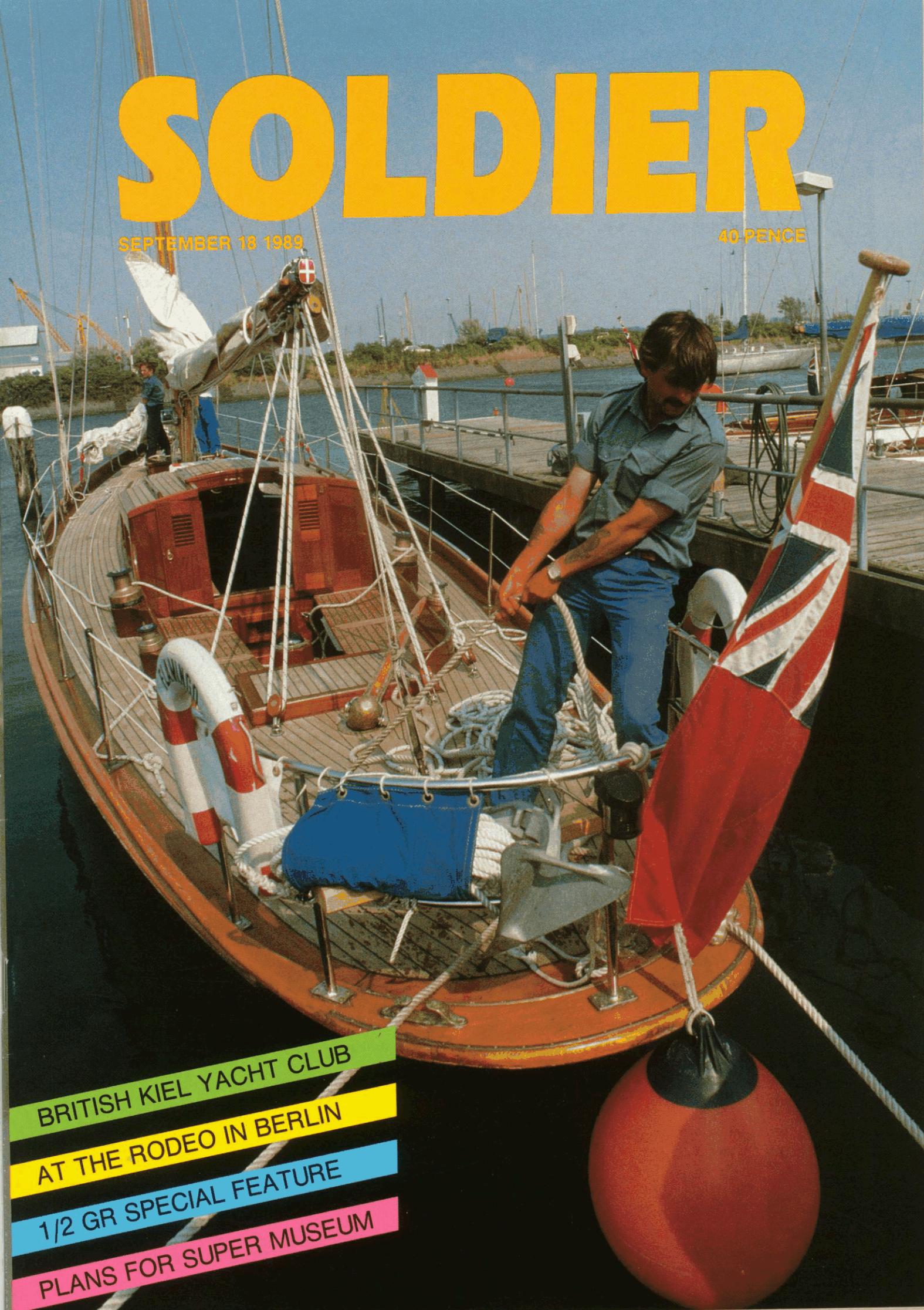


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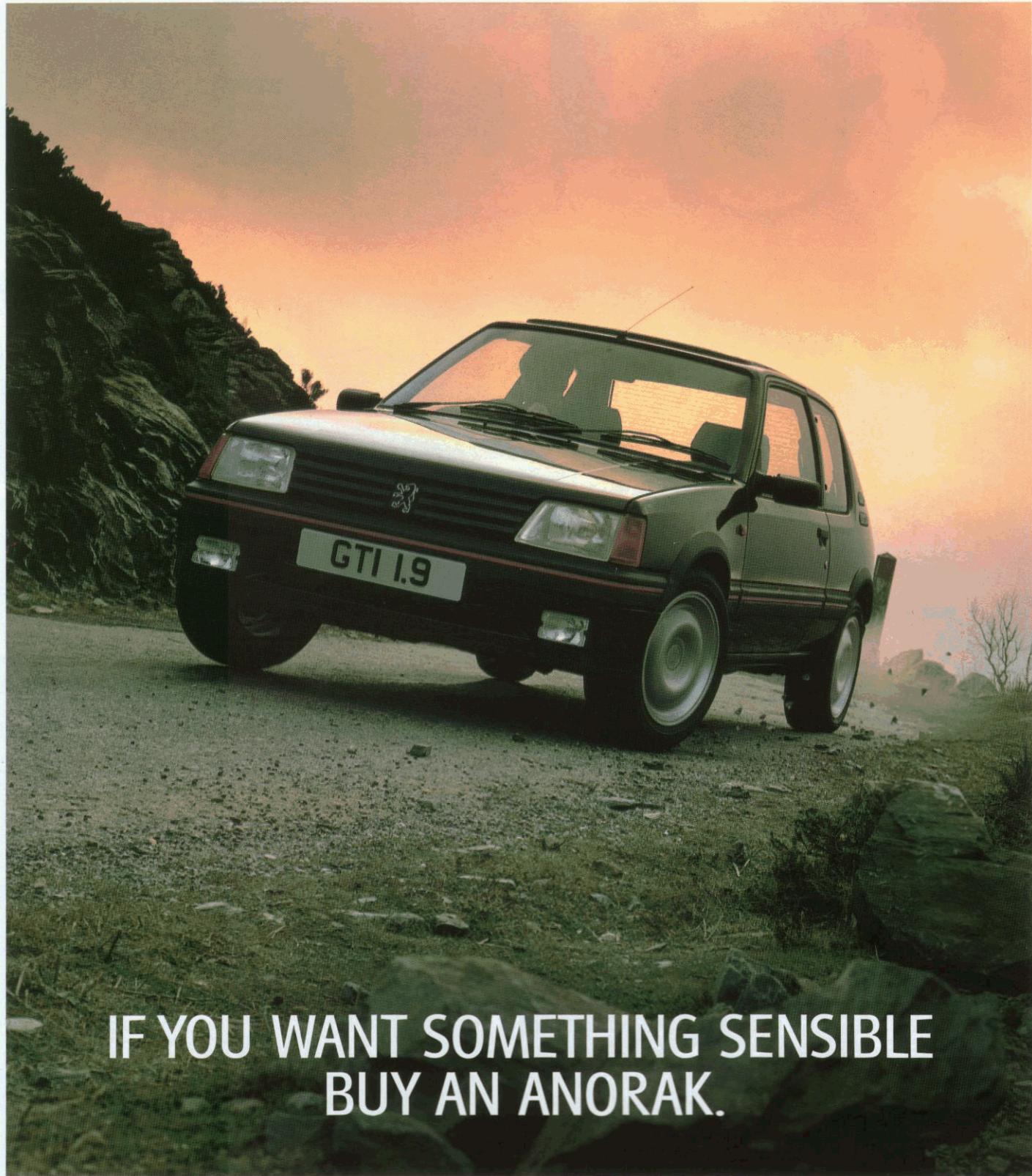


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FRONT COVER: Warps and springs are a necessary evil when tying up a 56ft wooden sloop at the British Kiel Yacht Club. A story and picture on the club appears in the sports pages.

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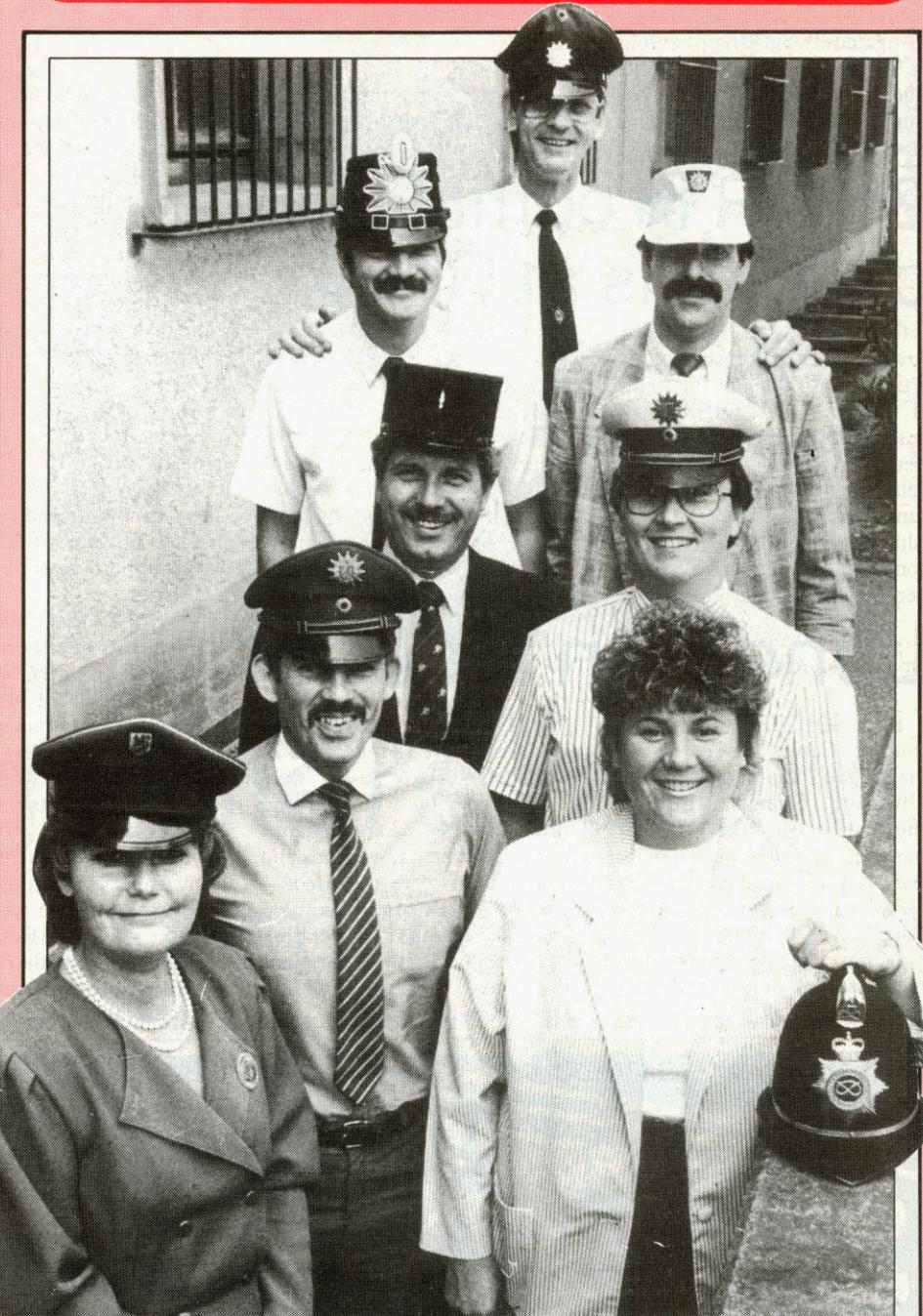
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SOLDIER

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incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



**NEXT
ISSUE**

NEXT ISSUE: Members of the SIB RMP BAOR as you've never seen them before! At the Dusseldorf branch they are proud of their collection of hats from uniforms of different forces. Taking part in the police parade are (from the top, left to right): WO2 Dave Bankcroft, SSgt Alan Wood, Manfred Wolski, a civilian laboratory assistant and driver, WO1 Barry Cawdell, Sgt Glyn Person, RSM Dave Lawrence, SSgt Karen Miller and Frau Ulla Deterlinger (left), an interpreter.

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
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All in the name of charity

I read with interest in **SOLDIER** (Aug 21) of the new children's charity, the Joint Services Children's Trust, instigated by Sgt Brian Penfold of REME. It raises a serious question mark against the other numerous existing children's charities.

2 RTR in command of comms at CAT

I feel I must put the record straight with reference to your article "2 RTR joins the band of helpers" (**SOLDIER**, August 7). Radio communications were provided not by a detachment from 2 RTR commanded by 2nd Lt Claire Almonds, but by a highly competent team which was 100 per cent command troop and

led by Cpl Red Skelton.

When **SOLDIER** visited CAT 89, 2nd Lt Claire Almonds was there in her capacity as public relations officer. Although the assistant adjutant wears many hats, signals is not one of them. — **Sgt T A Gazzard, Command Troop Nero, 2 RTR, BFPO 38.**

Long Tan losses

I read **SOLDIER** with great interest. Copies are sent to me via a good mate of mine in Ulverston, Cumbria. In turn they are also read by our members and then passed on to the staff of Headquarters 1st Division in Enoggera Army Barracks in Brisbane.

It may interest your readers to know that during and after the Battle of Long Tan

(**SOLDIER**, May 15) Australian losses were 18 killed and 21 wounded, enemy losses were 245 killed, 500 wounded and three captured. Large quantities of documents, weapons and ammunition were captured. — **Trevor Atkinson, Vietnam Legion Veterans' Association of Australia, Brisbane Branch, PO Box 3, Lindum 4178, Queensland, Australia.**

children have access to civilian charities, but in addition have access to Service orientated charities such as SSAFA, the Royal British Legion, the Army Benevolent Fund, the RAF Benevolent Fund and King George's Fund for Sailors.

In theory Service children should already be better catered for than most — so are these other charities being less helpful than they should?

I would wish Sgt Penfold all the success in the world in his highly commendable efforts to help disadvantaged children for he has obviously found gaps in the support given by existing charities.

I trust that should any dependants of airborne soldiers come to his attention he will direct them in the first instance to the Airborne Forces Security Fund. The Trustees would be most willing to consider not merely the charitable aspect of the case but would give sympathetic consideration to any project that would improve the quality of life for a child in need. — **Maj (Retd) C M Steggles, Controller, Airborne Forces Security Fund, Brownings Barracks, Aldershot.**

Reunions

● 50th anniversary reunion of the **55th West Lancs** RASC companies 537, 538 and 539 will be held on October 28 at Southport. Details and tickets from Richard Sperrin, 64 Stamford Road, Southport PR8 4ET (tel: 0704 64978) or telephone Don Kelly (0704 65392).

● Annual dinner dance of **209 RCZ Workshop REME (V)** will be at Valley Lodge Hotel, Cheshire on September 30. Details from Mr Roy Patterson, 1 Haddon Grove, Sale, Cheshire M33 1TT (tel 061-976 2084).

● **Air dispatcher** service of remembrance will be held at All Saints Church, Down Ampney, near Cirencester, Glos, on September 24 at 11 am. Details from Mr Alan Hartley, 19 Staverton Close, Mount Nod, Coventry CV5 7LF, or Maj A R J Batty, Barnett House, 53 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AN.

Calling . . .

● The four Army gunners (presumed of the then Maritime Regiment RA) who survived the torpedoing of the **SS Fort McLeod** in 1944 off the Maldivian Islands. R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU is trying to trace them.

Calling Germany

The latest winner of **SOLDIER**'s HOAY competition is Lt P Starling of 5 Armd Fd Amb at BFPO 17 who will be receiving a £50 cheque. Runners-up prizes of books go to Lt Col Andy Séguin of Dunoon Place, Kanata, Ontario, Canada, and Mr M J Beale, Woolmers Mead, Pleshey, Chelmsford, Essex.

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Displaying the latest medal to be awarded to members of the British Army are returned members of UNTAG's British contingent (left to right) Sgt Hue Evans, LCpl Craig Bruce and LCpl Phillip Robson

First signallers return from Namibia

ALTHOUGH the situation in Namibia is now calm, United Nations troops could still face serious trouble in the run up to independence, warned the commanding officer of 30th Signal Regiment who has just returned from a tour of duty in the country.

No one in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) has so far fired a shot in anger but attacks have been made on UN soldiers. A number of white phosphorus grenades were thrown at UNTAG forces and in another incident a regional office was sprayed with automatic fire, writes Laurie Manton.

No British troops have come under direct fire, but they are taking no chances and hold supplies of body armour.

Speaking on the question of safety just hours after his return from Namibia, Lt Col Neil Donaldson told **SOLDIER**: "After six months there I am no more able to predict the future than I was before I went.

"On the face of it things are quieter, but there could still be serious trouble," he warned.

He and his men were sent to Namibia to provide communications. But that plan had to be modified when UN budgetary delays meant the 175 British signallers and support troops arrived to find a serious deficit in radio equipment.

When 1,800 Swapo members crossed the border, the situation became very tense and

about 360 Swapo infiltrators were killed in the fighting.

The main UN military force had not then arrived and the British contingent and some Australian sappers were deployed to the border where they formed assembly points for the withdrawing Swapo.

Few Swapo went to the assembly points because they did not want to surrender their weapons. But the assembly points, each consisting of five British and five Australian soldiers, did pick up wounded men unable to return to Angola by themselves.

"What the operation did do was to establish the presence of the United Nations and give UNTAG a degree of credibility early on which it otherwise might have lost by not having troops on the ground," said Col Donaldson.

"But it did set us back in our primary role, because we couldn't provide comms support to UNTAG."

Once away from the border, the signallers went to work to set up the comms system. They installed radios in 450 soft-skinned vehicles, erected 13 large radio towers and set up about 50 radio base stations.

This was no mean feat considering that 21

different military nationalities were involved. Language differences between Peruvians, Czechs, Finns and Malaysians meant a lot of sign language was involved!

British troops also became involved in operations with the UN High Commission for Refugees to repatriate 35,000 Namibian refugees from Angola and Zambia.

"It soon became clear that to organise such an operation from scattered camps required good communications so we actually deployed two radio detachments into Angola," revealed Col Donaldson. "One was just over the border at Cuangar and the other some 300 kilometres inside Angola."

The first members of the original contingent have now returned on completion of their six month tour of duty and a further rotation of troops is due to take place.

The British contingent is being reduced to 113.

The UN has asked for the British Army to become involved in the actual elections themselves, due to take place in November, and a feasibility study is under way to see how it might be done.



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Gurkhas lead rice relief to refugees

ARMY units in Hong Kong have been given one of their more unusual assignments in connection with the continuing saga of the Vietnamese boat people.

They have been told to cook and deliver nearly half a ton of rice each day for boat people being held on one of the territory's most remote and barren islands.

The number of Vietnamese living on the island at any one time varies but it is usually between four or five thousand with a potential maximum of 7,000. While waiting to be transferred to more centralised camps they have been living entirely on dry rations which has given local representatives of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees serious concern for their health.

A request for assistance went out to British Forces Hong Kong. Within a couple of days the catering branch had a plan to prepare steamed rice in the kitchens of the Brigade of Gurkhas Training Depot at Sek Kong and send it by road and sea on a four hour journey to the Soko Islands.

Military stores in Hong Kong were scoured for insulated containers, known familiarly as hay boxes, which have been used to provide generations of soldiers with hot meals in the field. Some of those which turned up were of sufficient vintage to be equipped with "D" rings for attachment to the harness of pack mules. All available supplies of the smaller, but lighter and more modern Norwegian containers were also called in.

More than 70 containers were needed for the inaugural rice run which supplied 5,000 Vietnamese. The steamed rice was carried on three Gurkha Transport Regiment lorries to a slipway at Kwai Chung where the lorries boarded a landing craft of 415 Maritime Troop, RCT, for the sea journey. The landing craft were already involved in taking a daily supply of fresh water to the island.

The daily rice run is likely to continue until a kitchen can be built for the Vietnamese who are still arriving in the Soko Islands sometimes as many as three or four hundred a day.

Ballymena TA course 'largest ever'

BRIG Colin Harrisson, who has just taken over command of the Territorial Army's 107 (Ulster) Brigade, was the inspecting officer at a passing out parade of TA recruits which took place at St Patrick's Barracks,



Capt Caroline Keane and Satan of the Defence Animal Support Unit at Sennelager, West Germany go forward to receive the Colonel Commandant's Trophy at the ninth international canine biathlon staged at the DASU. Entrants from Australia, the USA and many European army, police and customs units took part. Second and third to Capt Keane in the RAVC handicap event were Cpl Richard Chadwick with Taff and Pte Christopher Wilsdon with Ryan, all from the RAVC Centre. The canine biathlon was first held at Sennelager in 1981 with competitors from six countries. Since then the event has grown and the standard of entry has increased with more international participation.

Healthy eaters

HEALTHIEST eaters in BAOR during the past year have been the men of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, 1st Field Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, and The Blues and Royals. They won a healthy eating competition run by the Army Catering Service (BAOR) in conjunction with SSAFA.

Ballymena in the presence of their families.

TA recruit courses take place each month throughout the year. This course was the largest ever with 80 men drawn from TA units throughout Northern Ireland.

16 AD on show

MORE than 7,000 visitors watched the men of 16 Air Defence Regiment RA fighting off simulated air attacks during an open day at Rapier Barracks, the AD regiment's Lincolnshire home.

Displays were put on by the Junior Leader's Regiment RA, and the Royal Artillery Band, motor cycle display team (the Flying Gunners) and parachute display team.

Members of 30 Battery (Rogers's Company) and 14 (Kole's Cop) Battery took part in a gun race and there were numerous sideshows and displays of Army and Royal Air Force weapons and vehicles. It was the regiment's third such open day.

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Hot foot from Sardinia

TAKING a trip to sizzling Sardinia might sound like a great holiday break for some, but to a handful of young soldiers from Northern Ireland blisters and not suntans were the order of the day.

A squad of eight from Lisburn Garrison has returned from the holiday island after completing a tough 14-day mountain walking expedition. But blisters were not the only problem faced by the trekkers. Boils, insect bites, dehydration, infected water and an out of date map also took their toll.

The fact that the expedition achieved all its aims was a credit to Joint Services expedition leader WO2 Paul Batten, a troop commander with 26 Squadron RCT. His team covered 70 kilometres of the mountainous Costa Esmeralda region in the north east of the island.



Veterans of the Battle of Kohima in Assam in 1944 examine a Naga spear in the 2nd Infantry Division Kohima Museum at Imphal Barracks, York. They were among more than 300 2nd Infantry Division veterans who gathered at York to commemorate the battle in which they fought 45 years ago. The division, which now has headquarters at Imphal Barracks, played a decisive part in the battle which resulted in a crucial victory

Kohima veterans at York reunion

over the Japanese. During the fierce fighting around Kohima local Naga tribesmen provided invaluable help to the British soldiers by acting as porters and stretcher bearers.



Princess Margaret meets B Company, escorted by the OC, Maj Craig Cocker and the CO, Lt Col John Sutherell

Princess visits Anglians

PRINCESS Margaret renewed her links with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment when she visited a number of training locations on the Kent and Sussex coast. The Princess is Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment and last visited the battalion when she presented new Colours to it at Tidworth in 1985.

Princess Margaret watched Support Company firing on the ranges then saw B Company brushing up their internal security drills. Later the Princess, accompanied by Maj Gen Tony Pollard, Colonel of the regiment, had lunch in the officers' mess.

The battalion has just deployed from its Colchester base to Northern Ireland.

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We've got you covered – historically!

Weapons spanning the last two centuries were paraded by members of the 7th (Durham) Battalion, The Light Infantry during a two week exercise in Gibraltar.

The oldest weapon in the quartet, the Baker (pictured on the left), was the first issued as standard by the British Army in 1803. This particular model, now a collector's item valued at more than £3,500, was loaned to 7 LI by the Sergeants' Mess of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets where it is normally on display.



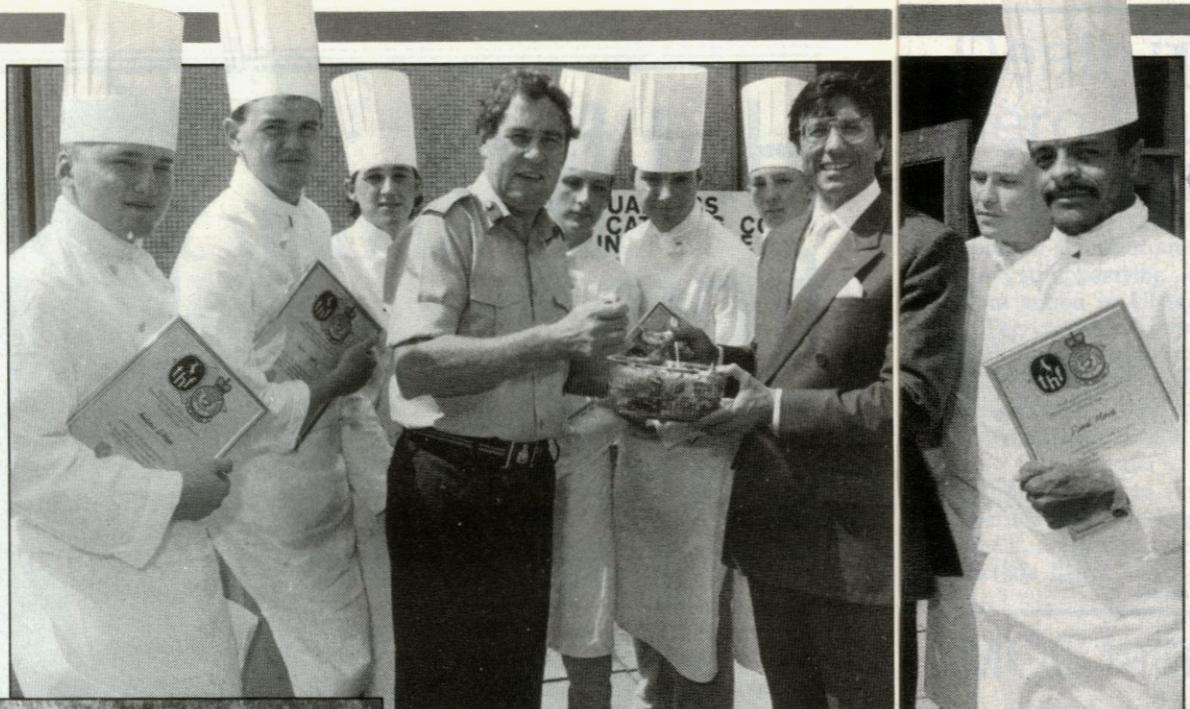
Pictured with the collection are LCpl David Fenwick, a Bisley marksman from Crook, County Durham; Cpl Peter Gray from Crook, with a Lee Enfield .303; LCpl Nigel Harrison, from Darlington, with the SLR; and 2nd Lt Steve Hopper, also from Darlington, with the SA 80

Old Devonian calls on 1 D and D at Bessbrook

An 89-year-old Devonian, Mr James White, paid a visit to his old regiment in Ulster. Originally from Newton Abbott, Mr White travelled from his Castleblaney home to Bessbrook in South Armagh, where 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment are coming to the end of a 4½ month tour of duty.

He joined the Devons in 1917, serving with all four battalions before leaving the Army in 1952 as a commissioned officer in the Territorial Army. He was one of 27 survivors of the Battle of Bois de Buttes, a unique battle honour earned by the regiment.

He is pictured talking to the RSWO, WO2 Simon Taylor (left) and WO1 (RSM) Graham Titley.



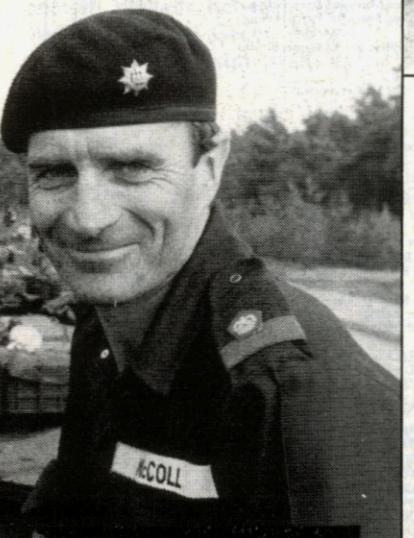
THF chefs fall in for certificate parade

Tastes good! Brig **Tank Nash**, Commandant of the Army Catering Corps Training Centre at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot and Mr **Rocco Forte**, a director of Trust House Forte, sample a fruit salad produced by young THF chefs who had been undergoing training at the ACC centre.

The chefs, who received certificates of attendance from Mr Forte, completed an Army chefs course, Class One, that leads to the award of a City and Guilds Certificate. Also present at the ceremony was Lt Col **Brian David**, ACC, CO of the Army School of Catering.



PEOPLE



Poacher poached

The regimental badge worn by Maj John McColl (Royal Anglian Regiment) appears at first to conflict with the tank overalls and the Challenger tanks in the background. However, it is all genuine – Maj McColl was until earlier this year a company commander in 2 R Anglian (nicknamed The Poachers). He is presently on exchange for a year as squadron leader of D Squadron, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in Dillinghofen, West Germany.



Links between the Regular Army and the Army Cadet Force were strengthened when Rfn **Carl Kendall**, 3 RGJ went back to cadet camp as a volunteer instructor.

A former cadet corporal with the Hereford and Worcester ACF's 4th Cadet Squadron (Queen's Own Hussars) and now six months into a Gibraltar posting with 3 RGJ, Carl (18) was given an extension of leave to help at the camp at

Power behind the throne . . .

The CO of 16th Signal Regiment at Krefeld, West Germany, Lt Col **Chris Harper**, R Signals surrounded by his lady officers (the power behind the throne?). From left (rear) are Capt Elaine Cook, RADC; Capt Helen Wildman, RAEC (with daughter Rebecca); Maj Catherine Palmer, R Signals, OC of the squadron detached to Bielefeld and beyond; Maj Elaine Newham, R Signals, OC of the squadron based in JHQ, Rheindahlen; Lt Sharon Walker, WRAC; Maj (TA) Hilary Hodgson, RAMC, the resident doctor; Capt Linda Cameron, WRAC; (front) Lt Juliet Smith,

WRAC (AAdj); 2nd Lt Philippa Ward, WRAC (SSLC); Lt Karen Osterburg, R Signals and Lt Alison Gordon, R Signals. Missing is Lt Shelagh Macleod, R Signals. There are 13 female officers in the regiment and more than 240 Servicewomen.

Working leave

Beckingham, Lincolnshire. Carl – "prompted" to honorary sergeant for the week by an appreciative county cadet commandant, Col **Robert Purvis** – is pictured giving some of the boys tips on map and compass work.

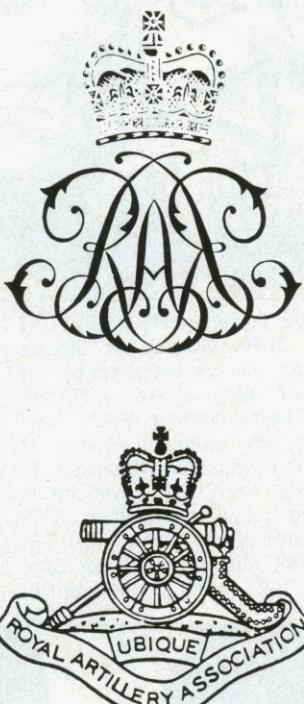
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Death of hero Rats

Rats, the canine hero, has died peacefully aged 17 at the home of a former soldier. He was still carrying shrapnel from action in Ulster.

The cross-bred Jack Russell (right) was adopted by soldiers in Crossmaglen after he wandered into their barracks.

Wounded on several occasions the little terrier's fearless faithfulness led to him being awarded the Pro-Dogs Gold Medal, doggy equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

MCC takes on Howards

Two of England and Yorkshire's greatest cricketers, Herbert Sutcliffe and Hedley Verity, would surely have approved of a unique cricket match played between the MCC and The Green Howards at Hovingham Hall in Yorkshire.

The two day game was arranged as part of the regiment's tercentenary celebrations and was won by the MCC by two wickets. Both Sutcliffe and Verity served with the regiment, the former during the First World War, the latter during the Second.

Other famous Yorkshiremen to play for the regiment have included Billy Sutcliffe and Norman Yardley.

Hovingham Hall is the home



of Sir Marcus Worsley, who was a Green Howard, and whose father, Sir William Worsley, was a Green Howard and a Yorkshire cricketer.

Common laughter

Military humour, it appears, has much in common whichever side of the Iron Curtain it originates.

Col Zog Zvegintzov, our Defence Attaché in Sofia, writes to tell us that one of the delights of serving in Bulgaria is to find that Bulgarian military humour closely matches that of the British Army.

The cartoons reproduced here are from *Serganti*, a Bulgarian Army magazine.

For those readers who cannot read Bulgarian, Col Zvegintzov kindly attached a translation. The caption to the top cartoon is: Hello One! If you can hear me switch your radio on.

And the second is: Now I will make mincemeat of you!

New Billy for 3 RWF

After seven years of faithful service with the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Billy the regimental goat has gone into retirement.

Billy has been suffering from arthritis, so in line with tradition the battalion selected a new goat from the herd of Windsor White goats kept at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire.

The royal herd was started by King George IV in 1928.

In 1844 Queen Victoria presented a royal goat to The Royal Welch Fusiliers and ever since the regiment's Regular and Territorial Army battalions have for the most part replaced their goats with a succession of animals presented to them by the sovereign from the royal herd.

The new goat, also named Billy in the tradition of the 3rd Battalion, is just over a year old and is being trained for his first public appearance at Caernarfon Castle this month by Sgt Norman Pritchard, Goat Major of the 3rd Battalion. The old Billy, meanwhile, is back with the royal herd at Whipsnade.

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

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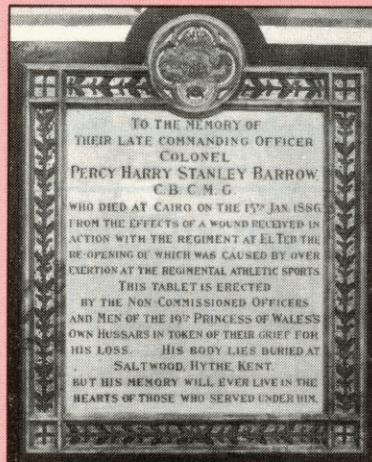
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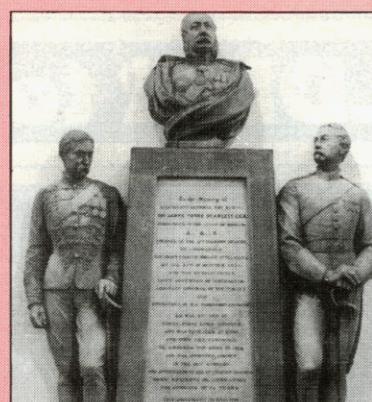
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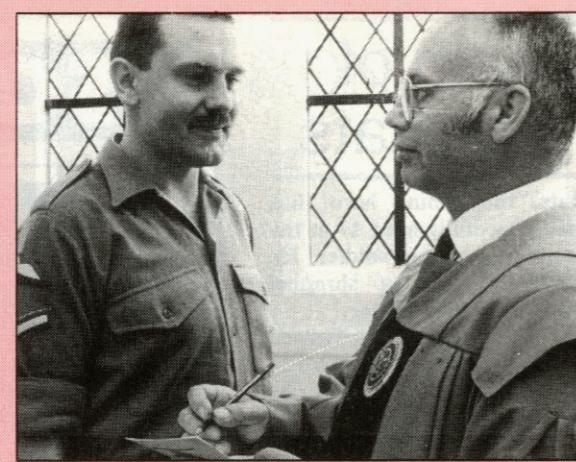
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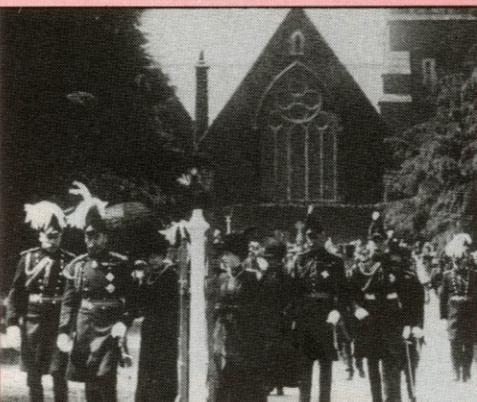
Victorian memorial to a commanding officer who died in unusual circumstances



Memorial to Lt Gen Sir James Scarlett who commanded the Heavy Brigade which made a successful charge at Balaclava during the Crimean War



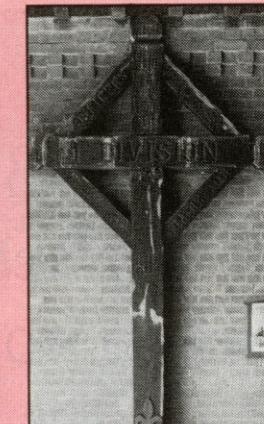
LCpl Taff Jones of 2 Para confirms with verger Mike Bloomfield that the banns for his marriage will be read as required



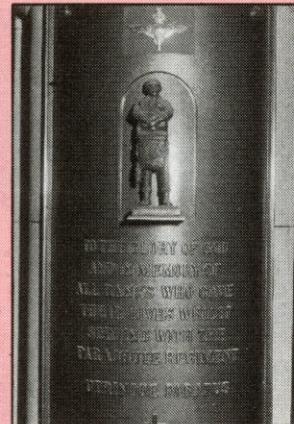
Belfry picture: King George V (second from left) with Queen Mary (holding parasol) and the Princess Royal. Far left is Lt Gen Sir Douglas Haig. The negative is held by the Aldershot Military Museum



Barry Roberts polishes the lectern, a memorial to a captain in the Queen's Regiment



Battlefield cross of remembrance from a shattered wood on the Somme



Simple memorial to The Parachute Regiment. Kneelers bear the regiment's badge

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Gems from a church belfry

HAVING been used to officiating in a "tin tabernacle" or a room borrowed from another church, the Rev Ray Jones found that being in charge of the Army's "cathedral" was, well, different.

However, he approached it in the manner you might expect of a man who spent 21 years in the ranks and four as an officer in a distinguished corps before entering the priesthood.

He rolled up his sleeves.

With the aid of his verger, ex RAOC WO2 Mike Bloomfield, he began by clearing out the belfry of the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, Aldershot.

There they unearthed a few gems in the shape of vintage portraits of previous incumbents and enough unwanted odds and ends to fill four skips.

One of the finds was a photograph of King George V leaving by the main gate after attending morning service on May 19, 1914.

Today the road is named Old Contemptibles Avenue after the original BEF which went to France less than three months after the picture was taken.

The 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions and much of the cavalry were stationed in Aldershot then. In the porch of the church is a sombre reminder of the fate of most of

them, a wooden cross which once stood on the site of High Wood on the Somme in memory of the men of the 1st Division killed in action there in 1916.

By contrast with the entrance, the interior of the church is welcoming with seating for 1,250 people.

Since Padre Jones came from Bracht on the Dutch/German border where he held services in a Nissen hut, he has gone out of the way to emphasise the finer features of All Saints.

Simply by moving two flags to their original position in the Warrior Chapel (dedicated to the cavalry) he has cleared the view of the magnificent memorial behind the altar commemorating more than 170 chaplains of all denominations who died in the First World War.

Many regiments have accepted his invitation to clean up memorials relating to them and some brasses are gleaming thanks to the elbow grease of Barry Roberts, 15-year-old son of a WO in 22 Field Ambulance RAMC, who has been gaining work experience. (His instruction included a visit to the undertakers.)

More moving than the Victorian and Edwardian wall plaques (two to officers who died in the hunting field) are



Padre Ray Jones. Once an RSM... once a captain... now in uniform again as chaplain at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints

memorials to be found in the pews.

the Royal Garrison Church it is far from being a museum piece.

Padre Jones is succeeding in his aim to bring back families to services.

He is tackling an old problem.

An entry in the church register for November 9, 1873 states:

"Six o'clock. No service this evening. It was a cold night. No one came."

Another: "No service today. Her Majesty's inspection of troops."

"Her Majesty" was Queen Victoria. The church was consecrated - on August 1, 1863 - two years after the death

of the Prince Consort who was instrumental in choosing Aldershot as the home of the Army.

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Padre Jones's aims are simple: "To redefine the role of the garrison church in the community; complete a period of refurbishment of the building and a change in the form of worship."

He has introduced the Alternative Service Book.

"Soldiers today don't really go along with thee-s and thou-s. This has upset some people but been welcomed by others."

Recognising the garrison's vital relationship with the local community, Padre Jones has

been happy to serve as Mayor's Chaplain for Rushmoor Borough (which takes in Aldershot and Farnborough).

The local authority also appreciates its association with the Army and under the county council's plan for urban regeneration All Saints is likely to be floodlit at night in future and get new wrought-iron railings.

"I think Queen Victoria would have approved of the railings," said the padre.

**Words: Bill Moore
Pictures: Mike Perring**

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RSM Lalbahadur Pun inspects the youngest members of the battalion - (l to r) Rfn Harisingh Gurung, Lilbahadur Thapa, Rajendra Tilla and Haribahadur Gurung. All are 18. Which in British style means 17. Gurkhas count their age

as one the moment they are born. The RSM came to Britain as a lance corporal in the battalion ten years ago. He comes from Dhalagari, a village below the spectacular mountain of Annapurna

TALL STORY?

No, It's true! 1/2 GR were too big for their boots . . .

A PUZZLING discovery was made with the arrival of the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas at Church Crookham, Hants.

When the first riflemen went to the quartermaster's stores to draw or replace clothing many items were found to be too small.

Though the 6th Gurkha Rifles, who handed over the stores, recruit from the same region as the 1st/2nd, such things as training shoes were found to be in the fitting range 5-7 while the newcomers required sizes 7-9.

Boots, combat suits and even helmets were also on the small side.

"It's a complete mystery," said Maj John Burlison, the second-in-command. "The system of recruiting is the same for both battalions; there is no bias in selection and the men are posted to their units at random."

"We can only assume it has something to do with the way in which we feed and train our men which makes them bigger."

So the popular image of the "little

Gurkha" is gradually changing.

Indeed anyone walking around Queen Elizabeth Barracks would probably not see much difference in the size of the soldiers compared with some of the British battalions.

The young Gurkhas from the hills (which in Nepal means anything between 3,000 and 10,000 feet high) continue to grow until they are about 23.

Their diet is much better in the Army, the work is not so hard and they are removed from the thin atmosphere which stunts growth.

If some Gurkhas are changing, the kukri

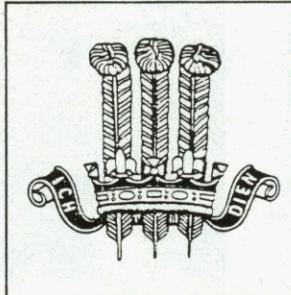
is not, though in Nepal itself the heavy slashing knife is not regarded so much as a weapon as an all-purpose tool. In the rugged eastern region a man is rarely seen without one.

The legend that blood had to be drawn every time one was removed from its sheath would appear to be just a legend (though old Indian Army soldiers will say they have seen a Gurkha kill a dog rather than put away his blade unused).

The kukri is used to clear brush, chop wood, butcher and skin animals and for a range of domestic purposes. At Church Crookham it has even been used to trim the lawns.

Each soldier is issued with one when he joins the battalion and acquires a second

● Turn to next page



ACCORDING to the Army list they are the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles). "Within the family", so to speak, they are the 2nd Goorkhas, sticking to a Victorian spelling.

The title in brackets derives from Sirmoor State in northern India south of Lahore where

Nepalese recruits gathered in April 1815, (two months before the battle of Waterloo).

The Sirmoor Battalion won fame during the Indian Mutiny (1857) being the first non-European unit to march to the aid of the British forces outside Delhi.

For three months, they helped

to defend Hindu Rao's House, a large flat roofed building on the key ridge overlooking the city.

A contemporary photograph shows a structure resembling a Flanders farm of 1914 vintage, battered and shot riddled.

During the fighting a lasting friendship sprang up between the Sirmoor Battalion and the

60th Rifles (lately the King's Royal Rifle Corps and now absorbed in the Royal Green Jackets).

As a result in 1858 a petition was granted which allowed the Sirmoor Battalion to "confirm their dress to that of the 60th and that their Sepoys should in future be known as riflemen".

Uniquely in the Indian Army the 2nd Goorkhas shared as riflemen canteen facilities with British soldiers, a concession not granted to "Sepoys".

Their historic connection with the 60th is evident today in red piping and backing of NCO's stripes and the red "patch" behind the Prince of Wales's

plumes badge – one of the oldest unchanged in the Army.

The scarlet piping and backing led to them being nicknamed the Lali Pultan (Red Regiment) in Kipling's Day.

As rifle regiments do not carry Colours, the Sirmoor Battalion laid up theirs and by order of Queen Victoria received in their

place a 6-ft bronze and silver truncheon carried on parade to this day and held in turn by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 2nd Goorkhas. The "Truncheon Jemadar" (lieutenant) looks after the Queen's Truncheon and is allowed for on the establishment. Recruits are sworn in touching the

Truncheon which was carried in the Coronation procession in 1953.

The royal link with the 2nd Goorkhas goes back to 1872 when the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) became Colonel, followed by his son, later George V. Prince Charles is the present Colonel-in-Chief.



Maj Ron Bevan, Quartermaster of the 1st/2nd Gurkhas, with a sample of the kukris he holds in stock. They arrive from Nepal wrapped in grease proof paper (left) and may finish up as a working kukri with polished sheath for parades. Right is one in a camouflage sheath. The double notch in the blade near the handle is the "Om" of religious significance

Tall story

From Page 17

"smart" kukri for ceremonial purposes.

At one time the knives were produced by Wilkinson, the English swordsmiths, but today they are produced in Nepal from scrap metal (old wheel rims are in great demand.)

They arrive wrapped in grease proof paper and are held by the QM – in the case of the 1st/2nd Maj Ron Bevan who served 28 years in the Light Infantry and who has been more than three years with the Gurkhas.

Though the shape remains the same, kukris come in many sizes and during the important Dashera religious festival an outsize specimen called the khanra was used to behead a buffalo.

Failure to do this with a single blow meant bad luck – and a hard time for the executioner.

The beheading ceremony does not take place when a battalion is stationed in England.

This year the 1st/2nd will hold their Dashera celebrations early as the battalion is bound for Belize in the autumn. The Pandit – resident priest – will conduct the required religious ceremonies for the ten days of Dashera proper, assisted by the 60-strong rear party.

Kukris and 'copters

SEEING Gurkhas through a romantic haze of half-forgotten campaigns or as tough little fighters from a mysterious land on the slopes of the Himalayas, the average British civilian is apt to take them for granted and forget that the soldiers stationed at Church Crookham in Hampshire are human beings and not clockwork warriors.

Even Gurkhas can become homesick.

When the battalion flew from Hong Kong the families of 315 men went back to Nepal.

Many of them will not be reunited for two and a half to three years . . . until 1992!

Gurkhas get six months leave every three years unless there are compassionate grounds.

Charter flights are being planned to give some men a short leave during their tour but as it will cost senior NCOs about a month's pay such expenditure becomes a matter for serious consideration.

During any unaccompanied tour domestic problems are bound to arise and it will be up to the Gurkha Major to deal with them.

Maj (QGO)* Manbahadur Gurung has been in the regiment for 28 years – 19 of them in the ranks.

He was the first Gurkha to be commissioned by the Prince of Wales – at Stanford Training Area, Norfolk, in 1980.

Maj Manbahadur's job is the welfare of the Gurkha soldier and to advise the commandant (CO) on Gurkha matters.

"To us Gurkhas, high standards of military discipline and personal conduct are in our religion and in our blood.

"Our tradition, our culture and our way of life are completely different," he said. "We have different festivals,



Maj Manbahadur

*QGO – Queen's Gurkha Officer – has no equivalent outside the Brigade of Gurkhas. QGOs rank below the most junior British officer holding the Queen's Commission. Gurkhas who pass through Sandhurst are the equivalent of British officers.



Gurkhas from 1/2 GR jump out of a Chinook helicopter during an exercise at Church Crookham

Versatile Gurkhas take it in their stride

cooking fresh meat – mainly pigs or goats slaughtered by local butchers but jointed and skinned Nepalese fashion.

Companies or platoons sometimes buy a carcase for themselves – extra messing over and above their rations.

Though Maj Manbahadur and the senior ranks have served in Britain before, for a third of the men it is their first visit to the UK.

And what struck them most?

Surprisingly, the size of the udders on the cows in the fields around

Aldershot (still a remarkably rural area)!

Or perhaps not surprising when you consider that the bulk of the troops come from farms or farming stock and that Nepali cattle, which can be found even in the heart of Kathmandu, are small by comparison.

How have the soldiers changed over the years?

Maj Manbahadur: "They are better educated. It took my generation years to learn English . . . today the boys start at school so they don't find it so difficult.

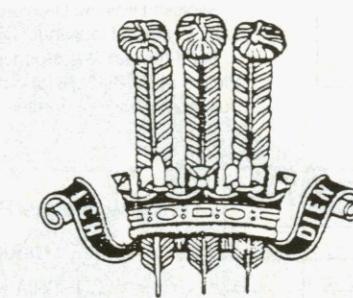
"Yes, they are better educated but we were stronger."

Today some of the recruiters

who operate in the districts sift our hopefuls after seeing them run a mile and a half up a steep hill (and back) with a 70lb load on their back.

"We didn't need fitness tests in my day," said Maj Manbahadur. "When you live in the hills your farm is up there (he pointed to the ceiling) and your fields are down there (finger at the floor). When you take the cattle up and down and haul the wood and water you don't have to have a fitness test. We were very, very strong."

The hill tribesmen also had a natural discipline. They had never heard of drugs or smuggling and were patently honest. Lads from the hills are still honest, but the few roads



have improved communications since the day when young Manbahadur Gurung walked six days from Ramadi to the recruiting centre at Paklihawa.

Becoming a soldier is one of the few ways of earning a living and it is estimated that 100,000 men are serving in the Indian Army. Best pay however is to be

earned in the Gurkha Reserve Unit, veterans employed by the Sultan of Brunei (not to be confused with British Gurkha battalions which serve there).

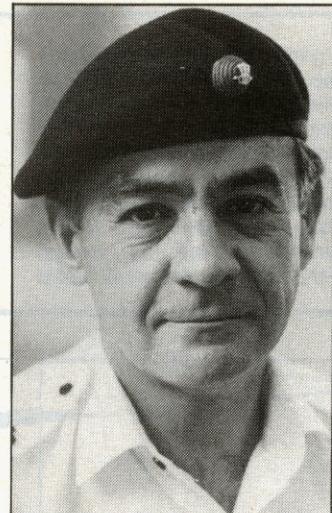
Next in the pecking order is the Singapore Police service where the pay is lower but the pensions better than in the British Gurkha Brigade which ranks about third.

One result of this widespread service is that in the same villages in the foothills of the Himalayas, veterans of every regiment British, Indian or Brunei may be met and though the talk may be about helicopters, from time to time a description of the size of a British cow's udders is sure to be a show stopper.



Above - Buglers in Rifle Green. A lasting friendship sprang up between the 2nd Gurkhas and the 60th Rifles (King's Royal Rifle Corps) after they defended a key point at Delhi during the Indian Mutiny. Uniquely in the Indian Army the battalion's riflemen shared canteen facilities with British troops

Right - Man with a problem - where to place all the sporting trophies he has won. Cpl Madankumar Gurung, Bisley shot and top footballer among other things, does the polishing himself



Lt Col Harvey Gates, Commandant 1st/2nd Gurkhas

On the move – again

BY the autumn the 1st/2nd Gurkhas will have served within three different environments within a year . . . on the Hong Kong border, in Britain on exercise with 5 Airborne Brigade and in the jungles of Belize where the battalion is due in October.

"It tends to make life interesting and keep us busy," said Lt Col Harvey Gates, the stocky Yorkshire CO.

"And it also demonstrates just how flexible the Gurkha soldier can be."

The battalion arrived at Church Crookham in April and within three days was on exercise. Elements were constantly on exercise for the three months that followed.

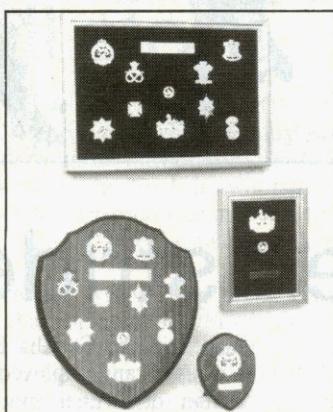
"Techniques and organisation are different and have to be learned," said Lt Col Gates, "and it requires a change of mentality too in the way one approaches the job."

As part of the 5 Airborne Brigade set up (alongside the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment and the 7th Parachute Regiment RHA), the Gurkhas see a great deal of helicopters.

It is a role which does not bother them in the least.

"We have a long experience of heliborne operations – as long if not longer than any part of the Army," said Lt Col Gates. "We used them first in the Malayan emergency then in Borneo and elsewhere. The way they are used here is slightly different but that will not cause any problems."

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Bed laid out for kit inspection with felt hat, regimental history, kukri and scabbard. The small blades in front of the kukri are a steel for sharpening and a skinning knife

Each Gurkha hat is a work of art

THE felt hat – known to the riflemen as a *chattras tops* (umbrella hat) – now generally identified with the Brigade of Gurkhas was first adopted by the 2nd Goorkhas in 1901 while they were serving in Waziristan on the North West Frontier.

Originally the brim was apt to become floppy. Today it is stiffened.

Somewhere along the line a sergeant major got the idea of putting one hat inside another.

How it is treated was demonstrated in the tailor's shop at Church Crookham where Rfn Rajendra Kumar Damai (left) operates.

It takes him two hours to produce the finished article.

There is a special knack of dressing the hat with its puggaree (light linen band) as each regiment has a different style.

Having followed in his father's footsteps Rfn Damai has no problems.

Soldiers keep the brims of their slouch hats in shape with presses.

Smart as they look, the hats are heavy and not the most comfortable thing to wear, though you would never guess it to look at a 2nd Goorkha.



Sgt Hitman Gurung with the Prince of Wales's kukri, presented annually to the best all-round senior NCO in the battalion. The Prince is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, which began its association with royalty when King Edward VII was heir to the throne

Badge parade

Church Crookham provides a transit centre for all Gurkhas on their way to and from duty in the UK. Here Lt (QGO) Tej Bahadur Gurung, the transitee officer, lines up representatives from every unit in the brigade – from front Rfn Sherkaji Gurung, 6 GR; LCpl Dhankumar Limbu, 7 GR; Cpl Amar Thapa, 10 GR; LCpl Sujabahadur Thapa, Queen's Gurkha Engineers; Cpl Nima Sherpa, Queen's Gurkha Signals and LCpl Chardraman Gurung, Gurkha Transport Regiment





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Picture: Mike Weston

Col Pip Newton (right) with Col Peter Walton who has succeeded him as secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust

Blockbuster museum planned at Aldershot

ALDERSHOT, home of the British Army, could march to the forefront of the military museum world, as the result of an ambitious and enlightened initiative by the local authority and the Ministry of Defence, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

Two years ago the plan, to invite the area's ten regimental and corps museums to collocate as live museums with a re-enactment of regimental and corps histories, was estimated to cost between £4m and £5m, and that will inevitably have risen by the time a start is made.

It is seen not only as a commercial venture, but a way of further opening military treasures and history to the public, of making historical research more interesting, and as a recruiting aid.

Most museums in the area are giving the ambitious project their full support.

Hampshire County and Rushmoor Borough councils have each pledged £750,000 to the scheme. The Cambridge Military Hospital and the now-demolished Connaught Hospital were both mooted as possible sites, but the scheme will go ahead at Rushmoor Arena, providing rent details can be agreed.

One of the prime movers has been Col Pip Newton, who has retired after 17 years as secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust. He has an enviable recall of military

history, and as secretary travelled 20,000 miles a year in the interests of the 140 military museums the trust serves.

His job included historical research and scouring 40 saleroom catalogues for suitable items and then informing museums. The Ogilby Trust advises on how to secure grants towards purchase, will bid for items, advise curators on display, and act as go-between with, for instance, local authorities.

The trust was founded in 1954 with a £100,000 endowment by the late Col Robert Ogilby, once joint honorary colonel with the Queen Mother of the London Scottish, and formerly both of the 2nd Life Guards and the 4th Dragoon Guards. Fund raising in 1984-5 realised £35,000 to enable the trust to carry on.

But this has been the only major cash injection, and the pennies have to be carefully watched. It meant that one day Col Newton could be bidding at a top London auction, and the next sharing the cleaning of his office lavatories with librarian John Tamplin. There was nobody else to do it.

Ambitious project for Rushmoor Arena

He firmly believes in centralising museums on a country basis, especially in areas where regiments are defunct or have amalgamated. This has proved a success in Shropshire, Somerset, Dorset and Cheshire, where militaria and regalia of the county regiments, both Regular and Territorial, are displayed side by side.

Of his auction successes, he said: "Everything is a treasure, from a letter written in the trenches by a soldier who died the next day, to a jewel studded presentation sword."

Col Newton will continue his work with the Museums' Association (the museums' professional body), which has appointed him a Fellow. During the UKLF curators' conference, he was presented with a silver salver inscribed: *with grateful thanks from the Museums of the British Army*.

Regimental museums are now nationally recognised and visited by 4.5 million visitors a year, and it is Pip Newton they have to thank for that recognition.

The new trust secretary is Col Peter Walton, who has retired after 30 years with the RAOC. While at Sandhurst, he designed the corps museum at Deepcut, near Pirbright, and for 13 years was one of its trustees. One of his aims is to extend the range of the trust's quality publications of the Army's antecedents.

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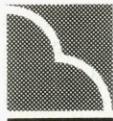
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Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

RODEO cowboys were the last people SOLDIER expected to be greeted by during a visit to the United States Command, Berlin, but greet them they did with a stunning show of horsemanship and bull riding.

Many US Servicemen in Berlin are members of the European Rodeo Cowboys Association and take part in shows all over Europe. They include SSgts

● Turn to next page

'Join the rodeo' challenge to Army

● From Page 25

Wayne Dickens and Gary Kaehler who have the unenviable role of rodeo clowns.

Not only do Wayne and Gary have to make the audience laugh between the rides but they have a much more serious and risky task to perform.

Should a bull-rider fall off (a regular occurrence!) it is the job of the clowns to get between man and bull to allow the winded rider to make his escape from the arena.

Aim of the men who ride broncs is to remain in the saddle for eight seconds. During that time, explained the lady announcer: "He is not allowed to touch himself, his horse or his equipment!"

Said the rodeo's 1989 manager, Mr Carl Gamel: "Saddle bronc is the classic event from which rodeo evolved and it is very dangerous."

It was a point emphasised by the hoof mark clearly defined on the skin of one rider who received a kick.

Happily his injury was not serious although there was a steady trickle of casualties being helped to the US Army ambulance manned by Sgt Charles Lott and E4 William Hurst.

Eighty per cent of the 1,000 strong membership is filled by US Servicemen. German, French, Dutch, Italian and Belgian civilians make up the rest.

Travelling all over Europe to take part in rodeos, some of the riders drive more than 600 kilometres just to spend eight seconds, or less, on a horse.

As yet no British Serviceman has joined the association, which would be more than willing to let them ride provided they had their commanding officer's permission to take part.

Throwing down the gauntlet, the rodeo riders issued a challenge to the British Army to come up with a rider keen to try his hand at staying seated on a saddle bronc.

In a sport that could see you thrown from a horse or trampled on by a bull, it is not surprising there has been no rush of rash British squaddies clamouring to take part.

Perhaps next year . . . ?

... but it'll cost you!

Any aspiring British rodeo rider must be prepared to invest a tidy sum for equipment. A Bronc saddle will set him back around 800 US dollars. Bareback rigging costs 200 dollars while spurs and chaps mean an outlay of 60 and 120 dollars respectively.



Rodeo clowns SSgts Gary Kaehler and Wayne Dickens have learned to be fleet of foot when a bull is in the ring and its rider is about to bite the dust

US Command Berlin – a unique organisation

THERE is little visible difference between the Allied sectors in West Berlin to inform the visitor whether he is in British, American or French areas of responsibility, except for the individual imagery of the three nations' armies.

When a team from SOLDIER paid a visit to the US sector, they only became aware they had arrived when the local road traffic contained an above average number of large and colourful American cars with their distinctive number plates.

The buildings in the high security complex of Clay Headquarters at Dahlem in the Zehlendorf district of West Berlin date back to 1936 when the compound housed the Luftwaffe's Third Region Headquarters. As Allied bombing intensified during the Second World War, most

of the units stationed there moved out.

By April 1945 only signals units occupied the central compound and by the time the Russians arrived the area was abandoned and shrouded in camouflage netting.

Shortly afterwards, American forces took control of the area. Damage to buildings was minimal and speedy repairs made the complex fit for occupation by the US Office of Military Government.

During the Berlin Blockade of 1948-49, both Gen Lucius D Clay, Military Governor, and the US Commandant Berlin, Brig Gen Frank Howley, had offices there.

Since its formation in 1949 the three elements of US Command Berlin have been quartered there: the Office of the US Commander Berlin, the Berlin Brigade

and the US Mission Berlin.

Gen Clay was later honoured by the Berlin senate after the Airlift when it changed the name of Kronprinzelallee to Clayallee, and after his death in 1979 the US Army officially named the compound Clay Headquarters.

The United States Command Berlin replaced the Office of Military Government US Sector which had been in the city since July 1945.

Commanded by an Army major general, currently Maj Gen Raymond E Haddock, US Command Berlin is a unique organisation with both diplomatic and military responsibilities.

The United States maintains a diplomatic mission in Berlin. The American Ambassador in Bonn serves as

the Chief of US Mission in Berlin and the US Commander in Berlin acts as his representative in the city as Deputy Chief of Mission.

American diplomatic officers serve with their Allied counterparts on a variety of committees which liaise with the Berlin Senate, public safety and other local officials who manage the city's daily affairs. American personnel also participate in the one remaining four-power mechanism, the Berlin Air Safety Centre.

High ranking officials serving in Berlin tend to find themselves wearing a number of different hats. For example, the principle diplomatic officer at the mission is the American Minister who is also Deputy Commandant, as well as Assistant

● Turn to Page 39



Sgt Jeffrey Haywood in a determined pose by the M48 tank used as a gate guardian at Turner Barracks

All aboard Berliner for the quiet(er) life

TRAVEL between West Berlin and West Germany aboard the Berliner is likely to be a quieter affair than it was – to the relief of passengers, crew and of East Germans who live near its route, writes Laurie Manton.

Previously the dining car of the only British Military Train in regular service was fitted with external underslung generators that provided electrical power, but during severe winter weather fuel tended to freeze, pipes burst and occasionally the controls froze at the fuel cut-off setting or worse . . . at full throttle!

To provide the necessary output, the engines had to be run at maximum revs, creating noise enough to make any self-respecting engineer wince.

To avoid upsetting local

residents, the generators had to be shut down during certain parts of the journey.

Now the problem has been solved by the purchase of two new railway carriages which were converted to include a new inboard generator system around which a sound-proof cabin was constructed.

To meet legal requirements, the noise level has not to exceed 65 decibels at seven metres from the coach. Happily it registered just 56, which was a vast improvement on the previous system measured at an ear-splitting 110 Db.

The new coaches also provide accommodation for storage and food preparation, as well as a sorting officer for Berlin's Postal and Courier Troop RE.



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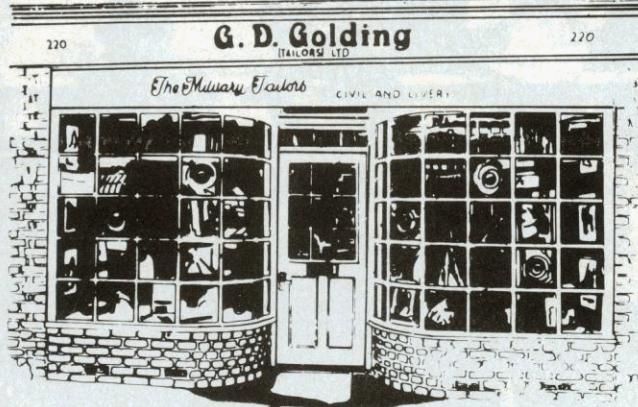
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Star-struck 3 RWF on Marble Tor

UFO fever gripped Gibraltar after sightings of bright lights and mysterious objects in the sky, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

Telephone lines to Radio Gibraltar, the local radio station, hummed as dozens of listeners called in with accounts of what they had seen.

The programme presenter caught the mood and began playing discs such as *Starship Trooper*.

More callers phoned in with descriptions of metallic spheres, darting lights and curious objects of "indefinable shape".

All, however, agreed that the phenomenon had been some several miles distant across the border into Spain.

Enter 2nd Lt Chris Rowlands and his platoon of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers who were at that very moment making their way back to Gibraltar after a day's R and R in Torremolinos.

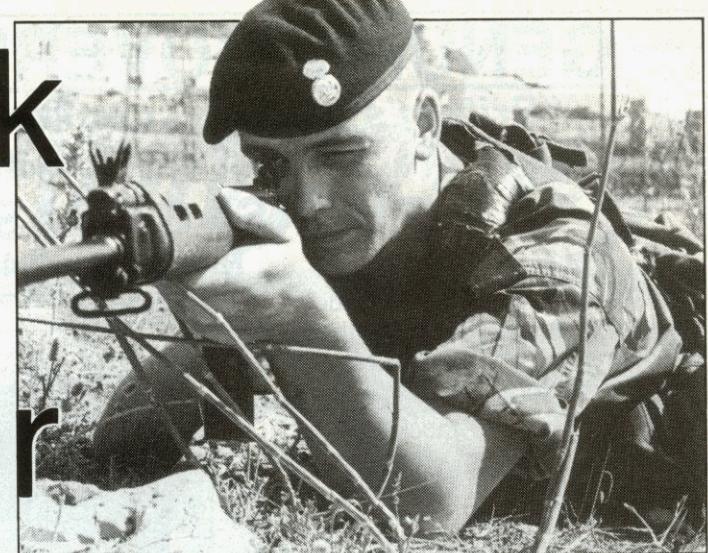
Nonplussed, Chris and his merry band watched the "UFO" for several minutes before it disappeared from view beyond the border town of La Linea.

Had they quaffed too much sangria, they asked themselves, or was it perhaps the heat of the midday sun? It was neither, they were soon to find out. Their Close Encounter had been with nothing more extra-terrestrial than a weather balloon.

"It certainly had us guessing," said Chris. "It was quite unlike anything I had ever seen before. I daresay this is going to cost me a bottle or two . . ."

The 120 strong contingent of 3 RWF – including six members of the battalion's Home Service Force – were in Gibraltar on Exercise Marble Tor.

As has been the pattern for many years, they and seven other TA units have been on fortnightly rotation on the Rock throughout the summer enabling the resident infantry battalion to send men back to the UK for field training.



Taking a bead on next year's sunshine camp is Fus Tony Jones who is already looking forward to a fortnight in Cyprus



Inside the Rock of Gibraltar, members of 3 RWF explore the depths of Lower St Michael's Cave

The North Wales Terriers – most of whom were on their second camp this year after the regiment's tercentenary celebrations in April – were determined to make the most of their sunshine deployment.

OC Maj Nick Beard, 36, a farmer who served as a platoon commander with the first battalion while on a one year SSVC stint in 1986, was keen that the company should benefit from a variety of both military and adventurous training activities.

The former included familiarisation sessions with the SA 80 and combat swimming tests in Rosia Bay where, in 1805, HMS Victory was towed in for repairs after the Battle of Trafalgar.

The test involved swimming across the bay using a poncho – with webbing wrapped inside – as a buoyancy aid. In a combat situation, weapons too could be

kept out of the water by resting on the air-filled poncho.

Section attack and FIBUA skills were honed before the final dawn exercise when the company launched a beach attack from rigid raiders before scaling a cliff to assault the Buffadero village training complex.

Being a home defence battalion, 3 RWF do not have Milan in their weapons inventory so listen-in sessions at Milan and mortar cadres staged by the resident battalion, the 3rd Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, proved to be crowd-pullers.

Adventurous training activities included sailing, windsurfing, caving, canoeing and abseiling.

Maj Beard said: "I hope the lads go back having had an excellent time and that they spread the word. If word goes round that these exercises are

good news and that they happen with some degree of regularity, it is bound to help retention and recruiting."

The battalion can look forward to another sunshine camp next year – this time to Cyprus. A first for 3 RWF, news of the deployment has been well received by all members.

Cpl Peter Jones, coming up to his 12th year in the TA, remarked: "Any camp is what you make of it, but a fortnight like this makes all the difference. Lots of the lads would not get to a place like this but for the TA."

"Here you have both weather and facilities – all the opportunities of military training with a lot of fun as well. As an incentive to get stuck in, you cannot beat it," he added.

Even if, in the case of one platoon, you end up seeing stars . . .

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Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

Exclusion Zone Aldershot

A PLAY area on a new Army housing estate in Aldershot has remained closed throughout this glorious summer – and as I write the school holidays are ending.

Recruit's wife discovers pay snag

A SOLDIER's wife writes: My husband has just joined the Army. Until he joined we were on Social Security but now as we have two children we must apply for Family Credit.

The problem is I need to know how much he earns and where do we make the claim – here or where he does his training. He's so busy I am not sure what to do as our Income Support has stopped.

Anne Armstrong replies:

As most recruits are single this could be an area where there is a gap in the system and married recruits can slip through unnoticed on the pay records.

Perhaps I could suggest that all married recruits are monitored on arrival and an automatic Family Credit procedure is completed during the first few weeks of training.

The soldier should be advised how and where to make the claim so the family does not undergo any hardships during a recruit's training.

As Family Credit is not backdated some soldiers, as in this case, could lose six or more weeks of Family Credit.

The children can see it through railings but they can't get in and, in any case, if they could, the equipment is inaccessible.

When I visited the estate they were playing, using skateboards and cycling on the paths and roads.

The reason for making the playground an exclusion zone: the Housing Commandant has refused to take it over because it is unsafe.

On inquiry I was told work was being done to rectify the situation and the playground would be ready for use fairly soon. Sad to say when this does happen it will be no big deal.

To begin with the site is too small to cater for an estate intended to house 200 families – it has a tiny seesaw, a climbing frame, a slide and just one set of swings.

There is no flat surface for go-karting or bikes and nothing attractive to keep the more adventurous children within the estate.

But there is an even greater drawback and I can only assume that the Defence Land Agent (now responsible for the estate) is unaware of the recommendations of the National Playing Fields Association for Playground Planning for Local Communities... even though these have been publicised, not least in SOLDIER which carried articles in the summers of 1987 and 1988.

In my opinion the playground falls far short of what should have been achieved and contributes



Soldiers' children looking at the playground they can't reach

little to cover four main areas important to a child's development – psychological, creative, educational and social. Criticisms –

- 90 per cent of the houses on the estate lie on the other side of the road to the playground

- cars parked in a layby screen the play area from view

- there are no sleeping policemen, pedestrian crossings or road barriers near the site

- it is sandwiched between a road and a busy fast food restaurant with an automatic car wash and car park.

About the kindest thing one can say about it is that it is sterile and unimaginative and bears all the hallmarks of an environment provided by adults who failed to take account of a child's needs. Why?

FAMILY CREDIT

IF YOU are earning less than £175.50 a week you may be eligible for family credit depending on a number of factors such as the number of children you have, savings etc.

This benefit is aimed to help families on low wages; soldiers are eligible at home and overseas.

Recent increases will mean more soldiers' families may now be either eligible for increases or fall into the bracket for claims.

Family Credit is based on NET pay so income tax and National Insurance contributions are not included in the assessment nor are Child Benefit and Local Overseas Allowances.

However, Residence to

Place of Duty costs are included.

In recent months people taking home between £70 and £170 per week have qualified for this regular tax free cash payment for working families with children.

It is not a loan, and does not have to be paid back. Soldiers should check now to see if they are eligible for Family Credit which is paid for 26 weeks.

Unit Pay Offices all have the relevant information.

Calculations are complicated and 250,000 people are already claiming including some soldiers. Backdated claims are not accepted. Post Offices in the UK and BFPOs have leaflets on the subject.

Loco name rewards TA rail role

Words:
Jennifer
Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike
Perring

A UNIQUE Territorial Army regiment is to receive a singular honour - a locomotive is to be named after it.

British Rail does not usually name its locos after military units, so it is a rare privilege.

Members of 275 Railway Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers) are delighted that they are to be immortalised on a brand new, 110 miles an hour Class 90 electric loco.

The exception has been made to demonstrate the Railway Board's support for the Territorial Army in general and the squadron in particular.

275 Squadron is the only railway operating unit in the TA and consists of about 90 men, mainly recruited from BR to perform jobs in the Army similar to their civvy street work. As a specialist unit of the Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), the squadron comes under the command of the Headquarters RCT TA at Grantham, Lincs.

Because of the soldiers' civilian experience, their minimum obligatory training is 21 days a year, of which 15 are spent in West Germany where they join with the Regulars of 79 Rly Sqn RCT.

Much of this fortnight is spent operating railways in BAOR's military depots and on exercise. BR gives special leave for annual camp, and makes up Army pay to basic rates plus an average of recent weeks' overtime. The railway soldiers spend the other six days training in the UK.

New members spend their first two weeks on a recruits' course at Grantham, and go on to obtain the basic trade qualification of Railwayman A3(TA) on courses in BAOR, learning about military locomotives and railways, and continental rolling stock.

Skilled BR maintenance staff serve in the squadron, although badged to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. They undertake the RCT recruits' course but are usually classified immediately as vehicle mechanics, electricians or metalsmiths.

Civil engineering is covered by a separate specialist team from the Royal Engineers, whose members carry out track maintenance and are recruited largely from BR permanent way staff.

The OC 275 Sqn, Maj Bob Pearson, is development officer for the container side of BR and has been in the TA since 1970.

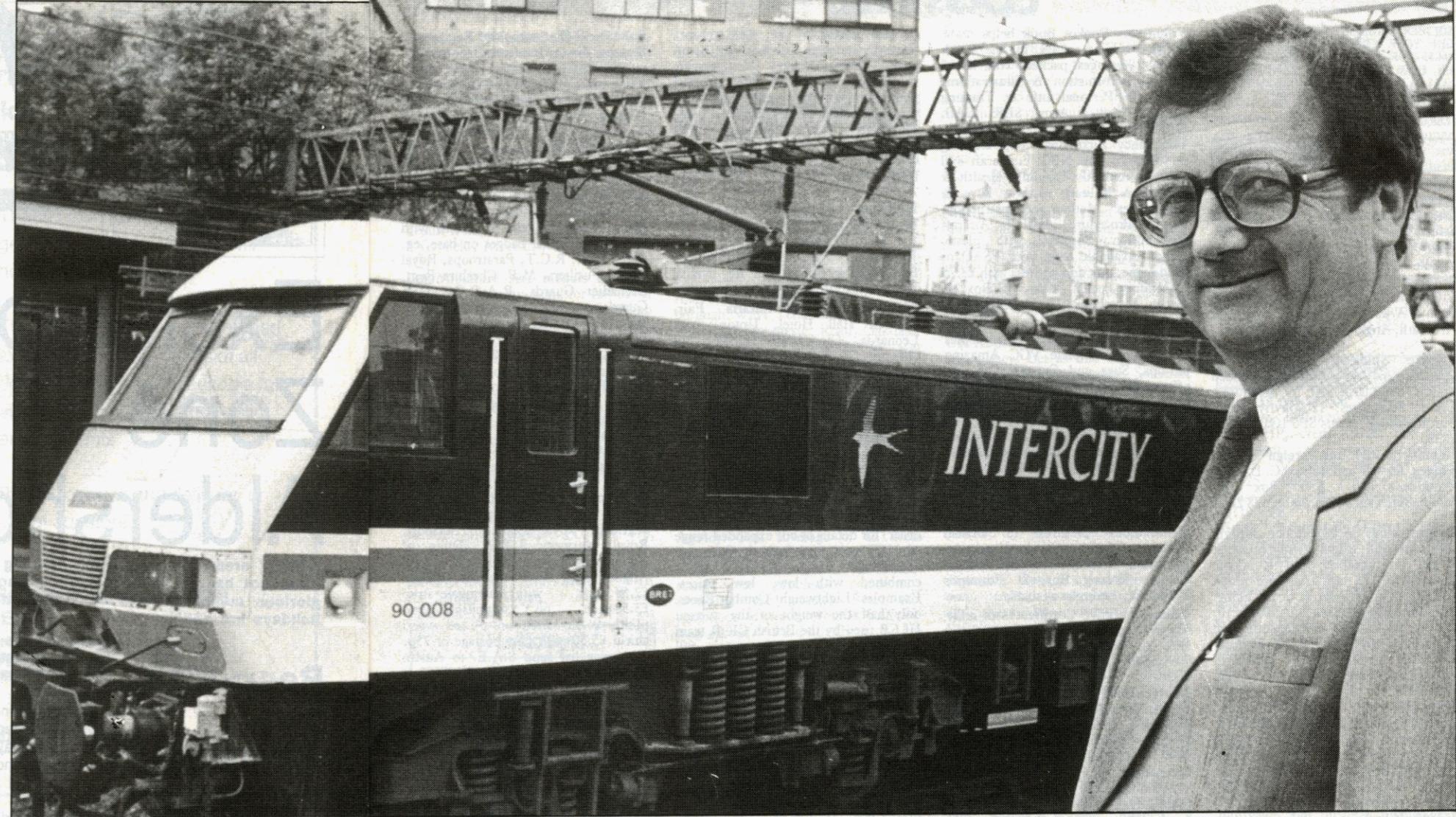
"BR has always been very supportive at the highest levels of the TA," he said.

The nameplate will be unveiled on November 15. During the ceremony a guard of honour will consist of members of 275 Sqn and it is hoped a member will be at the wheel of the new loco on that day.

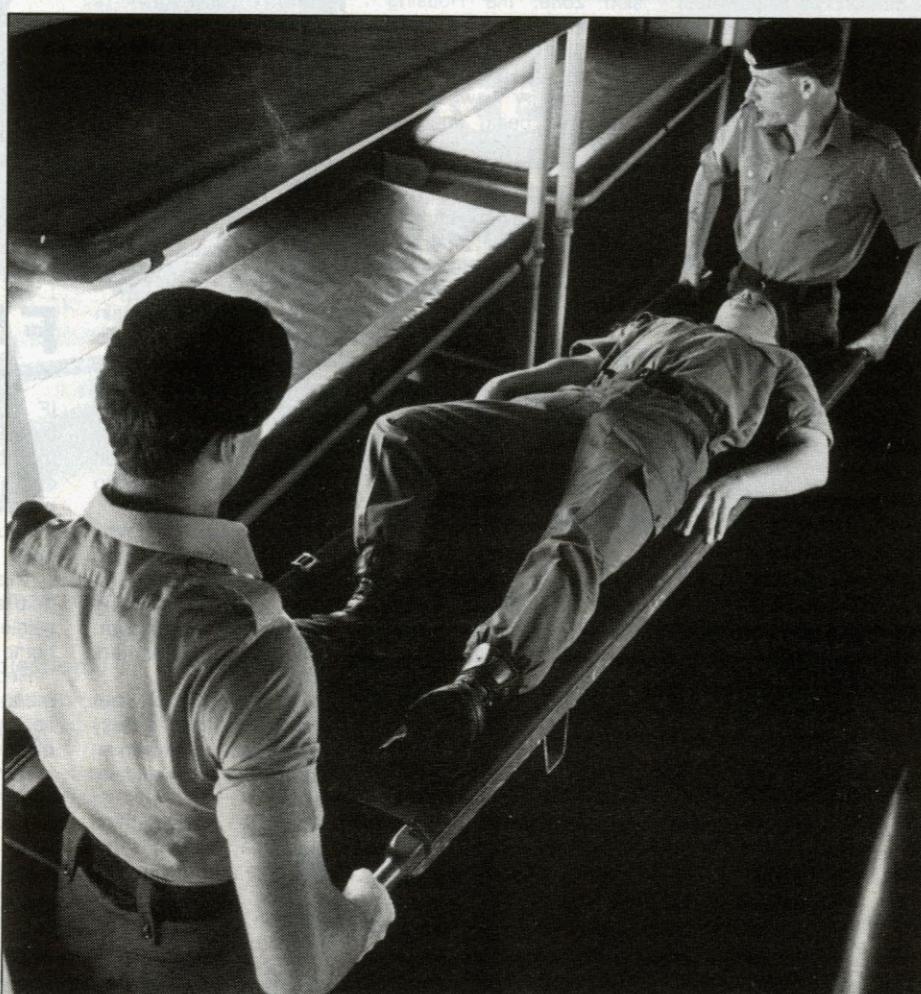
Invitations have been sent to Maj Gen Colin Carrington, Director General of Transport and Movements, and former commanders of the squadron.

Earlier this year the squadron was presented with an inter-city restaurant car by BR chairman Sir Robert Reid. It will be used for briefings and recreation.

Two years ago BR also handed over a Drury 03 shunter. The part time soldiers exercise on the track at Long Marston Army depot, where for realism they even adopt German signalling methods.



Above - Maj Bob Pearson, OC 275 Railway Squadron RCT (V) pictured with a locomotive similar to one to be named after the squadron. Left - Illustrating how they would get a casualty from the front line on to a British Forces ambulance train are Dvr Hans Anderson (left) and Dvr Steven Read with "patient" Dvr Tim Croughwell



Terrier teams provide medical cover in BAOR ambulance trains

A WIDE range of civilian jobs are represented by soldiers in the RAMC TA's 335 BAOR Ambulance Train unit, one of ten which form the Ambulance Train Squadron. In the event of war they would provide staff for BAOR ambulance trains.

The CO is Lt Col David Miles, senior civilian medical practitioner for the Ministry of Defence at the Medical Reception Centre, Rheindahlen. He said: "My soldiers' jobs range from a slaughterman to a coal miner, and most are ex Regular soldiers who have settled in Germany. Some of my women soldiers are nurses, but most are wives of serving soldiers in Germany.

Col Miles said: "On a train carrying 54 staff and 600 patients, you need a lot of water. Our trains can move casualties in comfort, light and warmth, at a reasonable speed over very long distances at a relatively cheap cost."

"When the unit was founded four years ago, we had to train

ourselves from scratch as only one soldier had any RAMC Service background, and only one nursing officer had any Service background.

"Now, everyone they come into contact with is impressed by the very high standard they have achieved."

On exercise it had been shown that trains were not carrying enough water, so a bed has been removed from each carriage to make room for a storage tank.

He said: "My soldiers' jobs range from a slaughterman to a coal miner, and most are ex Regular soldiers who have settled in Germany. Some of my women soldiers are nurses, but most are wives of serving soldiers in Germany.

He said that with new stock on its way and improvements to existing trains, there was the prospect in the next two years of moving more trains on larger exercises.

"That would make it more realistic for us, because that is what we would be doing in war. It is no use spending two hours loading a train only to move it for one hour."

79 Railway Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, is responsible for the maintenance and running of BAOR ambulance trains in time of war.

It holds the nucleus of purpose-built and converted coaches to marshal eight trains, suitably augmented by civilian rolling stock. Two more trains, consisting entirely of stock used

for civilian passengers, can be called on if needed.

The BAOR ambulance stock is of two basic varieties, the Bymk, built in 1952-53 for the American Forces and inherited by the squadron in 1974, and the Byge, former German passenger coaches with the seats removed and replaced by racks for stretchers.

These are post-war rebuilds of earlier steel bodied four and six-wheeled coaches on bogie underframes, rebuilt between 1950 and 1959. They were taken over by the squadron in 1978.

Thought is now being given to the replacement of the ambulance stock. A containerised system may be chosen, mainly on the grounds of cost.

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An uncompromising response to revolution

IN MANY published works an author analyses the qualities required of today's commanders by presenting studies of the great captains of history.

Gen Sir Frank Kitson, in his book *Directing Operations*, uses a rather different approach. As he declares in his introduction: "The purpose of this book is to examine in outline the way in which operations should be directed in the modern world and to assess the characteristics and

skills that commanders most need, with a view to identifying the arrangements required to prepare them for their tasks."

He first analyses the *modus operandi* of two accepted forms of contemporary land operation: the all-out clash of armoured and mechanised forces - the 'set battle' situation - and the countering of insurgency which is the most prevalent type of warfare at the present time.

Sir Frank expresses some

concern about the extent to which politicians can exercise overall control over future military operations. Since the end of the Second World War there seems to have been a reasonable balance of control. "But the question of whether the politicians could keep sufficiently close touch with military operations to exercise their ultimate function, without interfering before the arrival of the critical moment, is something that will only be

discovered when the worst occurs... Certainly the nuclear age provides problems in this area that are very different from anything that has happened in the past."

Sir Frank takes an uncompromising line on insurgent activities which could find sympathy in some Eastern countries but antipathy nearer home. "... Anyone who is prepared to use illegal force against his own country has no right to expect anything other

than total extermination, as fast as possible, by any legal means, regardless of how much force he is using. But after so extended a period of comparative peace, people in the West at least have become soft and gullible, which is one reason why insurgency campaigns last so long."

Examining the skills and characteristics which have to be nurtured in operational commanders "to separate the qualities required of a senior commander from the complexities of his task and surroundings...", he concisely sets out what he considers to be the main quality in one sentence. "Thinking with absolute clarity is fundamental to much of what a commander has to do," he writes.

In many ways, the author takes a conventional view of the commander's responsibilities and of the qualities required in one who has been given the right to exercise great power, but Sir Frank is well qualified to provide the guiding light contained in this book.

Apart from his exercise of command in counter-insurgent and peace-keeping activities in Kenya, Malaya, Oman, Cyprus and Northern Ireland, his staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence and the three years as Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces have given him unique experience of administrating and observing command at all levels in a period of unparalleled complexity. Sir Frank can never be accused of being a Colonel Blimp. - BJ

The Art of Deception in Warfare by Col Michael Dewar. Published by David and Charles. Price £12.95.

Directing Operations by Frank Kitson. Published by Faber and Faber. Price £12.99.



Deflated deception? The wind goes out of an inflatable Russian T62 tank after a long day at an equipment exhibition

IT has been established that fireflies flash their lights as sexual recognition signals, each species having its own characteristic sequences of flashes.

It has also been established that female fireflies of a particular species lure the males of other species by mimicking the recognition signals emitted by the females of those species.

The unfortunate males, duped into thinking that they are homing on females of their own kind, are then caught and devoured.

This classic example of deception in nature neatly sums up the philosophy of military deceptions as described in *The Art of Deception in Warfare* by Col Michael Dewar, who explains: "We have been bombarded since the end of World War II with books on one aspect or another of warfare... but very few, if any, have given adequate coverage to, or even alluded to, the parallel war that is being fought without bullets, the war of deception."

After the withdrawal from Dunkirk in 1940 the British were forced to resort to deceptions aimed "to convince Hitler that Britain was in fact ready and able to meet an invasion on the beaches and

defeat it." A web of dummy pillboxes, tanks, guns, supply dumps and slit trenches were constructed.

A

particularly successful ruse was the construction of flare-lit dummy airfields, 'Q' sites, approximately 100 of which absorbed twice as many German bombs in the hours of darkness as the airfields they were simulating. For daylight deception, 'K' site airfields were built complete with buildings and dummy planes.

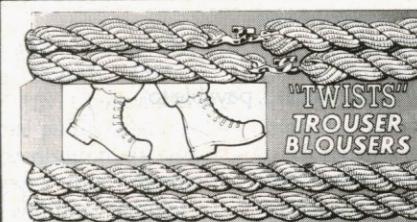
It was in the Western Desert that the British excelled in the art of deception, with tanks disguised as trucks and vice versa, dummy petrol and water dumps, and railheads reaching miles further than the genuine tracks. When dummy gun positions were recognised by the Germans for what they were, they were replaced by real guns - a true double bluff.

The book contains some remarkable photographs of camouflaged installations and vehicles, one of the most spectacular being of a US Navy patrol torpedo boat painted in a bewildering design of zebra stripes aimed to confuse an

enemy as to the vessel's course.

The design presents an illusion of many ships' bows and, after examining the picture for some time, it is hard to believe there is only one craft. - BJ

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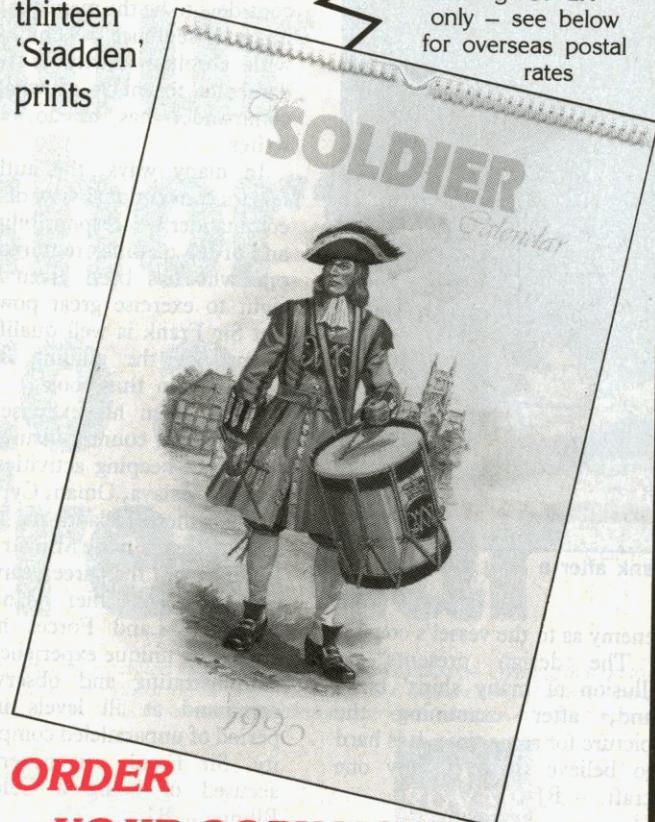
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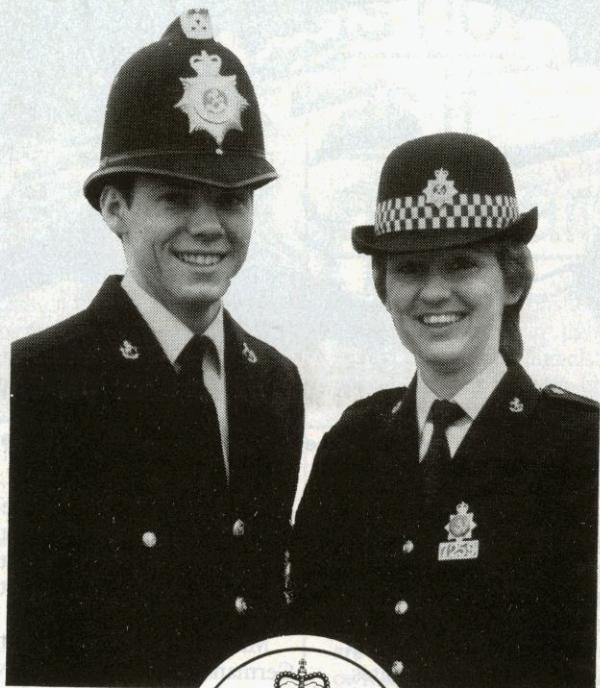
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The Americans in Berlin

● From Page 27

Chief of Mission. The United States Commander Berlin also serves as the Commander US Army Berlin.

Largest single military organisation in the city is the Berlin Brigade, which is commanded by a US Army Brig Gen C G Marsh who also serves as Deputy Commander US Army Berlin and Berlin American Community Commander.

It consists of three infantry battalions and the Combat Support Battalion which comprise armour, artillery, engineer and other support units.

There are approximately 6,000 military personnel based in Berlin, but with dependants and US Government civilians, the total American presence numbers 14,000 people.

Clay Headquarters also houses the Command Information Branch, Public Affairs, Office of the US Commander Berlin. Besides the normal public relations business of such an organisation, it also publishes a newspaper, the *Berlin Observer* for the troops and their families.

It is staffed by uniformed Servicemen who serve on the newspaper as photojournalists – producing both words and pictures for use in each weekly issue.

Editor is SSgt Ron Gardiner who is supported by staff writer Sgt Chris Allbright and specialists Ken Jones and Erik Faye, and a civilian cultural events editor and photographer/layout man.

Roughly of tabloid size, the weekly

Observer has a varied and readable content. A desk top publishing system is being introduced.

Across the road from the headquarters is the American equivalent of Naafi, the PX. It is a vast complex of shops that stock a wide variety of goods. Opening hours and range of services are much greater than those provided by Naafi to British Garrisons.

The PX contains a barber shop, beauty shop, beverage shop and book store, as well as a florist, launderette, optician and petrol station.

Turner Barracks has been the home of Company F, 40th Armor since 1951. It is equipped with M60A3 Combat tanks which will eventually be replaced by the M1A1 Abrams. They have a crew of four and weigh just over 56 tons when fully combat loaded.

SSgt Vernon Woods and his crew were busy in the tank park changing all the track pads on their vehicle. Unlike British tank crews, American tankies find it easier to remove the whole track before changing pads.

Man in charge is Capt Dana J H Pittard who with First Sgt J E Smith Jnr ensures the company maintains its fighting capability. When tank gunnery results were analysed, 21 out of the 22 tanks achieved a 95 per cent qualification mark.

Conclusion was that tank crewmen are the same the world over, it's just the accents and equipment that differ.



SSgt Vernon Woods (standing) adds his weight to the track pad change



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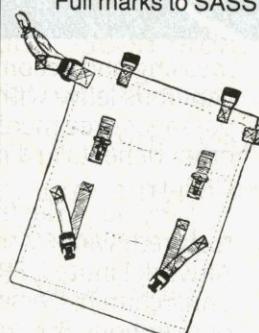
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Oliver Sotherby



Report reprinted from May 1989 "Combat and Survival" Magazine.

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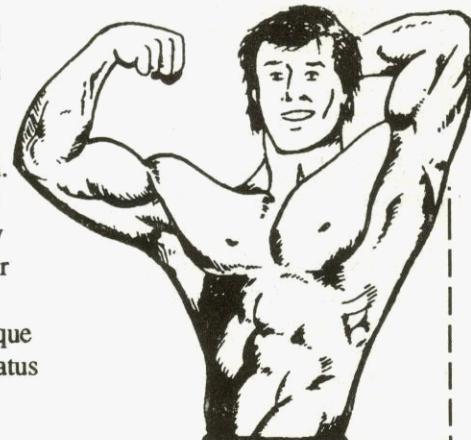
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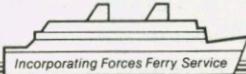
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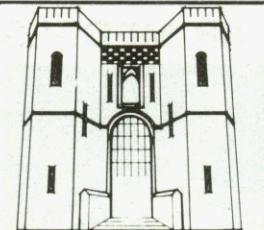
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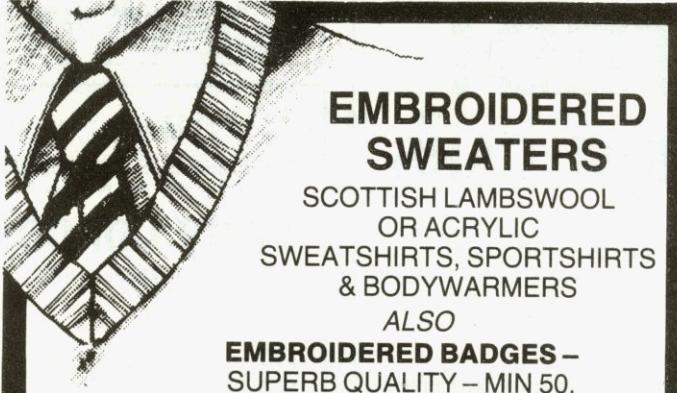


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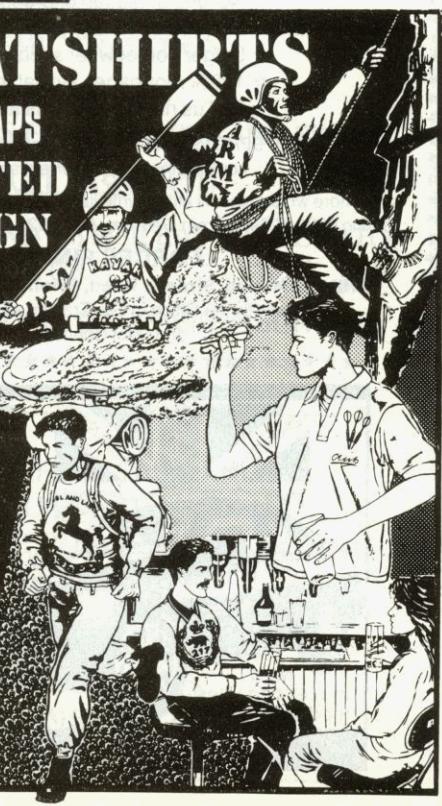
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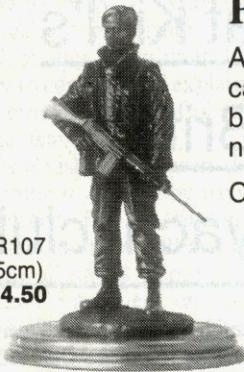
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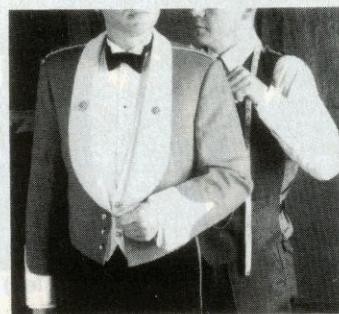


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At the wheel of the British Kiel Yacht Club is the Commandant of Kiel Training Centre, Lt Col John Clementson, RCT, the first non sapper officer to hold the appointment

Eurorace challenge

ORGANISERS of Europe's biggest road-running event, the Euromarathon, are looking for more British teams to take up the challenge.

Staged every year at the beginning of June, the five-day, 1,430 kilometre race is split into 15 stages each of about 100km, with the runners passing through several countries.

Teams of ten compete in relays, with each individual expected to cover at least 30km a day. Daily leaders wear a special vest in the style of the Tour de France.

Interested runners can contact Mr Sylveer De Beuker at Northwood (09274) 24928 for further details.



Ironmen, and lady, are (from left) WO1 Bannister, LCpl Elkin, LCpl Ramsey and LCpl Poole

Tough going in Swiss Army triathlon

A TEAM of four from Dusseldorf Station and 2 Group RCT competed in a Swiss military triathlon involving a 2.4km swim, a 60km cycle ride in combat gear and carrying a rifle, and a 15km hill run.

The four, WO1 Jack

KEEN on adventurous training and stationed in West Germany? There's every chance you will be offered an opportunity to attend a course at the Kiel Training Centre, writes Laurie Manton.

It is not an opportunity to be missed, for the centre's British Kiel Yacht Club offers offshore sail training facilities for BAOR that are second to none.

The BKYC runs ten basic week-long sailing courses each year on its fleet of 12 Contessa 28 yachts to give novice sailors a good introduction to seamanship.

Each yacht carries three beginners, a potential skipper under evaluation and a volunteer instructor to oversee training and advise the crew. Between courses the boats are available for the regular sail training weeks held by BAOR's regiments and corps.

Each year about 3,000 people pass through the club which also has five Sigma 33s for continuation training. This is for sailors with previous experience who can gain more before returning to take their skipper's ticket.

The club owns a pair of ex Luftwaffe yachts, *Kranich* and *Flamingo*, originally designed for the 1936 Olympics, as well as the impressive 42ft wooden

It's all go at Kiel's British yacht club

ketch *Rasmus* which was built in Sweden more than 60 years ago. They are used for extended sailing expeditions.

The training wing at Kiel has 15 permanent staff members, including a number of sappers based at the RE diving school which is collocated with the training centre, and a number of incremental posts filled on a seasonal basis.

Facilities for staff and families include a school (run by the commandant's wife), a small Naafi shop and two social clubs.

The club's massive workshop, a listed building, is a former seaplane hangar and reputedly the largest unsupported wooden building in Germany. It shelters staff from the biting winter winds during

the close season as they refurbish the yachts.

Curiously, the boats do not belong to the Queen and are owned by the club. "They have been bought by private money which is why Servicemen have to pay to come here," explained the Commandant, Lt Col John Clementson.

"Obviously the Queen does contribute towards it by paying our wages, for the buildings and workshop, as well as food. But she allows us to put Army staff and equipment on board providing 75 per cent of the time is used for adventurous training," he said.

Nearby is Germany's premier civilian club, the Kiel Yacht Club whose members taken an interest in the efforts of the soldier sailors . . . not surprising when it is realised that after the war the British Army commandeered their club house for the first seven years of the BKYC's existence.

It was handed back in 1952 when the Service yachts were moved to their present location inside a German naval base.

"A far more satisfactory arrangement from our point of view," said Col Clementson. "Our hosts are Marine Fleiger Geschwade 5, part of the German Naval Air Division who fly all the German search and rescue helicopters."

The British Kiel Yacht Club came into existence in June, 1945 when a colonel on the corps staff discovered a large number of yachts lying in the Olympic harbour.

He went to his commander and said: "I have found all these yachts and propose to requisition them to start a yacht club."

After receiving a nod of assent, he went ahead and designed a burgee, called and chaired the first meeting and, typical of military service, was promptly posted to Washington!

Fortunately the club went from strength to strength and probably the man who had most to do with it was Herr Bruno Splieth who was

captaining a minesweeper at the end of the war.

With the British Army of Occupation holding all German military records, it was dis-



All ship shape and orderly. Contessa 28 yachts, which give novice sailors a good start in seamanship, moored at the British Kiel Yacht Club

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Pompey welcome

Former Army corporal Guy Whittingham (left), now a professional footballer with Portsmouth FC, was on hand to welcome Maj Gen Alan Yeoman to Pompey when the Director of the Army Sport Control Board visited the club to present a cheque for £4,000 to buy equipment and footballs for 65 young hopefuls at the club's School of Excellence. In return they will advertise "Army Careers" on their training bibs and a board inside Pompey's famous Fratton Park ground will proclaim 'Score with an Army career'. Army careers will also be advertised on an electronic board inside the ground during home games.

The scheme was the idea of Pompey fan Sgt Richard Mogg of the Portsmouth Army Careers Information Office and was financed by Army funds.

Phew! Board sailors in a hurry to beat the big pong

MORE than 50 competitors from as far afield as West Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland took part in the Army boardsailing championships at Browndown on Stokes Bay, Lee-on-Solent despite a burst sewage main which eventually curtailed the programme.

Musn Trevor Bulmer Jones took an early lead over the lightweight fleet in the first race, followed by Capt Pat Roberts and Cpl Dave Tindall. Meanwhile the heavyweight fleet race was being closely contested by Maj Gordon Smyth, Capt James Ross and SSgt Steve Home.

Tindall took the lightweight lead on the final gybe mark and



Victorious boardsailors: back (from left) Capt Neil Curry, OCdt Colin Pettifer and Brig Sam Webber, Rear Commodore Windsurfing; front, Cpl Dave Tindall, LCpl Michaela Thompson and Capt James Ross

held off Roberts. Bdr Steve Malpass was third. Ross won the heavyweight race convincingly with Home second and



Smyth third. WO2 Chris Calman won the Open Production Board Class – sailed for the first time – ahead of Maj Peter Myatt.

The local environmental officer approached competition organiser Capt Neil Curry before the start of the second race to warn him that sewage pollution was a possibility in the sailing area because of a burst sewage main. It was decided to continue as long as the hazard was not carried into the sailing area.

While the lightweights got caught by the current, the heavyweights started well with Gordon Smyth leading from start to finish. He was again followed in by Ross and Home.

Trevor Bulmer Jones once again battled out the lead with

Roberts in the lightweights, but when the former struck the latter at the penultimate gybe mark Tindall slipped through to win with Malpass second. OCdt Colin Pettifer easily won the OPBC race.

The fleets were recalled for bad starts to the third race, which was just as well as sewage was beginning to drift into the area. Nevertheless Roberts led from start to finish as he avenged his mishaps, with Bulmer Jones second and Tindall third.

Home romped to victory in the heavyweights with Ross and Smyth tied in second. Pettifer again won the OPBC competition with ease, ahead of Maj Tony Stephenson.

The return to shore was a difficult one with sailors dreading a dunking as sewage began to mount on the shoreline. When more effluent poured into the bay overnight it was decided to curtail the championships.

Final results

Lightweight – 1, Cpl Dave Tindall, REME; 2, Capt Pat Roberts, 13/18 H; 3, Bdr Steve Malpass, RA.

Heavyweight – 1, Capt James Ross, RA; 2, SSgt Steve Home, RAMC; 3, Maj Gordon Smyth, ACC.

Open Production Board Class – 1, OCdt Colin Pettifer; 2, Maj Mark Edwards, R Signals; 3, Maj Tony Stephenson.

Women – 1, LCpl Michaela Thompson, WRAC.

Veterans – 1, Capt Dave Gilchrist, R Signals.

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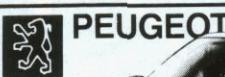
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