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FRONT COVER: Well camouflaged is this soldier in training at the Depot of The Royal Irish Rangers at Ballymena in Northern Ireland. You can read more about the role of the depot, and the men who pass through it, in a feature starting on Page 25.

Picture: Terry Champion

# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



To the skirl of the pipes (played by Piper James Lyon) men of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders leap out of their FV 432 during Exercise Highland Charge on Soltau Training Area, West Germany. Read about their conversion to a mechanised infantry role in the next issue of SOLDIER. Also a look behind the scenes at a unique ward in Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

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**CONTENTS**

4 Letters

5 News

10 People

13 SOLDIER to Soldier

14 School of Ammunition

17 1 DERR in Sabah

19 7 Tk Tptr Regt

23 Running for rhino

25 R Irish Depot

29 Caltrop Force

32 Anne Armstrong

34 Classified advertisements

36 Record and books

38 Courage Trophy

39 HOAY competition

40 SOLDIER Mart

48 Sport

# LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

# GOSH! You are a generous lot

## Reunions

● **The Queen's Regiment** grand reunion, Sunday July 9 at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royton, Herts. Enquiries to Maj R Waite, tel: Canterbury (0227) 763434 ext 4254.

● **St Boniface Rheindahlen** reunion will take place on Sunday June 18 at St Clement Danes RAF Church, London. Details from Lt Col A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)** 60th annual reunion dinner dance will be at the Masonic Hall, Saul Street, Preston on June 3. Tickets from the Secretary, The Loyal Regiment (NL) Association, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs PR2 4AA (tel: 0772 260362).

## Calling . . .

● **RASC Jersey Boys**, ex apprentices and staff of St Peter's Barracks, Jersey (1938-1940). About 85 of the 240 Jersey Boys have been traced for a reunion in Jersey in June 1990. Contact Joe Gutteridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

● **Former Cfn Stan Willis**, of 508 Portsmouth Rd, Sholing, Southampton (tel: 0703 446926) would like to contact old friends Jack Clark, Cliff Dobson and Malcolm Ranachan and others from 156 Bde Wksp 52 (L) Div REME and 14th Light Recovery Unit serving in Palestine at the end of the Second World War.

From Gen Sir Robert Pascoe

It was with the greatest pleasure that I received the news of the very large sum that has been donated by members of the Army to the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal.

The Army's contribution was £143,000 - something we can all be proud of and I know a large number of officers and soldiers, their wives and

families put a great deal of effort into raising this money.

I would be grateful if you would allow me to use your columns to pass on my thanks - and those of the organisers of the appeal - to everybody who contributed and helped in any way. The appeal has met its target of £42 million and the Army can be well pleased with its part in this very successful project. - **Adjutant General, MoD, London.**

## Dull uniformity

I AM writing to you about the dull state of our current No 2 dress uniform. I was recently in Berlin watching a tri-nation parade. The French and Americans on parade certainly outshone us Brits, with our drab shade of khaki, ill fitting shirts, cheap green plastic belts and, in most cases, battered head dress.

Surely with little expense a lot could be done to improve the turnout of our soldiers.

- Issue the tropical shirt with matching tie
- Chevrons in gold braid
- A brigade badge worn on sleeve.

This may seem petty to some readers. But I think if soldiers go on parade looking like a bag of spuds they perform like one. Even the uniforms on the other side of the wall were smarter than ours! - **R Thornton, Duke of Yorks, Kings Rd, Chelsea, London SW3.**

## Medal winner sought

Could you help me trace the owner of a medal I have in my possession. It has on it the name and number 23304966 Rfn D F Hubbard, RB (which I presume stands for Rifle Brigade). The face of the medal, of which I have only the "coin" part, depicts an angel

carrying a trident and about to place a wreath on to a winged sun above a sword. I would like to return the medal to Rfn Hubbard or his family. - **LCpl C L Evans, 16 Fd Amb RAMC, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9ET.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
★ **Private income?**  
★ Winner of the top £50 prize in SOLDIER'S HOAY competition No 459 is Pte Gaynor Baker of Greenhill Close, Melton Mowbray, Leics. Runners-up prizes of books go to Mr D J B Johnson of London Road, Chippenham, Wilts, and Mrs E M Plaice, Pitcairn St, Dunfermline, Fife. Why not try your hand at winning £50! This issue's competition is on Page 39.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Doll's tail did not ring true

The tail number on the Mustang "Big Beautiful Doll" (SOLDIER, February 20) is phoney. The aircraft in your photograph with its Packard Merlin was never flown on the British Register.

It was meticulously rebuilt at Duxford where internal structure damage was discovered which would have entailed de-skinning and re-skinning the rear fuselage. - **John Tiley, 15 Pelican Circle, Halfmoon Bay, CA 94019, USA.**

● **Mr Tiley knows his aircraft.** Mr David Lee of the Duxford wing of the Imperial War Museum says that the number on the tailplane is not the original. As stated in our article, "Big Beautiful Doll" is in fact painted in the colours of a similar aircraft flown by Col John Landers, last wartime commander of 78 Fighter Group, stationed at Duxford.

The plane was Canadian and was restored at Duxford. The mistake may have arisen because there are Mustangs still flying and painted in similar colours. Mr Lee saw one in the USA only a few months ago - **Editor.**

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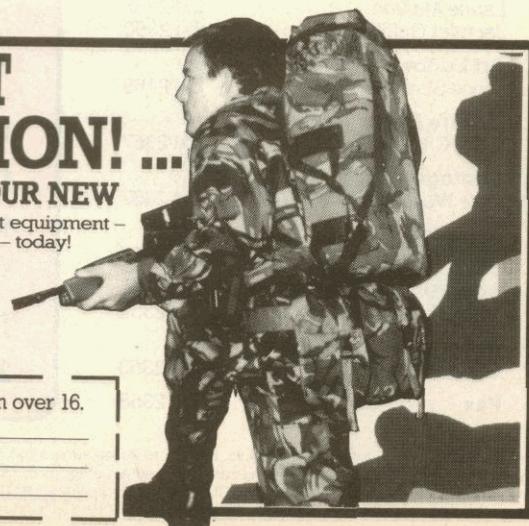
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(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)



# Gunners mark grave of Boer War VC

GUNNERS from Hampshire based 159 (Colenso) Field Battery, 26 Field Regiment RA have provided the unmarked grave of a Boer War hero with a headstone, 44 years after his death.

Lt George Edward Nurse won the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Colenso on December 15, 1899. He was a corporal at

the time, serving with 66 Battery, a predecessor of 159 Fd Bty. He died in November 1945 and lay for 40 years in an unmarked and unkempt grave in Liverpool's Allerton Cemetery.

It was discovered by a local historian who informed the Army. A headstone prepared to a British War Graves Commission design

was inscribed and placed on the grave during a ceremony attended by a guard of honour from the modern battery, a piper from 103 Air Defence Regiment, and Lt Nurse's great grandson, LBdr Stuart Colenso Nurse, who is serving with 159, and his father, ex Sgt Charles Nurse, formerly of the Royal Signals.

# Cyprus MQs inquiry

A MAJOR study into single and married accommodation for Service personnel and their families is under way in Cyprus. A £3.5 million project of new Army married quarters, started in March last year in the eastern sovereign base area, and the upgrading of some existing single accommodation, is due for completion in 1991, Mr Michael Neubert, Armed Forces Minister, told the Commons.

In the western sovereign base area, the first phase of 48 new married quarters for soldiers began this year and is due for completion in 1990, followed by further phases. There will also be extensive refurbishment of single accommodation.



Cpl Andrew Armitage, who manned the assembly point at Oshikutu Church Mission, Namibia which received two Swapo fighters. He is using a Clansman radio

# Namibia signallers redeployed

From David Healy in Namibia

BRITISH troops manning United Nations assembly points in northern Namibia have been redeployed after ten days of waiting for Swapo guerrillas to hand themselves over to the UN. In all, 55 men from 30 Signal Regiment stood down from the nine assembly points and reassembled at Oshakati before resuming the signals task for which they were sent to Namibia from their Blandford, Dorset base.

A similar number of Australian troops were also standing down from the assembly points before deploying to their engineering

## UN border troops stood down

and mine clearance tasks.

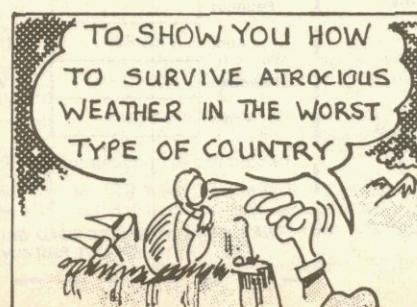
The UK contingent to the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) comprises the force signals unit with a communications centre at their Leopards Valley base camp near Windhoek. Signals detachments have been established at Grootfontein, the forward logistic headquarters; at Oshakati, HQ of the Malaysian battalion; at Rundu, HQ of the Finnish battalion; and at Keetmanshoop, one of the military observer HQs.

Release of the British troops, who were flown back from the northern border region in Spanish Casa and Canadian C130 aircraft, allowed the Force Signals Officer, Lt Col Neil Donaldson, to increase the number of communications detachments to other locations, including the logistic base at Swakopmund and the Kenyan battalion HQ at Okahandra.

There are 170 men from 30 Sig Regt in the UN force in Namibia. UNTAG totals about 3,400 soldiers.

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# Missing Arnhem men interred

THE remains of two soldiers posted missing presumed killed in action after the battle at Arnhem in 1944 have been interred at Oosterbeek Military Cemetery near Arnhem in The Netherlands. Buglers from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment sounded the Last Post as Pte Alfred Johnson of the 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment and Pte William Allen of 10 Parachute Regiment were buried in the presence of relatives, 50 men from the Royal Canadian Regiment and representatives from old comrades associations.

After relatives had placed their wreaths floral tributes were laid on behalf of the Royal Engineers, The Staffordshire Regiment, The Parachute Regiment, Canadian Forces and The 2nd South Staffords Association.



Picture: Terry Champion



# Stuart cooks up dish fit for the Duchess

THE Duchess of Kent, Colonel in Chief of the Army Catering Corps, presented the prizes at the Army Chef of the Year and the Cook and Serve competition at St Omer

## Hillsborough service

FORTY soldiers and dependants attended a requiem mass in the Roman Catholic church at Verden Garrison, West Germany in memory of the victims of the Hillsborough football tragedy. The service, conducted by Father Steve Alker, Roman Catholic priest at HQ 1 Armd Div and a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, was one of a number held by British Forces stationed in West Germany.

Barracks, Aldershot. It was the first time she had attended the competition which is held every two years after preliminary heats in Britain, Germany and Cyprus.

The winner of the principal prize was Sgt Stuart Adlington, 27, who is chef to GOC Scotland. He joined the Army in 1979.

### RESULTS

**Army Chef of the Year:** 1, Sgt Stuart Adlington, ACC Army HQ Scotland; 2, Cpl Peter Johnson, 32, ACC 3 Queen's; 3, Sgt George Sauberlich, 38, ACC 2RRF.

**Army Young Chef of the Year:** 1, LCpl Mark Hollingworth, 22, ACC JLR RAC; 2, Pte Sean Patterson, 19, SCC HQ Regt 1 (BR) Corps; 3, WLCPt Kathy Morrison, 24, WRAC, ACC Dhekelia Garrison.

**Unit Team Competition:** 1, Depot The Queen's Division; 2, MAS; 3, Warminster Support Unit.

**Hospital Team Competition:** Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Catterick.

**Cook and Serve Competition:** 1, HQ, BF Cyprus, 2, 3 RGJ; 3, RAC Gunnery School.

**The old and bold meet the young and fresh after the golden jubilee parade of REME Princess Marina College, Aborfield, with Apprentice Tradesmen Phillip Mackenzie and Scott Brown, both 16, showing off an SA 80 to (from the left) ex ASM Bill Smith (64), ex WO2 Peter Spargo (66), and ex WO2 Gerry Pursglove (64), who were all part of the original intake in 1939.**

Left — Maj Gen Jeremy Blacker, Representative Colonel Commandant REME, was the reviewing officer at the golden jubilee parade at Aborfield.

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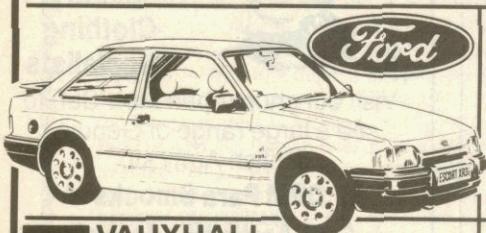
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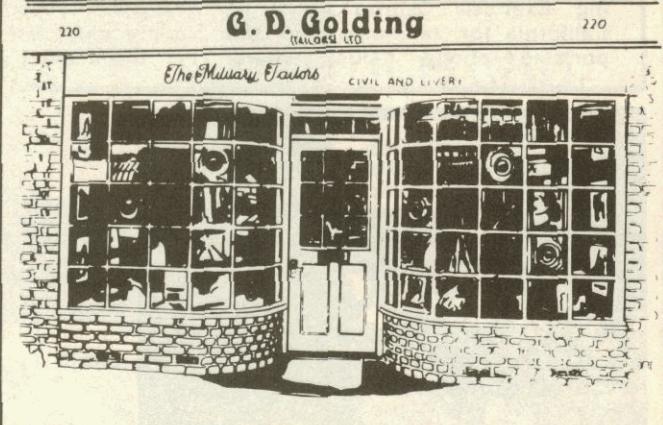
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# Suffolks memorial

Forty-five years to the day after the Germans surrendered a strongpoint at Colleville-Montgomery, the site is to be unveiled and dedicated as a memorial to all ranks of the 1st Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment who died in the fighting in Normandy and later in north-west Europe.

The concrete fortification, in parts ten feet thick, consisted of 12 concrete emplacements, and slit trenches surrounded by wire and mines with anti-tank and machine guns in steel cupolas. In places it was three storeys deep. Some 270 Germans finally emerged from the strongpoint.

Codenamed "Hillman", it was one of two company objectives allotted to 1 Suffolk and has been described as the most serious problem faced by 3rd Division on D Day.

After determined resistance by its defenders, it was eventually captured on June 7.

## Cheap at the price!

Do you know how much a soldier costs?

Members of Parliament have been told that the estimated annual cost of a Regular soldier at 1987-88 prices was £14,100, and of a Territorial Army soldier £2,500.

The amounts cover pay and allowances, personal equipment and other support costs, and in the case of the Regular soldier elements for training and "non-effective benefits".

# SOLDIER to Soldier



Capt David Harvey of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers based at Herford, West Germany advised all his friends not to back his father's horse in the Grand National at Aintree. The horse was Little Polveir and he romped home a 28-1 winner! David rode Little Polveir to fourth place in this year's Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown. Due to return to the UK in the autumn, he plans to ride the Aintree hero in hunter chases in the New Year - but not in next year's National!

## Black Jack upsets the Diggers

Watching the soldiers of four English speaking nations work together harmoniously on Exercise Caltrop Force seemed only natural but it was not always so.

What was probably the first joint operation carried out by American and Australian troops was responsible for a minor diplomatic incident.

In summer 1918 Lt Gen Sir John Monash commanding the Australian Corps on the Western Front planned an attack on the important feature of Hamel, using his 4th

Division in the assault.

The 33rd US Division, which had been attached to the corps for training, offered four companies to accompany the eight attacking battalions.

Twelve hours before zero with the US platoons distributed among the assault troops, Gen "Black Jack" Pershing, commanding the American Expeditionary Force, ruled that the deployment of US troops would not be classed as "training" and vetoed their participation.

Monash insisted: "No US troops - no attack." Eventually Fd Marshal Sir Douglas Haig pronounced that it was too late to interfere with the plans Monash had made.

The attack was a resounding success and crowned by an historic air supply drop.

## Our story pulls in the crowds

Staff at regimental headquarters of the Coldstream Guards can certainly underwrite the pulling power of SOLDIER magazine.

They have been inundated with letters, inquiries and 'phone calls from all over Britain, and as far afield as Canada, following an article on Victoria Cross holder Peter Wright, and details of the display at RHQ of all 13 VCs and other medals won by members of the regiment.

The story prompted them to make the display available to a wider audience by putting the medals on view at the Guards Museum during their memorial weekend earlier this month. Meanwhile the RHQ display continues until the end of June.

A delighted LSgt Lewis Pearce, regimental association welfare clerk, said: "We have had a fantastic response, thanks to the article in SOLDIER. There were 100 visitors in just the first week. A complete stranger came up to me in Plymouth after noticing my regimental tie and badge, and said he had read the article, too."

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

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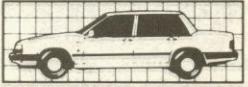
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**VOLVO EXPORT**



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Earls Court pageant to play part in recruiting

THE 1989 Royal Tournament, the 99th, is seen as a major showcase for the current Army recruitment drive, designed to boost manpower for the 1990s, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

Maj Gen Christopher Airy, chairman, said: "There will be a major recruitment presence and we are proud to play our part in ensuring that the nation's defence requirements are met."

The Royal Tournament itself is doing a bit of before-the-show recruiting! Organisers are looking for ex Service people to talk to regional organisations, publicising this year's show at Earls Court from July 12-29. The tournament is expected to raise £100,000 for Service charities.

The work is voluntary – but it means a free ticket to the show! New faces are particularly needed in the Midlands, and inquiries should be made to the Royal Tournament, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX.

Each year a different Service is highlighted. Taking the lead in 1989 is the Royal Air Force. The theme will focus on the story of flight from Leonardo da Vinci's 15th century machine to aviation technology of the 1990s.

Massed bands of the Polish Armed Forces are special guests, honouring Polish pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain. Member nations of Nato will be present to celebrate 40 years of peace in Europe and the tournament will also celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Lord Mayoralty of London.

Other events include a display by the King's Troop (RHA). Outside the arena visitors will be able to handle weapons and sit at the controls of a fighter aircraft.

# Ammo school leads world

THE British Army's know-how in dealing with terrorist devices is being put to use all over the world. Its hard-won expertise, gained on operations in Northern Ireland, is being passed on to military students from 96 different countries, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

They are flocking to the United Kingdom to train as improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD) operators, ammunition technicians (ATs) and ammunition technical officers (ATOs) at the Army School of Ammunition in the West Midlands.

Raison d'être of the school, established in 1924 and run by the RAOC, is varied and far reaching but its best known role is teaching all forms of terrorist bomb disposal.

Lt Col Desmond Townsend, the school's CO, said: "EOD covers all the gambit of conventional munitions disposal and biological and chemical munitions disposal, but IEDD is the terrorist bit, and we train the world."

About 1,300 students pass through the school each year on a range of different courses. Royal Air Force and Royal Navy students, who have an IEDD commitment on their own bases, are trained there too.

Col Townsend said: "IEDD is a growth industry, and as it has spread through the world so has the need for people to be trained. Our reputation has spread because we have the experience. All the school's instructors have recent operational experience of Northern Ireland."

There are opportunities for soldiers wishing to switch to this type of work. Col Townsend added: "We are looking for people who would like to become ammunition technical officers to transfer to the RAOC at junior rank level. A lot of soldiers come into the job this way and we enjoy having them."

On the conventional muni-



A soldier places a charge to detonate an unsafe mortar



A Wheelbarrow seen from the other side, the interior of a car that it targeted. WO2 Paul Carrahar, an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) instructor, explains the finer points to (from left) Cpl Kevin Green and Able Diver Alexander Templeton and Leading Diver Gary Birch of the Royal Navy

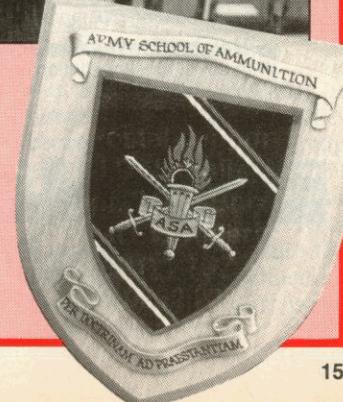


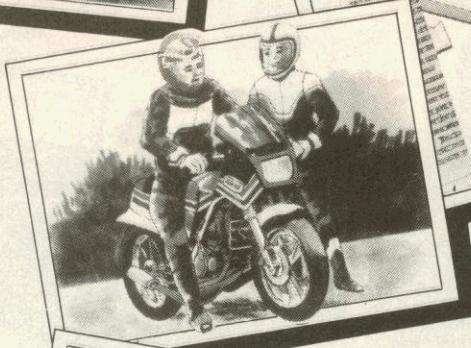
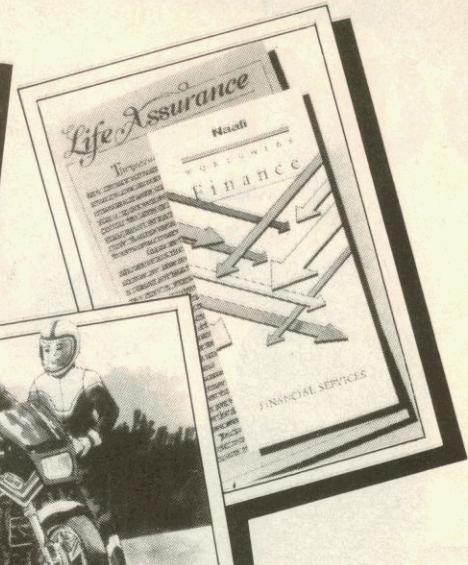
Students from Indonesia, Pakistan, Kenya, Malta, Oman and Jamaica, listen to Ammunition Technical Officer Maj Bill Banfield, practical ammunitions instructor



Lt Col Desmond Townsend, Commanding Officer of the Army School of Ammunition, pictured in the school's museum with an 1805 rocket made from concrete – one of the more unusual items in a unique collection

Pictures by  
Mike Weston





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# Army ensures Phil is there for the magic moment

## Nice to be with you . . .

A 19-year-old father-to-be, paralysed after a road accident in Northern Ireland, was able to be present at the birth of his baby thanks to compassionate Army authorities, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

REME armourer Cfn Phil Hall said being with his wife Paula, 23, when baby Amy was delivered, was "just fantastic".

Phil was attached to the Royal Welch Fusiliers in Ballykinler last February when he was in a road accident which left him paralysed from the waist down. He was flown to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich after treatment in Belfast.

But there were problems with visiting for Paula who was staying with relatives in Reading and had been booked into a local hospital for the birth.

Phil, an ex apprentice at the Princess Marina College, Arborfield, quickly found out how compassionate the Army can be. Arrangements were



Baby Amy, with a delighted Cfn Phil Hall, mum Paula, and Pte Nicki Wadman

made for him to transfer to the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot so that Paula could visit more easily. And to cap it all she was able to have their baby at the neighbouring Louise Margaret Maternity Wing with Phil at her side.

Lt Alexandra Roche, assistant adjutant at Princess Marina College, said: "Because

Phil was an apprentice here he still comes under our care. There was a way to make things run more smoothly for them and we were happy to do that."

Since the crash Phil has been undergoing intensive physiotherapy and has regained the use of his left leg. He said: "I have made good progress, the staff have been wonderful."

He is hoping to have a specially adapted wheelchair.

And there was praise for him from fellow patients on Ward 6 at the Cambridge. Sgt Hugh Stewart, RMP, said: "He is a great character, always bright and cheery." Gdsm David Spalding, SG, added: "He has a great sense of humour and adds a lot to the camaraderie here."

WITH the exception of the few remaining veterans of the Indonesian confrontation of the 1960s, the name Sabah will mean little to most men now serving in the British Army.

Sabah is an ex British colony, now part of the Federation of Malaysia, on the north eastern corner of Borneo.

The last British troops left in 1966, so it was with a certain amount of trepidation that the A Company Group of the 1st Bn, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment learned it was to be detached from the battalion in Hong Kong on Exercise Eastern Tamu.

Each platoon spent a week in the jungle being taught tactics and survival techniques. For many it was their first experience of the jungle.

The second package involved

## 1 DERR up the jungle in Sabah

field firing culminating in a platoon attack supported by mortars and GPMG (SF). Climax of the training was a company group exercise which was very hard work in the intense heat.

The Malaysian ranges were some of the best the battalion had ever used, and the group received a lot of help from the Malaysian army.

At the end of the first phase



Pte Scott up to his armpits in his work on a jungle range

the group moved to a Malaysian brigade HQ at Kota Kinabalu for adventure training and R and R. In fact, the adventure training opportunities were limited, although 80 soldiers did climb South East Asia's highest peak, Mount Kinabalu.

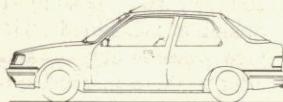
Malaysians were keen to get to know the British soldiers as

well as the "new" SA80 rifle. A number of football matches between the company group and two Malaysian regimental teams as well as a semi-professional team from Kota Kinabalu helped to ensure the first visit of British soldiers to Sabah for over 20 years was a great success.

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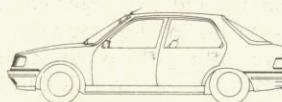


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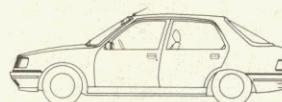
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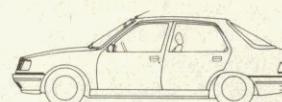
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The shape of things to come? One of the Mercedes tractor units and 35 tonne semi-trailers – known as trains – on lease hire to 7 Tk Tptr Regt in BAOR

# The way ahead

## 7 Tk Tptr Regt goes 'private' to save time, money and tempers . . .

AN experiment in which the British Army lease hires tank transporter vehicles in BAOR from a British based commercial truck rental business is saving time, tracking mileage and tempers!

The first 12 months of the new arrangement – an open contract for seven years which can be terminated on either side if it does not work – have been judged a success.

Twenty-eight Mercedes tractor units and King 35 tonne semi-trailers, known together as "trains", form 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT Civilian Working Group (CWG), based at Cromwell Barracks, Hamm. Under the deal, the firm must provide 28 "trains" daily, and a replacement within 12 hours of a breakdown.

The unit is responsible for moving Light A vehicles throughout the 1st British Corps area. HQ 7 Tk Tptr Regt and its predecessors have been based in Sennelager and Paderborn since the end of the Second World War.

The "trains" are proving ideal for transporting the new Warrior. Or they can carry two APCs, or four tracked Rapier Abbots, or even an M2 floating bridge. The Royal Artillery is one of the major

users, providing a wide variety of loads.

This form of road transport is proving cheaper and faster than rail. The door-to-door service from barracks to training area is welcomed by soldiers, who often travel with the driver and do not now have to face long waits at railway stations or in sidings where they are sometimes shunted while passenger trains take precedence.

Precious tracking mileage is saved and German residents are not disturbed by tracked vehicles trundling through the countryside.

Each "train" has its own computer, providing valuable information. Superintendent Kelvin Williams, the man in charge of the CWG, said: "It is difficult to claim savings on a fleet without equivalent for assessment, and we do not have historical comparisons.

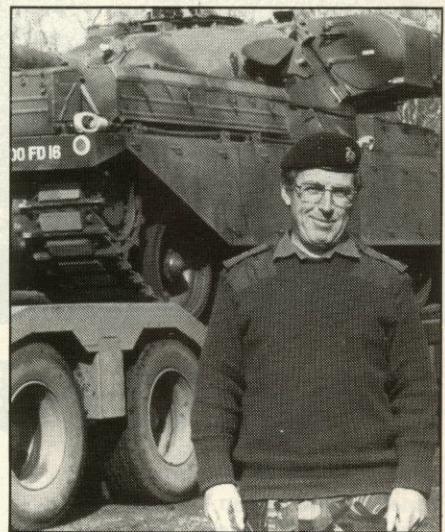
"Nevertheless it is proven that engine idle time has over the months been reduced by 50 per cent, giving a fuel saving."

He added that the presence of the computer encouraged a better standard of driving.

And what of the customers – the various units in the 1st British Corps – who have used the new service?

Lt Col John French, CO 7 Tk Tptr

**Story by**  
**Jennifer Griffiths**  
**Pictures by**  
**Terry Champion**

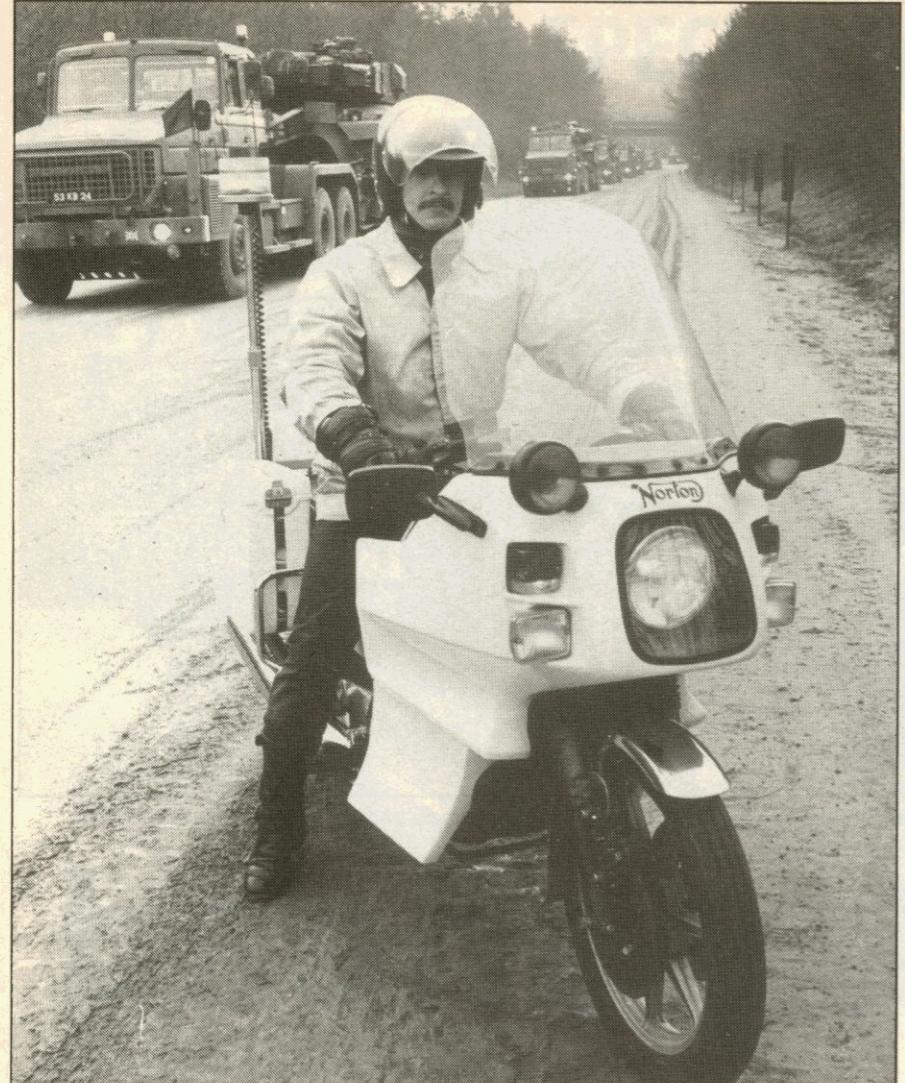


Lt Col John French, CO 7 Tank Transporter Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, with a Chieftain in background

Regt, RCT, said: "They have been very fulsome in their praise. Not only has it provided them with a new service, but the cheerfulness and punctuality of the operatives is widely commented on. The arrangement has been very successful. The CWG has been outstanding."

It was in April 1988 that the CWG was

● Turn to next page



## Tortoise and the hare . . .

Left - Motor cycle escort Cpl Ray Burgess on one of 7 Tk Tptr Regt's 132 mph Nortons. The tank transporter convoys go a little slower than that! The regiment will eventually have 42 Nortons for escort duties on the autobahns of West Germany

Below left - Superintendent Kelvin Williams, who heads the Civilian Working Group based at Hamm. He keeps in touch by radio with a convoy of tank transporters on the road

Below - Loading vehicles from the 430 armoured personnel carrier family on to the Light A Vehicle fleet at Osnabrück. The customer this time is 1 RGJ



Above - A massive Scammell Commander tank transporter laden with a Challenger dwarfs Army motor cycle escort Sgt Barry Havers as they set out on a dawn convoy from Sennelager to Stapel with tanks for the Blues and Royals



Right - Maj Clem Maginnis, OC 617 Tk Tptr Sqn, takes a break during Exercise Polish Buffer on which the squadron practised its operational role



# SILVER EAGLE COMMEMORATES REGIMENT'S POLISH CONNECTION

### From Page 19

formed to move Light A Vehicles through the corps area. All members of the unit are civilians but wear uniform, have a rank structure and are organised in a military fashion.

The CWG has been recruited from a wide base, but includes many ex members of 617 Tk Tptr Sqn. Also in the workforce are former members of the Mixed Service Organisation (MSO). That was formed in 1945 to take on the tank transporter role and comprised officers and men who had previously served in the Polish Army, but could not for a variety of reasons return to

their homeland.

To identify which equipment belongs to each squadron, each vehicle has a colour coding on the bumper. 617 has white on top of red, the colours of the Polish flag.

Though the last official link with Polish ex Servicemen ended in March 1987 when the MSO was disbanded, strong unofficial connections are maintained. They attend regimental functions, the response to the regimental toast on dinner nights is still *Nastrovia*, and grace is said in Polish. And members of the regiment wear a small silver eagle, a replica of the Polish arms, on mess kit.

The MSO was disbanded under a reorganisation which today provides 3 Tk Tptr Sqn with two troops of Scammell Commander tank transporters at Sennelager; 16 Tk Tptr Sqn at Fallingbostel with two troops of Scammell Commander and one of Scammell 20 ton Crusaders (for CVR (T) and Ferret Scout Cars); and 617 Tk Tptr Sqn with one troop of Scammell Commander and one of Scammell 20 Ton Crusader, at Hamm (with the CWG). Each squadron is supported by a REME workshop.

The regimental headquarters is at Sennelager, as is the Training Wing.

When deliveries are being made, a spare tractor follows in case of breakdown. Most of the regiment's work is in support of training. Their operational role would be basically to carry the new generation of battle tanks quickly and efficiently to the front line, and their recovery.

The need for tank transporters first arose in 1940 when it became apparent that something had to be done to conserve tanks and reduce crew fatigue.

The American Diamond T with Rogers trailer was introduced a year later, and remained in service with the Dyson 40 and 50 ton trailers until the tractors were

replaced in 1964 by the Thorneycroft Antar, which preceded the Scammell Commander.

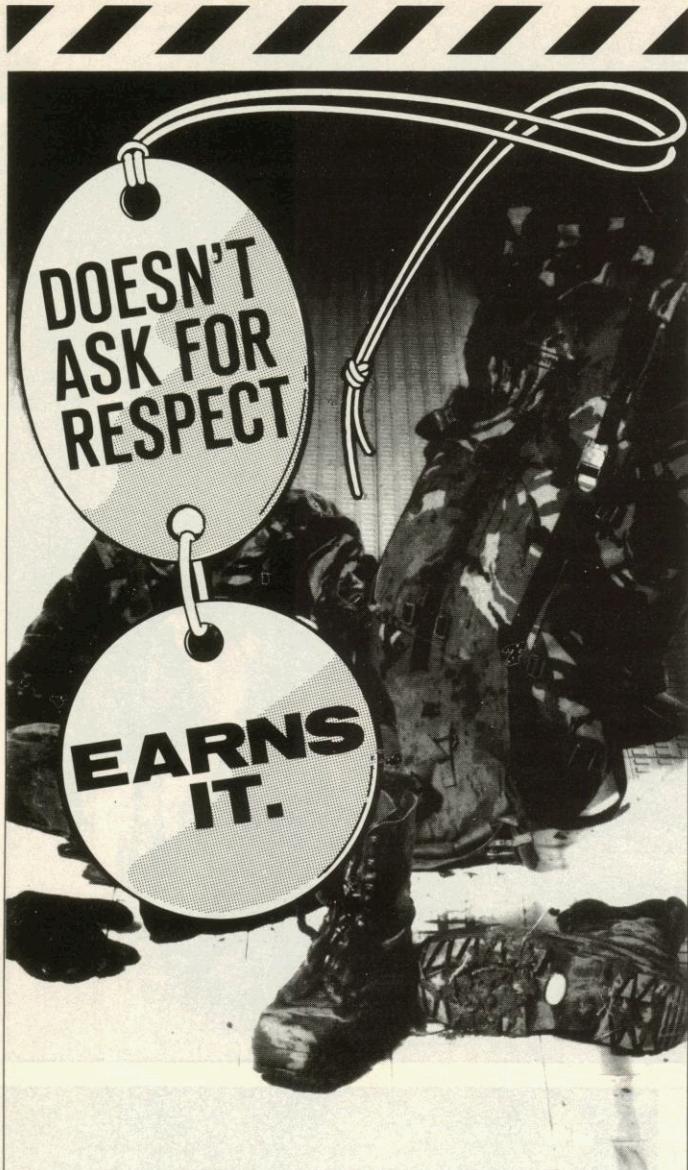
A conservative value of the regiment's equipment is £42 million. It includes 42 Norton motor cycles costing a total of £273,000, of which about 20 have so far been delivered for escort duties. The RCT joins the civilian police, the AA, the Royal Air Force Police and the Royal Military Police in using them. Speeds of up to 132 miles an hour are possible.

The soldier drivers of 7 Tk Tptr Regt RCT are being kept abreast of new European laws. They are going on

hazardous materials courses because the British Army has not secured what is known as Crown exemption from European legislation in this area.

This means that each driver whose load includes hazardous materials has to be qualified up to European standards.

When he passes the two day course he is awarded a certificate which authorises him to drive a vehicle in Germany carrying various hazardous materials. Capt Bob Ferguson, regimental training officer, said: "This is vitally important to the military because at any time we can be stopped by the German civilian police."



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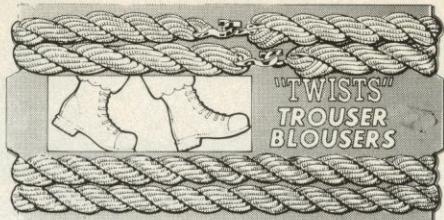
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Picture: Mike Perring

Col Mike Moody, champion of the African black rhino and Senior Director of Staff (Army) at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, is pictured in the Painted Hall, one of the largest and most splendid dining halls in daily use in

Europe. It was decorated by Sir James Thornhill between 1708 and 1727. The central figures in the Lower Hall are William and Mary and the theme of their triumph over tyranny. Also featured are Queen Anne and Prince George of

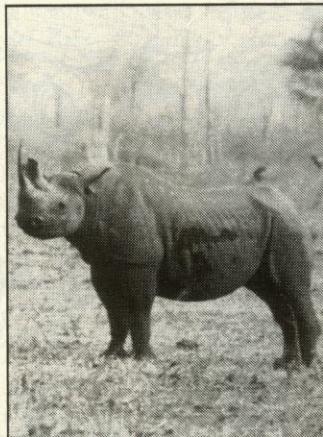
Denmark, the family of George I, and William III. A survey of the less regal detail shows there are 173½ bosoms on the ceiling of the Lower Hall! A cleaner has left his signature on that of Queen Mary in the centre of the painting.

# Running out of time?

REASONS for entering the London Marathon are many and varied, but one of the more unusual made Col Mike Moody, who had never before run more than five miles, dust down his trainers and jogging kit, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

His efforts were sponsored for more than £4,300 by an impressive list of backers including the Quarter Master General, Lt Gen Sir Edward Jones; Commander in Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, Lt Gen Sir Patrick Palmer; and Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Maj Gen Bob Hodges.

What persuaded the top brass to reach for their cheque books? They are all former



commanders of BMATT (British Military and Advisory Training Team) Zimbabwe, where Mike has completed a two year tour helping to set up

a staff college for the army, and they were joining Mike in his efforts to save one of Africa's most threatened species of wildlife.

He was appalled to find that between 1980 and 1988 the African black rhino population had fallen from 14,650 to 3,770.

"If something is not done they will soon be extinct," he said.

"The last remaining viable population of the black rhino in the wild, about 1,750, is in Zimbabwe and is under concerted attack by armed poachers. Rhino horn is in great demand in the Middle and Far East.

"Zimbabwe has an excellent

record among African countries for its wildlife conservation measures, but has many calls on its limited resources.

"If the black rhino, which has been around for five million years, is to survive in its natural habitat action is needed now."

The London Marathon was the most effective method he could think of to raise funds to help the fight against poachers. The money will buy equipment for rangers in Zimbabwe's national parks.

Mike, the Senior Director of Staff (Army) at the Joint Service Defence College, Greenwich, was among 596 Service personnel running in the world's biggest marathon. He finished in 4hr 50min.

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Brian Boru V, the regimental mascot, is actually an Irish wolfhound, known as Tallow to her friends. To make her drill perfect, tapes of various noises were played, and she is now a much-loved part of regimental life. Here she keeps a watchful canine eye on recruits passing out at Ballymena

# Home on the Rangers?

TO encourage more youngsters to come forward a call is being made for the training of Royal Irish Ranger junior soldiers recruited in Northern Ireland and the South to be re-established in the Province.

They previously trained at Depot The King's Division The Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling), 83rd and 87th), in Ballymena from where about 100 young soldiers passed out each year. But since 1985 training has been carried out in the north of England.

This has caused some problems in recruiting for the Irish Rangers and the figures for junior entrants have dropped by about 50 per cent.

The suggestion that training should be re-established in Northern Ireland comes in the wake of MARILYN, the Army blueprint for solving the recruiting dilemma it now faces because of the demographic trough.

**Words by Jennifer Griffiths  
Pictures by Terry Champion**

The Army is taking a long, hard look at how it can compete on better – or at least equal – terms with industry and other organisations for a decreasing pool of young labour. At present it is 2,000 undermanned with the infantry carrying a large proportion of that number of vacancies.

The call for the reintroduction of the training of Ranger junior soldiers in the Province has been made by Lt Col Ian Holmes, CO of the Ballymena Depot.

He told SOLDIER: "As a regiment we are not now recruiting sufficient junior soldiers to meet our needs. In fact, we have not been able to meet our allocation of juniors for several years. On top of that, there is a high wastage rate from



**Lt Col Ian Holmes**

those who go to England for training. The most significant reason for that is homesickness. Clearly travel problems and geography also play a significant part.

"Junior soldiers recruited on the mainland find it relatively easy to visit home, but soldiers from Ireland have travel problems. Some people might argue that a lot of recruits come from Merseyside, and would have to travel to the Province.

"But we are an Irish regiment, and they will have opted for that.

"I am convinced that our junior recruiting would increase considerably if training for Irish Ranger junior soldiers was re-introduced at Ballymena."

He said that while the current trend was towards centralisation, he would still always want some form of training centre available in Northern Ireland, not



# Part timers leave 'fitter and wiser'

CAPT John McKeoun, OC Training Wing at the depot is the first to admit that the course for the TA recruit is both physically and mentally demanding.

The first week is spent on camp training, such as lessons in skill at arms, map reading, first aid, drill and NBC defence. The second week involves section battle drills, range work, weapons tests, an endurance march of eight miles, and so on.

Capt McKeoun said: "They find that extremely hard, but at the end of the course they feel a great sense of achievement and go away wiser and fitter.

"I am very impressed by the loyalty of the TA soldier. When the going gets tough they could say at any moment 'this is not for me'. But they bite their lower lips and say 'I can stick it'. They knuckle down and do a very good job. The only people who have left the courses have been those with exercise injury.

"To see them on the passing out parade at the end of the course is a great thrill for the recruits and the instructors who put so much hard work into it."

**SOLDIER** caught up with an 18-year-old member of 4 R

Irish while he was busy brewing up in the field. In civilian life he is a storeman and decided to enlist because his friends enjoyed the TA.

He said: "It is better than I imagined. You learn about yourself and what you are capable of. I have become very much fitter. I found the forced march the hardest. It seemed much longer than eight miles. I have made a lot of friends in the TA and would consider becoming a Regular soldier."

Tom, 19, also a storeman, joined 40 (U) Signals Regiment, after seeing a newspaper advertisement. He said: "I enjoy the weekends away and the food is like that in a good restaurant."

Another 18-year-old of 152 (U) Ambulance Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and enjoys building, demolishing bridges, and shooting. A mate in 152 (U) Ambulance previously served for four months in the Royal Navy. "I am considering joining the Regular Army. I enjoy the discipline, and you make good friends."

Stu, of D (North Irish Horse) Sqn, Royal Yeomanry, an electrician, joined the TA to test his fitness and whether he could take the discipline.

"I can do both. I like the Service way of life and the camaraderie."

## Depot has a major role with TA

### • From Page 25

necessarily in Ballymena.

"Unless there is some training establishment here, I believe recruiting in the Province will continue to go down."

While the depot's main role is to train all adult Regular recruits for the Rangers, it also plays a significant part in the training for the Territorial Army of all male recruits enlisted in Northern Ireland, except those for the RAMC.

This started last September and, as it is the only depot in the UK to undertake such training, it is being closely monitored. Already several senior officers have visited the depot and are convinced that it is doing much for the TA as a whole and is likely to be the shape of things to come.

But here, too, recruiting figures have not been maintained.

Col Holmes said the depot at Ballymena was chartered to run 15 courses a year for

50 recruits on each.

"The numbers have not really materialised in the way the Northern Ireland TA anticipated, and if they do not increase significantly we will be seen to have spare capacity in the depot."

He said that a reintroduction of junior training could utilise the spare capacity, along with an expansion of adult recruit training to incorporate all arms adult training to the level of the common military syllabus.

Maj Ian McSherry, Training Company commander at the depot, said: "The demographic trough is eating into the number of adult recruits. Our September intake attracted 40, the last intake was 29. The quality has also dropped noticeably."

At present, adult recruits do a 19 week course. This will be extended by two weeks from October.

Maj McSherry said: "That is marvellous. It will take the pressure off both

recruits and instructors. It would give more time to compensate to a degree for a lower quality of recruit we are taking in at the moment."

Work experience schemes have proved a popular innovation at the depot. Many one day Youth Training Programme visits are held there.

The Northern Ireland TA Specialist Training Team is located at the depot and runs courses for officers and NCOs on almost every weekend of the year. The TA District Assessment Boards for potential TA officers and TA Junior NCO courses, are also held there.

The depot also undertakes particular responsibilities on behalf of Headquarters Northern Ireland, including the annual reporting centre for Army reservists. Also located there is 34 Cadet Training Team which conducts much of the training for both ACF and CCF personnel in Ballymena.



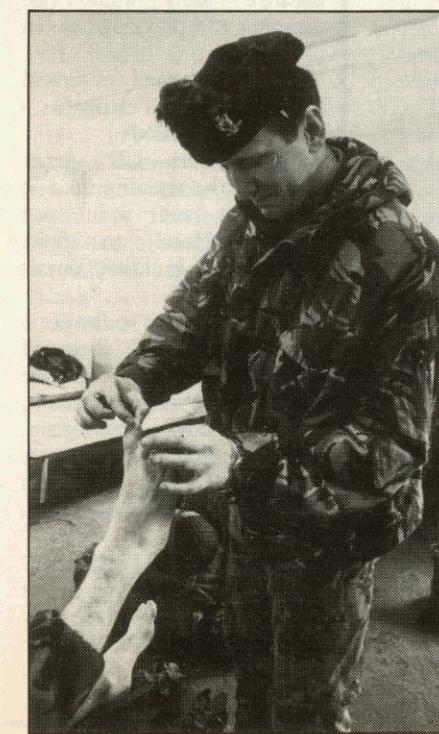
Above - A cracked bone in his foot made recruit Rgr David Lynn an outstanding figure when he received a plaque as the champion SA 80 shot from Brig Bill Hiles at the passing out parade

Above left - The Territorials pound out the beach on an eight mile forced march. In the background is Donegal

Left - The TA "in hiding" at Magilligan

Below left - The look on Cpl Dougie Beattie's face says it all. While a regular foot inspection among the new TA recruits may not be everybody's favourite job, it is essential

Below - Brian Boru, the Irish wolfhound mascot, is pictured with Rgr Martin Keenan. Keeping her smart means grooming three times a day



## Lure of travel did it!

NINETEEN-year-old Jimmy, who has just become a Regular soldier, comes from the South and was persuaded to join up by his brother in a rather roundabout way.

Jimmy said: "He was already serving in the Rangers. He advised me the training was hard, and I would not like it. But that made it all the more of a challenge. Once I got to the depot, he gave me every encouragement."

Jimmy had worked as a store manager, but found the routine boring. "It was made worse when postcards from my brother in different parts of the world used to be waiting for me when I got home."

"Part of the training is tough, but I was with a great crowd of lads. Morale is very high. I did consider the Southern Irish Army, but the opportunity to travel is very limited."

Another recruit, Gerald, 20, also comes from the Republic of Ireland. His best friend was already a Ranger. "He told me all about the life, but I had always been interested in the Army."

After leaving school he worked as a supermarket assistant but was bored and with some friends set up a business preparing deep sea fishing gear.

"But for as long as I can remember, I just wanted to join the Army, so it wasn't a hard decision to pull out of the business," he said.

Rgr Keith Baird, 24, gave up an unusual job to become a recruit. He hails from Liverpool but had been working in the South of France selling mobile homes.

He said: "I needed a new challenge. I have friends serving in the Rangers and I believe it is the best infantry regiment. I thoroughly enjoyed the training, though I must admit I hated the first six weeks. It was very tough to sort out the men from the boys. After that it was great."

"I have signed on for nine years. At my age, I decided if I was going to try a different career I should go for it no holds barred. I have had no doubts that I was doing the right thing."

# The action starts here

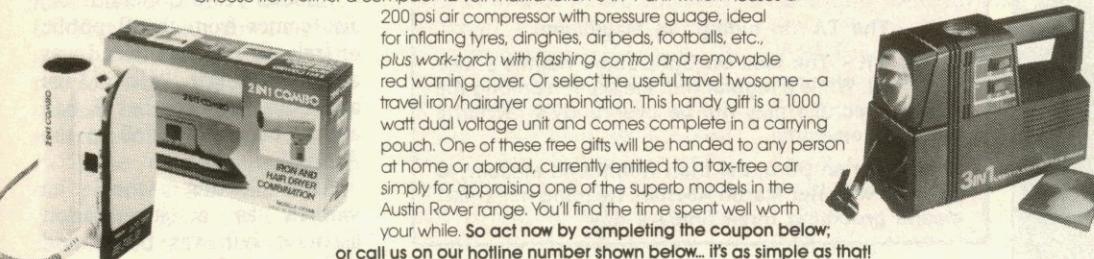


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## On the trail of the '49 gold rush

JUST as well perhaps that most of the visiting soldiers engaged in Exercise Caltrop Force did not know it but there was gold in them there hills. They might have been distracted from the real purpose of their presence.

The Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation in California was once the haunt of prospectors prepared to defend their stake with six shooters.

Little Jolon (pronounced Holon) at the gates of the training area was on the main route to the gold fields in the great rush of '49.

By 1876 it was a flourishing town serving the Los Burros Mines. On its outskirts stood the Dutton Hotel, established by two ex army officers (Civil War veterans?) with a saloon, half a dozen poker tables and an ornate bar.

Ten years later the mines ran out, the railway went past miles away and Jolon shrank to hamlet size.

Dutton's still had its moment of glory. It was bought by William Randolph Hearst, the newspaper tycoon, in 1929. He used to invite film stars on to what is now the training area so the matinee idols could go camping and play cowboys in peace.

He also turned out wild animals - such as elephants - to roam the woods.

When the US Army acquired the training area in 1940 the zoo went and Dutton's Hotel, an adobe (baked clay) building almost followed it.

All that remain today are a few low walls sheltered belatedly by a barn-like structure put up by the state.

The cowboys haven't gone, however. About 8,000 cattle roam the ranges and each June the round up takes place.

And the gold? Well, every field has its story of a lost mine. Unfortunately the only ones encountered on Caltrop Force would have blown you to pieces if they had been real.



US Marines 'hit the beach' under the eye of SSgt Papu Toleafoa (right) 3rd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, US Marine Corps. He is wearing a "war belt" with two pouches containing six 30-round magazines for the M16A2 rifle. He is carrying two canteens of water, first aid kit and knife

## Hit the beach!

YOU HAVE to get aboard the USS *Fort McHenry* to appreciate her size and power. The dock landing ship displaces more than 15,000 tons when fully loaded and can make 20 knots.

During Exercise Caltrop Force in California she disgorged landing craft filled with armoured vehicles and marines from her flooded stern and launched a swarm of tracked amphibious craft to "hit the beach".

One of the finest action displays, however, took place aboard when SSgt Papu Toleafoa decided to exercise his platoon.

First of all he had them racing up and down the iron ladders - Falklands Task Force style!

Then he directed them in physical jerks before an interested audience of the 6th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment due to embark in assault craft the following day.

SSgt "T", as he is known, is something of a legend. To Lt Chris Ross, his immediate boss in No 3 Platoon, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, he is simply "the best staff sergeant in the US Marine Corps".

To one of his fellow NCOs he was "a great character but a little crazy like most Samoans".

The fact is that SSgt "T" has a particular talent to motivate the 42 men who make up his platoon.

When he asks a lot from them they give it.

During the rehearsal for the beach landing, while other marines caught up on their sleep "3 Platoon Alpha One" was busy.

From a rugby scrum resembling a giant tortoise in combat dress burst a blood-curdling

Words by  
Bill Moore  
Pictures by  
Mike Perring

Samoan war chant.

"Nonu a togi, a togi," yelled SSgt "T".

"Faaumatia, Faaumatia," roared the scrum.

In surprisingly soft tones SSgt "T" explained that he was shouting "Are you ready?" and the pack was replying "Kill, Kill . . .".

And he obligingly wrote down the Samoan in SOLDIER's MoD Form 383 notebook.

American Samoa was once populated by fierce Polynesian warrior tribes, skilled boat builders and navigators.

It came under US rule (through the Navy Dept) in 1899 and passed under civilian jurisdiction in the 1950s.

US Marine Corps records show that in 1917 when the Americans entered the First World War there was one Samoan in its ranks.

Things have changed since then. And the Marine Corps is grateful.

**Airborne  
gunners  
in support**

AS THE Royal Horse Artillery officer wrote later: "I allowed them to advance until the head of the column might have been 50 or 60 yards away then gave the word 'Fire!' The effect was terrible. Nearly the whole leading rank fell at once . . .".

Dug into the California hillside, the forward observation officers of G Battery (Mercer's Troop) RHA did not cut things as fine as their illustrious predecessor at Waterloo 174 years earlier.

But they did wait until the  
● Turn to next page

# Heavy load for G Battery

● From Page 29

recc vehicles of the US Marine Corps (playing enemy) left the shelter of the oak woods before calling down fire on selected killing grounds.

The 7th Parachute Regiment RHA is an integral part of 5 Airborne Brigade but rarely operates as a unit, deploying individual batteries as needed.

In accompanying 1 Para on Exercise Caltrop Force the 53 men of G Battery were maintaining an association stretching back to the turbulent days of Aden 1962.

With them went eight men of P Troop (part of HQ Battery) equipped with Javelin for air defence.

The airborne gunners jump with one of the heaviest loads carried by paratroops, including two radios, laser range finder, six batteries and compressed air bottles as well as their personal equipment and weapons.

In order to lighten their load Capt David Cullen's detachment - LBdr Spot Chalker and Gns Gary Johns and Fish Pike - had pared down everything to the minimum, to the extent of taking only two sleeping bags which the four of them shared.

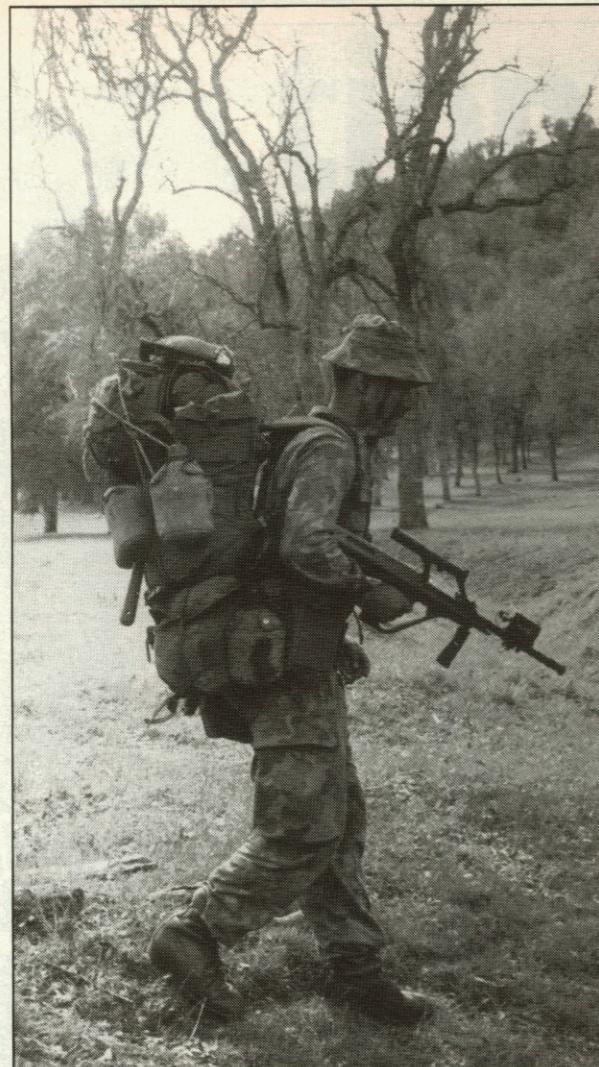
At Alpha Indirect Fire Control Trench the most popular man was a cheerful individual dubbed the Assistant Load Carrier.

Also enjoying himself and using the American system of deployment of his three Light Guns was Maj Peter Griffith, the battery commander.

"Normally I am based with the CO of the infantry battalion with my two forward observation officers (FOOs) forward and the gun positions commanded by the battery captain," he said.

"The US system is the other way round, the battery commander commanding his guns towards the rear... so we have a command and control system which is somewhat different from normal."

G Battery had also been using American radio sets and when SOLDIER caught up with them were expecting to work with US liaison officers to smooth out some of the problems they had encountered, which is of course what the exercise was meant for... learning to work together.



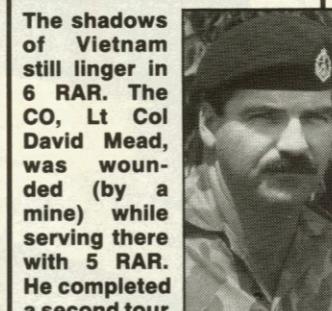
New rifle, new camouflage pattern but same old load that Diggers have carried through the years. His weapon is fitted with laser equipment (the "box" on the barrel)



Amtrack (above left) coming ashore through the surf and the LAV-25 (above right) with turret gun and anti-aircraft machine-gun (with MILES fitted). Note propeller clearly visible at the rear



Not camping BY but apparently IN a billabong. Cpl Bret Brown's detachment of 6 RAR's anti-tank platoon, complete with 90 mm mounted on a Land Rover, stuck in a ford during Caltrop Force



The shadows of Vietnam still linger in 6 RAR. The CO, Lt Col David Mead, was wounded (by a mine) while serving there with 5 RAR. He completed a second tour there as an adviser after he had recovered from his wounds. Lt Col Mead is well-known to the Irish Guards having served as an exchange officer commanding a company in the 1st Battalion.

## Marines sail to war in amphibious Amtrack

CALTROP Force gave observers the opportunity to study a wide variety of vehicles at the disposal of the US Marine Corps.

Assault landings were made with the Amtrack (officially AAV7A1) and the LAV-25 (Light Armoured Vehicle). Both are fully amphibious though the latter, on this occasion, was brought to the shore by landing craft.

The Amtrack, which has a crew of three and can carry 25 soldiers, can make a speed of

about 8 mph in the sea. On its tracks ashore its roadspeed is about 40 mph.

Its normal armament is a 12.7mm (.5 inch) machine gun in a turret and a new version will have a 40mm grenade launcher in addition.

The LAV-25s (a crew of three and six inside) were used for reconnaissance in the Fort Hunter Liggett exercise area. Both are fully amphibious though the latter, on this occasion, was brought to the shore by landing craft.

The Amtrack, which has a crew of three and can carry 25 soldiers, can make a speed of

"Spanish moss".

The LAVs are Canadian built and distinguished by their eight wheels. Whereas the Amtracks were powered by waterjets, they had two propellers.

A number of LAV variants were in evidence. Some mounted a 25mm gun, others a mortar or a TOW anti-tank weapon. Command, logistic and recovery types were used but not the latest addition to the range, the mobile electronic warfare support system.

THE 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, which represented its country on Caltrop Force, is of recent origin having been formed in June 1965 for service in Vietnam.

It arrived in the war zone a year later for a 12-month tour and became part of the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF). The battalion is best

remembered for its role in the battle of Long Tan.

In pouring rain, 108 men of D Company held a position in a rubber plantation against attacks which went on all one afternoon and continued into the night. The Australians had lost 18 dead and 22 wounded by the time they were relieved but 245 enemy dead were found after the battle.

# Steyr makes debut with Australians

THE Australian army took advantage of Exercise Caltrop Force to trial the Steyr rifle, a weapon of Austrian design being produced at the state-owned small arms factory at Lithgow, New South Wales.

The 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, was issued with it a few weeks before leaving for California and according to Capt Bill Pickering, an Army spokesman: "Live firing tests have indicated an unofficial increase in accuracy of about 30 per cent."

The Steyr will replace the SLR and more than 80,000 are to be produced.

Probably its most striking feature is the transparent magazine which holds 30 rounds of 5.56 ammunition.

It has an optical sight which magnifies the target 1.5 times, is fully automatic and weighs about 7lb.

A variety of barrel lengths

are available plus a model for special forces.

The appearance of the Steyr in California coincided with the publication of details of "a rigorous series of troop trials" conducted by the Irish Army in which three other rifles were tested (out of an original list of seven).

The others were the Swiss 550/2, the American M16 A2 and the L85A1 (SA 80) produced by the Royal Ordnance factories.

The model selected by the Irish is the Steyr Army Universal Gun A1. It takes its name from the location of the manufacturer - Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Steyr, Austria.

With its variants it is intended to be used in the light support role, as a carbine, assault rifle and what is termed "the paratroopers' gun".

In the Irish trials special attention was given to the Steyr's suitability for left-handed soldiers.

An *Cosantoir*, the Irish Defence Forces magazine, reports: "For the left-handed soldiers no left-hand variants of the two bull-pup rifles, Royal Ordnance and Steyr, were procured."

In the end no left-hand variant of the Steyr was ordered "because with its 1.5 optic sight the Steyr can be fired with both eyes open and retraining of the firer to right-handed use proved to be simple and effective".

(The same reasoning has been applied in the case of the SA 80 in Britain where there has been no special purchase of rifles adapted for left-handed firers.)

Both the New Zealand and the Omani armies have bought the Steyr which did well in dusty conditions during trials.

One criticism, however, is that because of its configuration and dedicated sight it is difficult to fit other sights to it while the British weapon is more adaptable and the sight has greater magnification (x4).

There is no doubt that on Caltrop Force the accuracy and range of the SA 80 impressed the other nationalities.

## Forged in Vietnam

THE 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, which represented its country on Caltrop Force, is of recent origin having been formed in June 1965 for service in Vietnam.

It arrived in the war zone a year later for a 12-month tour and became part of the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF). The battalion is best

# Minister's 'No' to wives' scheme

MRS KAREN PARRIS and a group of Army wives put forward a unique plan to help the problem of housing Servicemen when they finish their term of engagement.

They suggested to MoD that instead of disposing of their homes in Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot, they should let them take them over through a housing association properly administered and financed as in civilian life.

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, and the Armed Forces Minister, Mr Michael Neubert, visited the terrace after hearing of Mrs Parris's scheme.

Now the minister has turned the wives down.

One major problem was deemed to be the fact that as

in estates in other garrison towns the utilities (electricity and drains) come off the Army's own network.

Mr Ray Walker, Director of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, told me:

"I have visited Chetwode Terrace and in my opinion the estate could be used for the benefit of soldiers and their families.

"Plots of land like this have for years been used for special groups through self-build and housing associations.

"Karen Parris's proposal is not new in civilian life, but may be to the Services."

# High hopes shattered at Chetwode Terrace

IT IS ironical that the sign that welcomes drivers to Aldershot describes it as the "Home of the British Army".

Home has become an agonising word for men who have spent many years serving their country. They have been caught in the housing trap.

Moving regularly because of the requirements of the Service, they were seldom paid enough to be able to buy a house and rent it out so they would have something to come back to.

Gradually they saw council houses being sold, under Government policy, to occupants who often discovered they had been sitting on little gold mines.

When a discounted scheme was introduced for the Services applicants found themselves lucky if they were on a waiting list before it reached three figures.

Some 8,800 houses have been disposed of but of these only approximately 2,000 have been sold to Servicemen.

At the same time soldiers and ex soldiers and their families could see Army quarters lying empty and deteriorating.

The fate of Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot, looks like being a classic case of high hopes being shattered.

The second is self-build, a self-explanatory term for an increasingly popular method of obtaining a house.

For the first, shared ownership, to be accepted by MoD there would have to be a recognised housing association to administer the refurbishment of sub-standard quarters and, later, the shared ownership principles.

For all these initiatives to come to realisation, it is the prime task of the Chetwode Terrace Consortium to pilot both schemes.

Karen explains her role neatly in a letter:

We have discovered

two practical ways a Service family can afford a house of their own on current rates of pay even in the highly inflated south.

The first is shared ownership, where a percentage of a house is bought, the remainder rented.

The second is self-build, a self-explanatory term for an increasingly popular method of obtaining a house.

Once the 1,500 hours are completed a house is made available for that family.

The National and Provincial Building Society has agreed to finance this scheme.

For all these initiatives to come to realisation, it is the prime task of the Chetwode Terrace Consortium to pilot both schemes.

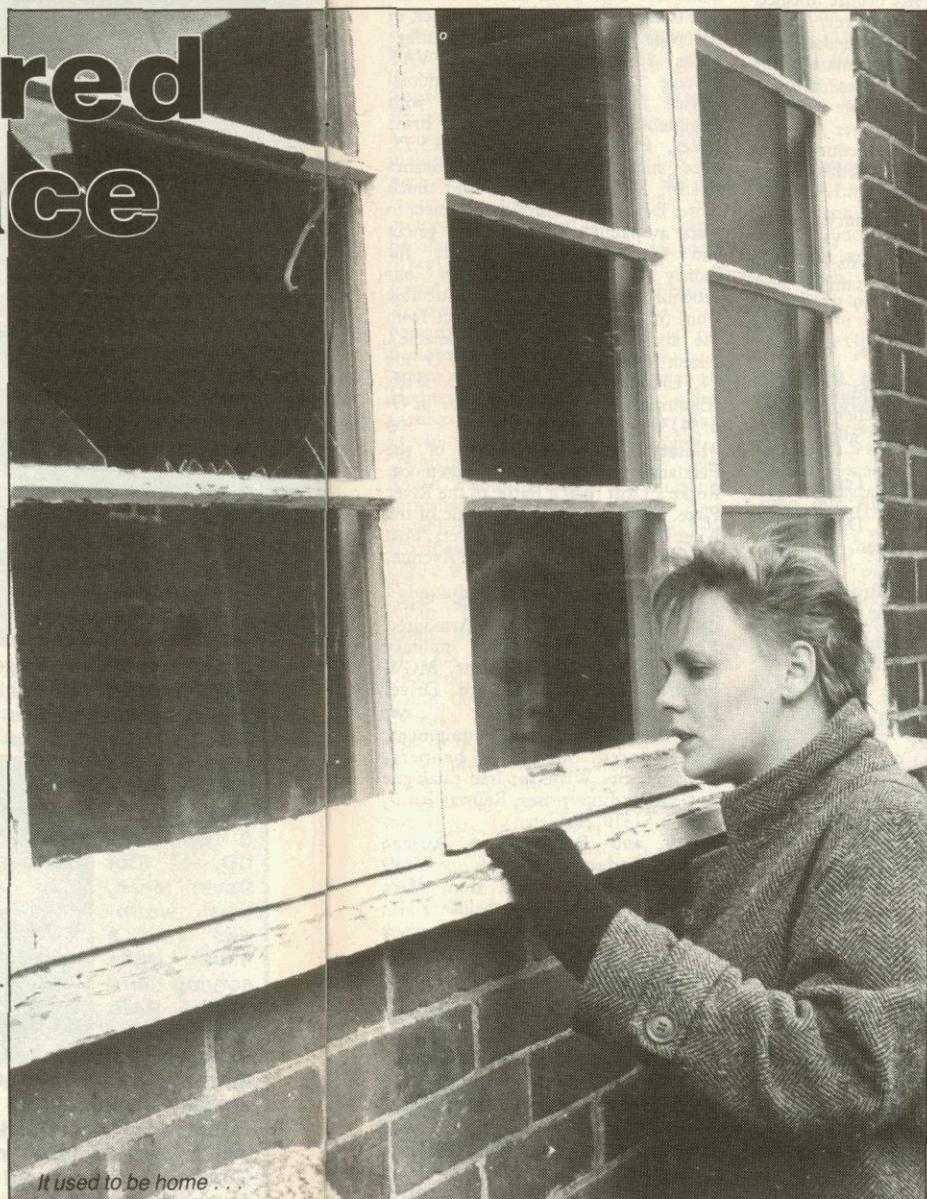
We would offer the MoD an experiment, to adopt the best means of administering these ideas and present them to the Services in general.

Investigation showed that some terraced houses needed structural repair. Furthermore the whole estate was on the Army power system, as were the drains.

Nevertheless the group got to work to explore the potential it offered.

They carried on even when it was learned that on April 1 the empty quarters would be passed to the Property Services Agency for disposal.

Karen gave up a university place to take up her work as chair of the Consortium to attend meetings, write letters, visit civilian projects and see



Karen Parris in Chetwode Terrace



## AFTER THE FAMILIES MOVED WRECKERS GOT TO WORK

MPs, and heads of housing associations, corporations and financial institutions.

Why not self-build or shared-ownership?

Could the group be offered the houses to refurbish and the land attached to it for self-build?

By the middle of March only a few families remained in houses in Chetwode Terrace and when these moved out the vandals struck.

Windows were broken,

gardens wrecked.

At the same time the Army discovered there was a shortage of married quarters in Aldershot.

A battalion arriving anew in the area had to put families on a waiting list.

Aldershot is not the only town involved.

Woolwich may be regarded as the "home" of the Royal Artillery. However, ex gunners now find themselves homeless in the town though the Army

has just moved out of Cambridge House, a block of flats.

Modernisation would make them ideal for ex Service families who have members working in London. Two blocks of ex-Army flats have been bought by the Council.

The government has introduced many schemes to help most sections of the population but not the Armed Forces.

The MoD has not as yet

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653



## SURPLUS LAND GIVES THE MOD CHANCE TO HELP

In my view ...

I AM getting an increasing number of letters and phone calls from Service families facing homelessness when the soldier completes his engagement.

As a consequence of a National Audit Office report in 1987 the Ministry of Defence commissioned the Arthur Young Study into the management of defence estates.

This included looking into the disposal of married quarters.

It was completed in July 1988 but has not yet been made public.

There are between 800 and 1,000 irregular occupants of MoD houses waiting for some form of accommodation. Some will go into sub-standard housing, some into "bed and breakfast".

The problem will increase as more and more ex Service personnel are classified as homeless.

'Following the flag' for 12 or 22 years does not help anyone to find a home at the end of their engagement.

The MoD has so far made no submission to the Government's inquiry into the homeless, so the Department of Employment tells me. It is almost as if they consider no problem exists.

Yet it does, and not only are there homeless ex Service folk but some are in towns where MoD quarters are standing empty.

A High Wycombe newspaper reported recently "79 MoD houses stand empty for ten years".

Rushmoor Borough, Woolwich, Catterick and Colchester all have long waiting lists of homeless ... and empty married quarters within their boundaries.

Many choices face the Serviceman where housing is concerned.

The soldier may choose accompanied service and pay for a quarter and keep his allowances.

He can buy a house through an agency and join the Buy, Let and Settle/Forget schemes.

He may buy at his duty station and sell when posted and risk losing his allowances if he has not sold in six months.

Local authority housing is fast becoming a memory so the remaining alternative is to buy one of the Joint Services Discounted

Houses.

"You'll be lucky," said a man with 22 years' service who has made 57 attempts. On average 1,000 bids are now made for most houses.

In 1988 MQ vacancies rose to 15,222.

Today the gap has started to close (more families are moving in, hit by difficulties in the housing market).

The housing factor is now recognised as a major one in the failure of MoD to retain soldiers.

So why cannot the MoD use surplus land to build low cost houses for Services personnel, or make it available to shared ownership, self build or any of the schemes open to housing associations.

Mr David Trippier, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Dept of the Environment, has emphasised the Government's aim to put decent housing within reach of all families while making sure public funds are used carefully and targeted on the people and areas of greatest need.

To that end he was putting housing associations in the centre of attention.

On this side of the fence families are well and truly in the cold.

men and women.

Another ten years cannot be allowed to pass before a plan is produced. By then there may be no surplus quarters to dispose of.

● **Chetwode Terrace:** Named after Sir Philip Walhouse Chetwode who was GOC-in-C Aldershot Command 1923-7, becoming a field marshal in 1933. In the First World War he was a corps commander whose troops drove the Turks out of Jerusalem.

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Many years after that, as archivist and curator at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, I was browsing through an old ledger when a name erupted from the page as though lit by a beacon — C J Bromhead, Lt Col. He was the brother of the famed Lt

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Quite right too, for did not the same Peter O'Donnell sire three of the greatest bandmasters ever to serve in the Army? All graduated as WO1 (Bandmaster) and later became Major P S G O'Donnell, Director of Music, Royal Marines; Wing

Battalion, the 3rd (V) and 4th (V) Battalions, with the Ystradgynlais Male Choir, and organ; a worthy musical assemblage for such an occasion.

The centrepiece of the programme was a work commissioned by the regiment specially for the tercentenary, a suite entitled *Death Rather Than Dishonour*, from composer Mervyn Burtch.

The music is an adjunct to, and illustrative of, a commentary on the history of the regiment, its part in battle, with Rorke's Drift given a

movement to itself with the choir singing an actual Zulu war song.

The script was by Maj J T Campbell, a serving officer, and the narration by Vincent Kane. The finale was an assembly of all the participants with Colours and Standards marched on to the stage, Chelsea Pensioners and the regimental mascots making a brave spectacle.

Welsh pride rampant, and not a dry eye in the house. Mine included.

**Rodney Bashford**

## RECORDS

RODNEY BASHFORD

### Welsh pageant set to music

## MOVIN' ON

The Choir, Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Regiment of Wales  
Conductor: Bandmaster P D Shannon  
Drum Major: CSgt J Garland

AS part of the celebrations of the tercentenary of the regiment, the old 24th South Wales Borderers and the 41st Welch Regiment, comes a seven-inch disc *Movin' On* and a cassette *Men of Harlech*, a little package to warm the hearts of all members of the regiment, all Welshmen, and anyone else who enjoys hearing some fine old tunes rendered with commitment, con amore.

For those fortunate enough to have been there this can be a happy reminder of the gala concert held in Cardiff, when the regiment's three bands, a large choir, corps of drums and soloists gave their all in what amounted to an historical pageant in music.

The disc is of the band's choir accompanied on keyboard and guitars to very musical effect. There are just four songs in all, with sentiment well to the fore in the title song *Movin' On*, *Myfanwy* of course, *Take Me Home*, and *We'll Keep a Welcome*.

The cassette is of normal length and contains a varied selection of items, not all Welsh in origin though the titles might suggest otherwise. A new arrangement by Cy Payne of *Men of Harlech* gives the programme a lively start and precedes a series of tunes on

side one which very definitely are associated with the regiment and its Welsh, Warwickshire and Lincolnshire connections.

The Mozart theme known as *Elvira Madigan* and a lively and jazzy *Trumpet Power* end this well played, sung, and arranged programme which, I feel, lost a little impact by not sending us (me) away with my one-eighth Welsh blood tingling. *Trumpet Power* brought me right back to Surrey with an unwelcome jolt.

● From **Regimental Band, RRW, Battlesbury Bks, Warminster, Wilts**, price £2.99 inc for disc and £5.99 inc cassette.

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Soldiering On** by Vernon Scannell. Poems described as voicing "the often shocking, sometimes absurd, and on occasion even comic aspects of military life in the ranks this century". Published by Robson. Price £6.95.

**The Marine Book** by Chuck Lawless. A portrait of America's military elite. Published by Thames and Hudson. Price £17.95.

**2500 Dangerous Days** by Patrick P J Bracken. The experiences during the Second World War of ex Gunner Patrick Bracken and comrades serving with him in 90th Field Regiment (1st City of London) Royal

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Pals from Sheffield



Soldiers from various Sheffield units in France in 1917

authorities, some less obvious than others. Recruits were issued with makeshift blue-grey uniforms until the textile industry could catch up with the increased demand for khaki.

Even so it would be mid-1915 before all the men were properly clothed.

The battalion embarked in December 1915 for Egypt where it was employed in the defence of the Suez Canal. This was a short-lived tour and on March 10, 1916 the Sheffield men sailed from Port Said on HMT *Briton* bound for Marseilles en route for the Western Front, reaching the trenches after a most unpleasant and protracted train journey.

There are many fascinating and seldom recalled aspects of Army life of the period in this book. For instance, as late as 1916 there were not sufficient

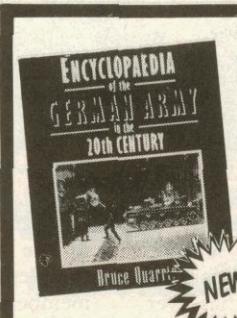
not for the faint of heart. It was often called 'VC mixture' because some units issued it just before the men went over the top to steady their nerves.

"It came in large earthenware jars with the initials SRD stamped on them, which stood for Service Rum Diluted.

"The troops however, soon changed this to Soon Runs Dry, or Seldom Reaches Destination."

The account of the First Battle of the Somme is comprised of the memories of survivors. The battalion formed part of VIII Corps on July 1, 1916 "the blackest day ever for the British Army". Of the 36 officers and 980 ORs in the battalion on June 30, only 18 officers and 485 ORs were accounted for at roll call. — BJ

**Sheffield City Battalion: The 12th (Service) Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment** by Paul Oldfield and Ralph Gibson. Published by Warncilffe. Price £11.95.



### ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THE GERMAN ARMY IN THE 20th CENTURY

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# Students take Courage

WINNERS of the 1989 Courage Trophy for London District's tough annual Territorial Army military skills competition were the University of London OTC men's and women's teams.

They saw off the challenge of 32 other eight-man teams during the 30 hours exercise at the Guards Depot, Pirbright. Tests ranged from an assault course and falling plates competition to cross country driving and fault finding under combat conditions.

Second overall were 4 RGJ with 55 Ord Coy RAOC (V), one of the smallest units represented, third just ahead of 221 Fd Amb RAMC (V). Runners up in the women's competition were 31 Sig Regt.

ULOTC captain 2nd Lt Philip Rodell was a team member last year but found leadership much more demanding and interesting.

The Courage Trophy, presented by the brewers, originally centred around an Easter weekend road march from London to Brighton. Later a recruiting prize, it has been increasingly a test of military skills.

Maj Gen Christopher Airy, GOC London District, praised organisers and competitors. "It is a sensible yet demanding test of relevant military training and an annual event I look forward to," he said.



Picture: Malcolm Smith

Up and over. Courage Trophy competitors tackle the assault course wall

He singled out for special mention "those unique ladies and true volunteers", the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, or FANYs, who tested their emergency role by providing communications and keeping the score!

With employer liaison a TA priority at present, visitors such as Col Sir Greville Spratt, former Lord Mayor of London,

were keen to stress the benefits of the competition.

"I know exercises like this rightly impress employers with the skills of citizen soldiers," he said.

Final word went to the organiser of the competition, Col Mike Upton. "We're aiming for a sense of satisfied exhaustion," he said. They succeeded.

## Test cases!



TWO Woofers shouldn't have to prove their fitness until at least the year 2005! Cpl John Lynch (left) and LCpl Neil Cooke (right) have just completed 16 Battle Fitness Tests (BFTs) ... in one day.

The two physical training instructors in the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment based at Omagh, County Tyrone reckon they have achieved something no one has ever attempted before, and the experts from the APTC at Aldershot agree. To their knowledge no soldier has ever before completed 16 BFTs in a day.



Real winners on this occasion were the people who will benefit from the £1,300 raised by John and Neil for Cancer Research.

● The BFT must be completed annually by all members of the Army. It consists of 1½ miles run as part of a squad in 15 minutes followed by 1½ miles as an individual in less than 11½ minutes, all done in boots and denims.

## RMPs make their day

IT WAS a beach landing with a difference. When the ramp came down on the RCT landing craft *Abbeville* on Hong Kong's Double Island 90 underprivileged local children swarmed ashore for a treat.

It was all part of a day's outing organised by the Royal Military Police, Hong Kong, for children from the St Christopher's Home at Tai Po. *Abbeville*, from 415 Maritime Troop, RCT, provided the transport while the MPs laid on a barbecue and arranged for supplies of hamburgers to be brought in from a shop on Hong Kong Island.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION  
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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

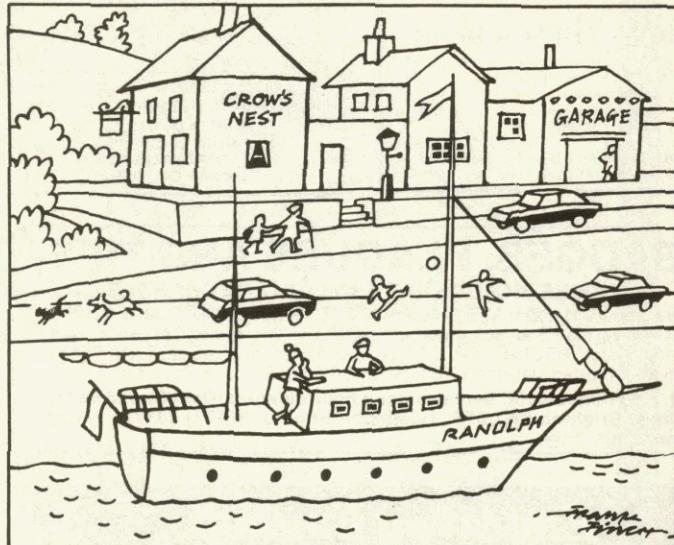
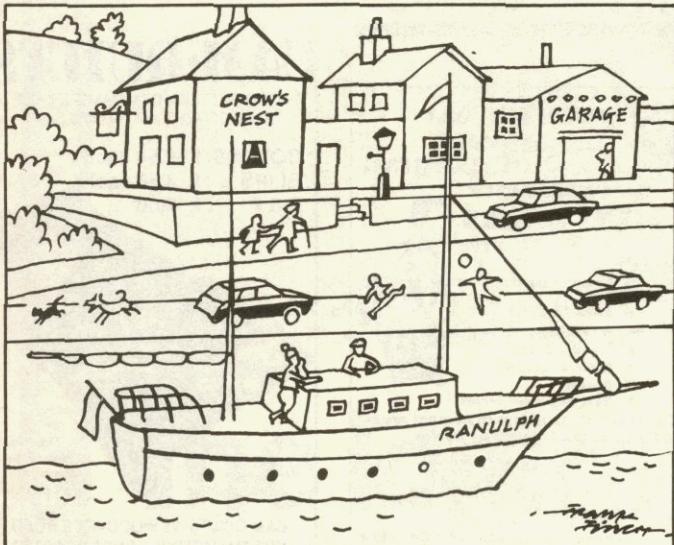
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the June 26 issue.

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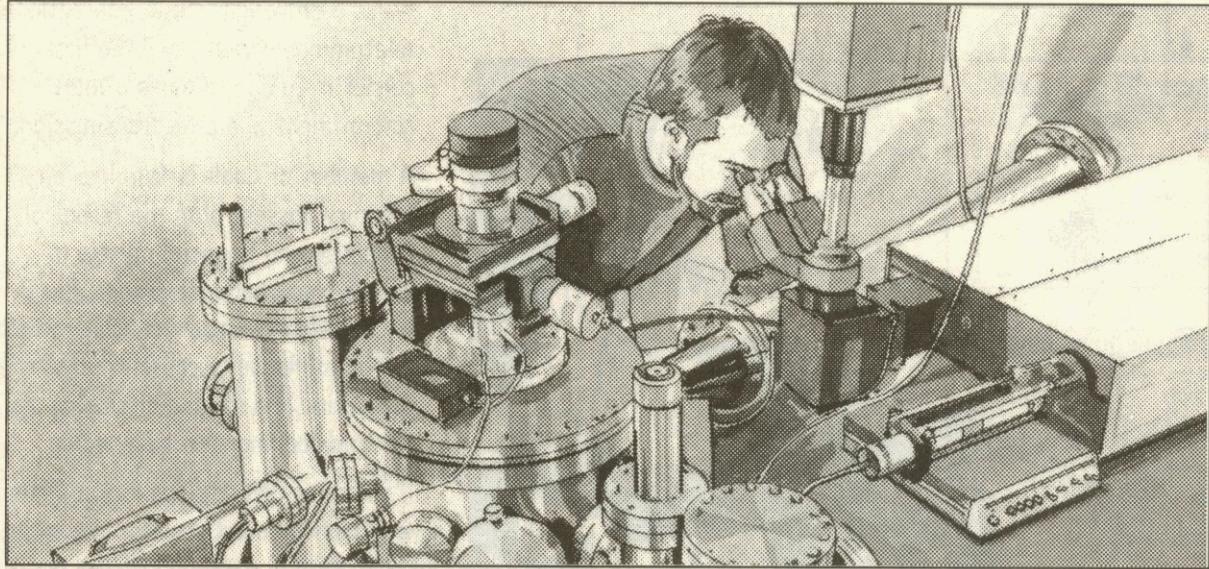
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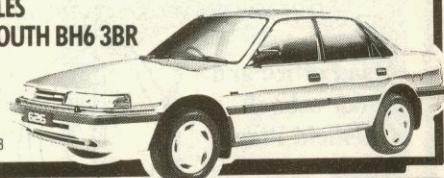
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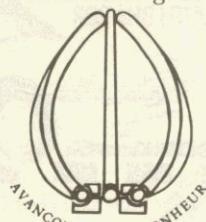
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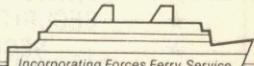
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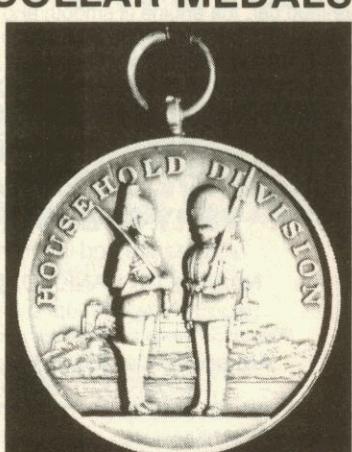
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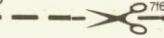
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# McLean, Howlett back at Wembley



ARMY boxing's dynamic duo, LCpl John McLean (39 Engr Regt) and Sgt Keith Howlett, APTC (Light Div Depot), are through to the amateur sport's biggest night of the year - the George Wimpey ABA national finals at the Wembley Arena.

Featherweight McLean will be attempting to stop the incredible John Lyon from capturing his seventh national title, while Howlett will be defending his bantamweight crown against London's impressive Marlon Jones.

At Blackburn in the national semi-finals McLean stopped Welsh champion Errol George in the second round. Howlett went through on a walkover after the Scottish ABA withdrew because their boxers were prevented from using headguards.

McLean met Lyon in the

## Colts miss out on sevens final

THE Army entered the Labats Inter County Colts rugby sevens at Wirral RFC, writes Peter Salisbury.

Outstanding team of the eight that entered was Yorkshire who won the competition with considerable ease. There was not much to choose between the other seven teams and but for a poor performance against Cumbria the Army could have reached the final.

They were unfortunate to be in the strongest group in the draw and to play Yorkshire first. They were thrashed, as were all the other teams that Yorkshire played, 26-0.

In the first half against Cumbria, as if punch drunk from their Yorkshire experience, the Army played very badly and were 12-0 down at half time. They pulled themselves together in the second half and tries by AT LCpl Mark Parr (AAC Harrogate) and Cfn Lee Morris (SEME Bordon), both converted by AT CSM Tim Williams (AAC Harrogate), put them level, only for a silly mistake to let Cumbria in for a soft winning try at the end.

Against Sussex the Army at last showed their true form and won 22-12 with Morris using his pace to score a hat trick of tries and Air Tpr Sam Deignan (Depot Regt AAC) scoring another. Williams made three conversions.

A disappointing performance in the plate competition saw the Army lose 20-4 to Cheshire who went on to win the plate. The Army try was scored by Pte Steve Aymes (1 Cheshire) making his debut.

A Combined Services Under 18 team played Bridgend and District U-18 at Pencoed. The Army was well represented with six players in the team and three more on the bench.

AT LCpl Mark Parr (AAC

**Bantamweight**, Pte Paul Roffey (1 Queens); **feather**, Dvr Paul Sutton (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT); **light**, Cpl Errol Tyrell (1 PWO); **light welter**, Cfn Tony Wall (SEME); **welter**, Kgn Phil Lynch (1 Kings); **light middle**, Pte Glenn Williams (23 Para Fd Amb. RAMC); **middle**, Rfn John Waterhouse (1 RGU); **light heavy**, Pte John Dowling (2 Para); **heavy**, Cpl Errol Gayle (1 Kings).

McLean met Lyon in the

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Picture: Mike Perrin

School of Signals (light strip) on the attack against 10 Corps Transport Regiment in the Challenge Cup final at Aldershot

## DEMOLISHED

**School of Signals 0,  
10 Regt RCT 5**

WHAT began as a gentle prising of the School of Signals grip on the coveted Wilsons Challenge Cup ended in a complete demolition job at the Military Stadium, Aldershot as 10 Regiment RCT ran up the biggest winning margin since the 1949 final when the Depot and Training Battalion RAMC scored six without reply, writes Pat Massey.

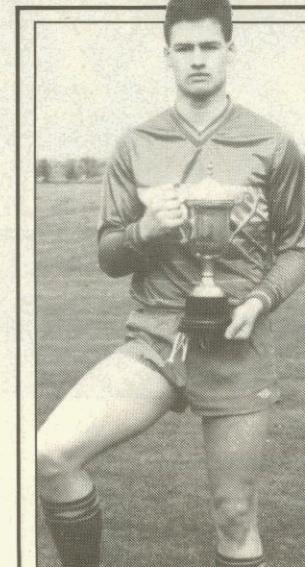
It had been rather a dull Challenge Cup final until ten minutes before half time when LCpl Paddy Smyth put the BAOR champions ahead from the penalty spot. Many thought the signalmen from Blandford had been hard done by.

Smyth, who played in the Irish League with Linfield before joining the Army, put the School of Signals in deep trouble when he scored again early in the second half, but two stunning goals midway through the period buried the 1988 champions.

Smyth completed his hat trick after Dvr Peter Catlin's



LCpl Paddy Smyth



JLdr Paul Malcolm of The Black Watch, currently training at the Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Divisions), Ouston, who has been named the Army Youth footballer of the year. He received his trophy from AFA (Youth) chairman Lt Col John Smith, ACC

## Ulster TA on target

ULSTER based 74 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) swept the board with the other TA sapper teams at the Royal Engineers Skill at Arms meeting at Ash Ranges, Aldershot. The Northern Ireland terriers won the major unit championship, the teamlight machine gun, sub machine gun, pistol, rifle and falling plates competitions.

## Guardsman to lead cricket challenge

WITH the departure of Matthew Fleming to the professional game on Kent's books, Army cricket has a new skipper in the shape of Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, Grenadier Guardsman and Combined Services rugby full back.

His mission this summer will be to retain the Inter-Services crown so disappointingly surrendered to the Royal Air Force at Aldershot last season. The Inter-Services tournament is being hosted by the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on August 7-9.

First representative match for the Army is against Sussex 2nd XI at Aldershot on May 30, followed by the fixture against MCC Young Cricketers on the Lords Nursery ground on June 2 and Middlesex 2nd XI at Aldershot on June 11.

The Under-25 contest their Inter-Service tournament at Vine Lane, Uxbridge, where their RAF hosts will be defending the championship.

Capt Jonathon Willatt of last summer's senior XI will also be missing. He has returned to Cambridge and has turned out for the university against the counties.

There has also been a change at the top of Army cricket, where Brig Jack Deverell, Commander UKMF and I Inf Bde at Tidworth, has taken over as chairman from Lt Col Peter Salisbury.

Brig Deverell is a former Army and Combined Services batsman.

# AD gunners hold off sapper challenge

THE Lincolnshire based gunners of 16 Air Defence Regiment RA crowned a magnificent hockey season by beating 35 Engineer Regiment, the BAOR champions, in a closely contested Army Cup final at Aldershot.

Very few chances were created at either end although the sappers were awarded a penalty stroke during normal time. Both sides had goals disallowed in extra time so, with the score deadlocked at 0-0, the destination of the trophy was decided by penalty strokes.

16 AD triumphed 3-1, with LCpl Micky Bale, Lt Jim Cotterill and skipper Maj Tochi Marwaha scoring the goals and fellow Army cap Cfn Egor Johnstone in the gunners' goal saving three out of four sapper penalty strokes.

Johnstone had a considerable influence on the outcome, having earlier saved the penalty stroke in normal time.

A fifth member of the 16 AD team, Lt Simon Dryden, has also played for the Army.

It was 16 AD's first success in the Army Cup, and was the high point in a season during which Maj Marwaha's squad also took the UKLF championship and the gunner title.

In their domestic competition they won the UK trophy with an enterprising 7-5 win



Picture: Mike Perrin

Leading by example in the Army Cup final is Maj Tochi Marwaha of 16 AD Regt

over 17 Tg Reg RA at Woolwich, then travelled to Munster to beat BAOR gunner champions 2 Fd Regt 1-0, Marwaha scoring the goal.

SSgt Tom Turner scored the two goals that enabled 35 Engr Regt to retain the BAOR title in the final against the Staffords at Dortmund.

It was 35's fourth successive final. In the semi-finals they defeated Rheindahlen Garrison with two goals by LCpl Jeff Wright, ACC.



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# Flying ladies regain Services ski crown

THE ARMY team regained the title of British Women's Services ski champions after last year's disappointing loss to the WRNS.

Five weeks of hard training in Austria, and races against the men at the divisional and Army championships, gave the team an excellent preparation.

It was obvious on the first day of the championships that

the WRAF would be the main rivals. The first race, the slalom, was a disaster and several major skiing errors left the Army a good 23 seconds behind the WRAF.

But the giant slalom was fast and flowing, ideal for the Army skiers. They flew down the course, finishing an enormous 41 seconds ahead of the WRAF for a tremendous victory.



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# SOLDIER



An unusual experience for British paratroops—jumping from a US Air Force Starlifter jet of Military Airlift Command during the ABCA (America, Britain, Canada, Australia) Exercise Caltrop Force in California. See Caltrop Force stories and pictures in Pages 28-31.

Picture: Lt Col Hugh Dickens, 9/12 L