

SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: In-Pensioner John Shaw and CSgt Syd Hazell of the Royal Hospital Chelsea on the footplate of the Army steam engine "The Royal Engineer" at the headquarters of Royal Engineer Resources at Long Marston, where a British Rail locomotive was named in honour of the sappers' Postal and Courier Services. Story and pictures on Pages 30-31.

Picture: Terry Champion

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
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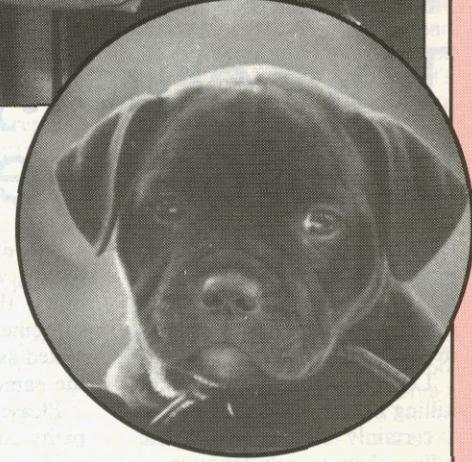


Who's a big boy, then?

Just look at him now! A year ago we featured young Watchman III (inset) just before he was presented to the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) as their new mascot.

Now fully grown, Winston (as he is known to close friends) has been fitted out for his ceremonial coat by Potters of Aldershot, the musical instrument makers. Making the measurements is Mr David Leech of Potters while handler Sgt Malcolm Bower looks on.

Watchman III, a Staffordshire bull



terrier, was a gift to the battalion from the people of Burton-on-Trent. His ceremonial coat will be embroidered with the badges of the regiment and the county council, and he should be seen on parade in it this summer.



NEXT ISSUE: Enoch Powell talks to SOLDIER. Don't miss the exclusive military memories of this brilliant and controversial man. Part 1 in the next issue. PLUS a special feature on 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment and their collection of monstrous 'maiden aunts'.

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Distant memory of Mandora Barracks

REGARDING the ruckus on the Cambridge Military Hospital and McGrigor and Buller Barracks, I don't wish to join it but would like to take a single pace left close march.

Adjacent to the Cambridge is (or was) the Louise Margaret

Maternity Hospital. Opposite that was that furthest extremity of Buller Barracks - Mandora Barracks (or Hutsments) wherein resided between 1954 and 1956 several platoons of Boys Company RASC.

I presume that with the

Non-smokers' rights ignored

WITH the dangers of passive smoking proven, both the public and employers are recognising the need for changes and implementing them.

Unfortunately the plight of passive smokers has been sadly neglected by the Army, which continues to ignore the views and rights of non-smokers.

Imagine a room occupied by

eight soldiers, half of whom smoke. The smoke inhaled by the non-smoker is equivalent to one to five cigarettes a day.

Worried? You should be - remembering that chemicals in smoke can not only lead to cancer but can cause headaches, sore eyes, coughs, wheezing ... the list is endless.

Even more worrying is the

This cruelty is beyond the pale

I WAS so incensed by Mr R A Hamilton's letter (March 19) that I felt I had to write to a magazine for the first time ever to show my disgust.

Leaving aside the ethics of killing haggis for the table, and I certainly wouldn't advocate killing them merely for sport, I felt I had to expose him for the unfeeling hypocrite he really is.

He served in Airborne Forces and I well remember him hacking a defenceless cheese processed to bits with a huge knife without so much as

a sigh of regret. Also, on still nights, we could hear from his bivvy the moans of chicken supreme and pudding sweet mixed as he curried them all in the same mess tin.

Please don't feel any sympathy for him.

He is to delicate sensibilities what Genghis Khan was to flower arranging and if I can descend to perhaps childish invective, "Mr Hamilton, awa and bile yer heid." - G F Devine, 59 Holland Gardens, Fleet, Hants.

... or was this just a pang of guilt?

IN days of yore my ancestors were in the habit of marauding south from the Scottish lowlands, across the English border, for a spot of Sassenach-bashing and sheep-rustling to exercise their warlike skills. Those were the days!

The letter from my namesake, one R A Hamilton of Ainsdale, Southport was

development of Buller, Mandora Barracks has become just a distant memory, although real enough at the time to us in Connaught, Clayton, Buller and Gloucester Platoons. - Iain Leggatt, 26 Broadlands, Carnoustie, Angus.

Ambulance crews deserve gratitude

MAY I express my thanks to the Army ambulance crews who operated during the extended industrial action taken by the civilian ambulance staff.

Lacking the full range of proper emergency equipment, with vehicles unsuited to the job, unfamiliar with the areas in which they have had to work, and often with inadequate communications networks, they nevertheless acted with increasing confidence and ability and with never-failing cheerfulness.

There will be many victims of accidents and sudden illnesses who have cause to be grateful to the Army teams - and, of course, to a lesser degree, to their colleagues in the Royal Navy and RAF.

I am a transport officer in a large hospital where I am normally in close contact daily with the civilian ambulance service, so I have witnessed at first hand how splendidly the military crews have performed.

Well done, and thank you. - Mrs W Burn, 89 The High, Streatham High Road, London.

Canal Zone

ON the subject of US forces in the Canal Zone in the Second World War, Maj (Retd) Flatow (March 5) is quite correct in saying there were NCO technicians teaching the British how to operate Sherman tanks.

However, there were other US servicemen. The United States Armed Guard were similar to us DEMS merchant ship gunners.

Some merchant ships, including mine, carried partly assembled aircraft as deck cargo. On reaching the Canal Zone, fitters from the US Air Force completed the assembling of the landed planes. - E J Craske, ex-DEMS, 10 Millfield Gardens, Crowland, Peterborough.

A lot for Mr Little

Congratulations to WO2 Little, of Liverpool, who wins the £50 first prize for HOAY Competition No 482. Runners-up are Mrs E Dower, of Crickhowell, Powys, and Mr D W Miles, of Walsall, W Midlands, who receive book prizes.

Reunions

• The Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association annual reunion will be held at Northampton on July 7 and 8, 1990. Details from The Secretary, Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton (tel: 0604-35412).

• 51st (Highland) Division: A commemorative reunion, led by Lt Gen Sir Derek Lang, for former members of the Division and their dependants, linking the 1940 Division with that of 1914-18 and the liberating Division in 1944 is being arranged between June 6 and 12, 1990. Pilgrimage will include tours of Somme battlefields, ceremonies at Beaumont-Hamel, Abbeville, and St Valery-en-Caux, and tours of the Normandy bridgehead. For details contact Roger's Battlefield Tours Ltd, 72 Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton CV11 4SE enclosing SAE.

• 145 (Maiwand) Commando Bty RA 1962-76: All-ranks reunion to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand will be held at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth, on July 27, 1990. Details from Tom Browne, 52 Widewell Road, Roborough, Plymouth PL6 7DW.

• Liberation of Lobmingtal, Austria, 1945: All who took part are invited, with families and friends, to attend the event's commemoration in Kleinlobming, Austria, May 24-27, 1990. Contact Mr William Palmer, 32 Glenacre Crescent, Uddingston, Glasgow G71 6EJ (tel: 0131-334 812748).

Searchline

• RHQ 30 HAA Regiment RA, Delmenhorst, Germany 1952-56. Old comrades please contact Terry (Ginger) Wilson, 16 Northfield, Keyingham, Hull HU12 9TA.

• ACC Golden Jubilee 1991: Would Reg Chandler, Harold Walton, Jim Henderson, John Shoreland, Douglas Fagan, Ben Wheeler and Harry Richmond, who were Burnham Lecturers with ACC apprentices in the 1960s and 1970s, or anyone who knows their whereabouts, please contact B P Wayman, Army Apprentices College, ACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.

Heavyweight title contenders

ON the subject of long titles (SOLDIER to Soldier, March 19) The 249 Battery disappeared from Army Lists in 1946 but at one time was resurrected, believe it or not, as: 299 (Royal Buckingham-



Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, talks to potential paratroop territorial recruits during his visit to the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Mr King watched recruit training taking place near Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire. The recruits were on the sixth weekend of an eight weekend training course, at the end of which they will be qualified to start jump training. During his visit the Secretary of State went to a map reading stand and watched the recruits doing practical map reading on a patrol

BARV design by REME

I WAS interested to read the article on the Armoured Vehicle Sub Depot which featured photographs of the Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle (February 5).

For many years these were REME vehicles until the amphibious warfare role was handed over to the Royal

Marines. REME still repairs the remaining Centurion BARVs.

Of those so far disposed of, one at least is in the AF Budge collection at Retford and is said to have been purchased from Israel.

At least two of the earlier Sherman BARVs are in captivity, one at the D Day Museum and one in the REME Museum collection, where it is still being restored.

Further details of the development of BARVs can be found in my book *Breakdown: a History of Recovery Vehicles in the British Army*, available from the REME Museum. - Brian S Baxter, Deputy Curator, REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks.

HAC is oldest - but not the most senior

THANK you very much for your flattering review of my book, the *Encyclopaedia of the Modern Territorial Army*. It is unfortunate, however, that the review misquoted it in answer to the question: "Which is the oldest TA regiment?"

May I please be allowed to put the record straight.

The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers is the senior regiment, but the pride of being the oldest goes to the Honourable Artillery Company. Its origins are lost in the mists of time, but it has a charter from Henry VIII dated

shire Yeomanry, Queen's Own Oxford Hussars and The Berkshire Battery, Royal Horse Artillery) Field Regiment RA TA. - W E Chapman, 40 Copperfield Road, Bassett, Southampton, Hants.



Farewell to Operation Orderly for Birmingham area crews assembled at St George's Barracks, Sutton Coldfield, before returning to their units. In front are Lt Paul Aston and Maj Terry Holmes of 202 (Midlands) General Hospital RAMC(V)

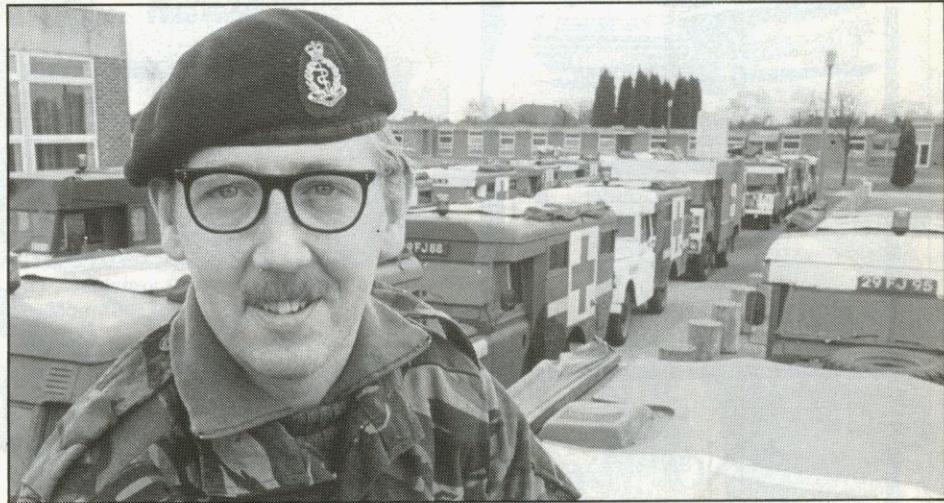
Chris is top man on baby deliveries

TOP of the league for delivering babies during the ambulance dispute was Army "midwife" LCpl Chris Herbert, who is serving with 22 Field Hospital based at Aldershot.

An Army medic of 17 years' experience, he delivered ten - six boys and four girls. One of the infants popped into the world in the back of his Army ambulance.

All Army medics deployed during the dispute were instructed in delivering babies. The first time it happened to LCpl Herbert was in the early hours of the morning. "It was a little frightening, but everything went well," he said.

During the four-month emergency he manned ambulances in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Worcester, Evesham and Birmingham.



LCpl Chris Herbert with Army ambulances before their return to normal duty

Picture: Peter Griffiths

● Drivers and medics, mainly from the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, were deployed to Greater Manchester a month before the dispute was called off.

In that time they and their Royal Air Force and Royal Navy colleagues answered 2,758 emergency calls from their bases in Bolton, Rochdale, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Stretford and Clifton.

Lt Col Peter Deck, Commander Medical Services North West District, said the Service crews had saved several lives.

Long haul for Minister

SECRETARY of State for Defence Tom King experienced at first hand the difficulties of maintaining an 8,000-mile long airbridge when he made a five-day fact-finding mission to British Forces in the Falkland Islands.

His RAF Tristar had to turn back to Ascension Island because of gale-force winds and the RAF Brize Norton-RAF

Mount Pleasant journey took 35 hours.

Mr King was welcomed by the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, Maj Gen Paul Stevenson, and during his tour met men of 1 Company, The Green Howards, the resident infantry company, and sappers on South Atlantic duty. He also squeezed in two hours of fishing at Swan Inlet.

Greenjackets warm up for Canada

IN preparation for an exercise in Canada later this year, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets based at Osnabrück in West Germany staged an inter-platoon competition aimed at testing rifle skills. The ten-day

competition, named Exercise Green Punch, began with a 48-hour fighting patrol into "enemy" territory in and around the garrison area. Tactical problems included an ambush and coping with casualties.

BATT-men arrive in Namibia

THE British Army has sent a 55-strong military advisory training team to Namibia to help set up and train a Namibian Army and establish a Defence Ministry. The team arrived shortly after Namibia's independence day, March 21, the day Namibia became the newest member of the Commonwealth.

Britain was responding to a request from Namibia for military training. The operation was agreed following the visit to the country in January of a fact-finding team who had discussions with Mr Sam Nujoma, Namibia's first president.

This assistance from the British Government was provided under the UK Military Training Assistance Scheme and follows the vital help in communications given by the British Army to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group which supervised Namibia's first free elections.

Commander of the team, Brig Tony Ling, who arrived in Namibia ahead of the rest of the team, served with the British Military Advisory Training Team in Zimbabwe.

Financial Service to the Services

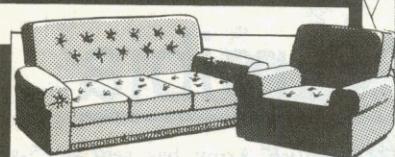


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Air exercise tests 2nd Infantry Division units

MORE than 2,000 Territorial Army and Regular soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division took part in support helicopter training during Exercise Keylift. Men from 15 Infantry Brigade based at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, 24 Airmobile Brigade

based at Catterick, and 49 Infantry Brigade based at Chilwell, Nottingham, carried out helicopter training at company and battalion level.

Role of the three brigades is to reinforce Nato in Europe as part of the 2nd Infantry

Division which has its HQ in York.

RAF Chinook and Puma support helicopters from HQ 1 Group at RAF Odiham and Lynx helicopters from 656 Squadron AAC based at Netheravon supported the exercise.

One lump or two, Ma'am?



Royal bow, equine style, as Lt Col Terry Scriven RMP, Assistant Provost Marshal (South), introduces members of the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop

Teddy RMP ready for royal duty

TEA, a teddy bear and a tiny tot contributed to the enjoyment of the occasion when the Queen visited members of the Royal Military Police on March 23.

● THE TEA was presented to the royal visitor by Cpl Alexander McIntyre, of 252 Provost Company RMP (V). It had been brewed in his training trench and the Queen drank heartily from the mug.

● THE TEDDY BEAR, in the uniform of an RMP corporal, was a gift for the new royal grandchild, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York. It was gratefully accepted by the Queen from Gen Sir Peter Inge, Commander-in-Chief BAOR and Colonel Commandant, Corps of Royal Military Police.

● THE TINY TOT was Dannielle Thomas, a two-year-old daughter of SSgt and Mrs Thomas, who presented the Queen with a nosegay.

The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Royal Military Police, started her morning visit to the RMP Training Centre at Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex, with an inspection of a guard of honour. Her tour included demonstrations of "tent pegging" and other equestrian skills performed by the RMP Mounted Troop.

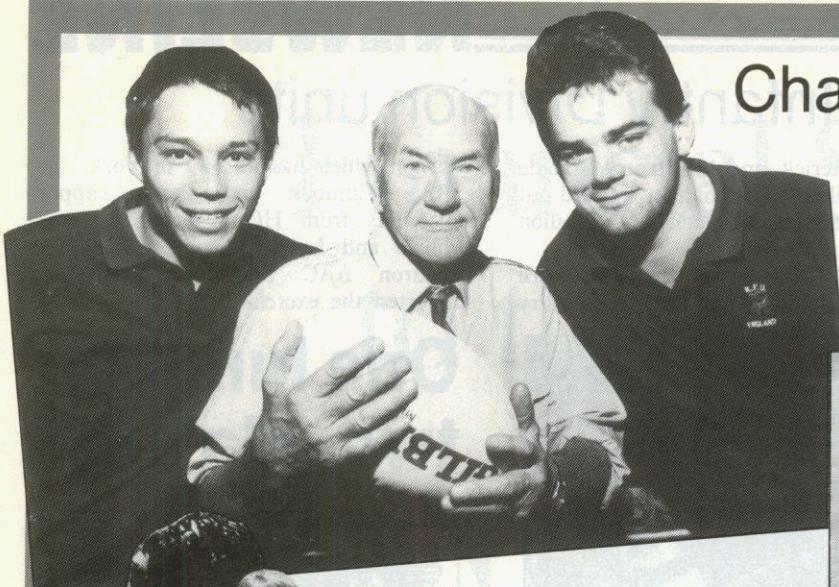
Later, she joined representative officers and NCOs of the corps worldwide for lunch and met SSgt Andrew and Mrs Mudd. SSgt Mudd lost his legs in an IRA bomb attack on his car in Colchester last year.



Taking tea with the Queen: Cpl Alexander McIntyre, of 252 Provost Company RMP (V) gives the Queen an exercise cuppa brewed in his trench. She accepted – and had a hearty drink

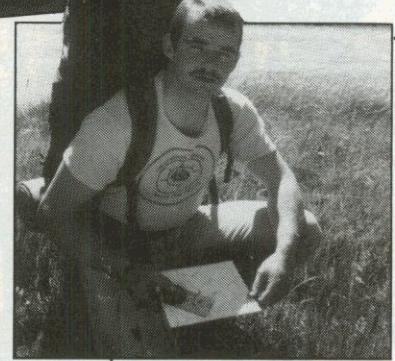


Accompanied by Gen Sir Peter Inge, Commander-in-Chief BAOR, the Queen inspects the guard of honour



Charlie's a real inspiration

Disabled war hero **Charlie Hankins** (centre) gets in the picture with England rugby stars **Rory Underwood** (left) of the Royal Air Force, and **Will Carling**, the England captain and former Army player. Charlie (70), lost both legs and an eye while serving with The Black Watch in 1943 and is planning to propel himself from Land's End to John o'Groats in a Second World War invalid carriage to raise £1m for the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Servicemen at Richmond.



Cpl **Norman Ritchie**, who is more usually to be found serving at the School of Signals, pauses to take a map reading deep in Torres del Paine national park, deep in the mountains of Chilean Patagonia. Norman is in South America with Operation Raleigh, and as an expert field communicator, is in charge of the links between three Raleigh groups working in the area.



GOOD LUCK, MICK: Lt Col Charles Rogers presents Maj (QM) Mick Ore with a farewell present

When Maj **Mick Ore** retired as Quartermaster of 1 Staffords an era ended. He was the last person to serve with the 1st Battalion who had also served with its predecessors.

Pte Ore joined the 1st Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment in 1958, and a year later was on parade at Minden, West Germany, when the North and South Staffordshire Regiments were amalgamated.

He served with the new 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire

Last old Stafford

Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) for the next 31 years, becoming RSM and then Quartermaster. And in his retirement he is to become an admin officer with 3 Staffords at Wolverhampton.

He handed over to Maj **Glyn Ireland**, son of Maj **Frank Ireland** who was QM of the South Staffords when Mick joined up.



was damaged by an explosion. The staff transferred operations to a mini-bus where they received potential recruits - like **Richard Moore** (17), pictured above. Follow up enquiries were dealt with at a local TA centre.



The most difficult thing CSgt **Everton Williams** found about life with 1 R Irish at Osnabrück, West Germany, was learning to appreciate their music!

Jamaica-born Everton admitted that being a Ranger was "a bit strange" at first. "Now I feel as Irish as the rest of them - but the Gaelic music is a bit difficult to get used to."

He now has a new job, instructing tactics and field craft to junior NCOs at the Army School of Infantry in the Brecon Beacons in Wales.

Everton escapes from 'that' music



Tank tuggers



Just the job for three Scots. (Left to right) Pte **Ronnie Patterson**, Pte **Steven McPherson** and LCpl **Gavin Worden** stand guard outside Edinburgh Castle where duties are currently being performed by 42 Ordnance Company RAOC based at Colchester.

PEOPLE



PROUD FAMILY: Capt Tres Heard with (from left) wife Trudy with baby Megan and daughter Michelle, and 174 Provost Company colleagues RSM Les Keynaston and Cpl Graham Smith

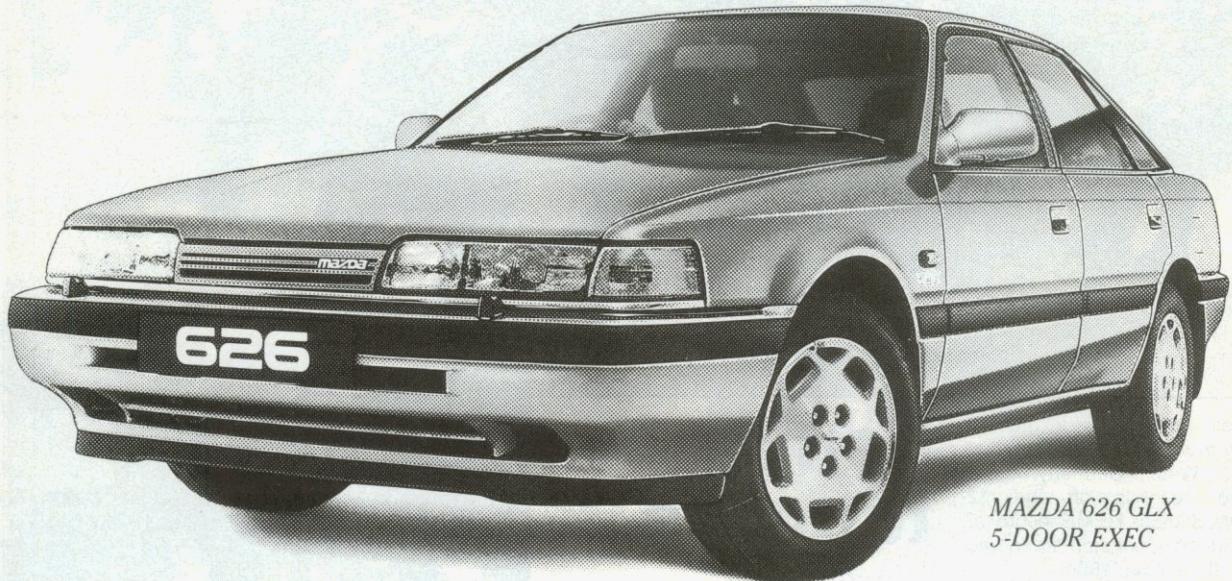
Oh, Baby!

Capt **Tres Heard**, the only US military policeman currently on secondment to a British Army RMP unit, has just celebrated the birth of his third child - the family's only British-born infant since Tres's ancestors emigrated to the States from York 270 years ago.

Tres is based with 174 Provost Company RMP at Bulford and daughter **Megan** was born at Salisbury's Odstock Hospital. Tres Heard's real Christian name is Falkner but he was nicknamed **Tres** (Spanish for "three" in his home state of Texas) because he is, to give him his full title, Capt Falkner Heard III - or Heard the Third.

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Driving a hard bargain

One spin-off from political changes in Eastern Europe is that the bottom appears to have fallen out of the second-hand tank market.

The Army, ever on the look-out for hard targets for UK ranges, and with redundant Centurions like gold dust, has concluded a deal to buy 25 Warsaw Pact T55s. In car dealers' jargon many of them, we are told, are "as new, low mileage, in good running order".

Though details of their history are sketchy the tanks, which could be up to 30 years old, are thought to come from Czechoslovakia and may be from war reserve stocks or disbanded regiments.

The first batch of 12 were arriving at Purfleet Deep Water Dock on April 9 destined for a second career as targets, minus radio, lamps and machine guns. The remainder are due to arrive on April 23.

The men from the ministry are reluctant to quote a price but the word in the trade is that you can get hold of the smaller T34 these days for the price of a new Mini . . .

A timely gift from old rival

Some good-natured badinage accompanied an exchange of gifts between Col Gen Bronislav Omelichev, the Soviet Union's second most senior military commander, and The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) at Tidworth.

The general received from Lt Col Richard Morris, commanding officer of the Cherrypickers, a beret and plaque, and presented in turn a Russian tank commander's watch.

Told that this would ensure the Hussars were always "on time at the start line", Gen Omelichev responded: "Gentlemen, if you are late on the start line you will lose."

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Col Gen Bronislav Omelichev meets soldiers of The Royal Hussars (PWO) at Tidworth

One of the regiment's three Victoria Crosses was awarded to Lt Alexander Dunn of the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) at the battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War. The 11th took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade and Lt Dunn saved a sergeant's life by cutting down with his sabre several attacking Russians.

In 1969 the modern Royal Hussars were created by the amalgamation of the 11th and the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO). They are due to move to Swinton Barracks, Munster, West Germany in December and will be equipped with Challenger tanks as part of the 4th Armoured Brigade.

Mine hero honoured again

Yet another honour is to be bestowed upon Maj Stephen Hambrook, who won the George Medal for helping to de-fuse a German parachute mine in London in 1969 and has since received two more top awards.

Maj Hambrook was the Army's Man of the Year in 1971 and in 1987 received the Frankland-Moore Award for his work with disabled ex-Servicemen.

On April 19, at the Savoy Hotel, London, he will receive a "Leeders" award,

sponsored by the Leeds Permanent Building Society and made annually to previous Men of the Year who have further distinguished themselves among their peers.

In 1983 Maj Hambrook, now administrative officer of 591 EOD Squadron Royal Engineers, Chatham, was badly

injured by a mine in the Falklands. Later that year he marched ten miles for charity and in August last year he raised over £4,000 for the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation by undertaking a 25-mile march despite pain from injuries to both legs and an amputated foot.



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5. FRANCE (ROYAL)
6. SPRINGBOK (BOTTLE)
7. NEW ZEALAND (BLACK)
8. AUSTRALIA (GOLD)
9. BRITISH LIONS (RED)

QUARTER STYLE NO.

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11. WALES (RED/EMERALD, RED COLLAR)
12. FRANCE (ROYAL/RED, ROYAL COLLAR)
13. SPRINGBOK (BOTTLE/WHITE, BOTTLE COLLAR)
14. NEW ZEALAND (BLACK/WHITE, BLACK COLLAR)
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Professionals to have own class in photo competition

SOLDIER is again sponsoring one of the main categories in the annual Army Photographic Competition, which this year offers a record total of more than £2,500 worth of prizes ranging from cash to photographic equipment.

The 1990 competition – the 15th annual event – has been carefully redesigned to provide opportunities for both full-time and amateur photographers and to cut entry costs, for example in respect of enlargements and printing.

Entry is open to Regular Army personnel, members of the Territorial Army, MoD(A) civilians and Army dependants. Closing date for entries is October 12.

Innovations this year include The Army Professional Photographer Of The Year award for RAOC personnel and MoD(A) civilians employed on full-time photographic duties. The prize is a Nikon F/801 camera with

50mm f/1.8 Nikkor lens plus a silver trophy and a framed scroll of honour.

And for amateur photographers there is a portfolio class offering a £500 voucher for photographic equipment and a framed scroll. The runner-up will receive a £100 voucher and scroll of honour.

The body of the competition is open to all-comers (professionals and amateurs) with a host of super prizes plus the chance to win the Army Photograph Of The Year Award.

For members of the Territorial Army, there is a cash prize, silver cup and scroll for the best

TA photograph entered, plus a runner-up award.

Regulars and their dependants are also catered for with a special class offering awards for the best photograph illustrating an aspect of Service family life.

Being an Army competition, it follows that the emphasis is on military activity but, as past competitions have shown, Service personnel are equally adept at focussing on subjects outside their working environment.

To encourage creative work, SOLDIER is again sponsoring the "own choice" category for which competitors choose their own subject, not necessarily

Best monochrome photograph 1989,
"Soldier Girl" by Trevor Smith

ARMY photographic competition

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allied to military activity, and can employ any technique including photo-montage.

In addition to collecting worthwhile prizes, award winners can look forward to an invitation to the prize-giving and lunch at the Imperial War Museum in London on November 29.

Entry forms and rules are obtainable through P Info offices or direct by telephoning or writing to: Army Photographic Competition, G3 P Info, HQ UKLF, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG. Tel: (0722) 336222 Ext. 2345 or Salisbury Mil 2345.

Agila Force

Ten years have passed... and 70 Army and RAF officers of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force which served in Rhodesia between December 1979 and March 1980 met for a reunion at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Maj-Gen Sir John Acland, now retired, who commanded the Force, and Lt-Gen Sir John Learmont, then his brigadier, now the Military Secretary, were present. Operation Agila, a model of its kind, supervised the peaceful transition of Rhodesia to independence as Zimbabwe.



Top woman soldier faces up to era of change

by Jennifer Griffiths

THE growing aspirations of women soldiers – such as filling posts long-barred to them in the British Army – and their fear that the Women's Royal Army Corps may eventually lose its independence as a separate corps, are subjects very much in the forefront of the thoughts of the new WRAC Director, Brig Gael Ramsey.

Changes agreed by the Government following the Crawford Report on future employment of women in the Army are the most far-reaching for decades, and Brig Ramsey, a member of the original study group, is now working closely with the team implementing the changes.

The two main targets are to change deployment roles for women, and to integrate women more fully with corps and regiments. The Government has also agreed to "the continuing need of the WRAC as a corps in its own right into the foreseeable future."

Brig Ramsey is confident that at least 100 of the 134 career employment groups will open up to women. Only posts in the Infantry and RAC will remain closed because of their combat emphasis.

She said: "We feel women in the British Army should not be exposed to hand-to-hand combat. I have found that women soldiers are happy to accept danger and risk, but do not want to be part of the Infantry or Royal Armoured Corps."

"I think when one is young, there is a



Brig Gael Ramsey, WRAC Director, pictured with husband Col Mike Ramsey, Provost Marshal

greater fascination for combat, but it is the enthusiasm of youth and does not last long. Very few posts will be barred to women. The critical thing will be

whether we are able to recruit women who join up specifically to do these jobs."

An experiment for women soldiers to work in support of the Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps has been a success, and there are plans to extend it. Meanwhile, moves to open up posts in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Army Ordnance Corps are advanced and recruiting will start shortly.

Brig Ramsey said great changes lay ahead for the WRAC, but in historic terms there was little new because women had been employed in such a variety of roles in the Second World War and before.

Present strength is 5,000 Regular and 5,000 volunteer, in all 3.4 per cent of the total Army. Recruiting has not been a

Brig Gael Ramsey WRAC Director

The SOLDIER Interview

more predominantly female environment – the ratio of medical graduates is now 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male, for instance, and we must reflect much of society in the Army.

"I believe we are very lucky as a corps. We have been able to take high-quality recruits from the labour pool. We have not needed to advertise for Servicewomen for ten years, and only occasionally for officers.

"Along with other employers we are facing a shortage of youngsters to choose from, and I would not contemplate lowering standards to bring in numbers. The whole Army has to be very careful and look at other means to meet manning needs."

problem and would eventually bring the total to 12,000, both in the Regular and volunteer women's army.

"Society is moving into a very much

A Bill before Parliament in July ensuring, among other things, that married Servicewomen qualify for maternity benefits, is welcomed by the new Director. She is also keen to make it easier for Servicewomen who have left to start a family to return to an Army career.

How does Brig Ramsey see the WRAC developing in the next decade? "I feel we should develop the future programme and the career paths of tomorrow very slowly.

"It is important we get the base lines correct, and our judgement has to be based on experience. It must be a gradual process.

"I see the future as very exciting and I think joining the Army of tomorrow will mean a lot of opportunity on offer. We have a lot of support from the men, who also believe in gradual evolution.

"There is still some male chauvinism in the Army, but it is rapidly reducing. There is some resentment in certain quarters about extending women's roles, but you get that in every walk of life.

We will have to educate a little some

THE APPOINTMENT of Brig Gael Ramsey, the new WRAC Director, means the leaders of the three women's Services are all married to current or former Service-men. Two husbands are still pursuing careers in the Armed Forces, while a third has moved on to commercial life.

Brig Ramsey is married to Col Mike Ramsey, RMP, Provost Marshal BAOR. The Women's Royal Naval Service Director, Commandant Anthea Larken, is married to Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Overseas) in MoD.

Director Women's Royal Air Force is Air Commodore Ruth Montague. Her husband, Roland, a former RAF navigator, is senior flight crew training officer with British Airways now.

The strikingly attractive Brig Ramsey joined the WRAC in 1968. She is the daughter of a retired Royal Signals officer but never envisaged filling the top WRAC job.

Her first posting was in Mill Hill as a platoon officer, followed by a spell in the Intelligence Corps.

Various postings eventually took her to Cyprus and she was awarded the MBE for her evacuation work there during the 1974 emergency.

Two years later, at a summer ball at Wilton, she met her husband-to-be and within 11 months they were married. Both were majors.

They have enjoyed the pleasure of postings to the same area, both at home and abroad, and endured separation.

Work is presently separating them and they have to plan their diaries a year ahead to share their "very precious" holidays together. They spend a lot of time commuting between Germany and the UK.

Brig Ramsey said: "The Army works extremely hard to keep married couples together. The

Romance blossomed at the summer ball

more senior they are, the more difficult it becomes because there are fewer posts around. I believe that both men and women in the Army are entitled to a full career."

Brig Ramsey was Colonel WRAC MoD until July, 1988, when she became a member of the Crawford Study Team looking at the future employment of women in the Army.

She then undertook a study into welfare services in BAOR, before becoming Director last November.

Col Ramsey said that when he and his wife received invitations, people were sometimes confused as to how to address them.

They both laughed when asked if he ever called her "Ma'am" because of his lower rank.

"It hasn't happened yet."

Brig Ramsey said she was "very much Michael's wife if the invitation is for him, and I go along. Or, for instance, if we entertain his officers."

Col Ramsey agreed: "If she attends a function as Director WRAC, then I go along as her husband."

certain policy issues.

She asked: "Can you imagine having to go to 26 different corps for an answer on pregnancy, for instance? We deal with that aspect and specific policy issues, such as whether women can serve in certain countries."

Brig Ramsey feels her greatest challenge is to maintain WRAC morale through a difficult time of change.

She emphasised: "Morale is very high, but there is concern about the corps' future, following suggestions we become part of the larger Army."

"It would be sad to see the end of the corps. I believe we have many years ahead. If a decision were made to disband it, it would be made very carefully in the interests of extending the opportunities for women. We have a proud tradition and the Army has always employed us very well."

"I think the future is very challenging and exciting. There is a lot of hope and genuine promise."



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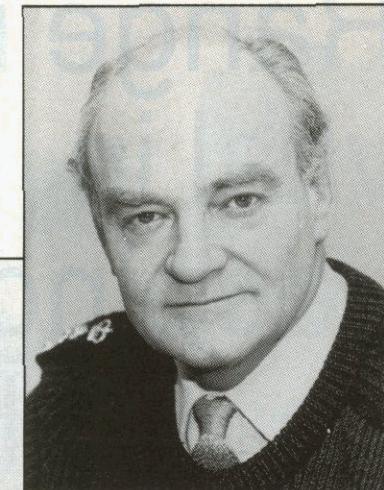
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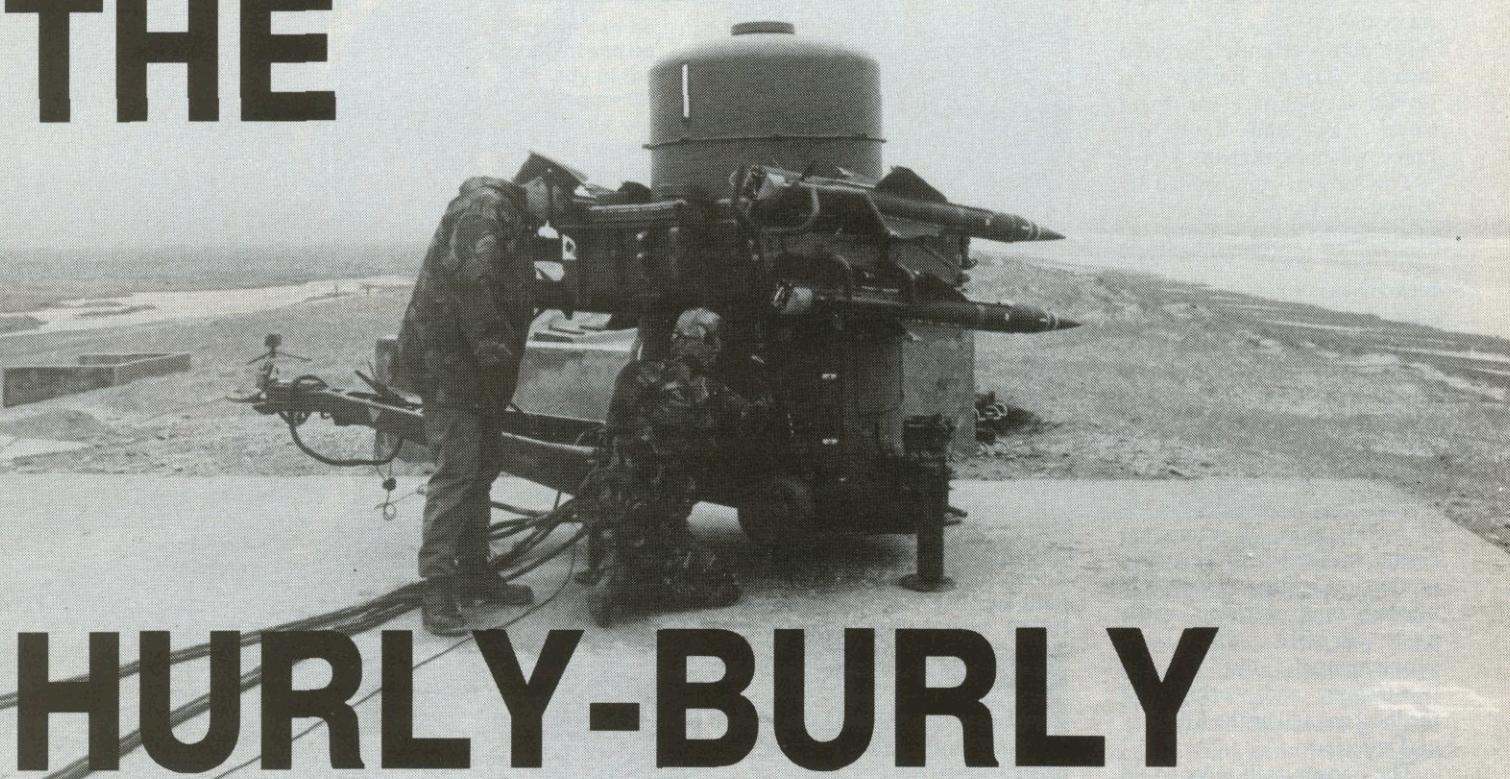
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IT'S FAR (very far!) FROM THE



Above - Brig Peter Painter, Commander Royal Artillery Range Hebrides. Main picture - Rapier out on the range



HURLY-BURLY

IF YOU fancy an outdoor life far away from the hurly-burly, you could do worse than end up with a posting to the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides.

This remarkable, remote station on the Isle of Benbecula provides its military inhabitants with a variety of perks, including 20 extra days leave a year and a number of shopping warrants to the mainland.

But, with pluses like these, there have to be drawbacks, and Benbecula has plenty of those. Island life means adopting the "Hebridean stoop", permanently holding on to one's hat and leaning at an angle of 45 degrees into the face of the gale-force winds that seem permanently to sweep across the landscape.

It has to be said that younger soldiers of the disco generation can find it hard to come to terms with the loneliness of the area. It's a bit like being stranded on a desert island.

That said, the SOLDIER team (who endured a right battering from the storms during their stay) found that the majority enjoyed the secluded life-style. The exceptions were the soldiers' dogs, which wore expressions of desperation at the lack of trees!

The Outer Hebrides or Western Isles of Scotland lie 50 miles north-west of the mainland and consist of a series of islands stretching from the Butt of Lewis in the north to Barra Head in the south. They include the Uists, where the ranges are based, made up of two main islands, North and South Uist, with the smaller Isle of Benbecula in between.

First view of Benbecula for arriving servicemen and their families will be from the air as they land at Balivanich airport. It

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

is a flat, treeless island, pitted and pock-marked with lochs and stretches of marshy ground.

Newcomers often express surprise at the friendly reception when they step into a packed and noisy arrival lounge, for it is the social event of the day when the "Budgie" lands and people tend to gather there to meet or bid farewell to friends. The Budgie, for the uninitiated, is the twin-engined turbo-prop aircraft that flies six days a week from the mainland.

Besides having to come to terms with the spartan life-style of Benbecula, men and women of the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides have to work long hours in a harsh environment.

Every wearer of the 14 cap badges represented on the island carries out his or her duties with a professionalism and dedication to duty far in excess of normal requirements. It's a fact that visiting units are quick to praise.

Range radar vital in keeping the coast clear

ALTHOUGH the station is known as the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides, it is in effect a defence missile range, providing safe facilities for all three Services to fire guided weapons.

Systems currently involved include Lance, Rapier and Javelin as well as a variety of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force weapons systems.

The station, commanded by Brig Peter Painter, consists of three main areas, the range head on South Uist, the headquarters and administrative area on Benbecula, and the island of St Kilda, 50 miles further north-west, which boasts deep-range safety installations, the subject of a separate SOLDIER article.

The Uists have a population of 6,000, most of whom are Gaelic speakers and part-time crofters. Crofting is a low intensity mix of sheep, cattle and arable farming, supplemented by fishing, fish-farming and working for the local council or the Ministry of Defence.

The range itself opened in 1957 and the MoD is the largest single employer on Uist. The islands' so-called townships are in fact scattered groups of cottages.

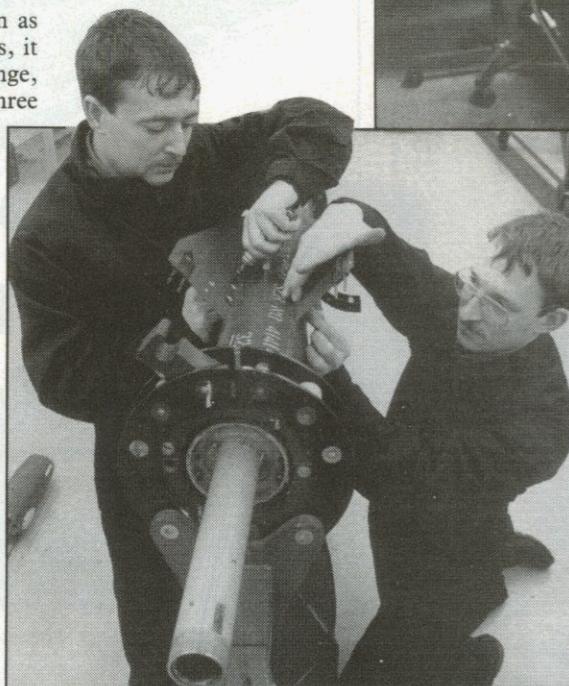
"Space is booked for all three Services and some foreign nations who have purchased Rapier," said Maj Crawford Stoddart, RA.

The range is manned by 27 officers, 191 other ranks and 53 WRAC personnel and employs more than 200 civilian staff.

During each year's programme, the majority of the inshore range allocations are taken up with Rapier firings, both by gunners and the RAF Regiment, while the deep range is mainly the domain of the Navy for sub and surface Harpoon missiles and various sea-to-air missiles. The Army



Left - WRAC watchkeepers keep a close eye on the radar screens at Range Control



Above - Cpl Steve Clancy (left) and Sgt Yid Doyle, both RAOC ammunition technicians, practise their craft on a Rapier missile



offers a unique facility for the firing of long-range missiles and analysing their performance.

"The only other place where we can get access to these kind of facilities is in the United States."

The deep range extends 160 miles by 60 miles into the Atlantic Ocean, while the inshore range extends only about 20 miles.

Said Col Watson: "Our aim is to use the range to its maximum advantage because it

regularly, the Singaporeans and the Americans less frequently. Next year, the Dutch will fire there.

"Whatever the category of weapons, our two primary tasks are the same, namely safety and the gathering of information. The need for safety on this range is paramount to ensure that all land, sea and air space within our danger area is clear before we allow any missile to be launched," said Col Watson.

Land clearance is done by vedette guards around the

perimeter, and air space through the NOTAM (international air traffic control Notice to Airmen) system.

"It's no good stopping things when an aircraft is actually in the danger area; it must be as it is approaching."

The sea produces the range's largest headache in terms of safety, for the vast majority of the danger area covers international waters over which the staff has no control.

Large amounts of shipping, from the Russian Navy to local fishing boats, use the area, all of whom have a legal right to do so under international law. The

approaches to it.

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Right - Rapier teams from 58 Battery RA scan the skies during a rehearsal for live firing

Below left - REME technicians make a minor adjustment on Rapier before firing can take place. Man in the white-topped forage cap is the SMIG (Sergeant Major Instructor in Gunnery), WO2 William Boyd, who keeps a close eye on proceedings at the range head

Below - Falconet can be re-used after flight and on this grand old lady of the air, Falconet manager Mr Dougie Braid points out the missiles stenciled on the side. Each indicates a missile that was fired at it - and missed



radar is compromised by the ease with which small yachts and fishing boats are hidden in the swell produced by the frequent Atlantic storms, and by the fact that the equipment has to operate in a harsh environment.

A Watchman radar installed on St Kilda early last year was felled by the next storm. Now all radars are enclosed in some form of golfball radome, although even these are not strong enough to protect them from bombardment by stones picked up in the wind.

Choice of targetry plays an important part in any successful range. One used in the Hebrides is the Rushton drogue, which is towed three miles behind a Canberra aircraft of 100 Squadron RAF.

But towing restricts the aircraft to straight and level flight. It is also a high-risk lightning area so aircraft and drogue become a flying lightning conductor. Wires have been struck, stopping both aircraft engines temporarily.

Straight and level targets are

● Turn to Page 23

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● From Page 21

really only good for gunners learning their trade, but recently a new target system has been introduced – Falconet. This is a remotely-controlled jet aircraft which can produce a very realistic high-speed flight profile, doing all the manoeuvres and attacks that an enemy aircraft might do, so giving the skilled operators realism and challenge during training.

Deep-range air targetry uses Petrel, a crude land-launched free-flight missile fired from the rangehead. It is then engaged by ships or aircraft and shot down.

"For surface targets, we use converted trawlers which are provided and run by the Royal Navy's fleet target group and are remotely piloted by radio control either from RCB or St Kilda.

"They are fitted with an assortment of instrumentation including high-speed cameras and miss distance indicators, and in particular radar reflectors which give the impression the vessel is higher out of the water than it actually is," said Col Watson.

"But if the missile has a TV controlled system and the operators can actually see the target and fly at them, they tend to get hit. We have had the odd mast and funnel carried away but no one has sunk one, yet!"

One of the most important projects in the pipeline is the replacement of the range's central computer system, which at present can operate only one range at a time. Work on its development has just started and it is expected to be in service in four years' time.

The new Rapier systems due to enter service in two years are too big and heavy for the current firing platforms and these are being replaced. There are also serious erosion problems on the range's beaches whose anti-erosion defences are being increased.

Range roads were built for Land Rovers. The next generation Rapier systems look set to be carried on the Army's new eight-tonne truck, so tracks will have to be strengthened to withstand the heavier load.

Those charged with running the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides have to look far enough into the future to

Four men in a safety boat

Members of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT (Hebrides Detachment) pictured with their range safety boat. Left to right: LCpl Del Sutherland, Dvr Sean Dickson, Cpl Chris Clark behind SSgt Joe Arlow



Man at the wheel who for 30 years has driven every VIP visitor to the range is the Range Commander's driver, Mr Donald MacVicar



Cpl Chris Clark RCT with a whale of a souvenir – the backbone of a Sperm whale found on the beach at the range head



Mr James Petrie carries out essential maintenance on this sinister-looking line up of Falconet – the remotely-piloted jet aircraft that gives skilled Rapier operators much needed realism on the range



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Story by
Jennifer Griffiths



Picture: Hendrik G Pastor

Even the Berlin Wall can't compete with the popularity of the Queen Mother – all eyes were on her when she briefly visited the Brandenburg Gate. On the left is Maj Gen Robert Corbett, GOC Berlin



Connor, mascot of the Irish Guards, pictured with his handler, Cpl Paul Smith, received shamrock – and a royal pat

Shamrock time in Berlin

THE lure of the Berlin Wall for visitors was temporarily forgotten when the Queen Mother became the focus of attention during a surprise visit to the Brandenburg Gate between official Army engagements.

Earlier, at Wavell Barracks, she had presented shamrock to the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, and the next day visited the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, meeting families at Brooke Barracks.

The tradition of wearing shamrock dates from 1900 when Queen Victoria decided

to commemorate the bravery of her Irish regiments in the South African War by raising the Regiment of Irish Guards and commanding all Irishmen and Irish regiments in the British Army to wear shamrock on St Patrick's Day.

Queen Alexandra presented shamrock to 1 IG on their first St Patrick's Day in 1901, starting a tradition now carried out by the Queen Mother. The Queen is the Colonel-in-Chief. The Colonel of the Regiment, the Grand Duke of Luxem-

● Turn to next page

Shamrock time in Berlin

● From Page 25

bourg, and the Grand Duchess attended the ceremony.

The Grand Duke served with the Irish Guards during the Second World War.

The Queen Mother, a great friend of the regiment, first distributed shamrock to 1 LG in 1929. Since 1969 she has presented the regiment with shamrock every year.

The parade ground was bathed in sunshine and the Queen Mother, dressed in turquoise, took the salute. She made a gift of shamrock to all ranks, accepted on their behalf by company commanders and company sergeant majors. She presented shamrock individually to officers.

Connor, the Irish Wolfhound regimental mascot, wearing a new silver collar, received his shamrock and a royal pat.

It was the 25th time the Queen Mother has distributed the shamrock and to celebrate the occasion, Pipe Major Kevin Fraser marched forward to display a specially commissioned pipe banner.

When the Old Comrades formed up for inspection, Col William Harvey-Kelly, a former commanding officer, looked especially striking – his wrist in a plaster cast after a riding accident was supported by a colourful sling.

Rather than use a bland, white hospital sling, he had utilised a scarf depicting the Grenadier Guards colours.

He explained: "It was a present to my wife from a cousin who was serving with them. The Queen Mother asked what had happened and said she hoped it wouldn't be too long before the bone was mended."

The Queen Mother chose a hyacinth blue outfit for her visit to 1 LI. She is Colonel-in-Chief and was greeted with a bugle fanfare led by Bugle Major John Plummridge.

She attended a 40-minute church service, which had to be held in a gymnasium because the Regimental Church of St Margaret's was too small to accommodate the 250 guests.

Before going on to meet families, the Queen Mother was presented with a posy by three-year-old Gemma McMinn, the daughter of Cpl John



The Queen Mother quickly found a rapport with fans of all ages when she met families on a visit to the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry



Above – Irish Guards complete with shamrock prepare for a photo call with the Queen Mother



Pipe Major Kevin Fisher with the pipe banner specially commissioned to celebrate the 25th time the Queen Mother has presented shamrock to the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards

and Mrs Michelle McMinn.

Her visit was succinctly summed up by Army wife Julia Knight, who said: "She's an absolute ray of sunshine."

Julia and her husband, Martin, a corporal, have three children, and when one presented a carnation to the Queen Mother, the royal visitor said she would treasure it because it was "special".

Fifteen-month-old Steven

Henderson seemed unimpressed – he slept through it all. The Queen Mother joked with parents, Pte Darren and Mrs Tracey Henderson, saying "He's lucky to be asleep."

RQMS Nobby Noble and his wife, Jennifer, both spoke to the Queen Mother who told them she found the Berlin Wall very interesting.

Brothers Darl and Dean Lapham and their families

chatted with the visitor, but four-year-old Andrew Gardner was dumbstruck. Dad, Cpl John Gardner, said: "Normally, he's very boisterous, but he was just overwhelmed."

Music featured in the royal chat with Bandmaster WO1 Michael Lever, who elaborated: "She said it was important and interesting, and asked about the instrument I play."

Pte John Wood and his wife, Shirley, were asked if they had been waiting long, and if their son, Tony (2) had been good. Shirley said: "I mentioned he had been a little impatient and the Queen Mother said it must be near his dinnertime."

After lunch in the officers' mess, Mess Steward, Csgt John Frary and Master Chef WO2 Bob Bloy were presented.



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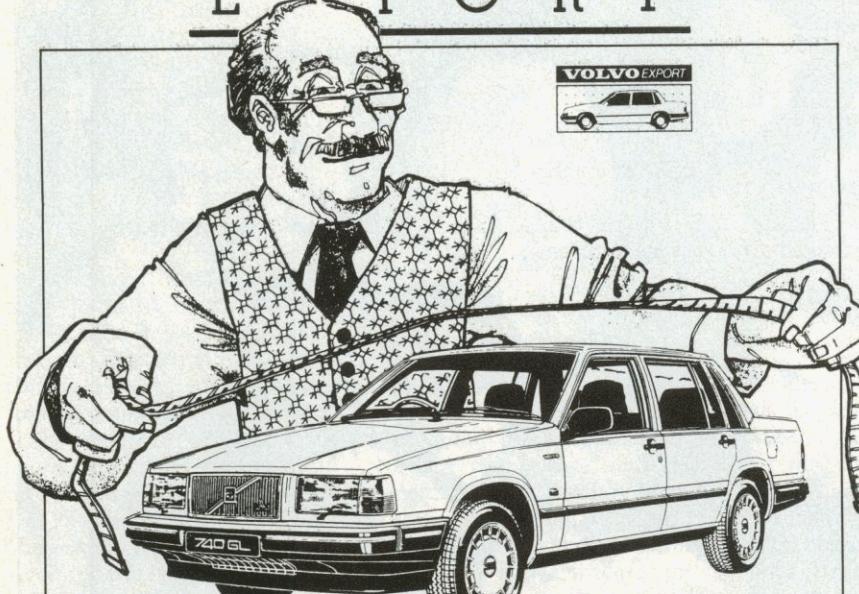
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Drummer Lee Matthews of the Green Howards in action at Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough

Sound the charge!

MOST of the fans who roar a welcome when bugle notes announce the appearance of the home team at Ayresome Park have never heard of Horseshoe Trench, writes Bill Moore.

Yet there is a link between the neat turf of Britain's soccer pitches and a battered redoubt on the Somme.

For it was there that Lt Donald Simpson Bell won the Victoria Cross, the only professional footballer to do so.

And like the bugler who parades in immaculate scarlet he was in the Green Howards, a regiment which traditionally draws recruits from Middlesbrough.

Green Howards and football go together. Wilf Mannion, who once played for "The Boro" served in the regiment – and was capped 26 times for England (and formed part of the famous M-for-Maestro forward line – Matthews, Mortensen, Mannion, Milburn and Jimmy Mullen).

Another ex-Green Howard, Harold Shepherdson, was the national trainer for 17 years and accompanied England to four

Victoria Cross link for Green Howards bugler who rallies Boro

World Cup tournaments.

Lt Bell, who played full back for Bradford Park Avenue when the club was promoted to the First Division in 1914, served in the 9th Green Howards, a Special Service (hostilities only) battalion.

The 9th were attacking on July 5, 1916, when they came under heavy machine-gun fire from a flank.

Bell crept up a communication trench and, followed by two men, dashed across open ground in a hail of bullets, shot the firer with his revolver and put paid to the rest of the detachment with grenades.

Lt Bell did not live to receive his Victoria Cross. He was

killed by a shell splinter just five days after winning it.

The soldier who plays the bugle calls for Middlesbrough at the moment is Drummer Lee Matthews, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, stationed at Catterick, Yorks.

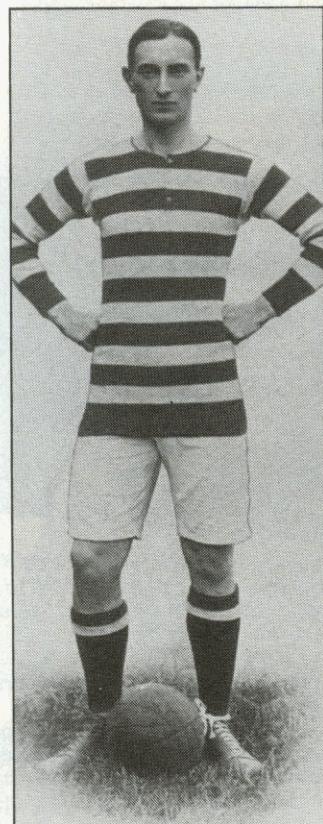
The family of the "Boro Bugler", as he is known, live only two minutes from Ayresome Park and he, like most of his battalion, is a dedicated Middlesbrough supporter.

For him it is an honour to sound the "Charge" . . . but it has its problems.

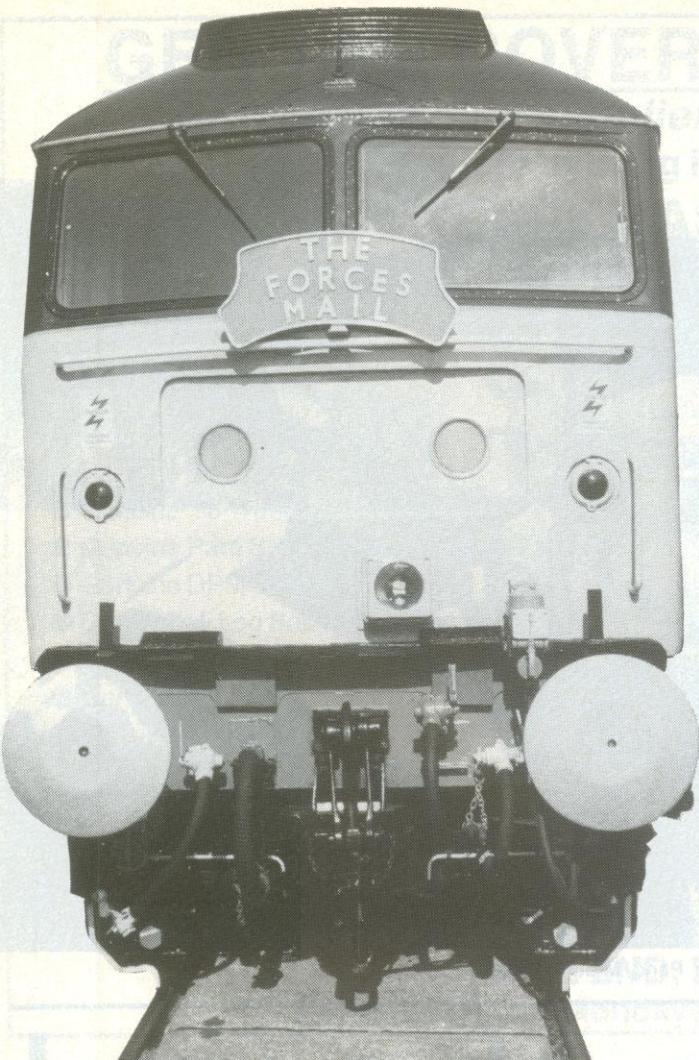
Running up and down the scale every time "Dav" or "Rippers" makes a break down the wing can cause dry lips and dry lips can produce a wrong note.

Even sounding off when the Boro scores has to be done carefully. The notes would not be heard immediately after a goal so the bugler waits until the opposition return to the centre circle.

The bugle is also used as a rallying call when the Boro are in trouble . . . but it never sounds "Retire".



Donald Simpson Bell . . . two years later he won the VC in France



Front view of "The Forces Mail" before it was re-named

All aboard the Posties' Special

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Above - Philatelic artist, Andy Theobald with his original painting that was used to adorn the special cover printed for the event. Sales of the cover will raise money for charity

Right - Last duty at Long Marston for men of Bicester-based 518 Company Royal Pioneer Corps, on attachment to 206 Company Engineer Resources, was to push steps up to the train to allow passengers to alight in the absence of a platform. 206 Company was disbanded shortly afterwards

Far right - Sorters at work in the Travelling Post Office

30

Inset image showing a group of Royal Engineers standing in front of a train car labeled 'Int'.

IT WAS to be a journey with a difference for more than 100 passengers who gathered at Paddington to board a special train, "The Forces Mail", for a two-and-a-half hour ride through rolling English countryside.

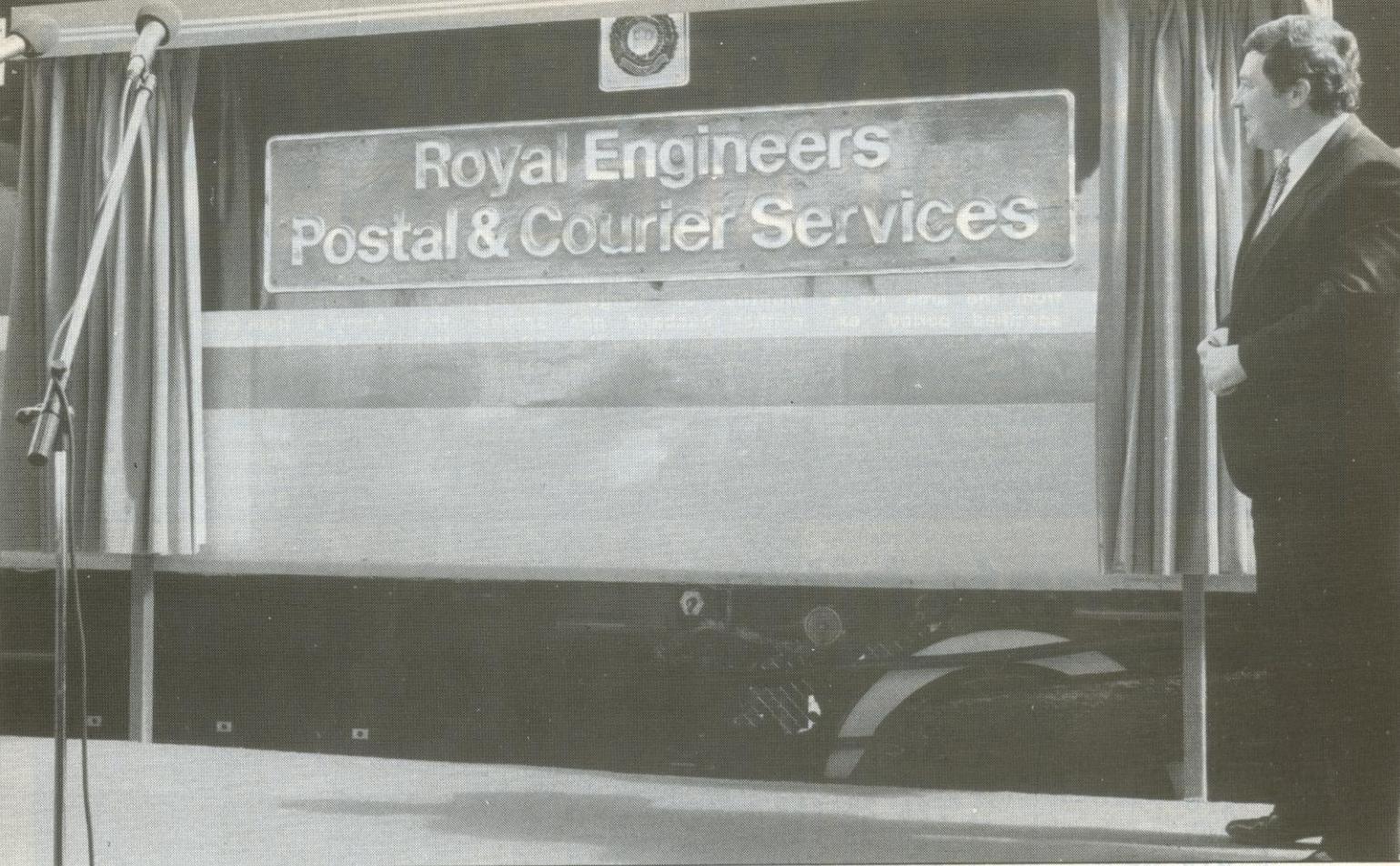
They were travelling to attend the official naming ceremony of British Rail locomotive 47 568 in honour of the Army's own Posties - the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services.

Said Royal Mail's managing

director, Mr Bill Cockburn: "Today's ceremony marks the very special relationship that exists between the Royal Mail and the RE Postal and Courier Services."

More than 800 Post Office staff are members of the RE (PCS) TA, including Mr Cockburn, who is a TA colonel of the unit.

During the outward journey, each passenger was presented with a souvenir cover and invited to get it stamped with a special mark in the travelling



Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director of Royal Mail, unveils the new name-plate

post office that formed part of the train.

SOLDIER

visited the Post Office-on-wheels in the company of two special guests, CSgt Syd Hazell and In-Pensioner John Shaw of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, who expressed an interest in all that went on.

Both had worked on the RE railways during the Second World War, and CSgt Hazell had an unusual claim to fame.

He had been involved in a wartime operation to move

supplies by train through Persia to Tehran where they were collected by the Russians.

"The Forces Mail" and her guests were on their way to the headquarters of Royal Engineer Resources at Long Marston, the only remaining base engineer stores depot in the British Army.

The sprawling site contains almost 20 miles of internal military railway and its very own Army steam train, "The Royal Engineer".

As "The Forces Mail" pulled

to a halt, the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers played a stirring medley of tunes while passengers alighted.

Off came the temporary "Forces Mail" from the front of the train and up on the side went a glistening new plate with a much grander title.

Mr Cockburn declared: "I name this train 'Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Services', and pulled a cord that unveiled a new name plate.

Afterwards, the sound of steam from "The Royal

Engineer", which had moved on to a nearby siding, proved too much for most of the crowd. They made their way across the marshalling area to get a closer look at the engine which had been put into steam specially for the occasion.

The return journey of 47 568 caused considerable excitement among train-spotters along the route, who must have been both perplexed and delighted to get the first glimpse of the newly-named locomotive in service.



31

POLL TAX EXEMPTION RULE AT ALDERSHOT

RUSHMOOR Borough Council has made an amazing concession over the Community Charge to Servicemen with homes in the Aldershot area.

The council has introduced a new category (called Q Class) for residents who are re-

quired to work away from the area for a specified period, exempting them from the poll tax.

It was brought in with the large number of Servicemen in Aldershot very much in mind.

Where a married couple are posted away,

home or abroad, for six months or longer, neither husband nor wife will pay either the personal charge of £325 or the standard charge of £650.

It is great news for Servicemen who have bought houses in the Home of the British

Army, and Rushmoor Borough Council deserves the Army's "Good Neighbours" award!

Let's hope other councils follow.

A number of booklets are available if you want to appeal against a poll tax judgement.

They are free from council offices or direct from Community Charge Leaflets, PO Box 622, Bristol BS99 1TR.

Rebate scheme leaflets cover students, second homes, the appeal system and give details on the whole of the Community Charge.

Sergeants hit by

ITEM	PERIOD	ENTITLEMENT		DEDUCTIONS		BALANCE	
		£	p	£	p	£	p
TAX	1 JAN 31 MAR	1953	33	488	33		
BDG SCHOOL	1 JAN 31 MAR	1801	20				
RPO PAYMENT	1 JAN 31 MAR						
PAY	1 FEB 28 FEB	39.80	D	1114	40	71	68
QTR RENT	1 FEB 28 FEB	17.92	W			43	12
QTR RATES	1 FEB 28 FEB	10.78	W			5	34
ADAT	1 FEB 28 FEB					81	34
NAT INS D	1 FEB 28 FEB					350	00
NFM BNK, ALL	1 FEB 28 FEB					NOT PAID	
ADATIS,	1 FEB 28 FEB					220	50
TAX	28 FEB					6	22
BANK PMNT							

Sergeant X's pay slip

problem of USP

SERGEANT X, a Band 1 Class 1 soldier living in a married quarter, is one of a number of senior NCOs who have sent me copies of their pay statements to illustrate why they will be unable to continue with boarding school education for their children.

The Community Charge may well be the straw that breaks the camel's back, especially if the NCOs' wives cannot work.

For Sgt X the year did not start well. His January 1990 pay statement revealed that the princely sum of £6.22 had been paid into his bank account, followed by £417.63 in February.

Both statements carried the letters USP – Unduly Small Payment.

This was not new for Sgt X, or for others. Sgt X has had 14 USP statements since 1985, two of them with "nil-payments".

The USP statements have cropped up when boarding school fees and school extras have had to be paid.

Even where the fees are only average, SNCos are finding it difficult to make ends meet out of their pay.

Another sergeant explained: "In January I was left with £289, and it has been less than that in the past. USP is quite normal."

I raised the issue of Nil-Pay statements in SOLDIER seven years ago and a system was introduced to make sure it didn't happen again.

There is now a legal requirement that the minimum a married man should receive would be 75 per cent of net pay, and 50 per cent for a single man. All USP statements would arrive at pay offices separate from other statements and the Serviceman or woman would be contacted by the pay office.

Soldiers were given the right to ask why they had received so little pay.

But the minimum pay arrangement does not include deductions

which will be made for quarter/accommodation and food charges and voluntary allotments (such as BSA extras, PAX, payments to wives for house-keeping, fuel and so on) paid on the soldier's authority by the pay office direct from his

account.

One worrying aspect of Sgt X's pay statements is that his ADATIS contributions for May 1989 and February 1990 were not paid. So for those months his savings suffered.

BSA is grossed up for tax in the United King-

dom. Coupled with recent changes in the allowance and spiralling expenses, the difference between the allowance and the fees plus school extras is pushing boarding school education beyond the reach of many soldiers.

Disregarded but worth money

FORMER Servicemen and women who receive War Disablement pensions, and war widows, will benefit from changes in Social Security benefits which come into effect this month.

The amount by which war widows' pensions and war disablement pensions will be allowed before they affect other income-related benefits has been doubled to £10, while the special payments of £40 a week to pre-1973 war widows will be completely ignored in this respect.

This "disregard" (as it is known) will be in addition to the £10 a week allowed on

war widows' and war disablement pensions.

Another very helpful change will be that regular charitable and voluntary payments made by Service charities to ex-Servicemen and women will be "disregarded" up to £10, an increase of £5 a week.

The lower age limit of two for attendance allowance has been abolished and will help Service families who have a severely disabled baby.

The new higher rate of

£37.55 a week or the lower rate of £25.05 a week can be applied from April 9. The benefit is non-contributory and tax free.

Service families based overseas can apply.

Contractual maternity pay (CMP) is paid by employers to women on maternity leave. Until now, if an employee decided not to return to work after her confinement she had to repay CMP. This meant that there was no refund of National Insurance Contributions.

The new regulation will enable such refunds to be made.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



The minister meets LCpl and Mrs Ullah

KNIGHT TO RESCUE IN FAR-OFF LANDS

DID you know that going to places where Naafi does not have a shop does not mean Naafi goods cannot reach you?

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- By providing goods suitably packed for export and delivered to Hogg Robinson (GFA) Ltd to be sent out as part of your personal baggage entitlement (MFO).
- By mail order of groceries, toiletries and household goods.

On my return from Zimbabwe I spoke to Naafi Deputy Controller of Supplies Bill Knight about overcoming some of the difficulties the British Military Training Teams were having when ordering items from Naafi.

He has looked into the problem areas and told me about the actions Naafi is taking.

If you order goods by mail then parcels are allowed to weigh up to 20 kilos, which is a pretty large parcel.

A word of warning from Naafi: The list from which you order your goods is a UK list, so before any items are ordered, please check that local regulations and restrictions allow for them to be imported into the country.

For example, British Forces Post Offices, the GPO and air freight companies do not allow such things as hair and deodorant sprays, aerosols, cleaning fluids, bleach, matches, and other

potentially hazardous materials, to be sent through the post.

Insurance was another area of concern. Experience has shown the need for all parcels to be insured, and Naafi arranges it at 2½ per cent of the retail value (ie £2.50 per £100 worth of goods) for any losses or damages.

If a parcel is received damaged then write to the Controller of Supplies B (OS), Naafi HQ, Imperial Court, Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QX with an explanation. Your postal NCO, if you have one, may supply written confirmation of your complaint.

With all insurance claims, immediate notification is essential. Naafi will accept faxed information

Lance-jack briefs Forces Minister

DURING his visit to Aldershot, Armed Forces Minister the Earl of Arran dropped in to see LCpl Ray and Mrs Veronica Ullah in their new three-bedroomed house in Talavera Park.

They moved from Chetwode Terrace shortly before it was disposed of, but like many other military families in the Aldershot area they face becoming irregular occupants later this year.

They had hoped for a local authority house in Aldershot but now realise that is a forlorn wish.

despite having an excellent chance of employment in the area.

Cpl Ullah told his story to a gathering of interested Army personnel and civilians who were meeting to see if a local initiative to build houses and flats on non-MoD land could help alleviate the need.

From their discussions it transpired that an estimated 250 to 300 housing units, flats or houses would be required in the future to help house ex-Servicemen who wished to remain in the Aldershot area.

BSA change

THERE has been a change in Boarding School Allowance (BSA) rules for situations where the parents split up and the child is within two years of taking GCSE A level or equivalent examinations.

Authority may be given

for BSA to continue up to and including the term in which the examination is taken.

Individual cases, supported by a letter from the principal of the school confirming that the child is on a GCSE, A level or equivalent course culminating in examinations, and specifying the month and year in which the examination is to be taken, should be forwarded to MoD PS10(A).

Service parents have found that custody of children has often been given to the husband to ensure the continuation of BSA. This new rule is designed to overcome custody difficulties when children are due to take important exams.

Advance notice that Barrow Hills School, Roke Lane, Witney, Godalming, Surrey, is to close in July 1991 while St George's College, Woburn Park, Weybridge, Surrey, is withdrawing its boarding facilities in September 1992.

Both are on the MoD's list of admissible schools, so if you have a child who will be affected, seek advice from SCEA.

Gresham's Preparatory School, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6CY has been added to the MoD's admissible list of schools.

General dogsbody – that's the GOC!

THE top soldier in Wales took orders from a National Parks warden... and was happy to do so!

Maj Gen Morgan Llewellyn, General Officer Commanding Wales, was reduced to the ranks in a good cause, and with a saw, hammer and nails set about helping to build a bridge over a stream in one of the most isolated valleys in Wales.

He was taking part in Exercise Dipper, a scheme in which the military are helping on maintenance and building projects in the Brecon Beacons National Park and other national parks.

He and other staff officers – colonels, majors and captains –



Maj Gen Morgan Llewellyn

have been labouring on a 25ft wooden bridge at Capel-y-ffin, near Hay-on-Wye, Powys, under the direction of park warden Alan Ward.

"This is just a way of saying thank you to the National Parks authorities for allowing us to use their land for training," commented Gen Llewellyn.

"Troops have strict instructions to respect the Country Code, but by assisting the park authorities in making the land more accessible to the public we hope to put something extra back into the area.

"This is all part of the Army's long-standing and continuing role in helping the community."

Gravesend ready for Op Crabstick

A BOOKLET containing full information and advice about Operation Crabstick Gravesend – the Army's forthcoming clearance of Second World War demolition charges from the old Gravesend Airfield Site – has been sent to more than 1,000 affected households in the Riverview Park Estate and Thong Village.

Soldiers from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) based at Chatham, Kent will be carrying out the clearance.

Lowland Gunners have got it taped

THE Lowland Gunners regiment of Royal Artillery, based in West Germany, has commissioned a new recruiting video with an original sound-track by top musicians.

Keyboard player Andy Nye and vocalist John Payne worked with the Synergy Programmes video production company to provide an original sound-track for the 25-minute film.

The whole project cost the regiment, which recruits from all over southern Scotland, £17,000. And, says command-

ing officer Lt Col Rory Clayton, it is money well spent.

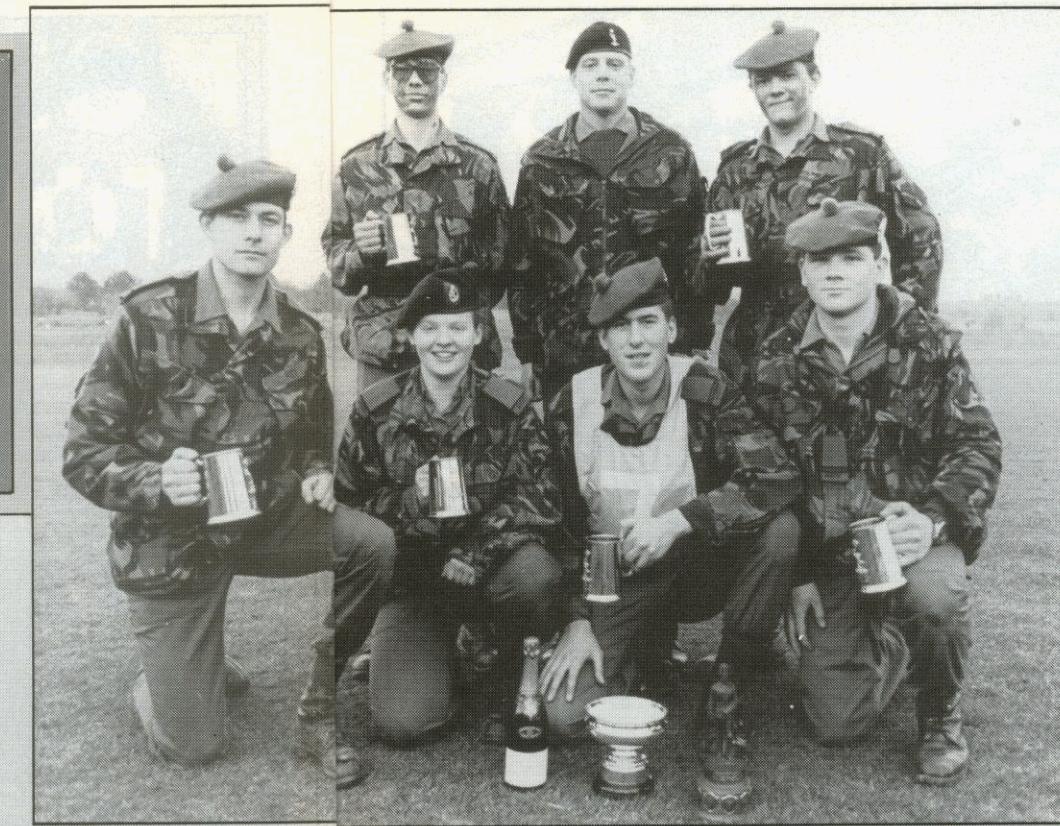
It all started at a dinner party in England a little over a year ago.

Lt Col Clayton, soon to be posted to Hohne, near Hanover, West Germany, to take command of 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, met Nick Peck, film producer.

The Lowland Gunners' film 'Into Action' is an impressive collection of images which reflect life within the regiment, and especially its current role in West Germany.

This year, jockeying for the national prizes, were 25

Lightning Strikes for UOTC signallers



Above – Aberdeen UOTC's winning team. Front (left to right) Tim Pitt, Vicky Glasgow, Nick Beecher and Angus MacFarlane; back, Simon Scott, team coach WO2 Donald Bennett, R Signals, and Russel Edwards

Left – Assault course tribulations
Right – Cadets get the hang of the rope trick

Below – Jim Southey of Bristol UOTC prepares his squad to rig a Land Rover and trailer ready for airlifting by helicopter

Pictures: Bob Fousert



Super Scots

FOR the first time, a Scottish team has beaten the best of Britain's part-time university soldiers in a gruelling all-day test of military skills at Blandford, Dorset. The annual event was arranged by Regular and Territorial Army members of the Royal Signals, writes Mike Glynn.

Aberdeen University's B team, comprising five men and one woman, took the laurels in Exercise Lightning Strike in a hard-fought finish with Cardiff, winners in the first year of the competition, 1986, and again two years later. Bristol beat all comers in the intervening years.

At each task, performed at speed after the minimum instruction, teams were tested

all-volunteer teams totalling 150 undergraduates and students from University Officer Training Corps representing Edinburgh to the East Midlands, Bristol to Belfast.

And it wasn't easy for the competitors or the organisers.

The six-mile event-strewn route with each squad fast marching between ten separate tasks, culminated in a total of three runs for the Aberdeen team over the Blandford School of Signals' assault course carrying equipment amid artificial smoke and the crack and flash of simulated shell bursts.

After the prize-giving by the Signal Officer in Chief, Maj Gen Robert Cook, whatever energy remained was absorbed at a special dinner and disco



party which finished at 2am.

And if that seems a punishing schedule, life for the organisers was just as tough. TA signallers had travelled to Dorset from places as far apart as Liverpool and eastern

England. Setting up for the event meant working into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Britain's all-volunteer University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) is part of the TA.

Members are drawn from universities, polytechnics or colleges and UOTC units comprise officer cadets, UOTC junior under officers or Army officer undergraduates sponsored by the Army.



Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Commander 1 (BR) Corps, who took the salute, inspects B Squadron of 5 Innis DG. Maj Mark Anderson looks on

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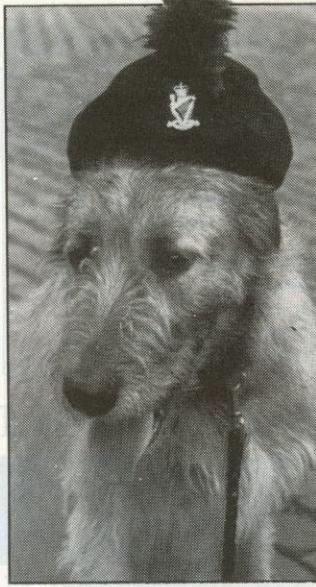
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The Regimental Standard is marched on by WO2 Stuart Crossley as 5 Innis DG prepares to celebrate the heroism of Capt Oakes



Maj Leo Callow presents shamrock to B Coy, 1 R Irish



Charlie dressed up for the day. A German-Irish wolfhound, he lives near the Rangers' barracks

A great day for the Irish

ST PATRICK's Day was celebrated in style by Irish regiments wherever they were stationed. Elsewhere in this issue is a report and pictures on the Queen Mother's visit to Berlin and her part in the celebrations of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.

On these pages we feature the different ceremonies of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers at Osnabrück and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards at Barker Barracks, Paderborn.

No matter where the Irish Rangers are serving, they make a point of getting shamrock – the symbol of Ireland – to each soldier.

Over the years this operation has created its own logistic problems – and its own folklore. One year the shamrock was seized by Customs men in Central America because drug squad detectives thought it was a new kind of marijuana bound for the Rangers then serving in Belize.

After much negotiation it was eventually handed over in the nick of time. This year both Regular battalions of the Royal Irish Rangers are serving in

West Germany, so the shamrock was flown fresh by British Airways from Ireland to the Rangers' barracks.

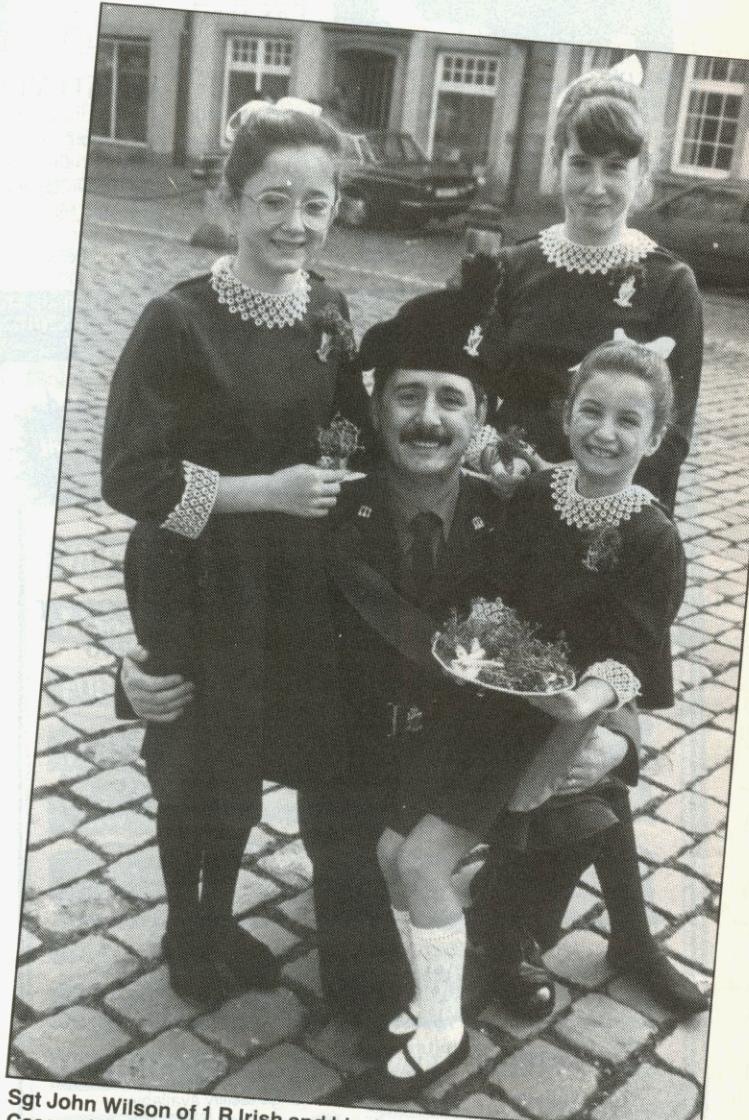
At Osnabrück the GOC 1st Armoured Division, Maj Gen Roger Wheeler, the Rangers' Deputy Colonel, got the day off to a traditional start by helping officers and warrant officers serve living-in soldiers with a cup of "gunfire" – a potent mixture of tea and a drop of Irish!

It was the 1st Battalion's last St Patrick's Day in BAOR for the present. After five years in Germany 1 R Irish is due to move to the UK later this year as Infantry Demonstration Battalion based at Warminster, Wilts.

The 5 Innis DG does things a bit differently. It is the only regiment in the British Army to commemorate a person rather than a battle honour on its regimental day.

Every year on the Sunday closest to St Patrick's Day it remembers the death of Capt Oates on Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole.

Having reached the Pole on January 17, 1912, the party discovered Amundsen, the



Sgt John Wilson of 1 R Irish and his dancing daughters, Vickie (11), Cassandra (11) and Zoey (9)

Norwegian explorer, had beaten them to it.

Oates, suffering terribly from frostbite, realised he was slowing down his companions on the 800-mile trek back to base camp, and on March 17 walked out of the tent into a

blizzard having uttered the immortal words: "I am going outside and may be some time."

His body was never found, but 5 Innis DG ensures that the memory of Lawrence Edward Grace Oates lives on.

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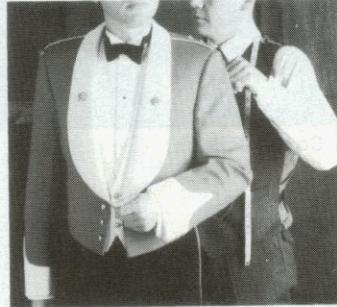
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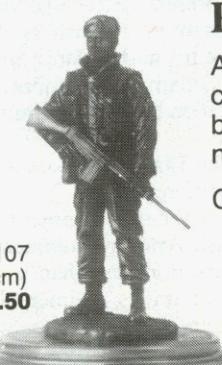
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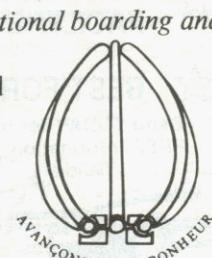
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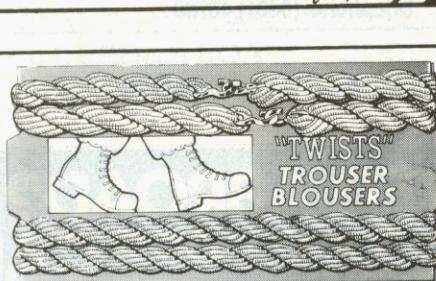
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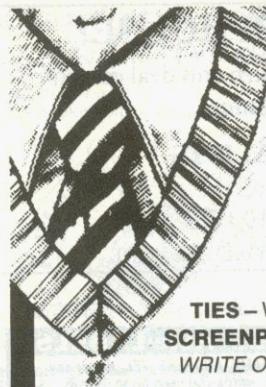
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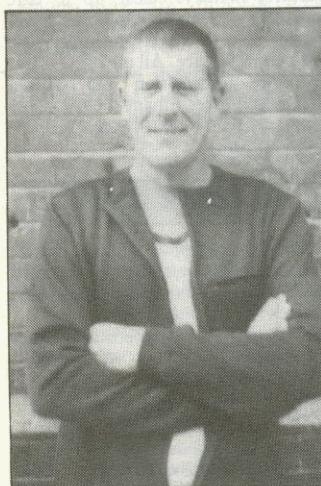
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And now for the counties

CLEAR-CUT wins over over both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force gave the Army outright victory in the Inter-Services hockey championship at Reading.

It was the Army's sixth Services title in the past 11 years and earns them a place in the preliminary round of the county championships, in which their first opponents will be Somerset.

The defending champions at Reading, the RAF, lost both their matches, going down 2-1 to the Navy and 2-0 to the Army in the final game of the tournament.

The Army, led by England international Capt Peter Boxell (32 AEC), completely dominated much of the second half of their encounter with the Navy after a well-contested opening period.

Lt Simon Hazlitt (LI), another with international experience, opened the scoring

in the 28th minute when he converted the Army's fifth short corner. Capt Ian Jolly (RSA Larkhill) increased the lead after being set up by Maj Mark Banham (7 RHA), and SSgt Aubrey Smith (HQ RAOC TA) added a third just before the end, again after good work by Banham.

That victory meant the Army retains the Wilkinson Sword trophy for another year.

The Army had only to draw with the RAF to gain revenge for last year's unexpected reversal, but were frustrated by some fine goalkeeping and the disallowal of a Smith effort.

Army pressure eventually paid off when Hazlitt smashed home their ninth short corner, and in the 69th minute Jolly, freed by a pass from Capt Alasdair Balgarnie (RE) raced down the right flank and set up Pte Carl Bennett (9 Ord Bn RAOC) to scoop home the Army's second goal.



Lt Simon Hazlitt is tackled with skipper Capt Peter Boxell backing up



No way past a defender's stick for Capt Ian Jolly as he closes on the RAF goal at Reading

Pictures: Mike Weston

Judo kings

SEME Bordon won the Army senior open team judo championships staged at Sennelager, with RMA Sandhurst second, 26 Field Regiment RE third, 1 RGJ fourth and 8 Regiment RCT fifth.

Army pressure eventually paid off when Hazlitt smashed home their ninth short corner, and in the 69th minute Jolly, freed by a pass from Capt Alasdair Balgarnie (RE) raced down the right flank and set up Pte Carl Bennett (9 Ord Bn RAOC) to scoop home the Army's second goal.

Earlier the Army had held the Royal Air Force, hot pre-tournament favourites, to a 1-1 draw and the airmen had beaten the Navy 4-3 at Portsmouth.

The championship hung in the balance until the Army scored their third against the Navy, from the penalty spot, ten minutes from time at Aldershot.

Cpl Shaun Gilman (Depot RAOC) scored the crucial opening goal in the sixth minute, nodding in a corner.

With play sweeping from end to end, Sgt Nigel Wiscombe (42 Svy Engr Gp) saved brilliantly to keep the lively matelots out.

In the 64th minute Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals) burst through two tackles before driving a fierce ground shot into the corner of the Navy net, and the all-important third goal came when skipper Sgt Sandy Brown (R Signals) was floored in the area.

He fired in the penalty to



Delight for the rugby team of the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Armoured Corps after they had defeated the Army Apprentices College Chepstow 9-4 in the Army junior final at Bovington Camp. Holding the cup is team captain JLCpl Darryl Richards and holding the ball is JTpr Craig Charlesworth who kicked three penalties to give the regiment its first win since 1982. Team coach Sgt Steve Summerscale, 15/19 H (centre), was a junior leader at Bovington in the Seventies

CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Sandy signs off in style

edge the Army ahead of the RAF on goal difference, at the same time ending his own career on a high note. Brown was appearing in the famous "red" for the 147th and last time before leaving the Service.

He received the Constantinople Cup from AFA president Gen Sir John Stibdon, as well as the new Mercury Cup

presented by the Royal Corps of Signals to be played for annually by the Army and the Royal Navy.

RAF 1, Army 1

The Army-RAF clash on the delightful RAF Uxbridge ground had two trophies riding on the outcome - the possible destination of the Constantinople Cup and the first winners of the Carrington Trophy which is to be played for annually by these two sides.

Fresh from their victory over

the Navy, the airmen were fancied to take the title. But the Army had other ideas and Shaun Gilman silenced the home crowd when he headed the soldiers into the lead after SSgt Pat Russell (21 Engr Regt) had supplied a perfect cross from the right.

The RAF's equaliser was just as incisive, Cpl Eccles heading in after Cpl Thompson had gained possession from a mistake in the Army defence.

Skipper Sandy Brown had a fierce volley charged down just before the interval, but if the Army won the first half on points the second round belonged to the RAF.

An impressive statistic in the Army's defence of their Services title is that seven of last year's team have left for civvy street, and injuries to established players have further disrupted selection.

Emphasising the new look to

minutes later Reid thumped the Scots ahead and later scored the third after good work by Lundie and Beck to avenge a defeat two years ago.

Hampshire 1, Army 1

With only a draw from their visit to Havant, the Army finally relinquished their hold on the South West Counties Championship which they have held for the past two years. Wiltshire and Cornwall will contest the championship this year.

Things started well enough for the Army when LBdr Steve Bates put them ahead in the fifth minute, and they had a number of chances to increase their lead before Hampshire struck back on the hour.

Naafi Jubilee Cup

SEME Bordon, the Army (UK) champions, meet RAF Brize Norton away from home on May 3 in their first Naafi Jubilee Cup game to decide the Services' champions of champions. Royal Navy champions CTCRM Lympstone visit Bordon on May 9. Winners of the tournament are the side scoring the most goals. SEME Bordon have won the Jubilee Cup seven times.

Basket of cups on way to BAOR

TEAMS based in West Germany carried off the trophies at the Army inter-unit basketball finals held at ASPT Aldershot, with Krefeld-based 16 Signal Regiment triumphing in the major units' play-off, and 6 Armoured Workshop REME from Munster winning the minor final.

The rebound strength of 16 Signals, in particular Sgt Fred Tedby, was crucial as they overcame UKLF champions 39 Engineer Regiment from Waterbeach by 61 points to 58.

In a tight contest, the free-running game of the young sapper squad was matched by the superior outside shooting skills of the signallers, whose victory provided some consolation for their defeat in last year's final at the hands of the Royal School of Artillery.

In the minor units' final 6 Armd Wksp REME were an unknown quantity, but it was obvious from the outset that their opponents, Army Catering Corps Training Centre, were going to find it difficult to defend against a nucleus of Army players in SSgt Gary Morris, Cpl Bill Reid and Cfn Carl Black.

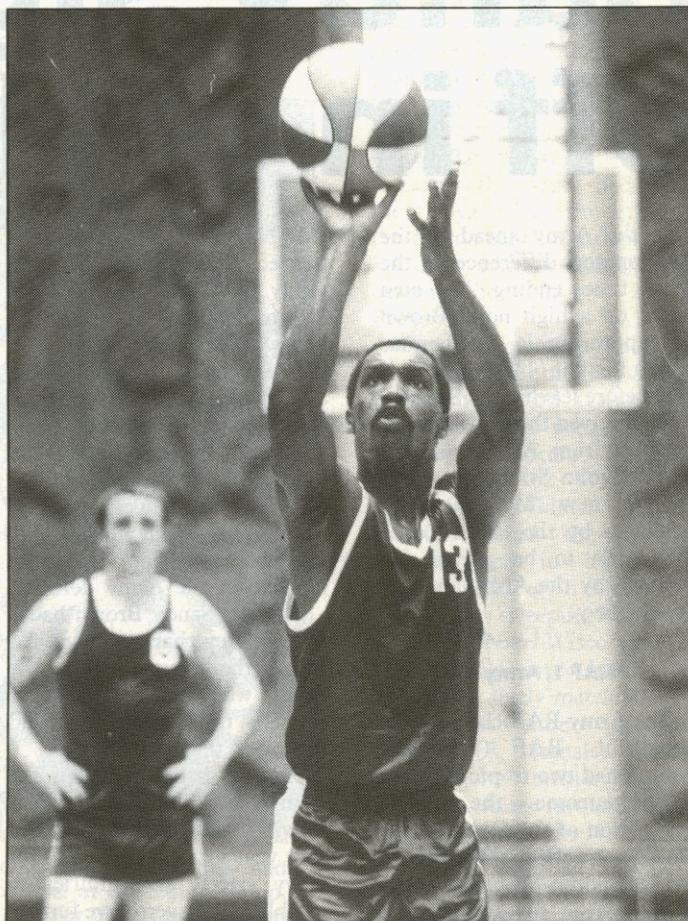
The REME outfit shot into a ten-point lead and although the ACC team, ably led by SSgt Seth Francis, battled hard, they



LCpl Mark Reeves (6) of 16 Signal Regiment and 39 Engineer Regiment team captain Cpl Chalkie White (7) in action during the major units' final

were never able to close the gap for very long. REME's shooting and rebound skills kept them ahead and they ran out winners by 103 points to 80.

The Army junior championships were won by Army Apprentices College Chepstow ahead of JLR RE and JIB Shorncliffe. Chepstow also won the youth competition which was a two-horse race between them and Princess Marina College.



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9/24

SSgt Clyde White of 16 Signal Regiment lines up for a free shot



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SOLDIER



The Queen Mother meets families of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry at Brooke Barracks, Berlin. See also Pages 25-27.

Picture: Mike Weston