

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 8 SEPTEMBER 1986

SOLDIER

**DAWN OF
THE TANK**

Pages 25 to 29



**SEFTON
REVISITED**

Pages 14 to 16

**BATTLE STRESS
ON LIONHEART**

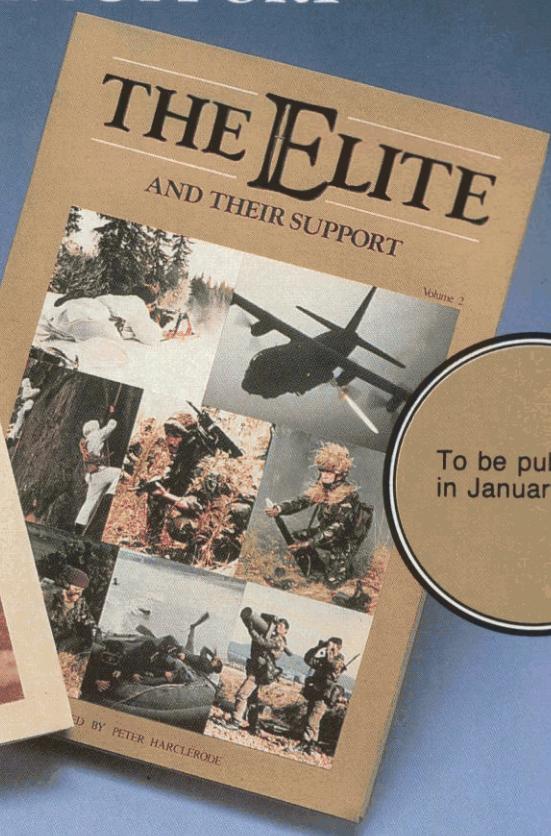
Pages 20 and 21

THE ELITE

AND THEIR SUPPORT



To be published in September 1986



To be published in January 1987

The 'Elite & Their Support' is a reference publication concerned with the elite specialist fighting formations of the world, providing thoroughly researched up to date information on units from many different countries, including: The United Kingdom; United States; Canada; Federal German Republic; The Netherlands; France; Belgium; Eire; Italy; Switzerland; Spain; Portugal; Sweden; Brazil; Australia; New Zealand; Jordan; India; Pakistan; Thailand; Malaysia and Indonesia.

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'The Elite & Their Support' will be published in two volumes, in September 1986 and January 1987 respectively, for purchase at £25.00 per volume inclusive of postage and packing within UK and Europe (for overseas orders from USA and other countries – add £5.00 per volume). Orders placed before 1st September 1986 for both volumes of 'The Elite & Their Support' will be subject to a discount of £10.00 per set. Please fill in and detach the coupon below and send to the publishers:

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FRONT COVER – Irish bandsmen met at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, before joining a massed bands tour of Northern Ireland. The regiments represented are (from left to right) piper, Irish Guards; pipe major, Ulster Defence Regiment; bandsman, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars; bandsman, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards; bandsman, The Royal Irish Rangers; and bandsman, Irish Guards.

Picture: Pete Brignall

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SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

STAND BY YOUR BEDS . . .



Boardman or just plain bored, National Service was a fact of life which left an indelible impression on the lives of millions of young men in this country. In our next issue we will be looking back at the National Service years – with a bit of help from ex-sapper sprog Stan ('the Jair-mans are coming') Boardman. Don't miss it.



Westland's record-breaking Lynx helicopter pictured during the attempt

THEIR BOOTTED feet firmly on the ground but their beret-topped eyes turned skywards, a score of Army cadets and TA signallers have just played their part in the creation of a new chapter in aviation history - the smashing of an eight-year-old Soviet held world helicopter speed record. It was achieved by a Westland Lynx using a revolutionary rotor blade development, writes Graham Smith.

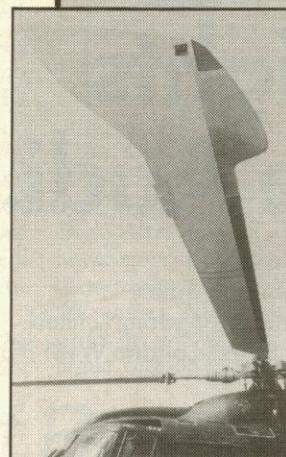
Cadets from Yeovil ACF detachment under their training major, Maj David Richardson, and the signallers, with county signals officer, 2nd Lt Mike Farrant, from 43 Squadron, 37 Signal Regiment, TA, had laid the strategic smoke markers for the world record attempt.

Four passes over a 15-kilometre stretch of the Somerset "Wetlands" at Sedgemoor produced a rotary wing aircraft record book milestone, faster by 20 miles an hour than the September 1978 record set by a Soviet A10 Hind helicopter.

Subject to ratification the Lynx record breaking feat

set up a world absolute speed record for any helicopter of 400.87 km or 249.09 mph or 216.31 knots an hour. This beat the previous record of 228 mph or 368.4 km/hour.

The Lynx piloted by John Egginton, Westland's chief test pilot, with Derek Clews, the chief engineer on board, set up the astonishing speed and its



Close-up of the new rotor blade profile

formula for success thanks to BERP - the British Experimental Rotor Programme.

Westland claim that "dramatic improvements" in rotor blade profile design and composites technology have improved the Lynx's performance by up to 40 per cent.

For the record attempt the Lynx's tail was modified by the addition of a standard stabiliser and fins from the Westland 30, to improve straight line performance.

Cadets mark Lynx's sprint

Sikorsky, Westland's new partners, are currently considering the new blade development for their helicopters. The design, with distinctive swept-tip profile to the blades, will be standard equipment on the EH-101 which will fly early next year.

The revolutionary shape of the blade is only achievable with composite materials and the use of advanced CAD/CAM and SYSTRID computer design. More than ten years of co-operation between Westland and the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, made the record bid possible.

The BERP version Lynx and the EH-101 were to take pride of place at the Farnborough 86 static display.

Meanwhile, back at Sedgemoor, one of the proud watchers of cadets and his company's aircraft was Lt Col Tony Holroyd, Deputy Commandant of the 700-strong Somerset ACF and Engineering Standards Manager at Westlands.

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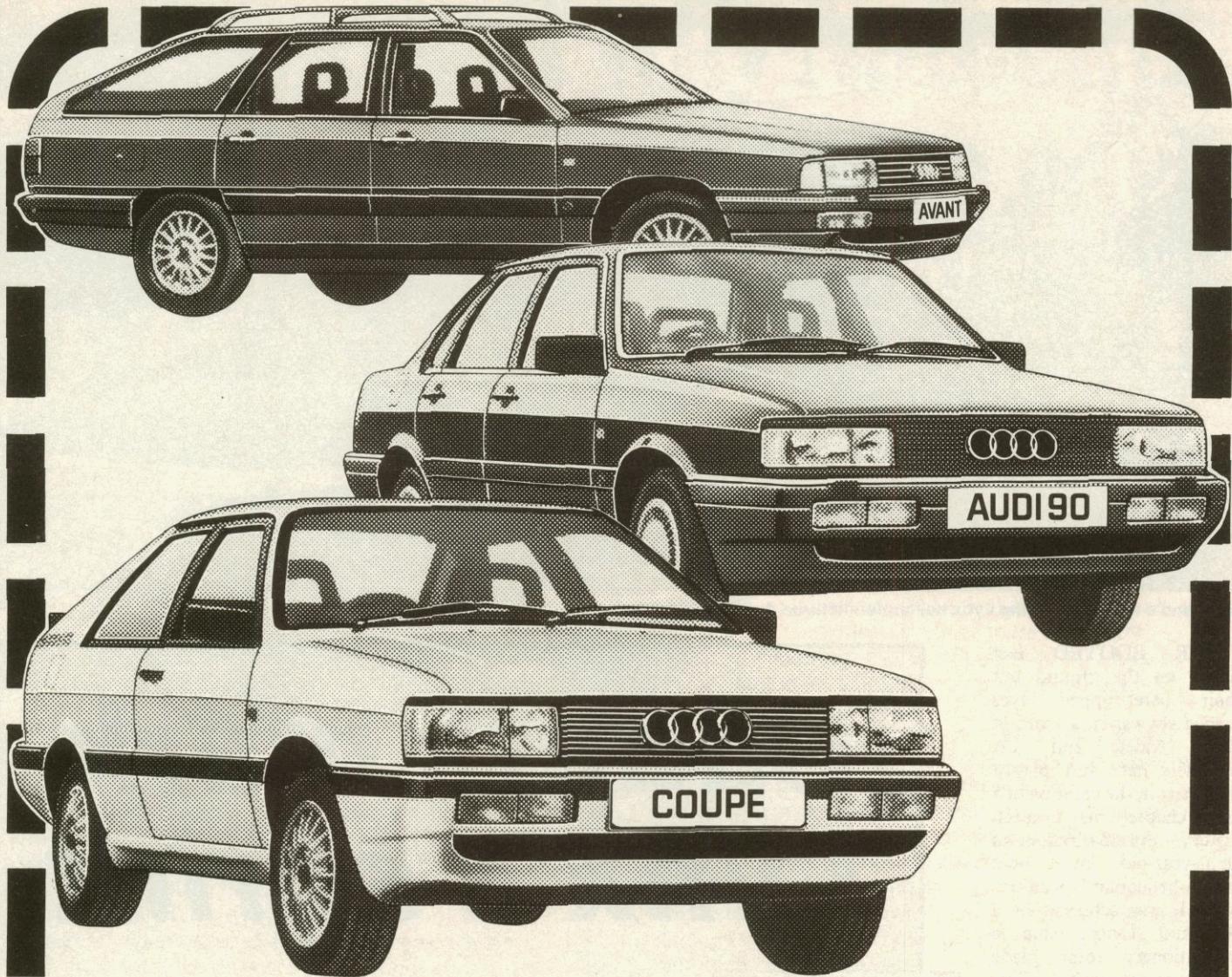
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SOMME FEATURE WAS A MOVING TRIBUTE

I would like to congratulate the writer of the article on The Somme (SOLDIER, June 30) which I thought was brilliant, a moving tribute to those gallant men who went over the top on that day.

My father who served in the Royal Garrison Artillery in the Somme battles would have been proud to read it, as I am sure would every citizen of this country.

The conditions alone would have appalled us

today, let alone the risks involved by our soldier fathers and loved ones who cheerfully and heroically took the awful tragedy of the Great War in their stride and left us this testimony of their courage and self discipline.

My thanks to you and the magazine and hopefully more chances to read articles like this about the British Army. — Ralph Howell, (ex-Royal Signals 3 Inf Div), 87 Wesley Avenue, Radstock, Bath BA3 3XF.

Memories of Korea

During a sort out, I came across old pictures of myself serving with the 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea in 1953. I thought your readers might be interested.

My duties involved driving a canteen around the division. We had two types of vehicle; one a gift-shop and the other a canteen. I had one assistant. The miles we travelled every day were hair-raising; steep winding makeshift roads up mountains and across rivers.

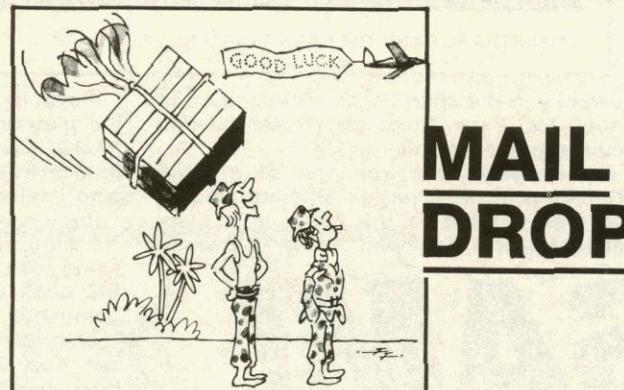
I made many friends during my travels. My old army unit, the 7th Armd Div Ord Fd Pk from outside Celle in Germany, were in action here and my motor-transport officer and sergeant recognised me at one of my stops. We were all surprised to meet again; I had left them after my term of service in the RAOC in Germany in 1947.

Last but not least the Australians were another of my

calls. After leaving their cookhouse one day I found that one of them had painted in white letters the name "Ned Kelly" on the front of my wagon! You can't argue with an Aussie, especially

HOAY hurray!

Fall in LCpl Askew and receive £50. There's a cheque for that amount on its way to LCpl Askew of 124 Recovery Company (REME) at Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, for winning SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 392.



when he's nearly 7ft tall!

We had roadside canteens near the front in Korea; at Pusan, Seoul, Tokchon and one called "Pintail", miles out in a Korean valley. I recall, too, a YWCA, Salvation Army or Red Cross canteen near the front. Which it was has slipped my mind — perhaps someone can tell me?

We slept in tents and kept our supplies in a marquee in open country surrounded by paddy-fields; the smell made sure you couldn't sleep very much in the hot weather! — Roy Williams, 24 The Chase, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3HP.

SOLDIER regrets that letters from authors and researchers seeking information cannot be published free of charge in Mail Drop. However, such announcements can be published in the Classified Advertisement columns for only five pence per word, plus VAT.

Pride of Bussaco

On September 27, 1810 the soldiers of the Anglo-Portuguese army under the then Viscount Wellington administered a resounding bloody nose to the French army under the command of Napoleon's "enfant cheri de victoire", Marshal Massena.

This was the first pitched battle in which British and Portuguese soldiers fought side by side. It is remarkable to note that the casualties suffered were 1,252 — 626 of them English, 626 Portuguese!

For many years now the anniversary has been marked by celebrations and commemorations lasting for about a week. It

is a matter of pride to see the Union Flag flying alongside the national flag of Portugal.

This year I shall again be present at Bussaco on September 27.

If any regiment which fought there would like to present a plaque or similar memento I shall be honoured to act on their behalf.

This year has seen the celebration of the Treaty of Windsor which first linked the two countries. I think it is fitting that we should also remember Bussaco. — HC Whelan, 158 Erdington Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 0RZ (tel. Aldridge 53951).

SA80 rifle design 'faulty'

Let Mr P T Stevenson (SOLDIER, August 11 issue) ignore the ceremonial aspects of the new rifle and devote his attention to its design. The main fault lies in its design.

A glance shows a significant gap between the axis of the barrel and that of the optical sight.

As a consequence of this gap — several inches — the ability of the rifleman to be certain of his bullet clearing his cover in the form of a fold of ground in front of him will be denied to him.

With a rifle embodying a conventional butt set at an angle to the body of the rifle the likelihood of a ricochet was negligible.

The calibre (.225?) suggests unpromising implications. When one considers the well known more lethal effect of the .45 revolver bullet compared with the .44 against Khyber Pass tribesmen in days gone by, one can have little faith in the stopping power of .225 against a 'soft spot' in, shall we say, a Siberian peasant.

Moreover the nature of the design with a shoulder piece set in line with the main body of the rifle suggests inadequate concealment. Head, neck, and shoulders will all be visible except behind almost total cover.

This rifle means more casualties for us and less for our opponents. — Haldane Court, Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AG.

Call signs

Former Cpl John Marshall and Jack 'Taffy' Groves (ex-695 Coy RASC) are trying to trace old mates based in the RASC camp at Famagusta, Cyprus, in the period 1948/51. The units based there were 695 Coy RASC(MT), 48 Supply Platoon, 539 Field Bakery, 252 Petrol Depot, RASC Water-borne Company and 42 Army Fire Brigade. Mr Marshall's address is 199 Ashcroft Square, King St, Hammersmith, London W6.

Reunions

67 (Suffolk) Medium Regt RA (TA) NW Europe 1948-50 reunion in The Marine, 61 Seaside, Eastbourne, on September 20. Details from Hon Sec D A Knight, 23 Atlas Gardens, Anchor and Hope Lane, Charlton SE7 7TB (tel. 01-858 3747).

Tall tale of a
tiger



FLY ME, I'M SAM!

SAMANTHA FOX AND THE CANNONBALLS: personal invite, mass invasion

Currently in the charts with her rendition of *Touch Me*, Page Three girl Samantha Fox could rename her hit *Fly Me*.

For shapely Sam was one of the big attractions at the Liverpool Hamburg match and was airlifted to the game in a Lynx helicopter of 1 Regiment Army Air Corps.

Flown by WO Dave Roberts, who is not in the picture, Sam was accompanied by the RAOC Cannonballs free-fall team who parachuted into the stadium ahead of Sam who landed in conventional style.

But events got a bit unconventional when warbling *Touch Me* to the watching crowd; some took it as a personal invite to invade the pitch for a closer look at the blonde bombshell from the UK.

With Sam are the Cannonballs team (l to r): Sgt Kurt Ziverts, Major Gary Hawthorne, WO2 John Frew and Cpl Sean Hutchison.

Red Devils fly with the birds

Twenty-one brace of grouse shot in Lancashire, were flown from Blackpool by the Red Devils for a parachute drop into the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

From there, three teams from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, raced in Gemini boats down the Thames for the 42 birds to be piped into the Savoy Grill for lunchtime diners.

This Glorious 12th caper had hidden benefits. For the appeal funds of SSAFA

and the Red Devils each made £11,000 from their parts in the sponsored spectacular.

SSAFA Chairman Admiral Sir Peter Herbert said afterwards: "We certainly have nothing to grouse about! The money will be spent on publicity so we can tell more Service and ex-Service families who need us, but don't know about us, that SSAFA exists for them, to offer them friendship, good advice and practical support."



LEE MANSELL: not following uncle

Lee revs up for the Army

Leading the world in Formula One motor racing, superstar Nigel Mansell has a nephew who is blazing a parallel trail of success in the Army Cadet Force with an eye to clocking up future mileage in the Regular Army.

But Nigel's nephew, Lee, 16, a cadet in 4 Worcester-

shire Cadet Squadron (Queen's Own Hussars), says he has no desire to follow in his famous uncle's tyre tracks. Lee much prefers the Ferret scout car which, he says, "is fast enough for me."

"I ride a BMX bike in my spare time," said Lee, "but that's as far as I aim to go in the racing stakes."



THREE TEAMS FROM 1, 2 AND 3 PARA: bird hunting caper with hidden benefits

'LEND ME YOUR EAR'

IT LOOKS as though Lt John Poulton is about to get an ear gnashing . . . but in fact it turned out to be just an ear bashing from Kalif, a 2½-month-old tiger cub.

The pride, joy and mascot of the Tiger Company of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Army Cadets, Kalif was on parade with the Junior Tigers at their Folkestone summer camp when he decided to have a go at his ear. "Behave yourself," ordered the young officer. "ear, 'ear," said someone else. "Cor! Stripe me," said Kalif.

Only one thing for



LT JOHN POULTON AND KALIF: no stripes for Kalif

Fusiliers fall in for tall ships

vessels from scores of countries were moored on the Tyne at Newcastle.

But the landlubbers couldn't have made their see-for-themselves tours without the help of some other landlubbers – the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

For they were the ones who, by special request of the organisers, kept the ships supplied with daily supplies of fresh water and looked after the VIP car park.

Two who played leading roles in these services were LCpl Brian Ramsey and Sgt Tony Glennie, pictured aboard the Polish training ship *Dar Miodzisz* which was easily the most popular ship with streams of visitors.



LCPL RAMSEY, SGT GLENNIE: helpers

Top man's new job

FORMER Chief of the Defence Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall has a new job. He is to become a non-executive director of Vickers Defence Systems Division and an adviser to the board of Vickers as from September 16.

Sir Edwin, 62, retired in 1985. Now he will contribute his knowledge of the requirements of armed forces throughout the world to the company.

Sir Edwin was Chief of the General Staff from 1979 to 1982 and CDS from 1982 until 1985. Before these appointments he served with the Army all over the world.

The Mazda 626. The range that sets an amazing pace.

The Mazda 626 is as purposeful as it looks. Whether you choose the 2 door Coupé, 5 door Hatchback, or 4 door Saloon, each has been designed to be highly aerodynamic—slicing cleanly through the air, helping to reduce wind noise and increase fuel consumption.

In addition to a choice of three stylish bodies, there's also a choice of three powerful engines—a 1600, a 2-litre or 2-litre with computer controlled fuel injection to take you all the way from 47.1 mpg in the 1600 LX Hatchback to 120 mph in the 2.0i Coupé.

You'll also find the 626 hard to beat in terms of value for money. For instance, the 2-litre GLX models have a long list of standard equipment including power steering, central locking, electric windows and a stereo radio cassette.

While the fuel injected models have the added attraction of an electric sunroof fitted as standard. Another reason



why the 626 is such amazing value is, of course, Mazda's special tax-free prices that are available for both U.K. and U.S. specification 626 models.

So see your tax-free Mazda Dealer or Agent soon.

He can show you a great range of cars and a great range of accessories into the bargain. Call in for a test drive soon.

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NEWSLINE

ACE force on the move in Italy

THE Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force (AMF) has deployed to north-eastern Italy for a two-week exercise, code-named Allegro Exchange 86 as part of its LANDSOUTH area of responsibility.

The scenario calls for the practise of plans and procedures that may be needed during periods of international tension in the north-east Italy theatre of operations.

Key companies of the AMF (L) have deployed with their full complement of troops and equipment to exercise with the 5th Italian Corps while the rest of the Force will conduct a CPX, Command Post Exercise.

Nations contributing land forces to the exercise are Belgium, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the UK and the USA. Combat aircraft are drawn from Belgium, West Germany and Italy, these operating under the operational control of the 5th Allied Tactical Air Force (5 ATAF).

General Giorgio Donati, Italian Army, commander of the Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), is responsible for the co-ordination of the exercise.

The Land component of the multi-national force – its HQ is in Heidelberg – is currently commanded by Maj Gen Franco Angioni, Italian Army.

The AMF is NATO's highly-mobile, conventionally armed, immediate reaction force comprising land and air elements. The force is designed to provide a deterrent presence, to work alongside host nation forces thus strengthening the area threatened.

Engaged tone

MANY foreigners, it would seem, think that all British soldiers in red tunics are royal guards.

The red coats of the band and corps of drums of the 1st Bn The Queen's Lancashire Regiment attracted much attention in Canada recently where the men were always being asked: "Why aren't you in London for the Royal Wedding?"

The band helped celebrate British Week at the international



Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col John Charteris, Royal Scots, talks to members of Tangier Platoon, the Scottish Junior Leader platoon passing out from the Junior Infantry Battalions (Scottish and King's Divisions) at Albermarle Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne.



Expo '86 in Vancouver and while there toured much of western Canada.

Our picture shows SSgt Tony Hession tuning up in a conveniently quiet telephone box in Edmonton, Canada, before the Klondike Parade.

RAPC Juniors pass out at Bovington

FOR THE first time in their history teenagers bound for the Royal Army Pay Corps passed out from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington, when Sir Roland Guy, the Adjutant-General, took the salute and presented the prizes.

In all, 530 were on parade, 211 of them passing out to embark on their adult service.

Fourteen are bound for the Household Cavalry, 75 to RAC regiments, 13 to the Army Air Corps, 16 to the Royal Military Police, 52 to the Royal Army Pay Corps and 41 to regimental bands.

More than 1,000 parents, relatives and friends attended the ceremony at which two of the dozen major prizes were won by one Junior. Junior Sgt Maj Leigh Woodhouse, 17, won the Director of the Royal Armoured Corps prize for the best Junior Leader of the year and also the Army Air Corps Trophy for the best Junior passing out to the AAC.

Other prize-winners were: Junior Squadron Sgt Maj Steve Norris, who won the Household Cavalry Cup who joins the Mounted Division of the Life Guards; Junior Sgt Mark Aldred, 17, who won the Inniskilling Cup for the best Junior Leader passing out to a cavalry regiment who joins the 13th/18th Royal Hussars; and Junior LCpl Clive Ollis who won the Royal Tank Regiment Bowl who joins 3 RTR.



ARMY TO TAKE LAW 80 INTO OWN HANDS

DELIVERIES begin late next year of LAW 80 (Light Anti-Armour Weapon) for the Army under the terms of a £200 million contract awarded by the Ministry of Defence to Hunting Engineering Ltd., the prime contractor, and the Royal Ordnance.

Sufficient to equip front-line units, the tube-launched weapon combines portability with the power needed to knock out the most modern of tanks. An integral spotting rifle provides greatly enhanced accuracy, particularly against moving targets at longer ranges.

During the past two years, a series of live firings have been successfully completed, including firings and evalua-

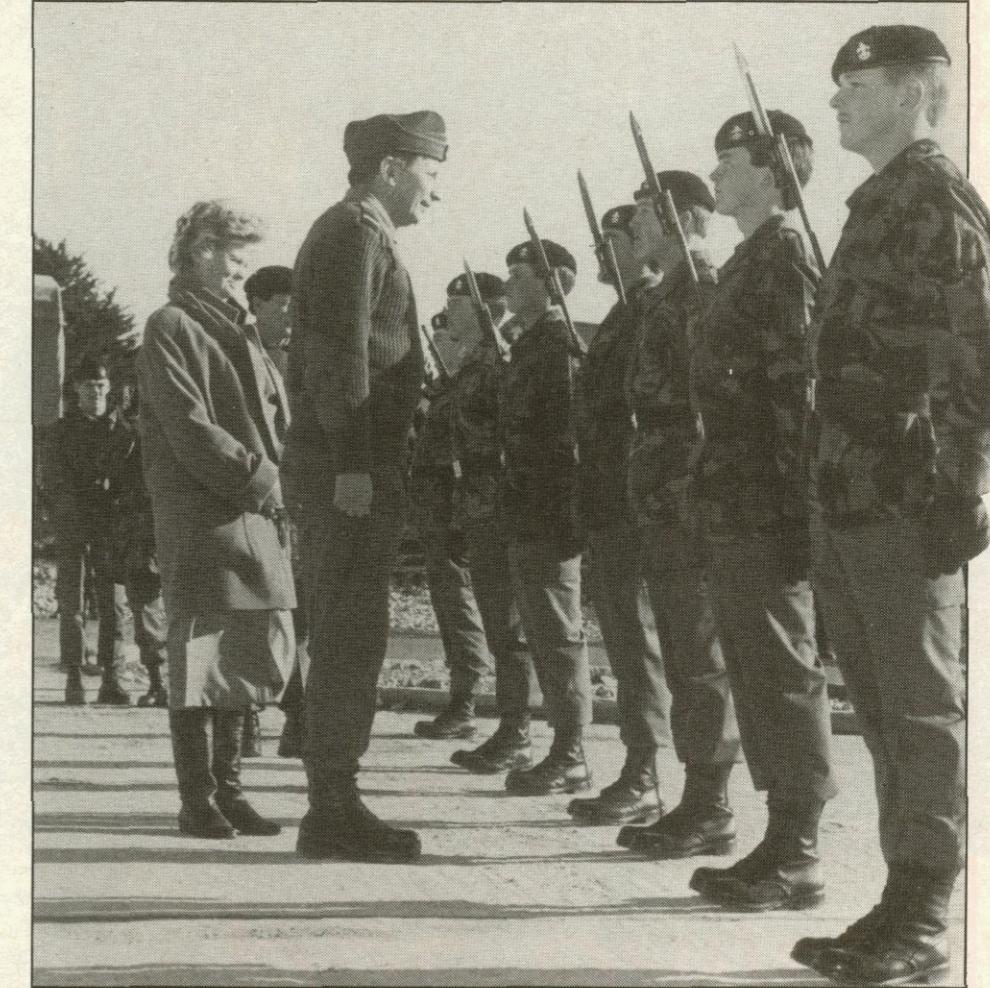
tions by a number of potential buyers. The contract also covers the provision of a comprehensive training system. About 400 staff will be employed on LAW 80 at Hunting Engineering and Royal Ordnance once production is in full swing.

The new weapon replaces the Swedish Carl Gustav and US M.72 systems currently in use.

Hunting Engineering will produce just over 30 per cent of the weapons system at Ampthill, Bedford and Hoddesdon, including the launcher, the container and the trainers.

The remaining work will be largely carried out by Royal Ordnance production sites at Birtley, Chorley, Patricroft, Bridgwater, Enfield and Radway Green with development work undertaken at Waltham Abbey and Wescott.

● *THE Commander 1st German Corps, Lt Gen D Klauss, inspected a Quarter Guard when he visited the headquarters of 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld to meet his opposite number Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny.*



A quarter guard mounted by the 1st Bn The King's Regiment, the resident infantry unit, was the Army's contribution to a tri-Service salute to outgoing Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, Air Vice Marshal Kip Kemball, when he and his wife, Val, left Port Stanley for their flight home.

KOSB put safety first

THIS YEAR is the EEC's road safety year and the men and families of The King's Own Scottish Borderers based at Colchester are well aware of it.

They have just held a comprehensive road safety open day master-minded by their MTO, Lt John Currie. It ranged from eye tests to seat belt slides, a bicycle assault course to reaction testers, breathalyser demos to advice from the police, AA and RAC. Playing a big part in the day's success was the Colchester Highways Commission.

Lt Currie said: "Great emphasis was given to teaching the children the importance of care while cycling and the attention that is needed to keep their bicycles roadworthy. With the growing number of accidents on the roads each year involving young children this was an ideal opportunity to show them the hazards which exist even in their own quiet married quarters area."

● *BELIZE and Guatemala are patching up their differences. The Foreign Office has re-affirmed that the British Garrison will stay in the tiny Central American former Colony, now independent, for an "appropriate period" and, as of now, consular relations have been re-established. It is hoped, they say, that full diplomatic relations will be restored soon.*

Three cited for bravery

TWO BRAVE sappers and a Royal Irish Ranger have received C-in-C's commendations for their courageous responses in situations of great personal danger.

Sgt Danny McKeown of 35 Engr Regt and Cpl Alex McCoubrey of 1st Bn The Royal Irish Rangers were both involved in fire incidents with armoured vehicles, while Cpl John Raven of 32 Fd Sqn RE risked serious injury during the relief operations following the Mexico City earthquake last year.

Sgt McKeown tackled a blaze in an armoured vehicle passing through a residential suburb of Hoxter in West Germany. He assisted the crew out of the burning vehicle, then successfully tackled the fire near the fuel tank - saving the vehicle and preventing an explosion that would almost certainly have caused injury to civilians and damage to nearby buildings.

He and Cpl Raven were awarded their commendations by Maj Gen

Mike Hobbs, GOC of 4 Armd Div during his visit to Gordon Barracks, Hamelin.

Cpl McCoubrey prevented a Scimitar CVR(T) from exploding - and its crew from sustaining injury - when flames broke out behind the gunner during a night fire and movement exercise on Hohne Ranges.

Cpl McCoubrey, who was commanding the Scimitar of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1R IRISH, received his commendation from his CO, Lt Col John Cargin.

● *MORE than 350 youngsters of the Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force braved lashing winds and torrential rain on the moorland Otterburn Training Area during a week's camp when they were taught a variety of skills including map reading and fieldcraft. There was also ample opportunity to take part in adventure training, assault and obstacle courses, and other activities.*

ELY Cathedral - a beautiful church with a special place in military history - is about to launch an appeal for £4 million to prevent this proud "Ship of Fens" sinking under the pressures of wind and rain.

The Army is being invited to take part in a fund-raising campaign that will run from September 20 to December 16.

Ely Cathedral has its own corner devoted to the Army, St George's Chapel, in which are housed nearly 20 Colours and standards dating from the Crimean War.

The oldest is the Colour of the 30th Cambridgeshire Regiment which, in 1881, was attached to the 30th Regiment District, later to become the 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment. The Colour was carried at Alma, Inkerman and the siege of Sebastopol.

Also in the chapel are the Colours of the Ely Loyal Association, a sort of militia, around the 1798-1802 period, one of a number of volunteer forces raised at the time of the French Revolution.

The Colours of the Cambridge Militia (4th Bn, the Suffolk Regt) 1759-1908, both presented to the militia by Lady Hardwicke in 1854, were laid up in 1881.

Two more recent Colours presented by Lady Biddulph in 1881 were laid up in the cathedral in 1908 when the militia was disbanded.

Colours of the 1st Bn, The Cambridgeshire Regt, TA, presented by King Edward VII at Windsor on June 19, 1909, were laid up in the chapel on July 21, 1963.

From the First World War, Colours of the 11th Regiment, The Suffolk Regt (Cambridgeshire Bn) saw service in France and Flanders from 1916-1919.

Regiments and Royal Air Force squadrons which have connections with the cathedral will be asked to help. Restoration Fund Administrator is Mrs. Jennifer Frampton, who can be contacted at the Chapter House, Ely Cathedral, Cambs CB7 4DN.

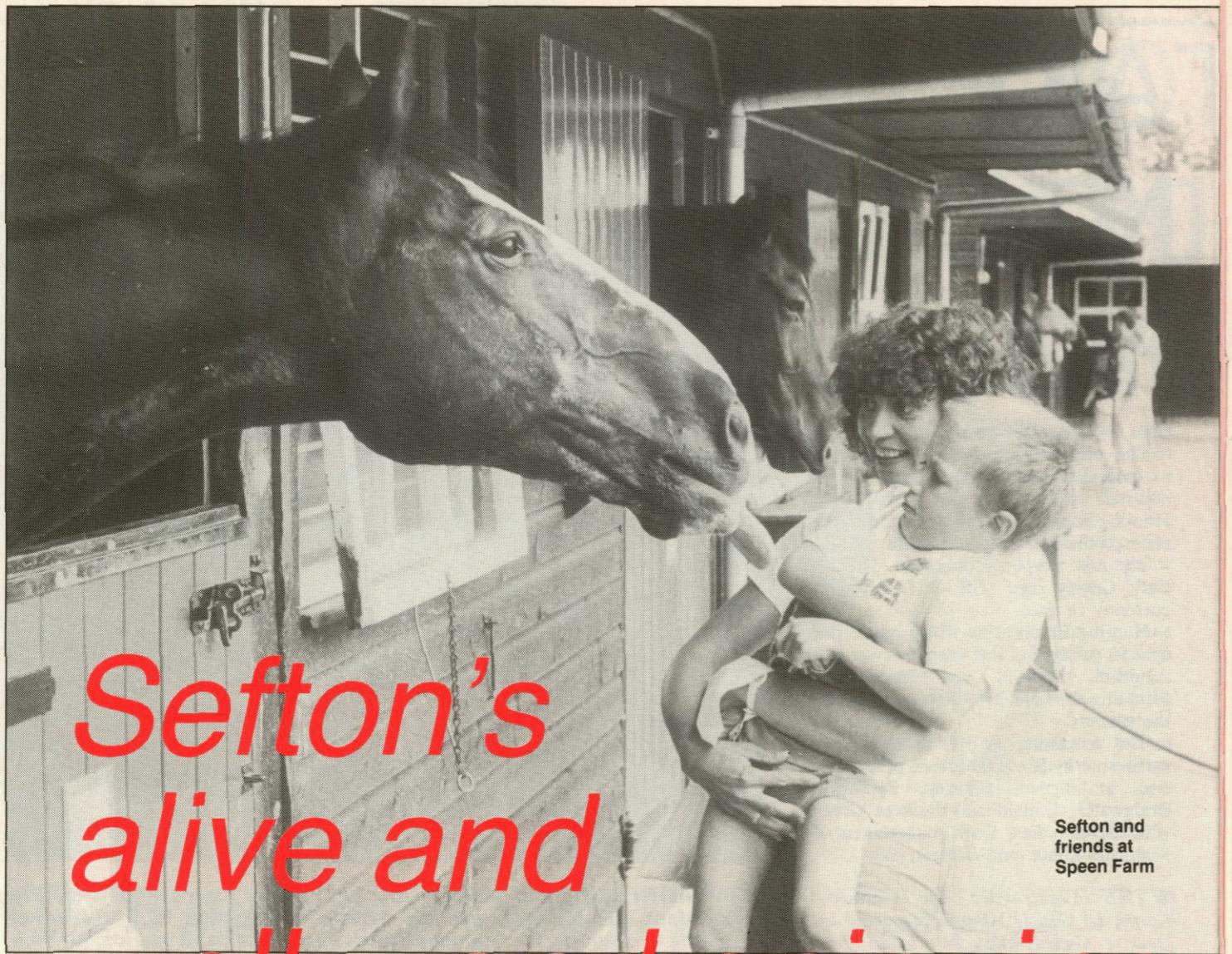
Cavalry of the air

BALLOON-mad 14th/20th King's Hussars made tracks among the clouds last month when they hosted the British National Hot Air Balloon Championships at Catterick Garrison.

About 250 balloonists - both pilots and crew - from the British Balloon and Airship Club gathered at the event.

The 14th/20th King's Hussars, the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, is the only regiment in the Army to go in for ballooning.

● *AN Anglo-American monument donated by the Dover branch of the Royal Artillery Association and the 127th Gun Battalion Association, US Army, has been unveiled and dedicated at Langdon Cliffe, Dover, in memory of all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the 127th Gun Battalion who served in the Dover area between 1939 and 1945.*



Sefton's alive and well – and enjoying his retirement

SEFTON, the heroic Household Cavalry horse who captured the headlines and then the hearts of a nation four years ago, is alive and well and living out his carefree retirement days in the Chilterns.

Now at a 200-acre horses' rest home, he's still the popular tourist attraction he ever was. More so, perhaps, as thousands of admirers annually seek him out.

Happiness nowadays for the handsome 23-year-old Irish black gelding – but sheer horror on Tuesday, July 20, 1982, soon after 10 am when Sefton and 15 other horses and riders from the Blues and Royals trotted out, as usual, from their Hyde Park Barracks bound for ceremonial public duties in Whitehall.

An IRA bomb, hidden in a parked car, was detonated leaving four soldiers and seven horses dead plus a dozen more soldiers, six civilians and eight horses hurt.



Sefton,
pictured
hours
after the
blast

An eye-catching, proud procession of tradition had, in seconds, turned into a nightmare battlefield scene of carnage along a metalled highway in the heart of London.

A chunk of metal had severed the stricken Sefton's main neck artery as the

grievously wounded gelding lay stunned and wild-eyed in the sheer terror of the horrendous moment, 38 other injuries savaging his sturdy frame, caused partially by the pine-needle spray fire effects of four-inch nails.

Now at peace in the bucolic charm of Buckinghamshire, Sefton's mental scars of that fateful morning have been cured but other physical metal mementoes remain in him. A piece of crude shrapnel is still lodged in his left shoulder. His neck scar is still plain to see.

Following the bomb outrage and three weeks' veterinary attention in the sick lines at Hyde Park Barracks, Sefton and his seven stable mates were prescribed caring convalescence at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Centre, at Melton Mowbray, Leics.

Sefton returned to the Household Division's stables that September.

As his mind and body healed

in the ensuing month, Sefton's fame grew. As a charity worker. A TV star. A hero in his own equine right.

The gallant gelding helped in the raising of £40,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund through his images on commemorative medallions, pennants and porcelain.

He was the subject of two books. He appeared twice on BBC TV's "Blue Peter". Sefton was Horse of the Year at Wembley in October 1982, earning a well-deserved British Horse Society medal. He opened the Imperial War Museum's "Animals at War" exhibition.

Two years ago he retired from the Army having earlier appeared for the last time at Trooping of the Colour. With him was his rider, Trooper Michael Pederson, who had also been injured in the incident two years before.

The gaze of thousands was on him for the last time as he

Pensioned off, but he's still got an eye for the ladies!

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs

ALTHOUGH not the horse he once was, Sefton has lost none of his libido. He still enjoys the company of a mare or two!

Retired he may be, but Sefton's £15-a-week stay starts early each day.

Reveille-cum-breakfast is at 0600 – or 6 am in his "civvy street" setting – with chaff, nuts and bran.

It is estimated by Mr Les Butler, formerly Sgt Butler, an RAVC Melton Mowbray riding instructor for 6½ years until

demob in 1952, that Sefton gets through ten kilos of hay a day – the Home makes 200 tonnes of its own annually – five pounds of bran and two pounds of oats.

Two hours later, his personal groom, Diane Cutler turns the 16-hand-high gelding into the paddock for 3½ hours.

Sefton, however, is well-

endowed with innate horse sense. If it is raining he stands at the gate at 9 am waiting for re-admittance to the comfort of his stable!

Customary grooming follows. Then lunch. Afterwards comes the highlight for some of the world's most loved horses.

By 2 pm all are ready for their visitors – allowed until 4 pm daily into the quadrangle housing 85 loose boxes.

The equestrian aficionados of all ages crowd in with apples, pieces of carrot, polo mints and, of course, sugar lumps. The horses, conscious of the clock and the constant attention ahead, are waiting for them.

Necks crane over stable doors, hooves jabbing kicks at the tin-plate reinforced loose box doors as they whinny or bray for tit-bit offerings.

But Sefton's popularity, in particular, has earned him a sweet-toothed penalty! Only one sugar lump, piece of apple, carrot or polo mint per person.

Another horse at the home perhaps overshadowed by Sefton but nevertheless a firm favourite is Octave, Earl Mountbatten's black Irish charger who, on September 5, 1979, walked behind his funeral cortège along the Mall with her master's boots reversed in the stirrups on the way to Westminster Abbey.

Octave, nick-named Dolly,

Turn to next page



Flashback to the horror of Hyde Park, July 20, 1982

inundated with requests for him to open a fete, this or that. If he did that, he would not be able to delight our thousands of visitors who make special trips here to see him. It is not unusual to have 400 cars here at a weekend.

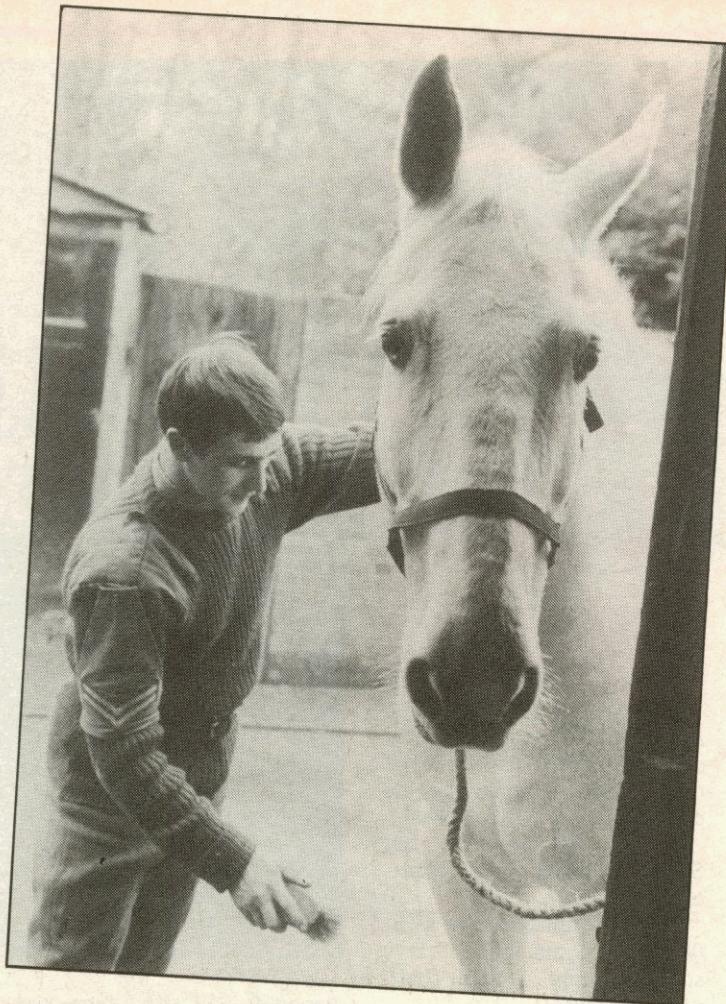
"We could have him on the road all the time but we would be moving around like a dose of salts. We are now adamantly refusing to let him out."

In his prime, Sefton's stable companions were as elegant and disciplined as he, seemingly aware of the role they played as major tourist attractions in the

nation's capital.

Now, however, his equine chums around the stable quad and out in the spacious paddocks are varied. Polo ponies, police horses, pit ponies. Four former Royal Horse Artillery King's Troop gun carriage horses, a half-dozen more retired Household Cavalry horses. Rag-and-bone cart nags now enjoying better and less hectic days. Docile seaside donkeys.

Some have retired. Others are there for rest and recuperation. Yet more have been neglected.



SEFTON'S FRIENDS: Above is Octave – better known as Dolly – the black Irish charger much ridden by the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Showing Dolly off to young admirers is groom Mr Ralph Swain. Above right is Speen Farm's newest personality, Alexander, pictured with Cpl Gareth Mullett before his retirement from Sandhurst. Alexander was the Adjutant's charger.

From Page 15

had become popular with Lord Louis who used to ride her at ceremonial parades and for exercise on London's Rotten Row.

Since September 1983, the 27-year-old Dolly has been living in Loose Box Number 66 at Speen Farm.

Recently she went for some chiropody – the removal of some rather nasty soft corns. She is now making an "uneventful recovery," according to Brig Spurry.

Les Butler said of both steeds: "They are as gentle as lambs. Absolutely no problem with them at all."

The tenant of Loose Box Number 44 – Sefton – nodded as if in sage agreement.

The Home of Rest for Horses at Speen – a registered independent charity founded in 1886 – was formally opened at its Buckinghamshire location on July 15, 1971, the first horses arriving there the previous September.

The establishment had formerly been at Borehamwood, Herts.

The home is open to the public from 2 pm to 4 pm daily (except Christmas Day). Children are welcome but must be in the charge of an adult at all times. Car parking and toilet facilities are available – and it's free.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

LOVELY Miss United Kingdom contestant Mandy Rogers certainly has a talent for showing off the best features of the SOLDIER T-shirt. The reigning Miss Camberley, 21-year-old Mandy was photographed by Paul Haley in our studio just before competing in the recently televised Miss UK competition.

Available in navy blue overprinted in red, the tees come in small, medium and large sizes and cost £3.60 including postage. Sweatshirts at £6.50 for children (sizes 24, 26, 28 and 30) and adults at £7.50 (small, medium, large) are also available. Send your cheque or Postal Order made payable to Command Cashier UKLF to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, stating size and quantity.

Fund of compassion

A 102-year-old man in a home for the elderly, a deserted wife of an ex-soldier, and an ex-rifleman who had both legs amputated have something in common.

All three, and many thousands more, have been given invaluable help by the Army Benevolent Fund.

During the year 1985/86, the fund and corps and regimental associations disbursed approaching £5 million in relief work, ranging from individual grants to soldiers, to grants to national charities, and interest free loans made on compassionate grounds.

Compassionate grants and loans accounted for the largest slice of the £4,698,430 financial cake - some £3,492,984. Nearly 25,000 grants were made to individual soldiers and ex-soldiers, or to their widows and dependants.

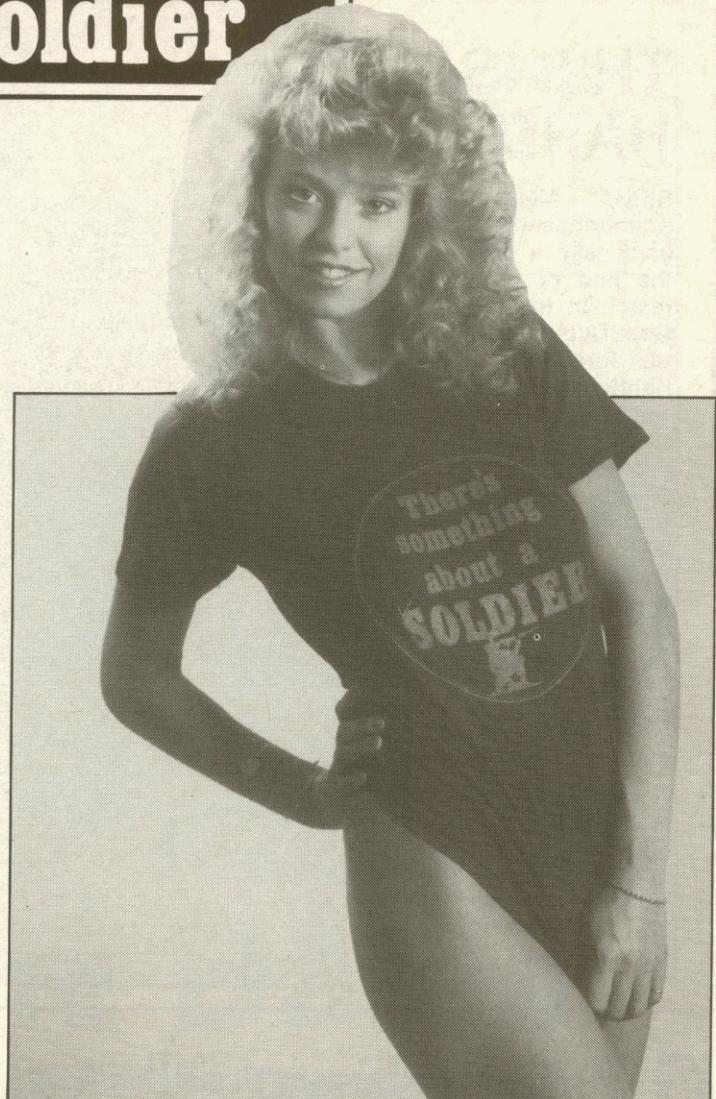
Transition from the Army to civilian life presents the soldier

approaching the end of his service with many anxieties - seeking a job and probably furnishing a home for his family, for example - and the fund made 670 loans totalling £928,286 to help in cases of resettlement where hardship needs warranted help.

Another £344,025 went to national charities which provide care and training for disabled ex-soldiers, such as the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshop, the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, and SSAFA.

Two organisations which help ex-soldiers to find employment, the Regular Forces Employment Association and the Officers Association, received £64,562; another £385,900 went towards the welfare of aged ex-Servicemen and their wives and widows; £84,286 was used to help with the education of soldiers' children; and £25,123 provided holidays for needy widows and children.

The fund contributed £30,339 to help soldiers wounded in Northern Ireland or their widows



and dependants, bringing to a magnificent £490,000 the total sum disbursed in that way.

From the countless people helped by the fund came messages such as that from the "battered" and deserted wife of an ex-soldier who wrote:

"Things have not been so good this year, and when I found out how good you have been to my family I am not ashamed to say I cried for joy that people who have not even met me could be so concerned. Thank you with all my heart."



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THIS IS HARD...

RIGHT - Members of D (Cambridgeshire) Company take a breather at the end of a nine-mile march in the battalion's Gaza Cup competition. In the foreground (left to right) are Sgt Paul Hayhoe and 2nd Lt Gavin Cameron. Behind them (from left) are Cpl Neil Mackinnon, LCpl Douglas Whyte, Pte D'Arcy Bird and Pte Andrew Sweet. Their next task was to manhandle a trailer over a ditch-strewn course

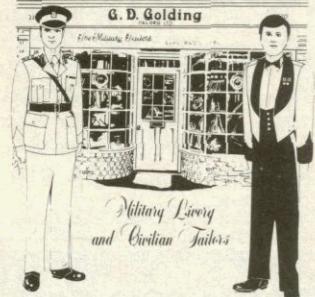
...WORK!

FAR RIGHT - That's the way to do it! A (Norfolk) Company clock up a winning time in the Land-Rover trailer event of the Gaza Cup



Duel in the Dales

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COMPETITION was fierce among Terrier companies of the 6th Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment during their annual camp.

The 250 TA soldiers from East Anglia knew that they were competing for places on a visit to America next year and that their performance at camp in the Yorkshire Dales was being carefully noted.

The men - and 20 women - of the 6th Bn were based at Wathgill near Catterick and used ranges and training areas in the nearby Dales to sharpen their combat skills.

Members of the battalion will spend two weeks in the USA next year training alongside infantry from the American National Guard, following a similar visit made to the Royal Anglians by a National Guard unit a few years ago.

All five of the battalion's companies - one from each of the four counties plus HQ Company at Bury St Edmunds - are competing throughout the year to find who will be selected to go to America.

Winning company will make

up the bulk of the party, with other places going to specialists and outstanding cases. The battalion's annual inter-company competition - the Gaza Cup - was held during the Yorkshire camp as one of the contests which will help decide who makes the trip.

Four teams of six had to complete a nine-mile march across country against the clock and then take part in one of four military tests. Each team drew lots for the military tasks - attending to a casualty, carrying out a command exercise involving signals and map-reading, using skill and initiative to manhandle a Land-Rover trailer across four ditches on a 100-yard course, or demonstrating their shooting accuracy on the firing range.

Casualties were minimal despite the sweltering heat - three cases of heat exhaustion and some blistered feet - and at the end of the day Suffolk Company at Bury St Edmunds were the winners, with Cambridgeshire runners-up and Bedfordshire third.

Commented the battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col

Tony Taylor: "The prospect of going to America certainly provided a great incentive for the Gaza Cup and everyone worked tremendously hard. However, there is a long way to go before we make the final decision at the end of the year and it's still very much an open race - everyone yet has a chance of going."

The Gaza Cup contest was sandwiched between two weeks of extensive training in infantry and specialist skills for the Royal Anglians. The first week was spent on night navigational exercises and patrols, live firing on the ranges, section attacks, and using a purpose-built range in former married quarters at Catterick to train for fighting in built-up areas.

The second week was centred around a three-day exercise involving the whole battalion training for its wartime role of defending key installations and locations against attack.

There was a foreign flavour to the annual camp as well, with two West German and two Danish reserve Army officers

and three US National Guard sergeants spending the fortnight training with the Royal Anglians.

Sir Joshua Rowley, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, visited the camp on Gaza Cup day and presented the trophy to the winners.

He also presented the Territorial Decoration for services to the TA to the battalion's padre, Maj David Lowe, from Bury St Edmunds.

Lt Col Taylor, a regular officer who took command of the battalion at the end of April, said: "It's been my first chance to work with the battalion as a whole, and I've been very impressed. Everyone is incredibly keen and although they are TA soldiers they do not want to be treated any different from regulars."

"Overall our numbers at annual camp have been reduced considerably this year because we have been concentrating on sending people away for specialist or promotion courses, but we have still managed to get through a great deal of work here."

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HOW LIONHEART TOOK ITS TOLL

BATTLE STRESS can take its toll of both officers and men during a peacetime military exercise according to an Army medical officer who specialises in psychiatry.

In an article titled "Stress Reactions to Simulated Battle Conditions", Capt Gareth Vincenti of the Royal Army Medical Corps highlights many signs of strain observed during Exercise Lionheart in 1984.

The article, which appears in the latest edition of British Army Review, is based on observations made in one of the dressing stations supporting an armoured brigade during the exercise.

The first phase involved mobilisation and deployment, the second withdrawal in the face of an offensive, and the third a successful counter attack.

He noticed that in the second phase the withdrawal seemed to quicken as the days went by and that the sense of chaos and confusion was at its height just before the battle was halted by umpires.

It was during this period of withdrawal that Capt Vincenti saw various indications of the strain of battle, many well documented from real combat situations.

● **More soldiers started arriving at the dressing station complaining about sore throats, coughs and colds.**

These cases tended to arrive in batches and one or two soldiers would have all the symptoms of their colleagues but would fail to have any physical signs.

● **Several staff officers from formation headquarters turned up at the dressing station to have large boils treated.**

"These did not seem to have presented a problem during other phases and front line soldiers in a good deal worse living conditions did not report such lesions."

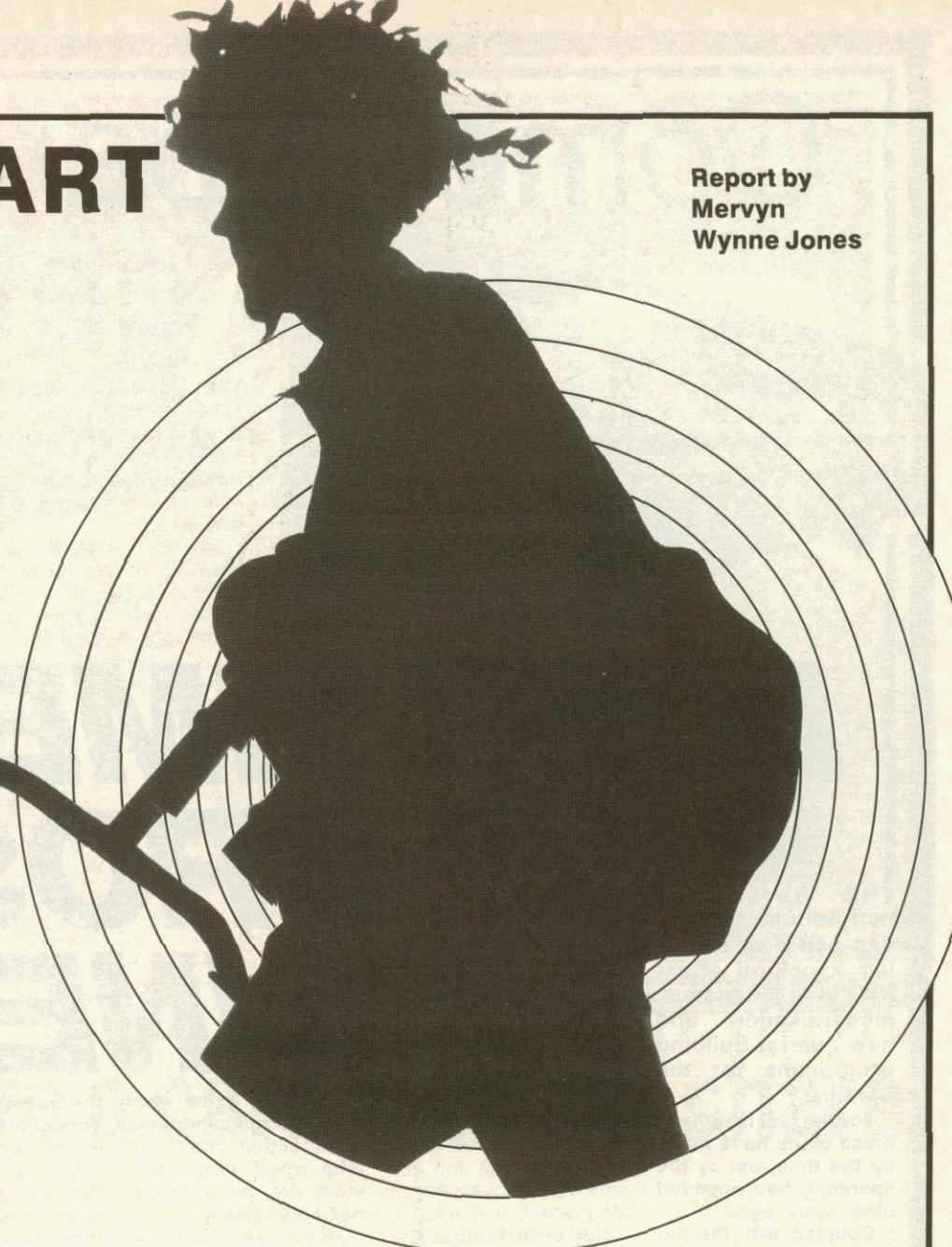
● **At critical phases during the battle sizeable batches of real casualties would arrive.**

Capt Vincenti said: "At these times the proportion of cases with frankly dubious organic pathology would rise."

During the period of maximum chaos,

Capt Vincenti was contacted several times by various formation headquarters demanding urgent supplies of pain killing drugs such as headache tablets required for men too busy to report sick.

Capt Vincenti was reluctant to send out the drugs and as a result only one officer reported to the dressing station. He was treated for abdominal pain and later



Report by
Mervyn
Wynne Jones

... the sense of chaos and confusion was at its height just before the battle was halted by umpires . . .

returned to duty, but the captain half expected to have to casevac him shortly after.

However, he did not see him again and the brigade liaison officer confirmed that the man had recovered rapidly when the 'war situation' had stabilised.

● **During the withdrawal phase the non-medically trained brigade liaison officer was so pestered by soldiers seizing upon his Red Cross vehicle as a source of medical supplies that he had these distinguishing marks removed.**

He replaced them when they later advanced and found that he was no longer bothered by such demands.

● **Many real casualties were brought in 'escorted' by fit colleagues.**

Capt Vincenti writes that he was "very much surprised" one night to see the RSM of one hard pressed infantry battalion which they were supporting arrive with a young man in whom he failed to diagnose any illness of any consequence.

"The aggressive and disruptive attitude of this senior warrant officer was both annoying and intriguing and the author was at a loss to discover how he had managed to leave his unit at such a critical juncture in order to act as nursemaid to a fit young soldier. Both men were returned to their unit."

Come aboard and get wise



THE WISE Bus launched in 1984 during *Women into Science and Engineering Year* has clocked up 20,000 miles. Now it's going to clock up more mileage when it calls at Bulford this week.

The first bus proved so popular that WISE II is now also on the road. Sponsored by British Gas and operated by the British School of Technology, it will be visiting the

Federation of Army Wives Clubs office and computer updating of skills (FOCUS) project in Bulford from September 8-12.

■ Dates and locations for WISE II are: September 8-9, Kandy Road, Bulford Camp; September 10, Naafi car park, Tidworth; September 11, Naafi Zouch Farm, Tidworth; September 12, Clarendon Jnr School car park, Tidworth.

LOST TIME AND CROSSED LINES

IN MY VIEW

THE Government moratorium of 1977 has had a devastating knock-on effect on the maintenance, modernisation and new quarter building programme for the Services.

For the fact is none of these plans have made up the time lost by the spending ban imposed nine years ago.

Coupled with the design faults of the 60s, the moratorium has had a disastrous and demoralising effect on those who have had to live in quarters due for major and minor works services.

Now, as works services and repairs chase lost time, families are being greatly inconvenienced and this has been spotlighted for me by letters from husbands and wives.

The fact that I get their letters of complaint indicates that lines of communication in this particular area have not improved over the years.

But while lines seemingly stay crossed, at least the Federation of Army Wives Clubs (FAWC) can claim a giant step forward with the news that they now have a quartering representative and sub-committee in every district.

That these volunteers have, to some extent, been able to improve com-

munication lines with commands and UKLF is shown by the fact that some have actually been asked for their opinions on Service housing.

In Aldershot for example the FAWC representative, after seeing proposed new quarters plans, made suggestions which saved money and mistakes which wives know only too well are too late to change once the place is built.

But even though the FAWC are progressing, the issues raised by families prompted me to gather their questions from their letters and write to the MoD last February and March. Sadly I have not had a reply at the time

his wife to know what they can and cannot do; what action they can take when works services are, for example, not satisfactory.

All are important to the licensee and his wife who, more often than not, will be the ones who have to solve the problem.

Too often families have to pay out of their own pockets to put matters right. That is why I have asked MoD for a clear and concise guide to be available in every quarter at home and overseas.

Among the questions I asked MoD for clarification are:

■ What is classified as a major works service? Is it a new roof, kitchen modernisation, rewiring, re-laid floors, complete house decoration?

The misconception is that families can do this at no cost. But who pays for the redirection of mail, telephone connection, do you pay full rent or reduced? Who helps with cleaning? Handover charges? Loss or damage to possessions, and above all, the inconvenience imposed by the PSA through MQ occupants?

These definitions are important as they can affect options on alternative accommodation, reduced rent

When home is an MQ

of going to press.

These matters are important to families as accompanied service is now MoD policy and for this reason alone there is a positive requirement for a guide stating the areas of responsibility of PSA, contractors, units, garrisons, FHWS and MQ occupants.

It is important for the licensee (husband) and

wives know what to do when the contractor switches off the electricity and the freezer food is ruined, spills paint on the carpet, or, as I personally experienced, puts a nail through the floor boards into the water pipe. How to claim, is there a time factor and, above all, where to make a claim.

I have raised some of

BFPO delivers the goods!

WHEN a visitor asked Katie Bonner's birthweight neither her Mum Susan, nor Pte Diane Patterson of the QARANC could say. They could only guess.

For the British Military Hospital at Stanley in the Falkland Islands had no baby scales.

But the problem was soon sorted out when Force Chaplain Brian Elliot called.

He came up with the brilliant idea of nipping into the BFPO and borrowing their electronic scales on which to weigh baby Bonner.

Possibly the first Falkland Islands babe to weigh in like this, Katie is certainly the first baby born in the temporary BMH in Stanley which is being used until a new combined civil and military hospital is completed.

The original corrugated iron clad King Edward Memorial Hospital burned down about 18 months ago.

Incidentally, Katie's weight is not known. Our Falkland correspondent forgot to mention it in the report!



SUSAN BONNER, BABY KATIE, DIANE PATTERSON: electronically weighed

LOOK!

Have a care with job share

JOB sharing is no longer unusual, in fact it is increasing. This form of part-time working is appealing to a growing number of people, especially to women.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have produced a leaflet explaining both the advantages and disadvantages for employee and employer.

Questions on holidays, benefits, trades unions, National Insurance are also covered.

This sounds plain sail-

ing, but there are a number of factors which need to be considered before entering into a contract.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have produced a leaflet explaining both the advantages and disadvantages for employee and employer.

Questions on holidays, benefits, trades unions, National Insurance are also covered.

Now, to enhance that help, their two standard guides have been updated

and are available from the CPAG, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NM at £4 each, including postage.

Called the *National Welfare Benefit Handbook* and *Rights Guide to Non-Means Tested Social Security Benefits*, they list some 60 DHSS benefits available and are a must for anyone who needs to know the intricacies of the UK welfare system.

The books explain all aspects of claiming; who can, who can't, how and where.

They give practical help to those on low incomes, the handicapped, advice on education and housing and explains DHSS jargon and abbreviations.

The books also include information important to all school leavers overseas who are planning to return to the UK for employment or further education.

Home tel:
Camberley
29653

Anne

HERE TO HELP



Armstrong

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Take contractors, for example: who pays for fuel and light used by them? Who checks their work? Where does the wife or licensee turn to for advice, help, regarding a problem? What is the chain of command for complaints if satisfaction is not forthcoming?

The PSA often forget that MQ occupants pay rent and, although families are in married quarters under licence, the quarter is their home. Yet often they are taken for granted and are ignored when it comes near. The workman arriving on the doorstep ready to do the job, is often the first

news an occupier gets that work is to start.

Married quarters must not be seen as they often are, as a right of way for the PSA and contractors. Family life must be given consideration.

Meanwhile, I would like to hear the views of MQ occupiers.

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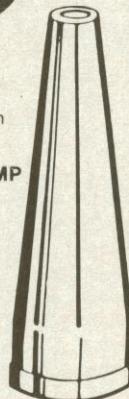
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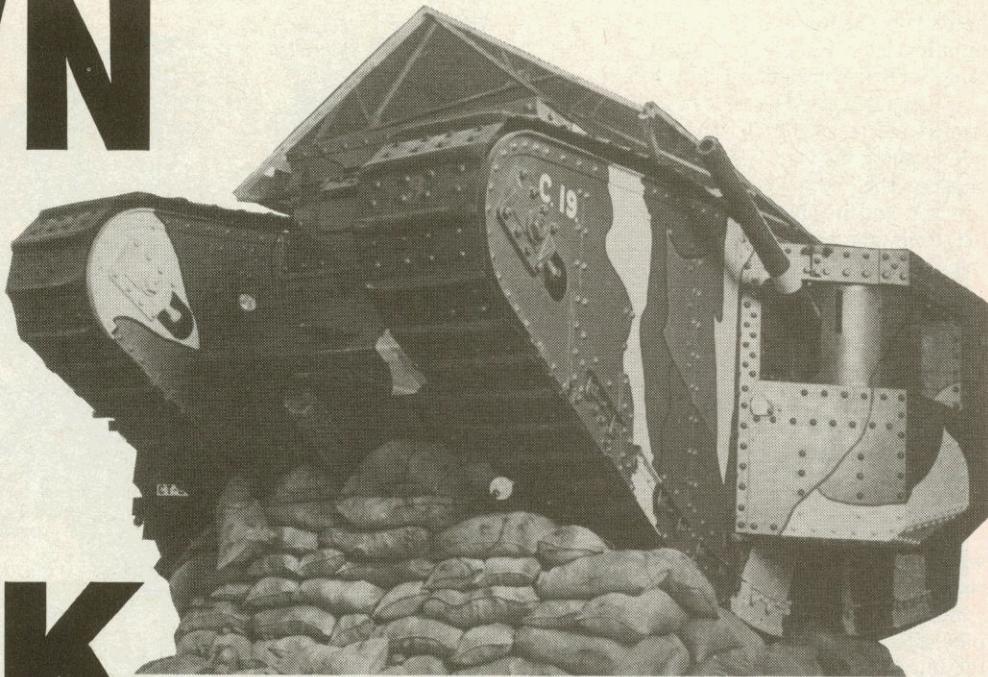
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A new twist to the horror of war slithered across the mud of the Somme not long after sunrise on September 15, 1916. The first tanks had arrived, terrifying the enemy infantry and changing forever the face of the battlefield. Seventy years on, **GRAHAM SMITH** looks back at that first tank action . . .

DAWN OF THE TANK



The only surviving Mark I tank, now in the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset

SEVENTY YEARS ago this month amid the mud, misery and savagery that epitomised the Somme, trench warfare tactics took a revolutionary and, at the time, horrifying turn – in the shape of 28-ton armadillo-plated tracked terrors trundling over bodies and brickwork to wipe out stubborn but, suddenly, stricken German defenders.

Death or limb-shredding injury befell those soldiers unlucky enough to find themselves in the path of the strange, hulking monsters. The battlefield mammoths, firing six-pounder shells and spewing out .303 machine gun bullets, left scant chance of escape for the men in the dug-outs, save those who were fleet of foot.

The tank, a weighty dreadnought capable of laying and picking up its own tracks, had brutally breeched the French killing fields; once peaceful pastureland but now devastated villages dominated by

mechanised death and destruction.

A lozenge-shaped leviathan, it effortlessly crushed barbed wire emplacements, mangled machine gun posts and their men and slithered across slit trenches or barged abruptly into strong points on the Somme.

This new and dreadful dimension in battlefield firepower supremacy had its dawning early in the morning of September 15, 1916.

Flers and Courcelette, two ruined communes a couple of miles apart, were to be the designated testing ground for the tanks' baptism of fire.

Four tanks were the metallic heroes of the assault on Flers. In particular, D17 – Dinnaken – under the command of Lt S H Hastie. His tank would take a defiant stance in the High Street then, firing, move along with two battalions of infantry following triumphantly in its wake.

Overhead, an astonished Royal Flying Corps aviator witnessed the scene and

tapped out his famous report: "There is a tank walking up the High Street of Flers with the British Army cheering behind."

Three other tanks from D Company – D6, D9 and D16 – took part in the advance, which soon had three divisions of Bavarians rapidly retreating the two miles to Gueudecourt.

It was history in the making. But tank history had been made an hour before by a solitary tank. D1, commanded by 23-year-old Capt H W Mortimore, was the world's first tank to fire a shot in anger.

His action was a prelude to H-hour, the operational overture to the Flers-Courcelette action. His task: to drive defenders from the southern end of Delville Wood.

He should have gone in with three other tanks. But one was unserviceable, the other two "ditched" in the mud.

Mark 1 Tank D1 moved off at 0515

Turn to next page

A C Company Mark I (Clan Leslie C19) goes into action on the Somme on September 15, 1916



'German intelligence had received information from their tethered observation balloons that the British had some sort of new armoured car in the field. The information was not acted upon . . .'

From Page 25

hours on September 15, followed 15 minutes later by the 6th Battalion, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

It was a success. His tank straddled then strafed a German trench. But the luck was not all going his way. A direct hit from an artillery shell knocked out his starboard sponson and its six-pounder gun. Two of his seven-man crew were killed and a road track was severed.

Still, the pocket of intransigent infantry was cleared. The Yorkshiremen went in, bayonets fixed.

Flers and Courcelette were already village venues of military attrition, where no quarter was given or asked. Yet startled Bavarians in their spontaneous realisations of the moment were heard to yell: "Der Teufel kommt!" ("The devil is coming").

The tanks' coming had, indeed, been a well-kept secret. And their ergonomic shortcomings, too.

Snow ploughs for Russia had been one ploy offered to the over-inquisitive during the hurried movement of the invention to Picardy.

Back in Old Blighty various "land ship" demonstrations had been put on for its many supporters, including Lloyd George, the Minister of Munitions, and Lord Kitchener, the general for whom the nation's youth had so eagerly responded. Winston Churchill was another strong advocate of its introduction into service as a counterbalance to the mounting carnage.

In March, a new unit had been set up – the Heavy Section, The Machine Gun Corps, which had a projected strength of 184 officers and 1,610 men.

First deliveries of the 28-ton, 26½-foot-long tanks started in June 1916 to a hush-hush, five-square-mile sector of Thetford, Norfolk. But time was running out.

The first baker's dozen of the tanks the Mark One, Male and Female, left Thetford on August 15, bound for Avonmouth and then by sea to Le Havre and a temporary base near Yvrench, nine miles from Abbeville.

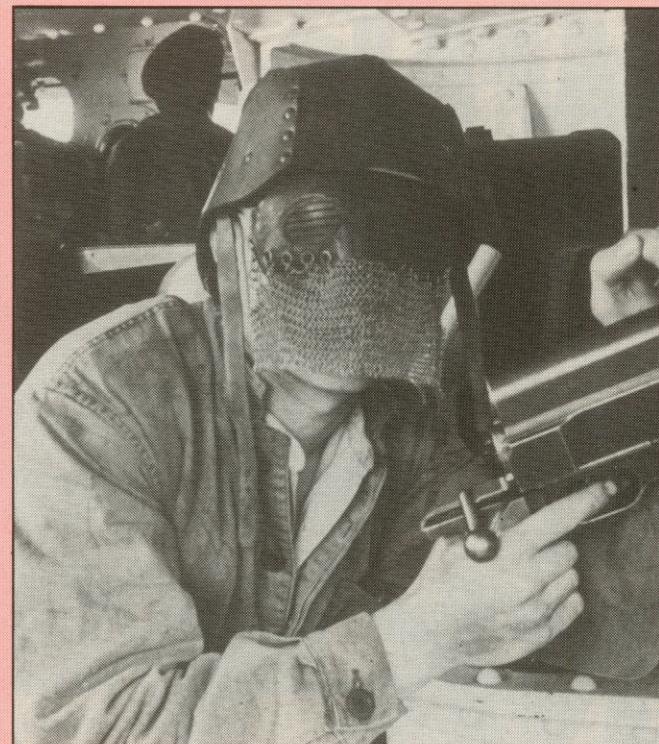
Their 35-cwt sponson-and-gun fitments had to be dismantled for separate shipborne loading.

The tanks belonged to the Heavy Section's C and D Companies; ready to embark for action and a place in the pages of military history.

Each toted a pair of six-pounder, 40mm quick fire guns and four .303 Hotchkiss machine guns in the Male version. These armoured vehicles belonged to a corps now comprising six companies, each of four sections and each section boasting six tanks; three Male and three Female.

The companies were lettered A to F. The Female variant – designed for trench clearance – carried 30,080 rounds of small arms ammunition with which to feed its eager machine guns.

So the tank arrived in France. It had come to stay as nations were daily denuded



Pictures: The Tank Museum, Bovington



Above left –
Protective clothing for
the first tank crews –
including chain mail
and leather face mask

Above – The
Challenger, today's
tank

Left – Lt Hastie's tank,
Dinnaken, driven
through the main
street of Flers, then
abandoned and used
as a brigade
headquarters

of their young men during the Somme offensive and thereafter.

The vehicles of rhomboid-like configuration lurched forward at a menacing 3.7 miles an hour. Their main port and starboard sponson guns could lob out 15 to 20 shells a minute, their Hotchkiss or Vickers machine guns chattering away at up to 300 rounds a minute.

Cocooned inside each of the tanks were eight crewmen. Half of them, including the commander, steered a relentless passage ahead – where possible.

Gear changing demanded good hearing and concentration. A loud bang on the transmission casing by the driver, followed by the display of an appropriate number of fingers, told the two gearsmen which ones to select!

On the move, the tanks often filled with nostril-burning cordite from the guns or carbon monoxide fumes from the two exhausts which protruded out of the tank's top.

The tanks had no suspension. Leather helmets were issued to protect the

vulnerable upper cranium. Face masks of chain mail and leather were issued to crews for protection against "flaking".

This was usually caused by an incoming hail of machine gun or rifle bullets. These would cause fragments of metal to fly off around the vehicle's innards, putting the crewmen in peril.

Often, it was said, the heat was so unbearable inside that the masks were discarded. They also rid themselves of their blue dungarees and finished a day's fighting in just their vest and pants!



Sixteen-ounce bombs hurled at the Mark Ones failed to deter progress. Mauser bullets bounced off. Machine gun patterns just "drummed" on the flanks.

Inside the tank there was a clutter of levers, chains, driving sprockets . . .

Stowed in the Male version were 332 six-pounder shells, 6,272 small arms rounds, drums of oil, petrol containers, 46 gallons of petrol on the flanks either side of the driver and the commander, two days' rations (including 30 tins of food and 16 loaves of bread), signalling equipment . . . and a carrier pigeon in a wicker basket!

Build-up and pre-positioning for the Flers-Courcelette encounter were not easy. Mechanical failure was the biggest bugbear.

On September 10, tanks from C and D Companies moved up to a railway centre called The Loop, near Bray and camped in fields just ten miles from the front line; one they were hoping to breach across a 3½-mile front.

They had moved up in the full chaos of war – through shell holes, debris, death, and, of course, the mud.

The crewmen were half-trained. The machines themselves were well-worn and mechanically unreliable because of an

excessive work-up back at Thetford.

By the time of the offensive timed for 0620 on September 15, most crewmen had been up at 0300 and had not slept for 24 hours, disturbed by the crescendo of increased artillery fire.

For three days and nights a total of 1,258 guns and howitzers – 358 of them heavy pieces – had been mounting a ceaseless, creeping barrage by way of distraction.

Trenches, dug-outs and rear areas were subjected to the onslaught: one field piece for every ten yards, one heavy piece for each 28 yards.

Added to this was another diversion, provided by 8 Squadron Royal Flying Corps "buzzing" enemy front lines.

Despite everything, German intelligence had received information from their tethered observation balloons that the British had some sort of new armoured car in the field. The information was not acted upon.

Meanwhile, the British tanks had long since lost their "land ship" grey livery in favour of yellow, black, green and brown camouflage colouring.

On September 13 they moved nearer to

Turn to next page

'The Germans put up stern resistance. Machine gun fire caused the dreaded flaking inside the tank. As it lurched forward, Storey and his young crew were cannoned into the hot engine exhausts and burned . . .'

From Page 27

their planned objectives. C Company gathered at Trones Wood, D Company moved to Green Dump at Delville Wood.

The tanks were armed up and fuelled. Anti-grenade deflection nets were carefully checked – the potential lair for many a German Minenwerfer or stick mortar. Signal lamps were given the once over. Carrier pigeons in wicker baskets were installed in their mobile battle stations.

Records show that 49 out of the 50 tanks were assigned to the battle. Only 32 reached the start line. Of these, just nine fulfilled their mission, causing considerable loss and damage to the enemy. Of the remainder, nine failed to catch up the infantry but did some effective "mopping up", nine more were unserviceable due to mechanical failure, and five were "ditched".

On the night of September 14 the tanks were led nearer their start positions by torch-wielding soldiers.

Of the original 49, 42 had been assigned to General Rawlinson's Fourth Army; the other half dozen to the Canadian Corps and their Courcelette action. Seventeen had failed to make the start line.

Eight acquitted themselves well at Thiepval, but the Somme conflict was not without its moments of humour.

Two tank commanders, Lt Vic Huffam, an Australian, in tank D13 and South African Lt John Cort, in D14 had agreed to help each other out in difficulty. Huffam was in need of a tow. Cort tried to oblige but failed. Both were dug out by the Chinese labour battalion!

Heroism there was, too. A lone Female Mark One tank went into action on September 25 at Gueudecourt in support of the 64th Brigade, 21st Division. In command was 2nd Lt Charles Storey with a crew of seven.

The eight of them were instrumental in the capture of 1,500 yards of heavily defended trench – the Gird Trench – with eight officers and 362 soldiers taken prisoner.

And all against a tally of six wounded tank crew and five infantrymen.

The Germans put up stern resistance. Machine gun fire caused the dreaded "flaking" inside the tank. As it lurched forward, Storey and his young crew were cannoned into the hot engine exhausts and burned.

Still they pressed on. Eventually the Germans surrendered with a forest of waving white handkerchiefs. Storey had cleared the Gird Trench in less than an hour and men of the 15th Durham Light Infantry moved in.

The tank then ran out of petrol.

Young Storey was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The gallantry of the "tankies" was to grow – stemming from the likes of Capt Mortimore and the daring action of Lt Hastie and his driver, Pte Westcombe, clanking up Flers High Street that



The tank memorial on the Albert-Bapaume road on the Somme – an expedient but geographically incorrect site near Flers to mark the first tank actions

war-torn September morning.

Behind them were men of the 11th Royal West Kents and the 15th Hampshires. They had all overcome demolished brickwork, barbed wire and bolting Bavarians.

Surviving enemy infantry and the German High Command had good cause to remember that day.

The German High Command chronicled: "The enemy in the latest fighting has employed new machines of war as cruel as they are effective."

Names like Old Ichthyosaurus . . . Giant Toad . . . Jabberwock . . . Hush-Hush . . . and the celebrated Crème de Menthe. These were the pioneers of tank warfare for the ensuing troubled years, a list soon to include Shermans, Churchills, Conquerors, Crusaders, Matil-

das, Panthers and the 80-ton Tigers.

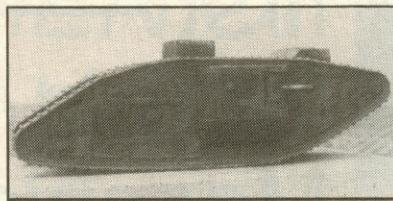
Fourteen months later, on November 20, 1917, British tanks crushed the defences of the Hindenburg Line during the conflict at Cambrai.

Present-day descendants of British lineage include the 54-tonne Chieftain and 62-tonne Challenger main battle tanks, as forward defenders on Nato's Central Front.

They now tote 120mm main armament, 7.62mm machine guns, a brace at a time, and are furnished with the latest in computer and laser wizardry.

Lt Hastie and his men, Capt Mortimore, 2nd Lt Storey and a host of other gallant tank commanders of 70 years ago would be amazed and proud that their brave actions set the pace for today's technology in the "tankie" world.

Ancient and modern: How they compare



TANK MARK ONE

Eight: 1 officer,
7 men
Main – Two quick-fire
six-pounder (40mm) guns
Secondary – Four .303
machine guns (Male)
Five .303 machine guns
(Female)

332 six-pounder shells
6,272 x .303 (Male)
30,800 x .303 (Female)
Mark One Eyeball!

None
Signal lamps, carrier
pigeons
0.2 ins to 0.4 ins
Chain mail/leather face
masks, helmets
3.7 mph
28 tons (Male)
27 tons (Female)
26ft 5ins (8m approx).
13ft 9ins (4m approx).
8ft (2.5m approx).
Daimler, 6-cyl, sleeve
valve. 105hp, water-cooled

Sliding gear (4 forward, 2
reverse)
Trench 11ft 6ins slope
22 degrees



CHALLENGER

Four: (commander, loader,
gunner, driver)
Main – Breech-loading 120mm
Tank Gun L.11
Secondary – Co-axial 7.62mm
TKL8A2 Commander's cupola
7.62mm L37A2

64
4,000 x 7.62mm rounds

Computerised fire control
system with laser/Muzzle
Reference System (MRS).
Day/night passive sights and
over-ride gun laying system.
Periscopes. 360-degree cupola
sighting.

Individual hydrogas system

Army's Clansman system

Chobham light armour

NBC No 6, Mk 2 system

56 km/hr

62 tonnes

11.55m (gun forward)

3.52m

2.50m (to turret roof)

RR CV 12, TCA 12-cyl. 60V
direct injection. 4-stroke diesel.
1,200bhp at 2,300 rpm

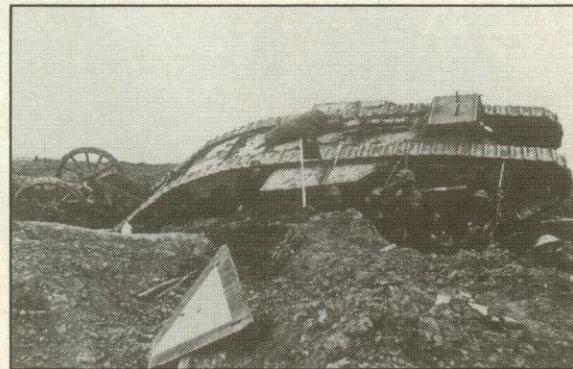
Epicyclic (4 forward, 3 reverse,
automatic transmission)

3.15m

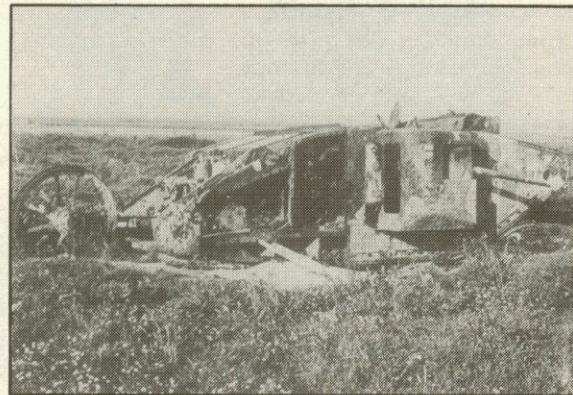
30 degrees



Three Mark 1 Female tanks and one Male (second
from left), on the Somme in 1916



D7, a Mark 1 Male of C Company commanded by Lt
Enoch, pictured soon after the Flers action



A victim of one of the first tank actions on the
Somme, this is a Mark 1 Male of C Company

Picture: The Tank Museum, Bovington

READ ALL ABOUT IT...

THEY KNOW a thing or two about tanks at the Tank Museum at Bovington, the home of The Royal Armoured Corps.

Not surprising then that in this 70th anniversary of the birth of the tank, the museum's staff have been busy publicising the metal giants which they look after in their daily round.

It has resulted in no fewer than three books appearing from the museum on the Dorset heathland which has a world-famous collection of some 160 tanks and armoured cars, not only from the British Army through the ages but also from other tank producing nations.

Lt Col George Forty (retd),

director and curator of the museum, has himself compiled one book which uses more than 200 photographs to trace the history of the tank from the original Little Willie to the sophisticated giants of today.

A more lavish production comes from the museum's librarian, David Fletcher, whose book looks at the German Tiger – "pride of the Panzer forces, scourge of the Allies".

Using original intelligence reports held in the Tank Museum library, he examines the Tiger in detail, with many original drawings and formerly unpublished photographs.

Completing the trio is a booklet in the Shire Album

series by E Bartholomew, education officer and assistant librarian at the museum, who deals with early tanks used by the British and also by France, Germany, the United States, Italy and Russia.

The British Tank, compiled by Lt Col George Forty, published by Birlings (Kent) Ltd, price £4.95.

Tiger! edited by David Fletcher, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price £17.95.

First World War Tanks, by E Bartholomew, published by Shire Publications Ltd, price £1.25.

Other new books for the tank bookshelf include:

A New Excalibur, by A J Smithers, describing the birth and development of the tank up to the Second World War, published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg, price £15.

Tanks, by C J Norman, a simply written reference book in the Picture Library series, published by Franklin Watts, price £4.95.

Tank War 1939-1945, by Janusz Piekalkiewicz, a day-by-day account of the operations by tanks and other AFVs during the Second World War. Originally published as Krieg de Panzer and now translated into English and published by Blandford Press, price £12.95.



Another first — for Brig Meechie

MORE recruits than usual were on parade at the WRAC depot, Guildford, last month at an extra special passing out ceremony.

Three platoons of more than 100 girls stood smartly to attention as Brig Helen Meechie (pictured left centre) reviewed her last parade as Director WRAC.

The youngest officer to have become Director, Brig Meechie, 48, relinquishes the post this month when she moves to the Royal College of Defence Studies, London.

Her move signals another first as she will have been the only WRAC brigadier to have attended the 12 month senior officers' course which starts in January.



Aussie Andrea stands out!

A SPLASH of colour among the bottle-green and royal-blue uniforms on parade was provided by LCpl Andrea Davey (second from right) of the Royal Military College band, Canberra, Australia.

LCpl Davey, dressed in blue, red and white, had arrived at the WRAC depot just a week earlier with Capt Jill Curry on a four month exchange tour as part of Exercise Long Look, in which the participant countries are Britain, Australia and New Zealand. WRACs Lt Jane Gregory and Cpl Sue Harper are presently serving with the Australian Army.

Leading the way

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BOOK REVIEWS

MEN OF LETTERS IN VICTORIA'S ARMY

ONE OF the greatest fallacies perpetrated leaves many people with the impression that the rank and file of Queen Victoria's army were more or less illiterate and only officers wrote letters for posterity.

Here is an interesting new book to help remove the misconception and author Frank Emery, a specialist in African affairs, has sensibly concentrated on campaigns in that part of the world for his theme. Which could well lead to more letters in future publications. India? China?

Some of the letters in this work appear for the first time for public benefit; others first saw the light of day in provincial newspapers. This is perhaps some consolation for modern generals worried about their men communicating with the Press without permission.

Emery studied the records of the men of the 24th Foot (South Wales Borderers - now Royal Regiment of Wales) who fought at Rorke's Drift. At least 58 per cent of that gallant band would have been capable of writing letters home - and quite a number of such letters have survived.

Most of the letters read extremely well, and given that editors may have occasionally had to dot the odd 'i' or cross a few 'ts' they speak volumes for the writers. Most of the narrative, particularly in recounting action, is very straightforward - and all the better for that.

There is the occasional hint of melodrama, but not much. Victorian soldiers presumably didn't want loved ones back home to be alarmed, any more than did their counterparts in the

Falklands campaign.

Modern communications are very much a mixed blessing and with less in the way of education, the soldier of the last century was perhaps in some ways a better letter writer.

The author has selected the letters well, and provides the historical 'in-fill' in a manner which means this book should be an enjoyable read for the general bookworm as well as the military enthusiast.

There is one very interesting complaint made by a number of the soldier writers - a problem in getting sufficient paper and ink! This seems a very good reason why soldiers' letters were not more common 100 years ago.

PMH

● **Marching over Africa** by Frank Emery, published by Hodder & Stoughton. Price £12.95.

Where's Where of war!

JUST because Europe has avoided conflict for more than 40 years is not cause for complacency. There are other parts of the globe, anyway, and wars major or minor are still happening.

One problem for a lot of people is the very geography of war. Knowledge of the exact location of the Falkland Islands was hardly common to many Britons before 1982.

So it is easy to welcome a new book in which academic-turned-defence correspondent John Keegan has teamed up again with fellow historian Andrew Wheatcroft. This partnership previously tackled a "who's who" of military history.

Their new venture could be termed a "what's where" of current and/or likely conflict and is certain to be of particular use to those who require a quick, easy guide rather than a weighty tome.

Despite the fact there are 140 armies in the world, the number of places in which conflict can be gainfully fought are comparatively few. So the authors neatly sort the zones out (eg the Central Front in Europe) with useful background, a guide to the strengths of the forces and so on.

Aided by superb cartography by Malcolm Porter, the authors really have produced a simple guide for the benefit of those who welcome a quick, uncomplicated book of reference.

PMH.

● **Zones of Conflict. An Atlas of Future Wars** by John Keegan and Andrew Wheatcroft, published by Jonathan Cape. Price £10.95.

The definitive Wehrmacht



Hitler's army on the march

THERE ARE people who, for living or pleasure, enjoy studying the German Wehrmacht of the Second World War. At such people, no doubt, is aimed *Hitler's Legions*.

This hefty work is described as the "definitive book on the organisational and technical aspects of the German ground forces which swept across Europe with such ruthless efficiency in 1939 and 1940."

Author Samuel W Mitcham, a former US Army officer with three books on Rommel to his credit, certainly deserves praise for his diligence in compiling 540 pages of detail on Hitler's divisions: infantry, panzer, mountain, jäger and all.

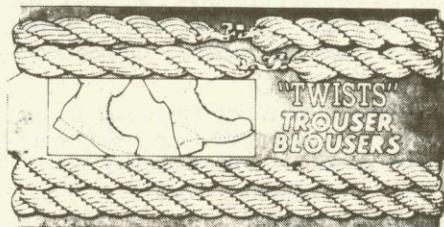
Order of battle, home bases, campaign records, leaders - it's all here. Well . . . nearly all. Many records were lost, or destroyed. So there are some omissions.

Not quite definitive then, but Mitcham spent longer in preparing this book - seven years - than the German army spent fighting the war.

A truly prodigious work of patience and research. Yet you will have to be a fanatic, or student, to read every page.

PMH

● **Hitler's Legions** by Samuel W Mitcham, published by Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg. Price £16.

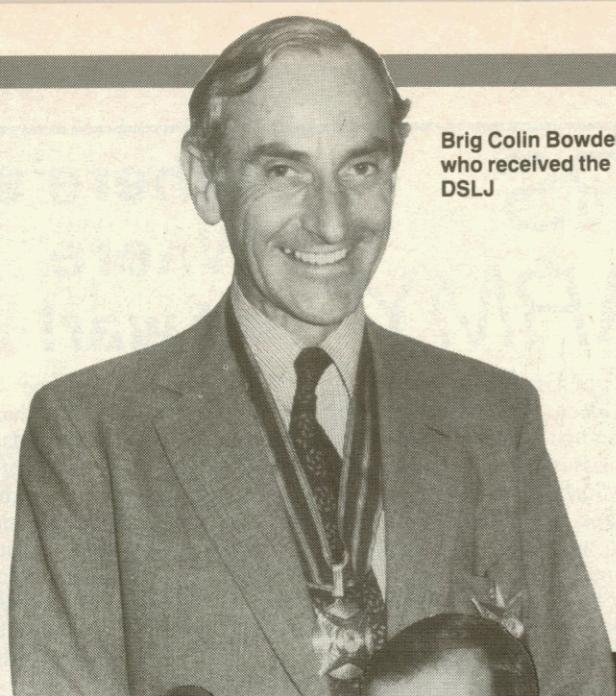


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22 Frederick
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BIRMINGHAM,
B1 3HE.

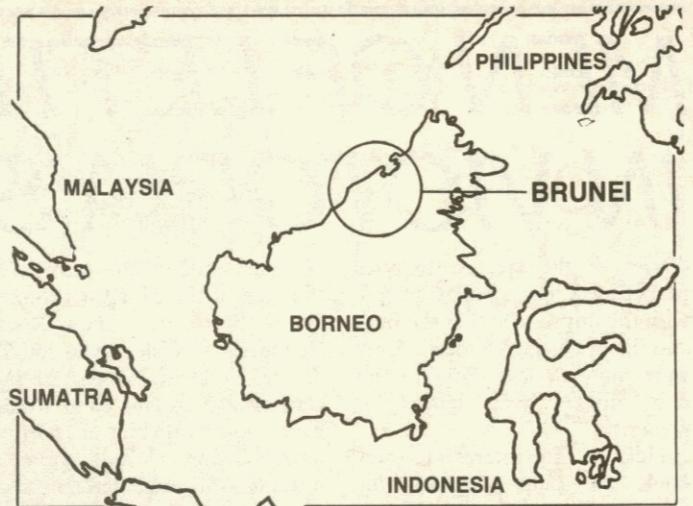
Please send me _____ pairs of elastics for which I enclose £ _____

Name _____

Address _____



Brig Colin Bowden,
who received the
DSLJ



WO2 Jim McGookin with wife Rossline and two awards

OLD FRIENDSHIPS were renewed and new UK-based ones started during a special ceremony clearing up a 14-year backlog of honours and awards personally decreed and issued by the Sultan of Brunei, Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, completed at the Dorchester Hotel in the heart of London's West End.

Among them was a Royal Irish Rangers warrant officer who received two awards. One for services to music and linked to a special marching tune composed and dedicated to the current Sultan's father; the other for a cool-witted act of street bravery which claimed prime time on local television.

Just a day after acting as the Reviewing Officer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's Sovereign's Parade, the Sultan awarded the honours and medals to 101 recipients, 68 of them with Army connections. Two went to women; one a WRAC major, the other a civilian. A third of the recipients

are now retired from the Services.

All were specially gathered at the five-star hotel because, for various reasons, it was the first opportunity for the Sultan to present his bestowed honours in person. His and the paths of the recipients had not crossed in the ensuing years.

WO2 Jim McGookin, now an RQMS with the 1st Bn The Royal Irish Rangers, was with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces from October 1982 until November 1984. He helped in the development of the embryo dozen-strong pipe band and had doubled its number to 28 by the time he left. The band toured Australia, the Philippines and other Far East locations as well as playing at many Brunei State occasions.

The musicians play the Highland bagpipes to a high standard achieved in just two years' tuition. Their repertoire is both western and oriental. Particular favourites in the oil-rich sultanate are "Scotland the Brave" and "The Black Bear."

WO2 McGookin composed a 116 paces-to-the-minute march called "Welcome Bolkiah" which particularly pleased the present Sultan's father. Jim now likes to think the tune had something to do with his new award - the PSB (a Malay language acronym) - the equivalent, he says, of an MBE.

"We set the company up from scratch to complete the task by August 1983," she explained. "There were cultural differences for the trainees, getting them used to a western, sophisticated service and our kind of discipline. But they are to be admired. They are so terrific."

"I am absolutely delighted to get this award and will wear it with a great deal of pride. I believe I am the sole female serving officer to get such an award; an honour to wear."

Another recipient, this one of the DSLJ - said to be the equivalent of a Brunei knighthood, a "dato" - was Brig Colin Bowden, Para, who, in November, becomes senior military adviser to the head of the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) staff in Vienna. He was one of four to receive this top award.

From 1978 until leaving Brunei he was a lieutenant colonel serving as Deputy Commander and AA and QMG on the

Left - Maj Rowena Patrick, helped set up Brunei's first women's unit
Below - Lt Col Guy Yeoman, who served in a fast patrol boat 14 years ago



Brunei brigade gets fell in. . .

administrative staff at the HQ.

"I like to think their development has gone along very well since I left. They are certainly very capable of defending the State of Brunei against anyone who might take them on. It's very effective and a very well trained and equipped small force. That must be due to a large extent to the British Loan Service contribution over the years."

Later a defence adviser in Nicosia, Cyprus, until February of this year, Brig Bowden added: "All of us still have very warm feelings towards Brunei. It's a delightful place. We did, in fact, all work very hard. There was a lot to do in a very short space of time. I would like to go back one day but it is probably unlikely while I am still serving in the Army."

The brigadier's DSLJ joins his OBE.

Lt Col Guy Yeoman, RCT - now CO of 20 Maritime Regiment, RCT, at Gosport - got his award, the SNB, for efforts he made 14 years ago as a first lieutenant then a captain on a 57-knot, 16-man fast patrol boat with the 100-mile-long Brunei coastline as its remit dissuading arms smugglers and dissidents.

He was in Brunei from January 1970 until May 1972 when he took his RCT maritime expertise to the KDB Pahlawan, a vessel built by Britain's Vosper Thornycroft yard.

Group Capt Paul Grey, RAF, the assistant director of the Directorate of Military Aid Overseas (DMAO), summed up the feelings of the day: "It's a great honour for these serving and former UK Servicemen to receive these honours from the Sultan. A great occasion for so many people who have served in the Sultan's armed forces."

With the 68 Army awards made at the Dorchester there were eight made to the Royal Navy, 15 to the RAF and five each to the Royal Marines and civilians.

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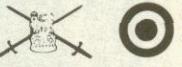
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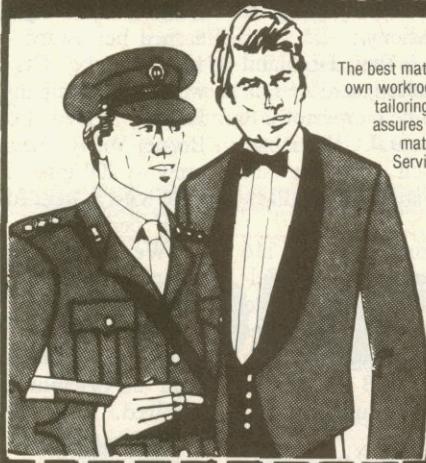
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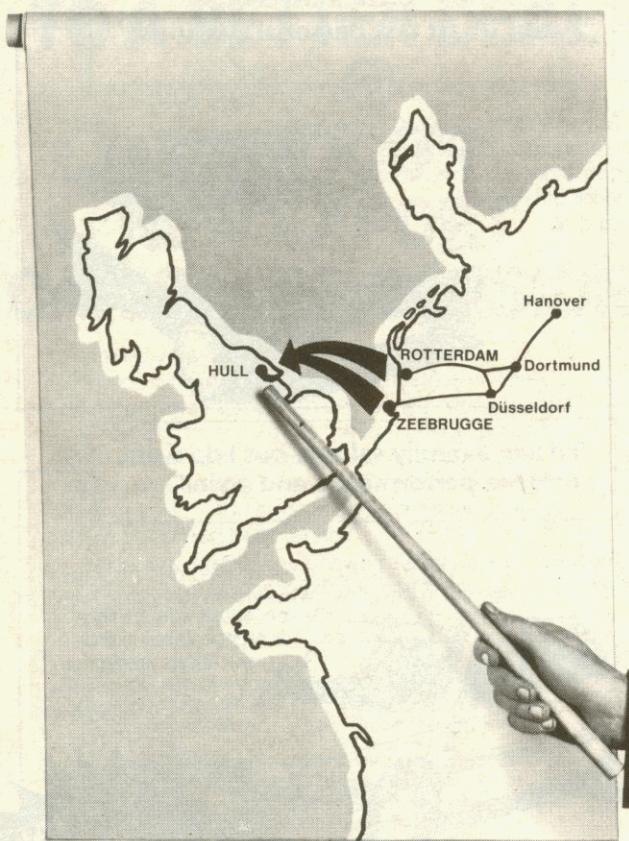


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Right - Seventy years of aviation history separate the Fokker DR 1 triplane from the Lynx helicopter pictured here over Soest. The Lynx is the Army's main airborne tank-buster in Germany

Circle - Cpl Bert Park (nearest camera) and Cpl Pete Tigh, both REME technicians with 3 AAC, examine the Fokker's Warner Scarab radial engine. Looking on is Robin Bowes, who owns and pilots the monoplane



RETURN OF THE FOKKER

ONE OF THE most famous German fighters of the First World War - the Fokker Dr 1 triplane - made a brief return visit to Germany to take part in the first international air day run by 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps, writes Robert Higson.

Actually the Fokker is a replica, one of two still flying in Europe. It was built from the original plans in England ten years ago and flown to West Germany from its home base in

Devon by owner Robin Bowes.

It provided one of the principal attractions at the ambitious air show staged at 3 AAC on its flying base at Lohner Klei near Soest.

The air day featured a three hour flying display involving men and machines from eight different nationalities. There were aero-acrobatics from the UK and Hungary, cavorting Army and RAF helicopters, a couple of Harriers, a brace apiece

of US F16s and A10 Thunderbolts, a formation flight of German Alpha jets, and a reminder of some of the planes of the past in the form of the Fokker, a Second World War Mustang from Norway and a Hawker Hunter of the late 1950s.

The programme ended with a multinational team of skydivers attempting a European record link up in mid air.

They were recruited by Capt Tim Mace - a former 3 AAC

pilot who is now on an instructors' course in the UK - and had only a couple of days to train as a team. In the event 32 men and women from eight European nations linked up just one short of the record target.

An earlier example of skydiving provided the display with a few moments of real drama and a good illustration of the importance of experience and a cool head in this potentially hazardous sport.

Nine members of the Parachute Regiment's Red Devils Black Team from Aldershot were demonstrating the formation of decks of parachutists when a mid-air collision collapsed three canopies.

Two of the men were soon descending on their emergency 'chutes but the third, Cpl Zip Hunt, was enveloped in discarded parachutes as he plummeted earthwards for several heart-stopping moments.

However, experience and coolness told in the end. Cpl Hunt - with over 1,500 jumps to his credit, like the rest of the team - waited until he could free his lines before opening his emergency parachute at a height of about 300 feet.

The incident passed with a collective sigh of relief.



A section of the huge crowd that enjoyed 3 AAC's first air show at Soest, West Germany

Wanted! One drill instructor for the use of . . .



"PAY attention at the back, there, you 'orrible little man!" the late RSM Ronald Brittain, Coldstream Guards, might have been saying in this picture.

The Imperial War Museum, London, is looking for a man of similar dimension - a current drill instructor or sergeant major - to shout similar lines of encouragement to the famous, a "civvy street" brigade of illustrious names who once did National Service and who will be on parade outside the venerable IWM sharp at noon on Monday, September 29, to coincide with the opening the next day of a seven-month exhibition entitled "The Best Years of their Lives. National Service 1945-1963."

It is doubtful that the IWM will find anyone of vocal mettle to compare with RSM Brittain, who died in 1981 aged 81. He was the possessor of chords that were said to resound from Chelsea Barracks to Victoria over the sound of rush-hour traffic!

But the IWM needs a volunteer, in uniform, to drill the special one-day "call-up" of household names for the benefit of the media.

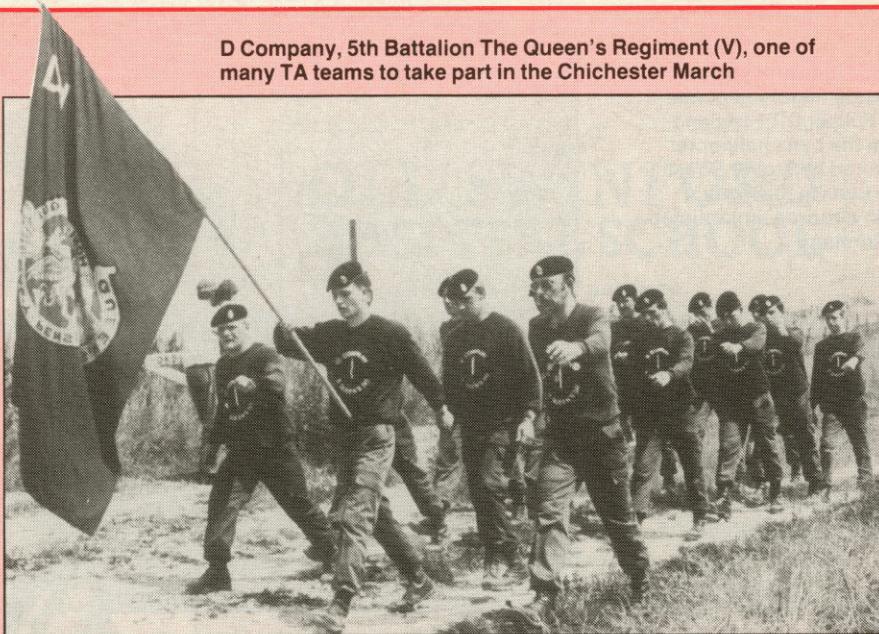
So, you drill instructors and the like, one smart step forward . . . and be quick about it! The IWM needs you . . . There will be no rehearsals.

Bids, then, to either Miss Penny Ritchie Calder, Exhibitions Officer, on 01-735-8922 extension 279 or Mr Christopher Dowling on extension 240.

It's a mobilisation order that could make a drill instructor very famous and, at the end of it, feel very wanted!

Graham Smith

D Company, 5th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (V), one of many TA teams to take part in the Chichester March



SUNSHINE MARCH

MEMORIES of last year when torrential rain fell on the chalky South Downs countryside were soon dispelled when 7,000 marchers stepped out in glorious sunshine to embark on the Royal Military Police and City of Chichester International March.

The march remained true to its aim of the last ten years "to encourage physical well being and foster the spirit of international friendship and co-operation". Originally staged in 1977 to mark the centenary of the RMP, it was so successful that it has now become an annual event. Enthusiastic marchers travelled from 13 countries to join in the tenth anniversary celebrations.

In previous years, the RMP Training Centre has virtually stopped in its tracks while personnel erected a huge tented village to accommodate visiting marchers and prepared the picturesque barracks for the onslaught of thousands of people.

This year, in line with the Army's policy of reducing overstretch, much of the burden was lifted by calling on civilian contractors to provide tentage and catering facilities.

Lt Col (QM) Steven Manning, the man with the job of organising the "new look" march, declared himself well pleased with the results. He said logistic arrangements had been a "qualified success requiring just a few refinements for next year".

He was delighted at the support shown by TA military units, notably 220 (HS) Fd Amb RAMC (V) who provided medical cover to deal with the inevitable light casualties and more frequent blisters!

Invaluable military assistance was also given in the shape of HQ RAOC

Mobile Laundry and Bath Unit who spent their two week training camp practising their much appreciated skills to the benefit of the barracks' occupants.

At 0730 hrs, Roussillon Barracks sports field was a sea of canvas and exuberant bodies as nearly 4,000 marchers set off on the longest (40km) route. They were followed in turn by marchers for the 25km and 10km routes - the latter attracting a fair number of individual and novelty entries, including South Sea Islanders, Frontiersmen and even a determined paraplegic.

Manned checkpoints along the routes provided welcome refreshments and allowed careful judgement of the entrants for the 40 awards later presented. Among the proud recipients were A Coy 6 LI (TA) who won the prize for best appearance and bearing of a TA team and Lt Col (retd) Harold Dibbens who, at 79, was the oldest marcher to complete the distance.

Mindful not to turn the march into a race against time, no award is given for the fastest team, however, mention should be made of the Italian Carabinieri who raced round the hilly 40km route in less than four hours.

The day ended with a colourful parade through the streets of Chichester. Thousands of local people lined the roads as the Quebec Band of the Queen's Regiment headed a procession of Service teams, civil police and civilian marchers. Led by Lt Col John Curtin (Comdt RMPTC) riding an RMP mounted troop horse called Robin, the procession marched past Lt Gen Sir Michael Gray (GOC SEDIST) who took the salute.

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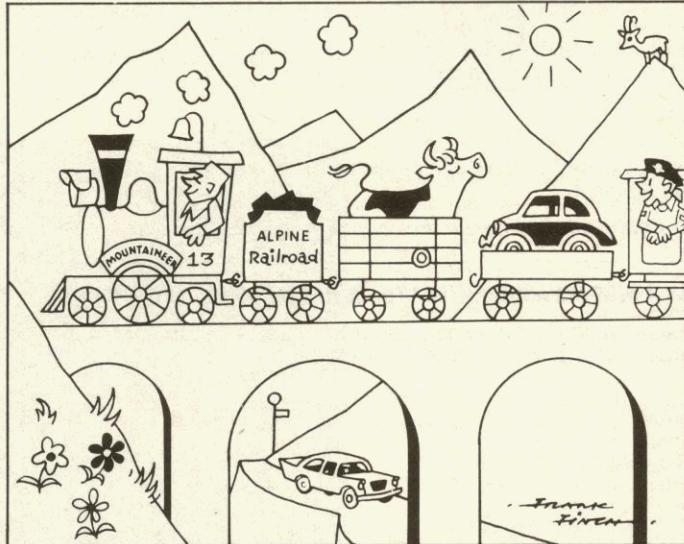
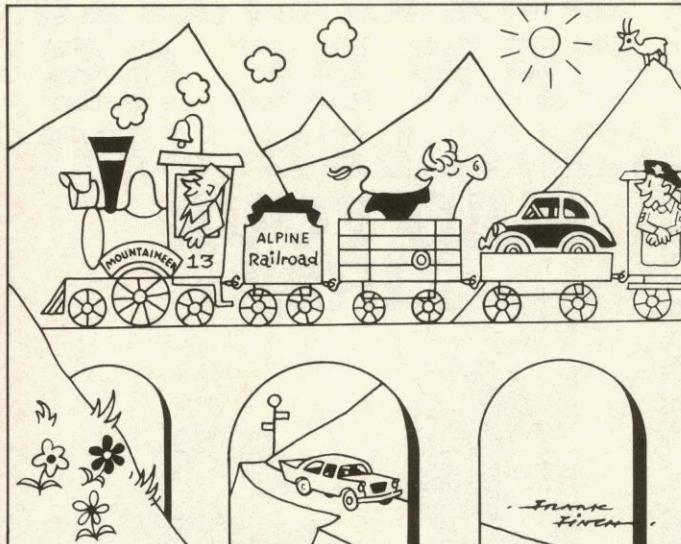
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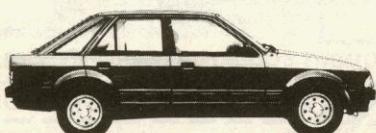
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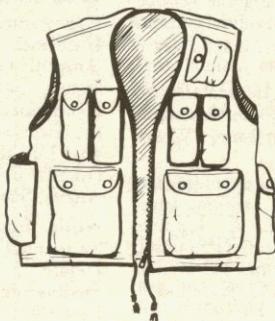
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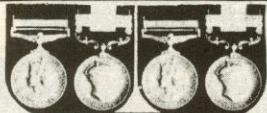
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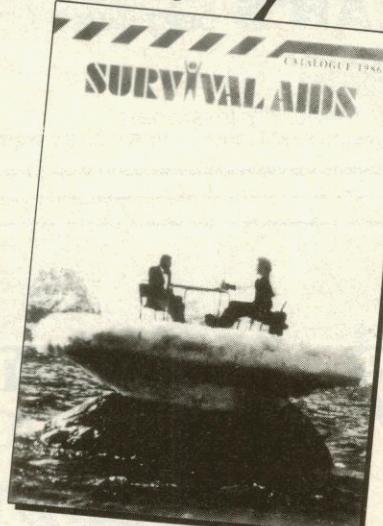
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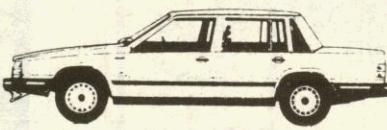
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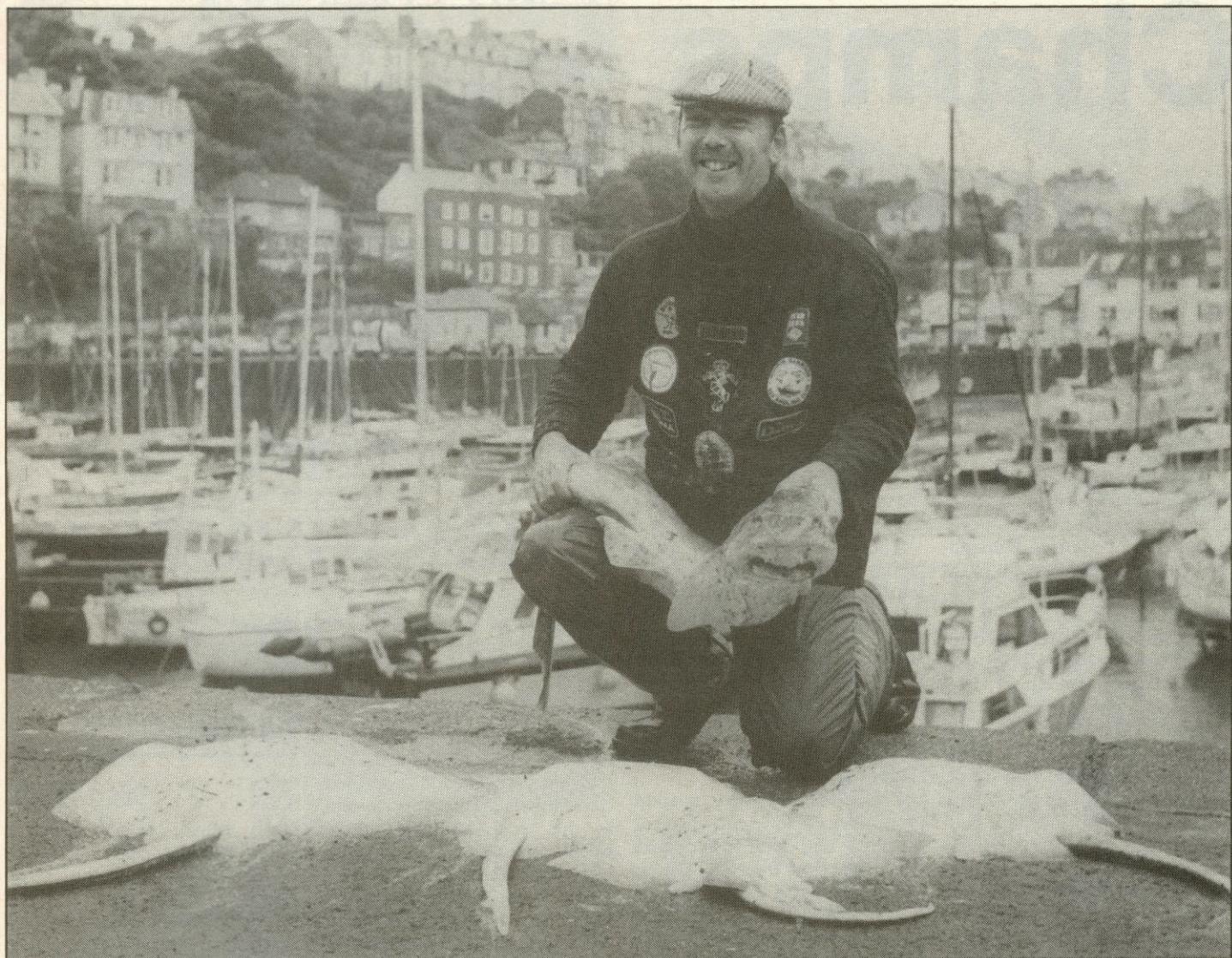
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Sport parachute

International flavour at Netheravon meet

SOME 250 competitors from six nations have just been taking part in the Army sport parachute championships at Netheravon, Wilts., vying for more than 20 trophies in the open, senior, intermediate and novice classes.

In addition to British Army teams there were entries from the

Royal Navy, Royal Marines, RAF, the USA, West Germany, Spain, Norway, Sweden and the Royal Omani Parachute Club.

Prizes were awarded for accuracy, style and formation jumping during the 12-day event. Reports and photographs will appear in the next *SOLDIER*.

Brewers double cup sponsorship

THE NAAFI Jubilee Football Cup is to have its sponsorship money doubled next season by brewers, Watney Mann and Truman. The brewers have backed the Inter-Service competition for 16 years and this year it will be sponsored by Fosters Lager.

The increased sponsorship means that the Army major units Cup Final will now be followed by a 'fun night' and there are many extra prizes to be won in the competition.

The Inter-Service boat angling championship was fished out of Ilfracombe and though the RAF won again the individual champion was SSgt Terry Vaughan of SEME Bordon with a total bag of 74lb. SSgt Vaughan (pictured above) also took the best specimen trophy with an 18lb bullhuss and WO2 Mike Parsons broke the area shore-caught bass record with a 13½lb fish.

Sappers on target

SAPPERS of 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hamelin pitted their wits against several teams of German engineers at a 1st Pioneer Battalion open day and swept the board in the shooting competitions.

They did not do as well in the water jousting and boat race but enjoyed themselves nonetheless, said a unit spokesman.

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Champs – again

THE ARMY retained the Inter-Services cricket championship by beating both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy with some ease during the three-day tournament at Burndy Road, Portsmouth.

Lt Paul Presland (AAC Middle Wallop) spearheaded the attack, taking 3-33, and was well supported by Cpl Steve Durston (3 Fd Wksp REME) with 2-15 and SSgt Neil Willis who returned figures of 2-37.

The airmen were restricted to 168 for nine in their 55 overs, a target which presented few problems to the Army.

Skipper Maj Barry Bennett (131 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) led the way with 57, and with Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (2 Bn GREN GDS) also hitting a half century and 2nd Lt Matthew Fleming (3 RGJ) weighing in with an undefeated 30, the Army romped home with nearly ten overs to spare.

RAF 168-9 (Presland 3-33, Durston 2-15, Willis 2-37). Army 169-5 (Bennett 57, Gordon Lennox 52, Fleming 30 n.o.). The Army won by 5 wickets.

In the deciding match the Royal Navy – who had also defeated the RAF – were bowled out for 175. Presland again bowled superbly, finishing with 5-42. Durston took 2-21.

Bennett and new cap WO1 Peter Wood (3 Fd Wksp REME) put on 55 for the first wicket to get the Army off to an excellent start.

Fleming, another new cap, confirmed the promise of his innings against the airmen by scoring an undefeated 56 as the Army went on to their second five-wicket win of the tournament – and the championship. Their 179-5 was achieved with eight overs still to be bowled.

RN 175 (Presland 5-42, Durston 2-21). Army 179-5 (Fleming 56 n.o., Wood 44, Bennett 27). The Army won by 5 wickets.

Last year the Army's Inter-Service wins were their only victories of the season. This year they have won five, lost five, drawn two and had two abandoned.

Chairman of Army cricket, Col

Cricket

Peter Salisbury, has been delighted with the improvement, particularly as the side is very young and should be even better next summer. Seven members of the team were 25 years old or less.

There were four new caps taking part in the Inter-Service tournament, Sgt Paul Woolnough (SEME Bordon) and Cpl Don Bascombe (School of Signals, Blandford) joining Wood and Fleming in their first taste of Service cricket at this level. Bascombe, in fact, has been playing Minor Counties cricket for Dorset.

There were two notable performances by Army players turning out for Combined Services against the NCA Young Cricketers at Lords. Capt Edward Gordon Lennox scored 123 not out and Lt Jonathan Willatt (45 Fd Regt RA) hit 53 in a game dominated for a change by the Servicemen.

Tennis trophy

The Group 5 Inter Unit Tennis Trophy was won by the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and was collected on behalf of the College by Lt M Shaw, Royal Signals.

Services to tour New Zealand

A United Kingdom Combined Services and Police rugby team will make a seven-match tour of New Zealand in May 1988.

The team will play one "test" against New Zealand Combined Services side and will also have matches against Navy, Army, Air Force and Police.

The itinerary, yet to be finalised, will also include two matches against local provincial sides.

The UK visit reciprocates



The winning canoeists with Lt Col Hugh Elford, the commanding officer (back, centre) after their success in the Army sprint and marathon championships

Busy paddlers sprint home

Canoeing

THERE WAS little respite for the canoeing team of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt who entered the Army sprint and marathon canoeing championships as soon as they had completed three weeks on exercise in Germany with their unit.

The team set up camp in Monmouth and trained for a week under the guidance of Lt Steve Jackson before taking part in the championships. But the hard work was soon to prove worthwhile.

The regiment won the sprint competition convincingly and everyone took part in at least five races.

Winners were: Men's Senior A, K1 1000m – Lt Steve Jackson; K1 500m – Lt Steve Jackson; Men's Senior B, K1

500m – Cpl Tony Tape; K2 500m – Cpl Tony Tape and Sig Chris Lloyd; Men's Class 5 kayak doubles 500m – LCpl Martin Elliot and Sig Gary Woodhouse.

The regiment also won the marathon championships which involved distances of 5, 9½ and 12 miles depending on the class of boat.

Individual winners were: Men's Senior A, K1 – Lt Steve Jackson; Men's Senior B, K2 – Cpl Tony Tape and Sig Chris Lloyd; Men's WWR Senior C – LCpl Martin Elliot; Ladies WWR – Lt Alison Mann.

Lt Steve Jackson, WO1 (RSM) Bill White, Cpl Tony Tape and Sig Chris Lloyd have been selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services competition this month.

Cyprus soccer back on the level

CYPRIOT villagers can now enjoy a game of both soccer and basketball thanks to men of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, based in Dhekelia.

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SOLDIER

