

SOLDIER

APRIL 17 1989

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COMMANDOS IN NORWAY

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FRONT COVER: Coldstream Guardsman Peter Wright with his Victoria Cross and other medals which are going on display at Regimental Headquarters in Wellington Barracks, London. The action in which Mr Wright won his VC is depicted in the painting behind him. See story and more pictures in Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



US Air Force C-141B Starlifters wait for their passengers, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, to equip themselves with American parachutes lined up at Monterey Airport during Exercise Caltrop Force in California. A first report appears in Page 9 and a full round-up will appear in the next issue. Also SOLDIER has visited Leeds to see the new Challenger 2 in production. Plus first news of a major new televised infantry competition.

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

I have persuaded him not to



Sig Richardson

sue you for defamation of character! - Lt Col Phil Spooner, R Signals, Royal Signals Display Teams, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks.

In your issue of February 20, you ask your readers for the explanation of SSP. Aha! So

★ Latest winner of SOL- ★
★ DIER's HOAY is Cpl ★
★ Lewis, of A Coy, 3 ★
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I take that as encouragement to ask for an explanation of some other abbreviations found in the same issue like LAD, OCA, DPR (A), QMSI, and EOD. — Dr Eugene H Czajkoski, 2340 Kilkenny East, Tallahassee, Florida.

Point taken! To help Dr Czajkowski enjoy his SOLDIER to the full, LAD stands for Light Aid Detachment, OCA for Old Comrades Association, DPR (A) for Director of Public Relations (Army), QMSI for Quarter Master Sergeant Instructor and EOD for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. We still don't know what SSP stands for! – Editor

● **RAMC/RADC WO's and Sgts** Past and Present Dinner Club 1989 annual dinner and reunion will be held on May 13 at RAMC Training Centre, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Further details from WO1 (RSM) N R

● **War Widows Association** of Great Britain Service of Thanksgiving, commemorating the men who gave their lives.

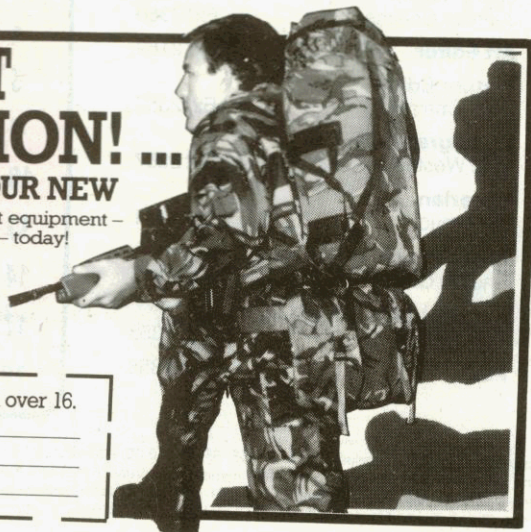
● **1st Bn Manchester Regiment** reunion at Royal British Legion, Robert Hall Street, Salford, Manchester on May 19. Details from Mr A Mottershead, 34 Gloucester Street, Salford M5 3RE

In **SOLDIER** (March 6) your mention of the five serving ex Sandhurst officers who have received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal reminds me that in the late 1950s I was a member of an even more exclusive club with a membership of three serving brigadiers who all wore the ribbon of the LSGC. The other two were Brigs (Ranji) Ranson and Vic Blundell, both ex RAOC. — **Brig C T W Gough OBE** (Ret'd), Aldestrop, St Florence, Tenby, Pembro SA70 8LJ.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)



Skynet link to Namibia

THE Army's new satellite communication system, Skynet 4B, is already proving its worth in Namibia with the advance party of Blandford based 30 Signal Regiment who are providing communications for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) monitoring the country's transition to independence, writes Laurie Manton.

Skynet 4B is being used to pass administrative traffic to and from the UK.

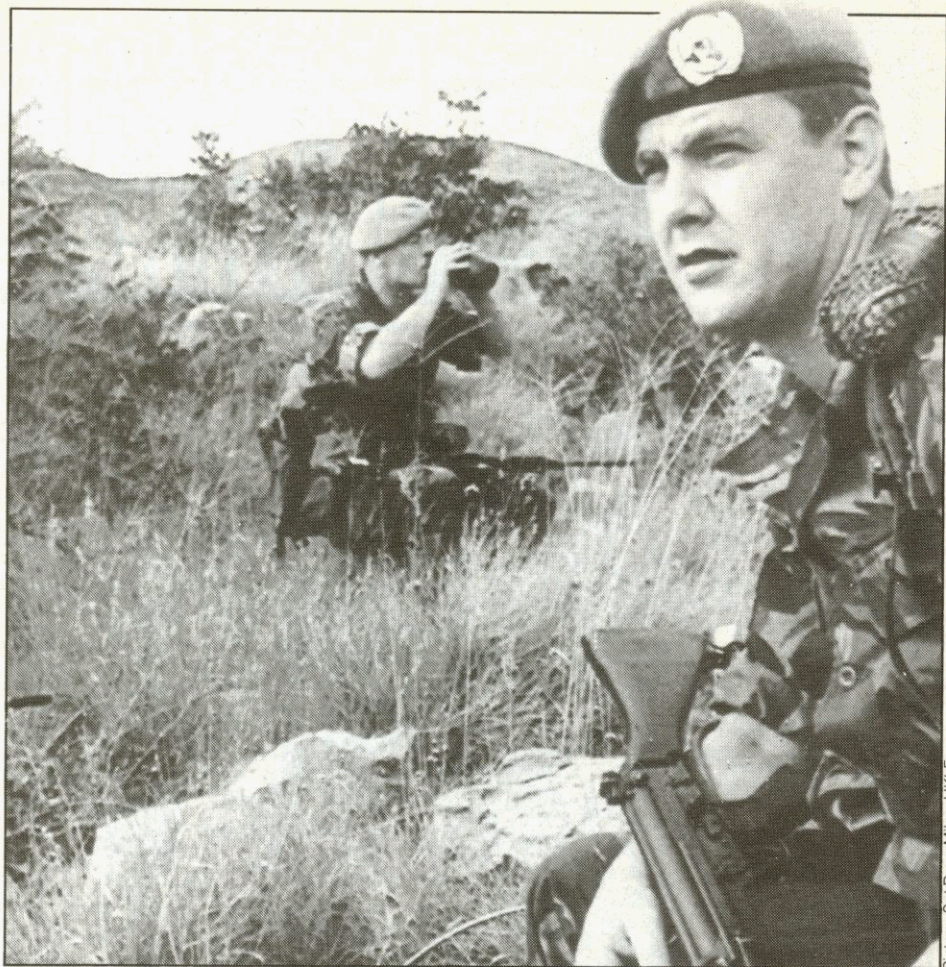
UNTAG's Force Signals Officer is Lt Col Neil Donaldson, CO of the regiment and his crack communicators have already established a communication centre at the Force Signals Unit's base camp.

The unit was visited by the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, when she flew to Namibia during her Africa tour.

The commcen handles signal traffic transmitted between UNTAG headquarters in Windhoek and the various battalion and military observer locations.

Currently signals detachments have been deployed to Grootfontein, the forward logistic headquarters; Oshakati, HQ of the Malaysian battalion; the headquarters of the Finnish battalion at Rundu, and with the military observers at Keetmanshoop. Officer commanding the signallers is Maj Alisdair Harrison.

At present the British contingent is about 80 strong, comprising mostly Royal Signals personnel with attached elements from the



Picture: Sgt Dave Miles, UKLF

Sgt Martin Henly (above) from 30 Signals Regiment in Blandford, Dorset is one of the British soldiers serving with the 7,350 strong United Nations force overseeing Namibia's transition to independence. Martin is responsible for the smooth running of all communications within the UN and for satellite communications back to the United Kingdom

RAMC, RAOC, REME, RAPC and ACC.

It is planned to increase the deployment to establish comms with the Swakopmund logistic base which monitors cargo arriving by sea, and the Kenyan battalion headquarters at Okahandja.

As SOLDIER went to press, it was revealed that 80 more British troops were flying to Namibia, while their trucks and

equipment were being transported by sea.

Two members of the British contingent were killed in a road accident near the Angolan border. They were named as Cpl Matthew McHeish (11 Sig Regt) and Cpl George Elliot (30 Sig Regt). Two others, Sgt Michael Thompson (11 Sig Regt) and LCpl David McLeary (30 Sig Regt) were slightly injured in the accident.

New webbing is given a name

THE Army's new webbing will come into service in early 1990, and its mouthful of a title - Personal Load Carriage Equipment (Infantry) - has been dropped in favour of a name more in keeping with the Army of the 1990s.

PLCE (Inf) - (see SOLDIER February 22, 1988) - has now been officially designated as 90 Pattern (Infantry) Equipment. However, an MoD spokesman confirmed that the 30-year-old 58 Pattern Webbing currently in use will "remain in service for many years to come."

● The concept of issuing soldiers with a "barrack boot" which troops can wear in and around camp while keeping their combat boots for exercises and operations is under consideration.

One idea is to use the old Northern Ireland patrol boot as a barrack boot.

Defence Chief in Falklands

During a recent visit to the Falkland Islands, the Chief of Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig experienced at first hand the arduous working environment of men and machinery in the South Atlantic. Tough driving conditions in a land with few surfaced roads and unfriendly weather take their toll on vehicles and other equipment. But the Joint Forces Workshop, established by Capt Phil Dymmock REME (left), keeps the show on the road. He is seen showing the CDS part of his museum of Falklands-worn components.



Nato celebrates its 40th anniversary

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Cool Nick commended

PTE Nick Gilbert, Light Infantry, has been awarded a GOC's Commendation for his coolness and skill in treating and comforting a severely injured and shocked soldier who had been run over by an armoured personnel carrier during an exercise on Salisbury Plain last year.

"Pte Gilbert's actions and skill

undoubtedly played a large part in saving the life of the injured soldier," says the citation.

Presently attached to Support Weapons Wing at the School of Infantry, Pte Gilbert is shortly to rejoin 2 LI. He received his commendation from GOC South West District, Maj Gen Tony Jeapes.



Terriers off to Michigan

TERRIERS from Cumbria and Lancashire are to visit America during an exchange visit which will see 150 US National Guardsmen travelling to the United Kingdom in their place.

Elements of the 4th Bn, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment will hold their annual camp at Michigan, while the Americans will join the remainder of the battalion for two weeks training in the North East of England.

Cheshire fanfare

CELEBRATIONS of the 300th birthday of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment started with a fanfare by six members of their Corps of Drums to accompany the raising of the regimental flag above Regimental Headquarters at Chester Castle. A variety of birthday events is planned, including a tattoo. In July the Colonel in Chief, the Prince of Wales, will present new Colours to the 1st and 3rd (Volunteer) Battalions. The Cheshires are also to receive the Freedom of Halton, Congleton and Vale Royal boroughs.

Flying shamrock

BRITISH Airways came to the rescue of The Royal Irish Rangers by flying 3,000 shamrocks to West Germany in time for 1 R Irish at Osnabruck and 2 R Irish at Lemgo to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

Usually the RAF fly the shamrocks to the Irish Rangers wherever they are in the world, but this year a suitable military flight was not available.



Brig Patrick Cordingley inspects the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards at Oerbke Camp, near Fallingbommel, West Germany during the regiment's annual Oates Parade, which commemorates the self-sacrifice of Capt Lawrence Oates during Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1912. It was a double celebration for 5 Innis DG, with the Oates Parade falling on St Patrick's Day

Bristol win UOTC trophy

BRISTOL beat 16 other University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) in the fourth Royal Signals UOTC competition at the School of Signals in Blandford. The contests comprised nine stands run by both Regular and TA signals units and covered military and communications skills.

London were the runners up and trophies were presented by Maj Gen Paul Alexander, the Signal Officer in Chief.

London summit hosted by CGS

GEN Sir John Chapple, the Chief of the General Staff, hosted a summit in London with six of his European counterparts from France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, West Germany and the Netherlands. The group, known as FINABEL, meets annually to discuss military topics of mutual interest and concern, and to facilitate and encourage co-operation between the armies of participating nations.

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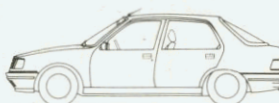
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1 Para 'drop in' on US exercise



Pictures: Mike Perring

Allies – Australian soldier with Steyr rifle (left) and US marine (M16 with grenade launcher) storm a beach under intense photographic fire

CALTROP FORCE

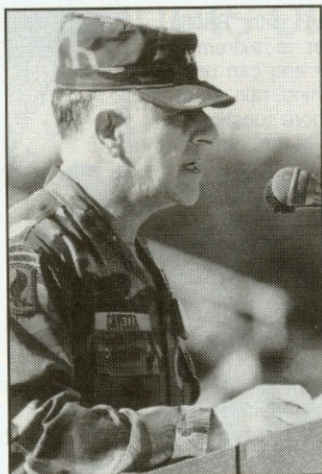
LESSONS learned in one of the most imaginative and challenging multi-national exercises for many years are being assessed by military experts and observers, **writes Bill Moore.**

More than 5,000 troops from the US, British, Canadian and Australian armies took part alongside elements of American naval and air forces.

Exercise Caltrop Force at Fort Hunter Liggett military reservation in Monterey County on the Pacific coast of the USA, was the largest ever held in which all participants and almost all weapons and vehicles were fitted with a version of the multiple integrated laser engagement system (MILES).

Rifles, machine guns and many armoured vehicles fired laser beams which activated sensors when scoring hits or near misses.

(A small scale British exercise SIMEX 88, held on Salisbury Plain, last year demonstrated the high value of



Maj Gen Carmen J Cavezza, commanding the 7th Infantry Division (Light) welcoming visitors to Ex Caltrop Force

such training which has been developed in the USA in recent years.)

The 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based in Aldershot, carried out a dusk drop behind "enemy lines" at

the beginning of the exercise.

It held off an attacking force while the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the 6th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment dug in behind them and the 5th Battalion, 21st US Infantry, came up in support.

There was something novel for almost everyone on Caltrop Force.

The Australians were using a new rifle, the Steyr, Austrian designed but made in New South Wales.

Not so glamorous but just as important, the new Mk 2 combat high boot was being trialled by 1 Para. The boots were issued about a week before the battalion flew to the US and 3,000 pairs will be distributed throughout the Army this year.

The British SA 80 attracted considerable attention from the other nationalities.

Lying offshore was the USS Fort McHenry, one of the US

Navy's latest warships, capable of swallowing and disgorging landing craft and amphibious vehicles, and there was a variety of helicopters to see.

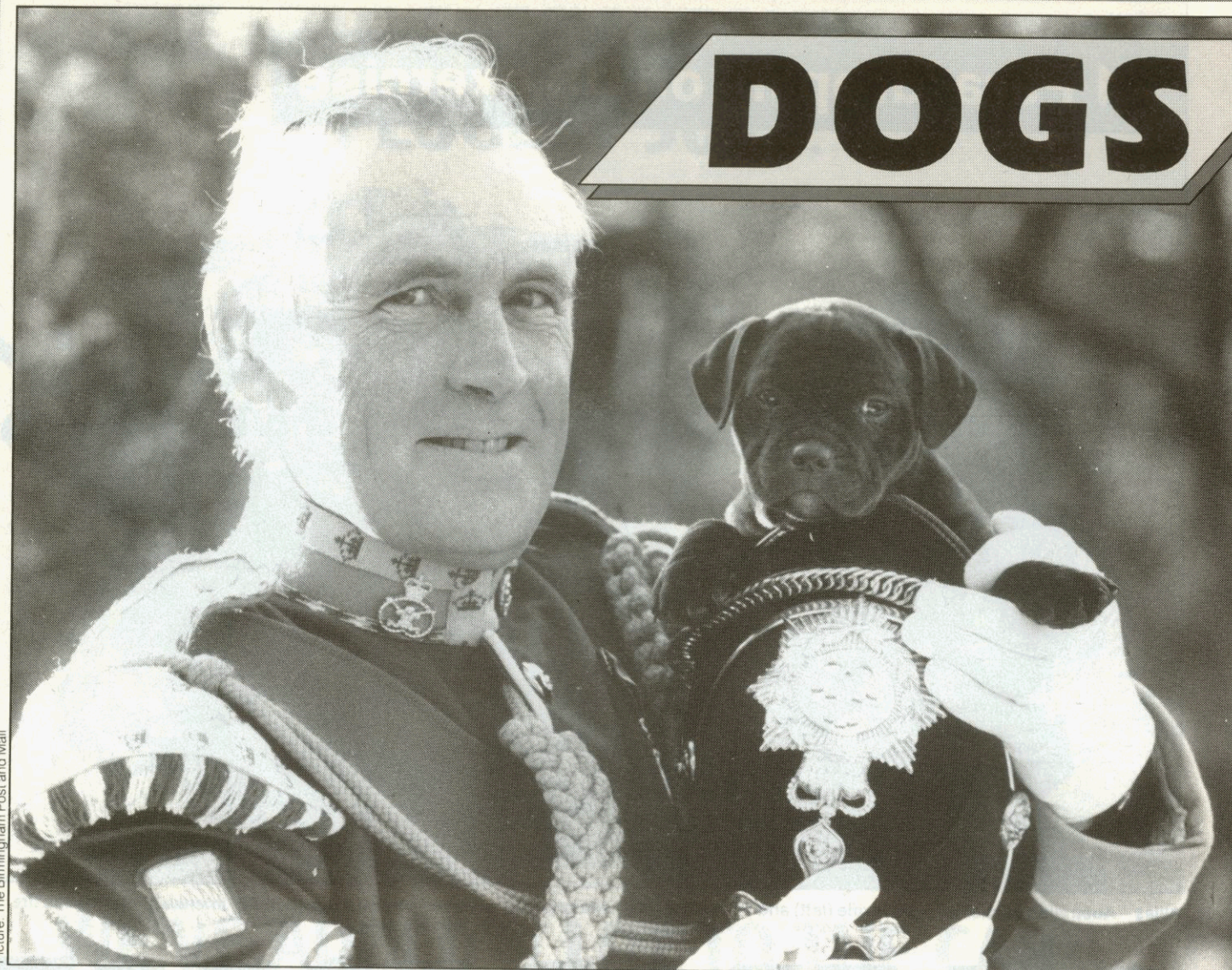
The EH-60 Quickfix helicopter was reported to be operating in the area – in appearance a Blackhawk transport but with its innards stuffed with millions of pounds worth of highly secret electronic warfare equipment.

The US Marine Corps played an important part in the exercise and introduced the Aussies to the Armoured Amphibious Assault Vehicle which can make about 8 mph under jet propulsion at sea and 5 mph on its land tracks.

A hole where the machine gun used to be on the turret of some vehicles was due to be filled with a 40mm grenade launcher.

● A full roundup in words and pictures will appear in the next issue.

DOGS

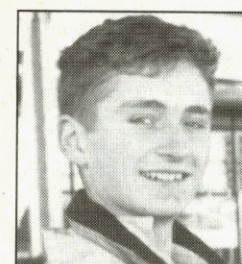


Picture: The Birmingham Post and Mail

Staffords go for a Burton

Every puppy has its day, and that day for **Watchman III** is May 13. That's when the little fellow (that's him in handler Sgt **Malcolm Bower's** helmet!) will be presented to the 3rd (Volunteer) Bn, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) at Burton on Trent to mark the retitling of the battalion. Watchman III, a Staffordshire bull terrier, will be just six months old by the time he enters the ranks as a private, but in due course he hopes to rise to the rank of sergeant!

He is the third mascot to be connected with Burton. The others are buried at the Town Hall.



Soaring success

Pte **Peter Stockton** (left) of the RAOC based in Aldershot was on a winner when he "bought" one of 60,000 balloons released in aid of the Wiltshire St John Ambulance Brigade at Swindon. His balloon travelled nearly 200 miles to Sheffield and won him a cheque for £1,000 from Renault, who sponsored the balloon race. Peter, who says it is the first competition he has ever won, will also have free loan of a luxury saloon car for a fortnight. He is looking forward to his summer holidays already!



Sgt **Stephen Cox** (above right) of 113 Provost Company RMP stationed at Werl, West Germany soon collected the nickname "Sheriff" when he and his posse of three Redcaps patrolled the Bavarian town of Zwiesel

Sheriff's in town!

during the Inter-Services and British national Nordic ski championships.

MEET THE MoD'S MET MEN

The intensity of the weather in the South Atlantic is well known from the accounts of heroic sailing ships battling around Cape Horn. Ancient mariners had little more than cloud formations and seaweed to predict the weather.

Today forecasting in the southerly latitudes is a science which is constantly in demand by the men and women of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force who provide for the defence of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

Providing this support is a small team of Ministry of Defence met men at Mount Pleasant Airport.

Their forecasts are also



Met man Eddy Watts

much in demand by Falkland islanders and the fleets of foreign fishing

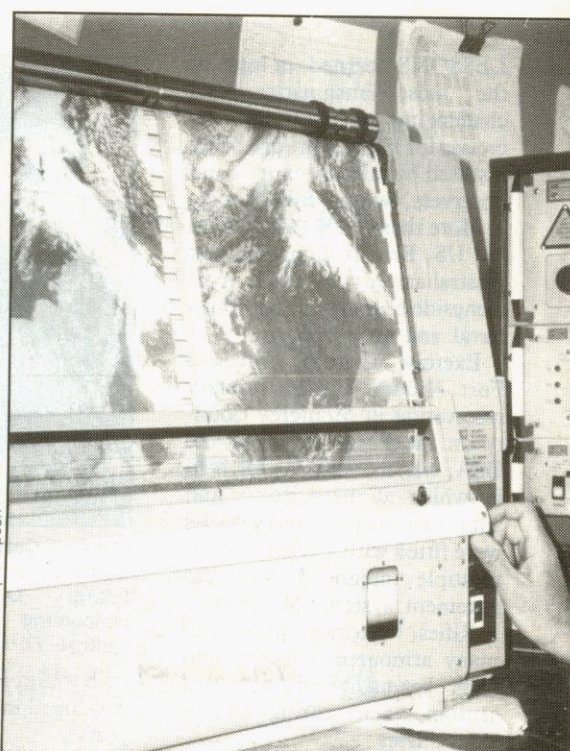
vessels which operate around the colony.

Compared with Britain the weather is extremely changeable and can bring warm sunshine, rain, sleet, snow and more sunshine in the space of an hour or two.

Principal Met Officer, Mike Waller, explains: "In spite of this changeability the climate in the Falklands is much maligned. In fact the islands receive more sunshine than the south of England."

The met men have a difficult job in that incoming weather information is sparse. South Atlantic Southern Command covers 1.4 million square miles and a two-metre diameter weather balloon is hardly a microdot on the radar screen!

They rely heavily on the interpretation of weather satellite pictures received locally and computer information received via a direct link to the UK.



Garden Johnston monitors visual and infra red satellite pictures. South America is upside down and the Falklands (top left) are covered by cloud

Story and pictures: Philip Simpson

PEOPLE

Cadets on target



Royal Grammar School CCF, Newcastle won the senior section of the Tremlett Trophy, an observation and adjustment of fire competition run by gunnery staff of the Royal Artillery. Malvern College CCF won the junior section. The finals were held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill after heats throughout the United Kingdom.

Developed by Lt Col (Retd) John Deacon, the competition has grown from three teams entered in

1982 to 88 this year. From left to right are the Malvern and RGS cadets with gunnery staff - Sgt Paul Canning, WO2 John Ryecroft, Cdt James Robinson, Lt Col John Deacon, WO2 Bob Riddiford, Cdt Andrew Parkinson, Capt Andy Waller, Cdt John Lewin, Col Mike Beckingsale (Regt Col RA), Cdt Timothy Hotchkiss, Cdt Andrew Jackson, WO1 Master Gunner Kevin Houlihan, Cdt James Anderson and WO2 Alan Mitchel.



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Scots Guards Colours in safe keeping

Falklands campaign medals were much in evidence when the Colours of the Second Battalion of The Scots Guards were handed over for safe keeping to Glamis Castle in Scotland.

The Falklands campaign was the most recent battle honour to be borne on the Colours, and many of the 2nd Bn who fought at Tumbledown were at the ceremony when the Colours were handed over by Lt Col Julian Lancaster, Commanding Officer.

The Colours span a period of almost 300 years, starting with Namur in 1695.

New Colours were presented to the battalion by the Queen, Colonel in Chief of the regiment, last June.

Civvy police "join up"

Military and civil police have joined forces at Tidworth, Hants, to promote crime prevention.

A crime prevention centre has been opened in the town and will be manned every Wednesday by trained personnel from the Royal Military Police and Wiltshire and Hampshire Constabularies.

Idea for the centre came from 174 Provost Company RMP at Tidworth. It will give advice on crime prevention measures to

Lt Col Julian Lancaster receives the Colours from the ensigns

members of the civil and military police, and to other interested groups like local tradesmen and wives' clubs.

Training areas kept neat . . .

It's never too early to start thinking of conservation, and at Warcop Training Range in Cumbria the Army is putting that thought into practice.

Schoolchildren from Warcop and Brough are taking an active part in conservation on the range by planting saplings which they will look after as they grow. Plaques erected on

the sites will record the tree planting.

. . . and tidy

Thoughts – and deeds – are on environment in the south west too.

During April, the Army has been tidying all the main training areas and camps in South West District in an operation code named Tidy Wyvern.

Not all the litter accumulates from the military; much of it on training areas comes from civilian sources, say South West District.

Medals for Buller museum

The medals and memorabilia of former Army Service Corps officer Maj George Liddiard are being added to the exhibits at the Royal Corps of Transport museum at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

George Liddiard joined the Army in 1911 for service spanning 36 years, and after he died last year his son arranged to hand over a considerable collection of items to the RCT.

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



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Just the same old Peter, VC

A SECOND World War hero who took out three machine gun posts single handed and went on to win a Victoria Cross says the honour never changed him.

"I am still one of the lads," reckons Peter Wright, who at 72 is spritely and fit, except for the odd twinge of rheumatism.

He sparkles with anecdotes and he has always been popular on the Royal British Legion and Women's Institute talks circuit. Now his collection of medals and decorations is to go on view with the 12 other VCs awarded to members of the Coldstream Guards.

Peter was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions on Hill 270, a steep wooded hill near Salerno, Italy, and was decorated at Buckingham Palace by King George VI on June 6, 1944.

But, according to military author John Frayn Turner, the King later intervened and, on a visit to the Italian battlefield, said to Gen Alexander: "If ever a man deserved the VC, it is this man to whom I have awarded the DCM."

The King then asked Gen Alexander to check all the facts of the Hill 270 action and report to him personally. The general did this with the result that the DCM was cancelled

and the VC bestowed instead.

Of the new honour, Peter said: "I was dumbfounded, I really could not believe it. I was only doing my duty and what I had been trained to do. There was no thought of fear, it was just instinct."

"I am not sure how many Germans I killed. But I put it at no more than three or four because the ones left ran away."

That day the Coldstream Guards lost 16 NCOs and men and three officers.

A few days later Peter and other soldiers went down with malaria.

"On our way by boat to Algeria we were so ill we had to nudge each other to see if we were still alive. It seemed far worse than the battle," he said.

Earlier that September, Peter had escaped death by yards. "We had been holding a canal near Salerno, and I had just finished talking to the company commander when a shell hit a tree. The blast killed the second in command and his servant, and blew off the arm of



A youthful Peter Wright in 1943 when he was 27

the company commander."

Peter survived the war with just one battle scar – above his right eye from a piece of shrapnel at Tobruk.

After the war, he considered a full time Army career but returned to the family farm in Suffolk, from which he is now semi-retired. He has never been tempted to sell his medals and has willed them to his son.

"It is impossible to value them. I am very proud to have

them for the regiment and Suffolk."

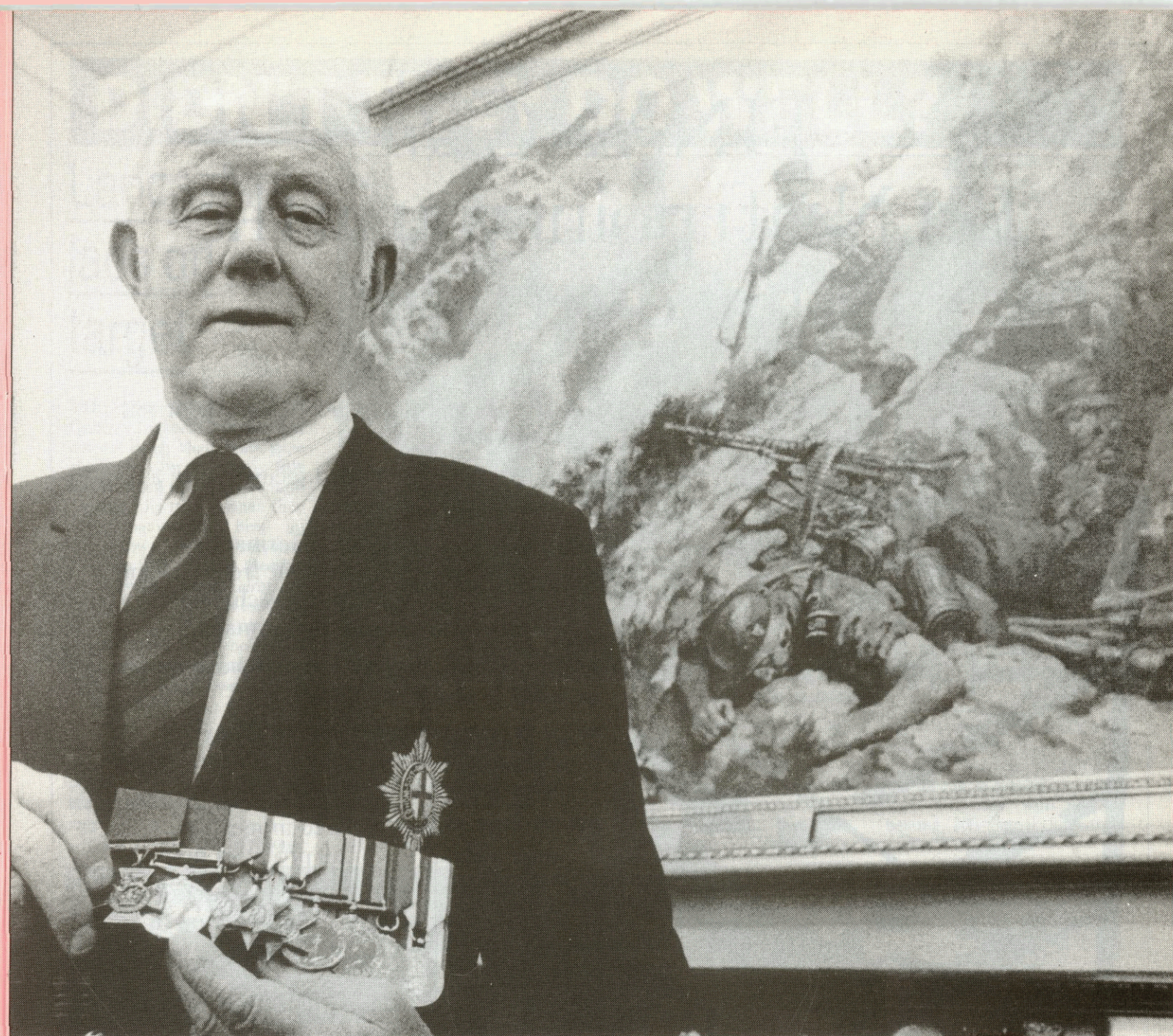
In January 1944, he was posted to the Training Battalion in England, where his duties included guarding the Prime Minister's residence, Chequers.

"There was a private cinema there, which we were allowed to visit. Winston Churchill and his wife, and their house guests used to sit in the front, and we would be at the back. It's far too long ago to remember the film, but you could say I've been to the pictures with the Prime Minister!"

Last year a painting by Peter Archer depicting the action for which the VC was awarded was commissioned by the regiment, and has pride of place in Regimental Headquarters at Wellington Barracks.

The detail shows a Gdsmn Mills of London giving cover. Peter, who lost contact with him 20 years ago, would very much like to get in touch again, "I want to give him a print of the painting," he added.

Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Peter Wright, displaying his Victoria Cross and other medals, is immortalised in the painting behind him

Coldstream VCs on show

The Coldstream Guards are displaying all the 13 Victoria Crosses that members of the regiment have been awarded, and campaign medals, at Regimental Headquarters, Wellington Barracks, until the end of June. It is the first time they have all been on view together and has meant quite a lot of behind-the-scenes work in tracing some of them for LSgt Lewis Pearce (left) regimental association welfare clerk. He is pictured with their one living VC holder, Peter Wright



Three spandau posts silenced single handed

PERSONAL intervention by King George VI into the change of award for WO2 (CSM) Peter Harold Wright, Coldstream Guards, brought him a Victoria Cross, the 12th for the regiment.

The battle was on September 25, 1943, when the 3rd Battalion attacked the Pagliaroli feature, a steep wooded hill near Salerno, Italy.

Before it reached the crest, the right hand company was held up by heavy spandau and mortar fire and

all the officers were put out of action.

Finding that there were no officers left, CSM Wright took charge and crawled forward to see what the opposition was. Three spandau posts were holding them up.

He put a section into a position where it could give covering fire and single handed attacked each post in turn with hand grenades and bayonet, silencing each one.

Regardless of enemy fire, which was very heavy, CSM

Wright reorganised what was left of the company and consolidated the objective.

Soon afterwards the enemy launched a counter attack which was successfully beaten off.

Later, with complete disregard of heavy enemy shell fire on the area of company headquarters and the reverse slopes of the hill and of machine gun fire from the commanding slopes on the left flank of the position, he brought up extra ammunition and distributed it to the company.

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DIDN'T THEY DO WELL?

Lancashire lads on target

THE 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, current Bisley champions, gave challengers for the Army title fair warning of their intention to retain the trophy when they very convincingly beat all opposition at the 3rd Armoured Division Skill at Arms Meeting at Sennelager, West Germany.

The Lancashire lads were hot favourites to win the meeting, and so it proved at the end of the three day competition when they collected a massive array of trophies.

As current Army champions, the 1 QLR team will later this year travel to Canada to represent the British Army at the Canadian Army championships.

3 ADTR won the Divisional



Trophies galore for 1 QLR at the 3 Armd Div Skill at Arms meeting

championship and the Roupell Cup for iron sights and 5 Armd Wksp REME the trophy for minor units. 6 Armd Wksp REME were Division champions in the minor units competition.

Twenty-four teams took part in the 4th Armoured Division Skill at Arms Meeting.

Three teams had SA 80 and again it was evident that competitors using the new weapon produced significantly

higher scores than those still using the SLR.

Unlike last year SA 80 came out on top in the falling plates with 2 R Irish (with SA 80) beating 200 Signal Squadron (with SLR).



Above - Cordon Scouse! From left are LCpl David Burrows, Sgt Andy Greenwood, Cpl Watt Forbes and Bdr Geoff Shorthouse. Right - Television and radio personality Stuart Hall, a former member of the Army Catering Corps, tastes the winning dishes



Taste of success

FOUR part time soldiers from a Liverpool TA unit cooked their way to victory in the North West's major annual Territorial Army field cookery competition, staged for the first time at Weeton Barracks, near Blackpool.

St Helens welder LCpl David Burrows, and Sgt Andy Greenwood, Cpl Watt Forbes and Bdr Geoffrey Shorthouse from

the regiment's Bolton Battery, formed the winning four man team from Huyton based 103 Air Defence Regiment.

● Sgt Colin Pollard, serving with the Junior Leaders Regiment, RA is Army Chef of the Year for Wales and the West Midlands. LCpl David Chatwin, also with the Junior Leaders Regiment, has been named as Young Chef of the Year.

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Is this enough?

Building budget increase is vital

FEW of us could have imagined the 1970s moratorium on the maintenance budget would have had such serious repercussions on the Army's married quarter estates, but the plain fact is that we are still trying to catch up on repairs.

The successful Local Works Maintenance Budget (LWMB) pilot scheme at Arborfield is gradually being introduced into other garrisons but the need for extra staff could be one reason for difficulties in spreading the scheme to some areas.

A ceiling of £1,500 worth of maintenance which can be carried out on individual MQs would be an enormous improvement on the present situation and it will be a sad day if shortage of staff jeopardises this excellent scheme.

During 1987/88 the Property Services Agency spent £9.4m on the new MQ building programme and £17.6m on modernisation, a total of just over £27m.

During 1988/89 the new build expenditure was £9.9m and modernisation amounted to £23.5m, a total of £33.4m.

I understand the 1989/90



Mrs Sally Neubert, wife of the Under Secretary of State for Defence, is briefed by Aldershot Housing Commandant Lt Col Bob Bogan during her visit to the Ramillies Park estate in Aldershot

figure has not yet been agreed but will remain approximately the same as 1988/89. In contrast the PSA is to spend £120m on urgent refurbishment of government offices to reduce a six year backlog of work. This is a significant increase because it is £15m more than the current budget and a massive £38m more than the 1987 budget.

Meanwhile, the Government is making a concentrated effort to revitalise run down council estates, and I am wondering if it is time for MoD to launch a similar system.

I acknowledge that garrisons such as Catterick and Aldershot have seen major improvements. But is the Army keeping pace with what is available to the civilian sector, as MoD estates don't qualify for the

various Government schemes?

I am hoping that the rise in the MoD new build and modernisation budget is at least equal to that offered

to local authorities. If, when the sums are done, it is behind, then the reasons should be investigated. It must ensure a budget comparable to others.



TWO more HIVES (Help Information Volunteer Exchanges) have opened. Pictured with Lady Akehurst, wife of DSACEUR Gen Sir John Akehurst, are Jan Short and Julie Cressey, the first two co-ordinators at the tri Service HIVE in SHAPE. Another has opened in Rheindahlen. There are 15 HIVES run by wives, 11 of which are MoD funded.

Pay up!

SCHOOLS, fed up with the late payment of boarding school allowances, say they will fine late payers.

They usually expect to receive payments by the first day of term, and it is really up to the individual family to make sure they get it on time, by applying in good time for the grant from the Army.

Option to vote

ONLY about a half of the Army's personnel and their partners are eligible to vote in the forthcoming European Election. Statistics show that 65 per cent of Servicemen, 86 per cent of WRAC, 85 per cent of QAs and 34 per cent of partners have registered.

If you are serving abroad you can vote by proxy, but

many simply do not take the option or do not have someone to nominate.

If you were too late to register, there is a way around it under the late claims procedure. But you have to prove, in the case of Northern Ireland, that you were there on September 15, or elsewhere in the UK on October 10.

Banking on Naafi

THE Army and the Naafi have got together in a direct debit scheme which cuts out the middle man – the bank. Now Army personnel can authorise a payment from their salary at Worthy Down which goes directly to Naafi to pay off debt. The maximum is 25 per cent of 30 days net salary.

Badge for disabled

ARMY families who qualify for a disabled person's orange car badge need to ensure it does not run out if they are due to be posted overseas.

The badge means you can park without fear of being booked in UK or Germany, and my advice is to renew it before you move.

On arrival in Germany, applications for a blue German badge can be had from Joint Service Liaison Organisation, Dusseldorf, BFPO 34. The blue badge can be used when visiting UK but local German badges cannot.

Buying out bad news

BUYING yourself out of the Army? Then don't expect tax relief on what it costs. Pay Branch, MoD, tell me they continually receive applications for rebates from ex soldiers. The bad news is they simply don't qualify.

ERNIC rise

DON'T be surprised if you see a small rise in your National Insurance contributions on this month's pay slip.

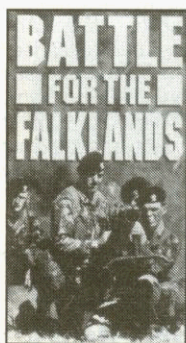
Because Service personnel don't get dole or sickness benefits, they pay a reduced rate. But this has now been increased by the Government.

And finally!

DO YOU wear a slip or the quaint petticoat? MoD opts for the latter term. The garment, whatever you call it, has a revised rate of £10.99 for the initial purchase grant, and the same sum for 'annual maintenance'.

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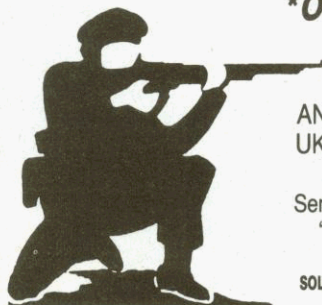
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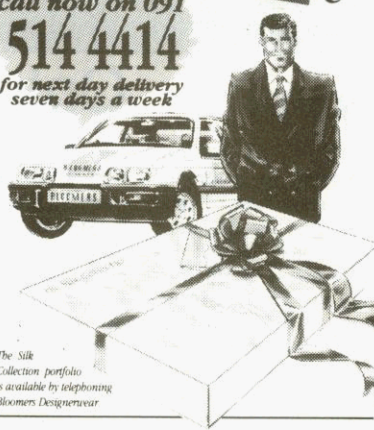
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Kineton's in shape for the future

Story by
Jennifer
Griffiths

Pictures
by Mike
Weston

FINAL phase of a £55m rebuild of the Central Ammunition Depot, Kineton – one of the British Army's largest with an inventory worth £354m – should be completed this year.

Improvements to Kineton proved essential when the Army's ammunition became high capacity with more explosive per round. The original storehouses, opened in 1941, were simply inadequate and work on upgrading them began 12 years ago.

The depot sits on the bed of a prehistoric lake which caused some buildings to break up and sink.

Now the building of a large stabling area for the storing of ammunition trains will bring an added facility to Kineton. A huge quantity of earth will be needed to create the traverses and the large quarry that will be left is to be developed as a massive lake, providing first class sporting water and a conservation area.

The Commandant, Col Mike Hall, is in charge of a massive depot covering 19 square kilometres, featuring 21km of perimeter fence, 68km of internal rail line and 45km of internal road.

He said: "The expenditure has produced an extremely cost effective depot for the hold, issue, store, repair and modification of ammunition. The reality is that we have a very large real estate of which we use quite a small part. We take a very active interest in conservation, working closely with all interested local and national organisations."

A variety of surveys has been allowed. One identified a fungus new to science, and another several beetles classed as nationally notable. A large colony of the rare plant Herb Paris, and numerous great crested newts have been found. Kineton is also home to 75 per cent of the South Warwickshire nightingale population!

The depot is historically important. It sits on the site of the Battle of Edgehill, the



Sgt Alistair Welch with some of the Javelin practice missiles, which were only intended to be fired once and discarded. But at Kineton they are stripped down, rebuilt and reissued as many as 15 times.

first battle of the Civil War. Musket and cannon balls are often unearthed and there is a memorial on camp which informs the visitor that both Cavalier and Roundhead lie buried nearby.

When Brig Peter Young, founder of the Sealed Knot Society which re-enacts the battles, died, members were allowed into the depot in full costume to lay a wreath on the memorial.

Another unusual feature within the depot is a memorial plaque to Col Denis Stone, Commandant from 1978 to 1981.

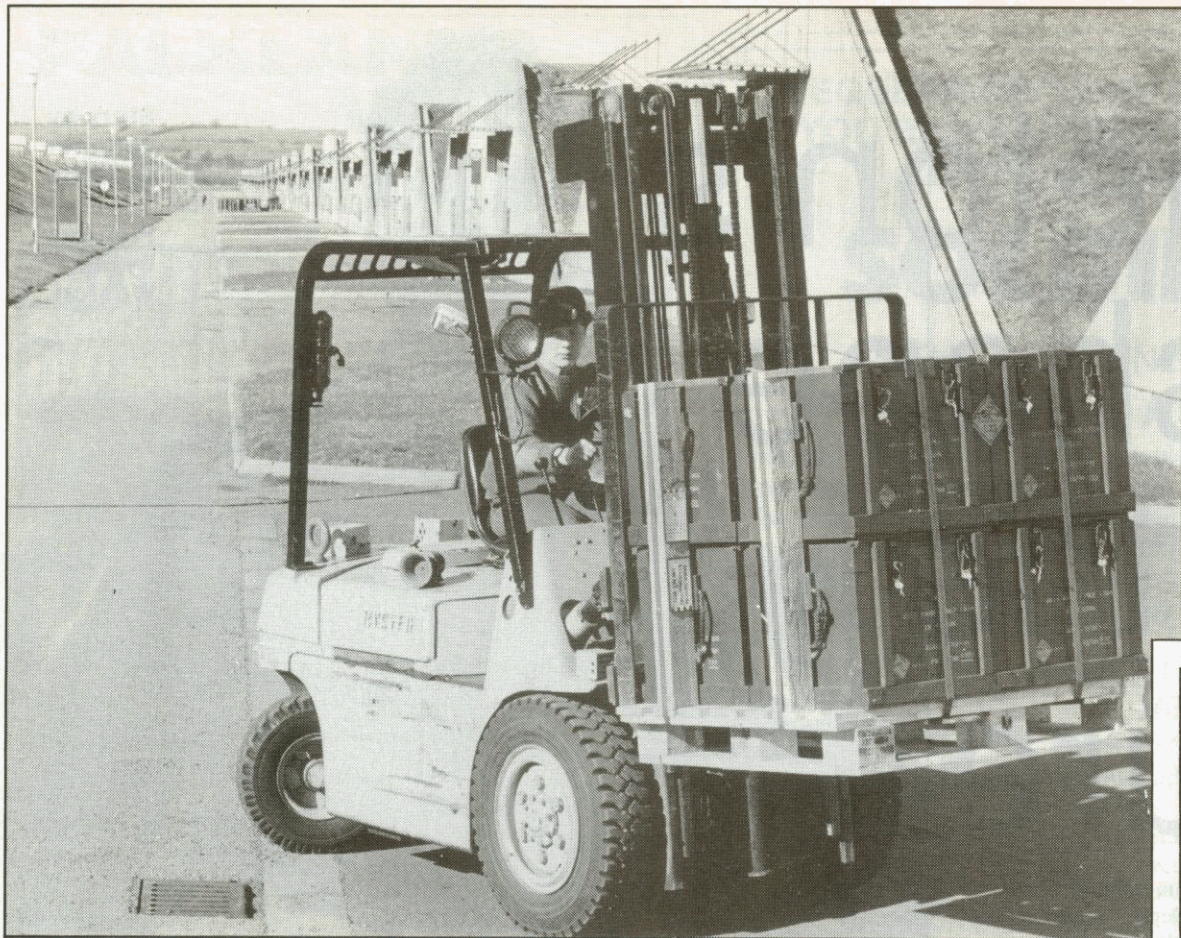
He died after retirement and his widow asked if his ashes could be scattered at Kineton because he had been so happy there during his posting.

Col Hall said: "It was an unusual request, but we were happy to oblige."

Kineton has a quota of 361 soldiers and is unusual in depot terms because it has more military than civilian personnel.

The RAOC works alongside a variety of cap badges, including the Royal Pioneer Corps, which provides military labour and

● Turn to next page



A woman in a man's world is Pte Lisa McLeod, busy at work on a fork lift truck

New Kineton takes shape

● From Page 21

defence. There are also WRAC personnel badged as RCT to do the "milk run" of ammunition supplies in 16 tonners. But issues are mainly by rail.

The issue and movement of stores is covered by a myriad of regulations, and there is a strict inspection system.

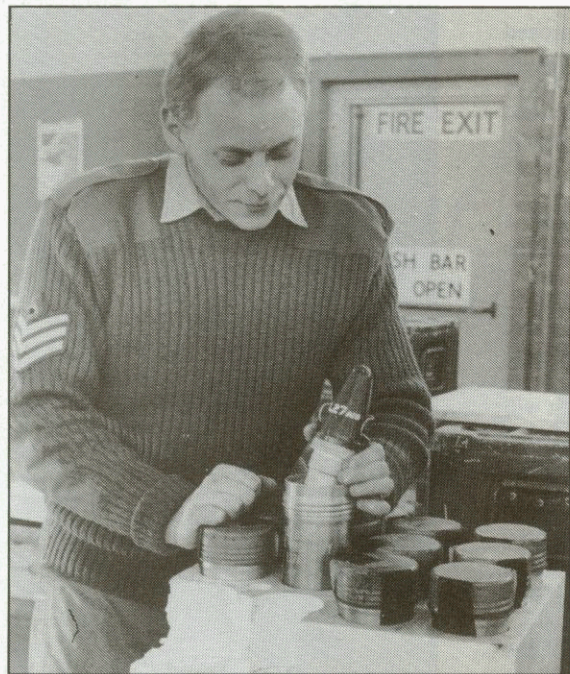
A repair and modification service at the depot is saving the country many thousands of pounds each year. For instance, Rapier missiles costing £22,000 brought to Kineton after being damaged can be rebuilt, saving the Exchequer up to £7,000 each time.

Another big saving is on Javelin practice missiles, designed to be fired once and discarded. These can be rebuilt and reissued from Kineton up to 15 times.

Regular proof testing of all ammunition is carried out, and logging means a fault can be traced back to the team who worked on it. A serious fault can bring a worldwide ban while an investigation is carried out. Col Hall said: "Generally, it is not the ammunition at fault. Often it is error of drill."

Maj Geoff Evans, the Senior Ammunition Technical Officer, heads a workforce of 127, including 30 civilians. His responsibilities include licensing and inspecting all the buildings, inspection on receipt and issue of ammunition, repairs and modification, and the demolition of unsafe or unserviceable items.

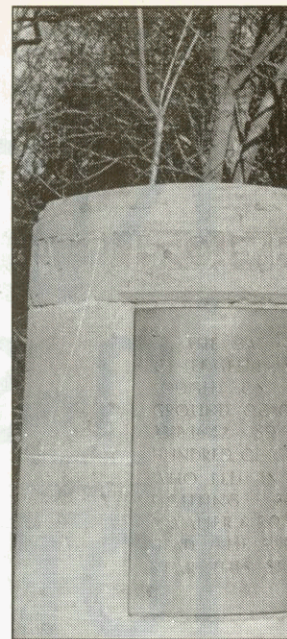
He is quick to praise British Army ammunition.



Ammunition technician Sgt Andy Gleeson of the Return Ammunition Group with a box of proximity fuses from the Falklands. Inspection showed a fragment of shell had passed through, penetrating two fuses. They had to be blown up on the depot demolition ground

"It is the safest in the world," he says citing a foreign missile which, in extreme circumstances and without an overpack, can be influenced by radio emissions and set off on its own.

"We have safeguards with our ammunition, which goes through the Quality Assurance Directorate, and we make sure nothing can go wrong. Our own missiles do not need an overpack to guard against radio emissions," he said.



Above - Col Mike Hall, Commandant of CAD Kineton, and the memorial to the Battle of Edgheill

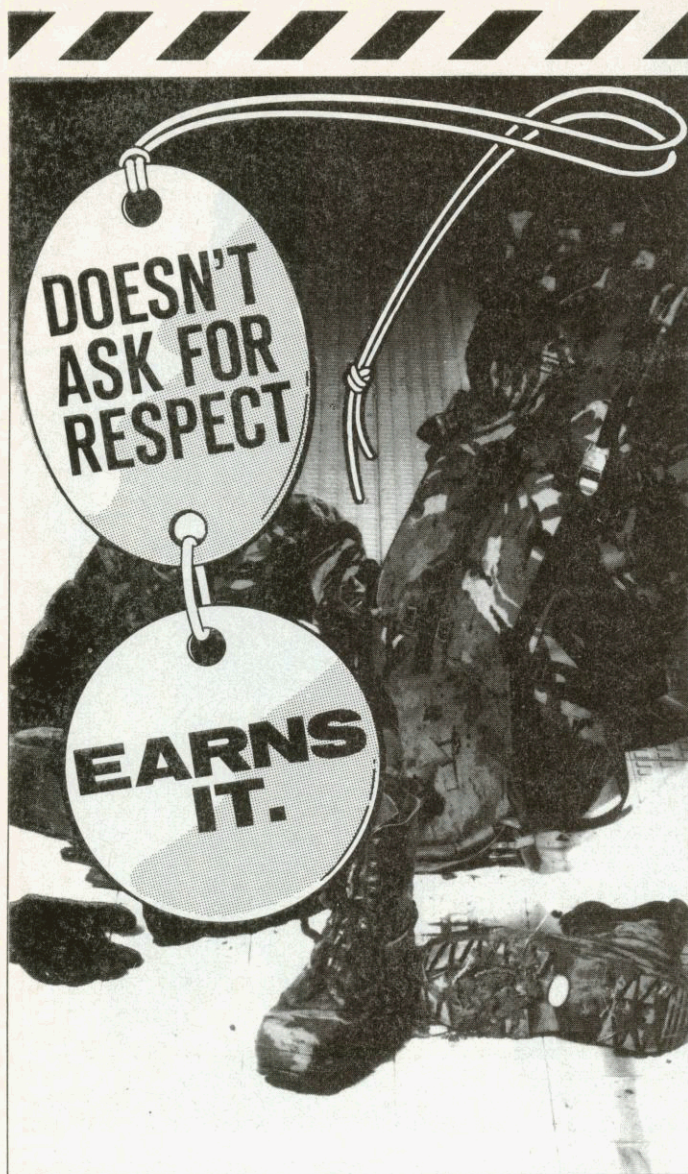
Right - Pedal power is an ideal way to get around the vast area of CAD Kineton. Here gallant LCpl Philip Sagar, RAOC, pumps up a tyre for Cpl Deborah Radestock

Left - Some of the stores go back quite a long way! Pte Claire Jenkins, aged 19, with some August 1945 ammunition which is a lot older than her

Below left - Loading ammunition on to the Depot train are Pte Sam Howett, RPC, and Cpl Philip Plowman, RAOC

Below - Temple Herdwyke Infants' School is a local authority school sited on camp at Kineton, from where all the pupils come. These youngsters keep up on the three Rs with teacher, Mrs Mari Rimell





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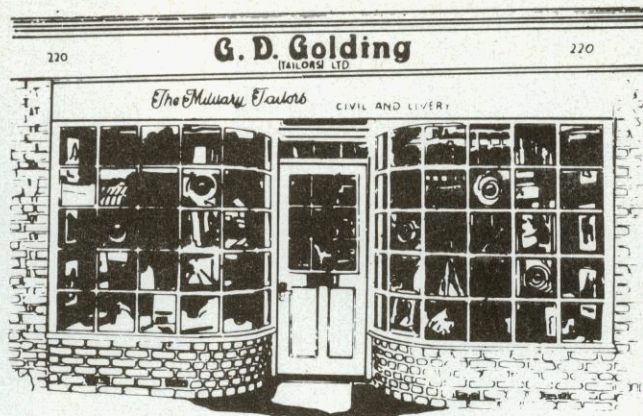
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The road goes ever on for troops moving forward. Note the man-drawn sledge to right

Snow, snow, quick, quick, snow!

**Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Weston**



A quick scrum down is necessary to prevent kit being blown away by the downdraft from a Sea King helicopter

DID you have to cancel a skiing holiday this winter for lack of snow? A pity, for there was plenty in Norway where a number of soldiers were able to take a bumble about in the white stuff, courtesy of 3 Commando Brigade.

To participate they first had to earn the right to wear the green beret by passing the All Arms Commando Course!

Exercise Cold Winter 89 took place in the far north of Norway, well inside the Arctic Circle, and involved forces from the UK, Netherlands, Norway and the United States.

About 18,000 troops, 60 ships and 130 aircraft took part in the combined FTX designed to increase the efficiency of Nato forces and headquarters in defence operations.

Aim of Cold Winter was to train external reinforcement forces and Norway's standing and mobilisation forces to improve the combat effectiveness and co-operation of all participants. For the land

operations, the more important objectives were to exercise Brigade North and the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (American) in preventing an amphibious landing force from penetrating into the country, as well as exercising refresher units, the Norwegian Home Guard and the UK/Netherlands Landing Force.

Other objectives included the co-ordination of air defence and the provision of replenishments to Allied Forces in North Norway.

The "enemy" was provided by 3 Commando Brigade, who went ashore during a full scale amphibious landing operation.

Commando trained Army elements involved included 29 Commando Regiment RA and 59 Independent Commando Sqn RE, and soldiers from a variety of corps serving with the Commando Logistic Regiment RM, 3 Cdo Bde Air Sqn RM and the Royal Navy Medical Branch.

● Turn to next page

'Blackies' keep HELARM wing ready for the off

HELPING keep 3 Commando's Lynx and Gazelle helicopters in the air were Cpls David McEvoy and John Reveley REME.

They are both aircraft technicians and their job was to keep the cabs (aircraft) used in the Helicopter Anti-Armour Missions (HELARM) role fully operational and serviceable.

Lynx has TOW capability and operates on HELARM. The Gazelles fly forward to spot enemy armour and inform the Lynx crews whose job it is to "neutralise" the advancing enemy.

The two men are employed as "blackies". Aircraft techni-

cian is a split trade in the corps and those who look after airframes and engines are known as blackies while the greenies look after the avionics.

The terms derive from the early days of the Army Air Corps when they borrowed a number of technicians from the Royal Navy. Different trades in the Navy were denoted by coloured edging on the badges of rank - hence the nicknames!

Cpl McEvoy chose a move to the commandos for the challenge, while Cpl Reveley became interested after visiting an "acquaint" (chum) who was serving with 29 Commando.

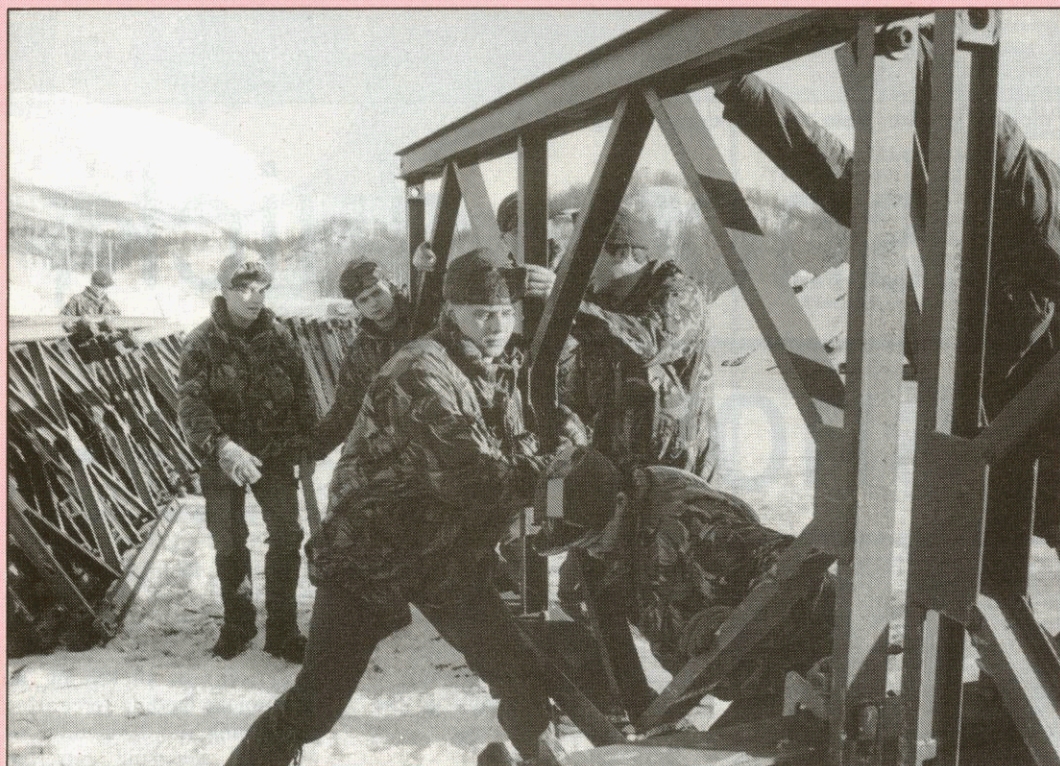
"Basically, I have always

respected the commando way and their abilities, and wanted to become part of the brigade.

"It's my first winter in Norway and I find operating in the snow a great change. It is good fun and completely different to anything I have done with the Army," he said.

No boring travel to Norway in the back of a Herc for this pair. They flew over with the Lynx party.

However, for Cpl Reveley the journey took a mite longer than expected. An engine had to be changed necessitating a three day stop at Kristiansand and extending the total journey time to six days!



Members of 213 Troop, 59 Cdo Sqn RE use a bit of muscle power to erect a Bailey bridge. No longer in service with the British Army, it was provided by the Norwegian Forces

Landing was real stinker

● From Page 25

Heavily tasked to put men and vehicles ashore was 51 Composite Port Squadron RCT.

Green power was again in evidence on a major Nato exercise, causing a number of restrictions on exercise play.

Progressively warmer winters (the lads were really basking in it this year) has lessened the value of winter warfare training.

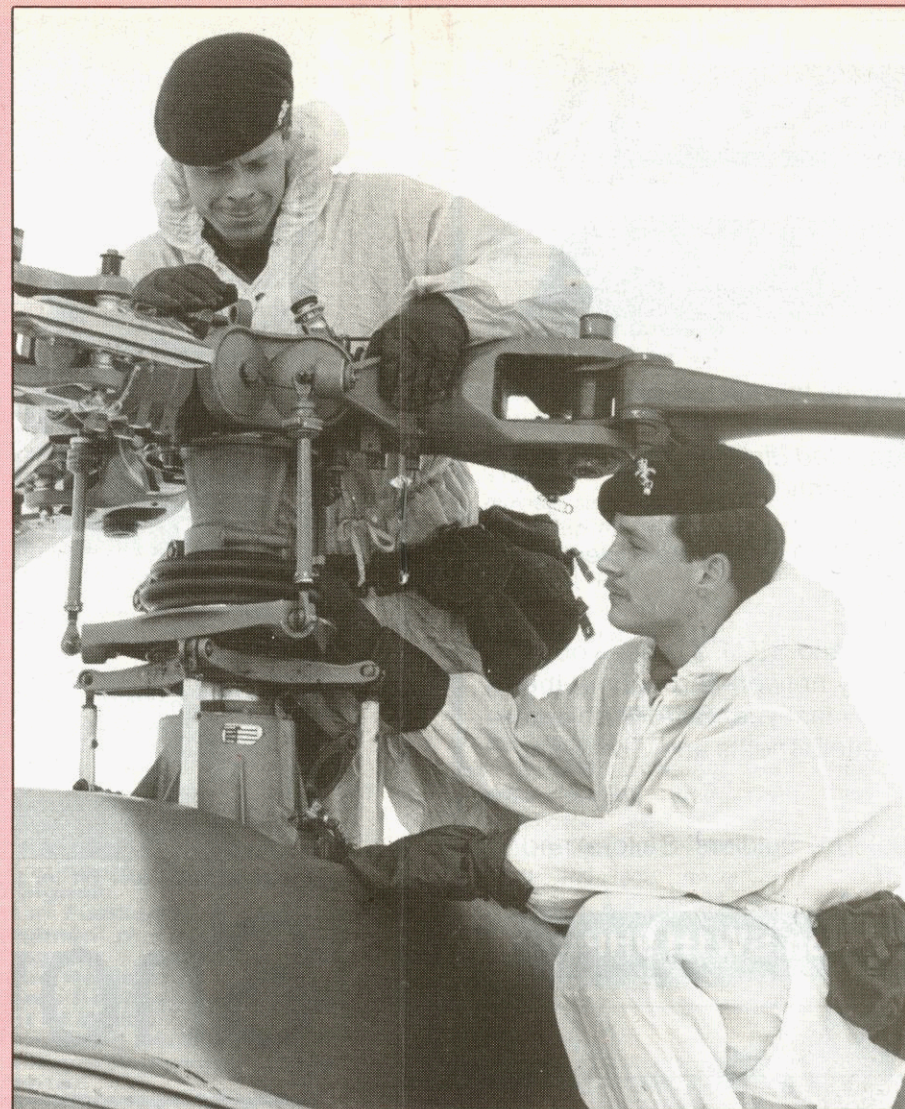
One remedy suggested by

several experienced personnel was to switch future exercise training to Canada, where the much harsher winter weather would provide conditions better suited to getting the troops used to operating in severe weather.

Two unforeseen hazards cropped up during Cold Winter. One involved the efficiency of Norwegian snow plough operators who managed their job so well on some stretches of road it was difficult

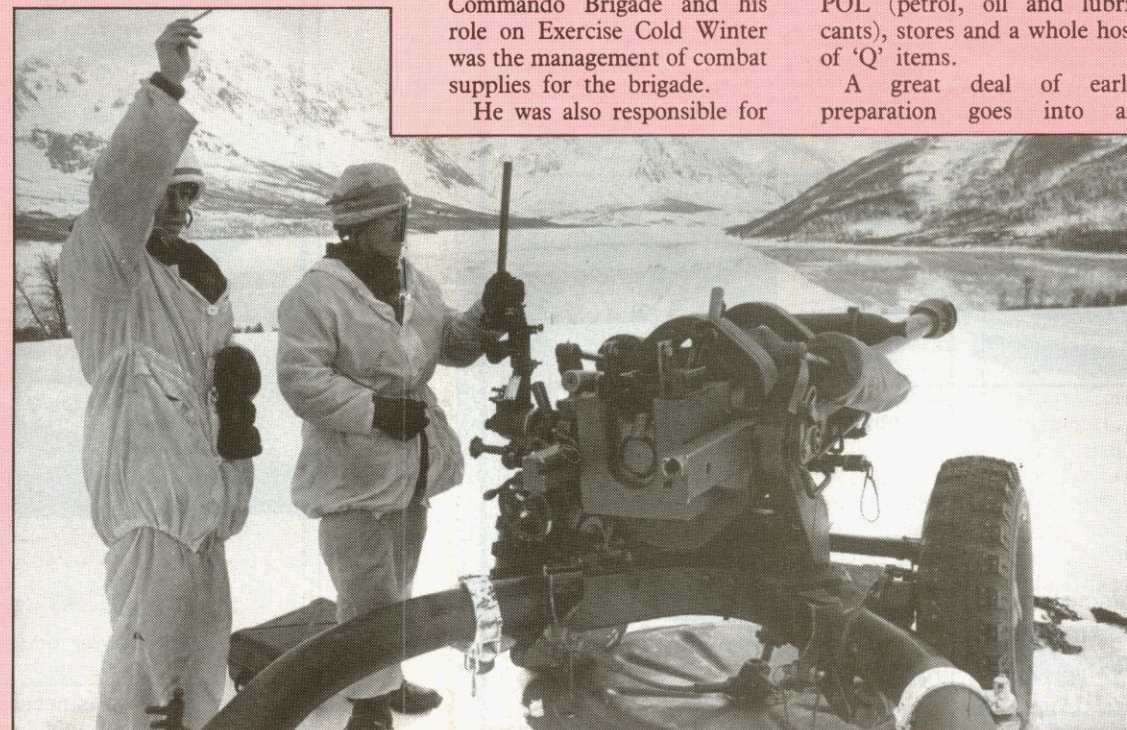
for troops to move about on skis. The other involved several thousand fish heads hanging up to dry near one of the designated landing beaches. The "pong" was overpowering and it would have been no surprise to hear the officer in charge beach party order his men to don their respirators.

As it was, the surprised grimaces on the faces of disembarking troops as they entered the smelling zone was a picture to behold!



Above - Cpls John Reveley (left) and David McEvoy check out a helicopter following a mission

Below - Site with a view. Sgt Steve Clarke (left) and Gnr 'Boulder' Martin of 79 (Kirkee) Cdo Bty, 29 Commando Regt RA range their 105mm Light Gun



Skipping exercise?

COMMANDO trained Capt Mark Dunn, RAOC, is the Brigade Ordnance Officer of 3 Commando Brigade and his role on Exercise Cold Winter was the management of combat supplies for the brigade.

He was also responsible for

dealing with the Norwegians over the setting up of the host nation agreement for rations, POL (petrol, oil and lubricants), stores and a whole host of 'Q' items.

A great deal of early preparation goes into an

exercise such as Cold Winter. For every exercise done in Norway, four visits are made for planning purposes. Close liaison is maintained with Norwegian county and local councils and with army forces on topics such as land clearance and environmental concerns.

Like most western countries, Norway has a very strong Green following, resulting in the brigade being allocated fixed areas for its exercises. In some areas it was felt exercises held at this time of year close to mink, elk and fish farms would disrupt trade.

"To counter this," said Capt Dunn, "we have a very large public relations input to say what we are doing to keep environmental control."

"An enormous amount of effort is put in to environmental matters, and we try to do as much as possible to alleviate damage."

"If you travel round the exercise area you will see we have deposited an enormous

number of rubbish skips, and refuse sacks are issued to each section with daily collections made," he said.

Like last year's Iron Hammer exercise, where toilet facilities were strictly controlled, in Norway the troops did not dig holes.

But unlike Germany, where portable toilets were sited at exercise locations, troops taking part in Cold Winter were issued with special man-portable latrine boxes. They quickly became known as "cardboard crappers".

Said Bdr Paddy Hunter of 29 Commando: "It's quite a simple function really! You put the box together - it has a fool's guide to assembly printed on the side - and insert a plastic sack. When the call of nature comes, you can just do your thing."

The boxes are carried around wherever the men go and when full are sealed and dropped off at the nearest local collection point.



Caught in the act - Gnr Eddy Kay (left) and Bdr Paddy Hunter keep a firm grip on their cardboard crappers during a lull in the fighting

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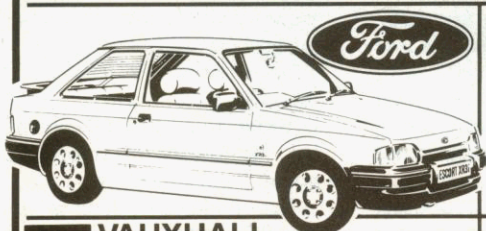
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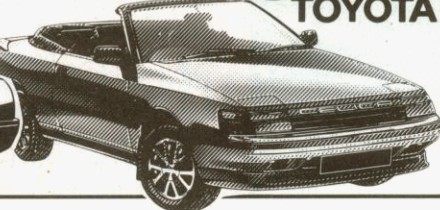
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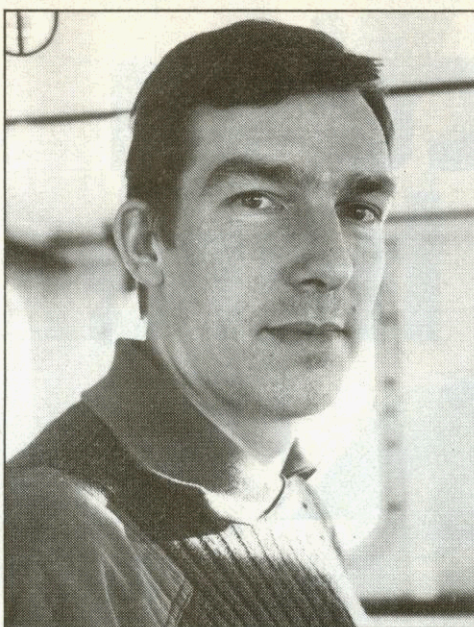
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The RCT provides a ferry service

PLAYING a vital role during Exercise Cold Winter were men of the Royal Corps of Transport responsible for moving stores and vehicles from ship to shore.

Marchwood based 17 Port Regiment RCT provided 51 Port Squadron for the exercise. Said OC Maj Gerry Kneale: "We have been designated a composite squadron for the duration of the exercise.

"Besides providing the usual landing craft and workboats, we are also looking after the beach based plant and port operators, making it a combined land



Sgt Nick Lyon, skipper of HMAV Arezzo and lion friend



COLD WINTER

and sea operation."

Heavily involved in bringing trucks and stores ashore was Sgt Nick Lyon, RCT, who is skipper of the ramped craft logistic HMAV Arezzo.

Crewed by six soldiers, an RCL can carry a load of 96

tons, and Arezzo is named after an RCT battle honour. The vessel carries a cartoon lion on its funnel, the personal mark of its skipper, Sgt Lyon!

Along with its sister ship Agheila, the Arezzo will be

returning under its own steam to the UK, having been taken to Norway on a semi-submersible.

"The voyage back through the Kiel Canal and the North Sea will take around 12 days," explained Sgt Lyon.



TIDE RACE

Not everything went according to plan on Exercise Cold Winter. The crew of this Combat Engineer Tractor (CET) were involved in a race against time to beat the rising tide. They won!

The CET got bogged down on the beach as it was driven ashore from a landing craft.

A man with a lot on his mind

PERHAPS the man with the biggest headache during Exercise Cold Winter was Maj Eddie Wymbs, RCT.

He is the SO3 G4 Movements at Headquarters Commando Forces in Plymouth.

Based in an office trailer parked on the quay at Tromso, it was his responsibility to organise all the shipping and air flights required for the deployment of 3 Commando Brigade to Norway.

No easy task when you have to arrange transport by sea and air for 4,800 men, and for all the vehicles and equipment the

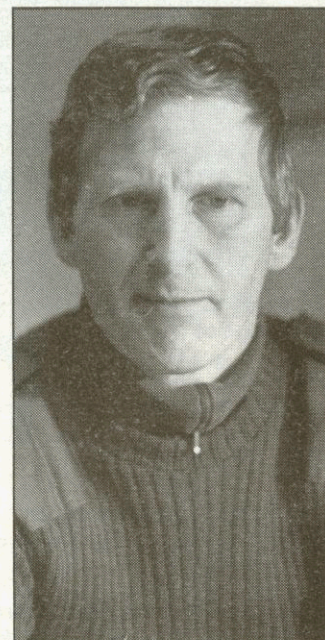
brigade needs to fight the battle.

The move involved a large number of vessels including two commercial ships – one passenger ship and a roll on-roll off ferry. Some lucky troops sailed over in unaccustomed style aboard the massive aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal.

Having got them there, there was no time for self congratulation for Maj Wymbs and his small team, for the work went on throughout the exercise in preparation for the return journey!

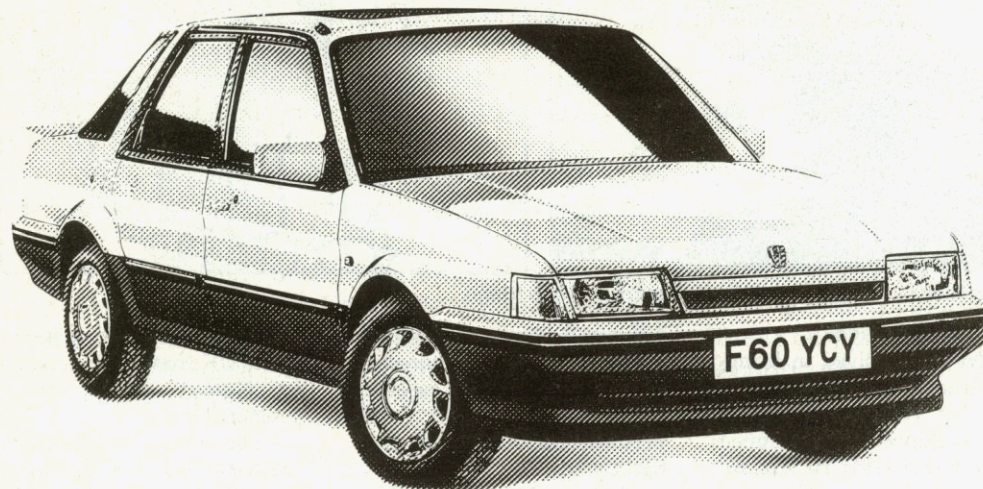


Man with a beard is Cpl Karl Binns, RAMC, currently the only Army medic who wears a green beret



Maj Eddie Wymbs, RCT

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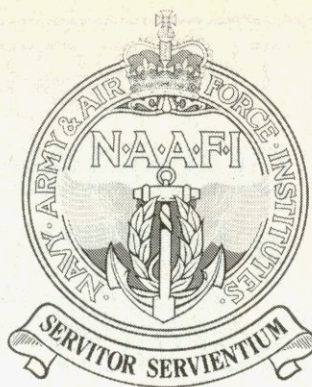
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How Naafi keeps shelves stocked in BAOR

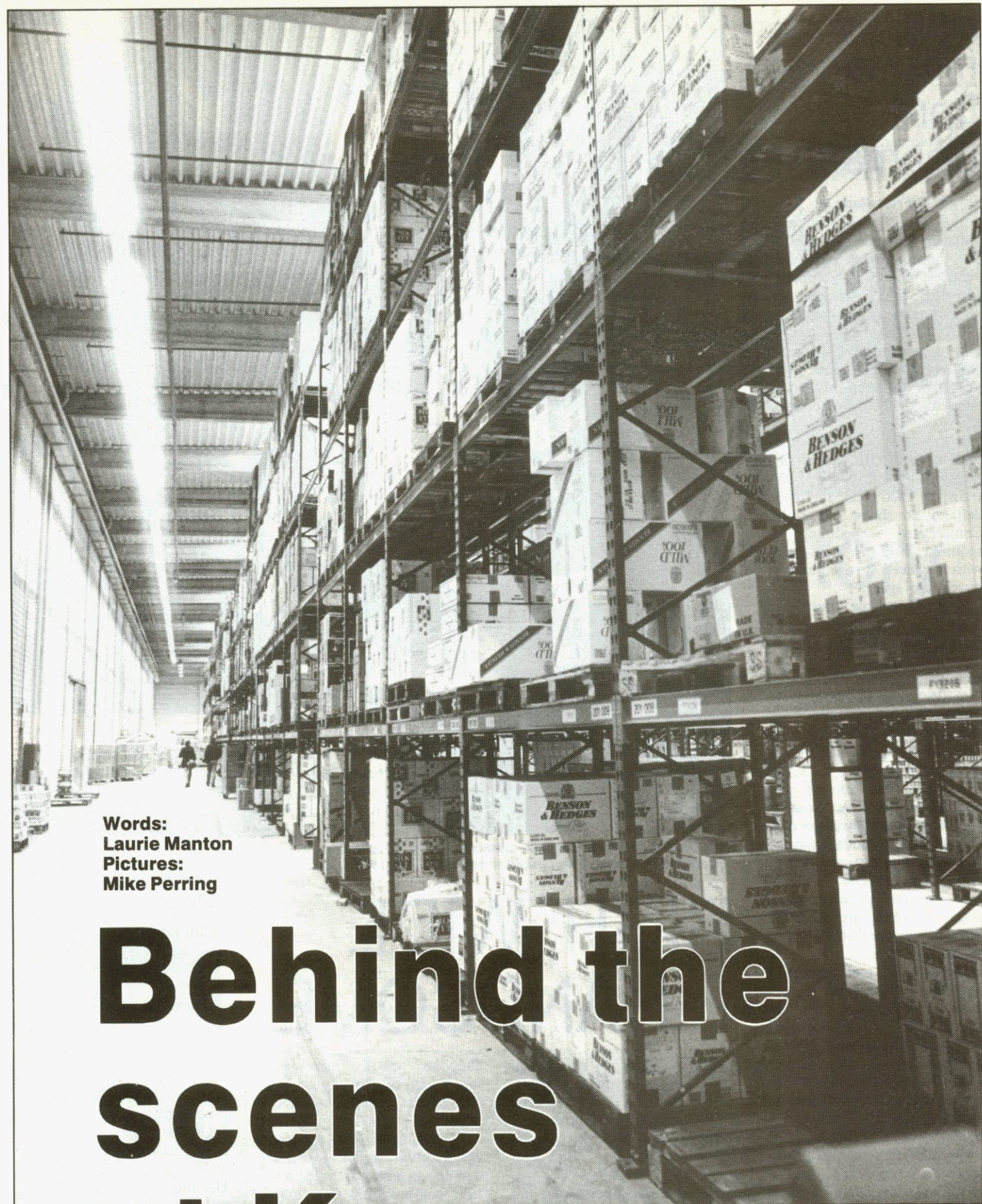
IF YOU are based in BAOR it is likely you will do the bulk of your shopping at the local Naafi, but have you any idea of the scale of the operation undertaken to keep the shelves topped up?

Probably not. SOLDIER has visited Naafi's European Service headquarters to find out how the massive resupply operation is managed and to view Naafi's new distribution centre in West Germany.

Goods arrive at Naafi's distribution centre warehouse at Kempen by road. From the UK they are mostly carried by contract transport via Dover and Felixstowe and the E34 international trunk route.

Tea from Naafi's UK factory and some dry freight are collected by Naafi transport after it has delivered German wines for UK consumption to Naafi's main distributing warehouse in Amesbury.

A container service via Rotterdam takes consignments direct from suppliers worldwide to Kempen. Continental



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Behind the scenes at Kempen

suppliers deliver direct, although returning Naafi vehicles bring in goods when it is economical to do so.

The railhead at Krefeld was originally used to assemble and dispatch the Berlin "Pack

Train" – a number of goods wagons loaded each week with everything required by shops and clubs in Berlin.

This was replaced by a more efficient road service, and now distribution to all Naafi

establishments in Germany, West Berlin and Holland is by Naafi transport with, in general, a weekly delivery to each shop.

Regular deliveries are also made to Naples and Sardinia,

Part of the storage area at Kempen. Three full size football pitches could be laid out inside the warehouse

and to such remote locations as the Army Mountain Training Centre at Silberhutte, the winter exercise centre at Sonthofen in Bavaria and exercise locations in Denmark.

• Turn to next page

And the milkman's from Denmark!

● From Page 31

Forty tons of Danish milk and dairy products are collected six times a week by Naafi vehicles. This is transhipped at Herford and Kempen to smaller temperature-controlled delivery vehicles and, together with approximately 50 tons of bakery products and fresh produce, delivered to Service shops and clubs before opening time each day.

Some 190 tons of Danish, Dutch and UK beers and minerals are collected by Naafi transport each week for direct delivery to shops and clubs. Complicated scheduling is required, but this does away with the need to use valuable warehouse space.

At any one time, more than 1,800 tons dead weight can be carried by its commercial fleet. Operating from depots at Kempen, Herford and Berlin, the fleet covers around 16 million kilometres each year. Repairs and servicing are carried out by Naafi's own depot workshops.

Kempen has one of two Naafi fresh produce stores in Germany. A slightly larger one, serving a greater area is located at Herford. Fruit and vegetables from the UK, Holland, local growers, prime markets and importers are received every day before distribution to shops and clubs.

Virtually all root vegetables and much of the fruit comes from the UK. In the main this is because "home grown" better suits the tastes of Naafi's customers.

Naafi uses growers who supply the major UK supermarket chains. Produce is collected by a contractor and shipped in large temperature-controlled vehicles to ensure arrival in prime condition. It is distributed on the day of receipt.

Naafi buys a proportion of its salads from Holland. Dutch regulations allow only top quality merchandise to be exported, thus ensuring a consistently high standard. Although produce buyers visit auctions regularly, the actual day-to-day buying is done on Naafi's behalf in Holland by appointed distributors with years of experience.



Naafi PRO Jeff Taylor inspects a brace of game birds inside the Kempen cold store. The temperature is -22 degrees Celsius

HIGH, WIDE and HANDSOME

FLOOR space in the main warehouse at Kempen remains in the region of a quarter of a million square feet (roughly three football pitches or 35 tennis courts!), but with the improved efficiency of a modern purpose-built building offering a working height of nearly 30ft (at least 25 per cent higher than Krefeld), stock capacity is expected to be 50 per cent greater.

With 35,000 square feet of cold store on site, capacity and efficiency has improved enormously.

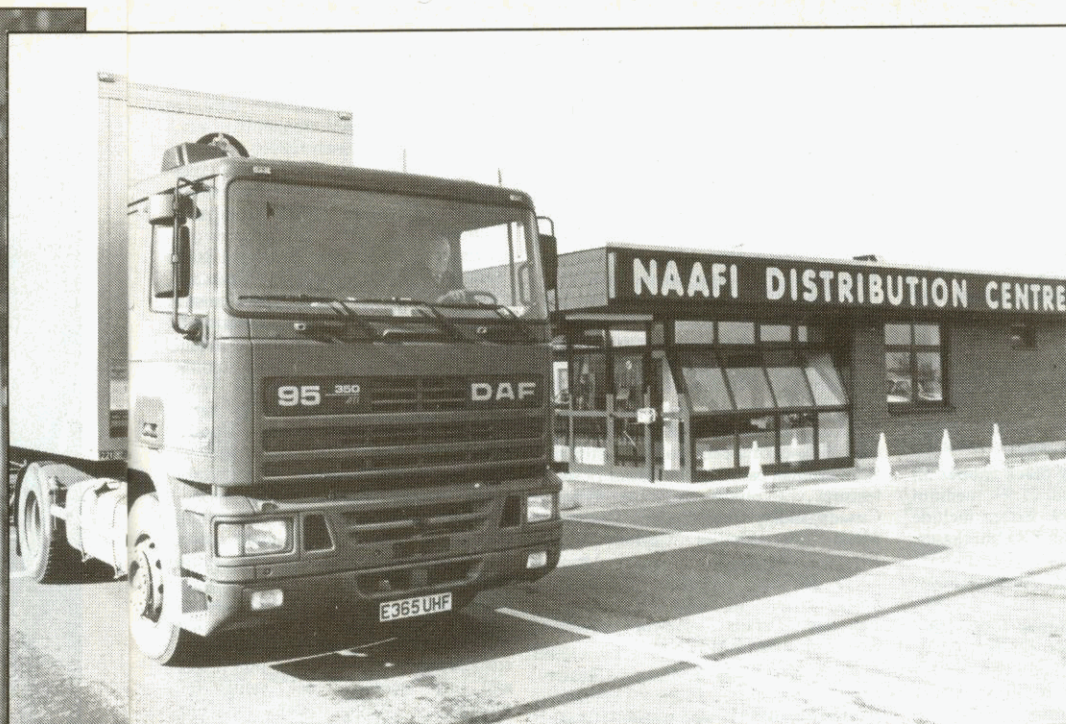
Both the goods inward and dispatch ends of the warehouse are fitted with the latest in load levelling doors, ideally suited to roller-pallet handling of mer-

chandise which eases the movement of the 5,000 plus "Unitainers" dispatched each week.

Recording of receipts, storage location, order assembly and dispatch are controlled by a fully computerised floor management system.

The administration building has 11,000 square feet of floor space, providing adequate accommodation for the large mainframe computers and administration, marketing and supplies functions.

Alongside, a 20,000 square feet transport depot provides full workshop facilities for Naafi's fleet of 435 vehicles ranging from small staff cars to massive 38 ton juggernauts.



Above - Bill Hewson drives out of the new distribution centre at Kempen

Below - End of the line. A Naafi mobile shop awaiting disposal. Just one remains in service in BAOR

Above right - South Region workshop manager Harvey Haffner inside a container vehicle



Long haul from the rubble of war-torn Hamburg

IN THE post-war turmoil of 1945, Naafi's original offices and warehouse for the British Forces in Germany were established in the waterside rubble of Hamburg's war-battered docks.

The early Fifties saw the Naafi headquarters moved to Waldniel, near the new joint headquarters for BAOR and RAF Germany, with warehouse facilities housed nearby in a number of factory buildings.

This proved far from satisfactory, and in 1959 the warehouse was moved to a new purpose-built complex, close to the docks at Krefeld which offered full rail, road and river access.

AT ANY one time there are more than 20,000 lines on the Kempen inventory, with a retail value of around DM60m (£19m) turned over, on average, seven to eight times a year. About 85 per cent of goods sold by Naafi pass through the Kempen warehouses, so to channel supplies to shops, clubs and bulk stores in FRG, Berlin, Holland and Belgium, a huge warehousing operation backed by an intricate transport network is essential.

Naafi shops and clubs in Europe annually sell more than

DM570m worth of goods. While the bulk of this trade is foodstuffs - 2.25 million cans of beans, 450 tons of sausages, two million packets of breakfast cereal and so on - this figure includes DM9m spent on cosmetics and perfumes, DM65m on hi fi and audio visual goods, and the clothing and footwear sales of DM35m.

Caring for some 163,000 people (40,000 families) are 78 families shops (20 of them major complexes), 100 clubs and nearly 80 shops in Naafi's European Service. Working in them or behind the scenes are

Throughput of stores was around 1,000 tons per week (500 tons in and 500 out) but by the early Seventies trade had more than doubled. To cope, Naafi was forced to operate three other sub-warehouses in and around Krefeld and Dusseldorf, as well as utilising wharf space along the Rhine.

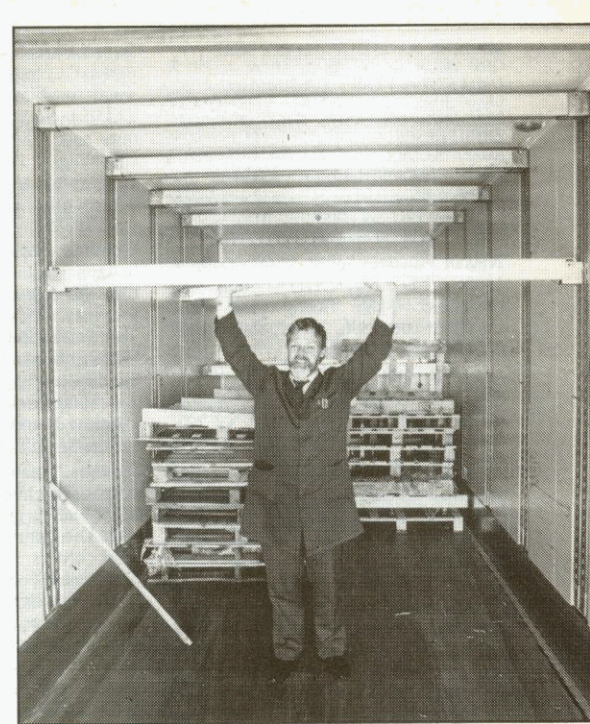
To centralise the warehousing operation as far as possible, Naafi closed the smaller warehouses in 1974 and took over a former textile factory close by.

This more than doubled the storage space to approximately a quarter of a million square feet of floor space; and was adequate for the throughput,

which by that time had risen to an average of 4,000 tons per week.

By the mid 1980s the existing facilities were again overstretched and this, coupled with the inefficiency of operating twin warehouses, each with its own support services, resulted in the Naafi decision to consolidate all facilities at one location.

After a lengthy search the Kempen site was selected. It was ideal in terms of access, being a stone's throw from the main A2 autobahn, the direct route to the Channel ports and to that part of Germany where the majority of the British Forces are based.



about 4,300 people - UK contract, CTA or dependants - of whom some 500 are employed at the Kempen complex.

Negotiations on the Kempen warehouse project began with the German authorities and builders in late 1986, with the first sod being turned on September 21, 1987.

Because many of the major units were prefabricated, this meant that once the foundations had been laid building work progressed at high speed. The main structure and roof were completed by mid-January 1988.

By the end of February the main building had been clad, and at the time of the "topping out" ceremony in March 1988 the general layout was apparent, with the administration building, gatehouse and cold store frames well advanced.

Hand over of the main warehouse building took place on August 5, and Naafi's own contractors took over immediately, installing the complex racking systems and support facilities.

In early December, only 15 months after the first earth-moving machinery arrived on site, the phased move of stock and personnel from Krefeld to the new centre at Kempen began.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Commando story told for the first time



No 50 ME Commando practising amphibious landings on the shore of the Great Bitter Lake

IT IS a popularly held belief that the history of the Second World War has been fully documented, with the complete story of every unit.

This is far from the truth. Charles Messenger's book, *The Middle East Commandos*, makes amends as far as three units are concerned. There have been no books hitherto written about the 50, 51 and 52 Commandos.

What has been available are scattered references, often inaccurate and for the most part disparaging.

What Messenger has done is put the records straight, with the help of Col G A D Young who commanded 52 Commando and Lt Col S M Rose, second-in-command of 50 and later the amalgamated 50/52 Commando.

The book is enlivened by the memories of members of the Middle East Commando Historical Research Group.

Raised in the late summer of

1940, the 50, 51 and 52 Middle East Commandos played a largely unsung role but even their establishments were remarkable: 50 and 52 comprised Regular and Yeomanry personnel with a sprinkling of South Africans and Rhodesians, and some 70 Spaniards who had fought against Franco, while 51 Commando was formed mainly from Palestine Jews and Arabs!

Though analytical, this is not a cold academic history but one supported by the collaboration of soldiers who were actively engaged in operations. Their memories are graphic; for instance:

"Cator now briefed his men, and later issued his officers with fish hooks and line. These, he said, were to put through the ears of prisoners to prevent them escaping..."

Not all the memories are as bizarre.

The book includes an account of the work of Mission 204 sent to China to be attached



Capt John Pendlebury, first SOE agent on Crete, who was killed on the island in May 1941

to guerrilla groups, providing expertise and acting as the clearing house for British munitions - another under-recorded operation.

It is a well researched and expertly written study of the

work of the Middle East commandos, appropriately illustrated with rare photographs. - BJ

The Middle East Commandos by Charles Messenger. Published by William Kimber. Price £12.95.

How the British Army has treated its womenfolk through the ages

'SISTERS under the skin' is how Rudyard Kipling described soldiers' wives and other ladies who accompanied armies on campaigns or were part of the barrack scene.

In *Judy O'Grady and The Colonel's Lady*, Noel St John Williams takes as his starting point the reign of Charles II to examine the largely overlooked subject of "wives and mistresses, duchesses and washerwomen, nurses and prostitutes: women of all social ranks who have followed the drum of the British Army on foot, on horseback, in baggage train, by troopship or aeroplane..."

Despite its somewhat light-hearted title, the book is a serious study.

It traces the story of British Army women and their changing fortunes from the days of Marlborough and Wellington, through Victorian England and two world wars to the battle of the Falklands and the Northern Ireland troubles.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the Army discouraged soldiers to marry, but mingling of the sexes is too fundamental a human need to be outlawed and over the centuries the Army gave increasing recognition to wives.

They were not given an easy time. In fact, they were shamefully discriminated against and this book is generally a chronicle of disgrace. The author covers many other (some might say too many) aspects of female involvement. There are frequent references to Royal weddings and a chapter on how senior officers enhanced their fortunes by wise choice of wives.

Col St John Williams brings the story up to date: "No longer is Judy O'Grady satisfied with the half rations of yesteryear, a corner in the barrack-room, the status and

privileges bestowed by her husband's rank; no longer is she content with regimental hand-outs, doing the company's washing and a place in the baggage train."

On the other hand he offers the cautionary advice that "... even now those Army wives who survive best have to conform to the traditions and expectations of their husband's regiment or corps". - BJ

Judy O'Grady and The Colonel's Lady: The Army Wife and Camp Follower Since 1660 by Noel St John Williams. Published by Brassey's. Price £24.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Liddell Hart in perspective

Liddell Hart and the Weight of History by John J Mearsheimer. An examination of the career of Sir Basil Henry Liddell Hart, one of the most highly regarded writers of strategy and military matters in the western world. Published by Brassey's. Price £15.95.

Capbadges of the British Army 1939-1945. Volume 1, dealing with Infantry regiments, of three to be published on cap badges of the British Army, with illustration and description of each badge. Published by and available from G L D Alderson, Pool Lane, Brocton, Stafford. Price £6.50 plus 50p p and p.

The Hanoverian Army of the Napoleonic Wars by Peter Hofschroer. No 206 in the Men-at-Arms series. Published by Osprey. Price £4.95.

American Civil War Armies, Volunteer Militia by Philip Katcher. No 207 in the Men-at-Arms series. Published by Osprey. Price £4.95.

Lawrence and the Arab Revolts by David Nicolle. No 208 in the Men-at-Arms series. Published by Osprey. Price £4.95.

The War in Cambodia 1970-75 by Kenneth Conboy and Kenneth Bowra. No 209 in the Men-at-Arms series. Published by Osprey. Price £4.95.

My Own Darling edited by Christopher Carlisle. The letters Montie Carlisle wrote to his wife Kitty, one a day from the time he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1914, through his training, the Dardanelles, and the Somme campaign until he ended the war as a staff officer. Published by Carlisle Books. Price £12.95.

Breakdown by Brian S Baxter. History of breakdown vehicles in the British Army, tracing their development, acquisition and operation against a background of contemporary technology, vehicle design and military campaigns. Published by HMSO. Price £9.95.



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Blind children go skiing with Skins

SIX soldiers from BAOR have at their own expense helped to give a group of blind and partially sighted children from Northern Ireland a winter sports holiday they will never forget.

The youngsters were visiting Austria under the auspices of the charity Derrygiff Activities for the Blind which organises a wide range of activities for them.

The soldiers, who are ski instructors and members of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, helped teach the youngsters to ski, and were amazed at their prowess. Of course, there were spills, but these were part of their enjoyment!

The Skins helped out on a similar holiday last year.



Cpl Paul Hawke gingerly leads 11-year-old Jason Dunkerley down a gentle slope



Wives take over for the day at 54 Engr Sp and Amb Sqn. From the left are Sharon Arnold (SSM), Pip Kingsland (OC), Shelley Cristow, (B Tp Cdr) and Denise Wadeson (RP Sgt)

RUNNY NOSES!

WHEREVER the Army was based there was a rash of red noses on Comic Relief Day, with events ranging from fun

days to red nosed runs and parachute jumps.

A total of £150 (Cyprus) was raised by a sub aqua dive and

synchronised swim by SNCOs of B(WsBA) Armd Recce Sqn, 17th/21st Lancers and friends.

There were also charity events all over BAOR. In Osnabruck the 1st Bn, The Royal Irish Rangers went to town with a run in red nose order and a band concert.

4 Regiment Army Air Corps' Lynx sported a red nose



for visiting various events and 54 Engineer Support and Ambulance Squadron in Lubbecke found four wives had taken over key jobs in the regiment for the day following a lottery to raise cash.

Mrs Pip Kingsland was CO, Sharon Arnold was Squadron Sergeant Major, with Regimental Police Sergeant Denise Wadeson and B Troop Commander Shelley Bristow bringing some femininity to their posts.

At 10 Corps Transport Regiment in Bielefeld, regimental personalities were pillor-

WO1(RSM) Brian Lane, 2nd Bn, The Wessex Regiment presents a £16,500 cheque to the Wishing Well Appeal for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The final 2 Wessex total is expected to pass £20,000. Also pictured are (from the left) Capt Tony Thornell (adjutant), Lt Col James Dewar, CO, and fund representatives



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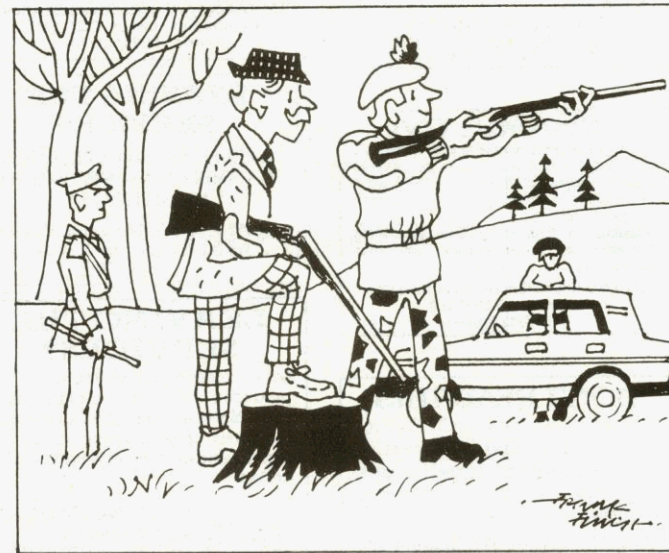
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The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 29 issue.

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The runners and back up team from D Bty, 3 RHA pictured with Brig Walter Courage (centre), Chief of Staff of UN Forces in Cyprus

ied in the stocks, two soldiers fought a duel with fire extinguishers, various people tried to manoeuvre a JCB carrying a tray of eggs, and there was a cold compo sausage eating contest.

Fund raising continued in Herford with 4 Armoured

Division and Signal Regiment, while at Bad Lippspringe 4 Regt Army Air Corps free fall parachute team jumped from 10,000 feet - wearing red noses.

1 Staffords at Fallingbostal in West Germany held a sponsored oatcake eating competition and raised £477 for

Comic Relief. At Hameln 35 Engineer Regiment entered into the spirit with a fun day which included an assault boat race on the Weser. Winning team was from Resources Troop 44 Fd Sp Sqn and the event resulted in nearly £580 being raised.

In Aldershot, 45 red nosed Paras paid a fiver each to jump from a Chinook. But they came down the same way they went up, because it was too windy to jump!

Twenty members of D Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery based with the United Nations in Cyprus raised more than £1,000 in a charity fun run.

It covered 50km from the Buffer Zone to the top of Mount Olympus in the Troodos Mountains and was completed in four hours 38 minutes.

The cash is for the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund.

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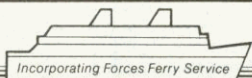
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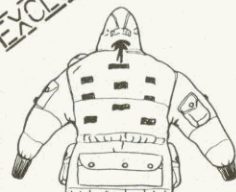
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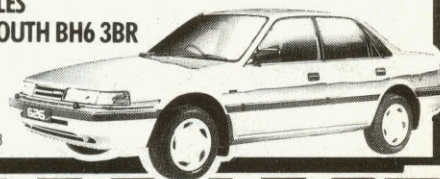
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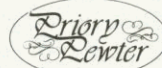
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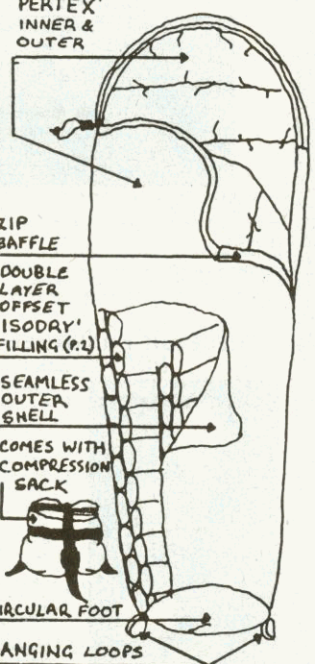
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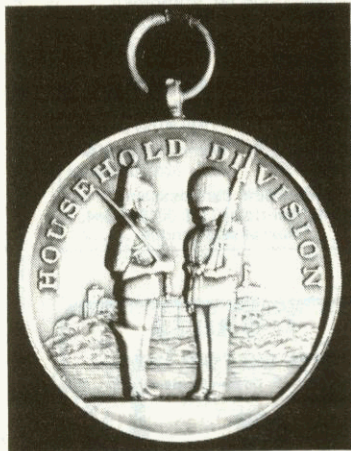
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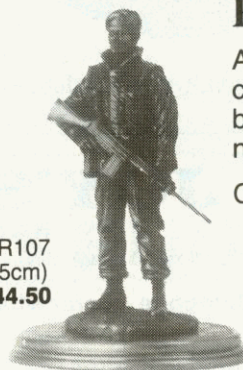


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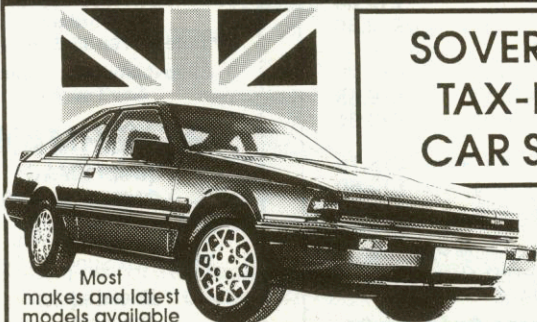
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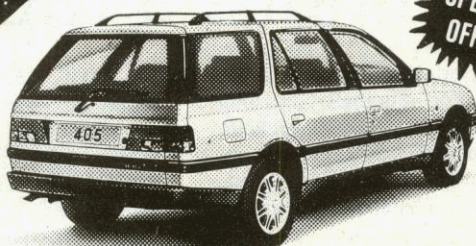
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WO2 Tim Brown, the Army player-coach, receives the Inter-Service basketball trophy from Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, C-in-C Fleet in HMS Collingwood near Portsmouth

Kings of the court

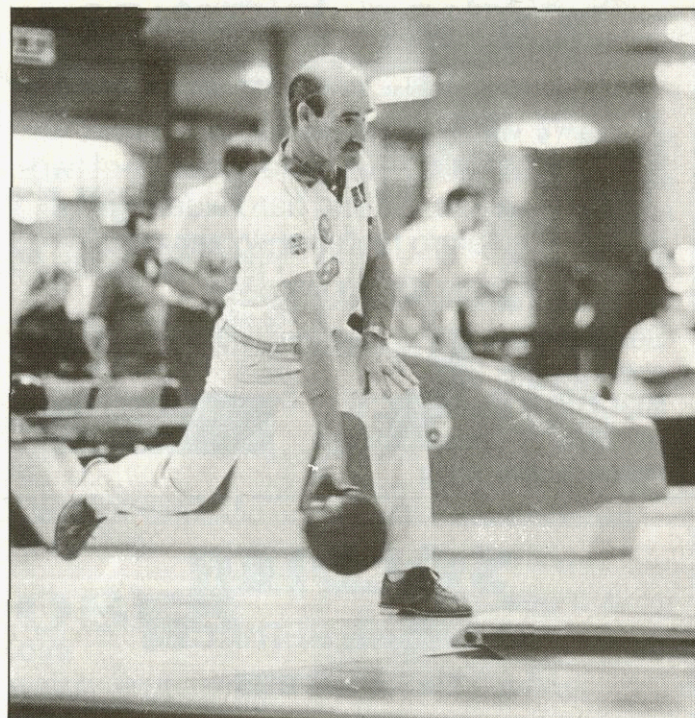
THE ARMY overcame tremendous pressure from the Royal Air Force before carrying off both senior and Under 21 crowns at the Inter-Service basketball championships staged in HMS Collingwood near Portsmouth, writes John Nicholas.

The senior side lost out to the airmen last year and were determined to prove that was a temporary hiccup. This time they made no mistake, and with player-coach WO2 Tim Brown, ACC, making clever use of his substitutions as the RAF ran into foul problems, eventually

pulled away in the final minutes to record an 83-75 win.

Earlier the Under 21s had been involved in a real nail-biter against the airmen, eventually winning by a single point, 87-86. Twice the RAF threatened to break away, but WO2 (QMSI) Dave Warburton, APTC, steadied the soldiers' nerves and used their superior fitness to get back on terms.

On the final day of the tournament the Army senior team beat the Royal Navy 68-60 while the juniors triumphed 74-53 over the matelots.



Maj Bill Fisher, ACC, competing in the Army tenpin bowling championships

TA final's a replay

FINAL of the Territorial Army Association Football Cup will be between Northern Ireland champions C Coy 4 (V) R Irish and D Coy 2 Bn Yorks, Vols, the North Eastern champions – again!

It will be the third consecutive TA Cup final featuring the two sides, with the Yorkshiremen defending the title. The R Irish team won the trophy in 1987.

This year's final will be at the Military Stadium in Aldershot

on April 23. Both sides hammered seven goals past their semi-final opponents, C Coy beating 94 Ord Coy RAOC (V) 7-0, and D Coy defeating A Coy 3 RWF 7-2.

Scores in the quarter finals were 198 Fd Pk Sqn RE (V) 0, C Coy 4 (V) R Irish 5; 94 Ord Coy RAOC (V) 8, 208 Gen Hosp RAMC (V) 0; 162 Mov Con Regt RCT (V) 0, D Coy 2 Bn Yorks Vols 6; A Coy 3 RWF 8, 265 Sig Sqn, 71 Sig Regt (V) 2.

Bowler Mike's the Master

MORE than 300 competitors from all over the United Kingdom, BAOR and as far afield as Hong Kong converged on the Charrington Bowl at Tolworth, Surrey for the 22nd annual Army tenpin bowling championships.

Winner of the premier competition, the Masters, was Sgt Mike Langley. He set a new Army record in the process and also qualified for the British

matchplay championships in which he will be a seeded player.

Capt Dave Steiner won the singles title and then teamed up with WO2 Mike Downes to take the doubles championship as well.

Winners of the unit team prize were the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, with School of Signals, Blandford in second place and 5 Ord Bn third.

Fit Di's first past the post

TERRITORIAL Army cross country champion 2nd Lt Di Shepherd of Cumbrian based 4 Kings Own Border is a busy lady. By day she works for a major construction and road-building company and in the evening she dons her tracksuit and hits the road to keep fit for cross country running and orienteering. On one evening a week and at weekends she is in uniform as the battalion's assistant signals officer.

Di is married to 2nd Lt Alan Shepherd of the same battalion.

After winning the TA cross country title at Crickhowell, Di said: "It was a very rough course but having come second last year I trained hard and was determined to win."

The very next day she and husband Alan were competing in the North West District orienteering championships. Alan's company won the



2nd Lt Di Shepherd

event. Di was asked to step in to make up a men's team which was one man short and ran the longer men's course, giving up the chance to win the women's event, something she almost certainly would have done! In the event she and Cpl Annette Milburn, also of 4 Kings Own Border, qualified for the UK finals.

Triallists in action on Plain

RIDERS from as far afield as Scotland took part in the three day motor cycle trials organised on Salisbury Plain by 66 Sqn RCT, who are based at Tidworth.

WO2 Gwyn Barraclough won the expert standard

Service class, with Sgt Terry James taking the novice category. Cpl Dave Hobbs won the experts' class on competition machines and Cpl Arthur Pounder took the novice class.

The 26 Fd Regt RA team of Sgt Terry James, Cpl Graham

Airmen break Army's hockey stranglehold

FIVE years of Army domination of Inter-Service hockey came to an end at St Ives, Cambs when, after defeating the Royal Navy 3-1, the soldiers went down by the same margin to the Royal Air Force.

Massive Army pressure foundered against the solid form of Scotland and Great Britain goalkeeper Flt Lt Vervan Pappin, whose brilliance in minding the RAF net earned him the player of the tournament award.

But the Army were kicking themselves after enjoying a territorial advantage for 80 per cent of the match. However, they could not translate possession into goals and paid the price when the RAF scored twice in the second half to achieve the winning margin they needed to ensure their first Inter-Services championship for six years.

After a season beset by availability problems, the Army drafted Sgt Ian Jennings, Capt Ian Jolly and Capt Andy Scopes into their side and were confident of a good tournament. That looked on the cards when they played well to beat the Navy on the first day, so retaining the Wilkinson Sword for the seventh consecutive year. Scopes, Jennings and Cfn Mike Bale scored the goals.

The RAF, who hosted the tournament, also won the Under 21 competition, although there was some consolation for the Army in Pte Carl Bennett, 9 Ord Bn, being named player of the series. He scored in the 3-3 draw against the Navy, and again in the 1-1

draw against the RAF.

App Chick, REME, and Cpl Paul Collins, School of Signals, were the other Army scorers against the Navy.

Bennett is a newcomer from Brooklands, the top Manchester club, and has made an immediate impact.

UKLF Army Cup champions are 16 AD Regt RA, who beat fellow gunners 7 Para RHA in a superb final at Aldershot. They meet the BAOR champions in the Army final at Aldershot on April 19.

BAOR semi-finals are matching 35 Engr Regt against Rheindahlen Garrison and 1 Staffords against 2 R Irish.

In the UK finals Army coach Maj Tochi Marwaha, veteran of many Inter-Service campaigns, led 16 AD to their first Army Cup success.

Cfn Mike Bale opened the scoring for 16 AD, only for his Army vice-captain, Capt Mark Banham, to equalise from the penalty spot. Bale then put his side ahead, again from a penalty stroke, but 16 AD and Army 'keeper Cfn Egor Johnstone was the man who ultimately decided the issue.

In the final 20 minutes of ferocious hockey he defied everything 7 RHA threw at him, including seven or eight short corners.

The Minor Units final was settled with the last hit in extra time when Trg Centre RAOC scored after being held 3-3 at full time by RAPC Worthy Down.

Tankies on the run

DESPITE miserable weather conditions, a field of 131 runners took part in the RAC cross country meeting at Deilinghofen, West Germany. Final team placings were 3 RTR in first place closely followed by 1 RTR; the first three individual places being filled by Sgt Wilson, 3 RTR, LCpl Scott, 2 RTR, and Cfn Pollitt, 14/20 H.

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RHF lead Peak Race challenge

MAJ Alex Bryson and Capt Alistair Johnston, both of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, are to lead a Scottish Infantry Division entry in the gruelling Bruichladdich Islands Peak Race from May 19-21.

Also in the team, which has to cope with 160 miles of sailing from Oban to Arran and 60 miles of running, are Lt Richard Nicholson, RHF, Sgt Mark McLeod, RS, and Sgt Alan Brown, ex RHF now APTC. They have chartered last year's winning yacht, the X Cert.

Target rifle

A TEAM of young Royal Engineers from AA Coll Chepstow triumphed for the third successive year in the final stages of the Junior Soldiers Inter-Corps and Division small bore target rifle match staged at Warminster. The ACC and REME were second and third.

The preliminary round was a postal competition fired on unit ranges. The young sappers steadily forged ahead in the final, while the ACC team started badly but gradually caught REME, edging two points ahead on the final detail.

Darts

WINNERS of the BAOR pairs trophy were Capt Ron Aquilina, 4 RTR, and Sgt Tony Carr, REME. Capt Aquilina's wife Sue won the women's trophy.

Judo

MORE than 100 competitors took part in the Army senior, junior and women's individual judo championships at the ASPT, Aldershot. There were almost nine hours of continuous competition.

Winners were: 31kg, Sgt Kubath, Trg Bn and Depot REME; 60kg, Sgt Morton, RMAS; 65kg, Sgt Turnbull, 201 Sig Sqn; 78kg, Pte O'Loughlin, Depot Para; 86kg, Sgt Pritlove, 1 D and D; 95kg, Sgt Travis, 23 Gp RPC; 0-95kg, Gnr Mills, 2 Fd Regt.

Open - U-71kg, Pte Martin, 23 Gp RPC; 0-71kg, Sgt Travis, 23 Gp RPC.

Junior - 60kg, Pte Heal, Depot POW Div; 65kg, JL Fitzpatrick, JIB Ouston; 71kg, AT Edmondson, AAC Chepstow; 78kg, AT Cpl Allen, AA Coll Harrogate; 86kg, AT Thomas, Harrogate. Open, U-71kg, AT Edmondson, Chepstow; 0-71kg, AT Saul, Harrogate.

Women - Novice U-61kg, LCpl Cradle, 29 Coy WRAC; novice 0-61kg, Cpl Atherton, PCD RE; U-64kg, Pte Webling, 15 Bn RAOC; 0-64kg, Cpl Mapledoran, 247 Pro Coy. Open, Cpl Mapledoran.



Bold Fusilier christened

Lady Reilly christens the Infantry Sailing Association's new Sadler 34 yacht **Bold Fusilier** during a ceremony at Gosport, Hants. Looking on are, from left, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Reilly, Commander of Army Training and Arms Directors and Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Maj Gen Tony Jeapes, GOC South West District and Admiral of the ISA, and Brig Simon Firth, Commander 49th Infantry Brigade and Vice Commodore of the ISA. **Bold Fusilier** is to take part in the Fastnet Race this summer with a RRF crew.

Cornwall slip lets in Army

HOT on the heels of their success in the Inter-Service football tournament, during which they retained the trophy, the Army learned that they will be contesting the final of the South West Counties competition after all, writes Pat Massey.

The Army, who are the current holders of the South West Counties championship, would have been edged out of the final if Cornwall had beaten Hampshire by three clear goals in their final tie. The Westcountrymen could not manage it, so the Army go through, with a possible final

against the Royal Navy in prospect.

Jl Depot Glencorse 2, JIB Shorncliffe 1

In a clash of the "golden oldies", the permanent staffs of Glencorse and Shorncliffe battled it out in the final of the Racial UK Minor Units Cup Final, with the Scots, last year's beaten finalists, winning a highly entertaining game by the odd goal in three.

Lundy put them ahead in the second minute when he cracked home a fierce shot from fully 35 yards. Moody gave them a cushion with a second successful long range strike 20 minutes

later. Shorncliffe skipper Noonan reduced the arrears on the half hour, but try as they did his side could not get the equaliser in an exciting, end-to-end second half.

Army XI 5, Guernsey 1

An Army team which included only three first choice players went four goals up in the first 20 minutes against the touring Guernsey representative side at Aldershot Military Stadium.

A close encounter had been expected, but the rampant soldiers killed off the contest with their blazing start. It said much for the fortitude of the islanders that they then got their act together and restricted the Army to one further goal five minutes from the end.

Scorers were LBdr Matt Carmichael, RA, 2, Cpl Shaun Gilman, RAOC, 2, and Cpl Alan Higgins, R Signals.

Same again

There is going to be something familiar about the teams contesting the final of the Territorial Army Association Football Cup in Aldershot on April 23. Read why on Page 48.

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SOLDIER

Its load of vehicles disembarked, a Mexeflote ramp of 51 Composite Port Squadron RCT lies momentarily idle in a Norwegian fiord during Exercise Cold Winter. Time and again it returned to offload another consignment of trucks and troops from the heavily laden landing ships. See feature starting on Page 25.

Picture: Mike Weston

