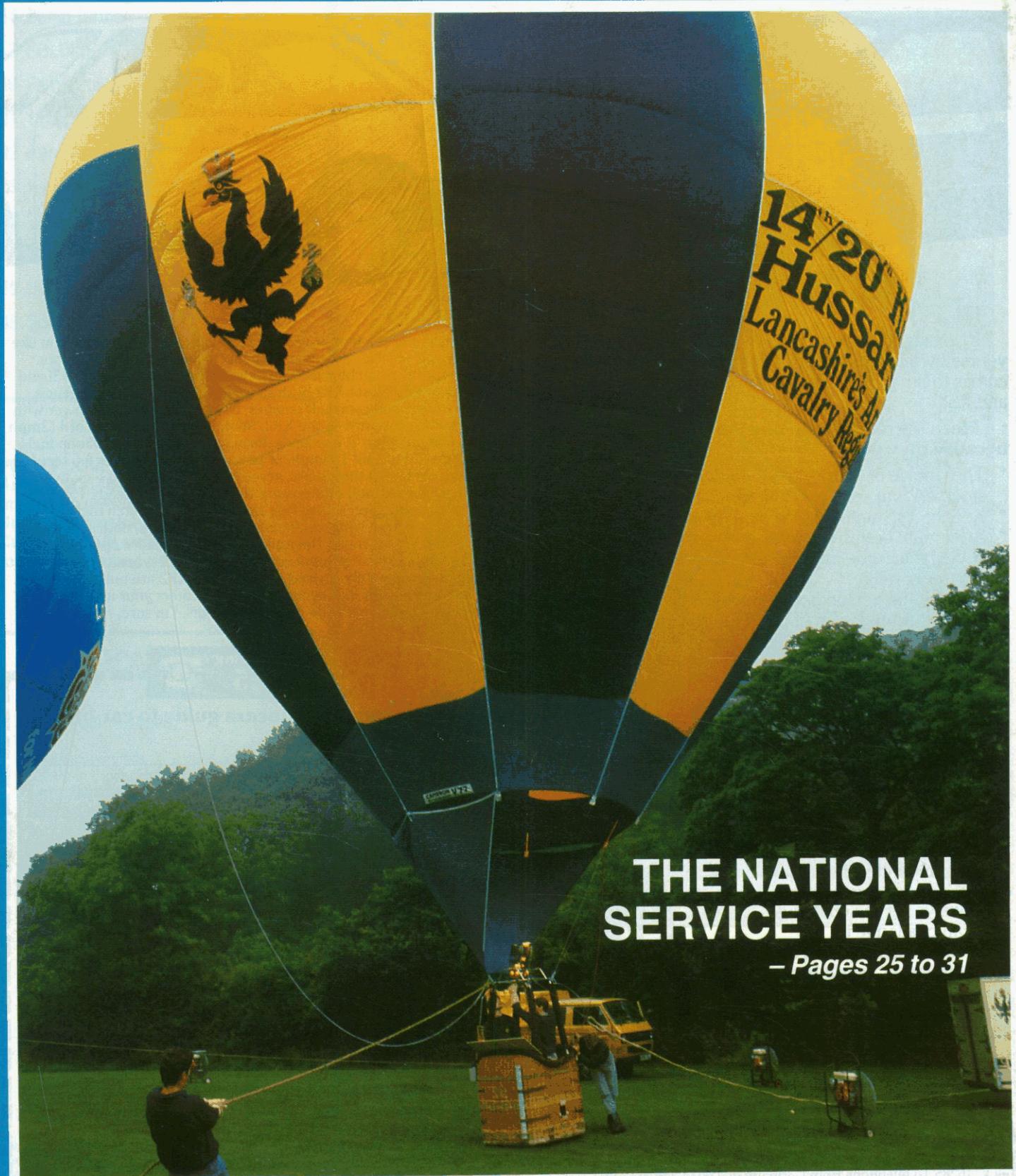


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 22 SEPTEMBER 1986

SOLDIER



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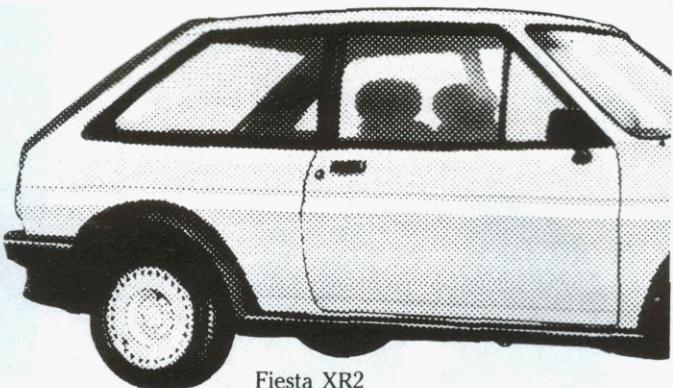
– Pages 25 to 31



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VOL. 42/19

22 SEPTEMBER 1986

CONTENTS

- 5 Les Dawson remembers
- 7 Mail Drop
- 8 People
- 11 News
- 14 Berlin Tattoo
- 17 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 19 Farnborough International
- 21 1 RHF in airlift
- 22 Anne Armstrong
- 25 National Service years
- 33 Book reviews
- 37 North Wales Tattoo
- 39 HOAY competition
- 48 Sport

FRONT COVER – British Army hot air ballooning makes its debut in the British championships at Catterick. Full story and more pictures on page 48.

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SOLDIER

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IT'S FOR HUEY . . .



C Company 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers prepare to deploy by US Army Huey helicopter in West Berlin. The battalion was airlifted into Berlin from Sennelager at very short notice. How they managed it is told on page 21.

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LES AT BAY!

Former National Serviceman Les Dawson knows a thing or two about the Army, but unfortunately he's keeping it all to himself! We reprint this article by Les, first written for SOLDIER nearly ten years ago, to mark the special tribute to the National Service years which begins on Page 25.

I was once accorded the distinct honour of being personally escorted around that spartan, sprawling cantonment known to the most intelligent deserters as Aldershot.

As I gazed with growing pride at the myriads of khaki-clad gallants milling about outside the MO's office, I confess that so great was my emotion I had recourse to swallow deeply from a hip flask. I always carry an ample quantity of alcohol on my person in case I should sustain a severe snake bite. I also carry along a snake...

Tears welled unbidden to my eyes as I strove to find the courage necessary to quaff a mouthful of Army tea – a liquid that is quite capable of stripping the outer layers of copper from a lavatory cistern or dissolving the small intestine of a musk ox.

A rather spotty officer, and he was spotty, I'm afraid – in fact he blew his nose on a braille handkerchief – gave me a sandwich that was so old it was probably prepared in Kitchener's bivouac. I was curtly informed by a rather vague "brass hat" that the cut-back on military training was so acute that the new weapons were coming from Airfix.

I was saddened at the thought of a diminished Army.

I still recall my days as a trooper with The Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards, with nostalgic relish. Despite what it says in my Army discharge book, I am not an alarmist, though I must admit there is a great deal of truth in the rumour that I tried to surrender to the Germans in 1953.

I still discuss my role in keeping the peace in Europe just after the war and I've still got all my white feathers. We Dawsons are of warrior stock – in fact the first Dawson, Albert, was a direct descendant of Elric the Peculiar, the only Viking ever to get mugged in Gateshead.

My great-grandfather fought with Wellington – they couldn't trust him with a gun. At the Charge of the Light Brigade, my great-uncle rode into the valley of death – the only trouble was, he rode side-saddle.

My father cancelled a holiday in Jersey because he heard about The Battle of the Flowers. What a supreme coward he was – he was in Dunkirk when the first shot was fired and under a commode in Crewe when the second one went off. When war was declared in 1939, he was the only man I know who went to night school to learn how to live

without a trigger finger.

Perhaps the one member of the Dawsons to save our pride was Beauregarde Dawson, who was a bugler with General Custer and stood by his side at the massacre of The Little Big Horn. As the Indians closed in for the kill Custer trumpeted: "I shall wear my scarlet trousers so that the Redskins won't see my blood." Beauregarde said in reply: "I think I'll wear my khaki ones."

My Army career was not an illustrious one. My uniform was so ill-fitting I became a model for a burst frankfurter. Whenever I fired off a rifle, the bang caused me to leap into a thicket like a startled fawn. I found cleanliness most irksome. I am not saying that I came from a dirty family, but the safest place to keep money in our house was under the soap.

When my National Service was near the end, the Korean War broke out and Clement Atlee, for some absurd reason, put six months extra on my time. I screamed and I drummed my heels but I still had to do it – and I have never voted for a Labour government since.

I think the Army did me the world of good though. Before my enlistment beer made me ill; now, thanks to the character

building I endured at Catterick Camp, the thinking man's Belsen, I'm only ill when I'm not drinking beer.

So here I sit on the verandah of my highly-acclaimed Wimpey-style Mandalay bungalow, sipping a mint julep and listening to my mother-in-law playing her records of Hitler's speeches, and I look back on my military service with a sort of tenderness. And that's one thing about me. I'm intensely patriotic, as well as a bloody liar.

Should this barren rock of ours, so heavily drenched in history, ever be threatened by force of arms again, then by the Lord Harry I'll be the first to go round and demand a sick note.

They can keep their atomic warheads. Nuclear fission? I throw back my head and howl in derision. In the final analysis, it is the common soldier who gets the Black Market going.

I must go now – the old wound throbs. The one I received in the face of Naafi prices.

My dear mother-in-law has arrived home from her job on the Wall of Death and I have to scrape the cinders off her jackboots. I close with the words of General Wolfe: "A friend in need . . . is a pest."

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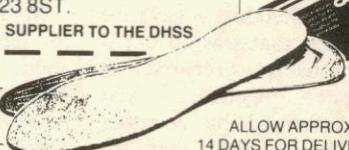
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										12			

SO 186

A disastrous morning at Tobruk

I was stationed in North Africa in 1942 in command of a section of the line defending the battered town of Tobruk. I had been on a spell of leave in Cairo, and arrived back in Tobruk in the early hours of the morning.

I reported to the CO's office immediately, and then went into

the Officers' Mess to satisfy my hunger. As soon as I took off my cap, I realised that something was amiss. The faces of my brother officers told me that all had not been going well since my departure. I questioned them and they reluctantly told me the disastrous news: the line had

retreated.

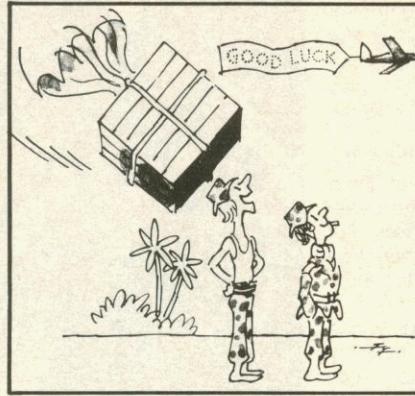
Refusing to believe them, I set out to inspect the line for myself. But it was true enough. No matter how hard I stared through the shimmering heat of the early morning sun, I could see no sign of them in the forward position. Both flanks still hung on

tenaciously like good soldiers, but in the centre the line had fallen right back.

My colleagues were pessimistic about my chances, and advised me to admit defeat. I would not listen to them. Using all the latest weapons modern science had developed, I began a determined offensive, resolved that I would win back the lost ground or fight till I had nothing left. For weeks I kept it up, determined to regain what had been lost.

It was all in vain. Nothing could be done now. I had to face facts: I was going bald. — Jack McWhirter, 25 Rannoch Place, Irvine, Ayrshire KA12 9NH.

Hello the Army in Gibraltar! There's a £50 cheque on its way from SOLDIER for Cpl M J Ganley of the RAPC, serving in the unit admin office of 1 Bn The Queen's Regiment. Cpl Ganley is the latest winner in SOLDIER's HOAY competition. Your chance to win £50 is on page 39 of this issue.



MAIL DROP

Simfire use can't come soon enough

I write to sympathise with the various members of the Royal Hampshires who complained about "bullet proof paras" (SOLDIER August 11). Surely "not taking your shots" should have been left to kids playing war years ago.

The ability to simulate as near to reality as possible on exercise must surely save lives in the long run. The present umpiring system does not account for the effect of the company sniper taking out the "bullet proof" commander of the tank unit, who, after conditioning on previous exercises has the arrogance to ride around in close country with his head exposed!

I was lucky enough to use the Small Arms Weapons Effects System (SAWES) on an exercise two years ago, and to my joy was able to "take out" gun teams at 300 metres at last, causing mild hysteria in the attacking sections. I realise that such devices are on trial/entering service, but they cannot come soon enough.

It is good to see that SOLDIER does not flinch from reporting the highly pertinent comments of junior soldiers on the ground when those comments can be seen to be of universal benefit.

The more prolific the use of Simfire type equipments the better chance we have of acquiring equipment and tactics

to meet the threat correctly, and of avoiding a "king's new clothes" situation whereby because it comes recommended from on high, it WILL work.

Thank you again for allowing

your junior soldier a chance to express other than the "party line" where it is aimed at improving OUR Army. — LCpl P Feeney, Armr Shop, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41.

Hit – 26 times

Your excellent articles on the Somme (SOLDIER June 30) reminded me that my father lay in No Man's Land for 48 hours before the stretcher-bearers could get to him. He was a platoon commander in the first wave on July 1, 1916 (I think it was the 21st London Regiment) and was hit 26 times before he was taken back.

He survived but died of his wounds in the early 1930s.

I remember him telling me that there were so many

wounded in No Man's Land that the SBI were taking the ones most likely to survive first and he was not reckoned to be one of them!

He described how they formed up in front of the wire and had to wait while the company commander was sure they were all in line as the Germans were setting up their machine guns in the distance. — Colonel (retired) N A Robinson, 4750 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6H 2N9.

Thiepval brothers?

Seeing the photograph of Somme veteran Tom Price paying respect to the Tregaskis brothers (SOLDIER, August 11), reminded me that while touring the Somme battlefield this year I visited the Thiepval Memorial to check out certain family surnames in the cemetery register.

I came across what may be brothers killed on the same date,

July 1, 1916. They were Ptes John and James Cumberland of the 9th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, their regimental numbers being 11553 and 11554 respectively.

Unfortunately there are no details of their next of kin recorded to confirm this. — W G A Deeley, 128 Ridgacre Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1PX.

Raising the standard!

I refer to SOLDIER August 25 in which you featured the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. I was sorry to see that you described the personal standard of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, as the Royal Standard. This is on a par with your all-too-frequent description of regimental cap badges as "crests".

I should be interested also to have your comments, or those of The Black Watch, on the report in one of your contemporaries, "Cycling Weekly", on an incident that is alleged to have occurred at the Games.

They reported that a sergeant in The Black Watch hoisted the Australian flag upside-down at a cycling medal ceremony and was rewarded by demotion to corporal with "14 days' punishment".

If you as journalists, the Third Estate, make elementary errors in heraldic matters, how much more easy must it be for an NCO to make such mistakes.

— M B Potter, 14a Barnstaple Road, Bedford MK40 3AP.

Point taken about the Royal Standard, Mr Potter. SOLDIER also tries not to describe cap badges as crests. As for the Commonwealth Games, no such punishment was given, and SOLDIER can hardly be blamed for the sins of other publications. — Ed.

● Reunion

The East Surrey Regiment 11th annual reunion will be held at Battersea Town Hall (Grand Hall) on October 24. Tickets (£4 a head) and details from Stan Jupe, 68c Havelock Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8HD.

Missing mountain baffles climbers

AFTER scaling a 19,200ft Himalayan peak, a team from the Queen's Dragoon Guards in BAOR are having problems locating it on the map to the satisfaction of Pakistan authorities.

And they need to do this accurately to request the mountain be officially named "Cavalry Peak".

They claim to be the first to the top of the mountain and want it called this in honour of regimental traditions and that of their sister regiment in Pakistan, the 11th Cavalry.

But maps of the Karakorum Range are too obscure for them to mark the exact location of the mountain and identification is proving difficult.

To show that "Cavalry Peak" does exist, here are pictures of the mountain and Tpr Simon Prince on the apex with the Union Jack and the double-headed eagle emblem of 1 QDG.

The mountain was spotted last year by Captain J.J. Farquharson, a QDG reserve officer, while on a trekking holiday. He was a member of the team which returned this summer to put all eight members on the summit.

On a clear day the peak affords a good view of the world's second highest mountain - the notoriously hazardous K2 on which six members of an international expedition met their

deaths not long after the QDG ascent.

At 19,200ft "Cavalry Peak" is modest by Himalayan standards. But Col Dick Hardie, RAMC, the only non QDG member of the party, described it as one of the most dangerous he had encountered in eight visits to the Himalayas.

As lead climber he had the privilege with Tpr Prince of being the first to set foot on the peak.

He said the climb was not particularly difficult, but there had been continual threats from crevices and avalanches.

Colonel Hardie and Tpr Prince were followed on the summit by Capt Farquharson, LCpl Tony Williams and Tpr Steven Williams. Then came the rest of the party: Lieutenants Alistair Foxburgh and Peter Robson and Tpr Michael Romph. The team needed a 25-hour bus trip from the airport at Hunza region. From there it was a day's journey by jeep and two days on foot to the site of their base camp at 14,000ft.

They lost some days through bad weather, but had the good fortune to miss the terrible conditions which were to produce tragedy on K2 only 20 miles away.

TPR SIMON PRINCE: one of eight to reach the top of 'Cavalry Peak'

Eight QDGs are first to the top



Gunners haul in charity cash



THE MANCHESTER MEN: pub call before charity haul

IT was a "bang-on" affair when TA soldiers from Manchester staged a "strategy meeting" at the Dog and Partridge, Didsbury, to prepare for a 42-mile charity gun haul.

After a couple of

pints and sponsorship from brewers Greenall Whitley for £100, the team left to start pulling the gun from Liverpool to their HQ at Belle Vue, Manchester, and to raise nearly £3,000 for two local hospitals.

Dogged Dougal puts us right!

When WO2 Dougal Douglas, the RQMS at the RAVC laboratory and stores at Aldershot, relayed from John o' Groats to Lands End with a team of runners from the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Company to celebrate the founding of the firm 40 years ago, it was the first event of its

kind organised by the firm.

In our report of August 25 we said the relay had been held every year since the firm began in 1946. Apologies to Dougal - who is busy collecting pledges worth £200 in aid of muscular dystrophy - and to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Company.

Paris is the prize for T-shirt winners



JANE MORGAN, STEVE MALONEY: 'marvellous, fantastic trip'

QUICK SPOT

Newest Army exchange officer is Capt Mike Robertshawe from the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport. He is now with the RCT at Bulford Barracks, Aldershot in charge of recruits. Mike, 24, is also a useful rugby player and is looking for a slot in a team within reasonable travelling distance.

QUICK SPOT



MAJOR GURUNG: long service

NO PRIZES for guessing where Lance Corporals Steve Maloney and Jane Morgan are, the guide book says it all.

Engaged to be married, the lucky couple were enjoying an autumn trip to the French capital courtesy of Naafi, Trusthouse Forte, Golden Rail Holidays and Elms Marketing, a Manchester-based firm of shirt-makers, for producing a winning T-shirt design in a Naafi competition.

CREATIVE

Their cleverness and creative flair in designing a motif for 108 Squadron of the Intelligence Corps, won them a weekend at the city's luxurious five star George V Hotel, just off the Champs Elysee, plus an all expenses-paid weekend in London at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Mayfair, and a presentation dinner aboard HMS Belfast, moored in the Pool of London.

"The trip was marvellous. Absolutely fantastic," said Steve who is stationed at Bulford, miles away from Jane, who is at Ashford, Kent.

"We don't get to see each other very often," he added, "it made us feel like royalty for a few days. It was a prize out of this world."

Sing a song of SSAFA

Sing-along with Maggie... That's the message from SSAFA who have launched an autumn radio jingle competition for children which will



MAGGIE MOON: jingle time

feature TV singing star Maggie Moon of *Name That Tune* fame.

The children will play and sing 30-second SSAFA radio commercials, chasing prizes of record tokens and a top prize of a synthesizer for the school with the best entry.

Infants will sing about favourite SSAFA sisters while older school children will sing of SSAFA - the family friend.

Maggie Moon, well-known TV star, will record the two senior class

winning entries while DJ Mark Page will record the two junior class winners. All four will be broadcast on BFBS worldwide radio. Entries will be judged in November: prizes will be presented and winners broadcast on BFBS during December and January 1987.

PEOPLE

Top Gurkha calls it a day

THE longest serving Gurkha in Hong Kong has just left the Army - after 37 years.

Major Rambahadur Gurung, who enlisted at Kunrhaghat in India in 1949 has left the territory with his wife Dhani and returned to Dharamsala, India.

Although from west Nepal, Major Gurung has served with the predominantly east Nepal recruited 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (1/7 GR), since early 1951. Of his posting to the 7th he said "I was sent to the best Gurkha regiment."

He joined the battalion as a clerk

and was in 1963 awarded the BEM while serving as chief clerk 'G' Branch with HQ 99 Infantry Brigade in Singapore.

In 1968 he was commissioned lieutenant and was promoted over the years until in 1983 he achieved major - the highest rank attainable.

Linda's leap boosts fund

Plucky mother Linda Pitman boosted funds for a hospital baby unit when she took to the air with the Red Devils for her first parachute jump. A Territorial with the Royal Signals at Newport, Gwent, Linda once lost a

premature baby and has since devoted much time to raising money for the unit. Linda, blonde, 6½ stones and 4ft 10in joined the Red Devils at their Aldershot base for a day's training before making her first drop.



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Discharge of Gurkhas was right - Minister

ARMY authorities were right to recommend the administrative discharge of all 123 members of Support Company, 1/7 Gurkha Rifles arising from an assault made on two officers - one British, one Gurkha - in Hawaii at an end-of-exercise social function, Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, has said during a visit to Hong Kong.

But, the Minister who was in Hong Kong discussing other matters on defence, was quick to add: "We regard this unhappy incident as an isolated and wholly untypical one which in no way detracts from the high esteem in which the Brigade of Gurkhas is held. We are determined to ensure it will damage neither the role of the Gurkhas in the British Army, nor our very close and friendly relations with Nepal."

The physical assault on the two officers had been a very serious disciplinary



Mr. John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, meets soldiers of 1/7 Gurkha Rifles informally during his visit to Hong Kong

offence, said Mr Stanley. Further offences had been committed subsequently when Support Company members of the 1st Battalion, the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, failed to co-operate in the official investigation of the incident.

This had made it impossible to identify all the offenders and so enable court-martial proceedings to be started against them.

Faced with this serious disciplinary offence which could not be ignored or condoned, and unable to deal with it

through court-martial the Army authorities, said Mr Stanley, "had no alternative" but to recommend the administrative discharge of all 123 Support Company members.

The key issue had been the total breakdown of the bond of trust "without which a soldier is militarily ineffective".

Mr Stanley re-affirmed that the discharges had been recommended unanimously "right up the chain of command" by the regiment itself, the Brigade of the Gurkhas, by the Commander British Forces Hong Kong and by the senior Army authorities in London.

"This recommendation was approved by ministers, including the Secretary of State for Defence," he said.

The men of Support Company had been advised that their administrative discharge was being considered and of their right to make representations.

In only 36 cases - about one-third - were representations submitted. Discharge, he said, has subsequently been rescinded in 12 cases.

"Those who have now been discharged, a total of 108 men to date, have all been advised that they have the right of appeal. No appeals have been submitted to date," said the Minister.

ARMY MOPS UP IN WAKE OF TAIL END CHARLEY

THE tail end of Hurricane Charley may have caught parts of the UK by surprise and, in particular, the Yorkshire Dales, but the Army soon swung into Samaritan action.

Troops from North East District rushed to the scene of flash flooding in their four-tonne lorries in the search for distressed residents and holidaymakers.

The Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital gave medical care to one elderly couple at Catterick. They had narrowly

escaped with their lives after wading chest-deep through the swirling waters. An RAF Sea King SAR helicopter had come to their timely rescue.

Throughout the height of the natural disaster which hit the picturesque Dales, 3 Flight, Army Air Corps, from Topcliffe flew mercy mission sorties.

But even as the water subsided the Army was taking no chances. As residents relaxed, the troops were put on stand-by for a further 24 hours.

MOBB



by Mouse

Berlin's Cockney culture



BERLIN'S famous Reichstag last caught the world headlines as it burned. Last month it caught the local headlines as dark-hued "sepoy" handed out leaflets in front of its famous facade.

Nothing political this time, though. Just PR. Backing them up were Chinese "coolies", Knights of the Garter and some Pearly Kings. All proclaiming the advent of the city's Berlin Tattoo which runs from September 22 to October 2.

Bandsmen from the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (pictured left) brought a touch of Cockney musical culture within ear-shot of the Berlin Wall which stands starkly behind the Reichstag.

See also Pages 14-15

Badge of pride for Cheshire Volunteers

ONE OF the TA's newest battalions has just been cap-badged at Crewe. Thirty men of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment now proudly wearing the regiment's famous acorn badge are already serving with B and C Companies of the 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Volunteers in Crewe and Northwich, but have transferred to 3 Cheshires to form the nucleus of D Company.

Presenter of the badges outside Crewe's Civic Centre was Col Bill Bromley-Davenport, the battalion's honorary colonel. Senior military guest was Brig Keith Prosser, Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment.

The 3rd Battalion will restore the Cheshire Regiment's association with volunteer soldiers started in 1859 but broken after 100 years when its last TA battalion - the 4th/7th - was disbanded.

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**Sunshine
Samantha's
no mirage!**

A VISION of loveliness appeared beside the Holdfast Camp swimming pool in Belize, to the huge delight of men of the 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment, the duty battalion in Belize. It wasn't a mirage, but the shapely form of 18-year-old Samantha Goodwin, who spent ten days visiting the battalion in her capacity as Miss 3 Queens.

1RTR visit the bright lights

MEN OF A Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, have just spent a month's training away from their Hildesheim base in BAOR using training facilities in Berlin where they took advantage of the urban assault course, visited their counterparts in the US sector - F Company, 40th Armor - and pursued cultural and educational visits.

1 Troop of A Squadron conducted a crossing of the River Havel with 38 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, an exercise during which the difficulties of loading and selecting the correct approach route soon became apparent.

A Squadron stood in for B Squadron 14th/20th Hussars who went back into the Zone for ranges and tactical training.



MEN of the REME Training Battalion and Depot, Arborfield, get the once-over from CSM Frank Montgomery, Irish Guards, as they prepare and drill in final preparation for taking over ceremonial public duties in London earlier this month.

REME keeps Sudan trucks on the road

THE REME Workshops of 49 Field Regiment based in Lippstadt have been doing their bit towards relief work in the Sudan. They have been involved in repairing and servicing ex-MOD 4 ton trucks owned by Fordgesellschaft Afrika (FGA), a relief group sponsored by local journalists.

Karl Wibbeke, a journalist based in the Sudan said: "We needed help so we came to the experts."

The trucks will form a mobile clinic which visits the worst hit areas in the Sudan providing the people of the region with regular medical aid.

● The First World War tank shown on the back cover of our September 8 edition was a Mark Five, not a Mark One.

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Irish play on for veterans

MORE THAN 400 military bandsmen were on parade at Balmoral Showgrounds, in Belfast, as part of fund raising efforts for the Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans.

Among them were the massed bands of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the Irish Guards, the first and second battalions of The Royal Irish Rangers, The Ulster Defence Regiment and the TA.

Manning four 25-pounder guns to accompany the 1812 Overture were men from 102 (Ulster) Air Defence Regiment, RA (V).

Bicester freight fleet to go 'commercial'

their behalf clothing, spare parts and a whole range of general equipment, excluding furniture, food or fuel.

The idea, that of SSgt Brian Thomas, arises out of the cost-paring Lean Look study drawn up by the Ministry of Defence whereby units were asked to look at their own housekeeping books.

But the lines of communication in the khaki-liveried vehicles will still be secure in the capable hands of 46 lance corporals drivers and three WRAC drivers.

As OC of the unit, Major David Bond explained: "Because the new vehicles are commercial type vehicles it would take a long time to repair them under normal Army systems. This would delay in meeting delivery deadlines and the unit has been authorised to use commercial repair."

Normally, the 37 prime mover fleet operated by the 78 all-NCO unit shifts more than 45,000 tonnes of freight round the UK in any one year and some 28,000 tonnes to BAOR.

The whole operation, totalling 2 1/4 million miles annually, costs £3 1/2 million a year. This new method of operating will clip about £250,000 off that figure.

The unit is the link between the CODs Bicester and Donnington and the widely dispersed ordnance depots. It moves on

It's Tattoo time in Berlin!

TWO HIRED circus elephants were auditioned "under fire" for it and 42,200 pearl buttons will have a glittering role in this year's Berlin Tattoo (September 25-October 2) to be viewed by an estimated 80,000 residents and visitors to the world's most famous divided city.

Behind the scenes, procurers of the backdrop props, set piece weaponry and colourful costumery are the ladies and gentlemen of the locally-based Ordnance Services Battalion's 43-strong Returned Stores Supply Depot (RSSD).

The small RAOC unit has found itself with a big role to play, making sure that the prestigious eight-day event and its 1,700 participants, including 400 musicians, have everything in place. From the scenery to the shiny Pearly King and Queen buttons on custom-made tunic jackets.

This year's theme is Victorian London. The audience will be taken on a musical journey culminating in the State Opening of the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace of 1851.

Detail that meant a trip to the circus . . . in Holland. A venue where SSgt Bob Little, senior NCO in charge of the RSSD had, literally, to measure up two elephants hired to take part in a

The two-hour show involves 25 bands comprising 14 military

nine-minute military set piece: the Battle of Plassey, India, 1757, involving today's men of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

The elephants will be wearing tassels and other finery on their harnesses and saddlery. To clinch their role, the pachyderms had to be initiated in the ear-splitting ways of thunder-flashes detonated near their massive thighs. They had to familiarise themselves with the crackle of blanks from modified SLRs simulating muskets of the period.

Part of the RSSD service for that piece of re-enacted history called for the supply of 100 three-foot, painted, wooden swords and another 100 5ft long broom-handled spears with two distinctive heads. Light cannon – the siege guns – also made their appearance as part of the association with that era of the British Raj.

Chosen to play the part of Lord Clive of Plassey fame is Maj John Gaye, OC B Company, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. An infrequent rider in the past, he says, the major has been putting in much more time lately to add that authenticity from the saddle.

The two-hour show involves 25 bands comprising 14 military

bands, two corps of drums, five pipes and drums bands, two bugle bands, a mounted band – the Blue and Royals – and a House band.

SSgt Little, who oversees nine departments within the RSSD, said: "As far as the tattoo is concerned we work closely with other agencies such as 14 Field Workshop REME, 38 (Berlin) Engineer Squadron, RE and the PSA."

His five sewing machine-based seamstresses turned out 13 out of 33 bandmen's jackets, each with 1,400 pearly buttons, for their part in the Pearly King and Queen sequence, in just three weeks. Each tunic, drawn from three regular sizes, had a differing motif on the back. Each bandman dutifully turned up for his three fittings.

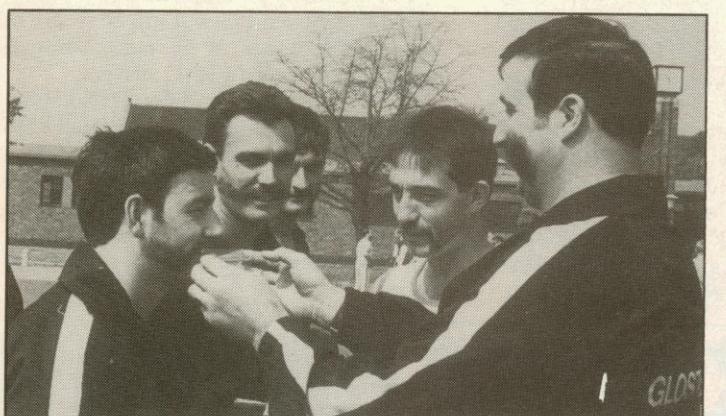
Spectators with an extra keen eye may be able to spot 32 replica McKenzie tartan material kilts for use by the Highland dancers accompanying a show put on by another of the Brigade's resident battalions, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment).

The RSSD spent, in fact, 15 months planning and arranging their allotted programme of procurement for the event.

"Every night during the tattoo we will have a duty crew there," said SSgt Little. "Should scenery break or collapse or buttons simply come adrift we have carpenters and seamstresses on hand. Nothing has happened so far during these tattoos which started just after the last war, so I understand. Then they were called 'Retreats'. The next tattoo is scheduled for 1988."

Not that the Berlin RSSD deals just with the tattoo in its high-visibility duties. It also handles the relevant back-up for the Queen's Birthday Parade – 70 tents spread over two locations – and the GOC's annual ball. Both on the same day!

As for the forthcoming tattoo, Robert, Lord Clive (1725-1774), Governor of Bengal from 1758-1760 and again, 1764-1767, victor of Plassey and founder of the Indian Empire would probably be proud of SSgt Little and his staff for the effort they are contributing to the honour of his memory and the enjoyment of visitors to the Berlin Tattoo.



MEN OF 1 GLOSTERS serving in Berlin have faced up to a hairy challenge for the Berlin Tattoo, 150 of them boasting, bristling outsize moustaches by order!

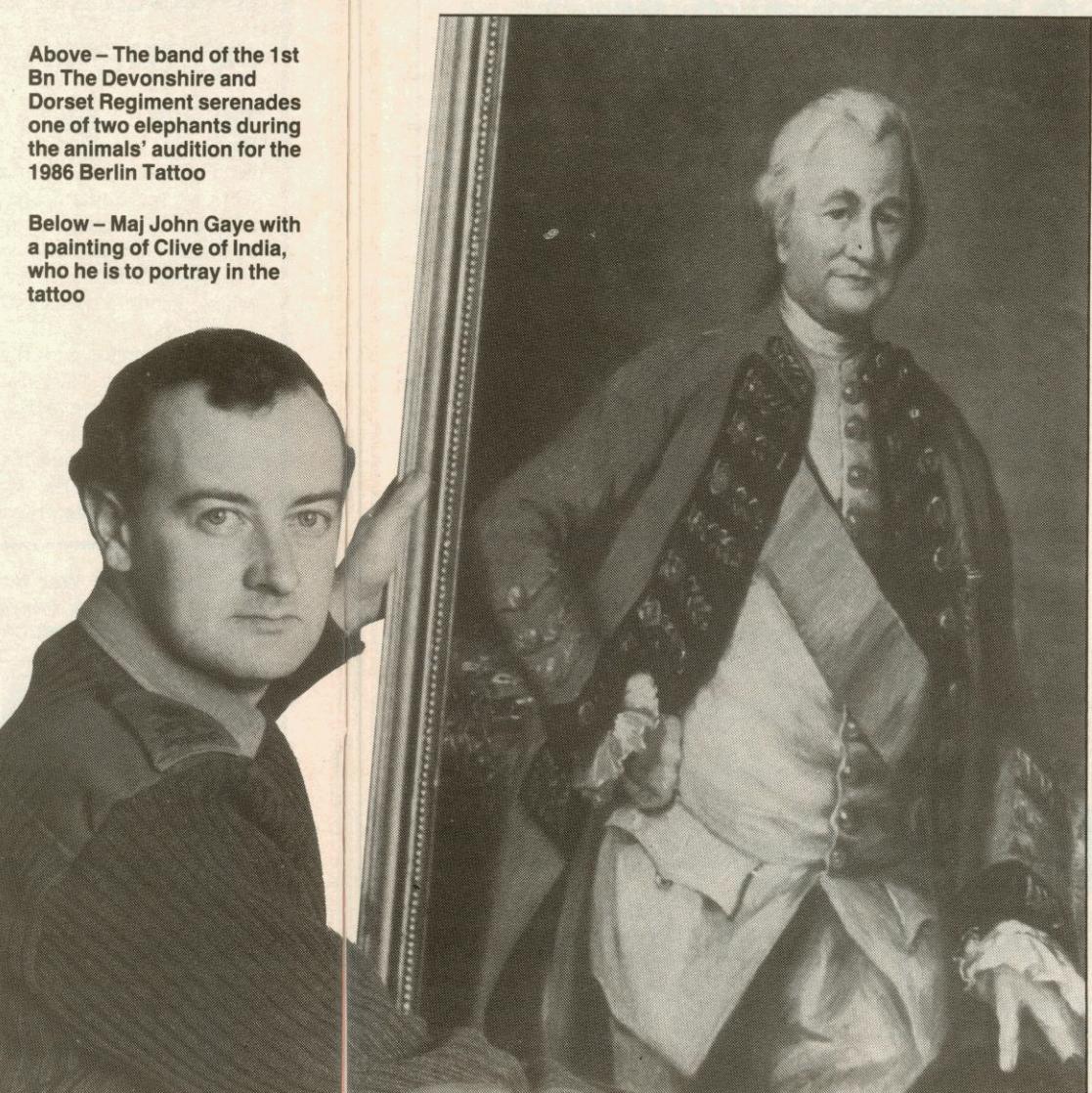
The Glosters' period costume performance, showing how military physical fitness training was once carried out, includes wrestling, stick-fighting, bare-knuckle fighting and pillow fighting astride greasy poles; a test for potential cavalrymen.

Sgt Larry Pomeroy (above right), the battalion ration sergeant, who sports his own fine set of whiskers, said: "We declared the scheme a competition and the moustaches came along nicely though some false whiskers are on stand-by in case of emergency help. But the lads have all put a brave face on it so things look fine for the big day."



Above – The band of the 1st Bn The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment serenades one of two elephants during the animals' audition for the 1986 Berlin Tattoo

Below – Maj John Gaye with a painting of Clive of India, who he is to portray in the tattoo



Above – SSgt Bob Little behind the scenes

Below – Sign writer Ian Rowles creates a tattoo illusion





John Forbes Branch Manager Ealing

At the age of 16 John joined the Royal Engineers, and during his army career served in Germany, the Persian Gulf, Nepal, Singapore and Hong Kong.

He was promoted through the ranks to Regimental Sergeant Major and was commissioned in 1978. John served as an officer with 21 Engineer Regiment for 5 years until he left the army in 1983 with the rank of Captain.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Where there's muck there's brass . . .

Fus Karl Casey of D Company 5 RRF certainly threw himself into his work when TA volunteers from C (Ashton-Under-Lyne) and D (Bury and Rochdale) Companies helped Bury's Fusilier Club Krypton Committee to reach their worthy £100,000 target for charity.

The Fusiliers, aided by medics from 207 (Manchester) General Hospital and the Army Cadet Force, were on duty at the club's Holcombe Moor training camp "Krypton" assault course. Among the recipients of help from the event will be the Fusilier Aid Society and the AVABF.



Return of a trench train

Railway engine buffs will be interested to know that a machine made especially for supplying the First World War trenches in France - an armoured narrow gauge petrol rail tractor to be precise - has been restored and is now on display at the Museum of Army Transport in Beverley, North Humberside.

The tractor - Army number WD2182 and maker's number 461, no name - was made by the Motor Rail Tram Company of Bedford, who had originally been

rebuffed by the War Office when they suggested supplying narrow gauge railway equipment to connect the main line railheads to the network of trenches.

Then the British found that their allies the French had just such a system which had the effect of easing the movement of supplies in one direction and the stream of casualties on the return trip. So the British policy changed.

The problem with steam haulage was that the engine's smoke advertised its presence to

the enemy. The eventual answer was petrol-engined vehicles, and 27 of these were made by the Motor Rail Tram Company.

WD2182 was made in 1917 and moved to France the following year. Back in England after the war it worked in a brick and tile yard and was eventually sold as scrap.

Mr Mike Jacob, its present owner, bought it for £150 and after many months of restoration work it is now part of a First World War tableau at the museum.

Diary dates

SOLDIER has been asked again and again by readers to resurrect its See-the-Army diary of events which gave advance warning of shows, tattoos and such like with Army participation.

Always keen to publish just what its readers want, SOLDIER will publish the diary again, although perhaps in a somewhat different form and frequency.

To do so, the magazine needs the co-operation of organisers of events. To qualify for publication, events must be open to the general public and have Army participation, and details must be submitted by the organisers of the events.

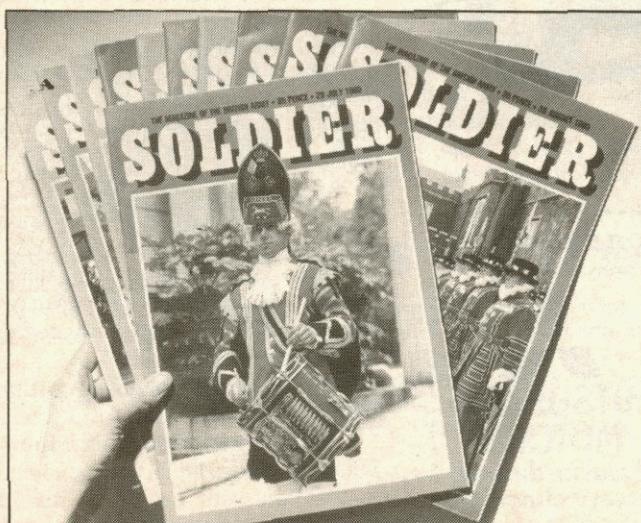
The information required is name of the event, date, time and venue, and brief details of what military units are taking part, eg Red Devils free fall parachute display, Royal Corps of Signals motor-cycle display team, the band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

To be of most interest to readers who are planning visits to events, details must be sent to SOLDIER for publication as soon as they are firm. Dates of major events such as the Dover and Colchester Tattoos can be published many months before they actually take place but will not necessarily be repeated in every issue.

The diary will only give brief details of events. Organisers can also take advantage of SOLDIER's display or classified advertising columns.

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

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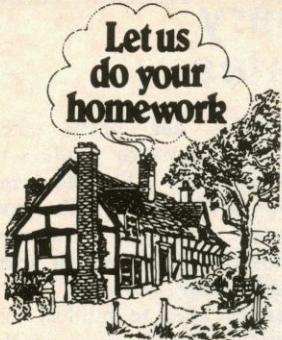
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MANGUSTA'S A TANK-BUSTING TOUGHIE

Below - A close-up of the A 129's tandem, two-cockpit layout. An integrated control system assures complete automation and allows the pilot to concentrate fully on the mission in hand

AS A battlefield tank-busting helicopter, the Agusta A 129 Mangusta, is an angular mean-looking machine capable of meting out serious mayhem. And, as one of the rotary wing stars of the Farnborough International Air Show 86, that biennial flying and static aeronautical showcase, it put on an agile display before the watching thousands, writes Graham Smith.

Next month it starts to come into even sharper focus as part of a two-year, four-nation feasibility study to see if a development of the A 129 - the Tonal - would have beneficial Army Air Corps implications as the Light Attack Helicopter (LAH) acquisition to its inventory, possibly in 1997.

The detailed study will see if a development of the A 129 will meet the Army Air Corps' stringent requirements for an LAH. It is understood the AAC would like an "improved" version of the existing Mangusta type.

The LAH, a possible development of the Italian tandem-arranged, two-cockpit Mangusta - "Mongoose" - in its anti-armour role would be the replacement for the Lynx-TOW and the Gazelle in their in-contact roles. The Army Air Corps LAH would also eventually tote the longer-range Trigat missile system, in place of TOW.

All things being equal the Italians - they want to procure 60 of the A 129s - hope to see an in-service date (ISD) of 1995. An AAC source suggests the LAH ISD would be 1997 with state-of-the-art weaponry and avionics.

Four firms, Agusta of Italy; Westlands of the UK; Fokker of Holland; and CASA of Spain are involved in the four-nation consortium.

Agusta and Westland will have a 38 per cent share, Fokker, 19



Picture: Paul Haley

per cent and CASA, five per cent.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed at Farnborough by the four participating nations setting up a new company to mastermind the project.

The type first flew on September 15, 1983, and has since taken on a reputation for toughness both in handing out firepower and absorbing it.

Agusta claim that the toughened main rotor head

component can withstand 12.7mm hits without penalty. Furthermore, it could safely fly for another 30 minutes. The A 129, they say, is "nearly invulnerable" to 23mm fire directed at it.

The Mangusta also enjoys "unparalleled crashworthiness."

As a firepower platform it can carry weapons loads of up to 1,000 kgs; its primary current armament being eight TOW missiles and two 19-rocket pods.

Agusta are also proud to point

out that the A 129 is the first helicopter to have an all-computerised management system or IMS, Integrated Multiplex System.

At Farnborough, Sig. Antonio Giovannini of Agusta said: "From now until 1995 we have got nine years to improve the technology of the A 129 drawing on the experiences and expertise of all four contributing firms. We may, for example, incorporate the new rotor blade development stemming from BERP - the British Experimental Rotor Programme - which is made up of composites and involved in your achievement of the world helicopter speed record just days before the show."

He added: "The Mangusta costs and weighs less than half as much as some of its competitors, is 20 years younger than others and has eight years of research put into it. The aircraft has double and even triple redundant

'It's what we need. . .'

ONE young BAOR Gazelle pilot visiting the show enthused over the lines of the A 129 Mangusta and its battlefield potential.

"It's a gorgeous-looking aircraft. I think it's what we need in improved form to meet our eventual LAH requirements. At the moment our anti-tank capability is fairly limited in that we have got a lot to do. This helicopter seems to have everything. I would love to fly it.

"One of the biggest threats to helicopters in BAOR would be other helicopters. Anyone who took this one on would be in for a big surprise. They would not want to tangle with something which is so big and powerful. No one is going to argue with it, I would guess."

● Turn to next page

cy of vital systems.

"The pilot's and co-pilot/gunner's integrated helmets and display sight system provide perfect day or night visibility in any operating conditions.

"This integrated control system, unique in its kind, assures complete automatic capability allowing the pilot to concentrate fully on the mission."

The A 129 Mangusta is supplied with advanced combat and navigation equipment both for passive surveillance – radar and laser warning sensors – and active counter-measures. These include IR and radar jammer and a chaff/flare dispenser.

The Mangusta can also operate in NBC environments and crewmen need not wear special suits.

Sig. Giovannini said: "One of the big advantages is that British Army Air Corps pilots would be able to start training on the Tonal at the same time as the Italian pilots. All of our technology has gone into the A 129 and will be supplemented on the advanced attack version. We have made no compromises over this. The aircraft has extreme controllability because of the rotor design. With an in-service date of 1995, it means that the up-rated Tonal version will be flying in 1992."

AAC to evaluate advanced A 129 as its attack helicopter of future

Other Farnborough exhibits with Army connotations included an appearance by the Harrier GR 5 which will equip RAF squadrons in BAOR. In all, 62 copies of the type with its 22,000-lb vectored thrust Pegasus engine have been ordered.

Deliveries start next year over three years. The GR 5 – it has the same engine power as the American Marine Corps AV 8B – will be able to carry double the load of ordnance to the front-line – some 12,000lbs as opposed to the GR 3's 6,800lbs.

Windscreens have been toughened on the GR 5 against the aviators' hazards of bird-strikes. FLIR – Forward-Looking Infra-red Radar – giving day and night ability is also featured as is a moving map

display. Analogue systems have given way to digital modifications.

A British Aerospace spokesman said: "It will either carry twice the weight or fly twice as far on missions."

Also flying was the turbine Britten-Norman Air Defender taking part in the three-year CASTOR (Corps Airborne Stand-off Radar) demonstration programme for the Ministry of Defence. It is a joint UK/US Nato programme and has been funded to show the feasibility of a low-level airborne platform relaying information to a ground station.

On the ground with a ground-to-air mission was Starstreak, the latest hyper-velocity missile (HVM) developed by Shorts and destined for service with the British Army's Stormer APC, eight missiles at a time.

A derivative of the company's Blowpipe and Javelin systems, Starstreak will take out any "current and future helicopters."

Rapier in its tracked and towed form was represented at the show which, in itself, had attracted some 600 exhibitors and some 120 aircraft types.

Part of the Rapier family was Darkfire, a new towed variant by British Aerospace which is equipped with an electro-optical tracker for day or night target

acquisition, even when mist, smoke and dust obscure it. The system has been ordered by the Army.

Hunting Engineering Ltd's LAW 80, the anti-tank weapon system and subject of a £200 million contract with deliveries starting next year, was on display. The system has an effective range of up to 500 metres against frontal armour and is aided by a spotting rifle aligned with the pop-up optical sight.

Flight Refuelling had its Advanced Subsonic Aerial Target (ASAT) on show, a turbo-jet RPV.

Designed from the outset to be a high-performance fully manoeuvrable unmanned aircraft, with low initial cost, low cost of operation and maintenance, it is now the primary target for surface-to-air (SAM) missile systems for the British Army.

The same company also fielded Phoenix, the surveillance and target acquisition system ordered by the British Army for service in the 1990s. Powered by a 25 hp two-cylinder, two-stroke housed in a cowled module, the engine drives a two-bladed fixed pitch propeller and an alternator.

Phoenix is recoverable by parachute. The aircraft descends inverted and lands on a crushed shock absorber.

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Regiment guards Hess – 45 years on

A Company 1 RHF take over Spandau guard duties from American Forces in West Berlin, and for the second time in 45 years the regiment finds itself looking after Rudolph Hess. When he parachuted into Scotland in 1941, Hess was arrested and taken to Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow, the Depot of The Highland Light Infantry who amalgamated

with The Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1959 to form the present regiment.

The A Coy guard was commanded by 2nd Lt David Steel and shared the Spandau guard task with other Berlin based units and American, French and Russian forces.

Berlin airlift has 1 RHF on the hop

THE Royal Highland Fusiliers currently stationed in West Berlin were involved in an unexpected "fly-back" operation when they were called from field firing exercises at Sennelager to Berlin to carry out their role as part of the British Infantry Brigade.

The operation, topically named Exercise Hive, was mounted against an exercise background of mounting tensions and demonstrations in West Berlin due to the 25th anniversary of the Wall. (During the exercise there actually were several demonstrations of this type which happily did not involve British troops.)

The battalion, carrying out live section, platoon and company attacks and defensive exercises, received a warning order to move to Berlin on five Hercules of RAF Support Command.

Training continued as normal but behind the scenes planning and preparation for the air move was going on. Capt Ewen Loudon, Battalion Ops Officer, ably supported by Lt Paul Cartwright, Unit Emplacement Officer, were busily detailing off chalk lists and determining which vehicles and equipment would fly on which flight.

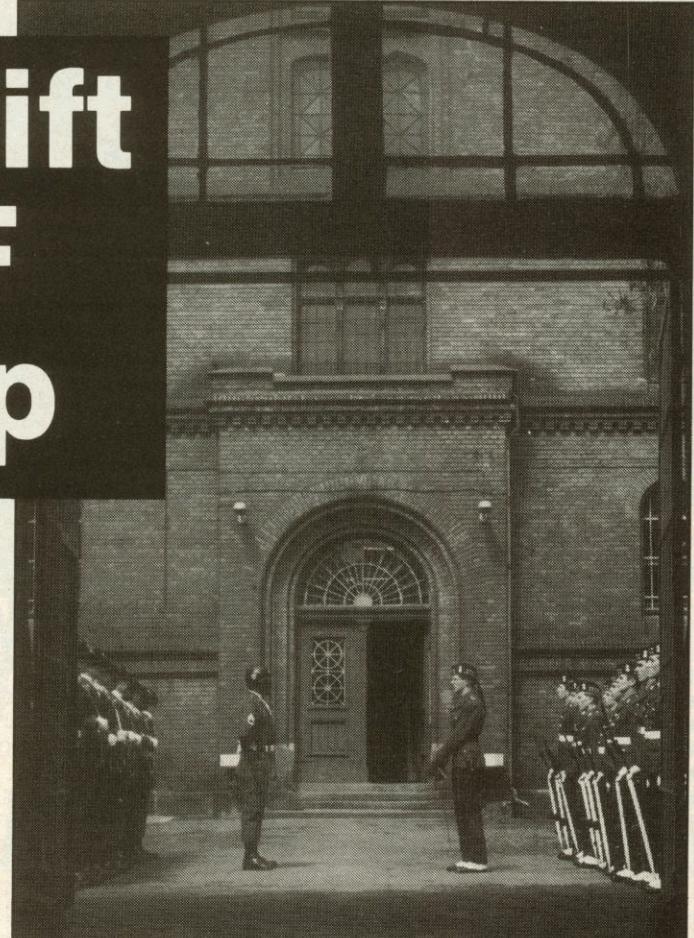
In an operational move it is extremely important that the right kit and the right people arrive at the same time.

RSM Harry McGarva prepared the vehicles which would be flown back to Berlin.

It is very important that a battalion tasked with the protection of the West Berliners, can quickly get into its operational role and The Royal Highland Fusiliers were being put to the test.

Back in Berlin the battalion rear party commanded by Maj (QM) Willie Shaw were also extremely busy. Due to limitations on space on the aircraft only radio vehicles would be flown back. The battalion rear party therefore had to draw up extra vehicles to deploy the rifle companies.

At the same time an "Airhead" had to be established at RAF Gatow, the reception airfield. Lt Bill Mathews, Battalion Families Officer, took on this unusual task – his operational job.



Picture by Cpl Hugh Mitchell

All this concurrent activity took place over a period of only three days and from a logistical nightmare at the beginning it very quickly became apparent that the planning teams both in Sennelager and in Berlin had got their sums right, thereby ensuring a slick and well ordered Air Move.

D day finally arrived. A steady stream of vehicles and troops were despatched from Sennelager to RAF Guttersloh, the mounting airfield.

The ever resilient Jocks of 1 RHF had been up since well before dawn as, coupled to this operation, the battalion still had the business of handing over their temporary quarters in Sennelager to the incoming

unit. This was successfully achieved by Capt (QM) Hugh Cameron and his hard-pressed staff.

Crammed up and ready for anything, the first chalks touched down in Berlin.

Commanding Officer Lt Col Angus Ramsay received his orders for the battalion from Brig Patrick Stone, Commander of Berlin Infantry Brigade. Tasks were allotted to the rifle company commanders and fire-support company quickly asserted themselves in their various 'fire bases' involving the battalion anti-tank and mortar platoons.

It was but a short step for Maj John Kelly, OC of C Company. His company deployment was accomplished using Huey helicopters of the American Forces in West Berlin, and C Company duly deployed to their operational location.

Berlin Brigade were busy during this period and the brigadier had also called out the other British battalions, 1st Bn The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and 1 Glosters.

By early evening Brig Stone was satisfied with the performance of the Berlin Brigade and "Endex" was called. For the soldiers of The Royal Highland Fusiliers yet another obstacle had been crossed.

● **The Royal Highland Fusiliers, who made history in 1967 when they were the first British unit to be awarded the freedom of a West German town – Iserlohn in the Sauerland – created another "first" in West Berlin when they were awarded the Freedom of Wilmersdorf, a borough town within the city. Now the regiment is the only unit in the British Army to have been granted the Freedom of two German towns.**

Story by Maj Alex Bryson



When working wives spell trouble

THE American Army has taken a significant step forward to keep pace with the growing trend of Service wives who want to work from home.

Employment on their bases – as on ours – and on the surrounding economy, is difficult for wives because of frequent moves, isolation of stations and family commitments.

But the American guidelines which allow limited commercial activity from quarters have put the commanders on station in a no-win situation.

Because if commanders choose to look the other way if a wife is running a cottage industry, they risk being reprimanded if something goes wrong. And if they strictly enforce the rules, they will be seen as "bad guys" taking potential extra money away from Service families.

The same can be said of many British garrison stations.

There, many an entrepreneurial wife would like to start a business, but for a variety of reasons is prevented from doing so.

But the change of heart in the American Army opens up new avenues for small businesses on their stations.

They have started by issuing helpful guidelines; permission must be in writing; reminders as to local government licensing

officer giving brief details of the enterprise. But that doesn't mean the green light to go ahead will be given.

The MoD letter goes on: "We are in the process of issuing a policy letter to all commands on this subject, following advice from the treasury solicitor.

"Married quarters are for residential purposes, however very minor business enterprises may be condoned.

"Every request for such permission is considered most sympathetically.

"The Army regulations are, however, quite clear, running a business of any description from a married quarter *without* permission of the commanding officer is not allowed and any enterprise which would legally require planning permission for change of use would in no circumstances be allowed."

I am sure there is a need for wives to bring some financial remuneration into the family budget. In 1986 the hard fact of life is a Serviceman's pay is not sufficient to keep pace with rising education costs, insurance, mortgage repayments and saving for a house.

In the majority of cases a second income is essential to keep pace with inflation.

In many cases the only way to achieve this is to work from home. This is more difficult if there are extra restrictive rules, especially as accompanied service is Army policy.

BELT UP

JULY saw the introduction of the rear seat belt law in Germany. From that date any backseat passenger found not wearing his or her seat belt is liable to an on-the-spot fine of DM 40.

You have been warned: if travelling in a car in Germany, make sure you wear your seat belt and ensure all passengers wear theirs too – just like these children.

OR PAY UP

Anne

HERE TO HELP



A battle won! If I was not teetotal I'd crack open a bottle of champagne – instead I think I'll make it milk – and toast 500 16-24 year-old Service children who should soon have a National Insurance number.

September 1 was V Day when my nine-year campaign on their behalf ended with news from the DHSS and the MoD that they have at last found a mutual way of issuing Service youngsters with an NI number.

Now, because of that pressure – which didn't improve my popularity rating in some quarters – every Service school overseas will hold NI number application forms which will be completed by the school two months before a youngster reaches 16.

The unit paymaster also fills in part of the form and sends it to Newcastle. The



Armstrong

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

IN MY VIEW

CHEERS! NI numbers for teenagers at last

DHSS then returns a blue and red plastic card complete with name and number. This is then handed to the applicant by the unit paymaster.

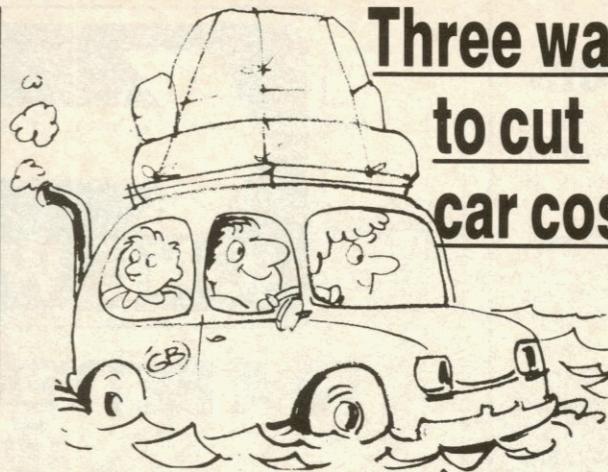
For children at UK boarding schools the parent completes the application form held by the unit pay office, returns it to the unit paymaster who fills in part two and sends it to Newcastle. They return the new card to the paymaster who sends it to the parent.

Teenagers who have left school and have no number should follow the same procedure as for children at boarding schools in the UK.

The case of the missing NI numbers for Service schoolchildren came to light nine years ago when Mr Ron Ion, the then head of Kent School, Rhenish, told of the problems caused to 16 year olds.

Over the years I was to

Three ways to cut car costs



THE British Insurance Brokers' Association has three new leaflets aimed at helping the motorist. *Insuring Your Car, Your Broker Knows all the Best Motor Ways*, is the title of a blue leaflet, guiding motorists through the benefits of comprehensive cover as against third party and offers suggestions how to reduce premiums.

Motorising Abroad, this green leaflet is essential for all car drivers going overseas, specially to Europe.

It tells of legal requirements and why the Green Card is still necessary; additional cover and why use a broker.

The third deals

"CLOSED" in large red letters across my three huge files, but if any Service teenager over 16 is still without a NI number after the next couple of months, let me know.

■ Your National Insurance number is used to make sure that your contributions are put on your National Insurance record. So, keep a note of your number and always give it to your employer when you start a job. If your employer doesn't have your number, or has written it down

THE END OF A BATTLE

find out exactly how our teenagers would suffer through lack of an NI number.

They faced problems applying for a job and the Youth Training Scheme, applying for places at colleges, polytechnics and universities and a host of other things.

And why? Because when

UK who are on the CB computer automatically receive theirs on their 16th birthday.

So after all these years it's back to filling in a form for a number. But people should now at least get one.

When I first raised the subject with officialdom I was given every possible

DHSS official who agreed "something must be done".

That meeting paid off, although it took another year of pursuit to get NI numbers automatically issued to all those 16-plus teenagers whose CB entitlement is paid through their father's pay account.

I can now write

incorrectly, you could lose all or part of benefits, such as sickness or unemployment benefit, or even retirement pension.

■ If you don't know your National Insurance number, you can find it by writing to your local social security office. The address is in the 'phone book.'

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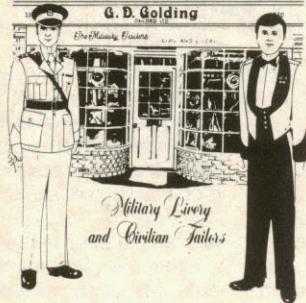
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No wonder they are grinning! Men of 1 DWR prepare to hand in their kit at Streatham Camp, County Durham, at the end of their National Service – October 2, 1962



THEY CAME, THEY SWORE, THEY CONQUERED

ITS ARRIVAL snatched two vital years out of their busy teenaged lives. Two critical threshold years suddenly disturbed by Government decree between the academic and the planned career or craft. Between acne and adulthood. From the highest to the lowest in the land. That was National Service.

For most, two highly inconvenient years. To many, a sheer waste of time and energy. Yet, to countless others, a two-year term earning gratitude for the way it formed character and for the self-discipline it instilled. An apparent bain which would turn into a boon along life's highway, giving comradeship, a useful training and travel.

● Turn to next page

Former RAF 'erk' Graham Smith takes a nostalgic look at the National Service years

(sometimes!)

London's Imperial War Museum is mounting an exhibition between September 30 and May 3 to commemorate the roles and lifestyles of the now largely forgotten conscripts, the "two-year-men", from 1945-1963. It is called: "The Best Years of their Lives."

Stories are, of course, legion about the barrack room and battlefield National Servicemen. Youngsters, the "sprogs", often sneered at by the professional Regulars but nevertheless good enough to die in hot spots like Cyprus, Malaya, Kenya and Korea. No less than 280 of them lost their lives in the struggle to maintain South Korea's integrity.

Between 1945 and 1963 not one year passed without British Servicemen seeing action. In that time, 2,912 were killed – and 395 of those were National Servicemen.

But there were humorous stories, too, among the nation's likely lads getting used to beret and boots for the next two years.

Archetypal anecdotes like painting the coal white. Weeding round the station HQ with knives and forks. Cutting grass near the guardroom with scissors. And, at Catterick, the occasion where lorry loads of fresh, virgin snow were rushed in from the surrounding dales to replace battered slush in time for a VIP visit!

Although the Imperial War Museum exposition deals with the period 1945 to 1963 the first National Service intake was in April 1939. Some 34,000 of them in fraught circumstances. Six months' military service for men aged 20 and 21.

Yet this conscripted call to arms did not apply to Northern Ireland.

In 1914, the youth of the country had volunteered in their hundreds of thousands in response to Kitchener's urgent call. By the end of that first tumultuous year of conflict on the Western Front 1,186,000 young men had registered.

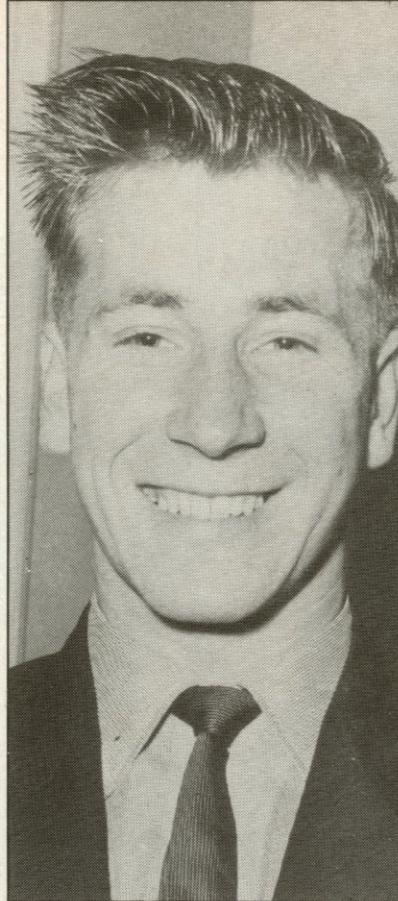
A quarter of a century later it was perceived that the size of the impending clash was going to be on a wider-flung, technologically advanced battle front. Thousands would be needed again. Would they respond again in such measure? Compulsory military training was introduced.

In 1941 universal conscription was introduced for men and women aged from 18 to 51. By the end of the war, 4,320,000 men had served in the armed forces. Others did their National Service commitment as ARP wardens, firemen, ambulance drivers, merchant seamen, industrial workers and miners.

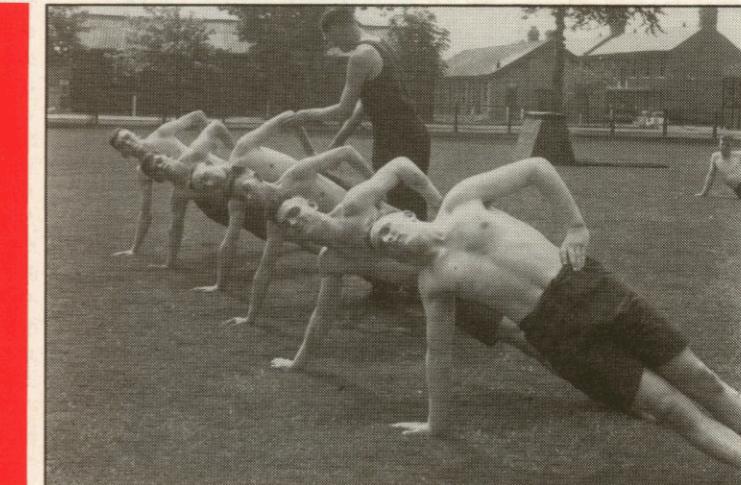
Conscription continued after 1945 to meet the military demands of world unrest.

The National Service Acts of 1947 and 1948 made every male citizen aged between 18 and 26 liable for 18 months' compulsory military service with four years' reserve obligation. In 1950 an amendment to the Act extended actual service to two years but reduced reserve liability to 3½ years.

In 1948 a National Service private was paid 28 shillings – £1.40 in today's cash – a week. By 1960, this had increased to 38s 6d a week (or £1.92). Extra was paid on promotion or for the acquiring of additional skills.



Above left – Guess who? A young Bobby Charlton reports for duty in the RASC
Above – A new intake of National Servicemen to Western Command get their act together
Left – Drill Sgt Moran, Coldstream Guards, coaches a National Serviceman lance corporal at Chatham in 1948
Right – Welsh Guardsmen get into shape at Chatham, 1948.



In the 18 years from 1945 to 1963, 2,300,000 men were enlisted into National Service. Each year, an average of 160,000 conscripts joined up. For every 33 National Service soldiers there were 12 airmen and just one sailor.

● Call-up always took place on a Thursday. The requisite call-up papers were usually sent, with rail warrant, six weeks after a medical exam. For, at the age of 18, every British male citizen had to register at his local branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Three weeks later he was ordered to take his medical.

In this century, the Government has had to resort to compulsory military service three times.

At his initial camp, the recruit or "sprog" underwent eight weeks of "square bashing", basic military training.

Exemption from National Service was granted to certain classes of skilled workers such as miners, fishermen, policemen and scientists. Deferment was also possible for apprentices or students on courses. But even they would be called up at the end of their training.

"Conshies" or conscientious objectors, totalled no more than 0.4 per cent of those called up annually. Cases were heard by a local tribunal.

Harold Pinter and David Hockney were both conscientious objectors.

For the National Serviceman, "bull" was a major part of his eight-week induction, along with drill under the eagle eyes of bellowing corporals and intimidating sergeant majors. There was little peace in barrack block or parade ground until the "orrible little men" had got it right.

Boots were spat on, flat ironed and studiously burnished with pristine yellow dusters. Brasses imbued liberally with

Duraglit. Webbing blanccoed by brush and hung somewhere safe to dry. Trousers with knife-edge creases were sandwiched in brown paper and laid tenderly under mattresses. Tunic buttons briskly abraded above supporting button stick implement.

Barrack room floors were "bumpered" to near mirror-like perfection. No boots – just stocking feet – slithered over the surfaces. Stoves were dutifully blacked with boot polish ready for "bull nights". Calendar dates as indelible as the weekly pay parades.

Dusters sought out debris with a vengeance on "forgotten" locker tops. Bed packs were "squared or boxed off" to the nearest symmetrical millimetre. Personal kit laid out on beds to a strict military blueprint.

That was inside. Outside, there were the tedious fire picquets. The two-man torch-and-stave camp perimeter patrols – "stags". A lumpy guardroom bed for

solace and inevitable interruption two hours later.

Roughly one third of the time was devoted to drill. "Camel marchers" soon became proficient soldierly marchers under the vociferous urging and florid turn of phrase from dour drill instructors. Lee Enfield .303 rifles were handled with adeptness and undivided concentration during drill sequences.

Having survived the rigours of basic training the National Service recruit was entitled to 14 days' leave after his first eight weeks' service and then able to take regular weekend leaves.

Those entrants into National Service who saw themselves as aspiring officers were known as POMs – Potential Officer Material – and could put themselves forward to the War Office Selection Board (WOSB). If the Board agreed, they then undertook 16-week courses at Eaton Hall near Chester or Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

In all, 30,000 men were given commissions in the three services.

● A National Serviceman stood a one-in-two chance of being posted overseas after completion of his basic training.

In Europe he could be sent to BAOR. To Austria, as well, until 1955. A posting to the "Med" meant Palestine, Suez, the Sudan, Libya, Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Iraq, Aden, the Persian Gulf or East Africa.

The main Far East bases were Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaya.

National Service generated a lot of paperwork; desks and file-loads of "bumf". Large numbers of men were employed as clerks. Corps like the Royal Engineers, the Royal Signals, REME, RAOC and the RASC gave high quality training.

The RASC was a particularly popular

● Turn to next page

AMONG the famous who did their two years' National Service were: Michael Aspel (KRRC); Sir David Attenborough (RN); the Rt Hon Kenneth Baker (RA); Alan Bennett (Int Corps); the Rt Hon John Biffen (RE); Frank Bough (RTR); Richard Briers (RAF); Michael Caine (R. Fus); Roy Castle (RAF); the Rt Hon Paul Channon (R. Horse Guards); Henry Cooper (RAOC); Ronnie Corbett (RAF); Windsor Davies (E. Surrey Regt); Edward Fox (The Loyal North Lancs Regt); David Hamilton (RAF); Michael Heseltine (WG); Benny Hill (REME); Gordon Honeycombe (RA); Roy Hudd (RAF); Bruce Kent (RTR); the Rt Hon Tom King (Somerset LI); the Rt Hon Nigel Lawson (RNVR); Bernard Manning (The Manchester Regt); Sir Patrick Mayhew (4/7 DG); Ian McCaskill (RAF); Lawrie McMenemey (Coldm Gds); Alasdair Milne (Gordons); Bob Monkhouse (RAF); Roger Moore (Beds and Herts Regt); Pete Murray (RAF); Des O'Connor (RAF); James Prior (The Royal Norfolk Regt); Ned Sherrin (R.Sigs); Allan Sillitoe (RAF); the Rt Hon Norman Tebbit (RAF); Leslie Thomas (RAPC); Freddie Trueman (RAF); Frankie Vaughan (RAMC); Auberon Waugh (R. Horse Gds); Arnold Wesker (RAF); the Rt Hon George Younger (A & SH).

Others have included Jimmy Hill, Derek Jameson, Shirley "Big Daddy" Crabtree, Derek Nimmo and Michael Parkinson.

choice because it gave teenage conscripts the chance to learn how to drive - ready for civvy street! Likewise, solicitors and accountants opted for gunnery and infantry battalion postings rather than service in the Army Legal Services or the RAPC.

Small numbers of National Servicemen were given training in trades or professions with civilian applications. These included foreign languages, teaching PT, cookery and even music.

In terms of pure soldiering, Malaya of 1948 played a significant role in the use of National Servicemen as infantrymen on jungle patrols. Nearly half the officers and men in a typical infantry battalion were National Service.

Elsewhere, National Servicemen served in Cyprus during the EOKA emergency between 1955 and 1960 and in the Mau-Mau emergency in Kenya between 1952 and 1960.

Although National Servicemen were used in reserve during the Suez Crisis of 1956 they represented ten per cent of the British military contribution to the United Nations forces in Korea between 1950 and 1953.

There, National Servicemen fought alongside their Regular colleagues with distinction at such famous engagements as the Glosters' defence of Hill 235 during the Battle of the Imjin in April 1951; the King's Own Scottish Borderers fighting evacuation of the Maryana-San Ridge a few months later; and the stand made by The Black Watch and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment at the Battle of the Hook in May 1953.

In that year, however, the pendulum of public opinion swung against National Service. Yet, in 1949, a national newspaper poll had shown 57 per cent in favour; 33 per cent against.

• The Army, in 1952, had reached its peak of 441,128 men to meet its obligations. And half of these were National Servicemen.

By 1960, there were only 79,000 conscripts left in the Army. Regulars numbered 23,000 officers and 130,000 soldiers. The end-of-1962 target figure had been set at 165,000.

But events in Berlin upset the balance. The Rhine Army, too, needed "beefing up" and 9,000 men were called on to extend their service by six months.

By September 30, 1962, the Army had 168,416 officers and soldiers and less than 12,000 National Servicemen.

A wind-down was on the way. The men, in parallel, kept their own record of days-to-do, "chuff charts", calendars with 730 days (731 in a leap year), numbered in reverse.

Their personalised count-down to civvy street was in operation.

The last National Serviceman to be demobbed was, in fact, 2nd Lt Richard Vaughan of the Royal Army Pay Corps who was discharged on May 13, 1963.

He created his own niche in history. Many who have created their own subsequent fame and fortunes passed through the same two-year testing course.

Manpower reductions brought a



CHERUB-FACED and curly-coiffured Scouser comic Stan Boardman, the cheekiest face on TV, was a one-time National Serviceman, did not like it, but straight away assures us he really does like the "Jair-mans" - the Germans - despite his on-stage cracks to the apparent contrary.

Former 23625279 Sapper Boardman, S - "I don't know if that is my Service or my Co-Op number" - did his National Service with the Royal Engineers and 5 Field Squadron, in particular, between 1959 and 1961.

Stan, now famed for his smiling eyes and nervous twitching lower lip as he savours the effects of well-aimed quick-fire quips, wanted to be a Kingsman, recruited into the King's Regiment. But as a promising professional footballer on Tranmere's books he suffered an injury to his big toe, was turned down, and finished up as a sapper.

"As the King's Regiment was an infantry unit, like, I suppose they were afraid I would not be able to cope with all the marching!" he recalls.

In the event, football did not elude the former £30-a-week pipe fitter suddenly working for £2 a week in the service of his Queen and country. "I sent a pound home to my mum and the other £1 went on barrack damages. I was always in trouble in the Army. Not bad things, just silly things. I suppose I was 'on orders' every fortnight."

Stan, 47, did his initial sapper training at Cove, near

Sapper Stan just couldn't keep out of trouble . . .

Farnborough, training camp, his disappointment at not fulfilling a professional place on Liverpool football club's books still not fully out of his mind.

But he passed his tests in the skills of bridge building, handling explosives and "digging holes."

He was posted to BAOR. First Dortmund, then Iserlohn and Paderborn. This was his first encounter with the "Jair-mans."

His sapper skills were not called for. He was put in charge of the football team and sports store.

"I spent my time blowing up footballs instead of bridges," he quipped.

He was still in trouble though, minor infringements bringing in a crop of 'jankers' for the one-time pipe fitter still missing his £30 a week income.

Sports store duties or not, Stan still used to find himself out on manoeuvres. Incidents on those, too, brought him reprimands. But he did get an invitation to play football for the Bad Lippspringe football club as a centre forward.

As for his oft-repeated references to the Germans,

the famous lower lip flickered over the teeth and he said: "It's all in good fun. I wouldn't say I like them, but it's all in good fun."

And fun it was for young Boardman during his BAOR days. "I suppose I was a bit of a dope looking back but it was the only way for me to get through the Army. Messing about."

He soon picked up the crafty ways of survival during his stint in khaki. Like keeping a specially blanched belt and uniform in his stores room cupboard which was used exclusively for his fortnightly 'jankers' parades. The kit would be loaned out to his mates for the price of a couple of beers in the Naafi.

He says now: "Looking back I don't suppose I ever did any real soldiering in the proper sense of the word, like. I did my job. I dug holes like the rest. National Service certainly helped me in my attitude towards people.

"Training at Cove was bloody murder. Absolutely terrible. But my time in the Army made a big impression on me. It taught you how to get on with your mates. You couldn't swing the lead. If

your mates dug a hole, you dug that hole with them."

Stan Boardman has come a long way since he did his first concert party sessions in the Naafi, standing on a huge, hospital-like radiator with attendant window drapes serving as suddenly revealing stage curtains.

His demob party was an absolute smash . . . literally. He estimates that 2,000 windows in billets where shattered on his last night - and this despite the guard being doubled by the CO, and him being given a corporal as "escort" for the evening.

"They tried to pin the blame on me, as I was always in trouble," he said.

And no wonder. One freezing night in BAOR he was on guard duty. On his own. In a sentry box. A heavy box.

The enterprising Boardman acquired a plank which he inserted into the box. Inside, he put his feet up on the shelf half-way up the box to defeat the cold. It was a two-hour stint. Winds were high "and howling all around me".

Suddenly, the box lifted. Crashed face downwards trapping the bewildered Boardman inside. He was

found thus when the relief guard came round. He was in trouble yet again.

His luck had been no better in his earliest National Service days at Cove. He lost two mines out of his six in a minefield test and it took him three days to find the deficiency. He was charged.

"The trouble is," he said, "even nowadays people don't take me seriously. I will be telling a story and people will be expecting a punch-line. Or it's going to be a joke."

One punch-line that cost him a tenner concerns his uniform. He threw it out, piece-by-piece, from a train hurtling northwards towards Liverpool.

"I think it landed in bits near Rugby about 25 years ago. My mates told me I would be fined by the Army. I was. I think it was about £10," he said, the incorrigible elfin grin spreading from cheek to cheek.

Demobbed, Stan took to his old lifestyle as a pipe fitter. Then as a Butlins lifeguard. Then as a footballer playing for some North Wales league clubs.

Stan Boardman the saucy, stand-up comic is, nevertheless, a family man. Married, with 18-year-old twins, a boy and a girl.

Aptly and ironically, in the "Jairman" connotation he lives in a Liverpool street with a German name and his pet Alsatian, called Roscoe, has an alias, "Fritz".

Said Stan with surefire timing: "And my wife used to be in the Gestapo. I've just brought out a record which was originally made by Rudolf Hess and then the Irish Eurovision entrant singer, Johnny Logan. It's called: 'So, what's another year?'"

Stan assured me his back-handed love-hate compliments to National Service will stay in his acts for time to come. Even though he did not like the experience. So, too, will be the Scouse-accented references to . . . the "Jair-mans".



A National Serviceman recites the regimental honours of the Welsh Guards while sitting to attention during a polish parade, Chatham 1948

FORMER part time pin money booths boxer and strip joint bouncer Oliver Reed who has carefully cultivated his public image as the beer-swilling, bawdy and boisterous "bad boy" of the film world, on and off the set, ended his National Service days with the RAMC at the other end of the world - in Hong Kong.

He left the Army and the teeming Colony aboard a trooper with half-a-dozen 1939-style locally made suits, several crumpled copies of *The Tatler* and his virginity intact.

Just before starting his two-year National Service stint at Aldershot with the RAMC, 23324533 Cpl Reed, O, had worked as a hospital porter, combining that duty with an eager eye for the girls at Carshalton.

Until demob he had no definite plans, but he did know that he did not want to be a hospital porter again or a labourer. Above all, Oliver Reed wanted to look sartorially smart.

With no qualifications or formal training the rowdy Reed decided he would have to marry into money if he were to become a success. He studied the smart suits that the "quack quack country" were wearing.

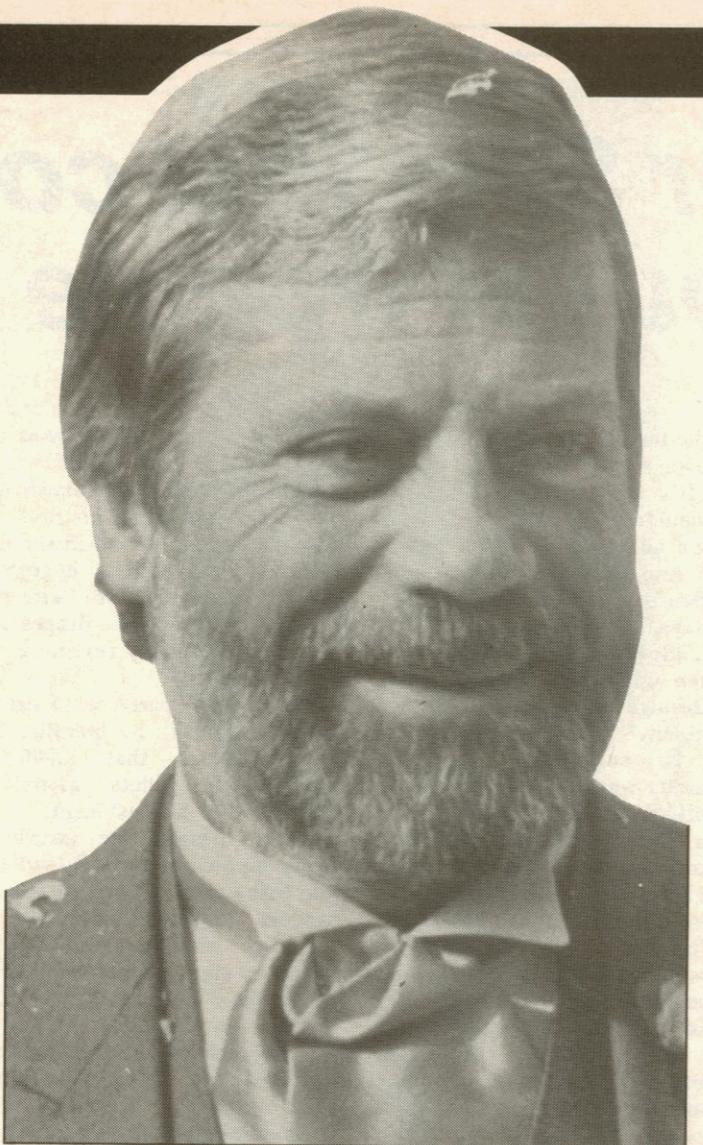
Marching into one of the Colony's many tiny tailoring shops he tasked its owner to reproduce, exactly, what was illustrated in front of him in *The Tatler*. The tailor agreed, asking a price of less than £10-a-piece. A bargain.

"I reasoned that they would be useful for a career as a model as soon as I became known as the smartest man about town," explains Reed in his autobiography "Reed all about me".*

When he arrived back in "Old Blighty" and Wimbledon, in particular, he found that his suits were hopelessly dated. *The Tatlers*, he knew, were a couple of years old but what the aspiring male model had not realised was that the illustrations were accompanying an article dealing with the Thirties!

Two years earlier, his induction into the Army had started at Aldershot. This despite putting down his first two choices as the Royal Military Police and the King's Own Scottish Borderers (his step-father's old regiment).

Some of his enlisting contemporaries tried to dodge the inevitable by gulping down



Why Oliver Reed was the smartest on parade

perfume. But not Reed, a former captain of athletics at school, who was so determined to succeed that he surrendered to his own short-back-and-sides at a Wimbledon barber's.

His keenness took yet another smart pace forward. He splashed out on an iron to keep his uniform in check and scrounged a pair of his brother's already burnished black boots; capped surfaces like polished black glass.

He recalls: "I was instant bullshit. Raring to go. And

they posted me to the RAMC. Some chairborne warrior had seen me as a Dr Kildare who could stick needles into soldiers' bums because of my experience of mopping hospital floors in 'civvy street'.

"I grew to love the Corps but hated it at first when I discovered there were no nurses with black stockings in the RAMC, only nurses with black hairy legs. I didn't want to be one of them so I put bullshit into practice. Baffled all the brains and became 'stick boy'.

Always the smartest soldier on parade.

"I was sent to Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Aldershot to learn how to peel spuds, polish mess tins, square blankets, blanco equipment, march in step . . . and sing dirty songs."

Reed found it easy to adapt whereas many could not adjust. He put it down to the many years spent in boarding schools where he accepted the institutionalised discipline.

Cynically he also states: "The Queen's Rules and Regulations constitute the only true blueprint of absolute dictatorship of mind and spirit in the democratic world."

But he soon found it was not difficult being the smartest soldier in the squad, his billet once being excused fatigues on the strength and consistency of his barrack room, self-imposed "bull".

But it did backfire. "We celebrated and the next morning I found that someone had pissed in my boots," said Reed of the inimitable grin.

Soldierly troubles usually erupted after too many drinks downed in the Naafi Club at Aldershot. But he knew how to handle himself. Brawls that turned into mini-riots whenever the Parachute Regiment were around.

"The Paras were the elite and it was their careless arrogance and swagger that attracted the attention of those who didn't have the proven bottle of having jumped out of an aeroplane," says Reed.

"Later, when I earned a name in films as something of a hell-raiser, I was subjected to the same aggravation. There is always someone wanting to hand out a knuckle sandwich and it is no use standing about waiting to receive it. Words are a worthless currency when the message is being delivered in a fist."

Reed was punished - as they thought - on the parade square with extra drill. In fact, he revelled in it. The screaming. The swearing. The bullying. The strain.

He was made a corporal and given his own squad to bully. He had the right voice. He could sound as "terrifying and inhuman as any sergeant major".

He remembers: "I became as big a bastard as anybody who had the job of making life miserable for a body of men. They hated my guts so much that I was the only corporal on

my training battalion who never got an end of course present from his squad. This hurt me because I wanted to be popular when I was off duty but they shunned me when I wanted to make friends.

"I implored them to call me 'Olly' instead of 'Corp' and offered to stand them a pint in the Naafi but none of them took me up on it. They refused to forgive me for doing my job properly. I pushed them so hard they came top in everything, but they didn't thank me for it. Only resented me. Sod 'em. I went to the Naafi and drank on my own."

Reed had, by now, been spotted as a POM - Potential Officer Material. His sudden value came at a time when the RAMC was short of sports officers. A few days later he was sent to a War Office Selection Board (WOSB) at Barton Stacey.

For the first time in his life Oliver Reed was being called "sir". He "breezed" the social section by not eating peas off his knife. He showed courage on the assault course and consideration for others by helping them over the obstacles. He gave orders in a crisp, no-nonsense way. As a team member, he obeyed orders instantly and without query.

The euphoria did not last long. Reed decided he had had enough of officer training. He soon found himself in charge of a draft on the second trooper bound for the Far East; aboard the Oxfordshire.

"There was nothing to relieve the utter boredom apart from the boat drill, playing cards and betting on which lump of sugar a fly would land next. I looked round for other diversions and my eyes alighted on Bertha, a young German girl on the women's deck who was on her way out to join her husband, a corporal, in Singapore."

Reed cultivated Bertha, a "big girl of Rubenesque proportions," aboard ship and later on shore. She took a liking to him. And he tried, in vain, to lose his virginity to her.

The envious lads who had proffered him with much advice, a lot of it physically impossible, had a far better time than he, it transpired!

His first excursion, a cut-price sortie, into the world of Suzie Wong and the alluring eroticism of the Wanchai district of Hong Kong turned into abject failure, too. A 75-year-old practitioner of the



... he scrounged a pair of his brother's already burnished black boots: capped surfaces like polished black glass . . .

art telling him: "Tommy have too much beer."

It was a sortie to disaster stirred by the encouragement of half a dozen "rather large" Scottish infantrymen but sobered by the teachings of his earlier medical career into the horrors of social diseases.

One Hong Kong dollar had bought him nothing but instant wisdom.

He resolved to remedy the situation. Latched on to a taxi dancer - working her way through college - but again no

avail. He was still a virgin.

At this poignant point, Reed reiterated: "Lest it may appear that I spent my entire National Service trying for conquests let me make it clear that I enjoyed plenty of other pursuits. Contrary to the advice of the old soldier, I volunteered for everything, particularly if it had anything to do with sport.

"As a result I spent far less time washing up dirty mess tins or patrolling in the New Territories on the Chinese mainland - which was what the

Army was there for - than I did on the football field."

Reed also indulged in a lot of swimming and a little boating when he could afford it. He had not heard a shot fired in anger all the time he was in the Army.

"I had definite plans when I left the Army and I saved up as much of my pay as possible so that I could carry them out. I got pissed once a month with the lads just to show willing and to prove that I could drink with the best of them. My pay was only £4 a week as I never got higher than corporal - except for the times I was made up to acting orderly sergeant and then made down again with monotonous regularity - so I had to watch my budget very carefully."

But what prompted his urge to acquire a half-dozen suits? Ones he could call his own.

He said: "We preferred to go out in mufti but in my billet we had only one civvy suit between the whole barrack room. It was kept in the camp tailor's shop when it wasn't being used and we drew lots to decide who would wear it. Every Monday it came back soiled from the pleasures of a dirty weekend and was despatched to the cleaners before being hung up again ready for the lucky bloke who chose the right straw next time round."

Long gone are the days when Reed would be crouching beside a bath with a packet of soap powder dissolving the memories of a frenetic 48-hour pass.

Oliver Reed, 49 next February, still makes the headlines. He is not unknown to have engaged in bouts of bare-knuckled fisticuffs.

This, he explains: "I don't put people in hospital. They sort of land up there just because I happen to be about. I'm not really a Male Chauvinist Pig, either. I just love women who live dangerously. I've been barred from pubs, clubs, hotels and ladies' dressing rooms and started fights, feuds and fracas. But it's my reputation and not my hell-raising that gets me into trouble."

Not surprising, perhaps, for a man who says he is descended from the 6ft 9in former Tsar of Russia, Peter the Great; 6ft progeny of his great-great-grandfather. Another acknowledged larger-than-life character by all historical accounts!

* First published by WH Allen, later by Coronet Books in paperback.

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When 'Snow White' dined with Goering

Fugitive British soldier Lt Richard Broad was an unlikely diner at Maxim's in Paris after almost two years of the Second World War — and even he was surprised to find that one of his fellow diners was Marshal Goering!

Fortunately, although the lieutenant recognised the Nazi Luftwaffe chief, Goering had no idea of the identity of the British officer who was dining with Princess Jacqueline de Broglie, one of many brave French people who helped Broad during his dangerous adventures in the French capital.

Broad had arranged to dine with the Princess at the famous restaurant in the Rue Royale to return some of the hospitality he had enjoyed. The Princess was known there, and, Broad assessed, Maxim's would be as safe as anywhere.

The cuisine was impeccable — but the officer sensed an air of unease in the restaurant. Two stony-faced civilians in long leather coats stood near the door scanning the customers' faces. Then in came Reichsmarschall Goering in his powder-blue uniform, with a group of exuberant Luftwaffe officers.

Broad did not think much of the famous powder-blue; nor of



Lt Broad

Goering flourishing his baton as he entered the dining-room and placing it on the table among the glasses.

The Maxim's encounter was one of a multitude of escapades which befell Lt Broad — many of them among the high life of Paris — after he found himself in occupied France in charge of

seven ruddy-faced Scotsmen, all of them from the Seaforth Highlanders, after fighting at St Valery-en-Caux in Northern France in 1940.

Not one could speak a word of French, and they were even incomprehensible to those Frenchmen who spoke English!

But in the months which followed, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", as they became known, followed an adventurous and dangerous course, frequently helped by courageous French men and women down across France until eventually they arrived in Spain and Gibraltar.

Sadly, many of those who helped the escaping British soldiers are now dead; some of them shot by the Germans, or the victims of concentration camps. Only Broad and one other of the British party survived, but the survivors have told their graphic story to author William Moore — a former Ministry of Defence Information Officer — who has written a gripping account of their adventures. They are the adventures of which fiction stories are made — but this incredible story is fact. — AT

The Long Way Round by William Moore, published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £11.95.

In brief

● **True Stories of the SAS**, by Robin Hunter. Paperback dealing with the SAS including its work in the Second World War, Malaya, Oman, Borneo, the Radfan and the Falklands. Published by Virgin Books. Price £1.99.

● **Hitler's Samurai** by Bruce Quarrie. The Waffen-SS in action. First published in 1983 and now re-issued in paperback by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £6.99.

● **Modern Fighting Men** edited by Dr John Pimlott and Adrian Gilbert. Uniforms and equipment of armed forces of the post-Second World War period. Published by Orbis. Price £12.95.

● **French Foreign Legion** by Yves L Cadoux and Tibor Szczesko. No 15 in the Uniforms Illustrated series published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £3.95.

● **Modern American Soldier** by Arnold Meisner and Lee Russell. No 16 in the Uniforms Illustrated series published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £3.95.

● **Unarmed into Battle** by Maj Gen H J Parham and E M G Belfield. The story of the air observation post. First published in 1956, re-issued by Picton Publishing. Price £12.95.

Indian tragedy

DISASTER TWILIGHT is a fine account of the last days of British India; of the intrigues and manoeuvrings of the politicians in 1946 and 1947 leading to partition. An inside story of Nehru and Jinnah, of Wavell and Mountbatten and of the final disillusionment of Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander in Chief, who had served the Indian Army so brilliantly.

The author gives one man's viewpoint, but he held a privileged position as Private Secretary to the "Auk" and had ample opportunity to observe and record the political and military events that culminated in partition and massacre.

This is very good reading and very humorous in parts. But what a tragedy! — GRH

● **Disaster Twilight** by Major General Shahid Hamid, published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £17.50.

The pain of defeat

IT TAKES a brave historian to tackle an aspect of the past which is little known and an equally brave publisher to risk his money in support.

There are still some veterans who can feel little sympathy for the plight of Germans at the end of the Second World War, but author James Lucas made a promise to a German girl 41 years ago. He said he would one day write of what the common people had to endure when their Führer's world came crashing around their ears.

Lucas had been saddened by what he saw as part of the fighting forces who suddenly found themselves as armies of occupation, and was appalled by

the misery and suffering all around.

Surrender brought an end to the fighting. Yet many humans found that life was to be anything but peaceful. Stories of bestial behaviour by the Russians to the people they conquered are not new — and Lucas, to be fair, points out the Red Army eventually controlled the initial excesses and were, indeed, brutal to their own men.

Happily, rape was not a common crime among British regiments. Black market miscreants were another thing.

Where Lucas scores is in bringing to the surface again the problems faced by Hungarians, Cossacks, White Russians and

others who backed the Nazi cause; and people like the Croats and Slovenes who were on the wrong side of Yugoslavia's internal problems.

It all adds up to a frightful catalogue of man's inhumanity and the terrible burden facing soldiers, full with the flush of victory and raring to go home.

It is nice to know Lucas kept his promise. I wonder if his obvious sensitivity is one reason why some of the personal accounts are anonymous?

Not bedtime recommended, but then it wasn't meant to be.

— PMH

● **Last Days of the Reich** by James Lucas, published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £12.95.



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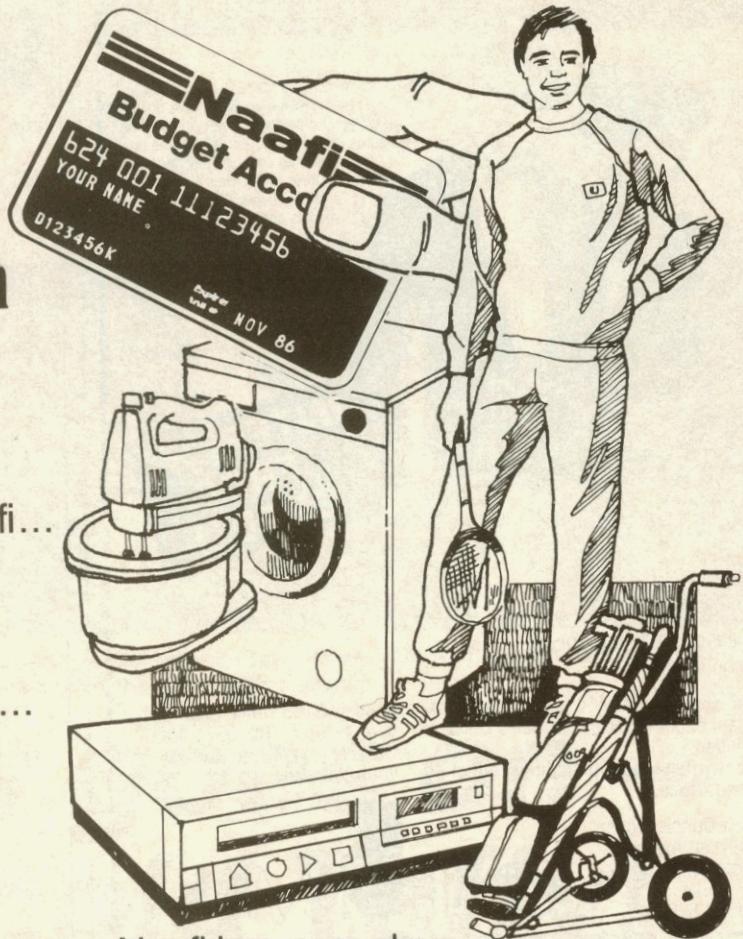
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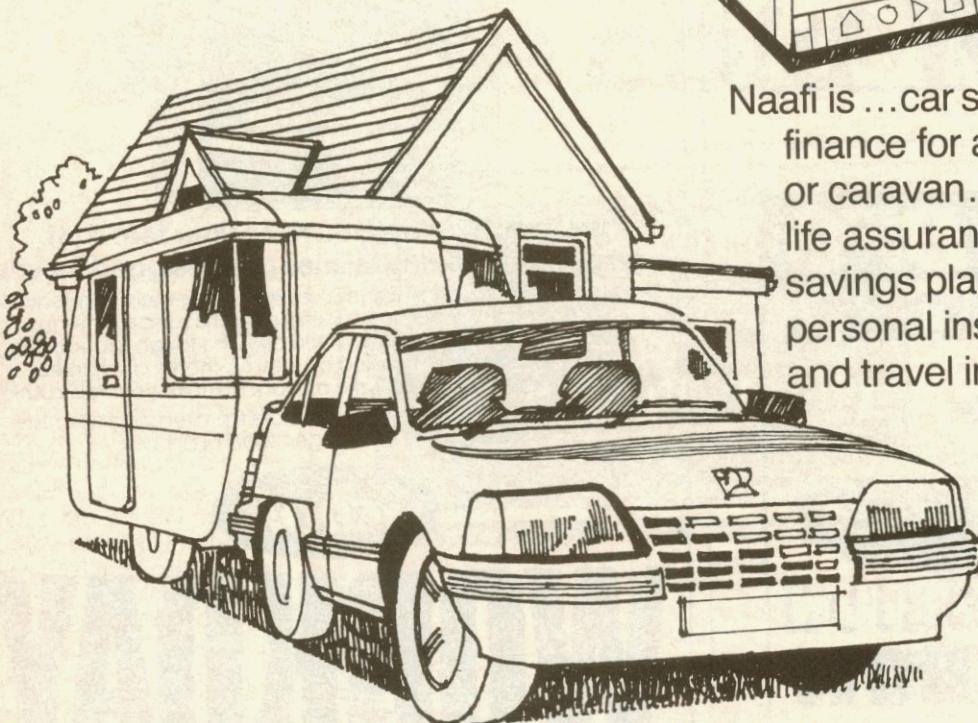
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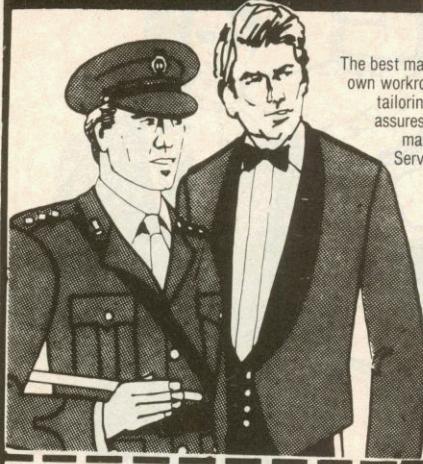
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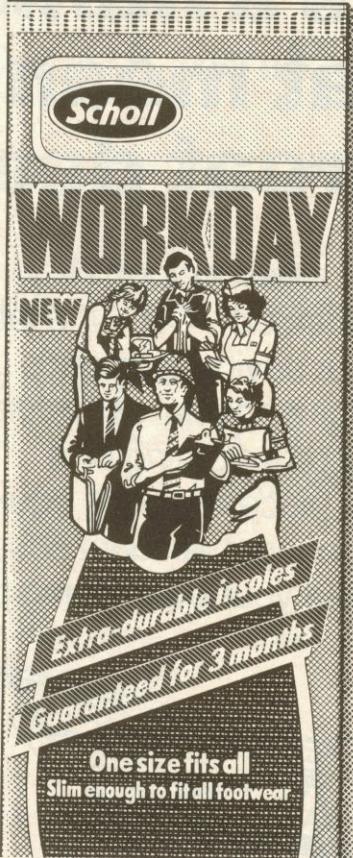
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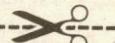
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Goats that did make it to the North Wales Military Tattoo: Goat Major Fus Peter Wadey with the 1 Bn RWF mascot (left) and Goat Major Cpl Norman Pritchard with the 3 Bn RWF mascot

The show goes on – despite cold Taffy!

IT WAS all a bit too much for Taffy the goat. His arthritis was playing up and he really did not like the cold.

So when the vet arrived on the first day of the tattoo and suggested he cut short his long weekend in North Wales, Taffy could do little but concur.

The ten year old goat mascot of the 3rd Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales was sent home leaving the regimental goats of the 1st and 3rd Bns The Royal Welch Fusiliers to lead out the bands for the opening of the biennial North Wales Military Tattoo.

It was only the second tattoo to have been held at Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, and was billed as one of the most spectacular shows seen in North Wales.

The crowds certainly enjoyed the variety of acts put on by more than 400 participants, just 50 fewer than the number who took part in the Edinburgh Tattoo.

It is all the more remarkable when one realises that the entire event was staged by a Territorial battalion, the 3rd Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers based at Hightown Barracks, Wrexham, who draw most of their recruits from towns along the North Wales coast.

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Man in charge:
Maj Aubrey Jackman

From Page 37

With co-sponsors Colwyn Borough Council, 3RWF decided last year to stage an even bigger and better event than their first in 1984 but suffered a setback in March this year when they heard that the regiment's 1st battalion - who were to provide the bulk of the personnel for the tattoo administration and battle scene - were being sent to Northern Ireland for an emergency tour.

The tattoo's military director, Lt Col John Williams MC, CO 3RWF, invited all the TA units in Wales to send men to the event and when he found he was still short he contacted TA colleagues on Merseyside who furnished the remainder of the personnel.

Lt Col Williams said: "It was certainly quite a headache at the time because we were expecting a lot of manpower from 1RWF. There are such a

host of tasks associated with staging an event like this, from making a viable arena out of the games track to mounting a guard at the local TA centre."

"The aim of the tattoo is to get the Army into the public eye and raise money for military charities. It is also a tourist attraction for a resort like Colwyn Bay," said Col Williams.

Tattoo producer was Maj Aubrey Jackman, who has

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones Pictures: Vic Cleveley

produced a staggering 87 shows since his first in Bath in 1954, and whose stagecraft skills have been utilised in military productions the world over including Hong Kong, Canada and Oman.

Maj Jackman said: "A tattoo is pure theatre, show business on a grand scale. It is never a waste of a soldier's time because it is a tremendous

exercise in co-ordination for all concerned."

"On an exercise if something goes wrong it is not seen but if something goes wrong during a tattoo everyone sees it. It has got to be right first time and an event like this is a real boost for the Army, especially somewhere like North Wales which does not see much military activity."

"It is a great tribute to a TA battalion to be able to

undertake the administration and presentation of a show of this calibre.

The characters and personalities among the hundreds of faces on the finale muster parade were many and varied.

Take Fus Anthony Pearce, 3RWF, a 23-year-old bricklayer who learnt a whole new meaning to Press headlines when it was discovered that his quartermaster could not find a beret big enough to fit him and was combing stores country-wide to ensure the new recruit was properly kitted out for the big day.

Another to catch the eye of the local media was ex-Coldstream Guards WO I Capt Tony Fox, 3RWF, who as guard commander of the escort to the regimental colour during the final parade of each performance was bellowing out orders and who had dug out his old bottle of 'gargle' to ensure that he would be heard above the music of the massed bands.

The ensign carrying the



If the bearskin fits: Gdsmn Andy Trodden "crowns" Liverpool lasses Lisa Kavanagh and Joanne Forster while Gdsmn Hugh Gilbert looks on

colour was Lt Martin Leader, 21C, for whom the occasion was doubly significant because it marked the end of three years' duty with 3RWF. This month he starts his commissioning course at Sandhurst and when he passes out he will join the regiment's 1st Battalion.

Lt Leader said: "Most of us have never done anything like this before. Cramming in rehearsals has meant starting early and finishing late but everyone has enjoyed it."

The tattoo featured, apart from the battle scene, impressive searchlight displays by the White Helmets Motor Cycle team of the Royal Corps of Signals and the RAF Police Dog team, and, during the matinee performance, a parachute drop by the Light Division display team, the Trailblazers.

Musical accompaniment to the event was provided by the bands of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1st Bn The King's Regiment and 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers, the corps of drums of 3RWF and 3RRW and the City of Coventry Corps of Drums, the 1984 National Marching Bands Champions.

Other units taking part and helping in the tattoo were C Glamorgan Yeomanry Troop, 211 South Wales Battery, RA, the cadet forces of the three services, the Queen's Own Yeomanry who provided four Fox for the battle scene, 119 Recovery Coy, REME (V), 5/8 Kings, 33 Sigs, UOTC Cardiff, 203 (Welsh) Gen Hosp RAMC, 3RRW, and R Mon RE.

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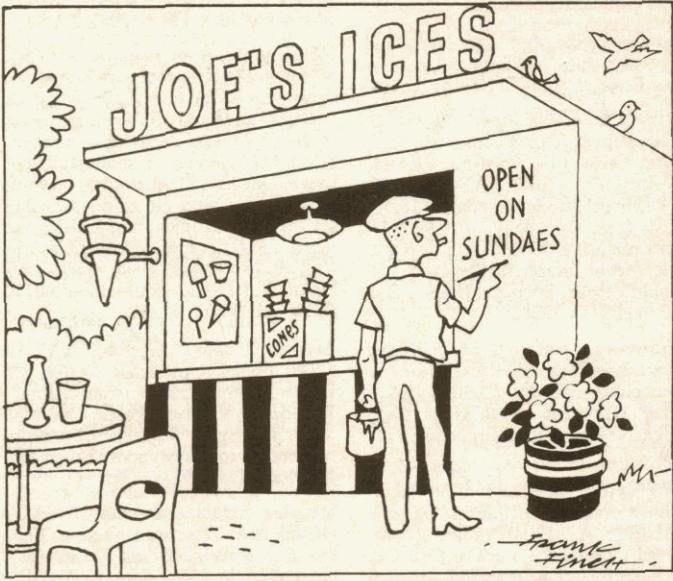
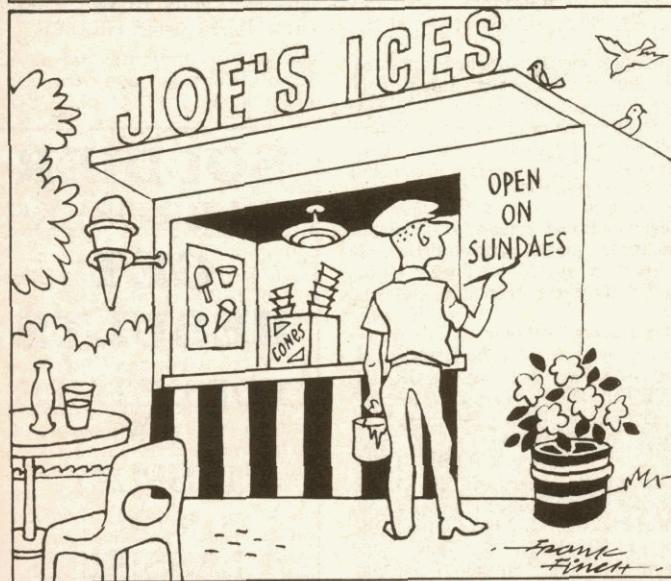
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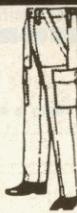
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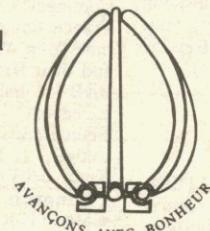
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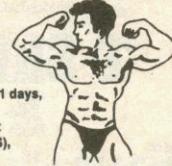
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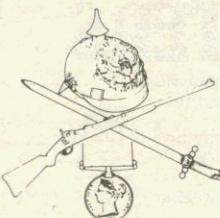
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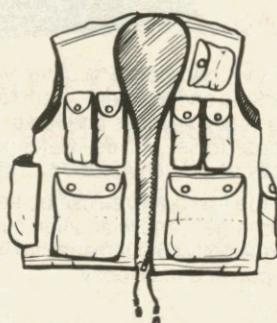
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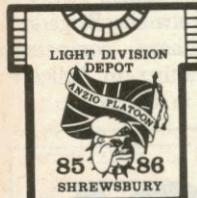
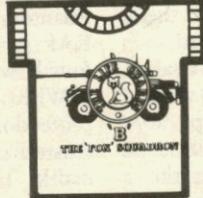
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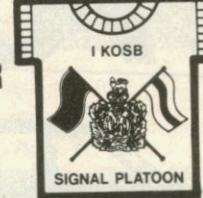


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Below - The 14th/20th King's Hussars balloon prepares for lift-off in the early morning from a field near Richmond, North Yorkshire



Above - A good luck handshake from Capt Jim Howard for son Mike Howard, pilot of the 14th/20th King's Hussars balloon. Co-pilot is German Army recruit Benedikt Haggene

BALLOON MAKES BRITISH DEBUT

THE ARMY balloon making its debut in the British hot air balloon championships over North Yorkshire was placed 20th out of the 36 competing from throughout the country.

The red, yellow and blue balloon was that of the 14th/20th King's Hussars - "Lancashire's armoured cavalry regiment" - who were hosting the championships at their Catterick Garrison base.

Piloting the balloon in the week-long championships was 20-year-old Mike Howard, son of the regiment's Quartermaster, Capt Jim Howard who was pilot of the event's control

balloon "Royal Mail".

The Hussars balloon scored 3,697 points compared with the 5,924 points scored by winner Tony Pinner, from Skipton, Yorkshire.

Flight Lt Crispin Williams, a Phantom navigator with the RAF in Germany, was placed fourth with 5,382 points.

With Mike, a former professional balloon pilot in Australia, was co-pilot Benedikt Haggene, 21-year-old recruit in the German Army's 19 Panzer Grenadier Brigade.

The two have competed against each other in balloon competitions in Germany.

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Kiwi Bill's back - as a Flying Dragon

REAL Kiwis don't have wings but Sgt Bill 'Kiwi' Sharpe has never let that put him off his parachuting, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

Doing his best to convince his feathered namesakes of the joys of being airborne, Sgt Sharpe was one of the newly formed Flying Dragons display team making their first appearance at the Army parachuting championship at Netheravon, Wiltshire.

Sgt Sharpe was no stranger to the event, having won the senior individual accuracy award for the past two years, but this year he was putting individual endeavour to one side to concentrate on firmly establishing the Flying Dragons - the display team of The Queen's Regiment - on the competition circuit.

The team was one of a record turnout of 45 at the Netheravon Joint Service Parachute Centre, together fielding more than 200 parachutists.

Because poor weather almost grounded last year's championship, organisers were determined to make the most of any good days during this year's two-week meet and had four aircraft on hand.

Maj Jim Steele, Commandant at Netheravon JSPC, said: "We have got our own Turbine Porter

and Piston Islander, the JSPC at BAOR have brought over a Turbine Islander and Norman Britton Islander have loaned us another Turbine Islander which is a tremendous boost. 666 Squadron of the AAC also have a Scout available if we need it."

Among the teams taking part in the meet - the main purpose of which is to determine the Army individual and team champions - were a number of guest teams from abroad who were competing in the open events.

Though the Swedes, Belgians and Danes were absent, there were still teams from America, West Germany, the Sultanate of Oman and Spain. The Americans sent over their army display team, the Golden Knights based at Fort Bragg, and making a first appearance at the championship was a team of Chinese parachutists from the Hong Kong Defence Force.

The latter team were trained by Sgt Pete Lambson of the Royal Marines who is taking over as centre chief instructor at Netheravon in January next year.

Organising the championship programme was Maj Bob Card, OC Rhine Army Parachute Association and Commandant of the JSPC at Lippespringe, Germany.

Maj Steele said: "Bob Card is

an exceptionally good organiser. I provide the orchestra and he wields the baton and I am very pleased with the way the meet is going."

Many competitors echoed Maj Steele's appreciation of the handling of the event and Maj Card said that the key had been that of maximising the use of any good weather.

Maj Card added: "We have tried to get more aircraft in to do as much as possible while the going has been good. It's going well."

On the standards of competitors taking part, Maj Card said: "The quality is continually improving. Our approach to parachuting in the Army has changed and whereas in the past it was seen as a sport pure and simple it is now regarded much more as an adventure pursuit and people are more inclined to push it, which means that standards are getting better."

That is not to say that the occasional mishap cannot happen. Emphasising the essentially hazardous nature of the competition was the fact that Maj Graham Talbot, RE, fractured a vertebrae, and Pte Chris Lane, 2 Para, badly fractured his pelvis.

Among the most experienced competitors at the championship was Cpl Jim Coffey, also of The

Parachute Regt, who has more than 1,000 jumps to his credit and who was an early leader in the individual section.

The championship events comprise the four-way sequential, where teams have 35 seconds to execute a variety of link formations from 9,500 feet; accuracy, when competitors must land as close as possible to a 5cm disc; style, where parachutists are timed over a series of set manoeuvres, turns and loops; and canopy relative work with the building up of stack formations from 7,000 feet.

Cpl John Turner of the Red Devils summed up the spirit of the event: "Seven or eight jumps a day and your brain is going in all directions. You can't beat it - it's great fun."

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INVICTA EXPORT

SEME Bordon win Major Units final

WINNERS of the Major Units cricket competition are SEME Bordon, who beat 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in the final at Aldershot by six wickets.

Also played on the same day at Aldershot was the Minor Units final, which was won by Depot Regiment RE, seven-wicket victors over the Permanent Staff of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

The Skins totalled a slightly disappointing 138 for six in their 40 overs against accurate SEME bowling, despite important contributions from Lt Carter (51), Maj Faulkner (26) and Lt Bedford (31 not out).

SEME were given a sound start of 48 by their openers, with skipper WO2 Potton contributing 42. There was a mild hiccup to SEME's progress when they lost three quick wickets in reaching 65, but Cfn Whittingham (45) and Sgt Willey (21 not out) steadied the boat with a

partnership of 71.

For 5 INNIS DG, Cpl Murfin bowled very tightly, his ten overs costing him 21 runs. He also took a wicket.

5 INNIS DG 138-6 (Lt Carter 51, Maj Faulkner 26, Lt Bedford 31 n.o.) SEME Bordon 140-4 (WO2 Potton 42, Cfn Whittingham 45, Sgt Willey 21 n.o.) SEME Bordon won by 6 wickets.

Commandant of the Army Apprentices College, Col Carr-Smith, scored a valuable 41 in his side's total of 133 against Depot Regiment RE. Sgt Andrews contributed 27, while Sgt Makin was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with 4-37.

Sgt Makin, in fact, made a good case for the Man of the Match title by scoring 30 before he was run out. Spr Bunn top scored for the engineers with 48, and Depot finished as comfortable winners by seven wickets.

Army Apprentices College 133 (Col Carr-Smith 41, Sgt Andrews 27; Sgt Makin 4-37). Depot Regt RE 134-3 (Sgt Makin 30, Spr Bunn 48). Depot Regt RE won by 7 wickets.

Trophies for both competitions were presented by the President of Army cricket, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall.

SRI LANKA

Five Army players turned out for Combined Services at Vine Lane, Uxbridge, against a young Sri Lanka side containing three Test players.

But on a wicket which helped the spinners, the Sri Lankans were too well equipped and won by six wickets after bowling out the Servicemen for 136.

2nd Lt Matthew Fleming (3 RGJ) scored 28 and Royal Marines Lt Rob Hollington made a battling 35. Much of the damage was inflicted by Test cap Roshan Jurangpathy, who took four for 38.

Golden Kriss

SSGT Kriss Akabusi (17 Port Regt RCT, Marchwood) added European gold to the 4 x 400 metres relay gold medal he won at the Commonwealth Games.

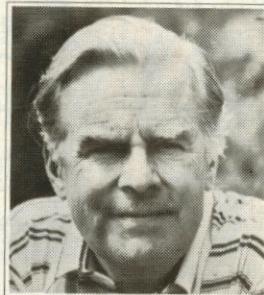
Akabusi and team mates Derek Redmond, Brian Whittle and Roger Black combined brilliantly in the European Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, to win from behind in a very strong field.

Golf hosts

THE Royal Air Force host this month's Inter-Service golf tournament at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club. Last year the Army lost to the RAF and were hoping to field their strongest team to reverse that result.

Cash netball

HERFORD Hornets netball club beat the BFBS Radio Allstars by 20 goals to ten in a netball match played at Herford, BAOR, in aid of Leukaemia Research and the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover. With the help of the 7th Signal Regiment and a host of commercial sponsors, they raised more than DM300.



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S67A Gentlemans umbrella - in RA colours. Standard model.	11.20	9.95
WALLETS		
S105 Black Leather Wallet Embossed RA Badge.	6.95	6.13
S105A Cash Wallet, Hip or Shirt pocket RA Cypher.	6.95	6.13
S106 RA Cypher Embossed - for holding a variety of cheque cards, etc. - NOT FOR CASH.	6.95	6.13
S103 CREDIT CARD Holder - Black leather. Gold RA Cypher.	3.30	2.90
MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE - Full size or Miniature. DETAILS ON REQUEST.		

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS



FOR HER

BRACELET CHARMS	3.75	3.53
S47 Silver Medallion - St. Barbara.	6.75	6.20
S47A Silver Medallion - RA Badge.	12.35	11.12
S49B Gold Plated Medallion - RA Badge.	12.35	11.12
S49C Gold Plated Medallion - St. Barbara.	9.35	8.50
S50 Gun Replica - Silver.	74.25	Rates on request
S50A Gun Replica - Gold Plated.	12.35	11.12

BROOCHES

S79 RA Badge. Sterling Silver with Marcasite.	20.17	18.55
S80 RA Badge. Sterling Silver and Marcasite.	19.97	18.26
S80A RHA Cypher. Sterling Silver and Marcasite.	19.97	18.26
S128 RA Badge. Sterling Silver and Marcasite.	19.77	18.07
S111 RA Badge. Gilt on Brooch Fitting.	1.45	1.37
S110 COMPACT - RA Badge on lid. STRATTON Gilt.	6.82	5.99

EARRINGS

S125 RA Grenade. Silver and Marcasite Screw Fitting.	16.57	15.40
S126 RA Grenade. Silver and Marcasite Pierced Fitting.	16.57	15.40
S39 HEADSQUARE - Navy Blue RA Cypher in Gold in one corner.	3.95	3.83
S6 HANDBAG MIRROR. Blue Leather case RA Cypher.	1.85	1.93
S68 ZIP PURSE - Brown Leather Effect with RA Gun Badge and Cypher.	1.30	1.20

FOR THE HOME

S108 ADDRESS TELEPHONE BOOK (Large) Blue RA Cypher.	6.45	6.66
S109 ADDRESS BOOK (Small) Blue RA Cypher.	4.07	4.15
ASH TRAYS		
S1 Glass Black - RA Badge in Gold.	1.67	1.85
S1A Glass Blue - RA Badge in Gold.	1.67	1.85
S2 Glass Blue - RA Cypher in Gold.	1.67	1.85
S3 China - RA Badge.	4.00	3.60
S3A Pewter Dish (Ash Tray).	8.90	8.03

BOOKMARKS

S40A Leatherboard Book Mark Blue - 4 motif RA badges.	.65	.71
S40B Leatherboard Book Mark Red - 4 motif RA badges.	.65	.71

S129 CLOTHES BRUSH - RA Cypher on BLUE Leather.	3.62	3.11
S86 HORSE BRASS - RA BADGE - On Black Leather Martingale.	3.10	3.48

ICE BUCKET AND TONGS

S92 Regimental Drum Replica Ice Bucket.	16.00	15.90
S92A Engraved RA Cypher Ice Bucket Tongs (EPNS).	8.67	8.02

MAGNETIC PAPER CLIP OR PIN DISPENSER.

Various Colours RA Gun Badge on side.	1.32	1.64
S107 PVC COASTERS RA Badge - RED.	each .60	.55

MATS - TABLE

S88 Blue Melamine - Large RA Cypher in Gold	7.25	6.72
S93 Blue - Small RA Cypher in Gold 9" x 7 1/4"	4.05	3.72
S94 Blue - Large RA Cypher in Gold 11 3/4" x 8 3/4"	6.00	6.05
S94B Blue - Small RA Cypher in Gold 11 1/2" x 9 3/4" - Compatible with S93.	5.05	5.10

PAPERWEIGHT with RA Cypher.

12.10	11.53	
S65 PENSION BOOK CASE - Blue Leather with gold embossed RA Badge.	2.60	2.68

TEA TOWELS (Irish Linen)

S85 The Royal Regiment of Artillery.	1.85	2.03
S85B Gunners and Gunners. Yesterday and Today.	1.85	2.03
S85C Gunner Animals	1.85	2.03

WINE GLASSES

S60 RA Cypher engraved within a Circle.	7.98	8.06
S60A 'Claudia' Crystal Goblets - RA Cypher.	7.23	6.71

GENERAL

BAGS	1.22	1.46
S150 Hessian/Jute - RA Badge - Red.	1.22	1.46

SOLDIER



The British Army parachute championships have been taking place at Netheravon in Wiltshire. This evocative picture was taken by Paul Haley. See story on Page 49.