

SOLDIER

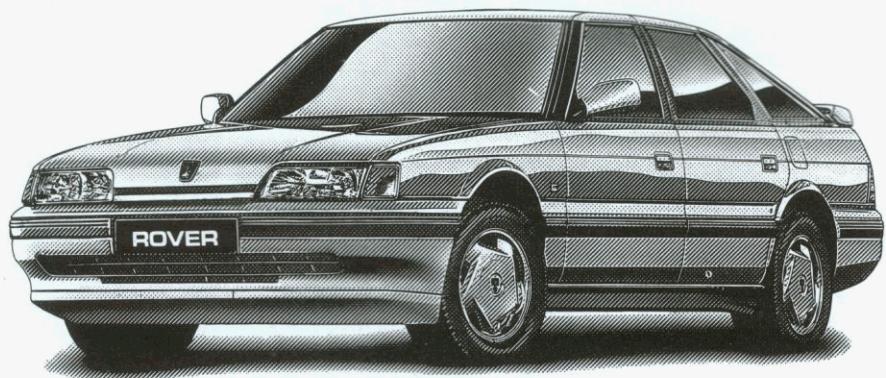
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VOL. 44/22

OCTOBER 31 1988

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FRONT COVER: A prairie dawn for A Squadron, The Queen's Own Hussars during the early stages of Medicine Man 6 at Suffield, Alberta. After a bitter night the day was brilliant. See feature starting on Page 25.

Picture: Mike Perring

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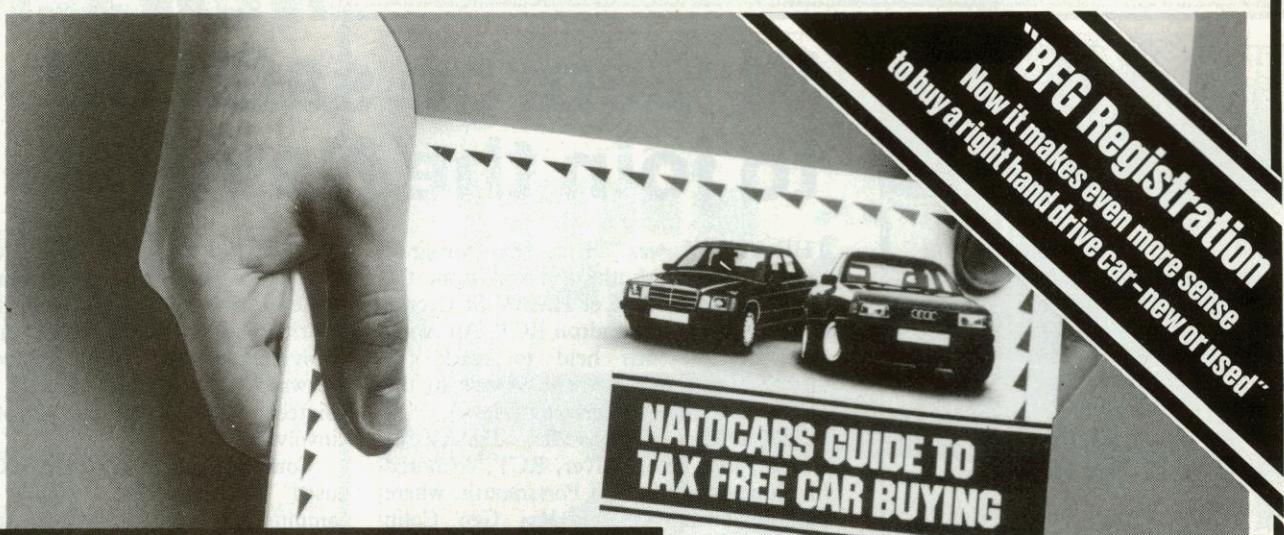
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**NEXT
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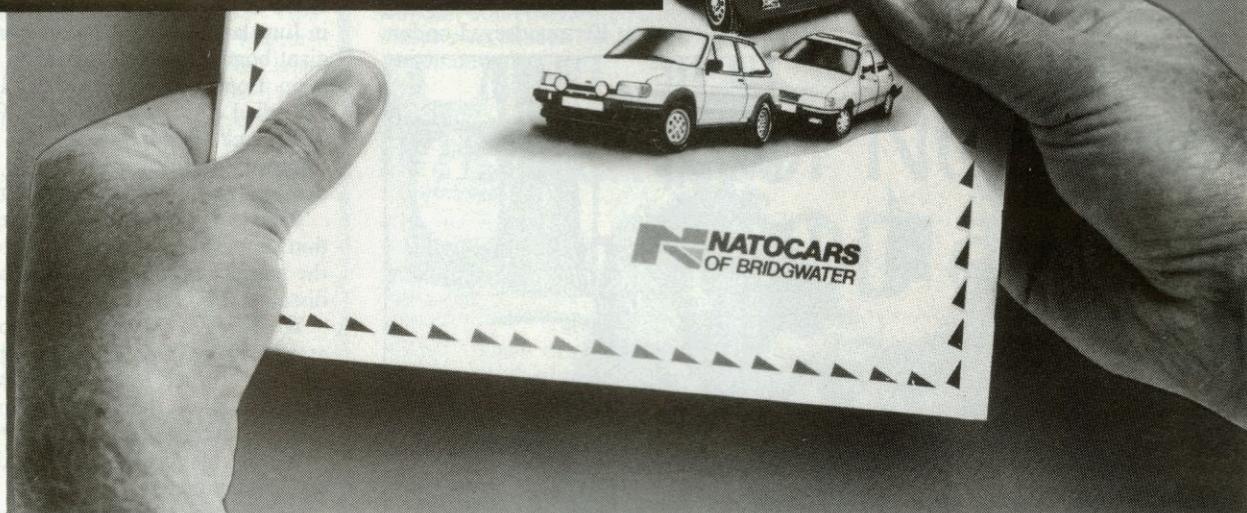
Assistant Adjutant 2nd Lt Carol Hoile looks very much like any other member of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in her combat gear – until a quiet moment gives her time to reach for the lipstick! A senior officer once referred to Carol as "Private Benjamin", and the name has stuck. SOLDIER has visited 1 DWR in East Belfast and stories and pictures will appear in the next issue.

● ALSO the Scots Guards on the Prairie, AND a visit to RPC headquarters at Northampton, PLUS a look at more units in Berlin.

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Concern over state of private war graves

THE condition of many private war graves in Britain is criticised in the annual report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, due to be published next month.

The report says that "satisfactory standards of care for war graves can no longer be guaranteed."

Only 5,000 war dead are buried in Commission cemeteries in the UK and another 40,000 in military plots within civil cemeteries. But there are about 120,000 other war graves scattered in more than

12,000 burial grounds, and these are the ones causing concern.

A large number lie in private plots over which the Commission has no control, although it is still responsible for ensuring proper commemoration.

The Commission has been drawn into a number of well-publicised cases where graves lie in cemeteries which have been allowed to revert to nature or which the owner seeks to develop for commercial purposes. In the case of Mill Hill in Greater

London, it had deployed its own staff to maintain standards.

Highgate Cemetery is singled out by the Commission as a "shining example" of what could be done to a cemetery that had become neglected and overgrown. It was rescued by a voluntary organisation and standards had improved enormously.

The report praises the work of local authorities, clergymen and the Royal British Legion who act as their agents at a number of cemeteries.

4 Armd Div in Belgian exercise

ABOUT 30,000 Belgian, British and German soldiers were involved in the 1st Belgian Corps Exercise Golden Crown fought over the hills, forests and fields of Hessen, West Germany. More than 2,000 tracked and 7,500 wheeled vehicles were used.

On one side were the 4th Armoured Division's 11th Armoured Brigade, commanded by Brig Jeremy Phipps. The international spotlight fell briefly on men of 3 R Anglian when their defensive position near the village of Wolfshagen was visited by observers representing the Committee for Disarmament in Europe.

To their surprise, two of the Royal Anglians were singled out by Soviet colonels in the group and then presented with small medallions as a memento of their conversation.

Fusilier foe

MEN from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Bulford based AMF(L) battalion, were deployed as the enemy for the 1 Infantry Brigade Logistic Units on Exercise Bold Grouse in Denmark.

The 120 strong company group under Maj Andrew Greenwood was deployed in patrol bases across north Zealand. The Fusiliers were tasked with testing the security and reactions of the logistic units.

Gas and gaiters!

Kneeling in a holy pose and probably praying for safe delivery, 12 padres from 3 Armd Div units, resplendent in "noddly suits", are pictured before donning their respirators and entering a gas chamber. They were taking part in



The Duchess of Kent pauses to speak to Cpl Fiona Murray, attached to 247 Pro Coy, 2 RMP in Berlin, as she arrives with the Duke of Kent for the opening of the Berlin Tattoo. The Duchess is Controller Commandant of the WRAC and enjoyed a spectacular opening night which included highland dancing illuminated by torch bearing men of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch



Exercise Heavenly Charger at Korbbecke, West Germany. The three-day training period is held annually to train and test padres in basic field skills. Seen in front of the group is the Senior Chaplain 3 Armd Div, the Rev Victor Dobbin.

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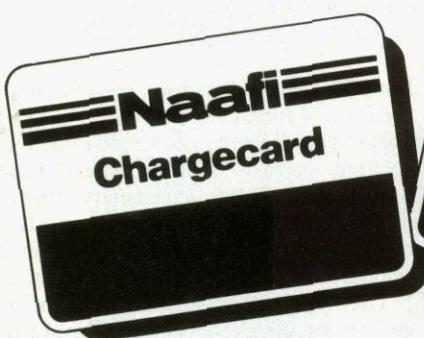
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Soviets drop in on Drum

THE home defence exercise Drake's Drum finished on Salisbury Plain when soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales stationed at Warminster ended the last resistance of the "enemy" from positions on the training area.

The climax to the exercise was preceded by a dawn parachute drop on to Fox Covert by 40 men from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Volunteers) from Yorkshire.

Once on the ground the part time paras linked up with other men to take on the defending forces in the climax to nine days of busy exercise activity in locations as far apart as Penhale in Cornwall and the Hampshire border. Some 4,000 troops, including Regulars, territorials and reservists took part.

During the week parts of the exercise in Wiltshire, Dorset, Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset came under the close scrutiny of four Russian officers who had exercised their right to carry out a snap inspection of United Kingdom field training under the terms of the Stockholm Agreement signed two years ago.



Taking a critical interest in a British Army mug of tea, drinking for the use of, is Col Anatoli Makhov, one of four Soviet officers who visited the home defence exercise Drake's Drum at 36 hours notice under the provisions of the Stockholm agreement on confidence building measures. The spot check came as a complete surprise to exercise organisers in the south and south west of England.

With Col Makhov are two of the soldiers taking part. And his verdict on the brew? He wasn't impressed!

Medics taste real thing

THERE'S nothing like the real thing, even when it comes to treating casualties.

The 30 part time combat medical technicians of 207 (Manchester) General Hospital RAMC (V) had only dealt with simulated casualties before they spent a weekend at Gwynedd General Hospital in

North Wales treating real live but damaged people.

Some of the TA members had never seen a genuine broken limb before. "A bit nerve wracking at first," said Pte Tina Marshall, QARANC (V). "But a wonderful opportunity to learn."

Gurkha engineers celebrate 40 years

MEN of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers took a day off work to celebrate their 40th birthday in Hong Kong. Gurkhas were first enlisted into the Royal Engineers in September 1948 when a Gurkha Training Squadron RE was formed. Families joined in the day of celebration, which included boat races and trips on the regimental junk.



Men of 4 Para's machine gun platoon provide fire support during an attack by 4 Para (V) at Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland. The attack began with a parachute drop at Otterburn after the battalion's annual camp at Okehampton, Devon

All change for the Queens

ALL three Regular battalions of The Queen's Regiment are to be on the move in the next 2½ years. The 1st Battalion is due to leave Tidworth, Hants, for Minden in West Germany in January 1991, replacing

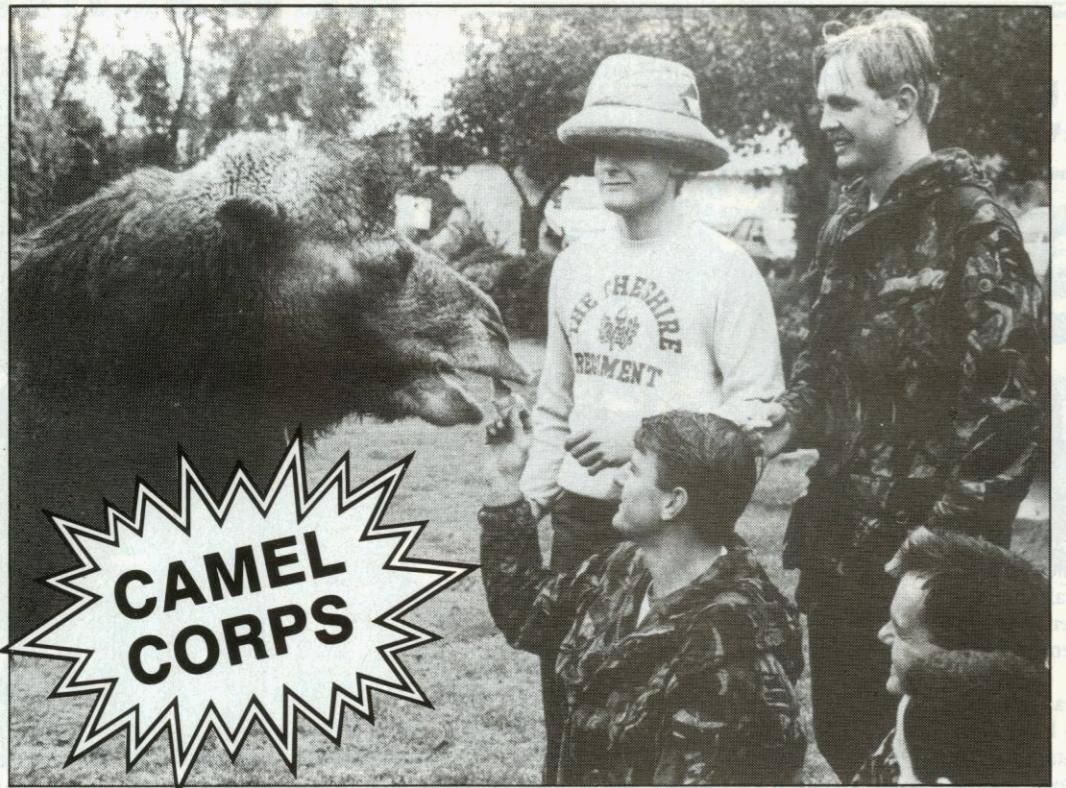
the 2nd Battalion which will return to the regiment's base at Canterbury, Kent.

But first to move will be the 3rd Battalion, which goes to Cyprus early in 1990 after a tour of duty in Northern Ireland.

Lloyd's volunteers mount honour guard

MEMBERS of the Lloyd's Volunteer Forces Fund provided the guard of honour at a reception hosted by the Prime Minister with Defence Secretary Mr George Younger for major national employers at Lancaster House. The event marked the start of a national campaign, organised by the National Employers Liaison Committee (NELC), aimed at spurring employers to support and encourage their employees in joining the volunteer reserve forces.

● See feature in pages 38 and 39



Acclimatization is vital for expeditions, decided Lt Martyn Forgrave of the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, so as preparation for Exercise Atlas Sunset – an adventurous training expedition to Morocco – he had to find camels! Less than a mile from the battalion's base at The Dale, Chester, is the North of England Zoological Society – and some quick liaison with public relations officer Pat Cade saw the Cheshires given the once over by senior camel Jimmy! Pictured are Lt Forgrave (in the hat), Pte Eric O'Callaghan (with the food), Pte Julian Stott and Cpl John Rogers.

Footnote: The 16-man Cheshires expedition will not be taking the hump in Morocco as they are travelling by Land Rover!



KRYPTON-ITE: Sgt Speedy Tippen in the land of the Kiwi

The Kiwi factor

EXERCISE Longlook participant Sgt Speedy Tippen of 68 Sqn RCT, based at Rheindahlen, West Germany has been helping out on the set of the New Zealand version of the Krypton Factor television game. Speedy, currently attached to 3 Sqn RNZCT, looked after one of the mobile camera crews who were being transported up and down the conference course in one of his trucks.

A bargain at 200 camels!

ONE female member of the joint 1 Staffords/1 R Anglian expedition to the High Atlas mountains in Morocco received an offer her colleagues were hard pressed to refuse!

During the 15-day trip an offer of up to 200 camels was made for the blushing trekker! Fellow members of the party obviously thought the bid was not high enough because they politely turned it down.



TOP STOP: On the summit of Jebel Toukbal are (from left) Cfn McAllister, Pte Pye, Cpl Thomas, Pte Adams, Cfn Fletcher, 2nd Lt McAtee, Capt Benson, Pte Taylor,

As well as climbing Jebel Toukbal, at 12,400ft the highest peak in the range, they called at Marrakesh and Casablanca and reached the edge of the Sahara desert. Dysentery and a variety of breakdowns added to the flavour of adventure.



THIS large painting has pride of place on the wall of the office of Lt Col **Richard Sale**, CO of 3 LI at Wootton Barracks, Preston, Lancs. That's not surprising when you learn that the artist is his American wife, **Judy**, who has exhibited her works in many parts of the world. See 3 LI feature on Pages 22-23.

Carry on trucking

LOOK what WO2 **Peter Pritchett** took home with him after setting out on an adventurous training weekend in Wales.

He interrupted the weekend with his TA unit, 94 (Bristol) Coy RAOC, to take part in a national driving competition organised by a truck company and a national newspaper – and left the others standing to walk off with a brand new Renault G290 tractor unit worth £41,000.

TA personnel in the south west may remember Peter as the DSTT Warrant Officer.

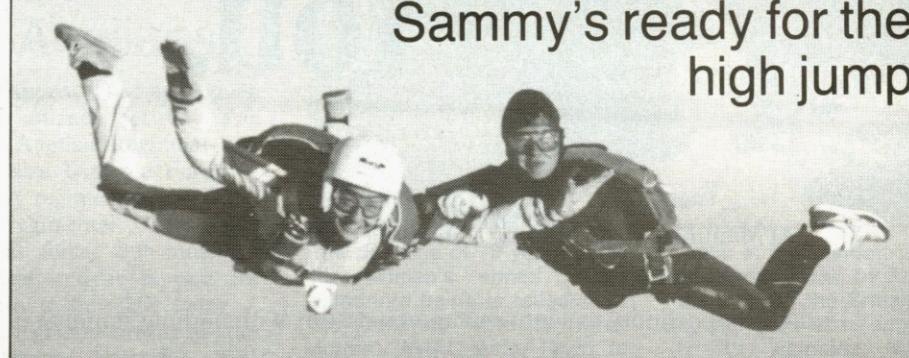
His CO, Lt Col **Andrew Gibson**, said: "This magnificent achievement reflects his qualities both as a driver and thinker under pressure. We are proud of him."



CAB AND CUP: WO2 Peter Pritchett with his impressive prize

PEOPLE

Sammy's ready for the high jump



HERE's how to make accelerated progress at your chosen sport! OCdt Sammy Negus (left) attended a free fall parachute course at the Joint Service centre at Netheravon, and is pictured jumping from 12,000ft with SSgt Brian Dyas, the REME permanent staff instructor at London University OTC, of which Sammy is a member. She is 22 year old and a medical student.

The picture was taken by Lt Phil Gibbs, RN, during Sammy's sixth jump.

Aim of the accelerated course is to qualify parachutists in as few as eight jumps. All descents on the course are made from 12,000ft in the company of an instructor.

SSgt Dyas acted as Sammy's instructor throughout the course.



LAST POST?

★ AFTER a two year draft with Army Management Services (Work Study) at HQ BAOR Rheindahlen, West Germany, Chief Petty Officer John Elston, a weapon electrical artificer in the Royal Navy, is returning to sea.

★ John is the last of his line as the Navy will no longer be filling the post which it has manned since 1975.

★ First incumbent was Fleet Chief Petty Officer John Harker who settled at Rheindahlen and is now the admin officer for SSAFA Western Europe.

★ Our picture shows John Elston (left) saying farewell to John Harker.

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Make a date with this calendar!

SOLDIER's calendar for 1989 will be a prized possession of military buffs long after the year has ended.

The calendar consists of 12 full colour Chas Stadden prints depicting British Army uniforms from the past three generations.

Regiments included in the collection are the Welch, the Queens, Life Guards, Royal Anglians, South Wales Borderers, Blues and Royals, Black Watch, Scots Guards, Kings Troop RHA and the Royal Artillery.

It is the first time in recent years that SOLDIER has produced a calendar and it looks like being an early sell-out.

Full details of how readers can order their copies are given in the loose insert to this magazine and in a classified advertisement on Page 36.

Unfair local authorities taken to task

Local authorities who refuse to employ ex Servicemen have been criticised by Gen Sir Jack Harman, president of the Regular Forces Employment Association.

The organisation's 103rd annual report reveals that there are 20 local authorities which discriminate against the employment of ex Servicemen who

SOLDIER to Soldier

are in receipt of public service pensions, despite efforts to persuade them to change their attitude.

Sir Jack comments: "I find it very difficult to understand this attitude. The men and women joining the Services go as excellent ambassadors for the areas they have left. They return at the age of 40 with a small pension which in no way covers their needs.

"They then find that some authorities deny them the opportunity of employment, not only in the authority's offices but also in the local police, fire service, health offices and others.

"Even more strangely, the majority of authorities which discriminate against ex Regulars call themselves an equal opportunity employer."

New alliance for Anglians

Royal approval has been given for an alliance between The Royal Anglian Regiment and the Belize Defence Force.

Every regiment in the Army has regimental ties with overseas forces but most are historical and it is rare for alliances to be made today.

The regiment already has ties with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Barbados, Bermuda and Gibraltar. The last commanding officer of the BDF was Lt Col Trevor Veitch (late R Anglian).



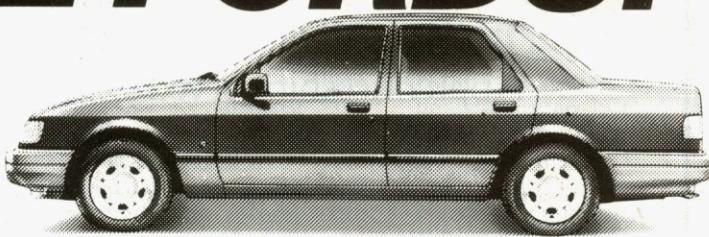
Picture: Mike Weston

The passage of 70 years since the women's armed forces came into being is reflected in the uniforms worn by three current WRAC girls. Right to left are Pte Caroline Burns in 1914-18 uniform, Cpl Helen Kennerley (Second World War ATS uniform) and Cpl Sara Jones in the WRAC uniform of today. The girls modelled their

dress at the London launch of *Women in Khaki* by Roy Terry, the story of the British woman soldier, published appropriately to coincide with the celebrations of the ATS/WRAC golden jubilee

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

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Making joint decisions with a smile. From left to right are Conductor Michel Gilbert (France), Lt Col Michael Emerson (USA), Capt Alain Leguen (France) and Maj Anthony Jordan (Britain)

THE PROTOCOL PLANNERS

ALLIED Staff Berlin has a unique place in current military history for its role in the city is still based on events that occurred immediately after the Second World War and left it partially locked into history.

Although the role of the Allied Powers has changed over the years, they are still in the city as an occupying force and many of the regulations under which they exist date from that time.

The real role of the Allied forces in Berlin today is the defence of the city in case of attack, threat or harassment by the Warsaw Pact.

As a result troops stationed in the three western sectors now work much more closely together as a unified fighting force than they did immediately after the Second World War.

The benefits of co-operation were brought home to the Allies during the Berlin Airbridge in 1948-49, when the blockaded city could only be resupplied by a massive round-the-clock operation.

It was a time when the

Story by Laurie Manton Pictures by Mike Perring

members of the Allied Powers had to motor around the three western sectors and form ad hoc committees to co-ordinate their actions.

Out of that period was born the concept of an Allied Staff Berlin. It first came together as a small working party of tripartite officers and over the years has expanded to its current level of more than 50.

Maj Anthony Jordan, R Irish, is Staff Secretary at Allied Staff, a unique appointment in the British Army as the title is of American origin.

He told SOLDIER: "It's an interesting place to work because it has a truly integrated tripartite staff and we work not to one boss but three!"

"We answer directly to the

Commandants in Committee, an appointment that changes every month as the three Powers take it in turn to hold the post."

Primary role of the Allied Staff is to manage the co-ordination of joint planning and organisation of joint ceremonial events, as well as all other tasks that involve more than one sector.

Remarkably, the West Berlin police remain nominally under the control of the Allied Commandant, so if they get involved in any task that involves more than one sector they are required to act through the Allied Staff.

That is not to say the Allied Staff Berlin acts as a superior headquarters. It does not. Nor

does it direct the Allies. But it does arbitrate between them, sorting out their individual ideas and proposals, and presenting them back for discussion and approval.

At one time, there were three separate defence plans for Berlin but these have been brought together by the Staff to form a combined plan for the defence of the city.

The Allied Staff was heavily involved in this sensitive task.

It is also responsible for running combined training, and organises exercises throughout the year.

One of the best known of these is Exercise Rondo, a communications exercise in which signallers from all three nations work together and try out the radio equipment of the others.

● Turn to Page 17



A poignant reminder of the heavy fighting that took place in and around the city towards the end of the Second World War is the Berlin War Cemetery.

Administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, it contains the bodies of 2,680 British and 900 other allied Servicemen who died there.

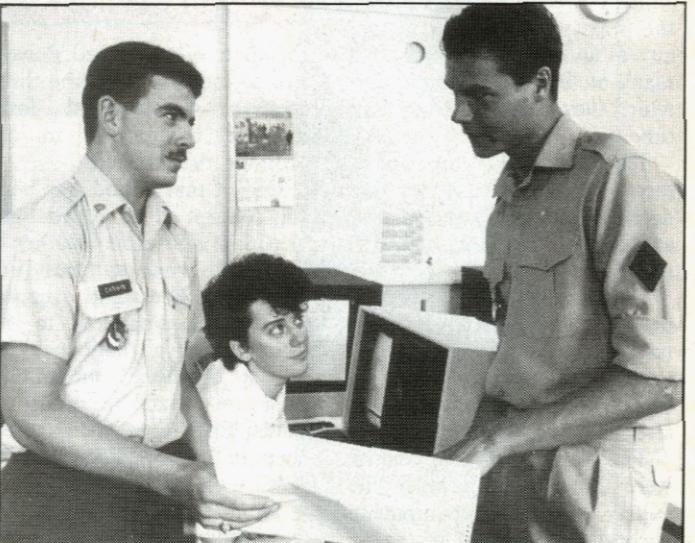
Now a haven of peace, it is maintained with compassion and care by head gardener Ian Anderson who took a break from his daily toil to pose for the SOLDIER photographer.

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Specialist Class 4 Ron Carwin (left) and Conductor Gilles Duval discuss a clerical problem with Wcpl Chris Lawrence WRAC in the Typing Pool. Wcpl Lawrence described working with tripartite staff as 'fun' and said she enjoyed working in Berlin

PIONEER FRONTIER

ALTHOUGH detachments of The Royal Pioneer Corps can be found serving in most British Army garrisons, Berlin can boast just three members of the corps - a colonel, a captain and a corporal!

Lt Col Garry Cooper and Capt Phillip Wilde are responsible in varying degrees for all 3,800 civilian employees in the British Sector, while Cpl Guy Wesley is the training NCO and All-Arms skill-at-arms instructor attached to 3 Squadron, 13 Signal Regiment.

Col Cooper is the Commanding Officer of 14 Independent Pioneer and Civilian Labour Unit (PCLU) and Capt Wilde is his second-in-command.

The PCLU itself has a civilian staff of 28 who give advice to units in Berlin on matters such as recruitment, allowances and the day-to-day administration of civilian labour.

Recently the unit formed another department - the Garrison Labour Support Force (GLSF) of 23 German nationals.

The GLSF provides a labouring service to military units so that soldiers can be relieved from administrative tasks that take up valuable training time, enabling the men of the infantry battalions to concentrate on their primary role of the defence of Berlin.

"The PCLU, in addition to all its other tasks, makes three valuable and unique commitments to the military and civilian community in Berlin," said Col Cooper.

The first is the Learn and Earn scheme, designed to give work experience to dependant youngsters aged over 15 and still in full time education.

RPC trio holds the fort

They are encouraged to work within the British community on weekday mornings to gain on-the-job experience in a wide range of employments, such as office work, catering and estate maintenance.

The scheme ran for nine weeks during the summer and was broken into three-week periods. It helped 157 youngsters gain valuable work experience for which they also received a useful amount of pocket money as an incentive!

"We also earned the thanks of numerous grateful parents who had their offspring taken off their hands during the long summer holiday," said Capt Wilde.

To balance what the PCLU does for British youngsters, they also brought in an apprenticeship scheme for German youths.

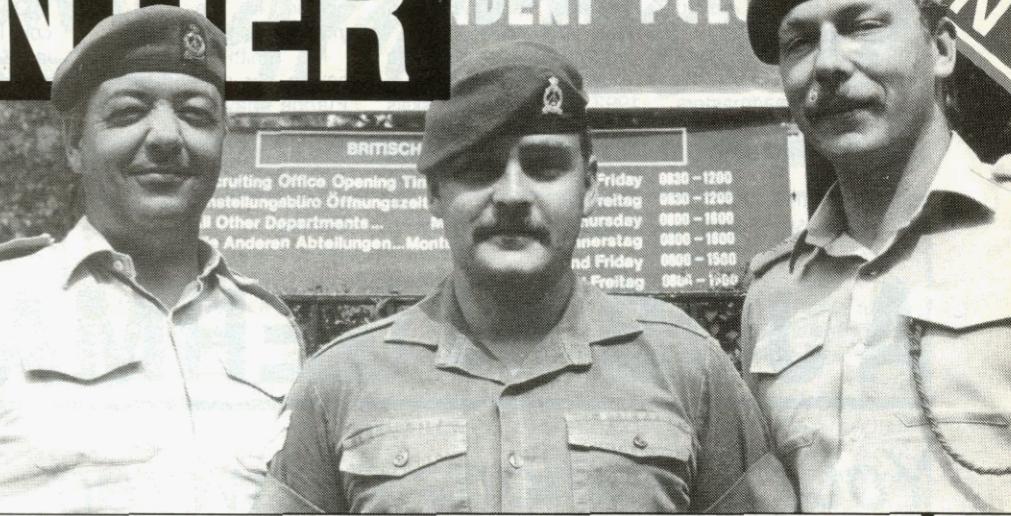
Thirteen young Berliners have signed indentures with the British Forces to train for three years in trades such as vehicle mechanics, cooks, joiners and hairdressers.

In the presence of a representative of the Berlin Senat, GOC Berlin presented certificates to the local youngsters, who will go to night school and on day release schemes for extra training the military units are unable to provide.

In 1989 and 1990, it is planned to recruit ten more apprentices each year so that at any one time approximately 30 Berlin apprentices will be benefitting from training with the British community.

The third unique area within the PCLU is its Help and Advisory Service run primarily for dependants but also for anyone who has an employment related query.

This necessitates close co-operation with the Berlin HIVE and German official institutions such as the Arbeitsamt (equivalent to our DHSS and employment offices) and the Landesamt (German Pay Office).



Pioneers in Berlin. From left to right are Lt Col Garry Cooper, Cpl Guy Wesley and Capt Phillip Wilde



Loadsa money! Eager youngsters who have completed the Learn and Earn scheme wait to collect their money from PCLU staff Sharon Reed (left) and Lee Newlands

The Help and Advisory Service helps dependants claim unemployment benefit by translating application forms, attending the institutions with claimants, and by explaining in simple terms the rules of receiving benefit.

Said Col Cooper: "The success of this venture has been shown by the fact that over DM 500,000 was paid out to claimants last year."

PROTOCOL PLANNERS

From Page 15

The aim is to establish comms between the different radio types, for one of the problems faced by the Nato Allies is the non-standardisation of equipment, an anomaly that is brought sharply into focus in Berlin.

"Ex Rondo is desperately important and, being on the Berlin Budget, we have fortunately been able to purchase some radio equipment which is compatible to everybody," said Maj Jordan.

"There are some areas where we use our own radio equipment and it can be a real

problem trying to link up.

"There is also an incredible language problem," he said. For although the Allies work in just two languages, English and French, there have been unforeseen difficulties, especially when a KOSB corporal with broad Scottish accent tries to communicate with an American soldier from Tennessee!

Organising ceremonial events also brings its own headaches for the Staff. Last year three Heads of State visited the city, and each required a tripartite guard of honour.

It was the Staff's job to co-ordinate rehearsals, formulating a common drill acceptable to British, American and French Servicemen.

Said Maj Jordan: "These things are not normally difficult to organise but when you have three nations taking part, each with different viewpoints on how ceremonial should be performed and three different types of drill, then life tends to become a little complicated!"

The staff appointments at the headquarters are specifically designed to be mixed at every level, although the officer posts are always allocated to one

nation.

Hence the Chief of Staff is always an American colonel, his Deputy a French lieutenant colonel and the ACOS G3 is always British, currently Lt Col Paul Arengo-Jones, Glosters. His two assistants are always French and American.

The tripartite mix, including 17 from Britain, applies throughout all levels of staff and is specifically mixed because the original Allied Staff Berlin charter requires it to remain thus so that individual nations cannot "monkey" with who does what without the agreement of the other two.

Second language is key to the future

SERVICE children based overseas have a head start in meeting one challenge of the future, delegates to the Independent Headmasters Conference at Swansea University were told.

That was the golden opportunity they had to learn – and use – a foreign

language, said the chairman, Mr David Smith.

Enormous opportunities would become available in 1992 if language skills were improved.

But Mr Smith warned that British children living overseas should not be allowed to suffer by falling

behind in the field of information technology.

Mr Smith is right in saying our dependants in Europe have a unique opportunity. So it is a tragedy that so few take advantage of it to progress beyond "housewives' German".

Various courses avail-

able include the RSA Basic Certificate, a diploma for overseas teachers and one for teachers of English as a foreign language.

They can be achieved through a three-month language school course or a year-long correspondence course accredited by

a university or the Royal Society of Arts.

Language will be the key to many jobs in the European free market of 1992.

Will the Services be in the front line in preparing dependants for the challenges of new age?

A JOB IN GERMANY

Your questions answered

I HAVE received a number of letters requesting details on a variety of issues affecting the employment of BAOR dependants who find jobs through the Pioneer Labour Support Unit (PLSU) in Germany.

Here are some of those questions, plus answers to them I have received from the MoD.

Q. What is the meaning of "auxiliary" and "casual" to describe workers?

A. Auxiliary and casual are not terms used by the MoD when referring to employment categories. Their categories are kitchen help (A or H grade); bus escort (B grade); ancillary (A or B grade); cleaner (A grade).

Q. Are contracts the same for all jobs?

A. Contracts are peculiar to each employment.

Q. From what date in the month does the earnings cycle start?

A. Dependants are paid in an earnings cycle from the 11th of the month to the 10th of the following month,

paid at the end of the second month.

Q. How is ERNIC paid in Germany?

A. ERNIC is paid under a DHSS formula of sliding scale of percentage reductions. It is calculated and paid on the day the earnings are paid.

Q. Why do our leave entitlements differ from Germans who work alongside us?

A. The normal leave entitlement for dependants is as follows:

● Public holidays – paid time off is authorised for British public holidays. Dependant employees are not entitled to paid time off in respect of those German public holidays which do not coincide with British public holidays.

● Unpaid leave – periods of unpaid leave may be granted though only under extraordinary conditions.

It should be noted that controllers of pedestrian crossings, lunch time supervisors and bus escorts have no paid leave entitlement.

And finally, a few words of advice for employees from MoD.

If dependants have any queries relating to conditions of employment they should first raise the matter with their unit and then with the PLSU.

This procedure allows for queries to be dealt with quickly and accurately and for individual circumstances to be taken into account.

Q. How are the DHSS contribution levels decided by PLSU, DHSS and MoD?

A. Contribution levels are set by DHSS in pounds sterling. This is converted into DM at the Forces Fixed Rate. The present monthly lower limit is DM567.82.

NI contributions are paid on total earnings and are

admitted to hospital as a result of contracting measles, mumps or rubella.

Service children overseas are not immune, and I have been told that SSAFA sisters in Germany have been reporting a higher incidence of measles than normal in some areas.

Already 1,000 of the new MMR vaccines are on their way to Hong Kong, 360 to Munster and 500 to Rinteln in BAOR, and 200 to Berlin.

The American Armed Forces have been using MMR for several years and claim to have cut significantly the number of dependant children who

contract the three infections. They now consider five cases in an area to be an epidemic, having cut the incidence from 60 in 1,000 to one in 1,000.

MMR will be available in all areas in which the tri-Service Directorate of Medical Supplies operates.

A full time co-ordinator in the Defence Medical Directorate has been appointed.

The MMR vaccine has been given to millions of children in other countries for years without problems.

Nesta Map, the SSAFA health education officer in

FAMGRANT INCREASED

FAMGRANT, which is paid to overseas based wives whose husbands are serving sentences in MCTC Colchester or are AWOL, has been increased.

The weekly rate for wives is now £33.40. For dependant children aged 18 or over it is £26.05; for 16 to 17-year-olds £19.40; 11 to 15 £16.10 and ten years and under £10.75.

Weekly amounts for dependant children will be abated by any child benefit being received (currently £7.25 a child).

Premiums in respect of rent allowance for non householders and heating additions for families with children under five years of age previously included in Famgrant assessments have now been abolished.

Already this year nine children in Britain have died from measles and up to 3,000 have been

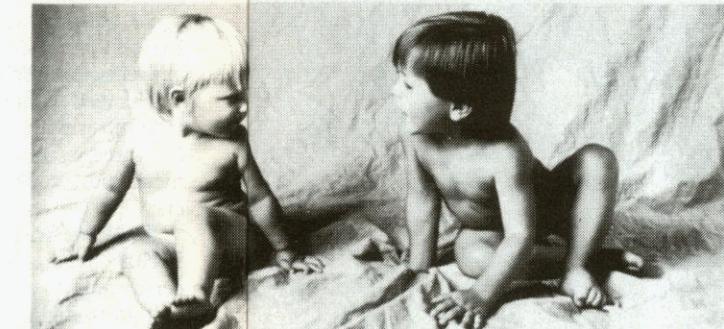
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compliance with the MMR vaccination programme will help to protect your child from these diseases.

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Mumps can cause deafness, heart disease and brain damage.

Rubella can cause deafness, heart disease and brain damage.

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MILITARY SALES

3 LI are a good bet!

They're all set for their 24 Airmobile Brigade role

THE reception area of an ultra-modern, showpiece officers' mess seems an unlikely backdrop for the gambling calls of "Faites vos jeux s'il vous plait" or "Rien ne va plus".

But that is the scene at Wootton Barracks, Preston, home of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, since December, 1986. The furniture includes a roulette table!

However, Unit Press Officer Maj Charles Ottowell, is quick to point out: "The maximum pay-out is £3.50 for a single number, which is hardly high-rolling. The table is played two or three times a year, and it is more a diversion for guests."

The battalion's move to Wootton follows in the wake of sister battalions 2 LI and 1 LI being stationed there. Before the move to the North West they had spent two years at Omagh, Northern Ireland.

Maj Martin Grubb, 2ic, said: "Since our return to the mainland much time has been spent in re-training and re-equipping for our role as part of 24 Airmobile Brigade, itself part of 2 Infantry Division, in support of BAOR.

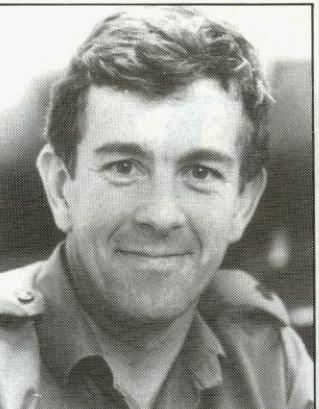
"We have been re-equipped with the SA 80 weapons system, and to enable speedy, protected road movement in BAOR, we have also been given Saxon."

He said a series of progressive exercises had culminated in a divisional exercise in BAOR during which many defensive positions were dug, including a split hairpin trench system.

"In these you can get very flush to the ground," said Maj Grubb. "We, in fact, disappeared in a field, much to the consternation of the enemy, who couldn't find us."

And they had a visit from two Russian colonels who, besides being briefed were entertained to a special lunch, which appropriately included chicken Kiev.

Maj Grubb said their other commitments had included Spearhead duty, a KAPE tour in Cornwall, support for the Cardiff Tattoo and exercises in Wales, Northumbria and Cyp-



Maj Martin Grubb



Professional playboys at an international casino? No, merely the reception area of Wootton Barracks Officers' Mess, where they enjoy a very occasional game of roulette. Pictured (from the left) are 2nd Lt Simon Ekin, Capt Ewan Turner, Lt William Pointing, Capt Richard Woolard, Capt Mark Chapman, 2nd Lt Alistair Abell and Maj Andy Bacon



This photograph illustrates the SA 80 weapon system - the individual weapon with the iron sight as issued to the other arms on attachment to 3 LI and held by Master Chef WO2 Christopher Ashby (centre), the standard rifleman's version with the Susat optical sight, demonstrated by Pte Jason Pilmore (right), and Pte Michael Caine with the light support weapon with its larger barrel and bipod



C Company busy weapon cleaning after firing at Altcar ranges near Liverpool

Words by Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by Mike Weston



Platoon Commander, Capt Ewan Turner and Pte Jimmy Somerville find out if it was a hit or a miss on the ranges at Altcar, near Liverpool. The superb facilities at Altcar are an hour's drive from Wootton Barracks



Starring with the Saxon are (from the left, top) Pte Michael Patterson (driver), Pte Robert Moss (commander), Pte Roy Cothill and Pte Stephen Morland; standing, Pte Neil Taylorson, Pte Joseph Winter, Pte David Brown, Pte Alan Martin, Pte Adrian Howard and Pte Lee Jones

Origins in the Redcoat skirmishers

THE present Light Infantry was formed in July, 1968 when the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and the Durham Light Infantry merged. With The Royal Green Jackets, they now form the Light Division.

Their history goes back to the North American wars of the 1750s, when British troops, dressed in red and

white, became easy targets in the closely wooded, mountainous countryside.

To protect their flanks, light companies were formed, specially trained to scout and skirmish, moving as quickly and quietly as their enemy. Men were selected for their toughness, intelligence, efficiency and shooting skills.

Red tunics were exchanged for russet brown or green to blend with the

countryside. Later the title Light Infantry was conferred on certain regiments as an honour for distinguishing themselves while on active service.

The subsequent grouping and training of light infantry under Sir John Moore led eventually to the formation of the Light Division which fought with such distinction in the Peninsula War.

The Light Infantry consists of three Regular

battalions, four TA battalions, two bands (Salamanca and Corunna) and shares a divisional depot at Winchester with The Royal Green Jackets. Recruiting is from Somerset, Cornwall, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Yorkshire and Durham.

Since its formation, 3 LI has seen service in Malaysia, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Cyprus and Germany and exercised in many parts of the world.



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QOH on the trail of the Blackfoot

Words by: Bill Moore
Pictures by: Mike Perring

THE GHOSTS of any Blackfoot braves watching The Queen's Own Hussars deploy on Medicine Man 6 would have been astonished to learn they were looking at the British Army's senior *light* cavalry regiment.

For it is a simple fact that when "bombed up" a single squadron weighs in at around 850 tons.

So the earth really shook when the Chieftains of A and D Squadrons rumbled over the historic buffalo hunting grounds.

Old soldiers of the QOH are familiar with the brown ribbon of Rattlesnake Road which leads to the prairie.

It has become part of the regiment's life since training began at Suffield in 1972.

The Hohne, West Germany, based QOH have taken part in seven battle group exercises there and they wasted no time when they arrived for their latest.

The last plane load of men flew into Calgary in mid-September and the next day they were manning their machines on the legendary Dust Bowl tank park.

Small herds of antelope watched curiously as the squadrons drove up the tank trail alongside Rattlesnake Road which is reserved for wheels only.

At the controls of the first Chieftain of 2nd Troop A Squadron was Tpr Stephen Castle who had joined the QOH from the RAC Training Regiment at Catterick, Yorks, only ten weeks earlier.

In the turret was 21's commander, Sgt Mick Garlinge with 15 years' service.

Though "this is supposed to be a Brummy regiment" – to quote SSM Geoff Parry of D Squadron who has never got over the fact that the last RSM (now Lt Mick Keogh) was a Geordie – Tpr Castle is a Tynesider and Sgt Garlinge from Dorset (though his father was in the QOH).

Other members of the crew had



Chieftains of the QOH, commanded by Lt Col Simon Fox (left), roll across the open prairie where to see a tree is an event. Once chief Crowfoot (inset with the 1 BR Corps sign) ruled the wilderness

orthodox Midlands backgrounds. Tpr Simon Hackett, the gunner, used to carry TV sets in and out of suburban houses for a repair firm.

Until he dropped one! Tpr Danny Hughes was a butcher before he trained as a loader/operator.

Both are now happy as Hussars and put on Davy Crockett-style racoon skin caps to pull SOLDIER's leg as they worked to tighten up 21's tracks.

An hour earlier they had been taking things much more seriously as the three tanks of 2nd Troop, under Ssgt Pete Lund, were called up from a windswept valley to fire a variety of live ammunition –



something they can't do on most other training areas.

The vicious recoil of the breech following the use of APDS (Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot) was an eye opener and nearly an eye closer for the young gunner.

"The whole tank seemed to jump," he said.

The range safety staff were complimentary about A Squadron's gunnery.

No time was wasted. When a tank developed a minor fault and had to be pulled back its ammunition was quickly transferred to another so the crew could "get their shoot in".

● Turn to next page

Hard graft for the Chain Gang

THE A1 Echelon of the QOH has been called many things in its day, but the Chain Gang would appear to be an apt description.

Fifty vehicles and 90 men took the field under Capt Billy Budd to replenish the fuel, ammunition and rations of not only 30 Chieftains and the Recce Troop but two companies of 1 Scots Guards plus the Milan and Mortar platoons.

It seemed to be an ideal job for insomniacs. Sleeping bags and bivvies were largely ornamental as Medicine Man 6 developed.

Some idea of the material shifted may be gauged from the fact that 60 men moved 267 tons of ammunition in 36 hours in Crowfoot's ammunition compound just before the exercise began.

They worked through the night in freezing temperatures.

After a quick conference with Capt Brian Mellor, doubling for Quartermasters Tech and Admin, RQMS Dave Long calculated:

"By the time it is over we'll have moved 400 tons."

He was full of praise for a trio of youngsters who had been with the regiment for only six months - Tprs Steve Brooks, David Pearse and Pelly Datt (who is inevitably called Diss).

Much of the time they were unloading heavy HESH and APDS rounds from their boxes and carrying them to unit load

containers which were fork-lifted on to four tonners by a cheerful RCT driver.

The shells were taken up by the Immediate Supply Group (ISG) and then distributed to the fighting line by A Echelon.

On a single day one convoy covered 300 miles and delivered 4,000 rounds. And there were 15 more days to go.

SQMS Smokey Robertson of HQ Sqn whose brother-in-law, SQMS Bobby Ferris does the same job for D Sqn, was averaging about two hours sleep a night at one time.

And it was a similar story for SSgt Robbie Guy of A Sqn and CSgt Dave Pickering and Tam Potts of 1 Scots Guards.

To see Capt Budd and his 2i/c, WO2 Tony Fisher, coping with a multiplicity of problems and demands was a revelation.

They had just dealt with a trooper called Bonzo who had walked into a pole and given himself a black eye when the radio brought news of more trouble.

A Chieftain had developed mechanical trouble.

"Three One has got to be debombed and pulled out."

After some juggling with empty containers and some neat work with the fork-lift a lorry set out on a journey of probably 100 miles.

As the man said: "It's the tracks that get the glory. The MT gets the graft."

Bed's a nice warm tank for the crew of 21

● From Page 25

Firing over, the Chieftains moved quickly to a rendezvous in the shadow of a low hill flattered with the name of Mount Anonymous.

One swung off the line of march and halted briefly while the commander hurried back to 21 which had pulled up behind.

He borrowed a sledge hammer and banged in a loose track pin.

The shaft of his own sledge had broken the previous night.

The squadron went into leaguer for the night on a plain sheltered by a half moon ridge.

There was no fuss. Each troop automatically took up position in box formation with the squadron leader's tank, the REME 432 and the armoured ambulance on a centre line with SSM Jim Baker's Ferret.

Tanks are demanding creatures, Chieftains more so than some of the others.

No sooner had they halted than the crews began to work on them.

Maj Charles Carter, the OC, held his orders group and gradually bivvies began to appear alongside the machines.

The arrival of a convoy of lorries generated even more activity in the dusk as they rolled around the tanks refuelling and rearming them. Rations were issued.

The supply echelon disappeared as a glowing purple last light lit the ridge.

Then it was dark and the banging, brewing up and cooking went on by torchlight (the position was non-tactical at that stage).

The crew of 21 hoisted their tank sheet over the barrel of the 120mm gun reversed over the engine cowling.

All four would sleep on the warm plates over the engine.

But before they climbed into their sleeping bags they were transformed from the grimy individuals who had manned the



Sgt Mike Garlinge (above right) and crew - Tpr Steve Castle, helmetless, and Tprs Danny Hughes and Simon Hackett (on turret) sporting Davy Crockett coonskin caps for a joke. Below, Tpr Hughes spruces up before bed (right) on the engine plates of the tank



★ NEXT ISSUE - Scots Guards and E Battery 1 RHA on the prairie

dirty diesel-driven Chieftain.

Every man had stripped to the waist, washed and shaved.

"Reveille is at 0530," said Sgt Garlinge. "We won't have time in the morning."

Just before dawn the leaguer was alive again, little pinpoints of light moving over the silhouetted machines as the crews carried out their regular checks.

At 0730 with the sun up and the sky

Forming the square

THE BATTLE group of the 80s is the basic fighting formation of the British Army of the Rhine.

Broadly speaking it is a square animal (though there are variations) based on two tank squadrons and two armoured infantry companies, supported by a battery and with its own sappers and Army Air Corps flight.

The commander may be the CO of the

tank regiment or the infantry battalion.

The Queen's Own Hussars battle group on Medicine Man 6 was commanded by Lt Col Simon Fox, QOH, and consisted principally of two Chieftain squadrons of the regiment plus the recce troop; the Right Flank, C Company and elements of Support Company of 1 Scots Guards; E Battery 1 RHA, 3 Troop of 1 Squadron RE and a recce flight from 651 Sqn AAC.



From left, Tprs Pelly Datt (18), Stephen Brooks and David Pearse load up in the Suffield ammo compound 2nd Troop firing live on the prairie. Squash Head, Hesh and APDS rounds were used

Ready and waiting for the next battle group

BATUS - British Army Training Unit Suffield - was set up by agreement with the Canadian Government after the loss of the desert exercise areas when Col Gadaffi came to power in Libya in 1969.

A section of the Alberta prairie which had been used for scientific and chemical warfare experiments was allocated for tank, artillery and infantry training with live ammunition.

It covers 1,688 square kilometres (sometimes described as being about the size of Luxembourg) alongside an area about a quarter of the size retained for the Canadian Defence Research Establishment Suffield.

Canadian Forces Base Suffield, the supervising headquarters, is considered to be the second biggest Nato mechanised warfare training area.

Between April and November a total

of about 8,000 British soldiers take part in a series of battle group exercises known as Medicine Man and numbered 1 to 7.

They are based on Camp Crowfoot where, after recovering from the jet lag caused by the eight-hour flight from BAOR, they take over the vehicles of two tank squadrons and two mechanised infantry companies, along with sapper, gunner and other equipment.

The battle group spends 16 days working on special-to-arm exercises on the training area and finally takes part in Exercise Alamein in which armour, artillery and infantry operate together using live ammunition.

With the permanent staff, temporary staff who fly in for the "season" and the battle group personnel there can be as many as 2,000 soldiers on the ground at peak periods.

House proud Hussars leave the prairie spotless

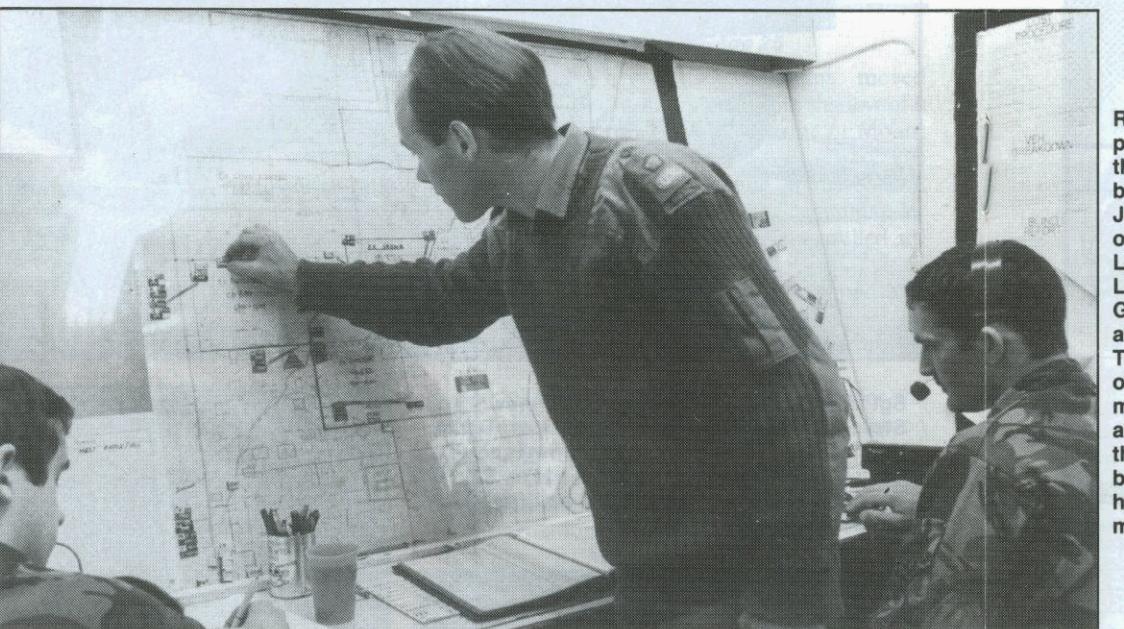
PROBLEM. You have more than 300 vehicles and 1,000-plus tired and grimy soldiers on the prairie as night falls and you receive the magic message ENDEX. What do you do with them now Exercise Alamein is over?

Within four days the next units coming into Suffield for Medicine Man 7 will be starting their training.

For The Queen's Own Hussars battle group it is a matter of pride that the equipment and camp should be left as they would wish to find it.

From HQ in the field comes an order of march and long lines of dark shapes begin heading down "the Rattlesnake" and the tank track that switchbacks alongside it.

Glowing green plastic sticks hanging on



the marker posts guide the Chieftain drivers.

The wheeled vehicles, way ahead of the armour, swing right at a sign marked Gauntlet into a one way system.

The Provost staff check them in, take the zap (identification) numbers, and direct them to a corridor formed by ten heavy lorries.

At the first two all live ammunition is handed over and any shells are immediately stacked in unit load containers. The next pair take all salvage - such as brass shell cases from the Abbot

batteries. Four tankers refuel the vehicles and the final pair receive all usable components. The tanks are "de-kitted", cam nets and the like handed back.

At the end of the lane is a rubbish skip.

The wheeled vehicles and the armour that follows all pass from the Upper Dust Bowl to the washdown, but not before WO2 Mick Crossfield has collected a piece of paper from each certifying that they are FFE - free from explosives.

Once past the FFE point all vehicles are hosed down and the engines steam cleaned.

Right - Mask protection against the bitter wind - behind it Capt Jules Snell, 16/5L of BATUS staff
Left - Maj Andrew Ledger, OC Battle Group Ops room, at work.
The whereabouts of all vehicles must be known at all times otherwise the exercise must be brought to a halt until the missing are found



In the maintenance bay which can take four heavy vehicles at a time overhead pipes and cables enable servicing to be carried out with the minimum amount of effort.

Then it is on to the inspection and repair area where crews get to work.

Only when they have satisfied the indispensable Tiffy (a REME staff sergeant) that all is well can they park up.

Gradually long lines of machines assemble on the Lower Dust Bowl.

The work goes on without pause throughout the night... a sustained effort lasting at least 48 hours. In some cases it is longer.

A queue forms for the washdown and the Quartermaster and WOs grow hoarse urging the men to stick at it. RSM Paul Hodgson seems to be everywhere.

Back on the prairie 100 men under Maj John Gordon-Finlayson scour the concentration areas and search round targets and

former objectives for battlefield rubbish. Solid shot piles up in a four tonner.

With luck - and the dry weather everyone prays for - the vehicles of the battle group will be formed up in a solid phalanx on the Dust Bowl sometime on the Sunday and the training area will have been reported clean.

As a final flourish 100 men with brooms and rubbish sacks will sweep Camp Crowfoot.

At midnight, the Tiffies of the respective formations having agreed on the mechanical states, the camp and its equipment become the responsibility of 4 RTR battle group.

Medicine Man 7, the last of the year is under way. The troops who completed Med Man 6 are on R and R.

Medicine Hat's famous "Sin Bin" - dance hall, pub and strip club with the real name of Assinboia - can be certain of a full house for a couple of days.

Spirit of the chief lingers on the plains

IN A haunting way one old man dominates Suffield, its camp and training area. His eyes are everywhere as if trying to make sense of a world he can never understand.

The face of Crowfoot, Paramount Chief of the Blackfoot Nation, which once ruled the North Western Plains, appears on a variety of logos on notice boards, vehicles and buildings.

This famous warrior, who once killed a grizzly bear single handed with a spear, signed a treaty with the Canadian administration in 1877 which ensured peace for the land but doomed his tribe.

As he forecast, the day came when the buffalo on which the Indians depended for their existence vanished but he could see no way of stopping the tide of history by going to war.

European diseases and vices have reduced the Blackfoot to a handful, living an unenviable existence on a reserve. The Winchester rifle put paid to the buffalo.

Indian relics such as the circles of stones once used to weight the hide walls of wigwams are out of bounds on the training area but exert a fascination for the men of Army Air Corps Flight BATUS.

Sgt Phil Judd, on a six-month attachment from Germany, showed SOLDIER some of the most interesting sites on a trip to the beautiful Saskatchewan River, including the spot where Blackfoot drove some raiders into a stretch where they drowned... an incident commemorated in the name Drowning Ford.

He also spotted a golden eagle which put on a flying display for the camera.

What would Crowfoot have thought of Maj John Denley's attempt to save an eagle which crashed into a high tension cable. A man was lowered on a harness to reach it.

Unfortunately "due to dehydration and a badly broken wing caused by the wire strike... it died the following morning".

WO2 Lance White subsequently contacted a local wild life group and the bird is now preserved in a glass case in BATUS AAC Flight's hangar.



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THE Queen's Own Hussars were formed at Tidworth, Hants, in November 1958 by the amalgamation of the 3rd The King's Own Hussars (formed as dragoons in 1685) and the 7th Queen's Own Hussars (dragoons raised in 1689). The regiments often served in the same campaigns in their early years and both fought in the Peninsular War.

The 7th, who became Hussars in 1807, were present at Waterloo where they lost heavily. The 3rd Dragoons were one of the

toughest cavalry regiments to serve in India during the first half of the last century.

They stood firm when the rest of the cavalry bolted at Chillianwala in 1849 and their counter charge probably settled the Sikh War in Britain's favour.

Both the 3rd and the 7th served in the desert at the beginning of the Second World War. The 7th suffered severely at Sidi Rezegh in operations to relieve Tobruk in November 1941 and the 3rd led the break-out at Alamein in 1942.

Why 3 TRRE is a bit special to the sappers



The assault pioneers pictured here are drawn from all arms of the Army. Contrary to popular belief the soldiers in the picture are not participating in a worm-charming contest. They are engaged in the much more dangerous task of prodding for mines



HOME OF THE COMBAT ENGINEER

Story by Laurie Manton

Pictures by Mike Weston

TO SAPPERS the world over 3 Training Regiment Royal Engineers is a bit special. It is the home of the combat engineer and every soldier who enlists in the corps passes through the regiment.

Youngsters from the Junior Leaders Regiment Dover, Army Apprentices College Chepstow and the adult recruits from 1 TRRE all go to 3 TRRE once they have completed their basic training.

"Every man who joins the sappers is required to qualify as a combat engineer. As a consequence, every member of the corps has an affinity with the regiment – they think of it as their home," said commanding officer Lt Col Cedric Sloane.

Three squadrons make up the regiment which is based at Gibraltar Barracks near Blackwater, Surrey: 55 and 57 Training Squadrons, backed up by 63 Support Training Squadron which

is tasked to provide support for the training requirements.

With such a heavy emphasis laid on training, the camp and its environs fairly bustle with activity as prospective combat engineers are put through their paces.

But 3 TRRE is not just a sausage machine pouring out combat engineers month after month, for they have many additional roles to carry out.

Said Col Sloane: "In addition to training ourselves, we are responsible for the training of all-arms assault pioneers, not only here but in Cyprus and BAOR and it is possible that next year we will also be providing training in Gibraltar."

The regiment also provides a home defence engineer squadron for North East District and has its own team of divers.

The local police force makes good use

of the underwater sappers when they have a requirement for canals and rivers to be searched. The task is good training for the divers and a contrast to their formal training area – the bottom of Hawley Lake!

To add to the regiment's work load, 18 university officer training units are sponsored by 3 TRRE and around 300 young undergraduates from the OTUs spend time at Gibraltar Barracks to find out what the modern Army has to offer them in terms of a career.

At intervals the regiment acts as a mobilisation centre for Regular Army reservists – an occasion which often brings its own surprises. Last time two reservists turned up looking decidedly unsoldierly, one had a bristling bushy beard while the other arrived with a long blond pony tail hanging down his back!

● Turn to next page



There's plenty of room for work and play . . .

From Page 31

Big event of the year is the Army Demo which takes two months out of the calendar. The regiment's combat engineers put on a show that demonstrates the role of the sappers to members of the Staff College.

Gibraltar Barracks is surrounded by vast training areas which are part of Aldershot Garrison but administered by 3 TRRE which maintains them.

The training grounds are used by many diverse Service groups, from naval cadets who use the lake for sailing practice to paras who practise their section attacks on the heathland.

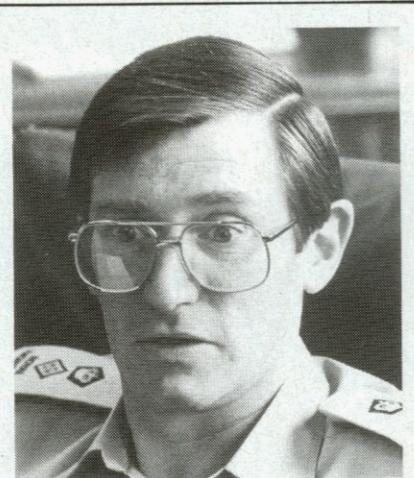
Not all the course work is military oriented, for the students always spend two days at the end of each course involved in project work.

"Sappers have all sorts of useful skills and it's nice to be able to put our skills to good use helping out worthwhile causes.

"In the past, the students have constructed adventure playgrounds for children and their most recent project was to put in a concrete base and superstructure for a new bell tower at Farnborough Abbey," said Col Sloane.

The work is done to confirm the successful training of the students, not purely for PR purposes.

Naturally, the heavy training workload has to be backed up by an efficient stores



Lt Col Cedric Sloane took command of 3 Training Regiment RE in August 1987. His aim is to run a happy and efficient regiment that lays a firm foundation for the future of the Corps of Royal Engineers. He is the author of numerous articles in military and technical journals and his book *Minewarfare on Land* was recently published by Brassey's

and workshop complex. Inevitably with trainees there are a lot of breakages and the first priority of the workshop is the maintenance of all the equipment.

It is their policy to repair as much as possible rather than have to send it to



Just one of the skills required for a Combat Engineer - a sapper section prepares a bridge for demolition

second line workshops.

A small civilian army of carpenters, painters, electricians and metal workers maintains the pumps, repairs the boats and paints bridge sets subject to corrosion.



The regiment also relies heavily on its mainly civilian manned MT section.

"I could not operate this regiment without the unwavering support of our civilian workforce who do such a good job in keeping us operating," said Col Sloane.

In off duty hours, staff and students of 3 TRRE are in the enviable position of having their own sail training centre.

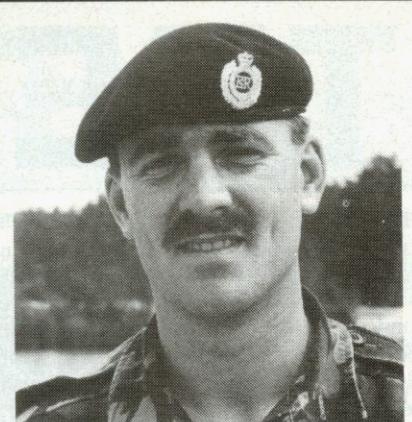
Sailing, canoeing and windsurfing courses are held during the week for the Servicemen and at weekends it becomes a civilian sailing centre.

According to the Army Sailing Association the Hawley STC in its military role gives Service students more sailing qualifications than any other Service sail training centre.

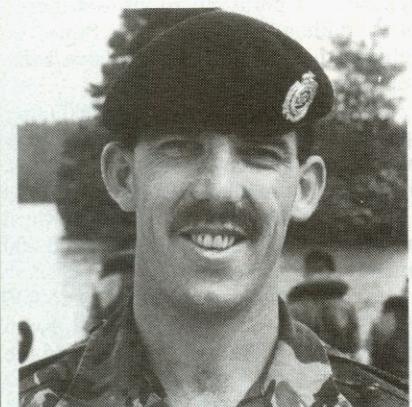


Bridge that gap. A Chieftain bridgelayer (AVLB) launching the 24 metre No 8 Bridge from a pre-launched No 8 Bridge supported on trestles

Combat engineer students march their assault craft to Hawley Lake for a lesson in watermanship



Cpl Shaun Stimson, an instructor with 3 TRRE, says: "It's the highlight of any combat engineer's career to come here as an instructor, where you have a good knowledge of all the different facets of the job. It stands you in good stead," he said



Cpl Anthony Christie is a junior NCO instructor at the centre. He is involved in teaching 11 subjects of the main syllabus including minewarfare, demolition, field defences and watermanship. During his nine years' service he has been to Canada, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Berlin and BAOR. There is obviously no shortage of postings open to the combat engineer



THE RED FLOWER FACTORY

Story by
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Weston

THE ANNUAL Poppy Appeal is so much a part of the British way of life it is taken for granted the red flowers will be on sale each year in the run up to Remembrance Sunday. But few are aware of the round-the-year employment it brings for 120 disabled people at the Royal British Legion poppy factory in Richmond, Surrey.

That is unless they have been on one of the regular tours requested by many different organisations and guided by Colin Brown, ex RAMC.

This year the factory produced more than 40 million standard poppies. As Colin explained: "I point out to visitors there's not a million words in the Bible, so multiply that by 40 and you have some idea of our output."

And there's more! About 300,000 other types of poppies, along with 500,000 car poppies, two million remembrance petals, 66,800 stock wreaths, 279 special wreaths – including those placed by the Royal Family at the Cenotaph – and 300,000 remembrance crosses.

The factory also made more than 26,000 rosettes, 12,250 show badges and 1,650 inscribed ribbons. Customers included the Blue Peter Cat Show organisers, and a variety of animals shows and political parties.

Every November since 1928 the staff of the poppy factory have organised and manned the Field of Remembrance at Westminster as their contribution to the Poppy Appeal.

Originally only two crosses were planted, one in memory of Private Tommy Atkins, the other in memory of Field Marshal Earl Haigh. Now staff mark out more than 300 plots for regimental and other associations, and provide wreaths and wooden crosses for visitors to plant in memory of the fallen. For many years the Queen Mother has visited the Field of Remembrance.

It is through the factory work that the RBL raises most of its money to further its charitable work, but it is nevertheless a separate company from the Legion. The factory celebrated its diamond jubilee in 1982. Its brief until 1975 was to employ ex-Servicemen, with preference given to the disabled. That has been extended to include ex-Servicewomen, the widows of ex-Servicemen and the disabled dependants of ex-Servicemen. Eighty per cent of the present workforce is disabled.

The rationale behind it is to provide a reasonable living under sheltered working conditions for people who, in a number of cases, would be unable to work in an ordinary factory. The organisation has been undergoing a comprehensive streamlining to take it into the 21st century without any job losses.

The factory's prosperity hinges on the popularity of the poppy as the symbol of



Visitors to the Poppy Factory are invited to plant remembrance crosses in this miniature field of remembrance. The crosses are transferred before Remembrance Day to the Empire Field of Remembrance at Westminster, and the proceeds passed to the Legion Appeal. Up to 3,000 people tour the factory each year and are shown around by Colin Brown, ex RAMC, pictured above with just a few of the poppies produced each year



Richard Boulter, ex REME, is a poppy assembler. He lives in a flat specially built near the factory



Sandy Shoebridge, ex RASC, a printer at the Poppy Factory, shows some of the original coats of arms formerly used as wreath centres



Ken Witney, 63, ex Gordon Highlanders, has worked at the Poppy Factory since 1949. He started on buttonhole poppies, and after working in various departments, now makes up special wreaths, such as this one featuring a Victoria Cross

They've made 40,000,000 poppies this year, and that's just for starters!

remembrance for those who gave their lives in war. But how did it all begin?

The date – May 3rd, 1915. The place – a trench on the battlefields of Flanders. Troops were facing a new and deadly foe – poison gas – and a Canadian doctor, Col John McCrae paused from tending to the sick and dying to write a poem destined to become immortal. It began

*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row..."*

An American, Moina Michael, read the poem in *Punch* several months later and was moved to pen a reply which included the lines *"And now the torch and poppy red, wear in honour of our dead."*

For her, the wearing of a poppy was keeping faith. The custom so intrigued a French colleague, a Madame Guerin, that she conceived the idea of manufacturing

and selling artificial poppies in France and using the profits to help people returning to areas devastated by war.

These French poppies were imported by the British Legion for their first appeal in 1921. The public's response exceeded their greatest expectations and £106,000 – a huge sum in those days – was raised.

It was clear to the Legion that, if the appeal was to become an annual event, the Flanders Poppy should be manufactured in Britain.

The idea was taken up by Maj George Howson, a man determined to help less fortunate survivors. He had founded the Disabled Society, and his poppy factory idea attracted a £2,000 grant from the Unity Relief Fund. He also got influential support from Field Marshal Haigh, a life-long supporter of the factory.

Within a month a former collar factory in Old Kent Road had been converted and five disabled ex-Servicemen taken on. On June 15, 1922 the Disabled Society went into production and that year for the first time, the Legion was able to sell British-made poppies for their national appeal.

Three years later the number of employees had grown to 50 and the factory had become a limited company known as the British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd. They then transferred to Richmond.

Maj Howson and his fellow directors were greatly concerned about the welfare of their employees, and because travel created enormous problems for the disabled, housing near the factory became a priority.

It led to the acquisition of Cardigan

House, the former home of Lord Cardigan (who had led the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava). Eventually 58 flats were built on the site with the house and mews converted into eight homes.

By 1932 more than 300 men were employed, and that year they had a chance to prove their metal. Disaster struck when the warehouse at King's Cross and its entire stock were destroyed by fire. In just six months they were able to fulfil their orders. A new factory became a necessity and the building still in use today was opened in 1933.

The Second World War saw these veterans still in action. Although poppy production continued, most staff were transferred to the assembly of electrical condensers for the Ministry of Supply. The British Legion moved its headquar-

ters to Richmond, but a direct hit in November 1940 killed eight wives and children of employees.

By 1970 large-scale rebuilding was under way including a new office block, dispatch area, canteen and showroom. Twenty-four new flats were also built by the Legion's Housing Association. Two years later the factory changed its name to the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory Limited.

Maj Howson, who died in 1936, is a much-revered figure. He was a forerunner in the science of ergonomics – the adaptation of a job process to the functions left to a disabled person.

So brilliant were the plant and tools he invented for the use of his handicapped workforce he became known as the Edison of Richmond Hill.

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Army green penholder bazzards, with flap for rank £3.40, DPM style £3.60. V. Henderson, 6 Thames Crescent, Melksham, Wilts SN12 8BH. 27/89

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Regimental civic and promotional shields and glass paperweights, direct from the manufacturer. C & A Becharrell, 187 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3EF. 0482 443761. 51/88

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War Medals bought and sold, SAE for sample sales list. Efficient friendly service. Mark Carter, PO Box 470, Slough SL3 6RR. 0753 34777. 17/89

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Regimental Brooches. This month we are offering at trade price, Scots DG diamond brooch in 9ct gold £390. Scots Greys £390, 3rd Carabiniers £275, including VAT. Other regiments available. Direct from manufacturers. J. M. Bickerton, Jewellers, 13 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LE. Phone: 021-551 7366. High quality low price. 51/88

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Gloucester Medal and Militaria Fair. Bowden Hall Hotel, Upton Saint Leonards, Gloucester, Sunday 20th November. 10.00 am-5.00 pm. Many leading dealers. Enquiries: 0753 34777. 47/88

The Soldier Calendar 1989 is now available. The Calendar is printed in full colour, and contains twelve different Chas Stadden prints - depicting British military uniforms from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The cost of the calendar is just £3.50 plus 72p p&p - cheques/PO's should be made payable to Command Cashier UKLF, and sent together with the address of the recipient to: Soldier Magazine Calendar, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 51/88

French regimental metal badges, cap badges. List and prices on request. Schwartz, 13 BIS Rue Croix-Gagnée, F.54000, Nancy, France. 49/88

Rhodesian and South African militaria, badges and videos. SAE for lists to GWW, BCM 8191, London WC1N 3XX. 11/89

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Bundeswehr Militaria's latest 88/89 illustrated catalogue now out. Army, Airforce, Navy, cap, arm, rank. Trade badges, div. patches. Send 3 x 18p stamps to: BW Militaria, Nachtigal Strasse 60, 4900, Herford, W. Germany. 49/88

General

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Surrey, Sussex, East Hampshire and London for landlord/tenant enquiries: Christopher St James Rentals PLC, 12 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RF. 01-879 7622.

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Wanted

Genuine collector wants any repeat any Manchester United Football programmes including: BAOR (Dortmund) 1945 v Western Command at Shrewsbury (1953) Wrexham (1953) Rhyl (1956) Ashton (1955) and (1956). Peter Rourke, 3 Howfield, Harpenden, Herts. Tel. 05827 68400.

45/88

Militaria wanted: Medals, Badges, Insignia, Books, etc. Major D A Tresham CD, Box 7150 Vanier, Ontario, Canada K1L 8E3.

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Ration packs wanted, all sorts, specialist ie. Arctic etc. Foreign (no French please) Emergency/Survival, your prices paid. Write to Cpl Barnes, 4eme CIE/Z REP Camp Raffalli, 20260, Calvi, France.

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Riding books. Free catalogue of riding publications. Including dressage, horse-care, feeding and driving. Send stamp to SAMTO, 13 Church Road, Barling, Southend, Essex SS3 0LS.

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17/89

Information Wanted

Alex Gunn, LCpl RCT – 28 Field Ambulance, Hohne 1975-77. Posted as Corporal to Kingsley Barracks, and then HQ ELF. (Last contact Weston-Super-Mare 1982, my wedding.) Anybody who knows his whereabouts please contact Don Park, Fire/Crash Rescue Service, AB2, King Khaled International Airport, PO Box 22531, Riyadh 11416, Saudi Arabia.

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A125

Last month saw the launch of a £10m campaign by the National Employer Liaison Committee to improve the image of the Territorial Army. It comes against a background of disappointing recruitment

figures coupled with the TA's endless problem of wastage. Maj Peter Rhodes, a TA Public Information Officer involved in the NELC campaign, considers the problem.

GLOSS - OR DROSS?



TA's new campaign aims to sharpen image in industry

"IF variety is the spice of life, here's a vindaloo," claims one award winning advertisement for the Territorial Army.

It is a glossy, exciting image. But if life in the TA is so hot, spicy and fulfilling, why do a third of TA soldiers quit every year?

And why, despite a multi-million pound recruiting effort, is the Government's target of an 84,000-strong TA by 1992 looking less likely?

The problems are many and varied and no one involved in the new £10m initiative by NELC, the National Employer Liaison Committee, expects the campaign to answer them all.

To keep the TA at anything like peak efficiency means balancing a complex and delicate equation of recruitment, wastage, training, overstretch, boredom, family problems and the rival demands of the civilian career.

The only constant in this question is Britain's unchanging commitments to home defence, out-of-area operations and, above all, to Nato.

To outsiders, particularly to those countries where National Service is the norm, it must seem extraordinary that Britain aims to provide 40 per cent of its Army's mobilised manpower from part time, volunteer soldiers.

The TA is a peculiarly British organisation. It may be better equipped, better motivated and better trained than ever but it remains an institution founded on goodwill. The wonder is not that it loses 30 per cent of its manpower every year but that it exists at all.

Think about it. Each weekend we expect tens of thousands of men and women who have already put in a full week at office or factory to do a hard, demanding, dirty and repetitive job that most countries accomplish only by

compulsory conscription.

Even so, attracting volunteers has never been a problem. Despite annual wastage of about 30 per cent, the TA has grown from 59,000 to 74,000 over the past four years. But over the past few months recruiting appears to have slowed while wastage remains fairly constant.

The solution is blindingly simple and tantalisingly close. Research indicates that the average TA soldier quits after 2.8 years. If he could be persuaded to stay for just 3.2 years, virtually all the problems would be over.

There will always be some wastage, as NELC chairman Mr Tommy Macpherson fully accepts. Soldiers reach retirement age or leave the unit's district. Some are

overwhelmed by changing family commitments. Triplets and the TA do not, as a rule, mix!

And there is the undeniable fact that society is changing. Today's TA is competing for the volunteer's spare time against every squash court, sailing club, video shop and television station in the land.

But there remains what Mr Macpherson calls "avoidable" wastage, the annual loss of perhaps five or ten per cent of unit strength.

Boredom and disenchantment are major factors in this. The glossy ads may bring recruits into the TA centres but at that stage units have a clear responsibility to point out the nature of the job and the

commitment required.

Training programmes are good and, as a rule, are getting better but the shortage of training areas is a big headache.

The contented TA soldier remains our best recruiting sergeant - but all his good work can be undone in a moment by the disillusioned, brassed off ex-private with bitter memories of a ten-hour round trip in a Bedford four-tonner from Birmingham to Westdown Camp to spend 20 minutes firing his APWT.

To some extent the TA must put its own house in order and lobby Parliament for the means to put all its best intentions about meaningful, exciting training into effect.

There is much work to be done, too, in bringing ex-Regulars into the TA. If the One Army concept is so sound, why do so few former full timers join us?

But NELC's major task is to enhance the TA's image in industry. Here, the enemy is not hostility but indifference or ignorance. With the passing of National Service a quarter-century ago, few of today's managers and directors have any military experience or any real grasp of defence matters.

As a rule, they do not appreciate the role of the TA, the vital gap it fills in Britain's defences or the qualities it brings to their employees who serve in it.

Fred Bloggs is a first-class foreman. But



Officer Cadet Stuart Boxall-Hunt, 10 Para, explains the workings of his rifle to Defence Secretary George Younger. Looking on is NELC chairman Mr Tommy Macpherson

does anyone in the board

room realise that he learned his man management as CSM Bloggs with the local TA unit?

Are the directors aware that the TA gives its young officers training in decision making, leadership and initiative?

Does the managing director realise that his TA soldiers, whose annual camp requirement may cause problems in the holiday roster, more than repay the debt in terms of motivation, fitness and reduced absenteeism?

These are messages that must be hammered home and there are already signs that the NELC initiative is working. All over Britain companies are nominating young executives to take part in Executive

Stretch weekends, pitting their skills against endurance and initiative tests.

The results have exceeded everyone's expectations. Senior management are delighted with Executive Stretch. Everywhere, waiting lists are full.

More importantly, large numbers of junior and middle management are coming into intimate contact with Britain's remarkable citizen army.

Goodwill is being built up among the bosses of tomorrow. For an Army that depends on goodwill, this could be the most important investment of all.



"They're off to be nasty to someone all weekend - aren't they wonderful!"

ALL ARMS WATCHKEEPERS AND LIAISON OFFICERS POOL (V)

Q. What is it?

A. The All Arms Watchkeepers and Liaison Officers Pool (V) comprises officers who are permanently affiliated to major formation HQs in BAOR and UK. They are deployed for duty as Watchkeepers and Liaison Officers in all staff disciplines including Ground Liaison Officers in both Fixed Wing and Support Helicopter Squadrons of the RAF. The Pool is under command of, and administered by, Central Volunteer Headquarters Royal Artillery.

Q. Who can join?

A. Serving TA officers and officers with previous TA or Regular Army service having held the substantive rank of Captain. Officers should normally be under the age of 48 years on joining.

Q. Do I have to change my cap badge?

A. No, officers joining the Pool retain their Corps/Regimental cap badge and dress.

Q. What is the training obligation?

A. The training obligation is 19 days a year. This comprises 15 days annual camp which may be completed in more than one period to enable officers to attend two or more major exercises. The remaining four days (two weekends) consist of Watchkeeper training exercises and specialist presentations held in the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich.

Q. How long may one serve in the Pool?

A. Officers may serve in the Pool until they are 55 years of age. Some officers return to their Parent Unit after serving 3-5 years in the Pool.

Q. Do I have to reside within a limited recruiting area?

A. No, officers are recruited nationwide and travel to and from training at public expense.

Q. What are the rates of pay and Bounty?

A. These are as reviewed and published annually.

Q. How can I obtain more information?

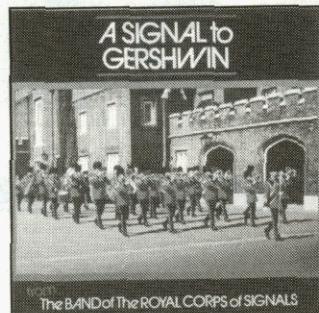
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RECORDS RODNEY BASHFORD

Gershwin tribute down the middle

A SIGNAL TO GERSHWIN from The Band of The Royal Corps of Signals
Conductor: Capt D F Wall



THIS album is presented, says the sleeve notes, as a showcase for the versatility of both George Gershwin and the band itself. I'll grant the latter as far as playing styles goes, but Gershwin versatile? A minor genius yes, but compared to the likes of Rachmaninov of earlier days, and Lenny Bernstein and Andre Previn of the present, he was a regular old stick-in-the-mud.

No, I prefer to take it as a tribute to a very fine song writer who could play his own music well, from a band and arranger doing their versatile thing.

Cy Payne is the arranger of all 12 items, and he explores to the full a band which includes what is usually called a symphonic wind band, plus dixieland, string chorale, big band, and other combinations from within that symphonic band.

A few years ago I would have said this disc fell between the preferences of the military band audiences – dead straight or, for the troops, as pop as possible – but I sense that there is movement towards a centre which is served nicely by such programmes as this.

The dead-straights need not fear the tunes or the arrangements (you were brought up on them) and the troops are familiar with the resurgence of the big band sound.

● **From Droit Music Ltd, 7 Pendred Road, Reading RG2 8OL, price £6.10 inc, cassettes £5.80 inc.**

MARCHING ON!

ON THE MARCH (2nd Series, Vol 3)
Band of the Hampshire and Dorset Regiment (TA)
Conductor: Bandmaster N M Rogerson
DR 83

IN this long-running series begun with the band of The Black Watch, Mr Rogerson's old regiment, we come to the third disc of the new series. After so far recording some 200 marches we are, of course, getting down to many of the rarer examples, with a preponderance of foreign marches, yet almost unbelievably such favourites as *Wien Bleibt Wien*, *Berliner Luft*, and *Under the Double Eagle* are receiving their first performance.

Only seven of this batch of 18 did I play during a band career of 50 years, so you can guess that, if you are a collector, there will be many welcome new additions to come.

I have often said that no great march (or symphony come to that) lies in someone's bottom drawer unknown to the world,



though that doesn't mean rarities cannot be interesting and tuneful. It just means they lack the final touch which makes a *Colonel Bogey* or *Marche Lorraine*.

I don't recall the great Valdres march, Norway's most famous, being done in this series; it is slowly creeping its way across the world, and when it finally arrives it will join all those that are whistled by errand boys everywhere. Mr Rogerson should do it – rather slower.

● **From Droit Music Ltd, price £6.10 inc.**

On parade with the Household Division

TROOPING THE COLOUR

1988

BEATING RETREAT 1988

Massed Bands, Trumpets, Pipes & Drums of the Household Division

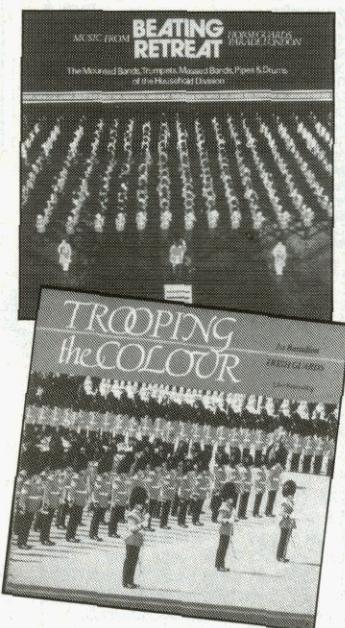
Senior Director of Music: Lt Col M G Lane

DR 100

DR 99

FOR once all seven regiments of the Household Division were represented on the Queen's Birthday Parade this year, so of course all seven slow and quick regimental marches are heard. The main thrust of the music though favours the Irish Guards, whose Colour was trooped, with Col Mick Lane's name well to the fore as composer or arranger of the "neutral" marches.

The whole neutral, as it effects the music, is a bit of a misnomer, for it is usually strongly biased in favour of the regiment trooping its Colour.



The recording was made during rehearsals and the best "takes" used in the final version, which is of excellent

quality with all the atmosphere, words of command, and stereophonic effects you could wish for.

Beating Retreat is also by the Household Division this year. The two always come more or less together, since the venue is the same, to take advantage of the expensive seating which is installed afresh each year.

As a purely musical show Beating Retreat outstrips the Trooping, being concise, non-stop, and more varied. There are snags for the Director of Music in planning the complicated movements of massed bands, massed corps of drums, pipes and drums, trumpeters and so on, for we poor foot-sloggers are apt to require the horses to about-turn, an operation fraught with danger to all concerned.

• Both records from Droit Music Ltd, price £6.10 inc. each.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Weapons and Tactics of the Soviet Army by David C Isby. Revised edition (375 pages, 450 photographs, maps, charts and drawings) of 1981 volume. Comment on and detailed analysis of Soviet weapons, command structure, order of battle, operating methods and weapons systems. Published by Jane's. Price £30.

Self-propelled Howitzers by Simon Dunstan. Representative selection of the principal self-propelled artillery howitzers in use since the end of the Second World War. No 18 in Tanks Illustrated series published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £4.95.

Special Forces Insignia, British and Commonwealth Units. Reference guide for collectors. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £7.95.

British Toy Soldiers, 1893 to the Present. Reference guide for collectors. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £7.95.

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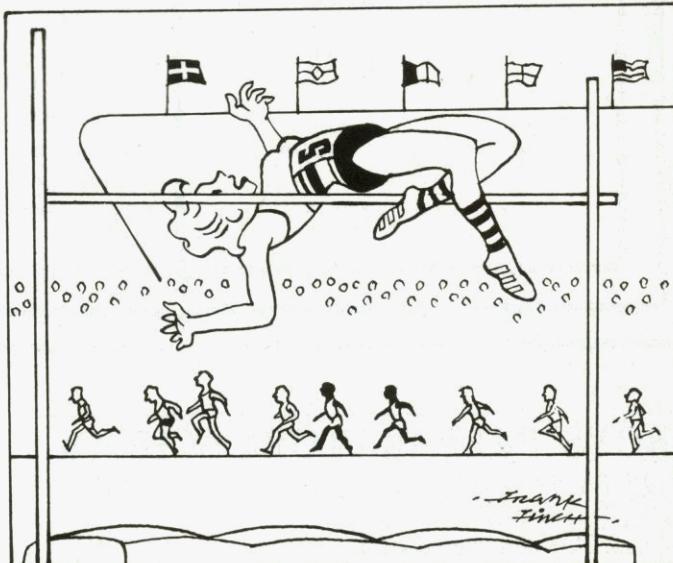
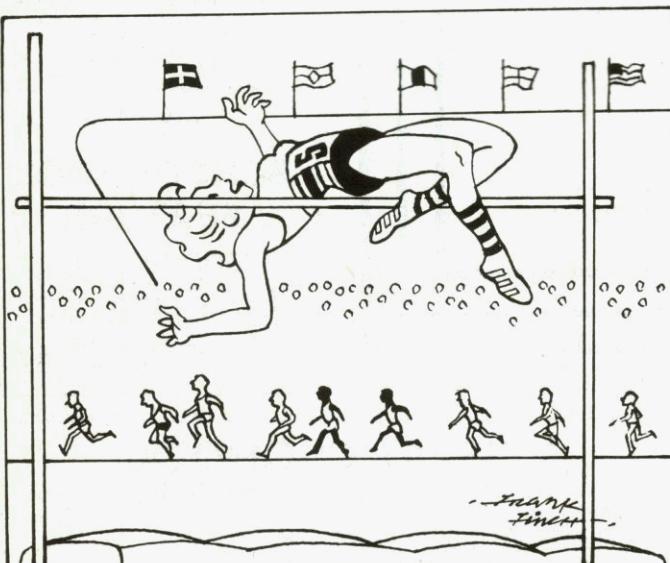
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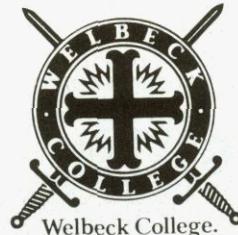
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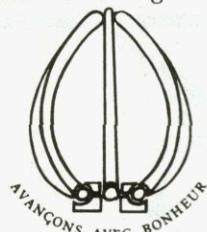
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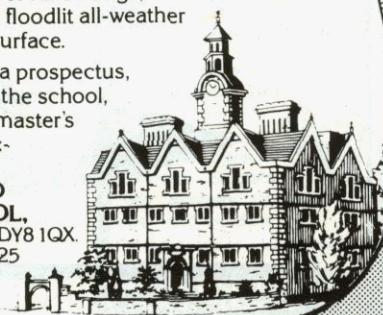
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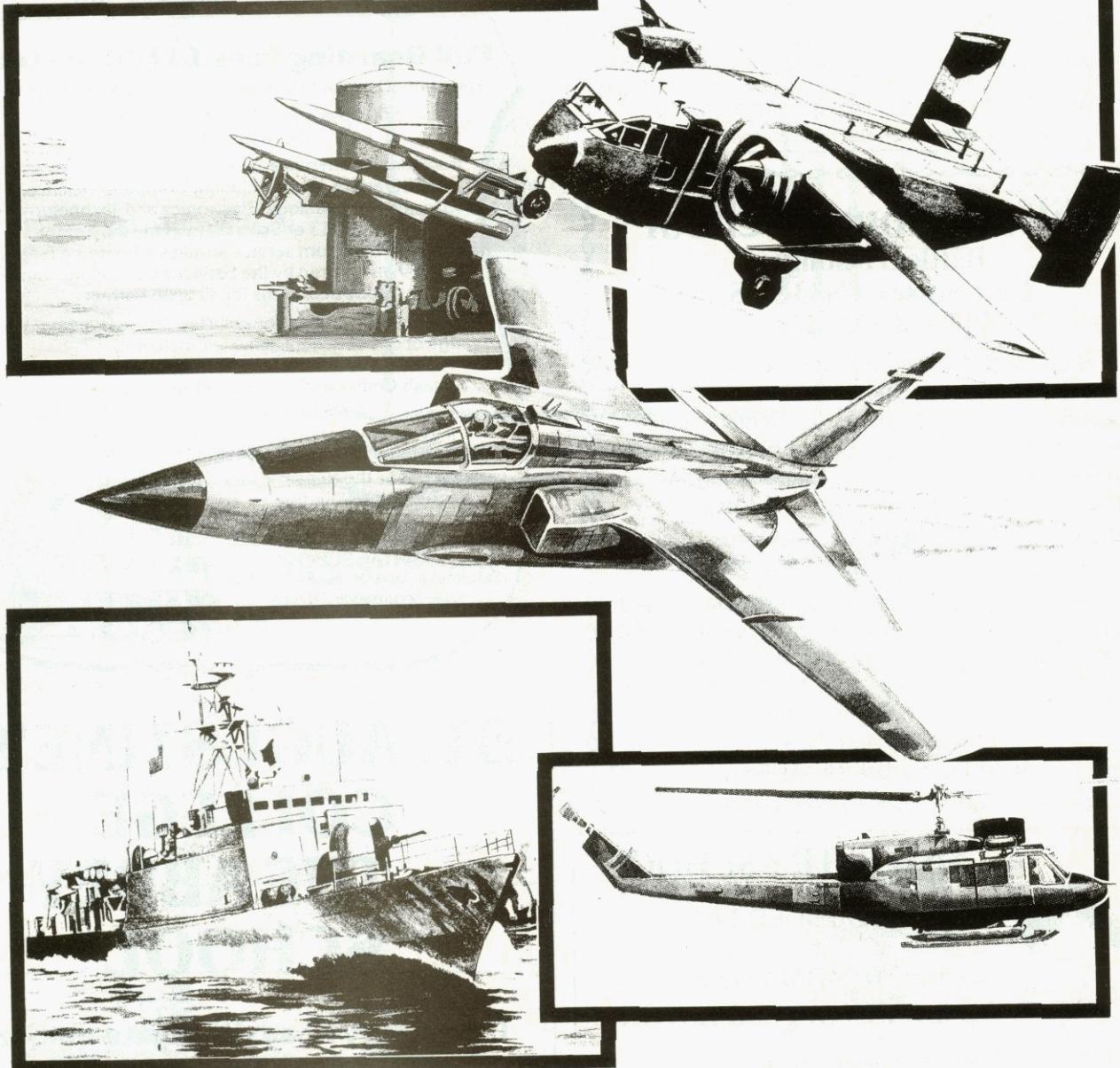
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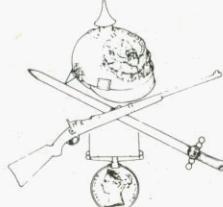
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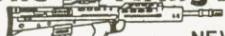
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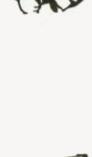


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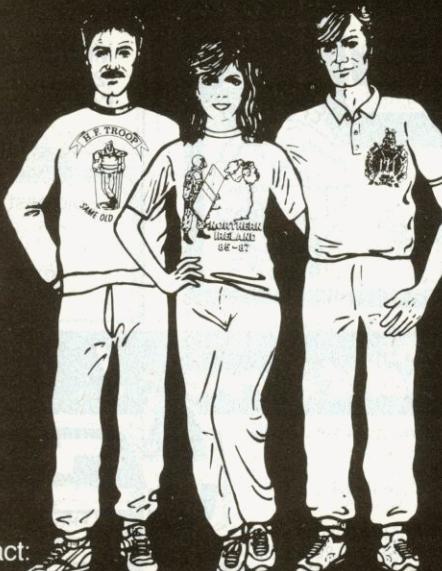
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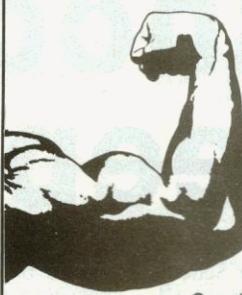
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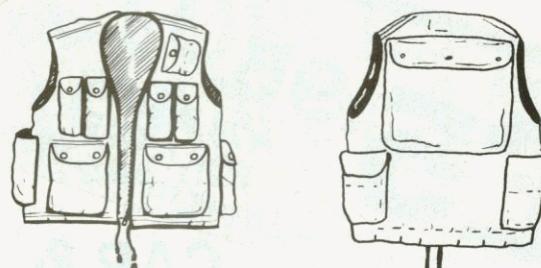
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Signals survive sixes shock to keep cup

THE School of Signals retained the Army Six-a-Side Soccer Trophy at Aldershot after a scare or two on the way. Drawn in what proved to be the most difficult of two preliminary leagues, they got off to a great start with wins over 5 UDR (6-0) and SEME Bordon (4-0) before conceding their first goal in beating HQ RE Resources 6-1, writes Pat Massey.

45 Fd Regt RA, drawn in the same group, won their first three matches, beating SEME (3-2), 5 UDR (3-1) and 8 Sig Regt (3-1) before sharing a high scoring draw with 3 LI (5-5).

The third major contenders from the group were 17 Trg Regt RA. They beat HQ Engr Resources (3-1), lost to 8 Sig Regt (2-3) and beat 5 UDR (7-0), before throwing the issues wide open with a surprising and comfortable win

over the School of Signals by two goals to nil.

Meanwhile, in the other group, 38 Engr Regt RE, Postal and Courier Depot RE (PCD RE) and 7 RHA were looking the most likely to produce the semi-final opponents.

38 Engr Regt RE and PCD RE shared the points in an early game (1-1) before the latter raced away with the group title with 13 points from a maximum of 14.

38 Engr Regt RE rattled in a further five wins, the most notable being over 4 UDR (5-1) and 1 A and SH (3-1), although they did lose to the fancied 7 RHA by five goals to nil, to

qualify for the play-offs in the group's second qualifying spot.

School of Signals wobbled when they were fortunate to get a 1-1 draw with 8 Sig Regt, but they got their act together again and beat 3 LI (5-1) before winning the group with a crunching 6-2 win over 45 Fd Regt RA who qualified in second spot.

SEME Bordon never recovered from their disastrous start and, although they won their remaining five matches, were still a point adrift of a qualifying place at the end of the group matches.

In the semi-finals, the School of Signals and 45 Fd Regt RA were too strong for their Group B opponents. The school beat 38 Engr Regt RE 4-2 and 45 Fd Regt RA walloped the posties by 5-1. The signalmen went on to retain their title with a 3-1 win over the gunners in a keenly contested final tie.

Maj Alan Dobson, the recently retired secretary of the Army FA, representing sponsors Aston Martin Lagonda, presented trophies and souvenirs to both finalists. The Thorpe Trophy, presented by a former Chairman of Army Football Brig Bob Thorpe, to be awarded to the team scoring their greatest number of goals in the group matches, went to the School of Signals for their record total of 28 goals.

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Marathon marvels

ARMY runners filled the first three places in the Inter-Service marathon championships run at RAF Swinderby. Not surprisingly, the Army also won the team trophy.

First home was WO1 (RSM) John McIlmurray, SEME Bordon, in 2hr 33min 12sec, followed exactly a minute later by Pte Jimmy Clune, 1 PWO. Third was Lt Peter Marsh, 90 Ord Coy, Tidworth, in 2hr



Where's it gone? School of Signals RA goalmouth during the Army six-keep their eyes on the ball. Wilkins

No 7 Cpl Brian Wilkins causes some consternation in the 45 Fd Regt a-side final, but 'keeper Bdr Brian Wilkins and Cpl Colin Pierce scored the school's third goal in their 3-1 victory

Sporty sappers

WINNERS of the 35 Engineer Regiment inter-squadron sports week at Hameln, West Germany were 29 Fd Sqn, who won the hockey, squash and cross country and tied in the football with RHQ/Wksp who finished second overall. Also competing were 42, 44 and 37 Field Squadrons.

Marathon marvels

35min 44sec.

The Royal Air Force finished second in the team championship, with the Royal Navy third.

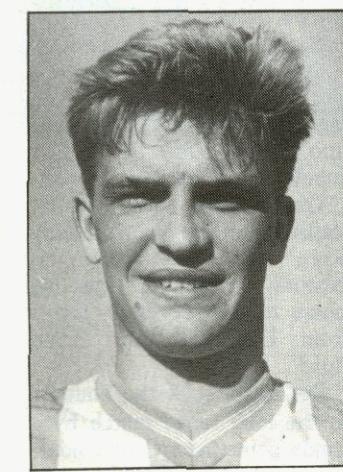
It was hard going for all the runners, who had to contend with winds gusting up to 50 mph. In the circumstances times recorded by the runners were excellent. It was the Army's third successive win in the Inter-Services marathon.

Ipswich sign up striker Cheetham

GOAL poacher Mick Cheetham has left the Army to begin a full time career in football. His new employers are Ipswich Town.

Cheetham, a technician in the Royal Signals, was serving at the School of Signals, Blandford before his departure this month for the East Anglian Second Division club. He bought himself out of the Army to take up Ipswich's offer after he had attracted their interest with regular goals for the Army, Combined Services and Vauxhall Opel League club Basingstoke last season.

In April Cpl Cheetham was chosen by England manager Bobby Robson as man of the match after the Army Challenge Cup centenary final. He



Mick Cheetham

scored two goals and laid on the other two in the School of Signals 4-3 victory over 28 Amph Engr Regt RE.

Farnborough Town add that derby flavour

Army 2
Farnborough Town 2

WHEN Vauxhall Opel Premier League Farnborough Town stood in for fellow VO Leaguers Windsor and Eaton, who found their annual game with the Army clashed with an unresolved cup tie, a highly competitive match was on the cards.

They staged the tie at the Daly Ground, Bordon, where the support of the knowledgeable SEME football following could be guaranteed. Spectators were not disappointed.

The visitors had slightly the better of the opening half and, when the Army lost concentration in defence just before the interval, the Town punished them for it with two goals in two minutes. It was a blow

from which many sides would not have recovered. To their credit, the Army did.

Ten minutes into the second half, LCpl Willie Williams, 1 Cheshire, was on hand to finish off a slick move involving Sgt Sandy Brown, R Signals, and LCpl Guy Whittingham, REME, with a fine goal, and, midway through the half, Cpl Danny Maher, RE, shot home, from the edge of the box, after Williams had hit the upright.

It was the visitors who were hanging on for a draw at the end.

Farnborough Town have proved to be popular opposition whenever they have played against Service sides, and in the Aldershot area they have the added attraction of providing a local derby atmosphere.

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Army are small bore top shots

SEVERAL outstanding results were achieved by Army marksmen at the Inter-Service long range small bore target rifle championships at Ash Ranges, Aldershot.

They took maximum match points from all three matches (prone/standing/kneeling, long range and 50 metre) to win the championship and the Gilbert Trophy. The Territorial Army finished second in all three matches to take second place overall, with the Royal Air Force third, the Royal Naval Reserve fourth and the Royal Navy fifth.

In the individual Inter-Service long range competition Sgt Mick Bagot from RAPC Worthy Down achieved the good score of 1,958 out of a possible 2,000 to claim the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

Silver and bronze medals were, unusually, claimed by women marksmen. Capt Hazel Macintosh of the TA serving with R Irish in Northern Ireland, was second with 1,952 and Lt Elizabeth Cowell (also TA) was third two points behind.



RQMS Joe Hardy and WO2 David Smith of the Army game angling team on Rutland Water

Togetherness pays off!

AFTER three years of Royal Air Force domination the Army won the Inter-Services game angling championships sponsored by Serco Operations Ltd on Rutland Water, Leicestershire.

For the first time the Army selected a team of 14 well in

advance, enabling them to practise together and pool the knowledge so vital for such a large water.

And it paid off handsomely, for on a dull, cold and breezy day on which fish proved difficult to catch the Army took the honours.

Only 30 fish were caught by the 42 competing anglers, the Army landing 12 totalling 23lb 1½oz against the RAF's 12 fish which weighed in at 18lb 5oz. The Royal Navy landed six fish for 10lb 2oz.

Best bag was returned by Col Tony Jolly, 7lb 8oz.



Maj Alan Glasby

In the very difficult three position PSK match WO2 Bill MacNeil of the Army Apprentices College, ACC, took the gold medal with a score of 1,139 out of a possible 1,200.

And to round off the meeting, the Regular Army

beat the Police, and Combined Services notched up their first ever win over England, albeit a national team depleted by other competition demands.

The Army small bore target rifle championship shot at Ash Ranges immediately before the Inter-Services was held in three stages.

The first stage of 60 shots at 25 yards fired non-centrally was headed by Maj Alan Glasby, RAOC, closely pursued by Maj John Shaw, RRF, and Sgt Mick Bagot a point behind.

At the end of the second stage of 60 shots at 50 metres and 60 shots at 100 yards, Glasby had been overtaken by Capt Peter Underhill, D and D, and Bagot had overtaken both to take a six point advantage into the final stage of 40 shots standing and 40 shots kneeling.

Glasby went back into the lead with an excellent standing score and maintained his position through the kneeling phase to win by eight points from Underhill with Bagot third.

Sgt Bagot took the honours in the long range match by a single point from Capt Underhill, with Maj Glasby seven points adrift in third. But Glasby won the three positions match ahead of Underhill and WO2 MacNeil who had a poor start in the prone position.

GB pistol team on the brink

FIVE Army members were included in the Combined Services teams which went very close to beating Great Britain in two target pistol matches held in conjunction with the Inter-Service pistol championships at Melville Range, Bisley.

In the end Great Britain were relieved to creep home by just two points in the standard pistol match and by 18 points in the centre fire.

Best individual score for either team in the standard pistol was returned by Capt Mike Dillon-Lee, RA, who achieved 568 out of a possible 600. Other Army members of the teams were WO2 David Ward, REME, Capt Peter Hawkes, REME, WO2 Kim Cairns, SASC, and Capt Chris Godwin, ACC.

Both Inter-Services matches were closely contested and won by the Army, with the Royal Air Force second and the Royal Navy third.

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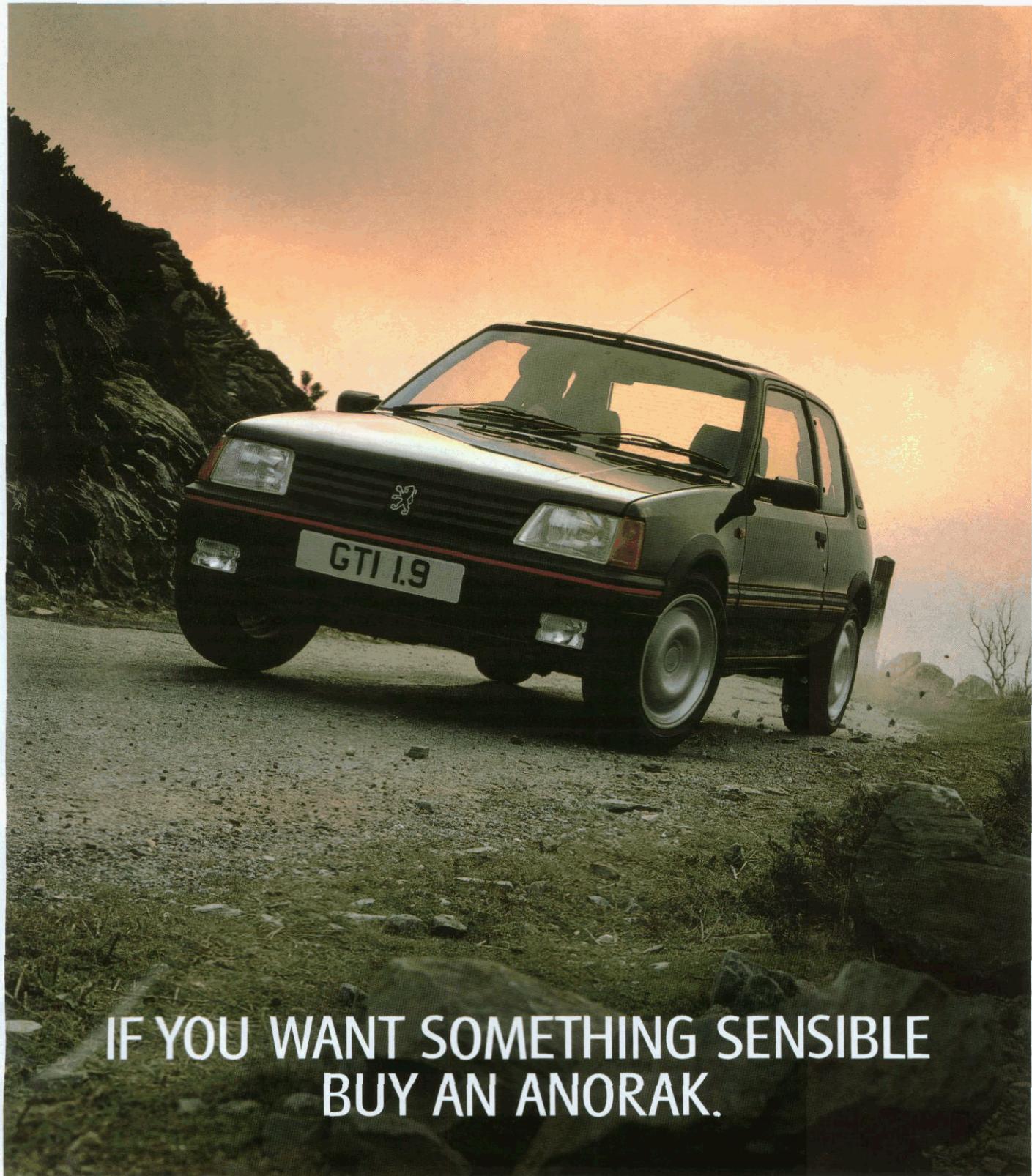
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Dvr Alan White, RCT, shows the Royal Navy how it should be done as he pipes VIPs aboard HMAV St George before the Army Fleet Review off Portsmouth. Full story in news pages