

SOLDIER

APRIL 4 1988

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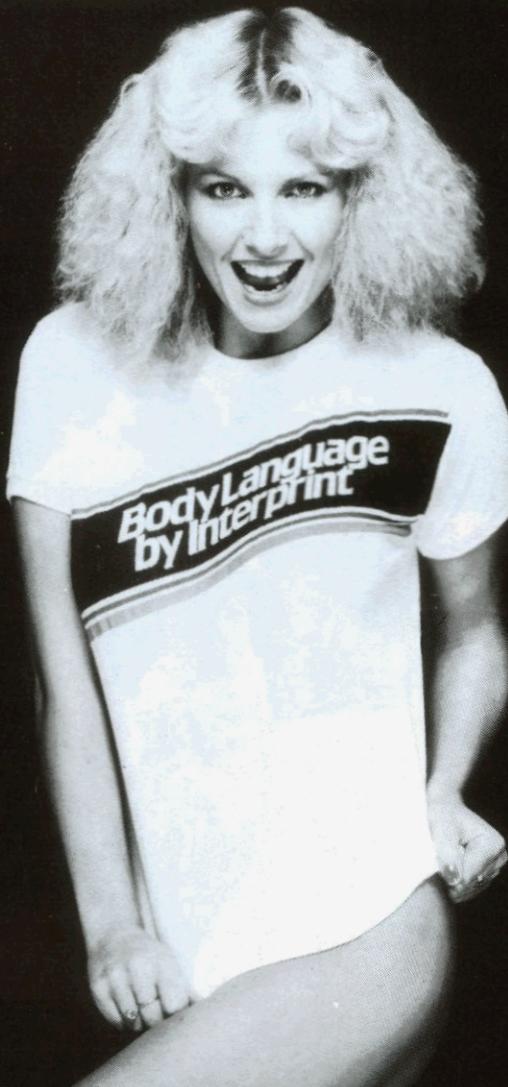
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FRONT COVER: It's tough at the front. Red shirted Army forwards provide a united rear as they go about their muscular business against the Royal Navy at Twickenham. See report and more pictures in Pages 50-51

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



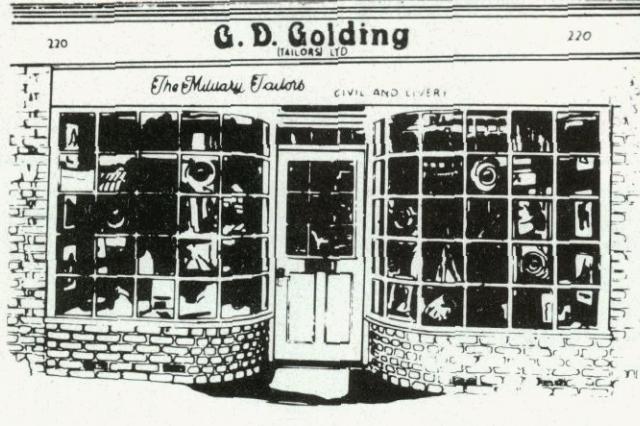
**NEXT
ISSUE**

BRITISH regiments are helping to keep the peace in Cyprus. SOLDIER has visited the United Nations force on the island and a report and pictures will appear in the next issue.

We've also been to BAOR to see the Challenger main battle tank and the men who operate it. Our first dispatch from the front will include an interview with the Commander 1 Division and a look at 2 RTR in the field.

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LETTERS

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Retirement at 54 may be unwise

In SOLDIER (Jan 25) Anne Armstrong wrote an article on pensions and unemployment benefit which is both inaccurate and misleading. She suggests that soldiers might be better off financially if they retire at age 54 rather than age 55 once new legislation reduces the age at which pensions affect income related benefits to 55.

MoD has in the past, and will continue, to press the Government to take into account potential difficulties which might arise because of Service life whenever legislation is proposed which will affect Servicemen.

The Adjutant General and the Secretary of State (Armed Forces) have represented our interests most forcefully on the subject of the change in the age at which a pension will affect

RSM on the telephone!

I found your article on the Junior Infantry Battalion (SOLDIER Feb 8) most interesting and informative but I could not help but draw a comparison between the young soldiers of today and those of the 1940s.

I accept that great social changes have taken place during the past 40 years, nevertheless it came as a shock to an old soldier like me to learn the drop out rate is 25 per cent and that the RSM spends half his time on the telephone to parents.

In my day it was a matter of pride to pass out in every subject on a rigorous infantry training course. — Harry Holder, ex 6 Royal Scots Fusiliers, Glenby, 100 Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire M33 5BZ.

eligibility to unemployment benefit.

It is likely, however, that everyone who retires with a pension at age 55 will lose their entitlement to unemployment benefit. They will not lose their entitlement to income related benefits which are generally of more importance to ex Servicemen than unemployment benefit.

Age is not the only factor which may affect eligibility to income related benefits.

There are many other rules some of which are more applicable to ex Servicemen than others. One in particular is the "capital cut off"; under this rule "an applicant must have less than £3,000 in savings to qualify for benefit.

As all Servicemen completing a normal pensionable engagement receive a terminal grant in excess of £3,000 they are therefore excluded from claiming this benefit. (This rises to £6,000 under new legislation.)

Most soldiers who wish to obtain employment do so before leaving the Army: Anne is wrong to suggest that many are unemployed.

Soldiers must be fully aware that if they retire early, they will lose part of their pension for ever.

The most important point that needs to be stressed is that anyone planning to leave the Army should examine their own personal financial situation carefully. Housing, employment and education needs vary enormously — everyone should seek expert financial advice when in doubt!

Essential reading for anyone who thinks they may be unemployed are the DHSS leaflets FB9, NI12 and N1230. — Lt Col M A Hayley, PS4(A) Ministry of Defence, Empress State Building, London SW6 1TR.



Our story on the Palestine veterans (SOLDIER February 8) brought a delighted response from Mr John Woods of Elm Farm, Landford, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 2BE, who served with the Palestine Regiment from 1943 until late 1947, starting as 2ic of the Jewish Training Coy, Palestine Training Depot (PDT), the depot of the Palestine Regiment. Mr Woods sent us this aerial picture of Camp 501. He says it is probably the only such picture in existence!

Camp 501 recalled

Palestine's sad war

With reference to your article "Veterans pilgrimage to the Holy Land" (SOLDIER, February 8), I served with the 2nd Bn, Lincolns, and places like Sarafand and the burnt out armoured lorries of the Jews came to mind. I was a driver in the MT section. Later some of us were transferred to HQ 1st Inf Div and drove in the MT section there.

In May 1948, the battalion came home but some of us had to take the transport across the Sinai Desert to Port Said, then on to Tripoli, only to serve our time out there.

A sad and forgotten war – people seem to remember Korea and Ireland but not Palestine. – F H Jennings, 50 Mildenhall Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 2PH.

Ski gun first to cross pass

I read with interest the article on the "Beast for all Seasons" (SOLDIER Feb 22) and it reminded me of the first use (to my knowledge) by operational units of its predecessor, the BV202.

Issues of the Volvo BV202 were made to units of the UK ACE Mobile Force in late 1969, with barely sufficient time for drivers to get to know their vehicles before they were launched on exercise in the snows of Norway.

We had skis made for the

105mm Pack/HOW by the REME workshops at Ludgershall and these enabled us to "reach the parts that previous gunners could not reach". Indeed a Norwegian brigadier led one gun tractor and ammunition limber over a mountain pass previously only traversed by infantry on skis. The comments afterwards by the detachment commander were concise if unprintable! – D J F Sibbald, 56 Manor Wood Rd, Purley, Surrey CR2 4LE.

Great Scot!

Hello Edinburgh. Calling Mr Martin Ogilvie of Caroline Terrace. You are the latest winner in SOLDIER's HOAY competition (No 432), so there's a cheque for £50 on its way to you. For a chance to win this issue's competition, turn to Page 39.

Wives comment made blood boil

I can only assume that your printing of a letter from ex-RSM John Kelly was either done to elicit a response or that you do not read these items before printing.

Apart from the nonsense about soldiers now having "very high wages" (my brother for example with only two children had to draw supplementary benefit), there were several other comments which raised my, and no doubt many others, blood pressure.

If my wife wishes to work she should be allowed to. What does Mr Kelly want me to do, chain her to the kitchen sink with a chain long enough to reach the bed and the TV on/off switch, so that I do not have to move to change channels?

I thought that in these times a woman was considered a

human being, not a mere cooking and breeding machine!

Please do not give any more print space to such conceited, arrogant, bigoted and antiquated opinions – you insult our intelligence and that of our wives by doing so. – Sgt A Taylor, HQ 7 Armd Bde, BFPO 39.

Ex RSM Kelly is entitled to his opinion, as are all our letter writers unless bad taste, security or the libel laws dictate otherwise. One fact to emerge from the instant and outraged response (see SOLDIER March 21) to Mr Kelly's views is that the modern soldier values his wife very highly indeed. That's certainly an opinion worth expressing! Other letters disagreeing with Mr Kelly have been received from LCpl S D Bate, 62 Ord Coy, BFPO 39; and Cpl D G Parkin, 154 FAD, BFPO 44. – Editor.

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★ Reunions and more letters in Page 33

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rifle, but very effective at close quarters.

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For those of you who have had enough of the Alan Whickers there's a chance to get to know your own neighbourhood.

If you're under 40 and fit, over 5'8" (172cm) if you're male, 5'4" (162cm) if you're female, and in possession of Army training, you could have a career in Civvy Street as a Police Officer.

That is of course if you can find the scissors.

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TOMORROW'S POLICE SERVICE. YOU COULD BE THE MAKING OF IT.

RENT-A-TRUCK ON THE ROAD

A UNIQUE new unit is being formed in BAOR in which all the personnel will be civilian and all the vehicles will be provided and maintained under a seven-year contract between the MoD and an American-based company, Ryders Truck Rentals Ltd.

Ryders are to supply 28 Mercedes Benz 2644S tractors and a similar number of UK-built King trailers with nine Ford Escort support cars.

The new unit, forming at Hamm, was to

be fully operational by April 5.

It will be part of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT and known as 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT Civilian Working Group (7 Tk Tptr Regt RCT CWG).

A total of 62 civilians are being recruited through 4 Pioneer Civil Labour Unit at Hamm.

The requirement stems from the planned increase in BAOR's light Armoured

Fighting Vehicle Fleet.

By 1993 it is estimated that this will result in 4,000 extra movements a year.

With the exception of main battle tanks and their derivatives the new unit will be able to lift the complete range of BAOR AFVs. Apart from reducing the number of expensive rail moves it will provide an environmental advantage by moving tracked vehicles on wheel through built up areas – particularly Dortmund and Paderborn.

Falklands give Fire Focus hot reception

MEN of 3 Para who fought in the Falklands campaign nearly six years ago have been playing the part of enemy in the islands.

Their opponents were the reinforcements flown in from Britain for Exercise Fire Focus 88. The incoming troops, including a battalion of the Light Infantry, were given a warmer welcome than expected.

Prepared for cold weather they discovered the Falklands was enjoying an unseasonal fine spell.

Playing a major part in the direction of the exercise was Aldershot's tri-Service organisation known as the PPG – Permanent Planning Group. It is made up of representatives of all three Services under an Army chief of staff.

The GOC South East District (Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere) is the PPG's permanent peace-time commander.

Royal Air Force Phantom jets and Royal Navy elements were also taking part in the exercise which was to test the speed at which the Falklands could be reinforced in an emergency.



Picture: Mike Perrin

Red Devil killed

THE Red Devils freefall parachute team have suffered their first fatal casualty since they were formed more than 20 years ago. LCpl Anthony Stewart (29) was killed after his chute became entangled with another canopy during a training drop in Portugal. • Sgt Ian Hunter (38) and SSgt Paul Gregg (32) of REME died when a vehicle overturned at Sennybridge, Wales.

Restraint of murdered NCOs praised

THE TWO corporals murdered during the funeral procession of an IRA sniper in West Belfast have been praised for their restraint in the face of a furious mob. Though both were armed with 9mm Browning pistols for their personal protection only one shot was fired as a warning when the crowd closed in round their car.

Eye witnesses said they seemed reluctant to use their weapons in the midst of men, women and children.

Lt Col Martin Roberts, Commander Communications Northern Ireland and the senior officer of the Royal Corps of Signals in the Province, said the Corps would long honour their memory.

"In particular, we will remember the courage and restraint shown when their vehicle came under attack.

"But for that I believe there might have been even greater carnage.

"I think this will be evident to all those who watched the scenes on television."

He described Cpl Derek Wood and Cpl David Howes as "two fine junior NCOs who loved the Army and its life".

Both men were radio telegraphists with about seven years service.

Cpl Wood, 24, also known to his friends as Del, had previously served in Northern Ireland attached to EOD squads. He was a keen rugby player.

Cpl Howes, 23, had captained the Royal Signals hockey team at Harrogate.

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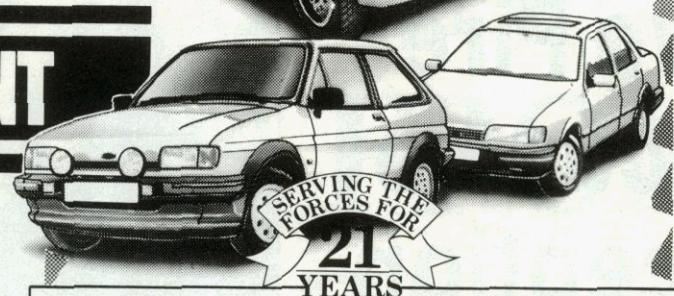
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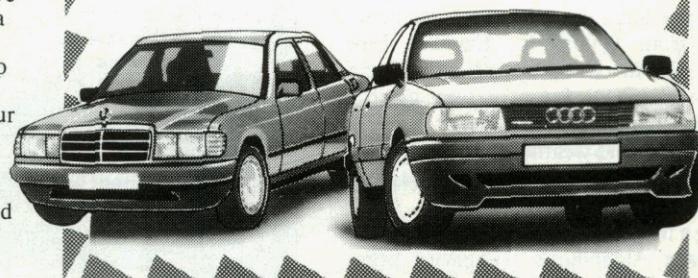


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Rare Sherman Priest tanks found

A CHANCE discovery in Germany of derelict Sherman "Priest" tanks has caused a stir among tank buffs for not one but three of the rare and valuable vehicles have been found lying derelict on a German training area, writes Laurie Manton.

Members of 7 Armd Workshop and 16 Tank Transporter Sqn, based at Fallingbostel have recovered two of the Priests from the Cremlingen range near Wolfenbuttel, and a third is to be recovered later.

The tanks, described by Lt Col George Forty, curator of the Royal Armoured Corps Museum in Bovington, Dorset as rare, are at present stored at 1st Armoured Division HQ in Verden.

Two are destined to be exchanged for a Sherman tank from a US Army collection while another will be shipped to the Bovington Museum which does not have an example of the tank.

The Sherman variants, officially known as Howitzer Motor Carriages M7, first came into service with the British Army in 1942, playing an important part in the crucial Battle of Alamein.

When in British service, they were designated as the 105mm SP, Priest and remained in service with the 8th Army throughout the Italy campaign. The "Priest" tag came about because the large machine gun mounting on the right of the tank looked like a pulpit.



One of the three Sherman "Priest" tanks discovered on a German training area. Two have so far been recovered and one is destined for the RAC museum at Bovington

Danger site cleared

BOMB disposal experts of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) RE have cleared one of the most dangerous sites on which they have had to operate.

Men of 49 Squadron based at Chattenden, Kent were called in after an explosion killed a workman during bulldozing operations behind the town hall at Normanton near Wakefield, Yorks.

The land formerly belonged to a company

which made detonators from 1913 to 1972 and clumps of these fused together were detected beneath the surface. Over the years the explosive had become more sensitive than TNT.

In Operation Nobel the sappers used radio controlled diggers, earth crushers and a pulverising roller before the contaminated soil was removed in dumper trucks driven by soldiers.

6 LI in infantry business

THIRTY-SIX businessmen from the South West paid £25 each to take part in Exercise Executive Stretch on Bodmin Moor in which they submitted themselves to a leadership test prepared by 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Light Infantry.

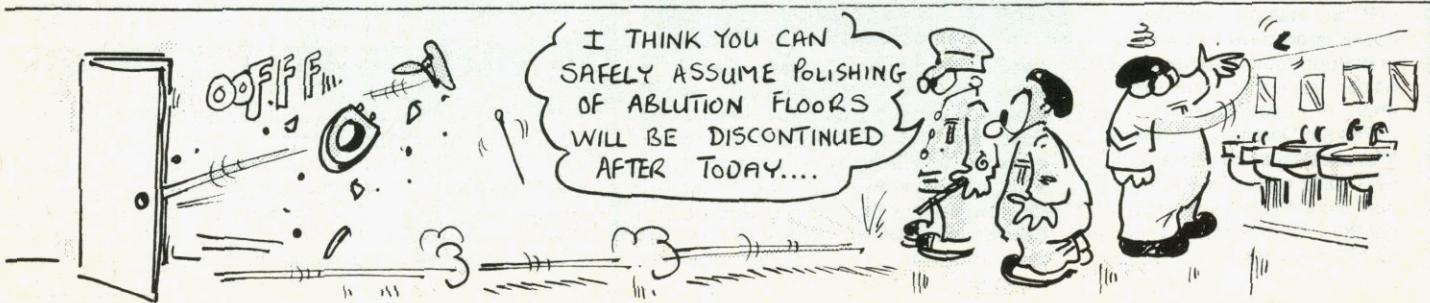
Six-men teams with an Army instructor

"yomped" across the moor and were faced with a river crossing. They went on to tackle a cliff climb, a beach assault and other infantry tasks.

Now there is a waiting list for the next course which 6 LI, which has its HQ in Bath, will run in July.

MOBB

by Mouse





Dishy Debbie

HER dish of fish, chicken and veg and queen's pudding earned **WPte Deborah Sherlock** the Eastern District's "Young Cook of the Year" title. Debbie (22) is married to **LCpl Stewart Sherlock** who is also a chef at the Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Herts.

★ ★ ★

FORMER gunner **Eddie Kirkup** made his mark in Evje, Norway when he tackled an intruder at the local post office. Eddie, who has opened a restaurant in the town, lives above the post office and was awoken in the early hours of the morning by suspicious noises downstairs.

By the time the police arrived they found Eddie standing guard over a trussed up would-be burglar. Eddie's stock in the town rose even higher when it was learned the intruder had threatened him with a knife.

★ ★ ★

MEN of 55 Coy RAOC, the TA unit in Heston, Middlesex, could hardly have had a more knowledgeable inspecting officer than the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London.

The Lord Lieutenant is **Field Marshal The Lord Bramall**, who watched the unit at work during a drill night, inspected a parade and later joined members of the unit in their bar.

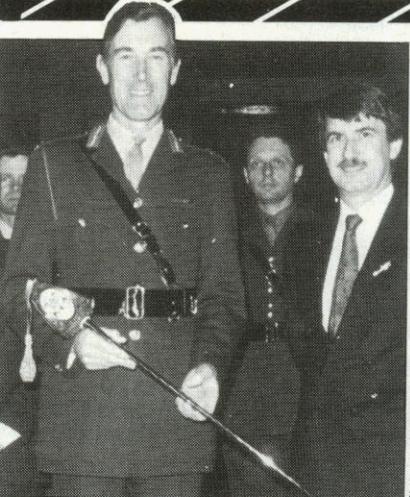
Baby Jamie leaps into contention

BABY Jamie Alexander Robson guaranteed himself an out of the ordinary birth certificate when he arrived in BMH Munster on the morning of February 29.

Jamie, who weighed in at 6lb 6oz is the first child of LCpl Alan and Mrs Heather Robson. He is pictured with Mum and Capt Jennifer Gunning of the hospital's maternity

unit. Dad is serving with 31 Ord Coy at Portsmouth Barracks, Munster.

Because Jamie was born before midday he will celebrate his birthday on February 28.



Dad's boy!

OC 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE (V) **Maj Barry Bennett** congratulates **Spr Paul Robinson** (17), the youngest man in the unit, on gaining his green beret at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon. Oldest soldier in the unit is Paul's dad, Capt Keith Robinson (left), 131's Commando Training Officer.

Bronze medal for Jason

A BRONZE life saving medal of the Order of St John is to be awarded to **Jason Foley**, now training at REME Arborfield, for his actions in dealing with a car crash last summer. Jason, then a corporal in the ACF, has had his award approved by the Grand Prior of the Order of St John, the Duke of Gloucester. Only about 160 bronze medals have been awarded in the past 100 years.

What a laugh!

OBVIOUSLY enjoying our centre-fold (!) are Capt Marsha Dorge (left), and Capt Joanna Calder, editor and assistant editor respectively of **Sentinel**, the magazine of the Canadian Forces. Marsha and

Joanna, who are Reserve officers and work full time for the Directorate of Information Services at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, confess they have never cracked our HOAY competition.



Picture: Sgt Arthur Thomson

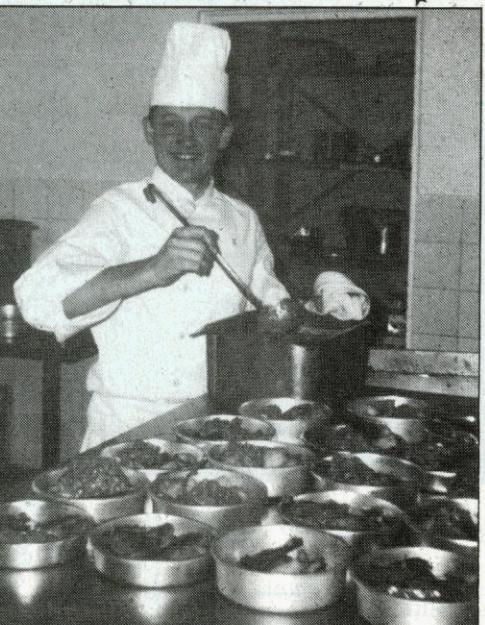


HEART transplant patient Deryck Carter (left) celebrated his return to full health by making a 12,000 feet tandem jump with the Red Devils parachute display team. Pictured with team member LCpl Greg Cox, Mr Carter (56) made the jump to raise money for Harefield Hospital

ARRON'S ROUND

MAINSTAY of Larkhill based 14 Fd Regt RA's meals on wheels service to 20 senior citizens in the nearby village of Durrington, Pte **Arron Hardisty ACC** (pictured right) serves up helpings for his old age pensioners. The regiment's catering staff under the auspices of the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill, Wilts has been providing meals for the OAPs for the past ten years.

Arron, who dishes up, loads the vehicle and delivers to the door, has become a firm favourite with the old folk on his round.



PEOPLE

Torch runner

WO2 **Ross Clark**, supply controller at Ord Coy, British Army Training Unit Suffield, Canada, was one of the lucky volunteers chosen to carry the Winter Olympics flame to Calgary.

Ross, accompanied by wife **Valerie** and daughters **Laura** and **Nicola**, carried the torch on a 1km stretch of road outside Medicine Hat, not far from his Suffield base.

Ross has served in BATUS for two years and plans to start a restaurant business in British Columbia when he retires in the summer.



WELL STONE ME! Gen Mostyn receives his farewell present from Lt Col John Powell, CO 1 Green Howards

Down missile memory lane

THE Adjutant General, **Gen Sir David Mostyn**, received a pretty unusual gift when he paid a farewell visit to the 1st Bn The Green Howards in Londonderry. They gave him a bit of rock mounted on an inscribed wooden plinth!

Both rock and wooden base had been thrown at a patrol of Green Howards. The somewhat bizarre trophy commemorates Gen Mostyn's time in command of 8 Inf Bde (1972-74) during which time he was injured by a missile thrown in the Bogside area of Londonderry.

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But of course, to fully appreciate the 405, you really must get behind the wheel and drive it. For when it comes to handling and performance, we've virtually cornered the market.

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When tanks flew!

The claim by *Soviet Military Review* that the world's first tank was made in Russia (see **SOLDIER** November 16, 1987) has been followed by another snippet of information which may not be known to all tank enthusiasts - a flying tank!

Apparently Soviet aircraft designer Oleg Antonov built an experimental flying tank during the Second World War.

The Soviet publication reveals that the tank had huge wings and a landing gear. An aircraft towed the tank to the designated area where it was unhooked and glided down. When it landed on the ground the "flying fortress" (SMR's quotes) cast off its wings.

Does any well informed **SOLDIER** reader know what became of the flying tank?



LCpl Peter Lygo of 8 Sqdn RCT and a white walled wheel

GOOD NEWS FROM OSSETT

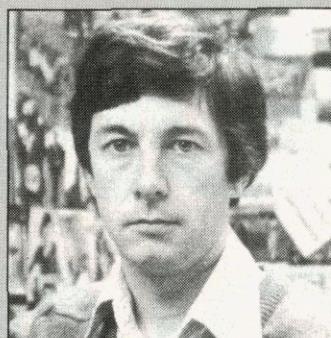
Former **SOLDIER** photographer Paul Haley, now running his own business in Ossett, West Yorkshire, thought he had stumbled on a scoop while replacing an external door post at his studio.

Between the post and the outside stonework was wedged a newspaper in which the first column was headlined: *Mafeking's Relief - Good news*

expected in a week or so.

On checking, Paul (right) discovered the paper was a copy of the *Daily Mail* dated Thursday May 10, 1900. Folded several times, crushed into a tight space and covered with a sort of mastic, it was not in the best of condition.

But he was able to learn that the report had been filed in Lourenco Marques on May 9, 1900.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

Wait 'til you see the whites of their tyres

Look out for 16-tonne vehicles with white walled tyres. No 8 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, has been given authority from the beginning of April to revive an old tradition dating back to the Opium Wars in which 8 Company Royal Engineers played an important part.

The sappers painted the wheels of commandeered local wagons white to identify them as the French, our allies, were in the habit of trying to appropriate them - transport being scarce.

"Apparently the company continued the practice up to 1882 when it became 8 Railway Company, the first unit of its kind in the Army," said Capt

John Colley, OC 8 Squadron, which numbers 8 Company among its predecessors, having been transferred from the RE when the RCT was formed.

The squadron is now stationed at Buller Barracks, Aldershot where the white-walled 16-tonne vehicles have been on parade.

Erskine expands

Two new wards are to be built at Erskine Hospital at Bishopston, near Glasgow, because of the increasing demand for places in Britain's largest hospital for disabled ex-Servicemen and women.

"Most of the patients we are now asked to take are older and require a higher level of medical and nursing care than previously," says Admiral Sir Thomas Baird, chairman of the hospital.

Plans are being made for 48 more bed spaces. Erskine already cares for 350 disabled ex-Service personnel, 28 of whom served in the First World War.

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



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LEADING THE WAY IN CAR TECHNOLOGY.

SECRET OF THE SIXTH FLOOR

Monty's caravan in MoD shocker

THE replica of Field Marshal Montgomery's caravan built on the sixth floor of the Ministry of Defence is to be registered again as an Army vehicle and given its own number plate, writes Bill Moore.

SOLDIER can reveal exclusively that its construction was part of a highly classified security exercise.

The aftermath of "Ex Top Tiffin" has led to a stringent review of security arrangements at the Ministry where a spokesman said: "We never give details of our arrangements for obvious reasons."

However, it is believed that some 150lbs of nuts, bolts and rivets were smuggled into the closely guarded building by poker-faced Brasshats and that the sheet metal involved was carried in blatantly by two retired officers (ex-Eighth Army) wearing dungarees. They said they were there to mend a hole in the roof over the ladies' lavatory.

"Biggest problem," said a member of the Army Board with a twinkle in his eye, "were the tyres. Amazing how many secretaries became six months pregnant for an afternoon without anyone noticing."

The caravan itself is a replica not of the famous Normandy model but the pre-Alamein vehicle in which a little Egyptian sand has been scattered to lend atmosphere.

It has been installed in the space once occupied by a cloakroom (removed in its entirety by the two retired ex-Eighth Army officers in their role as workmen).

No one under the rank of major general worked on it apart from a detachment of REME craftsmen for whom it was classified as continuation training. They were taken into the MoD dressed as colonels and brigadiers.

The minute attention to detail in the replica astonished ex-Pte Dominic O'Hegerty who, as an RASC driver, was once responsible for the caravan.

Mr O'Hegerty, now of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, which he got to know well

while waiting for D-Day, was specially cleared to accompany SOLDIER to the sixth floor.

"I've never seen the like," he said. "Didn't I spend a couple of hours right there?"

He pointed to a simple cane chair.

"It happened the day I accidentally drove off with himself - he was only a general

then - still inside.

"I was bowling down the road to Matruh (or was it Alex?) when I noticed in my big wing mirror this head out of the window and someone waving.

"At first I just waved back and then I realised something was wrong. The truth was I was a bit lost.

"The general was very good

about it when I stopped and let him out. He said he would drive and I could sit in the caravan bit... as long as I didn't smoke mind you. He couldn't abide that.

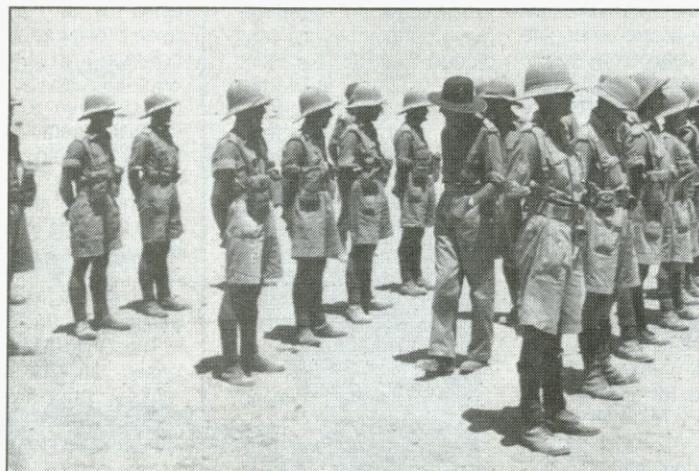
"Well, we stopped at the first MPs we came to and I was posted to bomb disposal soon afterwards."

In deference to Monty, smoking is still forbidden in the sixth floor caravan.

A slightly discordant note might have been struck by the cocktail cabinet (not in the original) but this has been cunningly concealed behind the photo of Rommel and is opened only for "visiting heads of state and generals of three star rank and above."

According to reports the Prime Minister has paid a private visit, sat in Monty's chair and scored a direct hit on Rommel's ear with one of the darts Monty used to throw at it. They had been intended by Monty to be his farewell present to Pte O'Hegerty - but other events intervened.

Personnel of the 50th Division are pictured being inspected by Field Marshal Montgomery. Pte O'Hegerty is just visible on the extreme left of the photograph



LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP - TIP ONE

BEWARE THE HOME SWEET HOME TALK...

DON'T rush into the private housing market until you are aware of the pitfalls?

Service families can let themselves in for all sorts of problems - especially when they are posted overseas.

New legislation to release more houses on to the private market and to encourage local authority tenants to take advantage of the Right to Buy scheme could make it increasingly difficult for Service families to find rented accommodation in the future.

I have been warning for some years now that local authority housing is drying up fast.

If you are homeless the unhappy choice facing you could be bed and breakfast accommodation or sub standard housing (see SOLDIER November 2, 1987).

It is not surprising that more and more Servicemen are turning to the private sector - or that a stream of tempting housing schemes are coming on to the market.

But before you fall for the glossy brochures and smooth sales talk please take stock of your options.

It is so easy to fall into a trap which you will later regret. Once you are posted overseas there are a host of potential problems. For example, are you UK Ordinarily Resident or not? This could have Capital Gains Tax implications for you.

Your tax position could change if you buy the house as an investment

In my view...

rather than your main residence.

Will you occupy the house before you let it, or re-occupy it before you sell? If in doubt consult the Inland Revenue. Your status could have a bearing on education grants, tax liability and DHSS benefits.

Evicting tenants can be painful - and expensive! Who pays for the court case, you or your agency?

Will you be insured against loss of income at a time when you are still paying rent for your quarter?

To be fair, most people do not have problems when they opt to go private. But a house is likely to be the largest financial outlay you make during your lifetime so do read the small print and find a scheme which suits you.

It is not unheard of for mortgages to be called in and the house sold off because payments could not be maintained. The Serviceman who has a steady income must remember that his wife may not always be in work. The temptation to overreach the family income should be avoided.

CALLING ALL MIDWIVES

SSAFA is pressing ahead with plans for an effective Community Midwifery Service in Germany.

I have been told officially that all future interviews will be held in the UK for those dependants whose husbands are being posted to British Forces Germany.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP - TIP TWO

This brief encounter could be for keeps

THE Chaplains' HQ at Bagshot Park, Surrey, had some interesting visitors the other day.

John and Sara Wheatley, who belong to an organisation called Marriage Encounter, based on Christian principles and formed to assist couples make the best of their marriages, went along to see how the Army does things.

Marriage courses are held periodically at Bagshot for newly-weds or engaged couples.

They are designed primarily to give young wives an insight into Surrey.) Service life as it affects dependants.

Marriage Encounter also operates a series of weekends.

A dozen or so couples may attend at an hotel, guest house or conference centre.

Teams of two or three couples plus a clergyman and his wife give a series of talks to the group -



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
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THOSE BENEFIT CHANGES AND YOU

THIS month is the deadline for the introduction of the remaining changes to the new Social Security Act which could affect Service families overseas.

From now on the Unemployment Benefit disqualification period has been increased from 13 weeks to 26 weeks, while Family Income Supplement (FIS) has been replaced by Family Credit.

This new benefit is for employed people with children who do not have enough to live on. A major change is that it has to be applied for every six months, unlike the old FIS which was done on an annual basis. Some Service families may well be eligible.

Housing Benefit also changes under new measures to assist those on low incomes. Service families who have been or are claiming rent and rate rebates may be affected.

It also applies to full time students during their sum-

mer vacation and those not living in halls of residence.

Benefit can cover some or all rent and up to 80 per cent of the rates.

Then there is the Social Fund to help people with exceptional expenses which they cannot meet out of their regular income.

Three types of discretionary payment are available under the following categories:

- Budgeting loans
- Crisis loans
- Community care

I'm still waiting for information on just how Service families will fare with the new Social Security Act and I will pass it on as soon as I can.

There is a new freephone advice service for employers and the self-employed wanting to know how to operate National Security Insurance Statutory Sick and Maternity Pay - it is 0800 393539.

Please check with BFPOs to make sure they have the new DHSS leaflets.*

(*RR1 - Help with housing costs; RR2 - A guide to Housing Benefit.)

No need to feel down in the mouth

HERE's a toothy problem you may have to grin and bear!

If you are serving overseas and you request dental or ophthalmic treatment in excess of UK standards laid down by the NHS you may have to pay the difference out of your own pocket.

Full details of what you can expect are to be found in AGAI Chapter 66 Issue 17 para 66291-66302.

On the other hand, I have just come across a case where Service parents posted abroad were unaware of the help MOD can give when there are no Service facilities available.

They can obtain treatment from accredited embassy or high commission panels of medical and dental specialists unless other arrangements have been made.

Families needing orthodontist treatment should

seek advice from the consultant in dental surgery based at the RAMC College, Millbank, London. Parents of children already undergoing such treatment should register with the consultant to avoid delays if a course of treatment is interrupted by a posting.

The reason is that dental surgeons and orthodontists treat patients under the NHS. Each course of treatment is an entirely separate contract between the practitioner and the Dental Estimates Board of the DHSS.

The orthodontist/dental surgeon does not have a panel, list or register of patients for whom he is paid a capitation fee by the DHSS.

Once a course of treatment is completed patients and consultants are free from any further commitment to each other.

LORD NELSON, AHOY!

FOR the past 13 years the Guild of St Helena has been providing marvellous holidays at Shorncliffe, Kent for Service children (aged seven to 13) with special needs. Many of those children, however, are now too old to take advantage of the opportunity to put to sea.

Lifts give access to the level decks - the *Lord Nelson* can take up to eight wheelchair-bound crew members - and navigation aids include an audio compass for the blind and bright track screens for the partially sighted.

The Guild of St Helena, based at Chelsea Barracks, London SW1W 8RF (telephone 01-930 4466 ext 4258), is looking for up to six Service youngsters for a sailing holiday on the Jubilee Sailing Trust's specially equipped square rigger *Lord Nelson*.

There is a modern sick bay on board, complete with a resident doctor.

Service children chosen to take up the berths sponsored by the Guild of St Helena can be sure of one thing - they will enjoy an exciting holiday!



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FOILED BY FUJI

A PARTY of eight from the Catterick based Queen's Royal Irish Hussars believe they were blazing a new trail for Army adventurous training exercises when they walked part of Japan's ancient Tokaido Highway and attempted to climb Mount Fuji in winter.

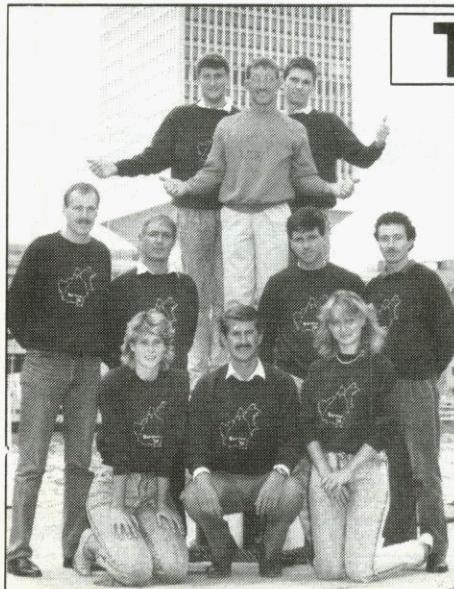
Local predictions suggested the attempt to climb Japan's highest mountain in winter would be a severe test, and that is just what it proved to be. Temperatures

down to -30 degrees, high winds and blizzards forced the party to abandon the climb when they were within two or three hours of the summit.

Led by Capt Jonathan Alms, they started their trek along the road used by feudal lords of the Edo period at the village of Moto-Hakone and finished at Lake Motosu. On the way they were made welcome at several US bases.



Irish Hussars at Moto-Hakone in Japan. In the front is Tpr Rob Young and at the back (from left) are LCpl Bill Wood, Tpr Les Hawkes, Tpr Brian Collins, LCpl Robert Hamilton, Capt Jonathan Alms, Lt Tony Sherwell and Sgt Brian Farmer



TIP TOP RMPs

LED by Capt John Tennent, ten members of 176 Provost company, RMP left behind the cold and rain of Londonderry for a four week exercise to climb Borneo's Mount Kinabalu - at 13,455 feet the highest mountain in South East Asia.

En route the team (pictured left) was hosted by Hong Kong Provost Company for several days.

From Hong Kong they flew to Brunei where they acclimatised by living in basha's in the jungle for five days.

All members of the exercise reached the summit of Kinabalu, before returning to Brunei. Later they travelled by boat and dug out up the river Baram in Sarawak to Mulu to visit the world's largest cave system.



A long hitch to Nepal

Cheerfully waiting for a lift on the first stage of their journey to Nepal are a party of WRAC and WRNS personnel serving with the British Forces Garrison in Hong Kong. They are part of a group of ten, mostly from the women's Services, who are attempting to trek from Pokhara to the Annapurna base camp. From left to right are Pte Mandy Hewitt WRAC, LWren Paula Druet WRNS, SSgt Liz Fearon WRAC, Cpl Judith Sherman WRAC, 2nd Officer Trish Cunnison WRNS, Capt Jeanette Cox WRAC and Pte Cozy Calabrese WRAC

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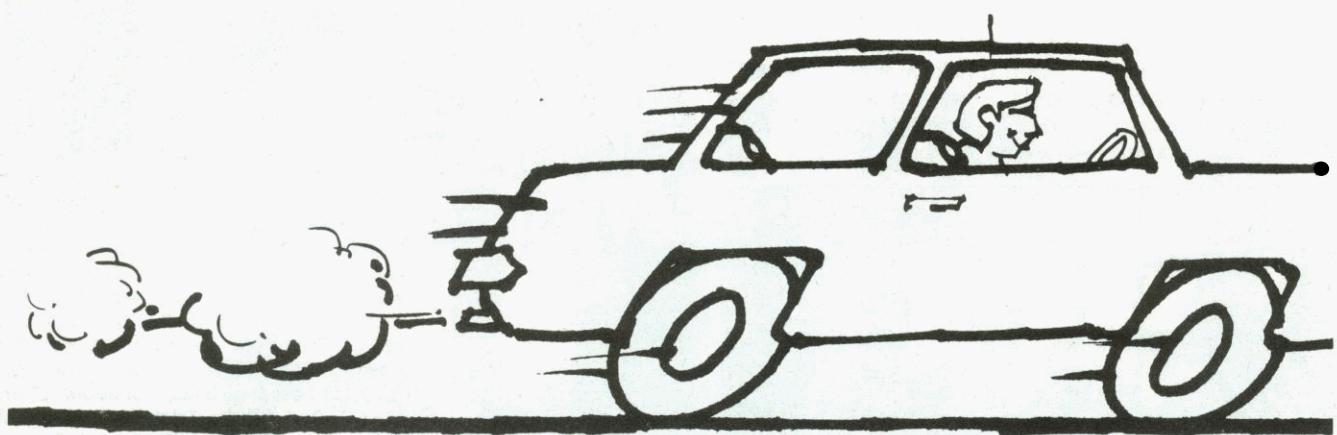
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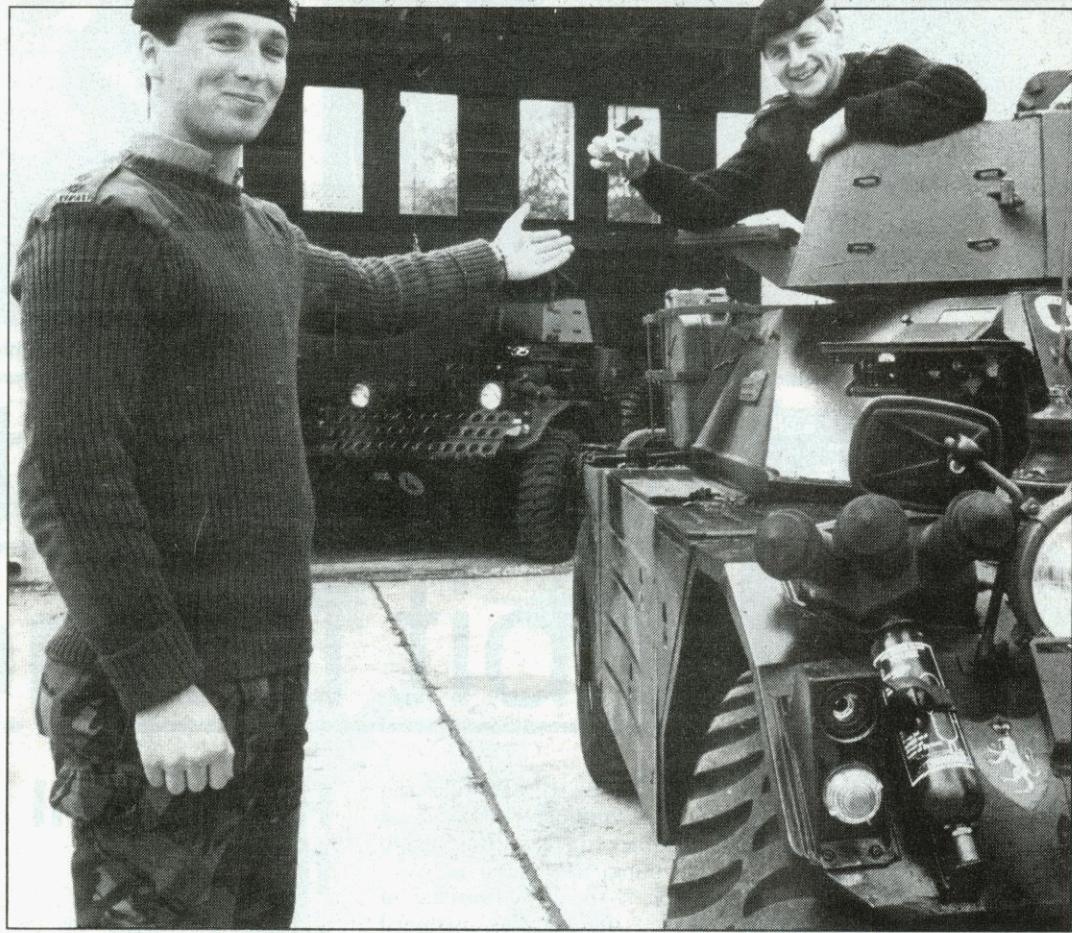
Lancers swap Germany for recce tour in sunshine

"THERE you are, it's all yours!" Staging an unofficial handover for SOLDIER's lensman were Lt Reg Smith, 3 RTR, and Lt Angus Shields, 17/21 L, members of the outgoing and incoming armoured recce squadrons.

After two years in the sun, F Sqn 3 RTR are joining the rest of the regiment for its move from Bovington to Hemer, near Dortmund, West Germany, where they are being equipped with Challenger.

Lt Smith said: "We are obviously a bit rusty after two years away but the regiment has volunteered for everything over the next few months to knock it into shape quickly.

"We are tank soldiers by definition but these two years have given us an insight into the armoured recce role. I am



KEY MOMENT: Lt Reg Smith hands over the Cyprus armoured recce squadron keys to Lt Angus Shields (left)

looking forward to the next posting when we convert from Chieftain to Challenger."

Lt Shields, of Munster based B Sqn 17/21 L, said: "Cyprus is really the only sunshine posting

left for armoured regiments these days and the lads are looking forward to a break from Germany."

The British Forces Cyprus armoured recce squadron is

equipped with Ferrets and Saladins – invariably older than the men crewing them – and protects the Sovereign Base Areas at Episkopi and Dhekelia.

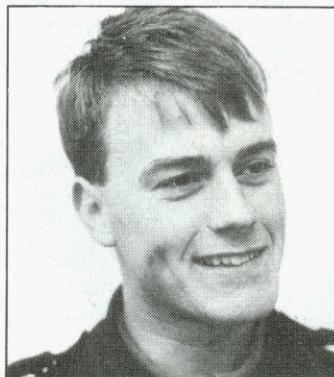
FROM SILVER SERVICE TO SALADIN DAYS . . .

HOTEL waiter Stephen Harrison could not believe his ears when the call went out for Territorial Army volunteers to join the Cyprus recce squadron in a six months temporary attachment.

"I leapt at the chance," said Tpr Harrison, 20, who was a member of the Royal Devon Yeomanry before signing up with 3 RTR for his sunshine posting.

"I had always enjoyed the TA and knew I had to give this one a go – if only to find out what life is like with the Regulars.

"It was completely different



Tpr Stephen Harrison

to what I expected. I thought the regime would be stricter, but though the atmosphere is less formal than I imagined it

certainly seems to work very well.

Tpr Harrison spent two weeks at Bovington getting used to the ins and outs before joining 3 RTR on Cyprus in August.

"It has been a marvellous experience," he said.

Others joined the squadron too – one has decided to sign on with the regiment permanently – but Tpr Harrison is returning to civvy street.

"I shall carry on with the TAs, and hopefully will be able to pass on a little of the experience I have gained here," he said.

Wheel pool

MANY units visit Cyprus on exercise and there to make sure they have transport are SSgt Steve Willingham and Cpl Keith Davies of the RCT.

The two men run a pool of 75 vehicles and assorted trailers ranging from Land Rovers and Bedford trucks to water bowsers and electricity generators.

"If anyone needs a refrigerator to keep their rations fresh we can provide them with one," said SSgt Willingham, who also has two civilian staff in his workshop.



Tapping a tune are men of the battalion's Corps of Drums



Men of 4 Coy with the Carl Gustav 84mm anti-tank weapon

Guards on guard

GUARD duties are very much the order of the day for the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards who have just started a two year tour of duty in Cyprus.

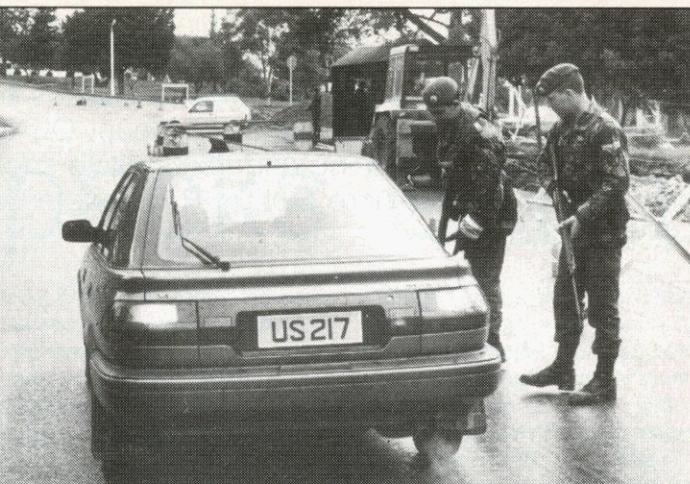
Tasked with protecting the Western Sovereign Base Area and with helping the RAF Regiment secure the perimeter of RAF Akrotiri, the battalion is also responsible for the security of the Mount Olympus radar site and the Troodos leave centre.

All of which comes as

something of a change from London as LCpl Jonathon Rule, 4 Coy, noted: "Life seems a little slower, that's for sure."

Lt James Moore said: "Internal security duties all the time can be dull but they are very necessary here. The sports and recreational side does balance things out."

Based at Salamanca Barracks, Episkopi, the battalion's Corps of Drums are already much in demand.



Grenadier Guardsman man a VCP at the entrance to Episkopi garrison



Miracles take a bit longer!

REME will fix it . . .

WHEN the REME tradesmen of 48 Cyprus Workshops boast that they can turn their hand to anything, they mean it.

Be it the base overhaul of Ferrets and Saladins – stripped down to the last rivet and rebuilt – or the precise calibration of electronic and mechanical test equipment, they will tackle it.

One of their more unusual

undertakings recently was the building of an elaborate frame to enable children at a local Red Cross home suffering from muscular dystrophy to stand upright by themselves.

Links between the local

community and the REME workshops at Akrotiri and Dhekelia are strong.

Both employ Cypriots and almost a quarter of those working at Akrotiri – the larger of the two workshops – travel daily from Larnaca, a round trip of 120 miles.

Many used to work at the workshop when it was based at Larnaca. It moved after the Turkish invasion of 1974 and was split into two, leaving a smaller workshop at Dhekelia.

The Akrotiri workshop now occupies two large aircraft hangars and a number of smaller buildings belonging to the Royal Air Force.

It is tasked with the maintenance of virtually all Army equipment in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) and the intermediate repair of vehicles and other technical equipment held by the RAF and the United Nations British contingent.

Its aircraft servicing detachment is responsible for major servicing of Army helicopters in Cyprus but this will cease when the Alouette is replaced by Gazelle later this year.

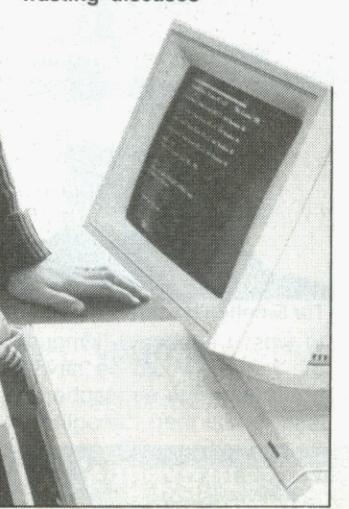
It is also responsible for the recovery of vehicles throughout the WSBA and Troodos.

Almost 150,000 man hours are expended each year at the Akrotiri workshop in support of some 70 units, including those visiting the island.

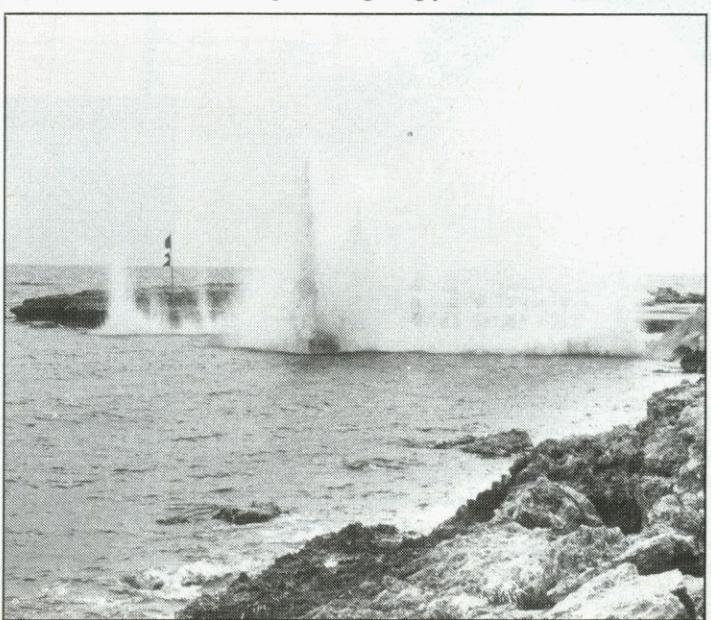
About half of the repair

Left – How did we manage it? Lt Col Adrian Powell, CO Headquarters REME and 48 Cyprus Workshops, and SSgt Ray Wallis, Chief Clerk, get to grips with the unit's new computer

Top left – Sgt Mike Newman makes a last check on the special frame for youngsters suffering from muscular wasting diseases



All good practice! Sappers lay charges on an underwater ridge endangering yachts at Dhekelia . . .



. . . and there she blows! Another job well done

Sappers dive to sailors' rescue

A DULL thud and a geyser of water signalled the destruction of an underwater hazard beneath moorings belonging to Dhekelia Sailing Club.

Several yachts had been damaged by a ridge of rock below the waterline and a plea for help was answered by the diving team of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE.

Delighted at an opportunity to put their skills to good use, the seven strong team drilled holes into the rock, filled them with explosives and then stepped back to witness the result.

It was another job well done at the end of a winter that has seen members of the squadron engaged in a wide variety of tasks – not least the clearance of snow in the Troodos Mountains.

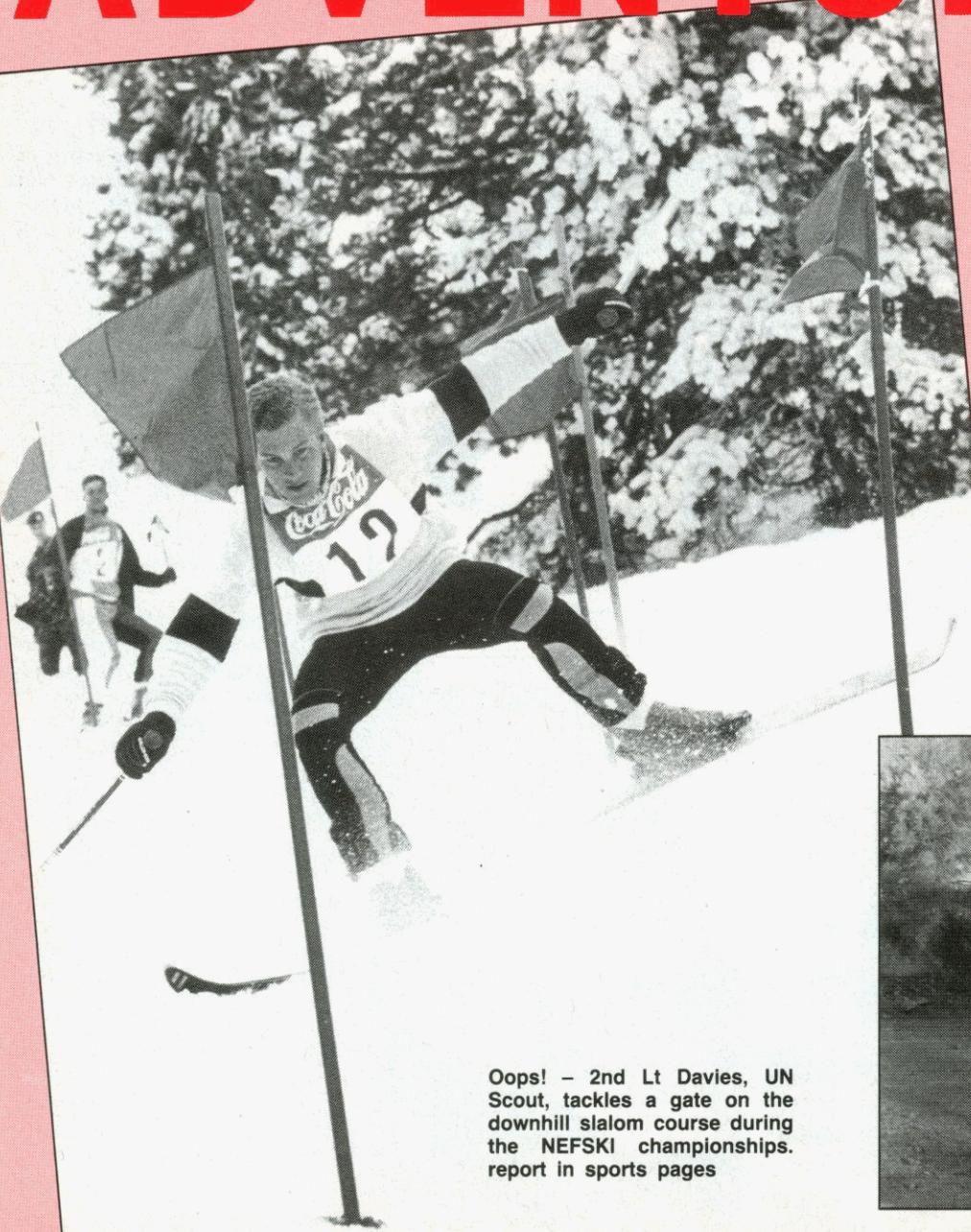
Assignments range from the building of sangars at vehicle check points around the Sovereign Base Areas to the construction of patrol and access tracks among the mineral-rich – and often precipitous – mountains along the UN ceasefire line.

Sappers are currently engaged in the building of six tower-type observation posts on the perimeter of RAF Akrotiri, each 20-foot structure taking some six to eight weeks to erect.

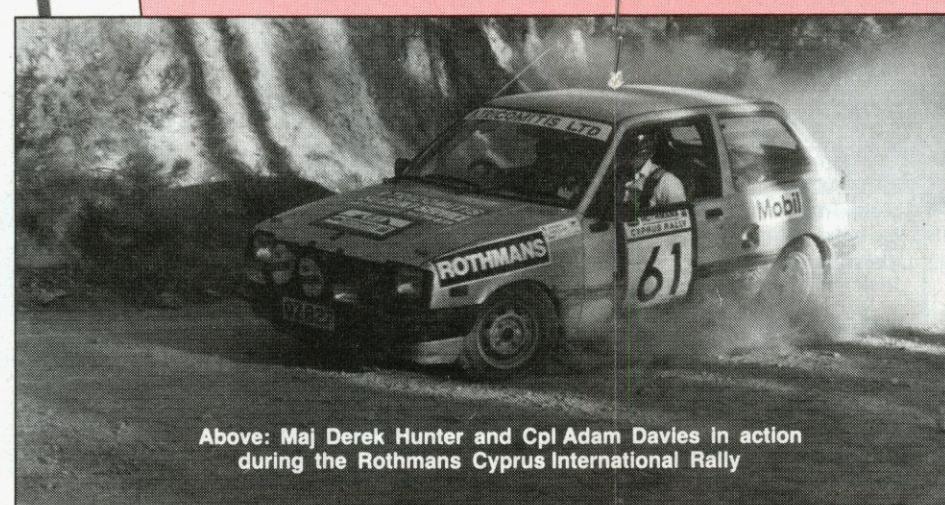
Island of adventure

CYPRUS, one of the few sunshine postings still available to British Servicemen, is a heaven-sent posting to all manner of sporting activities. Winter, of course, has its attractions too. Skiers flock to the leave centre at Troodos and take on the slopes of Mount Olympus, the island's highest peak. Adventurous training and competitive sports are an integral part of duty on Cyprus and here SOLDIER reports on some of the many – and varied – activities.

ISLAND OF ADVENTURE



Oops! – 2nd Lt Davies, UN Scout, tackles a gate on the downhill slalom course during the NEFSKI championships. report in sports pages



Above: Maj Derek Hunter and Cpl Adam Davies in action during the Rothmans Cyprus International Rally

Right: Wrapped up for the last of the winter squalls, students take to the water at Dhekelia with instructor Sgt Bill Newby APTC



LCpl Gordon Carmichael, 1 KOB, straps himself into the cockpit of the GROB powered glider before takeoff



They're off – kart racers at the start of last year's Akrotiri grand prix



Parachuting packs 'em in

PACKING the parachute used on one's first jump is all part of the confidence-building training programme tailored for beginners at the Cyprus Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre.

Free fall sport parachuting courses draw more students to the Pergamos centre near Dhekelia than any of the other disciplines taught there.

About 700 students pass through the centre each year and, of these, more than 300 tackle sport parachuting.

Students, drawn from British

Forces Cyprus (BFC) units and those serving with the UN British contingent can also take to the air using the centre's new GROB 109B powered glider which can take off under power and then revert to gliding.

"The purists might raise an eyebrow about its having an engine," said Pergamos centre OC Capt Kelvin Pickering APTC, "but it is great fun."

Cyprus lends itself immediately to the other disciplines taught at the centre: sub-aqua diving and sea canoeing.

Kart racing takes off in a big way

MOTOR rallying and kart racing are becoming increasingly popular among Servicemen in Cyprus and many devote much spare time and expense to both sports.

There are kart racing clubs at Akrotiri, Episkopi and Nicosia – each with about 40 members – and race meetings are held on each club circuit once a month.

Powered by highly tuned 100cc engines, much effort goes into maintaining the karts. A difference of just one tenth of a second per lap can mean losing

a race by 30 metres or more in this closely contested sport.

Motor rallying also draws its enthusiasts and the use of Service vehicles – currently two Army Metros – is authorised under the rules of the British Army Motoring Association.

A REME crew, Maj Derek Hunter and Cpl Adam Davies of 48 Cyprus Workshop (Akrotiri), run their own privately owned Suzuki and came a creditable 20th in the highly competitive Rothmans Cyprus International Rally.

To speed up the number of serving soldiers entering Sandhurst to gain auspices of the Royal Army Educational Corps. **Bill Moore** has been

commissions, the Potential Officer Development Course was set up two years ago under the to Beaconsfield, Bucks to see how potential candidates prepare to join . . .

THE OFFICER CLASS



SEE THE POINT: It is the pre-RMAS version of the wooden spoon. Anyone guilty of an outstanding piece of nonsense is required to carry a six-foot inflated plastic pencil thus – demonstration by a volunteer

The POD programme

Students are required to

- **read a 'quality' newspaper every day;**
- **listen to lectures on current events;**
- **prepare for presentation (groups of three) a briefing for their course on a topic under discussion;**
- **prepare individually a 3,000 word project of their own choice to be presented in a 15-minute lecture.**

SANDHURST Development Block, Wilton Park, Bucks, rings with the word "Mister". Soldiers with blue shoulder tabs may be lance corporals or sergeants in their own units but at the Royal Army Educational Corps Centre, Beaconsfield, Bucks they wear no stripes and are misters to a man.

In a matter of months they may be back in the ranks – or on the way to becoming subalterns (when they will not only be called Mr but a lot of other things!).

Their POD days will be behind them. POD?

Two years ago the Director of Army Recruiting decided that one way to tackle the growing problem of meeting officer targets was to set up a Potential Officer Development Course.

COs were asked to look for likely candidates. At that time the proportion of serving soldiers in the intake at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst was very low.

Other ranks had not done well at the Regular Commissions Board. A study showed that in general, apart from a lack of education and, as a natural consequence, narrow interests, men tended to have difficulties in communicating and a lack of confidence once outside their own sphere.

Yet they had already given evidence of some extra quality or they would not have been nominated by their COs.

Could better use be made of this pool of valuable material? Would extra training give candidates a more reasonable chance at the Regular Commissions Board? The Army School of Education under Lt Col Willie Coupar was given the job of finding out.

The first 14 week course for a maximum of 18 students was set up in April 1986. They came from all arms, recommended by their COs and with at least a year's service.

Lack of formal education was no bar as at the end of the course the Army School of Education could award a certificate of competence.

The course is run alongside the older pre-Sandhurst course for cadets sent to Beaconsfield for "sharpening up" after attending the RCB.

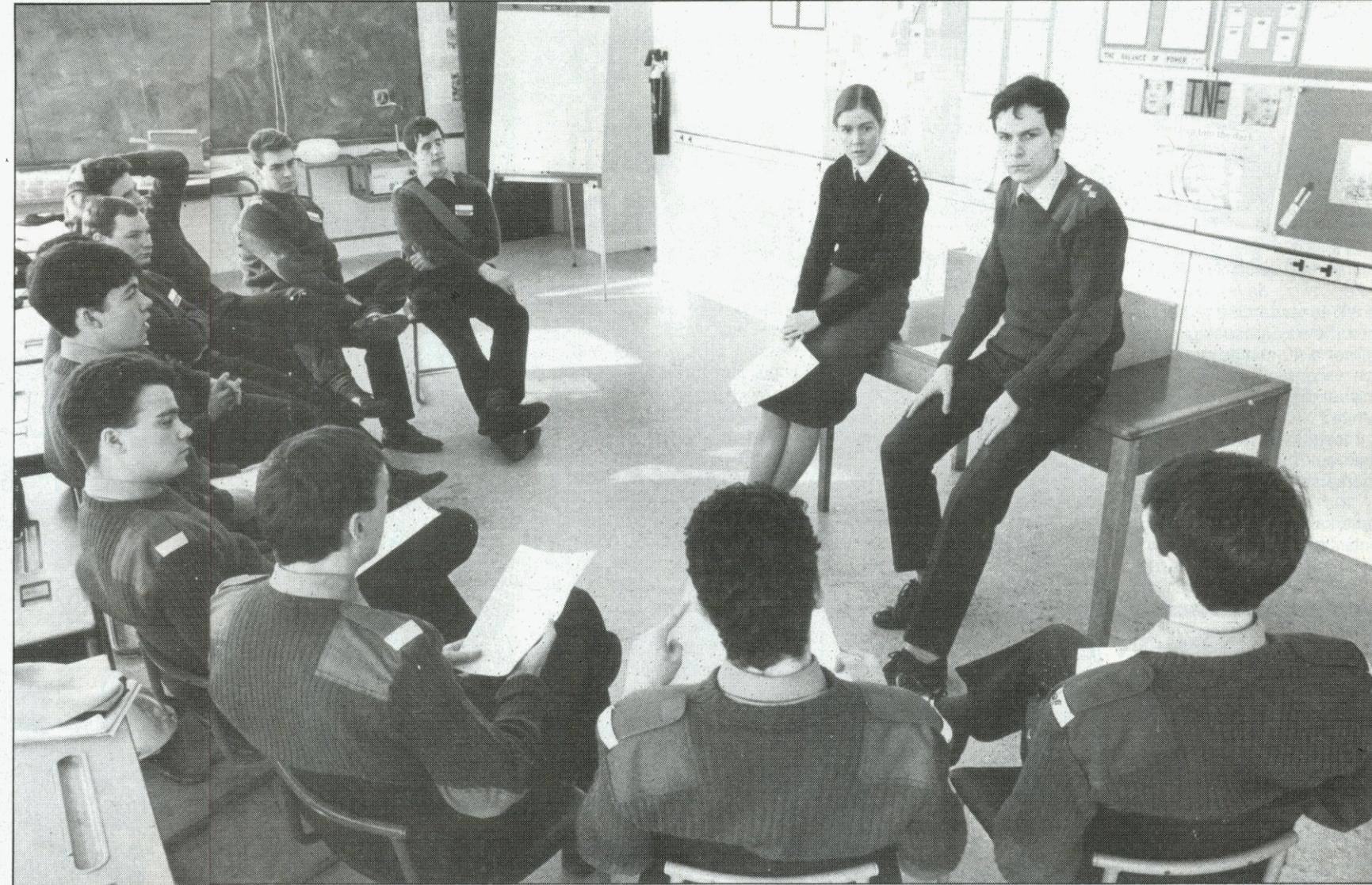
To an onlooker the staffing seems to be particular rather than generous. A major and four captains (all RAEC) have to run both courses.

The current teaching team for the POD course is Capt Duncan James and Capt Sue Lambert WRAC.

Potential officers, minus all signs of rank, live in single study rooms within the centre and do guard and other duties just like private soldiers.

The nature of the course comes as a surprise to many of them. One NCO from an armoured regiment formed up during the first course and told Capt Lambert that he just couldn't work for a woman.

That's insubordination. You're under arrest," she replied.



THE POD TEAM:

Captains Sue Lambert and Duncan James would normally be sitting among their students but this is the last day of the course. Things are slightly tense before the students go off to the Regular Commissions Board. One word describes the instructors – dedicated

the end of an armchair and pressing their point during free discussion we reckon we're getting somewhere," said Duncan James.

Sometimes striking personality changes occur. Potential officers from the ranks are often married and their wives don't always take to the idea of having an officer as a husband. Some are secretly pleased if it doesn't work out. Others are heartbroken.

And the possibility of failure is a shadow over every course. A student may do well in the classroom and on outdoor exercises but still not convince the RCB that he has got what it takes.

The hardest bit is going back to be what they were which, in many ways, is virtually impossible. As one of them put it:

"We know we can't all get through but you've got to have a try haven't you . . ."

A remarkable number do make it.

Figures at the end of the first 18 months

How they narrow the culture gap

NO records exist of the number of private soldiers injured in the crush to get into the Old Vic during an Ibsen season or in the queue for a Mahler "prom" at the Albert Hall.

To narrow the culture gap POD course students are encouraged to arrange their own activities –

with the minimum of advice from the staff. Discussions follow visits to museums, theatres and art galleries.

Social events are also left to the students to organise and may range from a buffet evening in a local pub to wine tasting or a trip on the Thames.

And the offender was marched off to the cells . . . and returned to the course on his release.

There has been no sexist trouble since. Sue Lambert is tall, slim and fit and her colleagues are all tall, lean and tough.

All the men have served with the Gurkhas and all members of staff are qualified instructors in one or more recreational pursuits.

Though teaching adventurous skills is not a priority, living cheek by jowl with the cadets on open air exercises is an

essential part of the curriculum.

"There are few better ways of checking on the personal development of individuals," said Maj Stuart Thornborough, OC of Sandhurst Development Wing, whose own expertise lies in skiing, sailing and mountaineering.

As a study in human relationship, the POD course is worth a book in itself.

Students who start by sitting to attention and speaking only when spoken to have to be brought out of their shell.

"When they start draping one leg over



TOP FLIGHT. Four students from the Sandhurst "Dev" Wing on top of Snowdon with right, Maj. Stuart Thornborough, their OC, and hatless, Lt Col. Willie Coupar, CO Army School of Education. All four young men are now officers

HIGHLIGHT of the POD course is Exercise Bi-POD.

For two days pairs of students research a project of their own choosing and deliver a 40-minute presentation to an audience of staff and students at the RAEC centre.

It might seem a daunting task but by the end of the course students are ready for it and come up with a remarkable variety of subjects.

The last programme included "The Ffestiniog Rail-

Variety is the spice on Bi-POD!

way and Slate Mining in Wales", "British Aerospace and Defence Industry", "Industrial Pumps" and... "The Weather"!

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They are dedicated to getting cadets up to scratch for RMAS

From Page 29

showed that of 60 cadets who attended (one dropped out without going to RCB) 29 got through to Sandhurst... including the bold cavalier who said he couldn't work for

a woman!

Of those who got through 19 have now been commissioned and the other ten are on their courses.

So it looks as though POD is here to stay.

One thing that struck

SOLDIER during a talk with the potential officers on the last course was that not one was from the infantry.

Sappers, RCT, REME, RAOC and Pay were all represented with a solitary entrant from the RAC. From

the Guards and "The Feet" in general there was a Nil Return.

This is likely to change but RHQs and COs please note. The shortage of officer recruits runs right across the board.



THE RAW MATERIAL. A pre-RMAS course put their all into it on Beaconsfield's obstacle course. All came straight from civilian life

a chap fails to turn up for guard duty on a Friday...

When he doesn't parade at the appointed time on the Saturday to explain himself at Orders...

And when the CSM finds him in bed! That chap never did make it to Sandhurst, not even in the family Rolls.

Thanks mainly to Captains Martin Moss and Richard Gordon, the instructors on the pre-RMAS course, most students reap the benefit of the syllabus.

"We find a lot respond remarkably well to the one-to-one teaching of maths," said Capt Gordon. "The light seems to dawn suddenly..."

Cadets also study international affairs, war and general subjects.

Like the POD course, they organise their own theatre and concert outings and debate them later.

One week of the 14 is spent on adventurous training.

An exam is held at the end of the course, the papers being marked at both Beaconsfield and Sandhurst and then checked by a moderating board and finally by the Sandhurst Entry Board to resolve any discrepancy in the markings and confirm final gradings.

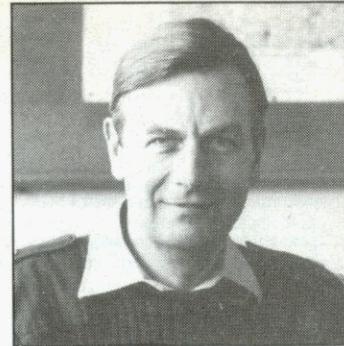
Anyone watching the pre-RMAS course cheerfully luging a heavy log round Beaconsfield's playing fields "just one more time" for the benefit of a tyrannical SOLDIER photographer, could not fail to be struck by the rude health and high spirits.

The immediate thought was that such material should not be wasted.

And thank heaven the RAEC has men and women whose academic skills are matched by an understanding of human nature and incredible stamina.



THE PRE-RMAS TEAM. Captains Martin Moss and Richard Gordon are out to get the best out of their students and do their best for them. Both are athletes as well as graduates. If their pupils can live up to their standards, they will do well



Lt Col Willie Coupar

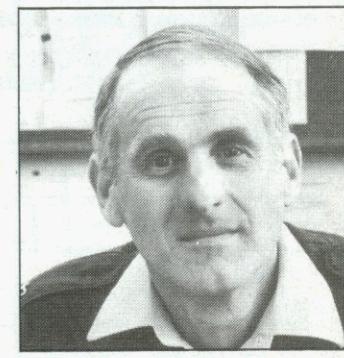
CO led a merry dance!

LTCOL Willie Coupar RAEC commands the Army School of Education and believes in joining in the fitness runs and mountain climbs of his students and staff.

Recently he organised an excursion which introduced them to the rigours of Highland dancing.

Proud of the Sandhurst Development Wing (which is part of his command) and the opportunity it gives COs to "identify young soldiers of quality and set them in the fast stream" he told SOLDIER:

"Heavy responsibilities fall on the staff but the satisfaction in educational and human terms is tremendous - what greater reward for an RAEC officer than to see a hesitant lance corporal with two 'O' levels transformed in four terms (three at Beaconsfield and one at Sandhurst) into an assured and competent troop commander."



THE OC. Maj. Stuart Thornborough is responsible for both POD and pre-RMAS courses at Beaconsfield... a total of six a year between them. He takes classes in both. His job is a cross between a headmaster, a company commander and, an adventurous training, mountain guide

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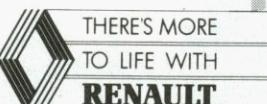
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A cut above the rest!



RAOC's school for butchers is unique

They are employed in peacetime roles at supply depots worldwide and for operational tasks would be employed with Ace Mobile Force (Land), UKMF and for emergency roles in Belize and the Falkland Islands.

Today's Army buys pre-jointed meat but in time of war those neatly packaged joints might not be available. Livestock would need to be butchered in the field - hence the need for the skills employed by the Butchers RAOC.

There are two specialised 13 week courses for victualler trained butchers each year.

Much of the course is "hands

Above: Sgt Instructor Dougie Kyle demonstrates the cutting skills necessary to process a sheep

Right: Master Butcher Charlie Potts engaged in the mammoth task of sawing a cattle carcass in half

room for error. Which explains why of the 12 students who sat the course last year only a third passed.

Care shown for animals before slaughter and the hygienic conditions maintained in the abattoir does much to dismiss the ghastly Victorian image evoked by the word "slaughterhouse". It's still unpleasant work, so when you next have meat upon your table, spare a thought for the dedicated butchers of the RAOC.



LETTERS EXTRA

Chavasse Mark II

Chavasse House (SOLDIER March 7) is not in fact the first TA barracks in Liverpool to bear that illustrious name. The first was the RA (TA) barracks in Wellington Road, Wavertree. It is no longer in use by the TA and so it is apt that the new RAMC(V) Centre in Childwall Valley Road should bear that name. - Peter McCauley, Chairman, Liverpool Music Hall Society, 3 Camborne Ave, Liverpool L25 9PG.

Field rations

In response to your letter about "veggies" in the Army (SOLDIER March 7). I remember hearing that the Russians in the Second World War fed their men almost entirely on "veg".

I was told each Russian soldier carried a little sack which was kept stocked with assorted vegetables, which he ate raw! No field kitchens!

Cheap and effective, and the Russian soldier was tough on it as we all know. - R J C Holmes, 19 Haldane Court, Osborne Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Reunions

● 2 RGJ/KRRC band and bugle reunion, Sept 24 at Winchester, Hants. For details, contact Sgt Alan Pilgrim on 0985 219725.

● RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club annual dinner and reunion is to be held on May 14 at the RAMC Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Further details from WO1 (RSM) N R Park, RAMC Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● 201 RCZ, Wkps REME V officers and senior ranks annual reunion takes place at the Post House Hotel, Coventry from May 6-8. Details from Maj R Smith, 6 St John Park, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP (tel 051 928 4493).

● Annual reunion and dinner dance of the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) at the Masonic Hall, Preston on June 4. Tickets from the Secretary, The Loyal Regiment (NL) Association, Fulwood Barracks, Preston PR2 4AA tel: Preston 716543 ext 2362.

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Army Dog Tags with Chain. Punched with name, D.O.B., Blood group, Allergies, Organisation, Rank, Number, as applicable. State requirements. Up to forty letters. Send now only £3.50, plus P&P 20p. Cheques/PO to Saracen Surplus, 153 Forres Drive, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland KY6 2JY. 15/88

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Rhodesian and South African militaria, badges and videos. SAE for lists to GWW, BCM 8191, London WC1N 3XX. 14/88

Military Books. Regimental, battalion, divisional histories. School registers, rolls of honour - WW1, WW2. Send large SAE for list. Norman Collett, POB 235, London SE23 1NS. Tel: 01-291 1435. 16/88

Original cap badges, helmet plates, shoulder titles, etc. bought and also British, German and European medals and militaria. Telephone or write to: Steven Bosley, Coldstream Military Antiques, 55a High Street, Marlow, Bucks. Tel: 0628 822503. 49/88

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Army green penholder bazzards with flap for rnk £3.30, DPM style £3.50. V Henderson, 6 Thames Crescent, Melksham, Wilts SN12 8BH. 22/88

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They followed the Bloody Hand

FOUNDED by the Ulster Unionist Party in 1913 in response to Westminster's Third Home Rule Bill, the Ulster Volunteer Force, an illegal para-military organisation, also included the Young Citizen Volunteers, a force that had been raised a year earlier from boys leaving the Church Lads and Boys Brigades.

Despite the illegality, it was a force that prompted Lord Roberts, the Ulsterman who had commanded the British Army in the Boer War, to say after the UVF's clandestine gun-running operation: "Magnificent! Magnificent! Nothing could have been better done. It was a piece of organisation that any army in Europe might be proud of."

On the outbreak of the First World War and Kitchener's *Your Country Needs You* call, the Ulster Volunteer Force answered the appeal on condition that the word Ulster would be included in the titles of any new units to be formed.

For King and Country and the Scottish Borderers by Gavin Richardson. The story of the 1/4th (Border) Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. Published by the author and available from him at 94 Meigle St, Galashiels, Scotland TD1 1LP. Price £5.65 inc p and p.

The British Army in the 1980s by Mike Chappell. Guide to their uniforms, equipment and insignia. Published by Osprey. Price £5.50. 17/88

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The Armada Campaign 1588 by John Tincey. Full details of the fleets and the conflict, with meticulous tables of every ship, gun and man, and colour illustrations of their uniforms. Published by Osprey. Price £14.95. 15/88

Vietnam Choppers by Simon Dunstan. Helicopters in battle between 1950-75. Published by Osprey. Price £9.95. 19/88

The Soldier Who Walked Away by Andrew Pearson. Autobiography of Arthur Pearson

In consequence, recruits from the UVF formed service battalions of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, The Royal Ulster Rifles, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, Royal Engineer Field Companies, and Divisional Troops in the specially raised 36th (Ulster) Division.

In a similar way, men from the equally illegal Nationalist Volunteers found their way into the 16th Division.

Philip Orr's latest book, *The Road to the Somme*, tells the story of the Ulster soldiers, from the time when they were irregulars through their service in the battalions of the 36th Division.

It is told in the words of the veterans interviewed by the author against a historical background of events, both political and military, and is illustrated with contemporary photographs and line drawings.

As the title of the book indicates, Philip Orr builds up his story to the horrendous climax of July 1, 1916, the day

of the Big Push on the Somme.

"Of all the divisions taking part, the Ulster Division ranks fourth in the table of losses. Martin Middlebrook notes 5,104 casualties, of which at least 2,000 probably died." These figures are from Middlebrook's *The First Day on the Somme* (1971).

The slaughter of the Somme left the 36th Division badly and sadly depleted but it was not disbanded; "holding the line" roles were to follow, as were the Battle of Messines (June 1917), The Third Battle of Ypres (August), Battle of Cambrai (November), and the final advance of 1918.

It was, however, the Somme that gave the Ulstermen their most prominent place in First World War history. - BJ

The Road to the Somme: Men of the Ulster Division Tell Their Story by Philip Orr. Published by Blackstaff Press. Price £9.95.

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Send Port and Pyjamas by Dan Raschen. The Korean conflict as experienced by a young Royal Engineers officer (the author) who volunteered for Korea because he hoped for some pheasant shooting! Published by Buckland Publications. Price £9.50. 15/88

Three Stripes and a Gun by J E Bowman. The author's Second World War, as a field gunner in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Published by Merlin Books. Price £7.75. 17/88

War Games by Thomas B Allen. Sub-titled "inside the secret world of the men who play at World War III". Published by William Heinemann. Price £14.95. 19/88

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A ration party of Royal Irish Rangers resting in a communications trench on the Somme on July 1 1916

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Athletes saddle up to aid crippled chum . . .

A TRIO of Army Physical Training Corps triathletes have set themselves a daunting task to raise money for a crippled colleague.

The three plan to cycle from John o'Groats to Land's End, starting on May 28. The catch is they have to be back at work on June 6.

Army Physical Training School RSM Phil Watkins, SSgt Paul Murphy and ex-QMSI Bill Pegler are riding to help APTC instructor Sgt Neville Earle who was paralysed in a vaulting accident.

Neville, a heavyweight boxer who led 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE to four minor units boxing championships, is now in the spinal rehabilitation unit of Lodgemore Hospital, Sheffield.

Bill Pegler is the world veteran triathlon champion and



Picture: Mike Weston

ON THEIR BIKE: From left to right are SSgt Paul Murphy, ex QMSI Bill Pegler and RSM Phil Watkins

Phil Watkins arrived for work as RSM of the Army's PT school in Aldershot after cycling from his last posting in Herford, West Germany.

Regiments all over the world have responded to Sgt Earle's plight and already £6,500 has been donated to help him rebuild his life.

... and Barney's back in business

LONG distance walker Sgt Maj Malcolm "Barney" Barnish is all set to recapture the world endurance record with a long, lone slog around the perimeter of his base at Herford, West Germany.

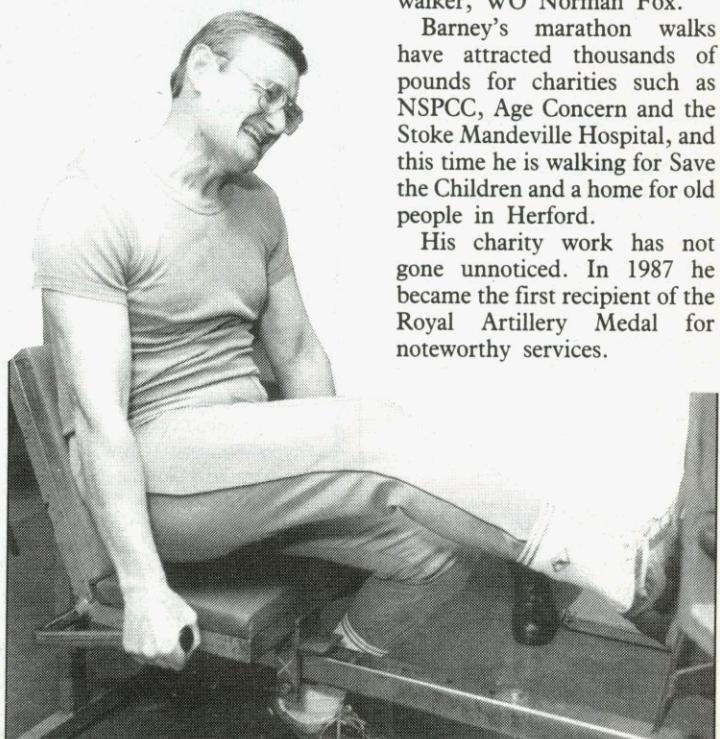
Barney, whose previous world best of 412.08 miles in six days and ten hours around an Army football pitch in Dortmund was bettered by

Preston's Tom Benson, will be supported in his new record bid by his colleagues in the 4th Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment based at Herford.

In 1986 Barney smashed the Land's End to John o'Groats record by a staggering (!) 17 hours, pulverising the previous best of 12 days and 22 hours set by another Army long distance walker, WO Norman Fox.

Barney's marathon walks have attracted thousands of pounds for charities such as NSPCC, Age Concern and the Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and this time he is walking for Save the Children and a home for old people in Herford.

His charity work has not gone unnoticed. In 1987 he became the first recipient of the Royal Artillery Medal for noteworthy services.



TAKING THE STRAIN: Sgt Maj Barnish in training



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The first correct entry drawn will be the winner. No correspondence can be entered into. Answers to: HOAY No 435, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

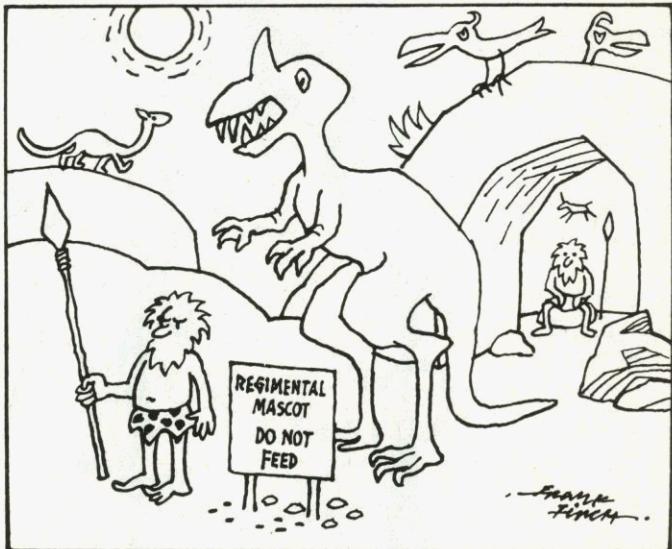
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The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 29th April 1988.

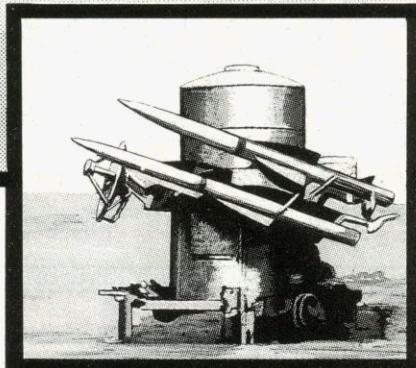
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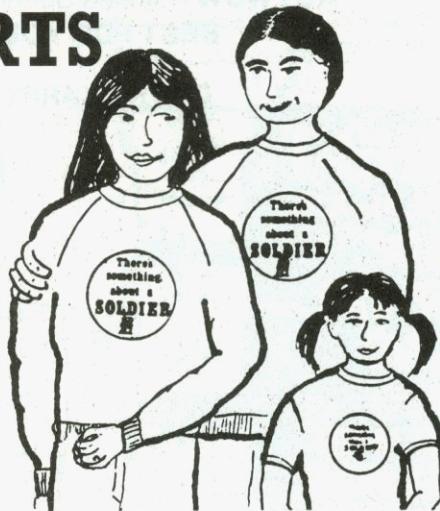
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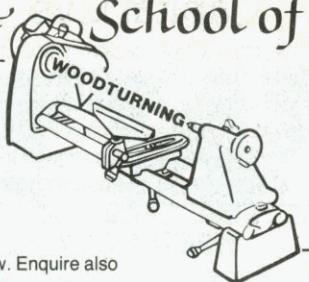
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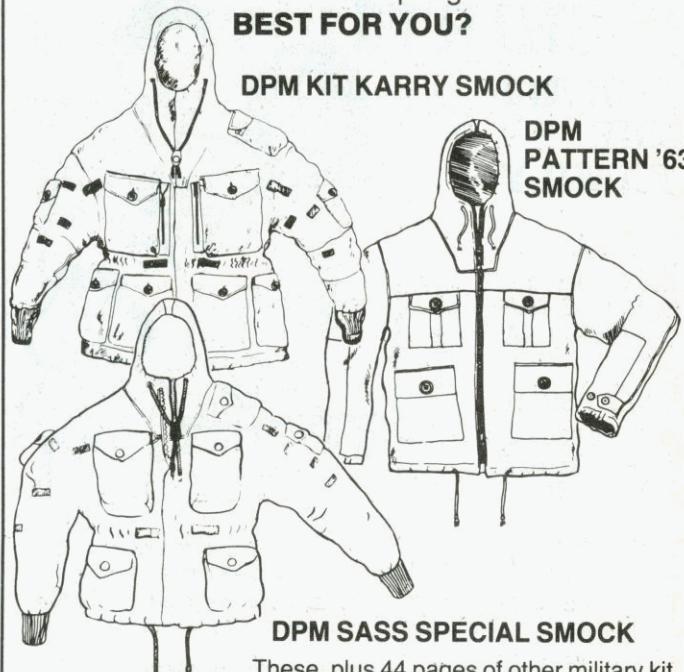
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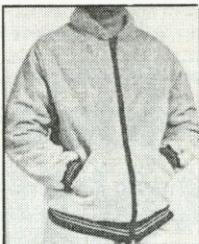
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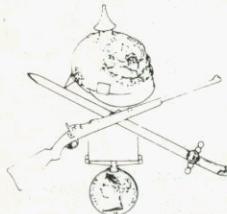


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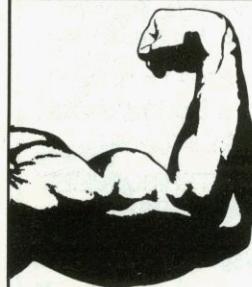
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5f21

Helen leads by example

CPL Helen Moseley led the Army women's hockey team to victory in the Inter-Services tournament staged at the Aldershot Officers Club, scoring goals against both Royal Air Force and Royal Navy teams.

Moseley, a Hampshire cap and the Army captain, opened the scoring in her side's 2-0 win over the RAF women, the defending champions. LCpl Toni Naylor scored the second in a game generally dominated by the hosts.

The decider against the Navy (who had also beaten the RAF) was a more exciting contest, ending in a frantic final five minutes as the visitors threw

High hopes for Army's star team

AFTER a season in which Army hockey has been fielding possibly its strongest side ever, the team retained the Inter-Services title and will be hoping to do well in the county championships.

A report on the Inter-Services tournament, during which both Army senior and U-21 teams emerged as winners, will appear in the next issue.

An idea of the Army's strength is reflected in their results at the annual ten counties tournament in Southampton, during which the with Hampshire and Hertfordshire and lost by a narrow margin to Nottinghamshire.

In the basket

UKLF major units basketball champions for the fifth consecutive year are the women of 39 Engr Regt, who beat RSA by a single point in the final played at Aldershot. Minor units champions are AAC Chepstow who beat ACC Trg Centre into second place.

everything at the Army in a bid to get an equaliser.

LCpl Karen Lincoln and Helen Moseley gave the Army a 2-0 lead which goalkeeper Sgt Viv Lee protected by saving a crucial penalty flick early in the second half. But five minutes from time the Navy did convert a penalty to set up that great finale.

Former England Under 18 forward Pte Shelley Crowe had an outstanding tournament, as did junior Welsh international LCpl Cheryl Campling, and they join Moseley, LCpl Jackie Walton and Toni Naylor as the Army's representatives in the Combined Services team.



Picture: Terry Champion

Sapper makes his mark at Olympics

SAPPER skiers left their mark on the Winter Olympics in Calgary, performing superbly for the Great Britain team in the biathlon events.

LCpl Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt) in particular emerged as potentially the fastest biathlete ever produced in Britain.

He finished 13th in the 20km race and 21st in the 10km, and with LCpl Mark Langin (also 35 Engr Regt) helped GB to fifth place in the 4 x 7.5km relay.

Other sappers in the team included LCpls Ed Nicoll (35 Engr Regt) and Neil Danby (28 Amp Engr Regt). They were accompanied by physiotherapist WO2 Chik Wilkinson (Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich).

Cyprus skiing

COMPETING for the most part in glorious weather near the 6,000ft summit of Mount Olympus, Army skiers in Cyprus swept the board at this year's annual NEFSKI championship.

Split into alpine and langlauf events, the championship takes its name from the old Near East Forces title.

Alpine winners

Inter-Services slalom, 1, Army; Women's Inter-Services slalom, 1,

Cpl Helen Moseley (left) with the ball. In support are LCpl Jackie Walton and LCpl Toni Naylor

Top shots

A TEAM of Royal Engineers from AA Coll Chepstow emerged as winners for the second successive year of the junior soldiers small bore target rifle match, the final stage of which was held at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

The very strong Army presence in the biathlon team was completed by Sig Carl Davies (R Signals), Bdr Trevor King (5 Hvy Regt RA) and Gnr Ben Rex (19 Fd Regt RA).

Former Olympic biathlete Ssgt Keith Oliver (RCT) was a

trainer on the team.

In the cross country discipline Army representatives were the manager, Capt Hugo Allen (BW) and LCpl Marty Watkins (RCT). They were accompanied by physiotherapist WO2 Chik Wilkinson (Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich).

ATSM Gibbon of the sapper team won the individual gold medal after a shoot off against Jldr Buckle of the Prince of Wales's Division. The King's Division and Royal Signals were second and third in the team competition.

The Army's second goal came in the 27th minute. An error in defence let Smith race away on the left. He fired a hard low ball across the face of



Picture: Mike Weston

Cpl Mick Cheetham (dark shirt, centre) contests a ball with a Royal Navy player at Aldershot. Other Army players in the picture are (from left) Gnr Matt Carmichael, Cpl Clint Webbe, Sgt Sandy Brown, Sgt Micky Spencer and Cpl Steve Welsh

Sailors sunk by barrage of goals

Army 3 Royal Navy 0

ANXIOUS to win the coveted Constantinople Cup in the Army FA's centenary year, the Army set about the Royal Navy with speed and a determination which surprised even the most fervent Army support, writes Pat Massey.

For 30 minutes, they ran the sailors ragged during which time they scored twice and missed a brace of easy chances. It was a start from which the visitors never recovered.

In the third minute, a fine move on the Army left, involving Cfn Sean Smith, REME, and the School of Signals pair LCpl Mick Cheetham and Sgt Andy Edwards, ended with an Edwards shot fizzing just past an upright.

The Army finally went ahead in the 16th minute. Skipper Cpl Sandy Brown, R Signals, broke out of defence. His pass found Webbe on the right. His shot

was charged down but the ball bounced to Cheetham who headed on to LCpl Guy Whittingham, REME, who headed home.

The Army's second goal came in the 27th minute. An error in defence let Smith race away on the left. He fired a hard low ball across the face of

the goalmouth where Bdr Clint Webbe, RA, beat 'keeper LMEA Daisy Adams to the ball to ram it home.

Two minutes from time, from a Smith corner kick on the Army right, the talented SEME winger found his unit partner Whittingham with the perfect cross. He had time to head it wide of Adams to seal a very comprehensive win.

Duchess to watch final

TO MARK the centenary of the Army Football Association the Duchess of Kent will be present at the Army Challenge Cup Final between 28 Amp Engr Regt, RE, the BAOR champions, and the Blandford based School of Signals at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on April 13.

28 Amp Engr Regt beat 28 Sig Regt in the BAOR final.

Dorset 2 Army 4

The Army were in the driving seat after their 4-2 win over Dorset at Dorchester in their final game of the South West Counties Championship, but the goal they conceded in

the final minutes does leave the door open for Devon.

Devon's final match is also against Dorset, and if they were to win 4-0 they would edge in front on goal average.

Goals by Cpl Tony Smith (R Signals), Bdr Clint Webbe (RA) and LBdr Tony Holgate (RA) virtually secured victory in the first half. Dorset got one back soon after the interval, and although LCpl Guy Whittingham (REME) scored a fourth for the Army, slack defending allowed Dorset to poach a last minute goal.

Army 0 Devon 0

Nothing was decided when the Army and Devon, joint leaders of the South West Counties Championship, met at Aldershot.

Instead, the game ended in a 0-0 draw and both sides, each with a game to play against Dorset, lived to fight again.

It has to be said that the Army had the better scoring chances, with Sgt Mickey Spencer (APTC) and LCpl Mick Cheetham (R Signals) both going close.

Army B 4 Guernsey 1

With a number of senior players on Corps duty, the Army fielded a weakened side against the tourists from Guernsey but won an entertaining game comfortably.

Cpl Tommy O'Brien (R Irish) scored the Army's first, LBdr Matt Carmichael (RA) added two more and Sgt Andy Edwards (R Signals) grabbed the fourth.

RN Youth 2 Army Youth 0

Two Royal Navy goals in the opening quarter of an hour scuppered the Army's chances in the Inter-Services youth tournament. And a combination of poor finishing and superb goalkeeping by the Navy's Clarke foiled any Army hopes of getting back into the match.

Colts on rampage

THE Army colts rugby team continued their successful run by defeating the Royal Navy at Aldershot in the morning before travelling to Twickenham to watch the senior team triumph in the afternoon, writes Peter Salisbury.

After an initial assault by the Navy, the Army youngsters settled down and dominated play in the 20 minutes up to half time. The Navy scored first with a penalty by S(O) Paul Morgan (HMS Dolphin), their full back.

ASgt Paul Browning (AAC Harrogate) levelled the score with a penalty before his partner in the centre, Cfn Nick Gould (39 Engr Regt) gave the Army the lead with a try which Browning converted.

The Army went further ahead in the second half with a try by winger AT Neil Willcoxson (PMC Arborfield), again converted by Browning.

After that the Army seemed to relax and allowed the Navy to get on top. But desperate Army defence kept the sailors out and all they could manage was a drop goal by outside half MEM Stuart Williams (HMS

Zola wins in style

ZOLA BUDD put in a surprise appearance for the Women's Cross Country and Road Running Association in the annual match involving Combined Services and teams from the English Cross Country Union and the British universities, colleges and polytechnic associations.

Budd dominated the women's race, organized by the ASPT at Aldershot, leading the WCC and RRA to a resounding victory. Sgt Maggie Smith WRAC was fifth overall in leading the Combined Services team to third place. The Service men finished second behind a very strong ECCU team.

Sultan) who was partnered at scrum half by his brother, MEM Jason Williams (also HMS Sultan).

The Army's winning margin of 15 points to six was, perhaps, more comfortable than the score suggests. The Willis Faber Trophy was presented to the Army by Mr Tom O'Hara on behalf of the sponsors.

Before taking on the Royal Air Force at RAF Halton on April 9 the Army colts chalked up their fifth consecutive win when they beat Waterloo at Blundellsands by 32 points to eight.

Playing with the wind, the Army led 16-0 at half time with tries by Sig Ian Kennedy (30 Signal Regt), Spr David Robinson (24 Fd Sqn) and Cfn Nick Gould (39 Engr Regt). Robinson converted two.

Turning to face the wind the Army went further ahead when scrum half Fus Julian Davies (1 RWF) ran 70 yards to score.

The Waterloo pack began to assert themselves and with their England schools outside half using the wind well scored two tries, one of them a pushover.

Against the run of play, Davies put in a well placed kick which was gathered by left wing Sig Wayne Dunbar (30 Signal Regt) who again ran 70 yards to score, Robinson converting.

Not to be outdone, prop forward LCpl Darren Short (1 RWF) crashed over for a try which Robinson converted to make the final score 32-8.

This was a very good performance by the Army side who, due to injuries against the Navy and in unit games, had to field six reserves. They included two young players making their debut, Gds Peter Morris (2 Gren Gds) at lock and Spr Martin Canton (3 Trg Regt RE) at flanker.

Both acquitted themselves very well and both will still be colts next year which augers well for the future.

The colts have scored 185 points in their last five games.



Pictures: Mike Perring

The hand of authority belongs to Army skipper Capt Brian McCall, pictured awaiting lineout ball. In front of him is Scotland B prop LCpl George Graham and in opposition PO Phil Elliott of the Royal Navy

Toast of Twickenham

ANY member of the Army – interested in rugby or not – would have been extremely pleased and proud of the lads in red at Twickenham, writes John Quin.

The Army senior side not only won the Willis Faber Trophy but in doing so beat the Royal Navy by the largest margin ever in the history of the Army-Navy game, which goes back to 1887. It is a fixture usually decided by just a few points, although in 1909 the Royal Navy did win 25-0. For the Army to win in 1988 by 35 points to three was truly magnificent.

It would be wrong to single out individual players, however mention must be made of skipper Capt Brian McCall, who played an exceptional part on and off the field.

His folk singing at the post match celebration was unique – bringing tears to the eyes of the audience as well as himself!

The selectors too must be congratulated, and that includes the coach. Throughout the season they tried, persevered and in the end put together a squad big enough to do the job. It certainly paid off.

It was a magnificent performance.

The pack as a unit won enough ball to allow the backs the opportunity to run at the Navy and to attack them even from deep in Army territory.

It was, in some respects, sad that the national press were on international duty either in Dublin or Edinburgh and missed the sight to the two speed merchants on the Army wings – Atkins and Tucker –



A proud moment for the men in red as the Army rugby squad forms up for a team picture on the centre line at Twickenham before taking on the Royal Navy

McCall heroes run up record

being fed the ball quickly by the centres, with plenty of room to move.

It was copy book stuff and a sight that all Army supporters who were at Twickenham will long remember.

The team was Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (Gren Gds); Cpl Duke Tucker (LI); Capt Steve Jackson (RAMC); SI Chris Spowart (APTC); Cpl Chalky Atkins (R Sigs); Lt

Super seven!

COMBINED Services boxers had an excellent night in their George Wimpey ABA England quarter final against Western Counties at Aldershot, writes John Elliott.

The trio of Army boxers in the team – LCpl John McLean (26 Engr Regt), Sgt Keith Howlett (39 Engr Regt) and LCpl Tony Velinor (4 RGJ) – all won their contests as the Servicemen beat Western Counties 7-4.

McLean was just completing an impressive first round's work against Danny Bennett when he caught the Camborne flyweight with a peach

of a right hand. It travelled just a few inches before exploding on the side of Bennett's face, so unsettling him that the referee stopped the contest.

Bantamweight Howlett had to work much harder against Darren Thompson of Bristol before earning a majority points decision.

An excellent first round by Howlett stood him in good stead as Thompson counter-punched his way back into contention.

Former ABA champion LCpl Tony Velinor was at his most enigmatic in scoring a

unanimous points win over Swindon light welterweight Patrick Dyer. In a brilliant first round he forced Dyer to take two standing counts, repeatedly finding the target with lightning fast combinations. But the prince turned into a pauper for the next two rounds, boxing untidily on the retreat as he ran out of steam.

Also through to the England semi-finals at Gloucester on April 6 are SAC Stu Gunning and Cpl Steve Snagg of the Royal Air Force and Royal Marines Rob Wileman and Mark Edwards.

OUSTON LADS TAKE CHARGE

THE Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston won the Army junior inter unit boxing championships at Albemarle Barracks, Ouston when they beat the Guards Depot Pirbright by six bouts to three.

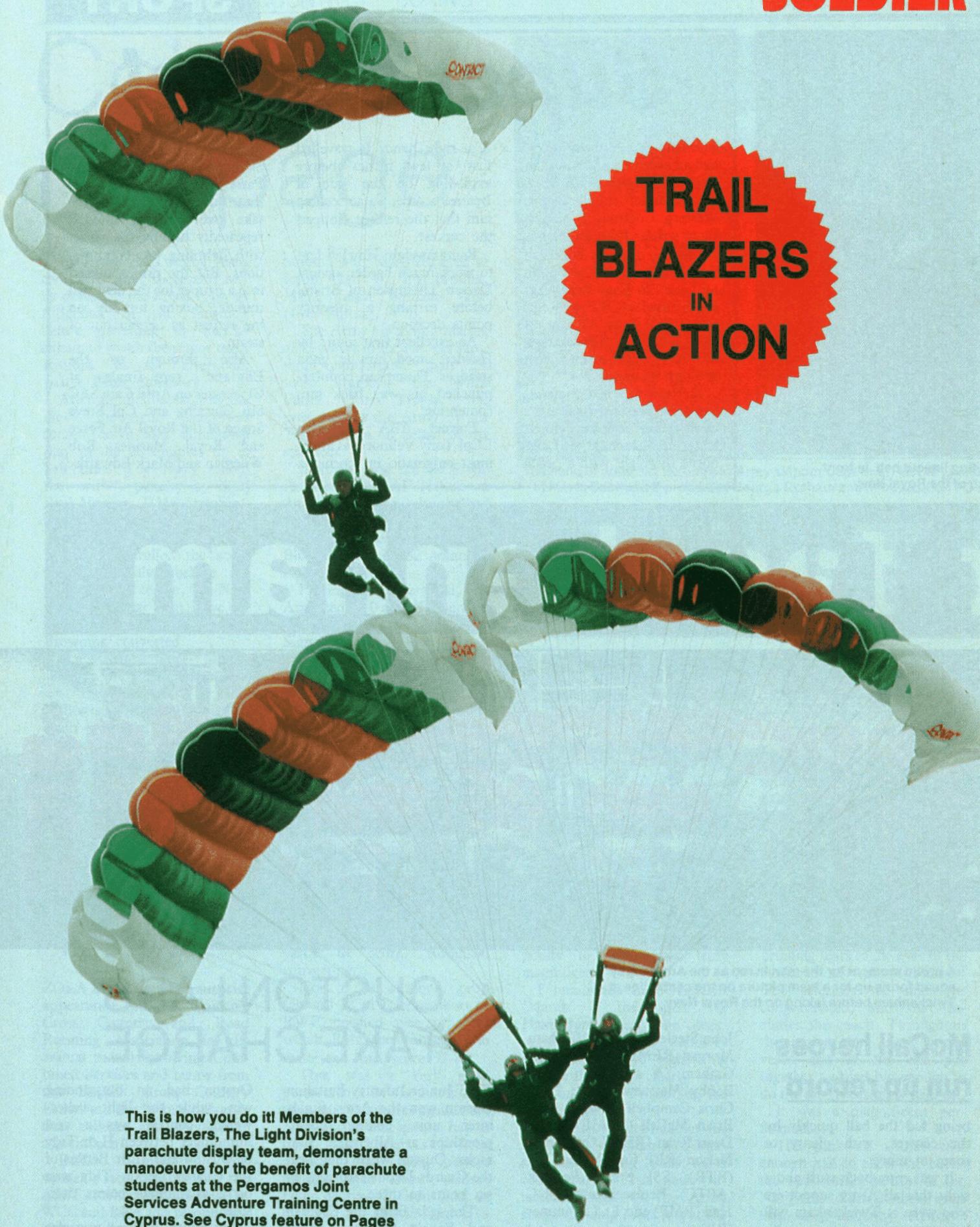
The lads from the Scottish and King's Divisions swept into a 5-0 lead and although the young guardsmen came back strongly to win the next three contests, there was no denying the home team.

Bantamweight JLdr Taffe of

Ouston had an outstanding win, while the light welterweight contest was a real humdinger between JLdr Tidy of Ouston and JLdr Bettles of the Guards Depot. Tidy won on a unanimous points decision.

Six bouts to three was also the winning margin for 3 RGJ over 1 RRW in the novice grade 2 inter unit championships at Colchester, and for 1 Para over 1 PWO in the UKLF inter unit grade 3 championships.

SOLDIER



**TRAIL
BLAZERS
IN
ACTION**

This is how you do it! Members of the Trail Blazers, The Light Division's parachute display team, demonstrate a manoeuvre for the benefit of parachute students at the Pergamos Joint Services Adventure Training Centre in Cyprus. See Cyprus feature on Pages 23 to 27.