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OF THE
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FRONT COVER: Rfn Nigel Hawkins of 2 RGJ on patrol in Omagh. For only the second time, all three Regular battalions of The Royal Green Jackets have been serving together in Northern Ireland. With one battalion about to disband, it was also the last time. Full story and more pictures in Pages 25-29. (Picture: Mike Weston)

BADGE: When the Adjutant General's Corps holds its formation day in April, a Midlands company will have played an exclusive part. Firmin and Sons was awarded the contract for the manufacture of cap and collar badges and buttons for the new corps. The design is a combination of the old RAPC and WRAC insignia.

See Pages 22-24.

Pay scales

NEW pay rates were announced as SOLDIER went to press. They will appear in the next issue.

SOLDIER

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Perfect couple, that's Mark and his missus

ARMY athlete Gnr Mark Sterling and wife Tina have perfect bodies – and the trophies to prove it. They have returned to 50 Missile Regiment RA at Menden, Germany as Mr and Miss Natural Universe. The Sterlings beat couples from all over the world to

achieve their unique double at the world bodybuilding championships in Los Angeles.

Both also competed in individual classes, Mark finishing fifth in the tall men's class, while Tina was runner-up in the novice tall women's section.

Both had to pass rigorous tests designed to weed out athletes who take steroids.

Now Mark (who weighs in at 88kg and

measures 1.83m) and Tina (56kg and 1.67m) are keeping in shape for the UK championships in May.

Gnr Sterling has already made his mark at the highest level of Services' athletics, having won the Army hammer title every year since 1982. He is the current Army record-holder with a throw of 63.74m, and he has been the Inter-Service champion on a number of occasions.



Herford signallers on mercy mission

A message to Albania

SOLDIERS from 7 Signal Regiment based at Herford in Germany have launched their second mercy mission to help orphans in Albania.

A team led by Cpl Mark Stanton will take medical supplies, food and clothing to abandoned, sick and disabled children facing destitution in Albania's state orphanages.

In the past eight months Cpl Stanton has made five trips to Eastern Bloc countries to help relief aid operations, including a scouting mission to Albania with Lt Rob Gibson.

To avoid war-torn Yugoslavia, the 7 Signals team travelled overland to Albania in privately-owned Land-Rovers,

a minibus and two trucks. Their destination was Gjirokastra and a hospital and medical centre in a dreadful state of disrepair.

A team from 1 Armoured Field Ambulance based at Hohne, who are also involved with a Romanian relief aid project, accompanied the signallers.

Medical equipment, much of it returned from Operation



Cpl Mark Stanton

Granby, was donated by BMH Hannover. The team took with it an ex-Army Land-Rover ambulance bought for the Albanian hospital following a fund-raising campaign.

The 7 Signals team is also hoping to help a children's home in the Albanian town of Saranda.

Unused packages donated by the public to the Army during the Gulf War were sorted, repacked and taken to Albania for distribution with clothing and toys.

Managing Editor: Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor: John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors: Laurie Manton (2362), Gordon Skilling (2360), Phil Wilcox (2361) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Art Editor: Les Gwyer (2169) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Advertising/Promotions: Bob Wilkinson-Latham (2352 or 0252 347352) • Accounts/Distribution: Janice Follwell (2353)

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Guns salute Queen's 40-year reign



Picture: Terry Champion



Marking the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, men of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery fire a 41-gun salute at noon in Hyde Park. An hour later a 62-gun salute was fired by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Tower of London. Traditionally, the King's Troop fires 21 guns as a royal salute and 20 for the capital. The HAC fires 62 rounds, 41 because the Tower is a royal residence, and 21 for the City of London.

Hyde Park was also the setting for soldiers from the Household Cavalry to display a set of Royal Mail stamps issued to mark the anniversary.

Pipemines cleared at Goodwood

FIFTEEN Second World War demolition charges were removed from beneath Goodwood airfield, West Sussex, and safely detonated during a two-day operation this month.

About 50 houses and a number of airfield businesses had to be evacuated during Operation Crabstick, which was carried out by 22 (EOD) Support Squadron, part of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) based at Chattenden, Kent.

In all, the operation took six months to plan and execute.

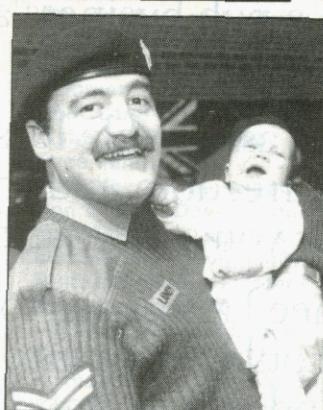
Demolition charges of blasting gelignite in long iron pipes were laid under the runways of

many British airfields during the war to deny them to the Germans in the event of an invasion.

The pipemines were removed after the war, but in recent years it was discovered that this process had not been as complete as had been believed.

Much of the explosive which remained had deteriorated to produce unstable liquid nitroglycerine.

Since the early 1980s, Army explosives experts have rechecked more than 50 airfields, carrying out clearances on many of them.



Cpl John Landy holds his new son Paul, one of more than 200 "Gulf War" babies on parade at Fallingbostel, Germany with proud dads from 7 Armoured Brigade

Medics' medals

MEMBERS of the Band of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment based at Delinghofen, Germany were presented with Gulf Medals by Gen Sir Antony Walker, Representative Colonel Commandant of the RTR.

During the war the musicians served with Dressing Station 5B.

Desert Rats' baby boom

A POST-Gulf War baby boom in 7 Armoured Brigade at Fallingbostel, Germany has resulted in an unusually busy time for local midwives. Two hundred babies arrived nine months after the Desert Rats got home from the Gulf, and many are thought to have been conceived on the night their fathers returned.

In a normal month 12 babies would be born to families serving with 7 Brigade, but in December there were 60 births, in January the figure rose to 77, and 40 more were expected during February.

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Picture: Mike Weston

Gulf Medal parade for Scots Guards

The Duke of Kent poses for a "team picture" with members of the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards after presenting them with their Gulf Medals at Wellington Barracks, London. The musicians were among the first to be deployed from the United Kingdom as medical assistants and worked in 33 Field Hospital at Al Jubail. The Duke is Colonel of the regiment.

During an impromptu concert put on by the band at Al Jubail, an expatriate in the audience suffered a heart attack and was resuscitated by LCpls Anthony Andrews and John Marham and Musicians Ian Killoran and Graham Hayes. The Duke presented them with GOC 1st (British) Armoured Division's Commendations.

Chefs win gold at Hotelympia

ARMY CATERING Corps chefs, based at the ACC's school in Aldershot, came away with excellent results from this year's Salon Culinaire competition at the Hotelympia exhibition in London.

Their tally was 41 medals and certificates of merit from a total Army entry of 62.

The seniors culled six gold, seven silver and ten bronze medals, with five certificates of merit. Juniors amassed four, five and two medals respectively in the same categories, plus two certificates of merit.

In addition, for the first time there were two Army representatives in the National Chef of the Year Final.

WO2s Lou Jones and Mick Hunt, who had reached the final eight competitors from an initial entry of 380, ended up in a creditable third and fourth place respectively.

Also winning honours against stiff civilian competition were Ptes Campbell Ross and Donna Oliver, who brought home a gold medal in the junior open "Cook and Serve" competition.

To cap a highly successful entry for the ACC, the juniors walked off with the Challenge Trophy for the best technical craft college in the country.

• Results and pictures in next issue.

Medics to explore Greenland

SIX members of the Army Medical Services are to spend four weeks this summer exploring Liverpool Land on the rarely visited east coast of Greenland.

Leader of the expedition is Capt David Johnson, RAMC, a squadron commander serving with Bulford-based 16 Field Ambulance RAMC.

He led an expedition to Greenland in 1988.

Reserves are still needed for the trip, and interested members of the AMS should contact Capt Johnson on Bulford Military 2833.

Sappers tested

AFTER tours in the Falklands, the Gulf, Cyprus and Canada, 22 Engineer Regiment deployed to Dartmoor for ten days of survival training and an escape and evasion exercise – and found it as tough an exercise as they had experienced.

Bitter winds and freezing weather turned Exercise Moorland Quest into a true test of endurance. Two soldiers had to be lifted out by helicopter.

Signal welcome

MAJ GEN John Alexander, Commander Communications, welcomed nine WRAC members into the Royal Corps of Signals while making a farewell visit to 229 (Berlin) Signal Squadron last month.

Stalwart tribute for driver

A SIX-WHEELED Alvis Stalwart vehicle built in Coventry has been presented to the city's Museum of British Road Transport as a memorial to Dvr Jason McFadden, a Coventry soldier killed in action during the Gulf War.

The high mobility load-

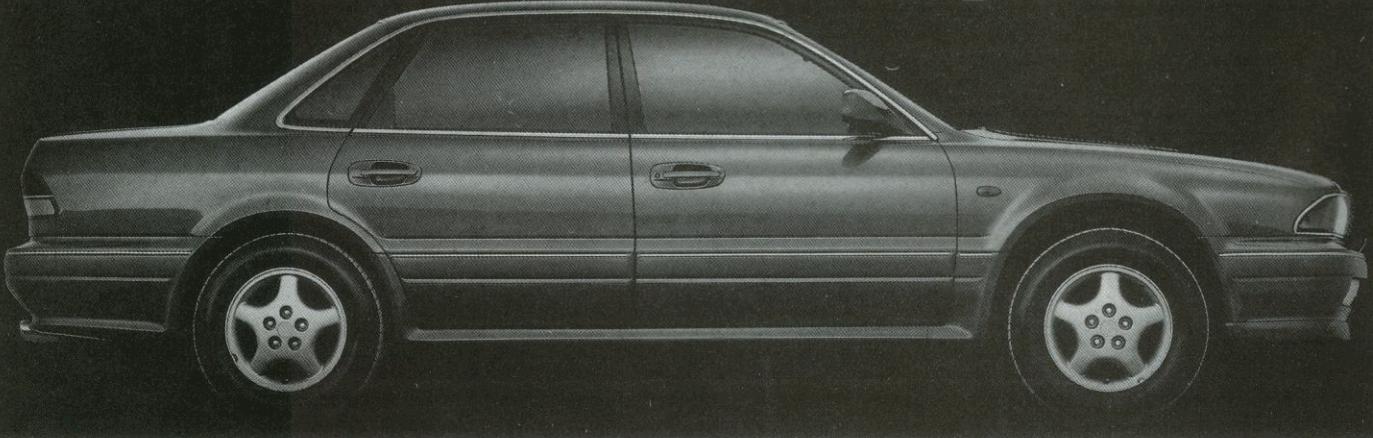
carrier was refurbished in Aldershot before being presented by Dvr McFadden's regiment, the 4th Armoured Division Transport Regiment, to the Lord Mayor of Coventry.

It was handed over by Lt Col Graham Fox, CO of 4 ADTR, watched by ten of Jason's

colleagues who travelled from their base at Minden, Germany.

Immediately afterwards, Dvr McFadden's Gulf Medal was presented to his parents by Brig David Kinnear, Deputy Director General of Transport and Movements.

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The first soldiers to receive civilian-recognised Army qualifications are pictured at the Duke of York's Headquarters with (centre, from left) Mr Parry Rodgers of BTEC, Gen Ramsbotham, Maj Gen Kinvig and Mr David Miller of SCOTVEC

Soldier skills win approval

FOURTEEN soldiers have become the first Service personnel in Britain to gain civilian qualifications after completing Army courses.

The qualifications, approved by SCOTVEC (Scottish Vocational Education Council) and BTEC (Business and Technology Educational Council), represent a wide range of skills.

A pilot scheme was carried out in 1989 by SCOTVEC with the Scottish Infantry, leading to a civilian stamp of approval for Army training.

Under the arrangement, qualifications can be obtained in units throughout a Service career and later in civilian life. Subjects range from practical joinery and secretarial skills to management, problem-solving and communications.

The first Servicemen and women to receive the new recognition for their qualifications were presented with their certificates at a ceremony at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London attended by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, the Director of Army Education, Maj Gen Cliff Kinvig, and the chairmen of SCOTVEC and BTEC, Mr David Miller and Mr Parry Rodgers.

The SCOTVEC/BTEC scheme, which is of particular value to soldiers in non-technical employments - such

as infantrymen, tank crews and gunners - is explained in the pamphlet *Advance and Be Recognised* which is available at Army Education Centres and which will be distributed to all units in due course.

Skilled Army vehicle electricians and mechanics are to receive the equivalent motor industry grading following a joint agreement between SEME and the Institute of the Motor Industry.

The agreement, which also covers recovery specialists, applies to all Army personnel who have obtained Class 1, 2 or 3 trade qualifications.

Class 1 mechanics will qualify as a Certificated Automotive Engineer (CAE), or, in the case of a sergeant, become a Licentiate Automotive Engineer (LAE). Both grades carry automatic qualification as an Affiliate or Associate Member of the Institute.

Certificates will be available retrospectively to anyone who has qualified.

Clerks to gain 'recognition'

ARMY clerks in the Adjutant General's Corps, which forms on April 6, will gain the same qualifications as their counterparts in industry and commerce.

Announcing the civilian recognition of Army business administration qualifications, the

SACEUR visit

GEN John R Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, was the guest of the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, during his first official visit to the United Kingdom at the beginning of February.



Maj Gen Rupert Smith, who commanded 1 Armoured Division during the Gulf War, receives from Sheikh Nasser H Almanqour, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador in London, the Order of King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz. In a joint ceremony at the embassy in Curzon Street, Mayfair, the ambassador also presented the Order of King Abdul Aziz to Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Britain's senior Gulf commander.

Saudis honour Gulf generals

Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, said the awards at Scottish and National Vocational Qualification levels 2 and 3, from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Scottish Vocational Education Council, would be available for all clerical employment.

Southern tribute

Pictured at the memorial to polar explorer Ernest Shackleton at King Edward Point, South Georgia, is WO2 **Mick Jennings** of Aldershot-based 22 Field Hospital. Mick, an experienced mountaineer, was a member of The Royal Anglian Regiment expedition which explored the south end of the island.

The party experienced the worst weather ever recorded in the region, and a team of canoeists cut off from the main group had to survive for weeks on quarter rations.

Shackleton, who died from a heart attack on his third polar expedition, is buried near the memorial.



Kuwait blast medal winner

Pictured above is Capt **Peter Shields**, RCT, who, as reported in the January 27 issue, has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his actions in evacuating troops and searching for wounded during a series of massive explosions near HQ British Forces Kuwait last July. Peter, now back at Bunde with 4 Squadron, 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT, searched buildings as a number of full-laden US Army ammunition carriers exploded.

LCpl **Paul Plant**, of HQ Coy, 2 R Anglian, also received the QGM for his actions, and WO2 **Francis Rimmer** received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for the calm manner in which he evacuated his men and his subsequent actions. WO2 Rimmer, who already holds the QGM, is now back at Celle, where he is CSM of C Coy, 2 R Anglian. A third member of the regiment, Sgt **Tony Johnson**, who has left Celle to take up a posting at the Queen's Division Depot, Bassingbourn, was awarded the Joint Commander Middle East's personal commendation for his actions in the incident.

Michael warms to rescue work



Sgt **Michael Brooks** helped save the life of an elderly German man who had fallen into a canal at Minden. Sgt Brooks, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, was walking back to barracks when he came across the incident.

With the help of another man he dragged the unconscious figure out of the water, recognised that hypothermia had set in, and used his own body to warm the victim until an ambulance arrived. The man recovered in hospital.

Daphne quits the family business

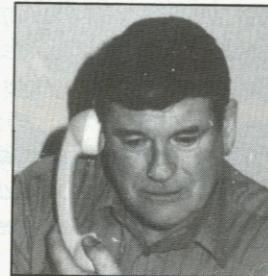


The **Cox** family of Forest Hill, London, has made an impressive contribution to the Territorial Army. Sgt **Daphne Cox**, WRAC (pictured), is retiring after 24 years with 217 London General Hospital RAMC. She and husband **George**, a former sergeant, served with the same unit for a combined total of 53 years. Their two sons also served with 217, and Daphne's brother spent 15 years in the TA - all adding up to an amazing 80 years' service.



Above: Cherry Milne
Left: Judy Newell

Army's senior soldier retires



The Army's senior warrant officer, WO1 (Conductor) **Charly Johnston**, has retired after a career stretching back to 1958. Initially enlisted into the RAOC, he transferred to the RMP to train as a dog handler, then moved back to the RAOC during his first posting which was to Cyprus at the height of the EOKA troubles. Appointed Conductor RAOC in 1978, he became the senior Conductor - and thus the British Army's senior warrant officer - ten years later. A talented footballer, WO1 Johnston played for the Army, Hong Kong, BAOR and his corps, and is a qualified coach. He has organised the BAOR Rothmans six-a-side competition for the past 12 years. Posted to HQ BAOR in 1975, he has served for much of the past 12 years at Viersen. Charly's wife, **Elizabeth**, has worked in the Rheindahlen Garrison Pay Office for the past nine years.

OU degree course ends on high note

Despite the occasional failure to meet essay deadlines while on Op Granby, WO1 **Christopher North**, bandmaster of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree by the Open University. WO1 North, who started his studies with the OU while serving in Northern Ireland in 1988, is now heavily into Shakespeare as he works towards his Honours.

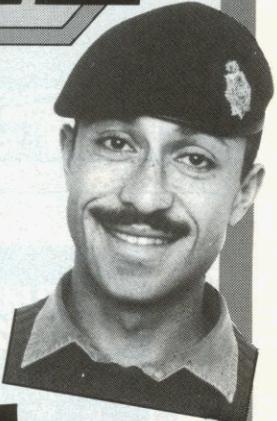
As a musician he spends a lot of time away from home, and finds the hours of study help to fill the time - especially as a medic with 7 Armoured Brigade in the sands of Saudi Arabia!

Christopher joined the Army in 1972, and on leaving the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall became principal cornet of the Band of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. He left the Army for three years to play with the renowned GUS Brass Band in Kettering, then re-enlisted into the Staff Band of the REME. He became 1 DWR's bandmaster in 1987.



PEOPLE

Fuel Troop OC commended



Capt **Alex St Matthew-Daniel**, RCT, now serving at the Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow has received a 4 Armoured Brigade Commander's Commendation for his outstanding support work during the Gulf War. Capt St Matthew-Daniel commanded the Fuel Troop.



Tucking into fresh pheasant during an exercise on Salisbury Plain are Pte **Georgina Trip** (left) and Cpl **Ciaran Waters** of 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. The unit is returning to Brock Barracks, Reading, when a new signals troop is formed in April.

Picture: Terry Champion

Changing chairmen

Cherry Milne, who set up the Federation of Army Wives (BAOR) and has been chairman since its formation in September 1989, has handed over the reins to **Judy Newell**.

Judy, a trained nurse and an Army wife for 20 years, served on the executive committee of FAW (UKL), from where she was responsible for changes to safety standards in soft furnishings and the issue of smoke alarms to every married quarter. On her arrival in Bielefeld last autumn she was asked by FAW president Lady **Guthrie** to follow Cherry into the hot seat. Judy takes over at a time when the Federation, now a valued part of BAOR with a network of co-ordinators across Germany, is involved in the turbulence of Options for Change.

Gulf TAPIOs meet the PM



Watched by Lt Col **Colin Mason**, RRW(V), Prime Minister **John Major** meets Capt **Anthony Fairbanks-Weston**, R Anglian (V) during a reception at Lancaster House in London to thank employers for their support of the Volunteer Reserves, including the Territorial Army.

Mr Major spotted the Gulf campaign ribbons being worn by the two officers, who volunteered for service in the Gulf as members of the TA's pool of public information officers.

More than 200 major employers joined the Prime Minister and Government Ministers at the reception, organised by the National Employers' Liaison Committee.

A guard of honour was provided by members of the Lloyds Volunteer Association.

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24/2

ROVER

S C E



Words:
Gordon Skilling

Unique to Berlin: the 432/30

Picture: Terry Champion

Gordons hone 432 skills for Berlin

SERIOUS exercising after several years of ceremonials was just what men of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders were looking for when they left Berlin for the Rear Combat Zone and their first significant training since arriving in August.

Young soldiers needed to practise skills and learn different vehicles: Recce platoon deploys with Fox while B Mechanised Company uses the exclusively Berlin 432/30s, though both vehicles have the same Rarden turret plus L37 co-axial machine gun.

It is a completely new

weapons system to the Gordons. When they were in Hemer they used the 432 as a battlefield taxi before testing the airmobile concept, but only a few senior soldiers have "mech" experience. Some were uneasy at presenting a bigger target to sophisticated weapons, but admitted they had more to hit back with.

"A lot of the lads from the north-east of Scotland have a tractor background," said Maj Dave Stewart, OC B Coy. "Getting into the machinery is second nature to them so they are enjoying it."

● Turn to next page



Sgt Shearer of the Mortar Platoon watches his fall of shot

It's back to routine for Berlin's Redcaps

A POLICEMAN's lot is not such a happy one in Berlin these days. Gone are the high profile ceremonies, the checkpoints, the war memorial parades and daily contact with the Soviets.

Back are the routine garrison policing duties and low-level training, no less important but much less glamorous. When East joined West Germany in 1989 the powers of the four wartime Allies ceased, making soldiers' status in Berlin the same as any other posting in Germany.

It is a far cry from the "bad" old days. Even when the political climate was coldest, the Royal Military Police kept their contacts. Several policemen now hanker after those days.

Gordons

● From Page 13

One of half a dozen Gordons with the Royal Scots in the Gulf, LCpl John Billingham brought back a lot of experience. It had been fast and furious with almost everything done from the vehicle, just as the former Soviets practised.

"You got in there, did the job, and before you knew it you were back onto something else," he said. "After Warrior, the 432 is like Ben Hur, but is fine for a presence in Berlin."

Recces and Bravo Coy preferred their chariots to shanks' pony as enemy during the battalion exercise. Without vehicles the others had a 20km infiltration in daylight with full bergens to make, then night recce before a dawn attack. One company 2iC who tried to plan some distance ahead ordered transport for his exhausted lads 6km early. He was told the error of his ways and the need to leg it to the RV.

The vehicles rejoined the battalion for an exercise against American Abrams and Bradleys at the German

"When nobody else was talking to the Soviets, I would still have to deal with them at the checkpoints," said Lt Col Stuart McLean, who commands 2 Regiment, Royal Military Police, and who was a company commander for two years during the '80s.

"It would be very formal with a lot of saluting. We would solve the problem in about 15 minutes, then they would smile and say: 'Our duty is now finished, we now have a drink', and they would be totally relaxed."

Contact never extended out of uniform until the "turn", as the Germans call the upheaval. Since then Col McLean has been able to invite them, and their wives, to his house. And they have accepted, in civilian



Staff Superintendent Wolfgang Schiller: MBE and Iron Cross

clothes. "We used to think they slept in their uniforms, but it is tremendous to be able to meet them socially. Even

though there are no Soviet memorial parades or checkpoints, they still invite me to functions."

Staff Superintendent Wolfgang Schiller, OC of 248 German Security Unit (GSU) of 2 Regt RMP, prefers to keep his distance. Along with his MBE ribbon he has been allowed to wear his Iron Cross ribbon, won as a youngster after destroying a Soviet T34 with a Panzerfaust. Unlike his younger post-war colleagues, he still has bitter wartime memories.

"You cannot trust them, especially when they smile," he declared grimly. "Their thinking is completely different from ours, the British, French or Americans."

Staff Superintendent Schiller

was exercising with British MPs round German trenches dug during the battle for Berlin, and said the Allies had acted as conquerors and done as they wanted. But this perception changed for West Germans after the Berlin blockade, and "Easties" now have to learn the difference.

For him, as long as a single Soviet soldier remains in Germany, the Allies should stay.

The GSU, under the command of Lt Col McLean, is made up of German civilians, whose role is the protection of the headquarters and barracks. Staff Schiller was captured by the Americans on May 10, 1945 and joined British service in December 1950.

He pointed out that some former East Germans had now joined the GSU, and admitted uneasiness at coming up against others who were in official positions. Among documents discovered in the former East was a death list marking him and GSU members for summary execution because of their connection with the British.

Among many British, however, there is affection for the former Soviet adversary. Sgt Maj Peter Ireson of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment trains the GSU and was distressed to see Russian



WO2 Peter Ireson, Kings Own Border, instructs both British and Germans; LCpl Ashley Williams, Snr Andreas Frosser and Snr Foreman Gerhard Tellmer

Pictures: Mike Perrin



LCpl Mitchel points out the next objective in Hammelburg

FIBUA training area in Hammelburg, near Frankfurt.

Fifties tactics won the day for battalion HQ when an enemy patrol was seen off by probably the oldest fire team in the battalion: RSM, RSWO, CSM and Company Commander. A slightly breathless commander was

heard to tell how they chased the patrol for 2km, while an embarrassed adjutant complained about being left behind "stuck in a bivvy bag I couldn't open".

Back in Berlin the Jocks had a unique chance to swap experiences with the Ivans. A party of subalterns and sergeants visited 6 Independent

Motor Rifle Brigade, firing the company weapons of their former adversaries and looking at T80 tanks.

The Highlanders then repaid their hospitality by demonstrating their own way of life, including fighting in Ruhleben, and, more interestingly, the joys of boil-in-the-bag rations.



Cpl Paul McMahon checks Cpl Ashley Williams' kit



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FD SD27/1

AIMING FOR EVEREST . . .

AN EVEREST-bound British Services' expedition has departed for Kathmandu with an extra team member whose presence until now has remained a closely-guarded secret, writes Laurie Manton.

A small, white teddy bear is set to be carried to the summit of the world's highest mountain by whichever climbers make a bid to conquer the 29,028ft peak.

On the team's return, it is to be auctioned on behalf of the Royal Marsden Hospital's cancer appeal.

The expedition consists of four Royal Navy, eight Army and six Royal Air Force climbers.

After establishing base camp at 18,000ft, the men will push stores and equipment forward with the help of 12 high-altitude Sherpas recruited in Nepal. The aim is to get sufficient food, cooking gas and oxygen up to the various camps to enable two-man teams to set out for the summit along the difficult West Ridge.

This route has not yet produced a British ascent, and of 36 teams who have attempted it from both the Chinese and Nepalese sides,

. . . with Little White Ted in tow

only six have so far succeeded.

The Services team will be accompanied by artist Lincoln Rowe, who has been on three previous Services expeditions, including the unsuccessful 1988 Everest attempt from the Chinese side. He hopes to complete a unique artistic study of both sides of the mountain.

Four members of the Queen's Gurkha Signals from Hong Kong will provide a permanent communications link from the base camp back to Kathmandu.

Leader of the expedition is Col Mike Kefford, late 7 GR, who has taken part in several previous Himalayan expeditions, including the 1976 British Army Everest climb which succeeded in placing two men at the summit.

One of these was Cpl Bronco Lane, now a major in the Parachute Regiment. As deputy leader, he has a special responsibility for the base camp and logistics.

Maj Lane has also developed a new £60,000 oxygen system which incorporates a number of safety features.

He knows from bitter experience just how vital it is to be able to adjust the settings on a cylinder without having to remove gloves. He had to remove his while sheltering in a bivouac, just below the summit in 1976, and the resulting frostbite cost him most of his thumb and the finger tips on his right hand.

"It was a case of changing the cylinder or dying. I chose to live," explained Maj Lane.

Of the other soldiers in the team, Lt Col Mervyn Bridges, RE, who was awarded an OBE for services in the Gulf War, will lead the party which is to establish a route through the Khumbu Ice Fall between base camp and Camp 1.

Maj Kit Spencer, 7 GR, is responsible for transportation of the team and its equipment to base camp, and, as a fluent

Nepalese speaker, he will also look after the 12 Sherpas supporting the expedition.

Maj Nigel Williams, R Hamps, and Capt Simon Lowe, R Signals, will be in charge of rations and communications. Both took part in the 1988 Everest attempt and Maj Williams is currently commanding the Joint Service mountain training centre.

Two 7th Gurkha Rifles lance corporals, Angphula Sherpa and Lalitman Limbu, complete the Army team.

After their arrival in Nepal, the climbers face a 14-day trek to a camp at Pheriche, where they will acclimatise. They hope to start the climb in late March and make a summit attempt in the first week of May.

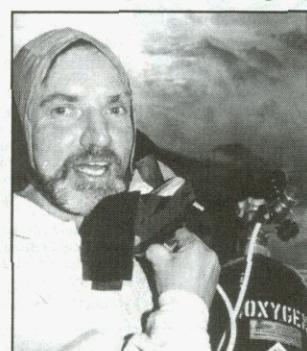
After negotiating a safe route through the notoriously dangerous ice fall to the Western Cwm, the climbers will move up to the West Ridge (23,000ft). They will follow the Diagonal Ditch and cross the North Face to the foot of the Hornbeam Couloir (26,000ft).

This narrow gully rises 1,500ft through the steep upper rock cliffs, and should allow the team to regain the West Ridge about 1,000ft below the summit.

There has been a very long association between the Armed Services and expeditions of this sort, and particularly with Everest.

"We actively encourage participation," said the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, during a reception for the climbers at the Alpine Club in London.

"The reasons why we encourage it are self-evident. It engenders the very qualities that we are looking for across our Armed Services, including individual qualities, team spirit and logistic planning."



Maj Bronco Lane demonstrates the oxygen system to be used on Everest



Picture: Mike Penning

The Services team with actor Brian Blessed and the Royal Marsden Hospital teddy bear. From left (back) are expedition artist Lincoln Rowe, Cpl Graham Stamp, RAF, Fit Sgt Dave Howie, RAF, Capt Simon Lowe, R Signals, Lt Steve Bell, RM, Maj Nigel Williams, R Hamps, Brian Blessed, Chief Tech Bill Batson, RAF, Surgeon Lt-Cdr Andy Hughes, RN, Col Mike Kefford, late 7 GR, Fit Sgt Jim Morning, RAF; (front) Maj Bronco Lane, Para, Surgeon Lt Peter Davis, RN, Maj Kit Spencer, 7 GR, LCpl Lalitman Limbu, 7 GR, LCpl Angphula Sherpa, 7 GR, Sgt Terry Moore, RAF, and Lt Col Mervyn Bridges, RE

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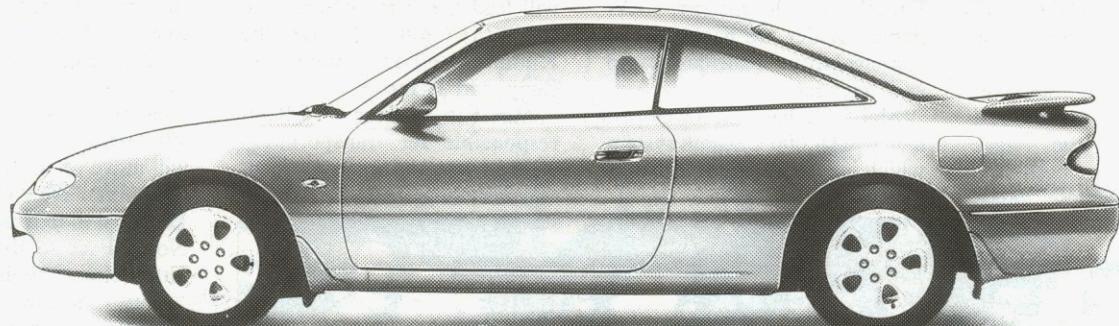
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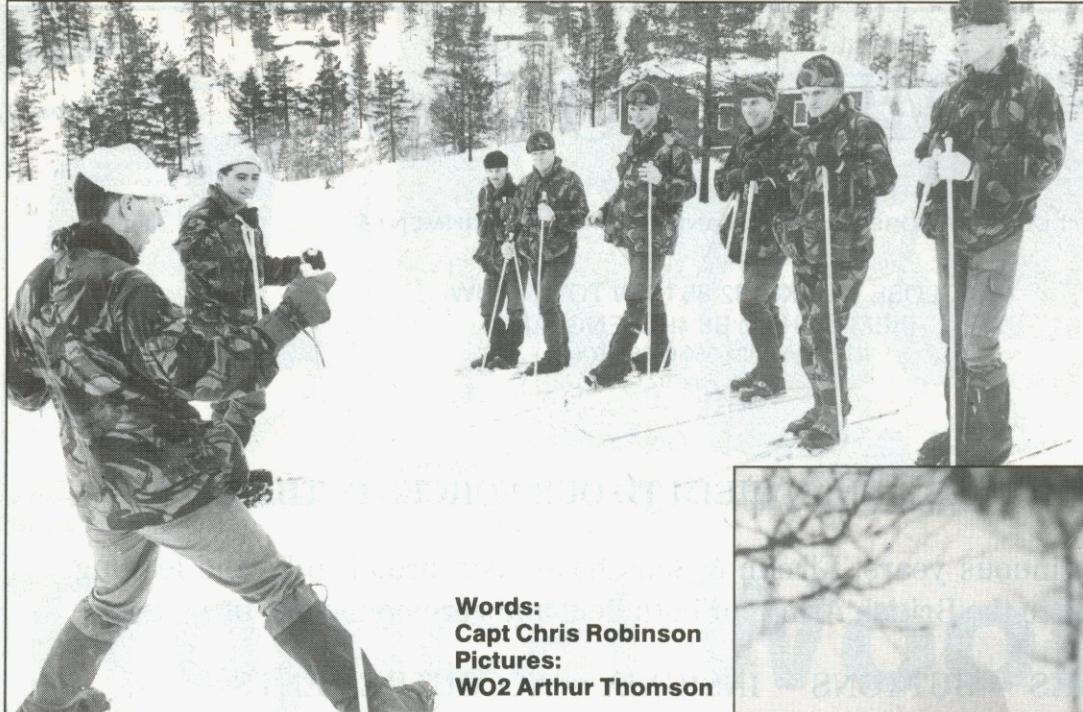
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Left - Men of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment are taught elementary skiing techniques by a military instructor

Below - A snow shoe patrol of 1 DWR advances over deep snow. AMF soldiers have to train to fight and survive in hostile Arctic conditions during Exercise Hardfall

Words:
Capt Chris Robinson
Pictures:
WO2 Arthur Thomson

The Dukes take it ice and easy

A YEAR after the Gulf War, part of the British Army found itself in a very different scenario - the sand and heat of last January having turned to snow, ice and intense cold.

Norway is the location for Exercise Hardfall 92 which involves arctic survival, basic skiing and arctic warfare training for 1,800 soldiers making up the UK element of the Allied Commander Europe's (ACE) Mobile Force - known as the AMF.

Most of the vehicles and bulky equipment arrived at the port of Granvin by sea from Marchwood. The tiny harbour lies at the head of a breath-taking fjord from where the vehicles were driven up a steep, spectacular pass en route to Bomoen Camp - headquarters of the AMF(L) Logistic Support Unit.

Troops arrived at Bergen Airport from RAF Lyneham and travelled by coach or train to Bomoen, 150km north-east of Bergen.

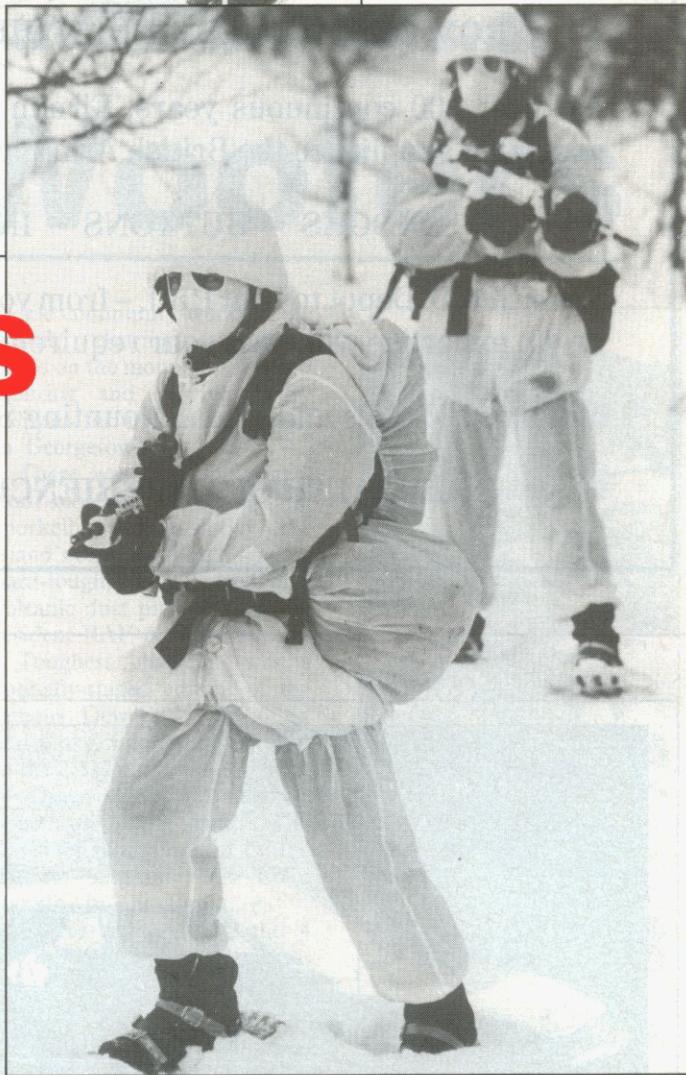
Arctic warfare training demands commitment, energy, thorough skills and the right

equipment. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment quickly got stuck in and enjoyed the basic skiing lessons.

Their specialised snow vehicle - the BV 206 - is a hydraulically articulated, 16-man personnel carrier made in Sweden. With a 2.8 litre engine and automatic transmission, it can get across the snow and ice reliably, safely and fast.

Faster still, troops and equipment were being moved by helicopters of 33 Squadron RAF from Odiham in Hampshire, which provided the bulk of the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU) flying Pumas in support of the AMF(L) in Norway.

Hardfall 92 is the prelude to next month's Nato Teamwork exercise to be held much further north in Norway - well inside the Arctic Circle where temperatures will be as low as -30 degrees C. It is a hostile place, certainly not the environment for soldiers to be working without the training, equipment testing and confidence-building which Hardfall 92 has been designed to achieve.



LCpl Shaun Davey (centre) ACC tries out his chicken chasseur on Pte Kev Barnes (left) and Pte Sean Marsden of 1 DWR



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Pte Carolyn Paul from Birmingham drives a four-ton truck



Sgt Colin Rankin (standing, left) keeps an eye on safety procedures during GMPC sustained firing on Broken Tooth ranges

Tropical Woofers

FOR A 33-strong contingent of Territorial Army soldiers of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, 1992 began well with a trip to a tropical island.

Their destination for Exercise Turtle Reef II – two weeks of training and adventure in the sunshine – was Ascension Island, just below the Equator in mid-Atlantic.

The 35-square-mile volcanic island, the RAF's staging post for the Falklands, provided everything the unit needed to polish its infantry skills in a setting in sharp contrast to its more-usual UK or German training areas.

Stepping out of the RAF TriStar into temperatures pushing up towards 90F, the Woofers spent a day acclimatis-

ing before putting in several days of live range practice on "the clinker" – local name for the barren lava wastelands – during which they fired 9mm Browning automatic pistols, SMG, SLR and GPMG.

They were joined on the ranges for one session by the four-strong island police force, and Ascension administrator Mr Brian Connolly also fired the SLR.

A strenuous mini-exercise saw the platoon, led by Lt David Soley, trekking out of the harsh terrain of the lower hills up into the lusher high ground for realistic practice involving patrolling, night attacks and a final dawn defence of a redundant NASA installation.

Military training apart, the Woofers also found time to

tackle community work on the island, clearing overgrown paths on the mountainsides and painting and moving heavy exhibits for a museum project in Georgetown.

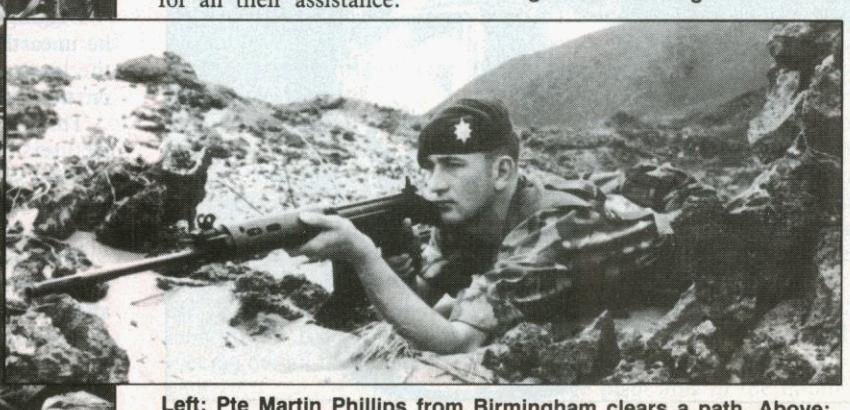
There was time for relaxation, too, with swimming and snorkelling at English Bay – the island's only safe beach – and a hard-fought football match on a volcanic dust pitch against the resident RAF Ascension team.

Toughest challenge was a specially-staged edition of the famous Dewpond Run – six and a half miles from sea level to the 2,817ft, jungle-clad peak of Green Mountain, highest point on the island. The gruelling race was won by the platoon sergeant, Sgt Colin Rankin, in 1hr 16min.

Officer commanding the 4 WFR party, Maj Len Smith, who was celebrating his New Year Honours award of the MBE, summed up: "It was a marvellous experience, with some very useful training achieved. The friendliness and helpfulness we encountered was wonderful, and we are particularly grateful to the RAF for all their assistance."



LCpl Tim Lloyd from Solihull gets the message



Left: Pte Martin Phillips from Birmingham clears a path. Above: LCpl James Astle from Shirley on Exercise Turtle Reef



Firmins have been making badges and buttons for the British Army since the days of Charles II. Writer **Phil Wilcox** and photographer **Mike Weston** visited the company in the Midlands and found that not a lot has changed . . .

History on the button

EVERY TIME they see the unique British pageantry and military precision of the Queen's Birthday Parade, the employees of a company tucked away in a Birmingham back street take a special interest.

But it isn't just patriotism they feel - the event is a showcase for their working skills . . .

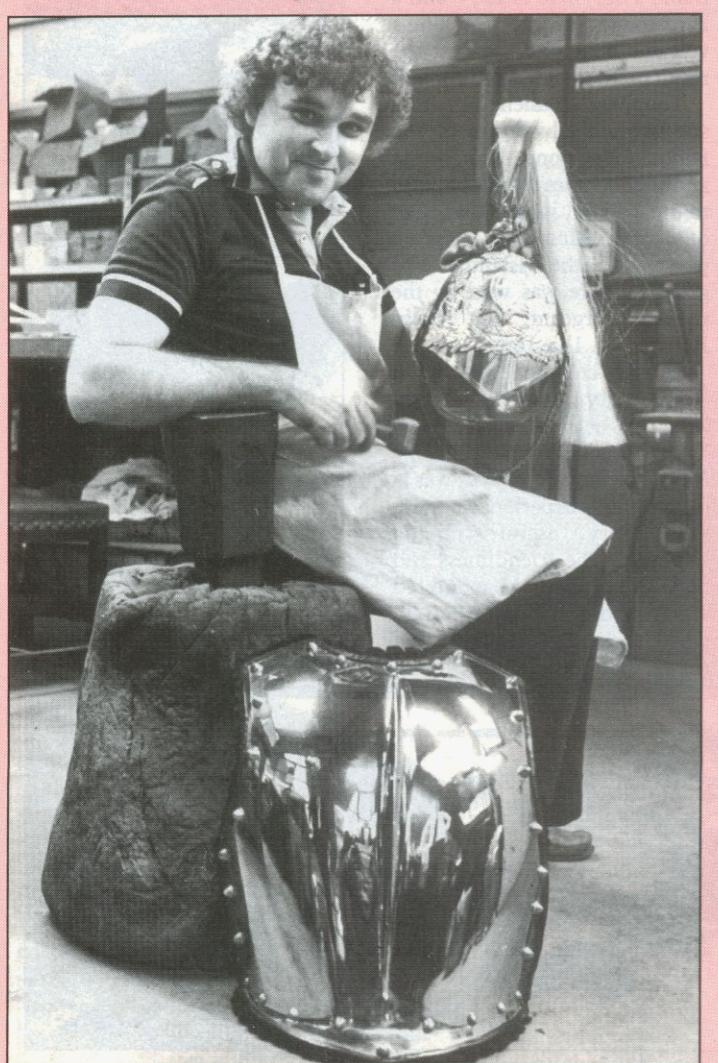
Firmin and Sons can boast a history of making badges and buttons for military uniforms since the days of Charles II, not to mention being appointed button-makers to the households of the Queen and Queen Mother.

The Duke of Marlborough's

troops at Blenheim, Wellington's men at Waterloo, Montgomery's at El Alamein and de la Billière's in the Gulf wore uniforms embellished with Firmin buttons and badges.

Established in London more than 300 years ago by Thomas Firmin, the company's main items of manufacture these days are military and civilian badges.

Officers' and troopers' helmets and breastplates - together with aiguillettes and epaulettes and more unusual items such as pole tops for regimental Colours - are also made and refurbished by the company.



A satisfied man: John Davies with some of his work. The anvil, which he still uses, dates back to the last century

Firmins' main factory is set in the old button-making area of Birmingham, where, it used to be said, "everything from a needle to an anchor chain" was manufactured.

And the tradition of local craftsmanship (armour for Cromwell's troops was made in the Birmingham area) is utilised to its full advantage in the company.

"We have approximately 180 staff. That means we are large enough to be competitive but still small enough to call everyone by their first name," according to managing director Bill Mattingly (ex-Royal Tank Regiment and Westminster Dragoons).

"There are quite a few ex-Servicemen who are employees," he said, "as well as second and third generation staff."

The company has never been busier, assistant accountant Peter Firmin (a descendant of the founder) added, and more staff are being recruited.

"The humble uniform button has done us proud," he pointed out. "We produce more than 12 million metal buttons alone a year, distributed worldwide."

A story which he relates illustrates both the long arm of coincidence and the company's equally far-reaching export arm.

The brother of a member of the firm's auditors emigrated to New Zealand.

Digging his garden one day he unearthed a button: it bore the legend "Firmin and Sons" on the back . . .

Three other specialist manufacturers have been acquired by Firmins - J R Gaunt and Son, William Dowler and Son, and Smith and Wright Ltd.

They have brought under the same roof additional craft skills and business - to supply speciality items for organisations such as the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland and the Royal Company of Archers, plus the odd FA Cup medal,

and badges for the MoD police.

"We manufacture the lion's share of all the metalwork for uniforms within the three Services," said assistant sales manager Tony Kelly, an ex-Royal Signals man and a Terrier for five years.

The manufacturing element involves badges, buttons and almost any item of uniform accessory for British and overseas soldiers, and helmets, cuirasses and other accoutrements for the two regiments of the Household Cavalry.

Badges and buttons begin life as raw "blanks" of metal.

A design is then cut by hand in the face of the metal die by craftsmen in the company's die shop.

Next, to impress in the blank of metal the design of, say, the badge on the back of the black ammunition pouch worn by a member of the Household Cavalry, the metal is given up to 15 blows by a press hammer with a force of up to 300 tons.

The average Royal Army Ordnance Corps collar badge has been struck - sometimes twice - by a force of 70 tons.

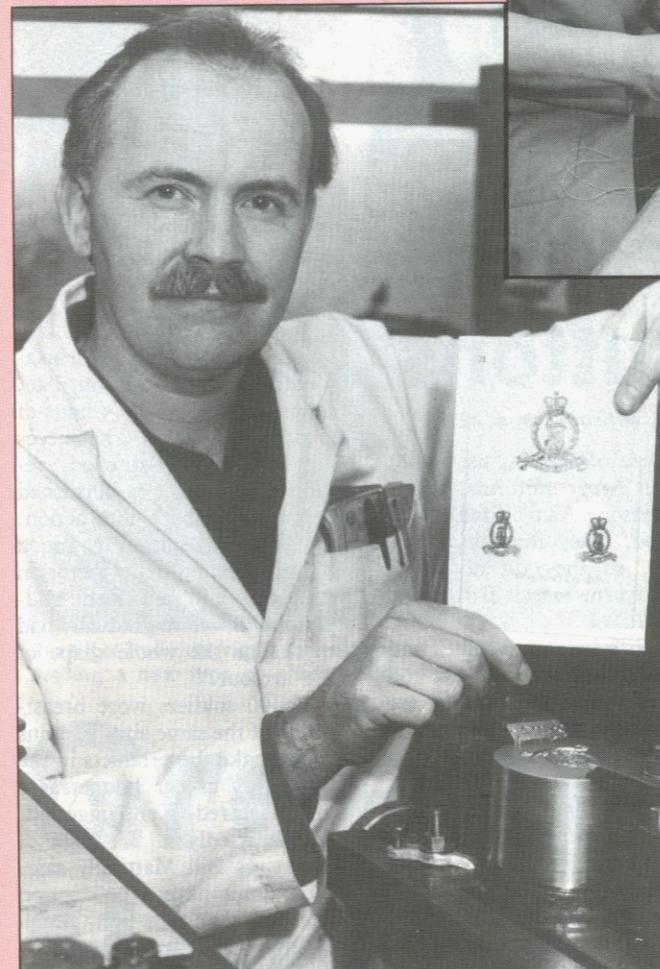
Some badges and buttons are plated with "noble" metals such as silver, gold or the rare and expensive rhodium when demanded.

Once a die has been cut, it is retained for a considerable time.

"We're storing the nation's military history here," explained Tony Kelly. "We have dies dating back to the reign of Queen Anne which are still in service - and we still have the dies of the helmet plates worn by the winners of the Rorke's Drift VCs."

But, he added, if Firmins were to keep them all, they would need a factory five times the size of their current premises. So a periodic decision has to be made on which dies to preserve for historians and which to recycle.

One regiment which has a box to itself in the die store-room is the King's



Howard Meredith with artwork and die for the new Adjutant General's Corps badge

Fusiliers. It won't be found in any military reference books, however: it is an entirely fictitious unit dreamed up by Central Television for their drama series *Soldier Soldier*.

Firmins were asked to advise on suitable insignia for the production, and came up with a composite version of several regiments. Officers' cap badges were prepared, made from gilt and silver plate and other ranks' from gold and silver anodised aluminium complete with fusilier-style feather hackles in blue and white.

Tongue in cheek, the box bears the legend: "As seen on TV".

The life of a die (traditionally cast iron) can be extended by transferring it on to modern die

steel: an event which occurs perhaps once in an employee's lifetime.

Die shop foreman Howard Meredith recently had a rare opportunity.

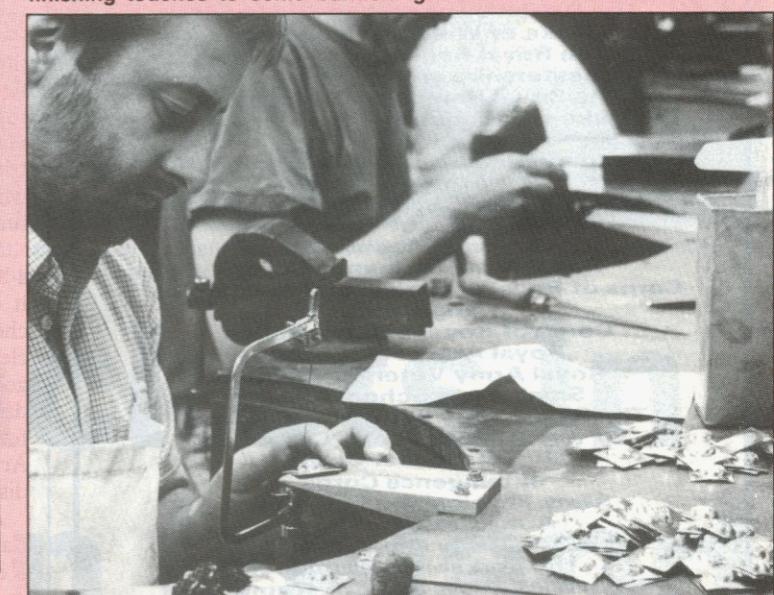
Firmins were awarded the contract to supply the cap and collar badges and buttons for the Adjutant General's Corps - the new organisation to be formed in April by the amalgamation of the RAPC, WRAC, RMP, MPSC, RAEC and ALC.

Working from a submitted sketch, Howard traced the design, enlarged it and transferred the finished product on to a die, creating another piece of Army - and company - history.

"Something completely new is good to work on, and a

The tender strap: Dot O'Toole (foreground, above left) and Margaret Whitehouse make a contribution to the Queen's Birthday parade

Above right: Len Walker, Firmins' longest-serving employee, puts the finishing touches to some burnishing work



Silversmith Paul Whitcombe saws badge mounts

challenge," he said. Once a badge has been stamped, the "stampings" go through the press shop, where surplus metal is clipped. Intriguingly, cannonballs - still manufactured today for decorative use, mostly by the Royal Navy - are used to increase the weight of the presses.

Silversmiths saw out fine detail, such as letters, on the badges, which are then plated with gold with a matt finish.

Craftsmen such as longest-serving employee Len Walker then burnish the raised parts of the design - using traditional tools over 100 years old - picking out all the fine detail in gold.

Final stop is the plating shop where military badges and

buttons find themselves alongside London Buses' badges, being dipped in very expensive gold salts in solution.

Stringent MoD specifications are laid down for the shading of British Army buttons. Two permanent comparison examples are retained by the company and the finished product must fall within them.

Items must be no darker or lighter than a sealed pattern button for the Coldstream Guards (which contains a great amount of detail) and no lighter or darker than a sealed pattern for the Royal Corps of Signals button - which, although fairly straightforward in design, has a large plain area in the middle.

The MoD also determines

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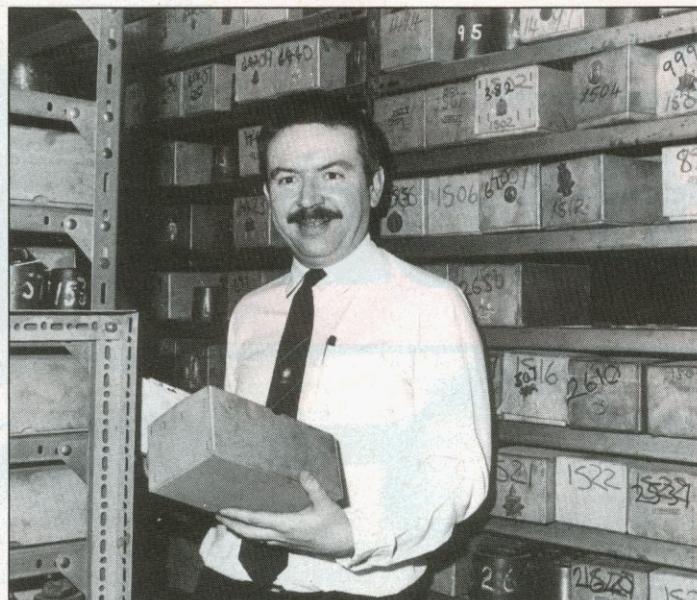
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Never say die? Tony Kelly surrounded by history

Buttons

● From Page 23

the type of buttons used with British Army uniforms, senior supervisor Alan Smith explained. They must have flat backs, so they do not twist when worn, but sit flat on the tunic.

So Firmins stamp a shell and a back, crimp the back and roll it over. Since the buttons are chemically and electrically cleaned, silver anodised and gold anodised, the laborious daily polishing which until a few years ago was a necessary Army chore has now virtually disappeared.

As far as the Household Cavalry is concerned, Tony Kelly claims that the company provides men and horses with "most of the metalwork apart from the stirrups and the horseshoes".

Chinstraps are painstakingly sewn for helmets, and the helmets themselves and steel breastplates are fashioned by stalwarts like Ken Middleton, a traditional Birmingham metalsmith, and John Davies.

Starting life as a 2ft square sheet of steel, the breastplates are, bit by bit, beaten, rolled and shaped before being attached with metal fittings and studs. They are polished, copper-plated, polished again, nickel-plated and burnished to a mirror finish.

Including trimming and sewing, it takes about three-and-a-half days to make a new helmet. Cuirasses take about four days.

Pieces of armour are frequently returned for refurbishment. Some are Edwardian, others go back to the reigns of George V and VI. The pieces are re-rolled, re-stitched, re-polished and re-burnished before going back into action.

"Today's teenager is much bigger than his Victorian predecessor," said Ken Middleton, "so we've gradually had to change the whole shape of the armour."

If 400 soldiers wore breastplates of the same size, Firmins could make the products in the same way as car bonnets are manufactured, Ken suggested, light-heartedly.

But, as Bill Mattingly said: "We don't have a production line on a conveyor belt, which churns out mass-produced products all day long. Each one is individually made."

Thomas Firmin, whose meeting with a Royal Artillery colonel in a London coffee house all those years ago began the tradition of metal buttons on uniforms, would be proud of that statement.

As it heads towards another century, the company which he founded can look back on an unbroken Army connection.

At the time of Operation Granby, a young officer fitted for a cuirass at the company's premises found himself posted to the Gulf.

He wrote to Firmins apologising that he would not be able to pick up the finished product in person owing to "circumstances beyond his control".

Without hesitating, the company offered to send someone out with the cuirass.



Rfn Nigel Hawkins (right) formed part of a 2 RGJ mobile patrol setting out from Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh. He is one of a number of soldiers trialling a new type of chest webbing rig that could be introduced for general issue to troops in Northern Ireland

Greenjackets in Northern Ireland

**Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston**

FOR the second time since The Royal Green Jackets were formed 25 years ago, all three Regular battalions have been serving simultaneously in Northern Ireland. It first happened in 1972, but the current deployment will be the last because the regiment is to be reduced to two battalions later this year.

The Greenjackets have certainly made an impression on the country. Since the Troubles began in 1969, the regiment has carried out 24 emergency and four garrison tours, 11 of them by 1 RGJ, eight each by 2 and 3 RGJ and one by R Company.

The only years when no Royal Green Jackets battalion served in Northern Ireland were 1976, 1980, 1988 and 1990.

The regiment has also provided commanding officers for five UDR battalions and has been represented at the highest levels of command in the Province. Since 1969, the Greenjackets have provided two GOCs, two Land Force commanders and eight brigade

commanders.

Their service there has been recognised by 102 Mentions in Despatches, a DSO, six MCs, two DCMs and eight Military Medals. Sadly, they have taken their share of casualties during this time.

To the 32 members killed in Northern Ireland must be added the seven bandsmen of 1 RGJ murdered in Regent's Park in July 1982.

Omagh, with its distinctive

twin-spired Roman Catholic church, is the county town of County Tyrone. It is home to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets who, as resident battalion, are responsible for the western flank of Northern Ireland.

From its headquarters at Lisanelly Barracks, 2 RGJ provides troops for Rockwood Security Force base and permanent vehicle checkpoints for border crossing points at Strabane and Claddy.

Rockwood is set in a rural location and soldiers stag on for a month at a time. A Company operations officer Capt Chris Gates is keen on the countryside that surrounds the base.

● Turn to next page



Northern Ireland must be added the seven bandsmen of 1 RGJ murdered in Regent's Park in July 1982.

Omagh, with its distinctive



A 3 RGJ patrol debusses from a Lynx helicopter at Bessbrook SF base



Troops at the Romeo 21 observation post unload supplies that have been air-lifted in

From page 25

"It gives the men on patrol a chance to develop their skills for living in the field," he said.

The Claddy PVCP has been described by soldiers as "Rorke's Drift with radio", but there are no long faces on the men checking vehicles.

"They have even been known to throw confetti over newly-wed couples returning from the south. It's normally quite appreciated," explained 2nd Lt Rupert Shaw.

Back in camp, a lot of changes have been made to improve the lot of the families during 2 RGJ's accompanied tour, for which much of the

credit must go to families' officer Lt Tony Marley, on loan from The Light Infantry.

The popular ex-RSM runs a garrison youth club and provides an activities programme that includes canoeing and climbing. There is a thriving wives' group at the refurbished Lisanelly Club which also provides facilities for bazaars, a HIVE and CSE shows.

Some wives have part-time jobs at the SF base under the Community Service Support (CSS) scheme, an employment initiative started by the Northern Ireland authorities.

Lt Marley is first point of contact for a variety of

problems, ranging from tom cats which "spray" in other people's quarters to the occasional marital hiccup.

"On commissioning, a lot of ex-regimental sergeant majors like me go from being 'screaming skulls' to a families' officer post. It tends to humanise us a bit," he joked.

The battalion's attached 28-strong WRAC platoon is to be disbanded by August, but some of the girls are determined to stay on by marrying into the battalion. At the last count, two had tied the knot and at least five are engaged.

Roulement battalion for Armagh city and its surrounds

was 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, based at Drumadd barracks.

"We were responsible for the city and the border areas around Aughnacloy and Middletown," said the CO, Lt Col Carren Snagge.

"It is essentially a rural patch that involves a lot of 'VCPing' and foot patrols. Our role was that of reassurance and deterrence - deterring the terrorist and reassuring the decent people in our patch."

The 1st Battalion will disappear this year with most of its soldiers joining 3 RGJ at Dover. The remainder go to Omagh where 2 RGJ will

become 1 RGJ. It sounds complicated.

A Company, 1 RGJ has been operating a Security Force Base at Aughnacloy and a PVCP at the nearby crossing, one of the major routes across the border. Up to 2,000 cars pass through each day.

The local population is evenly split between nationalist and unionist, and is fairly friendly to the soldiers.

"We also carried out soft target protection and reassurance and protection of the local population over the whole of our Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) and worked in support of the

RUC," said company commander, Maj Edward Watson.

"It is a quiet patch, but it does flare up from time to time, as demonstrated by last year's cross border shoot on the PVCP by IRA terrorists using a 12.7mm DShk heavy machine gun".

This lumbering piece, the terrorists' prestige weapon, was first produced in the Soviet Union in 1938. The battalion's TAOR has 39 border crossing points of which only three are blocked off.

B Company, commanded by

Maj Neil Baverstock, looks after a permanent vehicle checkpoint at Middletown, where several hundred pounds were raised for destitute children by soldiers collecting cash from passing motorists.

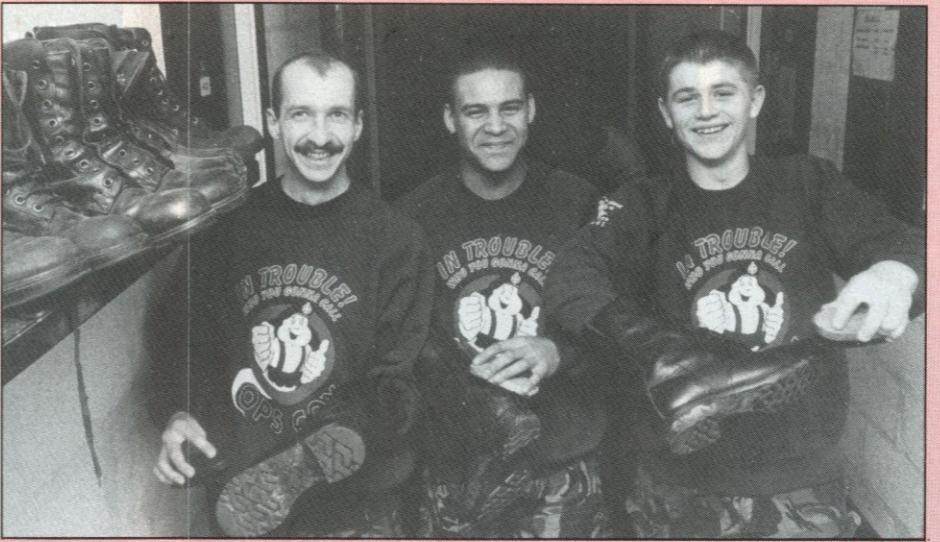
The company is a real mixture of cap badges. The REME provides the 2iC and seven junior ranks who are employed as

riflemen, one subaltern is Army Air Corps and another is on attachment from the Intelligence Corps.

It is a shame that members of

the 3 RGJ Northern Ireland group, which includes D Coy, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and C Coy, 1 RGJ do not have more time to enjoy their surroundings - especially those based in the mill at the picturesque village of Bessbrook, inspiration for the Cadbury garden village of Bournville near Birmingham.

But, as the Armagh roulement battalion, they are kept busy smothering terrorist activity around Bessbrook, Crossmaglen, Forkhill, Newton-hamilton and Newry. The battalion also mans towers in



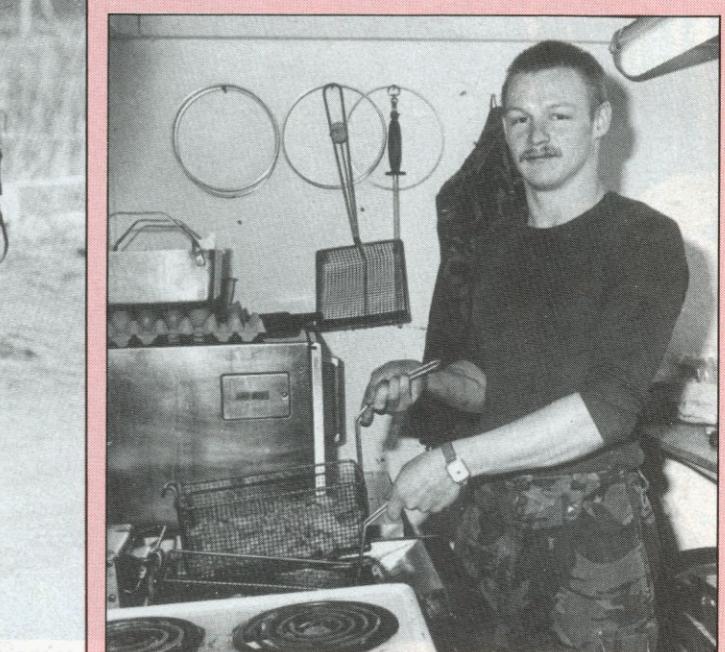
3 RGJ "Bootbusters" are (left to right) Rfn Phil Aindow, LCpl Colin Martin and Rfn Mac McCreith



On guard at Romeo 21 Op are Riflemen David Bramall, Mark Wheeler and Robert Noon



Rfn Lee Collins, 1 RGJ, checks a driver through a PVCP at Aughnacloy



LCpl Keith Moore cooks up some good grub at a hilltop observation post





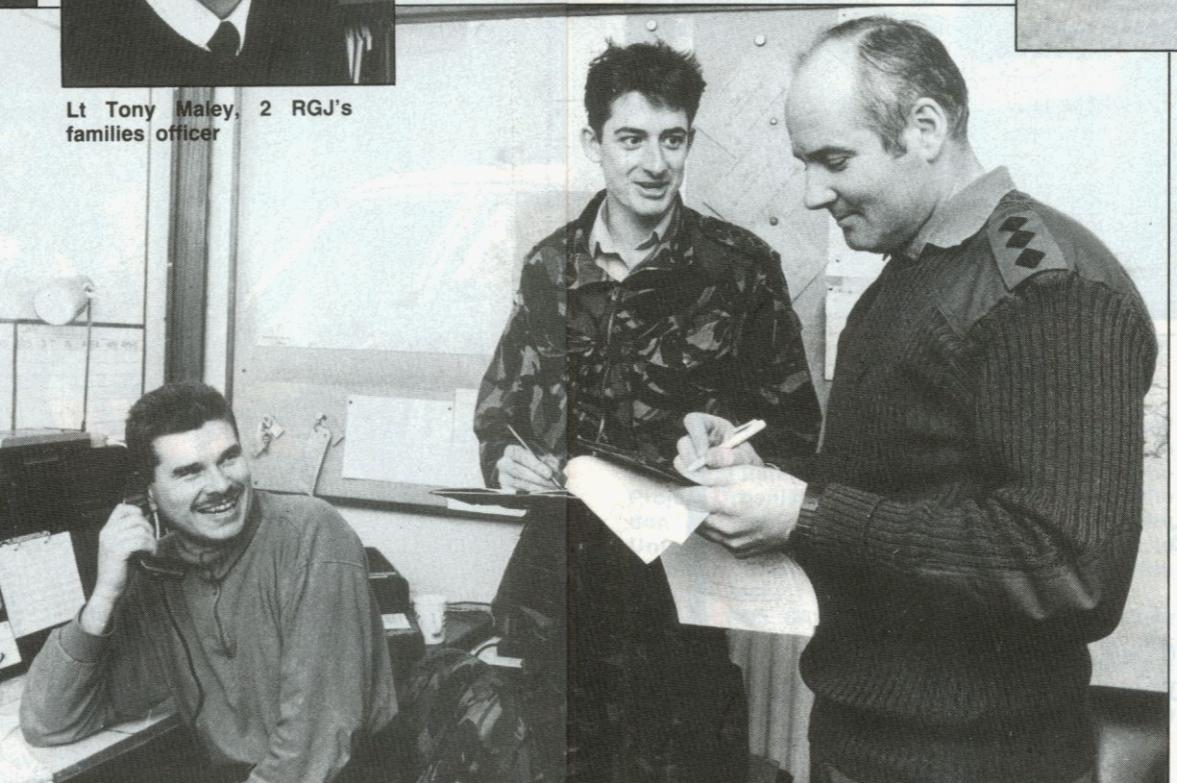
Rfn Martin Gibbons at Claddy permanent vehicle checkpoint. His SA80 is fitted with the new rifle launched grenade



Lt Col Carren Snagge, CO 1 RGJ



Lt Tony Maley, 2 RGJ's families officer



Ops room at Rockwood SF base. Left to right are Cpl Dave Caws and Captains Rod Zala and Chris Gates

From page 27
the border area. The helicopter base at Bessbrook is one of the busiest in Europe, which means a mountain of work for Lt Mo Williams and his 2iC, WO2 Jock Reekie. They have to co-ordinate dozens of flights every day to move men and equipment to and from Forkhill and Crossmaglen SF bases and the watchtowers.

Several times a week more than 5,000lb of rations and 1,600 gallons of water have to be flown to these outposts.

Every piece of equipment for the Armagh roulement battalion goes in through the Quartermaster's Store at Bess-

brook and has to be pushed out to the troops on the ground.

"Everything in South Armagh is a priority, so priorities have to be prioritised," explained Sgt Carlos Williams, who has organised a specialised layout in the battalion's equipment store.

The average ten-day shopping list includes 46,992 slices of bread - enough for a family of four for 10½ years, and 10,440 eggs.

Food rates highly in the minds of the men during their tour, a fact recorded in 3 RGJ's own newspaper, the *South Armagh Mole*. Edited by Maj Nick Austin and CSM Oliver Brown, it carries a regular feature listing statistics of the food consumed by the troops.

In the first two months of

their tour, the Greenjackets consumed almost a quarter of a million sausages, in addition to 948lb of bacon and an estimated 1,600,000 baked beans!

The average ten-day shopping list includes 46,992 slices of bread - enough for a family of four for 10½ years, and 10,440 eggs.

Spare a thought for the troops manning the observation towers along the border. SOLDIER paid a flying visit to Romeo 21 perched astride a rocky feature 800 metres above sea level.

The views are magnificent, but the chill winds that sweep

across the location can be debilitating.

Romeo 21 comes complete with its own bog, best avoided by keeping to a metal trackway linking the various parts of the position.

Ignoring the wind-chill factor, Sgt Dutch Holland of 11 Platoon, R Company explained that his men nicknamed the OP "Khe Sanh".

"It's basically just sandbags and barbed wire here.

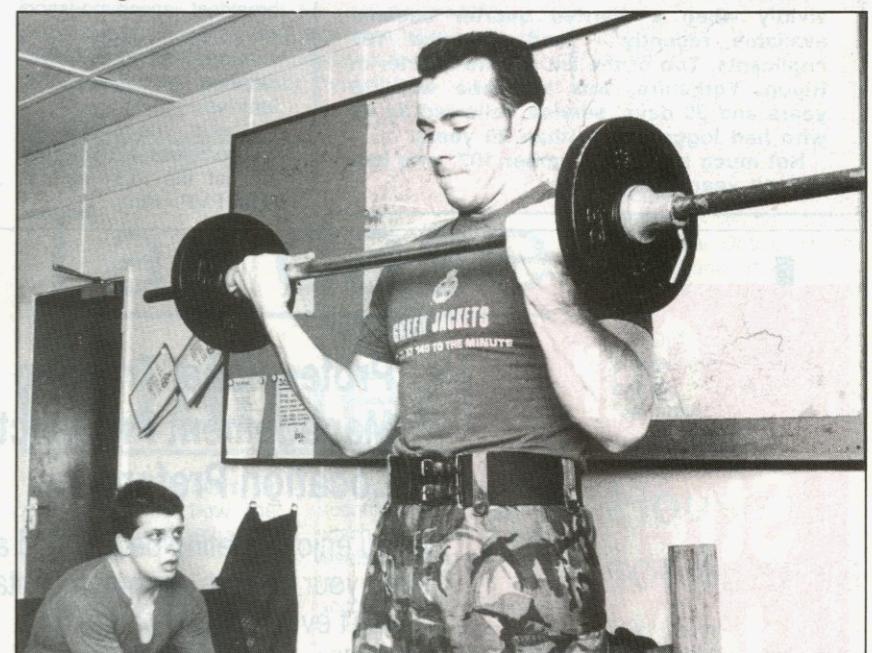
"We rotate at various intervals with other multiples from Forkhill SF base across the way," he said, pointing down the hillside to the distant security base.



LCpl Mick Catling works on a mural at Middletown PVCP



Cpl Mike Peek keeps a watchful eye open at a deliberate vehicle checkpoint set up near Omagh



Every available inch of space is used in the accommodation at the SF base. Rfn Adam Kelly pumps iron while LCpl Duncan Seymour watches television



moving from one battalion to another," said Col Snagge.

That's not to say there have been no compromises in the changes which involve the 2nd Battalion becoming the 1st and the 3rd becoming the 2nd.

As a result, 1 RGJ will give up the 'j' in their spelling of sergeant, and with it the white tie worn by the Regimental Sergeant Major while in mess kit.

The 2nd Battalion will swap its black badge for a silver version, and 3 RGJ loses R (Representative)

Company and I Company.

"We only need a few changes in our sign-writing to achieve the required cuts," joked Lt Col Nick Cottam, commanding officer of 2 RGJ.

Lt Col Jamie Balfour, CO of 3 RGJ, felt the same. "Obviously, there is sadness that we had to lose a battalion, but because we are a large regiment we are used to change and cross-postings between battalions. We can cope."

"A regiment is not made by its name. It's the men inside it who count. The Royal Green Jackets is not a regiment held by the past and we always aim to look forward," he said.

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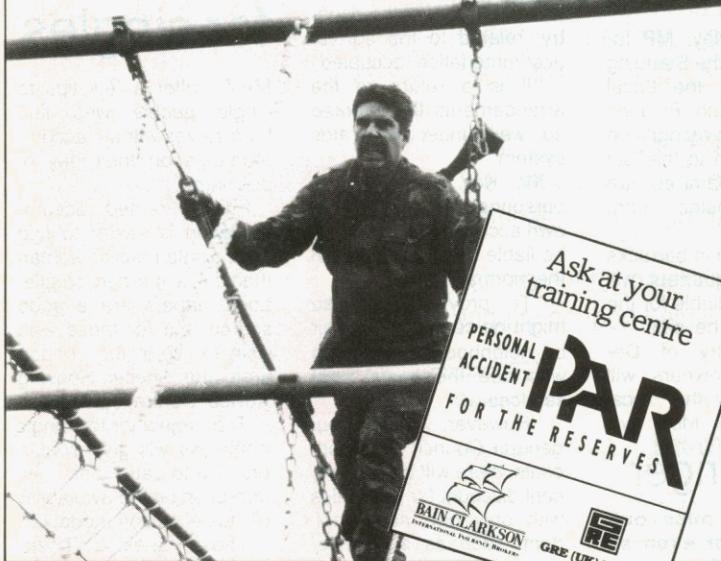


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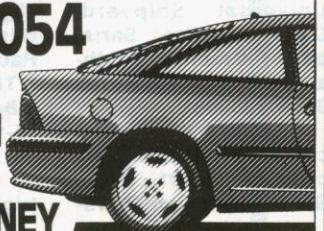
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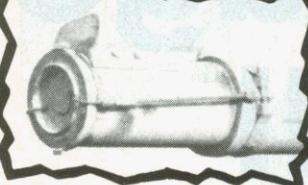
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Elastic clamp?

Barrel bungee

REGARDING the pictures of Challenger 2 on the front cover and Pages 14 and 15 of SOLDIER (January 27), are we to assume that the muzzle cover held on by two "bungees" is part of the new XL30 E 120mm rifled gun?

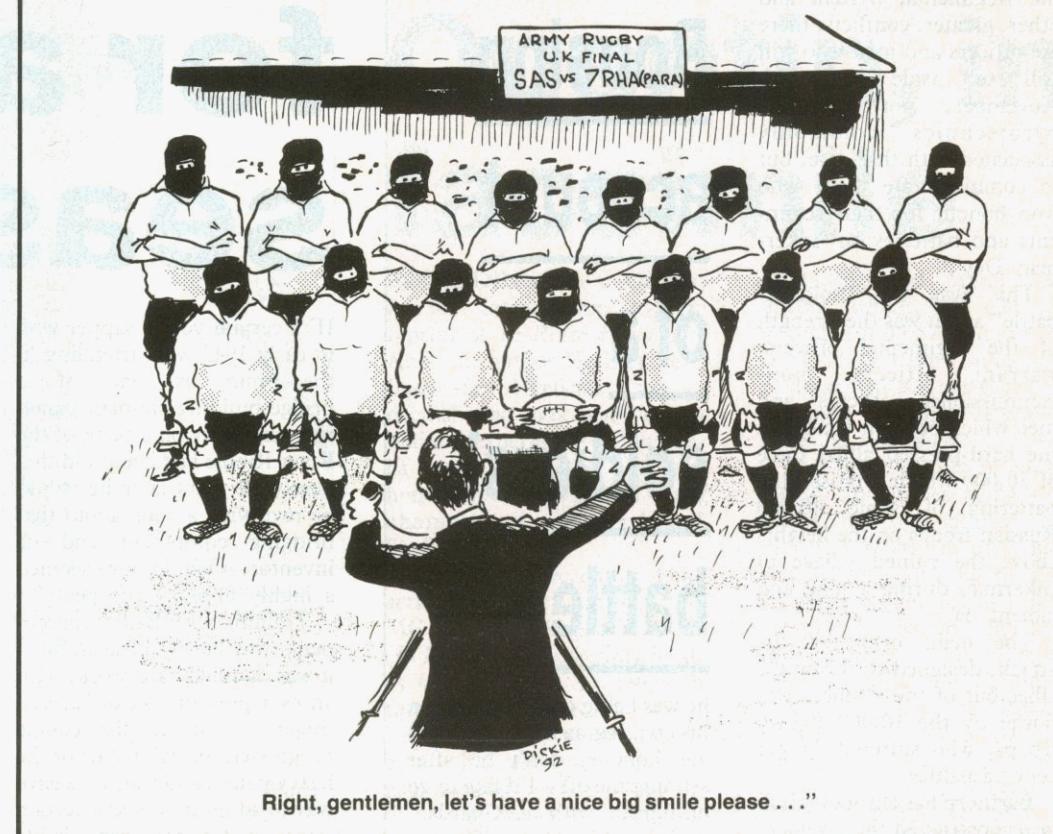
Is this one of the "incorporated" improvements? Surely it must be, as "No part of the vehicle is left untested". – Cpl Chris Bell, Inst Section, BATUS Wksp, BFPO 14.

Ready and equipped?

I enjoy reading SOLDIER, which keeps me in touch with what is going on in the Army, some of which, I must confess, I disagree with.

Let's hope we don't have a situation in the future similar to the late 1930s, when despite warnings by such men as Anthony Eden in 1934, we

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW

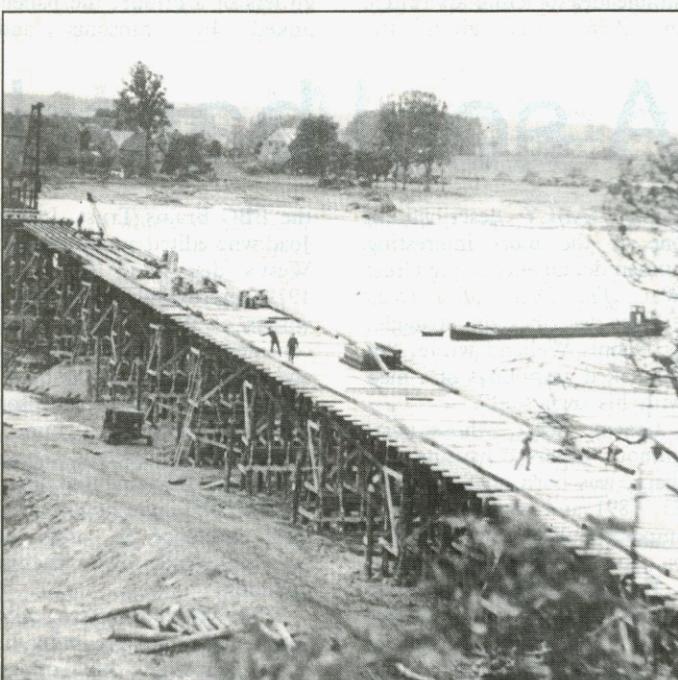


Right, gentlemen, let's have a nice big smile please . . ."

• Troops Hereford have reached the UK Challenge Cup Rugby final. See Page 49.

were not only unprepared but badly equipped by comparison with Germany, or even Italy.

I served as a Regular in the 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade in the Western Desert but was unlucky enough to "stop one" on the western side of Tobruk in 1941. – R C Gillan, Winchester, Hants.



Part of the record-breaking bridge across the Elbe at Arlenburg, built by sappers in just over three weeks in 1946

Elbe bridge was major sapper feat

YOUR story on the final all-British M2 bridge across the Elbe at Arlenburg (January 27) reminded me of a major feat of bridge-building carried out at the location in 1946.

Softwood trees were cut down, then floated to the bridging site, to be shaped and shod, then driven into the river-bed to form piers, later to be fitted with ice-breakers.

The centre span of Triple-Triple Bailey Bridge, with overhead bracing, resting on piers, was high enough to allow vessels to pass underneath.

In the spring of 1946, Royal Engineers of 7th Armoured Division worked like dingbats, night and day, to complete the job, including the construction of the approach roads.

Steam-driven pile-drivers mounted on rafts were exciting,

especially when the "monkey" jammed. The Russians were very interested in how we did the job!

Our OC, then a major, is now Maj Gen Dr Richard L Clutterbuck, author and lecturer. – C T Wareing, Redditch, Worcs.

● *Operation Skyhook, to build in record time the longest bridge of its kind in BAOR over the Elbe at Arlenburg, was the subject of a feature in the October 1946 edition of SOLDIER. On 1,500 piles with a 23ft wide roadway, the 1,561ft long bridge was built in just over three weeks by 900 Royal Engineers of 7th Armoured Division and 5th Infantry Division, including 51 Mechanical Equipment Platoon and a section from 14 Field Survey Company.* – Editor

● See "A bridge for all seasons", Page 34.

MICHAEL BARTHORP concludes the excellent *Heroes of the Crimea* thus: "Even today, after changes to the Regimental System and other, greater, conflicts, there are officers and men who will still set aside each 5th November, not for the pyrotechnics commonly associated with that date, but to commemorate those who won honour for their regiments and batteries on 'Inkerman Day'."

This was the "soldiers' battle" and it was the strength of the regimental officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men which brought victory to the hard-pressed allied force of 20,000 which repulsed the battering of some 40,000 Russian troops on the heights above the ruined village of Inkerman during a long and violent day.

The main brunt of the attack, designed to throw the allies out of the Crimea, was borne by the 10,000 British troops, who suffered 25 per cent casualties.

Barthorp has chronologically reconstructed the events of this remarkable victory through sifting monumental amounts of documentation, including many manuscripts in regimental museums and private collections, to create an enthralling account of this famous day.

These events can be easily followed by excellent maps, and photographs of the battle area taken in 1904, only 50 years after the event, as well as more than 100 photographs of individuals, paintings and prints of various incidents and scenes.

But above all there are the descriptions by witnesses, which Barthorp has cleverly interwoven with detailed facts, measurements (even converted to metric) and opinions, such as the officer who, "despite the turmoil around him pleaded with one of another regiment: 'My men can hardly stand their ground. Would you object to bringing yours into line with ours? I had the pleasure of being introduced to you at Lady Palmerston's last summer'."

This book is compelling reading and once opened, cannot be put down. It is another winner from the Barthorp stable. - PSN

Inkerman: Rousing account of a soldiers' battle

he was being ordered to rejoin his own regiment, he said: "O yer honour, don't be after sending me off - I'd like to go on fightin' with the Guards."

Or Maj Sir Thomas Troubridge of 7th Royal Fusiliers, who had both feet blown off but refused to leave his post, saying: "No, men. I command you still."

Perhaps the most telling is by Capt Wilson of the Coldstream Guards who remarked, "politicians would talk less lightly of war, could they sometimes step from their libraries into a field like this."

Although the book is primarily about the Battle of Inkerman, Barthorp does give a succinct summary of events in the Crimea leading up to this battle, including the Battles of Alma and Balaclava, as well as a detailed account of the Russian reconnaissance in force on October 26 called the "Little Inkerman", all sprinkled with many quotations, which set the scene and whet the appetite for his vivid account of November 5, 1854.

This book is compelling reading and once opened, cannot be put down. It is another winner from the Barthorp stable. - PSN

Heroes of the Crimea. The Battle of Balaclava and Inkerman by Michael Barthorp. Blandford, London, £14.95.

A bridge for all seasons

IF a certain young sapper who in early 1943 was struggling in the mud as one of a bridge-building six-man panel-carrying party on a bank of the River Ribble had been told that nearly 50 years later he would be reviewing a book about that bridging equipment and its inventor, it would have seemed a highly unlikely prospect.

Training with Bailey components was hardly pleasurable - it was damned hard work, with an ever-present risk of severed fingers - but as the course progressed, initial dislike of the heavy panels and transoms gave way to admiration and a certain affection for this remarkable construction kit.

In *A Bridge to Victory*, Brian Harpur describes how Donald Bailey's invention came to become what Montgomery called "quite the best thing in that line we have ever had."

Donald Coleman Bailey was born on September 15, 1901, became an engineer and civil servant, had a brilliant but simple idea for a military bridge in 1936, was given the

opportunity to make it a reality because of wartime needs and saw it through.

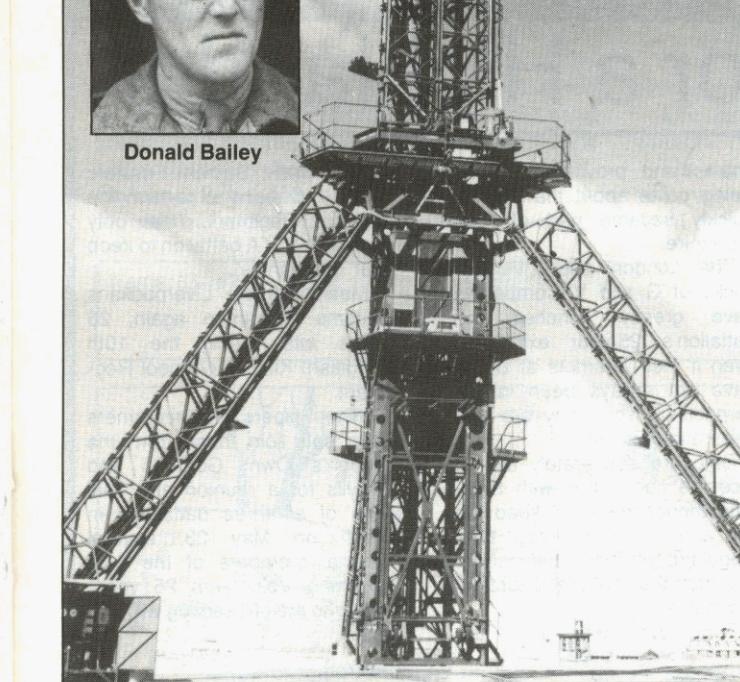
He was given credit for it in 1944 but had to fight a legal battle before being modestly rewarded, and died in relative obscurity on May 4, 1985.

Brian Harpur has put matters to right in this highly readable tribute.

It was in 1940, with heavier tanks coming into service, that the Army anxiously looked around for a bridging system to replace the Inglis, which had been used, with very few improvements, since the First World War.

Donald Bailey, by then the unassuming head of the Experimental Bridging Establishment at Christchurch, Hampshire, resurrected plans he had worked on six years earlier, but which had been rejected at the time.

Bailey's system utilised 10ft by 5ft prefabricated steel panels, joined end-to-end by just two pins, to form the side girders of a bridge, the panels linked by transoms and



The versatility of the Bailey concept provided this launching tower and its support for the successful Skylark rocket tests at Woomera, Australia in 1957. The structure was used many times.

decking, all the components transported in standard 3-ton trucks.

Within five months of the

Bailey Bridge production being put in hand equipment was with the troops, the first operational bridge being built on the night of November 26, 1942 over the River Medjerda at Medjez el Bab in Tunisia.

Bailey equipment possessed a hitherto unknown flexibility. It was used in all applications, from rapidly-built assault bridges to semi-permanent constructions over huge gaps such as the River Rhine.

At least 2,500 were built in the Italian campaign alone,

another 2,000 in north-west Europe and the Far East. Hundreds more were built after the war.

The concept of the Bailey Bridge is still very much alive in the Heavy Girder, Mabey Compact and Mabey Universal Bridges. In the author's words: "There is no reason why, given its ease of construction, its extraordinary versatility, and its continued improvement, it should not go marching on for ever." - BJ

A Bridge to Victory: The Untold Story of the Bailey Bridge by Brian Harpur. HMSO, softback, £14.95.

A soul bared on the Western Front

JUSTIFIABLY described as one of the most interesting human documents of the Great War, *The Diary of a Dead Officer* describes the struggle, as Dennis Welland wrote, "of the naked grappings of a man with his own soul".

Graeme West, whose posthumous papers constitute this diary, was born on September 23, 1891 and was killed by a sniper's bullet near Bapaume on April 3, 1917, aged 25.

He had obtained a school scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, in 1910, where he came under the influence of the pacifist, atheist and revolutionary socialist, C M Joad - later famous as the philosopher on

the BBC Brains Trust. It was Joad who edited and published West's diary and letters in 1919, presumably against the wishes of West's father, who considered Joad a bad influence and was appalled by the book, which revealed opinions his son had never confided to him.

Certainly Joad seems to have manipulated the material, often placing entries out of chronological sequence in order to emphasise his own pacifist opinions.

While West was staying with Joad in August 1916, after he had completed his officer training, he decided to refuse to join the 6th Bn, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light

Infantry, to which he had been posted. But his courage failed him and although he had posted the letter he retrieved it next morning from the postman and joined his unit.

On arriving in France he wrote probably "one of the most harrowing accounts" of being under shellfire, according to Dominic Hibberd, the editor of this reprinted edition, "not because it is gruesome but because it illustrates the deadened mental state of battle-worn soldiers".

But probably the most memorable and descriptive piece is his poem *Night Patrol*, written in France in March 1916, before he was commis-

sioned. A considerable portion of the diary deals with West's training as an officer in a camp in Scotland, because, as Hibberd suggests, "he (Joad) wants to demonstrate that the death of the 'dead officer' began not under shellfire but as a result of military cruelty and incompetence at home . . . his extracts form a damning record."

Although the incompetence of the instructors is unforgivable, readers may well feel that Joad did not prove his point as West's sense of humour and intellect saw him through:

"I do really care less than I used to do for the fools and bullies in command of me.

BOOK REVIEWS

Back to St Quentin, in facsimile

St Quentin in March 1918 during which his CO was wounded and he found himself, as a 25-year-old captain, in command of his battalion, but was soon "forced to retreat off maps he possessed".

The utter confusion of the retreat, sometimes being sheltered by their own gunners, and the utter weariness of himself and his men "during six days and nights - fighting as I never dreamed I would fight" is epitomised by his remark: "Here I saw for the first time a new post stuck on the roadside. It had on it an arrow and 'Stragglers' Post' in bold letters. So I was a straggler. I felt very bitter and full of despair."

The Raid, to capture a prisoner, took place in late 1917 and was his first action after having been wounded on his first tour in France in 1916.

He was in command of the raid and expresses his own fear: "I was afraid. We all experience fear but I was more interested in P's fear . . . he was a coward."

P was taken off the raid but was killed some months later.

This is the fourth in the series of facsimile reprints published by the Imperial War Museum's Department of Printed Books in its coverage of the response of the individual to 20th Century conflict.

The others are *Poems by Wilfred Owen*, *Moses* by Isaac Rosenberg and *Diary of a Dead Officer*, also reviewed here.

The facsimile format, according to Dr Bayliss, the Keeper of the Department of Printed Books, the Director-General, and Trustees of the Imperial War Museum are to be congratulated on this facsimile reprint which is the third in the series on the response of the individual to 20th Century conflict. - PSN

They certainly do not frighten me at all as they used to do. I don't care a jot for the Adjutant or CO when they come and yap or make heavy speeches at me."

Dr Bayliss, the Keeper of the Department of Printed Books, the Director-General, and Trustees of the Imperial War Museum are to be congratulated on this facsimile reprint which is the third in the series on the response of the individual to 20th Century conflict.

The Diary of a Dead Officer, Being the Posthumous Papers of Arthur Graeme West. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, £14 inc. postage.

In Retreat and The Raid by Herbert Read. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, £10 inc. postage.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Good use for old missiles

BADGES made out of scrapped Soviet and American nuclear missiles are being sold in a charitable project which aims to raise £5 for each of the 100 million lives, military and civilian, lost through warfare this century.

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Half the proceeds from badge sales will go to the Memorial Fund and half to other charitable organisations involved in the project.

Priced at £1.50, they are available from local Sue Ryder shops, the 85 Cheshire Foundation Homes and associated Family Support Services, or by sending a cheque to: Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief (JBS), PO Box 78, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3DL (plus 70p postage for up to five badges).

Jocks hit it off with SA 80

LONDON Jocks carrying out their annual personal weapons test on the SA 80 thought they had come across another example of drawdown while they were carrying out their annual personal weapon tests at Pirbright.

Instead of sighting on the traditional 3in x 4in aiming patch on the fig 11 target, they were being asked to aim at a one-inch square.

This was not, however, a drastic example of cuts to save on white paper. As the SUSAT sight magnifies by four, aiming at the bottom of the larger patch would give a mean point of impact too high when translated to a range of 300 metres.

The larger patches are still used

No joke for a Highlander

THE Black Watch *ceilidh* band had a culture shock when they played for the 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Burns Supper.

First they joked about the Queen's Own Gordon Highlanders then discovered both Queen's Own and Gordons present. To smooth some ruffled feathers they played the *Cock of the North*.

Jokes about the English are usually safe ground at clan gatherings, but 1/51 is a clan with English Highlanders and the Royal Highlanders were aghast at being approached by a burly Scouse ex-boxing

champ and provost sergeant. Being polite about the English quickly became part of their repertoire.

The London and Liverpool Jocks of G and V Companies have greatly enriched the battalion's 25-year existence, even if their attempts at Burns have not always been in the vernacular. Not many are first generation Scots!

Both are desperately sad to lose the connection with Scotland though they will keep the kilt and hope to keep their Regular permanent staff instructors from their adopted Highland regiments.

The Londoners join the

London Irish, Balham Fusiliers and 6/7 Queens to re-form the London Regiment (the only reorganised TA battalion to keep four companies).

Meanwhile the Liverpudlians become Kingsmen again, 25 years after being the 10th (Scottish) King's Liverpool Regiment.

When pipers and drummers from both join those from the Queen's Own, Gordons and Argylls for a reunion and final fling of all three battalions in Perth on May 23, several original members of the 51st Highland Volunteers 25 years ago who are still serving will play again.

MILITARIA

● **Military Vehicle Shows:** The Military Vehicle Trust's annual international D-Day show will be held at Weston-super-Mare on May 23-25. The Trust's Solent area branch will hold a large rally, Overlord 92, on Southsea Common, Portsmouth, on May 29-31. Both shows will include militaria displays and arena events.

REUNIONS

● **The Cambridgeshire Regiment:** Service of remembrance will be held in Ely Cathedral on Sunday, June 14 at 2 p.m. The regimental marchpast will be followed by a reunion tea in the Haywards Theatre. All former members of the regiment welcome. Details from Mr Roy Stublings, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs (tel: 0353 3249).

SEARCHLINE

● **San Carlos Bodgers:** Mr Tony Anderson, 34 South Townside Road, North Frodingham, Driffield, E Yorks YO25 8LE, is trying to trace fellow members of 9 Air Defence Battery, Fitter Section REME, part of 12 AD Regt RA, who served during the Falklands campaign.

DIARY

April 2-October 18: Special Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

May 7-8: Helimeet international flying competition and helicopter exhibition, Stockbridge, Hants.

May 9-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants.

May 23-25: Military Vehicle Trust International Show, Weston-super-Mare.

May 29-31: Military Vehicle Rally, Southsea Common, Hants.

June 12-14: Rhine Army Show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

June 13: Queen's Birthday Parade, Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

July 1-6: Armed Forces Week, a Tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

July 8-25: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office tel: 071-373 8141).

July 17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

August 7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (tickets from credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

● To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

● **Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Associations:** Reunion will take place on September 12 at the Terminus Hotel, Eastbourne. Details from I/P D A Knight, Ward 14, Berth 12, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SR.

● **Yeoman of Signals:** Reunion to celebrate 30th anniversary of the first YoS course is planned for July 25 at the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Blandford Garrison. Open to all who have passed course since 1962. Details from WO1 (YoS) Tony Reynolds, OC Radex Troop, 1 Sqn, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT1 8RH.

● **RWF dinner and parade:** The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades' Association St David's Day reunion dinner takes place at the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club on February 29, followed the next day by a parade at Horse Guards at 1100. Details from Tony Corbett on 081-646 4919.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

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 April 6 issue.

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Competition No 528:
Congratulations to Mrs V Reed, of Kings Lynn, Norfolk, who is the £50 winner. Book prizes go to runners-up Miss A M Kitchen, of Aldershot, and LCpl Knowles, of Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.



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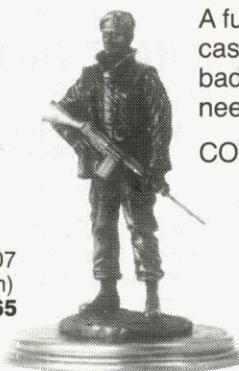
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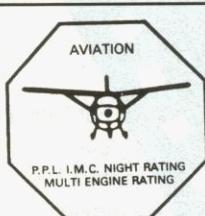
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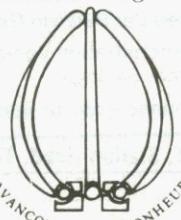
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for attractive lonely lady. I'm 30-years-old, fair haired with blue eyes and a slender 5'4". Please write, a photo would be appreciated.

Box P44

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to correspond with female, 23 years, single and living in London. I'm a crazy lady with a great sense of humour. Write to "Charlie", with photograph if possible. All letters answered.

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seeking correspondence and friendship with lively sincere soldiers. All replies answered. 18 years plus.

Box P49

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Write the Box
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Are there any Gentlemen out there

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Box P45

Caring female aged 18 5'7" with brown eyes and hair. I enjoy writing and receiving letters. I would like to correspond with a soldier aged 20-24 years and 6' tall. All letters answered, please send photo.

Box P39

Hallo! I'm Pamela

Single, 6ft tall, slim and aged 29 years. I'm attractive and intelligent with a good sense of humour. A good listener with interests in Classical/Pop music, Theatre, Cinema, Riding and Swimming. All genuine letters answered. Photo appreciated.

Box P48

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Write Pen Pals in the top left corner of the envelope.

Lady aged 29 (single parent)

seeks pen pal 28-32 years. Interests are music and football. All replies answered.

Box P40

Evergreen Robbie wins for lucky thirteenth time

THE ARMY squash championships held at the Waverley club, Farnham, were again dominated by Maj Robbie Robinson (23 Ord Coy (V)), who won the open title for the 13th time in a final against Sgt Tom Pollard (21 Signal Regt), writes Peter Hall.

Robinson was never headed and won an entertaining match 9-0, 9-3, 9-1.

The open competition provided no surprises with the top eight seeds making it to the

quarter final stages. At this point, number five seed Spr Nick Turton (35 Engr Regt) defeated Cpl Gary Clarke (RMAS), the fourth seed, in a very close and keenly fought contest 3-1, and sixth seeded WO1 Bill Ratcliffe (22 SAS) beat third seed SSgt Gary Easter (2 Fd Regt RA) 3-0.

The Under-25 competition produced a very good final in which Cfn Jason Cotton (4 Armd Wksp) defeated LCpl Dave Gallagher (21 Signal

Regt) 6-9, 9-5, 10-9, 10-9. As the scores suggest the games were very close and both players produced squash of the highest order.

The competition provided strength in depth with semi-finalists Lt Simon White (63 Sqn RCT Para) and Lt Mike Turner (RMCS) adding to what is looking like a strong Army Under-25 team for the forthcoming inter-Service competition.

WO1 Ray Surgeon (93 (PT)

RCZ) provided the opposition for Maj Robinson in the over-35 event and, although Surgeon fought well, Robinson won comfortably 9-2, 9-5, 9-6.

The veterans was won by Capt Robin Broad (17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT) in a match of contrasting styles. He beat Maj Dave Le Cheminant (HQ 1(BR) Corps) 9-10, 9-3, 3-9, 10-8, 9-1 in a long match. Le Cheminant had match balls in the fourth game but was eventually worn down by the

persistence of Broad who went on to win the fifth game comfortably.

The doubles again produced a lot of fun and a tight final was won by Sgt John Murphy (LI Depot) and Cpl Goodman (1/3 Trg Regt RE) who beat Capt John Wallis (1 Corps Tps Wksp) and WO2 Bill Sellars (REME Data Centre) 15-14, 15-14, 15-13.

Prizes were presented by the President of the ASRA, Lt Gen Sir Peter Beale, who thanked

the sponsors Leyland DAF for their support.

RESULTS

Open: Maj Robbie Robinson beat Sgt Pollard, 9-0, 9-3, 9-1; **Veterans:** Capt Broad beat Maj Le Cheminant, 9-10, 9-3, 5-9, 10-8, 9-1; **Over-35:** Maj Robbie Robinson beat WO1 Surgeon, 9-2, 9-5, 9-6; **Under-25:** Cfn Cotton beat LCpl Gallagher, 6-9, 9-3, 10-9, 10-9; **Doubles:** Sgt Murphy and Cpl Goodman beat Capt Wallis and WO2 Sellars, 15-14, 15-14, 15-13.

Classic plate: Cpl Clarke beat SSgt Easter, 9-5, 9-6, 9-4; **Second round plate:** Capt Hall beat LCpl Gallagher, 9-1, 3-9, 9-1, 9-5; **First round plate:** Cpl Courtney beat Capt Wallis, 6-9, 10-8, 9-2, 9-1; **Most promising player:** Lt White.

Schh... Look who's in the Cup Final!

ARMY rugby history was made at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, home of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, when they entertained Troops Hereford (you know who!) for a place in the 1992 Schweppes Army Major Units Cup Final, writes John Quin.

As an exercise in doing things correctly, 2 Queens did a superb job, getting almost everything right, including the weather.

The occasion was marvellous, perfect hospitality, a great atmosphere with the band playing, refreshments available, and even the arrival of the England captain, Will Carling adding to the day with speculation that he could be one of the visitors' replacements. He certainly conformed with the Hereford regimental haircut!

The game went to extra time, having ended the normal period with the score at three points each, and so the visitors won on the away rule.

Throughout the game, the spectators were treated to two distinct styles of play, the controlled teamwork of a young, enthusiastic Queens side, who had plenty of chances to make the game safe, and a team of 15 individuals who simply refused to lie down, soaking up everything that the home team threw at them.

Troops Hereford made it to the Army final on February 26 for the first time in their history, and for the amount of time they are able to get together for training, this was an outstanding achievement.

However, if they have any ideas of beating 7 Para RHA, those veterans of the Army Cup, who demolished 1 Para in the other semi-final, then the pilgrims from Hereford are going to have to be far more disciplined on the floor.

Good news for Army rugby is that McDonald's, the hamburger people, have confirmed their support of the game at unit and district levels. Several thousand pounds have been made available to Army Rugby Union central funds, but the real support is being arranged at grassroots level between clubs and units and their local McDonald's manager.

The fast food chain is anxious for rugby officers to make contact if they have not already done so.

such generous opponents in front of the posts.

As the commander of Troops Hereford left Canterbury in his staff vehicle, the type of which befits his position, his team were reflecting with their excellent hosts what was to come in this year's final.

As for 2 Queens, I don't think Army rugby has heard the last from this unit.

On the U-21 scene, the

Twickers tickets to be won

IN THE next issue look out for a simple competition to win a pair of free tickets to the Army-Navy game at Twickenham on March 21. There will be six chances to win a brace of tickets by answering three easy questions.

UKLF ski teams out in force

THIRTY-ONE Alpine and 15 Nordic teams, including seven from the Territorial Army and three junior units, took part in the inaugural UKLF ski championships at Champex-Lac, Switzerland.

In all, 280 skiers from the United Kingdom took over the entire village on a beautiful lake in the Canton of Valais.

Capt Tim Lai (1 R Irish) won the giant slalom ahead of Capt Piers Hankinson (17/21 L), and was runner up to Capt Piers Bishop (1 BW) in the downhill. Gnr Pearson (19 Fd Regt RA) won the slalom.

Overall champions were 17/21 L, who also won the Alpine trophy, with 2 RTR taking the Nordic honours.

The junior unit silverware went to JLRRA for the Alpine disciplines while the junior sappers won the Nordic.

Cpl Cassin (2 RTR) won the 15km Nordic and the military combination individual title.

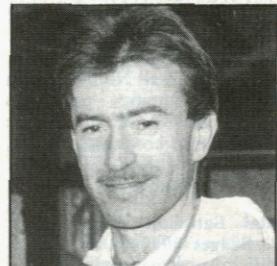
An exciting new talent in the form of 2nd Lt Peter Cooper emerged at the Royal Armoured Corps ski meeting at Verbier in Switzerland.

He pushed Army team captain Lt Alex Paine (QRIH) into second place in the slalom and should be a force at the Inter-Service championships.

But the RAC's hold on Cooper is short-lived. On attachment with 9/12 L, he is to train as a pilot in the AAC.

The 17th/21st swept the board in the team events, winning the slalom, giant slalom and super giant slalom.

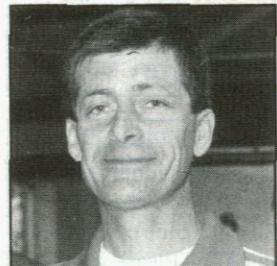
Wade sets the pace



Champ: SSgt Geoff Wade



Champ: WO2 Lyn Higgs



Champ: Capt Peter Marsh



Some of the 450-strong field in the senior race

Services feel the freeze

Football Association 1, Combined Services 1

SIG Paul Brown (R Signals) equalised after the FA had taken a first half lead at Ossett in North Yorkshire, but referee WO2 Peter Kitson (R Signals) played the biggest part.

He had no option but to abandon the game after 60 minutes when the ground froze.

London University 0, Army B 0

The Army "stiffs" chose a bitterly cold day for their annual fixture against London University. Although they played some entertaining football, the soldiers could not convert chances into goals.

ACC 3, AMS 1

The Army Catering Corps beat Army Medical Services 3-1 at Herford, with Ian Rawlings scoring two and teaming up well in midfield with Taff Rowlands.

Royal Artillery 2, The Infantry 3

The Infantry opened the scoring when LCpl Tony Thorne (R Hamps) outpaced the gunner defence after 16 minutes, but a hesitant Infantry defence allowed Bdr Mark Stoodley and Gnr Adrian Taylor to score from close range and put the Royal Artillery 2-1 ahead at half-time.

Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) equalised after 75 minutes and Thorne scored his second five minutes from time.

and there were about 100 each in the women's and youths' races.

BAOR took the major unit team honours with 1 PWO finishing ahead of 21 Signal Regt, while FOD Dulmen won the minor unit title for the sixth consecutive year. Depot Queens were second.

They, with eighth placed SSgt Mark Atwell (PCDRE) and Cpl Alan Spurden (Cdo Ord Sqn), the ninth man in, will carry the Army's hopes at the Inter-Services at RAF Halton.

Wade, Grant and Finch got their noses in front on the third lap and opened up a small gap on the next four. Wade eventually won in 31min 13sec, just 14 seconds ahead of Grant. Nearly 450 runners started,

in victory for defending champion WO2 Lyn Higgs (HQ BAOR), with LCpl Kelly Holmes (HQ York Garrison) second and QSGt Bradley (BMH Hannover) third. Bielefeld Garrison won the team race, followed by the WRAC Centre.

Pte Hammond of 1 Para won the junior title, with Pte Porter (ACC attached 94 Log Regt) second and Tpr Haywood of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment third. Chepstow and PMC Arborfield were first and second in the team race.

The youth team event was won by JIB Shorncliffe, for

whom JLdr Hammond and Clothier finished first and second. JLdr Roughley (Light Div Depot) was third.

FOD Dulmen, captained by WO1 (RSM) Steve Lonnens, played a major part in the RAOC's victory in the inaugural Inter-Corps championships. Eight of the ten RAOC runners were from Dulmen, and seven of the eight finished in scoring positions. The Infantry were second, followed by Signals, Sappers and APTC.

As a result of the positive response to this year's race, it is intended in future to hold the Inter-Corps as an independent event.

Army's young men found themselves at Portsmouth in the play-off with the Royal Navy for the U-21 Inter-Services 1992 title, having beaten the RAF by ten points to three, while the Navy had lost to the airmen by 15-19. The Navy U-21 side ran out winners in the end 21-3. For the last couple of seasons the U-21 winners have also been from the same Service as the senior champions. Is this an indicator for March?

Good news for Army rugby is that McDonald's, the hamburger people, have confirmed their support of the game at unit and district levels. Several thousand pounds have been made available to Army Rugby Union central funds, but the real support is being arranged at grassroots level between clubs and units and their local McDonald's manager.

The fast food chain is anxious for rugby officers to make contact if they have not already done so.

Army hold off bold RAF

THE ARMY remain on course for a ninth successive Inter-Service team boxing championship after suppressing a rousing challenge by the revitalised Royal Air Force at RAF Halton, writes John Elliott.

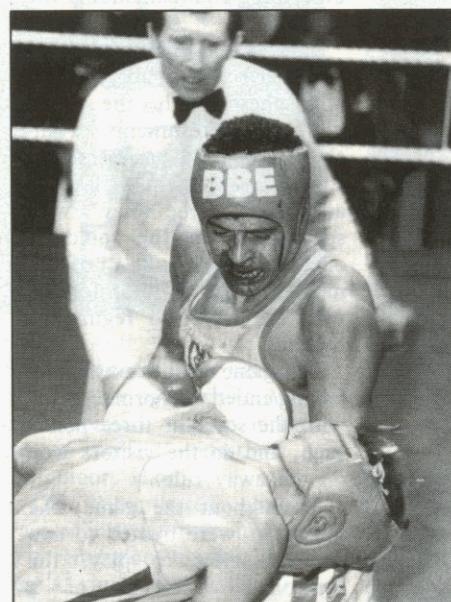
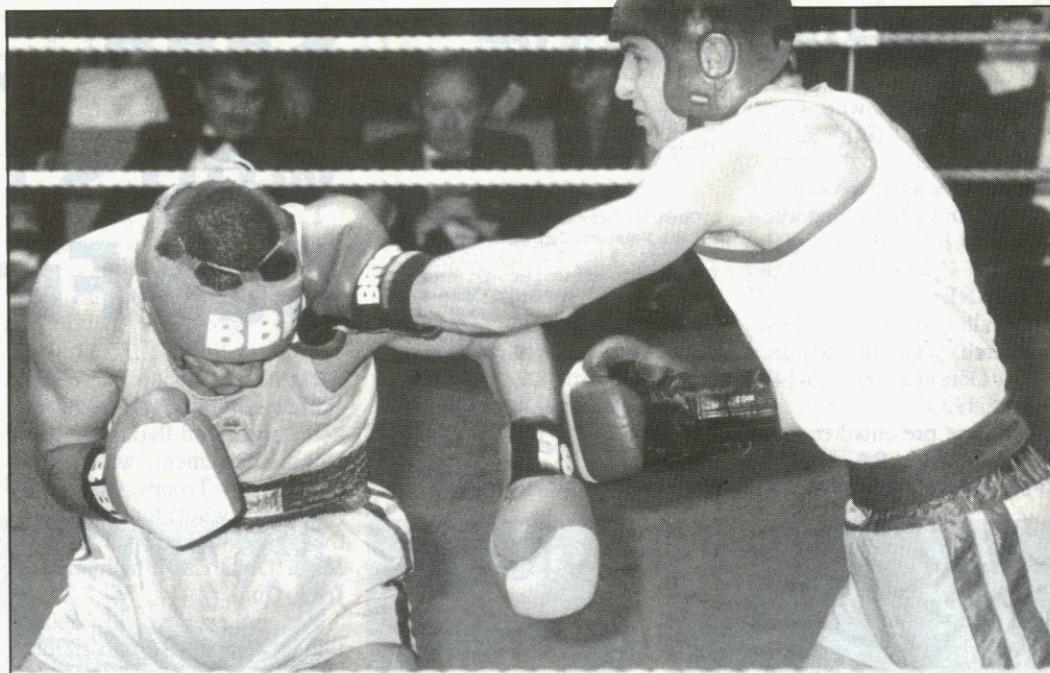
But the contest was very much in the balance at three bouts all when light middle-weight LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings) was flattened by St Athan-based Cpl Sean Pepperall.

With perhaps the whole championship resting on his shoulders, the relatively inexperienced Kingsman got off his backside and counter-attacked so effectively that the referee had to step in at the end of round two to save an exhausted Pepperall from further punishment.

Ollerhead's win made the match score 4-3 to the Army, and with England squad colleagues LCpl Lee Innes (57 Tg Sqn, 3 Tg Regt RE) and LSgt Dave Abbott (Gren Gds) to follow, the soldiers had at last got their noses in front.

Innes earned a unanimous points win over SAC Jerry Brown despite being chopped down by a left hook in the second. That indignity sharpened up the talented sapper, who proceeded to take all the sting out of Brown with a series of venomous rights.

Halton favourite AC John Gosling, one to watch when the ABA campaign gets under way, brought the match score back to 5-4 with a unanimous, although far from one-sided, points win over novice cham-



pion Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para).

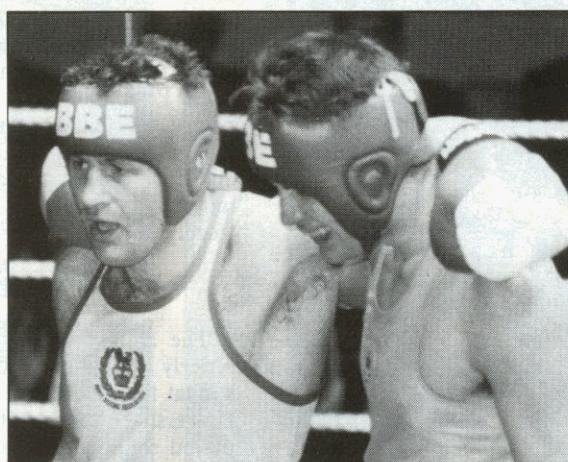
That left it up to the big men, with heavyweight Dave Abbott having to overcome both Guttersloh-based Sgt Paul Fiske and deafening home support – a reward in itself for a spirited and highly motivated RAF team performance.

The England man kept his nerve, hurt Fiske with two crunching right hooks in the second, and just about kept control in a final crescendo of non-stop action and noise.

His points win gave the Army victory by six bouts to four, and a huge incentive to defeat the Royal Navy at Aldershot on February 13.

The RAF, on a high after beating the Navy for the first time in 18 years, dashed into an early lead against the champions. AC Darren Fox was too strong for Pte Darren Dugan (1

Above: LCpl Jeff Ollerhead (right) lands a telling left to the head of Cpl Sean Pepperall
Left: LCpl Lee Innes gets on top against SAC Jerry Brown
Below: Glad it's all over. Heavyweights LSgt Dave Abbott (left) and SAC Paul Fiske



R Hamps), and bantamweight LAC Owen Spensley was given a split decision over Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF), a verdict which appeared to hinge on one knock-down in the first round and might well have gone the other way.

Bielefeld-based England featherweight Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Regt RCT) was simply too skilful for the confused SAC Colin McAuley and hardly broke sweat in accumulating a points win.

LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) outscored JTec Darren Rudd by the length of a runway but had to settle for a majority decision. How one judge saw Rudd as the winner defies explanation.

Spr Tom Winspear (36 Engr Regt), one of three 17-year-olds in WO2 Mick Gannon's team, put up a tremendous perform-

ance against the irrepressible Cpl Ritchie "Boom Boom" Goodsell, whose non-stop aggression earned him a unanimous win.

Former NABC champion Dvr Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) opened the second half of the bill with a two-round destruction of SAC Nigel Ellis. Once Bessey found the range with his left the result was never in doubt, the airman failing to beat the count after two jolting hooks midway through the round.

Flyweight – Pte D Dugan lost to AC D Fox, rsc 2; **bantam** – Fus D Duncan lost to LAC O Spensley, pts m; **feather** – Cpl N McCallum beat SAC C McAuley, pts u; **light** – LCpl J Rajcoomar beat JTec D Rudd, pts m; **light-welter** – Spr T Winspear lost to Cpl R Goodsell, pts u; **welter** – Dvr C Bessey beat SAC N Ellis, ftbc 2; **light-middle** – LCpl J Ollerhead beat Cpl S Pepperall, rsc 2; **middle** – LCpl L Innes beat SAC J Brown, pts u; **light-heavy** – Pte P Treslove lost to AC J Gosling, pts u; **heavy** – LSgt D Abbott beat SAC P Fiske, pts u.

The Champ is back.



Remember the famous RS Escorts?

In the '70s they won so many rallies and races they became a legend in their own laptime.

Enter today's upholder of that proud heritage, the new Escort RS2000.

It has a new 2-litre DOHC 16-valve 150 PS engine, accommodated by twin bonnet power bulges and cooled via a front spoiler air intake.

It has powerful, four beam headlights and integral front fog lamps to punch through the darkness.

It stands poised on polished alloy wheels with extra low profile tyres.

It has a highly tuned sports suspension, so you can expect handling of the highest order.

Autocar & Motor were so impressed they said "the RS2000 feels taut and consistent, and grips extremely well..."

It's also the first car to benefit from Ford's all

Tax Free Sales.

synchromesh advanced 5-speed MTX 75 transmission.

The result is a slicker, smoother gearchange.

Inside, the new RS2000 boasts equipment levels to match its performance.

ABS, power-steering, electric front windows, a Quickclear heated windscreen, a slide/tilt sunroof and central locking are all standard.

You'll also find a variable reach sports steering wheel and Recaro seats, with the driver's side adjustable for height and tilt.

To conclude, Autocar & Motor said of the RS2000 "as for the competition, they should be worried."

If you'd like to hear more about Ford's new champion, contact your local Ford UK dealer, Naafi car showrooms, Germany, Naafi of Nottingham, Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset; or call the Ford Tax Free Sales office on 251429 (code from Germany: 00 44 277, from Netherlands: 09 44 277, from UK: 0277).



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Capt Tim Lai, R Irish, weaves his way past a gate at Val d'Isère during the Infantry ski championships. He won the slalom and giant slalom events. More skiing reports in the sports pages.