

SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: Cpl Denis Fallowfield (left) and Paul Bernard of 30 Signal Regt check their bearing before linking up with the new military satellite Skynet 4B. The signal transmitted from their VSC 501 (Land Rover satcom terminal) was beamed up to a manpack satcom terminal located on Horse Guards in London. See Page 35 for more details.

Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Going ashore. Men of 51 Composite Port Squadron, RCT, direct 3 Commando Brigade traffic ashore in northern Norway during Exercise Cold Winter. There will be a report and pictures in the next issue. Also a look at Naafi's giant new warehouse and distribution centre at Kempen, West Germany, and the 13 Victoria Crosses of the Coldstream Guards. Plus lots more.

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LETTERS

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

Osnabruck job prospects bleak

I am writing in reply to an article that was published in your magazine regarding the creation of jobs for dependents in BAOR. I am sorry but I must prove you wrong.

I am employed in Osnabruck, where I live, as a part-time clerk/typist and am due, like many others, to lose my job through no fault of my own but because of Army cutbacks. I have had this post for seven months and it took me two years to get it.

Cooks and cleaners too are affected and I know of typists who have already had to go, so I am lucky in keeping my position until now.

I find it a very sad state of affairs and I am not looking forward to being unemployed again.

It will take a long time for all

of us who are affected to get work again through 10 PLSU here, as we will all be back on the job register again making the figures go up.

There is no DHSS for us to sign on, and those of us who want to work can't.

In my office and throughout where I work brand new word processors are being installed by MoD, but most of the offices including where I am have a word processor anyway, so it doesn't make sense.

They are creating new office systems when there are already systems. Granted they aren't as good but they did the job which is the main thing. Now they are packed away to go where - into a storeroom!

I am sorry to be bitter about this, but feel that you should be aware of what is happening

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SM19

Letting the ladies have their say

I believe I understand what Anne Armstrong thought she was saying in her article "Time for New Faces" (SOLDIER, March 6). However her rank descriptions were most puzzling. Why should two retired lieutenant colonels attend the 19th All Ranks Army General Institute Committee?

Unfortunately we have to accept it, but it is hard to do so. In Civvy Street you wouldn't have to put up with this sort of thing, and probably wouldn't ever come across it, unless it was a redundancy, which this is really.

I am not looking forward now to the future, and I am here with my husband until 1993 and had enjoyed it until all this business came to light. I am not looking forward to an existence indoors.

Presumably they were two ROs (retired lieutenant colonels) or would more correctly be defined as ROs 1, 2, or 3. Also to use the term "Other Ranks" is very old fashioned. I understood it was like the Dodo now extinct, and had been replaced by soldiers.

I am surprised Mrs Armstrong did not refer to ladies and women as well as wives.

Finally, am I right in believing she is trying to suggest proportional representation on Service committees? Surely not in an Army moving into the 21st century. That sort of equality was tried nationally in the 60s and proved a failure. - A C Booth, Victoria House, Witton le Wear, Co Durham.

Yes! Anne Armstrong is trying to suggest that women should be represented proportionally. They, after all, use Naafi's facilities a great deal. - Editor.

Reunions

• The Beachley Old Boys reunion is to take place at Beachley on June 17-18. Details and application forms from SO2 Trg, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG.

Calling . . .

Wartime SAS colleagues of the late **Jack "Curly" Osmond Morgan**, who served as a corporal with RASC during the desert campaign and then in Italy with 2 SAS (Int). His son, Mr Mike Morgan, 4 Captain Cook Crescent, Whitby, North Yorks want to make contact.

Former colleagues of Mr **G W Byrne**, 9 Kipling Gardens, Under Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 6LJ, who served with 232 Hvy Bty, RA, at Nicosia, Cyprus, in 1942 and was with 25 Army Fire Bde, BORs Fire Fighting Wing, RPC and Cyprus Regt.

St John do their bit

Thank you for publishing the article on the St John and Red Cross Service Hospitals Welfare Department (SOLDIER, March 6). Any publicity can only benefit the patients and their families.

However, I must point out that in certain areas the Order of St John and British Red Cross Society do work together under the auspices of the Joint Committee of St John and British Red Cross Society.

I hope that this clears any misunderstanding that may have occurred from your headline and opening paragraph in the article which gives the impression that the Service Hospitals Welfare Department is connected only to the British Red Cross. - Miss B J Taylor, Director, Service Hospital Welfare Department, 4 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EQ.

The Order of St John of Jerusalem received five "mentions" in the story - and it is not easy to get the full title into a headline! - Editor.



Calling former National Servicemen colleagues of Geordie Hutchinson and Don Waite in 27 Plant Training Troop RE at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck. Geordie (of The Green, Acomb, Hexham, Northumberland HE46 4PH) and Don (Flat 1, Mawberry Hall, Kirkby Malzeard, North Yorkshire HG4 3RU) hope to organise a reunion of their chums in this photograph, taken in June 1957 at Anhmer airfield. They are (standing) George Reacher, Geordie Hutchinson, name unknown, Don Haddesley, Roger Ancrum (kneeling), Jim O'Hara, Cpl Bennett.

Tradition and Kohima Band

As Adjutant of 5 Queens (V), the sponsoring unit of the Kohima Band of The Queen's Regiment, I could not let D J Macleod's letter concerning the presence of a woman in the band go unremarked. In case

Mr Macleod hasn't noticed, women are no longer confined to the kitchen and bedroom. Finally, having seen The Kohima Band marching down the street with a woman in its ranks I can only say that the sight remains what it has always been, an impressive display of military precision. - Capt J Dixon, 5 (V) Bn, The Queen's Regiment, Leros TA Centre, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent.

They perform many difficult and demanding jobs as well, if not better, than their male counterparts.

The knickers to which Mr Macleod refers must be knee length and heavily starched!

Mr Macleod demands that traditionalists in the Army prevent women from joining military bands. As England's senior infantry regiment, with a tradition dating back to 1572, there are few who can argue on those grounds with The Queen's Regiment's decision to recruit a woman into the Kohima Band.

If tradition is to be a source of strength it must be allied to a willingness to innovate; if it is used to resist adapting to

Browning barrels still short

I've been reading SOLDIER almost continuously since 1952 and rate it one of the best Service magazines.

However, there are times when I see things depicted that make me wonder if I am the only one that has noticed them. Specifically the photo on the back cover of your March 6 issue showing three soldiers with a Browning .50 calibre heavy machine gun on an anti-aircraft mount.

What caught my attention was the short British manufactured barrel on the weapon. In the 1950s in BAOR we had the same guns mounted on 3-ton lorries for anti-aircraft use.

They had the same short barrels, and we were told we would be getting the longer American barrels because the British barrels were less efficacious because:

- they had shorter range
- lower muzzle velocity due to incomplete burning of powder
- and high muzzle flash which gives your position away.

All these years later when the Army has been reissued with the .50 calibre Browning I see that they still have the same barrels! - D J Marr, 75 Burrows Court, Jonmead Road, Northampton NN3 4JW.



Nut cracker?

RRW winner

Winner and runners-up in the latest HOAY competition (No 456) all come from Army addresses. Winner of the £50 first prize is Mrs E Richfield, of C Coy, 4 RRW in Bridgend. The runners-up book prizes go to Cpl Tomblin, 66 Sqn, RCT, Tidworth, and Cpl Sale, 21st Signal Regt (AS), RAF Wildenrath.

Robin 3 plans leaked

I was very disappointed to read (SOLDIER, March 6), that plans have been leaked from my company, Design And Fighting Technology (DAFT).

As you know the Government are holding off a decision to buy the American main battle tank and many people believe that this is so they can look at the Challenger 2. This is not the case. They are waiting to evaluate the Robin 3!

The Robin 3 MBT has an uprated Challenger turret and special armour (enemy fire goes straight through).

In typical military tradition, the Robin 3 is one of a family of vehicles. We have a Scimitar turreted armoured car like the Fox (ours doesn't fall over, much). We did plan an air portable, but it didn't get off the ground! - John R Metcalfe, 77 Langrick Avenue, Howden, N. Humberside.

Spanner in the works?

The picture on Page 28 (SOLDIER, March 6) depicting a soldier carrying out maintenance deserves a mention. Spanners intended for certain jobs are manufactured to a specified length so that undue pressure cannot be used on a nut, saving unnecessary wear and tear on threads.

I am certain the length of tubing this soldier is using (on a ratchet spanner when he should be using a wheel brace) is against REME rules.

This kind of action in the 10th Royal Hussars in 1950 would have carried a penalty of seven days jankers. - L. Hillsby, 8 James House, Wyvill Rd, London.

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Picture: Mike Perrin

DDITISL DEFENDED

Duke names world race challenger

The Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral of the Royal Naval Sailing Association, names *British Defender*, the Combined Services yacht which will compete in the Whitbread Round the World Race, starting in September. Immediately behind the Duke is Mr Klaus Heber, a West German

financier who owns the yacht and is underwriting the cost. Also pictured (from left) are Lt Col Frank Esson, AAC, one of three race skippers, Minister for the Armed Forces, Mr Archie Hamilton, Mrs Belinda Heber, Mr Chris Freer, technical director and crewman Cfn Hamish Shephard.

A new deal on removals

A FOUR YEAR trial has begun on a new removals scheme for Servicemen and their families posted to North West Europe. Effective from April 1, it is designed to take much of the pain out of the present system by giving families the chance to take all their belongings with them up to a limit of 2,400 cu ft – the size of a large pantechicon – at no extra cost.

The scheme will be funded by savings made on storage charges, of which many soldiers have been critical. It was widely felt that best use of public funds was not being made by storing belongings when, in many cases, it would have been cheaper for the Army to pay for excess baggage.

For the next four years individuals will have the choice of moving within current baggage entitlements and storing their excess baggage in the United Kingdom, or moving under the new system. A bonus is that the Army will pay up to £25,000 insurance costs.

Individuals in BAOR not currently storing belongings in the UK may take advantage of the trial scheme on their return, while those with more than two years to serve in BAOR may have belongings taken from storage in the UK at public expense and also take advantage of the scheme when they return.

An Army spokesman said that even before improvements made to the system last year, the basic financial logic of allowing families to take all their possessions with them in lieu of storage had been recognised by the Ministry of Defence.

"Hopes are high that the scheme will produce the service that many people have indicated they want. Provided the trial gets off to a good start MoD will be seeking to extend the scheme to other parts of Europe where it can be proved to be cheaper to allow Servicemen to take their belongings with them rather than store at public expense," he said.

Tiger Watch calls treble

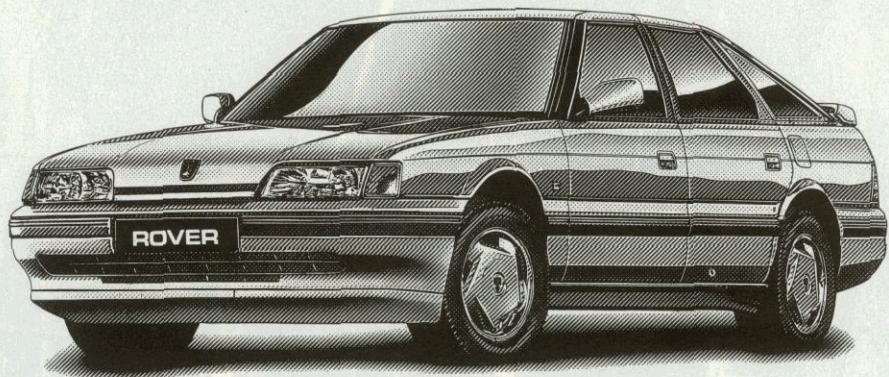
TELEPHONE calls on the Army's Tiger Watch counter-terrorist hotline in the south east of England more than trebled following the IRA bomb attack on the barracks of the 2nd Bn, The Parachute Regiment at Tern Hill, Shropshire. Calls received on Freefone 7772 increased from two or three a day to nine or ten.

More than 1,000 calls have been received since the Tiger Watch number was opened six months ago, and some of the information received has been "significant and important", said an Army spokesman.

Cold Winter death

A MEMBER of 17 Port Regt RCT based at Marchwood died in Norway while on Exercise Cold Winter with 3 Commando Brigade. Dvr Mark Clegg, 19, from Bradford is believed to have fallen from a mexi float during amphibious landing operations in the Ullsfjord. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of his death.

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Minister at 4 Div

All change for Ord Coys

UNITS of 4th Armoured Division in West Germany hosted Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton during a familiarisation visit. At Harewood Barracks, Herford the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers provided a lance guard for his inspection. At Minden he was briefed on 4 Armd Div Transport Regiment's equipment.

A PARADE marked the exchange of affiliations by 13 and 43 Ordnance Companies in BAOR, with 13 Ord Coy becoming 43 Ord Coy and moving from Harden Barracks, Obernkirchen to St George's Barracks, Minden, and 43 Ord Coy becoming 13 Ord Coy and moving to Stocken Barracks, Hanover to support 1

Armoured Division. The reaffiliations follow brigade and task force reorganisations in which several RAOC units in 1 (BR) Corps inherited quartering problems.

The parade was inspected by Brig David Harris, Commander Supply 1 British Corps and music was supplied by the band of the 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment.



Armed Forces Minister Mr Archie Hamilton inspects a lance guard found by 16/5 L at Herford

Red nose tribute to gunners

COMIC RELIEF charities were boosted by more than £1,000 raised by colleagues of two soldiers murdered by terrorists in Londonderry. Less than 48 hours after the incident Royal Artillery troops collected £1,185 while manning checkpoints in three areas of the city during Red Nose Day.

The soldiers, members of 32 Heavy Regiment RA, were overwhelmed by the continuous stream of messages of sympathy, condolence and compassion expressed by the people of Londonderry and neighbouring County Donegal as they passed through the vehicle checkpoints.

Gnr Miles Amos and LBdr Stephen Cummins of 32 Hvy Regt were killed in an IRA landmine attack as they travelled on the Buncrana Road in a Land Rover. Six of their companions were injured in the incident.

The gunner unit has recommended to Comic Relief organisers that the funds be awarded to children's charities in Londonderry as a mark of the kindness shown by local people.



Western District TAPIO Capt Peter Griffiths captures the action as Fus Andy Jones and pals in C Company, 5th Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, based at Ashton-under-Lyne, bring Comic Relief to Exercise Polar Dawn

Midlands TA units praised

AN inquiry has been launched into how a senior part time soldier met his death after stepping from a helicopter he thought had landed in the dark and plunging 200 feet to the ground. Maj Mike Kennison, 33, a Territorial for 14 years was in the 3rd Stafford Regiment, and was leading 100 reservists on Exercise Polar Dawn at Stanford Training Area, near Thetford.

The exercise involved 2,000 troops of 49

Brigade in a series of heliborne attacks spearheaded by the 5th Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, from Coventry and Birmingham, and the Wolverhampton based 3rd Bn, The Staffordshire Regiment.

The brigade commander, Brig Simon Firth said: "These Midland units are among the best I have seen anywhere. In the field, they are indistinguishable from the Regular Army in many respects."



Falklands bobby

THE Falkland Islands certainly made a marked impression on Sig Paul Jones (23) who was so taken with the life that he is leaving the Army to join the islands' police force. Paul comes from Rhymey Valley in South Wales.

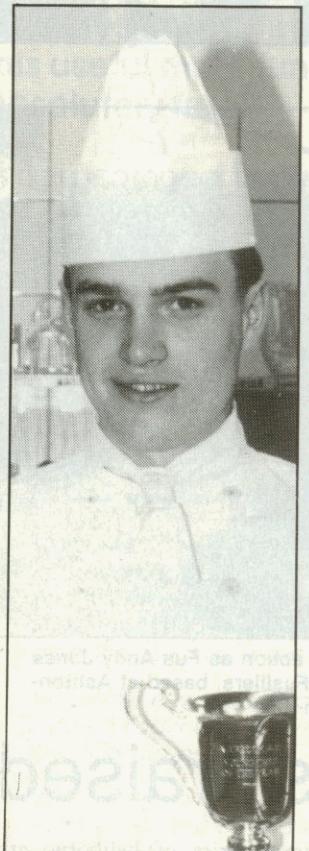
He will move into digs with an islander and his beat will take him to many different settlements.

"On my days off I visited the remoter areas, and started to think what a beautiful part of the world the South Atlantic Is. The only job that appealed to me here was in the police force," he said.

"There seems to be very little serious crime compared with the UK. I get on very well with the locals and I am really looking forward to my new life."

First colours

Capt Dorothy Macleod, QARANC, is the first woman to receive Army sailing colours. The presentation was made by Lt Gen Peter de la Billiere, Commodore of the Army Sailing Association and the event was even more special because Capt James Hall, Li, who was also receiving his colours is Dorothy's fiance. (Dorothy and James are pictured above).



DERING GUNS: Mrs Mandy Swainbank, Lt Col John Hunt, the Vickers (left) and the Browning

Mr Brian Painter, Chief Forester with the Ministry of Defence Land Agent at Durrington retires in June after 31 years service dedicated to forestry on the MoD Estate.

The 1916 vintage Vickers water cooled machine gun and a .50 Browning heavy machine gun were handed over by Mrs Mandy Swainbank of Manroy Engineering who make the .50. Both weapons will be mounted in front of the new guardroom at Dering Lines.

The history of the Vickers is not

Osnabrück, West Germany young chef of the year is L/Cpl Ian Creese (above) from 23 Engr Regt. He impressed the judges with a delicious menu including a Mediterranean platter, pork escalope, coffee and mandarin mousse.

Vickers in the Lines

recorded although it is believed to have been fired in anger during the Second World War.

Each of the four new accommodation blocks built at Dering Lines have been named after infantry weapons, with Browning and Vickers now added to Enfield and Sterling.



SAPPER LADIES: Front, left to right, Capt Atcheson, Lt Davidson, 2nd Lt Hadfield and Capt Poole; back, Lt Pulverman and Lt Barraud



SSgt Brian Turner, Cpl John Becket (centre) and Cpl Alan Fairburn were among nine long serving members of 5 RRF (V) to receive medals or bars marking a total of 160 years of service. Alan Fairburn spent 12 years as a Regular before joining the TA.

AND THEN THERE WERE SEVEN...

Anything you can do, we can do better...

Our picture of 1 RRW's three women officers (SOLDIER, February 20) drew an immediate response from the Dover based sappers of the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE.

They sent us a picture of six of their SEVEN women officers ... and reckon other regiments are going to have their work cut out matching that!

The seven are Maj Kate Fisher, RADC (the unit dentist, who was on duty in Belize when the picture was taken); and WRAC officers Capts Cheryl Atcheson (RAEC) and Ruth Poole (RAEC), troop commanders Lts Kate Pulverman (RE) and Vicky Barraud (RE); Lt Jackie Davidson (RAEC) and 2nd Lt Rachel Hadfield, assistant adjutant.

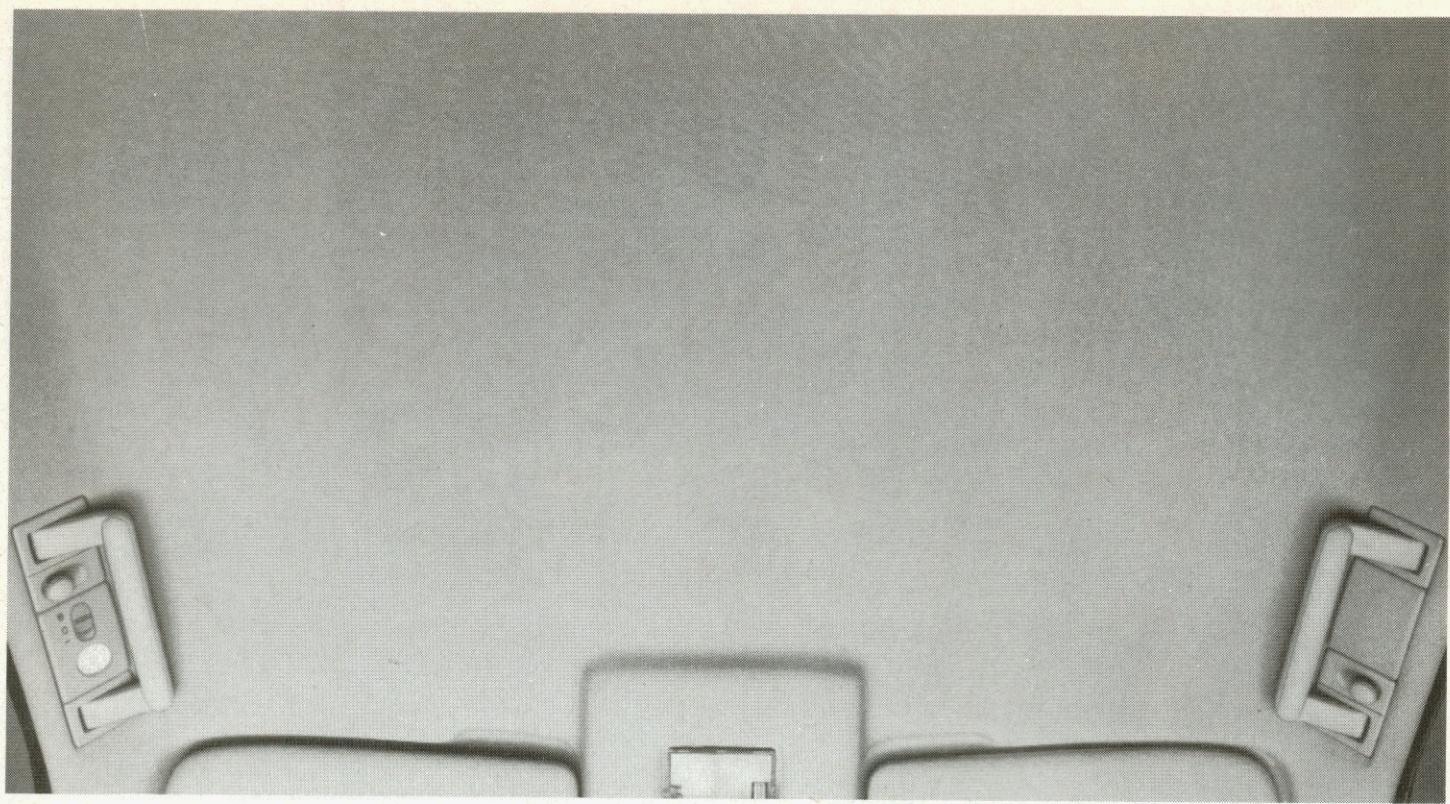
PEOPLE

Weights watchers!

training makes us feel so much fitter and it's a great morale booster too - it's nice to hear the lads saying how healthy we all look. The best thing is that we can take out all our stress at the gym. We would recommend everyone to give it a try."

Muscle-bound Cpl Steve Carr knows better than to mess with the girls from the Naafi club at Chattenden Barracks, near Rochester in Kent. That's because Jenny Garrett, Alison Ellerby, Louise Williams and Ann Pocock (left to right) are fighting fit now that they weight train at the barracks gym.

The physical foursome have to keep in trim in order to cope with running a busy club for the soldiers at Chattenden. Ann, the manager, reckons: "Weight



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What's in a name?

There's a sign at the entrance to Coldstream in Berwickshire which makes Mr W H Strachan hot under the collar.

"Coldstream, Birthplace of the Regiment", it proclaims.

Not so, says Mr Strachan of North Shields, holder of the Military Medal. "Coldstream is not the birthplace of the Coldstream Guards.

"The men of this regiment experienced nine years of active service on the east coast of Scotland before they ever saw Coldstream."

The erring sign should be removed, says Mr Strachan, and replaced by 17th century diarist Thomas Gumble's phrase: "Coldstream, the town that gave title."

A Coldstream Guards spokesman said: "It is the town which gave birth to the name of the Coldstream Guards."

RRW issue stamp cover

Although the half-penny was phased out of use some time ago, The Royal Welch Fusiliers has issued a set of philatelic covers bearing a 2½p stamp.

The covers are being issued for the regiment's tercentenary celebrations - the regiment was founded on March 16, 1689 - and the 2½p stamp is being used because it was the Royal Welch Fusilier stamp which was part of the British Army series produced in 1982. A tercentenary handstamp has been designed for the covers.

SOLDIER to Soldier



HAIR IS THE NEWS!

Good news for WRAC personnel and long-haired cavalry subalterns! The Army is currently investigating the feasibility of adding a bun extension to the rear of the combat helmet.

In the past, long hair has had to be pig-tailed and tucked down the back of the owner's combat jacket, creating an unsoldierlike bulge. News of the bun extension brought a huge sigh of relief from Servicewomen in danger of hearing that dreaded old order - "get yer 'aircut!"

To save on production costs and for the sake of uniformity, the extension will be fitted to all helmets. Said an Army spokesman: "Those with short hair might find it useful to keep their shell dressing or cigarette packets in."

Should the trials prove successful, the new "Helmet extension - bun for the use of" will be in service by April 1, 1990.

Artists' opportunity

A free London showing and a cash prize of £100 are two of the valuable inducements to Service artists who have work accepted for the Armed Forces Art Society exhibition in the National Army Museum, Chelsea from May 11 to 20.

Past and present members of the Services and their partners are eligible for the annual show.

Receiving day is May 3 and

details are available from The Secretary, Armed Forces Art Society, Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SE.

Doctor's bequest

There is an unusual story behind the naming of the newly opened Gosmann Memorial sports pavilion in Wentworth Barracks, Herford, West Germany.

In 1946 Dr Walter Gosmann, a much loved Herford doctor

was gravely ill. In desperation his family turned to the British occupying forces for help and a British officer managed to obtain some penicillin which saved the doctor's life.

When Dr Gosmann died in 1985 he bequeathed a sum of money to the British military community in Herford and this was put towards the construction of the pavilion. It was officially opened by Herr Klaus Gosmann, son of the late doctor.

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

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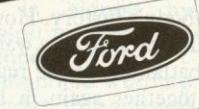
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QLR puts birthday on hold

THE Queen's Lancashire Regiment has been celebrating a special birthday – its 300th.

But its major celebrations are being postponed until the regiment's 1st Battalion returns from service in BAOR next year. Arrangements are being made, however, for the tercentenary to be quietly marked both in Germany and in Lancashire itself, where the 4th Battalion is based as part of the Territorial Army.

The regiment, which bears more battle honours on its Colours than any other infantry regiment in the British Army, has only carried its present name since 1970.

It can, however, trace its history back in an unbroken line to March 8, 1689. On that day Lord Castleton was commissioned by King William to raise a regiment of foot in Lancashire, for service in a troubled Northern Ireland.

Three hundred years later the regiment is still taking its turn, with the rest of the Army, on tours of duty in the Province!

Since those early days the regiments which, through a series of amalgamations, eventually came together in today's Queen's Lancashire Regiment, have gained more than 200 battle honours, beginning with Gibraltar (1704-5) and including Quebec (1759), Waterloo (1815) and the Somme (1916).

Seventeen Victoria Crosses have been awarded to members of the regiment.

The connection with Lancashire stems from the adoption of the county title by the then 47th Foot in 1782.

"It is a pity that we cannot mark our tercentenary year as we would have wished," said Col John Bird, the regimental secretary.

"Three hundred years is after all a tremendous milestone in anybody's history. However, we much preferred to wait until both battalions of the regiment were together again in Britain next year so that we could really do things properly!"

Plans for 1990 include a special parade at which new Colours will be presented to the 1st Battalion to replace those which it received on the formation of the new regiment at Dover Castle in 1970.

By the end of the First World War it was estimated that 64,000 commission parchments prepared and completed still awaited dispatch, but addresses to which they should be sent were difficult to obtain. It is believed they were destroyed.



We are sorry to disappoint those who thought the Queen personally signed every parchment. She doesn't! A Signscript machine inscribes a facsimile of the Queen's signature. It also produces the signature of the Adjutant General and the Permanent Under Secretary. The final act is to die-stamp each parchment with the Seal of State

Pictures: Mike Weston

Names and other details on the parchment are produced on a keyboard letterer machine by administrative assistant Ifat Khan

A pause on parchments

NEW officers eagerly awaiting the arrival of their commission parchments are advised that delivery will be delayed. And that's official!

There is now a backlog of about 2,000 parchments awaiting process and dispatch.

The delay is due to staff shortages at the London based Personnel and Logistic (Legal and Safety) branch, who are responsible for printing the individual details on each parchment.

SOLDIER has been to Stanmore to see the man responsible for all commission records, Maj (retd) Peter Riches and to learn something

about the history and traditions surrounding the issue of these signs of authority.

Late of the Royal Artillery, Maj Riches went to MS8 (Military Secretary 8) at Stanmore as an RO1 (Retired Officer 1) three years ago.

He is responsible for regular, short service regular, short

Story by Laurie Manton

service, short service volunteer and late entry commissions, as well as appointments to commission, retirements, seniority and antecedents, and promotions to captain and below – to name just a few of his tasks.

His job doesn't end there, for he is also secretary to the Army Commissions Board, Army Commissions Appeal Board and the Army Retirement Board, as well as being a member of the RMA Sandhurst Commandant's Review Board.

Perhaps the two most important tasks among many others carried out by Maj Riches are the publication of the Army supplement to the London Gazette, and the issue of parchments to officers and warrants to warrant officers.

It was reported recently in the national press that about 400 parchments dating from the Second World War had been discovered at MS8. But that was not the case, explained Maj Riches: "We always knew they were there but have needed to appraise the situation due to reallocation of office space."

There are in fact several thousand parchments stored in cupboards at Stanmore, mostly from the period 1939-40, plus several dating from the 1860s, but Maj Riches does not have

Edward VII signed permanent first commissions himself, but after the Boer War found large arrears of unsigned parchments (more than 5,000) and had them stamped.



Picture: Mike Weston

Maj Peter Riches displays the earliest examples of commission parchment among several thousand held by the branch. It dates from 1862 and was intended for one George Ernest Phillip Madden who was appointed to the Commissariat Department of the Army in the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissary General

the staff to identify every single officer.

"None have been destroyed and we are reluctant to do so, as they are historical documents," he said.

The abundance of parchments from the early years of the Second World War results from King George VI's ruling that he would follow the practice of his father during the First World War and, for the duration of the war, his signature would be applied by means of a rubber stamp to all commission parchments.

Shortly afterwards he decreed that, also for the duration, because of the

enormous numbers involved and the problems in production, commission parchments were only to be made and issued to individuals on application.

A little known responsibility of MS8 is the preparation of parchments for persons granted honorary commissions in the British Army, such as that of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, late Emperor of Ethiopia, who was appointed Field Marshal by the Queen.

The emperor's parchment was delivered in a specially made box covered with full red leather and lined with felt, unlike the normal cardboard tube that is used to protect the rolled document in transit.

Today after checking and verification by Maj Riches, details of individual officers are sent to PL(LS) where, staff permitting, the parchments are stamped with the Seal of State and countersigned by two members of the Army Council before being sent back to MS8 for dispatch.

Document no longer has legal value

PUBLICATION in the London Gazette of an officer's first appointment to a commission in the military forces of the Crown is the official authority for an officer to take his place in a regiment or corps, draw his pay and hold the authority of an officer.

The subsequent issue of a commission parchment merely continues an historic custom which few officers would wish to change, but which no longer constitutes a legal part of the process of commissioning an officer.

Around the time of the formation of the standing Army in 1661, officers were issued with a commission parchment on first appointment and further parchments were issued for each successive promotion.

They were probably also issued for a change of appointment, transfer between regiments and change of Sovereign.

This practice was still in force in 1862, when an Act of Parliament was passed enabling the Queen to sign all first commissions herself, while delegating the signature of all subsequent commissions to other dignitaries specified in the Act.

By 1873, the issue of parchments in large numbers was getting out of hand, and an Order in Council abolished the issue of commission parchments for all but the first appointment.

The Order provided that the various other steps in an officer's career would be announced formally in the London Gazette.

Since then the commission parchment has been couched in terms sufficiently general to cover the full duration of an officer's career. He is thus presented on first appointment with a document which is personal to himself and which is signed by the Sovereign to whom he owes allegiance.

The dignified wording used is intended to emphasise his status and prestige as an officer in the military forces.

It has now become the custom to think of an officer "serving on a commission" and to talk of "first appointment to a commission" instead of "appointment to a first commission".

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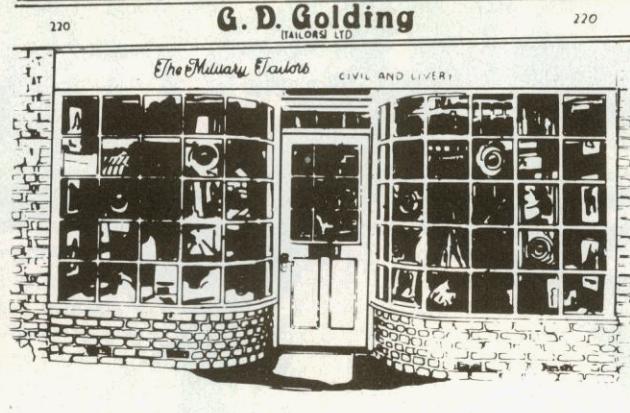
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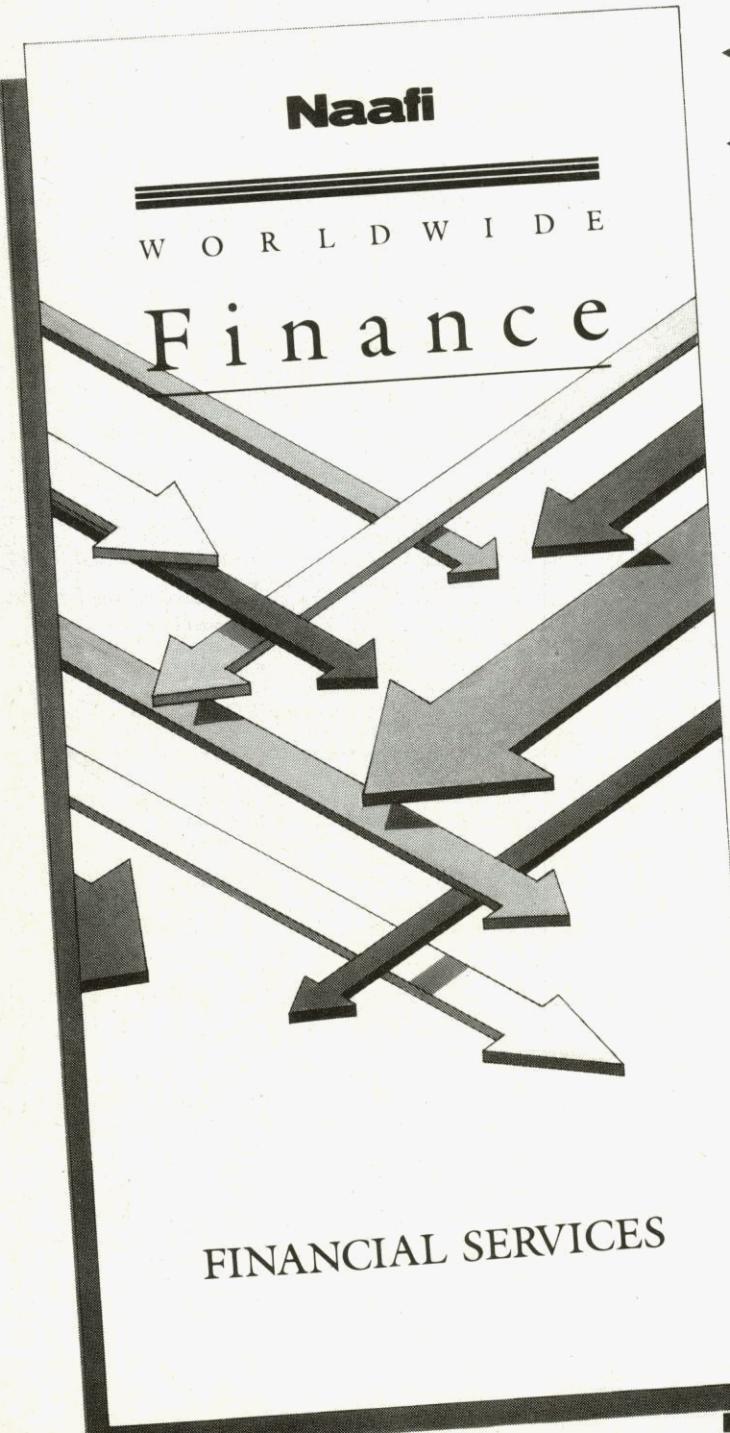
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LAUNCHED!

... but we should not take IT for granted

A CHARITY event on board a Thames launch seemed an unlikely place and time to start a conversation with information technology expert Philip Virgo on the Government sponsored report *Women into Information Technology*.

And he followed up by inviting me to join the feasibility study!

Britain, it appears, is facing a shortfall of 100,000 computer skilled people by the year 1993. Among the organisations which will suffer from this shortage are the Armed Forces.

A formidable task lies ahead to recruit sufficient numbers into the computer field.

Women representing all aspects of the computer world packed a House of Commons committee room to hear Junior Industry Minister Mr Eric Forth launch the report which, among other factors, blames pressures put on schoolgirls by their career advisers to major on "feminist" subjects.

Mr Forth mentioned the importance of the 140 Information Technology (IT) advisers appointed to liaise between industry and schools, which prompted me to ask why no advisers had been tasked to liaise with our Service schools overseas, particularly in Europe with 1992 looming large.

Philip Virgo, chairman of the study into women and IT, emphasised the need for more training. It is said that two thirds of IT employers do not train their

staffs – they "poach" them after they have been trained by someone else!

The Army is a prime target. It does train soldiers in IT, and faces the increasing prospect of seeing them enticed away by more lucrative offers.

Says the report: "One of the largest groups is Armed Forces dependants. The numbers are large enough to make a significant contribution and the education profile is well above average."

Praise was given to FOCUS, which has placed more than 65 per cent of its 406 trainees in IT based employment.

The study says many British Army wives in West Germany speak fluent German. Many, in fact, are German.

I would argue that the obvious source of employment for such a group is in helping to overcome the Army's own shortage of IT skills. It is significant that one major UK information technology employer is already making very good use of the work force available at an isolated Service housing estate.

The implications of the technology are tremendous, and include the possibility of IT trained dependants based in, say, North Germany being "networked" into a system so they could work from their own homes.

The opportunities for Army wives in IT are there for the taking, with a little help from the MoD of course!

The IT study looks at programmes to make better use of "targeted groups" of women – able

but isolated groups (such as Army dependants) with technical and language abilities of the type needed to exploit the opportunities of the 1990s.

They will quite naturally be out of touch with the innovative ideas announced by Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, over the last few months as these appear not to have filtered through to our schools overseas.

Teachers and parents in BAOR were in the dark because Service schools overseas have not automatically received all the educational publications available to UK schools. This has meant Service Children's Education Authority (SCEA) schools could easily become out of touch, and with them parents moving around the globe.

There were 109 SCEA schools left out in the cold. However, not any more! My letter to Mrs Rumbold, Minister of State, requesting their inclusion on the distribution list coincided with SCEA writing to the Department of Education and Science with a similar request.

This has resulted in a change. From now on SCEA headquarters and the SCEA schools will be added to the Department's

Keeping in touch with Mr Baker

SERVICE

families returning to the United Kingdom will need to get to grips with the new Education Act.

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This has resulted in a change. From now on SCEA headquarters and the SCEA schools will be added to the Department's

list, putting them on an identical footing with the Local Education Authority and maintained schools in England.

In his introduction to *Our Changing Schools: A Handbook for Parents*, Mr Baker writes: "You will want to do all you can to make your child's education a success. This booklet tells you how you can help your school to help your child."

Two other leaflets are available: *Tomorrow's Schools: A Guide for Parents*, which explains local management of schools, grant maintained schools and city technology colleges, and *Qualifications for Young People: A Guide for Parents*, which gives information and advice on GCSE A Levels, AS Levels and job related courses.

If you have difficulty in getting them please write to me.

In my view ...

the long term effects on the Army could be serious.

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body pointed out the need for increased employment opportunities for Service wives and dependants world wide, and both the AFPRB report and the IT report draw attention to the untapped skills of women in a world of falling birth rates.

Interest among British women in IT appears to lag behind Europe. In the UK last year 29 per cent of schoolgirls took computer studies at O Level, 17.7 per cent took it on to A Level, and 13.9 per cent of university computer science graduates were women.

The opportunities for Army wives in IT are there for the taking, with a little help from the MoD of course!

(The study is available from IT Strategy Services, 2 Eastbourne Avenue, London W3 6JN, price £12.50.)

Sail ho!

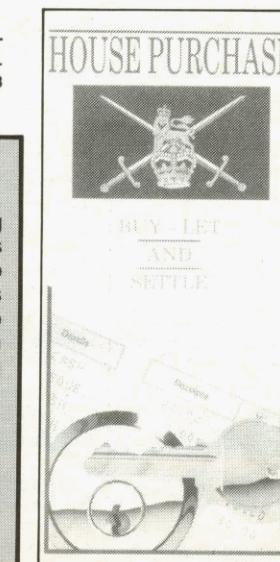
THE London Sailing Training Project has allotted two places to Army dependant boys age 16-19 years old to sail on the ketch *Donald Searle* during the week June 17-23. Cost is £30 including travel from London to Southampton. The week counts towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

MoD has announced that arrears will be paid automatically by the RAPC Computer Centre, so check to see you receive any increase.

To claim the benefit complete DSS leaflet CH11 One Parent Family or complete form FB 8 Babies and Benefits.

One parent family premium arrears due

ALL one parent families, and that includes single soldiers who have sole custody of children, can claim one parent family premium. The 1987 rate was £4.70, increased to £4.90 from April 1, 1988. This increase was not credited to one parent families during 1988.



Early enthusiasm for Buy, Let and Settle scheme

THE number of enquiries following the launch by the Ministry of Defence of the Buy, Let and Settle house purchase scheme suggests that the initiative has been welcomed by Servicemen, according to an Army spokesman.

The scheme, aimed at helping soldiers into the property market, relies on panels of agents to smooth the way for Servicemen in the purchase, conveyancing and tenancy of properties.

Rising house prices have convinced more and more people of the desirability of

buying their own homes, but the frequent moves that are part of Service life often put Servicemen at a disadvantage.

Under the Army's Buy, Let and Settle scheme three companies have been named as being able to offer the full range of services in addition to being familiar with the particular requirements of Servicemen.

But the MoD points out that these services are not unique and that Service personnel are free to obtain advice from whatever source they choose. An

MoD brochure advertising the scheme points out that it will not accept responsibility for any action or advice of the three companies. Unit admin offices should have lists of these firms and others offering similar services.

Two other schemes to help Servicemen buy houses are already in existence – the sale of surplus married quarters at a discount and the Assisted House Purchase which offers an interest free loan of £5,000 for those in the final two years of a 22 year engagement.

To replace cards which are no longer valid a redesigned card is now becoming available with an expiry date of December 31. This new rail card will, however, be valid only in conjunction with an accompanying photocard, not an MoD identity card.

The confusion is hardly surprising because it is a very complicated system. There are in fact at least 21 variations of the allowance which might confront the Serviceman.

It seems that many of the interpretations on eligibility

Prescription charge now due

FROM April 1, civilian patients including dependants attending Service medical facilities in the UK have to pay prescription charges.

Those who are old, young (up to 19 undergoing full-time education), pregnant or have a baby under a year old will not pay the charge.

The charge (currently £2.80 an item) will be collected at the dispensary. The same exemptions will apply as in the NHS.

Patients will not be charged for emergency treatment, for the first ten

days of treatment after discharge from hospital or for oral contraceptives prescribed at a family planning clinic.

This change is part of last year's allowances package and will bring dependants into line with NHS patients.

The charge (currently £2.80 an item) will be collected at the dispensary. The same exemptions will apply as in the NHS.

Patients will not be charged for emergency treatment, for the first ten

Don't forfeit BSA through ignorance

BOARDING School Allowance is paid for continuity of education, but some parents may not be aware of the implications of withdrawing a child from a boarding school and the subsequent forfeiture of the allowance.

The rules say entitlement to BSA will be forfeited in the following circumstances:

- When a child is withdrawn from a school (except on completion of a stage of education) for

reasons which are considered inadequate by the MoD.

In such cases parents should seek advice about the effect of withdrawal on their entitlement to the allowance. All cases are to be submitted to MoD PS10 (A) through staff channels in good time, bearing in mind the possible need to give a term's notice of withdrawal.

- When a child is remaining at school solely to re-sit examinations.

RPOD: Variations on a theme ...

THERE has been some confusion over who can or cannot claim Residence to Place of Duty (RPOD) allowances or the excess fares allowance.

If you do not claim legal expenses you may be eligible for RPOD, but it is essential to check your special circumstances against the regulations.

Some in depth financial calculations may be necessary before you make any decisions, so do check before you need to move.

19



Setting up the 81mm mortar in the arctic. Cpl Wayne Aldred (left) and Fus Dan O'Keefe with the Raschen Bag. Note the base plate in the top of it. Fus Steve Hodgkinson holds the tube and Fus David Chesterton the bi-pod

The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers is experiencing its second winter on exercise in the Arctic as the only UK infantry unit in the ACE (Allied Command Europe) Mobile Force. SOLDIER follows up its report in the last issue with an account of one of the difficulties which Fire Support Company's mortar platoon had to overcome.



Mortar muscle men...



Heave! The dead weight of the Raschen Bag is lifted bodily – estimated 800lb – into the back of a Hagglund BV 206

"RATION Bag" is a term to make the most dedicated mortar crews assume a thoughtful far-away look.

In the case of one detachment of 2 RRF Mortar platoon it may even cause a wince.

The Raschen Bag (to give it its proper name after the retired colonel who designed it) is possibly the heaviest single piece of equipment the infantryman is likely to handle.

It is simply a canvas container with handles and is stuffed with gravel. It may weigh 400lbs but on an occasion which will remain long in the memory of Cpl Wayne Aldred and his comrades it is estimated to have been nearer the 800lb mark.

The purpose of the RB is to provide a stable base for the 81mm mortar when firing from soft ground. The many-ton wallop the tube gives the base plate on firm old Salisbury Plain causes few problems, but on spongy terrain (such as in the Falklands) the weapon will

dig itself in, swivel off target and could theoretically end up firing straight up in the air with dire consequences for the men beneath.

The mortars of 2 RRF (platoon commander Capt Bill Niven) took their own ready-filled RBs in their Hagglund BVC 206 oversnow vehicles when the battalion left Bulford for Norway and Exercise Hardfall.

The platoon's experience on one training day was instructive.

Three tubes were deployed. The snow lay in deep drifts in places; there had been rain and then snow again. The crews had to get down to the perma frost (subsoil which remains at freezing point throughout the year).

No 1 tube was set up at a depth of six feet; No 2 at about three feet and No 3... down 15 feet.

The fusiliers used broad snow shovels to dig their way in to the snow covered ground.

"It was easy for the first

**Story:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Mike Weston**



Firing. A member of the crew adds to the weight on the bi-pod

couple of inches of powdered stuff," said CSgt Eamonn Gannon mortar platoon 2 i/c.

"Then it was down to the slush. It was like lifting a sandbag with every shovelful."

Once down to the required level the crew had to ensure the slope in front of the tube was sufficient to enable the bomb to clear the lip of the pit. Steps were cut into the ice to enable the men to climb in and out and

the Raschen Bag was lowered into position by cable from the BV.

A platform of sandbags (each weighing about 50lbs) had to be built for the bipods and communication trenches dug between the pits which were the regulation 40 metres apart.

It took nearly four hours to set up the position and get into action.

Why not simply fire from the

perma frost? It seems that it is so unyielding the reaction of the tube might break the base plate – already subject to the extreme temperatures.

When the exercise was over the Raschen Bags were dragged from the pits by BV cable, but it took muscle power to heave them into the rear of the vehicles.

Then the emplacements so

painfully dug had to be filled in to ensure they did not swallow itinerant cross-country skiers.

The good news is that experiments are going on with a Raschen Bag filled up with lightweight "ballistic chips".

Even better, the Royal Marines are trying out a BV variant with a mortar mounted in the rear cab – the strain of firing being directed on to the suspension and the broad tracks.



Permanent staff of BATUS Ord Coy give the impression of being snowed under with work...

They're snowed under at Suffield!

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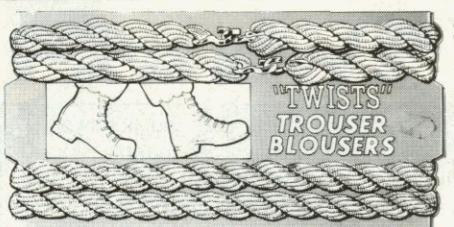
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THOUSANDS of British soldiers who are familiar with the rolling dust bowls that make up the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) training area in Canada would not recognise it in winter.

It undergoes a complete metamorphosis with the result that BATUS Ordnance Company is literally snowed under with work on its Winter Repair Programme (WRP).

During WRP all vehicles used on the prairie in the annual summer Exercise Medicine Man series are completely refurbished for the start of the training season in March. Some have to be repatriated for base repair in the UK and BAOR, but there is still a lot to be done by the BATUS Workshop REME, under the command of Maj Ian Graham.

This task is split between repair and cosmetic refurbishing. This includes work normally done by vehicle crews. In both, the men of BATUS Ord Coy play a predominant role.

Although they don't do major repairs, they are responsible for making sure REME craftsmen have all the spare parts, tools and vehicles. They then carry out the crew tasks as required.

BATUS Ord Coy is commanded by Maj Chris Bradley, who ensures not only supply lines to



Starting vehicles isn't so much a

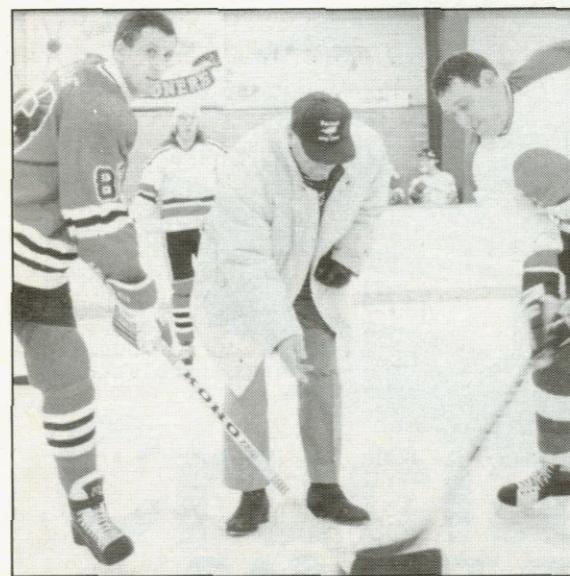
problem as finding them!

Canada are kept open but also directs the large influx of soldiers from many units in BAOR who are sent to help on WRP.

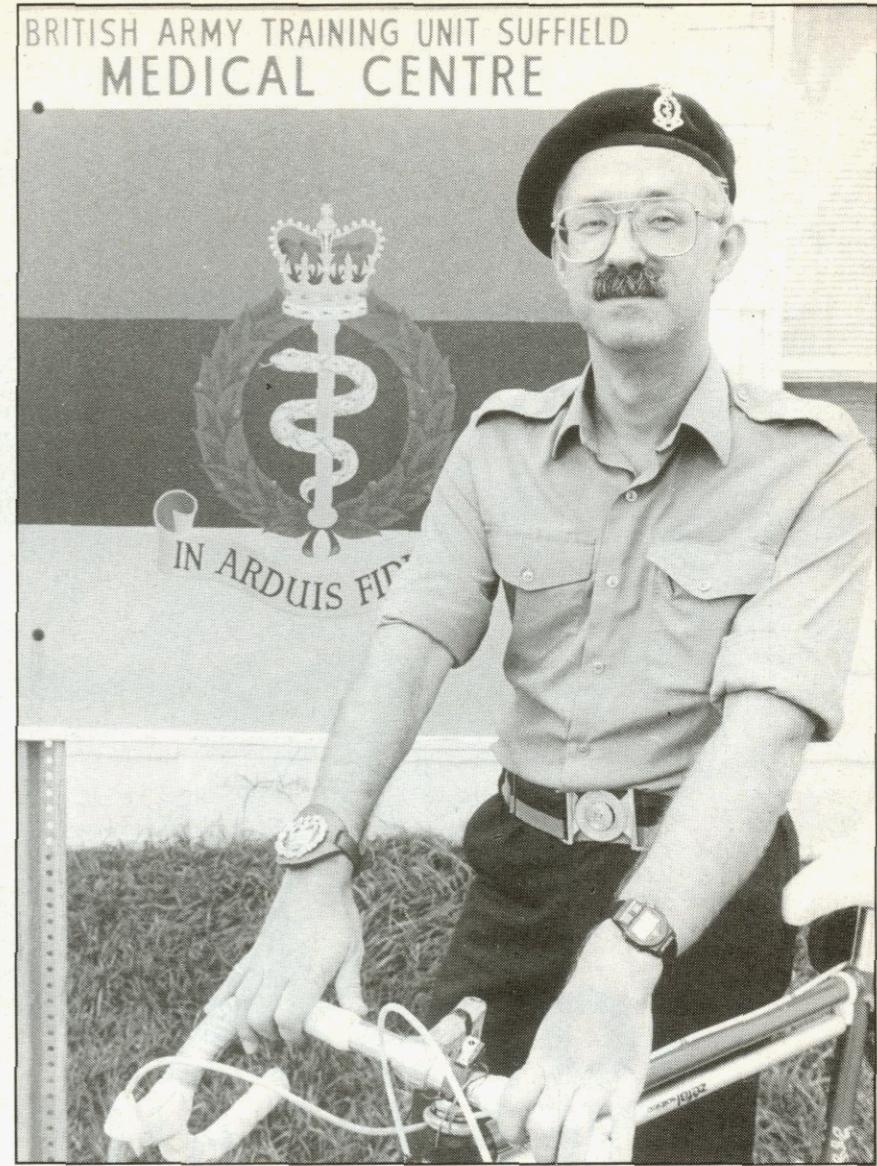
These soldiers are mostly employed in the Ord Coy Vehicle Platoon, commanded by Capt Sandy Copland. He co-ordinates the day to day running of the WRP, ensuring that the REME Workshop is kept fully supplied with vehicles to work on, and to further process them after



LCpl Clapham, 4 RTR, in a recce vehicle keeps the Director General of Ordnance Services, Maj Gen Jerrie Hulme, amused, while LCpl Purdam, 5 Innis DG, looks on bemused. Maj Chris Bradley and SSgt Colin Canals seem to have got the joke



Maj Gen Hulme is bracketed by SSgt Colin Canals (left) and WO1 (SSM) John Bassett at the start of a hockey game



On his bike. BATUS Ironman WO2 Mike Joss

Iron man Mike

IT IS hard to believe that WO2 Mike Joss of the Medical Centre, BATUS, was once worried about passing his Basic Fitness Test, writes Bill Moore.

Or that the only running he did before he transferred to the RAMC from the RAF was to the bank on pay day.

Today WO2 Joss is "heavily into" Ironman culture - probably the fastest growing sport in Canada and USA.

Ironman triathlons were started in Hawaii ten years ago by Cdr John Collin, US Navy, as an endurance event which would give older men a chance to compete with younger athletes. To the 2.4 mile rough water swim, he added a 112-mile cycle race and the Honolulu Marathon.

WO2 Joss got a taste for the

Of the 780 who dived in at the start he came in 614th. He pulled up to 594th at the end of the cycling section.

"I had always felt that if I could finish the cycling I would complete the course," he said.

Cheered on by his wife and three children he ran the marathon in 5 hours 27 minutes, bringing him in 543rd overall. He had taken 14 hours 21 minutes, well within the 17 hours allowed. (The winner took 8 hours 56 minutes to complete the course.)

The day after the event WO2 Joss says his legs were "a little stiff".

When SOLDIER saw him at Suffield he paused reflectively as he set off on his bike: "I suppose in trying to get fit for my BFT I just got a bit carried away!"

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SUPPORT
WEAPONS WING



Mortars in action. Course 39's last fling at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon

Crucial case for support weapons

CONSIDERING its inhabitants emerge regularly to scourge Salisbury Plain with high explosive missiles, smoke and bullets, the atmosphere within the confines of the Support Weapons Wing at Netheravon, Wilts is remarkably civilised.

A Georgian mansion overlooks a Saxon church; Roman remains exist under soldiers' accommodation which some say is almost as old, and the fine classic red pillar-box bears the Royal Cypher of Her Majesty's great-grandfather.

In such a couth atmosphere a little notice in the officers' mess is not entirely out of place.

Subalterns arriving for courses are warned that they "will be accompanied by two *unmarried* servants . . . will bring one trained charger with them . . . and must bring their swords and revolvers".

A lot of young men who obediently brought horse, batmen and sabres with them when the notice was typed in spring 1914 found little use for them in the trenches later that year and, in any case, within 12 months most of them were dead or wounded.

The weapon that did most of the damage in the First World War was the belt-fed machine-gun based on the Maxim – the



Symbolic Vickers gun outside HQ Support Weapons Wing

infantry battalion's only integrated support weapon in 1914 and early 1915.

Both British and German battalions had two each to start with but by 1916 machine-gun companies and battalions were being formed.

Light machine-guns (the drum fed Lewis in the case of the British), became the platoon weapon, mortars reappeared after an absence of 50 years, and the Germans, tank-less themselves, were obliged to develop special anti-tank rifles and guns.

Today a symbolic Vickers .303 medium machine-gun stands outside HQ SWW, flanked by a mortar and anti-tank weapons. The need for expertise in the use of the latest versions of all three has never been more necessary.

Paradoxically the withdrawal of the Red Army from Afghanistan, though highly significant politically, has had a markedly beneficial effect on the Soviet forces in Germany.

Col Paddy King-Fretts, Commandant SWW, summed up the situation neatly for SOLDIER:

"It is becoming obvious that the Soviets learned a hell of a lot in Afghanistan – the hard way.

"They have, for example, learned about the effect of Nato HEAT (high explosive anti-tank) ammunition on their armour and we are now seeing certain technological advances in the Soviet forces

● Turn to next page

CORPS BEHIND THE GUNS

BEHIND the men behind the guns at Support Weapons Wing is a hard core of experts from the Small Arms School Corps.

The space the corps occupies in the Army list is inversely proportionate to its value.

The head of one of the divisions at Netheravon said of the personnel: "Without them this place is nothing. They represent its history, its ethos, everything about it.

"I'm extremely fortunate to have very committed, dedicated, extremely intelligent, highly professional senior NCOs working for me."

The corps was often misunderstood within the Army but "having worked with them I would be their strongest advocate".

The corps goes back to 1853 when it was formed as the Corps of Instructors, raised primarily to supervise the introduction of the rifled musket which replaced the smooth bore virtually on the field during the Crimean War (1854-5).

It took its present title in 1929 when small arms schools existed at Netheravon and Hythe.

The present strength is 137 but, in the words of Lt Col David Evans, the chief instructor of the corps, "there is room for more NCOs of the right calibre".

It recruits from the ranks (lance corporal to WO2) and applicants undergo a course of six to eight months at Warminster.



A GHOST is said to haunt the officers' mess at Netheravon. The building (pictured above) was constructed in the 1730s as a hunting lodge for the Duke of Beaufort whose family then owned Salisbury Plain.

One Duke is said to have regarded the considerable female domestic staff as fair game.

One 16-year-old is said to have chosen "death before dishonour" and leaped from what is now a landing on the top floor of the house above the portico (circled picture) of the front door.

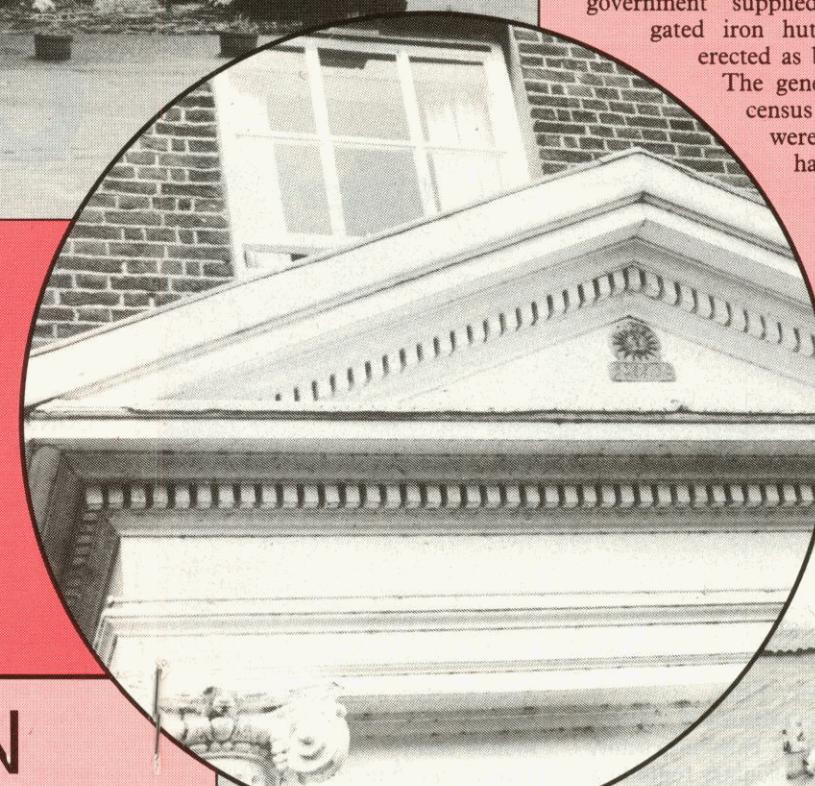
It is alleged that a dark stain still appears from time to time on the

tarmac, supposedly on the spot where the victim landed.

Her ghost is said to have been seen during the First World War, causing some officers to refuse to sleep on the top floor.

According to a potted history of the mess an officer "who was the sole occupant of the mess one night became so convinced that he was not alone he preferred to spend most of the night in his car outside".

(SOLDIER knows of at least two other "haunted" messes - Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston which boasts an RAF pilot ghost, and Wyvern, Bulford which has a murdered girl).



LESSONS FROM AFGHANISTAN

● From page 25

in Germany as they try to counter this.

"They've learned about the diversity of command and control and will now be much more able to fight their way through opposition in small groups of mixed armour and infantry.

"Hitherto the Russian soldier did not move until he had orders from above.

"Afghanistan taught him that there weren't orders from above. Out on that snowy mountainside by himself on a cold dark night with the Mujahideen around him he and his pals had to think and act for themselves and get on with it."

Col King-Fretts said a whole generation of officers and NCOs had returned to front line units realising that this was a far better system of setting about things.

"We can expect," he added, "a much better psychologically prepared Soviet soldier to be facing us now than before the Afghan experience.

"It is therefore imperative that our infantry support weapons can hit hard, hit accurately and at maximum range in order to break up well controlled enemy manoeuvres."

The colonel, who began his regimental life with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, has during service in the

Plus ca change . . .

Middle East been on the receiving end of all the weapons systems being taught at Netheravon.

His personal association with the SWW started in 1964 when he attended a course which saw out the old 3in mortar and the introduction of the 81mm.

At that time the WOMBAT was the latest thing in anti-tank weapons.

Indirectly, however, the Commandant's association with the school goes back to a time before he was born.

His father, an officer of the 2nd Dorsets, learned the secrets of the 2-pdr anti-tank gun in 1938.

They weren't even new when they were put up around 1907 yet these huts are still providing accommodation for soldiers

Haunted house and Holy City . . .

THE Netheravon site of the SWW was part of the land acquired by the Crown Commissioners when they started to buy up parts of Salisbury Plain in the 1890s.

Increased weapon ranges made it essential to have more room and the cavalry required space for its manoeuvres.

The sale of Bulford Field gives some idea of land prices. In 1897, £7,500 was paid for 750 acres.

The house and grounds at Netheravon were the property of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, before they were acquired.

Excavations in 1907 revealed the site of a Roman building - possibly a villa - and a hoard of coins was found.

About the same time a thrifty government supplied corrugated iron huts to be erected as barracks.

The general consensus is they were second hand even then.

The same buildings are still in use, rusting relentlessly under coats of green paint.

So many have been perforated and patched that the irreverent have been known to refer to them collectively as the Holy City.

The camp began life as the Cavalry School Barracks but for a time in the First World War became a Canadian convalescent home. What is now the vegetable store was a mortuary and the laying out slabs are still in place.

Horse and sword never again dominated the Plain. The Battle of Cambrai (1917) having proved conclusively the unsuitability of the cavalry on a modern battlefield, Netheravon became the Machine Gun School (moving from Grantham).

In the '30s instruction began on the 3in mortar and before the outbreak of the Second World War the 2-pdr anti-tank gun course was introduced.

The old green corrugated

SUPPORT WEAPONS WING

huts were crammed.

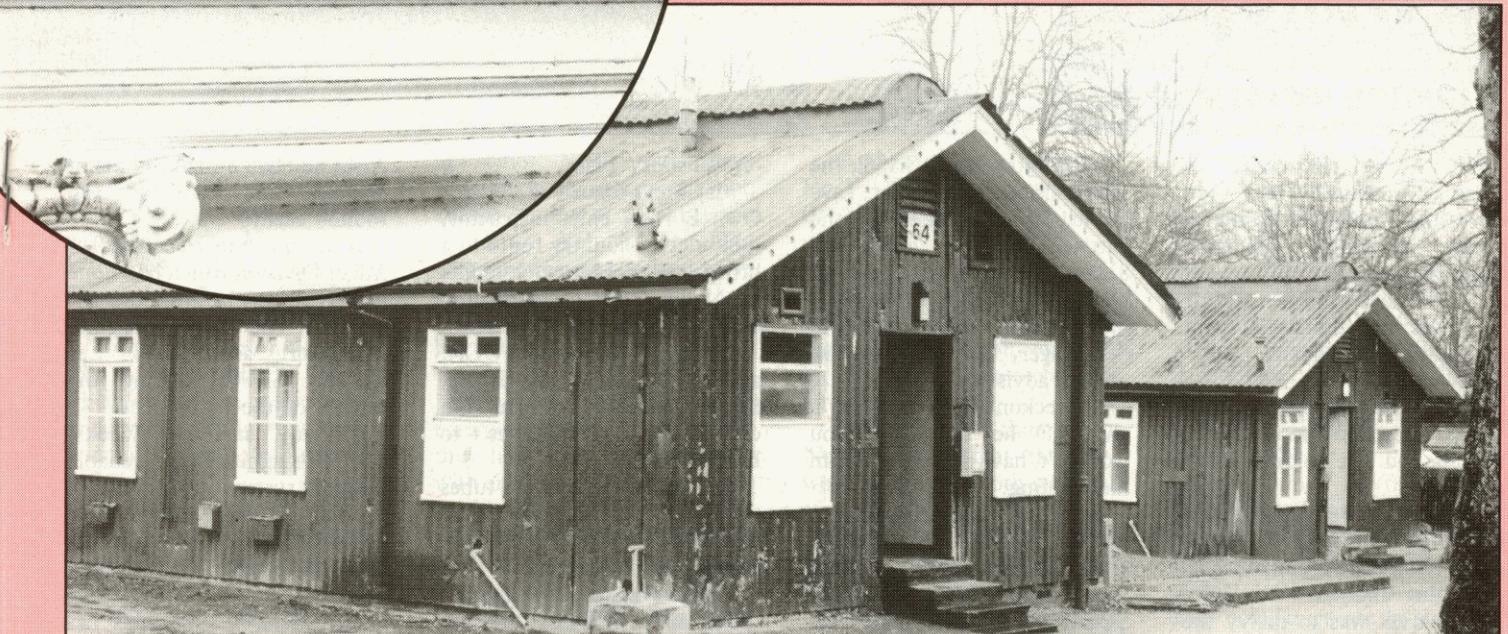
During the war the name was changed to the Heavy Weapons School. It saw the development of the 6-pdr and 17-pdr anti-tank guns while the Vickers continued to pour belt after 200-round belt into the chalky downland.

After closing for a short period the school re-opened in 1947 as Support Weapons Wing. The corrugated iron got another coat of paint.

The Vickers gave way in 1961 to the GPMG (Sustained Fire), a platoon weapon. MG courses as such ceased though the mortar and anti-tank divisions flourished.

Only two years ago the Recce/GPMG (SF) Division was re-established, taking over what used to be the Duke of Beaufort's stables.

The corrugated iron huts are destined to be replaced under current plans. No one knows whether the government has plans for their use elsewhere...





What looks like a Chianti bottle – and packs a wallop?

THE NEW MILAN ROUND!

THE MORTAR crews of Regular Course 39 had been operating throughout the night, firing, moving, deploying again, when SOLDIER caught up with them.

It was the climax of eight weeks of lectures and "practicals".

A lot of imagination was being expended because live rounds and live soldiers don't mix.

The bombs were raising dark clouds on one ridge while an embryo battlegroup was assaulting another.

The trick was to marry the picture of both objectives in one's mind.

QSMI Jon Early, SASC, the Divisional sergeant major, gave an expert description of the battle. He knows about the 81mm. He served five years at Netheravon before moving for more than two years to Sennelager, West Germany as mortar adviser.

"I reckon I'm due for a change," he said, but you wouldn't have known it from his briefing.

Sgt Maj Noel Mulligan, a Royal Marine instructor attached to SWW, swore everything had been quiet until SOLDIER arrived. Now the battle was warming up and bombs were being rained down

on Salisbury Plain.

Maj Steve Flanagan, King's Own Border, chief instructor, took a cross-country route to a little wood where two students in Noddy suits were issuing orders from command vehicles.

Lts Simon Downey, QLR, and Giles Nevill, QO Hldrs, had the sharpness of men who don't allow themselves to become weary.

Not far off eight 81mm tubes were in action from the FSP Company 432s of a BAOR-style mechanised battalion.

The young officers commanding such platoons are responsible for eight 432s for the mortars plus four Spartan

APCs and two Sultan command vehicles. The 432s carry 166 rounds each.

It was much more peaceful at Milan Division which had done the last shoot, but that did not stop Maj Tim Weeks, LI, chief instructor, and WO2 Les Turner, SASC, singing the praises of the equipment.

"Milan," said Maj Weeks, "is a magnificently reliable weapons system which, because of its flexibility, is always developing. We can 're-look' all aspects – tactics, deployment and so on . . ."

Sgt Maj Turner, who has seen more than 100 courses pass through Netheravon,

could have been showing off a new baby when he produced a demonstration model of the new Milan round.

It looks like a stretched Chianti bottle and packs a tremendous punch.

With loving care he unpacked a "control optic" a fitment which enables an instructor to understand exactly what a pupil is doing when he is firing the weapon.

Both men were positively relishing the advent of the next generation of anti-tank weapons.

"We have the teaching excellence of the SASC and the depth of expertise and quality

of senior NCOs who have actually been doing the job before coming to us. They are in the top flight in their field in the new Milan round.

It looks like a stretched Chianti bottle and packs a tremendous punch.

The atmosphere in the Recce/GPMG (SF) Division was equally enthusiastic.

A squad of TA soldiers emerged from a ditch where they had been crawling along with either a tripod, the gun, or ammunition boxes. There were men from 5 Queens, 5 Anglian, 3 RWR, the Argylls, 10 and 15 Para, 1 and 2 Wessex and . . .

the RAF Regiment. They were a tough looking bunch but agreed it was hard work.

"And you've only come that far," said Chief Instructor, Capt David Redpath, RRF, not unkindly.

The recce in "non-mech" battalions is equipped with stripped Land Rovers mounting two GPMGs, but an awful lot of work still has to be done after dismounting.

The impressive thing about Netheravon is that the hard work is done by both staff and students.

And it needs to be. Fire Support Company has never been more important.

The Commandant, Col Padddy King-Fretts, explained: "If you add up the personnel

manning the four systems (Milan, mortars, recce and GPMG (SF)) they come to about 200 officers and men, about 40 per cent of the fighting strength of a battalion.

"When you look at the hitting power and fighting capabilities of these weapons they are really the core of the infantry battalion on the battlefield."

He left food for thought.

"In days of yore we had a few heavy weapons supporting masses of bayonets. Now we're almost at the stage where the rifle companies are protecting and supporting the heavy weapons systems."



Above – A stripped down Land Rover with two GPMGs mounted fore and aft. There was lots of enthusiasm in the Recce/GPMG (SF) Division during Regular Course 39

Above right – Typical SWW instructors show SOLDIER the Chatham Arch – originally sapper equipment intended for building culverts which can bear heavy loads. It is

now being used as a ready-made Milan shelter. The arch is considered to be a "mega time saver". Normally it takes 40 hours to dig in a Milan defensive position. With

the arch a platoon can be underground, and, of course, camouflaged. Left to right are SSgt Dennis Kirk, WO2 Marcus Bristow, WO2 Les Turner and CSgt Paul Bland

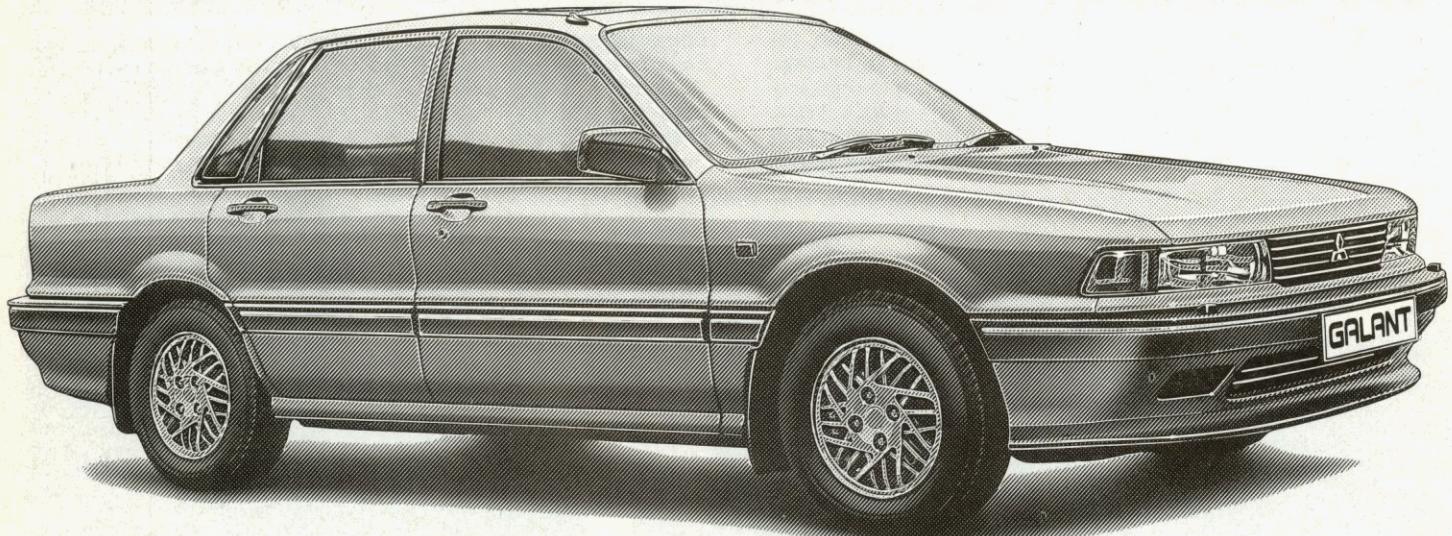
Below left – The Heavy Mob. Four Spartans with the Milan Compact Turret, pack a powerful punch. They are crewed by men of Fire Support Company 1 RRW

Below right – QMSI Les Turner, SASC, with the latest Milan round. The long nose looks like a deadly sting. It provides one. The missile is carried in the container





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MITSUBISHI
MOTORS

Leading the way

THE House of Commons Defence Committee report which recommends that no cuts should be made in the Brigade of Gurkhas after Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997 has been

welcomed in many quarters.

But nowhere have the implications of the report been more keenly greeted than among a small band of UNICEF workers struggling to reduce the death

rate among young Nepalese children.

Angela Hawke, UNICEF-UK Press Officer, explains how Gurkhas returning to their villages have proved to be a potent weapon in saving young lives.

Save the children!

WHAT happens to old Gurkhas? When they retire from the British, Nepalese and Indian armies these proud soldiers have been away from their villages for a minimum of 15 years and need time to adjust to a very different way of life.

The military camp at Dharan in South East Nepal is their first port of call on the way home. There they go through six weeks of retraining to help them find their feet.

They are given expert guidance on where to invest their hard-earned money, how to build a house and how to get the best out of their farming.

And there to greet them is Datta Roy, UNICEF's Assistant Communications Officer in Nepal, who urges them to play a key role in UNICEF's fight for child survival.

Datta explains: "First of all, I ask them about themselves, about the villages they came from. I ask them what conditions in the villages were like when they left.

"Then I describe the situation of Nepalese children today - how one child in six won't live to see their fifth birthday.

"I tell them how most of these children will die from something that can easily be prevented - the dehydration caused by diarrhoea - the



Photo: UNICEF

Gurkhas at the military base at Dharan in Nepal act out a play to teach villagers the importance of *nun chini pani* - a simple solution of salt, sugar and water that will stop children dying from the dehydration caused by diarrhoea. Second from left, a Gurkha holds a piece of fabric printed with the recipe. On the right, a Gurkha pours the mixture into a tea glass - the standard measure in Nepal

New role for old Gurkhas

biggest child killer in Nepal."

Gurkhas have been eager to help in any way they can. Says Datta Roy: "I tell them how *nun chini pani* (that's just salt, sugar and water mixed in the right quantities) can save the lives of 40,000 children each year. These children are literally dying of thirst. Their bodies are drying out. *Nun chini pani* puts fluid back into their bodies."

The Gurkhas are asked to

talk to local political leaders, mothers, farmers, anyone who will listen, when they get home. They are asked to tell everyone about child survival techniques.

There are only 700 doctors in Nepal, most of them in Kathmandu, so Datta asks the Gurkhas to concentrate their efforts on Jhankiris - faith healers. There are about 400,000 of them. So the message filters through to

thousands of families.

Results are encouraging. Nearly 80 per cent of Nepalis now know what *nun chini pani* is and what it is for. Most importantly, the campaign has undermined an old belief that a child with diarrhoea should be given no nourishment at all.

"Your fighting days are not over. Now you have the most important battle ahead of you, a battle for the children," is the message to the old Gurkhas.

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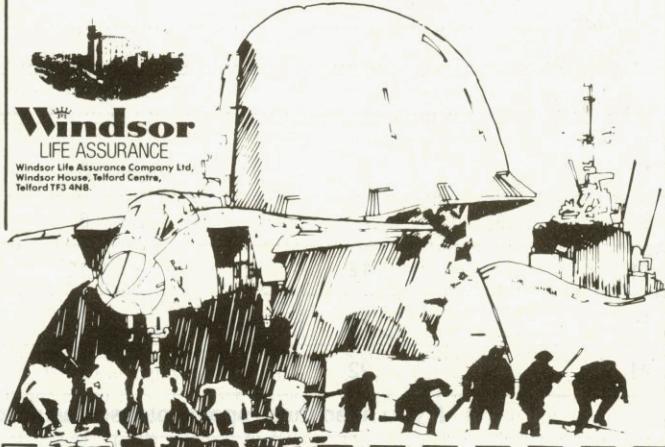
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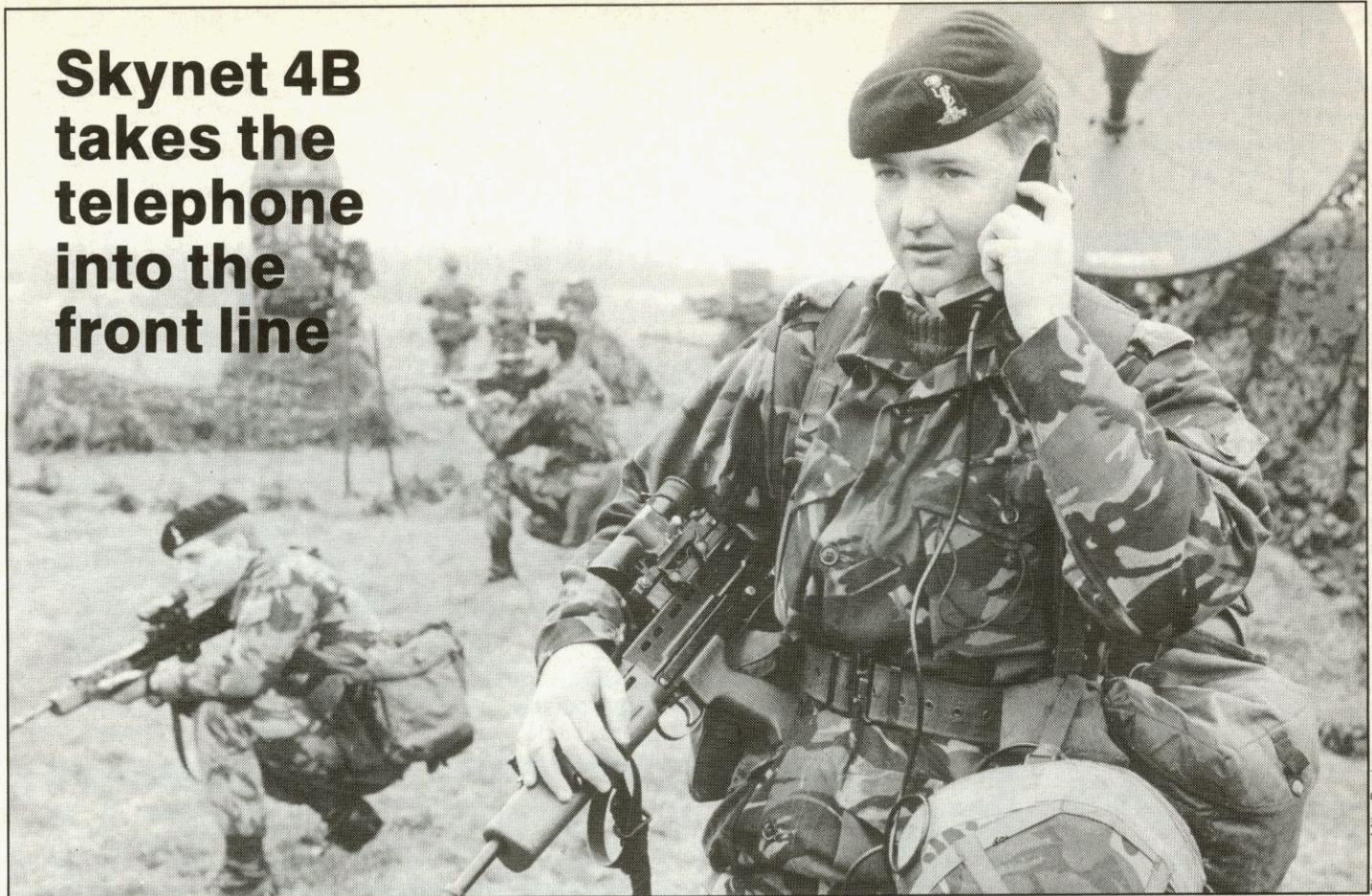
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S/4/89

Skynet 4B takes the telephone into the front line



Picture: Mike Perrin

Hello! 2nd Lt Tony Clark at RAF Wildenrath answers a call on Skynet 4B from Lord Trefgarne in London

It's for yoo-hoo!

THE face of battlefield communications has been changed forever, thanks to the new military satellite communication system - Skynet 4B, writes Laurie Manton.

It is now possible for a Royal Signals Land Rover-satcom terminal to be driven to the front line where a breathless signaller could run over to the senior commander with a remote handset and state (after the regulation salute): "It's for Yoo-hoo!"

Skynet 4B was inaugurated formally by Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement who made a telephone call from a manpack satcom terminal on Horse Guards Parade, London, to a mobile terminal at RAF Wildenrath in Germany.

He was able to speak to 2nd Lt Tony Clark of 21 Signal Regiment (AS), the young Royal Signals officer chosen to hold the historic first conversation over the system, and Flt Lt Richie Gardner, RAF, who was in charge of the Rapier detachment deployed to defend the satcom terminal.

Watching over the satcom link was Maj Richard Davis



Lord Trefgarne makes a damp first call on Skynet 4B from Horse Guards to RAF Wildenrath in West Germany

Picture: Chris Fleischer, REP S

who is attached, with six signallers from 30 Signals Regiment, to the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment detachment which concentrates on satellite comms at its base near Malvern.

Its role is to support the scientific work that goes on there.

In particular its men take out equipment such as the terminal

used at Wildenrath for trials and demonstrations, so that the scientific work at RSRE can be brought home to the soldier in the field.

Explained Maj Davis: "Skynet 4B is the first UK military satellite to be launched since 1974, and is the first of a series of three. Satellite 4A will be launched later this year and 4C in 1990.

"Skynet 4B was put into orbit from French Guiana on the same rocket that launched the Astra satellite from which Sky TV is now being broadcast."

The satellite has been on station since December and the team from RSRE had been kept busy testing comms before its inauguration. Voice communication standards are on a par with Ptarmigan or Clansman and there is only a quarter-second delay each way when speech is transmitted through Skynet 4B.

Later the same day the manpack satcom was set up inside the Science Museum in London, with the signal being shot out through a window to the satellite before being received again at Wildenrath.

With this new system, defence chiefs in Whitehall could conceivably consult directly with their front line commanders just by dialling on the 'phones.

But if there are any mothers out there thinking it might be a good way to contact their sons, it is no good ringing up directory enquiries. The number will be ex-directory!

LANCER

Band of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers
Conductor: Bandmaster M J Pegram
MMC 0646

LANCER is a programme of music displaying all the attributes one could ask for from a British Army band of the 1980s.

An old cavalry band suffering the depredations caused by national economies, yet coping valiantly with depleted numbers; a band contending with the depredations of the dreaded cavalry trumpet; a bandmaster who puts pen to paper, and plays the music of his colleagues!

And all in a programme of which not one item do I remember on disc before.

Mr Pegram himself has three items of his own, a fanfare *Lancer* for cavalry trumpets and band, a *Celebration Prelude* and an attractive flugel solo *Reverie*.

Trevor Sharpe himself has a lively march in modern style *Swing Away*, a youthful overture called *Southfield*, and an arrangement of Waldteufel's famous waltz *Christmas Roses*.

Lancers let their hair down

Maj Rodney Parker has *An English Folk Overture* based on four well known tunes.

As I have said before, the smaller bands of 21 players are having to exploit the big band sound, but since it is having a new lease on life nationally that is no bad thing. Here the Lancers let their hair down in several jazz oriented numbers all effectively performed.

The selection demonstrates the profusion of new music and arrangements flooding the wind band market today.

As bands seem to be getting desperate for new record formats it might be an idea for one of them to try a disc called, perhaps, *1930s Bandstand* – or any other decade! Put it on sale at a Kneller Hall concert and hire Securicor.

The early musicals with Tim Rice – *Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita* – are not represented here, though *SOLDIER* buyers will have heard enough of them.

The four shows are *Cats*, in which Macavity wins the day,

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Band of the Coldstream Guards
Conductor: Maj Roger Swift
BND 1040 (record); BND 61040 (tape); BNA 5025 (CD).

MUCH of this fine programme was recorded while the ink was still wet, as we say in the business. Usually meaning that the composer or arranger had only recently finished the job, but in this case I understand one of the arrangers was working on page 65 while the band was recording page 64. Well, give or take a page or two.

Here are potpourris from four of Webber's latest shows, with excerpts from his more serious works, the *Requiem* and the *Variations*. Definitely a man of parts, Andrew, and for me he put his best into the serious works, even though they are not devoid of his show style.

To sum up the rest of the programme Robert Ely, an ex Army bandmaster, has a ten-minute medley of eight of the most famous tunes, and I imagine it was he whose ink was still wet. All the arrangers – Warren Barker, John Edmondson, Roy Katchen, and Jerry Nowak – deserve a round of applause, as does the band and all concerned with the production.

So writes Christopher Donnelly in *Red Banner*, a book about the Soviet military system in peace and war. In that short paragraph the author touches on a crucial misunderstanding that has plagued Western leaders and military commanders for more than 40 years.

Christopher Donnelly presents his case by first introducing the reader to the history of the Soviet military system as well as the politics and economy of this huge and, to many, mysterious power.

"Out of the 550 years up to 1893, Russia was at war on what was or became her own territory for 310 of them." This historic need for strength has left a mark on the national psyche.

Round of applause, please!

Phantom of the Opera, *Starlight Express*, *Song and Dance*, which I seem to remember was more popular on Broadway than in London.

Those who saw the performance on TV of the *Requiem*, with Sarah Brightman and Placido Domingo singing and Lorin Maazel conducting, may find the *Pie Jesu* and the *Hosanna* colourless by comparison, but as a reminder of glories you have heard you couldn't do better than this comprehensive survey of the music of a clever fella.

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In brief

From Vimy Ridge to the Rhine edited by G D Sheffield and G I S Inglis. The letters of Christopher Stone to his wife while he was serving as a signalling officer with the 22nd Royal Fusiliers during the First World War. Published by Crowood Press. Price £12.95.

Trench war warning

THE Russo-Japanese War in the early years of this century was a short-lived conflict now virtually forgotten.

It was, however, a war from which lessons should have been learned by generals of the First World War, for around Port Arthur – now called Lu-shun – was fought a series of battles that had many of the ingredients of the European conflict that began some ten years later: machine guns, artillery barrage, barbed wire and trenches.

All these innovations were observed by military attachés



Picture: The Institution of the RCT

A dream billet? Men of the Rhine MT Company, Army Service Corps, at their temporary home in a Cologne brewery in April 1919

RED ESTIMATE

WHAT to a Nato officer is a dirt track, a forest ride, or a narrow path through a forest is, to a Russian, almost as much a road as is an autobahn.

So writes Christopher Donnelly in *Red Banner*, a book about the Soviet military system in peace and war.

In that short paragraph the author touches on a crucial misunderstanding that has plagued Western leaders and military commanders for more than 40 years.

Christopher Donnelly presents his case by first introducing the reader to the history of the Soviet military system as well as the politics and economy of this huge and, to many, mysterious power.

"Out of the 550 years up to 1893, Russia was at war on what was or became her own territory for 310 of them."

This historic need for strength has left a mark on the national psyche.

As Director of the Soviet Research Centre of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, it is to be expected that Christopher Donnelly should make, as he does, a close examination of the roots of military tradition and ideology, but today's practicalities are not neglected.

Christopher Donnelly writes in his foreword: "Without necessarily having always agreed with everything he has had to say, there are few thinking officers in the British Army whose professional knowledge has not been greatly broadened by his measured objectivity." – BJ

Red Banner: The Soviet Military System in Peace and War by Christopher Donnelly. Published by Jane's Information Group. Price £30.

Changing nature of transport

WHAT is known now as the Royal Corps of Transport has a history that reflects years of change within the Army. The "modern" concept for British military transport was born in 1855 with the formation of The Land Transport Corps.

Apparently this title did not meet with universal approval for, a year later, the corps was redesigned as the Military Train.

In 1870 there was a rethink resulting in the officers of the Military Train being formed into the Control Department and the men into the Army Service Corps.

This arrangement lasted 11 years after which the two units were merged as the Commissariat and Transport Corps.

The reorganised Army Service Corps was formed at the end of 1888 and established as a combatant corps by Royal Warrant published on January 2, 1989.

'Royal' was added to the title in 1918 in recognition of the important role performed in the First World War, and the name Royal Corps of Transport was given in 1965.

The Turn of the Wheel is Maj Gen 'Pat' G Turpin's account of the corps between the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 and the outbreak of the Second World War, a period that saw the demise of the dependence on the horse and mule. – BJ

The Turn of the Wheel: The History of the RASC 1919-1939 by Pat Turpin. Published by Barracuda Books. Price £18.

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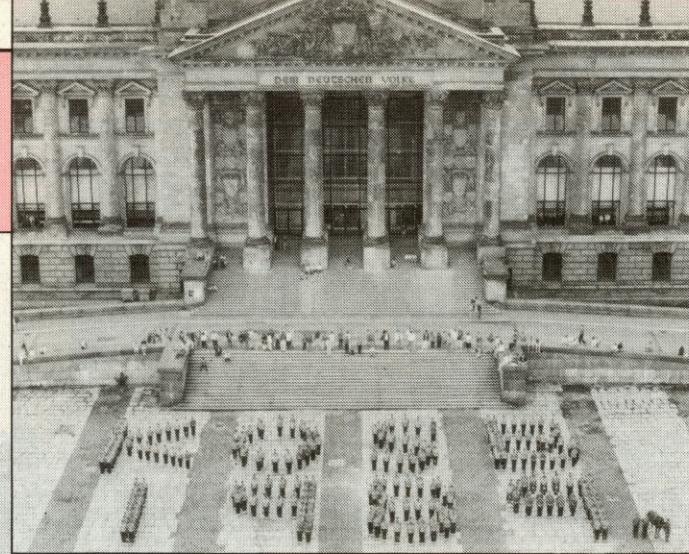
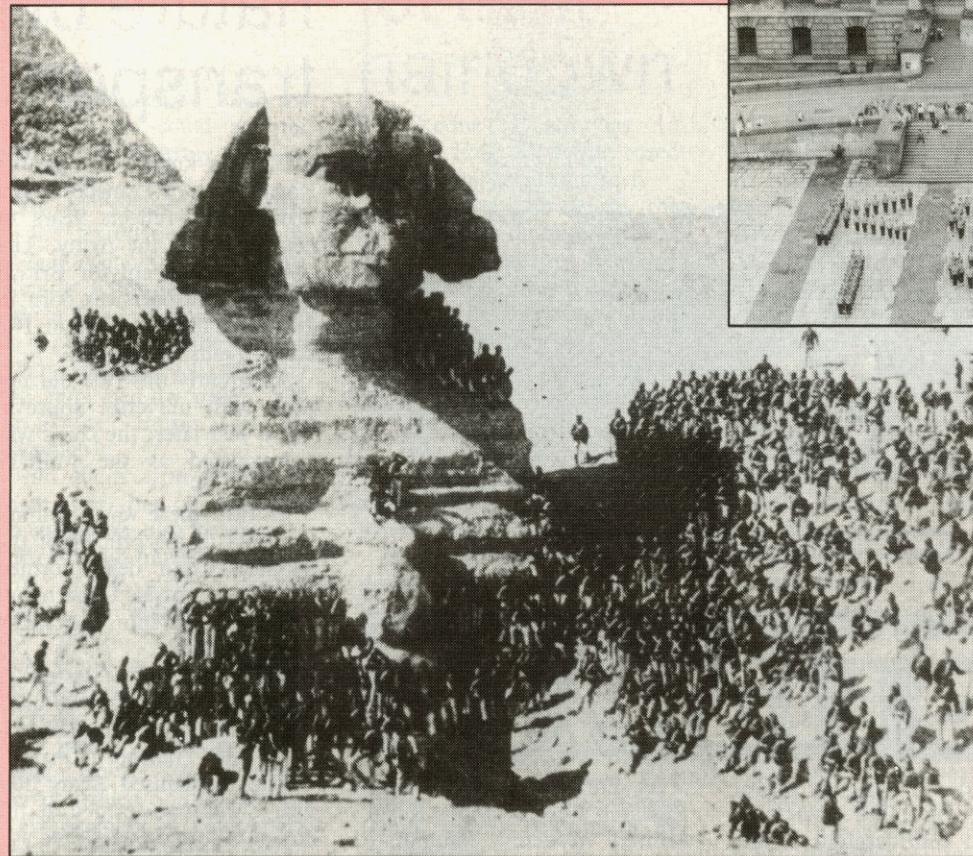
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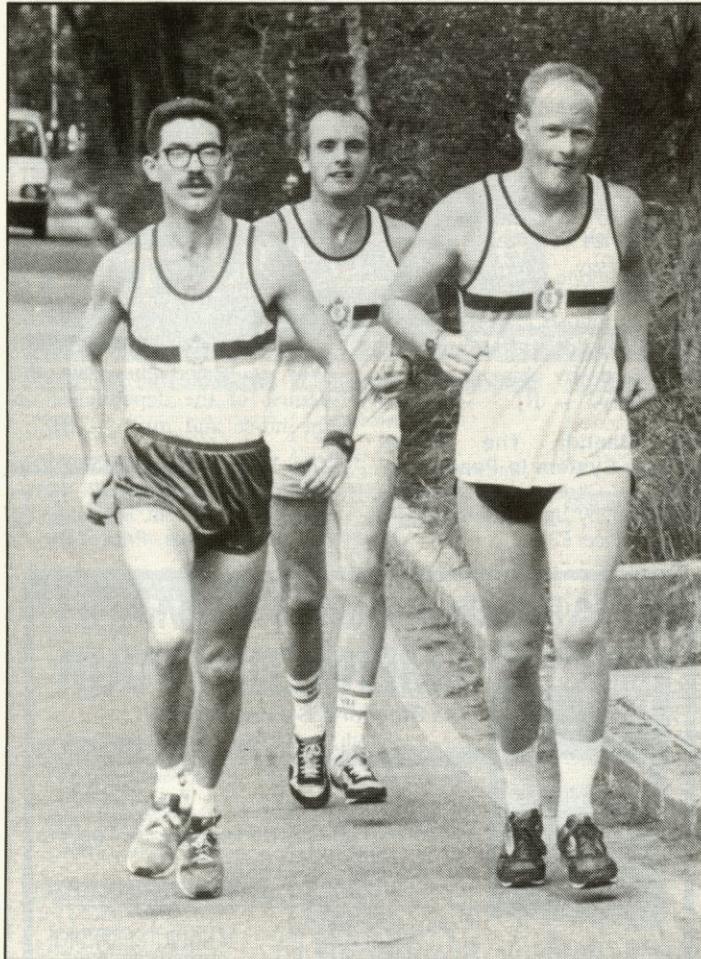
It is tercentenary year for several of the Army's oldest regiments, among them The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

As they have been stationed in Berlin, the Scots chose to pose there for the regimental photograph which will be used on the front of all their publicity material during tercentenary year, forming KOSB 1989 outside the Reichstag.

Digging through the archives, they came up with another photograph taken at the time of the bicentenary, when the 2nd Battalion gathered less formally around another famous structure, the Sphinx outside Cairo.

During tercentenary year, the regiment will exercise its rights in more than 24 Freedom ceremonies.

Andrew's on the run!



Sgt Andrew Brayshaw, RAMC (right) and two pacers tackle Repulse Bay Road on his 55km charity run round Hong Kong Island. WO2 Mike Sullivan, who also ran the full distance, is on the left

SGT Andrew Brayshaw, a combat medical technician serving at BMH Hong Kong, claims to enjoy endurance running. So much so, in fact, that he has just spent a Sunday pounding the streets and dodging the omnipresent traffic on Hong Kong Island.

The result of more than six hours hard slog on a 55km circuit round the island produced something approaching £700 for children in Need and World Vision Hong Kong.

Sgt Brayshaw, who served with 16 Field Ambulance during the Falklands war and survived the bombing of the RFA Sir Galahad at Fitzroy, is no newcomer to the business of sweating for charity.

His previous fund raising efforts have included a run along the length of Hadrian's Wall.



★ ★ ★
A mammoth effort by soldiers based at Bielefeld, West Germany raised more than £2,670 for the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Organised by Cpl Jeff Illingworth of 9 Sqn RCT, a team of 16 soldiers threw themselves into a darts and snooker marathon over the course of the weekend.

A disco and raffle arranged by Ssgt Jez Thompson and Cpls Dave Holding and Mick Amos pulled in more money and kept the players going. Lt Col Tony Smith, CO of 10 Corps Transport Regiment

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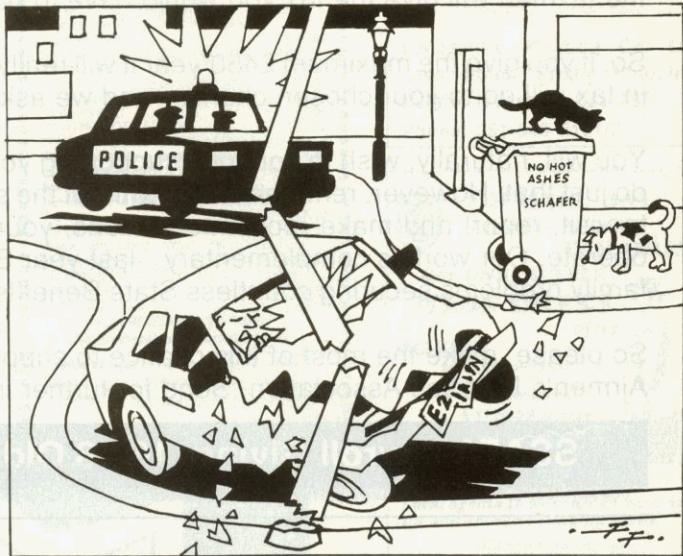
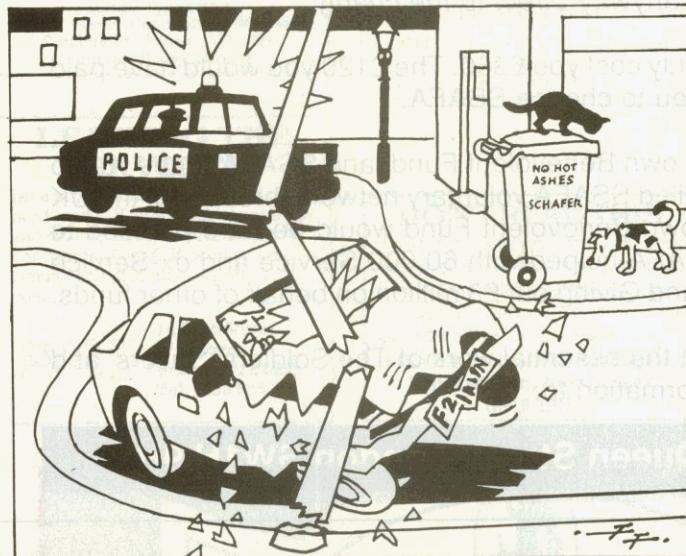
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 15 issue.

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Spr Peter Mooney, who serves with 1 Troop 107 Field Squadron of the Territorial Army at Alamein Barracks, Liverpool Road, has the happy job of pile driving on the lemur island lake at Chester Zoo, where the Terriers are doing groundwork to increase the area for the zoo's flamingo flocks. Holding the boat steady

are Sprs Billy McNamara and Richard Arnold in the waders, while in the boat are Spr Cecil Thomas and LCpl Steve Edmonds.

Said Curator of Birds, Dr Roger Wilkinson: "The volunteer work being done by the troop will help greatly by making space for the two flocks."

RCT, presented the cheque to a RNIB representative who described the event as the most successful ever held by members of the Armed Forces for the charity.

★ ★ ★

Hildesheim's HIVE (Help, Information Volunteer Ex-

change) celebrated its first birthday by raising nearly £540 for the Patients Welfare Fund at BMH Hanover. Events included disco, the sale of 300 heart-shaped biscuits, bingo mornings in the 1 RTR and 1 Regiment AAC wives' clubs, a bring and buy sale organised by the 1st Hildesheim Beaver Colony, and a bumper raffle.

In its first year, the HIVE recorded 2,500 enquiries, half of them from soldiers.

★ ★ ★

Territorial Army soldiers from 1 (Essex) Company of 5 Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment (Volunteers) based at Basildon have handed over a

cheque for £1,000 to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Wishing Well Appeal.

Twenty men from the company raised the money by completing a forced march from Vange TA Centre to Shoeburyness, a distance of 18 miles.

★ ★ ★

Nuns at a Darlington, County Durham convent have made a start on raising funds to repair their roof, thanks to the efforts of Cpl Gary Filler of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

Gary completed an endurance march of 47 miles across the North Yorkshire moors and raised more than £300 towards the Clare Abbey roof appeal.

One of the instigators of Gary's march was a sister at Clare Abbey, former Army nurse Sister Mary Michael, who as Patricia Scott served for four years with the QARANC in Catterick, Hanover and Colchester.

★ ★ ★

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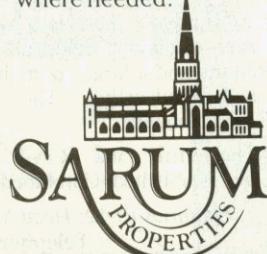
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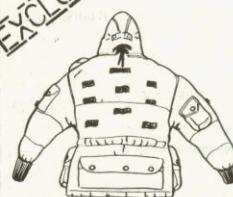
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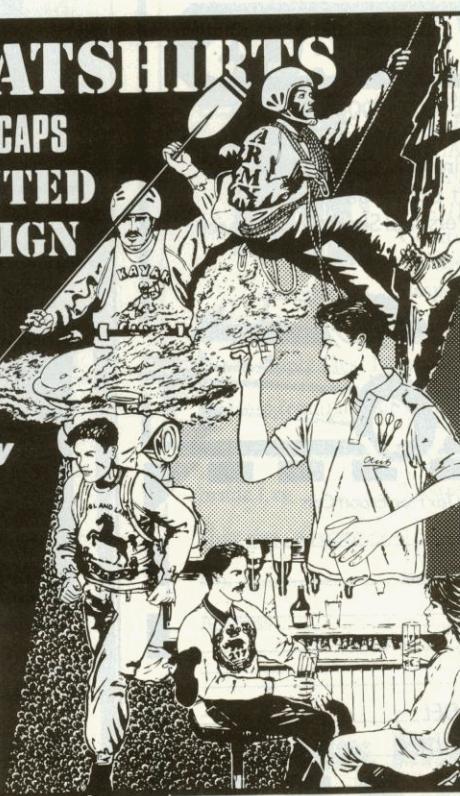


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In brief



Cpl John Yoxall

Cross country

WINNER of the Quadrant cross country league organised by units throughout 4 Arm'd Div, BAOR was Cpl John Yoxall of 1 Corps Troops Workshops REME, runner up last winter.

Yoxall won eight consecutive races before Christmas in a programme of 20 events staged between September and March. An average of 180 runners took part in each.

Junior champion was Sig Wayne Braysford of 7 Signal Regiment, RAF Gutersloh, who won the major units trophy ahead of RQMS Roger Leng's 35 Engr Regt team, 28 Amph Engr and 7 Sig Regt, and the minor competition was won comfortably by 1 Corps Troop Workshops REME.

Alpine skiing

THE Junior Army Alpine Combination Trophy ski championships at Fulpmes in Austria were won by the Junior Leaders Regiment RA team from Bramcote, Warwickshire. They held off a strong challenge by the junior sappers. Also involved were teams from the Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston and Princess Marina College, Arborfield.

Babington Shield

Winners of the Herford, West Germany based 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers Babington Shield for inter squadron sport was HQ Squadron. The huge silver shield for which the Scarlet Lancers compete was presented for skill at arms in 1982 by Lt Col Sir James Babington, CO of the 16th The Queen's Lancers.

Boxing

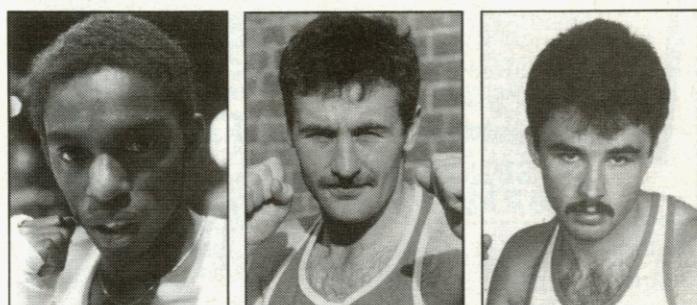
Winners of the BAOR inter-unit Grade 3 novice boxing championships were 1 Kings who beat 2 R Irish by six bouts to three in the final. They now meet UKLF champions 1 RWF, who defeated 3 RRF by five bouts to four at Ballykinler.



2nd Lt Gary Knight (DWR) attacks the Navy defences at Twickenham after receiving the ball from back row colleague 2nd Lt Tim Rodber (grounded on the left). Bdr Dave Coghlan (7 RHA) steams up in support

Pictures: Terry Champion

Three go through



Keith Howlett

Dave Abbott

John McLean

pion, was also involved in a rematch. Last year he had to pull out all the stops to earn a majority decision over Darren Thompson of the Bristol Empire club, and this time round he was pushed just as hard before winning by the same margin.

Big Dave Abbott gets his chance at Gloucester by virtue

of stopping Sydenham's Ray Flanagan in the second round of their heavyweight contest.

Shock of the evening was the defeat of the Royal Navy's ABA champion Mark Edwards. But Tom McPhee, Quinton Shillingford, Rob Wileman, Andy Ellison and Les Hudson of the Navy won, as did the RAF's Dave Crawford.



Army hooker LBdr Chris Wood (7 RHA) is collared by Navy No 8 John Bryant

BACK ROW BARRAGE!

Royal Navy 9, Army 21

MAJ Brian McCall's boys did it again over the Royal Navy for the second year running, and they did it again in style, writes John Quin.

When the team left the dressing room at Twickenham to take the field, there were 15 hearts and minds fired up by the REME skipper to do only one thing - sink the Navy!

They proved to be stronger than the matelots pretty well in every department with eight new caps in the original XV.

2nd Lt Lee Drakeley (2 Para) lived up to his "score in every game" reputation with a fine try before that scourge of

the head wound.

The Army's rhythm, however, was not disrupted by this event, as in Sgt Chris Spowart (APTC), the Newbridge cen-

RAF hit by try spree

Army 43, RAF 10

a tournament record of 64.

There were two tries each for winger Sgt Chalky Atkins and fullback Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, and one each for 2nd Lt Gary Knight, LBdr Chris Wood, Capt John Steele and 2nd Lt Robert Wainwright. Fly half Steele, who came into the team to replace the injured Bdr Steve Commander, added four conversions and a penalty to his try.

THE ARMY retained the Inter-Services rugby championship and the Windsor Life Challenge Cup with an emphatic eight try romp against the Royal Air Force at Twickenham.

The 43 points they notched up gave them, when added to the 21 they scored against the Royal Navy the previous week,

Close run thing for the Colts

ARMY Colts chose the right time to record their second win of the season when they beat the Royal Navy at Portsmouth in the first of their two Inter-Service championship matches, but it was a very close call, writes Peter Salisbury.

After they had repulsed an initial Navy attack they scored a good try through centre AT Sgt Tim Williams (ACC Harrogate) but, although they continued to dominate the remainder of the first half, they had nothing further to show for their efforts by half time.

In the last quarter the Navy began to get on top. They spent the last ten minutes encamped on the Army line and only heroic defence kept them out. In the end Williams's try proved to be the only score of the match.

Prominent in the Army's defence were the flankers, skipper Cfn Jason Jeffrey (SAE Middle Wallop), and AT SSM "Bem" Bembridge (AAC Harrogate), with the latter quite outstanding.

Bembridge, making his debut in place of the injured Gdsm Jason Smith (1WG), had an equally outstanding game in the Army's previous match against Wasps at Aldershot.

Wasps were a powerful combination with several county players and with a strong wind at their backs they built up a 28-0 half time lead. The Army showing great spirit hit back well in the second half, scoring two tries to one. The final score was 34-8.

Jeffrey forced his way over for the first Army try while the second was a spectacular effort in which all the backs handled at least once, full back Pte Lee Roberts (1 Glos) getting the final touchdown. Cfn Lee Morris (SEME Bordon) on the right wing was prominent in several second half moves and had his best game since before Christmas.

The Army were away to Bristol looking for further improvement before their final match against the Royal Air Force at Aldershot to decide the Inter-Services colts championship.



Sgt Mickey Spencer (No 10) flies through the air with the greatest of ease as the Army puts pressure on the Royal Air Force goal at Aldershot

HIGH FLYERS!

Royal Navy 0, Army 1

A GOAL by LCpl Mark Johannessen (RRF) sunk the Royal Navy at Portsmouth and allowed the Army to retain the Constantinople Cup as winners of the Allied Breweries sponsored Inter-Service championship, writes Pat Massey.

A spirited Navy side contested every blade of grass and the Army was simply denied the time and space to play with

the fluency apparent against the Royal Air Force.

Consequently the match was a scrappy, frantic affair with both sides having their chances but neither gaining the upper hand. Army skipper Sgt Sandy Brown (R Signals) cleared off the line in the opening minute of the second half, but thanks to Johannessen's goal the massive old trophy was soon on its way back to Aldershot for another year.

Army 3, RAF 1

The Army's defence of their Inter-Service crown began with an emphatic 3-1 win over the Royal Air Force at Aldershot Military Stadium.

Goals by Sgt Mickey Spencer (APTC), Sgt Pat Russell (APTC) and Cpl Guy Whittingham (REME), decided the contest long before the airmen reduced the arrears from the penalty spot four minutes from time.

The lively Russell twice troubled the RAF goalkeeper as the Army made an enterprising start, and LCpl Gerry Glasgow (RE) also went close with a rasping shot.

Spencer's opening goal came from the last of five consecutive corner kicks during a period of sustained Army pressure. SSI Joey Roach (APTC) played the ball to Russell whose header across the goal was bundled home by Spencer. In the 28th minute Spencer returned the compliment, providing the flick on that Russell volleyed into the roof of the net.

Army's keeper Sgt Nigel Wiscombe (APTC), twice

saved sharply at the start of the second half as the RAF came back with a vengeance. But Whittingham's goal, laid on by Russell, settled the issue.

Army Youths 1, Royal Navy Youths 2

A fine performance by the Royal Navy enabled them to retain their Inter-Service youth championship. JSpr Dyson headed the Army's goal, but only valiant defence prevented the rampant sailors - still fielding the nucleus of last year's side - from winning by a much wider margin.

English Fire Services 1, Army XI 0

Army cup final commitments and other fixtures meant that the side which travelled to RAF Cosford for the annual fixture against the firemen was little more than a strong reserve XI.

But the Fire Services were made to battle hard in blustery conditions and their goal in the 33rd minute was the only score of a match dominated by defences.



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SOLDIER



Open air classroom. An AFV 432 Mortar Variant with 81mm in action during a course at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, Wilts. Mechanised battalions in BAOR have eight 432s each carrying 166 rounds. See feature on the Support Weapons Wing starting on Page 25.