

# SOLDIER

23 MARCH 1987

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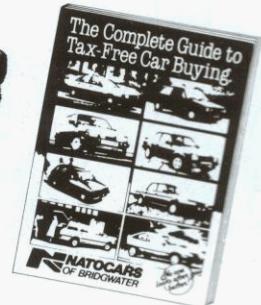
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**FRONT COVER:** Side drummer LCpl Elaine Williams of the WRAC Staff Band, which has just made its fifth record. Read all about it in Pages 14-15.

Picture: Paul Haley

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# SOLDIER

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



No, not a silo full of deadly missiles, but a store full of canoes waiting patiently for some white water adventure. Paul Haley took the picture in the Forward Ordnance Depot, Dulmen, Germany. More stories and pictures from the Rear Combat Zone in our next issue. Meanwhile, turn to Page 19.

— ALSO —

- Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force in Norway
- The bravest of the brave – three double VCs
- Seventy years ago – the battle for Vimy Ridge

## SA80 multi-bayonet

In SOLDIER (January 26) you published and requested more information on the SA80 Prototype "All Arms" Bayonet. I possess the original cartoon, a painting based on a design by the late Lt Col Brian Pimm RWR. The cartoon was designed while Col Pimm was the desk officer for future small arms and mortars in MOD OR 12 (Infantry) now LSOR 2.

The cartoon was produced as the basis for a colour slide for a presentation on SA80. Col Pimm intended it to reflect the frustrations of the operational requirements staff officer in his insoluble task of satisfying the

demands of SA80's many future users.

As Col Pimm's successor I used the slide light-heartedly to contrast the struggles involved in getting SA80 into service. However, knowing the British soldier's ingenuity for misusing equipment for tasks and in a manner never imagined by the designer, the cartoon may yet become a closer reflection of the actual usage of the SA80 field bayonet than Col Pimm ever intended. — Lt Col R M Wilde, RRF, The Zimbabwe Staff College, BMATT Zimbabwe, British Forces Post Office 632.

## A frank disclosure

Reading RSM McCamley's letter (SOLDIER, February 9) about MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) I recall with some amusement that during the attachment of the 22nd MAU USMC to the British Embassy, Beirut, many of these brown foil and plastic packets supplemented the local diet of the RMP CP team. However, a

certain RMP NCO (who shall remain nameless) made the most of the discarded 'franks n beans' much to the amazement of the USMC.

The effects of this gastronomic feat caused many a raised eyebrow in diplomatic circles. — Sgt J R Twells, RMP, Minden Detachment, 115 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 29.

## Whose buttons?

In SOLDIER (January 26) under the caption of "All at Sea", you depict a group of Guardsmen who would appear from their cap badges to be Irish Guards. However, while the officer has his tunic buttons

arranged in groups of four, the ORs have theirs singly.

Are they in fact Grenadiers, or are they wearing the awful NATO "Utility" No 2s? — J M Twomey, 40 Pennard Road, Kittle, Swansea SA3 3JY.



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## Executed trio were guilty of murder

I write with reference to a letter that appeared in SOLDIER Magazine (February 23) entitled *Graves of Three Executed National Servicemen Were 'at an Angle'* by R Rimmer. Memories dim with the passage of time but my recollections of this particular incident differ from Mr Rimmer's.

Of the three executed soldiers I believe the ringleader was a gunner and the other two were drivers in the RASC.

At the time I understood they were deserters and had murdered a number of Egyptian taxi drivers for their takings while on the run in Cairo.

After being apprehended by the civil police they were handed over to British jurisdiction and were housed, for a time at least, in the guardroom of 1 R Lincolns (the battalion I was serving with at the time) at Moascar.

I understood that they were executed at 50 MCE (Military Corrective Establishment) which was a mile or two to the north of Moascar Garrison and were buried in the Military Cemetery Moascar which was between the garrison and the prison.

Many years later a member of the MPSC (Military Provost Staff Corps), who attended the executions, discussed this matter with me over reminiscences of soldiering in Egypt. My recollections of this conversation were that these men were executed for civil offences. — Maj (Retd) R C H Berry, 18 Parkhouse Road, Shipton Bellinger, Nr Tidworth, Hants.

Regarding Mr Rimmer's letter, I can tell you that the three soldiers were hung in the Canal Zone in 1950-51 for the murder

of a taxi driver. It was a specimen charge as they were believed to have committed other murders.

The Military Corrective Establishment in Fayid did not have a gallows so one was built in the railway workshops. On the morning of the execution they were taken by K4 Austin ambulance to the workshops, and they were subsequently buried in unmarked graves in the corner of the Moascar military cemetery.

Another British soldier was hanged later for the murder of an officer in the Suez Garrison. I remember having a drink 36 years ago in the canteen at Mareth Lines, El Ballah with a corporal who had been sentenced to death for the murder of a cable cutter. He was reprieved, served his time and, rumour had it, eventually discharged as a sergeant! — A Bell, 27 Bailey Crescent, Fleetwood, Poole, Dorset.

The Army Historical Branch confirms that the three Servicemen were court martialled in April 1950 and executed on August 31, 1950. They had stolen Army equipment to sell in Cairo and shot a man while taking a car. — Editor.

Reference SOLDIER (Feb 9)

letter "Where did the officers come from?", pre-war officers, WOs, NCOs from The Malay Regt were selected by the Colonial Office through offices of the GOC Malaya. Many of these were from personnel already attached to the local Volunteer Forces.

The first four Malay officers were granted commissions by the High Commission in 1936



### PRIZE LETTER

## Let's have a story on the VC and Bar heroes

Although I left the Services many years ago I still take a great interest in what is going on. Added to this I am the secretary of my local branch of the Royal Regiment of Artillery Association, so I do get involved, but I like every minute of it.

As well as receiving my Gunner Magazine, I also receive my copy of SOLDIER, and I draw your attention to the article 'The Years of Valour' (SOLDIER, Feb 23). Over the years I have read with considerable interest various stories about the VC, and those who have received the award.

During the First World War two officers, Lt Col Arthur Martin-Leake, RAMC, and Capt Noel G Chavasse, RAMC, were both awarded the Bar to this Medal of Valour. In the Second World War Capt Charles H Upham of the New Zealand Army was also awarded the Bar to the VC.

Why is it I wonder that we hear so little of these three officers who must be unique in that they were the only three ever to be so decorated. — Derek C Scholfield, 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH.

● No sooner said than done! Thanks for the idea Mr Scholfield — and make sure you get the next issue of SOLDIER. — Editor.

dead in Sumatra after escaping from captivity.

Gen James Lunt's book *Imperial Sunset* has a useful chapter on The Malay Regt now more correctly described as The Royal Malay Regt in the army of the Federation of Malaya. — A F F Froom (formerly The Buffs and The Malay Regt), 51 Taverners Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent.

## REUNIONS

● 201 RCZ Wkps REME (V) reunion for all members of the joint officers and senior ranks mess, serving and retired, dinner/disco, at the Poste House Hotel, Allesley, Coventry, April 4. Contact Maj R Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

● The annual Beachley Old Boy's Association reunion will be held at Beachley over the weekend September 25/27. Details from Ted Peacock, Kismet, 8 Gloucester Way, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1QF (tel 0299 400689) or Honorary Secretary, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG.

● The first annual reunion of the France and Germany Star Association will be held in the Mill at The Pier concert hall, Wigan on May 8. Details from the secretary, France and Germany Star Association (Wigan Branch) 120 Ashbourne Avenue, New Springs, Wigan, Lancs WN2 1HN. (tel: 0942-323197).

● The annual reunion of The Royal Hussars Old Comrades Association takes place in The Brewery, Chiswell Street, City of London, on May 2 at 7pm. Tickets (£13) from Home HQ, The Royal Hussars, Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EF (tel 0962 63751).

## DIARY DATE

**Allied Forces Day Parade**, Berlin, June 13. Includes 1 Kings Own Scottish Borderers band and pipes and drums, 1 Glosters band and corps of drums, 1 Black Watch band and pipes and drums, and Royal Navy and Royal Marines Sport Parachute Association and Royal Signals demonstration team.

Organisers of events with Army participation are invited to send brief details to SOLDIER for publication in this column.

## HOAY WINNER

Have you won £50 in SOLDIER's HOAY competition yet? Mr D J Degnan of Upper Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Essex has. He is the latest winner (of Competition No 405) and a cheque for £50 is on its way to him. You too could win £50. A new HOAY is published on page 43 of this issue.

## Office selected Malay officers

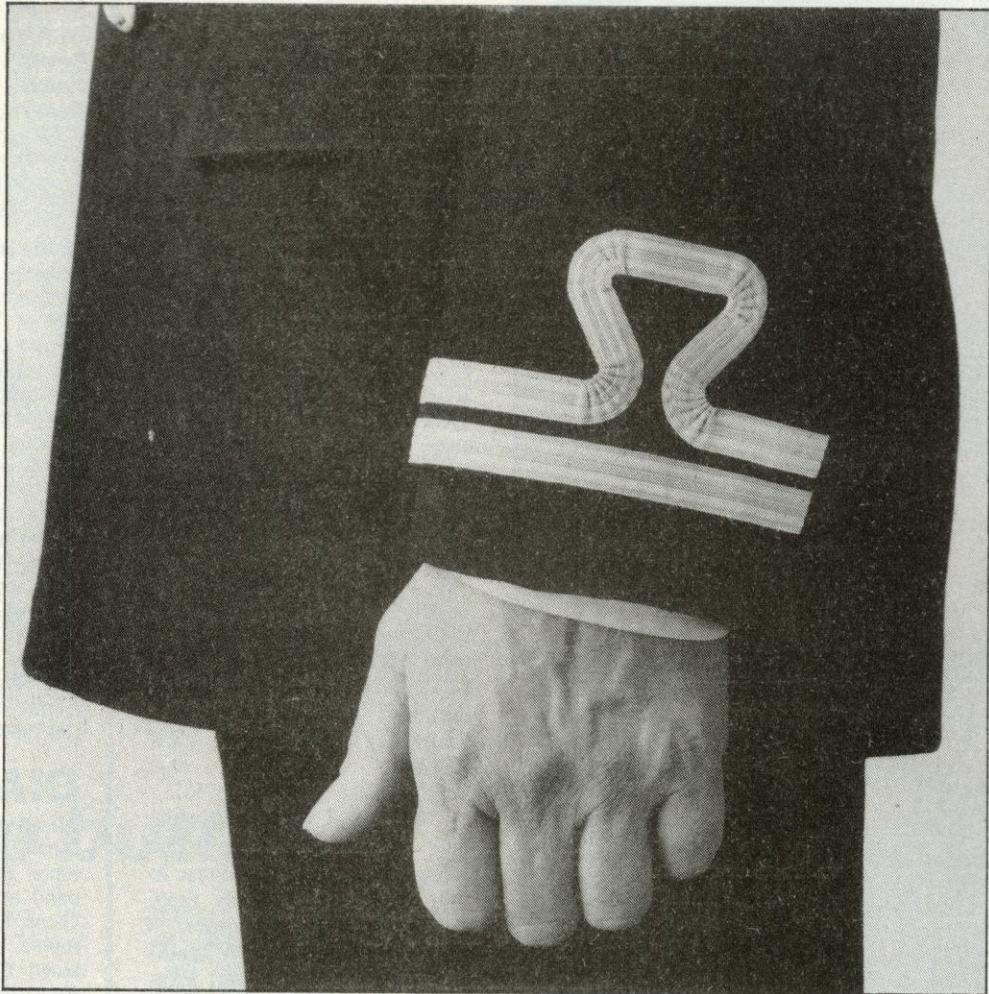
to join the regiment from the Straits Settlements or Federated Malay States Volunteer Forces; others joined from the OCTU-Singapore, by far the largest number of these were planters.

From its original 25 members it grew during the pre-war years until on July 1, 1941 The Malay Regt was divided into a regimental depot and 1st Battalion, with a 2nd Battalion being formed Dec 1, 1941 of, initially, only two companies. During 1941 20 officers were

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# British Servicemen to benefit from German rail ticket deal

CONCESSIONARY tickets have been introduced for Service personnel on the German railways in a deal negotiated between British Forces and the Deutsche Bundesbahn (DB).

The scheme, which will save 15 per cent on private journeys, will apply only to Service personnel and not their families.

The tickets may be used on the DB rail network and railbuses where transferable rail tickets apply. These routes are marked

in DB timetables with a star preceding the route indicator.

It is permitted to break the journey as often as needed.

Rail tickets will be issued for first and second class travel. When changing to first class with a second class ticket the difference between the reduced cost of both classes will be charged. Motor-rail trains and some special trains are excluded from the overall arrangement.

Concessionary tickets can be obtained from all DB ticket offices, travel offices and DB sales agencies on production of an MoD 90 (Military Identity Card) or its RAF or RN equivalent. ID cards must be carried on all journeys and produced on request to authorised DB officials.

Finally, in case something is lost in the translation, the special words are . . . "Besondere BAOR-Urlaubsfahrausweise."

# Falklands fund life extended

THE South Atlantic Fund is to be kept open until July 1988. The trustees have decided to extend its life by a year and will be reviewing the situation during 1987.

Eventually the assets of the fund will be given to the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the King George's Fund for Sailors, which already administer a complicated mass of trust funds set up to help the victims of previous wars.

The three Service charities have assured the trustees of the South Atlantic Fund that residual assets will be used specifically for the benefit of Falklands war victims and their families.

More than £15 million was donated to the South Atlantic Fund and £13 million has been disbursed in grants.

South Atlantic Fund secretary Cdr Ken Stevens RN told SOLDIER: "Claims may still be coming in 60 years from now, certainly for a great many years.

"The 1982 deed of trust laid down that residual assets would be transferred to the three Service benevolent funds on closure of the South Atlantic Fund, which was seen in 1982 to be no later than 1987.

"We still get new cases of deafness and mental illness and these are likely to go on emerging for years. Quite a number of wounded are still in the process of reassessment.

"And there is still the matter of trench foot to be resolved. The initial assessment was that there would be no payments because of the complex difficulties in assessing its onset on a number of Servicemen.

"Some Royal Marines and Army personnel who had been serving in Norway had shown trench foot symptoms before the Falklands war," said Cdr Steven.

About 80 Servicemen sustained trench foot damage during the 1982 conflict.



**Big lifter!** An RAF Chinook helicopter carries out an underslung lifting exercise in the Potzen training area, Hameln, Germany, with elements of 35 Engr Regt

Picture: Spr R Young, HQ Troop, 29 Fd Sqn

## TA on guard at Edinburgh Castle

FOR the first time for many years Scottish Territorial Army soldiers have been guarding Edinburgh Castle. The 1st and 3rd Battalions 51st Highland Volunteers took over for a fortnight to enable the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) to complete preparations for its move to Berlin in late March.

TA soldiers of the 1st/51st Highland Volunteers were drawn from all its company locations in Perth, Dundee and Kirkcaldy as well as volunteers from the London Scottish and Liverpool Scottish companies. The 3rd/51st soldiers came from Stirling, Cumbernauld, Grangemouth and Dumbarton.

# Veterans pleased with decision to scrap

SURVIVING slave labour POWs who built the notorious "Death Railway" in 13 harrowing months have shrugged off Japanese sensitivity which has led to the scrapping of a Thai Government plan to restore and extend as a major tourist attraction a section of the link forged with the deaths of thousands of Allied prisoners, writes **Graham Smith**.

The Thai Government had called in a Japanese investment company to carry out a feasibility study of the plan. But, it seems, it was turned down by the Japanese who are reported to have said: "We must be sensitive to the emotions of other countries."

## TA officer is new military hospital boss

A civilian consultant surgeon who is a Territorial Army officer in his spare time has taken over as CO of the 130-bed Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital at Catterick, North Yorkshire, for a year.

In civilian life he is 50-year-old Ram Banerjee, a consultant surgeon at Sunderland and District General Hospital for 11 years. In the Territorial Army he is a Lt Col Banerjee, CO of 251 (Sunderland) Field Ambulance (Volunteers).

He took up his appointment as a full colonel under a special scheme which allows members of the TA to undertake voluntary appointments for a limited time in the Regular Army.

The Northern Regional Health Authority has granted him a year's sabbatical from his hospital appointment.

He will be succeeded as commanding officer of 251 Field Ambulance by Dr Brian Lowerson, who will be promoted to lieutenant colonel.

### MOBB



## Widows set for Thai pilgrimage

Mr Harold Payne, national president of the Federation of Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOWs), said: "I think it is despicable, quite frankly, that commercialism should thrive like this on the tragedies of death in a war theatre that should be treated as a place of respect."

Former 1397910 Lt Payne of 137 Fd Regt, RA, who spent more than three years in the vicinity of the "Death

Railway" added: "There are already some cafes and some shops selling kiss-me-quick type hats near there. There is even a son et lumière presentation.

"For those three years we were confronted with the enemy - the Japs and the Koreans - inside our compounds. Whereas German camps had their guards outside ours were always inside. If we did not bow we were clubbed or beaten to our knees. Even taking a pee at the wrong time merited this sort of brutality.

"My nerves were in a shocking state when I came home but I am privileged to do what I am doing now as a way of tribute to the thousands of my fellow comrades at

# 'Death Railway' tourist attraction plan

arms who did not come back."

Figures released after the Far East fighting of four decades ago revealed that more than 30,000 Britons, 13,000 Australians and New Zealanders, 18,000 Dutch, 700 Americans and 200,000 coolies provided the skeletal-framed labour force on the infamous railway intended as a supply route for the planned Japanese invasion of India.

Nearly 13,000 Allied soldiers and 150,000 coolies died during the project which soon coined the grim epitaph "for every sleeper laid, a man died."

Those who died had to be carried back under the sweltering jungle canopies to be

counted off on roll-call before burial. Thousands survived to return home shattered in mind and scarred in body.

Others, like Mr Payne, stoically overcame the horrors of it all although he has never quite put it finally out of his tortured thoughts.

The route of the single-line, metre-wide track had been planned to run the 250 miles between the Siamese and Burmese state railways systems. Indeed, today, a section is operating between Bangpong and Nam Tok.

Work started on both ends, often in torrential tropical downpours, temperatures peaking at 100 degrees with all the

attendant energy-sapping humidity.

The Japanese had been ordered to complete the line in 18 months - by November 1943. This was brought forward by four months because of Allied bombing successes on enemy shipping.

The tormented labour force was paid at the rate of a penny ha'penny a day for officers and a ha'penny for soldiers.

Men died in their thousands as diseases such as beri-beri, cholera, dengue, malaria, diphteria, tropical ulcers, chest tumours and dysentery combined with physical ill-treatment took a relentless toll.

The Japanese took 50,016 prisoners from the three Services, 42,610 of them

● Turn to Page 33

## Sennybridge FIBUA to have live fire area

WORK should start soon on Wales' very own FIBUA, a purpose-built 32-building concrete complex costing £3 million in a quiet part of the 16,000-acre Sennybridge Training area.

The project which will include two farm complexes, a range of houses - all furnished - and a church, is about 15 miles west of Brecon.

The first trainee house-to-house fighters should be in action there in about two years time. Main user is expected to be the School of Infantry's NCOs' Tactics Wing. The TA will also benefit.

Unlike other current UK FIBUAs the Sennybridge facility will have a live firing area.



Regimental adjutant Capt Ian Stafford, the Argylls' only veteran of the Falklands war, briefs Dumbarton-based TA soldiers Pte Brian McMurtrie, Pte Duncan McPhail, 2nd Lt David McNeil and Sgt Stan Poole on the danger posed by mines on the Islands. Capt Stafford was serving on an exchange posting with 42 Commando Royal Marines during the war and was wounded at the battle for Mount Harriet

## WEMBLEY MUSICAL PAGEANT SCRAPPED

THERE will be no Military Musical Pageant at Wembley this year, and there are unlikely to be any more in the present form.

The pageant, staged every two years in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, is being scrapped because of cost.

First started in 1969, the pageant used to feature 2,000 musicians and has had up to 62 bands parading in the world-famous arena to the delight of up to 48,000 spectators. The last of these great shows was in 1985.

Brig Gerald Landy, the ABF's national enterprises organiser, told **SOLDIER**: "Without doubt, it was the biggest band show in the world. At our peak, one

show raised £75,000 for the fund. One of our highlights was the visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to the pageant a month before their wedding in 1981.

"We have had nine shows and I doubt very much if we shall see its like again. The Ministry of Defence decided with great reluctance that increasing costs and diminishing resources made it impracticable to present any more of these popular pageants. We are very disappointed.

"It was also becoming a strain on the bands, who had to fit it into their busy schedules of performing at home and overseas. They are on the go all the time and the pageant was becoming an enormous strain on them."

## Gold Star for Topcliffe comcen

THE Army's Communication Centre at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, has been awarded a Gold "Comstar" for the speed and accuracy with which it handled 4,540 messages to all parts of the world during the six-month period up to last December. The Comstar was presented by Brig Peter Morton, Commander of the 15 Infantry

Brigade with Headquarters at Topcliffe, to civilian operator Mr William Taylor who served for 22 years as a Regular soldier in the Royal Signals.

During the period of the award he had three weeks holiday and his place was taken by 22-year-old Pte Jill O'Connor, WRAC.

by Mouse

## Scots volunteers on duty in Falklands

TEN Dumbarton-based part-time soldiers have become the first Scots Territorials to spend annual camp in the Falkland Islands.

All members of D Company, 3/51 Highland Volunteers from Latta Street, they served for a fortnight with their affiliated Regular Army regiment, 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which has had a four months' spell of garrison duties in the South Atlantic islands.

The TA Jocks, led by engineering student 2nd Lt David McNeil and plumber Sgt Stan Poole, spent most of their time at Fox Bay on mountainous

West Falkland, a hundred miles by helicopter from the islands' capital, Port Stanley.

While based there they carried out the same training as the Regulars.

On their last evening in the Falklands the Dumbarton Territorials met for a social get-together with their counterparts from the 70-strong Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Confirmed the Argylls' second-in-command Maj Donald Ross, who next year takes over for a 2 1/2-year spell as commanding officer of the TA battalion: "They did very well and on duty they were indistinguishable from the regular Jock."

KIND hearted fusiliers from the Territorial Army's D (Lancashire) Company The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers sprang a surprise lunch for old age pensioners living near their Bury and Rochdale drill halls.

With the help of local Age Concern branches the fusiliers laid on a slap-up lunch and singsong for more than 40 old people.

Seventy-eight-year-old Mrs Alice Pilkington summed up everyone's feelings when she said: "It has been really lovely, just like the old Army style. They even put the regimental silver out for us." She added: "I can remember the battalion marching out of this drill hall in red coats, blue trousers and busbies for Gallipoli. They came back in khaki."

**Sign  
of the  
times  
from  
our  
T-girl  
Bryony**

Picture: Paul Haley

**GOODBYE  
TO MRS E**

Sappers of 35 Engr Regt based at Hameln, Germany, have said a sad farewell to Mrs Barbara Ellis, their longest serving employee.

Mrs E – as she was universally known – started her career with the military 49 years ago.

As training clerk she handled most of the admin for the regiment's ski teams, and last month made her first visit to Zwiesel, Austria, to watch 35 Engr Regt carry off the Princess Marina Cup at the Army championships.

**Saying it – in  
silver . . .**

RSM Tom Muir gives a final polish to the magnificent £7,000 silver centrepiece – a model of Richmond Castle keep – presented to the HQ Sergeants' Mess Royal Signals at 11 Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, by the Royal Signals Association.

The centrepiece, made by London silversmiths Wakely and Wheeler, is accurate in every detail. It was a thank you to the mess for hosting the association's annual reunion at Catterick and to enhance the quality of the mess with a permanent symbol of the town with which the Royal Signals has such close links.

**LENNY'S  
FULL  
CIRCLE**



Five NCOs who joined the Army in 1961 and 1962 and were in the same Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC in Blackdown were delighted to find themselves in the same mess at the Forward Ordnance Depot, Dulmen, in Germany.

SSgt Lenny Wrightson is retiring later this year after a final posting to



**SOLDIER** T-shirt model Bryony Armitage has caused a lot of ink to flow since she revealed her desire to become a unit pin-up. She has already had invitations from soldiers based as far afield as Cyprus, Germany, Northern Ireland and Home Counties. As our picture shows, Bryony is sending a signed photo of herself to all who wrote in.



**Tom's back  
at his job**

Cpl Tom Sawyer is back on his basic vehicle mechanic's course after coming back – quite literally – from the dead. Tom somehow survived appalling injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident two years ago and has just been discharged from the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich to resume his training.

Capt John Quinn, the Nursing Officer, said: 'Ward 14 won't be the same without him. Tom has been a model patient, never complaining, and he won everybody's admiration.'



**That's my  
Granny!**

**JIM'S A SURVIVOR**

Pitting his wits against the worst that producers of the TV series *Survival of the Fittest* can throw at him is Army PTI Sgt Jim Wood.

Wood to their limits.

Jim, from Sherborne in Dorset, won the *Survival of the Fittest* trophy in 1984 and faces the same challenges this year: an endurance run, an abseil, a raft race, a white-water swim, a Canadian canoe race, a ropes course, a downhill run, a log event and the final crunch, the Snowdon run.

A regular biathlon competitor, Jim has competed for Britain in seven world championships and two Olympic Games and held the British biathlon title from 1980 to 1984.

Other competitors in the current series include a Royal Marine PTI, a Dutch marine sergeant, a computer scientist who has represented Northern Ireland in world championship canoe slalom, a mountaineer and fell runner and an instructor at the mountain activities centre at Capel Curig, North Wales.



The long arm of coincidence was at full stretch for Fus Kevin Morgan to meet his 75-year-old grandmother Mrs Mildred Morgan in Cyprus after they had lost touch 11 years ago. Kevin is in Cyprus with 3 RRF on a United Nations tour and Granny Mildred was there for a short winter holiday. They plan to get together again in Liverpool.

**PEOPLE**

**BOOK**

Authors Clive Hardy and Nigel Arthur have presented a copy of their book *Nottingham at War* to the CO of 3 WFR(V), Lt Col C N Cullen, at the TA Centre, Broadgate, Nottingham. Nigel is better known in TA circles as Pte Arthur as he is a serving member with D Coy, 3 WFR.

**ENDS**

**Their home from home**

Fed up with bare walls and a cold concrete floor, the ground crew of 12 Flight Army Air Corps decided to introduce a few home comforts to their crew room at RAF Wildenrath, Germany.

And how! The lads chipped in 1,000 DM between them, scrounged some more from the flight fund, bought themselves a DIY book and some tools and knuckled down to the task in hand.

The result? A snug, pine-panelled crewroom with coffee bar and comfy seats. 'It was a case of teaching ourselves as we went along,' said Cpl Roy Robertson (pictured right).

Northern Ireland. Attending his farewell luncheon were the CO, Lt Col Peter Coeshott, and depot commander Col Smith. From left to right are WO1 Conductor George Strugnell; Lt Col Coeshott; WO2 SQMS Smokey Attwood; Lenny; WO1 SSM Ron Gray; Col Smith; and WO1 SSM Cass Clayton.



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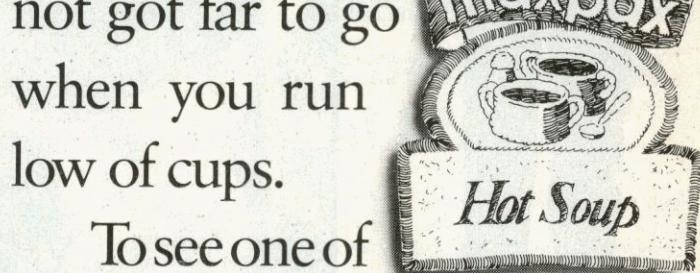
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# Age old question

It was not entirely surprising that following the publicity given to the writing of a certain book, the average age of officers in the Army should come under scrutiny.

Up popped a written question in the House of Commons from Mr Kevin McNamara (Labour, Hull North) which resulted in Mr Roger Freeman, Defence Armed Forces US of S, revealing that the average age of a major is 41, a lieutenant colonel 45, colonel 49, brigadier 50, major general 52, lieutenant general 54 and general 57.

Nothing very surprising in that! SOLDIER wonders what is the average age of a Member of Parliament.

## Pass the ammo, dear!

Remember the advice given to businessmen by Mrs Edwina Currie, Junior Health Minister, that if they wanted to avoid the danger of catching Aids while on overseas business trips they should take their wives along?

Well how about the Serviceman? Should the Ministry of Defence arrange that all male soldiers are accompanied by their wives on all overseas tours and exercises? Lord Boardman asked the question in the House of Lords.

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier

## The redoubtable Hannah Snell



Handsome figure of a man! Or is it? In fact, the soldier, or perhaps marine, is Mrs Hannah Snell, who joined Col Fraser's Regiment as a soldier under the name of James Gray in 1745, wearing male clothing, in order to search for her husband who had ill-treated and abandoned her.

She soon deserted to serve on the sloop Swallow. In an attack on Pondicherry she was wounded, but cured the wounds herself to avoid being revealed as a woman. After five years' service she was discharged – and even received a pension!

The mezzotint of her is among a collection of prints and drawings being exhibited at the British Museum in London until May 25.

## Infectious reading?

## TA celebrates in N Ireland

### Talking of Aids . . .

SOLDIER got itself in the news the other day when the UK Press Gazette, the journalists' professional magazine, suggested that our pocket calendar was, perhaps, "a trifle reckless"?

Our advice to people to make sure they get it (SOLDIER) regularly was linked by UKPG with publicity for "the current Aids scare in the Services".

There's no telling what some people will read into the most innocent of statements!

The Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Northern Ireland has celebrated 50 years of support for part time reserve units.

On Feb 23, 1937, with war clouds on the horizon, six leading citizens headed by The Viscount Massereene and Ferrard, met in Victoria Barracks, Belfast, at the behest of the then GOC, Maj Gen Cooke-Collis. Their task was to set up what was to be called the Territorial Army and Air Force Association of the County of Antrim.

The TA had not been raised in Northern Ireland in 1920, as in the rest of the UK.

Today the association has 112 members. It supports eight major and five minor units of the TA.

## TOUGH LIFE . . .

● A quarter of the men and women recruited into the British Regular Army are expected to leave within the

first year. And the latest figures available show that 31 per cent of TA recruits left during their first year of service.

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# INVICTA EXPORT



Record producer Jed Kearse (above left) monitors the console as the WRAC Staff Band plays on. Capt Ena Forster (above centre) directs during the recording session. The band on the march (below right) at the WRAC Depot in Guildford



# THE RECORD MAKERS

THE WRAC Staff Band has marched a long way, musically speaking, since its formation within the Corps on July 1, 1949, four years after its wartime predecessors, the ATS pipes and drums, marched triumphantly down Parisian boulevards as "Lez At Tay Ess".

In December, the 28-strong Guildford-based band was marching triumphantly down the streets again. This time in Aldershot where it caught the highly-tuned ear of military band talent spotter-cum-record producer Jed Kearse of Bandleader Records.

"It was the first time I had auditioned a band on foot," joked Jed who had followed the girls as they delighted spectators from street to street in the garrison town.

One of the very last of the RAF National Servicemen, former SAC statistician and part-time gig arranger Kearse of 1960-62 vintage at RAF Laarbruch wrote formally to the WRAC Depot asking them if the band would like to cut a disc.

Capt Ena Forster, Director of Music since March 1984, who plays oboe and piano, said the girls would be delighted to have the opportunity of making a proper commercial record.

Now, digitally recorded and due to go on sale in May in LP and cassette form, the numbers are collated on an album called simply "Resolute", based on the WRAC motto of: "Gentle in Manner, Resolute in Deed".

## Music takes them around the world

THE WRAC Staff Band is expected to take part in more than 200 engagements this year excluding its BAOR and four-week Hong Kong bookings between now and June. *Resolute* is the band's fifth record and, had the

band members recorded it themselves, could have cost about £2,000. They will receive a set fee from the record company which will be split into designated percentages - such as band funds - right down to small recompenses for the girls

● Turn to Page 36

The band, average age 24, will be featured in full glossy colour on the record sleeve.

Among the offerings on the record are the WRAC Quick March, Swing March, Greensleeves, ATS March, Girls in Green, Drum Majorette, Resolute, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Sons of the Brave, Festive Overture, Post Horn Galop, Rockford Files, Trumpets Wild, Waltz in Blue, Symphonic Portrait of Cole Porter and Trombones Trocadero.

Featured on *Trumpets Wild* are SSgt Annette Peters, Cpl Annette Cowles and Mus Janet Meagan. The *Post Horn Galop* shows off the virtuosity of SSgt Peters while *Trombones Trocadero* highlights Sgt Lesley Henniker, LCpl Margaret Andrews and Mus Karen Hughes.

Part of the record also has a Dixieland input from seven members of the band and a cabaret quartet led by clarinet player Cpl Helen Corlett featuring a Dave Brubeck classic, "Take Five".

The girls were taken by coach from Guildford to a recording studio behind Marble Arch to put their crotchet and quaver creativity on record.

● Turn to Page 36

They played - sitting this time - over two sessions in the same day. Seven hours of strict studio syncopation.

"We are all thrilled to bits to be here," said Capt Forster, whose composition *Resolute* was a piece she wrote in a quick-march competition during her Kneller Hall training.

The session went without a hitch. Almost. Technicians picked up a "buzz" near the two bass tuba players. And then the euphonium. Was it an overhead fluorescent strip light reacting to the sound waves? A pair of snare drums in a nearby cupboard, vibrating in encased boxes? A loose ceiling fitting, perhaps?

The girls were moved about 4ft to the right, the buzz died, and the recording was "clean" again.

A smiling Jed Kearse - "I play an out-of-tune trombone myself" - kept apace of the renditions.

He monitored the huge recording console with its sliding levers and tell-tale lights fronted by small arrows wavering on screens. At the same time he managed to scan the scored sheet music in front of him

themselves.

Band engagements include playing at dinner nights, tattoos, displays, parades, concerts and overseas tours.

Besides the band members' musical involvements they also have a secondary

role as trained medical assistants. Last year they went on exercise with 202 (M) General Hospital, RAMC (V) practising this role.

Last year, too, one of the WRAC Band members went on Exercise Long Look in Australia for three months

to work with the military band in Duntroon.

WRAC Band Director of Music Capt Ena Forster joined the Staff Band in August 1971 as an oboe player. In 1981 she entered the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, as a

student bandmaster and was commissioned in December 1983.

Of their last venture into the world of records, Capt Forster said: "It has cost us nothing in terms of cash, just a worthwhile investment in time."

## The great Cyprus SB mystery

IF YOU are in Cyprus or about to be posted there, read this, for your DHSS benefits will surely be affected one way or another.

In my attempts to clear up the great DHSS Cyprus mystery a number of points have come to light.

First a minister wrote to inform me that no Service families lived anywhere else but on Sovereign bases. I promptly dispelled that myth by forwarding your letters showing addresses from all round the island.

Surprise, surprise, ladies. You are all in limbo – the Sovereign bases appear not to belong to anyone, according to the DHSS. Fog shrouds the whole issue.

In another letter the DHSS said: "The status of the Sovereign bases on Cyprus is a difficult area. There is a reciprocal agreement with the Government of Cyprus but the situation seems to be that the bases are neither a part of the territory of Cyprus nor of the UK.

"Some of the provisions in the reciprocal agreement extend to people living in the bases, and where this is the case the provisions are specifically mentioned in the agreement. Where a provision does not extend to people living in the bases, entitlement to benefit is governed by the normal rules for Forces families abroad."

So there it is for the time being, but don't give up.

I am pursuing all your DHSS claims and entitlements and hope before long you will all belong to someone!

To appeal against an adjudicating officer's findings from overseas is extremely difficult. The 28-day time limit is far too short and the DHSS has now written to say: "At present there is a statutory time limit of 28 days from the time of the decision within which an appeal must be lodged. But I am pleased to say that from April 6 this time limit will be extended to three months and this should be particularly helpful to people living overseas."



## YOU WRITE... How to get the kids safely home

I HAVE two children under 12 at boarding school and we have just been posted to Cyprus. My parents are dead and we don't have any relatives or friends to help escort our two children, worried we won't be able to afford it.

■ There are a number of reputable agencies who will

meet and escort children at any hour of the day or night.

Among these are Universal Aunts Ltd, 250 King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 5UE (01-351 5767); and Country Cousins, 6 Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2JP. Welmet, is another child escort service and was originated by an ex-Service wife. Full details from Mrs D. Burkham, 84 Richmond Road, London SW20.

For those with children in Glasgow, SSAFA do run an escort service for unaccompanied children, but only across the city. Their address is: 1 Fitzroy Place, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G3 7RJ (tel. 041-221 751/2).

### Insurance bother in Cyprus

ance Contributions rates, NI208 Apr '86; National Insurance Voluntary Contributions, NI42 Oct '85. People with small earnings from self employment should refer to NI27A Jan '86.

• • •

IF you're leaving school this summer and intend seeking a grant for further education, make sure you apply before you leave school.

Grant applications take time, especially if you are overseas and seeking mandatory and discretionary grants.

Helpful booklets and DHSS leaflets are: FB20 Nov '86

Leaving school; FB23 Nov '86

Going to College or University;

FB26 Nov '86 Voluntary and

Part-Time workers. All available

from the Dept of Education and

Science, from schools or

Publications Despatch Centre,

Honey Pot Lane, Canon's Park,

Stanmore, Middx HA1 1AZ.

• • •

IF YOU earn £38 or more a week you should be paying National Insurance Contributions Class I. This also applies if you earn £38 or more in total when doing more than one job.

This is particularly important if you are running a pre-school play group or other voluntary organisation, which employs staff part or full time. If you do, the organising committee is liable for the employer's contribution to National Insurance.

If you earn £2,075 or more during the tax year from self employment such as running a private group, you should pay Class 2 contributions.

These are legal requirements. See DHSS leaflets National Insurance Guide for Employers, NI40 Dec '85; National Insur-

### Buying a house now for later

I am a corporal serving in Northern Ireland and shall be here for another 18 months.

I would like to buy a house in Altrincham, Cheshire. Once I have bought the house I would like to rent it out until my contract with the Army runs out in three years.

Would it be possible for me to do this? If so, could you let me know of any agents who would rent the house on my behalf?

■ Ask the resettlement officer who can advise over housing for those leaving the Service.

SB1 1986 Housing Services Resettlement Bulletin, obtainable from the education office, also contains helpful advice.

For details of houses in the Altrincham area, write to National Homes Network, Refuge House, Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2HL (tel: 0244 316695). They will send free details.

Also ask about reputable letting agents. Remember when you let, under Case 20 and Case 21 see Section 10 of SB1 1986.

# SERVICE with a big SMILE



MONCHENGLADBACH's Ayrshire Barracks Naafi families shop has won the European service B shop of the year award for 1986 – and DM400 prize money.

Manager Kevin Horsley who runs the shop with assistant manager Michael Melia and 14 full and part time staff, accepted the winners trophy and commemorative plaque from European service manager Peter

Lucas (far right) at a celebratory gathering in the shop.

The shop won its divisional heat of the competition in 1985 and Kevin said then the staff had worked hard to maintain a good relationship with customers and to ensure a high standard of service.

"I'm delighted we've won the award this year."

Col B C Bingle, CO command pay office at Fife Barracks, Monchengladbach, who is also chairman of the Monchengladbach station Naafi customer relations committee, was on hand to offer his congratulations.

The shop serves 23 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport in Ayrshire Barracks, Fife Barracks and Ordnance service in Viersen.

## Anne

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# WANTED: work for wives!

IN MY VIEW

ARMY wives in Germany are bottom of the league when it comes to getting a job. For the latest survey from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS), shows they and their UK-based sisters lag way behind every age group of working civvy wives.

The General Household Survey splits working women into five age groups between 20 and 59 with no group showing less than 50 per cent in jobs.

The group with the largest number working is the 35-44 age bracket with 69 per cent, and the lowest

the 55-59 group with 50 per cent in work.

Unfortunately the figures do not differentiate between full and part-time employment, but as only 27 per cent of Service wives manage to find a job in Germany, it's safe to say they and their families are being discriminated against, since there is no reason to believe that Army wives want to work less than civilian wives.

The Equal Opportunities Commission also report in

their latest account on the problems and difficulties faced by Service wives who want and need a job.

Coupled with a recent survey of women's employment, the report clearly demonstrates that most women have a lifetime attachment to employment, but that bringing up baby has a major and permanent impact on their pattern of employment.

For Service wives there is the added problem of turbulence encountered by

constant moving, many to countries where work is not allowed, which does not help a wife contribute to the family income which today is vital.

And the fact is a soldier's pay is insufficient to compensate for this loss.

Coupled with a recent survey of women's employment, the report clearly demonstrates that most women have a lifetime attachment to employment, but that bringing up baby has a major and permanent impact on their pattern of reference.

The Commission has

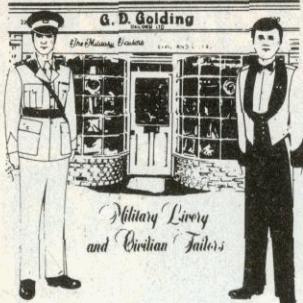
recognised from the outset

a decade ago that work and the family were inextricably linked.

With so few wives able to find jobs, many soldiers face extra financial burdens created by the loss of a wife's earnings and, unless the AFPRB starts to take this into account, wives will be forced to stay in the UK despite the official policy of accompanied service. They just won't be able to afford to go abroad!

I'd be interested in readers' comments on this.

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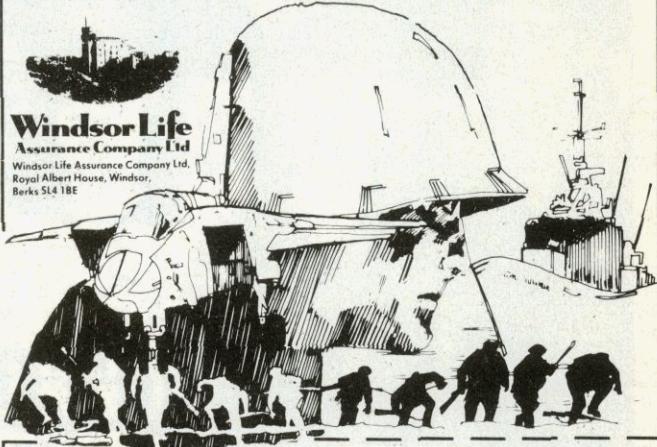
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Writer Mervyn Wynne Jones and photographer Paul Haley have visited BAOR's Rear Combat Zone. In the following pages and in our next issue they report on some of the units they found in:

# THE TUBE

KNOWN as the bread basket of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), the Rear Combat Zone – a vast chunk of industrial Germany with the Ruhr as its heartland – is home to many units whose role in both peace and war is the replenishment of forward combat units.

Bounded north and south by allies along NATO's central front, the Rear Combat Zone (RCZ) is the middle segment of the area of British operational responsibility stretching from the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam to the East German border.

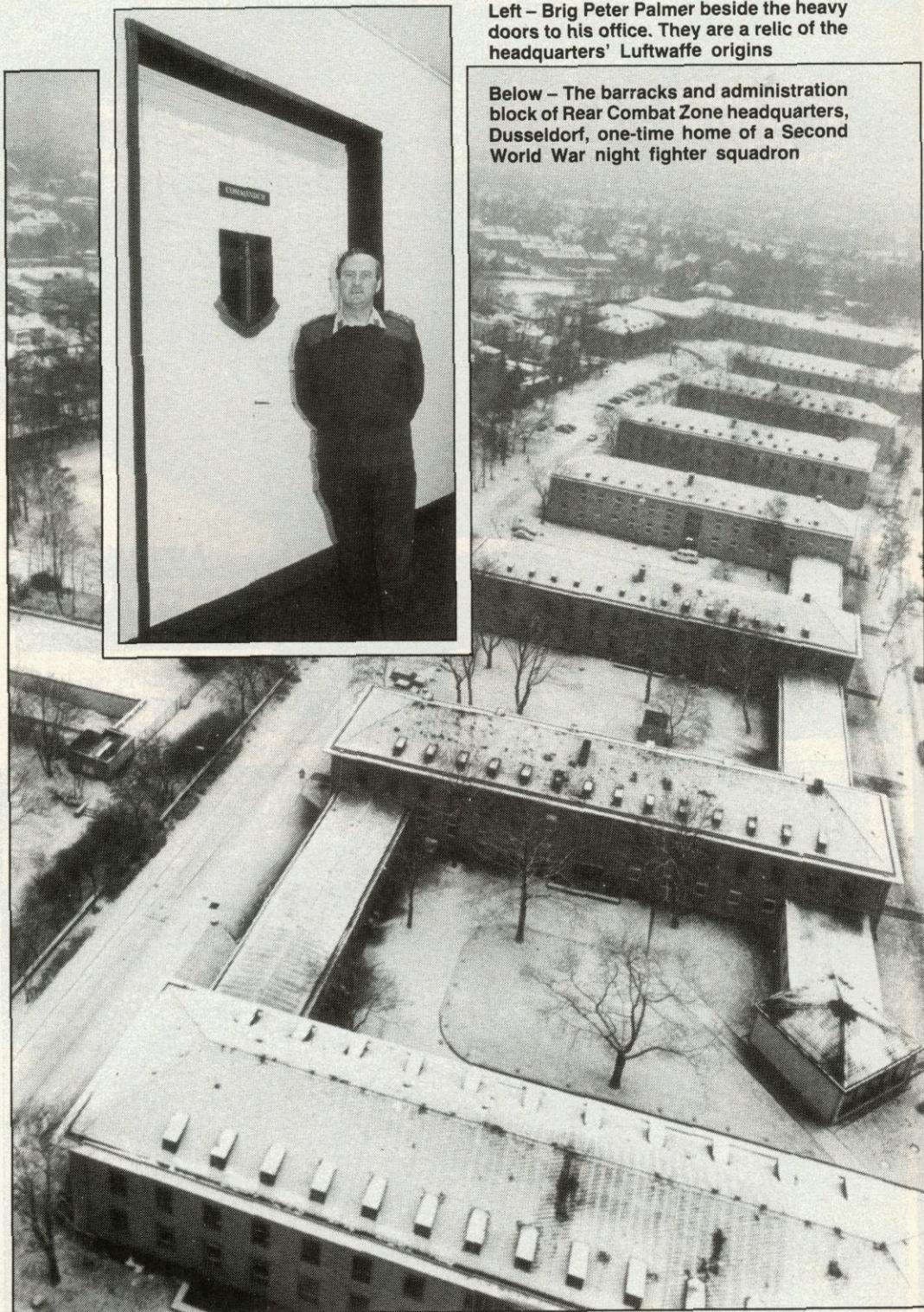
Referred to as 'the tube' because of its shape, its cutting-edge is 1 (BR) Corps whose reinforcement and replenishment area is the RCZ. Behind the RCZ and stretching across the Netherlands and Belgium is the Communications Zone (BR).

The RCZ contains all that is essential for support in war of the Forward Combat Zone – 1 (BR) Corps – and its headquarters is at the former Second World War Luftwaffe air base at Dusseldorf.

Commanded by Brig Peter Palmer, the RCZ is home to a military population of 20,000, including 6,000 in uniform, 8,000 dependants and 6,000 civilians working for the Army.

There are more than 100 different units in the zone manning some of the biggest storage depots in the Army. The RCZ is the lynchpin between the FCZ and the Communications Zone and the bulk of material dispatched from the UK via the channel ports is processed here.

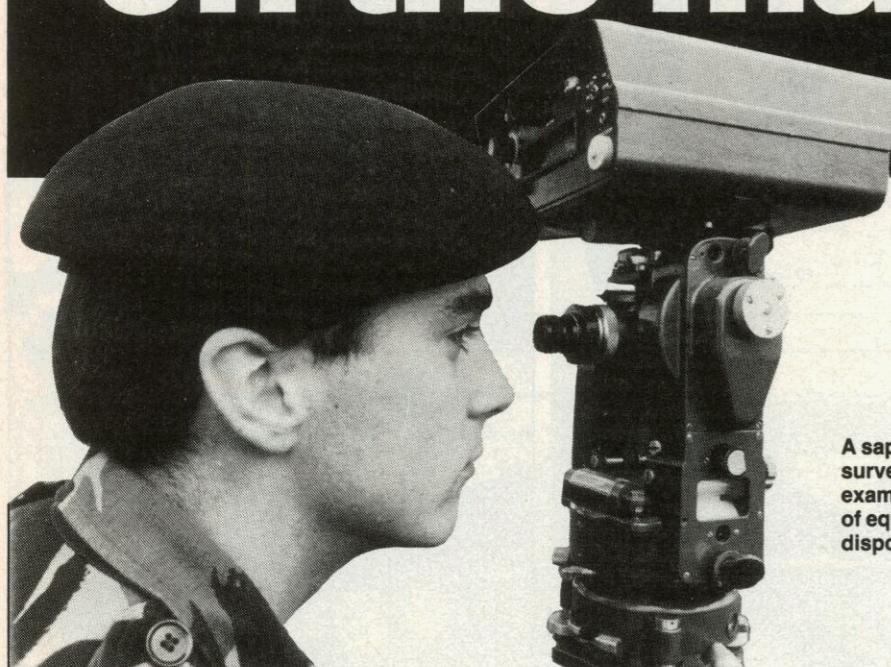
In time of war the zone would act as a reception and deployment area for reserves and reinforcements and for the rearward movement of all non-combatants and casualties.



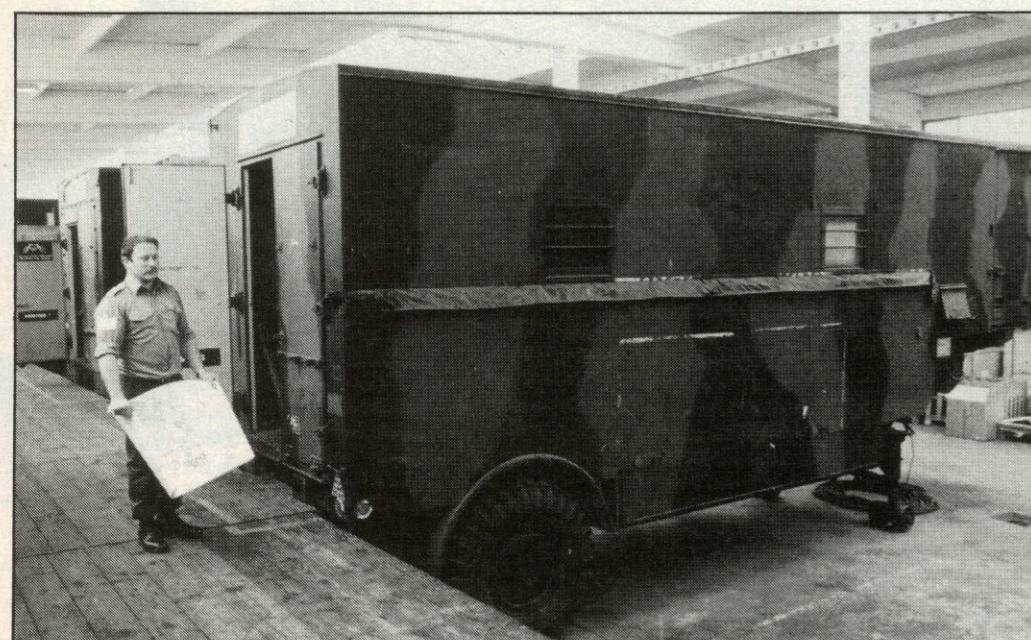
Left – Brig Peter Palmer beside the heavy doors to his office. They are a relic of the headquarters' Luftwaffe origins

Below – The barracks and administration block of Rear Combat Zone headquarters, Dusseldorf, one-time home of a Second World War night fighter squadron

# They're putting BAOR on the map

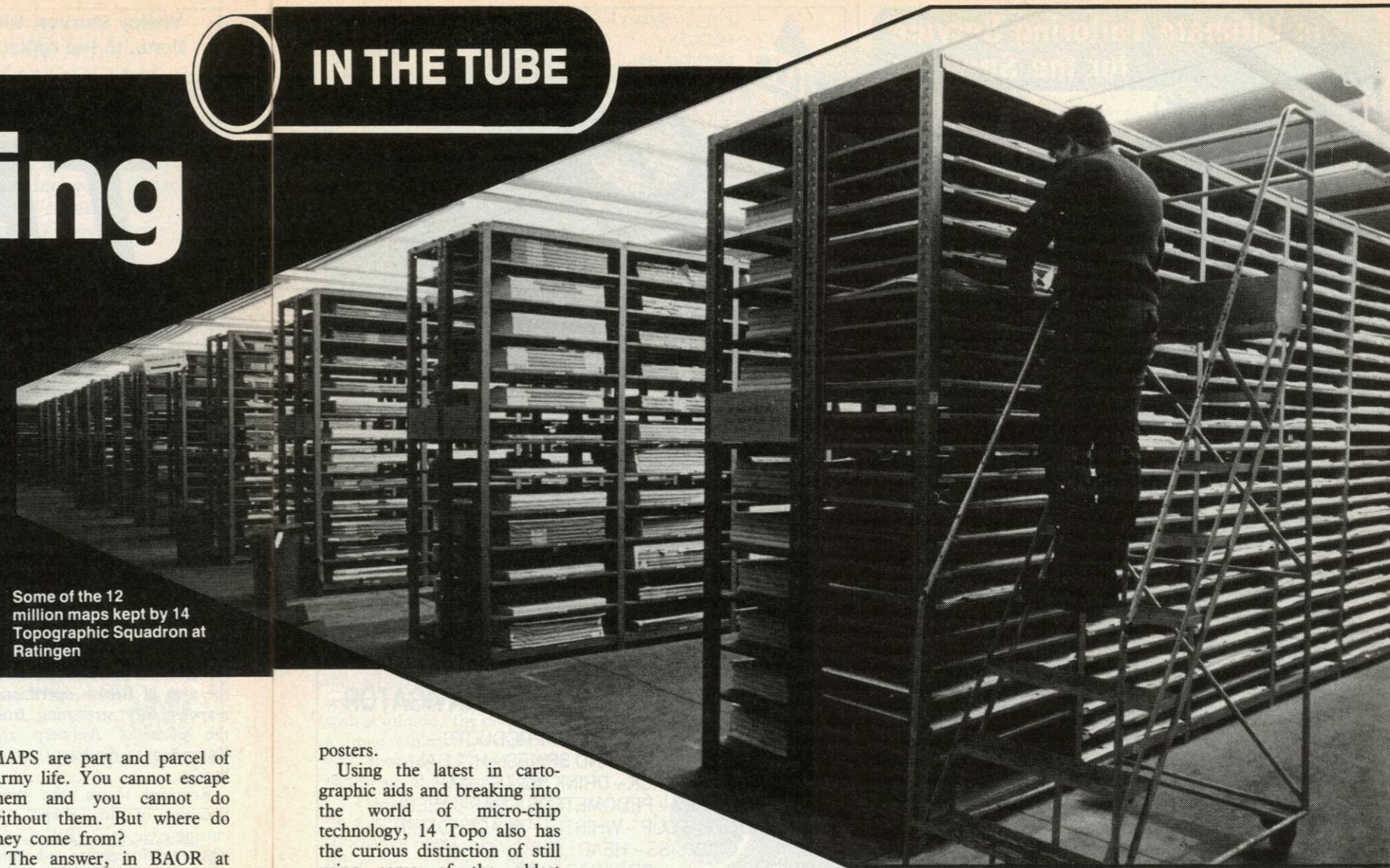


A sapper of the field survey troop with an example of the array of equipment at his disposal



The veteran semi-trailers which first saw service with the BEF and which today still house two printing presses

## IN THE TUBE



Some of the 12 million maps kept by 14 Topographic Squadron at Ratingen

MAPS are part and parcel of Army life. You cannot escape them and you cannot do without them. But where do they come from?

The answer, in BAOR at least, is 14 Topographic Squadron, RE, based at Ratingen near Dusseldorf. They have more than 12 million on their shelves!

Providing mapping and survey support to the whole of BAOR and the RAF in Germany, 14 Topo boasts a wide variety of talent among its establishment of just under 100 men.

The men of map supply troop are responsible for issuing maps in peace and war. They have 12 million at their disposal and about six million pass through their hands each year.

During Exercise Lionheart more than two million were issued. Stocks are replenished from UK and German sources and in time of war the troop would spread across the whole of Germany in its map supply vehicles which each contains many thousands of maps.

The reproduction troop is made up of cartographic draughtsmen and other technicians who have the capability of producing their own maps, overprinting tactical formation details on to others and printing a variety of documents and

posters.

Using the latest in cartographic aids and breaking into the world of micro-chip technology, 14 Topo also has the curious distinction of still using some of the oldest equipment in the Army.

Until 1981 the entire reproduction troop was housed in cumbersome semi-trailers dating to the 1940s when they were used by the British Expeditionary Force cartographers.

Even today the troop's two Heidelberg printing presses are in two of these trailers, although plans are well underway to house the remainder of the troop in specially converted premises at Ratingen.

The troop has four NBC-proof Taciprint vehicles which are essentially miniaturised production facilities housed in box-bodied four-tonners. Each has a drawing table and the photographic and chemical means of producing plates which can then be used to print maps in a mini-press also within the vehicle.

Every two years the RAF fly over the whole of BAOR and make a photo-montage of the landscape. Details gleaned from these photographs and from German authorities mean the troop can update maps with details of new roads and the like.

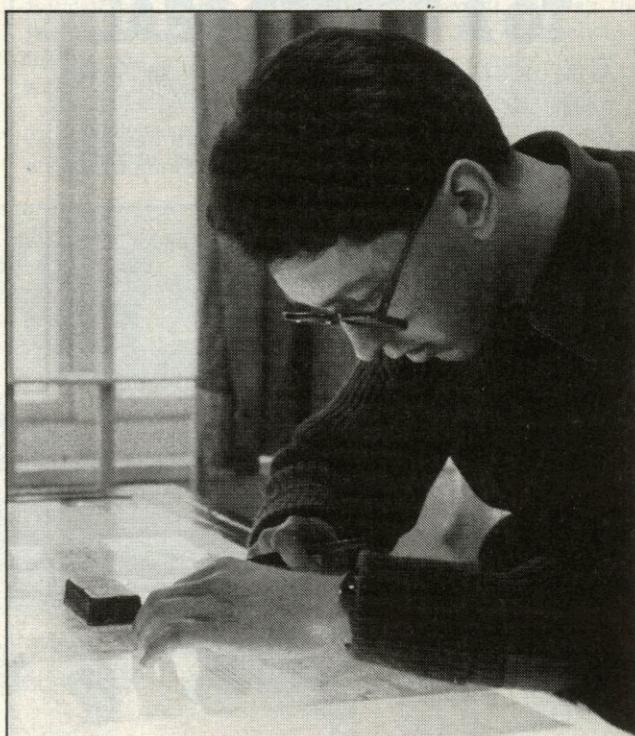
## 12,000,000 and still counting

14 Topo produces about one million maps a year. The work revolves around specialist demand which means that print runs are often small. Exercise formations are overprinted on maps produced by and bought in bulk from the Germans.

"We are data portrayers," said one officer, "and we specialise in the technology of symbology." However you phrase it there is no doubting that theirs is a vital role demanding pinpoint accuracy.

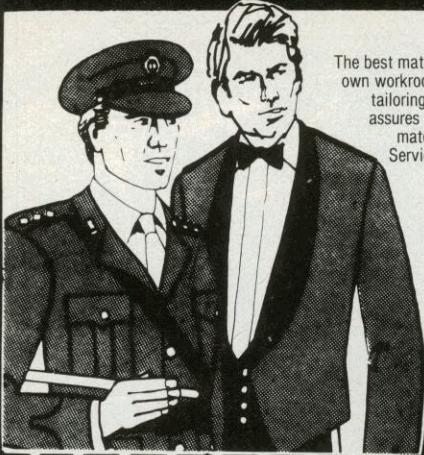
The third troop is the field survey troop whose surveyors are called upon by various units to help in the siting of equipment, such as gunners with their artillery sound ranging equipment.

14 Topo is also called upon to help out in other ways such as terrain analysis. A formation headquarters can draw on the knowledge of the squadron in assessing the effect on mobility of different types of landscape and geographic features.



Eyes down for a full house, but no margin for error on this job – a cartographic draughtsman at work

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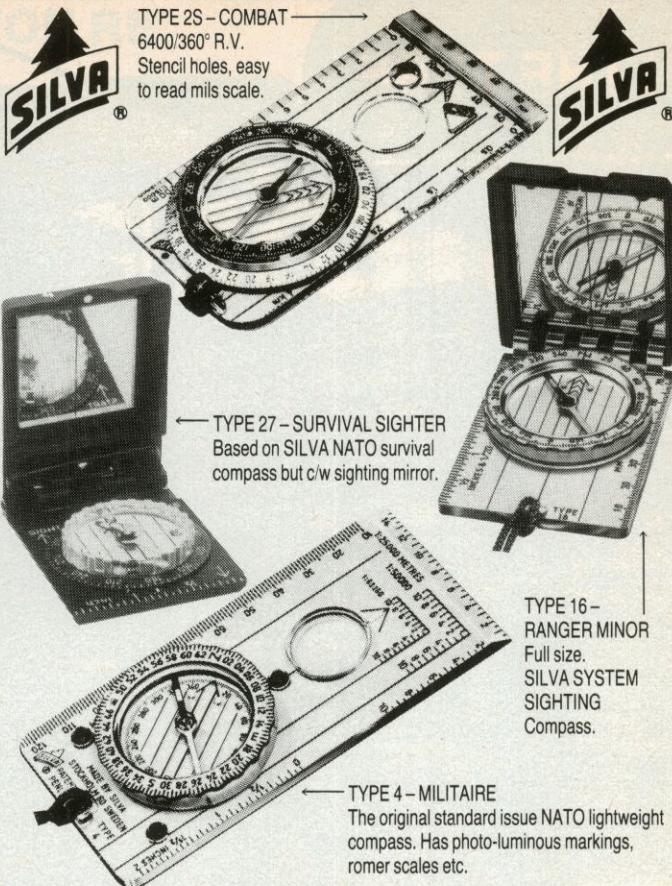
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All students together - LCpls Simon Abbott and Louise McDonald and, right, Lt Col John Farmbrough, RE, who is to become liaison officer at the Bundeswehr engineering school, Munich.

PUZZLING over the intricacies of German grammar, a colonel and a corporal tackled yet another tongue twister in adjoining cubicles of the language laboratory.

"It is probably one of the only settings in the Army where senior officers genuinely note with admiration the progress of a junior ranker in comparison with themselves," said course instructor Maj David Syme.

"Younger minds often pick up a language more quickly," added Maj Syme, "and we get rid of the problem of rank by calling them Herr or Frau - it is essentially a meritocracy here."

The Higher Education Centre (Germany) at Mulheim north of Dusseldorf provides facilities for the whole of BAOR and is commanded by Lt Col Keith Hardwick, a master of 12 tongues and language officer for seven years with the SAS.

He describes the centre as a

# Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

IN THE TUBE

three-legged stool with a language department specialising in post-colloquial courses, an officer-educating department offering promotional courses, and a technical education department providing upgrading courses for R Sigs and REME tradesmen.

Language courses of 14 months are run at the centre for

all ranks whose next appointment requires a fluent knowledge of German - such as members of the Royal Army Educational Corps about to become tutors themselves, the intelligence corps, and others acting as liaison officers.

Students on the 14 months course spend three weeks with a German family in an attempt

to immerse them completely in their new tongue. Relations with the local community are very good, said Lt Col Hardwick.

Maj Syme, former commander of the Chinese school in Hong Kong and a fluent Mandarin speaker, added: "We want them to enjoy their stay here and we prefer them to be residential because then they have no distractions during their evening studies."

The Mulheim centre writes and devises its own courses and has been tasked by Director Army Training to introduce a new level of German tuition half way between colloquial and linguist level to cater specifically for the Army liaison officers dealing with the Bundeswehr. This will be trialled this year.

The Higher Education Centre at Mulheim has its roots in the College of the Rhine Army established in the University of Gottingen in 1945 to provide pre-release courses for all ranks in academic, commercial and technical subjects.

On completion of demobilisation its role changed to that of providing facilities to higher education.

In 1950 it moved to Hannover, 1951 to Hamburg, 1954 to Hohne, 1965 to Dortmund and 1970 to Mulheim. In 1966 it was retitled Higher Education Centre (Germany).

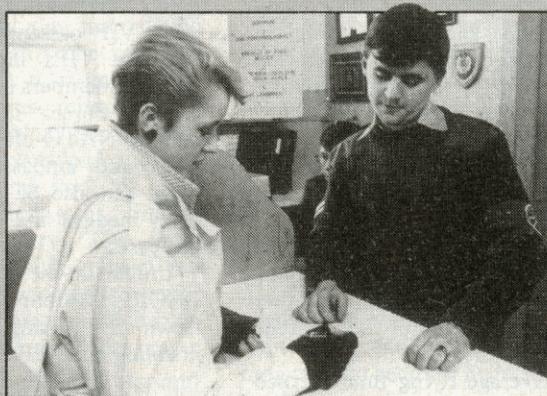
## FAST MOVERS

**BAD** weather can play havoc with the best laid plans. No one in the Dusseldorf based air movements section of 2 Group, RCT, would disagree with that statement.

For handling more than 30,000 inward and outward bound passengers each year at the city's international airport means 2 Group are no strangers to coping with diverted military flights.

There have been days when they have had to process many hundreds of unscheduled passengers. Manning the air trooping centre day and night, their watchword has to be flexibility.

● Turn to Page 36



"It's an interesting job and I enjoy meeting people" - 2 Group air mover Cpl Nick Pidgley signs in another passenger

# Wildenrath's Army signallers keep RAF base on the air

CLOSE links have been forged between 21 Signal Regiment (Air Supporting) and their Royal Air Force hosts at Wildenrath, one of the four RAF front line airfields in Germany.

The regiment has been directly supporting the RAF for almost three decades in a wide variety of roles.

Although based at RAF Wildenrath, the regiment provides troops for communications support at other air bases. The regiment's administration centres on Wildenrath where the headquarters squadron is based.

The 21 Signal Regiment (Air Supporting) also has

four other squadrons.

1 Squadron, which this year is changing over from the Bruin command communications system to Ptarmigan, provides part of the Rear Combat Zone communication net. Two troops are normally in the field in the Eifel and Sauerland regions.

2 Squadron provides field communications for the RAF Harrier squadrons in Germany and whenever the Harrier force deploys the signallers go with it. They use the standard Ptarmigan system.

Traditionally an air forming unit, 3 Squadron dates back to the days

when the R Sigs went overseas with the RAF to provide on base communications facilities.

Troops from 3 Squadron are based at each of the RAF forward airfields at Wildenrath, Bruggen, Laarbruch and Gutersloh.

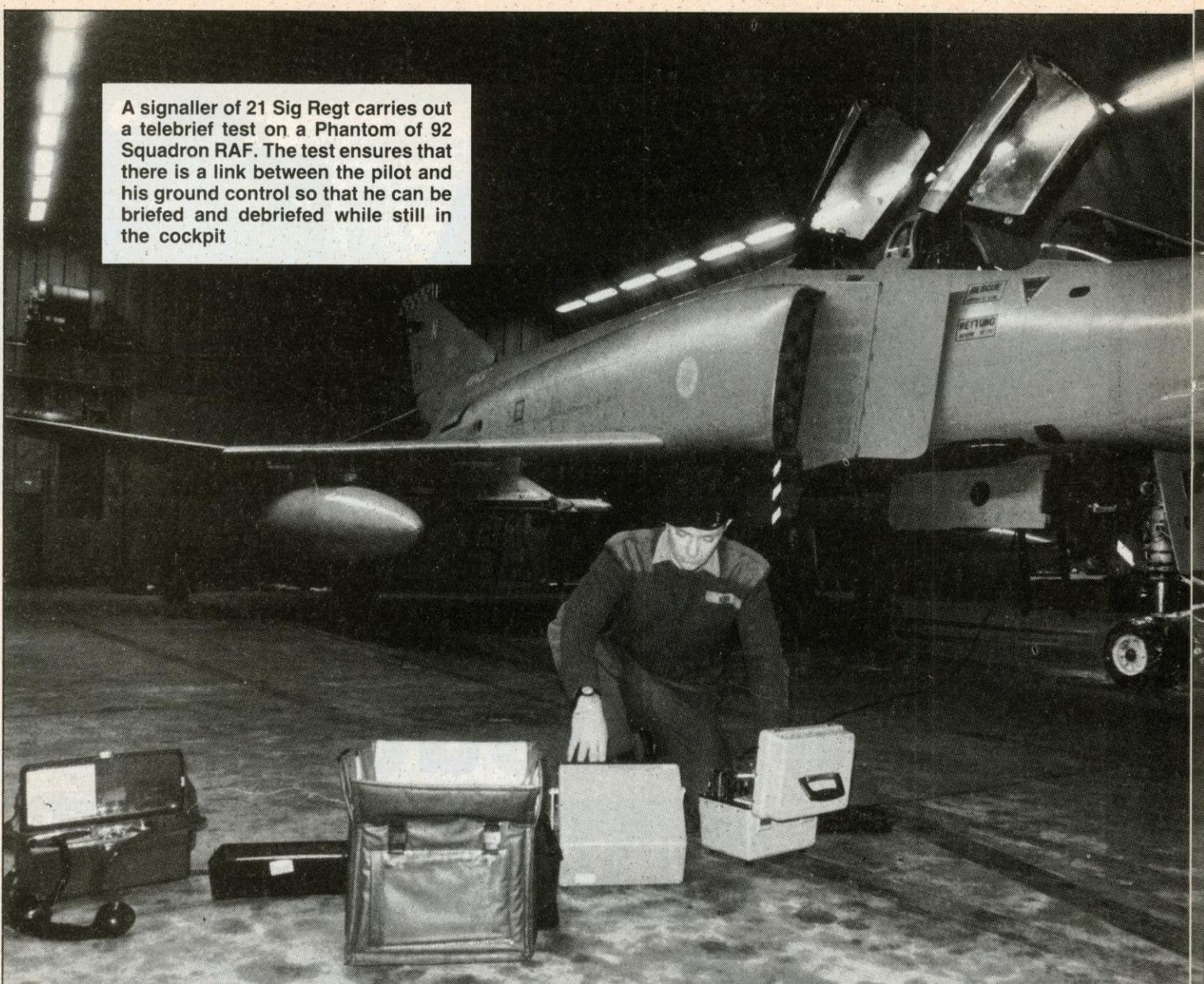
While 2 Squadron are deploying with the Harrier force, 4 Squadron supply a combat radio net in the field for 18 Squadron (Chinook) RAF and 230 Squadron (Puma) RAF, again deploying with them when necessary.

2 and 4 Squadrons, 21 Sig Regt, are currently moving back to RAF Wildenrath from Osnabrück where they have been split from the unit for four years.

Maj David Dobson, 2IC, who is succeeded this month by Maj Christopher Donaghy, said: "We are integrated entirely within the RAF and the very nature of the job means we are kept on our toes, operationally attuned to live communications problems."



A signaller of 21 Sig Regt carries out a telebrief test on a Phantom of 92 Squadron RAF. The test ensures that there is a link between the pilot and his ground control so that he can be briefed and debriefed while still in the cockpit



## Why the VIP flight is the best posting



WITH Europe as their playground and flying time in plenty, it is little wonder that postings to 12 Flight Army Air Corps are much in demand.

Based at RAF Wildenrath, 12 Flight is the only dedicated VIP passenger flight in the Army.

A close-knit unit of just 26 men including OC Maj Stephen Murray-Twinn and four other pilots, it operates four Gazelle helicopters.

Average flying time accrued by each of the five pilots is 3,000 hours - 1,000 hours is generally considered to be good

going - and each is qualified to carry VIP passengers.

Those VIPs include high-ranking members of the British Armed Forces in Germany, visiting NATO officers, politicians and ambassadors. The flight can also be called on to carry medical and compassionate cases.

Unlike in the remainder of BAOR, the four Gazelles are flown by a single crewman enabling the VIP to sit beside him and the aide-de-camp and bodyguard to sit in the rear.

Sorties take them as far west as the UK, northwards to

Denmark, eastward to the inner German border and southwards to the Mediterranean.

Extra navigational aids mean that the job of the crewman is made a little easier. If necessary he can fly on instruments alone in poor conditions.

Maj Murray-Twinn told SOLDIER: "As far as I am concerned it is the best posting in the Army. We are independent, I run the flight by myself, we do our own tasking and the whole of Europe is our area of operation.

"Working in a fairly informal



No respite from the cold as ground crewmen refuel one of the flight's four Gazelle helicopters

## in the Army...

but professional atmosphere, it is an excellent opportunity to improve flying accuracy and standards. All my pilots ask for extensions."

When a sortie request is made, the flight offers a definite yes or no depending on weather conditions and sometimes a 50/50 option when the forecast is uncertain. In the case of the latter it gives the VIP the chance to arrange alternative transport.

Having accepted a sortie the pilots must make sure they get their passengers to their destination precisely on time.

Each pilot is responsible for his own flight plan and must do his own weather checks. If he has not been to a landing site before he must rehearse it.

The three NCO pilots get the bulk of the workload and Maj Murray-Twinn and his 2IC, Capt Charlie Grant, fill in where necessary. The flight operates on a minimum of two airworthy helicopters so that if there is a last-minute hiccup with one the pilot can jump straight into another.

SSgt Frank Walker enthused: "There's no doubt it is a superb job but there is quite a

lot of responsibility attached to it. There is a lot of air traffic in Germany and fast jets generally fly between 500 and 1,500 feet so we try and avoid this band of sky."

The flight is not posted to either the Falkland Islands or Northern Ireland and does not deploy on major exercises.

Based at RAF Wildenrath, 12 Flight has built up strong links with the RAF who help out with a variety of engineering tasks to keep the helicopters airborne.

The flight is also the main watering hole for most Army



Planning a route for his latest sortie - SSgt Frank Walker

helicopters flying to Germany from the UK, when the formalities of customs checks are seen to and refuelling and flight plan facilities made available.



ALMOST forgotten nowadays is the fact that only 20 years ago, on March 29, 1967, the Army's last operational Auster AOP 9 - WZ 721 - retired from flying duty, heralding the end of an era of mainly fixed-wing flying in favour of rotary winged operations. The age of the helicopter was dawning.

Robust, manoeuvrable at low level and adept at its roles of recce, contact patrols, supply dropping, target marking and liaison flying, the Auster's demise was hurried along by the advent of the Scout AH 1.

The Auster AOP Mk 9 made its maiden flight on March 19, 1954, powered by a Blackburn Cirrus Bombar-dier 180 hp engine. The Mk 9 was an airframe boasting larger flaps than its predecessors, drooping ailerons, greater wing area, dorsal fin and a new undercarriage.

First deliveries of the last mark of the Auster AOP started in 1955 quickly replacing AOP 6s which had seen active service in Malaya with 656 Sqn (an RAF unit until the Army Air Corps formation in 1957) which logged up 22,000 hours' operational flying that year.

On the formation of the AAC in 1957 the Auster AOP 9s were transferred from the RAF to the corps which was, at the time, a largely fixed-wing force.

A large order, however, for the turbine-powered Scout AH 1 was placed in September 1960 just before delivery of the last of the

# THE PLANE THAT MADE WAY FOR THE HELICOPTER

historic Auster line into military service. In all, 145 Austers of this variant were built.

The Auster Mk 9 was the first real three-seater of this type. The radio, hitherto

by  
Graham Smith

mounted beside the pilot in earlier marks, was installed near the instrument panel.

If the Auster had one shortcoming it was that its engine was inadequately powered for hot climates and at high density altitudes such as in East Africa and in the Western Aden Protectorate.

Its venerable lineage began in February 1940 when 100 Taylorcraft D/1s were ordered for the RAF and became known as the

## Auster Mk 1.

The first production aircraft flew on May 7, 1942, followed by a move to Algeria, North Africa for Operation Torch.

CO of the unit, 651 Sqn, was Maj Charles Bazeley, formerly secretary of the 1934-vintage Royal Artillery Flying Club at Larkhill. Major Bazeley later won a DSO.

Eleven AOP squadrons had been formed by 1943. The Mk 2 prototype first flew on September 28, 1942, the Mk 3 on December 30. Nearly 470 Mk 3s were built, with 654 Sqn as the first users.

The Mk 4 first flew on May 3, 1943 and 254 of these were built. Production of 780 Mk 5s started in May 1944. In all, there were 16 Auster AOP squadrons active during the Second World War commanded,

usually, by Royal Artillery majors.

Until VJ-Day 1945, 594 officers were trained as Auster AOP pilots, 61 of them killed while flying - nine of these from "own goal" firing. And 118 received bravery awards.

The first of 312 Mk 6s emerged in early 1946, deliveries ending in March 1953. They served operationally in Korea, Suez, Eritrea, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Malaya.

A total of 77 Auster T/Mk 7s, two-seat, dual control trainer versions of the AOP 6 were made.

As one Army veteran commented on the remarkable AOP: "Army flying was Auster flying from 1942 to 1957".

● Footnote: Auster AOP 9 - WZ 721 - now hangs with pride of place in the Museum of Army Flying.



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## The new Sierra LX.

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create a roomier feeling.

While redesigned seat backs and new head restraints give everyone much better visibility.

Overall effect?

An even better Sierra in every way.

\*Measured by the VDA method.

<sup>t</sup>Ford computed figures.

The new Sierra Sapphire shown here is obviously the biggest news. But there's even more besides.

All Sierra's have height adjustable front seat belt mounts for greater comfort.

Self search stereo radio cassette with six speakers – yes, even on the L.

From the LX up, tilting/sliding sunroofs.

And high security locks on all models – just as well with all those features.

Engines? 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 or 2.0 with electronic fuel injection.

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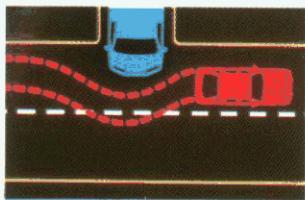
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\*Ford computed figures.

the available grip. So if you ever have to really stand on the brakes, they could help you steer safely out of trouble. They're now



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Self-levelling suspension.



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available on every model in the Sierra range.

Second, an electrically heated windscreen (developed from aircraft technology). It achieves rapid de-icing on frosty

mornings and can also help in freezing fog. Clearly a good idea. It's available on all fuel injected models and the 2.0 GL.

Third, headlamp wash/wipers. A very practical option this, available on GL's and above.

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to members of HM forces.

So, if you haven't seen the 1987 Sierras yet, come and see them soon.

The Hatchback, the Estate and now the Sierra Sapphire Saloon.

For full details race down to your Ford dealer in the UK, your local Naafi car sales showroom in Germany; Naafi, Nottingham or Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset.

#### **The 2.8i Sierra Ghia 4x4 Estate.**

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Loads of performance with loads of space (51.8 cu. ft†). Optional black paint.

Other Estates are available with 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 and 2.0 EFi petrol engines or a 2.3 diesel.

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\*Ford computed figures.

†Measured by the VDA method.



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# DEATH OF A REGIMENT

A FAMOUS British regiment which has had no soldiers for just over 18 years but boasts an illustrious 229-year history studded with heroes will officially cease to exist at the end of this month. It is The York and Lancaster Regiment, writes Graham Smith.

The regiment was officially disbanded ten years ago on December 14, 1968, when the first 1st Battalion and its brother battalion, the 2nd, had their Colours laid up in Sheffield Cathedral.

Earlier, the regiment with its distinctive Royal Tiger and Union Rose – affectionately dubbed the Cat and Cabbage – cap badge had exercised its freedom of Sheffield, Barnsley, Pontefract and Rotherham, the latter now the home of the regimental museum.

It was a regiment which produced its share of heroes. Its 22 battalions from the First World War won 59 battle honours – more than any other regiment. Its men won four Victoria Crosses.

In the Second World War its ten battalions earned 55 honours, including one VC.

The battle honour "Arabia" is unique to the regiment and was awarded for operations against pirates in the Persian Gulf between 1810 and 1821.

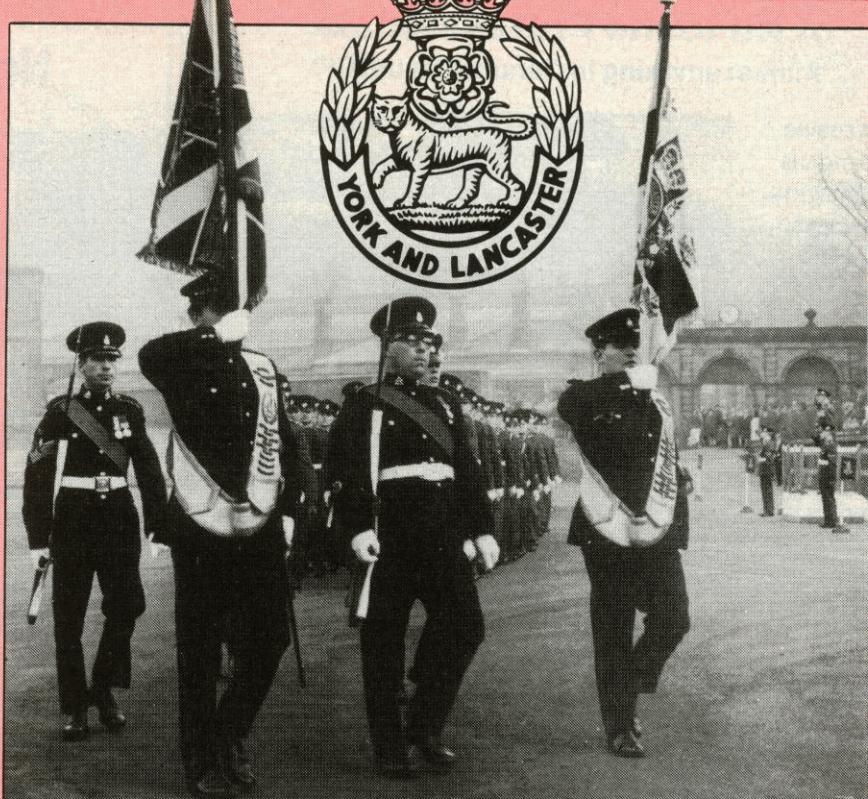
From the Indian Mutiny of 1857 to the present day, men of The York and Lancasters won 13 VCs, six of them during Gen Havelock's march to the relief of Cawnpore and Lucknow between July and September 1857.

The regiment had the unique honour of a Salute of Guns from Fort William, Calcutta, on its departure from India two years later.

It recorded 19 years' continuous service in New Zealand from 1846 during the Maori Wars when two VCs were won.

The regiment was even shipwrecked twice – in 1761 and 1897!

It took part in the Dunkirk evacuation, the opposed landings by sea in two Norwegian fiords, the invasion of Sicily, action on two Italian beach heads, D-plus-Four in Normandy, the parachute attack and withdrawal from Crete, the first siege and break-out from Tobruk, the 1st Army landings in Tunisia, the 2nd Chindit operations in Burma,



The Colour Party of the now disbanded York and Lancaster Regt pictured for the last time in December 1968. The Colours were laid up in Sheffield Cathedral and the regiment has now been taken from the Active List and placed in the Disbanded Units section

## Curtain falls on Cat and Cabbage

the Suez operations of 1956, and the Arab revolts in Palestine (1936) and Aden (1958).

The regiment boasted 32 battle honours from 1758 to 1945, including actions in the West Indies, India, the Peninsular War, Arabia, New Zealand, Egypt, South Africa, the Western Front, Italy, Macedonia, Gallipoli, North Africa, Crete and Burma.

It also had seven nicknames and one of the oldest regimental journals in existence, the Tiger and Rose, first published 100 years ago on June 1, 1857.

The foundation stone for the regimental chapel was laid by Princess Royal on April 23, 1937, in St George's Chapel of Sheffield Cathedral.

The Roll of Honour books in the chapel contain the names of all those who fell in both world wars, 8,814 and 1,581 respectively.

Now the Regimental HQ is to be formally disbanded on March

31. Lt Col (Retd) John Pattison, is the president-elect of the regimental council which will maintain the current line of activities incorporating the 1,000-strong regimental association with reunions and functions filling the yearly calendars.

Maj (Retd) John Cooper, regimental secretary, said: "It will be a sad day for us all. An epilogue to centuries of glory and tradition. The regiment will be taken from the Active List of units and placed into the Disbanded Units section."

Since 1968 The York and Lancaster Regiment had maintained an official Colonel of the Regiment just in case the need should arise for its reformation.

Fittingly and not without sadness, the city of Sheffield honoured its former fighting sons with a farewell dinner attended by a cluster of top military brass and a host of civic dignitaries.

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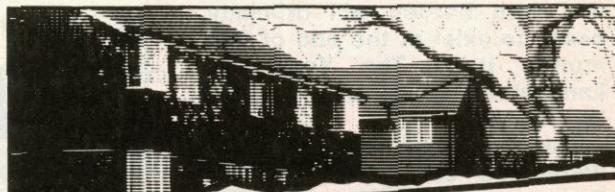
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# Death Railway tourism plan scrapped

● From Page 9

Army personnel, during the Far East campaign. Of these, 12,433 were killed or died in captivity, 10,298 of them soldiers.

In all, 29,968 Allies lost their lives, 6,252 were listed as missing, 16,529 wounded and 37,583 were repatriated.

Old soldiers, they say, never die. They simply fade away. But they don't forget either!

And nor do their widows, 70 per cent of whom have never re-married.

This year the Royal British Legion will be taking 70 war widows and a few

**More information about the Far East pilgrimages can be obtained from the Pilgrimages Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX, tel: 0622 77177.**

ex-Servicemen to Thailand to visit the two immaculately kept Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Kanchan Aburi and Chungkai.

Under the scheme the British Government meets most of the cost and the British Legion will fund the remainder if a widow is unable to find the money.

On the first pilgrimage of its kind to Thailand, subsidised war widows will pay just £104, while relatives and Far East veterans will pay £869 for the week-long visit.

They will see the River Kwai area about 90 minutes by road from Bangkok and site of the bridge made famous by Columbia Pictures Corporation and Alec Guinness.

"It's really quite difficult to know how the widows will react after so many years," said a British Legion spokesman. "A similar pilgrimage is planned to Burma in November over the Armistice period at a subsidised cost of £133 for war widows and a non-aided cost of £1,122.



The bridge which now spans the River Kwai

## Legion to lead Thai pilgrimage

The subsidised tariff run by the Legion in conjunction with the Government to Hong Kong and Japan runs at £169 and £1,438 respectively.

The idea of such war widow pilgrimages followed the success of excursions to the D-Day beaches of Normandy.

"It had become very clear to Mr John

Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, that there was going to be a great demand by war widows to visit their husbands' graves overseas," said the British Legion spokesman.

"It was decided that a five-year programme would start and the Legion would set up a system whereby the widows could travel at greatly reduced rates, an eighth of the total cost.

"Such visits are enormously emotional because of the tremendous time lapse, the very nature of their husbands' deaths or just because they want to see for themselves where their loved ones are actually buried and look at the headstones."

And of the survivors?

Mr Payne brought to SOLDIER's attention a scheme whereby Far East veterans could benefit by way of medical pension through the investigation of tropical diseases.

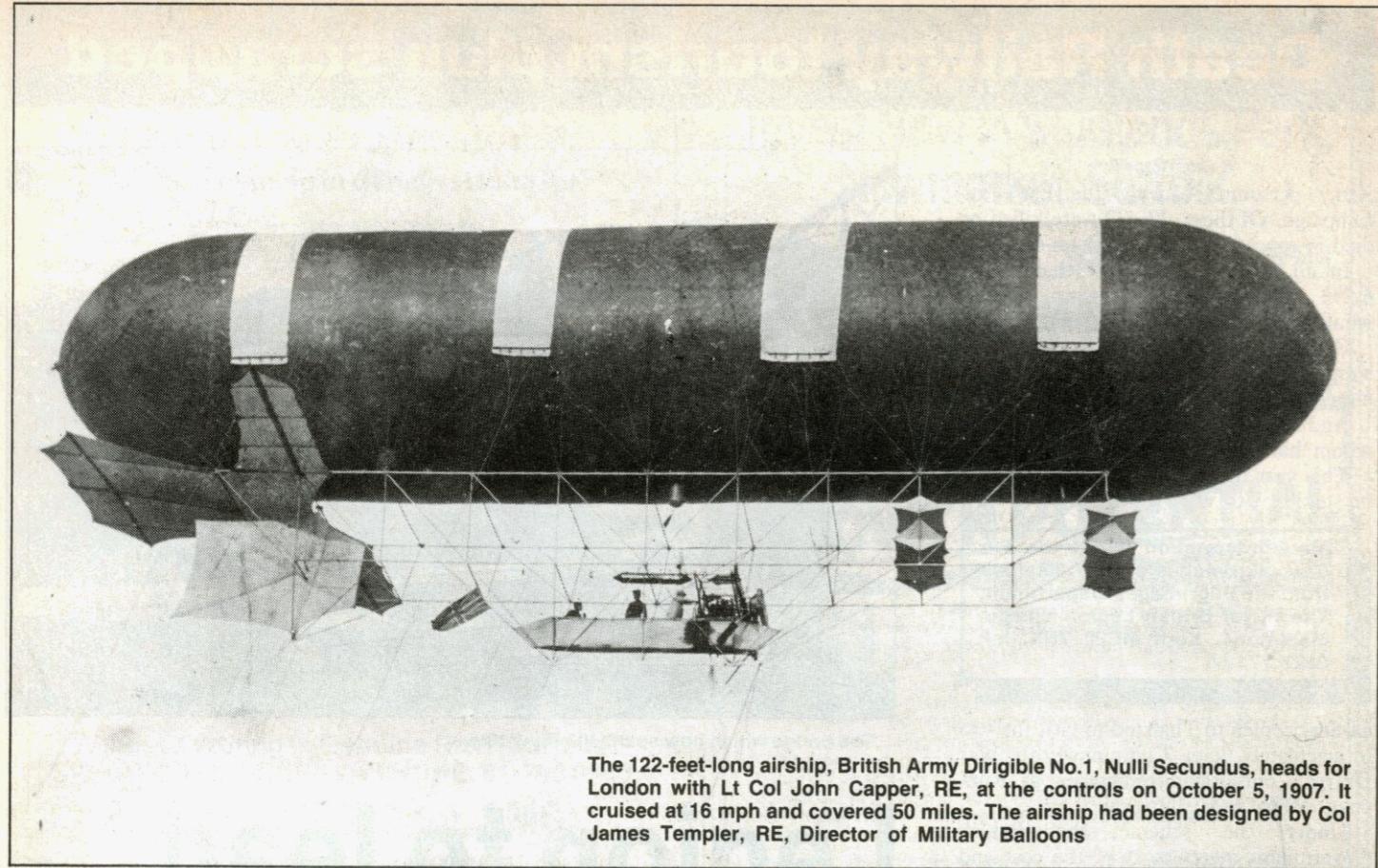
Applicants should write to the FEPOW Unit, DHSS, North Fylde Central Office (War Pensions), Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3TA.

Meanwhile, as the veterans delight at the scrapping of the planned tourist boom in the area where so many of their mates died so horribly, they will recall the Kohima Memorial epitaph:

"When You Go Home  
Tell Them Of Us  
For Your Tomorrow  
We Gave Our Today."



Chungkai cemetery, Thailand, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A total of 6,335 Commonwealth dead are buried both at Chungkai (three miles from the River Kwai Noi) and Kanchan Aburi on the Mekong River. Another 3,149 Commonwealth dead lie in the commission's Thanbyuzayat cemetery, Burma. Those dead from the "Death Railway" with no known graves are commemorated at cemeteries in Rangoon, Singapore and Hong Kong



The 122-feet-long airship, British Army Dirigible No.1, Nulli Secundus, heads for London with Lt Col John Capper, RE, at the controls on October 5, 1907. It cruised at 16 mph and covered 50 miles. The airship had been designed by Col James Templer, RE, Director of Military Balloons

# IT ALL STARTED WITH THE BALLOON SCHOOL

BEFORE the establishment of the Air Battalion Royal Engineers in 1911 the sappers had already acquired some "flying" experience from their Balloon School established at Chatham in 1888 following the campaigns in Bechuanaland (1884) and Sudan (1885) where three balloons – Fly, Heron and Spy – were used by Gen Sir Gerald Graham VC and Gen Sir Charles Warren, both ex-RE officers, for recce sorties.

The sappers had also been dabbling in aerial photography – forerunner of military survey. In August 1878, one Capt H Lee, RE, had been experimenting in the art at Woolwich Arsenal in a £150 hot air balloon appropriately called Pioneer.

A regular balloon section

was authorised in 1890, joining the sappers at Aldershot's South Camp. Two years later, the School of Ballooning and the Balloon Factory were set up on the Basingstoke Canal at Laffan's Plain near Farnborough.

Further expansion came in 1900. Three sections were sent to South Africa, operating for military observation at Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley, while a fourth balloon section joined the international force of British and Indian sappers who had occupied Peking during the Boxer Rebellion.

This section later moved to Rorke's Drift where an elephant provided a holdfast for the Bengal Sappers and Miners experimental balloon section!

After the Boer War, man-flying kites, improved balloons and airships were flown by sapper and infantry officers.

The Balloon Factory was moved in 1905 from the banks of the Basingstoke Canal to a less restricted site at Farnborough.

On October 5, 1907, Lt Col John Capper, RE, superintendent of the Balloon Factory, flew from Farnborough to London and round St Paul's Cathedral on a three-hour 25-minute flight in the 55,000-cubic-foot Nulli Secundus, one of three non-rigid airships he had helped to develop.

Col Capper was unable to make the return leg of the journey to Hampshire because of gusting headwinds and had to put down at Crystal Palace.

In 1908 the Farnborough establishment was known as His Majesty's Balloon Factory but was retitled the Army Aircraft Factory in April 1911.

It became the Royal Aircraft Factory in April the following year.

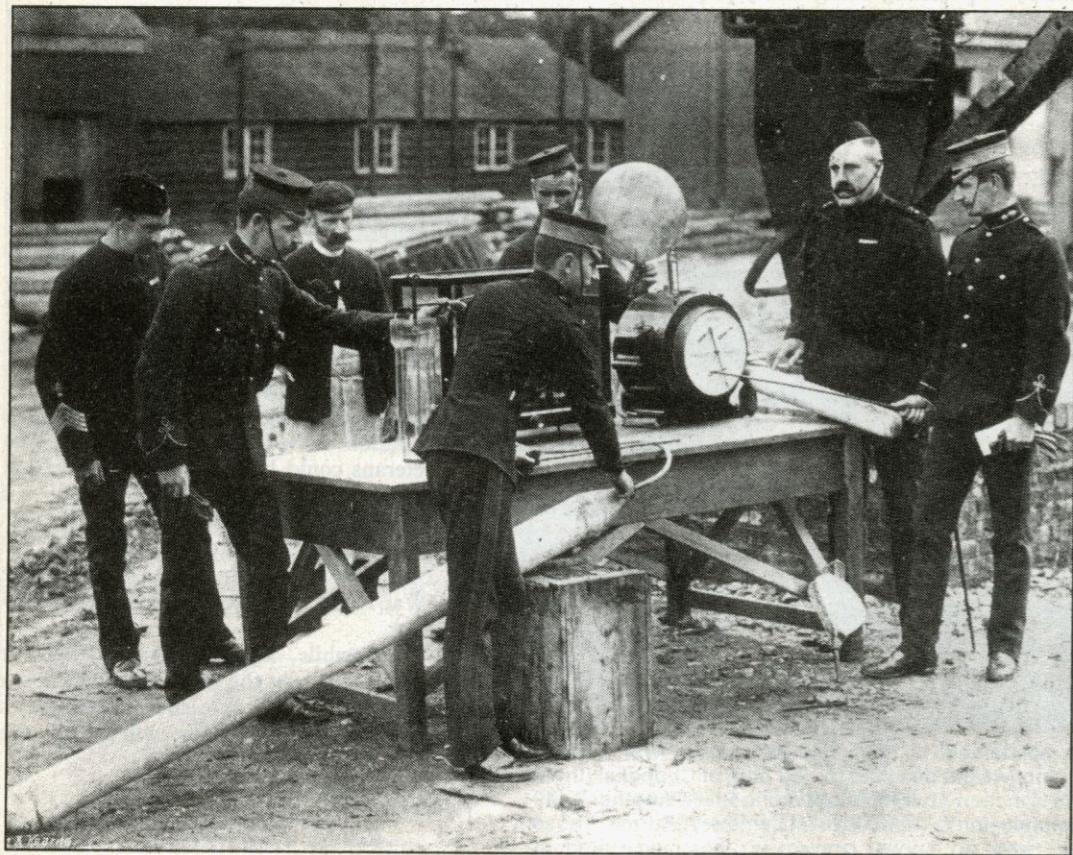
It was not until 1910 that another sapper officer, Lt Rex Cammell – uncle of the current Chief Royal Engineer, Gen Sir Hugh Beach – made the first official military flight in a Blériot.

The first military use of ground-to-air wireless telegraphy came the following year when a signal was sent on an airship flying 30 miles away.

The Balloon Factory of all those years ago, pioneered by the sappers, is today the Royal Aircraft Establishment.

# THE FLYING SAPPERS

by  
Graham  
Smith



Men of the RE Balloon Factory testing the quality of gas

TODAY's Royal Engineers, for the most part, keep their feet based firmly on the ground, but 76 years ago next month there came into being another type of military engineer – the flying sapper.

A body of men known as the Air Battalion Royal Engineers formed on April 1, 1911, as a group of experts ready to take to the battlefield with the troops.

Their formation was the result of a War Office move to extend the scope of Farnborough's Balloon Factory, thereby giving air experience to those sapper officers interested in flying.

The Air Battalion comprised 14 officers and 150 soldiers and was organised into two companies, one for kites and balloons at Farnborough, the other for aircraft at Larkhill, Wilts.

The first CO of the battalion was Maj Sir Alexander Bannerman, RE.

From its very outset the Air Battalion suffered setbacks with aircraft and manpower

# THE FLYING SAPPERS

shortages, particularly trained pilots and observers.

Those airframes made available to the sapper airmen were slow, cumbersome and of mixed manufacture.

One was a damaged, time-expired Blériot sent to the Farnborough factory for repairs.

It was better than nothing. Permission to "mod" it was obtained by unofficial means and the Blériot duly returned to service as an airworthy biplane similar to a type produced by Alberto Santos-Dumont, the pioneer Brazilian airman.

Times were hard for the embryo Air Battalion Royal Engineers. The Duke of Westminster, in sympathy, parted with an ageing Voisin pusher biplane for the unit's benefit.

That aircraft emerged from a factory facelift as a tractor biplane powered by a 60 hp Renault engine and was dubbed the SE 1 – the Blériot Experimental!

It sired a well-known line of production variants before

crashing to its earthbound demise three years later in January 1915.

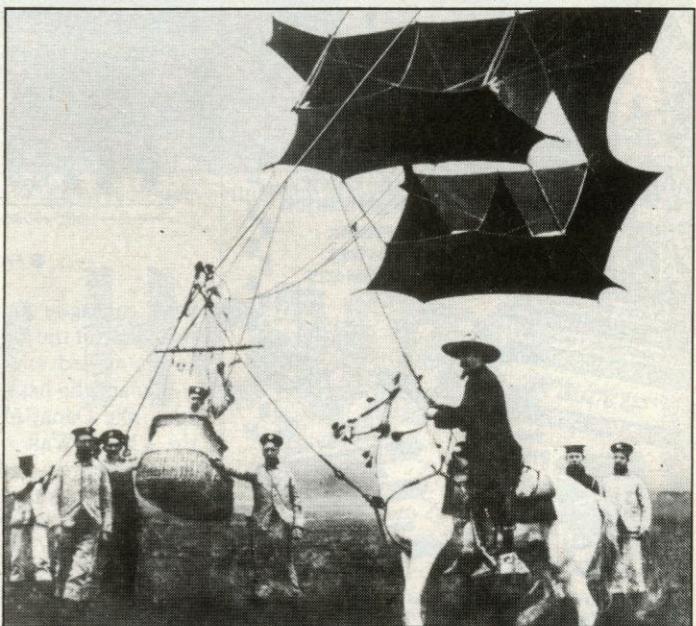
By then the role of the Air Battalion Royal Engineers had become more clearly defined. Its sole function was recce flying.

This, however, was not acceptable to the forward-thinking sappers of the day. A group of them, dedicated aerial aficionados who wanted to fly, had been across the Channel and there seen, on manoeuvres, some 200 aircraft in service. The British had a mere dozen.

The French were using their aircraft for artillery fire control and even aerial photography.

Impetus was given to the value of air power by lessons picked up from the war in Tripoli between Italy and Turkey. There was, it was agreed, a need for some sort of national military air force. But that could only be as good as its ground back-up.

It set Britain, and the sappers, thinking about the future development of aerial navigation for both naval and



Texas cowboy, one Samuel Franklin Cody, complete with stetson, supervises the flight of a man-carrying kite. Cody later died in an air crash during his pioneering days of airmanship

military purposes.

The Air Battalion Royal Engineers had sown the seeds for the formation by Royal Warrant on April 13, 1912, of the Royal Flying Corps.

The first aircraft lost in the First World War, an Avro, just three weeks after its outbreak, on August 22, 1914, was from 5 Squadron and piloted by a sapper, Lt C Bayley.

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● From Page 23

Normally they cope with about six inward and outward bound flights each week. Passengers passing through the air trooping centres include the usual flow of Servicemen, VIPs, children returning from or going to school, other dependents and a variety of UK based civilians.

"We are the RCZ travel agents," said WO1 Stephen Arkley, RCT, senior movements controller, "and the service is becoming more efficient and effective with the introduction of computers for booking details and logging information."

2 Group, which was formed five years ago from two transport and movements regiments, is responsible for the planning and execution of routine movements within the RCZ.

# FAST MOVERS

This includes the handling of passengers and freight at the Dusseldorf and Wildenrath airheads, and the provision of movement detachments at appropriate international border crossings. They are also responsible for local distribution for the BAOR freight service.

79 Railway Squadron, RCT, which provides detachments at rail serviced RAOC and RAF depots throughout BAOR, also comes under the command of 2 Group.



A formal rehearsal for the WRAC Staff Band at the WRAC Depot, Guildford

## The record makers

● From Page 15

with colleague Ray Prickett, overseeing the whole of the digitally-controlled output as his skilled engineer.

A man who has recorded, among others, stars like Dana, Mary O'Hara, Max Jaffa the late Walt Steenhuis, the new Squadronaires and the Muppet album, Jed Kearse was clearly impressed with what he was hearing.

Living deep in "Gurkha country" - Church Crookham near Aldershot - he started out on his own musical ventures with Potters of Aldershot, later developing musical links and an entrée into martial music with the late Desmond Walker, Director of Music, Welsh Guards.

Eventually he branched into the retailing of military band records part of which success stems from his placing advertising with SOLDIER. Replies came from as far afield as Hawaii and Mexico.

Over the years he has recorded six

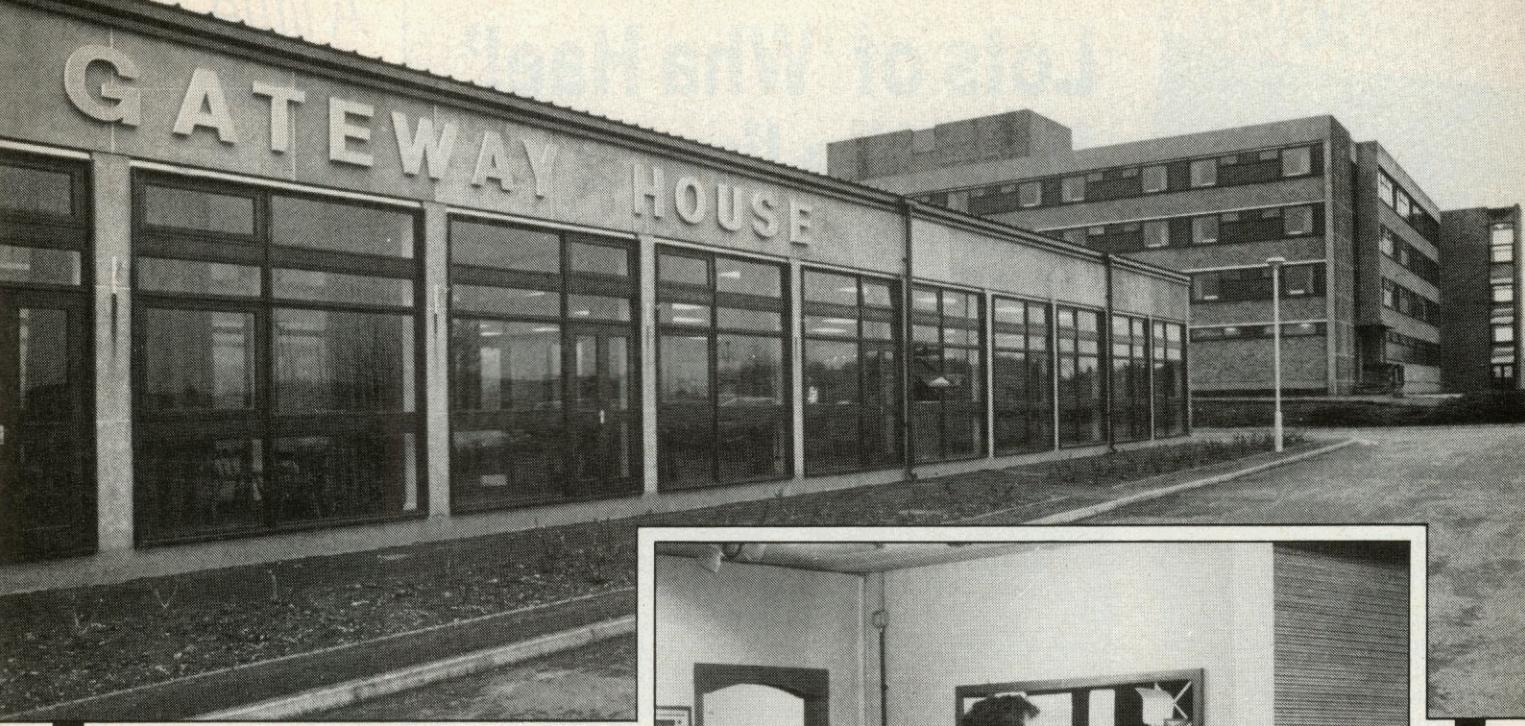
Wembley Pageants - "they outsold Wham in the Australian charts, you know" - six of the Guards Division bands and, he estimates, about 25 per cent of the Army's bands.

As for Capt Forster, who could be baton-swinging Director of Music for another ten years, she hopes the band may even make more records. The girls, on average, stay with the band for about five to six years.

This month they undertake ten engagements in as many days in the HQ BAOR area and later head for Hong Kong in June.

The WRAC Band is holding a reunion on Thursday, August 13 at Guildford and former members who are interested in harmonising on old events, times and friendships are cordially invited to contact the Guildford Depot.

The ATS would, meanwhile, be proud of the girls' latest venture into the record business.



# Pace never lets up in Gateway House



Check-in time at Gateway House, a ritual that is repeated more than 60,000 times each year

MORE than 60,000 passengers stay overnight at RAF Brize Norton's Gateway House air transit centre each year, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

"This is not a hotel," said Gateway House boss Flt Lt Chris Forte, "because we do not have the staff or facilities to give the service you would expect.

"We do try and make it as comfortable a stay as possible though," said Flt Lt Forte who heads a team of 81 - most of whom are civilians - catering for the vagaries of

military air travel.

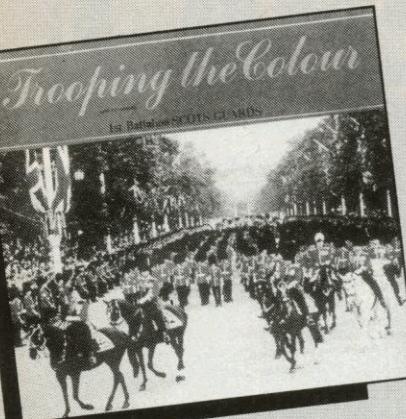
Gateway House buzzes 24 hours a day, booking personnel in, rousing others for early flights, preparing for incoming flights diverted at the last minute and rustling up an endless round of meals.

The kitchens produce more than 150,000 ground meals each year and more than 200,000 air meals, and because of the need for hot meals in bulk at short notice there is a heavy reliance on frozen food.

The centre has 340 beds on four floors, mostly in twin rooms, but there are a number of VIP suites. On an average night 170 beds are occupied.

A majority of those staying there are Army personnel but others include civilian contractors and anyone who is a duty passenger.

Facilities include lounges and bars and a multigym is soon to be opened offering guests an alternative to the big-screen video and the pool tables.



**TROOPING THE COLOUR**  
Live Recording  
Droit DR 80

ALTHOUGH the Queen's Birthday Parade varies little, if nothing at all, from year to year in its format, there still remain two choices which offer a little variety when buying a recording of the ceremony.

The first is of course whether you prefer a studio mock-up, even though it includes words of command and ersatz crowd noises, and is honed down to the requirements of the armchair listener, or do you want the real thing, warts and all in the shape of much repetition of the music and

## Lots of 'Wha Hae!' from the live Scots Guards

some stretches of silence (which you've paid for)?

The second choice is that you wait for the edition suiting your musical tastes, based on which regiment's Colour is being trooped; on this will depend whether the music is strongly biased towards English, Geordie, Scots, Irish or Welsh tunes.

And as I say nearly every year, you pays yer money and you takes yer pick. This one is live and the Scots Guards Colour is trooped, so prepare for lots of Scots Wha Hae!

The ceremony itself is steeped in old traditions, and a recording of it should be in every soldier's knapsack, if only as an accompaniment to your nightcap whiskies in old age, but also because Army charities will benefit from sales.

The music for the slow troop

and the march pasts in slow and quick time is for ever pre-determined; the "neutral" music is *Loch Lomond* and Jimmy Howe's march *Pride of Princes Street* for the Inspection of the Line, *Golden Spurs* by Sam Rhodes and the wonderful old *Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still* for the slow march-past, Alford's *Holyrood* and *Army of the Nile* for the quick march-past, and *The Glaswegian*, also by Jimmy Howe, for the march-off.

The pipes and drums play *Stowell Park*, and the mounted bands of the Household Cavalry the march from *Aida*, *The Duke of Wellington* and *The Keel Row* for the walk march and trot past.

● From Droit Music, PO Box 19, Blandford Forum, Dorset, price £5.60 inclusive.

## THEIR FINEST HOUR

Music from  
**BEATING RETREAT 1986**  
Massed Bands, Trumpets, Pipes and Drums, and Corps of Drums of the Household Division  
Directed by Major B T Keeling  
Drum Major: C P Dean  
Pipe Major: J Riddell  
Droit DR 79

THE annual display of "ye retrace to beat" held on Horse Guards is not necessarily the prerogative of the Household Division nowadays, turns being taken by various other Services and divisions capable of amassing the forces which can fill the arena and provide variety in the music programme.

It is without doubt the finest hour of military music in the world, with a diversity of musical media (bands, pipes, drums, trumpets, bugles) not known elsewhere, and when it is the Household Division's turn it is also the most colourful and spectacular.

This disc can be only a taste of the ceremony itself, and

perhaps a spur to your making the effort to see it one day – always soon after the Queen's Birthday Parade when the public stands are still in place.

Horse Guards Parade is one of the finest "backdrops" available anywhere, but an almost impossible site on which to record music. Echoes bouncing off the government buildings are an insurmountable problem, so here we have the old chapel in Chelsea Barracks as a studio.

Apart from the fact that the music remains at the same level throughout, lacing the ebb and flow of a live recording, the chapel provides a very lively yet resonant acoustic suitable to the occasion.

The cavalry trumpets sound two fanfares to get the show on the road, announcing the mounted bands of the Household Cavalry who play *Carolina March*, *Helenen Marsch*, and other marvellously jingle-jangle stuff, followed by the massed corps of drums who play two marches by ex drum-major

● From Droit Music, PO Box 19, Blandford Forum, Dorset price £5.60 inclusive.

## A little known war in Afghanistan

BRIAN Robson, who served with British and Indian Armies before taking on a Civil Service career of distinction, has made a splendid job of writing the history of the little known Afghan War, 1878-81.

Well researched, the work benefits from an official history which for some reason has had little airing in print.

With useful knowledge gained in both military and civil service, Robson's experience – and enthusiasm – shows through in a detailed but never boring account of the difficult campaigning; and an astute resume of the complicated political background.

He shows, too, flashes of sympathy for some of the central Afghan characters, notably Sher Ali, who Robson says deserves sympathy and respect. Sher Ali governed Afghanistan for nine years, showing a fierce desire to maintain his country's independence.

"It was his basic misfortune, and that of his country, to be caught up in a power struggle between Russia and Britain. A cleverer or more ruthless ruler might have survived, but there was no dishonour in failure", says the author.

The British and Indian soldiers who won the war didn't feel much like victors. The war won, they suffered from overcrowded camp sites, sickness and supply problems, and if modern Russian officers get a chance to read this book they will be the first to admit that despite advances in weaponry some things haven't changed. The tribes still resent intrusion.

Good maps and some fascinating photographs add to the value of the words. What a pity the publishers didn't give the text the larger type face it deserves – if it wasn't for the fascination in the author's efforts I would have given up after a few pages. – PMH

● The Road to Kabul: The Second Afghan War, 1878-1881, by Brian Robson, published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £19.95.



The Heavy Camel Regiment defending the square at Abu Klea, reproduced in *A Good Dusting* by permission of the National Army Museum

## Camel train saved the British square

WHEN the "Fuzzy Wuzzy" warriors broke a British square at Abu Klea in the Sudan on January 17, 1885 Kipling immortalised the "pore be-nighted 'eathen" with his "ayrick 'ead of 'air" as a "big black boundin' beggar" but a "first-class fightin' man."

Col Fred Burnaby, who had ordered the opening, charged out of the square and was speared to death.

These Beja tribesmen did, indeed, penetrate a corner of the fighting formation of those days. They went in between the 5th and 16th Lancers and the 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards. They pushed back the Scots Greys and the Royal Dragoons.

The way had been opened when naval captain Lord Charles Beresford wanted to get his Gardner machine gun (erroneously referred to as a Gatling) outside the square in order to bring it to bear on the advancing dervishes.

British squares were tight packed at the perimeter, men standing shoulder to shoulder and in several ranks, so Beresford's request meant moving about 200 soldiers in a cramped space in the hectic roar of battle.

A wave of dervishes suddenly appeared as the Gardner was

published that covers the whole of the Sudan campaigns from 1883 to 1899. Kitchener, Wolseley, Buller, Gordon and many others play their part in what was a most difficult period for British arms.

This was a time when officers, young and old, of high and low rank, sought glory in any campaign that was brewing. They pulled strings and were "jostling, snarling, toading and back biting" to get commands and staff posts.

Generals were prepared to command battalions, and colonels to lead companies – and there were many flamboyant characters among them.

And the British soldier? "... a splendid fellow. Now that I grow old I feel that they were my own sons," Wolseley wrote to his wife. While Col Sir P S Marling, VC, recorded: "I take my hat off to Tommy every time . . . I'll back the British soldier against anyone in the world." – GRH

The Legion, no doubt, will hope it stays this way. – PMH

## Legion preserves air of mystery

TONY Geraghty, formerly of The Parachute Regiment, latterly a defence correspondent and author of a book on the SAS, quite clearly has a feeling for soldiers who regard themselves as being a bit special.

Geraghty has turned his attention as an author to the French Foreign Legion. Unique and still full of mystery, the Legionnaires go to some lengths to keep themselves to themselves.

Despite this problem, Geraghty has traced the history of the Legion well. There has been plenty of glory, and some controversy. Algerian independence and the role played by the Legion during that traumatic period is still a source of argument in France.

Now, of course, France rather than North Africa is home for the Legion and in this day and age a force of many nationalities but one very professional attitude seems to laymen something of an anachronism.

Empires have dwindled but the Legion lives on; now much more part of the French Army than has ever been the case, and yet still apart in the spiritual sense. The Legion still has a part to play overseas, can be more choosy than ever in recruiting and never seems short of volunteers.

If you want to know more about this world-renowned fighting force, then Geraghty's book will certainly help, but don't expect it to provide the complete answer to the question everyone asks . . . why do young men still join? Somehow, well though the author has done, the air of mystique is still there.

The Legion, no doubt, will hope it stays this way. – PMH

● *March or Die; France and the Foreign Legion*, by Tony Geraghty, published by Grafton Books. Price £12.95.

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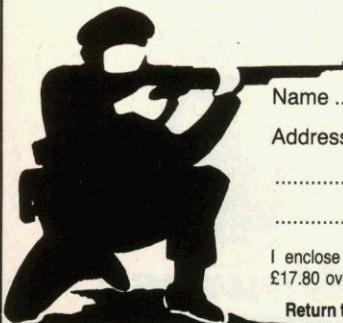
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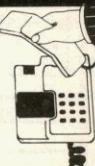
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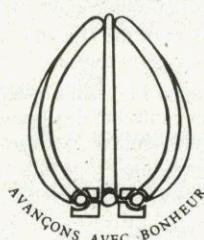
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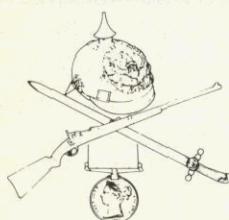
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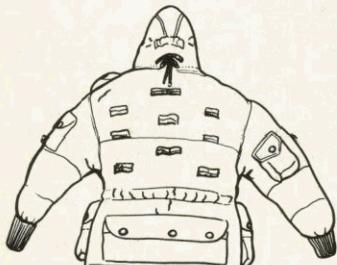
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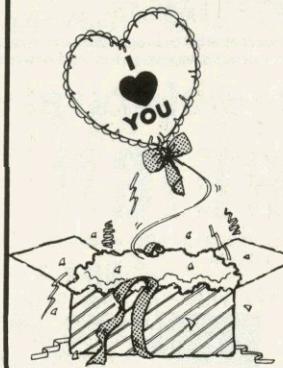
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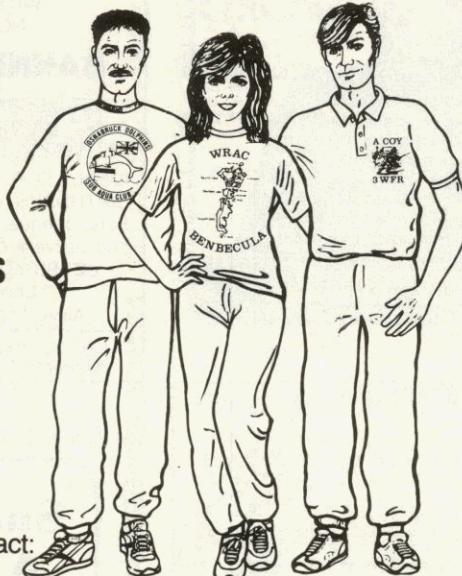
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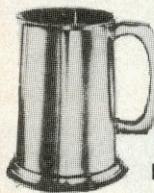
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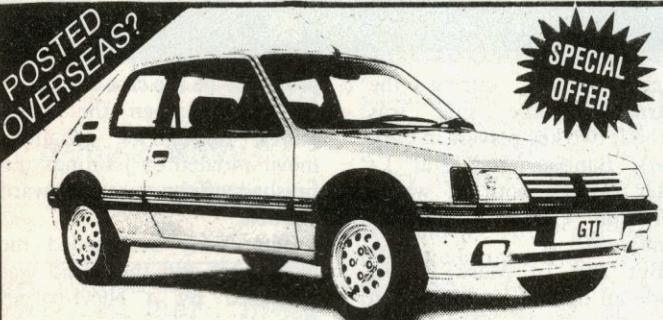
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Middleweight LCpl Donnelly of 1 Staffords scores heavily with a right cross in his bout against 10 Regt RCT from Bielefeld, Germany. The Staffords won the match in the garrison gymnasium at Fallingbostel by six bouts to three and now meet 1 Glosters in the final of the BAOR novice boxing competition.

## Ouston lads' cup triumph

A GOAL six minutes before the interval was enough to give the Army their first win over the English Fire Services for three years, writes Pat Massey.

The decisive move was started by skipper Cpl Sandy Brown, R Sigs, in defence. Cpl Kevin Parkins, RCT, and Cpl Neil Rothery, RE, were also involved before Cpl Stewart Greenwood, REME, arrived in front of goal to tap home Rothery's cross from the right.

Pte Mick Ure, 1 QO Hldrs, was called on to make only one save in the Army goal, and the men in front of him rarely gave the firemen a clear cut chance.

Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston beat the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC Bovington 3-2 in the final of the Junior Soldiers/Leaders Challenge Cup final at Aldershot.

The lads from Bovington arrived for the decider having scored 18 goals and conceded none in the competition. When they went two ahead shortly after the break they looked to have the game in the bag – but they bargained without the

fighting spirit of the junior infantrymen from Newcastle.

The RAC side went ahead after 27 minutes when Hughes scored from close range, and he added a second from the penalty spot.

But Shearer pulled one back for the Junior Infantry Battalion before levelling the scores in the 69th minute with a delicate lob from 20 yards.

Shearer resisted the temptation to go for a personal hat-trick when he burst clear soon afterwards. Having drawn the 'keeper he rolled the ball to the better placed Clelland who fired home into an empty net.

## Cyprus Open

CYPRUS's premier golf tournament, the Benson & Hedges Open, is being staged at the island's Joint Services Club at Dhekelia on April 3, 4 and 5. Application forms can be obtained from the secretary, Joint Services Golf Club, Dhekelia, BFPO 58.

## Never write off SEME

1/3 Trg Regts RE 2  
SEME Bordon 3

SEME Bordon retained the Wilson Hogg Robinson-sponsored Army (UK) Challenge Cup after a hard, physical and exciting game during which they were two goals behind. They managed to claw themselves back into the game, in the last few minutes, when all save their most ardent supporters had written them off.

As it was, the tie went into extra time before the sappers were finally slain, writes Pat Massey.

Lomas, the Army and Combined Services keeper, was busy in the early exchanges and punched clear on the couple of occasions when high crosses posed a serious threat to the sapper central defenders.

Slowly the Trg Regts turned the tide and the SEME defence was made to look fragile at times before being finally breached in the 17th minute. A clever through ball by Britton left Eade stretching in vain to intercept and Connolly shot home.

On the hour, the game really took off. Eade, beaten by a high bouncing ball, gave Britton the opportunity to squeeze past him, and hold off Heard, before cracking home a fine goal.

With 15 minutes left, things looked gloomy for SEME.

From a long clearance, the ball was again in the heart of the sapper rearguard where Nelson's courage and tenacity enabled him to create the chance to fire the ball past the advancing Lomas.

Straight from the restart, SEME won possession and the ball was

**More soccer reports – Page 51**

again flung into the Engineers' penalty area. Lomas blocked a shot on goal, Bradbury blocked a second attempt, before the ball ran to Nelson who shot home the equaliser.

From then on, there was only going to be one winner – SEME. Although it needed an extra 30 minutes to decide the tie, the winning goal, a reach peach, came just two minutes into overtime. Nelson found the ball at his feet and he cleverly rolled it into the path of Stubbington who loosed an unstoppable shot which bulged the corner of the net with the gallant Lomas clawing at air.



# A champion performance

HAVING made a clean sweep of both senior and U21 Inter-Service hockey titles last year, both Army teams set off for Colchester with high hopes of winning in 1987. The competition is now played on the same type of surface that was used for the World Cup at Wiesbaden.

But 2nd Lt Mark Haslitt made an immediate impact on the game and Capt Bede Grossmith, RE, belying all claims that as he was the oldest player on the pitch he must be the slowest, settled in well as sweeper.

At half time the deadlock had not been broken although the Army was confident that a breakthrough was near. This

clashed. Even during the tournament the side was without two key players in Capt Mark Banham and 2nd Lt Peter Boxell, both of whom were on exercise at RMA Sandhurst.

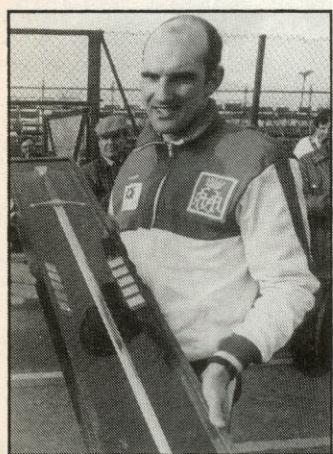
The Army bombarded the Navy goal and their lead was increased by a short-corner from Nick Gordon.

*The Times* described the shot as "weak, but carrying enough guile to throw the Navy keeper off-balance." Team opinion was that it was a complete mis-hit that went in by luck more than skill!

The final score of 2-0 in the Army's favour put the team in

Left – Cpl Ian Jennings forces his way through the RAF defence during the Army's excellent senior team victory. Right – Spr Mark Hunnissett is beaten to the ball by the RAF goalkeeper in the snow-hit Under-21 fixture. The airmen won 2-1.

Below – Skipper Capt Ian Jolly with the sword presented by former Hockey Association General Secretary Col S M R Egan for the annual Army-Royal Navy match. The Army won 2-0.



Pictures: Sgt Arthur Thomson

**Army 2, Navy 0  
Army 2, RAF 1**

good heart for the final game against the RAF. Having survived the previous evening's extremely tempting function held by the tournament sponsors, the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS), the players had to cope with an extremely cold day made worse by a heavy fall of snow.

Luckily the pitch was still

playable, and once again the Army started well, immediately pelting the RAF goal with a flurry of shots. But disaster struck when 2nd Lt Derek Hudson, the Army goalkeeper, miskicked straight into the path of the RAF centre-forward who happily escorted the ball into the back of the net. Hudson quickly made up for this lapse by making two excellent saves in rapid succession.

Finally the Army pressure paid off and, on the stroke of half-time, Flt Lt Vervan Pappin, the RAF and GB goalkeeper and eventual player of the tournament, could only

half block a well struck short corner and Capt Andy Scopes was on hand to sweep the ball into the net.

Pressure on the RAF goal continued to build and Pappin was called to make save after save. With 15 minutes to go the Army finally won a penalty flick after Capt Ian Jolly, the Army skipper had been brought down in the circle and Jennings calmly flicked the ball past the diving goalkeeper.

The Army did not allow the RAF back into the game and ran out eventual 2-1 winners and 1987 champions. It was their fourth successive title.

In the junior tournament the Army was unlucky to only draw in the first game against the Royal Navy, Cpl Jordan being the Army scorer. As a result of this draw the team had to beat the RAF juniors to win the tournament. They dominated the game and spent most of the time in the RAF goalmouth, but allowed the opposition to score two breakaway goals and could only manage a consolation goal through 2nd Lt Mark Haslitt. But their evident ability bodes well for future senior sides.

## Top shot



Cpl Steve Gatley from Krefeld is the 1987 Embassy Number One individual darts champion in British Forces Germany. He beat fellow Krefeld hot-shot LCpl Terry Taylor by two legs to one in the final at the Essex Club, Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck.

Steve, who is serving with 35 Royal Engineers Regiment Combat Engineering Training Centre at Hameln, represented Germany in the 1980 European Cup and Welsh open championship.

## Newcomers catch the

mained firmly among the top ten sides in the north.

Peter Boxell, a new name in Army hockey, has just joined the graduate intake of RMAS and should be available for the divisional tournament. He has been a regular member of the Southgate squad and has won two Great Britain caps.

Skipper Capt Ian Jolly and 2nd Lt Mark Haslitt –

## eye in Manchester

currently at Nottingham University – controlled the Army build up play against Brooklands and scored the goals that gave the Servicemen a 2-1 win. There was a good performance by Lt Andrew Jackson and a promising debut from Harvey Marwaha.

Jolly and Haslitt again impressed in the 1-1 draw against Bowden while 2nd Lt

# Colts impress against high class Welsh

FOLLOWING their excellent win against Wasps, the Army Colts Rugby team have continued to show improved form. They took on the powerful Boys Clubs of Wales at Pen-y-graig in the Rhondda and although they were beaten 21-0, were up against a very high class side and gave a good account of themselves.

They produced an impressive victory at Birkenhead Park.

Winger Cfn Simon Peart (22 Engr Regt) scored another three tries to add to the five he scored against Wasps. Locks Cfn Duncan Weir and Cfn Paul Whitney (both SEE Arborfield) produced some good lineout work and each got a try, as did

centre Cfn Chris Deed (SEME Bordon).

Full back Gnr Tony Howard (17 Trg Regt and Depot RA) prevented a REME try-scoring monopoly by adding one to his two successful conversions to make the final score 32-0.

● The Army lost to the Royal Navy at Twickenham in their annual Inter-Service confrontation for the Stewart Wrightson Trophy as SOLDIER was going to press. Report and pictures will appear in the next issue.

Spr Andrew Sanger (36 Engr Regt) was very thrustful in the centre and JTpr Chris Gibbs (JLRRAC) ran strongly on the right wing until injured early in the second half and replaced by Tpr David Rees (LG).

Army Colts two remaining fixtures were the Inter-Service games against the Royal Navy at Esher on March 7 and the Royal Air Force at Aldershot on March 21.

# This punchline was a dead giveaway!

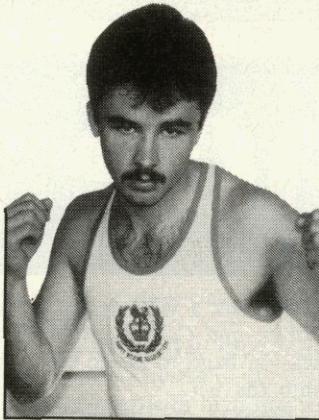
THE BRAND new cordless microphone system installed in HMS Nelson's gymnasium for the CSBA individual championships revealed a macabre sense of humour when it was switched on for the first time during the preliminary box-offs.

As sailor faced soldier across the ring, the Master of Ceremonies activated the mic to introduce the boxers.

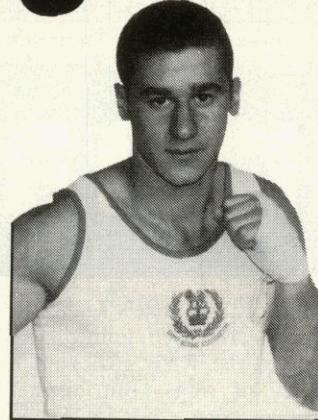
"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, we commit our brother . . ." boomed funereally through the gym. Someone had recorded a burial at sea on the tape deck linked electronically to the microphone - and forgotten to leave it on pause.

Fortunately that was the only grave incident on an otherwise extremely lively bill that produced five Combined Services champions for the Army, four for the Royal Navy and two for the Royal Air Force, writes John Elliott.

The five Army boxers who



Spr John McLean



Pte Lee Jenkins

go forward to the George Wimpey ABA England quarter-final against Western Counties at Salisbury, Wilts, on March 19 are flyweight Spr John McLean (26 RE), bantamweight LCpl Keith Howlett (39 RE), welterweight Pte Lee Jenkins (3 Para),

middleweight LCpl Karl Greenwood (36 RE) and light-heavyweight Fus Danny Coyle (1 RWF).

LCpl Alan Lesbirel (3 RGJ) and LCpl Ian Strudwick (2 RA) lost in two of the three semi-finals that were necessary (Coyle won the other), all against Royal Navy opposition. RAF boxers defied the odds by benefiting from all three byes into the finals.

On a night of blood and guts action, John McLean's clinical points win over gutsy submariner Dale Randell was memorable for the quality of his work. He was just shaded out for the Cameron Trophy best boxer award by Marine Colin Day, perpetrator of some spectacular first round violence on the unfortunate person of junior RAF technician Gerry Goodman.

Howlett took his title on a walkover and must be a fair bet for ABA honours if he can get past highly rated Channel

Islander Sillitoe in the next round.

Jenkins was agile and accurate against the useful Marine Karl Jones who retired at the end of the second round. A combination of the para's hard punching and the weakening effect of a recent tummy bug did nothing to prolong Jones's chances.

Commando sapper Karl Greenwood took his moment of glory with both hands and stopped sailor Dave Phillips early in the third round. Always willing to take a punch in order to throw four of his own, novice Greenwood simply pounded Phillips to defeat with a relentless barrage of hooks to head and body.

Coyle did well to keep his boxing together in a bruising light-heavy match against SAC Steve Neighbour of the RAF. He punched the straighter in a contest that frequently had the finesse of a bar room brawl and ended with a real war in the third. Coyle, deservedly, got the nod on a majority decision.

Absent from the starting line was the Army's ABA champion LCpl Tony Velinor (2 RGJ).

Combined Services champions in the other weights are:

**Feather** - Mne Colin Day (RM); **light** - Cpl Steve Snagg (RAF); **light-welter** - MEM Brian Kearney (RN); **light-middle** - Mne Andy Ellison (RN); **heavy** - Mne Gary Sanderson (RN); **super-heavy** - SAC Darren Crawford (RAF).



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# SOLDIER



A German civilian handler and his attack dog keep a wary eye for trespassers at one of the many depots in the British Rear Combat Zone. The dog units, which are administered by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, specialise in silent hours patrolling. More stories inside.