

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 6 OCTOBER 1986

SOLDIER

INSIDE:
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BELIZE



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FRONT COVER – Men of the anti-tank platoon, the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, tackle the assault course at Otterburn camp before a Milan live-firing exercise. See also Pages 26 and 27.

Picture by Terry Champion

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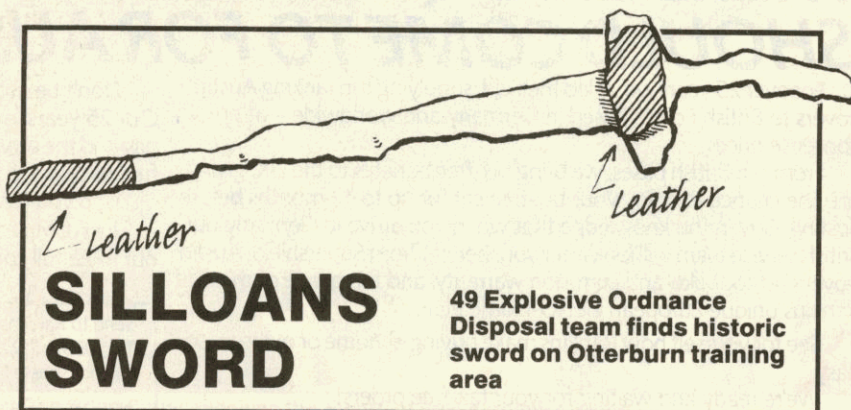
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NEXT ISSUE



CATCHING CRABS ...

It's not easy to escape and evade the Argylls when they're out to ruffle a few feathers



SILLOANS SWORD

49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal team finds historic sword on Otterburn training area

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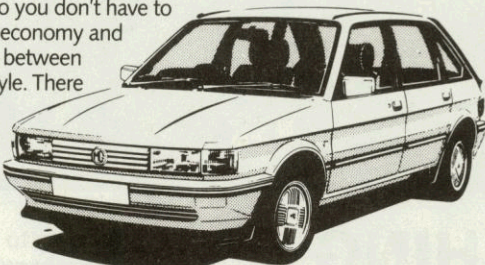
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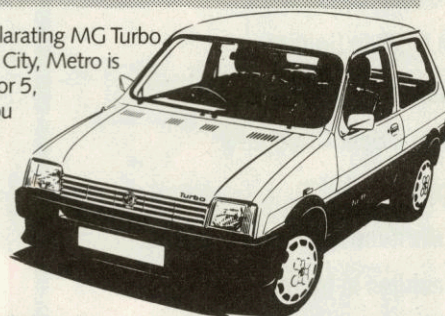
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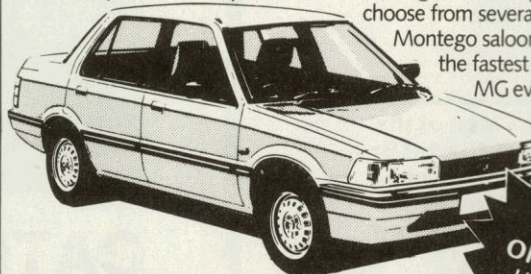
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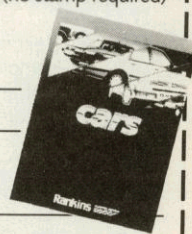
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SWORD SALUTE



AN AIRBORNE RAF squadron aircrew from No 47 Squadron saluted an Army squadron of the same number firmly on the ground as Hercules flight Quebec Charlie Two-Two on Heading 279 made a symbolic low level flypast of honour over a barracks parade ground, writes **Graham Smith**.

The occasion was the presentation of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace 1985 – the Army version – for the efforts of the 140-strong 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT, in their year-long famine fighting air drops of 31 million pounds of sacked grain to remote areas of Ethiopia during Operation Bushel.

At the ceremony, watched by admiring families and friends, the well-deserved award was handed over by Mr "Fletch" Nicholson of Wilkinson Sword to Maj Gen Brian Colley, Director General Transport and Movements, at South Cerney, the Air-Mounting Centre (AMC) home of 29 Transport and Movements Regiment, RCT.

The AD squadron, normally based at RAF Lyneham, were there because of busy outbound preparations at their home unit for Exercise Bold Guard. The 47 Squadron four-man aircrew was captained by Flt Lt Fred Thomas.

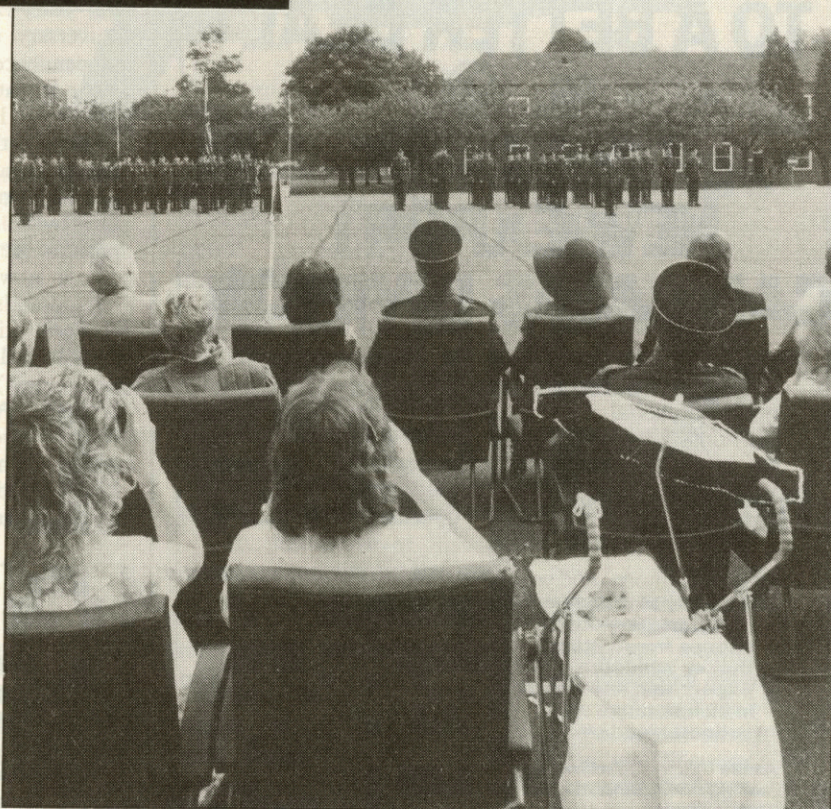
Mr Nicholson, who had inspected about 100 members of the squadron drawn up on parade, said: "There is no doubt a large number of people owe their lives to their activities and particularly to the dedication of all involved. It's a great honour for us at Wilkinson Sword, to have this opportunity to acknowledge the magnificent way the men reacted to the disaster."

In reply, General Colley said: "I am very proud it was a unit of my corps that played a vital role in bringing some assistance to the unfortunate victims of circumstances beyond their control. I wish publicly to congratulate all ranks not only in discharging their professional duties but also for their voluntary contribution in fund raising and bringing assistance to local communities."

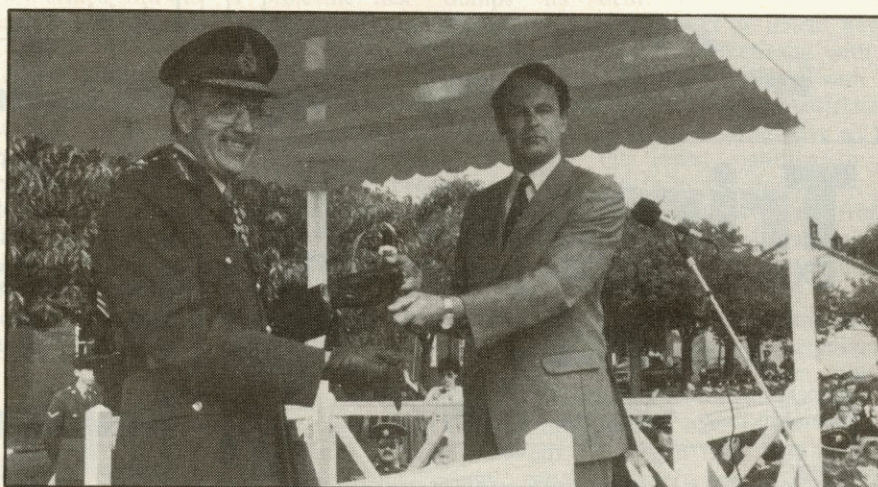
He also thanked various Army and RAF support units for their help in ensuring the success of the mercy airlift.

"Their contribution was instrumental in saving human lives and easing suffering," he said. "I salute everyone concerned with and involved in this operation."

The citation said: "The squadron consistently maintained the highest standards of professionalism throughout the 14-month operation. It involved



A Hercules from No 47 Squadron RAF salutes the men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT drawn up on the parade ground at South Cerney



Maj Gen Brian Colley receives the Sword of Peace from Mr Fletch Nicholson of Wilkinson Sword

extremely demanding work for which many members of the squadron voluntarily returned for repeated tours of duty.

"The caring attitude of the squadron is further illustrated by the outstanding contribution they made to two orphanages in Ethiopia. The work contributed by 47 AD Squadron has been an outstanding example of the very

best in community relations.

"Their concern and compassion has brought inestimable credit not only to their squadron and the British Army but to the British nation as a whole."

Band aid for the ceremony was on hand in the musical groups of The Parachute Regiment's Pegasus Band and the band of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RCT/RAOC.



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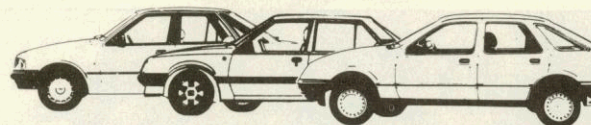
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MAIL DROP

What about a Partition medal?

As a newcomer to the pages of SOLDIER may I invite comments from your knowledgeable readers on the following subject? Next year, 1987, marks the 40th anniversary of the granting of independence to India.

The eventful and strife-torn period of 1946-7 saw British soldiers in their not unfamiliar role of peacekeeping, quelling riots and carrying out long range patrol work in potential trouble spots in the hills of India and what is now Pakistan.

Thousands of lives were saved by these actions yet, to the best of my knowledge (and I stand to be corrected) this final service by the British Army to the India of old was never recognised by an award such as the General Service Medal, nor indeed was the departure of British troops

from August 1947 ever marked by a commemorative medal.

I realise that the government of the day was under pressure to speed the withdrawal of British troops to meet the terms of the Partition Agreement and that such matters as awards had low priority, nevertheless I feel it was a regrettable and rather sad omission which has never been rectified.

A thought for the 40th anniversary, perhaps? — **Malcolm Martin, 46 Fair Close, Suffolk.**

HOAY JOY

Our £50 cheque for SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 393 is winging its way to North Yorkshire for Lt CA Gow WRAC of 1 Sqn 11 Sig Regt, Helles Barracks, Cat-terick.

False note

Imagine my surprise on seeing the Irish Guards' musicians (front cover, September 8) described as bandsmen. Only those in line regiments are thus called. — **Mrs A. S. Skinner, Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Windsor, Berks.**

Reunions

□ The Glasgow Highlanders celebrate their 40th anniversary reunion in the County Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne on October 4. Details from the secretary, Archie G. B. Mason, 65 Bellevue Road, Edinburgh EH7 4DJ (tel. 031-556 4201).
□ 163/55 LAA Regiment RA 41st annual reunion dinner takes place on October 4 at the Ship Inn, Heavitree, Exeter. Details from Don Goodheart, 20A Burnthouse Lane, Exeter (tel. 0392-73862).

The SS109 round has been tested thoroughly. It has been known to penetrate a Nato steel helmet target at 800 metres — through one side and out the other. The old 7.62mm round is a hellishly powerful slug, certainly, but it doesn't stay in the man whereas the 5.56mm SS109 will, by virtue of its design, not only stay in the man but make one hell of a mess.

I can talk about the ballistics involved but this letter would then require at least two pages! Don't get me wrong, I also am one of the die-hards who still likes 7.62mm rounds, but this does not mean that I don't appreciate the power of the 5.56mm SS109.

Secondly, design: The idea behind a "straight" rifle is that there is less of what is called "barrel-jump" when firing. Further, you end up with a shorter weapon overall, which is also caused by using a smaller calibre.

In these days of infantry in confined spaces such as person-

nel carriers or Infantry Combat Vehicles, who wants to get hung up with a long and unwieldy barrel, not to mention the advantages of a short weapon in jungle or house-clearing operations?

Firstly, calibre: 5.56mm (.223) is now the standard Nato calibre, although one or two armies have yet to adopt a suitable rifle — the Bundeswehr included. This means we will all (as with 7.62mm) use the same ammunition and will be able to carry more rounds for the same weight.

CONTROVERSY and divided opinion, even among the experts, have marked the arrival of the new SA80 rifle, which is due to be issued for troop trials this month. Contributors to Mail Drop have not been slow to comment on the SA80. Our letter writers in this issue put the case for the defence

Stop knocking the SA80

Koch HK33, to name but a few. Personally I would go for the GALIL.

As for Siberian peasants, perhaps we should remember that they are now armed with the AK74 which uses an even smaller round — a 5.45mm.

Thirdly, ceremonial: Yes, by all means retain the SLR for ceremonial. There, I agree that the SA80 looks a bit peculiar. But then it was designed for war, not for parading.

Fourthly, the Armalite M16: Whoever suggested using this appalling weapon has never had to rely on one in action. There are far better 5.56mm weapons than the M16 — the FN CAL, SIG 540, GALIL, Heckler &

Waddington, Chief Executive, Western Tactical Systems, 3 Meadow Rise, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1JP.

I would direct readers to copies of SOLDIER, circa 1951, when a .280 inch rifle was proposed as a replacement for the Lee Enfield. If you can find a picture of that rifle, compare it with the SA80. The design is almost exactly the same. — **R. C. Waddington, Chief Executive, Western Tactical Systems, 3 Meadow Rise, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1JP.**

RECOIL REDUCED

If Mr Haldane Court (SOLDIER, September 8) consults a reliable reference book on small arms he will find that many independently designed weapons have a "significant gap" between the axis of the bore and the line of sight. He appears to have ignored the fact that a straight stock reduces recoil.

In my opinion none of his opinions are viable, as anyone can find out by consulting such works as "An Encyclopaedia of Modern Small Arms" by Ian V. Hogg.

With regard to ceremonial drill, as a former member of the RAF Regiment, may I say that the drill demonstrated before the Queen at last year's Festival of Remembrance did not lack dignity and was smartly executed by the Queen's Colour Squadron. — **L. S. King, Boscobel Road North, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0NZ.**



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: The new SA80 (above) bears a striking resemblance to the .280 rifle (below) rejected in the Fifties as Nato's rifle of the future

The writer of the letter 'SA80 rifle design faulty' (SOLDIER, August 11) makes some very valid points relating to the design of the Army's new rifle. However, there are one or two major misconceptions that should be rectified.

The first concerns the choice of calibre. It was always assumed that stopping power was directly related to the size, or calibre, of the projectile, hence the Americans' change from .38 pistol ammunition to .45 after the Philippines campaign at the beginning of the century.

It is now apparent that the energy it contains is the major factor; and more importantly, the efficiency with which it can transfer this kinetic energy to the target.

Hence, a high energy projectile that passes straight through a target without transferring energy may well prove fatal after some time, but will not provide instant stopping power, whereas a projectile that "dumps" its energy in the target will be much more effective.

Considerable research has been devoted to developing projectiles that give up energy quickly and some amazing results have been produced, mainly in Germany and the USA. Most, however, are expensive and would anyway be illegal under international conventions.

While not as efficient as these specialised projectiles, the 5.56mm bullet, being high velocity, contains high kinetic energy. On striking a target the round tends to tumble, thereby "dumping" this energy very efficiently.

On the design of the rifle, it is necessary to consider how and where it is likely to be used. The infantry now spends much time travelling and debussing from APCs or other vehicles. A small, handy weapon is therefore required. To achieve any substantial reduction in length the barrel could be shortened, but accuracy would suffer.

The action could be reduced in size, but this would weaken the

Bullet 'dumps' its lethal energy most efficiently

weapon unacceptably. Finally, the whole weapon can be telescoped, moving the pistol grip forward of the magazine and dispensing with the butt entirely, producing a "bull pup" rifle. By definition this weapon must have a straight line layout, necessitating the raised sightline so unpopular with your correspondent.

It should be noted, however, that the Americans with their M16, the French with their FAMAS, and the Austrians with their Steyr AUG have all found the raised sightline to be a satisfactory system.

A major advantage from the shooter's point of view is that the design eliminates the "jump" of a conventional rifle.

A more significant drawback of the SA80 is the inability to fire the weapon from the left shoulder. Let us hope our soldiers have to fire only round the right hand side of cover.

Experts seem to be divided on this issue. Half believe the SA80 is a disaster, the other half proclaim it to be the finest weapon to enter service. Let's wait and see how it gets on.

I can't help feeling the cries of "bring back the SLR" come from the same source as the "we want to keep the Lee Enfield" of the '50s and the "we can't use these new fangled crossbows" somewhat earlier. — **Capt J. R. Tate, RA, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire.**

Percy returns to pull a pint

WHEN TV character Percy Sugden of *Coronation Street* claimed to be an ex-Army cook, ACC PR officer Maj Gordon Walker invited him to Corps HQ at Aldershot to see how modern Army cooks are trained.

It was about a year ago – when this picture was taken – that actor Bill Waddington who plays the part, visited St Omer Barracks to revive his memories of Army life.

He had such a good time he agreed to return this year to open officially the new ACC Pub Club in Aldershot.

And so it was Bill found himself pulling the first pint in the new club.

For Maj Walker the star's visit signalled the end of his tour as PR officer and he has handed in his reporter's pad and pencil and moved to a new post. He will be missed by this page.



BILL WADDINGTON: return visit to pull a pint (Photo: Paul Haley)

An SAS man remembers . . .



Former SAS Sergeant Fred 'Dusty' Rhodes places a cross where eight of his comrades were executed by the Gestapo 42 years ago this month. Dusty was among those who later found the bodies and went on to hunt down those responsible. He told his story in a TV documentary about a small band of the SAS who continued to operate for three years to secretly hunt Nazi war criminals, particularly those responsible for the deaths of SAS men.

FRED 'DUSTY' RHODES: post-war hunter

Doctors search for Faroe veterans

A TEAM of doctors researching multiple sclerosis are appealing for help from wartime soldiers who spent time on the Faroe Islands. Dr M. O'Brien of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, is research registrar for the team and would like to hear from Servicemen who were posted there between 1940-45.

Dr O'Brien said there was an outbreak of the disease there after the war.

Among military units posted to the islands were the Lovat Scouts and the Cameronians.

"We would like to find or hear from veterans who served in the Faroes to give details of everyday life on the islands to help with our research," he said.

If you served there during the war and would like to help, write to Dr O'Brien at the Clinical Research Block, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham B15 2TH (telephone 021 427 1311 extension 188 or 263).

SIGNALS MAKE STARS SHINE

DIVISION 1 newcomers Wimbledon, who signalled their arrival in the world's toughest football arena by walloping rivals and topping the League table from the start of the season, owe much of their early success to 28 Signal Regiment.

Currently lying eighth the London team were invited for a week's pre-season training at the regiment's BAOR base.

There they took part in a get fit programme devised by WO2 Jim Wood, an APTC instructor and Olympic biathlete, which included toughening-up events known to every soldier – early morning runs, hill and assault course training.

That they survived the courses and succeeded in hammering a Royal Signals representative side 3-0, was their way of saluting and thanking 28 Regiment for their help.

And the training worked wonders, for they roared to No. 1 spot in the table from the season's start.

While they have slipped a little since that heady beginning, manager Dave Bassett will know what to do should they slide any further – send 'em back to 28 Regiment for another bash at Jim Wood's programme. That should put them right.



WONDERS FOR WIMBLEDON: an invitation to fitness



SGT CHRIS MOUNKLEY, FLT LT DUNCAN WELHAM: wary holds on Sara

HOLD THAT TIGER!

Hold that tiger... Taking this advice literally Sgt Chris Mounkley and Flt Lt Duncan Welham take wary grips on tiger cub Sara.

An Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter crew of 653 Sqn based at Soest, they met the six-month old "baby" at RAF Gutersloh when Nato

flying squadrons, who share a tiger emblem as an official marking, flew to the BAOR base for a mini air-meet.

Aircraft from the German, American and French air forces took part in the families day show hosted by the RAF's 230 (Puma) Squadron.

We'll meet again . . . and they did!

They always meant to keep in touch . . . and they did. But there was a 40-year gap between Evan Moon (left) and Leslie Sayers saying cheerio and hello to each other.

Evan was a sergeant and Leslie a corporal in the



old Devonshire and Dorset regiments stationed in

Berlin 40 years ago. Now they've met up for the first time since those dark days.

Their reunion came when they and 90 old comrades of the two regiments were guests of 1 D and D in the walled city.

Sunshine tour for Peta

Smiling in anticipation of a sunshine duty tour in Belize is Lt Peta Smith, assistant adjutant of the 1st Bn The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, which moves there this month.

Peta joined them in May

and has since been helping with the regiment's ceremonial duties at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower.

"They call me 'Fergie'," said red-head Peta, 22, from London and engaged

to be married. What does her fiancé think about her six-month posting?

Said Peta: "He was in the Army when I met him on a posting to Germany, so he knows what it's all about."



LT PETA SMITH: bound for Belize

PEOPLE

QUICK SPOT

When an eight-man team of walkers from the 13/18th Hussars LAD strode 700 kilometres from Herford in Germany to the REME depot at Arborfield, Berks., they even continued striding around the decks of the ferry ship across the North Sea. They were doing it in aid of a children's charity.

QUICK SPOT

Cancan kicks for veterans

Seeing the black stockings and flashing thighs of cancan dancers Heather Worrall, Julie Anne Phillips and Lindsey Coleman, brought twinkles to the eyes of old soldiers Jim Corns, 89, Jack Thomas, 92, and Norman Hinsull, 91.

They were among 42 First World War veterans who were entertained by the *Fillies de Paris* trio in Wolverhampton.

A special party organised by a local joint branch of SSAFA and the Forces Help Society, the girls' dancing had the old boys tapping their feet and roaring for more. "Smashing," they said.

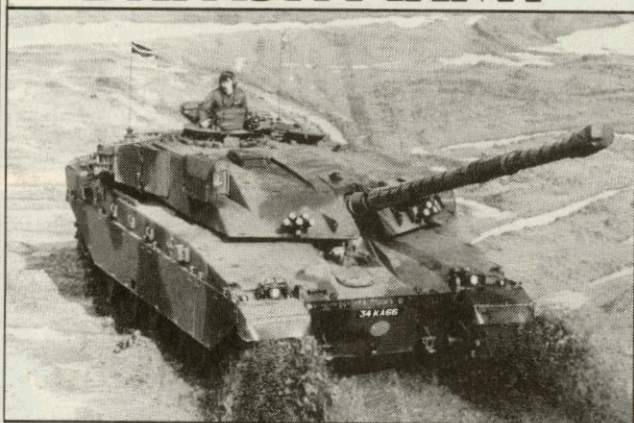
"Their dancing brought tears to my eyes," said Jim Corns.



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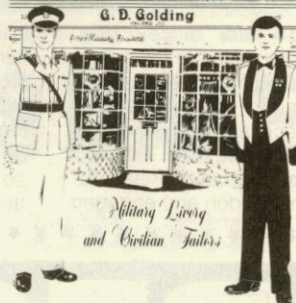
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THERE is a plentiful supply of potential recruits for the Army fire brigade at 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Bracht, West Germany, runners up in the BAOR pump competition. 3 BAD played host to the unit nursery school and treated the children to a display of firefighting techniques.

Cambrian March

THE toughest annual test of Army Cadets – the Cadet Cambrian March – was scheduled to take place over the weekend of September 27 and 28 on the Sennybridge Training Area.

Last year Powys claimed first and third places, with Gwynedd coming a close second.

SA80 issue

AN MoD spokesman confirmed that the SA80 rifle in its Engager and Endeavour sessions will be issued to troop trials units this month and then to the Infantry Trials organisation early next year. After that the issue will continue to Regular Army units and to the Royal Marines. Finally, the TA will be issued with the SA80. (Readers' views – Pages 6 and 7)

Four die in exercises

FOUR British Servicemen have died in accidents during training exercises – three in the French Pyrenees and one in Norway.

A Royal Marine and two members of the Army Air Corps died in an accident involving their Lynx helicopter during a high-altitude combat training exercise as part of the British detachment visiting the French Aviation Mountain Training School at Faillagouse.

Those who died were: Lt Kevin McKeown,

37, married, with no children; WO1 Graeme George Reed, Army Air Corps, 39, married, with three daughters 13, 9, and 7; and WO2 Brian Edwin Ives, Army Air Corps, 37, married, with a 13-year-old daughter.

The soldier who died in Norway after falling 60ft down a cliff was Cpl Paul Connell, aged 27, who was serving with 59 Commando Engineer Regt, RE. He was taking part in Exercise Blue Fox, part of the Northern Wedding series.

Sergeants in the limelight

THE ARMY can always be relied upon to come through in a tight spot. And the Imperial War Museum's plea for volunteers to take a parade of former National Servicemen in conjunction with a seven-month exhibition has not fallen on deaf ears, writes Graham Smith.

In our last issue, SOLDIER ran an appeal for volunteers. Answering the bid for former drill sergeants – "drill pigs" to the young men on two-year stints until 1963 – were two likely candidates. One from Derby, the other from Harrogate.

Stepping smartly into the VIP – Very Important Parade – role were

Sgt Peter Rixon, serving with the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate, and Sgt Bernard Blackton, an instructor with the Derby Army Cadet Force.

The two sergeant volunteers had their work cut out – report in our next issue – with the celebrities who re-lived their drill movements in front of the world's media.

Accepting their exhortations in the spirit they were delivered were Gordon Honeycombe, Msgr Bruce Kent, Allan Sillitoe, Leslie Thomas, Auberon Waugh, Arnold Wesker, the Rt Hon Mark Carlyle and the Rt Hon John Biffen, who was opening the exhibition.

School marks silver jubilee

● A helicopter fly past and a free fall parachute drop were among the displays marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of the School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield, in 1961 from the amalgamation of the former 3rd and 5th Training Battalions REME.

Catterick computer is ready for battle

OF THE latest design and the only one of its kind in the UK with such advanced techniques, a £2 million computer-controlled Brigade and Battle Group Trainer (BBGT) for the indoor training of battle tactics to infantry and armoured units has just been officially opened at Catterick Garrison.

Housed in the former Sandes Soldiers' Home, the trainer – with overnight accommodation for 60 – will, when fully operational, put through HQ staffs of up to 50 Regular and TA units from the North East, North West and Eastern Districts and Scotland annually.

One of the main users will be units of the 2nd Infantry Division which has its HQ at York.

The BBGT has two computers. One is for the simulation of all communications; the other for a realistic assessment of battlefield engagements.

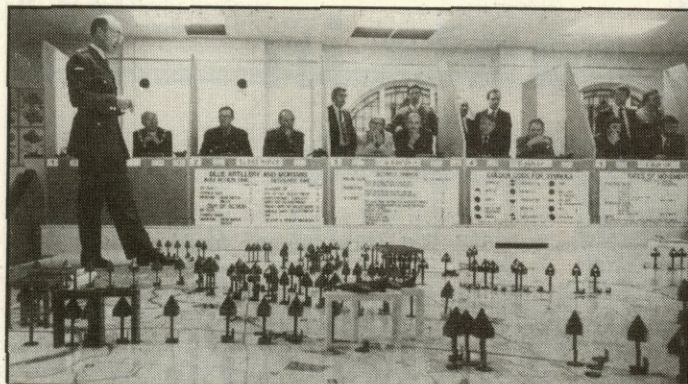
Results of the battles will not be considered important. The importance will lie in the teaching and learning of battle procedures, drills and tactics during the six to eight hours that the simulated battle will last.

The trainer's permanent staff have prepared a library of exercises covering a full range of scenarios which a unit might have to face in operations in north-west Europe or the UK.

The first indoor Battle Group Trainer was established at Bovington in 1978, and by 1983 it became apparent that a second trainer was needed in the UK to cut down travelling time and expenses for units distant from Dorset as well as profiting from state-of-the-art advances.

A similar BBGT is already in operation at Sennelager, BAOR.

Below – Lt Col Archie Addison, project officer for the Battle Group Trainer, in the simulated battalion HQ. For added realism Col Addison introduced some trees and climbing plants. The area has been nicknamed Addison Square Garden.



Above – Maj Henry King RTR, a member of the permanent staff, explains the workings of the great battle board to guests at the opening of the Battle Group Trainer

QUEENS celebrate 325th birthday

THE 325th anniversary of the raising of the Tangier Regiment – the original title of the Queen's Regiment – is to be celebrated with the unveiling of a further inscription on the tercentennial monument on Putney Heath by Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse.

The monument, erected on Putney Heath in 1666, marks the raising in 1661 of a regiment for the defence of Tangier. The regiment was formed on the heath on October 14 that year and after serving in Tangier for 22 years was honoured with the title The Queen's Regiment on its return home.



Back from their four-month roulement tour in South Armagh, the homecoming 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment – the "Poachers" – were given a musical welcome by their regimental band as they descended the aircraft steps flanking their VC 10 at RAF Brize Norton.

The 22-strong band, under bandmaster WO 1 David McCrumm, put on a four-tune repertoire, including "The Lincolnshire Poacher", for the Colchester-based soldiers.

Foden first

THE FIRST Foden Heavy Duty 6 x 6 truck has been handed over to the Army as part of a contract to supply 333 of the type. One hundred of the trucks have been delivered to depots to date and will be released to REME following official acceptance.

The Heavy Duty Vehicle is a derivative of the Foden FH-70 gun tractor and limber which have been in service since the late 70s. The current contract is planned for completion by August 1988.

PM in BAOR

GERMAN Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl accompanied the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on a visit to British Forces in BAOR at Fallingbomel in Lower Saxony and at Sennelager in Northrhine Westphalia.

Careers on display

THOUSANDS of schoolchildren from the north of England visited a joint Services careers display at Leconfield, North Humberside.

8 LI launched in Yorkshire

A NEW Territorial Army battalion, the 8th Bn The Light Infantry, was launched this month. It is to be based in Wakefield.

The occasion was marked by a Sounding of Retreat by Corunna Band The Light Infantry and Bugles of 1st Bn The Light Infantry at Pontefract Racecourse. Companies will be based at Pontefract, Wakefield and Batley and a fourth location yet to be decided.

8 LI is being raised as part of the enhancement of the Territorial Army and is the modern successor to the 4th Bn The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry which was disbanded in 1968.

Pay move

A NEW Army regimental pay office has opened in Glasgow. It will look after the pay accounts of about a quarter of the British Army including the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Corps of Transport plus pensioners and reservists.

GOORKHAS' DAY OF PRIDE

BRITAIN must not be allowed to forget the bravery and sacrifice of generations of Gurkhas serving in her Army said Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall as he stepped down as Colonel of the Regiment, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Speaking at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, during the Delhi Day Recruits' Attestation Parade, Field Marshal Bramall told the men drawn up across the square that being a rifleman "is a title of which I am sure you are all rightfully proud."

He said his ten years as Colonel of the Regiment had been a time of "infinite happiness" for himself and his wife.

Handing over to Lt Gen Sir John Chapple, he was watched by the Prince of Wales who, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, had flown from Balmoral to attend the parade.

While celebrating the day of the final assault on the city of Delhi in

1857 – the regiment's principal battle honour – the men of the 2nd Bn were also marking their centenary.

The 2nd Battalion was raised in February 1886 but because it was on a tour in the Falkland Islands earlier this year the celebrations were postponed until last month at their UK base in Church Crookham.

A commentary of the parade was broadcast live by satellite to Gurka units worldwide including Hong Kong, Belize, Brunei and Dharam in Nepal.

Prince Charles later unveiled two commemorative bronzes, one of King Edward VII who, as Prince of Wales, was the regiment's Honorary Colonel in 1886 when the 2nd Bn was raised, and one of himself, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief a century later.

The following week the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the bugles of 2 GR thrilled crowds with the swift pace of their marching and playing in the Withdean Stadium, Brighton, where they sounded retreat at a gala evening of pageantry.

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Terry Champion



Prince Charles salutes The Queen's Truncheon during his review of the troops on parade



Those fine young men from Nepal – riflemen of the 2nd Bn double off the parade ground with an eyes-right for their Colonel-in-Chief

worldwide



The splendid kukri presented to Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall on his handing over as Colonel of the Regiment after ten years at the helm



Bhanbhagta Gurung VC

BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

THE EYES of Bhanbhagta Gurung, one of the bravest men to have served in the British Army, misted over as he watched the young blood of Nepal double off the parade ground.

Memories of his own oath of allegiance and the pride he felt on joining the Army had flooded back as he watched the new recruits attest on The Queen's Truncheon, the regiment's equivalent of Colours.

Former Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung, who left the Army in 1948 just three years after winning the Victoria Cross in Burma, had been flown to Britain especially to attend the Delhi Day

● Turn to next page



Prince Charles talks informally to men of 2 GR after the battalion's centenary celebration and recruits' attestation parade.

● From Page 15

Recruits' Attestation Parade.

There he was reunited with Col Dominic Neill who as major commanding B Coy, 3rd Bn 2nd Gurkha Rifles on March 5, 1945 watched the action that earned Bhanbhagta Gurung the VC.

Neither had seen the other since 1957 and Col Neill described in vivid detail how this young man in his twenties had destroyed five enemy positions single-handed on a position known as Snowdon East.

As they approached the hill a Japanese sniper started pinning them down with accurate fire from a tree-top perch. Exposed to heavy fire, Bhanbhagta Gurung stood up, aimed and killed the sniper with a single shot.

Yards later the advance again became bogged down by heavy fire from several positions. Without hesitation Bhanbhagta Gurung charged forward and killed the occupants of four foxholes with grenades and bayonet.

While attacking all four positions he was under continuous fire from a bunker which he then attacked with a phosphorus grenade.

Col Neill said: "One of the Japanese came out burning and Bhanbhagta Gurung split open his skull with his kukri. He then crawled inside the bunker and killed the others in hand to hand fighting."

"I have known many brave Gurkha soldiers but I rate Bhanbhagta Gurung as the bravest of the brave," Col Neill told SOLDIER.

Modest, quietly spoken and with a ready smile, Bhanbhagta Gurung - now 69 - is an engaging personality and was clearly enjoying his visit to Britain as the guest of 2 GR.

Through an interpreter he told SOLDIER how he still held the Army in affection and how much he was looking forward to meeting the Prince. He lives with his family in the Gorkha district of Nepal where he has farmed since leaving the Army.

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Actor Derek Waring receives the cheque from Capt Eilean Cunningham. On his other side is Pte Paula Atkins. From left to right in the middle row are Cpl Helen Cliffe, Sgt Pam Murrison, Pte Jo Colton, LCpl Euni Bolder, LCpl Sam Sampson and Cpl Kryshna Lawton. Behind them are Pte Celia Duffield, LCpl Gloria Robb and Cpl Jo McBroom

Picture: Paul Haley

SAFARI SO GOOD!

AFRICA's threatened rhinos have friends in far off places – and surely none much further away than the Duchess of Kent's Barracks in Aldershot. From there, 12 young ladies from 3 Squadron 10 Signal Regt have flown to Kenya to complete a 300-mile safari by foot through that country's huge Tsavo National Park.

Led by Capt Eilean Cunningham WRAC, the party will be escorted by six armed game rangers during their marathon trek across the wild and rugged African bush.

During their adventurous training expedition to Kenya, which is due to end on October 24, the girls plan to visit rhinos which are being saved from extinction in the national park.

But their interest has a practical side to it. Before they left Aldershot, the girls had raised £13,000 specifically for Kenya's rhino rescue programme.

That money, the product of a variety of sponsored events organised by the dozen intrepid members of Exercise Rhino Express, will be used to build special solar powered electric fencing designed to restrict the rhinos to sanctuaries – well away from the bullets of the poachers that threaten their existence.

Before they left Aldershot, the expd members fell in to present their cheque for £13,000 to actor Derek Waring, a patron of Zoo Check and life-long supporter of animal conservation.

Derek, appearing in "Key for Two" at The Mill near Reading, collected the cheque on behalf of Virginia McKenna, a trustee of the Tsavo Rhino Appeal.

Derek spent two years in the Army as a National Serviceman, from 1946 to 1948, mostly as a second lieutenant attached to the RAOC in Germany. He is still identified as the inspector for the "Z Cars" television series.

Second in command of the Tsavo safari is Sgt Pam Murrison. Of the party, only Capt Cunningham has been to Africa before.

The only other member of the team with expedition experience is Cpl Kryshna Lawton, a veteran of the WRAC trek in Nepal two years ago.

MEN of 2 Aircraft Support Unit RAOC serving in Detmold, West Germany, adopted the Motor Neurone Disease Association as their charity after former unit member Cpl Bill Johnson's career was ended by the little-known crippling disease last year.

A cheque for DM4,000 was handed over to Bill for the Durham branch of the MND Association when Cpl Dougie Brown visited Bill's home town while on leave from Detmold.

□ Manchester's 209 Air Defence Battery – the Manchester Artillery – completed a gun run of 42 miles with a Second World War 25-pounder, and wonder if it's a record. Their efforts earned more than £3,500 for tissue research at Manchester hospitals.



Bill Johnson and Cpl Dougie Brown

All in a good cause!

■ Staff at the Intelligence Centre, Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent, helped Cpl Michael Day raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign when they supported him in a seven-day water-only fast. He gained £400 and lost a stone and a half!

□ More than £500-worth of building bricks, chairs, table and climbing frame have just been handed over to the St Gregorius Hospital in Brunssum, The Netherlands, by eight members of the Supply Flight at UKDSU HQ AFCENT. They raised the money by competing in a half marathon earlier this year.

■ Soldiers from units based in the Monchengladbach area helped disabled visitors from the United Kingdom when they arrived in West Germany for a week-long holiday.

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' Gitt'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew. But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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Left – The A129 head-on. Above – Is it a bird, is it a plane ... ?

ARMY Air Corps pilots, gunners and attached REME fitters have all given an enthusiastic, if unofficial, "thumbs up" to the Italian-built, pre-production battlefield predator, the A129 Mangusta anti-tank helicopter which was put through its agile paces at Middle Wallop especially for their professional appreciation.

Italian Army (EI – Esercito Italiano) airframe 902 from Agusta, configured to carry eight TOW missiles, gave short familiarisation sorties to selected rotary wing tactical cognoscenti at the Army Air Corps Centre.

In the back seat of the tandem-arranged, separate cockpit flying machine was an Agusta test pilot; in the front armoured seat the guest aviator who "had control" from the outset.

"It was the most sophisticated machine I've flown in," enthused Lt Col 'Wilf' Hyde-Smith, of the Corps' Combat Development Operational Requirements (CDOR) branch. "And I've flown all the Army Air Corps helicopters from Sioux to Lynx. I took control of the Mangusta from the start of the flight and the off-centre duplicate control stick in the gunner's front cockpit took some getting used to."

"The first thing one notices is the good visibility from the pilot's point of view. The A129 handles very well and has good acceleration. We went into a fire position from about 120 knots, moving across country at about 100 feet. We also hovered between some trees. The Mangusta was very steady and is a very good weapons platform."

The same machine had, just two days earlier, ended a busy week of demonstrating its airborne agility at the prestigious biennial Farnborough Air Show. It had flown to that Hampshire venue from its Cascina Costa factory north of Milan and then to Middle



WO1 (ASM) Len Cavanagh: access



WO2 Mick Watson: impressed



Lt Col Mike Wawn: smooth

WE LIKE IT!

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

Wallop for the two-day sequel, looking again to potential sales.

The AAC will, in fact, be looking for a Lynx-TOW replacement Light Attack Helicopter (LAH) to enter service in about 1997. They want a tank-busting aerial platform bristling with state-of-the-art avionics technology and armed

with Trigat, the third generation of anti-tank missile. It would also be fitted out with a Mast Mounted Sight to avoid the need for "full frontal" exposure as a target itself as it "popped up" from behind vital cover.

The Italians are confident they have found the answer, initially, in the four-ton A129. The Italian Army is to acquire 60 of the type. An advanced

version, the Tonal, is also planned involving a four-nation consortium embracing four of their aircraft companies.

Col Hyde-Smith had previously flown its sister version, the A109 and said that the A129 was just as smooth. Vibration levels were very low.

He added: "Looking at the A129 in a tactical scenario the Mangusta is very responsive in its controls. I think it is certainly going to be a strong contender for the LAH competition."

Earlier in the day, 45 helicopter experts from the Ministry of Defence, its Procurement Executive, the Army Air Corps Directorate and the Aircraft Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down had attended an in-detail briefing on the Mangusta and its potential.

Another Mangusta supporter after a 15-minute sortie at the front cockpit controls was Lt Col Mike Wawn, the Centre's CFI with 3,200 hours logged. He said: "You get a terrific view out of it. It's very smooth,



Lt Col Wilf Hyde-Smith: The most sophisticated machine I've flown

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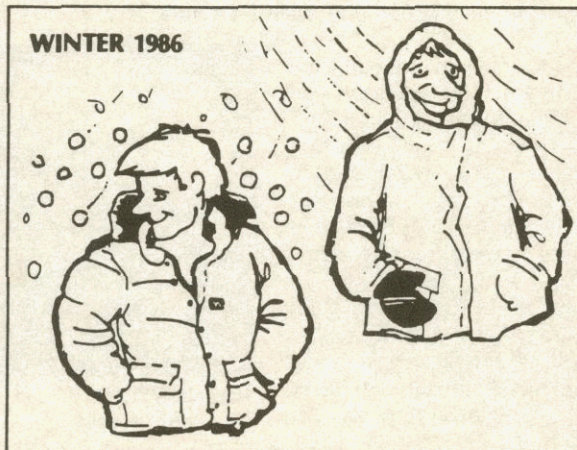
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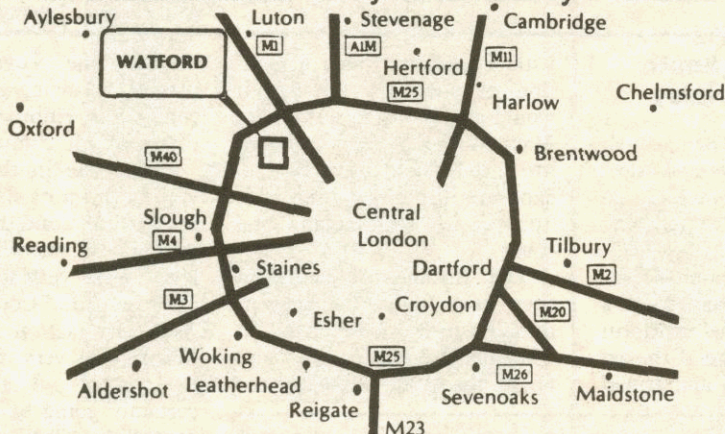
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Aura of heroism

The Victoria Cross is a magical medal. Wherever its name is mentioned there is immediate and universal interest. However old the action, however obscure the recipient, the VC commands attention.

This month two VCs have been in the news, those of the late Col James Carne who won his medal during the Korean War, and Rorke's Drift hero James Langley Dalton.

Col Carne's medal, won when he led the famous three-day



stand during the battle of the Imjim river in 1951, has been given by his widow, Mrs Jean Carne, to the regimental museum of his beloved Glosters.

Dalton's VC, one of 11 won at Rorke's Drift against the Zulus in 1879, was expected to fetch £35,000 when it came up for auction in London as SOLDIER was going to press.

In this issue SOLDIER writer Mervyn Wynne Jones reports on his meeting with a living VC, former Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung of the then 2nd Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

Jones was immediately struck by the aura surrounding the small, dignified, ramrod straight former Gurkha NCO, now nearly 70 years old. See page 15.

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Calling all Army cartoonists. SOLDIER is looking for a good laugh! More specifically, we're looking for someone to provide us with a good laugh.

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The joke's on us . . .

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Parchment from the past

A reader has sent to SOLDIER a parchment note of congratulations for gallantry written to Pte RH Richards, No 260059, of the Royal Sussex Pioneer Regiment, in May 1915.

It followed an action at Lavieville in Picardy and was signed by Maj Gen RG Lee, Commander 18th Division.

If Pte Richards or his family would like the note, we would be happy to pass it on.

It does pay to advertise

Who says it doesn't pay to advertise? The newly raised 216 Air Defence Battery of 103 Air Defence Regiment - now the Bolton Artillery - ran an advertising feature in their local newspaper, the Bolton Chronicle, and were swamped with enquiries.

It seems 216 will soon be at full strength.

SOLDIER's not a bad place to advertise, either. Major Gordon Walker, secretary of the Army Volleyball Association, has written to tell us two first class players have joined the Army's squad as a direct result of a recent volleyball report in the magazine.

Until they read the article the two men were unaware that a formal Army team existed.

It's a dog's life!

The latest in biathlons is one for dogs - and handlers. The Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre at Melton Mowbray claims theirs - on September 25 - is the first in UK. Dogs and handlers complete 4,100 metres against the clock, and the dog has to catch an "intruder". There are obstacles - including hundreds of trees to pass by!

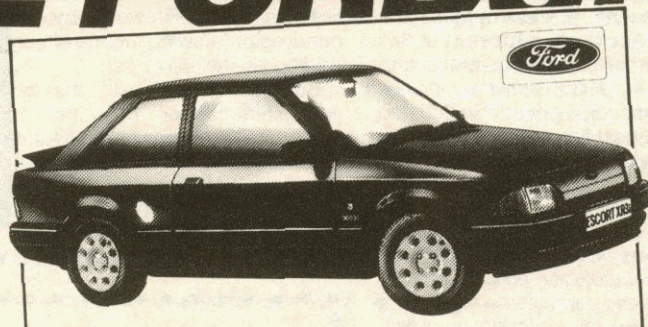
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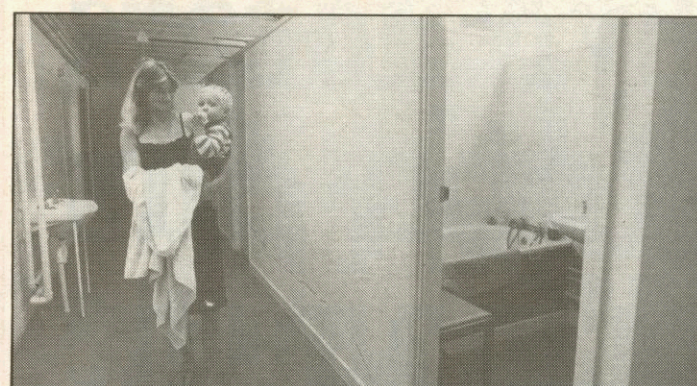
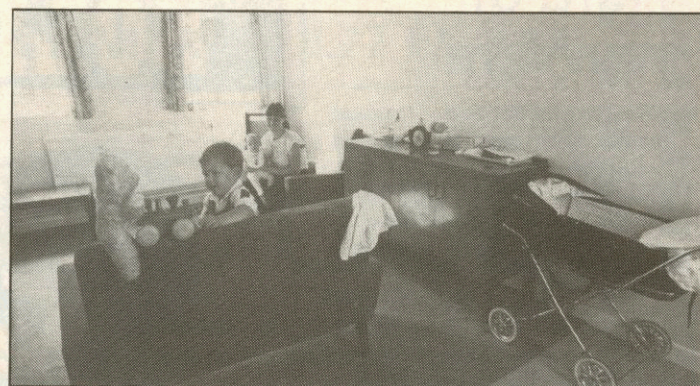


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SCHOOLTIME ON SITE: one of many support services available

HOME LINKS AT LYPIATT

LYPIATT Families Centre is a mile from the small town of Corsham near Chippenham, ten minutes from junction 17 on the M4. The single-storey accommodation blocks are spread over 25 acres of Wiltshire countryside.

It is the only tri-Service transit centre offering accommodation for homeless Service families.

It also takes in officers

and soldiers who, because of postings, have nowhere to live. In addition it offers temporary accommodation to those awaiting their end of service, medical or compassionate discharge, newly-married couples and those waiting for a council house or flat.

Average stays are about six months, but can span from a few weeks to two years. It also offers a place for leave.

This much-needed staging post provides alternative homes as parents, relatives and friends cannot always offer accom-

modation, and living with parents in cramped conditions causes much stress as I was told by one wife, who, with two children found three months living with her mother just impossible.

"We are now here in one of the modern flatlets and the privacy is marvellous," she said. Her husband returns from his course at weekends.

Over the years the

support services have increased; a Naafi shop, 24-hour medical cover, a primary school with a headmaster and two teachers. Children over 11 go to the local secondary school. There are two WRAC welfare assistants and the Centre is regularly visited by the local voluntary SSAFA representative.

A full-time community organiser arranges a varied programme of family activities and there is a flourishing pre-school playgroup and a mother and toddler club run by a wife. As toys are often packed in MFO boxes, a toy library operates.

The amenities centre has a hairdresser, launderette, library, sewing and games rooms; a large hall gives space for games and the recent acquisition of a wide screen and video is proving popular.

TVs, bicycles, baby buggies and prams can be hired which, with the thrift shop, help to make transit time easier. A new store will provide more space for MFO boxes and furniture.

Cost: £11.06 a week for a wife on her own to £18.62 for a family of six children. This does not cover food as all accommodation is self-catering.

Lypiatt can accommodate 60 families and it is often full with more than 120 children up to age 18.

It is staffed by a first-class team who pull out all stops to help families with problems.

Bookings for a place at the Centre should be made through unit family officers, administrative or housing commandants.

Face facts when playing with fire!

REMEMBER, remember the fifth of November... Some people, like the young boy pictured (right) will never forget it.

For he was one of those burned and disfigured at a firework party last year.

But the sad fact is it could have been avoided if a bit more care had been taken by all concerned.

Will your family be attending or arranging a firework party this Guy Fawkes night? If so, will your son or daughter become a firework victim?

Accidents happen, but this sort of thing can be prevented.

In 1985 firework injuries jumped 25 per cent to 968, the highest figure since 1973. 322 children under 13 were injured, 271 between 13 and 15.

This tale of injured youngsters will be repeated during this October and November unless parents and organisers follow the information available from RoSPA, Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS.

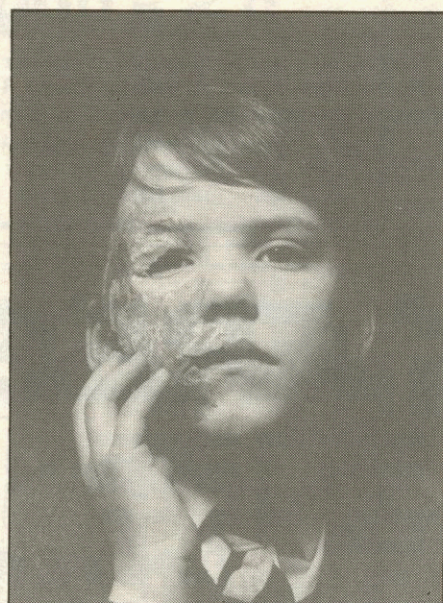
Posters, leaflets, slides and videos are available to help get the safety message across.

Buy a few less fireworks and

order RoSPA's Firework Safety Promotional Aids.

Common sense can stop last year's figures being surpassed by dare-devil 11-15 year-olds who are most likely to misuse fireworks by handling or throwing them and adding to the injury list.

But it's not just the youngsters who do the damage. There are indications that adults, too, are getting more careless when handling fireworks with injuries to the over-twenties almost doubling in four years.



YOUNG VICTIM: now another statistic

Tough new rules will send 'help' pleas soaring

SERVICE charities can expect an increase in cries for help now new DHSS rules have come into force.

And many of those anticipated appeals could well come from

separated Service families awaiting council accommodation - especially those who are living at Lypiatt.

They will find that, under the new rules which came into effect

in August, claiming help from the DHSS will be even more difficult.

The regulations are now much tougher and stricter and one clause denies Service families help with removal ex-

penses to council accommodation - what some Lypiatt residents wait for.

Under the new "single payments rules", you will not get a grant if the local authority

has to offer you accommodation either temporarily or permanently because you are homeless or may become so...

For full information see Part 3 of the 1985

Housing Act; Page 79 of the National Welfare Benefit Handbook published by the Child Poverty Action Group at £4, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH. Tel: 01-242 3225/9149.

Poor accommodation adds to stress and depression, especially for those who already have difficulties. Surely we should not, in 1986, be offering transit accommodation of such poor quality?

But despite the drawbacks of the mainly low-standard accommodation, the place is staffed by an enthusiastic and caring team. Even so, they could do with some help, especially in the provision of toys and games.

Perhaps units, wives' clubs or youth clubs could adopt a flatlet, provide a piece of equipment for the play areas, or send a donation to help?

You may need to go there one day.

Anne
HERE TO HELP



Armstrong
WITH FAMILIES IN MIND
Home tel: Camberley 29653

Low standards for high needs

IN MY VIEW

SINCE accompanied service is Army policy and stocks of surplus MQs are dwindling, the difficulties of dovetailing postings and family moves mean that families can be left homeless for varying lengths of time. Lypiatt offers an answer to this problem with a place to stay until a quarter becomes available.

That Lypiatt is needed there is no question, saving many a Service family from the worries of being homeless or imposing on relatives.

Built in 1940 to house civilian war workers, the camp became 23 Families' Hostel in the mid-Fifties and perhaps this is why it is known locally - and unflatteringly - as the "prison on the hill."

Hostel was dropped from the title in the Seventies in an effort to put the camp on a proper footing as the Services' Transit Centre, but ever since then it has been under the financial microscope of the MoD, the

Treasury and many others, as to whether it should stay open and the amount of money, if any, which should be spent.

This has resulted in 15 years of neglect which has taken its toll in trying to change accommodation suitable for male workers in the Fifties, to the habitable needs of Service families in the Eighties.

What was acceptable

pattern is manifesting itself again in 1986. To date three of the 18 accommodation blocks have been modernised into two and three bedroom self-contained flats. Three have been semi-modernised, but it appears that in 1985 the programme came to a halt and will stay like that until 1991.

Meanwhile it is accepted that improvements are

and the walk to the spartan washing facilities, cramped kitchen and the lack of storage within the flat will not enhance their occupation one little bit.

And the excellent furniture and mix-n-match carpets, curtains and covers, found in MQs, are not much in evidence in the unmodernised blocks.

I know Lypiatt is far down the priority list for a

housing is on tap for those in need, I cannot understand the glaring design faults in the modernisation plan. Faults that would drive any housewife mad.

For example, the electric stove positioned against the wall with no work surfaces either side. This is dangerous, too, especially with young children about.

Other work surfaces stop with the two-inch gap either side of the cooker; the towel rail is four inches above the table, yet the wall above the radiator is bare.

A switch that hasn't quite clicked

then is certainly not suitable for family living today. It's a 30-year switch that hasn't quite clicked.

Improvements have been made, but Lypiatt has been clogged by a disastrous stop-go financial policy. I remember the two-year battle to spend just £40,000 on the Centre about ten years ago.

It seems the same

needed and there are plans to complete the "modernisation rolling" programme by the end of the decade.

I am sure most families moving into U and K blocks, for example, will experience a sinking feeling when they enter.

The claustrophobic size of the rooms, the uncared communal passage

slice of the modernisation budget, but I fail to see why this programme should come to an abrupt halt. Service families do not choose to go there, except for short leave periods, and often the demands of Service life call for quick, alternative accommodation and the Services' answer is Lypiatt. But while this instant

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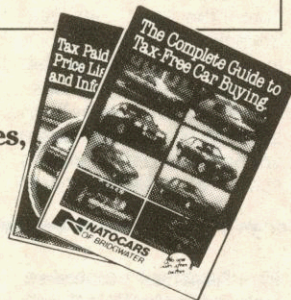
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Assault Pioneer Platoon of 1 RHF prepare a POW compound during the exercise

Berlin bears

its cupboards!

BERLIN Infantry Brigade had a real clean out during Exercise Bear Cupboard. They loaded up all their stores, moved them through the busy Berlin traffic, and out to an extensive exercise area.

Purpose of the exercise, which went off with hardly a hitch, was to test the brigade's ability to outload stores and equipment needed to support itself on deployment.

Initially, pallets were lifted to a

Brigade Administrative Area located in Berlin's sprawling Grunewald Forest. From there, in line with the exercise's tactical scenario, stores were delivered as required to units dispersed throughout the area.

Bulk of the responsibility for the operation fell to the brigade's RAOC Ordnance Services and 62 Transport Squadron RCT, but other brigade staff – ranging from cooks to clerks – proved their self-sufficiency and versatil-

ity by manning fork-lift trucks to help move the loads.

As well as genuine stores, including rations, medical supplies and petrol, oil and lubricants, the complete operational requirement for ammunition was provided by use of simulated ammunition, when several hundred pallets of bricks were put to a use not originally intended for them.

To keep the trucks moving with minimum disruption to the

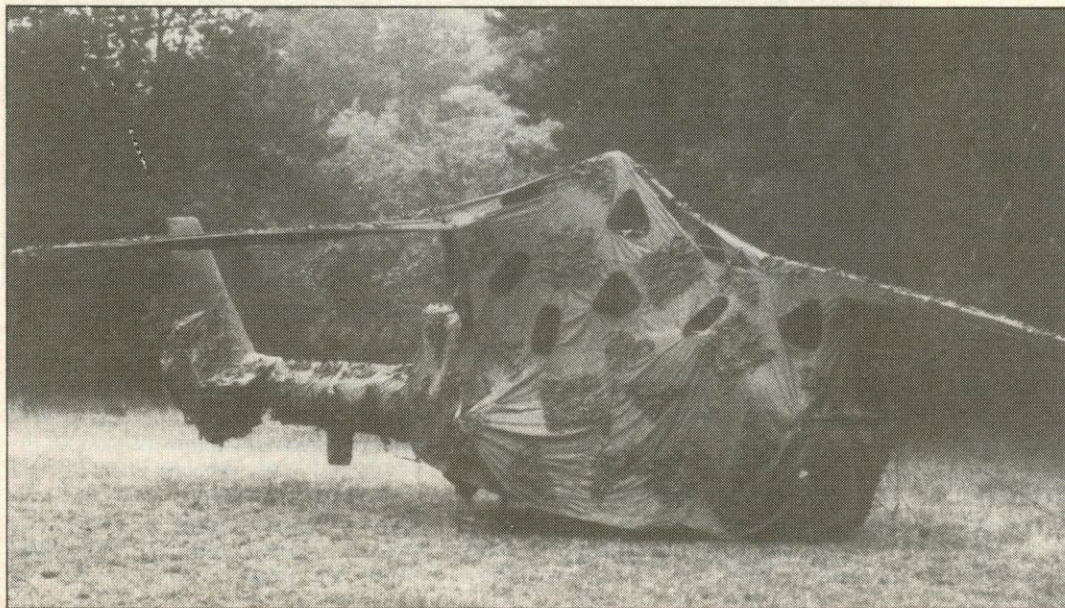
population of Berlin, 2nd Regiment Royal Military Police had their hands full directing the military traffic along carefully planned routes.

As well as enabling a detailed examination of the brigade logistic plans, Bear Cupboard also exercised the co-ordination of the brigade's engineer effort.

To achieve this, the Assault Pioneer Platoons of all three of the brigade's infantry battalions, namely 1st Battalion The Devon and Dorsets, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Glosters, found themselves called into service in support of 38 Field Squadron Royal Engineers on tasks that the sappers would normally tackle on their own.

For them, the exercise meant outloading simulated engineer explosive stocks, notional demolition of bridges, minefield laying, and, for the Assault Pioneer Platoon of 1 RHF in particular, Bear Cupboard meant a little-practised skill when they were tasked with constructing a prisoner-of-war compound in just five hours.

Having proved themselves fully competent at moving all necessary stores rapidly into the deployment area the brigade kept equally occupied for another day – returning the stores to their rightful homes.



Wrapt attention: a support Gazelle helicopter from 7 Flight AAC remains on standby



You have to be fit to fire Milan

SMOKE swathed the firing line as the Milan teams scrambled out of their transport and ran to their positions.

The air rang with shouts and the rattle of machine gun fire and the men, exhausted from an earlier engagement, were on full NBC alert.

Far from an outbreak of war, it was instead a realistic adrenalin-pumping live firing exercise on the Otterburn training area staged by the anti-tank platoon of the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Nerve ends were raw among the men, who had earlier completed a run and assault course in full combat kit, had been disorientated by embarkation and disembarkation from vehicles en route to the range, had donned NBC kit and respirators and finally endured a dash through thick, acrid, burning rubber smoke to get to their firing positions.

Platoon commander Capt Colin Henderson was putting his men through pre-firing stress to simulate combat conditions and for several of the platoon there was the added, and weighty, knowledge that they were about to unleash their first high explosive missile.

When the allocation is one missile per man per year there is no second chance and the wood and polystyrene target "tank" seemed a lot smaller as it rolled along its rails on the hillside more than a kilometre away.

CSgt Connell Webb, manning the GPMG SF which was laying down thousands of rounds of tracer as an added touch of realism and distraction, explained the type of man who served with the anti-tank platoon.

"Each team has two men and we try to pick the best among the battalion.



Assault course action at Otterburn . . . with dummy Milan missile in hand

They must have initiative, self confidence and a high standard of basic infantry skills.

"In a combat situation the teams will be mostly out on their own on the flank because they will draw a lot of fire.

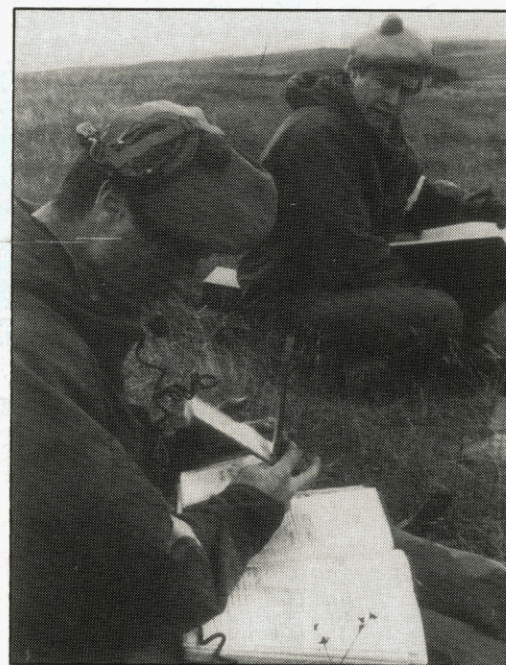
"They must be fit and have the stamina and strength to manpack the

firing post which weighs 18kg and the rounds in the tubes which weigh 12kg each. We teach them how to carry all this equipment."

Training is intensive and after the three week basic cadre in which they learn about the kit and how to handle it there are regular sessions on the



A live Milan firing from a position in the heather at Otterburn. The guide wire is visible



Capt James Troup (right) checks calculations with a mortar fire controller

simulator. An essential and continuous part of the training is vehicle and AFV recognition.

The missile, which was battle proven during the Falklands War, carries a HEAT (high explosive anti-tank) warhead with a shaped explosive charge. This sends a jet of superheated gas and

molten metal through its target – the missile can penetrate 850mm of plate armour.

CSgt Webb said: "When he presses the button the firer hears a hum as the generator starts and then there is a pop as the membrane is ejected from the end and a whoosh as the missile leaves."

Argylls go 'live' on the Otterburn ranges

Story:
Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures:
Terry Champion

Pte Robert 'Rab' Bell, a strike to his credit, told SOLDIER: "It's an unbelievable sensation, especially the first time. You're really chuffed when you see the missile hit the target."

Pte Vincent Dobbins, who had just fired his first Milan HEAT round, echoed his sentiments and added: "You're all hyped up because they're shouting at you and then you see the tank and you're just hoping like mad that you don't miss."

The Milan live firing exercise at Otterburn culminated in a night shoot during which the target area was lit up by a continuous stream of well aimed illumination rounds fired by mortar.

A strong cross wind that night tested to the full the skills of the battalion's mortar platoon who had also spent the week at Otterburn practising live firing with their 81mm mortars.

The exercise, under the guidance of platoon commander Capt James Troup, was the culmination of a training cadre and the first opportunity for many others of hands-on familiarisation for more than a year.

Capt Troup said: "The role of the platoon is to provide indirect fire support for the battalion and a lot of training is needed because it is a difficult art to perfect.

"We look for the more experienced soldier who will adapt well to a new

● Turn to Page 36

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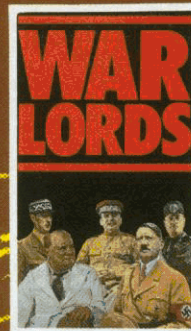
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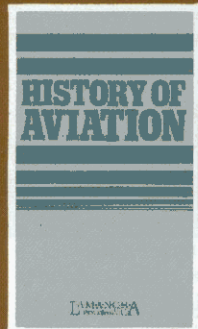
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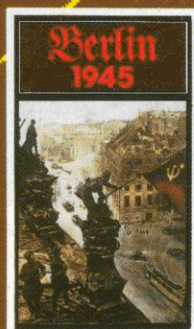
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Why the champagne is kept on ice

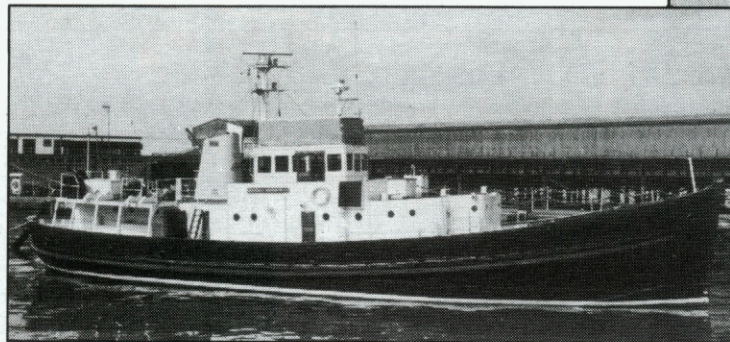


The Army's 1,350-ton ammunition ship *St George* sails out of busy Portsmouth harbour, followed closely by an Isle of Wight ferry

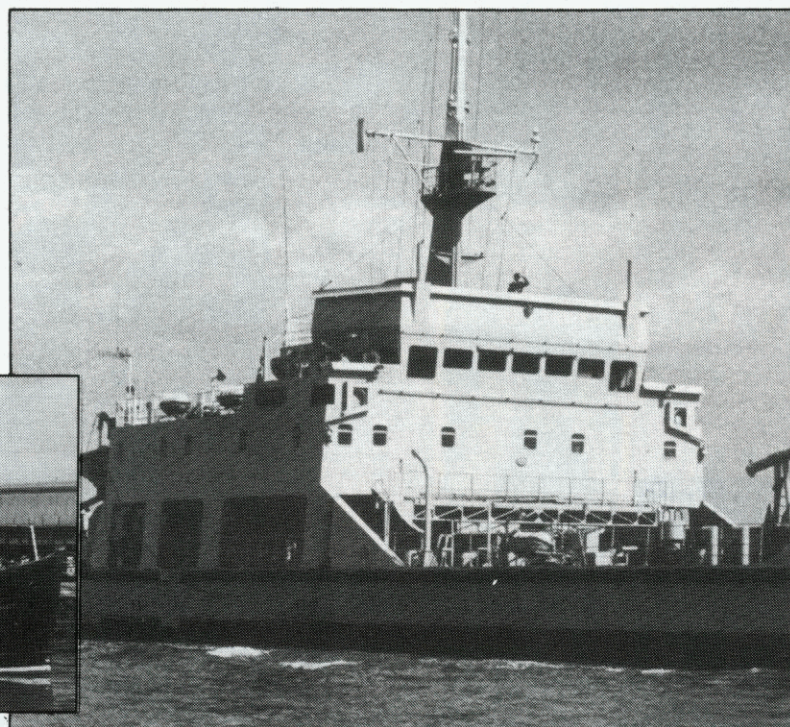
Best of both worlds for the soldier sailors of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT

CURRENT captain of *HMAV St George*, a 1,300-ton ammunition ship, is Maj Tony Todd. In January he will have completed his two-year tour and moves to Cyprus as OC 10 Port Squadron. He will be replaced by Maj Peter Oliver, OC 18 Squadron and "ops major" in charge of the regiment's 19 range safety craft dotted around the shores of the UK. Major Simon Brady captains the 1,600-ton *Arakan* and Major Stephen Tilt the *Ardennes*.

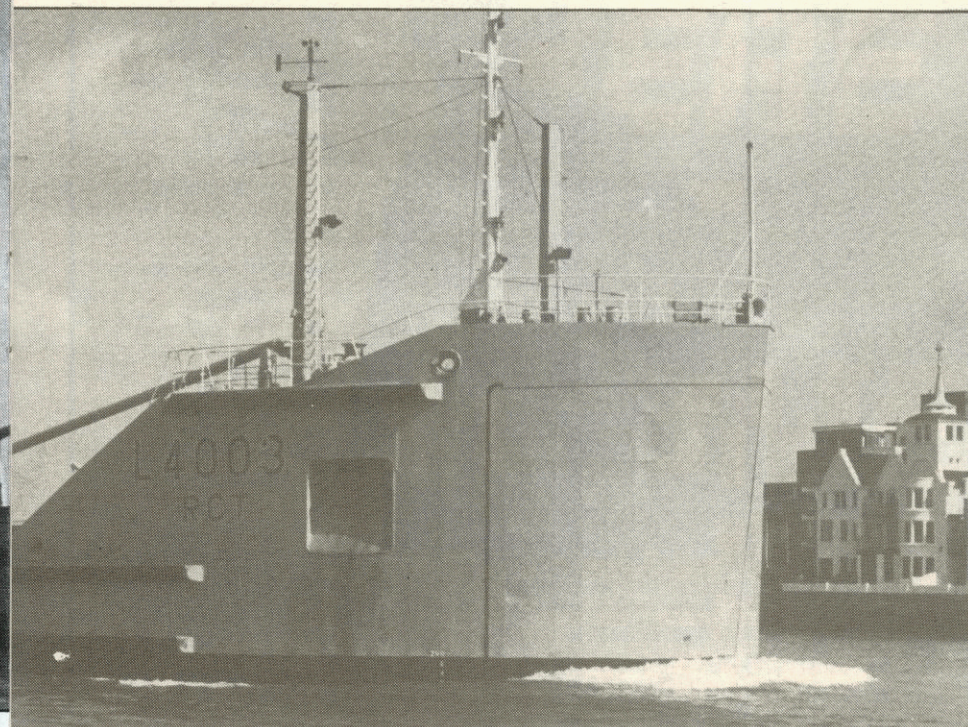
Each ship has a crew of around 32 and "Navy speak" is normal while afloat. "We have to use naval terminology," said Maj Andrew Paterson, 2i/c of the regiment and the first to captain *St George*, "since while afloat we're more sailors than soldiers. In fact, the job provides us with the best of both worlds."



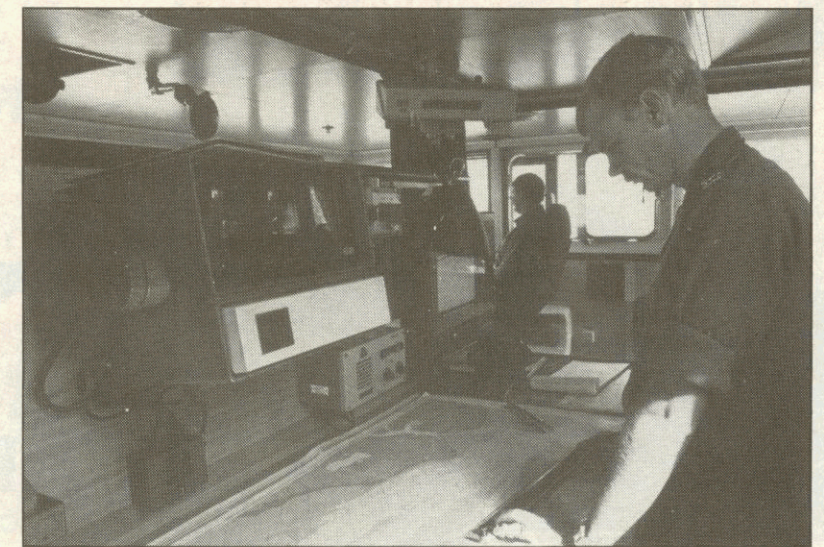
Yarmouth Navigator, an RCT training vessel



Unlovely but effective, the 1,600-ton supply ship *HMAV Arakan*



makes her sedate way out of Portsmouth Harbour



WO2 Gavin Burton, navigator and ocean watchkeeper, on the bridge of the *St George*

THERE'S A jeroboam of fine champagne in the officers' mess at *St George's* Barracks, Gosport.

And so far as the officers of 20 Maritime Regiment RCT are concerned it can stay there. Untouched!

For it must only be drunk when the regiment leaves the famous Victorian edifice and the whole place is handed over to other occupants and possibly new landlords – probably the local council.

That they will be reluctant to leave their historic and elegant base across the water from Portsmouth Harbour is understandable, since they occupy one of the finest examples of British military architecture to be found.

But impending amalgamation with 17 Port Regiment RCT and a move to the new-style military port at Marchwood in a couple of years, could not only mean drinking Col Tony Butterfield's champagne – he was a former CO – but

the handing over of the Keys to the City of Portsmouth as well.

From time immemorial the Keys have been the responsibility of the senior Army officer in the garrison and, currently, that happens to be Lt Col Guy Yeoman, 20 Maritime's CO.

To ensure Army retention of this ancient honour, the regiment even took the Keys with them when they moved to *St George's* in Gosport from Southsea in 1961.

It caused an uproar at the time, but it is an Army right and they were determined to continue exercising that right in what is probably the best-known Royal Navy town in the UK.

It means in effect that, when the sovereign visits the city, up steps the senior Army officer to offer the Keys with a few words of welcome while the Navy looks on.

But when 20 Maritime eventually set

a final course to their new base at Marchwood with what are the Army's biggest ships, they're hoping that Col Butterfield's bubbly, plus thoughts of a new move, will keep spirits high.

For all the expectations the move entails, it will be a sad day when they, the 32nd unit to inhabit the graceful, old buildings since 1858, leave for the last time.

Meantime, while they await the move westwards, they continue to operate the 1,350-ton ammunition ship *St George* and their twin 1,600-ton supply ships *HMAVs Ardenne* and *Arakan*.

With these ocean-going vessels 20 Maritime are also responsible for 19 range safety boats around the UK coastline and, while most are manned by "civvy" crews, a number have RCT drivers skimming the waves to warn shipping approaching military target areas.

"We have majors as captains on our three big ships and all our mariners are called 'drivers' while learning to become sailors," said the adjutant, Capt Mark Orr.

To achieve the combined status of soldier/sailor they attend 20 Maritime's school emerging as seamen, navigators or marine engineers.

"Many joining the regiment are former merchant navy men or fishermen and quite a few have come straight from university with degrees," said Capt Orr.

"Currently we have three graduates – a psychologist, a sociologist and a BSc in nautical studies. They're all driver/sailors. We seem to attract ex-students," he said.

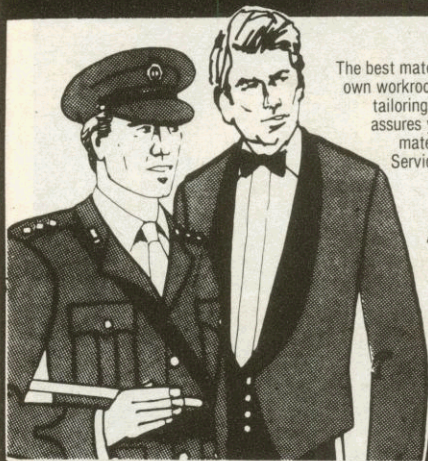
But whatever their pre-joining qualifications, everyone in 20 Maritime has to know that the name of their game is logistic support, which in everyday job terms means getting men and supplies safely ashore.

It is to their credit they are universally acknowledged as the No. 1 experts in this role.

Story: John Margetts

Pictures: Paul Haley

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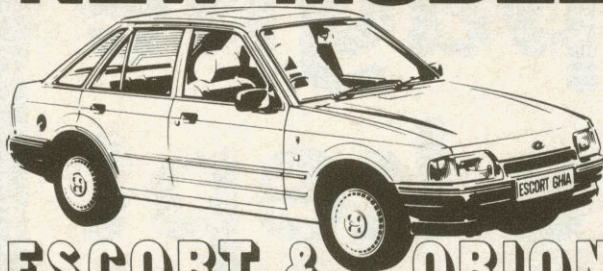
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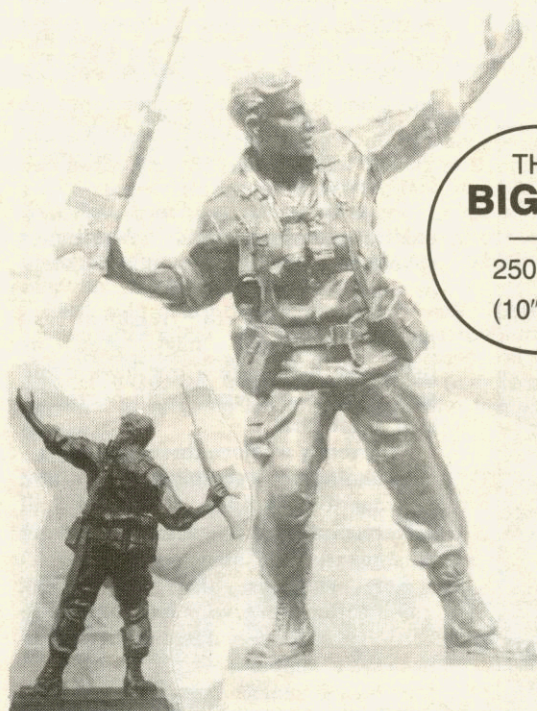
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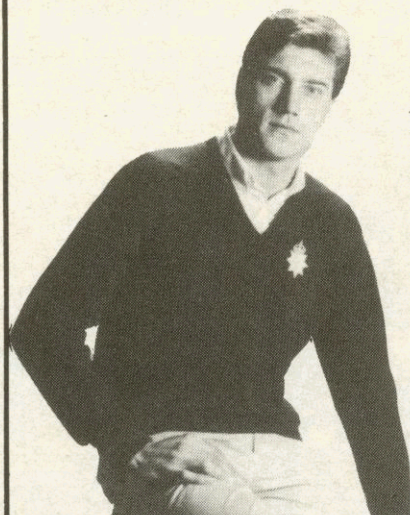
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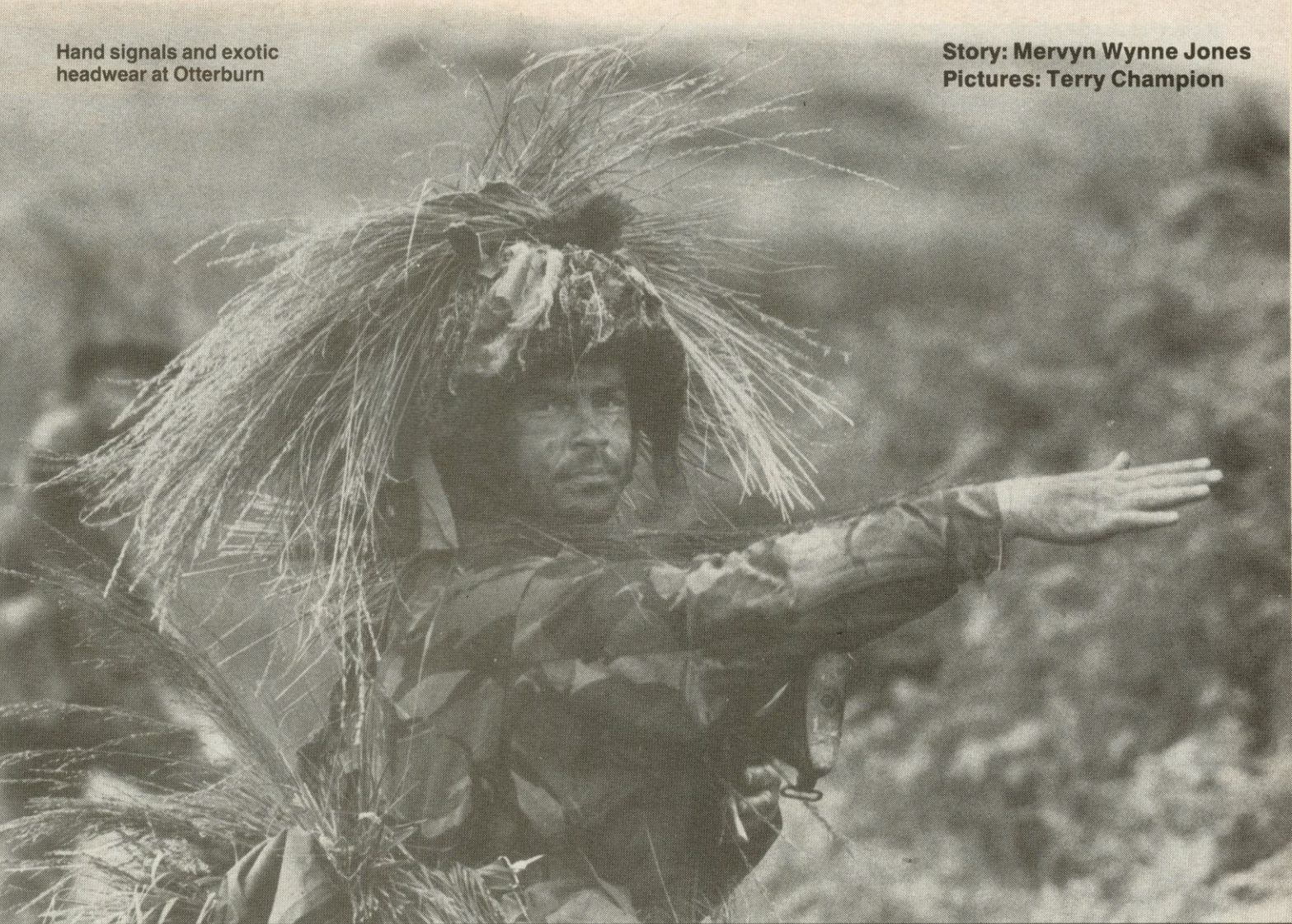
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SOLDIER



A BUZZ of anticipation spread among TA units countrywide when the word went round that more than 50 Terriers were needed on Regular attachment for a tour of duty in Belize.

Notice was given six months ago by the 1st Bn The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment that they were increasing their strength to four companies and that they would be drawing recruits from TA units in the Prince of Wales's Division, their own division.

The extra company had to be raised to enable the battalion to fulfil its commitment of three at Belize and one at their Caterham barracks. Previously a Gurkha company had bolstered troop numbers in Belize.

The scheme took advantage of a programme introduced in the late 1970s giving TA volunteers the chance of a one-year short service engagement with the Regular Army.

A request for volunteers was circulated among the Prince of Wales's Division and of 130 replies numbers were swiftly whittled down to 90. Sixty turned up for a selection weekend in July and 52

BELIZE, HERE WE COME!

successful candidates were posted to their respective companies in August.

Fifteen men were drawn from the 3rd Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers, 11 from the 2nd Bn

Mercian Volunteers, nine from the 3rd Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, seven from 1 Mercian, six from the 3rd Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales and four from

the 4th Battalion.

Although most were unemployed, some have given up their jobs to join the Cheshires and at least a dozen wives will be missing their husbands for the duration of the six months tour in Belize. About ten of the volunteers were corporals in the TA and have reverted to the rank of private while on attachment to their new regiment.

Capt John Sernberg, training officer in charge of the selection of the men, said: "They are enjoying themselves and are very keen. The battalion is happy about it and there have been no problems of integration."

"Terriers have been used before to supplement numbers but never to this scale. I think this scheme will be used by other battalions posted to Belize."

Capt Sernberg was speaking on the Otterburn training area, Northumberland where the battalion were completing two weeks of exercises in preparation for their move to Belize this month.

The fortnight began with

● Turn to next page

Cheshires work-up in 'jungles' of Northumberland

It's a long way to Belize but the Cheshires still got in some valuable pre-jungle training in Northumberland. The tough physical regime at Otterburn was designed to get the soldiers used to carrying weights because when they go into the jungle they have to take everything with them

● **From Page 33**

platoon, section and individual live firing of all platoon weapons including the AR15, which the battalion used in their recent tour at Hong Kong, and the M79, both of which they are taking to Belize.

Next on the agenda was a strict physical training regime leading up to a two-day company exercise in preparation for the battalion exercise in which the emphasis was on battle procedure and orders delivery.

The CO, Lt Col Tony Twist, told SOLDIER: "Since being at Caterham the amount of training has been minimal. This exercise has been one of welding the battalion together and the emphasis has been on fitness, navigation, high frequency communications and live firing.

"We have also been concentrating on close quarter battle which obviously has a distinct application to jungle warfare and which is very good for fieldcraft and quick reactions."

RSM Mike Winstanley said: "The battalion spent two years in Hong Kong and then did a tour of public duties so it has been some time since we had this kind of intensive training. It has all been very useful."

CSM John Walkman, A Coy, agreed: "It's good to get back into soldiering after a spell of ceremonial."

The battalion was last in Belize in 1980 and Maj Tim Park, OC C Coy, remembers well the rigours of jungle life because he ran the jungle training camp during that tour.

He said: "It takes a while to acclimatise to the weather and the jungle environment. There are all sorts of animals in the thick jungle undergrowth, not least snakes, spiders and scorpions, and it is very humid and hot.

"The problem with a small cut is that it can easily become a sore so hygiene and personal care have to be high and fitness is very important. More energy is expended because you have to take everything with you when you go into the jungle.

"You have got to be used to carrying weights and hence the tough physical regime here at Otterburn. We have had a

programme of morning runs and evening marches, short and sharp first thing and testing stamina at the end of the day," added Maj Park.

The fortnight ended with an inter-platoon march and shoot competition for the Earl of Chester's Trophy. The Earl of Chester, the Prince of Wales, donated the trophy to the regiment several years ago and it has since become the most sought after annual prize in the battalion.

Winners were 2 Platoon led by 2nd Lt Mike Roberts who received the trophy on behalf of his men from Brig Dermott Blundell-Hollinshead-Blundell, Chief of Staff, London District. Five of the platoon were ex-Territorials. Runners up were 4 Platoon and in third place were 8 Platoon who were pipped at the final post after leading most of the way.

Former insurance clerk Pte Paul Giacomantuone, ex-2 Mercian, said: "It has been quite a month or so but I would not have missed it. A trip to Belize has got to be a once in a lifetime experience."

Pte Robert Hogg, ex-3RWF, was unemployed before joining the Cheshires and is relishing every moment. "I love the Army and my wife is right behind me on this one, she knows that it is more than a hobby for me."

It was the first time that many of the former Terrifiers had been involved in live firing platoon and section attacks and, though some admitted that it had been tougher than they expected, all without exception said they were enjoying their spell as regular soldiers.

The show stopper at the end of the battalion exercise was to be a parachute drop of field guns and men of I Battery, 7RHA, who were due to land on adjoining moorland.

However, high winds meant its postponement and I Battery, who with OC Maj Chris Johnson are joining the Cheshires at Belize as artillery support for the battalion, landed the following day.

Sixty-one men jumped with two 105mm light guns and one ton limbers and exercised well into the night with a 14km cross country patrol.



Above - Privates Glynn Chambers, Kurt Woodfields, Paul Plumb and Malcolm Kilby, all former Territorials, get a taste of life as Regular soldiers
Left - Former Terrifiers looking forward to a tour in Belize with the Cheshires are (rear, left to right) Ptes Ian Fife, Mike Jones, Gerwyn Michael and Robert Hogg, and (front) Paul Giacomantuone, Alan Plackett and Vincent Heaton

Argylls range in at Otterburn

● From Page 27

weapon system. They are all bright lads because there is an awful lot of mental arithmetic when you get to the mortar fire controller stage.

"The jocks operating the mortars now will eventually progress to become MFCs."

While the anti-tank and mortar platoons were catching up on some much needed live firing practice at Otterburn, the remainder of the battalion at Colchester were continuing to prepare for a tour in the Falklands beginning next month.

The CO, Lt Col Anthony Neilson, while inspecting the two platoons at Otterburn, told SOLDIER: "The Falkland islands are very like the Western Isles and I am sure that many of the jocks will love it there, particularly while they are out on settlement patrols."

"Two operational tours in a year is quite unusual for any battalion these days and I will be very interested to see how they get on."

The battalion spent the first half of this year on an emergency tour in Northern Ireland, hard on the heels of a tour of ceremonial duties at Edinburgh.

The 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have recently been uprated to a Type A battalion and have taken delivery of more than 40 of the Saxon wheeled armoured personnel carriers.

The battalion's imminent departure to the South Atlantic has brought back mixed feelings for the adjutant, Capt Ian Stafford, who was injured while serving with 42 Commando during the Falklands war.

42 Commando and the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders have shared a close association since the retreat from Singapore in 1942 when commandos and jocks fought a vanguard action against the Japanese.

Now both units exchange officers on two year postings and Capt, then Lt, Ian Stafford was a company 2IC with 42 Commando on Mount Kent when he was struck by a bullet.

● From Page 19

responsive, quiet and ... comfortable. That is very unusual for a helicopter."

From the REME viewpoint, WO1 (ASM) Len Cavanagh, of 13 Maintenance Advisory Group (MAG), said: "Diagnostically, it will identify faults down to black box level demonstrating state-of-the-art technology. It has plenty of access panels designed for very

Debut day 'thumbs up' from AAC

quick servicing."

This was confirmed by Sig Antonio Giovannini of Agusta who said: "It is the avowed aim of the system to reduce the ratio

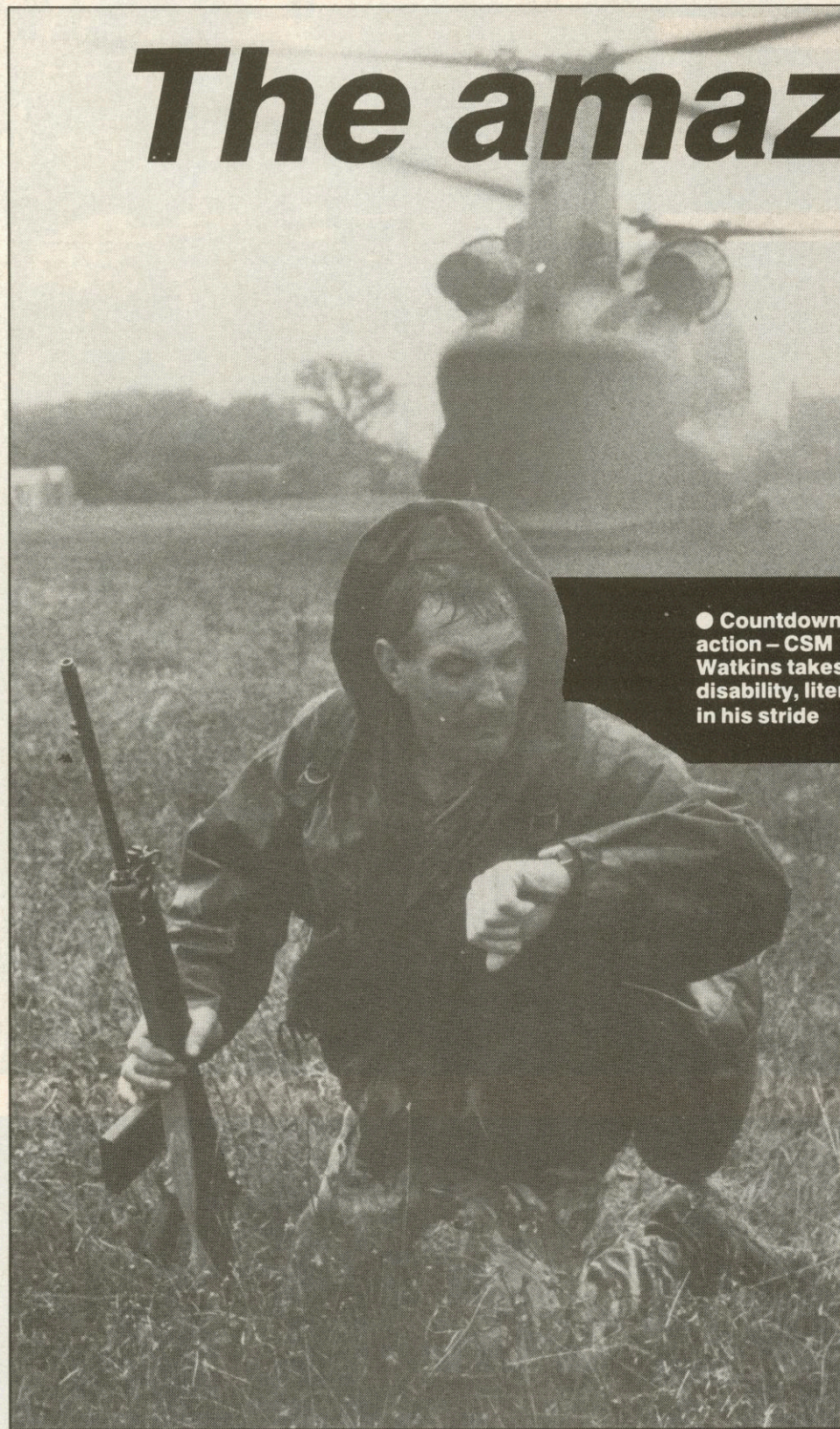
of maintenance hours to flying hours."

WO2 Mick Watson, a helicopter weapons instructor at Middle Wallop, was impressed with the Mangusta save for one minor observation. "I think the tandem seating is a good idea, reducing the A129 as a target size in itself. Sitting in the front, in my view, you could lose the usual side-by-side aircrew co-operative

aspect. You could still talk to each other but the gunner could feel rather isolated. But it's a nice-looking machine."

So, wobbly take-offs or not in the first time hands-on efforts of its guest users, the Army Air Corps certainly seemed to be looking with favour at the Mangusta and, in particular, its up-rated version, to fly them into any potential battlefield in the late 1990s.

The amazing CSM Watkins



● Countdown to action – CSM Watkins takes his disability, literally, in his stride

JOGGING across the field with his men, shouting instructions through the hot, rain-splattered back-draught from the Chinook, Reginald Watkins was every bit the rugged company sergeant major.

Never would the casual observer have realised that this man, running – albeit with a slight limp – in full combat kit, had just one leg.

Forty-two-year-old CSM Watkins, A Coy, 6 Bn The Light Infantry, lost the other after it was crushed in a dock-land accident at Avonmouth, Bristol, where he still works full time.

The accident happened in April 1981 – "they chopped it off when gangrene set in" – and yet

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures: Paul Haley

by July of the same year he was back at his unit, 6 LI, using crutches while he got used to his new artificial lower limb.

Exempt from the BFT, he says the loss of the leg does not worry him too much. A veteran of drill courses at Pirbright and Winchester, he is no longer able to execute the moves with the same ease but says he enjoys taking drill sessions.

"It is part of a sergeant major's job, after all," said CSM Watkins, who has been with 6 LI since 1973. Between 1961 and 1969 he was a regular soldier, first with The Gloucestershire Regiment and later with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

"It is a great job, I really enjoy it. I shall carry on for as long as they have me."

He was speaking on the Isle of Wight where 6 LI were taking part in a weekend battalion exercise backed up by a Chinook of 240 OCU based at RAF Odiham and landing craft from the Royal Marines depot at Poole.

The exercise was the fifth biennial event of its kind on the island and was designed to flex the battalion's home defence skills.

Choppy weather prevented the landing craft from reaching the shore on the Saturday but a beach head was established the following day. Despite a low cloud base

and driving rain the helicopter movements proceeded as planned.

Enemy forces were provided by, appropriately, the Isle of Wight based B Coy of 2 Wessex backed up by Bristol University OTC. Other units taking part were the newly formed TA Army Air Corps squadron who brought two Scouts, two companies of Home Service Force attached to 6 LI and 885 Troop 71 Sigs Regt.

Men of the Bristol-based 291 Intelligence and Security unit helped 6 LI co-ordinate the exercise and provided background information for the anti-terrorist scenario in which it was set.

● Men of 6 LI are briefed on the windswept Isle of Wight before embarking on the Chinook



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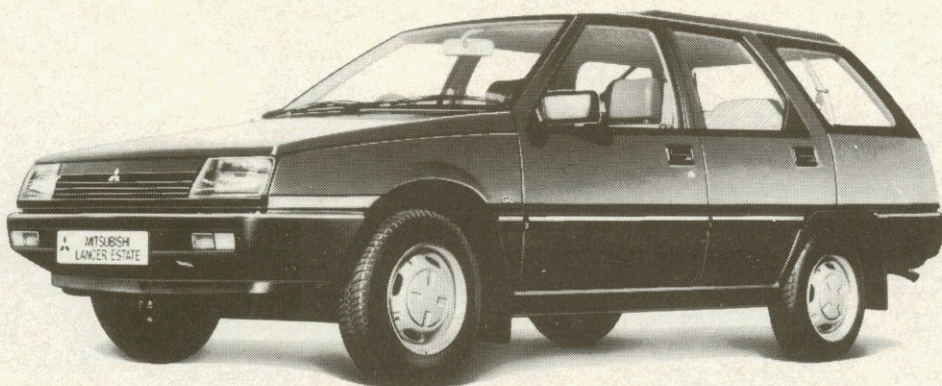
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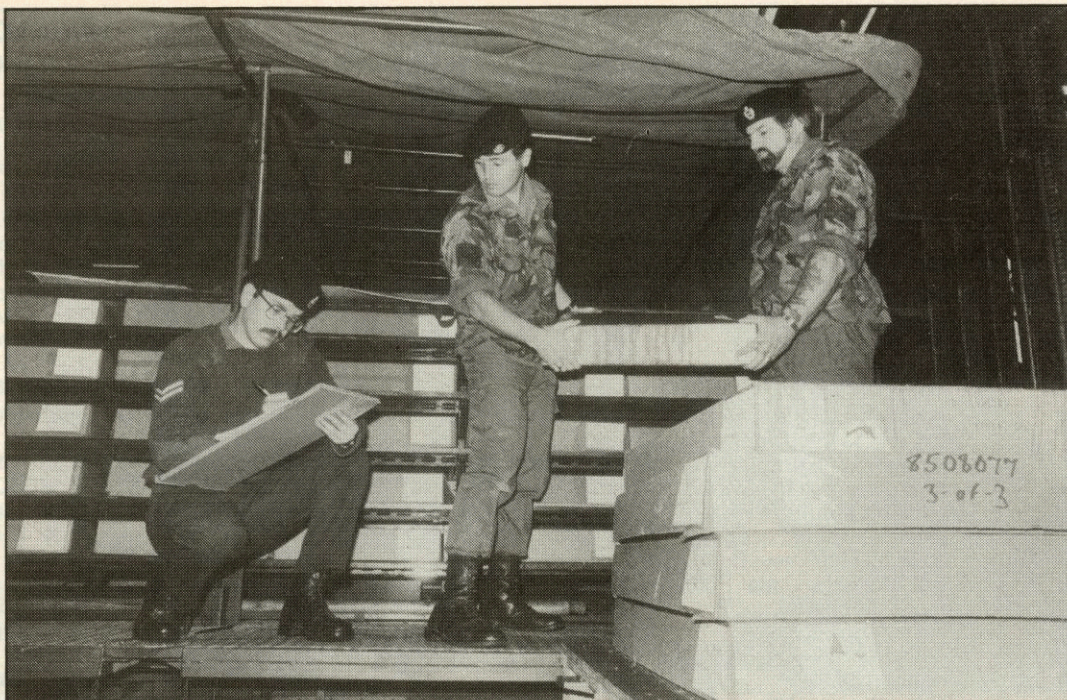
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Below right – Cpl Ian Fitzpatrick prepares some colour artwork in the platemaking process. His job with 135 Squadron is more or less the same as he does with the Ordnance Survey office in Southampton – platemaking!



In search of uncharted territories



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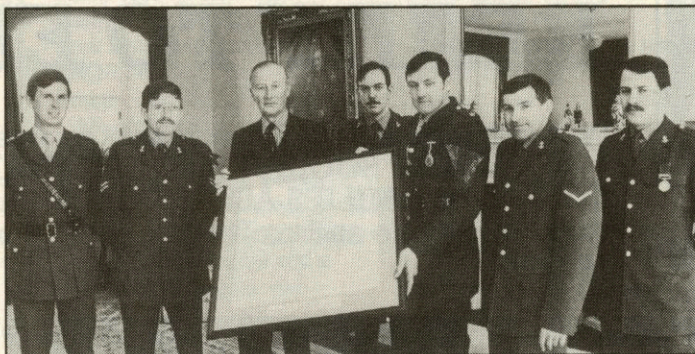
For they have just spent the past five years re-mapping the island of Guernsey, and their multi-coloured, tourist-type product – which they printed themselves at their Ewell, Surrey, HQ – doesn't show one straight line.

Now they're looking for another task which will produce a combined test for their special skills and provide them with military training.

"Guernsey was fine," said Capt Anthony Price, second-in-command of the unit and a civil engineer.

"We had an annual camp there some years ago and we took on the job of re-mapping the place.

"Now I understand that all the maps we printed – part of the proceeds went to Army charities



The former Director of the TA, Lt Gen Sir Alexander Boswell, now the Governor of Guernsey, receives a framed copy of the map from 135 OC Maj Graham Hodgson. Also present at the ceremony (l to r): Capt Anthony Price, Cpl P Stevens, LCpls J Hulme and R Howe and Sgt R Wilkinson

– have been sold. It seems there was a rush on them. Whether we print any more has not yet been decided.

"Even though we're the only topographic unit in the TA, we're not in the commercial market. We produce military maps for the Army.

"But that doesn't mean that

every time we get a call for a map we re-draw it. It more than likely means updating and overprinting information on existing sheets.

"But we could do with another job like Guernsey to keep our highly-skilled teams occupied.

"We've been knocking on the Rock of Gibraltar for some time, but even if we got permission to

map the roads and tunnels on and in the Rock, it's doubtful if accommodation could be found for our near 100-strong unit."

So what's the next job?" "That's the big unknown," said Capt Price.

Meanwhile his teams of field surveyors, cartographers, printers, and platemakers continue to report at their Surrey headquarters from their homes in Southampton.

"That's where many of them come from," said Capt Price. Most of them work for the Ordnance Survey office there, making the 160-mile round trip at least three times a month.

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Story: John Margetts

Pictures: Terry Champion

● Turn to page 41



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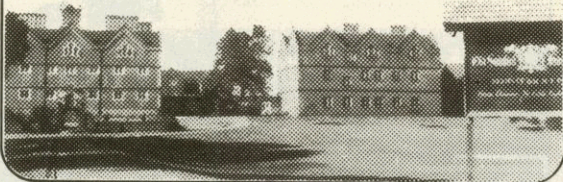
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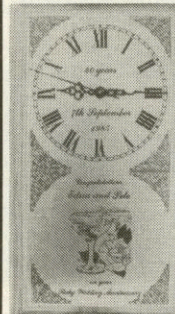
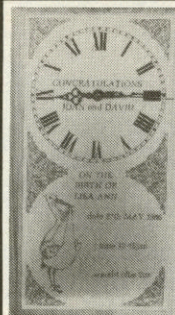
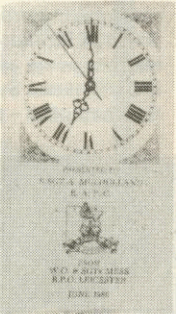
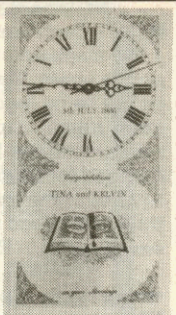
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The map men of Ewell

● From Page 39

"We do advertise now and again, but mostly recruitment is by personal recommendation. Getting specialists is extremely difficult. And we do need skills for this type of work."

People like Cpl Ian Fitzpatrick, a platemaker with Ordnance Survey; Spr Gary Heaton, also from OS, who brings skills as a printer, platemaker and photographer to the unit; LCpl Graham Day who owns his own print business in Southampton employing a number of people – he's been commuting between Southampton and London for nine years; Spr Hugh Wood, a cartographic draughtsman with the Government's Mapping and Charting Establishment, and Cpl Nick Dean, another draughtsman with OS who has been travelling to Ewell for the past four years.

But to keep these inside men busy is a ten-strong Field Survey Troop headed by SSgt Clive Boocock.

Every one a qualified surveyor, they are a self-sufficient outfit providing services for a host of people outside the unit including the RAF, Royal Artillery and the Royal Signals.

"We provide them with 'northings' and 'eastings' – co-ordinates by which they can operate with great accuracy.

"It's spot-on work and requires a certain level of mathematics among other skills," said Clive, who also works for OS at Southampton.

But all this skill is wasted unless the finished product can be transported to the fighting units in the field.

It is here that people like Cpl John Julian, LCpl Simon Aldrich and Spr Martin Bates – ex-Royal Hampshire Regiment – come into their own with a four-ton truck loaded with 72,000 maps ready for distribution from their mobile map supply point.

And since the unit values each map at £1, it doesn't take much of a mathematician to work out that they are running around with a small fortune.

But as John Julian pointed out: "Anyone taking this lot and referring to one of our maps for a getaway would soon find themselves in trouble – these are all maps of BAOR areas. Not much good in Ewell!"



LCpl Colin Heely (left), a wagon driver from York, and Sgt Jim Bainbridge, a Halifax textile supervisor, hold a defensive position

1 Yorks hole up on Salisbury Plain

THEY don't mess about these TA units . . . Take 1 Yorks, which at close on 1,000-strong reckon to be the biggest battalion in the Army.

When they arrived from all over Yorkshire at their Knook Camp base on Salisbury Plain, it was for them a two-week enactment of their BAOR and Nato role – straight into hides and action.

No comfortable billets. Holes in the ground were the order of the day and a week of brigade training to follow.

A day's R-and-R and it was out on the Plain again and a four-day war against rival

infanteers 6RRF, 2 Yorks and 7LI.

But it was all quiet on their bit of the Plain – about ten square miles of it – being "stand-down" and time for a brew-up, when the SOLDIER team of **John Margetts** and **Terry Champion** called to see who was winning. Nobody knew the exact state of the battle, there being no umpires, but Capt George Riordan, ex-4th RTR, was emphatic in his belief that "they wouldn't have got through here . . ."

Now a permanent staff officer with 1 Yorks, he was

directing the defence of their supply base area at the end of a track in a spinney.

With three GPMGs and a host of riflemen, "nobody would have got past us," he asserted, adding: "providing they came down the track."

And did they? "No. We haven't really seen them yet. We're a bit concerned we have been infiltrated. We've had reports that the 'enemy' have been using private cars . . ." But as is well known, all's fair in love . . .

And that's how the game was, except for the twisted knee of Pte Francis Murphy from Halifax, their first casualty who was carted off by 223 Fd Ambulance after being pulled from a bog.

"Painful! You bet it's bloody painful," said 20-year-old Francis as he lay on the stretcher. He won't, like many of his pals, collect a £470 tax-free bonus. For a TA soldier has to complete three years service before that handy sum comes his way and Francis, a car spares salesman, has only done two-and-a-half.

But at least he will have completed 27 days training throughout the past 12 months which will entitle him to £13.50 a day – the same as a Regular Army recruit.



For you the war is over! Pte Francis Murphy from Halifax is stretchered off after twisting his knee

Tank Museum in cross-border swap

THE British and Irish armies entered into a unique cross-border agreement – to swap vintage armoured vehicles for their respective museums.

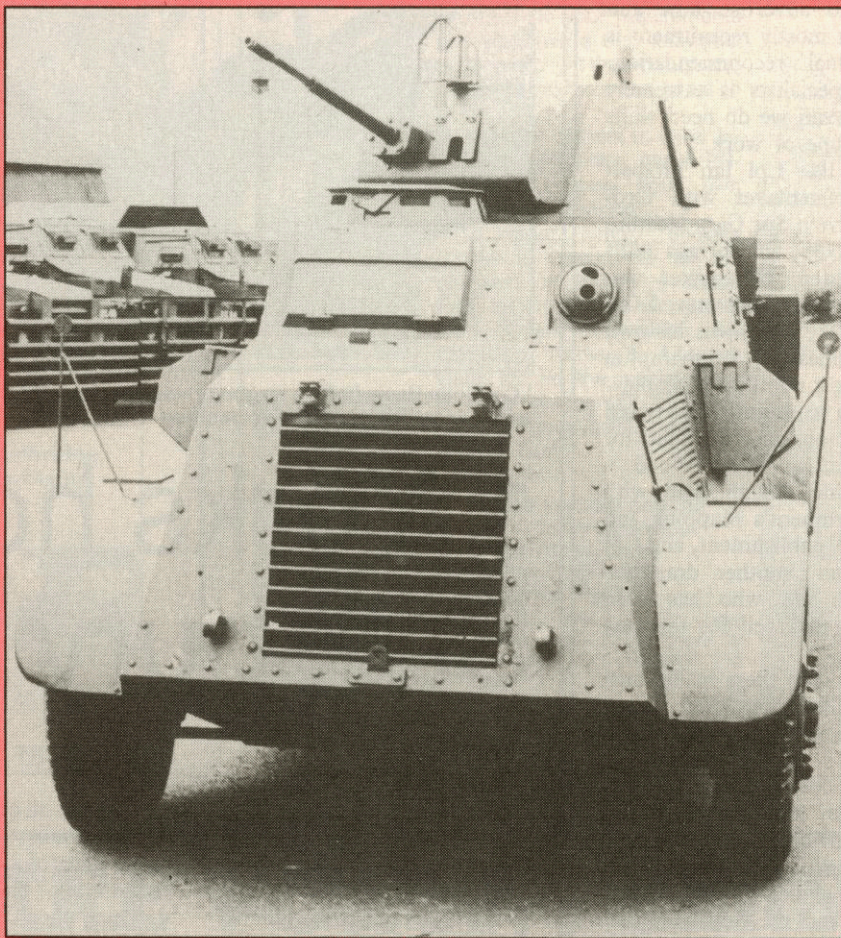
Now there is an Irish Army 1936 Leyland armoured car (pictured right) at the British Army's Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, while the Irish Army have acquired a British Army Ferret scout car for their proposed new museum.

The Leyland armoured car was a vehicle which the Tank Museum had long wished to acquire and, as a reciprocal gesture, were delighted to offer the Irish the Ferret, of which Bovington had several examples.

"The entire transaction was carried out in a smooth and efficient manner by both parties," said Lt Col George Forty, curator of the Bovington museum.

Arrangements for the Leyland vehicle, which did not see service with the British Army, to reach Bovington were made by the British Army's Movements Section in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

"It was moved from the Curragh, south of Dublin to the North for onward transportation by ferry to England," said Maj Eddie Palmer, RCT.



BOOKS

Escape to China

One of the most amazing escape stories of the Second World War involves three men who broke out of their POW camp in Hong Kong and covered hundreds of danger-filled miles to reach the safety of the Chinese Nationalist lines and eventually the British military Mission in Kungong.

Captain Anthony Hewitt of the Middlesex Regiment teamed up with Douglas Scriven the regimental medical officer, and New Zealand Air Force Pilot Officer Eddy Crossley, to escape by sampan from their POW camp.

In the first few minutes of their escape, the sampan was fired on by Japanese machine guns, and during the following

months the intrepid trio were to survive incredible adventures including attacks by bandits and river pirates, and narrowly escape recapture by the Japanese in occupied China.

Crossing the New Territories to China was a feat in itself, avoiding Japanese sentries and patrols. Once across the border into mainland China, danger increased. They were attacked by robbers armed with choppers and bayonets, chased and captured by hordes of villagers, met with a Chinese Negro called Percy Davis who rescued them from bandits, and joined a band of Communist guerrillas for a series of punishing night-time marches across country to the

eventual safety of Chinese nationalist territory.

Even then their adventures had not ended, and they travelled by slow river boat – during which they were attacked by pirates – followed by a hair-raising journey on a charcoal-burning truck through precipitous mountain passes.

As Sir John Mills says in his foreword – he is a brother-in-law of Tony Hewitt – an "amazing story. At times it seems almost unbelievable that (they) could have survived what must be one of the most extraordinary escapes of the Second World War." – AT

Bridge With Three Men by Anthony Hewitt, published by Jonathan Cape. Price £9.95.

In brief

The Best Years of Their Lives. The National Service Experience 1945-63, by Trevor Royle. The first full study of an experience that touched the lives of more than two million men, this publication coincides with a major exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. Published by Michael Joseph (price £12.95).

Two more in that useful Blandford Press series on uniforms. **Uniforms of the French Foreign Legion** is by Martin Windrow (price £5.95) and **German Uniforms of the Third Reich 1933-1945** is by Brian Leigh Davis and Pierre Turner (price £4.95).

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COMPETITION
398

There's £50 Christmas shopping money for you if you can win this issue's HOAY competition.

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, and add your name and address.

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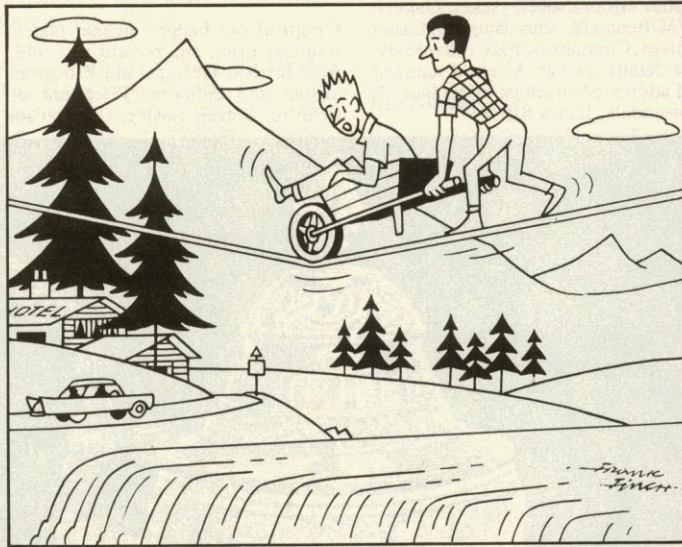
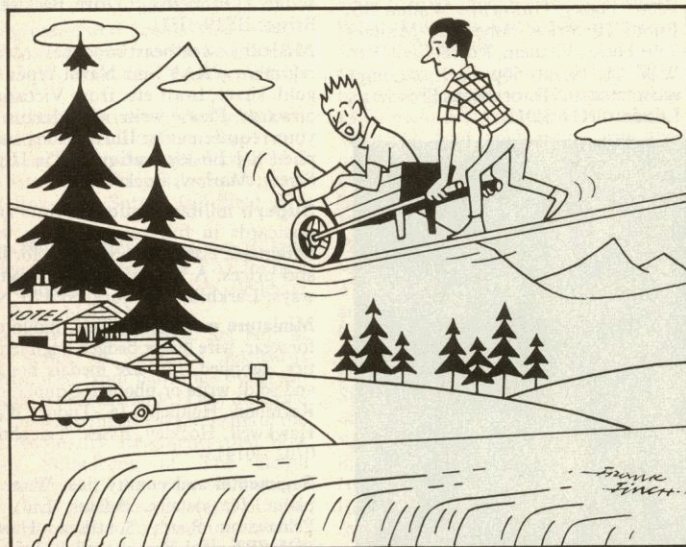
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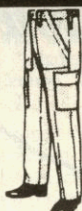


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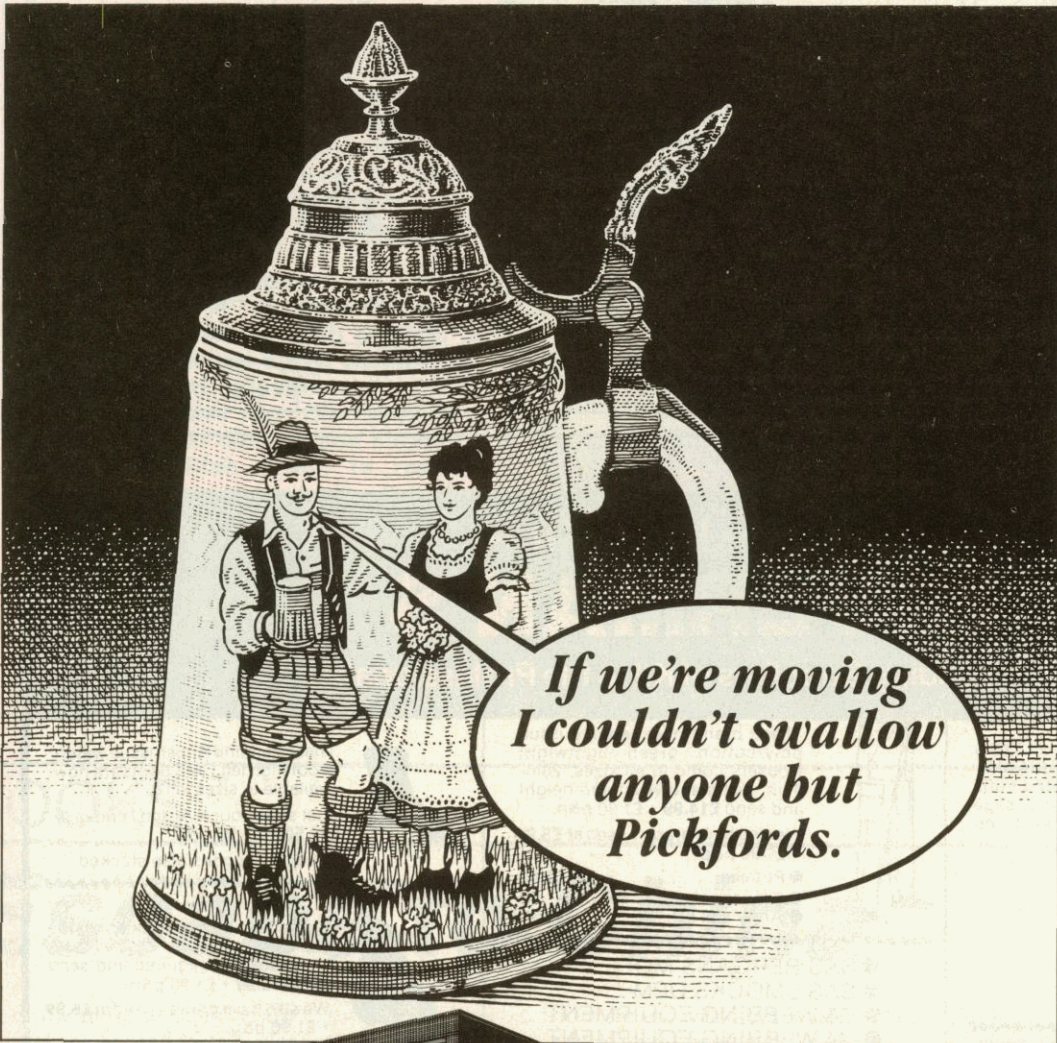
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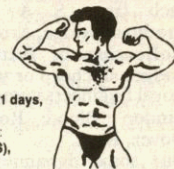
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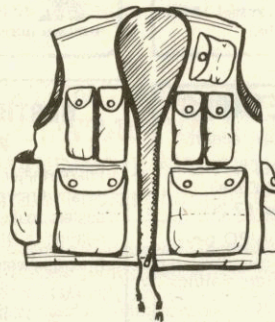
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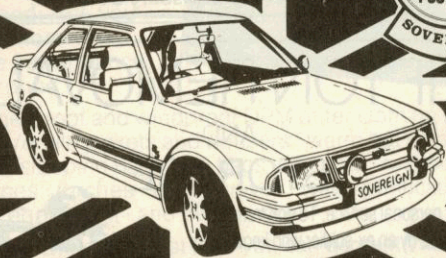
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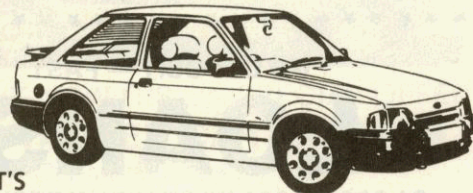
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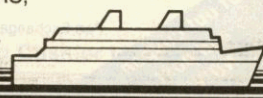
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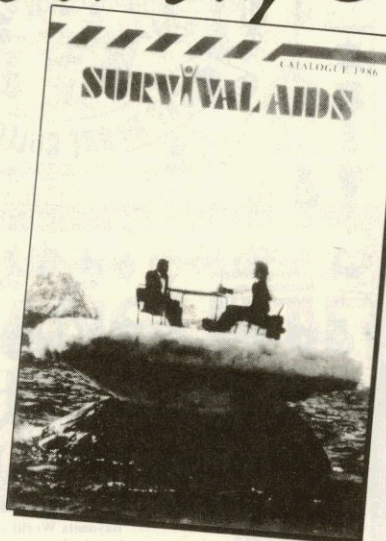
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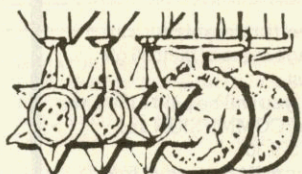
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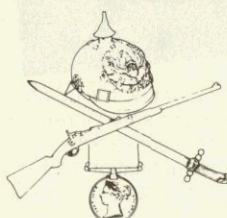


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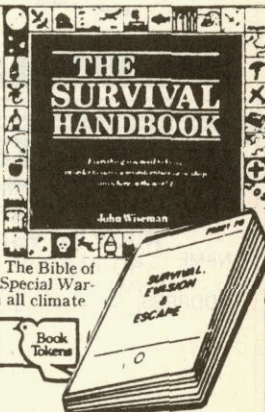
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From left to right are Cpl Phil Pett, Flt Lt Chris Jackson and Cpl Andy Elliott on their marathon voyage

Boardsailors make history

TWO SOLDIERS and a Royal Air Force officer have created boardsailing history by completing the first windsurf along the 200 mile coastline of the southern half of Cyprus.

Cpl Andy Elliott and Cpl Phil Pett of 259 Signal Squadron and Flt Lt Chris Jackson of 12 SU RAF took 5½ days in difficult conditions to finish their marathon round trip from Pakhyamos, north east of Polis, to Kartapinna on the eastern side of the island.

Elliott and Pett are both experienced sailors and RYA instructors, while Jackson is the RYA trainer for Cyprus.

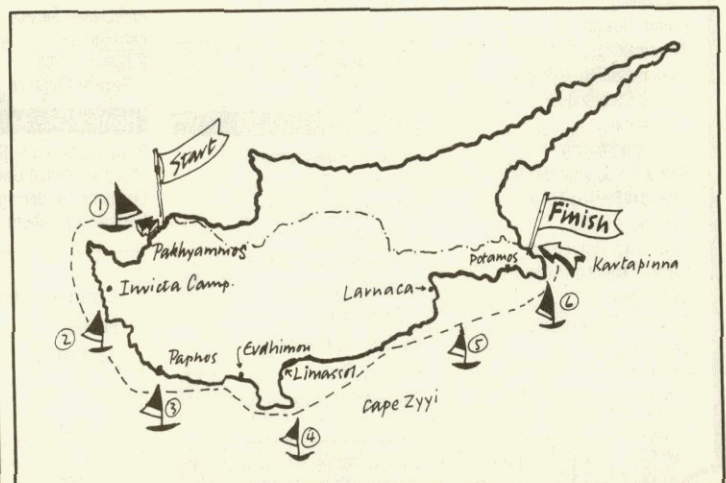
Two members of the team were flown by 16 Flight AAC along the coastline to check for reefs or hazards. 10 Port Sqn

RCT provided safety cover with the Michael Murphy VC patrol boat and escorted the three men around the dangerous Akamas Peninsula on the first day of the attempt.

Episkopi Water Sports Club's inflatable dinghy was provided to give safety cover during the remainder of the journey.

Light winds and periods of calm greatly hampered the attempt, frequently exposing the boardsailors to bouts of seasickness as they became becalmed in mountainous swells. Best day was the fifth, on which they covered 50 miles across Larnaca Bay and around Pyla Point.

● An offshoot of the voyage, codenamed Mercury's Challenge, was the raising of £4,000 for charity.



The marathon voyage

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3 QUEENS on target in Belize

BRITISH FORCES Belize have held their first Skill at Arms meeting at Salt Creek Ranges. The event was staged in brilliant sunshine and firers from all regiments and corps in Belize participated.

A team was also entered by the PSA/DOE. The standard of shooting was very high, with C Coy 3 QUEENS taking the major trophy. Belikin Breweries kindly sponsored the event and contributed the major trophies.

While the wives produced a splendid cake stall and grand raffle, prizes were also donated by local companies, NAAFI and PRI, with all proceeds going to St Thomas's Orphanage in Belize.

So successful was the day that it has been decided that the event is to take place every six months to allow all the roulement battalions and other units and corps to compete for the trophy.



Brrrr! A cold start for competitors in the Inter Services triathlon swimming event

Triathlon triumph for Army

THE ARMY had a relatively easy win at the inaugural Inter Services triathlon championships, which was held in conjunction with the British Triathlon Association's Grand Prix series final at Kingsbury Water Centre, Sutton Coldfield.

The championship was unfortunately an unofficial one due to the RAF not having triathlon as a recognised sport.

The competition contained three sports – swim, cycle and run – with a 1000 metre open water swim (water temp 52°C), followed by a cycle of 40 km and finishing with a 10 km run.

Inter Services champion is Lt Rob Herring (CAD Kineton) who also managed to finish second overall in the Grand Prix.

In second place was Cpl Robin Brew of Olympic fame from the RAF and third CSgt Dave Davenport of the Royal Marines. Fourth and fifth places went to the Army with Sgt (SI) Ian Horn APTC of AA College Chesham and Dvr Richard Kibble of 47 Air Despatch Sqn RCT respectively.

In the team competition the Army were first in a total time of 13 hrs 36 min 55 sec and the Navy second in 14:09.44 and the RAF third in 16:42.07.

The Army team consisted of Lt R Herring, Sgt I Horn, Dvr R Kibble, Gnr G Clarke (7 RHA), Bdr T Myers (7 RHA), and Capt L Pearce (JLR RE Dover).

Soccer action

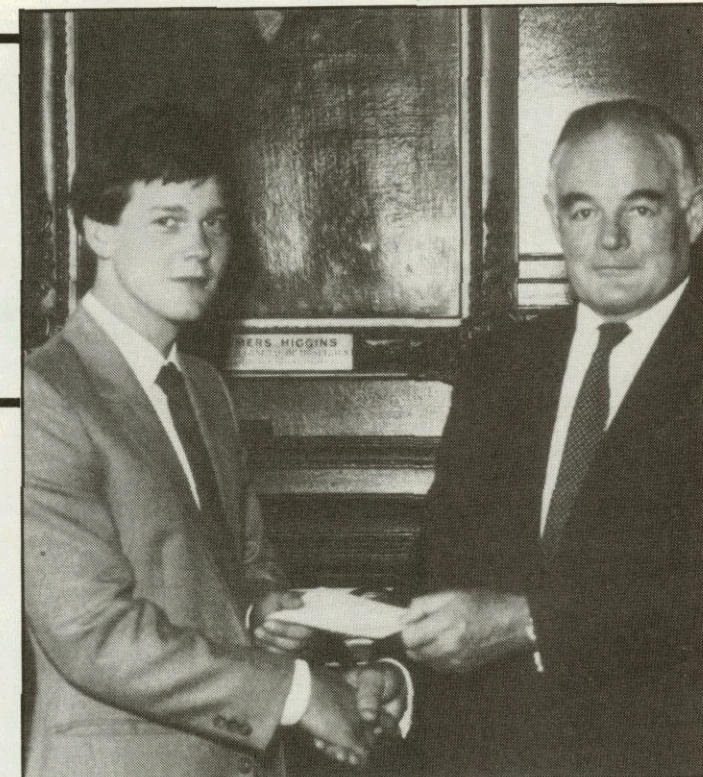
ARMY Challenge Cup (UK) soccer action has kicked off with the first round due to be completed by October 3.

Reigning champions SEME Bordon – who have just achieved a notable double by winning the Major Units cricket crown – were drawn against the Light Division Depot, Winchester, in the first round.

INTERNATIONAL AID

International dinghy sailor 2nd Lt Stuart Hudson RAMC receives a cheque from Maj Gen AJ Shaw, chairman of the RAMC/RADC Sports Board at RAMC HQ Mess Millbank.

Stuart, now at Birmingham University Medical School, was a member of the UK team competing in the European Laser championships on Lake Geneva in September. He is a former national schools, Northern Midland and Scottish area sailing champion.



Police to tour with the Services

COMBINED SERVICES are to be joined by British Police for the first time when they make a joint tour of New Zealand in 1988. That trip will be to reciprocate for the tour made to the UK last winter by the all-conquering Kiwi Services.

The huge margins by which the All Black servicemen (who included policemen) thrashed their British counterparts forced the administrators to look at ways of strengthening Combined Services both on tour and when entertaining strong international opposition at home.

British Police, who boast several current internationals on their books, were the obvious solution.

Army Rugby Union chairman

Brig Mike Paterson announced the move in a pre-season outline of ARU plans for the new season. He also revealed that Combined Services would for the first time

be playing Wales at Under-21 level. That match is due to take place at Aldershot on April 11.

The other highlight of the Under-21 season is the match

Garrison marshals Hong Kong rally

A TEAM of almost 30 off-duty Servicemen from the Hong Kong Garrison assisted and accompanied the 1986 Hong Kong to Beijing (Peking) motor rally.

This, the second rally of its kind, took six days on its route from Hong Kong to Beijing during which time the competitors travelled some 3,900

kilometres.

Soldiers acted primarily as marshals and communicators and provided medical support.

Chief marshal for this year's rally which featured some of the world's top rally drivers, was Capt Rick Stocks RCT of the Hong Kong-based Gurkha Transport Regiment.

against Scotland at Murrayfield on April 1.

Brig Paterson said the Army introduced up to 2,000 young men to the game of rugby each year, and helped spread the tentacles of rugby at Colts, Under-21 and senior levels to all parts of the world.

The Army's bid to climb back to the top of the Inter-Services tree – last year they took the wooden spoon – begins with U-21 trials at Aldershot on October 9 and 10, the Colts trials the following day, and the senior trials on December 15.

Next year's Twickenham encounters will match the Army against the Royal Navy on March 7, and against the Royal Air Force – champions for the past two seasons – on March 21.

Chairman of selectors is Lt Col Dougie Hathorn and the Army coach is Maj Ken Lawson.

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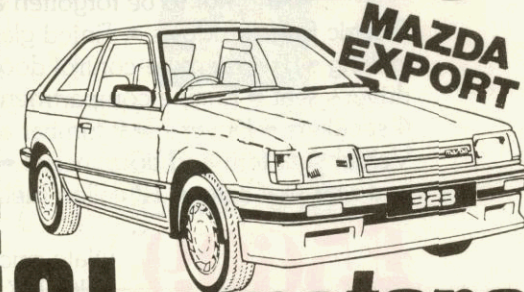
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LYNX/TOW in perfect harmony. A missile streaks away from a Lynx of 671 Sqn (OTS) during a live firing sequence at OP 20 near Market Lavington. Picture: WO 2 Bill Bain, RAOC.