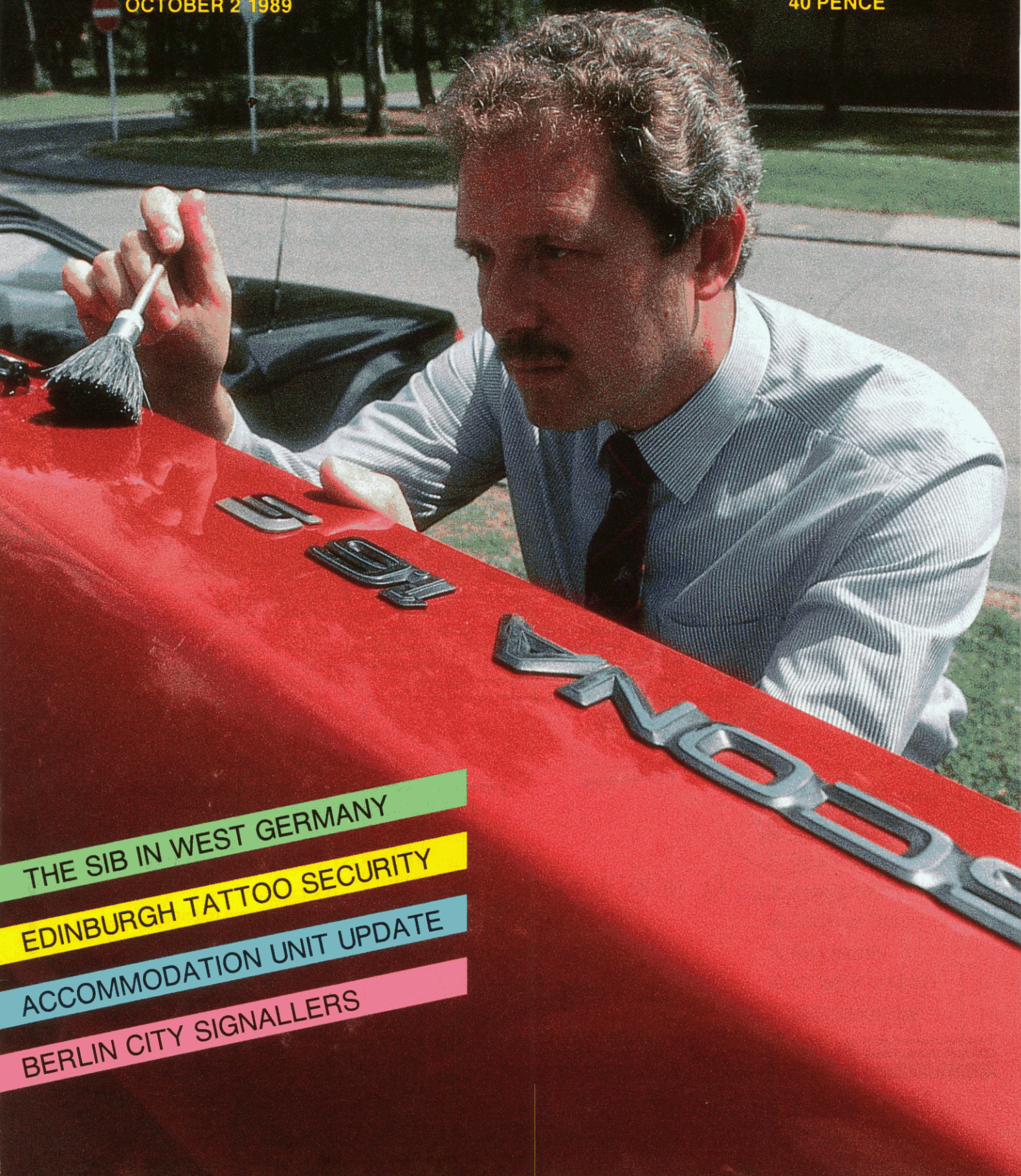


SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: WO1 Barry Cawdell, Senior Forensic Warrant Officer East, makes a detailed examination of a suspect car. First part of a special feature on the work of the Special Investigation Branch in BAOR begins on Page 25.

Picture: Terry Champion

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**NEXT
ISSUE**



NEXT ISSUE: A US soldier squints along his M16A1. On the muzzle is a laser projector, on his helmet and body are detectors which respond to "enemy" fire. Laser equipment is revolutionising training all over the world. In the next issue SOLDIER reports on British developments. Also first reports on Exercise White Rhino, a look at RCT TA training at Grantham, Lincs, and 13/18 H all at sea.

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Shoulder flash would give HSF added identity

I have recently transferred to the Reserve but one of the last enquiries that I carried out was a review of the Home Service Force in the Highlands of Scotland.

I am writing to give you a totally contrary view to that expressed by Gnr A F Bolland in your issue of August 7. All the members of the Home Service Force I interviewed were quite adamant that they wished to retain the regimental

attachment badge and titles.

The regimental system is an important part of recruiting in the Highlands. The historical and family ties go back many generations and are well known.

I found that those who had joined the Home Service Force, whether they were former artillerymen, engineers, infantrymen or from other backgrounds, were more than pleased and honoured to feel part of our regimental families and the loss of the cap badge

and headdress would, in my opinion, create a "them and us" situation in the Highlands which would be totally unacceptable to all of us.

There is, however, a neat way round the problem. One of the units I visited had added the initials "HSF" to its stitched shoulder titles. I thought this was smart and gave them an added piece of identity which I think is what your correspondent seeks - Lt Col G S Johnston, Elgin, Moray IV30 1PB.

'Sniper' 88 was feared weapon

I was interested to read the review of *Agony at Anzio* by William Breuer (SOLDIER, August 21).

It hardly surprises me that an American writer can be so biased as to miss out the contribution of British troops at Anzio and to refer to Churchill in such a scathing fashion.

The reference to the German use of 88s as sniper weapons is intriguing. By that I can only assume that he is referring to their use against infantry with airburst shells. To say that Anzio was the first occasion on which the 88 was used in such fashion is entirely wrong.

At Salerno the Germans had made great use of this gun in just such a role and it was a terrifying experience to be on the receiving end.

But they had already used the 88 to fire airbursts over infantry in the desert campaign - no Americans there - and the New Zealanders were so impressed by this that they asked for British 3.7 heavy AA guns to be deployed in like manner.

In the event, after the fall of Tripoli in January 1943 an ad-hoc troop - called Mac Troop after the AA Bde commander Brig MacIntyre - was set up with men from 9th (Londonderry) HAA Regt and 51st HAA Regt to support the NZ Corps in Tunisia, but using a number of captured 88s rather than the 3.7s.

They did their job most effectively giving the Germans a taste of their own medicine on numerous occasions.

The 3.7 was deployed in the medium field role at Salerno and later north of Rome. 24 and 25 HAA Btys of 9th HAA Regt were employed in this way and used airburst shells against German troop formations and artillery units very effectively. Italian civilians were able to tell 24 Bty's officers after the fall of Livorno that the Germans had been absolutely terrified of the 3.7 airbursts. - R Doherty, 27 Hillview Avenue, Prehen, Londonderry BT47 2NU.

Cap badge pacifier

In answer to Gnr Bolland's letter on a cap badge for the Home Service Force, I think this is a valid point. Apart from giving the HSF its own identity, it would go a long way to solving the inter-regimental rivalry within companies. - WO2 J W Randall, CSM 5 HSF Coy, 2/52 Lowland Vols, East Claremont Street, Edinburgh.

More tours?

To add to the "more tours" debate (SOLDIER, May 29), if the time completed by 3 RRF in Northern Ireland is divided by the length of a 4½ month tour, they have completed just over 12 tours.

Using the same formula the Vikings will have completed 15½ by the end of their present tour. - WO2 PR Taylor, RAPC (ex Viking), 1 R Anglian, BFPO 811.

Proud name

I have just read your magazine. I found it while walking along the road. It is an interesting magazine, but could you please refrain from calling Scottish soldiers "Jocks". It causes offence to some. Call us Scots. - Bernard Elliott, Glasgow.

● Scottish soldiers have traditionally referred to themselves as Jocks. It is a nickname held in some esteem. - Editor

Calling

● David Smith of Oldham, who was on the 1961 intake of Army apprentices at Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle, and John Robinson, probably on the 1960-61 intake, are asked to contact former colleague Michael D Barnard, 137 Autumn St, Geelong West, Victoria 3218, Australia.

Reunions

● The 70th annual reunion dinner dance of the 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars Regimental Association will be held in the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne on October 21. Details from Maj J F Walls, Home Headquarters,

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP (Tel: 091 2611046 ext 3140).

● The old Colours of 1 RRW will be laid up at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, on November 18 followed by the regimental reunion dinner in Cardiff City Hall in the evening. Details from RHQ RRW, The Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE, tel 0222 227611, ext 8215 or 8202.

● The 43rd annual reunion of the 4th Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment (1939-46) will be held at the Athletic Club, Newton Road, Rushden, Northants on October 6. Tickets from Maj V Harding, Old Barn Cottage, Oasby, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NA.

Duke entitled to wear para badge

As far as I am aware, it is contrary to Queen's Regulations for members of the Armed Services to wear qualification badges to which they are not entitled.

Army parachutist qualification badges are awarded, I believe, on the successful completion of a basic parachute course at RAF Brize Norton which results in the award of a parachute badge, the Lightbulb, which is worn on the lower right sleeve of the uniform, and wings badges are issued to a successful member of the Armed Services who will serve with the airborne units of the three Armed Services only.

I refer to the photograph in SOLDIER (August 7) featuring the new Colonel in Chief of the 1st Staffords inspecting the regiment at Fallingbommel.

The photograph caused much consternation among ex paras locally, particularly one who on transferring to another infantry regiment was forbidden to wear his wings under any circumstances, Part One Order, Parachutists Log Book, or not. - M J Ray, 111 Poplar Rd, Loughborough, Leics.

● The Duke of York completed the full parachute training course with the Royal Marines and as such is entitled to wear the qualification badge. - Editor.

Army wives' organisation lands £50,000 bonanza

THE Federation of Army Wives (FAW), which is heavily involved in the welfare of Army families, is to be sponsored by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation to the tune of £50,000 a year.

Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Director General

of Personal Services, in a statement to the SSV Board of Management, announced the agreement of the Army Central Fund Trustees that part of the sum donated annually by SSV to Service welfare funds should be earmarked for FAW. The

sponsorship would give the Federation a more secure income, said Gen Stone, and the advantage of access to a corporate body outside the military chain of command. FAW (UKLF) chairman Mrs Judy Street described the news as "wonderful".

New look shrinking exercise on trial

AUTUMN exercises season in West Germany has opened for business with more "greening" of the British Army of the Rhine which has introduced a series of measures to make soldiers more environmentally aware, writes Laurie Manton.

The moves have proved necessary after a change in attitude by the German people in the light of *glasnost* and an increasing environmental awareness.

Villagers affected by manoeuvres have demonstrated their annoyance, roads have been blocked by farm machinery, and in one incident farmers armed with pitchforks squared up to British tanks.

Troops from 1st Armoured Division are involved in a brigade level field training exercise dubbed White Rhino. It involves trialling the Command Field Exercise (CFX) concept, part of C-in-C BOAR's study on the conduct of field training to make it even more realistic, cost effective and environmentally friendly.

The brigade will reduce the number of manoeuvre vehicles by a third during the CFX phase, with one tank representing three, one gun taking the place of a battery and one APC deemed to be carrying a platoon of men.

24th Airmobile Brigade based at Catterick is flexing its muscles in BAOR for the first time. Exercise Key Flight is the validation exercise at the climax of 18 months of airmobility training since the brigade took on the role in April last year. Aim of Key Flight is to enable Commander 2nd Infantry Division, Maj Gen Murray Naylor, to declare the brigade fit for its role.



Big moment for an old soldier. Sidney Smith sounds a call for the first time in 65 years, courtesy of the Bugle Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles. Sidney joined the Royal Artillery as a Boy Trumpeter in 1919 but later transferred to a tank battalion which "did not encourage

tootling in armoured vehicles".

Sidney's special visit to the Gurkhas was arranged by local hairdresser Heather Jones who numbers the Gurkhas among her customers. And on his 85th birthday Sidney, who lives at Church Crookham, Hants, near the Gurkhas barracks, fulfilled his wish.

Polar bear brigade warms to its work

THOUSANDS of men, mainly from 49 Infantry Brigade, are taking part in the biggest TA exercise to be held in the UK this year.



The brigade is the successor to 49 Division which fought in both world wars. The exercise takes its name from the brigade symbol, a polar bear, adopted as the flash of 49 Division when it was serving in Iceland.

According to legend one of them attacked a staff officer.

The polar bear was initially shown with head lowered defensively but by the time the Division took part in the Normandy fighting it was shown in a much more aggressive posture - as the illustration taken from a 1945 issue of *SOLDIER* shows.

One of its most distinguished performances was the storming of Le Havre which fell within 36 hours.

Later it played a leading part alongside the Canadians in the final capture of Arnhem.

After that particular battle the 11th Canadian Armoured Regiment asked for two polar bear divisional signs to sew on their Colours. As a participant said "the respect was mutual".

Units taking part in the present exercise on Salisbury Plain as friendly forces are: 100 Fd Regt, RA; 73 Engr Regt; 5 RRF, 5 and 7 R Anglian, 3 Staffords, 5 LI; 222 and 250 Fd Amb. The "enemy" forces are being provided by A Sqn RH; 1 RHF; C Coy 7/10 UDR; 23 SAS; A Flt 58 Sqn RAF Regt; US Guard Def Flt.

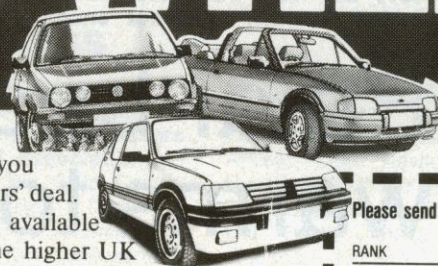
D Squadron wins 16/5 L Brooke Cup competition

EVERY year 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, based in Herford, West Germany, conduct an inter-troop competition to confirm the level of military knowledge, training and expertise achieved by soldiers.

Prize for the winner, apart from the kudos associated with being the best troop in the regiment, is the Brooke Cup, a solid silver trophy presented in 1929 by Lt Col GFH Brooke - originally for skill at arms and

horsemanship. It became clear the winner would be from the pre-competition favourites, 5th Tp C Sqn or 1st Tp D (GW) Sqn. The latter took the honours by 89 points in just over 1,300.

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Hussars relive their history on horseback in Spain

FIFTEEN men from the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) based at Tidworth are preparing to mark a significant event in their regimental history. They are aiming to retrace on horseback the route taken in the Peninsula War nearly 180 years

ago by the 13th Light Dragoons, one of the forerunners of the present regiment.

The Spanish Army is providing 12 horses for the expedition, which will begin south of Salamanca and end 300 miles to the north west at Miranda de Ebro.

Expedition leader Capt Richard Pakenham-Walsh said the Hussars planned to cover the distance over some of the most barren, rugged and mountainous terrain in Spain in 14 days. Riders and horses will be supported by a road party.

Queen's tribute to NCO who disarmed gunman

A SOLDIER who tackled a gunman who was brandishing a pistol and had already shot and wounded a colleague has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Disregarding the pistol pointed towards him, SSgt John Mason rushed at the gunman, landing a flying kick to his head and pushing him to the ground. He forced the gunman's gun arm away and pinned his neck to the ground with his elbow. Help then arrived and the man was disarmed.

The drama happened at Fallingbommel, West Germany, where SSgt Mason was serving with 7 Armoured Workshop of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The gunman, a lance corporal, attempted to abduct at gunpoint Orderly Sgt Richard Williams, who had earlier put the man on a charge for reporting late for duty at the guardroom.

SSgt Mason, now with the Unit Computing Team at RAPC Worthy Down, was working in a nearby building. He heard the two men arguing and looked out to see the lance corporal pointing the pistol at his captive. As he rushed out he heard a shot,



Despite the pressures of operational duty, 250 members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, currently six months into a two year residential tour in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, gathered at Ebrington Barracks for a Minden Day parade. LCpl Derek Lee of Y Coy is pictured with his red rose after it had been presented to

him by Commander 8 Infantry Brigade, Brig Jim Parker. After the parade 2ic Maj Andrew Edwards, accompanied by the adjutant, Capt Chris Warren and WO1 (RSM) Kim Baker, toured the many sangars and independent locations within the battalion's area of responsibility and presented roses to on duty soldiers.

and arrived at the scene to find Sgt Williams lying on the ground with the gunman kneeling and aiming the pistol at him.

As SSgt Mason approached he turned to point the gun in his direction.

SSgt Mason's swift and selfless action undoubtedly saved Sgt Williams from further injury or death, and averted the very real possibility of additional casualties had the lance corporal escaped from the scene. That he tackled the gunman head on, knowing he had already shot and wounded one man, was an act of outstanding bravery, says the citation.

The lance corporal later appeared before a court martial, and was dismissed from the Army and sentenced to four years imprisonment.

On the march

WINNERS of the British Army team award at the Royal Military Police's City of Chichester International March were Catterick based 8th Signal Regiment. Driving force behind the team was Sgt Terry Carter, a veteran of the Nijmegen Marches.

He persuaded and cajoled Permanent Staff members to enter the event, which attracted teams from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Holland, Italy and the USA. Capt Shelagh Macleod led the team. Other cadre members were Sgt Geordie Maughan, Cpls Frey Romain and Jonno Blood and Sig Arthur Daly.

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Cheshires in Caribbean exchange

MORE THAN 120 Jamaican soldiers will be bringing a flavour of the sunny Caribbean to the streets of Chester during the next few weeks. The soldiers, members of the Jamaican Defence Force, are in Britain for their annual reciprocal training exercise with a unit of the British Army – this year the 1st Battalion, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment at Dale Barracks, Chester. A similar number of

Cheshire Regiment soldiers have flown to Jamaica for the British part of the exchange, Exercise Calypso Hop 1989.

Calypso Hop allows the Jamaicans to train in new and different surroundings and to familiarise themselves with the tactics and techniques of operations in a temperate climate. In exchange British troops have an opportunity to practise jungle warfare

training in a tropical climate. This year the Cheshires visiting Jamaica will also be assisting in community projects under a relief programme instituted following a devastating hurricane which hit the island last year.

The Jamaicans, under the command of Maj Linton Graham, will be hosted by the Cheshires in Chester until October 6.

666 Sqn swoops to the rescue

WHAT should have been a routine weekend navigational exercise for officers of 666 Squadron Army Air Corps (Volunteers) on Salisbury Plain turned into a mercy errand when the crew spotted a badly injured soldier on a remote part of the training area.

A Scout helicopter from the squadron's home base at Netheravon with a two man crew and two passengers, including a visiting officer from the US National Guard, was flying over the Plain when they spotted a man in uniform lying on the ground with a motor cycle nearby.

Realising the man was in difficulty, the helicopter landed and found that a senior warrant officer from 214 Battery, Royal Artillery, a Midlands based Territorial Army unit on exercise on the Plain, had fallen from his machine and broken a leg.

The Scout's two passengers, including the visiting American officer, were offloaded and the injured man was made comfortable in the stretcher which can be fixed in the back of the helicopter by adapting the seats. He was flown initially to Tidworth Medical Centre before being taken by road to Princess Alexandra Hospital, Wroughton.

The Scout then located the injured man's headquarters near the Bustard and flew out a rider to recover the motor cycle, also picking up the two stranded passengers.

The mission, flown by the Army's only TA helicopter squadron, was led by the OC, Maj Anthony Stansfeld, with his second in command Capt Vic Finch and Capt John Cowie. The US visitor was Chief Warrant Officer John Oldham of the 278th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee National Guard. After the rescue Captain Finch said: "It all went so smoothly that we had some difficulty in convincing our American guest that this was not a set-piece staged especially to impress him."



Putting their best feet forward towards Arnhem are (from left) LCpl David Hammond, LCpl Vince Lithgo, Cpl Lee Panter and Pte John Etheridge

Paras mark 45th Arnhem anniversary with march

A 208 mile sponsored walk from Aldershot to Arnhem is expected to raise about £4,000 for the Airborne Forces Security Fund which helps airborne veterans.

Twelve soldiers from the Aldershot based 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion took to the road to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Allied airborne offensive, immortalised in the film, *A Bridge Too Far*.

They arrived in time for a special memorial weekend but a planned drop by

several hundred parachutists, mainly from the London based 10 Para Volunteers, and including 14 members of the Logistic Battalion led by their CO, Lt Col Robin Joy, Maj Brian Hamilton, OC 10 Airborne Workshop REME, and RSM David Hallas had to be cancelled because of poor weather conditions.

WO2 AQMS Pat Burns, who was in charge of the road party, played a major part in getting sponsorship.

Soviet study

TOURS of army, navy and air force units are on the schedule for a month long visit to the Soviet Union, Poland and West Germany by 12 members of the Royal College of Defence Studies. It is the first such visit by the RCDS to the Soviet Union.

The group, comprising senior officers from all three British Armed Services, and officers from the United States, Australia, Sri Lanka and Kenya, began their tour in Leningrad before moving on to a number of cities including Moscow, Minsk, Kiev, Tbilisi, Yalta, Warsaw, Hamburg and Munich. The visit is being hosted by the Soviet Ministry of Defence.

Youngest unit

THERE was a very youthful look about the new unit attached to 3 Ordnance Battalion in West Germany. In fact, its average age was just 16.

Formed from 45 Exeter School, Devon cadets and 20 pupils of Cornwall School, Dortmund, 34 (Cadet) Ord Coy was equipped with its own vehicle fleet, technical stores and computers to enable it to provide stores support to 3rd Armoured Division. Driving was done by Regular soldiers.

The unit deployed into the field at Muschede, south east of Dortmund for a week before returning to base at Munster.

Picture: Mike Weston



WELL DONE: Thomas Jones (right) receives his commendation from Gen Sir Brian Kenny

Life at the sharp end

Thomas Jones has for the past 15 years been living his life at the sharp end between East and West.

As a Frontier Service Officer in the Joint Services Liaison Organisation in Germany, and since 1984 as the leader of a small detachment responsible for British matters on the Inner German Border, any mistake on his part could have led to a serious international incident – even loss of life.

Now, in recognition of his personal dedication to the safe conduct of thousands of British Servicemen and others on patrols and visits along the border, Mr Jones has been presented with the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation (Civil).

Before joining the JSLO 28 years ago, Thomas spent 16 years in the Army.



BADGE OF OFFICE: New RSM Willmore (right) receives the cane from RSM Bennison

Over to you, RSM . . .

WO1 (RSM) **Tony Willmore's** first official duty as Regimental Sergeant Major of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers at Harewood Barracks, Herford, West Germany was to summon WO2 (RQMS(T)) **Mick Taylor**, present him with his WO1 rank badge and congratulate him on his promotion to WO1 (RSM) and

selection as RSM of the UNFICYP Support Regiment in Cyprus.

Earlier RSM Willmore had received the RSMs cane and rank badge from his predecessor, WO1 (RSM) **Scratch Bennison**, who as Lt Bennison promptly departed for his new job as the Regimental Families Officer.

Phantom roll call



WRAC members stationed in the Falklands take a closer look at a Phantom of 1435 Flight, part of the air defences based at RAF Mount Pleasant. From left to right are the girls' host, Sqn Ldr **Mike Wescott**, Pte **Lisa Cropper** (251 Sig Sqn), Pte **Joanne Horrocks** (16 Bn), Cpl **Jane Ramsey** (Jnr Ldrs RA) and Cpl **Margo Iliffe** (Int Corps TA).

PEOPLE



SSgt **Beryl Ford** (pictured above), WRAC Provost serving with 113 Provost Company RMP at Werl, West Germany had just the right stuff flowing through her veins when an emergency call for AB Positive blood went out from a local hospital.

Beryl, a police office supervisor with 113 Pro Coy, made a 12 mile dash to Soest to give her half litre of blood, and subsequently heard that the operation which depended on the transfusion had been a complete success.

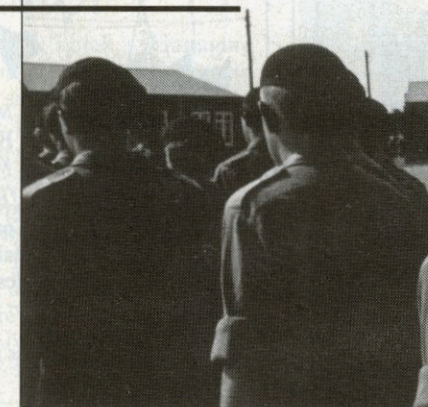
Two soldiers from the Werl based 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots also stood by to give blood but were not needed.

Long serving Peter's seen it all before

For Capt **Peter Knight**, looking along the straight ranks of Army cadets on parade at the Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force annual camp at Beckingham, Lincolnshire, it was a time for memories going back half a century to 1940 when he himself stood in those ranks as a 13-year-old cadet.

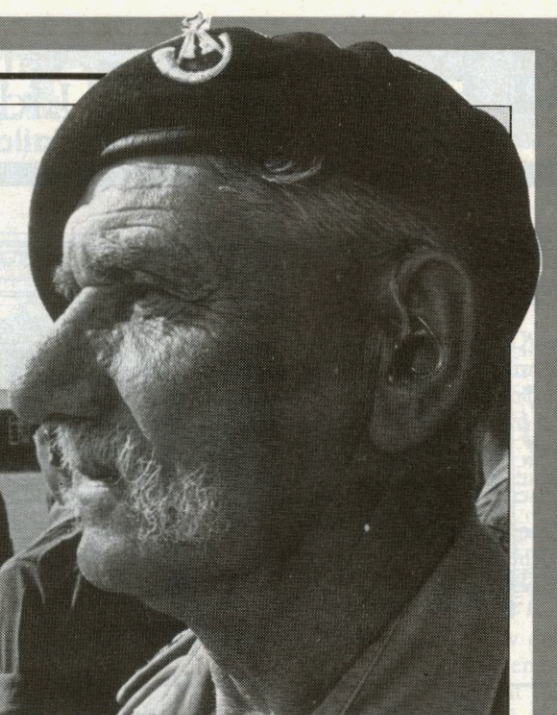
The county force's longest-serving officer – he was commissioned in 1949 – Capt Knight (62) is retiring after a remarkable record of service which has included 20 years as platoon commander at Kington, Herefordshire, and a long spell as force admin and catering officer.

All his three sons have served with the cadets and gone on to the Regular Army, and eldest son **Charles** – nine years with the



LONG SERVER: Capt Peter Knight at Beckingham

Royal Signals – is following family tradition as sergeant instructor with his father's old platoon at Kington.



BOOKS GALORE: Falklands children take delivery. Back left is WO1 (Conductor) George Strugnell.

Actions speak volumes. . .

A conversation a year ago between WO1 **John Moore**, RAOC and Mrs Jean Smith, headmistress of Stanley Infant and Junior School in the Falkland Islands has had spectacular results: The school is trying to build up its library of books and when John was posted to Germany from the Falkland Islands a year ago BFBS put a request out on his behalf for any old books.

They came flooding in, more than 5,800 of

them, some new and unused, from units all over BAOR. They were bundled up, dispatched to the Falkland Islands and delivered by the RAOC to the school in Stanley, to the unconcealed delight of the children.

On hand to help unpack the books was WO1 (Conductor) **George Strugnell**, RAOC whose predecessor, WO1 Moore, had initiated the collection.



★ **LCpl Arthur Mullard** ★

★ Dragoon farrier ★

★ No, LCpl **Arthur Mullard** of the ★ 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards ★ isn't pointing to the horseshoe for ★ luck! He had just sewn it on after ★ passing out top of his B3 farriers' ★ course at RAVC Melton Mowbray. ★

★ He is the first QDG farrier for 12 ★ years and is now looking after 21 ★ horses at Wolfenbuttel, West ★ Germany. ★

★ In case you are wondering ★ about the stripes, lance corporals ★ in the QDG wear two. ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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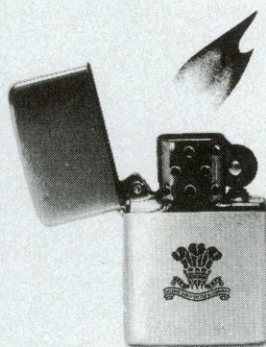
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Helmet appeal

There are genuine militaria collectors – and there are those who cannot resist stealing what they want.

Latest victim of the latter kind is the Dorset Military Museum in Dorchester which had loaned a very rare Tarleton helmet of the Sherborne Loyal Volunteers to Weymouth Borough Museum.

While it was on display, the helmet, dating from 1798 and with the name Sergeant D Penny on the inner padding, was stolen.

The black helmet has a plate joined by brass stays, is peaked to a point and bears a black fur crest. There is a red band at the bottom and red feather plume to the left hand side.

Maj John Carroll, curator of the Dorset Military Museum (0305 64066), would be very interested to hear of its whereabouts.

Big money militaria

Militaria continues to command big money. The Sherborne Loyal Volunteers helmet (see above) was valued at £1,000, and at the latest militaria sale of Wallis and Wallis high prices were paid for military badges.

An officer's gilt and silver plated cap badge of the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers fetched £320, and a silver cap badge of the 11th Battalion, The Border Regiment made £240. The most unusual item

SOLDIER to Soldier

Retiring editor

Roland Thick, Managing Editor of **SOLDIER** for the past six years, has retired.

He joined the Ministry of Defence as an information officer in 1965 and served in Singapore, West Germany and Northern Ireland. Roland spent 13 years with the Royal Air Force before joining the Centre Desk in Whitehall as Deputy Chief Press Officer.

His subsequent move to the Army included a spell as Deputy Director of Public Relations. He began his



career in journalism on the South Coast, later working for the Press Association.

His successor at **SOLDIER** is to be Chris Horrocks, at present Deputy Editor of *Navy News*, the monthly newspaper of the Royal Navy.

Chaplain General as he unveiled the new sign board for St Barbara's Garrison Church, Stanley Fort in Hong Kong.

The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment has a penchant for sign boards which is aided and abetted by the very skilful work of Cpl Dave Hawkins, one of the battalion's Pioneers.

With the visit of the Deputy Chaplain General approaching, the Quarter Master decided that a replacement board was long overdue and the new one was constructed. Its uniqueness is marked by the fact that the Deputy Chaplain General unveiled it and also because each time a typhoon threatens Hong Kong, it is taken down!

on sale was probably a lock of Napoleon Bonaparte's hair in a fold of paper, inscribed in ink "Given to me by Capt Fuller, 53rd Regiment, May 8th 1818". Capt Frederick Harvey Fuller served with The 53rd Foot on St Helena in 1816-17 where he doubtless acquired the relic. A snip at £360!

Medal from Flanders

A Military Medal won by Pte Edward Carton at Flanders in 1917 has been presented by his nephew to the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

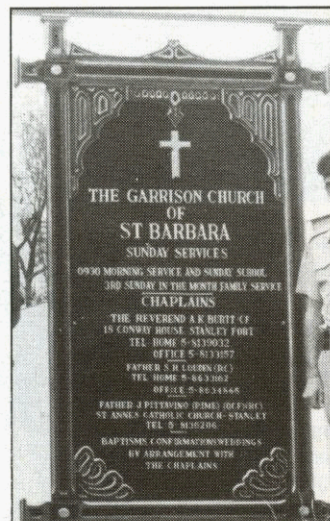
Pte Carton, who enlisted in

the regiment in 1913 at the age of 17, was delivering a message to headquarters in Flanders when he was shot through the chest. But he refused to stop at a first aid post and insisted on delivering the message. He died two days later.

Now the MM and his 1914-15 Star trio have been presented to Lt Col Mike Diss, CO of 4 Kings Own Border, by Mr Fredrick Whitehead (76), nephew of Pte Carton.

Sign up, or down!

"A sign board that any civilian church in England would be envious of and proud to have." So stated the Deputy



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



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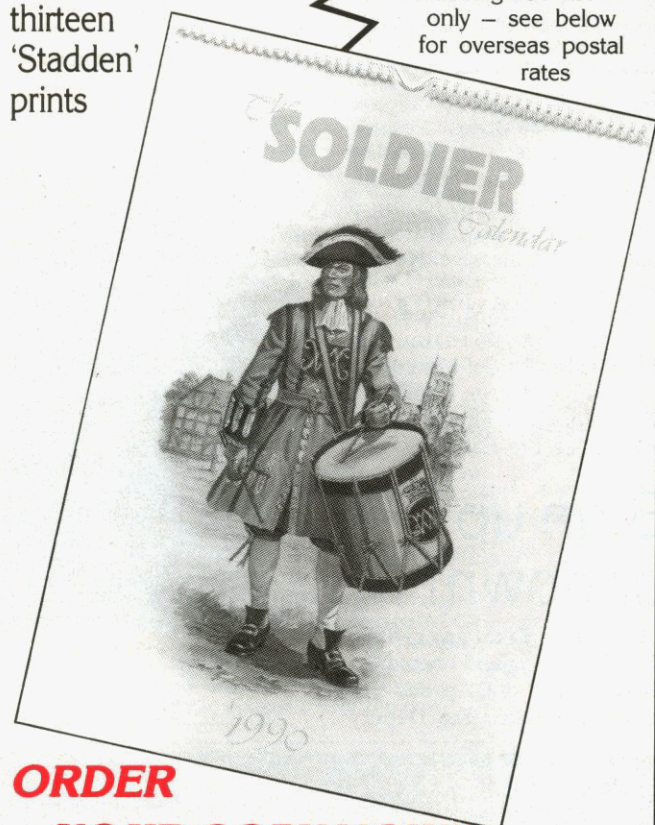
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Sol 1

S02/10/89



26th Hussars: A regiment sacrificed to tradition

A SEQUEL to the article commemorating the birth of the Royal Armoured Corps arrived at SOLDIER in the shape of a thoughtful reminiscence from a former member of the 26th Hussars. Ah! Do we hear some young soldier say: The WHICH Hussars?

Well, Winston Churchill himself was slightly puzzled when he learned that not only the 26th were being formed but the 22nd and 25th Dragoons, 23rd Hussars, and the 24th and 27th Lancers.

On December 22, 1941 he wrote to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff:

"Surely it was a very odd thing to create these outlandish numbered regiments... none of which has carbines, swords or lances, when there exist already telescoped up the 18th, 20th and 19th Hussars, 5th Lancers and 21st Lancers. Surely all these should have been revived before creating these new, unreal and artificial titles..."

In fact, there was nothing artificial about them as they had been in existence and disbanded in previous centuries (the 23rd were at Waterloo!)

The 26th Hussars were formed in India around a cadre from the 14th/20th King's Hussars but many of the other ranks came from infantry



Tpr Malcolm Connolly, 3rd Carabiniers 1945

regiments already serving in the sub-Continent. They did not impress Tpr Malcolm Connolly, whose father had spent a lifetime in the 12th Lancers.

"The trouble was that many of them had been in India for more than seven years and were suffering from low morale... it was of course only to be expected that infantry battalions ordered to send drafts to make up new regiments of another arm would get rid of – especially in wartime – their worst soldiers, not their best."

Tpr Connolly, who had joined the Royal Armoured Corps, says that "once these most undesirable of soldiers

Gentlemen Cadets return to The Shop

ABOUT 650 former Gentlemen Cadets and their wives returned to Woolwich to mark the 50th anniversary of the closing of "The Shop".

The Royal Military Academy (pictured left) on the south edge of Woolwich Common trained young men at their own expense for commissions in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, and latterly for the Royal Signals and Royal Tank

Regiment. It closed on the eve of the Second World War and never reopened. The imposing buildings are now home to a number of units, including the Royal Artillery Institution which began the process of tracing former Gentlemen Cadets nearly three years ago.

Main hosts for the reunion were the Master Gunner, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, the Chief Royal Engineer, Gen Sir George

Cooper, and the Master of Signals, Maj Gen John Badcock.

The RMA was formed in 1741 in The Warren at Woolwich, restyled the Royal Arsenal in 1805. The following year it moved to the present site. The term "shop" was a familiar nickname for the RMA as the place where cadets carried out their training. It survives in the expression "to talk shop".



Historic picture of the first tank to reach the top of Kennedy Peak, scene of heavy fighting in the Burma campaign. The driver, thumps in belt second from right, was Tpr Malcolm Connolly

were sent home and replaced by drafts from the UK petty prejudices disappeared. We were no longer accused of 'spoiling their army' – they'd been used to a siesta at midday until the war started."

The young troopers got down to business and "the regimental spirit was born. Morale was high and in 1943, as good cavalry, we were championing at the bit."

Excitement grew when the 25th Dragoons (formed in India at the same time as the 26th) left for active service in Burma. The 26th Hussars, training near Secunderabad, expected to follow them, especially after "bombing up" their Lee and Grant tanks with full stocks of 75mm and 37mm ammunition.

When tension was at its height they were told the regiment was to be broken up, RAC trained personnel to join the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards), those with an infantry background to go to the Chindits.

Feelings ran so high that the commanding officer even petitioned the King, but to no avail. Eight officers and 180 men changed cap badges.

Tpr Connolly: "After all these years it is quite apparent why they disbanded the 26th Hussars. Tanks were urgently required for service against the

Japanese and only two regiments were available. One was a cavalry regiment with 250 years of tradition but well below strength and without a full complement of vehicles and certainly not in any condition to fight; the other a wartime regiment, two years old, with high morale and at full strength in tanks and men.

"The 26th Hussars had been sacrificed for tradition."

The 3rd Carabiniers, having been fleshed out, went into action almost immediately at Imphal where a beleaguered British force achieved one of the most significant successes in the Far Eastern war.

"We were so close to the Japs around the perimeter that we couldn't depress our guns enough to fire on them," recalls

former Tpr Connolly.

The ferocity of the Japanese opposition can be gauged from a later incident when a Japanese officer leaped on the back of one of the Carabiniers tanks, beheaded the commander with his sword, heaved out the body, strangled the turret gunner with his bare hands and was eventually despatched by the loader who pumped 12 bullets into him.

The Carabiniers fought throughout the Burma campaign and bequeathed a string of battle honours to their successors, now the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys).

Ex Tpr Connolly: "After thinking about 'tradition' I ask myself – did those wartime regiments fight any better for having an outdated cavalry identity? Did their actions surpass those units raised in a time of extreme urgency and given numbers in the Royal Armoured Corps?"

"My conclusion is that their deeds were on a par with the best."

Malcolm Connolly, a tank driver, began and finished his military career as a trooper. After the war he became a successful businessman at Andover, Hants, where he is chairman of the local Burma Star Association.

He still remembers being astonished when told to fall in for "petting parade".

"When I inquired what that was I was told it was when you made a fuss of your horse – only we had 38-ton tanks."

And he admits to a strange feeling of pride that came over him at a reunion of "The Carbs" long after the war when a former squadron leader told him he was not a true Carabinier but a 26th Hussar. He replied that moreover he had enlisted in the Royal Armoured Corps.

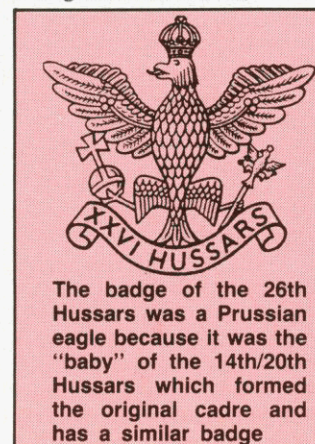
Mr Connolly, now semi-retired, thinks that even today there is an unnecessary division between cavalry regiments. Former members must belong to regimental associations which are based in that part of the country from which recruits are traditionally drawn.

"This makes it difficult for men who live in the south to maintain contact with associations in the north, and vice versa."

"Is it not time for branches of the Royal Armoured Corps to be formed right across the nation so that all ex cavalrymen (and the RTR), regardless of their regiment, can belong to them?"

It's a thought.

– Bill Moore



The badge of the 26th Hussars was a Prussian eagle because it was the "baby" of the 14th/20th Hussars which formed the original cadre and has a similar badge

More accommodating!

That's the new ASU image

Story:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Perring

A UNIT which directly affects the quality of life of everyone associated with the British Army is changing its image.

The Accommodation Services Unit, often castigated and rarely complimented, has the unenviable and impossible task of trying to please all of the people all of the time.

It provides, maintains, replaces and exchanges carpets, curtains and "hard stick" furniture in Army married quarters, single barrack accommodation, messes, hospitals, offices, schools and soldiers' restaurants. It also provides all the utensils, crockery and cutlery in messes, hospitals and restaurants.

The ASU arranges and monitors certain contracts, and through an interface with local authorities and public utilities, is involved in such diverse responsibilities as refuse collection and conservation.

The ASU in South East District is headed by Lt Col John Ore. His area includes detachments in north and south Aldershot, Bicester, Thorney Island, Camberley, Chatham

and Shorncliffe, with more than 9,000 married quarters and 146 units. His branch also furnishes a small number of Royal Air Force quarters.

The South East District stock on issue is worth £20m with a further £1.5m in store.

Col Ore has a team of 212 civilian staff, managed by five military and eight civilian officers. They include 90 of the much maligned Accommodation Services Accountants.

Their job is to inspect married quarters before approving – or otherwise – the handover by families who are moving on. ASAs have to have served 22 years in the Army, reaching at least sergeant, before being considered for the job.

It has long been a spurious joke in Army circles that ASAs inspect the bed springs for dust. It was common practice, and, to a certain extent continues, but is largely discouraged.

Col Ore explained: "ASAs are ex Army because it is felt they can easily identify with the problems young families face.

Of course, it is easier for the experienced soldier and his family who have undergone a number of moves to 'go on the march'.

"Ideally we like ASAs to be looked on as father figures. But some can be over-fastidious, because different people have different interpretations of what a clean, satisfactory quarter should be. What is clean to one person may be dirty to another. It is a very emotive area.

"When an ASA walks into a married quarter and it is obvious to him that the handover is neat, tidy and clean, he will not go down to the Nth degree of inspecting bedsprings or looking behind wardrobes.

"But we do have a responsibility to the incoming occupant. We give the ASAs guidelines and limits within which to work. We also have to remember we are answerable to the taxpayer.

"We are trying to change our image, becoming more flexible and using common sense as opposed to the rule book. We



Lt Col John Ore, OC Accommodation Services Unit South East District (centre) and five of his Accommodation Services Accountants, look at points of

interest on a map of their area of responsibility. He is pictured with (from the left) Mike Prince (ex The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment), and Bert Mackay (The Parachute

Regiment) who are both Camberley ASAs, Bill Cartwright (Royal Army Ordnance Corps) Aldershot North, Gerry Maguire (Royal Engineers) and David Graham (Para), both Aldershot South

are becoming more conscious that we are dealing with individuals."

Attention is given to customer feedback.

The colonel said: "We often have a thankless task. On the odd occasion you do get a compliment, but you soon hear from a disgruntled tenant because that is human nature.

"It is an impossible task to satisfy all the customers all of the time. We pass on their comments to the appropriate place and take whatever steps we can within our limits to put matters right.

"For instance, chair covers jokingly described as 'camouflage psychedelic' were replaced after complaints, and it

eventually led to the setting up of the Joint Services Furnishing Committee, which decides on patterns, and so on."

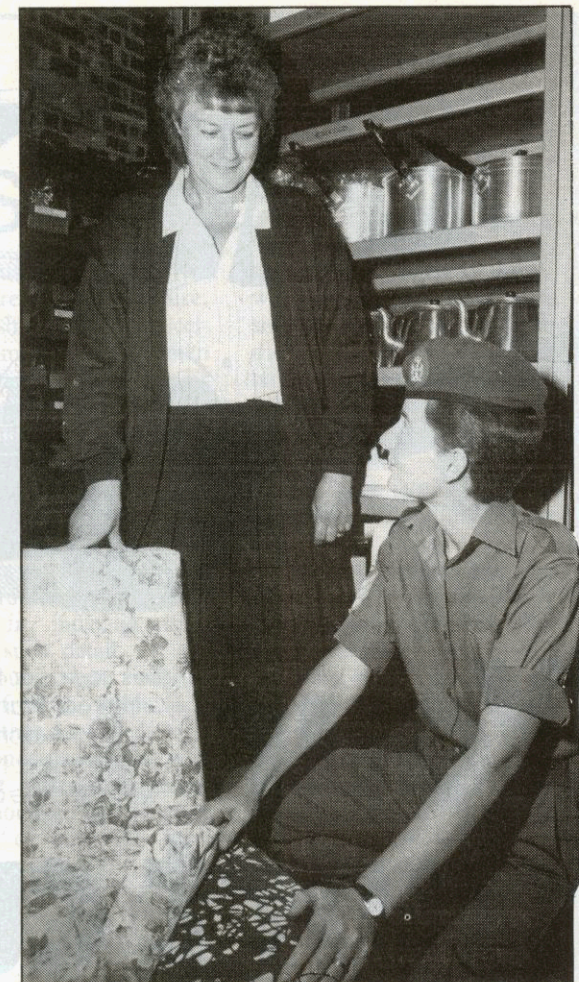
David Graham, an ASA for Aldershot South, recalled the times when as a soldier with The Parachute Regiment he handed over his quarters.

"I remember the misgivings when march out came. In our

job we do get some hassle because we are at the front end, but we try to be helpful, professional and more welfare conscious."

David Jones, Civilian Accommodation Services Officer for Aldershot North, had 19 different homes in 22 years with the Grenadier Guards.

He said: "I have a pretty



Andrea Kelly, storekeeper's assistant, shows the latest nylon stretch covers on issue to SSgt Stephanie Micciche, QARANC

accurate idea of the problems. We never forget that moving house is one of the biggest traumas for a family, and Army families are uprooted more often than most."

While there is much talk about married quarters, it must not be forgotten that the single soldier is by far the ASU's biggest customer. The 40,000 or so in South East District make up more than one third of the unit's clients. The unit is finding it is issuing far fewer items to them because many prefer to personalise accommodation by buying their own furniture.

Col Ore added: "There have been changes and we will be more adaptable. We are now much more suited to the young families of the 1980s and 1990s."

Meanwhile there is a rolling programme to improve both married and single accommodation worldwide. In Aldershot, for example, 263 new married quarters were completed at Goose Green Estate in 1987. A scheme to build 162 quarters at Talavera Park is halfway through, while at Marlborough Park there will be 64 new homes by the end of the year.

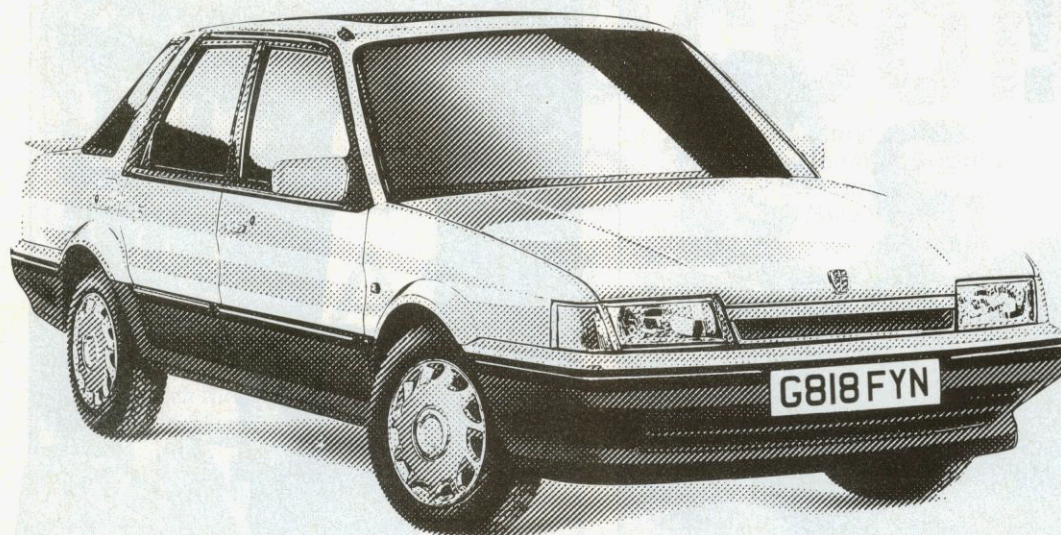
The Ministry of Defence is still reviewing the future of empty flats at Willems Park.



Sgt Peter Keenan ACC, of 22 Fd Ambulance, and his wife Christine are delighted with their new three bedroom quarters in Slim Close, Aldershot. It is their sixth quarter in 17 years and they say it is "like a palace". Their home is part of the area's new build programme. They are pictured with David Jones, civilian accommodation services officer for Aldershot North, who had 19 different homes in his 22 years with the Army, and is keenly aware of the problems moving brings



John Dunne (centre) of the ASA visits new barrack accommodation at Keogh Barracks, Surrey, featuring new clothes storage units. The room is occupied by LCpl Graham Carter, who is making the bed, and LCpl Dave Thomson



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LETTERS EXTRA

Floating crowns

A number of photos have appeared in **SOLDIER** of colour or staff sergeants wearing the crown "floating" high above the chevrons. This to me looks positively unsightly. The latest examples were featured on Pages 7 and 9 of the August 21 edition.

The correct position for the crown is nestling in the V of the chevrons, not more than 1/4in above. The crown should be placed higher only when another badge is affixed underneath, e.g. cross hammer and tongues, gun or grenade.

It is to be hoped that offending colour or staff sergeants will read this observation and make the necessary adjustment to their "Badges Arm, Crowns Small." – A. Worley, 42 Yatesbury Crescent, Nottingham NG8 3AW.

Eccentric bonnets

I beg leave to refer you to your issue of Aug 7, Page 11, top picture showing seven Jocks of The Gordon Highlanders.

Their headdress is interesting and bears a fleeting and distant resemblance to the "bonnet, TOS" with which I was issued so many years ago. The presence of an officer suggests that the sartorial surgery necessary to achieve the finish displayed had received official approval. Would it be possible for **SOLDIER** to obtain a specimen of the item as issued so that we may marvel at the transformation? – John Gaylor, Hon Secretary, The Military Historical Society, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UA.

Lawrence

I much appreciated the article in **SOLDIER** to Soldier (August 21) about the late Lawrence of Arabia. I have a very great admiration for him and it is the first time that I have seen an article about him in an Army magazine. I am so happy that there are always fresh cut flowers on his tomb. Kenneth J Heselwood, 1st Sergeant, Police Bureau, Rue de Witte 30, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Identities of 346 executed soldiers revealed

THE appearance of a book which identifies every man shot for breaches of military discipline during the First World War will cause a lot of heart searching.

A total of 346 death sentences were carried out – including three officers, two of whom were convicted of murder, the third for desertion.

The number of executions has been known, along with the related offence, since the *Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire during the Great War 1914-20*, was published by HMSO in 1922.

The names of those executed were not released and the courts martial papers were declared closed to the public for 100 years after the event.

This was reduced to 75 years after William Moore's book *The Thin Yellow Line* appeared in 1974.

In 1983 a judge, Anthony Babington, was allowed to examine the courts martial file on the understanding he did not reveal any names.

However, while his honour was engrossed in his restricted

research a document WO93/49 was deposited in the Public Record Office (when files were being moved under a reorganisation) which not only contained all the names but was open to the public.

Julian Putkowski and Julian Sykes, the joint authors of *Shot at Dawn* have made extensive use of the facts available and followed them up through battalion war diaries and other documents.

They can be read in various permutations – executions "on the Western Front" . . . "in Other Theatres" . . . "in Divisional Order" . . . "in Regimental or Unit Order" . . . and "Place of Burial or Commemoration of Executed Men".

Very few regiments are missing from the list of those in which men were executed, the exceptions being, according to the book, the Grenadier Guards, Welsh Guards, Honourable Artillery Company, Bedfordshire, Royal Irish, Gloucestershire, Ox and Bucks LI, Shropshire LI,

Monmouthshire, Cambridgeshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire and miscellaneous small units. No men in the cavalry, Tank Corps or RAMC seem to have suffered the extreme penalty which in the majority of cases was for desertion. (Charges of cowardice in the face of the enemy were extremely rare).

Soldiers will form their own views as to the purpose of the authors in indexing their work in such detail.

No doubt there will be criticism from the public as to the hurt that may be done to the descendants of those who were shot. Often their deaths were announced as "Died of Wounds" or some other form of words.

The authorities – and in this case the politicians share responsibility with the commanders – had a difficult problem.

Deserters were shot, primarily, to discourage desertion. Executions were announced in orders in war zones as having been carried

out. But until 1916 the Army was composed of volunteers so to broadcast the news in the United Kingdom might have damaged recruiting. After conscription was introduced the possible outcry from parents and wives against harsh punishment was something which had to be considered.

Victorian values still applied, and to be related to someone who had been shot for desertion could be regarded as a stigma.

Do Victorian values still apply? Will there be an outcry when names on war memorials regarded as those of men killed in action are revealed to belong to soldiers found guilty of failing in their duty?

Putkowski and Sykes will undoubtedly be accused of bad taste, insensitivity, and ghoulish sensationalism.

But the authorities have only themselves to blame.

The imposition of a 100-year ban on access to these disturbing courts

● Turn to Page 37

6 LI at full strength in Cyprus

WHEN the 6th (Somerset and Cornwall) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) was given the opportunity to hold its annual two week camp in Cyprus, it did so lock, stock and barrel.

For the first time in many years a complete home defence Territorial Army battalion deployed overseas as a unit. More than 400 personnel from 6 LI took part, including elements of the Home Service Force.

Based in Bath, 6 LI has companies in Yeovil, Falmouth and Truro and is commanded by Lt Col David Wynne Davies.

The battalion made its home at Bloodhound Camp near Episcopi in the Western Sovereign Base Area. Each rifle company rotated through a



Pte Stephen Beresford from Yeovil has a drink with a priest at Pissouri during 6 LI's camp in Cyprus

package that included an internal security exercise on the Akamas Training Area; a range package in Dhekelia; adventure training in water sports and in the Troodos Mountains; and R

and R in Paphos and Limassol.

HQ Company was responsible for Bloodhound Camp but also had to run a TA recruits' cadre, a refresher course for the rece platoon, a bugle cadre for

the buglers and a signals cadre.

The opportunity to go overseas on exercise has boosted the battalion strength and 6 LI is now recruited to 90 per cent of establishment.

Artist at war

Milk bug gave Frank the chance to use sketch skills

A Second World War soldier who became a renowned cartoonist found his life dramatically changed for the better – thanks to an obscure Mediterranean disease, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

After drinking contaminated milk Frank Finch went down with undulant fever which led to him being medically downgraded.

Until then Frank, now 74, had been with the Royal Army Medical Corps, tending to British casualties in the Middle East. Suddenly he was himself a patient, travelling by hospital ship to South Africa from where, after convalescence, he was posted to the East Africa Medical Corps.

Before the war Frank had been a graphics artist with a Birmingham advertising agency, illustrating products such as lawnmowers, commercial vehicles and tyres.

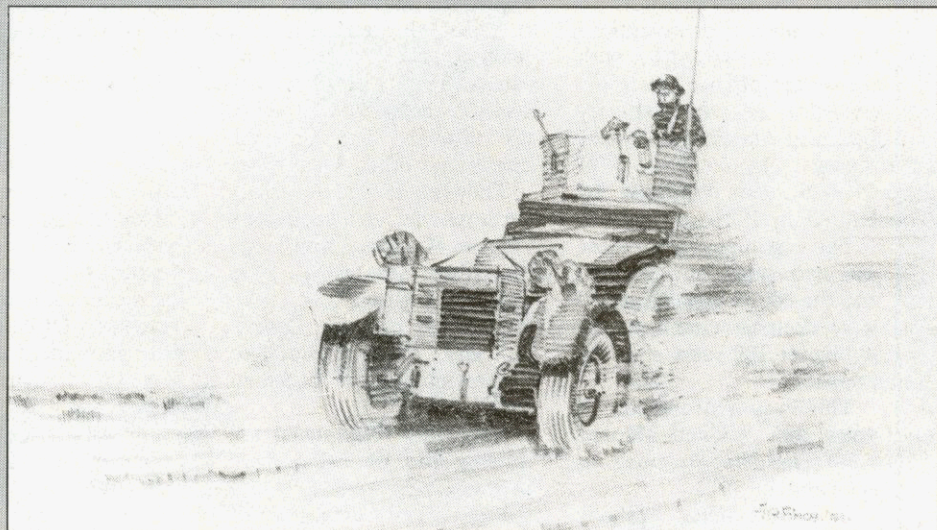
But his new posting meant far more exotic and diverse topics. For instance, venereal disease was common among African troops being trained by the British Army to fight the Japanese in Burma, and Frank designed a poster in Swahili to explain the affects of VD.

Newly-arrived Army doctors were lectured on tropical diseases and Frank, working from a microscope, produced large colour drawings of contaminated blood cells and dangerous insects to illustrate the talks.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps became concerned about a diminishing stock of socks, so Frank designed a strip cartoon explaining how to darn holes.

"The troops we were training had never before worn boots, let alone socks, so they had no idea how to mend them."

Frank also designed cinema slides.



An armoured car comes to life in this sketch

Of those years, he recalled: "It was a lovely time, it kept me off all regimental duties, and was a golden opportunity not to be square bashing. It was a cinch, thanks to being medically downgraded."

Four years into his war service Frank was attached to a branch of the Intelligence Corps and became art editor of the command magazine, *Jambo* (which means "good day" in Swahili).

During embarkation leave in July 1945, Frank received a telegram asking him to go to the War Office to start work on a new magazine called *SOLDIER*.

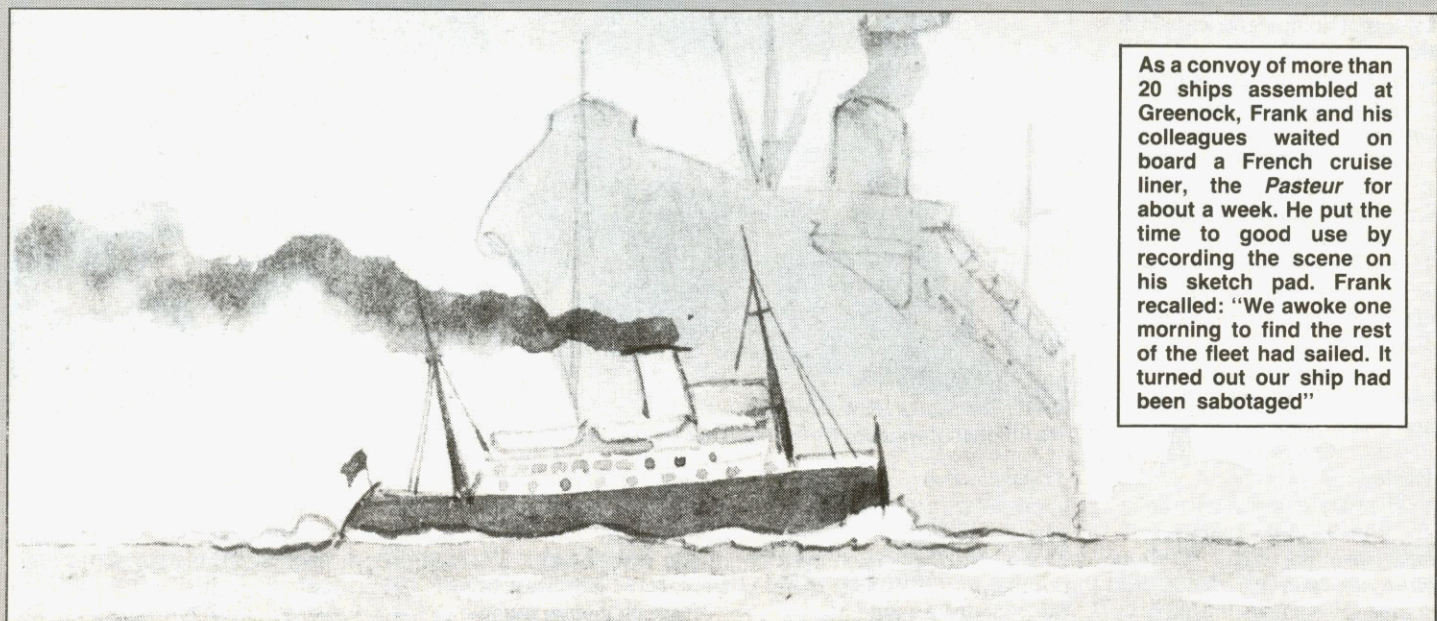
He became a layout artist, working in those days from an office in Eaton Square, Belgravia with a team made up of the cream of Fleet Street – journalists who had

completed active service and were working for the magazine while awaiting demobilisation.

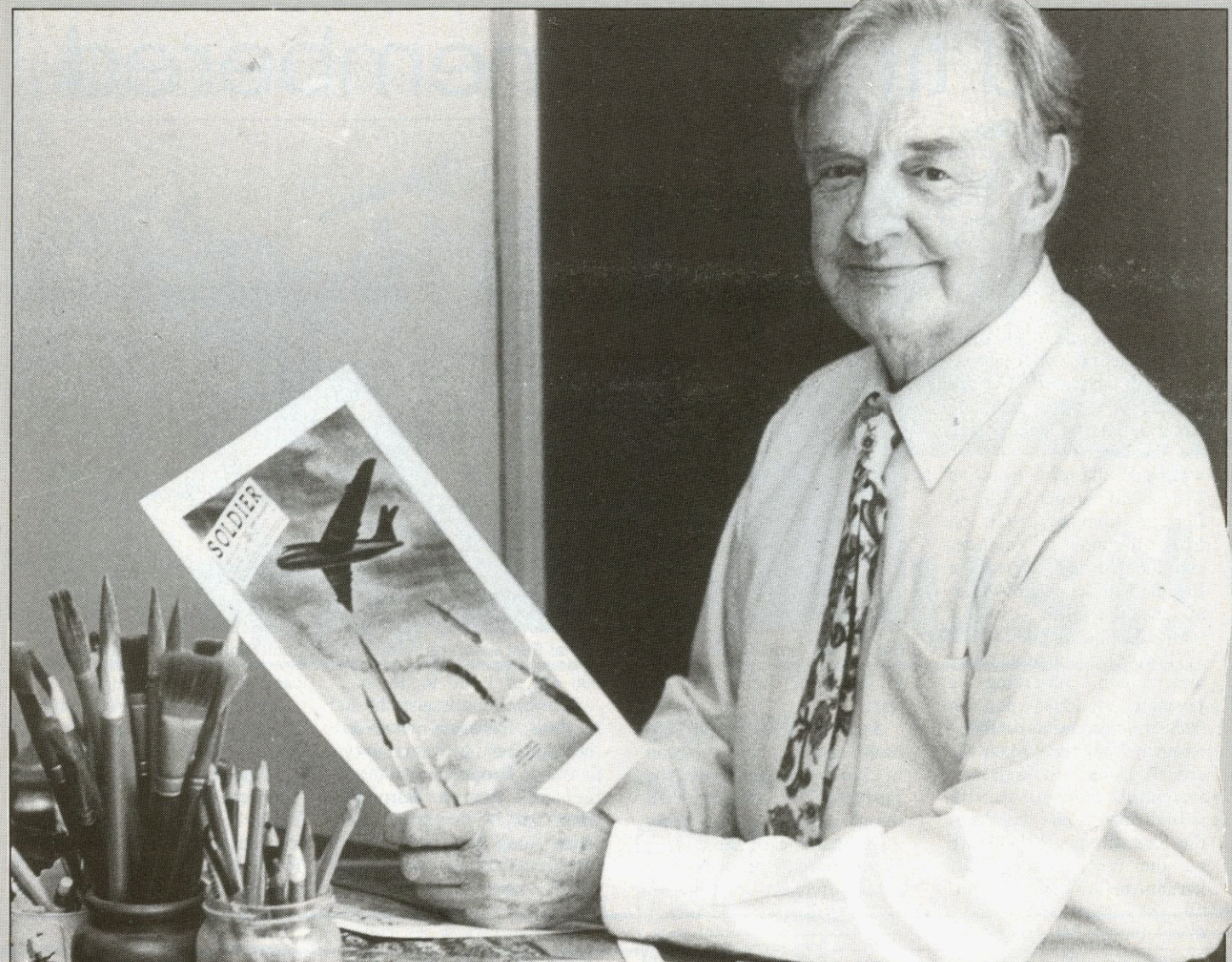
Frank, who has been a regular contributor to *Punch*, moved with *SOLDIER* to Holloway, and then to Aldershot, retiring in 1976. He still draws the cartoons for *SOLDIER*'s HOAY competition, and reviews books for national newspapers.

He lives in Farnham, Surrey where nobody is safe from his artistic eye!

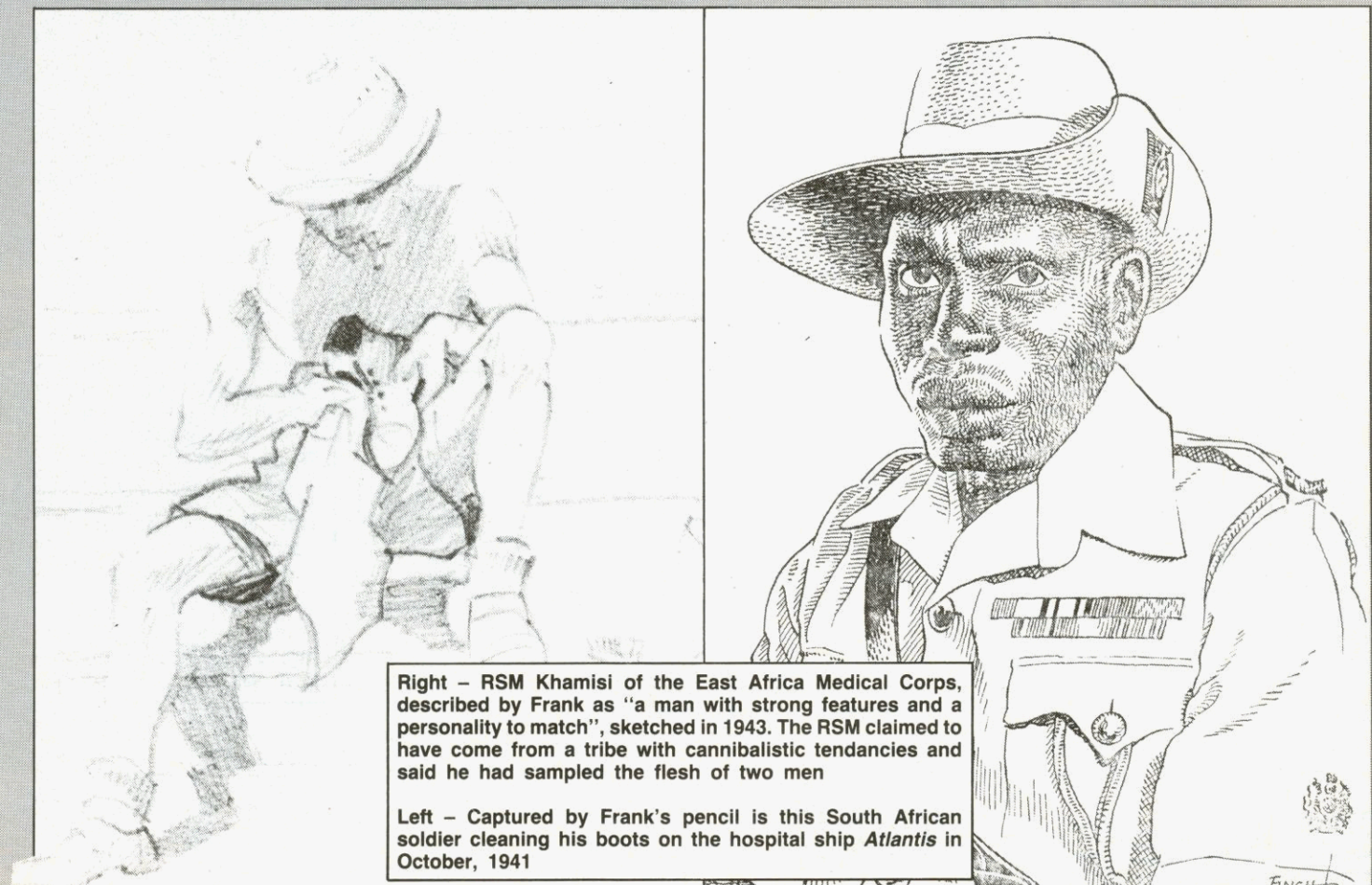
He said: "Wherever I go, I always carry two fountain pens and a pocket book to capture people's everyday expressions. I am constantly reminding myself that unless you keep your hand in, you lose your touch."



As a convoy of more than 20 ships assembled at Greenock, Frank and his colleagues waited on board a French cruise liner, the *Pasteur* for about a week. He put the time to good use by recording the scene on his sketch pad. Frank recalled: "We awoke one morning to find the rest of the fleet had sailed. It turned out our ship had been sabotaged"



Frank Finch, at home in his dining room studio, is pictured with one of the original *SOLDIER* covers he designed



Right – RSM Khamisi of the East Africa Medical Corps, described by Frank as "a man with strong features and a personality to match", sketched in 1943. The RSM claimed to have come from a tribe with cannibalistic tendencies and said he had sampled the flesh of two men

Left – Captured by Frank's pencil is this South African soldier cleaning his boots on the hospital ship *Atlantis* in October, 1941

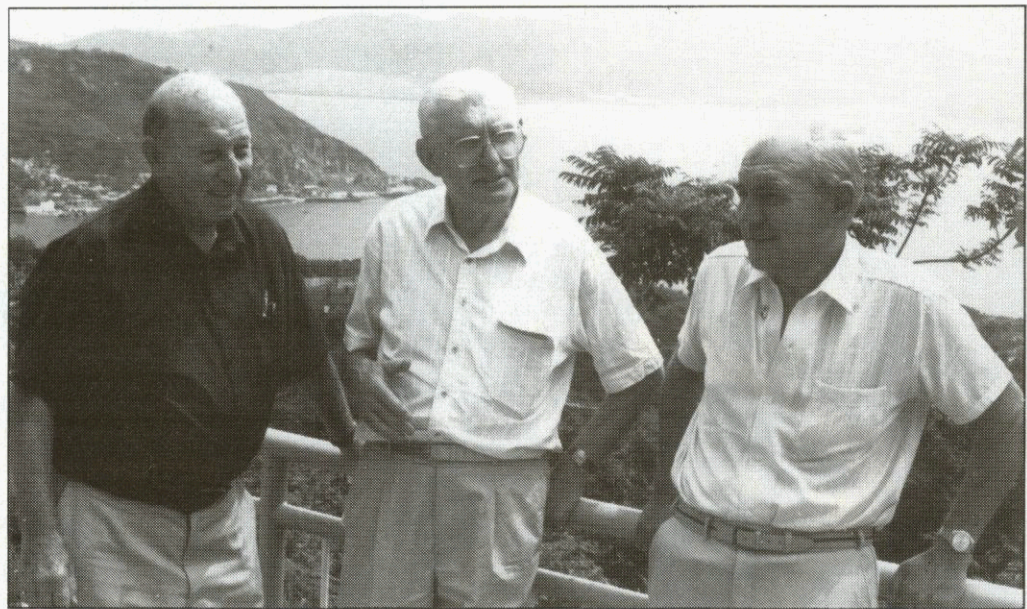
Hard times remembered

THREE former soldiers enjoy a relaxing few moments at the old Lei Mun Barracks on the eastern end of Hong Kong Island – something they would have been hard put to do during their last visit to the territory nearly 50 years ago.

They all took part in what must rank as one of the most dismal celebrations of Christmas Day on record: December 25, 1941, when the Hong Kong Garrison surrendered to the Japanese.

Alfred Tropp was a 21-year-old sapper with 40 Fortress Company, RE, on that infamous Yuletide. Harold Burbidge was a Regular soldier – known to his mates as Jim – and a sergeant at the age of 23 with 22 Fortress Company. They were both observing a Japanese mortar position from the bottom of Kennedy Road in Wan Chai when the order came through to surrender.

Both spent some months in the Shamshuipo POW camp on the other side of the harbour before being shipped



Picture and story: JSPRS Hong Kong

Hard times remembered for (from left) Far East veterans Alfred Tropp, Jack Smith and Jim Burbidge

to Japan for the rest of the war.

Apart from the hazards to health and happiness common to most prisoners of the Japanese, Mr Burbidge had the additional burden of being torpedoed aboard the *Lisbon Maru* en route to Japan.

He survived – one of just

800 out of 1,800 to do so.

Jack Smith was also 23 at the time. He was a private in the RAOC and he was on duty in the A Group magazine at the old Victoria Barracks when the 18 day battle for Hong Kong came to an end. Unlike the other two, Jack Smith spent his entire

captivity at Shamshuipo.

The three men were among 55 members of a British and Allied ex Services military pilgrimage to the Far East. They spent 11 days in Hong Kong being looked after by the territory's TA unit – the Royal Hong Regiment (The Volunteers).

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Salaries range from £8929 to £9699 depending on experience and are reviewed annually in October. Following versatility training further increments can bring salary to a maximum of £10,644 p.a. Detached duty visits are a regular feature of the job and attract overtime and other allowances.

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Lt Col Anthony Hammersley on horseback



Another swimmer enters the water half way through the "Everest" swim undertaken by the Training Wing of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong. Above right is Spr Nabin Gurung, one of the swimmers



Swim – or bust!

PERMANENT Staff and students of No 42 Training Party, Training Wing, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong were looking for a challenge with a difference and came up with the idea of a sponsored swim – a very long one.

The route chosen was from

Pak Mong on Lantau Island to the Gordon Hard Boat Club, a distance of 9km, or approximately the height of Everest.

Two charities were chosen to benefit – the Community Chest of Hong Kong and the Gurkha Welfare Fund – and a ten man squad of swimmers was enrolled for training under the guidance of WO2 Pete Lane.

The route for the swim passed through one of Hong Kong's busiest shipping lanes and the currents around Brothers Islands at the halfway stage are very strong.

Despite predictions of a typhoon, the swimmers kicked off in the dead calm of dawn with two assault boats and the regimental junk in attendance. With WO2 Dave Ofield encouraging them from the boat, the swimmers completed the trip ahead of schedule in just over four hours.

Subsequently a cheque for \$4,000 (about £310) was presented to the Community Chest and about \$15,000 (£1,160) has still to be collected.

SSgt Dawn Perkin's lunch-time aerobic sessions at the Army's Logistic Executive headquarters in Andover have raised a pretty penny during the 2½ years she has worked there.

So to mark her imminent departure on posting to Viersen in West Germany she organised a mass sponsored workout. The response was tremendous and means that before she departs Dawn will be handing a cheque for up to £1,500 to the

Gurkha sappers climb their 'Everest'

Macmillan Appeal for the Andover Hospice.

Dawn's tireless work for charity has already been recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal.

Clayton Troop of 57 Squadron RCT, Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/RAOC based at Colerne in Wiltshire carried out a busker crawl at five locations in Avon and raised more than £2,000 for their adopted charity, the National Eye Research Centre at Bristol Hospital. It takes to more than £3,570 the money that the troop has raised for the eye centre in the past two years.

Average age of the buskers was 17. All were in their final term of training before starting adult service.

Part time soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment based at Carlisle raised £682 for the Children's Life Support equipment fund at Cumberland Infirmary by carrying 18ft logs over the final three miles of the Great Cumbria Run. They warmed up by running the first

ten miles of the event as a team.

The money was handed over to Sister Sue Brown who is in charge of the hospital's intensive care unit and who is herself a captain in a TA General Hospital.

Soldiers from 45 Field Regiment, RA are rafting their way down the legendary Rio Grande to raise funds for crippled children.

Twenty seven men from the regiment, led by Lt Simon Crane, are attempting to complete a 1,200 mile journey from El Paso to Brownsville to raise up to £20,000 for Action Research for the Crippled Child.

The ambitious project is being underwritten by East Anglian brewers Greene King.

Maj Stephen Hambrook, Admin Officer of 591 EOD Squadron, RE(V) at Chatham, completed the Chichester International 25 mile march to raise money for the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

What makes that achievement so special is that Maj Hambrook suffered severe injuries to both legs and lost a foot in a mine explosion while serving in the Falkland Islands.

Yet he completed the hilly South Downs course in a shade under six hours, despite having to do a "monkey crawl" to get up a particularly steep gradient.

His efforts have so far brought in £3,000 for RADAR and more has been promised by his sponsors.

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Lt Col Ian Fulton, CO SIB RMP BAOR, (centre) and his team at Rheindahlen

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

With the
SIB in
West Germany

THE LONG, unsocial hours demanded of you if you work for one of the Army's crack units are not, surprisingly, a major drawback – it is the uncertainty of the hours that is the biggest minus.

Having acknowledged that, the enthusiasm members of the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police in BAOR have for the job is infectious.

They do not wear a uniform, and because of their aura of civilian professionalism highlighted by a cross-ranks informal bonhomie peculiar to the branch, it is easy to forget they are also fully trained soldiers.

Investigators have no doubts about the attractions of the branch. They feel the plusses, such as job satisfaction, a sense of individuality and responsibility, an identity with a special unit and meeting many different people, far outweigh the disadvantages.

Lt Col Ian Fulton, CO, explained how a soldier becomes a military detective.

"We recruit exclusively from the uniform branch of the RMP, selecting soldiers who show flair and promise, usually after three or four years service.

"He or she must be qualified in all respects for promotion to sergeant,

because the SIB has no junior ranks in its establishment.

"The soldier then has to complete a three week course before going on a six month SIB structured attachment, dealing with offences on an escalating scale of gravity and difficulty.

"Then follows a formal assessment to decide whether he is suitable for further training to become an investigator. Once his transfer is completed he is on probation for six months as an acting sergeant before becoming fully-fledged.

"It can take up to 18 months from the time he does his initial attachment to the time he gets his substantive rank as sergeant. It is a long process, and he has to be dedicated to this side of the profession."

For advanced and specialist training, Home Office courses in the UK are relied on. Subjects studied include drugs, surveillance, advanced photography, fingerprinting, sexual offences, child abuse and victim support.

Words by Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by Terry Champion

Investigators consider the SIB very much a family organisation with only about 160 members worldwide. It is the only unit in the Army in which most full time officers are commissioned warrant officers, meaning they have all served a minimum of 20 years in many parts of the world.

Col Fulton said the branch was reasonably well-subscribed.

"We are in competition with the Close Protection Unit of the RMP which offers some fairly dangerous work in exciting places, but we are holding our own very well."

Cpl 'Sav' Kyriakou, 21, has been on detachment to the SIB and is hoping his progress will assure him of a permanent job. It has meant him seeing a very different aspect of Army life.

As a uniform policeman, his general duties included patrols and barrier work. Within a few days of his attachment he was regularly attending post mortem examinations, for instance. He was also on the inquiry team working on the Hanover car bomb in which Cpl Steve Smith RTR died and his wife and four children were injured.

● Turn to next page



Cpl 'Sav' Kyriakou who is on detachment to the SIB and is hoping for a permanent posting

Only one major crime remains unsolved

THE FIRST investigation unit in the Army was formed in 1919 at the Dom Hotel in Cologne, West Germany to deal with traffic accidents (a new phenomenon in those days), deserters and vice.

The unit comprised one officer, one WO2 and 20 NCOs, drawn from the mounted and foot section of the Royal Military Police.

Each man was required to have a working knowledge of German and be able to type, for which he was paid an allowance of £9 a year. That small unit operated successfully for about seven years and was disbanded in 1926, its work complete.

The Army's Special Investigation Branch proper was formed in February 1940 when 19 members of the Metropolitan Police CID, led by a detective superintendent from New Scotland Yard, were recruited to stem the growing tide of crime. Particularly

prevalent were thefts of vehicles, fuel and equipment from the stocks of the British Expeditionary Force in France.

SIB sections were established in the Middle East in 1941, North Africa and Italy in 1942, India in 1943 and Africa and the Far East in 1945.

SIB BAOR started as a unit in February, 1947, with headquarters in Bad Oeynhausen. It comprised eight sections in Hamburg, Hanover, Bielefeld, Berlin, Bad Rothenfeld, Celle, Dusseldorf and Münster. The unit headquarters moved to Rheindahlen in 1954.

The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the SIB, has been invited to attend the 50th birthday celebrations at the RMP Training Centre at Chichester.

The programme will include a parade, a drum head service, the unveiling of an obelisk, a reunion lunch and a display of

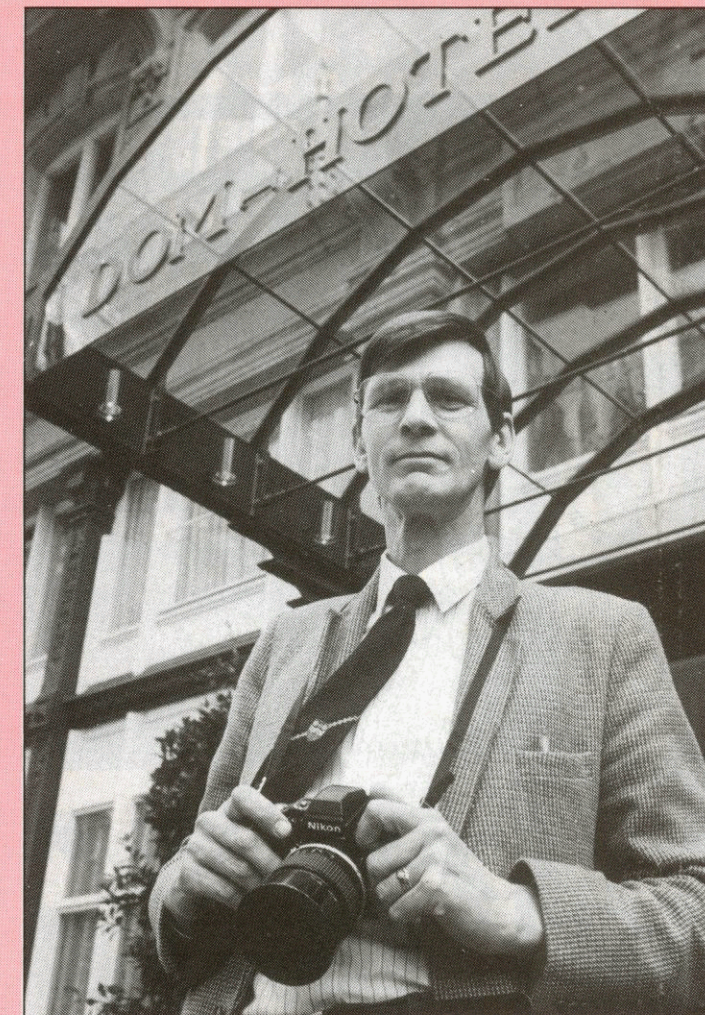
the various facets of SIB activity.

Since the Second World War, SIB BAOR has solved numerous serious crimes. Probably the most infamous was the murder of Sgt Reginald "Tich" Walters by Sgt Maj Fredrick "Mick" Emmett-Dunne. Sgt Maj Emmett-Dunne was sentenced to be hanged, but due to the Bonn Convention of 1952, which prohibited the enforcement of the death penalty by the Armed Forces on Federal territory, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

DNA profiling – or "genetic fingerprinting" – was successfully used for the first time in a British Army court martial to convict a soldier of the death last year of the wife of another soldier.

The murder of 38-year-old Mrs Monica Fewster, the wife of a Royal Signals staff sergeant in her quarter at Herford, in January, 1967 remains the single unsolved capital crime on their books.

The Dom Hotel in Cologne, then and now. The hotel is pictured below just after the first investigation unit in the British Army was formed there in 1919, eventually disbanding in 1926. Above right, WO2 David Bankcroft, Forensic Warrant Officer for the Western Region, who is in charge of the colour process centre for the modern SIB, is pictured outside the hotel's present entrance



SPECIAL

● From Page 25

RSM WO1 Ian Watts, who has been in the SIB for 14 years, said the drawback of the job was not so much the unsocial hours as the uncertainty of them.

"When a major incident starts you are off. When the adrenalin gets going, you don't want to stop working. But you have to be cut out for the job. You also need an understanding wife. If wives do not understand that we just have to up and off, then marriages won't survive."

SIB RMP BAOR is responsible to the Commander in Chief for investigating and reporting all serious criminal offences committed by or against, or involving members of the Forces or their dependants, and members of Ministry of Defence sponsored organisations.

In addition they also investigate and report on all sudden or unnatural deaths (acting as coroner's officers), and serious injuries caused by accident, and attempts to commit suicide or make oneself unfit for duty. They also investigate serious losses of public or Service property, including arms and ammunition.

The headquarters provides command, administration and some logistic support in Rheindahlen, with a unit comprising two regions (East and West), each commanded by majors.

Each region comprises three sections, commanded by captains who have under their command up to four detachments. A typical detachment has a WO2 in command, one or two staff sergeants and up to four sergeants with one or two General Police Duty corporals attached for training. Each attachment has a small civilian staff including an interpreter.

Western Region looks after the Communication Zone, the Rear Communication Zone and 3rd Armoured Division. Eastern Region, with its headquarters in Bielefeld, looks after the 1st and 4th Armoured Divisions.



Capt Robbie Silk (left), OC 74 Section, and RSM Ian Watts pinpoint an incident

There's a need to be flexible

THE areas in which SIB RMP BAOR operates are clearly defined. But, because Anglo-German interests often overlap, a flexible system has been devised.

Generally, the SIB has automatic jurisdiction to deal, via a court martial, with British soldiers on duty who commit offences.

But, as Capt Robbie Silk, OC 74 Section based at Werl, explained: "There are grey areas, and here we are advised by the Police Advisory Board and the local German public prosecutor."

There are often joint inquiries.

"For instance, if the body of a German civilian was found near – but not on – a British military base, the German police would handle the case.

"But if the accused turned out to be a British soldier, the SIB would take over. However, if the case were an emotive one, the two forces could agree for jurisdiction to be taken on by the Germans, with the accused British soldier appearing in a German civilian court and

liable to a term in a German prison."

Capt Silk said that while the solving of a major crime was particularly satisfying, it was equally important that minor crime such as barrack room thefts was detected as a deterrent.

Capt Silk said: "It is down to the investigator's notebook, to the accurate assessing of

information and intelligence, and interpreting that into a pattern of crime.

"It is essential that we never overlook the contribution that can be made from all ranks of our investigators. They have various levels of expertise and can see situations differently."

Capt Silk said it was also vital they enjoyed a close liaison with the uniform branch. On a

murder inquiry, for example, they were especially needed to supervise painstaking inch by inch searches of the scene, cordoning off work, and so on.

"There are lots of areas where we have got to get together and an interface is needed. They are our eyes and ears, and although we are separate, we need to have a good working relationship."

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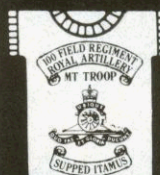
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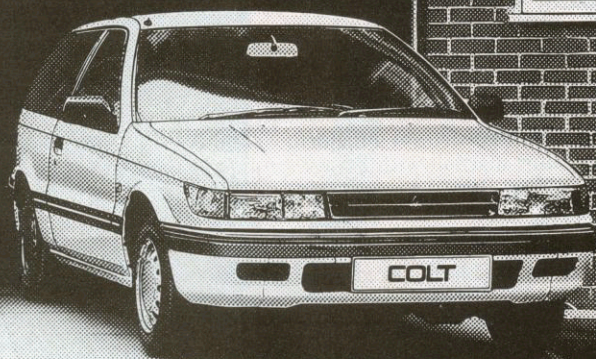
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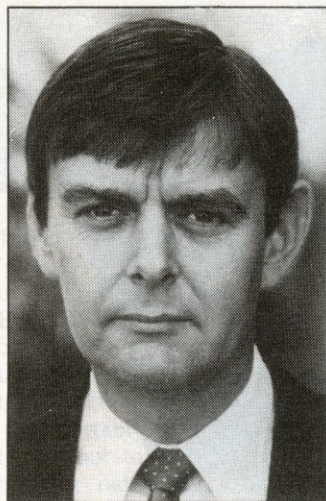
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Lt Col Ian Fulton

Public so willing to help

LT COL Ian Fulton, CO SIB RMP BAOR, has emphasised the need for continuing international co-operation in the fight against terrorism.

He also feels it is vital that his rapid deployment team, which can quickly set up a major incident room, has a high profile.

He has been delighted with the response from the public to intensive door-to-door inquiries, and television and radio appeals for information.

"Following the Hanover car bomb, we were given a large number of leads to follow up. These produced valuable information to work on, covering the whole of BAOR. I find people are fantastic in the course of inquiries into a major incident.

"They don't mind being put out. I took a statement from a woman at three o'clock in the morning. I would not dream of doing it under normal circumstances, but she was very happy to help us.

"This sort of co-operation is excellent and so necessary, because without people telling us what is going on around them, we can't do our job."

Where there have been prolonged inquiries the SIB has found residents will often 'adopt' the team, offering them tea and meals.

"We really appreciate the help we get, but we never get the chance to thank them all properly across the board saying 'you have been marvellous, and without all your help we would not be where we are today'."

Keeping tabs on safety

THE SIB RMP has a role which equates to that of the Health and Safety Executive in investigating accidental deaths.

Maj Jack Pike, OC of the Eastern Region based at Bielefeld, said: "We hope to learn lessons from every death of this type so that we can ensure the same thing does not happen again."

He gave as an example a case where a soldier had died from carbon monoxide poisoning after inadvertently placing a waterproof camouflage cover over the exhaust outlet of his armoured reconnaissance vehicle.

"There were several lessons learned there and changes were introduced. Each of these incidents teaches us something so that all the time we are becoming more safety conscious."

Maj Pike, who has investigated many serious crimes over the years, played a prominent role in the bringing to justice of a British soldier who murdered a 23-year-old German woman.

He said: "At the time of the trial the family were more than satisfied with the administration of British justice and invited me to take my family on an



Maj Jack Pike, OC Eastern Region, pictured with the plate he was presented with by a local German council to mark his sterling work in the solving of the murder of a German woman

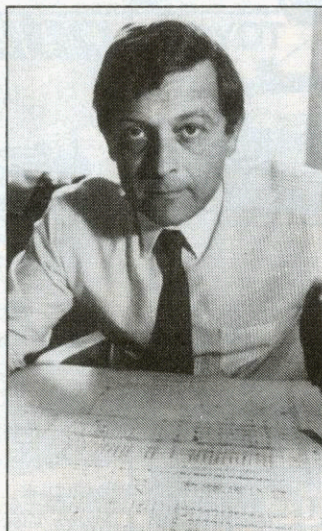
all-expenses paid holiday to their village.

"It had to be declined, but what we did was to go at private expense in our caravan and spend the weekend with the family."

The following Christmas there was further recognition of his sterling work.

The local council serving the German family presented Maj Pike with a commemorative plate, bearing the town crest and the German for "in friendship". And, when a senior German police officer from the area retired, he presented Maj Pike with his full uniform.

If it doesn't quite add up!



WO1 Huw Smith, RAPC, who is posted to SIB RMP BAOR

WO1 Huw Smith, RAPC, is posted to the SIB RMP BAOR to assist investigations into fraud and theft from service fund accounts.

The investigator recovers the books and WO1 Smith pores over them to see how much is missing, how it went missing, and the steps taken to disguise the loss.

He said: "I am always learning because there are so many ways of fiddling an account."

When suspects are interviewed an SIB Finance Investigator will look after the legal side, while WO1 Smith delves into the technical financial aspects. Court appearances have taken on a whole new

dimension for him.

He explained: "Nowadays, it is quite common for me to also go into court as the assistant prosecuting officer. After giving my evidence I sit with the prosecution, especially in cases where suspects have declined to answer, which is their right."

WO1 Smith said it was rare to come across a case where there was a genuine muddle. Quite often the original crime they were called to investigate – such as the theft of a cash box – was a cover up for money missing in the accounts.

"The reason they steal from an account is invariably because they have got themselves into a personal financial mess through easily available credit."

HANNAH GORDON

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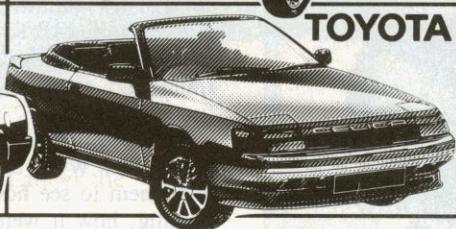
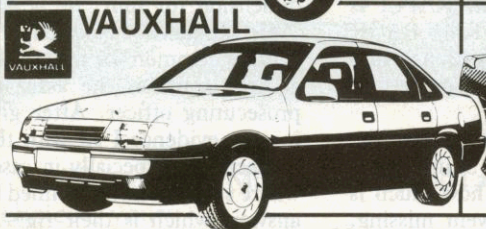
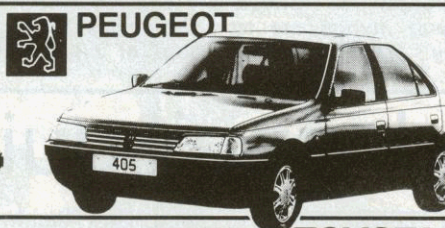
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Keeping Berlin in touch

JAGUARS and yuppie type 'phones are just two of the tools of the trade used by West Berlin's Headquarters and Signal Regiment which is tasked to provide communications in the city.

Regrettably the Jaguar turned out to be a frequency hopping radio, much to the disappointment of the SOLDIER team who thought they might be driven around in a style to which they were not accustomed, while the portable 'phones are a necessary aid to communicating within the bustling metropolis of three million people.

Before the regiment's formation, Berlin had its own independent signals squadron, as well as a unit called the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit (BGAU) which looked after admin for all minor units serving in West Berlin.

The two were merged under the command of the former SO1 Comms Berlin, Lt Col Mike Collins, who is CO of the two squadron regiment.

BGAU, commanded by Maj Charles Bunbury, DWR, became Headquarters Squadron, while the communicators form 1 Squadron which is responsible for two areas of communications.

These are mobile comms for



Sig Bill Matthews uses out a portable telephone on top of the Glockenturm high above the Olympic Stadium

the British Army's Berlin Infantry Brigade, and mobile and static comms for the Sector Headquarters and Allied Staff in Berlin.

The latter task includes

maintaining a communications centre, telephone exchange and various other links out of the city and is the responsibility of Sector Troop.

Equipment tends to be very different to that normally used by Royal Signals personnel.

Explained OC 1 Squadron, Maj Craig McColville: "Berlin is a city full of tall concrete buildings, so we have to use different techniques to be able to communicate in our normal role of brigade headquarters."

"We try to use standard equipment as far as possible on normal radio nets that the rest of the Army would understand, but on the link from Brigade HQ to the Allied Staff we use Jaguar radios as we do down to the British, French and American brigades."

The regiment also uses a vast array of commercial radios for particular tasks such as the Military Police and transport nets, as well as on the fleet of military buses and cars that abound in Berlin.

They hope soon to introduce a Motorola STX radio system for co-ordinating all the radio nets in the city, because a two frequency talk-through system seems to work better in the

heavily built up areas than straightforward VHF comms systems.

For a unit whose barracks were originally part of a pre-war German University of Sport, it comes as no surprise to find that sport and physical fitness figure highly on the regiment's agenda.

Within the Olympic Stadium area there are indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a mass of soccer and rugby pitches.

Indeed, the regiment is in the forefront of competitive swimming in the British Sector.

"The facilities are here, so it would be silly not to use them. We try to make as much use of them as we can, while maintaining our commitment to provide communications for the brigade," explained Maj McColville.

Currently the regiment is celebrating its success in the Royal Signals minor units BAOR march and shoot competition. As winners they received the prestigious Princess Royal Trophy for their endeavours.



Lt Lawrence McCourt (left) leads members of the Berlin Headquarters and Signal Regiment's march and shoot team past the imposing headquarters of Berlin's British Sector

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Perring

That Family Credit hold-up: MoD acts

THEY ALSO SERVE...

WORDS seem inadequate at times and especially after the latest tragedy in Germany. My heart goes out to those most closely involved and also to all wives of soldiers serving in BAOR, carrying on despite what must be constantly in the back of their minds.

Mr Tom King, the Minister of Defence, probably summed up the feelings of most people when he said of the Dortmund murder:

"To shoot down an unarmed young woman in cold blood strikes a new depth of depravity."

"The news of this awful crime can only make us the more determined to do everything in our power to support the German authorities and to bring those responsible to justice at the earliest possible moment."

To my mind Service wives do a magnificent job which is not always appreciated. There should be an award for the unsung heroines of the "married patch". Don't they also serve...

Air travel cost flies higher

CHARGES for indulgence and some other types of passengers at all the three transit hotels - RAF Brize Norton, Lyneham and JSATC Hendon - have been raised to £6.62 per head plus VAT.

There is no charge for UK Service and civilian personnel (including families) who stay the night before or after their flights.

This also includes nights spent there through no fault of their own such as plane delays.

But people travelling on indulgence and pre-payment packages will have to pay the charge.

Children up to the age of 15 years are charged 50 per cent of the adult rate.

If for some reason a family wishes to spend more nights in the transit hotels than the permitted free nights they will have to pay the £121.20 per head per night plus VAT.

The reason is that Disturbance Allowance makes provision for hotel and boarding house expenses while awaiting flights.

RULE HINT

A FORMER warrant officer writes in response to my article "Six Month Rule is a

Problem" (SOLDIER July 10).

"In September 1975 I retired after 25 years' service direct from BAOR without benefit of last six months in UK, no job on the horizon and no house (six in family).

I can fully sympathise with people caught in the six month trap.

In my present job for the Department of Transport I am responsible for the acquisition of land for new/improved highways and as well as compulsory powers I have discretion to purchase land because of proof of blight.

Could not the Ministry of Defence consider a similar scheme whereby proof of failure to sell because of falling markets would be sufficient cause for the Ministry to purchase the property and dispose when the market improves?"

Surely this would benefit all concerned, J F Lees (ex WO1 RE).

ALL soldiers on low pay should check their wage slips going back to April to see if their NET pay fell into the bracket which makes them eligible for Family Credit.

New rates were announced on April 10 but I read in the August edition of the Paymaster in Chief's Instructions:

"Unit pay staffs are to re-assess existing claims for Family Credit. They should also ensure that claims are submitted for Service personnel newly eligible as a result of the revision of rates."

One unit paymaster I contacted still had not received his instructions on August 25 though he knew they were being typed at District HQ having arrived the previous day.

It was in April that the Department of Social Services carried out a comprehensive programme to inform the public of the changes in the Family Credit benefit.

A leaflet "What is due to you" was produced.

What is often forgotten is that Servicemen may be abroad for weeks or months at a time on exercise or operations and such a campaign would not necessarily come to their notice.

Furthermore I can find no evidence of the leaflets having been sent overseas in any numbers.

So some families entitled to claim may have missed out on up to £50 a month

ignorant of the new rules.

Retrospective claims are not accepted by the DSS in respect of Family Credit. However, a spokesman at MoD with whom I raised the subject told me:

"Retrospective claims from soldiers overseas will be accepted."

"Soldiers in the UK who were unaware that they fell into the bracket to claim Family Credit must put up a case via their Paymaster."

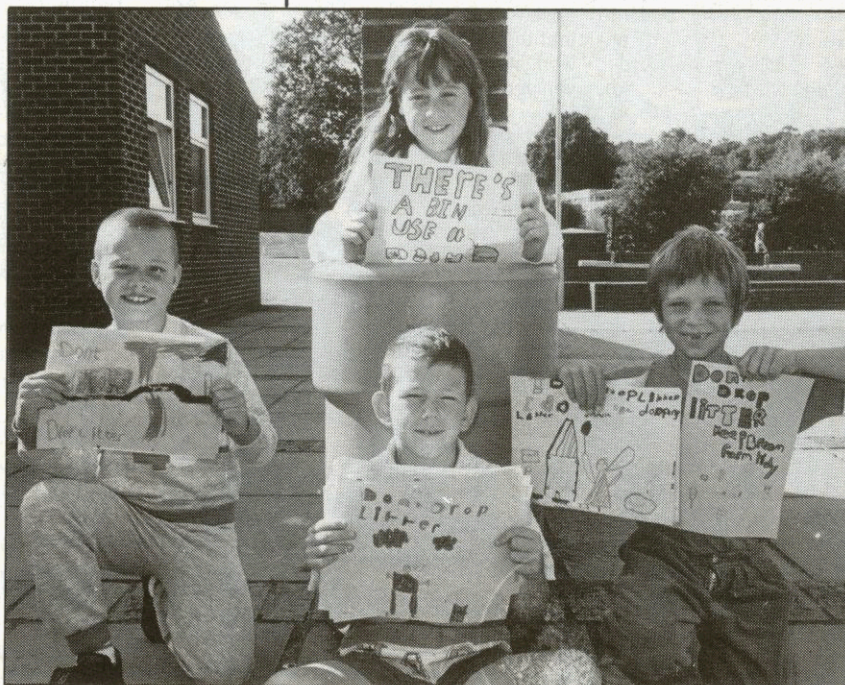
Each case would be considered on its merits.

In 1977, 4,000 soldiers were receiving the equivalent of Family Credit. A total of 8,000 received Housing Benefit.

Today fewer soldiers' families are classed as being in need of such benefits but for some Family Credit is essential.

Responsibility for passing on information relating to DSS matters lies with a branch of MoD which could do well to review its means of communication. Haven't they heard of Fax machines?

● GILLIAN Burr (above left), tenant liaison officer, and Jacqueline Upton discuss a problem. Below: Rachel Rumney, winner of an anti-litter poster campaign with other budding artists of Alexander First School Broom Farm Estate... a clean sweep for paint brushes.



LIAISON GIRLS HELP WIVES



Home telephone: Camberley 29653

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND Anne Armstrong

ON-OFF MQs STILL EMPTY

A WIFE writes: "The September 1988 Sale of Surplus Married Quarters Bulletin advertised 22 MQs at Hampden Close, Hemswell - market value put at £29,000; discounted £20,300."

Due to the state and isolation of the quarters a number of applicants who would not normally expect to get anywhere near being allocated a surplus house were offered a property. We had a survey done and mortgage obtained.

It was a surprise when we received a letter on March 10 this year which said that the properties would be withdrawn "as there were a number of problem involved with the construction of the houses in Hampden Close and with the utilities for the estate which have proved to be much more serious than originally had been thought. In these circumst-

ances we have no alternative but to withdraw these properties from sale through the Discount scheme."

In this instance an offer was made from PL (Lands) to consider reimbursement of reasonable legal expenses and surveyor's fees incurred so we put in a claim as instructed in March.

Anne Armstrong writes: The writer of the letter rang me in July and again in August as she still had not received the reimbursement which had been offered.

On checking I was assured that the cheques would be sent out in late August.

It is interesting to note that the independent surveyor's report obtained by my correspondent contained the following paragraph!

"Having regard to the above facts, we are of the opinion that the current open market value of this property lies in the region of £25,000 and that is £3,000 less than the market value placed on the houses as advertised in the bulletin, and once satisfactorily renovated it will have a value in the region of £35,000."

There was no mention of the problems which led to the withdrawal of the

houses from the market!

This of course may be because official valuation is done some months before publication of the bulletin. Perhaps the date of each valuation should be included in the bulletin.

Otherwise it may not be the current market value on the date the bulletin is published.

For this family the chance of getting another offer seems remote. To date they have only featured well down on the reserve list.

New rules have come into force for reimbursement of surveyors' fees. Scotland's vary from England and Wales so anyone interested should check with their pay office.

Will the 22 houses at Hemswell be re-offered?

To date no decision has been made and a year after their appearance in the bulletin they remain empty.

Check the cheque

PARENTS of 16-year-olds should have received letters from the Child Benefit Centre asking them if their child is leaving school or continuing in full-time education.

As there appears to be some misunderstanding as to what constitutes full-time advanced education, parents receiving Child Benefit through the Army pay system should check with their pay office.

Payments made for a child who does not qualify can be reclaimed by the CB Centre.

Wait for it!

SERVICEMEN's claims for refunds of the grossing up of tax on boarding school allowances are likely to be delayed until the end of this month because of pressure of work at tax offices.

Go-betweens!

A £3½m refurbishment programme beginning at Broom Farm Estate, Windsor, will affect 344 married quarters. The work will be carried out with the occupants in residence.

"The whole project will take about 18 months to complete with about 15 days' work in each house," said Maj Norman Dorning, House Commandant.

Refurbishment carried out in occupied houses can be disruptive but the contractors employ tenant liaison officers to act between the site manager, Mr Idris Foster-Edwards, and the residents.

When children fall ill as workmen are about to start in the kitchen, when the water has to be cut off for a spell... the tenant liaison officers move in.

Gillian Burr, an experi-

enced "TLO", explained that the aim is to carry out work with the least inconvenience to the families. Under the Broom Farm refurbishment scheme the hot air heating system and the 12-year-old kitchen cookers will be taken out. Gas central heating, which includes upstairs, will be installed.

Unfortunately an earlier double-glazing programme was not completed because of a shortage of cash. The windows were done but not the relevant doors which are partly glazed, so the full benefit will be missed.

Reduction of heating bills is regarded as one of the most important results of the refurbishment. One wife told me her electricity bill for the winter quarter was £240, with £171 for the

summer quarter. The new system should enable occupants to get rid of supplementary convectors run on Calor gas.

Jacqueline Upton, whose husband is serving in the Scots Guards, welcomed the use of liaison officers during the work.

"You don't want to be continually arguing with workmen because they have to get on with their job. With someone like Gillian around you can talk over problems."

The programme looks set fair but I have one comment to make.

When the job is completed the doors will still need to be done - though workmen will have been in twice. If the doors are double glazed it will mean a third interruption.

For the RMP at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, it is . . .

Check-out time

JUST before the opening fanfare of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the commentator says to the 8,300 audience: "We live in troubled times and to reassure you we carry out a constant system of security checks."

Main responsibility for these security checks falls on the Royal Military Police in one of their highest profile operations in the United Kingdom.

They come from 170 Provost Company, resident in Edinburgh Castle, with reinforcements from 150 Company from Catterick, 158 Company from Bulford and 174 Company from Tidworth – an all up strength of 65 plus two search dogs. Another 12 military policemen carry out the normal general police duty support to the Army in Scotland.

Checking begins more than three hours before each evening's performance when two search teams working in combat dress aided by the search dogs check inside the Castle, the public stands on the Esplanade and the immediate approaches to the Castle.

There is close co-operation with the Lothian and Borders Police.

Two hours before the show the special duties group turns out. These are the military police who will be dealing directly with the public.

Throughout the whole operation of the Edinburgh Tattoo there is a factor which affects both the staging and the security – there is only one entrance for all performers and 8,300 spectators. Keeping this potential bottleneck open and the traffic flowing calls for close control and planning by the RMP.

Their first duties are the direction and unloading on the Esplanade of coaches bringing in the performers. These are immediately followed by a stream of coaches and ambulances carrying disabled spectators. All vehicle movements must be clear one hour before the show starts.

Forty five minutes before H hour the barriers are opened and the public let in.

A search ring of eight military policemen and women is formed at the entrance to the Castle Esplanade. Using selective random searchers they check for anything suspicious in bags and remove prohibited items such as alcoholic drinks. This close contact with the civilian public requires the maximum of courtesy, tact and good humour.

Inevitably, being so prominent in their red caps they are constantly asked directions to seats, often by tourists with only limited English.

In the middle of this surging crowd of pedestrians arrives the VIP salute taker and the attendant column of cars. For the absolute minimum of time the RMP hold

the crowd back, marshal the cars and park them under the stands.

By H hour 8,300 spectators are seated, the VIP is in his box, the fanfare trumpeters have fallen in and the following acts are lined up. For the military police the tempo for the next hour changes. It involves routine (but just as alert) patrolling and control of the tattoo area. They will be not only on the ground but high up on the lighting gantries keeping a constant eye on the crowd.

Later the RMP are redeployed to look after the dispersal.

First the performers' buses must be searched, loaded and got away before the general public can make their exit.

Moving the large crowd out through the one exit into the city is an amazing sight. It is achieved with minimum fuss in just 15 minutes.

A final search of all stands and rest areas is made and the officer commanding is not usually able to give the RMP their stand down until after midnight – about seven hours after the operation began.

It is an operation that goes on for more than three weeks every year, enabling nearly 500 performers to give outstanding entertainment in safety to more than 200,000 people.



Left – LCpl Pawlo Lawriw of 174 Provost Company checks the bag of a spectator at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Right – Cpl Matthew Redman of 150 Provost Company and search dog Lynx check the stands before spectators are admitted

Below right – "Let them in." Officer Commanding 170 Provost Company, Maj Gavin Thomson, with CSM Paul Kingham, radios the order to let the general public into the tattoo

Below left – In the control box high above the stands of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo there is liaison between the military and civil police. Manning it are (left to right) SSgt David Hockaday of 150 Provost Company, Constable Graham MacDonald of A Division Lothian and Borders Police and Cpl Carole Gregory of 170 Provost Company

Words:
John Ellis
Pictures:
Sgt Arthur Thomson

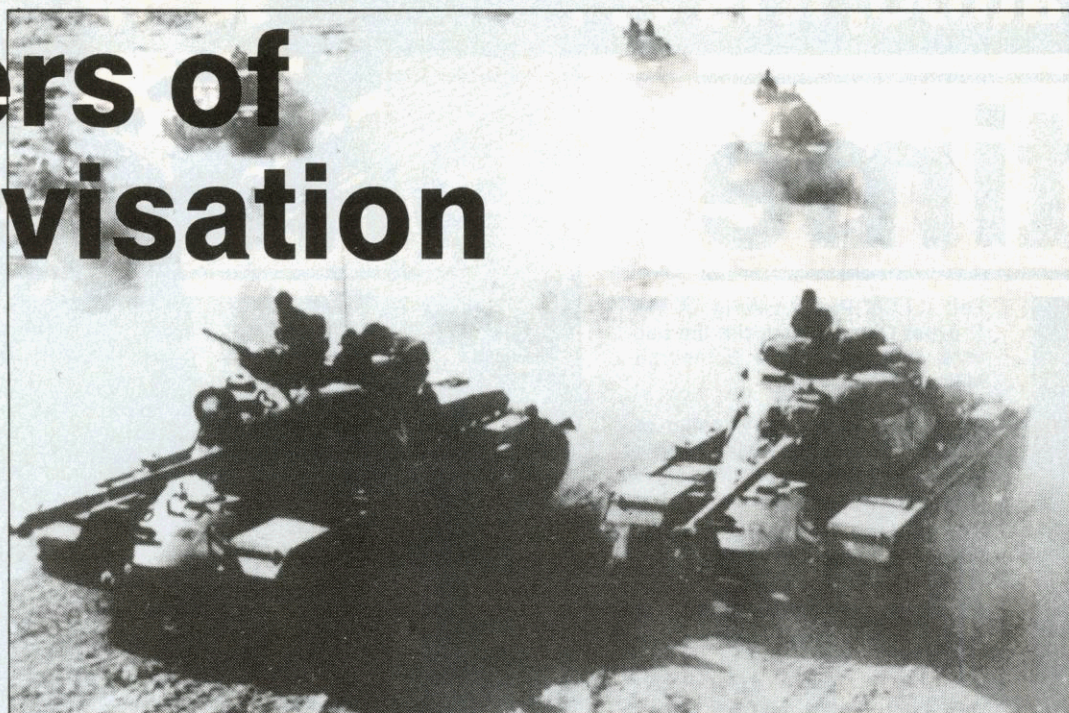


Masters of improvisation

Israel's fighting tankies

FROM its turbulent beginning the State of Israel has been faced with the prospect of war on three fronts against forces of the Arab world. For a quarter of a century the Israeli Defence Forces survived some of the most intensive fighting to be seen since the end of the Second World War in actions that cost the lives of more than 4,000 men of the Israeli Armoured Corps.

Starting from a mixed collection of outdated fighting vehicles in 1948, the Israeli Armoured Corps played a major role in the defence of their land. Initially, as masters



The attack on Rafa Junction. 90mm Patton tanks of the Israeli Armoured Corps

of improvisation, and now with their own Merkava main battle tank, the corps is arguably unrivalled in all aspects of armoured warfare.

Chariots of the Desert is the story of the Israeli Armoured Corps from its humble beginnings to the present day. As

Brig Bryan Watkins says about the author in his foreword: "His qualifications to write the story of that unique organisation are beyond challenge."

Lt Col Eshel was one of the small band of founder members of the IAC and had direct experience of all Israeli opera-

tions until retiring from active service in 1971.

Even then, he was recalled for duty in the Yom Kippur War and served throughout with the reserves. He describes in detail every battle in all the conflicts in which the IDF has been engaged, from the 'War of Independence' 1948-49 to Operation 'Peace for Galilee' in the Lebanon in June 1982. Equally interesting is the history of the Armoured Corps and its equipment.

Throughout the book, emphasis is on the tactical and professional level of the armoured corps in battle. Strategic considerations as well as command problems, which were the basis for high-level decision making process, have been left out intentionally. However, it is impossible to read this book without gaining some insight into the overall strategic philosophy of the IDF and its evolution.

It is a book that calls for careful reading and it is useful frequently to refer to the annexes which include a chronology and biographical notes on commanders, assessment of performance of Soviet tanks in service with Arab armies, lists of AFV and SP gun types in service with the IDF from 1948 to 1988, and an inventory of AFVs in Mid-Eastern armies in 1988.

Altogether, a very comprehensive historical survey. — BJ

Chariots of the Desert: The Story of the Israeli Armoured Corps by David Eshel. Published by Brassey's. Price £16.95.

Came the Dawn by Brig Paul Crook. The author's 50 years of soldiering, from pre-Second World War regimental service in India to today's Territorial Army. Published by Spellmount. Price £10.95, or £10 direct from the author at Frieston House, Frieston, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3DA.

Battles and Battlescenes of World War Two by David G Chandler. Description of 52 of the most significant battles, on land, sea and in the air. Published by Arms and Armour. Price £10.95.

A Cockney Soldier by William Harding. The author's story, from his upbringing in the slums of London, through capture at Calais in 1940 and five years as a prisoner of war. Published by Merlin. Price £9.95.

Fierce Quality by Julian James. Biography of Scot Alastair Pearson, Parachute Battalion commander in North Africa, whose bravery resulted in him being awarded the DSO and three bars and the Military

IN BRIEF

Cross. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £12.95.

The RUC, A Force Under Fire by Chris Ryder. The story of "the most skilled and innovative anti-terrorist police force in existence", told by journalist and Ulster specialist Chris Ryder. Published by Methuen. Price £13.99.

Images of War by John D Cantwell. How distinguished artists mirrored the changing faces of the Second World War. Published by HMSO. Price £7.95.

Firefight by Peter Newark. The progression of firearms through history. Published by David and Charles. Price £14.95.

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Collects of the Services compiled by Col Donald Gibbs. Handbook of collects of all the fighting Services with brief histories of the units. Published by Broughton House Home for Disabled Ex Servicemen, Park Lane, Kersal, Salford M7 0JD. Price £5.

SAS Operations by James D Ladd. Reprint in paperback of story of the SAS. Published by Robert Hale. Price £5.95.

Sangshak brigade was 'left to its fate'

THE Battle of Sangshak in March 1944 was fought towards the end of Japan's glittering sequence of conquests (Siam, Indo-China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore), a period described as "the greatest land grab in history".

Sangshak was a relatively small encounter in which men of the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade defended a village in the hills of Assam.

For a week, led by Brig M R J Hope Thomson, they held the village against the Japanese en route for their main objectives of Imphal and Kohima, but the enforced withdrawal of the 50th gave rise to rumours, developed over the years into accepted fact, that they had failed in their duty.

Harry Seaman fought with 153 Battalion of the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade as a junior subaltern and was Mentioned in Dispatches for his part in the defence of Sangshak. He tells the story from the viewpoint of those who took part in the battle. It is a convincing vindication.



Brig Hope Thomson

It is an account of a brigade left to its fate of inevitable annihilation against a numerically superior enemy, starved as they were by corps and divisional HQ of stores, transport and, in particular, barbed wire which would have gone a long way to helping the brigade defend itself.

Airdrops were all too familiar failures, with most of the supplies falling outside the perimeter.

The author makes his views abundantly clear: "It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade and its commander had been made the scapegoats for the errors and omissions of those above them."

Brig Hope Thomson, back in England and demoted to major, nevertheless managed to work his way to Normandy soon after D-Day as second-in-command of a Dorset battalion. Soon promoted to command, he was awarded a DSO in 1945. In the postwar years he rose no higher than brigadier again.

The book is an unhappy account of unrecognised bravery and there must for the survivors of Sangshak remain a feeling of bitterness. — BJ

The Battle at Sangshak: Prelude to Kohima by Harry Seaman. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.

Executed Soldiers named

● From Page 19

martial files fostered suspicion. The most delicate political secrets are revealed after 30 years.

In 1919 Mr Justice Darling chaired a committee which inquired into the way in which courts martial had been held and, though it was clear that there had been injustices, the evidence was not released.

A book by A P Herbert, distinguished author, war veteran and MP, though fiction, pointed out glaring irregularities in the system.

Judge Babington's anonymous probings raised more ugly doubts.

The very fact that deserters were not shot during the Second World War (though some executions for murder were carried out by firing squad) pointed to the fact that some lessons had been learned from the contents of the suppressed courts martial files.

Now that all those who were "shot at dawn" have been identified, the excuse that revelation would embarrass relatives will not stand.

And there is good reason to believe that it never was valid.

If by examining the courts martial files miscarriages of justice had come to light someone would have had to take action against those responsible.

It is hard to believe the Lord Chancellor's Office and the Ministry of Defence who are responsible for access to the files, wish them to be examined by the inquisitive almost on a monthly basis as the 75 year restriction lapses.

It would be more sensible for a judicial body to examine and report on them as soon as possible (and to make available the evidence given at the Darling Inquiry of 1919).

Injustice, especially where the extreme penalty has been inflicted, does not mellow with age. — WHPM

● **Shot At Dawn, Executions in World War One by Authority of the British Army Act**, by Julian Putkowski and Julian Sykes. Published by Wharnclyffe Publishing Ltd, Price £15.95.

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Firemen bank on Walsall's new sappers

ONE OF the Territorial Army's newest and smallest units has completed a practical training task at the Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire with a bonus to the British taxpayer, writes **Richard Shields**.

The bonus is a saving of an estimated quarter of a million pounds.

The college, purpose-built on a former airfield, provides command training for all the country's fire brigades and many from overseas. Its facilities for practising fire service leadership skills under realistic conditions include houses, tower blocks, factories, a shopping mall, an oil terminal, a section of motorway – even a concrete ship.

The one thing it lacked was a rail and road incident set-up.

An approach to the Ministry of Defence resulted in a brief to 30 Engineer Brigade to help – and Walsall based 411 Independent Plant Troop, Royal Engineers (Volunteers) got the job.

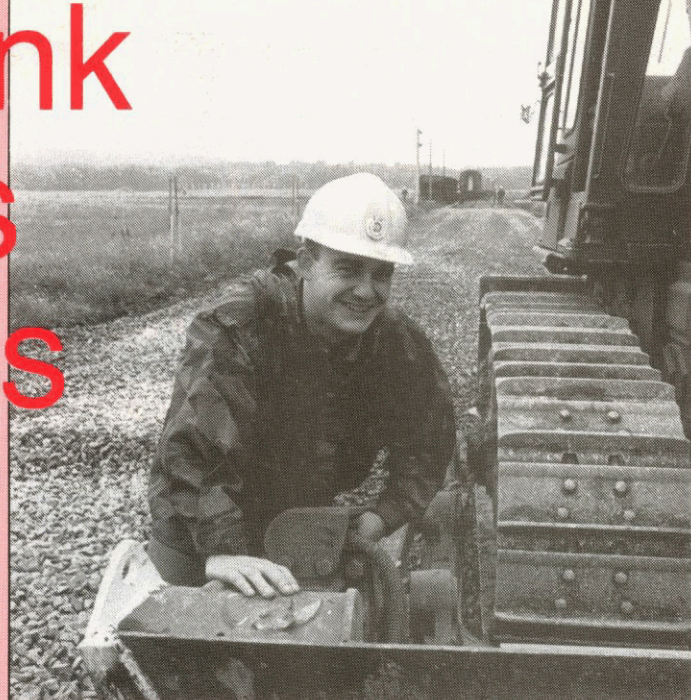
For 411, formed in April last year and 35 strong, it was both a challenge and an opportunity to develop its skills and teamwork on a real project with a positive benefit to the community.

Starting with a green field site, the TA sappers spent 25 active weekends – with five others "trained off" – constructing 200 metres of road, with drainage, a level crossing, 200 metres of railway alignment including laying ballast, and a 100-metre long, 15-metre wide, five-metre high embankment.

The average number of TA soldiers on site at any one time was 15, many basic trained but untraded, and during the project they gained valuable experience in using a wide range of in-service plant – light and medium wheeled tractors,

light, medium and heavy crawler tractors, medium wheeled excavators, medium motorised scrapers and graders and medium dump trucks.

Troop commander Capt Frank Aniolkowski and the plant sergeant, Sgt Peter Edwards, also had to learn level and basic surveying skills to set



LCpl Ian Voice, a tool setter in civilian life, makes an adjustment during the grading of the railway alignment



One of the final tasks ... creating a 100-metre long embankment beside the track



The troop's plant sergeant, Sgt Peter Edwards is a heavy goods driver in civilian life



SSgt John Nicholls checks progress with an engineer's level. A former Regular who spent 7½ years with the Royal Engineers, he joined the TA 12 years ago and during the week is a precision engineer

out the site and check levels during construction – skills now passed on to plant section commander level.

The actual railway line was put in by TA soldiers from 507 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers and the Royal Monmouth Royal Engineers.

With a locomotive and carriages provided by British Rail, the result is a first class training facility for the college which would have cost £250,000 through contract channels. Actual cost was about £40,000 – the price of materials used.

Fire Service College Commandment George Clarke commented: "The Territorial Army help received in the construction of the railway incident site has been extremely useful to the development of the practical training facilities for the benefit of all fire brigades in the United Kingdom."

"Additionally, students from more than 75 countries will have the opportunity to see and train on this splendid facility."

At Moreton-in-Marsh, which has become almost a second home to the troop, Capt Aniolkowski – supervising the final touches – said: "It has been a fine training project on which to develop our skills, particularly for the junior NCOs, and has provided realistic tasks at all levels with something worthwhile for the community at the end."

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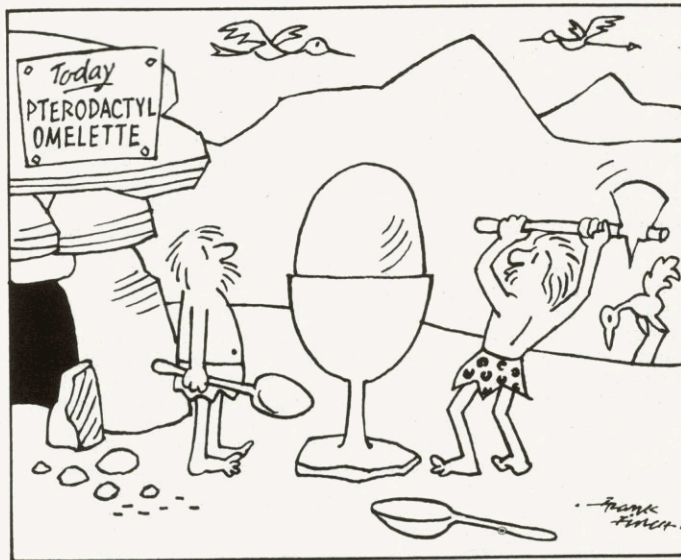
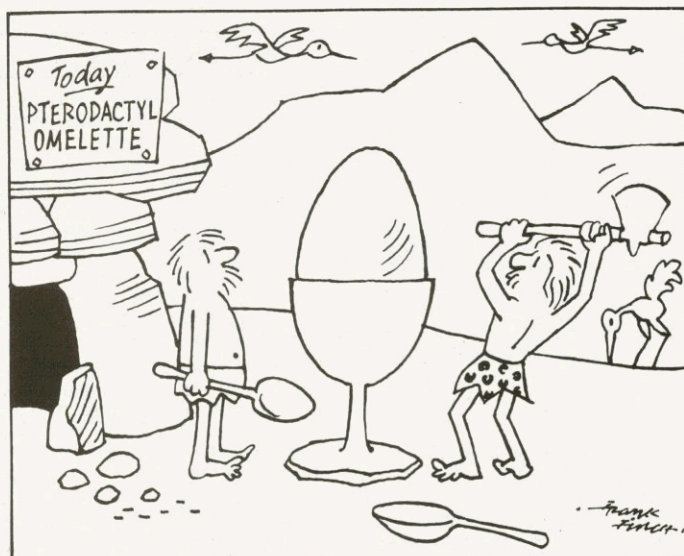
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SASS. It's made not from traditional cotton webbing but from
texturised nylon, the same material as the new nylon PLCE
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sponge or shrink about an inch a month. It's actually very
similar to a '58 poncho roll, but four inches longer, so should
take care of your NBC suit, boots and all.

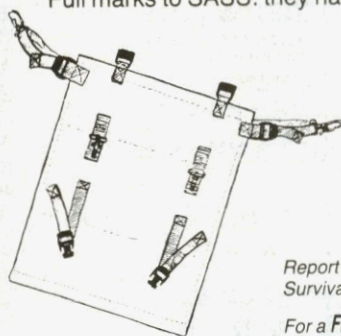
Perhaps the biggest single improvement is fast release
black plastic buckles with the standard military nylon strap
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bashas, which you close in the centre with tape and a fixlock.
This completes the package, making a waterproof pouch,
closed at both ends. To open, just press the quick release
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About the only negative point I can make is that there is no
device for attaching a pickhead, as on the original '58 poncho
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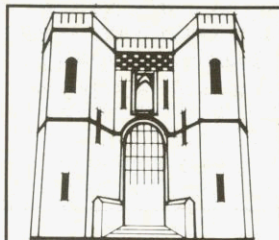
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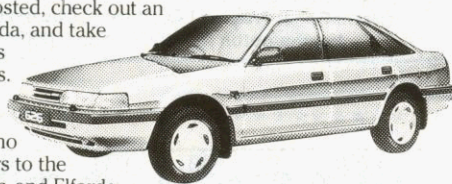
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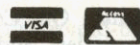
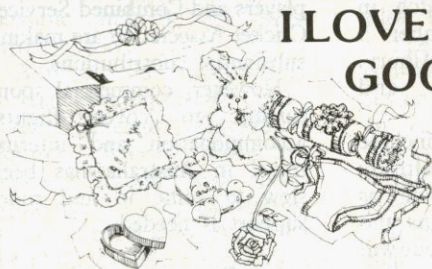
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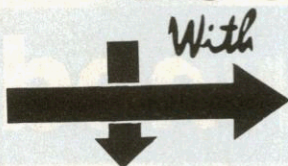


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Army skipper to lead tour of Australia

THE FIRST ever Combined Services team to visit Australia will play its first match in Melbourne on November 5 before travelling on to Albury, Canberra, Camden and Sydney.

Their opponents include many teams who have already visited the UK, such as Australian Old Collegians and the Crusaders, and the tour will culminate in a two day Test Match against the Australian Combined Services in Sydney on November 23-24.

A novel feature will be a day/night match, a first for most of the players.

The 15 players and four officials are skippered by Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (Gren Gds), a hard hitting batsman and brilliant fielder who has also represented the Combined Services at rugby.

Among other Army players are Capt Julian Barrett (LI), who scored centuries this year against both Oxford and Cambridge Universities; veteran Capt Paul Presland (AAC), first capped 15 years ago and a fine medium fast bowler; wicketkeeper Capt Peter Germain (LI); Capt David Bolus (Para), an all rounder and son of the former England cricketer; Cpl Andy Taylor (RCT), first choice opening bowler; and 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex (RMAS), a new and exciting opening batsman who scored the first ever century for the Army since one day cricket began in this year's Inter-Services matches.

The party also includes Lt Piers Moore, PO Paul Barsby, LS Bob Learmouth (RN) and Sgt Glyn Lumb, Cpl Grant Richards. SAC Adrian Jones and JT Nick Ward (RAF).

The team is managed by Capt Derek Oakley (RM), with Lt Col Keith Hitchcock as assistant manager and treasurer. Lt Ray Holyer (RN) is one umpire/scorer with the other to be nominated.

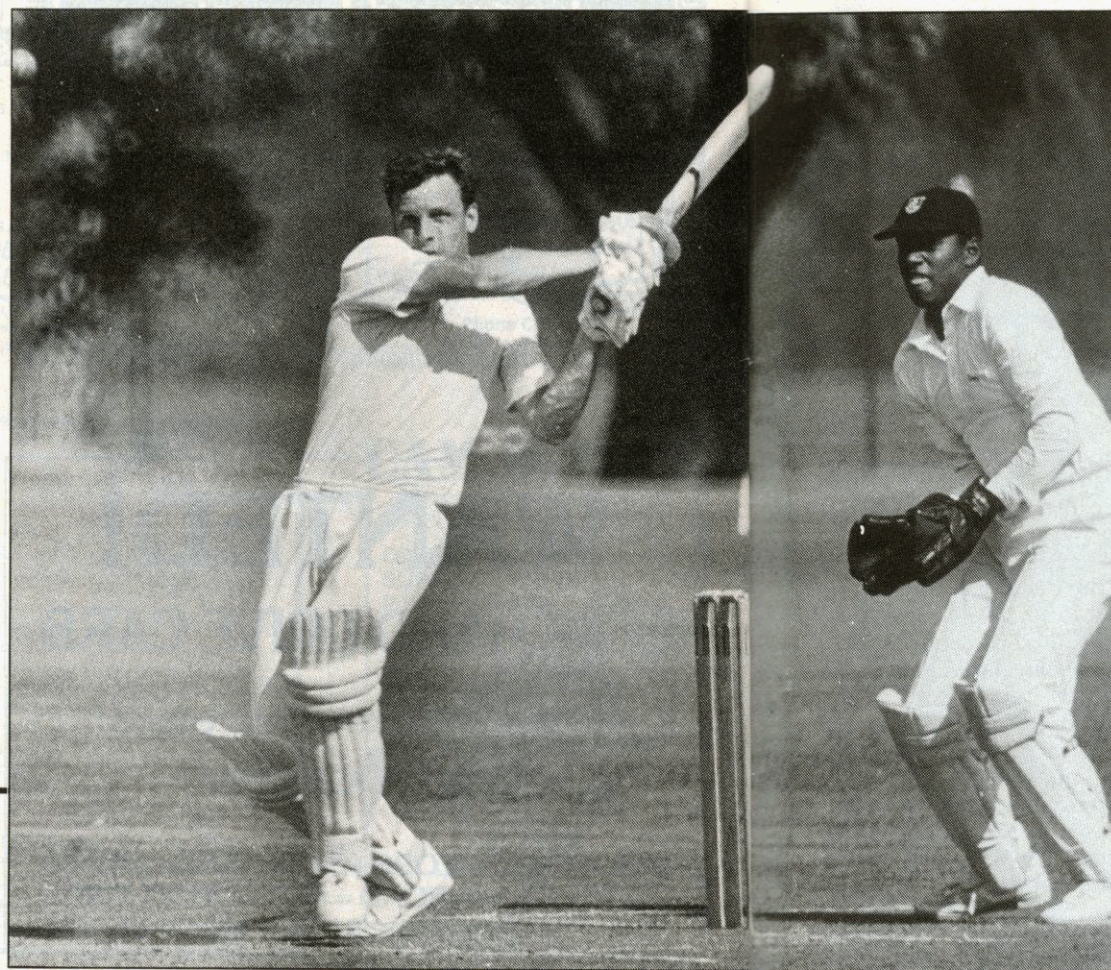
A number of former Service

cricketers have contributed towards the tour, and the players and Combined Services Cricket Association are making substantial contributions.

However, commercial sponsorship to cover flights, accommodation and internal travel in Australia has been slow to come in and more support is needed.

Captain's innings

Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, who will lead the Combined Services in Australia, hooks powerfully during his innings of 65 for the Services against the MCC Young Cricketers at Aldershot. MCC young professional Ian Kidd is the wicketkeeper. Services (280 and 175) beat the MCC (126 and 163) by 166 runs in the



three day match. Cpl Andy Taylor who will spearhead the attack in Australia finished with match figures of 8-127, Capt Julian Barrett scored 30 and 45 and opening batsman 2nd Lt

Richard Greatorex made 44 in the first innings. The Army's other representative, wicketkeeper Capt Peter Germain, made an undefeated 35 in the first innings.

Pictures: Mike Weston

Queens crowned

TIDWORTH based 1 Queens saw out the 1989 cricket season in a blaze of glory, winning the Army Inter Unit Cup at Aldershot, defeating 1 PWO in the UK final of the Infantry Cup, then taking on and hammering 1 Kings, the Berlin based BAOR Infantry champions.

The Army Cup final was between 1 Queens and 2 Para, with the latter winning the toss and electing to bat first on a very good Officers' Club wicket.

They eased their way to 67 off the first 20 overs but accelerated to 185-4 off their allocation of 40 overs as some loose Queens bowling was punished.

Cpl Kirkwood top scored with a very good innings of 61 for the Paras, with 2nd Lt Robin Stephenson and Sgt

Steve Kinchin making 45 each.

The Queensmen were immediately in trouble, losing two quick wickets, but new Army cap and former Surrey staff player Pte John Storey hit a superb 107 to set up the regiment's first Army Cup win with an over to spare.

Sgt Gerry Clarke and 2nd Lt Keith Rumbelow gave Storey valuable support.

And it was Gerry Clarke who, playing his final game for the battalion before retiring, saved the day for 1 Queens against 1 PWO at Tidworth in the Infantry Cup UK final.

Tidworth triple triumph

With 1 Queens struggling at 26-5 after 16 overs Clarke got his head down and scored a match-winning 85 not out, ably assisted by Lt Ian Wright and Pte Bruce Campbell. The 1 Queens total after 55 overs was 179-8, despite magnificent bowling by Pte Walker of 1 PWO, who claimed two wickets in his first six overs without conceding a run. Clark and Willerton took two each and Walker finished with 3-21. Cpl Graham Smith (3-23), Pte John Storey (3-33) and the aggressive Keith Rumbelow (2-10) bowled out 1 PWO for just 76.

Gerry Clarke fittingly won the Harper Trophy as man of the match. The new trophy is named in memory of the late Pte Brian Harper, a keen Infantry cricketer based with 1 Queens who died in a car crash

The Russians are coming!

THE 1989-90 rugby season has begun and in two main events Army Rugby has got off to a flying start. Firstly, the Army Rugby Union held its annual press lunch at Kneller Hall, writes John Quin.

Also invited were the ARU's sponsors and members of the Rugby Football Union. The event was probably the best ever attended, which augurs well for the Army players towards whom everything in the end is geared.

The players, without question, produced the goods on the park last season, building up, under the captaincy of Maj Brian McCall (REME) to sweep the other two Services out of sight in the 1989 Inter-Service championships.

Col Andrew Hoon, Chairman of the ARU, highlighted to the media gathering the

significant steps made in the reorganisation of Army rugby to keep it in line with modern rugby practices designed to make the players' job on the field as easy and as rewarding as possible and in the most efficient way.

Also at the lunch were former internationals Mike Rafter (England) and Geoff Squires (Wales), who this season, through their sports equipment firm Barbarians, will be supplying the rugby kit for all three of the Army XVs, a tremendous gift of sponsorship. Schweppes, sponsors of the Army Cup competition, were also present, as were representatives of Willis Faber, the sponsors of the Army v Navy game.

The Army XV kicked off early this season, meeting an International XV selected by

the Wooden Spoon Society. The game took place at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, and was in aid of the British Paralympic Team for 1992 in Barcelona. It was organised by Fleet Round Table.

The crowd saw an Army side composed largely of last season's successful XV take on an experienced International XV with the final victory going to the Internationals by 38 pts to 37.

Finally in this round-up, the Reds will be in Aldershot in December. The Combined Services will be hosting the Russian national touring side on Wednesday, December 13 at the Military Stadium for an evening kick-off. More on this later and progress on Army rugby in general.

Did you realise the number of rugby clubs affiliated to the ARU is now in excess of 170, which makes the ARU the largest constituent body of the Rugby Football Union!

Cyprus tennis success

A TEAM from ESBA Cyprus took part in the WRAC inter-unit tennis championships at Guildford for the first time - and promptly marched off with the honours.

The eight best district or zonal teams took part in the finals, with the Cyprus team and 225/233 Signal Squadron from Northern Ireland winning their way through to the deciding match on the second day.

Cpls Jackie Dickens and Wendy Leigh secured the title for Cyprus by winning their second string match 2-0.

But it wasn't all plain sailing for the girls from the sunshine island. The team of five arrived back on Cyprus via three different airports and five separate flights, with Jackie Dickens's luggage on a sixth flight!



Cpl Steve Kinchin, who made 45, struggles to regain his crease during the 1 Queens-2 Para Inter-Unit Cup final. Wicketkeeper Cpl Jerry Pickers races into position as bowler Cpl Graham Smith looks on

last year. Sgt Clarke had been responsible for bringing him into the Army.

The UK-BAOR Infantry Cup final at Tidworth, the first of its kind, was a real battle royal, with 1 Queens taking on Berlin's 1 Kings.

But the result was never in doubt after the home side had smashed a huge total of 288-2 off 55 overs, with Cpl Jerry Pickers undefeated on 108, Storey scoring 83 and Rumbelow an extremely rapid 67.

1 Kings rallied from 33-4

through a fine 88 run partnership between 2nd Lt Hodgson (56) and Capt Mike Nicholls (63), but were eventually all out for 170.

For 1 Queens Storey took 4-33, Rumbelow 2-27 and Pte Steve Pilbeam 3-16.

Defender speeds up

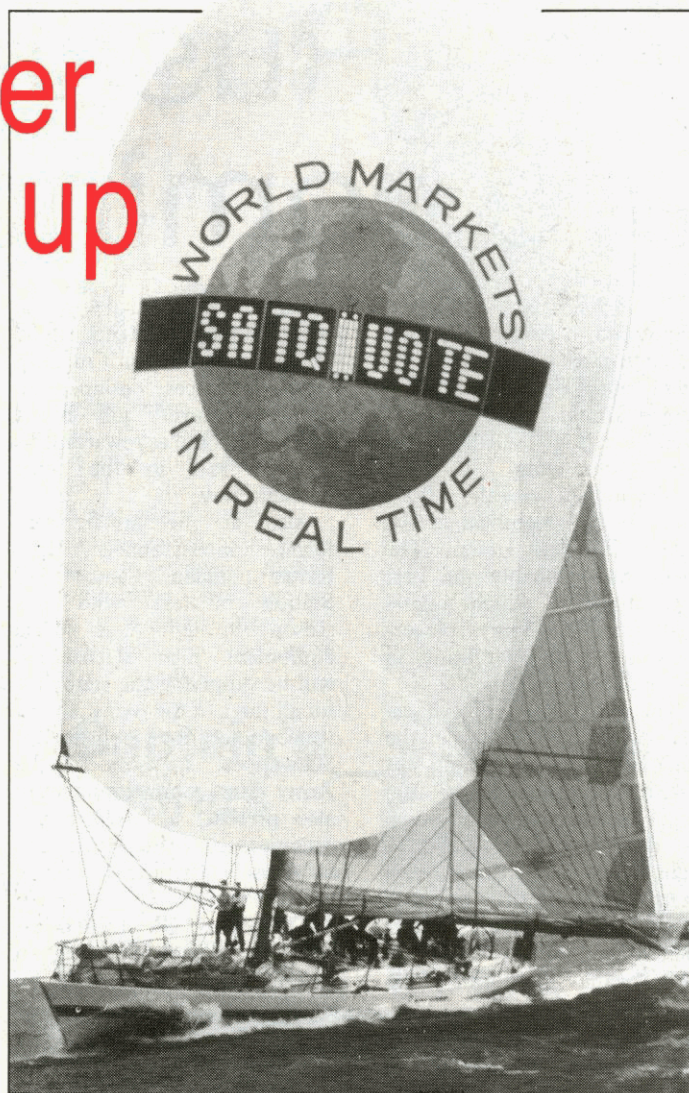
Having made a fine recovery from a frustrating start to the Whitbread Round the World Race the Combined Services entry Satquote British Defender (SBD) was lying joint 4th as she entered the doldrums, the area of calm near the equator.

When the 23 competitors left Portsmouth the mast of a spectator's yacht ripped SBD's spinnaker and she ran onto a shingle bank while taking action to avoid another boat.

Nevertheless SBD had pulled up into 7th place when the fleet entered the Bay of Biscay.

A mast fitting was damaged during a force 9 gale but the yacht, which had reached a speed of 26.5 knots, maintained her position while repairs were made.

For experts: SBD's position at 0900 on Sept 14 was 12.00 North 25.30 West. At this point she still had to cover 3,200 miles to the first stop at Punta Del Este, Uruguay.



Hudson at the helm

A CAPACITY entry for the Army dinghy championships at Netley Sailing Club, Hants meant that competitors were split into four flights and then into gold and silver fleets.

The favourites emerged as Lt Colonel (Retd) Stuart Jardine, and Cpl Steve Pyatt with two firsts and a second each, Lt Stuart Hudson with an erratic first, third and sixth and Col John Cooper with two seconds and a third. The silver fleet raced in very little wind and an increasing tide and despite half the fleet misreading the signals

a close final took place. Lt Stuart Speer, crewed by Nick Valler, narrowly won from Cpls Hawkins and Overton (RAOC). Sgt Cockshott of 1 DWR, a new face in Army sailing, finished third crewed by Pte Hay.

The gold fleet had two races. At the first mark Hudson led from Jardine and these two opened away from Cooper and WO2 John Ward of the Green Howards. Although Jardine got ahead of Hudson he could not hold on and was pipped at the finish. Pyatt finished fifth.

Hudson had to finish first in the last race if he was to retain his title and read the wind with rare cunning to win. Jardine almost caught him at one stage but lost second place to Capt Paul Welch and WO2 John Reynolds of the sappers. So Stuart Hudson retained the Army dinghy title with the same expert civilian crew, Kevin Middleton.

Army champions — Lt Stuart Hudson/Kevin Middleton (RAMC); 2, Lt Col Stuart Jardine/Cpl Robbie Jardine (REYC); 3, Capt Steve Pyatt/Capt Matt Evan (REYC); 4, Col John Cooper/Peter Cooper (REYC).

Akabusi, Callender in the medals

ARMY athletes WO2 (QMSI) Kriss Akabusi (ASPT) and Cpl Clarence Callender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) returned from Barcelona, Spain with a handful of World Cup medals between them.

Akabusi took part in the first

and the last events of the prestigious competition, taking third place in the opening 400m hurdles and running a vital second leg in the concluding 400m relay.

His efforts helped the relay team to finish ahead of East

Germany and so ensure Great Britain of third overall in the World Cup.

Callender was in superb form in the 100m relay, rocketing the GB squad away to a cracking start that culminated in them finishing second.

Canoe team in top form

ARMY canoeists swept the board at this year's Inter-Services sprint and marathon championships on the River Trent at Newark. The river was very low and conditions were difficult.

But they did not stop Cpl Ted Heath (RE) from storming to his third consecutive victory in the individual K1 event. The talented Heath continues to improve and his success rounded off an excellent year for him during which he represented Great Britain.

Spr Vinny Gallagher (RE) paddled well to take second place and Army canoeists were fifth, sixth and seventh.

In the doubles Dvr Lenny Pritchard (RCT) and Capt Steve Jackson (R Signals) put in a powerful performance to take first place in the K2. Lt Duncan Capps (RCT) and Spr Pete Stroud (RE) worked hard to secure third place after a poor start.

Army boats took fifth and sixth places as well to complete a convincing win in the team competition. The Army has, in fact, had a firm grasp on the team trophy since 1965.

For the sprints the teams moved to the National Watersports Centre at Nottingham where the Army had an excellent weekend, winning all but one of the men's events in exceptionally rough conditions.

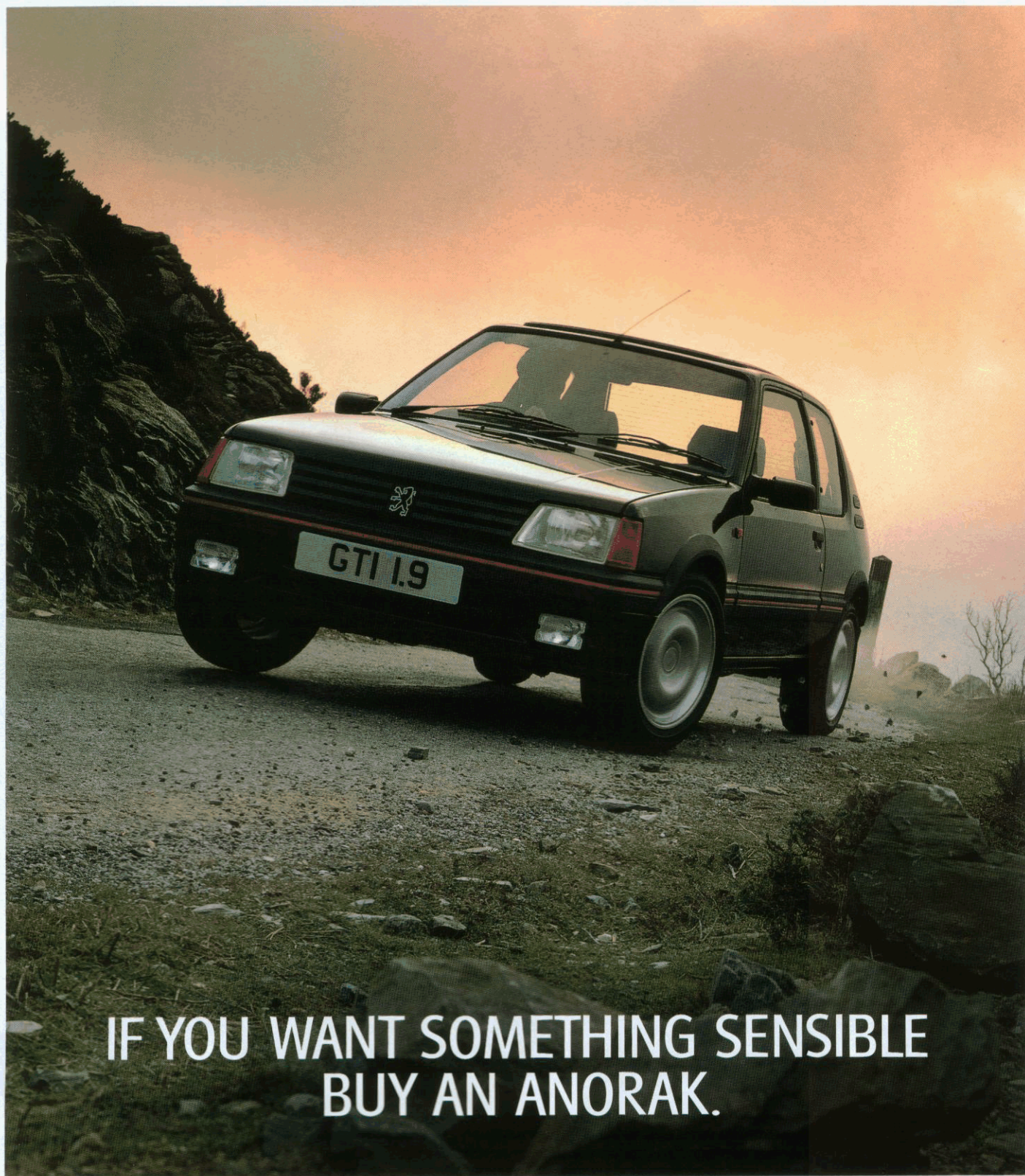
Ted Heath again confirmed his outstanding form by winning both singles events at 500 and 1,000m, with Spr Gallagher taking second in the 500 and third in the 1,000m.

Heath and Gallagher teamed up for the men's K2 500m and, to no one's surprise, won, with Capps and Stroud third. But the sapper crew had to settle for second in the 1,000m in which the honours went to the RAF.

Other sprint results

500m: K4 — 1, Army (Maj Dave Howie (RAEC), WO2 Kevin Collins (RE), WO2 John Hayden (RE), Capps). C1 — 1, AT Justin Brooks (REME). Women's K1 — 2, Capt Sue Dixon.

1,000m: K4 — 1, Army (Brooks, Stroud, Capps, Spr Kenny Ball (RE)).



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LCpl Beverley McAuley, WRAC, serving with 28 Signal Regiment at Rheindahlen, West Germany, makes sure she is looking at her best before returning to Newcastle, her home town area, for a fortnight's duty in the city's Army Careers Information Office. Beverley, whose parents live in Whitley Bay, will be on hand to tell friends and members of the public about life in the Army.

Picture: Georgie Smith, Pinfo BFG