

SOLDIER



FEBRUARY 8 1988

35 PENCE

Inside

- JIB OUSTON
- RETURN TO THE HOLY LAND



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VOL. 44/3

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FRONT COVER: Crewed by men of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, a Warrior is put through its paces on Salisbury Plain during a Warminster School of Infantry trials exercise. See story and pictures in Pages 14 and 15.

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

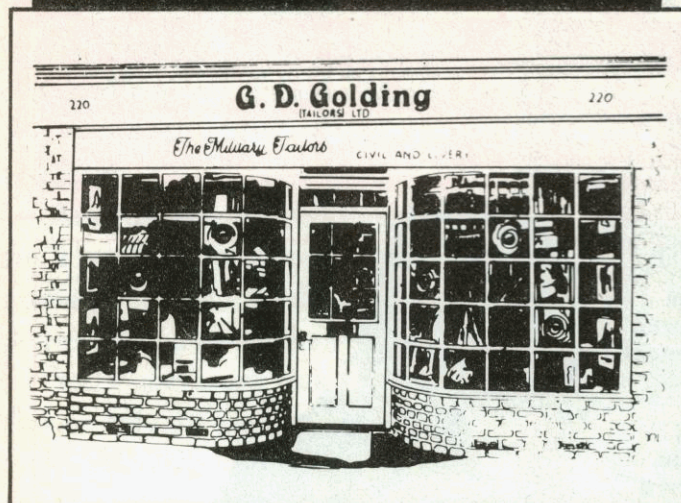
This new assault order webbing has been given the works at the Army Personnel Research Establishment at Farnborough. It is destined to replace the old cotton-based 1958 pattern webbing which came under increasing criticism after the Falklands War. For two years the boffins at APRE have been subjecting the new harness to a succession of trials designed to reveal any weaknesses or faults. **SOLDIER** has visited APRE to find out more about the webbing – and the people who tested it.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

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LETTERS

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Please make our tattoos more military

The content of military tattoos and shows of late is becoming increasingly less military. I feel a return to the norm would be heartily appreciated by many.

Let us have more British military massed bands – the best in the world. Let us see more of the bands and bugles of The Light Division and Gurkhas.

To add historical content the past history of the British Army could be re-enacted; there is enough of it to change the scene every year and re-enactment societies have the expertise to help.

All it takes is some imagination – something the organisers of today's tattoos are sadly lacking.



American college bands with all their razzle-dazzle, events from foreign countries, and civilian services do not fit in the traditional military tattoo. We need some enterprising organisers who will put the British Army back into our tattoos and make them like they used to be . . . military. – **Donald J MacLeod, 18 Beachcroft Place, Lancing, Sussex.**

● Mr MacLeod wins our prize letter book – Editor.

RAOC reflections

I was interested in the letter from M McEwan (SOLDIER, December 14).

Among my papers I have an old copy of my former battalion newspaper *Inside Mirror*, serving 17 Vehicle Bn RAOC.

It was edited by a British

civilian, Bill Griffiths, who, like myself was employed in the Stocktaking Department, and was produced on a monthly basis. – **W N Smith (ex Cpl 22937635), 33 Sleaford Road, Cranwell Village, Sleaford NG34 8BU.**

MEDAL MUDDLE

Reference to the Defence Medal issue (SOLDIER, November 16), at a recent reunion an old comrade wore four campaign stars and the War Medal. He was asked "Why no Defence Medal?" and replied that he had applied but was informed that recipients of four campaign stars for the Second World War were not entitled to the Defence Medal.

However, it was noticed that a former senior officer wore four campaign stars plus the Defence and War Medals.

I would be interested to know if a recipient of four campaign stars is in fact

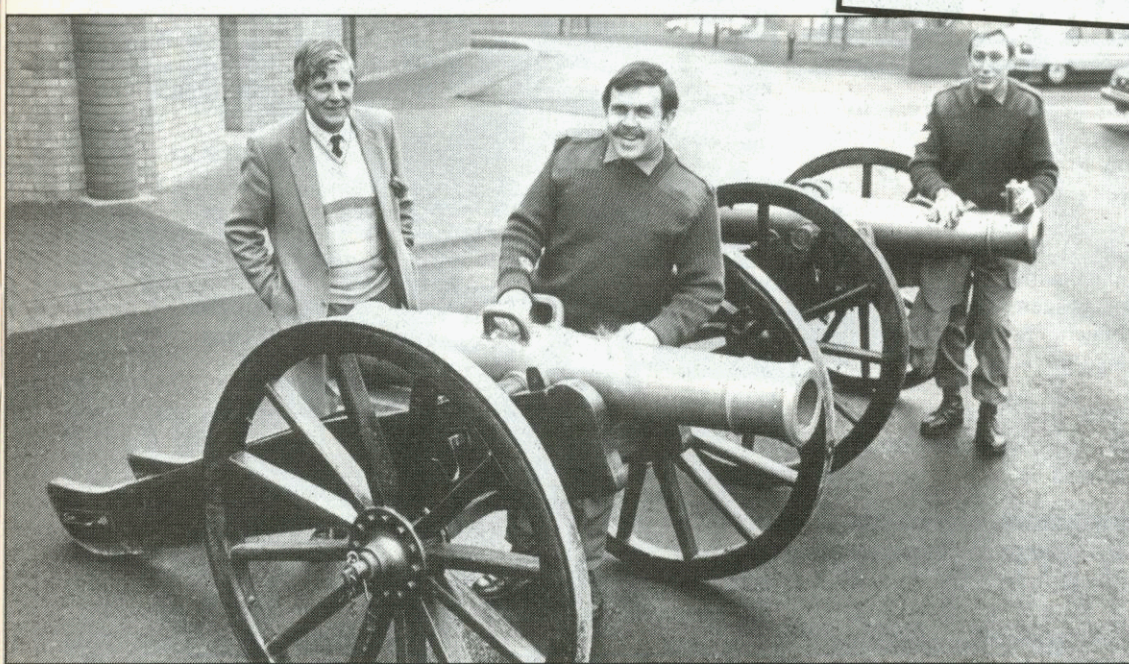
entitled to the Defence Medal. – **R Rimmer GC, 27 St George's, Chester CH1 3HG.**

● There are many areas of qualification for the Defence Medal, but service in non-operational areas subject to air attack or closely threatened (i.e. United Kingdom) qualified the recipient for the medal, provided such service lasted for three years or more. Those awarded Campaign Stars were eligible to receive the Defence Medal, provided they fulfilled the above conditions.

Veterans of the Second World War can find full details listed in *British Battles & Medals* by Maj L L Gordon – Editor.

**HOAY
cheer
on its
way!**

There's some belated Christmas cheer for S Tipton of Henley Road, Ludlow, Shropshire. Mr, Mrs, Miss, or is it Ms Tipton is the winner of **SOLDIER's** Christmas issue HOAY competition, and will shortly be £50 the richer. Try your hand at winning £50 by entering this issue's competition, on page 43.



Two French cannon sold to Egypt and captured by the British at the end of the last century have found a home in Wales.

They stand outside the TA centre at Cwmbran, home of the newly formed 217 Battery of Newport based 104 Air Defence Regiment,

Royal Artillery.

The two cannon, a 12-pounder and a 24-pounder, were cast by the French in 1829 and later sold to the Egyptians. They were captured by the British in 1882 at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

They graced the gates of a camp in the Middle East

before being shipped back to Britain in 1971 where they were left to rust at RAF Cardington near Bedford.

Sgt Maj Roger Williams, PSI at the Cwmbran TA centre, rescued them after a tip that they were about to be sold for scrap. Pictured above with Sgt Maj Williams (centre) are Maj Eddie Feeney (left) and SSgt Nick Gray.

Local firms chipped in with help in restoring the two guns and it took seven dips in an acid bath to strip the brass barrels of their accumulated paint.

Reunions

● The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association (London Branch) will hold their usual St David's Day dinner on March 5 at the Victory Club, London. Details from secretary Mr P E Byfield (tel 01-640 9441). The St David's Day Parade will be on March 6 at 1200 hrs at Horse Guards Parade.

● The fourth reunion dinner of former officer cadets and platoon commanders and former naval cadets of Royal Naval College, Dartmouth at Eaton Hall will be in London on March 10. Details from Eaton Hall OCS Dinner Secretary, 2 Needham Road, London W11 2RP.

● The 6th Bn (Royal Welch) The Parachute Regiment 1942-47, will hold their second reunion dinner at Hatherley Manor Hotel, near Gloucester on Sept 10. Details from reunion organiser Gus Platts, 2 Western Outway, Grimsby DN34 5HE (tel 0472 751200).

● 3 Divisional Signals reunion club's 36th AGM and annual dinner takes place at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 March 26. Details from the chairman Maj K N Smart, Imber, Millway Road, Andover, Hants SB10 3EU (tel 0264 52297). Past members wishing to join should contact treasurer Maj D J Roberts, Westmead, Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 5DY (tel 09278 3144).

Prayer for Italy — or Alamein?

With reference to the photograph in **SOLDIER** (December 14) said to show British soldiers kneeling in worship on Christmas day during the Italian campaign of the Second World War, I thought the photograph was familiar and that it was not taken in Italy.

I found the photograph in a publication titled *Our Finest Years* published by George Newnes Ltd in 1964 with the caption "Alamein morning, prayer before the battle of their lives". I don't know the original source, presumably the Imperial War Museum. Which is correct, please, Italy or North Africa? — **R F Harris, 77 Western Road, Newick, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 4NX.**

● The photograph was first published in **SOLDIER** nearly 30 years ago as coming from the Italian campaign. It wouldn't be

the first picture taken in the turbulence of war to be incorrectly captioned years later, so if there are any old soldiers out there who recognise themselves, perhaps they could confirm where it was taken. — Editor.

Fireproof statistic!

Many years ago, a distinguished warrant officer made the surprising remark that he reckoned the majority of soldiers between 1939 and 1945 did not fire their personal weapons in anger. This excluded the Home Guard.

This may well be a statistical fact but how can it possibly be proven?

It would be interesting to know if anyone could add any authority to this statement. — **D J McBain, 20 Templehall Avenue, Kirkcaldy, Fife.**

SOLDIER

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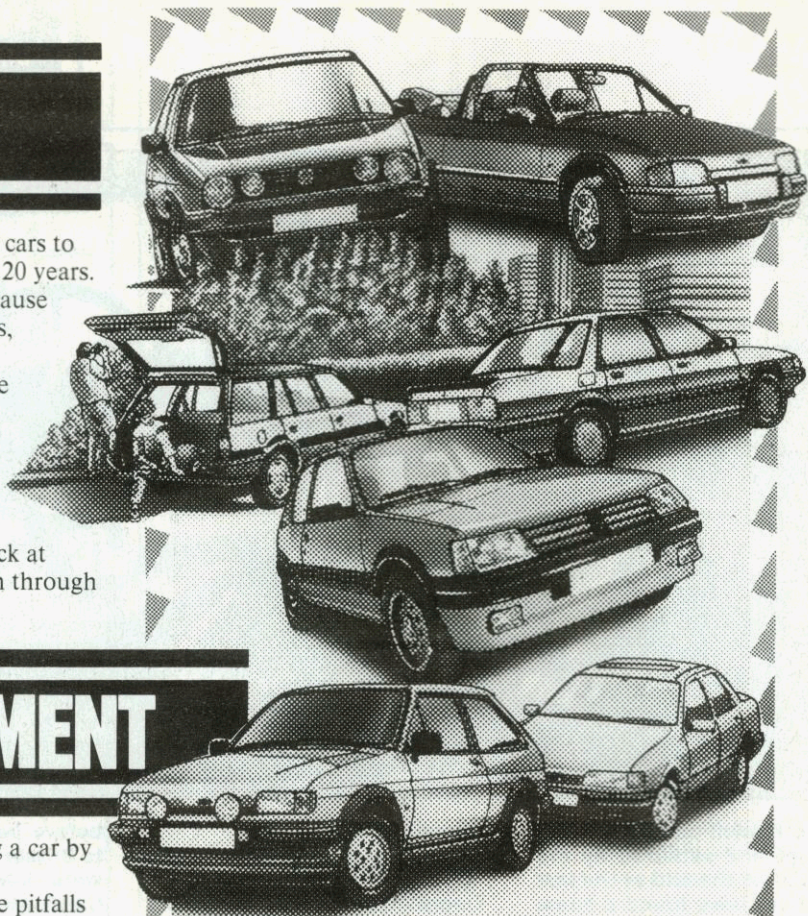
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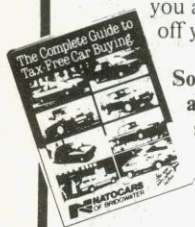
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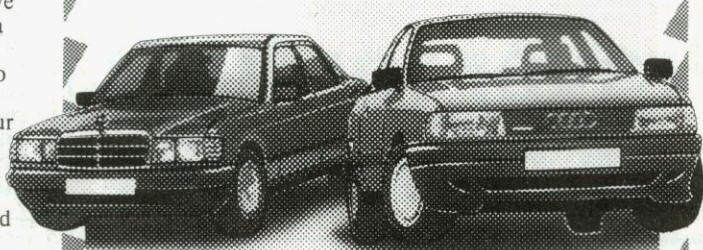
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Woolly hat will be Everest expedition good luck charm

A 36-man team of mountaineers from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and the Royal Air Force are to climb Mount Everest next month, taking a route from Tibet never before successfully completed by a British expedition. Eighteen of the team are from the Army.

Led by Lt Col Dougie Keelan, Royal Marines, the British Services expedition will

attempt to reach the summit from the west ridge of the 29,000ft mountain.

At a final practice session in the Lake District, Lt Col Tony Streather, Glosters, who led the successful 1976 Army conquest of Everest, handed over to Col Keelan a threadbare woolly hat which will be carried by the team as a token of good luck.

There is good reason for the hat's worn-

out appearance. It was given to Col Streather after he had completed his first expedition in Norway in 1950. Since then the hat had been worn on several major expeditions including the ascent of the world's second highest mountain K2 in 1953, and Kan-chenjunga in '55.

"The expedition celebrates the 35th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and also the first successful ascent of Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing," said Col Keelan.



Col Streather and hat on Everest in 1976

As well as all the normal stores and equipment required for such an enterprise, four lightweight, portable huts are being taken to provide shelter and accommodation.

Designed by team member Sqn Ldr Keith Hunter from RAF St Athan, South Glamorgan, the huts are unusual having been constructed from synthetic paper and plastic foam. "They are meant to withstand the high winds often experienced on Everest," said Sqn Ldr Hunter. "I also believe that it's the first time such huts have been used on the mountain."

The expedition, which has the Duke of Edinburgh as its patron, leaves for Kathmandu on February 13 and is not due to return until June. It has cost £220,000 with most of the money coming from contributions from industrial concerns.

More jobs 'available' for BFG families

A STUDY by the National Audit Office suggests that the number of jobs at present filled by dependants of Service personnel in British Forces Germany could be more than doubled.

The NAO's examination showed that 4,000 posts were filled by dependants and a further 5,000 posts were theoretically suitable. But the Ministry of Defence believes there are serious practical difficulties in increasing dependant employment to such an extent.

Although dependants cost half as much, the majority of the 22,700 workers employed locally by BFG are Germans.

MoD policy is to employ more dependants and the NAO concludes that there is scope for employing units to pursue this policy more effectively. In addition, there is scope for making more use of dependants as teachers, says the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the costs and financial control of British Forces Germany.

MoD should attempt to identify and plan to use dependant teachers due to arrive in Germany to obtain the maximum length of employment from them, says the report.

The Gaffney Report revealed that many dependants were unhappy at the lack of job opportunities and alleged discrimination by the mainly German staff of labour recruitment offices.

The 69,000 Servicemen and staff serving with BFG are accompanied by about 83,000 dependants for whom MoD provides housing, schools and other facilities. The entitlement to accompanied service is



2nd Lt Rupert Novis with his Royal Humane Society citation

Croc rescue officer receives RHS award

2nd Lt Rupert Novis, Coldstream Guards received one of the Royal Humane Society's highest awards at a presentation held at RHQ Coldstream Guards, Wellington Barracks. The RHS silver medal, and a certificate of citation, was awarded for his "tremendous courage and presence of mind" during a crocodile attack on the

Zambesi river in Zimbabwe, in May 1986. After seeing a boy dragged underwater by the reptile, he assisted the father to release the victim from the crocodile's jaws.

Unusually, 2nd Lt Novis will wear the ribbon on the right breast of his uniform, and not the left, as is normal for the recipients of campaign medals.

judged by MoD to be fundamental to morale, recruitment and retention and an important contribution to operational efficiency.

However, says the report, the NAO found the cost implications of this policy were unclear and concluded that MoD should

ensure they are fully identified and weighed against the policy's advantages over a more restricted entitlement to accompanied service.

It is estimated that the direct extra cost of keeping British Forces in Germany instead of at home is £255m in 1987-88.

Queens farewell to Canterbury

CANTERBURY, home of The Queen's Regiment, said farewell to the 3rd Battalion when the regiment exercised its Freedom of the city by parading through the streets. The 3rd Bn is to leave its Canterbury base of two years to become the resident battalion in Northern Ireland.

The occasion, which was marked by a service in Canterbury Cathedral, also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Canterbury to The Buffs, now incorporated in The Queen's Regiment.

During its time in Canterbury, the 3rd Battalion was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for work in Belize.

The parade, under the command of Lt

Col Bob McGhie, marched past the Mayor of Canterbury, Coun Kim Nicholls, who was accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brig Charles Millman. The battalion paraded for the first time with the new SA 80 rifle.

Also taking part were members of the Canterbury branch of The Queen's Regimental Association (The Queen's Own Buffs) and cadets from the 1st (Canterbury) Battalion ACE, The Queen's Regiment.

The Quebec Band and fanfare trumpeters provided a memorable accompaniment to the service in the Cathedral Church of Christ. Later a civic reception and lunch was provided for the regiment by the city council.



Lt Col Bob McGhie, CO of 3 Queens, leads his



battalion past the saluting dais in Canterbury

Surrender sword on way home

A SWORD formally handed over with other military trappings when a German corps commander surrendered to Maj Gen Allan Adair, commander of the Guards Armoured Division, at Cuxhaven in May 1945 has been returned to its original owners.

No one knows why the weapon, clearly a presentation model inscribed to mark the 300th anniversary of the Freiburg Shooting Guild in 1898, was given up.

Identified by tourists who spotted it in the Guards Museum, it was the subject of a number of requests and it was decided recently to give it back "because of the passage of time . . . and as we have another sword handed over at the same occasion".

Present when the sword was returned to Shooting Guild representatives in the Horse Guards Office of Maj Gen Christopher Airy, the Major General commanding The Household Division, was Major General Adair, now 90.



TA chaplain the Rev Alan Hughes (left) has his respirator checked by Sgt Alan Twist before sampling the effects of CS gas

HOLY SMOKE . . .

A HOST of Regular Army and Territorial chaplains, all from North East District, exchanged their cloth for "noddysuits" and respirators during a training session at the Depot of The King's Division, York.

The District's Senior Chaplain, the Rev Peter Dodd, said afterwards: "It was important for them to keep up to date with

military training as, in time of war, the chaplains would have to go into the field with their units."

During instruction on nuclear, biological and chemical warfare techniques, they entered the gas chamber where an instructor induced them to remove their respirators to sample the effects of CS riot gas.



Musicians from the visiting Band of the Coldstream Guards put on a command performance for this little girl at the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay, Hong Kong. The bandsmen volunteered to take their

Runaway juggernaut driver is commended

DRIVER Mark Cunningham was confronted by a nightmare situation when his massive Scammell Commander Tank Transporter - loaded with an armoured fighting vehicle - went out of control in a West German town.

He was just entering Aerzen when the engine revolutions increased to maximum - causing his juggernaut to charge at more than 50mph straight at traffic stopped at traffic lights.

Sounding his horn and flashing his headlights in warning, Dvr Cunningham jammed on foot and hand brakes. He swerved into a shop forecourt and then back on to the road.

While struggling to prevent the vehicle jackknifing he warned his two passengers to

get ready to jump clear, but regained control before this became necessary.

With the ignition off the huge engine continued to race, so Cunningham removed the fuel pipe, but it was not until a REME craftsman emptied a fire extinguisher into the air intake that the engine finally halted.

Now Cunningham, serving with 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RCT and promoted to lance corporal, has received a GOC 3 Armoured Division's commendation for his remarkable presence of mind and driving skills.

Services combine to rescue soldier

THE Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force combined to get an injured soldier from South Georgia to hospital in the Falkland Islands during the second South Atlantic rescue mission in weeks.

Rfn Barry Grover, 3 RGJ, was making a mountain traverse when he slipped and fell down a scree slope.

There is no landing strip suitable for RAF aircraft on South Georgia, 821 miles from the Falkland Islands, so a leap frog operation was mounted utilising a Sea King helicopter and the RFA replenishment vessel Blue Rover.

The helicopter refuelled on the RFA on both the outward and return legs of the marathon flight and Rfn Grover was flown safely to the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Stanley.

Weeks earlier, two TriStar aircrews from RAF Brize Norton went to the rescue of another Green Jackets rifleman when they flew him back to the UK from the Falkland Islands for a life-saving kidney operation.

An emergency call from the islands on Christmas Eve stressed that the soldier had just 24 hours to live and a TriStar K1 of 216 Squadron RAF immediately took off with a three man medical team and a dialysis unit.

Yeomen on move

MEMBERS of The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, based in Wigan, will be moving to a brand new TA centre this summer. The unit has been based in temporary accommodation since their original TA centre was demolished two years ago to make way for a new road.

MOBB

by Mouse



CAM contrast

A CONTRACT worth more than £13m to supply the Ministry of Defence with the Chemical Agent Monitor L1A1, which entered service last year, has been won by Marconi Command and Control Systems.

To be used to detect contamination on troops, equipment, vehicles and terrain, CAM represents a major technological achievement as no comparable equipment is known to exist elsewhere. Destined for use by all British Armed Forces, it is a hand-held device that monitors chemical agent contamination by reacting to vapour.

A long paddle

KILLER whales and one-ton sea lions were just two of the dangers faced by members of the aptly named adventure training expedition Silver Orca. Aim of the exercise was for a five man team to attempt to canoe 1,000 kms along the bleak Pacific coastline of North America to Alaska.

Team members were drawn from The Devon and Dorsets, RAOC, R Signals and the Royal Hussars, and took 32 days to complete the voyage, during which they encountered heavy storms and survived the visit of a black bear to one of their camps!



ZEEBRUGGE AWARD: Christine

MBE for ferry tragedy helper

SSAFA social worker Mrs Christine Spetch from RAF Hospital Wegberg was called to Zeebrugge with colleague Louise Cartwright in the early hours of the morning following the ferry disaster.

She went straight into action, visiting survivors – many of them in shock – to ease their problems and link them with their families.

She accompanied distressed relatives to the mortuaries, offering support where she could.

Mrs Spetch, who was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of her work with the survivors and their families, remained in Zeebrugge on the relief co-ordinating committee and planned welfare support for families arriving on the scene after the ferry had been refloated.



HIGHLY COMMENDED: SSgt Michael Cayless



DOWN MEMORY LANE: Lord Mayor White of Coventry

THIRD CLASP

STAFF Sgt Alan Coekin has been awarded a third clasp to his Territorial Efficiency Medal after 31 years of continuous service. A member of the Eastern District Specialist Training Team based at Chilwell Garrison, Nottingham, his job is to teach a range of specialist skills to TA soldiers in the East Midlands and East Anglia.

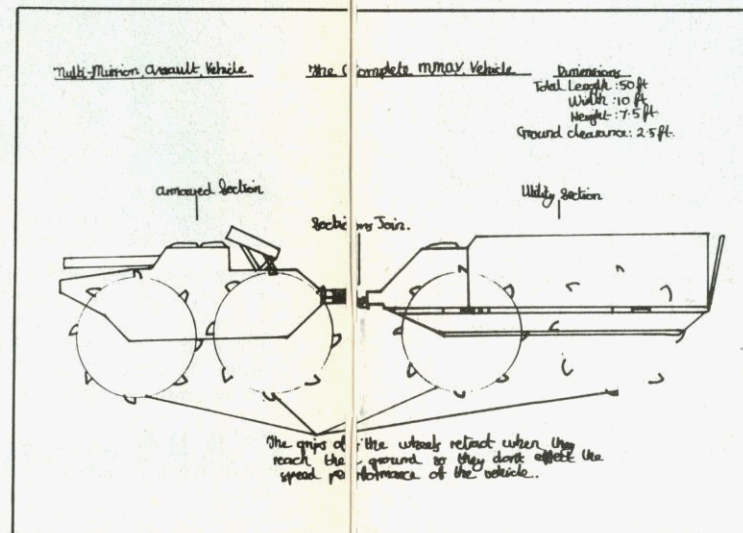
SERVICE ...

Hero of the minefield marsh

THIS is SSgt Michael Cayless of 49 EOD Sqn, 33 Eng Regt, RE (EOD) who single handed cleared a Second World War minefield submerged in marshy ground at Winterton-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Michael, who has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, ordered his team members to safety before working with his hands below a foot of murky water to place explosive charges on each of 18 beach and anti-tank mines laid 40 years ago.

It took him 48 hours to complete the hazardous operation.



IN DETAIL: Tim's battle wagon

Tim plans for the future

Mayor's mob!

A TA REME unit turned back the clock for the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Jeff White. He did his National Service with the REME in 1949-50 and admitted a certain fondness for his "mob" as he climbed aboard the recovery vehicle operated by 126 Reclamation Workshop REME (V).

The Lord Mayor called on the unit during its open day, one of 40 in the first district-wide KAPE exercises organised by Western District. Lord Mayor White presented a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate to WO1 Len Arnett to mark 26 years' service in the TA.



John's merited award

HQ Western District's Officers' Mess manager John Edwards has been awarded the C-in-C's Commendation for Meritorious Service by Maj Gen Robert Ward, GOC Western District.

John, from Shrewsbury, joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1950 and saw action in Korea, the Mau Mau campaign in Kenya, and on the Yemeni border.



AT THE PALACE: Roger (left) and Harry

TWO brothers who were co-leaders of the five-year Arnhem Rhine diving expedition, Pte Roger Blake and Cpl Harry Blake, both serving with S Company (HSF), 10 Para, London, have been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh's Prize for 1987. The award, for the year's top diving expedition, was made by the British Sub Aqua Club.

PRIZE DIVERS

The brothers led 24 divers from 1983 until last year diving in the Arnhem area of Holland where they achieved great success in recovering Sten guns, Lee Enfield rifles and many other artefacts which are destined for display at Aldershot's Airborne Forces Museum.

PEOPLE



THE REAL THING: Tim is briefed by LCpl Melvin Beaver in a Chieftain of 14/20 H at Catterick

SCHOOLBOY Tim Townsend (13) so impressed MoD experts with his design for a revolutionary multi-mission assault vehicle that they arranged for him to visit the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment at Catterick Garrison.

Tim, who lives in Wakefield, Yorkshire, sent 13 detailed drawings and a 2,000 word

description of his vehicle to the MoD in London and asked: "Please tell me what you think."

Maj Gen Stephen Stopford, Director General of Fighting Vehicles and Engineer Equipment, replied, telling Tim his design was full of good ideas and had been excellently presented.

Tim's system which so impressed the experts is made up of two separate vehicles, an armoured section and a utility section which would be joined to get to the battlefield but then split to do their respective jobs.

Tim's dad, Mr Geoffrey Townsend, did his National Service with the former King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

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A corner of marshals

On a recent visit to Paris **SOLDIER** writer Bill Moore took a trip to the famous cemetery of Pere Lachaise (no accounting for tastes) and came unexpectedly on a corner in which a number of Napoleon's marshals are buried.

He reports that the smartest tomb was that of Davout (arguably the most able of Boney's lieutenants). It looked as though it had been cleaned recently.

Ney's large tomb was cluttered with dead leaves and moss obscured the inscription.

Massena's massive marble monument (pictured below) was in good condition though a



mite grubby. The sculptured face stood out in imposing relief as befitting a general for whom

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

SOLDIER to Soldier

Feather in the works

Time stands still in Aldershot at present. The ageing mechanism of the famous clocktower (right) above the Cambridge Military Hospital has shuddered to a halt.

The clock, standing over 100ft high, has been a focal point of time-keeping to generations of Servicemen since it was first constructed in the 1870s.

Two factors account for the clock's demise – the passage of time and man's feathered friends. Happily, the clock will eventually be restarted by staff of the PSA whose unsavoury task it will be to clear the works gummed up by the corpses of dead birds and the natural waste products of their living cousins who have made the tower their home.



Wellington had the greatest respect.

Most forlorn tomb was that of Serrurier whom Napoleon made governor of Les Invalides, the French Royal Hospital. The Marshal, old even in Napoleon's day, is best remembered for burning the captured colours of 1,417 enemy regiments as the Allies closed in on Paris in 1814.

His grave was a mess – a tree having been uprooted leaving

an irregular hole and the modest tombstone leaning at an angle.

One old soldier of a later vintage for whom little can be done is General Wimpffen, blamed for the surrender of the army of Napoleon III on the Meuse. Though a magnificent bust glares from his memorial the foot of the tomb gloomily carries a single word at its foot: "Sedan?" The French it seems have long memories.

Killer machines

A whole new slant to the dangers of drinking is revealed in the latest issue of *EurArmy*, the monthly magazine of the US Army in Europe and Seventh Army.

Maj Michael Cosio, an orthopaedic surgeon at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, specialises in treating patients who have been crushed by soft drink machines.

Dr Cosio is quoted as saying: "It might seem funny if it weren't so tragic. I'm aware of 15 incidents in the two years I've been here."

Accidents happen when a machine fails to deliver the goods or the right change. Irate customers tip the machine to retrieve can and/or coins and end up getting crushed.

"People are suffering terrible injuries in the flower of their youth," says Dr Cosio.

You have been warned.

Sappers have it licked . . .

A Scottish sapper unit is celebrating its coming of age by getting itself stamped!

The limited edition commemorative philatelic cover is being produced next month to mark the 21st anniversary of the formation of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers).

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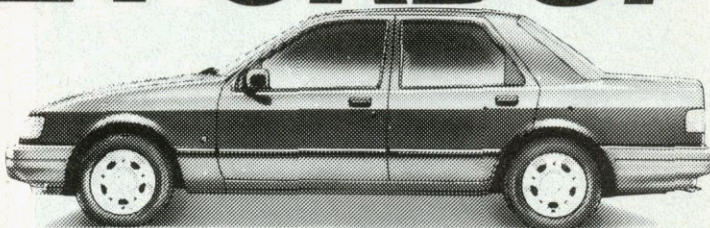
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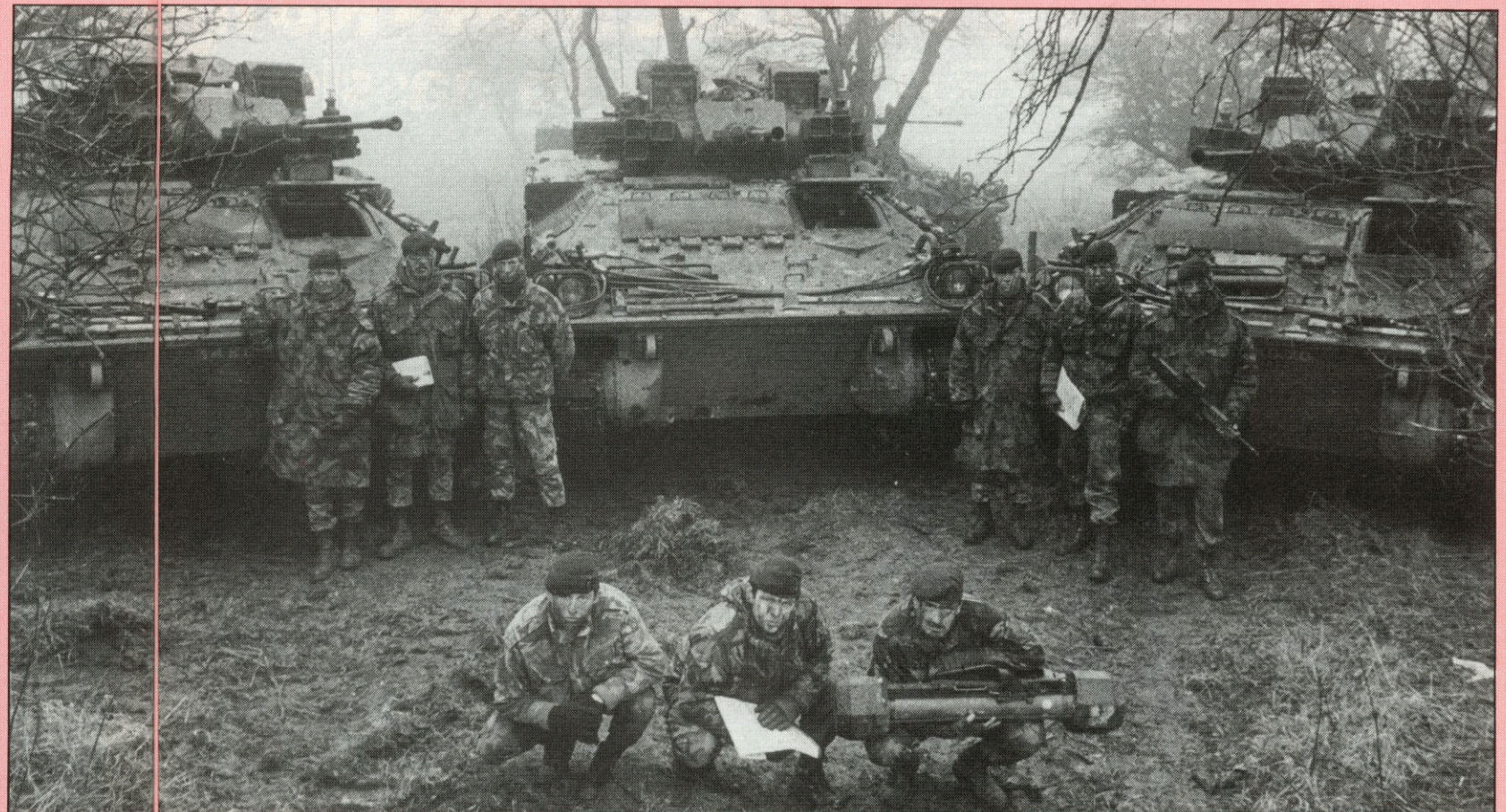
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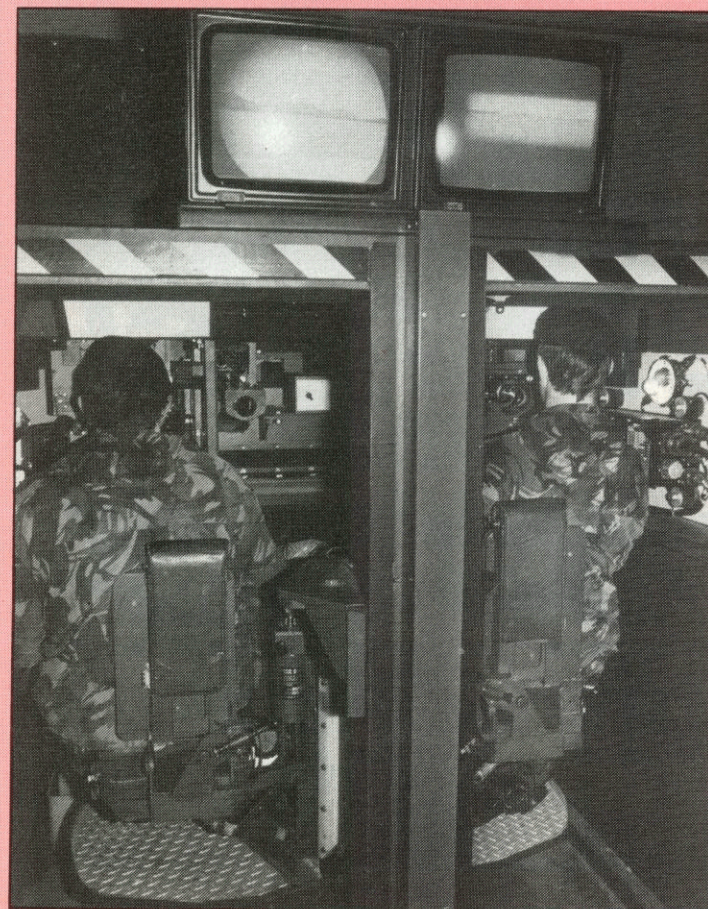
THUMBS UP FOR WARRIOR



Travelling at speed on Salisbury Plain – crews are full of praise for the Warrior's cross country capability



Warriors and their 2 RGJ crews on exercise on Salisbury Plain. Each Warrior carries a number of LAW 80 anti-tank weapons (right foreground)



Inside the Warrior turret trainer, a computerised simulator package

WARRIOR has been given a firm thumbs up by Warminster's School of Infantry demonstration battalion after a series of field tests and live firing exercises on Salisbury Plain.

Putting the Army's new Infantry Fighting Vehicle through its paces was a specially trained platoon drawn from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Warminster based 2 RGJ were among the first to receive Warrior after it started rolling off the production line last summer.

Their brief was to iron out any wrinkles in the training package which all 13 residential battalions in BAOR will go through during their conversion from FV432 to Warrior.

The number of vehicles available to 2 RGJ was limited following an industrial dispute at the manufacturer's Telford works in Shropshire.

The battalion took delivery of five Warriors instead of a full company's worth as intended but over the next few months was able to test the as yet untried training programme

Demo battalion puts new Infantry Fighting Vehicle through its paces

and help in the production of training videos.

Since receiving the vehicles in September 1987, the Warrior platoon at Warminster has trained five teams of commander, gunner and driver who have all passed their respective trade tests as well as firing tests at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Lulworth, Dorset.

These in turn have helped in the training of Armoured Infantry Training and Advisory Team (AITAT) personnel who – as the APC conversion programme gathers momentum between 1988 and 1993 – will train the BAOR battalions.

AITAT personnel are being drawn from a variety of infantry units and in particular from the reconnaissance platoons of those units whose personnel already have experience of Scimitar and its 30mm Rarden gunnery system.

Such experience was definitely a bonus when it came to tackling the conversion course according to Cpl Nick Bullivant, 2 RGJ.

"There is more to get to grips with than the 432 but that is what makes it so much more interesting. It has also got a turret, of course, which makes a lot of difference.

"My job as vehicle commander is to decide where to go, designate targets for the gunner and load the gun, and the gunner's job is to kill the target as soon as possible. Twin sights and dual controls mean that I can override whatever the gunner is doing if, for example, a priority target was to appear.

"It is ideal for the job it was designed for and now we can give fire support to the troops on the ground with both the Rarden and the chain gun. We can act as a fire base before

moving in and can carry on putting down suppressing fire as we open the door and let the men out," explained Cpl Bullivant.

Rfn Ian Staples, driver, added: "There may be more to learn but it is certainly a lot

inside the Warrior.

2 RGJ, as demonstration battalion, was the first infantry unit to receive one of these turret trainers and there are now three at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Lulworth and three with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards in BAOR.

Munster based 1 Gren Gds is the first unit to be fully converted from a mechanised infantry battalion equipped with FV432s to an armoured infantry battalion equipped with Warrior.

The advent of Warrior has meant a re-think of tactics and the command structure within those battalions converting to it.

Armoured infantry battalions are now having to take on extra personnel as, at each level of command within a company, another man is slotted in to take

control of the empty Warriors after they have dropped off their men on the battlefield.

Each major will now have two 2ICs, one maintaining the traditional role of second-in-command and the other taking on the role of company gunnery instructor and responsible for commanding the company's empty vehicles in battle.

Platoon sergeants will now be joined by a colleague of similar status who will be in charge of his platoon's vehicles while the rest are engaging the enemy on foot.

Capt Guy Wrightson, 2 RGJ, said: "It is an excellent piece of kit bearing in mind what it is replacing. It is not as sophisticated, perhaps, as the American Bradley but it is easier to operate and is pitched at about the right level.

"It does mean a massive shift in emphasis in battalion training though. The infantry must obviously retain all the skills associated with their role but now, in addition, we have got what is essentially a Royal Armoured Corps weapon with a turret that is more advanced than that of Scimitar."

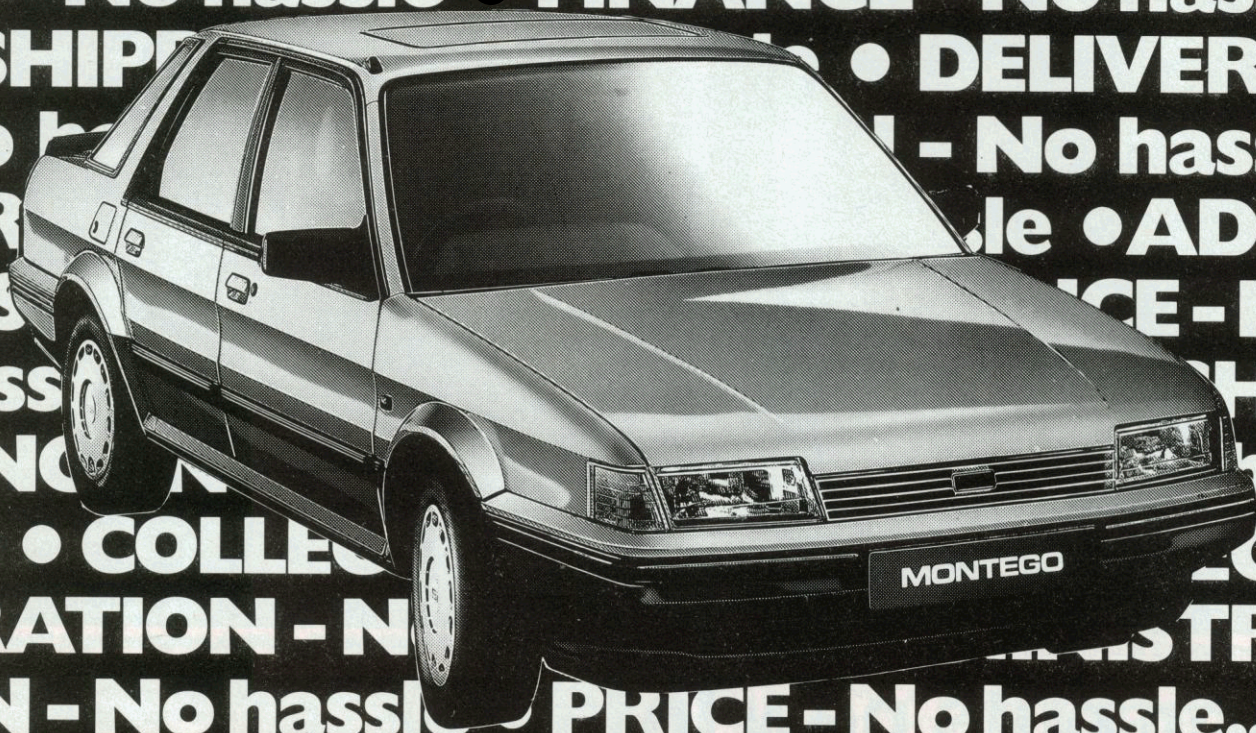
Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures: Mike Weston

easier to handle than the 432. It is fast and has an excellent cross country capability and can move while tilting over 60 degrees to one side – the 432 would have toppled over at 40 degrees."

An integral part of the conversion package is the use of an £80,000 computerised turret trainer simulating conditions

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ISLAND OF SNAKES

Above – Imperial echoes – Maj Eddie Thring and an officer of the HKMSC stroll outside the old colonial style officers' mess on Stonecutters Island

WHOEVER called it the Pearl of Hong Kong knew what they were talking about. Stonecutters Island is unbelievably different from the glittering skyscraper sprouting main island and the ever-growing container port on Kowloon Side.

Perhaps it is just as well that it is occupied only by Servicemen, writes Bill Moore.

The Hong Kong Military Service Corps has its headquarters there, it has one of the most up to date ranges in the world and it is the base of 415 Maritime Troop RCT. It is also the home of the ammunition sub depot.

The last of the Sikh policemen who were once to be found throughout the British possessions in the Far East are still on duty and check everyone who comes in by ferry.

With its colonial style bungalows, the handsome Victorian headquarters of the HKMSC, antique gun emplacements (now disarmed) and almost complete freedom from traffic, it is a tempting echo of a world long gone.

This peace and quiet is enjoyed by 28 British families who live there, a tranquillity attractive to birds, lizards and snakes.

SNAKES! Stonecutters' scaly slitherers are something of a legend. Because snakes are found throughout the tropical and sub tropical regions the Japanese are said to have bred them in pits on the island during the Second World War to provide anti-toxins.

In the chaos of 1945 the snake population seems to have dispersed voluntarily, though just how no one knows and there are said to be an estimated 10,000 on the island (figures based on a university survey).

Though many are venomous they seem to be content to sun themselves in quiet spots in summer and to take to their



Above – One snake that will never wriggle out of a tight corner again. It was caught lurking on the steps of the Commandant's office and despatched. Its skin – six foot long – is displayed (tacked to a board) here by RSM Ray Reddell on detachment from the R Hamps

● Turn to Page 43



IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF WHERE YOUR DUTY LIES . . .

... IN THE INSURANCE FIELD

IT MAY seem silly to ask a soldier whether he knows when he is on or off duty, but when it comes to insurance the answer can be very important indeed.

Service personnel are paid for being on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

That is official, so it could be considered that a soldier is on duty even when he is on leave or taking part in a football match with a home village team or helping out at a youth club sports day.

But that is not the case. In fact this is one of the most awkward of grey areas affecting Service men and women.

And though only a few actually suffer accidents which eventually lead to a discharge on medical grounds, the circumstances can have an important bearing on pensions and compensation.

A case in point is being examined by the Army Legal Corps at the moment.

A soldier was injured while with an "organised" skiing party abroad. It looks as though he will be medically discharged.

Had he been on an exercise the case would have been simple, and any pension he might get would be "attributable" to his service and therefore greater than if he suffered the accident while off duty. But how "organised" was "organised"?

If it is decided that he was not on duty his pension rights are much reduced.

I am keeping in close touch with this case as it could have important consequences.

How many people now enjoying winter courses know whether they are eligible for compensation on what is called the "continental scale" if they have an accident on their day off - perhaps sharpening up their cross-country technique?

The "continental scale" rises to 100 per cent of the sum for which you are

In my view . . .

insured or ten per cent for the loss of a big toe. Or you may get a lump sum or percentage of the lump.

Insurance claims are settled regardless of a DHSS attributable or non attributable pension.

How many Servicemen and women who go on courses or exercises to an EEC country or one with a reciprocal medical agreement bother to obtain an E111 form which covers them for free medical treatment?

All should have the form to cover them for what might happen after work.

You cannot take it for granted that the Service has covered you. And it's too late after the accident has occurred.

Most Service personnel have life insurance which is paid out on the death of the holder.

Personal insurance is something different. It is often part of another policy - motor, household, travel or holiday. But these may not take hazardous activities into account.

Winter sports, skiing, mountain climbing, motorcycling, fencing, squash, boating, yachting more than three miles off the UK shores - all sorts of things may be excluded.

It is essential to read the small print in a policy.

It is no good hoping to rely on the new rules governing Section 10 of the Army Act which enables a Serviceman to sue the MoD for compensation.

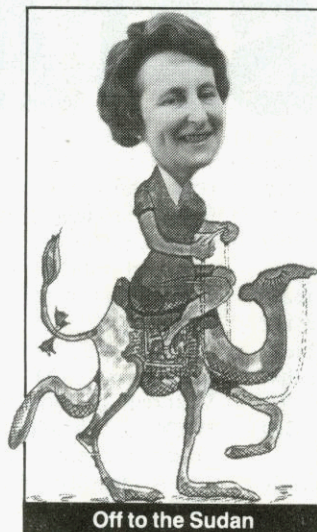
This does not apply if a person is considered to have been OFF DUTY at the time of an accident.



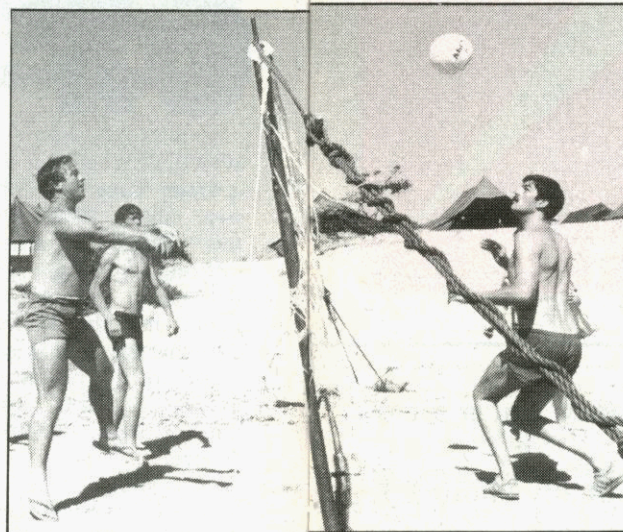
They're all having a wonderful time but

have they read the small print in the policy?

Soldiers on holiday like those pictured here need to know where they stand



Off to the Sudan



CANCELLED holidays cost dear. Last minute changes in exercise dates, altered postings, changed leave dates caused by increased security states can raise losses running into hundreds of pounds.

Can you claim compensation from Service funds if a cancellation is due to the exigencies of the Service?

Surprisingly the answer is "only on some occasions".

The only certain protection is to insure against the possibility of altered leave arrangements because such eventualities are taken into account in the X-factor in Service pay.

Many brokers and travel agents already sell policies but may not actually cover the Serviceman's particular problem.

It is worth checking that the policy has words similar to these:

"The insured being a member of HM Forces, having arranged leave, cancelled due to the exigencies of such Armed Forces, the Underwriters will pay any irrecoverable payments for travel and

accommodation. Proof of posting, drafting or cancellation of leave must be supplied by the Commanding Officer or other similar military authority."

If your insurance policy does not cover this then write to the Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee, BIBA House, 14 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7NT (tel 01-623 9043) who can provide names of brokers selling this type of insurance.



Home telephone: Camberley 29653

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

MUSTS FOR ALL MUMS

- you've got to be appealing!

I HAVE had a stream of letters from wives who discover that they are in limbo when they become mums.

They run into trouble when claiming Statutory Maternity Pay, Maternity Allowance, Statutory Sickness Pay and Maternity Payment (if on Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement).

Some, unaware of the rules and regulations, found they have lost their rights.

Others, because of the total confusion which still exists of how wives stand when they move to and from EEC countries, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and other overseas stations, stand to lose hundreds of pounds.

There are four basic rights in the UK relating to pregnancy:

Job security - a wife cannot be dismissed simply because she is expecting a baby.

Re-employment - the right to return to work after the birth.

Paid time-off for ante-natal care.

Statutory Maternity Pay.

However, not all women have all these rights, especially those overseas.

So Service wives should check with their personnel branch and the DHSS on their situation, much depends on individual circumstances.

Since June 1987 wives may claim Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) or Maternity Allowance (MA) or Statutory Sickness Pay (SSP).

But they must have paid the correct number of Class 1 or Class 2 (or both) NI contributions to be eligible.

Problems arise when wives move overseas in the last six months of a pregnancy.

To maintain their standing they **MUST NOT FAIL**

to continue to pay Class II contributions; to warn their employer in writing of their pregnancy and of their intention to return to work giving a probable date to find out the appeal procedures before moving overseas.

Don't hesitate if your claims are turned down - **APPEAL!**

Statutory Sickness Pay. Wives have to maintain voluntary Class 2 NI contributions to safeguard their right.

Maternity Allowance. Wives who have given up work and have been paying Class 2 NI contributions will not be eligible for SMP but may be eligible for MA, providing they have worked and paid NI contributions for at least six months of the year which ends when they are six months pregnant. Then they may receive MA for 18 weeks at £30.05 per week.

Statutory Maternity Pay. Wives will get SMP if they have worked continuously for an employer for six months by the time they are six months pregnant, and if they have earned enough to pay NI for the last eight weeks of that time. Carry on working for an employer until 26 weeks pregnant and they will receive 18 weeks SMP.

Note: If you are not eligible for either SMP or MA then you may apply for SSP for nine weeks, starting six weeks before you have the baby.

HOW NOT TO PILE ON THE AGONY

- come clean quickly

CARPETS, like mattresses, are a source of worry in married quarters and I get a number of questions about problems arising on hand-over. Especially where charges are concerned.

It may help if I list a few of the most common.

What is the life expectancy of a carpet?

Twelve years is the estimated figure but the Accommodation Services Agency may replace one when it is considered unfit for further use. Check your

inventory - each carpet should have a date against it indicating its age.

How are charges for wear etc worked out?

Charges for damage are reduced by a twelfth for each year of the carpet's

life. This applies all over the world.

What happens? An occupant may retain a damaged carpet or one due for replacement until the new one arrives. If it is too bad the ASA will try to find a second hand one to tide over. Fittings by local contractors sometimes take time.

Can carpets be cleaned at public expense when you move out of a quarter?

Yes, every three years where necessary, on change of occupancy and at the discretion of the OC ASA or his representative. What other advice can you give?

If you have a bad accident do see the ASA straight away and ask how best to clean the carpet. Don't wait until hand-over day.

● The Royal Bank of Scotland, plc, Holt's Farnborough Branch, Lawrie House, Victoria Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7NR.

● Services Liaison Lloyds Bank, plc, 25-27 Charles II Street, London SW1 14QN. The Armed Forces Insurance Brokers' Committee will also be helpful.

When the fat is really in the fire it's costly

A RECENT chip pan fire which burnt the kitchen in a married quarter left the family with a large bill - you only have to read the PSA's little red book (see SOLDIER, November 30) to know the costs levied on replacement furniture.

They were not insured. This sort of problem is continually arising today.

Too many people do not insure property in barracks, camp, married quarters or in transit. Regular checking of your insurance policy is essential.

Only in exceptional circumstances can limited compensation for loss or damage to certain classes of personal and private

property be paid out of public funds.

There are many policies on the market, all broadly similar in cost and giving overall insurance cover.

But they may vary in the detailed risks they cover and the compensation they provide.

For example if the policy is of the personal effects

type, it should include cover for public liability and damage to Service accommodation.

If you are due for a posting, the Government freight agent does enclose insurance information with MFO documentation.

The Army agents offer free financial advice. Their addresses:



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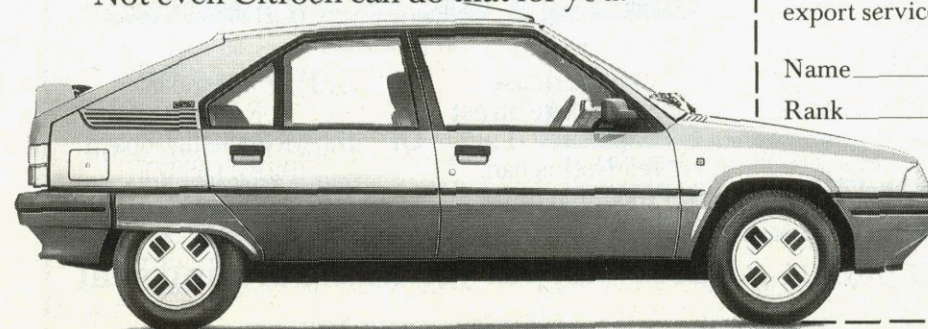
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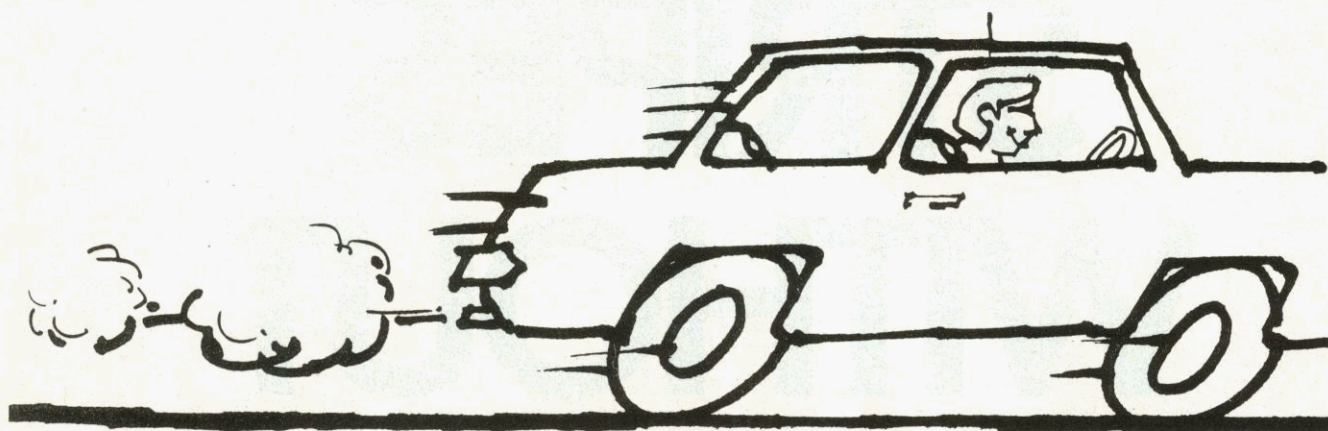
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"COME to look at our lads, have ye?" said the businesslike Black Watch corporal who booked the SOLDIER team into the guardroom. "Pity you can't see them when they arrive and compare the difference when they leave – beefier, a hundred times smarter, not afraid to look you in the eye."

He paused as a gaggle of local girls arrived to sign in for a disco.

"CORNfidence! That's what we gie the lads," he said. "CO-O-ORNfidence."

Albemarle Barracks, Ouston, Northumberland, used to be a wartime fighter station and the road to the headquarters of the Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Divisions) was swept by a bleak wind straight off the 400 acres of the old airfield.

The young kilted soldiers marching purposefully about the place didn't seem to notice.

The Ouston based JIB was formed in 1985 to provide men for North Country and Scottish regiments and for The Royal Irish Rangers. Since then it has earned an enviable reputation.

The wastage rate of boys who leave for one reason or another is lower than that of any similar establishments (and with the technical corps the Army has quite a number of them).

Pessimists who spoke gloomily of the Englishman, Scotsman and Irishman syndrome leading to trouble have been disappointed.

Any progress in the difficult art of turning boys into men is worthy of study and the record of JIB Ouston is attracting attention in a number of quarters.

"Getting it right" in respect of junior entry is becoming a matter of urgency as the consequences of the introduction of the Pill in the 1960s become evident and the falling birthrate creates manpower problems.

Instructors, teachers and employers everywhere face an increasing challenge because of the changing nature of society.

The physique of many youngsters is unimpressive. Habitual wearing of casual footwear results in bad feet and sloppy posture; upper body development tends to be poor.

Due to the drawn-out teachers' dispute many lads have not played games or athletics or done PT for three years.

Some have been brought up on junk



In our last issue we featured the Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe. In this and the following pages writer Bill Moore and photographer Mike Weston report on their visit to JIB Ouston in Northumberland

Tallest Junior at the moment. JLCpl Chris Ward (17) destined for the Queen's Own Highlanders tries his hand with pace-stick in command of Hook Platoon (named after the Korean battle). From Edinburgh, he is 6ft 4in and still growing. His father who served in the Royal Irish Fusiliers is two inches smaller. His mother is a nurse

food. A boy refused to eat steak and roast beef at Ouston because he did not believe it was real meat. It had always come out of a tin before!

An intake may have as many as 50 per cent of its strength from broken homes.

Such material needs careful handling and the first few weeks at Ouston are spent in winning the confidence of the boys who can leave without penalty during the first month.

● Turn to next page



RSM Iain MacDonald QO Hldrs. Among his duties is ensuring that the Juniors dress is correct. And with Highland regiments differing even on the cut of their spats this is no mean task. He has had to become an expert on dress regulations

Ouston's ideal for adventure training

● From Page 23

"They are not 'basted' from the moment they get here," said Maj Paddy Chambers, of The Royal Irish Rangers, second-in-command and chief trainer. "We know they are immature and allow for it."

Maj Chambers knows all about "growing spells" when young people put on a spurt which drains them of energy.

"We actually had one fellow who put on seven inches while he was here."

Two companies of 16-year-old junior leaders (one Scottish the other King's) spend a year at Ouston. A third company of junior adults (16½ on joining) complete six months training before joining their adult depots.

The courses for both groups are similar but the junior leader syllabus emphasises leadership training.

A subaltern, a sergeant and five or six corporals form a training team for each of the 13 platoons and is responsible for welfare, weapon training and drill.

Seven RAEC officers (including two WRAC attached) and seven civilian teachers instruct in such things as map reading, first aid and current affairs.

There is no academic teaching but serious instruction in "life skills" - money management, the danger of debt and other pitfalls.

On the fringe of inhospitable border country which the English and Scots of old found ideal for guerrilla warfare, Ouston does not automatically suggest itself for the job it does.

It is however well located in the middle of its catchment area.

As much of a junior's life is spent out of doors it is ideally situated for adventurous training.

Otterburn ranges are only half an hour's drive away and Kielder Forest with its adjacent huge reservoir just as handy. Climbing, sailing, camping expeditions are everyday affairs.

Other firing ranges used by the TA are available during the week when otherwise they would be idle.

Juniors are kept fully occupied - they have limited access to TV - and from their third week spend a compulsory two nights a week on hobbies, learning to tie trout flies, and experimenting with everything from karate to cooking. There is even a pottery class.

Lights out is at 10.30pm but most lads are in their beds by 9pm. Duty corporals are available for each barrack block.

"The corporals are the key element in the system," said the commanding officer,

WHERE THEY GO . . .

JIB Ouston trains Juniors for 14 regiments

Scottish Division

The Royal Scots
The Royal Highland Fusiliers
The King's Own Scottish Borderers
The Black Watch
Queen's Own Highlanders
The Gordon Highlanders
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

King's Division

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment
The King's Regiment
The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire
The Green Howards
The Royal Irish Rangers
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment

Lt Col Peter Mellor, Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

He sees himself more as the chairman of the board of governors of a school than a headmaster. That role is assumed by Maj Ian Jones, Royal Army Educational Corps, the chief education officer.

He is emphatic that the days when foot soldiers were regarded simply as expendable automatons are gone.

"The Cannon Fodder concept no longer applies," he said.

The battalion RSM, WO1 Iain MacDonald, Queen's Own Highlanders, has detected a lack of determination - "call it grit if you like" - in some intakes compared with what could be expected even ten years ago.

"Putting that into a lad without breaking him is the difficult bit," he said.

And yet it is done more and more. In the middle of the camp there is a forbidding 100 foot high water tower. You can tell when the grit has entered a young man's body when he decides to abseil from the top.

That's "CORNfidence" for you.



Foot soldiers of the future. Fourteen regiments are represented on the steps of the training theatre



If you can't take a joke you shouldn't join! Juniors sample the obstacle course at Ouston



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Frankly speaking

QUOTES from the newly joined (published in the JIB Year Book):

"I like doing weapon training . . . but I hate drill as I can't stop my left arm moving with my left leg."

"Reveille at 0600 hours was tough on us all after being used to sleeping until dinner time."

"Sleeping out in the cold, wet muddy countryside and eating out of 24 hour ration packs found favour with only a small minority. Compared to this Albemarle Barracks was brilliant."

"When the white buses arrived to take us back to camp you could see the relief in everyone's eyes . . . mixed with a sense of achievement."

A SINGLE CLASS OF JUNIORS?

A PROPOSAL to do away with the two classes of junior has been sent from Ouston to the Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Sir David Thorne.

After a study begun under Lt Col John Charteris, RS, the first CO of the JIB (Scottish and King's Divisions), Maj Paddy Chambers, R Irish, prepared a paper entitled *The Single Entry Proposal*.

"We have discovered that Junior Soldiers as opposed to Junior Leaders are not second class citizens," he said.

"There is very little difference between them in general and because they are immature they can change radically.

"To send junior soldiers to their adult depots after six months here simply creates another period of turbulence

for them," said Maj Chambers.

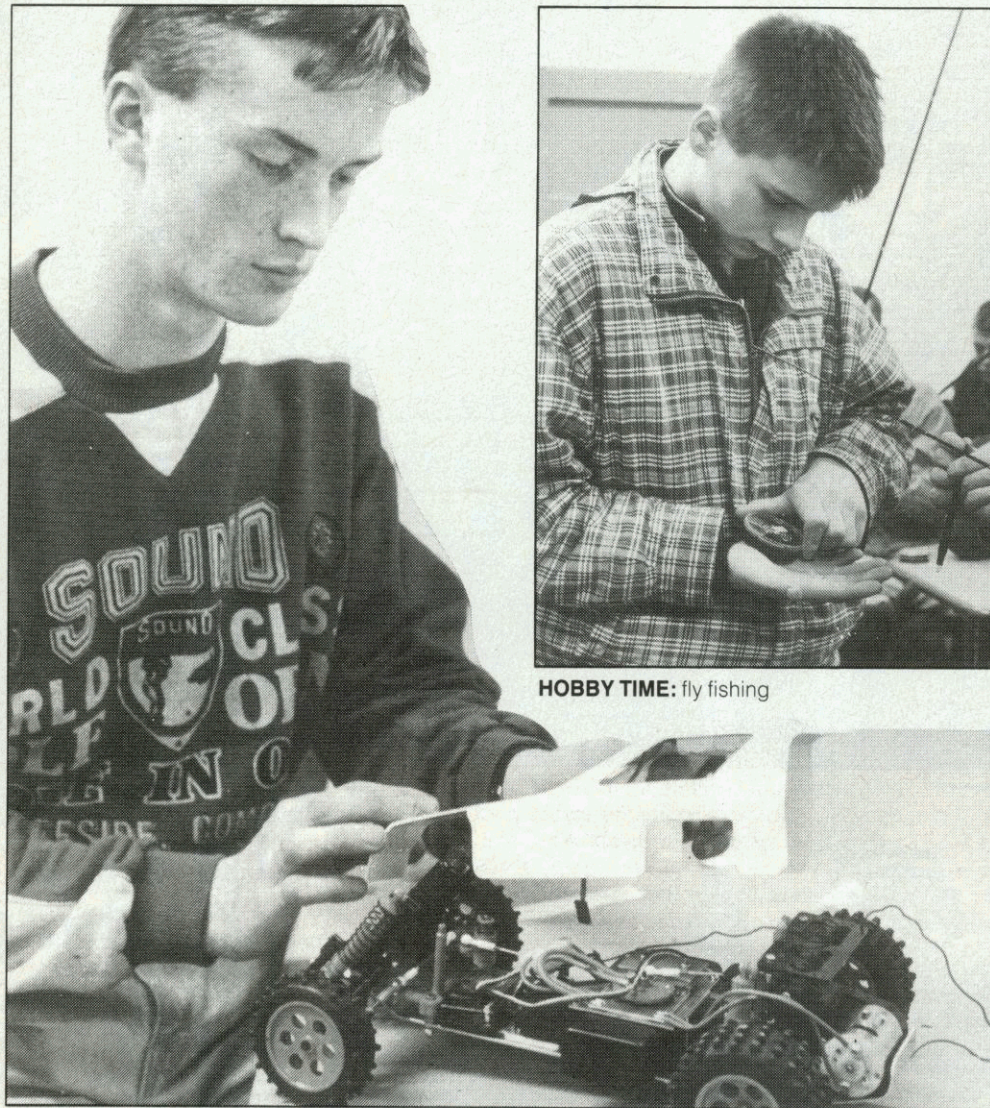
The staff at Ouston — company commanders, civilian instructors, platoon commanders and corporals are in general agreement and the proposal has the support of the other JIB at Shorncliffe.

In theory the training of a junior leader is more expensive than that of a junior soldier. In practice the better syllabus

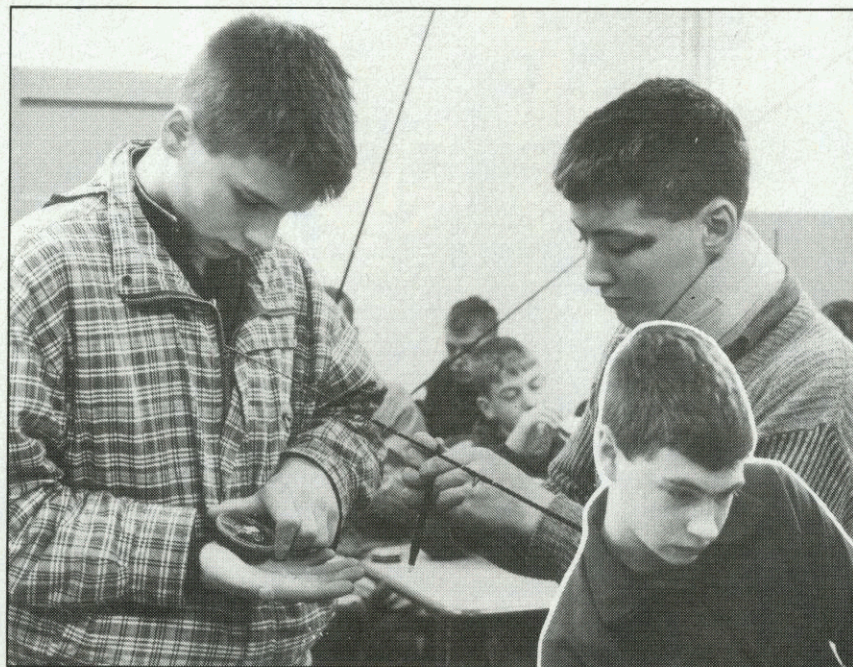
gives better and more cost effective results.

Ninety per cent of the regimental sergeant majors in Scottish regiments are ex-juniors.

Establishments like Ouston give lads an excellent start to a career. It is up to the battalions to which juniors are posted to see that the training and motivation is not wasted.



HOBBY TIME: radio controlled models



HOBBY TIME: fly fishing



HOBBY TIME: cycling

Links that pay off

LT COL Peter Mellor, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and CO of Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Divisions). "We make sure we establish firm links with parents and guardians," he said.

"We spend a considerable time on the phone initially but it pays off. We have made a lot of friends and a limit has had to be placed on

the numbers of relatives per junior who can attend passing out parades.

"In the case of one chap from the Highlands half the village turned up ...

"Had the lad been at Shorncliffe with our sister battalion few people could have afforded to make the trip south. Our position in the heart of the North makes it better for everyone."



Heard the one about the Irishman, the Englishman and the Scotsman? Well here they are but it's no joke. Sgt Eddie McToal, R Irish, Cpl Andy Allen, QLR, and Cpl Jock Kelso, QO Hldrs discuss at a rehearsal the serious business of a passing out parade

Ouston in the picture



The JIB Ouston wonders whether it is unique in the Army in having its own fine gas fired bakery ovens which are used seven days a week to supply all the bread, cakes and pies the unit requires. LCpl Les Gasgarth and Pte Rob O'Dowd of the Army Catering Corps are seen here with a batch of meat pies

HOBBY TIME: wood turning

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MILITARY SALES

SUPACAT STEPS UP

AN IMPORTANT addition to the battle capability of 5 Airborne Brigade has been delivered at Aldershot, writes **Bill Moore**.

Two Mark II Supacats have been formally handed over to Brig David Chaundler by the makers, Williams Fairey, and 38 more are on the way.

The Supacat is a highly versatile low six-wheel vehicle which can not only operate in almost any terrain but can carry comparatively heavy loads.

Thanks to an integral ramp, which can be stowed and pulled out when required, pallets bearing up to a ton of supplies can be winched aboard.

Airborne gunners are likely to find this facility of great value in maintaining the supply of ammunition to batteries.

One Supacat will, in fact, lift across country a weight of

shells which required a mule train in Italy and Burma during the war.

Capt Alan Welsh, BEME at HQ 5 Airborne Bde, who has been closely involved in the trialling of Supacat, explained:

"Our role is the rest of the world if you like, and most of that is not blessed with the metalled road work of North-West Europe.

"Supacat can operate in snow or swamp and, in fact, just for fun we put an

outboard motor on one and it made quite a decent boat."

The first four vehicles to arrive are to be used for training and familiarisation, though they are simple to drive.

The controls consist of motor cycle style handlebars – but there is an independent system of brake steering as used in many tanks, one set of wheels locking while the others remain in drive.

Though Supacat can carry six fully-armed soldiers it will

probably be used for logistic support when deployed for action.

Ammunition and stores can be carried to forward locations and then bring back wounded.

Four training vehicles will initially be held by 63 Squadron RCT which forms part of 5 Airborne Bde Log Battalion.

Supacat has already proved its worth in the civilian field having been used extensively by the Central Electricity

Generating Board.

One of its attractions is its operating cost. It reaches those parts of the world which other vehicles cannot reach much more economically than a helicopter.

Another is the design which enables all the bits that stick up to be folded flat and thus two Supacats at least can be dropped by parachute on the same platform.

It can also be driven into a Hercules transport plane and out at its destination.

The Supacat looks like being popular as well as practical. If it gives added punch to the paras it can't be bad.

DROP OF THE HARD STUFF...

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AIRBORNE assaults are so much easier to organise on colour telly. One minute the hero is looking tensely at his watch in the rear of an aircraft; the next shot shows him roaring madly through an exotic landscape at the head of a convoy of vehicles just visible under a forest of twin Brownings and automatic weapons.

No one ever asks the simple question: *How did all the kit get there in the first place?*

The answer is not "With difficulty" but by making sure the bits and pieces are tied together properly before they leave the "Herc".

AND that the troops on the ground can untie the knots and undo the fastenings when they find them.

With this in mind, 5 Airborne Brigade considers its annual rigging competition a major event. This year's was held at South Cerney, Wilts.

Rigging sections – trained to make fast and to free airborne loads – are an integral part of all units (7 RHA have ten of them!). Current tactics require the support aircraft to go in on the tail of the assault Para battalion group.

As the first platoons hit their dropping zone air dispatchers in the accompanying flight of transport aircraft begin releasing their loads (literally dragged out of the plane by their own parachutes) over a parallel DZ.



...but 5 AB's rigged for soft landing

It is up to the rigging sections to find and unshackle chains, clips, knots and stays and deploy for action.

As an alert enemy is likely to show keen interest in the proceedings speed is essential.

Basic loads on single platforms include a ¾-ton Land Rover and trailer; a one tonne vehicle and Light Gun; two Light Guns and ammunition; and two half-ton Rovers piggy-back style.

A platform with two 105 guns and ammo weighs around eight tons.

A key factor in preparing rigging is the siting of the mandrills – machined wooden supports set into brackets fixed under, say, a Land Rover on a pallet. On impact the timber shatters as it takes the shock instead of the vehicle.

Maj Derek Armitage, OC Air Dispatch Examining Team, at Upavon, Wilts, is regarded as the (heavenly?) father of the

Race order

The challenge was to create order out of chaos in a race to prepare these vehicles and trailers for air dispatch. Chief judge was Maj Derek Armitage (right) who has been in the air dispatch business for 25 years



Picture: Mike Weston

Always ready to go – and ready to go anywhere. Supacat will make 5 Airborne Brigade's tasks a lot easier. Brig David

Chaundler, Brigade Commander, took delivery of the first of these utility cross-country log support vehicles at a ceremony in

Aldershot. Note the motor cycle handlebar style of steering column... and the brigadier's fine piece of parking on his own doorstep

Picture: Terry Champion

and in neither case was serious damage reported.

Capt Martin Halligan, OC of 5 Brigade's Airborne Liaison Section, which acts as the interface between Army and RAF, organised the contest. He explained. "The positioning of a load is critical. Any variation can alter the centre of gravity of the MSP (medium stressed platform) or pallet to the uninitiated.

"Once on the ground the ability to de-rig the platform quickly is of great importance, hence this section of the competition was on a 'friendly' basis.

"Fastest time to take a vehicle from the platform and make it ready for action was 6 mins 55 secs.

The value of the competition was underlined by the presence of Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere, GOC South East District, to present the prizes.

Results 5 Airborne Brigade – Rigging competition 1988: 15 teams competing:

1, 63 Sqn RCT (Sgt Price; Cpls Spurr, Asland, Gage, LCpl Sharp); 2, 9 Para Sqn RE (Sgt Wallace, Cpl Eldred, LCpls Lawson, Haslam, Spr Dixon); 3, HQ 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn B (Cpl Cowan, LCpls Walker, Weaver, Wood, Sigma Ramsden). Best team leader trophy: Sgt Price, 63 Sqn RCT.

De-rigging: 1, 7 RHA B, 6.55 secs; 2, 7 RHA A, 7.27 secs; 3, HQ 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn B, 8.17 secs.

Teams entered from 3 Para; 7 RHA; 9 Para Sqn RE; HQ 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn; 23 Para Fd Amb RMC; 63 Sqn RCT; 82 Ord Coy; 10 Fd Wksp REME. 1 Para was not represented because of exercise commitments.

47 AD Sqn RCT entered two teams, to compete in their own inter troop competition as they were not eligible for the Brigade Rigging Trophy.

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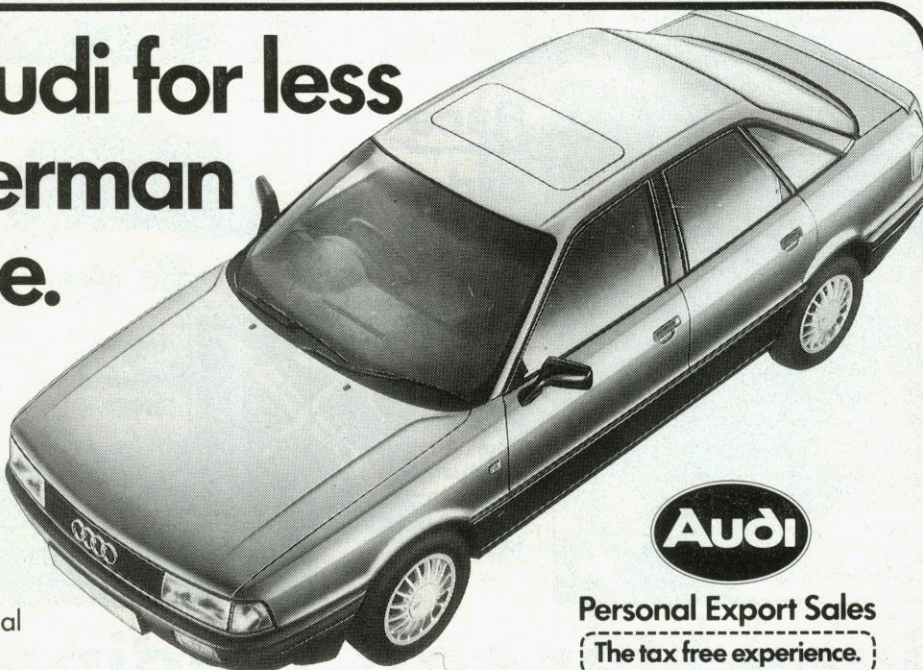
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Paying his respects to the dead at Jerusalem's British war cemetery is Ted Silvester of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Veterans' pilgrimage to the Holy Land

TREADING what had been Palestine when they were there 40 years earlier, the British Servicemen found themselves welcomed as guests in Israel by the very men and women – all members of the Jewish underground – they had fought two generations before.

These same terrorists had waged a bitter campaign against the British administration in Palestine from the late 1930s

onwards in a bid to secure a homeland for the Jews, a dream they saw come true in 1948.

The one time British soldiers were in the Holy Land to commemorate the end of British rule in Palestine and were given a reception at Tel Aviv by members of the Jewish underground – many of whom had fought for and served with the British Army.

Jewish resistance to the

British Mandatory administration – a thankless task vested upon Britain by the League of Nations in 1920 – centred upon a militarist organisation known as the Haganah.

Within the Haganah was an elite group, the Palmach, whose members had seen service in the British and other European armies.

Among these, the more moderate of the Jewish libera-

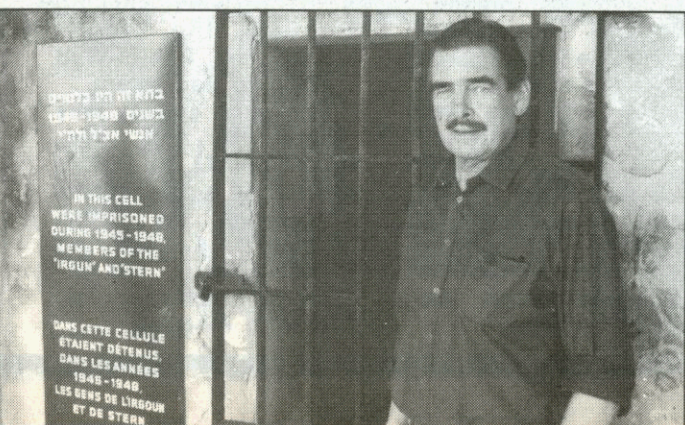
tion movement, were the breakaway groups of extreme Zionists called the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang who believed in violent opposition to the British.

"We were in a no win situation," said Douglas Clarke, a former corporal with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. "We were war hardened men of 21 and had had a bellyfull before even going to Palestine.

"It was only a short time after the discovery of the concentration camps and you had to be pretty thick skinned not to have had some sympathy with the Jews. But then the Arabs had been there for 2,000 years and they regarded Palestine as their home, too."

The Jewish terrorist campaign was stepped up in 1944 and continued almost without

This year is the 40th anniversary of the end of the British Mandate in Palestine and the birth of the state of Israel. Writer **Mervyn Wynne Jones** joined a party of veterans making a nostalgic return to the area. They included Capt Patrick Pielou, Middlesex Regiment (left) outside the old British prison at Acre.



● Turn to next page



ATROCITY: Survivors are helped from the ruins of the King David Hotel after terrorists had struck in July 1947

● From Page 29

respite for the next four years.

"These terrorists would strike suddenly and viciously," said Mr Clarke. "They would shoot troops in their tents – and there were bomb outrages too.

"Everyone was in a state of perpetual tension and Jerusalem was like a tinderbox. You would hear a car backfire and that would trigger off a burst of Bren gun fire," added Douglas who, with his twin brother were personal bodyguards to Gen Sir Gordon Macmillan, GOC Palestine and the last soldier to leave the country in June 1948.

Ted Silvester, also a corporal with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, added: "It was a tough job much like Northern Ireland today. The tension was sometimes worse than in war because in war you knew where the front line was."

A former Palmach leader told SOLDIER: "We did not approve of indiscriminate killing and often arrested the extremists and held them in our kibbutzim. There were some people who were sadists, but not many.

"They were after the same thing as us but not by the same means. We wanted to bring the European Jews home from the holocaust but the turning point came when the British started sending the boats full of refugees back.

"That was when we realised we would have to fight. Those ships were worse than iron huts during the summer and people were dying and being born on them. Then we started our guerrilla war but you must realise that we did not want to kill soldiers," added the spokesman, now a writer and a poet.

Eucalyptus grove trap was final straw for the British

Two atrocities committed by the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang marked a similar turning point for the British.

On July 22, 1947, one wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem housing the government secretariat and GHQ was blown up, killing 91 people, 28 of them Britons.

Even more callous was the kidnapping, murder and subsequent booby trapping of the corpses of two British parachute regiment NCOs. An officer who cut them down in a eucalyptus grove was injured when a booby trap exploded.

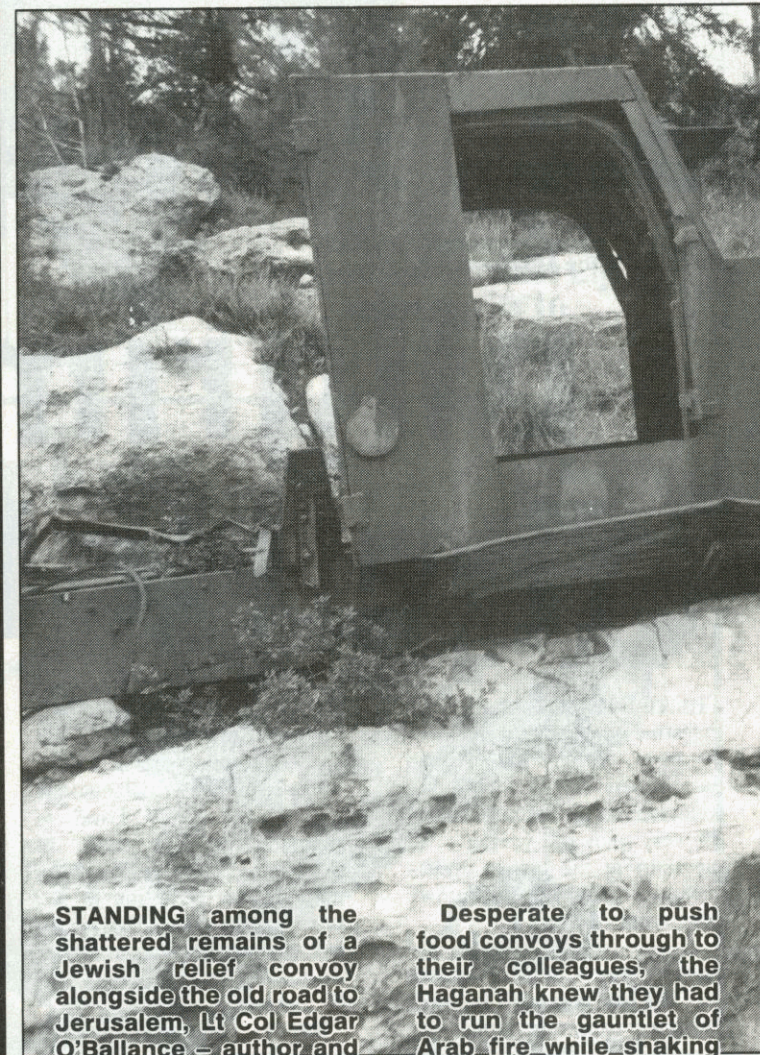
Harry Conn, a sergeant major with The Royal Anglian Regiment, said: "That was when our feelings became bitter. We had had some sympathy for them but that was the last straw. We had survived the war and we were determined to get through this one as well."

The end was not far away and as the United Nations voted on a partition of Palestine in an attempt to appease all parties, the first Arab-Israeli war broke out.

The British Army held the two sides in check while forces were withdrawn to Egypt and Cyprus and the last troops left Haifa on June 30, 1948.



Burma campaign veteran Maj Peter Bellers, Middlesex Regiment, before Masada where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans



STANDING among the shattered remains of a Jewish relief convoy alongside the old road to Jerusalem, Lt Col Edgar O'Ballance – author and historian – recalled the scene as he remembered it 40 years earlier.

Fierce fighting had already started between the Arabs and Jews as the British were pulling out of Palestine, and by early 1948 the Jewish community in Jerusalem were under siege and facing starvation.

Desperate to push food convoys through to their colleagues, the Haganah knew they had to run the gauntlet of Arab fire while snaking through the valley known as Bab-el-Wad leading to Jerusalem.

One such convoy was ambushed and destroyed and Lt Col O'Ballance, then a movements officer with the British headquarters staff on Mount Scopus, led the clean-up operation the following morning.

DEADLY SECRET OF OLD KIBBUTZ

A VISIT to Zrifin Camp, an Israeli Defence Force base, jogged many memories among those who had passed through it when it was Sarafand Camp – one of the main British bases in Palestine.

A coach drive northwards past Rosh

Pinna – launching point for the Anglo-French invasion of Syria in 1941 and latterly of similar use during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon – brought the party to one of the original Jewish settlements in Israel.

Lying close to the country's northern border, the 72-year-old kibbutz proved to be one of the highlights of the tour.

A concrete underground chamber was unlocked and opened to the visitors to reveal a cache of Haganah weapons virtually untouched from the days of the British Mandate and the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948.

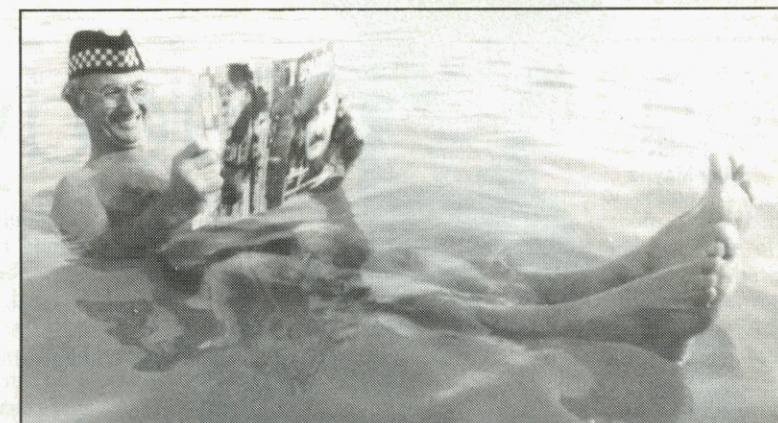
The weapons, one of many caches concealed from the British, included both British and German rifles, sub-machine guns, mortars, pistols and ammunition.

Holding a German Schmeisser machine-pistol, former corporal Douglas Clarke grinned and said: "It's funny, as soon as you hold a weapon the years just roll away and you are a soldier again."

At a kibbutz some miles distant the visitors were greeted by Mr Dan Ram, veteran of the Palmach who had served alongside Israeli general Moshe Dayan when he lost an eye in 1941.

"A bullet rammed a telescope into his eye," said Mr Ram. "He did not groan once when I removed it and it was a wonder that he survived at all."

He remembered seeing Orde Wingate,



Former Argyll Ted Silvester relaxes with SOLDIER in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea

tasked with training the Jews to protect their settlements against the Arabs after the Arab revolt of 1936, arriving in a black car looking "almost like a hippie". He was also carrying a map, the first time many of the Jews had seen one.

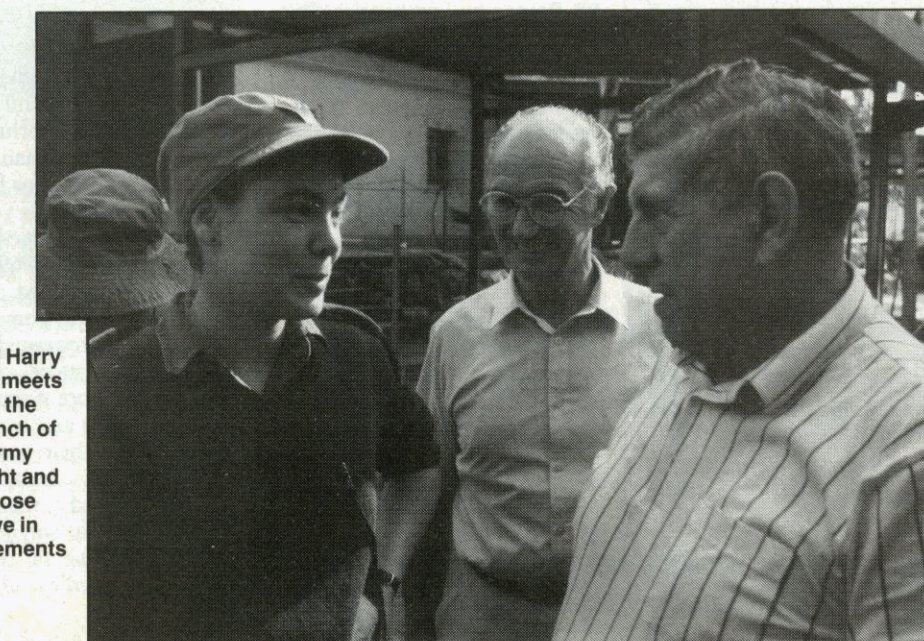
The tour took in the ancient Crusader city of Acre on the Mediterranean coast where the Jewish underground staged one of their most daring exploits when they blew a hole in the wall of the British-held Citadel and released many of their colleagues from captivity.

"It was a peculiar episode, there is no doubt about that," said Capt Jim Flavell, then serving with the 4th Battalion, 2nd Parachute Brigade of the 6th Airborne Division.

"If I think about it, I'm sure I didn't have feelings of any description for them. They did what they did to harass us and speed up our exit.

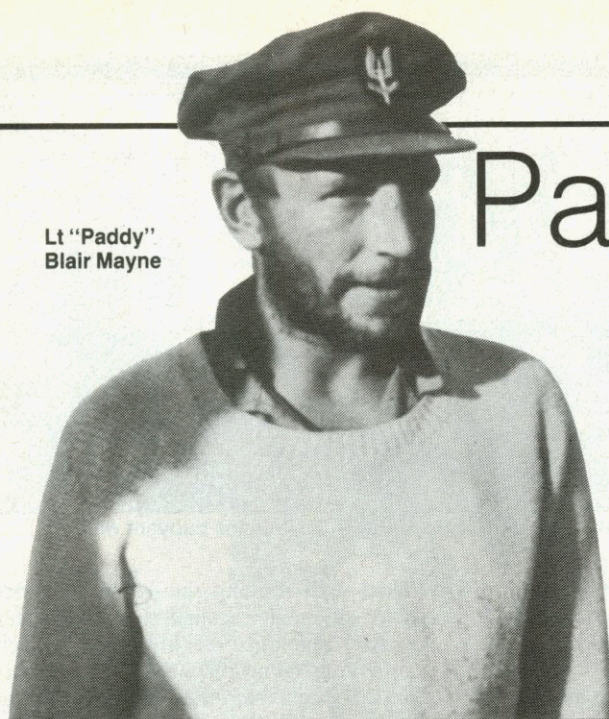
"My most vivid memory, strangely enough, is the lovely smell of orange blossom you would encounter as you drove into dips in the road," said Capt Flavell, who had been taken prisoner by the Germans at Arnhem two years earlier.

He and all the other paras in Palestine were nicknamed "kalaniot" by the Jews, so called because their red berets reminded the locals of the red kalaniot poppy that grows in abundance in the fields of the Holy Land.



Former RSM Harry Conn (right) meets a member of the Nahal, a branch of the Israeli Army taught to fight and farm and whose recruits serve in border settlements

Lt "Paddy" Blair Mayne



Paddy Mayne SAS – the original action man

A moonless night in the desert. Windy and bitterly cold. December 1941. Rommel's forward positions were at El Agheila. The British were holding him.

About 250 miles to Rommel's rear the airport of Tamet was stacked with aircraft, fighters and bombers, tactically parked at intervals around the perimeter. There were also dumps of bombs and, of course, a huge store of high octane petrol.

The presence of petrol was

significant on the night of December 14. Although 250 miles from the nearest British formation the Germans were, nevertheless, defensively prepared, with machine guns laid on fixed lines, ready to fire in the dark about 2ft above ground level. Another significant fact in this night's story.

Sentries were posted, but the night was bitter, the day's flying tasks were done and it was so far behind the front line.

In the officers' mess hut, 30 German and Italian pilots were

drinking, chatting and relaxing after the day's activities. It was 9.30 in the evening when the mess door burst open and a tommy gun opened fire.

A sandy-bearded giant of a man in British battledress stood there. Lt "Paddy" Blair Mayne of the SAS had arrived. He did not hesitate, firing burst after burst and allowing no response. He had just 50 rounds and he used them all to dire effect. Germans and Italians lay where they fell.

Outside, his sergeant and

four men had checked empty huts. Paddy joined them and the tiny party vanished in the darkness, jumping over and crawling under the tracers that showed the fixed lines of fire. There was pandemonium in the camp but no pursuit.

The raid might not have succeeded but for the fact that one private in the party had a "nose" for high octane and led them accurately when other aids failed in the darkness of that desert night.

After the raid they waited in

the gloom and cold an hour and more. Then they returned with plastic bombs and systematically, without discovery, fixed them to planes, dumps and the petrol stacks. It took another hour and as they were finishing the first bombs began to explode. This time they ran and ran and eventually reached a rendezvous with the Long Range Desert Group who carried them to safety.

This was the first such exploit of the SAS and the first by Paddy Mayne, a "rogue

warrior" of action, of instantaneous response, who became a legend and was one of the founder members of the SAS.

It is his story that is told in *Rogue Warrior of the SAS* and it reads like the exciting unbelievable fiction of a fertile inventive brain. But Paddy Blair Mayne was no fiction. He won the Distinguished Service Order four times! – GRH

Rogue Warrior of the SAS by Roy Bradford and Martin Dillon, published by John Murray. Price £12.95.

IN BRIEF

I'll Be Seeing You by Tonie and Valmai Holt. More than 800 illustrations of picture postcards, mostly published between 1919 and 1946, which reflect the personal viewpoints of people from all over the world through the postcards they sent to friends and relatives. Published by Moorland Publishing. Price £14.95.

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Good, bad and ugly ... soldiers' views of life in Northern Ireland

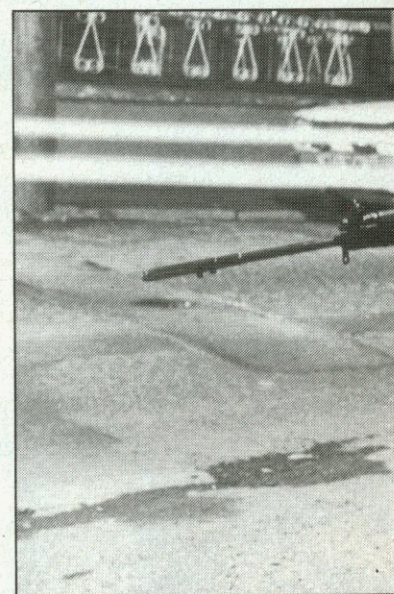
ALL of Ireland is cold, tired, p...wet through, and knackered; that is Ireland summed up.

For a soldier who has had to endure the hardships of trudging through freezing boggy countryside, soaked by Northern Ireland's "soft rain", sleeping in the fields, constantly on the alert for danger, and returning at the end of a patrol to uncomfortable accommodation only to await the same again, that cynical attitude to combatting the terrorist menace is perhaps understandable.

It came from a sergeant (spare the blushes of his regiment) who was interviewed among 200 soldiers and marines by Max Arthur – former RAF National Serviceman, now actor and author – for his book *Northern Ireland Soldiers Talking*, about soldiers' experiences there since 1969.

Fortunately, most of the Servicemen (and women) who talked (anonymously) to Arthur, were more constructive, mostly more sympathetic, more articulate and even more humorous in their assessment of Northern Ireland, its problems, and their own contribution to solving what has become one of the most enduring tragedies of recent times.

As in Arthur's book, let them speak for themselves:



VIGILANCE ON THE STREETS: The

Lt, 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers: From the moment I went there to the minute I left, I thought it was great. I'm sure any young platoon commander would say the same.

Cpl, 1 Welsh Guards: I totally, really enjoy Northern Ireland. If I was killed in Ireland I'd do so without regret. I took an interest in the area, a continued interest.

Rfn, 2 Royal Green Jackets: If I was asked to go to Northern Ireland tomorrow, I'd go. I've no remorse, no hatred for Northern Ireland.

Sgt Maj, 2 Coldstream

Guards: I've certainly got to the point where I resent going out there, and my wife resents it. My mother won't buy Irish butter, she won't buy Irish linen. She's not bigoted, she's not a racist, she's a normal middle-line conservative.

Sgt, 45 Commando: To me it's a sickening conflict, because you can't identify the enemy... It goes against the grain to be thrown into an environment where people of your own race are trying to kill you. I can't understand all the bravado and gung-ho people show when we've a Northern

Ireland tour coming up.

CSgt, 1 Welsh Guards: It's a waste of time, because we're protecting one from the other, but it's such a stupid waste of the people there.

CSgt 2 Para: In all honesty, had I been born Irish and Catholic I would probably have been involved, because in the early days I do feel that the Republicans have just cause for extremism. These days there may be a few Republicans left with deep rooted ideals, but as far as I am concerned their campaign carries on now mainly because the children



popular conception of a soldier on duty in a town in Northern Ireland

there have grown up with violence.

WO, RAOC: Myself, I see them as a bunch of bloody hooligans, quite frankly, with a strong criminal element.

Sgt, 40 Commando: I think the people, away from the nausea and the troubles, are terrific on both sides of the community.

Sgt, 42 Commando: There's rebellion in every generation in Ireland. I think if Ireland was united the people in South Armagh would still be rebellious to that government. They think it's romance, the bold rebel.

The views and experiences, 250 pages of them, offer almost every shade of opinion that could be expressed by the soldier in Northern Ireland, and include some extremely harrowing interviews with those brave men and women who are in the most dangerous of situations, the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Perhaps a sergeant from 2 RGJ, has the ultimate comment: "Northern Ireland these days is all things to all men... One certainly doesn't go out there thinking this time we've got an answer. One's far too long in the tooth for that." – AT

Northern Ireland Soldiers Talking by Max Arthur, published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Price £13.95.

GREAT WARS WERE NOT INEVITABLE

ONE must never forget that after a war one must live peacefully with one's neighbours. Such was the philosophy of Sun Tzu, the Chinese writer on military affairs in the first century BC.

"One", rather than "a nation", is significant, since the major wars in the 20th century have not been inevitable, nor were they brought about by any unalterable course of events. They were not due to the development of weapons and armed forces, nor caused by forces beyond human control.

That is the conclusion of Field Marshal Lord Carver, one of Britain's leading military writers and a thoughtful and energetic student of history. Therefore, if the wars of this century were not inevitable they might have been prevented, if exertion and desire were great enough, by individuals in control of national affairs – the "one" of Sun Tzu.

Lord Carver's masterly story, with his evaluation, follows the wars of the period and the great battles of the century. It is a study that is not only entertaining and gripping, but thought provoking for those who would peer into the future. – GRH

Twentieth Century Warriors by Field Marshal Lord Carver, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Price £16.95.

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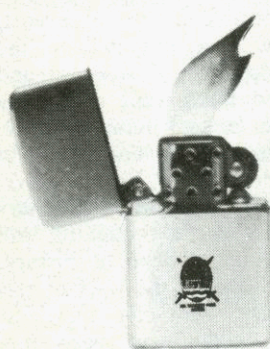
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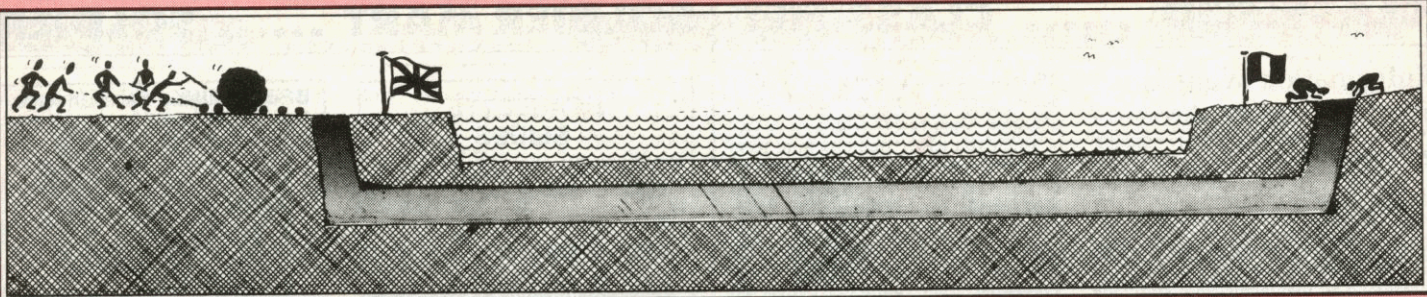


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BORING operations have begun on the £6 billion Eurotunnel scheduled to open by 1993. The military of both Britain and France have been involved in discussions on security against terrorist attack and the tunnel's role as a troop reinforcement route in the event of war.

The fine points of an agreement on the defence of the tunnel are being hammered out, effectively ending a century of military opposition to the project, writes **Graham Smith**.

Ever since the idea of a tunnel was mooted 100 years ago, top brass on this side of the Channel have been less than happy about the prospect of a subterranean link.

In 1949 a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament recommended that *for military reasons* the tunnel should not be built.

The idea of boring under the Channel was suggested for the first time in 1800 by a French engineer to Napoleon Bonaparte. It was dismissed as fantasy.

Less than 70 years later a British engineer, William Low, drew up plans for a Channel tunnel which were accepted in principle by the British Government. The idea drew great support from businessmen and cultural organisations – but not the military men stationed on the land mass behind the safety of the white cliffs of Dover.

In 1875 and 1881 respectively the French and British sank shafts which stretched seawards for nearly 1½ miles.

The Army's top guns opened up. They persuaded the Government to stop excavations at Dover and a select committee was appointed.

The controversy widened. Popular magazines spread concern by forecasting the invasion of England, the sacking of London and the fall of the British Empire!

The most powerful opponent of the tunnel scheme was the Adjutant General, Lord Wolseley, fresh from his victories in Egypt. He regarded the advent of a tunnel as one of the greatest dangers facing Britain.

TUNNEL WAS 'DANGER' TO THE EMPIRE!

He told the joint committee: *"It will be a constant inducement to the unscrupulous foreigner to make war upon us and would hold out hopes of a conquest the likes of which the world has never known."*

If the tunnel was introduced, he said, Britain would be obliged to set up a huge standing army. Considerable sums would have to be invested in fortifications at the tunnel mouth.

The country could not afford such luxuries. Britain had always enjoyed immunity from invasion because of the "silver

streak" between Dover and Calais.

Another military man who joined with him in urging caution was The Duke of Cambridge, C-in-C of the Army.

Most of the country's senior generals and admirals were of the same opinion.

The joint committee turned down the plan in 1883. Eleven times in the next 12 years the project was reconsidered. Each time it was rejected because of military opposition.

By 1913 there was a new dimension to the argument. War with Germany was in the

offing and a tunnel would enable British soldiers to be sent more safely and secretly across the Channel. It would also provide a food lifeline for England if the Royal Navy was unable to defend the Straits of Dover.

The coming of the submarine and the bombing aircraft, said the scheme's supporters, made the tunnel a vital factor in the safety of the nation.

Military leaders previously in opposition began to change their opinions. Lord Sydenham of Combe, a former Secretary of the Imperial Defence Committee, told a Parliamentary Committee in 1913 that military arguments would no longer stand examination.

"They rest upon wild conjectures in which imbecility on the part of the Government and people of this country is gratuitously assumed," he said.

Gen Sir William Butler appealed: *"Do not let this possible conquest by the genius of man over the rude forces of nature be prematurely closed and abandoned because of old world fears and prejudices."*

The First World War had begun before support for the tunnel could become effective. Another Parliamentary Committee was set up in 1919. Once again the view of the Imperial Defence Committee was "not advisable nor expedient" to construct the tunnel.

The Imperial Defence Committee was still voicing its hostility as late as 1929. A motion to build the tunnel was defeated in the House of Commons by just seven votes.



The entrance to the Channel tunnel

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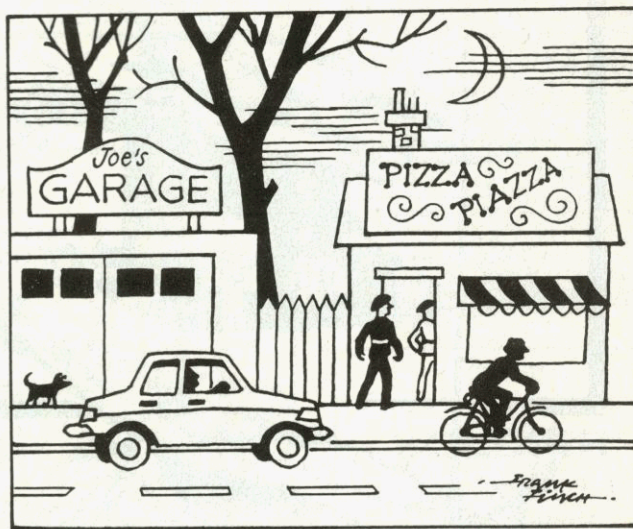
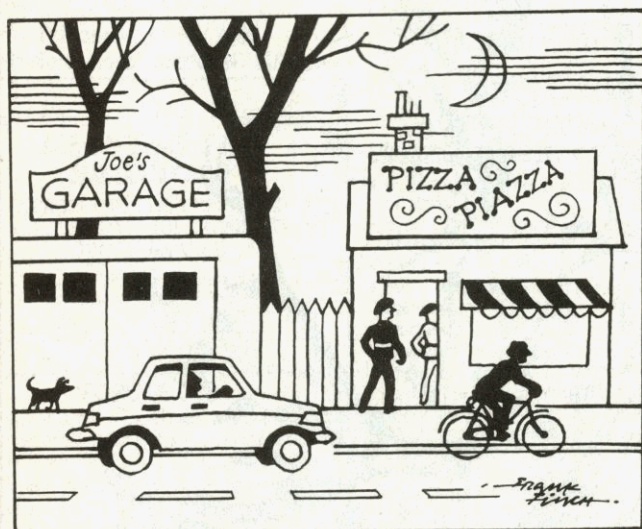
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ISLAND OF SNAKES

● From Page 17

holes during what passes for winter.

There is no record of anyone having been bitten for 20 years or more.

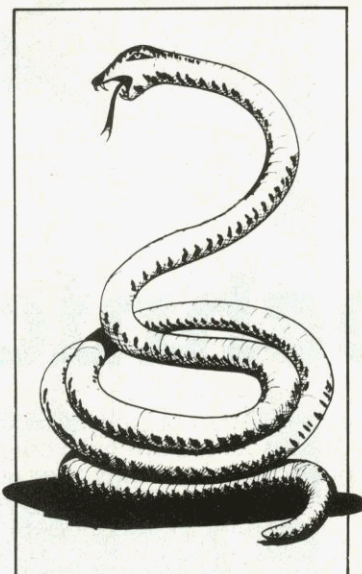
They do occasionally go crawl about however and Maj Edward Thring, a 9th/12th Lancer serving his third year as Depot Adjutant of the Hong Kong MSC, came across one about a foot long in the officers' mess . . . a species called a red necked keelback.

A good conservationist, he kept it pinned down by using two bamboos until he could seize it behind the head, and take it back to the jungle where he released it.

Mrs Tracey Smith, whose husband serves in the ammunition depot, reported a snake recently and WO2 Robert Craig found an interesting skin cast off under his bungalow.

That was nothing to the six feet long banded krait seen outside the HKMSC commandant's office not long ago.

It slithered into a drain after it was disturbed and was



dispatched with boiling water.

Snakes in fact can have a tough time on Stonecutters. Two Chinese soldiers from the Hong Kong Defence Animal Support Unit visit periodically to keep the population down. The catch is killed, cooked and eaten.

Maj Thring, who has sampled snake, describes it as being "like a rather gamey

chicken leg".

RSM Ray Reddell, seconded from The Royal Hampshire Regiment, has twice found a snake in his old-style bungalow (on little wooden supports).

The first he simply flicked off the verandah. The second objected specifically to being handled by a pair of barbecue tongs and RSM Reddell prudently sent for the Chinese guards.

He asked them to take it alive so that it could be identified and it was finally carried off in a plastic container.

"It was later identified as a grey wolf snake," he said, "and was quite harmless though I didn't know that at the time."

Though the out-of-bounds path that runs through thick jungle along the spine of the island is a favourite sunbathing spots for snakes, nature has her own method of controlling them.

Black kites, predators which are rare in Europe but flourish in China, look on Stonecutters as a convenient larder.

Sgt David Brooks, RAOC, a member of the Army Bird

Watching Society, has seen the birds swoop on snakes and carry them off for dinner.

For him Stonecutters is Treasure Island on which he can study the white breasted kingfisher, the osprey and the "pillars" of black kites which spiral over from Red China on the thermals. There are even three colonies of domestic cats.

Sgt Brooks, who learned to love bird watching when he lived at Torrington, on Dartmoor, sits in his quarter studying sulphur-crested cockatoos which are believed to have escaped from a private aviary on Hong Kong Island and which are thought to be breeding.

But the kites are his main interest and recently he has been using a video film to try to count them - freezing the frame and counting the dots.

"I reckon there were about 370 of them at the last count," he said. "They come from the north and stay from October to March. I think they discovered what a nice place this was hundreds of years ago."

Wise old bird the black kite.

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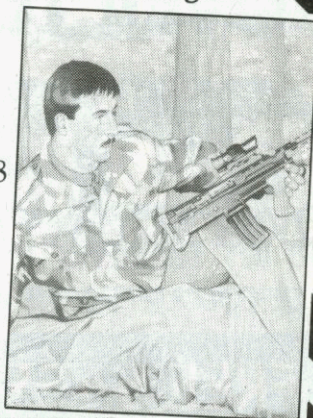
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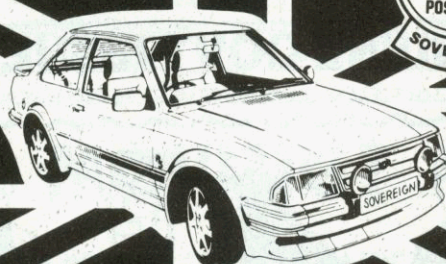


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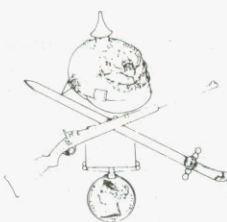
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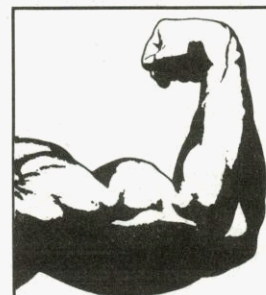
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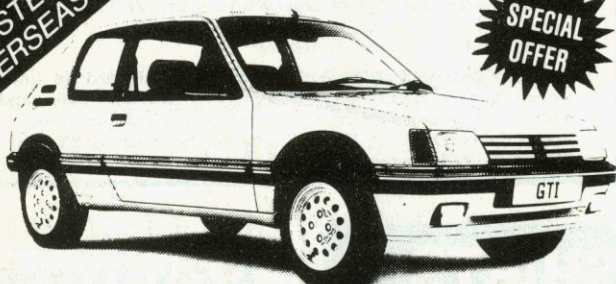
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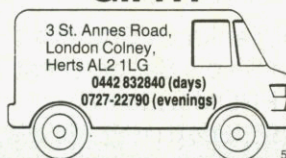
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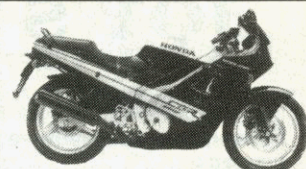
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CRICKETERS ON HONG KONG TOUR

THE Army cricket team departs this month on a two week tour to Hong Kong where seven matches will be played including one against the Colony.

Opposition will also be provided by British Forces Hong Kong, the Royal Hong Kong Police, Hong Kong and Kowloon Cricket Clubs and two invitation sides, the Commander British Forces' Chief of Police's XI and a Hong Kong Cricket Association XI.

The tour will be managed by the chairman of Army cricket,

Lt Col Peter Salisbury, and the tour party includes seven of those who represented the Army in last season's successful Inter-Services championship, including skipper Lt Matthew Fleming (2 RGJ).

Six uncapped players, all of whom were in last year's successful Under 25 squad, make up the team.

A player who has served in Hong Kong recently is opening batsman WO1 Peter Wood (3 Fd Wksp) who came back two years ago having captained the British Forces Hong Kong side

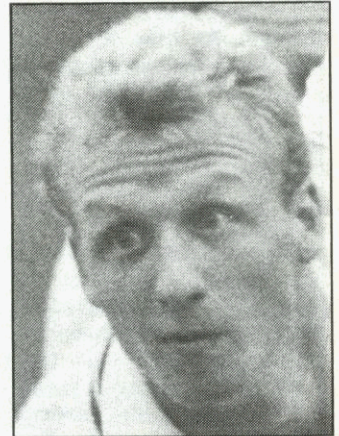
to victory in the major league, their first success since 1969.

He also represented the Colony and was voted Hong Kong Cricketer of the Year. This tour will be his swan song as he leaves the Army before the start of next season.

Another player in the party who will not be available next season is middle order batsman Cpl David Gill (66 Sqn RCT) who is posted back to BAOR where he first came to prominence in 1982-4. He had an excellent season in 1987 and will, it is hoped, provide a good

boost to BAOR cricket in 1988.

Off spinner Neil Willis (RAPC), who is not available to tour, is another who will be adding to BAOR's strength next season. Provided all other



SKIPPER: Matthew Fleming

It's a tough life in Adventure...

THE all girl crew of the sail training yacht Sabre have grabbed a great deal of media attention in Australia, where participation in the Hobart to Sydney Tall Ships' Race is regarded as a pretty macho thing to do, writes Stuart Reed.

But while Sabre's skipper, Maj Cherry Lewis Taylor, WRAC and her ten girls drawn from the three women's services and one from the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service, attract worldwide publicity, what of those intrepid females who took their place alongside soldiers, sailors and airmen in the mixed crews on Australian Adventure '88?

Most arduous leg so far of the 13 month expedition has been the 2,450 mile trip from Fremantle to Melbourne. Few on board Sabre's sister yacht Adventure, another Joint Services Nicholson 55 footer, had anticipated that the Indian Ocean, Great Australian Bight and the Bass Strait could be such cold, dangerous and cheerless places even during the Australian summer.

There were three WRAC officers in Adventure's 12

strong crew sharing a living, eating and sleeping space, half the size of the average sitting room, with nine blokes.

Most experienced female seagoer on board was Lt Mandy Hudson (24) the holder of an RYA Offshore Skipper Certificate. Mandy filled the post of first mate. She has a degree in engineering and serves with the REME at the Royal Artillery range in Benbecula.

As Adventure and Sabre left Fremantle and travelled east



into the Bight many were sea sick in extremely heavy swells.

One such unfortunate was Capt Debbie Davis, WRAC, who is soon to take up a post with the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield, Humberside.

The Great Australian Bight

can be a fearsome stretch of water even to large commercial vessels and warships.

As the boat tossed about the sea, a visit to the toilet could be a unique experience! Feelings of weightlessness were followed by seemingly several times the normal gravity force.

Capt Eilean Cunningham, WRAC, from the Royal Army Educational Corps Centre at Beaconsfield, cheered everyone up with her superb spaghetti bolognese. She has sailed in similar vessels before as well as leading all-female expeditions through the wilderness of Kenya.

On board Adventure she was the ship's purser responsible for ordering and stowing all food and drink.

A few days out of Fremantle the engine starter motor in Adventure refused to function so both vessels called in at Albany, a former whaling station in Western Australia. Within 24 hours Sgt Les Wicks, RAOC, aided by Bdr Ron Frazer of the Royal Australian Artillery and Mandy Hudson, had lifted the engine out and replaced the defective starter.

members of last season's side maintain form it would appear that there are three vacancies for which the uncapped players will be competing and this tour provides an excellent opportunity for them to stake their claim.

Those concerned are Lts Charlie Redmayne (1 Irish Guards), Alistair Lamb (JIB Shorncliffe), Tom Thicknesse (Light Div Depot) and Jimmy Cotterill (16 AD Regt RA), LCpl Simon Gill (414 Tk Tpr Unit) and Pte Greg Taylor (1 Green Howards).

The other senior capped players in the tour party are Lts Julian Barrett (3 LI) and Peter Germain (1 PWO) and Cpls Andy Taylor (17 Port Regt RCT) and Graham Summersgill (1 DWR).

Lt Col Keith Hitchcock, secretary of the Army Cricket Association, is assistant manager and Maj Robin Johnson (HQ DSAS) is the umpire.

Runner gunners

GUNNERS from 29 Commando Regt RA carried off the unit prize at the second annual ACC Association cross country meeting at Chepstow. Individual winner was Cpl Rollins of Depot and Training Bn whose team finished second. Third were 2 RGJ.

Chic joins Olympic skiers

WO Chic Wilkinson, a chartered physiotherapist at the Joint Services School and Queen Elizabeth II Military Hospital Woolwich is to join the British Olympic biathlon and Nordic skiing teams in Calgary, Canada.

Chic, who lives in Woolwich, has been to the team's training sessions offering advice on preventive measures to avoid injury, and will be available to provide treatment and advice to any of the biathlon or Nordic team.

He will spend a week with the team during their build up to the Games which begin on February 13, and return on February 28.

Hussars find Verbier snow to their liking

DESPITE gloom throughout the ski resorts in the Alps due to lack of snow, Verbier in the south western Swiss Alps has had no such problems. With a good covering on the higher slopes and an excellent selection of runs, skiers have been able to get their money's worth.

And for six weeks, the Royal Armoured Corps Ski Club has been doing just that. On Exercise White Knight IV, 16 of the 19 armoured regiments' ski teams have been training six days a week for not only the divisional championships, but the Army and Inter-Services as well.

Race week started on a bad note, thanks to the weather! For the first time since November it decided to snow, and Brig Walter Courage, chairman of the RAC Ski Club, cancelled the day's racing halfway through.

Next day was perfect for the

team giant slalom race, and it soon became apparent that the fight for the overall best unit would be between Scots DG and 15/19H. The former had last year's Inter-Services champion, 2nd Lt Willie Taunton-Burnett in their team, while 15/19H, although they had nobody in quite the same class as him, had perhaps more strength in depth.

After various spills and aggressive skiing by all competitors, Taunton-Burnett ran out the individual winner, but the team title was taken by 15/19H with Scots DG second and 17/21L third.

In the individual slalom a barnstorming display by Willie Taunton-Burnett over the two runs put him first, over eight seconds clear of the runner-up, Capt Tom Riall 15/19H. Close behind in third place was Cpl Redfern ACC, attached to 17/21L.

With everything resting on the team slalom for the overall unit championship between the Scots DG and 15/19H, the race was fiercely contested. On this occasion, the Scots DG ran out the winners with 15/19H second. Their time, however, was just not fast enough to make up the deficit they had in the giant slalom, and so 15/19H became the overall unit champions.

Mr Arnold Kanarek of Imperial Tobacco International who sponsored the meeting presented winners with their trophies, and cameras to the best overall skier, the runner-up, and the most improved skier.

Capsize upsets Tout's progress

Corporal Mark Tout, 2 RTR and his four-man bobsleigh turned over briefly during a World Cup series race at Königssee in the Bavarian Alps. Tout is captain of an all-Army bobsleigh team which has Olympic aspirations in Canada later this month when the 1988 Winter Games are celebrated in Calgary.

With two powerful Austrian teams dominating the first three races, Tout's team was clinging to third place when the action moved to Königssee. Unfortunately in trying to close the gap on the leaders in the second and final run down the 1.25 km bob track Tout took the third s-bend just a little too high.

It was a mistake that cost him dear. The bob capsized, tipping the team over on to their helmets, before finding its runners again. They were down for just a couple of seconds; but in a sport where margins are measures in one hundredths of a second, it was enough to drop them to 17th place.



All smiles for a weight check in practice before the big race are (from left to right) LCpl Lenny Paul, reserve Gnr Nigel Urquhart, captain and driver Cpl Mark Tout and Gdsm Dave Armstrong

It was a galling experience for the 26-year-old Royal Tank Regiment corporal. Last season a chance of victory evaporated in a crash at Lake Placid.

It is Tout's seventh season in bobsleighbing and his third in the driver's seat. A year ago he won the trophy for the best novice at the World Championships in St Moritz.

He recruited his own team from among the best sprinters in the Army - Gdsm Dave Armstrong (2 Gren Gds), Gnr Audley Richards (4 Fd Regt RA), LCpl Lenny Paul (3 R

Anglian), and reserve Gnr Nigel Urquhart (7 RHA).

Königssee wasn't a particularly happy experience. Tout caught a virus and had to miss the two-man bob event, leaving Capt Chris Deverell, also 2 RTR and Cpl Dave Ellis, REME, as the only British entry. They came 28th out of 34.

The final World Cup race was due to be held in Cervinia, Italy, before the team goes to St Moritz to work out the final order for the three British Olympic teams.

Army gets its act together

THE senior Army rugby XV started its preparation for the Inter-Services by beating the Metropolitan Police at Imber Court, writes John Quin.

Looking a much more formidable side than the one that lost to the TA, the Army nevertheless took quite a while to settle. In very windy conditions and with the advantage of this at their backs, the policemen led 9-4 at half time, the Army try coming from Cpl Duke Tucker (3 LI) who danced and weaved his way through the entire police defence to score the only try of the half.

With the wind to help in the second half, plus disruption by injuries to the police side, the Army started to blend well.

LCpl George Graham (A and SH), the Army's Scotland B prop, stunned the police - and the national media representatives present - by scoring two excellent tries from 30 or so yards, the second with the distinct hint of a sidestep!

LCpl Richard Nelson (RE) scored the final Army try with Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (Gren Gds) adding two conversions.

The latter so impressed in his general play and his catching of the ball it was no surprise to learn that this young Guards full back is also a Combined Services cricketer.

A week later the Army were in action against Combined London Old Boys and, although depleted by Combined Service calls, and with Lt Will Carling (RRW) in the England team, the Army won again in good fashion.

Within a few minutes of the restart Lt John Gunn (RRF) flashed in for two tries and these coupled with another from Capt Brian McCall (REME) and some accurate goal kicking by Lt John Steele (RA) saw them home.

But the winning streak came to an end against Hampshire at

Southampton when the county warmed to their work in the second half and ran out winners by 23 points to six.

John Steele kicked the Army into an early lead but they were 7-6 down at half time and fell further behind as the Hampshire pack turned the screw in the second half.

The Army side was weakened by the demands of domestic competition and included only six members of last season's championship side.

However, the road gets harder all the way to March 5, when the traditional Inter-Service opener, the Army-Royal Navy game, is played at Twickenham.

The Navy has always led the way in terms of the bunfight in the west car park before the game. Last year the Army was not far behind and its contingent was very large with some unit, regimental and corps tents and barbecues. So how about it this year Army?

It's great fun for all and it helps the boys on the park get their hands on the Willis-Faber (it used to be the Stewart Wrightson) Trophy and the championship.

In Paris, or just south of it, the Combined Services played the French Armed Forces in what turned out to be a very good game, although the Combined Services went down by 29 points to six. The French were a very good side and emphasised the importance of team and individual skills.

Combined Services agreed it gave the right lessons before they depart for New Zealand in May. The team included four Army players: Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, Cpl Chalkey White (R Sigs), LCpl George Graham and No 8 LCpl Dean Ryan (RE).

The next day the party saw the England team so nearly sink France and, of course, watched the Army's newest cap, Lt Will Carling.

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Top referee takes over

THE ARMY's demolition of the Royal Navy was a fitting climax to the career of the man who has steered the Army to its present dominance of Inter-Services boxing. Maj Jack Beasor (60) has been succeeded as secretary of Army boxing and swimming by the Service's senior

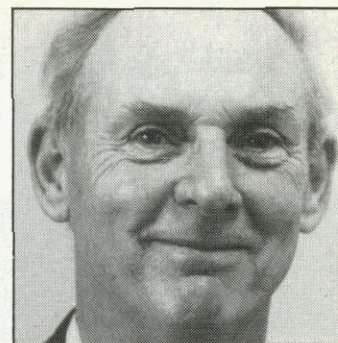
boxing referee, Maj Denis Sears APTC.

Maj Beasor (pictured right) joined the Sports Board in 1979 after 33 years in the APTC – during which neither boxing nor swimming were among his major sports.

Army boxing is now moving on to a computerised records

system which will carry details on all its boxers.

Even the ABA does not have such a facility and Maj Beasor says it will help boxers when they leave the Army for their boxing and medical records will be available at the touch of a button.



Here we go!

A FIFTH consecutive CSBA team boxing championship is well within the Army's grasp after their workmanlike victory over the Royal Navy at Aldershot by seven bouts to three, writes John Elliott.

ABA finalist LCpl John McLean's first action as Army captain was to walk across the ring to claim the featherweight points in the absence of a Navy challenge. Ninety minutes later McLean (26 Engr Regt) was back to receive the Brig Suther Trophy from Gen Sir David Mostyn, president of the Army Boxing Association.

There was rarely a moment when the Army did not look in control. One such moment did arrive midway through the bantamweight match between old rivals Sgt Keith Howlett (39 Engr Regt) and LCook Dave Pope. Although ponderous the sailor possesses a lethal left hand and to everyone's surprise managed to land it flush on the side of Howlett's chin.

A mandatory count gave the quicksilver sapper time to clear his head and he recovered poise, footwork and jabbing to win more easily than the majority decision suggested.

Mauritian featherweight Pte Teekaram "Joe" Rajcoomar (1 D and D) was relentless in pursuit of Mne Andy Calpin, one of seven Royal Marines in the Navy team. Rajcoomar got stronger as the fight went on and by the third round Calpin had little to offer other than courage.

Rgr Peter Roberts (1 RIR) tried desperately hard to overcome a huge height and range disadvantage against AB Quinton Shillingford before dropping a unanimous points decision, but LCpl Kevin



LCpl Kevin Mason (left) on his way to a win over Marine Dean Hassan in one of the best bouts of the match

Mason (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT) won an important light welterweight contest to keep the Army well in front.

Although often under severe pressure from Mne Dean Hassan, one of the Navy's brightest newcomers, Mason kept his defence intact while

scoring heavily enough to nick a majority decision in one of the best bouts of the evening.

LCpl John Dunn (1 R Anglian) was outpointed by Mne Robby Wileman to make the score 4-2 before former ABA champion LCpl Tony Velinor (4 RGJ) returned to the

fold with a curious although comfortable win over Mne Billy Reid.

Velinor went close to losing the first round by default, produced a second round full of the exciting snap, crackle and pop that is his trademark, and coasted through the third.

Middle Pte Ian Strudwick (3 R Anglian) gave the Army an unbeatable 6-2 lead by outpointing Mne Tony Dudley, Sgt Paul Davies (APTC) lost at light heavyweight to former London ABA finalist Mne Mark Edwards, and Gdsm Dave Abbott (1 Gren Gds) brought the programme to a crunching end just when he was struggling to stay in a surprisingly mobile heavyweight contest.

From nowhere he produced a right cross that brought Mne Steve Heryet to a stop.

Army coach SSI Mick Gannon expressed satisfaction with the performance of his troops and now prepares them to confront the RAF at St Athan on February 18.

ALL SQUARE – AGAIN

Civil Service 1 Army 1

THE Army football team made the short journey to Chiswick for their annual fixture against the Civil Service. Of all the hardy annuals in the Army calendar this is the match which, down the years, has produced an inordinately high number of drawn results, writes Pat Massey.

Perhaps it should have been no surprise when, after a hard fought game, played in atro-

cious conditions, the sides trooped off with the scores level at one goal each.

The Army set the early pace but indifferent finishing led to them squandering one or two good chances. In the ninth minute, with seemingly no danger threatening, LCpl Steve Welsh, R Signals, in attempting a back pass to Cpl Chris Lomas, RE, volleyed the ball wide of the advancing goalkeeper to give the home side the lead.

The Army equaliser, when it came in the 69th minute, almost amounted to another own goal.

LCpl Shane Smith, REME, sent over a high cross from the Army left and the Civil Service goalkeeper went up, unchallenged, to make what should have been a simple catch.

But he could only knock it down into the path of the advancing LCpl Matt Carmichael, RA, who had the simple task of slotting it home.

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