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20 APRIL 1987

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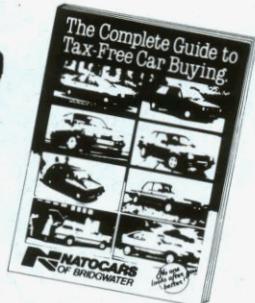
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FRONT COVER: Maj Gen Tony Boam, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, meets the wives of newly-commissioned officers of the 7th Gurkha Rifles at Seria, Brunei. See Far East special section starting on Page 21.

Picture: Terry Champion

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Men of 658 Squadron Army Air Corps don NBC suits during an exercise on Salisbury Plain. Read more about the squadron in the next issue.

PLUS

- Royal Engineers Junior Leaders' Regiment at Old Park Barracks, Dover.
- The ladies who are learning to be bomb disposal experts with 591 EOD Squadron (V) at Greenhithe, Kent.
- The mystery of Capt Albert Ball, violin-playing VC and loner.

LETTERS

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

HOAY off to Devon

SOLDIER's £50 cheque for HOAY No 407 is off to Tiverton, Devon, to Mr K A Smith of Lakelands Drive, Witheridge. A cheque for £50 could soon be on its way to you if you can spot HOAY's ten differences in this issue's competition on Page 43.

REUNIONS

• 138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association annual reunion will be on April 27 at The Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2. Details from Frank H Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex TW5 0PW.

• The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards Past and Present Association. Reunion weekend in York May 16/17. Details from HHQ 4/7 RDG, 3 Tower Street, York.

CALL SIGNS

• Diane Rodell of 6 Bowling Green Road, Cranfield, Beds MK43 0ET, is anxious to trace information about her maternal grandfather, Albert Joseph Moffatt from Montreal, who was in the Canadian Army during the First World War.

TA stabs at Regular Army were 'misguided'

Pte Bennett should stop whining (SOLDIER, February 23). I found his letter most offensive in its misguided 'stabs' at the Regular Army.

I signed along the dotted line ten years ago as a 16-year-old, to be a Regular soldier, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I don't worry about a roof over my head as he put it, because my job comes with a house/flat etc. Does Pte Bennett and any TA soldier deny us that?

He also said that he does not have guarantees in civilian life as a TA soldier unlike the Regulars. Whose fault is that?

There will always be two armies as far as I'm concerned; nothing will change that.

You will never achieve the same status as a Regular. How could any civilian know without serving as a Regular soldier what the Army is all about? We live and breathe Army 24 hours a day. That in itself can be a strain, especially with tours of N Ireland, Falklands and Belize etc.

This is always a stressful time for our wives, children and families but we don't whine; we get on with it because it's our job.

If we or anybody doesn't like it then 'get out'. So Pte Bennett, don't tell us, the Regular Army, of your woes - we have our own.

The defence of our country does rely on us working together but just remember who guarantees that 24 hours a day, seven days a week - the Regular Forces. - 24441673
Cpl D A Tibbles, 3rd Battalion The Queens Regt, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

Let's form own TA association

We have never been honoured with our own association for ex- or retired Territorials.

There is no unit within the Regular Army that has not had the service of a Territorial soldier. There is no unit in the Army in which a Territorial has not served.

Wherever I have been I always meet men who are willing to say to me "I was a Territorial." Our country has every reason to be very proud of the Territorial Army soldier. I believe we could have our

own association if sufficient called for it? We could even form it among ourselves and I am sure that our membership, as with the Royal British Legion, would stretch far overseas.

I would be willing to work for it to help the setting up. I am sure we have many very proud ex-Territorial officers, NCOs and men who may also think my way. - Arthur C Bennet, ex-TA, 15 Pennington Road, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset BH22 0JQ.

STAR SIGN

WO2 F W Hammett's letter has been chosen as SOLDIER's star letter for this issue of the magazine, and he will receive a recently published book as his prize. Do you have something interesting to say? Tell SOLDIER and you could be the next star.

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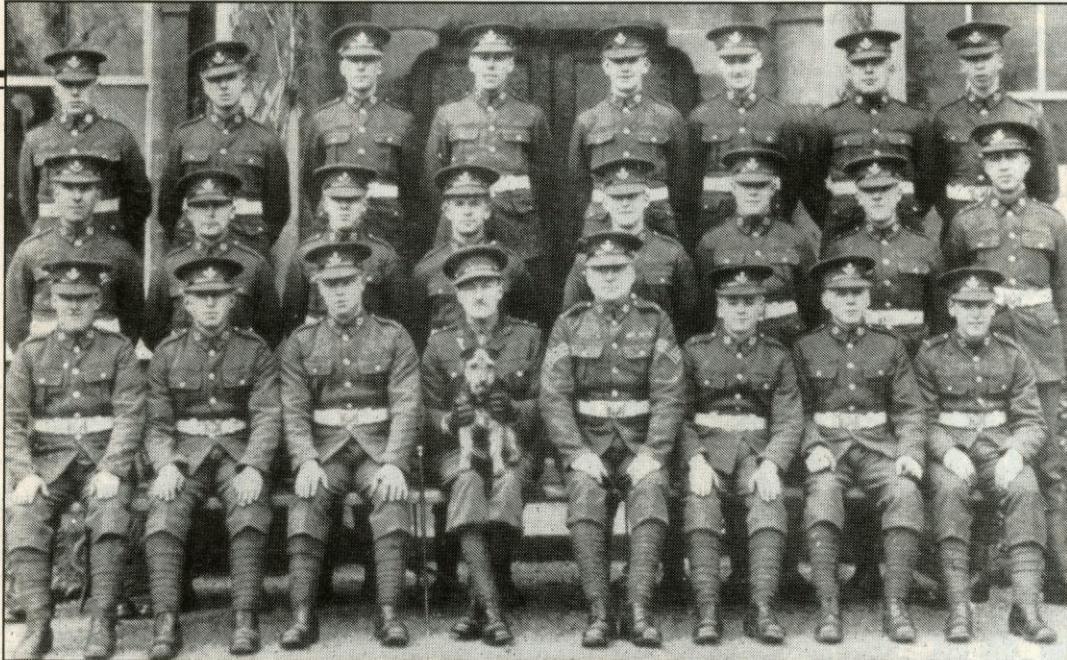
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Tick items of main interest: FIESTA ORION SIERRA
ESCORT GRANADA CAPRI

INVICTA EXPORT



WHAT BECAME OF THEM?

The year - 1929. The place - Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury. The people - a batch of recruits to The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Numbers 4031318 to 4031340, to be precise. With a few additions, 3958151 Williams, 3522312 Farrell and 4031120 Ward, former Terriers. The officer is Lt W A Grey, the sergeant Joe Davis. Lawrence Pasco (later Captain), now living in Durban, South Africa, was 4031322. What became of the others wonders Capt Pasco?

A long wait at the bar!

I am a serving soldier in the Light Infantry, having served over 30 years' pensionable time.

Wife drew SA80 bayonet cartoon

Quite by accident when taking tea in the APTC Officers' Mess, Aldershot, I saw a familiar cartoon from the past (SOLDIER, January 26) under the caption "SA80 Bayonet Unveiled."

The original idea was mine and my wife Marion was the artist. I believe I was working in GS(OR)5 at the time and the

cartoon bayonet was used in an MOD presentation about delays in bringing new equipment into service.

At the time various arms of the Service were asking for modifications on the proposed bayonet for SA80! - Maj (Retd) P H J Wilcocks, Bell House, Wigmore, Beare Green, Surrey RH5 4PU.

Tattoo tribulation

Many of the Tattoos have gone. The Aldershot Army Display 1986 was suddenly axed. Now the Military Musical Pageant is scrapped. Surely we could have been asked to pay more to cover any financial losses. The soldiers seemed to enjoy these

events as much as the public. Now - 'take your pop music and like it' - there's nothing else except to sit back and enjoy your LPs. - A R Blake, 17 Shears Green Court, Haynes Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 7JR.



Bluecaps faded away

At the outbreak of the Second World War the concentration area for my division prior to the British Expeditionary Force was at Marlborough. Besides the Military Police "Redcaps" we were policed by motor cyclists wearing blue caps. I cannot recall seeing any "Bluecaps" since. Who were they? - K Russell, 26 Shoreham Way, Bramley BR2 7PU.

● The "Bluecaps" were a volunteer force known as RMP (VP), raised to help out the CRMP in their increased war-time duties. They consisted of AI men over 37 years old and young men of lower medical categories. In addition a number of Redcaps and Traffic Control Police of low medical category were transferred to the Bluecaps.

They were used to guard vital points - ammunition dumps, docks, and so on. While on duty they had the full authority of Military Police in the area under their charge, but were not normally called upon to deal with military crime.

With the end of the war, these duties rapidly decreased and the ranks of the Bluecaps were allowed to dwindle. Today they are no more. - Editor

Badge poser

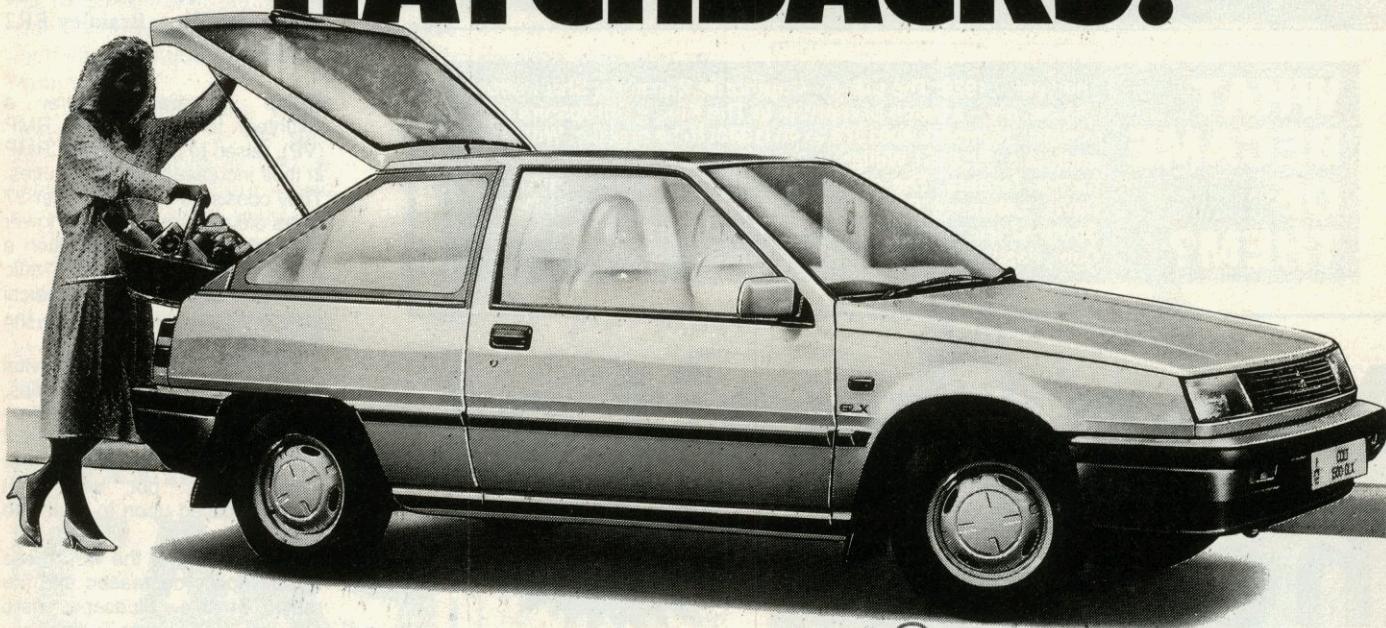
In my small collection of cap badges, I have one which I am unable to identify.

The brass badge is a five-pointed star; each point superimposed by what appears to be a .303 round. In between the points appear the following emblems: a rose, three leafed clover, thistle, leek and one which appears to be a grenade.

The centre of the star has a circle with the motto: "QUINQUE JUNCTA IN UNO - 1916" which surrounds the letters G M P interlaced and a small imperial crown in the centre of the top of the M.

I wonder if any SOLDIER reader can help me with its identification? - G C Hogben, Unit 2, 6-10 Levuka Street, Seaford, Victoria, Australia.

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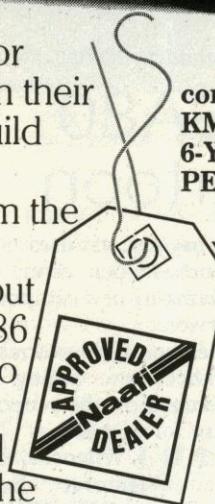
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For example, when 'What Car?' magazine put the popular Colt 1500GLX to the test in August 1986 it was voted the Number One Hatchback out of no less than 80 models tested.

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One pace forward . . . please!

RSM Les Winters, Coldstream Guards, is looking for volunteers! So get fell in sharpish if you are handy with a pace stick – whoever you are, writes **Graham Smith**.

Your country and the honour of the Army needs you in the face of possible stiff overseas opposition . . . at the world pace stick championships in July.

The Guards Depot, Pirbright, hopes that Nato armies will be encouraged to send in their most formidable exponents of the art. Even the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy have been canvassed to field their best.

The depot has just held its inter-regimental competition.

RSM Winter says: "It provides a proving ground for young lance sergeants

and, at the same time, revises the sergeants in their drill and pace stick capabilities."

Do other Nato nations, then, have pace sticks or the like?

"Other armies do carry bits of wood under their arm," snorted the RSM, "but we can really show 'em how to use pace sticks!"

In June the doyens of the depot sally forth again in contest with the Royal Military Academy and, hardly drawing breath from that, venture on to the world championships on July 17.

So, you heard what the RSM said! Get fell in with pace stick! Please! You can contact RSM Winter at the Guards Depot, Alexander Barracks, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0DT.



New splint developed by team at Woolwich

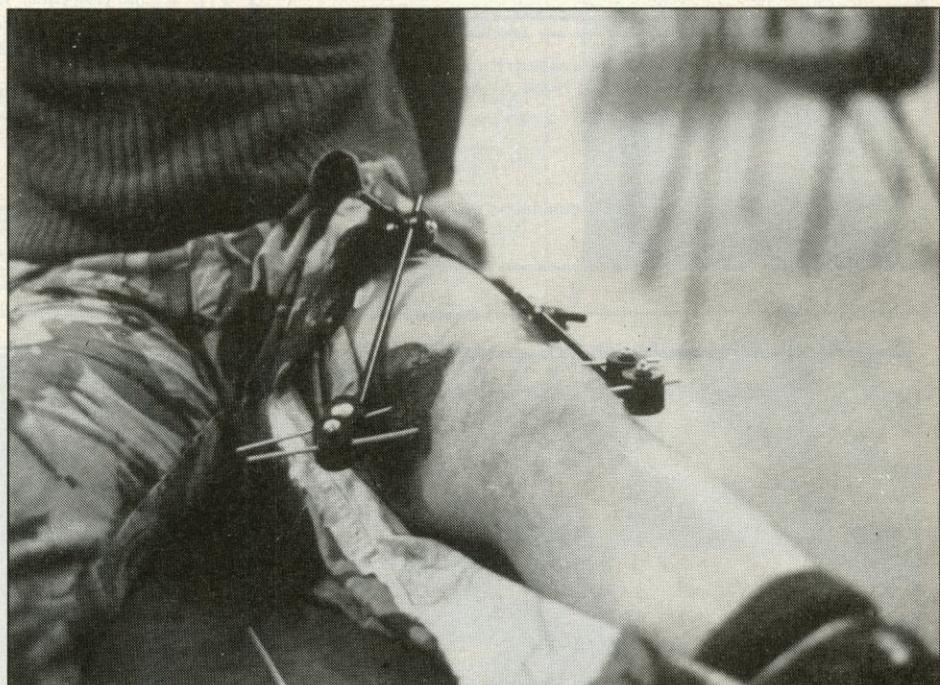
A BIO engineering team based at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich has developed a new kind of splint which seems set to revolutionise the management of broken legs in war. The concept is not new, but its conversion to field use has required long and careful research.

A spokesman for the project at Woolwich said: "This has been a joint effort of RAMC, REME and other cap badges. Our job was to make it lighter, cheaper, expendable and robust."

The system works by immobilising the bone above and below the break using steel pins rigidly bridged together. The technique is simple, only one spanner-cum-brace is used, and it can be applied in about ten minutes by surgeons and paramedical technicians.

Advantages over the old plaster of Paris or Thomas splint are enormous – free access to dress the wound, firm rigidity reducing pain and the need for painkillers thus allowing mobility on crutches rather than stretcher.

Not the least important consideration these days is that the research team has managed to reduce costs to around £50 per splint.



The splint demonstrated on a combat medical technician of 5 Armoured Field Ambulance. Applied simply and quickly, the system works by immobilising the bone above and below the break using steel pins bridged together

Keystone test for Ptarmigan

BRITAIN'S biggest Army division, the 2nd Infantry Division, will be flexing its muscles as part of 1 (BR) Corps during Exercise Keystone in October when 18,000 troops travel to Germany.

Units of the 2nd Infantry Division, which has its headquarters in York, will take part in the exercise alongside a further 15,000 troops from the Continent, including a German Territorial Army Brigade and Dutch anti-aircraft units.

Exercise Keystone will be the first field training exercise to use the new Ptarmigan communications system and Wavell battlefield computer.

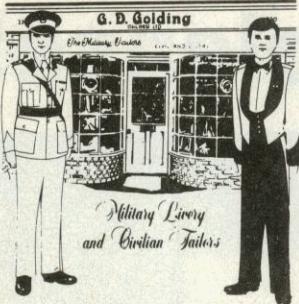
Javelin battery moves to Thorney

SETTLED in at their new home on Thorney Island near Portsmouth are the men of the 129-strong 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyds Company) RA, the Regular Army's sole UK-based Javelin battery.

Based at Bulford since the end of 1981, the battery was part of 94 Locating Regiment, RA, with three roles in support of the UKMF's 1 Infantry Brigade, 19 Bde (Colchester) and 24 Bde (Catterick). The latter two have BAOR reinforcement roles.

The battery converted from Blowpipe to the shoulder-launched Javelin air defence system a year ago.

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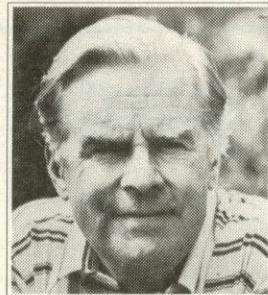
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Six nations on Ardent Ground

SIX nations are providing ground forces for Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force's annual live firing exercise Ardent Ground over two weeks on Salisbury Plain.

Artillery batteries, mortar platoons and forward air control teams will be fielded by Belgium, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the USA and the UK. Air elements will be injected during exercise play by Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the USA and the UK.

Fighting men will be deployed to the UK for the exercise by air, train, road and sea. Ardent Ground is under the command of Lt Col Mike Smythe, Commander Force Artillery.

Girl cooks third

FOR the first time ever, an all-female team has taken part in the annual TA field cookery competition. The three girls, Cpl Amanda Hopgood, Pte Julie Sansom and Pte Mary Strode, were from 233 Sqn, RCT (V) based in Southampton and they were in competition with eight other teams. Their team finished third.

Teams taking part included: 245 Ambulance Sqn, RCT, from Bristol; 232 Sqn, RCT, Plymouth who came second; 6 Bn LI from Truro; eventual winners 219 (Wessex) Fd Hosp, RAMC, Keynsham; 211 Fd Hos, RAMC, Plymouth and 1 Bn The Wessex Regt in three teams drawing personnel from Bristol, Swindon, Bournemouth, Poole, Exeter, Plymouth, Gloucester and Devizes.

Rheindahlen blast

A TERRORIST bomb blast which caused havoc among the participants of the Northag Ladies Guest Night at Joint HQ Rheindahlen, resulted in 31 casualties - 27 German and four British.

Seven people - including one British dependant - were detained initially in the nearby RAF Wegberg hospital but three were soon released. None was seriously injured.

MOBB



Paras in training for the long, long march in aid of the NSPCC

Paras in forced march record bid

BATTLE proven paras, mostly veterans of the Falklands campaign, are making a bid for the record books by marching 1,200 miles in a non-stop relay from Inverness to Aldershot in just ten days.

Eight men are taking it in ten-mile turns to march around the clock carrying a 351b bergen and are hoping to raise several thousands of pounds for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and the British Heart Foundation.

Giving up their Easter leave and averaging 120 miles between them each day, the paras have got the sponsorship and support of car manufacturers SEAT for their marathon forced march between Cameron Barracks in Inverness and Depot Paras, Aldershot.

They will march through 85 towns, down the east coast and westwards along the Channel coast before cutting in to Aldershot.

The march is the brainchild of LCpl Phil Clegg who told SOLDIER: "Home is where the heart is and I decided that not enough was being done to help worthwhile charities here in the UK. We are looking forward to it for the sheer challenge."

Lt Col Tim Marsh, CO Depot Para, said: "This is typical of the spirit of the Parachute Regiment and the lads are determined to crack it. This is very much their own project and they have done all the work themselves."

Kneller Hall reprieve

THE Army's Kneller Hall School of Music has been reprieved. And that is official, ending on a happy note months of speculation which had centred round a centralised location at Deal, Kent.

The good news was announced by Mr Roger Freeman in a written reply in the House of Commons.

by Mouse



Gone West



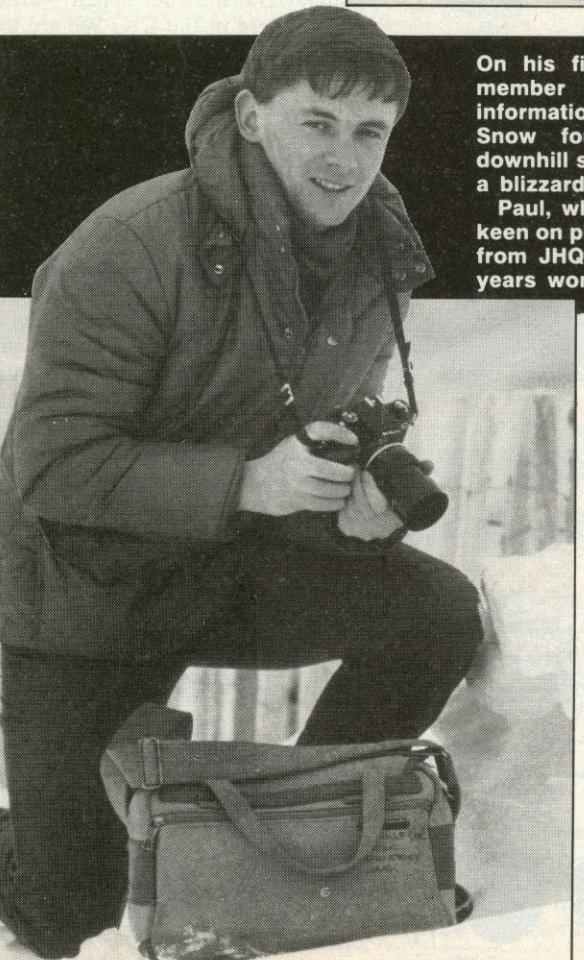
New commander of 43 Infantry Brigade and Western Garrison, based in Exeter is Brig Charles Barnes (pictured above). He was born in Penang, Malaysia, and commissioned into The Suffolk Regiment in 1956.

YORKED!

In the last issue we wrongly described Sgt Maj Mick Kinane as the Catterick Garrison Sergeant Major and spelt his name wrong. Mick, who is based at York, received his MSM on St Patrick's Day. Not so much a gremlin at work, more like a leprechaun...



Picture: LA(Phot) Jan Brayley, RN



On his first photographic assignment as a member of the Wilton-based UKLF public information team, the aptly-named Cpl David Snow found himself covering the Army downhill skiing championship at Aviemore – in a blizzard!

Paul, who is in the RAOC, has always been keen on photography and was posted to Wilton from JHQ Rheindahlen where he spent three years working in the graphics department.



Old foe found

George Williams (above left) and Werner Busch were reunited in West Germany 40 years after they last saw each other as friend and foe in the village of Tywyn, Wales, where Werner had been dubbed "the friendliest prisoner of war". George, who now lives in Aberdovey, never forgot the young U-Boat radio operator and was determined to return his medals.

George's son, Capt Clive Williams, RMP, serving with 110 Provost Company at Rheindahlen, Germany,

Picture: Paul Haley

Bull's-eye

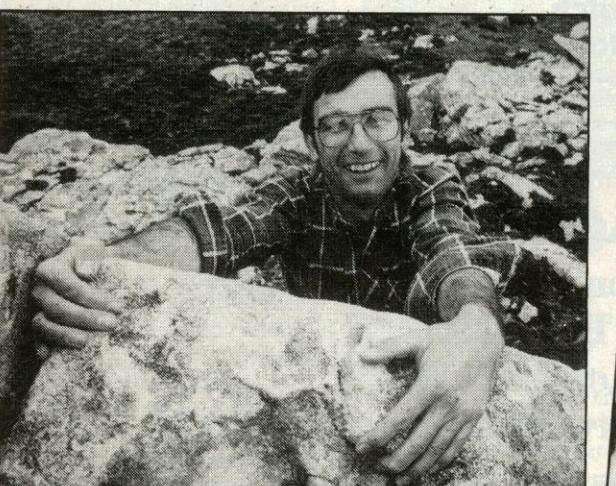
Frank Turner (kneeling), who has just left the Army, returned with his former colleagues from 206 Coy RPC and HQ Engr Resources, Long Marston near Stratford upon Avon, to present a cheque to the Marie Corelli School, Stratford. Darts star Eric Bristow helped the Pioneers raise the money which was split between the school and the Army Benevolent Fund. Also in the picture are Capt Derek Graham, Pte Daryl White, Pte Gary Meldrum and LCpl Mark Spooner.



YOUR SERVANT, SIR!

Bdr Lou Biggs, for the past 16 years steward of the officers' mess at 210 (Staffordshire) Air Defence Battery at Wolseley House, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, was "dined out" by the officers on his retirement.

PEOPLE



WO Paul Munchenbach (pictured above), a physical training instructor, has found that his job in the Falkland Islands regularly takes him to new heights. He is currently the chief instructor at the Joint Service Adventure Training Centre on West Falkland.

Servicemen from the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy who are guarding the islands can visit the centre to enjoy a variety of sports and other activities, including canoeing and rock climbing. Paul will return to the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot when he completes his South Atlantic tour.



Paul's on the ascent

ICE TRY!

LCpl Mark Greenwood obviously wishes he hadn't volunteered to try out a new treatment at Queen Elizabeth Military

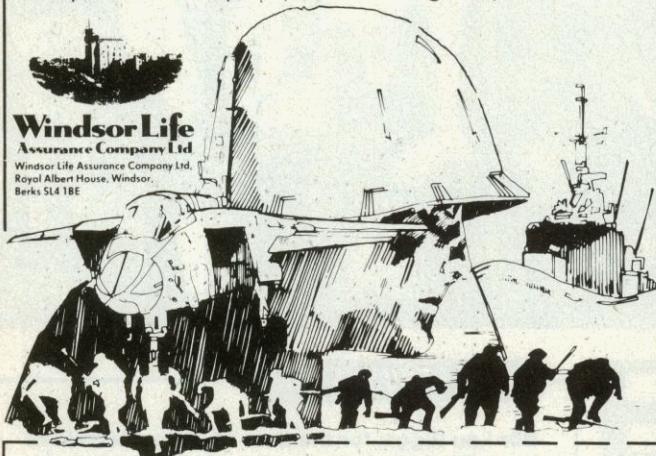
Hospital, Woolwich. It involved dropping ice – from a machine supplied to the ward by Bielefeld Flower Club, BAOR – down the

patient's back to make his legs better. The treatment didn't work, but the ward

staff obviously enjoyed administering it!

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Soldier's best friend to be remembered

Mechanisation has, of course, almost entirely taken over from animals in today's Army, although man's best friend still gives valuable service in guarding establishments and sniffing out explosives.

But, except to the men who served with them, the millions of horses which were sacrificed in the horror of the First World War are probably now either unknown or forgotten.

Few memorials were raised to commemorate the dumb and willing service not only of horses, but also of dogs and pigeons which served as wartime messengers.

Mrs Kim Dopheide, who is membership secretary of the Western Front Association, had her interest in the subject kindled by the memory of a sketch by war artist Matania of a horse dying among the ruins of a war-torn village.

Now she has decided that something should be done to honour the memory of those sacrificed animals, something to help their living descendants. She has opened a fund to help the Royal Veterinary College in London, which is in the process of expanding its service to all kinds of animals, and hopes to raise enough money to build an operating theatre or other facility.

Donations can be sent to her at 47 Hawthorne Ave, Liverpool L26 9XB, marking the envelope RVC Fund, with cheques payable to The Royal Veterinary College.

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

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Dangerous work for horses in France during the First World War

Mess tins returned

Cpl John Volkwyn's mess tins were "missing, presumed destroyed" for 45 years after he lost them at the battle of El Alamein during the Second World War. But now, after they have travelled many thousands of miles, he has them back again.

Cpl Volkwyn, a South African, scratched his name and Army number on the tins with his bayonet while serving in North Africa. They were found by an Australian soldier from Putney in New South Wales, who eventually took them home with him.

Clearing his house recently, he came across the tins and sent them to the Australian War Museum in Canberra, who passed them to the South African War Museum, and the South African Legion reunited them with Mr Volkwyn.

PHOTO DEADLINE

Budding David Baileys should by now be well into their stride for the 1987 Army Photographic Competition. There are only 19 more snapping weeks to the deadline.

Anyone who is interested in photography is encouraged to enter the competition, not just those who are on full-time photographic duties.

And there are categories catering for virtually everything, from pictures of adven-

turous training and sport to a portfolio of six monochrome or colour photographs. Even Army dependants can enter, with photographs illustrating an aspect of Service family life.

The competition, sponsored by the Director of Public Relations (Army), is run by HQ UKLF. Further details can be obtained from Unit Press Officers, or Public Information Officers in districts or divisions.



Long wait for medals

Forty years after the Second World War ended, many old soldiers are waiting for their campaign medals.

The reason is that they did not claim them until anniversaries of the war in 1984 and 1985 caused greatly increased public interest and prompted the veterans to write for their medals.

The wait is at present between 12 and 16 months, Armed Forces US of S Mr Roger Freeman has told the Commons.

Briefly . . .

● South Africa's Defence Force has decided that professional male ballet dancers can be excused conscription. Army training is said to be detrimental to a dancer's career. "The kind of training done in the army is harmful to muscles in that it can develop them in the wrong way," a ballet artistic director is quoted as saying.

● Homosexuals within the Dutch Armed Forces are reported to have their own organisation to protect their interests, ensuring they are not discriminated against when seeking promotion.

● Complaining about the slimming down of bands and "dithering" over Kneller Hall, a so-called Army Deep Throat is alleged to have told a national newspaper: "Standards are definitely suffering, and the top brass should jolly well leave it to the musical people to sort out." So it's the brass in trouble again!

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Your chance to see them

YOUR chance to see the Historic Aircraft Flight this summer:
April 26 – Old Warden, Beds (home of the Shuttleworth Collection).
June 5-7 – Biggin Hill.
June 20 – RAF Halton, Bucks, Air Day.

June 21 – White Waltham, near Maidenhead, Berks, Open Day.
June 26-28 – North Weald Fighter Meet.
July 17-19 – Fairford, Glos, Air Tattoo.
July 26 – Old Warden, Beds.
Sept 20 – Biggin Hill (Cranfield Grand Prix).

HISTORY ON A WING AND A BLADE

THREE veteran Army Air Corps aircraft have been flying together in gentle formation now for seven years at shows within a 100-mile radius of their Middle Wallop base. Boldly, they plan to stay together, spares permitting, for another 18 years.

Recognised officially as an Historic Flight in September 1980 by the Army Board, the three – a Skeeter (the first general Army helicopter), an Augusta Bell 47G-3B Sioux helicopter, and a fixed-wing Auster AOP 9 – are limited to 25 hours' annual flying out of

deference to their advanced age.

Nevertheless, this year the three aircraft – a Scout may initially "stand in" for the Skeeter pending the acquisition of spares – will be giving 15-minute displays at nine prestigious air shows during a six-month season which starts at the end of this month.

Supporting the veterans at some shows this summer will be a pair of fixed-wing Beavers, a Lynx and a Gazelle.

Future plans, it is understood, for the flight may incorporate a Cyprus-based Alouette 11 when it retires from active service.

Spares for the flight present no great problem at the moment though those for the 28-year-old Skeeter AOP 12 XL 814 could become scarce.

Team manager and admin officer, Maj Tony Markham, OC Middle Wallop's Lynx simulator, who has accrued 6,000 hours on eight helicopter types, is confident spares can be found and personally knows where one hoard from nine Skeeters is kept in a garage "somewhere in West Germany" – part of a disposal sale when the type went out of operational service in 1967.

"We are always open to negotiations for spares", said Maj Markham. "Our present problem is that the Skeeter rotor blades are of an old type construction of timber spar and fabric covering which is subject to rotting and delamination. These can be covered and recovered only so many times."

An engineering firm from Wiltshire has come up with piston rings for the Skeeter and the German source with more blades and an engine.

The Skeeter may be ready to fly in late summer.

The three pilots and other flying aficionados who clamber into the machines to fly for the

joy of it in kindly manoeuvres do so for no extra pay.

Pilot of the Skeeter will be either Lt Col Mike Wawn, Middle Wallop's Chief Flying Instructor, or Maj Jason Duncan, the Standards Officer.

The Sioux will be flown by SSgt Al Gwilt of 670 Advanced Rotary Section. He has

accumulated 1,600 hours on four types of helicopter including 60 on the Sioux itself.

The Auster will be flown by Middle Wallop Officers' Mess manager, Lt Col (retd) Peter Shield.

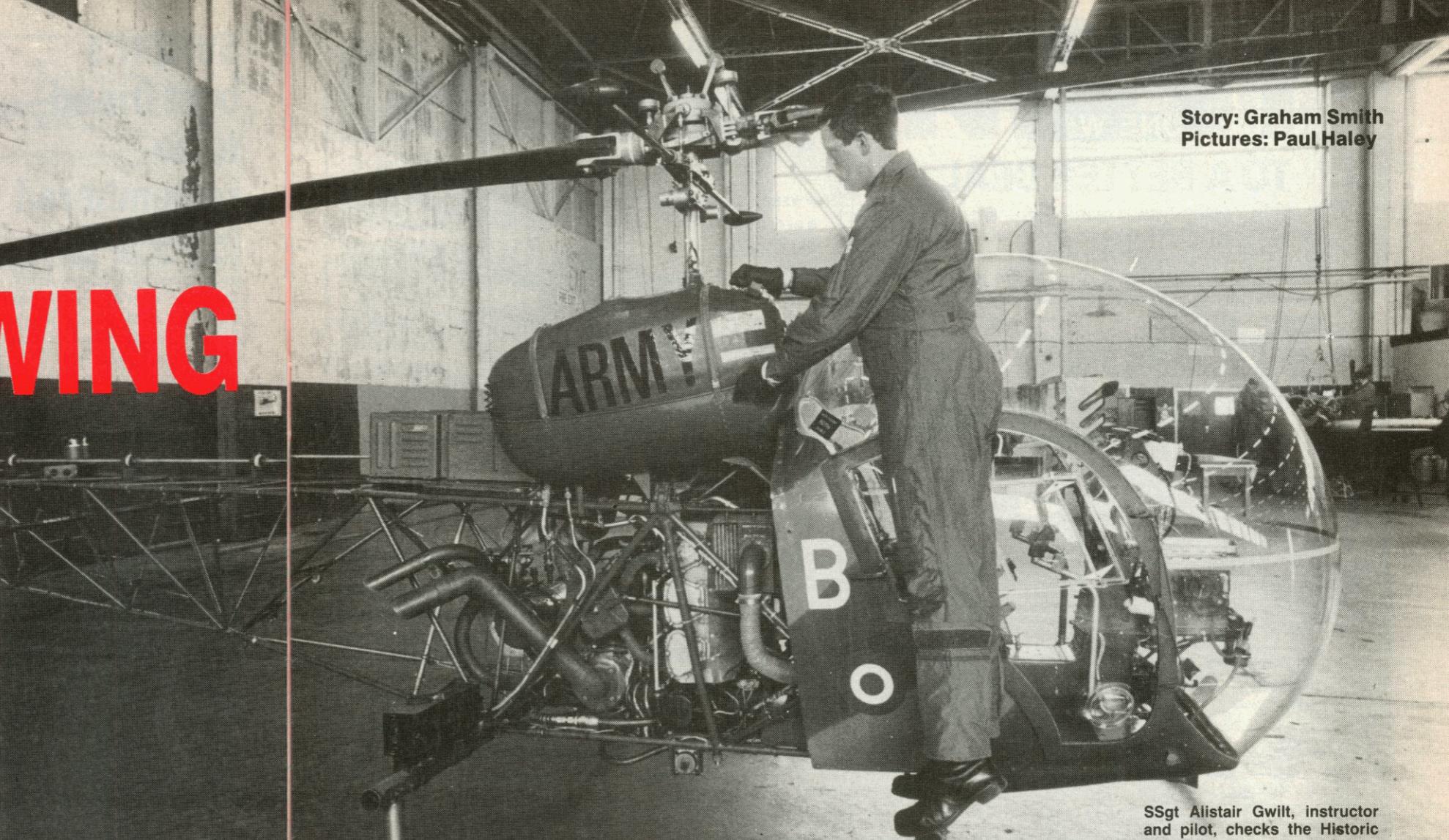
The rest of the 1987 display team comprises Lt Dave Pike, SSgts Paul Stanton, Bob Hall,

Chris Naylor, Sqn Ldr (retd) Reg Crumpton and Flt Lt Russ Braithwaite.

All of which points to a lot of delightful show flying in prospect until the year 2005!

At the end of their flying lives each aircraft will become an exhibit in Middle Wallop's Museum of Army Flying.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley



SSgt Alistair Gwilt, instructor and pilot, checks the Historic Aircraft Flight's Sioux helicopter



The Skeeter which began its service life 28 years ago



Lt Dave Pike (front left) and Maj Tony Markham with members of the team and their historic aircraft

FLIGHT FACTS

SKEETER AOP 12 XL 814: Built 1959. Served from 1960 with 651 Light Aircraft Squadron. Then served with 2 Wing AAC in October 1964. Allocated to 1 Wing AAC, BAOR, in July 1965 after modifications. Retired to 71 MU in July 1968. Transferred to Middle Wallop with XL 813 which went into Museum of Army Flying. In December 1968, XL 814 was allocated to the then unofficial Historic Aircraft Flight and operated by the Demonstration and Trials Flight at the AAC Centre.

AGUSTA-BELL 47G-3 SIOUX AH 1 XT 131: Built in Italy 1964. Assembled at Yeovil. Allocated AAC Centre in July 1964 and then used for training for 13 years. In November 1977, shortly before the type was replaced by the Gazelle, it was transferred to the Demonstration and Trials Squadron for three years. Sioux allocated to HAF in 1980.

AUSTER AOP 9 XR 244: Built 1961 as ninth of last batch of 16 AOP 9s for the Army. Delivered to AAC Centre Feb 1, 1962, as training aircraft. During the 1970s was used for pilot training and air experience for FOCs by Advanced Fixed Wing Flight.



Mr Jerry Dixon, a Bristow Helicopters mechanic, at work on the old Auster AOP 9



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DOGGONE IT!

REME band puts guide dogs to music test

THE Berkshire-based 35-strong REME staff band always has a crammed-full engagement calendar under its Director of Music, Capt Cliff Ross. Yet this busy band also finds the time to help the nation's blind, writes Graham Smith.

Over the past decade the REME staff band, domiciled at Arborfield, has willingly turned out on its parade ground to test a trainee pup during Guide Dogs for the Blind tuition. More accurately, the band helps in assessing if the dog is not too sensitive to music, especially if his future owner/partner has keen musical interests.

By arrangement, up to half a dozen dogs and their girl handlers turn up at Arborfield Garrison from the nearby regional guide dog centre at Wokingham.

Apprehensive pups — labradors, retrievers, border collies, German shepherds and cross-breeds of these types — pad between stationary bandsmen pumping out a miscellany of brass and percussion sound.

It is all rather like the "exams" police horses have to take amid bashing dustbin lids and shrieking whistles designed to get them used to crowd sequences.

During SOL-DIER's visit to one training session six potential guide dogs were put to the test by a rousing rendition of the march *Scipio*. Only one canine failed the martial music aptitude screening, becoming highly nervous as he passed the clashing cymbals despite reassurances from his handler.

"We would have played *How Much is that Doggie in the Window?* but we don't have the sheet music for it," quipped Capt Ross.

He added: "We are delighted to help out like this on an opportunity basis. All it takes is a phone call."

But his staff band is busy. Very busy. In addition to its



Guide dogs for the blind on parade with the REME staff band at Arborfield. Top picture shows volunteer handler Philippa Lodge marching her charge past the brass section

annual engagements it is also the duty band at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. It has just performed at the Sovereign's Parade at which the Princess of Wales was the reviewing officer.

Lt Col (retd) Peter Hartshorn, R Sigs, a regional controller designate based on Wokingham, said: "Bringing

the dogs here is a wonderful experience not only for the dogs themselves but for us to learn about them as well. It's no use having a guide dog that is so sensitive to music it joins in!"

"Incidentally, quite a few of our puppy-walkers are from Service families. The dogs are boarded out with them and the 'foster' owners are paid 45p a

day feeding allowance. It's an ideal way for the military to keep a dog in cases where they may be posted and have to get rid of a family pet. They simply hand the pups back."

Currently, the Wokingham residential centre has 115 puppy-walkers on its books and there are another 110 dogs

● Turn to Page 37

Pictures: Paul Haley

Don't get steamed up over heating bills

NOW IS the time that gas, oil, solid fuel and electricity bills plop on to the door mat... and with them, for most people, comes a shock or two.

To some the demand for payment is enormous and quite frightening and how to pay boils up into an instant major issue. This is especially true for those returning home to a British winter and living in a poorly insulated MQ.

To budget for an unknown first British winter bill in an MQ with an oddball heating system is a difficult, if not near

impossible task.

But this is a common problem and I get many letters about it.

While I could give tips on keeping warm, albeit a bit late in the year, the first step that should in my view be taken is for the MoD to ensure the relevant home-heating leaflets from the gas, electric, solid fuel and oil suppliers are in every MQ.

Of course, a little DIY

doesn't come amiss. A call at a local board would reveal an estimated cost of heating a married quarter for whatever period of time is requested.

This would give occupants some idea of what to expect when bills arrive and, while the demand still has to be met, the blow is somewhat softened.

But there are a number of MQs designated as "difficult to heat." A good

many have faulty heating systems and in these circumstances there is an extra fuel and light allowance scheme.

If anyone has doubts about the grading of their quarter, a check should be made with the unit estate warden.

Figures for calculating this heating allowance are based "on a norm plus 30 per cent" which for a type 1 house yields £1,162 a

IN MY VIEW

year towards costs. Type 2 £980; 3 £818; 4 £743; 5 £636.

Smaller houses get smaller allowances: type A, for example gets £440 a year; B £499; C £565 and D £681.

But don't get the idea that because your heating bills are high the allowance is automatically yours. Not so. Check with your warden if you think you have a case.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



From Page 19

whether lance corporals and privates should join Naafi's 66,000 budget card holders without first seeking a CO's approval.

"While we are well aware of Service concern about offering unbridled credit to young Servicemen, we believe some realism ought to be applied to this policy," he said.

"Credit is the normal way of buying in the modern civilian world; credit is easily come by and the shackles placed on Naafi do not stop our potential customers from getting easy credit elsewhere. But because the Services impose quite severe restrictions on Naafi we lose business and the Services lose rebate.

"In many areas, including the extended use of our budget scheme, we are waiting for feedback which will enable us to agree future policy with MoD.

"Naafi has somehow proved that, despite the many and varied restrictions placed on it by the Ministry of Defence it has increased its trading, but unless support continues the rebate that units rely on will not be forthcoming and the discount in Naafi shops will suffer."

HIVED OFF: wives from the UK, Germany and Cyprus meet at the first UK HIVE at Aldershot as part of a week-long Help, Information and Volunteer Exchange induction course held at SSAFA HQ in London

INSIDE LINE

Paying for heat with the rent

A COMBINED scheme where heating costs are paid with the rent is on offer to council tenants of Glasgow's Maryhill district.

Occupants of the city's system-built blocks of flats became fed up with the huge heating bills caused by poor insulation, damp and condensation - which are not too dissimilar to the cries of those in Army married quarters.

Now this new Glasgow scheme provides indi-

vidual flats, and multi-storey blocks as a whole, with a constant and acceptable minimum level of electric heating at a price tenants can afford. In this case it's about £5 a week added to the rent.

Installing the Glasgow-style central heating sys-

tem is a simple job and causes little bother to tenants. It also ensures a steady and constant level of heat which reduces condensation and damp.

In turn this leads to fewer damp-related repairs and claims from tenants and, in addition, provides better

protection for the fabric of the building and increases its life span.

Since many married quarters have similar problems to the Glasgow homes and flats, perhaps it would be worth the while of the powers-that-be to consider a Glasgow-type scheme for Army MQs?

They could do a lot worse than have a look at this plan.

YOU WRITE...

AN ARMY wife from SE District says: "I was astonished when my gas bill arrived last week. It was for £171.33 which is an increase of £100 on the previous bill (£71.61) and even more on the August bill which totalled £57.99.

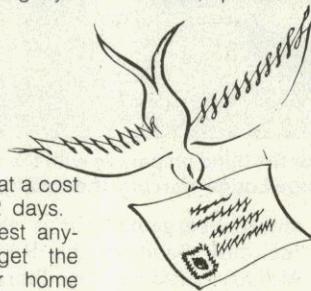
"The bill I received in March 1986 was for £109 which means we are paying more than £60 for a heating system which has to be supplemented by a

Calor Gas fire run at a cost of £9.65 every 12 days.

"Can you suggest anything that will get the insulation of our home improved?"

■ Check whether your quarter has been downgraded because of poor heating and insulation. If it hasn't, ask for a review of your MQ grading.

ANOTHER wife says: "In



my area, where gas is not available, solid fuel bills can run to £15 a week plus the electricity bill."

AN Army pensioner writes: "I have been drawing a fixed redundancy pension

Astonished wife No gas here Pension rise

for 19 years. Last week my tax office wrote to say my tax coding was changing from 355 to 353 because Army pensions are being increased this month. True or false?"

■ True. Your redundancy pension went up by 2.1 per cent as from April 6 as did ALL Forces' pensions.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



Naafi hits bonus pay-out record



NAAFI discounts to their customers and the Forces topped a record-breaking £15.5 million last year.

Over-the-counter customers shared stamps and jackpot cash discounts worth £6 million; £3.2 million was returned in rebates to unit funds with a further £4.9 million paid back from fruit machine takings; other amusement machine profits yielded £0.8 million for club improvement funds. Welfare funds, too, benefited with a £0.6 million bonus.

A record pay-back year for the 66-year-old Forces Institute. But how much the Army actually received as its share of the fruit-machine package is not known.

All that is currently known is, that of the £4.9 million returned to unit funds from gaming machine profits, the Navy handed 50 per cent of their share back to their clubs, the RAF 44 per cent, and the Army 11 per cent.

But the actual worth of those "club" percentages is not known because the bottom-line amounts of the three-way split have not been revealed.

It could be the Army's 11 per cent exceeds the Navy's 50 per cent, although that, based on the percentages, appears

unlikely and begs the question: shouldn't the Army take a lead from the other two Services when it comes to putting money back into their clubs?

But the fact remains Naafi paid out more than a record £15 million in discounts, dividends and pay-backs to their individual customers and the Forces, which equates with a £300,000 football pools share-out every week of the year.

Shareholders in a public company would be full of praise, but as so often

Dear Anne

I read your article (March 23) on Army wives employment in Germany with great interest. I have much sympathy with your point of view and write to emphasise that Naafi remains a prime employer of Army wives in Germany (some 1,500 on current figures). We are keen to do all we can to maintain and extend the opportunities we offer, and through in-house training and skill qualifications we can offer wives real job satisfaction.

I cannot guarantee employment for all Army wives.

happens with Naafi, much criticism and meagre praise are so often their only rewards.

Units alone would find themselves in a disastrous financial situation if they received no Naafi rebate and shoppers would be more than miffed if they were to receive no dividend or discount.

MOLLY CLARKE: Service shopper with a smile and £50 for coining the catchphrase, 'Naafi cuts to make you smile'

But new managing director Mr James Rucker, in the hot seat just three months, has plans to ensure the continuation and enhancement of Naafi's operations.

In his first report to wives and Army representatives from the UK and BAOR attending the Institute's committee meeting for the Army, he said modernisation and new technology were high on his list of

he said a number of new services had been introduced and were in the process of being tested: dry cleaning, shoe repairs, financial schemes, video film hire, extended shop opening hours and Sunday trading were among many.

Other schemes include the introduction of ramps for prams and places to change and feed babies. This type of facility will be standard in all new Naafi

drastic repair, indicating those at Colchester and Chelsea which, because of neglect, could be closed on health and safety grounds.

"Unless Naafi is given help and co-operation how can it continue to produce the rebate on which all the Services totally depend?" he asked.

"Yet if Naafi is going to return another £15½ million to the Services then restrictions on it must be revised."

Referring to credit cards, Mr Rucker, a former brigadier, said: "Few people realise that when Naafi wishes to introduce a new scheme, such as budget cards, it has to be passed by the three Services. So far the Services have not agreed how it should operate."

"Each Service has, as a result, great differences. The Navy, for example, allow all ranks to apply direct to Naafi and they can buy consumable goods, but the Army and the RAF have yet to decide

Continued in col 1 Page 18

buildings and will be of tremendous help to mothers with young children.

But he warned that Naafi expenditure is governed by what is available from public funds and vied with cash spent on MQs and barrack maintenance.

He told of many Naafi buildings being in need of

for obvious reasons, but we in Naafi welcome them wherever we have suitable vacancies. My only qualification is that we do not want people who just seek a bit of pocket money and an escape from the married quarter. We have launched a campaign aimed at making all our staff 'charming' conscious. We want them to enjoy their jobs and be pleasant and cheerful in their dealings with our customers. Anyone prepared to approach a job in that spirit, please enquire at their local Naafi. — **James Rucker, managing director, Naafi.**

priorities.

Shop layouts, decoration and equipment will be improved and staff training will be tailored to create an atmosphere of friendliness, courtesy and efficiency.

"Times change," he said, "and so have Naafi's customers and their needs." To meet these changes and requirements

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JACKPOT!

MOLLY CLARKE: Service shopper with a smile and £50 for coining the catchphrase, 'Naafi cuts to make you smile'

A 'ROYAL' DECADE

AS the sappers proudly celebrate the bi-centenary of the addition of the title "Royal" to the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Gurkha sappers have something to celebrate too, writes Graham Smith.

On April 21, 1977, in her Silver Jubilee year, the Queen granted the prefix "Queen's" to the Gurkha Engineers.

The first Gurkha sappers were recruited when 67 Field Squadron was formed on October 1, 1949 in Malaya.

Their traditions emerged from the Indian Army Sappers and Miners and from Capt Broadfoot's sapper force of 200 Gurkhas which fought in the Afghan campaign of the 1840s.

The Gurkha sappers came into being as a separate regiment and part of the Brigade of Gurkhas in 1955. Their cap badge incorporated the crossed kukris of the brigade and the Royal Engineers' grenade.

Today, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers are affiliated to the Corps of Royal Engineers and carry out the same tasks. The regiment comprises an HQ, 67 and 68 Field Squadrons



A Gurkha sapper tops up a water reservoir from a landing craft

and 70 Support Squadron in Hong Kong, and the 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Chatham-based part of UKLF's 2 Infantry Brigade.

The two Hong Kong squadrons were first based in the

colony because of the Korean War. They acted as infantry in the Crown Colony, returning to Malaya four years later in time for the Emergency.

They were soon building roads, bridges, airfields and camps. In the early 1960s

further development occurred with the formation of 70 Park Training Squadron and 69 Gurkha Field Squadron. In those days, Gurkha engineers totalled about 1,500.

In 1963 the regiment was involved in the Indonesian Confrontation in North Borneo. In Brunei, 69 Sqn helped subdue the revolt and all field squadrons found themselves undertaking combat engineering.

Twenty years ago defence cuts slashed the regiment and it moved to Hong Kong.

There, before disbandment, 67 Sqn bore the brunt of the 1967 riots with many defensive works and bomb disposal assignments.

Over the years they have left a permanent testimony of their presence in Hong Kong with such projects as the Luk Keung road, the Tai Ling Ranges and the Lantau road and bridge.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers are responsible nowadays for engineer support to the British Forces in Hong Kong which entails combat engineering roles for the Gurkha Field Force, round-the-clock boat patrols to seek out illegal immigrants, searches for VIP visits and any internal security situation, disaster relief and civil military building projects.

Six years ago, 69 Independent Field Sqn was raised again to relieve pressure on the Corps. It fulfills its role by taking its place in 2 Inf Bde and playing a full part in turn with other Royal Engineer units to places as far-flung as the Falklands and Belize.

Q. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE GURKHAS CURVED KNIFE?

Q. WHAT DOES THE CROSSED AXES SPECIALIST BADGE DENOTE?

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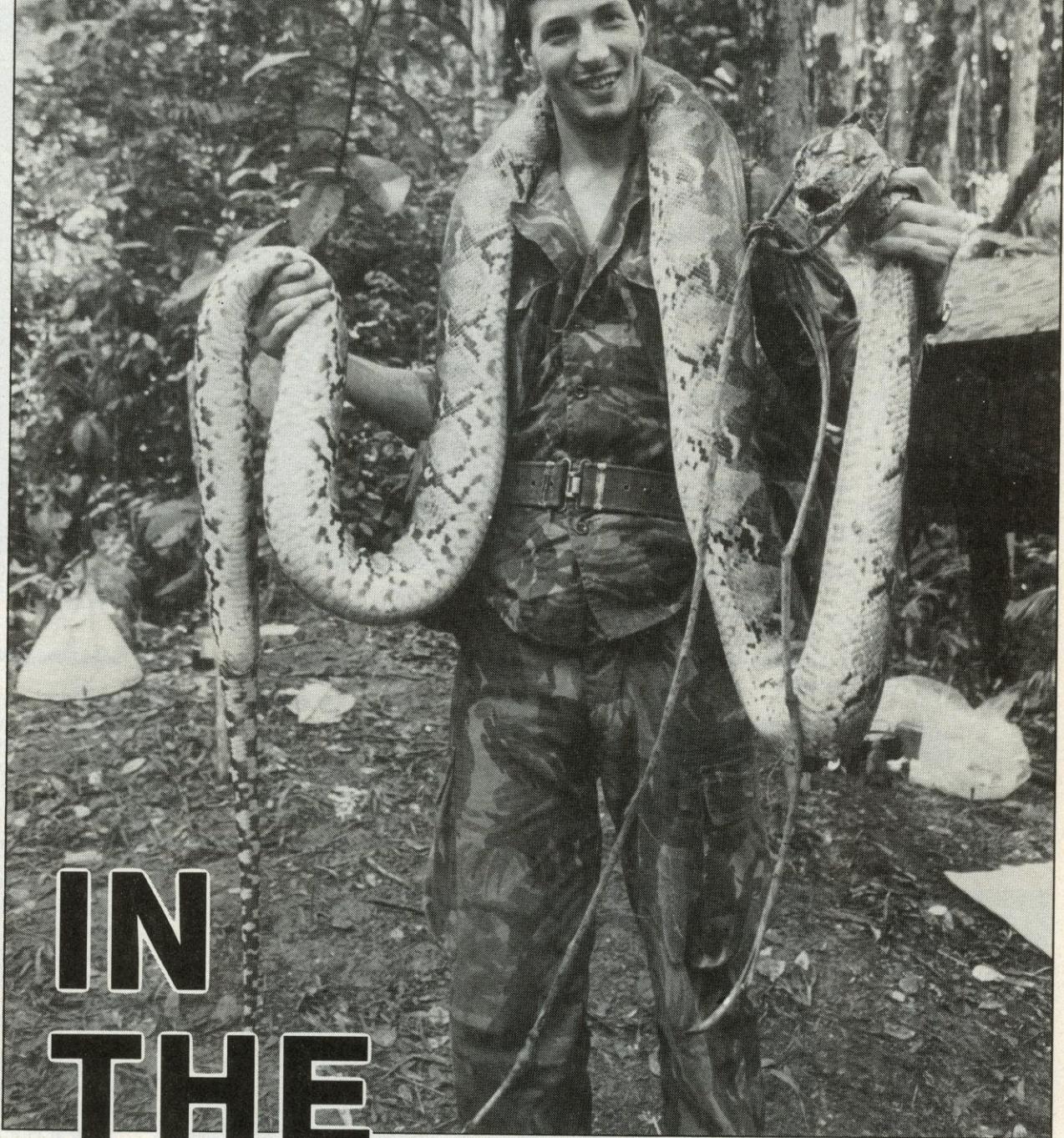
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IN THE

CAPT WILLIAM ENGLISH: 'snake and kidney' for the Coldstreams

FAIR EAST

Stories by John Margetts

Pictures by Terry Champion

It's hot work for the Coldstreams

DOCTOR DOOM looked clean and tidy. He didn't smell too much either, unlike most of those around.

The "Doc", otherwise LCpl Martyn Durkin, was the medicine man for 100 men of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on exercise in the Brunei jungle.

They had been among the trees and creepy-crawlies for almost two weeks and had another 12 days to go before emerging into civilisation.

The "Doc's" neat, near-clean appearance, was because he spent his working days in a tent sticking needles into people and stitching them up, so avoiding unnecessary casevac by WO2 Bob Glonek's Scout of C Flt 660 Sqn AAC.

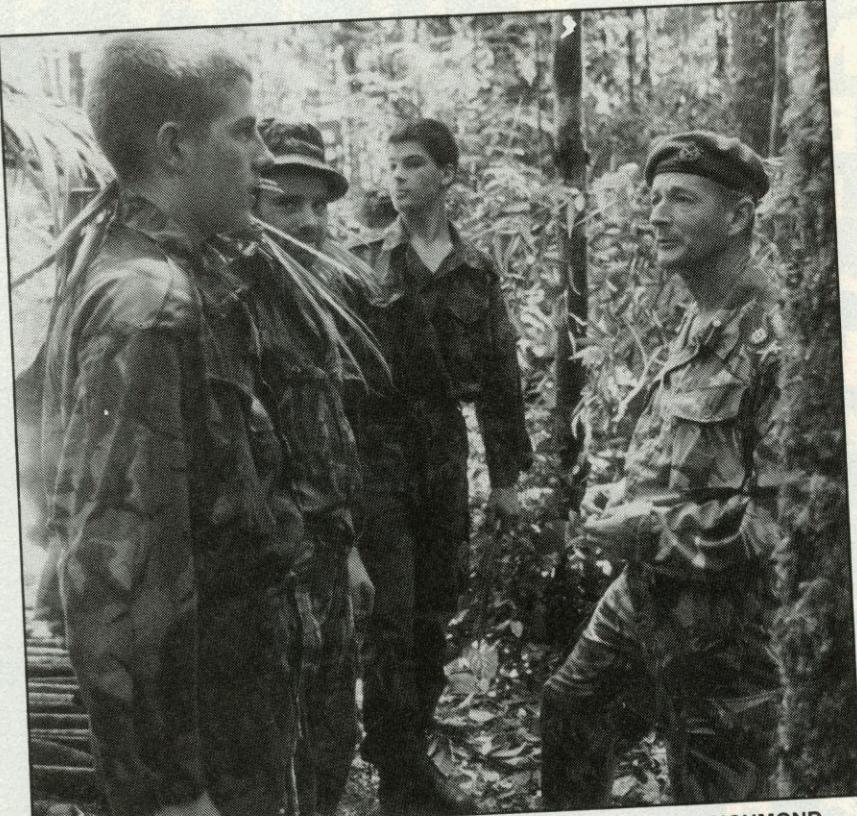
The medical tent was, in fact, the sole concession permitted on the exercise. Everything else was for jungle warfare.

So while "Dr Doom" spent his days attending to medical needs – and they were numerous – the remainder spent their time surviving and preparing for the long nights by making A-frame shelters from tree branches and trying to keep clean in the nearby snake-infested river – which was why they all panged a bit.

"It doesn't do to keep overclean in the jungle," said Capt William English, on detachment to 1 Coldstreams from the 17/21st Lancers, based in Germany.

"If you're too clean the flies, bugs and leeches seem more attracted. It seems they like clean people so its best to stay dirty!"

As he spoke he draped a 14ft dead



GDSMN, JOHN SHEARD, LSGT NICK MARRIOTT, GDSMN STUART RICHMOND, MAJ GEN TONY BOAM: jungle talk-in followed by roast monkey and braised snake

python round his neck. It weighed about 50lb and had been killed by one of the company's local trackers close to their camp a few hours earlier.

"Looks like snake and kidney tonight," quipped one of the lads. And it went on the menu with roast monkey – which all helped feed the 100 men who

not only had to live in the jungle but off it, too.

Until then they had existed on "compo" rations and what they could find, but from now until the end of the exercise they would have to live as best they could.

"It's now a question of survival," said

SPECULATION on the future of the Gurkha infantry battalions, the Queens Gurkha Engineers, and Signals and Transport regiments, which make up 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong, is rife and will continue until the Government reveals what is to happen to them.

For it is a fact the Chinese will take over in ten years' time and, since the island and New Territories house the regiments and three of the infantry units – the fourth being based at Brunei – their future is closely linked to that of the area.

But as yet the 1997 forecast for this tough fighting force of more than 8,000 men, which makes up about ten per cent of the Army's infantry, is obscure to say the least.

OC Maj Rupert Law. No newcomer to the jungle, he tackled the Brunei jungle course nine years ago, but this was his first return visit.

"We have 12 days to go, moving through the jungle as a company towards our objective about 12 kilometres away. It can take hours to cover just a few hundred yards in this sort of territory, especially with this number of men.

"There will be no more making of A-frames on which to sleep. From now on it's the floor of the jungle. Sleeping where we stop.

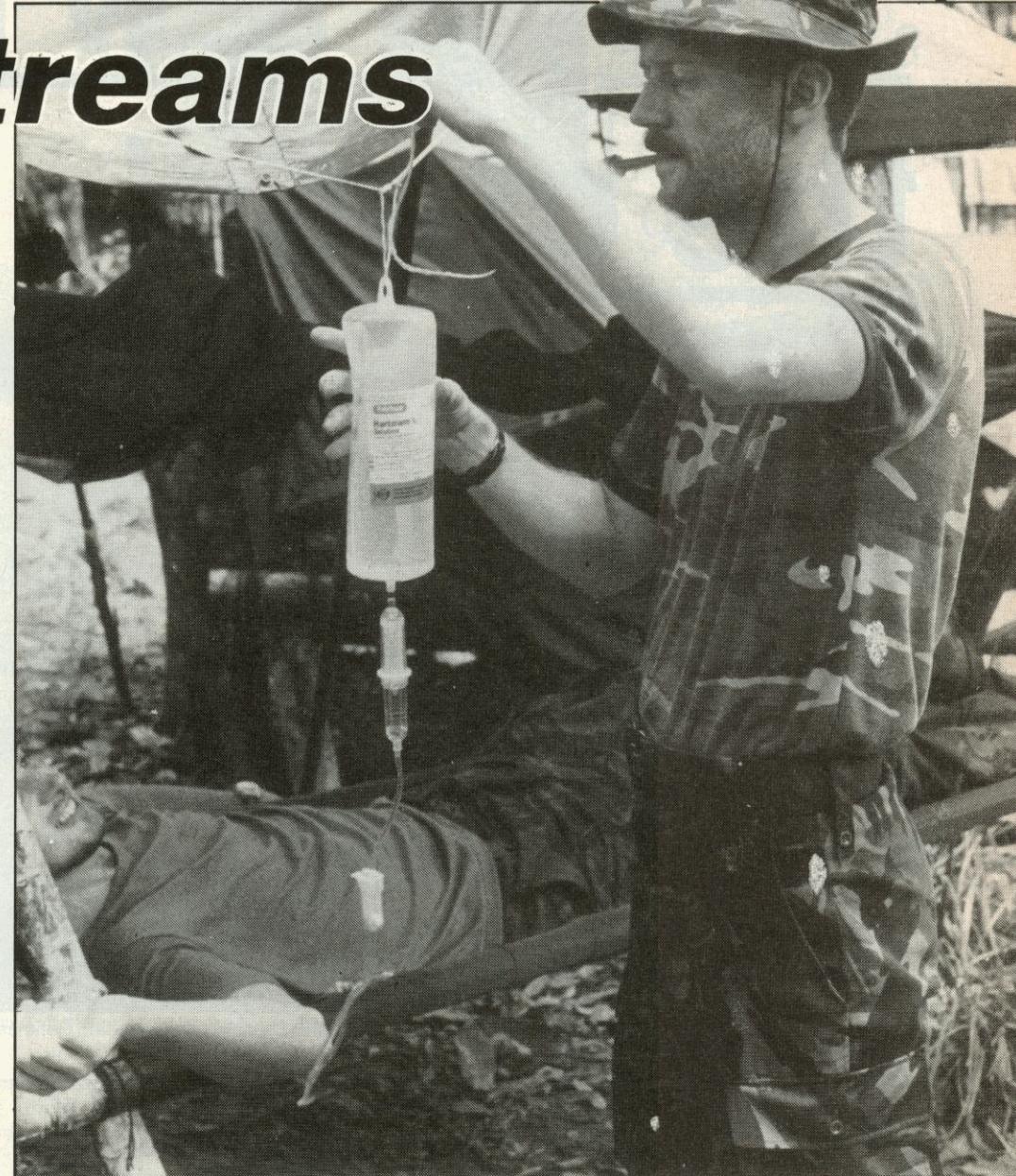
"It's a hell of an experience, especially for the younger guys, some of whom have only been in the Army for a short time, with this as their first exercise.

"It's a testing place for anyone, but good training for the infantry. Life can be tough and rough, but it can also be a lot of laughs."

Said CSM Roger Bell: "You learn quickly the priorities for survival . . . how to make a shelter, get a fire going and hunting for food. But I don't fancy sleeping on the ground for the next ten days with snakes and scorpions and ants scuttling around."

He wasn't alone in this, for that morning one of his team had woken to find a large black scorpion above his head and *inside* his mosquito net.

That particular specimen soon came to the attention of the good "Dr Doom" who speedily dispatched it and filled it full of formaldehyde ready to go on show with the rest of his collection of nasties.



LCPL MARTYN DURKIN ALIAS 'DOCTOR DOOM': too clean to smell

The future's obscure, but Gurkhas train on with pride

Said Maj Gen Tony Boam, Commander British Forces Hong Kong: "I can add nothing to what has already been said in Parliament and in the Defence White Paper . . . and that is there will be a continuing role for the Gurkhas.

"Plans for the future of the brigade will be formulated over the next few years. But as yet nothing has been decided. I can say nothing because I know nothing . . ."

This brief interview took place in the Brunei jungle where the general was making the rounds of his command which included a visit to 7 Gurkha Rifles at Seria, and to a company of Coldstream Guards training in the jungle for nearly a month.

Before joining them for a few hours in the steamy jungle

heat he had spent a couple of days with 7GR where he presented commissions to seven Gurkha officers. Two of them, Lts Jasbadahur Gurung and Jitbahadur Newar, had had their "pips" up for more than two years.

"At last it's official," said Lt Gurung, known to all as "JB". "I've waited a long time for this."

It was a fitting climax to the general's visit as the day before was Nepal's national day and a holiday for everyone in the battalion.

A family occasion, Gurkha children gave a concert of singing and dancing interspersed with short playlets about their country's political history.

They acted with fervour and pride and were loudly applauded by admiring parents

and British officers and their families, led by 7GR CO Lt Col Bob Couldrey.

Visible and vocal support for the youngsters taking part in the celebrations was a must for all in the 900-strong battalion, as many of the young actors are likely to be among future applicants for a place in the Gurkha Brigade Depot at Sek Kong in the New Territories.

It is here the "lucky ones" arrive for six months' basic training and a grounding in reading, writing and speaking English.

As they pass through the gates of the depot it is the last they see of the outside world for 26 weeks.

If they do pass back through the gates in that time it is for training purposes only, or because they have called it a day

and decided to return to Nepal. "But there are very few who give up once they arrive," said Maj Lionel Gregory, OC Recruit Company.

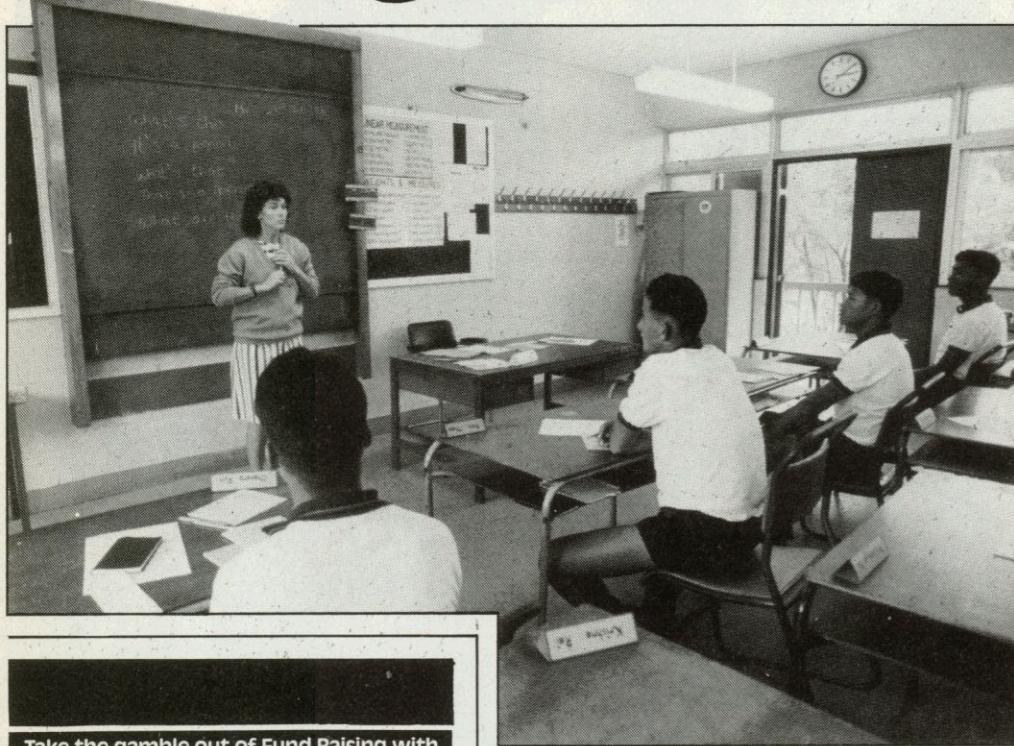
It's a tough programme for the recruits with their day starting at 4.30am and finishing only when they climb into bed at 9pm. "But these lads are used to getting up early as most come from remote hill villages without electricity and the trappings of modern society. So it's nothing new to them," said Maj Gregory.

Until this latest intake of 220 initial training lasted 41 weeks, but now, to bring them more into line with British infantry units, training time has been reduced to 26 weeks.

"That's just a few weeks

● Turn to Page 25

'Only a few make the grade'



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TEACH-IN TIME: English is a must for the Gurkhas

SPIRIT 'N' POLISH TIME IN TUKER



MAJ GEN TONY BOAM, LT JASBADAHUR GURUNG: a long wait to be officially commissioned



LINES FOR MEN OF 7 GURKHA RIFLES: everything spick and span for the following day's commissioning parade

From Page 23

longer than the training span for British soldiers, but these lads spend 150 hours improving their English which accounts for that extra time," said Maj Gregory.

This particular intake had been at the depot just a week, coming direct from the hills of Nepal where most were poor farmers or shepherds enduring a hard existence and low living standards.

They had been selected from thousands wanting to join the British Army, having been sorted by a grading process which began in their home villages. Now they were getting their first taste of Army life, although many had a fair idea of what awaited them as numerous fathers, uncles and brothers had served or are serving with the Gurkhas and had passed on their experiences.

"While they are all quite fit on arrival most lack weight," said Maj Gerry Murphy, RAMC. He has spent time in Nepal giving initial medical checks and supervising their

health at the depot.

"But they soon put on weight with the regular diet, of which breakfast is of the English variety and is a step towards getting them accustomed to English food. A good many put on up to two stones within a couple of months and it is very noticeable," he said.

None of them had seen a swimming pool before, let alone the sea. "No sea near Nepal," said one. But within an hour 14 out of a group of 21 were splashing around in the deep end of the heated pool under the eye of APTC instructor WO2 Ian Mellor.

"They're fantastic," he said. While Ian Mellor takes care of their fitness, Maj Nigel Capel of the RAEC and a team of lady teachers - all graduates - enhance their Nepal-learned English with a basic 450 words spread over 150 hours of tuition.

"The fact is, when these lads return home for six months leave after three years' service, they're welcomed as celebrities.

"They are really stars in the eyes of their families and friends and their new Army lifestyle the envy of those who didn't make the grade."

pleasure. They're so keen to learn. And they learn fast despite their educational background.

"Their attitude makes my job most satisfying. In fact I consider this the best job I've ever had."

Equal praise from Maj Gregory: "It's a tough life being a Gurkha recruit and, while rough round the edges to start with, they're eager to succeed in everything they tackle.

"After all, they did extremely well to get selected in the first place, for thousands want to join when the recruiters call at their villages in the hills of Nepal, but only a few make the grade to Sek Kong and very few, if any, fall out once training starts.

"The fact is, when these lads return home for six months leave after three years' service, they're welcomed as celebrities.

"They are really stars in the eyes of their families and friends and their new Army lifestyle the envy of those who didn't make the grade."

In brief

PRO Viv's happy to go solo

When the 10th Gurkha Rifles leave for the Philippines this month Lt Viv Williams, the sole WRAC officer at the Gurkha Depot at Sek Kong, will go with them as their Public Relations Officer.

She joined the depot straight out of Sandhurst about 18 months



LT VIV WILLIAMS: Hawaii bound

ago and, because she was once a computer programmer, has been putting her expertise to good use with the Gurkhas' records department.

She has been trekking in Nepal and now she is off to Hawaii to put out news about the six-week exercise.

Said Viv: "It's a great life in Hong Kong and the Gurkhas are super people to work with. I'll be very sorry to leave in September when my posting ends."

Three in sevens team

Three British soldiers were chosen to represent Hong Kong in the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong Rugby Sevens held at the end of March.

They were Capt Mick Bates and Ssgt Chris Christopher, both RAOC, and Gdsrn Dan Daley of 1 Coldstream Guards.

It's all go for Gurkha sappers

□ They're never quite certain what their next job will be in the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, based in the New Territories.

For in addition to their daily tasks of early morning and night boat patrols supporting the police in the search for illegal immigrants (IIs), they have a six-strong team in



LT ROBBY DOW: daily patrols

the Cook Islands repairing storm damage, and another 20 in Vanuatu repairing water supply equipment and schools following a typhoon.

But twice every day of the year, morning and night, two of the Boat Troop's Sea Riders - the troop commander is Lt Robby Dow - zoom 20-odd miles in their rubber boats east and west of Hong Kong to help the police keep an eye on the IIs.

The drivers of the two Sea Riders on this occasion - both came from the Nepal hills and had never seen the sea before joining the Army - were Sptys Pushkarchandra Gre and Ramesh Tamang. Now they're out twice a day from the unit's base at Gordon Hard, Tuen Mun.

The cost

■ The British garrison in Hong Kong comprises elements of the Royal Navy, four Gurkha infantry battalions and three regiments, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, some RAF and the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force, the HKMSC and some other services... and it all costs a lot of money.

The Hong Kong Government has just revealed how much. They say they will have to pay the British Government, under the Defence Costs Agreement of 1980, 75 per cent of the assessed costs of the garrison which for 1987-88 will total 1.5 billion Hong Kong dollars.

At roughly 12 dollars to the £ that comes to... well, you work it out!



ONE DAY TO GO TO PASS-OUT

Recruits of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps have their final practice on Stonecutters' Island

The soldier commuters

THERE is no accommodation provided for the 1,250 trained soldiers of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) and no pension at the end of their service, but still recruits pour in to sign on.

While not exerting quite the same magnetic attraction the British Army has for young lads from the hills of Nepal to join the Gurkhas, one advertisement in a Hong Kong newspaper was enough to attract 99 local applicants.

This is about half the number required from which a final selection of about 40 will be made to top up the corps with their next intake in July.

The basic training of these Hong Kong Chinese soldiers equates with British infantry and takes about six months, and since the ability to speak some English is a requirement,

lessons are given to improve their fluency.

That is the immediate future for recruits to the HKMSC at their depot on Stonecutters' Island, a former Japanese PoW camp, ten minutes by boat from Hong Kong island.

It is while training that they receive their only Army accommodation. Once they are finished there and posted, they will wear one of the 30 Army cap badges in HK and take on any one of 32 trades. Then they commute from home to work for a five-day week just like other workers in Hong Kong. The only difference being they're in the Army.

And that's a fact of which they are extremely proud and which they want everyone to know.

Until the 1997 agreement was signed with the Chinese -

that's when they take control of this booming commercial hub of the Far East - HKMSC recruits could sign on by stages for 22 years.

Now, because the take-over date is only a decade away, and the future of the HKMSC anything but clear, they are signing on for four years at a time.

But even with this uncertainty hanging over them they still clamour to join. For the fact is they consider a soldier's life far more exciting than any doubts about the future of the corps.

And to add to their confidence, a letter has gone from the Commander British Forces HK, Maj Gen Tony Boam, assuring everyone in the corps that a joint working group will be set up to try and find jobs for these Locally Employed Personnel (LEPs).

Frontier detachment provides the teeth!

THE TITLE of Border Detachment of the Defence Animal Support Unit Hong Kong, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, is a bit of a mouthful, but they claim to be among the real action men of today's Army.

The detachment consists of 107 men and 42 dogs and is based at Cassino Camp close to the border. Since 1979 they have caught nearly 10,000 illegal immigrants (IIs) and returned them to the Chinese.

But while that appears an impressive success rate, they have nothing to measure it against since they don't know how many get through their net to make



One man and his dog — Cpl Tang Chi Kin and Tock — of the Border Detachment Defence Animal Support Unit RAVC . . . they're the action men of the RAVC and 107 of them guard the 22-mile Hong Kong-China frontier with 80-odd dogs catching illegal immigrants

their way into Hong Kong.

But the traffic is not all one way. "Sometimes we get them trying to get back into China," said Maj Tony Rossell, the RAVC officer in charge of the detachment.

"They're the ones who found the grass less green in Hong Kong than they imagined.

"Officially the border is now known as the 'frontier,'" said Tony. "And there's more than 20 miles of it to patrol. So for our men and dogs it's an all day and night affair every day of the year."

"This is where it all happens," said Sgt Andy Pedlar, who with Sgt Chris Ham —

just arrived from Belfast via four months in Australia — had arrested three people a few hours earlier.

"They never stop trying to get across," said Andy, "but our teams are very good and, being Chinese, are able to question the IIs (say it eye-eyes) when caught. "Most of those captured are in a state of shock, which is understandable after being threatened by one of our dogs. But they soon pull round."

Said Maj Rossell: "We don't want people bitten. That's not the job at all. Our role is to detect and detain them and our soldiers, who are all locally employed personnel (LEPs) are part of Hong Kong

Military Service Corps (HKMSC).

"Latest dog-capture figures show a marked increase with nearly 1,600 nabbed over the past 12 months.

"It's hard work for our men who work an average of 70 hours a week. A typical work rota for a section is to start at 8.30am and work 26½ hours; two days later they start again.

"But these soldiers, who all live at home as no accommodation is provided for them, are strongly motivated. They believe that by capturing and returning the IIs, which to some extent eases the housing shortage, treatment at hospitals

● Turn to Page 31



Two weeks before this picture was taken these Gurkha recruits were guarding sheep in the hills of Nepal. Now they are well on the way to be trained with their days starting at 4.30am. But they're the "lucky" ones... for every one of them, 26 others were rejected



Look-out post with a difference at Panmunjom, the meeting place between North and South Korea. This oriental watchtower is in the South — just, and faces an equally imposing building about 100 yards away



Flagman in the middle is Rfn Beg Bahadur Ghale. He is part of the 34-strong 10GFI squad which, with four Thai and four Philippine soldiers, a similar-size US squad and three Korean sections from the army, navy and air force, make up the Honour Guard at the UN HQ in Seoul



Over the bank and across the river are the North Koreans. They're only 600 metres away and broadcast daily 18 hours of non-stop propaganda and music across the DMZ to these young soldiers of the South . . . but they don't hear too much of it at this point on the 151-mile border, as their commanders blast back with their own hi-fi and turn it on their men to drown out the opposition

RADIO QUIZ PUTS GURKHAS TO THE TEST

THE task facing the two "mastermind" teams from 67 Sqn QGE and 248 Signal Sqn QG Sigs was to read the *South China Morning Post* and *The Standard* daily newspapers for a week in preparation for a general knowledge quiz.

And it was a tough quiz. It covered world news and personalities, sport, and snippet items and was set by Kishore Gurung, a former Gurkha officer and now the Network Director (Nepali Service) for BFBS in Sek Kong.

The snag, if it can be so called, was that all questions and answers had to be in English.

Said station manager and quiz master Alan Grace: "For a couple of years now we have been running programmes to encourage the Gurkhas to speak better English. This quiz, which is extremely popular, gets the boys reading the newspapers, having to remember what they read and then come up with the right answers."

"In addition, Kishore Gurung organises ten hours of daily programmes in Gurkhali. These go on the air in three sessions a day and, while they are popular with the soldiers and their families, a BBC programme called *Let's Speak*



ALAN GRACE: encouraging the Gurkhas to speak better English

English – beamed by satellite and recorded by us – and the *BBC World News*, has a big following with the Gurkhas.

"We also put out another show called *Gurkha UK* which is 15 minutes of Gurkha news and general interest.

"It's all part of a move to get the Gurkhas to move more into line with British units and improve their communication skills.

"The contestants in the quiz

teams are all soldiers below the rank of corporal. Clerks, technicians and those who can speak good English are banned from the teams.

"This is for the lads at the bottom who must improve their English if they are to get on in the Army. It's another way of anglicising them," he said. As a matter of interest the result of the first-round quiz was 248 Gurkha Signals Sqn 50 points; 67 Sqn QGE 35.

'Ban' left WO fuming

■ It's not all good news for the Hong Kong garrison ... take the case of a warrant officer based in Brunei – the British soldiers there and 7GR are part of the Hong Kong set-up – whose wife was killed in a road accident a little over a year ago.

His wife died, he was badly injured and another passenger severely hurt, both spending months in hospital.

The driver of the other vehicle, a local man, admitted it was his fault at the court hearing and was fined, according to the bereaved WO, a minuscule amount and banned from driving for a year.

But as the accident occurred 14 months earlier and the ban was backdated, the guilty driver was immediately allowed back on the road. To add insult to injury and death, the authorities did not inform the WO of the date of the court case and he was unable to attend. A sad story which leaves a British soldier with bitter memories of Brunei and its system of legal justice.

Sappers plan mega-relay

□ A team of athletes from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong plans to run 4,000 miles to mark the 200th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Warrant to the Royal Engineers.

Currently the regiment is trying to raise at least £50,000 from sponsors to pay for the attempt in Vancouver, Canada.

They plan to time the end of their jaunt on May 20 at Chatham, Kent, to coincide with the Queen's visit.

The team will consist of 24 men – 16 runners and eight reserves. Their route from Vancouver will take them across Canada to the appropriately named town of Chatham in the east.

From there they fly to Scotland and then start relaying again to Chatham, traditional home of the sappers.

Showtime break for border patrol dogs

● From Page 27

and reduces calls on social services, they are helping their country."

Said CO Lt Col Brian Thompson: "These soldiers of the HKMSC are loyal, hardworking and first-class dog handlers."

Added Maj Rossell: "These soldiers get no pension and at the start of their service with us are paid around 3,000 Hong Kong dollars a month (about £300). They can serve for 22 years, but as 1997 is the year China takes over Hong

Kong, there's an obvious time limit for those joining now."

With the patrol hours this detachment puts in it's hard to imagine them having much spare time, especially as they all commute to work, some travelling several miles.

But they do and they put it to good use by training their dogs into display teams; jumping through hoops of fire, climbing ladders and narrow bridges, obedience tests and all sorts of doggie tricks which please the crowds at fetes and shows.

"We have three teams – one in each platoon – and the demand for them to perform is high and so are their standards."

This was evident from the way Sgt Chik Siu Por, giving his orders in English to Satan, controlled the dog to weave between his legs as he slow marched.

"But these are operational dogs," said Maj Rossell, "and tonight will see them back on the frontier with their handlers catching another batch of IIs."

ORDNANCE DEPOT ON LOOK OUT FOR RIGHT QUALITY AT RIGHT PRICE

Everything needed by the Services in Hong Kong is, as usual, provided by the Composite Ordnance Depot based at Blackdown Barracks in Kowloon City. But not everything comes from the UK.

"We can get a good many items cheaper here," said WO1 Bob Maxwell. "Household items such as toilet rolls - think how much

space they take up in a container - crockery and dinner sets are all much cheaper and less likely to be damaged when bought locally.

"Utensils for the Gurkhas are also cheaper here than importing them from Nepal. Their special stone chopping blocks and rollers, pestles and mortars, meat cleavers, are all bought here in Hong Kong."

While Bob keeps an eye on where

the money goes, Dave Dowst, a UK-based civil servant, is the quality control man.

"The quality must be at least as good as that produced at home and cheaper. We can get just about everything from wooden spoons and cap badges to computers and calculators. We even get pennants and flags made. Locally-produced furniture, too, is extremely well

made and much cheaper.

The depot also does its bit for local charity by getting handicapped people to manufacture yard brooms and other simple items.

"They're cheap and very good," said Dave Dowst. "We even provide work for some local civilian prisons. They, too, produce the goods we need at the right price and quality."



SSGT BRIAN HUTSON, CAPT IAN HURLEY: his house looked like something from a Somerset Maugham novel

Snakes alive!

CAPT Ian Hurley leaned out of the bridge house of his Ramped Craft Lighter (RCL) and pointed towards an elegant, white-painted colonial style house situated on one side of an island ten minutes from Hong Kong.

"That's where I live with my wife and family," he said. "We have the most marvellous view of the harbour." It looked like something from a Somerset Maugham novel.

His vessel was circling Stonecutters' Island, home base of 415 Maritime Troop Royal Corps of Transport, whose job it is to support 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade around the Hong Kong area of the South China Sea.

"Lot of snakes about though," said Ian, who commands the troop of one

WO, four staff sergeants, two sergeants and 54 locally employed Chinese of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps - although they are all badged RCT.

"I'm told the Japanese used the island as a PoW camp and, to keep the prisoners from wandering about too much, let loose hordes of poisonous snakes. Their descendants are still there, although probably not so numerous. But care must be taken at times.

"Our main job is moving stores and equipment around the area for 48 Bde and to do this we have three Ramp Powered Lighters (RPLs), one new-style Ramp Craft Lighter, one range safety boat, one general service launch, two harbour launches and three

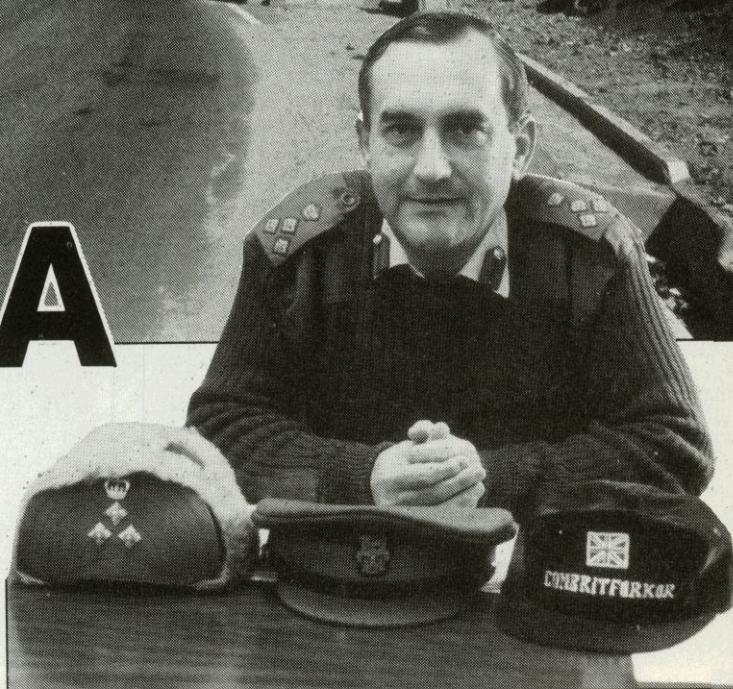
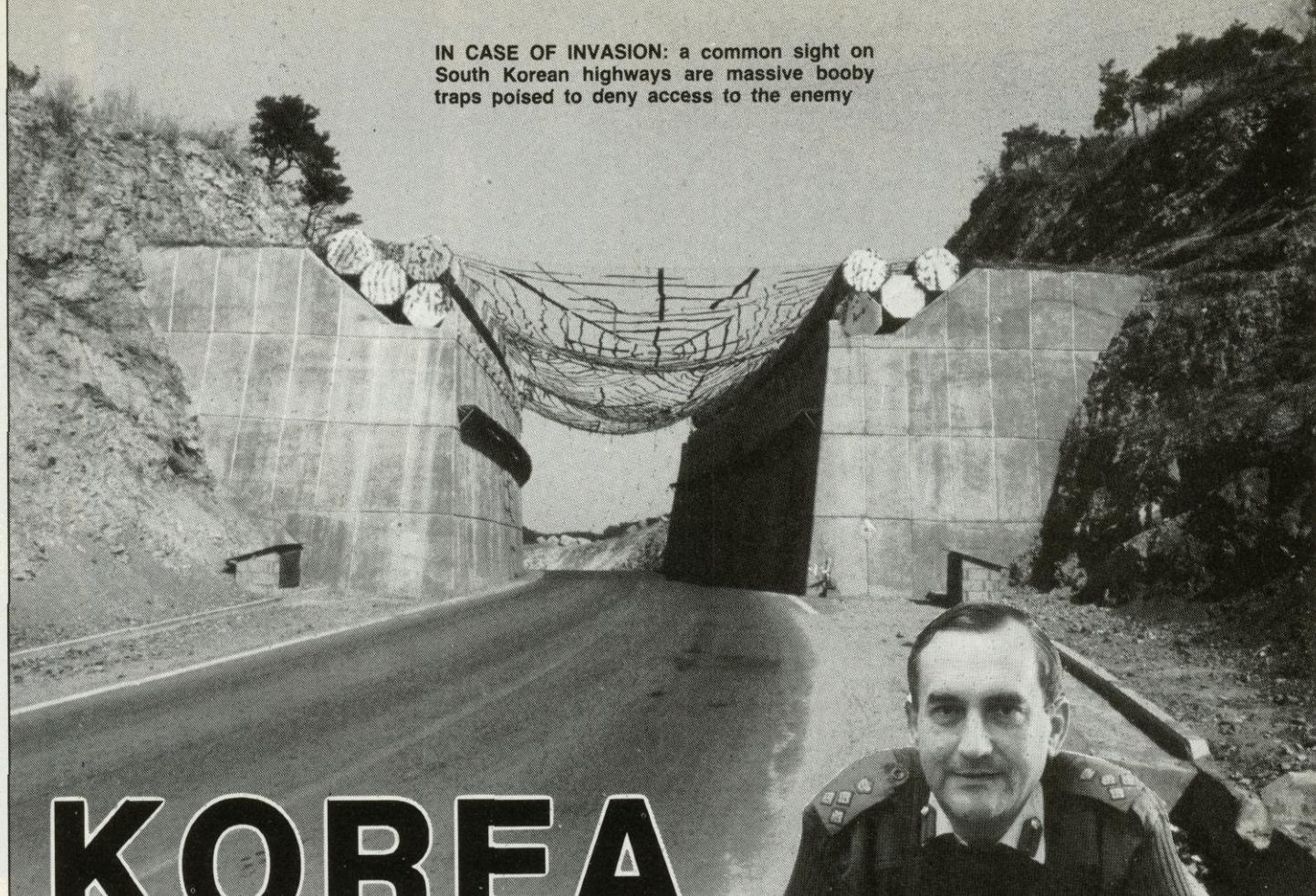
welfare junks for social use when we want to get away from it all."

That throw-away line added still more to the oriental ambience which was dented slightly when station marine engineer SSGt Brian Hutson reminded Ian that one RCL was having an annual refit in a Hong Kong shipyard.

"Originally two weeks were set aside for the work, but we discovered problems with the main engine and that means another two weeks at least," he said.

In answer to the question on everyone's lips: What will happen to his locally employed soldiers when the Chinese take-over comes? Ian shook his head and said he just didn't know. "Ten years is a long way off," he said.

IN CASE OF INVASION: a common sight on South Korean highways are massive booby traps poised to deny access to the enemy



BRIG TIM HACKWORTH: three hats, six men and a tough job

KOREA - A LAND OF DIVISION

THE South Korean Army is about half a million strong. The US has around 40,000 ready to answer the call to action and the British have a permanent staff of seven!

But according to Col Don Boose of the US Army, reigning secretary of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) and the man who oversees the periodic eyeball peace talks between North and South Korea and the UN, this makes our men in Seoul the third largest UN military force in the country.

Leader of this "force" is Brig Tim Hackworth. He is supported by Maj Simon Carr, RA, WO2 Alan Woods, RAOC, WO2 Charles Plaistow, RAPC, Sgts Dave Thornton, RE, and Allan

Wright, REME and Dvr Dhyan Bahador Rai of 28 Sqn Gurkha Transport Regt from Hong Kong - everyone calls him "DB".

While the brigadier's main role is that of Commander of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission (CLM) which is housed in a Nissen hut in the UN compound in Seoul, he also wears the hat of the British representative on UNCMAC in the cross-border peace talks - their last confrontation was May 1986 - as well as that of the British Defence and Military Attaché with an office in the embassy.

In addition to all of this he has Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse as his actual overlord. "I have a hot-line link with CDS should

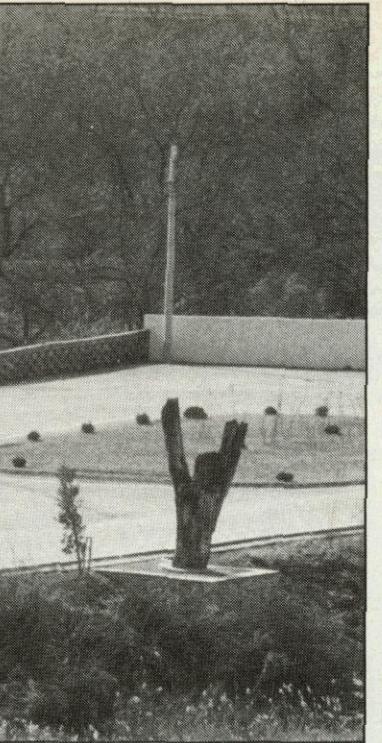
anything brew up here. If anything does, then he wants to know of it quickly," he said.

While he is his own boss so far as the CLM is concerned, the brigadier works to US Naval Admiral William Pendley when participating in the five-a-side UNCMAC (pronounced unkmac) talks with the North Koreans.

Then, with the admiral leading, North and South face each other across a table which straddles the border at Panmunjom and is divided still more significantly with a microphone cable down the centre.

Guards stand each end of the room where a dialogue has been going on for 34 years and crowds gawp through the

● Turn to Page 34



Above - Meet the Commonwealth Liaison Team in Seoul. Second left: Sgt Dave Thornton RE, Dvr Dhyan Bahador Rai, Mrs Diane Timmins (secretary), Maj Simon Carr RA, Brig Tim Hackworth, Sgt Allan Wright REME, WO2 Alan Woods RAOC, WO2 Charles Plaistow RAPC and two locally-employed drivers. A third driver is on the far left

Right - Brig Tim Hackworth (right) during an eyeball confrontation at Panmunjom with North Korean representatives. Note the tourists at the windows

Top centre - All that remains of the tree where two US soldiers were murdered in 1976



Above - Maj Simon Carr describes the battle of the Imjin River from the top of Castle Hill where the 'Glorious Glosters' were all but wiped out in the four-day battle. They lost 59 killed in action; 526 (including 180 wounded) were captured with 34 dying in PoW camps. A number of UN prisoners are still unaccounted for - 16 British and 389 US. Left - Col Don Boose, US Army: the man from UNCMAC, the UN Command Military Armistice Commission

No man's land with a non-stop hit parade!

• From Page 33

windows as the talkers wait for translations since the North speaks Korean and the South English.

"It gets a bit confusing at times," Brig Hackworth conceded, "but we don't meet too often at top level. Only when one side or the other considers there is something important to discuss."

This is where Maj Simon Carr comes into the picture. When he's not assisting the brigadier directly he has a number of other jobs, among which is a department called SIT - Special Investigation Team.

With Maj Walt Davis of the US Marines and Col Lee of the Korean Army engineers and an interpreter, they investigate an average of 30 complaints a month from the North Koreans.

Their job is to assess the seriousness of the charges and advise the UNCMAC team whether it's worth an eyeball confrontation with their Northern counterparts.

"Just about all the complaints are of a

trivial nature," said Maj Carr. "But we have to check them out which often means going to any point along the 151-mile long border."

Not an easy task as the double-wire border with its four kilometres of demilitarised zone (DMZ) - in reality it's a no man's land - traverses rough ground and mountains and follows roughly the 38th parallel, the truce of 1953.

And that's how the situation is today, 34 years after the July '53 cease-fire and two million dead, when an armistice was declared. But still they wait for peace to be announced.

The brittleness of the situation is obvious at Panmunjom, meeting place for North and South.

Known as the Joint Security Area (JSA) it is policed by American soldiers on the south side and the North Korean People's Army on the north.

The American guards, picked for their height, stand with feet slightly apart, arms

hanging loose in front of them. They neither move nor speak. They just stare straight ahead at their opposite numbers a few yards away.

Tourists follow a set route in buses and even take a peek into the room where the talks are held. They even get to walk round the table and stand in North Korea. Presumably the North Korean visitors do the same when it's their turn to show people around.

But even with all this interchange, there is a perceptible feeling of tension, as though walking on eggs. One false move and something must give.

And there have been a number of times when something has given. Like the time in 1976 when two American soldiers were murdered close to Panmunjom.

They were trimming a tree which obscured their view of the North Koreans from their lookout post.

As they started to lop branches North

Koreans rushed across a bridge once used to exchange PoWs and known as the *Bridge of No Return*, killed the two men with their own axes and then rushed back across the bridge to the safety of their own side. All that remains of the tree now is a stump.

And, of course, numerous incidents have occurred before and since this atrocity which have all added to the tension.

That old favourite of all enemies, propaganda, also plays a large part in this war of nerves.

Close by Panmunjom the North flies what is said to be the largest flag in the world. According to the US Army tour guide it has a dry weight of 600lb and is an incredible 100 metres long. The South has one, too, just a little smaller. The two flags flutter opposite each other as if in competition, as indeed they are.

At the western end of the DMZ, near to the estuary of the Han river, a huge sign on the north bank, only 600 metres away,

welcomes all to North Korea. They also blast music across the water.

In answer the South blares back with 18 hours of non-stop sound and even turn it on to their own soldiers to drown the noise from the North.

While they may well have a hit parade of their own, their repertoire of Western music includes the *Lawrence of Arabia* theme!

Since the North appear a boring lot, they are not averse to drilling tunnels to penetrate the South - several have been found all along the border - and test holes pepper the tracks at regular intervals along the south side of the wire.

It's all part of the nerve battle and extends in part to the UN Memorial Cemetery in Pusan in the south.

Here, sited just outside the bustling port, come one million visitors a year, 50,000 of them from abroad, to pay their respects to the 37,895 UN soldiers who died in the Korean war.

"Quite a number come from Britain and are very moved when they see the graves for the first time," said Mr Tae-hong Chung, assistant custodian of the cemetery, "even though 34 years have passed. I get quite a lot of letters asking for photographs of graves. I do as requested and send the photo. It is the least I can do."

A war veteran himself, he shares the work of running the cemetery with its 2,292 graves - 884 of them British - with former Korean diplomat Ambassador Moon.

They in turn are responsible to the ambassadors of 11 nations which have soldiers buried there. They take it in turn to chair their commission and meet annually.

The French ambassador is the current chairman.

Among the British Army graves are those of Maj K Muir VC of The Argyll and

• Turn to next page

After 34 years the search goes on for 16 missing men

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Sutherland Highlanders, who died on September 23, 1950 aged 38, and Lt P K E Curtis VC of The Duke of Cornwall's LI. He was killed on April 23, 1951 aged 24.

Hundreds more are there, many only 19 years old, some in their forties. Each grave is marked with a bronze plaque and is positioned in a neat plot.

"No wonder people break down when they see their loved one's graves for the first time," said Mr Chung.

But while all is calm and serene at the cemetery, it wasn't always that way and acrimony marred its beginnings when the Russians objected to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission taking control, as they do the world over, where Allied military cemeteries are concerned.

Said Brig Hackworth: "Seemingly the Russians said that if the War Graves Commission took a hand in controlling this UN cemetery they would refuse entry to Allied graves in their territory. And that's why this cemetery is administered by a UN Commission."

Meanwhile, 34 years have passed since the time of the "Glorious Glosters" and their heroic battle at the Imjin river where 59 died in action, 526 – including 180 wounded – were captured, with 34 dying in PoW camps. Only 67 of the battalion evaded capture.

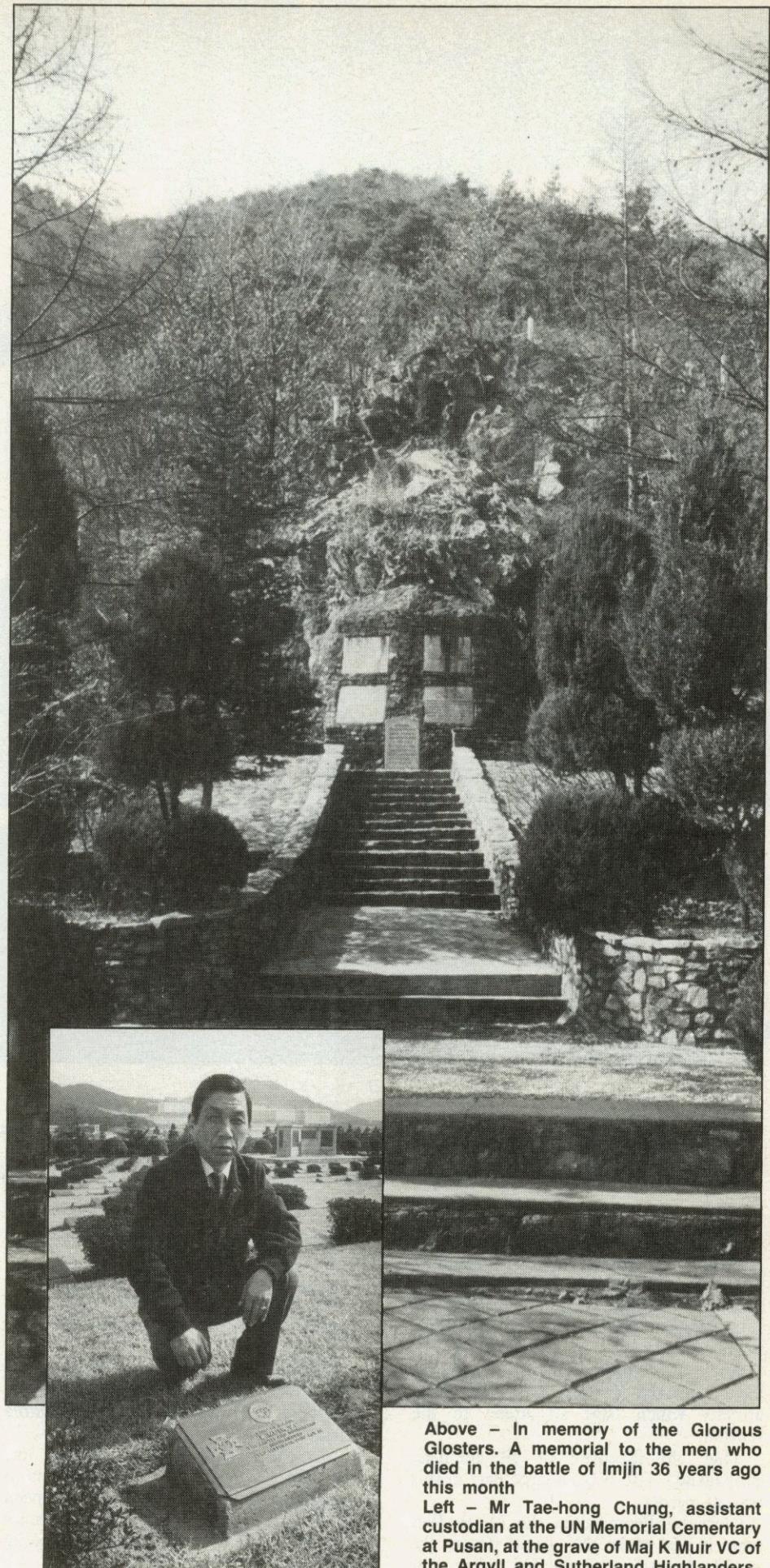
Now the Army is represented in Korea by a permanent staff of seven and a 34-strong rotational honour guard from Hong Kong which stays for ten weeks at a time.

Currently the guard is supplied by soldiers from 10 Gurkha Rifles headed by Lt Vaughan Prentice, 24, and boosted by the addition of four Thai soldiers and four from the Philippine army.

They are one of five platoons – three from the Republic of Korea (RoK) forces, Army, Navy and Air Force, and one from the US Army – which makes up the security guard for military chiefs at the UN Command in Seoul and to provide a ceremonial guard for visiting and departing dignitaries, which usually means two stars upwards.

"We seldom turn out for anybody less than that," said Capt John Krajicek, US Army and Captain of the Guard.

After rehearsing their US Army drill around the square in front of the UN HQ, to the sound of a taped US Army band, Capt Krajicek, his hair shorn almost to the top of his scalp and his patent leather boots gleaming, said: "The marching season has



Above – In memory of the Glorious Glosters. A memorial to the men who died in the battle of Imjin 36 years ago this month

Left – Mr Tae-hong Chung, assistant custodian at the UN Memorial Cemetery at Pusan, at the grave of Maj K Muir VC of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

just begun. The weather has been dreadful up to now. But now the sun is starting to shine, we'll be working up for sharp turn-outs."

"No problems," said Lt Prentice. "Just tell us what you want and we'll do it."

Meantime, while the multi-national

guard gets into its stride, Brig Hackworth dons each of his hats as the occasion demands and gets on with his many jobs, not least of which is endeavouring to trace the 268 British soldiers listed as missing in action (MIA), and locating 16 who may still be alive in PoW camps.



From WAAC to WRAC in 70 historic years

A happy WAAC – but the top button of the frock-coat could be left undone only if the weather was too hot!

AS British Tommies died in their thousands in the trenches and shell holes of the Western Front 70 years ago, women in khaki frock-coats made their contribution to the war effort as non-combatants. They were members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.

The corps was formed in December 1916 with the idea of acquiring the services of all kinds of domestic workers to take over the roles of 12,000 men serving in what would now be termed the rear combat areas.

The first batch of WAAC volunteers arrived in war-torn France on March 31, 1917. By the end of the "war to end all wars" 20 months later, 57,000 women had served in the corps, 10,000 of them on the Western Front.

The women were classed as civilians and those who served in France were called "camp followers."

A WAAC private was known as a "worker", a sergeant as a "forewoman" and an officer as an "official".

Pay was based on civilian rates. Overtime was possible.

Volunteers wore narrow-brimmed

basin bonnets, long gaberdine coat-frocks, boots and gaiters.

The women also served with the Royal Flying Corps as mobile workers – living in barracks and liable to overseas service – or at bases near their homes.

By March 1918 the WAAC input to the RFC – forerunner of the Royal Air

by
Graham Smith

Force – totalled 8,400 women. They worked as clerks, cooks, stores personnel, fitters, riggers, driver-mechanics and even sailmakers.

Fraternisation "monitoring" with battle-weary Tommies seeking romantic relief from the rigours of front line fighting was strict.

Disciplinary action was threatened against women wearing "light stockings and jewellery." The rules were relaxed, slightly, when it got too hot, in which case the top button of the coat-frock "may be left undone."

Withdrawal of the women from France was threatened during the

retreat of 1918. But the Directorate of Signals protested, claiming they were indispensable and their absence could affect communications with the Second Army.

Recognition of their worth and work within the war effort came on April 18, 1918, when the Minister of War announced that the Queen had assumed the title of Commander-in-Chief of the corps, which would, in future, be known as Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. It was disbanded in 1919.

The last of its members was demobbed on Sept 27, 1921. On Sept 9, 1938, by royal warrant the Auxiliary Territorial Service – ATS – came into being. It numbered 20,000 at the outbreak of the war and, just like their illustrious predecessors, the girls sailed for France, in 1940.

The ATS gained long-sought military status in the Armed Forces on April 25, 1941. Military ranks and commissions were granted.

The Womens' Royal Army Corps of today was formed on February 1, 1949.

REME band 'sounds out' guide dogs

● From Page 17

under training.

"All we ask is that puppy-walkers turn the dogs into socially acceptable animals, house-trained and so on," said Col Hartshorn, who left the Service in 1979 and was the deputy officer in charge of the Corps Manning and Records Office in Reading. The office has since moved

north to Glasgow.

He added: "The dogs themselves are happiest amid a sensible family environment. We are particularly indebted to the young soldiers of B Company of the Apprentices College who help us out during our June Supporters' Invitation Day. They help out as car park arrangers and cleaners-up at

the end of the day."

Col Hartshorn's staff numbers 64, including 17 instructors, some of these ex-RAVC, and eight handlers. The centre has responsibility for 640 guide dog owners and runs ten one-month residential courses for up to 12 owners at a time during the year.

The centre also "qualifies"

up to 109 dogs a year.

Nationally, the Guide Dogs for the Blind organisation has 650 staff, 300 branches and 3,740 working guide dogs. There were, four years ago, 130,729 registered blind people in the UK.

Minimum age of qualification to have a guide dog is 17.

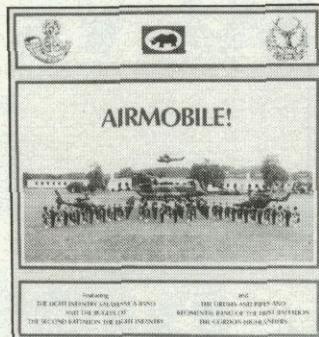
Plenty of tempo from a fast moving force

AIRMOBILE

Salamanca Band 2nd Bn The Light Infantry
Drums & Pipes 1st Bn Gordon Highlanders
Conductors: Bandmasters D Burton and D Knox
Bugle Major: W J Holden
Drum Major: H Tomkins
Pipe Major: W Rugg

THIS disc is the outcome of the formation of 6 Airmobile Brigade, comprising the two battalions whose musicians perform here plus support groups of artillery, engineers, the Army Air Corps and RAF; a fast-moving flexible force using helicopters to get them up front with all possible speed. All of which allows for plenty of variety of tempo in the music and colour from bands, bugles, drums and pipes.

Full advantage is taken of this variety in a well chosen programme "to suit most tastes" as they say, especially



those who love those two items much sought after and which feature the bugles - *High On A Hill* and *Sunset Salute*, the latter not to be confused with *Sunset*.

The marches are *Airmobile* by C J Walker for drums, pipes and bands; *The Light Division*, for band and bugles by who else but this old rifleman; *Drive On* by Mr Knox; *Hemer 50* by Mr Burton, written for the 50th

anniversary of Stadt Hemer where the Airmobile battalions were stationed in 1986; *Bugle Boy*, a swing march for band and bugles by S Phillips; and a medley of *Corps and Regiments Marches* of the brigade.

The most popular of Malcolm Arnold's *English Dances* and his most beautiful *Scottish Dance No 3* make a very welcome appearance, as does an attractive medley of tunes from spaghetti westerns called *Moment For Morricone*.

Considering the problems of getting the participants together for the recording, having to use an officers' mess dining room, and the session much interrupted by tracked vehicles and overhead aircraft, a very worthy effort.

● From Bandmaster, Salamanca Band, c/o 2LI, Peninsula Bks, BFPO 24, price £5.60 inc.

In brief

Survival Training and Techniques by John Muston. Written by the Commandant of the British Joint Service Mountain Training Centre in Wales, one of the Army's leading mountaineers. Plastic covered book published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £6.95.

There Will Be An Awful Row At Home About This, edited by Ian J Knight. Revised edition of the Victorian Military Society's special Zulu War book. Price £3.25 plus 80p UK post and packing from J H Knight, 12 Windlesham Road, Shoreham, West Sussex BN4 5AE.

The Military Year Book 1987. Developments in the military world during the past year. Published by Oriole Publishing Ltd for W H Smith. Price £6.95.

Survival by Martyn Forrester. Described as "a complete guide to staying alive." Paperback published by Sphere Books. Price £2.95.

Remember the wireless band?

THE BBC WIRELESS MILITARY BAND (1929-1935)

Band International Vintage Series No. 5
Conductor: B Walton
O'Donnell
IMMS 105

THE WRITER of the sleeve notes for this disc feels it necessary to put the term wireless in inverted commas and the word radio in brackets afterwards. And who can blame him? Nowadays the novelty of receiving programmes from

distant places via the air waves does not exist, and a wireless band does call for some sort of explanation.

As odd as its title may appear to present day listeners, the BBC's private military band was perhaps the most popular medium for broadcast music in the 1930s, a time when Army bands appeared in the Radio Times a dozen times a week.

The band comprised all the leading wind players of the day, and from the rather blurred

picture of them on the front sleeve I still recognize at least seven who were professors at Kneller Hall, including my own teacher.

Their playing, in spite of all the limitations of recording techniques and transference from 78rpm, is a wonder to behold; the conductor, as we who heard him then and now are aware, was a better composer than conductor, so it is a pity he is represented only by his Paul Lincke-ish quick march *The Crusader*. His other fine works can be heard on a recent record from the Coldstream Guards.

Of the music still played, by those bands large enough to cope with them anyway, are two overtures, *Die Felsenmühle* by Reissiger and *The Caliph of Baghdad* by Boieldieu; marches are *L'Entente Cordiale* by Gabriel Allier and Berlioz's *Rakoczy March*, and the *Polovtsian Dances* from Borodin's *Prince Igor*.

The remaining works are just fond memories except to the Grenadiers band of the 1960s who played the lot, including

many electrifying performances of *La Tarantelle de Belphegor*, an audience-bewitching encore to beat all comers.

Two pieces by Moszkowski (he of the famous Serenata) are a *Hungarian Dance* and the *Malaguena* from his long forgotten opera *Boabdil*.

A highly idiosyncratic interpretation of *Goliwog's Cakewalk* and a *Carmen Fantasia* (with several oddities elsewhere) make up this nostalgic journey into what seems a distant past, yet many of us who have not yet achieved our allotted three score years and ten and who played under O'Donnell's none-too-secure baton are still around.

Whether younger listeners will appreciate the unavoidable failings of such a recording is another matter, but for band buffs this, like all offerings from the International Military Music Society, is a must.

● From Mr G L Frow, Salterns, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3SH price £5.50 in UK, £6 overseas except Australasia and Japan £8.50, postage inclusive.

Poor Bloody Infantry

◀ A Subaltern on the Western Front 1916-17

BERNARD MARTIN

Life in the trenches during the First World War — here is a vivid and poignant memoir by someone who survived there fifteen months, rather than the average three weeks.

8 pages of photographs £11.95
Published by John Murray

An eye for beauty in the midst of battle

WILF Goldstein refused to have a drink to celebrate victory on VE day.

"I could not help thinking of all the boys who won't be celebrating any VE Days," he writes in *Farewell Screw Gun*,

the story of his three years as a signaller with the 85th Field Regiment Royal Artillery (TA) – in Africa, the Middle East and on the Italian front.

Wilf Goldstein's book is the record (from his letters home)



The screw gun, unloaded from mules and in action in 40 seconds

A history of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles

ALTHOUGH *Desperate Encounters* is basically concerned with the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, it is also a useful reference to the expeditions and campaigns of between 1858 and 1947, fought with the aim of protecting the British Empire on Indian territory and frontiers and as far west as Italy and Gallipoli.

The story begins with a background to the circumstances that led to the raising of the regiment in 1858, starting with uprisings by the followers

of Sayyad Ahmed Shah and the Hindustani Fanatics, enemies of the British in India for 80 years.

However, the first of what could be called in depth accounts is that of the Ambera Campaign of October-December 1863 when a force under the command of Brig Gen Neville Chamberlain moved against the fanatics.

Historical researchers will appreciate the many-faceted items of information, such as the comparative scales of

of his experiences as "just an ordinary soldier", according to the prologue. An ordinary soldier who had the opportunity to see things few except the Forces had the chance to see.

But his story is extraordinary in that it dwells not on the great battles and carnage of the war, although there was enough of that in Italy. Yes, he writes of death, of the miseries caused by mountains and mud, of sandstorms, shelling, and snakes. But the bloodstained slopes of the Appenines are also blossoming in his eyes.

Sitting in a derelict, roofless farmhouse, overlooking enemy territory, he is conscious of the shells and mortar bombs whistling overhead to explode on the opposing forces, but also of the river twisting and turning through the green valley below, of the small white houses of an Italian village, of a passing butterfly, of the bare trees whose buds are beginning to swell.

"War seems more grotesque than usual on such a beautiful spot." *Farewell Screw Gun* – the title refers to the 3.7 howitzer because of the ease with which it could be dismantled – is a book of war written with great sensitivity. – AT

Farewell Screw Gun by Wilf Goldstein, published by The Book Guild Ltd. Price £8.50.

Balancing the defence equation

BRITAIN's 'defence capability' has attracted so much analysis in the past two decades that extensive shelf space is required to accommodate even a representative selection.

The Defence Equation is claimed by its publishers to be a comprehensive analysis of the major components. Whether or not the book achieves its objective largely depends on individual readers' preconceived ideas of what it should contain.

The list of contributors is a weighty academic line-up: ten experts in politics, defence and strategic studies. In consequence, the book can hardly be expected to make relaxing reading.

Hugh Beach's contribution *British Forces in Germany 1945-85*, tells the story of the British Army and Royal Air Force in Germany. It is a searching and sometimes critical account that could be usefully read by all members of the BAOR.

A unique perspective is offered by Anne Manderville in her chapter *The British Army in Northern Ireland 1969-85*, and it is probably the first time this conflict and policing operation has been analysed in English by a French expert.

The final sentence of David Weston's chapter entitled *The Army: Mother, Sister and Mistress: The British Regiment* may well bring a degree of gloom to some: "Is there any longer a place for the regiment? Time alone will tell."

Reading *The Defence Equation* is rather like attending a seminar on the ever-changing organisation of the Armed Forces occasioned by demands made by prevailing politics and, if this is what you need or enjoy, the book is highly recommended. – BJ

Desperate Encounters: Stories of The 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles of the Punjab Frontier Force by R M Maxwell, published by The Pentland Press, Edinburgh. Price £12.

The Defence Equation: British Military Systems, Policy, Planning and Performance edited by Martin Edmunds, published by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £21.95.

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Military Books for sale, out of print biographies, campaigns, unit histories, militaria and weapon books. Send SAE for list to Derek Hayles Military Books, 35 St Marks Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6DJ.

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6" glazed gilt frame, £12.00. Alan Clarke, 120 Ashbourne Avenue, Aspull, Wigan, Lancs WN2 1HN.

Military books, about 20, between £2-£5.00 each plus postage. SAE to Gray, 32 Minster Drive, Croydon CR0 5UP for list.

Modern British Forces in Full Dress. Six sets available. R.M., R.H.A., Royal Yeomanry, Q.O. Hussars, K.O.S.B., 5th R.I.D.G. £2.50 per set, P&P inc. (U.K.) Send S.A.E. for list. British Model Soldier Society, 21 Spring Rise, Galleywood, Essex CM2 8SH.

Black 3-hole SAS type Balaclavas. Double skin for extra protection, £2.95, p&p 50p. Brand new USA type MA1 bomber jackets, orange lines, black or olive green. S, M, L, XL. £22.50 p&p £2.50. Driscoll and Gibson, 275 High St, Leslie, Fife, Scotland.

Original cap badges, helmet plates, shoulder titles, etc. bought and sold. Also British, German and European medals and militaria. Telephone or write to: Steven Bosley, Coldstream Military Antiques, 55a High Street, Marlow, Bucks. Tel: 0628 822503.

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Free! Battle Orders Catalogue 1987, colour. Send sae to 71 Eastbourne Road, Willingdon, Sussex BN20 9NR.

Badges, breaking collection, large sae please. Spare ammo vest £16, cost £30. New faceveil £5, gaiters £1.50. Wilkins, 82 Southgate Street, Gloucester.

Norwegian Style Arctic Combat Shirts. 100% cotton fleece lined, colour khaki, size small, medium, large, £14.80. VAT, p&p incl. Cheques payable Dee-Wear, 22 Cheyney Walk, Westbury, Wilts.

Frame/Medal cases, any size. Hand made, stained, glazed, waxed. 7" x 7" (Displays 1-6 separate medals) - £8.75. 6" x 9" - £9.90. Inc P&P UK/EUROPE C.W.O. J Cannon, 49 Dunmere Rd, Torquay TQ1 1LR.

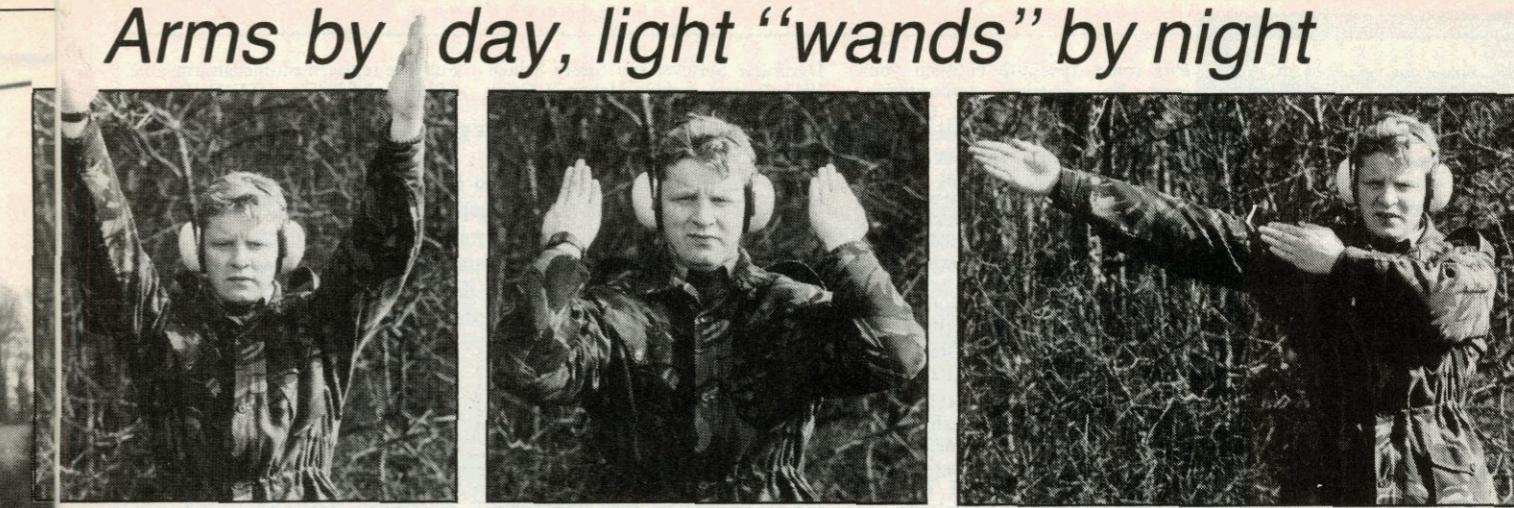
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Cpl Stephen Page demonstrates above the arm signals for "I am your marshaller" (left), "Come forward" (centre), and "Clear to right or marshaller on right", which is also the signal being shown to the helicopter pilot on the page opposite

MARSHAL LORE

THEY are probably the second most welcome sight for the helicopter pilot approaching unfamiliar, cramped surrounds - apart from the actual landing site, that is. They are the aircraft handlers or aircrewmen marshalls, writes **Graham Smith**.

Two days of every aircrewman's training at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, are invested in teaching him the vital arm movements which the

pilot of a Lynx or Gazelle has to trust implicitly.

The Joint Air Transport Establishment at Brize Norton runs helicopter handling instructors' courses but, thereafter, it is the unit's responsibility to train its own within the rest of the Army.

Those positive manoeuvres - arms by day (but never giant ping-pong-type bats) and "wands" or light devices by night - ensure safety for crew

and passengers be it on a mountain ridge or a jungle clearing with just feet of space to spare.

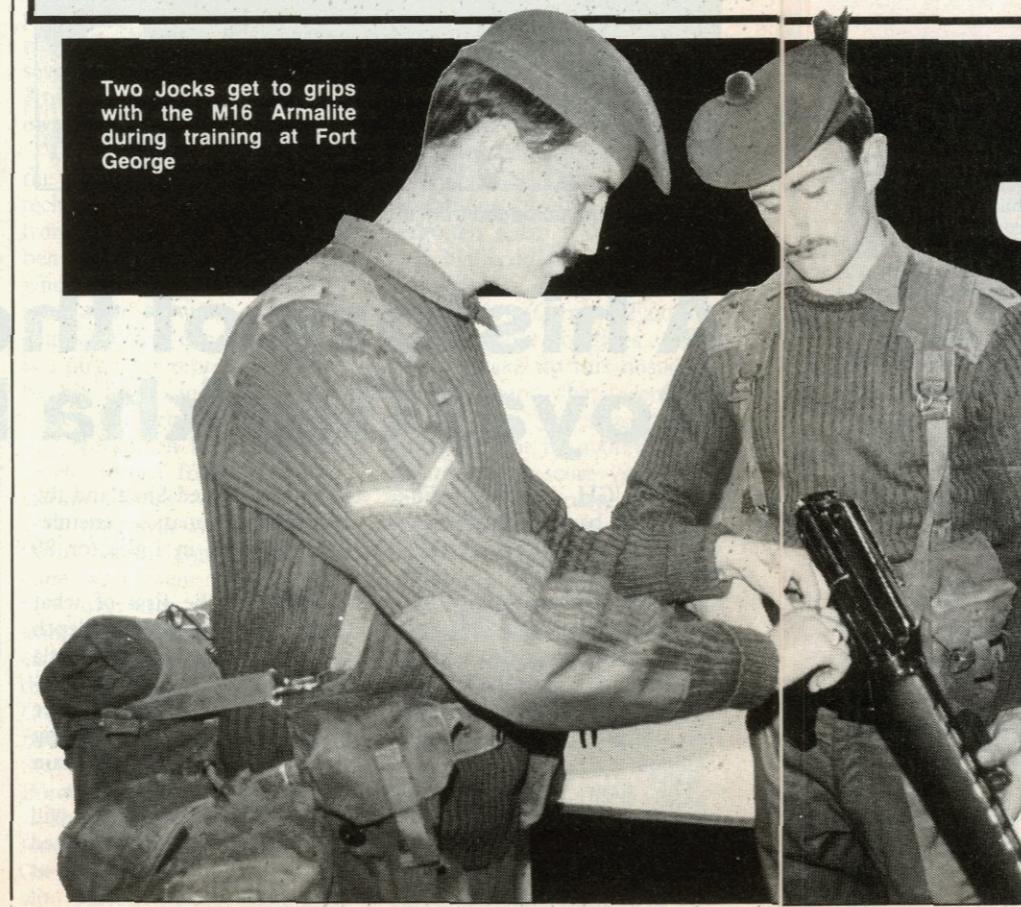
For without the marshals' reassuring arm signals - there are about 30 combinations - the "chopper" pilot operating in unconventional LZs (landing zones) would not only have great difficulty in landing, but he would be unwise to take off.

It is not just aircrew and passengers that have to be

brought in by arm power but underslung heavy loads, and casualty evacuations, too.

The man with the ear defenders and the semaphore-like arm gestures is, indeed, a welcome vision. A man in whose judgement complete faith is placed by pilots who need never metaphorically cross their fingers for a safe and happy landing.

Pictures by Paul Haley



JUNGLE JOCKS

JUNGLE patrolling held few mysteries for the Jocks of the 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders when they arrived in Belize earlier this month.

Memories of similar patrols on the slopes of Mount Kenya were still fresh in their minds despite the rigours of a harsh Scottish winter in between.

Preparations for Belize had nevertheless been thorough, with fitness training and signals communications high on the agenda.

SOLDIER visited the QO HLDRS at Fort George near Inverness where they were busy packing all that was necessary for a tour in the tropics and familiarising themselves with

the M16 Armalite rifle.

Some of the officers and NCOs were with the battalion when it was last posted to Belize in 1976/77 and were looking forward to improved facilities this time round.

The men are being encouraged to save money to make the most of their fortnight's R and R during the posting and the unit has been helping out with suggestions as to where they should spend it.

The Mexican resorts of Acapulco and Cancun are always popular and many of the Jocks are likely to make their way to the US or the Grand Cayman Islands.

Each member of the batta-

lion will also complete a week's adventure training on St George's Cay, on offshore island now used as a force training centre where Service men can get in some sailing, canoeing, windsurfing and sub-aqua diving.

Airport Camp near Belize City will be home for A Coy on the tour while B Coy will be based up country at Holdfast Camp and D Coy and Support Coy will be in the south.

"It is a marvellous opportunity to hone our infantry skills and the ideal opportunity too to see a bit of that part of the world," said Lt Col Peter Grant Peterkin who took command of the battalion earlier this year.

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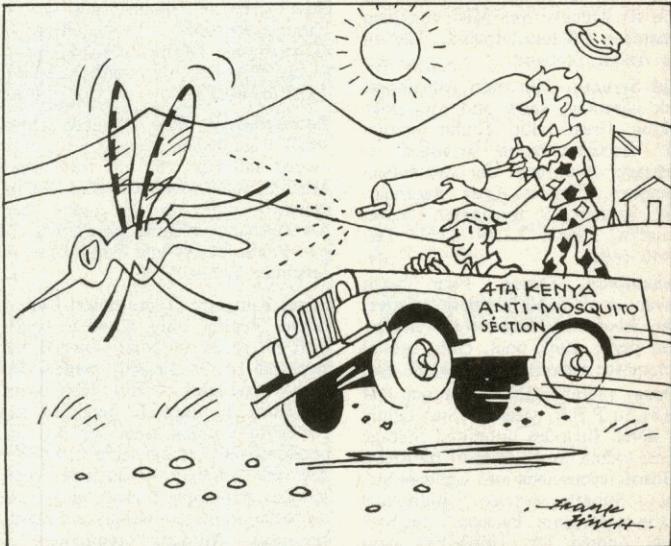
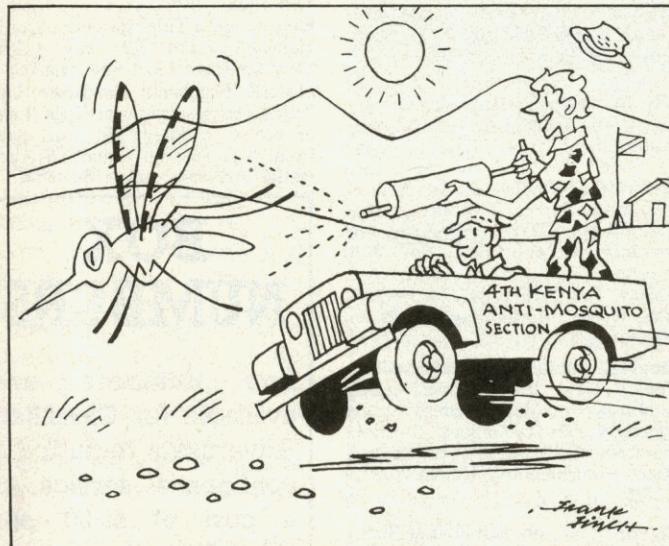
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£1000 worth of prizes to be won playing Soldier Pursuits - first part starts May 18, see next issue for details - take out a subscription now!

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Letting your Property? Tenancy Agreements and Rent Act Notices especially designed for Serviceman Landlords, individually prepared to your specification. For full details send stamped addressed envelope to: Michael Scott Property Management Services 745 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6AN. 16/87

The Servicemen's House Letting and Caretaking Agency provides a property management service which is second to none. Designed by servicemen specifically for house-owning servicemen in the Surrey/Berkshire/Hampshire/Wiltshire/Oxfordshire areas. For brochure write or phone: SLCA, 'Wild Pines', Tekels Way, Camberley, Surrey. Tel: (0276) 21847. Also SLCA, 'Brae House', Marlborough, Wilts Tel: (0672) 54380. 38/87

Dorset, including Bournemouth, Poole, New Forest areas. Long established bonded specialist letting agents take care of your home. Brochure from: Michael Scott, 745 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Phone (0202) 37321. 16/87

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Property

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General

Alex Drysdale, Cartographer extraordinaire - are you out there? Erika would very much like to hear from you! Contact address c/o SSGT Stone, REME Att 1 KOSB, Brooke Barracks, BFPO 45. 16/87

Don't miss Soldier Pursuits, our exciting competition starting May 18, be sure of your copy - take out a subscription now!

Ever wanted a Title? Become a Scottish Highland Laird for only £10.00. Souvenir Land Plots now available in Historic Highlands Handsome Land Title-Deed bestowing the Title 'Laird' on owner. A unique gift. Full details from: S A Survival (Land), Brothock Bridge, Arbroath, Angus, Scotland.

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Box numbers are available for Classified Advertisers requiring a confidential service, at a cost of £2.00 per advertisement, per three insertions.

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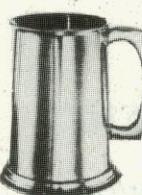
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MANY THANKS AND GOOD WISHES

To Soldier Magazine and all clients, and respondents.

★ NEW REDUCED RATES FROM APRIL 6th ●
(See page 43 for advertising details)

316

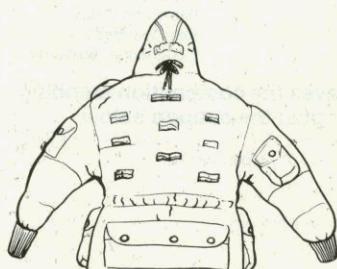
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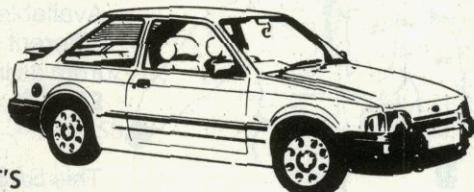
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- ★ Teaching in small groups to CSE, GCSE, 'O'- and 'A'-level GCE University entrance. Remedial help available.
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- ★ For service families a reduction in fees, special travel arrangements, etc.
- ★ Accredited by Independent Schools Joint Council.

Member of ISAI, ISIS and FIS, Charitable trust.
 Enquiries to the Headmaster. Tel: (024 365) 320.

215

THE Blue Coat School EDBASTON

Excellent location and boarding facilities.

Close to Motorway network, and mainline rail.

A Preparatory School for boy and girl boarders from 7 to 13 years. Preparation for Grammar and Senior Independent Schools.



For details and a prospectus please write to The Admissions Secretary The Blue Coat School, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 0HR. Telephone: 021-454 1425

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- Modest fees maintained in line with the Services Boarding School Allowance
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Further details can be obtained from:

**Captain Headmaster,
 Indefatigable School,
 Plas Llanfair, Llanfairpwll,
 Gwynedd, LL61 6NT.
 Telephone: 0248 714338**



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No vacancies till September 1987. Priority entry for under nines.

Prospectus from

The Headmasters — Telephone Kinlet (029924) 230

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Voluntary Aided

Day and Boarding Upper School for Boys

- ★ Hardye's has a long record of academic excellence, offering a wide range of G.C.S.E. and A-level courses, and a curriculum which includes computer studies, modern science facilities, technical and vocational training, art, music and drama.
- ★ Dorchester is in the heart of the Dorset countryside, with easy access to the sea.
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- ★ The Boarding fee is currently £875 per term.
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- ★ At Hardye's there is a wide range of sport utilising thirteen acres of playing fields, swimming pool, all-weather hockey pitch, six hard tennis courts and a large sports hall. Outdoor pursuits including sailing and windsurfing. The School is proud of its sporting achievements.
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*Enquiries to the:— Head Master, P. A. Close, M.A.
Telephone: (0305) 67841*



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(Tel: (0225) 835353)

Headmaster: MR P. F. J. TOBIN, M.A.

Boys and Girls 11-18

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Headmaster: MR J. E. BOGIE, Cert.Ed.

Boys and Girls 8-13

If you would like further details from either or both of the Schools, please write to the Headmasters, who would be delighted to show you around and discuss the future education of your children.

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Llandovery College



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Telephone: 0550-20315.**

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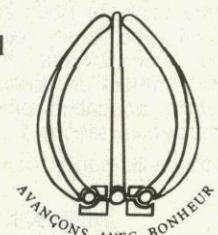
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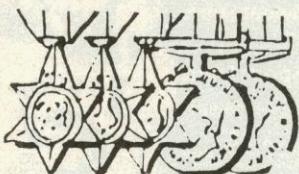
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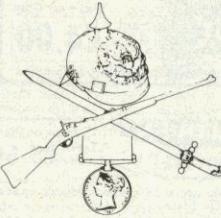
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Army (UK) Minor Units cup final

Light Division holds off Junior Leaders

Light Division Depot 2
Junior Leaders Regt
RCT/RAOC 1

The RACAL Acoustics Army (UK) Minor Units cup final was an entertaining contest between two teams of contrasting styles. It was fitting that the side that played the better football throughout was the winning one.

The Light Division Depot lived dangerously at the start and 'keeper Bramley had to punch the ball off Hope's head to prevent an early score.

The opening goal came in the 28th minute from the penalty spot. Frate turned into the penalty area only to be floored by an over anxious defender.

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THREE-GOAL AS SENIOR

RN 4
Army 1

THE Royal Navy won the Inter Service football championships for only the second time in ten years when they beat the Army at Portsmouth by four goals to one.

Forget the score, however, which flattered the home side, for this was a much more even contest than these cold statistics suggest and it really was

"anyone's game" until the last five minutes, writes Pat Massey.

The game flowed from end to end from the start. An early warning was sounded for the Army after just six minutes when first Lomas, and then Roach, cleared off the goal-line following a corner kick. It was from three set pieces that the Navy were to eventually score the decisive goals.

But the Army opened the

MARGIN IS ROUGH JUSTICE SERVICE CLAIMS THE TITLE

scoring in the 11th minute when a corner kick was partially cleared only to be met with a shot by Roach which was deflected by Greenwood past the stranded Navy 'keeper.

For the next thirty minutes, the game see-sawed from end to end, with the Army probably ahead on points. In the space of three minutes, however, just before the interval, the situation changed dramatically.

Veteran Tommy Johnson

headed the equaliser after the Army failed to clear their lines following a corner kick, and, two minutes later, his namesake Steve Johnson was well placed to force home a loose ball.

The second half was a continuous "dog fight" centred in mid-field. The home defence seldom allowed the Army front runners to penetrate to the last third of the field.

With time running out for

the Army, they pushed more and more forward in an attempt to get the win that was essential if they were to retain the trophy. This left gaps at the back which the Navy strikers were quick to exploit.

Four minutes from time the soldiers were stretched by a counter attack, conceded a free kick, and, in the indecent haste to close the gaps, Webbe, closely challenged by Rich, headed into his own net.

All the fury of the Army's final assaults was frustrated by ill-luck and some resolute defending. The final goal was inevitable — another quick break and Jones slotted the ball under an advancing Lomas.

Final margin of victory did not do justice to a tireless Army side but the result itself, a win for the Senior Service, was the right one.

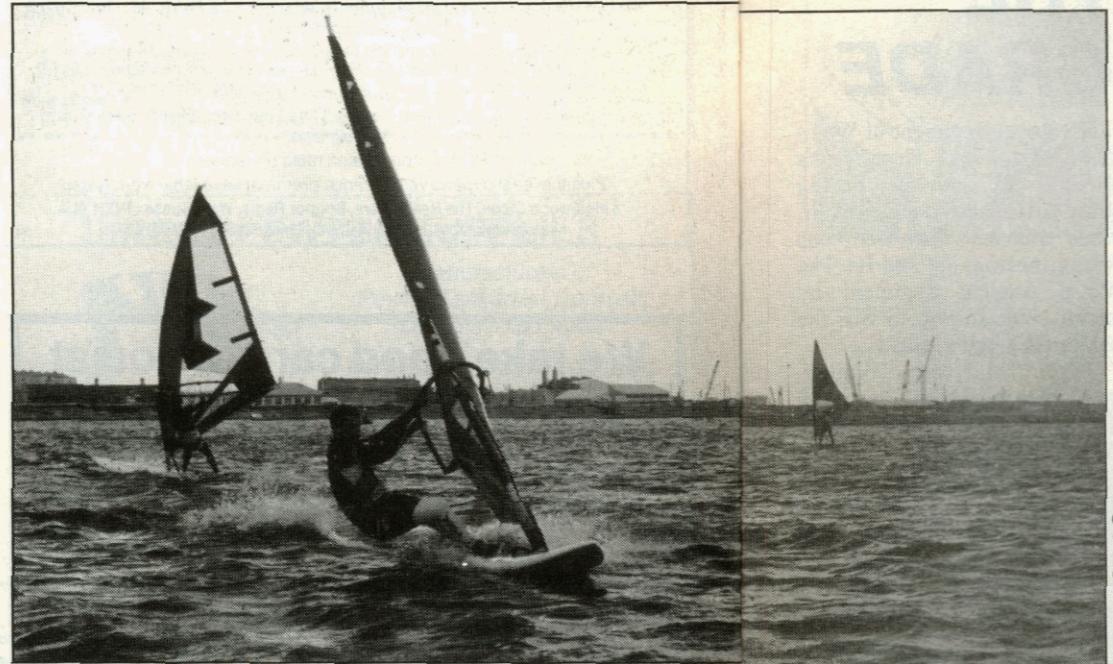
Army 1
RAF 1

The Army opened the defence of their Inter-Service crown with a home tie against the Royal Air Force. In the first of this year's matches, the RAF and Royal Navy drew 2-2. This match also ended all square but it was a tie the Army should have won.

Midway through the second half Cpl Chris Lomas, in the Army goal, earned the applause of the partisan Aldershot crowd when he foiled Cpl Steve Thompson who looked certain to score. Thompson was a thorn in the side of the home defence throughout and, when yet another error in the home defence left him in possession he read the situation perfectly and rolled the ball inside to Cpl Brian Evans who had the simplest of tasks to guide the ball past Lomas.

The Army pulled their act together after a "hairy" quarter of an hour which threatened to be disastrous and set about recovering the situation. They almost equalised in the 75th minute when a Maynard shot was chested off the line. Five minutes later they won a corner on the left.

The ball swirled into a packed penalty area where Truman fisted it to Lbdr Eddie McIlvenna who chested it down before popping it into the net. With the last kick of the match, the Army almost won the game when a loose clearance was hammered goalwards by Sharpe. Truman could only block the shot with his shins. The ball rolled to Maynard three yards out and, with only the 'keeper to beat, he tried to place the ball wide of him and Truman turned it round the post.



Picture: Capt Curry

SSgt Peter Priddle REME (foreground) and Trumpet Major Ian Hamilton 14/20H vying for position

S-East shoot to top

SOUTH East District, the UK champions, beat BAOR champions (BR) Rear Comber Zone in the final of the inter-district small bore match, fired at 3 BAD, Bracht, Germany.

Highest individual scorer was Maj A V Glasby RAOC of SE District with a total of 592 points out of a possible 600.

Runners up in the UK competition were South West District. SSgt Peter Priddle came second

Board sailors in Gib

and Trumpet Major Ian Hamilton came fourth overall, with Capt Curry ninth.

Team members were able to visit the famous Tarifa Beach in Spain and sample the surf which was both exciting and exhilarating.

Touch and go draw is first for 19 years

A conversion from near touch in injury time earned the Army a draw — the first since 1968 — against the Royal Air Force at Twickenham.

And with the Royal Navy having beaten the Army and subsequently defeating the RAF 13-6 the championship ultimately went to the Senior Service.

A great fight-back by the Army in the closing moments saw them make up a dozen points in eight minutes against the airmen for a 12-12 draw.

A try up by half time, the RAF crossed the Army line

twice early in the second period and looked to have things pretty well sewn up.

But they reckoned without a "never-say-die" attitude in the Army camp that gained momentum when SSgt Graham Morgan pounced on a knock-on in goal to open the soldiers' account.

Fly half WO1 John Morgan was on target with the

First three names out of the hat in the RNRU/ARU grand draw were Peach (BRNC Dartmouth), L Howick, Arvon Road, London, and ALR Gowrie, Perth, Scotland.

conversion, as he was from the touch line in injury time after Cpl Chalkie Atkins had sprinted on to a shrewd grub kick by the stand off.

So the Army took a share of the Windsor Life Challenge Cup, unlikely as that had seemed when they went three tries down without reply. But any side that defends well enough to deny England flier Rory Underwood a sniff at the line deserves some reward.

The Navy regained the title by beating the RAF by three penalty goals and a try to two penalty goals.

And then there was one . . .

SAPPER John McLean, the Army and Combined Services flyweight champion, took a step nearer Wembley when he beat Repton puncher Marlon Ward in the All-England semi-finals of the George Wimpey ABA championships at Gloucester.

McLean won every round with a superb display of crisp jabbing and effective counter-punching against an opponent whose recent contests have seldom gone the distance.

Final obstacle to an appearance at Wembley for McLean will be the national semi-finals at Preston, where the Scottish, Irish and Welsh

champions join the fray.

Fus Danny Coyle battled bravely against the much taller Everton Blake from the Home Counties, but just could not overcome a huge height and reach disadvantage in the light-heavyweight division.

Although Coyle (1 RWF) did everything to try and get inside, Blake picked him off continuously.

It was not a good night for the Combined Services team, with all four Royal Navy boxers — Colin Day, Brian Kearney, Andy Ellison and Gary Sanderson — and the RAF representative, Darren Crawford, losing their contests.

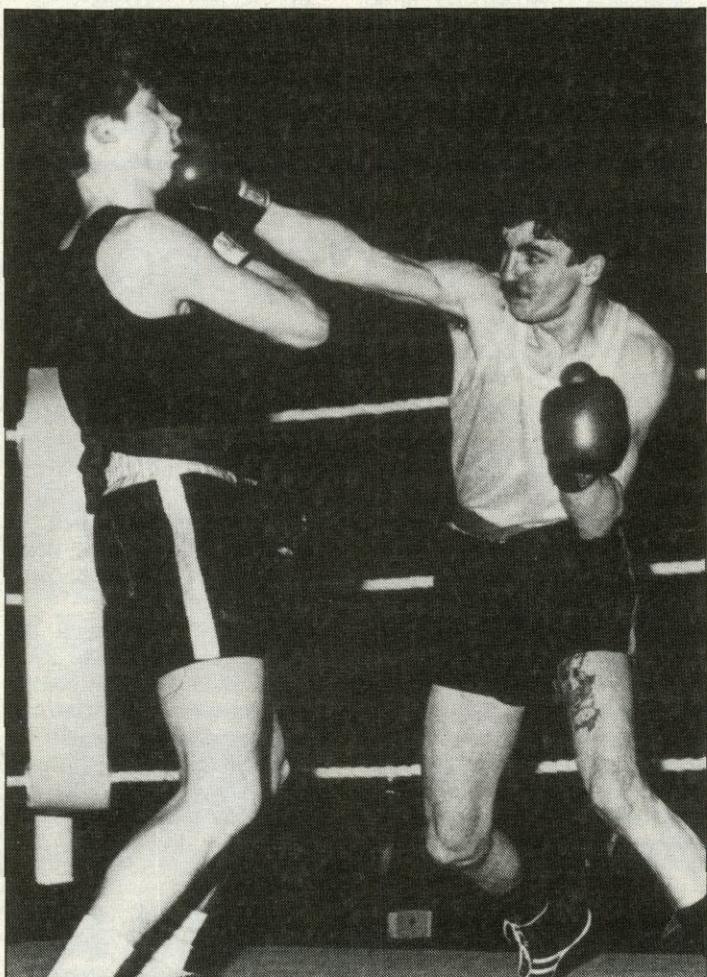
Martin is ski star for GB

BRITAIN's Nordic ski team has enjoyed considerable success this season, with a bit of help from the British Army.

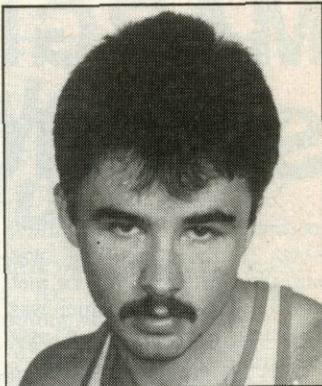
After some good results in the Nordic World Championships at Oberstdorf the team went on to the international Lowlanders championships at Isny in Bavaria where nine countries were competing. Here they won the Nations Cup and gold medals in the three events: 30km, 15km and 4 x 10km relay. This is the first time Great Britain has ever achieved such results.

One of the strengths of the team is Cpl Martin Watkins who won a bronze medal in the 50km (30 miles). He is serving with 1st Armoured Division Transport Regiment. Marty represented GB at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics in 1984 and is well on course for re-selection for Calgary next February.

Team manager is Capt Hugo Allen of The Black Watch and he will be taking the team to Calgary.



LCpl Barry Wright (right) gets the 1 Staffords on the road by beating Pte Gardiner of the Glosters in the first contest of the night



John McLean

WELSH MAKE THE GRADE

THE Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), last year's Grade III novice boxing champions, have done it again. Only this year they went one better, beating the 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment by seven bouts to two to win the Grade II novice title.

Final of this year's competition was staged at Stornoway Barracks, Lemgo, home of the Welsh battalion.

Best bout of the evening was between light welterweights LCpl Parry (REME, attached to 1 RRW) and Pte Leech (2 R Anglian), with both men standing toe to toe and slugging it out before the referee stopped the contest in favour of the Welshman.

Finals of the Army Grade III novice championships will be between UK champions the 2nd Bn The Scots Guards and the BAOR champions 1 Staffords.

The Staffords held off a terrific challenge from the 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment at Fallingbostel, Germany to take the BAOR title.

Hero of the night for the Staffords was Pte Darren Green who was recalled from exercise in Denmark for the final. He lost a stone and a half in three weeks to make the heavyweight match and get fit, and gave away five inches of height to his opponent.

Fears that he might run out of steam proved unfounded and Green's unanimous points decision was crucial in giving the Staffords an unassailable lead.

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Judo champs

WINNERS of the senior division of the Army and UKLF open team judo championships at ASPT Aldershot were 23 Gp RPC. Results were:

Army Team championships — 1, 23 Gp RPC; 2, 94 Loc Regt; 3, 26 Fd Regt; 4, 5 Ord Bn; 5, 49 Fd Regt and 2 RGJ.

UKLF team championships — 1, 23 Gp RPC; 2, 94 Loc Regt; 3, 26 Rd Regt; 4, 2 RGJ.

Army Junior team championships — 1, AAC ACC; 2, AAC Harrogate; 3, JLR RA.

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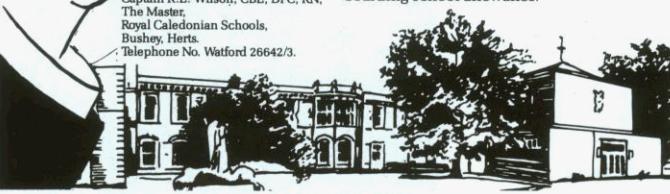


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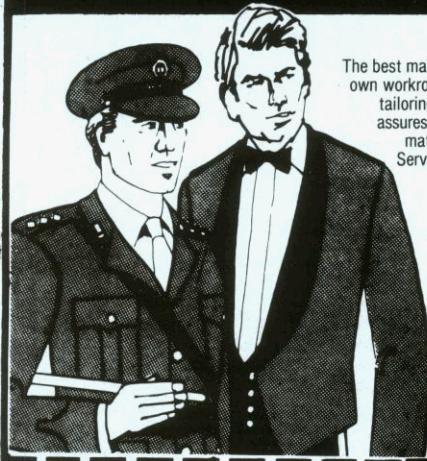
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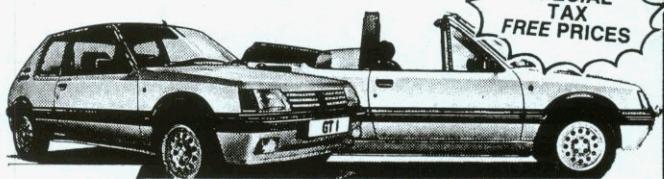
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An aircrewman marshaller from the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, guides a Gazelle helicopter in with its underslung load.

Story in Page 40.

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