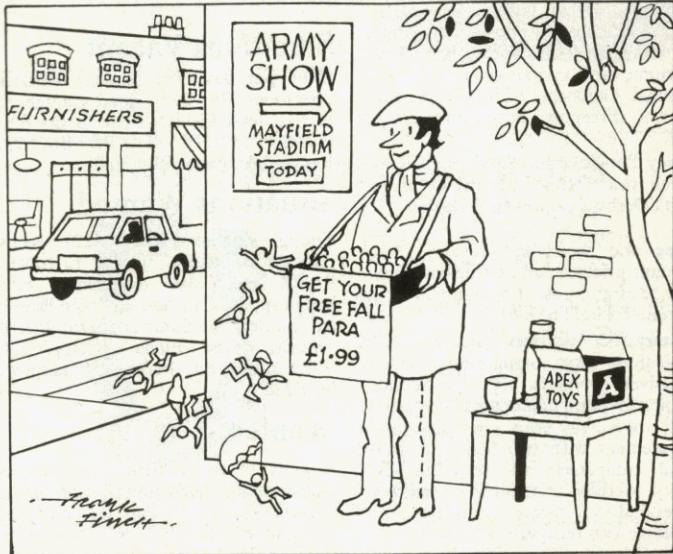
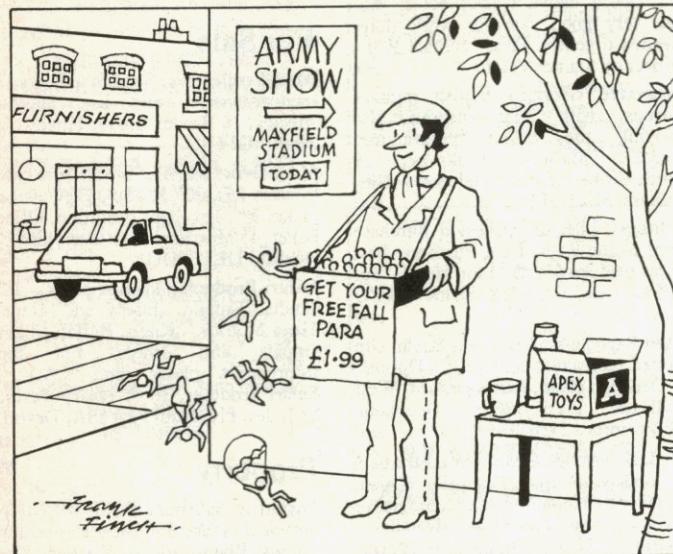
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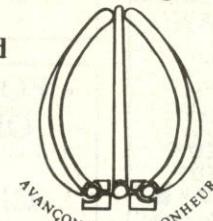
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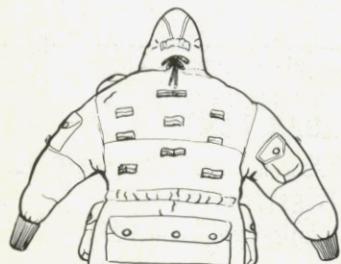
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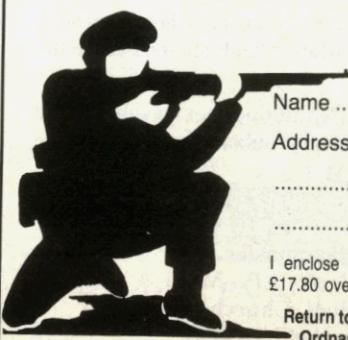
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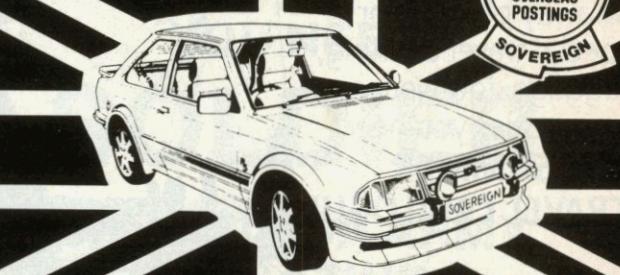
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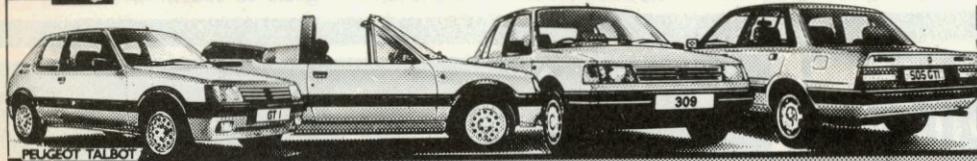
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# Three times a winner

CURRENT holders 4 Armoured Workshop REME from Detmold, reached this year's final of the Army inter-unit squash championship for major units where they met 36 Engineer Regiment RE, Maidstone the UK winners.

Although 36 Engineer Regiment led 2-1 in the initial stages, 4 Armoured Workshop won the remaining two rubbers to clinch the match and to return to BAOR with the *SOLDIER* Magazine trophy for the third successive year.

Spr Turton beat SSgt Perkins 3-0, WO1 Leach lost to Capt Bradley 0-3, WO1 Grimshaw lost to Sgt Cottrell 1-3, Lt Oliver beat Cfn Lamond 3-1 and Sgt Hall lost to WO2 Norman 1-3.

The minor units' event was decided by default. With the Junior Leaders Regiment RE, the UK minor units winners, being unable to travel to BAOR to meet 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, the championship and the *SOLDIER* NEWS cup were awarded to the BAOR unit.

## Light work for heavies

5 Heavy Workshop from Dortmund, Germany, dominated the langlauf events at the REME ski meeting in the Gunzert-Sage valley, Bavaria, winning the minor units' 10km and 15km sprints, the relay and the Nordic combination. LCpl Ginge Jordan was the first novice and third overall.

## Rangers in shoot-out



Combined Services player Cpl Brian Evans RAF closes in on the Belgian Armed Forces goal

A penalty shoot-out was the only way to separate old rivals C Coy of 4 Bn (V) The Royal Irish Rangers and defending champions D Coy of 2 Bn The Yorkshire Volunteers in the

Territorial Army cup final played at SEME Bordon's Daly Ground.

The Irishmen from Ballymena eventually won 5-4 on penalties after the teams had

been level at 1-1 after full and extra time. It was the first time the TA final has ever been decided on penalties.

Rgr Nigel Robinson headed home a superb cross from Rgr

Michael McCartney to give C Coy a 12 minute lead, but a rather weak shot by Pte Steve Brown quarter of an hour from the end of normal time rolled in to the delight of the men from

Yorkshire.

The Rangers won the cup in 1984 and 1985 and lost to D Coy in the semi-finals last year. The Yorkshiremen went on to win the trophy.



C Coy of 4 R Irish celebrate with the TA Cup

## McLean reaches ABA finals

SPR John McLean, the Army flyweight who has been in the Army boxing squad since he made his debut as a 17-year-old four seasons ago, has achieved another landmark - a place in the ABA finals at Wembley.

He gained the place with an overwhelming win in the semi-finals at Preston against Welsh champion Alan Ley. McLean took command from the opening bell and the referee stopped the contest in the second round after the Welshman had been floored.

But McLean had a hard hurdle to face in the final. His opponent was John Lyon, bidding for a record sixth successive ABA title.

Meanwhile other Army boxers did well for Combined Services in their five bouts to four victory over the US Armed Forces in Europe in London.

LCpl Ian Strudwick received a standing ovation at the end of a superb contest with American Sgt Mark Lanton, who was an Olympic possible in 1984. Light-middleweight Strudwick (3 Royal Anglians) got a unanimous points verdict.

Sgt Paul Davies (APTC) proved himself more than first among equals when he knocked out fellow heavyweight A/lc Jeffrey Archer of the USAF in the first round.

And featherweight Rfn Alan Lesbirel (2 RGJ) was far too strong for A/lc Hank Tunstall. After Lesbirel put his opponent on the canvas in the opening round the referee stopped the fight.

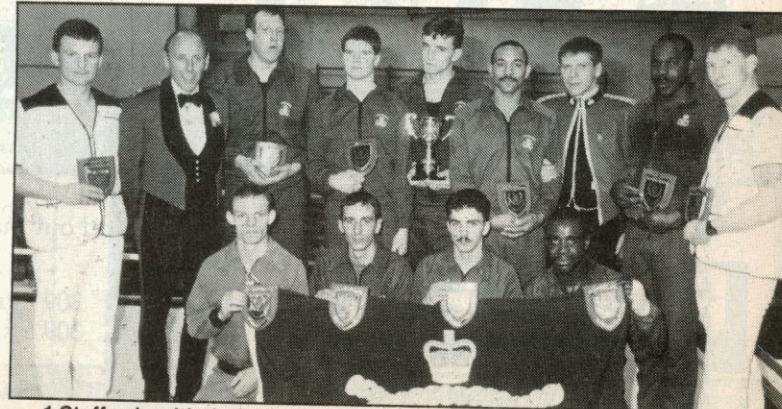
Unlucky was Pte Lee Jenkins (3 Para) who lost a majority decision at welterweight to A/lc Jerome Jackson. Many were convinced that Jenkins had done enough to win.

Fus Danny Coyle (1 RWF) was stopped in the second round of his light-heavyweight bout with PO2 Marlon Simpkins (US Army).

## Phil's outstanding!

LCpl Phil Hawkins RAOC, serving with the Directorate of Supply Computer Services at Bicester Garrison, has been presented with the Jim Barry Trophy, awarded each year to a young soldier who has shown outstanding sailing qualities and

achievement. LCpl Hawkins was awarded his Army sailing colours last year and is now working up every weekend with Col Stuart Jardine and other crew members in the J24 in preparation for the world championships in Capri.



1 Staffords with their boxing trophies

## Deadlock in Kentish Cup

### 1 Gordons 2, 1 Royal Scots 1

An all Scottish final between 1 Gordons and 1 RS in the Infantry Challenge Cup (BAOR) produced a thrilling 90 minutes of end to end football between two closely matched teams.

During the second half, Nilis and the big mid-fielder Meurs (K Beechem Sport) posed a continual threat to the home side.

This was a fine performance by the Combined Services who must count themselves unlucky not to have won.

1 Gordons opened the scoring when Sgt Wood crossed from the left and a diving header from Pte Chalmers gave the Royal Scots goalkeeper no chance. Four minutes from half time the Royal Scots equalised

when a slack piece of defending by an otherwise sound Gordons defence allowed Pte Shannon through to score.

In the second half a through ball from midfield split the Royal Scots defence and Pte McNamara coolly placed the ball past the advancing Royal Scots 'keeper for the winning goal.

1 Gordons were due to play the UK winners, 1 RHF (another Scottish team), at Barossa Barracks, Dillinghofen as *SOLDIER* went to press.

Walters took a unanimous decision at the end of a bloody and courageous encounter which earned a standing ovation. Gdsmn Lynch was awarded a majority decision over Seager in perhaps the closest and most evenly matched contest of the night.

## Staffords hold off Scots Guards challenge



Picture: Paul Haley

Another try for the Welsh Under 21 side during their overwhelming victory against the Combined Services Under 21s at Aldershot.

# WELSHED!

THERE was a feast of rugby at Aldershot Military Stadium when Combined Services entertained the Welsh Under 21 XV in the afternoon and British Police at senior level in the evening, writes John Quin.

The Welsh were making their first ever appearance as a national side at Under 21 level, and they produced an awesome game, showing no mercy and running out winners by 51 points to seven.

Having lost a fortnight earlier to Scotland at Murrayfield in a three tries to two affair Services rightly felt able to take on the Welshmen. But they were taken apart in every department and their only

consolation was that they held their visitors to fewer than 20 points in the second half.

It wasn't such a disaster as it sounds because the superb Welshmen went on to demolish Scotland a fortnight later at Wrexham by 39 points to 16. Competing at this level is a great personal honour for young Service players and a great achievement for Service rugby.

Thanks are due to the National and Provincial Building Society for their financial support of the game, and to Securicor for sponsoring the senior match against British Police, a start to joint preparations for their tour of

New Zealand in 1988.

The sponsors also provided a magnificent trophy which the Servicemen won in an exciting game.

From an Army point of view the Morgan brothers (both REME) at half back played well.

A week later Combined Services played host to their counterparts from the French Armed Forces. In a bad tempered game the Frenchmen seemed to go out of their way to intimidate. They won by 17 points to six and had a player sent off.

**Stop press** The Duke of Wellington's Regiment won the Army sevens at Aldershot. Story in the next issue.

## Staffords win again

A 2-0 win over 1 R Irish earned 1 Staffords the BAOR infantry hockey cup at Osnabruck, Germany, adding to their considerable successes in boxing and judo this season.

Ironically SSgt Jones, the only non Stafford in the side, scored the second goal that made the trophy safe.

Now 1 Staffords face the daunting prospect of taking on 1 Para, the UK infantry hockey champions, to decide the overall title.

● Staffords' boxing triumph – Page 53.

### Army trio in Colony sevens side

THREE Army rugby players who represented the Colony in the famous international Hong Kong sevens were selected again to take part in the Austra-

lian sevens tournament.

Unfortunately Capt Mick Bates RAOC had to withdraw, leaving Sgt Chris Christopher RAOC and Gdsmn Dan

Daly 1 Coldrm Gds as the Army's representatives.

All three took part in Hong Kong's success in the Colony's own tournament. Knocked

out of the main competition, which was won by the hot favourites, New Zealand's All Blacks, the "home" team went on to win the bowl event.



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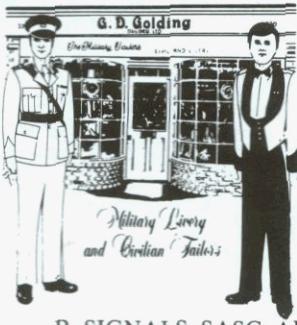
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# SOLDIER

Still going strong—a Saladin of the armoured reconnaissance squadron manned by F Squadron, 3RTR  
Special feature in pages 32 and 33

Picture: Paul Haley

