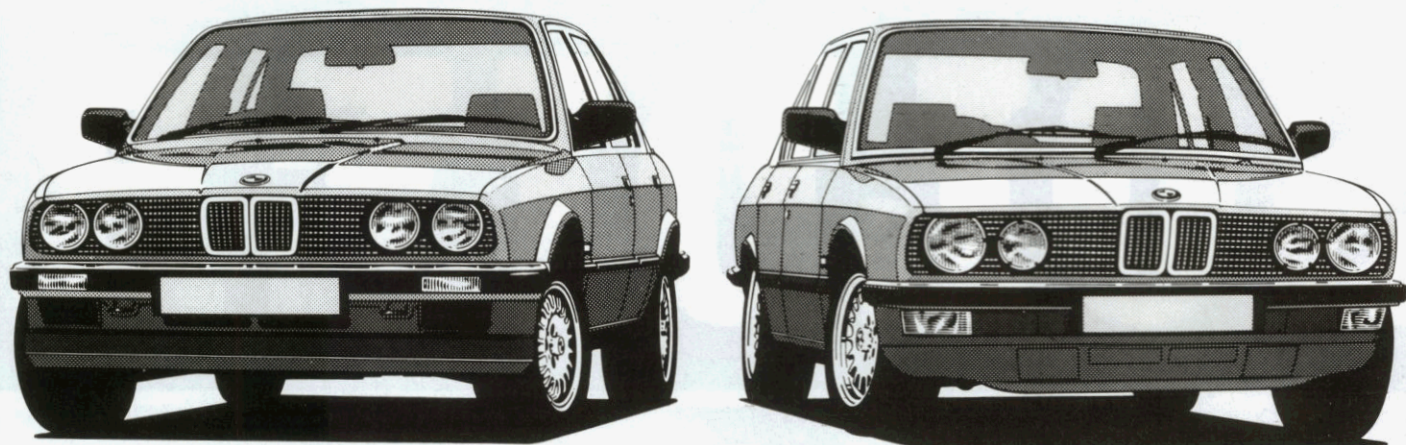


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SOLDIER





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VOL 42/9

5 MAY 1986

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FRONT COVER: Twenty-five years old and 8,000 flying hours to her credit, Alouette XR376 lands at Nicosia in Cyprus. Report on page 24.

BACK COVER: Reaching high for victory in the Army volleyball championship are players of 9/12 Royal Lancers and 42 Survey Engineer Group — the Engineers eventually narrowly won. Report on page 55.
Picture: Paul Haley

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SOLDIER

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THE DANGER MEN



The terrorist's bomb, a constant danger in Northern Ireland, has become a greater threat in Britain since the latest American brush with Libya. The Army's bomb disposal experts in the RAOC have long co-operated with the civilian police to combat the menace. The next issue of **SOLDIER** looks at some of the training which policemen and soldiers such as the officer operating Wheelbarrow (above) take part in.

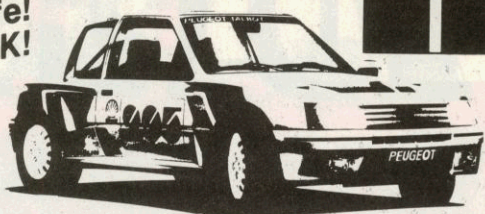
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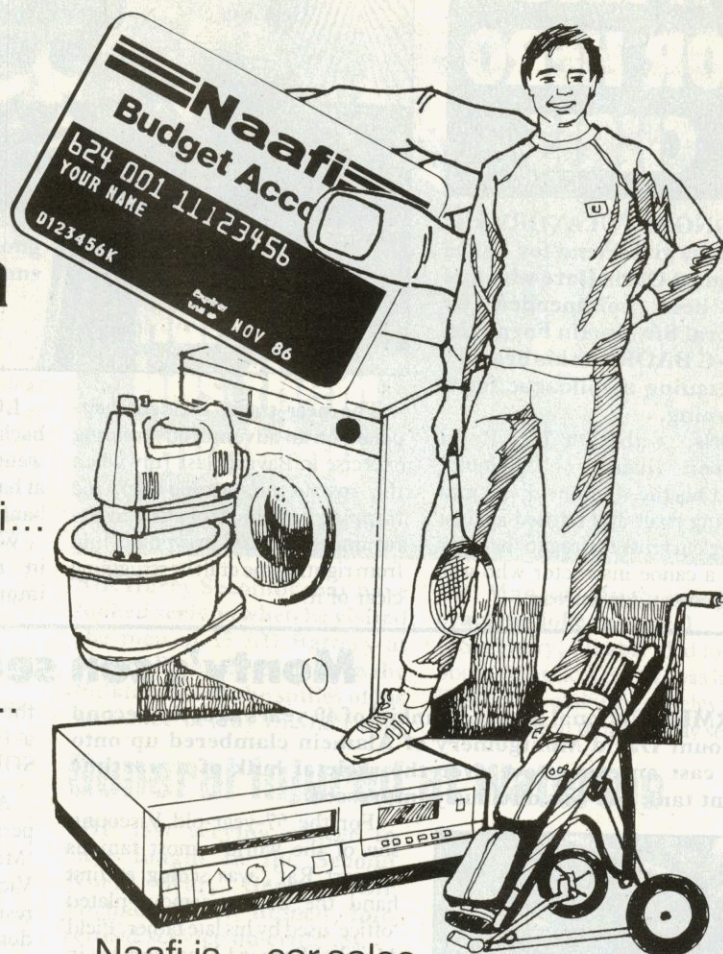
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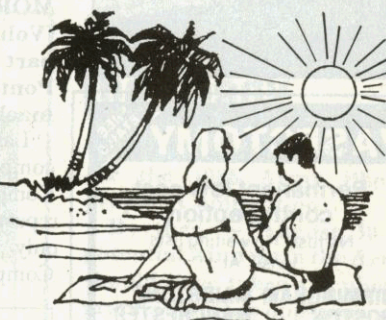
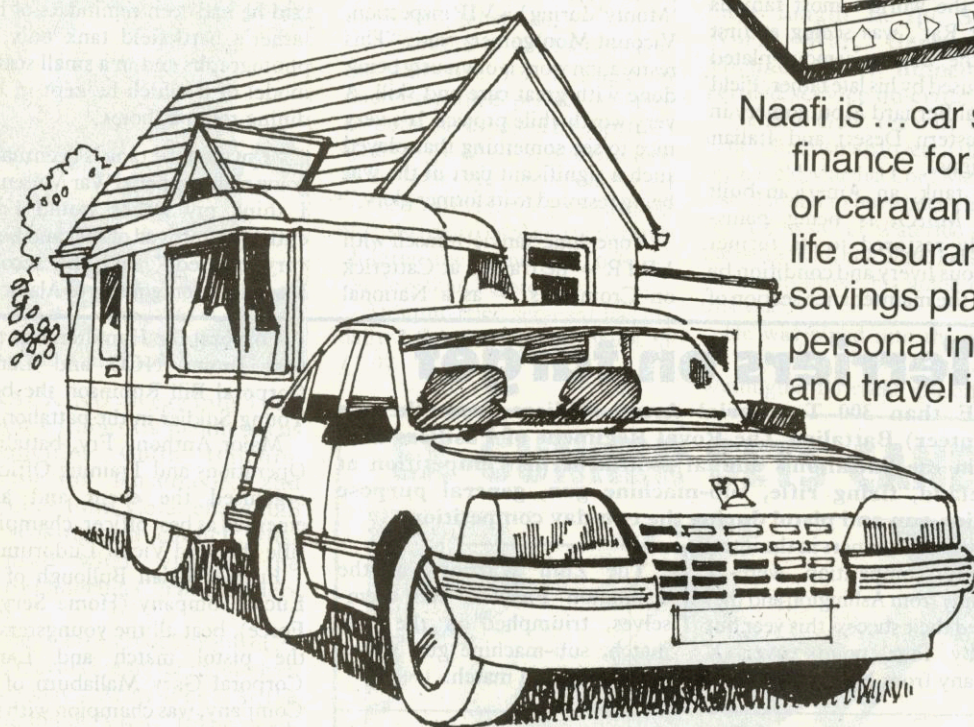
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A KISS FOR HERO CHRIS

A CONGRATULATORY kiss from his girl friend for Lance Corporal Chris Hare who had just been commended by General Sir Martin Farndale, C-in-C BAOR, for his bravery in rescuing a colleague from drowning.

Chris, with 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards at Detmold, risked his life when he dived into a raging river and battled against strong currents to drag to the river bank a canoe instructor who was being swept downstream.



The near-tragic incident happened on an adventurous training exercise in Bavaria last July when the instructor's canoe capsized trapping him underneath. Powerful undercurrents prevented him from righting the craft or struggling clear of it.

LCpl Hare was initially beaten back by the force of the surging waters despite repeated attempts at hauling his friend to the nearest bank.

When he eventually succeeded in rescuing him, LCpl Hare immediately applied artificial

respiration and his comrade slowly responded and regained consciousness.

LCpl Hare was presented with his award by the Commander 20 Armoured Brigade, Brigadier Mike Regan on behalf of General Sir Martin Farndale.

The citation says that the young rescuer displayed remarkable courage, commonsense and leadership. His prompt action drew high praise from the German rescue services who were called to the scene.

Chris is 21 years old and a signaller/operator. He joined the Army five years ago.

He hopes to pursue more adventurous training in Bavaria where he has already won a bronze medal for skiing. But in the long term he has his heart set on marrying local blonde student Angelika Wenzel to whom he is engaged.

Monty's son sees 'Monty'

FORMER National Service 'tankie' of 40 years ago, the second Viscount David Montgomery of Alamein clambered up onto and cast an expert eye over the skeletal hulk of a wartime Grant tank and was obviously impressed.

For the 57-year-old Viscount, son of the world's most famous 'Desert Rat', was seeing at first hand the 26-ton armour-plated 'office' used by his late father, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery in the Western Desert and Italian campaigns.

The tank, an American-built Grant M3A5, is being painstakingly restored to its former illustrious livery and condition by men in the maintenance section of

the Armoured Vehicle Sub-Depot at Ludgershall, near Andover. (see SOLDIER, April 7 issue).

As he slowly circled his father's personal 'charger' aptly named 'Monty' during his VIP inspection, Viscount Montgomery said: "This restoration work is obviously being done with great care and skill. A very worthwhile project. It's very nice to see something that played such a significant part in the war being restored to its former glory."

A one-time 'tankie' himself with 1 RTR — he trained at Catterick on Cromwells — as a National

Serviceman from 1946-48 Viscount Montgomery served at Catterick and in Detmold, BAOR. He left the Army as a second lieutenant.

Until the Ludgershall visit he said he had seen reminders of his father's battlefield tank only in photographs and in a small scale-model of it which he kept in his dining room at home.

"I'm glad the tank is eventually going to the Imperial War Museum. I think my father would have entirely approved of that and been very pleased," said the second Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.



Terriers on target

MORE than 300 Territorial Army soldiers from the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers took part in the battalion's annual Skill-at-Arms competition at Ponteland, firing rifle, sub-machine gun, general purpose machine gun and pistol during the two-day competition.

Last year's winners in the inter-company competition were Z Company from Ashington and they repeated their success this year but only by four points over X Company from Newcastle.

The Zulu Warriors, as the Ashington Fusiliers call themselves, triumphed in the rifle match, sub-machine gun match and the section match.



Ready to fire, Colour Sergeant Brooke (left) and Corporal Rutherford of X Company, winners of the GPMG pairs

Corporal Ian Hamilton was the best Junior NCO and Lance Corporal Bill Robinson the best Young Soldier in the battalion.

Major Anthony Fry, battalion Operations and Training Officer, organised the event and also emerged as best officer, champion rifle shot and Victor Ludorum.

Fusilier Brian Bullough of St Lucia Company (Home Service Force), beat all the youngsters in the pistol match and Lance Corporal Gary Mallaburn of W Company, was champion with the sub-machine gun.

Sergeant Dennis Martin was the best senior NCO and runner-up to Major Fry in the rifle championships.

Island reserve

The Ministry of Defence has leased Pilsey Island in Chichester Harbour to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Pilsey is a small sand and shingle bank to the south of Thorney Island and provides one of the few high water roosting sites for the thousands of waders that visit Chichester harbour. Pilsey is also a valuable botanical site.

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LOA DOWN AGAIN IN BAOR

LOA, the local overseas allowance paid to Servicemen and women to compensate for any increases in personal expenditure by being posted overseas, has been cut out again for West Germany and Berlin.

Like last year, when LOA for Germany was also cut (though there were increases for such places as Gibraltar and Hong Kong), the decision reflects the greater success of the Germans in holding down the cost of living.

British inflation in February stood at 5.1 per cent. In the Federal Republic of Germany the 1985 rate was 2.4 per cent. With monthly figures for February and March of this year only 0.7 and 0.1 per cent respectively, there is every indication of an even smaller

increase for 1986.

All this may not cut a great deal of ice with soldiers who will feel worse off financially or who may even find their financial commitments stretched a little too far. But as the Ministry of Defence points out, LOA is an allowance and not part of a basic salary. It should never be used to undertake repayments of capital purchases.

For this annual review a comparative "shopping list" of 30 items was considered, from things like the cost of food and drink, right through to dry cleaning, sports and baby minding. Last year was the occasion of the major five year review when the list is much more comprehensive.

As a result of the 1986 review, the full rate for a single or unaccompanied private or lance corporal has dropped by 53p, from £1.85 to £1.32 a day. Married men in the same category accompanied by their wives receive £4.50 instead of £5.14 (down 64p) and with three children they now get £6.10 — 79p less than before.

An unmarried sergeant has his daily LOA cut by 84p down to £1.97.

Get cracking, Mr Mayor



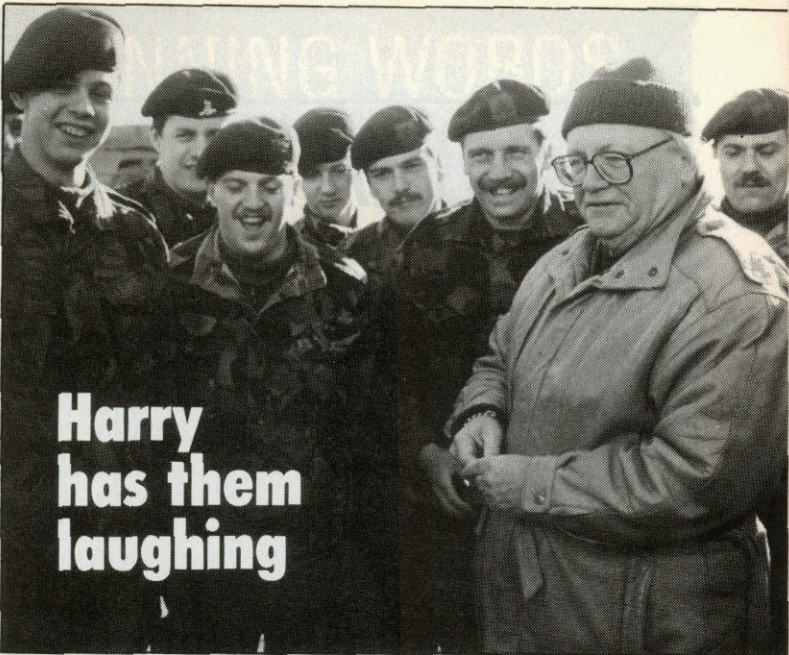
CRACKING an egg into a pan is not without its problems as Councillor Colin Balchin, Mayor of Rushmoor, and Colonel John Cole, chairman of Wokingham council, discovered when visiting the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot.

They were part of a group of 29 local mayors seeing for themselves how today's Army dines. At the invitation of WRAC trainee cook Private Lorna Morrison, they had a go at frying an egg on a field cooker.

"A bit different to my day," said Cllr Balchin, ex-RAF man and host to the party. "Still, RAF cooks are trained here now which must make it all right."

And for Colonel Cole, a Far East PoW of the Japanese from the fall of Singapore to the end of the war, breaking eggs into a pan was also a new experience.

A young officer with the Loyal Regiment in those days, Colonel Cole stayed imprisoned in Singapore until the end of the war.



Harry has them laughing

SIR Harry Secombe may have looked serious when he visited the men of 35 AD Battery at Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falklands, but the smiles of his audience betray the fact that

the Man of Mirth has been cracking jokes as usual.

Sir Harry, suitably clad for the South Atlantic weather, was in the Falklands making a television programme in the Highway series.

General injured at Waterloo

THE last serving officer to have fought in the Second World War, General Sir Michael Gow, limped into retired service on crutches.

General Gow, the only serving Scots Guardsman to reach the rank since Field Marshal Lord Methuen, also claimed to have been the only general to fall at Waterloo — not the battlefield, but Waterloo station where he broke his ankle earlier this year.

He was piped into the retired list by the Scots Guards at Wellington Barracks in London.



EX-GUNNER GETS CANE



MAJOR Nick Knudsen REME, British Army exchange officer who commands the RNZEME's 1 Field Workshops presents an officer's cane to the Governor General of New Zealand, a former gunner, when he visited Papakura military camp. The cane was made by RNZEME craftsmen.

Cameras at the ready

ONLY 118 shooting days left for the 1986 Army Photographic Competition.

By then — August 30 — potential winners in the Army should have taken the photographs that they hope may win them one of the five classes in this year's competition, or that may bring them the accolade 'Army Photographer of the year'.

The competition, now in its 11th year, is not just aimed at soldiers employed full-time on photographic duties; anyone interested in photography is encouraged to enter.

Entries will be judged by a panel invited by the Director of Army Public Relations. The closing date for entries to be submitted is September 30, and the prize giving will be at the National Army Museum in December 17.

give it a try. And it's even tougher when Dad is the RSM of the regiment as WO1 Alan Harry is. Currently based at Lemgo, BAOR, Vincent's ambition could be eased slightly when Harry senior is commissioned. But Dad's not leaving the unit and will still be around when he puts up his 'pips'.

FEW people mix brandy, whisky, curacao, marashchino, sherry and champagne into one pot and then drink it. But the officers of the Royal Irish Rangers do.

And they down the mixture with enthusiasm and relish to

celebrate the battle of Barrosa. For it was there in 1811, close to Cadiz in Spain, that the 87th, a parent regiment of the Rangers, destroyed the French 8th Regiment and routed the French 45th.



SGT KEN WEBSTER, MAJOR TONY POTTER: mixture with enthusiasm and relish

To top it all the Imperial Eagle Standard of the French 8th was captured by Sergeant Masterson with the legendary cry: "Be jabers, boys — oi have the cuckoo."

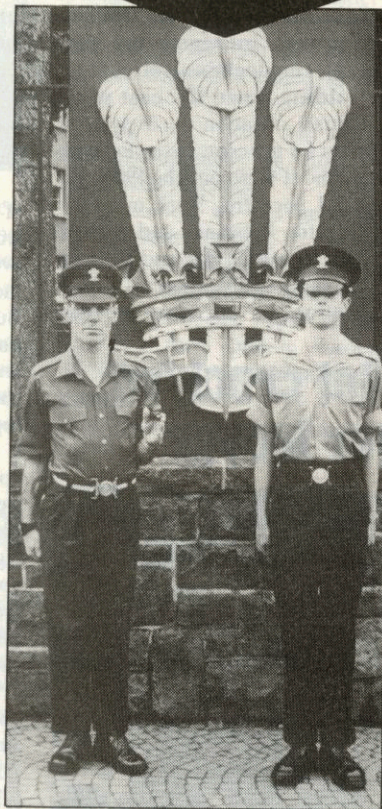
As General Graham wrote of the 87th in his dispatches after the battle: "Nothing less than the almost unparalleled exertions and the invincible bravery of every soldier could have achieved this."

In recognition of their gallantry the Prince Regent commanded their title should be The Prince of Wales's Own Irish Regiment.

But why a mix like the Barrosa Cup? After their well-fought victory the officers returned to their mess wagon to celebrate.

Unfortunately the wagon had been hit by a cannonball leaving only a few bottles intact. Undeterred they poured the contents into one cup which was passed round.

So for those wishing to celebrate Barrosa (next March) the recipe is: 1/2 bottle liqueur brandy, 1/2 bottle peach brandy, 1/4 bottle cherry whisky, bottle brown curacao, 1/4 bottle maraschino, one glass of sherry and 1/2 bottle of champagne.



RSM Alan Harrhy and Vincent: following?

NUMEROUS people have biked, hiked and relayed the 870 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End.

But few, if any, have covered the distance in a wheelchair. But Charlie Hankins, who lost both legs, was blinded in one eye and suffered gunshot wounds in the chest, while serving with the Black Watch in 1943, is preparing to propel himself over the course to boost funds for disabled ex-Armed Forces charities and the Royal Star and Garter

Home at Richmond, Surrey.

Charlie's marathon is set for August with support from his old regiment with a truck and crew and will take about a month.

He has even made a record called *They'll Aye Be Wi' Us* which sells for £2 including postage.

Sponsors cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Charlie Hankins' Disabled Ex-Armed Forces Fund and sent to him at the Star and Garter Home.



Congratulations came from Brigadier J M Jones, Deputy Commander HQ North-East District, when he presented recruiters

WO2 K Brown (left) of the RTR and WO2 E Ross of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, with Meritorious Medals for their work in south Yorkshire.

For WO Ross his current tour at the Sheffield ACIO is his second at the same office. He was first there from 1973-'76. This posting has seen him back there since June 1979.

But for WO Brown this is his third time as a recruiter. This time he's in Barnsley, but he has served as a sign-on man in Dumbarton and Aberdeen.

His career has also included jobs on secondment as an AVF gunnery adviser to the Iranian Army and with the UN in Cyprus and as a refugee camp supervisor after the Turkish

★ NORWAY, Italy, Denmark,
★ Cyprus, Germany, Northern
★ Ireland and the Falklands...
★ Sergeant Kevin Warwick of
★ the Royal Anglian Regiment,
★ has been to them all.

But it was in the South Atlantic islands that he received from Colonel Noel Muddiman, Assistant Chief of Staff, his City and Guilds certificate in food and beverage service.

★ A useful qualification for
★ Kevin who is the officers'
★ mess manager in Stanley.



Sgt Kevin Warwick



CHARLIE HANKINS: wheelchair trip

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(right) is saying to Major Jim Steele and send your entry to: Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Rd, Aldershot, Hants, marking the envelope "People."

The giant key brandished by Major O'Hara is to the office at the Joint Service Parachute Centre, Netheravon, where he was the Commandant.

Now Jim Steele, a competitor, instructor and display ace, has taken over. So get cracking, but keep it clean!

PEOPLE

Top cop slot for Roger

CLAIMS of being first to do anything are always dicey. There is usually someone around who knows better ... or so they claim.

But for Lieutenant Colonel Roger Brumhill it's a case of a double first as in April he was appointed Assistant Provost Marshal (Territorial Army) Western District, Shrewsbury.

This top cop post is the "senior and first such appointment within the Corps of Royal Military Police," he says.

In addition to that

"first," Roger, 46, was "the first RMP (TA) officer to attend Staff College."

Married with three children, he lives at Wolverhampton where he is a JP and a banker.

He was commissioned into the Royal Signals for National Service in 1959 after which he joined the Royal Signals TA.

When the TA was reorganised in 1967, he transferred to 116 Provost Company RMP, which he commanded from 1978 till last month.

He was awarded the MBE in 1982.



LT COL ROGER BRUMHILL

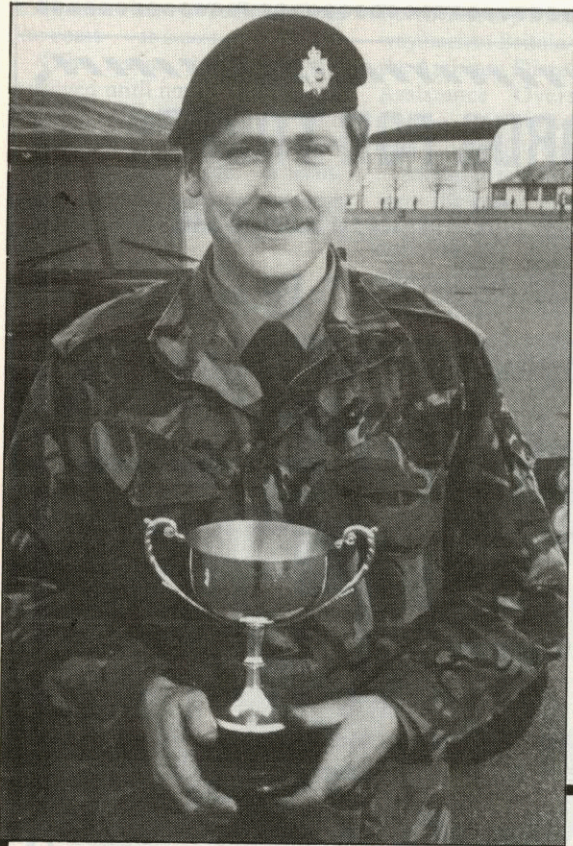
Gunners seek model man!

How anyone in a fighting unit in the 1939-45 war managed to find time to build a model of a Mk 1 25 pounder gun out of empty cartridge cases, is a bit of a mystery.

But according to Lance Bombardier Paul Evans of 46 Air Defence Battery, based in Germany, it's a fact and his unit has restored the model to pristine condition.

Now they are searching for the man who made it — Sergeant E Makin who served in the 3rd Regiment RA.

"Can you help me in my quest?" asks Paul. Is there anyone out there who can? If so, contact Paul at 46 AD Battery, 2 Fd Regt RA, Waterloo Barracks, BFPO 17.



CORPORAL RON HUTCHINSON: weekend winner

In civilian life Ron Hutchinson is chauffeur to Viscount Leverhulme, but at weekends he's a corporal in the TA serving with 234 Squadron, RCT, at Chetwynd, Birkenhead. Ron, 33, and a former RCT regular, took one of the top prizes in the Army's

tri-district road safety competition, held at Birmingham, Lichfield and Nuneaton.

He was first overall in the Land Rover section, defeating 37 TA and Regular Army teams from Wales, the Midlands and northwest England.

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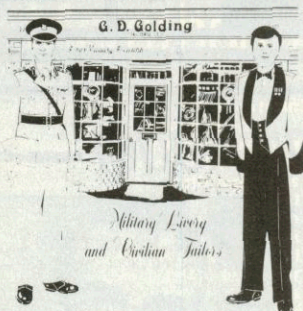
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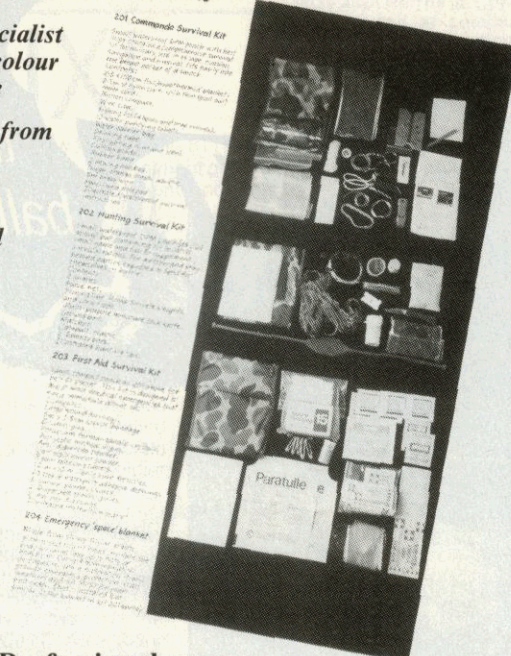
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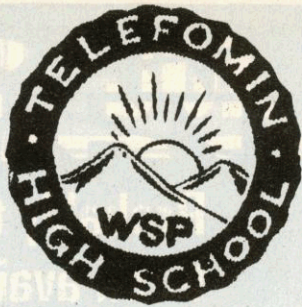
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WHEN the students of Telefomin High School in mountainous West Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea get wet, they stay wet.

They normally wear shorts, tee-shirts — and bare feet because they cannot afford proper uniforms, and many do not have a change of clothes. They desperately need warm uniforms and even more important some kind of protective rain wear — and now help is on the way, thanks to a sympathetic ear at Britain's Ministry of Defence, more than 10,000 miles away in London.

The plight of the 300 students, most of them boarders, at his school in one of the most remote areas of Papua New Guinea, was spelled out by Irish headmaster Malcolm Byrne in what he called "a begging letter" to the British High Commission in the country's capital Port Moresby.

Most of his students live from one to three days walk from the school, he explained. Almost 90 per cent of the school's supplies and rations have to be flown from the coast — at a cost.

"The reason this school has survived until now is because my predecessor and myself have both been insistent beggars — we have begged from private citizens, government agencies and business companies both large and small", he said.

Students at a debating session

Explaining the need for 300 plastic rain coats or capes, Mr Byrne said that at one morning's pre-school health inspection, 53 students had coughs, colds, malaria or other illnesses.

Was there a possibility that the British Army had surplus, or used, or even old and torn rainwear that the pupils of Telefomin could wear, he asked.

From the High Commission in Port Moresby a letter winged its way back to Britain to the office of the Assistant Director of Military Assistance Overseas (Army) Colonel C D M Richie. There the plea did not fall on deaf ears.

And back to Papua New Guinea went the good news that on their way across the oceans would be 323 raincoats man/boys size 01, height 4 ft 11 ins, chest 33-35 ins — hopefully of a size that will fit

the majority of the pupils. They will be delivered, courtesy of the Royal Navy, in August.

"Never let it be said that the Ministry of Defence in London has no heart", said Col Richie.

Far away in remote Telefomin High School, Mr Byrne agreed. "I read your letter out at our morning assembly and the noise of the cheering and clapping was almost deafening", he said.

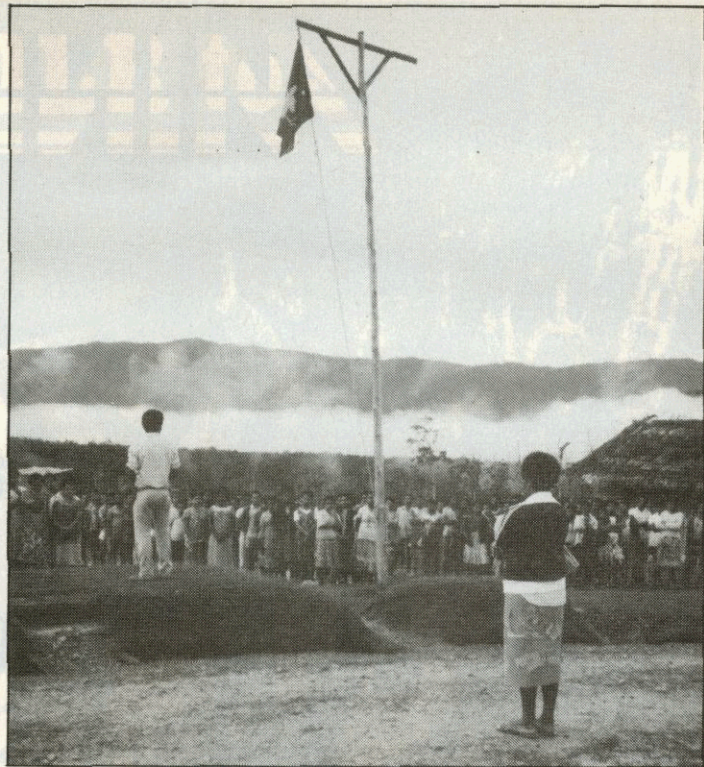
"Your response to our request has confirmed me in my admiration for Britain and the British", Mr Byrne declared.

And another of Mr Byrne's "begging letters" has worked wonders on school uniforms as well. A Royal Australian Air Force Hercules flies in to Telefomin three

The headmaster's wife sewed the school badge (above left) on 300 new uniforms. Above: morning assembly at Telefomin. A 'bush' building is on the right

or four times a year on training flights and Mr Byrne asked if they would airlift in the school's supplies. The Aussies agreed, and saved the school money which would have had to be paid to a commercial carrier, money which has now been spent on 300 full new uniforms.

Although Mr Byrne says that the school is very much a "bush" school, with the help of "friends outside" the situation is improving both physically and academically — examination results showed an improvement of more than 90 per cent last year.



Charity £100,000 on the way

With the presentation of the final cheques from their 1985 campaign, the North West's ace charity fundraisers — the Bury Fusiliers Krypton Committee — announced their target for 1986.

It will mean that in seven years they will have raised more than £100,000 for charity by organising the August Bank Holiday three-day sponsorship competition over the Granada TV Krypton Factor assault course at Holcombe Moor Training Camp, near Bury.

Charities benefiting include the Army Benevolent Fund, the Fusilier Aid Society and the Royal Manchester Childrens' Hospital.

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WE have now become used to hearing of this or that local authority deciding that it wishes to operate in a "nuclear free zone" and opt out of the realities of today.

Now there is a suggestion that individuals should be able to opt out of contributing to the defence of the United Kingdom by refusing to pay any tax which would be spent on arms or "related purposes". Instead, that portion of the individual's tax would be contributed to a peace fund. A Bill to legalise this has been put before the Commons by Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour member for Falkirk West.

Mr Canavan related the case of an old age pensioner who had been in Gloucester prison — as a "prisoner of conscience", said Mr Canavan — for refusing to pay a tax demand because he held strong conscientious objections to the financing of warfare.

Back in 1916, Mr Canavan recalled, Parliament had given statutory recognition to the rights of conscientious objectors who wished to opt out of military service. He proposed that if someone chose today to register conscientious objection to the financing of warfare through taxation, the Treasury should make an appropriate payment for that person into a peace fund. The fund could be disbursed for peace-building programmes, such as to Oxfam, Christian Aid, War on Want and other agencies working in the Third World.

The Labour MP anticipated some Conservatives saying it might create a dangerous precedent, and that it might encourage people who objected to various items of government expenditure to withhold their taxes.

How right he is. It might be nice if just because we object to paying taxation for some specific

purpose we could refuse to pay it. Mr Canavan suggests that it would be denying the individual his freedom if he could not refuse to pay for defence. It might also be seen as a non-acceptance of democracy by the taxpayer who refused to pay.

RORKE'S Drift, the famous Zulu battle of more than 100 years ago, is resulting in another battle — to save for the Royal Corps of Transport's regimental museum the Victoria Cross which was awarded at that time to Assistant Commissary James Langley Dalton.

The medal, awarded for Dalton's conspicuous gallantry during an attack on the Rorke's Drift post in January 1879, is to be auctioned in September, and the RCT, military descendants of the Commissariat and Transport Department, hope to be able to buy it.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Soldiers of the RCT are organising money-spinning events to raise money for the medal.

At Minden in BAOR, for instance, men of 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT at St George's Barracks have given up their spare time to attempt to smash the world record score for a non-stop 24-hour darts marathon. The target they had to beat was 750,000, but they were hoping to score 800,000.

Other soldiers are to take part in a German people's march later this month to raise cash.

And in Wales, a group of 20 TA soldiers from 224 Squadron RCT (V) from Picton Barracks at Carmarthen were raising money by taking part in a relay race over the 100 miles from Haverfordwest to Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

The Victoria Cross is expected to realise seventy to eighty thousand pounds when it is

auctioned. The RCT would no doubt welcome any donations.

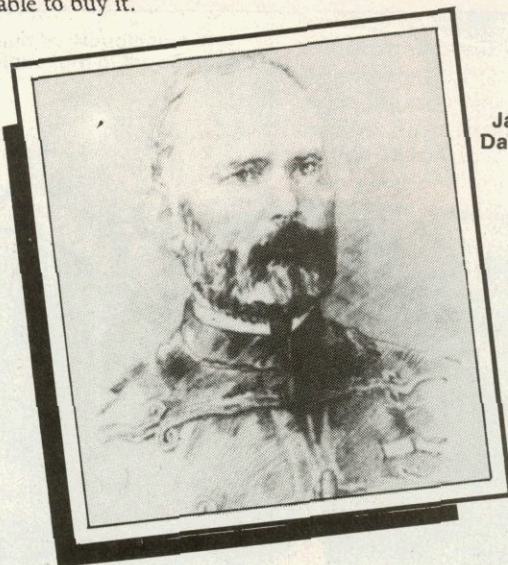
IF you want to see Second World War relics like Queen Mary's ration book or Utility underwear, the Imperial War Museum in London is the place to go.

The museum has just opened a major new exhibition on the Hitler war and post-1945 conflicts, covering the rise of Nazi Germany, the Home Front, the North African and Italian campaigns, naval warfare, the strategic bombing offensive and the war in the Far East.

The memorabilia on show includes such interesting relics as the original draft of Montgomery's personal message to the Eighth Army before the battle of Alamein, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire's flying helmet and goggles, Rommel's death certificate, a section of the notorious Burma-Siam railway, a bottle fused and crushed by the atomic explosion at Hiroshima, and from more recent times the surrender document signed in 1982 by the Argentinian commander in the Falkland Islands.

There is also original film footage of the Battle of Britain and the D-Day landings, and visitors can listen to reminiscences of those who lived through the London blitz.

The exhibition is running in parallel with one on the First World War which opened last September.



James Langley Dalton, VC hero

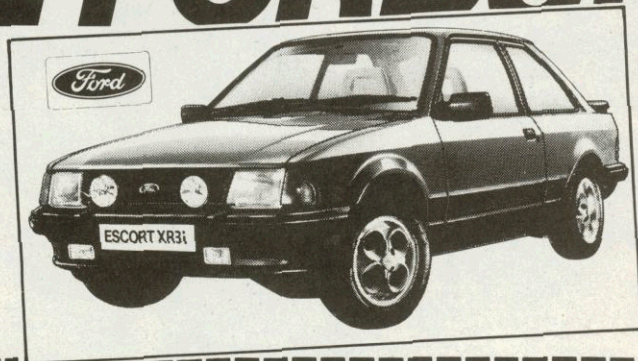
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S9

THE SUBURB BUILT ON MILITARY HISTORY

OLD ammunition dumps, cannons and other aspects of a warlike past are not things you would usually associate with a residential area, especially one developed by an authority with such avowedly antimilitaristic views as the former Greater London Council.

Since the mid-1960s, until its disbandment by Act of Parliament at the end of March, the GLC had undertaken the job of transforming 1,800 acres of what was part of the Woolwich Arsenal into the modern London suburb of Thamesmead.

Until the First World War the land was an important testing ground for artillery pieces as well as being a sizeable dump for ammunition and high explosives. And much of the work to prepare it for living space, with all the attendant facilities of park, playing fields, schools, shops, business and industrial areas, involved clearing away the sometimes dangerous debris of the past.

There were noxious chemicals, left over from the manufacture of

explosives, the occasional live round, and piles of dumped rubble, from the blitz of the Second World War, which contained the odd incendiary device.

But the developers also found a "graveyard" of some 40 cannon, dating back to the 18th century, which were evidently abandoned for failing their proving tests, as well as quantities of cannon balls.

Several of these cannon are now in the Rotunda Museum at Wool-

wich, one has been presented to the city of Alexandria in Virginia, one has gone to adorn the West Berlin suburb of Reinickendorf, which is twinned with Greenwich, two more have been presented to an artillery unit in Vancouver, and others have been used to decorate Thamesmead itself.

Four, from the time of George IV, have been installed overlooking the Thames on the riverside walk which is being constructed along the three-mile length of the site.

Mr Jonathan Maiden, the general manager of the Thamesmead project, said that at least one voice had been raised within the GLC asking whether it was really necessary to have such warlike objects on display, but generally people had welcomed the idea of retaining

the area's historic links.

As a former gunner himself (he spent National Service in the Royal Artillery mainly at Detmold and was later a Territorial with the Honourable Artillery Company for 20 years) Mr Maiden was very much in favour of retaining as much as possible of the former occupancy.

As far as he was concerned it added spice to the whole project to be able to walk round an area, like the old proof butts, and speculate on the original function of the various features.

Mr Ian Hampson, one of the Thamesmead project managers, said that despite what he called some wry thoughts from a few people, most had accepted that the features of the Arsenal should be

seen and used as part of the history of the country.

"My own feeling, while I sympathise totally with some of the other views, is that the old weapons are extremely attractive aesthetically," he added. "You wouldn't scrap a beautiful sword just because it happened to have a very nasty purpose."

More people had been concerned, according to Mr Maiden, about aspects of nature conservation. As much of the area has been virtually undisturbed since the end of the war, there was a considerable lobby which had pressed for larger areas to be preserved unmolested. The planners hadn't been able to do as much as some people wished but they had included provision for an ecology park and a country park in the grand design.

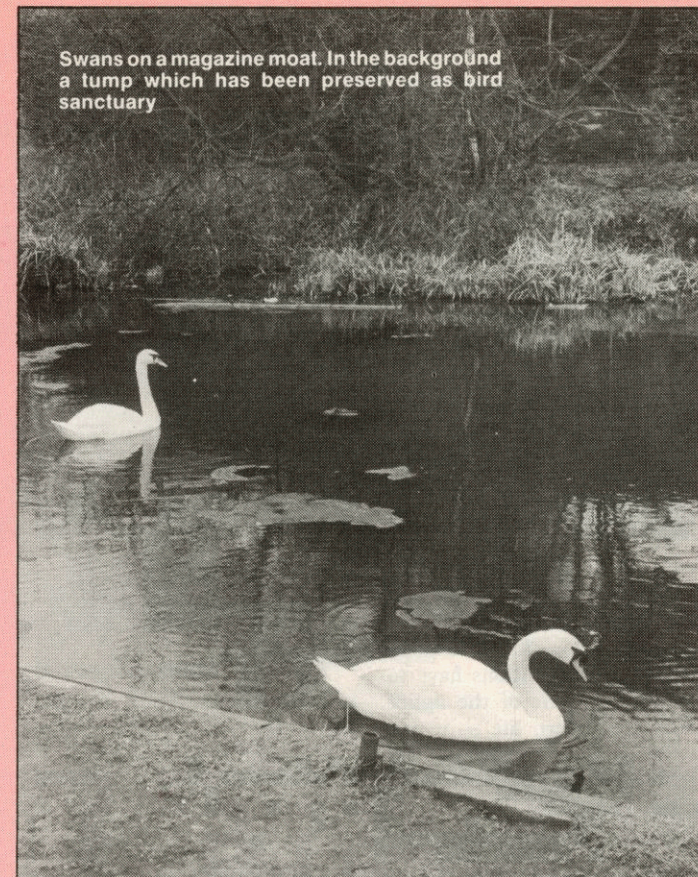
Some of the best sanctuaries for wildlife, especially birds, were contained in the moated magazines which were built in the late 19th century to house ammunition and ordnance stores for operations throughout the then ever increasing British Empire.

There were 32 in the area now occupied by Thamesmead, all built to roughly the same design. A circular moat was excavated to form an inner mound (the same principle as sand castle construction). Outside the mound they built a 20ft high circular wall of brick, while inside a round building of light construction was placed to house the ammunition.

Only a few of these moated magazines now remain. Mr Bob Rigg, a GLC architect who was involved with Thamesmead since the project started, said that in the early days many had been cleared because they tended to interrupt the development pattern.

That was at a time when concrete blocks were being constructed under the industrial system which involved factory built components being assembled on site.

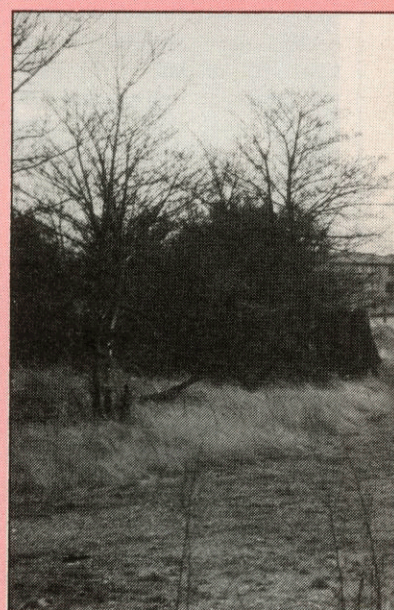
But the end of the boom in the construction industry and the beginning of recession meant more traditional materials became available, along with people like bricklayers to use them. There was also a decidedly sharp drop in the popularity of concrete as a building



Swans on a magazine moat. In the background a tump which has been preserved as bird sanctuary



Mr Ian Hampson (left) and Mr Bob Rigg with a 13-inch mortar, circa 1830, one of the weapons discovered on the site



The lock, now known as Broadwater, built by Napoleonic War prisoners. The swing bridge was put in at the turn of the century



Four George IV cannon on the ramparts of the riverside walk



material.

"Once we went to traditional forms of construction we had more flexibility in the housing layouts," said Mr Rigg. "Instead of blocks of flats we had these two or three-storey houses with gardens which allowed us to preserve these old features."

Mr Rigg said that the master

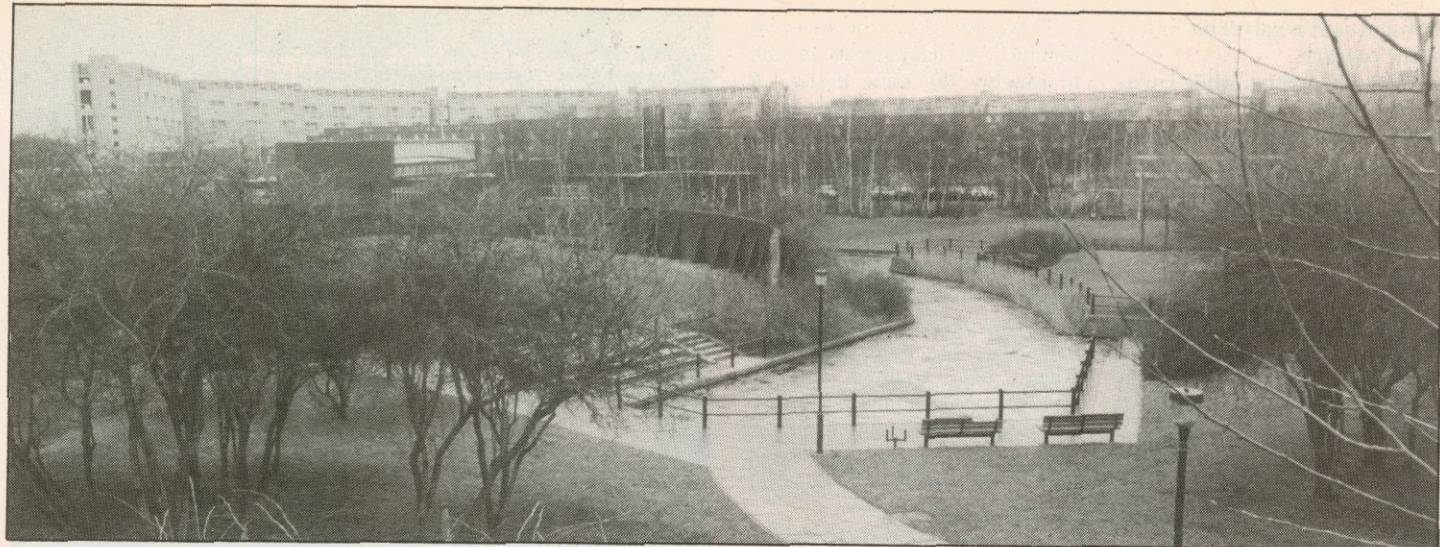
planning group, of which he had then been leader, fought very hard to retain the moated magazines that had not been cleared. In the end they succeeded, and now several of the new districts in Thamesmead are able to boast of a most unusual recreational facility.

Some have been made into a

Continued on page 16



Cannons dug up from Thamesmead lie outside the district housing office



combination of walled gardens and play areas; unexpected and delightful features tucked behind areas of housing. Unfortunately even the best intentions have to pay heed to some of the uglier aspects of modern life — it was felt necessary to breach the old walls to prevent the areas becoming a mugger's snare.

"In many ways it would have been nice to have kept the perimeter walls continuous," said Mr Hampson, "but we've had to open it up for public safety as much as anything. However the idea has been to try to retain the old wall and keep the feeling of a little walled garden and turn what was a moated magazine into a small landscaped area which people can enjoy."

At least one of these magazines has been allowed to retain its former role as bird sanctuary. It remains sealed off behind its moat,

its wall has been left intact and the wild vegetation which has grown up over the years has been left undisturbed.

Alongside, the planners have established a deep pond where fish can breed in safety and help reduce the mosquito menace from the moats and the drainage canals by providing stickleback, carp and perch to eat the insect larvae.

"We've gone to a great deal of trouble to keep the marginal aquatic plants growing to the extent of putting small weirs in to keep the water level correct," said Mr Hampson. "One of the problems at Thamesmead is that the canal levels, in many cases, are much lower than the old moats and if you just connect them you would virtually drain them, very much to the disadvantage of plants which have been long established."

In the centre of the development they've been able to retain a large

section of an imposing butts wall built in Victorian times at the end of a range for testing cannon. A couple of arched passageways through the wall to take cycle and pedestrian tracks caused the planners some problems in obtaining matching bricks for the surrounds.

Alongside, the remains of another moated magazine (they were known for some obscure local reason as "tumps") help to provide an attractive public space, further enhanced by a grove of mature silver birch which grew up on the ash foundations of part of the 130 miles of narrow gauge railway which once carried munitions around the site.

At the western end of Thamesmead the lock built by Napoleonic prisoners of war in the early 19th century is being maintained as a recreational waterway, although the chances of access to the Thames itself are pretty remote as the river

Looking across Thamesmead Centre. Part of a redesignated tump (moated magazine) in the centre; behind some of the early industrial system concrete blocks

level at low tide is no longer high enough to allow the passage of boats.

The area around the lock is due for development as Gallions Park, named after the reach of the river alongside. Three old proof butts nearby, where once cannon were proved by firing shot into bunkers filled with sand, are being developed as recreational and housing areas, although one is at present the site of the crushing plant, turning the concrete foundations of old buildings into hardcore.

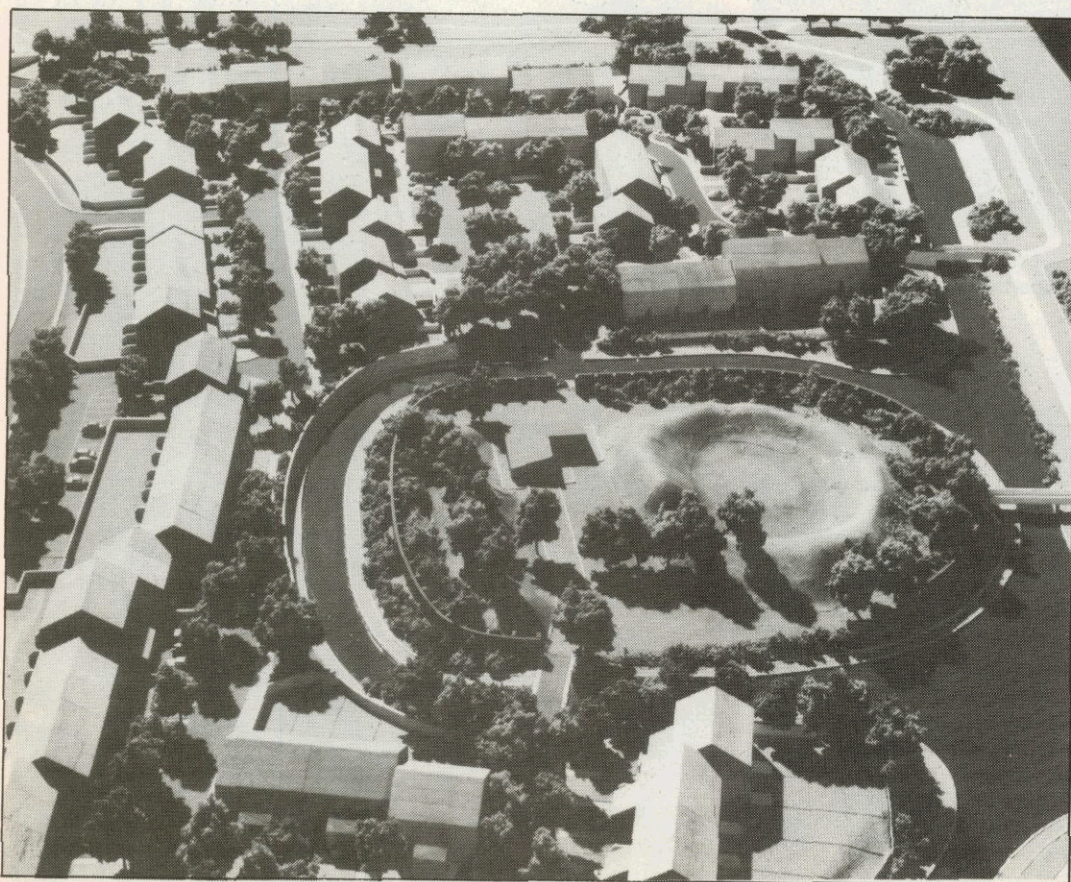
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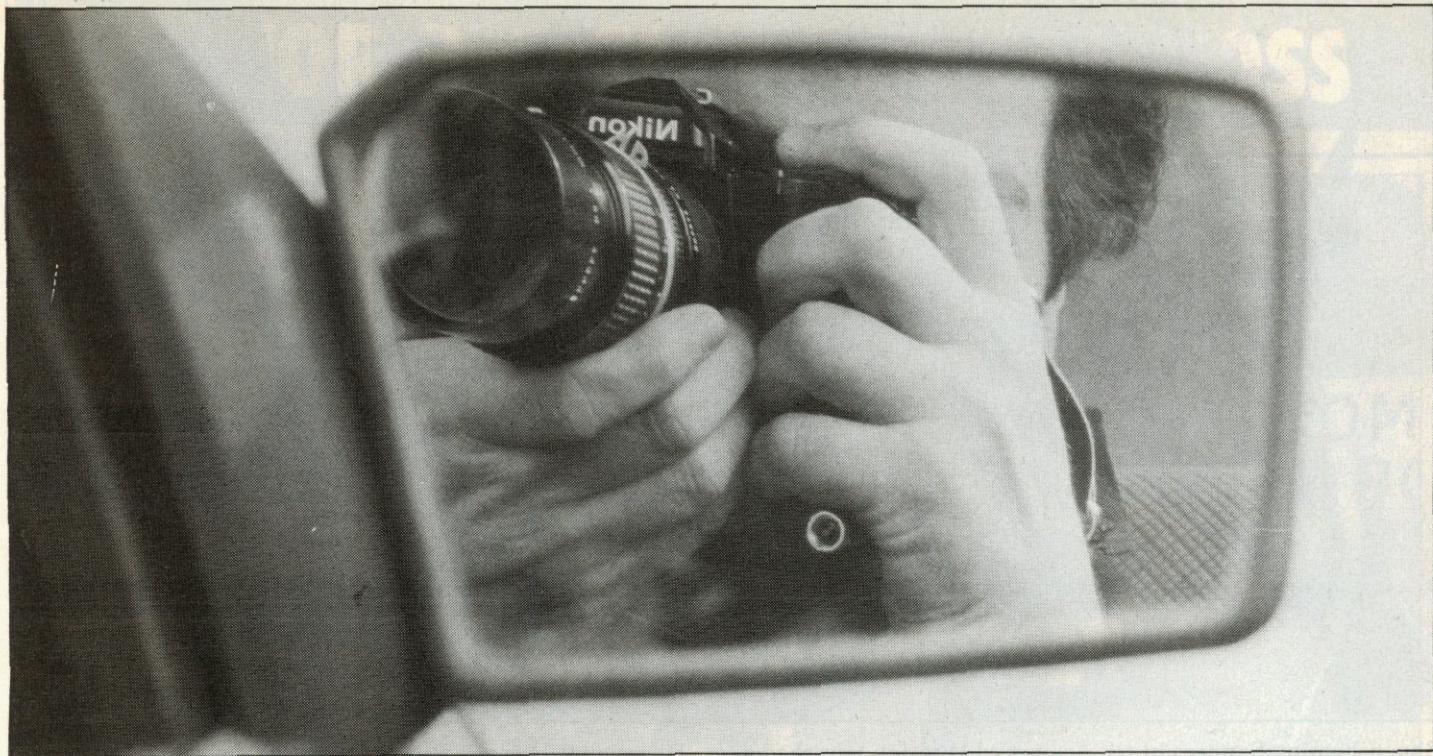
With the demise of the GLC the work will be continued by the newly formed Thamesmead Trust. In time 45,000 people will live here, surrounded to some extent by reminders of the military past of their country.

These days Woolwich Arsenal is only a fragment of what it was. It still occupies some historic buildings — the home of the first Royal Military College dating from 1717 and the old Royal Brass Foundry — and its work continues with weapons in the field of quality assurance.

But most of the site, which grew from the dockyard and gun wharf of Henry VIII to provide the arsenal of empire, is now a growing residential and industrial suburb. Only a few cannon and a few walls and mounds remain as reminders of what role it played in days gone by.

Architects model gives an aerial view of how some of the moated magazines have been incorporated into the housing development





A PRIVATE EYE LOOKS IN

IT WAS a quiet morning in the feature writer's office. Very quiet. You could hear the pile growing on the corridor carpet five feet away. Phones had not jangled on their cradles for what seemed like hours. For some, that would be un-nerving. But not me. There was more life in the bacteria-encrusted bottom of the news room visitor's teacup!

This guy walks in. By appointment. He was on time. I had a client. Five-nine, Caucasian male weighing 160 pounds. He answered to the name of Ian Petty. Private investigator.

Mr Petty — reporters like me are always respectful — had driven down specially from down-town Farnborough to be 'investigated' by me — a scribbler. A 'hack' of many years.

I start to envy this guy. This Mr Petty, a one-time Para with the Second Battalion who fought in Goose Bay and Bluff Cove. A guy who has an answerphone and charges £8-an-hour plus expenses.

Easing himself into the austere office armchair, back to the wall and eyes flickering towards the door arch he tells me: "They just don't show the world of the private investigator on the telly as it really is. The trouble is that the general public just do not realise what a private detective does. Until they need one."

Mr Petty, PI — private investigator — was more at ease now. He flicked open two more buttons of his navy blue epaulette flanked raincoat.

I looked down at my notebook shorthand, notes filling it like an incoming tide and secretly gulped a sigh of relief, too. He was not 'packing a piece' in custom-made holster.

One of a half-dozen PIs in the Aldershot/Farnborough area, Mr Petty — aged 28 my notes had reminded me — says of his profession as portrayed on the

living room silver screen: "It's nothing like the real job. It's all really glorified. A lot of the gummy stuff like sitting around in cars is left out. The job does get boring but, in reality, patience is a virtue in my game. But I have had my glamorous moments like sipping Martinis on the Champs Elysées.

I'm impressed by this guy who has never been involved in fist fights in the course of his persistent inquisitive profession for pay.

I'm even more impressed when he tells me he does not insist on payment 'up front.' Instead, his wife, Sharn, types up his findings and presents them to him in a manilla folder. The bill for services or 'invoice' is slipped in at the end. This guy has class. Th's far-from-seedy gumshoe has sensitivity.

Not for him the sordid TV habit of shoving a bulky envelope into a suit breast pocket with his left hand. His eyes never leaving yours.

Suddenly, he makes a move. In his hand, a business card. It says, as I squint from an angle, "I.J. Petty Services" and lists his particular capers of preference as VIP protection, surveillance, investigations and general security consultancy.

Gentlemen indigenous to the affluent oilfields of the Middle East

have been among his clients. Glamorous blondes, too, checking up on 'cheating' husbands and vice versa on long, lonely stake-outs, he tells me. I keep writing.

Country mansions and London hotels have been some of his more salubrious situations.

Eating out for him during spells of eye-balling on the unwary invariably comprises ham sandwiches and flasks of black, sweetened coffee prepared by his wife.

He checks I am getting all this. I am. "I never read while waiting in my car. My subject could slip away. I always have my cameras with me and a range of lenses from 500mm down," says the ex-Para who learned about the fleeting intricacies of work on celluloid in the Army.

Tricks of his shadowy existence trade he has picked up from expolicemen. He expounds: "The thing is, you have to distance yourself from the person you are

watching and from any emotional connection. You are being paid to do a particular task. To provide certain information and at reasonable rates. My obligation is to the client. I am not a policeman."

Much of his work, he admits, is mundane. (I look that word up in the office word-book). He does not work from a phone call. He always sees the client first. Sound logic from a guy who started his sleuthing as a freelance security consultant with stress on close protection.

But the guy is ambitious. He wants to buy more equipment. Like night-viewing equipment. Time is money. I could sense this.

"With a bit of diplomacy you can get by most of the time," he said. The chat was over. I felt lucky. I wouldn't get a manilla file. A nice hard-working guy that Mr Petty.

**Words by
Graham Smith**

CLUB AND COMPANY SWEATERS

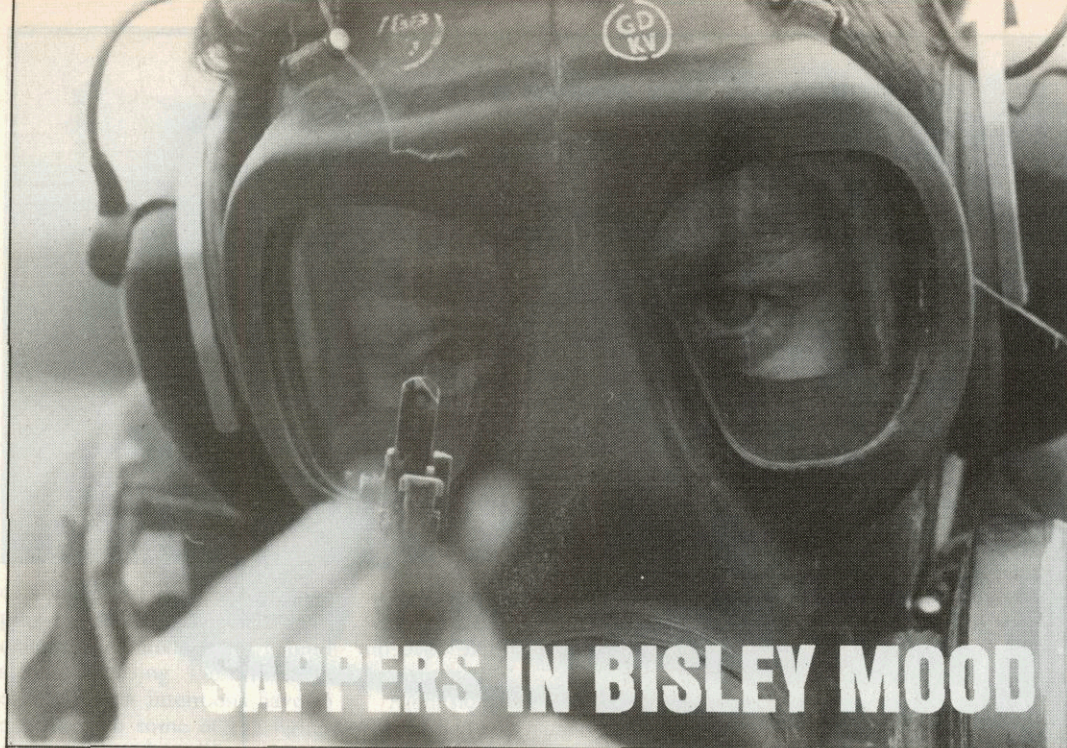
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SAPPERS IN BISLEY MOOD

Sharpshooting Sappers in 4th Armoured Division launched a bold move towards tackling the best at Bisley later this year by clinching premier awards at the division's two-day Skill At Arms meeting at Sennelager.

In a close-run finish 35 Engineer Regiment's 'B' team beat off fierce opposition from highly fancied 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales to win the major unit prize

while their colleagues in 65 Corps Support Squadron RE snatched the minor unit spot.

But the Welsh troops have no reason to feel shown up in their run for glory — they outgunned their rivals to seize the major unit slot in both the SMG and LMG matches.

Some captivating shooting by Corporal Robert De Lloyd brought them more honours by edging out the opposition to secure the Best Individual Class 'A' result in the Roupell Cup as well as earning the title of runner up to champion at arms.

◀ In the Statistics Cell, 47 Fd Regt's Asst Adjt Lt Alison Hall logs scores with her calculator

Sgt Mick Smith RCT of 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt has the satisfaction of obliterating one of his many bullseyes with masking tape after the SMG Match ▼



His regimental comrade, Private Matt Hibbs, showed he is one of BAOR's brightest prospects by lifting the Best Young Soldier trophies for both SMG and pistol.

The Champion At Arms title went to former Bisley ace Warrant Officer Class 1 Martin Corcoran of 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. Despite the disadvantage of missing preparatory range practice the Yeoman of Signals regained some of his unbeatable form to scoop top individual places with pistol and rifle.

This year's meeting — said to be among the best for years — featured new deals for the shooters and range support staff alike.

For the first time the vast mass of data recorded on the hundreds of score cards was computerised providing instant results at the push of a button.

Range staff member Gunner Karl Pinnick RA 'dip checks' the SLR magazine of Driver Andy Pratley RCT of 4 Armd Fd Amb



WO1 (Y of S) Marti Corcoran of R Sigs ▲

◀ Pte Tony Cameron of 61 Ord Coy takes aim despite the respirator headgear

And thanks to the SAAM rule book at last catching up with the marvels of more electronic gadgetry the light machine gun match was fired for the first time on an electronic target range (ETR) as opposed to the gallery type range system operated in the past. This development not only proved its worth by cutting down the likelihood of scores being challenged but also sharply reduced the time taken to complete events.

For some of the rifle hotshots with hearts and sights set hopefully on the Roupell Cup it was more a case of eyes popping and jaws dropping. For in following a newly introduced rule they had to don a respirator, run for 100 yards and shoot. A tough sequence demanding stamina and skill, it tested the troops, physical fitness almost as much as their capacity for cool composure in aiming.

The 1986 Meeting also claimed another unusual record as probably the only Div SAAM to be run by Gunners in Germany, in this case the officers and men of 47 Field Regiment RA.



MAJOR PEPITA IS RED CAP BOSS

A RED and white sign appeared on the company commander's desk the day the new OC took over. It read: "Boss Lady." Major Pepita Simpson removed it from sight with a sigh.

As the first woman to assume command of a Royal Military Police unit — especially one as important as 160 Provost Company, RMP — Major Simpson had enough to think about without the inevitable jokey comments on her appointment.

She is now in charge of the military policing of the Army's South East District which, in terms of manpower, is by far the largest in the UK. A very daunting prospect as she admitted.

"I think when I first heard about it I was very flattered and I think that emotion more or less overwhelms apprehension," she told *SOLDIER* on her first day in office. "But since then I've had time to think about it a bit more and I'm probably more apprehensive than I was to begin with."

During the week's hand over at Aldershot everybody had been most welcoming. "I feel quite comfortable in this garrison," she said. "However there is bound to be a mixed reaction to my appointment. There is bound to be a certain amount of chauvinism."

The job came originally as "an absolute bolt from the blue," she said.

"I was called into the Provost Marshal's office one day and he said — How would you like to go to Aldershot and command the military police unit there?" Major Simpson recalled. "I was then in the top job for a woman in the military police and I had looked upon it as being the end of my career with them. I was looking to move on to something else and this happened."

As SO2 PM4 at the Ministry of Defence anything to do with the appointment and deployment of military policewomen was her business. She was also heavily involved in the formulation of policy regarding their use.

Major Simpson was commissioned in 1972 and went to Bicester as the assistant adjutant of an ordnance battalion on her first posting. From there she was sent to the RMP on secondment. It was how the system operated in those days — you didn't volunteer, you were selected.

After a spell of duty in Northern Ireland there was a tour with the London District Provost Company which she described as the real launching of her career in the



Major Pepita, a welcoming handshake from her predecessor

military police.

"Marvellous tour," she said, "best days of my life. I was in London for Jubilee Year and got seconded to the Foreign Office for six months on Government conference security which involved the economic summit with Jimmy Carter and the Commonwealth Premiers' conference."

There followed a couple more staff jobs — one in Germany and one in the UK — and a posting to Sandhurst as an instructor for the first intake of girls to enter the Royal Military Academy. Her husband, Keith, is a lecturer at the RMA.

As OC 160 Provost Company, Major Simpson commands 100 male and 12 female Red Caps spread from Bicester Garrison round the east and south of London

to the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison. Her responsibilities also include the Mounted Troop with a dozen or so horses, which these days is very much part of the primary policing role. Its display team hasn't been seen in an arena since the Aldershot Army Display of 1984.

Major Alan Pangborn, the retiring OC, said: "I suppose my greatest influence in three-and-a-half years has possibly been ensuring that the Mounted Troop have become a fully operational sub unit of the company. They concentrate on military lands where it is difficult for any form of motorised transport to be effective and they are also heavily engaged in supporting the company in routine patrols with particular emphasis on security whenever we

have VIPs coming to Aldershot. Obviously by their height and the senses of the horse they can spot certain difficulties far more quickly than a man on foot."

Asked about any advice he might have for his successor, Major Pangborn replied: "The advice I gave to the NCOs last night was — be your own man. So my advice to her would be — be your own woman."

As Major Pangborn prepared to leave for a job as a civilian security consultant after 26 years in the Army, Major Simpson contemplated her own future.

"I am just going to take life as it comes," she said. "This is a pretty tight unit already actually and I am quite confident it will run on smoothly until I have an opportunity to make my own mark."

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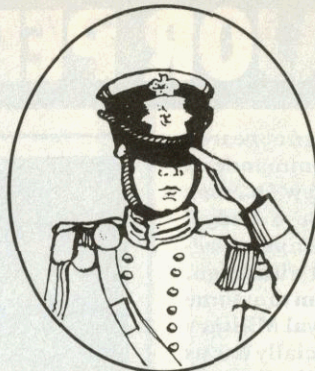
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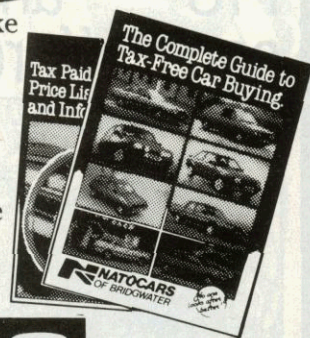
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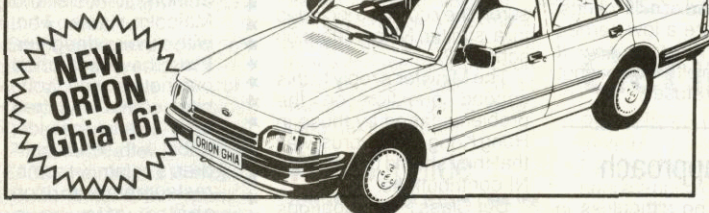
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When things go wrong in hospital

IF something goes wrong while you or any of your family are in hospital, how do you complain? asks a Service wife.

If you have a complaint about an NHS hospital contact the Health Service Ombudsman.

He can't help over the actual medical treatment by doctors, but he may be able to help if, for instance, you think you've not been properly attended to in hospital or as an out-patient.

You must first lodge your complaint with

the district health authority and give them time to deal with it.

If you wish, your local community health council may be able to help you prepare your complaint.

If you're not satisfied with the way the authority deals with it, then write to the Health Ombudsman at Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1 3BW.

For Scotland the address is: 2nd Floor, 11 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7LU tel: Edinburgh 031 225 7465.

Wales: 4th Floor, Pearl Assurance House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG, tel: Cardiff (0222) 394621.

The procedure for complaints about the Army Medical Services is to write to the CO of the unit or hospital. If you are not satisfied with this, write to the commander medical for an investigation and answer. From then you must go up to ministerial level.

All patients are encouraged during their stay in hospital to voice their complaints.

How NI gives you a touch of class!

IN MY VIEW

THERE'S a brand-new National Insurance deal for those good folk who go abroad to help others — the Volunteer Development Workers (VDWs).

For Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, has recognised their need for an NI scheme and says: "I am pleased that

by introducing this special rate national insurance contribution, we are able to put right a long-standing anomaly and to do something positive to make life easier for those people who play such a valuable part in the British Overseas Aid Programme."

This new contribution will

cost each person £6.55 a week, but will enable them to claim unemployment benefit, maternity allowance, sickness benefit and, of course, contribute to their State pension and be covered for industrial benefits and diseases (not tropical).

Bully for them but what about Service wives over-

seas and their problems concerning the DHSS, NI contributions and benefits? Many of them are refused the right to pay full NI contributions which denies them, for example, unemployment benefit.

So I am asking Mr Newton if they can have the same sort of scheme as those volunteer workers.

If Service wives and dependants overseas did not work in the hospitals, Government offices and MoD locations, the bill for the Government would be even more colossal than it is at present.

Yet our dependants are willing and want to work for the British, but in the eyes of our government they are of less value than those Voluntary Overseas Workers so highly thought of by Mr Newton.

Surely this cannot be right and is just an oversight on his part.

The criteria for Voluntary Development Workers to qualify for this new scheme is that they are normally resident in GB. So are Service dependants. That they are recruited by a recognised organisation. So are our people. That they are sent to work in a recognised developing country.

The last does not apply to us, but if, for example, we take Hong Kong and those there working for the British, surely they could be included in a similar NI contribution scheme?

The Minister's reply to this second question on the problems faced by those in Hong Kong and Cyprus, was that they should pay Class 2 NI contributions.

But Class 2 contributions are for self-employed people and in no way can these people be classified as such since they are employed by government departments. And even if they could pay Class 2 they still wouldn't get

unemployment pay.

This new contribution payable by VDWs gives them the right to claim unemployment and associated benefits.

But Service dependants working in the EEC and paying the same full NI contribution, will still be denied unemployment benefits.

How can this be right and proper when Service wives, since 1977, have been saving the government millions by receiving low wages and being denied benefits available to others and with little recourse to justice. They have also faced the threat, and still do, of being hired and fired at will.

Families welcomed

THE third edition of the *Family Welcome Guide*, now available for travelling Service families, is a must.

Many families in UK from abroad find pubs, restaurants and hotels giving the cold shoulder to children — no children or dogs.

For £4.95 this consumer guide gives just the advice needed. The authors, Jill Foster and Malcolm Hamer who, with their daughter, Polly, have searched out hotels with cots, high chairs and free baby-listening service; pubs with legal children's or family rooms; restaurants with high chairs, offering a special menu or reduced portions for children.

Nor have they forgotten the play area, swimming pools, supervised creche and breast-feeding facilities.

HERE TO HELP



Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Water wisdom spells safety

THE sailing and swimming season is almost upon us, but sadly a number of children will not see it through for they will have drowned in ponds, rivers, canals, the sea and in their own back gardens.

To help prevent these unnecessary tragedies, RoSPA has launched a campaign inviting parents and children to meet Theodore the water-wise cat.

A new book, written by Doug Parker and Jon Raven aimed at children aged seven and over, shows Theodore resplendent in his flying helmet telling the story of six drowning accidents.

Each chapter takes one of the six points with illustrations on water safety.

Most of the stories are based on actual drowning incidents and reflect RoSPA's six-point water-wise code of advice: **Spot the dangers** — water can look safe, but it can be dangerous. **Know the difference** — you may be able to swim in an indoor pool, but that doesn't mean you will be able to swim in cold outdoor water. **Check new places** — there may be hidden dangers. **Take safety advice** — **Flags and notices** may warn of danger. **Go with a grown-up** who can point out dangers and help if someone gets into difficulties. And learn how to help in an emergency. The book is available through RoSPA and usual outlets.

But there is still one obstacle at least for those who may be, or are currently afflicted following an accident or illness while with their Service husbands overseas. To date they have been debarred from claiming UK SDA at £23 a week.

To right this wrong I asked the European Parliament to explain this discrimination against the wives of Service personnel stationed in the EEC.

They say "Once the conditions for entitlement are met this benefit must be paid in accordance with the provisions of the EEC regulations anywhere in the Community. This applies to spouses of serving members of the Forces."

So if a claim is rejected on the grounds of residence — not living in the UK for example — the applicant must appeal.

A useful leaflet is DHSS 16A85 which refers to invalidity benefits. Other publications are: *Social Security Appeal Tribunals*, available from HMSO at £2.50; *I Want to Appeal*, from Citizens Advice Bureaux at £3.30; and *Non-Contribution Benefits for Disabled People*, from the DHSS at £2.

Wives' guide

JUDGING by the letters I get the *Wives' Guide to the Army* is in hot demand. But there isn't a shortage. In fact there are nearly 30,000 copies at Donnington. Apparently some units are not issuing copies. Others, that do, tell wives they must leave the booklet in their quarter when they move. This is not the case. It is your personal copy — it says so on the front cover!

Meet Theo the aqua cat



Faster cash plan for pensioners

SERVICE pensioners living overseas should from now on get their money quicker and cheaper.

The welcome news for those living in Australia, Canada, the Irish Republic, USA, New Zealand, South Africa, West Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden is that they will have their pension paid by automatic credit transfer direct to their overseas bank account.

Get in touch by 'Contact'

REPLYING to a letter asking if "Contact a Family" (family groups with handicapped children) can be started within Service garrisons either in UK or overseas, "Contact a Family" replies: "Groups in Germany cannot bear the title 'Contact a Family' as this is a company limited by guarantee and our

directors only have the ten staffed 'Contact a Family' groups in London and the south-west.

"However, we now have at least 250 independent groups who link to us for information and guidance.

"This charitable organisation has helped many Service families in the UK. It does just what its name

implies; Contact a Family."

Useful addresses: National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2SD; "Contact a Family," (family groups with handicapped children), 16 Strutton Ground, Victoria, London SW1P 2MP.



DO you rate yourself a low earner? If you can answer "Yes" to the following questions, extra cash could be yours.

- Do you have any children under 19?
- Do you or your partner work full time?
- Is your total weekly income less than £86?

The questions concern Family Income Supplement (FIS) for the fact is 34 Service families in BAOR are registered as low earners and are receiving this benefit.

This information is available because the MoD

pays instead of the DHSS. Figures for the UK are the concern of the DHSS, but there is a nagging worry at MoD that there are families in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Gibraltar and elsewhere where the Army is based, and who are eligible for this payment, who are not claiming.

If you feel you are on a low income and entitled to FIS, complete form FIS1 which is available from the DHSS, post offices and BFPOs.

If you are overseas, contact your unit pay office. Remember that LOA does not count as income. Two other points to remember is that FIS is paid for 52 weeks of the year and that for those based overseas cash is paid instead of milk tokens.

If you are a low earner, fill in the FIS form now. It really is an offer you cannot afford to refuse.

Direct approach

Wives having difficulties in obtaining maintenance payments or financial support before the decree nisi, should write direct to PS4D Army, MoD, Express State Building, Lillie Road, Fulham, London.

TAKE A TIP

Bad wine warning

BEEN to Italy lately on exercise or holiday and brought back some wine? Be warned and be wise. Don't drink it unless it has been tested for contamination.

The DHSS has issued warnings following concern about evidence of contamination by methanol of wines recently on sale in Italy.

They emphasised that no contaminated wine had been found in the UK and that tests were being carried out at ports.

They say that wine samples can be checked by

local public analysts for a fee.

If you are living and working in Germany and become unemployed and a new job is not immediately available, you can receive unemployment benefits if you fulfil certain conditions.

These conditions are set out in Merkblatt 1, the 1986 English/German information booklet for those in this situation.

YOUR SECOND CAREER CAN BE AS CHALLENGING AS YOUR FIRST



KENT POLICE

for details contact

Recruiting Officer,
Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ.

Maidstone (0622) 65432



HELO'S 25 YEARS AND STILL FLYING

Warrant Officer 2 Graham Laverton, pilot of XR376's history making flight toasts the unique occasion

IT WAS birthday time and a silver jubilee in Cyprus for Alouette helicopter XR376, serving with the United Nations Force in Nicosia.

One of the oldest helicopters in current operational British service XR376 is one of eight deployed by the Army Air Corps in Cyprus — four with the United Nations and the remainder with 16 Flight Army Air Corps in the Dhekelia Sovereign Base.

There is also a spare machine held in reserve in Britain.

Alouettes have been in British Army service since 1958, and the first one purchased — XN132 — is still flying with the United Nations Flight. It is three years older than 376 but has less hours, after spending many years in storage.

376 has spent her 25 years on a variety of postings with the Army Air Corps. This is her second tour in Cyprus, but she has also been to Germany, the United Kingdom and British Guiana (now Guyana) for considerable periods of her life.

She was excused service in Northern Ireland and Belize because of her age, and the Army Air Corps has never deployed

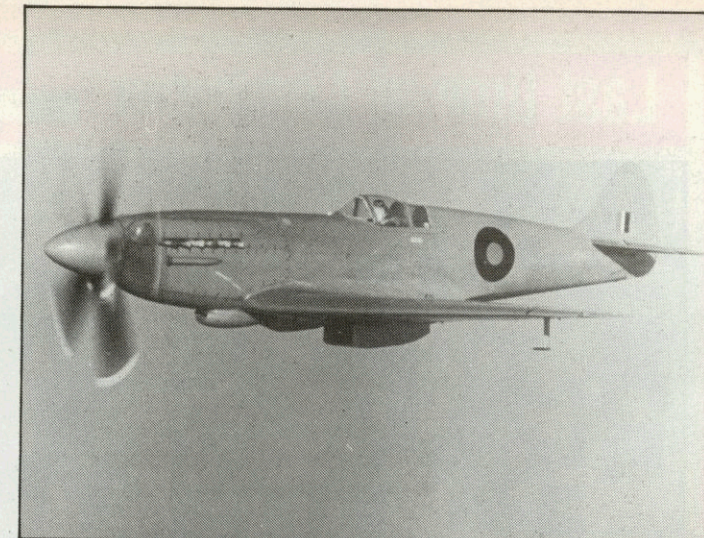
Alouettes to the Far East although there was a Flight in Kenya from 1961-64.

The United Nations Force in Cyprus Flight, commanded by Major A C S Holtom, celebrated in true style a few minutes after 376 clocked up her 8,000th hour — flown by Warrant Officer 2 Graham Laverton.

The actual sortie was a Buffer Zone line tour by the Commander of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, a Finnish General who had not even joined the army when 376 entered service. The General was very impressed with the trip and the aircraft, but the Officer Commanding resisted the offer of flying him back to the Lebanon in it!



Pilots and ground crew of the United Nations Force in Cyprus Flight AAC, with XR376, celebrate in style



WALLOP WELCOMES BACK THE 'SPITS'

ADOZEN Spitfires, it is hoped, will be flying over Hampshire skies again in July during the International Air show in celebration of their 50th anniversary and, in particular, in commemoration of their wartime base of Middle Wallop, near Andover.

The clock will be figuratively turned back in the skies with tangible relics still on the ground, too. For building started in 1938 and almost all of the original buildings at Middle Wallop — now the home of the Army Air Corps — including the hangars, remain today. Traces of wartime camouflage paint are still visible.

During Britain's darkest hours the airfield was a Sector Station and an extremely busy base for day and night fighter operations throughout the Battle of Britain.

It was the Wallop-based 609 Squadron with its Spitfires that took part in one of the first large confrontations with the Luftwaffe on August 8, 1940.

The airfield's importance, however, had its price to pay. Wallop was attacked on no less than 14 occasions. Hangar Five, since rebuilt, and many aircraft were destroyed. There were also military and civilian casualties.

The dozen dozen of Spits and some illustrious pilots are certain to steal the limelight at the Air Show from July 7 to 14.

On July 12 and 13 the veritable Who's Who of gallant wartime Spitfire pilots will comprise a rare compendium of air-to-air anecdotes.

The pilots: Wing Commander Roger Stanford Tuck; Squadron Leader 'Ginger' Lacey, the highest-scoring UK Battle of Britain fighter pilot; Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, highest-scoring Allied fighter pilot of the Second World War; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, Battle of Britain Spitfire pilot; Squadron Leader Neville Duke, Second World War Spitfire pilot and a world speed record holder

in a Hawker Hunter; Group Captain Peter Twiss, Spitfire pilot and world speed record holder in a Fairey FD 2; Jeffrey Quill, Spitfire test pilot; Group Captain Sammy Wroath, RAF test pilot for the Spitfire; Jack Rasmussen, Vickers/Supermarine design engineer for the Spitfire.

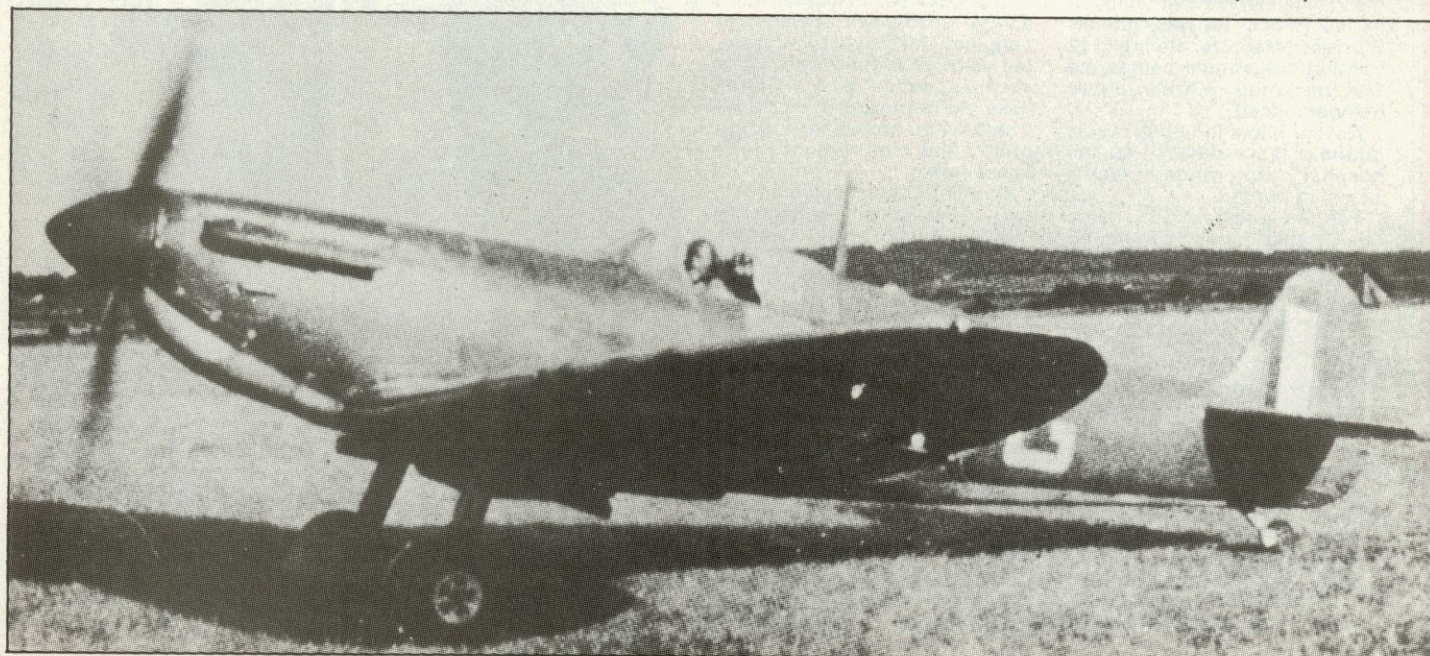
Also expected there on the nostalgic days will be Dr Gordon Mitchell, son of R J Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire, and Mrs Lettice Curtiss, one-time Air Transport Auxiliary pilot with over 2,000 hours on the 'Spit'.

The Spitfires: Mk IX, unique two-seat version which saw a variety of service action with the RNAS as well as the Free French and other volunteer units: Mk VC, still flying with the Shuttleworth Collection, saw action from June 1942 and "starred" in the film The Battle of Britain: Mk XIV, late war entry making just one enemy aircraft contact, saw postwar service with Belgian Air Force; Mk XI, late war delivery, loaned to

US Air Attache in 1948 as part of Embassy Flight; Mk IX, spent most of its operational career with RCAF; Mk XIV, saw postwar service with Rolls Royce and used for engine development work, also in film The Battle of Britain.

Mk VB, early war delivery and saw service in many units, now flown by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight; Mk XIX, photo-recce version, delivered in late 1945 used by Met Flight for research and turned over to Battle of Britain Memorial Flight on its formation; Mk XIX, another photo-recce version, used in met research and turned over to the same Flight; Mk II, delivered to RAF in August 1940, spent many years as museum piece at RAF Colerne, near Bath, re-emerged for The Battle of Britain film, and then allocated to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight; Mk IA, obsolete for combat when delivered, saw training unit service during war.

Battle of Britain Spitfire taxiing at Middle Wallop in September 1940



Last time at Longmoor



PIN-UP TIME FOR WO PETE



TOP RECRUITS: Ptes David Morgan and Joanna Ringwood — best of 180

Medics move to a new location

It's usually a case of somebody saying: "Sign here, please," and the medal is handed over. Sometimes they even come through the post.

But when WO2 Peter Simpson of the RAMC TA received his Efficiency Medal for attending 12 consecutive annual camps, he was presented with it in a rare manner indeed.

Not for him a little box on his doormat, or a delivery to the hospital in Hull where he works as a staff nurse.

For he received his from Lieutenant General Sir Cameron Moffat, Surgeon General and Director General Army Medical Services, at the last HQ Army Medical Services TA pass-out parade at Longmoor Training Camp.

"That's what made it so special for me," said Peter, an ex-Regular with the RAMC with 12 years' service. "It's pretty rare for anyone to receive an award personally from the Director General. And this was enhanced since this was the last parade for us at Longmoor."

Peter was one of 100 RAMC and 80 QARANC — all TA —

saying farewell to the Hampshire camp with a final parade.

From now on HQ AMS TA will be based at Keogh Barracks, Mytchett.

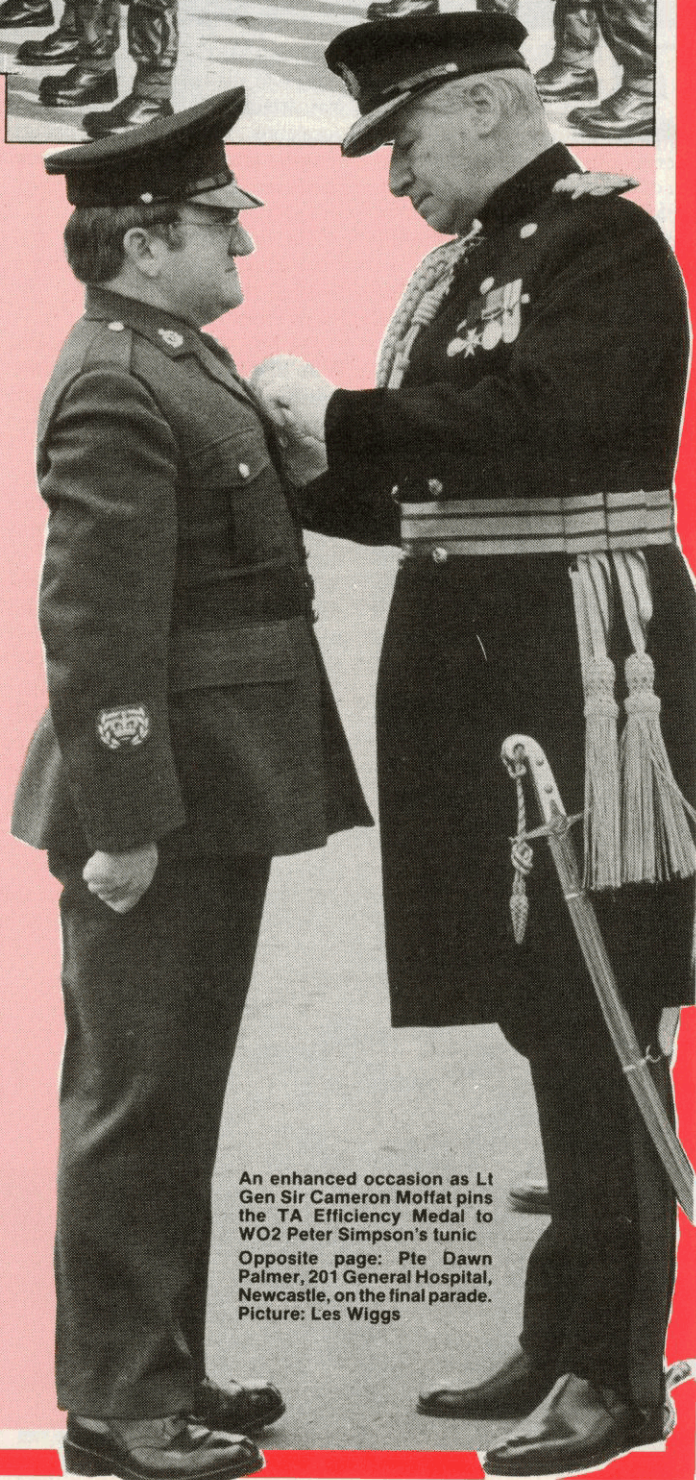
"We have been holding three annual two-week camps at Longmoor for the past nine years, but as there is spare and better accommodation at the Surrey base, we're moving there," said Captain Dan Archer, the training officer and one of eight permanent staff.

Captain Archer explained that the move could also mean an increase in courses to "meet the demands of the TA. Plans include taking in 40 men and women a month."

Training includes a week learning military skills and a week of "in-depth first-aid."

Recruits attend from 24 independent medical units in the UK or from the 51 units administered by HQ AMS TA.

"Normally we have 250 recruits at each of our two-week camps, but we think our numbers dipped a bit for this last parade because of Easter. People aren't quite so keen to attend at holiday time," said Captain Archer.



An enhanced occasion as Lt Gen Sir Cameron Moffat pins the TA Efficiency Medal to WO2 Peter Simpson's tunic
Opposite page: Pte Dawn Palmer, 201 General Hospital, Newcastle, on the final parade.
Picture: Les Wiggs





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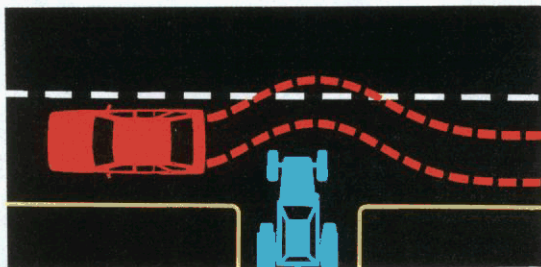
Well the new Escort still has all these attributes plus the results of five years development.

FIRST IN CLASS WITH A LEAN BURN ENGINE.

For 1986 a new generation of CVH engines has been produced incorporating Ford's latest lean burn technology. The new 1.4 engine gives the 5-speed Escort a top speed of 104 mph. Its 0-60 mph acceleration of only 11.3 seconds[†] is the fastest in its class. Yet despite all this speed the car returns 57.6 mpg at a constant 56 mph*. A totally unmatched blend of performance and economy.

Other engines in the Escort range include the new 1.3 litre, a powerful 1.6 lean burn unit, and a class-leading 1.6 litre diesel.

FIRST SMALL FAMILY CAR WITH ANTI-LOCK BRAKES.



Further proof that the Escort intends to stay ahead is an optional mechanical anti-lock braking system, the first to be produced in Europe for front-wheel drive cars. The system was jointly developed by Ford and Lucas Girling. It means that the Escort is better able to retain directional stability under 'normal' or 'panic' braking conditions and even when braking hard to avoid an obstacle.

You can specify this system on any Escort with 5-speed transmission and a CVH engine.

FIRST WITH CHUBB LOCKS.

With car thefts running at record levels Ford has provided positive protection for every Escort by fitting Chubb High Security locks as standard. The locks are fitted to doors, ignition and fuel-filler cap – and are operated by a special Chubb key that's virtually impossible to copy.



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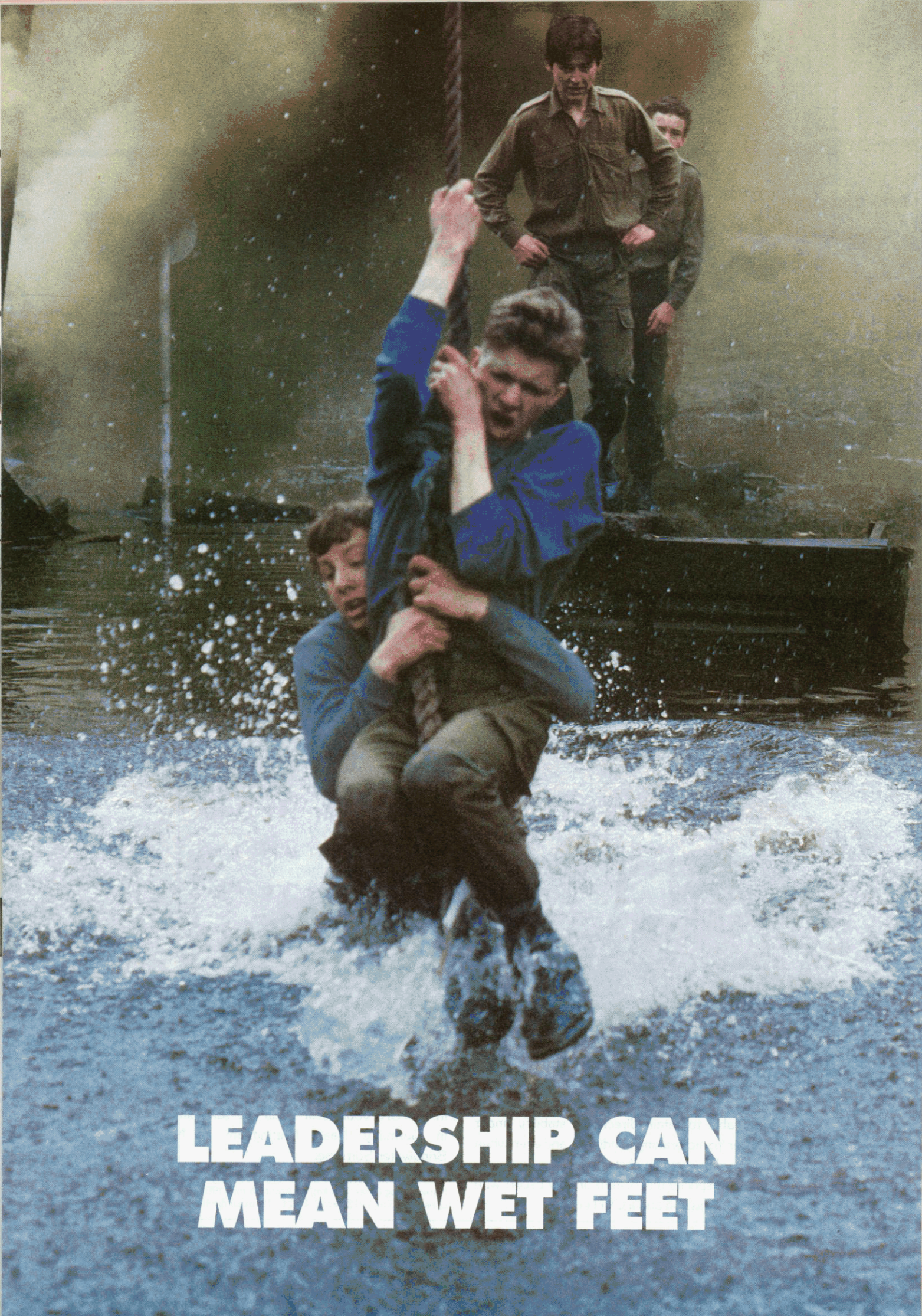
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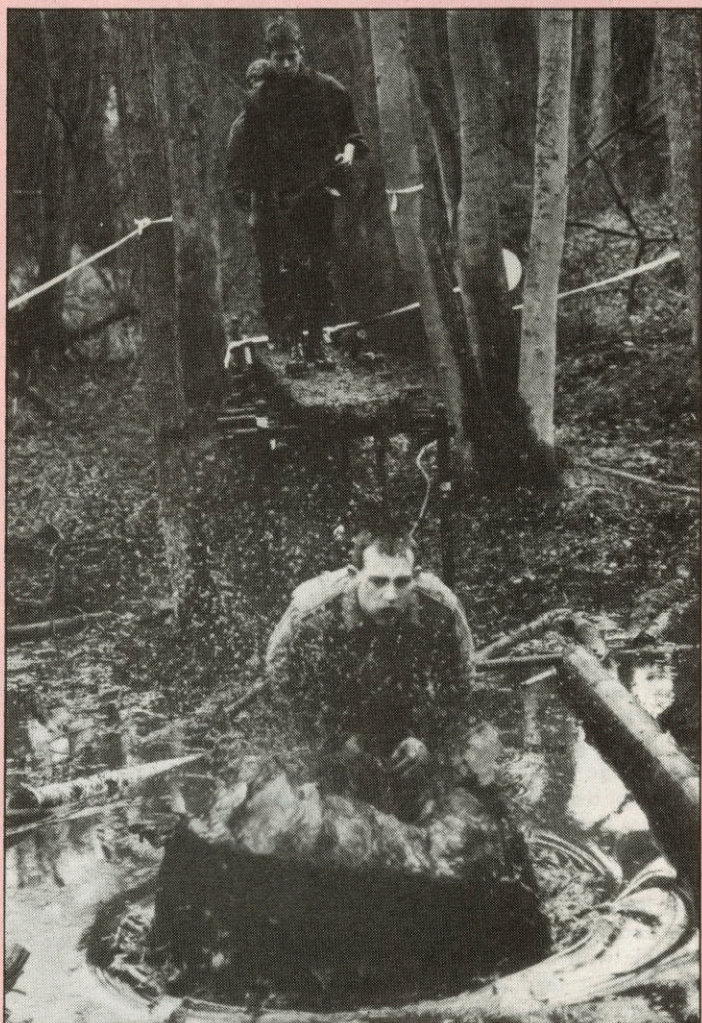
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**LEADERSHIP CAN
MEAN WET FEET**



Left: Cadet Sergeant Michael Bartley from Leeds Marine Cadet Force takes the plunge during the assault course competition. Above: "Show me a washing powder that can get this lot clean again"

WHEN the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, were posted to Northern Ireland, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, found themselves faced with the sort of exercise in versatility which is all part of life in the modern Army.

Instead of going home on leave, the Dover based 2 R Irish headed at short notice for the Stanford Training Area in Norfolk to take over 1 KSOB's job of running the 15th annual UKLF Cadet Leadership Course.

The event brings together a large number of enthusiastic and highly motivated youngsters, many of whom have hopes of joining the Regular forces themselves one day. The job of organising and administering them is as demanding as it is rewarding.

"These courses are run with one aim in mind: to develop the cadets' powers of leadership," said Lieutenant Colonel Digby O'Lone, the CO of 2 R Irish and the course commandant. "During 10 days of hard training the cadets have a chance to assess their own capabilities while experiencing infantry training up to platoon level."

The cadets, who came from all over the British Isles and also from Canada, gave up part of their holidays to take part in what must be the most prestigious and demanding course any Army cadet

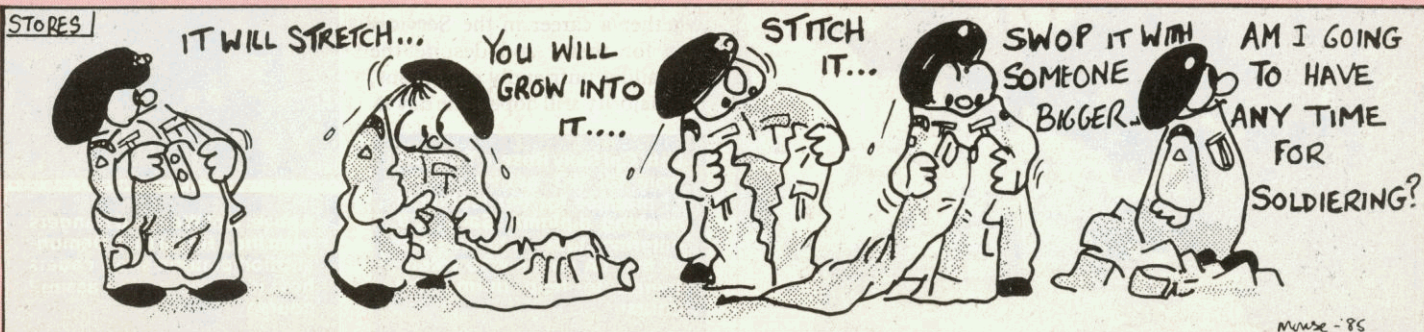
can undertake.

Some of them, apart from the Canadians, had travelled a long way. One spent 24 hours travelling from Wick in northern Scotland. The battalion wrote 310 letters to parents to let them know that 310 cadets had arrived safely.

The cadets were organised into eight platoons, each of three sections. The Regular Army platoon commanders and section sergeants were all drawn from cadet training teams up and down the country. In fact with the men of 2 R Irish there were nearly as many Regular personnel looking after management and training as there were cadets attending the course.

For the training staff, who arrived at Whetham Camp well in advance of the main body, there was one principal task — to ensure

Continued on page 32



MUSE - 85

that the cadets would enjoy a wide and varied programme which could test and improve their knowledge as well as their fitness.

The cadets themselves were all carefully selected volunteers, aged between 16 and 17½. All had competed fiercely for their places within their own ACF or CCF.

For a lot of them, however, this was their first real involvement with the Regular Army. One boy from the Welsh hills, when asked by a visiting senior officer if his family had any previous connection with the Army, replied: "Yes. They accidentally shot one of my father's sheep!"

For some there were worries about 'A' Level results and future places at university. A few hardened platoon sergeants were non-plussed by requests for copies of The Times. But most of that was soon forgotten as the sections got



Pictures: Leo Callow



Above: Building the raft is one thing, getting it to float is another

Left: Help at hand — from course doctor Captain Allison Barnett RAMC, tending the sore feet of Cadets Steve Pennington from Welbeck College and Mark Nickelson a Royal Navy Cadet from West Buckland School, North Devon

stuck into a 10-day training syllabus which left them thinking it was possible to be in more than one place at the same time.

The programme was comprehensive in its scope. Skill at arms sessions gave their first opportunity of handling the SLR and the GPMG, while lessons in tactics turned boyhood games into reality. There were command tasks for the cadets to solve and convince others that their plans would work: there was training on signals, map reading, watermanship, and the inevitable assault course where the cadets soon discovered what team work was all about. They were also required to prepare and present a five-minute mini-lecture on a subject of their choice.

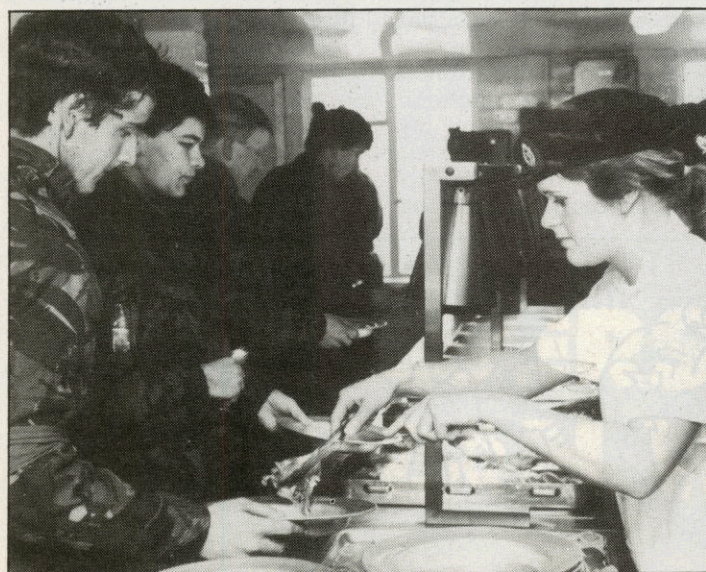
Three field exercises, totalling 56 hours, enabled the cadets to test and confirm the lessons they had learned. They assumed as many command appointments as possible with the directing staff shepherding them along where necessary. It was a good opportunity to find out for certain whether a career in the Services was for them, and despite the prevailing unfriendly conditions, the majority still hoped one day to

be able to join.

Feeding the 300 was, however, man's work and Sergeant David Chow, a TA cook with CV HQ, had his work cut out coping with the demand.

"It's surprising just how much these lads can eat," he said. "Just this morning I stopped one with no less than six Weetabix on his plate. I asked him if his mother allowed him that many at home. 'No', came the reply. 'She only allows me three Shredded Wheat.'"

To help Sergeant Chow and his band, 14 civilians were recruited locally and between them washed up 2,100 plates each day. By the tenth day they had buttered 7,000 slices of bread for packed lunches.



Left: Cpl Sally Rose, a TA cook from CV HQ, getting plenty of practise for her technical cooking diploma. Sally is a catering student and was one of five TA cooks who volunteered to help during the course



Above: Cpl Weir and Rangers from the 2 Royal Irish Demonstration platoon show cadets how it's done on the assault course

HUSSARS JOIN 'LIBERTY' JAMBOREE



journey by water to New York.

When 'British Soldier' left the Joint Services Sailing Centre, Gosport, on the first leg of her transatlantic journey she carried aboard not only the plaque but also a quantity of ties, tee-shirts and other mementoes of the museum for distribution on the other side.

The yacht won't be the only representative of the British Armed Forces at what promises to be a gargantuan aquatic jamboree for the Statue of Liberty ceremony.

The Royal Navy's yacht 'Adventure' and the Royal Air Force's 'Lord Trenchard' will also be there joining the parade of tall sailing ships. Though as Nicholson 55s the three Service yachts will be the smallest boats in the line up.

A more hefty British presence is likely to come in the form of HMS Ark Royal.

Of the other nations, the French, who originally gave Liberty to the Americans, will naturally be present in force for the centenary.

For this, the highlight of 'British Soldier's'

summer cruise, the twelve-man crew will be drawn from Major Collis's own regiment, 13/18 Hussars, based at Herford, West Germany. They will have the privilege of joining the march through New York, but they will wear Ironbridge tee-shirts because service dress isn't the sort of commodity which travels very easily in the cramped conditions of a Nicholson 55.

At some stage during the celebrations there are hopes of delivering the Ironbridge plaque into the hands of New York's mayor, Mr Ed Koch.

The men of 13/18 Hussars will be in fact the fifth crew on 'British Soldier' for this summer's cruise which has been given the apt title, Exercise Ironbridge. A mixed Army Air Corps and Catering Corps team was due to take the boat out to Gibraltar on the first leg with a crew from the Household Division taking over for the second leg to the Azores.

The third leg, Azores to Bermuda, is being organised by 24 Infantry Brigade from Catterick, while the fourth, which will end at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in Chesapeake Bay, is in the hands of Major Collis and a team from MoD establishments at Broadoaks, West Byfleet.

The fifth leg will call in at New York for the Statue of Liberty celebrations and end at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut, another well known museum complex with which Ironbridge has a lot in common.

A REME crew drawn from 15 Field Workshop, Catterick, and Arborfield, will take the boat on to Newfoundland, calling in on the French islands of St Pierre and Miquelon. The seventh and final crew — a mixture of different arms and regiments with a common interest in getting experience of a long sea passage, will sail 'British Soldier' the 2,000 miles back across the Atlantic to Gosport.

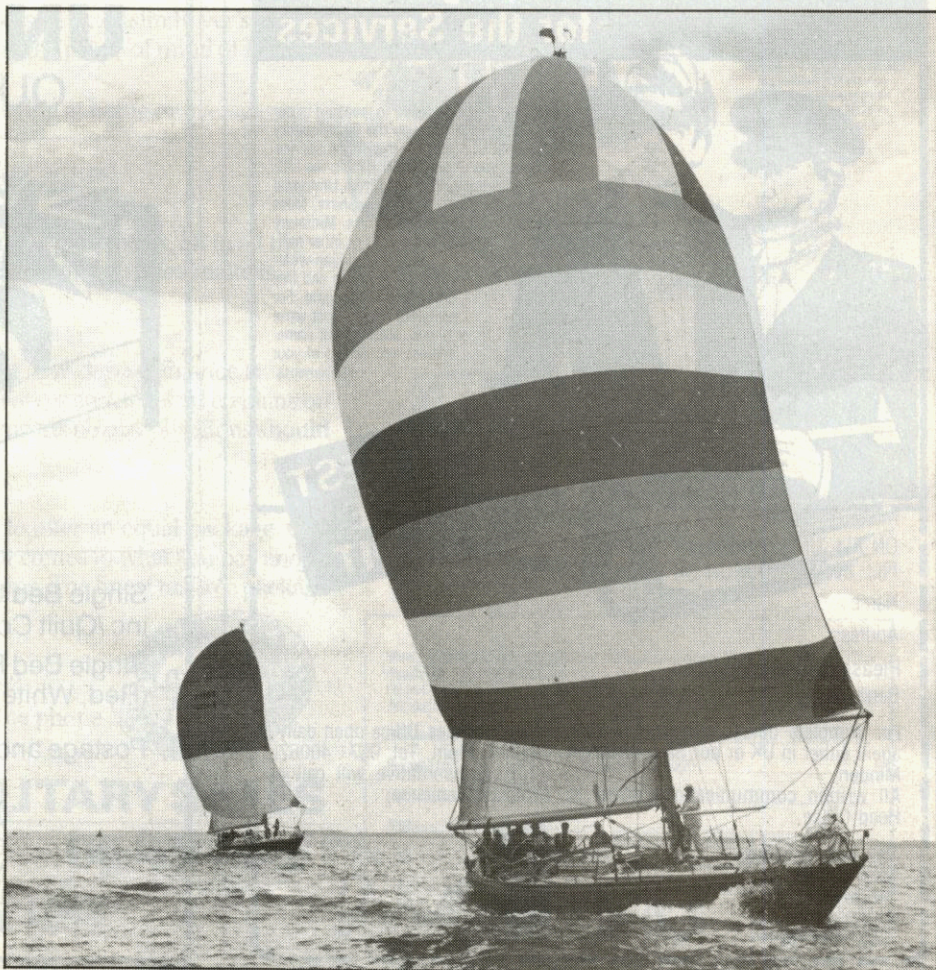
WHEN the refurbished Statue of Liberty is officially reopened by President Reagan this July to mark the centenary of the famous New York landmark, British soldiers will be watching aboard the Army yacht 'British Soldier.'

All being well they will have with them an iron plaque made in Ironbridge, Shropshire, bearing a message from the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution to the illustrious inheritor of that technology — the cast iron, copper-plated lady of New York harbour, writes Robert Higson.

Major Anthony Collis, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, who is currently a project officer with Army Management Services at West Byfleet, was largely responsible for the idea. His home is near Ironbridge and as he had the job of co-ordinating the various legs of 'British Soldier's' summer programme, he thought it would be a fitting gesture to involve the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The historic links across the Atlantic are significant for the Industrial Revolution, which first flowered alongside the River Severn near Ironbridge, eventually found its fullest expression in the United States of America.

Major Collis asked the GOC Western District (Major General Brendan McGuinness) to agree to receive the plaque from representatives of the museum at a special ceremony in Ironbridge. The General then handed it over to an assault boat on the River Severn supplied by 30 Engineer Brigade (TA) from Stafford, for the symbolic start of its



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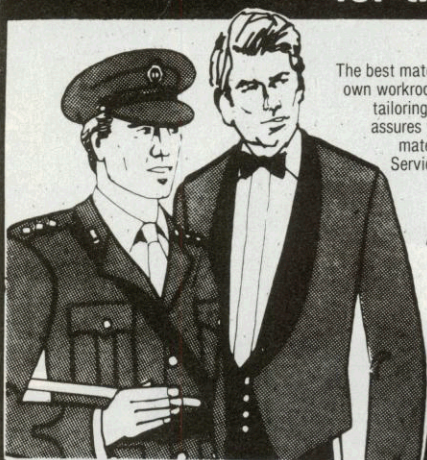
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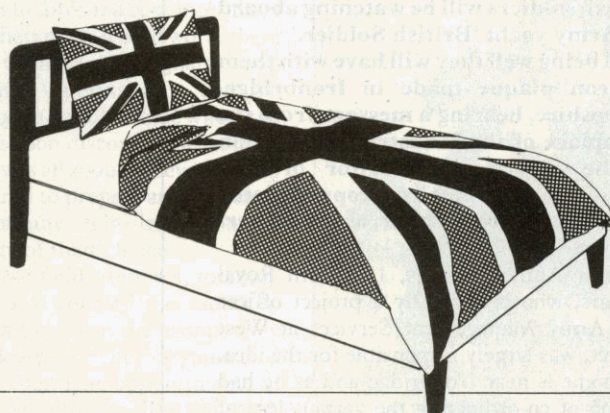
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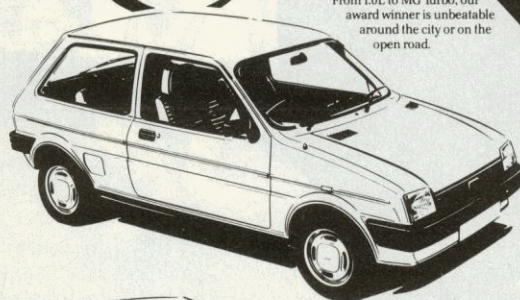
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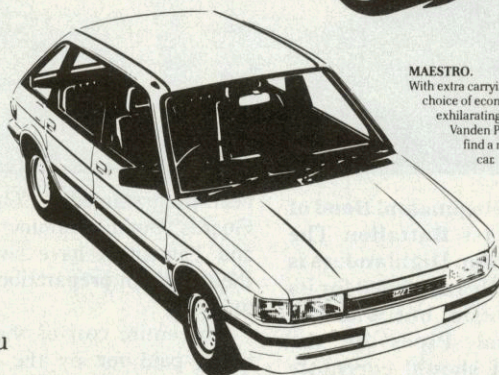


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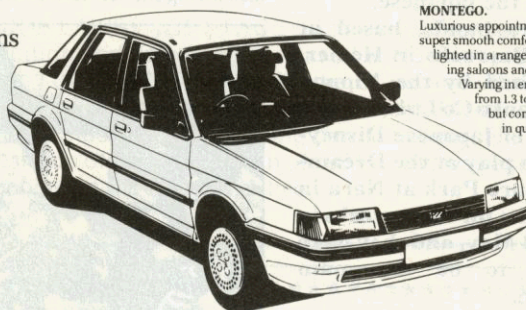
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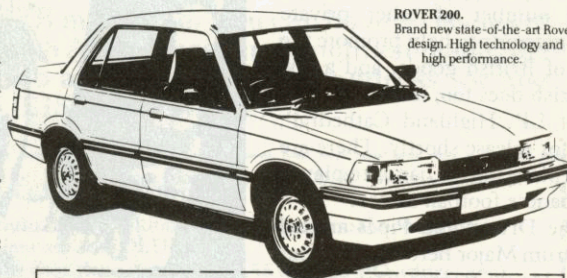
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JAPS HAVE A YEN FOR THE PIPES

THE Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders is hardly renowned for its oriental music, but with the Drums and Pipes of the battalion it should currently be arousing the musical appreciation of the Japanese.

The two bands, based at Barossa Barracks in Hemer, were invited by the Nippon Dream Kanko Co Ltd of Osaka — a sort of Japanese Disneyland — to play at the Dreamland Leisure Park at Nara in south Japan for three weeks in April and May, and they were expected to be the main attraction.

The Gordons will also be playing at a number of other private engagements to help promote the sale of British goods, and a few Scottish ones too, including their latest LP 'Highland Cathedral', due for release shortly. There are even plans for the bands to play at a Japanese football match.

The Drums and Pipes are led by Drum Major Bert Tomkins and Pipe Major Ronnie Henderson, and the Regimental Band is led by Bandmaster David Knox.

For many of the bandsmen, this will be their second trip to Japan, having carried out a similar tour when the battalion was stationed in Singapore in 1974.

While at 'Dreamland' the bands will be playing for two weeks, giving four performances each day.

Apparently the regiment's name, The Gordon Highlanders, doesn't roll off the average Japanese tongue quite so easily so they have

been programmed as 'The Royal Guards'. But the drummers, pipers and bandsmen have swallowed their pride in preparation for the tour.

The entire cost of the trip is being paid for by the Nippon Dream Kanko Co Ltd who are also hiring the services of the Corps

of Drums of the Coldstream Guards from Hong Kong.

An added honour for the bands will be to perform for the Colonel-in-Chief of The Gordon Highlanders, The Prince of Wales, who is visiting Japan accompanied by Princess Diana, over the period 8-10 May. The bands will play at a

Highlanders advance on the Japanese

dinner hosted by the British Ambassador in honour of Prince Charles' visit.

Japanese camera getting the low down on Scottish pipers during pre-tour television filming at Hemer



YOUNG Gurkha Rifleman Dilbahadur Paware is in hospital with leukaemia and been there, separated from his mountain kingdom mates, for about four months now.

Characteristically, some of his fellow soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) have rallied round and just taken part in the world's most famous marathon with its 25,000 runners — to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, writes *Graham Smith*.

Rifleman Paware, 19, however, had to watch the events of the marathon on a television set in Woolwich Military Hospital.

One of the team running for charity and a total target of £1,000 from the Church Crookham-based squad, Lance Corporal Kesbehadur Gurung was due to be presented to the Prince of Wales before the start of the race.

The London Marathon was the fourth like event run by the fleet-of-foot group since March. The soldiers, mostly from West Nepal, had already raised some £400 from a ten-mile Para run in nearby Aldershot; taken part in the Fleet half-marathon; strived in a Welsh half-marathon across the rugged Brecon Beacons; and entered another half-distance event at Old Basing, near Basingstoke.

The team had been putting in running training in the mornings and suppleness sequences in the afternoon.

But even up to the event, Rifleman Paware from Pokhara, home of the Gurkha recruiting depot 200 kilometres west of his country's capital, Kathmandu, had not been forgotten or forsaken by his chums from the Indian sub-

LEUKAEMIA VICTIM SPURS THE GURKHAS



Training time, running for charity

continent. Visits have been made to Woolwich hospital to see him.

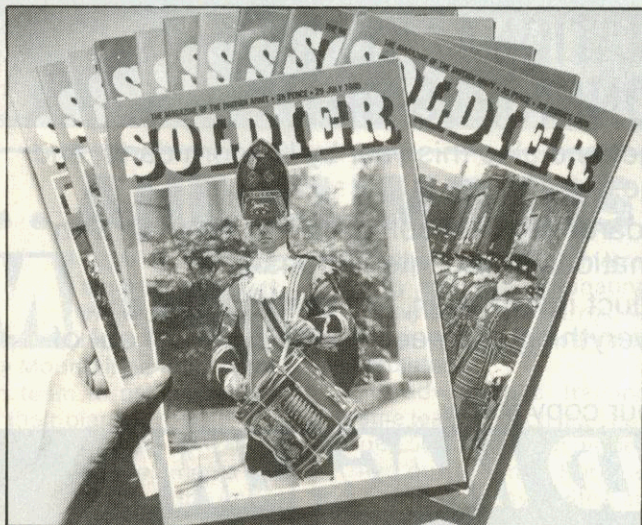
When its Church Crookham stint is over, the battalion's next posting will be to Hong Kong in April.

Sadly, this will mean the parting of the soldiering ways for the teenage Paware, who is expected to return home to Nepal.

MAJOR LAWRENCE STACEY, The Royal Pioneer Corps' recruiting and liaison officer based at Northampton, was hoping to raise £1,000-plus for the Corps and other Army charities when he took part in the London Marathon.

Major Stacey, 46, was taking part in his third marathon — London of 1982 and Berlin of 1981 — and was confident of achieving his cash objective.

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RAPIER GOES EAST, 'TANKIES' WEST

THE BRITISH Army has been out on exercise in small numbers to two less usual parts of the world ... continents apart in France and Indonesia.

Two dozen men from 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, Paderborn, made a seven-hour journey aboard a couple of eight-tonne lorries to the French Army at Givet on the Meuse for commando training. It

was called Exercise Gaulish Commando.

Elsewhere, men of the Royal Artillery Sales Team, Royal Artillery and 16th Air Defence Regiment, RA, headed out to

Indonesia for Exercise Eastern Venture to show off the versatility of Rapier which coincided with the 40th anniversary parade of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia.

Indonesia takes on Rapier at the end of this year and the sales party flew east in a Hercules transport, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Craigie, from RAF Brize Norton to Jakarta via Akrotiri, Abu Dhabi and Colombo.

Eleven days were spent putting over the sales 'pitch' in front of Indonesian soldiers. Eventually, a small British Army contingent will be taking up residence in Indonesia for the two-year conversion programme to Rapier within the Air Defence Artillery organisation.

In France, 3 RTR, the "West Country's own armoured regiment," were hard at it in Givet, on the Franco-Belgian border in the hilly Ardennes country. Their hosts; one of nine commando training schools run by the French Army — Centre d'Entraînement Commando 9ème Zouaves.

Most of the training was carried out within the fort's walls.

The trip had its moments. As Corporal Dick Taylor later penned: "Arrival at the fort brought groans of dismay from some of the more faint-hearted members. Accommodation was not high on the French list of priorities, comprising Nissen-type huts in which the heating did not work. The water
Corporal Dick Taylor receives his commando insignia from inspecting French general



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supply was undrinkable and, more often than not, unobtainable.

"Another shock came on the first day when the section commanders and above were taken away for a recce. They were issued with climbing gear and then were seen running and climbing around the fort all afternoon. Quite an eye-opener!"

Captain William Lawrence, the tank regiment's Recce Troop leader, and Corporal Chris Taskis spent some days in 'L' Infirmerie'. Half the troop were visitors there during the following three weeks!

Everything was, naturellement, carried out in French. And out-of-doors.

Continual bread, marmalade and coffee for breakfast soon started to pall with the Paderborn-based

'tankies'.

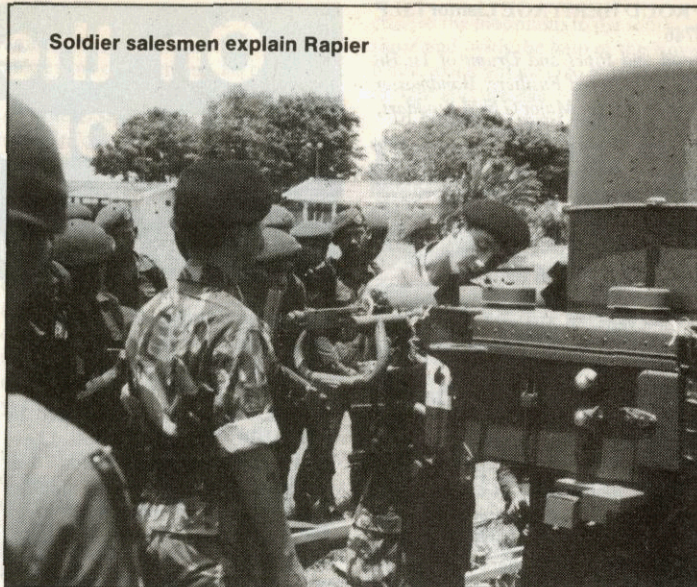
They also downed slices of salami, small fragments of chicken, spuds, uncooked bacon, faggots and peas.

"But if the food was bad the training was very good," Cpl Taylor conceded. Unarmed combat, obstacle courses, climbing and abseiling, survival, FIBUA, mine demolitions and booby traps, watermanship, interplatoon competitions, three tactical exercises and, finally, "le raid."

Most of the troop found French too much to cope with as the tongue of daily instruction. But training they did. So much of it that the catch-phrase became: "Impressed?" — "I was!"

All 25 'tankies' from Paderborn were certainly that.

Soldier salesmen explain Rapier



French interpreter (centre) with 'tankie' commandos



... AND CLIMBERS FURTHER WEST

MOUNTAIN-BASED terrorists with nasty, intimidating habits have caused an Army Mountaineering Association team to consider carefully their plans for Peru.

The men, from differing Army corps and regiments, will spend two months in the Andes with the hope of conquering varying peaks. Part of the journey to reach the base camp

will include a 400-kilometre, two-day bus ride culminating in the hiring of 15 'burros' — donkeys — plus the services of a muleteer.

The adventurous training scheme team — each man has put up £500 of his own money — flies out to Lima, Peru, at the end of May with an estimated 1,000 kgs of associated climbing kit such as tentage, ropes and rations.

Some training has already been achieved in Wales at the Capel Curig training camp.

Expedition leader, Captain Tim Roberts, RE, who runs a small cadre of instructors of the JLR RE external leadership wing, Dover, said: "The main aim of the South American expedition is to give as many enthusiastic young mountaineers from the Army valuable experience at high altitudes.

There is a Joint Services climb of the West Ridge of Mount Everest in view in 1988. Our Peru climb would give relevant experience.

"I've climbed in the Alps, the Canadian Rockies, Norway, India and in the UK and this is the first major expedition I have led. Once in Peru we will have to play everything by ear. You cannot plan on how people are going to react."

PROUD HERITAGE Lismor LILP 5746

Band and Pipes and Drums of 1st Bn Royal Highland Fusiliers, Bandmaster J B Tyrer, Pipe Major G N M Stoddart, Drum Major R A Hughes

This disc celebrates a quarter of a century only, but of a significant event in the history of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry when they were amalgamated to form the present regiment.

The sleeve notes give a full account of the event, an historical review, and illustrations of the various uniforms over the year.

Sad that the old HLI is remembered chiefly to soldiers of my age by the equivalent of the modern football chants beloved of the Cop. Whenever a player deliberately kicked the ball out of touch, or backwards to his goalkeeper, up would go the cry Aitch E11 Eyeeeee. Somewhere way back in history some poor light infanteer had

On the Record

with
Rodney Bashford



earned a sort of immortality by this now wholly accepted time-wasting ploy.

Since my amazingly disgraceful set-to with the highland piping fraternity way back in 1981, fully covered by SOLDIER and the daily press, I have been wary of confrontation over recording techniques, but my quibbles seem to have had some small effect. This piping programme is nicely varied as to music and performance of it, with everything from marches, reels, jigs and strathspeys to solo and massed pipers with or without the military band. Too many tunes to name individually but the headings should give enough clues, with *Retreat Marches*, 2/4 and 4/4 Marches, 6/8 Marches, and the various dance tunes.

Highlights are a fine solo set by the Pipe Major, a tune called *Highland Cathedral* written by all people a pipe-mad Berliner, and finally the *74th's Slow March*. It has to be said that the programme is for aficionados of the highland pipes only, there being no band items other than to accompany the pipes, but if you think you need a bit of jiggery-pokery for 31sts of December then this will do as well as any.

From RHF, Montgomery Bks, BFPO 45, price and postage unknown.

A TERCENTENARY CONCERT Polyphonic

Band of the Grenadier Guards, Conductor: Lt Col D R Kimberley. Yes, a regimental band which can be proved to be 300 years old, though what those old minstrels of the 17th century would have made of this vast affair is beyond reckoning.

A Royal Albert Hall packed to the roof, and on stage the Royal Military Band of the Netherlands (Grenadiers), the Royal Choral Society, the Canoldir Male Voice Choir, the Kneller Hall Trumpeters, and of course the birthday-boys themselves.

In the green room half a dozen conductors including Harry Mortimer, Fred Harris, Iain Sutherland, Jan van Ossenbruggen, RB, and Laszlo Heltay.

The ladies (Hinge and Brackett) were of course given a separate room, though their act does not appear on this disc.

Add the grand organ and offerings on the night from pipes and drums and you have the makings of a fair concert. The twelve hautbois players of 1685 were indeed remembered and

celebrated in true Grenadier style.

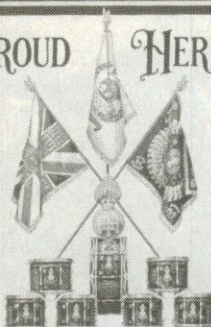
The musical reproduction is so good that it is hard to believe it was recorded at the actual concert, and is a great credit to the engineers and the two bands who bore the brunt of the programme. Much of it had to be omitted for reasons of space, but the best description I can give of what appears on this gala record is a super Friday Night is Music Night, with rather more performers than usual, and a few bonus attractions.

A Windsor Flourish is sounded by the trumpeters to introduce the choir and bands in those barbaric *Polovtsien Dances* by Borodin in their operatic form. Fred Harris at 85 himself leads the bands in the *Grenadiers Waltz*, and a younger Harry Mortimer at 83 conducts a march by Derek Kimberley called *Man O'Brass*. The Canoldir male voices sing a show-stopping *Soldiers' Chorus* from *The Decembrists* by Shaporin (not Gounod's), and are joined by the RCS for *Battle Hymn*, a montage of several American songs. Major van Ossenbruggen conducts the marvellous *Dutch Grenadiers March* and some *Armenian Dances* by Alfred Reed.

In true Friday Night mood the programme ends with a medley of Richard Rodgers tunes under the title *It's a Grand Night for Singing* arranged by Ray Woodfield and conducted by Iain Sutherland, himself a Friday-Nighter and ex-Grenadier musician. Not quite the end, for with massed choirs and bands, the grand organ, and the audience clapping the beat we had a *British Grenadiers* to remember — perhaps for another 300 years.

From *Grenadiers Band*, Wellington Bks, London SW1E 6HQ, £5.60 inclusive.

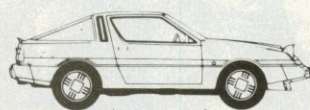
PROUD HERITAGE



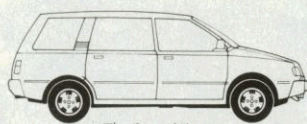
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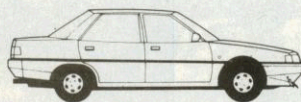
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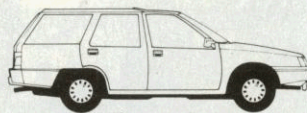
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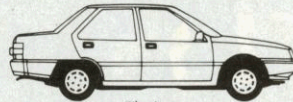
The Shogun 5 door



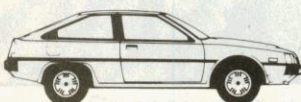
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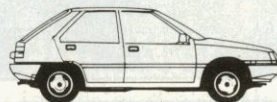
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OBSERVATIONS
FROM THE AIR

Authors hoping to register a hit with personal memoirs need two ingredients for success; a good tale, and the ability to tell it well.

Major Andrew Lyell scores with the first in *Memoirs of an Air Observation Post Officer*, but the telling does not flow easily. This is a pity, for the author and other brave men like him overcame all sorts of obstacles — some not posed by the enemy! — in the Second World War to prove a point. Not only did these men show there was good reason for Army officers to take to the air as 'spotters' for guns, they were also intelligence gatherers, flying photographers and even airborne chauffeurs for generals.

They also proved that soldiers and airmen could co-operate, despite initial misgivings on both sides.

The author was awarded the DFC and Croix de Guerre. He is modest, perhaps too much so for there are times when the narrative would benefit from a little more detail.

His editor could have helped, for 53 years on there is no excuse, for example, for 'thinking' a private was paid about two shillings a day. The memory might fail but records can be searched and the lack of attention to such detail lets the book down.

In this day and age, too, when appealing to the general reader, it is as well to be consistent and either give all mentioned the benefit of their christian names — or just surnames. A mix of styles jars.

This is a pity, for there is much fascination in an aspect of war which

has not perhaps had the attention it deserves.

The publisher claims this to be "one of the most readable military books to have been published." I wouldn't agree with that, but it has lots to interest students of military history, particularly with aviation in mind and should appeal to successors of the old Air OP squadrons, some of whose numbers are carried on in the modern Army Air Corps. — PMH.

Memoirs of An Air Observation Post Officer, by Major Andrew Lyell, DFC, Croix de Guerre, RA, published by Picton Publishing. Price £11.95.

CHANGES IN
THE ARMY

The title of Ian Hogg's latest book is a little misleading. "The British Army in the 20th Century" is not really a fair guide to the contents.

The author himself is well enough known and, as he writes in the introduction, this volume is mainly concerned with the *technological* development of the Army. Anyone looking for a social view as well should look elsewhere.

This quibble out of the way, it is an excellent guide to the changes which have taken place where the weapons and equipment used by Tommy Atkins this century are concerned.

There are some excellent illustrations — colour and black and white — to complement the text, as do useful specifications, organisational charts, maps and technical drawings. Considering the size of the task in compressing so much between the covers, Hogg says he trusts readers will appreciate this "is simply one man's view".

Once a soldier of note, now an established author, he does not do himself justice. The quality of view depends on the man behind the eyes!

The author is even generous enough to provide suggestions for further reading — and this shows discernment as well. — PS.

The British Army in the 20th Century, by Ian V Hogg published by Ian Allan. Price £13.95.

MOSCOW: A
HARSH CAMPAIGN

Of all the mistakes in the history of warfare, Hitler's decision to invade the

Soviet Union on June 22 1941 ranks among the gravest and most inexplicable errors of judgment. Its result was the alliance of the USSR with Britain and the USA, making Nazi defeat an ultimate certainty.

Moscow 1941: The Frozen Offensive was originally published in German and is the work of Janusz Piekalkiewicz, a member of the Polish Resistance at 17 years of age. It is a cleverly constructed history, using news reports and dispatches coupled with the author's analysis and running side-by-side accounts of Napoleon's disastrously similar campaign of some 130 years earlier.

For the German soldier it was a mystifying campaign; misled by his country's press reports of victories and optimism, he could not understand why winter clothing was being issued when he had been promised to be home by Christmas.

The reality was enormous German losses, the army first bogged down in mud and then frozen to a standstill. Advance tank columns did reach within 30kms of Moscow but that was the closest the Germans got to victory.

The book gives an insight into the character of the Russian Commander who did more than anyone to save Moscow from the Germans, Lt-Gen Andrei A Vlasov, whose Soviet 20th Army repelled Col-Gen Erich Hoepner's Panzer Group 4.

Vlasov was, in 1942, captured while attempting to break the German encirclement of Leningrad. He defected and planned to overthrow Stalin with the help of the Germans. At the end of the war, the Western allies returned him to Russia and, inevitably, his death. Such was the closing drama of the battle for Moscow.

The book is remarkably well illustrated and the pictures alone would be sufficient to tell the story of this, the harshest and most agonising of campaigns. — BJ.

Moscow 1941: The Frozen Offensive by Janusz Piekalkiewicz, published by Arms & Armour Press, price £12.95.

DESPERATE
DEFENCE OF CRETE

Ten days of fierce and heroic fighting decided the fate of Crete in May 1941.

British, New Zealand, Australian and Greek formations that had been forced to withdraw from Greece put up a stout resistance without air support and short of ammunition. Cretan men, women and children took a full active part in the fanatical defence of their homeland, fighting with knives, billhooks, shovels, stones and even their bare hands.

The German parachutists and glider-borne troops descended in their thousands and suffered tremendous casualties as they landed. Whole units were wiped out, hundreds being killed as they floated down, others being immediately set upon and slain before they could assemble.

At the end of the first day it looked like defeat to the disconsolate General Kurt Student directing the assault in Greece. But the Allied forces were short of ammunition, some units even lacked enough rifles.

They captured and used the Germans' own weapons against them, but were eventually forced to withdraw,

crossed the mountains to the southern shore and, with the help of the Royal Navy, many got away to North Africa to fight another day.

In hindsight, there may have been some errors and omissions by responsible exhausted commanders; it might have been possible to deny the Germans the vital airfield at Maleme, but it is certain that the Allied troops of all nationalities fought desperately, tenaciously and courageously.

This was the first airborne attack without the support of ground troops and the German casualties were so great that Hitler never sanctioned any other such attempt — not even against Malta that he, Mussolini and the Afrika Korps desperately needed to eliminate and for which all preparations had been made.

This account of the battle, written so long after the event, is a kaleidoscope of incidents made up from the reminiscences of individuals who were there or who were otherwise concerned.

The author travelled 100,000 miles to interview one-time invaders and defenders, and the more shadowy figures like spies and guerillas. Their stories are dramatic and personal, full of horror and sorrow. To the Cretans it was just one more chapter in the natural defence of their beloved homeland.

There are three maps but, as with many war books, they are not enough to follow the action. One, with all places mentioned in the narrative, would have benefitted the student. — GRH

Ten Days to Destiny by G C Kiriakopoulos. Published by Franklin Watts, New York and London. Price £11.50.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Allied Tanks North Africa, World War Two, by Bryan Perrett, No 21 in the Tanks Illustrated Series, published by Arms and Armour Press, Price £3.95.

America's Fighters of the 1970s: F-14 and F-15, by Robert C Stern, No 22 in the Warbirds Illustrated Series, published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £3.95.

Vietnam River Warfare 1945-1975, by Lt Col Victor Croizat USMC, paperback edition of book first published in hardback in 1984 as *The Brown Water Navy*, published by Blandford Press. Price £5.95.

Winged Dagger by Roy Farran, re-issue of the war experiences of the author, from the Western Desert to SAS raids behind the German lines. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £9.95.

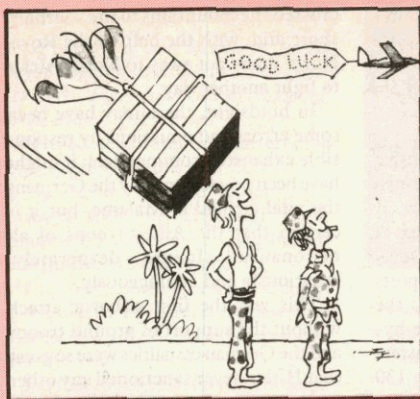
The Burgoyne Diaries, the diaries of Gerald Achilles Burgoyne, written from the trenches near Ypres while he fought with the Royal Irish Rifles in the First World War. Published by Thomas Harmsworth. Price: £10.95.

First Clash by Kenneth Macksey, a look-see at the battle front in the Third World War. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £12.95.

Formation Badges of World War Two, by Howard Cole. Published by Arms & Armour Press, London, £12.95. Essential reference for collectors and historians. First published in this form in 1973 and reviewed in *SOLDIER* September 1984. New edition contains amendments and additional information.



Rhine Army soldiers being trained on an Air Observation Post course in 1950.



NOK FORMS

The figures for slaughter on our roads speak for themselves and far exceed the sum total of casualties from aircraft accidents, shipwreck and rail disasters. Military passengers who fly to Northern Ireland by shuttle service, or move on duty by coach, travel on leave by train, or go on exercise to BAOR by sea are not required to complete a next of kin form.

Many people would like to know why, with modern computerised documentation, and when it is well known and agreed by all travel agencies that air is by far the safest way to travel, it is still necessary for personnel travelling by military or charter aircraft to complete a next of kin form? Is this a requirement left over from the days of the Royal Flying Corps? — **'Perplexed' (name and address supplied).**

Wing Commander Nigel Coleman at MoD says the practice has been established for many years. As the Service responsible for air safety, the RAF places a lot of store on having immediate access to information on those who need to be informed in the event of an accident. However, at the moment Wing Commander Coleman is heading a working party which is examining the continuing need for next of kin forms with a view to identifying a possible alternative.

WHY PRIVATE SOLDIER?

I should like to know why military magazines often refer to "private soldier(s)". One never sees any

MAIL DROP

mention of corporal or sergeant soldiers, lieutenant or captain soldiers.

Has this any connection with "private armies" (I believe there was one known as "Popski's"), or is it because private is an ordinary word in the dictionary meaning — "not public, secret, confidential, secluded"?

In that case what about "general" which has several different meanings besides that of the high ranking officer, even used to indicate a lowly servant. Yet we never hear of general soldiers and the term general officers, a grouping of the ranks of general, lieutenant general and major general is little used.

When I was serving in the Army all colour sergeants were employed as and held the appointments of squadron, battery or company quartermaster sergeants or orderly room sergeants.

In this magazine there are frequent namings of colour sergeants, some with a photo showing the senior NCO posing with a weapon. This makes me wonder whether such soldiers are not S, B or CQMSs or ORSs, but are "plain, straightforward colour sergeants" engaged on general training and duties the same as sergeants and CSMs.

As I looked at page 28 (SOLDIER Feb 10) the picture in the bottom right hand really surprised me. Whatever is a lance corporal of horse, I wondered.

I am fully conversant with corporal of horse but this is a new one on me. A lance corporal with three stripes! — **A Worley (ex-RAOC), 42 Yatesbury Crescent, Nottingham NG8 3AW.**

SOLDIER tries, generally, to avoid the use of the term "private soldier" but it may slip through occasionally. The rank lance corporal of horse was introduced in the Household Cavalry for full corporals in 1971 to enable them to share the same Mess privileges as lance sergeants in the Foot Guards. — Ed.

ALTAR ACCIDENT

Your article on Altcar Ranges brought back some happy memories (and one not so happy).

From 1951 to 1956 I fired my Annual Range Course with the REME/AER at those ranges. We did night schemes in the range area, with the Red Rose Club as a base and 'refuelling depot'!

One year, on returning from the ranges to our camp at Burgscough, one of our vehicles was in a terrible accident. With an exceptionally steep camber on the road, a telegraph pole came through the vehicle's canopy and smashed the backs of several men on that side.

I know that the chap with the worst injuries, Cpl Bill Stookes has since died. I wonder what happened to the others? — **D A Knight, REME/AER OCA Honorary Secretary, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich SE18 5HZ.**

MORE BROADCASTS

Why do we have so few broadcasts of Army, Navy and Air Force military bands and colour displays?

I think a programme could be made up at least once a week of, say, a number of military occasions such as church parades.

I have approached such people as the Royal Marines, Deal; Duke of York Military School, Dover; Royal Air Force Uxbridge and others, and all agree they would like such publicity and do broadcast, but somehow I don't see them. It is only the Guards Trooping, Edinburgh Tattoo, the Albert Hall Remembrance Service and so on which are regularly broadcast.

Broadcasting seems to be wrapped up in expensive quizzes and games and while everything is costly, I consider every elaborate military spectacle could be seen and heard on television cheaply. — **M J Pedlar, Station Road, Upper Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QR.**

AN INSULT

In reply to the letter headed 'Lucky', in SOLDIER (March 24) stating that the members of the BEF

who served at Dunkirk should think themselves 'lucky' that they even got the 1939-45 Star, the writer seems to forget that the Dunkirk soldiers served all over the world up to 1945 and received the 39/45 Star by right.

I wonder if the writer has really done his homework, regarding the "evacuation" and as he puts it, the reason for the biggest "retreat in the British Army's history".

Viewed in retrospect it is clear that the result of the Dunkirk Campaign was a foregone conclusion.

The BEF in May 1940 could only field ten Divisions, a large proportion being Territorial and Reserve troops ill equipped to fight a mechanised war, having only a brigade of tanks against an enemy mustering numerous Panzer Divisions and with a deficiency of other modern weapons, and committed to a plan that was the work of our French ally.

When the fighting began on May 10 the BEF was swamped by events outside its Commander's control and the German break through on the Meuse and the drive to the Channel ports, resulted in the BEF's Base Depot at Amiens being cut off.

As a result of this, on May 26/27 the BEF was put on half rations in supplies of food and ammunition, coupled with the Belgian surrender on May 27, leaving the left flank of the BEF exposed, the gap only being closed in time by the hurried movement and adjustment of the BEF's lines, which was now fighting on three sides and with no hope of re-supply.

His suggestion that they should make themselves a 'Putty Medal' is an insult to the BEF of 1940, who by courage and discipline carried out a masterly retreat under impossible conditions.

I suggest that the writer does a little research and tries to justify the wild accusations submitted in his brief letter — **F Faulkner (ex 1st Div 1st Corps BEF 1940), 16 Tavistock Road, Bolton, Lancs, BL1 4SG.**

COMBAT JACKETS

I have just been issued with a new style Combat Jacket, the new unlined variety to which one has the option of using a quilted liner depending on the state of the weather.

The buttons, one pull of the stitch and off comes the button. What has happened to the splendid metal zips? We must now contend with a very cheap and nasty nylon version that I am certain will not stand up to hard use on exercise.

I now go on to the seams: why no double seams. My jacket looks as if it is about to fall apart, yes, at the seams.

The quality of the make up, at least on my jacket, is awful. It is my contention that a lot of corners have been cut at the expense of the soldier.

As a final parting shot has the quality of the cloth changed? I ask because the cloth on this jacket has a sheen to it that suggests a greater ratio of man-made to cotton, giving it a brittle cheap feel.

These are not only my views, but the views of the silent majority who take what they are given and soldier on. — **Cpl Wingert M J, Tpt & Mov Branch, HQ Londist, Horseguards Parade, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX.**

CALL SIGNS

Mr B Price, 7 Grange Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8LE, wishes information about 9512 Private Charles Henry Price, who served from 1907-1914 and was killed in action at Fromelles, France, on October 29 1914.

HOAY Winners

Gunner K Raine of C Coy, HQ Rheindahlen Garrison, BFPO 40, was on target when he entered SOLDIER's HOAY Competition No 382. As a result he will soon be £50 better off. And Mr G Martin, of 2 Bath Road, Forest Gate, London E7, receives £50 for winning HOAY Competition No 383. Congratulations both!

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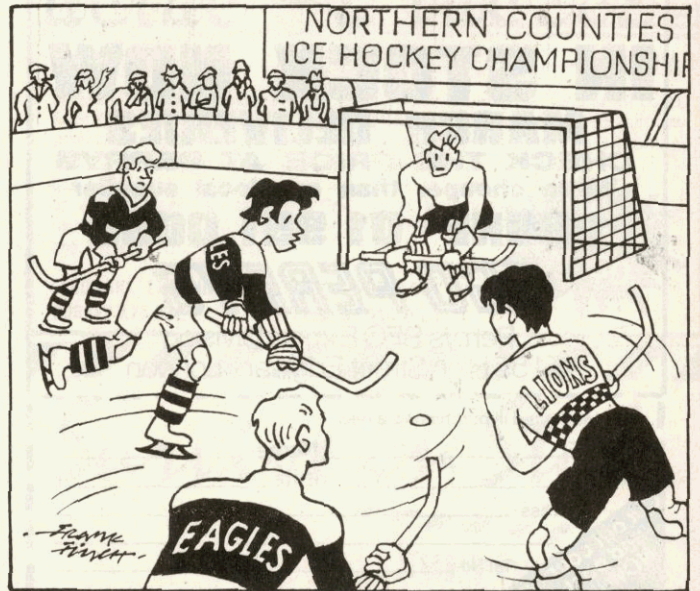
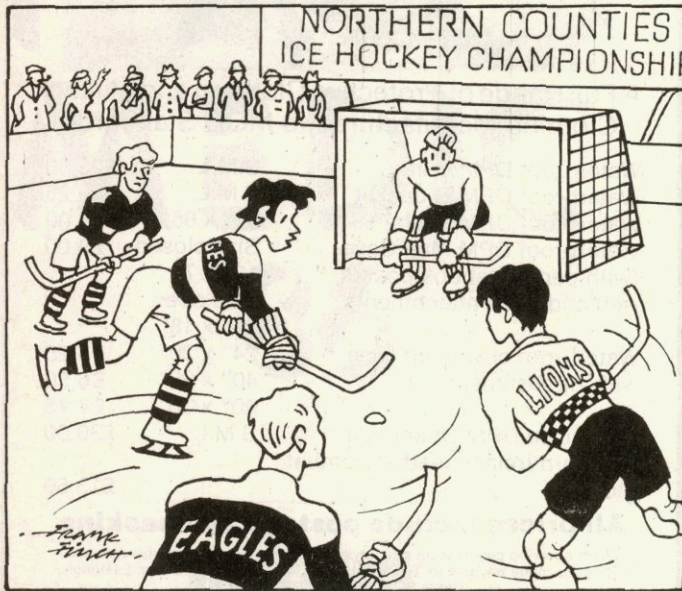
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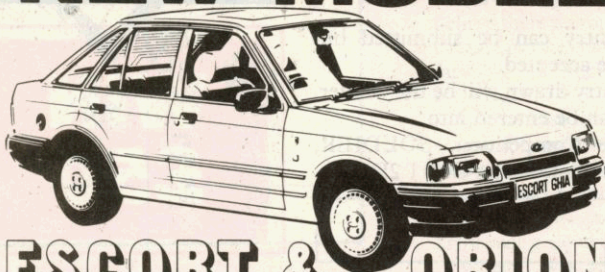
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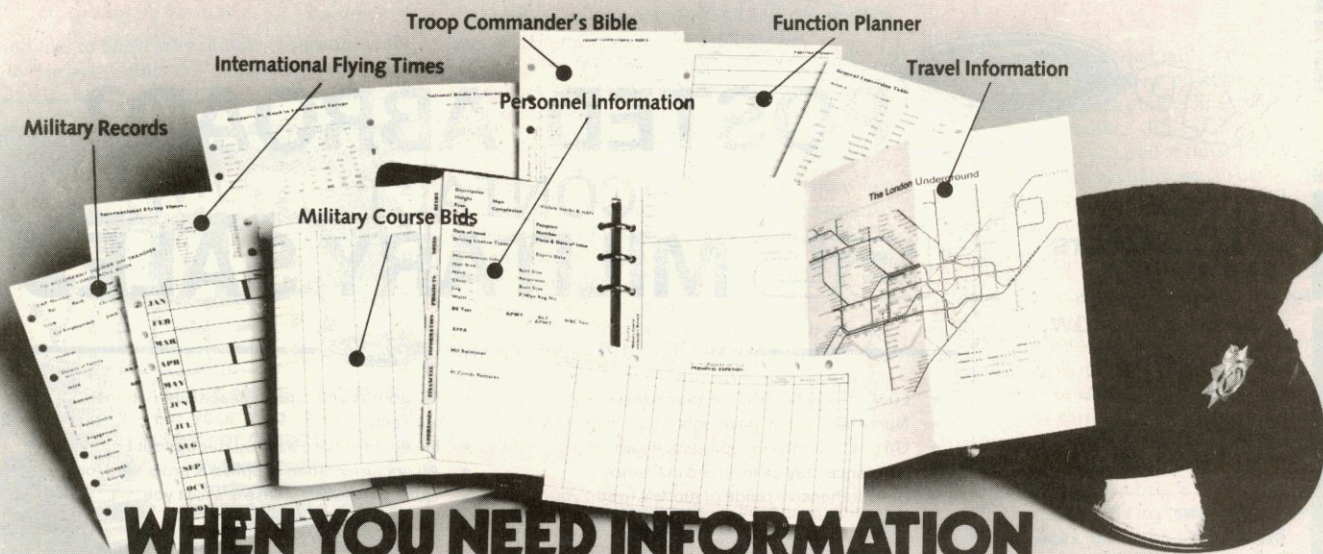


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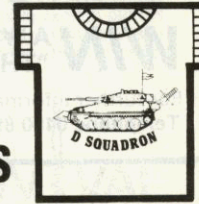
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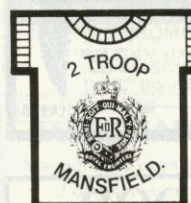


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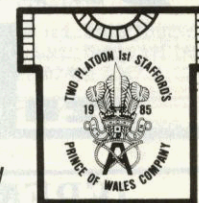


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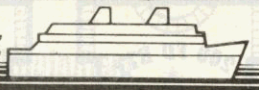
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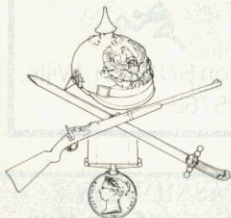
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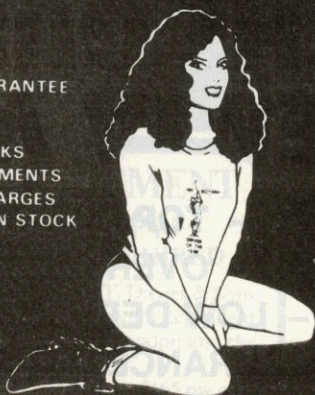
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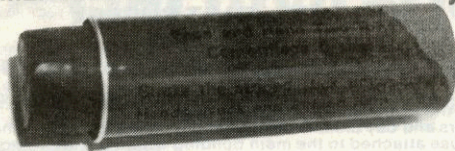
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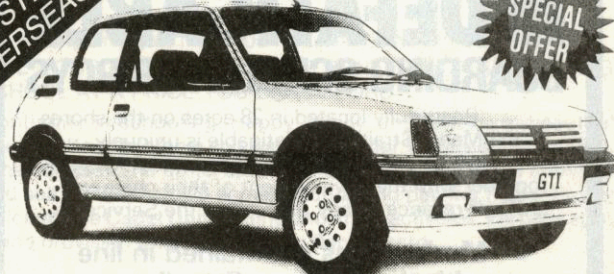
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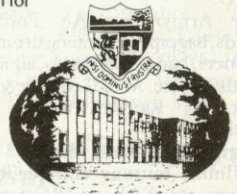
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Soccer star became 'keeper by accident



Corporal Chris Lomas, Army and Combined Services goalie

The announcement that he was Army Footballer of the Year came as a bit of a shock to Corporal Chris 'Spider' Lomas, especially as it was made after the Army drew 2-2 with the Royal Navy in what he considered was not one of his best games.

But the Army Football Association made a unanimous decision to honour the 28-year-old Royal Engineer who when he is not playing football works as a fitter in the REME workshops at the RE Training Regiment, Blackwater.

Chris has been keeping goal for the Army on and off since the 1977-78 season and for the past four or five years has been the last line of defence for the Combined Services as well.

As a schoolboy, before becoming an apprentice at Chepstow in 1974, he was a striker. But having no boots for his first practice session with the Army they put him in goal and he has remained there quite happily ever since.

In fact he has done well enough to impress Woking FC who invited him to join the club after a friendly match with the Army early in the season. Since October Chris has been turning out for the Sunday side whenever his Army duties

permitted. At the time of his award the team was still within striking distance of promotion to the Vauxhall-Opel Division I South next year.

Chris, who is married with a daughter aged two, says he has at least another two years in the Army which means, with luck, another two seasons minding the net for Army and Combined Service XIs. As he pointed out, you can last longer as a goalkeeper than an outfield player. Indeed QMSI David Smith, who Chris understudied nearly 10 years ago, still turns out on occasions for the Army side.

SEME SEVEN TIMES CUP WINNERS

SEME Bordon are the Army Challenge Cup winners for the seventh time.

They beat the BAOR Cup winners 28 Amph Engr Regt by three goals to nil.

Not an unexpected result, given that they are unbeaten in almost 50 matches — cup, league and friendly fixtures — this season, except that this year they have fielded a side with no fewer than nine players in their first full year in Army football. A remarkable achievement, when the opposition was a side packed with experience and not a little skill.

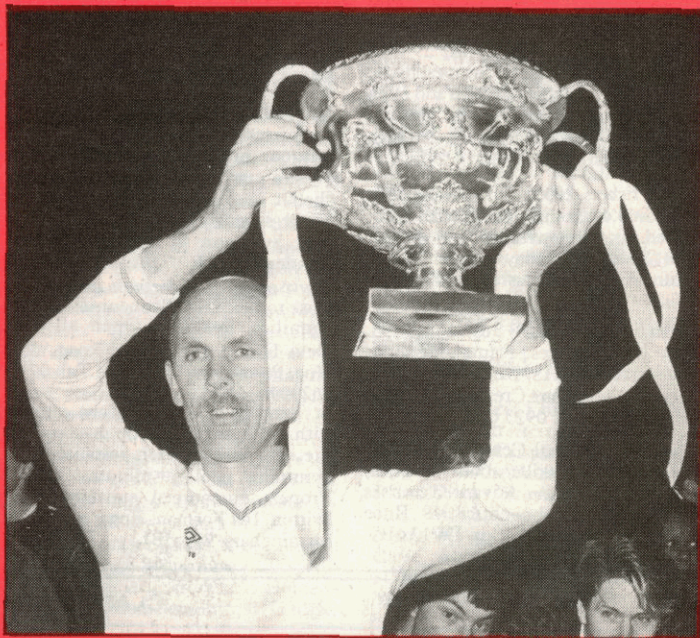
The Sappers elected to play with the wind in their favour, and this was to be their eventual undoing. The young SEME side soaked up the early pressure, defending on the edge of their penalty area, and never allowed the BAOR men to create the scoring chances essential to ensuring a first half lead. When

the sides changed ends without scoring, they put the experience of the opening half to good use.

Don Howe, the England national team coach summed up the likely outcome during the interval break. "The match will be won and lost from 'dead-ball' situations and the



Ted Croker meets the players



Up with the cup; Staff Sergeant Chris Eade, victorious SEME captain

balance has now swung in favour of SEME", he predicted and so it was to be.

The opening goal came on the hour. A free kick was planted into a crowded penalty area, followed by a short touch out to Cfn Mark Berwick whose hard shot took a deflection on its way into the net.

The Sappers fought back and might have equalised when Lcpl Sheikh Naif broke clear and shot just over, but SEME turned the screw a notch and attacked down the right with Cfn Mickey Nelson just missing.

Ten minutes from time, SEME secured their win. A free kick was flighted on to the near post where Nelson flicked it home between Marshall and the upright.

Before the Sappers recovered from this shock, Spencer shot home but was ruled to be off-side, then, from yet another free-kick, SEME scored their third goal. A nasty ball into the heart of the packed penalty area bounced about without being properly cleared, and the ball dropped at the feet of a surprised Sgt Roy Stubbington, who scored.

Ted Croker, General Secretary of the Football Association, presented the Cup and other mementoes to the players and officials. Don Howe named SEME's Cfn Peter Catling to be his Man of the Match.

General's gardener first in fun run

Marathon mania took Powys by storm when two different runs, organised simultaneously by the Army in Wales, sped off in different directions but on a collision course that raised hundreds of pounds for charity.

In driving sleet and rain more than 500 runners — Servicemen and women and civilians — set off from Dering Lines Camp, Brecon, in the Welsh Military Half Marathon. Close on their heels were contenders in the five-mile Fun Run.

Members of running clubs and associated civilian clubs from throughout the Principality joined military contestants in the main event, while the entire spectrum of civilian, Service and cadet force runners, was covered in the Fun Run, including mums, dads and youngsters.

Despite the depressing weather, the day was not without a touch of accidental comic relief en-route, when at an intersection point runners from the two different events were seen to be passing each other in different directions.

But the common finishing-point for all was the barrack square at Dering Lines Camp. There, trophies, medals and lashings of hot tea and refreshments awaited all comers.

Throughout the day a public address system replayed pop-music to spectators and participants, and sports and games for the toddlers were organised in the camp area, while parents took part in both events.

Colchester soldier Lance Corporal Kevin McGuire claimed first prize in the half marathon, with a time of 1hr and 9 minutes. Winner of the Fun Run was Brecon horticulturalist Robert Williams



Brecon horticulturalist Robert Williams, the GOC's gardener, in winning mood, with his parents

who is gardener at the home of the General Officer Commanding Wales, Major General Peter de la

Billiere.

Cash raised will go to The Research Trust for Metabolic

Diseases in Children, and to The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Veterans' Appeal.

FRENCH HOLD THE KENTISH

The Combined Services hopes of winning the Kentish Cup vanished under the floodlights of Aldershot's Military Stadium when they could only draw 2-2 with the holders, the French Armed Forces.

The British needed to win by at least two clear goals to wrest the coveted cup from the holders. The French had already been beaten by the Belgians who could only draw with Combined Services. But Combined Services were unable to repeat the victorious season they had in 1983-84, the last time they won the cup.

The British are still bottom of the list of victories, having won the cup 15 times since the competition was first started in

1921, compared with the Belgians' 19 victories, and the French remaining the leaders, with 23 years holding the trophy.



In the middle of the melee, the French goalkeeper fists the ball away

ENGINEERS WIN SUDDEN DEATH DECIDER

So close was the final set for the Army volleyball title that it looked as though every move had been planned and rehearsed.

At two sets each, the 9/12 Royal Lancers and 42 Survey Engineer Group — both from BAOR — had played point for point and the crown could have gone either way. It was that tight a game.

But in the end it was the Engineers who nosed in front by 3-2 to take the title of combined UK and BAOR champions.

In a year of record unit entries, both teams had fought through a series of tough matches to meet

for the sudden-death play-off at the Army School of PT.

Presenting the winners with the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, Brigadier Robin Maddy, ACC, president of the Volleyball Association, congratulated the Engineers and praised the Lancers on a match that guaranteed the spectators an exciting final.

He struck a note of sadness though when he said that Colour Sergeant Gordon Neale, chief tournament official and coach to the Army squad for the past ten years, was officiating at his last Army final, as he leaves the Army in October.

See back page for photograph.

ALL YEAR SWIMMING

MEMBERS of Tidworth Garrison can now go off the deep end and literally be in the swim all year round thanks to improvements made to the swimming pool. A £130,000 scheme has put the pool under cover converting it from its previous open air site operating from mid-May until late August.

The money came from a Nuffield Trust grant and the building has just been opened officially by Sir Robert Booth, a Nuffield Board trustee.

First men to use the new facility were a platoon from the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment who were carrying out their military swimming tests ... straight after the opening ceremony.

SOLDIER

